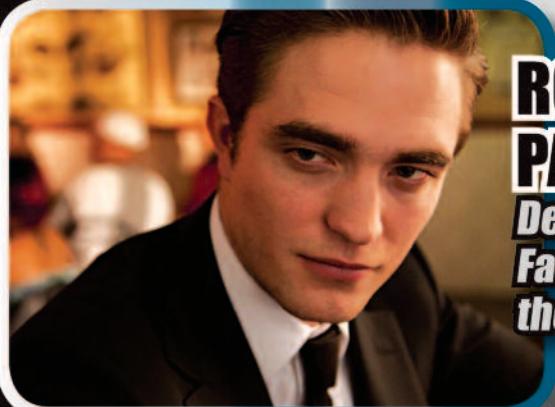


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The Freshest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Newspaper in New England

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**ROBERT
PATTINSON**
Debuts in Gay
Favorite 'Queen of
the Desert'? p18

PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT



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DON'T TELL'**
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PHOTO: LESLIE VAN STELLEN



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PHOTO: TERRY RICHARDSON

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LEVINE**
Talks Gay Rights p15

The Rainbow Times' Political Endorsements

By: The Rainbow Times Editorial Team

OPINIONS
LGBT voters across Massachusetts face an embarrassment of riches come Election Day. And there is good reason for gay voters, our families, friends, and allies to turn out on Nov. 6 in full force, voting to re-elect **President Barack Obama**, who certainly deserves four more years.

No president in history has delivered so much progress for our community as the social-justice cause of LGBT rights and full equality advanced significantly on his watch.

For example, the president signed federal hate crimes protections into law. He brought an end to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," an odious ban on openly gay military service that lasted for more than 15 years. The Justice Department

Just as the choice between Obama and Romney is stark, so is the difference between incumbent Republican Senator Scott Brown and his Democratic challenger, Harvard Law professor Elizabeth Warren.

Equally impressive are other regulatory and policy advances. The president has used power of federal government through cabinet offices — including the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and State Department, among others — to chip away at discrimination and inequality.

Through HHS, for example, Obama ended the ban on HIV-positive visitors and immigrants. Through HUD, the Obama administration recognized LGBT families for federal housing programs, prohibited discrimination in accessing federally-insured mortgage loans, and required HUD grantees to abide by state and local anti-discrimination laws. Through a presidential memorandum Obama directed HHS to require all hospitals receiving Medicaid and Medicare to prohibit discrimination in visitation against LGBT people. This list goes on and on.

GOP contender Mitt Romney holds few core passionate convictions, but one of them, we know from his tenure as governor, is disdain for our community, a contempt sharply manifested in a full-throttled effort to derail marriage equality ushered into Massachusetts under the Supreme Judicial Court's historic 2003 *Goodridge* decision.

We can only imagine how a "President Romney," with Tea Partiers egging him on, would roll back LGBT equality achieved under President Obama.

Just as the choice between Obama and Romney is stark, so is the difference between incumbent Republican Senator Scott Brown and his Democratic challenger, **Harvard Law professor Elizabeth Warren**. To his credit, Brown eventually voted to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." But on other issues of importance to our community, Brown is missing in action.

Not so with Warren. Last March, she called on the president to come out for same-sex mar-

riage; and early on, Warren voiced support for the Democratic Party platform to endorse marriage equality. That platform, by the way, is the most comprehensive embrace of LGBT equality in this nation's history.

Warren not only favors repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), but also promises to champion gay rights in the Senate. Recently at the Boston HRC fundraiser and gala, she pledged to be a "loud voice," a true leader.

There, in brief remarks, Warren spoke directly to millennial generation youth, "who face additional challenges, maybe because they're LGBT, or they don't fit in, or they don't fit some gender norm. Kids who see others facing a bright future, but don't see themselves fitting into that picture frame," she said.

"I nearly always meet kids—and they are kids—sometimes 15, 16, 17 years old—who say to me, 'I'm gay and I'm counting on you,'" said Warren. "I always smile, but I take this very seriously."

In fact, Warren takes us and our community's issues seriously on a host of topics from marriage equality to employment non-discrimination to bullying and safe schools. Brown does not, referring to LGBT equality as a "pet project."

While Brown says gay marriage is "settled law" in Massachusetts and he opposes a federal amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman, his views on DOMA are not clear.

However, as state lawmaker, Brown voted repeatedly during Constitutional Conventions to put same-sex marriage rights on the ballot. At the same time, he made derogatory remarks about gay and lesbian parents, calling into question their suitability as gay dads and lesbian mothers.

The Massachusetts U.S. Senate race is one of the most watched, if not the most watched in the country. Polls show the candidates running neck to neck. For LGBT voters, electing Warren may well be a matter of the Democrats retaining control of the Senate. On that score, Warren, if elected, would be voting on appointees to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the final fate of DOMA resides. For that reason alone, Warren deserves enthusiastic LGBT support.

Three congressional races are also of importance to gay voters across the Commonwealth.

In the 4th Congressional District, **Joe Kennedy** is running for a seat left vacant by the departure of U.S. Representative and LGBT icon Barney Frank, who is retiring. LGBT voters in that district, which stretches from Brookline and Newton to Wrentham to Plainville to North Attleborough to Attleboro and all the way south to Fall River, have a strong advocate of — and strong leader for — gay rights from the grandson of the late U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and nephew of the late Massachusetts U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

In his early thirties, this is Joe Kennedy's first run for elective office. And yet, the web-

See TRT Endorsements on page 11

Presidential election: Ignoring and ostracizing needs of some LGBTQ people through homonationalism

By: Jason Lydon*/TRT Columnist



I am tempted to write a scathing article about Paris Hilton's ridiculous homophobic and HIV/AIDS-ignorant verbal vomit, however, I have chosen otherwise. Though please do check out her comments while also pay-

ing attention to some of the sex negativity coming out of the gay press. It is plenty easy to critique her ignorance without shaming people who take part in anonymous sex. Rather than write about this celebrity debacle, I have chosen another more popular one; the 2012 presidential election.

Thus far, the presidential race has included more reference to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people than I have seen in my lifetime; more than I think anyone has ever seen. The acronym, LGBT, is on the front page of the Obama campaign website. During his speech at the DNC, Obama made reference to the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell and his support of gay marriage. He even told conservatives to stop blaming "...gays" for the country's problems. It would seem that some gay promised land is being reached just by following the map laid out in the Democrats' platform. But the question must be asked, which LGBT people are included in this new program and, more importantly, at what expense are these "advancements" being achieved?

Jasbir Puar, queer theorist, author and professor at Rutgers University, pushes us to reflect on the expanding development of "homonational-

But the question must be asked, which LGBT people are included in this new program and, more importantly, at what expense are these "advancements" being achieved?

that leads to the deaths of endless unnamed people in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Palestine.

See Homonationalism on Page 11

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I really liked the Guide for the Riverfest this year. It almost felt like a magazine and it looked really shiny. It's something that looks more fancy. And we had to really suffer through the traffic to try to go to the Riverfest and Out in the Park from Boston. Thank you for the information on both events.

—Desiree Grammer, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

Although I like Bitch and followed her career for years, I was not happy to see her on the cover especially because years ago she made some statements that were anti-transgender. She says she's changed or so she claims, but I thought I'd say she doesn't represent your support of our trans community. Wish you'd chosen a different cover.

—Leslie Lauren, Somerville, MA

Dear Editor,

What a cool looking Latino Pride section! I'm proud to be a Latino and have the Times be so proud about our needs, leaders, and the Spanish information in it. Gracias!

—Ramón Aguilar, Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,

Mr. Colbert's story on Romney was right on the dot. Romney fooled us here once. No more Romney for me.

—Jason Flova, Springfield, MA

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Oriol (left) has lived with HIV since 1992.

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Historic Supreme Court session opened early this week

By: Lisa Keen/Keen News Service

Perhaps the most historic U.S. Supreme Court session ever for the LGBT community gets underway officially October 1, with a record nine gay-related cases seeking review, all involving same-sex marriage.

Two of the nine cases include high-profile landmark decisions in federal appeals courts—one declaring the California's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional, the other holding the core section of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) to be unconstitutional. Whether the court refuses to hear the appeals or takes them, the result will set up another landmark in the LGBT civil rights struggle.

Seven of the nine cases revolve around challenges to DOMA, one concerns Proposition 8, and the ninth is an attempt by the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage (NOM) to circumvent campaign reporting laws when it spends money to push anti-gay initiatives.

The DOMA seven

Of the seven petitions seeking appeal on DOMA-related challenges, four come from the New England states, two from western states, and one from New York.

The Massachusetts Cases

Three of the four petitions in New England arrive from Massachusetts and the First Circuit and involve two cases that have been winding their way through the courts since March 2009.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) filed one of the lawsuits, while the Massachusetts Attorney General's office filed the other. Both sought to strike down the core provision of DOMA—Section 3—that bars the federal government to recognize same-sex spouses for any federal purpose.

GLAD argued the law violates the equal protection rights of citizens with same-sex spouses; the Commonwealth argued that it violates state sovereignty. There is both a petition, by the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group (BLAG) and the Solicitor General, and a cross-petition (from the Commonwealth) on this latter case. The fourth petition involves another GLAD case, *Office of Personnel Management v. Pedersen*.

OPM v. Gill and Health and Human Services v. Commonwealth are the preeminent legal challenges to DOMA. Both were carefully thought-out strategies, filed in federal court in Massachusetts, and consolidated on appeal to the First Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals.

Gill was filed by Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), the legal team which won the landmark 2003 decision for same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. GLAD argued below that DOMA violates the equal protec-



tion clause of the federal constitution. *Commonwealth*, brought by the Massachusetts attorney general's office, says DOMA violates the spending clause or Tenth Amendment rights of states.

On May 31, the First Circuit, using a "a closer than usual" rational basis review in these cases, ruled Section 3 of DOMA violates the equal protection guarantee. And while it rejected the Commonwealth's argument regarding the Tenth Amendment and spending clause, the state has asked that the Supreme Court review that aspect of the decision if it takes the cases for review.

Section 3 of DOMA prohibits the federal government from recognizing the marriages of same-sex couples. Although this began as two cases before the First Circuit, it now constitutes three petitions before the Supreme Court: BLAG's appeal of the Gill ruling, and the appeals of HHS and the Massachusetts Attorney General in the Commonwealth decision.

Golinski v. OPM

Another important DOMA challenge pending before the Supreme Court for this session is *Golinski v. OPM*, brought by Lambda Legal Defense. It tests DOMA's ability to deny a gay federal employee the same benefits enjoyed by straight federal employees.

The federal employee in this case is attorney

Karen Golinski, who is employed as an attorney by the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and sought health insurance coverage for her same-sex spouse. U.S. District Court Judge Jeffrey White, an appointee of President George W. Bush, said the legislative history of DOMA is "replete with expressed animus toward gay men and lesbians," but he said he was "persuaded that something short of animus may have motivated DOMA's passage." White's February 2012 ruling said Congress failed to justify its disparate treatment of gays and lesbians, whether one used rational or heightened judicial review. The Ninth Circuit declined to hear BLAG's appeal, so BLAG took its appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Windsor v. U.S.

The *Windsor* case, filed by the ACLU, challenges Section 3 of DOMA, but, unlike the previous three cases, *Windsor* has not gone through a federal appeals court, only the district court.

Judge Barbara Jones of the U.S. District Court for Southern New York ruled June 6 that DOMA violates the U.S. constitution's guarantee of equal protection when it requires a same-sex spouse to pay a federal estate tax from which heterosexual spouses are exempt. Because of DOMA, plaintiff Edith Windsor was forced to pay more than \$363,000 in estate taxes when her same-sex spouse, Thea Spyer, died in 2009 and left Windsor her estate. Jones used the lowest standard of judicial review—rational basis—in finding DOMA unconstitutional.

To read the rest of this story visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/8ckldwr>

IN THE LIMELIGHT

American FIESTA

WRITTEN BY
STEVEN TOMLINSON

Starring Emmy Award Winner John McGivern

An obsessive collector on a quest for the perfect piece of vintage Fiestaware deals with his parents' opposition to his same-sex marriage. His antic journey across America sheds light on our cultural/political divide and the prospect of finding common ground. Critically-acclaimed writer Steven Tomlinson, Emmy Award winning actor, John McGivern and director, Jenny Wanasek bring their artistic best to this remarkably polished production.



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PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

Outside Worcester Superior Court, left to right, Attorney Sergio E. Carvajal, plaintiff couple, Alain Beret and James Fairbanks. The married gay male couple is suing the Worcester diocese, alleging sexual orientation discrimination in property purchase dispute.

Gay Couple Sues Worcester Catholic Diocese, Alleging Discrimination

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

CENTRAL MASS WORCESTER, Mass. — A married gay male couple from Sutton, Massachusetts, is suing the Worcester Catholic diocese, alleging sexual orientation discrimination in their attempt to purchase a church property.

Outside Worcester Superior Court on Monday morning, Sept. 10, Sergio Carvajal, an attorney for the two men, Alain Beret, 59, and James Fairbanks, 57, told reporters that in addition to his clients sexual orientation, the diocese backed out of selling the property "in the belief" the couple "would hold gay marriages, ceremonies at the property known as Oakhurst, located in Northbridge."

The diocese denies the allegations and contends the couple lacked sufficient financing.

"At all times were Mr. Beret and Mr. Fairbanks qualified buyers of the property," said Carvajal.

The initial asking price for the property, Oakhurst Conference and Retreat Center, located at 120 Hill Street, Northridge, Mass. was \$1.4 million, but was negotiated down to \$1 million.

Financing not a problem

Beret and Fairbanks signed a purchase and sale agreement on May 18, along with a deposit of \$75,000. An inspection of the property, however, revealed substantial repair work would be required to bring the property into compliance with current codes, including a new \$240,000 sprinkler system.

The diocese's broker suggested that the two men make a smaller counter offer of \$550,000 for the mansion and only six acres of land instead of the entire 24 acres.

"Financing was not an issue," said Beret. "I'd love to know which bank turned me down."

Gay marriages seem to have been the issue

"I would remind the monsignor," Beret continued, "to read his email where he said because of the potential for gay marriages [at Oakhurst] we don't want to continue with these buyers."

Beret was referring to e-mail correspondence from the Reverend Monsignor Thomas J. Sullivan to the diocesan broker, which reads: "I just went down the hall and discussed it with the



Also known as Affirmation House, the Oakhurst Conference and Retreat Center, located at 120 Hill Street, Northridge, Mass.

bishop," Sullivan wrote. "Because of the potentiality of gay marriages there, something you shared with us yesterday, we are not interested in going forwards with these buyers. I think they are shaky anyway. So just tell them that we will not accept their revised plan and the Diocese is making new plans for the property. You find the language."

The e-mail is dated June 8, 2012.

Beret and Fairbanks are uncertain how the topic of their sexual orientation or gay weddings came to the attention of the church officials.

"They must have assumed, or were told, that we were gay and therefore we would be gay magnets," Beret said.

"Let's be clear, he explained. There was never, ever a discussion about gay marriage, not even between Jim and me or anyone else. We never thought in terms of gay marriage," rather "all marriages. When you are running a business, whoever is willing to come to your business is welcome."

Denial of alleged discrimination, but ...

"We never had any intention of discriminating against anyone or focusing our business on one community. That was never on our minds, never discussed. How it came to the monsignor's ear. That is a question for others," said Beret.

Beret and Fairbanks consider Sullivan's email to be a smoking-gun indicator of the diocese's discriminatory intentions and actions.

Their lawsuit contends as much. In a four-part civil complaint, they charge the defendants with discrimination in violation of Massachusetts...

*Read the rest of this story online at
<http://tinyurl.com/8rkcwao>*

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Faith, family, and God – Impact of the subconscious: You are not a sinner

By: Paul P. Jesep*/TRT Columnist

Acting on the most basic human need to love and be loved will not send you to hell. Nor is it sinful. Some reading this column may be thinking, "tell me something I don't know." Let me ask, however, do you really know it? Do you feel it in your heart?

In my pastoral travels, many LGBTQ and Searching people of faith still have angst their loving monogamous relationship or the search for one is an affront to God. Some wonder if acting on

their emotional, spiritual and physical needs is contrary to what the Creator expects of them. Although the emotional and intellectual transition has been made, finding spiritual resolution can be elusive.

For many there remains a nagging twinge of guilt. Guilt is a useless emotion usually with negative outcomes. If you haven't given it up to the cosmos, then do it today.

Religion, a man-made institution, not to be confused with faith, conditions people to think a certain way consciously and subconsciously.

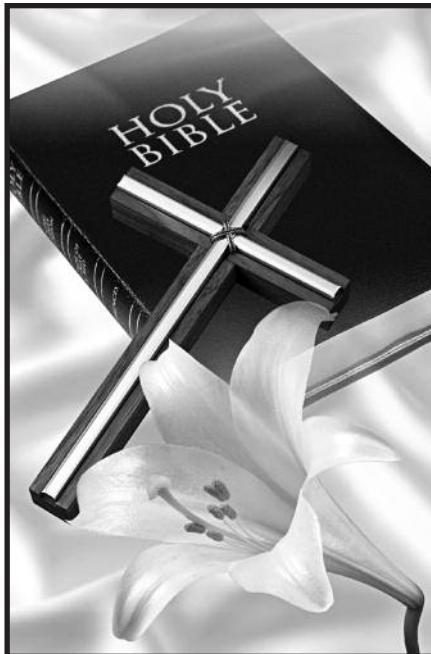
Individuals, as we know from our personal behavior, are flawed creatures whose misconceptions influence religion. It's important to remember hurt, fear, or abuse from religion can impact the subconscious. Individuals can act out these past experiences and not realize it. The Creator isn't sparking negative thoughts in your soul when a subtle prick of guilt is felt. It's the years of negative conditioning by uninformed, superstitious and the spiritually insecure speaking from behind religious authority.

Several religions take the position that an individual can be L G B T Q without sinning so long as he or she does not act on spiritual and emotional

expressions through physical intimacy. Physical intimacy can be sex, as well as simply holding and being held on the couch watching television and stealing kisses. There's probably nothing crueler than attempting to impose on someone lifelong loneliness, as is often done by misinformed clergy or those who worship false gods.

The reason for this ignorance is based on

culture, not faith. In other cases, it involves the primitive understanding of sin. The biblical story about Adam and Eve has nothing to do



with sin, but awareness, awakening and consciousness. Nor did Satan cause Eve to eat an apple from the tree of knowledge. Hell and Satan do not exist. Adam and Eve is a teaching story.

If someone's belief in God is based on the

fear that Satan will drag them to eternal damnation, then faith is not genuine. It's belief for the wrong reason. Instead, the neighbor needs to be loved, including those who are homophobic, because it is the right thing to do and it's a choice to live with grace, purpose and respect for all creation. Note I said love, not like. There's a difference.

Satan is also a convenient excuse for too many people, especially by those who make faith and religion into superstition. Some would rather blame a fictional character than take personal ownership. Satan was once blamed for crop failures, witches flying on broomsticks and mental health problems ranging from alcoholism to personality disorders. Science, medicine and common sense has shown humanity otherwise.

The next great revelation, which may happen within 50 years, will include re-thinking sin, hell and Satan. These are obstacles to love, friendship, fellowship, return to mystical spirituality and most important, communion with the Creator.

Healthy LGBTQ and Searching spirituality must include reflection, discernment and perspective. This is a deeply personal journey with Creator and conscience. A life lived with honor, respect, dignity and within a loving monogamous union or relationship is not a sin.

*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He is the Founder of Corporate Chaplaincy found at: www.corporatechaplaincy.biz.

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In New York City: DADT repeal celebrated one year out

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

A gala tribute honoring veterans, service members, and activists in the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal effort sold out this week on Tuesday evening, Sept. 18, as 1,100 attendees boarded the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum, located in New York City.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, OutServe, and the Interbank Roundtable Committee sponsored the event billed "Celebrating Our Heroes."

Barbara Walters of ABC News served as emcee for the gathering, which featured marquee headliner, the former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Admiral Mike Mullen.

Advocates and activists in the nearly two-decades-long effort to lift the ban on openly military gay service uniformly praise Mullen for his role in ending the discriminatory policy, pointing to his testimony before the Senate Armed Service Committee, Feb. 2, 2010, as a pivot point in DADT repeal's forward momentum.

"Mr. Chairman, speaking for myself and myself only, it is my personal belief that allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly would be the right thing to do," he testified.

"For me, personally, it comes down to integrity — theirs as individuals, and ours as an institution," Mullen explained.

Aboard the Intrepid Mullen told the gathering, "It's actually pretty easy to stand up for what you believe in."



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

"Celebrating Our Heroes" emcee Barbara Walters, co-host and executive producer of ABC daytime TV's "The View."

"It's pretty easy to stand up and represent the values you have held close for your entire life and be fortunate enough to be in a leadership position where that value actually crosses over in a time and a place and in a way where you as a leader can really make a difference," he said.

Mullen's wife Deborah also attended the event.

In her remarks, emcee Walters, co-host and executive producer of the ABC's daytime show "The View," termed Mullen a personal "hero."

"You have fought for something that is right

— the end of the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy," Walters said, looking out over the crowd, which included any number of attendees in military dress.

"So tonight is about history. Tonight is also honoring each and every one of you who has served our nation. Tonight for the first time in American history, you have the chance to stand before this leader, an admiral, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the man who helped you on this journey and we all simply say, thank you, Sir," said Walters.

"Celebrating Our Heroes" was also a wildly successful fundraiser, bringing in \$700,000, with proceeds to benefit wounded war veterans.

The celebration drew representatives from corporate America, Broadway, television, the media, and an elected official, including lesbian New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, gay MSNBC anchor Thomas Roberts, Randy Jones of the pop disco group The Village People, and Elizabeth Birch, former president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT organization, among others.

"We are pausing to mark and celebrate a moment in history," said Birch. "The fact that we got Admiral Mullen to come represents the strongest symbol that we are bringing together established society and our community in a way that we couldn't have imagined 30 years ago."

"The most powerful industrial military complex in the history of the world has said 'Yes,'" added Birch. "That makes everything else in-

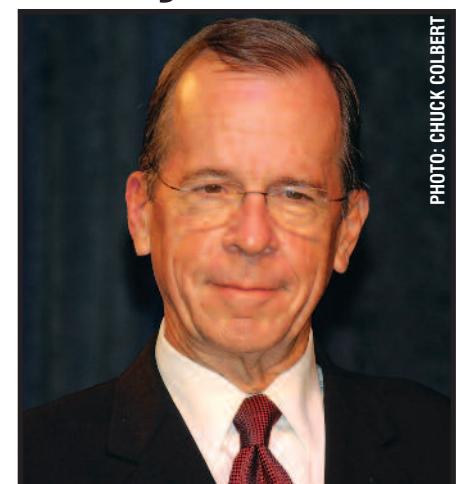


PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

Former Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Admiral Mike Mullen

evitable. Everything else is inevitable."

Birch provided bro-bono legal counsel as DADT repeal efforts progressed under President Barack Obama.

Also on hand for the celebration was San Francisco-based Zoe Dunning, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and gay-rights activist.

"We're celebrating one year, post repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and have a year's evidence to show no ill impact on the military as we predicted," she said, pausing along the red

**To read the rest of this story visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/965cbyp>**

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Book Review: "Doubling Up" — LGBTQ rights from a criminal justice perspective

By: Paul P. Jesep/TRT Columnist

Several years ago, I had an epiphany. No, it's not nearly as painful as it may sound. A light bulb turned on above my big head. It occurred to me that social change and awareness is often best achieved by writing fiction. Commentaries, editorials, news articles and opinion pieces last in the public mindset for a day or week. This isn't to suggest they always have a lasting impact, but frequently it's a narrative or good story that most people will remember and likely reflect on. Novels have a timeless message or relevance for the present and future generations.

Paul Verity's debut novel, "Doubling Up," tells the story about LGBTQ rights from a perspective not often heard. Matt Durant is a New Orleans lawyer in a conservative, homophobic culture, where discretion as a gay man, or one struggling with one's identity, is a necessity for professional success. He has recently broken up with his girlfriend, "Andrea." It is implied that the complexities of a long-distance relationship had taken their toll. He's also a boxer who finds the sport a good way to decompress from the stresses of life.

One night he takes a cab to one of the city's gay bars. It's apparent from the conversation with a potential suitor, Joey Buckner, that Matt is still wrestling with living in two worlds. Joey and Matt enjoy light banter with one another until the need arises for a bathroom break. The line to the men's room is too long, so they deem it faster to make use of an alley. Oddly, they're the only two to do so.

They're greeted by three knuckle-scrappers looking to engage in a hate crime. It's the unfortunate scenario of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Joey, a much smaller man, is the first target. In seconds, Joey is suffering from a broken nose. One of the thugs approaches Matt with a knife. Matt swings into action, giving him a series of punches and

leaving him dead. The police arrive and place Matt under arrest. He's charged with a felony.

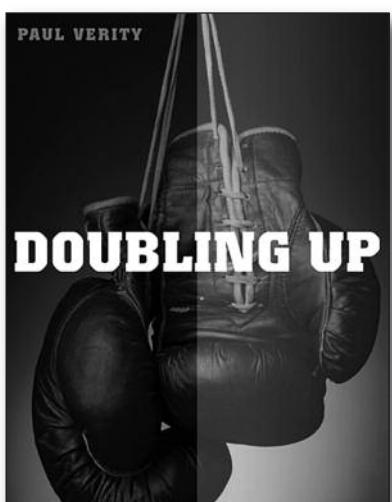
Reluctantly, Matt calls his boss, the senior partner at the law firm. The DA, based on sloppy police work and perhaps driven by discrimination, decide to prosecute Matt on a bogus theory that he had been attempting to buy cocaine. Unbeknownst to Matt, Joey did have cocaine on him. The two surviving assailants contend that they and their now deceased friend were attempting to be upstanding citizens by stopping the sale.

Further complicating Matt's defense is Joey's prior arrest for cocaine possession. The plot, by the way, further thickens. Verity might be a bit too quick to get to the courtroom drama, thus leaving the reader wanting to know a bit more about Matt through greater character development.

It is apparent how Verity handles the unfolding story, as he has a background in criminal justice. The author is an attorney who successfully makes an important point in his book. Discrimination against LGBTQ folks has often been examined in a civil context and far less so from a criminal justice perspective.

Other than several minor editing issues, both grammatically and from storytelling, the book flows well and keeps the reader's attention. Verity tells a very good story while offering a deeper message about LGBTQ justice and discrimination. Those who enjoy lawyer television shows or real life courtroom dramas are likely to appreciate Mr. Verity's first novel. It also has the making for a fine follow-up.

**Paul is an attorney and seminary trained priest. He writes the "Faith, Family, and God" column for TRT. He can be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.*



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American Fiesta: A Witty, Hopeful Tale of Imperfection & Acceptance debuts at City Stage

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

make up my collection.

Q. Much of your work is grounded in family issues. Why do you think those types of issues are important to exploit?

A. I used to think that my experience was so specific ... to my life ... to the time I grew up ... to the place I grew up ... to the Irish Catholic family I grew up in. I tell my stories and have had the fortune to hear from people all over the country who've told me that my stories are their stories, my family was so much like their family, our struggles and concerns and joys and traditions were theirs as well — Universal themes, things that make us more alike than different. This is why family is the base for my work.

Q. Speaking of family issues, that also happens to be a topic discussed on the campaign trail this year, regardless of which side of the fence you are on. Grant it, "family issues" for one side can be termed differently for the other. How do you think this election will shape the future of "family issues"?

A. There will always be a divide. I am a 57 year-old gay man who has been with the same partner for 10 years. Steve and I are a family. My vote may change law but opinion is changed through knowledge. Those who know Steve and I can't deny that we are a family.

Q. What has been the highlight of your career to date?

A. I did a PBS Special, *The Early Stories of John McGivern*, that played in 18 markets across the country. I was nominated and subsequently won an Emmy Award for this work. [Currently], I am in the middle of shooting a 14 episode, 2nd season of a PBS Series called *Around the Corner with John McGivern*, which plays on every PBS Station in the state of Wisconsin. It is a show that celebrates community. I am very proud of this show.

Q. What is the best piece of advice you've received? What is the worst?

A. My mom told me early in my career that I should write and perform my own work. Thanks Mom. The Worst [was while] living and struggling in Los Angeles, my agents told me that moving back to Milwaukee would be the worst move for my career. God they were so wrong.

Join McGivern on October 25-27 at City Stage located at One Columbus Center, Springfield, Mass. To purchase tickets or to learn more about the show, visit <http://tinyurl.com/8espsf>.



PHOTO BY: CITY STAGE

Emmy Award Winner and Master Storyteller John McGivern stars in AMERICAN FIESTA at CityStage October 25-27.

The Rainbow Times caught up with McGivern to discuss his upcoming performance and its relevance to the gay community.

TRT: You have several highly acclaimed one-man shows. Is that your preferred style of performance? Why?

JM: I love the one-on-one relationship between the performer and the audience. My one-man shows are a direct address to the audience. There is no fourth wall. It takes place in real time. I talk to and depend on the relationship between me and them. It's a great thing when it's working.

Q. In American Fiesta, you morph into about 20 different characters throughout the show. How do you perfect that kind of art?

A. Carefully and with the help of a really clear minded, focused director. Jenny Wanasek was instrumental in helping me find the voice and the mannerisms of the 17 people featured in this play.

Q. Do you have an affinity for Fiesta Ware like Steven, your character in American Fiesta?

A. When I started rehearsals, I knew of FiestaWare but didn't have an interest in collecting. That has changed. Now, every piece used in the show is mine. I've been collecting and have enjoyed the quest, the search for the pieces that

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UMass Stonewall Center Director discusses new book, gender fluidity, transgender

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

The Director of the UMass Stonewall Center, LGBT activist and scholar, Dr. Genny Beemyn spoke with *The Rainbow Times* about ze's latest book, "The Lives of Transgender People." The publication, co-written with Sue Rankin, discusses both the tribulations and accomplishments the trans community has faced over the years. The content was compiled based off of research the two conducted, beginning in 2004, with approximately 3,500 people.

TRT: What made you write *The Lives of Transgender People*?

Dr. Genny Beemyn: Myself and my colleague, Sue Rankin, were sitting around talking and lamenting the fact that there wasn't really any research on the experiences of younger transgender people, and how it was that they came to identify as being transgender. We were seeing more and more young people identifying in various ways as trans, but no one was really talking about it and what that looked like, and we said, "You know, we can do this. Why don't we go ahead and do a study that looks at transgender in the broadest possible terms, and trying to really consider generational differences, and how people come to identify in various ways as trans."

Q. How did you choose the sample of interviewees used?

A. We were looking really as a national study. It was a web survey and it circulated throughout the country, through various means. One of the things that I did was that I went online and tried

to find as many trans-people as I could. If you look at the data it's very skewed toward transwomen and female presenting cross dressers, because they had more of a web presence seven years ago ... We were thinking maybe we'd get a thousand people. We ended up with almost 3,500 people in about four months, and decided enough is enough, we have to cut this off. We were really surprised, and it showed us just how transvoices have not been heard, that so many people wanted to tell their stories and had not had the chance to do so.

Q. Why do you believe there is such an openness now surrounding gender fluidity, as discussed in the book?

A. I would say it's young people; this generation of youth is really pushing the boundaries. Back in the day, even when I was coming of age and later, the expectation was that if you were trans, you were either transexual or a cross-dresser, with the dividing line being the desire to have surgery. There were no other real options. It really wasn't until the 1990s when you had the internet and people were saying, "Well that's not my experience. I don't identify as either male or female, or identify as both, or

conforming/fluid had that same kind of experience back in the 90s, with the internet and being able to see that this wasn't a unique experience at all. And the work of Kate Bornstein and Leslie Feinberg also helped as well to push boundaries and barriers and to say there wasn't one way to be transgender.

Q. What can be done to make the public so-

somewhere in between, or, I don't really want to do surgery even if I feel myself to be a different gender than what was assigned to me" ... It was kind of like 30 years before that when transexual people were finding each other and recognizing, "Wow there's a whole bunch of people like myself out there ... this is a widespread shared experience." I think people who are gender non-

ciety, even the LGB community, understand the treatment of non-conforming gender and transgender individuals?

A. The media could provide much more coverage to transpeople, beyond simply us being killed and beaten up. That's often the predominant coverage, which is important to have as well, because we never even used to have that much, but there needs to be a lot more human interest stories about transpeople and their experiences. It would give people the vocabulary around trans identity, to give a face to transgender people. We're really starting to see that, the humanizing of transpeople.

That's what worked with LGB communities; acceptance has gone up as people, who are not of those communities, get to know and see people in those communities. It becomes less of an "other" thing and more of an "us" thing. People have a much harder time being able to hate and marginalize a group that hits home and that friends, family, co-workers, people you care about belong to ... Things are starting to change and I think the more media covers it, the more it becomes almost passe.

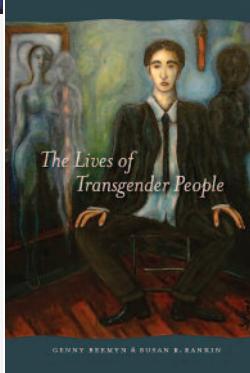
Q. Do you have any new work coming out?

A. Sue and I have an article that will be published in October in *About Campus*, the leading student-affairs magazine published by the *American College Personnel Association*. "Beyond a Binary: The Lives of Gender-Nonconforming Youth" talks about some of the book's findings, and educates a wide audience of college administrators that normally we wouldn't be able to reach. It will give them a better understanding and will allow them to recognize...

See Stonewall on page 23

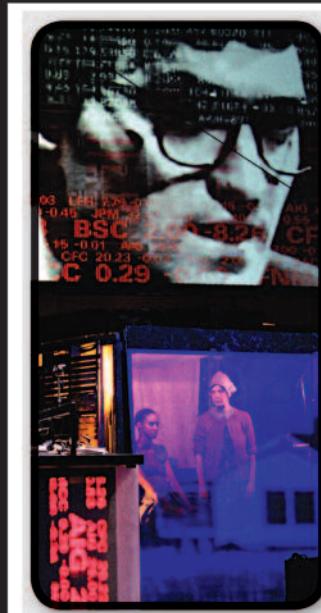


Dr. Genny Beemyn, UMass Stonewall Center's Director, Amherst, Mass.



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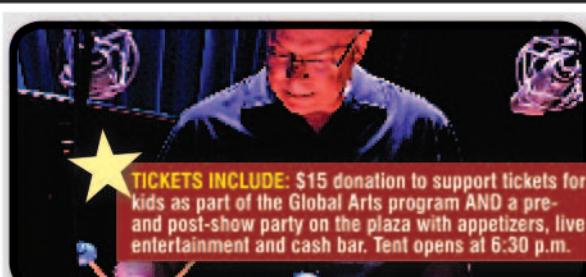
The Builders Association **HOUSE/DIVIDED**

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Mon., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m., Concert Hall, Chamber Seating

The Warsaw Philharmonic and Maestro Antoni Wit will be joined by 25-year-old Yulianna Avdeeva, the 2010 First Prize winner of the 16th International Frédéric Chopin Competition in program that includes Lutoslawski's Little Suite, Chopin's Piano Concerto No. 2, op. 21, F minor, and Dvorak's Symphony No. 8, op. 88, G major.

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Out of Town: Great weekends in Vermont, romance destination

By: Andrew Collins*/Special for TRT

In 2000, Vermont became the first state to legally sanction civil unions for same-sex couples, and in 2009, the state extended full marriage rights to gays and lesbians. Although neighboring states now also have gay marriage, Vermont has remained a favorite romance destination among LGBT travelers, some coming here to exchange nuptials, and others visiting simply to enjoy this stunningly scenic state's relaxed pace, mild and wild recreational opportunities, charming inns and B&Bs, and superb restaurants that emphasize local — often organic — ingredients.

From north to south, this narrow swath of forests, meadows, and mountains has plenty to offer, with several key regions making excellent hubs for exploring. In southwestern Vermont, close to both the Berkshires of Massachusetts and the Albany region of upstate New York, the town of Manchester is a favorite weekend getaway - it's home to dozens of outlet shops, but beyond these mostly expected retail establishments you'll find a charming downtown with some great restaurants, plus several historic attractions and well-known ski areas. Just a two-to three-hour drive from Boston, the Upper Connecticut River Valley is rich in culture and outdoor recreation. And along the shores of rippling Lake Champlain, you'll find Vermont's largest community, Burlington, a lively and liberal college town that's also an excellent base for great skiing at several resorts, including nearby Stowe.

Although Vermont has a quite high proportion of LGBT residents, it's a relatively sparsely



Sunset from over Lake Champlain and New York's Adirondack Mountains, from the lakefront in downtown Burlington.

PHOTO: ANDREW COLLINS

populated state. Nightlife options are minimal, although Burlington has some fun bars on or near downtown's Church Street pedestrian mall, all of which are ostensibly gay-friendly. Vermont is ideal for couples seeking romance or groups of friends looking for both warm- or winter-time outdoors adventures.

It's very easy to find information on planning gay weddings and other trips to Vermont — sites including www.VermontGayTravel.com and www.VermontGayTourism.com provide excellent guidance and list welcoming businesses, and the official state tourism site,

VermontVacation.com, is great for general trip-planning information.

Burlington and Stowe

The largest city in America's first state to legalize same-sex civil unions, Burlington is home to University of Vermont and claims the state's most visible gay community. It's just 100 miles south of Montreal and enjoys a stunning setting, with Lake Champlain on one side, and the rugged Green Mountains on the other. Visitors appreciate the vast opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, plus downtown's network of redbrick

sidewalks, cozy coffeehouses, great music and bookstores, and affordable eateries.

Just 35 miles away, Stowe ranks among the nation's best ski getaways, but this charming, gay-friendly village offers a genuine balance of outdoor and indoor fun. An abundance of plush lodges and inns, sophisticated eateries, and first-rate spas contribute to the town's ardent following. And shoppers appreciate Stowe's many one-of-a-kind shops.

Where to Stay

In Burlington, the Courtyard by Marriott Burlington Harbor (www.marriott.com) and Hilton Burlington (www.hilton.com) are both great, gay-friendly chain properties with central locations, large rooms, and friendly service. Just 6 miles south on a secluded peninsula overlooking Lake Champlain, the elegant Inn at Shelburne Farms (www.shelburnefarms.org) occupies a former Vanderbilt summer home and now contains 24 rooms and suites furnished very much in the style of the Gilded Age. The surrounding 1,400-acre working farm include a working dairy — note that the inn is closed mid-fall to mid-spring.

The quaint town of Waterbury, famous for Ben & Jerry's ice cream, is convenient both to Burlington and Stowe and contains one of the best gay-owned accommodations in the state, the Moose Meadow Lodge (www.moosemeadowlodge.com), an upscale, log home with three plush rooms, a hot tub, and a peaceful setting...

To read the rest of this story visit:
<http://tinyurl.com/92h64la>

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TRT Endorsements from page 2

site of the former prosecutor, a Middlesex assistant district attorney, offers one of the most thoughtful and comprehensive endorsements this political season, advocating a full range of LGBT equality measures. (<http://tinyurl.com/9j3gnm8>).

"Marriage equality," Kennedy writes, "isn't simply a 'settled issue.' It is a landmark to be celebrated and defended, a reflection of the values that define this country and the future we imagine for the next generation."

Accordingly, Kennedy supports the Respect for Marriage Act, which would repeal DOMA, adding, "I cheered the First Circuit's recent decision in the *Gill* case, which found DOMA unconstitutional because it denies same-sex couples the same federal benefits available to opposite sex couples."

Kennedy also supports legislation — the Uniting American Families Act — that would enable foreign partners of same-sex couples to obtain residency in the U.S.

And he favors a measure — the Every Child Deserves a Family Act — that would prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective parent or the sexual orientation or gender identity of a child.

As one ardent supporter in the district put it, "Joe Kennedy's support for full equality is hard-wired into his DNA — and it shows," she said. "Our GLBT community can rely on his dependable and authentic support for the issues that are important to our lives and the lives of our families."

In another race, LGBT voters in Massachusetts 5th Congressional district have a strong ally in Niki Tsongas, who also deserves LGBT support. The district spans three nearly 30 cities and towns across the counties Middlesex, Essex, and Worcester.

Since her election to the U.S. House of Representatives in a 2007 special election, she has been a visible and vocal advocate of LGBT equality on everything from repeal of DADT to marriage equality, from hate crimes to employment non-discrimination, and a whole lot more.

Tsongas serves on the Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee. In 2008, during the first congressional hearings since 1993 on DADT, she called for an end to the ban on openly gay service.

"This flawed and unworkable policy," said Tsongas at the time, "threatens the readiness of our military by discharging hundreds of vital military personnel critical to our national security and shutting the door to thousands more."

Employment non-discrimination protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity are also a core conviction of Tsongas. Her late husband, Paul Tsongas, was the first U.S. senator to introduce legislation banning job bias. For her part, in recent efforts to gut the Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA) of transgender inclusive provisions, Tsongas stood firm in advocating that the language of gender identity and expression be retained. "We need to

have the most comprehensive protections possible," she said. As one of only seven Democrats in the House, she also opposed an ENDA amendment that would have exempted religious institutions.

Congresswoman Tsongas is one of the original, founding members of the Congressional Equality Caucus for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Americans, a 103 member caucus that advocates the extension of equal rights, the repeal of discriminatory laws, the elimination of hate-motivated violence, and the improved health and well-being for all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Consequently, Tsongas supports repealing DOMA, the Uniting American Families Act and Every Child Deserves a Family Act, among other pro-LGBT measures introduced in Congress.

In the 6th Congressional District on the North Shore, Democratic incumbent U.S. Representative John Tierney faces a serious challenge from openly gay Republican Richard Tisei, a former state lawmaker and candidate for lieutenant governor.

Tisei enjoys backing from the non-partisan, Washington, D.C.-based Victory Fund, an organization that seeks "to make sure authentic LGBT voices are at the table on both sides of the aisle," according to Denis Dison, the organization's vice president of communications.

A socially progressive Republican, who is not a Tea Partier, Tisei certainly fits that bill, voicing support for LGBT equality across the board, much along the same lines as Tierney.

On Beacon Hill, Tisei supported marriage equality during Constitutional Conventions and backed transgender rights even as his running mate for governor did not.

On balance, there is little difference between the two candidates on gay rights. Even Tisei ac-

knowledges as much.

To that point, Tierney's proven gay-rights track record in Capitol Hill is impressive, which may well explain why Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the nation's largest LGBT organization, has endorsed Tierney.

Since he began serving in Congress in 1997, Tierney has earned a 99 percent HRC scorecard average.

In support of equal marriage rights for same-sex couples, Tierney voted twice against a discriminatory federal marriage amendment. He favors repeal of DOMA.

His understanding of LGBT family equality issues includes co-sponsorship of the Uniting American Families Act. Tierney voted to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and in favor of hate crimes protections. And in advocating HIV/AIDS funding, Tierney has co-sponsored the Early Treatment for HIV Act, which would assist persons in great need with medical assistance.

If elected, and the GOP retains control of the House, is there any doubt that Tisei would not vote to reinstate Speaker John Boehner, thereby enabling the Republican Party's Young Guns and Tea Party extremists to advance their emphatically hostile anti-gay agenda?

Homonationalism from Page 2

We are securing a place at the table, but the table is used to plan wars and further global colonialism.

The expansion of homonationalism in our campaigns for inclusion not only lead to the gay identification with militarism, these efforts also systematically ignore and ostracize the needs of more marginalized LGBTQ people. I have written numerous articles about the needs of criminalized/incarcerated LGBTQ people, and the recent bipartisan transphobic attacks on Michelle Kosilek (transgender woman incarcerated in Massachusetts who was awarded access to gender affirming surgery) highlights who the homonationalist project is meant to exclude. Queers who do not conform to the privileged story written by the Human Rights Campaign or the Democratic Party are cast aside in the grab for institutionalized national recognition.

Another term that often accompanies homonationalism is *pink-washing* — there's even a conference, sponsored by The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies of the City University of New York, coming up in April on the two interconnected concepts. I wrote, some months ago, about the ways Israel engages in pink-washing their colonization of Palestine, highlighting the liberal Israeli acceptance of gay people while hiding their theft of Palestinian land and systemic murder/incarceration of Palestinian people. The U.S. does the same thing when we herald this country as a haven for gay rights with the passage of hate crimes legislation, the expansion of marriage laws and the inclusion of sexuality in amnesty

efforts, while simultaneously continuing to break treaties with the Indigenous people of this land, continuing the mass incarceration of black and brown bodies and expanding the gap between rich and poor. Pink-washing is a gay distraction from the reality that oppression is interconnected. Its efforts, whether explicitly intentional or not, join together with homonationalism to keep expanding the national rights of certain acceptable LGBT people while continuing the expansion of imperialism, racism, Islamophobia and global capitalism. A friend of mine describes it as the metaphorical use of rainbow flags to cover the bodies of those killed by drones, by lack of healthcare, by economic sanctions, by our complicity.

As this election season continues and certain mainstream LGBT organization begin releasing their endorsements, hosting fundraisers and flood your inbox with emails seeking support, ask more questions. Who is getting included in these campaigns? Who is being ignored? How can we refuse to participate in the oppression of others as we seek our own freedom? Soon, thankfully, the election season will be over, but the work will be far from done.

*Rev. Jason Lydon is a Unitarian Universalist minister in Boston. He is a long time anti-prison organizer and founder of Black & Pink, an LGBTQ-focused effort working toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex. Jason is also an avid lover of famous people and blockbuster action flicks. You can reach Jason at jason@blackandpink.org.

Congressman Tierney is a longtime, proven and dependable ally, an ardent backer of gay rights and full equality, who has earned LGBT support. He has been there for us on more than one occasion. This time, he needs us to be there for him on Election Day.

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Location: Brookline
Registration: (617) 477-6610
Wednesday Evenings: 6:30 to 8pm
Dates: Oct. 3 to Nov. 28

1

Partner/Spouse Loss

For any LGBT people experiencing the loss of a partner or spouse.

Location: Cambridge
Registration: (617) 477-6610
Thursday Evenings: 6 to 7:30pm
Dates: Nov. 8 to Jan. 10

3

General Loss (Cape Cod)

For LGBT people of any age who are experiencing the loss of a parent, friend, partner/spouse, family member or other loved one.

Location: Harwich
Registration: 1-800-631-3900, x7715
Tuesday Evenings: 5:30 to 7pm
Dates: Oct. 23 to Dec. 11

2

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*About the LGBT Bereavement Program:
The LGBT Bereavement Groups are funded by the Mass Department of Public Health and facilitated by Ethos and The LGBT Aging Project. All groups are free and run for 8 weeks. All groups require pre-registration. For more information on the LGBT Bereavement Program contact Bob Linscott at (617) 477-6610 or blinscott@lgbtagingproject.org.*

Terrence McNally: Ragtime speaks to themes of LGBT equality

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

For the second time in five years' time, a local advocacy organization has honored a great American playwright who happens to be gay.

And theatre legend Terrence McNally was in Boston recently when the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts awarded him its Beacon of Liberty Award during a cocktail reception and awards ceremony on Saturday evening, Sept. 15.

The timing of the gala reception, held at the TAJ Hotel, located in the city's Back Bay neighborhood, comes shortly before a new production of the Broadway musical *Ragtime* opens in Boston this weekend.

McNally won the 1998 Tony Award for Best Book (musical) for *Ragtime*.

At the reception McNally accepted the award also on behalf of fellow *Ragtime* creators Lynn Ahrens (lyrics) and Stephen Flaherty (music), who were unable to attend.

"I'm very touched and honored," said McNally, who, in his brief remarks, paid tribute to E. L. Doctorow, whose 1975 novel *Ragtime* provided inspiration for the musical.

"Every sentence, every moment could be musicalized," said McNally. "The greatest challenge was compressing out characters and emphasizing other things, but respecting the spirit of Doctorow."

"I'd like to think we've done that for this great American novel," which McNally said, "seems wiser, more prescient as the years go on."

McNally noted the production's proximity to



L-t-R: Fiddlehead Theatre Company artistic director Meg Fofonoff, playwright Terrence McNally, and Carol Rose, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

the 2012 presidential election.

Ragtime's playing "just a few weeks before a very important election is going to inform the experience," he said.

"We are at a crossroads in our history," McNally explained. "This show addresses every issue that America thinks it has solved, but we are asking ourselves the same questions, trying to figure them out, and then have to go back and ask them all again."

"Why is equality so hard?" he said. "Why, when we get to our place, our hearts start to shut down, and we don't want other people to

enjoy the same" status?

For McNally, the heart of *Ragtime* is the gesture of a key character, Mother, who picks up an abandoned child and brings it back to life, "without any thought about its ramifications" to her life, he said.

That "impulse of human goodness" is "what we have to find back in all of us," McNally added.

"If we can stay in touch with the spontaneity," he went on to explain, that "Each of us is intuitively a brother or sister in one family, but we somehow got talked out of it. We have to

remind ourselves we are all in this together, this big ride we are on, and we have to get this shop home safely."

The local production of *Ragtime* is a collaborative effort between the ACLU and Fiddlehead Theatre Company, with the enthusiastic support of Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, a big booster of the arts for more than a decade.

Sure enough, the driving force behind the collaboration is Meg Fofonoff, the company's producing artistic director.

Fofonoff and Rita Fucillo, vice president of New Venture Media Group, served as informal emcees for the short awards ceremony.

For her part, Fucillo, too, noted the production of *Ragtime*, its timing so close to Election Day, "amidst voter suppression, women's right suppression," and "in Kansas they're trying to take Obama's name off the ballot" because, "of course, he wasn't born in the United States," she said.

"Tonight we are reminded of what is at stake and reminded of the power of our vote," said Fucillo.

"As an artist in today's world, I feel it is so critical to help affect the political face of our nation to help ensure that civil rights and civil freedom for all remain our top priority," said Fofonoff.

It is "especially important," she added, "That art continues to inspire our spirits in such turbulent times."

"Ragtime is a musical full of heart, power,...

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tinyurl.com/9a8n5rj>

Holly Folly

Provincetown 2012
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Thank you nAGLY & congrats on 20!

On September 27th, the North Shore Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth, nAGLY, celebrated its 20th Anniversary as an organization that supports the GLBTQ youth of the North Shore.

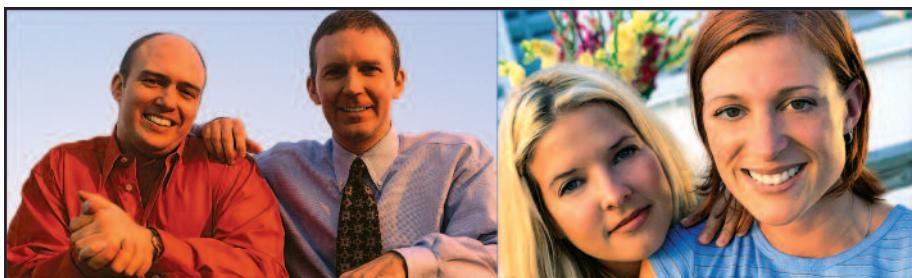
nAGLY's Gala and Fundraising event, hosted by Fast Freddy, showcased entertainment, a live and silent auction with plenty of fun and inspiration from the Historic Hawthorne Hotel's Grand Ballroom at 18 Washington Square, Salem, Mass.

Each year, *The Rainbow Times* proudly sponsors nAGLY as their main media partner. Although TRT is now based in Boston, unfortunately, its founders could not attend the event due to circumstances beyond their control. However, through fantastic photocoverage by TRT's lead photographer Glenn Koetzner, community members who were unable to attend the event can view highlights of it in this publication and on our FaceBook page. It was through Glenn's photocoverage that we received a photo (depicted above) that very night of nAGLY's Annual Fundraiser which expressed their sentiments towards the newspaper's work for the organization we so proudly support.

To nAGLY, we say thank you and whatever little we do does not compare to the work you do — changing the lives, inspiring, listening and caring for our LGBT youth. It never surprises us when, at other events, some of nAGLY's youth have approached any of TRT's staff with a smile and a thank you. They merely recognize us because of you and the significant work you do to let them know of the humble assistance that we provide your organization. Today, we say thank you nAGLY and here's to many more years to come!

Best always and in LGBT Youth (nAGLY) support,

Gricel M. Ocasio, Publisher
Nicole Lashomb, Editor-in-Chief



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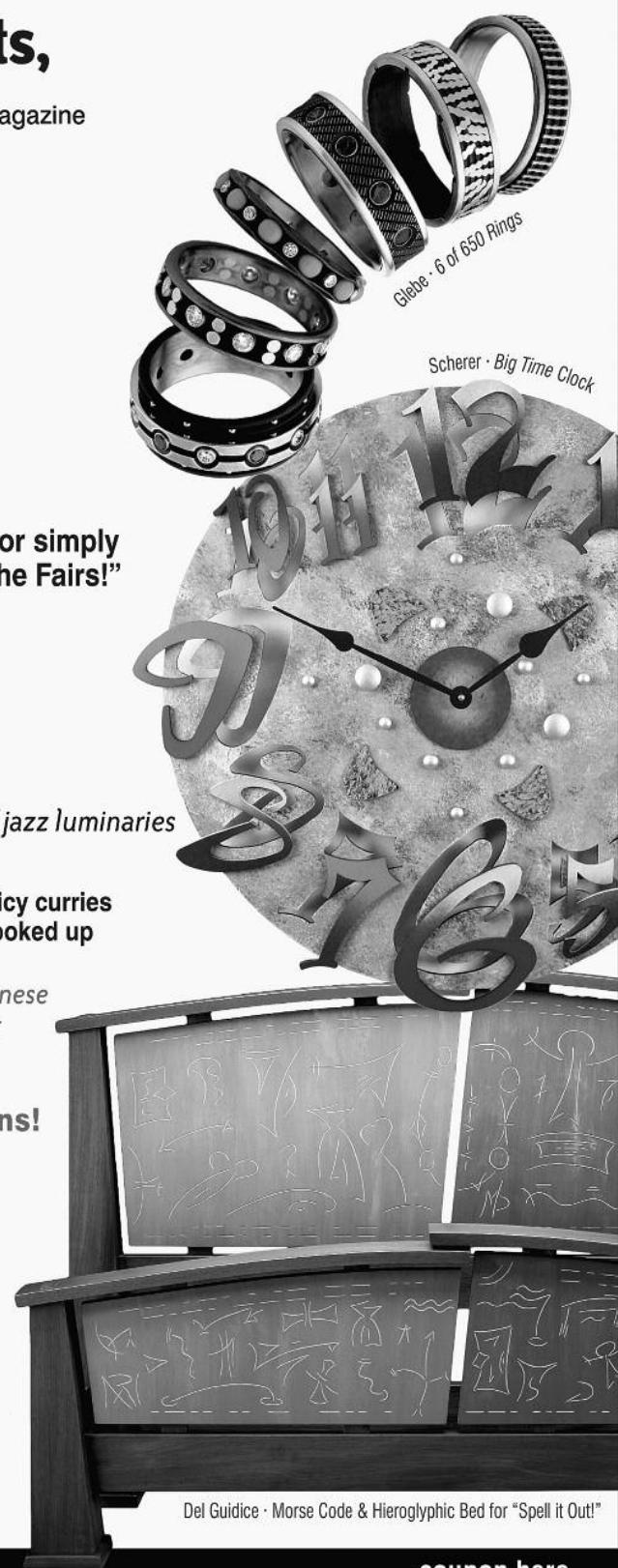
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Exposed: Adam Levine's passion for gay rights & biggest 'Voice' diva

By: Chris Azzopardi* /Special for TRT

Supermodel girlfriends, rumored spats with Christina Aguilera and the engine that has kept Maroon 5 running for 10 years – there's still so much more to Adam Levine. The adored frontman of one of the biggest pop bands, who recently told MTV that if he were president his first mission would be to legalize gay marriage, is also a straight ambassador for the gay community. With lots going on – judging this fall's third season of *The Voice*, making his acting debut on Ryan Murphy's *American Horror Story* and touring with Maroon 5 – it's no wonder the band's latest album is called *Overexposed*.

In this exclusive chat with the pop star, Levine talks how fighting for gay rights has little to do with him having a gay brother, what he really thinks of people who don't believe in marriage equality and if we'll see him, ahem, overexposed on *American Horror Story*.

Q. Of all the things you could've said, why did you tell MTV that you'd legalize gay marriage first if you were president?

A. It's just so silly and it doesn't make any sense to me that you wouldn't be able to marry whomever you want to marry. It's not our business. I don't know why we're obsessed with making everything in this country our business, all the time. It seems we're a little behind on that, and we just need to make it legal and stop caring so much. It doesn't matter. And it shouldn't matter.

Q. What would you say to other straight people who don't agree with you on the marriage issue?

A. Listen, I'm always willing to hear all sides of all arguments. Anyone who doesn't agree with it is essentially putting themselves above other people. That's what they're doing. And that's not OK with me.

Q. People have their personal preferences as to what they want to do with their own lives, and they have every right to do that – just like a gay couple has every right to do that. It's just not anyone's business except the people involved. That's all I would say: "What makes you better than these people?"

A. People have a million different justifications and reasons why they don't want (gay marriage) allowed, but it doesn't check out. Whenever I hear people's reasoning behind it, I think to myself: First of all, marriage isn't always successful anyway. Look at the divorce rate and all the things that go wrong with marriage. Whether it's gay or straight, there are issues with it. Clearly people have a hard time staying together, and that's just a sad truth about marriage in our society. People should be allowed to succeed and fail at marriage as they so desire.

Q. Has having a gay brother influenced how outspoken you've become for the gay community?

A. I don't think that having a gay brother has affected the way I feel about it, because I would feel the same way regardless. I happen to have a gay brother, but that doesn't mean I'm more of an advocate for equal human rights. That shouldn't change anything about the way that I feel.

Q. But he's your brother, so certainly some of your passion for gay rights is an extension of that relationship, right?

A. Of course! That contributes on some level to the way that I feel. But I don't know – I don't think I would feel any differently if he happened to be straight. The relationships that I have with



Maroon 5

people – whether it's my brother or a friend, gay or straight – shouldn't really ever come into play. Someone's sexual preference is their sexual preference. Let's move on.

When I'm talking about dating a girl and they're talking about dating a guy – big fucking deal. That's the thing; that's what's so bizarre about it: It doesn't faze me. Obviously I was brought up to believe that everybody is on a level playing field and we're all crazy, cool and all that fun stuff – and I don't pay much mind to it, because who am I to judge people? I judge people based on the things that they do. I judge people based on their character. If you have a friend who decides to do certain things in their own private time – even if they're straight – whatever the fuck they're into, fine. It doesn't matter. That's the biggest problem: It just simply doesn't affect the way I view a person. It's so arbitrary.

Q. How

big of a role do you think the gay community has had in Maroon 5's career?

A. The music that we make is for people to enjoy, and as far as all communities are concerned, the band's mission statement is that we make music for everybody and that we love everyone who appreciates it and we appreciate everyone who appreciates it. There's every type of person at our shows. And I love that. The more diverse our crowds get over time, the happier we get as a band.

Q. What's been the best part of shooting *American Horror Story* so far?

A. It's so much fun. I'm having a blast and obviously Ryan (Murphy) is amazing and so passionate and so cool, and I thank him for giving me this opportunity.

It's a really special show to be a part of, and it's been really fun and I'm very excited to see the results.

I've never really seen myself do any of this before, so I'm a little wigged out about that – actually watching myself. It's all new and it's all fun and it's a fresh experience. I've got



Adam Levine

PHOTO: TERRY RICHARDSON

ten super into it and hope there are more cool things like that to come. And I've got a lot of blood on me!

Q. What does that taste like?

A. It tastes like gross corn syrup crap.

Q. Dylan McDermott is known for getting naked a lot on the show. Should we expect you to get naked as well?

A. (Laughs) I don't think I'll be getting naked on the show. There's no nudity for me. But you'll see: It's definitely interesting.

Q. Who's the bigger diva on *The Voice*: you or Christina Aguilera?

A. Probably me. (Laughs) You know, it's cool because at this point, we finally hit our stride as friends – all four of us. Anytime you get four people together who don't know each other very well, at first certain people gravitate toward others and alliances are formed and friendships are formed. But what's great now is that all four of us are very close and having the best time because we're the most connected we've ever been.

Q. Blake Shelton seems very connected to you. So connected, in fact, he has said that he wants to kiss you. Is there a bromance going on that you want to tell us about?

A. (Laughs) I'm pretty sure all that is in good humor. I'm sure he doesn't really want to kiss me. He's married; he's taken.

Q. When was the moment that you felt like Maroon 5 had become overexposed?

A. (Laughs) (The album title) is more just a humorous take on the fact that the band is everywhere, which is a wonderful thing. It's kind of nice to put a spin on it and make fun of it and be silly about it rather than turn it into a bad thing. Because it's amazing.

We've been lucky enough to withstand over a decade of, I guess, what you call relevance, and we're really excited about that: continuing to have songs on the radio, playing big concerts and having this wonderful career. But we're everywhere, so I do believe there is some truth to that statement – and it's funny to poke a little bit of fun at it.

Q. A lot has changed in the business since you started 10 years ago. We have Chely Wright, an out gay country artist, and now the first major out hip-hop artist: Frank Ocean. How do you think these people, and the music business as a whole, can be influential in changing people's mind regarding gay politics?

A. It's a great platform for that. We've made a lot of strides in a lot of ways as far as acceptance is concerned. What's funny is everyone is always talking about the world being so fucked and such a disaster, but when you really look at it, there's an argument in there that the world's become a better place.

Look at the strides. It's really easy to look at all the things that are wrong with the world and say, "Oh my god, we're all going to hell in a hand basket." But I think what's cool to say is, "Look at the wonderful things that we have been able to achieve and look at how much more equally people are treated now as opposed to the past." I think we have a lot of really big strides to make: For some reason, someone being homophobic is still somewhat acceptable in our society, which I don't like. That's what I hate so much, but I think that we've made strides there, too. It's going to be a long battle. People make fun of people for being gay too much; it's too culturally accepted still, but it's better.

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tinyurl.com/8ert4yz>

Laura Petracca: Interview with drummer, featured on "the Real L Word"

By: Clara Lefton/TRT Reporter

Lifelong musician Laura Petracca's career has skyrocketed since her appearance on season three of Showtime's "The Real L Word." The drummer of the Canadian-based rock sensation Hunter Valentine, HV, is being recognized in the most ordinary of places in her everyday life. Whether walking along the Brooklyn Bridge or riding on the subway, Laura, now 32, says she's closer to musical stardom than ever before.

Inspired by her grandfather and uncle's talent on the drum set, she began learning how to play the instrument in elementary school. After performing in a teenage battle of the bands competition, she continued on in a variety of other short-lived musical endeavors. In 2004 she founded HV with lead singer Kiyomi McCloskey, and says her parents have been her biggest supporters from the get-go. HV is about to release the band's third album *Collide and Conquer* on October 23.

TRT: How did "The Real L Word" change Hunter Valentine?

Laura Petracca: We already had a semi-decent following just because of our band and what we've been doing for the last eight years, but this has kick-started a whole new thing for us. We're plastered all over the city in posters and people watch us every Thursday. A lot of people have never heard of us and then became fans through the show, and we've had a lot of positive feedback, so I think this is great. Originally, you wonder, because you don't get to have any say in how it's edited and you don't know how they're going to portray you. You have to become very comfortable in front of the



Hunter Valentine

camera because otherwise you'll do things and think, "Oh no, how's that going to look?" or "How's that going to make me look?" But I think they did a really good job of creating drama and showing who we are.

Q. Did the show portray the band and its members accurately?

A. It was kind of interesting how they made Kiyomi look like a dictator; a lot of the stuff

that was supposed to be serious was really a joke. [For example] when Kiyomi would say, "We're not supposed to be having fun," that's a joke. It's just funny to me that [the producers] made it look serious. In the beginning it seemed like a lot of people were mad at Kiyomi, because they thought she was treating the band like crap, but really it's just our sense of humor in general. Then they made Kiyomi look like a

sweatheart because she's in love with [cast member] Lauren Russell. I guess, yeah, I feel good about how they edited us. I just wish there was more of me and [bassist] Veronica Sanchez, that's all.

Q. You've toured with a lot of bands, is there one in particular that stands out as the most fun that you've enjoyed playing with?

A. Sick of Sarah, 100 percent. When we did the Lady Killer Tour, Vanity Theft was also on it, it was a party tour, as much as it was hard work. Normally I don't drink that much on tour, but it felt like we were on tour with our best friends. There's so many of us that it sort of became a ritual where you decide, "Okay, I'll have five beers tonight," when really you should only have one or none. So it was definitely the most fun tour. I've never been so tired and hungover in my life — it was six weeks long.

Q. What was the official reason for keyboardist Somer Bingham to leave the band?

A. It was driven by her not being able to commit, and we weren't willing to wait anymore. There were a lot of things that we had to do to move forward, like, for example, album artwork [and] press photos. So we basically had to put the gun to her head, and she wasn't ever really satisfying us with an answer. So I said, "I can't go forward with her," and Kiyomi agreed.

It wasn't because we didn't like her, because the hardest part was that we really liked her. She is a lot of fun and is a great musician, despite all the little technical errors that could've been

Read the rest of this story at:
<http://tinyurl.com/8t95gu4>

nAGLY

**FUNDRAISING GALA,
SILENT & LIVE AUCTION
SALEM, MASS.**

PHOTOS: TRT/GLENN KOETZNER

Pregúntale a Lambda Legal: La policía parece estar pendiente de mí

Por: Thomas Ude/Abogado de Lambda Legal

P: Yo nunca he sido detenido, pero a veces se me hace que la policía me pone más atención a mí en comparación con algunos de mis amigos. ¿Me imagino esto?

R: La lucha por los derechos civiles LGBT tiene sus raíces en enfrentamientos en contra del acoso de la policía. En 1969, en los Disturbios de Stonewall, los clientes de un bar se defendieron en contra de tratamiento injustificado y dirigido específicamente hacia personas LGBT por parte de la policía. Hoy, para muchas poblaciones, las estadísticas continúan mostrando índices desproporcionados de arresto y detención.

La política de "parar y palpar" de la policía de la Ciudad de Nueva York ("stop and frisk" en inglés) ha resultado en el acoso de comunidades vulnerables, inclusive de personas de ingresos bajos, las personas de color, personas LGBT, las personas que viven con VIH, y los inmigrantes. En 2011, por ejemplo, jóvenes afro-americanos y latinos (de edades 14 a 24) componían menos de 5% de la población de la ciudad, pero fueron el blanco de más de 40% de las paradas. Por cierto, el número de detenciones por la policía de jóvenes afro-americanos excedió el número de jóvenes afro-americanos en la población completa de la ciudad.

Los problemas con agencias del orden público también existen al nivel federal. Por ejemplo, el programa del Departamento de Homeland Security, "Comunidades Seguras"—que prioriza supuestamente la deportación de los "ofensores más peligrosos y violentos" que representan una amenaza a la seguridad pública y nacional—de hecho, ha tenido como resultado el arresto y la detención de inmigrantes con infracciones de tránsito. Según www.immigrationpolicy.org, entre octubre 2008 y septiembre de 2011, en el Condado de Maricopa, Arizona, 60% de las personas deportadas tenían convicciones menores o no eran criminales; en Jefferson Parish, Luisiana, el 87% tenían convicciones menores. Al nivel nacional, 26% de las personas deportadas a causa de "Comunidades Seguras" no tenían convicciones criminales.

Abusos como estos contribuyen a la desconfianza, la duda y el temor a la policía en nuestras comunidades, y puede prevenir que las personas llamen a la policía cuando sean víctimas de un crimen. Según la Oficina de la Justicia (<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/>), del 2006 a 2010, el 20% del crimen contra las personas que viven en áreas urbanas no fue denunciado a la policía, el 33% del crimen violento contra las personas de la tercera edad no fue denunciado, y el 65% de asaltos sexuales no fueron denunciados. Un 76% del crimen que ocurrió en las escuelas no fue denunciado. Estos números preocupan y están aumentando: el por-

centaje de crimen violento que no fue denunciado porque la víctima sentía que la policía no podría o no haría nada para ayudar casi se triplicó del 2005 a 2010.

Lambda Legal tiene una historia larga de luchar contra el maltrato de la policía, uniéndose a demandas en contra de leyes anti-inmigrantes y con una coalición en Nueva York para desafiar la política de "parar y palpar". Actualmente, Lambda Legal está colectando información sobre las experiencias de las personas LGBT y las personas que viven con el VIH, con la policía, la seguridad escolar, los tribunales y el sistema penitenciario a través de una encuesta. Fue-
sen tus experiencias positivas, negativas o

mediocres, los aportes de todos son necesarios para captar la experiencia de nuestras comunidades en toda su dimensión. Completa la encuesta en la Internet: <http://tinyurl.com/9382onw>.

Si piensas que has sido discriminada o has sido la víctima de acoso a causa de tu orientación sexual, identidad de género o estatus de VIH, llama nuestra Línea de Ayuda en 1-866-542-8336, o acude digitalmente al: www.lambdalegal.org/es/linea-de-ayuda.

Para leer esta columna en inglés vaya a: <http://tinyurl.com/96awstj>.

La lucha por los derechos civiles LGBT tiene sus raíces en enfrentamientos en contra del acoso de la policía.

iLa hora de votar ha llegado!

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa* / Columnista de TRT



PHOTO: ERIC HESS

LATIN VISION En menos de un mes, muchos/as de nosotros/as debemos ir a las urnas para rendir nuestro voto. Cada voto cuenta y todo voto es importante ya que los candidatos/as pueden perder o ganar por un solo voto. Estas personas que estamos rindiéndole nuestro apoyo toman decisiones por nosotros/as todos los días. Estos candidatos, aunque no sean Latinos o parte de la comunidad LGBT, toman decisiones que nos afectan a todos/as sin importar nuestra orientación sexual ni creencias.

Para algunos/as, la política es un evento que molesta y una serie de eventos organizados por grupos de personas que sólo se ven una vez cada dos años o cada cuatro años. Muchas veces no conocemos a estas personas aunque piden nuestro "voto por cambio" o para "un nuevo tipo de liderazgo." Para otros/as la política es algo de lo que no se habla alrededor de la mesa, entre familia o entre grupos de amigos o compañeros/as de trabajo para no ofender a alguien o crear conflicto innecesario. Para muchos/as la política es una actividad divulgatoria en la que solamente hombres y mujeres con poca ética eligieron hacer como profesión para conseguir lo mayor que puedan del "sistema" o del gobierno. No importa cuál es su inclinación o definición del sistema político, la política es el proceso y el método por los cuales las pólizas y leyes son determinados por personas que son electos/as a este sistema. El conocimiento de lo que ellos/as saben lo utilizan para hacer cambios a nuestro gobierno. Nuestro voto apoya o no a estos/as líderes.

Pedro Julio Serrano, líder "gay" en Puerto Rico y Nueva York, dice: "Mi voz es una sola, pero las voces de tod@s son las que pueden hacer la diferencia. Mi trayectoria y mi posición han sido claras siempre: he sido consis-

tente en exigir nada más y nada menos que la igualdad – plena, absoluta, completa, entera, total... como tiene que ser. La igualdad no permite excepción, no es divisible, no permite contemplaciones, no es a medias... es una sola." Por esto es la razón por la que todos/as debemos educarnos sobre lo que piensan estas personas que piden nuestro voto ya que como comunidad Latina LGBT contamos y podemos exigir esta igualdad hablando con estos/as líderes políticos.

Como Latinos/as luchamos continuamente en contra de los ataques a nuestras raíces de inmigrantes y de nuestros esfuerzos por crear una vida mejor para nuestras familias. Como hombres y mujeres LGBT, luchamos para asegurar la justicia, la igualdad de tratamiento y los mismos derechos bajo la ley. Cada una de nuestras comunidades no debe tener miedo de activarse y mobilizarse. Hay grupos locales e individuos que nos ayudan diariamente y que nos pueden informar sobre los/as candidatos a la elección en noviembre, 2012. Es importante aprender sobre los/as candidatos/as como Warren, Decker, Arroyo, Malia, y del Presidente Obama. Estos candidatos apoyan a nuestra comunidad Latina LGBT, aunque quizás no sean miembros la misma. Lee sobre los/as candidatos/as que han sido apoyados por este periódico en esta edición de respaldo político (página 2).

Juntos y con nuestros votos podemos continuar realizando el cambio que deseamos ver suceder y asegurarnos de que nuestras batallas, nuestras luchas y nuestros derechos a la igualdad no sean dejados a personas extrañas, racistas u homofóbicas. Está de nosotros/as el fortalecer a nuestra comunidad y movilizar el voto. Debemos tomar esta batalla en nuestras propias manos y utilizar la política para apreciar la diferencia que deseamos ver. Nuestro voto, su voto hace la diferencia a través del año no sólo por un día. Si tienes el derecho al voto no lo dejes perder. ¡Ejerce tu derecho al voto y vota en Noviembre 6!

*Escrito por Wilfred W. Labiosa, Director Ejecutivo de CASPAR.

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Robert Pattinson, Gus Van Sant, Chloe Sevigny, 'Tootsie'

By: Romeo San Vicente*/Special for TRT



DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD

Robert Pattinson or Naomi Watts: Which one is Queen of The Desert?

Post-Twilight, Robert Pattinson's career heat is leading him in some unexpected directions.

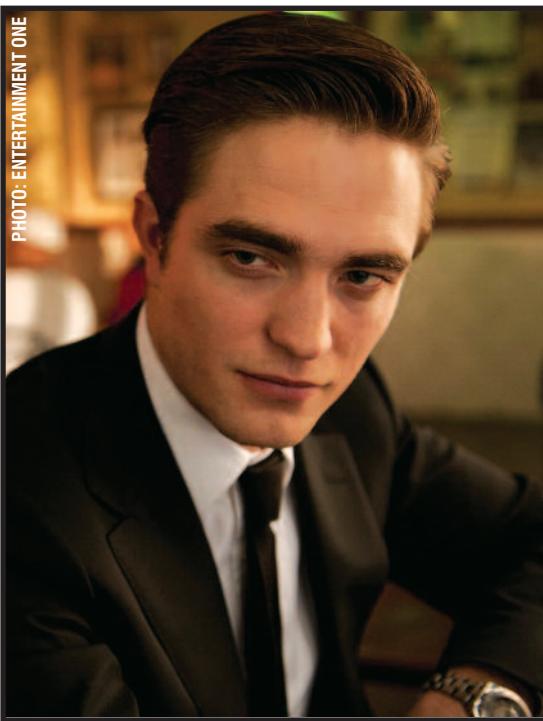
Instead of continuing to cash in with above-the-title treatment in big budget Hollywood junk, the young actor has, instead, chosen to work with acclaimed filmmakers like David Cronenberg, for whom he's currently starring in the very strange arthouse hit *Cosmopolis*. Now the former teen vampire has been cast by legendary filmmaker Werner Herzog (*Cave of Forgotten Dreams*) for *Queen of The Desert*, Herzog's biopic about Gertrude Bell. Naomi Watts will take the role of the famous adventurer and spy often known as "the female Lawrence of Arabia," while Pattinson will play Mr. Of Arabia himself, T.E. Lawrence (made film-famous by young Peter O'Toole). Lawrence's sexuality has long been the subject of debate and Bell was unmarried for life in a time when women were discouraged from that sort of thing. Queer historians, start your speculations.

Gus Van Sant takes Matt Damon to the Promised Land

That untitled, in-development "Capra-esque"

movie Matt Damon co-wrote with John Krasinski, the one they're also starring in together and that Damon was going to direct but then gave up to longtime collaborator Gus Van Sant? Remember that one? It has a name now: *Promised Land*. Based on a story by Dave Eggers, author of the acclaimed memoir *A Heart-breaking Work of Staggering Genius*, it's about a shake-up in the lives and values of two greedy rival Wall Street types. (And are there any who aren't awful, or do we just not hear about them because they're busy building Habitat for Humanity houses on the weekend?) And Focus Features is getting behind the film, which also stars Academy Award-winner Frances McDormand, for a sizeable Oscar push with a late December release and rollout into awards season.

PHOTO: ENTERTAINMENT ONE



Robert Pattinson

If the film is halfway decent and they play their cards right, it could be Van Sant and Damon's next *Good Will Hunting*. And who wouldn't like them apples?

Chloe Sevigny moves to Portlandia

Played an HIV-positive teenager? Check. A young woman in love with a transgender man? Check. A nun? A sister-wife? A transgender female assassin? Check, check, check. But to call yourself a true gay icon you really need to have comedian Drew Droege make crazy Internet videos

ring Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein about people in Portland, Oregon. Or maybe it's really a satire of the media's perception of the entire city of Portland? Whatever, we just hope that in at least one upcoming episode of the new season Sevigny will play a gay male comic making Internet videos about a hipster alt-starlet. Tail, eat yourself!

Tootsie takes the stage, Hayes joins Smash

In what appears to be a now firmly entrenched trend of taking popular films and turning them into Broadway musicals, Sony Pictures has struck a five-year deal with Tony Award-winning producer Scott Sanders to transform Sony titles into stage-bound tourist pleasers. First up? *Tootsie*, the sweetly funny straight-man-in-a-dress comedy that starred Dustin Hoffman way back in 1982. No other details besides its potential existence are forthcoming, so you may now safely return to considering the future of your new TV-about-Broadway addiction, *Smash*. Sean Hayes is joining the cast for the upcoming season as a TV actor making his Broadway debut, something Hayes himself parlayed into a Tony nomination for the revival of *Promises, Promises*. As this character he will make Debra Messing's life a living hell, so *déjà vu* on that one, too, while adding fresh blood to an already beefed up second season cast that includes Jennifer Hudson, Daniel Sunjata (*Take Me Out*) and Jeremy Jordan (*Newsies*). Hollywood is going to make Broadway a serious thing again or die trying.

*Romeo San Vicente will call you. Maybe. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Photos: Lorelei Erisis/TRT

OUT IN THE PARK
AT
SixFlags
NEW ENGLAND
AGAWAM, MASS.

Stages: Transgender star folk-rock “Namoli Brennet’s live album”

By: Justin Rosini/Special to TRT

Stages, the new live album by transgender songwriter Namoli Brennet, is filled with hope and melancholy, love and loss, joy and bitterness. Drawing upon six of her eight albums, dating back to her 2002 debut *Boy In A Dress*, the prolific country folk singer blends these emotions into themes of freedom and distance traveled in the album's 15 tracks, three of which are previously unreleased. A deft acoustic player, the tracks feature her and her guitar with little else. Not that anything more is needed; her smoky vocals and flying fingers fill her performance spaces perfectly, the power of her voice harnessed by subtlety. Although the album features Brennet live from a variety of places and venue sizes, her voice and guitar seem to move almost seamlessly throughout, occasionally broken up by some stage banter.

Opening with the as-yet unreleased “*Surrender*,” Brennet immediately draws the listener in with a plea for understanding and support. “I know I’m not the only one to break up,” she sings, and one can empathize when she admits to raising a white flag and surrendering to the conflict within. She uses her guitar as a shield, deflecting the world’s weight, both here and on the beautiful ballad “*Counting Rosaries*,” which finds her calling out to saints and remembering childhood prayers to gather strength to forge through life’s rough patches. She is just as apt at using her guitar as a sword, however, on tracks like “*Grapes Of Wrath*” and “*Border Crossing*,” the former a marcher that poignantly captures the modern plight of disenfranchisement and the latter a tender, biting and absolutely crushing tale of a family trying to gain entry to the country and those trying to assist them.

According to her blog, Brennet has lived for over a year without a permanent address. Instead, she has traveled the country in her Volvo, playing venues and house concerts along the way. Listening to “*Dust On The Radio*,” one can easily picture her driving down an endless mid-western highway on a blindingly sunny day with the windows open, the static on the radio matched only by the static landscape, as she heads to another gig in a nameless town. In “*Iowa*,” her wandering seems to have found a home. Recorded at KPLV Studios in tiny Postville, Iowa, this ballad finds her yearning “to be sown, to be grown, to belong as I belong in Iowa,” and is reminiscent of Paul Simon singing his own love song to Memphis, Tennessee in “*Graceland*.”

The haunting “*Settle Down*” has her drumming percussion on her guitar and marveling at the way voices from the past whisper what needs to be heard in the present. She challenges us, asking, “Who among us was born to settle down? We were born to rise.” There is power in her sparse playing and in her earthy vocals as she tests the boundaries of our freedom, using civil rights

PHOTO: HAROLD LEE MILLER



Namoli Brennet

icons of the past to illustrate her point that change is coming, change is here, change is continuing. She leaves the burden of its continuance to us.

If you have never had the benefit of hearing Namoli Brennet sing live, this is a more than acceptable substitute and a great place to start for the first time listener. It is a greatest hits album of sorts — one that captures the spirit of her catalogue, as well as her own lofty spirit, in an hour and ten minutes. For those who have been looking for their next country folk hero, you can stop. Here she is. She has been waiting for you to arrive.

Namoli Brennet’s live album will be released on October 8, and she will be touring New England in October and November. For more information and updates, visit her website: www.namolibrennet.com.

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Creep of the Week: Bryan Fischer

By: D’Anne Witkowski*/Special for TRT

Hey, did you know that September 23 was “Bisexual Visibility Day?” I, personally, did not. So if you did nothing to celebrate, perhaps you can be forgiven since this bisexual day only exists, in official capacity anyway, in Berkeley, California. The day was intended to “recognize and celebrate bisexuality history, bisexual community and culture, and the bisexual people in their lives,” according to City Council Member Kriss Worthington.

Sounds okay, yes? No big deal. Just a nod and a hat-tip to the **bisexuals**.

Or is it? Well, if you’re Bryan Fischer (and I hope that for your sake you are not because, wow, what a sad, sad man. But if you are then, well, thanks for reading, I guess) you see bisexual day as a portent to something much more sinister. And so **Fischer Tweeted**,

day? Will there be a pedophilia pride day? Will there be a bestiality pride day? What’s coming??

First of all, a transgender pride day would hardly be ridiculous considering how maligned the transgender community is. Talk about people who all too often aren’t treated like human beings. If you need proof, just Google *Transgender Day of Remembrance*, which isn’t the same as a pride day. It’s a hell of a lot more sad. Be sure to have tissues handy.

As for **equating gays, lesbians, and bisexuals with incest, pedophilia, and bestiality**, these are cheap shots being made in lieu of any actual substantial argument. People like Fischer think of LGBT humans as little more than acts of sexual aberrations, something that is getting harder and harder to do as more and more people come out and demand human rights.

Fischer continues his doomsday scenario: “Look, once you cross the threshold of one man and one woman there is no place to stop.”

First of all, a transgender pride day would hardly be ridiculous considering how maligned the transgender community is. Talk about people who all too often aren’t treated like human beings.

“Berkeley hosts first ‘Bisexual Pride Day.’ What’s next? ‘Pedophile Pride Day?’ ‘Bestiality Pride Day?’” Ha ha. Get it? Because a sexual relationship between consenting adults is totally the same thing as sex with a toddler or a Pomeranian.

Not content to merely Tweet about the bisexual pride scourge, Fischer took to his radio show to further complain about how low we’ve sunk as a country that we would actually **treat bisexuals like human beings**.

“Now we’ve been dealing with gay pride days here in America,” Fischer jeered. “Now for the very first time there’s a city, Berkeley, California, that is gonna host a bisexual pride day and then you start wondering well what comes next?”

Oh, we know what comes next. At least what comes next in Fischer’s alternate reality universe.

“Is there going to be a **transgender pride day?**” he asks. “Will there be an **incest pride**

Once you decide to treat **homosexual behavior**, which is sexually aberrant behavior, as normal, and as a normal alternative to heterosexual behavior, there simply is no place to stop.”

Really, Fischer? Really? Is that really a claim that you want to make? Because there are plenty of reasonable people, even people who don’t support marriage equality, who can see the difference between a two men who are in love with each other and, say, a guy who keeps children prisoner in his basement as sex slaves or that dude who kills ladies to wear their skin in *Silence of the Lambs*. To deny that there is a huge and unbridgeable chasm there makes you, Fischer, look totally **insane**.

*D’Anne Witkowski has been gay for pay since 2003. She’s a freelance writer and poet (believe it!). When she’s not taking on the creeps of the world she reviews rock ‘n’ roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister.

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LGBTQ news from around the country: The good, the bad and the ugly

GAYBORHOOD

Anchorage, AK

Challenge to same-sex eligibility for survivor benefits in Alaska

Lambda Legal has filed a legal challenge on behalf of the lesbian partner of a shooting victim in Alaska. Deborah Harris' same-sex partner Kerry Fadely was shot and killed in a work-related incident, which under Alaska's worker's compensation law leaves the spouse eligible for survivor benefits. Harris, though, will not receive benefits because same-sex couples are excluded from this law. Harris is only challenging the exclusion from eligibility for survivor benefits and not the right to marry in Alaska. Lambda Legal claims the discrimination violates constitutional guarantees of equality, and the Alaska Supreme Court will decide this after Harris' direct appeal.

Atlanta, GA

HIV discrimination case settled with Atlanta

Lambda Legal accepted a settlement offer to resolve the discrimination lawsuit of an anonymous client who was denied employment with the Atlanta Police department because of his HIV status. The City held that a police officer living with HIV presented a direct threat to health and safety of others. Atlanta will pay the client \$250,000.

Boston, MA

Fenway's new book highlights organization's first 40 years

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS

Courtesy: WolfeVideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. The Guest House
2. Kiss Me
3. Chely Wright: Wish Me Away
4. Joe + Belle
5. The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister
6. Bound
7. Elvis & Madonna
8. The Perfect Family
9. Tomboy
10. The Dreya Weber Set

GAY TOP 10

1. Funkytown
2. August
3. Weekend
4. Leave it on the Floor
5. Elliot Loves
6. Beauty
7. The Men Next Door
8. Kawa
9. Private Romeo
10. The Green

A new book written by former Fenway Health Board of Director chronicles the organization's first 40 years. Tom Martorelli's *For People, Not for Profit* showcases Fenway Health's history and the evolution of community and LGBT healthcare. The book is available in print and as an ebook from Amazon, Barnes and Noble and iBooks.

MA SJC recognizes domestic partnerships from CA

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has ruled that Massachusetts must recognize parallel spousal statuses for same-sex couples from other states, for example, domestic partnerships registered in California. The unanimous ruling also protects the best interest of children, as under it, both spouses are considered legal parents to children born in such unions.

Chicago, IL

Book celebrates loving moms of LGBTs

A new photo essay book featuring mothers of LGBT individuals has been created by Windy City Times and photographed by Kat Fitzgerald. The Chicago-based newspaper solicited submissions from the Chicago area, but also interviewed well-known moms of LGBTs, including Judy Shepard. The book includes an assortment of families, and ends with a special blank frame on the last page, so that children can place their own mother's picture in the book. The book can be purchased online at Amazon, or at Women & Children First bookstore in Chicago.

Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington New campaign uses Facebook to reach voters

HRC has announced the launch of a new campaign to reach out quickly and effectively to those in states where voters will decide on marriage equality for same-sex couples. Call4Equality a web tool available through call4equality.hrc.org, uses Facebook to connect the user with their networks in Maine, Maryland, Minnesota and Washington, and then will create personalized call lists and scripts to help educate and motivate voters on the issue.

New York, NY

Final episode of first gay newsmagazine to be aired

The first gay newsmagazine, "In the Life," will air its final episode in December after 20 years

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in production. "In the Life," produced by In the Life Media, was the first to bring real stories and struggles about the LGBT experience to light on public television, at a time when LGBT people were invisible in the media. In the Life Media will continue its vision through an interactive online hub archive, where users will be able to view, share and build with their own stories.

Millions of Americans to wear purple in stand against bullying

Millions of Americans will wear purple for Spirit Day on October 19 to take a stand against bullying. George Takei, Shaquille O'Neal, Perez Hilton and other celebrities will join GLAAD, hundreds of corporations, schools, national landmarks and millions more to show their support for LGBT youth. Other groups participating include AT&T, Facebook, Yahoo!, WNBA and NBA, GLSEN, PFLAG and more. Spirit Day was created in 2010 when teenager Brittany McMillan called on her friends to wear purple to memorialize those who lost their lives to bullying.

Intel announces they will no longer fund the Boy Scouts of America

Intel has pulled their funding from the Boy Scouts of America after urgency from an online campaign. Intel, one of the Boy Scouts of America's largest corporate donors, has said that they could no longer fund the organization, so long as they continue their policy banning gay troops and leaders from participating. President Obama has publicly opposed this anti-gay policy.

2011 National School Climate Survey released by GLSEN

GLSEN has released "The 2011 National School Climate Survey" detailing experiences of LGBT students in America's schools. This year, for the first time, the study found decreased levels of biased language and victimization, as well as increased levels of access to LGBT-related school resources and support. The survey also indicated that a safer school climate correlates directly to availability of resources and support, including GSAs and comprehensive anti-bullying policies. Despite this progress, the majority of LGBT students are still struggling with obstacles in school affecting their academic performance and personal well-being.

New Hampshire

Publication highlights transgender experiences in New Hampshire

GLAD and TransGender New Hampshire have announced a book which includes stories about local transgender people and their families. "We are New Hampshire: Transgender Lives in the Granite State" is intended as an edu-

ational resource for policy makers as well as the general public, and highlights challenges faced by residents and their families, while also revealing the fullness of their lives. Read this story online at tinyurl.com/8ste4xz.

San Francisco, CA

CA bill ensures equal access to fertility services

The governor of California has signed a bill ensuring equal access to fertility services for same-sex couples. The bill, signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, allows women in same-sex relationships, as well as single women, to access fertility services on the same terms as women in different-sex relationships. This will take effect January 1, 2013.

First bill signed to protect LGBT youth from psychological abuse

A landmark bill was signed by California Gov. Jerry Brown that protects LGBT youth from psychological abuse by deceptive mental health professionals that falsely claim they can change such youth's sexual orientation or gender expression. California is the first state in the nation to protect LGBT youth by prohibiting these dangerous and deceitful practices, which include shame, verbal abuse and aversion therapy, and cause a high risk of depression and suicide. The law will take effect January 1, 2013.

Washington, D.C.

DHS issues guidance including relief for partners of LGBT immigrants

The Department of Homeland Security has issued new, written guidance extending discretionary relief to those U.S. Citizens that are spouses and partners of LGBT immigrants. These guidelines make clear that the phrase "family relationships" include same-sex partners. This is one of the first times federal immigration policies recognize LGBT families.

Online hub created for transgender college students

The National Center for Transgender Equality has launched the first online hub for trans college students. The Transgender On-campus Nondiscrimination Information project allows trans students to share trans-affirmative policies and practices of colleges, as well as exchange ideas for action and organizing. The site includes a searchable campus profile database and a community forum, and is open to current and prospective students.

Campaign brings attention to non-inclusive school forms

A new initiative by the Family Equality Council encourages parents of school children to challenge non-inclusive forms. The "Snap It & Send It" campaign urges families to bring attention to the many forms that fail to recognize LGBT-headed families and instead send a daily reminder of exclusion. Parents are encouraged to snap a photo of the antiquated forms they come across every day, and send them to forms@familyequality.org with a description of how their family is impacted. The Family Equality Council will use these photos as examples as it works with agencies to make these necessary changes on forms.

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A look at the upcoming presidential election; an overview of Pres. Obama and Romney

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist



Soon we will be voting for the position of president of the United States. We have the defending president, Barack Obama, and the challenger, Mitt Romney. Some folks see these two candidates as the same and others see them as vastly different. Let's take a closer look, because one of them will be leading our nation for the next four years.

First, I'd like to address those who see them as the same. People who see them this way are usually the non-traditional folks who want dramatic and drastic change. Their issues may range from green issues, issues of fiscal conservatism, or issues of socialism. They all have their points and many are very disgusted with the two party system. They may see Obama and Romney as offering no real change for the U.S. Listening to their views one can see their point, but if there is no strong third party candidate who can gather enough votes to win the election, their votes will hurt one of the two candidates by taking votes away from them.

These folks may be voting with their conscience, but their non-votes for either Obama or Romney will help sway the election one way or the other.

Let's take a look at the challenger, Mitt Romney. Romney is a very successful businessman

Romney is the candidate of the rich and the powerful. Make no mistake, he will look for cuts in Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare. If you are a senior citizen you should realize this. He will take away from the 99 percent and give to the 1 percent. Again, this is not a new or

ways to go to back transgender rights, but to my recollection he was the first president to ever even say the word "transgender" in his speeches. If you vote solely on LGBT issues, you must vote for Obama and yes, he does support women's issues.

Fiscally, he is less conservative than Romney. He is willing to cut the budget but he is not willing to direct his cuts from the poor, the women and the seniors. He is more apt to cut red tape from the social and military budgets. The 1 percenters will likely have to pay more taxes if Obama has his way.

One last comment regarding foreign policy – it seems that every time Romney makes a statement about a foreign country, they become upset with him. He needs to hone his diplomatic skills. Obama is more diplomatic and has the respect of many foreign countries.

So choose wisely my friends, for this person will be our leader for the next four years, and don't forget that two Supreme Court seats will be open during this period, which the president appoints. Would you like conservatives or liberals in these seats?

*Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has 3 grown children and works at 3M. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net

TRANS NEWS

Romney is the candidate of the rich and the powerful. Make no mistake, he will look for cuts in Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare.

and a multi-millionaire. He was one of the early pioneers of outsourcing U.S. jobs to other countries to cut costs. This is not an unusual business practice. Many, if not most, companies have practiced outsourcing, cut their expenses and raised the value of their stock. Yes, it's a double-edged sword when you take into account all of the Americans who have lost their jobs because of this practice, but the bottom line is the bottom line. When you go to the store, are you swayed by sales and lower costs? Many of us will purchase the lower priced product. You have to give Romney points for cutting costs and being profitable, but you have to take away points for the U.S. jobs lost.

unusual practice. With a few exceptions, the rich and powerful have always taken care of the rich and powerful. One last thing about Romney -- he is no friend to the LGBT community. He is against us marrying, against us serving openly in the military and against us having insurance rights. Any LGBT person who votes for Romney is, in effect, voting against him/herself in regard to these social issues. One also has to note that Romney is not especially sympathetic to women's issues.

Obama, on the other hand, is very responsive to LGBT issues. He backs us in marriage, he backs us in serving openly and he backs our rights in insurance policies. Yes, he still has a

Ask a Transwoman: Transgender book corner, recommending an anthology and Kate Bornstein

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist



Dearest Lorelei,
I've been trying to support a co-worker with a challenge she's having with a client. I work as a therapist at an outpatient substance abuse program down here. My co-worker has no experience with GLBT clients, so

she's working on her learning curve. I'm a gay man, but realizing my own limits with transgendered folks too. The client is MTF, but horrified at the thought of it, due to being married and professionally employed as a high school teacher. Meanwhile, the client, currently trying to identify as male, keeps relapsing with alcohol to deal with the internal conflict. A few months ago he went on hormones without telling his wife and described it as, "the most comfortable and close to happy I've ever felt." He stopped when breasts started to develop and went back to the booze. The dysphoric self-image is clear, as is the resorting to alcohol to self-medicate.

What we need is perhaps a book (fiction is okay) written from an MTF point of view --

hopefully with a happy conclusion. Also a book recommendation so that we, as clinicians, can better educate ourselves too. The client is terrified of coming out to the wife or anyone else. My co-worker knows this from trying to have the client find a way to dress as a woman when possible, just for the benefit of getting a better feel for what he/she wants for the future.

Signed, Seeking Knowledge in Newark

I might be, I read voraciously! Pre-internet, I would prowl bookstores looking for anything that might give me a clue in my evolving search to understand my own identity. Casually, nervously, sidling my way into whatever dusty, disused corner the "Gender Studies," "Gay," or most often, "Women's Studies," shelves were hidden in.

I read everything I could find. Academic

to humanize the transgender/transsexual experience by presenting as wide a range of folks as will be found in any other group. Yes, we have common issues and experiences, but we have individual lives too. I personally find that idea freeing.

My second recommendation, for yourself and your fellow therapists, in addition to the previous book which you should read yourselves, is the book "Gender Outlaw," by Kate Bornstein. I believe I've mentioned this book before and I am quite personally partial to it. It was, for me, quite revelatory. When I first encountered this book as a club kid living in Boston in the mid-90s, it blew me away! Before "Gender Outlaw," I thought I faced a choice between being a drag queen, a closet cross dresser or a transsexual housewife going "stealth" in the suburbs. Kate Bornstein showed me a world where gender could be whatever I made it out to be, where I could still be my boundary-pushing, punk rock self, as well as the woman I knew myself to be.

Frankly, I owe my present existence as the ever-fabulous Lorelei Erisis to Kate Bornstein. Sure, I might have found my own way here without Kate, but then it might have taken a much longer route through Oz to get to who I am today!

Reading "Gender Outlaw" will give you a good grasp on some of the finer intricacies of gender generally. It will make you think beyond what you think you know already. Plus, it's just a fun read. Bornstein's voice throughout is friendly and smart. Though it is not the most current work available, it remains cutting edge in its views and ideas. The book will give you a framework for discussion beyond the simple mechanics of gender transition.

The only reason that I recommend it for you and not your client, at least to begin with, is that it sounds like she (your MtF client) is not quite ready for the really post-modern, reality expanding stuff yet.

Baby steps first. Happy reading! Slainte!

*Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009. Send your questions about trans issues to her via e-mail at: loreleierisis@therainbow-timesmass.com.

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The OutField: Gay father activist creates Winning Marriage Equality in Minnesota

By: Dan Woog* /Special for TRT



As a basketball coach for 30 years, Denny Smith seldom thought about LGBT issues. Being gay wasn't right or wrong; it simply was not part of the Xs-and-Os world Smith (who calls his early coaching style "authoritarian") knew so well.

Raised as Catholic, he could have been angry, upset, confused, and even hateful when Kyle – one of his three sons – came out in his early 20s.

Instead, Smith cried. It was not because of the news; it was because Smith feared Kyle would face a lifetime of hatred and cruelty.

Smith had already seen "blistering" letters to the editor when a priest in their town of St. Cloud, Minn. came out. Many came from other ministers. But Smith had also seen that the love between a family relative and his partner – a young man who died of AIDS – was no different than the love Smith felt for his wife, Pat.

Smith grew furious a few years later when Kyle's partner Joe – a student from the Philippines, whom the Smiths considered part of their family – was forced to leave the country because his student visa expired. The couple still lives apart. (Kyle, who has a good job with Microsoft, gets to see him several times a year.)

So Smith – who played football, basketball and baseball in high school – became an ac-

tivist. A year ago, when Minnesota put an amendment on the 2012 ballot defining marriage as only between a man and a woman, Smith founded a nonprofit institute, Winning Marriage Equality. The aim was "to talk about this hot-button issue in a calm and respectful manner."

Befitting a lifelong Minnesotan, Smith's activism has been passionate, but low-key.

For example, on the way home from an important basketball game, one player wrote on a teammate's jacket that the other boy was gay. The players, and the rest of the coaching staff, laughed.

Quietly, Smith told his fellow coaches, "This is not OK." He asked the head coach if he could speak to the team. Smith told the boys that by joking about being gay, they might intentionally hurt people they truly cared for.

Smith's tone was forceful, but non-threatening. As he looked around, players nodded their heads. It was a small moment, but it resonated with the coach.

"Sports is like anything else," he says. "When you work together, play together, you get to know each other as people. You realize differences are not important. Black and white athletes were once separate. Now they do everything together. We never think of those differences; they're irrelevant. It's the same with gay and straight."

A fellow St. Cloud coach is Dave Schorn. A respected teacher with the most wrestling wins in the history of his school, Schorn came out several years ago as a gay man. His contract was not renewed. The reason given was that the school wanted the program to go in "a new



PHOTO: DENNY SMITH

Denny Smith

direction." (He continues to teach at the school.)

Schorn – who also coached football, and may be the only out (former) coach in the state – felt strongly that his sexuality was his own personal business. But after hearing about teen suicides (including some in Minnesota), learning about Harvey Milk and seeing the lack of gay role models, Schorn realized he had to be visible.

He has since helped start a PFLAG chapter. He speaks at rallies. He challenges prevailing views, and opens hearts and minds. He calls his work "very rewarding."

Since he came out, Schorn says, 43 former athletes have come out to him. Nearly a dozen join him on the speaking circuit.

St. Cloud, he says, is "very conservative – Michele Bachman territory." But – thanks in part to Schorn's voice, and those of the former athletes – it has become "a great area of support" for LGBT issues.

Most of the 43 former athletes' stories are positive, Schorn says. They were not out in high school. But though some felt lonely, they did not feel threatened on sports teams, or treated poorly by coaches. (Denny Smith tells a similar positive story about a boy whose father came out as gay. The head basketball coach worked closely with the player, helping him feel comfortable and safe.)

The reason the former athletes have come out, Schorn says, is their strong desire to be role models to gay teenagers who may once have been in their shoes.

On a personal level, Schorn says, the reaction to his coming out has been "very positive." When his coaching contract was not renewed, he feared that his many wrestling alumni would abandon him.

"It's been the other way around," he says. "They call, they send letters, they talk about the pride they feel in me."

That may be Dave Schorn's most important victory of all.

Dan Woog is a journalist, educator, soccer coach, gay activist, and author of the "Jocks" series of books on gay male athletes. Visit his website at www.danwoog.com. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutField@qsyndicate.com.

To cook is to love: A foodie's journal; Dinner table politics

By: John Verlinden* /Special for TRT



Most campaign headlines have focused on the economy, on government spending and on how much taxes should be and who should pay them. Food issues haven't garnered the same attention, but noteworthy things are happening this political season. How do you feel about these issues?

A report about mercury levels in canned tuna has raised concerns especially for children. Some child health advocates called for it to be eliminated from school lunch programs, because even small levels of mercury have been tied to disabilities and development delays. Others say this is an overreaction that will scare kids away from a healthy food.

The NYC Board of Health recently voted to ban the sale of big sugary drinks. New Yorkers will still be able to buy two or more 16 ounce sodas with their meal, but not the single serving 32 ounce. Some believe that actions like this will reduce obesity, saving medical dollars. Others see it as bad for businesses and an encroachment on personal freedom.

New school lunch regulations intended to improve nutrition and reduce childhood obesity went into effect this school year. Kids will get more whole grains, fruits and vegetables, and less carbs, fats and sodium. And, for the first

time, there will be a calorie count maximum for meals. Many kids and some parents are upset, and congressional conservatives have introduced legislation to repeal the new rules.

Californians will vote on a proposition that would require food manufacturers to specify on the label if their products contain genetically modified organisms (GMO). Proponents believe that this is important health information and that we should be able to select foods that don't contain GMOs. Opponents insist that GMO foods are safe and that requiring such labeling imposes an unnecessary burden on businesses and will raise food prices.

Droughts in the U.S. will result in more foreclosures of farms and ranches. Some feel we should assist food producers who've lost crops and herds to this natural disaster and the fires and floods that accompanied it. Others say no, we can't afford another bailout.

More than one in seven Americans receives food stamps, and one in four children. Some believe that the program has gotten too big and want to see it cut back. Others feel the program doesn't do enough, because there are millions more Americans who are income eligible.

Decide where you stand on these and other food security, food safety and nutrition issues and then ask the politicians who want your vote where they are.

*Share your thoughts, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article – contact me: john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our food forum. Until next time – ¡Mucho Gusto!, ¡Muchas Gracias! y ¡Buen Provecho!

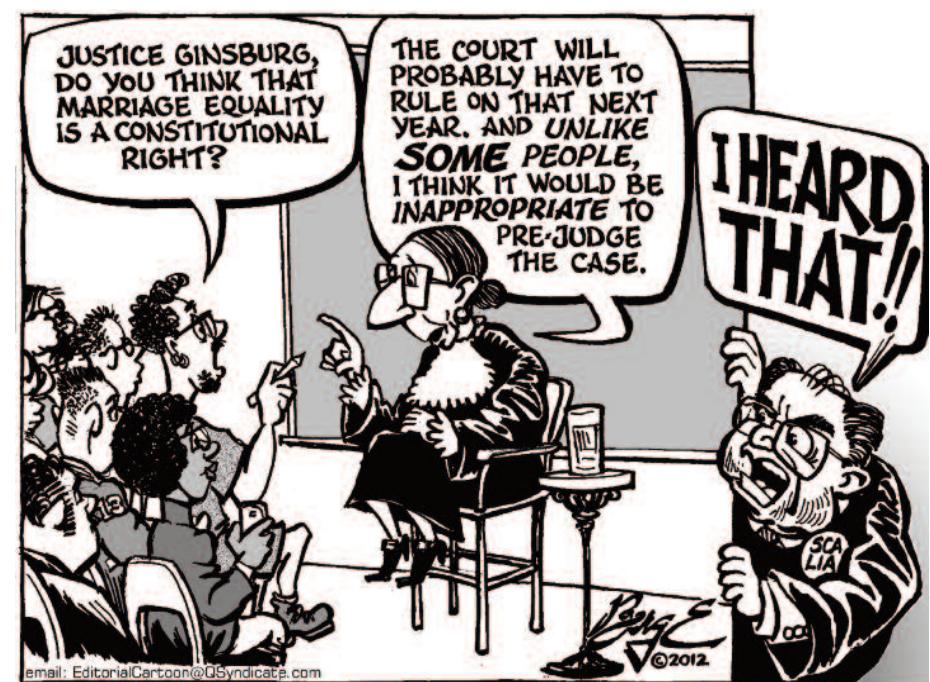
Stonewall from page 9

that there is a lot more work they need to be doing around transgender inclusion and support than most are currently doing. I'm currently trying to finish a book in a different direction which is a history of LGBT life in Washington D.C.

Q. Do you know of resources for the public that will help them better comprehend what gender non-conforming means?

A. We have a transgender section on the Stonewall Center website, it includes things that I've written and also many other publications and reports from national organizations, that would be a great resource for anyone wanting information and some of the critical research around transgender people.

The Stonewall Center is located in Crampton Hall at UMass Amherst. Those interested in learning more about transgender topics can visit www.umass.edu/stonewall/.



iMUCHO GUSTO!



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER

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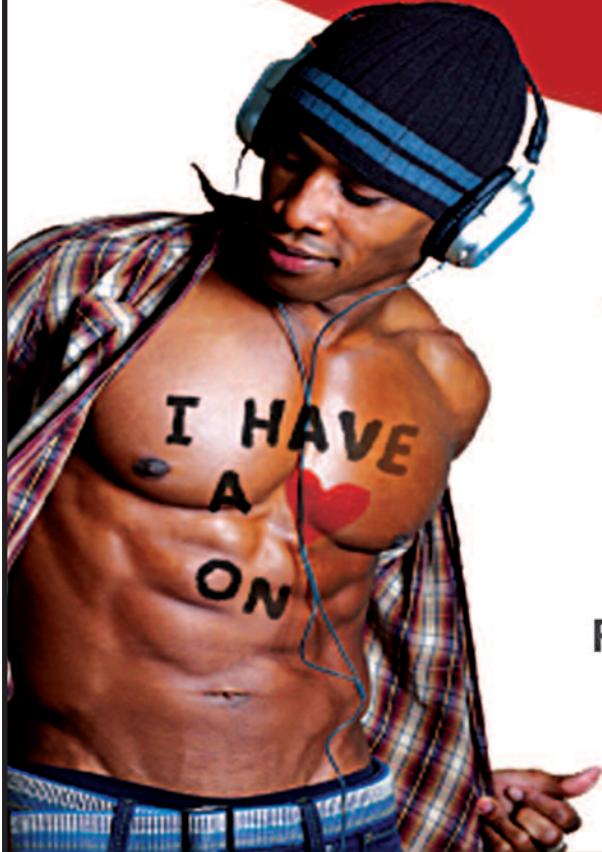
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