

# The Rainbow Times

• Your LGBTQ News in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut & Vermont •

PHOTO: TYNNAN POWER



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Lesbian Author  
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## It is a simple matter of inclusive civil rights: All should be equal, not some left behind

**By: Grisel M. Ocasio\*/TRT Publisher**

**OPINION** The election of candidates that are LGBT supporters, allies and even LGBT contenders themselves is of utmost importance to the relevant issues that we are still facing as a community and society. Because of this, it is a must that we know who is who, when we finally cast our votes. Most importantly, we must ensure that the entire LGBT community is included and represented in the candidates' initiatives that we are voting for or endorsing.

In this case, we examined the top two campaigns: incumbent Democrat Governor and

Lieutenant Governor Deval Patrick and Tim Murray, and Charlie Baker and openly gay running mate Richard Tisei for the GOP ticket.

Charlie Baker's campaign has a commendable position on LGB rights and his position is solid for support of these rights. If we lived in a place like Alabama, this support would mean unprecedented change. However, when it comes to dealing with people's livelihood and safety, we cannot fall short of including most and excluding some. That is where the Baker campaign does not measure up, for it excludes the Trans community in the "Transgender Civil Rights Bill" now famously known as the "bathroom bill."

**See Inclusive on page 8**

## Follow the money: Voters not paying close attention will be easily fooled



**By: Susan Ryan-Vollmar\*/TRT Columnist**

Here's a scary thought: Voters this year are so obsessed with the economy and change for change's sake that we're going to see some candidates slip into office who otherwise would never have had a shot. And the end result

is that our political landscape will be a lot less accepting and supportive of LGBT people than it is now.

A poll released Sept. 30 by the MassINC Polling Group found that 92 percent of registered voters surveyed said that "jobs and the economy" is the most important issue in the governor's race. Seventy-three percent were concerned about taxes and 68 percent were worried about corruption. Just 25 percent said that "gay marriage" was an issue they cared about.

In four of the five statewide races—for governor, attorney general, treasurer, and auditor—the candidates acting as the stand-in for "change" are not our allies. At the state Republican convention in April, gubernatorial candidate Charlie Baker derided a bill (co-sponsored by his openly gay running mate state Sen. Richard Tisei, no less) that would expand existing civil rights law in the state to transgender people, as a "bathroom bill," and promised to veto it if he were governor.

James McKenna, who is running for attorney general against Martha Coakely, says he never would have filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which forces the state of Massachusetts to withhold rights and benefits from married lesbian and gay couples. His reasoning? His job as attorney general is to "enforce the law." Apparently even when it's applied in discriminatory fashion. And, oh, McKenna won't say whether or not he supports the

**See Follow the Money on page 6**

## CABO members outreach efforts to prevent teen suicides

**By: Jenn Tracz\*/CABO's Executive Director**

As everyone has seen in the news over the past few weeks LGBT teen suicide is hitting a tipping point. In the past month alone there have been 5 stories of teen suicides with the common theme of being bullied because they were gay or lesbian. In September GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, released its 2009 National School Climate Survey. The study shows nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT students experienced harassment at school and two-thirds felt unsafe because of their sexual orientation. These are numbers that the LGBT community has seen and that are now making an impact in mainstream media.

CABO has two non-profit members that are working in the capacities of LGBT youth outreach and bullying prevention. One works to help the LGBT youth that need it and the other works with schools to help implement bullying prevention programs.

The Governor's Prevention Partnership (www.preventionworksct.org) is an organization that serves LGBT youth in a different way with the end result of preventing bullying altogether. "In the face of these unspeakable tragedies, parents, schools and communities can take action by renewing their efforts to keep youth safe..." Jill Spinetti, President & CEO, said. "Working together, all community sectors can help prevent bullying and youth suicide; ensuring that the youth of today become the leaders of tomorrow."

True Colors, www.ourtruecolors.org, is an



**Jenn Tracz**

organization that provides a safe place for kids to go to talk and be who they are. Kamora Herrington, the Mentoring Program Director at True Colors stated, "As horrible as the recent suicides have been, I need to believe that their lives were lost in order for a true and real conversation about real LGBT issues to surface." She also said, "Our children need to know us and know that we love them and value them. As much as I admire Dan Savage's "It gets better" campaign, we need to do better. Our kids don't need more videos of gay folks being proud on YouTube, they need to know us and talk to us and see us on a regular basis."

To find out more about CABO, True Colors or the Governor's Prevention Partnership, visit CABO at www.TheCABO.org or contact me at JTracz@theCABO.org.

*\*In her role as Executive Director, Jenn is responsible for maintaining and growing membership, developing strategic business partnerships and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the organization. In addition to being CABO's executive director, she also is a small business owner specializing in marketing and design services.*

## Queer kids' suicides, torture continue because of their sexual orientation

**By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist**

The George Jackson Brigade, a radical underground organization in the 1970s made up of queers and formerly incarcerated people, wrote of themselves that, "we are cozy cuddly/armed and dangerous/and we will raze the F\*cking prisons/to the ground." Two books have come out over the past couple of months detailing the history of this organization and what inspired them to join the violent leftist underground in the 1970s. I have begun reading these books and while many people consider all underground organizations of the 60s and 70s to be the same, all like the Weather Underground, they were all actually incredibly different and the George Jackson Brigade is important, especially for queer people, to remember. They are important to remember because whether you agree with their tactics of political bombing, bank expropriations, and jail-breaking, the liberation they were struggling for is the same liberation we are fighting for today. Queer kids are killing themselves, people are being tortured because of their sexual orientation, and members of our community are suffering behind prison walls.

The George Jackson Brigade prioritized the struggle of prisoners as the focus of their political action. They did so at a time when there were less than a million people incarcerated in U.S. prisons. Today, there are over 2.3 million

people currently incarcerated, the far majority of whom have been convicted of not-violent drug offenses. In Massachusetts 1 in 24 people are either in prison, on probation,



**Jason Lydon**

or on parole, this liberal state has the fourth highest rate of state-controlled lives in the country. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people today must prioritize the lives of our incarcerated family in the work that we do. Because of our rates of homelessness, addiction, unemployment, and family abandonment we are targeted by the prison system.

The U.S. incarceration system has become known by many as the prison industrial complex. It is called such because the system is not simply about the concrete and steel buildings that warehouse individuals. The system is a full collusion between the police, judges, prosecutors, corporate profiteers, politicians, neighborhood-watch groups, "victims' rights" groups, and so many others who claim to be solving the problems of violence and poverty

**See Queer Kids on page 4**

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I loved the Jujubee cover on TRT. She's so awesome and so giving. I was at the NAAGLY event and we had a blast with her dedication to this important fundraiser. Thanks for giving her the cover pic.

Great job and great cover!

—Justin Meyer, Salem, MA

Dear Editor,

I liked the coverage of the Back to School anti-bullying run. I also watched CNN's coverage of the bullying and saw Sirdeaner Walker and her daughter speaking out about bullying, but denying and almost not addressing that this was an anti-gay bullying act, even if her kid had not come out of the closet. Who knows if he had wanted to. But, to just try to make it about bullying leaving out the anti-gay rhetoric does not do it justice to our cause.

—John Matthews, Westfield, MA

Dear Editor,

The coverage by Mr. Joe Siegel about the unsafe College Campuses concerns me a lot. My daughter is about to go to college and she's an open lesbian. I don't want her to feel discriminated against, hurt and bullied by others. I thought I only had to be concerned about these things when she was little. With how many suicides by GLBT students, I often wonder where did we go wrong as a society. Great story by Mr. Siegel.

Thank you,

—Audrienne Simons, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

I was so happy to see a story about us, GLBT Seniors in the Times. I wish we could have seen more diversity and not just

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# Get out the vote: Obama heckled by protestors on same-sex marriage and HIV/AIDS

**By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter**

President Barack Obama headlined a get-out-the-vote rally for Democratic Governor Deval Patrick in Boston on Saturday afternoon October 16. The rally took place at the Hynes Convention Center in the city's Back Bay neighborhood, drawing thousands of supporters.

But after speaking for only ten minutes a handful of protestors, advocating increased federal funding for HIV/AIDS, heckled the president, raising a sign reading "Keep the Promise: Fight Global AIDS."

The protestors were local college students, "fighting for global health equity," said Arjus Suri a first-year student at the Harvard Medical School. "Candidate Obama promised \$50 billion for to fight global AIDS." But "he's delivered on only one-tenth of that promise."

During the president's remarks Obama mentioned his administration's increased funding for HIV/AIDS.

But not enough for Suri: Yes, "when the president said he funded AIDS a little bit more, he was right," Suri said. "One-tenth is not enough. An inch is not a mile. It's not enough to pay lip service by saying he's funded more."

Also inside the convention center, gay-rights activists from the grass roots group *Join the Impact MA* reproached Obama for balking on same-sex civil marriage.

Boston College law student Paul Sousa spoke out several times during Obama's remarks. "I asked the president to stop the bigotry and support marriage equality," Sousa explained.



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

**Ian Struthers makes is case for marriage equality outside the Hynes Convention Center on Saturday afternoon after a President Obama keynoted a get-out-the-vote rally for Gov. Deval Patrick.**

"I also asked whether he opposes atheist marriage since his opposition to civil marriage rights for same-sex couples is based upon his religious beliefs."

"Would you want a civil union?" Sousa yelled out to Obama who did not respond.

In fact, during an interview with the *Chicago Daily Tribune*, Obama told the newspaper, "I'm a Christian. And so, although I try not to have my religious beliefs dominate or deter-

mine my political views on this issue, I do believe that tradition, and my religious beliefs say that marriage is something sanctified between a man and a woman."

But for Sousa, civil marriage is the issue, not religious marriage.

Challenging Obama over marriage equality is a slight change of tactics among local activists. In previous Obama protests, representatives from *Get Equal* heckled the president over not doing enough to lift the ban on openly gay service in the military and for not pushing hard enough for federal legislation to ban sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace.

While many Democrats have shunned the president, the Massachusetts governor has embraced him. Patrick, an ardent backer of gay equality, is in tight race with a Republican challenger. Both candidates favor gay rights, but the GOP's Charlie Baker has offended many LGBT voters by dismissing a transgender civil rights bill, saying he would veto "the bathroom bill."

The rally came just ten days after 300 LGBT community leaders and allies raised more than \$160,000 for the Democratic governor who is seeking a second four-year term.

Activists from *Join the Impact MA* and advocates of increased HIV/AIDS funding were clear — Deval Patrick was not their target.

A student at Fisher College, Ian Struthers of *Join the Impact MA* said he wanted to hear the governor and to show support for the



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

**Arjus Suri, a first year student at the Harvard Medical School, and Krishna Rabhu, a senior at Harvard College, joined dozens of protestors outside the Hynes Convention Center, with a message for the president: Keep your promise to fund AIDS/HIV treatment and prevention.**

president. Still, "I wanted to tell Obama that I want the same rights as everyone else. I want and end to DADT, and an inclusive ENDA so that I can have job security. I work and pay taxes and am like everyone else — except that I date men."

Harvard College senior Krishna Rabhu explained his reasons for protesting. "It's not the governor. We support Deval Patrick. We wanted Obama's ear."

Sending Obama a message for marriage equality, Sousa said, "Best comes from Massachusetts."

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# Faith, Family, and God: Punish, but offer forgiveness too

By: Paul P. Jesepe\*/TRT Columnist

**T**he recent suicide of Tyler Clementi, a Rutgers University freshman and likely gay man, merits a more thoughtful, better managed national discussion. There are calls for Tyler's roommate, along with the female accomplice, to receive the harshest punishment for posting a video of him being intimate with another man. It may compound one tragedy with another.

Dharun Ravi and Molly Wei, the students responsible for the video, are probably never going to return to Rutgers. It's possible that few, if any, colleges will want them on their campus. Their lives like those of Tyler and his family and friends have been changed forever.

Harassment laws, while needed, are useless if the underlying reasons that initiate the abuse, harm, and humiliation are not addressed. No one is born to hate. No one is born a bigot, anti-Semite, or homophobe. These are learned both in a household and through social conditioning. Misguided religious leaders contribute to the problem.

The tragedy is a chance to educate. Throwing the book at Ravi and Wei is counterproductive and would speak to our lesser angels. Making them volunteer for several years at a place like the Trevor Project or Ali Forney Center would help rehabilitate two callous, insensitive young

people. It would also spotlight the national tragedy of gay and lesbian teen suicides that an uninformed society causes. Ravi and Wei can assist in transforming an ignorant, intolerant society into a more enlightened one.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa is an example and inspiration to be true to one's inner beauty when faced with ugliness. He championed an end to the racist apartheid policies of South Africa and organized a national healing between the oppressed and the oppressors.

The brutality blacks and minorities faced in white controlled South Africa were breathtaking in barbarity. In leading a national reconciliation he said that conditioning "perverts the human spirit." Tutu, a tireless champion of LGBT rights, observed that if there is to be moral growth "there has to be the possibility of becoming immoral." Clearly, the treatment of Tyler and the overall discrimination faced by the LGBT and Searching community are immoral.

According to Tutu, "we are the agents of transformation that God uses to transfigure" the world. One of his biggest challenges is reminding people that while the Creator "loves you as you are" the Maker of All Good "equally loves your enemies." It is only through this

recognition that love can triumph over hate. This would apply to a Bronx street gang that kidnapped and tortured a gay Hispanic man earlier in the month.

Tutu underscores that we define our Creation, in part, by how we respond to hate. If forgiveness is not part of the equation then the human spirit is compromised and getting at the problem that caused the hate cannot be addressed. Failing to get at the cause means it will happen again.

"Forgiveness and being reconciled to our enemies," he wrote in *God has a Dream - A Vision of Hope for Our Time*, "... is not about pretending that things are other than they are. It is not about patting one another on the back and turning a blind eye to the wrong. True reconciliation exposes the awfulness, the abuse, the pain, the hurt, the truth." An act of forgiveness is not just something done to heal our own soul, but it is an expression of hope in humanity and a better tomorrow.

*\*Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. His book Crucifying Jesus and Secularizing America - the Republic of Faith without Wisdom, is available on Amazon.com. He may be reached at Diloovod@aol.com.*

## Queer Kids from page 2

but rather perpetuate them through the systematic attack on marginalized communities. *The prison industrial complex relies on the racism of our culture to continue feeding its hunger for the bodies of Black and Latino men.* According to the Pew Foundation 1 in 15 Black men age 18 or older are currently incarcerated, versus 1 in 106 white men. This is an attack on Black men, including queer/gay/same-gender loving Black men; this is an attack on our community. This is an attack and we must fight back!

In order to begin fighting back we must know who we are fighting alongside. If you do not currently know or care about someone who is incarcerated, change that. Take the time to write to someone who is behind bars. An organization I work with, Black and Pink, lists hundreds of queer/trans prisoners who are incarcerated and searching for pen pals, visit [www.blackandpink.org](http://www.blackandpink.org) to get a pen pal and learn more. Also, find out what prisons are in your area. Go and visit some one! Tell the Department of Corrections that you are watching what is going on. Acknowledge that more than 60% of LGB prisoners report being sexually assaulted while behind bars, and nearly 100% of transgender women report some form of sexual violence or harassment in prison. Acknowledge this and make changes in your lives to stand with those who are made invisible and who we are told to forget, or worse, not even consider human.

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## TRT Heroes: Stephen Hartley aka Miss Kitty Litter and his steady commitment to HIV/AIDS fundraising

**TRT HEROES** By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

PROVIDENCE, RI—Stephen Hartley, known to the Rhode Island LGBT community as the flamboyant and irreverent drag queen Miss Kitty Litter, has been raising money for HIV/AIDS for several years. For the past 6 years, Hartley has served as Director of Development for AIDS Care Ocean State. His responsibilities include raising money for client services, grant writing, and communications for the organization.

Hartley wants to spread awareness that HIV is still a very serious health threat.

"There are new medications out there that are making people live longer but eventually the people do develop a resistance to those medications," Hartley said. "It's still considered a deadly disease."

Hartley, who lives in Pawtucket, admires Providence Mayor David Cicilline and House Speaker Gordon Fox for bringing positive change to the LGBT community. Cicilline is a candidate for the state's 1st Congressional District, and Fox is the first openly gay House Speaker in state history.

Hartley believes people in the community can make a difference, as long as they are willing to contact their legislators about LGBT issues, attend hearings at the State House, participate in rallies, and follow what is happening in the news.

The three main issues for the LGBT community right now are securing marriage rights



PHOTO: JOE SIEGEL

Stephen Hartley, aka Miss Kitty Litter

for same-sex couples, educating people about HIV, and creating stronger awareness of the issues facing the community, such as the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell", Hartley noted.

"They need to get involved," Hartley said. "They need to volunteer their time with either marriage equality or (Rhode Island) Pride. My

See TRT Heroes on page 8

## MassEquality PAC endorses candidates Martha Coakley, Steve Grossman, and Suzanne Bump

### Election of allies to statewide office critical for LGBT equality

**MASSACHUSETTS NEWS** BOSTON, MA—Last week, the MassEquality PAC announces its endorsement of Martha Coakley for Attorney General, Steve Grossman for Treasurer, and Suzanne Bump for Auditor.

"The only way we will be successful in advancing equal opportunities for LGBT people from cradle to grave – in schools, in marriage and family life, at work and in retirement – is by electing candidates who understand the importance of working for all citizens of the Commonwealth, including LGBT citizens," said Kara Suffredini, executive director of MassEquality. "Martha Coakley, Steve Grossman, and Suzanne Bump have each distinguished themselves in their advocacy on behalf of LGBT people and MassEquality is proud to endorse them."

Attorney General Martha Coakley sued the federal government last year for its unfair treatment of married lesbian and gay couples in Massachusetts and won. Her opponent has said that he does not think the lawsuit is relevant to the duties of a Massachusetts attorney general. Ensuring that all citizens of the Commonwealth have equal access to government-sponsored benefits and protections is a basic function of the Attorney General's job, and Martha Coakley is the candidate who will support and advance LGBT equality.

Steve Grossman supported LGBT people and the cause of marriage equality long before it became easy to do so. His wife Barbara was a founding board member of MassEquality and was an active member for years. His opponent, as a state

representative, voted to take away the rights of same-sex couples to marry and also voted to keep a ban in place prohibiting same-sex couples from out of state from marrying in Massachusetts. It is impossible to understate the importance of having allies of LGBT equality in statewide office, and MassEquality is proud to endorse Steve Grossman for state treasurer.

As a state representative in the late 1980s, Suzanne Bump was one of a handful of lawmakers who went on the record to oppose a dangerous bill that sought to take away the rights of LGBT people to become parents. She also backed the 1989 Gay Civil Rights Bill. Her opponent in the auditor's race, Mary Connaughton, signed a petition that sought to take away the rights of LGBT people to marry in Massachusetts. The choice in this race is clear: Suzanne Bump is someone who, from early in her career, has been very supportive of LGBT people, and MassEquality enthusiastically endorses her candidacy for state auditor.

MassEquality urges voters to support Martha Coakley for Attorney General, Steve Grossman for Treasurer and Suzanne Bump for Auditor on November 2, 2010.

*About MassEquality: MassEquality is the only grassroots organization in the state working to achieve full equality for the LGBT Community. We're protecting marriage equality in Massachusetts, working to win it in other states, and promoting a full Equality Agenda to ensure that every LGBT person in Massachusetts is protected from cradle to grave, with equal rights and opportunities in school, in marriage and family life, at work and in retirement.*

MASS<sup>E</sup>EQUALITY.ORG

## Let's Make History

### Vote 2010

On November 2nd of 2010 citizens of Massachusetts will have the opportunity to make history. We can elect Charlie Baker as Governor and Richard Tisei as Lieutenant Governor. The pair will work tirelessly to provide the fiscal discipline that Beacon Hill needs and Richard will be the state's first gay constitutional officer.

### About Richard...

Richard Tisei has served the people of Massachusetts for 26 years, fighting for lower taxes and more efficient government.

He is currently the Minority Leader of the Massachusetts State Senate representing the Middlesex and Essex district.

www.RichardTisei2010.com

Paid for by the Tisei Committee

**Baker** Governor

**Tisei** Lt. Governor



# Acclaimed author Lesléa Newman brings anti-bullying message to Northampton High School

By: **Tynan Power**/TRT Reporter

NORTHAMPTON, MA—At Northampton High School, a nationally-known local author brought a powerful message: it's up to all of us to create a world free of violence and bullying.

On October 7th, Lesléa Newman presented twice to students who filled the auditorium at NHS. Jon Sass, advisor to the GSA at NHS, organized the two assemblies so that virtually all students had the opportunity to attend.

According to Bryan Lombardi, Assistant Principal at NHS, highly publicized bullying-related suicides—including two in neighboring towns last year and a more recent spate around the country—have driven educators to talk more and more about the need for programs to address bullying.

"As a school, we think that it's important that we have these on our campus, because it is not just an issue that is always about someone who identifies as being gay," said Lombardi. "It could be about anything, if you do not begin to understand how these types of things happen."

Newman began her presentation with stories from her own life. When she was in school, she told students, a close male friend didn't come out to her until they were about to go separate ways as young adults. She didn't come out as a lesbian herself until she was 27. A writer who trained at the Naropa Institute and apprenticed with Allen Ginsberg, she rocketed to fame after she published *Heather Has Two Mommies* in 1990—to a mixture of accolades and vitriolic criticism.

Her story then intertwined with that of the person she came to talk about: Matthew Shepard.

Newman asked the students if they knew who Matthew Shepard was. A show of hands indicated some did but many didn't.

Back in October 1998, Newman was scheduled to speak at the University of Wyoming as part of their Gay Awareness Week planned around National Coming Out Day (October 11). The day she was scheduled to speak, October 12th, was the day Shepard died. It touched her deeply to know that Shepard had planned to attend her talk.

When Newman called for a moment of silence at NHS, a large screen showed a photo of Shepard, then transitioned to images of five teens who recently killed themselves after being targeted by anti-gay bullying. Newman read the names and ages of each, some as

young as 13. The auditorium fell quieter with each name.

As one might expect of a gifted writer, Newman's personal response to Shepard's murder was channeled into words. In May, she completed an elegiac collection of poetry, entitled *October Mourning*. Students at NHS were privileged to hear Newman read from this as-yet unpublished work.

One of the poems included the utterance of slurs not normally tolerated at NHS. In an auditorium gone still, the words seemed to reverberate, hitting their marks, sounding—for once—as cruel to the silent witnesses as bullying targets feel them to be.

"Imagine a world that is safe for you, for everyone," Newman challenged the students. "Imagine yourself doing something in that world that you don't feel safe doing in this one."

She asked students to commit to doing one thing to make that safer world a reality. For her part, Newman had a commitment to make, too.

"Every time I hear someone say 'gay' in a negative way, I'll donate \$5 to the Matthew Shepard Foundation," Newman announced.

She asked students to turn to each other and share what they committed to doing. Quickly, the audience broke into the boisterous noise one might expect in a high school auditorium, as students shared their commitments with each other.

"They were amazing," Newman said of the NHS students. "They were very attentive."

"Like anything in a population of 900 [students]," Lombardi observed. "Sometimes you hear some kids saying 'I didn't like it. It was boring,' but at the same time, I heard very good things about it. I think it makes you walk away thinking about things differently. Bottom line, I think even when you are averse to it and you hear [a presentation like this], it sinks in."

"It's very intense," Newman said. "Sometimes people just want to think about what they've just heard."

Since leaving the post of Poet Laureate of Northampton this past spring, does Newman find she has more time for projects like this?

"Yes and no," she says. She's now teaching at Clark University and, twice a year, she travels to Kentucky to teach in a low-residency MFA program at Spaulding University. When she's not teaching, she's working on her latest children's book *Donovan's Big Day*. Still, she

finds time and energy to reach out to young people.

"I'm just very passionate about doing this work," Newman said. "I have to do this."

For Northampton High School, the work of building an open, accepting and diverse school—and world—continues.

"In some ways, we are planting seeds," Lombardi said. "For some kids, they may fully embrace that already and it may be reinforcement

for them. For other kids, at the very least, we're beginning to plant some seeds, some different dialogs and things that they may not see or hear about in other places. I think that is what good education should be about."

Learn more about Lesléa Newman at [www.lesleanewman.com](http://www.lesleanewman.com). Information about the Matthew Shepard Foundation is available at [www.matthewshepard.org](http://www.matthewshepard.org).



PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

Nationally recognized local author, Lesléa Newman

## Follow the Money from page 2

rights of same-sex couples to marry. Coakley, of course, did file a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of DOMA—and won. The U.S. Department of Justice appealed that ruling October 12.

Karyn Polito, the Republican nominee for state treasurer, voted against the rights of same-sex couples to marry when she was a state representative. She also voted to keep a ban in place preventing lesbian and gay couples from out of state from marrying in Massachusetts. And she's accepted campaign donations from Kris Mineau, head of the anti-gay Massachusetts Family Institute, as well as funds from the anti-gay Coalition for Marriage and Family Working Family Political Action Committee. Democratic nominee Steve Grossman, by contrast, was an early backer, funder, and fundraiser for MassEquality, the advocacy organization that spear-headed the campaign to defeat an anti-marriage amendment to the state constitution, and his wife was a founding board member of the organization.

Mary Z. Connaughton, the Republican nominee for state auditor, signed the anti-gay petition that sought to put the rights of same-sex couples to marry up for a popular vote. She's also accepted campaign money from Mineau. Democratic nominee Suzanne Bump, as a state representative in the 1980s, opposed a proposal that would have banned LGBT people from becoming parents. And she supported the 1989 Gay Civil Rights Bill.

Legislative campaigns are littered with similar examples. Out in Attleboro, Ward Councilor George Ross is challenging incumbent state representative Bill Bowles. Bowles first won office in 2008 and quickly showed that he's an ally to LGBT equality by co-sponsoring the Transgender Civil Rights Bill. You can find very little on the record about where Ross stands on LGBT issues. But if you look

at who's contributing to his campaign, it becomes fairly obvious. Paul Adams, the former Southeastern Massachusetts Regional Director for the Coalition for Family and Marriage, an anti-LGBT group, gave him \$50. And the Working Families PAC gave him \$500.

And speaking of Paul Adams, he's running for an open state rep seat in Andover. The Democratic candidate, Pat Commene, has said she will be a strong ally of LGBT equality. Adams, who graduated from Andover High School in 2000, has spent his entire professional career advocating against the rights of same-sex couples to marry. Yet if you got to his campaign website, you won't find a single mention of that work. He's also taken money from Mineau. Voters who aren't paying attention will be easily fooled.

In the 18th Essex District race, incumbent state rep Barbara L'Italien is in a tight race with challenger Jim Lyons. L'Italien, the mother of two gay sons, has been an unwavering ally of LGBT equality. Lyons? Not so much. Again, it's hard to find much about Lyons' view on LGBT issues—you certainly won't find his opinion on his website. But campaign contributions tell the story. The Working Families PAC has been generous with Lyons, giving him \$500. And Bob Joyce, an outspoken anti-gay candidate from Boston who ran against state Sen. Marian Walsh in 2004 solely because she backed the rights of same-sex couples to wed, has contributed to Lyons' campaign.

There are plenty more examples like this. You can see it all for yourself in the online database of the Office Campaign and Political Finance. So what will it all mean come November 2? Who knows. In this post-Sen. Scott Brown world, anything's possible. And it's not necessarily going to be pretty.

\*Susan Ryan-Vollmar is a media relations and communications consultant. MassEquality is one of her clients. She lives in Arlington with her family.



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## LGBT films premiere in Northampton October 23

NORTHAMPTON, MA—"These new LGBT films are the most popular ones at LGBT film festival around the country," says Jaime Michaels, executive producer/director of Out! For Reel. On Saturday, October 23, Out! For Reel kicks off its season with the award-winning lesbian romance, *The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister* at the Academy of Music Theater, Northampton, at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm for an informal social hour. A celebratory After Party will follow the film at the Clarion Hotel Ballroom, Northampton, 9:30 pm - 12:30 am.

If Jane Austen had written a lesbian love story with racy bedroom scenes and clandestine dalliances in the woods, it might come close to this captivating and award-winning film. Based upon a true story, this BBC-produced lesbian period drama portrays the remarkable life and loves of Anne Lister (1791 - 1840), who was a 19th century British landowner who dared to love women in Victorian England 200 years ago.

On Saturday, November 6, Out! For Reel will present *Leading Ladies*, a highly entertaining film about dance, true love, and coming out, at the Academy of Music Theater, Northampton, at 7:30 pm.

Packed with astounding dance sequences and an infectious pop soundtrack, *Leading Ladies* is alternately outrageous and touching, and sure to please everyone from film buffs to dance lovers to *Hairspray* fans. From a Toothbrush Tango in the bathroom to a grocery

store takeover performance, shopping carts included, to a stunning nightclub dance number and ballroom dance competitions, *Leading Ladies* offers an indulgently satisfying array of dance. Starring Benji Schwimmer, 2006 winner of "So You Think You Can Dance" and renowned ballroom and Latin dancer Melanie LaPatina. On Saturday December 4, *Elena Undone*, a new lesbian romantic love story, will

be screened by Out! For Reel at the Academy of Music Theatre at 8 pm. Touting bragging rights to having the longest lesbian kissing scene in the history of film, *Elena Undone*, portrays the passion, resistance, and pleasure of falling in love unexpectedly. It's a great date film for a cold winter's night. Tickets for all films are available online at OutForReel.org, or at the Academy of Music Box Office. Tickets are \$11.50 Advance / \$14.50 Door / \$10 Students (Box Office only). To watch the film trailers visit Out-

ForReel.org.

Out! For Reel's After Party on October 23 will offer great dance music by the popular DJ Lori B, free hors d'oeuvres, cash bars, and free parking. Tickets are \$7 Advance / \$7 w/ Film ticket stub at Door / \$10 General at Door. Tickets are available only online at OutForReel.org or at the Door.

*Out! For Reel LGBT Film Series is now the largest LGBT film series in the U.S. with over 11,000 attendees in the past two years. For more information visit OutForReel.org.*



PHOTO: OUT! FOR REEL

A scene from Out! for Reels' *Leading Ladies*.

**we've grown up!**



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**search the rainbow times  
to join us!**

### Letters from page 2

happy stories, however. I wish there were a story about places where we can go when our partners have passed, etc. Maybe The Times can cover something like this soon.

—Marguerite Solemn, Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

What great pics you had in this edition. I could recognize some of the people from our community. That was awesome. Thanks for the pics and for your nice and serious coverage of our issues.

—Jessica Gonzales, Jamaica Plain

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**Out! FOR REEL**  
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## Creep of the Week: Let's talk Matt Barber

By: D'Anne Witkowski\*/Special for TRT

It feels like every time we check the news this month there's a story about yet another young person taking his or her life in order to escape anti-gay bullying. It's heartbreaking. And not just for the gay community.

Even Matt Barber of the rabidly anti-gay Liberty Counsel expressed his sorrow: "Anyone with a heart grieves deeply over these needless suicides."

Amen to that. Hey, we might not agree on everything, but at least we all have something in common: a heart.

Or do we?

"Unfortunately – though not surprisingly – extremist 'gay' pressure groups, like the incongruously named 'Human Rights Campaign,' Ellen DeGeneres and other liberal activists are shamelessly exploiting these tragedies as a means to achieve their own selfish political ends," Barber continues.

Wait, is he saying that gays are actually happy about all of this?

"It makes me physically ill to watch as the HRC and other 'gay' militants lick their chops and rub their hands together over the tragic suicides of these troubled, sexually confused young men," Barber says. "Before they were even laid to rest, the radical homosexual lobby pounced leveraging these suicides to demand that government codify each of their extremist, social engineering demands."

So let me get this straight (no pun intended): bloodthirsty gay militants are actually celebrating the fact that these kids killed themselves because it's good for the cause?

Oh, I get it – gays don't have hearts. Only human beings have hearts and Barber clearly doesn't see homos that way. Because in his world, gays don't actually exist. They're just "sexually confused young men" who didn't love Jesus enough.

"God's message to young people struggling with same sex temptation or to those who feel the shame that naturally accompanies sexual

sin is that suicide is never the way out," Barber offers. "But there is a way out. It comes first through belief in Jesus Christ, and then through confession of sin; finally, repentance."

In other words, Barber's message to gay teens is that they're yucky sinners who simply need to pray real hard to get the gay out of them. Never mind that being gay isn't something you can pray away.

But for folks like Barber it isn't about actual people with hearts. It's about a sinister and faceless "gay agenda." And anyway the real victims of this whole gay suicide mess are Christians.

Ellen DeGeneres recently said, "There are messages everywhere that validate this sort of bullying and taunting and we need to make it stop. We can't let intolerance and ignorance take another kid's life."

Barber is kind enough to translate this "from liberealese to plain English" for us: "Public defense of God's express, self-evident and unequivocal design for human sexuality must be stopped under force of law. Proponents of the Judeo-Christian sexual ethic are murdering 'gay' kids with their words."

Now, I can't speak for DeGeneres... Oh, what the hell, I will: No, she's not. She is not saying that, you paranoid, deluded f@#\$.

Although now that you mention it, telling a young person who is being bullied for being gay while most of the adults in his life stand idly by that he is broken and should feel ashamed of feelings he cannot control and he pretty much deserves it until he gets right with a god who can't magically "fix" his sexual orientation no matter how hard he prays sounds like a pretty good recipe for suicidal desperation.

And that isn't good for anyone's cause.

*\*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.*

**So let me get this straight (no pun intended): bloodthirsty gay militants are actually celebrating the fact that these kids killed themselves because it's good for the cause?**

## Amy Ray and Zoë Lewis to mark LGBT Stonewall Center's 25th Anniversary

AMHERST, MA—To celebrate its 25th anniversary, the University of Massachusetts, Amherst Stonewall Center is sponsoring a concert by the highly acclaimed singer-songwriters

Amy Ray and Zoë Lewis. Ray, best known as one half of the renowned contemporary folk duo the Indigo Girls, has also established herself as a leading solo artist, with four albums on her own Daemon Records. Lewis, known as "a one-woman band" for her ability to play just about any instrument, is a mainstay on the festival circuit and a "must see" for LGBT people visiting Provincetown, her adopted home.

"We are thrilled that Amy Ray set her fall schedule around us, so that she could be here for this milestone anniversary," states Genny Beemyn, the director of the Stonewall Center. "The center has a long history of sponsoring great programming for the campus and the community, and Amy Ray and Zoë Lewis are very much a part of that tradition." For past anniversaries,



PHOTO: DAEMON RECORDS

Amy Ray

the Stonewall Center has brought Ellen DeGeneres, Harvey Fierstein, and Kate Clinton.

The concert will be held on Wednesday, November 17 at 8 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Tickets are available at the Stonewall Center (Crampton Hall), Tix Unlimited (317 UMass Student Union), and Pride & Joy (20 Crafts Ave., Northampton) for \$20 (\$10 for students with ID). For people who live outside of the area, phone orders are being taken at (413) 545-4826. The concert is also sponsored by The Rainbow Times.

*The third oldest LGBT campus center in the country, the Stonewall Center provides support, advocacy, and programming for LGBT and allied people at UMass Amherst and for the larger Pioneer Valley. A complete list of the center's 25th anniversary events can be found on its website: www.umass.edu/stonewall/25th.*

### Inclusive from page 2

Gov. Patrick, on the other hand, is the only gubernatorial candidate who supports a transgender civil rights bill and has promised to sign it, not veto it like the other candidates have stated. This bill would provide protections to our trans community members who as of now, remain one of the most targeted and exposed members of our LGBT community. It is impossible for us to support a candidacy that does not include the Trans community, especially when our mission is based upon unification and the strengthening of our LGBT community as a whole.

In addition, Gov. Patrick has been a strong advocate of our community with strong leadership. He signed recent anti-bullying legislation and repealed the 1913 law that prevented out-of-state same-sex couples from marrying in Massachusetts.

Looking at the complete picture, Gov. Patrick and President Obama have worked under one of the toughest financial recessions ever, and a housing market that was about to collapse under the former "leadership." This legacy was left to all of us as a gift from for-

mer President George W. Bush and his failed administration. His exit was convenient in that he left others to deal with the chaos that he caused. And, these are exactly the financial situations that the Democrats are dealing with at this moment. We must remember this fact before blaming the current leaders. Tough times call for tough decisions.

Because of these reasons and more, The Rainbow Times is proud to support and endorse Gov. Deval Patrick and Tim Murray for Massachusetts Governor and Lieutenant Governor, respectively. If the LGBT fundraiser is an indication of the LGBT vote, then Gov. Patrick should have no problem with his LGBT supporters.

Best,

*Gricel M. Ocasio*

*\*Gricel M. Ocasio is the co-founder, co-owner and Publisher of The Rainbow Times. She is a graduate of Temple University and has been in the journalism and publishing field for almost 20 years. You can reach her at: publisher@therainbowtimesnews.com.*

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### TRT Heroes from page 5

biggest thing is to get somebody to volunteer once. Once they volunteer, they always come back. Everyone can make a difference by volunteering for whatever 'cause they believe in."

The best advice Hartley has ever received? "Do it for the cause and not for the glamour," Hartley said. "I don't do it for awards or praise. I do it because I believe in all the organizations that I volunteer for. Everything that I have done for the LGBT community I am proud of, in one way or another."

Hartley acknowledges that bullying is a major problem, not just for LGBT teenagers, but for all teenagers.

"Bullying in general has just gotten out of control, especially with cyber bullying" Hartley noted. "The kids are smarter than the parents when it comes to technology. Parents

need to learn how to use the parental controls on the computer. They need to follow what their children are doing on the computer."

Hartley knows that as long as people stay active in the fight for LGBT equality, progress can be achieved. The work he continues to do is part of reaching that goal.

"I've lived long enough now that I've seen the changes that have happened," Hartley explained. "I know if you're persistent and you continue your fight, changes can happen. There's domestic partner benefits now at most companies. 25 years ago that was unheard of. I'm sure that eventually there will be marriage rights here in Rhode Island and throughout the United States."

Does Hartley consider himself an LGBT hero?

He says no: "I do what I do because it needs to be done."





# Recent string of gay suicides spur awareness, anger, calls to action

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

In the wake of a string of gay suicides, outraged members of the LGBT community have held vigils and are having discussions on how to prevent more tragedies from occurring.

At Brown University in Providence on October 4, a memorial was held to honor the memories of the six gay men who took their own lives in the past month.

Friends of Raymond Chase, a Johnson and Wales University student who committed suicide a week earlier, spoke at the event.

Another vigil was held at the State House in Boston, where participants expressed anger at the lack of progress on LGBT civil rights legislation, which they believe was a factor in the suicides.

On Thursday, October 6, Campus Pride released a statement calling on the President of Rutgers University to expel both Dharun Ravi and Molly Wei for invasion of privacy of fellow student Tyler Clementi.

On September 22, Clementi jumped off the George Washington Bridge after posting on his Facebook page: "jumping off the gw bridge sorry."

"Ravi and Wei acted maliciously to secretly tape Tyler Clementi, even posting comments to encourage others to 'video chat' and watch. This is an egregious act of invasion of privacy. Both students should be expelled. Period," said Shane Windmeyer, executive director and founder of Campus Pride. "This act was not simply a prank. It has been two weeks now and neither student has been expelled. Now is the time to act decisively and send a clear message at Rutgers and at colleges across the country that LGBT harassment and hate will not be tolerated any longer."

"Rutgers University has an obligation to the family of Tyler Clementi and to parents who have gay kids across the nation to enforce the student code of conduct," added Windmeyer. "The nation is watching what happens. Rutgers should take immediate action in the wake of this national tragedy and immediately expel both students."

A number of academicians have also weighed in, explaining that colleges need to do more to provide more resources for LGBT students.

Sue Rankin, a Professor of Education at Penn State, conducted some research and found that over one third of the respondents would consider leaving their college or university due to the

anti-gay attitudes they were experiencing from other students.

Rankin admits such a high percentage was "shocking".

Even more disturbing is the fact that only 7 percent of colleges and universities offer institutionalized resources for LGBTQ students, according to Rankin.

The Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals is an organization dedicated to making colleges and universities more accepting environments for LGBT students and faculty members. There is a directory of colleges with LGBT resource centers at their web site: [www.lgbtcampus.org](http://www.lgbtcampus.org).

Campus Pride released the results of a study last month, titled The 2010 State of Higher Education for LGBT People, which documented the experiences of nearly 6,000 students, faculty, staff and administrators who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) at colleges and universities across the United States. The results point to significant harassment of LGBT students and a lack of safety and inclusiveness that exists on campuses across the country.



PHOTO: COURTESY AUTOSTRADDE.COM

Raymond Chase

## Some key findings:

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and queer (LGBQ) respondents experienced significantly greater harassment and discrimination than their heterosexual allies, and those who identified as transmasculine, transfeminine, and gender non-conforming (GNC) experienced significantly higher rates of harassment than men and women
- LGBQ students were more likely than heterosexual students to have seriously considered leaving their institution as a result of harassment and discrimination.
- LGBQ respondents of color were more likely than their LGBQ White counterparts to indicate race as the basis for harassment, and were significantly less likely than LGBQ White respondents to feel very comfortable or comfortable in their classes (60%, 65%, respectively).
- Respondents who identified as transmasculine, transfeminine, and gender non-conforming have more negative perceptions of campus climate when compared with those who identify within the gender binary.

For more information about Campus Pride's "2010 State of Higher Education for LGBT People" report, visit [www.campuspride.org/research](http://www.campuspride.org/research).



To mark the 25th Anniversary of the UMass Stonewall Center:

**Amy Ray**  
of the Indigo Girls



Opener:

**Zoë Lewis**

**Wednesday, November 17, 8 p.m.**  
**UMass Student Union Ballroom**

Tickets: \$10 all students (with ID),  
\$20 general public, \$25 at the door

Tickets available at the UMass Stonewall Center (Crampton Hall), Tix Unlimited (317 UMass Student Union), and Pride & Joy (20 Crafts Avenue, Northampton)

Sponsored by the UMass Stonewall Center, the UMass Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Program, and The Rainbow Times

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# Bella Maddo: The novelita

## All transgender ensemble, cast in NON-transgender roles!

By: Gina Morvay\*/Special for TRT

Bella Maddo is a new soap-opera style short film being welcomed throughout the film-festival circuit.

Okay, another day, another short, and so it goes, but this film is not only directed by a trans-woman, it also has trans-children in it. In fact, this film ONLY has trans people in it, and moreover, these performers don't even play trans people in this film.

The actors are 24/7 trans peeps of all different ages (9 to 76).

The idea of using all trans actors came from director/actress Janice Danielles' own frustrations with being cast in a narrow niche.

Her tipping point came when she was up for a non-trans role for which a (well-known) director wanted to hire her, but backed down because he thought her trans-history would be too much of "a distraction."

Performers included in *Bella Maddo* are Isis King, well known from her participation on America's Next Top Model with Tyra Banks, musician Joe Stevens, 9 year old Miss Jazz (she was featured on Barbara Walters's 20/20 special) and many other talented [trans] actors.

*Bella Maddo* is a unique and powerful achievement. It views trans people not as objects of curiosity to exploit, but as individuals who can play any role given the chance.

Janice is expanding the film into an 8-part mini-series. Future directorial projects for her include a film completely cast with trans children.

When asked about who her role model is, Janice stated Amanda Simpson (trans-woman appointed to the Obama administration) "Ms.



PHOTO: PHILIP RUESCH

### The cast of *Bella Maddo*

Simpson was appointed based on her knowledge, and she should serve as an example to the entire trans community" said Janice. "The question shouldn't be 'what were you,' but instead *WHAT DO YOU DO!*"

### Synopsis of *Bella Maddo*

A pregnant sociopath compulsively values thinness over caring for her young daughter and unborn child. This dark-comedy, soap-opera style film is about an aging, vain and selfish mother; the perfect blend of Joan Crawford and Dina Lohan.

Proceeds from the purchase of this film are generously donated to various charities, which are listed on the website. Purchase either DVD or online viewing; both can be done at [www.BellaMaddo.com](http://www.BellaMaddo.com)

\*Gina Morvay's blog can be found at: [www.skipthetakeup.blogspot.com](http://www.skipthetakeup.blogspot.com).

## LGBT Halloween Dance at Brattleboro American Legion

An LGBT community dance party will be held on Friday, October 29, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., at the American Legion in Brattleboro, Vermont. The event is sponsored by the Men's Program of the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont.

The DJ of the evening is DJ Buck, who played for the June Pride Party, and there will be another fantastic light show by Jonathan. Admission to the dance is \$5.00, and there is a cash bar and free refreshments. Raffle tickets are sold at the dance, for a variety of great prizes donated by local sponsors, and all attendees get a free chance at a door prize.

Costumes are encouraged but not required. These dance parties regularly bring in close to 100 local and regional members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and their friends and allies. This is a community event open to all.

For more information, contact Howie Peterson at the Men's Program, at [men@sover.net](mailto:men@sover.net) or 802-254-4444.

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## Free adoption programs Nov. 6: Families sought for children in foster care

SPRINGFIELD, MA—This event focuses on finding adoptive families for children in foster care. The program begins at 1:00 PM with a Family Orientation on how best to use this party. Waiting children arrive at 1:30 with their social workers for carnival-style fun and games. Social work students from Elms College in Chicopee, MA and from Westfield State University will be assisting the children and organizing games and activities. The adoption party gives prospective parents the chance to interact with children awaiting adoption through informal activities including arts and crafts, basketball and games. Attendees should dress casually for this event. Refreshments, catered by Westfield Vocational High School Culinary students will be served.

In Massachusetts, more than 600 children and teens in foster care are waiting for adoption into permanent loving families. School-aged children, sibling groups, children of color and children with special needs tend to wait the longest for families. MARE's Adoption Parties provide a relaxed setting where waiting children and adults hoping to adopt can meet. Participants can also learn about the adoption process and support resources available, as well as financial subsidies for which children adopted from foster care may be eligible. Adoption parties are MARE's most effective tool in building adoptive families, now accounting for 32% all children placed into adoptive homes.

The Adoption Party will take place on Saturday, November 6, from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield, 25 West Silver St., Westfield, MA. To RSVP for the Pre-Party and/or the Adoption Party, or to learn more about adoption from foster care, contact MARE at 1-800-882-1176 or visit [www.MAREinc.org](http://www.MAREinc.org).

MARE is a private, non-profit organization, working since 1957 to find a "permanent place to call HOME" for CHILDREN in foster care, including sibling groups and children who are traditionally harder to place. We do this by recruiting, educating, supporting and advocating for FAMILIES throughout the adoption process. These events are sponsored by MARE and DCF Western MA Regional Office, with support from Providence Behavioral Health Hospital, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield and an anonymous donor.



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# State House vigil held in wake of rash of gay suicides

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, MA—On October 5 at the Massachusetts State House in Boston, a vigil was held to draw attention to the recent string of gay teen suicides.

The event, which was attended by several hundred people, was organized by Join the Impact MA. Join the Impact MA is a local grassroots organization which was created following the passage of California's Proposition 8 in 2008. The group has confronted a variety of issues over the past 2 years, with the ex-gay movement a particular target for its promotion of negative attitudes about homosexuality.

A total of ten lives have ended as a result of homophobia and anti-gay bullying, a longtime problem which has taken the spotlight over the past month.

The lives lost include: Justin Aaberg (15), Minnesota, Billy Lucas (15) Indiana, Cody J. Barker (17) Wisconsin, Seth Walsh (13) California, Tyler Clementi (18) New Jersey, Asher Brown (13) Texas, Harrison Chase Brown (15), Colorado, Raymond Chase (19) Rhode

Island, Felix Sacco (17) Massachusetts, and Caleb Nolt (14) Indiana.

Emcee David Mailloux, Co-Chair of Join the Impact MA, led the crowd in a sing-a-long of Christina Aguilera's anthem *Beautiful*. The Rev. Jack Lewis of the Unitarian-Universalist Society of Wellesley declared that no LGBT

person need feel alone — "we've come together in unity in response to the hatred against us and we need to watch each other's backs."

Gunner Scott of the Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition condemned the lack of legal protection for transgender youth in Massachusetts, and introduced two trans youth who told personal stories of being bullied and beaten for their gender identity.

Keegan O'Brien, a student at UMass/Boston, told the crowd that LGBTs can have an impact by protesting, marching, sitting-in, and chaining ourselves to the White House fence. An open microphone speak-out followed, in which individuals were invited to share personal stories of surviving homophobia and bullying.

Many of the speakers expressed their frustration with a lack of progress on LGBT civil rights at the federal level, such as the repeal of the military's ban on openly gay service, and failure to pass ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act).

"The bullying stems from ignorance and homophobia," Mailloux said. "The homophobia stems from the lack of legislation that protects the LGBT community."

Several speakers demanded action on federal anti-bullying legislation to augment the state protections enacted in Massachusetts earlier this year. Sue Hyde of the *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force* and *Mass Equality*

noted that the Governor's Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth made recommendations 16 years ago to create safer schools for LGBT youth in Massachusetts, and yet Carl Walker-Hoover (Springfield, Mass.) killed himself in 2009 after being bullied.

Mailloux said Join the Impact will be collaborating with other organizations, including *Queer Women of Color and Allies* and *BAGLY* (Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth).

"We realize that something definitely needed to be done about bullying and how could we reach out more to the youth in our community," Mailloux said. "The conversation is most definitely going to continue."



PHOTO: JOIN THE IMPACT MA  
Several hundred people attended this Join the Impact MA organized State House rally, targeting recent gay suicides

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# One man's first feature length film to benefit LGBT youth organization, NAGLY

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

A gay New Hampshire native has written and directed his first feature-length movie — quite an accomplishment for 28-year-old man, Justin Scarelli of Hampstead who produced the independent film, *Some Holiday*, on a shoestring budget.

The film's North Shore screening debut is set for Thursday, Nov. 4, at Cinema Salem. Director Scarelli is partnering with the North Shore Alliance for Gay & Lesbian Youth, NAGLY, (www.nagly.org) as a benefit for the organization. He will be on hand for the occasion.

A labor of "love and passion," Scarelli said, the hour-long movie is all about the lives of three young couples, two straight and one gay, all of them just starting out in life. *Some Holiday* chronicles the partners' relationships, their navigation and negotiation of career aspirations and parental responsibilities.

Here's a very brief synopsis: College sweethearts, Grace and Dan Allen are facing the unanticipated birth of their first child. Before getting married, Grace introduces her best friend Sam to Chris so that Sam won't have to attend her wedding alone. The two gay men hit it off, but the plot line thickens when Sam learns Chris has a five-year old son. The third couple is Tracy and Miles, who are forced to give up their performing-artist life on the road when Tracy discovers she is expectant. In time, Tracy leaves Miles and her child to pursue Broadway career dreams. But guilt sets in and she weighs returning home, wondering all along if it is worth it.

"I've been a writer for most of my life," Scarelli said during a recent telephone interview. Introducing a gay couple, he said, "I had never done that before," explaining, "I had just come out, and that learning experience helped me to deal with characters who are gay. I really wanted to present them correctly."

The title of the movie, Scarelli said, springs from the classic film *Roman Holiday*, starring Audrey Hepburn, a princess who escapes her real life and experiences a magical holiday in Rome, eventually returning home and assuming her responsibilities.

*Some Holiday*, he said, "is a lot about people trying to escape their reality — a married couple

trying to get by, paying the bills. Now, along comes a baby, what are they doing to do?"

Scarelli said he is happy to partner with NAGLY. Is there a positive message for a gay audience? Indeed, he said. "Here is a representation of characters who — for lack of a better word — are regular guys, men who happen to be in a relationship with each other, but are real people."

In other words, Scarelli continued, "They are people like me. I may not fit into a certain stereotype, but I have the same trials and tribulations," hopes and dreams as anyone else.

The young writer and movie director said he did not set out to make a gay film. Yet, it was important to put Chris and Sam's relationship into the forefront and treat the gay couple on "equal status."

True enough, Scarelli added, "Their relationship is the strongest of all three because with five-year old Nathan at the center, Sam and Chris and the boy are going to have to be connected somehow."

And yet, "Sam has the option to leave. They are not married and have been together about a year," Scarelli explained. "Sam decides to stay and further their

relationship. That speaks volumes. It's more of a conscious choice."

What did Scarelli learn about himself as a person and writer? "It's important to be authentic in life and in my writing," he said. "In my coming out process and as a director and individual," Scarelli continued, "I've come to see that if you work at something in an honest way and deal with it with respect; you'll end up with a new-found outlook."

That's a pretty good take-away message, too, for youth coming to terms with a differing sexual orientation or gender identity.

*The film's meet and greet at Cinema Salem will start at 8:30 p.m. The show starts at 9 p.m., with discussion afterwards. Tickets for the event are \$10 dollars and they can be purchased at the Cinema Salem website (www.cinemasalem.com) or by calling the box office (978) 744-1400. Proceeds will benefit NAGLY. For more information about the film, visit: www.surefine-whateverprod.com/*



PHOTO: LOUIS FOISY

Justin Scarelli

## Items of interest in our local gayborhoods and beyond

### NEWSBRIEFS

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

#### Eastern Massachusetts News:

• The MassEquality PAC announced its endorsement of Martha Coakley for Attorney General, Steve Grossman for Treasurer, and Suzanne Bump for Auditor. Coakley sued the federal government last year for its discriminatory treatment of married lesbian and gay couples in Massachusetts and won.

"The only way we will be successful in advancing equal opportunities for LGBT people from cradle to grave — in schools, in marriage and family life, at work and in retirement — is by electing candidates who understand the importance of working for all citizens of the Commonwealth, including LGBT citizens," said Kara Suffredini, executive director of MassEquality. "Martha Coakley, Steve Grossman, and Suzanne Bump have each distinguished themselves in their advocacy on behalf of LGBT people and MassEquality is proud to endorse them."

• Fenway Health presents the twelfth annual *Audre Lorde Cancer Awareness Brunch* on Saturday, October 23 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The event will be held at Fenway Health, located at the Ansin Building, 9th floor, 1340 Boylston Street, Boston. The event is free, but space is limited. Please RSVP for the Brunch online. If you would like to volunteer, please email Erica at epollock@fenwayhealth.org.

• GLAD (Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders) and the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition will conduct a free workshop covering your rights related to HIV and employment. The workshop is at Suffolk University on October 23 from 1-3 p.m. Presenters include: Ben Klein, GLAD's AIDS Law Project Director, and Nephtali Rosado, Executive Team Leader of Target Stores and Vice Chair of the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC). The event will take place at Suffolk University, First Floor Conference Room, 120 Tremont St., Boston. There will be time following the program to network and connect with local community groups.

Please RSVP before noon on October 22 to Noreen Giga (ngiga@glad.org)

#### Western Massachusetts News:

• The MacDuffie School Gay-Straight Alliance invites all of Western Massachusetts to attend a Springfield Anti-Bullying Candlelight Vigil, in memoriam of the fallen victims

of bullying and harassment. This event is to honor ALL victims and raise awareness about these issues.

We plan to gather with our candles from 5 to 6 p.m., on the steps of City Hall in Springfield on Friday, October 29. Please contact Dominique Walker and Nicole Stern for more information on how you can get involved: dwalker@macduffie.org and nsstern@macduffie.org

#### Worcester News:

• The AIDS Project Worcester is having their 2nd Annual Gospel Festival on Saturday, October 23 from 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Wesley United Methodist Church, 114 Main Street. For ticket or event information, contact Tricia Price at 508-755-3773, Ext. 16 or e-mail her at tprice@aidspjprojectworcester.org.

#### Rhode Island News:

• The 11th Annual Rhode Island Pride Spotlight Awards will be held on Friday, October 22 at the Blackstone Valley Visitor Center, 175 Main St., Pawtucket. 2010 Spirit of Pride recipients are Congressman Patrick Kennedy and Rosey DeNicola. Ticket prices are: \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. For more information contact: www.PrideRI.com.

• Openly gay Congressional candidate, Providence Mayor David Cicilline, will be getting the support of President Barack Obama on Monday, October 25. Obama will appear at a \$500 per person reception at the Rhode Island Convention Center and later at a \$7,500 per person reception at the home of a couple on the city's East Side. Cicilline is running against Republican John Loughlin, a state Rep. from Little Compton. Polls show Cicilline with a sizable lead over Loughlin.

• Youth Pride, Inc., presents *Live Out Loud* on Friday, November 5 at the Providence Biltmore. Cocktails and silent auction will be at 6:30. Dinner and dancing at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$60 in advance and \$70 at the door. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (401) 521-5626.

#### Connecticut News:

• There will be a Wine Tasting on November 5 to benefit the New Haven Pride Center, located at 14 Gilbert St., West Haven. Send a check to NHPC, P.O. Box 8914, West Haven, CT 06532 or call 203-387-2252 and leave a message. Also, emails can be sent to: nhglcc@gmail.com.

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# 300 LGBT leaders and allies come together to raise over \$160K for Patrick

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

One gubernatorial candidate has both an openly gay brother and running mate; the other, a gay daughter. Both candidates are good on LGBT rights. And yet, if a recent gay and lesbian community fundraising event is any indication of LGBT backing, Governor Deval Patrick stands to benefit from solid gay community support on Election Day, Nov. 2.

About 300 LGBT community leaders and allies raised more than \$160,000 for the incumbent Democratic governor who is seeking a second four-year term.

"The size and success of the LGBT fundraiser is emblematic of the depth of support that Governor Patrick has in the community," said Elyse Cherry, an LGBT community leader and event organizer. "He's been with us from the beginning, never hesitated, never wavered."

The event was held Wed., October 6, on the 33rd floor State Room at 60 State Street in downtown Boston, with the Patrick campaign billing the reception as "an evening of conversation with Governor Deval Patrick."

There were plenty of face-to-face conversations as the governor spent considerable time listening to supporters one-on-one and thanking them for contributions and backing. His daughter Katherine Patrick also mingled and mingled among attendees.

"I like being out and about" Gov. Patrick said, "Meeting people where they live, where they are economically and socially, and in their own heads. Policy only matters at the point it touches people's lives."

Kara Suffredini, executive director of Mass Equality, introduced Patrick, ticking off a list of accomplishments for the LGBT community, including support for transgender rights and tough anti-bullying legislation, as well as his advocacy early on against a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage. Patrick also signed into law a bill repealing a 1913 Massachusetts statute that prohibited marriage of out-of-state residents if the marriage contracted in the commonwealth violated laws of the couple's domiciled state.

For his part, the governor delivered an inspiring campaign stump speech, detailing a track record of achievement. That includes, Patrick said, "investment in roads, rails, and bridge structures," investment in "broad band expansion, affordable housing, and recreational facilities," the "consolidation of 20 different state agencies," reform of the state's Criminal Offender Records Information (CORI); "pension and ethics reform legislation."

Two weeks earlier Patrick held a slim 45 to 42 percent lead over Baker. Rasmussen's most recent findings enabled the electronic media company that specializes in public opinion polling to reclassify the race from "toss-up" to "leans Democratic."

Massachusetts is "very competitive," the governor said. "We're growing jobs faster than any other state in the nation. We are first in the nation for student achievement," for "veterans services," "for clean and alternative energy initiatives," and "for health care coverage. Ninety-eight percent of our residents have health insurance. No other state can say that."

"And none of that happened by accident," Patrick said, adding, "One other thing didn't happen by accident. You can marry any one you love in this state."

Throughout spring, summer, and early fall, every poll has shown Deval Patrick ahead of his challengers, Republican Charlie Baker, Independent Tim Cahill and Green Party candidate Jill Stein — anywhere from a one to seven to as high as a 14 point spread last May. But as support for Cahill slipped over time, the race has become closer.

The most recent poll, an Oct. 12 survey of 500 likely voters conducted by Suffolk University/Channel 7 News, showed a seven point spread, with Patrick ahead at 46 percent to Baker's 39 percent.

An earlier Sept. 30, Rasmussen Reports telephone survey of 750 likely Bay State voters, moreover, put Patrick at 47 percent versus Baker's 42 percent when voters who say they are leaning to one candidate or another are included in polling results. Cahill trails a distant third, with only six percent.

Two weeks earlier Patrick held a slim 45 to 42 percent lead over Baker.

Rasmussen's most recent findings enabled the electronic media company that specializes in public opinion polling to reclassify the race from "toss-up" to "leans Democratic."

That is indeed good news for the governor



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

Deval Patrick, addressing 300 supporters at the "Evening of Conversation with Governor Deval Patrick," and LGBT community fundraiser, held in Boston Oct. 6.



PHOTO: CHUCK COLBERT

L-R: Jacques Abatto, Katherine Patrick, Christina Chan, and David Goldman proud to be at LGBT community fundraiser in Boston.

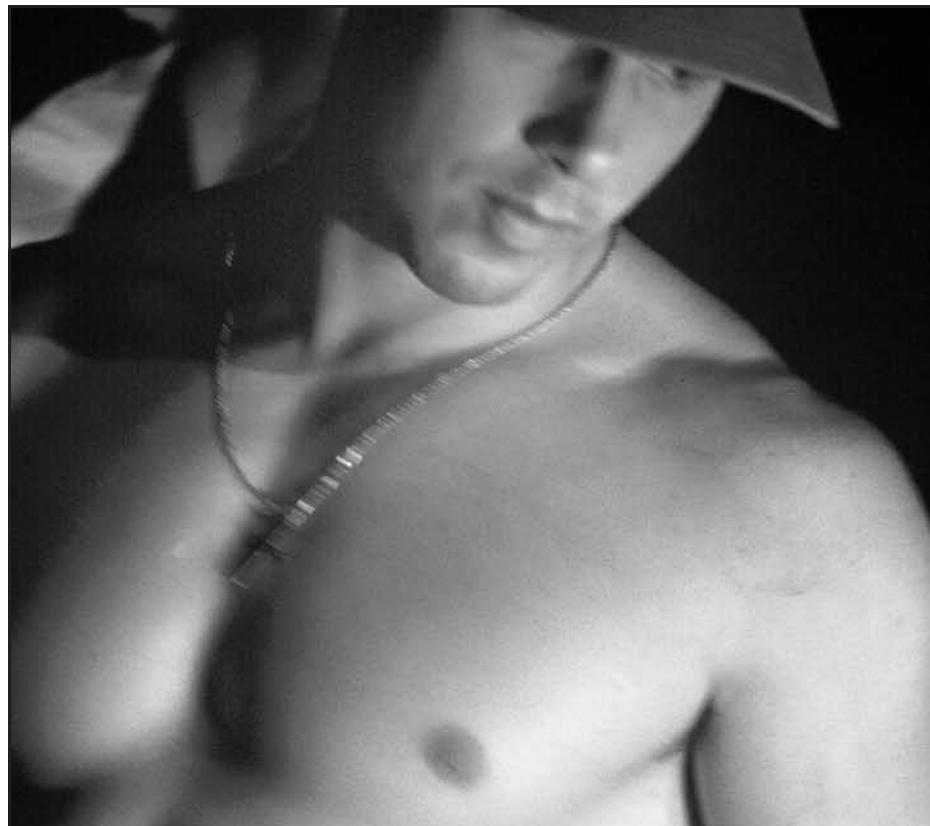
and LGBT backers, any number of whom view the outcome as critically important to the commonwealth and gay community.

The race for many is "way too close, way too close for comfort" as one backer described it.

"What's at stake is having an advocate and true believer in the corner office," said former Freedom to Marry (FTM) co-chair Rob Henry during the Patrick reception. "That's what I saw four years ago, and that's what I see now," Henry added. In 2006, the FTM advocacy group was then the first LGBT organization to endorse then candidate Deval Patrick.

Arline Isaacson, co-chairwoman of the Massachusetts Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, a statewide lobbying group, went further. "He's the most pro-LGBT governor we've ever had. He's done everything we asked him to and then some," she said, adding, "If our community does not do everything to protect this governor, that message will be noted."

See \$160K for Patrick on page 14



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# What's the matter? Ron Perkov sets the *Matter* straight

ENTERTAINMENT

By: Drew Lipinsky/Special for TRT

Ron Perkov has performed alongside the likes Dionne Warwick, Jennifer Holiday and Bernadette Peters. He also starred in the Lincoln Center Production of Mack & Mabel. Today, however, the five-time Billboard charting artist performs more dance floors than stage doors.

His self-penned songs all follow what has become a winning recipe for Ron, with a hidden life message behind thunderous beats. It's an influence embraced by some of the biggest names in dance. Tony Moran, Victor Calderone, Manny Lehman, and David Knapp, have all remixed his songs. Last year's "Miss You" was his biggest smash to date, landing at the top of Billboard and breaking into UK charts.

This month, Perkov releases a new dance track, co-produced by his longtime collaborator, Mike Lorello. "It Doesn't Matter" speaks against discrimination, especially racial and sexual discrimination that remains prevalent all over the world. The song urges listeners to appreciate our differences and celebrate diversity. With remixes by Mike Cruz, Mickey Friedman and Twisted Dee, "It Doesn't Matter" is sure to follow the path paved by Perkov's past hits.

**Drew Lipinsky:** What was the inspiration behind "It Doesn't Matter?"

**Ron Perkov:** The inspiration came from realizing that too many people remain close minded about things that are out of the norm for them.

**DL:** Are you referring to Prop 8?

**RP:** Sure, that's part of what the song refers to.

It's important that gay men enjoy the same benefits as heterosexuals.

**DL:** If Prop 8 is only part of the song, what other forms of discrimination are you tackling?

**RP:** The song is ultimately about the rampant bigotry and discrimination that continues to plague the world. It doesn't matter who you are or who you love or what you wear. Remember that life is about learning. We learn from all walks of life.

**DL:** So you don't really believe that nothing matters?

**RP:** Not at all. *Everything* matters! It matters that we accept people and learn from them and get along. It matters that we at least try to be the best we can be and that we appreciate our differences.

**DL:** Does the economy matter?

**RP:** Hell yes, the economy matters. For those that are struggling, and we *all* are — anyone that says they aren't is lying — take one day at a time and work hard to pay your bills. How wonderful would it be to have no debt? Can you imagine?

**DL:** Are we wasting time sweating the small stuff?

**RP:** We all have to be a bit more conscious in how we handle our lives because if you don't take care of yourself, no one else will.

**DL:** You recently married your long-time partner.

**RP:** Yes! The ceremony took place in Boston. It was small with only our closest friends and family.

**DL:** Was it important to publicly declare your union?

**RP:** We are completely different men now because of our wedding. I can honestly say that I

feel more than happy. I feel settled in life because of our nuptials.

**DL:** In the song, you sing that race doesn't matter. Have you ever dated across the color line?

**RP:** My other half is Afro-American. It never mattered to me what color my partner was. What mattered was that he is a good, decent person, which he is.

**DL:** Have you encountered any racism as a couple?

**RP:** The world is changing in regard to color, but sure the old world way of thinking still exists. I believe it will die out eventually but it will be some time.

**DL:** How has having a black president impacted the color line?

**RP:** America is wonderfully becoming more liberal. Electing a

black president proved to me that anyone can be whatever they wish to be. I find it funny that whenever I tour outside of the USA, foreign fans always say the same thing about our having a non-white President: "it's about time."

**DL:** Can we expect a full length album, Ron?

**RP:** Yes, a full length album is almost done. It is a chill-out album, recorded live earlier this year at my show at New York City's Joe's Pub. Mike Lorello (co-producer of "It Doesn't Matter") and I are producing it together. The music is wonderful.

**DL:** As wonderful as last winter's "Intimate Chill-Out" album?

**RP:** If you enjoyed my "Intimate Chill-Out" album, you are really going to love this one.

For more information on this story and Ron's album visit: [RonPerkov.com](http://RonPerkov.com)



PHOTO: LUIS CARLE

Ron Perkov

## \$160K for Patrick from page 13

Isaacson's call to get out the gay vote resonated quietly through the cocktail-chatter buzz, with attendees, sipping chardonnay and cabernet sauvignon and sampling hor d'oeuvres.

"I'd hate to see this race be affected by people's lack of energy," said Susan Tracy, who ran for Congress in 1998. "The stakes are very important," she added, "Deval Patrick has been great. Just think about the time we've been through. The message is not that it could have been worse," she explained referring to the economic downturn. "He's been a great leader in the worst times there could be."

Patrick and his challengers sharply differ on one important issue for LGBT voters. Baker and Cahill oppose transgender civil-rights legislation — what opponents dub the "bathroom bill." The proposed legislation would add "gender identity" and "gender expression" to the state's non-discrimination and hate crimes laws. An ardent proponent of the measure, Patrick has said he will sign the bill into law.

For claiming he would veto the "bathroom bill," said Boston attorney Vin McCarthy, a long-time gay community leader and activist, "Charlie Baker should be ashamed of himself."

that track from last night?

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## One Big Event highlighted by "The Most Unique Stand-up Comic in the Country!"

HARTFORD, CT—The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective's 8th *One Big Event* is coming to the Hartford Hilton Hotel on Saturday, Nov. 13th. This gala occasion is a fundraiser for the agency's many programs and services. It will have the expected aspects that you would expect: cocktails, dinner, auction and dancing. But this is one benefit that you won't forget. We are proud to present transgender funnyman, Ian Harvie. Lauded as: "Quite possibly the most unique stand-up comic in the country," by *Frontiers Magazine* and "the Comedian Margaret Cho can't stop raving about!" by *Curve Magazine*.

Ian comes to *One Big Event* direct from the tour of his brand new standup comedy show, "Parts Sold Separately". He challenges everything you thought you knew about sex and gender in a hilarious romp through his experiences as a man who happened to be born a girl. Ian discloses ALL about sex, politics, privilege, relationships, coming out twice and of course, and learning new bathroom etiquette. Ian's show will make you think, but more importantly it will leave you laughing.

It's this facile sense of ease and not just his gender-bending presence that makes Ian's humor groundbreaking, and has lead him to make history on more than one occasion. It's the very quality that attracted the notorious Margaret Cho to not just publicly rave about Ian's work, but to feature him in her smash show "The Sensuous

Woman" and tour with him nationally and internationally constantly; it's what landed him spots on "One Night Stand Up" and "OutLaugh Comedy Festival" on the Logo Network, and "Comics Unleashed" on ABC, and a performance at the LA Comedy Festival and South Beach Comedy Festival.

So if you want to be part of a wild ride that not only leaves audiences rolling in the aisles but shatters any assumptions they may have had about ... anything AND support a great cause, save the date of Nov. 13th! *One Big Event* will be THE place to be.

*One Big Event* is a wonderful evening with cocktails, dinner, live and silent auctions and dancing. The evening starts with cocktails at 6:00pm and ends at midnight when the band plays their last song. Tickets are \$125, \$175 and \$225. Once again, ING is our Biggest Sponsor at \$10,000. And this year, our Really, Really Big Sponsors are The Hartford Cour-

rant and Macy's. *One Big Event* is a fundraiser for the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, the largest organization in the state devoted to the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities. The funds raised from the evenings' festivities go toward programs and services.

For more information, contact OBE Coordinator, Dan Millett, at (860)278-4163 x18 or at danm@hglhc.org. For more information, go to our website: [www.onebigevent.org](http://www.onebigevent.org).



PHOTO: KEVIN NEALES

Ian Harvie

## Pink Martini set to stir the party up at soft reopening of CT's Jorgensen Center

STORRS, CT—Ah, the martini: classic, a little sassy and comfortable in any crowd and time. Add pink and you've got a real party.

So Pink Martini, the retro, worldly band with more musical influences than one continent can hold, will swing into Jorgensen on Saturday, Nov. 6, at 8 p.m., to celebrate the renovated center's soft reopening. The 12-piece "little orchestra from Portland, Oregon," will perform songs from its four albums and a fifth new one, "Joy to the World," coming out on its Heinz label on Nov. 16. The group's Jorgensen appearance is part of a 12-city tour heralding the cross-cultural handling of holiday classics on the new CD that will enjoy Starbucks retailing.

This event offers a good chance for Jorgensen audiences to preview the new color scheme, carpets and apple green seats while enjoying the updated space and a specially created pink martini at the new lobby bars. The renovation has not only improved the theater's safety, comfort and accessibility but enhances its Art Deco-influenced design.

Pink Martini was founded in 1994 by classically trained pianist Thomas M. Lauderdale, who was discouraged by the monochromatic music performed at political fundraisers for causes such as civil rights and affordable housing. He soon added Harvard classmate China Forbes as lead singer for the group's blend of jazz, world music, cabaret and 1940s-1950s film music.

The band's influences range from Cole Porter and Duke Ellington to French chanteuse Edith

Piaf and Latin kings Xavier Cugat and Tito Puente. Musical styles come from Afro-Cuban salsa, Argentinean tango, Brazilian samba and bossa nova, Italian folk, Greek rembetiko and Middle Eastern and Asian music. Their "diva next door" Forbes performs in a dozen languages, enhancing the band's global outlook. Lauderdale says, "I think it's important to be a citizen of the world as opposed to being a citizen of this particular country. Part of that means studying other people's languages."

Pink Martini has performed songs from its millions-selling albums with more than 25 orchestras, including the Boston Pops, San Francisco Symphony, the BBC Concert Orchestra and the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and on stages at Carnegie, the Hollywood Bowl and the Kennedy Center.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Regular tickets are \$45, \$38 and \$34, with some discounts available. For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., or order online at [jorgensen.uconn.edu](http://jorgensen.uconn.edu). Convenient free parking is available across the street in the North Garage.

**FUTURE NOTE:** Don't miss Jorgensen's official gala reopening Sat, Dec. 4, with the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra under the direction of Keith Lockhart. Patrons can play a part in the theater's future by donating \$500 to name one of the new apple green seats. See details at [jorgensen.uconn.edu/seat/](http://jorgensen.uconn.edu/seat/).



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# 13 Homolicious Halloween Movies with Hot Guys to Die For

By: Mikey Rox\*/Special for TRT



## Twilight: New Moon

Let's bypass the BS, OK? The only redeeming quality in the "Twilight" snoozefest is Jacob Black (played by Taylor Lautner), a werewolf with a penchant for running around the Washington state backwoods in athletic shorts and sneakers – and nothing else. The first installment was a complete waste of Lautner's talent (read: eight-pack abs and bulging biceps), but "New Moon" makes amends – and the now-legal Lautner a star – by giving fans the goods and plenty of 'em. Already established series superstar Robert Pattinson must've been pissed about that one. Having to share the spotlight with an immensely better looking – and better bodied – co-star has to kill. Unless he lives by the old (if not completely manipulated) adage, "Once bitten, never shy." One can hope.



## 28 Days Later

Why Jim (Cillian Murphy) awakens from his coma to a desolate and destroyed London is no secret – the Rage virus has decimated the city and left him seemingly alone – but how he lost his hospital gown remains a mystery. Director Danny Boyle's 2002 zombie-genre game changer opens with the injured bicycle messenger locked in a room for his own safety but also very much naked. We're talkin' full-frontal, uncut, in-your-face, flaccid phallic action. Which is kinda sweet if you think about it. Because not only did the (probably male) nurse save him from having his face bitten off by the Infected, but it's highly likely that he went down on him (liberties must be taken for the sake of interpretation) before the world as he knew it ended – and then cleaned up the mess. Now that's good bedside manner.



## The Covenant

Before he was wannabe Upper East Side lothario Nate Archibald on "Gossip Girl," Chace Crawford played Tyler Simms, a Son of Ipswich, one of five bloodlines whose first-born male of each generation inherits "the Power," in the "The Covenant." What that power entails exactly is unknown, except that it gives Tyler (who is only a supporting character in the film) the ability to do neat tricks like jump from dark-and-misty elevations and land unscathed. Yawn. But what "The Covenant" lacks in supernatural spectacle it more than makes up for in smokin' hot half-nakedness. Take the poolside scene for instance, when Tyler's also-gifted brethren stroll in shirtless from the locker room wearing only trunk-cut suits and owning the hell out of effortless swagger. Out of the water, kiddies – it's time for adult swim.



## I Know What You Did Last Summer

It's a crime against the gratuitous horror genre that Ryan Phillippe's Barry didn't escape the Fisherman's hook in "I Know What You Did Last Summer" – or that the Fisherman couldn't have ripped Barry's pants off before gutting him like a trout – but at least there's the gym scene. After an intense eight-second workout (because people born perfect require less exercise than the rest of us), Barry proceeds to

the locker room where he disrobes and shows like he loves himself, only to be interrupted by a strange shadow that, wouldn't ya know it, the dog-tag-clad Barry decides to follow. Thank you, stupid movie rules. For the next minute and a half, viewers are treated to the young Adonis weaving in and out of lockers in a tight terry-cloth skirt that accentuates all the right areas. And if that's not enough to satisfy your Phillippe fantasies, just wait until he gets pissy over his missing letterman jacket. Hell hath no fury like a post-high-school hottie scorned.



## The Amityville Horror (2005)

As remakes go, this 2005 update of the 1979 classic doesn't stand out as a winner based on cinematic principles, but it does boast one quality the original didn't: Ryan Reynolds, dripping wet, upper body a-blazin'. Reynolds plays patriarch George Lutz (whose real-life paranormal experiences in an alleged haunted house on Long Island led to the controversial 1977 book on which both films are based), who is a loving husband and a stepfather to three beautiful girls. Until, that is, he becomes possessed by an evil entity and chases the family around the house with a shotgun. Whatever, right? They probably deserved it. What matters most is that before George goes berserk, he takes a dip in the lake and exits soaked in liquid splendor, pecs and abs glistening in the moonlight, white pajama bottoms painted to his thighs. A beautiful nightmare, indeed.



## The Lost Boys

Before Edward Cullen, there was Michael Emerson (Jason Patric) – big brother, brooding loner and newly turned vampire. He's sexy, for sure – because Hollywood demands it of its night stalkers (here's winking at you, young Keifer Sutherland) – but that's not why the world made "The Lost Boys" the quintessential teen fang flick. For that, you can thank late heartthrob Corey Haim and that other Corey who rode his coattails. Infinitely cuter than Feldman, Haim won over fawning girls (and fey fanboys alike) with his vulnerable, adorable turn as Sam, Michael's little bro. If his fate wasn't sealed as the object of adolescent affection before, it was when he splish-splashed in a bubble bath while memorably belting out Clarence "Frogman" Henry's trademark song, "Ain't Got No Home." Except he did – locked away in our dreams.



## A Nightmare on Elm Street (2010)

Wes Craven's original "Nightmare" boasted a couple of hot guys, namely Tim Burton muse Johnny Depp, who's wearing a half-shirt (is there anything sexier than a dude sporting a bare midriff?) and unbuttoned stonewashed jeans when he gets pulled through his bed then splattered all over the ceiling. Enough to whet an appetite, for sure – but that's about all the man-skin you'll get in the 1984 classic. My how times have changed. Because in the 2010 reboot, Craven employs some of young Hollywood's freshest faces – and he makes 'em work hard for their money. Thomas Dekker and Kellan Lutz provide a nice balance of beauty and brawn – though not much else – while "Veronica Mars" alum Kyle Gallner plays his part sleepy, scared and in skintight swimwear as he tries to escape

Freddy's clawed glove. He lives, but not before breaking a serious sweat. Poor kid. If only he had somewhere to run...



## American Psycho

Some stories are better left in print, but the same can't be said for author Bret Easton Ellis' masterpiece, "American Psycho." This satirical tale, set in late-1980s New York City, is narrated by the film's protagonist – and serial killer – Patrick Bateman, played deftly by crazier-than-thou Christian Bale. But while the book drags on for 416 loooooong pages, the movie version runs a digestible 101 minutes, each one more triumphant than before. The film opens poignantly with Bateman taking a leak in his tighty-whites, performing yoga in his tighty-whites, then showering sans tighty-whites. And that's just the first 90 seconds. Fast-forward about an hour and you'll reach what is arguably the best murderous sex scene in history. After Bateman picks up a hooker, orders an escort and returns home, he hits play on Phil Collins' "Suspension" and record on a video camera. Flexing and winking his way to conceit-drenched climax in the mirror, he then cannibalizes one prostitute and chases the other with a chainsaw, wearing nothing more than a pair of sneakers. Run, Bateman, run.



## Swimfan

Jesse Bradford was only luke-warm in the hit cheerleading movie "Bring It On," but at least he had time on his side. Because just two years later, the perma-stubbed actor became a five-alarm fire of fitness as Ben Cronin, a star swimmer with a sordid past in this waterlogged 2002 thriller. As if Ben's troubles weren't bad enough – overcoming drug addiction and kleptomania – along comes out-of-her-effing-mind Madison, a new student with her sights set on the rehabbed athlete. But what begins as a benign relationship – Ben innocently helps Madison with a jammed locker – soon takes a tantalizing turn when Madison helps Ben with his jammed zipper. It's all downhill from there. When Ben refuses Madison's future advances, the harlot gets all sorts of Glenn Close on his a\$\$, killing his friend and trying to drown his girlfriend. Yeesh! High school ain't what it used to be. Still, at least Ben has enough sense to save the day while showing off his best, um, assets. Good form, old chap.

The rest of this list can be read at [www.therainbowtimesmass.com/halloween](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com/halloween).

\*Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer/journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriter and creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at [mikey@paperroxcissors.com](mailto:mikey@paperroxcissors.com).

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# DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: Can Anderson Cooper become the new Oprah?

By: **Romeo San Vicente**\*/Special for TRT

## Mississippi Hate Prom is coming to TV

You may remember earlier this year when Mississippi high school student Constance McMillen sued for the right to take her girlfriend to her prom. You may also remember that not only was she subjected to intense bullying but that her school canceled the prom rather than allow her to come as she was, then turned around and set up two proms, one for the "normals" and one for McMillen and the special ed kids. You couldn't really ask for a more dramatic and insane scenario, so it was only a matter of time before the TV movie about the subject went into production. And that TV movie will be produced by cool Hollywood power-gays Craig Zadan and Neil Meron. No title, no cast, no nothing just yet. But it's happening. And when it finally airs, the creepy, anti-gay people can just sit around wondering why they didn't get more flattering screen time.

## Anderson Cooper wants to be the new Oprah

The version of silver fox Anderson Cooper you see on Anderson Cooper 360 is the all-news, all-the-time guy. But watch him interact with Kathy Griffin or talk *Real Housewives* with Ellen and you'll see a fluffier side of the CNN anchor. It's clearly a side of himself he wants to indulge on the air. And why not get paid to do it? In other words, somebody wants to fill Oprah's empty chair. That's why in fall 2011 you'll get even more Cooper than you ever thought you wanted. He's going to host his own, as-yet-unnamed daytime talk show that will focus on social issues but also celebrities and other soft topics. Now, the real news



**Romeo San Vicente**

they love each other? Stay tuned.

## Sara Rue Learns The Rules

Anyone out there watching the CBS sitcom *Rules of Engagement*? – Anyone? Well, it may not be must-see viewing for a lot of the lesbian and gay TV audiences out there, but someone is certainly tuning in. They're halfway to a hundred episodes at this point, which means the inclusion of a new gay character is nothing to sniff about. And that's what's about to happen. Sara Rue, former star of *Less Than Perfect* and *Popular*, will join the cast as a lesbian surrogate mother. Does that mean she'll be carrying a fertilized egg for stars Patrick Warburton or David Spade? Or someone else? Who knows. Romeo just learned that this show even existed, OK.

## Rampart full of lesbian crushes

The new film *Rampart*, currently in pre-production from director Oren Moverman, has a serious pedigree. It's about the LAPD's notorious Rampart division in the 1990s, the

same one that served as inspiration for *Training Day*, and it has a script form *L.A. Confidential*'s James Ellroy and Moverman. Moverman is also responsible for the Oscar-nominated *The Messenger* and is currently working on an adaptation of the William S. Burroughs novel *Queer*. So this is no TV movie. It'll star Steve Buscemi, Woody Harrelson, Ben Foster and Ice Cube. But what the lesbians are going to like is that it also stars Sigourney Weaver, Robin Wright, Anne Heche and Cynthia Nixon, two of whom are formerly or currently in same-sex relationships and all of whom have more than a few lesbian fans. Actually, the fact that there are even going to be four women starring in a dude movie like this is news that should make anyone happy.

\*Romeo San Vicente was always on *Team Heche*. He can be reached care of this publication or at [DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com](mailto:DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com).



**Anderson Cooper**

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## President Obama and Governor Patrick rally to "Get Out the Vote" • Boston, MA





## La comunidad GLBTT de la Tercera Edad

Por: Francisco Cartagena Méndez\*/  
Especial para TRT

La vejez se caracteriza por el padecimiento de comorbilidades (diversas enfermedades al mismo tiempo) pero existen padecimientos de los cuales casi nunca se habla, como los que sufren los ancianos y ancianas GLBTT, (Gay, Lésbica, Bisexual, Transgénero y Transsexual), a quienes a la mayoría les asecha la soledad y la pérdida de derechos patrimoniales y constitucionales.

Ello se ve evidenciado en la inacción por parte de los gobiernos a reconocer los derechos constitucionales de la población GLBTT al matrimonio, tomar decisiones médicas sobre sus parejas, ley de herencia, así como a leyes anti discriminatorias laboral por identidad sexual o de género.

El discurso ya gastado y pronunciado por los dirigentes políticos en la mayoría de los "países democráticos" es uno contradictorio al expresar que el discrimen ya no existe. Pero ciertamente una pareja de lesbianas que haya convivido por décadas, no tendrían derecho a la toma de decisiones médicas en caso de hospitalización de una de éstas, mucho menos a herencias (aun habiendo levantado un hogar juntas), entre otros derechos que desaparecen al no existir leyes que les cobijen.

Mucho se habla de la tercera edad y de los derechos que esta población tiene, pero siempre se excluye a las personas GLBTT que han dado lo mejor de sí como ciudadanos de bien. Sólo porque no comparten la misma identidad sexual o de género que la sociedad ha querido imponer como la correcta. Por ejemplo, los centros y programas de gobierno para envejecientes son establecidos solamente tomando en consideración a los heterosexuales, con la premisa de que, "no existen ancianos 'gays'". Así mismo no

existen hogares de envejecientes pensados para GLBTT, salvo algunos pocos en países como España y Berlín, que han tomado la iniciativa y han puesto en marcha asilos orientados a homosexuales. Recientemente otros lugares como estos se están estableciendo en algunos estados de la nación Norteamericana pero estos son pocos y pequeños.

La edad también influye a una mayor incidencia de efectos adversos relacionados a fármacos, descenso progresivo en la visión, audición y en las funciones mentales, cambios que en la comunidad anciana GLBTT pueden impactar dramáticamente al padecer discrimen, rechazos, o ser forzado/as a la soledad, a su vez todo este universo de discrimen, homofobia, transfobia y la no protección de ley les hace regresar al armario.

No hay nada más hermoso que una pareja de anciano(as) conviviendo juntos (as) hasta que la muerte les separe, respetándose y amándose con ahínco, en la enfermedad y en los misteriosos caminos de la vida. Pero muy feo resultaría que un gobierno o una ideología moralista y contradictoria, les separe y condene a la soledad en los últimos años de sus vidas.

Ya expresé que los ancianos poseen cambios fisiológicos que son causantes de enfermedades, así mismo la homofobia y el discrimen hacen que nuestros ancianos GLBTT padezcan de depresión, tristeza y soledades, que empeoran el panorama.

Los gobiernos tienen la cura a muchos de estos padecimientos, empleen el mejor fármaco que un anciano o una anciana GLBTT pueda necesitar, la justicia, el respeto a su dignidad humana y a su identidad sexual o de género, así como el permitir que se sientan apoyados y amados sobre todas las cosas, haciéndoles valer sus derechos. Desde Puerto Rico para el mundo GLBTT exigimos justicia para nuestros ancianos, sin

See Tercera Edad on page 20



PHOTO: WILFRED LABIOSA

**La vejez es difícil especialmente para los ancianos GLBTT, ya que las leyes no les protegen.**

## To Cook is To Love: A Foodies Journal

By: John Verlinden/TRT Cuisine Columnist



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER  
John Verlinden

### Rainbow Dish

I love our rainbow flag – the rich diversity it symbolizes and those stunning hues! It's autumn in New England; thousands come from all over to marvel at the vibrant palette of trees, bushes and grasses. Color is awesome! We all have our favorites and we use them to make a statement about who we are – to jazz up our wardrobes and to create just the right mood in our homes.

But hey, don't stop there! While we're at it, let's add some color to our dinner plates. It's easy to do and it can significantly improve our health. For years we've been told that eating five servings of fruits and vegetables every day is important. But new research now suggests that it's just as important to eat a variety of them. The more colors on our plate, the broader range of nutrients we consume giving us the best benefits, so eat a rainbow.

Consuming fruits and vegetables has long

been shown to protect us from certain cancers, diabetes and heart disease, but each different color group provides unique nutrients that nourish our bodies in distinct ways. The natural pigments that give our fruits and vegetables their color contain antioxidants, flavonoids and other phytonutrients (fancy names for really healthy stuff). These distinctive nutrients contain special anti-aging properties and cell protection functions, and they work together to promote overall health.

For example, REDS like tomatoes, beets and strawberries protect against urinary tract infections and benefit our joints. YELLOWS – carrots, squash, cantaloupes, etc., on the other hand, boost our immune system and protect vision. GREENS – collards, broccoli, green grapes, help to lower blood pressure and cholesterol, strengthen bones and improve digestion. WHITES – potatoes, onions and garlic, bananas, promote our body's anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial activity. BLUES – Eggplant, blueberries, plums, enhance our blood and improve memory.

And, if that's not enough reasons, just think about the beautiful presentation all those gorgeous colors will make at your next dinner party. Have questions? Need a recipe? Want to suggest a topic? Contact me at john@muchogusto.com or visit: www.muchogusto.com.

Until next time – ¡Mucho Gusto!, ¡Muchas Gracias! y ¡Buen Provecho!

## QUEERIES: Facebook dating, dressing for success, STDs and telling your ex

By: Steven Petrow\*/Special for TRT

### I'm not stalking him, but...

**Q:** I connected with this really nice guy on Facebook and have been perusing his profile ever since. We're actually going to meet for coffee—as our first date. So am I allowed to "know" as much as I do about him? I don't want to creep him out.

**A:** Unless your new friend has signed up for an app that reveals who's been reading his page, ignorance is bliss. But your instincts are good: People don't always like the idea of new friends or beaus knowing all about them. In fact, when the two of you get together, try to pretend you don't know what you do. Don't bring up out of the blue his entire work history (yes, that's creepy) and avoid comments like "So, I saw you and Mike broke up on Facebook..." But if you both love Lady Gaga or volunteer at the local LGBT center, it's fine – and actually very helpful – to talk about what you have in common to break the ice and discover what else you may share.

Online relationships are just like offline ones. Peeling back the layers of someone's life and personality should happen in a gradual way, as you build up trust. And hearing someone describe his life in his own words is a great way to get to know someone. It's entirely possible that your new friend would rather tell you himself about his beloved pets and what he wore for Halloween last year.

### Dressing for success or myself

**Q:** Usually when I'm applying for a job I set aside the real me—the butch dyke, if you will—and dress up a little feminine (different hair, different suit, everything). As I get older, this makes me feel less and less comfortable, as though I'm not being the real me. How do you suggest I dress for interviews?

**A:** That's a tough question. Ideally, it's essential not to disguise yourself or to appear other than who you are. Still, there's something to be said for having your "interview suit" – and doing some extra grooming – especially because we all know how others' prejudices can work against us.

Think of it this way: The idea is to take appearances completely out of the equation so that you can explain your qualifications and sell

yourself without distraction. Once you land the job, you can be freer in how you dress. You're not selling out to adopt a more mainstream look for the interviews; this is just another step to get you in the door.

In my experience, most people try to pick up a company's dress code once they start work. But if you don't think you can do that—or want to dress butch all the time—then go ahead and do it for the interview. If the company can't take it then, you're wasting your time considering this particular employer.

### Too chicken to tell ex about my STD

**Q:** I need to tell my ex that I contracted a venereal disease and that I may have passed it on to her, but I can't bear the idea of talking to her. Is it rude to just email her about this?

**A:** One way or another, your ex needs to have this information and you have an obligation to get it to her. It's about being honest and respectful. While the medium you use is less

important, receiving such news in a brief email message could be pretty shocking. If you make the effort to actually talk with your ex, you're showing a modicum of respect for her feelings and saying that you're taking the matter seriously. This route also gives her a chance to ask questions, some of which you may be able to answer on the spot. Nevertheless, if your animus toward your ex is too strong to pick up the phone,

then go ahead and email her. Ask her to let you know that she received your news—you wouldn't want information like this to wind up in a junk folder.

Another idea, although perhaps more appropriate for those who've had a casual sexual hook-up, is to send one of the eCards available through inSpot.org, an Internet service for sex partners and tricks. This site will deliver messages like "I got diagnosed with an STD and you might have been exposed. Get checked out." You can either sign your eCard or send it anonymously.

Okay, now you have no excuse.

*\*Steven Petrow is a past president of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association and writes for the Huffington Post and The Advocate. He's also the author of "The Essential Book of Gay Manners & Etiquette." Learn more at www.gaymanners.com.*

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# LGBT-friendly State Representative seeks re-election

RHODE ISLAND NEWS

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

PROVIDENCE, RI—State Representative Arthur Handy (D-Cranston) has been a staunch supporter of LGBT rights in the eight years he has been a member of the Rhode Island General Assembly.

Handy, 43, was elected in 2002 and has served on the House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare and serves as the Chairperson of the House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

On November 2, Handy faces a re-election challenge from Republican rival Richard Nordlund. In a year where Incumbents are especially vulnerable due to voter anger,

Handy remains vigilant.

"I'm taking my election seriously," Handy said. "I don't want to take anything for granted."

Handy grew up in Richmond, Virginia and came to the Ocean State in 1990 to attend the University of Rhode Island. The state's small size is something he appreciates, noting the close bonds he has formed with people.

"(Long before I was elected) I could go to the supermarket and I'd run into people," Handy recalled. "I could go wherever and I'd run into people I knew. I don't remember that

happening in other places I've been over the years. I feel like at least I can find people that have similar values to me."

Handy is employed by a company called Left Brain, a web and database company that specializes in work for non profits and small businesses. Prior to that, Handy had been involved primarily in the non profit sector.

From 2000-2001, Handy worked for the environmental group Clean Water Action and also with progressive group Ocean State Action. He volunteered for a few political campaigns along the way and in the process caught the political bug.

Handy remembered being unhappy with the performance of his State Rep. at the time.

"I guess that's part of what drove me (to run), it was a little bit 'I can be better than him,'" Handy said.

Handy takes pride in being able to build a coalition of legislators in the General Assembly to form a progressive caucus. He is also proud of the success he has had in getting environmental legislation passed.

Handy believes when political incumbents have opponents, it's healthy for democracy. He encourages others to be a part of the political process.

"I think it's important for people to run for office. I think it's important for people to be



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ART HANDY

Arthur Handy

involved," Handy said.

Handy has been a co-sponsor of same-sex marriage legislation and notes that support for marriage equality has continued to grow.

"When I (campaign), I get people who ask me about the issue now and ask me about it in a positive way," said Handy. "I have nobody this time around who says 'I'm opposed to (gay marriage), do you oppose it?' And they didn't know I was a sponsor."

With the departure of anti-gay Governor Don Carcieri (R), a major opponent of same-sex marriage, and the likelihood of having a pro-gay Governor who supports it, Handy is optimistic that a marriage bill will be passed by the General Assembly and signed into law.

Tercera Edad from page 19

importar su identidad o expresión de género. Sabemos que *si se puede* y que algún día se logren más comunidades donde la comunidad GLBTT de tercera edad pueda vivir cómodamente en sus últimos años de vida.

To read this article in English, please visit: [www.therainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionoct21](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionoct21).

Escrito por: Francisco Cartagena Méndez conocido como El Jimagua, escritor y activista social boricua. Para comentarios al autor: [eljimagua@live.com](mailto:eljimagua@live.com) o en su blog: <http://jimagua.blogspot.com> Traducido al inglés por Wilfred W. Labiosa.



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2. The Four-Faced Liar
3. My Normal
4. Mädchen in Uniform
5. The Kids Are All Right
6. Loving Annabelle
7. Hannah Free
8. We Have to Stop Now - Season 1
9. And Then Came Lola
10. 8: The Mormon Proposition

GAY TOP 10

1. Plan B
2. Pornography: A Thriller
3. 8: The Mormon Proposition
4. Boy
5. David's Birthday
6. Shut Up and Kiss Me
7. Is It Just Me?
8. Howl
9. Were the World Mine
10. Glee Season 1 - Vol. 2: Road to Regionals



## GLAAD and Facebook cooperate in removal of anti-gay comments

### Facebook's new measures aimed at prompt response

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

NEW YORK, NY—The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the nation's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) media advocacy and anti-defamation organization, today announced that Facebook has put new measures in place to respond more quickly to hateful comments posted to a memorial page dedicated to those lost to anti-gay bullying. For more information please visit [glaadblog.org](http://glaadblog.org).

On October 6, GLAAD was alerted to a string of hateful comments posted to a Facebook event page which memorializes young people who have lost their lives to anti-gay bullying. The page also asks that its supporters wear purple on October 20 in honor of those "who committed suicide in recent weeks/months due to homophobic abuse." That page now has over half a million supporters.

Over 1,800 emails were sent to GLAAD calling for Facebook to monitor the content or remove the page altogether. Because the event page is currently functioning as a community memorial with an outpouring of support for the families of those teens as well as youth who might be facing similar anti-gay bullying, GLAAD's digital team continued to work with Facebook and call for a solution.

"This violent, hateful speech has no place in our media—whether it in print, on the airwaves or online," said GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios. "Facebook has taken an important first step in making social media a place where anti-gay violence is not allowed. Our community needs to continue to be vigilant and report instances of hateful comments and images across the site to Facebook moderators as well as post messages of support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-

gender youth."

GLAAD called on members to continue to monitor and use Facebook reporting methods for this and other pages as well as to post messages of support to the event page.

"Educating people about the lasting and damaging impacts of ignorant and hateful comments is a responsibility shared by parents, educators, organizations like GLAAD, and services

like Facebook," said Facebook spokesperson Andrew Noyes. "We take our Statement of Rights and Responsibilities very seriously and react quickly to reports of inappropriate content and behavior. The goal of these policies is to strike a very delicate balance between giving people the freedom to express their opinions and

viewpoints—even those that may be controversial to some—and maintaining a safe and trusted environment. We have policies that prohibit hateful content and we have built a robust reporting infrastructure and an expansive team to review reports and remove content quickly. In addition to responding to reports, we have automated systems that use a number of factors to flag content that might violate our policies, so we can review and take it down as quickly as possible and before it's reported."

Facebook intends to work closely with GLAAD and other LGBT organizations on future initiatives.

*About GLAAD: The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) amplifies the voice of the LGBT community by empowering real people to share their stories, holding the media accountable for the words and images they present, and helping grassroots organizations communicate effectively. By ensuring that the stories of LGBT people are heard through the media, GLAAD promotes understanding, increases acceptance, and advances equality. For more information, please visit [www.glaad.org](http://www.glaad.org).*



## HRC statement on Justice Department's stay request of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" injunction

WASHINGTON, DC—The Department of Justice has asked the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to grant an emergency stay of federal district court judge Virginia Phillips's decision to halt all discharges under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law. Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese issued the following statement:

"It is certainly disappointing and frustrating that the administration has sought a stay. There is one simple way to put the endless legal wrangling behind us and do what the President and the American people want to strengthen our military: the administration and Congress need to finish the legislative work on 'Don't

Ask, Don't Tell' repeal after the election. The interests of the administration, the military, and most importantly the American people are best served by doing the hard work of enacting a durable legislative repeal of this discriminatory law."

*The Human Rights Campaign is America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. By inspiring and engaging all Americans, HRC strives to end discrimination against LGBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.*



## AIDS Action Committee announces hiring of new Vice President of Development

BOSTON, MA—AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts recently announced that Mark Walsh will join the agency as its next Vice President of Development. Walsh is a co-founder of Rafanelli Events and served in 2008 as the National Director of LGBT Outreach for Hillary Clinton for President and in 2009 served on the Presidential Inaugural Committee.

"Mark is a talented professional with an extensive background in special event planning and fundraising," said Rebecca Haag, president and CEO of AIDS Action. "Like many of us who lived through the worst of the AIDS epidemic, he is passionate about ending the transmission of HIV and can convey that urgency to others. He knows that we can't do our work without a strong base of financial support."

Since 1998, Walsh has directed numerous fundraising campaigns and events for LGBT and women's causes, and Democratic Party candidates. He managed the planning and budgeting for 75 host committee events during the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston; the inaugural ball for Gov. Deval Patrick in 2006; and the Bipartisan Dinners honoring Vice President Joe Biden, Senator John McCain, and General Colin Powell for the Presidential Inaugural Committee in 2009. In 2007

and 2008 he served as the National Director of LGBT Outreach for Hillary Clinton for President and managed the campaign's fundraising events.

"This is an amazing opportunity to raise funds for services and programs that change people's lives," said Walsh, who served on the AIDS Action Board of Directors from 1993 through 1998. "I met my partner Bryan in 1988 when, like so many others, we coped with the epidemic by volunteering for the AIDS Walk. It is unconscionable that 30 years later, the same groups hit hardest by AIDS are the same ones with the highest rates of HIV infection. I'm honored to be with an organization that's respected nationally for its role in shaping HIV/AIDS policy, and does work that's critical to ending the transmission of HIV in Massachusetts."

Walsh, who was named to Out Magazine's "Out 100" list of influential LGBT people in 2008, holds a law degree from Boston University and started his career as an associate at Davis, Malm and D'Agostine before becoming a policy analyst for the city of Boston and a Congressional district director for former U.S. Rep. Marty Meehan. In 1994, he and his partner Bryan Rafanelli founded Rafanelli Events, a premier event planning and design agency.



PHOTO: AIDS ACTION COMMITTEE  
Mark Walsh, newly named AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Vice President of Development

## GMDVP hosts annual Halloween event to shed light on domestic abuse during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

BOSTON, MA—October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project (GMDVP) is doing its part by hosting their Annual Halloween Faces of Hope Masquerade Charity Gala to help raise awareness of this serious public health issue affecting the GLBT community. GMDVP provides crisis intervention, support and resources to victims and survivors of domestic abuse. Funds raised from the Halloween Event will allow them to provide much needed services to help victims obtain safety.

Assisting over 400 individuals per year, GMDVP is a national pioneer in expanding services to all victims of domestic abuse, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. GMDVP was also the first organization to document the prevalence of domestic abuse in gay male relationships and show that it occurs at the same rate as it does in heterosexual relationships, 1 in 4. Unfortunately, it's still very much a hidden issue and GLBT victims are often denied services.

Recently, there have been serious cases of abuse against the GLBT community, from the dramatic increase in teen suicides because of

anti-gay bullying, to the recent case of assault, battery and sodomy against 3 individuals in Brooklyn, NY by criminal gang. GMDVP works with the community to help prevent and reduce the impact of traumatic experiences inflicted against individuals.

While 1 in 4 gay men are directly affected by domestic violence, there are only five GLBT-specific beds for victims in Massachusetts, compared to several hundred beds for heterosexual female victims. Last year, GMDVP turned away 83 victims seeking shelter because they were at capacity in their 3-bedroom safe home. The Halloween Event will help increase GMDVP's

financial capacity to serve more victims.

Without support from the community many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender victims are faced with the unfortunate choice of returning to their abusers or becoming homeless.

*The GMDVP 11th Annual Halloween Faces of Hope Masquerade is on Saturday, October 30th at the House of Blues Foundation Room, Boston. Tickets are \$75.00. For more information about GMDVP please visit [www.GMDVP.org](http://www.GMDVP.org) or call 617-354-6056.*

GMDVP

gay men's domestic violence project



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# Religious leaders and followers must take a stand against hate

TRANS OPINION

By: **Deja Nicole Greenlaw**\*/TRT Columnist

After the horrible rash of teen gay suicides lately it's time for everyone to step up and address this issue. The number-one group that really needs to step up is religion. Most religions have been demonizing LGBT people for too many years. Most of us have been respectfully holding our tongues because we know just how many folks love their religion. Well, I say no more! Religion and their unjust teaching of LGBT folk is totally mean, cruel and uncalled for and they should immediately stop teaching these things! Too many of us are in the closet because of this ridiculous foolishness. Those of us who are out constantly have to be putting up with this crap. Religion needs to finally get some conscience and do the right thing ... stand up and denounce their current demonizing ways of LGBT folk!

Countless LGBT people are bullied every day and have been for too long and religion silently affirms this behavior. This is bull! We are people too! We deserve respect just like everyone else. You don't have to agree with us or be our friend but you should respect us!

The Middle Eastern religions that condemn gays and lesbians to death must cease this lunacy! How the hell can you say that you believe in God and then condemn others and seek to destroy them? That makes no sense at all! It's hate and ignorance walking hand-in-hand!

How can people not have feelings for those who have taken their own lives because others do not approve of who they are? The pressures can be great to "conform" and too much to bear as people are committing suicide! It tears at my



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

soul that teenagers are taking their lives! Teenagers! They haven't really even begun to live yet. This is awful! We must do something to correct this situation. If religion changes its tune about demonizing LGBT folk, that will be a tremendous start!

Religion must get off of its high horse and begin dealing with truth. Religious leaders must admit that people are people no matter who they are. To be gay or lesbian or bi or trans, etc., is a natural occurrence and not an aberration and certainly not an abomination! We are all born into who we are and there is no way that anyone can change who they are. The ones who say they changed are gutless liars who are too afraid to admit that they haven't "changed." Why are they afraid? They are because of the mob mentality of religion. If they speak up and admit that they really didn't change then they will be demonized once again by religion.

There are growing numbers of "ex ex gays," (gays who said that they changed but then said that they really didn't) who have been and are still speaking up now. They are trying to spread the word about the reality that you can't change who you are. There are also growing numbers of religions that are accepting LGBT folk and refusing to demonize the LGBTs. There are also more and more religious followers who are not OK with the demonizing of LGBTs and are staunch supporters of LGBT folk. These are

wonderful signs!

Let's take a look at what religion really is. Religion is really a bunch of rules and controls that a relative few try to impose on others. They do this to keep "peace" and order and to give the general public a "moral code" to live by. They tie in God and then they flavor it with stories and examples of how we should all live. They try to be our "moral" leaders. Many people love rules

and they go right along with this notion. Many more are afraid to rock the boat, so they appear to agree with the rules and controls. Then there are those of us who are different and we loudly object and we stand up and shout that we will not take this BS anymore!

I do understand the need for some rules and controls to keep peace and order, but I draw the line when it comes to attacking basic human rights. Yes, you can have your rules and controls and your moral code but don't you dare demonize those who are different!

Religion has to finally step up and correct the errors of its ways. Religion must stop these shameful and disgusting thoughts that LGBT folk are "evil" and not worthy of God's love and support. The religious leaders of the world must stand up and own up to the errors of their ways and set things right.

The Pope has been starting to admit guilt around the priest molestations and starting to make amends for that terrible sin. Now the Pope must step up and acknowledge that the anti-LGBT teachings are unjust, and he must rectify

the situation. This would be the right thing to do.

If religious leaders discount everything that I have said, then I ask them to please think of the children. Please think of the little child who knows that he or she is not quite like most everyone else, and reach out to that child. All of us LGBT folk know about that little child who is different. That little child was all of us when

we were little and confused and full of shame and full of guilt and didn't feel good about ourselves because of the anti-LGBT pressures of the "moral" code offered by religion. Then add a little bullying and authorities that refuse to take the poor little child's side, instead sticking to what is considered "right" and "normal," and you have a very unjust situation. How do you think that little child feels? Please

put yourself in that little child's place. We don't have to. We have all lived that little child's life and have seen things from that little child's eyes. We know what the right thing to do is. I hope that everyone can see what the right thing to do is. If you belong to a religion please ask your leaders to take a good hard look at their current anti-LGBT stance and to do what is right.

Religion, stand up and be our true moral leaders and stop demonizing LGBT folk!

*\*Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local transwoman who has 3 grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net.*

# Time to take that dress out of the closet and go have some fun!

By: **Lorelei Erisis**\*/TRT Columnist

Hey Lorelei,

*I'm wondering if you can help me out. I have a straight male friend who has been cross-dressing for a while now. He's accepted that he's part of the "queer" community and that he likes to cross-dress to respect and honor an overt feminine side he feels he possesses. Is there any information, support groups, organizations, etc., that I can send him to or connect him with? He could really use the support. Thanks a lot!*

—Valley Ally

Well Valley Ally, you've come to the right tranny! Your friend is exceptionally lucky in many ways, there is really quite a lot of support for cross-dresses available, and some really wonderful resources right here in Massachusetts. And he clearly has at least one good and supportive friend, which is crucially important.

My own journey to where I am now included a longish stint where I tried on "cross dresser" as an identity. I came through many of the experiences and struggles that a straight, male cross-dresser like your friend has probably experienced or will soon enough.

I remember sneaking into my Mom's room to try on her clothes; all the while carefully listening for the sound of a car pulling into the driveway, or someone coming to the door. I never actually got "caught in the act," but I had some awfully close calls! I became quite a quick-change artist, which surprisingly served me quite well when I started doing live sketch comedy!! Going from full Abe Lincoln costume to "Slacker Terrorist" in just under 60 seconds was a breeze after years of furtive, closeted cross-dressing!

For me, the absolute breakthrough was when I was able to start going out in public cross-dressed. Being around other people instead of

alone and afraid in my room, made me feel wonderful! I was lucky to have friends who were pretty open-minded and accepting of whatever "idiosyncrasies" I might have.

This was well pre-internet though. And previous to "Ask A TransWoman!" I had very few places to turn to for information, instruction or even peer support. I haunted the back sections of magazine stands and once received a stack of "Transformation/Forced Feminization" type magazines from a friend whose gender-bent roommate had recently moved out and left them behind (Thanks Lynelle!!!) These porn-zines were my primary source for a lot of what I was able to find out, especially the back pages, which advertised all kinds of things from breast forms, to herbal hormone "feminizing supplements".

Please don't think by this that cross-dressing is only a staging area on the way to full blown transsexual, (or sketch comic!). Though for many of us it is, for many others it is a perfectly wonderful identity all its own!

In fact one of my gender-bent peers from "back in the day," who was a lot more Punk Rock than I am, known affectionately as "K---- The Cross-dressing Snowboarder" still proudly identifies as a cross-dresser and seems quite content with this identity. He's a pretty snappy dresser too! And good deal more reasonable about his female fashion sense than I am actually...

Jumping forward to now, to the world of Google and "RuPaul's Drag Race," your friend has many, many more options for support and information. Locally there's the Tiffany Club of New England, which sponsors several support groups and events. The biggest being the inclusively transgender oriented conference, "First Event," which features a full weekend of workshops, speakers and community fun. And they've been around since 1977!



Lorelei Erisis

If your friend is looking to find other cross-dressing friends to meet with and kick up her heels Out on the town with, he could look up "The Sisters Family," run by Ashley Amber Bottoms. Ashley is a sweet, very pretty person, and she works hard to make "Sisters Family" an accepting

and safe place.

Locally, you could hook up with my column neighbor Deja's group, "UniTy of The Pioneer Valley," which meets every 2nd Thursday of the month in Springfield, MA. I can personally recommend these folks as being a wonderful, accepting and warm group of transfolks and though they're not exclusively cross-dressers, they are completely embracing of all trans-identities.

Nationally, *The International Foundation for Gender Education* (IFGE) has an excellent, easily searchable list of resources, covering everything from hair removal clinics and family support, to political action groups (like MTPC!) and therapists.

And speaking of therapists, let your friend know that there's more than just support groups for resources around here. A good therapist can be an excellent idea, even for those who are totally comfortable with their identities. And many excellent ones are right here in Western Massachusetts! My own day-job employer

(full-disclosure time), Psychologist, Dr. Shelley Janiczek Woodson, is quite active in the community and works with a number of transfolks as well as having yours truly at her front desk!

I would be remiss also, speaking of full disclosure, not to mention all the fine fetish folks who work and play with cross-dressers all the time! Many of the folks who come to see my girlfriend Widow Centauri, a well-known Sex Educator, Entertainer and Professional Dominatrix, are cross-dressers who simply want a place to get all dressed up with a sexy woman and just be themselves or live out their fantasies for a few hours. That's not to say that all cross-dressers are fetishists. Some are, some aren't. It's complicated, just like life.

If I had the whole paper, I could keep listing resources like CD friendly salons and wig shops and much more! But this should get your friend started. Best of luck to her and if she ever sees me in the street, tell her to say hi!!

Slainte!

*\*Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England, can be contacted at: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.*



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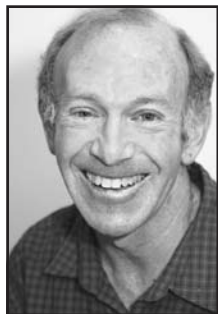
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# The OutField: New book addresses God, gays and games



Dan Woog

By: Dan Woog\*

Gay, lesbian, bi, trans, straight – it doesn't matter. If you're an American and you watch big-time sports, you can't avoid seeing religion too.

A football player scores a key touchdown, and then points his finger to God in the sky. A winning pitcher thanks the Lord for the

win. Basketball teams sponsor special "Faith Nights" for their fans.

What in God's name is going on?

Tom Krattenmaker – a Portland, Ore. journalist and member of *USA Today's* board of contributors who writes frequently on religion in public life – figured he'd find out. The result: *Onward Christian Athletes: Turning Ballparks into Pulpits and Players into Preachers*.

The book – published earlier this year – is an incisive, example-filled look at the often-overlooked, seldom-examined ways in which sports and faith converge. Krattenmaker believes that "spontaneous" displays of faith are actually part of a well-organized effort – orchestrated by "a network of evangelical chaplains and sports ministry organizations" – to unite the powerful institutions of religion and athletics.

Of course, wherever religion pokes its nose, it smells homosexuality. Inevitably, athletics and Christianity converge to create a tangled homo hornet's nest.

"Anti-gay sentiment is where sports, culture and politics intersect," Krattenmaker says. "The opposition to gay rights is part of the Christian right rhetoric. And sports as a whole can be homophobic too."

Though Krattenmaker devotes only a few of his 210 pages to specifically anti-gay examples, the ones he chooses are chilling.

For example, Ron Brown – an assistant football coach at the University of Nebraska, and former statewide director of operations for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes – wrote a column for the FCA magazine. The football coach focused on women's sports, decrying the influence of lesbianism (he called it "the elephant in the room that needs to be addressed"). Brown declared that Christians in sports had an obligation to fight homosexuality.

Or take Campus Crusade. The parent organization of Athletes in Action says that "indulgence in any lifestyle or pastime that is illegal or scripturally questionable or forbidden" – let's say, oh, homosexuality – "may result in termination" of its employees or associates.

Then there's Tony Dungy. The Indianapolis Colts' Super Bowl-winning coach stood front and center during Indiana's political struggle over gay rights.

In a speech accepting an award from the Indiana Family Institute, Dungy said, "We're trying to promote the family, family values, the Lord's way. Just like I'm trying to win on the football field the Lord's way. I'm on the Lord's side when I'm on the field, and on the Lord's side when I'm off the field."

Good lord.

"It's a complicated tangle of relationships and influences," Krattenmaker admits, refer-

ring to the religious right and sports. "Teasing out precise causes and effects is a difficult exercise." But it's an exercise that must be undertaken, he says.

"So many Christian professional athletes have said ignorant, harmful things," Krattenmaker notes. (Star pitcher John Smoltz once likened gay marriage to marrying farm animals.)

"It's gotten to the point where being Christian almost means being anti-gay," Krattenmaker continues. "That's not compassionate or smart. And it is harmful to both Christians and gays."

Sports and religion are two of America's most traditionally conservative institutions. However, Krattenmaker says, "Lately the religious right has begun shifting its focus nationwide away from social issues, to causes like environmentalism and AIDS." Yet religious sports figures remain behind the curve.

"The form of Christianity we see in sports is very skewed," says Krattenmaker. "It's an incomplete Christianity. When fully expressed, Christianity is across the board. It's not confined to one form of the political spectrum."

Still, Krattenmaker warns, one should not paint the entire religious-right-in-sports movement with one brush.

Athletes in Action, he says, has recently become "leery" of being viewed as anti-gay. "They know the culture is changing. They

realize that if the Christian right focuses too much on that issue, they'll be left in the dust. That's encouraging."

And Krattenmaker is quick to trot out a Christian right hero: Reggie White.

The 12-time All-Pro earned the nickname "The Minister of Defense" as much for his work as an evangelic minister as for his hard-hitting play on the defensive line. He appeared in newspaper ads urging gays and lesbians to

"cease" their homosexuality, and called being gay a sin.

But, Krattenmaker says, "few people understand the enormity of what happened after his career." White said he was "prostituted" by religious people. Yet because of the "enormity of his heroism in the Christian/sports pantheon," Krattenmaker says, there has been little acknowledgment of that renunciation of some previous statements. White died in 2004 of cardiac arrhythmia, age 43.

"I'm encouraged," Krattenmaker concludes. "Change is inexorable. It's happening at a deep level. American culture is

changing in a positive way. And sports will be dragged along."



Tom Krattenmaker

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](http://www.danwoog.com). He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutField@qsyndicate.com](mailto:OutField@qsyndicate.com).

## Book Marks: Reviews of *Hot off the Presses* and *The Cross of Redemption: Uncollected Writings*

By: Richard Labonte\*/Special for TRT

*Hot off the Presses*, by Elliott Mackle. Lethe Press, 302 pages, \$18 paper.

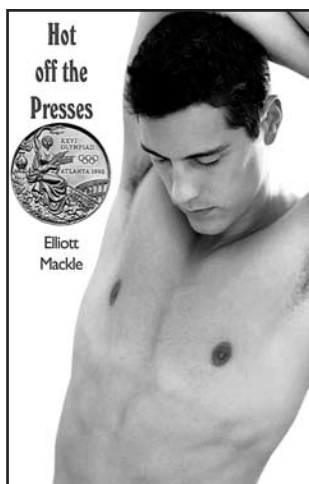
A high-profile young, black lad on the down-low, a world-class Olympic gymnast committed to his closet, an evangelical black mayor deep into African-American AIDS denial, a crusading queer journalist coping with the hang-ups of the wealthy straight couple who inherited the gay Atlanta newspaper their dead son founded: Mackle's meaty novel packs in a lot of provocative plot. Central to the story is crusading editor Henry Thompson, who has shied away from commitment since the AIDS-related death of his lover, until a bathhouse hookup with a Games-bound muscle god develops romantic overtones, even though the athlete lives with a fiancée. Though it's set around the time of the 1996 Olympics – which Mackle covered for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* – the story's several potent themes remain relevant. Homophobia in both the black and the jock communities is addressed; so too is the sometimes vexing question of how the queer press ought to cover the queer community's own foibles and failings. Mackle tackles these topics with a delicious mix of wisdom and wit – and with titillating dashes of sex and romance.

*The Cross of Redemption: Uncollected Writings*, by James Baldwin, edited by Ran-

dall Kenan. Pantheon, 336 pages, \$26.95 hardcover.

There was a time when writers had real intellectual presence, not just TV talk show moments and anointment by Oprah Winfrey. This momentous collection of essays, book reviews, speeches, letters and journalism – and one short story – is a fierce and felicitous reminder of how towering a literary figure James Baldwin was. None of the 54 pieces appear in two other collections, *The Price of the Ticket* and the Library of America's *Collected Essays*; it's a testament to how prolific the author of *Giovanni's Room* was that Kenan pulled together such a powerful, and readable, book. Homosexuality is all but ignored, except for scattered, scathing mentions of black radicals like Eldridge Cleaver who disdained gays. Nonetheless, Baldwin's sense of outsider-ness permeates the collection. There is seldom a dull thought or a slapdash sentence in what editor Kenan describes as a "grab bag" of a book, and one of the more journalistic pieces, "The Fight: Patterson vs. Liston" is as muscular and majestic as the boxers whose 1962 fight it chronicles.

\*Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-'70s. He can be reached in care of this publication or at [BookMarks@qsyndicate.com](mailto:BookMarks@qsyndicate.com).



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