

# The Rainbow Times

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

PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

PHOTO: MOHEGAN SUN



**BOSTON DJ  
JOE BERMUDEZ**  
spins it right round at  
Mohegan Sundayz's  
Lucky Lounge p6

PHOTO: JUSTIN RUHL



Our own talented  
**JASON MRAZ**  
shares his passion  
for equal rights  
Interviewed p19

PHOTO: TYMAN POWER



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steps out against  
anti-gay bullying  
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# JuJuBee

hosts a successful  
**NAGLY Fundraiser** p12



## Recognizing our LGBT community heroes: They are the force behind positive change

**By: Grisel M. Ocasio\*/TRT Publisher**  
**OPINION** October is LGBT History Month. We are proud of the achievements of our leaders and community members during this time. These organizers are the forces behind moving our struggle forward. That is why we will be featuring, in each edition, a member of our community that has paid it forward and has been integral in moving our struggles ahead. The LGBT Hero section will be prominent because in the end, we'd like to print a Hero's Calendar to have the community see their faces and enjoy their stories of success! These community members will be from all of the regions TRT covers. Please submit the

names of those community members that have shined, worked, and broken the barriers of discrimination by doing something special for our community. Send your submissions to: editor@therainbowtimesmass.com. Please send a name, why this person is a hero, where he or she is from, and make sure that you submit a high resolution photo with your submission. We will have someone from our team contact you about the story, shortly after we have received the information.

Speaking about gratitude, I wanted to thank "Celebrando Nuestras Raices, Nuestro Orgullo" 7th Annual Latino Pride Celebration of New England (of Somos Latin@s) for having

**See Heroes on page 8**

## Revised, updated HIV messaging long overdue



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

No advertiser would in 2010 run a campaign based on slogans developed in 1986. Yet that's what we've done over the last 25 years combatting the HIV/AIDS epidemic. With the rare exception, messaging to gay and bi men around HIV can be summed up in three words: "Wear a condom." And the message has been delivered, with little variation, by handing out condoms in bars and hanging up posters urging condom usage in places frequented by gay men. All of which may have been kind of edgy circa 1987, but is little more than background noise today.

This month, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control released a study of HIV rates among gay/bi men in 21 U.S. cities showing shockingly high rates of infection. Among gay/bi men who frequent gay bars and dance clubs, approximately one in five are HIV positive,

and 44 percent of them didn't know they were HIV positive until they took part in the survey, which included filling out a questionnaire and taking an HIV test.

Boston was one of the cities included in the survey and had the third-lowest rate of HIV infection at 12 percent (29 percent of those HIV positive had been unaware of their status until taking part in the survey). Atlanta had the lowest rate of infection at six percent, although 55 percent of those who were HIV positive didn't know it until they were surveyed and tested. Baltimore had the highest rate of infection at 38 percent, and 73 percent of them had been previously unaware of their HIV status.

While these numbers are shocking, they shouldn't surprise anyone. *After all, 60 percent of new HIV infections in the U.S. occur in gay/bi men even though they make up approximately one percent of the U.S. population. And in March the CDC released statistics showing that gay/bi men are 44 times more likely to contract HIV than other men and 40 times more likely to contract HIV than women.*

**See HIV Message on page 4**

## Join in CABO's 2nd Annual Business Expo today!

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

The October 19th CABO celebration, business expo and visitor's day is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for our 2nd annual business expo. As we get closer to the date more and more member businesses and guests are interested in how they can participate. If you would like to participate or attend, RSVP on the CABO website www.TheCABO.org or e-mail me at JTracz@TheCABO.org.

Our guest of honor for the evening is CT State Comptroller Nancy Wyman. I invite you to join us on October 19th from 6-9 p.m. at the North Haven Holiday Inn to celebrate with us and learn about our member businesses. The businesses within the CABO membership are proud LGBT supporters and allies and would love to see how their particular business can help you.

CABO is proud of the work that has been done throughout the state of Connecticut over the past 3 years. A special thank you goes out to our entire membership and our corporate sponsors that all help keep us going. *Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, Comcast Business Class, Bearingstar Insurance, Clear Channel Radio and The Rainbow Times* all deserve a big thank you for being proud corporate sponsors and supporters of the LGBT community.

CABO is your resource to doing business with those who support the community. You can shop with confidence when you see the



**Jenn Tracz**

red and purple CABO logo displayed in the storefront of a window or on a member's website. I hope that you utilize our online member directory as your first stop to doing business in Connecticut and join us on Oct. 19th as we unveil our first printed member directory. If you are interested in receiving a copy of our 2011 directory contact me or visit one of our member locations.

CABO holds regular monthly networking events in the New Haven and Hartford areas, as well as open houses throughout the state. For more details on CABO events in your area, visit www.TheCABO.org. If you have any particular questions or comments, I am always available via e-mail and would be happy to talk with you.

*\*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.*

## Are we prepared to speak as openly about our addictions and alcoholism as we are about practicing safer sex?

**By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist**

As I write this column I am celebrating my second year of sobriety. Let's be real, being a big queer who likes to go out dancing and hang out in lots of gay spaces, sober life is not especially easy or at times respected by our different communities. I am incredibly excited for people who want to drink and play with different drugs, legally or not, to do so. I am on board for the decriminalization of all substances. I want completely comprehensive education about the impacts of all drugs and alcohol taught in schools, community spaces, and/or places of worship starting at an incredibly young age. We have had enough "scared-straight" programs that fail to serve anyone. I want to see real education where young people, and older folks, can have access to information about all the possible consequences of using meth, crack, alcohol, weed, oxy, X, acid, etc. I want everyone to be able to make the most informed choices possible. I want all of that and I also want to be able to choose not to do any of those things and to struggle with my own alcoholism with equal amounts of love and support. I want judgment free sobriety and spaces where I can party with sexy 'f@&\*\$s' without worrying about relapsing.

In Boston, *Machine* recently took over the dance party that used to happen at the Ar-

lington Street Church, Sober Dance featuring DJ George Pappas. I am incredibly excited to go to this party and join other queers on the dance floor as we sip our calorie free aspartame filled colas. It is a great sign that this kind of party is happening, but that is still not enough. Are we ready to talk as openly about addiction and alcoholism as we are about safer sex? Are we ready to provide more spaces for each other where we can have fun times without relying on any liquid courage or fear numbing pills to lessen the social awkwardness of flirting and making new friends?

I have gone to AA a number of times and know that it has provided lots of support for many people. I will continue to go from time to time, but it has not been the most helpful program for me. There are a number of aspects that are challenging for me, but one piece in particular is the lack of analysis about oppression. I think one of the reasons we have such



**Jason Lydon**

**See Speak Openly on page 9**

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

First I want to thank TRT and Connecticut Outreach Society for helping let trans folks across the region know that Trans Pride was still happening after NETU cancelled their rally. I also want to thank, again, all the volunteers who worked together to make the march and grassroots rally a resounding success. Special thanks also need to go to Bear and Cid White at NoHo Pride for providing logistical and moral support all day long on September 11. Allies are crucial in our fight for rights.

Trans elder Bet Power gave a powerful opening speech setting out a new rule for our trans community: Treat ourselves and each other with the utmost kindness and respect. What I think this means, in part, is that no one in our community should treat trans civil rights efforts as personal cash cows, but instead, we should all try to work together in a true community spirit of mutual cooperation and selfless volunteerism.

Unlike our allied gay and lesbian communities, trans folks "aren't there yet" in terms of basic rights guarantees. We are not safe in the workplace or on the street. It's okay to fire a trans person, just for being trans, in 38 states, including Massachusetts. We are discriminated against in housing, healthcare and education throughout the nation. It is still an exception, rather than the rule, when we are treated well in any of these areas. Trans folks are today about where gays and lesbians were right before Stonewall. Seriously.

We've got a huge amount of work to do. First, we've got to come out. Visibility is key. We have to show that we are a proud, capable and committed community of awesome individuals. Going stealth, although understandable, keeps all trans folks at risk.

**See Letters on page 11**

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# A sea of people walk (& run) against bullying in tribute to Springfield child

**HOT TOPICS** By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter  
 SPRINGFIELD, MA—Early on a beautiful Saturday in September, athletes and non-athletes alike took part in a 5K run and 2K walk through Forest Park in Springfield. Bringing together students, teachers, politicians, and community members was the still poignant memory of 11-year-old Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover who hung himself a year ago. Walker-Hoover had been the victim of ongoing bullying that included anti-gay slurs.

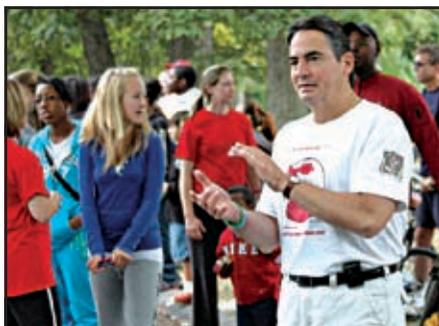


PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

**Upon completing the 2K walk, Mayor Dominic Sarno stood by to cheer others to the finish.**

“As a community, I felt as if something needed to be done to remember a little 11-year-old who took his life as a result of being tormented and harassed at school. Our children should not live in fear of going to school. They should not believe that the only way out is to take their life,” said Gwynetta J. Sneed, founder of the Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover Foundation.

A mother of two, Sneed was deeply moved by Walker-Hoover’s death in 2009. As the anniversary of his suicide neared, she approached his mother, Sirdeaner Walker, about establishing a foundation to celebrate his memory. Walker, who has become a leading voice against bullying in schools since tragedy struck her family, was glad to offer her support.

According to its website (www.carljoeph11.org), the Foundation’s mission is “to help ensure that bullying is no longer tolerated in our community.” It is run by a committee of nine members of the community. Two hundred participants had pre-registered to take a moving stand against bullying, but far more showed up.

“There was a sea of people who ran, walked and just gathered at our event,” Sneed reported.

Participants included Walker-Hoover’s Boy Scout troop, the Longmeadow High School cross-country team, students from Sumner Avenue Elementary School and Cathedral High. The mayor of Springfield, Dominic Sarno, participated in the 2K walk.

The first runners to finish were 36-year-old Carlos Rivera and 16-year-old Mark Hegarty,



PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

**Sirdeaner Walker (center) with the first runners to complete the 5K, Mark Hegarty (left) and Carlos Rivera (right).**

raised awareness—and funds.

“We have raised in excess of \$10,000 in a very short period of time to establish a scholarship in Carl’s memory,” said Sneed.

A community scholarship gala is planned for April 16, 2011—the day before what would have been Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover’s 14th birthday.

*More information about the Foundation and upcoming events can be found at www.carljoeph11.org.*

only 30 seconds apart. The first female runner was 16-year-old Nora Garrity. The first walker to finish was Esmie Bishop.

As walkers and runners reached the finish line, Sirdeaner Walker was there to personally shake their hands and thank them for participating.

After her son’s death, Walker joined the Board of Directors of the *Gay Lesbian Straight Educators Network* (GLSEN). In her role at GLSEN, she recently wrote an open letter to Candi Cushman of *Focus on the Family*, offering to sit down with them to discuss the reality her family faced and the dangers of anti-gay bullying.

“I wanted her to know what we went through,” Walker said of her letter. “I want kids to be safe at school. These kids have a right to safety. They have a right to safe schools where they can learn.”

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## New study says American colleges are hostile environments for LGBT students

### Two suicides by gay college students in the past weeks

**CAMPUS NEWS** By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

America's colleges and universities are still hostile environments for LGBT students, according to a new study released by Campus Pride, a national non-profit working to create safer, more lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) inclusive colleges.

The 2010 State of Higher Education for LGBT People documents 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.

"National research has consistently shown that LGBT youth in kindergarten through high school encounter alarming rates of harassment, discrimination and bullying. There has never been a comprehensive national study to document what happens when these youth go to college - until now," said Shane Windmeyer, Campus Pride's executive director.

#### 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.

Windmeyer added, "Now is the time to act. It is shocking that it is 2010 and less than eight percent of accredited colleges and universities in the country have LGBT inclusive policies. Colleges and universities have the responsibility to create safe learning environments for everyone, regardless of sexual identity or gender identity."

There have been two suicides by gay college students in the past week.

On September 29, Raymond Chase, a student at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, hanged himself in his residence hall room.

Tyler Clementi, an 18 year-old freshman at Rutgers University in New Jersey, committed suicide by jumping off the George Washington bridge in New York City after his roommate, Dharun Ravi, had posted a video of him in a sexual encounter with another man.

"The loss of Raymond this week is the second college LGBT-related suicide in a week and the fifth teenage LGBT suicide in three weeks. The suicide of this openly gay young man is



PHOTO: COURTESY OF CAMPUS PRIDE

University of Rhode Island staged a sit-in at the GLBT Center to protest anti-gay harassment at the school

for reasons currently unknown; however, the recent pattern of LGBT youth suicides is cause for grave concern," said Windmeyer. "Campus Pride demands national action be taken to address youth bullying, harassment and the need for safety and inclusion for LGBT youth at colleges and universities across the country. We must not let these tragic deaths go unnoticed. Together we must act decisively to curb anti-LGBT bias incidents, harassment and acts of violence."

On September 24, LGBT students at the University of Rhode Island staged a sit-in at the GLBT Center to protest anti-gay harassment at the school.

Brian Stack, president of the Gay Straight Alliance and a volunteer at the center, reported incidences of students throwing used condoms into students' rooms, drawing offensive images on people's doors and an epidemic of people yelling 'faggots' as they drive by the GLBT Center.

University President David M. Dooley acknowledged that anti-gay abuse has been a problem at URI.

"That any of our students should have to live with harassment and fear should be intolerable to all of us," Dooley wrote in his blog on Sept. 7, after meeting with students in August. "No one would want to endure what some of our GLBT students have endured and no one should have to, at least while at URI. It's that simple."

There are many colleges which do provide a welcoming environment for their LGBT students. Joanne Rome, the e-Communications manager at Holyoke Community College, said the presence of LGBTQ students is noted in general discussions and presentations about HCC's student population.

"We have general education courses that cover the subject of LGBTQ as a segment of our culture, and Learning Communities, such as 'Queer in America,' that provide our students with the opportunity to explore the subject in depth and understand what it means to be LGBTQ by having the information conveyed in the context of their coursework," said Rome. "HCC celebrates National Coming Out Day on campus in the same way we publicly acknowledge other important holidays."

Anti-gay incidents on the campus have not been a problem.

Rome said HCC's Affirmative Action office has received only one formal complaint, which was later withdrawn after an investigation.

"The official Affirmative Action policy prohibits any form discrimination and the behaviors

See Campus on page 7

## Faith, Family, and God: Miracles... Is there a God? Is there a heaven?

IN THE NAME OF GOD By: Paul P. Jesep\*/TRT Columnist

Vampires have long intrigued us. It's hard to resist a good vampire flick or sometimes even a bad one. Interesting, creative plots with gothic atmosphere keep my attention. If you've ever seen the original *Dark Shadows* series you know what I mean. It beats *True Blood* by a mile. I can live without the excessive gore and violence that is now an unnecessary part of many movies and television shows.

Creatures of the night can challenge our curiosity about the afterlife or provide an entertaining link between it and the world of the living. These pasty nocturnal blood feeders (not credit card companies) raise fascinating questions about life, faith, power, beauty, religion, and mortality among other things.

In John Carpenter's *Vampires* (1998) the Roman Catholic Cardinal Alba cuts a deal with Jan Valek, a former 14th century priest who feeds as a vampire in modern America. If the Cardinal helps Valek find a relic he'll turn Alba into the living dead. Valek wants an ancient cross that would empower him to walk in daylight thus securing extraordinary power over humankind.

The Cardinal tells a vampire hunter he's fooled that as "one grows old, death approaches ... we begin to question ... our faith. And I found mine lacking. 'Is there a God? Is there a heaven?' I can no longer answer this for certain." He adds somewhat despondently, "I've witnessed no miracles, had no visions, and the prospect of death terrifies me. I've realized I've only one ... alternative, and I made a bargain. With the devil if you wish." By the way, the Cardinal did overlook the obvious. If someone is "living" after six centuries then it is indeed a miracle.

"There are only two ways to live your life," according to physicist Albert Einstein (1879-1955). "One is as though nothing is a

miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." Einstein didn't believe in a personal God who worried about the fate of individuals who often brought on their own problems. The Creator has more important things to do like creating solar systems, sending down shooting stars, or making the earth rotate perfectly around the sun. He believed in the universe's harmony, majesty, and awesomeness that no science or mathematical formula could understand. Google images of the Orion Nebula to see a miracle. This is what Einstein had in mind.

He believed that that the "most beautiful and most profound experience is the sensation of the mystical." Google images of the Orion Nebula! Despite his brilliance, despite his ability to understand science, he never lost a sense of wonder. Einstein reflected that if a person could "no longer wonder and stand rapt in awe [then he or she] is as good as dead."

Unlike Stephen Hawking, physicist and spirited atheist, Einstein concluded that the "impenetrable" "really exists" and showed itself "as the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty" which our human limitations understands only in simplistic or primitive forms. He concluded that "this knowledge, this feeling is at the center of true religiousness."

Cardinal Alba could not move beyond his own limitations to experience everyday miracles. He was stuck in the routine of daily living that blinded him to the miracles around him that were bigger than any one person. Every sunrise or sunset is a miracle. Autumn's majesty is a miracle. Stars are miracles. The Orion Nebula is a miracle. Find a miracle, re-discover a sense of wonder, and remember that you too are a miracle that helps to complete the universe.

*\*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 Dilovod@aol.com.*

#### HIV Message from page 2

So what should be done about this? Better messaging would help. For those who think that a call for better ways to remind gay and bi men to protect themselves from HIV is absurd (full disclosure: I certainly used to think that way) need to remember that it's impossible to be perfect. Look no further than the continued high numbers of unwanted or unplanned pregnancies for evidence that gay and bi men aren't the only people engaging in unprotected sex.

Targeted messaging would make a difference. Handing out condoms in bars as a means of reducing HIV infection is helpful. Kind of. But men meet up online - and that's where the messaging needs to take place. Protected sex that reduces your likelihood of contracting HIV needs to be seen as the community norm.

Better education would make a tremendous difference. Thanks to a decade's worth of reckless abstinence-only sexuality education, there's a generation of young gay men out there who honestly do not know how HIV is transmitted. Yes, it's hard to believe. But it's true.

Last, we need to remember that none of this will make a significant difference if it comes absent real effort to reach out to those gay/bi men who are most at risk for contracting HIV. Homeless LGBT youth often sell sex for what they need. Negotiating safer sex is

difficult under the best of circumstances, it's nearly impossible when you're selling sex for things you need. Men who are entering a new relationship or leaving an old one are unusually vulnerable. When you're dating someone new, you need to have conversations about safer sex and HIV status, but they're hard conversations to initiate. And you might be worried that the guy you're dating will see your desire to have these conversations as a sign that you don't trust him. When you're ending a relationship, you might be more apt to let your guard down and behave in ways you don't ordinarily.

There are plenty of resources for gay/bi men of all ages looking for more information about HIV/AIDS. The Justice Resource Institute runs Boston GLASS for LGBT youth (<http://www.jri.org/jrihealth/Programs-Boston-GLASS.php>). Fenway Health runs The Navigator Project, which teaches gay/bi men strategies to stay safer. And AIDS Action Committee runs The MALE Center, a community drop-in center in Boston's South End offering free, on-demand rapid HIV testing, counseling, AA meetings, social support group meetings, and much more.

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

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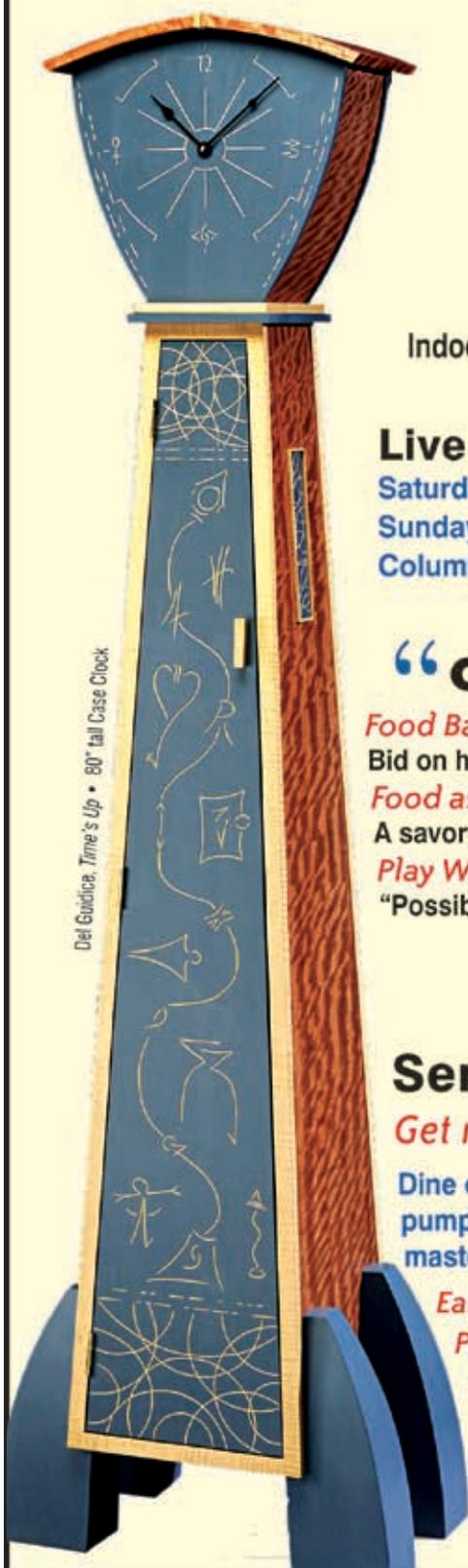
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## UMass Stonewall Center celebrates its 25th Anniversary of community service

**By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter**  
 This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst—and the Center is celebrating in style, with a whole line-up of educational and cultural events.

According to Genny Beemyn, Director of the Stonewall Center, over 100 people attended the kick-off open house on September 14th. A core group is regularly attending a one-credit course entitled “LGBT Life Over the Past 25 Years” and since registering for credit is not required, many other people drop in for one or two class sessions. Already this year, the Stonewall Center has hosted one special speaker, Cleve Jones, a long-time gay rights activist best known for developing the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. The rest of the semester includes a star-studded line-up of many more LGBT speakers and performers, including Amy Ray of the Indigo Girls.

In 1985, a Program for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Concerns grew out of a response to anti-gay incidents at UMass. In 1995, that program was renamed *The Stonewall Center: A Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Educational Resource Center*. Since then it has sponsored LGBT events, invited speakers, housed a library of books and movies, and coordinated the Speakers Bureau. In 1985, it was only the third LGBT center at a college. Today, the *Stonewall Center* is a model for the more than 150 LGBT Centers in colleges across the country.

Looking back, Beemyn sees changes she couldn't have imagined for LGBT students. “When I was in college and coming out and just starting to get involved in doing this work—when it was a small handful of us and we did not have a lot of support—we would have events where you'd have a handful of people,” Beemyn says. “I never would have thought we would get to where we are today in terms of the level of support and people's ability to be out. The fact that LGBT people—not so much the T but at least the LGB part—are so commonplace that especially with young people it is kind of hum. It is not a big deal to be LGBT. Everybody

has friends and people that they know, maybe family members, coworkers, who are LGBT, so it is not any strange thing, especially for younger people.”

“And the whole thing about parental support has just been so huge. I never would have thought even 10 years ago that we would be seeing parents coming in with their kids saying ‘My daughter is queer and wants to go to a school that is going to be queer friendly. What do you have to offer her?’ That kind of parental involvement in support of out kids, I never would have thought would happen. So that is wonderful to see.”



PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

**Genny Beemyn, Director of the Stonewall Center at UMass Amherst**

Over 25 years, a lot of things can change. Even in the four and half years Beemyn, has been Director of the *Stonewall Center*, UMass has made some great strides.

“More things need to happen but we are getting to be a very trans-supportive institution,” she said. “I've been responsible for pushing for a number of transgender changes: adding a non-gender-discrimination policy, helping to create gender neutral bathrooms in all new buildings, developing gender-neutral housing, providing coverage for hormones under student health insurance and enabling students to change their name and gender on official University documents and records.”

Beemyn credits the support of a new vice-chancellor, Jean Kim, for some of the progress that has been made.

“Gene came here last year and recognized the importance of making these kinds of changes,” Beemyn said.

With great strides already taking place, what may lie in the future for the Stonewall Center and other college LGBT centers?

“I think in 25 years, what we are going to see is that same thing happening with trans students. Hopefully in a lot less than 25 years, we will see that starting to happen. We are starting to see that now but we don't often have the parents recognizing ‘my child is gender-different. I am going to support them in that and they want to be able to go on hormones as teenagers and to not go through the puberty.’ So I think we are going to see, in the next 5 to 10 years, a growing involvement of parents supporting their gender non-conforming kids. We already started seeing some of it.”

*Information about the Stonewall Center's 25th Anniversary events can be found at [www.umass.edu/stonewall](http://www.umass.edu/stonewall).*

## Former *Real Housewife* Danielle Staub & DJ Joe Bermudez join Mohegan SunDayz, Oct. 10th

Monthly event includes drink specials, Jackie Steele's Rainbow Games & more

UNCASVILLE, CT—Mohegan SunDayz continues at its new location inside Lucky's Lounge on Sunday, October 10th featuring music by Boston-based DJ Joe Bermudez and a special appearance from former *Real Housewife* of New Jersey Danielle Staub.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MOHEGAN SUN

**Danielle Staub**

### *Fleur at Lucky's Lounge*

The party gets started at 8:00pm with drink specials like Melted Popsicle Martinis, Coconut Cream Martinis and Whipped Shots. At 8:30 p.m., Jackie Steele hosts Rainbow Games with trivia challenges, contests and prize giveaways.

Rainbow Games are followed by a dance party until close, which this month features DJ Joe Bermudez, widely known Boston-based DJ and also heard on Sirius XM radio. The night will also feature a special appearance (and possible performance) by Danielle Staub, former star of *The Real Housewives of New Jersey*, famously known for saying, “You either love me or you hate me, there is no in between.”

Guests will be able to decide for themselves which side they fall on as they mingle and dance alongside her during the party.

There is no cover charge for Fleur at Lucky's Lounge. For more information, please call 860.862.5825.



**Joe Bermudez**

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Package starts at \$124.00 per person per night based on double occupancy. To book, please call 1.888.777.7922 and mention package code PTEXL.

For additional hotel packages available on Mohegan SunDayz and throughout the year, visit [mohegansun.com/exclusive](http://mohegansun.com/exclusive).

Mohegan SunDayz debuted in April and has included special appearances by recording artist Amber, DJ Escape, celebrity stylist David Evangelista, *So You Think You Can Dance* runner-up Brandon Bryant, Ross Mathews of *The Tonight Show* and E! Channel's Chelsea

Lately, Alexis Arquette and Nick Mitchell of American Idol fame as well as Grace Nations and Angelica Nations. The event continues on the second Sunday of each month. Event photos and information can be found on Facebook at [facebook.com/mohegansundayz](http://facebook.com/mohegansundayz).

*Mohegan Sun, owned by the Mohegan Tribe, is one of the largest, most distinctive and spectacular entertainment, gaming, shopping and dining destinations in the United States. Situated on 240 acres along the Thames River in scenic southeastern Connecticut, Mohegan Sun is within easy access of New York, Boston, Hartford and Providence and located 15 minutes from the museums, antique shops and waterfront of Mystic Country. More information is available by calling 1.888.226.7711 or visiting [mohegansun.com](http://mohegansun.com).*

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## A lesbian Jane Austen? Out! For Reel 3rd season kicks off with 19th century lesbian romance & after party

NORTHAMPTON, MA—Out! For Reel, the Northampton-based LGBT film series opens their third season Saturday, October 23, 7:30 pm, with the award-winning lesbian romance, *The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister* at the Academy of Music Theater, Northampton. 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. Based upon a true story, this BBC-produced lush drama portrays the remarkable life of Anne Lister (1791-1840), who was a 19th century British landowner and mountain climber. Dubbed Britain's "first modern lesbian," Anne Lister had numerous relationships with women starting when she was age 13 at a boarding school for girls. Anne Lister defied the conventions of her times by not marrying a man, owning a business, and living with a female partner. *USA Today* called the film "sexy, highly dramatic, and a good watch." This period romance is just a brief summary of Anne Lister's fascinating four million word diary written 200 years ago. The most sexually explicit and intimate parts of the diary were written in a secret algebraic code which took years to decipher. The film provides apt — and sometimes witty — insight into the romantic pursuits of a lesbian in the early 19th century. In a scene where Anne covertly cruises the women in church, she makes a deft approach to one with the pickup line, "Are you fond of Byron?" Well it worked back then. When Anne declares she will never marry, and instead seeks a female companion, her resigned but wise aunt comments, "I suppose a lady will know what pleases you better than a man." Tickets for *The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister* are available at OutForReel.org, or at the Academy of Music Box Office. Ticket prices are \$11.50 Advance / \$14.50 Door/\$10 Students (Box Office only). To watch the film trailer visit OutForReel.org. Out! For Reel's After Party — known to reach sellout crowds of 300 people — will offer fun dance music by the popular DJ Lori B,



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE BBC

**Anne Lister (Maxine Peake) and Mariana (Anna Madeley) secretly rendezvous in the woods in BBC's lesbian historical drama, "The Secret Diaries of Miss Anne Lister."**

free hors d'oeuvres, cash bars, and free parking. Ticket prices are \$7 Advance / \$7 w/Film ticket stub at Door/\$10 General at Door. Tickets are available only at OutForReel.org and at the Door. Out! for Reel's season continues on Saturday, November 6, 7:30 pm, Academy of Music, with *Leading Ladies*, a charming love story which features impressive dance scenes with both gay and lesbian couples. Tickets are available at OutForReel.org and the Academy of Music Box Office. Sellout crowds of 800 people are the norm for Out! For Reel, now the largest LGBT film series in the U.S. In the past two years, Out! For Reel has screened over 15 feature films, dozens of shorts, produced a live concert of *The Topp Twins*, and hosted several popular After Parties. Over 11,000 attendees from all over New England have traveled to Northampton to attend Out! For Reel events.

*Out! For Reel's mission is to create and strengthen our LGBT community through cultural events, build strong ties to our heterosexual allies, and work toward the eradication of homophobia through education and entertainment. For more information, go to OutForReel.org.*

### Campus from page 4

associated with it, but the college's policy also compels us to go beyond the letter of the law to embrace the spirit of the law," noted Rome. "Senior staff, managers, faculty and professional staff have participated in Safe Zone Training and the "Safe Zone" logo is proudly displayed in offices all over campus. In recent years, the college has addressed gender identity, and last year officially added a Gender Identity/Expression Policy."

"HCC has been a very welcoming environment," said Alexander Pangborn, who is transgender.

"I identify as queer/pansexual, and people who don't know that I'm trans often assume that I am a gay man," Pangborn continued. "When I began in the fall of '08, I wasn't sure what to expect and was worried that it would not be a safe place for me to be out. I found the opposite to be true. My personal experience has been very positive."

Pangborn knows another student who had been harassed and was hesitant to file a report with the campus police. The student did speak with allies on campus and the response was "overwhelmingly supportive."

HCC provides Safe Zone trainings. Faculty and staff who go through the training are given "Safe Zone" stickers that can be placed on office doors or windows to indicate to students that they are supportive presence on campus.

There is also Trans Campus, a program which provides "Trans 101" trainings every

year to teach basic terminology and etiquette. The committee also works to address needs of transgender students on campus. Last year, a policy specific to gender identity/expression was made official.

Gavin Pickering, Coordinator of GLBT Services for the University of Maine, said the climate for gay students has improved, but still has a long way to go: "I don't hear a lot about harassment toward the (LGBTQ) community- but there is a major lack of respect and understanding. Students who are not a part of the GLBT community tends to become uncomfortable when confronted with the issue, and would rather not think about it- it seems. People just seem to turn a blind eye. They don't deny the GLBT community, but they also show zero support."

Genny Beemyn, Director of the Stonewall Center at UMASS-Amherst, said there have been no reports of anti-gay harassment or violence in the past year. Beemyn said UMASS is generally tolerant of LGBTQ students.

"Same-sex couples can hold hands on campus without expecting problems," Beemyn noted. "We have also been rated as one of the most LGBT-friendly colleges in the country by both the Campus Climate Index and The Advocate."

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

Fall Season Premieres  
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## Autumn is a perfect opportunity to get “Out in the Berkshires” 2nd Annual LGBTQ Weekend features Gay friendly Art, Theatre, Entertainment & more

PITTSFIELD, MA—Pittsfield, the lively entertainment hub of bucolic Berkshire County in western Massachusetts, is the home of the 2nd annual “Out in the Berkshires” weekend on Columbus Day weekend, October 8-10. Held in concert with *National Coming Out Day* on October 11, it’s proudly sponsored by The Rainbow Times, the Berkshire Stonewall Community Coalition and Cultural Pittsfield. Enjoy gorgeous fall foliage and gay-friendly arts and nightlife.

Out in the Berkshires kicks off Friday evening with the opening reception for the Out in the Berkshires group art show, featuring regional artists from the LGBTQ community. Friday evening continues with the first of three nights of delicious comedic cabaret with Bill Nelson’s All Male Revue at the award-winning Barrington Stage Company, followed by late night Karao-gay with karaoke champion Ken De Loreto as your ever-so-charming MC. Saturday enjoy the gorgeous fall foliage in the Berkshires and don’t miss the Downtown Pittsfield Open Studios, an opportunity to peek into some of the 60+ artist studios and galleries in downtown Pittsfield. After the All Male Revue Saturday evening, you’re invited to the Come Out and Dance Party with DJ BFG, the best in the Berkshires. Sunday brings a family & friends brunch that’s also a benefit for Out in the Berkshires programming, followed by a late evening film screening of the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Keep up with everything gay-friendly in the Berkshires at [www.outintheberkshires.com](http://www.outintheberkshires.com) and look for online on Facebook and Twitter too!

# Out in the Berkshires

**Friday, October 8, 5-7pm**

**Out in the Berkshires**

**Art Show Opening**

**FREE - Lichtenstein Center for the Arts,**

**28 Renne Ave. Pittsfield**

**More info: 413.499.9348**

**[mwhilden@pittsfieldch.com](mailto:mwhilden@pittsfieldch.com)**

A group show featuring regional artists from the LGBTQ community, including abstract painter Joe Goodwin, trans artists Autumn Doyle and Justin Adkins, mixed media artists Timothy Kushi and Donald Clark, photographers Susan Mikula, Bella Vendetta, the late Vaal London-Kane and Kit Restivo, sculptor Joseph Wheaton, currently in a two person show at the Berkshire Museum, painters Jay-sin Eli and Michelle Bellici, fiber artist Nathan Hanford, and cartoonist Howard Cruse.

**Friday-Sunday, October 8-10, 8pm**

**Bill Nelson’s All Male Revue**

**\$15 - Barrington Stage Company,**

**36 Linden St. Pittsfield**

**More info & advance tickets: 413.236.8888**

**or [www.barringtonstageco.org](http://www.barringtonstageco.org)**

If David Sedaris were musicalized, he’d sound like Bill Nelson! The lyrics are equal parts jaw-dropping, profound and daffy. Join Bill and the guys for a casual, fun evening of fresh, inventive theatre songs!

**Friday, October 8, 10pm-1am**

**(Doors open 9:30pm)**

**Karao-Gay Karaoke Night!**

**\$5/\$7 - NEW STAGE 55 North Street, Pittsfield**

Let your inner diva shine with Karaoke Master Ken Deloreto at the helm and KJ (Erica) Spizz behind the turntable into the wee hours; Cash bar; reservations 413.418.0999.

**Saturday, October 9; 9pm**

**1am Come Out & Dance Party**

**\$5 - NEW STAGE 55 North St., Pittsfield**

Get out on the dance floor with the deliriously popular DJ BFG spinning tracks.

**Sunday, October 10; 11:30am**

**Family & Friends Brunch**

**\$20 Jae’s Spice 297 North Street 443-1234**

Celebrate community and help support continued Out in the Berkshires programming at this delicious brunch at one of the Berkshires’ finest restaurants.

**Sunday, October 10, 10pm**

**Rocky Horror Picture Show**

**\$9 - Beacon Cinema**

**55 North Street, Pittsfield**

**[www.thebeaconcinema.com](http://www.thebeaconcinema.com)**

Let’s do the Time Warp during this late night showing of this cult classic! Dress up encouraged, prize for best costume.

### Heroes from page 2

selected me as one of the 2010 Honorees - Latino GLBT Community Members along with Marta Perrupato & Marco Torres. I am honored to have received the award and look forward to continuing to work with Somos Latin@s in the years to come and educating the Latino community on LGBT issues.

In solidarity,

*Grisel M. Ocasio*

\*Grisel 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](mailto:publisher@therainbowtimesnews.com).

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## Queer Carnevale brings Mardi Gras spirit to Northampton

By: **Tynan Power/TRT Reporter**

On Saturday, September 25th, the LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts took over the tri-county fairgrounds in Northampton for a carnevale experience that ushered in fall with great music and a spirit of community.

“Western MA has such beautiful landscape for festivals, especially in autumn!” said LGBT Coalition executive director, Suzanne Seymour. “Carnevale was born out of the desire to forge a relationship between LGBT people in the surrounding states, as well as mainstream society, in ways that are fun and can bring us together as one people. Who, after all, doesn’t like a Carnevale?”

Queer Carnevale and the LGBT Coalition that created it have serious goals underlying the festival atmosphere.

“We know that although our community has come a long way in how we are perceived by the mainstream, we still have work to do,” Seymour said. “Discrimination is still present—LGBT ageism and classism, DADT [the military’s Don’t Ask Don’t Tell policy], prejudice towards the trans community, etc.—and showing ourselves as spiritual, compassionate people in the world in which we live, committed to animal welfare, caring for our planet ... these are the things that the media should focus in on, as we are all of these things, not just the sexually charged beings we are often made out to be.”

“We are committed to finding opportunities for all ages, races and classes to come together and see one another, listen and speak to one another. This happened at Carnevale this year,” Seymour said. “We feel extremely proud of our first ever Queer Carnevale and look forward to more people in the community being involved with our mission.”

According to Seymour, Queer Carnevale at-

tracted over 2,000 guests and more than 40 vendors, religious organizations and community groups were represented.

“It surprised me that as many people who did show up stayed and participated in the events,” said Norbert Belliveau of the Pioneer Valley Gay Men’s Chorus. “I am sure that a lot of people didn’t attend due to the \$25 entry fee [at the door].”

The predominantly female audience surprised Henry Gibson, another singer with the *Pioneer Valley Gay Men’s Chorus*.

“Others said that shouldn’t have been that surprising for Northampton,” said Gibson. “Nevertheless, I wish more men had attended and shared in the festive atmosphere.”

For many, the performers were the high point of the day.

“I really enjoyed *All the King’s Men*, *Kit Yan*, and the *PVGMC*,” said local folk-and-word performer Arjuna Greist.

Norbert Belliveau, who sings with the Pioneer Valley Gay Men’s Chorus, named NYC-based drag performer Peppermint among his favorite things about the day.

Members of the Pioneer Valley Gay Men’s Chorus enjoyed performing for an audience they felt “got” it.

Gibson said his favorite part of the day—“as usual”—was singing with the Pioneer Valley Gay Men’s Chorus.

“I also really appreciated all the efforts the organizers made to provide the community and general public the chance to enjoy the festivities together in an accepting crowd,” Gibson added.

“I thought that the crowd was very accepting of our performance and actually enjoyed our performance of ‘Color Out of Colorado,’” said Belliveau. “It was really nice to be standing on the stage singing and watching the crowd re-

spond positively to the song lyrics.”

Performers weren’t the only hit, though.

“The thing that impressed me most about the Queer Carnevale was the guy in the wheelchair making balloon animals for children,” said Charla Kouadio, pastor of *Recovering the Promise Ministries*. “When I saw him I thought ‘This is excellent,’ not only because balloon animals are very cool but because it said the organizers made sure this event was accessible to the differently-abled and to children. How can we raise a nation of queer-accepting and queer-affirming children if we cannot take them to the events that celebrate who we are—and how can we truly celebrate if those events are not accessible to all?”

One unusual feature of Queer Carnevale was the Zen Zone. Under a tent at a distance from the stage, local spiritual leaders led attendees in prayers, meditations and labyrinth explorations. A group of belly-dancers offered a workshop. The Zen Zone also included massages offered on a sliding scale (\$2-20).

Although the distance from other Carnevale activities allowed for a more tranquil setting, Seymour would like to see the area more integrated at the next Queer Carnevale.

“Whenever one plans an event, no matter how well thought out, there are things you can do to improve upon,” said Seymour. “The Zen Zone, a place designed to bring the message of healing of body, mind and spirit, should be a more integral part, where more folks can access it. We had it further away for privacy, but I think there’s a way to incorporate more into the main area.”



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

Peppermint carries Juliana Coelho down the “runway.”

At the end of the day, the Carnevale went beyond its scheduled end time around 6pm—but no one complained.

“I was surprised at how well it was organized for the first run of this event,” said Belliveau. “I am looking forward to next year’s event already.”

How long will people have to wait for the next Queer Carnevale?

“Ask me next week!” said Seymour with a laugh. “Although the Carnevale was an enormous undertaking, every single person I spoke to loved it and said they would bring more people next year,” said Seymour. “It wasn’t just a great show—and it was great!—but a true opportunity to see relationships being built between different groups and ages in our own community.”

For more information about the LGBT Coalition, visit: [www.lgbtwwa.org](http://www.lgbtwwa.org)

## Free adoption programs to find families for children in foster care, Oct. 13th & Nov. 6th

SPRINGFIELD, MA—The Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) and the Department of Children & Families (DCF) invite adults considering adoption from foster care to attend two informative events in October and November. The Providence Behavioral Health Hospital hosts an Adoption Pre-Party evening on Wednesday, October 13 while the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Westfield follows up with the Adoption Party on Saturday, November 6. Anyone interested in adoption, from beginners to experienced adoptive parents, is welcome to attend either or both free events.

• **Adoption Information Pre-Party Meeting, Wednesday, October 13, 6-8PM**

• **Providence Behavioral Health Hospital, 1233 Main St., Holyoke, MA**

This Pre-Party Information Meeting is designed especially for those new to the idea of adoption. The program gives adults the opportunity to learn about adoption from experienced adoptive families and talk with social workers from the area. Attendees will be able to gather information about some of the children in the region available for adoption. Social workers will also explain the adoption process, the various ways to help families find the right child for them, and the support services available for adoptive families and children.

Refreshments are included. Waiting children will NOT attend this Pre-Party. This event will also preview the November 7 Adoption Party to help interested families make the best use of that event.

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.*

**Unexpectedly Gay**  
 THE ADVOCATE MAGAZINE  
 TOP 15 GAYEST CITIES  
 SPRINGFIELD, MA  
[www.GLBTSpringfield.com](http://www.GLBTSpringfield.com)

### Speak Openly from page 2

high rates of addiction and alcoholism in our communities is because we are trying, desperately, to overcome so much of our internalized oppression. I think that often our substance use and abuse is a harm reduction tool that helps keep us from going crazy with self-hatred and insecurity. Our homophobic/biphobic/transphobic culture is a lot to survive through and escaping that can be an incredible feeling, even if it's only temporary and even if it harms other aspects of our bodies. Our own queer/trans subcultures can be

really intimidating spaces as well. So, once we find our queer/trans hideouts many of us turn to drugs and alcohol to deal with all the body fascism and elitism that we try to navigate. We really need to learn to be gentler with each other, not only during pride week.

I am excited to be celebrating two years of sobriety and am thrilled about making more sober friends to party with. I hope that whatever each individual's relationship is to alcohol and drugs that we all provide space for dialogue and community that nurtures us on our different journeys.

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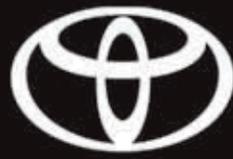
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# LGBT Seniors reflect on the paths they've traveled in life

By: **Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter**

An often overlooked segment of the LGBT community is gays and lesbians over 60 years of age. What are their concerns about growing old? How do they relate to the rest of the LGBT community? *The Rainbow Times* interviewed several men and women who shared their perspectives on growing up in a society where they had to remain closeted, their first same-sex relationships, and what it was like to grow older. Their stories follow.



**Mike Worthen**

Mike Worthen, 66, grew up in Newport, Rhode Island. Worthen came of age in a time when being gay was not an option.

"I grew up believing that homosexuality was a mental illness," said Worthen, who was married to a woman for 29 years.

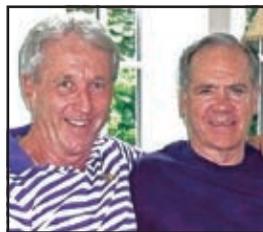
Worthen was under the belief that if he got married and lived a heterosexual life, his feelings of same-sex attraction would simply vanish.

At the age of 50, Worthen came out as a gay man. His children embraced his sexual identity.

Worthen later moved to Florida, where he currently lives with a partner.

One concern of his is being placed in an assisted living facility or a nursing home someday. Many gays and lesbians prefer to go back into the closet rather than risk being mistreated. Worthen doesn't know what the future holds.

"It's frightening," Worthen said. "No one wants to be a burden to their children."



**Jim Vegher & John Grigsby**

**Jim Vegher and John Grigsby**

Jim Vegher and John Grigsby, from Providence, have been a couple for 35 years. For the past 6 years, they have been living as a married couple. Vegher and

Grigsby married in Canada in 2004.

Vegher, 63, grew up in Los Angeles, where he was raised as a devout Catholic. Although he dated women, Vegher knew there was something about him that was different.

At 32, Vegher came out as a gay man, and the experience was liberating: "I knew where I belonged in the world. I finally felt normal."

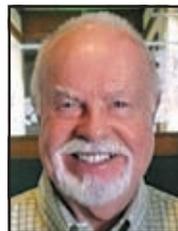
Grigsby, 71, grew up in Austin, Texas, where homosexuality was never discussed. At 19, he married his childhood sweetheart. The marriage lasted 4 years. Grigsby was unhappy with his life and moved to New York because, according to him, gay life in Texas was non-existent. He fought his sexuality for a long time until he finally learned to accept who he really was. There were many other gays and lesbians who migrated to the big cities on the East and West Coasts to find a community where they could feel loved as well as free to live their lives openly.

"People left their families of origin to join their families of choice," Grigsby said.

Grigsby and Vegher settled in Oregon and moved to Providence in 2002. They are out to everyone they know, and have been treated warmly by younger gays, who honor their

relationship.

Vegher noted that embracing his sexual orientation was the best thing to ever happen to him: "It changed my life forever."



**Jim Norris**

**Jim Norris**

Jim Norris, 72, remembers what it was like growing up in a world where the word "gay" was never mentioned. Norris grew up in the town of Lakeville, a farming community.

"I knew I was different," Norris said, noting he was more interested in nature than sports as a boy.

Norris was attracted to other males but felt there was something wrong with him. When he joined the Navy while in high school, the recruiting officer asked him if he was "homosexual", as well as if he ever had the measles, mumps, or whooping cough.

"I said no to everything," Norris recalled.

It was not easy to be gay in those days. The police would routinely harass the patrons of gay hangouts. Gay sailors were the targets of blackmail and harassment.

"If your family knew you were gay, they had the right to put you in an institution," Norris explained. Other gays faced the option of being castrated, given lobotomies, or to be declared mentally ill.

Norris served as the Treasurer in Lakeville for many years. In order to get elected to the job, you had to "act straight", according to Norris. He came out at the age of 55 during his retirement party. No one had any idea that he had spent 30 years in a relationship with a man.

"It was a wonderful relief," Norris said. "I didn't have to pretend anymore. I could be myself."

Norris' co-workers and friends did not respond negatively at all. They were happy for him.

In 1987, Norris was one of the founders of the Boston Primetimers chapter – an organization of gay and bisexual men in their senior years who get together socially once a month.

"I love being at this time of my life," Norris said. "I'm at peace with myself."

**Sally Gabb**

Sally Gabb, 66, grew up in Virginia and came out as a lesbian when she was 25. Gabb said her parents were "very loving." However, they did not discuss her sexuality at all. Gabb didn't date much in high school and she wasn't sure if she wanted to get married.

"My mother told me you don't have to have a man to be happy," Gabb recalled.



**Sally Gabb**

Gabb dated men in college but did not have any long-term relationships.

Gabb moved to Atlanta in 1968. While there, she became involved with radical politics and worked for an underground newspaper. Gabb met other lesbians through the women's rights movement. She was one of the participants in anti-war

marches. There were gay marching units. "It was a phenomenally energetic time," Gabb said.

Gabb started a lesbian organization called ALPHA in 1972. The group rented a house and conducted study groups. They studied lesbian history and formed an all-lesbian theatre group.

"It was great," Gabb noted. "It was a safe place for women."

Gabb now lives in Providence with her spouse. They have been together for 20 years.

Gabb is pleased with how far the LGBT community has come in the past few decades.

"These days it's so much easier to be out," Gabb added.

**Nancy Rose**

Nancy Rose, 63, from Kingston, Rhode Island, has been in a relationship with her partner for 12 years. The Northern California native never knew about homosexuality growing up. For years, her feelings of attraction to other women were something she battled, until she came out at 33.

Rose was once on the board of the *Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights* and educated her mother about gay rights issues.

The experience was eye-opening for Rose's mother, who was devoutly religious. Rose recalls her mother's reaction when she heard the anti-gay rhetoric from opponents of same-sex marriage. Her mother was mortified by the vitriol directed at her daughter, and was deeply moved from hearing the testimony from same-sex couples.

"It opened her heart and her mind," Rose recalled.

Rose has no qualms about getting older and feels heterosexuals have the same concerns about aging as gays and lesbians.

Rose believes that Governor Don Carcieri, an opponent of LGBT rights, is in for a rude awakening someday, should one of his children or grandchildren turn out to be gay or lesbian.

"He will have to face that ugly picture of himself," Rose said, noting: "we are judged by future generations."

All photos by: **Joe Siegel**

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**Letters from page 2**

It's no different than the closet effect in operation for any other marginalized group.

We've all got to get involved with our community at a much higher level. We are all, quite literally, fighting for our lives. Take the time to help organize potlucks, bbq's, movie nights, festivals, tag sales, pride marches and protests. Show up in Boston on trans lobby days, and at other times, and talk to your legislator about your need for job safety. Write letters to your congressperson. We've got to get our state ENDA out of committee and onto the floor so it can pass. Seven years of storage may brew a fine wine, but it's a crappy way to treat desperately needed civil rights protections.

Most importantly, we've got to try to keep our egos in check and be willing to work with folks in a spirit of friendly cooperation and mutual respect. Over the past year we've been treated to a painful local object lesson about what can happen when we allow a single business person to direct our civil rights efforts. Never again. Community Pride belongs with the community, and should reflect a volunteer, nonprofit commitment, always. We need to keep cultural events, operated for profit, conceptually and physically separate from our fight for rights.

On October 2 there will be an open meeting for the Trans Community at the MEF community meeting room at 60 Masonic Street in Northampton from 6-8 p.m. At that meeting a volunteer group for next year's Trans Pride march and rally will be formed. Allies are welcome. I hope we can take the next step together, in a strong and positive way, to care for ourselves and work for Trans Rights. "For Us, By Us," is the proper spirit for trans activism. We will win Trans Rights in Massachusetts and across the nation, quickly, if we all work together.

Sincerely,  
—Tristan Dean, Greenfield, MA

Dear Mr. Lydon,

Thank you for your informative opinion piece on Bradley Manning in the August 19th issue of TRT. I believe this man in the greatest whistle blower hero since Daniel Ellsberg leaked *The Pentagon Papers*. I was unaware

that he is gay. So glad to hear it! But, I was just disturbed by the line in your piece: "Do his actions make him a traitor? Possibly." I guess that allowed you to write the line that followed – but was *that* phrase really necessary? This man is facing very serious charges, and I believe the answer is "No – he's a Super Patriot – willing to sacrifice himself rather than be compliant in war crimes." The answer is "No" – not "possibly."

Given the thrust of the piece, how could you say that? During the Free Speech Demonstrations in Berkeley, CA in the 60s someone said "We will throw our bodies into the gears of the War Machine and *make it grind to a halt* (paraphrase)." That is what Bradley Manning has done. And you say he's possibly a traitor?

I hope that was a lapse in phraseology/editing. I think we agree on the basics – please be a tiny bit more careful. Maybe this is just nit picking, but I felt it worth mentioning. P.S. Keep up the radical, good work.

—Ray Paqueth, Greenfield, MA  
(but sent from NY where I read the piece)

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your excellent coverage of Trans Pride 2010 in the September 16 issue. I did want to correct one statement reporter Tynan Power made in his very good story about the Trans Pride march and rally. It was not because of my health problems that I backed off from being involved with New England Trans United (NETU) Pride this year, and I didn't say that at the rally. It was due to an unpaid debt owed to me for the "Winter Wonderland" event expenses and the subsequent litigation I brought, making it impossible for me to work with a lead organizer of NETU. Throughout the last few years of my serious illness, I have nevertheless volunteered tirelessly to help build a life-saving, civil rights-advancing Transgender Pride Movement. I will continue to do so.

Thank you again for your unwavering support of the Trans community. I'm sure you know that we will need it even more in the months and years ahead as we struggle for equality.

—Bet Power, Northampton, MA

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# NAGLY - Providing safe havens for LGBT youth: 3rd Annual fundraiser a success

**EASTERN MA** By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

The timing was uncanny for a fundraising event for a local LGBT youth support group. Earlier that day, a *New York Times* front-page story, reported the suicide of Tyler Clementi, an 18-year old college freshman at Rutgers University. Apparently, Clementi leapt from the George Washington Bridge days after he had been secretly filmed kissing a young man — an intimate encounter that was also broadcast over the Internet.

That same Thursday evening, Sept. 30, more than 150 people gathered at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, Mass., to raise money for the North Shore Alliance of Gay & Lesbian Youth (NAGLY). This year's fundraising event was the organization's third annual and first at the Hawthorne.

The untimely and unfortunate death of Tyler Clementi served to underscore not only the services of organizations like NAGLY (www.nagly.org), but also their need for adequate financial support.

Whatever prompted two fellow students to violate the Rutgers freshman's privacy remains for school authorities and police officials to learn. Still, said Kristen Freni, president of the NAGLY's board of directors, "Other students don't realize the malicious impact their behavior causes gay youth. 'This is the way things have been time and after time,' she added. 'I am not saying straight students don't have challenges, but with gay youth, going through adolescence — bodily changes, emotions, and their differences [from straight

peers] — to be exposed to that major [privacy] violation, I cannot imagine."

Recent statistics also point to hostile learning environments. For example, more than a third of students report having experienced harassment at school on the basis of sexual orientation, with more than a quarter reporting similar treatment on the basis of gender expression. Nearly one-fifth of students said they have been physically assaulted because of sexual orientation, with more than a tenth reporting assault on the basis of gender expression, according to the 2005 *Gay, Lesbian, Straight Educators Network National School Climate Survey*.

"The fact is," said Coco Alinsug, NAGLY's executive director, "right now we need more funding to do more projects and do outreach so our kids [continue to] have a safe place to go."

Founded in 1993 by a straight woman ally, NAGLY's stated purpose is "to create, sustain and advocate for programs, policies, and services for the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender youth community" on the North Shore.

NAGLY, a 501 c (3) non-profit organization is one of more than a dozen groups statewide that seek to provide safe havens for LGBT youth. Boston-based BAGLY is the largest, with NAGLY second.

The support group accomplishes its mission primarily through weekly meetings held every Tuesday from 7 - 9 p.m. in the First Universalist Church of Salem.

There's something for just about anyone between the ages of 14 and 21. The peer-run, adult supervised discussions and presentations

cover a range of issues, Alinsug said, including healthy and safe relationships, family and peer reaction to coming out, violence prevention, safe sex and HIV/AIDS awareness, and a full range of historic, cultural, and artistic celebrations and expressions of LGBTQ pride.

NAGLY receives \$20K funding from the state Department of Public Health, a figure up \$3K from the previous year. But state funding only covers the cost of running the weekly meetings, said Alinsug.

Nineteen-year old Harry Paine, currently a student at Salem State University, said he started coming to NAGLY meetings and events in 2007. "I lived in a sheltered community of Boxford, Mass., and wanted to learn more about being gay. NAGLY was a safe place for me to go."

Before becoming comfortable with myself, said Samarah Brunet, "I didn't know there were people alive on the planet who wouldn't judge me based on how I acted, dressed, and carried myself." Before NAGLY, "I was a shell of the person I was supposed to be."

State Representative Carl Sciortino (Dem.-Medford) said, "It's really important for gay



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

**Marsha and Ken Garber, the husband and wife couple, received this year's NAGLY Spirit Award. In 2008 their transgender son CJ committed suicide after years of struggling with sexuality and identity.**

and lesbian youth to know that they are supported and have allies in the Legislature." Sciortino also said he has spoken to the group and encouraged NAGLY to lobby Beacon Hill for passage of the transgender civil rights bill.

For transgender-rights advocate Alishia Ouellette, who serves on the board of directors and as NAGLY's and outreach coordinator, the group's energy is a magnet. "It's the best group of kids," she said, adding, "They're very smart in pulling it all together. They run the group. Everything is for and about them."

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## Margaret Cho and Queer Casino Night highlight two-day October Pridefest

BOSTON, MA—As Boston Pride continues the celebration of its 40th Anniversary year, two must-attend events are on deck for October 28-29 to kick off Halloween Weekend for Boston's LGBT Community.

Margaret Cho appears at the Wilbur Theatre on Thursday, October 28 as part of her "Cho Dependent" tour, but before taking the stage, she'll be stopping by the W Hotel to mingle with guests of a VIP Reception being hosted by Boston Pride. The VIP Reception will be from 5-7 p.m. The show will start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$100 and include VIP reception, autographed swag, and a ticket to the show. There will be \$50 tickets also available for pre-show VIP reception only. Tickets on sale now at [www.bostonpride.org/cho](http://www.bostonpride.org/cho).

Chantal Carrere hosts and Lucky Belcamino, star of upcoming reality show "Biker Chic" and President of East Coast Biker Chicks Motorcycle Club, will serve as live auctioneer. Event will feature the hustle of casino favorites Texas Hold 'Em and Black Jack, as well as a



50-50 raffle, and a robust silent and live auction. Score a prize for best Vegas-inspired costume. Tickets \$25 in advance / \$40 at the door and include a chance to win a Grand Door Prize valued over \$500. The party- and the dice!- get rolling at 6 p.m. Tickets on sale now at [www.bostonpride.org/casino](http://www.bostonpride.org/casino).

*Boston Pride produces events and activities to achieve inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Proceeds from both events benefit Boston Pride's year-round activities, including development of new educational and human rights programming.*

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# Same-sex couples not on the same playing field, despite what the census might indicate

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

It's complicated.

That's one overarching take-away message from the results of a new national survey of cohabitating same-sex couples designed to understand if and how they completed their 2010 census forms.

"It's really difficult for same-sex couples in the current legal climate to know how to fill out these forms," said Gary J. Gates, Ph.D., a leading expert in demographic and economic characteristics of the lesbian and gay community. Based at UCLA's Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Public Policy, Gates is the author of the survey report that analyzed census 2010.

The patchy legal status of same-sex relationships – everything from legal marriage to civil unions to registered domestic partnerships – accounts in part for the complexity.

For example, "If you live in a state that recognizes either marriage or civil unions or domestic partnerships that are marriage-like, then you are more likely to use the terms 'husband' or 'wife,' regardless of the legal status," Gates said, "than if you live in a state that does not recognize any thing."

Apparently, use of the term increases with legal status.

"If you are married and live in a state that recognizes your marriage, nine out of 10 use 'husband' or 'wife,'" Gates explained. "But if you live someplace that does not recognize your marriage, then only six out of 10 do."

Nearly 99 percent of the 602 individuals sur-

veyed by Harris Interactive for the Williams Institute said they had or planned to participate in the census. The more than 9-in-10 response rate is higher than the general population's mail-back rate of seven in 10 households.

"Broadly speaking, it's a pretty compliant group," said Gates, referring to LGBT respondents. "But a lot of them struggled with what's the best way to fill out the form."

This year's census is the first U.S. population count that allowed same-sex couples to use the terms "husband" and "wife" to describe themselves. Previous counts provided only the category of "unmarried partner."

Still, census 2010 has not accounted for all same-sex relationships.

"When [the LGBT community] hears X number of same-sex couples, keep in mind that one in seven [or 14.4 percent] are missing from the data," Gates explained. "The real number is likely to be higher."

Approximately 10 percent of same-sex couples described their relationship as roommates or non-relatives rather than spouses or unmarried partners, according to the

survey. What accounts for the shortfall? Explanations for choosing those options included confidentiality concerns about disclosing the relationship, protests over the census not asking explicitly about "sexual orientation" or "gender identity," and personal offense taken by the options presented.

About 3 percent of the Williams Institute respondents indicated they were transgender or had a transgender partner.

Census 2010 does not ask marital status, just how people are related to each other. There is also no provision for use of the term "spouse."

For some same-sex couples to be counted, it all depends on who is Person 1, the household individual filling out the form. For instance, if a gay individual lives with his parents and his mother completes the census, she designated him as her son. Accordingly, the census design may not fully account for some same-sex relationships because it measures "how the partner is related to Person 1, not to him," Gates said.

This year's census has another catch. "When we see the numbers of couples who use 'hus-

band" and "wife," Gates explained, "we cannot assume those husbands and wives are legally married."

Why? "Because only about 70 percent are legally married," he said. "Another 15 percent are in domestic partnerships or civil unions," he added. Yet another "15 percent are not in any formal legal relationship but just feel that the word 'husband' or 'wife' is the best way to describe themselves."

Gates found another oddity in the survey. "Ten percent of legally married same-sex couples did not use the term 'husband' or 'wife,'" Gates said. "Some don't like the term. Others are not sure if it's proper to use 'husband' and 'wife' if they are not legally recognized where they live."

Several years ago, the Williams Institute estimated there were nearly 770,000 same-sex couples living in the U.S. The 2005 data showed Massachusetts with 23,774 same-sex couples. Connecticut had 10,174. New Hampshire: 5,578. Vermont: 2,157. In 2000, Rhode Island had 2,471 same-sex couples, according to an official US Census Bureau tally.

"There's huge power in visibility," said Gates. Census 2010 is a step in the right direction, enabling researchers to get a better handle on "how many same-sex couples are really taking of legal relationships and what does having equal treatment mean," he said.

Meanwhile, the "equality problem" remains. Gates said that same-sex and opposite-sex couples are "just not on the same playing field in filling out something as simple as a federal form."



PHOTO: WILLIAMS INST. - UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW  
Gary J. Gates, Ph. D.

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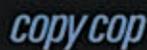
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# LOCAL BRIEFS: Here is what's happening close to your gayborhood

## Massachusetts News briefs

• In Northampton, LGBT-friendly David Sullivan defeated rival Michael Cahillane in the race for Northwestern District Attorney on September 14. Sullivan has no announced opposition in the Nov. 2 general election. That means he will most likely succeed Republican Elizabeth D. Scheibel, of South Hadley, who is not seeking re-election after 18 years in office. Cahillane's name is among the 143,000 certified signers of a 2005 VoteOnMarriage.org petition, which would have made same-sex marriage illegal had it been successful almost six years ago. The 2005 VoteOnMarriage.org petition ultimately collected more than 140,000 certified signatures, according to an archived version of their website, but the effort was overturned at the June 14 Constitutional Convention, and marriage equality was preserved in the state of Massachusetts.

Other supporters of LGBT equality also scored victories, including Democratic state Sen. Sonia Chang-Díaz (2nd Suffolk), who defeated challenger Hassan Williams 70 percent to 22 percent. Williams consistently refused to say whether he supported the rights of same-sex couples to wed. Meanwhile, State Reps. Mark Falzone (9th Essex), Rosemary Sandlin (3rd Hampden), Jeffrey Sánchez (15th Suffolk), Stephen Stat Smith (28th Middlesex); State Sens. Cynthia Stone Creem (First Middlesex and Norfolk), Sal DiDomenico (Suffolk, Middlesex and Essex), Steve Tolman (Second Suffolk and Middlesex); and candidates Eileen Donoghue (First Middlesex Senate District), Patrick Gerry (2nd Worcester House District), Dan Wolf (Cape and Islands) and state Rep. Katherine Clark (Middlesex and

Essex Senate District).

In the crowded race to fill the Sixth Suffolk Representative District (state Rep. Willie Mae Allen is retiring), Russell Holmes won with 33 percent of the vote. Holmes is firmly against the rights of same-sex couples to wed, and he does not support the Transgender Civil Rights Bill. His closest competitor was Karen Payne, who took 22 percent of the vote. Payne serves as head of the Boston Branch of the NAACP and is also openly lesbian.

Openly gay State Rep. Carl Sciortino (D-Medford) has been endorsed by several pro-choice, women's rights, and GLBT organizations, including the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Organization for Women (Mass. NOW), NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts, MassEquality, Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts (PPLM), Mass Alliance, the Victory Fund, and the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

"Whether it's fighting to end discrimination against transgender people, protecting marriage equality, or standing up for full LGBT equality, Carl Sciortino has been there helping lead the charge every time," noted MassEquality Executive Director Kara Suffredini. "MassEquality is proud to support Carl Sciortino in his bid for re-election and looks forward to his continued leadership."

## Rhode Island News briefs

• Openly gay Providence Mayor David Cicilline won the September 14 Democratic primary for the state's 1st Congressional District. Cicilline, who won 37 percent of the vote, now faces Republican John Loughlin, a State Rep. from Little Compton, in November. Cicilline had been the target of attacks from

rival Anthony Gemma, who aired ads criticizing him for taking raises to which he was not entitled as mayor, using a city-paid driver and accusing him of misdirecting federal education dollars.

Gemma also contacted the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to urge Cicilline "in the strongest possible terms" to withdraw from the race. Among other things, Gemma cited "patterns of deception, misconduct, and dereliction of duty" that Cicilline, he said, had demonstrated "as mayor of Providence and as a candidate for Congress."

In other election news, Victor Moffitt, a former State Rep. and a vocal opponent of same-sex marriage, lost the Republican gubernatorial primary to his rival John Robitaille.

• In Coventry, State Senator Leo Blais (R) lost his primary to challenger Nicholas Kettle. Blais had also been an opponent of same-sex marriage.

However, the news wasn't all good: some gay marriage supporters, including State Reps. Al Gemma (D-Warwick) and Chris Fierro (D-Woonsocket) lost their primary races.

• The National Organization for Marriage (NOM) is suing the state Board of Elections, saying it wants to run ads in the governor's race and other contests but doesn't want to have to comply with state campaign finance laws.

NOM claims that it should not be forced to report its expenditures or comply with spending limits or bans that are required for political action committees. The group said it shouldn't be considered a PAC because it's not controlled by a political purpose and does not spend most

of its money on Rhode Island's political races. It says the rules for PACs are burdensome and interfere with free speech.

## Worcester News Briefs

• AIDS Project Worcester presents its Annual Latino AIDS Awareness Day on Friday, October 15 from 5 to 8 pm. YWCA Of Central Mass, 1 Salem Sq. Worcester

• Great Latino Food, Live Music, Dancing with the APW Stars, Educational Tables, Raffles, and more. For details, call Luis Diaz at 508.755.3773.

## Connecticut News Briefs

• Foxwoods Resort Casino and MGM Grand at Foxwoods are amending their policies to be more LGBT Inclusive. The resort complex, which is located in Mashantucket, has always courted LGBT customers, and now they are planning on being more accommodating to the LGBT Community. The new human resources and procurement policies formally recognize and protect the rights of the casino's LGBT employees. The policy changes will be to provide equal employment opportunities for LGBT workers, and the casino will now be providing same-sex couples with medical benefits.



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## NAGLY 2010 Fundraiser • Hawthorne Hotel, Salem, MA



PHOTOS: GLENN KOETZNER

## Six Flags Out in the Park 2010 • Agawam, MA



PHOTOS: GLENN KOETZNER

# DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: Adieu to "As the World Turns;" new role for Swank

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**By: Romeo San Vicente\*/TRT Special Schumacher reteams with Cage and Kidman for *Trespass***

Gay director Joel Schumacher didn't exactly set the world on fire with his rich-kids-on-drugs melodrama *Twelve* this year – even if it did get him his first invitation to Sundance. But the filmmaker is back on familiar ground in his next project, working with big stars on what sounds like a standard-issue thriller (hey, you're good at what you're good at). Nicolas Cage and Nicole Kidman are set to star in Schumacher's *Trespass* as a married couple who gets taken hostage and who discover that the situation reveals hidden cracks in their relationship. It's a reunion, of sorts; Schumacher previously directed Cage in *8MM* and Kidman in

*Batman Forever*. With shooting under way in Louisiana – the cast also features *Twilight* heartthrob Cam Gigandet, and breakout indie guy Ben Mendelsohn from *Animal Kingdom* – *Trespass* is set to break and enter into theaters next year.

**Van Hansis vacates daytime for *Occupant***

The recent cancellation of *As the World Turns* has meant the loss of one of daytime TV's most incident-prone gay characters, Luke Synder, played by actor Van Hansis. He survived "ex-gay" therapy, the loss of a boyfriend in a train accident, expulsion from school for trying to rig a student election and several dozen other moments of soapy intrigue, all the while becoming half of a supercouple with Noah May-



Romeo San Vicente

apartment who, by the terms of the will, has to lock himself in for 12 days. But is he alone in there? And does it really matter that it's a piece of primo Manhattan real estate if he has to share it with a demon or psychotic person? Also starring Jamie Harrold (*Erin Brockovich*), *Occupant* could move into theaters as early as this winter.

**Baron Cohen to play killer Queen Mercury**

*Borat* proved that Sacha Baron Cohen could grow a killer mustache; *Briuno* showed us he was comfortable with on-screen flamboyant gay excess; and *Sweeney Todd* revealed that he could sing. So now Baron Cohen is putting all three of those things together to play Freddie Mercury, the legendary lead singer of Queen, in what promises to be a memorable biopic. Mercury's own story is a fascinating one – born of Parsi Iranians and raised in Zanzibar and India, he became one of the world's leading rock vocalists; when Mercury became HIV-positive, he kept it a secret from the media, despite being visibly worn down by AIDS

complications. Only 24 hours before his death in 1991 did Mercury go public about his condition? The film, which will be written by Peter Morgan (*The Queen*, *Frost/Nixon*), will focus on Queen's preparations for Live Aid in 1985. Shooting starts next year, which should give Cohen time to work on his high notes.

**Hilary Swank faces life after wartime**

Hard-working lesbian producer Christine Vachon (*I'm Not There*, *Boys Don't Cry*) always keeps a full dance card, and it looks like one of the more notable projects coming from her is *Dreams of a Dying Heart*, the directorial debut of writer Shawn Lawrence Otto (*House of Sand and Fog*). This suspenseful drama stars Hilary Swank as an Iraq war veteran who returns home to her husband (Josh Brolin) and daughter with her body in one piece but her mind shaken by the experience. Almost as soon as she arrives at the airport, she starts having visions of a ghostly boy in blue. Soon, she's waking up screaming and covered in blood, pictures of her are miss-



PHOTO: FOX SEARCHLIGHT

**Hilary Swank, set to star in haunting *Dreams of a Dying Heart***

ing from the wall, and there's a strange Middle Eastern man in her house – who seems to have designs on her daughter. Sounds chilling – and Swank is always at her best in a short haircut. Shooting starts in October, with *Dreams* set to haunt the big screen in 2012.

*\*Romeo San Vicente likes to think of himself as a one-man USO tour. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.*

## Queer Carnevale 2010 Fundraiser • Northampton, MA



PHOTOS: GLENN KOETZNER

## Worcester Pride • September 2010



PHOTOS: GLENN KOETZNER

# Travelin' Thru: Nathan Manske and his *I'm From Driftwood* team embark on a 50-state story tour

By: Mikey Rox/TRT Special

Nathan Manske, creator of the gay-stories project *I'm From Driftwood*, is hitting the road.

Over the next four months, Manske and his dedicated team will travel to all 50 states in search of the most touching, harrowing and heart-wrenching tales that LGBTs have to offer – and they want you to be part of it.

If you've got a bed to share, a story to tell or funds to donate, Manske wants to hear from you. In the meantime, check out this interview with the ambitious Texan-turned-New Yorker to find out what IFD is all about.

**MIKEY ROX:** To give everyone a little context, we know each other because I participated in a video story for *I'm From Driftwood*. For me, it was a cathartic experience to finally speak out about a hate incident that I was faced with in high school. Tell me about some of the other terrifying tales you've heard.

**NATHAN MANSKE:** Just yesterday we sat down to listen to a story from a college student in Manhattan, Kansas. When he came out, his dad very severely physically abused him, sending him to the emergency room multiple times. After his ultra-religious parents realized physical abuse won't change his sexuality, they sent him to conversion therapy. What they did to him was nothing short of torture and illegal. It was just heartbreaking. This kid is so optimistic and does so much on his campus to help others, and to imagine someone being so hateful and hurtful to such a good person was so sad. He's a brave and inspiring person; there's no doubt he's going to go on and change the world for the better. You can't help but smile and be inspired when you're around him.

**MR:** What are some of the more memorable and uplifting stories your participants have told?

**NM:** I love it when someone comes out to open arms. That happy ending never gets old and is always encouraging.

**MR:** I can attest as a gay journalist – and an often controversial one – that I receive all kinds of mail. Mostly positive e-mails, but every now and then I'll get a whack job who thinks it's OK to send me a message – facilitated by an article I've written – about how he hopes I die of AIDS or something equally offensive. It's amazing what people think is acceptable to say to strangers. What kind of response – both positive and negative – have you received from nonparticipants, those who are simply watching the videos or reading the stories on the IFD site?

**NM:** Hands down the best message I've received was from a teenager who was really struggling with his sexuality and dealing with the fact that he's gay. He wrote to me saying that he didn't know what to do so he turned to the Internet to try to figure some things out. He said he watched all the video stories – which helped him feel much better about himself – and that the stories literally saved his life. It hit the nail on the head of what the purpose of the site is. I also get messages from older folks saying they wished something like this ex-

isted when they were kids. I haven't received many intelligent, negative e-mails. There have been some "gays burn in hell"-type comments posted on YouTube, but I'm assuming those are just bored kids and there's no real thought behind it. You can't take comments like that too seriously. I just delete them and move on. IFD isn't too prone to negativity and hate. It's very apolitical, and by its very nature of being true stories, the only way it can really ruffle feathers is if someone just truly hates LGBT people – and if they do, they probably aren't Googling "true gay stories."

**MR:** In your opinion, what makes this project necessary? Why did you start it?

**NM:** I started it because I know what it's like to feel alone. What it's like to feel like I'm the only person to go through what I'm going through and think there's no one out there who understands. I don't have any research or facts or numbers to support the need, I just have a gut feeling that sharing our true stories will help people out there realize they're not alone. And based on the feedback I talked about earlier, it's true and it's working.

**MR:** What is your ultimate goal with this project?

**NM:** I'm just going to throw it down here:

LGBT youth still attempt suicide four times more than straight youth. I think by helping them realize they're not alone, that number could drastically decrease. So the ultimate goal of the project is for there to be no difference in the suicide rate of LGBT and straight youth. That sounds morbid, but there's no excuse for that large of a difference.

**MR:** IFD is steadily gaining in popularity, especially now that you're embarking on the 50-State Story Tour. Tell me more.

**NM:** We're going to the smallest towns and biggest cities across America to show that LGBT people really are everywhere. And the exciting part about exactly where we're going is... we don't know! The way it works is, our route is created based on suggestions people add to our interactive map. All you do is add a marker to the map (available on the IFD site) and tell us why we should visit. When we're about to visit your state, we look at the map and choose the town based on suggestions. We want the whole tour to feel very interactive. We're going to get video stories from as many different people as we can. Just in the first week we've collected stories from gay farmers, lesbian poker players, student activists and gender-identity-defying drag queens.

**MR:** To travel to all 50 states you're going to need a boatload of cash. How much have you raised so far?

**NM:** We've raised a total of \$25,000, but that's not nearly the total amount we need to raise. It's enough to get us started but we have to raise more money along the way or we won't be able to finish the tour. We're going to have small fundraisers along the way, but we're also hoping for some generous individual donors to help us out. The problem is finding them while we're on the road. So if anyone knows anyone who wants to throw some cash towards a good cause, let us know.

**MR:** How are you traveling, and how long do

you expect this journey will take you?

**NM:** We bought a used, full-size Ford E-150 van. It's red, and we named it The Barn. It seems very Driftwood-y. My straight brother is driving us, and Marquise, the director and editor of the video stories, and me are the travelers. Hitting all 50 states is going to take us just over four months. We could do it in less time, but we don't want to rush it. We really want to take the time to meet the folks in these towns and get their stories and get a feeling for what it's like to be LGBT in all sorts of places.

**MR:** Once you've covered all 50 states, what's next for IFD? Is that the end of the project or will it continue?

**NM:** IFD is a never-ending project. As long as there are LGBT stories to share, IFD will exist. I'm planning on expanding it to include any way one can tell a story – books, TV shows, shorts, films, graphic novels, podcasts, etc. I



PHOTO: COURTESY OF I'M FROM DRIFTWOOD PROJECT

## Members of the *I'm from Driftwood* story gathering team

want these stories to be in front of as many people as possible, so I've got to utilize as many different media as possible. After the Story Tour, that will be our focus. Lots of stuff is planned, so stay tuned.

To participate in the *I'm From Driftwood* 50-State Story Tour, visit [www.imfromdriftwood.com](http://www.imfromdriftwood.com). Stories, donations and places for Manske and crew to crash are welcome.

## The Neighborhood Queer/Trans Dance Night with SYSTYR ACT comes to Jamaica Plain

SYSTYR ACT's performing at the Neighborhood on October 9th! This is the performance not to miss. These Jesus-lovin', hard-rockin', sinner-convertin' systyrs are gearing up for what may be their last show for quite a while and they are pulling out all the stops – doing every song they know! Systyr Sarah Jessica Parker is heading off to do some missionary work in faraway lands and who knows when we'll see her again. There won't be a pair of dry pants or dry eyes in the house when they're done! Bring your queer self-down to the Midway for some amazing soul-cleansing, booty-bumpin', christ-almighty-lovin', rockin' good juju! Visit <http://theneighborhoodjp.blogspot.com/> for more info. Systyr Act will be performing at The Midway Café, located at 3496 Washington Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130, from 9 p.m. – 2 a.m. The cover is \$5 and it is a 21+ event w/proper ID.

About the Neighborhood: Quarterly Dance Party - This is a space for all queer and trans folks... we like mixed up spaces and so should you! Always LGBT people of color, femme, butch, gender variant, fairy, leather, Bear, CD, Bi friendly and all queers.



SYSTYR ACT to perform in Jamaica Plain

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## Out in the Park with the LGBT community

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

Even though Six Flags New England was closed to the general public, it was busy on September 19th—the official Out in the Park day.

Keith Hermann, Director of Group Sales at Six Flags and the gay man behind Out in the Park 2010, estimated that attendance was near 5,000.

“We’ve been doing this event for three years,” Hermann said. “We took it exclusive three years ago. In 2007, we did entertainment down in the picnic area and it didn’t really go over that well. We wanted to move entertainment in the park. Sabrina and Kitty Litter have been with us the whole time.”

“They’re our emcees and our mistresses of ceremonies. They’re kind of our staple. This year Jessica Kirson is our headliner, with Johnny McGovern.

“We really have a lot of entertainment this year. We really kind of spiked it up,” Hermann said. “We can’t do this type of entertainment when we’re open to the general public that’s why we take it private. It’s because we want to have entertainment that is a festival type feel.”

One of the day’s headliners, Johnny McGovern—also known as *The Big Gay Pimp*—had never performed at Out in the Park before.

“Usually it’s late night, somewhere gay,” he said of places he performs. “When I started doing open mics in NY when I was a teenager and in college, I seriously thought I was going to be an R&B singer. I realized that as a six foot four, white gay man, R&B success was probably not going to be in my future.”

A loss for R&B was a gain for comedy. Comedian Khris Francis drew the audience in with direct questions and teasing. In one instance, he called a straight-identified woman who was there alone to the front of the room and asked her to choose between two lesbians. She balked.

“Imagine if you were in prison...” he goaded her.

“I got into this kind of work by doing it,” said Francis. “I was always a singer and I had to be funny between songs to keep people interested. The comedy took over.”

Performer Sherry Vine, who self-identifies as a gay man who dresses in drag for entertainment purposes, got her start in drag performance accidentally.

“I was in theater school, studying acting, and for a project we had to create three different characters. One of them happened to be a drag queen. It just started as a joke and turned into a career.”

That career took her to Berlin and back again.

“It’s really a legitimate art form there so you can really make a good living. ... It was very different; I’d do shows with a band and backup singers. It’s really a straight audience,” she said.

Burly men in red t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan “50 Bears on a Bus” could be seen all around the park. It turned out the bus was chartered from Boston.

Scott Jackson and Don Mills, Lynfield, MA, were two of the Bears on a Bus.

“The Bear community in Boston is really organized,” Jackson said.

For Jackson, it was his first time at Six Flags. Both liked that the park was closed to the public for the day.

“I thought it was great,” he said. “Nobody’s looking twice if you’re holding hands.”

Ryan DiMartino and Oscar Robles, from



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

### All ups and downs for these happy revelers at Six Flags

Hartford, said they enjoyed the day and also appreciated the “private party” atmosphere.

“All the performances we’ve seen have been pretty cool,” Robles said. “The environment’s really what’s making it.”

At other times, when Robles has been at theme parks with a partner, he’s been more self-conscious.

“I thought about what my surroundings are, not knowing what people’s politics are, not wanting to put myself out there,” he explained. “It’s good to be in an environment where that’s not even an issue, that’s not even a thought.”

Miss Trans New England 2010, Toni Olin-Mignosa, agreed with Robles.

“My friends and I agreed there was far less judgment going on and it was a beautiful thing to just be us,” said Olin-Mignosa.

Although mostly comfortable, DiMartino also explained that the event was “not very trans-oriented.”

“I feel like if it was going to be an inclusive kind of spirit, there would have been gender neutral bathrooms,” Robles said. “There are no gender neutral bathrooms here. I think it’s interesting to have a queer event and not think about that.”

Olin-Mignosa agreed that the event could be more welcoming to transgender people.

“I would suggest next year trying to get Miss Trans New England 2011 up on the stage for a bit,” Olin-Mignosa said. “We [trans people] didn’t get much publicity. Also we need to separate ourselves from the drag queens. I loved that they were there but we need to have Miss Trans on stage to prove not all trans people are queens or kings.”

That drawback didn’t diminish the positives, however.

“I had lots of fun! It was an absolute blast!” said Olin-Mignosa, a self-described “adrenaline fanatic.”

Northampton attendees also enjoyed the event.

“I had a great time,” said Michael Kusek, from Northampton. “It seemed more crowded than last year.”

“It was fantastic!” said Vera Morais who came all the way from Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

Hermann, who organized the event, was glad that despite the \$16,000 price tag for the entertainment this year, the park was able to keep ticket prices low.

“The top price for this event is \$30. It’s \$32.99 for the best discounts we have on the market [for a regular admission day].”

In addition, according to Hermann, some of the money generated will be donated.

“Last year we donated over \$2,000 to different organizations and we’re doing the same thing this year,” said Hermann. “We actually let them submit for it this year. We sit down right after the event and look at them and see what we have to donate. I’m proud of it.”

## Jason Mraz: He’s ours; he sings, he dances, he steals hearts – but the musician’s also passionate about equality

By: Chris Azzopardi/TRT Special

Jason Mraz is all love, because even when the wordplay-toying troubadour isn’t singing about it, he’s spreading it. To everyone.

Since the hipster launched his career eight years ago with *Waiting for My Rocket to Come*, he’s been an outspoken gay rights supporter – maybe even more (sexually “open-minded,” as he told us). But Mraz is also remarkably talented: How else do you hold a record for most weeks on the singles chart ... ever? But, for 76 weeks, there he was with “I’m Yours,” off his latest studio album, 2008’s *We Sing. We Dance. We Steal Things*.

As the singer-songwriter readies his upcoming release, due next year, he’s working out the new material on the road. We stole a few minutes with Mraz, 33, to chat about the new tunes, his Björk-loving inner girl, being a gay rights activist and how, sometimes, he walks around naked.



PHOTO: JUSTIN RUHL

Jason Mraz

a feminine sensibility about it. Are you tapping into your inner girl for these songs?

**JM:** Um... maybe. As a songwriter, my inner girl is Björk. And I know that sounds weird – we’re nothing alike – but I love her singing style, and that’s what pushes me over the top as a singer.

The inner feminine in my songwriter-ness is nothing more than keeping a diary (laughs). Whenever I open up that thing and start scribbling in it, I feel like a 12-year-old girl.

**CA:** You’ve been incredibly outspoken about gay rights. How did you get involved in the fight, including Cyndi Lauper’s Give a Damn campaign?

**JM:** They came to me. I did a project with the True Colors Fund and Broadway Impact in New York – a fundraiser/small cabaret performance thing – and I got to know a lot of great people

in that organization. Then they put out the Give a Damn campaign and they just called me up.

I was always turned on by people making a difference. And most of my management team is gay, a lot of my friends in San Diego are gay, and so are a lot of my high school friends. It seemed pointless for me to not speak up when I have such a huge audience that I can speak to.

**CA:** Have you always been close to gay people?

**JM:** In high school, my best friend was gay. Also, a friend of mine got kicked out of his house because he came out, and so my dad, being a hero, took him in. I was bullied myself in high school, and then taking a gay kid into our house – it felt so good to do that.

To read the conclusion of this interview, visit [www.rainbowtimesmass.com/jasonmraz](http://www.rainbowtimesmass.com/jasonmraz)

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## Estadísticas Homofóbicas: ¡Es tiempo de cambiarlas!

Por: **Wilfred W. Labiosa**\*/Columnista de TRT

**LATIN VISION**



**Wilfred Labiosa**

**A**cabamos de celebrar la séptima celebración de Orgullo Latino LGBT en Boston; ¡la celebración estuvo estupenda! Nuestra comunidad Latina LGBT sigue creciendo y es más diversa cada vez más. ¿Cuál es el porcentaje de Latinos LGBT en los Estados Unidos? ¿En Massachusetts? ¿En Boston? ¿Sabemos con exactitud? La respuesta no es simple aunque debería de serlo. Les puedo informar que solo hay inferencias sobre cuántos somos Latinos LGBT en esta ciudad, estado y Nación.

Latinos, en general, crecen en porcentajes más altos de los pronosticados por el Censo conducido por el gobierno cada 10 años. Los Latinos en este estado son el segundo grupo étnico-racial más alto, constituyendo un 8.5% de la población, y es el grupo que sigue creciendo más rápido. Los otros grupos étnicos, como la comunidad de blancos, bajan; la comunidad de Afro-Americanos/Negros crece y los Asiáticos crecen en números no esperados. Entre los Latinos, el grupo más representado son los puertorriqueños, segundo los dominicanos y tercero los Brasileños. Otros grupos representados con números significantes son: salvadoreños, mejicanos, guatemaltecos, colombianos, hondureños, peruanos, y cubanos (escritos en ningún orden específico). Geográficamente hablando, los latinos están concentrados en Lawrence-Methuen, Springfield y en Chelsea-Revere-Winthrop. Le sigue en números Worcester, Chicopee-Holyoke, Lynn-Saugus y Boston. Hay muchos detalles, muchas estadísticas pero en relación a la comunidad latina LGBT no hay casi nada. Si en Massachusetts en el 2008 hubo 552,533 latinos entonces uno de cada 10 de estas personas son latino/as LGB. No puedo confirmar este número específicamente pero sí puedo corroborar esta referencia usando la "regla" elaborada por el científico Kinsey, quien escribió que de cada 10 personas hay 1 persona Gay, Lesbiana o Bisexual.

Nuestra comunidad Latina LGBT puede abogar al gobierno estatal y federal si no tenemos estadísticas. ¡Las estadísticas presentadas localmente y nacionalmente son homofóbicas! Quizás esto sea una generalización fuerte de hacer, pero es un comentario del cual espero que investigadores e instituciones tomen en consideración cuando escriban reportes y presenten sus estudios y demás. Espero que este comentario los haga

pensar más sobre la diversidad que existe en la comunidad Latina. La comunidad Latina no sólo es diversa por países, culturas, religiones pero también somos es diversa en nuestras orientaciones sexuales y presentaciones de género.

Tuve la oportunidad de asistir a la conferencia Latina estatal de Política Pública organizada por el Instituto de Mauricio Gastón de la Universidad de Massachusetts Boston. En ninguna de las charlas, reuniones de comunidad, y reportes presentados se incluyó ni se mencionó a la comunidad LGBT Latina. ¡Qué barbaridad! Qué increíble cuando mucho/as de los que escribieron o presentaron estos reportes son de la comunidad Latina LGBT. ¿No estamos en el 2010? Los latinos LGBT estaban en la audiencia y nadie pregunto nada, sólo yo hice un comentario al respecto en la charla de salud. Se dice que las personas LGBT estamos en todos los campos profesionales así que ¿por qué no somos incluidos en todos los reportes y demás presentaciones todo el tiempo?

Exhorto a los investigadores, instituciones y servidores públicos a que comiencen a preguntar a donde están las estadísticas de nuestra población Latina LGBT. Somos parte integral de la comunidad y de nuestra nación. Por supuesto que nos incluyen cuando se habla del VIH/SIDA, de drogas y alcohol, de sexo, pero ¿por qué solamente en estas áreas? Los Latinos LGBT también padecemos de cáncer, diabetes, hipertensión, y demás. Hay Latinos LGBT en las escuelas, universidades, en instituciones, en hospitales, donde quiera, pero no en reportes, presentaciones ni en estudios. Es tiempo de indagar la cuestión, de explorar por qué no nos cuentan. Exhorto a la directora del Instituto Gastón que comience a incluir preguntas e información sobre la comunidad Latina LGBT en las encuestas, reportes y estudios que escriben en el Instituto. Exhorto a todo/as que aboguen por la comunidad LGBT Latina como aliado/a o como miembro de este importante segmento de la comunidad Latina. Vamos a detener esta homofobia en las estadísticas y reportes; es tiempo de que nos cuenten e incluyan en todo no sólo durante el mes de Orgullo Gay o durante actividades sobre el VIH/SIDA. Somos una parte integral de la comunidad Latina, celebramos el mes de la Herencia Latina celebrando la diversidad completa de nuestra comunidad Latina y LGBT. Recuerden que en la unidad esta la fuerza y en esta fuerza comunitaria está el poder de traer el cambio.

*To read this article in English, please visit: [www.rainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionoct7](http://www.rainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionoct7)*

*\*Escrito en ambos idiomas por el Columnista de TRT, Wilfred Labiosa, líder comunitario y representante regional a Unid@s: La Organización Nacional de Latinos LGBT, [www.unidos.net](http://www.unidos.net).*

## Latino Pride's Awards & Coronation Ceremony • Boston, MA



PHOTOS: COURTESY TRT

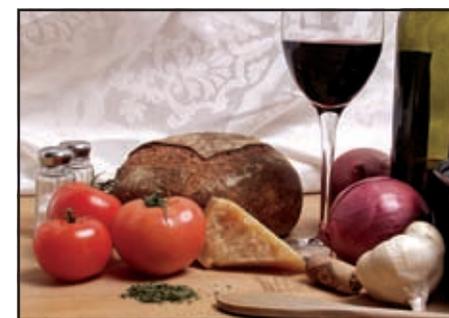
## To Cook is To Love: A Foodies Journal

By: **John Verlinden**/TRT Cuisine Columnist

**W**hat's Eating You? Can you believe all the freaky news about our food supply – eggs infected with salmonella, spinach with e-coli, milk so loaded with hormones it's causing our kids to mature too fast, and now ... genetically modified salmon???. Serious diseases like heart disease, diabetes and cancers have also been linked to what we eat. It's enough to make you swear off the stuff altogether.

Going out to eat or shopping the supermarket is like walking a land-mined battlefield. Careful where you step, there aren't any skull and crossbones signs, warning labels or yellow caution tape to help us make good choices, only tantalizing descriptions of yumminess and enticing packages. When did healthy eating become so complicated, so hard to do? We have more healthy choices from all over the world than ever before and we're constantly bombarded with messages - eat this, don't eat that. But, instead of getting better; we're getting worse. What's a person to do – we got to eat, right?

Eating healthier doesn't mean eating boring. Making delicious and nourishing meals for my family, friends and clients is my passion, and I want to share it with you. Together, we'll tour the wonderful world of food; scaling the heights of nutrition, tracking developments in food science, and exploring regulations and



labeling requirements. We'll wander off the beaten path for healthier options and get to know the fascinating plants and animals we consume. We'll also search out amazing natural aphrodisiacs and mood enhancers that can make us feel sexier and look hotter.

In the food business for most of my life, I've worked in every capacity from dishwasher to busboy to waiter to chef to restaurant owner. I've been cooking professionally for nearly twenty years; specializing in Latin cuisine for the last fifteen. Today, I work as a food writer and culinary arts educator and prepare fabulous dinners and cocktail parties.

As this will be an informal tour, please feel free to interrupt along the way. Have questions? Need a recipe? Want to suggest a topic? You can do so by emailing me at: [john@muchogusto.com](mailto:john@muchogusto.com) or [www.muchogusto.com](http://www.muchogusto.com).

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

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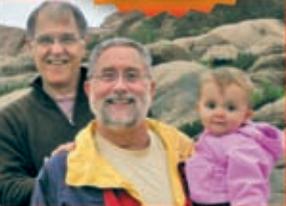
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# Are you considering taking hormones and changing your life?

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

**S**o, you are thinking about taking hormones? You want to transition and you want to change your body? This is something that will not only change your body; it will change you. Let me tell you a little about this hormone-taking thing.



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

First of all, you should be under the care of a doctor who is able to monitor your body as it changes and ensure that you are not harming yourself in any way. Taking male-to-female hormones does have its dangers — one of them being the possibility of blood clots, which can lead to death. Hormones are not something to play around with. If you do, you just might end up losing your life!

Backing up a bit, how does one get permission to get hormones? You need to have a letter from your therapist recommending that you start HRT (hormone replacement therapy). It's up to the therapist as to when he/she will write you the letter. Once you have the letter in hand you may then give it to your doctor who will help you begin your HRT.

For clarity's sake, I will talk about only the male-to-female HRT. A male-to-female is a male bodied person who wants to change their body to appear more feminine. For safety's sake I will not go into the doses of each hormone. This should be left up to your doctor. Once again, do not do HRT on your own!

The doctor will prescribe anti-androgens, which will lessen the testosterone in your body, and also prescribe a form of estrogen which will feminize your body. My doctor started me off with a very "low dose/almost

no dose" level of hormones just to see how my body would react. My body reacted favorably and my doctor slowly increased the doses of my hormones up to a level that he felt comfortable with.

Now let's talk about the changes that will happen to your body in the MTF (male-to-female) HRT. It takes a few months but eventually your breasts will grow. They will "bud" and slowly

grow to approximately one cup size less than the women in your family. If your mom and sisters are small you will be even smaller. If your mom and sisters are big you will be big, but still smaller than they are. Your breasts will become tender and more sensitive and if you bump into something with them they will hurt! I remember shutting a car door and the door hitting my breast as it shut! Yow!!!

Eventually your nipples will grow and so will the areola — the darker areas around the nipple.

Other changes that will happen are the following: Your face will feminize. Your skin will become softer. Your fingernails will become softer and easier to break. Your "derriere" will get a bit bigger. The hair on your body will slowly disappear and what does grow will be very soft. You will also lose your

sex drive or at least it will lessen considerably. This happens because the anti-androgens seek out and destroy your testosterone, which is still being made by your body. Testosterone is the hormone that controls your sex drive. Suppress it and you will suppress your sex drive. Many girls on HRT do not really care about sex at all. Others still love it but the orgasms they are nowhere near what they once were. This is a big question for a lot of people thinking about taking MTF HRT. Are you OK with a markedly lower sex drive and possibly no sex drive? Oh, and yes, your penis and your testicles will shrink noticeably.

You will also be more apt to cry when you are on MTF HRT. You can see a picture of a

remember this annoyance forever!

Some girls find men attractive in ways that they never did before. Seeing a man with his shirt off, seeing his stubble on his face, feeling his arms around you, hearing his heavy breathing and almost animal like sounds, etc. can send some girls heads spinning! The sexual feelings are felt throughout the whole body now! Yes, there are the sensitive areas, but you can feel these sensations everywhere! That is unless your sex drive is gone.

I think that the biggest change in taking HRT is that you do get a sense of calmness, a sense of being centered, a sense of feeling right. It's kind of a low level intoxicating high and you can still function.

**I think that the biggest change in taking HRT is that you do get a sense of calmness, a sense of being centered, a sense of feeling right. It's kind of a low level intoxicating high and you can still function.**

So MTF HRT gives you breasts, soft skin, less body hair, less sex drive, makes you more apt to cry, be possibly more turned on by men, have different sex sensations, have a smaller penis and gives you a feeling of peace. There's a lot to deal with here and you must

know of all these changes if you are thinking of MTF HRT. It's a life changing event and you should be knowledgeable about it. I'm sorry, but I can't speak for FTM (female-to-male) changes, but I do know that when they do their HRT that they can grow facial hair, grow more hair over more parts of their body and their voice will lower. Oh yes, they will also get cuter!

\*Deja Nicole Greenlaw is a local trans-woman who has 3 grown children and works at a local Fortune 500 company. She can be contacted at [dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dejavudeja@sbcglobal.net).

## Becoming a better woman & seriously, TRT is the most trans-inclusive paper

By: Lorelei Erisis\*/TRT Columnist

Hello Lorelei,

*I was wondering if you could help me with something. It's kind of a big something actually. I'm trying to help my gf figure out how to become a better woman. She's trans and wants to learn etiquette. And I honestly have no idea how to help her. I've actually asked a bunch of people to help me with this subject and they all really don't have any answers. If you're willing to help that would be great. What I'm looking for specifically are videos.*

—Love, Jazz Punk

Hey there Jazzy P!

Okay, your question definitely intrigued me. The subject of how to become a better woman is one I've spent a lot of time thinking about, studying and talking to friends about. At least until they tell me to just shut the heck up until "The Simpsons" are over!

But, I have to admit, I haven't watched a lot of videos about "How to become a better woman." Partly that's because I'm an actor and have always preferred to learn from direct human observation (y'know, "People Watching!"). But, mainly it's because I'm just not patient enough for most instructional videos. For better or worse, I'm a bona-fide, card-carrying member of the ADD Generation.

But, because you asked, and I am as always your humble servant; I'm sitting here at 1:23 in the morning, my eyes buzzing out of my head from several hours of surfing what the interwebs had to offer. And it was surprisingly little. Oh, now don't misunderstand me, there's a ton of *stuff*, just not much I'd recommend.

One video description I found, about eating dinner out while being a woman, suggested

trying to think of "female topics of conversation," eating the types of food a woman would eat, (like a friggin' salad!). And, having a snack beforehand so as not to be too hungry at dinner!

I almost hurled my laptop across the kitchen table.

So much of what I found were crusty old stereotypes of femininity and offensively simplified instructions on how to walk, dress and be "sexy" in every-loving-thing you do! How to sit sexy, how to sleep sexy, how to take out the trash sexy, how to do your taxes sexy! I seriously wouldn't have been surprised if I'd found a video on how to fart sexy!!!

There is a beacon of light and goodness in all this though. If it's videos you want, then go directly to the webpage of *Deep Stealth Productions*. Deep Stealth is the production company of two of the most amazing transwomen I know of — Andrea James and Calpernia Addams.

Andrea and Calpernia are both working actresses and powerful activists, among a number of other skills. Additionally, Andrea James created and maintains, *TSRoadmap.com*, one of the oldest and most comprehensively informative sites for basic transgender brass tacks issues on the web.

Together they produce a wide variety of media by, about, and for transgender people, that they offer for sale through the website of their production company, *DeepStealth.com*. You can even find clips from some of their excellent instructional videos for free on their *YouTube* channel! Although, I urge you to help support trans media and trans artists and buy a video or two if you can afford it.

All that said, the best advice I can give you and your very lucky TGGF, Jazz, is to go out



Lorelei Erisis

and do what I do. "People watch!" Not only is it fun, it's free!! You can even make it something you do together. Talk to her about what kind of woman she wants to be and what kind of person she is already? There is no one-way to be a woman. No amount of learning how to

walk in heels or sit correctly can teach her how to be the woman she already can be. That she already is.

But watch. See how different women carry themselves. How they relate to other people and move through their surroundings. Point out what you notice to each other. Write it down maybe.

Then try to do those things yourselves, both of you. The trickiest thing for any transgender woman is not learning how to act like a woman. It's letting yourself simply BE a woman. Be in your body and your own skin.

As for etiquette, I'll tell you what my Grandmother told me. Be polite, be friendly, listen to the world, speak when you have something worth saying, never say the word "hate", be respectful when it's deserved, think for yourself and wear a jacket when you go outside because I'm cold.

Finally, before finishing up for this week, I just wanted to

speaking up about a quick something. Some brouhaha and nonsense has drifted my way about TRT not being very trans friendly. To which I say, as eloquently as possible, WTF!?!?!? Seriously?!?!?

I'm biased clearly, my bi-and-a-half-weekly paychecks are vital to help support my burgeoning coffee habit. But, I don't know of any other LGBTQ publication that is more trans-inclusive. It's so chock-full of trans writers and news, they get angry letters about it! Heck, Deja and I take up a whole page!!

So please, give my Rainbow Times peeps the credit they're due, show 'em some trans love folks! For that matter, let's cut out all this fighting among ourselves and slugging off our allies! We've got a long ways still to go to achieve full-equality and we need every hand pulling on those oars!

I love you all, keep those questions coming and raise your heads up high! Slainte!

\*Lorelei Erisis, former Miss Trans New England 2009, can be contacted at: [loleleieris@therainbowtimesmass.com](mailto:loleleieris@therainbowtimesmass.com).



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## Mister Sister offers a wholly erotic experience

**By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter**

Mister Sister, located in Providence's trendy Fox Point neighborhood, has been serving the needs of the LGBT community for the last 2 years.

The store sells clothing and fetish wear, sex accessories such as "magic wands" and floggers, DVDs, and a wide range of bed and bath products including massage oils and lubricants.

There is even a collection of books – mainly erotic fiction and instructional – for sale.

Mister Sister, however, is designed for more than just LGBTs.

"Anyone can come in here regardless of their sexual orientation," explained owner Devioune Mayim-Daviau, who previously owned erotica shops in Provincetown. She came to Providence to offer a little touch of P-Town to customers.

"(Mister Sister) is a queer-owned store that is straight-friendly," Mayim-Daviau said. "It's important to me that everyone comes in here and feels comfortable."

Mister Sister has a loyal clientele – one third gay, one third lesbian, and one third heterosexual, according to Mayim-Daviau.

The store, which has a lived-in, cozy feel, features a rack of local publications near the entranceway, such as GET and East Side Monthly.

Mister Sister sells some leather products, such as harnesses, which are hand-made. Mayim-Daviau hopes to expand the number of



PHOTO: JOE SIEGEL

**Mister Sister owner, Devioune Mayim-Daviau.**

leather goods. She takes pride in the quality of the merchandise that the store sells.

Mayim-Daviau displays a shelf full of dildos, imported from San Francisco. These too, are hand-made and "body safe", she explained.

For the connoisseur clientele, they offer a selection of prostate simulators, nipple clamps, cuffs, and hand pumps. Safety is important to Mayim-Daviau, who notes the store only carries FDA-approved merchandise.

Enclosed in a glass display case are business card holders, condom cases, and even tampon holders.

*Mister Sister is located at 268 Wickenden St., Providence. The store is open Tuesdays-Thursdays from 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., and 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday.*

## Hundreds participate in RI's 25th Walk for Life

**By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter**

Over 400 people participated in AIDS Project Rhode Island's 25th annual Walk for Life in Providence on September 26.

The 5K Walk began at the State House, where numerous speakers praised the work of APRI's volunteers and staff, and vowed to continue the fight against a disease which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives in the last quarter century.

APRI and other AIDS organizations are facing a deficit of \$3.7 million in funding. The deficit is a result of Governor Don Carcieri's slashing of AIDS program's budget from \$2.4 million in FY-10 to zero for FY-11. The loss of funding threatens the programs that APRI and the other agencies provide to people living with HIV/AIDS.

There were an estimated 2,846 people diagnosed with AIDS in Rhode Island in 2008.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that around 1.1 million adults and adolescents are living with HIV in the USA, including those not yet diagnosed, and including those who have already progressed to AIDS.

"These are very trying times for people with HIV in Rhode Island," noted Stephen Hourahan, Executive Director of APRI.

Hourahan said APRI hoped to raise \$80,000 from the *Walk for Life*. APRI will continue to raise money online until December.

"We cannot let the treatment and care of people with HIV/AIDS to disappear," Hourahan added. "We're saving lives."

Providence Mayor David Cicilline, a longtime supporter of the Walk, presented a check for

\$7,500 to Hourahan.

Cicilline, a candidate for the state's 1st Congressional District, noted the AIDS epidemic was far from over.

"We have to continue this fight until we find a cure," Cicilline said.

Several candidates for state office were also in attendance, including former United States Senator Lincoln Chafee, a candidate for Governor; gubernatorial candidate Todd Giroux, and Providence



PHOTO: JOE SIEGEL

**Mayor Cicilline gives check to Stephen Hourahan from APRI**

Mayor candidates Angel Tavaras and Jonathan Scott.

APRI was formed in 1985 by a group of doctors and activists who sought to raise awareness and provide care to people afflicted with a deadly disease.

AIDS Project Rhode Island offers a variety of programs including case management, mental health and substance abuse treatment and safety net services, such as emergency rental and utility payments. The organization also offers a meal site and a drop-in center.

APRI merged with Providence-based Family Service of Rhode Island in 2008. The organization is now billed as a division of Family Service, which provides housing, mental health counseling and other services to families and children statewide.

The Walk for Life was sponsored by Coast 93.3 FM, WPRI/Channel 12, The Providence Phoenix, The Call, The Times, Options, The Rainbow Times, Cardi Brothers, Euclid Financial Services, WRNI, Fox Providence, and Munroe Dairy.

*For more information about AIDS Project Rhode Island, go to www.aidsprojectri.org, or call 401-831-5522.*

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

•••••

### GAY TOP 10

1. 8: The Mormon Proposition
2. Boy
3. David's Birthday
4. Pornography: A Thriller
5. Plan B
6. Glee Season 1 - Vol. 2: Road to Regionals
7. La Mission
8. Mr. Right
9. The Butch Factor
10. The Cinema Pride Collection

## The OutField: Straight talk on gay softball



By: Dan Woog\*  
/TRT Special

As a youth, Henry Belanger didn't play on many teams. But in his 20s he realized he loved softball – the camaraderie, the competition, the intricacies of the game.

Now – after six years in Boston's Beantown Softball, the largest gay softball league in New England – it is an integral part of his life. "I wish we could practice three times a week," he says.

It's a typical gay-man-and-gay-sports story. Except Belanger is straight.

His day jobs are associate editor of the Good Men Project and owner of a contracting company. His path there included an all-boys Catholic high school (where he "never heard of anyone being out"), and New College of Florida, a small, liberal institution that was "as opposite to my high school as possible." Belanger lived with a gay housemate and had plenty of gay friends.

But until 2004, when a friend asked if he wanted to play softball, Belanger had no exposure to gay sports.

The friend later mentioned it was a gay team. That was fine; the key for Belanger was that tryouts were not required. In college he'd played on a recreational squad "behind my 60-something philosophy professor," so the chance to be on a team – at his favorite spot, first base, no less – trumped the fact that he'd be in a minority, sexuality-wise. (League rules permit three straight players per team.)

At first, Belanger was reluctant to tell his straight friends that he played gay softball. (His father was the last to know.) But it didn't take long to get over the fear that they'd think he was actually gay. They saw how much fun he was having. (And when he got married, that settled that.)

Besides, he was adding to his roster of buddies. His teammates became good friends – and because, each season, some players left for new teams while new ones arrived, within a few years Belanger knew nearly everyone in the league. The three diamonds behind Harvard Stadium became like another Boston sports institution: Sam Malone's Cheers bar.

Belanger grew to appreciate gay softball so much that in 2006 he decided his contracting company should sponsor his team. When the squad split in two (some players wanted to move to a higher division), he sponsored both. (One team vetoed his suggestion for a carpentry-related name: The Hammerin' Homos.)

Belanger's firm specializes in high-end finishes. The stereotype of gay men flocking to remodel their homes did not hold – but he made enough through the couple of jobs his sponsorship brought in to break even on the cost.

But making money off gay men was not the reason Belanger sprung for jerseys. He genuinely liked the sport, the league and the team. And the competition.

"The better teams in the gay league would absolutely wipe the floor with the straight

teams I've played on and against," Belanger says. "They can really hit the ball. And they've got crisp infields."

(There is also, he notes, "a lot more grab-ass and crotch-adjustment in straight softball.")

Some players were a bit too competitive for his taste – one team is coached by "a chain-smoking lesbian who takes gay softball really seriously (and) runs a tight...profanity-laced ship" – but overall, Belanger revels in what he sees as the league's proper balance between playing to win and playing to have fun.

Most teams "aren't out to prove their toughness or to pretend like they're playing major league baseball," he wrote in a story for the Good Men Project. "When someone bounces into a fielder's choice with the bases loaded, or runs into an out, they don't give the guy dirty looks. And they don't relegate the guy to the end of the bench."

Belanger calls that "a healthier attitude" than he's seen in straight softball leagues. "When you get all these ex-college players together, it can be really intimidating," he says.

Belanger describes gay softball as "one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I've gotten together with good people – and had fun."

Still, he is not above casting a straight man's eye on his gay sport.

"I loathe Broadway musicals, and theater generally, and my wardrobe consists almost exclusively of jeans and T-shirts," he wrote on the Good Men Project website.

"Nonetheless, next weekend I will get together with a few dozen gay men for a few hours of hot, sweaty action. It will probably be in the 90s, but we'll all be wearing leather."

"When I get home at the end of the day, I'll be filthy and so exhausted I'll be unable to perform for my wife. I might even phone a buddy

or two and brag about my exploits.

"I am a straight man. A straight man who loves gay softball."

And wants the entire world to know all about his love.

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



PHOTO: PATRICK LENTZ PHOTOGRAPHY

Henry Belanger

## Eighth Annual Harbor to the Bay Ride draws new record number of cyclists



BOSTON, MA – The eighth annual Harbor to the Bay (H2B) ride kicked off at 6:30am, September 25th from Trinity Church in Copley square for a 125 mile ride from Boston to Provincetown. The ride raises

money to support four area AIDS organizations. This year a record number of over 360 riders and over 200 crew members participated in the one day event.

As of two days after the event, the ride had received over \$340,000 in donations and it has already raised more money for the AIDS service organizations it supports than it did in total last year. Organizers are confident they will hit or exceed their goal of \$400,000 goal by November 15th when fundraising concludes for the year. A check presentation ceremony will take place on December 1, World AIDS Day.

Launched in 2003, Harbor to the Bay has raised over \$2,000,000 for four local HIV/AIDS organizations including AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, Community Research Initiative and Fenway Health. Unlike many similar charity rides, all expenses for the H2B Ride are covered by the registration fees and corporate sponsorships and it is an all-volun-



PHOTO: COURTESY H2B

### Harbor to the Bay fundraiser prepare to ride

teer effort. This allows H2B to give 100% of all rider-received directly to the beneficiaries.

*Harbor to the Bay was created and inspired by the legacy of Michael A. Tye, who championed the idea of an AIDS Ride where 100% of the donations are used to benefit the families and friends living with HIV and AIDS. For more information on the ride, go to www.harbor-to-the-bay.org. Donations are still being accepted and can be made online or via each respective agency until November 15, 2010.*

## Creep of the Week: Let's examine Tony Perkins

By: D'Anne Witkowski\*/TRT Special

Everybody loves a parade, don't they? Especially gays. And gay-loving militaries the world over. I mean, with homos in the ranks, they aren't much for fighting, but they can build a fabulous flotilla of floats.

Or so Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council thinks. On Sept. 17, Perkins hosted a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" panel at the Values Voters Summit, which is basically a circuit party for social conservatives – except there's no dancing, since gyrations of any kind are the devil's movements.

Perkins claims "our military is under immense attack from within our country" because Obama has made it a priority to "force the military to embrace homosexuality" regardless of "what the military thought."

And to explain what the military thinks, Perkins was flanked by retired Lt. Col. Robert Maginnis, a senior fellow for defense policy at FRC, and Sgt. Brian Fleming, a young man injured twice in Afghanistan.

Fleming claims that gay soldiers can't be trusted because you wouldn't know if they had "inappropriate" motives for wanting to be your friend. Never mind that DADT is a recipe for mistrust since it's a policy based on dishonesty.

Maginnis calls the U.S. military a "moral-based organization" (because it's moral for a dude to kill another dude, so long as he doesn't kiss another dude).

And since no moral person would want to be around a bunch of queers, Perkins claims that if we let gays into the military "we will see Bible-believing chaplains being forced out of the military and not joining the military, leaving a huge vacuum."

Letting gays serve openly would be to "just stab (service members) in the heart" and would be "suicide for an all-volunteer force," according to Maginnis.

"That's why countries ... that have the 10 larg-

est militaries in the world say, 'No, this isn't the thing to do,'" Maginnis says.

Perkins chimes in: "Well, those that do (let gays serve), they're the ones that participate in parades, and they don't fight wars to keep the nation (and) the world free."

The crowd bursts into applause and Maginnis responds, "Right."

Except, you know, not right. In fact, not only are the countries that allow gays and lesbians to serve openly more than glorified color guards, several of them are actually U.S. allies.

Take Israel, for example, where gay and lesbian troops have been serving openly since 1993. And then there are countries that have sent troops to Iraq and Afghanistan, including Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France, Italy and Spain.

Now, I'm not a military expert, but I have a feeling these allied troops are doing more than dressing up as clowns and riding unicycles while throwing candy to smiling Iraqi and Afghan children lining the streets (although I do admit I think soldiers dressed as mimes would be an excellent psychological warfare tactic. This responsibility would obviously fall to the French).

Oh, by the way, those countries "that have the 10 largest militaries in the world" and who also reject homos include China, Russia, North Korea and Egypt. As Matt Gertz of Media Matters says, "That's generally not a list you want your country to be on where human rights issues are concerned."

But that would be a real bummer. So Perkins makes a hilarious joke about tranny soldiers trying to figure out which uniform to wear. And everybody laughs.

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

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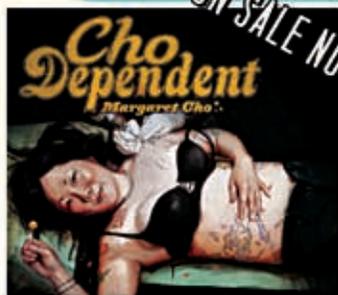
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<< PRE-SHOW RECEPTION w/ MARGARET CHO AT THE W HOTEL >>

Reception 5pm - Show 7:30pm

photo: Austin Young | [MargaretCho.com](http://MargaretCho.com)  
more info: [bostonpride.org](http://bostonpride.org)

