

The Rainbow Times

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

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RAINBOW RIVERFEST &

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INSIDE!!

PHOTO: T-BEST/TALENTAGENCY.COM

You thought Pride Season was over? Think again!

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief
OPINION Bright rainbow flags, after parties, festivals, rallies, celebrations and just about everything in between weren't only for the summer months, at least not in New England. In September alone, we are preparing for several events where you can be out and proud. As you peruse this issue of TRT, you will notice distinctive Prideful activities happening throughout the month.

In the center pages of this month's issue, you can check out the Latino Pride Supplement, Connecticut Pride Guide and Rainbow RiverFest Guide, all proudly produced by TRT. And, dispersed throughout, you can find even more detailed information about other annual festivities you don't want to miss! I've summarized them here too for your convenience.

CONNECTICUT PRIDE Hartford, CT, Sept. 17

TRT will proudly bring you the 30th Anniversary CT Pride Guide, which will be inserted in TRT's September 8th, 2011 issue. And, don't miss out on CT Pride's great entertainment line up!

AIDS WALK/5K RUN & FESTIVAL Springfield, MA, Sept. 10

TRT will cover the AIDS Walk/5K Run & Festival, with 100% of the proceeds going to fund the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts' projects. Mark your date, Sept. 10 at 11 a.m. in Forest Park, Springfield, and Walk for HIV/AIDS. TRT is a proud media sponsor of the AIDS Walk!

Six Flags New England "OUT IN THE PARK" Agawam, MA, Sept. 18

On September 18th, 2011 all roads take you to Out in the Park, Six Flags New England Gay Day! TRT is also a proud media sponsor of Out in the Park and we will have fun that day with you! Don't forget, the Park is OURS that day, so bring your better half, your hubby,

wife, girlfriend or just your friends for an evening of fun and laughter, all gay day all day long! The entertainment line-up includes: JujuBee, Miss Kitty Litter & Sabrina Blaze, Derek Hartley, Khris Francis & Sherry Vine.

RAINBOW RIVERFEST Holyoke, MA, Sept. 24

TRT will also produce the 2011 Rainbow RiverFest Guide, which is the LGBT Coalition of Western MA's main fundraiser. Rainbow RiverFest will take place at the Holyoke Canoe Club in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Crystal Waters will be the main headliner of the event. Check out Waters' one-on-one interview with TRT in this issue.

2011 LATIN@ PRIDE Boston, MA, Sept. 28-Oct. 2

We have it for you! Sanctioned by Latin@ Pride, the 2011 Latin@ Supplement has all the Latino Pride info you need. Be sure to check out the schedule of events and other relevant news. TRT is a proud media sponsor of Latino Pride, donating partial proceeds of the Supplement to Latino Pride. More details inside!

AIDS WALK FOR LIFE: Providence, RI, Oct. 2

The 26th annual AIDS Walk for Life will take place at the State House lawn on Sunday, October 2. Participate, volunteer or sponsor this important event. The theme of this year's walk is "Take Charge! Get Tested!" The goal is to promote HIV testing among all Rhode Islanders who may be at risk for HIV.

Have a safe September,

Nicole Lashomb

*Nicole Lashomb is a seasoned journalist and graphic designer. She holds an MBA from Marylhurst University and a Bachelor's degree from SUNY Potsdam. To send a letter to the editor, email editor@therainbowtimesmass.com.

With Fall fast approaching, it's Back to Business!

By: Jenn Tracz Grace*/CABO's Executive Director
Well, it's September and everyone is heading back to school, back to work and back to business. The summer months bring about a relaxed nature in the workforce and now that fall is rolling in we can all expect to be back to business very soon!

CABO has had an exciting summer being named the 2011 Chamber of the Year recipient by the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce at the annual Out for Business Conference in Las Vegas last month. We are still reeling a bit about this award. The Rainbow Times, one of our proud Print Media Partners did a Q&A with our board president, Dena Castricone and myself. I hope you check it out - it is in this issue!

We are in the throws of putting together our 2012 printed member directory and CT LGBT buying guide. If you have been thinking about joining CABO but have been on the fence now is the time to join to take advantage of being in the directory for the 2012 year! The new directory will be released in October at our anniversary event.

With the summer dying down CABO will be back to our regular meetings in Westport at the Westport Country Playhouse on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the morning. We will also continue to be in the Hartford area on a regular basis on the 1st Thursday of the month. We are



Jenn Tracz Grace

also gearing up for our annual business expo and anniversary event, which will be on October 18th at the Inn at Middletown on Main Street in Middletown, CT.

CABO is able to provide services to its member in large part due to our corporate partnerships, which include; Aetna, Foxwoods, Murtha Cullina LLP, Comcast Business Class, Bearingstar Insurance, Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union, Clear Channel Radio and The Rainbow Times. Each of these businesses has something great to offer and their commitment and support to the LGBT community is what separates them from the rest. We highly encourage you to do business with one or all of them.

*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 planning, branding, social media and design services.

In remembering 9/11, we should also acknowledge those that continue to suffer in ongoing war efforts

By: Jason Lydon/TRT Columnist

Sept. 11, 2011, marks 10 years after the plane hijackings that were seen around the world. Many of us watched on our televisions as the World Trade Center buildings crumbled to the ground and parts of the Pentagon building were severely damaged. Thousands of people died that day in a great tragedy. Many families will never get to hold, kiss, teach or learn from the loved ones they lost that day.

The loss, tragically, did not stop on that devastating day. Through the month of September we will be bombarded with stories and claims that we were attacked that day because some faceless people "hate our freedom." We will hear the heroic story of Mark Bingham, the openly gay man who was one of those who helped to crash flight 93 before it could hit its intended target. We will not, however, hear much about the Muslim families who were torn apart after that day. We will forget to tell the stories of how young Muslim men, and non-Muslims whose families were from the Arab world, were forced to register with the government and then often deported.

According to the U.S. Attorney General's office, over 15,000 people were "detained and arrested" shortly after 9/11. The Immigration and Naturalization Services (now renamed Immigration and Customs Enforcement) along with the FBI, began surveillance and targeted attacks on Arab and Muslim communities, a practice that continues right here in Massachusetts with the prosecution of Dr. Tarek Mehanna.

The mainstream press will neglect to tell the sto-

ries of how Japanese-American organizations joined together with Muslim Americans remembering the realities of the internment of Japanese Americans in 1942 during WWII. When violence comes to the shores of the United States we have a pattern of targeting anyone who looks like those who caused us harm. As LGBTQ people we know what this is like. We know that our society creates judgements and tries to force all of us into their particular boxes of what it means to be gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender.

The death and destruction that occurred on 9/11 continued when President George W. Bush sent bombs and troops to Afghanistan. There were many people who filled the streets of New York with tears on their faces as they called out, "our grief is not a cry for war." The violence did not stop with the attacks on Afghanistan, it was then justified to start an internationally decried war with Iraq. The world's largest protests occurred on Feb. 15, 2003, and troops still were marched off to war and a "shock and awe" attack rained down on the people of Iraq. Thousands of people tragically and maliciously died on 9/11, yet over a million have died since as a result of U.S. attacks in the Middle

See Remembering 9/11 on page 4



Jason Lydon

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Mike Ruiz and Hector Fonseca on the cover! Yeah! I do appreciate how diverse your content and cover are. It shows that you try to give us all what we want. In my case, please can you set me up with Hector? ;)

—Adrian Gomez, Somerville

Dear Adrian,

Thank you for your words. I wish I had the power to be able to introduce you to Hector Fonseca. Good luck, however! I hear he is lovely to deal with.

The Editor

Dear Editor,

I was really impressed with Mr. Jason Lydon's story on Amy Winehouse. It made me think about the double standards that we have as a country and how we are harder on women. I was watching a show in which Kristin Davis, the Sex and the City star, spoke about the importance of empowering women because women have such a crucial role in children's lives. If, she said, there were the right empowerment given to women without men feeling threatened, then society as a whole would improve. It is sad, as Mr. Lydon says, how women and men show sexism toward women. It should embarrass us as the democratic and advanced country that we are to still deal with women in such a way. After all, there were no drugs found on Amy Winehouse's body. Shame on those of you who judged!

—Valerie Roth, Cambridge, MA

Dear Editor,

Your account about your FaceBook experience is something I have experienced too. It is sad to know that friends of friends and family members are homophobic and express so via social networks. I think it is the religious right with their bull crap who deserve to be

See Letters on page 4

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**Sunday,
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Fear v. Justice: Love is the measure of justice

By: Matt Ashby*/Special for TRT

Justice Antonin Scalia is the U.S. Supreme Court's most outspoken and, many say, persuasive voice against protecting the rights of Lesbian, Gay, and Transgendered people. In two LGBT discrimination cases, *Romer v. Evans* (1996) and *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), Scalia wrote scathing dissents from the Court's ruling and, with much chagrin, predicted the arrival of *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* (the California Marriage Equality case that is expected to be appealed all the way to the Supreme Court). I've read Scalia's opinions on the matter of LGBT rights, and I don't find him to be an extremist bigot. He merely has a run-of-the-mill homophobia so common it's invisible to most and insidious to all. Regardless of *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*'s outcome, it will be Justice Scalia's voice that resonates with the worst kind of discrimination, eloquence armoring ignorance. Although it would be foolish to try to make a legal argument with a Supreme Court Justice, I want to examine his opinions to determine how and what causes one to use the law to perpetuate discrimination.

Justice Scalia believes that Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgendered people are discriminated against lawfully. He repeatedly cites the Nation's tradition of curtailing the liberty

and equality of LGBT people as the foundation for the legitimacy of continued discrimination. In his dissent from the ruling of *Lawrence v. Texas*, Scalia writes:

"It seems to me that the societal reliance on the principles confirmed in Bowers and discarded today has been overwhelming. Countless judicial decisions and legislative enactments have relied on the ancient proposition that a governing majority's belief that certain sexual behavior is immoral and unacceptable constitutes a rational basis for regulation."

Is sexuality simply a way of acting, a choice, or, more deeply, an immutable component to our humanity and way of being? This is the controversial question upon which rests—in the eyes of many and the law—the legitimacy of same-sex intimacy.

Tradition might provide acceptable legal reasoning, but should that truly rational reasoning? Throughout the history of the U.S., we have had laws promoting genocide, promoting slavery and slave trade, establishing the inequality of women, immigrants, people of color, LGBT people, establishing the disenfranchisement of most of the population, etc. I'm sure Scalia could presently make a case for why most of these laws were unconstitutional but, at the time these laws were originally challenged, few people did and it's hard to imagine he would have either. At the time, just as Scalia has done now, many relied on what they call a "rational-basis" review of traditional principles to formulate their views on the way things are (in this case, as perceived by the majority).

To continue this story, please visit us online at: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/09082011/scaliaoped.

Remembering 9/11 from page 2

East. As we grieve the loss of life that occurred 10 years ago we must do so with attention to the continuing suffering.

The LGBTQ press has an opportunity to join in the conversation here. Bumper-sticker slogans are already being thrown around in preparation for anniversary commemorations. "Freedom isn't free." "United We Stand." "God Bless America." "These Colors Don't Run." What do these statements say to our LGBTQ family around the world? What do these statements say to the Iraqi queer young people who are drinking water poisoned with depleted urani-

um? What do these statements say to LGBTQ people here in the United States who can't get access to their HIV medication or who are not getting access to HIV prevention education as funding gets cut? We need to recognize the tragedy of 9/11 within the context of U.S. imperialism. If we simply say that "they" hate our freedom, we will not find the justice we need for the world to heal. I hope that our LGBTQ family can honor the lives that were lost on that Tuesday 10 years ago without allowing the suffering that has gone on since then to be forgotten.

Letters from page 2

questioned. Talk about perverts! Let's check the church first. Oh, excuse me, we have and there are tons of perverts there and pedophiles. Also, I am always glad to see that the Times always touches on civil rights on most of its stories. It reminds me of right and wrong and you guys shine at it. Thanks for giving us the Times!

—Olga Beltran, Springfield, MA

Dear Editor,

Mr. Jesep's story and his comments on Judy Sheppard and Sister Jeannine Gramick were right. These women have not lost their faith and do not blame God for these other abusers (who called themselves Christians) who do use God's name in vain and hurt others just because they live and are protected by a system that lets them. For instance, look at what happened with the mistrial of Lawrence King's case. That other kid had thought of killing King many times prior to him actually doing it. And,

what is the message sent to others through the mistrial? That the lives of LGBT people are not important. We are expendable and the system, our society, says so in so many ways. To heck with it all. Mr. Jesep, you are a great person and I thank you for your story, but I am not so positive about the future of our community. Thanks for your columns. I always enjoy reading them and they lift me up often.

—Carl Summers, West Hartford, CT

Dear Editor,

I was happy to see an article on the hate crimes that are happening in PR. The island, where my cousins are from, is not a good place for LGBT people to go. It is scary and the police seems to do nothing. A recent New York Times article mentioned that people are scared over the wave of crimes happening, especially the hate crimes against the LGBT community. I am glad that you had someone cover this important story because hatred needs to be known, even if it happens abroad.

—Michael Samuels, Providence, RI



AIDS Walk

& 5K Run

of Western Massachusetts

benefiting the AIDS Foundation of Western Mass



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Walk for Life: Take Charge! Get Tested!

PROVIDENCE, RI— Hundreds of people will participate in the Walk for Life, one of the biggest annual fundraisers for HIV/AIDS. This year's event will be held at 9:00 on Sunday, October 2 on the State House lawn in Providence, RI.

The purpose of the Walk for Life is to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS as well as money, which allows AIDS Project Rhode Island to continue to provide our community with the vital services and education needed to combat HIV/AIDS.

This year the theme of our event is *Take Charge! Get Tested!* and our goal is to promote HIV testing among all Rhode Islanders who may be at risk for HIV. We plan to reach out to all Rhode Island communities to ensure that we have full representation of all individuals potentially impacted by HIV/AIDS.

The Co-chairs for the event are Guy Abelson and Josiah Rich, MD, MPH. Honorary chairs are Governor and Mrs. Lincoln Chafee Barbara



Morse Silva of NBC 10 will serve as emcee.

According to Dr. Michelle Lally from The Miriam Hospital, "The need for stepping up HIV testing efforts is more important than ever. There are many people in Rhode Island who are infected with HIV and don't know it. These people would greatly benefit by knowing their status and receiving medical care so that they can lead long and healthy lives. The Walk for Life is a great opportunity to spread this message. The sponsors of this event should be proud of their contributions to this important cause."

To register or create a team, please follow this link: <http://bit.ly/kE8OTE>

2011 Momentum Report: A milestone for LGBT rights that keeps on evolving today

Obama administration praised by MA organization leaders for highlighting the many issues regarding LGBT health disparities

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

Four decades after the Stonewall Rebellion ignited gay rights and liberation, how is the LGBT movement doing?

It's "making considerable progress" but "still is a long way from its goal" of ensuring full equality for LGBT Americans.

That's the bottom-line conclusion from a new study, The 2011 Momentum Report, by an independent think tank that provides in-depth analysis and research to help speed up LGBT equality.

The 28-page report, released in early August by the five-year-old Denver-based Movement Advancement Project (MAP), is available online (www.lgbtmap.org/momentum-report).

The MAP report tracks LGBT movement progress using four key indicators. They are changes in cultural, social and political climate; progress on key issues for LGBT Americans; improvements in the lived experiences of LGBT Americans; and the strength and capacity of LGBT movement organizations.

Recent advances include repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," a shift in public opinion toward majority support for same-sex marriage, important federal court rulings against the Defense of Marriage Act, and marriage equality in New York state.

But significant inequalities also exist. For example, committed same-sex couples in 30 states have no legal protections. Thirty-two states lack safe school laws that prohibit bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation, with 35 states lacking similar laws based on gender identity. No federal law provides workplace protec-

tions for LGBT employees. And 29 states lack non-discrimination laws prohibiting discrimination in employment and housing based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Those states include some populous ones — Pennsylvania, Texas, Florida, Ohio, Georgia, and Arizona.

Overall, movement towards greater LGBT equality is most pronounced in the Northeast, upper Midwest, and West coast, with the rest of the country lagging behind. In large measure, equality depends on where you live.

In another important finding from The 2011 Momentum Report: "The 10 largest anti-LGBT organizations have a combined revenue of \$337 million, almost four times the total revenue of the 10 largest LGBT advocacy organizations (\$94.3 million)." And "fewer than 3.4 percent of LGBT adults have donated" to advocacy organizations in the movement. In sum, the LGBT movement is disadvantaged by under funding.

The report also included a short section on Health and HIV/AIDS, noting that no states have legislation addressing health disparities that LGBT people face.

Additionally, after the first 30 years of AIDS, HIV infection "is still a significant and growing problem" among men who have sex with men. In 2009, 75 percent of new HIV infections were among men — up from 59 percent in 2000.

HIV/AIDS also disproportionately affects communities of color — Latino/as and African

To continue this story, please visit us online at: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/08242011/healthdisparities



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Stand up for LOVE

FACT: 63% of all HIV/AIDS cases in the US are in gay and bisexual men and infection rates are rising among men who have sex with men.

Fenway Health is seeking HIV-negative men who have sex with men to participate in a vaccine trial to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational HIV vaccine.

We are seeking volunteers: HIV-negative men, ages 18–50, who have been a top or bottom in the past 6 months. Volunteers receive compensation for their time and travel expenses, as well as confidential HIV counseling and testing.

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THE FENWAY
II
INSTITUTE

Never doubt God's unconditional love and acceptance of you, no matter who you are

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist

No matter the support from peers, colleagues or straight friends, there can remain in the LGBT and Searching Community, consciously or subconsciously, a feeling of sin, guilt, shame and unworthiness. Priests, rabbis and other spiritual guides have made the case intellectually and theologically for many years that to love and be loved differently is not a sin.

Despite research, scholarship and religious affirmations that members of the LGBT and Searching Community are loved and accepted unconditionally by God as families and individuals, there is doubt. Doubt festers in the deep recesses of the soul. It's a daily, tortuous and emotional struggle for some to believe they are accepted unconditionally.

I've been e-mailed many times by LGBT and Searching Community members who regularly attend church or temple. Sometimes they worship in a place where they admire and respect the spiritual leader, but who will marginalize their personhood or dismiss their loving, monogamous union by condemning gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender "behavior" in generic terms before the congregation. If it comes from the spiritual leader who is liked, it is especially painful.

Folks also have e-mailed me that they're content with their spiritual family at a church or temple that completely embraced them. Despite the warm welcome, however, some harbor doubt about God's acceptance.

Although there are similarities in the many experiences shared, no two are identical. There's no one answer or solution to the unique personal spiritual journey. Religion, life experiences and social upbringing are among the factors that make each journey different. I welcome specific questions sent to the e-mail below. Your experiences can help others not because you have answers for others or that I can offer any when you share questions, but each journey provides perspective. Regardless of your religious beliefs, if the "spirit" moves you, please e-mail me your

questions or share your experiences.

Much of popular culture today still accepts some form of hell that involves eternal punishment of the worst kind. This stems, in part, from the stunning depictions of damnation by extraordinarily talented artists of yesteryear. Although the art is fascinating, it's not accurate. Hell is not pitchfork-poking demons, caverns of fire and smoke, large meat grinders that grind sinners up for eternity. These punishments can't be found in the Hebrew Scriptures nor the New Testament.

Colorfully written descriptions of hell are the ramblings of illiterate monks who drank bad mead, ate funny mushrooms before bed, or were delirious with food poisoning. In other cases, talented writers like Dante penned his *Inferno* and John Milton wrote *Paradise Lost*, which provided nightmarish descriptions. They're not accurate.

Doubt festers in the deep recesses of the soul. It's a daily, tortuous and emotional struggle for some to believe they are accepted unconditionally.

The Birth of Satan, by T.J. Wray and Gregory Mobley, *The Origin of Satan* by Elaine Pagels, and *A History of the Devil* by Gerald Messadieu are among the books that offer excellent insights into the historical development of Lucifer. I don't believe in Satan's existence. Hence, I don't believe in vampires and werewolves. If Satan existed, why couldn't other monsters? Many Christian conservatives contend that Satan's greatest strength is the denial of his existence. Based

on this logic the same could be said of lycans and bloodsuckers.

It's been said, written and reinforced that joy, beauty and union with God make the person complete. An absence of joy and beauty hinder unity with God. This is real hell. Unwanted, relentless, and undesired feelings of sin, guilt, shame or unworthiness that may exist among members of the LGBT and Searching Community could be a call for a deeper relationship with God. It could be God's way of saying there's always room for you at the table. Come as you are.

**Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary-trained ordained priest in greater Albany, N.Y. He is author of Credit Card Usury and the Christian Failure to Stop It — A Call to Social Justice, available on Amazon.com. He may be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.*



Famed Restaurateur set to open at Mohegan Sun Joins Celebrity Owners Bobby Flay, Michael Jordan and Todd English

UNCASVILLE, CT—John J. Tunney III, a restaurant maverick who is best known for his high-profile, always-packed creations in New York, Connecticut, Las Vegas and Atlantic City, will open a 16,000 square foot masterpiece at Mohegan Sun, to be named BALLO Italian Restaurant and Social Club this month. This will be Tunney's 12th restaurant and his latest after receiving three consecutive New York Times "excellent" reviews for his current properties.

Tunney's Besito Mexican Kitchen and Agave Lounge, with three locations in New York and Connecticut, was recently named the #1 Mexican restaurant in the tri-state area by Open Table. Open Table also lists Besito West Hartford as the #1 most reserved restaurant (of any cuisine) in the state of Connecticut. This is no doubt due to Tunney's ability to immerse himself in the culture of the cuisine and craft a property that embodies the spirit of that particular culinary experience.

BALLO Italian Restaurant and Social Club will bring Tunney's same passion to the Italian experience with intense design combinations, exceptional service and a fresh, authentic menu of Italian favorites and new creations. BALLO, which means dance in Italian, will also be home to one of the most innovative late-night concepts in the United States. BALLO at Mohegan Sun was inspired by San Galgano – a Gothic abbey built in the 12th century and located in the hills of Tuscany. The sheer magnitude of the project fits perfectly with the evolving grandeur and elegance of Mohegan Sun and its connection to nature.

"San Galgano represents all that is spectacular about Italy – the history, the passion, the fortitude of the country. What better place to worship the food of Italy than in a place that replicates their mastery" says Tunney.

Once in the high-impact, high-energy abbey, guests can enjoy a massive by-the-glass wine list,

specialty BALLO cocktails and freshly prepared Italian fare from the open pantry while sitting in a cathedral-like room replete with, Italian fixtures, fabrics and dramatic lighting. Move further into BALLO and visitors to Mohegan Sun can sit at one of the largest carrera marble bars ever built or have dinner in the main dining area. Arches, stone, sensual draperies and bold materials will accent this exuberant dining experience. But the food at

BALLO is the real celebration. Tunney is committed to fresh, locally grown produce and innovative Italian staples you can eat from noon to midnight.

"I've always loved the idea of a pantry; a place where you are watching the freshest ingredients being prepared with the least amount of touch by the best pair of hands -- and delivered in an open area as if you're in someone's kitchen," he said.

The culinary team of Executive Chef Matthew Adler and Chef de Cuisine Shaun Golan will execute the creative inspiring menu at BALLO.

Once you've eaten like a high-roller, let the Bacchanal begin. At 11 p.m. on the dot, a rehearsed set of servers at BALLO will carry out a portion of the dining room furniture and guests will literally be able to "dance on tables" -- Italian night life style. BALLO will be located in Mohegan Sun's Casino of the Earth and is set to open this month.

"We're very excited about this new offering," said Mitchell Etes, President and CEO of Mohegan Sun. "Ballo is a unique concept that will further enhance the experience we offer our guests. We're thrilled to welcome John Tunney to our group of outstanding restaurateurs."

For more information about BALLO please visit www.mohegansun.com/dining/ballo.html.

To learn more about Mohegan Sun and its wide array of guest amenities, including exclusive events for the gay community, please visit www.mohegansun.com.



NOH8 Campaign adds 200 faces in Provincetown

PROVINCETOWN, MA—The NOH8 (No Hate) Campaign held its first ever Provincetown open photo shoot at the Boatslip Resort last month. Over 200 individuals and 20 volunteers had their photo taken with the NOH8 temporary tattoo on their cheeks and duct tape on their mouths to add their faces to the international anti-discrimination media campaign.

The NOH8 (No Hate) Campaign, created by celebrity photographer Adam Bouska and his partner Jeff Parshley, started as a photographic silent protest to the passage of Proposition 8 in California and has grown into an international campaign bringing awareness to marriage equality and anti-discrimination. Photos feature subjects with duct tape covering their mouths, symbolizing the silencing of their voices by anti-marriage equality legislation, and NOH8 painted on one cheek.

Since the campaigns inception in 2008, it has grown to over 10,000 faces in over 15,000 photographs, including many well-known celebrities and political figures. The NOH8 Campaign is a



PHOTO: COURTESY OF WENDELL MARKETING, LLC

Adam Bouska, Co-Founder of the NOH8 Campaign, photographing the NOH8 Provincetown Volunteers



PHOTO: COURTESY A. BOUSKA/NOH8 CAMPAIGN

Cape Cod Philanthropist & AIDS Fundraiser, Nathan Wagner

recognized 501(c)3 charity and all funds raised goes toward promoting and raising awareness for marriage equality and anti-discrimination through its interactive media campaign.

The photos taken in Provincetown will be edited and made available for free download at www.noh8campaign.com in approximately 8 weeks. Prints will also be available for purchase. For more information on the NOH8 Campaign, visit www.noh8campaign.com or www.facebook.com/noh8campaign.

TRT Heroes: Bobby Rodriguez inspires as LGBT mentor at Baystate Health

By: Grisel Martínez Ocasio*/TRT Publisher

Charismatic, classy, candid and trustworthy. Visael Rodriguez, the Chief Diversity Officer of Baystate Health, is not only a loyal LGBT ally, but a man who speaks avidly about civil rights. His sound support is at times mistaken. People who listen to his words often think he belongs to the LGBT community. He does. Bobby, as many know him at Baystate Health, is one of the strongest allies that the LGBT community has in Western Massachusetts and his actions speak louder than his words. Such dedication is also representative of Baystate's commitment to LGBT rights. Recently, the Human Rights Campaign, HRC, recognized 9 of Baystate's health facilities as leaders in "LGBT Healthcare Equality."

In this one-on-one interview with The Rainbow Times, the Puerto Rican native and Baystate Officer shares his passion and commitment to the LGBT community and the origin of such a personal and professional pledge.



PHOTO: TODD LAJOIE

Bobby Rodriguez

TRT/Grisel Martínez Ocasio: What motivates your work within this community?

Bobby Rodriguez: First and foremost, my motivation comes from my friend David. For a very long time, David was afraid to come out to me for fear of rejection. When I learned that, I couldn't believe that someone would be so willing to bury who they are and their happiness than to lose their friends and family. I had a hard time believing that his fear of this had such a major impact on his life. Because of this, and combined with my work as a diversity practitioner, I strive to ensure that LGBT people are met with equality, respect, and inclusion.

TRT/GMO: What are the top three issues that affect our community the most?

BR: (1) Communication. The doors for communication should be opened so that we can continue to understand each other across the walls of our respective communities. (2)

Representation. The LGBT community needs to continue to have an increased level of visible representation in leadership positions – organizationally, politically, socially, etc. (3) In-group competition. Like most communities, it seems that the LGBT community spends a great deal of time competing against one another rather than coming together for a common goal.

TRT/GMO: What is the best advice you have ever been given to do the proactive things you do today for our community?

BR: When I was growing up, my mother and my grandfather always encouraged me to understand the importance of differences. They always encouraged me to help those who didn't have the advantages that I do and to treat people with respect. I carry those messages with me today as I encourage others to understand and value differences and always treat people as they want to be treated.

TRT/GMO: What have you done for the LGBT community individually or collectively that you are proudest of?

BR: I have opened the doors and facilitated the communication within Baystate Health for

people to understand that the LGBT community is part of the communities that we serve, and is part of our business. As a result, I have seen great questions get asked, watched the dialogue grow and people learn, and participated in policy changes taking place. I've had the privilege of being part of a shift that has taken place within

the organization to a place of understanding and embracing the LGBT community.

TRT/GMO: What needs to be done to increase awareness of the importance of funding for HIV/AIDS?

BR: Recently, I've seen a significant increase in public education through media in a very real way. I think this is a great way to increase the dialogue about this important issue and encourage folks to get tested and be informed. Funding for HIV/AIDS is important and certainly needs to increase. One of the ways I think that will happen is by breaking down the persistent stereotype that HIV/AIDS is only a "gay issue."

TRT/GMO: What can be done about teen suicides that happen as a result of bullying or anti-gay sentiment?

BR: Bullying is a disease that affects every community. We need to continue educating and creating communities of respect and inclusion. We cannot be complacent or tolerant of such abuses. Bullying behavior should be confronted and bullies should be held accountable for their behavior.

TRT/GMO: How can the average member of the LGBT community and/or ally make a difference in our struggle?

BR: I think that it makes a huge difference when members of the LGBT community and their allies share their stories and educate others. Storytelling is powerful and helps others understand where a person is coming from. Educate those around you in whatever way is comfortable for you – to one other person at a time or to a group of people. It's also important to speak out against injustice

when you see it. Don't stand on the sidelines.

TRT/GMO: Will full LGBT equality be achieved in this country during the next 10 years? 20 years?

BR: No. Things might look a lot better than they do now in 10 or 20 years, but equality is something that you work towards forever. To use another struggle as an example, women still are not seen as equal to men in many realms and still do not have equal pay. There will always be a gap and we will continue to strive for true equality.

TRT/GMO: Do you think that there are special needs in the Hispanic LGBT community that do not exist in the mainstream LGBT community?

BR: I believe that there are cultural differences that make the struggle by Hispanic LGBT individuals different than that of other communities. To me, it feels as though the Hispanic community is decades behind in terms of their willingness to discuss LGBT issues and accept that a person's identity is part of who they are.

TRT/GMO: Do you consider yourself a hero for the LGBT community?

BR: No; I do the work that I do because I have a passion. I consider the people that I work with

the real heroes (Stephanie Houle, Kimberly Williams and the Baystate Health Leadership). They teach me so many things; they support me, and allow me to do the work that I do.

TRT/GMO: How has Baystate helped the LGBT community? How did you turn such help into actual programs?

BR: In 2009, Baystate Health organized the area's first transgender specific conference with the goal of helping health care providers learn more about this community, how to connect with transgender patients, and how to better serve their specific needs. I have been able to work with leadership to change policies to ensure

that employees and patients know that we firmly believe that they should never be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

I have been able to provide learning opportunities for all employees to gain a greater understanding of the LGBT community and issues they face. All of this has contributed to Baystate Health's recognition by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation as a "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality." These are just a few of the things I've been able to do in my time here, but I look forward to continuing on and facilitating a greater understanding of, and connection with, the LGBT community.



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Fourth Annual Fundraising Event, "Celebrating NAGLY"

On September 29th, 2011, from 7-10 p.m., the North Shore Alliance of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Youth will be hosting the fourth annual nAGLY Fundraiser Event. This event is open to everyone. nAGLY's event will showcase entertainment, a silent auction, fun and inspiration all from the Historic Hawthorne Hotel's Grand Ballroom at 18 Washington Square, Salem, MA 01970. The evening's emcee will be Boston's own Fast Freddy from CBS Radio-WBMX mix, and will feature an assortment of savory and sweet refreshments and cash bar. Other entertainment will include: DJ Marc Anthony, Jazz singer, Athene Wilson, Comedy Centrals, Jim Lauletta, The Upasana Indian Classical Dancers and nAGLY youth presentations and awards ceremony.

nAGLY's President, of the Board of Directors, Kirsten Freni explains that "nAGLY is the North Shore gathering place that welcomes all GLBTQ youth, ages 14 to 23. Meetings provide a safe, open and affirming atmosphere, where teens explore positive examples of GLBTQ identity, peer support, safe relationships and workshops on health and wellness."

Boston-born comedian/actor Jim Lauletta speaks about the significance of having organizations like nAGLY.

"When I was a teenager, there was nothing like this around and I feel that it is something very helpful to our gay youth today in order to find self-acceptance early on in their develop-

ment as young adults," he said. "True happiness begins with loving one's self first."

For Lauletta, performing at the event required little thought.

"It was fate, really. I did a show for an animal shelter fundraiser at the Hawthorne Hotel in Salem, MA and was asked on the spot by Coco Cuizon-Alinsug if I would be interested in doing a show for NAGLY," Lauletta said. "I was so flattered to be asked and said 'yes!' on the spot."

Freni stressed the importance for youth to know that they are not alone and that they have a safe place and family available to them, regardless of where they are in their lives.

This event is considered to be an integral part in reaching out to others who may not know nAGLY exists.

"I am proud to be part of hardworking and dedicated team which includes our youth, board and many volunteers who strive to make a difference," she said. "This is our 4th Annual Event, and each year it grows bigger, and I am so grateful to all who have made this night a success."

nAGLY has been around for 19 years and has offered 19 years of support services to youth, according to Coco Alinsug, the organization's Executive Director.

"nAGLY has reached over 2,000 North Shore GLBT Youth," said Alinsug. "More than 40% of youth are youth of color. Many youth [that nAGLY has served through the years] are now in their 30's and 40's."

Health and fitness guru Scott Herman has also



PHOTO: JOSEPH SMILEUSKI

Scott Herman

dedicated himself to the organization and urges others to get involved too.

"I was bullied as a kid and when Coco told me that this was an organization that helped kids who were bullied just for being themselves, I was on board in an instant," Herman said. "Supporting nAGLY is very important to me because our youth holds the keys to our future and these kids need to be able to establish themselves in a positive way in our everyday society."

Today, 50-60 youth gather weekly. Advance tickets for the event can be purchased for \$35.00 at www.nagly.com via PayPal, via e-mail at naglyleaders@gmail.com with the subject line of "Tickets," or by calling 781-913-3747. Tickets price at the door will be \$40.00. All proceeds from the event will go to support NAGLY youth programs and outreach.

You can also find nAGLY via the organization's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/northshoreglbttyouth.

"I was bullied as a kid and when Coco told me that this was an organization that helped kids who were bullied just for being themselves, I was on board in an instant"

—Scott Herman

nAGLY

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Sir Elton, Glee, and Young Carrie Bradshaw Chronicles

By: Romeo San Vicente* /Special for TRT

DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD



Elton John ditches gnomes for trolls

Elton John's movie producing arm, Rocket Pictures, scored a solid hit with this spring's *Gnomeo & Juliet*, an animated reworking of *Romeo and Juliet* featuring talking, singing garden gnomes. Filled to the brim with John's classic hit singles, the film made almost \$200 million worldwide. And because it's a short leap from gnomes to trolls, that's where Rocket's going next. *Will Gallows and the Snake-Bellied Troll*, a live-action/CGI-animated feature based on the first in a series of kid-aimed books by author Derek Keilty, is already in production with *Gnomeo's* writer/director Kelly Asbury. The story combines elements of Wild West cowboy adventure and, well, trolls from a fantasy universe. There's no voice cast set up just yet, but it's safe to expect that John will contribute in some way to the film's score. No gay troll jokes please.

Glee's Jonathan Groff and True Blood's Rutina Wesley join The Submission

When a gay white male playwright poses as an African-American female in order to pen a story about an alcoholic black mother, only to be discovered in that lie, the consequences aren't going to be the stuff of fluffy musical theater. So when the non-musical drama *The Sub-*



PHOTO: ANDREW MACPHERSON/MIRAMAX

Elton John

mission opens Off Broadway this fall, audiences can expect to see a side of Jonathan Groff (*Spring Awakening/Glee*) they might not have experienced before. The Tony nominee will be joined by *True Blood* star Rutina Wesley (as a woman who becomes involved in Groff's hoax) as well as by Eddie Kaye Thomas (*American Pie*) as Groff's boyfriend, with directing duties handled by Tony winner Walter Bobbie (*Venus In Furs/Chicago*). So if you're planning a New York theater trip this fall, put it at the top of your to-see list; serious drama—especially serious drama about touchy issues like race—never sticks around as long as the ones with catchy songs and cat costumes.

Are you ready for The Young Carrie Bradshaw Chronicles?

From this summer's *X-Men: First Class* to the upcoming *The Amazing Spider-Man*, youthful reboots are all the rage—but prequels aren't just for superheroes anymore. And while first there were just rumblings, there are now more definite plans for HBO's developing series (that would probably air elsewhere, most likely the CW) focusing on younger versions of the *Sex and the City* quartet. Imagine something along the lines of *Smallville*, only with Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha instead of Clark Kent. With two recent "Teen Carrie" books by Candace Bushnell, *The*

See Hollywood this page

Crystal Waters set to headline Rainbow RiverFest fundraiser, an intimate portrayal

By: Christine Nicco/TRT Reporter

From a young age, Music was no stranger to Crystal Waters' home. Junior Waters, her father, was a well-known jazz musician and her great aunt, Ethel Waters, was one of the first African-American vocalists to appear in mainstream Hollywood musicals.

A Philly native, Waters first majored in computer science at Howard University and later launched what could be perhaps the greatest musical accomplishment of her career when she landed one of 1991's Billboard hits with "Gypsy Woman (She's Homeless)." The song, an creative amalgamation of anger, irony, and humor garnered her international household recognition. Since then followed her debut LP, *Surprise*, Storyteller in 1994, and a self-titled album in 1997.

This year, Water's will be headlining the stage at *Rainbow RiverFest*, the annual fundraising event for the LGBT Coalition of Western Mass, a Northampton-based 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to improve and preserve the well-being of LGBT and Queer-identified people of all races and ethnicities through education, advocacy and outreach programs.

In a pre-performance interview, TRT caught up with Water's and chatted with her about her sensational career and a few other tidbits you never knew about this acclaimed pop diva.

Christine Nicco: Your father, Junior Waters and great aunt, Ethel Waters, were extremely successful in the music industry. How has your family legacy in music affected your drive in the business?

Crystal Waters: Well, I think growing up around music and around people who think in the terms of music was very helpful. I can't imagine being in a family [that didn't] really understand my music aspirations. But on the other hand, I saw some of the mistakes that were made and how to deal with the business side of things. It was very nice to have that support behind me when I first started out.

CN: At eleven years old, you started writing poetry and were later inducted into the American Poetry Society as the youngest person to ever receive that honor. Have you used any of your poetry as lyrics to your music? If so, which songs?

CW: When I started out, I used some of my poetry. On the first album, there was a song called *Deepest of Hearts* which was a poem. Writing poems is a bit different structurally than writing songs so as time went on, I morphed into a songwriter. I haven't written any poems in a while but I do jot down emotional ideas, like in a poem, and use that to create a song.

CN: Do you have a favorite song or record? Which one and why?

CW: Do I have an all-time favorite song? Hmm, that's hard. I think Michael Jackson's *Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'* is a song I will always love to listen to. I love the energy in that song. I like singers who put their personality in the song. You can hear Michael was feelin' what he was doing.

CN: How would you describe your music?

CW: Fun, a little to the left, full of energy and love.

CN: Tell me something about you that your fans would be surprised to know.

CW: I'm not dead! (*Laughs.*) Oh let me think, I'm big time into metaphysics, I meditate every day, burn sage, light candles and send love to them every day.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF T-BESTTALENTAGENCY.COM

Crystal Waters

CN: In 2007, you embarked on a world tour. What was your best experience on that tour? What was your worst experience?

CW: The best is always when the crowd seems to really enjoy the show. I love being on stage [and] my only desire is that everyone is having a good time. I got a lot of love. The worst is having to sue people who think you're stupid.

CN: What is the most important lesson you've learned in life or the music industry?

CW: ...To love yourself first and believe in yourself. When you do that, so will others.

CN: For all the young LGBT kids who want to make it in the indus-

try, what piece of advice can you give them?

CW: Well to add on to what I said, don't wait for someone else to validate you. Know who you are, believe in yourself and the others will follow. Always be humble. You never know whose hand you're shaking. They may not help you today but who knows how they will be in three years. They might just be the one. On the technical side, study songwriting/song structure. You don't have to go to school for that. Listen closely to the music you like, break it down, and hear how it's built. When you hand your music to a label person all they want to hear is how they are going to make money with you. Is your music radio friendly—College, Country, Jazz, etc.? If they can't place you in category where they can make money, no matter how great you are, they won't help.

To learn more about Crystal Waters and her upcoming performances, please visit: www.theoneandonlycrystalwaters.com. To find out more about the *Rainbow RiverFest*, the LGBT Coalition of Western Mass.' annual fundraiser, please visit: www.rainbowriverfest.org.

Hollywood continued from this page

Carrie Diaries and *Summer in the City*, freshly ready for adaptation, this could all get moving quickly. Early casting news buzzing about Blake Lively has now grown to include talk of Emma Roberts. Who knows, maybe Selena Gomez is looking to change her image; if so, then there's your Charlotte. And if the show wanted to incorporate a genuine element of the surreal into the proceedings, they could just let Kim Cattrall keep playing Samantha. OK, maybe Samantha's slutty grandmother.

*Romeo San Vicente believes in the health benefits of buttered toast with Nutella, no matter what anyone else at the gym has to say about it. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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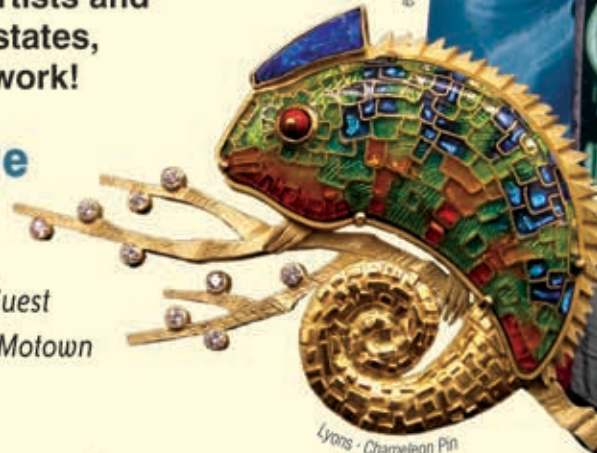
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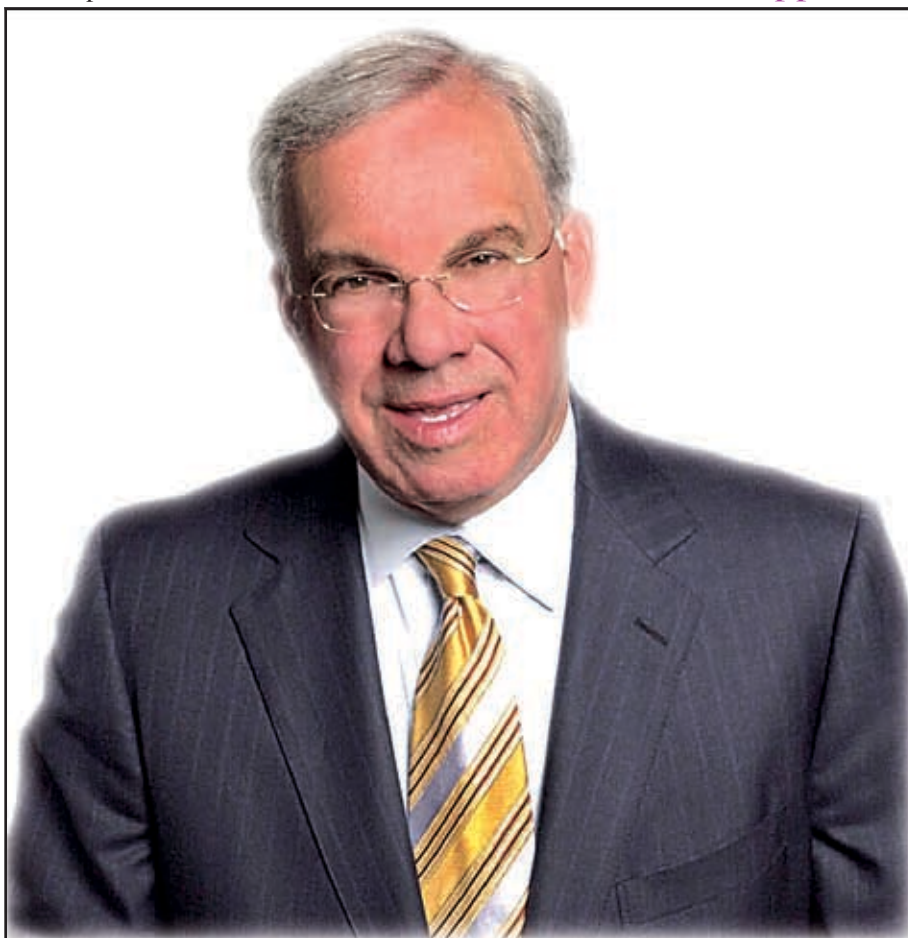
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2011 LATINO LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION: Fostering diversity in Boston & Beyond! Events announced for Wed., Sept. 28 – Sun., October 2

BOSTON, MA—Latin@ Pride, now a program of parent organization Boston Pride, is extremely proud to announce the calendar of events for the 2011 Latino LGBT Pride Celebration. Event and activities range from their annual Community Awards Reception and a panel discussion presented in collaboration with the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition to a Pageant at Fran's Place in Lynn and a Family picnic in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood.

Co-Chairs Marta Perrupato and Paul Carnes are steering the Latin@ Pride Committee and working closely with Keri Aulita, Deputy Director of Boston Pride, to produce the five-day series of events. Says Perrupato, "Our goal is to present a calendar of events that appeals to everyone. You want to dance, we have club nights. You want to talk about issues affecting our community, we have discussions. You want to spend the day with your family and really good food, we'll meet together at the park for a picnic."

Echoes Carnes, who is new to the Latin@ Pride

Committee, "It's going to be a high-spirited, fun, friend and family-filled week."

The Community Awards Reception, a cornerstone of the Latino LGBT Pride Celebration, will take place on Saturday, October 1 at the Foundation Room on Landsdowne St. Tix \$50 at the door/\$35 in advance online at www.bostonpride.org/support/donate. Additionally, tickets for the Miss & Mister Latino of Massachusetts Pageant are \$10 at the door. Proceeds from both events benefit Latin@ Pride. For full calendar, visit www.bostonpride.org/latinopride.

Boston Pride produces events and activities to achieve inclusivity, equality, respect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Fostering diversity, unity, visibility, and dignity, we educate, communicate, and advocate by building and strengthening community connections. To that end, the Boston and Latin@ Pride Committees merged in April 2011 with the goal of expanding Latin@ Pride's reach and bringing communities together.

Meet the 2011 Latin@ Pride Co-Chairs



Marta Perrupato has been a queer activist in the Boston area for the past fifteen years, collaborating with groups such as the Lesbian Avengers, MTPC and Somos Latin@s. Currently a community health worker at Fenway Health Center, Marta provides valuable resources to connect people with affordable health care. Marta's identities as a queer and as a Cuban-American inform her activism and her connections in her communities. Recipient of last year's Somos Latin@s GLBT Latin@ Community Member Award, Marta is excited to be co-Chairing this year's Latin@ Pride. Marta currently resides in the Pegasus house in Jamaica Plain and is proud to call Boston home.



Paul Carnes is an engineer, author, and entrepreneur. He comes to us from the southern state of Alabama, where he spent much of his time fighting for equal rights. He is serving his second term on the Alabama State Executive Committee and was the Southeast coordinator for Equality Alabama. He has also served in the board of the Equality Fund of Alabama and as director of fundraising. Paul was an important force in getting the first openly gay politician in Alabama elected. Paul moved to Boston to attend Harvard Business School.

2011 Latin@ Pride Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Marta Perrupato & Paul Carnes ★ **Deputy Director:** Keri Aulita
Committee Members: Zulma Acosta ★ Katherine N. Adams ★ Patricia Arevalo
Isabella Cavallier ★ Peter Costanza ★ Daniela De Sousa ★ Lisa Harrison
Joel Marshall ★ Henry Paquin ★ Kryzia Salgado ★ Jeffrey Stott ★ Hana Tauber
Adrienne Thomas ★ Lina Torres ★ Corey Yarbrough

LATIN@ PRIDE CELEBRATION Wednesday, Sept. 28 - Sunday, Oct. 2 Important Information to remember:

- Boston Pride's Latino Committee is hard at work planning the 2011 Latin@ Pride Celebration.
- The Latin@ Pride Committee meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 6PM, beginning on July 18th.
- All meetings will be held at the Boston Pride Office in The Non-Profit Center (www.nonprofitcenterboston.org) at 89 South Street, Boston 02111.
- If you're interested in joining the committee, email latinopride@bostonpride.org.

Latino/Hispanic facts that you may not know: ¿Sabía usted que ... • Did you know that ...

• Latinos tend to support corporations and businesses which specifically reach out to them, i.e., support the causes they are involved with or close to? As a general rule, these specific LGBT Latino friendly venues are where Latinos most often interact with advertisers and read specific LGBT programming editorial in a bilingual/bicultural manner.**

• TRT is the most read LGBTQ newspaper by Latinos in New England? With a 12.2% of the Latino LGBTQ readership in New England, according to a media survey conducted by an independent third party agency (CMI, Inc.), TRT holds a loyal place in the hearts and minds of Latino LGBTQ readers.

• Latin@ Pride's former organization name was Somos Latin@s LGBTQ Coalition, which ran the only Latino Pride event in the country? Founded in 2003, some of Somos Latin@s fore founders are Wilfred Labiosa along with Diego Sanchez, Evelyn Rivera, and Emely Ortiz.

• As of 2007, Latinos became the largest ethnic minority in the United States (50 million people), surpassing African Americans? A CMI, Inc. research found that proportionately, LGBT Latinos are also the second largest demographic in the LGBT community.**

• Hispanic Buying Power is projected to reach \$1.3 Trillion by 2015? According to Census Bureau, Hispanic business ownership is growing three times as fast as the national average.

• There is only a handful Latino LGBTQ newspaper publishers in the U.S., one of which is The Rainbow Times? Publisher Grisel Martínez Ocasio? Grisel Martínez Ocasio is one of the co-founders and co-owners of TRT.

• Latin@ Pride (Orgullo Latino) was first celebrated in Boston in 2004? A few of their fore founders are Wilfred Labiosa, Lisbeth Melen-dez, Evelyn Rivera, Diego Sanchez, Cristian Pi-mental, Tish Sterling, Orlando Colón, Luis Uri-zandi, Javier Pagan, and many more from the Latino LGBT and ally communities.

• According to surveys, almost all adult chil-dren of Latino immigrants are really comfort-able with English, but their parents frequently are not (only 23% report being skilled English-speakers) – making it even more important for Spanish-language media to be inclusive in order to change hearts and minds in Latino communities.*

• As of 2007, Latinos became the largest ethnic minority in the United States (50 million people), surpassing African Americans? A CMI, Inc. research found that proportionately, LGBT Latinos are also the second largest demographic in the LGBT community.**

• TRT runs a Spanish-language page called Latin Vision? Latin Vision is written by Wilfred Labiosa, current CASPAR Executive Director and former Boston Pride vice-president. Wil-fred has served in various capacities in many organizations, some of them are: Group of La-tino Gay Men of Boston, Proyecto LUNA (proj-ect for the young Latino LGBT youth), Latinas Lesbianas, member of the National Coalition of LGBT Health, member and organizer of the Pa'Fuera Pa'Lante Conferences and meetings, National LLEGO, member of the Board of Di-rectors of Boston Pride, Boston PFLAG, Ryan White Title I Planning Council, New England Association of LGBT Psychologists, etc.

• According to a Harris Interactive Survey com-missioned by GLAAD, Hispanics were often more supportive around key issues facing the LGBT community than Whites and African Americans, even showing the most support among all seg-ments on allowing openly gay military person-nel to serve in the armed forces (76% Hispanic, 63% White, 61% African American).*

• Latin@ Pride of Boston was the first celebra-tion of its kind, the oldest, in the nation and the one with the longest duration (from a weekend to a whole week)? Currently, there are other La-tino Pride celebrations, modeled after Boston's

Latin@ Pride, but are not as diverse in the activi-ties they hold, according to one of its founders.

• In April 2010, Boston Pride took over Somos Latin@s LGBTQ Coalition to add more diversity to the organization's long-lasting support of other race and ethnic groups? Boston Pride mission is to produce events and activities to achieve inclusivity, equality, re-spect, and awareness in Greater Boston and beyond. Fostering diversity, unity, visibility, and dignity, Boston Pride educates, communicates, and advocates by building and strengthening com-munity connections.

• The former Somos Latin@s LGBTQ Coalition held an annual event recognizing Latino/Hispanic LGBT community members for their outstanding job in their community? The site lists the recipients of the awards (<http://www.somoslatinoslgbt.org/id1.html>) since 2004 and their advocacy work since then.

* Excerpts for some of this information came from GLAAD: <http://bit.ly/nhMsCj>

**From CMI's 5th Annual LGBT Community Survey™ (<http://bit.ly/mVtp7g>)

The 2011 Latin@ Pride of Massachusetts Pageant currently accepting contestants

The 2011 Latin@ Pride is currently accept-ing contestants' applications (to enter visit: <http://bit.ly/nRmpVz>) for the titles of Miss and Mister Latin@ Pride of Massachusetts! To apply, complete and submit the appli-cation by September 14th. For more info, email: pageant@bostonpride.org.

The 2011 Latin@ Pride of Massachusetts Pageant will take place on Sunday, Octo-ber 2, 2011, from 8-10 p.m. It will be held at Fran's Place (www.gofrans.com) located at 776 Washington St. Lynn, Ma 01901. The door admission is \$10. The event will be hosted by Boquita, with other special performances. Prizes include cash prize, crown, sash, and more to come.

The Boston Pride Committee developed this pageant for entertainment purposes. Con-testants can enter into whichever category they'd like to, based on their own defini-tion/display of their gender identity or what they're in the mood for that day!

reach out to a dedicated readership & informed community...
advertise today @ therainbowtimesnews.com

Conferencia de Empoderamiento para Jóvenes LGBTQ

Sábado, 8 de Octubre, 2011
9am-6pm
Epiphany School

Esta Conferencia gratuita es para jóvenes LGBTQ de color entre las edades 13-21 años para dar a conocer los retos que enfrentan las personas LGBT de color, ofrecerán técnicas para crear un cambio social, y crear un círculo de red para construir una comunidad y el intercambio de recursos.

Patrocinado por:



Pistas de la conferencia:

- Preparacion y éxito para la Universidad
- Defensa
- Desarrollo del líder
- Salud y bienestar

Aprende Más y Regístrate en www.hbgc-boston.com

The advertisers in this Latin@ Pride 2011 Supplement show their support to the Latino LGBTQ Community and embrace the diversity of it. Please, take a moment to peruse through this Special Supplement to TRT and thank them for their support, or visit their establishments/offices. They will thank you for it, and so will we at TRT!

The Rainbow Times

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

therainbowtimesnews.com

CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS ★ DE ORGULLO LATINO ★ LATIN@ PRIDE CALENDAR ★★★★ OF EVENTS ★★★★★

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 28

OPENING EVENT:

DETAILS COMING SOON! Stay tuned to www.bostonpride.org/latinopride for all the details!!

LATIN@ NIGHT AT RUMOR

Get the party started early with Boston's longest running Latin night.

Rumor Nightclub

100 Warrenton Street, Boston

\$20 • 21+

A portion of the door benefits Latin@ Pride.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 29

GENERACIONES: NUESTRO PASADO, PRESENTE Y FUTURO

Un panel de discusión sobre la ubicación de lo que la comunidad Boston Latino/Latina LGBTQ fue, lo que es hoy, donde la vemos mañana y lo que podemos hacer para seguir adelante.

GENERATIONS: OUR PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

A panel discussion about where the Boston Latino/Latina LGBTQ community was, where it is today, where we see it going tomorrow and what we can do to move forward.

Harriett Tubman House Lincoln House Room

566 Columbus Ave., Boston • 6-8PM

Free and open to all

Hosted by the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) in collaboration with Latin@ Pride.

GLAMLIFE @ ESTATE

Boston's #1 Thursday night Hosted by Ju-JuBee with special guest star Alexis Mateo, from RuPaul's Drag Race

Estate Nightclub

1 Boylston Place, Boston • 10:30PM-2AM
\$10 • 21+

A portion of the door benefits Latin@ Pride.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 30

DETAILS COMING SOON! Stay tuned to www.bostonpride.org/latinopride for all the details!!

SATURDAY, OCT. 1

LATIN@ PRIDE COMMUNITY AWARDS RECEPTION

Join us for the annual celebration to honor outstanding contributors to the Latin@ LGBTQ community and celebrate another year of Pride. Mix, mingle, and party while paying tribute to our do-good community members and allies.

The Foundation Room

15 Lansdowne Street, Boston • 7-10PM

Tickets are \$50 at door, \$35 advance and includes light fare and admission to EPIC Saturdays at the House of Blues directly after the event • 21+

To purchase tickets:

www.bostonpride.org/support/donate

(please indicate names so that we can add you to the paid guest list at the door)

All proceeds benefit Latin@ Pride.

EPIC @ THE HOUSE OF BLUES

Presented by Chris Harris Presents and Rafael Sanchez/Gay Mafia • 21+

The House of Blues

15 Lansdowne Street, Boston

SUNDAY, OCT. 2

FAMILY PICNIC AND POTLUCK IN THE PARK

Bring your friends, families, loved ones, games to play, and good food to share at our potluck in the park. Let's celebrate our fabulous and diverse families and food while having some outdoor fun!

Some games will be provided for the little and not-so-little kids! There will also be tabling by local community organizations, so get ready for the freebies. • All ages

Location TBD • 12-4PM

MISS AND MISTER LATIN@ PRIDE OF MASSACHUSETTS PAGEANT

Hosted by Boquita with special performances by Alexis J-Matrix, Matt Leonard (Boston Pride King 2011) Lakia Mondale (Boston Pride Queen 2010) and many more.

Plus, music by DJ Double D. Come out and watch the crowning of Miss and Mister Latin@ Pride of Massachusetts and, when it's all over, stay to dance at Fran's long-running Latin Night.

Fran's Place

776 Washington Street, Lynn • 8-10PM
\$10 • 18+

If you are interested in being a contestant, complete and return the application at www.bostonpride.org/pageant by Sept. 14 or contact pageant@bostonpride.org. All proceeds benefit Latin@ Pride.

HOT MESS SUNDAY... LATINO STYLE!

Close out the week with Destiny and DJ Richie LaDue at Underbar.

Underbar

275 Tremont Street, Boston

\$10, 21+

A portion of the door benefits Latin@ Pride.



¿Qué es la HBGC y qué hace en la comunidad Latina LGBTQ?

La organización HBGC (Hispanic Black Gay Coalition) de Boston está dedicada a servir y unir a la comunidad LGBTQ Afro Americana y Latina. Trabajamos para inspirar y fortalecer individuos de la comunidad LGBTQ Afro Americana y Latinos, para mejorar sus vidas a través del activismo, educación, y consejería.

El enfoque de HBGC es:

- Servicios de apoyo al salir del "clóset"
- Consejería y prevención de las Enfermedades de Transmisión Sexuales (ETS) y VIH
- Apoyo de crecimiento espiritual
- Oportunidades de servicios a la comunidad
- Oportunidades de Construcción y Contactos de la comunidad

Visite nuestra página cibernética:

www.hbgc-boston.org

o www.facebook.com/hbgcboston

What is HBGC & what does it do in the LGBTQ Latino community?

Founded in 2009, the Hispanic Black Gay Coalition (HBGC) is one of new non-profit organizations in Boston dedicated to the unique and complex needs of the Hispanic/Latino and Black LGBTQ community. HBGC works to inspire and empower Hispanic/Latino and Black LGBTQ individuals to improve their livelihood through activism, education, outreach and counseling.

Services HBGC offer includes:

- Coming Out Support
- HIV & STI Prevention and Counseling
- Spiritual Growth Support
- Community Service Opportunities
- Community Building and Networking Opportunities

For more information visit:

www.hbgc-boston.org

or www.facebook.com/hbgcboston

Memorable Quotes by Important Latino Leaders & Allies:

"I feel confident in saying yes; there are often specific challenges for a person who is holding these two identities. One example is how the historically deep-seated homophobia and transphobia that exists within the Latino community may make it difficult for LGBTQ Latinos to turn to their families in times of need, such as when they experience discrimination out in the world, or when they simply want to share the joys of a new love."

— Marta Perrupato, Co-Chair, Latin@ Pride

"To me, it feels as though the Hispanic community is decades behind in terms of their willingness to discuss LGBT issues and accept that a person's identity is part of who they are."

— Bobby Rodriguez, Chief Diversity Officer, Baystate Health

"We should all be welcoming of the diversity within our community, whether it relates to racial, ethnic, sexual orientation or gender identity differences. Segregation of any type will only hurt our struggle and our quest towards universal human rights."

— Grisel Martínez Ocasio, Publisher, The Rainbow Times

"Many times Hispanic/Latino members of the LGBT community face an additional layer of discrimination because of their race. This can result in ostracism not just within the Hispanic community, but also the LGBT community."

— Bernadette Stark, partner, Dinsmore Stark, Attorneys At Law

"While belonging to two communities may seem like a blessing ... more to celebrate, cultural rites and passages to practice, a double sense of belonging, a richness that comes from blended identity, the flip side is also true. LGBT people of color, including our Latino/a brothers and sisters, run the risk of being ostracized by both communities to which they belong. Too often we hear stories of LGBT people of color not feeling welcome in LGBT circles or being told that they've disgraced their family name. THIS is why we celebrate and honor the Latino LGBT Community, to assure that Latino/a LGBT people can be all of who they are."

— Keri Aulita, Deputy Director, Boston Pride

"They [young poor LGBTQ people of color] are having a really different experience coming out. There is really no place for them to go."

— Nelson Román, Holyoke Para Todos, Board President

"We as a Latino LGBT community should take the initiative to educate others in the Latino community about the diversity, and issues affecting the LGBT brothers and sisters."

— Wilfred Labiosa, Executive Director, CASPAR

"We need to stand up to bullying and hate-speech with every opportunity-not just [LGBTQ] community members, but allies too. Maybe even more importantly allies."

— Glenn Koetzner, Owner, Crazy Dog Photography & Lead Photographer, TRT

Éxito LGBT en Cuba se debe a CENESEX y Mariela Castro Espín Transexual se casa con hombre gay el día del cumpleaños de Fidel Castro

Por: Camilo García/Especial para TRT



Gran revuelo ha causado en la prensa internacional, alrededor del 13 de agosto, la boda entre Wendy e Ignacio, supuestamente "la primera boda gay" en Cuba, en la que ella es una transexual operada con cambio de identidad—o sea, legalmente mujer—y él es declaradamente gay.

Mucho se ha dicho—y demostrado—del papel de los medios en crear una imagen alrededor de un hecho ... y mucha mentira se ha tejido también alrededor de esta historia. Porque, a mi entender, ni esto ha sido una "boda gay"—realizada en el más estrepitoso estilo de revistas del corazón, entre un hombre y una mujer—ni es la primera transexual que se casa en Cuba.

El calificativo de "primera boda gay" es muy relativo porque, en todo caso, sería muy simbólica. Desafortunadamente, el matrimonio entre personas del mismo sexo todavía no es legal en Cuba y muchas personas lo habrán hecho así en la privacidad de su casa, con mayor o menor revuelo. Recuerdo que en 2007 fue muy conocida la ceremonia simbólica de Elizabeth y Mónica, en las instalaciones del CENESEX y con el auspicio del grupo de mujeres lesbianas y bisexuales "Oremi".

Por otra parte, la primera transexual que fue operada en Cuba en 1988 (Mavi Susset) ya se ha casado en dos ocasiones anteriores, sin que la prensa haya prestado atención y en medio de la discreción que ha tenido su vida—hasta que

hace un par de años Marilyn Solaya realizara el documental "En el cuerpo equivocado".

Pero la cacareada boda no hubiera tenido tanto revuelo internacional si Ignacio no se autoproclamara "disidente" del gobierno revolucionario. De ahí que los invitados de lujo a esta boda, declarado por ellos mismos, han sido Yoani Sánchez y su esposo, las Damas de Blanco y los funcionarios de la Sección de Intereses de los Estados Unidos en La Habana.

Sin olvidar que, dejando a un lado las ingenuidades, pesa mucho el anuncio de la propia administración estadounidense de haber aprobado \$300 mil dólares este año para organizar un movimiento LGBT "independiente" en Cuba. ¿Independiente de quién? Leyendo claramente: para desacreditar el trabajo institucional del CENESEX, liderado por Mariela Castro Espín.

Precisamente en esos días, más exactamente el 12 de agosto, se celebró en el CENESEX una fecha importante: el 10mo aniversario del Grupo TransCuba, que ha trabajado sistemáticamente

y con gran valentía para desterrar prejuicios y estigmas contra las personas trans en el país. A la celebración asistieron artistas y personalidades de mucho prestigio ... y también estaba la prensa internacional acreditada en Cuba. Sin embargo, llamó la atención la ausencia de cobertura, salvo alguna que otra aislada mención y a propósito de la publicitada boda.

Sin contar el ansia de protagonismo que sobresale en esta historia, el hecho de que una mujer transexual operada y con cambio de identidad se case en la más tradicional de las ceremonias nupciales lo que demuestra es que la Revolución cubana, y el CENESEX en particular, han hecho un sistemático y exitoso trabajo para el respeto y reconocimiento de los derechos de las personas LGBT. Y hacerlo el 13 de agosto, día del cumpleaños de Fidel, no puede ser más que un reconocimiento a ello.



PHOTO: WILFRED LABIOSA

Wendy Iriepa posa con un amigo de la comunidad.

Para más información sobre esta polémica, lea "El Desafío de una Transexual Vestida de Novia" por Dalia Acosta que se encuentra en: <http://bit.ly/oUQqYp>



The Rainbow Times is a proud sponsor of the 2011 Latin@ Pride celebration.

TRT takes all of the diversity of our LGBTQ communities seriously and advocates for those without a voice.

Thank you for reading TRT!

The Rainbow Times

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

therainbowtimesnews.com



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617.457.8140

GLS 1001 10/1/10/11

Sylvia Rivera: ¡Una mujer activista para la historia!

Por: Wilfred W. Labiosa* / Columnista de TRT

LATIN VISION



Nuestros padres y abuelos siempre hablan de la historia y de los "buenos tiempos". Ya que vamos a celebrar el 8to Festival de Orgullo Latino en Massachusetts, la más vieja y larga celebración en su

indole en esta Nación, quise buscar alguien LGBT de esos "buenos tiempos". De los tiempos cuando se hacían protestas en las esquinas en contra de alguna norma injusta o en contra de alguna situación política. Me vino a la mente la protesta de Stonewall y me recordé de Sylvia Rivera, una de las pioneras en la comunidad LGBT en los Estados Unidos y el Mundo. Nació y se crio en la ciudad de Nueva York, de descendencia Puertorriqueña y Venezolana. Nació Rey pero murió una Reina del activismo – una de las primeras activistas contemporáneas y la única en sus tiempos, Latina y transgénero. Nació y fue una niña huérfana pero falleció alrededor de todas sus hijas adoptivas y familiares. Desde el cuarto grado comenzó su transición a mujer. Por muchos años vivió en las calles de Nueva York pero falleció en los corazones de mucho/as en el mundo entero, ya que hizo la diferencia en nuestras vidas como activista transgénero Latina.

Desde la Guerra de Vietnam hasta su muerte, fue activista para un sinnúmero de causas. Participó en los grupos Black Panthers y gangas

("Nuyoricans") como mujer Latina. La conocemos más por su participación en las protestas de Stonewall y su trabajo a favor de los derechos humanos para personas transgéneros, niños desamparados, jóvenes LGBT y mujeres violadas. Fue considerada por el activista Riki Wilchins, "como la Rosa Parks del movimiento transgénero".

En sus últimos años de vida, habló sobre la necesidad de unificar la comunidad Latina y transgénero para educar a otros/as sobre la riqueza de nuestra historia LGBT. Ella siempre habló del legado histórico de los transgéneros de Stonewall. Ella participó en la Marcha del Milenio en Italia donde fue venerada como la Madre de los Gays. En el 2001, renovó su compromiso con la comunidad formalizando la organización llamada Las Transgeneros Revolucionarias de la Calle en Acción – STAR por sus siglas en inglés, *Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries*. Esta organización, aún existe y aboga por la aceptación de personas transgéneros en la sociedad y por la igualdad de derechos. Desde su cama y antes de morir se reunió con legisladores y activistas para que organizaciones y la legislatura incluyeran a personas trans en leyes y en el movimiento. Ella siempre quiso incluir a las transgéneros en todo y nunca se dio por vencido. Aunque fue rechazada por muchos/as en la comunidad Gay y Lesbiana ella nunca decayó o se bajó de "la tribuna". Ella decía: "El infierno no

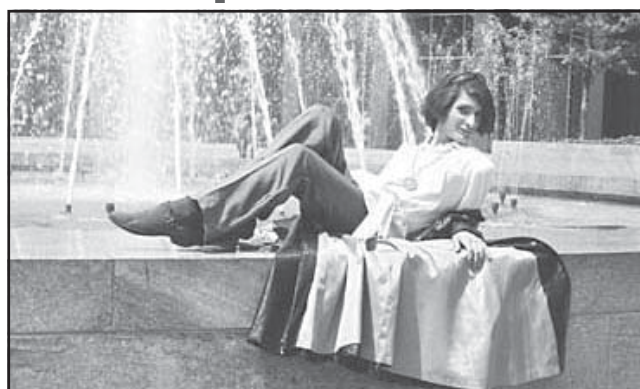


PHOTO: KAY TOBIN LAHUSEN

Sylvia Rivera

es tan malo como la furia de una draga – 'Hell hath no fury like a drag queen scorned.'"

Hablé con otros/as que conocían a Sylvia y todos/as me dijeron que era una persona excepcional. Sylvia fue parte de la historia de Stonewall ya que fue una de las únicas Latinas que estuvo allí y abogó por la inclusión de Transgéneros a través de los años. En la historia LGBT en los Estados Unidos se habla de Stonewall pero no de Sylvia – es tiempo que reconozcamos que Sylvia estuvo allí y que ella abogó por todos/as nosotros/as como comunidad Latina GLBT. Su legado no murió de cáncer en el 2002, sino que creció. La Organización Proyecto Sylvia Rivera fue formalizada en su honor para seguir abogando por la libre expresión de género e identidad, sin discriminación ni violencia. Ella fue incluida en el primer tomo de La Historia Lesbiana y Gay; también la esquina de las calles de Christopher y Hudson (dos bloques de Stonewall) en Manhattan fue renombrada como La Esquina Rivera en su honor. Esta esquina fue a donde Sylvia comenzó el movimiento transgénero tirando sus zapatos (y botellas) a los policías en aquel día de Junio 28—las protestas de Stonewall. En el 2007, escribieron un musical, obra de teatro y un sinnúmero de artículos y libros en su honor. Además su familia LGBT e hijas adoptivas siguen el trabajo de su mamá, de nuestra mamá.

Sobre su participación en la Protesta de Stonewall ella dijo que en ese momento ella se dijo a sí misma, "No voy a perder un minuto de esto, esto es la revolución que esperaba ... Nos han tratado como mierda todos estos años. Ahora es nuestro turno". Es tiempo de aprender de nuestra historia, de esos "buenos tiempos" y celebrar nuestro Orgullo Latino LGBT!

*Escrito y editado por Wilfred Labiosa, psicólogo y representante local de Unid@s: La Organización Nacional Latina LGBT.

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HEALTH

Did you know that Fenway Health has a Spanish information line?

To reach someone in Spanish, call: 617.927.6460



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the **Network la Red**

25-33% of LGBTQ people experience abuse by a partner.

Call to talk....

617.742.4911 (v)

617.227.4911 (tty)

- bilingual hotline
- emergency shelter
- support group



- línea de crisis bilingüe
- refugio de emergencia
- grupo de apoyo

Llama para hablar...

25-33% de personas LGBTQ experimentan abuso por su pareja.

www.tnlr.org



Gracias por leer el periódico predilecto de la comunidad Latina/Hispana. The Rainbow Times es el periódico que la comunidad Latina/Hispana LGBTQ lee más. ¡No te sientas incomunicado! Tenemos las noticias LGBTQ que te interesan y en español.

theNetwork
laRed

La Network La Red: El abuso entre parejas - es asunto nuestro

Acabando con el abuso en las comunidades LGBTQ, sadomasoquistas y poli amorosas

Ayuda disponible a través de:

- Línea de Crisis Bilingüe
- Refugio de Emergencia
- Grupos de Apoyo
- Planes de Seguridad
- Abogacía

Llama para hablar ...

Línea de Crisis: 617-742-4911

TTY: 617-227-4911

The Network La Red: Partner Abuse - it's a community issue

Ending partner abuse in LGBTQ, SM and polyamorous communities

Assistance available through:

- Bilingual Hotline
- Emergency Shelter
- Support Groups
- Safety Planning
- Advocacy

Call just to talk ...

Hotline: 617-742-4911

TTY: 617-227-4911



¡Saludos!

De parte de Lambda Legal, felicitamos a Massachusetts por este exitoso festival de orgullo Latino. Lambda Legal es la organización sin fines de lucro nacional más grande y más antigua de defensa legal para la comunidad lesbiana, gay, bisexual y transgénero (LGBT) y para aquellos viviendo con el VIH. Cuando personas LGBT y personas con el VIH son discriminadas nosotros presentamos demandas para asegurar que sus derechos sean respetados. Estamos cambiando la ley para todas personas LGBT y personas viviendo con el VIH.

Quisiéramos compartir contigo no sólo las demandas exitosas y los derechos que se han sostenido, sino también las historias verídicas de nuestros clientes. Son esas historias de valentía frente a la injusticia y a veces frente a la tragedia, que impulsan nuestros abogados y abogacía.

Pero no todo se puede lograr a través de una demanda legal. Para lograr no sólo la igualdad jurídica que buscamos (y merecemos), sino también la seguridad, la aceptación y la equidad, necesitamos que unas tu historia a la de nuestros clientes.

En Lambda Legal decimos *Haz tu vida. Defendemos tus derechos.* Espero que las historias de valentía de nuestros clientes te nutran y te inspiren a seguir adelante y vivir tu vida de una forma más abierta.

Visita nuestra página web (lambdalegal.org/es/) e insíbete para recibir nuestros informes y ordena un ejemplar de nuestra revista *Impacto*. Comunícate con nuestra Línea de Ayuda con cualquier duda legal acerca los derechos de las personas LGBT y personas con el VIH (866-542-8336 ó lambdalegal.org/es/linea-de-ayuda).

¡Únete a Lambda Legal para abogar por la igualdad!

—Francisco Dueñas



Greetings!

Lambda Legal would like to congratulate the Latin@ Pride festival of Massachusetts. Lambda Legal is the largest and oldest nonprofit legal organizations dedicated to achieving the full recognition of civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT) and those living with HIV. When LGBT people and people living with HIV are discriminated we sue to make sure that their rights are respected. We are looking to change the laws for all LGBT people and people living with HIV.

At Lambda Legal, we not only want to share with you information about those successful cases and the rights that have been secured, but also the true stories of our clients. It is those stories of courage in front of injustice and sometimes tragedy that inspire our lawyers and our advocacy.

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—Francisco Dueñas

The Rainbow Times holds 12.2% of the Latino LGBTQ readership in New England (independent third party research). If you want to reach the Hispanic/Latino LGBTQ community, TRT is the best vehicle to do so! The Rainbow Times is 50% Hispanic owned and proud to be so!



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Domestic violence among same-sex relationships remains major problem, particularly among women

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

According to a 2008 report released by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), 67 percent of the reported incidences of domestic abuse in the gay community came from lesbians or gay men.

"While overall reports of domestic violence, which have grown steadily in the past decade, appear to be maintaining at the same rate, the violence has increased dramatically and interactions with the police appear to be compounding issues of violence. Programs have also reported an increasing demand from LGBTQ communities of color, young and elder, disabled, and immigrant victims of intimate partner violence," the report said.

"With increased violence at the hands of intimate partners and of the police, and increasingly diverse communities seeking services, increased cultural competency in mainstream institutions and the continued presence of LGBTQ-specific anti-violence programs are needed now more than ever."

Deborah DeBare, the executive director of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, told *The Rainbow Times* her agency recorded 22 cases of same-sex domestic violence within the past year. Of that number, 20 involved women and 2 involved men. However, DeBare notes those are only the incidents that have been reported.

"To me, what that shows is there probably is a much greater comfort level (among) lesbians coming forward and seeking services than men who may not feel traditionally comfortable going to a mainstream domestic-violence program," DeBare noted.

DeBare said the need for one partner to maintain power and control are the causes of domestic violence in both same-sex relationships and heterosexual relationships. However, what makes abuse in same-sex relationships unique is the atmosphere of homophobia, DeBare explained.

The partner who is being abusive to their spouse may threaten to "out" them to friends, family or co-workers.

"That provides an additional barrier to the victim to seek help," DeBare said.

Research has shown some lesbian victims of abuse to be more willing and capable of taking on their abuser in a physical way.

"In a heterosexual relationship, the female is physically a lot weaker and is not able to fight back, but in some lesbian relationships you don't have that dynamic. Both partners are equally capable of exerting physical control over the other," DeBare said.

DeBare said it is difficult to know if the rate of domestic abuse among same-sex couples has increased the past few years. She notes there have been more reports of incidences of abuse due to the increase in services as well as the efforts to reduce the stigma of people who do come forward and seek help.

The Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence is made up of six agencies which provides counseling, shelter and counseling to victims of domestic abuse. A 24-hour helpline is available (800-494-8100).

One of the Coalition's member agencies is Sojourner House in Providence. The organization provides counseling services for women who have been battered by their spouses and provides transitional housing.

The reasons why women stay in abusive relationships vary wildly, Erin Gargurevich-Gorman, a bilingual advocate at Sojourner House, told *The Rainbow Times*.

Some victims feel they have nowhere to go, while others stay with their partners for economic

reasons. They may be dependent on their mates financially, so moving out of their home is not a viable option.

The average survivor of domestic abuse leaves their partner a total of seven times, said Gorman.

The majority of clients at Sojourner House are in heterosexual relationships. However, Gorman hopes to provide more resources for GLBTs.

Internalized homophobia often plays a role in abuse between same-sex partners, according to Gorman: "(The abuser) is expressing their self-hatred on their partner."

The abuser may have been abused themselves at one point in their lives. Gorman said a "mutual unhealthiness" exists in abusive relationships. Abusers may be seeking someone to take their ag-

gressions out on.

"There are a lot of underlying factors," Gorman said, noting the violence perpetrated was not necessarily hatred for the one being abused. "It's about control, power, and dominance."

Gorman believes abusers can learn to change their behavior so they don't commit violence against their partners, but it depends on whether or not they are willing to do the work.

Domestic violence is not about race or gender, Gorman explained. Entire communities are impacted by the abuse of a group of people.

"It affects everyone," Gorman added.

Sojourner House is at 386 Smith Street, Providence. Their web site is www.sojournerrri.org. They also have a Facebook and a Twitter page.



PHOTO: JOE SIEGEL

The Sojourner House in Providence provides counseling services for women who have been battered by their spouses.

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It's time to tell people you are coming out as transgender! Are you ready for their reactions?

TRANS NEWS By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

Let's talk about coming out. You've finally accepted that you are transgender and that you are going to transition to your true gender. You are full of excitement at the thought of living as your true gender and you know that there will probably be some problems. But you are gung-ho and ready to finally begin to live your life as yourself! Now it's time to tell your family and friends, the people at work, the people at your church, the people in your golf league, bowling team, book club, rock band or whatever your activities are. They are all going to know about you and you are hoping for the best. Look out, world, here you come!

Having been through this process and talking with others who have been there too, let me tell you that not everyone will react the same. As a matter of fact, some people who you thought would be receptive to your transition may not accept it at all. And some people who you think will never accept you will do so without even batting an eye. You think that you know someone and can predict their reactions? You will probably be surprised no matter how sure you are of others' reactions.

Some people will be very OK with your plans to transition, and they will tell you that they think it's wonderful, and that they will support you totally. Some of these people already know you were headed in this direction, and this may surprise you. "How did they know? Did I give off clues?" are some of the thoughts you might have about these intuitive souls. It's all good with this group!

Of course, there will be people who do not like this idea at all, and they will tell you so in no uncertain terms. Some of these people may never, ever speak to you again. Maybe further on down the road they will come to terms with your transition, but some may not. You have lost them forever. I'm sorry, it's awful. But that's just the way it is sometimes.

Some people will think that you are kidding and



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

they will refuse to believe you. When they finally see that you are serious about it, some will be OK with it while others will think you are crazy and headed down the wrong path. They just don't understand how or why you want to live as the other gender. It's really very hard to try to explain being transgender to these folks. If they could only see that it is what it is, we are who we are, and we need to be who we are, maybe then they would understand.

Recently, I was with a group of about a dozen transpeople and a couple of allies. During our conversations, one of the allies, I will call her Linda (not her real name), posed a question to the group. Linda asked: If there were a pill or a shot that transgenders could take that would turn us back into our birth genders, would we take it? We all said we would not take that pill or shot. Linda responded, "but your lives [would] be so much easier." We all tried to explain that it is just who we are. We are trans. That is us.

To help her understand, I asked Linda if she was a Boston Red Sox fan. She said, emphatically, "Oh, yes." I asked her if there were a pill or a needle she could take that would turn her into a New York Yankees fan, would she take it? Not surprisingly, Linda said "No!," again quite emphatically. I said, "You are a Red Sox fan and you do not want to be a Yankee fan. I am a woman who does not want to be a man. And neither one of us wants to take that pill or that shot. It really is the same thing. You are who you are and we are who we are."

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

Queeries: Have you set a date for your wedding?

ADVICE By: Steven Petrow*/Special for TRT

When are you getting married?

Q: We're going out of our minds. Ever since New York passed the law allowing same-sex couples to get married there (no matter where they live), every straight person we know wants to know when we're getting hitched (and a lot of our gay friends, too). It's become oppressive. Help!

A: You, too? I've joked to some friends that I feel like Mary Tyler Moore in her eponymous sitcom: the world wouldn't be quite right until she got married (even though she never did). Anyway, hurrah that we've won the right to marry in the Empire State, but let's hold on just a New York minute and remind our well-intentioned friends that marriage isn't mandatory. But how do we say it? Oddly, it's easier to be snarky to a blatantly rude person than to a friend with foot-in-mouth disease. Still, there are a number of ways you can answer the altar call:

- "You'll be the first to know, after we decide who has to propose in a gay relationship – but don't hold your breath."
- "We're talking to our accountant to figure out whether this makes sense for us financially. It doesn't for everyone."
- "It ain't broke, so we ain't fixing it."

Which hand do we wear our rings on?

Q: My boyfriend and I are planning our wedding, and I heard that gay couples often wear their rings on their right hands instead of their left. Is that true?

A: Well, it's true that nothing says "married" quite like a gold band on your left ring finger. But this is another straight wedding tradition that gay couples have been known to play around with, in this case by wearing our commitment rings on our right hands to symbolize (and protest) the fact that we couldn't get legally married. For some, it's a bit of an inside joke, a queer variation on an overwhelmingly straight convention. For others it's an explicit political statement. Now that six states and the District of Columbia have adopted marriage equality, the era of using our rings to make in-jokes and political statements is coming to an end. Not surprisingly, some couples plan to move their rings from right to left when they officially tie the knot. Actor Neil Patrick Harris, who has been engaged to his partner for five years, once joked that his right hand had become calloused during the long wait. "It'd be nice to move the ring over here someday," he said, indicating his left hand. The bottom line is that whichever hand is right for you is the right one. Either way, your rings symbolize the lifelong commitment you're making.

To continue this column, please visit us online at: <http://bit.ly/qBQxcm>.

*Steven Petrow is the author of Steven Petrow's Complete Gay & Lesbian Manners and can be found online at www.gaymanners.com. Got your own question? E-mail it to him at ask@gaymanners.com.

Taking a thrilling and adventurous visit to one of the last old-guard BDSM houses left in the world

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist

By now, many of you have either met me in person or encountered my ubiquitous online presence. If you haven't, rest assured, you soon will. I do get around some!

One of the questions I get when out and about and handing my card to folks is this:

"So, Lorelei, I understand the 'Pageant Queen' and 'Improviser' bit. But what exactly do you mean by calling yourself an 'Adventurer'?"

Well, I'm glad you asked. If I have any sort of fetish that I can really pin down, it's that I really, really like to say "yes" to any kind of new experience or fresh adventure. I like to go places I've never been before and meet all kinds of new folks. In fact, I also have a penchant — which has occasionally gotten me in trouble over the years — of wanting to be in places I'm not supposed to be. Like, for instance, the roof of my old high school for a midnight stroll. Or the decaying hallways and tunnels of the old Northampton State Hospital before it was torn down.

I've hung out with old-school hackers and Irish mobsters. I've gone alone to strange countries where I did not speak the language, and I once lived for a couple of months in a storm-damaged movie studio near New Orleans' lower 9th ward, post-Katrina.

Over the past seven years, I have shared many of these adventures with my girlfriend, the fabulous Widow Centauri.

Honestly, I'm a sucker for anything that's going to make a good story.

As it happens, I am right this very moment in the midst of another rollicking adventure with Widow and I wanted to tell you about a place we just left, a place my adventures have occasionally brought me to several times in the past. A place called "La Domaine Esemar."

Among other things, Widow is a famous dominatrix (and also a stand-up comedian!) and my close association with her has brought me many places that not very many people get to see. La Domaine is one of those places.

Their website announces them to be the "world's oldest SM training chateau," and I have very little doubt of the authenticity of that statement.

In many ways, La Domaine is one of the last remaining vestiges of a quickly disappearing old guard of the BDSM community. It's located in a private home somewhere in the woods of upstate New York. There is a fully equipped dungeon, private outdoor space and a whole community of folks with an interest in BDSM that ranges from the neophyte to folks who live the lifestyle 24/7.

The Chateau is run by a couple of absolutely wonderful folks. Master R, who founded La Domaine Esemar some years ago and who has been immersed in the BDSM community longer than many of us have been alive. And the lovely Mistress Collette, the skillful and charming headmistress of Esemar. It is their home and the center of their family, which includes a range of house and personal slaves as well as masters and

mistresses in training and an orbiting coterie of experienced, professional and lifestyle players.

Although at any given time of the year you will find a warm and welcoming house full of the most unexpected delights, the pulse of La Domaine centers on a number of special parties and events held throughout the year. There are regular "play parties" featuring well-known and highly respected visiting mistresses. It is in this capacity that Widow and I first had occasion to visit. There are also dinner parties and drink tastings with some of the tastiest food and palate-pleasing, expertly chosen liquors I have had the pleasure of experiencing. R and Collette are both supremely talented cooks. They are also skilled mycologists and though I normally despise mushrooms of any kind, the freshly picked wild mushrooms I have had served at their table were hands-down heavenly!

I absolutely love visiting Master R and Mistress Collette at their home! At the door I am greeted by the sight of naked, often smiling, slaves and a comfy, welcoming living room with a view of well-attended bird feeders and green woods. In winter, a stately old black iron woodstove radiates warmth and the full bay windows reveal a landscape peacefully blanketed in thick, white snow.

R, Collette and their extended family are always welcoming and wonderful. Hugs abound when greeted by friends both old and new. Whether you are newly exploring the boundaries of your sexuality and totally new to the world of SM or you have been in and around "the scene" for years, there is a place for you and you will be made to feel both comfortable and welcome.

Make no mistake by my warm fuzzy sentiments, though. If you read *Story Of O*, *Venus In Furs*, or Anne Rice's *Exit To Eden*, know that many places like the ones in those stories actually existed. There was an entire underground world and culture that is sadly disappearing in the post-Madonna, SM-as-fashion world. And La Domaine Esemar is one of the very few houses left in the entire world in which those fantasies you only dreamed about are actually made real.

As I said, it's old-guard SM and there are rules. Still, you are in good hands with Master R and Mistress Collette. But why take my word for it? Have an adventure yourself! They gladly welcome guests! Go to LaDomaine.com. Your most secret dreams can be made real.

Slainte!

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



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Solos & Duos
JAMES "BLOOD" ULMER
Thursday, September 29, 8pm
Bezanson Recital Hall

Gala Season Opening
PATTI LUPONE:
THE GYPSY IN MY SOUL
Saturday, October 1, 8pm
Concert Hall

WU MAN: CHINESE PIPA
Wednesday, October 5, 7:30pm
Bowker Auditorium

CREOLE CHOIR OF CUBA
Wednesday, October 12, 7:30pm
Concert Hall

GALLIM DANCE
Wednesday, October 19, 7:30pm
Concert Hall

Solos & Duos
JOSHUA ABRAMS' NATURAL INFORMATION SOCIETY
Wednesday, October 26, 8:15pm
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Friday, October 28, 8pm
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Presentation of
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by TIM O'BRIEN
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Tuesday, November 8, 7:30pm
Concert Hall

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Music Director
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THE TIA FULLER QUARTET
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Bowker Auditorium

ARLO GUTHRIE: BOYS' NIGHT OUT
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Concert Hall

Solos & Duos
GUNTER "BABY" SOMMER/WADADA LEO SMITH DUO
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Concert Hall

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Concert Hall

Magic Triangle
TWO TROMBONE TRIOS
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Cohen, Edward Simon, Matt
Penman, Stefan Harris, Eric
Harland & Mark Turner
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CIRCA
Tuesday, March 6, 7:30pm
Concert Hall

TAO: THE WAY OF THE DRUM
Tuesday, March 27, 7:30pm
Concert Hall

Magic Triangle
SHAKERS 'N BAKERS
Thursday, March 29, 8pm
Bezanson Recital Hall

The Joy of Sax
ERNIE WATTS & FRIENDS
Saturday, March 31, 8pm
Bowker Auditorium

BALLET HISPANICO
Tuesday, April 3, 7:30pm
Concert Hall

The Joy of Sax
RAVI COLTRANE QUARTET
Friday, April 13, 8pm
Bowker Auditorium

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Thursday, April 19, 7:30pm
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HIV infections remain high among gay/bisexual men, who appear to make up the majority of those infected

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

The rate of HIV infections remains disproportionately high among gay and bisexual men in New England.

According to the Rhode Island Department of Health, there were 54 new cases in the men having sex with men (MSM) population in 2010. That figure represents 51 percent of the total of infections. That number has been steadily increasing within the past five years. In 2009, there were 59 cases of HIV infection among gay and bisexual men. The percentage for that year was 47. In 2008, the percentage was 41.

Similar findings have been reported in neighboring states. In Connecticut, 46 percent of HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2009 were gay and bisexual men. Of that total, 67 percent were white men. 34 percent were black.

From 2007 to 2009, 744 of the individuals diagnosed with HIV infection in Massachusetts were exposed through male-to-male sex, accounting for 41 percent of all cases and 55 percent of HIV infections among men. An additional 58 men were reported to have been exposed through male-to-male sex and injection-drug use (MSM/IDU), accounting for 3 percent of all cases and 4 percent of HIV infections among men.

On December 31, 2010, there were 6,252 men living with HIV/AIDS in whom HIV infection was attributed to male-to-male sex, representing 35 percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS in Massachusetts and 50 percent of men living with HIV/AIDS. An additional 575 MSM living with HIV/AIDS were reported to have also used injection drugs, accounting for 3 percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS and 5 percent of men.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), by risk group, gay, bisexual and other MSM of all races remain the population most impacted by HIV.

MSM account for more than half (53 percent) of all new HIV infections in the U.S. each year, as well as nearly half (48 percent) of people living with HIV. While CDC estimates that MSM account for just 4 percent of the U.S. male population aged 13 and older, the rate of new HIV diagnoses among MSM in the U.S. is more than 44 times that of other men and more than 40 times that of women.

Members of the AIDS community are alarmed at the statistics and hope to intensify their prevention efforts.

"I find the HIV trends very concerning and I believe now is the time for CBOs (community-based organizations) and health departments to step up our efforts to address the challenges related to HIV prevention in gay and bisexual men," said Tom Bertrand in an interview with *The Rainbow Times*. Bertrand is the executive director of AIDS Project R.I., which is based in Providence. "I think CBOs

have a unique role to play in ensuring that gay/bisexual men are equipped with the knowledge and skills to prevent HIV. This has to be done at an individual and community level to raise awareness and equip gay men with the ability to talk to their partners about their HIV status, negotiate safe sex, and get tested for HIV regularly."

The rate of HIV infections may actually be significantly higher among MSM, according to Bertrand: "Among reported cases that have risk-factor data, gay and bisexual men represented about 73 percent of the new HIV infections in 2010 in Rhode Island, so I would expect that three out every four prevention dollars are spent on programs to prevent HIV in gay and bisexual men, with a focus on adult men."

Education has to play a major role in preventing HIV infections, according to Mark Forry, assistant director at The Male Center in Boston. The MALE (Men's Action Life Empowerment) Center is a community resource and wellness center for gay and bisexual men.

"I think the first piece is making sure people have information that they need to navigate the choices regarding their sexual health," Forry told *The Rainbow Times*. "I also think it's important to make sure that we have prevention tools and

materials widely available to people, things like condoms and lube that are going to reduce the risk of an HIV transmission."

Forry says the goal is to target HIV-prevention programs for specific populations.

"We want to make sure that the services we provide to (clients) really are going to be accessible and digestible for folks so it doesn't present another barrier as far as getting folks information," Forry explained.

There are many factors that explain why gay and bisexual men do not take greater precautions when engaging in sexual activity. Forry said trauma, a history of violence, and low self-esteem may play a part.

"Not everyone is able to prioritize their sexual health," Forry said, adding the statistics in Massachusetts reveal a high percentage of homeless youth identify as LGBT.

Forry noted that homeless teens are more concerned with meeting basic needs of survival, such as finding food and shelter, than with protecting themselves from HIV.

The MALE Center provides free, rapid HIV testing and sex counseling for men who wish to modify their sexual behaviors in order to cut down on risk.

"Change is not overnight," Forry said. "It's a journey and a process."

The MALE Center is located at 571 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA 02118. You can call 617.450.1987, and e-mail malecenter@aac.org.



PHOTO: JOE SIEGEL
Tom Bertrand, Executive Director of AIDS Project Rhode Island

Series of misleading radio ads in Massachusetts compromise a pending transgender-rights bill

By: Chuck Colbert/TRT Reporter

For more than a month now, the Massachusetts Family Institute (MFI) has run radio ads slamming a bill in the legislature that would add "gender identity and expression" to the state's civil-rights laws, outlawing discrimination in employment, housing, education, credit and access to public accommodations. The measure would also expand the state's hate-crimes statutes to include transgender-related offenses.

The proposed legislation, "An Act Relative to Transgender Equal Rights," is still before the legislature's Joint Committee on the Judiciary, which held a hearing on June 8 at the State House. The committee can recommend a yes or no vote, or set aside the bill for further study, a move that in effect kills the measure, at least for the current legislative session that runs into 2012.

The radio ads are an attempt to keep the bill bottled up in that committee.

MFI Action launched its ad campaign on July 12 with radio spots on Greater Boston news and radio talk shows. The 30- and 60-second radio spots christen the nondiscrimination legislation "The Bathroom Bill," stroking fears of sexual predators and child molesters in women's restrooms.

Dialogue in the minute-long ad goes like this:

One woman to a mother: "You know, pretty soon, you won't want [your daughter] to go into a bathroom by herself anymore."

Taken by surprise, the mother asks, "Oh. Why?" "You will have to worry about who could be in there with her."

"What?"

"You haven't heard about the Bathroom Bill?"

"No."

"Yeah. Beacon Hill is about to pass a bill that

lets men use women's bathrooms ... to somehow help transgender people. ... Public bathrooms just won't be safe anymore."

A male voice then says the bill "will open all public restrooms and school locker rooms to anyone of either sex." The narrator urges listeners to call their legislators and tell them to "vote no on the Bathroom Bill," adding, "visit www.nobathroombill.com."

MFI spokesperson Lisa Barstow said in recent telephone interview, "We're scared. We think citizens should be scared."

She went on to explain: "But when people hear about and understand what the bill will do to public restrooms, the chaos it can create in K-12 schools, the opportunity for shenanigans in the school, legitimate threats in school, we're not willing to take the chance that a sexual predator will not misuse this bill."

And yet, Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley says such concerns are unfounded. In an Aug. 10 letter to the joint Judiciary Committee, he wrote, "Were there any real merit to these fears, as a public safety official, I would say so. The reality does not support the claim."

Attorney General Martha Coakley also sent a letter, dated July 20, to the committee, voicing support for the transgender bill and decrying detractors' public safety scare tactics.

Still, Barstow said, "Our hearts go out to transgender people. That does not mean, however, (that) because there is a minority group that needs certain kinds of provisions, that the rest of everybody else has to be turned upside down."

To continue this story, please visit us online at: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/09/01/2011/radioad.

P-Town's Carnival seeks designers for 2012 Theme

PROVINCETOWN, MA—In preparation for the Provincetown Business Guild (PBG) Carnival 2012 themed "P-town, A Space Odyssey", the PBG is reviving its Annual Carnival Poster Contest. All artists interested in creating a poster depicting this coming years "P-town, A Space Odyssey," are asked to complete and submit a design by March 1, 2012.

The Guidelines are as follows: Size 11 X 17; Must be original artwork; Signed letter of Artist Approval to use; Appropriate for all ages; Deadline is March 1st, 2012.

The posters should be mailed to: Provincetown Business Guild, 3 Freeman St, Unit 2, P.O. Box 421, Provincetown, MA 02657.

The winner will receive 2 VIP Passes.

Please note that 1. The Provincetown Business Guild (PBG) will retain exclusive use of the winning poster; and 2. No Entries will be returned and become the sole property of the Provincetown Business Guild (PBG).

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS Courtesy: wolfevideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. Big Lesbian Love Collector's Set
2. Leading Ladies
3. The Real L Word Complete Second Season
4. The Fish Child (El Niño Pez)
5. Gigola
6. Elena Undone
7. The Lovers & Friends Show Season 4
8. Bloomington
9. Room in Rome
10. Trigger

GAY TOP 10

1. Judas Kiss
2. Big Gay Love Collector's Set
3. Latter Days
4. Unhappy Birthday
5. Eating Out 4: Drama Camp
6. Leading Ladies
7. Mulligans
8. Queer as Folk UK: The Complete Collection
9. Undertow (Contracorriente)
10. The Green

All of us here at The Rainbow Times would like to extend a warm thank you to all our Partners in Pride - Boston Pride, Noho Pride, CT Pride, & Rainbow Riverfest - for their trust in us as their official Pride Guide producer. We'd also like to thank all of our official Pride Guide advertisers who made these productions possible. We couldn't do it without all of your support. Here's to building a stronger community! HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY PRIDE! —Cheers, TRT

The Rainbow Times
The Freshest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Newspaper in New England
therainbowtimesnews.com

CABO wins LGBT Chamber of the Year Award

By: **Christine Nicco**/TRT Reporter

NEW HAVEN, CT—Merely four years since its launch, the Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunity (CABO) has made a big splash, to say the least. Under the direction of executive director Jenn Tracz Grace and founder and President Dena Castricone, the Connecticut-based LGBT Chamber of Commerce was awarded one of the highest awards

in the nation—*Chamber of the Year* from the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), a business advocate and direct link between LGBT business owners, corporations and government.

“This award is an incredible honor for CABO, and a tribute to the businesses across Connecticut who are united in publicly supporting LGBT people and leveraging the community buying power of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people,” said Tracz Grace.

Castricone added that this honor has not only affected her, but has also added to membership benefits.

“Words cannot describe how proud I am of the amazing work of our board of directors and executive director,” she said. “Of course, our members are at the center of all we do and I am most happy for our members because I know that this award increases the value of membership.”

According to Tracz Grace, being recognized with this award puts CABO on the national map.

“... all of the hard work that we put in on the local level is being recognized nationally,” she said. “This

award shows the power and strength of the Connecticut LGBT community, which is something we can all be proud of.”

Like much business development, CABO was born out of an inherent need and Castricone took the lead.

“In looking for a local LGBT chamber, I discovered that no such organization existed,” she said. “I attended the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce conference in Montreal where I met several chamber leaders and learned about the chamber movement – it was so much more than providing networking opportunities for LGBT professionals. It was about social change through economic impact. I was inspired and decided to start a chamber in Connecticut.”

Founded in 2007, CABO has achieved impressive growth in the past year, with a rapidly growing membership base across the state. Currently, the chamber has over 150 members and has focused on developing significant corporate relationships with business members of all sizes to give an economic edge to those who support equality and justice for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in the state. According to Tracz Grace, this honor will propel CABO’s initiatives forward.

“This award will give us additional footing to grow the organization in other areas of Connecticut and beyond our 4 borders,” she said. “We’ve expanded quite rapidly in the almost 4 years we have been around.

See CABO on page 29



PHOTO: SHADARI MOON 2011

(From left to right) **Sam McClure**, NGLCC Director of Affiliate Relations, and CABO’s **Dena Castricone** and **Jenn Tracz Grace**.

Talk to students and staff early in school year about what it means to be transgender, and that it’s OK

By: **Tynan Power***/TRT Columnist



PHOTO: GLENN KOETZNER

Even though I’ve been out of school for years, the school session still governs my calendar. This year, as school begins, both of my two sons head to college and my partner prepares to start another year of teaching. My sons’ minds are consumed with the excitement of new classes and their extracurricular engagements, my partner is thinking about seating charts and lesson plans, and I’m thinking: I wish the Speakers Bureau panel at the high school came at the start of the year instead of the end.

Each year, the Stonewall Center at the University of Massachusetts gets numerous requests for LGBTQ speakers to speak at schools in the area. The need is so great and the Speakers Bureau so valuable that requests come from as far as New York and Connecticut. I’ve spoken at a number of schools over the years, including a local high school that often has a Speakers Bureau panel visit as Northampton Pride approaches in early May. Each year, I wish it came in September. For that matter, I wish every school had a Speakers Bureau panel in September — maybe not for the students, but at least for the staff.

There are many teachers and administrators whose hearts are in the right place — teachers who want school to be safe for all, principals who want LGBTQ students to be treated, like any other students, with dignity and respect. Yet even among those with the best intentions, there can be a lack of information and hazy understanding — especially about transgender.

I think most teachers could give a rough definition of transgender and could picture in their mind’s eye what a “transgender youth” might look like. They

might picture Christine Jorgenson, the American GI who had one of the first sex changes in 1952. They might picture the more current image of Chaz Bono posing with his mother, Cher. They might even have a plan of action in mind of what they could do to support such a student.

The trouble is, many transgender youth don’t look like “transgender youth.” Imagining a young trans person, most people don’t imagine the young George Jorgenson or a tiny, blond Chastity on the “Sonny & Cher” show. When I think back on my own youth, I know there were few signs that I would someday transition. While many trans men go through their teen years and early adulthood looking like tomboys or butch lesbians, some — like me — seem to fit the Barbie-doll heels assigned at birth.

What’s more, for as many trans people there are in the world, there are an exponential number of family members and friends impacted by how the world views us. You couldn’t tell by looking at me in high school that I would someday identify as FTM, but you also couldn’t tell by looking at my sons in high school that their mother is now a man.

It’s true that LGBTQ people seem to be coming out younger these days. There is a lot more support inside and beyond our schools. Yet that doesn’t guarantee people will come out, publicly or even privately, to themselves.

Adolescence is a time of self-discovery in many ways. Self-knowledge doesn’t come overnight. Plus, sex and gender identities can change, emerging or evolving later in life.

My partner tells a story of overhearing a teacher talking to a class about different kinds of identity that are “changing” or “unchanging.” Gender was labeled “unchanging.” A student shouted out “Unless you have a sex change.” Instead of grabbing that teachable moment, the teacher laughed and said that was a ridiculous thing to say. Later, when asked why, she said transgender wasn’t something the students needed to know about — it wasn’t their issue.

Yet sitting in that classroom, there might well have been a young George Jorgenson, a Chastity Bono, or a Tara Power. There’s no way any of us, looking around the room, could ever know. There’s no way to begin to estimate the impact of LGBTQ invisibility in schools, but talking about it from day one — in September — would be a good place to start.

To learn more about bringing a Speakers Bureau panel to your school or organizations, or to become a speaker, email stone-wall@stuaf.umass.edu.



PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

The author at 20.



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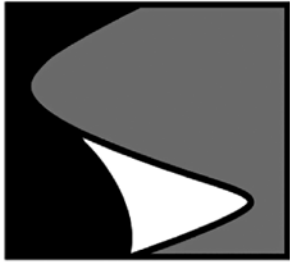


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*Tynan Power is a parent, a writer, a progressive Muslim leader, an interfaith organizer, a (very slow) runner, mostly a big goof, sometimes taken too seriously, loving, gentle, queer and queer-cultured, a pen geek, often dehydrated, and full of wanderlust. He also happens to be a transgender man. He can be reached at tynan-power@yahoo.com.



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For more information please contact
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Take Charge! Get Tested!

Lesbians seeking pregnancy assistance encounter discrimination at local hospital

By: Abigail Levy*/Special for TRT

I have been trying to get pregnant with a known donor's sperm for almost two years. We, as many couples struggling with infertility, didn't expect it take this long. We recently decided to take more aggressive steps from our midwife-assisted IUIs (Intrauterine Inseminations) and consult with the reproductive medicine center at a local hospital.

We met with Dr. L, who immediately told us what our health insurance would cover before

It is when we feel oppressed, discriminated against, and helpless that we forget what is a right as a human being. (This is why we need allies to remind us!)

laying an eye on me. We told her we had a known donor who had been tested for STIs and HIV and with whom I had been inseminating with for 20 months. She commented, "You know we don't like that here." She did not look at my charts, my cycles, my medical history, or my wife in the eye. She told us to go right to IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) and switch to an anonymous donor because it would be more efficient. As if our donor decision has not been well thought out and emotionally involved, Dr. L stated numerous excuses as to why they would not work with us with a known donor unless we quarantined the sperm (\$) at a sperm bank (\$\$) for six months to test it twice (\$\$\$) for STIs, and then freeze the sperm and ship it (\$\$\$\$) to their facility. Dr. L explained that due to the guidelines that the hospital follows, while a heterosexual couple could move immediately to IVF, a lesbian couple has to quarantine the sperm for six months, even if the individual has been exposed to the sperm prior to IVF.

Dr. L claimed that their program could not separate the social (my state-recognized marriage) from the medical (my inseminations with the donor) because they had a "moral obligation." She explained this with an example of a family in which children had been removed from the home and how the hospital would have a moral obligation not to offer that couple IVF. We, as two women with a known donor, were being compared to a family in which children were removed from the home for abuse and/or neglect. This was Dr. L's attempt to have a "mutual agreement" as to why the hospital would eventually deny us equal services that would have been offered had I been a married heterosexual woman, a single woman with a male partner, or had I simply just come in with the donor and said that we wanted to have a child (a.k.a. lied—kind of like we are forced to do on our federal tax forms, etc.). Dr. L instructed us to go to counseling to deal with our "issue." I inquired about the subject of "issue"—my infertility or the way we are choosing to make our family and was told the latter. My wife stated that we felt discriminated by her actions and Dr. L merely replied, "It's okay for you to feel that way."

While Dr. L claimed they were not discriminatory because "we have been treating same-sex couples as long as there have been donors," her actions speak otherwise. Dr. L has made no attempt to bridge understanding, practice compassionate care, offer us a referral, explain with sound medical reason as to why they can't offer services, send us the hospital's policies that we requested, or even apologize (which left me no other choice than to write this column for others to know.) In addition, it seems that the guidelines they follow (that are written by the American Society of Reproductive Medicine) are not providing equal treatment same-sex couples as they would for heterosexual couples in the same situation.

On a more positive note, we have found another center to work with. It is two hours away, but the

drive is worth it because we are treated with respect and dignity. It has re-instilled hope that we can have the family we want.

I became aware of how much we felt disenfranchised by this institution when speaking to my mom in between conversations with Dr. L. My wife and I were worrying about what we could say or do that would allow us to move to IVF. My mom reacted strongly, "You are acting as if you need these people's permission to raise a family. You have every right to create a family the way you want and you don't need their, or anyone else's permission." It is when we feel oppressed, discriminated against, and helpless that we forget what is a right as a human being. (This is why we need allies to remind us!)

I chose to marry a woman, but I didn't choose to be discriminated for it. I just think that Dr. L could have been kinder. It was so clear we made her uncomfortable, but I'm a human and like many others that she has helped get pregnant, I want a child. She wasn't thinking of what my experience was because she was too stuck in her own discomfort to see past it to ours.

**Abigail Levy, a pseudonym used by the author to protect her identity, is a psychotherapist and has been married to her spouse for 5 years. They reside in the Pioneer Valley of Western Massachusetts.*

CABO from page 26

We started off with a heavy focus in New Haven County and over the past 1-2 years we've made a sizeable impact in both Fairfield and Hartford Counties. While we are active in these 3 counties there are still 5 others that we haven't tapped into yet. With a national chamber of the year win under our belt, it gives us the strength and confidence to move into other areas of the state and do it successfully, creating opportunities for our members involved."

In addition to a solid infrastructure and vision that Castricone created, she credits much of CABO's success to Tracz's efforts.

"Her passion, dedication and drive are the reason that CABO experienced such incredible growth in the past two years," Castricone said.

Despite difficult economic times, Tracz Grace said that there are still many business opportunities to seize. CABO and its members have capitalized on that philosophy.

"Many of our member businesses are hiring and thriving in a down economy and CABO is serving as a driving force in helping promote those opportunities to other members," Tracz Grace said. "We have a job board available on our website where our members can share opportunities with one another and we are often asked if we know of the right people for the job when one becomes available. If you are with an LGBT chamber of commerce and you are providing value to your members, even in a down economy your members will see your value and want to be a part of something greater."

Tracz Grace and Castricone accepted the award on behalf of CABO at the NGLCC National Business & Leadership Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada last month.

"CABO has far exceeded my expectations," said Castricone.

For more info about CABO or to join the successful organization, please visit: www.thecabo.org.

2011 Miss Trans New England Pageant set for September 10th in Northampton

The 2011 Miss Trans New England Pageant will be held at Northampton High School located at 380 Elm Street, Northampton, Mass 01060 on Saturday, Sept. 10th from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. The Pageant's mission, according to its CEO, Christa Hilfers, is to "allow trans women to compete for a title that honors their beauty and their talents-while recognizing them as both women and transgender."

"Contestants must be Male to Female Transgender/Transsexuals from New England and New York City," Hilfers said. "The Miss Trans New England Pageant also provides personal and professional opportunities for trans women and promotes their voice in culture, politics and the community. The Program empowers trans women to achieve their personal and professional goals, and provides a forum in which to express their opinions, talents, and intelligence."

To be a contestant, interested participants need to pay \$15 ahead of time for entering the Pageant, or \$20 at the door.

This year's contestants are:

Krystal Rash of Palmer, MA; Julia Tresvant of New York, NY; Krista Ramos of Chicopee, MA; Syndi Miller of Holyoke, MA; Nicole Hamidi of Pelham, MA; Samantha Cornell of Worcester, MA; Ashley Rogers of Chelmsford, MA and Jada Sparkz of Springfield, MA.

Funds collected at the event, according to Hilfers, go back into the pageant to pay for the space and for events throughout the year.

"As to date the Pageant has not made any funds as I have put all monies out of my own pocket, with the exception of a few donations the first year," Hilfers explained. "You may ask why I

keep doing this event if it hasn't brought in money, well the answer is simple and it is because I love my community and to see what this pageant has done for many of the girls makes it all worth it."

But, some funds do support community activities and a new consignment store has opened to alleviate contestants' costs on gowns and other accessories they purchase for the Pageant.

"Contestant also will do a fundraiser for their chosen platform to which the non-profit will be given the monies raised. This is our way of giving back," she added. "I recently opened a thrift and consignment store and all contestants and members of the new court will get discounts on gowns. I am also going to help cloth some of the girls who are in financial difficulty and were considering having to drop out due to it. I don't want any of the girls to drop out due to financial issues. I know it firsthand as for the first year I lived in Mass. I was homeless. I know the struggle."

Talents range from singing to stand up and puppet based comedy and will all be on display at the Pageant. Contestants will be scored in the categories of interview, presentation, evening gown, and talent. Lorelei Erisis, Miss Trans New England 2009, will be featured as a special guest judge. Toni Olin-Mignosa holds the title of Miss Trans New England 2010. The Rainbow Times is a proud sponsor of the Miss Trans New England Pageant.

For more information about the Pageant and to get tickets, contact Christa Hilfers (C.E.O.) at www.misstransnewengland.com.



LGBT Aging Project Healthy Resource: Community Meals for LGBT older adults

The LGBT Aging Project is pleased to have a whole section dedicated to the different LGBT Community Meal Programs that are starting to emerge across the state. The organization now has a variety of offerings from weekly luncheons, monthly brunches, a monthly women's program and two monthly supper programs. According to the LGBT Aging Project, there is also a nice diversity in the location for each of the five programs.

BOSTON/BACK BAY:

Cafe Emmanuel: "The Original LGBT Meal Site!"

When: Every Thursday 11AM-1PM

Where: Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street Boston, MA

RSVP: to cafeemmanuel@ethocare.org or call (617) 477-6610

Sponsored by: Ethos & The LGBT Aging Project

ROSLINDALE:

Out to Brunch: Monthly Brunch & Social for Older LBT Women & Their Friends

When: First Sat. of every month 11AM-1PM

Where: Roslindale House, 120 Poplar Street Roslindale, MA

RSVP: to outto brunch@gmail.com or call (617) 522-6700 x306.

Sponsored by: Ethos & The LGBT Aging Project

SOUTH SHORE:

Monthly Brunch for LGBT Seniors & Friends

When: Last Sat. of every month, 10AM-12PM

Where: All Souls Unitarian Church, 196 Elm Street, Braintree, MA

RSVP: Maryanne Ryan 781-848-3939 x 325 or email lgbtseniors@sselder.org for more info.

Sponsored by: South Shore Elder Services

SOMERVILLE/CAMBRIDGE:

Cadbury Cafe: Somerville & Cambridge's First LGBT Monthly Dining Program

When: 4th Wed. of every month, 6-8PM

Where: Cadbury Commons, 66 Sherman Street, Cambridge, MA.

RSVP: by calling SCES (617) 628-2601 ext. 605 or email lgbtcafe@eldercare.org

Sponsored by: Somerville Cambridge Elder Services, Cambridge Council on Aging and Cadbury Commons.

NORTH SHORE:

Over The Rainbow Supper Club

When: 2nd Tues. of every month, 6-8PM

Where: House of Seven Gables, 115 Derby Street, Salem MA

RSVP: (978) 624-2261

Sponsored by: The Old and Bold Coalition, North Shore Elder Services' outreach to the LGBT Community on the North Shore.

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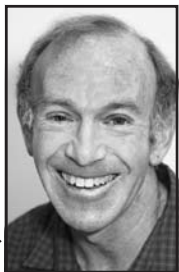


NINA FLOWERS

The OutField: Austin Snyder's long run

By: Dan Woog* /Special for TRT

Q SPORTS



There are three keys to documentary filmmaking: a good subject, a good story line and good luck.

Scott Bloom found all three.

His goal in making *Out for the Long Run* – a movie about gay high school athletes

– was to go beyond “the regular coming out stories.” Bloom, a former closeted wrestler who had been terrified of being outed, ostracized or beaten up, knew there were “extraordinary individuals” out there. He wanted to highlight their accomplishments, and provide hope to LGBT people of all ages, everywhere.

The first problem was finding those young athletes. The second was convincing them – and their parents – to be filmed for a documentary.

He asked organizations like GLSEN and PFLAG for help. But although he'd produced one film on Metropolitan Community Church founder Rev. Troy Perry, and another on the “oldest gay organization in the world” (a motorcycle club), he admits he was “an unknown quantity.”

The project stalled. Then Bloom saw a Facebook page for gay athletes. With permission from creator Lucas Goodman, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology rower, Bloom asked for volunteers.

He got a dozen or two responses. But some of their parents objected. Blurring faces or filming in shadows would undercut the idea of openness. Plus, Bloom hoped to include the parents' stories too. In the end he settled on four athletes, with a cross-section of experiences.

When he began shooting, some of Bloom's old fears resurfaced. “I worried all over again about being ‘thrown out of the locker room,’” he says. “But everyone was very gentle to me.”

He learned that today's gay youth “have fewer hang-ups than my generation did. They define sexuality more fluidly. That's refreshing. It gives me hope. I was definitely not as self-aware at that age.”

Bloom's lucky break came when he found Aus-

tin Snyder. The track star was entering his senior year at California's Berkeley High School. (The other three athletes were already in college.) He had a great, supportive family. He was smart, popular and embraced by his teammates.

Snyder's story would provide a counterpoint to Brenner Green, a Connecticut College runner whose father had a hard time accepting his son's sexuality, and who stopped being invited to team dinners after coming out in high school; Goodman, who had difficulty coming out to teammates; and Liz Davenport, a soccer player from Maine whose love for sports was undermined by the bullying she endured. (She ended up “probably the most heroic,” Bloom says, “after struggling and maturing the most.”)

Snyder, a very articulate teenager, lives through what is in many ways a typical high school year. He desperately hopes to get into Brown University – but an injury causes both physical and emotional stress. The usually self-confident runner wonders if he is being punished for his sexuality.

It's not easy being a senior – especially when you're gay. “I'm a big romantic,” Snyder says. “High school is all about the guys getting the girls. Running helps take away the hurt of not having someone.”

Then Snyder gets the news: He's into Brown. He goes from “the lowest low to the highest high.” In a scene repeated in homes across the country, he is giddy with excitement.

But as graduation approaches, Snyder says, “All my friends are happy and dating. I want that!”

He creates a Facebook group for cross country and track athletes heading to Brown. He joins another group for all admitted students where, he says, “all the gay men have found each other.”

Suddenly, Snyder finds someone special: a swimmer from North Carolina. Online they flirt, then talk seriously for weeks. Then, in a plot twist that would sound unbelievable in a real movie – except it's true – Snyder qualifies for a national race. In North Carolina.

Bloom films their meeting. It's a truly sweet scene. Later, his new boyfriend gives him a tender pre-race kiss.

To continue this story, please visit us online at: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/2011/09082011/qsports.

To Cook is To Love: A Foodies Journal Kitchen as Classroom offers Teachable Moments

By: John Verlinden* /TRT Cuisine Expert

¡MUCHO GUSTO!



PHOTO: RACHEL POWER

Going “back to school” at the end of summer vacation is like a second new year's celebration and ritual for me. No matter how old I get, early September still means a new start,

another chance, new resolutions. There is something rejuvenating about it.

This year “back to school” is my reminder to get back in touch with the kids in my life. And, there's no better way to reconnect than to do a project together in the kitchen.

Whether it's baking cookies, grilling fish or chopping vegetables, cooking with kids is an opportunity to talk with them about how the world works and doesn't—where our dinner was grown, who's involved in its production, harvesting and processing, how it's shipped, and what goes into its marketing and sale. Cooking is a great way to reinforce school curriculum – geography, history, science, math; they're all there. And food also

facilitates thoughtful discussions regarding ethical behavior, geopolitics, social justice and more.

I know you're thinking: “Chef Johnny has really gone off the deep end this time; I haven't got time for this?”

It can be difficult to work with the little darlings – they'll likely fuss and complain about having to help and they'll probably make a big mess of your kitchen. But hey, it's important and it's worth the investment! You're not just teaching a valuable life skill – how to cook, you're sharing your values about some of the most complicated issues in the world around us. There's also a bonus in it for you. You'll learn more about what's going on in your children's lives in the process. Sometimes gathering even the scantest intelligence regarding what they are up to, even when it is only minutes before they actually do the really bone-headed thing they've been planning, can help you avoid a huge disaster. So, you see, this is actually going to save you time in the long run.

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

*Tells us about a teachable moment in your life, share your experience cooking with kids, ask a question or suggest a topic for a future article – contact me: john@muchogusto.com or visit www.muchogusto.com and join our food forum.

Destinations: Traveling First Class All the Gay!

By: Jorge Treviano/Special for TRT

If Housewives of NY's queen of luxury Sonja Morgan were a gay travel agent, she would be Dane Steele Green.

Green's travel tour company, Steele Luxury Travel, specializes in meeting the needs of a high end, fabulously gay clientele. He says vacations should be intriguing, inspirational, educational and most of all, indulgent.

His trips are tailored with the gay traveler in mind. Steele's most popular summer travel experience, The Mykonos Island Villa Escape, features a sea-front villa with live-in chefs, a cleaning staff, and two gorgeous house boys.

Note to Sonja: don't allow The Countess to plan your next trip abroad. Call Dane. He'll give you the extravagantly first class vacation you deserve.

The Rainbow Times caught up with Mr. Green to discuss Steele Luxury Travel and what makes this handsome young entrepreneur tick ...

The Rainbow Times: Where are the hot gay destinations this fall?

Dane Steele Green: Aside from the staples - Rio, Mykonos, Ibiza and Barcelona – gay men are flocking to more obscure destinations around the globe, including South Africa, Courchevel (for winter snowboarding), and Asian cities like Hong Kong and Shanghai.

TRT: What destination tops your list?

DSG: Thailand is full of energy, culture and delicious food.

TRT: There is a trend in destinations defining themselves as gay-friendly.

DSG: The gay dollar is powerful. During this economic crisis, the gay travel sector is the only one that has remained constant in the industry. Cities would be foolish not to open their doors to us.

TRT: Tell us your travel philosophy.



PHOTO: GUSTAVO MONROY

Dane Steele Green of Steele Luxury Travel

DSG: Our company's slogan is Live Your Indulgence. When travelling abroad, explore the land the way you like. If you want to taste every type of gelato in Italy, do it. If you want to visit every bathhouse around the world, indulge yourself. It's your time to be free and leave all of life's stresses behind.

TRT: How did you get into travel?

DSG: Travel has always been my passion. I worked for several airlines and tour companies before launching my own company.

TRT: DNA Magazine called you “the luckiest gay bastard.”

DSG: My most recent “Oh my God, look where I am” moment was at the Life Ball in Vienna. I was inside the most beautiful palace and I literally got a sense of what heaven must be like.

Wanna escape New England during the cold winter months? Book a trip now to Rio de Janeiro for New Year's at <http://steeletravel.com/>.

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The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest civil rights organization working for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.

