

The Rainbow Times

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

**HARTFORD'S
XL CENTER**



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vies for title p18**

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Performance at
Queer Carnevale
to benefit **LGBT Coalition**

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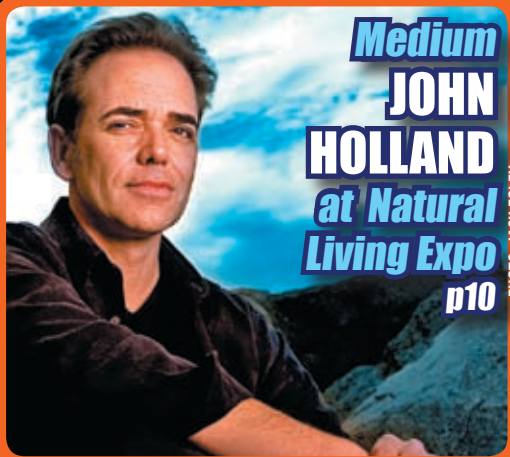


PHOTO: JACK FOLEY

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PHOTO: JEWEL LINE CINEMA

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MassEquality names new Executive Director p11

TRT reflections: Where we were, where we are, and what's to come in the future

From the Publisher

By: Grisel M. Ocasio*/TRT Publisher

We, at The Rainbow Times, have proudly been active and giving members of the communities that we so proudly serve. Through collaborations and sponsorships, we have given our support to hundreds of organizations in MA, RI, CT and VT. We are proud of our past and current sponsorships and partnerships. In giving; we receive back from our readers, advertisers and loyal supporters. These mutual gestures embody what our community means to us and what TRT means to our community. In four years, we are proud to have been a part of events that we had never dreamed of the first few months of publishing TRT. And, incredibly, we have been asked to participate, year after year. We could not be more touched by these gestures of our supporters and community organizations. The press' responsibility is not one to only objectively inform, but also one of public responsibility. By taking the work that we do seriously, we give back. By doing so, we also receive gratitude and daily rewards from those who have been loyal to us since our inception.

Past organizations that we have worked with, sponsored, or have been involved with in similar capacities are: the AIDS Foundation of Western Massachusetts, Shelter Sunday, the Womyn's Festival of Southern VT, the Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective, the Northampton Independent Film Festival, Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI), OutforReel!, GLAD, MassEquality, the LGBT Coalition of Western MA, Planned Parenthood, Tapestry, Paradise City Arts Festival, Baystate Health System's Rays of Hope Breast Cancer Walk, Stand Up to Cancer, NETU, Cooley Dickinson, Miss Trans New England Pageant, Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition (MTPC), UMass Fine Arts Center, UMass Stonewall Center, Every Women's Center, Greater Northampton Chamber of Commerce, Connecticut Alliance for Business Opportunity (CABO), Network La Red, AIDS Project of Rhode Island, Out-

Film CT, Boston Pride, Noho Pride, CT Pride, WGBY, PrideFest RI, the Women's Fund of Western MA, National gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, PFLAG, GLAAD, Pride Promos, New Bedford Pride, Worcester Pride, and many, many more.

Our work does not end with these organizations because we continue to strive to do more with the groups that surround us that we still have not been involved with. We look forward to such collaborations with you. In good faith we look at the past and our accomplishments and at the future and what is to come. We thank the LGBTQ community and the many volunteers that we have in all of our areas of coverage. Volunteers are the back bone of all organizations and without them we could not do the work that we do and reach as many people as we do. Nicole and I, TRT co-owners and editor and publisher, respectively, thank you profusely for your thoughts, comments, friendships, business relationships, respect of our product and loyalty. We hope that we have given you fairness in our coverage and, if we have not, please let us know too, as you have in the past.

The new press has a larger responsibility than that of informing. It carries a legacy of honor and passion for what it does, and it does so with justice. Everyone will always encounter difficulties along the road, but it is how we respond to them that can make us or break us. In that sense, we have learned from many of you, individually and collectively. There is no better time than the present to say thank you, again! We look forward to more long-lasting relationships with those of you that have already become our friends and whose friendships we treasure, and with those of you whom we have yet to meet. We look forward to working with you too.

Best in Pride,

Grisel M. Ocasio

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

Voices of LGBT can heard on podcasts



By: Susan Ryan-Vollmar*/TRT Columnist

Present company notwithstanding, much has been made about the death of the LGBT press. When you look at the national landscape, it's hard to disagree with the idea that the LGBT press is a shadow of its former self, if that.

Nine years ago, Michael Bronski, in a piece [http://bit.ly/bOhy6x] for the *Boston Phoenix*, cautioned against the consequences of a proposed merger of the major players in the national queer media landscape: "Gay people may be 'everywhere,' as the old slogan goes, but their editorial voice is beginning to emanate from a single place. And critics worry that this voice will end up watered down, self-censored, and preoccupied with celebrity fluff at the expense of serious journalism."

When Bronski, a lecturer in gender studies at Dartmouth College and author of the forthcoming *An LGBT History of the United States*

(Beacon Press, May 2011), issued his warning, there were plenty of national magazines in circulation focusing on queer lives, in addition to the four media giants (Out, The Advocate, PlanetOut, and Gay.com) that were merging: Genre, Girlfriends, Instinct, Curve, Gay Parent Magazine, and many, many more. Today, we still have *The Advocate* and a version of *Out* that would, unfortunately, be unrecognizable to its brilliant co-founding editor, the late Sarah Pettit. The magazines are largely gone, though they have been replaced by blogs such as Pam's House Blend, The Bilerico Project, Towle Road, Queerty, Mombian, and Joe. MyGod, to name a few. But with the occasional exception, these outlets are largely repositories of opinion or news aggregators.

Enter Same Sex Sunday. The weekly podcast is a mix of interviews and reporting by its co-hosts Phil Reese, and Joe Mirabella. Both are regular contributors to *The Bilerico Project* and neither, interestingly, has a formal background in journalism. Mirabella is a social marketing and online media consultant who ran the social networking efforts of Washington's

See Voices on page 12

Supporting all our businesses, both big and small

By: Jenn Tracz*/CABO's Executive Director

I've spent the past few months talking about the corporate support and partnerships that CABO has. By now you've heard me mention *Aetna*, *Foxwoods*, *Murtha Cullina*, *The Rainbow Times* and many of our other great corporate partners. But, today I want to get you thinking about all of the small and medium-sized businesses throughout the state that help make our organization the success that it is.

If you do business locally, you should find out if they are a member of CABO. If they aren't, it is possible that we have a similar business in our organization that you can do business with knowing that they support the LGBT community. You should make it a habit to consult CABO as your number one resource of who to do business with in Connecticut and surrounding areas.

We have businesses representing all industries within our membership. If you are looking for an attorney, eye doctor, or dentist, we have them all at our finger tips to share with you. We also have restaurant members and encourage you to dine at them whenever possible and corporate partners we encourage you to do business with as well.

Perhaps you are a student and reading this, thinking you don't need to be involved with a business organization; there are many opportunities for you. Many of our businesses are looking to hire new talent and ask us if we



Jenn Tracz

know anyone. Perhaps you are trying to build your resume to land that job you are looking for. We have volunteer opportunities within our organization, but are also the connectors to many other great nonprofits or small businesses who may be looking for interns. Don't hesitate to contact me to find out more about any of these great opportunities.

CABO holds regular monthly events in North Haven and West Hartford, and hosts open houses throughout the state. For more details on CABO events in your area, visit www.TheCABO.org. If you have any particular questions or comments, I am always available via e-mail and would be happy to talk with you. Send me an e-mail today at jtracz@TheCABO.org.

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

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was about to send you a private message on FB, Ericka, but since you spoke so openly and braved your opinions to the public eye, I decided it would be cowardly not to follow suit. To that effect, I am doing it through TRT. We DO disagree on the "worth" of having this pageant at all. I, a long-time feminist, and an attendee of last year's first MTNE (Northampton) "celebration" was delighted to find it to be a very happy experience for me, not only because my daughter, Lorelei, was "crowned," because for such purpose that is beside the point (although I am very proud of the way she has conducted herself this past year and set a precedent for devoted activism for future winners). The "spirit" at the first pageant was nothing if not hopeful, enthusiastic and entirely bonding for all of the community attending. The contestants, very obviously, enjoyed an enormous amount of camaraderie and real friendship! It was truly heartwarming and a spectacular example of how a pageant CAN work "for the whole" in a very NON-divisive manner.

That said, Ericka, yes, now the pageant, in its second year, is NOT perfect. I have stood back and just watched, tossing my (private) two pennies in when I thought my voice seemed an appropriate contribution (until just recently, I admit, when I DID, after much soul-searching, decide to publicly "endorse" my "choice." I did NOT do that "lightly" at all!

Last year's pageant was not perfect either, but, you know something, it worked! It was the genesis of something new and exciting and, with all and any problems or complications leading up to the "night," the spirit present in that hall on that night was worth everything!

This is all still very new. I, who had thought for a time, that I really, in all conscience, just had to "stand back" from MTNE because there arose problems along

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Sullivan: Outspoken Gay rights' advocate vows to "Do the Right Thing" as DA Elect

By: Christine Nico/TRT Reporter

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND NORTHAMPTON, MA—Recently, *The Rainbow Times* interviewed Dave Sullivan, Democratic District Attorney Candidate for the Northwestern District. Sullivan strong ties to underrepresented communities come from a humble family origin unified by a strong work ethic. That strong work ethic, his website states, was instilled in him by his parents, the late Anne and James A. Sullivan, who taught Dave to work to pay for 50 percent of his high school and college tuition bills.

Dave's strong background, focused on responsibility and commitment, earned him a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law. Sullivan triumphed in the bid for the Register of Hampshire County Probate & Family Court twice. His leadership on many innovative justice initiatives, and development of extensive community collaborations, helped Hampshire Probate & Family Court earn the reputation as one of the best family courts in Massachusetts. Prior to his work with the Hampshire County Probate & Family Court, he was a law partner with his wife Catherine M. Hancock in their Easthampton law office of *Sullivan & Hancock*. His professional goal is now focused

on winning the bid in the Democratic primary election for Northwestern District Attorney.

Through this interview, TRT inquired about many of the same questions that our community members may share, such as the leader's promises to change the status quo, to focus on "areas long neglected" and to ensure that that all underrepresented groups are visible in the DA's Civil Rights Advisory Board.

The Rainbow Times: What specific changes can we expect from the DA's office if you are elected?

Dave Sullivan: From day one, my office will be more accessible and accountable to citizens and better organized, managed and administered. Areas long neglected, such



PHOTO: SULLIVAN FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY CAMPAIGN
Dave Sullivan

as civil rights, white collar crimes, and consumer protection will be vigorously addressed and a comprehensive program of crime prevention will be initiated. I will be implementing a Community Prosecution program where our Assistant District Attorneys and staff forge ties in our communities and neighborhoods to be better positioned to identify and respond quickly to emerging crime problems, prevent crime and make our communities safer. Our prosecutors will be working in both our courtrooms and communities.

TRT: Given the relatively large LGBT community in the region, and the growing communities of color, how would the DA's office handle hate crimes and be an advocate for these communities?

DS: The long dormant DA's Civil Rights Advisory Board will be revived and invigorated with new appointees who represent all minority groups in our community. A public outreach and education initiative will alert the victims

"I especially intend to reach out to groups who have traditionally and historically been subjected to discrimination, prejudice, neglect and official avoidance. This will, of course, include the LGBT community. The District Attorney is the people's lawyer and I intend to represent all my clients vigorously, zealously, proudly and passionately."

See Sullivan on page 19

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Mohegan Sun a world at play

Mike Cahillane: A Prosecutor, not a Politician; sets sights on DA's candidacy in MA Northwestern District

By: Christine Nico/TRT Reporter

NORTHAMPTON, MA—*The Rainbow Times* recently interviewed Michael Cahillane, Democratic District Attorney Candidate for the Northwestern District. Cahillane, a strong criminal prosecutor for over 9 years, was born and raised in Northampton. His dedication to public service, according to his website, is highlighted especially by his peers and exposed when they voted him the 2010 William C. O'Malley Prosecutor of the Year.

Cahillane is clear that his experience is what the DA's office needs. A graduate of Suffolk University Law School, the candidate is prompt to speak about his track record of criminal prosecutions and his dedication to public service.

Through this interview, TRT inquired about many of the same questions that our community members may share about Cahillane's commitment to the LGBT community, same-sex marriage, and the candidate's experience within our community as a whole.

The Rainbow Times: What specific changes can we expect from the DA's office if you are elected?

Michael Cahillane: First, I will identify our neighborhoods that are experiencing a high volume of arrests and I will meet with citizen groups from those areas to hear firsthand, their observations and concerns. Secondly, I will form Community Advisory Boards across the Northwestern District. The purpose of these Boards will be to advise me as to community issues relating to the Office of the District Attorney. I will strive to include full representa-

tion from all members of our community, of all races, sexual orientation and economic levels. I want to include all of our citizens. Lastly, I will to encourage my staff to participate in mentoring projects with the youth in our communities; activities could include sports clinics and discussion groups sponsored by my office.

TRT: Given the relatively large LGBT community in the region, and the growing communities of color, how would the DA's office

"I have stated the simple truth, my signature was certainly not a vote against same-sex marriage nor was it an endorsement of the petition's language, but in my view served only to put the issue on the ballot and allow the democratic process to work."

handle hate crimes and be an advocate for these communities?

MC: The Northwestern District Attorney's Office has prosecuted hate crimes for the past twenty years. As DA, I will work vigorously to create an environment of zero tolerance for civil rights violations within our jurisdiction. My office will sponsor trainings with law enforcement officials and office staff, which will include speakers drawn from the community.

TRT: Who did you vote for in the 2008 presidential election and why?

MC: I voted for Barack Obama, because I believed that he was the right leader at the right time who would improve international relations, civil rights, labor relations, education,

environmental protection and decrease the politicization of government.

TRT: In this economic climate, crime is in an upswing. How would you control it?

MC: Currently, one of the biggest problems for law enforcement agencies and district attorneys' offices is accomplishing more with less. The budget cuts have gone into the bone, after repeated rounds of cuts. Thus, it will be important to strengthen existing collaborations and rely on those collaborations because this approach maximizes resources and minimizes duplication of services.

TRT: What is your position regarding people who use drugs as opposed to people who sell drugs?

MC: Generally, I believe we need to emphasize the rehabilitation goal of sentencing when examining a case involving straight possession, and a person with a minor record free of crimes of violence. The reality is that many drug rehabilitation programs have

been cut. Therefore, in this time of limited resources, it is critical to work with the probation department to identify viable drug rehabilitation programs and to craft special conditions of probation that will afford a defendant the best opportunity to succeed.

Drug dealers are predators; they prey upon those who are addicted and they degrade and endanger the community through their association with gangs and their use of violence as a way of conducting business. Their punishment should be determined by the nature of their offense and their prior record of convictions, including how much jail time they have done previously. In my experience, rehabilitation is of less value for the mid to high-level



PHOTO: CAMPAIGN TO ELECT MICHAEL CAHILLANE

Mike Cahillane

dealer as profit drives their criminal conduct not addiction.

TRT: What national initiatives do you support?
MC: As a trained cybercrime prosecutor, I support the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (www.missingkids.com). The mandate of the center is to, "find missing children, reduce the incidence of child sexual exploitation and prevent child victimization." The center also brings together and assists state, local and federal agencies to fight the

See Cahillane on page 6

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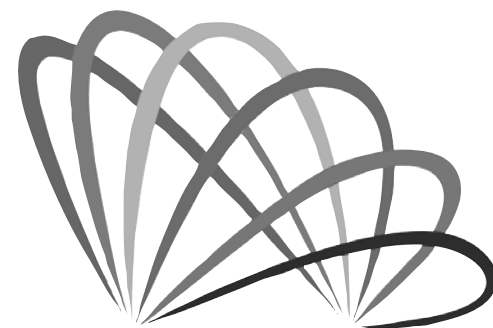
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Cahillane from page 4

scourge of child pornography. One of the most important resources includes the identification of children displayed in photographs and/or videos. This resource has been of tremendous assistance to the office of the district attorney in order to successfully prosecute those who victimize children.

TRT: What is one of your proudest moments as a lawyer?

MC: It was working to secure a conviction of a defendant who brutally murdered an 83-year woman inside of her own home, then set her home on fire to conceal the crime. Nothing could be done to bring back Rose Martowski, however, after the verdict was returned, through the tears and the hugs with her family, I knew that I had done everything I could

to help bring justice for a family who had lost a mother, a grandmother, a loved one to violence.

TRT: What is your position on police department members' public endorsement of political candidates?

MC: Traditionally, candidates are endorsed in the course of a political campaign. The voters will determine the value of those endorsements. The support and endorsements I have received are of great value to voters. These officers are sworn to protect and serve the members of their communities and by giving me their support they are sending the message that they trust that I will do the same in my role as prosecutor.

TRT: What's your motto?

MC: A prosecutor not a politician. Honesty,

integrity, compassion and fundamental fairness are values at the core of my being and those values inform my personal and professional decisions.

TRT: Please add any comments about your thoughts and plans to work for the LGBT community, to safeguard same-sex marriage, and to work for trans rights in the commonwealth.

MC: As DA, I will work with our law enforcement partners and the court system to ensure strict enforcement of our civil rights laws. It is critical to have LGBT representation on the community advisory boards. I will collaborate with community partners to create trainings around human/civil rights to be presented to various groups within our communities such as school staff and students and law enforcement personnel. I will work to strengthen and expand our civil rights laws.

TRT: In the LGBT community, your remarks regarding taking back your vote against gay marriage haven't gained traction. Why do you think you haven't persuaded the community that your change of heart is sincere?

MC: I am extremely proud to have many members of the LGBT community supporting my campaign because they know me and they know my work as a prosecutor. I have stated the simple truth, my signature was certainly not a vote against same-sex marriage nor was it an endorsement of the petition's language,

but in my view served only to put the issue on the ballot and allow the democratic process to work. I believed that a majority of Massachusetts' citizens would support same-sex marriage and statistics later supported that belief. I absolutely support the right of gay people to marry.

For those people who want to use this as a litmus test for the office of DA, I may not ever be able to convince them. I have a public record as a prosecutor and that record is clear on any number of cases involving civil rights statutes. I am fully committed to affording equal access to our criminal justice system and making sure that the civil rights of LGBT citizens are fully protected. I abhor crime that is directed toward a particular class of people whether it is their sexual orientation, gender, race, age, or disability. As my public record reflects, I have fought for the civil rights of the LGBT community and I will continue to fight every bit as hard as DA.

The Democratic primary is September 14.

Michael is married to Christine (Capers) Cahillane and lives in Northampton with their two rescued Greyhounds, Blue and Gracie. For more information about Mike Cahillane's campaign messages, endorsements, his stance on relevant issues, and/or to volunteer, visit: <http://cahillaneforda.com/>.



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On that historic day in May of 2004, my partner of 5 years and I stood 7th in line to receive our marriage license at the clerks' office in Northampton. I legally married my partner in a wonderful ceremony at the First Churches in Northampton. Among the guests for this memorable day was my wife's cousin, Michael Cahillane and his wife Christine.

I am writing this because there has been much written lately about Michael Cahillane that would suggest that he does not support same sex marriage. I would like to go on record to say that I know this to be false. No matter what petition was signed or what the opposition says, Michael Cahillane does not oppose same sex marriage. I say this not only because Mike was at our wedding but **because I know Michael Cahillane; the man.** I have seen the pain in his eyes as he has talked quite openly about this issue with me. **He tells the truth when he says it is a "deeply personal" subject for him. It truly is.**

The people of Hampshire County, **straight or gay, would be lucky to have Michael Cahillane as their next District Attorney. I have truly never met a man with more integrity, dedication, and devotion to the people that he serves.**

~ Katherine A. Hayford, Florence

I believe Mike Cahillane to be a person of integrity who is governed by his own moral compass. He is not the type of person who will tell me what I want to hear. However, he is someone who will **genuinely listen** to and consider what I have to say. **I have absolutely no doubt that he supports gay marriage** and that **he is committed to civil and human rights for all.** If I were the victim of a hate crime, I would want **a tough, experience prosecutor** championing my case. For me, **Mike Cahillane is that prosecutor.** That is why I am asking you to join me on September 14 in **voting for Mike Cahillane.**

~ Michael Bardsley
Former Northampton City Councilor
First openly gay elected official in Northampton
Founder of the Northampton Civil Rights Commission

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USA Basketball Women's National Team host final games prior to FIBA World Championship

HARTFORD, CT—In its final domestic tune-up prior to the 2010 FIBA World Championship, the USA Basketball Women's National Team will host Australia and Spain in a pair of exhibition contests at the XL Center in Hartford, Conn., on Sept. 10 and 12. The U.S. will take on defending world champion Australia on Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Spain, the No. 5-ranked women's program in the world, on Sept. 12 (1:00 p.m.). Tickets are on sale now, and are available online at www.ticketmaster.com, through Ticketmaster charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000 and in person at the XL Center box office. Ticket prices range from \$75, \$50, \$30, \$20 and \$10 respectively, additional fees may apply.

"One of the things you always want to do is to try to play some really good competition leading up to the (FIBA) World Championship," said 2009-12 USA Basketball Women's National Team and University of Connecticut head coach Geno Auriemma. "Usually those games are held overseas where we don't have a lot of fans. It's fortunate for us that we're able to get teams of the caliber of Spain and Australia, two of the top five teams in the world, to come to Hartford and play exhibition games. I think people here in the Hartford area, in Connecticut especially, appreciate women's basketball as much, if not more, than any other place in the country. I think those two teams will get a great reception and people will get a chance to see what we're going to be seeing in the Czech Republic (at the World Championship). I'm excited for our fans. I'm excited for the city of Hartford, and I'm really appreciative of the XL Center for working with us to put that together."

Members of the 2009-12 USA Basketball Women's National Team are Seimone Augustus (Minnesota Lynx), Alana Beard (Washington Mystics), Sue Bird

(Seattle Storm), Swin Cash (Seattle Storm), Tamika Catchings (Indiana Fever), Tina Charles (Connecticut Sun), Shameka Christon (Chicago Sky), Candice Dupree (Phoenix Mercury), Sylvia Fowles (Chicago Sky), Lindsey Harding (Washington Mystics), Asjha Jones (Connecticut Sun), Kara Lawson (Connecticut Sun), Angel McCoughtry (Atlanta Dream), Renee Montgomery (Connecticut Sun), Maya Moore (University of Connecticut), Candace Parker (Los Angeles Sparks), Cappie Pondexter (New York Liberty), Diana Taurasi (Phoenix Mercury), Lindsay Whalen (Minnesota Lynx) and Candice Wiggins (Minnesota Lynx).

The U.S. will look to capture the title at the 2010 FIBA World Championship that will be held Sept. 23 – Oct. 3 in Brno, Karlovy Vary and Ostrava, Czech Republic, with the gold medal winner earning a berth to the 2012 Olympic Games.

In the past dozen years, the highly successful USA Basketball Women's National Team program, ranked No. 1 in the world by FIBA, has posted a 63-1 slate in major international competitions, winning four consecutive Olympic gold medals (1996, 2000, 2004, 2008), two FIBA World Championship gold medals (1998, 2002), one FIBA World Championship bronze medal (2006) and one FIBA Americas Championship gold medal (2007).



PHOTO: COURTESY XL CENTER

USA Basketball Women's National Team takes on Australia and Spain on September 10 and 12 at the XL Center in Hartford, CT

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activities are scheduled from 12-3 daily.

This year's ticketed keynote presenters include Bernie Siegel, MD (internationally known author and lecturer, including best-seller "Love, Medicine & Miracles"; www.BernieSiegelMD.com), famed psychic medium John Holland (author of "Born Knowing"; www.johnholland.com), raw and living foods expert Brenda Cobb (www.livingfoodsinstitute.com), money empowerment coach Linda Marks (www.healingheartpower.com) and intuition expert and motivational speaker Lynn Robinson (www.lynnrobinson.com). Keynote tickets can be purchased in advance at www.naturalexpo.org.

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For expo information visit www.NaturalExpo.org or call 508-278-9640.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF KRIPALU.

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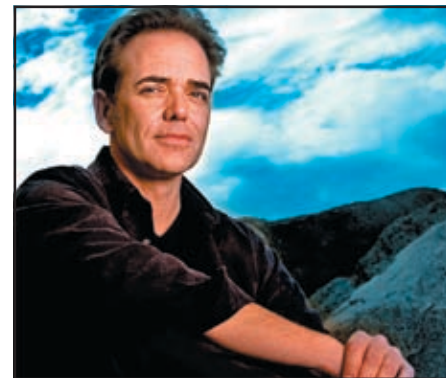


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MassEquality names Kara Suffredini new Executive Director

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

BOSTON, MA—MassEquality, the leading state organization for LGBT rights, named Kara Suffredini, Esq. as its new Executive Director on August 18. Suffredini was, most recently, the Director of Public Policy and Community Engagement for the Family Equality Council (FEC).

Suffredini replaces former Executive Director Scott Gortikov, who resigned from the organization in July after serving in the position for 15 months.

"We are thrilled. Kara is a talented attorney and policy maker and she has extensive experience running statewide advocacy campaigns," said Sara Whitman, chair of the MassEquality Board of Directors. "She is a visionary thinker and a highly regarded LGBT movement strategist. We are confident that Kara will bring us to the next level of LGBT advocacy in Massachusetts."

Suffredini, who lives in Somerville with her partner, will begin working at MassEquality September 7.

Suffredini holds a law degree from Boston College Law School and started her legal career as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Joette Katz on the Connecticut Supreme Court. From there she worked as an associate at Updike, Kelly, and Spellacy, P.C. in Connecticut.

Suffredini has spent the past several years working to advance LGBT equality.

In 2004 she joined the *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force* as its state legislative director, where she worked until 2008 when she joined the

Family Equality Council. While there, Suffredini designed advocacy campaigns around legal and policy initiatives impacting LGBT families at the local, state, and federal level. She also led community-building initiatives focused on local service organizations, schools, LGBT groups, and online communities. Throughout her career, she has trained hundreds of activists, lawmakers, and policymakers on grassroots organizing and community building. She has written hundreds of bills promoting LGBT equality and provided technical assistance on hundreds more. Last month, the National LGBT Bar Association named her one of the "Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40."



PHOTO: MASS EQUALITY
Kara Suffredini

"This is an amazing opportunity," said Suffredini. "My goal for MassEquality is simple. I want this organization to lay the legal, policy, community-, and coalition-building framework to ensure that every lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender person in Massachusetts is protected from cradle to grave — with equal rights and opportunities in school, in marriage and family life, at work and in retirement."

Meanwhile, the organization's Political Action Committee has endorsed the following candidates in the September 14 primary: Karen Payne, challenger running for the Sixth Suffolk representative district (Dorchester, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, and Roslindale).

· Dan Wolf, challenger running for the Cape and Islands state senate seat. Wolf is CEO of Cape Air.

· Eileen Donoghue, challenger running for the First Middlesex senate district (Lowell, Westford, Groton, Dunstable, Pepperell, and Tyngsbor-

ough). Donoghue is the former mayor of Lowell.

· Josh Cutler, challenger running for the Sixth Plymouth representative district (Pembroke, Duxbury, Hanson, and Halifax).

· Mark McGonagle, challenger running for the Fourth Suffolk senate seat (South Boston and Dorchester). McGonagle is a Boston Public Health Commission youth worker.

· Patrick Gerry, challenger running for the Second Worcester representative district (Ashburnham, Ashby, Gardner, Royalston, Winchendon). Gerry is a Gardner city councilor.

· State Sen. Sal DiDomenico, running for reelection to the Suffolk, Middlesex, and Essex senate district (Cambridge, Everett, and Somerville).

DiDomenico won a special election to the seat in April.

Endorsements were made on the basis of several criteria, including the candidate's support for the Transgender Civil Rights Bill, which will extend employment, housing, education, credit, and hate crimes protections to transgender residents of Massachusetts, as well as the candidate's support for an Equality Agenda that includes the preservation of marriage equality in Massachusetts and robust public funding for LGBT programs and services.

For more information about Mass Equality, visit: www.massequality.org.

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Bridgewater murder defendant places blame on victim for relationship's end

Local domestic violence programs see link to partner abuse

BOSTON, MA—On August 9th a Brockton woman, Eunice Field, 54, pulled up to the Brockton police station and confessed to killing her ex-girlfriend's AA sponsor, Lorraine Wachsmen, 62, at Wachsmen's Bridgewater home. According to Assistant District Attorney Thomas Flanagan, Field left a note for her ex-girlfriend, Renee Williams, in the apartment they shared that indicated Wachsmen got what she had coming to her for coming between her and her ex-girlfriend, and "for taking away the love of her life".

"This is a terrible tragedy and a painful reminder that partner abuse not only affects survivors but also their community of friends, family and loved ones," said The Network/La Red Director Beth Leventhal, "We know that extreme jealousy, and possessiveness over one's partner or ex-partner are two of the tell-tale signs of partner abuse."

The case is being watched by The Net-

work/La Red and other domestic violence programs and comes on the heels of the murder of Annemarie Rintala of Granby, MA in March of this year; another suspected LGBTQ domestic violence homicide. No charges have been filed yet in that case.

theNetworkLaRed

"Partner abuse in our community happens at comparable rates and is just as serious and dangerous as partner abuse in non-LGBTQ communities," says Kaitlin Nichols, the Director of Organizing and Education at The Network/La Red, "We know that being involved with a domestic violence program is a protective factor against homicide so we want people to know that we are here as a resource."

If you are concerned about your relationship or the relationship of a friend or family member, call The Network/La Red's hotline at 617.742.4911 (voice), 617.227.4911 (tty).

Voices from page 2

Approve Referendum 71 campaign (which made history as the first voter-approved domestic partnership law for same-sex couples in the United States). Reese is a middle school teacher in Illinois who freelances for LGBT publications including Out&About Illinois magazine.

In an email interview, Mirabella says, "We both felt that our community needed a show like Same Sex Sunday. As far as we know, we are the first to offer a political round table that brings together our community's thought of leaders, news makers, and accidental heroes."

Recent shows have included a freewheeling exchange between Mirabella and Washington Congressman Jim McDermott on the chances of passing the *Employment Non-Discrimination Act* and repealing the military ban on openly gay service members, and a riveting interview with the anonymous founder of the newly formed OutServe, an organization of actively serving LGBT members of the military.

"It feels like the stories are choosing us," Mirabella says of their story selection process. "We try to cover conversations and news events that dominate each week."

Mirabella doesn't necessarily agree with the assessment that there's little reporting, if any, coming from the blogosphere. "There certainly are blogs that do very good reporting," he writes. "The Bilerico Project has a nice mix of opinion and journalism. Good As You, Huffington Post, and Pam's House Blend have all broken news. There are micro blogs that target neighborhoods, such as Capitol Hill Blog (in Seattle), [that] are outstanding news organizations."

He puts himself in the category of "journal-activists," a term coined by Mike Rogers, publisher of PageOneQ and the blogger behind BlogACTIVE.com, who ousted Virginia Republican Congressman Ed Schrock in 2004. Schrock had supported an amendment to the United States Constitution that would have defined marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

"I think you can have a point of view as a journalist as long as you make that point of view known. I fully support LGBT equality, and I write from that perspective. My audience knows that coming into the story," Mirabella said.

That said, Mirabella's co-host Reese warns in his most recent column for The Bilerico Project that we need to "have a serious conversation" about the state of LGBT media: "The Internet is great and all, trust me. However, as an unpaid blogger sitting alone in his living room drinking coffee in his underwear, I don't have the resources and organization behind me to cover a big, complex story with the rigor it deserves. I need to go to my real job in a few hours. The rent doesn't pay itself."

So, no, Same Sex Sunday is not the second coming of Out magazine circa 1994. But the content is interesting and lively, and, more often than not, you'll come away from an episode more informed than you were before listening.

Give it a try. You can find Same Sex Sunday on the web at samesexsunday.podbean.com, and on Facebook, Twitter and iTunes.

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

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Letters from page 2

the way that troubled me greatly (some have been solved, some not so much, some not at all, only in my opinion). My opinion is a very small part of "things." What's good for the *whole* is what's important. I believe that going on the results of last year's pageant (again I am not talking in specifics about the "who" wearing the crown), including the delight of witnessing transgender women actually rejoicing publicly in themselves, that was *huge*, with all that most transgender folks have to go through on their individual, too often lonely, journeys!

I have come to the conclusion that, as a burgeoning phenomenon, the MTNE pageant is worth "sticking with" in all its "newborn" frailties and imperfections, as my mum always said, "Rome wasn't built in a day!" Who knows how many years of these events it will take to get it all "just right?" I'm 58 years old myself, and am *still very far* from being a "finished product!" How can I expect more from any other growing person or thing?

I would like to add that I feel it would be *wonderful* to establish a similar "contest" for transgender men, to choose a powerful spokesperson for ALL transgender men! I hope that happens!

Thank you, Ericka, for having the courage to say what I am aware that others are thinking! I pray that there are those too who are, as I am, trying to be patient, tending the seeds, feeding the ground, and awaiting, without force or unrealistic expectations, for the day, most likely *many* days hence, when the rose of our transgender community, *bursts* into full and healthy bloom with *more* than "equal standing," *more* than mere "equal rights," but *also* with the resounding applause that *true* beauty warrants!

Respectfully submitted,

—Linda Carragher, Sarasota, FL

Dear Editor,

The letter to the Editor on your Aug. 19 edition of the Times by Ericka Soto was definitely a good letter. I have often asked the same questions she poses in it, but have not received answers. I have tried to help in the past, but this organization does not seem objective. I read forwards of letters in FB that did not allow Glenn Koetzner to take photos of the event. I also do not understand that. Most importantly, I see much division in this trans organization and it saddens me as a trans person, still in the closet. I would not dare get a second rejection from the actual trans leaders in the area, or leader.

Ericka thank you for putting it all out there. When things are not done right, the outcome cannot be right either. No one should shun the press from events. I always am grateful to you, The Rainbow Times, and my support of your work with the trans community stands out and shines where other papers have done nothing for us.

Truly yours,

—Taylor O'Mair, Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,

I first met Mike Cahillane in 2001 when I opened the Western Mass office of the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project. Mike went out of his way to help me get started by introducing me to various people in the district courts, DA's offices and police departments in Franklin and Hampshire counties. He immediately "got it" when it came to the nuances of prosecuting domestic violence cases within same sex relationships. He treated my clients with dignity and respect, and was very empathetic and concerned for their well being.

During this time, Mike prosecuted a hate crime that occurred against two friends of mine. He did a superb job with that case, securing a conviction and acting on the recommendations of my friends in his sentencing request to the judge.

Mike and his wife Christine were also customers of mine when I owned Pride & Joy in downtown Northampton, and I got to know him better there. Christine and I then began working together at Goggins, and my husband Steve and I have since become friends with both of them. My trust and respect for Mike has grown immensely. He told us early on in our friendship that he immediately regretted signing the anti-marriage petition, and he apologized to us profusely.

I know from my work as a victim advocate in the Franklin and Hampshire district courts that having a skilled prosecutor as the DA is critical. Mike not only will bring his skills and experience as a prosecutor to this position, but he will also bring his demonstrable experience working effectively with crime victims and area police departments as well. He is fair minded, open and honest with a high level of integrity and compassion. I hope people will join me in supporting Mike Cahillane for DA.

—Mark Carmien, Florence, MA

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of David Sullivan for the next Northwestern District attorney. His experience, knowledge and commitment to justice make him the right choice in the Democratic primary on September 14th.

Dave was a selfless straight ally for the LGBT community during the equal marriage struggle. He participated in phone banks and letter writing campaigns in an effort to convince our state legislators to vote against amending the Massachusetts Constitution. Over the years, he worked with our community as a strong progressive advocate.

Dave has a long history of a commitment to social justice. He has made impressive reforms in his current position as Registrar of Probate. He is currently a member of an organization that works to find shelter for homeless veterans and is a strong children's rights advocate. He is also unflinching in his support for the transgender community.

Dave Sullivan has publicly supported the Transgender Civil Rights Bill that was recently before the Massachusetts Legislature. Unlike his opponent, (who has stated that he needs to read the current bill), Dave does not hesitate to advocate for equal rights for all Massachusetts citizens. This advocacy, along with his zero-tolerance approach to hate-crimes, makes him the right choice for the LGBT community when considering who should fill the seat for the next Northwestern District Attorney.

—Jennifer Levi, GLAD Senior Attorney, Easthampton, MA

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Scott Sylvia, O.D. earned his doctorate in Optometry from the New England College of Optometry in 1986. He also has a Bachelor's in Optometry and an MBA with a concentration in health care administrative management and marketing.

Dr. Sylvia has had a private practice in Cambridge since 1998 and in 2010 he moved his practice to Parrelli Optical. He is also an adjunct clinical professor of the New England College of Optometry and trains interns in his office. Prior to his private practice, he was a staff optometrist at Harvard



PHOTO: COURTESY SCOTT SYLVIA

Dr. Scott Sylvia

Pilgrim Heath Care in Rhode Island for eight years, where he chaired and served on numerous committees.

He is a member of the American Optometric Association, the AOA Contact Lens and Cornea Section, the Mass Society of Optometrist, the Greater Boston Business Council, and the HRC.

Dr. Sylvia performs comprehensive eye examinations, medical eye care, and he specializes in Contact Lenses and is on the Leadership team of Vistakon. He accepts most major health insurances, is accepting new patients and has convenient evening and Saturday office hours.

For more information check out his website www.drscotsylvia.com or Facebook page www.facebook.com/drscotsylvia.

NYAC: Survey explores tobacco use by LGBTQ youth, notes need for both better intervention and prevention strategies

AUGUST 24, 2010 – A new report, "Coming Out about Smoking: Tobacco Use in the LGBTQ Young Adult Community" released today by the National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC) explores the reasons why sexual minority youth smoke and suggests strategies for prevention.

The report finds that sexual minority youth are likely to smoke due to unique stressors such as discrimination and lack of family acceptance; that many sexual minority youth see smoking as an important social activity; that most sexual minority youth prefer to date nonsmokers; and that sexual minority youth smokers tend not to smoke heavily, with many wanting to quit. In order to reduce smoking rates, the report recommends intervention programs designed by youth and for youth, early outreach to youth smokers, and emphasis on the health risks of smoking. The full report is available online here.

"Coming Out About Smoking" utilizes information from focus groups and a survey of nearly 1000 sexual minority youth. The survey was written to address the gaps in research on tobacco use in the LGBTQ community.

"Current data suggest that sexual minority

youth are more likely to smoke than the general youth population, but this report examines why. There is plenty of opportunity for intervention; we need to encourage tobacco prevention programs designed and driven by and for youth, which both emphasize the health risks of smoking and relate to the major stressors sexual minority youth face each day," said Gregory Varnum, Executive Director of NYAC.

The National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC) is a national social justice organization working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) young people to strengthen the role of young people in the LGBTQ rights movement. Celebrating its 17th anniversary, NYAC's full-time professional staff supports local, state and national organizations working to engage LGBTQ youth. NYAC is committed to representing the voices of young people - the largest living generation - within the broader LGBTQ and social justice movements. Through capacity building, advocacy and youth engagement, NYAC is building a generation of impact. To learn more, go to www.nyacyouth.org

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Melissa Ferrick: Lyrical liver, lover, lesbian and Queer Carnevale virgin

By: Mikey Rox*/Special for TRT

Singer-songwriter Melissa Ferrick is no stranger to the stage.

With 12 years of formative, formal music training – including classical violin, piano, trumpet, bass and acoustic guitar (the latter of which she taught herself, thankyouverymuch) – the Ipswich, Mass., native was practically born to rock.

But you don't have to take our word for it. Because on Sept. 25, Ferrick will perform at Queer Carnevale, alongside some of gay entertainment's best acts,

like *Sister Funk*, *Carol Hahn*, *All The Kings Men* and *The Ellingtones*.

In a recent interview, Ferrick – who gained notoriety when she replaced the opening act for singer Morrissey, in 1991 – talks about her upcoming performance, which will benefit the LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts; addresses the rumors surrounding her departure from Atlantic Records; discusses the future of her music; and coyly suggests that she's single.

Uh huh – looks like huntin' season came early this year.



PHOTO: THE AGENCY GROUP

Melissa Ferrick

THE RAINBOW TIMES: You've been a musician all your life, starting with classical violin lessons at age 5. What drew you to music so young?

MELISSA FERRICK: No idea, really. When I was 4, I told my parents that I had wanted to play the violin since before I was born, so they bought me one. I always wanted to be around music and art.

TRT: You're known to speak openly about your sexuality, your love life and personal life in interviews, which is something that a lot of entertainers steer clear of. Why do you discuss such personal issues in an open forum when you don't necessarily have to?

MF: Good question. I've been very open about my sexuality since 1995, and that still remains true to this day. However, my personal love life and whom I date has become more and more important for me to keep private as I get older. I am known in my family for lacking a 'filter' when I speak, so this is both a burden and a gift, but it's who I am.

TRT: You were signed by Atlantic Records after you replaced the opening act for Morrissey in 1991, but the label dropped you when your first two albums didn't meet producers' expectations. You're quoted as saying that you "bottomed out" and dealt with that blow with excessive drinking and drug use. How did you escape the clutches of addiction?

MF: First off, I was given the option to stay on Atlantic at the time from my A&R representative. He had signed *Hootie and the Blowfish* and they were extremely successful for Atlantic so he had some pull to keep me there. We talked about the validity of me as an artist staying on Atlantic and the obvious direction of labels at the time. It was 1995 and people like Ani DiFranco were beginning to pave the way for independent music. My A&R guy and I felt it was best to leave Atlantic with my head held high. As far as the addiction, it's a deep one; it's something I deal with on a daily basis in my life.

TRT: Have you ever felt that being an

out-and-proud lesbian has held you back professionally?

MF: No. And if it has, I'm glad I don't carry that bitter weight on my shoulders.

TRT: In a 2004 interview with *Between the Lines* (an LGBT publication in Michigan), you told the interviewer that you hope to find a "really gorgeous woman that I fall completely and madly in love with." Has that happened for you yet?

MF: It's happened 4 times. [Laughs]

TRT: I was told that the lesbians in this area go crazy for you. Perhaps you'll find the one you're looking for while you're here for Queer Carnevale.

MF: Maybe...

TRT: Speaking of QC, what can your fans expect when you perform in a couple weeks?

MF: A celebration of life and love. I hope to be a part of a day where all my troubles disappear and I have a few hours of complete brain relaxation. Hopefully my performance will help accomplish this for me.

TRT: Your performance is part of a fundraiser for the LGBT Coalition of Western Massachusetts. Why did you want to be part of this?

MF: I met the folks who are putting this on at NoHo Pride this summer. It was an immediate love connection, and they asked me to come play for this. I

am happy to give what I can to any LGBT event anywhere, when possible.

TRT: What acts are you looking forward to catching at the festival?

MF: *Antigone Rising*. There may be a jam happening.

TRT: You recently released your 16th record – an album of cover songs – titled "Enough About Me." Why that title? What's the significance?

MF: I thought it was a clever idea and a bit of play on words since I cover my own songs on the CD as well. I made that album because I was having a real writers' block for about eight months and one of the ways to stay sane when you can't produce your own art is to dive into someone else's. It was also great to not be so me-and-my-music obsessed. Making this album really gave me more than I ever thought it would. It was harder than I thought it would be to make, but I loved playing and engineering everything again like I had done on "The Other Side."

TRT: You have an album of original material in the works, which is set to release later this year. Is that album on track? What can fans expect with this forthcoming disc?

MF: Yes, I'm making a new originals record this late fall/winter. I wouldn't expect it to be released until late spring/early summer 2011. I'm finding the songs to be quite introspective and sad. Break-up material, angst, frustration, a growing pains kind of a record – which seems to be putting a lot of smiles on my friends and fans' faces so far.

TRT: After that, what's next?

MF: More love, more touring, more writing, more teaching, more growing, more passion. And then this lingering threat to start taking yoga.

*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at mikey@paperroxscissors.com.

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October 7, 7:30 PM, Bowker Auditorium

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October 13, 7:30 PM, Bowker Auditorium

CHUCHO VALDES

October 19, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall

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November 12, 8 PM, Concert Hall

MARY BLACK

November 17 at 7:30 PM, Concert Hall

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November 17 at 7:30 PM, Concert Hall

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November 18, 8 PM, Bowker Auditorium

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January 27, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall

PILOBOLUS

February 1, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall

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 February 15, 7:30 PM, Bowker Auditorium

MAGIC TRIANGLE: THE CELESTIAL SEPTET with ROYA SAX QUARTET & NELS CLINE SINGERS

February 24, 8 PM, Bowker Auditorium

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March 2, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall

ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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March 10, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall

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March 22, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall

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March 24, 7:30 PM, Bowker Auditorium

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March 26, 8 PM, Bowker Auditorium

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March 29, 8 PM, Bezanson Recital Hall

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April 6, 7:30 PM, Concert Hall

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10 'Gaycons' that should make themselves scarce

By: Mikey Rox*/Special for TRT

Late, great comedian Rodney Dangerfield was famous for his schtick "Don't Get No Respect." The LGBT community sympathizes, old friend – we don't either, and here are 10 reasons why.

Perez Hilton

His super snarky, eponymous gossip site may pull in nine million visitors a month [SOURCE: <http://www.ebizmba.com/articles/gossip-websites/>], but Perez Hilton (AKA Mario Lavandeira) is one nasty homo. For starters, he actively outs closeted celebrities [SOURCE: <http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/14065223>] for his own amusement – and he's proud of it. But that's not what makes this self-loathing sloth wholly despicable; Hilton is a hypocrite of the highest order. Consider the 2009 confrontation between the blogger and Black Eyed Pea's member Will.I.Am at Toronto's Much Music Awards wherein Hilton fired off a double dose of F-bombs, calling the singer "a fucking faggot." [SOURCE: <http://www.tnzm.com/2009/06/22/perez-vs-will-i-am-caught-on-tape/>] Alas, you know what they say: Takes one to know one.

Dan Choi

What began as a benign and commendable campaign to shed light on the military's discriminating "don't ask, don't tell" policy has turned the recently discharged activist into a money-grubbing media whore. According to an angry letter addressed to Choi from Nonnie Ouch, president of Texas Tech University's Gay-Straight Alliance, the former Army lieutenant personally declined a request to speak at the school because it couldn't cough up enough cash [SOURCE: <http://www.queerty.com/dan-choi-speaking-fees-spoiling-his-appeal-among-grassroots-activists-20100803/>]. Choi's asking price? \$10,000. Nobody will deny that the fight for equal rights comes at a cost – but who knew it cost so much? Don't sweat the snub, Nonnie. Your money's better spent on a real American hero.

Reichen Lehmkuhl

After dropping long-time and "Amazing Race" partner Chip Arndt, Lehmkuhl star-fucked his way through gay Hollywood until he hit pay dirt – Lance Bass [Source: <http://www.people.com/people/article/0,26334,1219142,00.html>]. Their short-lived, rickety romance ended just six months after it landed within the pages of People Magazine, but Lehmkuhl already got what he wanted – relevance among the vain and vapid. Case in point: This fall the former Air Force captain will headline Logo's "Real Housewives" rip-off, "The A-List: New York," a reality program that will follow the lives of six equally pathetic gay men. The first indication that this show will blow? Somebody at Logo doesn't know the alphabet – or has an incredibly sinister sense of humor.

Melissa Etheridge

One minute the "Come to My Window" crooner is speaking out against California's same-sex marriage ban with wife Tammy Lynn Michaels by her side, the next she's serving said wife with divorce papers. Michaels, via her blog, claims that she was blindsided by Etheridge's filing and left broke with two toddlers to feed [SOURCE: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/07/03/tammy-lynn-michaels-melissa_634926.html] – and if that's the case, shame on the lesbian rock legend. Spousal support doesn't just apply to straight people; you can't pick and choose what aspects of traditional



PHOTO: JAMES MINCHIN III

Melissa Etheridge

marriage you want to honor. Besides, with 27 million records sold worldwide surely Etheridge can show a little sympathy for the mother of her twins – if only so she can stop scrounging up gas money from the couch cushions.

Michael Lucas

Besides being one of the most loud-mouthed figures in gay culture – and a pornographer (doesn't that say it all right there?) – Lucas is also an unapologetic bigot: He hates Muslims, and he's not afraid to shout it from the rafters

[SOURCE: http://www.bilerico.com/2010/08/michael_lucas_hates_muslims_does_the_advocate.php]. Combine those dastardly traits with an unequivocally petty persona that can't handle when people call him out on his own ignorance and you've got a grandstander of inferior design. But that's neither here nor there. Lucas never could keep his mouth shut – in person or on screen – so his latest nonsensical statements shouldn't shock. He enjoys rocking the boat, so long as the boat is filled with bare-chested, non-Islamic boys and wads of cash. Here's hoping that his ship sinks sooner than later.

Boy George

Not exactly the "Karma Chameleon" of which he sings, '80s icon Boy George has slighted fans by attempting to perform concerts high on heroin [SOURCE: <http://www.thisdayinrock.com/index.php/general/1961-born-on-this-day-george-odowd-boy-george-singer-dj-culture/>] and landed himself in handcuffs for falsely reporting a burglary, an offense for which he was fined and sentenced to community service. Of course, everyone deserves a second chance. And George got one. But then he went and mucked that up by assaulting and imprisoning a male escort. Reports claim that George bound and beat Norwegian rent boy Audun Carlsen because he thought the hooker was stealing personal photos from his computer [SOURCE: http://www.nydailynews.com/gossip/2008/12/05/2008-12-05_court_finds_boy_george_guilty_of_false_i.html]. As a result of the fracas, the Culture Clubber was placed behind bars, serving only four months of a 15-month sentence that should have lasted forever.

Andy Cohen

Host of Bravo's reunion shows and self-promoting chat-fest "Watch What Happens: Live," Cohen seemingly came out of nowhere. Except he came from somewhere – right down the hall, where he serves as the network's senior vice president of production and programming. One can contemplate how the decision was made to pluck the walking advertisement for anti-tanning from his desk and put him in front of the camera, but one doesn't have to: It seems as if Cohen coyly campaigned for the job, because, well, he thinks he deserves to be on TV [SOURCE: <http://nymag.com/arts/tv/features/63010/>]. In an interview with New York Magazine earlier this year, he said: "I don't have a lot of self-doubt or cracks in my self-confidence." That Jackhole of the Week award he gave himself recently is well earned.

Lindsay Lohan

On-again, off-again lady lover Lindsay Lohan was once a bright and shining star. Not anymore. A tumultuous relationship with a semi-famous female DJ, a few stints in rehab and jail time will do that to a girl. While accidents happen – forget the DUI; "I Know Who Killed Me" should have been considered a crime – it's the wacktress's apparent disregard for authority and woe-is-me attitude that leaves a bitter taste in people's mouths. Throw in a family full of hangers-on who will stop at nothing to get their busted mugs on the cover of a magazine and you've got a recipe for we-don't-give-a-shit-about-you-anymore stew. Hopefully there's enough to feed the whole clan.

See Gaycons on page 23

TOP 10 BEST SELLER VIDEOS Courtesy: wolfevideo.com

LESBIAN TOP 10

1. We Have to Stop Now - Season 1
2. Loving Annabelle
3. Mädchen in Uniform
4. Hannah Free
5. The L Word: Final Season
6. And Then Came Lola
7. 8: The Mormon Proposition
8. The World Unseen
9. The Baby Formula
10. The Four-Faced Liar

GAY TOP 10

1. Boy
2. Pornography: A Thriller
3. 8: The Mormon Proposition
4. Plan B
5. La Mission
6. BOYCRAZY
7. Mr. Right
8. The Butch Factor
9. Clapham Junction
10. David's Birthday

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DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: Dolly Parton & Queen Latifah come to Jesus

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

Stephen Collins gws his gay on for *Brothers & Sisters* role

Stephen Collins played a Protestant clergyman and family man on the long-running *7th Heaven*, but he's about to get his gay on in the new season of *Brothers & Sisters*. The 63-year-old Collins plays Charlie, who'll be dating Uncle Saul (Ron Rifkin) and helping Saul deal with the HIV-positive diagnosis he received at the end of last season. The *Brothers & Sisters* gig is part of a busy fall TV season for Collins, who's also got a recurring role on the new superhero show *No Ordinary Family*. (The fact that gay producer Greg Berlanti is involved with both shows no doubt facilitated Collins' multi-tasking.) Collins' character is slated for only a few episodes of *B&S*, but if the characters have chemistry – or if *No Ordinary Family* faces an early demise – maybe he'll get an extension. TV primetime could use a good November/December gay romance, after all.

Sondheim, played for laughs

No one is officially saying that the new HBO series, *The Miraculous Year*, is specifically based on the life of legendary gay Broadway composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim, but it's hard to miss the resemblances. Sondheim suffered a heart attack at age 49, and *Year's* protagonist (played by Tony-winning actor Norbert Leo Butz) is a 44-year-old Broadway composer who suffers an aneurysm. But



Romeo San Vicente

Oscar-nominated screenwriter John Logan). Audiences will have to wait until the possibly miraculous year of 2011 to catch what promises to be a dishy dive into Broadway's backstage drama.

Finally! Rooney Mara is *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*

Much like the searches for Scarlett O'Hara, James Bond, Lestat and Harry Potter, everyone wondered who would play Lisbeth Salander in the movies based on the popular mysteries by Stieg Larsson. Big names like Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson were tossed around, but it's relative newcomer Rooney Mara who's landed the coveted role of the badass bisexual hacker in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and its two sequels, which will be brought to the screen by David Fincher. Rooney who-ne, you ask? She popped up in *Youth in Revolt*

and the queer indie *Dare*, starred in this year's unspectacular remake of *Nightmare on Elm Street*, and she's the younger sister of *Brokeback Mountain*'s Kate Mara. She'll soon be seen in Fincher's *The Social Network* – the gig that got her the role as Salander – and by the time *Dragon Tattoo* opens in 2011, she's bound to be a household name.

Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah come together to serenade Jesus

They've got two of the most speculated-about private lives in show business, but Dolly Parton and Queen Latifah got to that place because of their talent. So there are a lot of reasons to get excited about these two titans teaming up for *Joyful Noise*, a new movie about two fierce ladies banding together to save their small-town gospel choir from a budget cut shutdown. For one thing, Parton plans to write some original songs for the film (that's never a bad thing) and though Latifah got her start as a rapper, she's proven she can belt it out to the bleachers in *Living Out Loud* and *Hairspray*. The cherry on top of this diva sundae is that it's being written and directed by gay filmmaker Todd Graff, who in the last few years has given us two happily music-packed films – the show-tune-teen crowd-pleaser *Camp* and the underappreciated rocker-teen comedy *Band-slam*. If you haven't seen Graff's two previous directorial efforts, make sure to check them out before *Joyful Noise* hits theaters in 2011. You won't be sorry.




PHOTO: NEW LINE CINEMA


Queen Latifah

*Romeo San Vicente's joyful noises have gotten him evicted from at least three thin-walled apartments. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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Creep of the Week: Republican Jeremy Walters

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

Dear Internet Citizens: Facebook is not private. I don't care how many privacy-setting loops you jump through. The more "friends" you have, the more public your page. Facebook is not a lockbox for your most private feelings and random musings. Especially if you're a public figure.

Jeremy Walters, an Iowa Republican running for Congress, learned this the hard way when anti-gay posts he made on his Facebook wall were exposed. Not only do his posts show that he has serious issues regarding gays, also evident is a desperate cry for help in the punctuation and grammar department.

At 9:33 p.m. Aug. 12 Walters wrote, "Homosexual 'GAY' is not of God!!!! In the Bible it reads; Leviticus 20:13 – King James Bible If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them."

OK, so he gives a little shout out to Leviticus on a Thursday night. So what?

Well, at 9:45 p.m., having thought things over for a good 12 minutes, Walters posted, "The Holy Bible say if your 'GAY' homosexual they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. This tells me a lot so should we kill them NO. They Need to ask God to forgive them of their sins and mean it turn away from it. They also need to know that when it says that their blood shall be upon them that tells me it is AIDS. That's how I feel."

First of all, Walters needs to decide: is it "homosexual 'GAY'" or "'GAY' homosexual?" He uses them interchangeably, as if they're even close to the same thing.

Secondly, holy bat-shit crazy AIDS blood, Batman. So AIDS is God's punishment for being homosexual "GAYS" and/or "GAY" ho-

mosexuals (but not, apparently, homo "GAY" sexuals. Yet). And although "this tells (him) alot" (though apparently it doesn't tell him that "a lot" is two words, not one), he's not planning a gay killing spree (at least that's how I interpret "so should we kill them NO"). He's just waiting for AIDS to do the job for him.

Gay rights groups and the Iowa GOP quickly denounced Walters.

"Mr. Walters' comments are inappropriate and in no way represent the beliefs of the Republican Party of Iowa," Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Matt Strawn told the Iowa Independent.

I think my favorite thing about Walters' post is how he ends with, "That's how I feel," as if it's simply a response to one of his friends posting, "Hey, Jeremy. How are you?" on his wall.

Actually, according to Walters' apology, that's pretty much what happened.

"I am not against people having a gay lifestyle, and the statements made on Facebook have been taken the wrong way," Walters told The Iowa Independent. "The statement regarding gay homosexuality was not meant to be offensive and I deeply apologize. As far as the quote from Bible; I was replying to someone elses post. It should have been posted as a comment on their page, not my Facebook wall."

As far as apologies go, it's a little weak ("I'm just bad at Facebook!"). It does, however, strengthen the appearance that the man running for Congress in Iowa on the GOP ticket is not only a heart-on-his-sleeve bigot, but that he is also functionally illiterate. I'm honestly not sure which one is sadder.

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

A pesar del sufrimiento, el suicidio no puede ser opción

**Por: Francisco Cartagena Méndez*/
Especial para TRT**

“El joven sintió el filo de una navaja acariciar sus venas. Recordaba su dolor envuelto en un universo de rechazo y discriminación a su alrededor. Un torrente de lágrimas brotaba de sus ojos e hinchados ojos ya cansados de llorar por su identidad; y un volcán ardiente hacía erupción en su corazón ya sin sangre y palpitante, razón por la cual, el suicidio fue la consecuencia de la paliza que su propio padre le propinó al enterarse de su homosexualidad”.

Lo anterior es la triste realidad de miles de jóvenes y personas alrededor del mundo. La presión social y religiosa que continuamente juzga, castiga y denigra la homosexualidad es consecuencia de tristeza y gran malestar. Pero cuando los rechazos y las ofensas son protagonizados por nuestros propios familiares el dolor es insostenible.

Desde milenios se ha condenado la homosexualidad y la mayoría de las iglesias han impuesto ideas en contra de los homosexuales que se contradicen en sus propias prédicas de amor. Por un lado hablan de aquello de que “amarás a tu prójimo como a ti mismo” y “no juzgarás”. Y por otro lado, lo más que hacen es juzgar y condenar al infierno a los homosexuales, lo que provoca que un padre agrede a su hijo/a por causa de su identidad sexual.

El suicidio está aumentando en alarmantes cifras a nivel mundial, y cada día son más los adolescentes que son parte de esta alta incidencia. No se puede obviar, que muchas de esas personas lo son entre la comunidad LGBT que no pudieron soportar el discrimin y el rechazo del cual en vida fueron víctimas.

Desde esta perspectiva y teniendo en cuenta que el discrimin, los rechazos, la burla y las ofensas poseen una estrecha relación etiológicamente con la depresión, el asunto del discrimin en contra de la comunidad LGBT debería ser tratado por los gobiernos como un asunto de política pública. Necesitando de antemano que los propios gobiernos no sean los principales ofensores y discriminadores de miles de seres humanos, que lloran y sufren por causa

de su identidad sexual.

Para reducir los suicidios entre la comunidad LGBT, los gobiernos deberían entonces hacer una realidad el otorgamiento de los derechos humanos universales que no adjudican a nuestra comunidad por razones moralistas y religiosas. Por un lado se hacen expresiones sobre democracias y libertades, pero por otro, una pareja LGBT todavía no posee los mismos derechos que parejas heterosexuales, a la toma de decisiones médicas sobre sus parejas, y derecho a herencias, por ejemplo. Tampoco hay leyes claras en contra de discrimin laboral por identidad sexual o género, ni en contra de la homofobia, principales causas de suicidios entre la comunidad LGBT.

En resumen, se hace necesario que las leyes así como los derechos cobijen a todo ser humano, así como que se lleven a cabo campañas masivas de educación sobre la diversidad, y la prevención de suicidios en nuestra población. Habrá de establecer líneas de apoyo telefónicas con profesionales que puedan brindar ayuda a personas LGBT, entablar campañas televisivas y en la prensa sobre nuestra comunidad para enfatizar que el suicidio no es opción. Y, sin duda, deben haber otros recursos que puedan lograr disminuir tan lamentable acción de la que quitarse la vida.

El discrimin hace derramar sangre o da paso al ahorcamiento de la vida de niños, jóvenes y adultos en Puerto Rico, Latinoamérica, Estados Unidos y en todo el mundo. Quizás uno de tus familiares o amigos ve al suicidio como una alternativa de para liberarse del sufrimiento, de los rechazos y discrimin. No seas parte de la causa al juzgar y condenar a tu prójimo, se parte de la cura, amando a los tuyos y a los demás sin importar su identidad.

** Escrito por Francisco “El Jimagua” Cartagena Méndez, escritor y activista social boricua; para comentarios al autor: eljimagua@live.com o en su blog: http://jimagua.blogspot.com. Traducción al inglés por Wilfred W. Labiosa.*

To read this story in English: www.rainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionsept2.

Faith, Family, and God: Support Muslim LGBT and halt the ignorance around it

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist

Bigotry is being unleashed against Muslim Americans due to the proposed mosque and Islamic Center near the former World Trade Center. Imagine being an LGBT or Searching Muslim American at this time.

It's bad enough being a minority in a homophobic culture, but it is especially difficult being a minority within the LGBT and Searching Community.

Non-Muslim LGBT or Searching Americans must not jump on the emotional bandwagon to advocate that the mosque and Center be relocated. Let not the persecuted become the new persecutors.

Independent of the fact that the Center will be in a former Burlington Coat Factory building not far from a strip club, there is remarkable ignorance about the Holy Qur'an. I wonder how many people now up in arms have read the book.

Islam, like Christianity, can be distorted by extremists who misuse faith to hurt, marginalize, and dehumanize. Anti-Semitism no more reflects the teachings of Jesus, a practicing Jew, than the travesty that occurred on Sept. 11. The Catholic Church allowed the Spanish Inquisition to go on for 600 hundred years. It didn't end until the early 20th Century. Jews, scientists, black cats, free thinkers, men copulating with Satan, and women able to fly on broom sticks were among the hundreds of thousands burned and tortured.

According to the Qur'an "fight them until there is no persecution." Maulana Muhammad Ali (1874-1951), a renowned scholar of Islam, wrote the first English translation of the Holy Qur'an in 1917. He said that persecution must end when "men are not forced to accept or renounce a religion, being at liberty to profess any religion of the truth of which they are convinced, then there should be no more fighting." He further noted that "for many a time

did the Prophet [Muhammad] make peace with the unbelievers." Thomas Paine (atheist), Ben Franklin (agnostic), and Thomas Jefferson (deist) held comparable views about letting citizens follow their own conscience.

Calling Islam a religion of peace is not being politically correct. According to Ali, the root word in Islam is "salm." "Slim" is the root in Muslim. Each refers to peace. Ali said that a "Muslim is therefore one who leads a life of peace, peace with God... and peace with man, which means that he causes no injury to any man ..." Flying planes into buildings does not reflect peace.

Jihad doesn't mean to kill. Ali wrote that its literal translation is "striving." "The Prophet," he said, "is commanded here to carry on a jihad against disbelievers as well as hypocrites ... the only significance that can be attached to these words is that he must continue to preach forcibly both to the disbelievers and the hypocrites." Think Mormons or Jehovah Witnesses at the door reluctant to go away. They may be annoying and perhaps members of the National Rifle Association (NRA), but they don't use force to enter or convert.

Imam and theologian Abu Hanifa (699-767) wrote that someone is not an infidel "on account of sin; nor do we deny his faith." Islam, like all world religions, has sacred, universal truths. There is beauty to be found in Islam if only we taken the time to study, learn, and listen. Ignorance is the enemy. It is the same ignorance that denies all LGBT and Searching Americans equal rights.

If you know someone Muslim in the LGBT and Searching Community be sure to offer them a kind word. These sisters and brothers need support more than ever.

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

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Sullivan from page 3

of hate crimes that their DA's office will listen patiently and respond appropriately. It will be my goal to build trust and establish means of access and support for all victims, but especially those who been shunned and ignored in the past.

TRT: Who did you vote for in the 2008 presidential election and why?

DS: I was the Hampshire County Co-Coordinator and a Western Massachusetts Regional Organizer for Barack Obama and made numerous campaign trips to New Hampshire on his behalf. On Election Day, I worked the polls and the telephones and proudly cast my vote for Barack Obama, the candidate of hope and progressive change.

TRT: In this economic climate, crime is in an upswing. How would you control it?

DS: I have been an advocate for social and economic justice all my adult life and would continue in the movement as District Attorney, using the bully pulpit to support the expansion of the economic safety net. Prosecution will not prevent crimes of economic necessity; it is, however, a powerful tool in preventing crimes

of financial greed. I will bear this in mind in exercising my discretion.

TRT: What is your position regarding people who use drugs as opposed to people who sell drugs?

DS: Drug addiction is a disease best controlled by "tough love" mandated treatment. Recreational use of drugs is a social problem best combatted by financial penalties and educational programs. Selling drugs for profit (as opposed to support an addiction), is a scourge and blight on our communities and needs to meet with vigorous prosecution, lengthy sentences and coordinated law enforcement efforts to trace the money to the profit makers.

TRT: What national initiatives do you support?

DS: I support the repeal of DOMA; I support the empowerment of federal agencies to supervise off shore drilling and the development of alternative energy sources. I support increased federal funding of college and vocational education; a universal, one payer program of medical care; repeal of the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans; and a Constitutional Amendment to prohibit unlimited political contributions by corporations and unions.

TRT: What is one of your proudest moments as a lawyer?

DS: My election as Register of Hampshire County Probate and Family Court and the opportunity to lead in the transformation of a hostile "divorce court" into a welcoming, user-friendly, innovative court that assists elders, families, children of divorcing parents, disabled citizens and all other litigants, lawyers and witnesses in dealing with the life's greatest emotional challenges.

TRT: What is your position on police department members' public endorsement of political candidates?

DS: I have declined to accept contributions or endorsements from employees of the Hampshire Probate and Family Court, the Northwestern District Attorney's office, and all law enforcement agencies that deal with the NW DA office. I am proud to have the public support of over forty former prosecutors, several retired police chiefs and a contingent of retired state police investigators but I would not accept personal endorsements from active police officers because it could cause an appearance of favoritism or bias.

TRT: What's your motto?

DS: My personal motto is, "Do the right thing."

TRT: What are your thoughts and plans to work for the LGBT community?

DS: I plan to work for all the citizens of the Northwestern District. My administration will be open, accessible, inclusive, conscientious and as transparent as the law and ethics of the office permit. I especially intend to reach out to groups who have traditionally and historically been subjected to discrimination, prejudice, neglect and official avoidance. This will, of course, include the LGBT community. The District Attorney is the people's lawyer and I intend to represent all my clients vigorously, zealously, proudly and passionately.

The Democratic primary is September 14.

Dave is married to Catherine M. Hancock and they both have three 3 daughters; Marie, 20; Anne, 18; and Minh, 12. For more information about Dave Sullivan's campaign messages, endorsements, his stance on relevant issues, and/or to volunteer, visit: www.dave-sullivan.org/.

59% Support gay marriage in RI according to poll

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Support for same-sex marriage in the Ocean State continues to grow, according to the results of a new poll. And activists are encouraged that Rhode Island may soon join neighboring states Massachusetts and Connecticut in granting the right to wed to same-sex couples.

Fifty-nine percent of Rhode Island voters support allowing same-sex couples to legally marry in the state. What's more significant is that this marks the first time a majority of voters voiced support for marriage equality since advocates began polling on the issue in 2006, and represents a 10 percent increase in support from the last poll conducted in 2008.

"As many of Rhode Island's sister states have implemented marriage equality, the majority support we see in this poll is not all that surprising," said Dave Walker, vice president at Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research. "Rhode Island voters are clearly ready for change."

Rhode Island and Maine are the only New England states that do not permit same-sex couples to legally marry.

The survey of 502 likely voters in Rhode Island was conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research July 7-12. The margin of error is +/-4.4 percent.

Same-sex marriage activists welcomed the news at a press conference on August 18.

"This poll makes clear that there is no reason why we cannot enact a marriage equality law



PHOTO: ANDREW COLLINS

Mosaic Canyon, in Death Valley National Park

in Rhode Island now and treat all the families of our great state equally," said Kathy Kushnir, Executive Director of Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI) and lead organization of the Rhode Island Marriage Coalition.

Majority support for marriage equality in Rhode Island reflects a growth in support nationally for allowing same-sex couples to marry legally. In a nationwide CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll earlier this month, 52 percent of respondents agreed when asked, "Do you think gays and lesbians should have a constitutional right to get married and have their marriage recognized by law as valid?" It is the first national poll in which a majority of Americans voiced support for equal marriage rights.

Among the Rhode Island poll's major findings:

- 57 percent of Catholics support equality, as do 58 percent of Independents, 60 percent of moderates, 56 percent of women over the age

of 50, and 49 percent of all voters over 50.

"The Catholic number is particularly notable, as this is the most Catholic state in the country," Walker noted. "It is important that this issue is not about forcing churches to marry same-sex couples, nor is it about changing the Sacraments. In fact, in the survey, when we provide voters with reassurance that this is about civil marriages – that their First Amendment rights would be protected – support jumps to 66 percent overall."

Political candidates who support marriage rights for same-sex couples are helped, not hurt, by their stance on the issue, the poll found.

Twenty-seven percent of voters say they are more likely to support a pro-equality candidate, with 24 percent responding less likely and nearly half saying it would make no difference.

A bill which would legalize same-sex marriage in the state has been introduced in the General Assembly every year since 1997. However, the bill has never made it out of the Judiciary Committee for a vote.

Republican Governor Don Carcieri, whose term expires in January, has been a vehement opponent of same-sex marriage. Several of the candidates hoping to succeed Carcieri, including former Senator Lincoln Chafee and State Treasurer Frank Caprio, have pledged to sign a same-sex marriage bill into law if they are elected.

And the Speaker of the House, Gordon Fox, who is openly gay, has the ability to get the marriage bill voted on by the entire legislature.

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We hold these truths to be self-evident: We are all equals

TRANS OPINION

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw*/TRT Columnist

I love the United States of America. I am proud of how we were formed, what we did and the incredible words of that marvelous document, the United States Constitution. Our forefathers and foremothers realized that they needed a place to be free to be themselves. They also realized that not everybody thought like them but that these people needed to be free to be themselves too. We all should have the right to our life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Aren't these noble goals for everyone in this country? This was the beginning of America and this is what was envisioned. This is the United States of America and this is what we want it to be.

But, lately I have seen actions and feelings to the contrary and it saddens me. I see people rallying against the Muslims, against the immigrants, the same sex marriages and the rights for LGBT people; especially against the Ts. The people who rally against these folks usually use their idea of how the U.S. should be as their basis for denial of rights of others. These people are not practicing American values. They are trying to place their own values on others. This is not right.

I can respect other's views even if they are totally opposite from my views. I may dislike what they say but I will fight for their right to say it. If I can respect others, then why can't



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

they respect me and my views? Do I not count? Am I not a real person? Do I not have the same rights as everyone else? Why do they want me to live by their rules? Isn't this selfish, uncaring and totally un-American? I say that it is.

What makes these people think that what they think is right and that we should all bow to what they say? How dare they even insinuate this let alone scream it all across the country. These people are dangerous, selfish, and ignorant.

Let's take the hatred of Muslims. Yes, the people who championed the Sept. 11 bombings were Muslims but they were the extreme, militant Muslims, not the Muslim who lives next door to you. These next door Muslim people are just as much American as you are, so don't they have the same rights that you do? Why can't they build a community center, culinary school, and basketball court and prayer center a few blocks away from Ground Zero? Because of extremist, irrational, emotionally-charged views, that's why.

What about the immigrants? Don't they have a right to try to better their lives just as our forefathers and foremothers did? Please

don't forget that this country is made up of immigrants! That is how we started.

Please don't forget the "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free..." Those words are etched at the base of the *Statue of Liberty* monument. They are from the 1883 poem titled "New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus. These words welcome the immigrant. Please do not forget that. Remember the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness?

Same-sex marriage. What is so wrong with the marriage of two people who love each other? How the heck does that concern you? Why do you even care?

What gives you the right to deny two people who love each other the chance to get married? How can you reason that it should be put to a vote? That is beyond sane reasoning! People's rights should never be voted on. How can you even think of voting on someone else's rights? Just because some religious dogma does not approve is that any right to deny others of their life, liberty and pursuit of happiness?

You know, I am getting pretty sick and

tired of even defending why we all should have equal rights. How can we not have equal rights? Even the Pledge of Allegiance ends with "liberty and justice for all." Why do some people not understand this simple, basic concept? What is wrong with these people who do not respect others? And why do some people agree with them?

So my point is acceptance of others. You do not have to agree with different viewpoints and you don't even have to like everybody but really, doesn't everybody in the United States of America have the right to their own opinions and don't they all have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? I'll say it again, "Don't forget 'Liberty and justice for all.'"

Please start respecting your neighbors and stop acting like an anti-American.

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

online calendar of events @ therainbowtimesnews.com

Ask a Transwoman: Rules of engagement for transgender dating

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist

Hello friends and welcome back to Part 2 of my take on transgender dating.

I've been fighting my way through a sea of men who "need to be discreet." Gah! It's just so offensive. I really wish that guys who actually like transgender women would just grow a pair and admit to it.

Listen up guys: This mantra of discretion says nothing else but that it is somehow an embarrassing thing to be attracted to us, that it's shameful and that transgender women are OK to have a good time with in the dark but not OK to bring home to Mom. Not nice at all.

Having said all that, though, sometimes a girl just wants to have a good time. We think to ourselves, "Maybe I'll just make an exception for this guy. He's really cute after all ..." I myself made an exception recently. I met a beautiful man online who recognized me from my public life. He was sweet, intelligent and hot. And yes, I had a really good time with him. He was big and strong enough to toss my Amazon-self around like I was a rag-doll.

Sexy. But, he said he needed to be discreet because he was afraid that being seen with me would negatively affect his professional life in the community.

Feh!

So yeah, I had a good time, but at the cost of a little bit of my own self-respect.

Getting back to the question at hand, which opening rant included, is already running two columns in length. The most important advice I can give about transgender online dating is not where to go, but what to remember.

Yes, Pam from California, there are some websites that are more transgender-friendly than others. But based on an informal sampling

of my friends in the trans community, personal preferences and sexual identity play more into which sites your friend might choose than her gender presentation does. She's going to encounter much of the same negative attention and prejudices on pretty much any site she chooses to hang her profile.

What I haven't mentioned much are the many complimentary and friendly emails I've received from these sites. For every shameless

"As transgender women (and men and others), we need to be proud of who and what we are. We cannot ever allow ourselves to be pushed around."

hussy, there's a shy guy (and girl) who tells me how beautiful I am -- in a totally non-sleazy way. She should make her choices based more on who she's looking for than where she might be accepted. We are trans, but we are women too (and men and others.)

If she was kicked off of a site she wanted to use, she should cry foul. Don't let them get away with it. It's discrimination, pure and simple. If she's looking for the type of relationship to be found on this site, then who are they to say your friend doesn't fit that particular paradigm?

As transgender women (and men and others), we need to be proud of who and what we are. We cannot ever allow ourselves to be pushed around. We will not be "discreet" and we will not hide ourselves quietly away in the closet anymore. We are who we are and we have the same needs and desires as anyone.

We do need to be careful, though. There are still horrible things that happen to transgender people who are simply looking for someone to be with.

We are killed by men who use the "Trans

Panic" defense and often get away with it. So practice honesty and do the same things any other woman would do to protect herself. Let a friend know where you are. Make first (and even second) dates in very public places, especially if your date tries to cry "discretion."

If you consider yourself a "straight woman" and you're feeling pretty heteronormative or even just Midwestern, try *eHarmony* or *Match.com*. Tell 'em you're a heterosexual woman and you're trans too. And don't take cyber redirection for an answer.

If you're looking for more options, but you'd still like to keep things a little mainstream, then *OKCupid* is a pretty good place to start. I've heard good reviews from a spectrum of lifestyles on this one. I've even had some success there myself.

Maybe, you're a little bit into kink but not super-hardcore? *FetLife* just might be the place for you! It's like the Facebook of kink sites! Trust me though; the "relationship status" options on this one may remind you of multiple-choice tests from grade school!

Perhaps you're really just looking for a quick and dirty, good, adult time. Tonight. Like right now. Preferably at their place, so you can leave afterwards... Then you won't go wrong with *Craigslist*. I do however feel the need to strongly re-iterate the need for caution with this one. But, if sketchy and dangerous are your scene, well, maybe you can pick up a free toaster on your way to your midnight rendezvous!

And finally, if you just want to go somewhere you're going to



Lorelei Erisis

find guys (or maybe gals!) who really just dig the special differences a transperson has to offer, and there's nothing wrong with that, then you could try a site like *TSDating.com*. I haven't tried it, but I've heard both good and bad. Roll the dating dice, you know?

So my advice, to your friend, Pam from Cali, is this: Tell her to be proud. Be safe, but be true to herself and her own desires. Tell her to go where she wants and seek who she wants. And don't take, "We don't want your kind here" for an answer.

Until next time, keep those questions coming and be good to each other!

Slainte!

*Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009. She can be contacted at: loleleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com.

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Openly gay candidate runs for RI State Senate

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Richard Corso is running for the Rhode Island State Senate against Incumbent Mary Ellen Goodwin (D), who has served in the position for 24 years.

Corso, 39, has lived in Providence with his partner for the past decade.

If elected, he would become one of handful of openly gay legislators, including House Speaker Gordon Fox (D-Providence) and Rep. Frank Ferri (D-Warwick), whom Corso considers a political role model.

Corso believes Goodwin is out of touch with her constituents and vows to be more receptive to the residents in the district.

“(Goodwin) is largely unresponsive,” Corso said. “I’ve had issues trying to reach her.”

Another factor in Corso’s decision to run was Goodwin’s lack of support for marriage equality, an issue Corso feels passionately about.

“I see it as the leading civil rights issue right now,” Corso said, adding he feels confident a same-sex marriage bill will be passed next year.

Corso serves on the Board of Directors for Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI). He is also a member of Bell Street Chapel, where he has worked on issues including economic justice, civil rights and homelessness.



PHOTO: CORSO CAMPAIGN

Richard Corso

Corso graduated from Framingham State College with a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology. He works at Butler Hospital in the General Medicine Research Unit.

“I’m a people person. I like working with different populations and helping people who are in need,” Corso said.

The state has been struggling with one of the highest unemployment rates in the country and a massive budget deficit. Corso wants to eliminate the state’s flat tax, which he calls a “miserable failure.” He does not believe a reduction in the state’s sales tax is needed.

Corso also hopes to restore integrity to state government, which has been rife with scandal and corruption.

“The Ethics Commission needs a lot of work and it needs to be reformed,” Corso said. “Too many things are done behind closed doors in Rhode Island. We need to do a better job at shedding light on issues and how things are done in this state.”

The residents Corso has encountered during his campaign have given him a warm reception.

“Seventy percent of the doors I’ve knocked on, people are really excited that someone is running against Mary Ellen,” Corso noted. “People are ready for change. We’re stuck in a rut. We need fresh ideas, fresh people.”

In spite of all the problems afflicting the state, Corso remains optimistic that the problems can be solved.

“I’m confident we can make a comeback,” Corso added.

Big Gay Al Bowling wraps 11th successful season

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

Big Gay Al’s Bowling League wrapped up its 11th and most successful season yet this week. The 32 teams, made up of gays, straights, lesbians, and transgenders, played to raise money for local organizations, including AIDS Project Rhode Island, AIDS Care Ocean State, P-FLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and Marriage Equality Rhode Island (MERI).

\$4,000 has been raised by the teams this year. In the last 10 years, approximately \$40,000 has been raised.

The league plays at Johnston’s Town Hall Lanes, owned by openly gay state Rep. Frank Ferri (D-Warwick). Town Hall Lanes, features duckpin bowling, and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2009. Ferri’s family bought the bowling alley in 1984.

This past season, Big Gay Al’s welcomed special guests, including Lt. Gov. Elizabeth Roberts (D), Congressional candidate Betsy Dennigan (D), and Providence Mayor David Cicilline (D) who met and mingled with the bowlers.

On a recent night, bowlers received free massages from the staff of Massage Envy, based in Cranston.

Ferri said Big Gay Al’s is the largest gay bowling league in the country.

The four-member teams have irreverent names such as Fruity Cocktails, Fab Four-some, Sadistic Bitches, and Split Happens.

One need not be an expert bowler in order



PHOTO: JOE SIEGEL

Leo Monteiro, Frank Ferri, Shawn DeOliveira

to participate, since the league is all for fun. Friends and family members are welcome to come and cheer on their favorite teams. If a player is absent, substitutes are welcome to play.

The 16-week season began in May and ends in August, followed by a barbecue.

Trophies are awarded for the top three teams. Individual awards are also presented. There are also raffles and giveaways.

The league was started by Leo Monteiro and Manny Rebello, who wanted to create a place for gays and lesbians to socialize and have fun.

Rebello said BGAL is “a place for people to go during the summer”, noting the league was a “friendly, relaxed atmosphere for GLBTS” to hang out.

There were never any plans to have separate leagues for men and women, explained Monteiro. The league started modestly, with only a handful of teams. That number has continued to grow every year.

Members come from all Rhode Island to play. There are also players from Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Kitty Litter (Stephen Hartley), a popular drag queen who raises money for AIDS organizations, has been in the league for six years. “I like the camaraderie,” Litter said.

Kenneth Sondler, from Warwick, is a member of Twelve Pins. Sondler enjoys the social aspect of bowling.

“It’s a lot of fun,” he said.

The cost of bowling is \$14 a week. No smoking is allowed in the alley during league season, which appeals to many people who don’t enjoy being exposed to cigarette fumes in bars and clubs.

Big Gay Al’s web site – www.bgalbowling.com – includes useful information, such as team rosters, rules, statistics, and notices of upcoming events.

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The OutField: Rippin' Gaysurfers.net



Dan Woog

By: Dan Woog*

With its chill, let-it-all-hang-out image – and its show-off-that-bodacious-body beach environment – you'd think surfing would offer a welcome haven for gay men in the larger, often homophobic sports world.

Think again.

When a magazine article implied that rising star Cheyne Horan was

gay, he lost endorsements and friends.

When a top-ranked surfer Robbins Thompson's sexuality became known, he heard slurs in the water. On land, his car was vandalized.

And when young surfing sensation Shane Dorian was asked what he'd most like to eliminate from the world, he responded, "diseases, the Devil, flat spells (and) dykes and fags."

Those incidents took place in the 1990s. The situation changed little through the past decade.

Earlier this year, all that changed.

Just four months after "Thomas" – a Frenchman who spent seven years in Australia, and prefers to not divulge his last name – started www.gaysurfers.net, the site had drawn over 1,500 members. Most came from the U.S., Australia and France. But it spread rapidly, and now there is solid representation from South Africa, the U.K., Spain, Italy, Indonesia, South America and India.

Users love the chance to search for other gay surfers, and send private messages. They have created groups and forums. They read surfing articles, and search for movies with "gay" and "surf" in the title.

And they share a growing list of gay-friendly surf spots around the world.

"I believe there is a surf culture beyond the macho young man, and there are things we want to share with other gay surfers beyond dating," Thomas told Australia's gay magazine DNA. "I was hoping someone out there would build this community, but it never happened."

So Thomas did it himself.

His social-networking site has two goals. One is to help gay surfers meet – including those deep in the closet. The other is to change public awareness by spotlighting gay surfers and bringing the sport's homophobia into the bright sunshine.

The DNA story tried to explain surfing's anti-gay history.

One surfer called the sport "adolescent." Teenage boys, he said, "are the least sure of their sexual orientation." Having perhaps experimented with same-sex activity, they may "tilt toward homophobia as a means of denial."

He believes there will be little change un-

til "some courageous, high-profile dude, basically a pro, comes out and says 'f--- you homophobes.'"

An 18-year-old commenter on Gaysurfers.net said that geography has little to do with attitudes. "Sydney is supposed to host the biggest community of surfers in the world, and the second biggest gay community after San Francisco," he wrote.

"But still no sign of gay surfers. I can't seem to find any."

Thomas said that the U.S. "seems to be the country with the biggest number of gay surfers." Most, he noted, live in very open-minded places like San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Hawaii. Gay surfers from Hawaii are "very active on the site and supportive of the project."

Several gay European surfers said they had found little hostility on the shores of their continent. They admitted, however, that they know very few other gay surfers.

Australia, by contrast, "has more rural communities of surfers that do experience homophobia," Thomas said. One surfer from Down Under refused comment for the DNA story. Most gay surfers are still closeted, he said – "especially the older guys."

"Gay surfers are all hiding somewhere," a 26-year-old named Alan posted on Gaysurfers.net. "I hope here (too). In my hometown there are at least five gay surfers, but they keep their sexuality for themselves. I don't know how to tell them that I am gay. Maybe they are on here?"

Gay surfers are not the only ones who read and comment on his website. It's attracting straight people, too. They bring a variety of attitudes.

"Some don't understand why gay surfers need their own space," Thomas said. "Some others do get it, and think it's a great idea."

Perhaps, he added, surfers think their culture "expects" them to be homophobic. As they read and learn about the gay surfers in their midst, they "slowly open up to it."

A heterosexual surfer named Scott wrote on the site: "I know sooo few gay surfers. It intrigues me. Surfing is for all who appreciate this world." He offered to help "mediate with a straight's perspective on surfing."

As with most Internet ventures – especially one dedicated to a sport that puts a premium on looking hot – the talk often turns to sex.

"Quite honestly, I was hoping to see as many near-naked butt shots of guys as I see of girls in most surf magazines and website," wrote one commenter.

But, he told Thomas, "thus far, you've kept it classy."

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

Gaycons from page 17

Adam Lambert

On "American Idol" Lambert was endearing – likeable even – but flash forward six months, from the singing competition's 2009 finale to his controversial performance on the American Music Awards, and the SoCal native's second-place status starts to make sense. Between screeching the lyrics to his first post-"Idol" single, "For Your Entertainment" – which ultimately failed to resonate with the general public – and simulating oral sex with one of his male dancers on stage [SOURCE: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopics/celebritynews/6636015/American-Music-Awards-Adam-Lambert-outrages-viewers-with-X-rated-AMA-performance.html>], Lambert came off more showboater than showstopper. The verdict? Timing is everything – and the world's just not ready for a Y-chromed Gaga wannabe who performs faux fellatio in prime time.

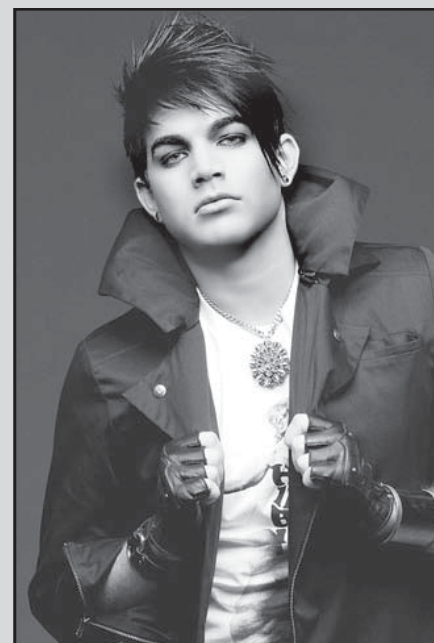


PHOTO: QSYNDICATE

Adam Lambert

Internet that's enough to make even the most seasoned flier afraid of the friendly skies. Seriously, dude is a creeper. The only silver lining in this case is that maybe he'll go away as fast as he got here. Fingers crossed.

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