

The Rainbow Times

Your LGBTQ News in MA, RI, North Central CT & Southern VT

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FREE!

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Kenyon Farrow: Capitalism and White supremacy's impact on movement for queer/trans liberation

Opinion By: Jason Lydon/TRT Boston Columnist

I had the great pleasure of getting to interview Kenyon Farrow, Executive Director of Queers for Economic Justice, QEJ. Kenyon has been working as an organizer, communications strategist, and writer on issues at the intersection of HIV/AIDS, prisons, and homophobia. Kenyon has recently become the Executive Director of *Queers for Economic Justice*. Prior to becoming ED, Kenyon served as the National Public Education Director, building the visibility of progressive racial and economic justice issues as they pertain to the LGBTQ community through coalition-building, public education, and media advocacy. Kenyon has also led successful campaigns to tackle homophobia in the Black community. While with the New York State Black Gay Network, he launched a faith-based project—the REVIVAL! Initiative, help shut down a

performance of homophobic dancehall artists, and launched a groundbreaking social marketing campaign challenging homophobia in the Black community, which has now been replicated in several cities across the country. In addition to his political work, he is the co-editor of "Letters From Young Activists: Today's Rebels Speak Out" (Nation Books, 2005) and the upcoming "A New Queer Agenda." His work has appeared in publications such as theGrio.com, Bilerico.com, After Elton.com, Utne Reader, Black Commentator, Left Turn, POZ, The Independent, City Limits, and in the anthology, "Spirited: Affirming the Soul of Black Lesbian and Gay Identity" (Red Bone

Press, 2006).

I have been familiar with Kenyon's work for a number of years and it was a great privilege to have him agree to an interview. I am especially excited about Kenyon's analysis of capitalism and White supremacy's impact on the complex movement for queer/trans liberation.

Q. How do you think capitalism impacts current queer/transgender movements?

A. For me, what it means to be a Leftist means there is a political line in the sand where you



Jason Lydon

"Specifically White people need to recognize that their very whiteness produces material privileges despite their individual lifestyle choices," Farrow explained.

stand on capitalism. There is a lack of real critical analysis of capitalism in lots of movements. In terms of the mainstream LGBT movement, capitalism is at the root of it. All of the political advocacy and assumptions are rooted in this idea that if we get access to these different institutions, including capitalism, we will be okay. This is an entirely capitalist approach. We don't question the system itself, we just question whether we are inside or outside of the system.

Those of us who consider ourselves left or radical need to be thinking about how capitalism defines material conditions for queer and not queer folks, particularly people of color and poor folks. At *Creating Change* I was on

See Kenyon on page 7

C'mon Out – Just Ask! Advice Column

By: Tetty Gorfine*/TRT Columnist

Hello Tetty,
When I met my boyfriend he told me he was "the monogamous type." That was fine with me, because I'm that way too. We've been together 3 years and now he's telling me he's attracted to another guy and he wants to have sex with him. He assures me that he loves me and only wants sex from this guy, and says he now thinks he's too young to "leave the field" (we're both in our mid 30's) for the rest of his life. I understand his point of view, but I can't see myself being OK with this. I feel angry that this deep into it he's changing the rules of the game. What do you think I should do?

—Rob

Hi Rob:

Relationships really make us work, now don't they? They bring us to our edges, make us confront things we may not like, they make us stretch, change and grow. Rob you are faced with a significant dilemma. There are many challenges and many opportunities. Let's name a few.

You and your boyfriend began your relationship both wanting monogamy. Now he wants something else. I can understand you feel he is changing the rules and you are angry about this. At the same time, I doubt he has intentionally done so. Instead his feelings and/or needs have changed. This can happen in any aspect of a relationship. When couples are willing and able to work with the changes as they occur, it can

deepen the relationship. Insisting upon things staying the same will inevitably create stagnation between you.

I am not making any judgment about non-monogamy Rob, only speaking to your anger that something has changed. I am encouraging you to work with your partner. In this situation, like any other that may arise, it is very important that you both talk with one another in depth about your thoughts and feelings on this subject. But first ask your partner how, in general, your relationship is going. What is good, what is hard, is there anything (besides the issue on non-monogamy) that he would like to change? Next, you do the same. First talk generally about how things are going. Then focus on your feelings about non-monogamy. Notice whether there are any overlapping themes between different aspects of your relationship. It may bring more perspective.

Your boyfriend is saying that he is too young to "leave the field" for the rest of his life. Ask him to explain more what this means? Is he wanting, but afraid, of deepening commitment? Is it that he sees himself with you long term,



Tetty Gorfine

See C'mon Out on page 21

The Controversial Couch

Lie back and listen. Then get up and do something!

By: Suzan Ambrose*/TRT Columnist

I've always been a bit of a law-breaker (aka heartbreaker, if you ask my ex-girlfriends.) Seatbelts and bike helmets – who needs them? Occasional speeding or a U-turn when it's not allowed – we all do it sometimes, right? Rules are meant to be broken, especially when you're gay.

Our whole lives have been about breaking one rule or another. From the early days with the ban on sodomy to it actually being a crime/sin if one were "out," we LGBTs know about all rule breaking. I mean, Katy Perry makes it sound like it won't hurt to step over a few boundaries. Like a kiss from a girl couldn't be better for your health! My mother might disagree.

Yes, definitely, rules are meant to be broken ... but not when it comes to smoking. That ugly little stain on society has been shoved into a corner harder than most men on a good night out.

Let's take a look at the recent ban on selling clove cigarettes in America. The sales ban is supposed to keep kids from being lured into the world of nicotine addiction by fruit, candy and chocolate flavors. Oh sweet children, being lured like Hansel and Gretel ... and banning cloves will keep them away from that temptation? Maybe God should have tried that with Eve first.



Remember the days (some of us?) of sharing the occasional smoke with other sisters and brothers, huddled around the burning flame, scents of a faraway land? A rite of passage and shared feelings of sacredness – the smokers' pact. I think even non-smokers would agree, there's something romantic and sexy about the smell of a clove cigarette.

But no more. The FDA's recent ruling to band to sale of flavored cigarettes is ridiculous and goes against all things American. Frankly if you are going to go there, why not just go all out and ban ALL cigarettes? And aren't menthol cigarettes a "flavor"? (Note: I am not advocating for this... I'm just saying why stop with flavored-only?)

It's one stop away from the mentality of banning something young people are more apt to want to try — because it tastes good. Now, I'd be more tolerant of Americans giving up the right to smoke clove or vanilla cigarettes if the FDA was consistent in their rulings...I mean, what about junk food and the alarming rates of obesity? That certainly causes more deaths and health-related illnesses than smoking, but I don't see anyone jumping on the big, bad bandwagon to rip Big Macs out of the mouths of millions.

What will be next on the chopping block of things that must be banned because they taste

See Lawbreaker on page 4

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Times Feb. 2010 Controversial Couch article was a hoot. Of course women won't pay for sex. Do we like sex? Uh-yeah! But, not enough to drive ourselves crazy, or get sick, or don't stop thinking about it every six seconds. It must be a miserable life to focus so much on something that is so passing. Ms. Ambrose knows how to say it and says it alright.

—Natalie S. Northampton, MA

Dear Publisher,

Your column made me think about all of the failed promises of former politicians and my old age. I will certainly die earlier than you, I imagine, if we go by chronological age. I've waited a long time to see some changes and I've become cynical with age. You make some very good points, but at least you can still be happy about Valentine's. Some of us don't even have that. Great newspaper, the Times!

—Johana D., Greenfield, MA

Dear Editor,

I liked the Pride article. I'd like to know why it is called Noho Pride now. I thought it's always been Northampton Pride. I don't particularly like Noho. I'm of the thinking that Northampton Pride, the name, was more appropriate.

—Liz J., Northampton, MA

Dear Editor,

I've been an avid reader of TRT since your first issue. I've always enjoyed the content but I find one thing in particular disconcerting, the night life section. Though I realize there is a portion of our community who thrive on night life, it gives the GLBT community, a bad rap. Even sadder is that

See Letters on page 18

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United We Stand: An intimate interview between partners on DADT

Armed Services News

By: Mikey Rox*

Through the years I've had the pleasure of interviewing an array of pop and gay culture's most intriguing personalities.

I remember distinctly the scheduled 20-minute conversation with rocker-turned-actor Henry Rollins that extended into an hour's worth of entertaining chat; exchanging e-mails on multiple occasions with superstar Cyndi Lauper to discuss her inspiring True Colors Tour; the verifiable laugh fest with comedienne Margaret Cho whenever she had a new show to promote; and the no-holds-barred Q&A with Billy Bean, a former Major League Baseball player and still one of few athletes from the four main American sports to ever publicly come out.

Yes, I've interviewed some of the most interesting people alive – but none of them compare to this interview with my own fiancé.

Lt. Everett Earl Morrow and I met in 2006. He was visiting Baltimore, my home at the time, on weekend leave from the Navy.

Our romance was a whirlwind. What I meant to finish the first night it started – because of my own insecurities about long-distance dating – has turned into a three-and-a-half year

love affair with no end in sight.

But just because we're still together, well, that doesn't mean our relationship hasn't experienced its fair share of ups and downs.

One of the most outstanding and complicating issues of our life together is that I lead a rather public life. I'm a writer, a social networker and sometimes socialite who likes to see and be seen. Lt. Morrow, on the other hand, is quiet, reserved and generally uninterested in rocking the proverbial boat.

Until now.

Refusing to rest on his laurels regarding

"I wanted nothing more than to be honest with everyone, but at 17 years old I just didn't know how to reconcile the two and therefore stayed in the closet. I did this despite the personal toll that it was taking and would continue to take."

the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, Lt. Morrow has made the brave choice to speak out and share his story – despite the consequences.

In this intimate, revealing interview between partners – one a journalist, the other a Naval officer – Lt. Morrow discusses his days as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, juggling his sexuality with his commitment to our country, making the tough decision to choose personal fulfillment over professional gain, and the discriminating DADT policy that ultimately ended his military career.

Mikey Rox: When you were accepted into the Naval Academy as a teenager, were you afraid that your sexuality would be problematic?

Lt. Everett Earl Morrow: No more than growing up in a small suburban town. I wasn't openly gay to my family and friends when I entered the Naval Academy, and being aware of DADT at the time I didn't have any plans for that to change. Ultimately, I was afraid of what "coming out" would mean for my education, career and future. I wanted nothing more than to be honest with everyone, but at 17 years old

I just didn't know how to reconcile the two and therefore stayed in the closet. I did this despite the personal toll that it was taking and would continue to take.

MR: How did you handle your sexuality during that time and throughout your mili-

tary career? Did you pursue your interest in guys and in what capacity?

Lt. EEM: I handled it like many others did; I didn't say or do anything that would call into question my sexuality. Even though I had no doubt that I was gay, I couldn't risk raising the doubt in others that I was. At first, out of fear, I didn't pursue any homosexual interests. The risk was just too big to chance it. I lived in the dormitory while at the Naval Academy, which afforded little privacy – plus, I didn't have a car for two years and otherwise was just afraid of being caught. This is part of that personal



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAPER ROX SCISSORS

Lt. Everett Earl Morrow

toll that I paid as result of DADT. I would have liked nothing more than to have both a professional and personal life during those four years. It wasn't until I reported to my first command almost two years after graduation that I even thought of doing anything. Even then I made sure I was on liberty or leave and far out of town.

MR: Did you come out to any of your class- or shipmates while you were an active duty officer?

See DADT on Page 12

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Predominantly Pacific Island and Maori, this company is renowned for its unique ability to combine their traditional and contemporary dance forms.

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\$35, \$25, \$15, Five College/GCC/STCC students and Youth 17 and under: \$15. Pre-performance talk with Ranjanaa Devi, Director of the Asian Arts & Culture Program, from 7 PM - 7:30 PM in the rear seating area of the Concert Hall.

Funded in part by the Arts Jobs program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

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Faith, Family, and God – Freedom, time to know when to let go

In the Name of God

By: Paul P. Jesepe*/TRT Columnist

One of the most liberating things I do is to give away possessions to charity when moving long distance. Dishes, furniture, some clothes etc. go to a good cause. If it can't be loaded into the car it's usually history. Many beloved books get donated to the public library.

Why keep Stephen King books? Most libraries have them. Why keep the works of Shakespeare or Thomas Paine when you can find most of them on line? If my life depends on owning a copy of Bram Stoker's Dracula then I'm off to a used book store. Why be aggravated by schlepping a couch or coffee table hundreds of miles when they can be sold or given to a needy family? No one's personhood is defined by possessions.

I've given away long held items because they were admired. If an individual feels that strongly about something then he or she should have it. The older I get the more I realize we are caretakers for everything in our custody. Should I become fertilizer tomorrow then everything I have will be sold or given away. It's only a matter of time.

This is not to suggest that you give up something every time an individual expresses interest. But if the item can give someone more joy or pleasure then you've experienced then maybe it's time to let it go.

I have a good-intentioned friend who annoys me when she makes an introduction. It's never

"this is my good friend Paul." It's usually "this is my friend Paul who is ..." She'll rattle off a list of what she thinks are my accomplishments that status driven society often finds important. Lawyers like myself are a dime a dozen. God, the homeless, or the person struggling to pay bills don't care.

No one is a title, degree, or job position. Limit their use to background information or perhaps show expertise on a topic. I want to know that my physician has proper credentials. Yet he doesn't need to be introduced as a doctor at a social setting. Keep it to the examining room.

Social status, fashion statements or professional achievements can deny spiritual freedom leaving personal demons to rule within. They tend to distract from being true to one's Creation as the Creator intended. They are a drug or something to hide behind. It's not unlike the insecure person who sits behind a big desk during a meeting to show power and control when he or she could sit across from you without a barrier.

American culture measures an individual by outward achievements. The LGBT and searching children of God may be especially vulnerable to it because of the historic and ongoing abusive, negative messages directed at the community. There is comfort for many in titles, degrees, objects, or fashion. They make you feel good or safe. Yet they're false security.

Real, lasting achievements include: making the world better, joining with another to form a family, adopting unwanted children to give them unconditional love, and trying to live a life that shows respect for the personhood of

others no matter their education, social position, or ability to anger or annoy you. In my opinion, this is what the Creator cares most about since all are equally loved for being themselves.

You can and should enjoy nice things and celebrate professional successes. Don't, how-

ever, let them own or define you. You're better than that and never forget it. You are unique, special, and a holy expression of God.

**Paul is an author, attorney, and a seminary trained, ordained priest in greater Albany, NY. He may be reached at Dilovod@aol.com.*

Lawbreaker from page 2

good? Or because someone, somewhere believes it's bad for us? Gummy Bears? Edible underwear? Ok, those should be banned because they taste terrible. Or so I've heard.

I see a direct line between this narrow way of thinking and what most of us practice in the bedroom. No, not David Letterman or Rachel Maddow pillow talk, but gay/lesbian sex.

Eventually the parallel could be drawn to "this is something that lures" young people over to the dark side. In fact, some say it now, specifically organized religion and churches. If they had their way, sex for us gay folks would be outlawed, like it is in Uganda. One can be put to death there if they are gay, or know someone who is and don't report it to the authorities. And that's a very ugly side of humanity, if one can even call it that. Can you say "Salem Witch Trials" all over again? Don't be fooled into thinking these things could never happen here. A new Tea-Bagging president (Sarah Palin is raising in some

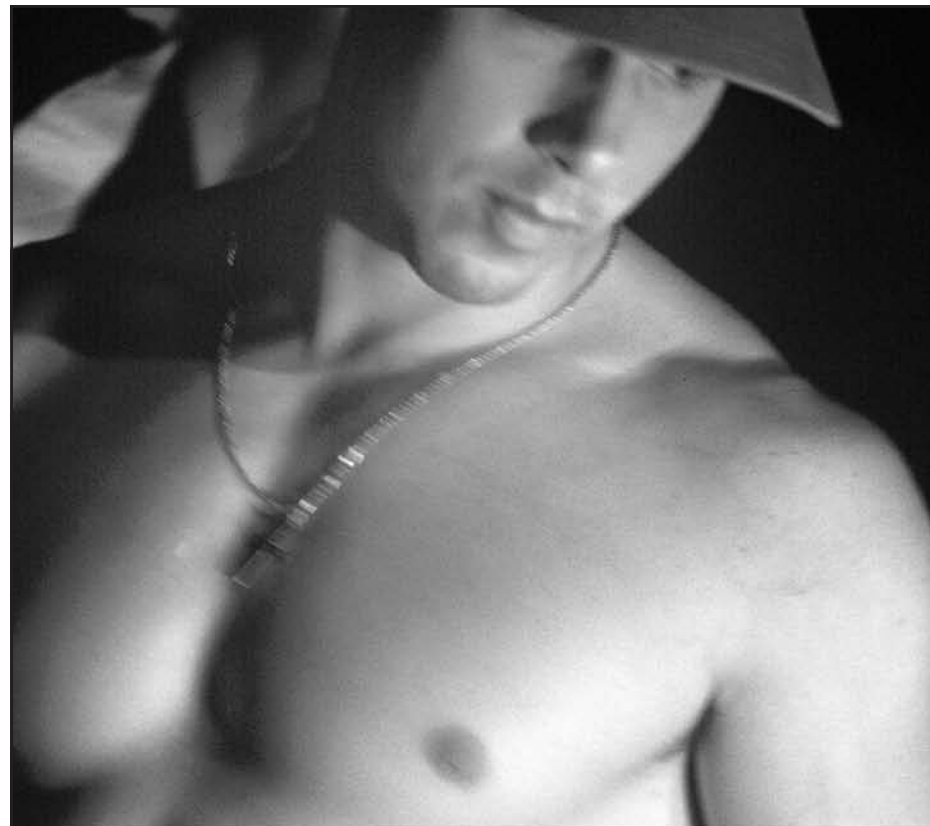
new polls), a deadly health epidemic... or what if Church and State become one powerful institution? No one can predict the possibilities of what the majority will do when they are afraid.

What I can predict is that clove cigarettes will remain illegal, just like marijuana is today or whiskey during Prohibition, or gay marriage in most states or gays in the military being recognized ... that is, until people wake up to what is happening around them and why governments try to control behaviors.

Until then, I guess I'll be forced to buy any sweet-tasting, sexy-feeling cloves I may desire within my lifetime direct from Indonesia. And that's not even breaking any rules, just bending them. My mother would be so proud.

**Suzan Ambrose is often seen dancing like a young thing at clubs in Western MA and lingering near hookah bars for the sweet smell of alluring tobacco when she's not writing for The Rainbow Times.*

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FENWAY  HEALTH

GLBT domestic violence attorney reflects on prevalence of this serious problem

Courtroom News

By: Lisa A. Eramo/TRT Reporter

The statistic is striking: One in four gay men experience domestic violence, according to the Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project (GMDVP), a grassroots, nonprofit organization founded by a gay male survivor of domestic violence.

The GMDVP, which supports victims and survivors through education, advocacy and direct services, provides a variety of resources including a 24-hour hotline, counseling, emergency shelter, and more. It also offers a GLBT Domestic Violence Attorney Program that provides free and sliding-scale legal assistance to eligible gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender victims of domestic violence in Massachusetts. A pro-bono network of attorneys assists clients with safety planning, referrals, and legal representation, including advocacy at restraining order hearings.

The Rainbow Times had a chance to catch up with Wayne Thomas, managing attorney and founder of the legal program, to ask him about the prevalence of GLBT domestic violence and how the GMDVP can help.

Q: How often do gay men experience domestic violence? How does this statistic compare with lesbian women or straight couples?

A: Studies and surveys have shown that 25%-33% of gay men identify as having been in an abusive relationship. These results are very similar to research done on lesbians and heterosexual women. Though there haven't been enough studies on LGBT domestic violence,

it is believed that transgender individuals experience the highest levels of intimate partner violence.

Q: Do you have any statistics about the prevalence

of LGBT domestic violence that are specific to Massachusetts? How do those statistics compare to the rest of the nation?

A: I don't have any statistics specific to Massachusetts. I expect that the statistics are going to be somewhat comparable since domestic violence is a problem that crosses gender, racial, and class lines.

Q: Over the last several years, have you noticed any fluctuations (either locally, nationally, or both) in the number of cases of gay male domestic violence? Why or why not?

A: I haven't noticed a discernable difference in the number of cases. There are a lot of barriers to seeking and receiving services. It can be really difficult to accurately assess the level of abuse in relationships.

Q: Does the LGBT community face particular challenges in identifying or preventing domes-

tic violence?

A: I do think that LGBT communities have had difficulty acknowledging that domestic violence is pervasive in LGBT relationships and that there are members of the community who are abusive.

Q: What are some of the misconceptions that people have about domestic violence?

A: One of the by-products of the media portrayal of domestic violence is the perception that domestic violence is defined by physical violence. There are many other types of abuse. Examples include psychological, emotional, cultural/identity, and financial abuse.

Q: Tell me about some of the education and training that you do in classrooms to raise awareness about domestic violence.

A: My training and education activities have generally been limited to attorneys, law students, and domestic violence advocates. I've done trainings both locally and at national conferences. GMDVP's education coordinator, Iain Gill, has done many trainings across the Commonwealth to all types of groups.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GMDVP

Attorney Wayne Thomas

Q: How many inquiries does the GMDVP typically receive on a weekly or monthly basis?

A: GMDVP typically receives an average of 30+ inquiries per month. The legal program generally takes on about seven new clients a month.

Q: Do you handle all cases yourself, or do you refer clients to other attorneys as well?

A: I handle most of the cases myself, but some of our clients work with volunteer attorneys and we do refer clients on occasion. I also have a paralegal who works with clients as well.

Q: How do you handle requests from the les-

bian and transgender community?

A: Our legal program works with all survivors of domestic violence who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender. We also work with survivors who don't identify as GLBT.

Q: How can people contact you, and what information will they need to provide?

A: GMDVP's toll-free 24-hour hotline is 1-800-832-1901. The GLBT Domestic Violence Attorney Program can be reached at 617-779-2130. My e-mail is wthomas@gmdvp.org.

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The 'Community-Share Program' at **5 STAR TRAVEL** has raised over **\$54,000** for local non profit organizations such as GLAD, AIDS Action Committee, The Fenway Community Health Center, MassEquality, The Boston Living Center, BAGLY and Community Servings (to name but a few). **5 STAR TRAVEL** commends the dedication and work of **SpeakEasy Stage Company**, and will make a contribution to this organization for each and every travel booking made between January 1 and June 30, 2010.

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Transactivism: Separation of church and state. A basic American principle.

Trans Opinions & More

By: Deja Nicole Greenlaw/ TRT Columnist

I've been asked several times to do a column on how religion and transgender issues interact with each other. I have always shied away from writing on this subject because I've always believed that religion is a very personal issue and opinions will vary and situations could possibly become volatile if someone strongly disagrees with what I write.

The events of the past few weeks, however, have encouraged me to step up and to address the issue of religion and the transgender as well as the gay, the lesbian the bi etc. While many, many LGBT people have found a comfortable home in religion many, many others have not. Personally, I've never felt comfortable with religion because too many times it wants to restrict the rights of others. When it starts to restrict my rights then I get downright outraged!

What I find mostly restrictive is the extremist Christians who do not support our right to marry, apply for jobs, live where we choose etc. I realize that the vast majority of Christians are on our side (a huge thank you to them!!!). But, there is, as with any group, extremists, and there are



Deja Nicole Greenlaw

plenty present in the Christian religion. These extremists are very vocal and very well organized and they are our major opposition to us having the same rights as everyone else enjoys. They believe that their actions are right because they believe that they are following God's

word or God's plan. I do not understand what they mean by that.

Many of them look to the bible for their morals and they righteously try to project their principles on to others. I've heard them claim that the bible is the word of God. I find that difficult to believe. Here's why ...

I am not a bible scholar, but I do know a bit about it as I was raised Catholic, attended Catholic school for 8 years and was even an altar boy for 1 year. I have perused the bible and I have seen entries written by the Romans, the Corinthians, Leviticus, etc. but I have never seen God's name on any single one on these entries. This leads me to believe that the bible was written not by God but by men, not women, but men, thousands of years ago. I'm sorry but God did not write any of the entries in the

bible. I have stated that fact to several Christians and they pause and then qualify it by saying that these entries were inspired by God. I find that debatable.

I understand the need for religion. It does give comfort and direction to many people and I do applaud that fact. What I have problems with is when someone will not want to let me have my rights because of their interpretation of the bible and claiming that God is on their side. Restricting my rights does not settle well with me. Why can't I have the same rights as everyone else? Yes, I believe and I support that religions may have any kind of rules and regulations that they want inside

their church but they really have no right to try to restrict the rights of others outside of their religion. This is why we need separation of church and state, a basic American principle.

This is the United States of America, the land of the free, with liberty and justice for all and for someone to restrict the rights of others is

really suspect to be behavior which is downright un-American in principle. Yes, these people really do have un-American morals and if you really think about it, they also really do have un-Christian morals. I say shame on them.

I know that this is not the first time in history that religious extremists have demanded that the government see their way. This has happened time and time again throughout history and unfortunately it will probably resurface again and again in the future. I

know that I should be patient but sometimes it becomes too much to bear. So for now, Lord, please give me the strength to put up with your extremist followers!

"I understand the need for religion. It does give comfort and direction to many people and I do applaud that fact. What I have problems with is when someone will not want to let me have my rights because of their interpretation of the bible and claiming that God is on their side."

Ask a Transwoman: Transsexualism and Transgenderism, are they gender-identity disorders?

By: Lorelei Erisis*/TRT Columnist

Hi Lorelei,

I am curious to know, are Transsexualism and Transgenderism gender-identity disorders?

—Lynn B. (LB from Back In The Day!)

Well that's certainly the \$64,000 question isn't it, Lynn? Actually, that's a completely obscure joke that pretty much only our parent's will get, and I apologize, but I've been dying to say that for just ages. Really though, that is the big question especially right now.

The simple answer to that is yes.

The more complicated answer, which I'm sure is what you were expecting as a regular reader of this column, is this: Gender Identity Disorder, GID, is currently defined in the DSM-IV as, "A persistent aversion toward some or all of those physical characteristics or

social roles that connote one's own biological sex..." There's a lot of other language there as well used to define GID, including a separate diagnosis for GID in children, but I have a limited amount of space and wish to kill no more trees than are absolutely necessary to reprint clinical-ese. Basically though, without burying myself in semantics, it includes the conditions or categories, which define both Transsexualism, a more specific term, and Transgenderism, a more umbrella term.

The reason this is such a huge question to ask is that the American Psychological Association is currently in the process of updating the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) for a fifth edition. And, there are a lot of us, myself included, who feel that, who we are should not be so automatically pathologised.

I feel it's appropriate to quote here Madeline Deutsch, M.D., who is a queer, transgender woman herself, from her speech to the crowd at the "GID Reform Now" protest outside the American Psychiatric Association 2009 Annual Meeting:

"It is true that transgender people do, in many cases, suffer from other conditions, such as anxiety, depression, panic disorder, etc. But, the question is how much of that is due to the stresses of being a transgender person in a transphobic world?

My answer: Most, if not all of it."

I owe a large debt of gratitude to Dr. Deutsch for her bravery in standing up and saying what needed to be said, and also as she was the person who initially began my own HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy) treatments. Thank you, thank you thank you!! I could not have put it better myself. Although, given my job as a columnist and general loudmouth activist, I'm sure to try!

This is an extremely tricky controversy though as there are those who, justifiably I think, worry that what little legitimacy and assistance exists now to help transpeople in realigning their gender identity will simply disappear. It is hoped that perhaps a more medical definition of transsexuality and transgenderism may be substituted for the current pathological definition. Which, by the way, immediately precedes the "paraphilias" section of the DSM.

That's the section that includes stuff like exhibitionism, fetishism and pedophilia! All of which, by their close proximity to GID in the DSM ("LBJ took the IRT down to 4th Street USA-a...") I have heard used against us, to



Lorelei Erisis

imply that we are somehow sick and dangerous by our very existence.

And that of course, is the heart of the problem. As long as such a large number of otherwise perfectly normal folks are pathologised and are being labeled as "disordered," by the very fact of our existence, it will always stand in the way of our being accepted as simply another segment of mainstream society. It makes us not just your neighbor or co-worker or friend. It makes us very technically your mentally-ill neighbor or co-worker or friend!!!

This will not do!!

All this is just the barest tip, the Cliff's notes if you will, of the controversy surrounding this very important issue for the trans community. If you'd like to know more, I highly recommend checking out my blog, "TransProviser" at transprov.wordpress.com, where I discuss this very issue in some greater, and digitally less limited, depth and also include a number of links to a veritable Nantucket Sleigh-Ride of information on this subject!

Thanks for asking Lynn! You Rock!

See you next month folks! Keep those cards and letters coming! 'Cause as long as you have questions, I have a job! And Lorelei needs a new pair of shoes!!
Slainte!

*Lorelei Erisis is Miss Trans New England 2009 and she can be contacted at: loreleierisis@therainbowtimesmass.com



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Kenyon from page 2

a couple of panels and one of them was about fidelity and sustainability in poly and non-monogamous relationships. One of the things I said was that as much as I am not invested in marriage and am invested in non-monogamy, we need to be careful that we are not also endorsing another kind of consumerism—consuming bodies. We have to think about how capitalism impacts our work, our community and our desires.

There is particular lack of understanding of capitalism in White radical spaces. Anti-racist work has brought people into thinking that as long as I am personally not oppressive, then I'm doing alright. Specifically White people need to recognize that their very whiteness produces material

privileges despite their individual lifestyle choices. For example, when White people move into a Black or Brown neighborhood,

unless they are extremely poor and can't be designated hipsters, the politics of the specific kind of Whites don't matter: real estate speculators see White people and then all of the signs of gentrification and displacement are sure to follow.

Q. What are successful examples of organizations and/or campaigns that include an analysis of White supremacy and queer/transgender justice?

A. Honestly, QEJ's work. QEJ is about to launch a campaign about what safety looks like in shelters because of the violence against trans women in the shelter system we've witnessed increasing over the last year. We need

to support people getting access to shelter and be free from violence, but how do we challenge the shelter system and homelessness itself as a form of violence, specifically as there is so much wealth in NYC and so many unused buildings, and many more since the real estate and banking collapse of 2008? The Audre Lorde Project's Safe Outside the System campaign is another example of work that is looking at violence within communities and the societal violence that leads to these things.

Q. What do you see the role of QEJ being in movement building?

A. Primarily, helping build local organizing work and building the power of low income queer and trans folks in NYC, and working with other queer left organizations led by

people of color around the country to amass a base to radically shift the liberal gay agenda, and progressive work that excludes an analysis of gender and sexuality.

One of the questions I'm beginning to raise is how do we begin to really talk about the impacts of capitalism on poor and low income trans folks who are largely of color. Related to that is thinking about questions of economic justice work. A lot of work being done is about access to jobs and taxes and while that work is absolutely important, we don't fundamentally believe in a society where peoples' worth and value is attached to wage labor. Being unemployed or without a status as an employee should not predetermine you to violence, or prison or a life where you are without food or the basic necessities.

Q. How do you define organizing and how

does effective organizing happen?

A. I define organizing as working with people who are most affected by any issue to forward some kind of common cause. Where we have a lot of confusion is the difference between activism, organizing, and advocacy. I think that there is some organizing that exists that is not about advocating for particular kinds of policy. A lot of funders do not understand this. Some

organizing among marginalized communities is trying to figure out ways to build power in the community that may not mean going to city hall to fight for some policy.

Q. Who inspires you?

A. The young generation of Black queer and trans youth who are really pushing gender and gender expression in ways that are interesting and fun. It reminds me of the queens and butches who were in the projects when I was growing up. The fearlessness is exciting as is the creativity there and power to organize and politicize.

Q. What are your biggest learnings, accomplishments, and where have you fallen short?

A. In terms of writing, I have to figure out the balance between the work that is really public, while also staying connected to the grassroots organizing that I'm doing. I am trying to figure out how to be more explicit about the lines I'm drawing in the sand. People take things I have said and put them on things that I do not support. I'm actually *against* same-sex marriage. I need to learn to be okay with

being more oppositional when necessary and okay when that leads to tension with personal relationships, comrades, and organizations. One of the pieces I wish I could rewrite is the "Open Letter to Condaleezza Rice." Some people walked away from that piece feeling like I wasn't critiquing her position and politics—a fair critique. I wasn't trying to say it was irrelevant that she was Secretary of State

under George W. Bush and during the War on Terror. At the time I was really trying to address these tendencies in America on the Left and Right to use Black people to get at other Black people. Despite how I feel about her politics, it should be no mystery to anybody in America how she got there.

My fondest time in organizing was with *FIERCE*. In many ways *FIERCE* becomes a model that I use on how the left doesn't have be boring. There are ways that you can use culture that is very specific to who you're speaking to and how important membership can be in shaping the identity of the organizing. *FIERCE* has given me political allies I will have for the rest of my life. To me it's not a particular campaign,

but that period of my political life was very crucial and I am so happy that I found myself there when I did.

Q. And of course, do you want to go on a date with me sometime?

... Now, what do the readers think he said???

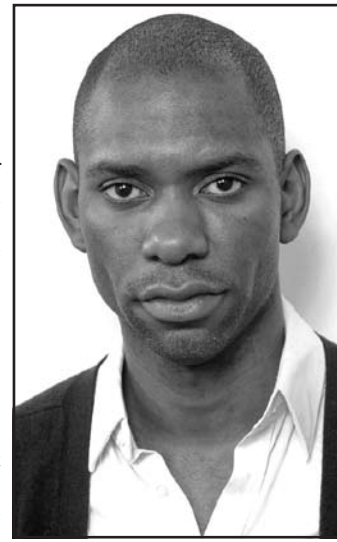


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15th Annual Taste of the South End Showcases Boston's Hottest Restaurant Neighborhood

2010 Event Includes VIP Parties and Samplings from 40+ Celebrated South End Chefs

Eastern MA News

BOSTON—On Tuesday, March 9th from 7:00pm to 9:30pm, AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts (AAC) and a record number of over 40 outstanding restaurants in Boston's South End will partner to deliver Taste of the South End 2010. The evening will be an excellent representation of each restaurant's small plate original creations, showcasing just how delicious a night in the South End can truly be. Attendees will also enjoy live cooking demonstrations, a silent auction and raffle, extensive wine tasting and beer sampling. All proceeds from this 15th annual event will benefit AIDS Action Committee.

The event will be held at the Boston Center for the Arts Cyclorama at 539 Tremont Street in Boston. General Admission is \$95 and includes unlimited sampling from all participating restaurants plus complimentary fine wine, cocktails and more.

VIP Admission is \$150, which also includes unlimited sampling from all participating restaurants plus complimentary fine wine and cocktails, plus the following extras:

• **Early entry to the event:** The Taste of the

South End: Chef's Reception is held from 6:00 to 7:00 PM and provides an exclusive opportunity to mingle with the Chef's of the South End, get early access to your favorite restaurants and enjoy complimentary champagne.

• **Exclusive access during the event:** The VIP Lounge, sponsored by Boston Magazine and open only to VIP ticket holders, is filled with items that won't be found on the main floor, such as more fabulous restaurants, tempting treats, and complimentary cocktails courtesy Patron Tequila.

• **Mingle with your favorite chefs after the event:** Only VIPs are admitted into the Taste of the South End After Party held at The Beehive from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m.

"AIDS Action is pleased to once again produce and benefit from this culinary signature of spring," said CEO and President of AIDS Action Committee, Rebecca Haag. "With nearly 30 years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic behind

us, we still face the challenges of preventing new infections and caring for those infected and affected by this epidemic. The proceeds of this event support the important prevention, education, advocacy and services that AIDS Action makes possible in Massachusetts," Haag continued.

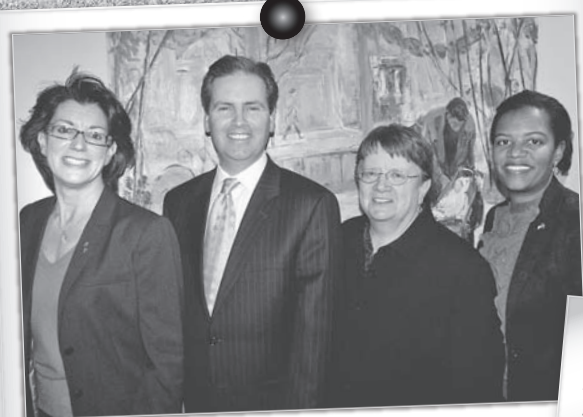
"Taste of the South End is the best way to explore the wide culinary diversity of one of the hottest restaurant neighborhoods in the Greater Boston area," said participating chef Gordon Hamersley of Hamersley's Bistro. "It's a wonderful way to raise money for an organization that does vital work in our community, while having fun socializing and sampling plates from award-winning restaurants. I wouldn't miss it for the world."

This year's sponsors include AGAR, AEW, Boston Center for Adult Education, Bos-

ton Magazine, Cafco, Clarke, Eaton Vance, The Martignetti Companies, Samuel Adams Beer, South End News, Wainwright Bank and Whole Foods Market. A partial list of 2010 participating restaurants include: 28 Degrees, 33 Restaurant, Aquitaine Bar à Vin Bistrot, Avila, Coppa, DaVinci Restaurant, Gaslight, Hamersley's Bistro, Laurel Grill and Bar, Mela, Metropolis Café, Mistral, Picco, Pops, Six Burner, South End Formaggio, Toro, Turner Fisheries, Union Bar and Grill, Upper Crust and Uptown Espresso Caffè.

ABOUT AIDS ACTION COMMITTEE:

AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc., (AAC), New England's first and largest AIDS organization, is dedicated to stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS by preventing new infections and optimizing the health of those already infected. AAC provides free confidential services to men and women living with HIV/AIDS, and conducts educational and prevention outreach to those at risk of infection. AAC runs the only statewide multilingual AIDS Hotline (1.800.235.2331) and Hepatitis Hotline (1.888.443.4372). Free and confidential rapid HIV testing and counseling is available at AAC's downtown Boston location and at its MALE Center in Boston's South End neighborhood. More information is available at www.aac.org.



Photos by
Bill Berggren

Grand Opening of AIDS Action Offices & awards ceremony, Jamaica Plain, MA



Louis Mitchell: A Life in Full Color

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

Louis Mitchell describes himself as a “color outside the lines kind of guy.” It might be more accurate to say that he is a “coloring with every crayon in the pack, on every square inch of the page” kind of guy.

A self-described “intentional man,” Mitchell is a familiar sight at the podium at transgender community events. Trans activism, however, is just what he does with his free time. Officially, Mitchell works for Tapestry Health doing HIV education outreach.

Yet his true calling—the one he says he feels compelled into, kicking and screaming—is ministry.

“I keep hoping there will be a second opinion that says I don’t have to do this,” he says with good humor. “So far it hasn’t happened. I want to reach out to people burned by the church.”

Through *Recovering the Promise Ministries*, which he co-founded with Pastor Charla Kouadio, he is doing just that. *Recovering the Promise* welcomes underserved communities, such as LGBT populations, for a “full-meal fellowship.” After a spirited Saturday afternoon service, everyone stays to share a meal.

Although many local places of worship, consider themselves “Welcoming” or “Open and Affirming,” Mitchell says their cultural style does not appeal to everyone.

“They may be welcoming, but if you are culturally different, you are a perpetual visitor,” he says. He wanted to create something different, with a more Pentecostal style of worship.

Religion has not always been a source of joy for Mitchell. When he first came out—as a lesbian—it brought conflict.

“My mother put me through a Southern Baptist exorcism,” he says. After that, he ran away.

“Now, I understand why she did that. It was coming from a place of love,” he says, explaining that she truly believed he would face eternal damnation. “Who wouldn’t go to extreme measures to save their child from that?”

Today, he says, he and his mother have a great relationship.

“I figured my mom had at least as long as I took to reach self-acceptance,” he says, noting it took him decades.

When he was in his mid-30s, he found himself around guys who were transitioning—and he was angry.

“It was easier to believe that it was impossible,” he says. “I had to face the fact that I had concrete decisions to make. It was hard. I was pissed off.”

Though being part of the lesbian community was important to him, he backed away when he transitioned because he felt it was no longer

space he had the right to occupy.

Like many trans men, Mitchell still had a connection to the lesbian community in his partner. His wife, Krysia Villón, identifies as a femme. Her visibility as a lesbian changed when Mitchell transitioned.

“We transition and we transition a lot of folks with us,” he says, adding that it takes work to give partners room to express their own identities and to support each other.

Mitchell believes the LGBT community needs more such support across identity lines. It begins, he says, with really knowing each other’s issues.

“Being same gender loving does not mean the same thing to everybody. The penalties for it are not universal,” he says. “If you’re gay on welfare your reality is a lot different than if you are gay and moneyed.”

Even within the smaller transgender population, there is limited understanding of the different issues faced by different groups.

“I think that coming together for a march is lovely but it doesn’t build community any more than sharing a pizza together,” he says. “My issues are not necessarily someone else’s issues and I have no way of knowing what those is-

sues are. We all get together for a parade and entertainment and I still don’t know.”

Mitchell has been a voice to reckon with far beyond the Valley. He was the first out trans member of the NGLTF and a founding member of *Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action*. He is actively involved in *The Fellowship*, a national Christian coalition committed to radical inclusivity.

“I’ve been an activist half my life,” he says. A few years ago, he was featured in an award-winning documentary about black transmen called “Still Black.” Mitchell says he was even “grandfathered” into the leadership of a fraternity of African-American trans men.

The smooth confidence, gentle humor and grace that he brings to all the roles he plays belie a deeper self-doubt.

“In my heart, I often feel very insecure,” Mitchell says. “I do get called to work with populations who may also feel really unworthy. Maybe that is the point where my calling and my life intersect. I think there is some strange notion that you are supposed to be all better before you actually go to church. Maybe I am the example that you do not have to be.”



PHOTO: TYNAN POWER

Pastor Louis Mitchell

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Political analyst Rachel Maddow set to deliver Smith College 2010 Commencement address

NORTHAMPTON—Rachel Maddow, a political analyst and media host who rose to national prominence after launching her career on local radio, will be the speaker at Smith College's 132nd commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 16, at 10 a.m. in the campus Quadrangle. Maddow and four other accomplished women will receive honorary degrees prior to the address.

On her national television program, Maddow daily analyzes top headlines from the worlds of politics, current events, sports, science, health, crime and the absurd. Her critically acclaimed program, titled "The Rachel Maddow Show," airs on MSNBC. Her interviews with newsmakers have been described as spotlight-

ing "the headlines, and the politics behind the headlines."

About a year after launching her MSNBC show in April 2008, Maddow was nominated for the Television Critics Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in News and Information. She was also recently included in the list of openly gay media professionals in The Advocate's "Forty under 40" and received a Gracie Award from the American Women in Radio and Television.

A contest launched Maddow's career in 2004. As the winner of a challenge for a new on-air personality in Holyoke, Mass., she addressed listeners for the first time. Meeting with success at the local level, she soon joined

the newly created Air America and, a year later, MSNBC.

Maddow earned a degree in public policy from Stanford University in 1994, was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship, and earned a doctor of philosophy degree from Oxford University.

In addition to Maddow, the following women will receive honorary degrees from Smith on May 16: Martha Myers, renowned dance composer and teacher; Victoria "Tori" Murden McClure '85, a woman of "firsts" was the first woman and first American to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. In 81 days, she traveled 2,962 miles, completing the journey on Dec. 3, 1999; Peggy M. Shepard, co-founder and executive director of We Act for Environ-

mental Justice; and Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan, global advocate for women and children

Smith College educates women of promise for lives of distinction. One of the largest women's colleges in the United States, Smith enrolls 2,800 students from nearly every state and 62 other countries.

For information about disability access or to request accommodations, call (413) 585-2407. To request a sign language interpreter specifically, call (413) 585-2071 (voice or TTY) or e-mail ODS@smith.edu. All requests must be made at least 10 days prior to the event.

Imperial Court of Rhode Island readies to recognize Royal Court at Aids Benefit Ball

PROVIDENCE, RI—The Imperial Court of Rhode Island will gather together to crown their new monarchs at the 18th annual Coronation April 15 through the 18th at the Providence Biltmore. This year's theme is Gangsters, Girdles, and Glitter.

The beneficiaries for the Ball are Facts Nursery/Aids Care Ocean State and RI Pride.

Scott Connery and Lee Daniels have served as Reigning Emperor and Empress for the past year.

Connery has been a member of the Court since 1996 and has shared his reflections on the Court for The Rainbow Times.

"To serve as an Emperor (twice) is an honor," said Connery. "To be able to mentor people in the community and to serve as a leader for the organization for the year is an honor."

The Imperial Court of Rhode Island raises money for various organizations, including AIDS Care Ocean State, Rhode Island Pride, The Agape Center, and Women and Infants Hospital.

"I have met some lifelong friends from all over the country and in Canada, and met people that are making a difference in other peoples lives," Connery noted. "I have been a part of helping so many less fortunate people,

and for that I am grateful and humbled."

The process for running for Emperor or Empress is relatively simple. Each Candidate submits an application for approval from the nominating committee. There are some guidelines that each candidate must follow to be considered for the nomination. After the candidate is approved to be nominated, the official vote takes place each year at the Annual Coronation Ball.

The Imperial Court System was founded in San Francisco in 1965 by José Sarria, also known as Absolute Empress I, The Widow Norton. Around 1971, this structure was replicated in Vancouver, Canada. In the United States, the first court outside of San Francisco was Portland, Oregon, followed closely by Los Angeles.

Members purchase their own clothes and jewelry and attend several social and charitable functions throughout the year.

Rhode Island formed its chapter in 1992. Raffaele Martino was selected as the court's first Emperor and BB Hayes was the first Empress.

Past Court Emperors include W. Fitzgerald Himmelsbach, Stephen Hartley, Kenneth Cote, Scott Connery, Todd Warren, Michael Sousa, Ray Quinn, Lee Daniels, Belle Pellegrino, Earl



PHOTO COURTESY OF IMPERIAL COURT OF RHODE ISLAND

(L-R) Empress Lee Daniels, Emperor Scott Connery, and Jacqueline DiMera

Taylor, and Ray Fay.

Past Court Emperors include Lee Daniels, LaDiva Jonz, Jazzmine Taylor, Candy Will duBarry, Taya Houston, Mahogany Lite, Jade Love, Diana Prince, and Vi'Let.

"I admire them all," Connery said. "This organization is a no paying organization. All members donate all of their time, and in many cases their own money, to do the great work that they do. It would be hard to point out one person from the next as all emperors and

empresses work hard and donate all their free time to the cause."

What would Connery say to someone who wants to join the Court?

"That it is a great way to meet people, and a great way to do good for the less fortunate," Connery added. "And, it is a lot of fun."

For more information about the Imperial Court of RI, please visit www.impcourt.org/icis/chapters/providence.

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Will's Wheels Concert moved to March 13th

EASTHAM, MA— "Will's Wheel's" local band concert at the Nauset Regional High School Auditorium has been postponed until Saturday, March 13th at 7:00 p.m. in order to accommodate a larger audience. The concert is organized by Will Martell, an 18 year old senior at Nauset who lives in Brewster. Funds raised from the concert will benefit Martell's participation in the 545 mile AIDS/LifeCycle bicycle ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles in June. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and available at the door on a first come first serve basis.

The AIDS/LifeCycle bicycle ride benefits multiple charities specializing in prevention, testing, and care for people suffering from HIV & AIDS. 18 year old Nauset Senior, Will Martell said, "I love to ride my bike, and by making this ride, I can not only do what I love and see and learn new things, but I can also give back to my community and make an im-

pact in what I see is a major health problem not only here on Cape Cod, but across the country and the world."

The concert entitled, "Will's Wheels," will feature many local bands and artists including, The Rip-it-ups of South Welfleet, Nauset World Music Ensemble, an after-school program at Nauset Regional High School, and Anna Hirst, a Nauset student from Brewster. Additionally, The Sound, a newly formed band comprised of sophomores at Nauset Regional High School will be making their debut performance.

The AIDS/LifeCycle bicycle ride is its 9th year bringing people from across the world to support AIDS & HIV prevention, testing, and treatment. For more information about Will's Wheels or the AIDS Life/Cycle bicycle ride, please call Will Martell at info@willswheels.org. To donate, please go to www.willswheels.org.

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DADT from Page 3

Lt. EEM: No, not while I was on active duty. Finishing my active-duty obligation was too important to take the risk on what someone else might do. I felt like my service was not only important to the mission at hand but as much to my future. It was a professional milestone that I began and had to finish. So the tradeoff was to make a personal sacrifice to accommodate DADT, which, looking back, I shouldn't have had to do. I've since come out to some of my fellow shipmates, none of which have responded negatively.

MR: Were you ever suspected to be gay by your shipmates? Did you experience or witness any outward homophobia?

Lt. EEM: There were never any suspicions outside of jest. I was fiercely defensive of my personal life while at work so any suspicions would have only been based on a lack of knowledge to what I did with my time outside of work and why I never had a girlfriend. Essentially I had isolated myself in that sense, which didn't help to make me a fully integrated member of the team like others were.

MR: When we first started dating, you knew that I was a journalist who published articles – including some rather controversial opinion pieces on gay issues, including the “don't ask, don't tell” policy – in LGBT and mainstream publications across the country. Were you ever worried that your romantic involvement with me would somehow be discovered because of my work within the press?

Lt. EEM: At first, but only because I hadn't built the trust and confidence in you and your profession that I needed to be completely comfortable with our relationship as it related to being in the military. However, it didn't take



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAPER ROX SCISSORS

Lt. Everett Earl Morrow

long for me to realize that the articles you write and the way in which you do write them are of the highest integrity. I came to trust that you would never divulge my identity unless I said it was OK.

MR: How did you reconcile the potential outcome?

Lt. EEM: Given the nature of our relationship, in that we were dating long distance at first, I just didn't think it was likely that I'd be caught. Had we lived closer or together I'm sure it would have been harder, which would have played a big part in my decision to leave active duty.

MR: Just before you chose to end active-duty service in the Navy, your superiors offered you a salary increase and a new assignment in Annapolis. That presented a problem because, at the time, I was living in Baltimore, which meant that we would be closer together, setting up a new set of obstacles. Why did you decline that position?

Lt. EEM: I would have loved to accept that position, but I realized that I loved you more and it just wouldn't have worked for us to be that close together, especially because I expected that we'd move in together. This is exactly the inherent flaw in DADT, which is that it forces gays and lesbians in the military to choose between their professional and personal lives. As a result, many of us choose the latter, realizing that we can be just as successful and have a positive influence in the civilian world without having to put up with such a policy. Looking back, even though I would have loved the job and been great at it, I don't regret my decision at all as I'm confident that I'm better off for it and that it's the Navy's loss.

MR: You recently participated in an off-camera interview for the upcoming documentary film “Out of Annapolis.” What did you discuss in the interview, and why did you choose to do

it off-camera?

Lt. EEM: I discussed with the director, Steve Clark Hall, what it was like for me as gay man aboard a submarine. I shared with him that I don't think our sailors would have the problem with openly homosexual crew members as some would lead you to believe. The reason I did the interview off-camera is primarily because that's what the director required for those of us that wanted to participate but are still in either the regular or reserve Navy.

MR: Are you afraid of the consequences of DADT now that you've publicly taken a stand against the policy?

Lt. EEM: Not anymore. I used to be, but in light of recent events I just can't stand by and not do whatever I can to help all gays and lesbians gain the right to be able to serve openly, which is something that I would have liked for myself.

MR: As someone who entered military service knowing the consequences, do you think it's fair for the institution to discharge you based on the provisions of DADT?

Lt. EEM: I don't think that it's fair at all for the military to discharge anyone based on their sexual orientation. The measure of a sailor,

soldier, Marine, etc., should be based on the quality of their performance, not their sexuality. I, like many others, were deemed more than competent and proved to be real assets to our units. I just can't understand why we have a policy that forces us out involuntarily or to make the decision to leave, like I did.

MR: Do you think a repeal will happen? What political and social obstacles do you think a bill to repeal the policy will encounter?

Lt. EEM: I'm confident that Congress will ultimately do the right thing. I see the major obstacles as all political. Unfortunately, there are still several of our legislators that just don't get it. They refuse to recognize the reality of the fact that this won't have the impact they fear. I've heard comments of the repeal having an effect on unit cohesion and military readiness. I think that couldn't be farther from the truth as the current policy is what breaks these things down. Socially, I agree with Adm. Mullen's comment “that the great young men

and women of our military can and would accommodate such a change.”

MR: How do you feel when members of Congress and other leaders of this country speak out against allowing gays and lesbians to serve their country openly? Do you ever feel that your commitment to the United States – and your protection of its freedom – is undermined and unappreciated?

Lt. EEM: I feel both undermined and unappreciated in the sense that it's only good enough for them that I serve as long as I keep quiet about my sexuality. If they truly understood or cared, they would appreciate me for more than just my service, like who I am as a person. It's even more distressing for me when individuals like Sen. John McCain, who served so valiantly, say these things.

MR: How do you think a repeal of the policy will be handled by the rank-and-file? Do you foresee increased instances of hate crimes and homophobia, or will the transition be made without incident?

Lt. EEM: I think that many people are underestimating our rank-and-file. Part of being in the military is being flexible and accommodating. All of us do this every day and I don't

think a repeal of DADT would be any different.

MR: If DADT is repealed, would you consider a return to active-duty service?

Lt. EEM: No. The Navy lost out on me two years ago when my military career was irreconcilable with my personal life because of this discriminatory policy. At that point I pursued other civilian opportunities

and have found everything I

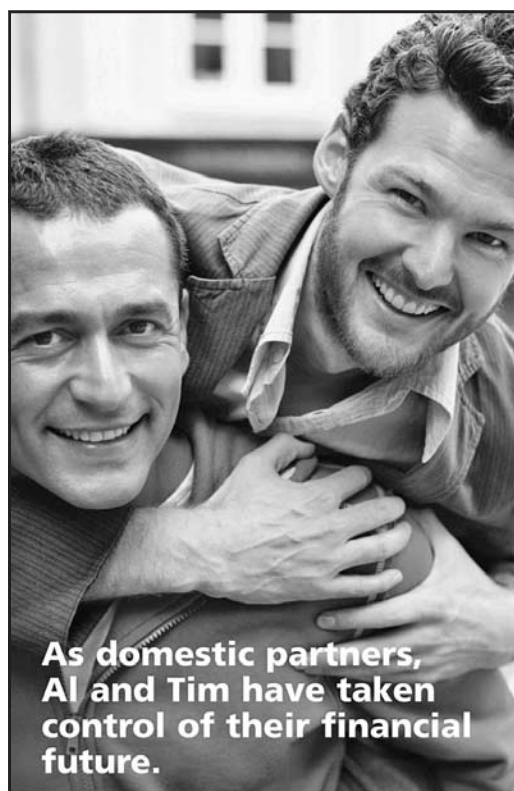
was looking for. I've developed a new loyalty to my profession that balances with my love for you. No one I work with now would ever question that. That's all any of us want, and even with a repeal of DADT I'm past going back. I love my country, value my service and would do it again if time were rolled back; however, I've moved on.

**Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and the principal of Paper Rox Scissors, a media and marketing company in New York City. For more information, visit www.paperroxscissors.com.*



PHOTO COURTESY PAPER ROX SCISSORS

Mikey & Earl



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DEEP INSIDE HOLLYWOOD: Susan Sarandon, former queer screen icon

QueerWood

By: Romeo San Vicente*

Eliza Dushku's road to Mapplethorpe

Actors with ambition to produce and direct know that to make their dream projects come true there are dues to be paid. So when *Dollhouse* star Eliza Dushku announced her intentions to make *The Perfect Moment*, a biopic about the late gay artist Robert Mapplethorpe, she probably knew there'd be clout-and cash-collecting detours along the way. And here they are: the horror film *Zoe*, slated for 2011 and co-starring James Van Der Beek and Freddie Prinze, Jr. (is it set in the '90s too?) in which Dushku plays a small-town waitress terrorized by... well...

something; you'll see when it opens. And then there's the future mega-event known as *Ghostbusters III*, a project she's been circling, one that would pretty much catapult her to the A-list, with all the production shingle perks that status tends to dole out. Hope so. And really, what're a few slimed ghosts on the road to making art?

Susan Sarandon entering *The Big Valley*

Back in the 1960s, Barbara Stanwyck (who may or may not have been bisexual – as was rumored during her career – but who was a favorite of lesbian and gay audiences all the same) played Victoria Barkley, sturdy matriarch of the wild west TV drama *The Big Valley*. So it's fitting, in a way that Susan Sarandon, about whom no one creates sexuality rumors because her early career choices (*The Hunger* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*) more or less cemented her position as



Romeo San Vicente

would love to see a gay cowboy subplot somewhere in the mix. Nothing major, just something where the quiet "special friends" get to live happily ever after.

Whorehouse to reopen for business

So *Nine* tanked at the box office. Oh well. We're now back at a point in the movie-making landscape where one failed big-budget musical doesn't derail the genre's viability, which is great news for fans of that heightened reality where breaking into song and choreographed dance moves is commonplace. Here come two more: *The Song Is You*, from *Dreamgirls* director Bill Condon, is about a man who turns to music as a refuge, connecting it to key moments in his life (or as Condon has described it, "(falling) into his iPod Shuffle"). In turn, the man also falls into a romance with a singer he hasn't even met. At the same time, the remake of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* is on the horizon. No cast yet, no release date yet, no nothing yet, just a teasing promise. So, message to people responsible: obviously she's not going to play the lead, but there must be a

a queer screen icon, may be stepping into Stanwyck's lady-like boots. Poised to re-enter pop-culture consciousness as a feature film, *The Big Valley* is just the right sort of remake candidate: one that's had time to exit public consciousness first. It has no other cast yet, but Romeo



PHOTO COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Oscar winning actress Susan Sarandon

liberal infusion of Dolly Parton into this movie all the same. Anything less will be blasphemy. Now go make it work.

Kevin Smith produces *Bear Nation*

Anyone who follows the man recently ejected from a Southwest Airlines flight for taking up too much seat space knows that Kevin Smith is a bear. A heterosexual one, but still a bear. And his gay bear colleague, documentary filmmaker Malcolm Ingram (*Small Town Gay Bar*, which Smith produced), has enlisted the help of Silent Bob to get his next project off the ground. Smith has executive-produced and also makes an appearance in *Bear Nation*, a doc from Ingram about the bear subculture (for

the still-uninitiated, they are that niche market of gay men who refuse to shave, wax, or say no to seconds at the buffet) and all the ways they've begun to make their presence known in the larger gay world. The film premieres any minute now at Austin's South By Southwest Film Festival. Non-Austinites will have to wait for a local fest or cable airing, all of which are highly likely to follow. Prep now by growing that facial hair.

*Romeo San Vicente's favorite thing about bears is their proximity to fried chicken and waffles. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

Aids Care Ocean State, 20th Anniversary, Biltmore Grand Ball Room, Providence, RI



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David Cicilline.

Providence Mayor David Cicilline sets sights on Congress

Rhode Island News

By: Joe Siegel/TRT Reporter

PROVIDENCE—On February 13, the openly gay leader of Rhode Island's largest city announced his candidacy for the 1st Congressional District. Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D), son of the late Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy, announced he would not be seeking reelection.

Cicilline, 48, will be competing against former state Democratic Party chairman William Lynch, for the Democratic nomination. Lynch is the brother of State Attorney General Patrick Lynch, who is running for Governor.

Cicilline, the son of a Jewish mother and an Italian father, remains one of the country's most prominent openly gay elected officials.

Cicilline graduated from Brown University and went on to earn a J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center. He served as a public defender in Washington, D.C. before returning to Providence to open a practice in criminal defense and civil rights law.

Cicilline began his political life serving four terms as state representative from Providence's East Side. He earned a reputation as a fierce champion of political reform and gun safety, and his dedication to ethics in government won him Common Cause's #1

ranking.

Cicilline was elected Mayor in 2002, winning 84 percent of the vote. In 2006, Cicilline won reelection handily.

Cicilline had been mentioned as a possible candidate for Governor, but he announced last year he would be seeking a third term as Mayor of Providence.

However, in the past two years, the state has been decimated by a record number of job losses. Rhode Island currently has the second highest unemployment rate in the country.

Witnessing firsthand the economic plight of middle class and lower-middle class people in the state motivated Cicilline to seek higher office.

"It is clear to me that Washington has lost sight of what hardworking, middle class families are going through in this country," Cicilline explained. "There is a dangerous disconnect between what is happening to families living in cities and towns in Rhode Island and all across this country and what Washington is doing about it. We need someone who can



PHOTO: PROVIDENCE, RI MAYOR'S OFFICE
Mayor David Cicilline

provide practical solutions to the real problems facing families and work to develop solutions that improve people's lives."

Cicilline believes voters are fed up with what he refers to as "partisan posturing" and want a representative who will work to solve the problems the country is facing, such as massive employment, a record number of foreclosures, and fixing health care.

Cicilline has been working on establishing a Metropolitan Transit System for Providence and other cities, as well as a program to create jobs for city residents, and improving the quality of

public education – all initiatives which would be strengthened by his place in Congress, should he be elected.

Cicilline does not believe his sexual orientation will be an impediment in his campaign.

"I think the voters in this state have proved time and time again that they make judgments based on a candidate's ability and vision and ideas and commitment and integrity," Cicilline said. "Sexual orientation is irrelevant to voters

in this state."

Cicilline says GLBT activists must remain vigilant in their efforts to secure equal rights at the federal level.

"I think it's important that we continue to work very hard and vigorously to advance equality for our community," Cicilline said, referring to efforts underway to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and the passage of ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act).

Cicilline acknowledged the frustration in the GLBT community regarding these issues, but noted that activists need to continue to pressure legislators to take action.

President Obama has demonstrated a genuine commitment to GLBT issues, Cicilline added: "I do know the administration has made significant progress on issues important to our community. There's certainly much more to be done and I think we're going to see continued progress over the coming year."

If elected, Cicilline would become only the fourth sitting openly gay member of Congress, according to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund.

The three openly gay members of Congress are Reps. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.), Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Jared Polis (D-Colo.).

Three other openly gay Americans have served in Congress previously: the late Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Mass.); former Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-Wis.); and former Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.).

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Lenelle Moïse Lends Her Powerful Voice to Haiti Relief Efforts

By: Tynan Power/TRT Reporter

"I identify as poet, playwright, theatre artist, Haitian, Haitian-American, feminist, womanist, madivine, pomosexual, queer and lesbian," said Lenelle Moïse. "I am comfortable with all of these beautiful, charged words."

"Beautiful, charged words" could be a description of Moïse's own work. She has performed poetry and solo shows across the country to great acclaim and has seen her work published in numerous anthologies.

"I have just been named the recipient of the 2009-2010 *Astraea Emerging Lesbian Writer Award in Poetry*," she said. "This is an honor, a responsibility and a thrill."

Moïse has talked about the longing she has felt for celebratory and uncensored conversations about race, class, gender and sexuality. This desire fuels her writing and performances, which in turn become catalysts for new kinds of conversations off stage.

"The celebratory spirit stems from humor, compassion and respect. I try to incorporate these ingredients into my everyday conversations. We all have race, class, gender and sexuality. In my art, I often tell stories about the tense interactions I've had with people who are not yet aware of this reality—people who may or may not look, love, believe or vote like me. I hope my writing inspires readers to start new conversations while practicing mindfulness," she said. "The key word is 'practicing.'"

One of Moïse's new projects is "Alone Together," a two-hour workshop that teaches others how to turn their stories of truth into a one person show.

"I launched 'Alone Together' at the Fire & Ink conference for LGBT writers of African de-



Lenelle Moïse

PHOTO: VANESSA VARGAS

scent in Austin, TX in October 2009," Moïse said. "I have learned a lot through developing my solo show *Womb-Words, Thirsting*, which I regularly perform across the U.S. The workshop encourages writers to create one-person shows that implicate and/or collaborate with their audiences. This is the type of the theatre that I want to see more of."

In February, Moïse took her *Womb-Words, Thirsting* show to Northwestern University for a weekend in residence.

"The Performance Studies department invited me to perform as part of a *Mellon Foundation* funded series for an upcoming anthology called *Solo/Black/Woman*," Moïse said.

Ever on the go, in a few weeks, Moïse will

head to Washington, D.C. for the *Split This Rock Poetry Festival*. There she will read her poetry and speak on a panel entitled "Black LG-BTQ Writing as Agent of Change."

Lately, much of Moïse's work has involved performing in benefits for her native Haiti.

"I pray that the aid coming into Haiti is rooted in a sense of concern, compassion, curiosity and an effort toward cultural sensitivity," she said. "I recently wrote a poem called *Quaking Conversation*. One of the lines is about respect and 'how even the desperate deserve it.' Haiti does not need to be saved from itself. Haiti needs help to recover from the devastation caused by centuries of isolation, neglect, stigma and crushing debt as well as the aftermath of the earthquake. I am moved to see how widespread the outpouring of support is for Haiti. Across the globe, people of all races and income levels are participating in relief efforts. Likewise, Haitians on the island and across the Diaspora are responding to the recent crisis."

For those who want to help, Moïse offered some suggestions.

"I recommend and support Partners in Health, Dwa Fanm (Women's Rights), the Lambi Fund of Haiti and Jean R. Cadet Restavek Foundation. These organizations show their long-term commitment to Haiti by focusing on health, economic empowerment, self-determination and sustainability. Give often and give generously."

Moïse will be performing as part of "Artists for Justice - Rise up for Haiti" on March 3, 2010 at Holyoke Community College. For more information about Moïse and upcoming performances, visit www.lenellemoise.com.

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New memoir recalls author's coming-of-age as gay man

Tomorrow May Be Too Late by Thomas Marino recalls a turbulent time in the author's young life when he fell in love with a man for the first time

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (MMD Newswire)—*Tomorrow May Be Too Late* by Thomas Marino is an autobiographical account of a 10-month period in the author's life when he took part in a life-changing relationship with another man.

Young, selfish and naive, Marino was working at a bank by day and stripping by night to make ends meet. His brief marriage to his young wife was coming to a close, and he found himself at a crossroads. Ready to explore his feelings for men, he embarks on a series of meaningless encounters that satisfy his physical needs but leave him emotionally empty. Then Marino meets a mysterious man who shares his name: Tom. Intrigued, the pair begins a tumultuous 10-month relationship that

leaves Marino devastated, broke and far wiser for the experience.

"My time with Tom stands as a singular life lesson for me - one that I'm glad I experienced, as painful as it was," Marino says. "Though Tom left me broken both fiscally and romantically, I feel he loved me, in his way. He definitely left me a better man, more secure in my sexuality and lifestyle."

Intended for gay audiences, the book offers a candid account of Marino's evolving sexuality and gradual acceptance of himself and his needs. It also aims to depict the professional challenges that come with living as a gay man who had not accepted his sexual identity in the 1980s and the constant fear of being discovered. Also included is a playlist of songs that entertained and inspired the author during this memorable period of his life.

Tomorrow May Be Too Late is available for sale online at Amazon.com and other channels.

About the Author:

With *Tomorrow May Be Too Late*, Marino realized his dream of writing a book based on his first love affair with another man while sometimes working three jobs at a time. A proud native of southern New Jersey, Marino lives with his husband and son.



PHOTO: BILL BERGGREN

2010 NORTHEAST REGIONAL PRIDE

The Staff of the 2010 Northeast Regional Pride, NERP, welcomed pride organizations from over 20 cities from the Northeast at their Conference in Riverhead Long Island NY on Feb 26, 27 and 28. The host pride this year was Pride Alliance Long Island. NERP is held each year to work with Pride organizations to energize, produce, and promote Prides throughout the Northeast. In attendance were members from Boston Pride, Rhode Island Pride, and Pride Promotions, LGBT event organizers from Northampton. For more information about NERP, visit: www.nerp2010.org.

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the month's best selling videos
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Lesbian Best Sellers

1. The L Word Final Season
2. Training Rules
3. The Baby Formula
4. Girl Seeks Girl
– Chica Busca Chica
5. I Can't Think Straight
6. The Lovers & Friends Show
Seasons 1 & 2
7. And Then Came Iola
8. Person of Interest
9. Drool
10. The L Word: Season 5

Gay Best Sellers

1. Mr. Right
2. The Butch Factor
3. Hollywood je taime
4. The Big Gay Musical
5. BOYCRAZY
6. Breakfast with Scot
7. Half-Life
8. Adam & Steve
9. Were the World Mine
10. Glee Volume 1:
The Road to Sectionals

Creep of the Week: Nancy Elliott - no, no one is trying to wrong you!



D'Anne Witkowski

By: D'Anne Witkowski*

W oah there, State Rep. Nancy Elliott (R-New Hampshire). Relax. No one is trying to anal sex you. Though this is something you apparently think about a lot. So much, in fact, that you must not have realized you were talking out loud and into a microphone during that legislative session about repealing your state's marriage equality law.

Like when you said, "We're talking about taking the penis of one man and putting it in the rectum of another man and wriggling it around in excrement. And you have to think, 'I'm not sure, would I allow that to be done to me?' All of us, that could happen to you. Would you let that happen to you? Is that normal?"

Yikes. First of all Nancy, what you put or don't put in your butt is your business. But thanks for announcing to the world that you and your husband don't do anal. That is a very important thing for your constituency to know (that is not a very important thing for your constituency to know).

Second of all, what does this have to do with same-sex marriage? Is there some kind of clause in New Hampshire that mandates anal sex for married gays? You know that some gay dudes don't even have anal sex, right? It's "off the menu," so to speak. And do you know that some straight dudes have anal sex on both the giving and receiving end? Because you don't seem to be freaked out about them getting married.

I'm also concerned about this claim you made at the session: "I heard yesterday from a mother that in the fifth grade in Nashua they were given as part of their classroom instruc-

tion, naked pictures of two men showing a presentation of anal sex. ... They are showing our fifth graders how they can actually perform this kind of sex and they are condoning, saying this is something normal. They are saying this is something that you ... as a fifth grader, may want to try."

Wow, really? And just one parent complained about that? Because I agree with you, giving fifth graders naked pictures of ass sex, straight or gay, is not appropriate. So you'd think more parents would have complained. Unless, of course, it didn't happen.

"The comments have Nashua school officials at a loss. Nothing resembling what Elliott said is being taught in any of Nashua's schools, officials say," reported the Nashua Telegraph. "Superintendent Mark Conrad said school officials have asked all elementary school principals about the claim. Conrad said there is no evidence to substantiate Elliott's comment and no parents have called to complain."

Huh. That's funny. No parents called the school to complain. Just one mystery mother and she called you, someone who talks publicly about her visions of penises wriggling around in poo. Must be a district wide cover-up, eh?

What would New Hampshire be without you? I urge you not to quit, Nancy. Keep speaking the truth. Don't let the haters get you down. Don't let them censor your message. In fact, at your next meeting, bring in two live gays as guests to have anal sex so you can really hit your point home. Do it, Nancy. Do it for the children.

**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 and roll shows in Detroit with her twin sister.*

Local Celebration to mark International Women's Day

Multifaceted afternoon of culture and information at UMass

International Women's Day, March 8th, from 3-6 p.m., is an internationally recognized day that acknowledges the contributions of women worldwide.

In recognition of this day, Everywoman's Center, the Women of Color Leadership Network and the GSS Graduate Women's Network have organized an afternoon of art, poetry, music, food, information and self-care. From 3:00-4:00 p.m. there will be information tables featuring literature from campus-based women's organizations, refreshments, massage and henna tattoos, as well as an opportunity to be inspired by the *Women of Hope* poster art show. From 4:00-5:00 there will be a reception and an exceptional poetry reading honoring the lives of women including: Leslea Newman, Lenelle Moise and Karen Johnston.

Leslea Newman

Leslea Newman is the author of 57 books including *A Letter to Harvey Milk* and *Heather Has Two Mommies*, which was the first published children's book to portray lesbian families in a positive light. She is also the author of many books for adults that deal with lesbian identity, Jewish identity and intersections between the two. Other topics Ms. Newman explores include feminism, eating disorders, butch/femme relationships and sexual abuse. Her award winning *A Letter to Harvey Milk* has been made into a film and was adapted for the stage. She is also currently the Poet Laureate of Northampton.

Lenelle Moise

Hailed "a masterful performer" by GetUnderground.com, Lenelle Moise is a "culturally hyphenated pomosexual poet" who creates jazz-infused, hip-hop bred, politicized texts about

Haitian-American identity and the intersection of race, class, gender, sexuality, spirituality and resistance. She recites from hand-made scrolls, from memory and with movement. She has been a featured performer in venues as diverse as the Louisiana Superdome, the United Nations General Assembly Hall as well as theatres, bookstores, cafes and activist conferences around the country. Her play "EXPATRIATE" premiered Off-Broadway in 2008.

Karen Johnston

Karen Johnston is a social worker by profession, a poet by avocation and a socialist by inclination, a UU-Buddhist by faith and a Mother by choice. Her writing has been published in *Silkworm*, *Equinox*, *Concise Delight* Word Catalyst and *Women. Period.* An Anthology of Writings on Menstruation.

This event is free, open to the public and wheelchair accessible. It held at the Cape Cod Lounge, Student Union Building/University of Massachusetts Amherst. Everyone Welcome! For more information contact Everywoman's Center at 545-0883 or www.umass.edu/ewc

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Visión Latina



Wilfred Labiosa

Por: Wilfred Labiosa*

Mirando hacia fuera de mi ventana desde el Hotel Nacional observo la bandera Cubana y me trae tantos pensamientos. Sí, estoy en Cuba y el ver esta bandera me recuerda de las banderas que me representan como persona. Recientemente las noticias usan la bandera de Haití con imágenes de lo ocurrido y cada vez que veo esa bandera no necesito las imágenes ya que esa bandera me da un sentir de tristeza, amargura, desesperación y de la pobreza que los haitianos allá y acá están pasando.

Cuatro son mis banderas con las que siento tantas cosas al verlas. La primera bandera es la del arcoíris, orgullo GLBT; esta me recuerda lo mucho que nosotros como comunidad hemos sufrido y batallado para alcanzar igualdad. Personalmente me recuerda de mis experiencias al salir del "closet", de lo mucho que sufrí al ser "diferente" y a la misma vez me recuerda de mi trabajo con y para la comunidad GLBT y Latina.

Al ver la bandera de los Estados Unidos me

recuerdo de las historias de mis abuelos y padres, de la emigración de los puertorriqueños a Nueva York/Bronx y de las fotos antiguas que he visto de mi familia mientras vivían en Nueva York. Me recuerda de como mis abuelos tuvieron que fajarse para alcanzar lo que mi generación ha alcanzado. Esta bandera me recuerda de Septiembre 11 y de las vidas que las guerras han tomado, por la democracia e independencia. Me recuerda también de la opresión, del racismo, del clasismo y de lo mucho que uno tiene que luchar para alcanzar "su paraíso".

La tercera bandera es la Boricua/Puerto Rico. Esta me da un sentimiento melancólico y a la vez de alegría. Mi cara cambia y siento paz. Esta bandera me recuerda a mi familia, al coquí, al Morro, los Tres Reyes Magos, el pitirre, a nuestras raíces, de la situación económica presente en mi isla, y de lo que espero que venga para mi isla en el futuro. Me recuerda de lo bueno y malo que la gente que vive en "mi tierra" ofrecen. Me recuerda de las veces que veo la luna al estar en las playas de Aguadilla y del sol cuando nado en el mar Caribe en Salinas. La bandera, cualquiera que sea, trae tantas emociones y recuerdos.

Y, recientemente, mi cuarta bandera es la cubana; esta bandera me trae tantos sentimientos que no puedo describir en pocas palabras. Cuando voy a un concierto de Gloria Estefan y ella plasma la bandera Cubana, mi cuerpo y alma brincan, siento una energía increíble y co-

mienzo a pensar en la gente Cubana en Cuba. Política a un lado, quiero y deseo lo mejor para mis hermano/as cubanas y hasta mi próximo viaje a Cuba, ¡Qué Viva Cuba!

Bandera = Nación y la nación significa nuestro nacimiento, nuestras raíces, nuestro pasado, nuestro presente y nuestro futuro que ha de suceder. La bandera y la nación que representa significan amor, alegría, tristeza y demás. Mis banderas me traen energías para mi diario vivir y significado a todo lo que hago. ¿Cuál/es (son) tus banderas que te representan? ¿Que significa/n tu(s) bandera(s)? Iza tu bandera con orgullo y reclama tu patria, aunque nunca la puedas visitar. Álzala a donde quieras y cuando quieras. Alza tu bandera, álzala alto o bajo, pero álzala con orgullo.

"Y pongamos alrededor de la estrella, en la bandera, esta fórmula de amor triunfante con todos y para el bien de todos", Jose Martí.

**Escrito en ambos idiomas por Wilfred Labiosa, activista y miembro de la mesa directiva de Unid@s: La Organización Nacional Latina para Derechos Humanos y de Orgullo de Boston. Editado en ambos idiomas por Grisel Martínez Ocasio. To read this story in English, visit: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/feblatinvision.*

To read this story in English, visit: www.therainbowtimesmass.com/latinvisionmarch.

Lambda Legal Releases Health Care LGBT Discrimination Survey Results

NEW YORK, NY— Last month, Lambda Legal released the first nationwide survey that examined health care discrimination experienced by LGBT people and people living with HIV.

"The results of this survey should shock the conscience of this nation and make clear that the system is broken when it comes to health care for many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and those living with HIV," said Beverly Tillery, Director of Community Education and Advocacy and one of the authors of the report. "No one should be turned away or face discrimination when they are sick or seeking medical care."

In spring 2009, Lambda Legal and over 100 partner organizations distributed a survey to LGBT people and people living with HIV across the country. When Health Care Isn't Caring: Lambda Legal's Survey on Discrimination Against LGBT People and People Living with HIV, is based on responses from approximately 5,000 people and provides a powerful snapshot of the experiences of a diverse cross section of members of the LGBT and HIV communities all over the country.

The survey included questions about the following types of discrimination in care: being refused needed care; health care professionals refusing to touch patients or using excessive precautions; health care professionals using harsh or abusive language; being blamed for one's health status; or health care professionals being physically rough or abusive. According to the results, almost 56 percent of lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) respondents had at least one of these experiences; 70 percent of transgender

and gender-nonconforming respondents had one or more of these experiences; and nearly 63 percent of respondents living with HIV experienced one or more of these types of discrimination in health care. We found that not only did sexual orientation or serostatus affect the respondents' access to quality health care,

but transgender or gender-nonconforming respondents faced discrimination two to three times more frequently than lesbian, gay, or bisexual respondents. In nearly every category, a higher proportion of respondents who are people of color and/or low-income reported experiencing discriminatory and substandard care. Close to 33 percent of low-income transgender and gender-nonconforming respondents reported being refused care because of their gender identity and almost a quarter of low-income respondents living with HIV reported being denied care.

In addition to instances of discrimination, respondents also reported a high degree of anticipation and belief that they would face discriminatory care. Overall, 9 percent of LGB

respondents are concerned about being refused medical services when they need them and 20 percent of respondents living with HIV and over half of transgender and gender-nonconforming respondents share this same concern. Nearly half of LGB respondents and respondents living with HIV and almost 90 percent of transgender respon-

dents believe there are not enough medical personnel who are properly trained to care for them. These barriers to care may result in poorer health outcomes because of delays in diagnosis, treatment or preventive measures.

Within the report, Lambda Legal provides key recommendations for health care institutions, government, individuals, and organizations to combat these issues. We recommend comprehensive cultural competency, inclusive policies, research and training for medical personnel, stronger laws, as well as advocacy and community education.

For the full report and the list of partners in Lambda Legal's national Health Care Fairness Campaign, please visit www.lambdalegal.org/health-care-report.

"The results of this survey should shock the conscience of this nation. No one should be turned away or face discrimination when they are sick or seeking medical care."

Letters from Page 2

NightTimez seems to make a lot of \$\$ on ads. What does that say about the advertisers catering to this market specifically? I am a guy and I don't care for the section.

—Scott S., Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

I like how open Ms. Erisis is with her columns. Talking about the pre and post eras of her life, although still hard to fully comprehend, is something that I enjoy reading about in the Rainbow Times. Thanks for a cool and fresh column.

—John S., Worcester, MA

Dear Editor,

Billy Glover's article talks the truth. We're surrounded by a bunch of hypocrites who claim they are our allies and then spat, like flies, we are reminded of how little we're thought of all of a sudden. It is that same sense of hypocrisy that surrounds us all. Men married to women are good enough to be openly forgiven in politics, but that doesn't affect the sanctity of marriage. Men who are married to women, have hidden sex with other men, but they call themselves "heterosexuals" and condemn the same men they have sex with when surrounded by friends and family. Women, who are married to men, want to have a girlfriend, and call themselves bisexuals. How enchanting and convenient it must be. Being a lesbian or gay is not always easy to wear of your sleeve, so let's opt to be hypocrites instead. I think Mr. Glover is right on.

—Stephen T., Boston, MA

Dear Editor,

I really enjoy that you have stories for just about anyone in TRT. I, as a member of the senior LGBT community, was glad to see some coverage in your paper about the Worcester LGBT Elder Network. Eramo, your reporter, did a good job and pointed out some truths: "we're not scared to tell we're gay anymore."

—Jim S., Cambridge, MA

Dear Editor,

Gay Domestic Violence is a great topic to explore in the Times. I was not aware of this group, since I'm new to the area. Now, thanks to you, I'll be volunteering and even entering the Marathon.

—Dave C., Jamaica Plain, MA

Dear Editor,

Great RI coverage and I want to see more! Queer Action of RI has it right. We just need more coverage. Maybe you can continue to feature more stories from RI.

—Sam D., Providence, RI

Dear Editor,

I didn't care to read Ms. Ambrose's story in February. She sounded sexist and close minded. There are many men who don't pay for sex and don't care to do so, just as many women don't. Maybe she can't be fair because she is not he, or is she?

—Michael S., Quincy, MA

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Maryland AG declares State can recognize out of jurisdiction Same-Sex Marriages

Same-sex couples can receive all of the state rights and responsibilities of marriage

WASHINGTON—The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, lauded Maryland Attorney General Doug Gansler today for his sound legal opinion in analyzing Maryland's marriage equality laws.

"Although today's long-awaited opinion by Maryland Attorney General Douglas Gansler won't erase many of the inequalities same-sex couples in Maryland face, it is certainly a positive development on the road to marriage equality," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Today's opinion by the Maryland Attorney General only continues to further highlight the burdensome patchwork of unequal laws same-sex couples face across the country. With every step that is taken in the progress towards full equality, it becomes

more and more obvious that separate is not equal and marriage by any other name is not marriage."

Maryland may join New York in providing marriage rights to same-sex couples married out of jurisdiction while not issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples within the state. The Attorney General's opinion explains that the state may recognize out of jurisdiction marriages either through legislation enacted by the Maryland General Assembly, through a decision of the Court of Appeals, or by state agencies. With Washington, D.C. poised to begin accepting marriage applications from same-sex couples on March 3, 2010, when the Congressional review period ends, recognition of same-sex marriages will have a significant practical meaning for many same-sex couples in Maryland.

At this time, five states recognize marriage for same-sex couples under state law: Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Five states—California, New Jersey, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada—plus Washington, D.C. provide same-sex couples with access to the state level benefits and responsibilities of marriage, through either civil unions or domestic partnerships.

Hawaii, Colorado, Maine, Maryland and Wisconsin provide same-sex couples with limited rights and benefits. New York, and Washington, D.C. recognize marriages of same-sex couples validly entered into outside of the jurisdiction. California recognized marriage by same-sex couples between June and November of 2008, before voters approved Proposition 8, which purports to amend the state constitution to prohibit marriage equality. Couples mar-

ried during that window remain married under California law, but all other same-sex couples can only receive a domestic partnership within the state. The state will recognize out of state same-sex marriages that occurred before November 5, 2008 as marriages and those that occurred on or after November 5, 2008 as domestic partnerships. The Proposition 8 vote has been challenged in federal court; a decision is not expected any time soon.

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

Leaders of Military Service branches voice support for Mullen/Gates approach to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal

Service Chiefs and Secretaries tell Congress they stand ready to carry out repeal when orders come

WASHINGTON—The highest-ranking leaders of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines appeared before Congress last week and testified in support of the strategy to repeal the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law that was laid out by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

Army Chief of Staff General George Casey; Secretary of the Army John McHugh; Air Force Chief of Staff Norton Schwartz; Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley; Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gary Roughead; Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Commandant of the Marine Corps General James Conway all supported the implementation review announced earlier this month and now under way at the Pentagon.

Throughout this week, the service secretaries and service chiefs have been testifying before the U.S. House and Senate Armed Services Committees regarding defense authorization requests for Fiscal Year 2011.

"The leaders of our military service branches told Congress that they back Adm. Mullen and Secretary Gates' roadmap for repeal and would absolutely be capable of carrying out orders abolishing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" when Congress and the president send those orders their way," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The testimony given by the service chiefs this week only furthers the belief that whatever orders are handed to them by their superiors, our men and women in uniform will have no trouble carrying out those orders with honor and professionalism."

"Every shred of evidence shows that on the battlefield, sexual orientation doesn't matter. Our country's top military leaders and the overwhelming majority of the American

public and active-duty service members all believe that the most important consideration isn't whether a patriotic American fighting for our freedom is gay or straight, but whether they have the ability to perform their mission. The time to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is now," continued Solmonese.

On Monday, Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) announced that he will introduce a bill in the U.S. Senate to repeal the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law. Representative Patrick Murphy (D-PA) is the lead sponsor of similar legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Since President Obama delivered his State of the Union address last month, during which he called for ending the ban on openly lesbian and gay Americans from serving in the military, there has been a nearly unanimous and diverse group who have spoke out in support of doing away with the law. Some of those include:

- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen and Defense Secretary Robert Gates voiced their support during their congressional testimony before a Senate Armed Services Committee.

- General Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stated, "I fully support the new approach presented to the Senate Armed Services Committee this week by Secretary of Defense Gates and Admiral Mullen."

- A New York Times/CBS News national poll conducted on February 5th – 10th, 2010, shows yet again that a majority of Americans support repeal.

- The largest organization of retired U.S. military reserve officers in the nation voted to end its decades-long position in support of excluding lesbians and gays from the U.S. military. The association, founded in 1922 and

chartered by Congress in 1950, also rejected the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law.

Former Vice President and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney threw his support behind the effort to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" by stating, "When the chiefs come forward and say, 'We think we can do it,' then it strikes me as it's time to reconsider the policy, and I think Adm. Mullen said that."

Now is the time to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." To be part of the effort to ensure that

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is repealed this year, please write your member of Congress.

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



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Boston-based MALE Center focuses on health and wellness for gay and bisexual men

By: Lisa A. Eramo/TRT Reporter

Health and wellness depend on one's spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. That's the philosophy at the MALE Center, a community resource and wellness center for gay and bisexual men in Boston.

The Center, a program of AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc., offers a variety of free services provided by staff members with expertise in public health, social work, substance use counseling, advocacy, health promotion, sexual health, and more.

Since the Center opened its doors in June 2005, it continues to focus on a holistic approach to care, says Michael Shankle, director. "We don't just look at someone and think 'Oh, this person has a health condition or is a substance user.' That may be the primary reason they're presenting, but there's so much more to that person than the particular condition," he says.

The Center offers a variety of services in a comfortable and safe atmosphere, says Shankle. "It's a small storefront property," he says of the center's 1,800 square foot space located on Columbus Avenue in Boston's South End. "People can just walk right in off the street. No appointment is necessary. That feel allows people to really engage when they want to engage and in the way they want to engage."

The community is involved in every aspect of the Center's programming, and perhaps

that's why it was voted the 2009 "Best South End Community Organization" by the readers of The South End News.

"The community really helps build the center and provides us with the information we need to address some of the barriers people are experiencing," says Shankle.

For example, the Center solicited community member feedback regarding prevention apathy that resulted in the Center's now being one of the only sites in Massachusetts (and the only location in Boston) where men can access rapid HIV testing on nights and weekends. In 2009, the Center tested approximately 900 men, says Shankle.

Men can also participate in the Center's Sex Life Coaching program during which they engage one-on-one with a counselor to discuss prevention strategies as well as other types of questions about sexual health or other life challenges.

"There's a huge misconception that occurs in the community that as gay men or bi men, we should know everything there is to know about our sexual health. There's not really a place for people to ask questions," says Shankle. "This is an opportunity for people to sit down in a non-judgmental environment and ask those questions and get the answers they need."

Like the sex life coaches, the Center also provides health navigators who make referrals to providers and services, accompany clients to appointments, or provide other connections



PHOTO: PAUL TWITCHELL

Reception area of AIDS Action Committee's MALE Center located in Boston's South End neighborhood.

with a wide variety of internal and external health services.

"One health navigator specializes in substance use and can work with guys to get them to change the way they're using substances, to quit using substances, or to get them into detox and treatment," says Shankle. In 2009, the program effectively assisted more than 100 men, he adds.

And it doesn't end there. The Center offers a variety of workshops focusing on spiritual health, educational sessions, movie nights, reading groups, game nights, and more. For the Internet savvy, the Center assisted several other organizations nationwide with the creation of LifeLube—a Web site that includes blogs, articles, and more that focus on gay and bisexual men's health. To view it, visit <http://www.lifelube.org/>.

Throughout 2010, the Center hopes to expand its role model-based prevention/intervention program which includes the distribution of real stories about men who have changed their behavior and significantly improved their health and well-being. Stories are distributed by peer volunteers who are trained to talk about sexual health topics and navigate high-

risk men to services.

In 2009, volunteers handed out more than 50,000 role model stories and 80,000 condoms in nightclubs and other targeted venues, says Shankle. Although the stories are currently paper-based, the Center hopes to feature them online using a variety of electronic and video media.

Shankle says the stories, many of which are published on the Center's Web site, are compelling and help to dispel myths in the community.

"There are so many myths and assumptions that are totally unfounded, such as nobody uses condoms, nobody dis-

closes their HIV status, or nobody is talking about their sexual health," he says. "This is true for some people, but there are lots of people who are doing really great things around prevention. We are here to support the community in making healthy decisions."

Editor's note: The MALE Center is located at 571 Columbus Avenue, Boston. For more information or to volunteer at the Center, visit www.malecenter.org.

"People can just walk right in off the street. No appointment is necessary. That feel allows people to really engage when they want to engage and in the way they want to engage."

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C'mon Out from page 2

but fears losing his ability to play around? Is he afraid of getting older? Clarifying this may help you both understand where he is coming from and what he needs.

Regardless of what you both decide in terms of non-monogamy, it will be important that you work to align (or realign) your relationship based on how you both feel things are going now. You must get your own house in order (that is, what is going on within your relationship) before possibly introducing anything new.

Each of you will also have to figure out what your boundaries and limits may be. Is non-monogamy something you could find a way to deal with, or not? Under what conditions might you tolerate this? What would you need from your partner to do so? Would this be an ongoing thing or time something that is time limited? How will you evaluate how it is going? Would your boyfriend be willing to give it up if it were too painful for you?

These and many other questions will be important to thoroughly discuss before anything else happens.

This is a tough one Rob. I feel for you. It seems to me there are two separate issues here. The first is about your relationship's ability and tolerate and allow for change. The second is about the issue of monogamy. Try to see them and handle them separately and see if it is possible to make this a time of growth.

The best to you Rob. Betty

Hi Betty:

I have been out as a lesbian for more than 20 years. My partner of many years and I broke up about 2 years ago. I has taken me while to get over this. In the last months, as I've been feeling better and thinking more about "getting back on the horse" and trying again, I've been more and more preoccupied with men. I'm thinking about them and imagining dating and even having sex with one. These thoughts terrify me! My identity has been lesbian so long, many of my friends are lesbians, and for god's sake I'm a feminist. Not only is my sexual identity feeling threatened but I fear that the woman who know me will judge and reject me should I decide to act on any of my feelings. Do you think I should take these feelings seriously or try to stuff them away?

—Thank you for your time, Betsy

Hi Betsy:

Yes, it is very scary to have been solid in your sexual orientation for many years and then have it all called into question. I applaud your courage in acknowledging your feelings

and being willing to consider them. Many of us try to lock away strong feelings and/or dreams in hopes that they will disappear.

The LGBT movement has taught us that we must allow ourselves to be who we really are or we pay a great price.

At the same time we often hope that once we're settled with our sexual orientation, our career and even our life partner, that these choices are for life and remain fixed. Once fixed, the hope is that we are safe and secure.

Since life is not stagnant, since we human beings grow and change constantly, this wish for predictability can be anxiously thwarted when new cravings and dreams emerge. The nature of life is change. We can go with it. We can fight against it. Fighting always creates more pain. And facing the new, especially when it conflicts with the old is frightening.

If you are to be whole and happy Betsy, I think you have to allow yourself these scary feelings. Otherwise you keep a part of you stifled. These feelings could mean a change in your present sexual orientation; they could mean something else or even nothing at all. But unless you allow yourself to find out, you'll always question, be unsure and possibly unfulfilled.

There are some gay and lesbian people who do judge people when they later in life engage in heterosexual behavior. This is very unfortunate. LGBT people can understand, if anyone can understand, the pain it creates when people judge others. It is equally true that your real friends will love and support you and want you to be happy. Yes, it might mean changes in some of your relationships. But relationships change anyway and the greatest ones embrace not reject.

Betsy I wish you much faith, trust and courage on your continued journey through this tender life.

Tetty

C'mon Out! Submit your questions to Tetty Gorfine, Director of LifeCourse Counseling Center. Simply go to www.lifecourse.net and click on "Ask Us A Question." All questions will be answered on the bulletin board. One or two will be printed next month here in The Rainbow Times.

Tetty also been a psychotherapist since 1980. She has worked extensively with LGBTQ individuals, couples and groups and has supervised both clinicians and therapists in training. Her vision and leadership spirited nearly all of LifeCourse Counseling Center's programs. Tetty has also been on numerous radio talk shows and television programs. She has presented at professional conferences on topics pertinent to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Noho Pride plans 29th annual celebration, seeks community involvement

By: Nicole Lashomb/TRT Editor-in-Chief

NORTHAMPTON, MA—Noho Pride, a non-profit organization dedicated to cultivate events that honor the integrity, history and diversity of the LGBT community and to create unity within the LGBT and allied communities, prepares to launch its 29th annual Pride Parade and Rally in downtown Northampton, Mass., according to its Director.

"The planning committee for Noho Pride is working diligently to coordinate all aspects of the day's activities," said Bear White, Director, Noho Pride.

According to White, entertainers, who will be announced via their website and e-newsletter soon, have been secured, permits have been filed, and conversations with the Chief of Police, parking attendants and the Board of Health are underway. Additionally, a children's entertainer is working with Noho Pride in coordinating the development of the children's area.

"People can expect great performances, moving speakers, new and cool pride wear, delicious foods, LGBT educational information and a vast selection of products from vendors from all over the U.S. and Canada," said White.

Noho Pride, an all volunteer organization, relies heavily on collaborative community member involvement to execute its Pride Parade and Rally in addition to many fundraising

events held throughout the year. Noho Pride organizers encourage people to come forward with new ideas and to be willing to help implement them.

"Putting together an event [Pride] as large as this has constant challenges," said White. "Most challenging is coordinating the parade, rally, and fundraisers with only a handful of committed volunteers. Being part of our volunteer planning committee can be a rewarding and exciting way to meet people, promote diversity, and make a difference."

Although a new organization, Noho Pride strives to accomplish the same goal as their 28-year predecessor, Northampton Pride, which is to foster events that honor the integrity, history and diversity of the LGBT community, according to White.

"The most rewarding part [of this process] has been meeting people and learning about the similarities and differences under the LGBT umbrella," said White. "In the short term, we want to produce an unforgettable parade and rally day! Long term, we see scholarships, a Family Pride Day, and other fun events to keep us 'Prideful' for more than one day a year."

For more information about Noho Pride, to volunteer, become a sponsor, advertise in the annual Pride Guide, or donate, please contact Bear or Cid White at 413-586-5602 or visit www.nohopride.org.



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Wicked Smart: Chief Justice Margaret Marshall and Janis Pryor, March 9th

On Tuesday, March 9th, Janis Pryor, producer and host of WUMB's Commonwealth Journal will interview Margaret Marshall, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

"Chief Justice Marshall has been an inspiration to many of us here in Massachusetts," says Will McMillan, the Cambridge Center for Adult Education's assistant director. "We are honored that she has agreed to be part of our Wicked Smart collaboration with WUMB-FM."

Wicked Smart is a special edition of Commonwealth Journal - taped before a live audience and later broadcast on WUMB-FM's Commonwealth Journal, a syndicated program heard on 33 stations across the Commonwealth. Wicked Smart editions of Commonwealth Journal are broadcast in a 30 minute version and are also available in their entirety online at Commonwealth-Journal.org.

Marshall is the second woman to serve on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in its over-300-year history, and the first woman to serve as chief justice. A native of South Africa, she graduated from Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg, having led a student organization which was dedicated to achieving equality for all South Africans. She later moved to Boston, Massachusetts, earning a master's degree in education from Harvard, and then a J.D. from Yale Law School. Marshall has served as the president of the Boston Bar Association from 1991-1992, and was vice president and general counsel at Harvard University from 1992-1996.

First appointed as an associate justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in November 1996 by Governor William Weld, Marshall was named chief justice in September 1999 by Governor Paul Cellucci. She has written over 200 opinions, including the decision in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* that declared that the Massachusetts Constitution does not permit the state to deny citizens the right to same-sex marriage.

Janis A. Pryor is a veteran professional in politics and media. Her award-winning work and diligence have taken her around the world. In addition she has taught at Wheelock Col-



Margaret Marshall, Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court

lege and the Institute of Politics at Harvard regarding race, gender, and power.

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The OutField: The NCAA talks trans (and LGB)



Dan Woog

By: Dan Woog*

For several years now, the National Collegiate Athletic Association has addressed LGBT issues at its annual convention. The once sparsely attended sessions have mushroomed into key events. High-ranking athletic administrators now look forward to the panel discussions;

they ask insightful questions, and acknowledge the importance of the issues raised.

This year's session – held last month in Atlanta – was perhaps the best yet. Nearly 150 athletic directors, faculty representatives and student-governance people heard five panelists discuss the best means of ensuring fair treatment of LGBT student-athletes within their own teams and in their universities overall.

Laurie Priest – the athletic director at Mount Holyoke College – has participated in several NCAA panels. She called this one “wonderful.” The feedback was the most positive ever. “People are really interested in finding ways to support, and be inclusive of, LGBT student-athletes,” she said. She was also encouraged at the extent of minority representation at the session. This year's event was the most diverse she's seen.

Priest – and many attendees – were particularly pleased with the emphasis on transgender

people. Noting that the NCAA held a “think tank” on trans issues last fall in Indianapolis, she said that the Atlanta session built on that foundation – and re-emphasized the organization's acknowledgment that gender identity must be addressed in sports.

Each of the five panelists addressed a different concern. Mark Schuster, senior dean of students and student conduct at Rutgers University, talked about faculty outreach. Ted Rybka, director of sports media for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, discussed media relations and language. Pat Griffin, professor emerita in the Social Justice Education program at the University of Massachusetts, tackled current LGBT issues in sport, while Priest offered an athletic director's perspective. Helen Carroll of the National Center for Lesbian Rights spoke about that organization's sports efforts and outreach. Priest said that an encounter shortly after the session illustrated how far awareness has come – but also the downside associated with that heightened awareness.

An administrator approached Priest, and said that the environment on her campus was very open and positive. “She came to our session feeling her school had done it all for LGBT athletes, that everything there was OK,” Priest reported. “But listening to the panel, she realized there is more to do. Things like actually reading the school's non-discrimination policy to student-athletes at the beginning of the year could send a very powerful message. We assume that every school knows all the right things to do, but they don't.”

An attendee from the Deep South was so

impressed with the panel's presentation that she asked them to do another, aimed solely at providing hands-on advice for faculty representatives. “We'll do it,” Priest promised. “We'll give you specific ideas for all kinds of issues, like how do you handle athletes who are dating.”

Another attendee told Priest that a student-athlete was transitioning at her school. The athletic department was generally receptive of the transgender person – but no one knew what to say or how to help. The panelists' inclusion of transgender issues provided the attendee with important ideas for resources.

Schuster's portion of the panel dealt with how NCAA faculty representatives can reach out to instructors on their campuses, encouraging them to include LGBT sports issues in curriculums and conversations.

Schuster envisions campuses filled with athletic liaisons who are affirming, positive and trained to work with LGBT student-athletes. He wants those liaisons to be easily accessible through well-publicized and highly respected networks.

He told attendees that senior year is critical for LGBT student-athletes. That's when they decide if they want to pursue their sport at the next level, or stop competing – perhaps for the first time in their lives. For athletes who have not yet come to terms with their sexuality, the

end of college and the beginning of “the real world” can be an even more stressful time than for other seniors.

Schuster also urged students and faculty to avoid using the term “coming out.” “That frames sexuality as a problem,” he said. “I prefer the

term ‘coming in.’ That's more collaborative. It implies working with allies to talk about success stories of student-athletes.”

“We do tend to preach to the choir at these sessions,” Priest admitted. “But the people who came really did want to know more.”

Priest was heartened that nearly two-dozen attendees were NCAA interns. They're future administrators; they'll address LGBT sports issues down the road. Hearing about them has to help – both now and in the future.

“Four or five years ago I got the feeling that people wondered why we were talking about all of this,” Priest said. “I totally didn't get that this time. A new generation of sports administrators is arriving. Things are going to change.”

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



Laurie Priest

10 things to know about the 2010 Census

1. You count!

Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census is a count taken every 10 years of everyone living in the United States. The information gathered helps determine your representation in government as well as how \$300 billion in federal funds are spent on roads, parks, housing, schools, and public safety in your community.

2. The 2010 Census only asks about 5 topics.

- Age
- Sex
- Race/Ethnicity
- Relationship
- Tenure (Rent/Own your home)

Detailed information that used to be part of the census “long form” is now collected in an annual national survey called the American Community Survey.

3. The Census does not ask if you are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

Adding questions to the census takes years and must be approved by Congress. Advocacy for the inclusion of LGBT questions in a number of surveys, such as the National Health Interview Survey, National Crime Victimization Survey and Survey of Income and Program Participation, has been happening for years and will continue.

4. Transgender people should identify with whichever sex on the census form they feel best applies to them.

Sex is recorded for every person, but there is no way to express transgender status. Respondents may choose only one of the two options.

5. LGBT couples who are married should check “husband” or “wife” on the census form. Other same-sex couples should check “unmarried partner.”

The person filling out the census form indicates their relationship to everyone in the house. If you are living with your married spouse then check “husband” or wife” on the census form. Other same-sex couples should check “unmarried partner.”

6. The White House is seeking ways to include same-sex marriages, unions and partnerships in 2010 Census data

The Obama administration has directed the Census Bureau to determine what changes need to be made in tabulation software to include married same-sex couples in census reports. Citing DoMA, Census officials had planned to reclassify married same-sex couples as, instead, “unmarried partners.” This approach

would result in inaccurate census data and belittle the lives of LGBT families across the country. HRC and other organizations continue to work closely with the administration and Census Bureau to ensure everyone's marriages are treated with equal dignity and respect.

7. Census forms are confidential.

Census responses are protected by law, and all Census Bureau employees take an oath to protect confidentiality and are subject to a jail term, fine – or both – for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household.

8. LGBT people of color in bi-racial relationships should consider identifying as head of household.

In some reports Census officials designate the race of everyone in the house based on the race of the head of household. Given that people of color are often undercounted, LGBT people of color in bi-racial relationships should consider identifying as the head of household.

9. The Census Bureau is hiring.

Conducting the census is a huge undertaking. Thousands of census takers are needed to update address lists and conduct interviews with community residents. Find out more at <http://2010.census.gov/2010censusjobs>.

10. Look for your census questionnaire in your mailbox March 2010.

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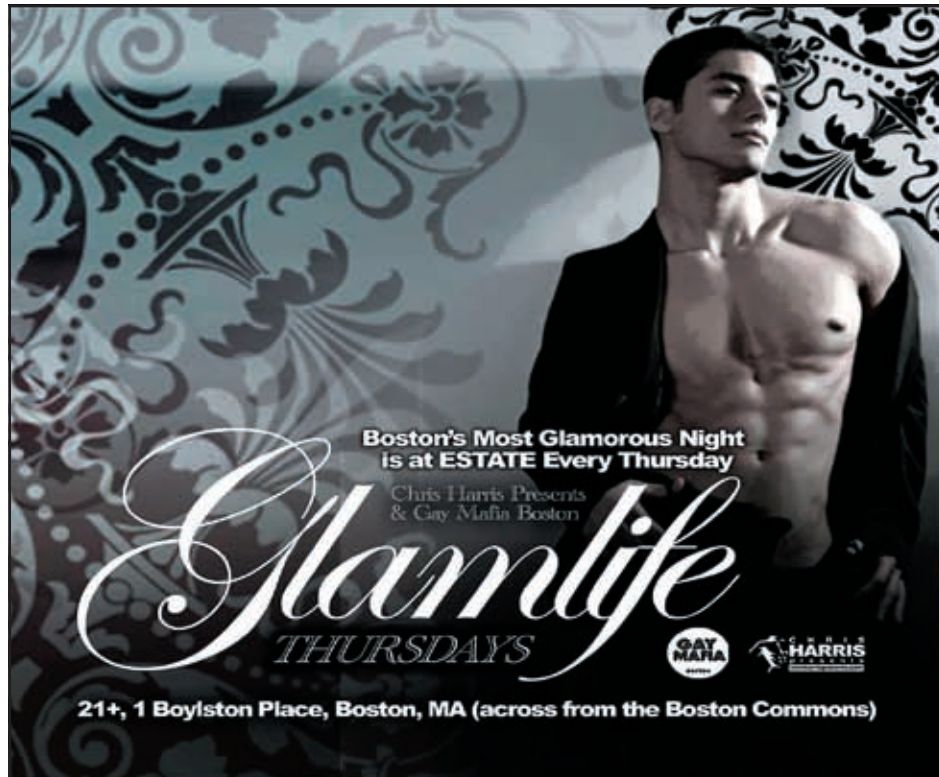
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