



Flaherty's supporters come out of the closet

Pressing the flesh

page 3

MGH records lost on T include patient's HIV status

AIDS Action says hospital could be liable under state privacy law

by Ethan Jacobs
associate editor

Talk about a bitter pill. Last week a South Boston man received a call from his doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital's (MGH) Infectious Disease Associates, where he receives treatment for HIV. The doctor informed Jacob, who asked that his last name be withheld to protect his medical privacy, that a billing ticket from his last visit to the clinic was one of a bundle of about nine slips that had been misplaced by a billing manager on the Red Line train on March 9. The ticket included Jacob's name, his Social Security number, and information about his treatment for HIV, among other personal information.

An MGH security report on the incident that Jacob provided to *Bay Windows* states that a billing manager had taken about 40-50 such billing tickets home to work over the prior weekend, and then misplaced them on the subway on her way to work that day dur-

ing the morning rush hour. The report states that the billing tickets "are 8x12 sheets of paper that contained patients [sic] names and their specific infectious disease diagnosis," and that they were secured by a rubber band.

MGH notified Jacob by mail about the loss of the billing tickets, outlining his right to file a police report and to place a security freeze on his credit reports, and offering him a free one-year membership in a credit report monitoring service to guard against identity theft. But more than the potential for identity theft, Jacob said he was upset to learn that records with his HIV status and other personal information had been taken out of the clinic and carelessly left on the subway.

"I was really angry at first because I thought everything in the hospital was supposed to be electronic and things wouldn't get lost, and to find out someone took their work home, private information wasn't supposed to be taken home, ... to find out it was left on the subway, that wasn't cool. It wasn't secure. It wasn't in a briefcase. It was secured in a rubber band," said Jacob.

He said he is open about his HIV

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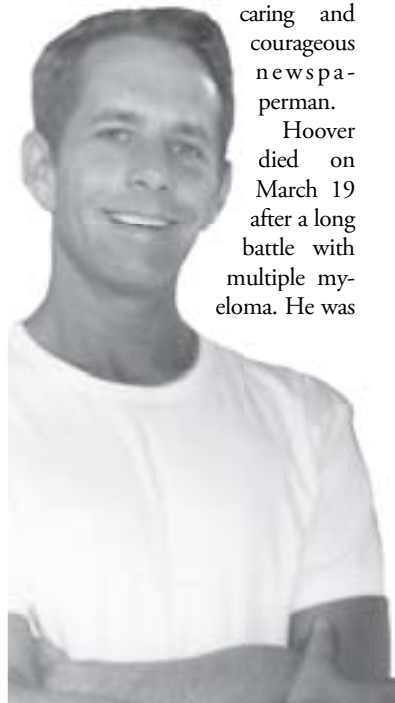
Jim Hoover, former *Bay Windows* publisher, passes away at 53

by Laura Kiritsy
editor-in-chief

Friends, family and colleagues mourned the passing of former *Bay Windows* and *South End News* publisher James Hoover last week, recalling a man who was a loyal friend, a devoted

brother and a caring and courageous newspaperman.

Hoover died on March 19 after a long battle with multiple myeloma. He was



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Foxy Lady

Pin-up pop star Samantha Fox was every boy's fantasy, but now, she's got a naughty girl of her own.

by Scott Kearnan
arts editor

When I tell singer Samantha Fox that she was the first girl I ever had a crush on - the star of my errant schoolboy daydreams, the subject of preternaturally sexual, inappropriate notes passed

see FOXY, page 23



Robinson: 'There is no one beyond God's love, including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people'

by Ethan Jacobs
associate editor

Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson is nothing if not quick on his feet.

On March 22, a crowd of more than 200 people turned out at Boston's Trinity Church to hear a speech by the New Hampshire clergyman. But before Robinson took to the lectern Trinity's Rev. William Rich told the crowd about the next event in the church's lecture schedule, a discussion of Charles Darwin, who Rich said "turned the church on its head" with the publication of *The Origin of Species*. When Robinson, the first openly gay Episcopal bishop and a man whose election has pushed the Anglican Com-

munion to the brink of schism, got up to speak, he wryly quipped, "I thought I was the one who turned the church on its head, not Darwin. I guess we all need to be taken down a notch, don't we?" The crowd burst into laughter and applause.

Robinson's 2003 election as bishop has prompted a contentious struggle within the Anglican Communion, leading to rifts between the Episcopal Church and more conservative branches of the communion in Africa and other parts of the world and prompting some conservative Episcopal congregations to break away from the Episcopal Church. Robinson told the crowd that despite the conflict his election has caused in some quarters, in

others it has brought hope.

Robinson described a recent visit to Hong Kong in which he met a group of young LGBT Christians. He said the young people would go with their families to church on Sunday morning, but on Sunday afternoons they would gather in secret in a private high-rise apartment to hold a church service specifically aimed at LGBT youth where they could "bring in all of themselves to God."

Robinson said he attended the high-rise service, and at its end he found the prayer leader in tears, overwhelmed at having met an openly gay person who had been made a bishop.

"He said, 'That was the most powerful experience of the holy spirit I have ever had.' And I just held him while he wept. They knew things about me that

see ROBINSON, page 11



ROBINSON TOLD the crowd that while his opponents have claimed that his election caused pain within the Anglican Communion, he has encountered many people who saw his election as a sign of hope. Photo: Melissa Ostrow

Blocked at the borders



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Pressing the flesh

by Laura Kiritsy | lkiritsy@baywindows.com
editor-in-chief



MAYORAL HOPEFUL Michael Flaherty (center), flanked by supporters (l. to r.) Frank Ribauda, Bill Svetz, Mark McGrath and Jim McNulty, reached out to LGBT supporters at Club Cafe. Photo: Bill Berggren

Gays come out of the closet for Flaherty

Ah, the perils of challenging the legendary Menino Machine. At a March 17 LGBT fundraiser for mayoral hopeful and at-large Boston city councilor Michael Flaherty at Club Café, one attendee expressed surprise that the event wasn't being held in a basement somewhere, "like Skull and Bones," while another joked about spotting a gay Menino loyalist who shall remain nameless surreptitiously snapping photos of guests as they walked through the door.

Aside from minor concerns about turning up on a Menino enemies list, many in the crowd of about 30 were enthusiastic in their support of Flaherty's mayoral bid, including organizers Mark McGrath and Bill Svetz, both officers of the Boston Gay Rights Fund; Club Café owner Frank Ribauda, and

Jim McNulty of the Beantown Softball League, an organization of which Flaherty has been a longtime supporter. "He's done all of we've asked of him," said McGrath, noting Flaherty's early support for marriage equality, his support for the transgender anti-discrimination ordinance during his tenure as city council president, and his general responsiveness to the needs and concerns of the LGBT community over the years.

Taking the microphone, Flaherty quickly ran down his record on LGBT rights, then launched into a stump speech that touched on his desire to improve schools, public safety, city services and of course, the city's leadership. "I am running for mayor of Boston not because I'm running against Tom Menino. I'm running for the city because I personally believe that we need a change. ... It's time for new leadership, it's time for new perspective and it's quite frankly a time for a new attitude for our city," he said, drawing applause from the crowd.

But despite the assertion he's not "running against" Menino, Flaherty made clear that he's ready to put his ties to the LGBT community to the test against the incumbents. "He's been pretty good to this community," Flaherty said of Menino, "as have I, and as have others. But the relationship of this community to me and to my efforts has been outstanding and it's a relationship that I cherish very much. I rely on a lot of folks in this room for advice, for ideas not just around ... GLBT issues but every kind of issue: business issues, school issues, housing issues, basic

city services issues."

It was also clear that Menino's coyness regarding whether or not he's actually going to run for a fifth term — he has repeatedly rebuffed the question, saying he's focused on the economy — isn't sitting well with some supporters of Flaherty, who would likely gain a host of LGBT support if Menino decided to retire. During a question and answer session after Flaherty's speech, Svetz asked about the prospect of the Boston City Council passing a resolution that would require the mayor to declare his electoral intentions by May. "I think he owes it to the people of Boston. He has to declare if he's going to run for mayor," said Svetz, to applause from the crowd.

In response, Flaherty said that while he couldn't speak for any other campaign he emphasized that, "there is a mayor's race and it will be a *real* mayor's race. I'm in that race and whether or not folks decide to get in at a particular time is clearly their decision. But I can assure you that I'm going to run as hard as I can."

Saying 'So long' to Solomon

A group of state lawmakers, along with colleagues and friends, gathered at the Kinsale pub on March 19 to raise a glass to MassEquality Executive Director Marc Solomon, who is leaving his post to head up Equality California's efforts to win back marriage equality in that state on April 1. Speaking above the din of the after-work imbibers at the Cambridge Street watering hole, state Rep. Kathi Reinstein presented Solomon with a proclamation from the House of Representatives commending Solomon for his efforts to advance LGBT rights in Massachusetts. "Only about ten thousand of these are printed a year," Reinstein told Solomon. "It's very special."

"We got the right speaker on this," state Rep. Steve D'Amico interjected over the guffaws.

"This fight over the last five years ... it's been a great honor to be able to work with all of you,"

Solomon told the group, which included state Sens. Jamie Eldridge and Ken Donnelly, and state Reps. Geraldo Alica, Liz Malia, Sarah Peake, Richard Ross, Carl Sciortino, Tim Toomey and Alice Wolf, to name a few. "We've been through so much together," he said recalling that after casting votes for marriage equality back in 2004, then-freshman state Rep. Barbara L'Italien, who also joined the celebration, expressed pride in her position though she fully expected to be booted from office as a result. "That's when we realized, you know, we can't let people get knocked out of office."

Indeed, L'Italien, like all of the legislators who took pioneering votes in the early days of the marriage battle, weathered tough electoral challenges with help from Mass Equality to finally close out the fight in June 2007. As the celebration wound down, the Andover Democrat expressed mixed emotions about Solomon's departure, calling California's gain "a huge loss" for Massachusetts.

"Marc has been so pivotal in the struggle for equal rights," said L'Italien. "He was there from day one, he was there and watched all of us really grow in our awareness of the issue, our willingness to defend it out in public to kind of bring people along, and he was there helping strategize at every step of the way."

"He feels very much like a little brother to me, even though he's eight feet tall," she added, laughing. She also praised Solomon's early recognition that re-electing the lawmakers who supported marriage equality in the 2004 election cycle would reverberate not just on Beacon Hill but across the country, and his willingness to do whatever it took to ensure those victories. "The fact [is] that he was not above coming out and holding a sign with me in Andover center on a few occasions; he was willing to engage at every level of the campaign and the politicking," she said. "He wore so many different hats and he offered to help and he made good on his help. And in this business that doesn't always happen."

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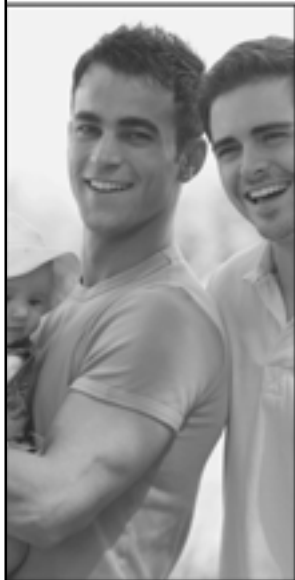
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Kerry pushes asylum status for gay man separated from spouse, but no easy answers on LGBT immigration

by Ethan Jacobs
associate editor

The immigration case of Brazilian Genesio “Junior” Oliveira and his husband, Tim Coco of Haverhill, has once again moved the issue of LGBT immigration discrimination into the national media spotlight, but it remains to be seen whether their case will lead to any substantive gains for bi-national same-sex couples.

Sen. John Kerry brought renewed attention to the case last week after he wrote a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder, urging him to reopen Oliveira’s rejected asylum petition; Oliveira applied for asylum in 2002, saying he had been raped and attacked by government officials and that he feared persecution in his country for being gay, but his petition was denied. Oliveira and Coco, who were married in 2004, are also challenging the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which prevents Oliveira from immigrating to the United States as Coco’s spouse, but other LGBT advocacy groups have declined to get involved with that suit.

The publicity around Coco and Oliveira’s case comes as LGBT advocates push for a legislative solution to the problems faced by bi-national same-sex couples. Last month Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) filed the Uniting American Families Act (UAF), which would allow Americans to sponsor their same-sex partners for immigration purposes, just as heterosexuals are allowed to sponsor their spouses. The bill has the backing of the advocacy groups Human Rights Campaign (HRC) and Immigration Equality. Yet advocates and lawmakers believe the prospects of passing UAF in the short term are slim.

In a statement to *Bay Windows* Kerry wrote that he believes there is a better chance of convincing Holder’s office to review Oliveira’s asylum case than there was under former President George W. Bush’s administration.

“Start with the obvious — this is no longer the Justice Department under John Ashcroft or Alberto Gonzales. It’s a hell of a lot more friendly administration for all of us. There’s a level of common sense and compassion in the building now that wasn’t there before. It’s also a less ideological Department of Justice, which is partly why I aimed my case at facts that are compelling: Junior’s asylum case is legitimate,” wrote Kerry. “I opposed DOMA from day one, and I support legislation to change the law so that homosexual couples are granted the same rights in immigration cases as heterosexual couples. But the beauty of our case to Attorney General Holder, from Tim Coco’s perspective, is that it doesn’t require overturning federal law, which is a long, tough process. We’re simply asking that fairness, justice, and compassion be served in this case. Do I hope it helps bring attention to our push for broad changes to the law? Of course. But priority number one is reuniting Junior and Tim now, with no further delay.”

Kerry’s letter to Holder explains that even though Judge Francis Cramer, who originally heard Oliveira’s asylum petition, found his testimony “credible” and his fear of being victimized in Brazil “genuine,” Cramer argued that Oliveira “was never physically harmed” despite his rape. According to a copy of Cramer’s opinion, Cramer also cited two visits that Oliveira made to Brazil in the eight years after he had moved out of the country — one to attend his father’s funeral — as evidence that Oliveira did not face likely harm if he returned home.

The couple originally met seven years ago when Oliveira was vacationing in the United States. Oliveira, who had been living in Haverhill with Coco after they married, voluntarily returned to Brazil in 2007 after his appeal of the asylum ruling was rejected.

Coco said that Oliveira fears for his safety in Brazil, and the couple has kept the location of Oliveira’s Brazilian home a secret. He praised Kerry’s efforts to reopen Oliveira’s asylum case, but he also said he worries that the increased media attention about his case in Brazil could put Oliveira in danger. Coco said he communicates regularly with Oliveira via Internet video chats, and last year they vacationed together in England over Christmas and New Year’s Day.

While they hope that Holder will reopen Oliveira’s asylum request, they are also trying to win him reentry to the United States by challenging DOMA in federal court. Coco filed an I-130 petition in March 2008 with U.S. Immigration and Immigration Services to allow Oliveira to immigrate to the United States as an “alien relative,” but that petition was denied last month because under DOMA the couple is not considered married for immigration purposes. Coco filed an appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals, challenging the constitutionality of DOMA, but he expects the appeal to be rejected as well. He said once he exhausts his legal options in the immigration appeals process he believes he will be able to get the case heard in federal court.

“There’s no way the appeals court could reject the appeal if we achieve exhaustion,” said Coco.

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) filed its own DOMA challenge in federal court earlier this month, arguing about unequal treatment in the areas of pensions, taxes, Social Security and passports, but not immigration. Coco said GLAD declined to get involved in their case because they did not want to bring up immigration issues in their DOMA challenge. But he is hopeful that his own case will convince the courts of DOMA’s unconstitutionality.

“At the risk of sounding mean, our case is hopefully the triumph of love over money. GLAD’s cases are all about getting money, whether it’s Social Security, tax benefits, pensions. Our case is about being together, which is pretty basic. And as usual, except for Sen. Kerry, we have been abandoned by all the organizations we expect to help us,” said Coco. He said GLAD, Immigration Equality and the American Civil Liberties Union all declined to get involved in the case.

Carisa Cunningham, a spokesperson for GLAD, said that while the advocacy law firm declined to represent Coco and Oliveira, GLAD attorneys Mary Bonauto and Gary Buseck have met with Coco and spoken to him by phone, helping him research legal issues relating to his case and helping connect him with other resources. She said when GLAD began planning its DOMA challenge it consulted with Immigration Equality and other immigration experts and concluded that it would not be helpful to include immigration issues in the challenge. She said Congress has almost unlimited discretion to set immigration policy, and immigration law is a complicated area of law that is outside GLAD’s realm of expertise. “[Bi-national couples who have been separated] are definitely the most heartrending examples of the damage caused by DOMA, but we didn’t feel we have tremendous

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guestopinion

Justice cannot come too quickly for couple separated by DOMA

By U.S. Sen. John Kerry

Tim Coco and Junior Oliveira should not have had to wait this long to start their married life together.

But because the wheels of justice often move too slowly, I have asked the Obama Administration to help me reunite the couple as soon as possible. I have asked the administration to come down on the side of fairness, justice and compassion and allow Junior to return home to Massachusetts to his husband.

Tim and Junior met in 2002, and they were legally married under Massachusetts law in 2005. But they have been separated since 2007, when Junior's request for asylum was denied by a federal immigration judge and appeals board and he was forced to return to his native Brazil.

Junior asked for asylum because he had suffered a brutal attack and rape at the hands of government officials in Brazil. The judge who presided over the asylum request found that Junior's testimony was "credible" and his fear of Brazil "genuine." Indeed, there is ample evidence that homosexuals in Brazil are subjected to intimidation and violence. The ministry of health there reported 180 killings of homosexuals in 2004.

Incredibly, though, the judge ruled that Junior "was never physically harmed" by the rape and, consequently, denied his asylum request. An immigration appeals board upheld the ruling and shortly thereafter Junior returned to Brazil, where he has remained for nearly two years, away from his husband.

Tim and Junior are legally married in Massachusetts, but federal law does not recognize their marriage, one of the reasons why, when Junior's asylum request was unjustly denied, he was forced to leave his husband.

I understand the critics who believe that the asylum request is a shortcut for reuniting Tim and Junior, and who would prefer that the battle be fought over the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Make no mistake: I support legislation to amend our immigration laws so that this kind of injustice does not occur again, and I vehemently opposed the wrongheaded 1996 so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" that helped put loving couples like Tim and Junior in this position in the first place.

But Tim and Junior have been waiting for years for



SEN. JOHN Kerry wrote a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder requesting that he reopen Genesio "Junior" Oliveira's asylum case.

a fair shake under the law. Congress is unlikely to act quickly enough for Tim and Junior. That's why I have asked Attorney General Eric Holder to review Junior's case to determine whether the denial of his asylum request was an error. Such a determination would allow Junior to return home to Tim.

We are where we are — and we can't afford to ignore the legitimacy of Junior's asylum claim.

Massachusetts has been at the forefront of ensuring that all citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation, be assured equal protection under the law. I am proud to be a part of those efforts. I worked with Governor Deval Patrick and progressive legislators to help defeat a discriminatory constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage in Massachusetts. And at the federal level, I have supported legislation to provide domestic partners of federal employees the benefits available to spouses of federal workers. I have voted against DOMA — only one of 14 senators to do so.

Yes, I will continue to work toward the day that DOMA and other such misguided laws and policies are overturned. But I'm not willing to force Tim and Junior to wait for that day. No couple should, and no senator should take off the table the immediate step that can be taken to reunite a loving couple — today.

TO LEAVE a note in remembrance of Jim Hoover (left, pictured with former *Bay Windows* editor Jeff Epperly) visit the website set up in his honor at http://web.me.com/jameshoover/Jims_Site/Welcome.html. The site also has photos of Jim and details about his life and legacy.



letters

Jim Hoover will be missed

I am deeply saddened to hear of the death of my dear friend, Jim Hoover.

I met Jim when he was about 20 years old. My memory of him then was a shy young man, who grew into an assertive and sensitive man. I experienced his ability to stand up to challenges, such as the early days of trying to get *Bay Windows* off the ground. He accomplished this and *Bay Windows* continues to be one of the best newspapers in the country serving GLBT people. I remember Jim to feel compassion for people, and in particularly his gay brothers and sisters. The community is richer for his involvement and achievements; at the same time we are poorer because of his passing.

I do know this: Death ends a life, but not a relationship. Many who knew Jim will continue their relationship with him in the memory of his personhood.

*Rev. Donald B McGaw LMFT
Sarasota, Florida*

correction

In the March 19, 2009 edition of *Bay Windows*, the article "Personality Crisis" by contributing writer Dominique Hendelman incorrectly identified Pastor Rick Warren as a member of the Mormon Church in a quote attributed to *Crisis* book editor Mitchell Gold.

Warren is pastor of the evangelical Saddleback Church in California. While the quote was taken from Hendelman's transcript, *Bay Windows* regrets neglecting to insert a clarification.



LAST AUGUST Tim Coco, joined by his family, friends and neighbors, held a ceremony at his Haverhill home to mark the one-year anniversary of his forced separation from his husband, Genesio "Junior" Oliveira. Photo: Marilyn Humphries

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Life in the slow lane

by Judah Leblang | www.JudahLeblang.com
contributing writer

Jonesin' for a smoke

Sometimes I want to pick up a pack of brightly colored plastic, pull out one of those aromatic white tubes and “*smoke, smoke, smoke that cigarette.*” Though I’ve always thought that smoking was a disgusting habit, lately I’ve been feeling a want—almost a need—to take a deep drag on a cancer stick, tobacco mixed with arsenic, DDT, THC or whatever those tobacco giants are lacing their leafy weed with these days.

I see them—smokers, God’s forsaken people—shunned by upstanding, gym-going folks like me, consigned to the margins, huddled in doorways, parking lots, alleys. Yet, when I’m under stress, squeezed and compressed, I feel a strange desire, a frisson of need—and have to stop myself from bumming a cig off one of those unhealthy losers, enveloped, as they often are, in their blue smoke.

It’s not like I’ve ever seriously thought of taking up smoking as a regular habit. I grew up in the 1960s and early ’70s, when the Surgeon General’s report of the dangers of nicotine was broadcast far and wide, reinforced by messages from our teachers and parents. Ironically, some of those same individuals were clearly hypocrites, as they were closet (or open) smokers themselves. In my family, my

father smoked a pipe when I was a young boy, but gave it up when his already yellowed teeth began to take on the color of rusty water. My mother, a compulsive neat freak who waged an endless campaign against dust, dirt, and her three sons who carried said dirt into her neat colonial house, smoked off and on during my childhood.

Mom tended toward “light” or menthol

Still, smokers know their place. They are open in their addiction, wedded to their vice, visible. Unlike me, unlike most of us, whose hidden needs and transactions take place in dark rooms or the darkness of our own minds.

cigarettes, only about 5-10 per day. Still, I’d nudge her on occasion, complaining about the smoke in our house as she kvetched about the messiness of my desk drawers or the relative chaos of my bedroom closet. Though my mother was a nervous, restless woman with a talent for worrying about what *might, might not* and *should not* happen, she was possessed

with surprising strength when the proverbial shit actually hit the fan. When my father had a massive heart attack and almost died — at 44, my mother actually quit smoking. (Why I’m not actually sure. Was it out of concern for my father? Was it simply because she was too busy to worry, and therefore to smoke?)

For several years, Mom stayed smoke-free, until my parents had some “marital problems.” Then, another four or five years of smoking ensued, until my mother quit again, this time for good. Of course, I’ve known others who stubbornly refused to give up “the habit” until the white tubes were pried out of their hands. My Aunt Esther, who is still plugging along at age 87, finally quit about two years ago, after her emphysema grew worse and she decided that smoking near her oxygen tanks was probably not a good idea.

Papa’s old Chevrolet Bel-Air, a virtual ashtray on wheels, pockmarked with cigarette burns from my grandfather’s Camel filters, which he’d place on the dashboard, seats, and anywhere else within reach. I probably inhaled the equivalent of a pack a week just by piloting that old Chevy through the streets of suburban Cleveland.

Still, smokers know their place. They are open in their addiction, wedded to their vice, visible. Unlike me, unlike most of us, whose hidden needs and transactions take place in dark rooms or the darkness of our own minds. Smokers live their dangerous, tobacco-laced lives in public view, holding their Marlboros and Winstons between stained fingertips, puffing away without pretense.

Today I watch those smokers, in all shapes and sizes, communing as they inhale and breathe deeply, absorbing and enjoying another hit of nicotine. Observing them, I’m reminded to breathe myself, something I rarely do with any conviction, especially when worried about my now aged mother’s health, work deadlines, or my non-existent love life. I mimic their actions, without the cigarette, and suck their smoke deep into my lungs, scoring a contact high.

These addicts, with their tar-stained lungs a la Yul Brynner and my Aunt Esther, remind me to partake of another drug—oxygen—that colorless substance far cheaper than tobacco and still, for a limited time only, tax-free.

On some level, I don’t want those smokers—or smoking—to go away. After all, I need someone (anyone) to whom I can feel superior. Besides, I like knowing that a cigarette is at my beck and call, whenever I need to take a deep breath.

Finally, there was my grandfather, Papa Ben, who lived his adult life virtually bathed in a cloud of blue smoke. A pharmacist, Papa seemed to give no more credence or concern to the Surgeon General than he did to oncoming traffic; my grandfather was an absent-minded, frighteningly bad driver.

When I turned 17, my parents gave me

Aaron Michlewitz knows the 3rd Suffolk District. He understands its neighborhoods and the people who live here -- and he should. Aaron has lived here his entire life and has worked and volunteered alongside many of us who call these neighborhoods home.

As a lifelong Democrat and a member of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee, Aaron shares in the same progressive ideals that are so important to many residents of this District. As the proud grandson of Jewish immigrants, Aaron values hard work, opportunity and equality.

As former Speaker Salvatore F. DiMasi’s Constituent Services Director, Aaron dedicated himself to helping others and he is determined to do more for the District’s neighborhoods. As a member of the Boston Groundwater Trust and someone who served his community as President of the North End Waterfront Neighborhood Council (NEWNC), Aaron is a proven advocate. He has fought for responsible development and preservation while working to protect the integrity of an ever-changing neighborhood.

Public service is not a 9 to 5 job; it requires a special kind of responsibility and dedication that only comes with experience and hard work. During a time when Boston has embraced change, Aaron has emerged as a new type of leader for our City; one who understands the issues affecting his neighborhood --as well as those affecting the doorsteps of everyone in the 3rd Suffolk District.



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LeBaron Clarence Moseby, Jr. (1944-2009)

Longtime AIDS activist advocated for people of color impacted by HIV



Dr. LeBaron Moseby, Jr. died unexpectedly at his home in the South End last month.

Diagnosed with AIDS Related Complex (ARC) in 1985, Moseby used his quick wit, sharp analytical brain, and deep passion to talk about and improve the plight of persons living with AIDS. During the mid-1980s Moseby was part of a group of people who met with Governor Michael Dukakis to discuss AIDS, and he was the only member of the group who identified himself to the governor as a person living with AIDS.

Moseby was a tireless advocate who participated generously with various organizations. Among his many contributions to AIDS advocacy he served as a founding board member of the Community Research Initiative of New England; member of the speakers bureau of the AIDS Action Committee; grants reviewer for the Boston Department of Health and Hospitals; and member of Client Services Advisory boards of AIDS Action Committee and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. He was also one of the founders and developers of the Monthly AIDS Medical Update co-sponsored by ACT UP/Boston.

The oldest of five children, Moseby was born Oct. 8, 1944 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to LeBaron C. Moseby, Sr. and Louise Walker Moseby. He was a graduate of Central High School in Philadelphia, and obtained his bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees at Harvard University. His formal training included mathematics, mathematics education, curriculum and supervision, and computer science. He worked and taught at numerous colleges and universities including Harvard University, Brandeis University, Trinity College, the University of Texas at Austin, and Miles College.

As a researcher and advocate he worked to expand educational opportunities for minority students. He worked with minority college freshmen to prepare them for the rigorous mathematics curriculums that many were ill prepared to assume upon arrival at college. He was principal investigator under a National Institute of Education grant at the University of Texas Research and Development Center for Teacher Education, examining socio-cultural factors in minority ju-

nior high school student disruption in integrated settings.

His honors include: National Merit Scholar; National Teaching Fellow; Phi Delta Kappa; Who's Who in Black America; and a Community Recognition Award from AIDS Action Committee. His hobbies included watching movies, mathematics, astrology, computers, and caring for tropical fish in his apartment. As a hobbyist, Moseby constructed expansion interface for old TRS-80 personal computers and had knowledge of integrated circuitry and logic design.

About his own experience, Moseby wrote the following personal statement: "While many have chosen to live and struggle with the personal adversity that comes with AIDS — alone and in isolation — I have always felt that there was strength in numbers and that no one should wage this battle by him or herself. I have always been more comforted in my more frightening and painful moments to realize that I am not alone and that if I reach out and make contact with just only one other person, there will be two less lonely people in this battle. I have only been able to get this far because of the loving care and support of cherished and dear friends."

He is survived by three siblings: Gilda (Jill), Cynthia and Arnold, and many colleagues and friends.

On May 2 at the JFK Library, Moseby will be honored at the Bayard Rustin Community Breakfast.

A memorial service for Moseby will be held May 16, 2009, 11:00 a.m. at the Story Chapel at Mt Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mt Auburn Street, Cambridge MA.

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Vermont advocates confident that House will follow Senate's lead on marriage equality

by Lisa Keen
contributing writer

Montpelier, Vt. — The Vermont Senate took the state's first big step toward equal marriage rights on March 23, voting 26 to 4 to pass a bill that would allow same-sex couples to obtain marriage licenses. In a pro forma second vote, the Senate gave final approval the following day, through voice vote, sending the measure to the House.

Openly gay State Rep. Bill Lippert said he is "confident" the bill will pass the House next week.

"The question is how many votes," said Lippert. "I think the strength of the bipartisan vote in the Senate increases our momentum going into the House."

The margin of victory in the House will be particularly important because Gov. Jim Douglas (R) has said he plans to veto the bill. Douglas, who opposes same-sex marriage, issued a statement March 25, posted to the website of the *Rutland Herald*, announcing his intention to veto the marriage bill.

"As you know, it's been a policy of mine not to announce whether or not I will veto a bill before it reaches my desk. But during these extraordinary times, the speculation about my decision has added to the anxiety of the moment and further diverts attention from our most pressing issues — and I cannot allow that to happen," wrote Douglas. "For those reasons and because I believe that by removing any uncertainty about my position we can move more quickly beyond this debate, I am announcing that I intend to veto this legislation when it reaches my desk."

Douglas said he supports the state's civil union law and would support the extension of federal spousal benefits to couples in a civil union, but he wrote, "But like President Obama and other leaders on both sides of the aisle, I believe that marriage should remain between a man and woman."

Both chambers of the Vermont legislature are led by a Democratic majority. The 26 to 4 vote in the Senate can easily overcome a veto, and supporters are hopeful about achieving a veto-proof majority in the House, too.

The Senate debate on the bill lasted just over an hour and was marked by considerable decorum. But there were passionate moments and — behind the scenes — considerable drama.

Bartley Mullin, son of Republican Senator Kevin Mullin, had a letter to the editor published in the March 23 *Rutland Herald*, thanking his father for "supporting my own rights." Many in the chamber — including some with the Vermont Freedom to Marry group — had not seen the letter. But for those who had, there were two surprises. First, Senator Mullin offered an amendment to postpone the Senate vote on the equal marriage bill and let voters weigh in first through a non-binding referendum. Mullin said he was not trying to undermine the bill but felt it would be "better" to "truly try to reach a consensus" on the issue.

Then, after the Senate voted down that amendment 11 to 19, Mullin was also one of the first — and the only Republican — to speak in support of the bill. He said he had to wrestle with two issues in making his decision: whether homosexuality is "learned" or something people are "born with" and what the state constitution requires. He said he concluded that "our creator creates us all and show love all creations" and that the constitu-

tion requires equality. And civil unions, said Mullin, "are not equal to marriage."

The state legislature passed the nation's first civil unions law in 2000, in response to a court ruling, allowing same-sex couples to have the benefits of marriage but neither the license nor the title of "marriage."

There was some drama, too, when the 30-member Senate's one black senator, Randy Brock, stood to be counted as one of only four senators who voted against the bill, saying that he, "like President Obama," believes "marriage is between one man and one woman." He and others also claimed the bill was being propelled through the legislature at "unprecedented speed," denying citizens a "full opportunity to express their opinion."

The latter argument was quickly and soundly squashed by senators who reminded the body that Vermont had been discussing same-sex marriage for nine years. Senate President Peter Shumlin said the leadership had been on the verge of passing a same-sex marriage bill back in 2000 but balked at the time, thinking "Vermont was not ready."

"It's been nine years. That's how long some have waited," said Shumlin. He also noted the legislature had held numerous hearings about this year's bill around the state.

Attorneys Robinson and Susan Murray, who led the historic court case that initially forced the Vermont legislature to address the inequities of the state's marriage law in 2000, were, naturally, very pleased with the Senate's vote.

"I'm overwhelmed," said Murray, following the vote, as many Vermont Freedom to Marry supporters smiled and quietly hugged each other just outside the Senate room following the vote. Observers had been scattered around the stately but small Senate rotunda during the debate, squeezed into two small public galleries, standing in its one balcony, and sitting on window ledges. The scene stood in marked contrast to Massachusetts, where vociferous supporters and opponents jostled for position and erupted loudly following key marriage votes.


Murray said she thinks the 26 to 4 margin of victory "sends a very powerful message."

Activists hope that message will be heard by the House. The House Judiciary Committee took up the measure on March 24 and the full House is expected to vote on April 2 or 3. A key concern is whether the House can provide that same veto-proofing margin for the measure.

Robinson, who also chairs the Vermont Freedom to Marry group (vtfreetomarry.org), said she's cautiously optimistic that the legislature is poised to make Vermont the fourth state in the nation to approve equal marriage rights for gays. Massachusetts was the first, California the second (though voters last November amended the constitution to ban same-sex marriages), and Connecticut was the third. It is only the second time a state legislature has approved equal rights in marriage for gay couples. California has done so twice and its Republican governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, has twice vetoed the measure.

Three of the senate's seven Republicans voted for the measure this week. Robinson said she found the bipartisan nature of the vote "very gratifying" and called the victory "the culmination of ten years of conversation."

"My biggest fear," said Robinson, "is of complacency or celebrating too early."



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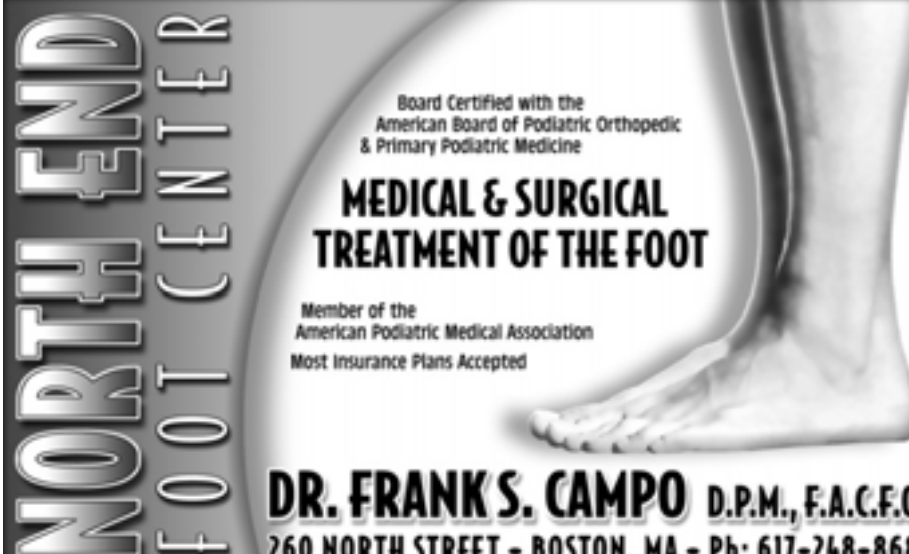
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MGH

Continued from page 1

status to family members and close friends, but added, "It's not something I want out there in public."

Jacob said he has no plans to take legal action against MGH. He credited the doctors and nurses at Infectious Disease Associates with "saving [his] life."

"I wasn't doing too good before I went there, and now, knock on wood, I'm undetectable. ... I think it's the best HIV clinic in the state, exceptional care. My doctors and nurses go out of their way to help as much as they can, [and they have] very good bedside manners," said Jacob. He said clinic administrators told him the billing manager who lost the tickets was disciplined, but he does not know what that discipline entails.

Emily Parker, a spokesperson for MGH, provided *Bay Windows* with a statement on the incident from Deborah Adair, MGH's director of health information services and privacy officer. The statement explains that there were actually more records misplaced on the Red Line than originally detailed in the MGH security report.

"On March 9, 2009, sixty-six MGH patients were affected by an incident involving the loss of some of their personal and medical information. In accordance with MGH practice and Massachusetts state law, each patient was immediately alerted, and the situation was reported to the appropriate authorities," wrote Adair. "MGH Police and Security are thoroughly investigating this matter not only with an eye toward recovering the missing information but also toward making sure that this will not happen again. Our information privacy and security policies and procedures are among the strongest in the health care industry, but incidents such as this remind us that we must continue to review and revise them, as well as continue to educate our staff on best practices to avoid incidents such as this. We sincerely regret that this event occurred. The MGH is highly committed to safeguarding the privacy and security of each patient's protected health information."

It is unclear whether the billing manager's removal of the billing tickets from the hospital was in accordance with hospital regula-

tions or whether she violated MGH policy by bringing them home. Jacob said an administrator at the clinic told him the records should not have left the clinic.

MGH declined to disclose what sort of corrective action, if any, the billing manager faced.

"For reasons of confidentiality, MGH does not provide information about specific corrective action faced by employees. The fact that the underlying issue was related to the misplacement of confidential patient information does not change that stand. Any employee who, whether by accident or otherwise, breaches policies or procedures of MGH that are designed to protect patient confidentiality will face appropriate corrective action, which can include verbal counseling, written warning, suspension or termination, depending on the seriousness and cause of the breach," said Parker in a statement to *Bay Windows*. "In this case, all indications are that the incident was an unfortunate accident with serious consequences, and MGH has taken into account all of the circumstances in determining an appropriate level of corrective action that the employee is facing; the employee understands the seriousness of the situation. MGH takes confidentiality of patient information, as well as employee information, very seriously, and it would be unfortunate to compound the impact of this incident with a breach of this employee's confidential information."

Spokespeople for two other local hospital systems said that it was not standard practice for staff to bring hard copies of patient records out of their facilities. Teresa Prego, a spokesperson for Caritas Christi Health Care, said staff is prohibited from removing patient records from the hospital. Caritas Christi is a network of hospitals including Carney Hospital in Dorchester, St. Elizabeth's Medical Center in Brighton, Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, Good Samaritan Medical Center in Brockton, Norwood Hospital in Norwood, and St. Anne's Hospital in Fall River.

"Any materials containing confidential patient information do not leave the premises," said Prego. She said staff working on billing could log into the Caritas Christi billing records system online, allowing them to bring work home without carrying hard copies of billing records off-site.

Meg Aranow, a spokesperson for Boston

Medical Center, sent *Bay Windows* a statement explaining that the hospital uses an electronic medical record system.

"Boston Medical Center has implemented electronic medical record systems based on secure technologies. These systems allow fast, secure access to patient information and have reduced our reliance on paper records," wrote Aranow. "BMC continuously reviews its confidentiality and security policies to ensure we are providing our patients the best protections possible."

Bay Windows followed up with BMC spokesperson Michelle Roberts to ask if there were any specific policies around the removal of patient records from the hospital, and she reiterated that the hospital uses an electronic, not a paper system.

Denise McWilliams, AIDS Action Committee's (AAC) director of legal affairs, said that given the financial incentives placed on the healthcare industry she was not surprised at the lost billing records.

"Sadly I wish I could say I'm shocked, but I'm not. The reality is there's no guarantee that information is going to be held confidentially. ... And I think part of the problem is there is not sufficient attention paid to, how do we safeguard things?" said McWilliams. "There really is no financial incentive to protect people's privacy, whereas there is financial incentive to have people take their work home to crank out more billing, there is financial incentive to do more billing, so all of the incentives go to the other side."

She said it is routine for personal health information to be included on administrative documents like billing forms because health care providers regularly transmit information about patient treatment procedures to insurance companies to get reimbursed.

"It's totally routine because this is how hospital and providers get reimbursed. ... In exchange what's lost is the confidentiality of the person," said McWilliams. To prevent such incidents from happening, she said, providers must prioritize maintaining the confidentiality of patient medical information, appointing privacy officers to take charge of such efforts. She added that providers must also ensure that staff who process billing records and other forms with patient information have enough resources to complete their job on site.

see MGH, page 11

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MGH

Continued from page 10

"Do people have the adequate time and resources to do their job without having to take steps like this that jeopardize the security of the information?" said McWilliams.

Whether MGH will face any legal fallout from the loss of the patient records remains to be seen. Harry Pierre, a spokesman for Attorney General Martha Coakley's office, said MGH reported the lost records to Coakley's office, as is required under state law. Pierre declined to comment on the possibility of Coakley taking legal action against MGH.

"At this time the company appears to be taking appropriate steps to notify consumers," said Pierre.

While Jacob does not plan to take action

against the hospital, McWilliams said patients whose billing tickets were lost on the Red Line could potentially file suit against MGH under the state's privacy statute, which says that a "person shall have a right against unreasonable, substantial or serious interference with his privacy." The statute gives the state superior court the jurisdiction to hear such cases and to award damages, the magnitude of which McWilliams said would depend on the severity of the confidentiality breach and the consequences to the victim.

"What that does is it prohibits the unreasonable or significant interference with anybody's right to privacy, and that seems like what you're looking at here. Clearly this is confidential information, and it was let out for public view," said McWilliams.

She said patients like Jacob whose HIV status was included in the lost billing tickets might also be able to sue under the state's

HIV confidentiality statute, although winning such a claim could be difficult because the law protects the confidentiality of HIV test results, not information about HIV treatment. McWilliams said patients might have less luck filing a federal complaint under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), which requires medical providers to maintain the confidentiality of patient records, because the federal law has a range of exceptions that make it far weaker than the state privacy laws.

Jacob said he hopes the incident persuades MGH to take greater precautions to maintain patient confidentiality.

"I still feel that the girl should be reprimanded for what she did, which I was told she was, and I think the hospital needs to be retrained on HIPAA and keeping people's personal information personal," said Jacob.

Robinson

Continued from page 1

I've forgotten; they knew everything about the Episcopal Church and our fight for inclusion of gay and lesbian people in our church. And for them this was a moment of hope. It says to them there's a church somewhere trying to be what they could only dream of," Robinson told the crowd. "We hear so often of the pain that the Episcopal Church has caused the rest of the world. Why is it that we don't hear about the hope we have given to so much of the rest of the world?"

During a question and answer session at the tail end of his speech an audience member asked what role he felt the Episcopal

Church should play in fighting for LGBT rights. Robinson answered that one of the reasons he does media appearances and public speaking engagements talking about LGBT rights is to counter the efforts of the religious right to portray Christianity as uniformly anti-gay. And he said during the debates over the role of LGBT people in the church he has been moved by the Episcopal Church's willingness to support him and other LGBT clergy.

"Not to be too dramatic about it, but I think you see the Episcopal Church risking its life for us. Not perfectly, not as fast as we would like, but in a sense, you've read the newspapers, you've heard about the lawsuits, you know the difficulties that dioceses and bishops and people have had around the country because we believe that there is no one beyond God's love, including gay, les-

bian, bisexual and transgender people," said Robinson.

Following his speech *Bay Windows* spoke with Robinson about his evolution into one of the world's most prominent spokespeople for the inclusion of LGBT people in faith communities. Robinson said when he first became bishop of New Hampshire he resisted being pigeonholed as "the gay bishop," but he has since embraced the role.

"I have made my peace with that. For a long time I really resisted it, and what I have come to understand is this has given me an opportunity that I want to be a good steward of," said Robinson. "So instead of resisting being the gay bishop I now want to use that to its best advantage, and I realize it's given me an opportunity to speak out for LGBT people everywhere."

for *Bay Windows* to develop, and to become one of many foundations on which Boston's gay and lesbian community could grow into what it is today," said Alyson in an e-mail to *Bay Windows*. "I think we all can and should be grateful to him for that."

As one of the founding members of the National Gay Newspaper Guild, a group of 12 LGBT newspaper publishers, Hoover also helped move the LGBT press into an unprecedented era of professionalism.

"Jim was really kind of the [man who] wanted to do it all, and once he got going

there was no stopping him really," said Todd Evans, the CEO of the gay media firm Rivendell Media, which organized the guild in 1984.

Most notably, in the 1990s Hoover helped Evans develop the first LGBT market surveys, which provided crucial data about LGBT consumerism, thus increasing mainstream advertising interest in the LGBT press. "Without him maybe some of the surveys might not have happened," said Evans,

see **HOOVER**, page 12

Hoover

Continued from page 1

it was right."

"And that was the answer I wanted to hear," said Yonan, now a food and dining editor for the *Washington Post*.

In September of 1985, Hoover purchased *Bay Windows*, a two-year old gay and lesbian weekly paper, from founding publisher Sasha Alyson. "Jim provided time and space

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Hoover

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noting that Hoover helped gather funding "to get some real gay market research facts out there," in addition to helping to refine survey questions. The data that was gathered from those groundbreaking market surveys, said Evans, "were and still are the benchmarks of the gay press today."

"Jim Hoover brought a level of professionalism to gay and community newspapers that was unheard of back in the '80s," said current *Bay Windows* co-publisher Sue O'Connell, who purchased the papers from Hoover in 2005 with her business partner Jeff Coakley, after working for Hoover for several years. "He knew that our civil rights movement would be helped by mainstream companies who placed their ads in gay press, and in order to get that business *Bay Windows* would need to be a professional sales organization."

Moving the offices of both newspapers from their location on Washington Street, which at the time was a largely neglected area perceived as unsafe, to a more central and spacious storefront at 631 Tremont Street in 1997, was one of Hoover's proudest moments as a publisher, recalled his partner, Jay Kubesch. "Before they'd always been kind of tucked out of the way," said Kubesch, who was joined with Hoover in a commitment ceremony at the Arlington Street Church in 2000. To commemorate the move, Mayor Thomas Menino declared Sept. 19, 1997 to be South End News/Bay Windows Day. In his proclamation, Menino singled out Hoover for his "tireless leadership" of *South End News* and *Bay Windows* reporters as they worked to keep the city informed.

In a March 20 statement, Menino called Hoover "a pioneer" in Boston's LGBT community whose "voice, charisma and passion for equality" would be missed.

"Under his leadership, *Bay Windows* thrived to become one of the most vibrant community newspapers in our city. When Jim purchased *Bay Windows* in 1985, social issues for the LGBT community were at the cusp of the nation's political agenda and the newspaper consistently highlighted and pushed to the forefront these critical issues of equality," Menino continued. "The 17

years Jim dedicated to *Bay Windows* as its publisher and his service to Boston's GLBT community as a whole is a large reason why the newspaper is now the largest GLBT publication in New England. Jim will be remembered for his warmth and compassion, but most of all for his unwavering support and activism for the equal rights issues closest to our hearts."

Hoover was born on Dec. 31, 1955 in Illinois, the youngest of three children — and the only son — born to Charlotte and Richard L. Hoover, who passed away in February of last year. His sister Pam Hoover described a loving and loyal sibling who, despite his busy life in Boston, helped her through the breakup of her marriage in 1988. "He dropped everything and that summer came back to the Chicago suburbs every three weeks through that fall to spend time with me and with my kids," she recalled. Hoover attended Little League and soccer games and accompanied the family on trips to Michigan. "[He] just kind of was there for us," she said.

"He was very warm and very caring. When he offered you his hand in friendship you were his friend for life," said Pam. Others who knew him said that having dealt with substance abuse issues in his own life, Hoover was compassionate toward others who were similarly situated and often helped steer them toward help.

While a career shift from DJ to newspaper publisher would seem unlikely, Hoover's sister said from a young age he showed "a real gift with the written word." While the dictates of the time steered boys toward math and science and girls toward English and more creative pursuits, Hoover bucked the trend. "He was always so much better in English, both speaking and the written word," said Pam.

He also possessed a beautiful singing voice, said Pam. As a student at Hinsdale Township High School Central, he was the first freshman ever to win the lead role in the school's annual spring musical and the first freshman ever to win a spot in the school's capella group, the Madrigals.

Hoover left Illinois for Boston, said Pam, because he was always more of an "urban dweller." To her brother, she recalled, "The cornfields of Champagne, Illinois, were not real exciting." He was also drawn by the opportunity to study at Northeastern Uni-

versity, then a hotbed for those who aspired to work in the music business. He settled in Dorchester, but later lived for many years in the South End before relocating to Provincetown after he retired.

Those who knew Hoover also recalled his tech savvy, be it the newest publishing software, the eBook he toted to the office, scoring an iPhone as soon as they hit the streets and generally all things Apple and Mac. He also loved sharing his knowledge of the latest technological innovations, they said.

"He was a techie," said Keith Barsky, a South End resident and business owner who was close to Hoover. "Every toy that he could get his hands on he did, and it had to be the first day it came out, of course," he laughed.

Evans laughingly confessed that, "even when he was sick, I would use him for Mac advice, I have to say."

The onset of Hoover's illness — he was diagnosed with stage 4 multiple myeloma in 2002 — was a difficult time for the newspapers, said O'Connell. "Advertising was slow due to the post-9/11 environment and Jim was struggling with old demons," she said. "Jim had high expectations for others, but even higher expectations for himself. He found it difficult to ask for the help he needed, and his enduring optimism and his basic aversion to conflict didn't serve him well." Eventually, he agreed to sell the papers to O'Connell and co-publisher Jeff Coakley, "for the good of the papers and the community," said O'Connell.

But it was not the ideal way Hoover would have chosen to retire. "It wasn't how he wanted to go out clearly," said Kubesch. "[But] between the illness and the business he really needed to get out from under."

He pursued treatment for his multiple myeloma, a form of cancer, with the same vigor he pursued the latest technological innovation. "He was not ready to die," said Kubesch. "He had too many things unsettled." Hoover underwent two stem cell transplants and accessed numerous alternative and traditional treatments for the disease. "Any time the FDA approved a new drug, or approved clinical trials of a new drug, he was right there in line," said Pam Hoover.

"His big contention during all of this treatment was that if he pursued some of these trials then perhaps someone else wouldn't

see **HOOVER**, page 13

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Hoover

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have to go through it," said Kubesch.

Despite his illness, Hoover and Kubesch spent the last several years traveling, a pastime Hoover enjoyed before he got sick. Last year,

they traveled to Yellowstone National Park, to attend Kubesch's mother's 70th birthday celebration.

"He seemed to really enjoy it," said Pam Hoover, recalling some pictures she saw of the trip.

"He did get frustrated because there was limited cell phone coverage out there," she added with a chuckle. "You know Jim and

his technology."

A memorial service will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House in Provincetown on Commercial Street on Friday, April 24 at 4 p.m. Per Hoover's wishes, there will be dancing later that night at the A-House in Provincetown with DJ David LaSalle, with a special Jim Hoover set.

Immigration

Continued from page 4

prospects for success. ... The concern was more about our ability to be successful, and we designed this DOMA case to, we hope, poke enough holes in DOMA that it would make it untenable and help everybody, including people whose issues involve immigration," said Cunningham.

Victoria Neilson, Immigration Equality's legal director, said her organization declined to get involved in Coco's case because the organization is supporting UAFSA, and it believes pursuing a legislative strategy is the most effective way to help bi-national couples." We certainly applaud Sen. Kerry's efforts to try to bring Junior back through the asylum application, but at this point our strategy is to focus on the Uniting American Families Act," said Neilson.

An ACLU spokesman did not return a call to comment for this story.

Advocates may be pursuing a legislative

strategy, but they do not expect it to bear fruit in the near future. President Obama has said recently that he plans to push for comprehensive immigration reform legislation at some point later this year, and Cristina Finch, HRC senior counsel, said that HRC plans to make sure that the issues facing bi-national same-sex couples are part of the debate on immigration reform. But she said immigration issues are already so politically charged that it is unlikely UAFSA would be part of any comprehensive immigration bill.

"Certainly that's something that we're looking towards. If there's going to be comprehensive immigration reform legislation we'd love to see the Uniting American Families Act to be part of that. Unfortunately immigration is a very touchy subject, and when you add LGBT immigration on top of that it's a very heavy lift," said Finch.

Asked about Obama's stance on UAFSA and the likelihood of its inclusion in comprehensive immigration legislation, White House spokesman Shin Inouye said in a statement that, "The president thinks Americans

with partners from other countries should not be faced with a painful choice between staying with their partner or staying in their country. We will work closely with Congress to craft comprehensive immigration reform legislation."

Kerry told *Bay Windows* that it was hard to assess the short-term prospects for UAFSA.

"I can't tell you today how that legislative fight will shape up especially in 2009 when you've got so many legislative fires burning. But I'm very optimistic that this common sense legislation will get done at the right moment. It's frustrating as hell, but it takes time and you have to find the moment legislatively to get it done. Persistence counts," Kerry said in a statement. "Look at an issue like the draconian HIV travel ban we finally ended last year — we couldn't pass it as a stand-alone bill, but [Oregon Senator] Gordon Smith and I worked it in the Foreign Relations Committee, got it included in PEPFAR, and President Bush signed it into law. You have to work it from multiple angles, and that's what I'm determined to do."

Another gay Brazilian finds justice in immigration court

While Genesio "Junior" Oliveira's asylum petition was rejected, some federal immigration judges are granting asylum status to Brazilian citizens based on the danger of anti-gay violence.

Last week, a Boston immigration judge granted asylum to Renato de Souza, a 19-year-old Dorchester resident who fled Brazil with his mother at age 14. Jeff Ross, de Souza's attorney, said de Souza had been regularly assaulted by his cousins and by schoolmates, and his father attempted to force him to see a psychologist to "cure" his homosexuality. His

mother brought him to the United States because she felt it would help spare him persecution for being gay.

Ross said part of building a strong case on de Souza's behalf was showing the high likelihood that he would be targeted for violence if forced to return to Brazil. He said de Souza was targeted as a child because he was visibly feminine in his mannerisms, and Ross made it clear to the court that he would continue to be a target as an adult.

"What helped our case is we were able to ferret out of our client and develop his testimony on the physi-

ological features, about his mannerisms, his sexuality that could become obvious to the court during the course of this trial," said Ross. He said they also brought in evidence of the general anti-gay climate in Brazil. According to the State Department's 2008 human rights report on Brazil, an LGBT advocacy organization in the country tallied 186 killings of LGBT people that year, up from 116 in 2007. The level of anti-LGBT violence has persisted even in the face of the passage of LGBT human rights laws.

— Ethan Jacobs



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Ripe for Comedy

Fresh Fruit celebrates 10 years of laughs

by Scott Kearnan
arts editor

Ten years ago, gay Boston was a very different place.

We still had Avalon on Sunday, but we didn't have equal marriage. *Bay Windows* was already hitting the pavement with the latest in LGBT news, but *Out at Night* hadn't yet arrived to keep your social calendar as packed as your gay agenda. And though *Will & Grace* was blazing trails by bringing gay representation to prime time television, there were none of those gay cable channels to keep your South End condo bursting with LGBT entertainment 24/7.

Scary, isn't it?

But from that void sprung Fresh Fruit Productions, the troupe of politically incorrect drag performers now celebrating their 10th year of gut-busting humor and marvelous musical parodies. If you haven't yet experienced a Fresh Fruit show, now is the time to play catch up: their 2009 production, *Fresh Fruit Turns X*, collects some of their fans' favorite numbers into one spectacular show. And of course, the group has composed a few new treats to plant the seeds for future greatest hits.

And my, how these fruits have grown!

"In all honesty, not just to toot our own horn, but I think the professionalism of the group has really grown," says Michael Gaucher, one of the four fruits, on how things have changed over the years. Comparatively speaking, Gaucher is actually a relative newcomer to the group: five years ago, when he was working with an AIDS support group in Provincetown, the other fruits discovered Gaucher performing a "song and dance number about STDs called, 'Herpes Tango.'"

What they saw, aside from an informative cabaret piece about itching and redness, was a kindred spirit ready



FRUITY FOURSOME. The beloved troupe turns ten, and sweetens up a show at Club Cafe through Apr. 11. Photo courtesy: Fresh Fruit Productions

to join their established, merry crew.

"In my mind, it feels like I've been with those hags since the Jews left Egypt," says Pete Gaioni. "In reality, it's been nine years. I joined after the first show." The other two cast members, Rodney Van Derwarker and Walter Hildner — who had previously formed an alternative gay theater troupe in his home country of Germany — have been with Fresh Fruit since its inception.

Over the years, Fresh Fruit has garnered a reputation for no-holds-barred comedy that takes no prisoners, bites no tongue, and firmly believes in the value of equal opportunity offensiveness.

"We're willing to take risks," says Gaucher of how the group has managed to keep its comedy from growing overripe throughout the years. For example, this year's anniversary show will feature timely digs at the Kennedy family's mortality rate and former VP wannabe Sarah Palin, right alongside the standard ethnic, sexual and religious stereotypes that Fresh Fruit are happy to slice and dice into comedy gold.

By keeping some focus on current events and political humor, Fresh Fruit is guaranteed to always have fodder for laughs.

"We take Joan Rivers' advice: we put a little Fresca on our panty shields

see **FRUIT**, page 20

Your Daddy Does Rock n' Roll



POP STAR. Proud gay papa Derek Nicoletto (front) leads indie rock band Telling on Trixie. Photo: Jeffrey Fasano

Gay father fronts the band Telling on Trixie

by Scott Kearnan
arts editor

If your only image of gay dads is of well-coiffed urbanites in pea coats,

navigating baby strollers through the cobbled streets of the South End or a summertime mob scene on Commercial Street, think again. Gay dads don't just roll; they rock.

"My family life comes on the road with me," says Derek Nicoletto, front man for the New York-based rock band Telling on Trixie. Speaking by

phone, Nicoletto has just arrived in Austin, Texas, where the group is promoting their new album *Ugly, Broke & Sober* at the massive South by Southwest (SXSW) music festival. He's on his way to a series of press interviews, and is stoked that he'll be conducting at least one of them alongside gay favorites like comedian Margaret Cho and Boston's own Dresden Dolls. As he speaks, car doors slam in the background; static from an interfering parking garage nearly cuts us off; and he pants under the hot Texas sun as, like any harried dad, he rushes to make his next appointment.

"The baby comes with!" says Nicoletto, of his nine-month-old son Asher, who he parents with his husband DJ Hanson. "He's a rock and roll baby!"

Telling on Trixie is used to serving up unabashedly "tried and true rock-pop music," says Nicoletto, and *Ugly, Broke & Sober* is no exception to the rule: lead single "Crash Me Up" is the kind of mournfully swaying rock confection perfectly suited for Top 40 radio, while the title track has

see **TRIXIE**, page 17

Free Speech

Chatting with the young out actor in *Speech & Debate*

by Jules Becker
contributing writer

Everyone has an agenda.

As Arthur Miller demonstrated in his always timely play *The Crucible*, rigid Puritans once employed an ostensible, hysterical hunt for "real" witches to launch an all-out, diabolical guilt-by-association reign of terror. Now, acclaimed young author Stephen Karam — in his recent



TALK IT OUT. Young gay actor Alex Wyse stars in *Speech & Debate*, an Off-Broadway hit about a school scandal and the teens that intervene. Photo courtesy: Lyric Stage Company of Boston

Off-Broadway hit *Speech & Debate* — has followed in Miller's considerable footsteps. Karam takes his inspiration from a real case in Spokane, Wash-

ington (but sets his show in Salem, Oregon), and explores the diverse

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Gay Agenda

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Speech

Continued from page 14

motives of three fictional teenagers in joining a school club and trying to expose a predatory drama teacher. Local gay actor Alex Wyse, who plays 16 year-old nerdy school reporter Solomon in the work's Hub premiere, has found his role and the demands of the production to be a challenging and always vital learning experience.

Wyse, a 22 year-old Boston University senior, praises Karam for having "such a great ear" and uncanny insight about the ways in which teenagers speak and act. He identified as well with the play's general portrait of school life for adolescents. "I certainly relate to many of the personal issues," he admitted. "We've certainly been digging in our own experiences for embarrassing high school stories." All in all, he noted, "Speech & Debate is a very funny play with some very dark themes."

That combination of comedy and drama informs the three students' respective agendas. Very self-motivated Diwata (Rachael Hunt) wants to stage her original musical *Crucible* and obsesses with the character of Mary Warren from the Miller work. Openly gay Howie (Chris Connor), who harbors a revisionist take on the sexuality of President Abraham Lincoln (who many modern scholars submit had a long term relationship with a male friend), struggles with uncertainty about his life but recognizes in himself both repulsion and attraction to a scandal-connected teacher.

Wyse's Solomon wants to "be the one to ex-

pose the scandal," which may run as high as the Mayor's office, but wants nothing to do with the musical. "They [Diwata and Howie] force me," says Wyse of his character. All three, he observed, are variously in denial about things about themselves.

In the play's darkly amusing scheme of things, he explained, "Every single scene has a different speech and debate title." Titles range from "Declamation," "Poetry," and "Dramatic Interpretation," to "Lincoln-Douglas Debate" and "Original Oratorio," with characters mirroring these categories. Some scenes involve computer laptops, and there's a backdrop projection screen that adds to the ambience of various situations. The dramatic parts, Wyse noted, are "where we all come together to tell a story." Jeremy Johnson, who has helmed Miller's *Crucible*, directs.

Adding to the mix is a second actress (Maureen Keiller), who plays two roles: a teacher and a professional reporter. The teacher is aligned with an unseen school board that "is edging more towards censorship." Both the teacher and the reporter have a lot to do with how the off-stage, scandal-implicated people are affected. While describing the look and sound of the play as "a bit more of a heightened reality," Wyse concluded about the depiction of adolescents: "In many ways, they [the three young people in the play] are not so different from the teenager I was and the teenagers I knew."

Wyse's building resume includes work with the Huntington Theatre Company (*The Cherry Orchard*) and roles in such regionally staged musicals as *Urinetown* and *She Loves Me*. *Speech & Debate* may be his Lyric Stage Company debut, but there is no argument



DEBATE CLUB. The cast of *Speech & Debate* (from left), Alex Wyse, Maureen Keiller, Rachael Hunt and Chris Connor. Photo courtesy: Lyric Stage Company of Boston.

about his experience. "I'm absolutely thrilled to be working with the Lyric," Wyse declared. "I'm having the time of my life."

Lyric Stage Company of Boston presents

Speech & Debate from Mar. 27 through Apr. 25 at The Lyric Stage Company of Boston (140 Clarendon St., Boston). For more info and tickets, visit: lyricstage.com.

Trixie

Continued from page 14

a swaggering attitude that is tailor made for swilling beers over broken dreams. But Telling on Trixie also unashamedly wears its gay heart on its (album) sleeve: though Nicoletto is the only gay member of the band, the group regularly conducts interviews with LGBT press, proudly trumpets its success on LOGO ("Best of 2007"), and traffics in gay-friendly iconography, such as the image of legendary Cherry Grove drag queen Zondra Foxx that graces their latest record, which includes a rock-ified remake of the Belinda Carlisle hit "Mad About You." Then of course, there are the club remixes of their romping rock tunes.

"This is where I have to flash my gay card," laughs Nicoletto. "I loves me a remix. [The other guys] are like, 'Jesus Christ, do we need to spend our money on all this?' My answer to that is yes! Absolutely!"

Nicoletto has a few other questions to answer on life as the gay lead singer of an indie rock act, so *Bay Windows* passed him the mic.

So how are you enjoying Austin?

It's so intense this week! There's an interview practically every hour. We have an acoustic show at the gay bar though. Coming here from New York, we're like "Where are the queers?" ... And I'm getting interviewed with Margaret Cho and Amanda Palmer from the Dresden Dolls! It's so fun for me, cause I'm also a music fan, not just a musician. That's what propels me, getting to hang out with colleagues that I admire.

Sounds like a blast!

Well get this: the house we're staying in, I don't know if the woman who owns it is a gymnast or a circus lady, or what. But the living room is empty except for these big, mammoth freaking fabric things [like *Cirque du Soleil* ribbons] hanging from the ceiling. I have rug burns all over my hands now! We had to take them down for my own safety.

Any chance you'll be swinging over to Boston soon? Maybe talk to Amanda about it.

We'd love to. It's so pretty there. But Boston is very protective of its own musicians so it's super hard for a new act to book a good venue. You want a nice venue for your fans so that you can do it well. We need to lay the groundwork. When we get over there I want to make sure I'm on the Homecoming Court. I don't need to be the Homecoming Queen; just on the Court is fine.

Ahem, speaking of queens — tell me about married life.

We did the whole Canada thing [to get married]. We don't have a state like yours! Went to Toronto and were married on September 15, 2006. Then we did something small in the States with all our friends and family. I had everyone [in my family] up from Indiana. My mother had her shoes off at the reception hall. In front of all my New York friends, she's walking around with shoes off and a piece of straw in her mouth. [Laughs]

Well, you're a parent now too, aren't you?

In 2006 we did the whole spooze in a cup thing and chucked the embryo up the hoochie-cooch and it stuck. Now we have the most wonderful, hilarious baby boy in the world. He's so awesome, his name is Asher. Although he's inspired me to sign up for separate YouTube

and Facebook accounts, because I've been posting things about him [on the band sites] and it's funny... there was one fan, let's call him Bob from Pennsylvania, he saw our show and came up to [my partner DJ] and says, "Are you DJ? Tell Asher that Uncle Bob says hi." DJ goes, "Um, you need to take out a new Facebook page cause this is getting weird." [Laughs]. It's kind of funny, right now if you go to my YouTube page there's a music video of [Project Runway contestant and AIDS activist] Jack Mackenroth tying me up in chains, right next to a video of my nine month-old in a baby bouncer.

Well you're known for getting interactive with your fans. Ugly, Broke & Sober has a cool story in terms of how you let your fans help shape it.

Yeah, we wanted to make a new album [and] had a whole body of music ready, but no money to record it. ... There were a couple of bands and artists, like Jill Sobule, who came up with this crowd sourcing idea [where fans] donate money and get certain things in exchange; a tiered donation model. We turned ours into a peer participation model where depending on how much you contributed you got to be in our video, contribute lyrics, or play on the album. The girl who won that prize didn't show up. She wrote back like, 'I'm a lawyer in Midtown. I'd come but I can't sing. Thanks anyway!'"

That's hilarious!

What we learned was that some people just wanted to give money and others wanted to be



GAY FACE. Drag queen Zondra Foxx graces the cover of Telling on Trixie's album *Ugly, Drunk & Sober*, just one of several subtle shout-outs to their gay fan base.

super involved. ... We didn't put them in the driver's seat. We ultimately decided where to go, but we let them guide some things along the way.

And whose idea was it to cover Belinda Carlisle?

I liked the idea of taking a sugary song and making it rock. Some people were like, "Do Matchbox 20!" First of all, I'm not doing freaking Matchbox 20. I want to take Belinda Carlisle "Mad About You" and make it the stalker version.

Telling On Trixie's album *Ugly, Broke & Sober* is available now. For more information, visit tellingontrixie.com.

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out and about

send event info to calendar@baywindows.com

Thr 3.26

celebrate female artists Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center is hosting its first *SWAN Day: Greater Boston Celebrates Women Artists as Change Agents*. This celebration will take place over three days and feature performances offered by local choreographers, filmmakers, playwrights, poets, and performance artists. All ages. Admission is \$20, \$16 for Students and Seniors BDA Members and CMAC Members. Young Women's Leadership admission is \$8 for each workshop. 7 p.m. Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge.
more info: SwanDay.org or cmacusa.org

art & design "AD20/21: Art & Design of the 20th & 21st Centuries" is an exciting exhibition that offers guests a chance to support the Boston Center for the Arts, interact with a varied and diverse guest list, and purchase simply stunning art. This exhibition runs through the Mar. 29. The BAC seeks to promote and inspire appreciation for value in all its forms. This is a prime opportunity to communicate your appreciation for your clients, a chance to meet new clients and buy art. Tickets start at \$100. VIP Reception 5:30 p.m.; Gala Preview Party 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Cyclorama at the BCA, 539 Tremont St., Boston.
more info: the-bac.edu

Fri 3.27

barbie exhibition *Weekly Dig* is sponsoring a Barbie Doll Competition and exhibition at the SPACE 242 gallery in the South End, in connection with A.R.T.'s world premiere production of Christine Evans' play *Trojan Barbie*. Artists are invited to create artwork inspired by or made with Barbie dolls. Twelve works will be chosen by *Weekly Dig* Art Director Tak Toyoshima and will be featured in a special *Trojan Barbie* Exhibition running through Apr. 17. Gallery hours are Friday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and by appointment. Tickets to Trojan Barbie \$25 to \$52. A.R.T.'s Zero

Arrow Theatre, corner of Arrow St. and Mass. Ave., Harvard Square, Cambridge.
more info: amrep.org

Sat 3.28

women's heritage trail Discover Roxbury and the Boston Women's Heritage Trail is jointly putting on a Roxbury Women's History tour. Dr. Z, Susan Dimock, Melnea Cass, Muriel Snowden, Elma Lewis, and others who made important contributions to the neighborhood, Boston, and American society. This tour explores their histories and their legacies. Tickets \$10. Trolley departs Back Bay Station (Dartmouth St. exit) at 9:30 a.m. and Roxbury Heritage State Park at 10 a.m.
more info: discoverroxbury.org

keshet cabaret Keshet, the Boston-based GLBT Jewish organization, will host this gala evening of music, theatrical performance, and an auction to benefit Keshet's work for a fully inclusive Jewish community. The event will honor Kate Bornstein, author, playwright, and gender outlaw and Enid Shapiro, Boston Jewish community leader, social worker, and GLBT rights activist. Last year's event sold out. Purchase tickets early online. Tickets start at \$100. 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Temple Israel, Levi Auditorium, 477 Longwood Ave., Boston.
more info: keshetonline.org

black lavender 2 Rhode Island Council for the Humanities presents *Black Lavender 2*, an exhibit that depicts black gay leaders, artists, activists, authors and everyday men. Dr. Daniel Scott, professor of English at Rhode Island College, will discuss his findings in a series of interviews he conducted with black gay men throughout the state, detailing their accomplishments and hardships living in the state. Followed by reception. Free and open to the public. 5:30 p.m. University of Rhode Island Library, Gallanti Lounge, Third Floor, Kingston, R.I.
more info: uri.edu/glbtsymposium/2009; ribooks@aol.com
glbt in nepal Project 10 East Inc. and

Masala will co-host *Tihar, A Festival of South Asian Culture and Cuisine* to benefit the Blue Diamond Society, the only organization supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens in the nation of Nepal. There will be performances and speakers that explore the beauty and variety of South Asian cultures and the struggle for human rights in the region. A reception will follow the program, with South Asian music and traditional food and beverages available for a small fee. Free and open to all. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Central Congregational Church, 85 Seaverns Ave., Jamaica Plain.
more info: project10east.org

significance through song Providence Singers presents "Anniversaries," a choral celebration of presidents, poets and composers with significant birthdays and milestones in 2009, including the 200th birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, Felix Mendelssohn and Edgar Allan Poe, plus the 250th anniversary of Frederic Handel's death. Concert highlights include Handel's buoyantly witty coronation anthem, *Zadok the Priest*; creative choral settings of poems by Poe, Alfred Lord Tennyson and Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.; and classics by Josef Haydn (*Te Deum*) and Mendelssohn (*Ave Maria* and *Verleih Uns Frieden*). Tickets \$16 in advance, \$26 at door. 8 p.m. Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, 30 Fenner St., Providence, R.I.
more info/tickets: ArtTixRI.com.

latino arts The Center for Latino Arts is hosting IBA's 2009 Arts Gala to celebrate Latino Arts and the continued accomplishments of IBA and Casa de La Cultura / Center for Latino Arts. The event will honor the 2009 Jorge Hernandez Leadership awardees, which include: José Massó, Rick Colón, Paula Oyola (in memory) and Maria Magdalena Campos Pons. Tickets range from \$75 to \$125. 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. Center for Latino Arts, 85 W Newton St., Boston.
more info/tickets: delacruscomm@gmail.com; 781.341.3800

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barn raisin Seacoast Outright is hosting this 'Barn Raisin.' Seacoast Outright is an educational, social service, advocacy organization that offers services to gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans, and questioning youth (21 and under) in New Hampshire, southern Maine, and northern Massachusetts. The evening will feature music, dancing, a free dessert buffet, family drink cash bar, raffle prizes, mini-massages, tarot readings, and special guests. \$10. 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Portsmouth Pearl, 45 Pearl St., Portsmouth, N.H.

more info: seacoastoutright.org

Sun 3.29

business brunch The Greater Boston Business Council, an organization for LGBT professionals, will be hosting its Member's (and Guests) Brunch. The brunch includes an entrée, cocktail, juice, coffee, or tea. \$15. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Club Café, 209 Columbus Ave., Boston.

more info: gbbc.org

triple crown pageant Rhode Island Pride presents the Triple Crown Pageant. The pageant will crown Miss Gay, Mr. Gay, and Ms. Lesbian Rhode Island. Contestants are judged on five categories including Private Interview, held earlier in the day, Talent, Formal Wear, and Final Question. This event also is an opportunity to say goodbye to present titleholders: Miss Gay RI 2008 Jacqueline DiMera, Ms. Lesbian RI 2008 Lara Sebastian and Mr. Gay RI 2008 Sean Powell. Table reservations available. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Doors open 6 p.m. Lupo's, 79 Washington St., Providence, R.I.

more info: PrideRI.com

Tues 3.31

wine and dine for good cause LifeSavor is a fundraising event for Community Services, which provides free home-delivered meals throughout eastern Massachusetts to people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer or other life threatening illnesses. Event includes a cocktail reception and auction, with prizes including an opportunity to co-host NECN's *TV Diner* with Billy Costa; and a 5-night stay at The Langham, Huntington Hotel & Spa in Pasadena, C.A. This is followed by guests going

Fri 3.27



madame Comedy Connection Rhode Island presents puppet icon Madame and her costar (Rick Skye) in a cabaret and comedy show: *It's Madame with an E*. Twenty years after Wayland Flowers' death from AIDS, his most famous creation is back with her trademark bawdy humor, so if you're too young to remember those classic moments be warned: though it stars a puppet, this show features jokes about sex, drinking, and husbands. Portions of the proceeds from tickets will benefit AIDS Care Ocean State. Show is 18+. Advance tickets \$30, door \$35. Shows at 8 p.m. and 10:15 p.m. 9 Warren Ave, East Providence, R.I.

more info: MadameAndMe.com

in parties of ten to dinner at one of the 80 participating restaurants. Tickets \$200 for Cocktail Party, \$300 for Cocktail Party & Dinner. 5:30 p.m. to Midnight. Langham Hotel, 250 Franklin St., Boston.

more info: lifesavor.org

ha jin at mass art The award-winning poet, essayist, and fiction writer, Ha Jin, will be the featured presenter at the annual *Professor Marjorie Hellerstein Literary Reading and Lecture Series*. Ha Jin's publications include five novels, three collections of poems, and three books of short stories. Ha Jin has received a PEN/Hemingway Award for *Ocean of Words*, the Flannery O'Connor Award for *Under the Flag*, the National Book Award for *Waiting*, and the Asian-American Literary Award for *Bridegroom*. This event is Free. Reception at 5 p.m., reading at 5:30 p.m. Trustees Room, Tower Building, Floor 11, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, 621 Huntington Ave., Boston.

more info: massart.edu

Thur 4.2

no place for hate Hull's No Place for Hate Committee will hold a community-wide brainstorming meeting at the Town Hall to get ideas from individuals, organizations and businesses on upcoming diversity events. Presiding over the meeting will be newly elected Chair Izzy Barros, an LGBT and multicultural events promoter. The committee is seeking input from new and longtime residents who want to turn their ideas into action. 7:30 p.m. at Hull Town Hall, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull.

what does gay look like? North Shore Community College is holding its 23rd Forum On Tolerance. The event features speakers such as: David Wilson, advocate for same sex marriage in Massachusetts; Randy Price, nation's first openly gay newscaster; and Arline Isaacson, political strategist for the LGBT Community. There will also be personal stories from the community. Free and open to the public. 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. NSCC's Lynn Campus gym, 300 Broad St., Lynn.

more info: Dave Houle, 978.739.5530

drag extravaganza Kitty Litter and Friends host a fabulous evening of drag, music and comedy. Proceeds from this show will benefit AIDS Care Ocean State. Tickets \$15. Doors open 6:30 p.m., show 8 p.m. Comedy Connection of RI, 39 Warren Ave., East Providence, R.I.

more info: ricomedyconnection.com

aids benefit Cambridge Cares About AIDS 20th Anniversary Benefit and Awards Event. Features a silent auction with over 50 items, including lodging and fine dining gift certificates, professional services, and art works. The evening will also deliver two awards: the Sister Jeannette Norman-din Award and the Mary Anne Bodecker Award. CCA's mission is to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic by serving those most impacted by social and economic inequality. Tickets \$100. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. MIT Walker Memorial Auditorium, 142 Memorial Drive, Cambridge.

more info: ccaa.org

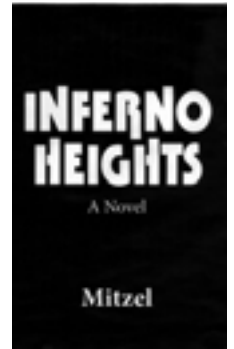
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Fruit

Continued from page 14

and we are good to go!" says Van Derwarker, on how they keep the fruit fresh even after a decade together. "Besides, with idiots like George Bush and Mitt Romney in office during most of our stage life, the material has been bountiful."

Luckily, most of Fresh Fruit's audience shares their sense of politically incorrect humor. Of course, every now and then an errant audience member might wander in and not quite know exactly what's in store.

"Once I sang a song about gay marriage, and about how gay married men think they're better than single gay men," recalls Gaucher of one memorable audience reaction. "A guy in the back of the audience started screaming, 'Fuck you! We celebrate our love!' Club Café security came for

incetown one summer and all kinds of crazy shit happened. Like at one rehearsal, Rodney reached into the pocket of his costume and found that a live baby possum had crawled into it. What's more, the baby possum had pooped and Rodney put his hand right in it ... and then he pretended it didn't happen, but he's a big fat liar with possum poop paws."

It's no secret that the joking rapport between members extends well beyond the stage, but each also has an important role in keeping the fruit fresh.

"We do have our definite roles," says Gaucher, speaking to what each member brings to the group. "Rodney directs the show, schedules rehearsals, takes care of the money. ... He's the super organized one."

"We all come up with concepts together," Gaucher continues. "But Peter oversees all the musical arrangements, he's the most musically adept. ...



THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES. *Fresh Fruit Turns X* celebrates ten years of hilarity, including moments from past shows like (clockwise, top) *Spring Queening*, *Deal With It*, and *Chicks with Dixie!* Photos courtesy: Fresh Fruit Productions.

him, he knocked them down and ran out down Columbus Ave. Another year we had a number called 'Caliente.' It wasn't that offensive, but these two Latino men got up started ripping up their programs!"

Audience members should remember, says Gaucher, that every group gets its chance to be roasted with a few laughs.

"The beauty of our shows is that they help people push their own comfort level," he says. "We make them ask, 'Why is it okay to laugh at one thing, but not another?'"

Of course, sometimes the biggest laughs, and most memorable moments, are those that are entirely unscripted.

"It's hard to say which [show] is my favorite," says Gaioni, reflecting on some of the troupe's most hilarious moments. "But the most memorable show was *Chix with Dixie!* We took it to Prov-

Walter makes all of our costumes; he's amazing in that regard. ... And I do much of the writing and marketing."

Van Derwarker agrees. "I am a touch of the mother hen, making sure the other fruits are okay," he says. "When it boils right down to it, the other fruits just consider me plain old bossy."

"Since I am the oldest fruit," opines Hildner, "I am more in the stage of a nicely simmered down preserve."

Though after *X* years, it's best not to put a lid on this, just yet.

Fresh Fruit Productions will stage Fresh Fruit Turns X Thursdays through Sundays, March 26 through April 11 at Club Café (209 Columbus Ave., Boston). Tickets \$25, or \$32.95 for a special dinner package. For more info or to purchase tickets, visit freshfruitproductions.com or clubcafe.com

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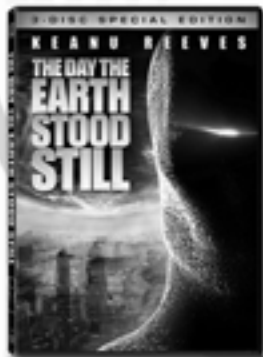
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I should cut my niece some slack; she's a typical teenager. Still, I was surprised when I noted on her Facebook page that she just became a fan of **Chris Brown**. This was well after the **Rihanna** situation went public. One of her cousins responded, "That's gross — he's a woman beater." Then a friend retorted, "Get over it." Apparently my niece is not alone. A survey of 200 Boston area 12 to 19-year-olds (my niece's demographic) shows 51 percent saying the "incident" was Chris Brown's fault, but 46 percent still blame Rihanna. Forty-four percent added that fighting is just a normal part of any relationship. I'm starting to fear my family could someday end up the subject of a made-for-Lifetime movie!

I knew we were out of synch when I called the *Twilight* film one of the worst things I'd ever seen. My niece was so inconsolable she had to leave the dinner table. I'm sure those long, lingering looks in the two leads' vacant eyes speak to a generation younger than moi. But what about **Joan Jett**, surely one of my contemporaries? She claims that casting *Twilight* star **Kristen Stewart** (who has an acting range of A to A-minus) to play her in a movie about her band *The Runaways* is inspired. "When her hair is cut and with the right make-up, Kristen should make a really good me." Because, of course, acting ability is directly proportional to hair and make-up! By those standards, **Pamela Anderson** should have an Oscar! Jett is the same gal who condemned a documentary about the band. But now she's endorsing this crap? By the way, **Dakota Fanning** is in talks to play lead singer (and sex kitten) **Cherie Currie**. My Lord. It's a world gone mad.

Speaking of playing dress-up, paparazzi in London snapped **Prince Harry** heading home from a nightclub in London sporting pink nail polish and pink boxers. What's that all about? I'll post the pic on our website.

Sexy **Eric Nies** managed an amazing feat: he saved a dog's life AND showed off his naked body. Eric saw a dog chase some geese onto a partially frozen lake in Bear Mountain, N.Y. The dog fell through the thin ice and was drowning, so Eric made a dash to save the pup but not before taking off ALL of his clothes. As a former lifeguard, I commend Nies for knowing that if he ended up in the water, having clothes on would not only weigh him down, but also make him colder. Still, why did he take off his undies? If, of course, he was wearing any. Pics have surfaced of Eric gingerly making his way across the ice doggie-style (I'm noting a trend here). He ultimately entered the frigid water, swam out to the dog, helped it onto the ice, and then hoisted himself up and out. Alas, the photos that have surfaced thus far have his naughty bits censored, although that may be a blessing. Shrinkage, you know. If they turn up, you know I'll post 'em. To compensate, I will run an earlier nude photo of Eric from **Bruce Weber's** book *Bear Pond*. That pic shows that, when it comes to shrinkage, Eric doesn't have a square to

"The hardest part was trying to do it doggie-style."

— *Twilight* hunk **Robert Pattinson** talks about filming a gay sex scene for *Little Ashes*, where he plays the lover of artist **Salvador Dali**. Just relax and breathe. It gets easier (or so I've been told).

spare. Either way, you can see Nies from the knees up on BillyMasters.com.

Don't look for **Heather Locklear** to join the new version of *Melrose Place*. She's already nixed the plan because the powers-that-be didn't have any idea how to bring back her character, Amanda. The producers might want to talk to another former cast member, **Lisa Rinna**; she's full of ideas. Mrs. Hamlin has launched an all-out campaign to get cast on the new show, including walking up and down the real-life Melrose Place (steps away from Billy Masters West) wearing a placard that said, "Honk for Lisa Rinna on the new *Melrose Place*." It was the quietest day in years! She's also posing nude for *Playboy* this summer. Put those two ideas together, and she might be on to something — walking nude on Melrose Place would probably get some horny men honking!

Shifting our attention to reality television, I am SO distraught that my beloved **Belinda Carlisle** was the first person eliminated from *Dancing With The Stars*, although I can't say I'm surprised. In fact, I can't say SHE'S surprised! It's so hard to tell...

Spencer on *Survivor: Tocantins* has a secret, at least on the show. When another contestant asked him about the type of woman he likes, he changed the subject deftly. In a video confession, he said, "My tribemates are not aware that I'm gay. I haven't told them. Only because in the culture that we live in, there's nothing really to gain, or not much to gain from people finding out that you are gay. I don't like hiding it though." One thing that we can reveal is who he's dating: *Survivor: China* winner **Todd Herzog**. Todd doesn't want to say too much because, "he's still on the show, but we met about a month before his season began. We're doing the 'take it slow' thing, which I find to be really nice. Usually guys are in search for one thing, but it's refreshing to see that Spencer is different." Different enough to win? Time will tell...

Many of my fans are watching *Real World: Brooklyn* solely to catch a flash of sexy **Scott Herman's** sizzling flesh. We just got some sexy stills from Halloween when he dressed up like he should be working at Caesars Palace. He called it a Spartan outfit. I dunno about all that, but it sure was sparse on material — and big on flesh. Enough flesh to land on BillyMasters.com. And he's got a rock-hard codpiece but that's another

story.

Because I think **Phil Keoghan** is really handsome, head to www.BillyMasters.com for pics of the *Amazing Race* host stripped to his CK boxer-briefs in Siberia! Apparently there's a Russian custom of running through this frigid land in your undies, which was what Keoghan was demonstrating. Which country has a custom of being photographed naked? Probably one of the places *Survivor* has been...

Sexy porn pup **Bobby Clark** is on the cover of Buckshot's *Boy Country* and, I must say, it's a mighty hot pic. Due to a shrinking economy, Buckshot isn't sending out screeners and I simply cannot watch porn on my computer (who really needs a sticky keyboard?). But I'm recommending it, based on the box.

Continuing this trend of hot naked guys, our *Ask Billy* question this week comes from Robert in San Diego: "I just saw *Watchmen* and couldn't believe I was looking at a blue penis for two hours. Was that really **Billy Crudup**? And did you catch **Patrick Wilson's** ass? HAWT!"

I have never missed an opportunity to ogle a naked Patrick Wilson, especially after seeing him on Broadway in *The Full Monty*. Since his wife is expecting their second baby, I suppose he wouldn't mind being called a hot daddy... with a helluva hot ass. As to Billy Crudup, you realize that he's been at least partially CGI-generated, right? That said, from other pics we have of his penis, I'm willing to believe that blue appendage was real. You can check it out from the comfort of your own home, since we've obtained not only some HiRes pics, but also video footage! Head to BillyMasters.com.

When Crudup has a blue penis and Nies has blue balls, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Apropos of mentioning Bobby Clark, this weekend I'm off to San Francisco for the annual GayVN Awards. The best and brightest in gay porn will be on hand — perhaps even my hand! If there's any dish, I will be sure to write all about it on www.BillyMasters.com, the only choice for the discriminating gossip connoisseur. But I don't discriminate when it comes to answering your letters. Submit your queries to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Crudup and Nies team up for a special episode of *Blue's Clues*! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.



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Foxy

Continued from page 1

in class (and embarrassingly intercepted by grade school teachers), and the name I put on the dedication page of the childhood stories this young writer pounded out on an old, dilapidated typewriter — she is unsurprised. What can she say? She gets that a lot.

“Years ago, when I was in my twenties, my fans were a lot younger,” says Fox, who first found fame as the most popular topless model in British tabloid *The Sun*’s “Page 3” before becoming the UK’s answer to sexpot pop stars like Madonna. “They fantasized and wrote me letters: ‘When I grow up, I want to marry you!’”

Guilty, I admit, as charged.

When I tell singer Samantha Fox that she was also one of the last girls I ever had a crush on, and that my attraction to her suggestive, frothy ’80s dance pop — “Touch Me (All Night Long),” “Naughty Girls (Need Love Too),” “I Wanna Have Some Fun” — was probably based more on the quality of its sexual education (and some pretty awesome dance moves in ripped jeans) than on any real desire to get with a girl, she is also unsurprised. She gets that a lot, too.

“A lot of my gay fans wrote me to tell me I was their first crush,” she says. “Some would have my posters on their wall so their dad wouldn’t know. Or they were confused.”

“But they grow up,” she says of her young admirers. “Now, they’re either married with children and the fantasies have probably stopped ... or they’re gay, and they’ve found themselves.”

Well, guess what boys? So is Samantha, and so has she.

“I don’t talk too much about my personal life, but I’m very, very happy,” says Fox. Despite what she’s bared of her body, Fox is cagier about revealing too much of her private world. But it’s fascinating to learn that the woman who built her music career with a persona of cheeky, playful, male-baiting sexuality, has now settled down with a naughty girl of her own.

“I don’t really believe in labels,” says Fox, when asked if she now identifies as part of the LGBT community. “But sure, you can call me gay if you want, because I know I’m going to be with Myra [Stratton, her partner and business manager] for the rest of my life.”

With her latest album, *Angel with an Attitude*, just receiving its stateside release via digital music stores, more than a few fans are probably rediscovering their Foxy fantasies. They’re bound to love the tunes in store, a saucy combination of Fox’s trademark sensual pop strut with a darker, more organic angst. But Fox says that they also seem to love and support her long term same-sex relationship, even if (for shame!) it means their pin-up ponderings will never come to fruition.

“They’re happy for me,” she says of how fans react when they learn of her relationship with Stratton. “They’re just happy that I’ve found love. I’ve never heard anything negative. If anything, I’ve received lots of support from fans that couldn’t tell their parents they were gay. I hope I’ve helped a lot of people. It’s a scary thing for somebody, a big deal to come out and be open. You have to learn to love yourself and be truthful to yourself.”

It can be a long road to love and truth, and Fox admits that *Angel with an Attitude* reflects some of the struggles — especially with



DARK ANGEL. On *Angel with an Attitude*, Samantha Fox combines diva dance-pop with darker elements that convey her professional and personal evolution.

her family and profession — that she’s had along the way. Specifically, Fox experienced a major fall-out with her father who had managed her since her career started to explode at age 16. Fueled by an addiction to drugs and alcohol, his mismanagement of her finances wound up costing the pop star nearly everything she had earned during the height of her commercial success.

“It took a lot of courage for me to turn to my dad and say, ‘I don’t think you can handle me anymore,’” says Fox. “He got himself into a bad way with drugs and alcohol.”

Fox’s parents divorced (she remains close to her mom, and is even cooking her a birthday lunch as we chat on the phone), and she wound up in litigation over a decade’s worth of back-taxes that her father neglected to pay. “He would just bury his head in the sand and not give me any info about my bank accounts,” she says. “The tax man didn’t believe that I didn’t know anything about this [unpaid taxes], but I was just 16 when I started.”

“I lost everything I owned in the 1990s,” she sighs. “I had to start from the beginning and build myself from the ground up again. If it wasn’t for my fans and for gigging, I don’t know if I would have survived it.”

The music on *Angel with an Attitude* alternately reflects Fox’s initial despondency and her bodacious blonde ambition to overcome. “There are songs on the album where you hear a positive attitude,” she says. “I said to myself, ‘I’m a kid from a council estate [in the UK, a public housing project]. I started from nothing.’ It’s interesting to re-evaluate yourself as a mature woman. It was really daunting and scary at first because after a couple years you do think, ‘Oh, people have forgot about me.’ But I do have a fan base.”

And she says she’s thrilled to share the latest evolution of Samantha Fox with those fans.

“My first albums, there was a lot of sense of fun,” she says. “I was a younger girl then. I’m a woman now with a lot of experiences, and I wanted to share that with my fans rather than just the exterior that everyone sees.”

Fair enough, but don’t let Fox fool you. She still wants to have some fun, and she hasn’t lost her naughty edge. Last year, at

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Foxy

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age 42, Fox even posed for one more topless photo shoot to commemorate her selection as the greatest Page 3 pin-up of all time by readers of *The Sun*. And her impact on the presentation of sexuality in pop music is still evidenced today.

"Some people look at Lady Gaga today, turn to me and say, 'That looks like you in the '80s!'" she laughs. "I remember when I started with the song 'Touch Me,' they were basically looking for a British Madonna. To me, Madonna exudes sexuality; she was a strong woman and she didn't give a shit. There were men along the way, Elvis Presley thrusting his hips and all that ... but it was really hard for women to be accepted and she [Madonna] was my role model in that way. ... It was a difficult time in the '80s for women to be able to exude sexuality without being put down for it."

Of course, it helped Fox — as it did Madonna — that her projection of sexuality seemed to come naturally. It wasn't forced, but it was ferocious; this Fox was no posturing Pussycat Doll.

"It's natural," says Fox of her sense of sexuality. "When I go back to being a little girl, I was always inquisitive and nosy: 'What is that like? What does this look like?' I've always been very confident in that way. But some women, you can see when they do a music video that the director has actually told them what to do and the way to look and stuff. I look at that and I think, 'Well now, I can't imagine that woman in bed!'"

"Don't even try it, cause this Fox don't buy it!" she laughs, cribbing one of her trademark lyrics. "You're either born with it [sexuality] or you're not. And if you got it, you can't help but flaunt it."

Even when the sexuality takes a slightly different form than the way it used to look.

"You can't deny love, and it's a great love story," she says of her current relationship with Stratton. "I have no disrespect towards men at all. I've had fabulous love affairs and boyfriends — probably only one or two I really loved — but when I met Myra I instantly fell in love."

"You can't help that, can you?" she asks. "Anyone who is out there who's not sure of who they are [should know] that it's got to be real. It's got to be truthful."

And Fox doesn't mind that I revealed my own truth, that I'm finally chatting with my own childhood crush.

"I'm glad I left you with a good impression," she laughs.

To thine own self be true, and I'd be lying if I didn't admit that — for just a moment — I felt like a schoolboy again, knowing that famously flirty Fox giggle was finally meant for me.

Samantha Fox's latest album Angel with an Attitude is now available on iTunes and other digital music retailers. For more info and updates on North American tour dates, visit: samfox.com.



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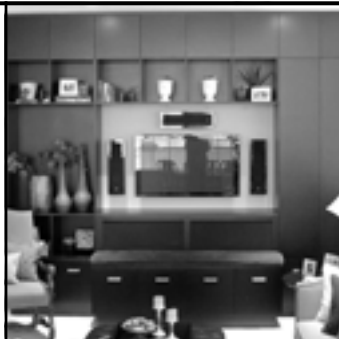


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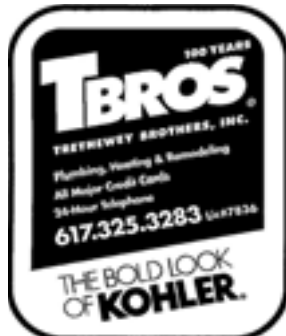
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attic, bsmnt, garage, W/D, walk
to center & bus. N/S. \$1650+.
781-861-9333.

Classified Deadline:
Mondays at 3pm

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MARLBOROUGH

3 story attached Victorian car-
riage house apt. Cath ceiling LR
w/ built in bookcases. Walk in
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of windows. Hdwd flrs. W/D. Off-
st pkg. N/S, no pets. Nice garden.
\$1000 incl utils. 508-481-9920.

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a well maintained quiet house
on best street! Many nice
details. \$1195 incl. all utils.
617-312-5925.

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July/August, other weeks less.
978-877-7405.

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pkg spaces. May 30th - Sept
13th. \$9000 plus security depos-
it. Call 781-248-0097.

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Rooms avail at the beauti-
ful Archer Inn. Lease period is
5/15/09 to 9/13/09. All rooms
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dr, & beautiful grounds, patio w/
bbq, & roof deck with fab views.
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508-237-0333.

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TERMS: \$10,000 deposit in cash or certified or bank check at sale. 5% Buyers Premium. Balance due in forty-five (45) days. Subject to a minimum acceptable bid. Auction on the premise. Other terms, if any, announced at sale. MA Lic. #300

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J.L. Pratt Realtors, Inc. NEWTON



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Life at Home
April 23, 2009

Ad deadline: April 16th

For more info or to place your ad:
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For over two decades, real estate professionals have used Bay Windows to reach GLBT home buyers and renters. Our Spring Life at Home section will feature the latest on gay friendly communities and home buying.

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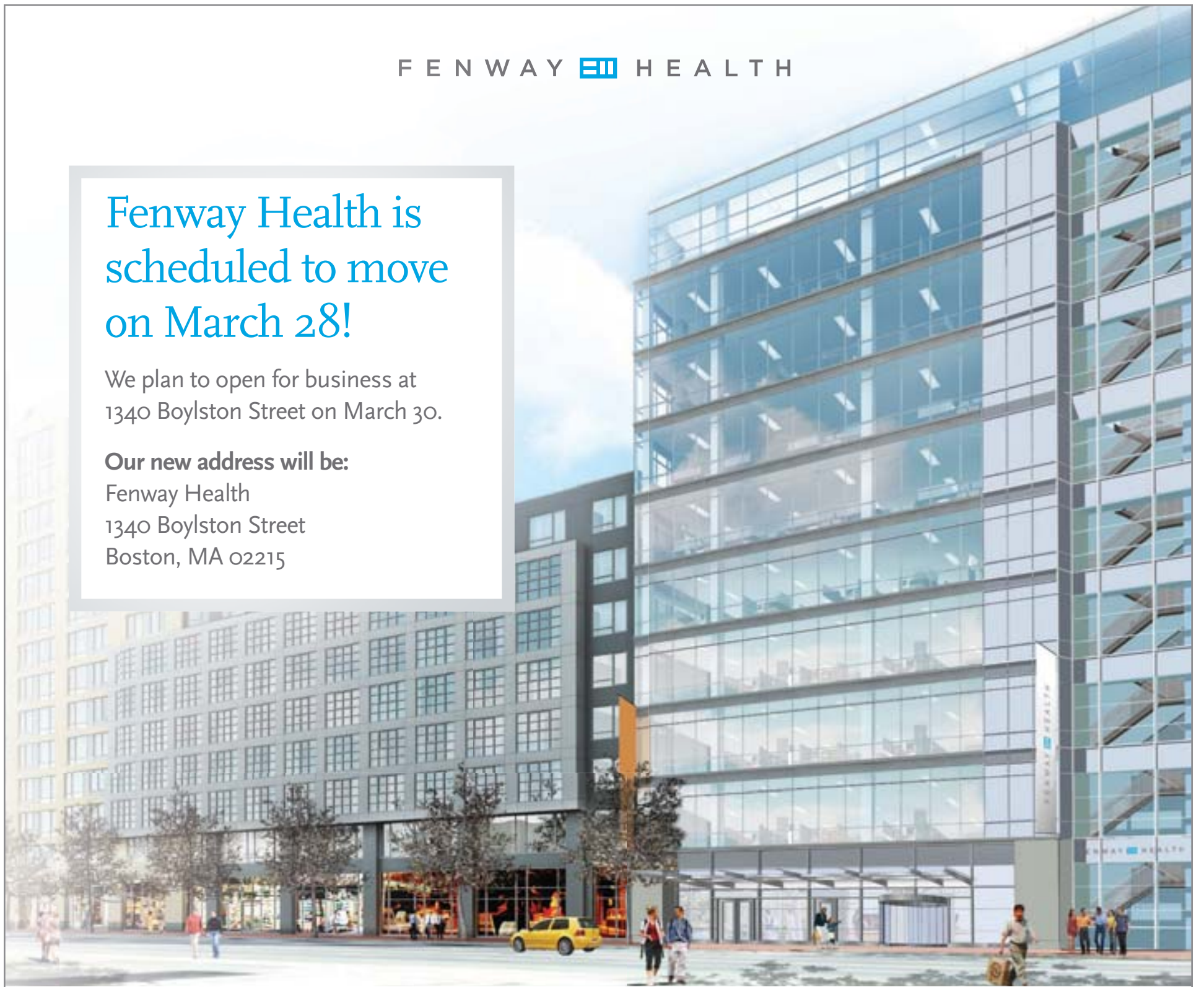
www.baywindows.com

Fenway Health is scheduled to move on March 28!

We plan to open for business at 1340 Boylston Street on March 30.

Our new address will be:

Fenway Health
1340 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215



For more information about our new home and neighborhood as well as an interactive map and MBTA trip planner, visit www.1340boylston.org.

We'll be moving from our current location at 7 Haviland Street to 1340 Boylston Street in Boston's West Fens neighborhood the weekend of March 28-29. On the morning of March 30, we plan to open the doors of our new home just steps from Fenway Park. We'll be just a few blocks and a 10 minute walk from our current home and our new location will include expanded services, staff and operating hours to better serve you.

