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2008 VOL. 2

NO. 1

NEW ENGLAND'S GLBT MAGAZINE

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Breakthrough Films From The 1980's

By Mark Adams

It's amazing how things have changed. And, for a "change," it's for the good. When I started the video store "The Movie Place" in the little suburban town of Hingham, MA in 1982, there were no video stores between Boston and Plymouth. The Movie Place opened its doors with 200 titles. And 50 BETA videos. Remember BETA? Of course not. And a shame, because it was a better format than VHS. But I digress. On opening day, our shelves were filled with...not one gay themed film. There was nothing available back then. Cable was just getting underway, and there certainly were no gay channels to be found.

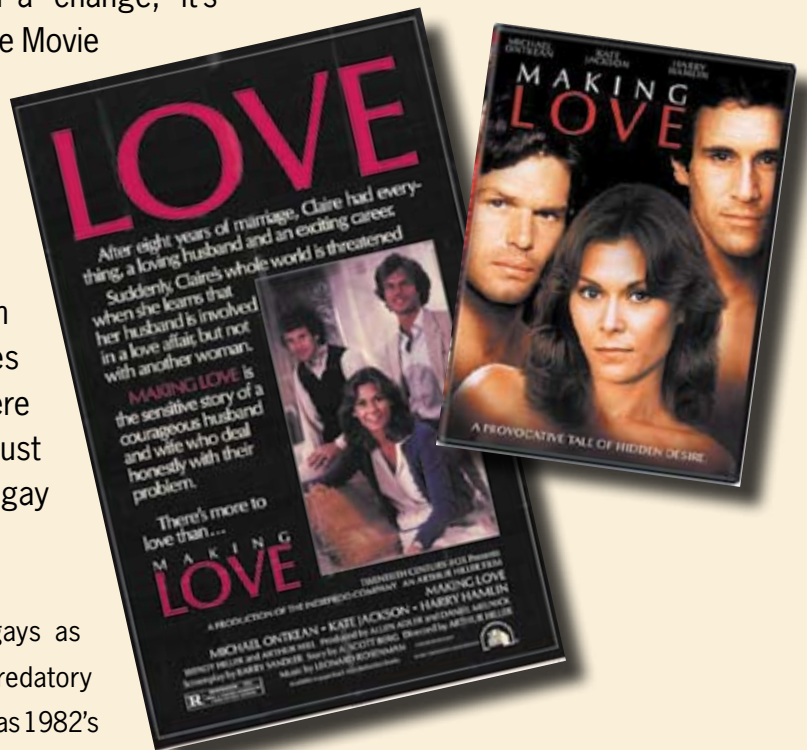
One of the first mainstream titles that represented gays as



ACTOR, HARRY HAMLIN

something other than predatory lesbians or foppy gay-men was 1982's MAKING LOVE. This 20th Century-Fox movie was, indeed, a groundbreaking movie for the gay community, and starred Kate Jackson, Michael Ontkean and Harry Hamlin. Sure, they weren't exactly from the A-List, but they were, at the time, taking a chance on not only appearing in a film that put gays in a positive light. The

film was soap-opera-ish, about a young married couple, a doctor and his TV producer-wife, with the husband finally confronting his...get this...attraction to men! It may have been difficult for the straight audiences watching this to not think this was some kind of science-fiction, but the movie did well. Of course, there was no actual "making love" between Ontkean and Hamlin, but they are to be commended for appearing, when it was considered "career suicide" for a ..ahem, "straight" actor to appear as gay. One reviewer said, at the time, "If CLASH OF THE TITANS didn't kill Hamlin's career, this one certainly wouldn't." And it didn't. Appearing a good quarter of a century before BROKEBACK



...they are to be commended for appearing, when it was considered "career suicide" for a ..ahem, "straight" actor to appear as gay. One reviewer said, at the time, "If CLASH OF THE TITANS didn't kill Hamlin's career, this one certainly wouldn't."

Chris (Mariel Hemingway) and her female friend, competitor, and role model Tory, played by Patrice Donnelly (I still have no idea who she is or was, but then again, I have not been a lesbian myself for years).



MOUNTAIN, the movie did amazing, as to be expected, on home video, and was nominated for a Golden Globe. No, not for the movie, but for Best Song. Does anyone remember the song "Making Love," written by Burt Bachrach and Carole Bayer Sager? If so, email me and I'll send you my phone #, and you can sing it to me.

The success of MAKING LOVE must have made the Hollywood bigwigs aware that, hey, there's a market out there for gay-themed movies, as they brought out two more. PERSONAL BEST (Warner Brothers) was a lesbian's dream – it told of the intertwined lives and loves of two highly-ranked athletes striving for the national team, Chris (Mariel Hemingway) and her female friend, competitor, and role model Tory, played by Patrice Donnelly (I still have no idea who she is or was, but then again, I have not been a lesbian myself for years). There was no sex (it would a long time before THE L WORD), but the lipstick lesbians on the South Shore just, you should pardon the expression, ate this one up.

Then there was DESERT HEARTS. An amazing breakthrough movie from the Samuel Goldwyn Company, If you're not familiar with this one from '85, check it out on the IMDB.com website. A new 2-disc DVD has just been released of this lesbian love story that takes place in 1950's Nevada.

We've come a long way baby (yes, those ladies loved their Virginia Slims). The Movie Place, along with almost all the video stores, is gone. DVD's can now be rented as well as watched online. Now we have the LOGO channel, for free on most cable systems, and even Here!TV, which is a little more explicit, but it's a pay service. We can get married on both coasts (but nowhere in between, yet), and gay movies and videos are thriving. If you're not familiar with some of these older titles, check into them and others. TLA Video.com is a good place to start your search. ▼

About the author

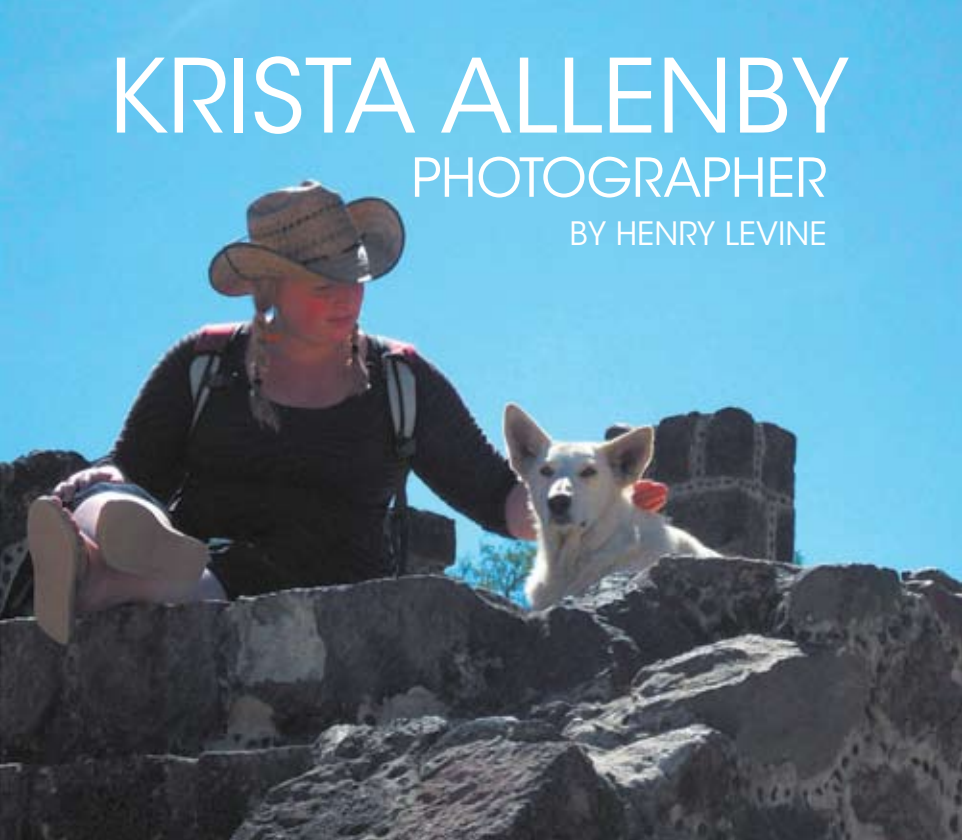
Mark Adams has been a fixture in Boston's GLBT Media, writing extensively on film and video of interest to the community for over a decade.



KRISTA ALLENBY

PHOTOGRAPHER

BY HENRY LEVINE



Krista Allenby is a professional portrait photographer located in Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley, offering portraiture sessions for both people and pets. Her two dogs, Lexi and Moose are frequent models and inspiration for her ever-expanding portfolio. "I take pictures of my dogs everyday. It doesn't matter if I'm shooting with my Mamiya, my iPhone, or Photobooth on my computer. I do it for fun, to document my dogs lives, and to keep my creativity flowing."

She is quick to adapt to any situation. "If I'm photographing animals or children I tend to let them lead the session. I work with their movement; I will follow them on top of rocks or up into a tree. I'm not afraid to get dirty and play in the dirt with a dog." Krista has combined her passion of photography, interaction with people, and love of animals into a unique business that is unlike any other. Whether she's creating an exciting dvd, a beautiful portrait, or taking pictures of her dogs Krista is doing it with a smile. e-mail; writetokrista@gmail.com ▼

PHOTOS: **Top R:** Self Portrait: 'Krista and Pacho in Mexico, **Top L:** 'Julie Feeding Horses' **Middle R:** 'Basset Hound', **Middle L:** 'Guy in Helmet', **Bottom R:** 'Woody Running'

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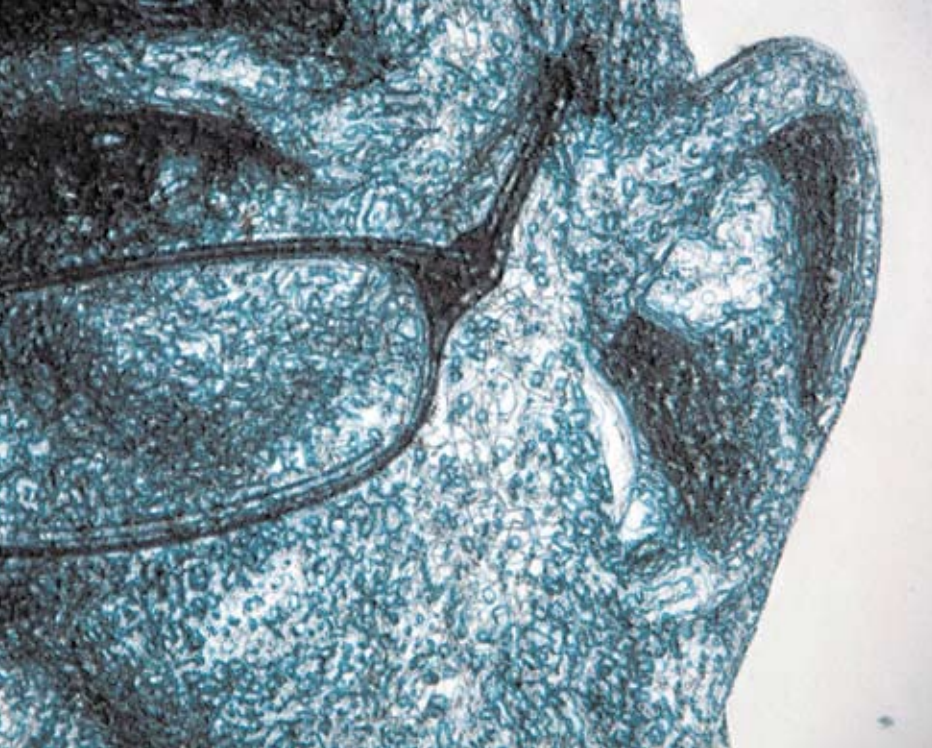
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GAYANDGRAY

OLD SCHOOL GAY & LESBIAN

by Henry Levine

Although no census has been taken, there are reputed to be over 3 million GLBT adults who clock in at 65 years of age or greater. That's a sizeable population and, thankfully today, a surprisingly fortunate one. If you're old and gray and happen to be gay or lesbian too, there's some good news for you...

Linda Woolf has written a paper entitled 'Gay and Lesbian Aging' in which she writes, "Many myths and negative stereotypes exist concerning the aged and the homosexual. Together, the older gay or lesbian suffers from a double stigma in American society. The image of the older gay man or lesbian as depressed, isolated, desperate, and sexless is prevalent. This image, however, does not hold up empirically." According to Woolf's thesis gay men and women who have successfully dealt with the stigma of being gay in a homophobic world are better equipped psychologically than their straight counterparts where aging is concerned.

"Many heterosexuals go through life never experiencing active discrimination," Woolf states, "When hit with ageism, they must reevaluate who they are in the face of societies stereotypes. However, gays and lesbians have had to overcome the stigma of being homosexual, and this appears to give these individuals the skills necessary to overcome other stigmas."

Continued on next page

Among the positives mentioned by Woolf is the social structure upon which many gay lives are based; that of strong bonds, friendships, and community. And now, because of some very realistic gains in Gay Civil and Human Rights, gay people are more visible than ever before. Because we also grow old, this visibility will only help us in our latter years in that we are now witness to a revolution in the making. As with all revolutions they don't happen overnight. Still too many of us suffer from homophobia among healthcare providers, hospice workers, nursing home attendants, etc.

But things are changing: In New England alone this change is evident. We see independent & assisted living communities such as the River Bay Club in Quincy, Ma (www.RiverBayClub.com) and Susan Bailis' establishment in Boston's South End (www.susanbailis.com). These are retirement communities that are not only gay-friendly— they're gay-specific.

Recently, a New York Times article featured Chelsea's Jewish Nursing Home that broke ground on a complex that includes a unit for the aging GLBT community. There are also openly gay geriatric case managers who can guide clients to compassionate services."

As Woolf states Gay and Lesbians do well with aging because of peer support/ social structure. A number of Senior Social Groups for Gay men and Lesbians in Boston have been in operation for many years. As a testament to Woolf's claim about friendship and community, these social gatherings have given many of us courage, support and a lifelong forum for friendship. (www.whatevertheirsiteis.com).

Boston Prime Timers is such a group. Founded over 20 years ago, the Prime Timers' membership is stout and sturdy with over 300 members and chapters throughout the United States. They offer such gatherings for gay men from monthly meetings to dinners, theaters, and gala's such as their annual holiday party. Ole, Older Lesbian Energy is the female equivalent of the Prime Timers.

This group offers gatherings that are legendary for mixing socializing with political action. Their website features a calendar of events that'll keep you busy, involved, and young at heart (www.oleboston.org).

There is so much more available to the gay and lesbian senior we hope this is a place to start. ▼

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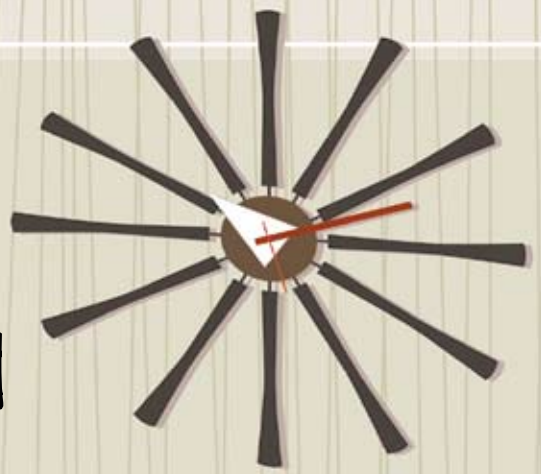


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KITCHEN KITSCH



by Henry Levine

Dreaming of a newly remodeled kitchen? Well retro is back! Look to the past for the nostalgic kitchen of your parents and grandparents. Accented with cheerful pieces of pottery, popular from the late 1940's to 1960's, these colorful ceramics provided much needed relief from the gloominess of World War II. Now considered the ultimate in Kitchen Kitsch, the irresistible cherubic smiles and enormous laughing eyes of the heavily glazed series gained popularity throughout the United States.





WHERE DO YOU START?

Color is a good place to start. Try a bright sunshine yellow for the walls and avocado or turquoise appliances will set the stage.

ACCESSORIZE

Accessorize with kitschy kitchen classics, reproductions or the real thing can include glazed series of animated salt shakers, cookie jars, sugar bowls and creamers. Mix and match themes or stick with one such as western or fruit.

FURNITURE

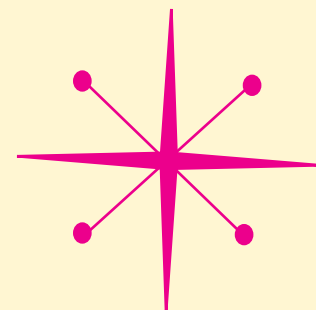
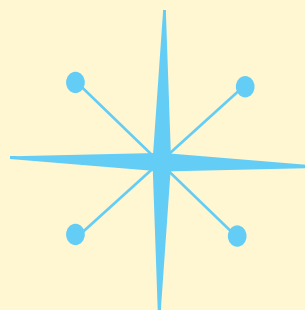
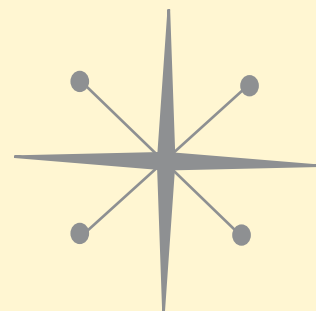
Try 50's style brightly colored vinyl stools, or table and chairs sets. Don't forget the atomic themes of the 50's such as the star burst clocks and lamp motifs.

ART

Retro advertising signs with a kitchen food theme work. Coca Cola, Fresh Eggs and Restaurant signs will accent retro walls.

DON'T FORGET

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EVERYONE LOVES RACHEL

By Judy Van Handle

PHOTOS BY PAUL TEELING



All it took was some friendly advice to launch one of the media's fastest-rising stars into her unintentional role as a commentator on all things political.

But instead of calling her big career break a case of "friends with benefits," it's more like a result of her perfectly beneficial friendships.

The contest actually was no contest – Maddow was hired on the spot to co-host a morning music show – but winning that competition turned into the springboard for what is rapidly becoming a high-profile career in radio and television.

And what is most stunning is the warp speed in which Maddow has traveled from the low-wattage stations of the Pioneer Valley to the Manhattan studios of NBC – and every bit of the way, she has never been anything but openly lesbian..

"This self-described '35-year-old, liberal, lesbian girl-who-looks-like-a-man' is on the brink of becoming progressive media's next mainstream breakout star," writes Rory O'Connor on his website, www.roryoconnor.org, which is part of the www.mediachannel.org site.

Maddow has attained a status one of Air America's top talk-show hosts – and one of the nation's top progressive talkers – since the radio network signed on in March 2004. Her still-nascent television career has gained momentum almost in lockstep with the evolving campaign season. In less than a year on MSNBC, Maddow has been a regular guest panelist on "Race for the White House" as a political commentator and has also fill in as guest host of "Countdown with Keith Olbermann" on the same network

And according to the critics, Maddow's best is yet to come.

"(She's) become the breakout star of MSNBC this political year," wrote Robert Feder of the Chicago Sun Times.

"Air America host Rachel Maddow, who happens to be both impossibly bril-

liant and a lesbian, is getting increasing airtime as a political analyst on MSNBC," said the Southern Voice, an Atlanta gay newspaper.

Indeed, the word brilliant has a habit of coming up in relation to Maddow.

"She has a remarkable knowledge of politics," said Jeff Wagenheim, who was a sports contributor on Maddow's morning radio show on WRSI and Air America. "She can engage in a conversation with very, very conservative people in a brilliant way."

She has the requisite trappings on the Internet of 21st century media fame – multiple web sites, such as one on Air America's site to her followers' version on www.maddowfans.com. She also maintains a blog, www.maddowonline.com

In particular, the blogosphere is fairly teeming with Maddow's listeners and fans, carrying on sometimes at great lengths about their favorite media figure.

Some wanted Maddow to replace Rosie O'Donnell when she left "The View," ABC's daily talk show geared toward women. An example of their dedication: one fan wrote a paean to Maddow entitled "Rachel Maddow deserves her own TV show," eliciting signatures on a petition to MSNBC to urge it to hire her full-time. After citing Fox News for coverage that is "corrosive to true journalism," blogger "neutronx" adds: "Adding Ms. Maddow to your lineup cannot help but restore credibility and professionalism to your entire industry."

But Maddow warns that no one should think of her as a journalist.

"I think of myself as a commentator and pundit; an analyst but not a reporter and NOT a journalist," she told www.roryoconnor.org. You know, I think doing research isn't enough to be considered a journalist."

Neither becoming a political commentator, nor any kind of work in front of a camera or microphone, was on Maddow's radar screen while she was growing up

in during the 1980s. Her hometown was close to San Francisco but an entire mindset away.

"Everybody thinks of the Bay Area as really liberal, but the place I grew up in was really homophobic and really racist," she said to www.afterellen.com. "Talking about racism and homophobia and the threats to people who are different in America is not something that liberals make up to get sympathy. It's real."

Her teenage years in the South Castro Valley paralleled those when the AIDS epidemic was raging; especially hard hit was neighboring San Francisco and its large gay and lesbian population. As a 15-year-old high school student, Maddow became involved in HIV/AIDS issues, along with prisoners' rights and gay and lesbian issues.

"AIDS is fundamental to me to what it means to be political in the world," Maddow told New York Magazine.

"It convinced me you had to step up, organize a response, have a movement to oppose what's going on," she told www.afterellen.com.

Her activist credentials solidly in place, Maddow entered Stanford as a 17-year-old in 1990. Before she graduated with a major in public policy, Maddow wasn't shy about proclaiming her sexual orientation, plastering her coming-out message in her dorm's bathrooms before being featured in a newspaper story as being an out freshman – which was news to her parents back home.

"Only one other (freshman) person was out, and she was not one of the many girls I was sleeping with," said Maddow to www.afterellen.com.

Upon graduating in 1994, then spending a year involved in activist work with

Continued on the following page

As this article is going to press MSNBC has announced that Rachel Maddow has been given her own show on MSNBC.

continued from previous page

the AIDS Legal Referral Council in San Francisco for a year before earning what she believes is the first Rhodes scholarship awarded to an openly gay or lesbian American and studied for a doctorate in political science at Oxford. In England, she worked on the AIDS Treatment Project, the country's first locally-based HIV/AIDS treatment advocacy organization.

Then came a move to Northampton to work on her doctoral dissertation, on AIDS policies in the California and English prison systems.

Afterward, she was certain she would become a professional activist. "The AIDS movement gave her 'the desperate fire under your ass. That activist sensibility is at my core,'" she told *New York Magazine*. But everything was interrupted by the literally life-changing radio contest.

"As soon as I started talking on the microphone I was like, 'Oh, right,' This is what I'm supposed to be doing. I wish I figured this out before I was 26. I realized that I had a knack for it and that it was really fun," she told www.roryoconnor.org.

Maddow said that if the radio gig hadn't come along, she'd "probably be doing what I was doing before, which is I was an activist. I was working for the ACLU and the National Minority AIDS Council, working on public policy issues around AIDS and prison reform. I was just kind of in the trenches, a policy activist on issues that I cared about," according to www.buzzflash.com.

Aside from the on-air baptism, 1999 also was notable for a reason that had nothing to do with AM or FM or doctorates or anything else close to that. She met her partner, Susan Mikula, an artist. The couple has been together for nine years, splitting their time between Manhattan and Cummington, a tiny hilltown near Northampton.

Maddow's reward for winning the contest was her first job at WRNX in Holyoke, co-hosting a morning show as a DJ. After a year, she was hired by WRSI in Northampton

to host a morning show called "The Big Breakfast," which gave her a chance to explore more on radio than just music.

"Rachel is self-effacing and self-deprecating, and has a distinct self of humility," said Bill Dwight, a former Northampton City Councilor and frequent guest whom Maddow selected to take over "The Big



Breakfast" when she left for Air America. "But she's also a force to be reckoned with, a genuine voice."

"She has that combination of being smart but not lording it over you," said Wagenheim. "She has an extremely strong curiosity to learn and knows as much as you do on any topic. She's sharp. She can really think on her feet."

"Rachel is a commentator who identifies as an out lesbian," said Dwight. "She's not intimidated by anyone."

Maddow was a popular and well-estab-

lished host in her Northampton show, but life-changing career episode No. 2 was about to happen. With the news that comedian Al Franken, also well known for his liberal politics, was starting up a network that he hoped with counter the right's stranglehold on talk radio, Maddow was intrigued by the possibilities – and went to work on making them a reality.

"I just pulled every trick I could out of the hat," she told www.roryoconnor.org. "I've never been, like, a well-connected person ... They really just seemed to hire celebrities, really ... And all I had was, well, an ex-girlfriend who pretended she was in Al Franken's class at Harvard and brought him tapes of my hosted music show as the DJ in the morning from western Massachusetts. So Air America had no business hiring me."

But that personnel move instead made excellent business sense for Air America. Maddow has been one of the network's steadiest and most popular hosts, and her show has been a model of stability at a station that was bought out of bankruptcy by Mark Green, the former New York City Councilor, and his real estate mogul brother Stephen in 2006, only a little over two years after its founding.

Her one-hour debut show, "Unfiltered," which she shared with Chuck D of Public Enemy and Lizz Winstead, flopped after a year. But Maddow soon was hosting "The Rachel Maddow Show" beginning at 5 a.m. before the two-hour show moved to 6-8 p.m. in mid-September 2006. Last March, "The Rachel Maddow Show" was expanded to three hours, running from 6-9 p.m.

"She was basically the third person in that show, working with two well-known co-hosts," said Wagenheim. "But she was the one who got her own show and thrived."

"I guess I'm preternaturally confrontational or combative or attention-seeking or something," Maddow told www.askellen.com. "I took every opportunity given me

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marc streisand

CLOTHES MAKE THE MAN

by Adam Lawrence

I recently sat down for a chat with Marc A. Streisand – president of Marc Allen, inc., a fine clothiers' shop on South Main Street in Providence, Rhode Island. We sat for a few minutes in his tastefully appointed and impeccably styled store to chat for a few minutes recently.

photos by Adam Lawrence

Adam: So, let's start by asking where you're from.

Marc: I was born and raised in central New Jersey, and I started my professional career at Wallack's, and started their personal shopping division in 1986. Then I went back to college, took a little hiatus from clothing and started an image consulting firm called Inside Out in New York City, which I did for about four or five years, then started working on men's clothes.

Adam: How did you end up in Providence?

Marc: I knew the previous owner of this shop professionally; we'd meet occasionally in New York City when he'd come down for menswear shows or conferences, and we became friends. We got to talking, about how he ran his business, how I ran my business, and we'd try to figure out how to strengthen them. He called me one day to see if I'd be interested, (in taking over his business) I drove up to check it out, and four months later, I was here

Adam: What drew you to clothing?

Marc: My mother used to take me shopping all the time, and since I was short in school, I learned how clothing could make a statement for you. When I realized that, I took an interest in it, and pursued the aspects involved in being a personal dresser.

Adam: How would you characterize your clientèle here?

Marc: I would say we have an eclectic mix, many industries – but our clients are discerning in how they dress, mostly leaders rather than followers, in personal and professional life. The typical age group is probably about 33 to 60. We have all sorts of clients, from construction workers to CEOs of Fortune 100 companies.

Adam: What's your personal fashion philosophy?

Marc: Fashion's not really a philosophy for me, it's more of an individual style. We want to help people express their individual style through fashion. The man always wears the clothes, the clothes don't wear the man. Jim (who helps run the store) and I always believe that the more you know about a person's personality, the more you can help them achieve their appearance goals, rather than just saying "try

this on". We guide them, but we don't say "you have to wear this". It's not a TV show. We're aware of what looks best on a given person, but we give people the style they want with the fit they need, especially in custom clothing.

Adam: What would you say are your business goals, and more broadly, your life goals?

Marc: Professionally, I'd like to bring back being well dressed, and having clothing be an extension of a person's ability to be successful in his life. For example, if someone's environmentally conscious, we'll lead them toward sustainable fabrics. We do a lot with bamboo, silk, stuff that can really be replenished. We're using a lot more organic materials in our fabrics. I want to dress as many people as possible, and have it be fun for them, not work. Some people say "Oh, I don't care what I look like" but I think everyone cares, they just may not have the tools to get the most out of their appearance. As far as personal goals, I have a family, so I want health, happiness, then success. Because without the first two, the third doesn't matter. I got into this



business not for the financial aspect, but to do good for people. It's about bringing the insides out. For example, a DJ may sound a certain way, and you picture him a certain way, I try to make the outside line up with the insides.

Adam: Do you think, on average, that gay men are better dressers

man being ok about who he is; and, for lack of a better word, about being in touch with his feminine qualities regarding clothing, or manicures, or grooming in general. So I think the gay population has set a trend for a lot of men to follow. In all aspects – home décor, design, y'know, the best

I think that, for the most part, gay men know themselves better.



than their straight counterparts?

Marc: I think that, for the most part, gay men know themselves better. I think when a person is in touch with themselves, it accentuates their outward expression. Take the word metrosexual – it's about a straight

designers even for women, in my opinion are gay men.

Adam: So what are some recent trends in male attire?

Marc: Flat front trousers are big now, and a gay man might read that and say "oh, I've been

So I think the gay population has set a trend for a lot of men to follow.

wearing flat front trousers for years” but those are big now. Lots of color, more body-consciousness in fit – a lot of straight men tend to wear clothing that’s very full, that doesn’t show off their bodies, where gay men are often more conscious about fit. It’s all about knowing your body style, and what fits your body best, and that will make any trend work more successfully for you. Something that’s strong now, again, is sustainable fabrics. We don’t use a lot of synthetics, even though some trendy stores use synthetics. We’d rather use fabrics that are reusable: wools, cottons, bamboo, silk – those are the majors. I think that one continuing trend is that, in professional environments, men aren’t wearing as many suits, but are still purchasing them for power meetings, weddings, bar mitzvahs, the unfortunate funerals. What’s really strong is luxury sportswear – things that are gratifying, where you can walk in and pick up a Luciano Barbera sport jacket that’s \$2000, but you can walk out with it then and there, versus having us make one from scratch. That’s a huge, huge trend. Men’s collars right now are a little wider spread, they have contrasting collars and cuts and treatments that are very dominant. The footwear is a little hipper, a little more European than in the past. In Rhode Island, it might not be as fast, so we try and take people a little out of the zone, but without going overboard.

it’s a designer label. Like I was saying earlier, it’s about the style you want with the fit you need – most guys will go for a style that’s not appropriate for their body frame. Or they’ll have a partner – be it male or female – pick clothes off a mannequin and say “oh this would be great on you,” and it’s not. Another one is wearing colors that don’t suit your features. Another big one is grooming, a lot of men don’t get manicures, and they don’t get haircuts often enough. I also see that there are so many people trying to be nonconformists, and it ends up looking the same. You can be individual without being sloppy. I think those are the major ones.

Adam: All right, so who are some of the worst-dressed men in Hollywood?

Marc: (laughs) Ah, Michael Jackson. Some of the only well-dressed ones that come to mind are George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon... Country stars are the worst-dressed, I can’t stand what they wear. Billy Ray Cyrus – aw, he drives me crazy with how poorly he dresses. I don’t like clothing that speaks before I do. I understand everyone judges a book by its cover, you don’t want people so distracted by your clothes that they aren’t listening. I think Russell Crowe is a terrible dresser, Mel Gibson and Robin Williams too.

Adam: And who dresses poorly in politics?

Marc: Former President Bush. It’s horrible, like he’s wearing a box. I think Willie Brown, the former mayor of San

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Take the word metrosexual – it’s about a straight man being ok about who he is; and, for lack of a better word, about being in touch with his feminine qualities regarding clothing, or manicures, or grooming.



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GIVE ME THAT



Left: Tony Martino with his partner, Ted Jarrett on the patio of their B & B: the Old Mill Inn in Hatfield.

COUNTRYSIDE

Photos By Krista Allenby

By Judy Van Handle

Northampton is a small city with some big reputations. It's known as a center of education as the home of Smith College, an elite all-women's institution of higher learning, as a haven for artists, for its dining hot spots with some of New England's best (and most affordable) restaurants; and as a hub of live entertainment with three downtown venues attracting acts from Lesley Gore to Arlo Guthrie to everything in between.

But most famously, Northampton is known for its lesbians.

When the National Enquirer proclaimed the Western Massachusetts municipality to be "Lesbianville U.S.A." in a 1992 headline, and the ABC show "20/20" rushed in soon thereafter to tape a segment on Noho's lesbian population, a regional reputation that had been building for decades was suddenly revealed to a national audience.

But just as the women's community is an integral part of the Northampton dynamic, just as surely nestled in the city's neighborhoods and adjacent environs are an ever-increasing number of gay men. Their contributions to the city are substantial, their visibility is growing, and their eagerness to

talk about their joy of living in the middle of what could easily be seen as a lesbian nirvana and their love of the outdoors is proof that the city otherwise known as "Paradise City" applies equally to gay men.

Mark Carmien could easily be considered a kind of homesteader by his gay male brethren in Northampton. He left New York City in 1986, weary of his urban lifestyle and in search of "a small town that had big city amenities, such as a large number of restaurants and a strong arts scene." He found it in the mid-sized city of just under 30,000."

His own contribution to Northampton's culture is significant; he purchased Pride & Joy, the GLBT book and gift store, in 2003, and thus has had a first-hand view of how his adopted hometown has changed.

"It's true that most of the "gay meccas" are urban centers, but more and more gay men are moving to suburbs and small towns like Northampton, especially after 9/11 and the increase in awareness and tolerance of gay issues in small towns," he says. "Also many men are choosing to raise children and want to do so in a small town atmosphere.

continued on the following page

GAY MEN OF NORTHAMPTON





Above; Miles of bike path span the Connecticut River via this old railroad bridge.

“I’ve seen the population of gay men in Northampton grow rapidly over the past five years”

Below; Michael Bardsley, Northampton’s first openly gay city councilor.



GIVE ME THAT COUNTRYSIDE

continued from the previous page

“I’ve seen the population of gay men in Northampton grow rapidly over the past five years,” adds Carmien. “I joke about how the lesbians coming to town first, clearing the land and building Smith College, then the gay men moved in and now we’re renovating and decorating!”

Carmien’s husband, Steve Lucas, moved to Northampton 11 years ago, when their relationship was beginning. Lucas had attended college in Springfield and lived in Western Massachusetts’ biggest city for 14 years before moving north.

Carmien and Lucas spend plenty of time enjoying the outdoors, so much so that Carmien organized a group called “Venture Out!” For 14 years, it catered to gay men who liked to spend time exploring the natural habitat that is so much a part of the area.

“We’re both hikers and campers,” says Carmien. “Within a few miles of downtown, you can go kayaking on the Connecticut River, bike on the 15-mile bike trail to Amherst, hike or cross country ski on miles of trails through conservation land, or explore the small New England towns in the Berkshire hills.”

Like Carmien, Matt Meers and his partner, Ed Check, are New York City expatriates. But unlike Carmien, it took some time for them to finally succumb to the lure of Western Massachusetts.

“For five summers, I would come to Lenox to teach at a fine arts school,” said Meers. “Ed would come and visit me on weekends and we would drive around and explore. We

GIVE ME THAT COUNTRYSIDE

would always remark how beautiful Western Mass. is.”

They finally made the move seven years ago, when Meers became part of a team that opened a post-secondary school for young adults with learning disabilities and Check was hired by Smith College “almost on the spot. All the pieces fell into place and it was like this was where we were meant to end up,” according to Meers, who bought a home with his partner in Easthampton in October 2002. They echo Carmien’s feelings about the area.

“We enjoy the relaxed, go at your own pace lifestyle here. People have been very friendly and it is just a beautiful place to live,” said Meers. “If we find ourselves with nothing to do, which is rarely, we will get in the car and in just a few minutes, be in another quaint, cute, fun town that we have not explored yet.

“We are both in the arts. We love music, theater, concerts. I love riding my motorcycle through the hilltowns on a nice afternoon and Ed likes nothing more than to putz around the yard.”

Well before the migration of former urbanites like Carmien, Meers and Check — actually, before Northampton was known for much else than being the home of Smith College — Michael Bardsley was a Northampton “pioneer,” a gay man who put down stakes long before the city became known for its “Noho” (newer and trendy) and “Hamp” (townie) cultural split.

After leaving Lawrence to attend the University of Massachusetts in 1967, Bardsley moved into an apartment in Northampton at the

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Above; the Connecticut River in Northampton

“I joke about how the lesbians coming to town first, clearing the land and building Smith College, then the gay men moved in and now we’re renovating and decorating!”

Below; Northampton, The Bowling Alley where gay men have a league called “The Gutter Boys.





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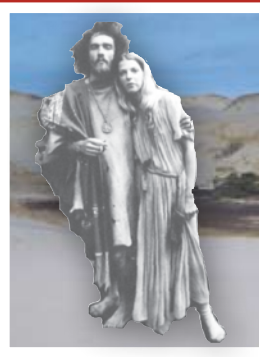


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SCANDAL

BY GUY WOLF

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SCANDAL IN HELLTOWN, MA

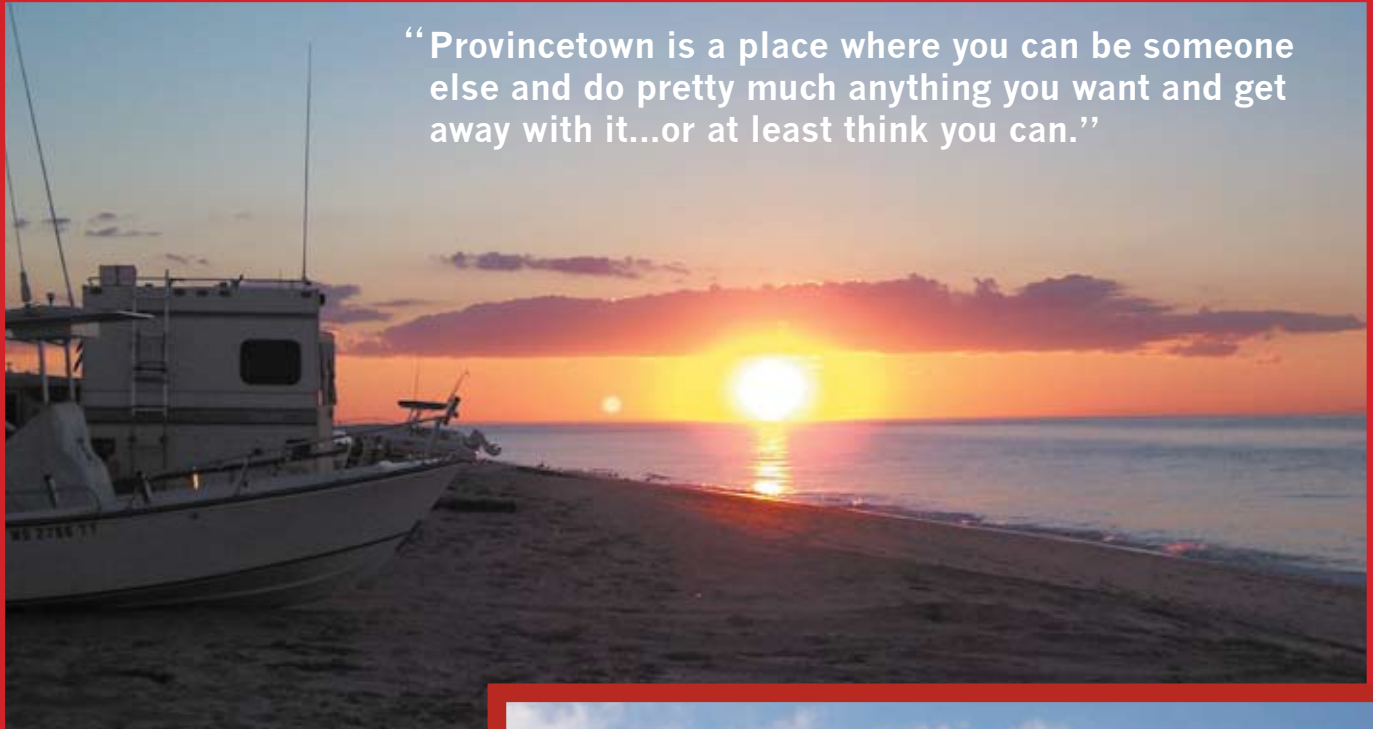
**OBVIOUSLY
WHERE THERE'S A
BRIEFCASE FULL OF MONEY:**

There's some sort of scandal!

continued on next page



“Provincetown is a place where you can be someone else and do pretty much anything you want and get away with it...or at least think you can.”



When it comes right down to it, Provincetown may be less scandalous than similarly sized locales, like Beulah, North Dakota or Little Compton, Rhode Island. Of course, outsiders never expect scandal in these sleepy little towns, so when it does ... big news. Unfortunately, while some scandals make good gossip, the buzz surrounding them down plays the credibility of the claim itself.

For a story to become a true, interesting scandal, it needs a combination of the following elements: extreme dishonesty, sex, money, politics and public disgrace. Boston author Stephen Anable; who set a murder mystery, *The Fisher Boy*, in Provincetown says; “Provincetown is a place where you can be someone else, do pretty much anything you want and get away with it...or at least think you can.” Scandal in Provincetown may be expected and that may take some of its power to shock away. However, scandal can be quiet even if it is pervasive, like the founding of a town and a country, or loud and jarring like arson and murder.

Scandal in “The Provincelands” is neither a 21st century phenomenon, nor is it always as obvious as sex, drugs, and murder. Scandal goes as far back as the very discovery of Provincetown itself; to the first accidental tourists to row, sail or be blown to this sandy, outermost tip of Cape Cod .



A firebug has been plaguing Provincetown

Both the Native Americans and the Norsemen can lay claim to be the first inhabitants of Provincetown but neither are ever credited with being the first to discover Provincetown or establish the first American settlement. This honor always goes to the religious, English outcasts - the Puritans. Most Textbooks will tell you that the Pilgrims (aka Puritans) were the first to set-up shop in Massachusetts .

This three and a half mile strip of sand started rocking as soon as those uptight Puritans washed their clothes; chopped down too many trees, stole food, fooled around with the Natives, signed the May-

flower Compact, and finally shoved off from Provincetown Bay in December of 1620, to give Plymouth Rock all the credit.

Provincetown gets good and scandalous by any decade's standards with rogue Indians, smugglers, sailors, drunken fisherman., all male, up to no good, construct make-shift shacks on Long Point at the far reaches of the Cape's round tip. They meet at what gets dubbed, “The Bachelor Fishing Station” for good times in what may be Provincetown's first series of circuit parties. Drunken, free sex of the “unnatural variety” was timed with good hauls of fish, smuggling runs, and the climate of the sea.

“Bathing suits and abbreviated play suits are taboo, and their use may result in police intervention.”

PTOWN SCANDALS

orah Minsky, Executive Director of the Highland Museum disagrees, “Oh they, (Mooncussers) existed, luring ships onto the rocks to be looted. Museums documents prove it! Whether they committed murder or looted the bodies of the already dead and drowned, cannot be proven but are so engrained in Provincetown folklore, there must be some element of truth to it.”

Starting almost from incorporation as a town in 1727, Provincetown hit tough times due to over-fishing, a flu epidemic and a drop in population. At this point, it became an even more lawless place, better suited for criminals. Whaling and oil revived the town years later, when most of the whales were killed off; Provincetown then fell into a second fishing related depression.

In 1899 a New Bohemia was born with the arrival of painter William Chase with his protégée Charles Hawthorne. Hawthorne opened his famed art school and artists, mostly women, gathered in groups to draw and paint outdoors. Good Methodist citizens were appalled at the sight of unescorted females smoking and drinking in public (and God knows what else behind closed boardinghouse doors). Signs went up that said, “we don’t rent to artists actors.” In the minds of many, the life of an art student was to party, having sexual affairs of all kinds. Great painters such as Henry Hensche, Hans Hoffman, Blanche Lazell, Charles Demuth, Robert Motherwell and Jackson Pollack arrived in the first half of the 20th century, just as the tides of propriety began to change. The majority of Provincetown’s God-fearing population grew increasingly doubtful that the tourist and artist influx was a good thing for their community, even if it rescued a desperate economy. This love/hate relationship between the locals, artists, and tourists continued into contemporary times, with scandalous behavior on both sides.

In 1907, writer Mary Heaton Vorse fell in love with Provincetown coaxing her artsy New York friends to summer here. *In Time and The Town*, Vorse credits the Portuguese immigrants with their, “dedication to language, song and dance” with providing a vibrantly creative atmosphere for the artist. The theater people began to arrive, joined the artists in a good time, shaking up Provincetown with their ground-breaking plays and loose



Sometimes female hookers along with cross-dressing sailors partied in an area that soon earned the nickname Helltown by good citizens trying to build a god-fearing community. This shocking indulgence in crime, unnatural acts, theft, drunkenness, and “other deviant acts” ran rampant throughout the 1600’s- 1700’s, and right into the 19th century. No one was more scandalized by this behavior than the good citizens of neighboring, puritan-like Truro. They begged the Governor and colony of Plimouth Rock to bring it under control, but to no avail. Only the massive wealth brought into Provincetown by the whaling industry in the mid-1800’s would begin to build the solid, permanent

infrastructure of roads, schools, and churches, worthy of New England standards of decency.

Like the existence of Helltown, the scandal ridden phenomenon of The Mooncussers is often disputed. Mooncussers were men who were entrusted with the safety of ships at sea, using handheld yet falsely positioned lights to lure rich cargo vessels onto the rocks only to be looted then stripped like a modern day chop shop. Local lore has it that everyone on board the ship would be murdered. Town historians dispute this version of Mooncussers’ crimes, denying any evidence to support Mooncussers actively lured ships to their doom. Deb-

continues on page 100

GREEN HOMES



Family in Florence, MA; Beth and Marta with children in front of their solar powered home .



Photos by Krista Allenby and Mary Kraus

defined

A large, white wind turbine stands against a bright, cloudy sky. The sky has a strong greenish-yellow tint, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The turbine's three blades are spread out, and its tower is visible. The overall image has a soft, ethereal quality.

By Mary Kraus, AIA, LEED

Long before recycling and energy conservation became headlines, many gay men and particularly lesbians have embraced green living. So what is a green home, anyway? For many people, the first image that comes to mind is a remote, rural, straw-bale house with solar electric panels, solar hot water, a composting toilet, and a generous organic garden. But while many of these elements can bring you closer to sustainable living, you might be surprised at what makes the greenest home for your particular needs. If you want to live green, it is best to look critically at the big picture, rather than to jump to conclusions before evaluating your options.

So how do you “go green”? Whether you are building a new home, renovating an existing one, or choosing a place to rent, there are a number of issues to review in making your home as green as possible. From the site you select to your placement of buildings within that site, from the materials you use to the energy systems you install, there are a myriad of decisions that impact the “greenness” of your home. Then, of course, there’s the way you live there which could be most significant of all.

continued on the following page

Green Homes Defined

General Approaches:

Perhaps the most familiar attributes of green homes are the materials and systems that are used. However, true sustainable design takes these components to take it to the next level. Let's start with some of the basic approaches.

Know Your Values:

The very first step is to be clear about your goals and priorities. If you understand how sustainability stacks up relative to your other goals, you are on the way to making some sound decisions that reflect your specific vision.

I know of a multi-family project that went far down the road of design before they called in an energy consultant. Their homes were fairly large and quite complex in shape. When the consultant recommended some energy-saving choices with associated costs, the group said: "Gee, it's too bad we can't afford the ecological features. We really wanted to include them, but they're just too expensive." What they didn't realize was that the size and shape of their homes contributed to the high cost as much as

the energy strategies. It was not clear to them that they were in effect making a choice between size and energy efficiency, between aesthetics and ecological performance. It is important to be clear about your trade-offs, that the home you build (or renovate) represents your values—whatever they may be.

Pick Your Site Wisely:

From an environmental point of view, the site you choose can have the greatest impact. You can significantly reduce your car usage by living close to public transportation, within easy walking or biking distance to work and key services. This can also have a nice fringe benefit of keeping you in good physical shape - it's amazing what a difference it makes to walk half a mile to work every day.

Consider Renovation:

Renovation is a good way to make use of structures that already exist, rather than expending the energy and materials to build new. You can start with an energy

audit, and improve the energy performance of the building by reducing air leaks and upgrading insulation. You can even super-insulate and replace old windows with new high-performance ones.

Build Small:

The smaller you build, the less material you use, and the less energy you need to heat or cool your home—not to mention the reduced requirements for maintenance and repair. People often ask me how much more it costs to build green. Well, here's a green strategy that will reduce your construction cost.

Cluster to Save Land:

There is a lot to be gained by clustering homes closely together. Whether you build on rural land or in the suburbs, a village cluster of buildings means shorter distances for roads, paths, and utilities between homes. By leaving a good portion of the site unbuilt, you also leave room for wildlife habitat, gardens and orchards. You can save even more resources by joining walls and attaching units. The shared walls will conserve heat, and you will use less siding. And contrary to popular thinking, well-designed clustered or attached buildings can actually offer more privacy than separate houses.

Develop Your Site Sensitively:

Whatever site you choose, make it a point to understand its assets and weaknesses before you plan. A full analysis of the site will include slopes, flora and fauna, solar access and prevailing winds. Build on areas that are already impacted, rather than the most pristine part of the lot. Be sure to leave sensitive ecosystems and fertile farmland untouched.

Good landscaping and planting choices will

Below: Building small in a clustered community



Green Homes Defined

comfortable outdoor micro-climates, like a warm sitting area exposed to the sun and sheltered from wind, or a cool summer dining spot under the shade of a large trellis, exposed to breezes.

A Tight, Well-Insulated Building Envelope:

One of the most basic steps towards an energy-efficient building is to have a well-insulated and air-tight building envelope. (By the way, “envelope” means the exterior walls, roof & floor that separate your cozy interior from the chilly outdoors.) If you are working with an existing building, you can set up an energy audit to evaluate insulation levels and air leakage. Both the audit and the insulation work may be covered through your utility.

There are many choices for insulation. Dense-packed cellulose, made from recycled newspaper, is one of my favorites - but you need to evaluate every situation for the most appropriate choice. Insulation is rated by “R-value”, which notes the resistance to heat flow through the material. The higher the R, the better.

Windows form a very important part of the building envelope. Because they cover a significant portion and have a relatively low R-value, a lot of your heat is lost there. So an upgrade to your windows has a proportionately large effect. For example, there are some very advanced windows, triple-glazed and with insulated fiberglass frames and sash, approximately R-5. Even a typical new R-3 window can be an improvement if you are renovating a building with old single-pane windows – though if you’re going to the trouble of replacing windows, you might as well go all the way.

continued on page 75



Top: Solar Panels South Facing, Bottom Right: Happy Family in Western MA in front of their Green Home. Bottom Left: Wind Turbines Producing Electric Power.

minimize your ecological impact over time. You can incorporate native plants, and ones that provide food or habitat for birds and other wildlife. You can also use edible landscaping, to provide you with tasty organic snacks just outside your door. If you plan small lawn areas, you can readily mow them by hand, reducing the pollution from a typical gas-fueled mower.

Take Advantage of Solar Orientation:

If you are building a new home, or even an addition, you have the chance to place buildings and plants carefully to take the best advantage of solar gain, cooling breezes, and shading. Orienting a long face of your building to the south, allowing passive solar gain to heat your home. Planting trees on the west side can help reduce summer overheating from the afternoon rays. You can also create

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All About *Your Bathroom*



Give your bathroom a face-lift? Whether you're updating your rental unit or doing a tile-to-trimmings transformation in your home's private spa, we have ideas and suggestions that will assist you in turning your bathroom into a showplace.



1. Bathroom Remodeling Questions Answered

There seems to be a recent surge in the amount of home improvement shows. There are shows featuring first time home buyers, curb side appeal and even those focusing on remodeling. There is little doubt that the bathroom is one of the most important features of a house.

A small, outdated bathroom can mean the difference between comfort and torture or even losing money if you decide to sell your house. Many homeowners are circumventing these problems by remodeling their bathrooms.

Bathroom remodeling may be frustrating at times but the right design plan can be done affordably and leave you with a bathroom to be proud of. If you are ready to begin your own bathroom remodeling, this article is for you.

Can I remodel it myself?

This question depends on how knowledgeable you are about laying tile, painting, carpentry and plumbing. Yes it is possible to remodel a bathroom by yourself if you know what you are doing. If you do not and attempt it without learning how to do some of the more important steps you could be setting yourself up for a dollar disaster down the road.

It is very expensive hiring someone to fix your mistakes rather than hiring knowledgeable professionals in the beginning. Plus you have to think about how much free time you actually have to devote to such a big project. If you are just painting the walls and switching out hardware you can do it yourself. Larger remodeling project need someone with experience.

Do I need any special permits from the city?

Special permits are generally required if you are doing structural work or adding onto your property. This only applies within city limits. The best advice is to check your city's building codes and contact someone with the city.

If you hire a general contractor, he or she can advise you on whether or not permits need to be obtained. If you know you need a permit do not try to circumvent it. Having your bathroom project shut down or not up to code can put you at risk for fines and even higher insurance premiums.

Should I leave the hardwood floors in my bathroom or should I replace them with something else?

This is purely up to your aesthetic preferences. Water is definitely harder on hardwood floors but with proper care and sealant the floors can stay looking beautiful. Tile is more commonly found in newer homes.

Home owners love the look and colors not to mention the durability. But there is something about a properly cared for hardwood floor that adds a bit of quaintness to a bathroom.

Does everything have to be purchased brand new?

No, of course you do not have to replace everything with new hardware, fixtures or even amenities. If you love your sunken bathtub and do not want to replace it with a newer one, keep it. It is your bathroom and ultimately your money.

You can also try finding sinks, toilets or even bathroom fixtures at flea markets or wholesale outlets. Another option is try a recycling group. Many online recycling groups have members offering up leftover building material or amenities.

Will an updated bathroom add value to my home?

An updated and modern bathroom adds immense appeal to any home's value. Most buyers look for a great bathroom as one of their main requirements. Think on it this way: the average person spends a great deal of their time in the bathroom for one reason or another. It makes sense for the space to be inviting and comfortable.

2. Ideas For A Small Bathroom

Small bathroom ideas for a small bathroom remodeling or building project can help make the best use of the bathroom space. Small bathroom ideas deal with the special challenges that small spaces present. Fortunately, there are creative ways to use ideas for a small bathroom space that you may not have considered.

Are you looking to redesign and remodel an existing bathroom? Or are you building a new bathroom where the space will be limited? Even with a smaller bathroom, good design provides you a grooming room for the mornings or before going out and a space to relax

continued on page 96

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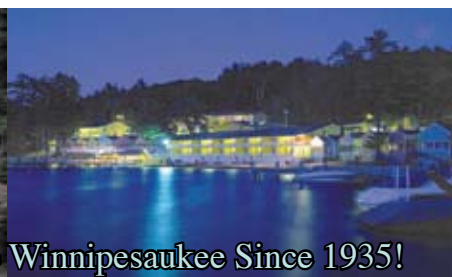
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DRAMA, MEMORY & AESTHETICS

YOUR GLBT COMPUTER

By Lucas Brunelle



We've all read up on the supposed gay/lesbian wardrobe, lifestyle (whatever that means) and even agenda (never got my copy, please resend). What of the glbt computer? Just what does it take to be a gay computer in 2008-2009? We all have that one friend with the long memory – that vacation in San Tropez? That loser ex? Well the good news is that the more memory

your computer has, the less likely it is to annoy you. A modern mainstream computer operating system like Microsoft's Windows Vista or Apple's OS X really wants all the memory you can reasonably afford to throw at it. Ante up for at least two gigabytes these days, it's cheap – and, like opting for better booze, is always worth it.

continued on next page

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Now we come to hard drives. If you're like me (and I know I am), you'll find that with a given quantity of storage space, one feels almost challenged to fill it. Look for at least 100 gigabytes in a laptop, settle for nothing less than 250 gigs in a desktop. It's also worth mentioning that with the digital camera revolution comes greater storage needs than we've seen in years gone by. Long gone are the shoeboxes filled with creased negatives, and smudged prints – never mind the prurient Polaroids! Today, we count our memories in megabytes - so we need fabulous and reliable backup methods. You don't want to lose both your laptop and your most treasured photos in one fell swoop. That's Joan Crawford tragic, and you don't wanna be there. Get an external USB or Firewire drive in the 500 gig to one terabyte range. Thank me when you still have your archive of blackmail material after a catastrophic crash.

CPUs are good. For the average consumer, that's about as involved as you need to get in thought on the matter. They're all fast enough for web browsing, word processing, e-mailing, watching movies, and listening to music. Intel's on top right now, with AMD close behind. The positions were different just a few years ago, and may be again someday. That being said, look for a dual-core processor running in the 2 Ghz ballpark or better, and you're doing fine.

If you're a Windows user, you'll want to take precautions against viruses and spyware. If you were making close contact with as many people in a day as your

computer does with other computers, you'd want protection too. McAfee (McAfee.com) and Norton Antivirus (Norton.com) work, but tend to slow the computer down noticeably. Avast! (Avast.com) is a good lightweight option, as is NOD32 (Eset.com). As far as spyware goes, Spysweeper (Webroot.com), and Microsoft's Windows Defender (Microsoft.com) are decent – the Microsoft one being notably free). At this point in the game, it's silly to waste CPU cycles on anti-virus options for the Mac.

By the way, if you're aiming (for any particular reason, it's not my place to pry) to keep your web surfing private, Apple's Safari browser (available for PC or Mac, free) has a neat little feature called "Private Browsing" - where no tracks are left of sites visited. Useful for banking on an unfamiliar computer, or visiting familiar sites on a mutually-familiar computer. Otherwise, do spare others and clear your history and cache after delving down the back alleys of the internet.

Of course, last but not least, we must consider the computer's overall aesthetic. In short – does it make you happy when you look at it? One way of sprucing up an otherwise run-of-the-mill computer is through accessorizing. Gelaskins (Gelaskins.com) are a line of non-marring art decals available for a wide variety of notebooks (not to mention iPods and cell phones). If you really want to dress your computer up, there's always Colorware (Colorwarepc.com), who sell a number of laptops (both PC and Apple) with wild paint jobs to harmonize with just about

continued on the following page



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by Lisa Wilson, Esq.

At a time when couples are giddy with excitement about their pending nuptials, it is very difficult to talk about what happens in the event of a breakup. But, as we all know, with the right to marry comes the right to divorce.

What many of you may not know is that, during a divorce proceeding in Massachusetts without a valid agreement, the court has the authority to assign to each spouse all or any part of the estate of the other. A person's estate includes all property and assets no matter when or how acquired, and without regard to whether the property is individually or jointly owned. This means that your retirement funds, real estate, gifts, the family business, trust interests and inheritances, to name only a few, are all on the table at the time of divorce. In addition, the court may require one spouse to pay support or alimony to the other based on the relative economic circumstances of the parties.

A prenuptial agreement affords couples the peace of mind that their assets are protected, preventing potential post-breakup arguments (and messy legal battles) over who owns what. A prenuptial agreement is also an effective way to limit a surviving spouse's rights to inherit from the deceased spouse. For example, such an agreement can enable previously married individuals to ensure that their estate passes to the children of their prior marriage.

For those individuals who wish to determine in advance their rights to each others' estates and their rights to alimony, it is critical to reach an understanding of the terms of a prenuptial agreement prior to marriage. In order for a prenuptial agreement to be valid and binding, four elements must be satisfied. First, there must be full financial disclosure by both parties. You cannot "forget" to disclose some of your assets. Second, you must each attain the advice of an attorney prior to signing the agreement, so that you understand the terms and possible effects of the agreement and also understand your rights in the absence of an agreement. (In this step of the process, you and your partner must use different attorneys.) Third, the agreement must be fair and reasonable at the time it is signed. An agreement in which you receive 100% of the assets and your partner receives 0% is obviously not fair and reasonable. Also, the agreement must be made in contemplation of marriage. If you don't get married, the agreement is not effective. Finally the agreement must be in writing. Absent a finding by the court that the agreement is "unconscionable," the agreement will be upheld.

Although it might not feel romantic to consider the need for a prenuptial agreement prior to marriage, the reality is that it is very smart to discuss the division of assets and support when you are not angry, depressed or overwhelmed and in the midst of a divorce. Better to plan ahead and talk about all the "what ifs" prior to rushing to the clerk's office or the chapel. Once the arrangements are made, you can relax and enjoy planning the rest of your lives together!

Attorneys at Wilson, Marino & Bonnevie, P.C. can assist you with your pre-wedding legal planning. Contact us at 617-964-8090 or www.wmlawfirm.com.



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Step by Step

The licensing process for same sex couples

by Wendy Mimran

You've declared your love and commitment to each other. You've shared your happiness with friends and family. And now, you've decided to marry. Before you embark on this wondrous lifetime journey, however, you must follow certain procedures for your marriage to be legal in Massachusetts.

Eligibility for marriage in this state depends primarily on three factors, both parties must be:

- 1.) at least 18 years old (or have permission to marry from judge),
- 2.) not married
- 3.) not closely related.

The state will not exclude couples because of a prior civil union or domestic partnership; however, according to Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, you need to dissolve prior civil unions if you intend to marry someone other than your intended spouse.

The marriage process begins with a blood test for the two people. Once the results are available, a physician signs certificates which state that the intended spouses do not have communicable syphilis, that women who plan to have children have been offered a voluntary screening for Rubella (German measles) and have refused or accepted and that HIV/AIDS information has been given.

The next step requires both members of the couple to bring the test results to a city or town clerk, file an intention of marriage notice and

pay a small application fee. Both people are then required to swear before the clerk that all information given is true and that there are no legal obstacle to the marriage. They must also complete a supplement to the notice which is sent to the state Registry of Vital Forms and Statistics, used for such purposes as collecting child support. All couples can now marry in Massachusetts regardless of the State in which they reside.

Three days after filing, the parties return to the town or city hall where they submitted their application and receive their marriage license. Although this waiting period is standard practice, it is possible to obtain a waiver from a Massachusetts District or Probate Court. In any case, the license is valid for 60 days, beginning on the day after the filing of intent.

Finally-the moment everyone has been waiting for- the wedding ceremony. Anyone authorized by the state to perform marriages- a member of the clergy, a justice of the peace or your best friend can solemnize the marriage. Officiants perform one more duty: sending the signed license back to the clerk so your marriage will be officially registered with the state. Through the clerk, the couple may then obtain a marriage certificate for themselves.

Due to many changes in the current environment, consult Glad websites: www.glad.org and www.glad.org/marriage/howtogetmarried.htm

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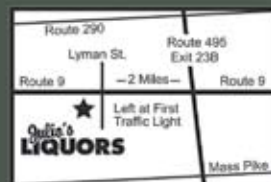
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Select Environmentally-Sound Materials:

Whether you are looking for flooring, siding or kitchen cabinetry, there are a number of questions to ask when choosing greener materials. What are the land use and pollution impacts caused by the extraction and/or manufacture of the material? How much energy did it take to manufacture and transport the material? What is the recycled content of the material? Is it a salvaged material? Is it locally or regionally produced? Is it healthful for the occupants?

Let's use flooring as an example. Some people favor bamboo flooring as a good ecological choice, because it is made from a quickly replenishing resource. However, it is imported from China, so requires a lot of energy for transporta-



tion. Many bamboo floors also off-gas formaldehyde, which can contribute to an unhealthy indoor environment. Personally, I think of local wood as one of our best regional options. There are a number of local sawmills that mill lumber from nearby forests. We even have certified sustainably harvested wood products available from Massachusetts Woodlands Cooperative. Another option would be re-using wood flooring removed from a demolition or renovation project.

Regarding material re-use, we are lucky to have our own regional store for re-

continued on the following page

used building products. The Re-Store in Springfield sells a vast array of quality used, salvaged and surplus materials – from plumbing fixtures to door hardware – at a significant discount to boot. And if you are renovating, you can donate items there rather than sending them to the landfill.

Choose Appropriate Systems and Equipment:

For health concerns, fuel-burning boilers or furnaces should be “sealed combustion”, which keeps combustion gases out of your home. Electric heat is generally considered a poor ecological choice, because of very poor overall efficiency, and in many areas, the use of nuclear fuel. But there is one electrically-based system that is so efficient that some people argue it is ecologically advantageous. This is the ground-source heat pump, which uses electricity to draw heat from the earth for heating (and cooling) buildings. As to whether these are better than an efficient gas system, I think the jury is still out and it probably depends on your particular location.



Probably the most exciting option is to reduce your heating needs to a minimum. If you super-insulate your home and build

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it tightly, you can heat it comfortably with only a point-source heater, such as a pellet stove or small through-the-wall gas heater. The money you spend on the cozy building envelope lets you save on an expensive heat-distribution system. (The point source heater means no duct work or piping to distribute heat.)

Your choice of ventilation systems will also



be important for health and energy-efficiency. You can include a simple system that uses bathroom fans or range hoods to exhaust air from your home. Or you can use a "heat recovery ventilator," which brings in clean air while recovering heat from the dirty air being exhausted.

As long as we're talking about fresh indoor air, remember that detailing for good indoor health also includes a radon pre-mitigation system. In a nutshell, this involves a layer of clean stone under your basement slab, so that soil gases can be drawn out from below your house before they get in.

Use Efficient Appliances and Fixtures:

When it comes to lighting, you want to use efficient lights such as compact fluorescents, which draw about a quarter of the current of incandescents. New developments in LED lighting promise to bring energy use down even further. And don't forget natural lighting, which saves energy while creating pleasant, cheerful interiors.

continued on the following page

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Appliances are another area in which you can save electricity. Residential refrigerators account for a large chunk of a household's energy use, so selecting an efficient one will make a big difference. Regarding washing machines, look not only at the energy use but at water extraction; there are some machines that spin so fast, the clothes come out relatively dry. This makes it easier on those of us who want to line-dry our clothes, reducing energy use if you put your clothes in a dryer. The EPA provides an "Energy Star" rating on most major home appliances, indicating efficient products. You can also find appliances that exceed these standards.

Be aware of "phantom loads". Many appliances, when plugged in but officially "off", still draw significant loads. A watt-meter can help you measure these. When appropriate, you can plug these items into a power-strip, which you can turn off between uses.

Conserve Water:

Low-flow plumbing fixtures include toilets, dishwashers, clothes washers, faucet aerators that reduce flow, and water-efficient shower heads, preferably with an on-off switch so you can stop the flow while you soap up. Of course, if you really want to save on water, composting toilets will help dramatically.

Then there is the issue of "gray water:" the soapy stuff that goes down the drain. In theory, you can use it to flush toilets or water some plants. While it may not be permitted yet in your locale, you might build your plumbing to allow easy separation later on - if and when it becomes legal.

As you conserve hot water, you are saving the fuel required to heat it. You can also take this another step by recovering heat from waste water. One clever plumbing

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device uses the hot water that leaves the tub to heat incoming water going to the shower head.

Produce Your Own Power:

Once you have reduced your energy consumption as far as possible, how do you make up the difference? You can stop there then be satisfied that you have reduced your usage of non-renewable fuels. Or you can try to make up some or all of the balance by producing your own power. There is a growing interest in "net zero energy homes", which produce over the course of the year as much energy as they use for heating, hot water, electricity and cooling. Whether striving for this goal or not, you can install solar thermal collectors to produce hot water. You can also generate your own power using electricity-producing solar photovoltaic panels, which are most often installed on a south-facing roof. Other options include wind turbines and micro-hydro power, but these are more site-specific. There are currently significant rebates and/or tax incentives available in Massachusetts for such alternative energy systems. If you are on a large rural site, you might also be able to harvest renewable fuel from your own woodlot.

Optimize the Construction Process:

It's one thing to look at the product you're building. But how about the process of getting it built? There are a number of issues to think about during construction. For one, you want to protect trees and sensitive areas of your site - the compaction caused by vehicles and machinery can damage root systems and eventually kill trees. The management of construction waste is another important concern. You can set up waste separation on site, with collection points for various reusable or recyclable materials, including cardboard packaging. A way to reduce wood waste in the first place is to have your contractors do all their cutting in one centralized

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location: this way, they are likely to find that 3 foot piece they need, rather than cutting down a new full-length 2x4.

You will want to hire a contractor who is experienced with green construction. It is important to have a builder who understands the painstaking care required to achieve a tight, well-insulated building envelope. You also want someone who is willing to implement strategies to minimize construction waste.

**HOW TO BE CLEVER ABOUT
GREEN DESIGN:**

Green design isn't just a collection of strategies to be randomly applied. You'll be most likely to succeed when you apply your environmental strategies in a way that responds both practically and imaginatively to the unique qualities of your project.

**Choose Opportunities Appropriate
to Your Situation:**

Many people wish to have a green home, but we all have different circumstances. For example, a country dweller will have different opportunities for green living than someone living in town. On a rural site with open space, you are likely to have more flexibility in orienting a home for solar gain. You can also design your site for extensive food production, including a garden, edible landscaping and even an orchard. But you will undoubtedly drive more than your in-town counterparts, who can take advantage of public transportation.

Don't Overlook the Mundane:

It's easy to get excited about the ecological "bells and whistles" - photovoltaic cells, composting toilets, gray water systems. While these are great ideas to consider, your ecological budget may be best spent on more "mundane" innovations. Tighter construction, a well-insulated building en-

continued on the following page

Green Homes Defined

velope and efficient appliances don't make your green building look any different, but they can be very effective strategies for making your project more ecologically sound.

Get Good Bang for Your Buck:

Believe it or not, some ecological choices don't cost you anything - or may even save money. As mentioned above, small is both greener and cheaper. Similarly, it generally doesn't cost anything to orient your buildings to take advantage of solar heating, shading, and cooling breezes. It just takes good planning. There's also no added cost to strategically placing more of your windows on the south and fewer on the north, but it will help the energy performance of your building. Energy-efficient appliances and lighting don't necessarily cost more. Many utilities give rebates for installing these items.

Incorporate all the no-cost strategies available to you in the context of your overall project goals. It only makes sense.

Be Realistic:

Yes, I know, that did sound too good to be true, didn't it? The truth is, not all ecological choices are free. In fact, many will cost you money. It costs more to insulate well, to build tightly and detail carefully, to use high-performance windows. Solar photovoltaic panels, even after rebates, can typically add thousands to your bill. If you want to put your money where your mouth is, you will either need to pay more or forego some other amenities you thought you wanted. Maybe you can build a bit smaller, keep the building shape simpler, or reduce the size of your kitchen.

Do Now What You Can't Do Later:

Most of us cannot afford to build in all of the green features we ideally want, and will choose to defer some opportunities "for later." But some environmental opportuni-

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ties are really hard to come back to—for example, detailing your foundation for radon mitigation involves placing a layer of stone under the floor slab—not something you can easily change. Similarly, if you want highly insulated exterior walls, do it at the outset; adding insulation later will mean removing and re-installing siding. Although windows can be changed after the fact, that's a mighty expensive proposition; if you can afford the better windows early on, go for it.

Prepare for the Future:

While you build now what is impractical to change later, you can leave the door open for other green features in the future. For example, to allow for future solar hot water and photovoltaics, provide generous expanses of south-facing roof – uninterrupted by plumbing stacks.

Look at the Whole Picture:

I cannot emphasize enough that context is one of the most important aspects of sustainable design. It is important to look at the whole picture and understand the complete effect. For example, a smaller home is generally greener. But if you add an extra room for the purpose of having a home office, and this means you can work at home three days a week instead of commuting, then that extra square footage can actually decrease your ecological impact.

Green building is not just about objects, but about relationships. It's not just about solar cells and bamboo flooring, but about the layout of the entire house - and the connection of your home with the world outside.

Cohousing – Thinking Beyond Your Individual Home:

While there is a lot you can accomplish on the level of one home, you can have

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a greater green influence if you address the scale of several homes or a neighborhood. On this scale, you can bring more parameters into play - connection of homes, clustering to provide more open space, even sharing of resources once you and your neighbors move in.

One example of this is cohousing, a form of neighborhood that balances the privacy of the single-family home with the sense of community we generally lack in current subdivisions. These neighborhoods are resident-designed and managed, and typically include 20 to 30 homes. The homes are tightly clustered around a pedestrian environment, providing a safe place for children with a rich sense of neighborhood. Shared facilities include a common house, where neighbors can join each other for dinner a few times a week. These neighborhoods offer a number of green advantages, such as the clustering mentioned above. When you know your neighbors well, you can also carpool, share garden tools, and order local and organic produce in bulk. Cohousing neighborhoods can even make land available for a community-supported agriculture (CSA) organic farm. And many choose to incorporate a "home office building", so that residents can work a few steps from their home while sharing common office equipment and camaraderie.

Live Sustainably Within Your Home:

The construction of your home is only half of the picture. The other piece is how your everyday living contributes to sustainability. So you want to make sure your home supports you in this ongoing endeavor. For instance, it is important to include convenient facilities for recycling, such as bins built in to your kitchen base cabinets. If part of your plan includes bike commuting, make sure to include convenient and secure accommodations for your bike; if you have to haul it out of the basement every day, you are not as likely to use it. If you plan to cook lots of

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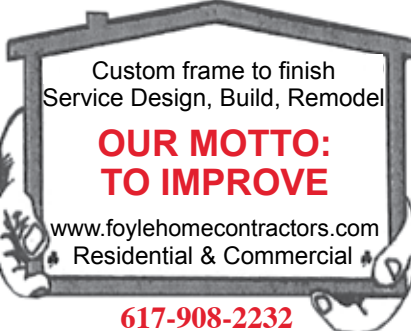
 



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meals using local produce, make sure your kitchen supports you in this.

One of the most satisfying aspects of sustainable living is that one opportunity opens up another. On a personal note, I live in a cohousing community, which has allowed my household to get by with owning one car. Over the years, thanks to the generosity of our car-lending neighbors, we have saved enough money to install solar electric panels on our roof! Who says the average person can't afford photovoltaics?

As you embark on your green adventures, I hope you will create equally satisfying stories to tell. Just use your imagination, be sure to look carefully at your particular opportunities, make choices that are a good match for you—and enjoy! ▼

RESOURCES:

Cohousing Association of the United States, www.cohousing.org
Center for Ecological Technology, www.cetonline.org
Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, www.nesea.org
Massachusetts Woodlands Cooperative
Environmental Building News: resources including on-line guide to green building materials & systems, www.buildinggreen.com

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Francisco was the best-dressed guy I've ever seen in politics. I think David Cicilline (mayor of Providence) dresses well, and he's openly gay man. I think Barack Obama dresses poorly, although I like him, but I think his clothing fits poorly. Patrick Kennedy's a little schlumpy, oh we're gonna get shut down now! (laughs) I don't have a problem with facial hair, but I don't think it works for a politician, I think people see it as hiding behind something. A lot of men grow facial hair once they get out of politics. Like Al Gore, or Bill Richardson.

Adam: So what do you do when you're not working?


Marc: Work. (laughs) I ride my scooter. I have a wife and two children, so I spend time with them. Y'know, I'm new to Rhode Island, I've been here three years so I'm cultivating friendships, doing extracurricular activities. I sit on the board of my children's school, I do a lot of non-profit work in the area. I really try to be a great husband and father. I like to travel, my wife and I just took our first vacation in 8 years together. I'd say, apart from my family, my number one pastime is riding my scooter, it gives me time to clear my head.

Adam: Who are your heroes?

Marc: Spiderman – I'm a huge Spiderman fan. As far as real people go, I have a few. For dressing, I like Clark Gable, and the whole Rat Pack, I loved how they dressed. Also, for fashion – the Duke of Windsor. I admire a lot of what others have done, but I don't know that they're my heroes. Anyone who does selfless acts, starting charitable organizations, knowing what's going on. In New York I sat on the board

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of Career Gear, started by a gay man named Gary Field. They provide interview-ready clothing and career counseling to men who've been incarcerated or who've come out of drug rehab programs. I admire that kind of selfless act. I admire mothers, because I see how much my wife selflessly give to our household, I think it's an awesome gift. I admire people who are masters at what they do, like my master tailor George, he's a true artisan. I love when someone can make something from nothing, it's amazing. Lastly, I admire anyone who's seen adversity in their lives and stepped away from it to be successful, regaining independence and autonomy - like Jim who works for me. I try to surround myself with selfless people.

Adam: *What advice would you give to someone who wants to revive his look.*

Marc: First, look in the mirror and say "Who do I want to be?" To me, a revival means you want to change or enhance that. Don't be afraid to seek help, it's not as daunting as you might think. Jim has a definition for insanity that I think applies. It's doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. You've got to step out of what you know. Take an inventory of your wardrobe and see what works, see what fits. If it's worn or torn or old, don't be afraid to throw it away or give it to charity so someone else can use it. Start slowly. You don't have to do it all at one time. The worst thing you can do is to try and do it all at once. My best clients aren't

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Adam: If a man had to pick just a few essentials, what would they be?

Marc: You need to have a dark suit, either solid gray, black or navy. You should have a blue blazer and a black blazer. You should have three pairs of dress pants – medium gray, dark gray, and tan. Two pairs of shoes, a brown pair and a black pair. Three properly-fitting dress shirts. A couple of ties that go with your jackets. Oh, and a great outerwear coat to go over your suit.

Adam: And last but not least, what inspires you?

Marc: The biggest inspiration here is anticipating what a guy will look like, transformed, when we're done. Design-wise, I get a lot of inspiration from the 30s, because I think that's the era when men dressed the best. You look at the old-time celebrities, they were put together, they cared about how they looked. Color inspires me. When Jim and I go looking for what we're going to bring in, we both have to love something. If we don't, we've got to convince the other one why it'll work. In terms of inspiration though, even something like a car will inspire me, the color of a building, some packaging at the market, even that can inspire me. Architecture too.

Adam: Just one more question – any relation to Barbra?

Marc: Yup, she's my cousin. ▼



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beginning of his junior year. He remained in the city after graduation, teaching English at nearby Amherst Regional High School, and his civic accomplishments and name recognition were such that he was elected as the first openly gay city councilor in the city's history during the early 1990s.

"You feel a sense of community and feel connected when you walk down the street," said Bardsley. "This is still like an old New England mill town in some ways. I get to know more people than if I were living in a big city when I go downtown and bump into all sorts of people. It's always easy getting to know people in a country sort of way here."

Bardsley can speak as a kind of unofficial gay historian Northampton. He was the program director for the Valley Gay Alliance, a now-defunct gay men's social group, which met in the city's Unitarian-Universality Church. Bardsley also began attending Pride marches when they began in the early 1980s, watching some teachers wear paper bags over their heads as they marched in fear of losing their jobs if they were identified as gay.

Bardsley, now the head of guidance at Amherst Regional, worked as a march "peacekeeper," one who monitored the event because of the threat of violence from protestors, who in the march's early days were a visible presence.

When Bardsley first came to town, downtown Noho was a depressing mix of vacant

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storefronts and outmoded stores, but that was soon to change.

"The artists made the biggest impact here," said Bardsley. "They created a vibe. The counter-culture also was a big factor. And lots of college students who came here from elsewhere never left. They were opening stores in the '60s and '70s."

Ted Jarrett is one of those who has found the business climate to be more than suitable. Nearly three years ago, Jarrett and his partner, Tony Martino, purchased the Old Mill Inn in Hatfield, a bed and breakfast with a gourmet dining room. Now he resides just a 10-minute drive up Route 91 from Northampton. but Jarrett grew up in Western Massachusetts, living in, among other cities, Springfield, before graduating from Chicopee High, so he was familiar with Northampton early on. Presently, he's enthusiastic about living so close to "Paradise City."

"This area has a lot to offer," said Jarrett. "The cultural aspects are very diverse and there are business opportunities, plus it's perfect for recreation."

Hatfield is vastly different from his experience in Springfield, where "I would have to put my car alarm on constantly. Here, I don't have to worry about that," Jarrett says. "I wish I had moved here 30 years ago."

While Jarrett agrees that the area is outgoing – "you can just get a social circle walking your dog" – meeting other

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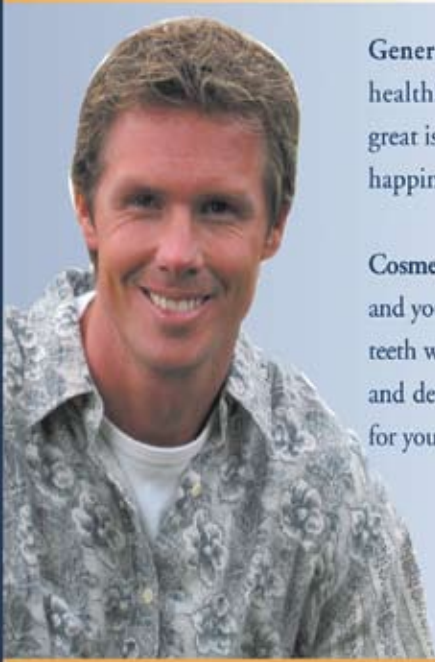
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gay men among the lesbian masses still seems fraught with potential difficulties. But the web has proven to be a boom to their social lives.

"The Internet makes organizing the gay men's community very easy," says Carmien. "There are a few popular gay 'hook up' sites, so it was easy to spread the word about the 'social' site that started a few years ago – www.monoho.com." It yields information about the city's gay volleyball league, parties, art openings and other events. Most recently, gay men have flocked to a gay bowling league called "The Gutter Boys."

Many of the gay men who live in Northampton are outdoor enthusiasts, which is a lure for them. Even so, one of the city's basic attractions is its welcoming attitude.

"Unlike in New York City, where 99 percent of our friends were other gay men, now we have as many straight friends and hang out with them just as much," says Meers. "That is a testament to the open, friendly feeling that drew us here to begin with."

"There are lots of creative, studious people here, a lot of interesting people," says Bardsley. "For gay men who need to live in a big city, in a gay enclave, that's not Northampton. But this is a fascinating city, with a doable size, that is diverse and a great place to live."

"It's hard to find a gay-celebratory town like Northampton that has the combination of relatively low cost of living with high quality

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of life, where you can hold your partner's hand in any restaurant, kiss your friends hello and goodbye in any bar, and have a strong network of social outlets.

But perhaps the reason so many gay men are discovering Northampton is summed up by Jarrett: "It's all good." ▼

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and then some. You know, I just forced myself on them. I knew I was right for the network."

Maddow's show is scripted, with fast-moving news programming, humor and interviews, yet does not usually take calls from listeners, a staple of most talk shows.

"I do take calls for "Ask Dr. Maddow," which is kind of this trivia segment that I do. And I will take calls on hot issues where I know that everybody either needs to swap ideas or needs to emote about stuff that's in the news," Maddow told www.buzzflash.com. "But we don't every day. I know that's a controversial decision, but that's part of the decision to try to be real news-heavy, to be less discussion, more information."

Given Maddow's popularity and reputation on radio as "the sharpest knife in the left-hand drawer," according to *Stanford Magazine*, and her telegenic looks, it seemed a given that she would eventually wind up on television, especially given the need for educated commentary on the presidential election and her expertise as a political analyst.

Maddow began on TV in 2005 as a regular on "The Situation," Tucker Carlson's former show on MSNBC, then moved on to CNN and "Paula Zahn. Now" as a frequent guest during the November 2006 election season.

"Rachel Maddow is just amazingly good. She is smart, articulate, funny, attractive and unflappable," wrote "Rob in Toronto" on www.crooksandliars.com in September 2007. "Someone remind me why she isn't on TV more."

That was about to change. As 2008 dawned, Maddow was named an MSNBC political analyst and has appeared regularly on "Race for the White House," hosted by David Gregory, the former White House chief correspondent. She

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has also been featured on the network's election coverage. Her popularity as guest on "Countdown with Keith Olbermann" led to two stints as fill-in host. Maddow called herself "nervous" while on air during the April and May appearances, but the latter show was that day's highest-rated news show among the 25-54 demographic. Bill Wolff, the vice president of prime time programming on MSNBC, has called Maddow is "the universal donor of good chemistry.... You can put her on to talk to just about anybody about just about anything, and she comes across as just so cheerful and hopeful and likable."

That has never been more true than in her tete a tetes with Pat Buchanan, the longtime hardcore right winger whose politics are totally the antithesis of Maddow's progressiveness. The sometimes toxic mix – during one show, Buchanan told Maddow to "hold the Marxist dialect" – actually has developed into a lively pairing in which Buchanan and Maddow own a mutual respect.


"Rachel is engaged and informative," said Dwight. "She's not a doctrinaire. She has respect for the people she disagrees with."

"In the pundit world I realized that I'm the liberal who conservatives like, which is very unsettling," she said to www.askellen.com, chalking it up to her coming out at a relatively young age. "You have to learn to survive and prosper in a hostile environment. It's kind of a talent that gay people bring to everything we do."

People on TV can be very, very contentious, as in who can yell the loudest, but it's brilliant how she can engage in a conversation and not screech."

Aside from her initial case of nerves on Olbermann's show, Maddow has been such a natural on TV that apparently her biggest fear was not that she'd be camera shy; rather it was that she was wardrobe-chal

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lenced; in her words, she dresses “like a first-grader.” Stanford Magazine says that when she was paired with right-wing host Blanka Cullum of Washington, Maddow remembered, “She’s like the Zsa Zsa Gabor of talk radio, and then there’s me, in a man’s shirt, saying, ‘Don’t put any makeup on me, I’m a dyke!’”

Sartorial apprehensions aside, Maddow says that if the Democrats win back the White House this year, it can mean good things for the media and her career in general.

“I think the more power the Democrats take, the better off progressive radio is and progressive media is and the blog world is, in terms of its influence and the amount it has to talk about, and in terms of its chances of really competing with the traditional media for guests, and access to the people in power,” she told Buzzflash.com.

But her growing fame and immersion in her profession and politics still fades into the background when she navigates the country roads of Western Massachusetts every weekend to retreat with Mikula to their home in Cummington. But even there the temptation to “go public” exists, and sometimes can be easily satisfied. On the first Saturday of May of 2008, there was Maddow up on stage with her old pal Dwight, addressing the 27th annual Northampton Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Pride celebration.

That’s Rachel Maddow – as usual, the center of attention and loving it. ▼

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in after a long day. This room is usually one of the smallest spaces in the home and one of the more expensive ones as well.

Here are five small bathroom ideas to consider as you are planning the room:

1. Location - if you are planning to add a small bathroom to your home and want to avoid major plumbing expenses, try to locate the new bathroom close to an existing room that already has plumbing installed like the kitchen or laundry. If your home has different floors, stack the bathrooms one over the other. This way, you can use the same plumbing lines for both the existing room and the new room which will save considerably.

2. Door Swing Direction - be sure that the door swings out and away from the bathroom, not into it. If the door swings into the room, the space that it needs to open will reduce the usable space. You do not want the door to be hitting the toilet, other fixture or person in the room. Consider using a sliding door as this kind of door will not require any floor space to open.

3. Storage - good small bathroom ideas will include a design that is free of clutter. Take advantage of nooks and corners to place storage baskets, shelves, cabinets, over the toilet storage, vanity and closets to help you organize the needed bathroom items. Towels, shampoos, soaps, magazines, hair dryers, medications, cleaning supplies, toilet paper and personal grooming accessories all need their own resting place. Good ideas for a small bathroom will use wall space and corner shelves wisely.

4. Corner Fixtures - using a space-saving corner pedestal sink can be one of the creative small bathroom ideas with limited space. There are attractive corner fixtures available that will provide similar functions as larger size units. Using a pedestal sink requires very little floor space or perhaps installing a wall hung sink or a corner bathroom vanity cabinet will be your best choice of fixtures. Corner toilet and corner shower units are also available that can perform well.

5. Humidity - moisture generated in small bathrooms can penetrate the ceiling, walls, floor and countertops. This lingering moisture could become a problem if you do not invest in a properly-sized ventilating fan to get rid of odors and moisture. Ventilating fans are sized by the number of cubic feet of air they move each minute (cfm). A good ventilation system that can move the air from the bathroom to the outdoors about eight times per hour means that the bathroom will have the moist air removed in 7 or 8 minutes time.

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Be sure your bathroom exhaust fan is quiet and that it vents to the outside and not into the attic. Fans are rated in 'sones' based on how much noise they produce when operating. A rating of '1 sone' means that the fan is the quietest while higher sone-rated numbers indicate a noisier fan.

Enjoy the planning process, learn all you can and let your imagination go as you collect and implement your small bathroom ideas. Having an attractive and functional bathroom reflecting your personal style means you will have a special place to enjoy for many years to come.

3. Creating A Bathroom Spa

What is the most luxurious room in your home? If you said your bathroom, then you are lucky. Many homeowners create very basic bathrooms. They are equipped with a sink, toilet and shower/tub combination and that's about it. That's pretty amazing when you consider how much time we spend in the bathroom every day.

Have ever wished you could have a more relaxing bathroom? You can if you design it like your own personal spa. This is a home improvement project that can be on every homeowner's list.

What type of things would you expect to find in a spa? Think of soothing colors, soft music and candlelight. Things that are so very relaxing to be almost hypnotic.

Choose colors that help you unwind after a long day. Soft blues, peaches, or creamy whites. Any color that tells your mind to unwind is the right color for your bath.

Also pick spa-like accessories for your bathroom. These can include thick, luxurious towels, sweet smelling soaps and other scents that make you just drift away in a bath full of warm soothing bubbles.

Be sure that your bathroom is set to a comfortable temperature. Keep a glass of water on ice next to the tub to keep yourself refreshed while you soak.

Add plants or other natural elements to your bath for a more spiritual and organic feeling. Accentuate with seashells, clear glass jars full of large smooth pebbles or set out potted leafy green ferns.

Don't forget a comfortable chair to sink into when you get out of the bath or when you need to sit down and put on your slippers. Provide

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other furnishings that make the room feel more comfortable and less utilitarian. Like a large armoire with open cabinets that display lots of folded towels. Or furniture style sinks instead of basic stock cabinetry.

The more pampered and spa-like you make your bathroom feel, the more relaxed and inviting it will become. Do yourself a favor and turn one of your most used rooms in the house into a place of joy and tranquility each day.

4. Creative Remodeling Ideas For Your Bathroom

Recent studies show that more and more Americans are spending a LOT of time in their bathrooms. Body care and toiletries are a billion dollar industry, and the bathroom, where we groom, pamper, and relax, has become much more important than just a place to take a quick shower on the go. After all, that's what the showers in the gym are for, right? More and more Americans are opting for comfortable, luxurious, and inviting bathrooms, with joyful colors and a relaxing atmosphere.

Here are some of the best new bathroom ideas out there!

Turn Up the Warm

Give cold, uncomfortable bathrooms a break, and warm them up! Avoid chilly colors like snow white and blues, and go for the creams, browns, and golds to give your bathroom the warmth it deserves! The color in your bathroom can make a huge difference in its feel. A bathroom can be instantly transformed to a more inviting place, just by changing the color palate. And since it's your bathroom, shouldn't you feel cozy and warm in it?

Tile it Up

Tiles are back, but not in the way you think... usually, when people think tile, the first thing that comes to mind is that weird floor from the 70's with all the different colored stones. But tile can be a wonderful design element when decorating and renovating bathrooms. Since tile was originally designed by the Romans specifically for their baths, it makes sense to use this element in creating our own modern bathing rooms. Using the tile as a design element, creating subtle patterns for walls, or even just a decorative row, is the latest trend. A certain ancient world feeling comes to mind, and you may just imagine yourself reclining in a Roman bath with slaves feeding you grapes...

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For those who like stark looks, clean comfort, and straight lines, this is THE look to have. The black counters and stainless steel sinks, the stainless steel cabinets, the glass and high sheen of the black counter, all give this bathroom a kind of bachelor pad look (only a lot more comfortable!). The clean lines and view give it an open feel of spaciousness that can spell out luxury even better than a fluffy towel.

The Asian Invasion

Still clean lines, but with an Asian touch, as the Buddha statue serenely emphasizes. The bowl-like sinks have a distinct feel of rice bowls, the large jars, and the open space give it a Zen feel. This is not the opulent East, rather the calm, insightful, Zen feeling underlying so much of modern Asian design. Truly, all that's missing is a rock garden outside the French doors...

Romantic

Sometimes, a romantic, softly lit, fantasy inducing bathroom is all a girl or boy really wants in life.

A haven of light, warm and inviting, and an overall feel of warm fuzzy butterflies, give this bathroom a lilt in its song. A room designed for sensuality and softness, the romantic bathroom can be a place to share, and just as importantly, dream of love. ▼

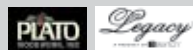
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morality. Massachusetts's Blue Laws were invoked to enforce bans against unmarried cohabitation. Living together, whether male and female, or male and male, was extraordinarily shameful in a town becoming more Roman Catholic.

With the arrival of Susan Glaspell and the golden boy, Eugene O'Neill, in 1916, the Provincetown Players was formed, bringing entertainment and shocking hedonism to the locals, while changing the face of American Theater forever. The scandals of incest, murder, drug addiction and alcoholism resounded on stage and off. Provincetown librarian, Abbie Putnam, served as the focal point, a sort of in-person as she sat at the library's check-out desk. She was so appalled by the nature of O'Neill's plays and the accompanying group of New Yorkers, that she updated patrons on their indecent revels. She expressed her no-talent opinion of O'Neill, based on her distaste of his morality. O'Neill indeed took the low road, satisfying his need for revenge by naming the child murderer in his play *Desire Under the Elms*, Abbie Putnam.

Initiated in 1939, by the Catholic Daughters of America, town officials began to wage an organized 30 year war on immodest dress in Provincetown, attempting to pass a police regulation defining decency while banning skinny-dipping: "No person without personal covering shall swim or bathe in any of the waters surrounding or within the town, so as to be visible from any street, public grounds, dwelling, house...steamboat or vessel; and no person will appear in any public play, except a bathing beach in a bathing suit. Shorts, Halter...unless covered by an overcoat or a wrap coming at least to the knees."

This article initially passed at the 1939 Town Meeting, then voted down in another Town Meeting attempt. Papers across the country ridiculed Provincetown's town government for making an attempt to control modesty. The Provincetown Advocate, the local newspaper, reprinted this newspaper quote embedded in a 1939 Letter to the Editor: "Ha, ha, no shorts in Provincetown of all places! We all know that the town is a den of darkness and sin and yet they won't have shorts!"

Despite the law's defeat, the citizens of Provincetown continued to try to root out "unnatural sexual acts" and fashion don'ts. Around this same time, a

continues on the following page

more scandalous sets of dark characters came along. Community outrage followed the early 'homosexual' influx dubbing them "the Pink Menace". This blossoming affront to the decency of Provincetown by "Homo's, Beatniks, and other Unwashed Drunks" has some merit and can instill some sympathy for non-participating residents. Imagine what the reaction would be in 1939, 1949, 1959, 1960...if your great grandparents, grandparents, or parents walked hand in hand on a dune trail, enjoying an outing with the mystical soft light in the refreshing seas breeze, turning a sandy corner and found the hills alive with moans of ecstasy, littered with explicit 'male-bonding.' There appears to be no social boundaries to the number of men cruising with explicit sexual activity, whether day or night. The beginning of this wicked story is best told in several quotes from the pages of The Provincetown Advocate, and then from a letter from the great American dramatist, Tennessee Williams, who was a regular summer visitor.

SELECTMEN ASK SUPPORT IN
CRUSADE TO STAMP OUT
DEGRADING INFLUENCES.

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Aug. 7, 1952 Provincetown Advocate.
“...An appeal to all decent people in the town of Provincetown ...asking for ‘articulate and militant support’ in stamping out ‘degrading an soul destroying’ influences now at work in the town.” (From an anonymous letter to the editor in the same article) “...I discovered they, (my two boys), were victims of a large homosexual element, that first gave them dope in the form of cigarettes and then powder to inhale-sex orgies followed.”

LEADING CITIZENS HAVE SOME ANSWERS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS.
Advocate, August 30, 1962.

“...Why should we be known as their, (homosexuals’) headquarters? Why give them a chance at our young men and women...Why cater to them? We have no financial future in them...they have found another place in New Hampshire . Let them stay there.” Father, (name not printed), Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS’ LETTER TO DONALD WINDHAM, 1940-1965

“...tonight they had somehow come into possession of an immense creamy-fleshed blond sailor directly out of Melville...the sailor extends his arm, I extend mine. In one dervish whirl both belles are thrown clean out of the charmed circle which from then on consists solely and frenziedly of Tennessee and the navy!”

Attempts at moral purification continue throughout the 1960’s with refused liquor licenses, police detainment without charges and upholding old laws that outlaw drinking but not selling it in bars and package stores. Town Manager Robert A. Hancock announces, “No real definition

of ‘Beatnik’, responding to a petition to ban the long-haired, unemployed, inappropriately dressed “unwashed”, dirty-minded “alcoholic and drug addicted” from Provincetown. The 1960’s also produce the “Fashion Police”; Provincetown Police Officers would hand out cards to women in halter tops or men in package defining bathing suits that read: “Approved Dress” requirements to include: lightweight sportswear, shirts and shorts for both men and women and for ‘street wear’, bathing suits and abbreviated play suits are taboo, and their use may result in police intervention.”

To add insult to injury, a highly visible gay man with a wealthy car company pedigree, Walter Chrysler behaves very badly. In August of 1962, he opened a ‘museum’ in a converted Methodist church. He is not the first person to decide what Provincetown needs or how it can be made better then proceeds to steal from the town. As it turned out, much of the art in the museum, the entirety of which he claimed was his, was an investment that he’d never paid a dime to purchase. Chrysler will continue his scam when the same exhibit of one hundred and eighty-seven paintings is shown at The National Museum of Canada in Ottawa, Ontario. Sixty to seventy of the paintings, some considered to be near priceless, are determined to be fakes. Chrysler will lap up the negative publicity. He will eventually be run out of Provincetown, opening his museum again in North Carolina. Art didn’t chase him out of here, according to grandmothers interviewed for this article at the Provincetown Library, his taste for and the near-stalking of the

continues on the following page

PTOWN SCANDALS

young sons of Provincetown did. Un-named locals gave him a swift kick onto Route 6 out of town, "instead of a long sleep with the fishes."

The 1970's-1980's scandals have a lot to do with fishing, drugs, sex and politics. Peter Manso's "Mailer, His Life and Times", The Biography of Norman-Mailer, a non-fiction work, and Ptown: Art, Sex and Money on the Outer Cape quotes a DEA estimate that "200 million tons of pot" were smuggled into Cape Cod between 1970 and 1990. Provincetown was the favorite drop site. Manso's book will also cause a great deal of controversy infuriating locals with what they see as thinly veiled homophobia. According to Michael Bronski, reporting in the Boston Phoenix in July, 2002, "Manso condemns the changes in Ptown as the handiwork of a uniform phalanx of gays." Oddly enough, Manso is the centerpiece of his own scandal. In January, 2008, Manso was charged with felony possession of three unlicensed firearms; a Colt AR-15 Assault Rifle with large capacity magazine, a Browning .22 caliber rifle, and a loaded, untrigger locked Smith and Wesson Model 36 revolver. He faces ten years in a state prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Until his death last October, Norman Mailer was Provincetown's most famous resident; true to form, there are endless stories about his exploits up at the Hawthorne Barn on Upper Miller Hill Road. He told them himself, to this writer when he was discussing the homogenization of contemporary Provincetown. Stories about drugs, big drunks, fights and heterosexual sex parties with people crawling home after dawn. Stories that mirrored the gay male communities love affair with sex and drugs in the 1960's -1970's. This was before his marriage to Norris Church and the clamping-down effect of AIDS. He reveled in the good times, lamented the lost lawlessness only a little, much like a man remembering his rebellious youth with only a hint of bitterness. It is clear that after the 1970's, Provincetown began to calm down.

In the 1960s-1970's the fishing industry took a nosedive. Many boat owners took the bait, hauling Columbian Gold instead of Atlantic Cod. Dozens of Provincetown residents were arrested but not all of them were fisherman. Some were hippy businessmen who laundered pot-smuggling spoils by opening head shops and restaurants. If you need to buy some

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"room deodorizer", a feather boa, or a teeny tiny silver spoon, you may have pot to thank for your shopping spree. The same is true if you have a hanker-ing' for popular outdoor dining.

The town confronted a sex scandal of different kind in the 1970's. According to Peter Manso, The Selectmen, (town's highest elected officials and lawmakers), threaten to revoke liquor licenses when both the Crown and Anchor and the A-House charge women four times the regular drink price, then banned them from the clubs altogether. According to locals and David LaSalle, long-time DJ at the A-House, the target was not specifically women but "straight people". Feeling the two groups can't mix, have a good time together, this became an underground effort to "keep Provincetown gay". This was corroborated by the bar's manager along with several local gay men and lesbian women who were in their mid-twenties at the time. Despite the appearance of being, "separate but equal", the town lawmakers will force the Crown to tear down a wall built right on the middle of the dance floor with straight people on one side and partying gays on the other.

In the late 1970's to the 1980's, S&M, politics, and bed-hopping make for disturbing yet comical scandals. Elected town official, Paul Christo was arrested by undercover police officers for a possible kidnapping, assault, and "engaging in an unnatural act" following a leather and S&M bash at the A-House. The respected Provincetown Selectman was wearing a Nazi uniform at the time of his arrest, whipping a man tied to a tree while receiving oral sex. The state of inebriation was so intense that it is was impossible to tell if the whippee consented to being tied to a tree or not. Eventually, all charges were dropped. After the incident, Mr. Christo not only kept his night job in town government, but was repeatedly re-elected 1989, even voted into the top leadership position, Chairman of the Board of Selectman.

In the 1990's, heroin trafficking took off in Provincetown. Pot was no longer the scandalous drug of choice. Things got much more hard-core with heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, Special K, GHB, and Crystal Meth; increasing trips to the ER resulted from upping the dose ante. In July of 1994, twenty-three year-old Nicholas Curtis, son of actor Tony Curtis, was found dead of a heroin overdose in a run-down Provincetown apartment.

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PTOWN SCANDALS

Few had known he was even here, least of all his father.

The 1990's also saw a scandalous increase in housing prices, a mass sell-off, with an exodus of generations of Portuguese families. The 1990's also started a slow decline in middle-class gay tourism. The loss of affordable housing for artists, summer workers, and young people resulted in Provincetown's demographic getting older with the need to 'import' foreign workers.

In the 21st Century, scandal tends to center on sex, lies, and sewage. During the Summer of 2002, reeling drunk men on the prowl for anonymous action walk down the beach path to the "Dick Dock" a spot where late night public sex occurred and nearly go blind. One hundred twenty watt floodlights have been installed. Days of anonymous sex in Provincetown are over or are they?

The new millennium also saw small-scale embezzlement, misuse of funds, and repeated and often unfounded allegations against the Department of Public Works.

Most Recently, a firebug has been plaguing Provincetown. The scope is quite extensive, as eighteen fires have been set so far. What's worse, is that the arsonist is seemingly unpredictable; he's hit homes under construction, wealthy homes and a print studio. In terms of newsworthiness, setting fires is perceived as simple sick behavior, not really salacious unless an element of revenge and/or a sexually abnormal behavior is suspected. However, it is fair to speculate that these elements are in the mix. The prevailing theory regarding motivation of arson (as described by the U.S. Department of Justice Reference Service on pyromania) points to revenge and sex as the cause. "The average pyromaniac is either a frustrated female or impotent male who resorts to arson to satisfy their needs and desires. As it stands now, there are unfounded rumors zipping from the West to the East End of Provincetown. As far as scandal goes, the truth no doubt will be juicier than fiction. Given the geographical choice of his targets, it will be of local relevance since the arsonist is most likely from the area.

Perhaps the two saddest crimes that could qualify as scandal involve the murders of two very different people; the fashion writer and heiress Christa

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Worthington on January 6, 2002, and Timothy Maguire, a crystal meth addict, part-time convenience store employee on October 25, 2003. These murders began with a multitude of scandalous elements related to adultery, drugs, and copious sex.

Christa Worthington was allegedly described by some 'friends' in Maria Flook's book, "Invisible Eden: A Story of Love and Murder on Cape Cod" as "an equal opportunity employer" in terms of sexual preference and promiscuity. There are also insinuations of cocaine use that may have fueled Worthington's sex life, which by all accounts appears to have been active for a single, heterosexual woman in the Provincetown area. Where straight women are definitely in the minority. Michael O'Keefe, Barnstable County District Attorney is quoted in the Cape Cod Times as saying; "shortly before death she had sex.

The media outlets flocked to Truro when her body was discovered. The event was big, encompassing, the mainstays of large ratings: a story set in a beautiful place with money, sex, and murder.

Christa Worthington was very attractive, talented, at forty-seven years old, allegedly obsessed with having a child. She had reportedly slept with a few local men; others observed men stopping by after a stint at the beach, in order to take showers. Unless one talks about it, nobody really knows who or how many. Worthington was tight-lipped, of course. Was she promiscuous? Certainly not based on the prevailing area's gay male standard.

The body of Ms. Worthington had been found with her crying, hungry, two year-old daughter Ava sitting next to her, covered in blood. The police assumed the motive of rape. A suspect named Christopher McCowen, a trash collector, was formally charged with beating, raping

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and stabbing Worthington in the kitchen. While leaving her half-naked body on the floor while, for twenty-four to thirty-six hours, as her hungry, upset two year-old sat beside her. However, McCowen was convicted on November 17th, 2006 and the sexual details faded with them.

On October 25th, 2003, Nathan Miksch, met up with one-time buddy, Timothy Maguire at his rented room. Maguire, high on drugs, allegedly tried to force Miksch to stay in the room. However, Miksch wanted to leave to have sex with someone he'd met on the Internet. During the March 2006 trial, he noted that he'd once suspected Maguire to have given him an overdose of GHB attempting to have sex with him. That October night, he didn't want a repeat of that. So Miksch strangled Maguire with a belt, later admitting to the deed. He also offered his state of mind – a man up for days on crystal meth, still high on the substance. On the night in question, he panicked and started to chop the body with a Swiss Army Knife. He stated during the trial that he was only able to sever one arm, then stopped when he saw himself covered in blood in the mirror. As his only cleanup, he dropped the arm in a nearby dumpster, leaving the rest of the body in the room. Nathan met two more tricks having sex with them in the same room where Timothy Maguire was now stuffed in the closet. Nathan then stole Maguire's ATM card using it to skip town. Before leaving, however, he stopped in at The Little Bar at the A-House. Then went home with friend Tim Hazel, the director of the AIDS Public Housing where Nathan had a room. He was later arrested in Hazel's home a few days after the act.

The scandal, however, did not end there. In January of 2004, the Provincetown Banner reported that Hazel had been fired in October of 2003, right after the Maguire murder. The reported reason for his release from the AIDS House were - that drug use within housing complex was prevalent. Some residents were granted housing without qualification. The town also buzzed with talk of orgies in the house, with both Hazel and Miksch present. It was a revealing sexual mess that threw Provincetown's seedy, under-world of gay men, drugs, and sex into the national spotlight.

Water, water everywhere....The idea of a town sewer first came up in 1945 when the state's engineer said, "the sewer

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was the best way to protect the fragile shoreline from accidental dumping." That was the first consultant on the job, sixty years and thousands upon thousands of dollars later in consultancy fees, it became both a reality and an albatross. The sewer hook-up is the biggest scandal in years to Provincetown property owners, most having no choice but to pay and hook up. The Department of Public Works was to oversee a sewer project that was presented as an environmental sound, cost-effective system. It ended up being more complicated with more glitches than Microsoft Vista. The major arteries of Provincetown have been torn up repeatedly with uneven tire-terrors. The sewer will also earn the shocking reputation of being the most expensive sewer system of its kind. As a local researcher puts it, "more expensive than Malibu's."

In August 2007, Bill Schneider, the Provincetown Tourism Director resigned because *Crossed Paths*, a self-published book he authored was never a selection of "The Oprah Winfrey Book Club" as he proclaimed. He told several newspapers, friends, and Town Hall employees the exact day and time the show featuring his book would air. The Provincetown Banner reports on August 22, 2007 that his website, "gave details of the show with a link to a five-page transcript of the ten-minute segment that supposedly featured Schneider, which he wrote himself." The website also features an award plaque honoring make-believe sales of his book, which hit the roof following his make-believe appearance on The Oprah Winfrey Show. When locals tuned in to watch on the day/time he'd specified; there was no Bill Schneider. For this error, he came up with conflicting excuses. Seth Desroches, a writer with The Cape Codder, a community newspaper, broke the story by making one phone call to "Oprah's People" at Harpo Productions in Chicago. The scandal of lies launched an investigation by the town. The story ends with subsequent interviews with Schneider who admitted to the lie just "snowballing," only adding more ridicule to the well-liked Schneider as a competent Tourism Director. Schneider resigned on August 22, 2007 to "...pursue various personal projects."

Many scandals seem to span Provincetown's history since its inception. The locals, tourists, government, businesses, and journalists are still grappling with many of the same things they were ten, one hundred, two hundred years ago.

continues on the following page

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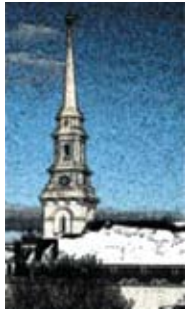
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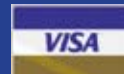
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