

## Gay music icons

Looking back over five decades  
page 25



## On stage

Actor's Theatre brings back 'Hedwig'  
page 25



## Words

Which ones are offensive?  
page 13



# Q Notes

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# Candidates tackle gay issues in forum on LOGO

Melissa Etheridge and Joe Solmonese to serve  
as co-panelists

by Brad Luna

LOS ANGELES — Gay-targeted cable network LOGO and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRCF) have announced they will co-present an historic televised forum on issues of importance to the LGBT community with the leading 2008 Democratic presidential candidates. Among those expected to attend are Hillary Clinton, Christopher Dodd, John Edwards, Mike Gravel, Dennis Kucinich, Barack Obama and Bill Richardson.

The forum will take place Aug. 9 at 6 p.m. PT/9 p.m. ET in Los Angeles before a studio audience. It will be broadcast live, without commercial interruption, exclusively on LOGO's 24/7 cable television channel, as well as through live streaming video at [www.logoonline.com](http://www.logoonline.com).

LOGO is a division of Viacom's MTV Networks and HRCF is the educational arm of the nation's largest LGBT civil rights organization.

This event, which marks the first time in history the major presidential candidates will address a live LGBT television audience, is part of MTV Networks' award-winning pro-social efforts and dedication to engaging its audiences on the issues that are most important and relevant to them.

The event also continues HRCF's efforts to educate and bring awareness to issues of equality and fairness that continue to affect the lives of LGBT Americans.

The candidates will appear sequentially and engage in conversation with co-panelists Melissa Etheridge, performer and advocate, and Joe Solmonese, HRCF president. The panelists plan

to cover a range of issues including relationship recognition, marriage equality, workplace fairness, the military, hate crimes, HIV/AIDS and other important issues.

"We're honored to give the presidential candidates an historic opportunity to share their views directly with the LGBT audience," said Brian Graden, president, Entertainment, MTV Networks Music Group, and president, LOGO. "This forum continues MTV Networks' tradition of engaging vital niche audiences with voting and the electoral process."

"In the 2008 presidential election, issues of concern to the LGBT community have already been at the forefront of the national conversation," said Solmonese. "From the repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' to the recent signing of a civil unions bill in New Hampshire, there is no doubt that voters will demand answers to important questions affecting our community."

The forum will include significant online components at [www.logoonline.com](http://www.logoonline.com) and [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org), including online question submission. The LGBT vote is considered a decisive electoral force and according to exit poll data make up approximately four percent of the voting population. Los Angeles was chosen as the site for the event because of the state's early primary election, on Feb. 5, 2008. The event will take place at



Hillary Clinton (1), Christopher Dodd (2), John Edwards (3), Mike Gravel (4), Dennis Kucinich (5), Barack Obama (6) and Bill Richardson (7) will appear on LOGO in a forum focusing on gay issues.

Studio City, Calif., at HD Vision Studios. This event represents the first live event airing on LOGO. ▶

## Alabama RV park bars people with HIV

Owner bans two-year-old with HIV  
from pool and other areas

by Paul Cates and Allison Neal

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The American



Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) recently sent a letter to the owner of the Wales West RV park in Silverhill, Ala., demanding that it stop discriminating against people with HIV by barring them from using the swimming pool, showers and other common areas of the park without a letter from a doctor.

"This kind of ignorance and prejudice is unacceptable at this point in the HIV epidemic," said Olivia Turner, executive director of the ACLU of Alabama. "After more than two decades of studying the disease, we know that you can't catch HIV by swimming next to someone with the disease or using a public shower."

Despite the fact that Dick and Silvia Glover's two-year-old foster son Caleb was looking forward to the train ride, the owners of Wales West RV park banned the child from use of the facility because he is HIV positive.

According to media reports, Dick and Silvia Glover's two-year-old foster son Caleb was banned from the pool and other common areas of the RV park by its owner Ken Zadnichek after Silvia mentioned to a desk clerk that the boy had HIV. Although Caleb had been looking forward to taking a ride on the park's two train rides, the couple had no choice but to leave the park.

"Mr. Zadnichek should be ashamed of himself for picking on a defenseless two-year-old," said Christine Sun, a staff attorney with the ACLU's AIDS Project. "Mr. Zadnichek claims that he was merely trying to protect other campers, but he had nothing to protect other campers against. Ignorance about the disease is no excuse for prejudice."

The letter sent by the ACLU explains that discrimination

against people with HIV is illegal under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and demands that the park owner send written assurances to the ACLU that the park will no longer discriminate against people with HIV.

The letter also notes that the ADA prohibits businesses from imposing eligibility requirements, such as requiring a doctor's note, that screen out people with disabilities. The letter quotes information from the Alabama Department of Public Health making it clear that, "[y]ou do not get HIV from an HIV-infected person by working together, playing sports, shaking hands, hugging, closed-mouth kissing, sharing drinking glasses, eating utensils or towels, using the same wash water or toilet, swimming in the same pool, or coming in contact with their sneezes, coughs, tears or sweat." ▶

GOP showing support for gays  
page 20

Major strides with Dems at helm  
page 21

The Big Screen: 'Hairspray'  
page 33