



The Queer Foundation Scholar

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Skailer Rei Qvistgaard Senior, Boston University Queer Foundation Scholar

Mr. Qvistgaard has been a regular contributor to *The Queer Foundation Scholar* for the past two years. The QF also sponsors his bi-monthly blog, *Trans Today*:

<http://queerfoundation.org/dir/index.php/blog/>

For the Love of a Son

By Skailer Rei Qvistgaard

Dedicated to my parents, who never cease to love and amaze me.

After a loss far too great,
To lose a daughter,
Is an unbearable weight.

But that daughter gave her life,
To give you a son,
Who would almost drown in strife.

You both put her to rest,
And opened up your arms to him,
As he weeps against your breast.

You both give and stretch,

Like steel support beams,
As your love upon him you etch.

He can't find a way to purely thank,
The words are simple yet when combined,
Create dialogue so truthful the mind goes blank.

For you both raise me on high,
A once-upon-a-time daughter,
Turned son without goodbye.

I attribute my being to what you give me,
As shining emblems of familial solidarity,
You are a beacon for all to see.

To be yourself is the ultimate rebirth,
You both have always shown me that,
There is always love for me on earth.

Gender Bias Among the “Unbiased”

By Skailer Rei Qvistgaard

As humans it is understood we all have biases that originate from our different life experiences, backgrounds, and the different kinds of rhetoric we have been exposed to during our formative years. There are expectations that as educated people in the year 2014 we are supposed to not have gender biases, but can they truly be avoided? Sarah Hrdy wrote in *Motherhood as a Minefield* that “we have become guinea pigs in a vast social experiment” (Hrdy 3) that shows the expectations of what being a woman, and mother are, and how “the decisions that mothers make do not always conform to our conventional expectations” (Hrdy 3). These “conventional expectations” (Hrdy 3) are societal gender biases that have permeated time, and show us that the United States, as a post-first and second wave feminist society, still does not have equal opportunities for women when compared with the opportunities provided to men. This is outlined even more clearly in Corinne Moss-Racusin’s study of bias within the sciences, which came to the conclusion that there is “unintended bias against female undergraduate science students...[that] often remain[s] undetected” (Moss-Racusin 1). If there is bias within a community that makes a living off of being objective then how much bias is still prevalent within our lives as individuals, and in society as a whole?

Hrdy starts off by beginning to deconstruct a gender bias that affects all women, and that is the expectation to become a mother. Women are expected by society to be “self-sacrificing” (Hrdy 4) and “instinctively want to rear every baby they

bear” (Hrdy 4). Now as a society with birth control and contraception we are seeing what “women who can control reproduction really want to do” (Hrdy 3), which isn’t necessarily raising children. This speaks to how gender bias is still present in our supposedly modern thinking. Reproductive health care is something that wasn’t always available to women and even now “passionate debates about abortion derive from motivations to control female reproduction” (Hrdy 6). It is hard for this “generation to believe that such forces should ever intrude upon their own lives” (Hrdy 6) because it seems like such an archaic problem to be still debating over. It is made very clear by Hrdy that while we have made advancements in eliminating gender bias scientists still seem to think that all women want to be mothers, and all mothers are nurturing, when that clearly isn’t the case. These false presumptions create double standards about motherhood that limit women into what are ‘acceptable roles’ based on sex and the supposed ‘nurturing instincts’ that define womanhood.

While Hrdy assesses gender bias from a more historical and political perspective Moss-Racusin’s study provides an empirical example of how subtle gender biases work in favor of men over women. In this study fake student resumes were sent out to “a broad, nationwide sample of biology, chemistry, and physics professors (n=127)” (Moss-Racusin 2) and they were asked to give feedback on how hireable and competent the student applying for a “science laboratory manager position” (Moss-Racusin 2) was, along with how

much mentoring they would offer. The resumes were all identical except for the names, which were divided between male and female sounding names. It was found that across the entire faculty sample pool, regardless of the faculty member's gender, the resumes with the male names were found to be more competent, were more likely to be hired, and they were offered significantly more hours of mentoring when compared to their identical female counterparts. However, the resumes with the female names were found to be 'more likable' and personable than their male counterparts.

As a society we are now much more educated about bias, and sexism, and the advantages and disadvantages of being one sex or the other, but bias is still a huge problem. Outright bias and sexism is frowned upon by society, yet subtle sexism and bias is still running rampant and unchecked. This is because most people don't notice subtle biases and unknowingly perpetuate them. Advertising uses men to portray power, and women to portray domesticity, but because we are so focused on what a company is trying to sell to us we don't notice the stereotypical imagery flooding our minds 'under the radar' influencing how we think about men and women's roles. When describing artists it is frequently said that she is a great 'woman' artist while he is just a great artist. Woman is being used as an adjective to modify the noun artist, when really woman is just another noun, but this subtle language bias is accepted, perpetuating the idea that you really need to know if someone is a woman or not before judging her craft, but if the artist is a man it doesn't matter. It is all the small things that add up creating an overall biased society and view on gender. These small things aren't 'taught' to us

intentionally, they are learned because we are living in an arguably 'post-sexist' society that still has subtle biases coursing through its veins influencing and shaping its citizens.

There are some simple steps that I am taking to reduce my personal gender bias. I question myself when I think gender may have played a role in a decision I made. "Would I have made the same choice if this person were the opposite gender?" I pay attention to advertising and images, recognizing them as a form of stereotyping. The most important step I can take to combat sexism is educating those around me. Hrady and Moss-Racusin might be right about sexism in society today, but they don't have to continually be proven right. Educating others about sexism and how it impacts society will allow us to take small personal steps to ensure we don't act upon the subtle biases that have influenced us unfairly since birth.

Bibliography

Hrady, Sarah. *Mother Nature*. New York, Toronto: Balantine Publishing Group, 1999. 1-6. eBook.

Moss-Racusin, Corrine, John Dovidio, Victoria Brescoll, Mark Graham, and Jo Handelsman. "Science Faculty's Subtle Gender Biases Favor Male Students." *PNAS*. (2012): 1-6. Web. 28 Sep. 2013.

Mr. Quistgaard is a third-year student at Boston University who is slated to receive his B.A. in English this year. He and his boyfriend of the past three years, Zachary Kerr, recently announced their engagement. Both young trans men have established a solid record of activism in the Boston area for their volunteerism for LGBTQ youth, and for Zach, national recognition. See, <http://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/2014/02/18/transgender/Z1gZQ2cSOIU9nlIEQ6ultN/story.html>

There's a broken link I've not been able to repair. "Transgender Student Takes National Stage," *Boston Globe*, Lifestyle section (February 18, 2014). Easiest to google <Zachary Kerr>.



Javon J. Smith

Graduate, DePaul University
Queer Foundation Scholar

Mr. Smith has been a regular contributor to *The Queer Foundation Scholar* for the past three years. Since the age of 15 he has helped promote and revive the tradition of oral poetry in the Chicago area

(Photo Source: Tiffany Tenille, TwelveSix Photography)

My Dangerous Life in the Murder Capital OR Finding Me

By Javon J. Smith

Frozen red flavored Kool-Aid cups from next door at Aunt Alberta's (pronounced Ain't I-Berta) rugged crimson home for 25 cents on granny's back porch with my lil cousins. This is the most danger I've known to be Englewood.

8am. Shame my older brother wouldn't wait for me to finish watching the Three Stooges. That trek to Harvard Elementary School meant I had to trudge across an open field of garden snakes and stray dogs. I cried. This is the most danger I've known to be Englewood.

Our cats (Ruff for the rough brother, Nicey for the nice brother, and Girly for the girly brother) somehow gaining access to the queen bed my brothers and I shared. Skinning our bodies as unfamiliar objects. Getting us back for our uncreative names. My haunted screams enough to wake up Richard and his uncle next door. This is the most danger I've known to be Englewood.

Facing the snap of mama's belt minutes after the street lights came on because Josh from across the street and I wanted to keep slippin' and slidin' down our steep dirt hill in our raggedy box while our brothers bounced the basketball we weren't interested in. This is the most danger I've known to be Englewood.

Josh's older cousin Boosha threatening to jump over the fence that divided our territories and punch me because I refused to stop singing Kia's neck and back song with my girl cousins. The wiry double Dutch rope I retaliated with was no match for his older fist. And he knew his older fist was no match for my older brother's, so he ran and hid behind the tree Josh and I avoided down our dirty hill 'til the sky dimmed. This is the most danger I've known to be Englewood.

Riding my bike past Aunt Lela's (pronounced Ain't Leet) house, I hit some mushroom-looking metal pipe, and flew across her little lawn. After that, some hoodlum stole the only bike me and my brothers shared. This hoodlum with no sense got caught riding dirty by the rough brother who took care of Boosha already. My brother was the most danger I have known in Englewood!

74th and Normal. Don't go down that block. This is the most danger I've known to be Englewood. Crawling under the windows to evade stray bullets on New Year's Eve as my brave mother fries my family her famous chicken nuggets and fries. Walking home elated after my first day of first grade to meet my living room furniture in the middle of the street. Livid because Ms. Monaco ruined my straight A's with a B in Handwriting. Losing rock teacher after granny's Sunday dinner. Witnessing the drive-by that wounded Tony and Terry's uncle across the street. Getting chased by their vicious poodle shortly thereafter. My best friend, Malik, and his mother getting cursed out by my mama after he accidentally turned my nose into a bloody mess on a rainy day. Sneaking out back while my mother showered, past the clothesline, with coins I found in the couch for junk from A & J's Food Mart. My father's discipline when I responded with "Okie Dokie" instead of "Yes." Cutting my granny a switch because front room furniture was not made for a fort. Nearly drowning after Boosha pushed me in the crowded deep end of the Hamilton Park pool. Standing up and clapping when a song moved me at 1st Corinthians M. B. even though only women did that. My mother's temper after I threw a tantrum in Aldi's for running the buggy into her. This is the most danger Englewood be.

Division 10

By Javon J. Smith

March 14, 2014
26th and California
Otherwise known as county.

A gang of lil black boys
Pack the sidewalk
Walking on the side
Opposite mine
Glancing—
Then, turning away
Acknowledging
My capris and TOMS—
Normal garb for me—
Too abnormal for the most
Prepubescent of the pack.
Yelling back, "What the fuck,
That Nigga Gay."
The adolescents chiding him
With shut ups was not enough
To humble the lil boy's
Compulsive homophobia.

This most prepubescent lil boy
Could not reason against his
Parents' respectability politic.
Knowledge of my existence
Harmed his environment.
I would say his attempted

Insult took me back to the
Trauma of childhood,
But it only brought me closer
In touch with the present.
A time where lil black boys
Assimilate to hypermasculinity.
A time where lil black boys
Instinctively denigrate the feminine.
How less degrading would his
Automatic degradation be if I were—
Female?
Gender appropriation enabled
This budding misogynist who was
Doing what lil black boys do best—
Emulation.

This budding misogynistic lil boy
Necessitated my destruction because
His was already imminent—
Was already determined by the
School to prison pipeline—
Was already defined by his
ISAT and IOWA scores—
Was already evident by the wear
And tear of his winter coat—Manpower is
all he had to cling to
Lil black boy suffering at our
Tiers of disenfranchisement.
I cry for us.

And the Maximum Security prison

I was on his block to visit
Will likely be his home.

Define Better

By Javon J. Smith

What if “It Gets Better”
Is not your testimony?
Your eyes still run nightly,
Mind still runs frantically,
At 21.

What if we are feeding
Queer children propaganda
To protect them from the
Reality that marginalization
Happens.

What if the message should be
“You’ll Get Better?” As in
You’ll get stronger,
You’ll grow wiser,
You’ll be yourself,
You’ll get better at making
It better for all, and people
Will try to tear you down
Because your existence
Deconstructs everything
They knew, and no one
Likes to be outsmarted.

Then, their insecurity
Becomes our defensiveness.
Then, we are shamed
For fear of meanness,
For fear of violence.

One person called me bipolar
Because projected heterosexism
Only benefitted them. Never
Once had you stared down a
Gun because you, been beaten
And left uncared for because you,
Died because you did it to yourself.
Hate crimes aren’t hate crimes
Anymore. Victims are offenders.
Hate crimes are committed for the Offender
by the justice system,

And only the marginalia then is
Guilty.

Eventually, you’ll learn that
These people’s problems
Are none of your business.
That’s what I tell myself.

Javon J. Smith and “Spoken Word Poetry,”

<http://news.medill.northwestern.edu/chicago/news.aspx?id=222515>

No one is free when others are oppressed.

~Author Unknown

Aphorism seen on many home-made signs during Civil Rights marches, animal rights protests, and gay pride parades.



quistapp.com



Image is by Quist, the free LGBTQ history app.

www.quistapp.com Courtesy of Quist.

Director's Scratchpad

There are now three ways to donate to The QF:

- **Regular Scholarships**
- **Publication Scholarships**
- **Commissioned Pieces**

Regular scholarships are awarded to the top essayists each year in the high school seniors English essay contest. The \$1,000 awards are for use during the recipient's first year at a U.S. college or university.

Publication scholarships are given to former essay-contest participants who have continued to submit their writing to The QF and had one of their pieces accepted for publication in this newsletter, the *Queer Foundation Scholar*. Like regular scholarships, these awards must be used at a U.S. college or university.

Commissioned pieces, a new program of The QF, will enable The QF to compensate writers for articles of theirs that are published in the *Queer Foundation Scholar*. Writers of commissioned pieces need not be college or university students.

This new program will provide, through the pages of this newsletter, fertile ground for a dialogue between student and professional writers and inspire among writers and readers additional thought about queerness.

I invite your feedback. I love to learn your opinions of The QF's programs, and am forever grateful for your continuing interest and support.

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From the Editor's Desk

For All Our Fallen Angels

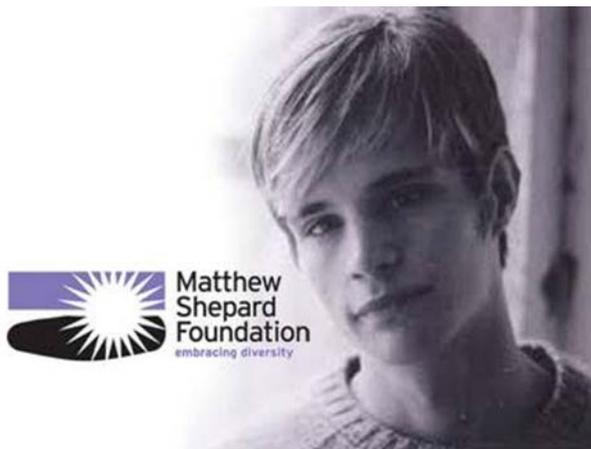


Image by Quist, the free LGBTQ history app. Courtesy of Quist. www.quistapp.com

I imagine that it is impossible for any of us over thirty not to remember the impact that Matthew Shepard's brutal torture and murder had upon the LGBTQ community. If hate poured forth from many quarters, the heinous act forced many individuals who had voiced their support to us personally to do so publicly. It was a time that our political friends were forced to stop fence-sitting, and even some of our enemies expressed anger at the sheer barbarity of what had transpired outside of Laramie.

If there are those who would still defile the memory of Matthew, Michele Josue has created a lasting tribute of her personal friend to share with the world. If you haven't seen *Matthew Shepard is a Friend of Mine*, directed by Josue, in the film festival circuit, it will debut in twelve theaters in the U.S., starting in New York City on February 6, 2015. And some of us will have to wait until it is available from Netflix, Amazon, and similar sources.

See the trailer at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uZj46ewvR6k>

What I find of greater significance is the love and courage that Dennis and Judy Shepard have used to keep their son's memory alive for the benefit of queers everywhere. This year, accompanied by Josue, the Shepards attended the Side-by-Side LGBT Film Festival in St. Petersburg, Russia (20-29 November), where *Matthew Shepard is a Friend of Mine* was shown on 24 November and eventually won the audience award.

Gulya Sulttanova and Manny de Guerre, the festival organizers, faced death threats, government attempts to close the festival down, and fines, and festival participants faced crowds yelling homophobic slurs and threats of violence.



Seated, LtR: Michele Josue, Judy Shepard, Dennis Shepard. Side-by-Side LGBT Film Festival, St. Petersburg, Russia. November 24, 2014. Courtesy of GLAAD. Source: Roman Melnik.



Side-by-Side LGBT Film Festival, St. Petersburg, Russia. November 24, 2014. Judy Shepard is 3rd from left; Dennis Shepard, far right. Courtesy of GLAAD. Source: Roman Melnik.

Then, almost as if to test Russian Premier Putin's recent claim that he is not a homophobe and that Russia is not a homophobic nation (a conclusion due to an erroneous misperception!), the trio traveled to Moscow where they talked to members of the LGBTQ community as well as to several of their parents.



Moscow. November 2014. Dennis and Judy Shepard (front row, right) meeting with a number of LGBTQ individuals and some of their parents. Courtesy of GLAAD. Source: Yulia Maligina.

However painful and tragic, every successful revolution has its martyrs, and Matthew Shepard is certainly one of ours. Sadly, we have not witnessed the last of our

martyrs, but the determination of Matthew's parents, his brother, and his friends to keep his memory alive so that he may provide strength and courage to young queers worldwide is an extraordinary commitment to our cause.

Several of the attendees at the film festival, quoted on several web sites, were generally optimistic about the future of LGBT people in Russia. Some insisted that, although many of their friends had left or were planning to leave Russia, a younger generation was more determined to stay and fight to achieve their rightful place in society.

Their comments appear to contradict those of Russian youth on another documentary, *Children 404*, directed by Askold Korov and Pavel Lopanev. The documentary hopefully will soon be available in the U.S., but its trailer can be seen here:

<http://vimeo.com/79612402> The film interviews a number of the young, queer Russians who have participated in Elena Kimova's "Children 404" Project, an online forum where queer youth can discuss problems anonymously. The difference may be in the origin of the youth. Many of those interviewed for *Children 404* are from small towns and villages who are terrified for their lives because the anti-gay propaganda law has morphed into school staff and teachers seemingly denouncing sexual minorities on a daily basis. Only one of the young men interviewed has any hope: one accepted to a Canadian university.

I've also read (but have not been able to confirm) that Elena Kimova has been arrested and is on trial for violating Russia's anti-gay propaganda law.

Unfortunately, revolutions never have their fill of martyrs. Scarcely a day goes by in the U.S. that we do not lose yet another young LGBTQ person to murder or suicide.

We close 2014 mourning the apparent suicide of a 17-year-old trans woman, Leelah Alcorn, whose suicide letter posted on line led

to an outpouring of anger, rage, and love on social media. Again and again young adults asked the same questions: how can we hold parents who reject their queer children accountable?, how can we hold religious leaders who spew hatred against queers accountable?, what can we do to make the carnage stop?

I know we've had our share of parents who murder their own children. It's not a peculiarly American phenomenon nor is it a solely recent one. Still, a mother and her boyfriend who torture her son for months until he dies of blunt force trauma because he "seemed to be" or "acted like" a homosexual? Zachary Duto of Hillsboro, Ore., was only four. Gabriel Fernández of Palmdale, Calif., was eight. Zachary died in 2013; Gabriel in 2014. They, too, join our list of martyrs. The fact their mothers are each serving a life sentence is no solace. The boys will have no mother or father to mourn them and to keep their memory alive as a reminder on how little value so many people place on the "other," the "outlier," as if they were still hopelessly lost in the tribal stage of societal development where the stranger does indeed induce fear in the tribe.

You can read about both Zachary and Gabriel here, <http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2014/11/requiem-for-gabriel>, and it's worth following several of the links, but beware, the graphic descriptions of their torture are unsettling.

Religion certainly played a role in the death of both these boys, as Hillsboro and Palmdale are communities with a relatively high percentage of evangelical fundamentalists who are vehemently anti-gay. Religion certainly plays a role as well in the suicides that, increasingly, can be attributed to anti-gay bullying even when, as with Zachary and Gabriel, there really is no proof that the children or teenagers involved, either in taking their own lives or in being murdered, are in fact sexual minorities. In the cases of Zachary

and Gabriel, "seeming to be" gay implies that they were effeminate—which reveals society's deep-seated disdain for women more than its disdain for gay men.

Another recent documentary, *Same Difference* (2014), <http://abcnewspapers.com/2014/08/16/documentary-chronicles-student-suicides-in-anoka-hennepin> examines the lives of two boys, one who grew up in a school district where nine students took their lives in a two-year period (2009-2011), all of whom were repeatedly bullied, and another who grew up in a supportive community and who is now doing well in college.

If religious extremists create the breeding grounds for bullies, so, too, do secular institutions that blanket the media with what constitutes acceptable behavior, body types, and looks for both boys and girls.



Image by Quist, the free LGBTQ history app. Courtesy of Quist. www.quistapp.com

As Jonathan Reed suggests in this article on the recent suicide of 12-year-old Ronin Shimizu of Folsom, Calif., something other than religious extremism was at work. <https://medium.com/redefining-masculinity/ronin-shimizu-did-not-need-to-die-7398f1cd29a>

Indeed, how far have we not traveled between Disney's *Beach Party* (1963) and *High School Musical* (2006)! The resident gay teenaged male is still a sissy eunuch. Forty-some years after a still closeted Merv Griffin filmed his show one day on Muscle Beach, shocking his audience when the men he interviewed admitted they were gay, Americans still equate male homosexuality with being effeminate which, again, says more about society's disdain for women.



Courtesy of GLAAD



Image by Quist, the free LGBTQ history app. Courtesy of Quist. www.quistapp.com

Odds 'n Ends

- **Nicolas Sarkozy**, France's former president, recently announced that he would seek re-election, expressly as a champion of traditional marriage. Specifically, he has promised France's conservative Catholics that he will rescind the nation's marriage and adoption equality laws. Sarkozy, of course, has been married three times.

- The mayors of a number of Italian cities, among them Rome, Bologna, and Milan, have defied the Italian Attorney General by registering Italian same-sex couples legally married in other countries. Their action is purely symbolic since the registered same-sex couples still do not qualify for benefits bestowed upon married heterosexual couples, but it's a clear message to the national government that a majority of urban Italians support marriage equality.

- A group of LGBT students at Harvard have a t-shirt project aimed at raising \$10,000 for GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education

Network). The project focuses on what needs to be done beyond marriage equality. See, <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/in-the-making--2>

- Four Country & Western singers came out in 2014: Cheryl Wright, Steve Grand, Ty Herndon, and Billy Gilman. That took courage considering their fans are mostly conservatives and, indeed, evangelicals. Still, even Dolly Parton weighed in to support them, wondering why in 2014 it should still be an issue.



Courtesy of the Human Rights Campaign.

So just how many athletes came out in 2014? Outsports counted 109, up from 77 in 2013. See,

<http://www.outsports.com/2014/12/18/7341179/gay-lgbt-athletes-coaches-2014>

Of course, compiling an international list that includes high school? Impossible.

- It's still a relevant article, "The Meaning of Gay," *The New York Magazine* (June 25, 1979). An interview with Dr. C.A. Tripp, an associate of Dr. Alfred Kinsey. Today, we might quibble with some of the things Tripp says, but we are reminded that Kinsey argued

back in 1948 that sexual orientation was not a choice. The article can be found here:

http://books.google.com/books?id=IOECAAAMBAJ&pg=PA36&source=gbs_toc_r&cad=2#v=onepage&q&f=false On table of contents, click on title on p. 36.

- Trampling on religious freedom. We're going to hear that phrase often emanating from the halls of Congress in the next two years, just as it will from many a state legislature. When it comes to likely Republican Presidential candidates, even "moderate" Jeb Bush puts his Bible above the Constitution. When finally asked about marriage equality in Florida, Bush hemmed and hawed before suggesting a person's religious beliefs trumped someone else's civil rights.

I'm not a constitutional scholar, but I recall that at least five times since 1887, the SCOTUS has differentiated between religious belief and religious practice. Religious belief remains unfettered. Religious practice, however, can be limited by secular law. The Constitution allows Steven Anderson, minister of the Faithful Word Baptist Church in Tempe, AZ, and James David Manning, pastor of the ATLAH Missionary Church in NYC (Harlem), to preach every Sunday that homosexuals should be stoned to death, but should they or any of their followers attempt to put their belief into practice the Constitution does not protect them against charges of attempted murder (or murder if they were to succeed). Few pundits noticed that in its Hobby Lobby decision, the SCOTUS blurred the distinction, but only for corporations. It's why we have seen and will continue to see a proliferation of laws at the state level exempting business owners with "sincerely held religious beliefs" from certain secular laws that pertain to queers.

- Debi Jackson, a white, Republican, and Southern Baptist from Alabama pens a stirring

defense of her transgender daughter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oIuw3yIyhl>

● *On the Precipice* (Australia, 2014) is a documentary that examines violence against gay men in Australia in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/03/on-the-precipice-documentary_n_5434153.html?utm_hp_ref=gay-voices

● On the music scene. Ryan Dolan, Ireland's official entry into the 2014 Eurovision contest, is openly gay, as are several of his songs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShBSKznzts70>

If you enjoy both classical and modern pop music, you will likely enjoy Well-strung, the singing (all-gay) string quartet.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxHs52R1gfY> If you're in the L.A. area, they will be performing with the Gay Men's Choir of Los Angeles in February. Talk about breaking stereotypes.

Out performer Eli Lieb released "Lightning in a Bottle" in November, a song about being true to oneself.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/11/19/eli-lieb-lightning-in-a-bottle_n_6187248.html?utm_hp_ref=gay-voices

● Inaugural poet Richard Blanco has penned memoirs of his growing up in Miami "between two imaginary worlds." *The Prince of Los Cocuyos* (2014).

Three Latino writers, Charles Rice-González, Justin Torres, and Roberto Santiago, talk about coming out in the context of their culture.

<http://nbclatino.com/2012/06/23/mami-im-gay/#s.charlesricegonzalezbaadphotobymarisoldiaz2010>

QF Scholar Alumni Notes

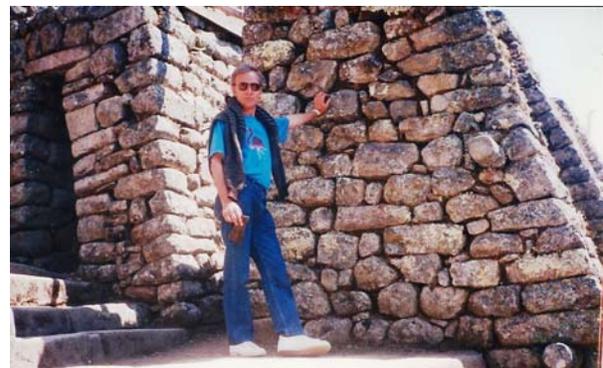
Scarlett Sieber is vice president of operations of Infamous Clouds in NYC.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/scarlett-sieber/>
Scarlett received her QF scholarship in 2006-07. She attended and graduated from Fordham University.

Brandon Lambert (2010-11) recently had a co-starring role in the Pittsburgh CLO Production of *Murder for Two*, a new musical on its off-Broadway run.



The editor as a black cat with friends Jeff as the white rabbit from *Alice in Wonderland* and Maurizio as a penguin. Carnival in Venice, February 1987. Source: Ray Verzasconi.



The editor at Machu Picchu, July 1988.