



Transgender woman attacked at Maryland McDonalds

Two teen aged girls were arrested for violently attacking a Transgender woman in a Rosedale, Maryland, McDonald's on April 18.

The incident occurred when 22-year-old Chrissy Lee Polis, who is Transgender, tried to use the women's restroom.

They said, "That's a dude, that's a dude and she's in the female bathroom," Polis told the **Baltimore Sun** in an interview. "They spit in my face."

What happened next is detailed in a three minute clip, taped by a McDonald's employee, that spread virally. The video garnered more than 500,000 views on one site alone.

According to the **Baltimore Sun**: The video shows two females, one of them a 14-year-old girl, repeatedly kicking and punching Polis in the head as an employee and a patron try to intervene.

Others can be heard laughing, and men are seen standing idly by.

Toward the end of the video, one of the suspects lands a punishing blow to the victim's head, and a Polis appears to

have a seizure. A man's voice tells the woman to run because police are coming.

Stepping back from the employee's actions, McDonald's acknowledged the attack and issued a statement saying, "We are shocked by the video from a Baltimore franchised restaurant showing an assault. This incident is unacceptable, disturbing and troubling.

"McDonald's strives to be a safe, welcoming environment for everyone who visits. Nothing is more important to us than the safety of customers and employees in our restaurants. We are working with the franchisee and the local authorities to investigate this matter."

On Saturday, franchise owner Mitchell McPherson

echoed the national office's sentiments stating, "The crew member who made the video

is no longer employed with my organization."

Equality Maryland has called on Douglas F. Gansler, the state Attorney General, to step in and investigate the attack as a hate crime.

"As a community we remain horrified that Transgender citizens are so vulnerable that they

can be brutalized for simply walking down the street," Lisa Polyak, vice president of the board of directors for Equality Maryland, told reporters.

"She was simply trying to use a public accommodation. People should not feel threatened when they exist in public spaces. The incident occurred little more than a month after the Maryland



Chrissy Lee Polis

Gender Identity Act failed to garner the necessary legislative support to enact protections for Transgender residents in public accommodations. A point, Polyak also raised in her talk with reporters.

"This is why we need a statewide law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression."

A vigil was organized to address Polis' attack as well as to call attention to the larger issue of violence against Transgender people.

"Our primary concern is for Ms. Polis' wellbeing. We support her through this difficult time and we ask that the legal process be unhampered and thorough,"

TransMaryland spokeswoman Jenna Fischetti said. "This is precisely the kind of hatred and bigotry that Transgender women and men deal with on a daily basis," Caroline Temmerand of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of Baltimore and Central Maryland (GLCCB)

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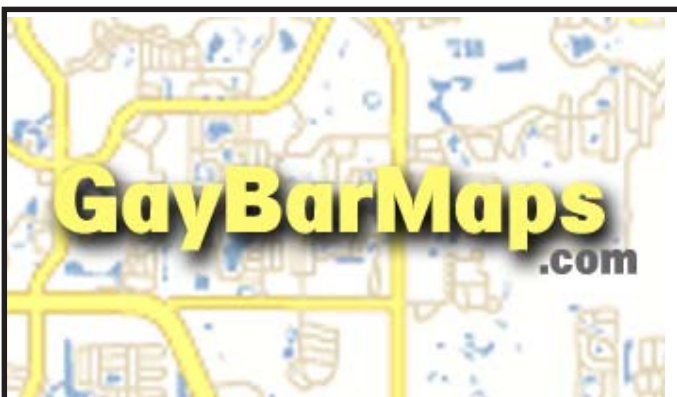


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said.

GLAAD will continue to monitor this situation and provide media support for the LGBT community in Maryland.

from GLAAD

Coalition Update

Sharing at April Coalition meeting:

Peru Kids

Ron Witt is working with a Catholic Orphanage that has opened up two small rooms on the third floor as a hospital for the kids. He is working only with this orphanage now. He sent \$3,000 down recently and asks that if there is anyone who wants to provide

support to let him know. Support can come in any form, for example, letters to the kids. Recently received \$700 from Kids Fund. There will be a yard sale to help raise funds for the organization. The date will be given at the next coalition meeting.

GLSEN Prom

There are still free tickets available for youth. The prom will be on May 7 at the Contemporary Arts Center. There is an artist exhibit that will be open from 7-8 for attendees. There are two options to support the prom other than buying tickets alone. One for \$300 - jr, and \$500 - sr. There will be door prizes- two adults and two children tickets to Circ de Sole. Contact the website for more information.

GLSENCINCINNATI PROM.com

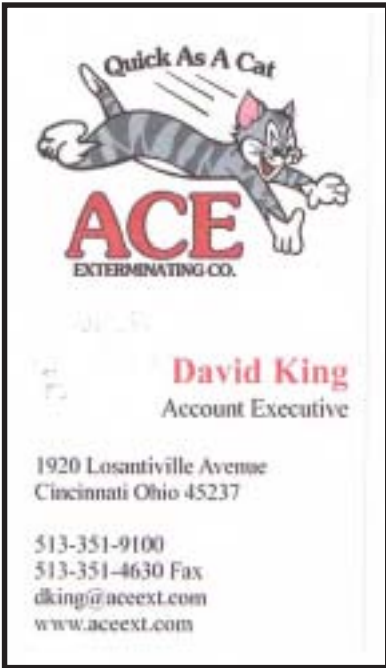
NKYPRIDE

NKY PRIDE will host a party in the park on May 9 from 2-8. It will take place at Goebel Park in Mainstrasse Village. There will be registration for booths for both NKY PRIDE and Cincinnati PRIDE. There will be a discount to register for both at one time.

UCPRIDE

UC PRIDE Week is May 2-6. A list of the week's events are on their website: www.uc.edu/lgbtq. Events include: Lunch and Learn session on Queer Sexual Health; Andrea Gibson; Queer Pride Ten and Open Mic Night; Lube-a-Palozza; Dinner and a Movie and

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Queer PRIDE Festival.

GenderBloc

GenderBloc has an e-zine and is looking for submissions. Please e.mail *queer cannon@gmail.com* for more information.

Muse Spring Festival

GLSEN will partner with MUSE: Cincinnati's Women's Choir to create a weekend for youth connected with the Muse Spring Concert.

HRC

HRC is sponsoring the Family Day at the Cincinnati Zoo. Ticket Prices are: \$14 for 18 - UP. With this ticket one will renew or get a new HRC membership as well as free parking. \$5 for 17 - Under.

Cincinnati Men's Chorus

CMC had a successful concert series in March! The next concert series takes place in June. It's the current Artistic Director's, Patrick Coyle, final concert. CMC is currently in the process of finding a replacement. To help celebrate Partick's term with the CMC there will be a B&B Riverboat cruise on May 21. Check the website for ticket prices and time.

CincinnatiMenschorus.org

Equality Cincinnati

There are \$1,000.00 scholarships for LGBTQ youth who are going on to higher education. The youth can apply on the website. On March 22nd EC sponsored the Violence Prevention event along with HRC and the YWCA. EC also has a Domestic Partner registry. This month there are seven partners registered who will be given an anniversary gift.

King & Spalding drops DOMA case

In a flurry of announcements Monday morning, the Atlanta-based legal giant King & Spalding said it had dropped the politically charged Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) case, prompting its lead attorney, Paul D. Clement, to resign in protest.

Clement, a former solicitor general in the George W. Bush administration, immediately jumped to a new firm, Bancroft PLLC, and will handle the DOMA defense for them.

The dramatic turn of events highlighted the turmoil surrounding the 1996 marriage law, which has become a political headache for House Speaker John Boehner (R-Butler County). Boehner pledged to use the House's prerogative to defend the statute after the Obama administration dropped the case earlier this year.

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) assailed Boehner for the move, and Gay-rights advocates targeted King & Spalding for its involvement.

On Monday, King & Spalding chairman, Robert D. Hays Jr., issued a statement saying the firm had withdrawn from the case.

"Last week we worked diligently through the process required for withdrawal," Hays said. "In reviewing this assignment further, I determined that the process used for vetting this engagement was inadequate. Ultimately I am responsible for any mistakes that occurred and

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Doma—from Page 3 apologize for the challenges this may have created.”

Boehner spokesman Brendan Buck said the Speaker “is disappointed in [King & Spalding’s] decision and its careless disregard for its responsibilities to the House in this constitutional matter.”

“At the same time, Mr. Clement has demonstrated legal integrity, and we are grateful for his decision to continue representing the House,” Buck said. “This move will ensure the constitutionality of this law is appropriately determined by the courts, rather than by the president unilaterally.”

Buck said the structure of the House contract on the case will stay the same, meaning Congress will pay as much as \$500,000 in legal fees

to Bancroft. Boehner wants to cut the budget of the Department of Justice by the amount the House will pay to defend the marriage case that the administration has dropped.

The Hill

Rutgers “spy” indicted

A former Rutgers University freshman was indicted Wednesday, April 20 on a hate crime charge after allegedly using a webcam to spy on a same-sex encounter involving his roommate, who committed suicide shortly afterward in a case that started a national conversation on bullying.

A 15-count indictment was handed up Wednesday by a Middlesex County grand jury against Dharun Ravi, of Plainsboro, who had already faced invasion of privacy charges along with another student, Molly Wei.

The indictment charges Ravi with bias intimidation, invasion of privacy, witness, and evidence tampering, and other charges stemming from the suicide of 18-year-old Tyler Clementi in September. The indictment said charges

Clementi jumped off the George Washington Bridge into the Hudson River shortly after authorities say Ravi and Wei used a webcam to peek at his liaison. Lawyers for Ravi say the webcam stream was viewed on only a single computer and did not show the men having sex.

The indictment says Ravi targeted Clementi and invaded his privacy knowing that Clementi would be intimidated because of his sexual orientation.

According to the indictment, Ravi deleted a Twitter post letting others know how they could view a second encounter involving Clementi and replaced it with a false tweet; deleted text messages sent and received by witnesses; and gave false information to police — all actions intended to mislead investigators.

If convicted of the most serious bias charge, Ravi could face five to 10 years in prison.

The death of Clementi, a promising violinist in his first weeks at college, came amid a string of high-profile suicides

of young people who were Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender, or perceived to be LGBT.

Partly because of his high-profile death and the other circumstances surrounding his suicide, Clementi became a face of the issue.

President Barack Obama and celebrities including talk show host Ellen DeGeneres and sex columnist Dan Savage have talked publicly about his death and said that young Gays and Lesbians need to know that **life gets better**.

Clementi’s parents, Jane and Joe Clementi, said in a statement released Wednesday that they were eager for the case to move forward in order to “reinforce the standards of acceptable conduct in our society.”

“The grand jury indictment spells out cold and calculated acts against our son Tyler by his former college roommate,” they said. “If these facts are true, as they appear to be, then it is important for our criminal justice system to establish clear accountability under the law.”

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