



## Blind LGBT Pride The “Inside Out” Newsletter

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The Newsletter of Blind LGBT Pride International is published in March, June, September, and December. Material to be published of interest to the membership is welcome. All material for inclusion must be received prior to the first of the month of publication. Items for publication should be sent to: Connie Torrisi, Editor, [LavenderQ@comcast.net](mailto:LavenderQ@comcast.net)

Blind Pride is a Special Interest affiliate of the American Council of the Blind and is dedicated to facilitating the free exchange of ideas, opinions and information relative to matters of concern to blind people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Visit us at [www.blind-lgbt-pride.org](http://www.blind-lgbt-pride.org)

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

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## **## From The Presidents Desk**

by Don Wilson

Summer is almost upon us and that means it's time for the annual Blind Pride Convention. This July our Convention will be in Reno, Nevada in conjunction with the American Council of the Blind's 50th Anniversary Conference & Convention. We will be holding our Annual Business Meeting where elections for Board Members will be held along with voting on proposed amendments to our Constitution & bylaws.

In this newsletter you will find the agenda for our Business Meeting, our 2011 Convention Schedule, the proposed Amendment changes and information about the Board Member positions up for election along with candidate statements from individuals running for election. We hope you will be visiting us in Reno, if so you can find the latest news and information about Convention plans on our website at [www.Blind-LGBT-Pride.org](http://www.Blind-LGBT-Pride.org).

Take care and hope everyone has a great summer!

Don Wilson, President

### **## Blind Pride Convention Program & Information**

This year we will be holding our Convention in Reno, Nevada in conjunction with ACB's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference & Convention. The place to be during the week of July 9<sup>th</sup> through July 16 is the John Ascuaga Nugget Hotel Resort & Casino. Join ACB & Blind Pride for an event filled week with workshops, events, tours, & exhibition Hall.

This year the room rates are \$87 single/double, and each additional person in the room costs an additional \$10. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 1-800-648-1177. When calling be sure to mention that you are with the American Council of the Blind, group code BLIND, in order to receive the conference rate and count as a conference attendee.

Reservations can also be made online by following the link below to go to a web page designed for ACB group reservations. The website address is:  
[www.januggetsecure.com/jump/1308/](http://www.januggetsecure.com/jump/1308/).

#### **Blind Pride Convention Program**

Below you will find our schedule for the Convention week. This year we will again have a Hospitality Suite that will be open during the day for people to hang out and be used as a central meeting place. We are trying to set up some type of last minute announcement service so that people can find out about spur of the moment happenings. Please let us know if you plan on attending the Convention by sending an email to [Convention@Blind-LGBT-Pride.org](mailto:Convention@Blind-LGBT-Pride.org) so that we can keep you updated on this service.

#### **Blind LGBT Pride International (BPI)**

##### **Convention Schedule**

**July 9 - 16, 2011**

**John Ascuaga Nugget Hotel Resort & Casino  
Reno, Nevada**

#### **Saturday July 9**

##### **7:00PM - Get Together Dinner**

Members arriving early get together and have dinner.

LOCATION: Meet in Blind Pride Suite

## **Sunday July 10**

### **3:30PM - Mardi Gras Mixer**

Kick off convention week with Mardi Gras in July and get your free beads and ACB 50th commemorative hurricane glass.

Pre-registration: \$15

At the door \$18

LOCATION: Blind Pride Suite

### **7:00PM - Opening Ceremony of the 50th Annual ACB Convention**

Join the excitement and tradition of opening session; entertainment begins at 6:30PM.

LOCATION: See ACB Convention Program

## **Monday July 11**

### **8:30AM - Noon**

ACB Convention General Session

LOCATION: See ACB Convention Program

### **7:15PM - Annual Business Meeting and Elections**

Join us as we elect new Board Members and vote on Constitutional Amendments. This is your organization, so your input is very much welcomed.

LOCATION: Blind Pride Suite

## **Tuesday July 12**

### **8:30 AM - Noon**

ACB Convention General Session

LOCATION: See ACB Convention Program

### **1:15PM - 2:30PM Workshop - Bullied: Life Experiences**

Join us for an audio described screening of the documentary "Bullied", which chronicles the story of a student's relentless abuse, & his stance in federal court. A panel discussion will follow after the documentary.

LOCATION: See ACB Convention Program

### **9:00 PM - Discussion Group**

LOCATION: Blind Pride Suite

## **Wednesday July 13**

### **8:30AM - Noon**

ACB Convention General Session

LOCATION: See ACB Convention Program

### **2:45PM - 4:00PM Workshop - A New Look at Reasonable Accommodation**

Through the ADAAA Lens, learn how the ADAAA and new EEOC regulations affect reasonable accommodations and other issues related to employment. Presented by the Pacific ADA Center and co-sponsored with the Employment Issues Task Force.

LOCATION: See ACB Convention Program

**5:45PM - Flashback 1961 Cocktail Party**

Celebrate with music & highlights of the year ACB was born.

Pre-registration: \$15

At the door: \$18

LOCATION: Blind Pride suite

**Thursday July 15**

**8:30AM - Noon**

ACB Convention General Session

LOCATION: See ACB Convention Program

**3:00PM - Souvenir Shopping**

Take time to explore and get that special souvenir.

LOCATION: Meet in Blind Pride suite

**7:15PM - Movie Night with Snacks and refreshments.**

Join us for a screening of "The Kids are alright"

The Kids are Alright is a story about a committed same-sex couple of two teenage children. Nic (Annette Bening) and Jules (Julianne Moore), are about to send their daughter, Joni (Mia Wasikowska), off to college when her younger brother, Laser (Josh Hutcherson), asks for her help in tracking down their unknown sperm donor father. Enthusiastic at the thought of meeting his long lost offspring, Paul (Mark Ruffalo) musters the courage to reach out.

After Joni and Laser meet with Paul, Nic and Jules learn what their children have done, and although they don't want Paul infiltrating their lives, they want to meet him especially as Joni and Laser seem to want to maintain some sort of relationship with him. As Paul's relationship with the entire family grows, which also includes him hiring Jules to design and construct his back yard, they have an effect on what he wants in life, and he in turn affects the family dynamic as well as each person's relationships outside of the family.

Pre-registration: \$5

At the door: \$8

LOCATION: Blind Pride suite

**Friday July 16**

**8:30AM - Noon**

ACB Convention General Session

LOCATION: See ACB Convention Program

**7:00PM - ACB's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet**

Join the party as ACB celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, pre-event activities start at 6:00PM.

**9:00PM - Farewell Outing**

Join your friends and go "out on the town" to say farewell to Reno.

LOCATION: Meet in Blind Pride Suite

**## 2011 Annual Business Meeting Agenda**

Monday, July 11, 2011, 7:15 pm PDT  
Reno, Nevada

ITEM: Call to order

ITEM: Roll call

ITEM: Approval of June minutes

ITEM: Public comments

ITEM: President's remarks

ITEM: Treasurer's Annual Report

ITEM: Fundraising Committee Annual Report

ITEM: Public Relations & Outreach Committee Annual Report

ITEM: Membership Committee Annual Report

ITEM: Communications Committee Annual Report

ITEM: I.T. Committee Annual Report

ITEM: Convention Coordinating Committee Annual Report

ITEM: Constitution and Bylaws Committee Annual Report

ITEM: Proposed Constitutional Amendments

ITEM: Elections

ITEM: Adjournment

## **## Constitutional Amendments & Changes**

The following are proposed Amendments and changes to our Constitution & Bylaws to be voted on at our Annual Business Meeting this July in Reno Nevada. The first change establishes Board Meetings be held on a monthly basis. The second change adds language to allow members not attending the Annual Business Meeting to vote via other means. The Third change sets attendance standards for Board Members at Board Meetings.

The final two changes are “housekeeping” to clean up the structure. Please take time to review these changes. The current copy of our Constitution & Bylaws can be found on our website at [www.Blind-LGBT-Pride.org](http://www.Blind-LGBT-Pride.org). If you have any questions, please contact a Board Member.

### **First proposed Amendment**

Article 5 Section B

Inserts new sentence between the first and second sentence

#### **Current Language**

B. Voting: Each voting member and affiliate in good standing attending an Annual Convention of Blind LGBT Pride shall be entitled to one vote. A person casting a vote on behalf of his or her affiliate may cast both his or her individual vote and the vote for his or her affiliate.

#### **Proposed Language**

B. Voting: Each voting member and affiliate in good standing attending an Annual Convention of Blind LGBT Pride shall be entitled to one vote. Members not present at the Annual Convention are entitled to cast their vote for election of board members by telephone or electronic means, as determined by the Board of Directors. A person casting a vote on behalf of his or her affiliate may cast both his or her individual vote and the vote for his or her affiliate.

### **Second Proposed Amendment**

Article 4 (starting with Section C)

Inserts new Section C and moves current Section C and following Sections down one letter.

### Current Language

C. Regularly scheduled board meeting shall be open to the membership, pursuant to published guidelines established by the Board.

D. Procedure: In the absence of procedures contained herein or in the Bylaws, all proceedings, of this organization shall be governed by ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED.

### Proposed Language

C. Monthly board meetings: Between the Annual Convention the Board of Directors shall meet on a monthly basis to conduct the business of the organization as outlined in Article VII. A quorum for conducting business shall be based on the number of occupied board positions.

D. Regularly scheduled board meeting shall be open to the membership, pursuant to published guidelines established by the Board.

E. Procedure: In the absence of procedures contained herein or in the Bylaws, all proceedings, of this organization shall be governed by ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED.

### Third Proposed Amendment

#### Article 6 Section A

Inserts two sentences at the end of Section A

#### Current Language

A. The Board expects of itself and its members ethical and businesslike conduct. This commitment includes proper use of authority and appropriate decorum in group and individual behavior when acting as Directors. Failure to do so will subject a Board Member to disciplinary actions contained in Section H of this Article.

#### Proposed Language

A. The Board expects of itself and its members ethical and businesslike conduct. This commitment includes proper use of authority and appropriate decorum in group and individual behavior when acting as Directors. Failure to do so will subject a Board Member to disciplinary actions contained in Section H of this Article. Board Members are expected to attend all board meetings. Failure to attend three consecutive board meetings may result in disciplinary action as delineated in Section H of this Article.

The following two items are “housekeeping” changes to clear up out of place and miss lettered areas of the Constitution & Bylaws.

### Bylaw 4

The lettering of Sections is incorrect.

#### Proposed Changes

- Change the heading “Affiliate Responsibilities” to just “Affiliates”
- Change the lettering after the heading “Appeal of Provisional Deletion”. The Letter “A” becomes the letter “G” and the letter “B” becomes the letter “H”.



- Remove the heading “Appeal of Provisional Deletion”

### **Article 6**

Item number 7 in Section H is in the wrong place.

#### **Proposed Changes**

Move Article 6 Section H Number 7 to Article 3 Section B Number 6 as a new item to Section B.

### **## Board Member Elections & Candidate Statements**

This year at our Annual Convention we will be holding elections for four Board Member positions. The positions available are Vice President, Secretary, & two Member At Large positions. Why not consider running for one of those seats? Like any organization, Blind LGBT Pride needs dedicated people to keep things running for the benefit of all members. The time commitment for these volunteer positions varies somewhat, depending on the position, but generally, the board meets via conference call once a month for one or two hours. Duties such as Fund-raising, Outreach, Marketing, etc. are distributed and handled by appointed individual board members.

Interested individuals who have not already submitted a candidacy statement to the Nominating Committee can still run from the convention floor. Women are encouraged to consider running for a seat on the Board. The Nominating Committee has received the following candidate statements from individuals interested in being elected.

#### **Candidate Statement for Member-at-Large by Connie Torrisi**

Hello everyone. My name is Connie Torrisi and I am running for re-election as Member-at-Large. I am unable to be here with you in person, but I am none-the-less dedicated to our organization. For the past two years my main duties have revolved around producing the Blind LGBT Pride newsletter, Inside Out. It has been a real challenge to not only gather interesting and relevant articles for the

newsletter, but also to learn the ins and outs of consistent formatting and presentation. It has been an interesting and enjoyable learning experience that I look forward to continuing.

I would very much like to serve as member-at-large and newsletter editor for another term. Therefore, I am asking for your vote so that I may continue in this capacity. By allowing me to serve another term, I can continue to provide you with a quarterly newsletter as well as assist the rest of the board of directors in any way that I can.

Thank you.

*Connie Torrisi*

**Candidate Statement for Member-at-Large by George Ashiotis**

My name is George Ashiotis and I hereby announce my candidacy for one of the “Board Member at Large” positions of Blind Pride. Over the last four years, I have served as both Board Member and Vice President and it has been an honor and a great learning experience serving this affiliate. My primary function over the last couple of years has been to chair the membership committee. As such, I have established a solid working relationship with ACB's national office; I have created and maintained a comprehensive database; and, developed a welcome packet for new members. I have also served on the nominating committee as well as the program planning committee. My responsibilities on the board always been carried out with a deep sense of commitment and respect for Blind Pride’s mission. I humbly ask for your support.

By way of a brief resume, I offer the following:

Director on the board of ART/NY (Alliance of Resident Theatres of New York), 16 years

-- serving on the nominating committee. ART/NY is an umbrella organization serving over 300 not-for-profit theatres, including, The ROUNDABOUT Theatre, The NEW YORK SHAKESPEARE Company, and LINCOLN CENTER THEATER.

Theatre panel of NYSCA (New York State Council for the Arts), 3 years -- reading, assessing and ultimately making recommendations

on applications from theatres seeking state funding.

Special project committee member of NYFA (New York Foundation for the Arts), one year -- developing accessibility guidelines for theatres receiving government support.

Until August 2008, I was co-artistic director of Theater By The blind, a not-for-profit Off Broadway company. Aside from the wonderful theatrical opportunities this organization afforded me, one of my chief administrative duties was managing the theatre's data base and generating reports based on annual contributions and various demographic criteria.

Respectfully submitted,  
*George Ashiotis*

**Candidate Statement for Vice President by Don Brown**

My name is Don Brown and I wish to submit my name for consideration for the Vice President of Blind LGBT Pride International.

As many of you know, I've held many positions in the organization including President, from 2008 through 2010. For the past year, I occupied the Past President's seat on Blind Pride's board of directors.

I am interested in being an officer of this organization because I want to continue to build upon the many accomplishments Blind Pride has experienced over the years.

My professional background is in the areas of Human Resources Management and ADA Implementation and Compliance. I have a great deal of experience of being in leadership roles on boards and am comfortable interacting with a range of people from varied backgrounds.

I would like to see this organization focus on the development of programs and services for our members. I have advanced the idea of establishment of a telephone information, referral and support

program to be staffed by our members and volunteers, as an example.

I also believe that the board should continue to support and prioritize fund raising as a critical effort going forward.

I fully support the organization creating viable options for those members who do not attend convention to play a role in electing officers and Board Members and adopting Constitution and Bylaw amendments.

I look forward to your support and continuing to move this organization forward.

*Don Brown*

### **## Do You Have Basic Secretarial Skills?**

If you do, the Blind Pride Board of Directors could use you!

This year, we are seeking a volunteer to join the Board of Directors as secretary. The position requires attendance at one board meeting per month via telephone conference call. On rare occasions, an additional meeting may be scheduled. Meetings generally last from one to two hours.

Duties involve taking notes at each meeting and converting them into into a readable document that is sent via email to each board member and then archived for future reference. Other duties consist of maintaining the general records of the organization under the direction of the President and Vice President.

If you have basic secretarial skills and feel comfortable taking minutes during meetings, please consider running for the secretarial position this year. This is an opportunity to serve our organization.

Board meetings are generally easy-going and friendly. While it is necessary to complete the business of our organization in a timely manner, there is still time for a few laughs during meetings.

We hope that you will consider becoming a candidate for this position. You may run for this position from the floor at the 2011 Annual Convention in Reno.

### **## Florida Family Association Says Beware of Disney Gay Day**

By Advocate.com Editors

The Florida Family Association spent \$7,000 to fly a large banner "warning" Disney World attendees of the annual Gay Day celebration at the Magic Kingdom, WESH-TV reports.

"Thousands of homosexuals, lesbians and transgenders will converge on Central Florida the first week of June to celebrate their immoral lifestyles," the group announced on its website in condemnation of Orlando Gay Days, which brings in millions of tourist dollars to the area each year.

The association also criticized Doubletree by Hilton Orlando for its official sponsorship of Gay Days: "Many American families are offended by the public celebration of such immoral and irresponsible behavior. They are also displeased with companies like Hilton that allow their corporate image and goodwill to legitimize these events and their associated immoral behavior. "

### **## Roommate Charged With Hate Crime in NJ Suicide**

By Beth DeFalco

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - A former Rutgers University freshman was indicted Wednesday, April 20th 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 against Wei would not be presented to the grand jury "at this time."

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.

Lawyers for Ravi and Wei didn't immediately return calls seeking comment.

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 gay or perceived to be gay.

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."

## **## Using Echo Sounds to See**

(Live Science.com)

Some blind people are able to use the sound of echoes to "see" where things are and to navigate their environment. Now, a new study finds that these people may even be using visual parts of their brains to process the sounds.

Echolocation is best known in bats, who send out high-pitched sounds and then use the echoes to track their prey in the dark. But a select few blind people use echolocation as well, making clicking sounds with their tongues to tell them where obstacles are. The new study, published May 25 in the open-access journal PLoS ONE, is the first to peer into the brains of blind people who are doing just that.

The study finds that in two blind men who can echolocate, brain areas normally associated with vision activate when they listen to recordings of themselves echolocating.

"Our data clearly show that EB and LB [the study participants] use echolocation in a way that seems uncannily similar to vision," wrote the study authors. "In this way, our study shows that echolocation can provide blind people with a high degree of independence and self-reliance."

To study EB and LB's echolocation abilities, the researchers recorded their clicks and echoes as they sat near an object (in this case, a screen). The researchers then played those clicks and echoes back as the men lay in a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) machine. The fMRI measures blood flow to different areas of the brain, providing a real-time look at brain activity.

The researchers found that as the men listened to the echoes, the primary visual area of their brains, known as the calcarine cortex, became more active. When the researchers played sounds with echoes and sounds without echoes, they found that the blind men's calcarine cortex responded based on the presence of echoes, while the auditory cortex, used to process sounds, did not respond differently either way.

The same tests performed on two sighted men without echolocation abilities turned up no such calcarine cortex activity.

Blind people often show reorganized brain processing compared with their sighted counterparts, so more research is needed on larger groups of people to tease out exactly what's going on in the brain, the researchers wrote. Ideally, researchers may be able to compare not just blind echolocaters and sighted non-echolocaters, but also blind people who don't echolocate and sighted people who do.

According to study researcher Stephen Arnott of the Rotman Research Institute in Toronto and his colleagues, the study is a first step in understanding how the brain processes an ability that seemingly melds sound and sight.

"There is the possibility that even in sighted people who learn to echolocate, visual brain areas might be recruited," Arnott said in a statement.

## **## COMING OUT AT CHRISTIAN U.**

by Erik Eckholm (THE NEW YORK TIMES LARGE PRINT WEEKLY April 25-May 1, 2011)

WACO, Tex.--Decades after the gay rights movement swept secular schools, more gays and lesbians at Christian colleges are starting to come out of the closet, demanding a right to proclaim their identities and form campus clubs.

Many of the newly assertive students grew up as Christians and developed a sense of their sexual identities only after starting college, and after years of inner torment. They spring from a new generation of evangelical youths that, over all, holds far less harsh views of homosexuality than its elders.

But gay students are running up against administrators who defend what they describe as God's law on morality, and who must also answer to conservative trustees and alumni.

Facing vague prohibitions against "homosexual behavior," many students worry about what steps could risk expulsion. "It's like an unstoppable force meeting an immovable object," said Adam R. Short, a freshman at Baylor University who is openly gay and has fought, without success, for campus recognition of a club to fight homophobia.

A few more liberal religious colleges like Belmont University in Nashville, have reluctantly allowed the formation of gay student groups. But the more typical response has come from Baylor. "Baylor expects students not



to participate in advocacy groups promoting an understanding of sexuality that is contrary to biblical teaching," said Lori Fogleman, a university spokeswoman.

At Abilene Christian University in Texas, several students are pushing for change. Last spring, the university refused to allow formation of a Gay-Straight Alliance.

"I'm lonely," said Taylor Schmitt, in his second year at Abilene after arriving with a scholarship and a hope that his inner self might somehow change. By the end of his first year, Mr. Schmitt said, he accepted his homosexuality. He switched to English from Bible studies, which, he said, "reeked of the past deceptions and falsehoods I'd created around myself."

Rather than transferring and giving up his scholarship, he is taking extra classes to graduate a year early.

### **## Quarterly Quote**

People sometimes think I'm gay because I once played a gay in a movie. It's funny. Audiences don't think you're a murderer if you play a murderer, but they do think you're gay if you play a gay. ~Perry King (Movie & TV actor)

### **## In Review**

Sing it Loud – k.d. lang (Music CD, 2011)

Review by Rudy Palma

k.d. lang has earned the rare right to record exactly the material she wants, how she wants, and still expect an audience, and "Sing It Loud" reflects that with its self-assured, but often self-indulgent, songcraft - a formula that is ultimately winning due to her charisma and raw talent.

Sharp-edged hooks don't run aplenty, so the songs do not generally demand individual attention, but they also sparkle with spotless polish, the result of an obviously meticulous attention to detail that makes the album play highly satisfyingly.

That lang has recorded the album she wanted shows in the details. "Sing It Loud" is the kind of record a musician makes for his or herself, which means it will surely delight her most devoted but divide those who appreciate her on a more selective basis.

The songs are co-written with Joe Pisapia, who left his seven-year tenure with Guster to join lang in the studio and on the road. Selections such as the off-kilter, idiosyncratic "Sugar Buzz" and the peace-loving anthem "Perfect Word," which makes sweeping, grand use of the elastic fireball that is lang's voice, make the source of his motivation to

work with her quite clear. Their talents gel well, and with lang's miraculous pipes as Pisapia's muse the results are purposeful and passionate.

Whether the mood is thoughtful and considered (the ruminative "Heaven," "Sing It Loud," "Habit of Mind"), playfully romantic ("Inglewood," the soulful opener "I Confess") or cheerfully optimistic ("Sorrow Nevermore"), the music is consistently comfortable and restrained - ideal for an outdoor concert in late summer.

"Sing It Loud" is not the return to country that many fans of lang's salad days would like, but it is also the closest they may get to it, and given the great quality and labor she has gifted it with this not be considered a disappointment. It is a pleasing, rewarding listen from start to finish, navigated by one of our most valuable voices.

A deluxe version of the album with four additional tracks is available on lang's official Web site.)

## **## Around the World in brief**

Upping its ante against gays in the country, police in central China arrested a 17-year-old girl along with 31 young women, on charges of writing gay fiction which was used in a pornographic site.

Reports emanating from China, say that the police action was in sync with the state censorship on such material on internet following Internet pornography being outlawed in the People's Republic of China since 2002.

According to a local newspaper, the Shanghai Daily, police said the raids were a follow up to complaints about a website that published more than 80,000 gay specific fantasy and other stories for a whopping 600,000 plus users registered with the websites database.

Writers who were arrested told the police that they were assured somewhere around 15 US dollars per short fiction piece and were yet to get their wages.

## **## Trivia Spot**

In 1860 the [Braille](#) system was introduced to America and was taught with some success at the St. Louis School for the Blind.

**## Board of Directors**

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This newsletter welcomes advertisements from businesses, organizations, educational programs, as well as for products, and services.

Blind Pride’s Board of Directors retains sole discretion to reject ads, which are considered to be offensive or inappropriate for the intended audience of the newsletter.

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