

# OUTBOUND NEWS

Wisconsin's LGBT News Source

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8

WWW.OUTBOUNDNEWS.COM

AUGUST 15, 2005



## HOMOWNERS

By Josh Aterovis

It's official: We're homeowners. Well, almost official. Our settlement date -- and the big move -- is about a month away, but everything is looking good. It's all happened so quickly my head is still spinning. Our own home...

It's a big step -- but one more and more same-sex couples are taking. According to the 2000 US census, 64% of gay couples owned houses. That's up from 52% in 1990. However, compared to the straight world, that number is still a bit low: 78% of heterosexual married couples own homes.

"Discrimination may be one factor in that, but you could think of other reasons why that might occur," said Gary J. Gates, a research associate at the Population Studies Center of the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. Gays and lesbians tend to live in more urban areas where housing costs are higher and rental properties are more available.

That's not to discount discrimination. An HRC article on homeownership reports that many gay couples have faced discrimination while shopping for a home -- and Federal law offers no protection. The Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968) prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, financing of, or other housing-related transactions based on race,

color, national origin, religion, sex, family status, or disability, but it does not protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

This discrimination could take several forms. Some couples were turned down for housing simply because they were gay. Others have been told they cannot put both partners' names on a homeowner's insurance policy, which is important to do if both partners share ownership of the home. And still other couples have been discriminated against when filing a claim as some insurance companies have attempted to refuse claims or cancel policies on the grounds that the owners are "unrelated."

While there are no Federal protections, fourteen states and the District of Columbia have passed laws that provide civil rights protections -- including protection from discrimination in housing -- for gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. They are California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Of those, only California, Minnesota, New Mexico and Rhode Island include protection for transgender people. In addition, there are more than 240 local jurisdictions that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment and, in most cases, housing and public accommodations. About 60 of these also prohibit discrimination based on gender identity or expression. Check with your local government for more information.

*HOMOWNERS, see page 17*

### New Publication Catering to 'Bear' Lifestyle Makes Debut



The "Premiere" issue will be distributed worldwide including such markets as New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Washington D.C., Sitges, Spain, London and Cologne with launch parties scheduled in selected cities throughout the year.

Stevy Harris and Mike Goldberg, proprietors of Bear Brother's Enterprises and publishers of the magazine discovered there was a need to provide a non-sexual magazine for the "bear" community.

"From the bear runs, parties and charity fund-raisers all over the world, the bears have become a familiar and integral part of society. We hoping that our magazine is not only read by our fellow bears, but from all those admirers, gay, straight, and bi-sexual, who look to us as a important part of the community at large."

(New York, NY) - Bear Brother's Enterprises Ltd. announces the release of A Bears Life: a new lifestyle magazine celebrating the masculine lifestyle and the gay subculture known as the Bear Community. At least 25,000 copies of

Issued quarterly for the first year and bi-monthly thereafter, A Bear's Life: is a full colored magazine, filled with insightful articles and gorgeous photos aimed to entertain, inform and unify the global ursine brotherhood.

Featured writers include Larry Flick of Serious/Out-Q Radio's daily "OutQ In The Morning" and "Feel The Spin" music show, John Edward Campbell, author of Getting It Online; Cyberspace, Gay Male Sexuality and Embodied Identity. Also featured is Chef Michael McCurdy, former pastry chef from the Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta and the Art Institute of Atlanta/School of Culinary Arts.

Advertisers include TLA Releasing, Bear Films.com, Musclebear.com and The Cabanas Resort in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

For more information, visit [www.abearslifemag.com](http://www.abearslifemag.com)

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