

## \$600 BILLION LGBT DOLLARS



## LGBT Community Expected to Spend Over \$600 Billion in 2005

According to a media release from the Washington based LGBT news agency Witeck-Combs, LGBT buying power will top \$600 billion in 2005, up \$30 million from 2004's projected spending of \$580 million.

"Validating buying power is a reliable business tool for companies and policy decision-makers," Witeck-Combs CEO Bob Witeck said in releasing his latest projection. "It provides the most compelling snapshot of the economic activity of America's diverse gay, lesbian and bisexual population."

While Witeck is quick to emphasize that "buying power does not merely suggest wealth nor does it imply that same-sex households are more affluent than others," the numbers assume that the LGBT community's average income mirror the U.S. population with regard to income generation.

According to Witeck-Combs, several factors suggest these spending habits may be viewed as conserva-

tive, particularly when applied to gay and lesbian household purchasing power.

In the 2000 U.S. Census, data suggested that the majority of same-sex couples in the United States are concentrated in major metro areas, a characteristic generally associated with a higher household income. Gay couples are also less likely to have children than heterosexual couples and more likely to have both partners in the workforce, resulting in a higher per capita household income - particularly, Witeck says, in the case of gay male couples.

"Buying power is one key signal of the growth and size of the LGBT consumer market," said Don Montuori with Packaged Facts. "In our report, we cite buying power as another term for 'disposable personal income,' which is the total after-tax income available to an individual to spend on personal consumption, personal interest payments or savings. Traditionally, it roughly equals 86-percent of income."

### SpongeBob Creator Says Cartoon is Asexual



By Ross von Metzke

On the heels of accusations by radio evangelist James Dobson that SpongeBob Squarepants in "pro-homosexual," the cartoon's creator has stepped forward to say that his creation is neither gay nor straight.

*SpongeBob - page 15*

### New York State Court Rules Same-Sex Couples Must Be Allowed to Marry



A New York State court ruled today that same-sex couples must be allowed to marry, in a decision that Lambda Legal called "a historic ruling

that delivers the state Constitution's promise of equality to all New Yorkers."

*New York State - page 18*

### Diet Pepsi and Subway Go Gay at the Friendlier Super Bowl



By Michael Wilke

Gay themed ads were back in the kinder, gentler Super Bowl this year after an absence, making things looked friendlier in 2005.

*Diet Pepsi and Subway - page 10*

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## In Memory of Bob Fuller



Bob Fuller died on Sunday, January 30, 2005 at 44 years of age

Bob will be sadly missed by his parents, his brother, and sister.

Bob was well known at Club Boom/The Room and the Harbor Room.

He enjoyed playing darts and watching the Monday night bowlers.

Bob had many close friends including, Pat, Lamonte, Chad H., Scott, Dan, Chuck (CC), and Chad Lundquist.

A small group of friends gathered at Club Boom on Thursday,

February 3rd to remember Bob and collected \$550 which was donated to ARCW.

Bob will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

We are dedicating this issue to Bob Fuller.



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# DEAR RUTHIE

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you young (and old) lovers out there! Hope you had a great day with your lover, a sweetheart or even a good friend.

I don't know about the rest of you, but the month of February sure got off to a fun start for me. I had a helluva time competing in the "Miss Fortune" event at the M&M Club. The ever-fabulous, ravishing Rona stepped out from behind the bar and proved, once again, that she certainly knows how to throw one heck of a birthday bash...even if she's the one celebrating the birthday.

It was a laughed-packed evening with lots of donations going to the gay choir Men's Voices Milwaukee (MVM). In fact, more than \$1,200.00 was raised in just a matter of hours. "I think it was one of the most successful fundraisers MVM has held," said Rona. "I just want to thank all of the entertainers, the folks who showed up to support us, and my friends Peter and Joan for making the fantastic Wheel of Misfortune."

Unfortunately, I'm still not officially a queen! Outbound magazine's very own cheap-talking Chi-Chi, took home the tiara that night, with the talented Lizzie B. coming in a close second. Regardless of who won, a great time was had by all.

I hope there will be a lot more laughs come March 12. That's when I'm emceeing a night of comedy at "Laughing for the Cure" at Centennial Hall. The benefit to prevent HIV starts at 7:00 p.m. and features nine comedians from the Milwaukee and Chicago areas. See [www.dearruthie.com](http://www.dearruthie.com) for ticket information. Hope to see you there, laughing your sweet keester off. Now let's read a letter.

**Dear Ruthie,**

My lover doesn't help out enough around the house. He lets all of the repair work build up around the house and doesn't help out at all to fix the stuff. I am a handy guy, so he just lets things sit until I fix them. He doesn't even try to make any repairs. I haven't seen him pick up a hammer since we moved in. Now, we've got tons of stuff to fix around here, because I can't keep up. How can I get him to help out? I'm sick and tired of spending my weekends working on the house.

(From)

An Anonymous E-mail

**Dear Friend,**

This reminds me of the time I got sick of calling repairmen, having them turn down my advances and then having to pay outrageous bills. The year was 1979. I got a gig doing hair and makeup on the sitcom "Angie," teasing Donna Pescow's hair and powdering her chubby bosoms. The best part of the damn job was sneaking peeks at Robert Hays' tushy during his costume fittings, and the best part of the damn show was the theme song, but I digress. I was living in a bad part of Los Angeles in a tiny apartment. The divorce from my third husband, Vinnie, had just become final, and all I had left to show for it was a scorching case of athlete's foot and a king-size waterbed.

I never cared for the waterbed. It hurt my back, and it smelled like Vinnie's foot powder. Vinnie loved that bed, however, so after I caught him screwing around with a Jehovah's Witness, I decided to take it from him in the divorce.

I found myself stuck putting together that damn bed all by my lonesome. Now, let me tell ya, I'm not a handy gal. I can whip up a dry martini with my eyes closed, name the correct Fabio novel after hearing one sentence and sing every Tony Orlando song ever written. Just don't ask me to fix anything or put any crap together. With that said, please know that I did the best I could with that damn bed. Five rolls of duct tape, 13 cans of beer, three broken fingernails and a headache later, I was ready to call it a night.

Needless to say, I woke up a few hours later soaking wet and sitting in the middle of my bed, which had magically transformed itself into a lake of dancing waters. All I needed was Esther Williams, a color wheel and a friggin' slot machine and I could have opened a casino right there in my bedroom.

So what does this have to do with your story? How the hell should I know! All I know is that I may not have been very good at putting together that bed, but the next morning at work — after only a few hours of sleep — Donna Pescow said that no one could ever powder her boobs as well as I did!

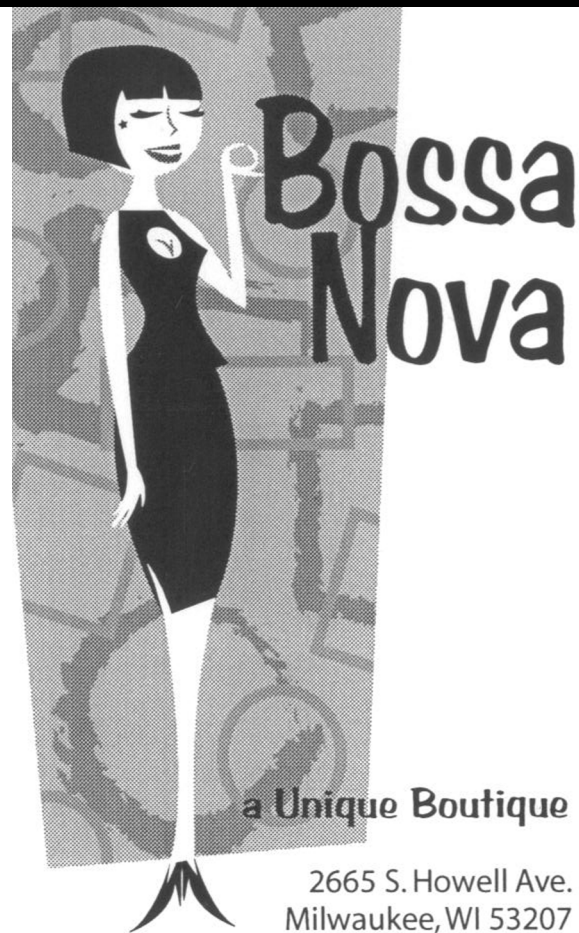
You see, while your hubby may not spend much time fooling around with your plumbing or tinkering with your socket, I'm guessing he's good at other chores around the house. Who does the cooking and the laundry? Who picks up the groceries, and who dusts and vacuums? Who cleans the john? Surely he helps at home somewhat (I hope), and he's good at what he does. Repair work just isn't one of them.

If you're feeling overwhelmed at home, talk to him about your need for a little help. Keep in mind, however, all of the things he does at home as you begin this discussion. Also, remember that the reason he may not do much of the repair work is that he's just not very good at it. Is that the case?

Some people are just handier than others are. He may feel intimidated by tackling certain jobs. If so, work on a few projects together, and teach him a few tricks of the trade that you've already got beneath your tool belt. Not only will he gain some confidence in the handyman arena, but he'll be better able to make those same repairs the next time they need fixing.

Working together, you may not get the jobs done faster. (In fact, it may actually take a bit longer.) But your efforts to teach him new skills will pay off in the future.

Do you have a question for Ruthie? Stop by her trailer home on the Web at [www.dearruthie.com](http://www.dearruthie.com), or e-mail her at [ruthie@dearruthie.com](mailto:ruthie@dearruthie.com).



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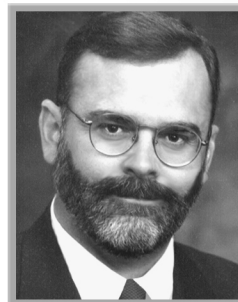
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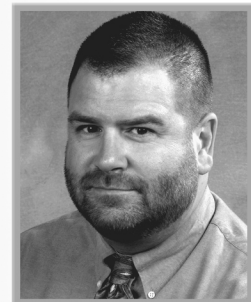
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# LEADER

The Bag Boyz are a program of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

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# Undersea Expeditions

By Kelly Morris

At 16 years old I determined my future by deciding what I was going to be "when I grew up." Actually, I had decided that much earlier, but "lesbian," I knew, wasn't going to pay much in the long run unless I was a very specialized prostitute. No, I needed a job that would both afford my chic "lesbian" lifestyle, and give me some cash for "extras" like, say, food and electric bills. Therefore, at 16, and having decided what I was going to do to get that "cash," I was way ahead of my peers when it came to knowing how I was going to afford the little necessities that life requires (bar tabs in gay bars can be quite expensive you know) plus have a little extra for "bills" and Perry Ellis suits. Don't you want to know what I wanted to be? Well, hold on, I'm getting to that. I am a water person. I can't be without it. (That being the case I can't understand why I live HERE.) I thrive in water - I feel alive, useful, with purpose. I have more energy I am, most of all, relaxed (which doesn't happen often) when I am in water or surrounded by water. This fascination for all things wet started as a result of family vacations to Cape Cod when I was nothing but a wee one. I complained of extreme fatigue when I had to walk a few mere steps on dry land, being dragged by my parents to some flea market, but I would boogie board for hours tirelessly or swim until my lips were blue when we would go to the shore. It's as if the water would give me power. Cape Cod provided the perfect vacation for someone as amazed and as in love with water as I was and am, and I decided at a very young age to make a solid career out of being surrounded by it. We, my parents, my grandparents (they paid for the rental) and I, stayed at a small shack shrouded by huge pine trees in the middle of nowhere, "Forestdale, MA." This wasn't on the ocean, mind you, but a small "pond." At the time, I thought this was an incredibly huge lake, but in retrospect (adding a few years to my age and considerable SIZE on to my frame) I realize that it was indeed a pond - "Snake Pond" to be exact. It was so secluded that you had to go through someone's side yard to find the road that led to the "cabins." If you didn't know where the road was, you would never know that there were houses back there. On the way to the Cape (a drive I always detested in an "are we there yet" kind of way), my parents would always stop at the same sporting goods store in Mystic, Connecticut and let me run free in the "aquatic" section, where, in addition to sand digging things, I would always buy a new mask, snorkel, and fins. That was my passion - snorkeling. For the next 7 days I would do nothing but swim the pond, my head under the water looking for treasure. I spent 7 whole days doing this; you couldn't forcibly pull me from it, though many tried...and failed. One year, on one of these vacations, my grandfather dragged me out of the water long enough to take me on a trip (getting to the main point now). I was 16. He took me to a Cape Cod staple, a landmark, a school. It was Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. We went on a tour, met oceanographers, marine biol-

ogists - we saw marine life and experiments in new ocean technologies - I had an epiphany at Woods Hole. I was going to be a Marine Biologist/Oceanographer when I grew up. That was IT. No turning back. When can I start? That summer was one of the most meaningful on file. I had been asked MANY millions of times what I wanted to be when I grew up and I never had an answer. NOW, I DID. I was going to swim in the ocean, study the fishes and find buried societies for the rest of my life. I graduated high school at 17 and immediately went to college where I loaded up on the biological sciences. I read everything printed related to oceanography. I studied marine life - HELL one of my favorite spots on the planet was "The Whale Room" at the Museum of Natural History in NY. I knew what ALVIN was and where it was built - I knew about the Marianas Trench - I knew about "AGLER FISH" and how nasty they looked. I also signed up for a scuba course at the college so that I would be able to get a jump on my dream all the while getting a degree in biology. My first night in the classroom of the scuba course was a reality like no other, and as the teacher approached the podium, I thought to myself, "Well, here it is. The start of my new life." One of the first things the instructor asked was, "Does anyone here have any ear problems?" Well, as a kid, I had chronic ear infections as many kids do. They got so bad that, when I was 7, I had a myringotomy - tubes put in my ears (but then removed) - to facilitate the passing of the infections that I got so often. I do not have these tubes now, and ever since the operation I have not had ONE ear infection. However, when I spoke up about these childhood ear problems (I wanted to be honest), the instructor basically handed me back my tuition check and told me I would NEVER be able to scuba dive. EVER! I was crushed. There went my life right into the slammer with no possibility of parole. I got my degree in biology anyway, but for what? My life, as I had planned it, was over. I lived the rest of my years believing THAT MAN, the one who destroyed all my dreams with one sentence, "You cannot

participate in this class if you have had ear problems." I never again tried to scuba dive, remaining unenthusiastically happy with snorkeling. That was also my last visit to Cape Cod. The year I was 17. My grandmother became ill with dementia shortly after that summer, and we never went back. I spoke to many a scuba instructor since then, and have been told the guy was bullshitting me, but, I never tried it again, feeling too scared to try something I so loved only to fail miserably. Besides, unless I enrolled in another class to get my certification, I was never going to scuba dive just to "try" it out. I was under the

assumption that unless you were certified you weren't allowed to place a tank on your back AT ALL. I wasn't going to pay for classes only to not be able to do it because of my ears. I let 18 years go by. At 35, we went to Hawaii AND to my utter surprise, Hawaii allows people to scuba dive WITHOUT certification as long as you don't go below 25 feet and are constantly supervised.

Finally, disgusted with all I remembered about being disappointed when I was 17, I was going to do it. I didn't care about my fucking ears. If they explode, well, then I know I can't do it once and for all. This was my chance to try it on for size. We immediately signed up for this excursion and were taken out the next day. The dive master (how S & M) gave us a flip chart and said, "Read this" which we did. He gave us a short lecture on the equipment and basically threw us in the water. We had to pass a short test before he would let us go, but it was an easy one, focusing on sharing regulators if we had to, clearing out the water from your mouth in order to breathe, grabbing the octopus (a secondary mouth piece) if our primary regulator got ripped out by accident - that sort of thing. I was the first one in and passed with flying colors as if I had done it millions of times before. Off I went living my life's dream. Now I must admit, I had to go down slowly and continually clear my ears by grasping my nose and blowing, BUT my ears didn't explode, they cleared easily and I was fine. I went way below the prerequisite 25 feet (at least I think I did.) and NOTHING HAPPENED. When I got out of the water I was a renewed person - I had a new life. I knew that every single vacation after this one would involve this - scuba diving. I vowed that I was going to make up for the 18 years I lost at the words of one man who told me "YOU CAN'T." I was dumb for believing him. This year I am making good on the promise I made to

myself. Now I know this is going to sound like an ad, but it isn't (well I guess it kinda is.) I have found the most magnificent company and one of the most gracious persons on the planet. The company is Undersea Expeditions and the man is someone who I have come to worship, Greg Hamman. He's a LOCAL for God's sake, which made me laugh when I first contacted him. A man who loves water as much as I do, living here in the Desert as well. We had an immediate connection. Undersea Expeditions combines the best of both worlds, at least for me. Not only is the company GAY (exclusively - none of this "gay friendly" stuff) but offers exciting excursions around the world for people like me, people in love with the water. I'll let them describe it:

"Since its founding by Chris Winkle in 1991, Undersea Expeditions has offered "gay-friendly" group adventures to the world's most exotic dive locations, as well as dive travel planning services to our community. Our mission continues today under the management of Greg Hamman, an avid diver with a background in international business and a belief that bringing more gays and lesbians into scuba diving offers our community a vacation alternative, while benefiting conservation by adding our collective voices and economic power to those who are helping to protect these amazing ecosystems."

"Looking for an out of the ordinary vacation experience? How about looking sea turtles eye to eye in Belize, or flying in Palau's big currents? Best of all, by traveling as a group we bring our own fun. We charter whole liveaboards and book blocks of hotel rooms, and the staff consistently e-mails us asking when our group will return, since they have as much fun hosting us as we do staying with them. We travel to the best dive destinations: Micronesia, the Caribbean, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Galapagos."

"Undersea Expeditions offers special low fares to our destinations, and with one call you can book your dive package and your flight. We are specialists and take care of all the details. Beginners get their dive certification on many of our trips, and experienced divers appreciate the exotic ports of call and liveaboard dive opportunities. Meet new dive buddies and enjoy diving with OUR family."

Yea, I am so there.

The trips are affordable, you can be certified on the trip, and you are surrounded by "family." No more straight republicans staring at your sports bra and board shorts as you attempt to vacation in peace. No more snickering when you walk down the beach in your thong and sarong. No more people telling me "I can't." Because I WILL whether you like it or not. So there, Mister I-know-it-all instructor back in NJ, SO THERE! And even though I know I am too old now to make a living at it, I can at least know that I didn't fail completely. For that I am redeemed. Thank you Undersea Expeditions.

I'll let you know what happens...

(Undersea Expedition can be contacted at [www.Underseax.com](http://www.Underseax.com) or 1-800-669-0310. They are a member of IGLTA and offer spectacular adventures for your dive curious mind. Tell Greg, Kelly says Hello.)





# The Plight of Rural Lesbians

## Living Without A Sense Of Community

By Suzanne Magee

Living in Dallas, or any other major metropolitan area, affords you a certain amount of anonymity. You never realize how much that helps you until you uproot yourself and move to a rural area. Five years ago I did just that. I moved from Dallas, where there is a fairly vibrant gay and lesbian community, and moved to a very rural area in East Texas to be closer to my father, who was ill. I anticipated some changes in my lifestyle, but what I discovered was something totally unexpected. The lesbians living and working in these small rural areas, who have no active GLBT community to support them, live a different kind of life from those of us who live in areas where we have access to a sense of community.

There are no Lesbian or Gay clubs to go to within an hours drive of here. If you want to go to a club and dance with your partner, date, or friends, you have to drive at least an hour to go to a real dive, or two hours to get to Dallas and the luxury of a real Lesbian club. Even if you opt for the shorter drive, the club is small, and the crowd becomes a familiar cast after just a few visits. If you're dating regularly, that can be a real problem. Pretty soon, you find yourself dating the friend of last months dates ex-partner. It gets confusing! Even worse, when you meet someone that you really do like and start moving toward a more intense relationship, you soon discover that all of the friends that you're having over for dinner or movies, are her ex-girlfriends. Now, you can't fault her for still being friends with all of them. But it's hard to sit across the table from two or three other women who've been with the woman you think you're falling in love with. Everyone knows everything about everyone else. The Lesbians here live in very small, tight circles of friends, most of whom they've been involved with at one time or another. Where you might choose not to be around someone you had a failed relationship with given a larger community to seek support and friendship from, here you swallow your pride and let bygones be bygones. If you don't, you have no friends or community at all.

Living in a city where there is a GLBT community gives you the opportunity to openly be affectionate to the person you're involved with. Even if you live in

the suburbs, you're still just a short drive from an area where you have restaurants, clubs, coffee shops, or theaters where you can hold hands, dance, or put your arms around each other. In the town I live in, dancing openly with someone of the same sex could get you hurt, literally. There is only one club in town, it's as country as they get, and they do NOT have a gay friendly attitude. You can't walk into a theater holding hands. It isn't that the Lesbians living here are cowards, as many activists would like to call them, it's just that they have to survive in a hostile environment where you are reminded constantly that you can still be fired from your job just for being gay. So the Lesbians here,

**But it's hard to sit across the table from two or three other women who've been with the woman you think you're falling in love with. Everyone knows everything about everyone else.**

although they may be 'out', can't flaunt it, unless they can afford the public animosity and the possible lack of employment. There is no support for them here, except in their own tight circles.

Don't be misled, the women here are strong and brave. There truly are some places where

being 'out' can cost you everything. These women risk it more than I ever had living in Dallas. When I first moved here, I thought they were giving in, and I felt so superior. Now I realize that being out, and being an activist doesn't mean much if it doesn't cost you anything. I also realize how important that sense of community is to all of us. Having someplace to go where you can openly express yourself without fear of reprisal is a luxury that I took for granted. I don't take it for granted anymore. Living here has made me even more aware of the discrimination and bigotry that we face, and it's so much worse than I realized living in Dallas. It's made me even more determined to try and make a difference, and to work towards change. It's made an activist out of me, and believe me, I was as passive a lesbian as there's ever been five years ago.

So the next time that you're driving on the interstate, and you pass through some small little town on your way to wherever you're headed, stop and think about the people living in that area who would give anything for what you have in Dallas, or SF, or LA, or NY, or Austin. I promise they're watching you drive by wondering where you're going, and wishing they could tag along.

# I Know, Dental Dams Taste Like Rubber

By Genia V Stevens

I know, dental dams taste like rubber and they're pretty much a pain. Many lesbians don't even know what they look like. But, if those lesbians knew that 950,000 people were infected with HIV in the United States in 2003, they might run right out and buy up stock in the company that produces them. Or maybe not. Too many lesbians are of the opinion that unprotected lesbian sex doesn't equate to HIV. Is that right?

I write a news, politics, and current events blog. On this blog, I presented a brief poll that asked "Do you practice safe sex?" Safe-sex meant the use of gloves during finger penetration, the use of condoms on sex organs, strap-ons and other sex toys, the use of dental dams for oral sex, and so on. Respondents could choose from the following answers: (a) Yes, always -- even with a steady partner, (b) Only with a new partner, someone I don't know very well, (c) Most of the time I do, but I forget sometimes, (d) Only if my partner requests it, and (e) Never.

Sixteen respondents (29%) stated they always practiced safe sex, even with a steady partner. Twenty respondents (36%) stated they only practiced safe sex with a new partner. Five respondents

(9%) stated that they practiced safe sex most of the time, but forgot sometimes. Six respondents (11%) stated they only practiced safe sex if their partner requested it, and nine respondents (16%) stated they never practiced safe sex.

In another conversation on the blog, we discussed the probability of female-to-female HIV transmission. Many of my lesbian guests were of the opinion that HIV transmission between lesbians was rare, if not impossible -- unless one of the women is a drug user or bisexual. The research I have read states there isn't enough research to definitively state this is true. With the small sample taken from my website, I'm not willing to risk my health knowing that only 29% of the people who responded always practice safe sex and 16% never practice safe sex at all.

My poll had 56 respondents. Lesbians seem to run in packs. Look around and try to guess which 16 of them always practice safe sex, which twenty only practice safe sex with a new girl, which 5 practice safe sex most of the time (but forget sometimes), which six only do it if requested, and which nine never do it. You might start rethinking your own sexual activity.

## HRC and Showtime Team Up to Host Screenings of 'The L Word'

As part of a national outreach effort to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, the Human Rights Campaign and Showtime are teaming up to hold 33 major screening events nationwide for the second season premiere of the hit Showtime series The L Word, returning on the network on Feb. 20 at 10 PM (ET/PT).

The L Word is about a group of lesbian women in Los Angeles, their lives, careers and relationships. HRC and Showtime are also partnering with HRC members on more than 300 expected The L Word House Parties.

"We set out to bridge gaps by inviting the audience into our world of difference, knowing that they'll soon forget our otherness, as they recognize how much of the big emotional journey we share in common," said show's creator/executive producer, Ilene Chaiken.

"Visibility for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community is still so important," said HRC Development Director Cathy Nelson. "People connect with the humanity of the characters they see on television. We're happy to be involved in the joint screenings with Showtime and our members."

Free screening events produced by HRC and Showtime will be held Feb. 20, the night of the season premiere, in more

than 30 cities. The list includes: Atlanta; Boston; Chicago; Cleveland (also produced by Adelphia); Columbus (also produced by Time Warner Cable); Dallas (two venues); Denver; Detroit; Houston (two venues, produced by Time Warner Cable); Indianapolis; Kansas City, Mo.; Long Island; Los Angeles - to be emceed by comedian Susan Westenhoeffer; Miami; Nashville; New Hope, Penn.; New Orleans; New York City; Orlando, Fla.; Orange County, Calif.; Charlotte, N.C.; Philadelphia; Phoenix; Provincetown; Raleigh, N.C.; Salt Lake City; San Antonio; San Francisco; Seattle; St. Louis; Twin Cities; Washington, D.C.

Screenings produced by HRC, Showtime and Comcast will also be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Feb. 15, and Boston on Feb. 19. HRC and members across the country are also working together to host house parties to watch the series premiere (Feb. 20, 2005, at 10 p.m. ET/PT). At press time, more than 300 people have committed to hosting a party, and the number is rapidly rising.

To order your own The L Word House Party kit, or to find out more information about party events, visit [http://www.hrc.org/Content/NavigationMenu/HRC/Get\\_Involved/Volunteer/House\\_Party/Host\\_an\\_HRC\\_House\\_Party.htm](http://www.hrc.org/Content/NavigationMenu/HRC/Get_Involved/Volunteer/House_Party/Host_an_HRC_House_Party.htm)





## HEALTH & FITNESS

### Girding for Spread of New STD

By **Duncan Osborne**

New York City Council Speaker Gifford Miller and Councilmember Christine Quinn, both Manhattan Democrats, have written to the city's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene asking it to outline any steps it has taken to respond to the STD lymphomagranuloma venereum (LGV). A strain of chlamydia, LGV can infect the groin and colon. A three-week course of antibiotics is used to treat it. In the 17-month period prior to September 2004, health authorities in the Netherlands reported 92 cases among gay men. The San Francisco Health Department reported four cases, all gay men, last summer. That none of the four had visited the Netherlands led authorities to believe there may be other cases in the city. In October 2004, CDC warned local and state health departments to be "vigilant for LGV," noting that "recent reports from Belgium, France, and Sweden confirm that LGV is occurring elsewhere in Europe." The council members wrote: "Specifically, we would like to know what notices, if

any, have been given to the public, doctors and health care facilities; what discussions, if any, have begun with [lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender] community based organizations; what level of information exchange and strategy sharing, if any, has occurred with public health officials in San Francisco and Europe; and what planning and other proactive steps, if any, have occurred to address LGV if it does, in fact, hit New York City."

Health department spokesperson Sid Dinsay said in a statement that efforts to counter the disease began about two months ago: "While there are no confirmed cases of [LGV] in the city to date, the health department is part of a nationwide effort coordinated by the CDC to identify potential cases. Locally, the department is also actively working with medical providers, including the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, to ensure that even suspect cases of LGV are identified, and that patients and their partners receive treatment."

## The Non-Diet Diet: A Weight Loss Plan That Works

By **Deborah Martin**

Dieting doesn't work. If they did the U.S. of A. would be the thinnest, trimmest nation in the world, with over 40 million Americans spending billions each year on weight loss products. In fact, the opposite is true. The Center for Disease Control claims that at least 65% of adults are overweight or obese. With the growing list of woes associated with obesity, including heart disease, high blood pressure, and diabetes, the weight problem in America has become a serious concern. Yet we continue to look to fad diets as the answer to this serious problem - as if living on bacon and eggs, cabbage soup, or low-calorie meal replacement drinks could ever be construed as a healthy solution.

A review of popular diet programs conducted by the University of Pennsylvania and published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, stated that most weight loss programs offered little or no proof that participants were successful in losing weight or keeping weight off in the long run. The U.S. Federal Trade Commission has stated that of the millions of people that diet, less than 5% of those who actually lose weight will be able to keep it off in the years to come. It has been surmised that a dieter may shed approximately 100 pounds in the course of a lifetime, but gain back 120 lbs. One benefit of weight loss organizations, however, was group support. Dieters who joined support groups appeared to lose more weight than those who decided to go it alone.

Fad diets themselves bring with them a plethora of health concerns. Restrictive low calorie diets can be self-defeating. The body's metabolism slows moving the system into energy conservation mode and holding on to every calorie for future use instead of burning it. Precious muscle mass is broken down, and low lethargy occurs. Low carbohydrate diets can result in dehydration and constipa-

tion. The risk of heart disease is escalated due to the increase of bad cholesterol found in animal fats. When nutritional integrity of the body is threatened due to the elimination of a particular food group, the dieter is at risk for many health problems including osteoporosis, certain types of cancers, immune system issues, electrolyte imbalances, and eating disorders. And with diets, as opposed to permanent lifestyle changes, the probability of gaining back what you have lost, and then some, is high.

In a culture obsessed with physical perfection perhaps we must evaluate how we think about weight in general. Are we dieting to be healthy, or just thin? If the latter is the objective, then further investigation into dieting motivation may be necessary, but if health is the ultimate goal, then looking at lifestyle changes may be the place to start. Are you an emotional eater, have a compulsive sweet tooth, or someone who eats out of boredom? Do you eat fresh foods or only things that come in a box, bag, or through a drive-up window? What is the overall condition of your health? Is your lifestyle sedentary or active? What type of physical activities do you enjoy? Questions like these help you build the foundation for creating a customized Non-Diet Diet - a common sense plan for living that will result weight loss, elevated energy levels, and improved health and well-being.

Quick fixes usually result in long term failures, and while the answer to America's weight problem may not come in the form of a magic diet, it need not be extremely complicated either. Maintaining a sensible meal plan, including complex carbohydrates, lean proteins, good fats, fruit and vegetables, and sweets in moderation, exercising regularly, and maintaining a healthy attitude regarding the weight/health connection may be the simple answer you've been looking for.

## National Black AIDS Awareness & Information Day

(Washington, D.C.) - The AIDS Institute (TAI) urges communities across the country to actively participate in National Black AIDS Awareness & Information Day, Monday, February 7, 2004.

"We can't afford to deny the reality of AIDS within our communities," notes TAI Board President Marilyn Merida. "AIDS is the leading cause of death for African American women 25-44 years of age, so it's essential that we continue to work together to address disparities within the United States and throughout the world." She continues, "National Black AIDS Awareness & Information Day is a wonderful way to raise awareness and get people involved in the battle against HIV/AIDS."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) within the United States:

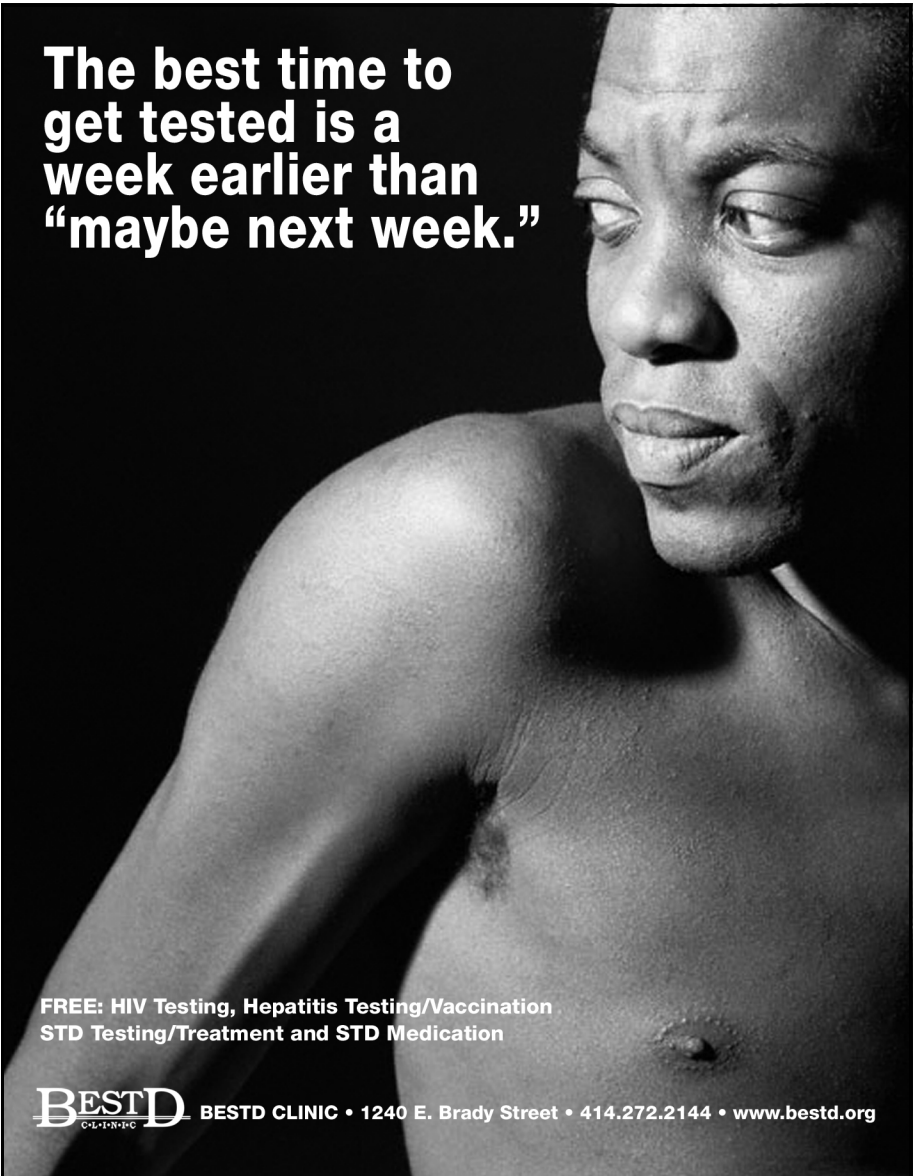
- African Americans represent 12% of the US population but comprise half (50%) of new HIV infections and 38% of all reported AIDS cases
- AIDS death rates among African Americans are approximately 10 times higher than among whites

- Among women with AIDS, 64% are African American
- African American men account for 43% of HIV cases among men
- AIDS is the leading cause of death for African American woman 25 - 44 years of age

"We continue to fight discrimination, complacency and AIDS itself - that's why campaigns such as National Black AIDS Awareness & Information Day are so vital," notes James Sykes, TAI's community educator. "AIDS decimates and destroys families and communities here in the US and we join with other national partners in urging communities to take a stand against AIDS by getting educated, getting involved and getting people tested."

To learn more about National Black AIDS Awareness & Information Day, and HIV testing locations based on area, please contact your local Department of Health.

For more information on The AIDS Institute and to become involved in AIDS advocacy work, visit [www.aidsinstitute.org](http://www.aidsinstitute.org)



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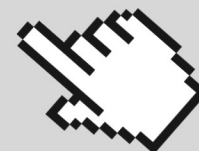


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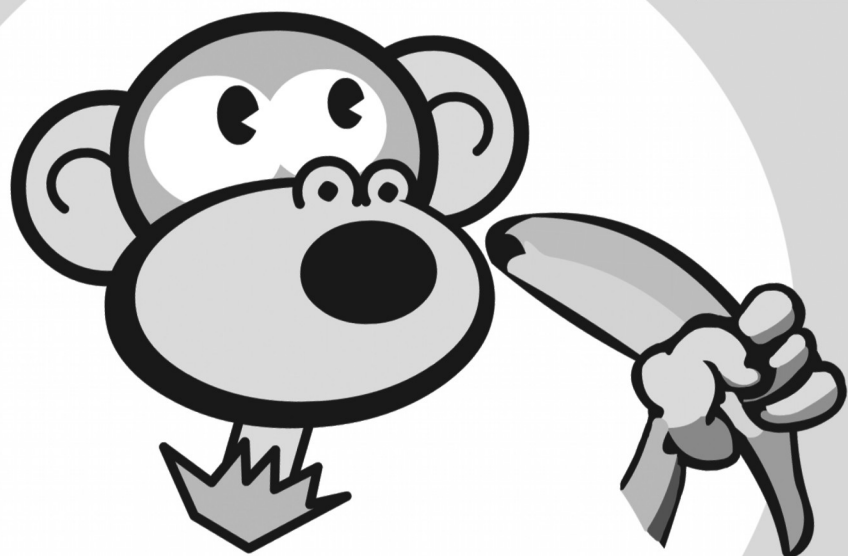
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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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# Diet Pepsi and Subway Go Gay at the Friendlier Super Bowl

*Continued from Front Page*

The chilling effect after Janet Jackson's breast flap last year lead the Super Bowl halftime show and most advertisers to take a softer approach than in past years, apparently with no homophobic hijinks either.

Diet Pepsi and Subway spent \$2.4 million each for 30-second gay-friendly ads during Super Bowl XXXIX. Pepsi featured a hunky man walking down the street to the Bee Gees song "Staying Alive." Clueless, he attracts women everywhere, including supermodel Cindy Crawford — and Queer Eye designer Carson Kressley, whose head swivels and jaw drops.

Later in the football game, Subway has two cops that drive up behind a steamed up, parked vehicle. "Looks like we've got a couple of lovebirds," the officer says with amusement to his partner. As the cop approaches their car, music is heard from the inside, and a guy in the car softly says, "Mmm, that's nice." The officer taps on the window. The surprised driver rolls it down, holding a sandwich, not a woman, as a ballad belts out, "I need you now." However, behind him in the car is another man, who looks down at his sandwich, perhaps ashamed at the predicament.

The Subway spot from ad agency Fallon keeps a non-judgmental tone, compared to another that ran late last year. In that one, a husband dons drag to wash his car in a cheerleader's outfit, causing a passing vehicle to crash and narration says, "Subway — good, so you don't always have to be."

The Diet Pepsi commercial, from DDB Needham, was rated No. 4 by TiVo watchers, No. 10 by AOL members, and also got high ratings according to IntelliSeek, a Cincinnati based research firm that tracked 40 consumer blogs online. Pepsi also ranked 14 in the most popular spots of the night in USA Today's widely read Ad Meter poll. Subway's ad was not mentioned among top spots, but ranked 24th on the USA Today list.

Diet Pepsi Ad Gets High Marks

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Despite the mass audience and high prices of being on the Super Bowl, such purchases can be good targeting for advertisers. According to a study by Carat Insight, 45% of Subway eaters and 38.7% of Pepsi drinkers would be tuned into the game, compared to 35% of all adults in general. Separately last year,

Pepsi began reaching out directly to the gay and lesbian market, though Subway has not, and more gay media presence is expected in 2005.

All of Pepsi's brands combined to make it the second largest advertiser in the game, after Anheuser-Busch for Bud Light, once again the most visible at the Super Bowl for the eighth straight year with nine ads.

Past Super Bowls, Except 2003, Included Gay Ads



While 2004's Super Bowl was an exception, a number of past Super Bowls have carried gay, lesbian and transgender themes. In the 2003 Super Bowl, Bud Light featured a tasteless spot featuring a guy in an upside-down clown suit drinking beer through the clown's "rear," then asked for a hotdog.

Diageo carried an ad for Smirnoff Triple Black Ice, where a beautiful woman named Alex meets a blind date but introduces herself to the wrong fellow. When the right guy shows up, the other moves in to keep the girl and introduces himself as Alex — the man flees. Saving a couple million dollars, advertisers ran stealth ads with gay themes before and after the Super Bowl in 2003 as well.

Miller Brewing Co. made a media sensation with its "Catfight" ad, where two women tear each other's clothes off in a battle reviving the old "Taste great/Less filling" debate. At the end, the two end up in a pool of wet cement and one says, "Let's make out."

Mobile phone company Nextel also ran a commercial featuring TV personality George Lopez, who must drive his daughter's pink Volkswagen Bug bearing the license plate "Boycrazy" and is eyeballed by others. A year earlier in 2002, Levi Strauss carried an ad for Dockers where men all wear black dresses at a party. One man wears Dockers and the announcer says, "Finally guys have an answer to the little black dress."

And E\*TRADE carried an offbeat spot featuring football players acting flamboyant and dressed as cats and fairies, as a sponsor of the halftime show.

In the 1997 Super Bowl, Holiday Inn carried a spot that only ran once. It was set at a high school reunion, where a man comes back as a sexy woman, bringing horror to someone who recognized the former "Bob Johnson."

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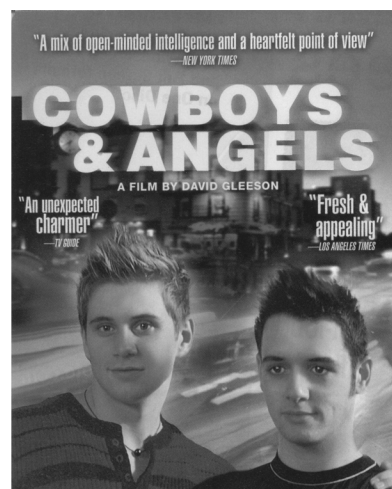
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# The Bees and The Bees

My parents divorced when I was three years old. My father left my mother for another woman. It was a relief to my mom. She had resolved to cope with my father's countless indiscretions to avoid raising her children alone. My father, who justified his affairs because of the nature of his job (he was a pilot and away for weeks at a time) and their marital difficulties, had a rationalization for everything. But in his defense, the woman he left my mother for is still his wife, so at least on some level he must have mended his ways.

Eventually my mother remarried, when I was seven. Even though we saw our biological father every summer for a month or so and talked to him every other week on the phone, my mother's new husband, Chuck, was the best dad we could have ever had. So, for most of my life I have had four parents. But even with double the natural allocation of guiding units, no one ever talked to me about sex when I was young.

Even when I provided excellent opportunities, they passed them over. For instance, I came home one afternoon from school when I was nine or ten and asked my mom what "gay" meant. Some boy at school had called me gay because when we played tag at recess I always played on the girl's team. My mom told me that "gay" was when two men tried to make babies together. This didn't make much sense to me and she wasn't really interested in elaborating.

When I was fourteen my father was concerned that the whole issue of sex hadn't come up, but he had no idea how to approach the situation. So he sat me down in the den, handed me the remote control and told me to watch this "special movie" and when I was done if I had any questions just ask. This was the first time I ever saw porn and needless to say I was glued to the TV.

And though educational (to say the least), it didn't really tell me the things I needed to know. At fourteen I probably needed to know that hormones were in overdrive, that it was okay that I thought about sex constantly, that masturbation was normal, and how to use a condom if I ever found myself in that situation.

Though I disagree with parents not telling their children about sex, I respect their different approaches based on religious or moral viewpoints. But when you're afraid to tell your children about the birds and the bees (or in our case the birds and the birds and the bees and the bees) you leave your child open to hearing about it someplace else.

The religious right is afraid children might hear about sex from someone like me... a fag (10% is not enough: recruit, recruit, recruit). And, in reality, I think most gay people really don't want to talk about the facts of life to anyone underage for just that reason. I know I feel that way. With all my nieces and nephews who adore me, I live in fear of the day they may come to me with a question they are uncomfortable asking their parents about. I have never hesitated to

give them advice in any other area, to keep their secrets (within reason), and to be the cool uncle. But I don't want to be the one who tells them about THAT. I have new sympathy for my parents, all four of them!

But you also have to consider the opposition. While the religious right is accusing us of recruiting the young through the net, they are using the World Wide Web as a way to push their agenda into the minds of young people. As socially liberal, open-minded people we need to be as concerned as they are about what our younger generation is reading online.

I came to ponder this point when a friend of mine came across a list called "A Guide to Self-Control." I cannot

toilet processes. - Oops, already broke that rule!

2. Avoid being alone as much as possible. Find good company and stay in this good company. If you are associated with other persons having this same problem, **YOU MUST BREAK OFF THEIR FRIENDSHIP.** - Then who will I hang out with since everyone is doing it...

3. When you bathe, do not admire yourself in a mirror. Never stay in the bath more than five or six minutes -- just long enough to bathe and dry and dress **AND THEN GET OUT OF THE BATHROOM** into a room where you will have some member of your family

despite your fears of gaining weight. - Can I blame this step for my extra "holiday pounds?"

6. Never read pornographic material. Never read about your problem. Keep it out of mind. Remember -- "First a thought, then an act." - I don't know about you, but when I try to not think about sex that is the only thing I can think about!

7. Put wholesome thoughts into your mind at all times. Read good books -- Church books -- Scriptures -- Sermons of the Brethren. Make a daily habit of reading at least one chapter of Scripture, preferably from one of the four Gospels in the New Testament, or the Book of Mormon. The four Gospels -- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John -- above anything else in the Bible can be helpful because of their uplifting qualities. - Amen Sister!

8. Pray. But when you pray, don't pray about this problem, for that will tend to keep [it] in your mind more than ever. Pray for faith, pray for understanding of the Scriptures, pray for the Missionaries, the General Authorities, your friends, your families, **BUT KEEP THE PROBLEM OUT OF YOUR MIND BY NOT MENTIONING IT EVER -- NOT IN CONVERSATION WITH OTHERS, NOT IN YOUR PRAYERS. KEEP IT \_OUT\_ of your mind!** The attitude of a person toward his problem has an affect on how easy it is to overcome. It is essential that a firm commitment be made to control the habit. As a person understands his reasons for the behavior, and is sensitive to the conditions or situations that may trigger a desire for the act, he develops the power to control it. - But if I can't talk to God about this, who can I talk to???

So if you are an influential person in a young person's life, make an effort to encourage his or her parents to address these issues with them in a healthy fashion. And if your niece, nephew, or neighbor kid approaches you with questions about sex, tell them that it is something they need to discuss with their parents. Then tell their parents that their child was asking questions about sex and that you didn't feel it was your place to give them that information.

Unhealthy attitudes about sex and sexuality can cause years of confusion and complications in a person's adult life. Life can be confusing enough without undue complexities, don't you think???



vouch for its authenticity, but supposedly it was written by Mark E. Peterson, member of the council of the 12 Apostles, part of the hierarchy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (a.k.a. the Mormon Church.)

When I was studying religion in school two books for teenagers growing up in the Jehovah's Witness faith came into my possession. And their section on Homosexuality and Masturbation: Sexual Sins gave similar advice.

As we have a chuckle at the absurdity of these steps let us not forget that some people really do believe this and teach young, impressionable children and teens these types of things.

A Guide to Self-Control

1. Never touch the intimate parts of your body except during normal

present. - But if I don't admire me, who else will?

4. When in bed, if that is where you have your problem for the most part, dress yourself for the night so securely that you cannot easily touch your vital parts, and so that it would be difficult and time consuming for you to remove those clothes. By the time you started to remove protective clothing you would have sufficiently controlled your thinking that the temptation would leave you. - Not bloody likely!

5. If the temptation seems overpowering while you are in bed, **GET OUT OF BED AND GO INTO THE KITCHEN AND FIX YOURSELF A SNACK**, even if it is in the middle of the night, and even if you are not hungry, and



# SpongeBob Creator Says Cartoon is Asexual

*Continued from Front Page*

"We never intended them to be gay. I consider them to be almost asexual," creator Stephen Hillenburg told the Washington Post. We're just trying to be funny and this has got nothing to do with the show."

At least two Christian activist groups said the innocent and hugely popular cartoon character SpongeBob and his best mate Patrick Starfish are being exploited to promote the acceptance of homosexuality. The character was "outed" in 2002 after reports that the Nickelodeon show and its products were popular in the gay community.

Hillenburg, a marine-science-teacher-turned-animator who lives in Hollywood and is married with a 6-year-old son, says he thinks there are "more important issues to worry about."

"It doesn't have anything to do with what we're trying to do," Hillenburg told Reuters in an interview on Friday. "I really don't pay much attention to this."

SpongeBob is one of the stars of a music video due to be sent to 61,000 U.S. schools in March. The makers - the non-profit We Are Family Foundation - say



the video is designed to encourage tolerance and diversity.

The video is what prompted Dobson's attack, but representatives of the We Are Family Foundation have said that nothing discussing sexual identity is even mentioned in the video.

SpongeBob is the latest cartoon to come under attack from the right wing. Bert and Ernie and The Teletubbies have both been accused of promoting a homosexual agenda.

a tolerance pledge by kids, including tolerance of differences of what Dr. Dobson called "sexual identity."

In all actuality, SpongeBob does appear in a video promoting tolerance of diversity, although nowhere does it ever mention sex, sexuality, or sexual-identity in any way. The video, titled "We Are Family," was originally produced following 9/11 in an effort to promote healing. It features over 100 children's characters ranging from Barney to Winnie the Pooh, and was originally broadcast simultaneously on PBS, Nickelodeon and Disney Channel on March 11, 2002 and September 11, 2002 with a unified message of our common humanity and the idea of a global family.

While many media reports following the incident claimed that Dobson accused SpongeBob of being gay, he now claims that was not his intention. "We see the video as an insidious means by which the organization is manipulating and potentially brainwashing kids," Paul Batura, assistant to Dobson at Focus on the Family, said. "It is a classic bait and switch."

The real focus of the attack was the video itself. As he clearly spells out in a letter he wrote to defend his homophobic stance, Dobson is rabidly opposed to teaching tolerance—which is where he is afraid the video might lead. In a direct quote from this letter, Dobson says, "But while the video is harmless on its own, I believe the agenda behind it is sinister....I want to be clear: the We Are Family Foundation—the organization that sponsored the video featuring SpongeBob and the other characters was, until this flap occurred, making available a variety of explicitly pro-homosexual materials on its Web site." Then he goes on to list several examples of material he claims was on the site before being removed following his statements. The statements quoted do nothing more than promote an understanding and tolerance of differences that include sexual-identity. Remember now, that even by his own admission, none of this material was on the video, just on the website of the company that produced the video. Then he concludes, "Is this the kind of nonsense you want taught to your kids, especially if the nation's most popular cartoon characters are used to get across the concepts? I pray not!"

Yes, let's pray that none of our children are being taught respect and tolerance!

Before we make the mistake of passing this off as the demented ramblings of yet another Far Right fringe nut-job, keep in mind that The New York Times recently called James Dobson "the nation's most influential evangelical leader." He is not someone to be taken lightly.

As if this whole SpongeBobgate incident wasn't enough, the Bush Administration had to get into the act as well. Margaret Spellings, the newly appointed education secretary made her first public act an attack on LGBT people everywhere. She denounced PBS for spending public money on a cartoon with lesbian

characters, saying many parents would not want children exposed to such lifestyles, then proceeded to threaten to yank their funding if they didn't pull the show from their schedules. Yeah, she's a loyal Bush supporter, all right: a homophobic bully.

The show that's causing such a flap is "Postcards From Buster," a show about an animated bunny named Buster. In the targeted episode titled "Sugartime," Buster visits Vermont to learn about farm life and making maple sugar. The episode features two lesbian couples.

"Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode," Spellings wrote in a letter sent Tuesday to Pat Mitchell, president and chief executive officer of PBS. "Congress" and the Department's purpose in funding this programming certainly was not to introduce this kind of subject matter to children, particularly through the powerful and intimate medium of television." She asked PBS to consider refunding the money it spent on the episode.

A PBS spokesman said that the non-profit network decided not to distribute the episode, to its 349 stations. "Ultimately, our decision was based on the fact that we recognize this is a sensitive issue, and we wanted to make sure that parents had an opportunity to introduce this subject to their children in their own time," said Lea Sloan, vice president of media relations at PBS. However, several PBS stations have made the decision to air the controversial episode. "We do disagree with the (PBS) decision and were disappointed," Jeanne Hopkins, spokeswoman for Boston's WGBH-TV, said. "We feel that the program, and the other 39 episodes in the series, met the goals set out for it, which is to teach children to understand and accept the rich cultural diversity of this country."

Clearly homophobia is alive and well in the United States, and as I've said many times over the past four years, it starts in the White House. In his State of the Union address, Bush reiterated his support for the Marriage Protection Amendment. With the Far Right conservatives firmly ensconced in power, we can only expect things to get worse from here. However, that doesn't mean we should just roll over and accept their bigoted, hate-filled attacks. We need to stand up and make our voices heard, even in these difficult times. No—make that especially in these difficult times. Write to PBS encouraging them to continue producing quality children's programming that encourages tolerance and diversity. Write to Education Secretary Spellings and tell her exactly what you think of her bullying tactics and anti-gay attacks. Write your local newspapers and express your outrage at such public displays of homophobic bigotry. We can't let them off easily. We've underestimated the nut-jobs for far too long. It's time to start fighting back.

Oh, and leave SpongeBob out of it.

## The Attack of the Toons

By Josh Aterovis

They may seem like simple, harmless, animated, colorful characters, but don't be fooled. Clearly, they're out to corrupt America's children. No, I'm not talking about gay people—I'm talking about cartoon characters.

It all started with Tinky-Winky, the purple, purse-toting, gibberish-speaking Teletubbie. Thanks to Reverend Jerry Falwell's timely warning back in 1999, we were alerted to the children's-television character's unseemly homosexuality. In subsequent year's, Falwell was widely mocked and his insane ramblings were largely dismissed by most rational-thinking people. After all, he's just a Far-Right fringe nut-job, right?

That was our first mistake. Never underestimate the nut-jobs.

A few years later and so many things have changed. Now the nut-jobs are running the country at almost every level of government, from the Oval Office on down. Even the most casual observer can't help but see the strangle-hold the Far Right has on our current administration. Washington insiders are predicting this to be the start of a long-term Republican stronghold in DC—some even dubbing this the "Republican Generation." Scary thought, but one that is growing increasingly realistic.

Six years may have past since Falwell's Teletubbie accusations, but the Far Right is at it again. This time, Sponge-

Bob Squarepants is the target. For those not in the know, SpongeBob is a cartoon character on the popular children's network Nickelodeon. He is a sweet-if somewhat dim-witted-sea-sponge whose best friend, an even more dim-witted starfish named Patrick, lives next-door under a rock. The show focuses on their various adventures and misadventures in their underwater world. "SpongeBob Squarepants" became a sort of cultural phenomenon soon after its launch, attracting as many adult fans as children, and even getting its own movie featuring big-name voice talent last year.

So how can this loveable idiot be a threat to children everywhere? According to James Dobson, founder of the neo-conservative Christian organization "Focus on the Family," SpongeBob is part of a gay agenda to brainwash kids across the country.

How could we have not seen it? The lisp, the hand-holding with Patrick, the pet snail named Gary... All the signs were there.

Right?

So why exactly does Dr. Dobson think SpongeBob is gay? In remarks made to members of Congress at a black-tie event in Washington to celebrate Bush's victory, Dobson advised the group that SpongeBob had been included in a pro-homosexual video that was being sent to thousands of elementary schools to push



## OUTBOUND SPORTS

By David Wilcox

### Milwaukee Kosmos Set Sights on Tampa

Milwaukee's traveling softball team, The Milwaukee Kosmos, is packed and ready to fly off to Tampa, FL to play in the 11th annual Gasparilla Softball Classic.

The Kosmos are on a roll. They've taken first in the last three tournaments they've played in: the Orlando Melt-down last month in Orlando, FL; The Blues City Bash last October in Memphis, TN; and the Southern Shootout last April in Birmingham, AL.

In Tampa the Kosmos hope to continue their winning streak by taking first yet again. Coach "Kitty" has put together a superb lineup of players who, together with a few imperious waves of her pink magic wand should give all those southern boys a run for their money.

The Kosmos have a long history of playing in tournaments around the country and include players from Milwaukee's Saturday Softball League (SSBL), and Madison's Gay League.

All the travel the Kosmos do wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the community. Fundraisers are held regularly to help subsidize the various trips they make. A recent fundraiser at Fluid along with a "Chilifest" at Harbor Room were very successful and helped out a lot.

After Tampa, the Kosmos will continue with its itinerary which currently includes another trip to Birmingham as well as a cross-country appearance in Phoenix.

## Madison Gay Darts Has Rocky Start

Darts were scheduled to be flying in Madison on January 24th, but due to now-shows and facilities issues the spring season tripped coming out of the gate.

The original schedule had eight teams signed up and included 2 games of darts going on simultaneously at both Shamrock and Club 5. However, this was not to be.

The first problem arose when two of the eight teams failed to show two weeks in a row. It became clear that they weren't going to show at all so league organizers opted to redo the schedule and start over rather than have two byes each week.

The second problem arose when one of the dart boards at Club 5 refused to do 301 and the alternative board had a toe line that was a foot too far away.

Due to the reduced number of teams the season will be 10 weeks instead of the original 14, but organizers contend this is actually beneficial since there are holidays to be avoided and the league can't continue past the beginning of the softball season.

Despite the rocky start, the new schedule was created and the league restarted on February 7. All the games are now at the Shamrock and organizers expect the rest of the season to go smoothly.

### SSBL Announces the 1st Annual Snowball Cup

SSBL, Milwaukee's Saturday Softball League, has announced it will host the 1st Annual Snowball Cup Softball Tournament.

The tournament, to be held Saturday, February 26 in Mitchell Park, promises to be "fun in the snow" - assuming there

is any snow left. Playing the mud might be fun too.

This Snow Ball Cup is open to all teams for a modest fee of \$100. Food, beverages and fun are provided by SSBL.

Teams interested should register quickly and can email [ssblleague@ssblmilwaukee.com](mailto:ssblleague@ssblmilwaukee.com) for more details.

### Four Teams Fighting to be Top in Milwaukee Gay Dart League

With only three weeks to go, three teams for Fluid are taking their shot to unseat the Ballgame Killers currently sitting in first. The Fluid Bullshitters, Fluid Plaid and Proud and Fluid Horse-

men all made moves on the Killers by winning more rounds than they did last Wednesday.

Last Wednesday's results are as follows:

Team	Wins		Team	Wins
Ballgame 1	8	at	Triangle 2	4
Ballgame Killers	8	at	Walkers Pint 16 Ounces	4
Boom Trojans	5	at	Switch'n It Up	7
Cage Kings and Queens	2	at	Fluid Horseen	10
Fluid Bullshitters	12	at	Viva La Femme	0
Fluid Exchange	9	at	ONA Crackers	3
Fluid Royal Powers	2	at	Cage Dick Ticklers	10
ONA Cookies	0	at	Boom Boomsicles	12
Triangle Trix	12	at	Ballgame Chopper Devils	0
Walkers Pint Dawgs	3	at	Fluid Plaid and Proud	9
Woody's Hardwoods	4	at	Morning Woody's	8

Place	Team	Wins	Place	Team	Wins
1	Ballgame Killers	160	12	Walkers Pint 16 Ounces	111
2	Fluid Bullshitters	153	13	Walkers Pint Dawgs	108
3	Fluid Plaid and Proud	149	14	Viva La Femme	97
4	Fluid Horseman	148	15	Cages Kings and Queens	92
5	Ballgame 1	141	16	Switch'n It Up	88
6	Boom Boomsicles	137	17	Fluid Exchange	87
7	Morning Woody's	130	18	Boom Trojans	83
8	Woody's Hardwoods	128	19	ONA Crackers	79
9	Triangle Trix	124	20	Fluid Royal Powers	73
10	Triangle 2	119	21	ONA Cookies	51
11	Cage Dick Ticklers	118	22	Ballgame Chopper Devils	0

### Madison Gay Softball Begins Sign-up for Summer

After a successful inaugural season, the Madison Gay Softball League is ready to begin signing people up for the summer of 2005.

The league was formed in 2004 to allow all LGBT people in the Madison area to participate in softball regardless of skill level. Last year was a great success and the 2005 season promises to be even better.

Persons interested in playing ball this summer can attend one of the registration sessions that will occur throughout the spring or click on the softball link at [www.mg2a.org](http://www.mg2a.org).

Last year saw six teams with the Green Gay Packers coming out on top. Other teams included the Little Red Riding Hoods, Yellow Brick Roadkill, Orange Spoog Monkeys, Blue Crush and the Violet Femmes

### Madison Frontrunners and Frontwalkers to do the "Birkie"

What do some runners and walkers do in the winter while surrounded by snow and ice? According to The Frontrunners and Frontwalkers of Madison they do the "Birkie" from Cable to Hayward, WI February 24-26.

The American Birkebeiner, affectionately known as the "Birkie", is North American's largest and most prestigious cross-country ski marathon attracting 8,000 skiers to its long line-up of events.

Included in the events during the three-day "Birkie" week are the 51 kilometer Birkebeiner, 23 kilometer Kortelopet, 12 kilometer Prince Haakon event, 10 kilometer event, Junior Birkie, Elite Sprints, Sons of Norway/Swiss Miss Barnebirkie (the largest children's ski event in the North America) and Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce Citizen Sprints.

The American Birkebeiner, was launched in 1973 as a small race calling on skiers to challenge themselves against the Wisconsin northwoods. The race was patterned after the Birkebeiner Rennet in Lillehammer, Norway, an event which commemorates an historic event in that nation.

During a civil war in the 13th century, an invading force was about to capture an infant prince and heir to the throne. Two Viking warriors, called "birkebeiners" for the birch bark leggings they wore, took the child and skied 55 kilometers to safety. The baby went on to become a great Norwegian king, Hakon Hakonsson.

For more information or to register, potential participants can go to [www.birkie.com](http://www.birkie.com).

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# New York State Court Rules HRC Announces Appointment of Foundation Vice President

(Washington, D.C.) - The Board Co-Chairs of the Human Rights Campaign and the HRC Foundation announced the promotion of Winnie Stachelberg to serve in the organization's newly created position of Vice President of its Foundation. Stachelberg previously served as political director of HRC. The appointment is effective immediately.

Stachelberg was selected to lead the expansion by bringing her experience, leadership and vision to the Foundation's activities and to move public opinion toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality.

"We know that to maximize our effectiveness in the political arena, we must change hearts and minds in America," said Hilary Rosen. "To pave the way for victories in Congress, statehouses and the ballot box, we must also win at the water coolers, kitchen tables and places of worship across the country. Choosing Winnie to expand HRC's work in this way illustrates a real commitment to working beyond the Beltway. She is uniquely qualified to bring our public education and outreach efforts to a new level."

"This is an enormous challenge and a tremendous opportunity," said Stachelberg. "After years of leading HRC's political efforts, I want to now focus my efforts on enriching the public dialogue and debate on these issues. I'm honored both boards have the confidence in me to lead this important work."

One of Stachelberg's primary tasks is to launch a Religion Project to research and develop the language and messages to more effectively discuss GLBT issues with people of faith. The project will build and strengthen relationships with faith-based organizations and cultivate

spokespeople; create forums for dialogue with those who oppose GLBT equality on religious grounds; and to develop and implement strategies to challenge the extremism of the religious right. In addition, Stachelberg will establish a "Think Tank" to greatly expand the research capabilities and knowledge base on GLBT issues. She will also lead the Foundation's

ground-breaking work in corporate equality and family services, broaden the National Coming Out Project, develop programming for a straight allies project, and increase educational efforts around GLBT health issues and HIV and AIDS.

"Winnie will bring our Foundation, and therefore the work of the entire organization, to a new level," said Vic Basile, co-chair of the Foundation. "While the foundation's efforts, particularly in the work place and in family education have been a valued, forward-thinking resource, there is much more opportunity for growth and expansion. We believe with Winnie's experience and vision, we can achieve those goals."

Added Lawrie Demorest, Foundation board co-chair: "The public education and research component of our work needed a major investment and an experienced executive. With the combination of her political and leadership skills, Winnie is uniquely positioned to lead this important work and advance GLBT equality."

## Same-Sex Couples Must Be Allowed to Marry

*Continued from front page*

Lambda Legal filed the lawsuit last year, representing five same-sex couples seeking marriage licenses in New York.

In a ruling issued this morning in New York City, State Supreme Court Justice Doris Ling-Cohan said that the New York State Constitution guarantees basic freedoms to lesbian and gay people - and that those rights are violated when same-sex couples are not allowed to marry. The ruling said the state Constitution requires same-sex couples to have equal access to marriage, and that

the couples represented by Lambda Legal must be given marriage licenses.

"This is a historic ruling that delivers the state Constitution's promise of equality to all New Yorkers," said Susan Sommer, Supervising Attorney at Lambda Legal and the lead attorney on the case. "The court recognized that unless gay people can marry, they are not being treated equally under the law. Same-sex couples need the protections and security marriage provides, and this ruling says they're entitled to get them the same way straight couples do."

# NYC Mayor in Tight Spot Over Gay Marriage Issue

By Ross von Metzke

(New York City, NY) - New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg faced pressure from both sides of the same-sex marriage debate yesterday after he said that the city will appeal a court ruling overturning a ban on gay unions.

Openly gay state senator Tom Duane called Bloomberg a coward while a Catholic leader against gay marriage said the mayor lacked morals, according to Newsday.

# FYI

The moderate Republican who is seeking a second term as mayor seems to have pleased no one with this announce-

ment. Bloomberg attributed his decision to appeal to last year's sweep of unions in San Francisco. He said he doesn't want to issue thousands of marriage licenses only to have them overturned later.

"The mayor has a problem: That he's basically a typical Manhattan left-wing liberal," said Thomas Ognibene, a Republican former City Council mem-

ber who recently announced he will challenge Bloomberg for the party's mayoral nomination this year.

On Monday, Bloomberg said he is simply trying to follow state law and represent a diverse city's best interests at the same time. He also defended his strategy of refusing to state his personal position on same-sex marriage for the past three years until he announced the legal challenge two days ago.

"I've thought long and hard about it, and I decided that this time was the time to stand up and say what I believe in my heart of hearts," said Bloomberg. "But my beliefs are separate from the legal strategies the city will take."

William Donohue, president of the Catholic League, said the mayor was "trying to have it both ways and pleasing no-one."

"That's not a principled response whether you're for or against same-sex marriage," Donohue said, adding that there were many Christians in New York opposed to same-sex marriage.

But state senator Duane also slammed Bloomberg. "Mayor Bloomberg is a coward," he said. "He should not file those papers to appeal. He should stand with us during this, the most important civil rights battle."

## Reggae Deal to Halt Gay-Bash Lyrics

A framework agreement to avoid the future release of songs that incite violence against lesbians and gay men has been reached with reggae industry chiefs. The agreement applies worldwide, including Jamaica.

Following four months of constructive negotiations, which culminated in this agreement, the Stop Murder Music coalition (SMM) has suspended its campaign.

The campaign will remain suspended, unless the agreement is violated by lyrics or public statements that encourage violence against the gay community.

The negotiations involved leading SMM groups, such as the UK-based gay rights organisations OutRage! and the Black Gay Men's Advisory Group. They acted in liaison with the Jamaican gay rights movement, J-Flag.

The SMM groups concluded the deal with a consortium of U.K. and U.S. reggae concert promoters and record labels. The promoters include major players like Jammin's and Apollo Entertainment. The labels are VP Records, Greensleeves and Jetstar Records. These labels account for nearly all reggae music released worldwide.

Dennis Carney, chair of the Black Gay Men's Advisory Group, and a spokesperson for the SMM campaign, praised the efforts of everyone who participated in the negotiations: "This is the first step in an important process," said Carney.

Peter Tatchell, also of the SMM campaign and one of the people who helped negotiate the agreement, said: "We hope this is the beginning of a new era in reggae music, where the artists rekindle the

spirit of one love, peace, unity, brotherhood and social justice promoted by reggae pioneers like the legendary Bob Marley."

Media and PR strategist, Glen Yearwood, who mediated the resolution on behalf of the reggae industry, is confident that all parties can now build on this framework to ensure a new and positive future for reggae music.

Both sides have agreed to create formal procedures for conflict resolution. This includes a series of on-going meetings to evaluate progress.

Responding to the framework agreement with the reggae promoters and labels, Brett Lock of OutRage!, which is a part of the Stop Murder Music campaign, said:

"We welcome this framework agreement and are suspending the Stop Murder Music campaign. The singers and the music industry now have an opportunity to draw a line under the promotion of lyrics that incite violence against lesbians and gay men."

"This is a win-win result for everyone involved. Singers are able to do their concerts. Fans get to see their music idols. Gay people are spared lyrics that advocate homophobic murder."

"Providing the artists do not in future encourage violent attacks on gay people, the campaign will remain suspended."

"We hope the performers will respect our show of good faith and will choose to make music with a positive message, rather than promoting prejudice," said Mr Lock.

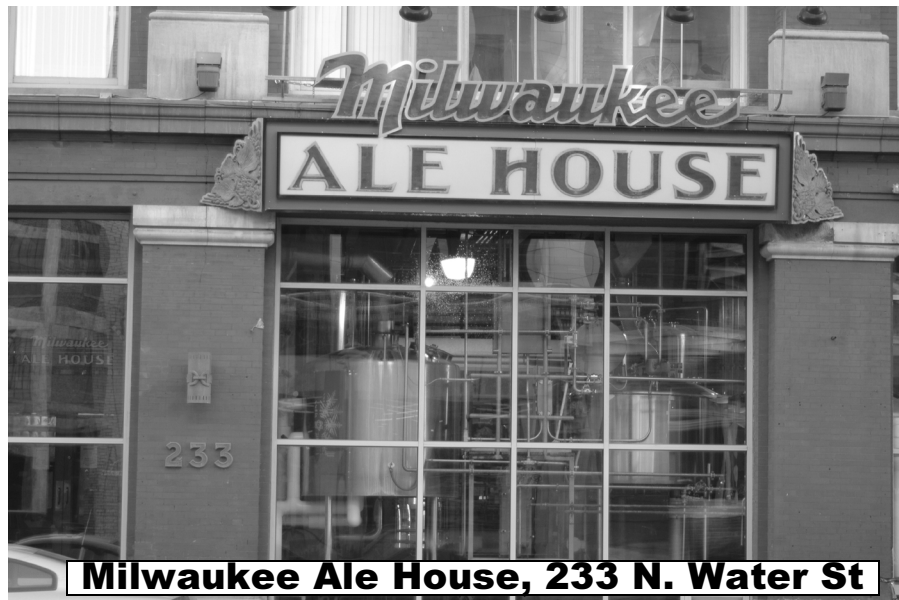


# Eating Out with DeManda Martini

Hello Food Fans,

Demanda,s secret for surviving Milwaukee winters is to slip into something pretty, wrap a boa around my rather Joan Crawford-like shoulders, and step out for some live music and fabulous food. When a girl wants all that, Milwaukee Ale House is the only place that comes to my bleach-soaked brain (I really should consider going back to brunette). Luckily, my good judgment has not been affected by my desire to be blonde. I knew that hip, hot, comfy, and cool could be found at 233 N. Water Street in downtown Milwaukee. I also knew that the Ale House is full of beautiful people and I was not to be outdone. I decided to wedge into my size 12, purple sequinned gown (my girls prefer a 2, but my hips Demanda 14, so I subtract 2 from 14 and buy all size 12's) and my peacock feather boa because I like having all eyes on me. Then I called Dinah.

Now I begged Dinah to look nice, but I was not specific, so it is my own damned fault. When I arrived at the Ale House, I threw open the doors, prepared to make my patented entrance. And then I saw her. My friend Dinah was sitting at the bar with a stool under each fanny cheek. She, somehow, squeezed into a



**Milwaukee Ale House, 233 N. Water St**

pair of jeans (I have not seen that much denim since a craft fair in 1987) and a horizontal striped tube top that was working overtime. I tip-toed over to her, got the attention of **Gary**, our yummy bartender, and had to Demanda 2 martinis.

Surprisingly, all that vodka did not ease the pain of Dinah's ensem(ble). So I collected my things, she hoisted herself up, and we moved to the dining room.

**Nikki**, our hostess, was kind enough **not** to seat us at a booth (**love her!**). We opened our menus and the feast began.

Now according to this National Geographic program that I watched, when a bear comes out of hibernation, she eats a lot of food. Apparently, this is true for Dinah too, but all the time. Fortunately, the Milwaukee Ale House's menu is just jammed-packed with all kinds of tempting goodies. There's **pizza** and **pasta**,

**seafood** and **steak**. There's **pot roast** and **potpies**, My **pork loin** was great (sometimes I like to rhyme). We had **Spinach and Artichoke Dip** (\$6:25) and **Baked Shrimp Scampi** (\$6:95) appetizers that were to die for. It was all so scrumptious that I did not even bat an eye when Dinah burped after swigging the **Louie's Demise Ale** that they brew right on the premises. I probably would have, but the force of air coming out of her made my eyelashes stick to my forehead. I guess I looked surprised because Dinah apologized to me (She usually doesn't) and to the table next to us. You see, their little girl was so frightened by the belch that she was still crying.

As we were leaving, our server, **Emily**, who was so sweet, said maybe when I come back, I could bring another friend instead. I must have been feeling those martinis because I admitted that Dinah was my **only** friend. **Emily** said "Oh". Then she gave me a take-out menu. At that very moment, the big, fake ruby that Dinah hot-glued in her belly button fell out, and I understood completely.

It's Oprah time!

Chow,  
DeManda

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# Cordially Yours

By Michael Johnston

Spring will soon be here ... in the mean time let's get caught up.

Have you been in Hot Water lately? No, not for forgetting that "Special Someone" on Valentine's Day! Hot Water is the newest place to DANCE! Located in the Walker's Point neighborhood — 818 South Water Street. Kiddy corner from the bar formerly known as South Water Street Docks.

Or as they like to say — "Take National Avenue East 'till you can't anymore. Then take a right." Paul, your host, provides an abbreviated week of activity for you. Wednesday is "Swing Night." Come and Jitterbug with The Milwaukee Rebels. It's just like a USO Canteen! What an astounding sound system! Thursday night is "Bring Your Own CD — A Listener's Party." Fridays bring Country to the City, two Fridays of the month. The Shoreline Dancers are two-stepping you into the weekend. So kick it up with a little C&W. Saturday brings back the Blues, Jazz and sounds of Swing. Sunday — certainly not their day of rest — it's retro Disco! The doors open at 7 PM. The sound system, location, decor and restoration is worth the visit alone. Live music is featured to compliment the spacious room and sweeping dance floor. You must see the original Tiffany art work suspended from the ceiling — and the original Patrick Farrell masterpieces!!! If Milwaukee is a great place on a great lake, then Hot Water is a Hot place on a Hot river!

Singsational Productions is back and reaching for the Stars! Every second Saturday of every Month, at M&M Club. (Next time: Saturday, March 9th) Jon, AKA Lizzie Bordeaux, headlines and harmonizes with Peter, one of your favorite M's Bartenders/Vocalist and Jay as roadie, who will join in if prompted, will not only entertain you but make you a Star! Showtime is at 9 PM.

"Forbidden Broadway" sizzled and then unfortunately fizzled... Just a reminder, Milwaukee, if we don't support the Arts, they can't go on! Case in point, Theater X, after over 34 years of exciting, experimental cutting edge performances, it was allowed to cease and now disappear. "Broadway's" broad humor and talent was thoroughly enjoyable and suitable for the entire family. If you didn't catch it, you missed a lot! I caught it twice and could've gone again! I did have the chance to party with them.

The cast kicked up their collective tap shoes at a party thrown by Stardust Advertising at The M's. As luck would have, it Ginni Smith was on AND tickling the ivories like never before! The Stars were gracious enough to "Sing For Their Supper." They must have liked their feast because we were rewarded with a marvelous impromptu! Brian Noonan, Becky Barta, Janet Dickenson, Neal Mayer and our very own Jack Forbes Wilson shared their considerable talents—after doing two performances that very day! What an appreciative audience! Keep an eye on

these Broadway Babies — they will go far and hopefully come back soon!

Speaking of "The Great White Way," we were fortunate enough to have Tom Wopat and the Tony Award winning Faith Prince play The Marcus Center. The show they brought to Brew City: "Over The Rainbow - A Concert Celebrating A Century Of Harold Arlen." I was, in a word, impressed. Impressed with the body of music Mr. Arlen wrote, impressed with the body of performers which also included: Barbara Morrison and Loston Harris. This project is playing through out the land and will conclude their celebration, appropriately enough, in Carnegie Hall.

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The Chamber Theatre will be doing "A Sleep Of Prisoners" by Christopher Fry through March 6, directed by Chamber Legend Montgomery Davis. "Our Truest Life Is When We Are In Dreams Awake," - Henry David Thoreau.

Bialystock & Bloom will be doing "Danny And The Deep Blue Sea" by John Patrick Shanley. Directed by: Bialystock's very own: Jonathan West. Deal with "The Morning After" with Danny & Roberta... The run starts Friday, March 11th - Saturday, March 26th, 2005. [www.bialystockbloom.com](http://www.bialystockbloom.com)

IGBO - The International Gay Bowlers Organization has a unique way of raising necessary monies for their Memorial Weekend Tournament. "Jewel-OSco Shop & Share Program." Shop at any Milwaukee/ChicagoLand Jewel-OSco, sign and present the coupon to the cash-

ier when checking out and 5% of your total purchase will go to IGBO! How painless! You can get your Coupon in this very periodical or any IGBO Bowler is more than willing to provide you a form.

Please don't forget the legendary "Rita Bowl" Friday, March 18 — Always a hysterical time, whether you Bowl, Cheer or Volunteer! Proceeds to help out HIT 27.

Bowling Fans, keep in mind MilMAIDS is next month! Who says Milwaukee isn't the Bowling Capitol of the world?

The Art Bar does a monthly "Full Moon Party." John & Don certainly know how to make us all "bay at the Moon." DJ John Murges was spinning his top list of chart busters, drowning out our baying. The pride of New Zealand Richard and Jaime tended to our beverages.

The "Moon-ers" included Yves & Steve - Yves was all agog about "The Annual Drag Show" at The Union Ball Room - UWM by Rainbow Alliance and UWM LGBT Resource Center, donation to help Project Q. Saturday, February 26.

Brian & Andy were equally excited

Lizzie Bordeaux intoxicating the audience with her flair, the glamorous Alexis Winters, the Bossa Nova lady herself Dame Edna Ross proving she wasn't playing possum and Cheap Talkin' Chi-Chi cashing in and proving to be not that cheap, as she won the honors and title of: "Miss Fortune 2005." Special Performances by: Miss Madison Brooks - former Miss Springfield, The Triangle's Ms. Lana St. James and the current Miss Gay Wisconsin USA: Miss Natasha Marx. \$1300 was raised! Special thanks to: Sal and Noah and your generosity! Congratulations to my sister-in-print ChiChi, oh titled one! Special kudos to the magic makers behind the velvet curtain — or is it Red Door, as in Elizabeth Arden? Trixie, Joe Kender and Goldie Adams who used their skills to allow us to use our arts, the other handy skills of Peter, Paul, Rona and all the "Saints" who built the set that included all kinds of bells and whistles, was also greatly appreciated! The next Rona opus will be Mother's Day "The Nun Show" celebrating her 28th year at The M's — the night before Saturday, May 7th will be Men's Voices Milwaukee Spring Show.

Another crowning of sorts, a new "Mr. Harbor Room 2005" Drake.

Runner-up is Corey and the guy who won "The Speedo Contest" Glen.

So you see the "Royalty" thing runs through out the city.

Another crowning of sorts -- a new "Mr. Harbor Room 2005," Drake. Runner-up is Corey and the guy who won "The Speedo Contest" was Glen. So you see, the "Royalty" thing runs through out the city.

Fluid's Christian seems to be quite the busy bee! Marquette University, Bag Boyz and such a "Mr. Congeniality!" Go have a drink with him some time...

Boom/The Room - "Perversion with a Touch of Class"! They always live UP to their name with the return of Clay Maverick. He certainly warmed up our Valentine's Weekend!

Speaking of Valentines -- Congratulations too The M's Rona and Holly on their recent "Engagement"! But instead of February — shouldn't it have taken place the first of April? Other Lovers... David Howser & Jeff, Lil & Nancy, Michael & Max, Ebbie & Kristen, Doug & Chuck... Sorry Liza - I'm not printing yours!

Scott & Mandy have said good-bye to Heaven City. Yes, Mukwonago's favorite eatery is now history. They will be concentrating on their other operation Q. on K.K., located down the street from The Boulevard Theater. A new Q. is in the planning for West Greenfield Avenue.

In conclusion, I must make mention the loss of some friends. Far too soon we lost "Flat Top" Bob — may he rest in peace. The toast of Chicago, Acapulco, Milwaukee and wherever he held court, Uncle Joe, is now at peace. The nation said goodnight to the "King of Late Night," Johnny Carson who tucked us in nightly and to the elegance of "All My Children's" Grand Dame Ruth (Phoebe Tyler Wallingford) Warrick/Mrs. Citizen Kane, who enchanted all my afternoons...

I remind you all, it's the Glamour, not the Grammar and I'll be with you next month as I remain,

"STILL Cordially Yours"



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For any questions, please contact IGBO MILW2005 @aol.com or see our website for more details at [www.igbo25.org](http://www.igbo25.org)  
Watch for another coupon in April! Thank you for supporting IGBO Milwaukee 2005!

# OUTBOUND COMMUNITY

## MILWAUKEE GAY FATHERS GROUP NOW IN 10TH YEAR

On Monday, January 10th, members of the Milwaukee Gay Fathers Group celebrated the groups now-10th year of service to Milwaukee and beyond, with a special anniversary dinner-gathering. Over two dozen current and alumni members and their partners convened from as far away as Arizona to attend the celebration, held at the groups usual quarters, the BESTD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street.

The support-discussion group meets the second and fourth Monday night of each month from 7:30 - 9:30 pm. at the Clinic and is open to all gay, bisexual and questioning fathers. Since its founding, the Fathers Group has provided a lifeline to many dozens of often-isolated men, welcoming them into a caring and lively community of other fathers who have traveled a similar road themselves. Members have found that partici-

pation in the groups upbeat and enjoyable fellowship has sustained and supported them as they've roller-coasted through the colossal changes and challenges of separation and divorce, moving out of the family household, and coming-out to wives and children, parents, family and friends.

Unlike numerous east and west coast-based fathers or parents groups, which are frequently comprised of gay men and couples who are adopting or co-parenting children, the Milwaukee Gay Fathers Group has for a decade found itself helping and serving a population of men coming almost exclusively out of traditional heterosexual marriages and relationships. The group is free of cost to attendees and is relaxed, welcoming, informal and non-judgemental. For further information, call 414-372-8008.

## HRL-PAC Endorses Burmaster for State Superintendent for February 15th Primary

The Human Rights League Political Action Committee (HRL-PAC) has endorsed Elizabeth Burmaster for State Superintendent of Public Instruction. Wisconsin residents will vote in a four-way primary on Tuesday, February 15th to select the head of the state school system.

HRL-PAC works to elected candidates who will fight for and defend equality for Wisconsin's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents.

"Throughout her distinguished career in education, Elizabeth Burmaster has demonstrated time and time again her commitment to creating a safe, inclusive educational environment for all children," said Paul Williams, HRL-PAC President. "She is not just someone who understands the unique needs of gay and lesbian youth, she is an educator who fights for the right to of all children to quality and harassment-free education."

"Burmaster has invested in LGBT youth through a grant to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), and she has supported anti-bullying policies and suicide prevention programming," said Williams. "She is a quality leader who works to build a quality educational environment for youth."

The State Superintendent race is the only state-wide office requiring a primary election. Voters will face several additional critical races in the April 5th general election, including Milwaukee school board seats and several judicial posts. HRL-PAC will announce endorsements in those races prior to the election.

Since 1997, HRL-PAC has worked to elect pro-LGBT candidates throughout Wisconsin. For more information, visit [www.hrl-pac.org](http://www.hrl-pac.org) or call (414) 319-9863.

## Community Listings

**Action Wisconsin**, 1202 Williamson St., Madison 53703, [www.actionwisconsin.org](http://www.actionwisconsin.org), (608) 441-0143

**Aeon Group** (Interactive Fiction Gaming), P.O. Box 93953, 53203-0953, (414) 291-0530

**AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin**, 820 Plankinton Ave., Milwaukee 53202, [www.arcw.org](http://www.arcw.org), (414) 273-1991 (800) 359-9272

**Alcoholics Anonymous** (Request gay meetings), (414) 771-9119

**Bi Definition** (Bisexual community events), 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee, WI 53212, Suite 101, (414) 299-9612

**BiNet USA** (National bisexual political organization), <http://norn.org/pub/other-orgs/brc/binet.html>, (202) 882-4384

**Brew City Bears**, P.O. Box 1035, Milwaukee, WI 53201, (414) 299-0401

**BWMT-Milwaukee**, P.O. Box 091475, Milwaukee, WI 53209, <http://members.aol.com/bwmtmilwaukee/>, (414) 540-9437, ext 3

**Castaways M.C.** (Levi/Leather club), P.O. Box 1697, Milwaukee, WI 53202

**Counseling Center** (LGB & discussion groups), 2038 N. Bartlett Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202, (414) 271-2565

**Cream City Chorus**, 315 W. Court, Milwaukee, WI 53212, <http://www.creamcitychorus.org/>, (414) 276-8787

**Cream City Foundation**, 315 W. Court, Milwaukee, WI 53212, <http://www.creamcityfoundation.org/>, (414) 225-0244

**Cream City Squares** (Square Dancing Club), (414) 445-8080

**DAMES** (Dykes Against Minority Erotic Suppression), P.O. Box 1272, Milwaukee, WI 53201, (414) 278-0323

**Fest City Singers** (gay choral group), P.O. Box 11428, Milwaukee, WI 53211, (414) 961-0713

**Firebirds** (L/L group), P.O. Box 159, 53201-0159

**Front Runners** (running group), (414) 332-1527

**G/L Community Trust Fund**, P.O. Box 1686, 53201, (414) 643-1652

**Galano Club** (chemical free recovery club), 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee, WI

53212, <http://my.execpc.com/%7ereva/>, (414) 276-6936

**Gay Lesbian Education Employees of Metro Milw.**, (414) 462-8404

**Gay Straight Alliance** (Waukesah County Technical College), GSA c/o Student Life C121, 800 Main St., (262) 691-5388

**Gay Youth Milwaukee** (peer group meetings), P.O. Box 090441, Milwaukee, WI 53209, (414) 265-8500

**Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline**, <http://gym.8m.com/>, (414) 272-TEEN

**Gay/Lesbian Studies UWM**, (414) 229-6402

**Gemini Gender Group** (TV/TS/TG support/social), P.O. Box 44211, 53214, (414) 297-9328

**Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee**, P.O. Box 862, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0862

**GLEAM/SPECTRUM** (GLBT Employees of SBC), P.O. Box 254, Milwaukee, WI 53201, (414) 482-4310

**Great Lakes Harley Riders**, P.O. Box 341611, Milwaukee, WI 53234-1611

**Holiday Invitational Tournament** (G/L bowling event), P.O. Box 899, Milwaukee, WI 53201

**HRL-Pac** (Political Action Committee), P.O. Box 510407 Milwaukee, WI 53203-0074, <http://www.hrl-pac.org/index.html>, (414) 319-9863

**Keep Hope Alive** (HIV Holistic Support), P.O. Box 27041, West Allis, 53227, (414) 548-4344

**LAMM** (Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee), 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee, WI 53212, (414) 272-9442

**Log Cabin Republicans-Wisconsin** (Gay Republicans), P.O. Box 199, Milwaukee, 53201, [LCCWI@aol.com](mailto:LCCWI@aol.com), (414) 299-9443

**Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance**, Campus Ministry, 617 N 14th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233, (414) 288-6873

**Men's Voices Milwaukee**, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee, WI 53212, (414) 765-9198

**Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club**, (414) 704-1688 (Brian)

**MGALA** (Marquette U. GL Alumni), P.O. Box 92722, Milwaukee, WI 53202

**Milwaukee GAMMA** (sports/outdoors/recreation/social), P.O. Box 1900, Milwaukee, WI 53201, [mkegamma@execpc.com](mailto:mkegamma@execpc.com), (414) 365-3453

**Milwaukee LGBT Community Center**, 315 W. Court, Milwaukee, WI 53212, <http://www.mkelgbt.org/>, (414) 271-2656

**Milwaukee Symphony Chorus**, (414) 559-9330

**Narcotics Anonymous** (request gay mtgs.), (800) 711-6375

**New Beginnings PENPALS** (Mo. newsletter), Box 25, Westby, WI 54667

**Orgullo Latino** (a Latin Pride), c/o Murguia, 1532 N. Astor St., Milwaukee, WI 53202, (414) 276-8546

**Outdoors Cooperative Sports Group**, (414) 963-9833

**Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays** (PFLAG), 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee, WI 53212, (414) 299-9198

**Pathfinders** (youth counseling, shelter), 1614 E. Kane Place, Milwaukee, WI 53202, (414) 271-1560

**Pride in Wisconsin Government**, c/o OutReach, P.O. Box 310, Madison, WI 53701, <http://my.execpc.com/%7edross/pride/>, (608) 255-8582

**PrideFest** (Annual Pride festival), 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee, WI 53212, <http://www.pridefest.com/>, (414) 645-FEST

**Project Q** (Youth Program of the Milwaukee LGBT Center), 315 W. Court, Milwaukee, WI 53212, <http://www.projectq.org/>, (414) 223-3220

**Queer Program**, The (Cable TV Show), P.O. Box 090441, Milwaukee, WI 53209, (414) 265-8500

**Rainbow Alliance at UWM**, Box 122, 2200 E. Kenwood Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211, (414) 229-6555

**Rainbow Families Wisconsin** (LGBT-Family Support), 600 Williamson St., Suite 1P, Madison 53703-3588, <http://www.geocities.com/rainbowfamilieswisconsin/>, (608) 270-1024

**Riverwest Rainbow Association**, 1001 E. Keefe Ave., 53212, (414) 225-1645

**SAGE Milwaukee** (for older LGBTs), P.O. Box 510492, Milwaukee, WI 53203-0091, <http://www.sagemilwaukee.org/>, (414) 224-0517

**Sexual Compulsives Anonymous** (SCA), (414) 299-0755

**Shoreline** (country dancing, instruction), P.O. Box 510283, Milwaukee, WI 53203-0051, (414) 747-0388

**Silver Space** (for older lesbians), c/o Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave., Milwaukee, (414) 271-2565

**SSBL** (Saturday Softball League), P.O. Box 92605, Milwaukee, WI 53203-0091, (414) 454-9204

**Two Spirit Society** (Indigenous LGBT People of America), 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee, WI 53212, (414) 985-5151

**WI. Legislative Hotline**, (800) 362-WISC

**Wisconsin AIDS Library**, (414) 225-1539 (800) 359-9272

**Wisconsin AIDSline** (free/anonymous), (800) 334-AIDS

**Wisconsin DHFS HIV/AIDS Program**, P.O. Box 2659, Madison 53701-2659, (800) 991-5532

**Wisconsin Haverim** (GLBT Jewish Group), <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WisconsinHaverim>, (414) 202-8074

**Wisconsin Outdoor Women** (outdoor sporting events), P.O. Box 94, Hales Corners, 53130, (414) 427-2082

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