

Gay Democratic supporters of Hillary Clinton for president are tapping

cross-dressing comedy as a serious political strategy with this morning's launch of Bill-for-First-

Lady.com. The campaign website features live-action comedy videos of Bill Clinton in 'Jackie' style drag wearing a pink skirt, matching high heels and a pink purse. The site has set a goal to generate 1 million e-mails from Americans urging Hillary to run for president in 2008.

The Democratic website, which uses comedy to convey its message, has produced two short two-minute campaign videos depicting Bill Clinton preparing for the First Lady role. The first, entitled 'Boxers, Briefs or Thong?', shows Bill trying on skimpy pink lingerie - much to the shock of a flabbergasted saleswoman. In 'Men's Room?', Bill struggles to use a urinal while decked-out in a pink skirt, high heels and very uncooperative pantyhose.

"We may be having a gay old time with our campaign style - but Hillary is a serious candidate and this is a serious strategy. In addition to showing support for Hillary to run for president in 2008, Bill-for-First-Lady.com is about beating Republicans to the punch and to the punch line by making the inevitable 'Bill as First Lady' jokes old before they can hurt during the election. Cross-dressing humor crosses party lines and we're here to tickle the red states pink," said Campaign Manager Luke Montgomery.

Live campaign events featuring the dress-wearing 'Bill' from the videos are planned for cities around the country in the coming weeks. The first event was outside the White House on Monday, September 26th. The second is in New York City on Tuesday, September 27th in front of ABC's Times Square Studio to coin-

cide with the network's premiere of its female president drama Commander in Chief, starring Geena Davis.

Campaign organizer Luke Montgomery was once a vocal Clinton critic on gay rights issues. Having for a short time legally changed his last name to 'Sissyfag', As a teenage gay activist, Montgomery made headlines in the early Clinton years for his attention-getting presidential interruptions. Montgomery interrupted the President's 1993 World AIDS Day speech and his 1994 Easter Sunday church services.

"Having grown-up and unfortunately grown grey, I now realize what a great president Bill was, not just for gay Americans, but for all Americans. With this campaign I hope to pay Bill back for all those silly headaches I caused him when I was a kid," said Montgomery.

Bill-for-First-Lady.com also features the interactive 'Mr. First Lady Talking Doll' that talks in Clinton's voice, saying things like "Put Hillary in the White House, I'm homesick!" and "My bikini line? waxed or shaved? Don't ask. Don't tell."

Montgomery gushes about the doll, saying, "This is one of the most fun and most funny parts of the campaign. What little gay kid doesn't want to play with dolls? For me this is definitely where the personal meets the political. Bill just looks pretty in pink!"

A spokesperson for the campaign includes 'Bill' himself. Organizers are making available a comic Bill Clinton voice impersonator for appearances on radio shows across the nation as part of the campaign.



Schwarzenegger Rejects California Same-Sex Marriage Bill

By Ross von Metzke (Sacramento, CA) - As was expected, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed California's same-sex marriage bill late Thursday afternoon. The action came on a day in which he rejected 51 other bills as well.

In explaining his decision, Schwarzenegger wrote that he

believed gay couples were entitled to "full protection under the law and should not be discriminated against," but that he felt the bill would have reversed a 2000 ballot measure that declared only a marriage between a man and a woman is legal in California.

The same-sex marriage bill - which squeaked by in the State Senate and Assembly earlier this month with no Republican votes - was the first in the country that legalized gay marriage using the power of the legislature without a court order.

Schwarzenegger - page 18

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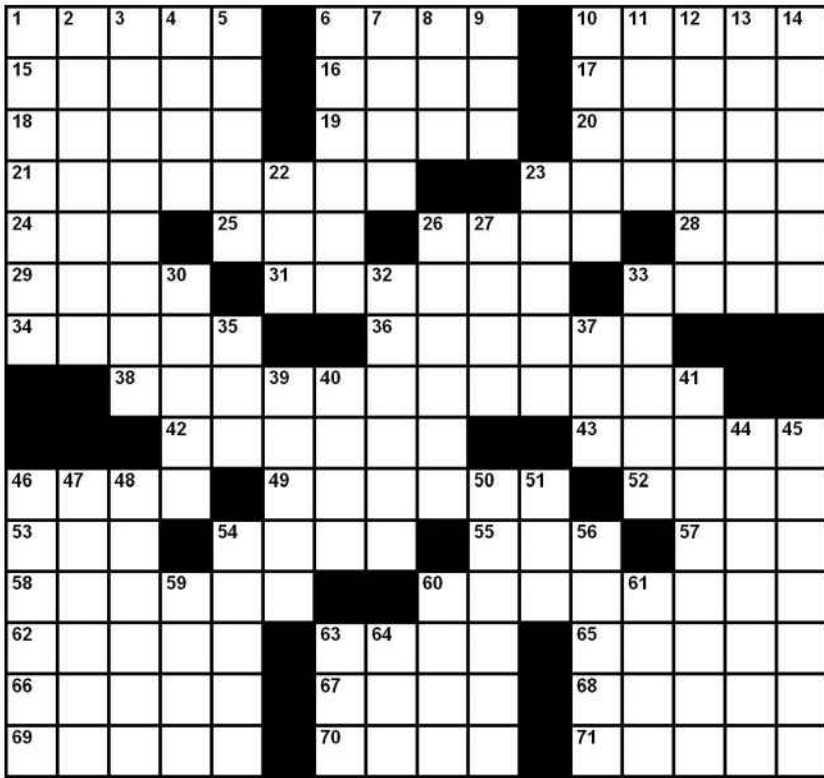
Wed 10/19 - Ms. Christina Chase Benefit @
9pm

Fri 10/21 - Amy Welsh CD Release Party
@7pm... Dance Party @ 9:30pm

Fri 10/28 - Kimi Hayes & Paula Marr 9pm

Sat 10/29 - Halloween Party
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Outbound Crossword Puzzle "On the Streets Where We Live"



Across

- 1 Doesn't leave uncut
- 6 Family diagram
- 10 Places for studs
- 15 International Gay Bowling Organization button
- 16 Get juice from a fruit
- 17 Response to an on-line personal
- 18 "___ roll!" (winner's cry)
- 19 Lie alongside
- 20 She played with Sherman on *The Jeffersons*
- 21 Avenue of City Lights Bookstore
- 23 Pride Parade street in 38-Across
- 24 Child-care writer LeShan
- 25 Parsons of basketball
- 26 Choose not to come
- 28 Shrek's shoe size, perhaps
- 29 Engages in foreplay
- 31 Winston Cup org.
- 33 Greek vases
- 34 Had sex (with)
- 36 Restrained
- 38 City of the four streets in this puzzle
- 42 Family of Mary, Queen of Scots
- 43 Like chubby chasers' targets
- 46 Topsoil
- 49 With butts in the air?
- 52 It comes at the bottom of a list
- 53 Caligula's arts
- 54 Chickenhawks, prenately
- 55 "We're ___ Gonna Take It" (Tommy song)
- 57 Marie, in Montmartre (abbr.)
- 58 Street associated with Harvey Milk
- 60 Street popular with lesbians in 38-Across
- 62 Didn't eat out
- 63 Decide not to swallow
- 65 They circle Uranus
- 66 Gay men's lifestyle magazine
- 67 *The African Queen* author
- 68 1929 Cole Porter tune
- 69 Rob of *Melrose Place*
- 70 Male enhancement exaggeration?
- 71 Showing skin, in a way

Down

- 1 Muscle Mary's pride
- 2 Emulate Thom Filicia
- 3 Cuts off
- 4 Hamburger Mary's list
- 5 Terence of *Billy Budd*
- 6 Condition after getting cold-cocked
- 7 Stonewall Jackson and others
- 8 Bonheur bathed in it
- 9 Mouth-to-mouth pro
- 10 General under Arnold
- 11 Barbra's *Funny Girl* guy
- 12 Director Clive of *Hellraiser*
- 13 Atkins, who played Woolf on Broadway
- 14 Log Cabin and Stonewall candidate lists
- 22 Exclusion of gays from the military, e.g.
- 23 Tuesday to 50 million Frenchmen
- 26 CK One and such
- 27 It might go right to the bottom
- 30 Orgasm, e.g.
- 32 Pieces that archaeologists get
- 33 Paul Lynde, to Elizabeth Montgomery, on *Bewitched*
- 35 Explosive stick
- 37 You need it to get to 365gay.com
- 39 Fire, to Frida
- 40 Initiated phone sex
- 41 Have more partners than?
- 44 Rock Hudson was this kind of idol
- 45 One who satisfies
- 46 ___ aux Folles
- 47 Uses a gifted tongue
- 48 Thumbs-up
- 50 Not blown away
- 51 David Cicilline, e.g.
- 54 Sea eagles
- 56 Office aides
- 59 Kind of jack
- 60 Shoot off to the side
- 61 He took on a pair of bears
- 63 Oral input
- 64 Org. that uses ball-washers

Answers from Sep. Issue

V	I	C	S		S	T	E	M		V	E	T	S	
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Lesbian Sex Up in Women 18 to 29

By Angela D'Amboise

(Los Angeles, CA) - Results of the U.S. government's largest-ever survey of the nation's sexual practices has found a dramatic increase in the number of women who said they have engaged in a lesbian relationship.

About 11-percent of women aged between 18 and 44 said they have had a lesbian sexual experience, up from the six percent found in a 1992 poll. In the 18 to 29 age group, 14-percent of women said they had been sexual with another woman. Additional findings suggested that an increasing number of U.S. teens are engaging in oral sex instead of vaginal sex as a method of protecting themselves from AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Taken together, the two findings suggest a shift in sexual practices, in which females are using oral and lesbian sex "as a safer alternative than (vaginal) sex with men," said epidemiologist William

Mosher of the National Centre for Health Statistics, the study's lead author.

Researchers said that the rise in reported lesbian experiences might also be the result of greater female sexual freedom and increasing social acceptance of lesbianism, especially in college, where the phenomenon known as LUG - "lesbian until graduation" is increasingly widespread.

The number of adult males reporting homosexual relationships was around six percent, the same figure as in 1992.

Researchers found that men age 30 to 44 have had a median of six to eight sexual partners in their lifetimes; while women's median was about four. The survey found that among teens ages 15 to 19, 55-percent of males and 54-percent of females had engaged in oral sex, rising to nearly 70-percent for those who are 18 and 19. Some 53-percent of girls 15 to 19 and 49-percent of boys reported that they have had full intercourse.

Age Is So Relative

By L. A. Vess

I'm a 31 year old lesbian. According to the lesbian mythology, I'm approaching that ripe old age where I am no longer a 'marketable' commodity in the dating world - which is fine since I'm already happily partnered, thank you. Which is good I guess since they say once you hit 30, you're chances of snagging that perfect woman decreases by like, oh, 100%. But damnit, I don't feel like I'm that old, and just because I'm off the market - doesn't mean I don't want to be window-shopped.

Hell, I'm still trying to figure out what shade of purple to die my hair. I've got the Manic Panic for that absolutely insanely punk look, or maybe that more toned-down, subtle rebel look by Clairrol. Is a woman who doesn't blink twice at dying her hair strange colors and still decorates her bedroom in 'college' motif really past her prime? I mean, I still play with Legos and I have glow-in-the-dark stars splattered across my ceiling. Surely I'm not yet ready to call it quits and retire to a rocking chair with some knitting?

Or maybe I am getting old - after all, my knees do creak and my breasts now require a Wonderbra to regain their twenty-something perkiness. Should I be quietly resigning myself to wearing less curve-hugging clothing and a nice, plain brown hair color that won't attract attention to my sagging self?

As an old theater buddy of mine once quoted: "Fuck that noise!"

I swear, there is nothing more demeaning than a 30-something lesbian whining about her life being over. Especially if

they are still single. Hasn't anyone out there noticed that women nowadays are kicking major ass way into their sixties, seventies and beyond?

So what if my mother doesn't think it is appropriate for her almost-30 daughter to dye her hair in fuchsia tones and parade around in a cut-off Harley tank-top.

When are we, as women, going to stop playing to society's rules that women over thirty are as good as ancient? Haven't we had enough examples at this point (Susan Sarandon, Madonna, Catherine Deneuve, your next door neighbor. . .) to know better? After all, we don't have to worry about our 'men' hitting their sexual peaks at 18. No, we lesbians get all the benefit of women hitting theirs around 30.

I'm not getting old, I'm just reaching peak freshness. Young women may have the perky breasts, the smooth faces and the stamina of bulls. But we, the women who have a couple of decades of experience under our belts - we have gained the full ripeness of living. We have met pain, dealt with sorrow and heartbreak and learned to use and move our bodies with the grace of knowing what is beneath our skin. We aren't ready to be put out to pasture, we are ready to go out and conquer.

Time to pull out the Manic Panic and get to work.

Surprise Wins Spice Up Otherwise Dull Emmy Awards

By Ross von Metzke

Going into Sunday's Emmy race, everyone's eyes were fixed on those Desperate Housewives.

Critics predicted a much deserved win for Marcia Cross for her role as Ice Queen Bree Van de Kamp while industry insiders suspected Teri Hatcher would go three for three after wins at the Golden Globes and the Screen Actor's Guild Awards.

But when the votes were tallied, it was the third nominated housewife, Felicity Huffman, who took home the trophy for her role as put upon mother of four Lynette Scavo in ABC's hit comedy-drama.

This might just turn out to be a huge year for Huffman. She's also generating Oscar buzz for her role as a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual in the upcoming Transamerica.

Desperate Housewives stars Marcia Cross, Felicity Huffman and Eva Longoria playfully mock-fight over Huffman's Emmy Award.

Huffman's was one of six wins for the breakout hit - and heir apparent to Sex in the City's throne as gay America's most watched program - which included a directing nod to Charles McDougall for the series' pilot episode and one for Kathryn Joosten (Best Guest Actress) for her role as crotchety neighbor Karen McKluskey.

Sunday's 57th Annual Emmy Awards were oddly sluggish when compared with previous ceremonies. Scripted routines fell on deaf ears and even the always reliable Ellen DeGeneres, who also hosted the ceremony which aired just after September 11, had trouble keeping the evening moving forward.

In one of the evening's few moments of comic genius, DeGeneres joked that having hosted after 9/11 and now Hurricane Katrina, she was prepping to "host the North Korean People's Choice Awards" next year.

Huffman's victory wasn't the evening's only surprise. Most critics felt sure Housewives would take home the trophy for Best Comedy Series. That honor went instead to Everybody Loves Raymond, which ended its nine year run on CBS in May.

And in the Best Actress in a Drama Series category, critical darling Glenn Close (The Shield) and Golden Globe winner Mariska Hargitay (Law & Order: SVU) both lost out to Medium star Patricia Arquette, considered by many to be the long shot in that race.

In another category many were on the fence about, ABC's Lost took home the trophy for Best Drama Series, further recognition that Housewives wasn't ABC's only success story for the 2004-2005 television season.

For a complete list of winners, go to www.emmys.org.

Lesbians Cycle to Sacramento for Marriage Equality Bill

(Redwood City, CA) - "If I could take a billboard on a bicycle ride, this is what mine would say," love exile Martha McDevitt-Pugh quips: "I had to move to Holland to marry my wife. I wish I could have gotten married at home."

McDevitt-Pugh is riding from the Bay Area to the Governor's office in Sacramento this Wednesday and Thursday. The Governor has until September 23 to sign the equal rights marriage bill, but he has already indicated he intends to veto the decision of the Senate and the Assembly earlier this month to allow same-sex marriage in their state. McDevitt-Pugh's goal is to persuade Governor Schwarzenegger to change his mind.

McDevitt-Pugh lives as a 'love exile' in the Netherlands. She decided only days before the ride that she had to be in California to do her part. "I couldn't sit at home and wait for the outcome. It's not normal thing for me to drop everything to fly halfway across the world, but I have to do what I can." She met with members of organizations for bi-national and same sex couples, Immigration Equality San Francisco and Love Sees No Borders, as well as with Equality California, before deciding to ride her bike to make her voice heard. Others will join her on the ride. "Living in Amsterdam I've learned that riding a bike is the way to get most places. I just hope it gets us closer to equality in the eyes of the law."

McDevitt-Pugh knows the passing of the bill will not make it possible for her to sponsor her Dutch wife to live in the

USA. Nor will it make a difference to the hundreds of same-sex bi-national couples in the US who are presently filing for emigration to Canada. Or to the many bi-national gay and lesbian couples being forcibly separated after sometimes more than 20 years under the new immigration stringency of the Patriot Act. The large community of Americans who are in limbo, not able to live in the country of their life partner and not able to bring their partner to live with them in the United States, will also not be affected by the passage of this law. "But it will bring us one step closer to immigration equality, and it will give us hope," says McDevitt-Pugh. "Our message to the governor is simple: don't veto my family."

McDevitt-Pugh established Love Exiles www.loveexiles.org when she realized how wrong it was that the United States had forced her to leave the United States to be with her life partner. Love Exiles is for all bi-national couples and also has chapters in Germany, the UK and Canada. "People contact us from many countries - Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines, as well as the US, Switzerland, Italy - because they lack the right to live in their own country with their partner and children." Only 16 countries in the world allow their own citizens to sponsor a same-sex partner or spouse as legal immigrants. In the other 176 countries in the world, gay and lesbian citizens have no right to live legally together with their foreign partners and are for all intents and purposes "legal strangers."

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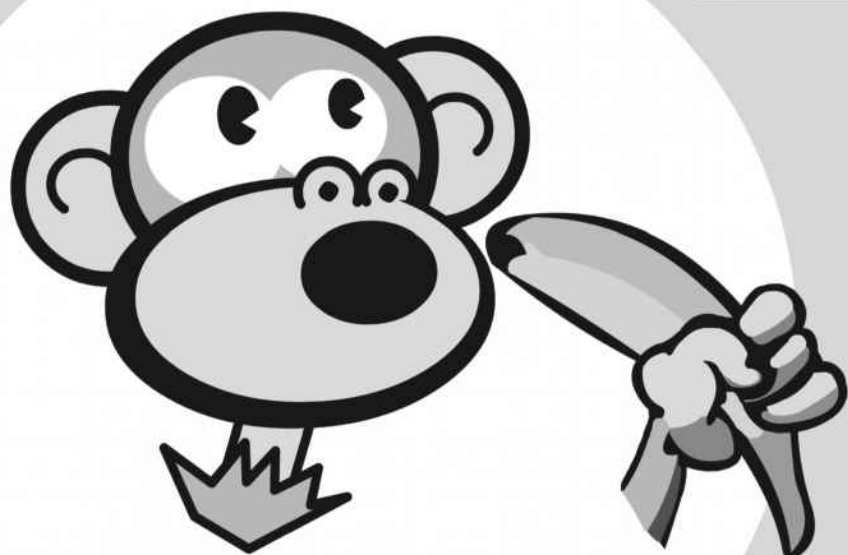
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German Researchers Find That Low-Dose Prednisolone Reduces Hiv Progression to Aids in a Long-Term Study

By Conrad LeBeau

News that should be making headlines around the world is not. The research published this year in the European Journal of Medical Research by Ulmer and his associates about their success using low dose prednisolone to stop HIV progression is worthy of being a lead story in the evening news. For more than 20 years, millions of people around the world have been searching and dying waiting for a low cost treatment for HIV that is effective and has no side effects. With low dose prednisolone as a long term main treatment, the intervention of expensive antiviral protease inhibitors and some 20 other drugs may only occasionally be needed. No further studies are needed for prednisolone as the drug is already government approved as an anti-inflammatory medicine and it is available here in the US and throughout the world. The patents on it have expired and it is dirt cheap. Perhaps that is why it is not getting the respect and attention it deserves.

With 166 articles published in peer reviewed medical journals, Albrecht Ulmer is a clinician and researcher who is well known. His first experience using prednisolone for HIV started in 1990 and his views, based on his clinical experience and more recently controlled studies, is that low dose prednisolone helps persons with HIV or AIDS to increase or maintain higher CD4 counts and can delay the onset of anti-retroviral therapy for several months or years. To date in his practice, he has used prednisolone on over 200 patients with HIV or AIDS in addition to conducting a long term study with controls. To help our readers understand terminology better, I have included a few definitions that precede excerpts from the article published in the European Journal of Medical Research earlier this year.

Definitions:

HAART - Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Therapy - This is usually a combination of 3 or more drugs to treat HIV infection.

CD4 - A type of white blood cell that is a master control cell of the immune system. Activated CD4 helper cells are targeted by the HIV virus.

Prednisolone - and Prednisone are synthetic hormones that act in the body like

natural cortisol (hydrocortisone) produced by the adrenal glands. They are anti-inflammatory, normalizes overactive components of the immune system like interleukin 6 and tumor necrosis factor that feed HIV progression to AIDS and cancer progression as well.

STI - Structured Treatment Interruptions. Not to be confused with drug holidays that are taken at random, STI's are planned by doctors and patients to test the patients immune response to HIV without the intervention of anti-viral drugs. STI's are also used to reduce the side effects of prescription drugs and as interim periods to consider other treatment options.

Immune-based therapies do not target the virus directly, therefore, no viral resistance ever occurs. Immune-based therapies seek to balance the immune response in AIDS by reducing overactive humoral (antibody) response and promoting cell-mediated immune (CMI) responses that target infected cells.

The HIV virus actually promotes an ineffective humoral immune response to its presence and eventually wears out the immune system. Deficiency of immune response in not the problem in early stages of AIDS; dysfunction and imbalance of the immune system are the problem. You could say that immune based therapies seek to quiet an overactive and ineffective immune response and put the virus in a state of low activity or dormancy

Low-dose prednisolone treats HIV-patients during structured therapy interruptions.

June 22, 2005 Eur J Med Res

Albrecht Ulmer, Bertisch-Mollenhoff, Frietsch B, Muller M., Eur J Med Res. 2005 Jun 22;10(6):227-32. Schwerpunktpraxis, Stuttgart, Germany. albrecht.ulmer@gmx.de

BACKGROUND: "A favorable development of CD4+ T cells was firstly noticed in therapy-naive HIV-patients without antiretroviral therapy (ART) taking 5 mg prednisolone daily. This observation led to the prescription of prednisolone during structured therapy interruptions (STI).

OBJECTIVE: "To evaluate the effect of low dose prednisolone on pre-treated patients during STI.

METHODS: "A retrospective analysis including all pre-treated patients with prednisolone therapy for 6 months or longer during STI has been conducted. The patients with prednisolone onset right at the beginning of STI (n = 95) were compared with all patients without Prednisolone therapy during their first 6 months of STI (n = 49). Patients with prednisolone were divided into two subgroups: the ongoing STI-group and the patients with ART-restart."

"Additionally, the development of all 33 patients from the control group having started prednisolone later during STI was documented. Irrespective of the time of initiation of prednisolone therapy during STI, the development of CD4+ T cells in all patients with prednisolone for >12 months during STI was analyzed (n = 108)."

RESULTS: "The mean daily CD4+ T cell decrease during STI was significantly less pronounced in the prednisolone-group (-0.50 vs. -0.74 cells/day; p = 0.0361). The daily CD4+ T cell decline of the 33 patients from the control subgroup including patients with a later onset of prednisolone therapy was only -0.11 during a mean time of 715 days under prednisolone."

"The CD4+ T cell count of the STI-patients treated with prednisolone for >12 months (n = 108; mean: 837 days +/- 64.6 (366-1,756 days)) decreased from 677/microl to 504/microl. - 51 of 81 patients (63%) included in 2-year-analysis showed stable CD4+ T cell counts (mean daily CD4+ T cell decrease: 0.08) and continued ART interruption."

CONCLUSION: "This retrospective evaluation provides evidence that low dose corticosteroids (prednisolone, prednisone or hydrocortisone) are associated with less decrease of CD4+ T cell count in pre-treated HIV patients resulting in prolongation of the potential time of structured treatment interruptions for many HIV patients." End of excerpts.

The rationale for using prednisolone, prednisone or hydrocortisone in the treatment of HIV/AIDS

Low dose prednisolone, prednisone or hydrocortisone are widely known as being immunosuppressive. They are prescribed to organ transplant patients to reduce the risk of immune system rejection

of the transplanted organ. They have anti-inflammatory effects and reduce IL-6 and TNF, two cytokines that promote HIV progression and cancer progression as well. The rationale of using prednisolone in HIV is that it quiets down an overactive immune system. Contrary to popular myths that have shaped our views of HIV for the past two decades, HIV infection does not cause immune deficiency initially but rather causes an over-stimulation of the immune system and an imbalance that suppresses cell-mediated immune responses and stimulates humoral immune responses. For HIV to cause AIDS, it needs to stimulate and drive the immune system to the point of exhaustion. At the stage of exhaustion known as AIDS is when the deficiency occurs and the life threatening opportunistic infections set in.

Essentially, HIV stimulates the immune system into over-activity, eventual exhaustion and self destruction. It is not HIV that destroys the immune system; it is the immune systems reaction to HIV that destroys the immune system. What the immune system needs in response to HIV is not more immune stimulation, but less. The immune system really needs a tranquilizer that mildly suppresses the humoral response to HIV. Quieting the immune response slows down the viral activity at the same time and slows down the destruction of the CD4 helper cells.

As a treatment for HIV infection, low dose prednisolone acts like a brake on excess immune activity. Essentially it gives the immune system a rest so it does not wear itself out. This quieting of the immune system saves millions of CD4 helper cells from destruction (apoptosis). CD4's are the "Generals" of the immune system. More functional CD4 cells protect the patient from opportunistic infections, the real killers in HIV/AIDS.

None of the adverse effects from using corticosteroids occur at the very low dose of 5 to 7.5 mg daily. Low dose prednisolone is a totally different treatment than high dose prednisolone. When it comes to using prednisolone, prednisone or hydrocortisone, less is more effective long term. Higher doses can be used short term to rapidly boost the CD4 counts, but must be tapered off to avoid adverse effects

20-Yr Case Report—Mark Milano's Use of Prednisone to Treat HIV

By Conrad LeBeau

POZ magazine reports in August, 2005, in an article called "haart-less and healthy" about New Yorker Mark Milano who began using prednisone to treat Sarcoidosis in 1985. Mark Milano is a

New York HIV-Treatment educator who has never used anti-viral HIV drugs to treat his condition.

The Prednisone cleared up the Sarcoidosis in 1985 and he found that as long as

he used the prednisone, his CD4 counts also held up.

Milano states he was first infected with HIV in 1982 and that his CD4 count was as low as 74 at one point. Since 1985, he has kept his CD4 count up using a low dose of Prednisone. The dose he currently uses is 15 mg every other day which averages out to 7.5 mg daily.

His current stats are CD4's - 400 and viral load 475K. He has and continues to remain free of opportunistic infections.

He states: *"Dosing is the key.....I take 15 mg every other day, with only minor muscle loss and fat gain (which may be just be my age)."*

His theory is that HIV needs activated CD4 cells to reproduce, and low dose prednisone reduces immune activity just enough to slow down HIV. He adds that if his CD4's drop to 200 or less he would go on the HIV meds.

What makes Milano's case interesting is that in spite of the high viral load, his CD4 counts stay up high enough to prevent the opportunistic infections that are the hallmark of AIDS. That this happens in spite of a viral load of 475,000 is amazing. What this suggests is that the viral load is neutered or made ineffective by the presence of the low dose prednisone.

Prednisone, like its counterparts, methyl-prednisolone and hydrocortisone, lower interleukin 6 and TNF levels, two TH2 cytokines that are

overactive in both cancer and AIDS progression. Normalizing these two cytokines holds great promise in stopping both HIV progression to AIDS and cancer progression.

Unfortunately, development of low cost treatments for HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life long illnesses are not top priorities for pharmaceutical companies where Wall Street stockholders looks at the bottom line of profits as the essential priority. Nor has the US Congress or the White House directed the National Institute of Health to use its resources to find low cost treatments for AIDS and cancer. The time for change is long overdue. The full text of Mark Milano's article can be found at http://www.acria.org/treatment/treatment_edu_winterupdate2001_2002_wondering.html

The subject of using low dose prednisolone alone or in conjunction with other immune modulators to treat HIV and AIDS is covered in considerable detail in the latest issue of the *Journal of Immunity* that you can find online at keephopealive.org. To contact the author, send email to keephope@highstream.net. Persons who want to take a strategic treatment interruption due to adverse effects from their existing drug cocktail and try low dose prednisolone as an immune based therapy need to talk to their physician as this is a prescription item.

October is

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time devoted to the wearing of pink ribbons and fighting this disease. In honor of this month, Dr. Harry Raftopoulos, author of *Exercises for Chemotherapy Patients* (Healthy Living Books) offers some advice for avoiding and recovering from Breast Cancer.

Scientists have found a new weapon in the war against cancer, but it's not a new wonder drug. According to a study presented at a meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, exercise - even moderate activity such as walking - substantially raises survival rates for women with breast cancer.

The study, which showed that women who exercised after breast cancer cut their long-term risk of dying from it by one quarter to one half, comes as no surprise to experts in the field. "We have known for a long time that exercising regularly is one of the best ways to maintain long-term health," says Dr. Harry Raftopoulos, "That's true for everyone, not just cancer patients and cancer survivors. The evidence that exercise is indeed a cancer-fighting tool should come as more motivation for people to get on their feet!"

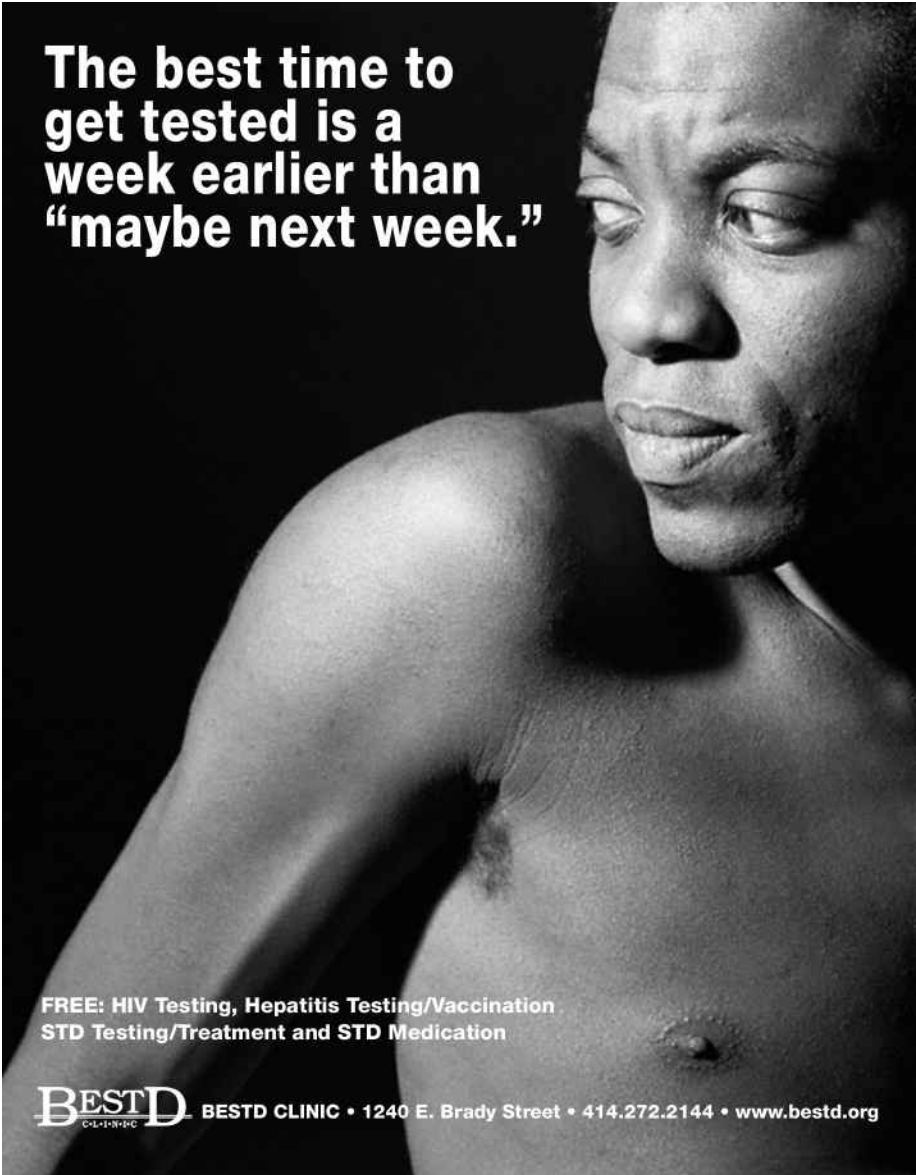
While exercise is an important prescription for anyone, Raftopoulos points out that it's especially beneficial to those who have been diagnosed with cancer. "Studies on patients undergoing cancer treatment have shown that regular exercise improves physical function, self-

esteem, and confidence, and can help to reduce the side effects from treatment. Also, just the act of exercising can help you feel like you have more control over your body and your life-an important issue for people who are living with the fears that come with a cancer diagnosis."

Raftopoulos urges cancer patients to use exercise as a way to take charge of their health. "When undergoing treatment, people often say they feel too weak to start a big exercise program," he explains. "But even light exercise, such as a walk around the block, can be beneficial. There are also many exercises that can be tailored to a cancer patient's needs, many of which can be done while sitting or adapted to fit your abilities."

His last piece of advice? Stick with it. "You should view exercise as medication," he says. "If you exercise daily, over time, it will make you feel better."

HARRY RAFTOPOULOS, MD, is a leading oncologist and an assistant professor of medicine in the division of Medical Oncology as well as Director of Respiratory Oncology at New York Presbyterian Hospital. His new book, *Exercises for Chemotherapy Patients*, offers complete walking and exercise programs tailored to the needs of cancer patients, as well as advice on coping with the side effects of chemotherapy and a special section devoted to nutrition during chemotherapy treatment.



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Brokeback Mountain

An Epic Love Story

From Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ang Lee comes an epic American love story, based on the short story by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Annie Proulx and adapted for the screen by the team of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana.

Set against the sweeping vistas of Wyoming and Texas, the film tells the story of two young men - a ranch-hand and a rodeo cowboy - who meet in the summer of 1963, and unexpectedly forge a lifelong connection, one whose complications, joys and tragedies provide a testament to the endurance and power of love.

Early one morning in Signal, Wyoming, Ennis del Mar (Heath Ledger) and Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) meet while lining up for employment with local rancher Joe Aguirre (Randy Quaid). The world which Ennis and Jack have been born into is at once changing rapidly and yet scarcely evolving. Both young men seem certain of their set places in the heartland - obtaining steady work, marrying and raising a family - and yet hunger for something beyond what they can articulate.



When Aguirre dispatches them to work as sheepherders up on the majestic Brokeback Mountain, they gravitate towards camaraderie and then a deeper intimacy. At summer's end, the two must come down from Brokeback and part ways. Remaining in Wyoming, Ennis weds his sweetheart Alma (Michelle Williams), with whom he will have two daughters as he ekes out a living.

Jack, in Texas, catches the eye of a rodeo queen Lureen Newsome (Anne Hathaway). Their courtship and marriage result in a son, as well as jobs in her father's business.

Four years pass. One day, Alma brings Ennis a postcard from Jack, who is en route to visit Wyoming. Ennis waits expectantly for his friend, and when Jack at last arrives, in just one moment it is clear that the passage of time has only strengthened the men's attachment. In the years that follow, Ennis and Jack struggle to keep their secret bond alive. They meet up several times annually. Even when they are apart, they face the eternal questions of fidelity, commitment and trust. Ultimately, the one constant in their lives is a force of nature - love.

QTN Film Contest Invites GLBT Filmmakers to Earn Honors For Their Pioneering Cinematic Talent

(Palm Springs, CA) - Paying homage to the works and footage of the GLBT community's pioneer filmmakers, Q Television Network has announced a contest that will showcase excellence in GLBT film production. The "Q Television Network Film Contest" runs through December 1st, after which a panel of judges will award thousands of dollars in cash and prizes to the visionaries behind classic and new films that give a voice to the GLBT community.

In the spirit of celebrating these independent filmmakers, all winning entries will be broadcast on QTN, with top prizes awarded in January at the Queer Lounge, during the 2006 Sundance Film Festival.

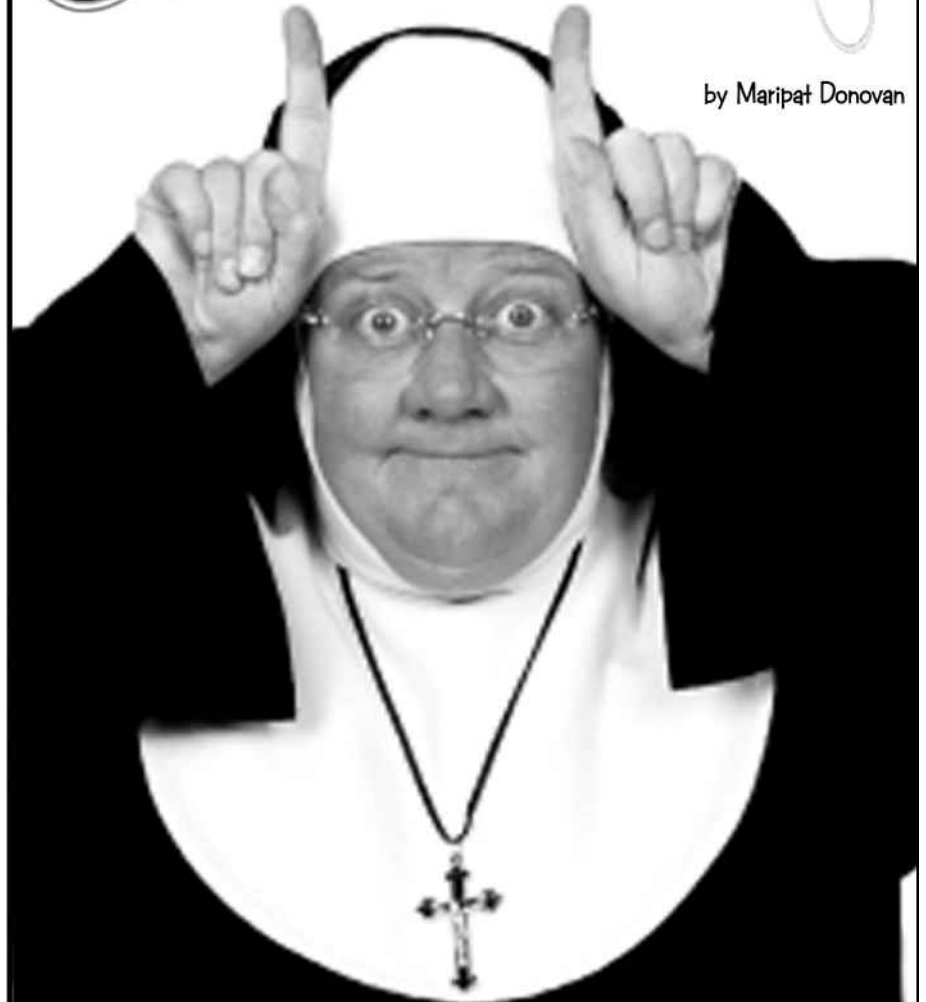
Judging will be based on theme, content and production in five categories. The Feature Film category, any film over 60 minutes, will pay the top cash reward - \$10,000. The Short Film category, any film less than 60 minutes in length, will award \$2,000 to its top winner.

Student-made categories, Feature and Short Film, will allow young filmmakers the chance to not only win cash and prizes for themselves, but also for their attending film schools.

Deadline for entries is December 1, 2005. Each submission must include an entry form and may be made using DVD, VHS, or BetaSP, but in NTSC format only. For entry forms and further contest information, visit www.qtelevision.com.

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by Maripat Donovan



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Thursday: Skin & Steel Leather Night
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9pm - Close Free Nachos 10pm-1am

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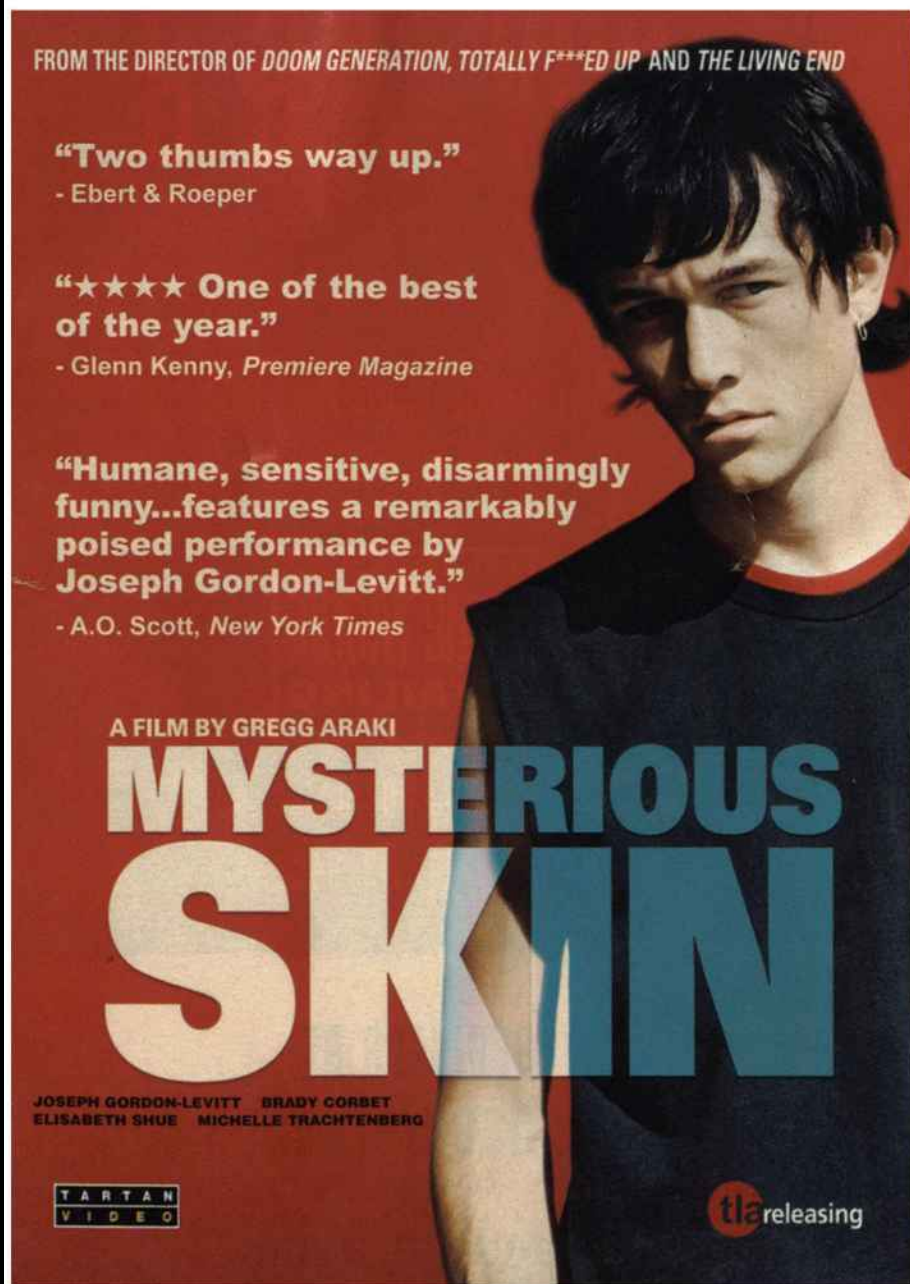
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Outbound Destinations

Five Romantic Gay and Lesbian Destinations in Britain

Gay and lesbian visitors can be assured a warm welcome to Britain, already considered one of the friendliest countries in the world. Now starting December 5th, 2005, same-sex couples will be able to register a Civil Partnership, with the first ceremonies taking place on December 21st, ensuring that Britain continues as a forward-thinking and welcoming nation.

VisitBritain, the national tourist office for England, Scotland and Wales, suggests some of the most romantic places to visit combining bustling city culture and nightlife with beautiful evocative landscapes.

With non-stop flights from the US, Manchester is one of England's most popular gay and lesbian cities with the gay village focusing on Canal Street where there is plenty of opportunity to 'bar-hop' in the footsteps of Vince, Nathan and Stuart from the original *Queer as Folk* television series. Manchester offers a combination of Victorian historic buildings alongside rejuvenated 19th century cotton warehouses, now chic apartments, galleries and boutique stores. For the ultimate romantic experience consider dinner for two at Le Mont, an elevated glass restaurant at the top of Urbis - one of the city's most innovative modern buildings with great panoramic views.

Drive one-and-a-half hours south-west of Manchester to the pretty market town of Llangollen in Wales. Surrounded by stunning countryside, this town was home to the 'Ladies of Llangollen' - two women who gained notoriety at the turn of the 18th century for their intensely close friendship. Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Sarah Ponsonby lived at Plas Newydd, a striking Gothic residence which visitors can tour today. During their 50 years living at Plas Newydd, the ladies were visited by William Wordsworth, Sir Walter Scott and the Duke of Wellington. When Lord Byron wrote about his love of John Edlestone, he compared it to the love of the Ladies of Llangollen as an example of 'romantic friendship', and the ladies have become iconic figures for the lesbian community.

London has the largest gay and lesbian population in Europe. From the bars, restaurants and clubs in Soho, considered the heart of gay London, to the many historic icons including royal residences and parks, world-class shopping and free-to-visit museums such as Tate Modern, The National Gallery and The British Museum, London offers some-

thing for everyone. The perfect romantic day might start with a romantic champagne capsule on the British Airways London Eye offering fantastic views across the city, followed by a picnic in one of London's Royal Parks, many offering horse-riding, cycling or boating. For a romantic night, stay at The Baglioni hotel, London's hottest new five-star address with its seductive and sultry styling, combining Italian luxury and sophistication.

In the south of England, just one hour by train from London, Brighton is the perfect escape for those seeking fresh sea air combined with a lively gay and lesbian scene. Known as "London-by-the-sea", Brighton was the first city to launch a 'pink wedding waiting list', and will become one of Britain's flagship cities for same-sex weddings. The opulent Royal Pavilion is likely to be one of Britain's most popular settings for a same-sex wedding with its lavish decoration and Regency heritage. The city also offers specialist shopping in 'The Lanes' featuring chic fashion boutiques, vintage clothing and record stores, and a popular beach, pier and seafront. For stunning and dramatic scenery close to Brighton, visitors should head to Devil's Dyke; a half-hourly bus service runs from Brighton Pier, and a classic open-top bus operates on Sunday and holidays with a special 'Breeze up to the Dyke' service. A brochure is available from local tourist offices called 'Delve into the Dyke' with detailed information on local walks.

The historic spa city of Bath, 100 miles west of London, entices visitors with the Roman Baths and Pump Room, 15th century abbey and stunning Royal Crescent. Today visitors will also see a cosmopolitan city that cultivates specialist craft and antique shops, as well as galleries, stylish bars and restaurants. During the summer months, the perfect romantic vacation can be complete with a hot air balloon ride gliding gracefully over the honey-colored buildings of Georgian Bath before drifting out to the surrounding countryside with a bottle of champagne for couples to toast their future together!

Visitors can find more information about planning a romantic vacation by visiting the website www.visitbritain.com/gay, by e-mailing travelinfo@visitbritain.org and by calling 1-800-462-2748 to request free brochures including VisitBritain's 'Britain Inside & Out' guide to gay and lesbian Britain.

International Conference on Gay & Lesbian Tourism

The global gay tourism marketplace has matured and diversified over the past decade. Just 10 years ago, only two pioneering destinations were actively marketing to the gay community: Montreal and The Netherlands. Now, destinations and travel suppliers are aggressively competing with each other for a share of this increasingly important market.

What has changed?

Certainly, social trends have shifted. Who could have imagined - even a few years ago - that Canada would lead the world in recognizing gay marriage and embracing its gay communities? That gay-themed television shows and films would sensitize mainstream North America to the point that what was recently a taboo subject, is now common discussion? Or that gay employees of major corporations, not long ago keeping closeted for fear of losing their jobs, are now stepping out and taking valued leadership positions in their company's gay outreach?

"The world of gay tourism is changing with the trends of society. Or perhaps tourism is leading those trends," according to Thomas Roth, President and Founder of Community Marketing, Inc., the International Conference's producer. "By moving about the world, and being more comfortable in more places than ever before, gay and lesbian travelers are acting as visible ambassadors of their communities. Tourism officials are making important civic strides to ensure that gay and lesbian visitors are genuinely welcome. Hotel groups are providing sensitivity training to their staffs. These are a few examples of how tourism has made significant changes in a once un-hospitable world for gay travelers," added Roth.

Community Marketing's 6th International Conference on Gay & Lesbian Tourism is the annual educational and networking gathering of the world's leaders in gay tourism and travel. But this year marks an important milestone.

"Bringing the Conference to Montreal, to Canada, is a recognition of what Canada has done for its gay and lesbian citizens, and an acknowledgement of gratitude for its significant outreach to gay travelers worldwide. Holding this conference in Canada, this year, was the obvious choice. We thank our hosts, including Tourisme Montreal, Tourisme Quebec, and the Canadian Tourism Commission, as well as Air Canada, for all you have done to make a difference in gay tourism, and for the gay and lesbian citizens of the world" said Roth.

Among the topics to be presented at the Press Conference will be highlights of Community Marketing's annual "Gay & Lesbian Community Survey," which indicates Canada among the world's top destinations for gay and lesbian travelers. And Canada is being rewarded for its progressive social policies. The volume of gay tourism to Canada from the USA and the world, as well as the high spending patterns, provides a healthy boost to Canada's economy.

Community Marketing's 6th International Conference on Gay & Lesbian Tourism is co-sponsored by Tourisme Montreal, Tourisme Quebec, the Canadian Tourism Commission, American Airlines, Qantas Airways, Air Canada, Quotient Marketing, Black & Blue Festival and IgoUgo.com

More information about Community Marketing, Inc. is available at www.CommunityMarketingInc.com.

Stonewall Knights Motorcycle Show

The Stonewall Knights, Florida's riding club for Gay motorcyclists, will be displaying their steel horses for fun and charity at Hamburger Mary's on Saturday, October the 22nd. "Motorin' Machines at Mary's" is a charity fundraising party for Care Resource, South Florida's oldest and largest HIV/ AIDS service organization. Care Resource provides services for over 7,500 clients.

Their dedicated and loyal staff takes pride in creating and/or implementing prevention strategies within our affected communities. Their outreach and education initiatives includes testing, on site medical care, research protocols, family counseling and support. They offer a wide array of programs that respond to every need of our HIV at risk and infected areas.

Over 3000 HIV patients have benefited from participation in studies of promising new anti-HIV drugs conducted by the agency resulting in 13 new FDA drug approvals. For further information please visit their web site at www.care-resource.org.

Hamburger Mary's is located at 2449 Wilton Drive in Wilton Manors. The Motorin' Machines party will begin at 3pm on October 22nd and will include great food and drinks, live music and raffle prizes. Anyone interested in motorcycles, classic cars, or just looking for a fun time is highly encouraged to join Mary's party!

The Stonewall Knights: groups.yahoo.com/group/GayMotorcycleFiL



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Rita's 40-ish-ish Birthday Benefit for HIT

Dear Ruthie



Happy autumn to everyone, and a great big smooch to all of the little Ruthie-ites out there! Has anyone seen a trick-or-treater dressed as yours truly? I saw more than a few big-boned red heads at the bars last Halloween. Donning cat-eye glasses, white purses and trailer park rental bills, these folks proved to me that imitation is the greatest form of flattery.

What are the big Halloween costumes this year? If you have some photos of a wonderful costume or two, send them to me at ruthie@dearruthie.com. I'll stick 'em up on my Web site, www.dearruthie.com.

Well, the weather is turning colder, and the Wisconsin leaves are changing color quicker than Michael Jackson is. Personally, I can't think of a better way to enjoy a chilly night than snuggled up with a glass of scotch, a hot man and a few letters from my readers. Okay, okay, maybe reading letters isn't an obvious option when I've got a scotch distributor passed out on my waterbed, but what the hell?!

Have a great autumn everyone, and make sure to get your keester off the couch and enjoy this snazzy time of year. Talk to you later!

Dear Ruthie,

I have a friend in need. He has been unemployed for a long time and is becoming depressed and hopeless. What can I do to help and get him out of this slump?

(Signed)
Employment-Agent Guy

Dear Guy,

May I recommend a career in the area of fast food? Benefits include:

- A free uniform
- An unlimited supply of hairnets
- The opportunity to work with today's youth
- The opportunity to be shunned by today's youth
- Increased moisture to the skin
- An education in a variety of health hazards
- Upper-body exercise (mopping, sweeping, lifting heavy bags of frozen fries, etc.)
- Interaction with ex-convicts
- Increasing your body's resistance to exhaust fumes
- A greater familiarity with special sauces and imitation chicken

How can anyone go wrong? Actually, I think I may head on over to the Weenie King for an application. I could use the extra money for Christmas, and I've always been good with weenies.

Seriously, though, I'm a little worried because four different folks recently e-mailed me with questions dealing with unemployment. It was only last month

that Milwaukee officials said the city (and it's nine surrounding districts) had the lowest unemployment rate in 5 years; hopefully, things aren't taking a turn for the worse.

Here's an idea: Have your friend type up a general cover letter and e-mail it to you. Tell him to keep it simple but specific enough to give complete strangers an idea of what his professional interests are and what sort of background he has. We don't want a resume here, just a good cover letter. Be sure the letter includes his or her contact information, such as an e-mail address.

Once you receive this, e-mail it to everyone you know. Explain that your friend is looking for work, make a few positive comments about him and attach his cover letter. You'd be amazed at how quickly an e-mail chain can grow, and there's always the possibility that someone on that chain needs just his skills.

Otherwise, keep your buddy's hopes high. Be there emotionally as a friend and offer an occasional treat, such as dinner, which might help with weekly household expenses, should he need that sort of assistance.

Dear Ruthie,

Is it safe for a woman to dye her pubic hair?

(Signed)
Gray and Grossed Out

Dear Gross,

Well, I ain't no doctor and I haven't performed a bikini wax since the time Pearl froze herself to a flagpole and needed me to pull her off. However, I see what a pickle you're in, sugar-booger, so I did a little research with some help from Prevention magazine.

It is safe to color your kitty, but you need to be careful as the area below the equator is more sensitive than your scalp. Consider an organic dye or one that offers a gentle color. Next, perform a spot test. I'm talking about a real tiny area, honey. You want to make sure that the skin south-of-the-border doesn't burn or have any sort of reaction to the chemicals.

When you're ready to complete the job, be sure to keep the dye away from the internal area, and follow the directions thoroughly. Use only the amount of dye appropriate to the size of your flower patch. Remember, you're dyeing a small area, not your entire head.

If this sounds too intimidating, there are salons that perform bikini waxes and dyes. You may need to call around town, but there's no need to feel embarrassed. After all, you just want to look your best (naked) and there's nothing wrong that! Just be careful about doing it.

Got a question for Ruthie? Drop her a line via ruthie@dearruthie.com or visit her cyber home at www.dearruthie.com.

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Schwarzenegger Rejects California Same-Sex Marriage Bill

Continued from Front Page

In recent weeks, Democratic San Francisco Assemblyman Mark Leno, the sponsor of the bill, attempted every conceivable means possible to persuade the Governor to change his mind. Earlier this week, Leno accused the Governor of "hiding behind the fig leaf" of the 2000 ballot measure, Proposition 22.

That measure was approved by 61 percent of voters, but recent polls have suggested that Californians are now almost evenly divided on the issue.

Leno said that the veto "puts the governor on the wrong side of history. He cannot claim to support fair and equal legal protections for same-sex couples and veto the very bill that would have provided it to them."

Opponents of gay marriage praised the veto, characterizing Leno's bill as an attempt to do an end-around Proposition 22.

The Los Angeles Times reported Friday that the veto comes at a time when Schwarzenegger's Republican base has become essential to any attempt at a bid for re-election. With his approval rating slipping to an all-time low of 33-percent, the former action star has announced that he will seek re-election next year.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, Connecticut will join Vermont as the only states to offer same-sex civil unions. Unfortu-

nately for those planning their ceremonies, the launch comes on a day when only a handful of town clerks' offices plan to be open, according to a report by MTV News.

"Saturday is going to be a landmark day in the civil rights movement in Connecticut," said Democratic State Senator Andrew McDonald, one of only a few openly gay legislators in Connecticut's General Assembly.

Connecticut's law passed in April, making it the first state to recognize same-sex unions without court intervention. The civil unions will give same-sex couples the same legal protections as married couples, including spousal health-care benefits.

Laws allowing gay couples to marry in Vermont and Massachusetts were passed as the result of legal action. Despite the change, Connecticut will not recognize same-sex marriages because its law specifies marriage is between a man and a woman only.

Teacher Resigns After Trying to Out Sixth Grade Students

By Angela D'Amboise

(Orange Park, FL) - A Florida elementary school teacher has resigned amid allegations he attempted to force two male sixth grade students to hold hands in front of classmates and announce to the room they were gay.

The Clay County School Board says Swimming Pen Creek Elementary teacher Larry Eager resigned after he was called on for making "inappropriate" and "humiliating" comments in front of a reading class.

The two sixth graders told school officials they were mouthing words to each other while the teacher was talking.

"He made us sit in the front touching knees and then he kept trying to make us hold hands," said Vinny Fuller.

The boys said Eager told the other students they were gay and kept insisting they announce they were gay. Fuller and Jones said it went on for about 15 minutes while the six other students looked on.

"I was feeling embarrassed and wondering what he was going to do next," said Fuller.

"I was mad and I was sad," said the other student, Malcolm Jones.

The next days, the boys said they told the principal and their parents what had happened.

"It blew my mind," said Jackie Fuller. "I just couldn't believe it. I couldn't believe he came home and was telling me this. What would possess you to do such a thing like that? You're a teacher. They look up to you. Why would you want to humiliate them?" Darlene Mahla, with the Clay County School Board, said this is Eager's first year

teaching in Clay County, and he resigned before his 97-day probation period was over.

Mahla said that even though Eager has resigned, the board is still deciding if it'll file a report with the Professional Teaching Commission in Tallahassee.

Both students are in new classrooms for the time being.



Gay Murder Case Reopened After Eleven Years

By Danny McCoy

(Beverly Hills, CA) - Beverly Hills police are banking on modern forensics to help solve the 11-year-old murder case of a Chicago gay rights activist. The body of Jon A. Simmons was found in a Beverly Hills alley in 1994 by State Assemblyman Paul Koretz. At the time Koretz was a West Hollywood city councilman.

Koretz had been out walking his dog when a woman rushed up to him and said she thought she saw a body in the alley. Upon investigating, Koretz discovered Simmons' naked body, lying face down with a sin-

gle bullet wound to his head, according to police reports.

According to 365gay.com, the Beverly Hills police cold case squad will submit the bullet and other evidence from the crime scene to a lab this week for new testing in the hopes that advances in technology will help find Simmons' killer.

Simmons had been the LGBT liaison for Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. He had recently helped push through an ordinance protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination. The 39-year old Simmons was visiting Los Angeles en route to a Hawaiian vacation.

At the time of the murder, test results on the bullet pulled out of Simmons' skull were inconclusive.

"The Beverly Hills Police Department will continue to pursue leads in this case and will not rest until the suspect is apprehended," Beverly Hills police Lt. Mitch McCann told KRON television Monday.

Gay and Lesbian Home Buying Hits All Time High

By Angela D'Amboise

According to a new study by European based legal insurer Zurich Professional, gays and lesbians are buying more homes in recent years ever before. Lesbian and gay couples are increasingly buying properties together, according to the survey.

Thanks to recent laws worldwide providing for tax breaks and benefits to same-sex partnerships, Zurich Professional revealed earlier this year that the number of same-sex couples buying homes together is at an all time high.

More than half of realtors surveyed revealed a "significant" rise in same-sex couples using their services when buying a house. Those surveyed indicated same-sex couples seemed more comfortable being open about their sexuality with realtors when house hunting.

The figures also indicate that gay and lesbian couples are now the fastest growing group of homebuyers, running ahead of married couples who buy together.

A spokesperson for Zurich Professional suggested that the housing market for lesbian and gay people will likely see another hike when the United Kingdom's Civil Partnerships Act comes into effect later this year. Similarly, recent domestic partnership laws passed state-side in California and Connecticut have begun to effect housing purchases.

Other changes highlighted by the survey include a rise in friends buying together to tackle rising property prices.

However, heterosexual married couples have hit a plateau in their home buying, the survey suggests.

GM Employee Receives Trailblazer Award

(Denver, CO) - Leslie Hohman, engineering group manager from General Motors Corporation and chair of GM's LGBT Employee Affinity Group GM PLUS, was awarded the 2005 Trailblazer Award at the recent annual Out & Equal Workplace Summit in Denver.

"As a global leader and the world's largest automaker, we at General Motors value diversity and the contributions and talents of all of our employees. GM is committed to building a company that is inclusive and respectful, and that provides equal opportunity to everyone," said Katy Barclay, vice president of global human resources at General Motors Corporation.

According to the GM PLUS leadership team who nominated Hohman for the award, she has been a catalyst in shifting

the GM PLUS (GM People Like Us) group from a loosely organized, mostly male social and support group to a dynamic and leading agent for the advancement of LGBT workplace issues at General Motors.

Hohman said, "I am fortunate to have support from the past and present leadership committee of a terrific GM PLUS board and its many members. The entire board works tirelessly to educate and affect change at the world's largest automobile manufacturer. We have made some great strides at General Motors over the past five years, and this certainly would not have been possible without the support of a strong corporate diversity initiatives effort."

More information on GM can be found at www.gm.com.

Welcoming the Transgender Workforce

By Nevena Kraguljevic

Your company has just hired a transgender employee seated in the cubicle next to you. Which pronouns should be used to address your new neighbor? Which restroom will he/she use? Should the dress code be amended?

Transgender is an umbrella term that includes transsexual, intersex, bi-gender, and other gender variant people who, to varying degrees, transgress from the cultural norms assigned for each sex. Transgender individuals' gender identity usually does not match the sex they were assigned at birth.

Gender (gender identity), commonly used as a synonym for sex, is a person's actual or perceived sex, including appearance, expressions, and/or behavior, whether or not those are different from that of traditionally associated with a person's sex at birth. The benefits of diverse workforce have been embraced by corporate America. Different perspectives in corporate work teams typically mean improvements, for the team, product/service offered, and the company as a whole.

Unfortunately, many companies fail to provide a safe space for transgender individuals. The main reason why companies should consider changing their policies is due to the new trend that is developing amongst the youth and young adults. University research has shown individuals are starting to identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgender (GLBT) much earlier in their lives than only five years ago;

many of them "come out" as early as middle school and high school. These students are selecting higher education institutions based on the GLBT "friendliness". These students will, upon their graduation, decide to find employment in the companies that meet and/or exceed the college or university they attended.

Top 5 ways to welcome transgender employees:

1 - Change the AA/EEO policies to include gender identity.

2 - Educate employees at all levels in regards to gender identity.

3 - Support and respect your employees' decisions to change pronouns, dress appearances, names, etc.

4 - Provide same benefits to all employees.

5 - Provide equality at your organization by providing restrooms, locker rooms, etc. that can reflect on the gender identity.

To help you achieve these top five priorities, consulting services like Diversity Builder will provide custom training. Diversity Builder will help educate employees, change policies, create gender neutral restrooms and locker rooms, design memos to announce any transitions your employees wish to make public, or work to resolve any issues that employees may face at your organization. These changes will, in the long run, create a vast difference to a prospective or current employee.

Pentagon Admits Sending Openly Gay Service Members to War

(Santa Barbara, CA) - An official military spokesperson has acknowledged that the Pentagon is sending openly gay service members into combat in Iraq, according to a report by the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military.

"The bottom line is some people are using sexual orientation to avoid deployment," Kim Waldron, spokesperson for the U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort McPherson, said in a statement. "So in this case, with the Reserve and Guard forces, if a soldier 'tells,' they still have to go to war and the homosexual issue is postponed until they return to the U.S. and the unit is demobilized."

Waldron's statements were first reported by the CSSMM, a think tank for the University of California, Santa Barbara

and later written on in Friday's edition of the Washington Blade.

Waldron's comments follow the discovery of a controversial regulation halting the discharge of gay soldiers in units that are about to be mobilized.

That regulation, which is discussed in a 1999 "Reserve Component Unit Commander's Handbook" and still in effect, states that if a discharge for homosexual conduct is requested "prior to the unit's receipt of alert notification, discharge isn't authorized. Member will enter (active duty) with the unit."

That document was obtained by researchers at CSSMM.

While "don't ask, don't tell" policy remains in effect, Waldron's acknowledgment suggests that in some cases, the Pentagon ignores the law by retaining

service members who say that they are gay.

Statistics confirm that during the present war, as has been the case in every war since World War II, gay discharges have fallen during the conflict and then increased during peacetime, according to CSSMM.

However, prior to Waldron's statement, official spokespersons had denied that

the military intentionally sends gays to fight despite the existence of a gay ban.

According to Aaron Belkin, Director of the CSSMM, the military "has claimed for years that allowing openly gay and lesbian service members to serve in uniform would undermine unit cohesion. During wartime, however, when cohesion is most important, the Pentagon retains gays and lesbians."

Best and Worst Companies for Gay and Transgender Employees Revealed

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation has unveiled its fourth annual report card on corporate America's treatment of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) employees, which includes a record 101 companies with a perfect 100 percent score - more than seven times as many since the first report card in 2002.

"Equality now illuminates thousands of factory floors, board rooms and cubicles across America," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "The enormous growth we've tracked in fair employee policies proves that corporate America is making good on the old adage: what's good for business is good for America."

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation's fourth annual report card - the Corporate Equality Index - rates Fortune 500 and other major companies on a scale from zero to 100 percent on seven key indicators of fair treatment for GLBT employees. Indicators include policies prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity as well as equal health care benefits.

Among this year's key findings:

* A record 101 companies score 100 percent, which is attributed to a sharp increase in gender identity non-discrimination policies. In 2002, only 13 companies earned a perfect rating.

* Today, 5.6 million people work at the 101 companies that score 100 percent. In 2002, approximately 690,000 people were employed by the 13 companies that scored 100 percent.

* Eighty-one percent of scored companies offer health benefits to the domestic partners of employees, up from 70 percent in 2002.

"With 101 companies scoring one hundred percent, millions of Americans now have protections they would have only dreamed of a few years ago," said Daryl Herrschaft, director of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Workplace Project and lead author of the report.

While industries like computer manufacturing have had 100 percent scores for years with leaders like IBM, defense giant Raytheon reached 100 percent this year as a first for its industry. In addition, BP and Chevron became the first oil companies to score 100 percent and Dow Chemical became the first in its industry to do so.

"Prudential Financial is proud of the recognition received from the Human Rights Campaign Foundation," said Arthur F. Ryan, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial, a 100 percent company. "Diversity continues to be key to the ongoing success of our company, and we remain committed to ensuring an inclusive and supportive work environment for all people."

In electronics retail, Best Buy offers full protections to GLBT employees, while competitor Radio Shack scores a 29 percent and Circuit City holds a 43 percent score.

Corporations shown to be actively working against equality include Emerson Electric with a 29 percent score; Entergy with 36 percent; Exxon Mobil with 14 percent; and Perot Systems with a 14 percent score.

In the financial sector, Citigroup and J.P. Morgan Chase each score 100 percent compared to MBNA that has given money to anti-gay organizations and scores only 43 percent.

"Corporate America knows that treating employees fairly is not just the right thing to do, it's good for the bottom line," added Solmonese.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender political organization with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that LGBT Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.



Cordially Yours

By Michael Johnston

I know you're all busy with Halloween fast approaching. Selecting that ideal costume, decorating, tricking & treating... But, if you have a minute let me once again be Cordially Yours.

First off Happy Sweetest Day 2005 Out-Bound Readers. What sweeter way than helping out the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center than by attending their "Big Night Out." Warning the Joker's Wild! That could only mean one thing, or better yet one man John McGivern. Milwaukee's very own and favorite Comedian, Writer, Actor, Producer and Raconteur. He will be joining emcee Tanya Atkinson at Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino. Beginning with a Silent Auction and Cash Bar at 5:30 PM, Dinner to follow at 7:30 PM, 8:30 PM will be Show Time with the Program and Entertainment. This Gala is The Community Center's major fundraiser per season. \$75. - \$100. Dinner & Show / \$35. for the Show only. For your reservation please call: (414) 271-2656 # 121

For the many fans of John McGivern, that won't be able to attend this gathering fear not John has a very busy year-end. "Late Night At The Rep. with John McGivern and Friends" the next performance is slated for Friday, October 28 11:00 PM Stiemke Theater at The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. The friend joining John will be WAMI Award-Winning Singer/Song Writer Ryan McIntyre. Next month Friday, November 4 Today's TMJ 4 Reporter with a sense of humor, Vince Vitrano will share the spotlight. Tickets are \$15. at The Rep Ticket Office 108 East Wells Street By phone (414) 224-9400 on line: milwaukeeerep.com

With the MAJOR Holidays fast approaching leave it to our man John to have a gift for the Community: "Holiday Tales with John McGivern". The Holidays at The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts - Vogel Hall 123 East State Street will be the place to get merry or is it Mary? Opening Friday, December 2, Performances are scheduled: Tuesdays - Thursdays 7:30 PM, Fridays 8 PM, Saturdays 4 PM & 8 PM, Sundays 2 PM. Caution: Adult language, dark humor -- suitable for Adults. \$32. - \$36. For more info: (414) 273-7206 www.marcus-center.org Spend sometime over the Holidays with John McGivern.

Switch will also be offering something special with Sweetest Day. "American Drag Idol 2005" to benefit HIT 27 (Holiday Invitational Tournament). This is a great opportunity for Entertainers state-

wide to come and show us what you got! Entitling you the thrill of performing at "The HIT Welcome Show" and also win a title and a tiara! Fun & games with Cordially Yours at the helm begins around 7 PM.

Speaking of Switch if you haven't had the chance stop by and meet two very friendly and familiar faces behind the big wood: Brad and Jeremy.

Next Saturday night October 22 for the computer savvy, Boom/The Room will be the scene for "Gay.com Party - Come Together". So come on down and hook up, as they type. LOL

The Boot Camp Saloon's Annual "Pumpkin Carving Contest, Where Good Meets Evil" takes place on Thursday, October 27 Cash Prizes!!!

The G/L Community Trust Fund have added two more organizations to their endowment list. Besides financially assisting the following worthwhile groups: BestD Clinic, Gay Fathers Group, G.P.U. Phone Line, Gay Youth Milwaukee, G/L Endowment Fund, House Of Infinity, Milwaukee Metro Church, Queer TV Program, SAGE/Milwaukee, Center Building Fund They have now added the Milwaukee Pride Parade and Men's Voices Milwaukee. So as the year ebbs to an end, and much welcomed tax deductions are welcomed, remember to give to The G/L Community Trust Fund.

Bored on a Sunday afternoon? How many Packer games can one take in? Join Men's Voices Milwaukee on Sunday, October 23 from 3 PM - 7 PM for a "Harvest Tea Dance." Things will be heating up at Hot Water Night Club 818 South Water Street. \$5. admission to defray the expenses of their season. Part of the monies raised, will go to the New Gay Women's Chorus of Milwaukee.

Now through Sunday, October 23 "Late Nite Catechism II" is in session. Sister is teaching you how to get to Heaven, Tuesday - Thursday 7:30 PM, Fridays & Saturdays at 8 PM, Saturday Matinee 4 PM, Sundays 2 & 6:30 PM. Vogel Hall gets transformed into a classroom and the laughs go from there.

The tail end of the month Saturday, October 29 you can see the return of "Naked Boys Singing" their tales and tails, will be shared with you in all their collective glory through New Year's Eve. The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center 703 South 2nd Street (414) 272-5694.

The same night The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Ltd. will be hosting their

highly successful "Bistro Show III." I had the joy of emceeing their first couple of Bistros - what fun! It's quite the night! A wonderful show of individual, group and the entire chorale music. Refreshments, auction, always a great turn out and it's FREE! What a bargain! Of course donations are accepted and encouraged. My dear friend and popular Singsational Production personality Jay Reinke will be in my shoes, this year. The Village Church of the Arts 130 East Juneau Avenue 7:30 PM. Now in their 19th year, their upcoming season has been announced: "Silver Screen/Small Screen" Saturday, January 14, 2006 7:30 PM Plymouth Church 2717 East Hampshire Avenue "This Island Earth" Saturday, April 8 7:30 PM venue TBA "Summer Dreamin' " Saturday, June 17 7:30 PM The Village Church of the Arts. \$12. in advance, \$15. at the door, Only \$10. with Season Subscription.

Then there is a PARTY also that night, and they say there is nothing to do in Milwaukee.

You can all recuperate and pull it all together again for Halloween Night Monday, October 31. "The Walker's Point Costume Crawl" You must come out, come out -- wherever you are... The Triangle 8 - 9:30 PM, Switch 9:30 - 11PM, Fluid 11 - 12:30 AM, La Cage 12:30 - 1 AM - SHARP! Over \$1,200. in cash & prizes, Grand Prize \$500. Gift Certificate. Costume Judging in Three Categories: Best Drag, Best Duo or Group and Best Over-all.

I have finally made a pilgrimage to Slim's 338 South 1st Street. Wednesdays are a must, with a "signature dish" chicken parmesan. My compliments to Chef Steve.

Another reason to visit The Historic Third Ward, is the new location of The Grava Gallery. After a lifetime on Brady Street, Michael & Tim have packed up all their art, frames and essentials and can now be found at: 207 East Buffalo Street - Suite 130.

For those looking for the ideal piece to be matted and frame visit up and coming artist Burton Gross' web page www.burtgrossdesign.com Murals, illustrations, portraits, etc.

Belated Best Birthday Wishes to: Brian Buchberger of Always Happy Hour www.alwayshappyhour.com What a marvelous bash, will Tosatown ever be the same?

Babylon is coming to Milwaukee! Yes, now you too can be "Queer As Folk." Every Thursday upstairs at Trocadero 1758 North Water Street. DJ John Murges, your Host John, Handcrafted Cocktails, Heady Atmosphere, Tight Service... Start the weekend early!

Bill Wardlow has welcomed Tim aboard the good ship Fluid.

Keep a kind thought and good wishes for June - Miss This Is It. The ageless

owner of the Wells Street landmark was recently in a terrible car accident and it has left her unable to walk.

I have to close this column out by sharing the best weekend of my life with you. Friday, September 23 I had the extraordinary privilege of 24 hours in New York. Thanks to my Fairy God-Mother Ginger, I MidWest-ed to the Big Apple. There I connected with theater legend Guy S. Little, Jr. (Little Theater on the Square, Melody Top...) and his partner Kirk McNamer and they provided for me a Broadway Dream come true! From Lunch at Sardi's to Barrymore's, to Joe Allen's, to Upstairs at Joe Allen's which was decorated ALA El Morocco, to Don't Tell Mama - to leave a note for soap diva Eileen Fulton, then on to The Regency on 61st & Park and Feinstein's to celebrate ever glamorous Kitty Carlisle Hart's 95 Birthday and Cabaret Act! I know you all love Diana Ross, Cher, Madonna, Bette Midler, Striesand... But from the syndicated version of "To Tell The Truth" the fall of 1969 when the perennial best dressed panelist ever, Kitty Carlisle swept out center stage it was love at first sight. Mrs. Hart is still enjoying the limelight and standing ovations! In fact so popular is she, they will be bringing her back in November! David Lewis is her excellent musical director. The highlight of the adventure was being invited up for an audience with this living legend in her suite. From there, where can one go? We ended up at The Town House, I'll never forget the kind doorman Nico.

Manhattan one day Milwaukee the next, from Kitty's Birthday to Rita's. Wig-Stock 2005 took place the next day and just in time for the Show the rain stopped! So on we went, what a brave and talented cast. Lizzie Bordeaux, Candy Stick, Todtina, Dear Ruthie, Dame Edna Ross, the award winning Alexis Winters, ChiChi, Princess Charlotte Lorraine, the current Miss Drag Idol Velveeta Head Cheez and Miss Rita herself all joined me and my fashion show revue - I'm still spinning! Thanks to the power and skill, behind the velvet curtain: Goldie Adams and Joe Kender. Bravo to Peter, Ron and Jim our Bartenders and of course BooBoo always opening his doors to us.

The next day The 16th Annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin took place. Instead of a walk, it was more like a swim. Chad Van Dierendonck of ARCW was very grateful for the over 2,500 Walkers who braved the challenge. Over \$383,000. was raised to fight the fight. Way to go Wisconsin!

Remember, it's the Glamour - not the Grammar! See you in November, or perhaps before in costume as I remain "Cordially Yours."



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Community Listings

Action Wisconsin, 122 State Street, Suite 309, Madison 53703, 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, (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, www.galanoclub.org, E-mail: mail@galanoclub.org, (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

GlobalAge.org Workplace issues and more! An affinity group resource for our LGBT communities (free and on-line) www.GlobalAge.org

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, (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

Midwest Prairie Faeries (Radical Faerie Group in Madison) prairiefaeries@earthling.net, (608) 246-8515

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

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

Milwaukee Pride Parade, Inc., P.O. Box 1461, Brookfield, WI 53008 <http://www.PrideParadeMKE.com> (414) 915-3806

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

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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