



**J**oseph Epstein, noted essayist and author, once wrote, "All men and women are born, live suffer and die; what distinguishes us one from another is our dreams, whether they be dreams about worldly or unworldly things, and what we do to make them come about... We do not choose to be born. We do not choose our parents. We do not choose our historical epoch, the country of our birth, or the immediate circumstances of our upbringing. We do not, most of us, choose to die; nor do we choose the time and conditions of our death. But within this realm of choicelessness, we do choose how we live."

He's right, of course. Life is all about choices. Every day we make myriad choices, from the mundane (What will I eat for

breakfast?), to the momentous (Should I come out?).

In 1970, Epstein caused a firestorm of controversy when he wrote a cover story for Harper's magazine titled: "Homo/Hetero: The Struggle For Sexual Identity." In the article, Epstein wrote: "If I had the power to do so, I would wish homosexuality off the face of this earth." He went on to say, "I do think homosexuality an anathema, and hence homosexuals cursed, and thus the importance, for me if for no one else, of my defining a homosexual as someone who has physical relations, for it leaves room for my admiration for the man who is pulled toward homosexuality and resists, at what psychic price I cannot hope even to begin to imagine."

In other words, if you "give in" to the pull of homosexuality, you

are cursed, but if you resist that choice then you're okay. Despite the fact that Epstein is a proud Jewish man, this is a common belief held by many in the Religious Right. They believe that homosexuality is a choice.

This belief is at the core of the debate over gay rights. Should gays be allowed to marry? Should gays be protected from discrimination? Is being gay a sin? It all boils down to one question: Is being gay a choice?

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There is no definitive answer to this, but a growing body of scientific evidence may be pointing to a genetic or, at the very least, biological basis for sexual orientation. According to the American Psychological Association's website, "There are numerous theories about the origins of a person's sexual orientation; most scientists today agree that sexual orientation is most likely the result of a complex interaction of environmental, cognitive and biological factors. In most people, sexual orientation is shaped at an early age. There is also considerable recent evidence to suggest that biology, including genetic or inborn hormonal factors, play a significant role in a person's sexuality. In summary, it is important to recognize that there are probably many reasons for a person's sexual orientation and the reasons may be different for different people."

*Born for Love - page 15*

## Prevention Still the Key

By Prevention Still the Key

Those of us who witnessed the emergence of the AIDS epidemic during the 1980s remember the stigma associated with infection and the tragic neglect of those who fell ill. We remember callous politicians who would not even acknowledge the crisis or - when they did - advocated quarantine. We remember those we have lost and we remember the heroes who brought our community together.

For both good and bad, a lot has changed since then. We've seen organizations and institutions build and grow - helping to provide care and treatment for those living with the disease. We've witnessed breakthroughs in medications allowing people to live long healthy lives. We've seen awareness rise but face continued misperceptions and discrimination.

One thing hasn't changed. Nearly twenty-five years after the first cases of AIDS were detected, we still have no cure - no proven vaccine. We still face 40,000 new infections every year in this country because many people still do not think they are at risk for contracting HIV.

With news of a possible new, more virulent strain in the United States, this is a new era of the epidemic that desperately needs new approaches. We need a redoubled effort to create new prevention strategies, marshal the best research, provide thorough care and treatment and deal with the pandemic on the global level.

While all of the facts are not in, these developments remind us how important prevention is - no matter what kinds of new strains may develop. Whether a new strain materializes or not, we must never lose focus on preventing the spread of any form of HIV.

*Continued - page 15*

### Cyndi Lauper & Kate Clinton at 40th Anniv. GLBT Civil Rights Celebration in Philadelphia



Cyndi Lauper will headline the free afternoon concert at the National Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the GLBT Civil Rights Movement at Independence Hall on Sunday, May 1.

*Cyndi Lauper - page 10*

### Child Welfare Official Accuses Gay Groups of Endorsing Pedophilia



(St. Petersburg, FL) - A member of the Pinellas County Juvenile Welfare Board has a pair of nationally recognized gay and lesbian advocacy

groups up in arms for saying the groups endorse sex between youths and adults.

*Child Welfare Official Accuses - page 14*

### Jury Awards Thousands to Former Lesbian UPS Worker



(San Francisco, CA) - An openly lesbian former United Parcel Service (UPS) worker was awarded \$63,000 this week in her hostile work environment sexual

harassment suit against the world's largest package delivery company.

*Jury Awards - page 6*

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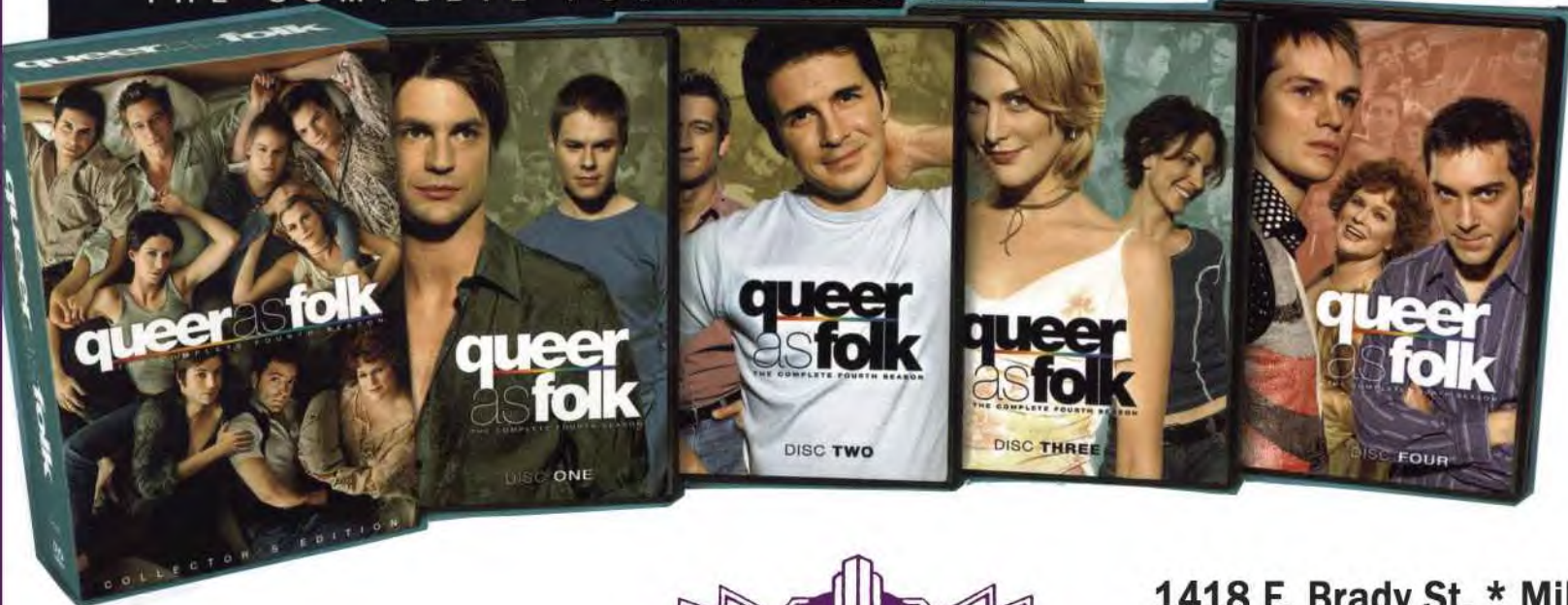
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## Where do we stand in the fight?

### In the Pursuit of Happiness?

Look at how far we've come to realizing the ideals set forth in Declaration of Independence, it is a testament to early American's efforts to build a republic of the people, that has endured the test of time. We have attained true self governance, and in many cases championed the very ideals of freedom. Over the centuries, the Declaration of Independence has been held up by many oppressed people in this nation who had been denied their right to be treated as equals among us. Now it's our turn.

Gays and lesbians face the same difficult path that many Americans have faced in the past. The struggle for equality, and recognition of our right to be respected as human beings. Women fought for the right to vote,

and won. People of color fought for their freedom, and won. Interracial couples fought for recognition of their right to love and marry the person of their choosing, and won.

All of these issues, at one time, were unpopular in certain areas of the nation. This unpopularity was frequently based on religious objections and bigotry. Many people once believed that black people were genetically inferior to white people, not based on science or proof, but on what they were told by people

whose bigotry and hate sought to keep people who they perceived as undesirable separate from themselves. They wanted to prevent others from enjoying the same rights as they did. Many people

opposed a woman's right to vote, saying that women were not capable of making such decisions because of our gender. Many opposed interracial marriages because of racial bigotry and their interpretation of religion. But because the courts of our land recognize that religious objection and bigotry are not valid reasons to deny someone their rights, these fights were won. They were not won by popular votes, but in the Supreme Court, where Judges are elected for life and are therefore less vulnerable to outside influences in regards to their careers. You can't fire a Supreme Court Justice because he doesn't

**"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness"**

agree with your own interpretation an issue. You can't threaten to withhold support for his, or her, reelection. So these Justices interpret our laws without regard for special interest groups, and potential monetary gain.

*Pursuit of Happiness - page 11*

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# DEAR RUTHIE

Someone once said that the most beautiful way to experience nature is to take a walk during a heavy snowfall. The author of this quote is anonymous, and I'm guessing that's because he was some sandal-wearing tree-hugger who disappeared in a snowstorm.

Regardless of who this person was, he obviously didn't live in Wisconsin. (And I say "he" because women have enough sense to sit in their cozy trailer homes with a few cocktails when it's snowing outside.) Is this winter ever going to end? I sure hope so.

I've got spring fever, baby! I can't wait to trade my leopard-print fur coat for my leopard-print thong, fix myself a Long Island iced tea and plant my keester in a lawn chair. Well, I guess I do that now, but I want to do it outside instead of in my kitchenette.

I need to warm myself in the sun and enjoy the breathtaking scenery that is the Rusty Nail Trailer Park. I miss the days of lounging on my 6x6 plot of grass . . . and weeds. In the summer time, that's where you'll find me, tanning my hide, getting in touch with nature and getting a buzz from the iced tea.

There's nothing like being outside on a warm summer day. Breathing the fresh air, watching the birds and yelling at the neighbor kids to keep their friggin' Big Wheels away from my parking slab. Ah, summer!

Speaking of summer, can someone please tell me why there aren't any topless beaches in Milwaukee? My girls need to see the sun, damn it! Yea, I know. Checking out my knockers probably isn't high on anyone's list of priorities. Besides, the last time I shined up these suckers with a little suntan oil, the reflection nearly brought down a plane full of Chinese tourists.

That said, I guess I better stop bitching and answer an e-mail that came in just this week. But before I go, I want to wish you all a happy Easter. Hopefully the Easter Bunny will bring you something sweet to nibble on . . . and some candy, too.

## Dear Ruthie,

I've got the chance to do it with the man of my dreams for one night. This guy is totally hot. He's a walking fantasy man. He's got the total package in face, body, hair, everything. But I have got a lover. I am not into cheating or anything and I have never done this before, I swear.

This guy wants me bad, and he's my total fantasy man. I can't stop thinking about hooking up him.

It would just be a one-time deal because the guy is moving away. There's no way we could start anything serious even if we wanted to. My lover would never find out either. But I'm torn. I would not consider doing this but the guy is too hot to pass up.

My brain says no, but my crotch says go for it, dude. I pretty much know what you're going to say, but I thought I would give you a shot.

Thanks,  
Just Joe

## Dear Joe,

My, what talkative body parts you have. Your brain says "no," but your crotch says "yes." Can I ask what your heart says?

What does your heart say to the idea of your partner "doing it" with someone that he finds extremely attractive? Doesn't feel so good when

the shoe is on the other foot, does it? And here's one more question for ya, Joe. Shouldn't the man of your dreams be your partner?


Unless you and your partner have some sort of agreement that I don't know about, the arrangement you're considering sounds like nothing but trouble and heartache. Just because you think your partner won't discover your indiscretion, doesn't give you the green light to oil someone else's engine. Your conscious is telling you to hit the brakes.

Besides, you never know when and how a skeleton is going to fall out of your closet, so don't be so confident that your lover won't discover your encounter with this trouble-making "fantasy man." Spending time with this person certainly isn't worth hurting your partner and damaging your relationship.

I started this month's article with a quote, so I figure, what the hell? I might as well wrap up with one, too. Some wise person once said that advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer -- but wish we didn't. Where your situation is concerned, Joe, I think you already know the answer. You have morals, now follow them and stay true to your lover.

*Got a question that only Ruthie can answer? Drop her a line at [ruthie@dearruthie.com](mailto:ruthie@dearruthie.com), or check out her cyber trailer home at [www.dear-ruthie.com](http://www.dear-ruthie.com).*

Women have enough sense to sit in their cozy trailer homes with a few cocktails when it's snowing outside.



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# LEADER

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## Goodbye to all that

By Joy Parks

Is it over yet? There's something about February with all its hearts and flowers and trashy clashing shades of red and pink in every store window that brings out the cynic in me.

While I've never really been fond of Cupid's day, I've recently decided that it, like marriage, is for those who lack imagination when it comes to the passionate arts. (Could it be they call it same-sex marriage, because it dooms us to have the same sex over and over again?)

It's in this state of mind that I found I couldn't put down the erotic novel *As You Desire Me* by British author Fiona Cooper. Movie buffs will recognize the title from a famous Greta Garbo flick. And once you get over the cover, which is eerily reminiscent of the women in the famous (and fairly sexist) video of Robert Palmer's 1984 hit "Simply Irresistible", the book is... well, just that.

Protagonist Alex has had her heart broken at least twice that we know of and as a result, has sworn off love and commitment. Which frees up her time to float among the beds (and rugs and floors and kitchen tables) of the most amazing assortment of women any author could have assembled.

No potluck lesbians these - they are worldly and wise and sophisticated. They wear (and easily slip out of) beautiful, expensive clothes, drive great cars, eat and drink and smoke with gusto. And oh yes, they fuck like it's going out of style.

Granted, they aren't all card-carrying lesbians, but somehow in this book (as in some relationships), it doesn't really seem to matter. And many are women of certain age, (Ok, my age) which is so refreshing. And hopeful.

Ms. Cooper has skill, such skill, her warm smooth flowing prose is not just about bodies together and who did what to whom, she's absolutely brilliant at building a mood, at creating anticipation, for getting in all the right details. And she manages to line up one different, exciting and extremely erotic scene after another, and still stay on plot. Or what there is of one, anyway.

This has to be one of freeing books I've ever read. There's so much focus on pleasure (and not just the sexual variety) that it's like taking a holiday. You feel rested and relaxed, and yes, a just a glowy after you're through.

Granted, I don't really think much of some of the things the author says about lesbians along the way. I don't much like her attitude about butch and femmes (although it doesn't stop her from writing a rather tacky, but torrid bathroom scene with a butch stranger Alex meets

in a train station). But to tell you the truth, it's hard to be political when you're holding the book with one hand and turning the pages with your teeth.

Take note, those of you want to read erotic novels (and particularly those of you who want to write them), this is how it should be done. There's a lot of talent in *As You Desire Me*, particularly in keeping an enormous amount of sex sounding fresh and not like a game of naked Twister, and in keeping the characters whole and uniquely themselves. And her descriptions of her characters' adventurous attitudes don't come off cold or exploitative, which they might in lesser hands.

Cooper loves women in a way that you don't see so often, particularly in erotic writing and seldom in lesbian novels; she writes about the acts we commit on each other as they really are, she describes us as rebels, as women who, in simply desiring each other, break taboos daily. To be so honest and deliver such a breathtakingly beautiful book is quite a feat. *As You Desire Me* may be the first truly wonderfully readable erotic novel to date.

Sacred Classic: *Trash* by Dorothy Allison

You certainly won't find the same kind of women in *Trash* as you do in *As You Desire Me*. You won't find the emphasis on sex, although *Trash* has some of Dorothy Allison's most passionate writings between its covers.

You won't find the great clothes or great food or the intellectual conversations. In fact, the women who populate the stories in Dorothy Allison's *Trash* might as well be from another planet- tough, southern, working class lesbians, proudly butch and femme or not. But the books have something far more important in common. They've both been written by authors who have the powers of observation, the respect and the guts to write about relationships between women as they are, not as they should be, not as we would wish them to be. Both books do a tremendous job of telling the truth.

The fourteen stories in *Trash* are some of Allison's best work, they're gritty, they're tough and sometimes they're hard to read, but they demonstrate an understanding of the writer's responsibility to speak the truth and the courage to not turn away from difficult things. First published in 1988, these stories show where anger and intimacy meet, the divides between love and sex and how we learn to cope with what is, not what we want to be.

## Australia Teacher's Union Against Lesbian Speech

By Ross von Metzke

(Victoria, Australia) - The head of Victoria's teachers' union has criticized the Australian Government for backing a lesbian student teacher who discussed gay issues with her primary students.

The student teacher was dismissed from her duties at a state primary school after she told students she was in a lesbian relationship and discussed gay issues with them. The woman denies claims of angry parents that she also conducted sex education classes.

Government Premier Steve Bracks yesterday backed Education Services Minister Jacinta Allan, who said she was "deeply troubled" by what she saw as the woman being bullied by the school.

Bracks said it was discrimination for the principal to suspend the student teacher from her rounds following complaints from parents.

But Mary Bluett, state president of the Australian Education Union, said the 49-year-old student teacher had not behaved well.

"Unless (Ms Allan) knows more than I do, it (her response) does appear to be a

very strong reaction to what is a sensitive issue," Ms Bluett said.

The Melbourne University student allegedly told her Year 5 and 6 class she was a lesbian after her partner picked her up from a school camp and students asked who the woman was.

But Bluett said a more experienced teacher would not have taken that approach.

"The best course of conduct would be to say, 'That's a friend, or that's none of your business - let's get back to work'," she said.

The Victorian Primary Principals Association said schools needed to properly explain their ethos and culture to new recruits, but that student teachers should never attempt sex education.

"It's not appropriate that the student teacher conduct sex education of any sort, let alone discuss gay issues," the association's president, Fred Ackerman, said.

He said the main areas of tension between schools and their student teachers were dress, punctuality, clarity of speech, legibility of writing and the example that they set.

## Jury Awards Thousands to Former Lesbian UPS Worker in Sexual Harassment Case

*Continued from Front Page*

The jury concluded that the 14-year UPS veteran experienced severe, widespread and persistent harassment that created a hostile and abusive work environment, which ultimately led to her wrongful termination.

"The outcome of this case sends a clear message to UPS and the rest of corporate America that harassment based on gender stereotypes will not be tolerated," said attorney Waukeen Q. McCoy of the Law Offices of Waukeen Q. McCoy, who represents the plaintiff in this case. "Discrimination in the workplace must stop, and stop now. We will continue to fight this case against UPS at the appellate level."

The case, which was argued in San Francisco Superior Court, focused on Kathy Hoskins' complaint of persistent harassment by coworkers and supervisors about her appearance. She also was denied new work equipment and other uniform and safety equipment that was readily available to male employees. Hoskins is an African-American woman whose gender presentation does not fit the stereotypical feminine model.

"According to my former supervisor, I wasn't 'feminine' enough," said Hoskins, who worked at a UPS facility in San Bruno from September 1988 to February 2003 as a package car driver.

Ms. Hoskins was one of only four women out of a total of 56 employees that worked at the San Bruno facility. The supervisor who was the primary source of the disparaging comments and actions did not hire a woman during his five-year tenure at that facility and pro-

moted only one in his entire 22-year management career.

"UPS should take the court's judgment seriously and enforce policies that provide a safe and equitable work environment where every employee can perform their job free from discrimination and harassment," said McCoy.

"This judgment is a huge step forward for women everywhere who want to be judged for the quality of their work, not how they express their gender or how feminine they can appear," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC), a nonprofit group in Washington, DC that fights discrimination and violence caused by gender stereotypes. "Kathy Hoskins' case is emblematic of a wider trend toward zero tolerance of gender harassment in the workplace that's not only taking place in the courts, but in state and local legislatures and corporate America as well."

In the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community, the term "gender identity" refers to employee's inner sense of being male or female, while "gender expression" refers to how they manifest it through clothing, dress, or behavior.

According to the GenderPAC Web site, only a decade ago virtually no major corporation had added "gender identity and expression" in its Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) policies. Yet in 2004, 27 major corporations did so - up from 13 in 2003. Altogether, a total of 63 major corporations have passed such policies. UPS's Web site does not indicate such a policy.



# ACLU Represents Lesbian Couple Banned from Wellness Center

By Ross von Metzke

(Syracuse, NY) - The American Civil Liberties Union and the New York Civil Liberties Union have filed a joint discrimination lawsuit on behalf of a Utica, New York couple who were allegedly kicked out of the Charles T. Sitrin Health Care Center for being lesbian.

One of the plaintiffs, Louise Bizzari, suffers from severe osteoarthritis among other medical conditions and relies on the facility's pool to avoid losing her leg.

"It is shameful that a business that is supposedly committed to improving people's health would deny this couple access solely because they are lesbians," Sharon McGowan, a staff attorney for the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project who is representing the couple, said in a statement. "This kind of discrimination will no longer fly now that sexual orientation discrimination is illegal in New York State."

The New York State anti-discrimination law became effective in 2003. Representatives for the ACLU say they believe this is the first time the law has been used to bring a legal challenge against a private business for refusing to serve gay people.

Bizzari's problems stem from a cancer misdiagnosis that left her bedridden and on steroids and other medications for more than a decade. Additionally, Bizzari is severely obese and has difficulties with her hips, arms, back and ankles. In 2003, after getting her health back on track, doctors advised her to begin swimming or face losing her leg.

After being told the health care center would not accept the domestic partner medical benefits Bizzari presented, she offered to pay for use of the aquatic program out of pocket. That offer was also declined.

Later, Bizzari's partner of more than 20 years, Barbara Hackett, suggested the couple join the family program for \$45 a month. The program did not include the aquatic program Bizzari had originally applied for, but allowed members use of the pool facilities in the evenings and on Saturdays.

Bizzari alleges that when the facility director found out she and Hackett were using the pool facilities, he placed a call informing the couple they'd been dismissed from the pool. After Bizzari pleaded with the director in person to allow her continued use of the facilities, she says he called the couple "faggots" and stomped off.

The couple received a formal dismissal letter in the mail a few days later.

"I can't tell you how humiliating it was to be called names and basically treated like a criminal by this business," said Bizzari. "Going to the pool gave me hope that I would soon see the end of this painful medical nightmare. It's inconceivable to me that any business would treat people this way."

Bizzari will undergo a series of medical consultations next month to determine whether reconstructive surgery on her feet, ankles and legs will help to increase overall body strength through exercise. Meanwhile, the ACLU is filing charges in violation of New York's Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act.

## Girl Play

Opening in New York City on April 1

Wolfe Releasing is proud to announce the World Premiere theatrical release of Lee Friedlander's sensual romantic comedy *Girl Play* on Friday, April 1, 2005, at The Quad Cinema (34 West 13th Street).

*Girl Play*, the story of two actresses unexpectedly falling in love while rehearsing a stage play, stars Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon, who shared the Best Actress prize at the 2004 edition of Outfest, and features cult icon Mink Stole and veteran comedic actor Dom Deluise.

Based on the play *Real Girls*, which played to sold-out audiences across the US, *Girl Play* begins as Robin, who is essentially married to her girlfriend of six years, and Lacie, who has never had a relationship lasting past sunrise, are cast to play lesbian lovers in a stage play.

Enter Gabriel (Dom Deluise), the flamboyant director who takes them through rehearsals to bring more intimacy to their performances, bringing Robin and

Lacie closer together-on stage and off. As the two women grapple with their confusing new emotions, they tell the stories of their lives-hilarious and tender both, as well as scintillating and sexy-to find out if they are truly a match made in heaven.

Stars Robin Greenspan and Lacie Harmon, who shared the Best Actress prize at the 2004 edition of Outfest, and features cult icon Mink Stole and veteran comedic actor Dom Deluise.

Director Lee Friedlander comes from a long history of film producing and directing. She previously directed the feature film *Wasabi Tuna*, as well as the award-winning shorts *The 10 Rules* and *Give or Take an Inch*. Her producing credits include the short film *A Woman Reported*, an official Sundance selection, and the Dennis Hopper feature *Unspeakable*, as well as many others.

*Girl Play* was produced by Gina G. Goff and Laura A. Kellam of Goff-Kellam Productions, and features a score by four-time Emmy winner Laura Karpman (*Taken*, *Dash & Lily*, *Doing Time on Maple Drive*, among dozens of credits).

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## Will the Queer Vegetarian Please Stand Up?

PETA contest boasts gay bodybuilder, bisexual bombshell as finalists

By **Ross von Metzke**

(Norfolk, VA) - Andre 3000 and Alicia Silverstone are the reigning king and queen of vegetarians, but now, PETA is opening the "Sexiest Vegetarian Alive" competition to include veggie lovers next door.

With the first round of votes tallied, 43-year-old gay bodybuilder Mark Vander Linden and 23-year-old bisexual beauty Debra Simpson have ascended to the top twenty where contestants will battle it out to be king and queen (or queen and queen as the case may be) of the competition.

A serious weightlifter and runner, Mark attributes his improved strength and stamina to his vegetarianism. His three sisters also kicked the meat habit in order to improve their health and help stop animal suffering. Mark's role model is legendary St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa - also a vegetarian.

Debra is a leader of Orlando Animal Rights Alliance, a group that speaks out

against the fur industry and puppy mills. Far from being shy, she has participated in "I'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur" demonstrations and says her biggest turn-on is someone who knows "how to put that tofu power to good use."

"Girl or guy, there's nothing sexy about someone who's addicted to an unhealthy meat-laden diet and who treats others-including animals-with disrespect," says Debra. "And what could be a bigger turn-on than a woman who's fit and trim, passionate and compassionate."

Mark says he avoids meat because the cholesterol and saturated fats found in animal meat are among the leading causes of heart attacks, strokes, and impotence - "big turn-offs in my book. I find speaking up for victimized people and animals to be a very attractive quality in a man."

You can vote for the sexiest celebrity vegetarians and civilian vegetarians at [www.goveg.com](http://www.goveg.com).

## Are We Healthy? Think Again

Survey results released recently by Destiny Health reveal a wide disparity between consumer opinions and reality on key health issues - a knowledge gap that puts Americans' well-being at risk and contributes to the problem of soaring healthcare costs.

According to Destiny Health Chief Medical Officer Dr. Charles Schutz, "More than anything, the study shows the need for a new definition for the word, 'healthy.' It proves that Americans tend to see themselves as well until they are actively sick. Their definition of healthy is 'I feel fine.'"

That is a dangerous notion that needs to be replaced by the understanding that a person is healthy only when he or she is living a healthy lifestyle and is regularly monitoring key risk factors, such as blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

"It is a fact that a person who is being properly treated for hypertension may very well be healthier than one who feels well and exercises regularly, but who never sees a doctor," he said.

As an example of this knowledge gap, Dr. Schutz noted that in the independently conducted nationwide survey of 1,004 adults, an unrealistic 67 percent categorized themselves as being "physically active" and only 30 percent perceived themselves as being overweight.

"The harsh reality, as reported by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), literally reverses those numbers," Dr. Schutz said.

HHS statistics show that more than 60 percent of Americans do not get enough physical activity to yield health benefits and that more than 25 percent are not active at all. In addition, HHS has released figures showing that an estimated 129.6 million Americans or 64 percent are overweight and that almost half of those meet the federal guideline of being obese. Taken together, these are problems that cause in excess of 400,000 needless deaths a year.

Similar disturbing disparities emerge from other data collected in the Destiny Health study:

\* While three-quarters of the survey respondents considered themselves "healthy," a research program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that nearly half the U.S. population (125 million) "live with at least one chronic health condition and that many live with more than one."

\* 88 percent of those surveyed said they believed their health could be improved by eating healthy foods. Yet 43 percent survey respondents acknowledged dining on fast food one or more times per week and almost 90 percent of those said they eat processed snack foods regularly.

"The saddest part of the survey findings is that nearly eight of 10 respondents said they would take better care of themselves if they had a life-threatening problem," Dr. Schutz said. "Based on the eating habits and fitness levels reported in the survey, it is likely that many of those individuals may be developing serious chronic health conditions even now. They just don't realize where they are headed."

### How to Take Action

Dr. Schutz described the results as "disturbing, and illuminating news" that dra-

matizes the urgent need for increased education on health and healthcare-cost related subjects.

"Radical dieting and lifestyle change is not the answer," said Dr. Schutz. "We know from decades of watching our waistlines grow and our health decline that fad diets and sporadic exercise is not going to solve our problems."

Dr. Schutz suggests that Americans adopt these easy improvements (for medical advice please consult your personal physician):

\* Commit to small changes - Every tiny bit helps - and each change will add up over time. What matters most is that you begin to think about your health differently and try to find small ways throughout your day to work in healthier choices. Promise yourself that you will find at least one opportunity each day to make a new, healthier choice that is different from what you would have done in the past.

\* Move more - To improve your health, you do not have to take up jogging or get a personal trainer. Simply chose to make yourself move a little more frequently every day. Stop asking other people to go get things for you and decide to go get it yourself. Make time to walk the few blocks to the store or post office, instead of driving. Park farther away from your destination, on purpose. The extra time spent moving around will add up quickly. You will raise your metabolism and burn more calories each and every day.

\* Make it fresh - Fresh food is just better for you; there is no getting around it. Bypass fast foods and processed foods as much as you can. Choose fruit or grilled vegetables over chips or fries. Plan what you're having for dinner in advance so you can prepare and not be so tempted to order take-out. Downsize instead of super-size! You'll feel so much better and will have more energy when your body is burning cleaner food fuel.

\* Stop pretending things aren't so bad - Americans have the highest rates of obesity and diabetes in the world, not to mention our low rates of activity. We've got to make changes, and no one is going to do it for us. Decide for yourself that you are going to do something about it, now. The power to change is in your own mind.

Dr. Schutz said a silver lining also could be found in a cloud of other survey data that taken alone might be seen as neutral or even bad news. Specifically, that while 74 percent of respondents said they might adopt better habits if only their health plan acknowledged that behavior with lower premiums, and 50 percent agreed they would do the same if rewarded with travel and consumer goods awards.

"Our survey shows that Americans need to become better educated on health issues and more aware of the things they can do on their own to improve their health," Dr. Schutz said. "With the health of the nation at stake, there can be no more important cause."

*Think Again - page 11*

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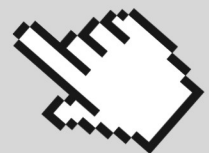
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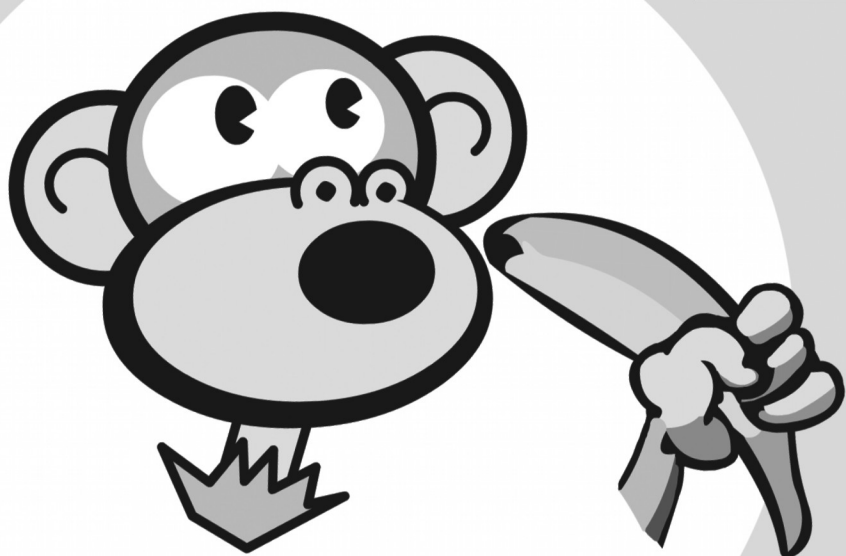
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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

*Continued from Front Page*

"Cyndi Lauper's music and message appeal to every generation of the GLBT community," said Malcolm Lazin, Executive Director of Equality Forum. "We love her music, from 'Girls Just Want to Have Fun' and 'True Colors' to her more recent hits. But Cyndi is more than a gay icon. She has been a major straight ally in the struggle for GLBT rights, steadfastly and forcefully defending our civil rights for nearly two decades. We are proud to have one of the first public advocates of GLBT equality performing at the National Celebration on Independence Mall," Lazin said.

"I believe that everyone, including members of the GLBT community, deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. I am honored to take part in this unprecedented National Celebration. This is a great opportunity to respond to those who are trying to push gays and lesbians back into the closet," said Lauper. "Like the 1963 demonstration at the Lincoln Memorial, the National Celebration will be a milestone in the history of this ongoing civil rights movement."

Equality Forum 2005 features over 70 programs, parties and special events. More than 105 local and national nonprofits and twenty-eight national and international GLBT Executive Directors will be participating. There will also be State Receptions for over thirty states and the District of Columbia on Saturday, April 30.

The concert on Independence Mall will last from 5 to 7 p.m., as part of the National Celebration's sixteen hours of film screenings, panel discussions, tributes to pioneers and heroes of the Gay civil rights movement, and street festival. Following the activities on the Mall, there will be three parties, including one at the Real World Philadelphia House.

Well-known comedienne Kate Clinton will be part of the National Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the GLBT Civil Rights Movement on Sunday, May 1 at Independence Mall in Philadelphia, Pa.

"The National Celebration would be incomplete without the incisive humor of Kate Clinton," said Malcolm Lazin, executive director of Equality Forum. "She is a comedic icon for the GLBT community. Her brilliantly funny take on homophobia has mega-ton impact. We are thrilled to have Kate performing at Equality Forum 2005 & National Celebration."

Clinton will appear during a Tribute to Gay Pioneers, who founded the GLBT Civil Rights Movement at Independence Hall in 1965, and 40 Heroes whose work has helped pave the way for the GLBT march toward equality. The Gay Pioneers & 40 Heroes Tribute, a centerpiece of the National Celebration, will begin at 1 p.m. on Independence Mall.

"It's time for a second coming out for our community -- to celebrate our past, to enlist our allies, and to re-commit ourselves to the joyful work of gay liberation," Clinton said. "I am honored to participate."

In addition to a career in comedy spanning more than two decades, Clinton publishes monthly columns in *The Advocate* and *The Progressive*. She has also written for *The New York Times* and *George Magazine* and appeared on dozens of television programs.

The Gay Pioneers and 40 Heroes Tribute on Independence Mall from 1 to 3 p.m. and the National Celebration Concert are part of 16 hours of events. The National Celebration on May 1 will also include SundayOUT, a street festival; screenings of the documentary *Gay Pioneers*; *Conversations with Gay Leaders* at the National Constitution Center; an *Interfaith Service* at historic Christ Church Philadelphia; a *Gay Icons Pavilion* at the Independence Visitors Center; celebrities; and three parties -- including one at the Real World Philadelphia House.

There is no registration fee for Equality Forum 2005 and all substantive events including the National Celebration are free.

## Fireball 3

By **Chris S. Witwer**

The Great Chicago Fireball, the Hearts Foundation dance party and fundraising weekend, was held last month at Chicago's Union Square. Thousands of people from all over the world participated. And by 'participate,' we mean 'dance!'

This year's closing VIP party featured DJ Paulo, who premiered tracks from Centaur music's *Fireball 3* CD (also benefiting the Heart Foundation).

DJ Paulo is known for headlining some of the most important parties over the past few years, including Palm Springs' White Party, Montreal's Red Party, Ibiza's Amnesia, Philadelphia's Blue Ball, and Fire Island's *Dancin' On The Bay*. He's also known for spinning the

Tom of Finland Man-o-Rama parties. Now added to his impressive resume is the *Fireball 2005*, held in Chicago's Union Square.

In addition to his well-known party gigs, Paulo has held residencies in his LA home at Spin and Stereo, as well as at Ego, Reload, and Here. But it's not DJ Paulo's job history that makes this CD impressive.

*Fireball 3*, under DJ Paulo's direction, is a fierce tribal mix of eclectic dance originals-a number of which are either produced or edited by Paulo himself.

If DJ Paulo's intention is to always bring new and exciting things to the dance floor (and in this case, to your CD player), then he has certainly succeeded

in doing so. Paulo's fresh, tribal, hypnotic remixes will rise to the top of this increasingly competitive scene. Don't miss the chance to own this powerful, continuous dance mix by one of the scene's best.

You'll also be putting your money where it counts-the *Fireball 3* CD will benefit

the Heart Foundation, which hosted *Fireball 2005*. The Heart Foundation Hearts Foundation and its predecessor, the Hearts Committee, have raised over \$2.4 million for Chicago's GLBT and HIV/AIDS service organizations.

Great music, great cause... you can't get beat it but you sure can dance to it!

## Hollywood Celebrity Buzz

By **Ross von Metzke**

Well, as much as I would love to kick off with Michael Jackson showing up to court in his jammies complaining of a backache - I mean, really. What the hell kinda cracked out shit was that? - I think I'm going to kick this one out with a road less traveled.

So, by now you probably all know how much I live for a DUI. Well let me let you in on another little secret. If there's anything I live for more than a DUI it's a fallen teen idol being slapped with a DUI.

Well that's what happened March 7 when Backstreet babe and Paris Hilton's former red carpet bitch Nick Carter failed a field sobriety test and got locked up in the drunk tank for four hours.

Carter claims he failed because of an interaction between doctor prescribed meds and a few cocktails. Yeah, that's what we all say when we're driving home from the club at 4am.

Carter is expected in Malaysia this weekend to perform with his fellow boys at a Tsunami relief benefit concert. The gang will then return to the states for a 13 city club tour to promote their forthcoming album, their first in five years. Of course, Nicky may actually have to postpone a show or two if he gets called as a witness at Jacko's trial - word is his is yet another name on that ever growing list.

Eve goes gay for Showtime dramatic flick

She may be the rapper with a pair of paws on her boobies, but now, first lady of the Ruff Ryders record label Eve is adding serious actress to her resume with her forthcoming turn as an HIV positive lesbian in the Showtime flick *Getting Unstuck*.

Eve's first serious turn went largely unnoticed this Christmas when she played a whistle blower out to get Kevin Bacon as a just released child molester in the grossly under-seen *The Woodsman*. This time around, Eve adds producer to her credit as she plays the former TV-producer of Queen LaLa's short-lived TV talk show, a woman who overcame molestation, drugs, homelessness and HIV to become one of the most successful women in TV.

If this pays off for Eve, look for the Queen and Halle Berry to clear some space a top their "Black girls who can act for days" podium.

Kirstie criticized by fat women?

Overweight women everywhere are tossing insults left and right at Kirstie Alley's new reality based comedy *Fat Actress*, saying that rather than embracing self empowerment, Alley comes off as a woman so desperate to lose weight she'll do anything. Critics of the show say it just serves to fuel futher discrimination against fat women.

The show, which in its premiere episode shows Alley having a near meltdown when her agent tells her to get skinny followed by her gorging on a cheese

burger in a parking lot - followed by her agent shoving a slab of roast beef at her face. The show, which was met with lukewarm reception by critics, serves as a prequel to Alley's latest quest - to drop 50 pounds.

And while I will readily admit right here and now that nothing is more funny to me than Kirstie Alley playing a character on the edge of sanity, there's something just sad when the character she's playing is herself.

Angelina Jolie: Lesbian sex expert?

Oh Angelina! We all know of Angelina Jolie's lesbian trysts in the past, but now, she's going on record as saying she's something of an expert on lesbian sex.

"I absolutely love women and find them incredibly sexy," Jolie told reporters in a European press tour. "I have loved women in the past and slept with them too. I think if you love and want to pleasure a woman, particularly if you are a woman yourself, then certainly you know how to do things in a certain way."

And if lesbian sex doesn't work for you, I know many a gay man who can't wait to see her screw the hell out of Brad Pitt in their upcoming *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*. (Okay, maybe mostly just to see Brad half-naked, but still...)

Rosie's Loses it on Web Blog

I've been saying Rosie O'Donnell's gone off the deep end for years - pretty much ever since she came out of the closet. Well, if anyone is interested in checking out her web blog, you too can have evidence.

The one time darling of daytime TV has been off the air for just three years, and in that time she's taken on gay marriage (Good!), sued the hell out of her magazine's publishing company (not so good!), taken comedic stabs at Joan Rivers (Good!) and got the worst butch bob I think I've ever seen (On Jay Leno, she admitted a homeless man told her to fix her hair, she looked like a "dyke").

OK, so Rosie's on again, off again. For proof, check out her website *Rosie.com* for fleeting signs of the Rosie of yesterday (she's still running Rosie's Broadway Kids and, more recently, R Family Vacations) and some signs of the oman she's become (featuring multi-media representations of goings on in the news and poetry on her web blog that pontificates Africa, Columbine and the cost of overpriced modern art in P-town).

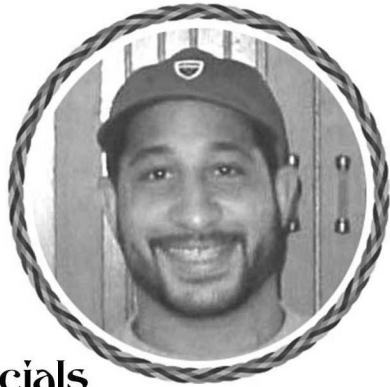
So that's all she wrote this week. Oh, and a little morsel of juicy info I picked up from a friend while I was in LA last week. Seems party hearty Charlie Sheen checked into a Burbank hotel the night before Denise Richards filed divorce papers - and he was looking a disheveled mess. But, in the loving words of *In Living Color*, you didn't hear that from me.

As always, one person's gossip is another person's rent check.

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### **Think Again**

*Continued from - page 8*

Consumers can be helped in this area by their employers. A recent report by the consulting firm McDermott, Will & Emery recommends companies seek out health insurance providers that offer wellness/reward programs that directly reward employees for healthy and cost-saving behavior.

The McDermott report cites Destiny Health's own incentive program, Vitality, which awards points for healthy activities - points that translate into merchandise, free movie tickets, vacation discounts, and even monetary inducements. Interestingly, The Destiny Health Plan's Vitality Program which creates incentives for wellness and healthy lifestyles works to engage members in their health and well-being. Based on independent research conducted in 2004, 97 percent of Destiny Health Plan members compared to 29 percent of members of other plans believe a person's lifestyle choices have a direct impact on health-care costs.

- 60 percent of Destiny Health Plan members have done something specific to reduce the amount paid for healthcare (such as opting for generic drugs, switching doctors,

negotiating a price) vs. 15 percent of members of other plans.

- 85 percent of Destiny Health Plan members had started an exercise program in the last 12 months compared to 24 percent of members of other plans
- Destiny Health Plan members rate their progress against personal goals 3 times higher than members of other plans; and their progress in an exercise program 5+ times higher

#### **About the survey**

The TNS Express Telephone Omnibus was employed in conducting the survey. A total of 1,004 Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews were conducted among randomly selected households across the United States and the data reflects a nationally representative sample of adults age 18 or older (roughly equal numbers of females and males.)

For more information about Destiny Health, visit [www.destinyhealth.com](http://www.destinyhealth.com)

### **Pursuit of Happiness**

*Continued from- page 3*

Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. Where do we stand now? Well, we have life, although there are many on the far right who devalue it. They call us deviants, and say that we are "sick." They choose to ignore the American Psychiatric Association, The American medical Association, The American Academy of Pediatrics, and other scientific groups who state clearly that sexual orientation is neither a matter of choice, or a deviance from anything other than the majority.

Liberty? We are denied many freedoms that are gifted to others in the nation. The right to marry, the right to community property, the right to spousal benefits, the right to reduce our taxes by filing as married, the right not to have our jobs threatened based on bigotry, the right to have violence targeted at us based on our sexual orientation labeled for the hate that it is.

The Pursuit of Happiness? Well, that clearly is denied us. How can we be happy, if we are not allowed the right to love and marry the person of our choice, to not fear the loss of jobs due our sexual orientation, to not know the comfort of providing support in our retirement to

our partners because our unions are not recognized by the social security?

We have a long way to go just to catch up with the those three basic rights that Thomas Jefferson composed so long ago. But, we'll win. We will win because the constitution of the United States guarantees us the right of equal protection under the law, and eventually the question will reach the Supreme Court. So if you've ever wondered what the most important thing a President does while he is in office is.....it's to appoint a Supreme Court Justice. Now, more than ever, we need the Democratic party to fight this republican President, and his extreme right views. Should the opportunity to appoint Justices to the Supreme Court come, that is where our fight will be at its most vital, because this president has made it clear that his appointments are based in part on the appointee's similar beliefs to his own. Which means he will look for a ultra conservative religious bigot, such as himself, to interpret the laws of this country, knowing the question of our right to marry will end up in the Supreme Court very soon.



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## Gay Games VII General Registration

Gay Games VII General Registration is now open. Details are available online. Chicago organizers wish to remind the world's athletes that many sports have limited space. Sailing has already reached its capacity, Golf is nearing capacity, and 4 other sports are nearly 50% full. "Only by registering now can you ensure your space is reserved," said Nancy Harris, Gay Games VII Sports Consultant. "We don't want to disappoint those who intend to play but wait too late to register."





# Costly Discrimination

By Josh Aterovis

It could be argued that discrimination is always costly in any form. The loss of self-esteem, security, and basic human rights at the hands of bigotry is incalculable. For once, however, the price of prejudice just might work in our favor.

A study released recently by the General Accountability Office (GAO), a non-partisan congressional accounting agency, reported that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" has cost the US government nearly \$200 million since President Clinton instituted the controversial policy in 1994. It allowed gays and lesbians to serve in the armed forces as long as they abstained from homosexual activity and did not disclose their sexual orientation. Revealing their sexual orientation would result in expulsion. The \$200 million cost estimate did not include training and replacement for officers or those with highly specialized skills or the cost of discharging the gay and lesbian officers.

Since the policy went into effect, approximately 10,000 service members have been discharged. Of those who left, 757 held critical jobs for which the Pentagon offers re-enlistment bonuses because of their specialized nature, such as data processing technicians and translators. Many who were discharged had intelligence-related jobs. 322 spoke foreign languages, including Arabic, Farsi, Korean, and Mandarin, which the Pentagon has called critical skills amid threats from terrorists.

"What the research has found and what the GAO confirmed is that 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' harms military readiness," said Aaron Belkin, director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

On Wednesday, March 2, Democratic Rep. Marty Meehan of Massachusetts, who requested the GAO study, and is the ranking Democrat on the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Terrorism, Conventional Threats and Capabilities, introduced the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (MREA) before the House of Representative. MREA is a proposal that would end the ban on gay and lesbian military person-

nel. The legislation has more than forty Congressional co-sponsors, including seven on the House Armed Services Committee.

In response, a group of retired military generals and admirals today announced their support for the act. The officers are among the highest-ranking veterans to publicly support repeal of the military's gay ban.

"Our national security depends on having the best and brightest Americans



protecting our freedoms," said Brigadier General Foote, one of the first women to achieve that rank. "As a commander, I know that lesbian, gay and bisexual Americans have served our country with honor and distinction. Our armed forces should be able to recruit every qualified, capable American to protect our homeland, regardless of their sexual orientation. 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is not only

unnecessary and discriminatory, it is also detrimental to our military readiness. The law does not meet the common sense rule our military should abide by."

The United States continues to be one of the last original NATO countries to ban gays from the military. Since "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" was implemented, Great Britain and Canada have lifted their bans, joining Israel and other nations around the world. U.S. forces serve alongside openly gay troops from those allied nations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, just recently, the British Royal Navy began actively encouraging gays and lesbians to enlist and pledged to make life easier when they do.

Despite Right Wing warnings of mass hysteria, other countries have reported surprisingly few problems with their integrated armed forces. "I would say that before the European court ruling, it was difficult to see this policy happening or working," said gay naval officer Lt. Cmdr. Craig Jones, referring to the 1999 European court ruling that Britain's ban on gays in the military violated European human-rights laws. "People were quite hot under the collar about it; the admirals, generals and air marshals were really concerned," he added. "I'm

quite sure that these folks look now and think, 'What was all that fuss about?'"

In an address before the House of Commons on February 16, while arguing for full-marriage rights for same-sex couples, Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin said, "For gays and lesbians, evolving social attitudes have, over the years, prompted a number of important changes in the law. Recall that, until the late 1960s, the state believed it had the right to peek into our bedrooms. Until 1977, homosexuality was still sufficient grounds for deportation. Until 1992, gay people were prohibited from serving in the military. In many parts of the country, gays and lesbians could not designate their partners as beneficiaries under employee medical and dental benefits, insurance policies or private pensions. Until very recently, people were being fired merely for being gay. Today, we rightly see discrimination based on sexual orientation as arbitrary, inappropriate and unfair. Looking back, we can hardly believe that such rights were ever a matter for debate. It is my hope that we will ultimately see the current debate in a similar light; realizing that nothing has been lost or sacrificed by the majority in extending full rights to the minority."

Of course, there are other costs to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" -- costs that can't be tallied with a dollar sign. I have a friend in the military. In fact, he was my first boyfriend. We've remained close through the years, and when he told me about his plans to enlist, I thought he was crazy. It was something he really wanted to do, however, so of course I supported him. He thought it would be fairly easy hiding his orientation since he's very masculine.

At first, he had few problems. He loved his chosen branch of service and excelled, quickly moving up in rank. Slowly, however, the strain of constantly having to hide who he was began to wear on him. Then disaster struck. His relationship of three years crumbled unexpectedly and he was left devastated. To make matters worse, he had to act as if nothing was wrong. He couldn't very well tell his fellow service members that he and his boyfriend had broken up. The combination of his emotional pain and the stress of hiding that pain plunged him into depression. Still, he felt he could do nothing about it. He was afraid to see a military doctor for fear he'd be discharged if they learned the truth.

For months, I was his only lifeline as he slowly healed from his loss. What he hasn't healed from is the pain of hiding his true self from people with whom he works closely on a daily basis, people he has come to know and respect. The job he once loved has now become a burden, something to suffer through until he can escape. His once promising career has become a trap.

Earlier this week, he called me with great excitement. He'd read about the Military Readiness Enhancement Act online. "Do you know what this would mean to me?" he asked.

I think I do.

# Child Welfare Official Accuses Gay Groups of Endorsing Pedophilia

*Continued from Front Page*

Cecilia Burke, who was appointed to the children's advocacy board of directors by Gov. Jeb Bush, made her statements in a memo Feb. 7 asking the board to sever ties with the support groups PFLAG and the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

A letter drafted by PFLAG interim executive director Ron Schlitter stated that Burke wrote "false" and "defamatory" comments about its organization and wants a public apology. GLSEN and the National Center of Lesbian Rights co-signed the letter.

"Quite frankly, we are pleased to have this opportunity to clear our names," Schlitter told The Miami Herald. "This is a national organization. Just as much as these comments were an attack on a local chapter, it is an attack on our national reputation."

Burke's memo also said the groups support "unhealthy sexual practices among youth." She cited maintaining relationships with these groups as a reason to deny the juvenile welfare board's director, Jim Mills, a raise. That move failed.

Burke said contention within the board over how the taxpayer-funded agency should deal with sexual orientation issues started two years ago, when one of its committees mailed bookmarks to principals that listed PFLAG and GLSEN as resources for gay students.

According to The Miami Herald, Burke's comments were enough to infuriate one of her neighbors, who allegedly told Burke she didn't want her tax money spent on groups that believed homosexuals could change their lifestyles.

The Juvenile Welfare Board, which funds programs to help children, will receive about \$42 million in property taxes this year.

PFLAG and GLSEN's mission statements say they provide support and counseling for those needing assistance to come to terms with sexual orientation issues. For them, a relationship with the Juvenile Welfare Board, a youth referral service, seems natural.

Mills said he plans to continue JWB's relationship with the groups.

"I've worked with these organizations for years," Mills said. "I've never had any reason to believe they endorse pedophilia. I'm not sure where that came from."

# Born For Love

Continued from Front Page

As reported in New Scientist, a study from Oregon Health and Science University in 2002 found that the brains of gay sheep (and apparently as many as one in ten sheep express exclusively gay sexual preferences) showed small but distinct differences in a part of the brain called the hypothalamus when compared with rams that preferred to mate with ewes. The difference was in a particular region of the hypothalamus - the preoptic nucleus. The region is generally almost twice as large in rams as in ewes, but in gay rams, its size was almost identical to that in "straight" females.

These findings matched those of the neuroscientist Simon LeVay in his studies of the brains of gay men. His work has always been considered controversial, partly because the brains he studied were mostly from men who had died of AIDS. So it was not clear whether the differences were related to the disease or to sexual orientation. The results of the sheep study would indicate that the differences in fact were related to orientation.

In a separate study released in 2004, a group of Italian geneticists led by Andrea Camperio-Ciani of the University of Padua may have provided the answer to one of the greatest paradoxes of homosexuality: the Darwinian dead-end. How can homosexuality be genetic when gay men don't have children? The researchers' findings suggest that the same genetic factors--as yet unidentified--linked to homosexuality in men may also be linked to increased fertility in women. "This is a novel finding," Dr. LeVay said. "We think of it as genes for 'male homosexuality', but it might really be genes for sexual attraction to men. These could predispose men towards homosexuality and women towards 'hyper-heterosexuality', causing women to have more sex with men and thus have more offspring."

## Prevention Still the Key

Continue from - Front Page

But for the past 10 years, prevention funding at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention hasn't only been stagnant, it's been declining. Tragically, funding for ideology driven, un-scientific "abstinence-only-until-marriage" programs has increased. Every hour, two young people are newly infected with HIV. Young people need frank and honest information to empower them to protect themselves.

Twin studies have also revealed some strong evidence for a biological basis. J. Michael Bailey and Richard Pillard studied the gayness between monozygotic (or identical) twins, dizygotic (or fraternal) twins, and non-related adopted brothers. They found that 52% of identical twins were both self-identified

Are we born gay? Maybe a better question would be are we born to love? Benjamin Disraeli once said, "We are all born for love. It is the principle of existence, and its only end." If we don't have a choice in who we love, is it really a choice at all?

homosexuals, 22% of fraternal twins were gay, and only 5% of non-related adopted brothers were so. Bailey and Pillard repeated the study with the same results and later experiments found similar evidence in females. These studies seem to conclusively demonstrate that there is at least some genetic component that leads to the development of

homosexuality.

However, it is important to note that none of these studies suggests that there is a single "gay gene." In fact, they all seem to indicate a more likely scenario of numerous genetic and environmental influences. It's also important to realize that none of these studies can be considered conclusive. Much more research needs to be done, but science seems to be pointing towards biological factors in determining our sexuality.

Is being gay a choice? Only in the sense that, while we may not make the choice to be attracted to the same sex, we do make choices about whether we act on those attractions or not. We choose whether we will live our lives honestly or in the closet. We choose whether to love as our hearts desire or to deny an integral part of who we are.

Are we born gay? Maybe a better question would be are we born to love? Benjamin Disraeli once said, "We are all born for love. It is the principle of existence, and its only end." If we don't have a choice in who we love, is it really a choice at all?

Josh Aterovis is the author of the Killian Kendall Mystery Series as well as numerous columns and articles. He can be reached at [Aterovis@comcast.net](mailto:Aterovis@comcast.net) or <http://www.steliko.com/bleedinghearts>

The most recent issue of one of the most popular GLBT magazines had 6 six pages of glossy full-color ads for HIV drugs. There were zero pages of HIV prevention advertising. It's time for smart, targeted messages to reach people with the unvarnished truth - everyone is at risk of infection and everyone needs to protect themselves.

Winnie Stachelberg is Vice President for the HRC Foundation. For more information, visit [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

# Same-Sex Marriage - So What?

By Peggy Papez

So, I'm reading the newest media hype launched by Focus On the Family lobbying to ban same-sex marriage. Frankly I just don't get it.

I want to marry someone of the same sex, so what?

Ok, I understand the idea of the 'traditional family'. I've even seen the posters. White, middle class, never divorced, two or three children all happy and well adjusted within the 'traditional' Christian family.

How very nice for them. It must be hard to be the yardstick by which the rest of us must measure ourselves.

\*Only marriage for the benefit of the 'traditional' family should be supported under law.

The problem is that there is no such thing as a traditional family. Less than a quarter of all marriages fall under the definition of a traditional family.

If you are:

- Previously divorced or a single parent
- Unable or unwilling to have children
- Part of a mixed race couple
- Non-Christian in your beliefs

Then you are not part of a traditional marriage as these various organizations define it.

\*Allowing gay marriage will cause the breakdown of the "traditional" family.

Citing 'tradition' falls flat in the face of single motherhood, step-parenting and the approximately 50% divorce rate. Can someone explain to me how my wanting to marry at some point in the future is in some way the retroactive cause of a trend that has already existed for decades?

\*Marriage is for the purpose of creating a family and rearing children.

Child rearing in and of itself is not a basis by which gays and lesbians should be denied marriage. Or rather, if it truly is a legitimate factor, then there are already thousands of childless heterosexual marriages that need to be ended before the problem of homosexual marriage can be properly addressed.

Marriage for procreation is not a factor, childless couples can and do produce children. It may require a larger effort for a gay couple, but artificial insemination, adoption and other methods have become common. There is also the (apparently) little known fact that gays and lesbians do in fact procreate, mostly during the course of heterosexual marriages which later end, most often for reasons having nothing to do with sexuality issues.

Right now about half of all kids are from 'broken homes'. These homes were broken long before I ever came out of the closet and through some odd coincidence I (nor the entire gay conspiracy) was not the one who broke these homes. My wish to marry did not cause Joe Smith to get caught messing around with that waitress. Mary Sunshine's drinking problem did more to make her husband leave than my desire for equal and fair treatment.

In the rush to condemn gay marriage, children are being taught a second lesson. They are being taught that being raised in anything less than an idealized stereotypical family makes them somehow 'less'. Children who have been adopted, those in single parent homes, orphans, kids living with grandparents or other relatives, do not have a traditional family. This does not even consider the children of gay families.

The traditional family no longer exists, if it ever did. In this day of divorce and single parenthood it's long overdue that we stop clinging to the past and redefine the concept of family. It's time to recognize who we love is not nearly as important as the fact that everyone should be allowed to love without prejudice.

## Travolta, Madonna Both Eyeing Drag Queen Films

By Ross von Metzke

(Hollywood, CA) - Both John Travolta and Madonna are in advanced negotiations to star in two separate films playing drag queens. Travolta, 51, is in discussions to play the role of Edna Turnblad in a new film version of the Broadway show *Hairspray*. In the original film version, released in 1988 under the direction of John Waters, the role was played by the late Divine.

Harvey Fierstein originated the role on Broadway, which has since been played by Bruce Vilanch and Michael McKean.

Industry insiders say Travolta's interest in the role comes after speculation that the aging actor needs to spread his wings for critical acclaim. His last several films have all performed moderately at the box office and Travolta hasn't had a critical hit since 1999's *The General's Daughter*.

Madonna, who is still searching for the critical acclaim she enjoyed for her role in *Evita*, has signed on to play the role of cross-dresser Candy Darling in a new biopic. Darling was the star of several Andy Warhol films in the 1960's.

Madonna was so intrigued by the role, she reportedly signed on to do the movie for free.

"Madonna has been desperate to make a film where she can earn respect for her acting abilities," a source close to the entertainer told the British tabloid *The Sun*. "She is still trying to shake off the bad publicity from the movie 'Swept Away'. She sees this as her big chance. She has wanted to play this part for so long because she feels so strongly about the character."

Both films are expected to go into production later this year.





## OUTBOUND SPORTS

By David Wilcox

### Milwaukee Kosmos #1 in Tampa

The Kosmos, Milwaukee Saturday Softball League's (SSBL) traveling tournament team, took top honors in the "D" division of the 11th annual Gasparilla Softball Classic.

Playing in Tampa, FL on President's Day weekend, the Kosmos came through with a stellar performance, blowing by their competition with an unblemished 7 and 0 record.

As with all NAGAAA tournaments, the weekend began with "pool play" at 8am Saturday morning. Pool play, also known as the round robin, is designed to seed teams for placement in the double elimination brackets.

All teams played two round robin games and are then seeded based on win-loss record and run differential. There were 19 "D" division teams and the Kosmos were seeded 4th having won both games and having had the 4th-best run differential.

The Kosmos played their first game against the Tampa Bears, and despite everyone's muscles getting off to a slow start, they managed to win handily.

Next came a game with Hydrate from Chicago. Hydrate played very well but the Kosmos pulled it off again sealing their 4th seed positioning for the brackets.

Team Kosmos began bracket play by taking out Team Chaos of Tampa. The Eagle Talons of Atlanta came next. Neither game was terribly difficult. The next game was another story.

The Kosmos played their final Saturday game against Scot's from Chicago. The Scot's, seeded #1 after pool play, put up a stiff resistance and the Kosmos new they would have to step it up to be victorious. After a hard fought, back-and-forth game, the Kosmos pulled it off with a 7-4 win.

Having been 5 and 0 on Saturday, the Kosmos didn't have to play again until 2pm on Sunday. Kosmos players were grateful for the opportunity to nurse their sore muscles, scraped knees and sunburn.

At 2pm on Sunday, de ja vu began. Last April in Birmingham, the Kosmos knocked the Fort Lauderdale Paladins out of the winner's bracket only to have to play them again for the championship.

In Tampa, it was more of the same. The Kosmos played the Paladins and won, thus moving into the Championship bracket and knocking the Paladins into the loser's bracket.

The Paladins would then have to play the Scot's from Chicago to determine who would win the loser's bracket and move on to a rematch with Kosmos for the Championship.

As fate would have it, the Paladins pounded the ball and beat the Scot's, who subsequently took third, and moved on to face the Kosmos.

It's 4:30 and the championship game begins between the Kosmos and the Paladins. The Paladins got to bat first and came out swinging, determined not to have a repeat of Birmingham. After posting 4 runs in the top of the first, the Kosmos came to bat.

Their answer was resounding and they set the pace for the game by posting 6 runs in response. The Paladins managed to tie the game up in the third inning but then the Kosmos opened up.

A player on the Paladin bench was heard to exclaim, "They're going to do it to us again!" The statement turned out to be prophetic. At the bottom of six, it was all over when the Kosmos scored their 16th run, thus winning by the ten-run rule, taking the tournament, and bringing home their second first-place trophy from Florida in two months.

The Kosmos' superlative performance stemmed from everyone stepping up and giving it their all. Miss Nadia went the distance, throwing every pitch of the tournament and only walking a few. The fans, having traveled from Milwaukee just to cheer, were magnificent and no doubt deserve to be credited with an assist for creating the level of spirit needed to win.

Coach Kitty got them lined up in just the right order for maximum run potential. Nearly everyone was managing injuries by the end of the weekend. But nobody let up and the results of this level of dedication are apparent in the result.

As the Milwaukee Kosmos come home in triumph, they have already made plans for their next tournament. In April they take off for Phoenix, AZ to play in the Saguaro Cup - another weekend of sunshine, great softball and fun for all.

### Madison's Rough Riders Play Well in the Sun

The Rough Riders, Madison's competitive softball team, played rough with the "C" division of the Gasparilla Softball Classic in Tampa, FL.

Playing against 21 other teams from around the country, the Rough Riders battled injuries and winter physiques to hammer out an impressive 4th-place finish.

The Riders began pool play by putting the mojo on Mojo of Tampa and winning 14 to 4. Pool play game two was much closer, but the riders pulled it out again, beating Key West of Philadelphia with a score of 9 to 7.

As seeding would have it, the Rough Riders had to come back and play Key West yet again in the first bracket game of the tournament. Hopefully those Philly boys liked it rough because the

Riders beat them again, this time 11 to 10.

Moving up in the winner's bracket, they had to tackle the Wool Pounders of Atlanta next. Unfortunately, they were true to their name and they pounded Madison 18 to 9 and sent them to the loser's bracket.

Getting bumped to the loser's bracket this early is a pain for every team. You are now stuck with having to win many games in a row to take the division.

The Rough Riders gave it a go nonetheless by first blowing away the Tampa Hurricanes with a score of 13 to 2. Tampa Fusion was next in a game that turned into a batting fest, tallying up 42 runs total for the game. The Riders pulled it out in the end 22 to 20.

The Atlanta Grizzlies turned out to be mostly cubs and also fell to the power of the Riders, getting shut out 5-0.

But, exhaustion was setting in and the next game against the All Starz of New

York would be their last, falling 14-6 in a hard fought match.

The final tally for the Rough Riders would be 6 wins and 2 losses for a hard won 4th-place finish.

### Milwaukee's Snowball Cup a Success

There were only four teams for Milwaukee's first annual Snowball Cup, but there was fun enough for 20.

Played at Mitchell Field, Woody's slogged through the snow and mud for a first place finish in what was sure to be the coldest tournament on record.

There was plenty of brats, burgers and hotdogs to keep people fed along with coffee and hot cocoa to keep them warm when they weren't generating their own heat on the field.

Ballgame came in with a second place finish followed by Fluid in third. All in all the event was a success and fun for everyone.

The final results are as follows:

Team	Wins	Team	Wins
Ballgame Killers	6 at	Switch'n It Up	6
Ballgame Choppeer Devils	0 at	Ballgame 1	12
Boom Trojans	3 at	Triangle Trix	9
Cage Dick Ticklers	8 at	Fluid Exchange	4
Fluid Bullshitters	7 at	Woody's Hardwoods	5
Fluid Plaid & Proud	11 at	Cage Kings and Queen	1
Fluid Royal Powers	9 at	ONA Crackers	3
Morning Woody's	8 at	Walkers Pint 16 Ounces	4
ONA Cookies	0 at	Viva La Femme	12
Triangle 2	6 at	Book Boomsicles	6
Walkers Pint Dawgs	3 at	Fluid Horsemen	9

Bringing year-to-date standings to:

Place	Team	Wins	Place	Team	Wins
1	Ballgame Killers	188	12	Walkers Pint 16 Ounces	128
2	Fluid Bullshitters	179	13	Walkers Pint Dawgs	119
3	Fluid Plaid and Proud	177	14	Viva La Femme	115
4	Fluid Horseman	173	15	Cages Kings and Queens	107
5	Ballgame 1	170	16	Boom Trojans	102
6	Morning Woody's	151	17	Switch'n It Up	102
7	Woody's Hardwoods	151	18	Fluid Royal Powers	99
8	Boomsicles	150	19	Fluid Exchange	98
9	Triangle Trix	148	20	ONA Crackers	87
10	Cage Dick Ticklers	144	21	ONA Cookies	51
11	Triangle 2	133	22	Ballgame Chopper Devils	0

### Madison Darts Finishes Week 4 With the Sharp Shooters on Top

After some initial snags, Madison's Gay Dart League is cruising along smoothly. They played their 4th week of games on March 7th.

The Sharp Shooters rode to the first place spot with two big wins in a row, bumping the Ramrods down to second. The Token Lesbian and Studmuffins are tied for 3rd within easy striking distance of the top teams.

The week 4 results are as follows:

Team	Wins	Team	Wins
Sharp Shooters	7 at	Token Lesbian	2
Studmuffins	5 at	Dart Fairies	4
Ramrods	7 at	G-Spots	2

Bringing year-to-date standings to:

Place	Team	Wins	Place	Team	Wins
1	Sharp Shooters	26	4	Studmuffins	17
2	Ramrods	23	5	Dart Fairies	15
3	Token Lesbian	17	6	G-Spots	10

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# March "Teen Connection" Looks At Issues Faced By Glbt Teens

What kind of climate exists in the hallways, cafeterias and classrooms of Wisconsin's schools? If you're a gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered (GLBT) teen, it may be a hostile one.

That climate will be explored on the next edition of Teen Connection on Wisconsin Public Television (WPT). "GLBT Teens" airs live at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22. WMVS-TV in Milwaukee will air the program at the same time.

It's a 60-minute broadcast that will feature several Green Bay area students who are part of school organizations known as gay-straight alliances.

The adolescents will share their experiences, and viewers may call in with questions or comments. Some of the calls will be selected for on-air response.

While it's not possible to specifically anticipate what callers will pose, it's likely some will focus on the stories behind the statistics on GLBT youth in schools.

"In classrooms where 'faggot' is heard more often than the 'Pledge of Allegiance,' and 39 percent of LGBT students report being physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation, our schools and the states that govern them are failing," said Kevin Jennings, executive director of the national Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network.

His organization has prepared a state-by-state report card on policymakers' response to ensuring school safety for all students, and assessing the overall school climate. Wisconsin received the grade of C.

It's reported that 84 percent of GLBT youth are verbally harassed, 39 percent are physically harassed and 64 percent feel unsafe in their schools because of their sexual orientation. There is a likely correlation between those instances and the reactions among GLBT teens, including a 28 percent dropout rate, and other negative behaviors such as suicidal thoughts and substance abuse.

Whether a teen is GLBT or not, those kind of stressors within a community affect everyone. In response, some Wisconsin schools have seen the formation of gay-straight alliances, of the nature that will be represented on the Teen Connection broadcast. In the Green Bay area, for example, about 150 students are regularly active in groups at six schools.

The alliances are student-organized and student-led and aim to create safe, welcoming places for all youth regardless of sexual orientation.

Viewers can call toll-free at (877) 988-2888 during the Teen Connection program.

For more resources, check [wpt.org/teen-connection](http://wpt.org/teen-connection)

Kay Klubertanz of WPT is the executive producer of Teen Connection. Dean Thomas of Educational Television Production of Northeastern Wisconsin and Eileen Littig, NEWIST/CESA #7 are co-producers.

Sula Kim hosts the program and appears courtesy of WBAY-TV/Green Bay.

Toll-free service is provided courtesy of Nsight Long Distance.

Wisconsin Public Television is a service of the Wisconsin Educational Communications Board and University of Wisconsin-Extension.

Wisconsin Public Television is a place to grow through learning on WHA-TV/DT, Madison; WPNE-TV/DT, Green Bay; WHRM-TV/DT, Wausau; WLEF-TV/DT, Park Falls; WHLA-TV/DT, La Crosse; and WHWC-TV/DT, Menomonee-Eau Claire.

ing the responses Phelps usually ignites: Instead of ignoring him outright or mounting counter-protests, they've extended an invite - join them at a forum to hash out the issue.

"We could have people stand on the other side of the street and protest right back, but that doesn't solve anything," said Rob Grayless, who is the regional head of Indiana Equality, which pushes for equal rights for gays.

Phelps told The Journal Gazette he intends to accept the offer.

"We'll accommodate it if it's anywhere near reasonable," Phelps said. "It's just a wonderful way to show the contrast between the truth of God and the abomination of sin."

Phelps' only demands, he said, were that the forum is at a time and place that's convenient and that it have plenty of security to protect his church members.

"Don't talk to me about fags, they're violent beasts," he said.

## FYI

### Family Pride Will Stream Recently-Banned "Postcards from Buster" Episode Online

(Washington, D.C.) - The Family Pride Coalition -- the only national non-profit organization exclusively dedicated to securing equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender parents and their families -- has announced it will broadcast online the "controversial" episode of PBS' popular children's program Postcards from Buster.

The program features Buster, an animated character who visits real-life families, exploring the diversity of America. But in the episode entitled "Sugartime!," a storm of controversy ignited after U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings denounced the program because it featured children whose parents are lesbians.

The Family Pride Coalition will make "Sugartime!" available to all families for one week, from March 7-13 at <http://buster.familypride.org>.

The Family Pride Coalition hopes to raise awareness of the subject matter surrounding the program, while also generating support from the public in defending the dignity and integrity of all families.

In conjunction with the online broadcast, Family Pride will launch a "Virtual Rally" on Thurs., March 10 to defend family diversity around the country. Those interested in participating are urged to contact the Department of Education by phone, e-mail or fax, voicing their disapproval of Secretary Spellings' actions against "Postcards from Buster" and demand she recant her incendiary remarks against LGBT-headed families. To participate in the rally, users can get more information by logging onto <http://buster.familypride.org>.

The controversy began late January when Spellings issued a strongly-worded letter denouncing PBS and the producers of Postcards from Buster for featuring a family with two moms, declaring, "Many parents would not want their young children exposed to the lifestyles portrayed in the episode."

At the center of the debate are the two mothers, Gillian Pieper and Karen Pike, who have become both a target of hate by anti-gay groups, as well as the inspiration for increased activism among LGBT parents across the country.

In a joint statement released by the couple, Pieper and Pike expressed their dismay toward Secretary Spellings' stance, touching on the heart of the issue that has affected their family so personally.

"This issue is not about sexual behavior. This issue is all about the children. All children, from all families, must be made to feel valid and accepted. No child is too young to teach about love and inclusiveness, tolerance and unity. Knowledge is power. Let our kids learn about the world they live in so that they can grow up and believe that America is home to everyone, and not just people who are like themselves," they said.

In addition to streaming the "Sugartime!" episode online, the Family Pride Coalition has also initiated an aggressive advocacy campaign to educate and inform the public about same-sex parenting. Featuring the slogan -- "Love & Hate are four-letter words. Which do you want your child saying?" -- Family Pride has begun a wide-reaching wild posting and postcard campaign designed to make people realize what exactly is at stake in this debate.

The Family Pride Coalition is also producing a public service announcement featuring openly gay U.S. Congressman Barney Frank; openly gay actor, author and father B.D. Wong and others addressing the importance of defending diversity. More information about the Family Pride Coalition can be found on their website at [www.familypride.org](http://www.familypride.org).

## Anti-Gay Phelps to Protest Church Sponsored 'Laramie Project'

By Ross von Metzke

(Fort Wayne, IN) - Fred Phelps Sr., the fiery anti-gay activist who became internationally known when he and his followers picketed the funeral of Matthew Shepard following his anti-gay beating and murder in Wyoming, is taking his "God hates fags" picket signs to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Again, the focus of their protest is Shepard - this time, a four-day run of The Laramie Project, a play based on the aftermath of Shepard's murder.

The protests March 13 are planned for the Lincoln Museum, which rented out its auditorium for the run of the play,

and will include six area churches targeted by Phelps' Westboro Baptist Church, based in Topeka, Kansas. A statement from Phelps and his church calls the six churches sponsoring the play "sodomite warehouses masquerading as churches."

Some of the churches are developing task forces and drawing up contingency plans with the help of the Fort Wayne Police Department. Others plan to ignore the pickets, but police say they are preparing for the protests and will have a presence at every event.

According to the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette, area groups dedicated to diversity and anti-discrimination are not giv-

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# The Bird Man of Milwaukee"... Helping Disabled People Find Companionship and a Purpose

By James Kuchta

James Gardinier, a Pathways participant at Goodwill, Inc. of Milwaukee breeds birds to help other persons with disabilities find companionship. James would like to reach out to the LGBT community and provide birds to other LGBT disabled people in need.

James is currently working on the creation of a not-for-profit agency, which will provide birds to persons with disabilities. Talking to James at his home I discovered how his passion for birds has given him new hope and comfort in helping others.

His story began Four years ago when James was diagnosed with Meniere's disease, which is an extremely rare disease of the inner ear, brain, and nervous system. There is no cure for this disease. James explained "My future seemed bleak, and because of this I became very depressed. I thought my life was over".

Around the time James was diagnosed with Meniere's disease he obtained a bird and then found a mate for his bird. He began to read a number of books on how to breed them and soon they started to have babies. He learned how to hand feed them. This way they would be raised(hand tamed). He then took his baby birds to the pet store, and traded them in for new birds. "It just snow-



balled from there," said James. He now has about 50 birds that are all successfully breeding.

The word got out at Independence First (an organization that helps disabled people with their disabilities) that I bred birds, and many people became interested in them. Since most of those interested are receiving disability benefits and are on a tight budget like himself, he donated some of his baby birds. The interest got bigger and bigger. This has led him to work with, one step at a time, on a non-profit organization to provide birds to people with disabilities. "I try to fit the bird to the person and their disability" James explained. James went on

to explain the criteria that is required to receive a free bird from him. The criteria is simple:

1. The person must show proof of disability.
2. The person must have a cage and be able to afford to maintain the bird (vet expenses, food, etc.)
3. The person must sign an agreement that if they no longer want the bird it would be given back to him.

James does not ask for money for the birds but he does suggest a donation. The donation does not necessarily have to be money. It can be old bird cages

that are no longer being used, bird seed, or anything else that would assist him in keeping this program going. Until now, he has personally funded all the expenses in the program. James would for anyone to contact him if they have anything they would like to donate to help his cause. You can contact him by calling him at 414-353-7940.

One of the people who have benefited from the bird program is a sixteen-year-old boy who has MS. This young man was confined to a wheelchair. He was mad at the whole world for his disease and didn't want to live this way. His mother learned of James' bird program. She called him thinking that he could help her son because he knew first hand what her son is going through. James went to see the boy and told him about his birds and how they had helped him. The boy expressed interest in a parrot. After James showed the boy pictures of the parrot, he said he would like one. The boy learned to hand-feed his baby bird and he was very happy taking care of all the bird's needs. This gave him a purpose again and piqued his interest in birds. James Gardinier has contributed so much to help other disabled people. I would like to encourage anyone that could help James carry on his work to contact him. He is truly an inspiration and someone that Milwaukee's LGBT community should be proud to have as part of the community.

## Religious Right Targets Yet Another Cartoon Icon - Shrek

By Ross von Metzke

First Bert and Ernie saw the wrath of the religious right. Then The Teletubbies felt the burn. And as recently as last month, Spongebob Squarepants endured accusations over the title character's sexual activity.

Now, that giant green ogre Shrek is in the line of fire as members of the Traditional Values Coalition are warning parents about cross-dressing and transgender themes that run throughout the movie.

In the film Shrek 2, now on DVD, the Coalition claims in its article that an "evil bartender (voiced by Larry King) who is a male-to-female transgender in transition expresses and interest in Prince Charming." The coalition claims the movie disguises itself as family entertainment but is packed with subtle sexual messages.

In another scene, Shrek and Donkey are rescued from a dungeon with the help of Pinocchio's nose, which is extended as a bridge after he lies, saying he's not wearing ladies underwear.

The TVC report, 'A Gender Identity Disorder Goes Mainstream', is attack-



ing DreamWorks Entertainment for helping to promote crossdressing and transgenderism.

But Charles Keil, a film studies professor at the University of Toronto, says transgendered groups might also have reason to complain about being parodied.

"You have an image within a comic context that could be read either way," says Keil, who adds quickly that such humor is designed for parents and goes way above the heads of the children in the audience.

"If the kids don't get it, it doesn't really matter."

Keil says the whole idea behind the Shrek movies is a general message of tolerance - that outward appearances don't matter and that it's what's underneath that counts - and such complaints defeat that larger, more important message.

"Targeting minuscule elements within a much larger work and then trying to extract from that some kind of argument that borders on the paranoid is really misconstruing the general aim of this entertainment."



# Cordially Yours

By Michael Johnston

And a cordial St. Patrick's Day to one and all...

I always look forward to the wearing of the green, for Spring truly is just around the corner.

Every place in town is observing this mid-March madness but the place to be is The Ball Game. Not only will they be celebrating the obvious, that's a given but it's their 34th Birthday! Just recently The Ball Game's very own David Fraye celebrated birthday number 60! OLE Tortilla Flats! Heartiest congratulations on this very special month for this very special establishment!

It also happens to be Spring Break! I am soooo removed from the collegiate life that I almost forgot! Craig and the fellows of Switch are pulling out all the plugs - ouch to throw quite the bacchanals. "Full Moon Beach Party" Friday, March 25 featuring a "Spring Break Swim Suit Contest"! Prizes for hottest the swim suit, Specials for those donning their wears.

A "New Moon Black Out Party" is in the offing on Friday, April 8th! I guess Friday is the night to Switch to Switch! The party on Fridays at Switch always begins at 5:00 PM (CST)

I've been looking forward to my adventure in the Windy City, and it finally happened. Yes, a weekend 90 miles away, can really break up those Winter's blues. Nothing like hopping the Amtrak, meeting friends Andy Cicero, Claudia and JoAnne for a mission at a museum. The Field Museum has been hosting "Jacqueline Kennedy: The White House Years" now through May. A marvelous walk down haute couture lane. Starting with the Presidential Campaign of '59 and taking us to November 1963 at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. There has been no one like her before or since. For the shallow -- the visual was seductive. But beyond - her youth, pedigree and sense of style the Mistress of Camelot did more for detente than hem lines and pill box hats.

You can feel America's innocence, hope and idealistic dreams - The First Lady and our Country were on the same course of history. My memories from my youth were of the mire of Watergate - so the fantasy of what was is even more fascinating. If you are a fan of fashion, history, politics, the American condition ... it is all waiting for you at The Field Museum.

Of course, in Chicago you must shop -- so to the State Street Marshall Field's. There on the 7th floor, you will find a remarkable replica of Jacqueline's wedding gown to J.F.K. My dear friend and former Milwaukee Dan Pionke was responsible for this bridal salute.

While we here in Milwaukee have quite the reputation for fine food, Chicago never ceases to impress me. Dinner, keeping in the grand scheme of things was at Frontera Topolobampo Frontera Grill 445 North Clark Street. Rick Bayless, proprietor you know him from his

popular PBS cooking show on Saturday afternoons provided a supper I will never forget. Oliver Comacho, an Opera tenor - who just happens to be a server complimented our extraordinary Chefs Tasting Dinner. I highly recommend this outrageous orgasm of the palate. The thrill of the feast was having Mr. Bayless acknowledge our table and receive his well earned laurels. Next time hopefully Oliver will grace us with a bit of an aria.

Our home away from home was the magnificent Millennium Hotel, nee The Knickerbocker. This establishment made for an exquisite place to repair, tops in boutique hotels.

Closer to home - The Stackner Cabaret is offering "Lana Mae's Honky-Tonk Laundry." While it's not the designs of Oleg Cassini - it does offer the design for laughter. This "Horse Opera" plays through Sunday, March 20. What a terrific tribute to Loretta, Patsy, Tammy and the music of Dolly. The western theme continues on Friday, March 25 with "Chaps." No, not to be confused with Ralph Lauren's fragrance. This vehicle continues the C&W mood through the eyes of our Friends across "The Big Pond."

STD Specialties Clinic, Inc. 3251 North Holton Street is making their presence known. There I was celebrating five years of Boom, when Todd and Mark two very amiable reps and RNs of the clinic were offering HIV/Ora Quick Test. Even though I didn't study - I did take their test. What professionals! Every Saturday 9am - 12 Noon is Gay and Bisexual men ONLY! No fee for services. Donations. Feel free to call -- (414) 264-8800. - Diagnosis and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Diseases - HIV / AIDS Counseling and Testing - Early Intervention HIV / AIDS Healthcare

On to something a little cheerier -- Boom's 5th Anniversary Party was as smashing as the club itself. The fun I had commemorating and reminiscing with Financial Wizard Chris Francis, Real Estate Magnet Bill Lison, Miller's very own Henrik Christensen - now in Philly, all of us enjoying not only Boom - but the Room. It never fails, the countless favorable comments on the flawless mural. The art work was expertly executed by Peter Loomans and his decorative painting service. To engage Mr. Loomans to make a Masterpiece for you call (414) 614-5588 or e-mail him at: ploomans@aol.com Murals, Faux Finishes, Design Consultation -- Artistry and Craftsmanship -- bar none!

The 2005 Wisconsin Leather Daddy/Daddy Boy Contest is scheduled for the weekend of April 8 & 9. Green Bay is the locale as always and your hot hosts will be The Argonauts. Rumor has a certain former Title-Holder will be seeking the Sash ...

ARCW's grand fund raiser The Make A Promise Dinner will be taking place Saturday, April 9. I am very excited about

the new venue: The Milwaukee Art Museum/The Calatrava. Become a statement of art yourself and attend! That same evening Singsational Productions will be gracing The M's, providing you the chance to be a "Milwaukee Idol!" Boom/The Room always acknowledges this special ARCW evening, so you will want to stop by and sip a bit there as well.

The Counseling Center Of Milwaukee, Inc. will be holding their "TCCM 2005 Annual Event Celebrating Success, Hand In Hand." Friday, April 15 - Tax Day The Milwaukee Public Museum. The evening will provide you the opportunity to peruse the Nationally Acclaimed Pearls Exhibit. The jewels that graced Audrey Hepburn in "Breakfast At Tiffany's", Marilyn Monroe's strand of pearls, the accessories of CoCo Chanel and much more! Food, Silent and Live Auction, Raffle Prizes and Surprises. Remember the world is your oyster...

The next day is Mil-M-AIDS The 20th Anniversary! Saturday, April 16. Salute the great work of BoBo, Candy, Deb and Cindy O. by hitting the lanes and striking up the afternoon. AMF Bowlero \$25. Per Person. This Bowling Benefit aids the AIDS Services in both Milwaukee and Madison. To be apart of history call Debi/Cindy O. (414)328-3636 Or Bob/Rick at (414)881-8071. By-the-by Friday is RitaBowl, even though it is sold-out, half the fun is watching! Come and cheer!

The Waukesha Technical College will be offering their "17th Annual Wine Tasting - 2005 A Vintage Affair." Tuesday, April 19 4 PM - 8 PM The Country Springs Hotel - Pewaukee. \$30. will be your entrance fee into an unforgettable night of sampling wines from around the world and noshing on tasty treats from 20 restaurants. The long term goal your investment in the careers of the culinary students of WCTC. Personally, I have done this benefit without fail for ions and it is a glass raising, toast worthy time! I can't wait to taste, clink and catch up with: Tim & Michael, Donna, Jay, Dr. Ted, Debbie & Gary, Tim & Gayle, Lynn & Phil, Adrienne & Jeff, Carol Ann & Bruce, Mick, Ellen & Dale (watch the corks - you could put an eye out) and all the others who enjoy a little of the grape. For more information/reservation, Please call: (262) 691-5215

My friends of The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Ltd. will be boards-bound once again in "The Road To Freedom" Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church 2366 North 80th Street Wauwatosa Saturday, April 23 7:30 PM Paula Foley Tillen, Conductor \$12. in advance, \$15. at the door. Tickets available through Chorus Members, OutWord Books, and by contacting the Chorus Office (414) 276-8787 This Concert will include American Sign Language, Guest Performers.

Ray Schaefer - Vice President of Men's Voices Milwaukee (MVM) celebrated his Golden B-Day - first rate at The M&M Club. The dazzling Joyce Brevan returned after far too long an absence on the keyboard. Complimenting her one-woman show was two outstanding piano men themselves - Mark Luko AKA Trixie - who you can enjoy every Monday Cocktail Hour and Tony tickling the ivories with his original jazzy under tones to everyone's amaze-

ment. Peter, ChiChi, Rona and Rita worked overtime making sure we all were refreshed with the longest open bar -- ever! Turning out to salute Der Baer on his majestic milestone was: Many dashing Men from MVM, Stardust Advertising superstar Bonnie, Charlotte Lorraine, Princess Debbie, Michael Jonas, David "Bossa Nova" Howser, Cousin Patty, Marie, Jerry, Jeff L., Gary, Tony, Chuck, Chad, Keith, Mark & Todd, Craig - the special Boy from Oz, who honestly added quite a lot to my night and ego -- it was almost like Christmas! A capacity crowd of well wishers cheering on the "Man of the Hour." Danka Schoen!

Tony R. gave quite the soiree! I am still in awe of his palatial pied de terre. His home has graced many a publication displaying all the do's to making your abode as awesome! If this column would ever go to TV - I would want to tape it there!

Bjorn Nasett nee B.J. Daniels, now creating much beauty at Beauty, is one of 17 Milwaukeeans sharing "Life Lessons" in M-Magazine - March. (Milwaukee's Lifestyle Magazine Page 60)

The Gay Olympics will be taking place in Chicago - the Summer of 2006. Suzie Arnold, former Milwaukeean is a Director! Lots of fun events are in the offing -- as we prove the warmth of the Midwest...

In the it is never too early to plan department -- Camp Heartland's perennial favorite fund raiser "Dining Out For Life" is scheduled for Thursday, June 9th. More than 100 restaurants will participate and donate 25% of the days proceeds to Camp Heartland. New this year: "Milwaukee On The Rocks" area bars and clubs get in on the action and donate too! So, eat, drink and be Mary!

John McGivern and "Sheer Madness" will be returning by popular demand to Vogel Hall this Spring. Nothing gets our suburban theater fans into the city faster than when Mr. McGivern cuts-up in this hair raising adventure. Every performance is different -- you never know how it's going to end...

The "Hot Spot" for The Oscar's this year was Mark Horan's house. So hot in fact, the Fire Department was the special guests. Alas, no one was injured and a remodeling will be taking place this Spring.

Keep a positive thought out there for one of BrewTown's favorite girls of song, Passion Patty. The Singsational Siren has been fighting quite the battle the last few months. I can't wait for her return to serenading us into the night, like she did last June for my B-Day.

Happy to report Scott S. Stewart, the Master of The Florentine Opera Chorus, is up and about after a temporary set back. The Florentine's production of "Cinderella" in March was phenomenal and I can't wait for "La Boheme" in May! "Rent" Fans take note -- this is where your favorite opus originated.

Remember it's the Glamour - NOT the Grammar! Sorry, for the repeated paragraph and missing intro. to Rona's Party in last time's installment, blame it on these confounding computers!

Hopefully you will read me next month as I remain,

STILL Cordially Yours

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Thank you for supporting IGBO Milwaukee 2005!



# ARCW WELCOMES SECOND NURSE PRACTITIONER WINSOME PANTON

Milwaukee, March 9, 2005 - Nurse Practitioner Winsome Panton has moved her practice to the rapidly expanding AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Medical Clinic, starting March 7.

Panton joins a medical staff of 8 professionals, including ARCW Infectious Disease Physician David Fisk, M.D., Nurse Practitioner Sharon O'Dwyer, and Registered Nurses Marilyn Ottum and Sara Freedman.

Panton received a BSN and an MSN from Marquette University and is an HIV-experienced Nurse Practitioner with seven years of nursing experience. Panton praised the breadth of ARCW's wrap-around services.

"HIV care cannot take place in isolation," said Pantan. "A team approach is important and ARCW's multidisciplinary approach is a model of care that gives patients access to mental health services, dental care, housing, a food pantry and other services. Some of these basic needs have to be met before patients will engage in and be successful with medical care."

Panton most recently practiced at Aurora's Positive Health Clinic, which is slated to close in mid-April. Panton is transferring her practice to the ARCW Medical Clinic, which now serves more than 400 patients. With the closure of the Positive Health Clinic and Pantan coming to ARCW, the ARCW Medical

Clinic is experiencing a surge in female patients as nearly half of Aurora's patients were women. To date, 65% of Aurora's former patients who are newly enrolled at ARCW are women.

"Many female patients feel more comfortable with a female provider and HIV is no different in this respect," said Pantan. "I am committed to working with women to overcome the barriers they face which might be economic, social or emotional so that they are engaged in medical care. I have experience taking care of women with HIV as well as pregnant HIV patients and I look forward to continuing my practice at ARCW."

With this new growth in staff and patients, the ARCW Medical Clinic has become the largest HIV clinic in the Milwaukee area. To accommodate this growing patient load, ARCW will be hiring a second infectious disease physician and building out a fourth exam room.

Panton said she's looking forward to continuing to serve HIV patients through her practice at ARCW.

"I like the constant challenge of the disease and the idea that there is always something new on the horizon giving hope to patients living with the disease," said Pantan.

## 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://norm.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** (Waukesha 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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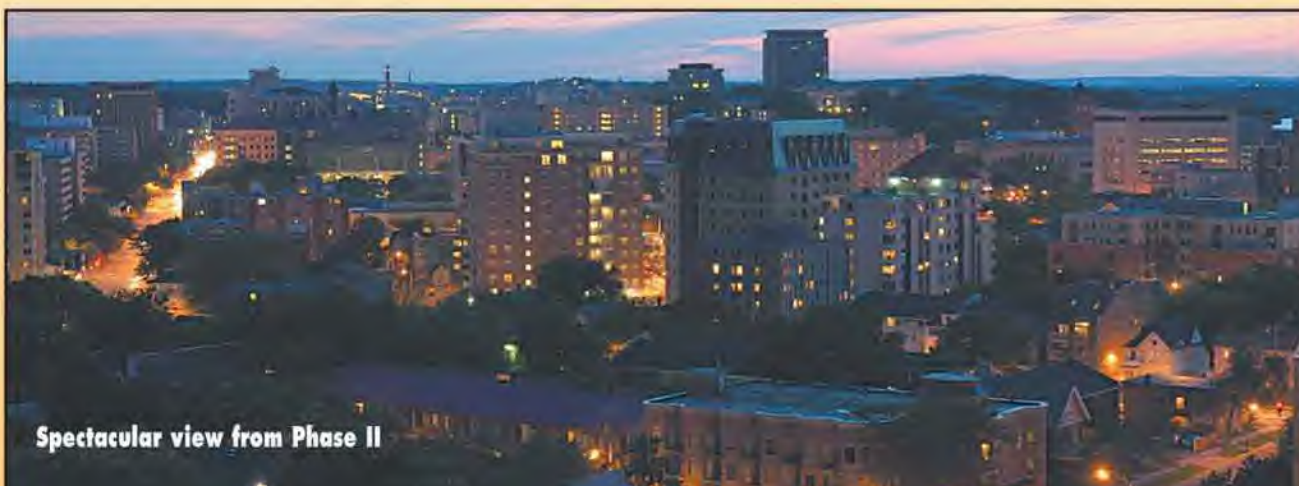
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