

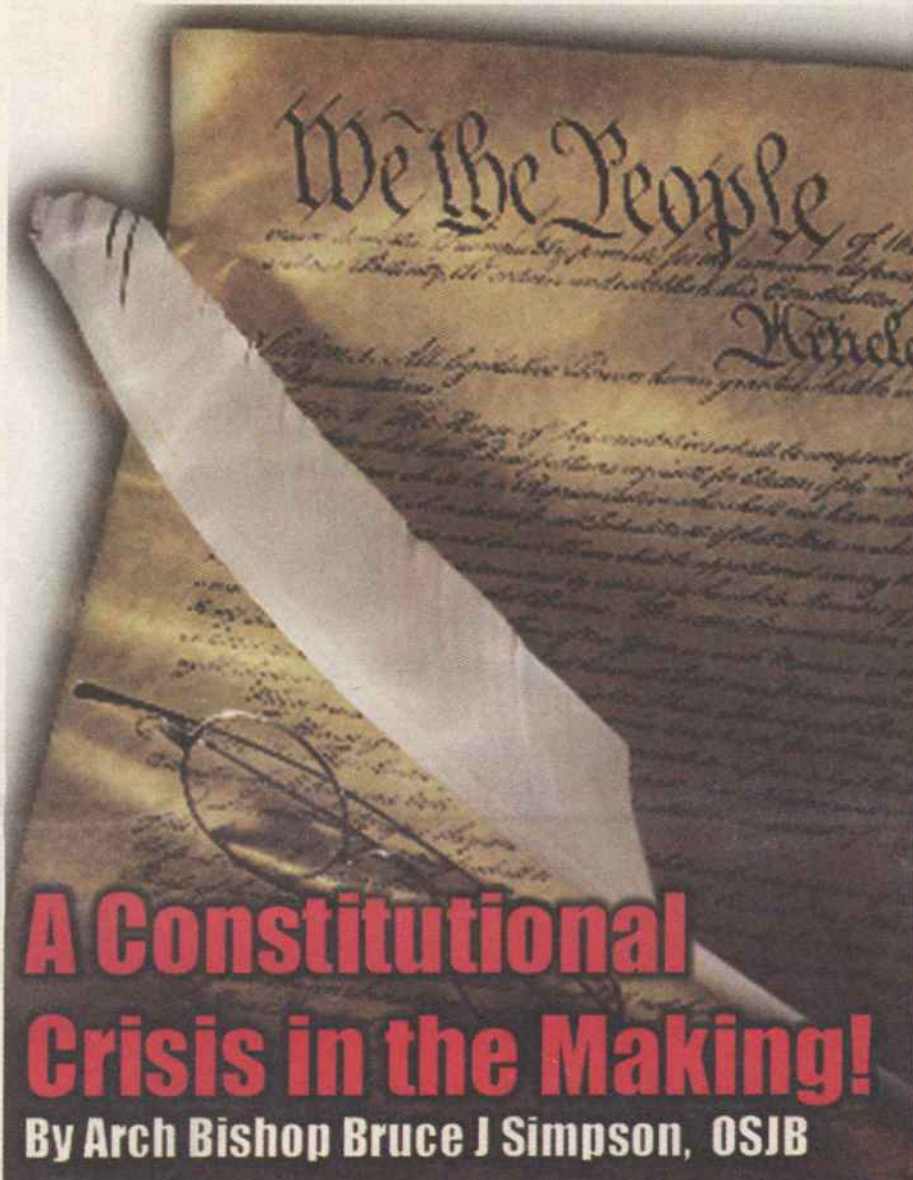
OUTBOUND NEWS

Wisconsin's LGBT News Source

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

WWW.OUTBOUNDNEWS.COM

MAY 15, 2005



A Constitutional Crisis in the Making!

By Arch Bishop Bruce J Simpson, OSJB

An all too apparent trend has developed in the United States over the last five years which when examined closely leads one to conclude that the Constitution of the United States is under full frontal assault by forces opposed to freedom

and to the ideals this country was founded upon. Religion plays a large part in this current condition of America.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay is under investigation for multiple ethics violations involving overseas travel and ties to lobbyists. Last year

the House Ethics Committee voted three times to admonish DeLay for his role in illegal fundraising related to a redistricting plan that DeLay helped push through the Texas legislature. A civil law suit is underway against the political action committee begun by DeLay for improperly spending around \$600,000 in corporate contributions to implement the redistricting and thus unseating the democratic office holders in those districts.

The Republican House leadership responded to DeLay's legal and ethics problems by circling the wagons by changing rules and putting the ethics committee under their thumbs. Membership on the committee saw an increase in friends of DeLay and Dennis Hastert, the Speaker of the House. By doing this, they hope to derail any further actions aimed at either DeLay or any other Republican.

In fact, one of the new members of the ethics committee was previously a co-host of the 2002 fundraising breakfast that fed money into the same political action committee that is currently the subject of a grand jury investigation in Texas. The substance of the investigation is whether or not the committee improperly used corporate funds to affect the outcome of the state legislative races. Further reports indicate that two other members of the Ethics committee have made donations to DeLay's legal defense fund. Obviously, any real purpose to this committee has since evaporated, at least in appearance if not in fact.

DeLay continues to answer the charges that have been lodged against him by classifying them as political attacks instigated by the Democrats. Conflicts between the two parties have led to an ethics

committee that can no longer function as it cannot agree on operational rules.

Recently much of the United States watched in disbelief when Congress lead by the Republican leadership passed a bill to allow Federal Courts to intervene in the Terry Schiavo case. To begin with, DeLay had the unmitigated gall to state, "God has brought to us Terri Schiavo to elevate the visibility of what's going on in America." This perverted sense of the culture of life that is espoused by these men, is at the center of their most recent cultural skirmish. The Congress and President can write and pass a law and get it signed on two days notice to interfere in a private family matter, while at the same time defend executions by the State and loudly complain about the Supreme Court decision to limit executions to adults who are mentally sound. The reason for this conflict on the philosophy of life is that in both cases, the issues appeal to the republican base: the fundamentalist conservative Christian element of the electorate. This is why George Bush who ran an execution mill as Governor of Texas has no problem with his position on Mrs. Schiavo.

The issue of conservative Christian beliefs is at the very core of all that is transpiring now in the Congress of the United States as well as the White House. God is brought up more now in these political institutions than he is in some churches. The line of separation between Church and State is gone. No longer is there any pretense that one's personal faith is separate and apart from their obligations as elected officials. They wear God on their sleeves and have attempted to mold God into their own image.

A Constitutional Crisis - page 18

Remaking Taylor Dane

By Ross von Metzke



All anybody needs to do is speak the name Taylor Dane and nearly every guy I know can bust into the chorus of one of her countless catchy hits. Whether its "Tell it to My Heart" or "Love Will Lead You Back", "Don't Rush Me" or

"With Every Beat of My Heart", for five priceless years, Taylor Dane was a queen atop the dance/pop throne.

Taylor Dane - page 10

27th Annual International Mr. Leather

CHICAGO (April 14, 2005) - The world's hottest leathersmen will once again come together to compete for the title of International Mr. Leather, Thursday, May 26 through Monday, May 30, 2005 (Memorial Day Weekend) in Chicago at Chicago's Navy Pier, Grand Ballroom, 600 E. Grand Ave. Also, the 2005 competition will begin at 5 p.m., 90 minutes earlier than previous years. The Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker Drive, is the official host hotel for IML 2005.

This year, IML is changing its annual Salute! Party to create an official Clos-

ing Ceremonies celebration following the Contest at the host hotel. This new event will include a special "parade of colors," celebrating leather clubs from around the globe. Clubs worldwide are invited to send a representative for what organizers hope will be the largest color presentation ever! Club representatives should sign-up at the IML Registration Desk by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 29. The

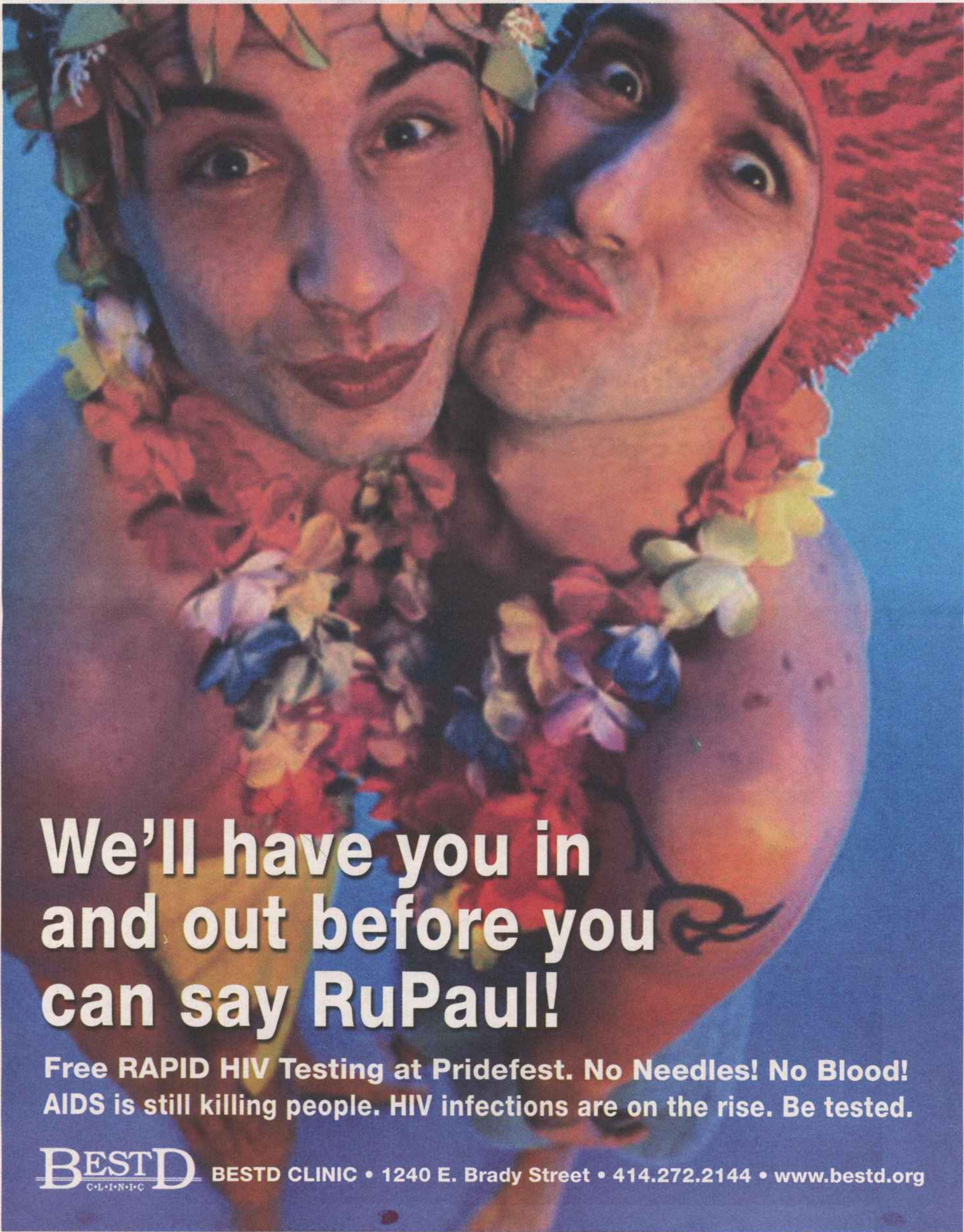


new Closing Ceremonies will also include a special new IML tradition, to be revealed the night of Opening Ceremonies.

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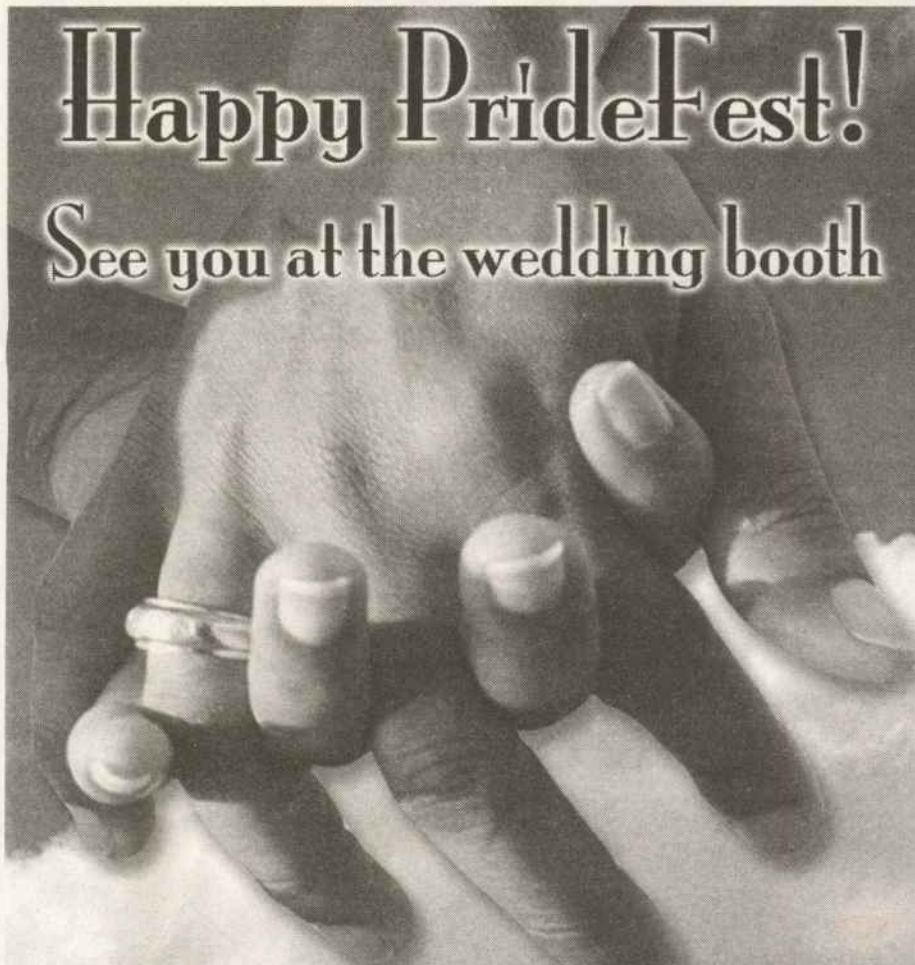
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Female-Owned Adult Toy Store Takes a Unique Approach



By Shelby Eks

The Tool Shed, located at 804 East Center Street, opened Dec. 18, 2004. This female-owned adult store, co-owned by Molly Cassidy and Eilis O' Herlihy, is an innovative edition to the Milwaukee scene.

The Tool Shed is unlike any other adult store in the area. Items intertwine inside the well-lit store amongst real tools and related decor, adding comfort to the colorful atmosphere.

Fresh flowers decorate displays, along with white walls and hardwood floors to add tranquility. O' Herlihy invites men and women to enjoy the shop, and encourages partners to visit together.

Basic necessities, such as condoms and lubricant are available along with more risqué products, including vibrating pleasure enhancers for both sexes.

An array of condoms are available within a unique display, much like a wooden tool holder. Small drawers are filled with various condoms, ranging from Trojan, Durex, Life-styles, and many more to accommodate any safe sex advocate.

Ginger tea, water, and suckers are available to all guests. An e-mailing list is also available, in which fans may join.

Consumers have the opportunity to witness the power behind popular vibrating toys the store carries hands-on. The size, shape, and settings of such toys are observed before purchasing an item and being unable to return it. This eliminates anxieties some may have when purchasing their first sex toy.

An array of items are developed by the Kama Sutra Company. The Tool Shed

not only carries these products, but has free material, "How to Make Love Better," for those interested in reading up on current and future products.

The number of toys is not coincidental.

O' Herlihy states, "We wanted a sex toy store versus video. There are plenty of stores with videos."

In place of adult videos, books are available, including those for the LGBT Community. Several books feature lesbian erotica.

Less common glass products are also available.

The Tool Shed receives glass products from Molten Sex Products. Glass toys are made from 100% pyrex glass and are within a case display, encircled by magenta Christmas lights.

Other items, which are less sexual, are by Chew Blue Q Gum. Fostered flavors such as "Make Out Gum," "Does this Gum Make My Ass Look Big?," and "Kiss Me," gum could make for excel-

lent attachment gifts. Funny magnets, books, and post cards with a sexual touch could also give a loved one a laugh.

The atmosphere created by The Tool Shed is professional and classy. Clients should feel welcome while surrounded by wild flowers and other classical tools,

adding to the tool shed motif. Gift bags are free if purchasing a gift for a friend or loved one.

The Tool Shed's hours are Tues.-Sat. noon to 7 p.m. and Sun. noon to 5 p.m. For more information on The Tool Shed call (414) 562-9338 or visit their website: www.toolshedtoys.yahoo.com.

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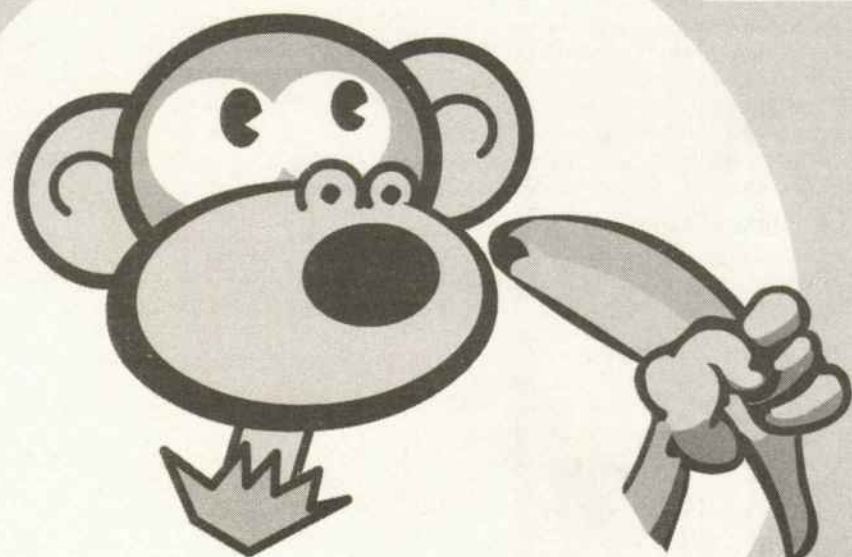
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The Butch/Femme Dynamic

by Peggy Papez

Ok. You're a lesbian. Welcome to the club. Now for the next step in the drama of coming out. What kind of lesbian are you? More importantly what kind of lesbian do you want to eventually partner with?

You're interested in a butch/femme relationship?? You don't say??? Really????

Well dear, sit back and enjoy the ride ... it's a bumpy one.

What does it mean to be butch or femme?

The unacknowledged but quietly worshipped, invisible scale of butch to femme really depends more on how you view yourself than how others view you. But, everyone needs a label, or so the lesbian agenda tells me.

Femmes range from being very feminine and ladylike to being more in the middle of the road in terms of appearance and behaviour but still displaying marked feminine characteristics.

Butches display more masculine characteristics. Attitudes range from a moderate approach in both manner and appearance (soft butch) to an outlook very much on par with male behaviour.

Most lesbians tend to fall somewhere in the middle and don't particularly identify as either butch or femme.

What is a butch/femme relationship?

Simply put, it's a relationship where one partner is feminine in her actions and appearance and the other has a more masculine look and behaviour.

There really isn't much more than that to define it. One will self-identify as Femme and the other Butch. Where they actually fall on the 'scale' is secondary.

So what's the big deal?

The big deal tends to focus on those women visibly perched at the farther ends of the butch - femme spectrum.

Femmes enjoy the dulcet screeches of, **'If you want a woman who looks like a man, then why don't you just go back to men?'**

Butches hear the ever-present urgings of well-wishers to just, **"Go have the surgery already."**

As a butch, the closer to the middle of that above mentioned and still invisible scale you fall, the less likely you are to have to deal with criticisms. It seems that being butch is reason enough to seek relationships with femmes and it's

pretty much 'expected' of us. Besides, we're butch and everyone knows that puts us one step above a cave dwelling troglodyte and no one wants to piss off the cave dweller.

Femmes however seem to get a double dose because there is always someone around who is willing to spend hours in splendid oratory explaining to the newest 'sister' how butches are cave dwelling troglodytes and are best avoided for fear of tarnishing the image of status quo lesbians everywhere. If they should then go against the lesbian agenda and actually date a butch, she has backslid and is only dating the butch because she secretly wants a man.

Is the Butch/Femme dynamic normal? Yes!!!!

In the exact same way that homosexuality is normal but not common, so is a butch/femme attraction. Just as you chose to accept yourself as a lesbian, you need to accept your interest in a butch/femme relationship. Rather than feeling bad after a 'friends' criticism, you need to explain to that friend the standards of individuality and tolerance

Gay or straight, we all have a "type" that interests and attracts us more than others. We may base this on arbitrary things like a preference for blonds or better yet, breasts. We may base it on a specific agenda ranging anywhere from similar interests to prejudicial issues.

Either way, we all have something we look for in a partner. Just because your preference is not acceptable to card carrying lesbians is no reason to keep yourself from the chance of a fulfilling relationship.

What's it like?

It's like any other relationship. There are no rules and no set expectations.

Some couples live a very (stereo)typical butch/femme lifestyle where the butch is the breadwinner and the femme is the homemaker. Others share a lifestyle that is exactly the same as any other politically correct lesbian couple, with the workload being shared equally across the board.

Outwardly, you are a couple in which one partner is butch and the other femme. Beyond that, it is no ones business but your own. It is as individual as any other relationship and how you and your partner interact is just as private, valid and deserving of respect.

their families through a program of litigation, public policy advocacy, free legal advice and counseling, and public education. In addition, NCLR provides representation and resources to gay men, and bisexual and transgender individuals on key issues that also significantly advance lesbian rights. It's time to party for a great cause!

EVENT SCHEDULE:

Thursday June 2nd 2005

BURLESQUE: 9pm to 2am @ Pulse Nightclub 1912 South Orange Avenue, Orlando

We kick off the festivities with a bang as we take over one of Orlando's trendiest nightlife destinations, Pulse Nightclub. Enjoy three rooms of seductive fun as the ladies of Orlando come out to welcome women from around the globe. Join us in the Jewel Box as our celebrity DJ spins a variety of retro, brit pop, funk and freestyle while the sexiest dancers from South Beach and New York City hypnotize you with a special burlesque strip tease. Join the girls of Muffy Rout in the garden terrace for fun games and prizes for everyone. Hit the Adonis room if you can... for a visual experience featuring very naughty go-go girls and a special appearance by our Penthouse Centerfold host.

\$10 Cover, Sponsored by: Muffy Rout and Penthouse Magazine, shuttle service available to and from the host hotel.

Friday June 3rd 2005

Curve Magazine Women's Welcome Reception: 5pm to 7pm @ Marriott Courtyard; Located at Marriott Village 8623 Vineland Avenue, Lake Buena Vista

Check out the action at the Women's Host Hotel and enjoy this fun filled jump-start to the weekend. Live women's music, drink specials, hors d'oeuvres and giveaways are just a glimpse of the fun. Get information on all the parties, pick up cool party gear and meet the girls from the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Curve Magazine. FREE, Sponsored by: Curve Magazine and NCLR.

Friday June 3rd 2005

CLIMAX: 8pm to 2am @ Matrix Nightclub; Located at: Pointe Orlando 1901 International Drive, Orlando; Presented by Alison Burgos, Pandora Events and Phish Phest

Jump into the future as we take over this 15,000 square foot state-of-the-art mega dance club. DJ Kimberly S. [Dinah Shore, Girl Bar] direct from L.A. will take you to another galaxy on the turntables alongside DJ Kim Dazy from NYC [Henrietta Hudson's]. Hosted by South Florida radio and television diva: "Your Girlfriend" Fay Carmona. \$15 in advance / \$20 at the door, shuttle service available to and from the host hotel.

Saturday June 4th 2005

Splash Bash Pool Party: Noon - 5pm, Marriott Village at Lake Buena Vista 8623 Vineland Avenue

Get wet at the first of our two sun-drenched pool parties. Hit the deck at the luxurious Marriott Courtyard pool and tropical terrace for a fun day of frolicking, cocktails and music. Featuring a sexy blend of hot sounds by DJ PRIDE [aqua girl, white party] and DJ Rae Rae playing R&B and hip hop, sexy bikini clad go-go girls, live musical performances, drinks specials, games and

giveaways. \$10 at the door- or free for Girls in Wonderland hotel guest

Saturday- June 4th, 2005

GIRLS IN WONDERLAND 5 @ HOUSE OF BLUES: 9pm to 3am; Located @ Downtown Disney 1490 E. Buena Vista Dr., Lake Buena Vista

In just five short years this event has become legendary across the country. Join us as we celebrate the five year anniversary of Girls in Wonderland. Over 2,300 women will converge upon this eclectic and funky multi-level state of the art venue filled with energy and hip style. Just a taste of what this memorable night will include: DJ Pride [Aqua Girl, White Party, Shescape] and DJ Pat Pat [105.5 The Beat], special celebrity guest appearances, seductive go-go girls galore, She King performance and two spectacular Vegas style shows. You will also enjoy the best in live women's music on both the patio and outdoor terrace all night. Upstairs will also feature an intimate lounge area just for VIP pass holders. TICKETS: \$25 in advance / \$30 at the door / \$65 VIP ticket. Shuttle service available to and from the host hotel.

Sunday June 5th 2005

WONDERLAND Pool Bash: Noon to 5pm; Marriott Village at Lake Buena Vista 8623 Vineland Avenue

The girls are taking over with this tropical themed romp! Join your celebrity host, for the ultimate pool party, filled with mega surprises. DJs Kim Dazy [NYC] and DJ Pat Pat [Tampa] on the turntables, steamy bikini clad go-go girls, drinks specials and the oh-so-infamous Bikini Contest. Browse our vendor fair poolside, win great prizes and giveaways all day including exciting gifts and memorabilia from (The L Word, Olivia Cruises, She, Curve, Muffy Rout, Toys in Babeland, Damron, Wolfe Video and more). \$10 at the door- or free for Girls in Wonderland hotel guest.

Sunday, June 6th 2005

She Rock featuring HALCYON LIVE IN CONCERT: 6pm to 10pm

After partying all day poolside, we invite you to join us as we pump up the volume with a rockin' concert featuring Florida's favorite girl duo with an exclusive performance. \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Sponsors for Girls In Wonderland and Girls Gay Day Weekend: Absolut, Bud Light, Miami Boutique Hotels, Orbitz, Muffy Rout, Gayday.com, Go NYC Magazine, She Magazine, Damron, Lesbianation, Phish Phest, Just Circuit.com, Mark Baker Presents, House of Blues, Olivia Travel.

Promotional Partners: Ultra Events, Flirt-Tampa, Sisters-Philadelphia, Girl Power-Provincetown, Henrietta Hudsons-NYC, Shescape-NYC, Flygirl Productions-Vancouver, SWARA-Atlanta.

Yesi Leon, Co-founder of Pandora Events and Alison Burgos Co-Founder of Ultra Events have been featured in local, regional and national publications, radio and television for events they have produced benefiting such organizations as Care Resource, LLEGO, Miami Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, NCLR, RAINN and the Women's Alliance. For more information on Girls Gay Days Orlando 2005, visit www.girlsinwonderland.com www.nclrights.org

Girls Gay Days Orlando 2005

(Miami, Florida) Alison Burgos in association with Yesi Leon and Amy Alonso of Pandora Events are handing you a passport. Gay Days is celebrating a fifteen year anniversary. Complete with the best you can expect as far as amazing women's events, 2005 will be a magical trip. Burgos and her team invite you to jump on the bandwagon.

They've put together a remarkable array of surprises. Girls Gay Days Orlando

2005 promises to be a weekend to remember. Complete with spectacular shows, incredible music, fabulous dance parties, theme parks and yes thousands of women, from June 2nd through 6th 2005 it's all about fun!

The weekend's proceeds will benefit the National Center for Lesbian Rights. NCLR is a national legal resource center with a primary commitment to advancing the rights and safety of lesbians and

Lesbian Foster Mother Takes on State of Missouri

By Ross von Metzke

(Kansas City, MO) - A Missouri lesbian who has devoted her life to working with children is fighting a state policy barring lesbian and gay people from serving as foster parents.

Lisa Johnston, who is represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, brought a challenge to the law in state court last week after an administrative judge, who found her to be otherwise "exceptionally qualified" to be a foster parent, denied her application solely because she is a lesbian.

"The state of Missouri has nearly 2,000 foster children in need of permanent homes," Lisa Johnston said in a statement from the ACLU. "It's unfair to deprive these children of the future they deserve simply to condemn lesbian and gay people. By coming forward with my story, I hope I can educate Missourians on why this policy harms the many children in need of good homes."

Johnston, 40, is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a degree in Human Development and Family with a special emphasis on child development. In her current job with Head Start, she consults with childcare homes on developmentally appropriate curricula.

Before this, Johnston worked for The Children's Place as a lead teacher, working with neglected and abused infants. She also previously worked for Head Start, helping to prepare underprivileged children to enter school.

In 2003, Johnston applied to the Department of Social Services to become a foster parent to a child that she and her partner, Dawn Roginski, hoped to raise together. Like Johnston, Roginski, also 40, works with children. Roginski holds a master's degree in counseling from St. Mary's University and a master's degree

in divinity from Luther Seminary. She is currently a chaplain at a psychiatric treatment center for children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders.

After applying to become foster parents, the couple underwent an extensive home study and then began attending a training program for prospective foster parents. After completing seven of the nine training sessions, DSS notified Johnston that it would no longer consider her for placement solely because she is a lesbian.

As required under state law, Johnston appealed the decision through the DSS administrative appeals process. Although the administrative judge concluded Johnston was a qualified candidate, he denied her application in March 2005 solely because of her sexual orientation.

According to the ACLU, the decision was based in part on Missouri law that banned sexual intimacy between same-sex couples that was rendered unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

In April, the ACLU filed a petition in the Jackson County Circuit Court on Johnston's behalf asking the court to review the order from DSS. The ACLU charges that DSS's decision banning Johnston from foster parenting is illegal.

"DSS is wrong about gay people and their ability to parent, and this is preventing Missouri's foster children from finding permanent homes," said Lisa Brunner, attorney for Johnston and volunteer attorney for the ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri. "This decision is not only unlawful, it goes against the recommendations of every major child welfare organization in the country."

Online Community for African-American Lesbians

(Washington, D.C.) - The Mautner Project, the National Lesbian Health Organization has announced the launch of SHEcircle.org. The new website is dedicated to Black lesbians and features an online "village" that will encourage and support them on their personal journey to healthy living and disease prevention.

Based on the principle of Ujima - "collective work and responsibility to build and maintain our community together," www.SHEcircle.org is a "virtual" community for Black lesbians and bi-sexual women that aims to energize and engage them.

"We get hit on all sides. For Black lesbians, the confluence of race, gender, and sexual orientation can create powerful barriers to accessing quality healthcare and attaining a healthy lifestyle," said Amari Sokoya Pearson-Fields, MPH, Deputy Director of the Mautner Project and Director of S.H.E. Circle.

"This website is a place is for us - that was created by us. By coming together we will be able to share information, resources and hopefully create the kind

of mutual support necessary to break down these barriers that so negatively impact our health."

The shecircle.org site provides a forum for Black lesbians and bi-sexual women to meet in "Talk Circles." The "Talk Circles" will provide a safe space for lesbians of color to share, learn, and ask questions about health issues on every topic from cancer, depression, smoking, to nutrition and fitness. More culturally specific topics such as coming out and living a spiritually grounded and healthy life are also included on the website.

The online community is part of a larger program aimed at improving the health status of African American lesbians across the country. A Program Kit of information on starting a S.H.E. Circle will be available on the website next year. S.H.E. Circle and www.SHEcircle.org are based on data collected from the Black Women 2 Women Spirit Health Study. The program is the first ever national health education program focused on African American women who partner with women.

Cooking for Kitchen Illiterate Butches

By Peggy Papez

She's gorgeous. What's better, she thinks you're great. You invited her to dinner at your place and she said, 'Yes'. Ten minutes later, you go into a free fall panic as you remember your last cooking adventure and what burning Jello smells like.

Not to worry.

With these helpful tips for butches you'll survive cooking for your date... And she'll survive the meal.

Soup or salad?

Unless she likes Campbell's, go for salad. There are a lot of simple and easy recipes for soups. That is, if you have some skill in the kitchen. Unless you are hiding a secret kitchen talent that you refuse to admit to, soup is not for you. Remember the Jello?

Salad however, when done right, can really impress a girl. Buy a bag of pre-made salad; pour it into a fancy bowl and serve. Find an interesting (non-spill) container and fill it with salad dressing. Put that on the table beside the salad. All done.

If you want it to look like you slaved over it, grate up some cheese. Keep it separate until the last minute (you don't wanna know) and sprinkle it on the salad just before you serve. You can also add extras. Mushrooms, cauliflower and cucumber are good. Remember to rinse them well and cut them up neatly. Do not just chop away at them. And for God's sake, never add things like hot peppers or pickled eggs unless you know for a fact that your date likes them too.

The main course (or, How do I impress her enough to get laid and not burn the house down?)

Ok. Lets clarify this. If you have already promised her a five star experience, you will not be getting laid. The only action you're seeing tonight is the blur of motion as she runs far away from the smell of whatever you were trying to cook. Make sure you have a fire extinguisher handy.

Keep it simple. She's not expecting a miracle, just something edible. If you can already make a killer (in the good way) pasta, then make it. How about chili? Just make sure it's mild. Put chili peppers in a dish or shaker on the table in case she likes it spicy.

If there's already something you do now how to cook, then by all means make that. If not, there are tons of recipes for one-dish meals. All you have to do is gather the required ingredients, put them in a pan and cook for a prescribed amount of time. This part does require some research on your part. Start by asking a helpful femme. Once she's finished giggling, I'm sure she can help you figure out a simple dish you can easily master. If she's helpful enough, she may even help you get it ready so all you have to do is stick it in the oven at the right time. If you just visualize a rather large TV dinner you'll do fine.

Just remember, when it's time to get the pan out of the oven use oven mitts. They only look silly for a moment; third degree burns look silly for a really long time.

That's it?

No, there's more. You're trying to impress her remember. You've had your salad (which she just loved by the way) and now you have before you a single dish from which to serve your entire meal.

Think accessories.

Do the dishes match? They don't have to be fine china but the plates should not be chipped or visibly damaged. Same for the silverware and the drinking glasses. And yes you have to set the table. Tablecloth if you have it, place settings hopefully. Napkins are a MUST.

Serving wine is a personal choice since not everyone drinks. If you are going to serve wine just ask at the nearest wine boutique. They can tell you what goes with what and offer some suggestions if you are wine illiterate too.

Breadsticks? Dinner rolls? Your choice.

A selection of raw veggies or maybe some cubed cheeses? How about both?

Does the meal require dips or sauces? Small bowls or other dishes look nicer than a jar of pickles and a tub of veggie dip on the table. Anything you care to add to the table works and makes a simple meal look more complicated than it really is. Just make sure you put it in a serving dish of some kind for 'effect'.

A candle is a romantic touch, but make sure it's not so high as to block the view of your companion. Double check to be sure you have a lighter before she gets there.

Dessert

Think of this as opposite day. She is your guest.

Therefore it is your ... yes, YOUR... job to clear the table so you may serve dessert.

She, being the generous soul that she is, will offer to help.

The correct response is, "That's ok, you just relax."

The chores are yours tonight. If she chooses to help that's fine, but you can't ask for help or expect it.

Once the table is cleared, dessert is a simple matter. The nearest bakery/grocery store should have taken care of that nicely. They have cakes, pies and a whole slew of things. From a plain apple pie to tiramisu, you can always find something interesting in the bakery section of any supermarket. Some even offer small trays of assorted treats.

Not into cakes and pies? Think Haagen Daas or Ben and Jerry's.

Sliced fruit works in case of dieting.

And there you have it. Dinner is done and your kitchen and your date are both intact.

With luck you've done such a good job of impressing her that the dishes will have to wait until morning, when you'll do them together after a long leisurely breakfast.



Stating the Obvious: Exercise Melts Body Fat

By Thomas Wines

If you want to reduce your body fat, focus on increasing the amount of exercise you get rather than decreasing your food intake. A recent national study was done using two groups of sedentary men, one group in their 20's and the other over age 65. A lot was learned from this accumulated data and it is interesting to note that there was a significant relationship between lack of physical activity and fat. Not surprisingly, the most sedentary men had the most body fat.

These studies have also indicated that the governments current recommended daily allowance for calories does not correlate with the body's actual energy needs. For example, although 2400 calories have been calculated for older men, they in fact burned an average of 2800 calories daily.

The leading experts now recommend that people who want to lose weight start increasing their physical activity. Just being more active in general (such as climbing the stairs instead of taking the elevator, moving around instead of sitting still, sitting up instead of lying down as well as showing some excitement and enthusiasm instead of boredom), are things that more effectively burns calories and reduces body fat. Everyone seems to have lost sight of the value of being active. Consider this, a half-hour aerobic workout accounts for far less energy expenditure than our minute-to-minute movement in the office or at home.

Millions of Americans are trying to lose weight, spending approximately \$30 billion a year on diet programs and products, often they do lose some

weight. But, if you check with the same people five years later, you will find that nearly all have regained whatever weight they lost. A national panel recently sought data to determine if any commercial diet program could prove long-term success. Not a single program could do so.

Being seriously overweight and particularly obesity predisposes individuals to a number of diseases and serious health problems, and it's now a known fact that when caloric intake is excessive, some of the excess frequently is saturated fat.

People who diet without exercising often get fatter with time. Although your weight may initially drop while dieting, such weight loss consists mostly of water and muscle. When the weight returns, it comes back as fat. To avoid getting fatter over time, increase your metabolism by exercising regularly.

Walking is one of the best exercises for strengthening bones, controlling weight, toning the leg muscles, maintaining good posture and improving positive self-concept.

To lose weight, it's more important to walk for time than speed. Walking at a moderate pace yields longer workouts with less soreness - leading to more miles and more fat worked off on a regular basis. High intensity walks on alternate days help condition one's system. But in a walking, weight-loss program, you are not required to walk an hour every day as some people would have you believe.

When it comes to good health and weight loss, exercise and diet are inter-related. Exercising without maintaining a balanced diet is no more beneficial than dieting while remaining inactive.

Number of Undiagnosed HIV+ Gay Men on the Rise

By Ross von Metzke

(New York, NY) - With HIV infection rates and new strands of the HIV virus on the rise, increasingly, young gay and bisexual men carrying the virus are going undiagnosed, according to U.S. health officials.

A study of more than 5,600 men ages 18 to 29 showed that more than 75-percent of those men who tested HIV-positive had no idea they were infected. According to Reuters, prior to being tested, the majority of these men said they felt they were at low risk for having the AIDS virus. Half admitted to having had unprotected sex in the past six months.

The findings suggest that the HIV epidemic among young gay and bisexual men "continues unabated," in part because many are unaware of their infection, according to the study authors, led by Duncan A. MacKellar of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta.

MacKellar, whose findings are printed in the Journal of Acquired Immune Defi-

ciency Syndrome, said the high rate of HIV infection seems to stem from a low rate of regular testing for the virus. Though many of the men said they had been tested in the past, the majority admitted that they did not get tested regularly. Very few of the men who tested positive had been for an HIV test in the past year. Doctors recommend people at high risk for the virus be tested, at minimum, every three months.

Overall, 10-percent were found to be HIV-positive, 77 percent of whom had been unaware they were infected.

Expanding HIV testing at venues such as clubs and bars may help reach more men with unrecognized infection, the researchers suggest. Health departments and community groups are working to expand such outreach programs and trying to ensure that people actually get their test results by using newer, rapid HIV tests that provide results in 20 minutes.

The Positive Weight Loss Approach

By Thomas Wines

Once you have made up your mind to lose weight, you should make that commitment and go into it with a positive attitude. We all know that losing weight can be quite a challenge. In fact, for some, it can be downright tough. It takes time, practice and support to change lifetime habits. But it's a process you must learn in order to succeed. You and you alone are the one who has the power to lose unwanted pounds.

Think like a winner, and not a loser - remember that emotions are like muscles and the ones you use most grow the strongest. If you always look at the negative side of things, you'll become a downbeat, pessimistic person. Even slightly negative thoughts have a greater impact on you and last longer than powerful positive thoughts.

Negative thinking doesn't do you any good, it just holds you back from accomplishing the things you want to do. When a negative thought creeps into your mind, replace it reminding yourself that you're somebody, you have self-

worth and you possess unique strengths and talents.

Contemplate what lies ahead of you. Losing weight is not just about diets. It's about a whole new you and the possibility of creating a new life for yourself. Investigate the weight loss programs that appeal to you and that you feel will teach you the behavioral skills you need to stick with throughout the weight-loss process.

First you should look for support among family and friends. It can be an enormous help to discuss obstacles and share skills and tactics with others on the same path. You might look for this support from others you know who are in weight loss programs and you can seek guidance from someone you know who has lost weight and kept it off.

There are success stories across the country today. On television and in newspapers, magazines and tabloids about people who have miraculously lost untold pounds and kept it off. In all instances they say their mental attitude as well as their outlook on life has totally changed.

Diets and weight loss programs are more flexible now than they once were and there are many prepared foods already portioned out. They are made attractive and can be prepared in a matter of minutes. Low-fat and low-calorie foods are on shelves everywhere.

You will probably need to learn new, wiser eating skills. You will want a weight loss regimen that gives you some control, rather than imposing one rigid system. Look for one that offers a variety of different eating plans, so you can choose the one that's best for you.

Keep in mind, too, that your weight loss program will most likely include some physical exercises. Look at the exercising aspect of your program as fun and recreation and not as a form of grueling and sweaty work. The fact is that physical fitness is linked inseparable to all personal effectiveness in every field. Anyone willing to take the few simple steps that lie between them and fitness will shortly begin to feel better, and the improvement will reflect itself in every facet of their existence.

Doctors now say that walking is one of the best exercises. It helps the total circulation of blood throughout the body, and thus has a direct effect on your overall feeling of health. There are things such as aerobics, jogging, swimming and many other exercises which will benefit a weight loss program. Discuss the options with your doctor and take his advice in planning your exercise and weight loss program

Keep in mind, too, that your weight loss program will most likely include some physical exercises. Doctors now say that walking is one of the best exercises.

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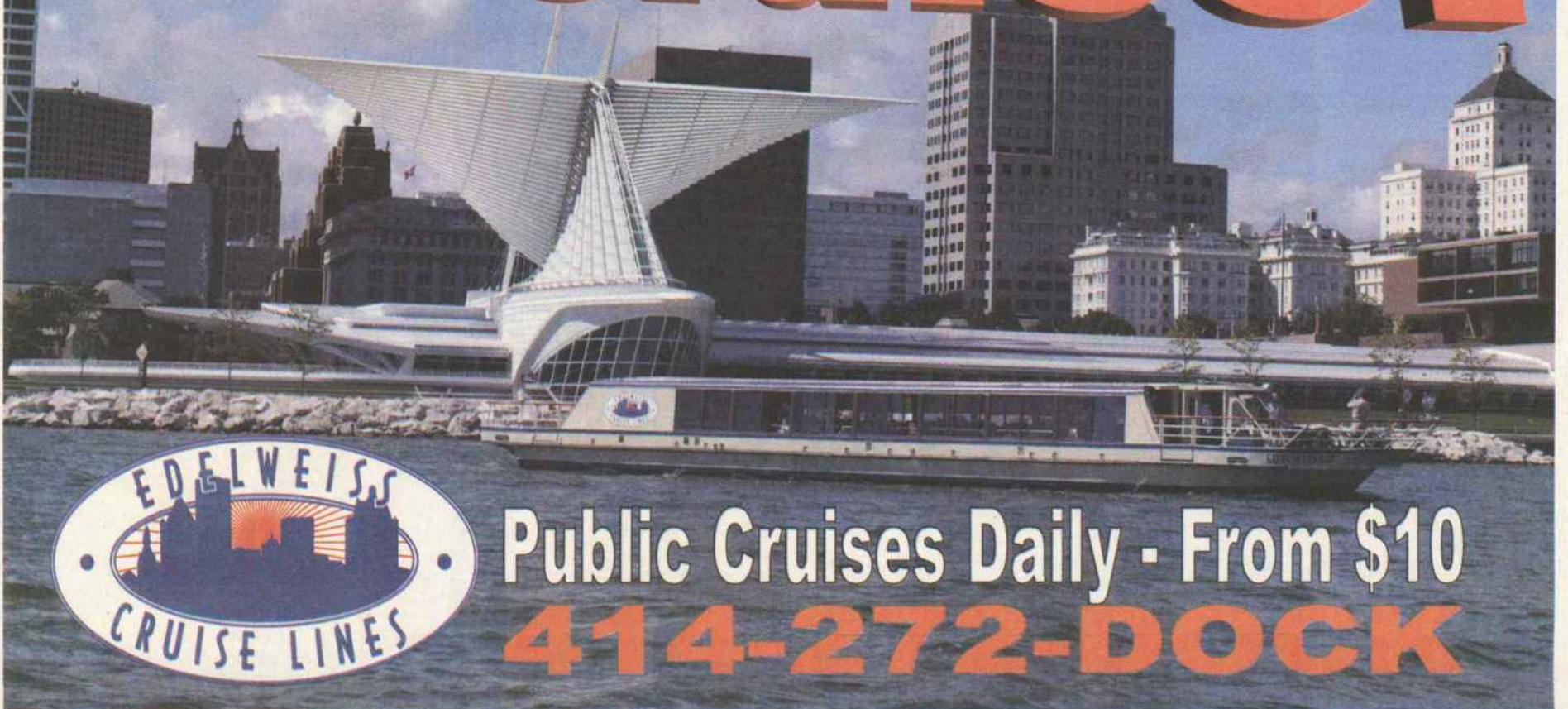
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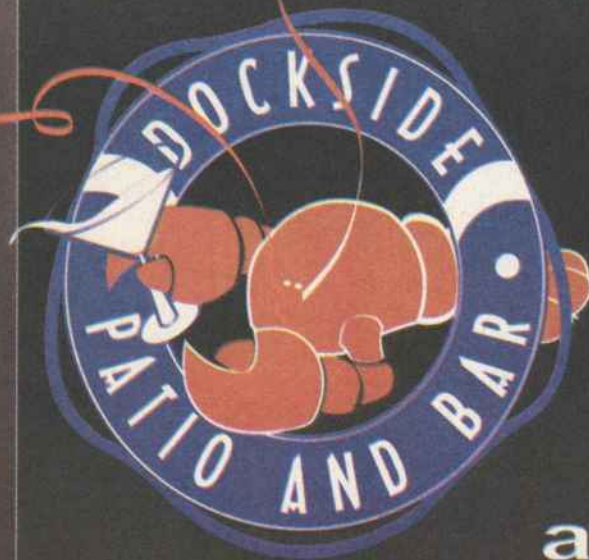
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Taylor Dane

Continued from Front Page

Then, as we find in the VH1 reality special "Remaking: Taylor Dayne," premiering on Thursday, April 21st at 10 PM EST, it all fell apart.

After lackluster sales of her third album Soul Dancing (which yielded just one Top-40 hit, a remake of "Can't Get Enough of Your Love"), Taylor Dayne bid Clive Davis and the folks at Arista Records adieu and set out to make things happen on her own.

What she found, unfortunately, is that when you're over 30 and a woman in the music industry, doors don't come flying open for you - they're dead-bolted from the inside.

Now 42 and living in Los Angeles where she's raising twins, "Remaking" begins with Taylor singing to noisy and apathetic crowds at the Walt Disney Theme Park in Orlando. As one of her back-up singers describes, Taylor's concert career now largely consists on corporate events and fairs.

The voice is still there - Taylor took a cue from Tina Turner and paved the path for sound alike artist Anastacia - and she still looks good, but the clothing ... the choreography ... the hair.

Time for a bit of a makeover.

From botox injections to dance lessons, a trip a Hollywood boutique with stylists to the stars and a 7-hour stretch in a salon chair having extensions sewn into

hear hair, Taylor puts her stalled career and bruised ego in the hands of the pros in the hopes they can re-discover what once was.

There are ups (she's a natural at the workouts and she makes the recording process look like a breeze) and there are downs (Taylor doesn't dance that well and her best friend, fellow Long Island transplant and King of Queens star Leah Remini, hates her Rodney Jerkins produced single). But through it all there's Taylor, spirits high and ready to fight for her life.

The new Taylor, as we see near the episode's end, is just an improved version for young fans to discover. Her voice is flawless - move over Britney and Jessica and make room for a lady with true pipes. Her look more subdued - thank God someone told this lady brassy blonde is OVER! And the resulting performance on ABC's The View, with her new single "Right Now", proves that if industry executives will give her half a chance, there's still a lot of life left in that body.

Future re-makings are set to include Vince Neil, Jody Watley and Vanilla Ice, but I'm hoping camera crews are smart and stick with Taylor for a few more weeks. Some stars have a good run and then should really retire to the ends of the earth. Taylor, on the other hand, is the real deal - a talent audiences really should be hearing for years to come.

Mother Superior Show Benefit for MVM Hosted by Rona at M&M Club



International Male Leather

Continued from Front Page

About 400 gay leathermen gathered in Chicago in 1979 for the first International Mr. Leather contest. Once an event for "hardcore" leathermen, IML has expanded in recent years to include a more diverse crowd. Last year's event drew more than 13,000 leatherfolk from around the globe.

International Mr. Leather 2005 will include the following events:

- **27th Annual International Mr. Leather Competition** Presented by Miller Beer Sunday, May 29 at 5 p.m. (doors open at 4 p.m.) Navy Pier, Grand Ballroom, 600 E. Grand Ave., Chicago.
- **13th Annual International Mr. Boot-black Competition** Friday, May 27 through Sunday, May 29 Leather Market, Hyatt Regency Chicago in The Leather Market.
- **The Leather Market** The world's best collection of leather/fetish vendors. Hyatt Regency Chicago, Lower Level Friday, May 27, 12 - 7 p.m., Saturday, May 28, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Sunday, May 29, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday, May 30, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **IML Opening Ceremonies** Presented by Recon.com Introduction of contestants and judges; drawing for contestant numbers. Thursday, May 26 at 9 p.m. (doors open at 8 p.m.) Hyatt Regency Grand Ballroom

• **Pecs & Personality** (Physique Competition) Presented by Interactive Male IML. Saturday, May 28 at 9 p.m. (door open at 8 p.m.) Hyatt Regency Grand Ballroom. Contestants are judged on their appearance and stage presence.

• **Salute! - IML Closing Ceremonies** Presented by Leatherwerks. Sunday, May 29 at 11 p.m. (doors open after the contest) Hyatt Regency Grand Ballroom. IML is changing its annual Salute! party to create a Closing Ceremonies. The new event includes a celebration of clubs from around the world, plus the beginning of a new IML tradition.

• **IML Victory Celebration Party** Manhunt.net with WET Presents: dj/remixer Bill Bennett Manhunt World Tour. Sunday, May 29 after the IML Contest until 4 a.m. House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn, Chicago

• **Black and Blue Ball** The traditional IML final blowout celebration. With DJ Matthew Harvat. Monday, May 30, 8 p.m. - 4 a.m., Excalibur, 632 N. Dearborn St., Chicago

International Mr. Leather contestants are judged on a variety of criteria including community involvement, speech, presentation and overall presence. The winner of the IML 2005 Contest will receive a prize package consisting of donations from businesses and organizations supporting the leather community. Complete contestant information, including contestant applications, can be found at www.imrl.com.



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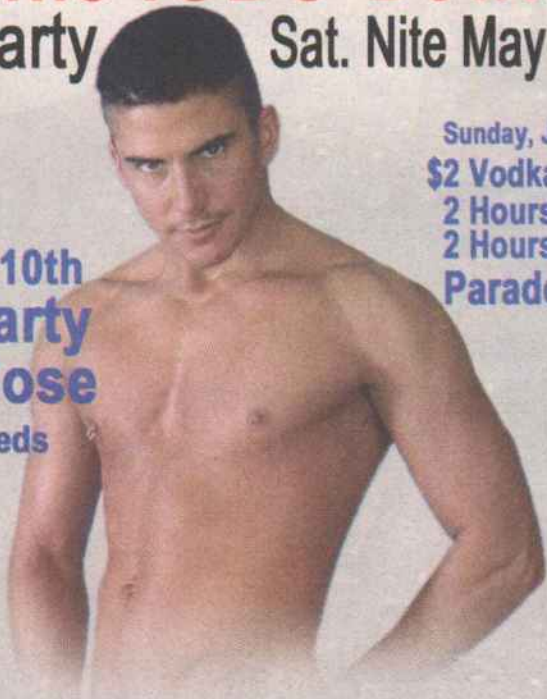


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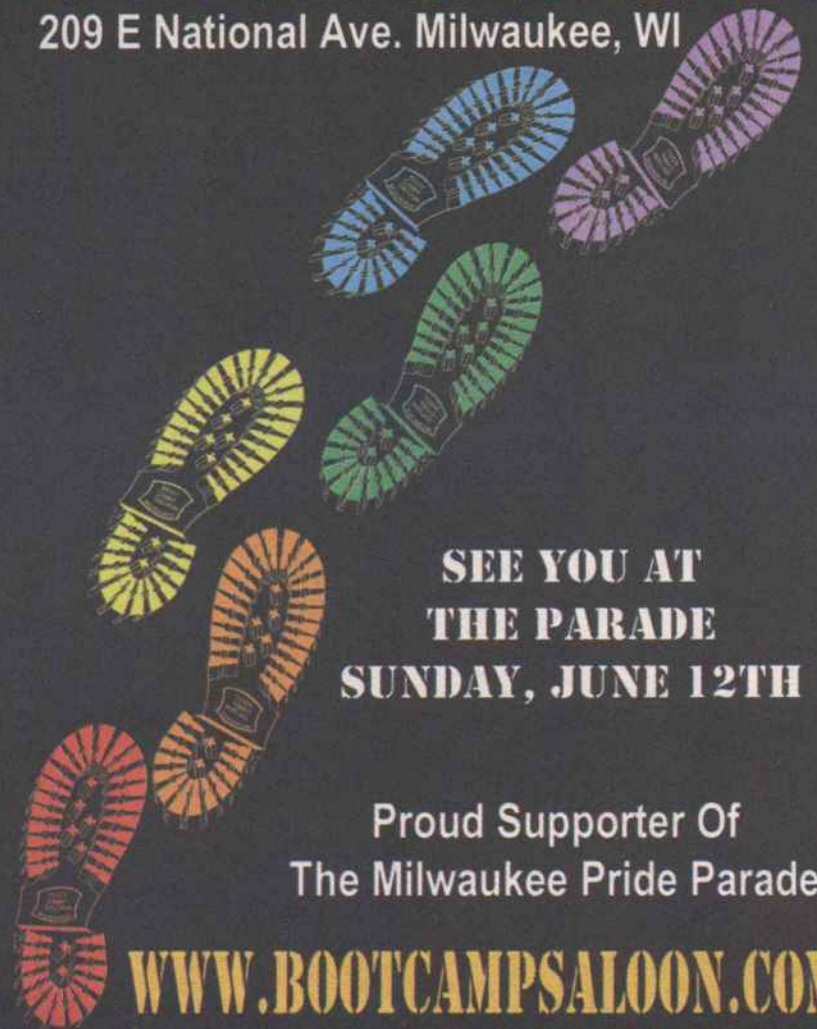
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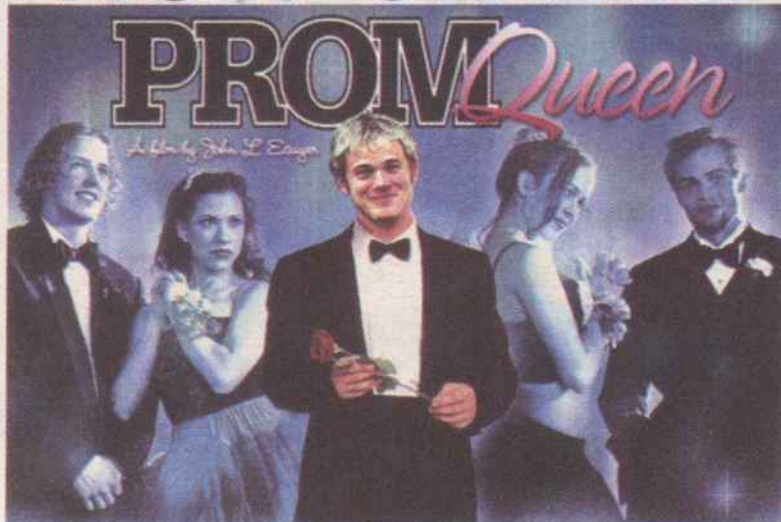
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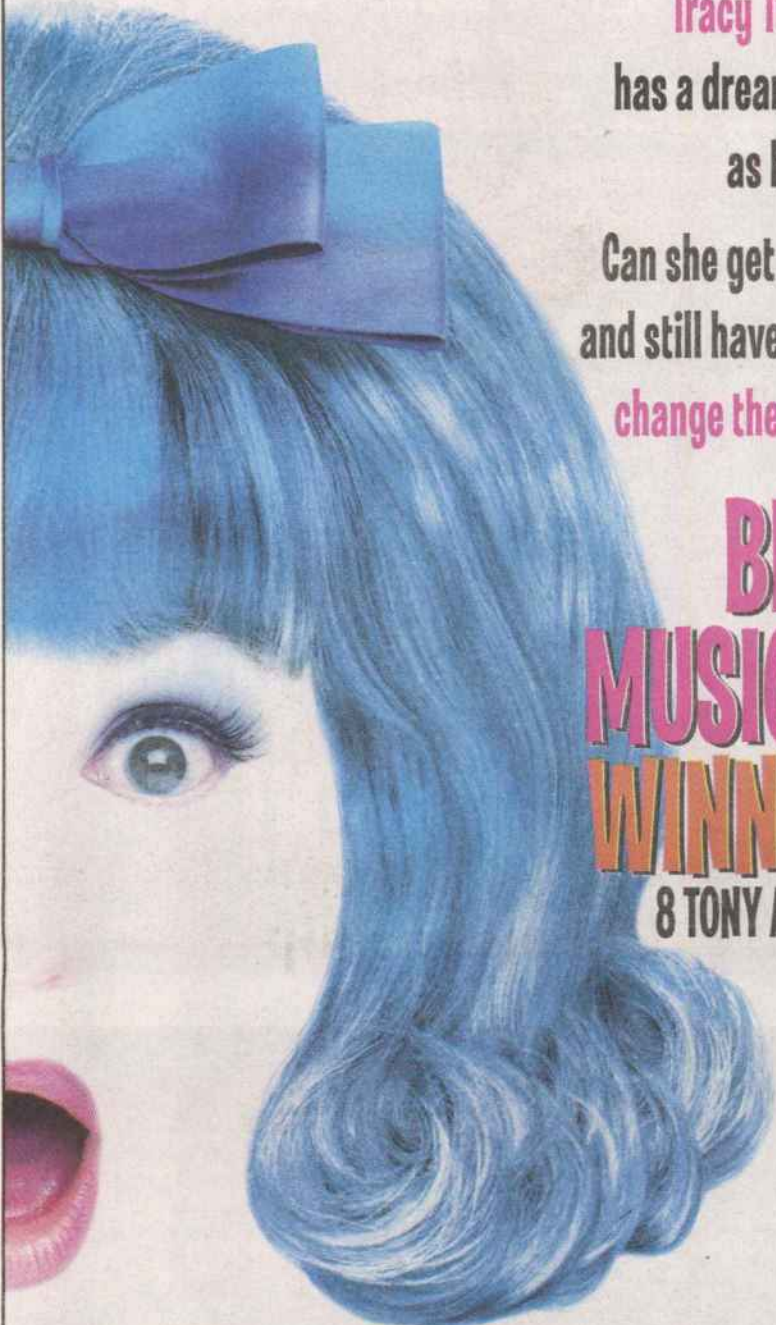
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Gay Games® 2006 Announces Official Worldwide Registration Drive

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CHICAGO 2006

(Chicago, IL) - Chicago organizers will kick off the Official Gay Games VII Worldwide Registration Drive in May, with a weekend of Registration Parties scheduled for May 14-15. Announced last week to Partners, Sponsors and Supporters, there are already more than 50 parties scheduled on 5 continents.

"We're very excited at the response to the Official Gay Games Registration Drive," said James Simmons, Gay Games Sports and Events Marketing Manager. "Ranging from small home parties to public events with hundreds of attendees, the parties are going to be a fun way for people to get registered for the 2006 Chicago Gay Games."

The Gay Games VII Sports and Cultural Festival will take place 15-22 July 2006 in Chicago, USA.

Anyone is welcome to host an Official Gay Games VII Registration Party. To receive a free official registration party kit, including tips for party hosts, contact the Chicago Gay Games at (773) 907-2006 or e-mail at info@GayGamesChicago.org.

Athletes, artists and their supporters earn great gifts in return for hosting parties and getting people signed up. All party hosts receive a free t-shirt, collectible Gay Games pin, and a DVD with a montage video of archival Gay Games footage and great Chicago travel information. Hosts whose parties success-

fully register 5 or more will be entered into a drawing for a pair of international airline tickets. Those who register 10 or more will receive one free Gay Games registration to use as a gift, for a scholarship athlete or for themselves. All party-goers will save US\$25 on their Gay Games registration, greater than 10% off.

Suzi Arnold, Chicago's Board Co-Chair, reiterated the need to register now. "Every individual must register and receive an individual confirmation number in order to be guaranteed space at the Gay Games," she said. "Those who procrastinate may find their favorite sport filling up. Many sports will reach capacity this summer. Sailing is already full and some team sports - ice hockey and softball for example - are already approaching their 2002 Gay Games team benchmarks."

Team captains interested in learning about Team/Group Discounts should contact the Chicago Gay Games at (773) 907-2006 or e-mail at info@GayGamesChicago.org.

Registration for Gay Games VII is now open at www.GayGamesChicago.org. Information is available in Spanish at www.GayGamesChicago.org/es/.

Acceptance of Gay Athletes in Pro Sports on the Rise

The Human Rights Campaign is praising the findings of a new poll released in the April edition of Sports Illustrated Magazine showing that 86 percent of Americans think that openly gay athletes should not be excluded from team sports. However, the poll went on to say that 68 percent of respondents think it hurts an athlete's career to be openly gay.

"Sexual orientation plays no role whatsoever in peoples' ability to play a sport," said Winnie Stachelberg, Vice President of the HRC Foundation. "Whether you come out when you're a baseball player, a boxer or a delivery truck driver, ability is dictated by how hard people work."

In the past decade, several high-profile athletes have come out including former professional football player Esera Tuaolo.

"What's wonderful is that we are talking about these issues and educating society on homophobia in professional sports," said Tuaolo. "We all know that educating people is half the battle. We're

humanizing the professional athlete and that makes me happy. Don't get me wrong, we're taking baby steps, but at least they're in the right direction."

In related sporting news, last month the United States Golf Association announced that it has adopted a new policy allowing transgender athletes to compete in USGA golf championships, including the upcoming U.S. Women's Open.



The USGA's policy change follows similar rulings made in recent years by the International Olympic Committee, Great Britain's Ladies Golf Union and

Women's Golf Australia, which all allow transgender athletes to compete.

"World class athletic organizations are increasingly tackling barriers to discrimination on the playing field because GLBT athletes are as strong and talented as anyone else," said Stachelberg. "We take our hats off for openly GLBT athletes and the fans who cheer them on - they are all helping to raise the bar on the rules of good sportsmanship."

Gay Hockey Team Wins League Championship

The dream became reality Sunday for the Chicago Gay Hockey Association. In its third year of operation, the CGHA won the Rolling Meadows H2 Senior Men's League championship, defeating the Misfits 3 in overtime, 4-3. The championship is the CGHA's first and is a first in Chicago for a predominantly-gay hockey team.

"It's an awesome feeling to win. This was a great accomplishment," said Andy Rogers, an original team member who scored the game-winning goal in the championship game.

Added team president and founder Chuck Jacobson, "It's so exciting for the CGHA to not only reach the championship game, but win it. This is what we dreamed about years ago when the team was established."

The championship win was anything but easy for the CGHA, formerly know as Team Spin and now playing as the Black Wolves. They fell behind 2-0 in the first period before Michael Ko scored off a pass from Andy Rogers at 7:45 of the second period, cutting the score to 2-1. The Misfits made it 3-1 with 5:18 remaining to play in the third.

With about two minutes to play, the CGHA called a timeout and pulled goalie Keith Halverson, opting for six skaters. Center Larry Zyks won the faceoff to Rusty Fleury, whose shot on goal was stopped - but Rogers tapped home the rebound, making the score 3-2 with 1:53 remaining.

The Black Wolves continued the pressure and again pulled Halverson after Zyks won the faceoff and moved the puck into the Misfits' zone. Fleury

grabbed the puck on the left-hand side and sent it back to defenseman Brian Merlot, whose shot on goal was tipped in by Ringo Leung with 1:32 remaining in regulation time.

"Winning our first playoff game (9-0 over the Slashing Pumpkins in the quarterfinals) made me believe we could keep going, win it all," said Rogers, who also scored the game-winning goal April 8 in the semifinals, a 2-1 overtime win. "The team was energized, excited for the playoffs. We really wanted to win it all, and I think our drive and never-say-die attitude on the ice proved it."

"This is my first championship in 10 years of playing hockey... I couldn't be happier." Rogers scored the game-winning goal against the Misfits on a break-away with less than a minute to play in the first sudden-death overtime.

"Just like any team, gay or straight, we set out to win the championship. It's a thrill to accomplish our goal. It feels great," Jacobson said.

Added Ryan Ruskin, another original CGHA team member, "We really hope this championship will help generate more interest, awareness and support in the team, especially within the gay community. We're proud to represent the gay community and hopefully the community now will support us a little more."

For more information on the CGHA, or to order tickets to the Allstate Arena game, call: (773) 968-7474.

Chicago Gay Hockey Association
www.ChicagoGayHockey.org



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AIRLINES

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DEAR RUTHIE

I'M WALKING on air! Yes, you heard that right. My hoaves have never felt so light. Why? I'll tell you why...because I actually spoke to a God...well, sort of.

As my regular readers know, there is only one Greek God for me...although in this case, the Greek God is Italian. I've been through more marriages than Elizabeth Taylor, and I've gone through some of them faster than Brittany Spears, Jennifer Lopez and Ethel Mer-man combined. I'm just always looking for a man who can take care of me as I know the man of my dreams would.

Of course, I'm talking about the one and only Fabio ... the cover man extraordinaire who can spritz my belly with butter-flavored spray and lick it off me until my eyes roll back into my head.

I was lucky enough to learn that the Golden One was hosting a talk-back session via the folks at *USA Today*. Needless to say, I was one of the first people to sign up. Surprisingly, I was allowed three questions. Here's a transcript of how it went:

Ruthie: What's the silliest thing you've been asked?

Fabio: I can't remember one specific thing.

Ruthie: Do you ever get tired of women asking you personal questions, such as "What do you wear to bed at night?" And speaking of which, what DO you wear to bed at night?

Fabio: No, I never get tired of women, period. Women are the best gift God could give to a man. And I believe that firmly.

I think that if you're a straight man you could never live without a woman because they really complete men. As a matter of fact, if you think of the most powerful men, they always have a great woman with them.

Ruthie: What's the one thing you learned from hosting the TV show, "Mr. Romance?"

Fabio: Don't take yourself too seriously, and don't have an ego. Ego means insecurity, and women don't like insecure men. At the beginning those guys (the contestants) had big egos, and women trashed them.

I don't understand why guys think that if they're egotistical, women will like them. When you talk to a woman, you want to talk and to listen. You don't want to be just "me, me, me" because that's a turn off for women. Conversation should be one talk, the other listen, and then switch. There are two things that women love, attention and someone that will listen to them.

More Talk Back!

So there you have it, folks! My exchange with Fabio. After my last question a female reporter from Tijuana asked Fabio about the goose that flew into his face during a roller coaster promotion. I called the reporter a one-eyed whore, and when I threatened to strangle her with my pantyhose, I was kicked out of the session. It got Fabio to notice me, however.

I know he was teary eyed, thinking about our love, while he filled out that restraining order. It was surely a talk-back session he'll never forget.

And speaking of talking back, I received an e-mail the other day from a gal who disagreed with some advice I recently gave.

In the last *Outbound News*, I answered a question about financial issues. In that issue, a reader told me that he didn't make much money compared to his partner. Finding events they could both afford was becoming a problem.

Having received several letters over the years about free things to do around Milwaukee, I tried something new. I answered the question, highlighting ideas that wouldn't cost much or that cost less than many expect.

I received the following message shortly after my response was published. I thought the writer's idea was great:

Dear Ruthie,

Much of the entertainment you suggested cost more than most of us low-income folks could handle.

I dated a woman who had about 5 times more disposable income than me. I felt uncomfortable when she covered the cost of a night out, but neither of us wanted to give up going out at least once a week. Nor did we want to solve the problem by each socializing within her own class, rather than with each other.

So I offered to pay a comparable amount of my disposable income when we partied--about 20% of the cost when I could afford it. In this way we were both, in essence, paying the same amount, so I didn't feel "owned" or indebted to her and she didn't resent me or feel I owed her. Other class differences were a bit more difficult to resolve, but this one worked well.

(signed)

A Friend

Dear Friend,

Well said! I love the idea of one reader giving advice to another...and it gives me a little time off, too. Thanks!

If you have a question or comment for Ruthie drop her a line at ruthie@dear-ruthie.com or visit www.dearruthie.com.



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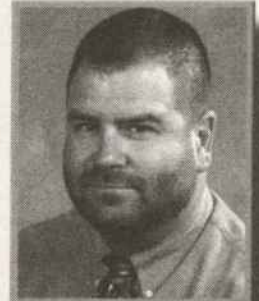
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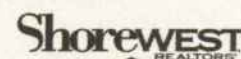
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EHO

Kerry Against Gay Marriage

By Ross von Metzke

(Baton Rouge, LA) - Former Democratic presidential hopeful John F. Kerry said Thursday that he believes it's a mistake for the Massachusetts Democratic Party to support same-sex marriage in its official party platform, saying that such a statement does not conform with the broad views of party members.

Kerry, who opposes same-sex marriage but supports civil unions, said in an interview with the Boston Globe that he would prefer the party not mention gay marriage in its platform because Democrats continue to disagree on how to handle the issue.

"I'm opposed to it being in a platform. I think it's a mistake," Kerry said shortly after hosting a forum on his universal children's healthcare bill in Baton Rouge, LA. "I think it's the wrong thing, and I'm not sure it reflects the broad view of the Democratic Party in our state."

While many analysts believe the same-sex marriage debate contributed to Kerry's loss to President Bush in 2004, Kerry's position puts him at odds with the Massachusetts Democratic Party chairman and his fellow Bay State senator, Edward M. Kennedy, who is scheduled to address the party convention next weekend.

Kerry said he does not plan to attend this year's state Democratic convention or to lobby against the same-sex marriage plank. He said he has not been closely monitoring debate over the state party platform.

The state party chairman, Philip W. Johnston, said Kerry's opposition will not affect the party's decision to support of same-sex marriage. When the party meets next Saturday in

Lowell, he said, the platform is on track to be approved as it stands.

"I have great affection and respect for John, but I disagree on this issue," Johnston said. "It is important that the state Democratic Party support civil rights. We need to take a stand."

Kennedy said through a spokeswoman that he backs inclusion of a statement in support of same-sex marriage in the platform. Kennedy is up for reelection next year and has strongly supported same-sex marriage, which has been legal in Massachusetts since May 2004, after a Supreme Judicial Court ruling. Kerry came out against the Bush-supported federal constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage, saying that individual states should be allowed to settle the issue on their own. But Kerry has also said that he personally opposes it.

"I'm opposed to gay marriage," Kerry said yesterday, reiterating past statements. "I support [domestic] partnerships and civil unions." Party platform leanings do not bind candidates to particular policy positions, but they are frequently seen as guidelines by which party members are expected to agree. Massachusetts' Democratic Party is historically left leaning, a result of liberal party activists and convention attendees.

ciated Press. "We have so few rights, and we're under the thumb of federal policies in ways people don't even know."

City Atty. Gen. Robert J. Spagnoletti had told Horvath and Neidich that they could file a joint return in Washington "if they hold a good-faith belief that they are a validly married couple under the laws of Massachusetts," pending a decision from the Office of Tax and Revenue.

That announcement kicked up warnings from Congress about the financial consequences for the city if it used the tax code to grant rights to same-sex couples.

Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), head of an appropriations subcommittee that has oversight of the city's budget, issued a warning to Mayor Anthony A. Williams at a recent committee hearing.

Unlike residents of states, those who live in the District of Columbia do not have voting representatives in the House or Senate; Congress even has passed legislation banning them from lobbying for voting representation.

Horvath said that they were not going to appeal - and like many other married couples who file individually, "we'll probably get a few more dollars back."

A Constitutional Crisis

Continued from - front page.

We saw in the Presidential campaign of 2004 the issue of "activist judges" brought up time and time again by the Republican party as a campaign issue. There was and continues to be a constant impassioned plea against these men and women who serve on the Federal bench as a result of legal decisions made by these jurists. The main thrust of the attack is that the judges were all "liberals" moving forward an agenda that did not agree

with the conservative movement. When the judges who made these decisions were look at more closely, it

was found that most if not all were appointed by Republican Presidents and not Democratic ones. Deserving of particular criticism and condemnation were judges that made any pro-gay decisions based upon the law and the principles of fair and equal treatment under the law.

In the Schiavo case, it is exactly so-called "activist judges" that the republican leadership counted on to render decisions that would reverse all of the prior state court decisions that had upheld the rights of the husband to carry out his wife's last wishes. Instead, the Federal Courts which were given jurisdiction over the Schiavo case by the special act of Congress, went against the political aims of those who had created the law and as a result, were soundly condemned as being activist judges. This crass attempt to interfere with the very personal decision of how to live and when and how to die, failed, and was a victory for the rights of the individual.

In reaction to their failure to force a court decision that agreed with their position on the matter, the conservative leadership next took aim at judges in general; both state and federal. DeLay stated on the floor of the Senate that "The time will come for the men responsible for this to answer for their behavior." This statement can only be seen one way: A direct threat against the integrity of the Judicial branch of the Government. The threat while not clearly indicative of urging violence against judges, was taken that way by many who heard the DeLay statement. The statement brought swift condemnation by most right-thinking politicians on Capital Hill.

These statements were closely followed by statements from Senator Cornyn (R) of Texas that included, "It causes a lot of people, including me, great distress to see judges use the authority that they have been given to make raw political or ideological decisions." Cornyn went on to say that there was a possible connection between decisions viewed as unfavorable by the conservative movement around the country with courthouse violence that has taken the lives of federal and state judges. What is even more scarier is that Cornyn is the chairman of the Senate Subcommittees on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights. This position allows Cornyn to decide if the newly reintroduced proposed Constitutional ban on same-sex marriage moves forward in the legislative process. What is in the water in Texas?

The impact of these statements upon judges can only be guessed at as they go about carrying out the duties of their respective offices. Judges are suppose to make decisions based on law and not politics.

Finally, DeLay has now called for a "panel review" of the role of the Courts, both state and federal in the Schiavo case. DeLay further characterized the Courts as being, "an arrogant, out-of-control, unaccountable judiciary that thumbed their nose at Congress and the President." DeLay fails to remember that there are three branches of government for a reason and that "Checks and balances" are not just a good idea, they are mandated by the Constitution. DeLay and his associates actually consider the courts failed in their duty because they

did not rule as the politicians wanted them to rule.

This country is in grave danger because of the actions of the conservative movement. Even the McCarthy era didn't come close to what we are beginning to witness in Washington today. The arrogance, hostility, and disregard for the Constitution is beyond anything that we have witnessed in this country. It is incumbent upon the American people to restore the true democratic values in our nation's government, which includes the separation of Church and State. For the Constitution clearly prohibits the establishment of a state religion. The republican conservative movement have in all but name done exactly that; they have established a fundamentalist Christian conservative religion as their official religion and are attempting to impose it upon the nation.



The Constitution clearly prohibits the establishment of a state religion.

Same-Sex Couples Can't File Joint Returns

By Ross von Metzke

(Washington D.C.) - The District of Columbia Tax and Revenue Office ruled Tuesday that same-sex couples married in Massachusetts could not file joint tax returns, avoiding a run in with conservatives in Congress who had said they might review the city's budget if the decision went the other way.

The tax office ruled that the decision was based on federal Defense of Marriage Act, passed in 1996, that defines marriage as "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." Federal law - including the Internal Revenue Code - has used that definition of marriage since the measure was passed.

In a four-page ruling, the city's chief financial officer, Natwar M. Gandhi, ruled that because a same-sex couple could not file a joint federal tax return, the couple could not file a joint district return.

Edward G. Horvath and Richard G. Neidich, who were legally married in Massachusetts in June after 24 years together, had sought a 2004 filing extension while they awaited the tax office's decision.

"If you live here in D.C., you get used to being crushed," Horvath told the Asso-

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Cordially Yours

By Michael Johnston

Greetings and welcome back to Cordially Yours! I want to thank you all for the kind and generous feedback I received concerning last month's effort: The John McGivern Interview. In the future I would like to profile other members in our community who make a difference. If by chance you have any nominees -- feel free to e-mail me in care of OutBound. It truly was a thrill to sit down and get to know more about the man who is bringing so much laughter to our city. Mr. McGivern has agreed to help out PrideFest, by doing PSAs, commercials, endorsements... and if anyone can be a liaison throughout our state on the positive side of PrideFest it certainly is John McGivern. "Shear Madness" is now once again up and running at Vogel Hall at The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts -- you won't want to miss this cut-up!

Saturday, May 14th 8:00 PM will bring the return of Men's Voices Milwaukee to the boards. The Helene Zelazo Center - Peck School for the Performing Arts UW-Milwaukee 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard, \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door. "A Journey Through A Man's Life" John R. Francis, Artistic Director It begins with a single note...

After the Concert head over to Switch as the "Gay Singing Idol Contest" will be karaoke-ing into your hearts. Corky Morgan who brilliantly won top honors at last year's PrideFest will be busy coordinating all the bars to do their own Finals. Then come PrideFest 2005 Saturday afternoon June 11th, he will turn over the tiara to this year's Singing Idol. So get busy getting that song down and qualify at your favorite cabaret and sing your way into fame at PrideFest. The other bars participating are:

- Fluid Monday, May 16, 10:30 PM
- Walker's Pint Wednesday, May 18, 9 PM
- Art Bar Thursday, May 19, 9 PM
- Club 94 - Kenosha, Thursday, May 19, 9 PM
- The M&M Club Saturday, May 21, 10 PM
- Any other questions please call Corky at: (414) 322-3289

The following day Sunday, May 15th will bring the 6th birthday of Switch. Craig will pull out all stops in thanking you all for your loyal patronage. From 4 PM - Close, The RiverWest Accordionist, Drink Specials, Food, Fun, Surprises, Mystery Guests and God only knows what! A gotta be there!

By now I'm sure you are all aware that "HairSpray" has taken over our city. J.P. Dougherty has top billing as Edna and daughter Tracy twist you back to the 60's. So back-comb your hair and head for Uihlein Hall at The Marcus starting Tuesday, May 17 - Sunday, May 29. The M&M Club will be hosting their ever-popular "Dinner & Theater" on Wednesday, May 25th Dinner 5:30 PM, Show 7:30 PM, Transportation, Post-Party and

Dessert to follow after the Performance. They always have first-rate seating and it's the easiest way to go.

Stradust Advertising threw a fantastic promo-party at The M's for "HairSpray." Included was a "Big-Hair Contest." Tod out did himself in wig, padded suit and with pal Lee's help, hopped up on the bar and Mashed Potato-ed! Bonnie - Ms. StarDust herself fem-ceed with great aplomb. No one knows how to work an audience like our Ms. Bonnie with questions about the sensational sixties. Winners received t-shirts, hats, tickets, CDs and it seemed like EVERYONE won! Even if they didn't take a present home, they had fun and the joy of listening to Ginni on the piano who stylized her entire show to only songs that were popular from 1960 - 1969. Connie Kemp from the Marcus Center assisted Bonnie and celebrated her B-Day. Besides top winner Tod AKA Tracy T. - herself, Rona, Charlotte Lorraine, David Howser, Baby Jane Hudson and Cordially Yours donned wigs adding a bit of glamour to the night. Rita and Peter filled our glasses repeatedly, provoking the nostalgia.



The Broadway Series at The Marcus Center 2005/2006 has been announced:

"Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat" September 6 - 11, 2005 Starring Patrick Cassidy - Jack & Shirley's "Pride & Joy" and Amy "American Idol" Adams.

"Movin' Out" October 11 - 16, 2005 The Music of Billy Joel and the Moves of Twyla Tharp - what a Marvelous Marriage!

"Annie" - The 30th Anniversary! Our favorite orphan turns "menopausal" on this tour, proving the sun really does come out "Tomorrow"! Great family entertainment March 28 - April 02, 2006.

"Little Women - The Musical" July 25 - 30, 2006. Starring Broadway's Maureen McGovern -- Proving there really is a "Morning After."

IGBO is finally here! It seems like forever these four letters have haunted this column. However, it is probably the most important Gay Event for 2005. Gay Bowlers from all over the world will be converging on our fair city Memorial Weekend adding a wild, memorable spin to our town. The International Gay Bowlers Association will

be marking their 25th anniversary right here! All the bars, the two bowling halls, restaurants and The Holiday Inn - Downtown will be the place(s) to be. Thursday, May 26th the Art Bar will be rocking. Saturday, May 28th "A Welcome Show" at the hotel, Switch will be hosting their first -- for the season "Foam Party" - slip sliding away in the Beer Garden. The next "Foam Party" will be Friday, June 10th - PrideFest WeekEnd, a percentage of their profits will go to The Pride Parade Fund - 2005.

Remember to part with a dollar at your favorite Tap to personally help finance the Pride Parade with Pride Messages to be posted in support. Everyone can afford this fundraiser.

Camp Heartland's major fun-d-raising community encompassing day "Dining Out For Life" will take place on Thursday, June 9th. This year Bars/Clubs are participating too! So Eat, Drink and Be Generous!

PrideFest takes place Saturday, June 11th and Sunday, June 12th. The Pride Parade returns due in no small way to the extraordinary efforts of OutBound Publishing. Note the new route this year!

The "Rainbow Home & Garden Tour" takes place Saturday, June 18th. This year featuring Milwaukee's Walker's Point Neighborhood. Proceeds to benefit the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Saturday, October 15th -- Sweetest Day -- The Community Center will be throwing their annual Dinner at Northern Lights starring John McGivern.

The "Boys" Are Back at Taquera Azteca 119 East Oklahoma Avenue yes -- Frank, Roland and Wayne (nee Vanessa)! The best Paella every weekend!

Congrats to BoBo, Candy, Debi and Cindy O. on a flawless Mil-M-AIDS - 2005! They celebrated their 20th Anniversary of helping out the Milwaukee/Madison AIDS Agencies. What a fun Saturday! From Victor's to The Ball Game to Fluid! Lots of Fluid...

IGBO coordinated an amusing "Poker Run." I had never done one of these, but

it was quite a kick! We started at The M&M Club with BooBoo and Chi-Chi, every cocktail you bought earned you a sealed envelope with a playing card inside. The best hand -- wins. From the M's we boarded a bus to The Ball Game. Ricky and Craig welcomed us with open arms and overflowing cocktails. Then we toddled over to Club 219, where Dave, Randy and Tonya spun us into a wild disco inferno. (DJ Tonya's sites: WWW.club219.com AND www.BoomBoomGuy.Com) Evil Eye came out to entertain with a teasing strip - and Chuck toasted us all! Then it was boarding the bus time and back to the M's. Upon our M's return we were greeted by Rona and CeeCee and the winner was: Mark Horan and in second place Stewie.

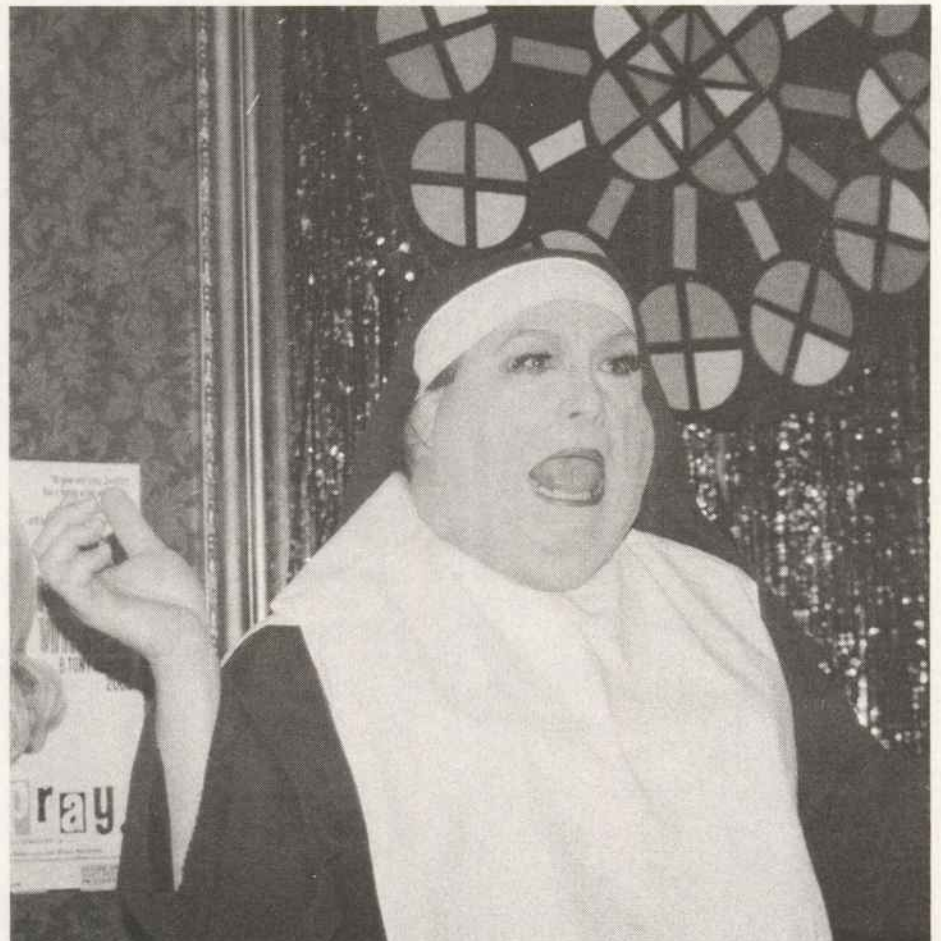
Ready to reinvent yourself this Spring? The Milwaukee School Of Flower Design is there for you! Eight weeks of intense botanical and floral design classes. Japanese, European, Bridal, Market, Corporate Event, Personal use ... Web page: milwaukeeschoolofflowerdesign.com Michael Gaffney is proud to announce the addition of Stewart Dempsey who can teach you the art of Landscaping and Architectural Design. To register call: (414) 489-9463.

Looking for the ideal Bloody Mary? It seems like I always am! I found a tasty one at Fluid. Every Sunday afternoon Christian is pouring that magical Mary to make you Merry!

Down the street a few blocks is Jacques French Cafe, 1101 South Second Street. Très magnifique! What was formerly known as The Marble Arcade is celebrating four fabulous years of fine French cuisine. A delicious choice! Vive La France!

And on that appetizing suggestion, allow me once again to remind you it's the Glamour - not the Grammar.

Happy IGBO - 25, Happy "HairSpray," Happy "Shear Madness" and may you all have a most memorable Memorial Day Weekend as I remain "STILL Cordially Yours."



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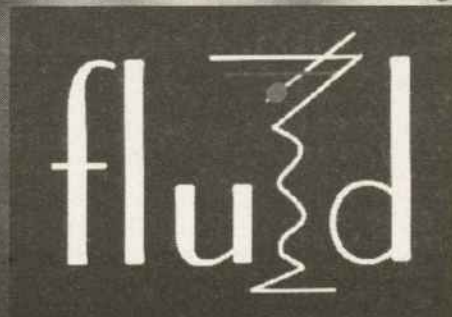


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Local Businesses to Hold Fundraising for Milwaukee Pride Parade

Business Name	When?	What's Happening?
Triangle, 135 E. National Ave., 414-383-9412	May 12, Thurs.	Special Drag Show
Tazzbah Bar & Grill, 1712 W. Pierce St., 414-672-8466	May 13, Fri.	Raffle
Out 'N About, 1407 S. 1st St., 414-643-0377	May 15, Sun.	Bike Wash (alt. date - June 5, Sun.)
Walker's Pint, 818 S. 2nd St., 414-672-0806	May 18, Wed.	Karaoke
M&M Club, 124 N. Water St., 414-347-1962	May 22, Sun.	Show hosted by Baby Jane Hudson
Fluid, 819 S. 2nd St., 414-643-5843	May 26, Thurs.	Silent auction and raffle
Switch, 124 W. National Ave., 414-220-4340	June 10, Fri.	Foam Party
Woody's, 1579 S. 2nd St., 414-672-0806	Call for details	Raffle — Brewers vs Cubs tickets for two at Wrigley Field (in progress)

**Special thanks to
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 Woody's for being
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Community Listings

Action Wisconsin, 1202 Williamson St., Madison 53703, www.actionwisconsin.org, (608) 441-0143

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

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

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

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

BiNet USA (National bisexual political organization), <http://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, www.galanoclub.org, E-mail: mail@galanoclub.org, (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, (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, (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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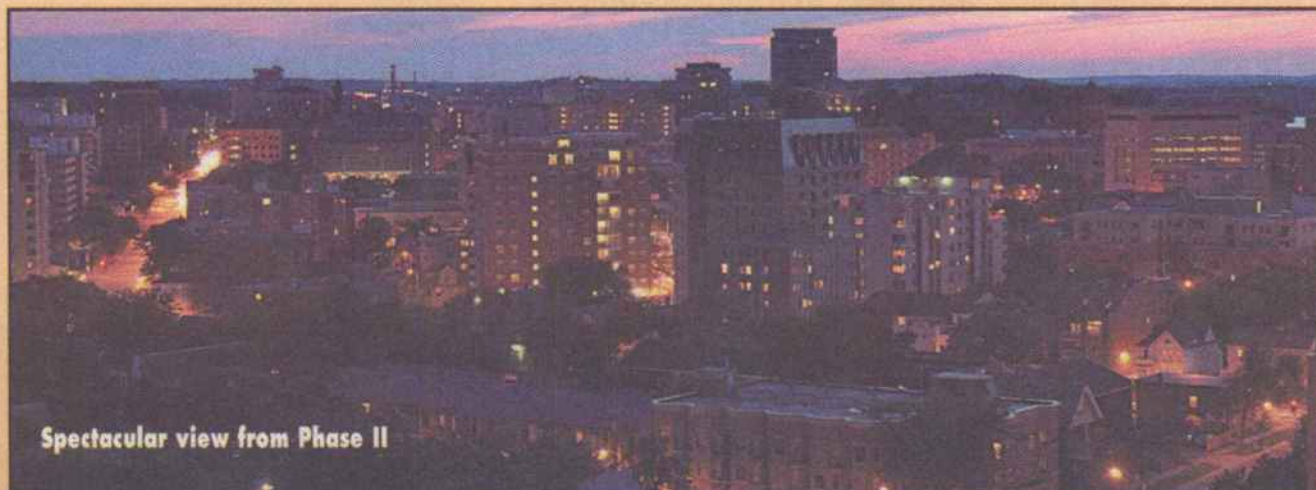
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