



## QUEER LIFE

**Q Life Chosen as Official 2005 Pride Guide Publisher**

### To Our Readers

As our readers know, Q Life runs between 52 and 60 pages every month. With this May issue you can see that we are breaking the mold a little bit.

Our staff and writers are already hard at work to bring you the best PrideFest issue and Pride Guide that this city has seen. We're gearing up for a stellar June issue! Stay tuned.

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Wisconsin's Premiere LGBT News Leader

VOL. 1, ISSUE 6 | MAY 4, 2005

# PrideFest Looks to Increased Attendance with Headliners Taylor Dayne and RuPaul

## Others Take Up Reins on Pride Parade

By Holly Grey

Performers, entertainers, beer drinkers, skin bearers, posers, rainbow paraphernalia wearers, dance tent participants, mullet modelers, children in strollers, protesters, couples holding hands, drag queens and kings, GUPPIES, PFLAG moms and people of all ages, colors and sexual orientations are anticipated to swarm the Maier Festival Grounds, June 11 and 12, to celebrate LGBTness at PrideFest 2005. Nearly 15,807 did so last year and organizers hope to attract 18,000 or more to the two-day event next month.

### Dealing with Debt

Allegations of mismanagement and debt have hounded this celebration over the past couple of years. Yet despite these tribulations, the LGBT community and its supporters have come out in droves to celebrate. "We have been able to garner additional sponsors and to attract diverse entertainers at very reasonable prices to PrideFest 2005," explained Scott Gunkel, president of the PrideFest Task Force. "All this helps toward paying off our debt while, we believe, providing a top-notch event."

Unwilling to give the exact current debt amount, Gunkel claimed the debt is being managed "well" in conjunction with The Milwaukee World Festival. Arrangements for reduced payments over the next three years have been made and cash flow from PrideFest sponsors is being used to pay the debt. According to Gunkel, the six-member PrideFest Task Force has been hypersensitive about checking and re-checking their spending against cash flow. "Everything is reviewed and re-reviewed and our budgets are on target for this year," he explained.

"In addition to our debt, we feel the management structure of PrideFest has been confusing and not accessible to people," claims Paul Williams, secretary of the Task Force. To assist the Task Force in addressing these issues a Transition Adviser team, made up of experts in non-profit management, has been created to help the Task Force in their outreach efforts. They have also been asked to provide assistance in recommending and creating a sustainable and well-functioning infrastructure to be used in the years to come. "PrideFest started as a grassroots organization years ago that just grew and grew and it's still a work in progress. The Transition Adviser team will assist us in moving forward," reiterated Williams.

Along with balancing the books and restructuring management, the Task Force and its army of volunteers have been concentrating on ways to attract more visitors to PrideFest this year. "We are hoping the diversity of the entertainment will draw a larger crowd. We spent a lot of time looking for a wide range of entertainment to attract folks to the event," explained Gunkel. "We are extremely happy we were able to procure the entertainers we have on the lineup and I am confident there will be a little bit for everyone."



## Gay Arts Center Targeted by Homophobic Zealots

By Sara Faraj

The sidewalk outside the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, which was the featured gallery for Gallery Night and Day, was the stage used by right-wing Christian homophobes to showcase their ideology. On Friday, April 15, during Gallery Night, a handful of members of Wisconsin Christians United (WCU) — all men — set up a protest on the corner of 2nd and Pierce Streets.

Carrying signs that said, "Homosexuality is a sin" and "Christ can set you free," four men stood outside unsuccessfully trying to persuade gallery attendees to take biblical tracts entitled "What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality."

Paul Masterson, curator of the Gay Arts Center, took some quick photos while gallery visitors enjoyed the art. Masterson had a concerned but creative attitude and noted that the protest helped to call attention to the Gay Arts Center and LGBT issues. He said, "It keeps us aware, it makes people aware that we're not accepted and that we have to confront the reality of those who are trying to deny us rights."

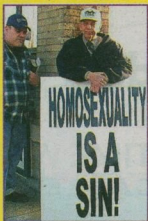
One of the protestors, armed with a bible, insisted that "Jesus said, 'Marriage is between one man and one woman.'" He tried in vain to find the nonexistent verse. (What Jesus actually spoke out about, and against, was divorce. — Matthew 19:3-12)

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## Homophobe Watch

These "Christians" have targeted the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center twice in the last month.

They are not willing to listen or engage in dialogue. Their mission is only to preach that homosexuality is sinful. Jesus called the fundamentalists of his day "hypocrites," because they followed the letter of the law, while missing the spirit. The same applies today to those who selectively obsess on bible verses, while missing the simple, "Judge not, lest ye be judged."



**'We are hoping the diversity of the entertainment will draw a larger crowd.'**

— Scott Gunkel

### Festival Highlights

PrideFest 2005 will feature Taylor Dayne, RuPaul, Jason Stuart, Sophie B. Hawkins, Jade Esteban Estrada and Pamela Means among other performers.

In addition to the onstage entertainment, an all-new Sheep's Head Tournament will take place. Organizers are hoping this tournament will attract more people from across the state. Another addition this year is a newly created video greeting recorded by comedian, writer, actor and producer John McGivern. This recording will be used as people enter the Festival grounds, welcoming them and giving directions and instructions.

"All the food vendors are back, along with the Plymouth Church-sponsored Children's Area, the recorded interviews and discussions by the Milwaukee History Project in the Stonewall Area. The community rally will be held on Saturday featuring politicians Russ Feingold, Tammy Baldwin, Tim Carpenter and Gwen Moore," said Gunkel.

### Raining on the Parade

One major difference this year is the PrideFest Task Force decision not to be involved in coordinating a Pride Parade in conjunction with the event. "This conclusion was reached after analyzing last year's survey respondents' statements and from the feedback we were given during consultations conducted with other pride event and parade organizers in other comparably sized cities," explained Karen Gutzler during a recent PrideFest Town Hall

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