

## New Gay-Friendly MPS School LGBT Students Get an Understanding Welcome

By Sura Faraj

Like New York and Texas, Wisconsin school leaders will add their names to the list of education professionals who have opened their minds and are ready to act on the unique challenges facing at-risk as well as gay youth.

The Alliance School of Milwaukee (ASM), crafted with the goal of serving the needs of students who have been harassed and bullied in other school environments, is scheduled to open August 1. At that time, leaders say, 100 students in grades 9-12 will be in their seats. "Classes won't be based on grade level, but on students' interests and their needs for graduation," says Tina Owen, a planning team member and the lead teacher of the Alliance School.

The diverse student body will include LGBT kids. Organizers of the school say that ASM will establish a safe haven for students who are harassed for the way they look, the way they dress, their beliefs or their sexuality.

According to organizers, ASM received a \$50,000 planning grant from TALC (Technical Assistance and Leadership Center), the organization managing funds provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to encourage smaller schools in Milwaukee.

**'I hear reports of teasing, harassment and threats that are based on gender identity and perceived orientation.'**

The planners of the school say they have passed through one part of a two-step process. According to Eugene Jones, assistant director of the Office of School Governance, both the concept and the proposal were approved by the MPS board of school directors in June. Next, they need to have their contract approved, first in committee and then through the full school board.

Jennifer Morales, an MPS school board director, supports the school wholeheartedly. "I hear reports of teasing, harassment and threats that are based on gender identity and perceived orientation."

The school will be an MPS instrumentality charter, which means

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Wisconsin's Premiere LGBT News Leader

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# Gay Bar Raid

## Milwaukee Police Department Actions Raise Questions

By Don Hoffman and Drew Pritt

In what has apparently become a regular occurrence for area LGBT bars, the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) recently set out to identify and fine clubs that serve underage drinkers.

The most recent crackdown happened the weekend of December 10-12, 2004. Several LGBT bars and clubs were cited. However, the details surrounding what happened in each of the establishments are still unclear.

Repeated attempts to get accurate information from MPD yielded few results and even more questions. After more than a half dozen inquiries from Q Life, and additional requests from LGBT bars that were involved in the raid, to both the precinct where the incident occurred and the Public Information Office, MPD's response was minimal and often silent.

On the flip side, some LGBT bar owners were more than happy to talk.

### LGBT Bar Owners' Perspectives

Craig Schoenung, owner of Switch, an area gay bar, says these raids are nothing new. "This has been going on for years. When the local universities let out for break, we are especially on guard for this type of procedure," said Schoenung, implying that some bars may be targeted by the MPD because they are frequented by college students. Switch was not cited in the most recent raid.

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These still pictures, shown sequentially, were captured from a video security camera at Woody's Bar.

**BAR RAID** *continued from page 1*

According to either the bar owners or bartenders, clubs issued citations that weekend were C'est La Vie, Harbor Room, Boot Camp, Triangle, Ballgame and Woody's. The full list has still not been made available by the MPD.

Si Smits, owner of Boot Camp, is disappointed that the bar owners and the city leaders are not discouraging this type of action by the police. "I wish the bar owners would forget their rivalry, sit down, and work out a way to work together as a community. Also, I wish some of the owners would jointly fight these citations. Instead of just lying down and paying the fine, we should fight these ridiculous raids on our bars."

Smits and Steve Behl, the owner of Woody's, another bar cited that weekend, say they will fight their citations.

"We have a new mayor, new police chief, new alderman, and yet this sort of police harassment continues," said Smits. "What sort of impression does this leave with us? They want to come to us, in the community, and ask for cooperation, or ask the business owners to support an increase in revenue for the police department."

**Police Disagree**

Sgt. Kenneth Harris of the MPD has a different perspective. According to Harris, most police districts do licensed tavern checks by generating a random list.

After repeated attempts by Q Life to get the facts surrounding the incidents that weekend, Harris finally shared some information verbally. "On that weekend, approximately 65 taverns were raided, and approximately 29 were cited," says Harris. Since many gay bars are in the same police district, he told us that it made sense that they were all part of the same sting.

While Harris would not provide the full list of taverns in print, he did read off some of the streets that these bars were on: "Clement, Delaware, Grange, Grant, Howell, KK, Lapham." He also named nine bars, which he said were part of that weekend operation. Three of them are gay bars and presumably, the other six are straight bars.

Of those six bars, we were only able to confirm that one was part of the December 10-12 weekend sting.

**Other Communities Complain**

Planet Marky, described by the owner, Karen Mace, as a tavern with mixed clientele, was another of the bars that the MPD claimed was raided that weekend. However, according to Mace that is not what took place. Mace says Planet Marky was raided not in the middle of December, as Harris said, but on November 6, 2004, in an entirely different operation. She claimed that their bar had never been raided by the police before.

According to Mace, the police showed up after the bar was closed.

She was unclear on why they came and why they called for backup, resulting in four police officers inside and more outside, walking around, peeking in her windows. According to Mace, police said to her, "You're not hiding anyone in here, are you?" She described the incident, saying, "They checked all over the bar, looking under the stairwell and in the walk-in cooler."

Mace continues, "The only person in the bar besides me and three employees was a young woman who was waiting to give her friend, one of the bartenders, a ride home." According to Mace, the young woman was neither drinking nor underage. Yet she claims the police issued both her and Mace a ticket.

Mace is distressed that the police

**'What the bars in this community have got to start doing is uniting and battling discrimination at all levels.'**

seemed oblivious to safety issues and would expect a young woman to wait out in the street at 2:30 in the morning. Mace said of the whole ordeal, "To me they were just harassing us, they were very belligerent, just looking for something to pin on us."

Mace plans to contest the ticket.

**A Pattern?**

Do these sorts of actions just affect the LGBT community?

Based on this and some other high profile incidents, many think this type of behavior is the modus operandi for some members of the Milwaukee Police Department.

Kaye Young, a bartender who self-identifies as both African-American and Muslim, says she has been present in bars and taverns when such raids have taken place. Young did not cite specific examples for fear of the reaction, however, she claims this sort of behavior happens in African-American bars and taverns as well.

"The gay community is facing the same sort of discrimination that our community has faced for years," says Young. "What the bars in this community have got to start doing is uniting and battling discrimination at all levels. Regardless of whether we are African-American, Hispanic or white; gay or straight; Muslim, Jewish or Christian, we have to say this sort of discrimination is no longer acceptable in our society."

Readers might recall the incident in 2002 when dozens of officers, with guns drawn, entered the El Rey grocery store and tortilla factory under the pretense of executing a search for drugs. Those drugs turned out to be prescription drugs from Canada, such as Ampicillin, Naproxen and Amoxicillin. Latino and other community leaders reacted with outrage, saying Milwaukee police overreacted and abused their power, harassing and humiliating store patrons.

In that incident, police took the videotape from the store's surveillance cameras.

**Video Evidence**

Steve Behl has a video of the incident at Woody's. Q Life recently obtained a copy.

Behl says, "It is unclear why it happened, but apparently one patron reached towards a police officer in what the officer took to be a threatening manner. The police officer told me he thought the patron was trying to steal his police radio. I've asked the cops to give me a written report but they haven't."

According to the report from which Harris read, the officer at Woody's was confronted by several patrons. One of them lifted his jacket and knocked the radio from his hands. According to Harris, this resulted in two patrons being cited for disorderly conduct. Woody's was subsequently shut down for the evening. Again, Q Life requested a copy of that report. It has not been provided.

After viewing a videotape of the incident, it's unclear to Q Life what exactly happened inside Woody's. However, it is clear that there was some sort of scuffle that led to a patron being placed on the ground, handcuffed and escorted out of the bar. It is unclear if the patron was ever charged.

**Last Call**

During the writing of this story, the office of Milwaukee Chief of Police Nannette Hegerty was contacted twice for comment on these incidents. Hegerty never returned calls to the Q Life office.

As an example of yet another curious development, right before Q Life's deadline, the office was contacted by the MPD and told that a police report was waiting for us. When we went down to pick up the report, we were informed that some of the documentation was missing and were sent away empty-handed.

MPD promised a follow-up call.

*See page 12 for editorial.*

**'We have a new mayor, new police chief, new alderman, and yet this sort of police harassment continues.'**

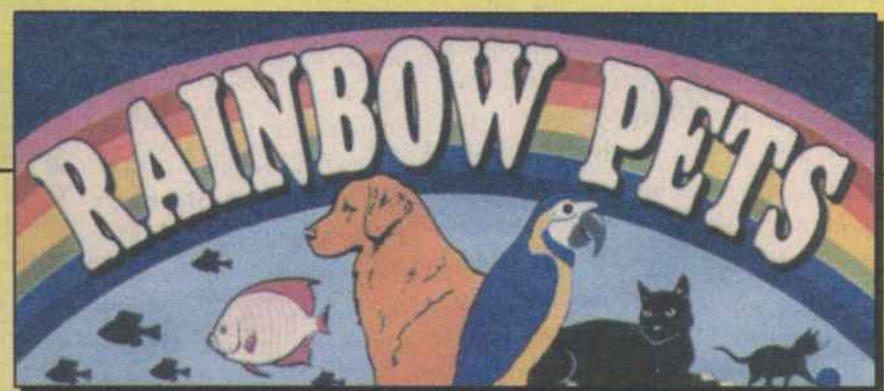
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# 'Embracing the Vision and Moving Forward' James Pennington Takes the Helm at Milwaukee's LGBT Center

By Jamakaya

James Pennington, the newly appointed executive director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, is confident he is "in the right place at the right time."

Filling the shoes of the Center's esteemed founding director, Neil Albrecht, could be a little intimidating for anyone. But Pennington told *Queer Life* that any doubts were dispelled and his commitment was reinforced at an LGBT event over the holidays:

"I enjoyed so much talking with people there, listening to everyone. That's probably the part of the job I'll enjoy most. I need to design budgets. I enjoy supervising staff. I also like goal-setting. But I really like the public relations aspect. Hearing the dreams of some of the people I met that night was really inspiring. Learning about what we can do for the community — that's what this job is all about."

"We're at a crucial point right now in the history of the Center," Pennington said. "The staff has grown from one to 12 in a matter of six or seven years. We've expanded from a sort of quiet, hidden space to a much more public space and to much more programming. Finding out what's next is the challenge."

"My job, along with the board and staff, is to look, to listen, to visualize where we need to go from here. And then to embrace that vision and move forward."

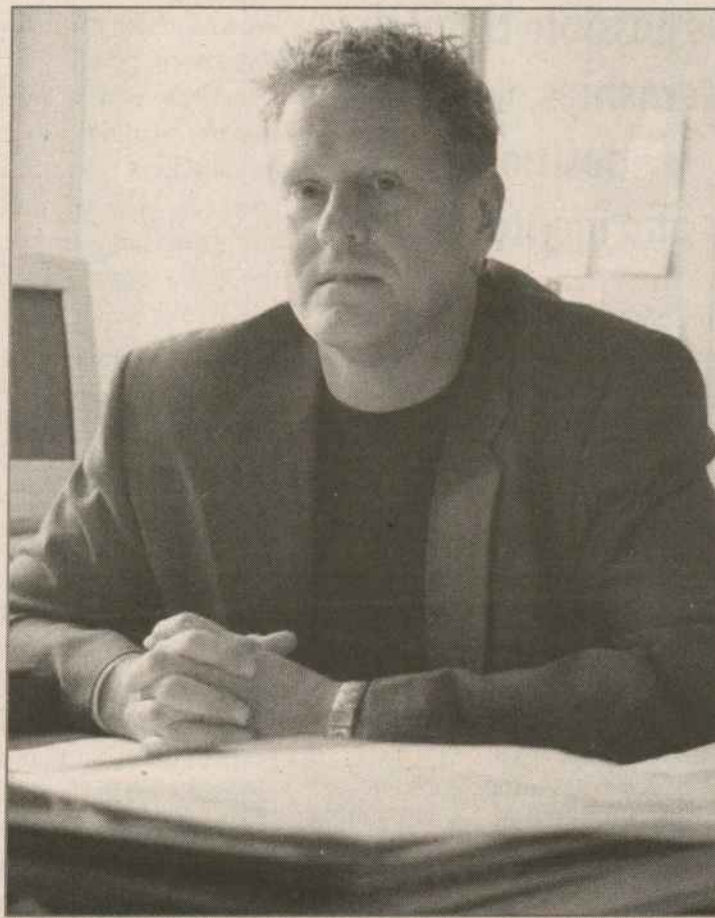
## Coming Out to the Family

Pennington, 46, was born in Mississippi, but moved to Chicago with his family at age 5 and grew up on that city's south side. He spoke warmly about his family and coming out experience: "My mom and I had a discussion early on, when I was 13 or 14, when she found some things that she thought may be identifiers that I was a homosexual. I really didn't know what she was talking about when she confronted me. But I remember going back to her at about 18 and saying, 'You know, that discussion we had? It was true. I am!' And then her comment was, 'Well, it sure is a beautiful day today, isn't it?'"

Even though his parents haven't been comfortable talking about it in depth, Pennington said his family "appreciates who I am and they also appreciate the people I've brought into their lives. I've had a couple of longer term partnerships, and those partners got the best of everything: They got the best Christmas gifts; they were treated incredibly well and loved very much by the family."

His older sister was always supportive, and some of his nieces and nephews in Mississippi want him to move back south. "They've assured me that they know of a lesbian couple living down the road, so I shouldn't be worried that I won't fit in," he said with a wry chuckle.

Pennington took a circuitous route to Milwaukee, but his education and his experience in ministry, social service and administration should serve him well at the LGBT Center.



As a young man, he earned a degree in Educational Psychology from the University of Chicago and then obtained a Masters of Divinity, Ethics and Philosophy from Washington University and Concordia and Eden Seminaries in St. Louis.

After being ordained a Lutheran minister, "I did campus ministry for about eight years in Lincoln, Neb., and then went overseas for a year. I went to Russia where I did leadership development and HIV/AIDS education."

## Advocate for Youth and People with AIDS

When Pennington returned to the United States, he came to Wisconsin to work with international students at UW-Stevens Point. He learned of a job opportunity with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) and helped open the ARCW office in Wausau.

After a year and a half in Wausau, Pennington moved to Milwaukee where he managed outreach services to gay and other targeted communities for ARCW. Then he

went to Pathfinders, a shelter and support program for runaways operated by the Counseling Center of Milwaukee.

"Those four years were instrumental in my personal and professional growth," Pennington said. "I directed the shelter and there was a street outreach program that provided therapy services for at-risk youth and their families. It was rewarding work, and it was an opportunity to really embrace the diversity of our community here, because Pathfinders served mostly youth and families of color — African-American and Latino. It helped to broaden my understanding of those communities."

From Pathfinders, Pennington went to the AIDS Network in Madison as director of services.

"At AIDS Network," he said, "we were fighting to secure our funding, which is an ongoing problem in the HIV/AIDS community, because funding is either the same level it has been over time or it's diminished. So I spent a lot of time at the capitol advocating for AIDS Network and the HIV-positive community. It gave me an opportunity to get to know politicians, which has prepared me for the position here at the Center."

The LGBT Center itself cannot be politically active due to its tax-exempt, charitable status. But its "sister" organization, Center Advocates, can conduct nonpartisan education and lobbying on behalf of the LGBT community.

"The Advocates have been meeting with some key community leaders, and they'll do some hands-on lobbying work at the capitol this month," Pennington said. "Milwaukee LGBTs and their allies will take a bus to Madison and talk to our representatives about the proposed anti-marriage amendment, how it's going to impact our community and our state. The Advocates are continuing to network with business leaders, religious leaders, and others who can be allies and speak on our behalf."

## An Incredibly Exciting Time

"It's an incredibly exciting time for the LGBT community because of everything that's happening politically," said Pennington, who assumed his duties at the LGBT Community Center on November 15.

Pennington continued, "As a community — in many ways not necessarily by our own choice — we have been thrown into the forefront, particularly with the last election and the debates over gay marriage and civil unions. People are taking one side or another. I think that says something to us at the Center, that it's time for us to be out there, to be more vocal and to be much more visible."

When asked how the growing tide of right-wing sentiment and religious fundamentalism will affect the LGBT community, Pennington said: "In many ways. It may affect our funding, possibly making it harder to get public funding for LGBT or HIV/AIDS programs. It challenges us to be more outspoken, to respond to some of the radical thinking of individuals who come from the more conservative Christian-Judeo belief structure. It calls us to speak out in large public ways but also in small ways — in our personal relationships, one on one, with families, neighbors, friends, with those we're in relationships with."

"My first weeks have been spent looking into what kind of programming is really going to meet the needs of our LGBT community," Pennington said. "At a recent staff meeting, all 12 staff members indicated they'd like to see more programming for the gaps we currently have."

"We've got strong programming for those who want to have a voice in

*continued on page 7*

**'My job, along with the board and staff, is to look, to listen, to visualize where we need to go from here. And then to embrace that vision and move forward.'**

**SCHOOL** *continued from page 1*

that, once it's open, it will remain under MPS's control and will receive the same funding as other schools. Basically, ASM is different from other MPS schools, both because it's smaller and because there's more flexibility in teaching.

Apparently, the planners have received overwhelming support and encouragement. According to Owen, most members of the MPS school board are very much in support of the school and its mission.

Superintendent William Andrekopoulos also supports the school: "I'm very impressed with the teachers and planners, and their dedication to serve kids high at risk." He continues, "We know we must find ways of educating all of our children, and the people behind this are really committed."

When asked if he knew of any opposition to ASM, Andrekopoulos replied, "Tell me, what is the opposition to a school that serves children who have a hard time fitting in?"

MPS has already created some small schools, according to Jennifer Wilson, an MPS learning technologies coordinator who is also on the planning team. "The school district wants to improve attendance and the

## The idea of a school for gay kids may seem strange, but it's not new. Harvey Milk High School in New York City serves gay youth and appears to have a positive impact on student achievement.

graduation rate, and to give students a more personal environment where they're known by the entire staff," she says. "They recognize that the Alliance School will help those students who are dropping out or just not showing up because of harassment."

**Is It a Gay School?**

Owen and another teacher, Nicole Powers, started planning the school after seeing many gay students who were being harassed or bullied. Surprisingly, it isn't just other students doing the harassing, but according to Owen, some staff also participated in humiliating or treating students poorly based on their perceived identity.

## 'We want the students to interact with the adult world and other worlds as much as possible through internships, volunteer positions and mentoring.'

In some cases, these kids experienced physical and verbal threats, harassment and name-calling. Owen recalled a gay girl who was told by a security guard, "You're going to hell."

Ashley Werner, a bright and personable 17-year-old junior at Pulaski High School, who identifies herself as "a queer lesbian," is looking forward to attending the Alliance School. She knows firsthand how difficult it is to face harassment. "I'm going through it right now," she says.

She describes other girls in her gym class yelling out slurs. "I've had death threats and been beaten up for being queer." She's spoken to her gym teacher, but, she says, "It's not safe. The teachers don't do anything."

The idea of a school for gay kids may seem strange, but it's not new. Owen and Wilson cite Harvey Milk High School in New York City, which serves gay youth, and appears to have a positive impact on student achievement. "They have an amazing 90 percent graduation rate," says Wilson. Owen adds, "Many go on to higher education."

Wilson says that she and other members of the planning team were very impressed that MPS Superintendent Andrekopoulos visited Harvey Milk High School and met with the principal, in order to learn how to better support the Alliance School in Milwaukee.

Andrekopoulos speaks of his experience visiting the school: "What did I see? It's important for schools to connect to community organizations that can help children who are having a difficult time. It's important to limit enrollment for kids who might have a high level of emotional needs."

But the Alliance School is not just for gay students.

Owen related concern about a goth girl: "She automatically gets suspended more easily and treated more harshly." The planning team says it's reaching out to all these kids through various contacts and by putting up information at local hangouts, like the coffee shop Node.

It is immediately evident that ASM welcomes all students. "We want it to be a place where you can feel comfortable to be who you are, whatever your beliefs are, however you like to dress, whatever color your hair is, whoever you are — it's okay, it's good. We love that. We love individuality," says Owen.

School Board Director Morales doesn't want the recruitment effort for LGBT youth watered down. She says, "The school will have a really broad appeal, but I don't want the LGBT outreach aspect of it to be lost. We've made some progress as a district by welcoming gay-straight alliances and having a comprehensive anti-discrimination policy for both our students and employees, but homophobia still exists and our kids certainly aren't immune to that." Morales goes on to say we need a safe haven for our LGBT kids.

**The School as Community**

The Alliance School is scheduled to open as a year-round school, based on trimesters. Students will get several breaks spread out during the year, along with a substantial summer break. This will keep them connected with the adults who are going to be important in their lives.

The planners regard the continuity this provides as key, and the focus on making this school a community is unmistakable. Wilson defines this idea of school-as-community as going beyond the staff and the students, in a sense, providing a strong network of resources and counseling. "We have a lot of community partners and that's really important to us. We want the students to interact with the adult world and other worlds as much as possible through internships, volunteer positions and mentoring," says Wilson.

According to ASM's brochure, community partners already on board include Pathfinders, Project Q, the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, PFLAG, the MPS High School Redesign Initiative and others.

**Creative Learning Environment**

In talking about the school, Owen and Wilson use terms not always employed when discussing mainstream schools: foundational curriculum, expeditionary learning, community meetings, inquiry-based instruction and peer support groups.

Tina Owen envisions a small home environment with creative classes, and students integrating the academic parts into real-world, life experiences. "We want to get students involved in the planning of the lessons and everyday ongoings of the

school — to really empower them to take charge of the school."

Wilson agrees. "All learning doesn't have to take place within the walls of the school, and students learn a whole lot about themselves when they are in different environments, as do we all."

Owen is planning for regular community meetings. Here she hopes the school community will come together to propose issues or solutions. In fact, when a problem arises, she says, the group will discuss and decide as a whole what solutions should be implemented. She expects that the community meetings will help the students become more involved in taking care of each other and themselves.

Other progressive schools nationwide use this tool. Owen recently attended such a community meeting. She marvels about the effect this had on the children. "They were taking on responsibility without anyone telling them to, and the older kids were taking care of the younger kids. The adults weren't stepping in and saying, 'No, you can't do that.' The older kids were the ones saying, 'Maybe we need to think about this a little more.'"

MPS Director Morales observes, "The Alliance School is long overdue and I'm grateful for the creativity and the courage of the people who organized it. I'm excited and I think it's going to be a fabulous school."

The Alliance School is currently looking for a location.

For more information or to learn how to enroll in ASM, call 414-475-8899.



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# Cream City Foundation Announces Search for Executive Director

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee-based Cream City Foundation, one of only 25 national LGBT nonprofit community foundations in the country, is seeking a new visionary executive director.

The executive director serves as the chief development and executive officer in securing and granting philanthropic support to southeast Wisconsin's vibrant LGBT community.

Cream City Foundation (CCF) recently announced the departure of its executive director, Jenny Gryniewicz who helped transform the foundation into a growing, vital part of the LGBT community during the past two years.

"During her tenure, Jenny played a pivotal role in increasing the visibility of CCF and she was key in the turnaround plan for PrideFest 2004," said Denise Wise, president of the board of directors of the foundation.

Gryniewicz now will be working with the Milwaukee Wave as director of ticket sales and community relations. "I accepted a position that allows me to try new experiences and will expose me to challenges and opportunities which I have only dreamt about," said Gryniewicz, who has also worked with the Milwaukee Bucks organization.

Cream City Foundation has developed a strategy for recruitment of its new executive director that begins in January. "A search committee is in place and we are moving quickly, yet strategically," Wise said. "We see this

as an opportunity for the next phase of growth for CCF."

The CCF strategic plan calls for increased emphasis on major donor gifts and planned giving in 2005. In addition, the board is considering the creation of donor-advised funds in which contributors donate to the foundation and maintain control over the disbursements of their funds. This form of charitable giving is the fastest growing tool in philanthropy among community foundations around the country, according to statistics by the Council on Foundations.

Candidates must demonstrate a proven track record in grassroots nonprofit leadership and management; fiscal management; fund development from all major philanthropic sectors; communications and marketing expertise; capacity building; granting; endowment and major gifts development; and strategic and annual planning. The executive director must be passionate about advocacy, health and socio-economic issues facing the LGBT community. CCF's funding is a catalyst for change and the ED must track grantee results while building collaborative working relationships across diverse LGBT and allied communities.

Cream City Foundation is a member of the Donors Forum of Wisconsin, a regional association of grant-makers.

For more information on the position or how to apply, contact Claudia Guzman by January 24, at 414-221-9500. For more information on Cream City Foundation, visit the CCF Web site at [www.lgbtgiving.org/foundations/cream.htm](http://www.lgbtgiving.org/foundations/cream.htm).

# US Soldier Kills Iraqi Gay Teen After Sex

Raleigh, NC - A U.S. National Guardsman who pleaded guilty to killing a 17-year-old Iraqi said he shot the young man 11 times after they had sex in a guard tower, a North Carolina newspaper reports, citing court-martial records.

Pte. Federico Daniel Merida, 21, pleaded guilty to murder without premeditation and other charges during a court martial in Iraq in September.

Merida was sentenced September 25 to 25 years in prison and reduced in rank and will be dishonorably discharged. He is being held at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, a Leavenworth spokeswoman said.

U.S. army officials at Forward Operating Base Danger, where the court martial was held in Iraq, had withheld details of the case.

However, the News & Observer newspaper of Raleigh reported that records said Merida and the Iraqi were on guard duty May 11 in a tower on the perimeter of an army camp near Tikrit in northern Iraq. At about 10:30 p.m. local time, Merida shot the teen 11 times with his carbine.

Merida first told investigators the teen demanded money at gunpoint. Later, he said he killed the boy because he forced him to have sex. In a third interview, Merida said he was angry after the two had consensual sex.

Merida also pleaded guilty to two counts of giving false statements.

Merida apologized to the victim's family during the court martial, records said.

"He was a son, a brother, someone very important to them," Merida said. "I took someone they loved and cared for."

Merida, who was born in Veracruz, Mexico, has a wife and son. He was a member of the 113th Field Artillery Battalion's Battery B, based in Monroe, N.C.

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# PrideFest Seeks Web Site Proposals

Milwaukee - PrideFest, Wisconsin's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) festival, announced today a request for proposals to develop, host and maintain the festival's Web site, [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com). The RFP became available Monday, January 3, 2005. Proposals must be mailed to PrideFest and postmarked by January 14, 2005.

In November, the PrideFest Task Force partnered with ENTECH to identify and refine the festival's Web site needs. ENTECH, which is housed on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus, specializes in providing unbiased technology support services to nonprofit organizations. ENTECH staff assisted the Task Force in developing the scope of services for the Web site. Plans involve creating a new design and building in the potential for new services and increased interactivity on the site.

"The Web site plays a critical role in sharing news about festival developments, recruiting volunteers, selling tickets and reinforcing the PrideFest brand," said Paul Williams, PrideFest Task Force member. "We are seeking to design a new site that will meet the specific needs of the festival as it develops and grows."

PrideFest is currently running a temporary Web site that will be updated periodically until it is replaced by the new site. Work with the new site developer will begin February 1 with plans for the site to be completed before PrideFest begins heavy promotion of the 2005 festival.

Persons interested in responding to the RFP can receive a copy by contacting PrideFest at 414-272-3378 (FEST) or [rfp@pridefest.com](mailto:rfp@pridefest.com)

Responses must be postmarked by January 14, 2005, and mailed to PrideFest, P.O. Box 511763, Milwaukee, WI 53203.



TOONS



**PENNINGTON** *continued from page 3*

politics through the Center Advocates. We have strong programming regarding hate crimes and same-sex violence through our Anti-Violence Project. Project Q is an incredibly strong youth program serving many African-American youth. But there's a gap from 19 years old on, where there's really not solid programming for young adults. And others have asked for more programming for adults in their 30s, 40s, 50s and above, helping to build communities within the community."

Pennington said that another goal is diversifying outreach. "I think a particular population we are not reaching is the growing Latino population of Milwaukee. Finding new ways to reach out to that community to provide for their needs will be a concern of ours."

**'It's time for us to be out there, to be more vocal, and to be much more visible.'**

**Next Generation' Community Center**

Meanwhile, the LGBT Center's lease at 315 W. Court St. expires in about 18 months, and the facilities committee has begun assessing its future needs. According to Pennington, "The hope is that the facility we have two years and four years and ten years from now can meet those needs."

"Is it a good, central location? Is it warm and embracing of the community? Do we need a different design or layout? Do we need a completely different place?"

Options include continuing at the Court Street location (where the Center leases about 10,000 square feet), or possibly purchasing that building or another. Pennington and the committee will be seeking input about the "next generation" community center throughout the coming year.

Another goal is building stronger community collaborations. "The Center has been seen sometimes as



Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

kind of an island, not always good at playing with other people unless we were the lead agency," Pennington explained. "We're trying to change that model, because it only makes sense that when we work together we're going to be stronger."

The goals of expanded programming, outreach, staff and community relations require increased financing, a special challenge at a time of government and foundation cutbacks.

Pennington acknowledged that "ambitious and creative" fundraising efforts are needed to maintain the current annual budget of \$750,000 and to surpass it in years to come.

"It's been amazing to see how much this organization has grown and how influential it's become in just seven years," Pennington said. "I feel honored — and humbled as well — by the responsibility I have in moving it forward."

"I really like Milwaukee," said Pennington, who moved back to the city from Madison in November. "There are great restaurants and there's a great performing arts scene. It's an easy city to get around in. And I love the lake here; it's much more accessible than the lakefront in Chicago." An admitted "coffee-holic," he especially enjoys the many coffee shops on the east side. *continued on page 34*



## California Domestic Partner Law Effective Jan. 1

San Francisco, CA — A California law granting same-sex couples nearly identical legal rights and responsibilities as married spouses went into effect New Year's Day.

The law expands legislation passed in 1999 that allowed California gay and lesbian couples to register as domestic partners. In 2001 the Legislature gave registered partners the right to make medical decisions for incapacitated partners, to sue for a partner's wrongful death and to adopt a partner's child.

Under the new law, most of the other rights and responsibilities of marriage are added. These include: community property, mutual responsibility for debt, parenting rights and obligations such as custody and support, and the ability to claim a partner's body after death.

The law does not allow for joint tax filing and certain other protections under state law, and does not provide access to over 1,000 federal protections that married couples enjoy.

The Domestic Partners Rights and Responsibility Act is considered by most LGBT civil rights advocates as a stopgap measure until the right to marry is granted in California.

The new law survived a lawsuit brought by two of the conservative groups also fighting suits over gay marriage in the state.

Lawyers for the two groups sought to have the law declared illegal, claim-

ing it violates the spirit and intent of a 2000 ballot initiative approved by voters that holds California will only recognize unions between a man and a woman as valid.

In September Sacramento Superior Court Judge Loren E. McMaster said that there is nothing in the language of Proposition 22 that "restrict[s] the grant of rights and benefits to persons who have registered as domestic partners, even if those rights closely parallel the rights enjoyed by married couples."

Meanwhile the marriage issue continues to work its way through the court system. This month San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Richard Kramer heard arguments from both sides. Kramer has asked to see additional written arguments by January 14th and is not expected to issue a ruling until possibly April. Ultimately it will be up to the California Supreme Court to rule on same-sex marriage unless the Legislature acts before then.

Assembly Member Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) will re-introduce legislation in the upcoming session that would allow same-sex couples to marry.

Also effective January 1, under another California law affecting same-sex couples it is now illegal for insurance companies to offer health insurance benefits that do not also cover the domestic partners of gay and lesbian employees.

## Help Defeat the Constitutional Ban on Civil Unions and Marriage

### Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Gives You Two Ways to Fight Back:

- **Statewide Lobby Day in Madison**

Thursday, January 27th 2005

Bus leaves from Milwaukee LGBT Center at 8:00am and returns at 6:00pm.

Talk to your state representatives in Madison in person.

Action Wisconsin provides the training and organizes the day.

RSVP to Patrick (414) 271-2656 x112 to reserve your space.

- **Valentine's Day Rally against the Amendment**

Sponsored by Milwaukee "No on the Amendment" Coalition

Monday, February 14, 5:00pm – 6:15pm

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## Arkansas to Appeal Gay Foster Ruling

Little Rock, Arkansas – An Arkansas judge has lifted a statewide ban on placing foster children in homes with a gay resident, ruling that the state agency behind the enforcement had overstepped its authority by trying to regulate "public morality."

The American Civil Liberties Union's Arkansas affiliate brought the case to court, arguing that the regulation violated gays' equal protection rights. The state vowed to appeal the ruling, issued by Judge Timothy Fox.

The ruling struck down a 1999 regulation of the Child Welfare Agency Review Board that said gays cannot become foster parents and foster children cannot be placed in a home inhabited by a gay person.

While the ban has kept gay people from fostering children, Arkansas has no law barring gay adoption.

The ACLU had argued the regulation violates the equal-protection rights of gays. Fox instead took issue with the ban's failure to "promote the health, safety and welfare of children," which the Arkansas Legislature had given the review board the power to regulate.

Fox said the law seeks to regulate "public morality," something the board was not given the authority to do.

"The testimony and evidence overwhelmingly showed that there was no rational relationship between the... blanket exclusion [of gays] and the... health and safety of foster children," Fox said in a statement.

ACLU Arkansas chapter director Rita Sklar considered the ruling a victory.

"Throughout this case, the state has relied on ugly stereotypes to deny children in the Arkansas foster care system the chance of having the widest possible pool of foster families available to them," Sklar said in a statement released by the ALCU. "We're very pleased that the court saw through these arguments and

has recognized that gay and lesbian people can provide homes just as loving and stable as anyone else's."

According to the ACLU, Fox's findings additionally concluded that children of gay and lesbian parents are just as well-adjusted as children of straight parents. His ruling determined that being raised by gay parents does not put children at risk for psychological, behavioral, or academic problems.

The state's head lawyer, Kathy L. Hall, said the statement never questioned the health and safety of foster children but suggested children needed normalcy because of disruptions in their lives.

Arkansas' specific ban on fostering is unique. A Florida ban on gay adoption was recently upheld in a federal court and an appeal by the ACLU is currently pending before the Supreme Court. Utah and Mississippi also restrict gay adoption — Mississippi's law restricts couples but not gay or lesbian individuals. Utah's state ban bars any unmarried cohabiting couple, gay or straight, from adopting or fostering children.

Fox heard extensive testimony in the Arkansas case over the past year. Several board members testified that they had personal problems with the idea of gays and lesbians engaging in sex.

In trial, Hall said hearing about homosexuality was different than "knowing it's going on in the room next door."

Fox cited testimony of psychologists and sociologists that gay and lesbian people can be as loving and caring foster parents as heterosexuals.

Hall suggested the regulation could be preserved even if an appeal fails, suggesting lawmakers rewrite the board's powers "to give it authority to regulate the health, safety, welfare and morality of children."

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## AIDS Treatment in One Daily Pill

Trenton, NJ – Two drug companies announced Monday they will collaborate on developing the first all-in-one, once-a-day pill to treat HIV infection — a long-sought goal that would make it much easier for patients to stick with their medication.

Currently, the best AIDS treatment requires patients to take two to four pills a day. Less than a decade ago, many patients had to take 25 to 30 pills a day, often at precise times and under specific conditions such as with food, making it extremely difficult for patients to stick to the complex schedule. Missing doses makes it easier for the virus to mutate and become resistant to medication.

In the first collaboration by competing

AIDS drug makers, Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Gilead Sciences Inc. formed a joint venture to test and market a single pill combining three widely used medicines from two different classes of AIDS drugs.

Because the three individual drugs already are on the market, the once-a-day combination could be approved and on sale as soon as the second half of 2006, said David Rosen, a spokesman for Bristol-Myers Squibb.

"To have it all in a single pill is terrific," Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told The Associated Press.

The combination pill will in-

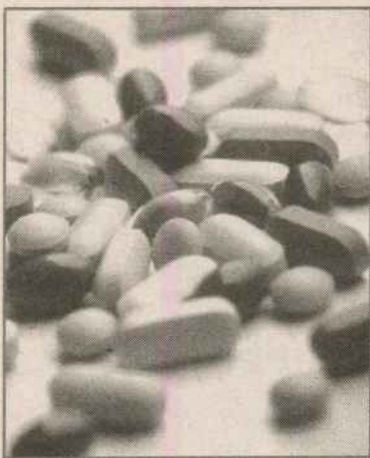
clude Sustiva, made by Bristol-Myers Squibb. It also will include two AIDS drugs made by Gilead Sciences of Foster City, California: Viread and Emtriva.

The latter two drugs are from the same class of AIDS drugs, but they block copying of the AIDS virus at two different points early in its replication cycle. Sustiva is from a different class of drugs and attacks the virus later in the cycle.

"It's the first time ever that two companies with competing products have worked together," said Dr. Michael Saag, director of the AIDS Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. "This is something patient advocates and a lot of physicians have been pushing for for over a decade."

Fauci also said such partnerships are crucial.

"We hope it's the beginning of future collaborations," he said.



## Parents Try to Oust Gay Couple's Kids from School

California – A group of parents and parishioners has accused the Roman Catholic diocese of Orange County of violating church doctrine by allowing a gay couple to enroll their children in a Catholic school.

The group has demanded that St. John the Baptist School in Costa Mesa accept only families that pledge to abide by Catholic teachings. That would likely bar the men's two adopted boys from attending the school's kindergarten because of church opposition to relationships and adoption by same-sex couples.

"This is not a radical or mean-spirited approach to Catholic education," the group told the school in a letter reviewed by the Los Angeles Times. "It is a straightforward assurance to any prospective parent that their child will be taught the fullness of Roman Catholic doctrine."

School officials, however, rejected demands for a parental covenant last week and issued a new policy stating that a family's background "does not constitute an absolute obstacle to enrollment in the school."

"I firmly believe that this policy is in line with the teaching of the Catholic Church," Rev. Martin Benzoni, who oversees the 550-student elementary and middle school, told

the Times.

Rev. Gerald M. Horan, superintendent of schools operated by the diocese, suggested that hewing too closely to Catholic beliefs would mean banning children whose parents divorced, used birth control or married outside the church.

"This is the quagmire that the parents' position represents," Horan said. "It's a slippery slope to go down."

The boys' fathers, who enrolled their children at the beginning the school year, declined to comment to the Times.

The decision outraged some parents, with several promising to ask the Vatican to intervene and threatening to switch schools.

"The teachings of the church seem to have been abandoned," said parent John R. Nixon. "We send our children to a Catholic school because we expect and demand that the teachings of our church will be adhered to. If our Catholic school is no longer teaching and living Catholic doctrine, we might as well send our children to public schools."

Others worried the boys' attendance would set a precedent, portraying it as part of a larger effort by the gay community to change church strictures.



"The boys are being used as pawns by these men to further their agenda," said Monica Sii, who has four children at the school.

At least a handful of similar disputes have occurred around the country, according to Rev. Jim Schexnayder of the National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian and Gay Ministries. In Oregon, a lesbian couple has sued a Catholic school that rejected their daughter.

Some parents backed the school's position.

"Let he who is without sin cast the first stone," said Katie Flores, whose daughter is a classmate of the boys.

Even so, the group of parents planned to continue pressing their demands.

"We're taking a stand for the faith," said parent Ken Stashik. "This is much larger than what's going on in a small Catholic school in a small town."

## Lesbian Pastor Appeals Defrocking

Philadelphia, PA – A Methodist minister who was defrocked for declaring that she is a lesbian living with her partner is taking her case to a church appeals court.

The Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud of Philadelphia was ousted December 2 for violating the United Methodist Church's law against "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" in the clergy.

Stroud said one factor in her decision to appeal was something retired Bishop Joseph Yeakel, who presided at her church trial, said after the verdict. Yeakel told her, "The day will come when the church apologizes for this decision."

Stroud was tried by her own Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The case now goes to an appeals panel of the Northeastern Jurisdiction, which covers 12 states and the District of Columbia.

At the trial, Yeakel barred testimony from six Stroud witnesses who oppose the Methodist ban, citing both legal and theological arguments. But the six filed material that is part of the trial record, and the Northeastern Jurisdiction will review that.

Stroud wants the appeals panel to consider that Methodist law, known as the Book of Discipline, "calls us as a church to stand against every form of discrimination" and "treat all people as equally loved by God."

"When you look at those provisions of the Discipline and some of the prohibitions on homosexuality, you have to make a choice," she said.

If the Northeastern Jurisdiction decides trial procedures were mistaken, it could direct a second Pennsylvania trial, Yeakel said. It could also refer questions on interpretation of Methodist law to the church's national Judicial Council.

The case originated last year when Stroud announced her same-sex partnership in a sermon. At the trial, an all-clergy jury voted 12-1 that she was guilty of violating Methodist law. In a subsequent penalty phase, jurors voted to defrock her by 7-6.

Philadelphia's First United Methodist Church of Germantown has continued to employ Stroud as a lay worker.

## Penguins Find Gay Love

*New York City* – Roy and Silo aren't alone. Earlier this year newspapers reported on the two male penguins at New York's Central Park Zoo who are completely devoted to each other and for the past six years have been inseparable.

Now, researchers from Japan say they've found a number of same-sex pairs of penguins at aquariums in Japan.

The Kyoto news agency reports that Keisuke Ueda, professor of behavioral ecology at Rikkyo University in Tokyo, found about 20 same-sex pairs at 16 major aquariums and zoos.

Like Roy and Silo they shun female companionship, build a nest together, and have sex. Apparently, lots of sex.

Roy and Silo have even tried to have offspring. Their chief keeper, Rob Gramzay, says that the couple put a rock simulating an egg in their nest and sat on it, keeping it warm in the folds of their abdomens.

Gramzay finally gave them a fertile egg that needed care to hatch. Things went perfectly. Roy and Silo sat on it for the typical 34 days until a chick, Tango, was born. For the next two and a half months they raised Tango, keeping her warm and feeding her food from their beaks until she could go out into the world on her own.

Zoologists will quickly point out that it is an over simplification to say they are gay, but exactly what binds these pairs is a mystery. Ueda believes he has the answer.

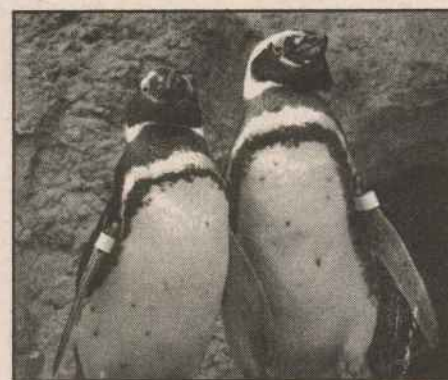
## Homosexual behavior had been documented in some 450 species.

He says that it appears to be the result of an imbalance between the numbers of male and female birds.

Penguins in captivity "may be more likely to form same-sex pairs" due to the difficulty of finding partners of the opposite sex, Ueda told the news service.

Animal sexuality is a relatively new field. The first book on the subject, "Bonobo: The Forgotten Ape," published in 1995, unleashed a torrent of condemnation from the Christian right.

In 1999, Bruce Bagemihl published "Biological Exuberance: Animal Homosexuality and Natural Diversity." It provided an overview of schol-



arly studies of same-sex behavior in animals. Bagemihl said homosexual behavior had been documented in some 450 species. The book was cited by the American Psychiatric Association and other groups in a "friend of the court" brief submitted to the Supreme Court in *Lawrence v. Texas*, the case that led to the Supreme Court striking down the Texas anti-sodomy law.

## Hello, Madison! Carving Out a Niche for a Broader Presence

By John Quinlan

It's a great privilege to begin a column for Q Life that will provide a vehicle for OutReach and others in Madison to get out the word about our programs and special events. My goal is clear: I want to begin to carve out a niche for a broader Madison presence in this exciting and dynamic new publication. As executive director of OutReach and a longtime community activist, I'm thrilled to welcome the presence of a publication that can keep us all informed at a time when LGBT people and our allies statewide must work together as never before.

We not only face the imminent threat of a state constitutional amendment that could wipe away decades of advancements here, in the first state to offer protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. We also live in a time of significant backlash, when LGBT people are being scapegoated by people with a much broader, and much more sinister, extremist agenda. We see the evidence of this backlash each day in our work at OutReach, as evidenced by increasing levels of homophobic harassment in the schools, increasing incidents of discrimination in the workplace, and through incidents of violence against us. For this and other reasons, it's a stressful time for us all, a time in which we must draw together to find hope and inspiration.

It's at times like these that we need the support of organizations that build "community." I say this, recognizing that LGBT people have always had a love-hate relationship with that word. At an LGBT town meeting in Madison two years ago, we spent our

first full hour affirming that we are not a monolithic "LGBT community," that we are, perhaps, not a community at all, but simply a gathering of diverse sub-communities and individuals who place a high value on our individual and cultural distinctiveness. As the facilitator moved the discussion into the common ground of what we could achieve together, however, a seemingly contradictory belief was also made clear: People wanted to create a larger more inclusive community center where virtually all of our organizations would have a shared home, and where we could explore the many benefits of a comfortable, safe space together.

That sounds like a contradiction, but it's not really. It's reflective of an ironic, but very real, dissonance that lies at the heart of our movement. And, ultimately, I believe it's a dichotomy we can all live with: We can discover the power of community while also being true to ourselves, our diverse backgrounds and our multiple identities.

On New Year's Eve, almost a thousand of us gathered together at Madison's Overture Center in supportive community to celebrate the arrival of the New Year at OutReach's Pink Party. "Gathered together in supportive community" — it's a phrase worth repeating and cherishing.

For most of the people I know — for reasons personal, professional and political — 2004 was a pretty rough year. That kind of year is particularly tough on those who are facing life challenges in isolation, without the support of people who care about them and understand what

they're going through. My heart goes out to LGBTQ young people — and others of all ages — who experience the heightened pain, fear and self-loathing that goes with living in the closet. There are many reasons why coming out — being true to yourself and those around you about who you are at the core — is such an important passage for many of us, and one with universal resonance. From a political perspective, it's a way to build bridges of understanding on the road to political change.

Coming out is even more fundamentally important personally and interpersonally, however, because it's in that process that we truly discover the power of supportive community — the power of our common experience, empathy, and unconditional love for one another. Concentric circles of supportive community radiate outward from each of us, in contexts both close to home, and in our connections to a larger world community.

In the last month, in a resounding worldwide response to the natural disaster in south Asia, people everywhere have experienced a very real sense of global community. Closer to home, despite the conventional wisdom that says that the forces of the radical religious right are succeeding in deepening divisions and drawing us further apart, I see this as only a temporary detour on the road to a much more inevitable destination,

one where the world's people grow closer, not farther apart.

In 2005, I see people hungering to build a world in which the authenticity of our individual identities and cultural distinctiveness will begin to comfortably exist side-by-side with the daily revelation of our shared humanity. The world is growing smaller, and through further education and understanding, we can overcome prejudice and misunder-

**The world is growing smaller, and through further education and understanding, we can overcome prejudice and misunderstanding and find common ground.**

standing and find common ground. We can get through the rough times together — and ultimately, that's what community is all about.

Best wishes to you in discovering that sense of community for yourself, and for a 2005 filled with exciting new possibilities. This new publication can be an important catalyst to the creation of a truly statewide supportive community for LGBT people and our allies.

**If you're in the greater Madison area and would like to contribute your talents as a writer or photographer, please contact Q Life at [qopinions@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qopinions@queerlifeneews.com).**

*John Quinlan is the executive director of OutReach, greater Madison's LGBT community center, and a longtime community activist and journalist.*



## 36 Sri Lankan Gay Activists Dead in Tsunami's Wake



*Sri Lanka* – The December 26 tsunami killed 36 members of the Sri Lankan gay organization Companions on a Journey. Twelve additional members remain unaccounted for. One hundred twelve of the group's members had their homes destroyed by the waves.

"These are numbers that we have received so far," said Sherman de Rose, the group's executive director. "The coastal line which the tourists frequent is destroyed entirely. So, along with it, whatever the gay-friendly places were, were destroyed as well. Mind you, we didn't have any out and open gay/lesbian spaces, although it was accepted in tourist areas where a lot of LGB tourists from Western Europe and Scandinavian countries visit for holidays."

"Fortunately for the gay community," de Rose said, "the tsunami didn't make its appearance in the evening; otherwise lots of gays cruising along the beaches would have perished."

Companions has received many requests for assistance and offers of help.

"It's amazing how the gays and lesbians responded to the calamity," de Rose said. "Many volunteered with relief work and donated to relief programs. We have received many calls from gay/lesbian people who wanted to support the affected in any possible way."

"We have also received lots of requests from affected members to assist them with building their destroyed shelters. We have donated clothing, dry rations, cooked food, water and medicine. Our principal

donor, Hivos-Netherlands, has informed us that we could utilize some of the funds they have provided for HIV/AIDS- and sexuality-related activities for relief purposes."

The executive director of the Sri Lankan "LGBTIQ" organization Equal Ground, Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, said: "The magnitude of the catastrophe that affected Sri Lanka on Boxing Day is something that is hardly describable. Members of Equal Ground have not only given of their time and energy to volunteer for relief efforts, but also have spent their own monies buying essentials like medicine and food, and donating it to the larger organizations sending the trucks to the north, east and south."

Flamer-Caldera said, "Many of the gay 'spaces' in the south and also in Negombo to the north of Colombo were damaged or wiped out by the tsunami. ... This horrible, horrible disaster has knocked Sri Lanka so bad that it will take years and years to rebuild."

In Indonesia, gay groups have been unable to get any information from the most-affected areas.

"We don't know about the effect of the tsunami on gay people in Aceh and North Sumatra," said Dédé Oetomo, head of GAYa NUSANTARA. "We never had any organized contact in Aceh or the island of Nias in North Sumatra, which have been hardest-hit."

"Medan, the major city on the eastern coast with a sizeable gay population, was spared due to its distance from the epicenter," Oetomo said. "The good news is that gay organiza-

tions are involved in fundraising and collecting donations together with other community groups."

In Thailand, the gay resort of Phuket was hard-hit. It has many gay guest houses, restaurants, bars, shops and coffeehouses. But, according to Ulf Mikaelsson and Börje Carlsson, two Swedes who run the Connect Guest House and Coffee Bar, most of the gay businesses are "far enough from the beach to be untouched by the tragedy."

"The day of the tsunami disaster, the Connect, with its satellite television connection, was one of the only sources of news coverage of the tragedy as it unfolded," the couple wrote in an e-mail. "Scores of native and foreign gays gathered around the mounted television and ate, drank and bonded with each other as news came in as to the losses being sustained."

"Right now, the Phuket gay community is busy raising funds for those Thais and foreigners who suffered injury and loss due to the tidal wave," the couple said. "It will take some months to clean up and rebuild the beach area, but everything else on the island, 500 yards or more from the beach, is exactly as it was — untouched by the tsunami. ... If you want to help us in Patong, do not cancel your tour to Patong Beach. Now more than ever we need your support."

Carlsson described his own experience of the tsunami.

"It was a clear blue sky and we were having our morning coffee at Connect when we heard people screaming that the beach had disappeared," he said. "When I got close to

the beach I heard more screaming and suddenly I saw this huge wave, taller than the palm trees, coming to crash down on us. ... We rushed into a hotel as the huge wave rolled into Patong Beach. The giant wave flooded the lobby within seconds and dragged furniture onto the street. I had to wrap myself around a pillar to avoid being swept away. As I was standing there, a car actually floated into the lobby and overturned because the current was so strong. The water was up to my chest and I was holding on to my boyfriend's hand because he can't swim."

"It's a strange feeling to walk from one side of Rath-U-Thit road to the other," Carlsson said. "On one side it looks like a war zone and on the other side nothing has changed."

### TO HELP:

#### SRI LANKA

Companions on a Journey, 46/50 Robert Drive, Robert Gunawardhane Mawatha, Colombo-06, Sri Lanka.

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Fax: 011-94-11-555-7660.

E-mail: sherman@sri.lanka.net.

Web: www.companions-lanka.org.

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E-mail: doetomo@indo.net.id.

#### THAILAND

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Web: www.beachpatong.com

## Accused Killers of Homeless Man May Face Death Penalty Prosecutor Calls Attack A Hate Crime

*Waverly, OH* – Two men accused in the beating death of a 39-year-old homeless man face new charges that carry the death penalty.

Pike County Prosecutor Rob Junk now says the October 2, 2004, death of Daniel Fetty is a hate crime, carried out partly because the victim was gay.

Martin Baxter, 28, of Waverly, and co-defendant Matthew Ferman, 22, of Waverly, pleaded not guilty on Friday to new aggravated murder charges.

A third man, James Trent Jr., 19, of Piketon, was convicted on December 6, 2004, of involuntary manslaughter and is expected to testify against the other two, Junk said. He was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Out of the view of his attorney, Baxter said Friday that he did not hurt the restaurant worker. He said it was Ferman's anger over a missing pack of cigarettes, not Fetty's homosexuality, that led to the attack.

Junk would not elaborate on why he called the attack a hate crime.

Investigators say Fetty was beaten with bricks, boards and bottles, stripped naked and left in a trash bin in this city about 60 miles south of Columbus.

"I was there, I know what happened," Baxter said. "Fetty was buying drinks, and Ferman said he took his cigarettes."

He said he was drunk and high at the time.

He said he does not understand the new charges, which also include aggravated robbery, abduction and tampering with evidence.

"This is crazy," Baxter said. "That indictment's taller than I am. It's like a dream. And I wish it all would end."

Employees at the Emmitt House, the downtown restaurant where Fetty recently started working, said Baxter's version of the event makes no sense.

"Daniel wouldn't do something like that in the first place," waitress Katy Houseman said of Fetty, a gentle-mannered man who was nearly deaf and lived out of an old car. "If he'd wanted a cigarette, he'd ask for one. He wouldn't take something."

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Q Life is a monthly publication which highlights Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. Each issue contains insightful articles penned by local personalities who are in the know. Available throughout Wisconsin, Q Life fills a necessary information void involving the LGBT community. As Wisconsin's Premiere LGBT News Leader, Q Life serves an important buying audience ready to embrace companies friendly to the gay community.

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# Shame on the Milwaukee Police Department

If we at Q Life hadn't experienced firsthand what happened during the past few weeks of trying to get any information out of the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) regarding the recent gay bar raid, we wouldn't believe it for ourselves.

But, unfortunately, as highlighted in our cover story, we were given a runaround the likes of a foxhunt.

It's important first for us to make one thing clear: We are not cop haters.

In fact, we know that most of the work the MPD does is important and conducted with incredible sensitivity and competence. Also, we know that there are hundreds of MPD employees who are forthright, fair, color-blind, non-homophobic and helpful.

And then there are the few we recently encountered.

Serving underage drinkers is wrong and against the law. Going after establishments that break that law is right. But how you carry out those investigations and follow up actions regarding any alleged violations — what information you keep and share, and how you answer to both the public and those directly affected — is crucial.

We reached out to the MPD to find out exactly what happened the weekend of December 10-12. On more than a half dozen occasions, we called and then later jumped through hoops to follow the rules associated with obtaining open records. We even went as far as contacting the top cop herself, Chief Nannette Hegerty.

All to no avail.

And in what was even a more interesting development, after pressing the cops for any written documentation, they finally called and told us to pick up what allegedly would be information highlighting the actual incidents and citations. We showed up where we were told to go but left empty handed because the police claimed the file regarding this weekend raid was now missing some information. When we asked to see what was now "a partial file," our request was denied.

Why all this dancing?

The continual silence by the MPD is disturbing and will not be allowed to go unnoticed. These types of actions are unacceptable for building positive community relations. There are strict rules that govern open records requests and we did our best to follow those.

The brave bar owners and employees who came forward and shared their stories with Q Life deserve praise. It is not easy to speak out, especially when one may fear further retribution.

It is for them and others cited in the cover story that Q Life will not drop this issue and walk away. We must hold law enforcement accountable and not be afraid to spotlight questionable activities.

We are calling on Milwaukee Police Chief Hegerty to get to the bottom of what actually happened during these raids. We're also asking her to look into other allegations of apparent harassment uncovered while investigating this story.

We applaud her recent appointment of Anne E. Schwartz as her main public relations flak. Unfortunately, we've learned firsthand why her appointment doesn't come a minute too soon.

It's important for not just the LGBT community but the entire city to feel

that its "top cop" is interested in fair play for all its residents. While the department certainly has a black eye from this incident, we are hoping they'll heed this call to clean up their act.

## Kudos

### Forward-Thinking Education

The folks at the Alliance School of Milwaukee deserve a pat on the back for their innovation and courage in developing educational programs for high-risk kids. The MPS board of school directors, as well as the superintendent and members of his administration, also deserve a high five for their vision and hard work.

We are fortunate in Milwaukee to be at the receiving end of this forward thinking. While Wisconsin certainly is not as large as New York and Texas, which have successful school models, we too must answer the call to help young people who are bullied on a daily basis because of who they are. It's only right.

### Milwaukee LGBT Center Gets a New Leader

With the arrival of James Pennington, Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center has a great opportunity to cement its presence in the minds of queer people statewide. Pennington's vast and varied experience hopefully will allow him to deal with a community in need of guidance at a time when, nationwide, our rights and liberties are under assault. This type of position demands a person who must have the ability to perform a high-wire act while spinning plates.

Pennington must identify and embrace issues important to Milwaukee's LGBT community. It's only in this way that the Center's leadership can be more powerful than the sum of its communities.

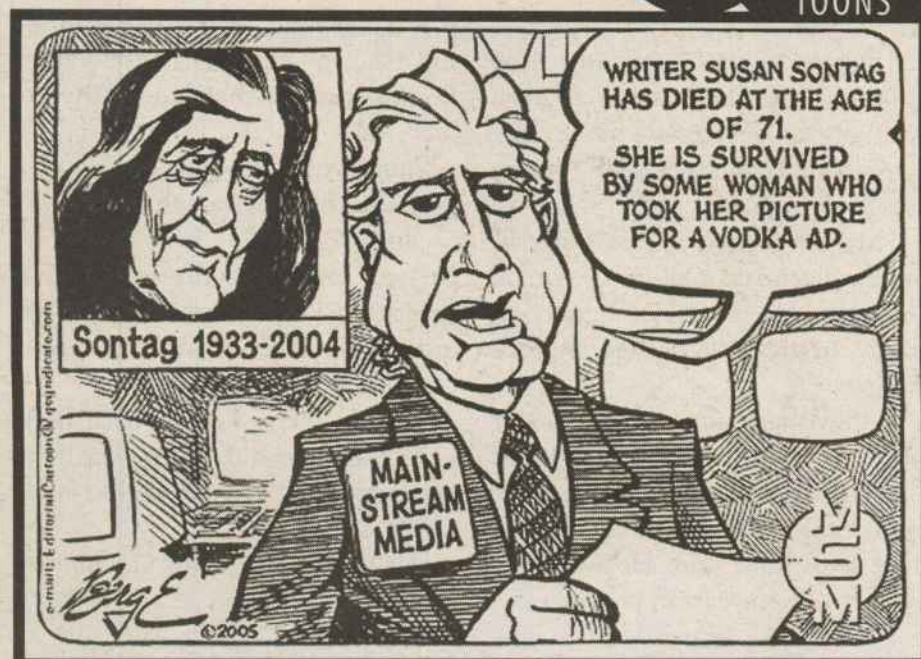
It's also imperative that we get behind Pennington and those that he chooses to empower at the Center. And it's important that we put behind us the issue of how Pennington was chosen to fill the executive director position.

Since the position was formerly occupied by Neil Albrecht and Brenda Coley, Pennington has big shoes to fill. These two very competent and compassionate leaders were instrumental in bringing the Center to where it is today. Pennington should take a note from their game book while always keeping his eye on the bottom line.

See page 15 for more opinions.

OPINIONS & Editorial

TOONS  
Paul Berge



Have something to say? Tell it like it is.

Email us at qopinions@queerlifeneews.com

# Playing God with AIDS Prevention

Anyone who remembers the early days of AIDS knows what strides AIDS activists made by the 1990s. By working together to create a vast network of organizations to care for the sick and demand a more responsive government, ordinary people proved that we could come together and collectively solve problems.

After years with only a handful of drugs available to people with HIV, suddenly new drug therapies seem to miraculously bring people back from the brink of death to good health. A federal government that could barely say the word AIDS in the first years of the epidemic, evolved into one that squeamishly emphasized that "anyone could get AIDS," and finally got real by directing serious resources to those most at risk: gay men and injection drug users.

Locally, Wisconsin's state govern-

ment became a national model on how to respond to AIDS. Led by Doug Nelson of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) and others, our state devoted its limited resources to care and prevention. By the mid-1990s, the City of Milwaukee was devoting local tax-levy dollars to a community response, and at the millennium, Milwaukee County was reducing HIV transmission among needle users with hundreds of thousands of dollars for needle exchanges.

It was working: New HIV cases were down and life expectancy was up.

Well, no more.

The Bush Revolution

was the first to make its move. In the same way that it took years for "in your face, down in the streets" AIDS activists

to see the rewards of better treatments and more effective prevention, the Bush public health agenda is starting to see its results. The biggest casualty: HIV prevention.

George W. Bush's signature response to social ills is his "faith-based initiative," a way of making the rest of us appreciate how his born-again conversion turned him from a fallow drunkard into, well, a self-made son of privilege.

The motto of the faith-based movement is "Praise the Lord! Pass the Federal Subsidy," shoveling immense amounts of taxpayer money to church-run social services. Suddenly, the religious right was holding HIV/

AIDS bidder conferences with speakers like the notoriously homophobic Senator Jesse Helms in order to help church-

**The lesson of the AIDS activism movement revolves around the fact that people can come together and reshape our society's priorities.**



Patrick Flaherty

es with little or no HIV experience line up at the federal feedlot.

Just as abruptly, Wisconsin agencies like ARCW and the House of Infinity, with years of experience, found themselves losing out on federal grants to faith-based organizations with no experience. The Medical College's Center for AIDS Intervention Research reports that scientists must often use euphemisms on studies seeking effective strategies to reduce HIV in gay men or sex workers, for fear of controversy and loss of funding. To date, Bush hasn't cut federal funds for HIV prevention, just the agencies based in the socially undesirable target commu-

*continued on page 19*

## Another Phantom Menace Hits Our Community



DIVERSITY



Deon Q. Young

([dyoung@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:dyoung@queerlifeneews.com)) is a field specialist at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. He lives in Riverwest.

Throughout our years as youth we dream to be older. We wish for the day when we are not told what to do by our parents, our teachers and our grandparents. As young people we had lofty dreams to live our own lives and to be in control. But as time goes by and we become stable, by landing the job of our dreams, settling in a relationship with the man or woman we have been dying to be with, a certain fear sets in. The phantom menace of aging gets closer, to the point of where we scream as we look into the mirror one morning and quote from the film "Freaky Friday": "Oh my God, I'm like the Crypt Keeper!"

### Why Is That, Really?

Is there a fable that we hear when we are young, that once we turn 30 we will shrivel up and die by the time we reach 31? Why is it that there is this prejudice that lurks around and makes our elders (yes, our elders — the ones we should be looking up to and respecting) feel like they do not matter anymore?

In some cases, we bitch and complain that we now have to take care of someone that has taken care of our butts for 18 years or so.

However, our elders and older adults can't feel that they are not guilty of oppression; they are also guilty of the phantom menace society likes to call ageism.

### What Is Ageism?

Ageism can be defined as any prejudice or discrimination against or in favor of an age group.

This prejudice separates our communities, not to mention our society as a whole. It discriminates and defines what is beautiful and what is not. Again, making our elders feel like they do not matter and that youth defines beauty.

We, as Americans, see and hear this every day: on television, on the radio, and in advertisements across the country about beauty and youth. Both our older and younger generations are paying massive amounts of money to get plastic surgery, and doing anything that they can to look young and beautiful. This is accepted in our society.

What happened to the values of respect and maturity?

I find it rather immature that we focus on what is beautiful and what is not, instead of focusing on the rights and privileges that may be taken away from us as gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people.

Within our LGBT community, there is a separation among our gay and lesbian youth and our LGBT-identified elders. That separation is a large generational gap that may be seen in many ways.

Perhaps one way is that our elders, when they were young, were not so "out of the closet." Most of them keep their sexuality private and just went on with their daily lives. Since 1969, when the Stonewall riot happened, many LGBT people are out and about, and proud of it.

The subject of ageism affects relationships as well.

Many older gay men and lesbians want to commit to a long-term relationship with partners of their same age. However, there is this attitude that roams around in our community that offsets that desire. It just so happens, that many find younger LGBT folk more attractive. There is a notion in the queer community that only the young are attractive, and the older folks become geezers and fossils. Or, if you're not in a relationship now, as you get older you never will be. I hope that I am not offending anyone when I say this but, please, grow up.

There is also this concept that there is a need to lie about your age.

A few times when I have known teenagers to tell many people that they were 18 or 21 to get into the bars and be treated like adults.

Then there is a group of people that say they are a few years younger than they are. For the most part, the majority of the ages were between 18 and 26. Funny how many of the "26 year olds" are actually in their early 30s. It is interesting, that many, not all, but many young gay and straight people want to be older, but not 30.

Also, when it comes to ageism — and this is where the older people in our society do not get off so easily — many older adults treat young people like they do not know any better.

In reality, young people make mistakes and they grow from them. That is how you mature. Young people are faced with it every day. As members of society we wonder why many teenagers and young adults rebel and disrespect members of the older generations. For the most part, it is because they are told what to do and are not listened to.

This column is here to make you think and ponder about the issues of ageism, which in fact, will not go away over night. However, it is a prejudice, and like any other oppression needs to be worked on in our Milwaukee community and across the country.

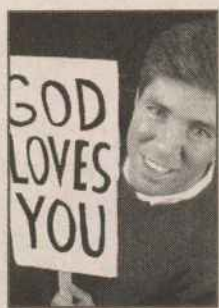
It really is all about respect and supporting our community and not oppressing ourselves.

A message to our youth: Be young, have fun and enjoy your youth. Do not rush to grow up; let adulthood come to you. Finally, respect your elders because they are here to guide you, and soon will need you to guide them.

To our elders: You are wise and true and we know that we can come to you whenever we need you for help.

To those in the middle, 30 is not the limit!

**We focus on what is beautiful and what is not, instead of focusing on the rights and privileges that may be taken away from us as gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender people.**



Rev. Andrew Warner ([awarner@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:awarner@queerlifeneews.com)) is a pastor at Plymouth Church UCC on the East Side. He lives with his partner Jay and their two children in Whitefish Bay. Your questions about LGBT spirituality are welcome.

**Nearly every American, even those who oppose same-sex marriages, understands the purpose of marriage to be companionship. In all my years doing premartial counseling, I've never known a groom to say he was marrying his fiancée because she looked so fertile!**

## Marriage: A Myriad of Meanings

In the next few weeks folks in our community will travel to Madison to speak with their legislators about the proposed anti-gay marriage amendment. The backers of this amendment often speak of marriage as a sacred institution between a man and woman. During previous debate in the legislature, one assemblywoman spoke of marriage as a "sacrament of every religion."

As we begin to debate this amendment with our legislators or with our families and neighbors, it is important to know how other religions consider marriage sacred. It is clear that all religious traditions honor marriage. Once that is said, there is a tremendous diversity of opinion about the purpose of marriage. Some religious traditions imagine marriage in ways that are very open to same-sex couples; others do not.

One of the world's oldest spiritual traditions is Buddhism, a faith long practiced throughout Asia and more recently embraced in America. The Milwaukee Mindfulness Practice Center (414-962-8678) is one of many Buddhist communities that welcome LGBT folks.

The spiritual journey in Buddhism is an effort to free oneself of the bonds of material or physical existence. Desire and passion are viewed as problems on

the spiritual path. The life of a monk or a nun is considered the better way to achieve freedom from the bonds of the physical life; Buddhists consider celibacy the highest status.

Marriage necessarily involves desire and passion, and as a result ties one down to the physical world. This goes against the grain of the spiritual life, so Buddhists see marriage as a less desirable status. For many American Buddhists, it does not matter who one marries but how one deals with desire. One might say that Buddhists see marriage as an institution, but question how "sacred" it is.

When we speak about marriage and our relationships to other folks, it may help to remember the Buddhist understanding of marriage. I think most Americans would agree that one's spiritual path is a separate matter from one's married life. All couples struggle to discover the sacred in their life together regardless of what the state says about their commitment.

The Jewish tradition, as ancient a faith as Buddhism, approaches marriage in an entirely different way. Much of the Jewish faith is practiced in the home: Kosher regulations for the preparation of food, observance of the Sabbath (a day of rest from work), and even expectations of hospitality make Judaism a particularly home-centered faith. This focus on the home gives marriage a special and privileged importance.

Within the Jewish tradition there are two ways this focus on marriage plays out for LGBT folks. Some Jews, primarily in the Orthodox community, understand the purpose of marriage to be procreation. The conception and rearing of children are of utmost importance.

Other Jewish communities, especially the Reformed and Deconstructionist movements, welcome LGBT folks into their tradition. Two such local Jewish faith communities are Congregation Sinai (414-352-2970) and Congregation Shalom (414-352-9288). The focus on marriage is less on procreation and more on establishing and maintaining a Jewish home, one where uniquely Jewish customs are kept. Instead of saying that marriage is between a man and a woman, liberal Jews might say a Jewish marriage is between a Jew and a Jew.

The majority of people in our country, whatever they think of same-sex couples, would agree with the liberal Jewish understanding. What matters most in a marriage is the character of one's home life.

Finally, within Christianity there is a great diversity of opinion about marriage. The conservative Christians proposing to amend our state constitution view marriage as an institution whose primary purpose is procreation. Like Orthodox Jews, such Christians see marriage as fulfilling the commandment for humans to "be fruitful and multiply."

For as long as Christians have held this view, other Christians have dissented from it. The Puritans, the first English settlers in America, viewed marriage as a matter of companionship. For them the purpose of marriage was fulfilled in the friendship and love between spouses, regardless of the presence of children. Many liberal Protestants have adopted this view of marriage.

Even while conservative Christians define marriage as an institution for procreation, few Americans truly believe this. Nearly every American, even those who oppose same-sex marriages, understands the purpose of marriage to be companionship. In all my years doing premartial counseling, I've never known a groom to say he was marrying his fiancée because she looked so fertile!

When we talk with our neighbors, families, and legislators about this proposed amendment, it is important to remind them that not all religions think of marriage as sacred in the same way. We might well ask people why we should legislate a distinctively conservative Christian view of marriage when other religious traditions see marriage differently.

We can also find common ground with religious folks by affirming together that marriage is not the only spiritual path and that a good marriage is defined by the quality of one's home life and the companionship that exists between the spouses.

That's a definition of marriage that truly unites religious people around the world, and one which embraces LGBT folk and honors our commitments.

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# Tipping



Holly Grey (hgrey@queerlifeneews.com) is the general manager and co-editor of *Boxx*, a Milwaukee-based newspaper that promotes women's visibility and educates on women's issues (www.bosxnews.com). Holly is also co-founder and vice president of an Internet risk management company located in Milwaukee.

I've had my share of conversations with local bartenders. Many of these chats have taken place with me happily sipping a vodka tonic, my rear end plastered to a bar stool. As more libations were poured and we became better acquainted I was often asked why lesbians and women in general are not better tippers.

My first reaction had been to expound on how "some people are just plain rude." But, after a bit of pondering and another vodka tonic, it hits me that there might be a very reasonable explanation — women are paid less than men. We have less disposable income. Of course, this does not excuse rude behavior, but it may explain the discrepancy.

The recently released Status of Women in Wisconsin Report and the 2004 Status Update,\* co-published by the Women's Fund and the Institute for Women's Policy Research, state, "Women in Wisconsin have among the lowest wage ratios compared with men in the country: They earn only 71 cents to

men's dollar for full-time, full-year work compared to 76 cents nationally and rank 45th among states on this indicator."

It's far worse for minority women. "African American women earn just 63 percent of white men's earnings, Native American women earn 61 percent, Asian American women earn 60 percent; and Hispanic women earn 59 percent."

One could argue that women should not be spending what little disposable income we have in a bar on drinks, but when you're this underpaid and confused as to why in 2005 we are still experiencing gender, racial and ethnic bias in our pocketbooks, something needs to take the edge off.

So please, Mr. or Ms. Bartender in Wisconsin, understand the next time a woman leaves you 71 cents for that cocktail you just served, it's not a slight on the service you provided, we're just tipping you the best we can.

\*Complete reports can be found at [www.womensfund.com](http://www.womensfund.com).

Dear Editor,

"[The] First Amendment is intended to assure a privilege that in itself must be so actual and certain that fear and doubt are absent from [an] individual's mind, or the freedom is but an abstraction." — 1946 ruling by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals

While I have long looked at Belling and his conservative cohorts with disdain, disgust and a laundry list of other words beginning with dis, I feel that it is important he be allowed to express his views, no matter how hate-filled and ignorant they are. While I am appalled by the utterance of any word derogatory to a given group and would never use one myself, the freedom to speak one's mind is one of this country's citizens' most venerably held rights, and any discussion which deals with limitations on this right should not be taken lightly. Limiting speech that is deemed by some to be racist only serves to bury the problem of racism itself, and is not an acceptable solution. The First Amendment must continue to protect racial slurs as well as all other speech in order to preserve and ensure the freedoms we have today.

As a member of a minority community, I am just as offended by Belling's use of the term wetback as I would be if he called me a fag or any of a number of epithets used to refer to gay people. However, as a member of a minority community, I also see the real and intrinsic value in allowing Belling and company to make such statements. For my speech and rights to be protected, his must be too. It scars me to think that by limiting the words a person is allowed to say without fear of retribution, we are getting closer and closer to President Bush's now-infamous world in which "there ought to be limits to freedom."

Allowing racist speech is an important thing. Without it we would have no "litmus test" available to test the racial tension in our country, and would therefore have no way to combat it. By allowing free speech to continue and by researching other methods of ending racism, we can get at the root of the problem and stop racism before it starts. The key is not to limit or control action, but rather to influence reason and thought.

Make no mistake about it: If we bring people together who have different ideas and perspectives, some will be offended. There is simply no constitutional right to "freedom from offense." We do have options though. Change the station.

Justin C. Lockridge  
Milwaukee

## OPINIONS & Editorial

Dear Queer Life News,

I'd first like to say congratulations on publication! I am proud to finally have a magazine focused on issues I want to read about, from people who understand where I am coming from. I should clarify: My name is Chris Siudzinski, a 17-year-old male from Germantown, Wis. (forty minutes from Milwaukee), and I am gay. In my town, the right-wing fundamentalists, and conservatives in general, hold the popular vote. This is not to say that there are not those who believe in democracy and human rights; however, issues such as gay marriage and adoption by gay couples are not highly favored.

To my point... I believe a common misconception of the HIV/AIDS illness is that it infects only the homosexual population, rather than the entire world. I have argued statistics proving higher risks in certain demographics and spoke often of Nkosi Johnson (the young African boy who, though infected with the virus, became such a figure of hope and change for the world over) and was met with the same responses of ignorance and convictions based on stereotypes.

Despite the complete lack of tolerance I believed my school to have, I was shocked when my school raised over \$500 for the National AIDS Trust. This was five times the amount I had expected and I am still taken aback by the charity of my school. Because of the political views of my town, this fact should not go unheard of. Germantown does hold a reputation of not being very diverse or tolerant, but those days are quickly passing and a new Germantown is evolving into a community where tolerance is not an idea practiced, but just naturally enforced. I may be brainwashing myself to believe something that may never be, but I will still believe it.

I guess I am not sure what I am really asking — publication of my letter is not necessarily my goal — I just wish to shine a light on Germantown whose bulb, once broken, has now been replaced. To spread information by word-of-mouth is a very powerful thing, and it is my hope that when one hears "Germantown" they think not only of its religious background, but of its growing tolerance. I know who I am is not highly accepted in my community, but I hope to change that for future LGBT individuals who reside in Germantown.

I again thank you for your courage in the publication of *Queer Life News*. It gives me hope for the future, and I hope one day, in my activism, I will work side-by-side with those who are currently living their lives, despite adversity, and are sharing it with the rest of the world.

Sincerely (with the greatest of gratitude),  
Chris Siudzinski



Elna Hickson with a photograph of her sons.

## On Becoming a Spokesperson

By Elna Hickson



It was a surprise and a joy to be asked to be the Friend of Queer Life for this month.

Becoming a spokesperson for the understanding, acceptance and rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people was one of the most life-changing decisions I have ever made. Although I had been a supporter of my son Eric and my son-in-law Doug for many years, I had never been openly supportive, or even knowledgeable about the essence of being gay and the ramifications in society.

Once I started to educate myself, through my own readings and my association with PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) there was no stopping me. I knew that I had to support, educate and advocate on behalf of LGBT individuals and families. The rewards have been numerous. I have had my heart and mind opened in so many ways — have met so many wonderful people whose lives would have been closed to me before, if not invisible. And I have been introduced to issues that would have been off my radar.

Each year brings new opportunities for increasing my own awareness and knowledge of the diversity within the LGBT world — and the needs that still must be addressed. So I try to say yes when asked for support — and to contribute whatever knowledge I have been gaining. Whether the focus is on creating safe schools, offering police recruit training, developing inclusive curriculum, providing support for GSAs, stopping an amendment, fighting discrimination within organizations, encouraging full life development programming for our youth, raising awareness regarding gender variance,

continued on page 17

Straight, but not narrow? Tell us why the LGBT community is important to you. Email us at [qfriends@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qfriends@queerlifeneews.com)

# Q

PARENTING



Megan Krick (mkrick@queerlifeneews.com) is an active member of Rainbow Families Milwaukee and designed the Web site [www.rainbow-families-milwaukee.org](http://www.rainbow-families-milwaukee.org).

**Rainbow Families Milwaukee is a community of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families who seek to create a secure, just, affirming, and inclusive world for all families.**

## Rainbow Families: A Gathering Place for All

As parents, it is oftentimes hard to find other LGBT families with kids. Most of our friends do not have children, so finding playmates is often difficult.

For the first three and a half years of my little guy's life, I too had this problem.

Then, during PrideFest I came across the Rainbow Families Milwaukee (RFM) booth. I spent time talking to the two women working and discovered that there were many others in the same situation. We went to the first potluck out at someone's house and instantly I realized this is what had been missing from my little guy's life. There were children for him to play with and people for me to talk to. Now, a year and a half later, RFM has become part of my community.

RFM has created their own mission statement to help everyone understand what the group is about: "Rainbow Families Milwaukee is a community of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families who seek to create a secure, just, affirming, and inclusive world for all families."

Now, everyone has their own version of what this mission statement means to them. But here is what it means to me.

RFM is a safe place for me to let my child play and interact with other children who are in similar family situations. RFM includes anyone who wants to participate regardless of sex, orientation, religion and race.

### What Exactly Does RFM Do?

RFM is a comprehensive organization that strives to make the world a better place for our families and children. There are different activities and meetings that take place. Some of these are the planning committee meetings, potlucks, spring conference and other get-togethers. These gatherings offer a range of activities and the opportunity to discuss LGBT issues.

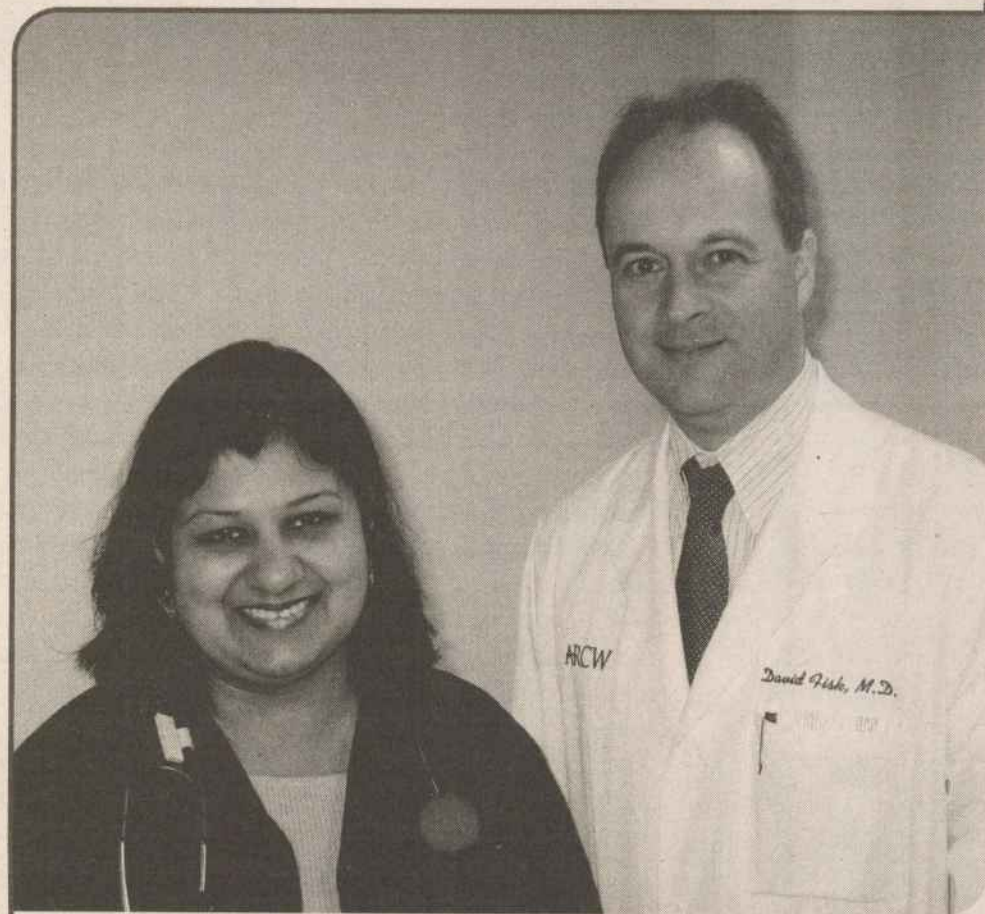
Each month RFM has a potluck on the third Saturday from 3-6 p.m. From September through May the potlucks are held at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire, right near the UWM campus. Each family brings a dish to pass (let's make it healthy for everyone), and a "host" family organizes things for the kids to do. This space offers the kids a place to run around and play in a gym with lots of toys.

Additionally, there is a full kitchen and an eating area that can also be used for group activities and meetings. During the potlucks we have an informal meeting to discuss issues that are in the news and how they relate to us as LGBT families, as well as pass on other RFM information. Having the potlucks in a set location for the winter months makes it easier to let new members know where to find us. During the potlucks the parents are able to make connections with other families and set up play dates, babysitting and other such activities.

The other main focus for RFM right now is planning our spring conference. The conference will be April 23, 2005, at Plymouth Church. This day of speakers and activities is shaping up to be an amazing event. There will be childcare available for conference attendees and planned activities. Anyone interested in helping with the conference is welcome. Planning meetings are held on the second Monday of the month, 7-8:30 p.m., at the café in the Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Bayshore Mall.

For those of you who are Web savvy, RFM has recently launched its own Web site, [www.rainbow-families-milwaukee.org](http://www.rainbow-families-milwaukee.org). The Web site offers a wide range of information. There is a news page that has local news in it, a calendar of events so members know when activities are going on, a list of books that are in our lending library that can be checked out by members, directions to the different events, and a links page to other sites that are of inter-

*continued on page 29*



**Dr. Iram Nadeem, ARCW Physician, Infectious Disease & Internal Medicine Specialist**

**Dr. David Fisk, ARCW Physician, Infectious Disease & Internal Medicine Specialist, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin**

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# Q

## HEALTH



Gary Hollander, Ph. D. (ghollander@queerlifeneews.com) is president and executive director of Diverse and Resilient, a nonprofit committed to the healthy development of LGBT people in Wisconsin (www.diverseandresilient.org). He is also owner and principle consultant of Gary Hollander Enterprises, a firm that assists organizations with their development, emphasizing change management, team development, and cultural competency.

# Back in the Saddle. Again.

Our observance of the tradition of making New Year's resolutions in the United States has become more of a marketing opportunity than a real commitment to change. Just glancing at television from mid-December through January reveals a litter of ads for weight loss, exercise, and smoking cessation programs. For many of us, the New Year is not so much about actually changing, as it is about signing up for something that shows we have a vague sense that we need to change.

Fess up. Have you made a resolution to make some changes in the New Year? Have you kept that resolve? If you have, is the change having the desired effects in your life?

My observation is that the quasi-decision to change too often comes in the middle of a sleepless night or while hugging a toilet bowl or when coughing up a lung on a flight of stairs. It comes more out of feelings of desperation than from any real assessment of what is or isn't working in our lives.

A beloved friend of mine tells the story of an ex-partner whose New Year's resolution was to give up lime juice in his gimlets — it was upsetting his stomach. Never mind the gin, go after the Rose's Lime!

So, there are some ways we can actually improve our chances of making some changes for life. James Prochaska, John Norcross, and Carlo DiClemente have researched the mechanisms that we can use to effectively create the changes we want. Their book "Changing for Good: A Revolutionary Six-Stage Program for Overcoming Bad Habits" (Harper Collins) is very readable and can help us take on our weight management, alcohol use, drug use, injurious behaviors, and tobacco use. Their program can also help us start to change the batteries in our smoke detectors, get more engaged socially, schedule our annual physicals, and call our mothers.

A miracle? Well, not so much. These changes will take some work, too.

When it comes to health changes, here's an approach that I have found to be quite useful: Start by deciding that you are going to live to be at least 120 years old. Really. My mother will live to be at least 90. This is more than 20 years longer than my father and 50 years longer than her own parents. With all the progress we have made in medicine and health care, why shouldn't we plan to live at least 30 years longer than the average age of our parents at death?

With this vision of living to 120 in mind, ask what are you currently doing that will not position you well for a good quality of life way out there. What health behaviors have you been putting off that won't kill

you, but will contribute to your feeling less than optimal at 120? Now, don't fall into the trap of believing that you have another 90 years to shed those 30 extra pounds. Instead consider that you are working with an incredibly complex machine — your body — that has to last you all that time and thus deserves your ongoing care and maintenance.

If your New Year's resolution has already fallen by the wayside, seriously consider picking it up again. Most of us have lots of lapses of behavior into old habits on our way to making lasting changes. People who use lapses as opportunities to re-commit learn more about the behaviors they are working to adopt. They also create more specific plans for success and tend to do really well in making changes stick. They often refine their plans and include rewards and reinforcement along the way to success. They come out to their friends as having some health goals and suggest ways that they would like to be supported in creating new health habits.

These folks who use a lapse in judgment to their benefit instead of becoming discouraged get back in the saddle and learn to love the ride.

Happy trails in the New Year.

## People who use lapses as opportunities to re-commit learn more about the behaviors they are working to adopt.





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**Diverse & Resilient** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in Wisconsin through the development of groups and communities to take action. The organization's name is intended to serve as reminder that LGBT people are everywhere, engage in interesting and meaningful lives, and contribute to the welfare of each other and the broader community.

**Diverse & Resilient** [www.diverseandresilient.org](http://www.diverseandresilient.org)  
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**FRIENDS** *continued from page 15*

building foster care networks, supporting "rainbow families" and their unique issues, even working within a formal religious setting to change policy, I have had the privilege of working with so many warm, dedicated, committed and knowledgeable people that I often feel I gain more than I add.

So, I thank Queer Life for citing me as Friend for this month. And I cherish this opportunity to pledge that I will keep being a friend of Queer Life — and my friends and cohorts on this journey.

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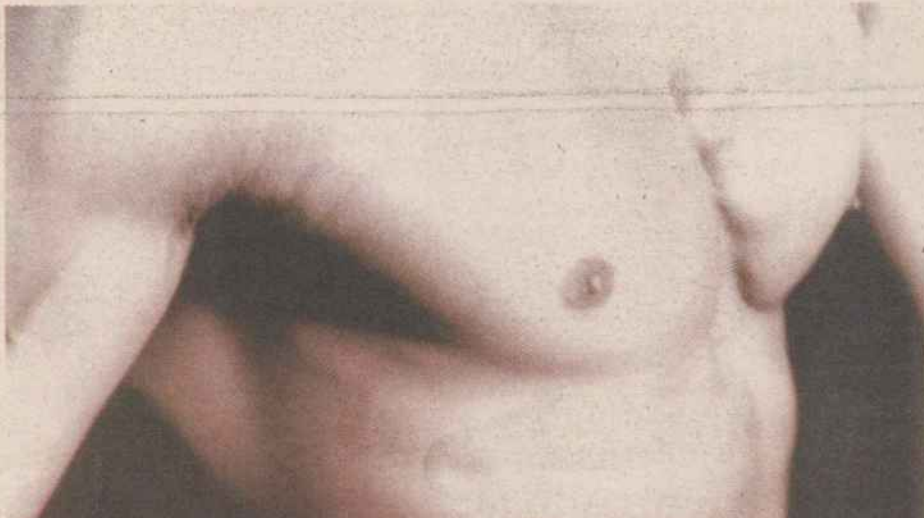
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## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Monday's - Karaoke Night with Tim Cole**
- Tuesday's - \$2.00 Tuesdays**
- Wednesday's - Queen's Night Out**  
\$1.00 Bar/\$3.00 Martinis
- Thursday's - Ladie's Night Drink Specials**
- Friday's - Teen Night with DJ Will**
- Wild Saturday's - Girl's Gone Wild!**



**PLAYING GOD** *continued from page 13*

nities. That way his allies in the religious right can finally take their rightful place in the welfare state. Think of that when you file your federal income taxes — at least you're helping some gay kid say no to sex until he gets married.

Closer to home, Republican County Executive (and potential 2006 gubernatorial candidate) Scott Walker immediately ended Milwaukee County's support for needle exchange, as well as a smaller, lesser-known program targeting at-risk women.

But the AIDS counter-revolution isn't all in the Republican column. Democratic Governor Jim Doyle may be a hero to the LGBT community for courageously vetoing an antigay defense-of-marriage law, but under his 2005 budget, HIV prevention to community-based agencies will actually decrease by about \$800,000, mostly because the state wasn't able to make up for the loss of a large federal grant.

While the state will maintain its own funding commitment to HIV prevention (which hasn't been increased in years), the real disappointment is that Wisconsin is not being more creative or aggressive about prioritizing HIV prevention in the highest-risk groups by reallocating its reduced funding. For example, the state continues to fund \$200,000 each

to two agencies that do "capacity building," while frontline service providers to gay African-American men have been decimated by the cuts.

The latest rollback comes from the City of Milwaukee, which a year ago started using federal antipoverty dollars to replace local tax dollars to pay for its AIDS prevention funding — which admirably targets the highest risk groups. Facing decreasing state aid, Mayor Tom Barrett's administration cut the city's Milwaukee AIDS Initiative support of local community-based agencies to \$250,000 from \$315,000.

Progress in the fight against AIDS has stalled, and looks to be getting much worse. If the arc of history bends inevitably toward justice, it seems to have taken a sharp detour to some exurban mega church.

The good news is that the lesson of the AIDS activism movement revolves around the fact that people can come together and reshape our society's priorities.

Anyone up for solving some problems?

(Full disclosure: I work for an agency that has contracts to provide AIDS prevention services for the City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin.)



Brian Reinkober ([breinkober@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:breinkober@queerlifeneews.com)) is the commissioner of SSBL (Saturday Softball League) for three years running. He is also involved in the bowling league and the tennis league.

## A New Year of Sports

### Happy New Year, Sports Fans!

Hopefully all of us are celebrating the Green Bay Packers' wins during the playoffs, but should our Green and Gold have lost by this edition's release, all is not lost!

Gay sports are on fire in 2005.

#### Bowling

Bowling has reached its halfway point in the season for the Monday Night Irregular League. At the AMF Bowling Center in West Allis, the mid-championship game pitted the Bad Bella Bammies against the team known as Kum & Go. In the end, Kum & Go "won & went" to the top of the standings by defeating the 2nd place team and taking 1st. Congratulations go out to Buffy, Steve, Dolly, Bob, David and Rita. The 24 teams started the second season with T-M-T sweeping all 7 points to take the early lead. Bowling starts at 7 p.m. each Monday so come on out and root for your favorite bowlers! Don't forget IGBO 25 is Memorial Day weekend, right here in Milwaukee!

The Men's City Tournament will be held February 26 and 27, in Milwaukee at the Riveria Lanes. The Monday Night Irregulars will be bowling for D&S and AMF West Allis. Please contact Rick H. at [www.hitmilwaukee.org](http://www.hitmilwaukee.org) for more information.

#### Darts

Meanwhile, in the Milwaukee bars, the dart league is also over halfway through its season. By week 13, the standings have gotten extremely tight at the top, with the Fluid Bullsh\*\*ers maintaining a 2-point lead over the Ballgame Killers. This was after their hard-fought match with another Fluid team, Plaid and Proud. A total of 12 points separate the top five teams. Check out your favorite dart team each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

#### Softball

SSBL (Saturday Softball League) had a very successful toy drive for the Sojourner Truth House. Thanks go out to all the bars that had toy boxes in their establishments and to their patrons for filling those boxes. A special thanks to Ballgame for their incredible generosity and time.

Also, the Milwaukee Kosmos celebrated Christmas at Fluid on December 21 with the Kosmos Kristmas Party. There were over 100 wrapped presents and poinsettias to give away to the partygoers. Monies were raised to send the Kosmos to Tampa Bay in February over Presidents' Day weekend to compete in the 11th annual Gasparilla Softball Classic. Results from the Kosmos tournament in Orlando will be shared next edition. Anyone wishing to compete with the Kosmos should contact Kurt at [www.ssblmilwaukee.com](http://www.ssblmilwaukee.com).

Saturday, February 26 will also be the Snowball Softball Cup. Softball in the snow will be played, followed by SSBL's Winter Banquet Party. All teams are welcome. Cost for entry into the cup is \$100. If you are interested in forming a team or playing on a team, please contact [www.ssblmilwaukee.com](http://www.ssblmilwaukee.com).

#### Gay Games

Finally, as many of you know, July 2006 will bring the Gay Games to our neighbors to the south, Chicago. There's been interest among the four main organized team sports (softball, tennis, bowling and darts) to form Team Wisconsin. Anyone from Wisconsin wanting to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime event, so close to Milwaukee, should contact your respective league, or, if you are a person competing in an individual sport, look for more information next month.

That's it for now, sports fans. Keep swinging those racquets and throwing those balls!

Summertime is only five months away!

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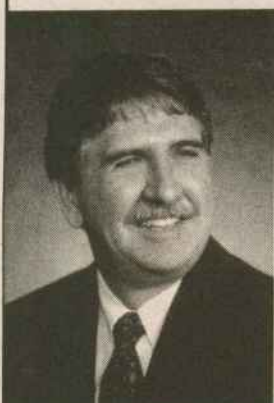
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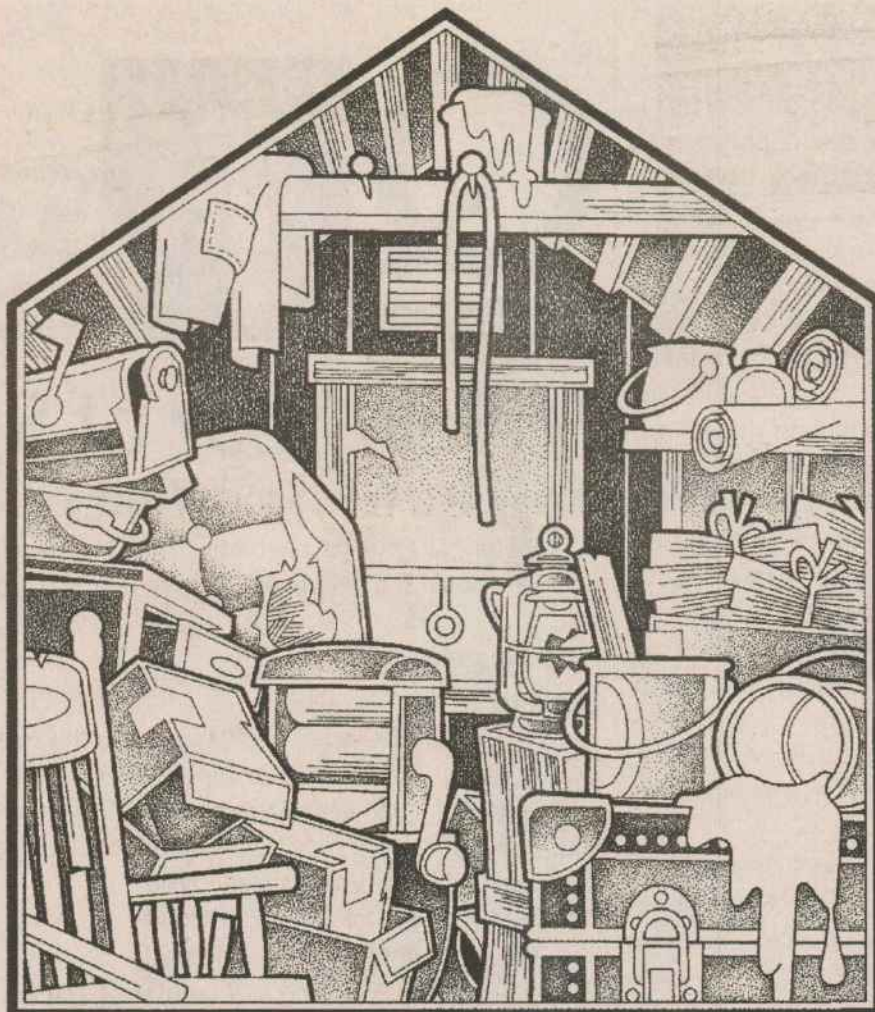


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# Simplify, Simplify

"Most of the luxuries and many of the so-called comforts of life are not only not indispensable but positive hindrances to the elevation of mankind." — Henry David Thoreau

**A good first step is to take stock and get rid of all those things you haven't worn, used or missed in a year or more.**

**S**o simplify and organize — forget the impossible New Year's resolutions and their inevitable nagging at your conscience. Clean out those closets, drawers and cabinets; then reorganize.

A good first step is to take stock and get rid of all those things you haven't worn, used or missed in a year or more.

Many area charities will gladly accept your donations; some even provide pick-up service. These donations are tax deductible for those who itemize. Perhaps you prefer to recycle by passing your unneeded treasures along to your family, friends or neighbors.

If you think your leftovers are too good to give away, there are a number of area resale clothing and general merchandise consignment shops that will sell your goods, keeping a percentage of the price for their services.

As a last resort, most municipalities have dumps open to the public. Many provide pick-up service (usually for a fee).

Recently, on my block our neighbor put out an assortment of household goods, used toys and appliances. In two days everything disappeared. I rescued a darling ride-on fire engine for my grandson. I love recycling.

Once you have purged your extras, it's

business: You can hire people to customize your closets with hanging space, drawers, shelving, hooks and bins. Most of the hardware that the pros use is available at the do-it-yourself stores.

You can buy grid or solid style shelving and design your own space. It's more efficient to store sweaters, T-shirts, jeans and sweats on shelves than to keep them in drawers. Besides, you can see them. For smaller items such as socks, underwear, belts and accessories, you can use baskets, boxes or clear plastic containers to hold them. Then stack them on your new shelves. Shoes can be kept in their original boxes or clear plastic containers and stacked on the floor or the shelves.

The inside of your closet door is a good place to install a hanging shoe bag, but not only for shoes. Those pouches are good receptacles for socks, belts or other small items. A series of hooks at the ends of shelves, moldings or interior doors provides hanging options for ribbons, scarves, ties, necklaces, hats etc.

For out of season clothing and accessories, large containers in the shape of dress boxes can be stored under beds. This is also a good way to store rolls of wrapping paper, ribbon and gift bags.

If you are lucky enough to live in one of Milwaukee's older homes, you may have an area that was once the maid's quarters — usually a smaller room with a sink or even a small bath adjoining. This makes an efficient and luxurious walk-in dressing room and closet. It can be outfitted with stationary and adjustable shelving and rods at different heights for hanging long and short garments. Space permitting, you might consider pullout shelves for packing suitcases. Finally, you can use the floor as a workout, yoga or meditation room.

time to organize what you're keeping. Whipping closets into shape is a booming

While you're at it, decorate your closet. Paint the walls and shelving in bright colors, faux paint them, or even wallpaper them to coordinate with your bedroom. There is a wide variety of hangers on the market: cedar and other woods, quilted, scented, plastic in all colors, and metal with clips for hanging outfits together.

Scented shelving paper, sachets (especially lavender), or cedar blocks are a must. I also love a touch of whimsy — a stuffed animal peeking at you every time you open the door or maybe a small painting or favorite photo.

Out of the closet and into the living spaces: Built-in shelves are wonderful for storing and displaying everything from books to china, art and electronics. It's nice to have cabinets with the shelving, but for storing items without cabinets, bins, baskets and boxes may be used instead.

If custom built-ins are not an option, again those home improvement centers have a great selection of modular units that can be put together to maximize your space. In my dining room, which has an outstanding tile floor, I had custom shelving built on two sides of the room and painted to match the woodwork. The room's original plaster cove molding is so richly detailed and in such great shape that the carpenter scribed the cabinet tops around the molding so as not to disturb it. Another advantage is that, although they look built-in, I could decide to use the shelving and cabinets in another space. The room now serves as a dining room and library, and the books muffle the sounds of the stone floor.

In place of traditional furniture like coffee tables, end tables and benches, trunks may be used, and they can be used for storage, their original purpose. A flat-topped trunk of fairly large size can make a very handsome coffee table. A stack of several smaller boxes or trunks can serve as an end table next to a chair or sofa. A trunk at the foot of a bed, in a hallway or against a wall can serve double duty as a storage container and a bench.

What a productive and satisfying way to start the New Year! I hear the echoes from Walden Pond resonating here on the shores of Lake Michigan. Can you hear them too? Simplify, simplify...



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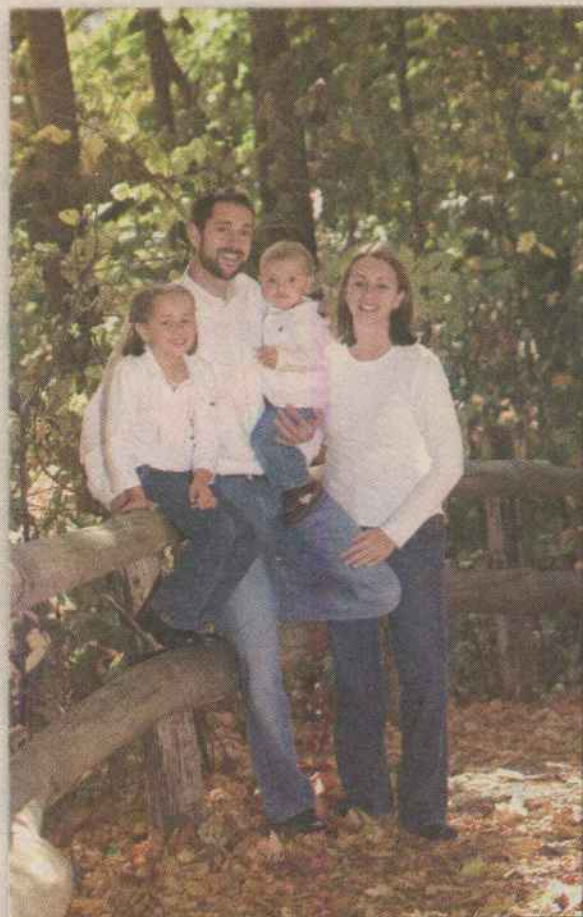
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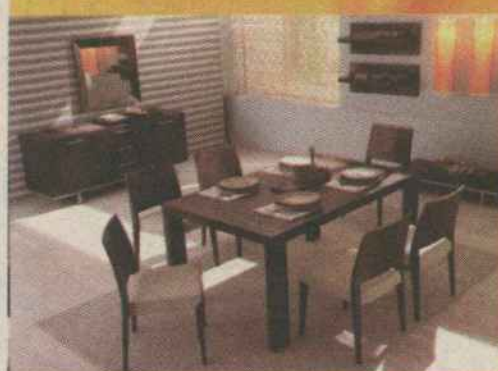
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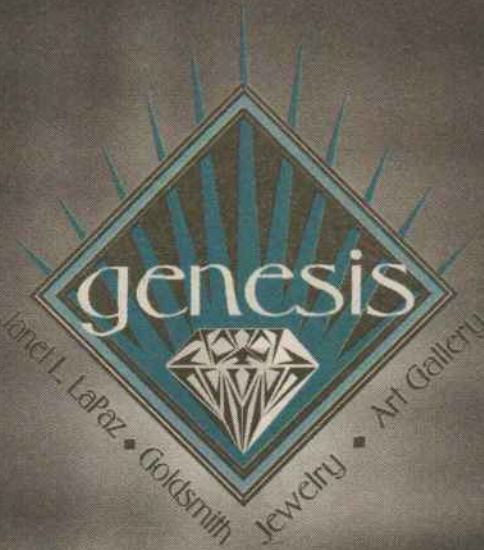


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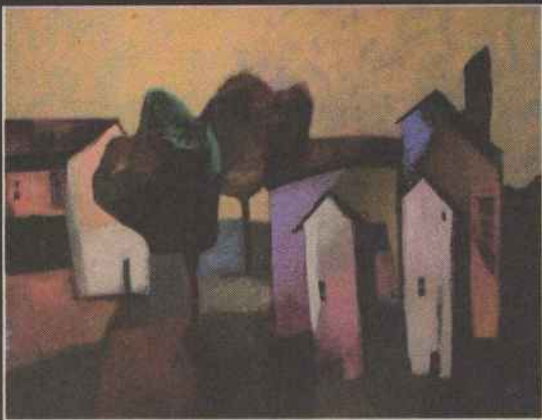


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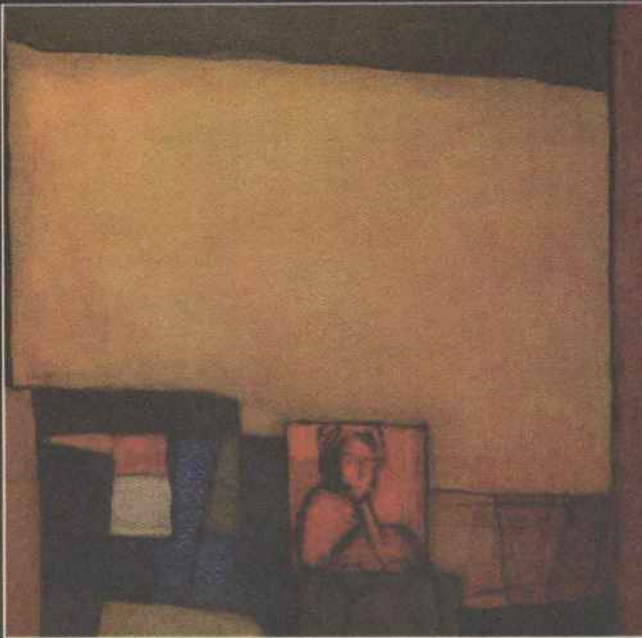
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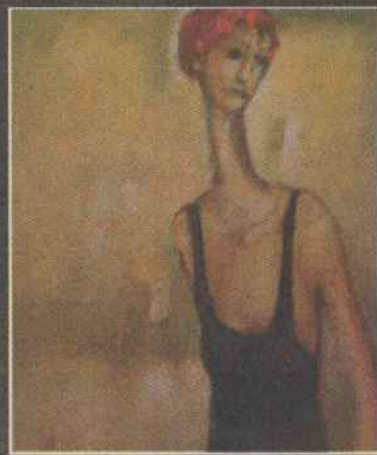
Rez Raven, \$1,600 24 x 24



Darina Marko, \$1,900, 30 x 30



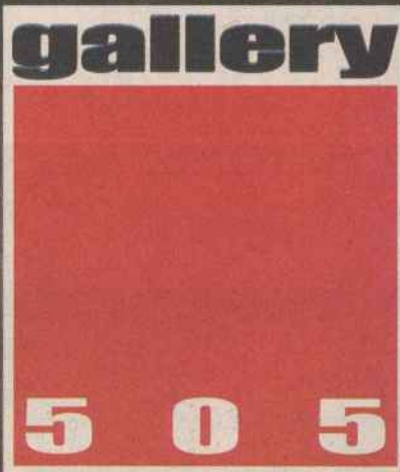
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# Vancouver: A Pacific Canadian Gem

By Brian Reinkober

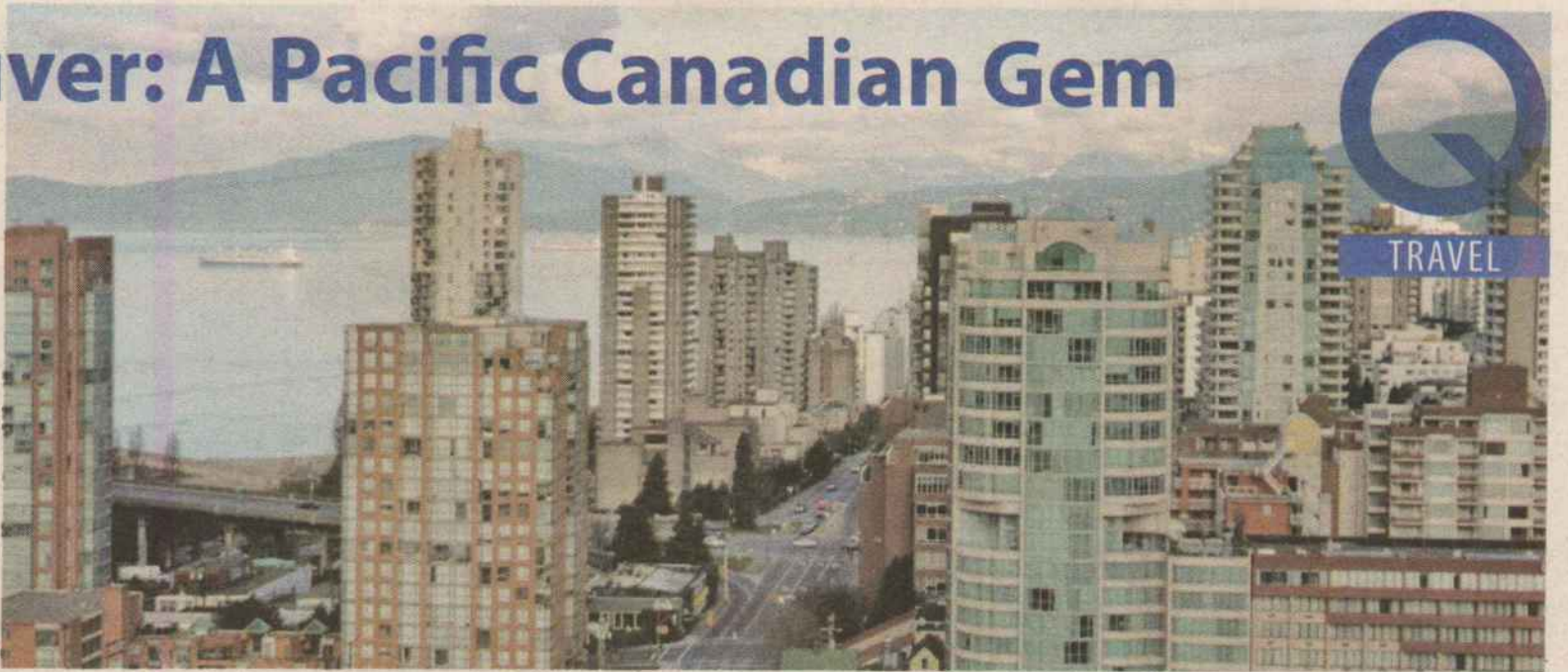
When one thinks of "north of the border," immediately the French-Canadian city of Montreal or the megatropolis of Toronto come to mind.

However, there is another Canadian city, which should be mentioned in the same breath, that many gay people flock to year round — Vancouver, British Columbia.

Though a bit tougher to get to than Toronto (from Milwaukee), the rewards are certainly worth the longer plane ride. The easiest travel route is on Northwest Airlines via Minneapolis. Or drive to Chicago and fly direct.

Upon arriving in Vancouver, you will notice the clean, fresh, pine-scented air. Next you will realize that two million people live well with diversity in this city. It is a very friendly and accepting city.

Vancouver is nestled on three sides



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by water, with the majestic Coastal Mountain Range just to the north of the city. It is snowcapped year round. The westernmost point of the city is **Stanley Park**, completely devoting itself to outdoor enthusiasts and their activities. In summertime, one can lie on **Wreck Beach** or one of the other warm sandy beaches (gay and straight, as well as regular and clothing-optional beaches). Many of these beaches look back at the downtown skyline *continued on page 29*

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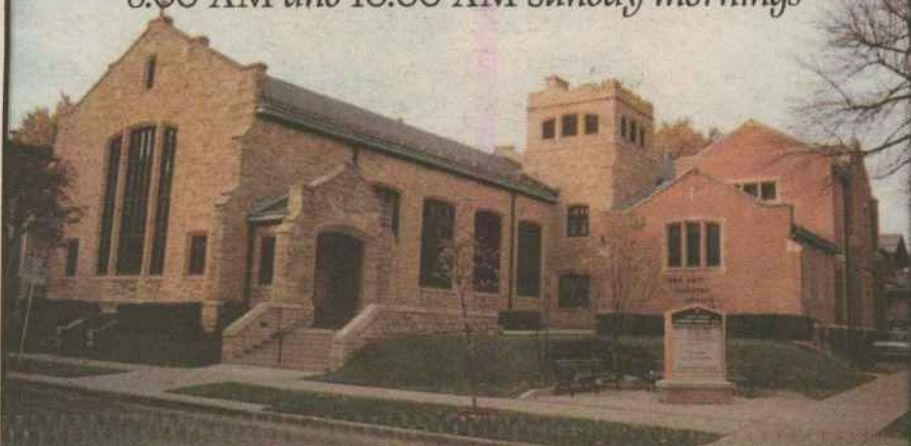
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# Reading as a Form of Happiness

## She's Not There: A Life in Two Genders

Jennifer Finney Boylan



Roxanne Kupfer (rkupfer@queerlifeneews.com) has a lifelong love for movies and books which started in Paris decades ago. The mother of two creative children, she lives in Milwaukee and Cape Cod.

**For decades, Boylan had lived with denial of considerable proportions and ever-growing torment.**

Nobel Prize laureate Jorge Luis Borges described reading as a "form of happiness." I fully agree. I enjoyed reading "She's Not There" so much that I felt a sense of letdown as the end neared.

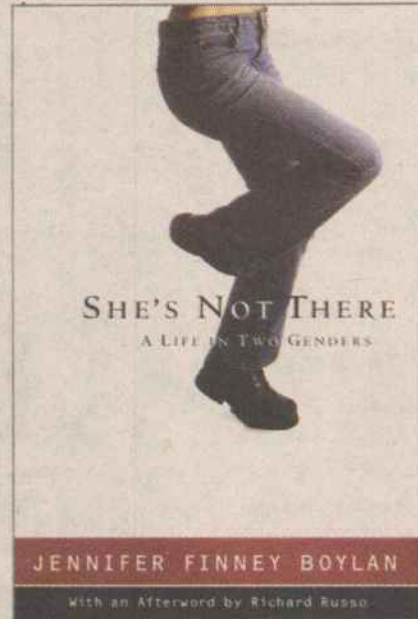
In his mid-40s, professor James Boylan led a charmed life. Educated at the elite universities Wesleyan and Johns Hopkins, he was chairperson of the English Department at Colby College, a prestigious New England institution. Boylan was also a nationally acclaimed author, father of two healthy and precocious boys, husband of an exuberant, sophisticated wife, even a bit of a "ham" as keyboardist in a local rock 'n' roll band.

But, of course, this was only "one side of the story." For decades, Boylan had lived with denial of considerable proportions and ever-growing torment. He was a woman imprisoned in a man's body. The first moment of self-awareness occurred at age 3 as he watched his mother iron his father's white shirts: "Someday," his mother exclaimed, "you'll wear shirts like that." Boylan writes, "I listened to her strange words, as if they were a language other than English. I didn't understand what she was getting at. She never wore shirts like that. Why would I ever be wearing shirts like my father's?" The inner conflict escalated over the years despite his efforts to bear the burden in silence.

In 1999, he finally accepted his transsexuality.

"She's Not There" documents in detail the journey to complete the gender transition; not just the physical and psychological treatments (psychotherapy, feminine hormones, intricate electrolysis and voice training before the final reassessment surgery in a Wisconsin clinic), but, equally important to Boylan, the myriad changes his decision brought upon family and friends. Powerfully evocative, "She's Not There" (the title, taken from the hit song by the '60s band the Zombies, is a perfect metaphor for Boylan's trapped identity), propels the reader through the life-altering experiences with pathos, sensitivity and ample humor. "I was born in 1958, on June 22. ... [I]t was also the birthday of Kris Kristofferson and Meryl Streep whom I both resembled although not at the same time," Boylan quips.

*continued on page 25*



SHE'S NOT THERE  
A LIFE IN TWO GENDERS

JENNIFER FINNEY BOYLAN

With an Afterword by Richard Russo



Mambo Italiano

EQUINOXE

Calumet

canoe



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"TWO THUMBS UP!"  
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**Mambo Italiano**  
directed by Emile Gaudreault  
DVD

**The Wedding Banquet**  
directed by Ang Lee  
DVD

As I watched these comedies, I was reminded of Robin Williams in "The Bird Cage" escorting his new daughter-in-law and her homophobic parents out of his nightclub to the tune of "We Are Family."

What makes these comedies ring "true to life," is the way they deal with the coming-of-age of their gay characters. "Coming out" was the first step. The next and perhaps even more complex issue they confront is forging a

lifestyle that enables them to hold membership in both the gay community and their parents' traditional communities.

In order to appease his aging parents living in Taiwan, their gay son, a businessman and slum landlord in the United States, concocts a marriage of convenience with

a talented, attractive compatriot and tenant (she gets the green card and forgiveness on overdue rent, he fulfills his parents' wishes). Of course, when the parents make a short-notice visit to celebrate the momentous occasion, events tumble in unexpected ways.

For the Italian-version, "Mambo Italiano," the setting is the "old neighborhood" in Montreal where generations have lived in close proximity and in full view of their fellow paesan. Children grew up together; they married each other and continued their parents' lifestyles. The movie's protagonist, Angelo also pairs up with a childhood friend who happens to have blossomed

*continued on page 25*

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# Three Great Flavors



**READING** *continued from page 24*

The vignettes of specific events involved in the laborious medical treatments, interspersed with those from daily life, which continued its course, are by turns hilarious and tearful. During the boy/girl stage, shopping for a car, the same salesman shows Jenny the most expensive model and "talks up the cup holders and illuminated dashboard," while James is offered less banter and a better deal. In the course of the transition, Luke, the older son comments, "Some of my friends think you are a girl." "That must be hard," interjects Boylan. "Not really. I just tell them, that's my daddy." Or deliberating on a new name for Boylan, the boys reject Jenny, which sounds like an "old lady's name," but quickly come up with maddy — half mommy, half daddy.

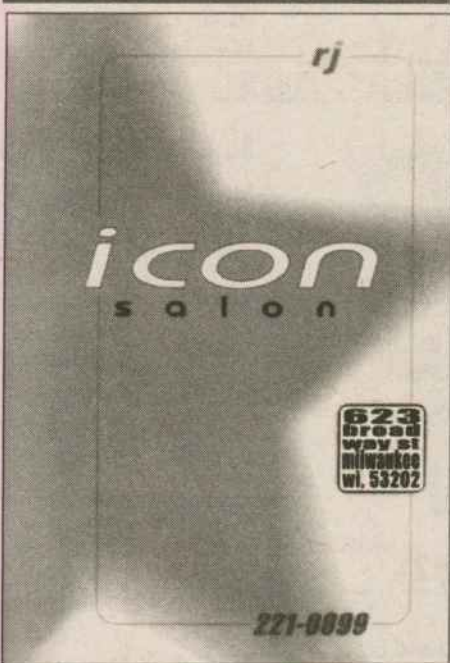
At the core of all these memorable anecdotes lies a profound commentary on the human condition. No activist, Boylan is a powerful crusader on behalf of all men and women "trying to find the courage to do something impossible, to attain enlightenment, to find the courage to become oneself." Almost provocative in its willingness to be frank about the experiences, "She's Not There" is an account in which honesty, love and the redemptive power of family do triumph over fear and pain.

Professor Jennifer Boylan has gifted us an unforgettable reading experience.

**DVDS** *continued from page 24*

into a macho policeman — tough on the outside but terrified of "coming out." But "come out" they must when their respective parents discover the relationship... And the plot continues to build on the pull between family, community and the characters' personal longings.

While the conventional measure of film reviewing would consider both movies as little more than adequate, I would instead single them out for their convincing depiction of a "slice of queer life." Like Robin Williams, the characters in "The Wedding Banquet" and "Mambo Italiano" manage to celebrate their common ground because they are family.

**A Classy Gay Guy****Greatest Hits**

Aaron Copland  
CD

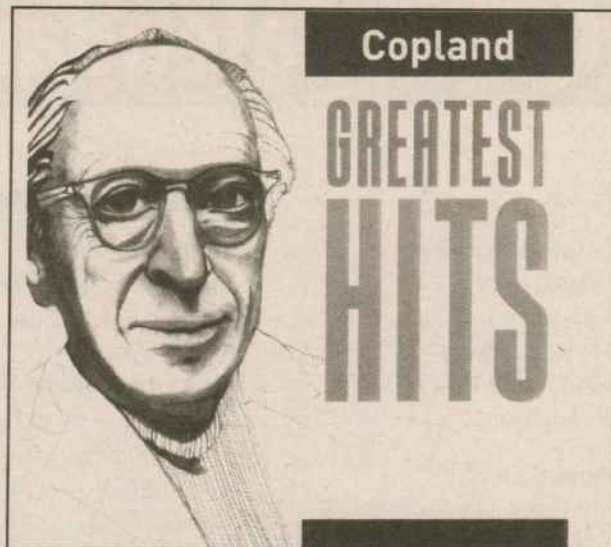
A recent article in "Rolling Stone," written in the wake of the Ashlee Simpson lip syncing faux pas on Saturday Night Live, underscores that it is the rule rather than the exception in the music industry. I can think of several reasons why Ashlee or Britney are "disabled" in their singing metier: They are incapable of remembering the words, or maybe they are distracted by the heavy bouncing they do on stage (some call it dancing). Actually both women are CD/TV showgirls and have nothing in common with genuine musical artists.

Which brings me to the musician for this issue: Aaron Copland whose reputation has grown over the years. Alas, his name may not elicit instant (or any) recognition. And that's a pity because for seven decades he created the quintessential American classical language in music. His compositions continue to be played on television, at presidential inaugurations and countless public ceremonies. He won a Pulitzer Prize for his ballet composition "Appalachian Spring" (1944), an Oscar for the musical score to the movie "The Heiress" (1949) and a Gold Congressional Medal (1986).

What is of interest to the gay community is that not only was Copland homosexual, he knew and accepted his identity from adolescence. According to Howard Pollack, author of the definitive Copland biography, intense reading in literature (poet Walt Whitman, French novelist Andre Gide) and psychology (Sigmund Freud, Havelock Ellis) shaped his view of homosexuality as a "natural and inherited phenomenon." Not surprisingly, within the artistic and musical circles in which he spent most of his life, the homosexuality was not even an issue. At the same time, Copland had no interest in "coming out." Urged by close friend, collaborator and one-time lover Leonard Bernstein in the late '60s, Copland gently responded, "I think I'll leave that to you, boy."

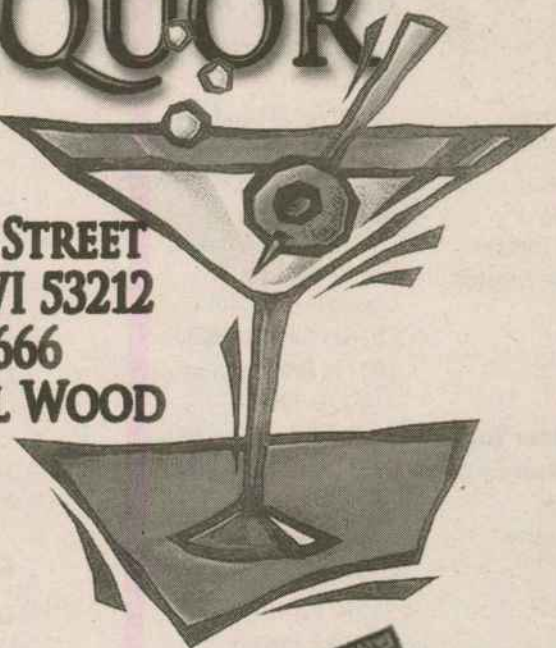
Born in 1900 to immigrant parents, success came neither quickly nor early to Aaron Copland. He began piano training at the advanced age of 13. At 21 he went to Paris to continue classical training. The young musician thrived in the city that was an international proving ground for the arts as well as for pluralistic lifestyles. But unlike fellow expatriates such as Josephine Baker, Copland felt his life and career belonged in the United States (naturally, being white and male, he had more options). Back in New York, he began crafting music that engaged the "new" generation raised with radio and musical recordings. Just like in his private life, Copland gracefully brought together the classical European traditions and the popular streams of American music, including folk tunes, jazz, Tin Pan Alley, Broadway shows and open harmonies. In so doing, he demonstrated, perhaps better than anyone else, that it was possible for music to be both very traditional and very accessible.

My favorites on the CD are "Fanfare for the Common Man," "Rodeo" and "Billy the Kid."

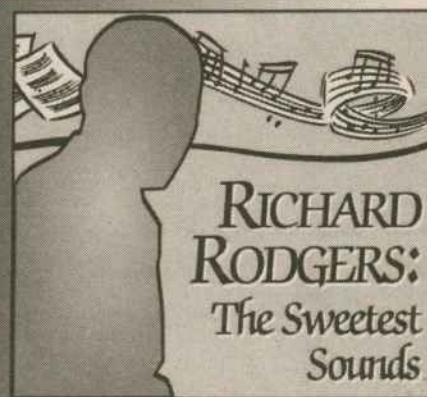


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# Q Arts Calendar



## Out Now

### Colored Threads/Art to Wear XIV

Katie Gingrass Gallery  
241 N. Broadway  
414-298-0855  
Through January 14

### Guys on Ice

Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
Stiemke Theater  
108 E. Wells St.  
414-224-9440  
Through January 16

### The Syringa Tree

Renaissance Theaterworks  
Off Broadway Theatre  
342 N. Water St.  
414-278-0765  
Through January 23

### Forbidden Broadway

Marcus Center  
Vogel Hall  
929 N. Water St.  
414-273-7206  
Through February 27

### I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Broadway Baby Dinner Theatre  
5132 W. Mill Road  
414-358-2020  
Through April 4

## Wednesday, January 12

### Happy Landing

Classic Film (1938)  
Charles Allis Art Museum  
1801 N. Prospect Ave.  
414-278-8295

## Thursday, January 13

### Northern Lights

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra  
Marcus Center  
Uihlein Hall  
929 N. Water St.  
414-273-7206  
Through January 15

### Vivid Color Comes to Life

Exhibit Opens  
Katie Gingrass Gallery  
241 N. Broadway  
414-298-0855

## Friday, January 14

### The Visual Voice: Communication Design Alumni Exhibition

Exhibit Opens  
Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design

Layton Gallery  
273 E. Erie St.

414-276-7889  
Through March 19

### Michael Glabicki

Roots Rock  
Shank Hall  
1434 N. Farwell Ave.  
414-276-7288

### Plaza Suite

Bay Players  
Whitefish Bay High School  
1200 E. Fairmount Ave.  
Through January 22

### Visiting Mr. Green

Racine Theatre Guild  
2519 Northwestern Ave., Racine  
262-633-4218  
Through February 6

### Bedroom Farce

Sunset Playhouse  
800 Elm Grove Road  
262-782-4430  
Through January 30

## Saturday, January 15

### Lana Mae's Honky-Tonk Laundry

Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
Stackner Cabaret  
108 E. Wells St.  
414-224-9440  
Through March 20

### Model Railroad Show

Floral Show Dome  
Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory  
524 S. Layton Blvd.  
414-649-9800  
Through March 6

## Sunday, January 16

### Bright Eyes

Pabst Theater  
144 E. Wells St.  
414-286-3663

### Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra

With guest Frank Almond  
UWM Helene Zelazo Center  
2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
414-272-8540

### Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration

Marcus Center  
929 N. Water St.  
414-273-7206

## Monday, January 17

### Don Rickles

Potawatomi Bingo  
1721 W. Canal St.  
414-847-7922  
Through January 18

## Wednesday, January 19

### The Winter Dance Party

Pabst Theater  
144 E. Wells St.  
414-286-3663

### Stowaway

Classic Film (1936)  
Charles Allis Art Museum  
1801 N. Prospect Ave.  
414-278-8295

## Thursday, January 20

### God's Favorite

On the Wall Productions  
Off the Wall Theatre  
127 E. Wells St.  
414-327-3552  
Through January 30

## Friday, January 21

### Gallery Night

Historic Third Ward and East Associations  
Various locations  
414-273-1173  
Through January 22

### Let's Dance!

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra  
Marcus Center  
Uihlein Hall  
929 N. Water St.  
414-273-7206  
Through January 23

### Yes. No. (Maybe So...)

Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
Quadracci Powerhouse Theater  
108 E. Wells St.  
414-224-9440  
Through February 20

### You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running

Waukesha Civic Theatre  
264 W. Main St., Waukesha  
262-547-0708  
Through February 6

## Saturday, January 22

### Porgy and Bess

Living Arts Inc.  
Schauer Arts and Activities Center  
147 N. Rural St., Hartford  
262-670-0560

### Art of the Ordinary

Wild Space Dance Company  
Milwaukee Art Museum  
Windhover Hall  
414-224-3220  
Repeats January 23

## Sunday, January 23

### Songs of Faith and Spirit

Alverno College Pittman Theatre  
3401 S. 39th St.  
414-382-6044

## Monday, January 24

### Over the Rainbow: A Concert Celebrating a Century of Harold Arlen

Marcus Center  
Uihlein Hall  
929 N. Water St.  
414-273-7206

## Tuesday, January 25

### Queensryche

The Rave  
2401 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
414-342-7283

## Wednesday, January 26

### St. Petersburg State Ballet Theatre

Young Auditorium  
UW-Whitewater  
930 W. Main St., Whitewater  
262-472-2222

### Tin Pan Alley

Classic Film (1940)  
Charles Allis Art Museum  
1801 N. Prospect Ave.  
414-278-8295

## Thursday, January 27

### Keith Haring's Mural

Exhibit Opens  
Haggerty Museum of Art  
530 N. 13th St.  
414-288-1669

### Vicki Lawrence and Mama

Northern Lights Theater  
Potawatomi Bingo Casino  
1721 W. Canal St.  
414-847-7922

## Friday, January 28

### A Water Bird Talk and Gianni Schicchi

Skylight Opera Theatre  
Broadway Theatre Center  
151 N. Broadway  
414-291-7800  
Through February 13

### Ain't Misbehavin'

With Anita Stemper  
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center  
19805 W. Capitol Drive  
262-781-9520

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### The Goodbye People

Next Act Theatre  
342 N. Water St., 2nd floor  
414-278-0765  
Through February 27

## Sunday, January 30

### The Underpants

Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
Stiemke Theater  
108 E. Wells St.  
414-224-9440  
Through March 13

### Russian Jewels

Waukesha Symphony Orchestra  
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center  
19805 W. Capitol Drive  
262-781-9520

## Monday, January 31

### Frankly Music

Presents Bartok's "Contrasts"  
Wisconsin Conservatory of Music  
1584 N. Prospect Ave.  
414-276-5760

## Tuesday, February 1

### Emanuel Ax

Chamber Music  
Pabst Theater  
144 E. Wells St.  
414-286-3663

## Friday, February 4

### Dora the Explorer Live!

Dora's Pirate Adventure  
The Milwaukee Theatre  
500 W. Kilbourn Ave.  
414-291-7605  
Through February 6

## Coming Soon

February 10: Peking Acrobats, Pabst Theater

April 20: David Sedaris, Pabst Theater

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# Lana Turner, La Cage and Underpants! It's 2005!

## "Welcome to the Theatre!"

That's a song from "Applause" the musical version of that classic Bette Davis film "All About Eve." Ah, life in the theatre.

Let me tell you about the time Lana Turner fired me. I was working for the Drury Lane Theatre in Chicago. I was locking up the theatre after the show. I knocked on the "star's" door; and asked her to please leave. I was fired the next day! Would you believe the Legendary Diva got to the theatre at 2 p.m. for an 8 p.m. curtain? And what makes matters even worse, at 8:30 p.m. they were still holding the curtain.

Didn't you love our premiere issue! Yummy! Speaking of food: Have you made any 2005 New Year's resolutions? Atkins, tummy tuck, cheek implants? Make it a resolution to see some live theatre!

### Live Shows

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts had the powerful "Les Miserable" at the beginning of January. Next they bring you that high comedy hit "Forbidden Broadway." This show will spoof many current and classic Broadway productions. I saw the original show in Chicago with Milwaukee's Tom Marks of M&W

Playhouse Productions in the cast. What a hoot!

Northern Lights Theatre has the hilarious Mama and Vicki Lawrence.

Jason Powell and Jim Skiba are two extremely talented, good-looking guys in "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," playing a long run at Broadway Baby Dinner Theatre.

"A Water Bird" and "Gianni Schicchi" will be a season highlight

at Skylight Opera featuring J. Robert Baker.

My own personal #1 choice for laughs: "The Underpants," by Steve Martin at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. This is a quick-paced, zany farce!!

Next Act brings us Herb Gardner's comic stage poem "The Goodbye People."

Renaissance Theaterworks presents the virtuoso piece "The Syringa Tree."

"God's Favorite" has been rescheduled to "Lilies of the Field" for On the Wall Productions.

The classic comedy "Bedroom Farce" is at Sunset Playhouse, and "Plaza Suite" opens at Bay Players. Ticket prices are very reasonable!

Hey, big spender! Christina Applegate will star in the pre-Broadway tryout of "Sweet Charity" at the Cadillac Theatre in Chicago. Follow that with show tunes at Side-Tracks on Halsted.

A few years back I did "The Music Man" at Music Under the Stars. Gary Beach starred as Harold Hill. I was so pleased to see that the



Raymond Bradford (rbradford@queerlifeneews.com) is a freelance director, choreographer and actor. Ray lives on the East Side and is the artistic director of R.S.V.P. Productions. Ray also teaches acting.



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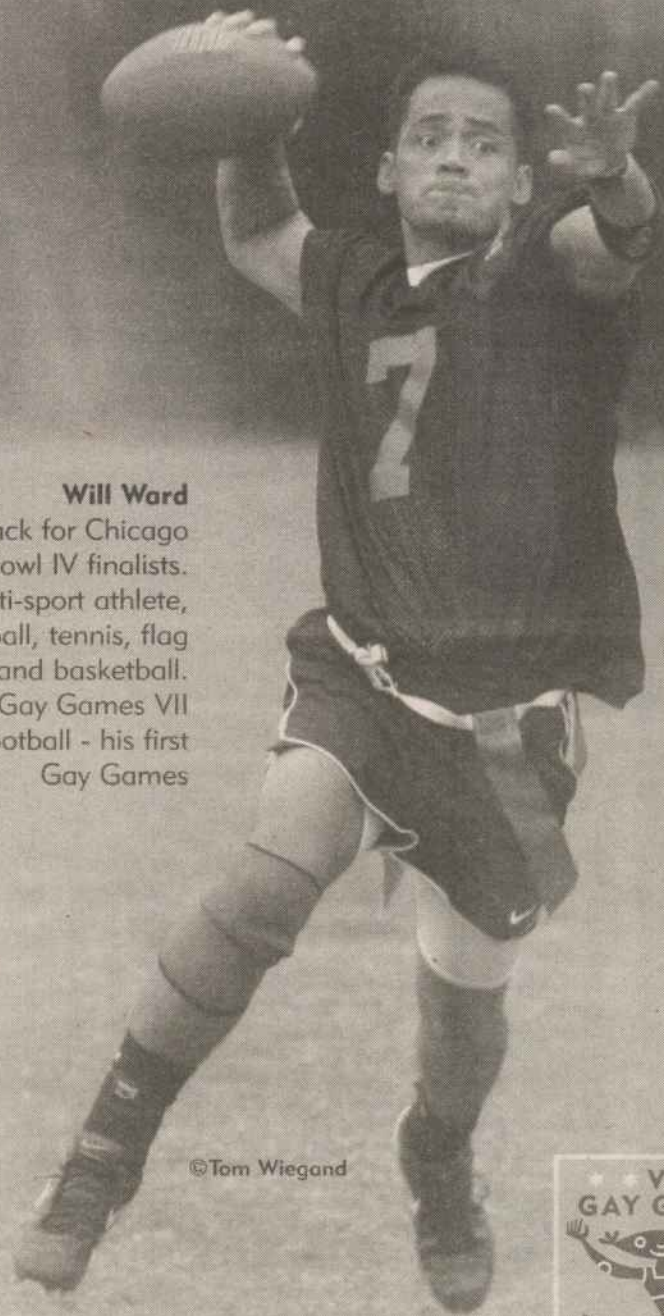
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**PIANIST EMANUEL AX** FEB. 1

Ron Carter Quartet March 19	John Scofield Trio & Brad Mehldau Trio April 23	Jazz at Lincoln Center: The Music of Dexter Gordon May 14	Marian Anderson String Quartet March 8	Raphael Trio April 12	Emerson String Quartet May 3
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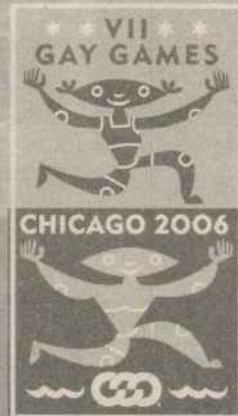


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- Racquetball
- Road Races 5/10K
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Sailing
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## Variety: The Spice of Life

As we pass from day to day many of us ask, "What is the spice of life?" For me the answer is variety. (Well, maybe not everywhere, like the bedroom, because yours truly is a one-man man!) However, variety in the kitchen will definitely keep the dinner plate sassy. This month I am going to start you out with a simple base recipe. This starter recipe will allow you to make a plethora of tasty dishes.

Steve Ahl ([sahl@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:sahl@queerlifeneews.com)) resides in the Third Ward with his partner Don and their cat Shirley. He is employed as a chemist for a company located in the surrounding Milwaukee area.

### Base Recipe (Chicken)

3-4 lb. split chicken breasts  
2 tsp. salt  
1 onion  
celery (optional)  
carrots (optional)



Place the chicken in a large stockpot. Add cold water to pot until chicken is well covered. Add salt, onion, celery and carrot to the stockpot. Bring water to boil and then reduce heat. Simmer for 1½ hours. Retain chicken broth by pouring through a fine mesh strainer into a separate container. Allow chicken to cool slightly, then pull meat from bones. Cover and refrigerate the chicken broth. Once the broth is chilled use a slotted spoon to remove and discard the top solidified layer.

Take the chicken and pull it into pieces.

Now there are many options for what to do next:

To keep it simple, just buy a can of chicken gravy, add it to the chicken and heat in a saucepan.

You can do the same thing using a bottle of your favorite barbeque sauce. Or if you want something a little different, try this recipe for my favorite barbeque sauce:

### Steve's Sweet & Spicy BS

1 tbsp. olive oil	1½ cups cider vinegar
1 small onion, diced	1/3 cup honey
1 habanero pepper, diced	½ cup brown sugar
2 large tomatoes, chopped	1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 15-oz. can diced tomatoes	1 tsp. salt

Note: The seeds and veins of a pepper contain acid. This acid creates the hot and spicy flavor. My suggestion would be to cut the habanero pepper in half and remove the seeds. Then without rinsing the pepper, cut it into fine dice. The residual acid on the inside skin of the pepper should make the sauce a little spicy without causing too much pain upon consumption!

In a medium saucepan heat the oil. Add the onions and pepper and cook until soft. Add the tomatoes, canned tomatoes, vinegar, honey, brown sugar and Worcestershire sauce. Bring mixture to a boil and then reduce to simmer. Continue to heat until the sauce is slightly reduced and thickened.

Well, we still need to do something with the chicken broth. Certainly there are many things you can do with this broth, but none are better than your standard homemade chicken soup. Here is a simple but delicious recipe:



### Chicken Noodle Soup

2 tbsp. olive oil  
2 medium carrots, diced  
2 stalks celery, diced  
chicken broth from base recipe  
(add water to reserved broth to make 10 cups)  
2 tbsp. powdered chicken base (such as Orrington Farms)  
1 cup chicken pieces from base recipe  
6 oz. broad noodles

Heat the olive oil in a large stockpot and add the carrots and celery. Sauté over medium heat for about 7-8 minutes. Add the chicken broth and chicken base. Turn heat to high and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes. Add the chicken and the noodles and simmer for 10 more minutes.

These recipes are a simple way to make some delicious homemade meals. Perhaps the spice of life is just a KISS: Keep It Simple, Stupid.



### VANCOUVER *continued from page 23*

of modern glass and steel with every different shape and size of building — more like works of art than simply downtown.

Vancouver is filled with large shopping areas such as **Yale-town, Gastown & Denman, Robson and Granville Streets**. The Canadian chains **Roots** (clothes) and **Aldo** (shoes) are a must-visit for the savvy shopper. A bonus for all travelers to Canada is the Canadian dollar. It is still a relative bargain for Americans crossing the border to the north. At the time of this article, you get \$1.25 Canadian for every \$1 U.S. So shopaholics, everything is on sale!

Landmarks and sites that should not be missed while in Vancouver include the **Capilano suspension bridge** (the longest wooden suspension bridge in the world), **Grouse Mountain** (spectacular views of Vancouver), **Granville Island** (a tiny market-filled island) and **Victoria** (the capital) via the ferries.

Vancouver is the warmest city in Canada. During winter-time, temperatures rarely get below freezing, yet an hour's drive north on the sea is **Whistler Mountain**, one of the premier ski resorts in North America with hundreds of inches of snow each year. Whistler Mountain is also home to the alpine competition in the 2010 Winter Olympic Games and gay ski week at the end of January/beginning of February.

Vancouver's gay scene is quite a vibrant one and mixes well into the city's fabric. **Davie Street** is the main gay area, resembling Chicago's Boystown. Most of the bars along this street are intermixed with shops, cafes and restaurants of every ethnic cuisine. A must-try is the Greek restaurant **Stepho's** on Davie Street, where people are lined up waiting on any given day of the week.

For the leather crowd, **Pumpjack** is the place to be seen. Don't be surprised to wait in line to get into this popular destination. For those that are into the club scene, Vancouver has two must-see clubs. **Odysey** is a crowd favorite jammed packed with young hard bodies on the large dance floor where, on Thursdays, one can find male strippers performing in "Shower Power" (you have to see it for yourself). There's also the renovated **Celebrities** with the latest sound and lighting shows. Both clubs have a cover charge. For a down-home bar where you can play pool or darts, try **Numbers**.

If you like to have a taste of a foreign country, without the expense of traveling to Europe, and where English is the spoken language, then Vancouver is your city.

*Tip of the Trip:* Instead of taking a \$30 taxi ride from the airport, take the 98B city bus which costs a Loonie and a Toonie (Canada's \$1 and \$2 coins) right into downtown with transfer.

### FAMILIES *continued from page 16*

est to our members. The Web site is a great addition to the organization.

RFM also works with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) to increase awareness about the organization. To ensure that our members are well-informed about issues that arise in the community, some members receive e-mails from Action Wisconsin and other organizations. These members then pass this information on to other members via the e-mail list. This has been an effective method of sharing information.

The easiest way to contact RFM is by e-mail. Use the "contact us" link on the Web site or e-mail [mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com](mailto:mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com). Or contact RFM via snail mail at Rainbow Families Milwaukee, c/o PFLAG, 315 Court St., Milwaukee, WI 53212.

# Q

## YOUTH

Christopher Allen and Colin Kaehler are both teens and attend high school in Milwaukee. They are members of their school GSA and are involved with Diverse and Resilient, a social service organization whose mission is to ensure the healthy development of the LGBTQ community.

# Coming Out: A Long Journey

**Chris:** With the beginning of every New Year I always promise myself that somehow I'll create a new me. Somehow the person I see in the mirror will be different from the person I've seen every other day of my life.

How I plan to do that? I don't know.

Have I ever been able to do it? I'm not sure.

I know who I am and I know that the person I see in the mirror every morning after I wipe the sleep from my eyes is the person that all those years put together makes. I'm proud of myself, proud of who I am, and I know that the only way I can show the world who I am is by being true to the ones around me.

I always knew I was attracted to people of the same sex.

As far as I can remember, I never found the need to share this feeling with my family. I never saw why it would be important for me

to tell my family that the son, nephew or cousin that they know wasn't really the person they see in front of them everyday. Just recently I found that need.

If the people I love don't know who I am, than who does? I needed to validate the person I knew was inside — me. Why live this lie?

I often found myself thinking that maybe I could be at-

tracted to the opposite sex. Maybe I didn't have to live a secret life. However, I knew down inside that I could never be the person they wanted me to be, never have the wedding that they planned for me. The only way I could stop leading my secret life was if I told them the truth. Only then would I never disappoint them — they'd be able to share in my joy. My family would be able to comfort my pains or disagree about me, my true self, not a stereotype they know nothing about.

So I chose to come out.

A weight was lifted off of my shoulders. I no longer feel as if I'm lying to everyone, and myself.

**Colin:** In my experience coming out as a person has been an easy step for me. However, coming out to my parents has been a completely different story.

Like in many coming-out stories, I knew from a very young age that I was attracted to both girls and boys. Coming to terms with such realizations was never that easy. Add to the mix a conservative father and stepmother. Of course there was a lot of denial on my behalf. Up until the time I moved in with my father, I was never pessimistic about how I felt. My mother and I had many open conversations about how I felt.

Feeling liberated at my mom's and trapped at my dad's, I ended up bottling many things within myself.

## Who you are isn't based upon whom you love; it's about what's on the inside.

Of course my silence eventually subsided as I learned to accept the person that I am. I grew as an individual and found an incredible amount of support around me. I still remember many long and stressful conversations about my sexuality with my parents. Though I have been open about whom I am, it still remains a struggle for me to talk about it.

**Chris and Colin:** We both found support and rejection in unexpected places.

What we want people to realize is that sexuality, gender expression and any other type of preference is only a layer of who we, as LGBTQ youth, really are. As young adults we do not want people to look at us and notice only one thing: We're queer. There is so much more that makes up who we are as teenagers. We must defend our right to express ourselves and feel safe in doing so.

2005 is a new year and with it we'll make a new us. Call it our New Year's resolution or just a promise to ourselves, but we plan to reach other youth.

Who you are isn't based upon whom you love; it's about what's on the inside.

We promise ourselves that we'll open up a little more, and show the world who we are inside.

Your comments and encouragement are welcome at [qyouth@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qyouth@queerlifeneews.com)



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## THEATRE *continued from page 27*

new production of "La Cage" on Broadway stars Gary as Zaza. When Gary was starring in "The Producers," he got me standing room only seats, and I was next to the director, **Susan Stroman**.

The fabulous **Cynthia Papiaczky** and I have taken in lots of shows recently. I saw "Twelfth Night" at **Boulevard Ensemble** and **Tom Gale** as Higgin in "My Fair Lady" at Shorewood Players. "A Christmas Carol" with **Michael Koscinki**, and **Gutzman's "Holiday Punch"** — full of parody! Every production had its own merits.

### Movies and Books

I hope you weren't at the movies alone on New Year's Eve. "Closer," "Meet the Fockers," "Alexander," and "Kinsey" would all appeal to you in different ways. Try the **Marcus Cinemas**.

If you want to read lots of movie and theatre books try **Outwords** bookstore on Murray Avenue.

### Gossip, Gossip, and More Gossip!

I decided to check out the **Midtowne Spa**. I ran into this guy who played the lead in my "Funny Girl" years ago. "Hello, gorgeous!"

Talented **Tom Weissgerber** started a new cabaret act, **Ensemblah**, and had to

replace a popular lead female singer.

Nearly 200 people auditioned for "Chicago" for **Shorewood Players**. A theatre god will play God in a show this spring! I knew some of those "Cabaret" chorus boys 20 years ago when I moved to Milwaukee — they should call them chorus men!

Hey, I sure will miss **Tula's**. Thanks for your years with us theatre folk!

After the theatre, check out **Bella's** on Milwaukee Avenue.

If you do go to the bars, please, tip the bartenders.... They work hard and smile through some rough nights!!

My Aunt Blanche is screaming at me because I didn't take her to see **Ruth Schudson** in the acclaimed "Kimberly Akimbo"!!

### Trivia

In "Forbidden Broadway" they sang an "Evita" spoof *Don't cry for me, \_\_\_\_\_ (who)???*

That reminds me of the trivia question from the last issue.

Answer: "Hairspray" star **Harvey Fierstein** will be playing Tevye on Broadway. He should be Yente the Matchmaker.

"Hey, Big Spender! Spend a little time with me" — next issue!!!

Daniel Ziebell is a Marquette University graduate who analyzes regulatory compliance for a local insurance company. He, Tad and Elliot now make their home in Brewer's Hill.



## Elliot the Humanist

They say love happens when you least expect it. For about eight months my boyfriend Tad and I had been browsing the Web trying to agree on the particular size and breed for our first family addition. To be honest, I wasn't altogether convinced we should have a dog just then; we had recently moved in together and I was more than a little concerned about a puppy ending the spontaneous pleasures enjoyed in a new relationship. The quaint weekend trips, running out to dinner, clean carpets... Was I ready to give all these up?

And then it happened.

One evening after looking at what seemed like 100 Web sites of Welsh Corgi breeders, Elliot's face popped up. Tad jumped up and shouted, "That's my baby!" like a mother finding her lost child. Elliot is a red and white Cardigan, which means he looks like a little fox: tall, pointed ears, long bushy tail, orange fur and a long snout. Enough to melt a heart, I grant you, but his eyes are what did me in. They are deep brown "princess Jasmine eyes" with black eye-liner accents. The next thing I knew, we were on a six-hour car ride to Des Moines with a puppy crate in the back seat.

Elliot is a relatively small dog, so city living suits him fine. He rings a little bell next to the door when he needs to go outside. He has an affinity for classical music and sits by the speakers with his ears perked for piano concertos.

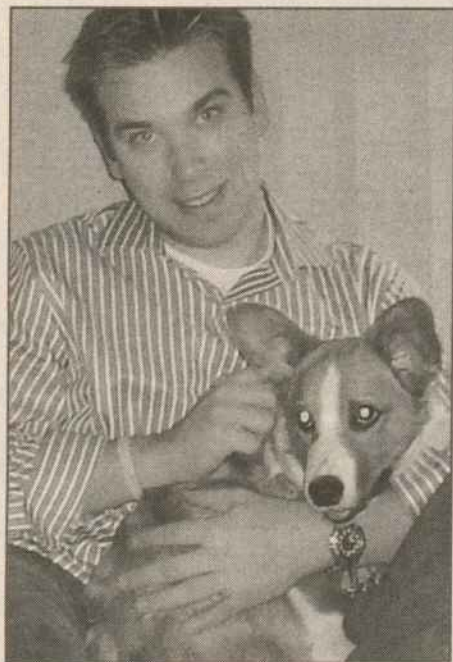
Carsickness aside, Elliot assimilated well into his new home. But our little family of three wasn't enough. Elliot is a true humanist. He cares about people without prejudice or motive. It's as though he wants to bring everyone he meets into our little pack.

Even dog-tired, Elliot rallies to greet our neighbors on the street or friends in the hall. And they respond.

Some neighbors say Elliot smiles at them. Others coordinate play groups for our canine "kids." Others simply play with his velvety ears. Before Elliot, we had courteous, "in passing" interactions with our community, but now strangers, neighbors, and friends alike take time out of their busy days to play with Elliot and talk with us. It's opened a whole new perspective for Tad and me. Elliot has taught us to slow down and pay attention to what's really important in life — community and the ones you love.

We are a close-knit gay family. Elliot has the unconditional love of two daddies, even though he "came out" as the straight member of our family. His godmother Andrea and aunt Emmy spoil him with affection. But Elliot knows that to have a truly full life, he must be active in his home community, be it as simple as wagging a tail to say hi to a new face.

Is your pet queer? Or are you queer? If so, we'd like to hear about your best friend. Email us at [qpets@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qpets@queerlifeneews.com)



### Some neighbors say Elliot smiles at them.

## A History to Remember

by Michael Doylen

On October 8, Donna Burkett and Manonia Evans appeared before the Milwaukee County Clerk to apply for a state marriage license.

The County Clerk, surprised by the request of the lesbian couple, consulted with legal counsel, who informed him that two women cannot legally be married in Wisconsin and that it was his duty to refuse to issue a marriage license. Burkett and Evans were not so easily put off. "The law should protect us and help us the way it does any two straight people who love each other and want to live together," Burkett explained to the media. "That's our civil right."

The couple filed suit in Milwaukee Federal Court on October 13, seeking a court order to have the County Clerk issue the license. Their suit was denied.

This event happened in Milwaukee in 1971, more than 30 years before our current struggle for "gay marriage" in 2004. Burkett and Evans weren't alone in their efforts to crash the heterosexual marriage party. Their suit was part of the first wave of same-sex marriage lawsuits that occurred in the 1970s in places such as Colorado, Vermont, Minnesota and Kentucky. Although none of the claimants in these cases was successful, their stories are important and should not be forgotten.

Burkett and Evans' story is one of many contained in the Milwaukee LGBT Archives housed in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) Libraries. This archive is being assembled with the assistance of the Milwaukee LGBT History Project, a volunteer organization committed to preserving the history of our city's LGBT community.

As the story of Burkett and Evans demonstrates, Milwaukee possesses a rich, but not well-known LGBT history. Far too often, the voices and actions of LGBT individuals are unrecorded, suppressed or erased. Evidence of our accomplishments is also lost through neglect or mishaps.

Organizations lose or destroy records when they move or close. Individuals or their survivors discard personal histories recorded in photos, letters and scrapbooks. Current issues and debates obscure the contributions of earlier generations. The result is a fragmentary and incomplete historical record, and an amnesic community with no common memory.

The Project works with local organizations, businesses and individuals to ensure that our history is saved and our community strengthened. On the one hand, we serve as a liaison between the Milwaukee LGBT community and the UWM Libraries' Archives Department, which provides a place where the records of organizations and individuals are preserved and made available for research by community historians, journalists, teachers, students and the general public. For instance, thanks to a last-minute tip from the Project, the UWM Archives was able to save the records of the Cream City Business Association — a defunct organization of gay and lesbian business owners and service providers — from the dumpster.

To fill gaps in the documentary record, the Project conducts interviews with members of our community about their life experiences, personal observations and community contributions. Interviews are captured on cassette tape or mini-CD and, when resources permit, a written transcript of the oral history interview is produced. The interviews are then placed with the other Milwaukee LGBT Archives at UWM. So far, the Project has completed interviews with a dozen individuals, including Ron Geiman, publisher and founder of InStep, who died May 11.

The Milwaukee LGBT Archives provide a unique perspective on the formation of Milwaukee's publicly visible gay and lesbian community in the 1970s and its development over the next two decades. The collections are especially strong in the areas of politics and

## Far too often, the voices and actions of LGBT individuals are unrecorded, suppressed or erased.

social activism, media, and social organizations.

You're welcome to study the accomplishments of activist groups such as the Women's Coalition, the Lambda Rights Network, the Human Rights League, and ACT UP Milwaukee. These groups were on the front lines of gay/lesbian rights in the 1980s and 1990s, focusing Milwaukee's attention on diverse issues such as sex discrimination against women, hate crimes legislation, police-community relations, and the rights of HIV-positive individuals.

Another strength of the collections is local media. Newspapers such as GPU News, Wisconsin InStep, Wisconsin Light, and broadcast programming produced by the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network contain a wealth of information about LGBT history as it happened. These media collections also show how groups of individuals worked together to introduce a "queer perspective" into public discourse about homosexuality.

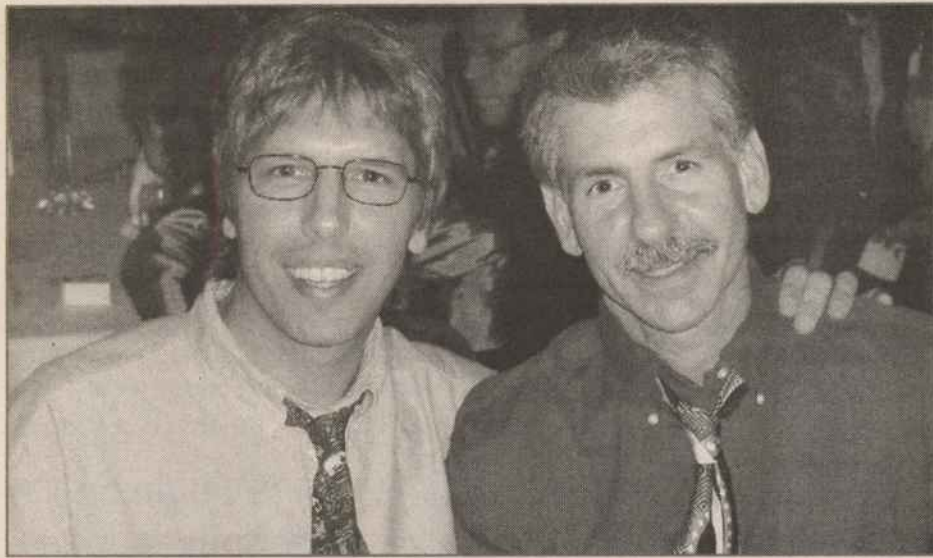
Several other collections in the Milwaukee LGBT Archives show the importance of recreation and play in consolidating a community identity. The records of the Sherman Park Rainbow Association, Bi Definition, and Black and White Men Together show individuals using sexual identity as the basis for defining social relationships.

A complete list of the collections making up the Milwaukee LGBT Archives is available on the Web at [www.uwm.edu/Libraries/arch/lgbt.htm](http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/arch/lgbt.htm).

By bringing these historical sources together in one publicly accessible location, the Project and the UWM Archives provide researchers with the raw material for learning and writing about Milwaukee's LGBT History.

Michael Doylen is the head of the UWM Archives Department and Milwaukee LGBT History Project member.





## A Breeze and a Hurricane

### How did you meet?

*Rich:* I met Kendall while I was living with my former partner. We saw each other often enough at the gym where we started nodding and then speaking — neither of us remember who said the first words. Neither of us are shy. In one week, we met each other three times. First in the gym; secondly, in front of the courthouse; and thirdly, at a lesbian Packer party. At that party, Kendall and Ken [Rich's ex], chatted about Paris, since my ex frequented there for business and because Kendall just returned from there. By the end of the party, Kendall was invited to my home for dinner. I thought I would set him up with my friend Tom. They hit it off as friends, but nothing more.

Three months later, I was single and Kendall asked me out. Kendall made the first pass and I turned him down; however, on the next date we enjoyed a cruise on the Iroquois and became affectionate. We barely made it into Kendall's apartment and our clothes were flying... Now, seven years later, the clothes don't fly as often, but our relationship is stronger.

### What is unique about your partner or your relationship?

*Rich:* My partner is like a warm, calm breeze and I'm like a hurricane. I look at him and my feet touch the ground.

*Kendall:* We complement each other as part of our personalities. I'm more laid-back and calm and he's more go, go, go — energetic. Our relationship

## Q COUPLES

*Rich Gaeta and Kendall Karst were both born in 1959. Kendall works for the State of Wisconsin as a probation agent and believes the war on drugs is a farce that has filled the nation's prisons. He is an advocate for legalization of drugs. Richard manages the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program for the City of Milwaukee and has fought hard for 30 years on various issues of social justice. They live together in the Washington Park neighborhood.*

brings balance for both of us.

### What is the happiest time you had together?

*Rich and Kendall:* Our most recent trip, where we really centered on ourselves and didn't have to spend time according to other people's agendas. We went to New York City: Broadway, Tavern on the Green, the Sex Museum, a horse and buggy ride through Central Park. We stayed in a hotel, didn't look up friends and did whatever we wanted to do.

### How do you handle fights?

*Richard:* I speak my mind loud and clear. Kendall has difficulty expressing what he is feeling and becomes introspective. We agree to not bring up things that happened long ago, but stick to the present. I know that if I shut up long enough to listen I will usually understand what's bothering Kendall and may be able to respond effectively.

*Kendall:* Communication is important and takes work. It's an ongoing effort and we've been fairly successful at

it. We check in with each other once or twice a week.

### What are your hopes for this relationship?

*Rich:* Affection, improved communication and lots of loving. It's been almost a year since we sold our old homes and have moved into our home in Washington Park. There's a real sense of community here and we hope to stay.

*Kendall:* Continued good communication skills and helping each other grow in different areas and different parts of our lives. Being supportive and living through the big things — job changes, family deaths, etc. — together. We've had a lot of disruptions. Both of us have been in car accidents and through physical therapy recently. Being in a house together after six years has been a good thing.

*Do you and your partner want to be role models or grab your 15 minutes of fame? Email qcouples@queerlifeneews.com*



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# Q CALENDAR

Events located at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court Street, unless otherwise noted.

## Thursday, January 13

**Meet & Greet** Come by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center to meet and welcome its new Executive Director, James Pennington. Refreshments will be served. 5–8pm.

**Legal Night** Free legal consultation with LGBT-friendly attorneys. First come, first served. 6–8pm.

## Friday, January 14

**Project Q** Drop-in for LGBTQ youth under 24. For more information, call 414-223-3220 or visit [www.projectq.org](http://www.projectq.org).

**Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee Game Night** Come by the Center to enjoy a board game and meet with other interesting women. For more information call 414-272-9442 or email [lamm@milwpc.com](mailto:lamm@milwpc.com). 6–10pm.

## Saturday, January 15

**Project Q** Drop-in for LGBTQ youth under 24. For more information, call 414-223-3220 or visit [www.projectq.org](http://www.projectq.org).

**FORGE** (Supporting FTM's and their significant others.) Meet to network, share personal experiences, become more informed and gather resources. Meets 1st Saturday each month, 7–10pm.

**BWMT** (Black and White Men Together) 6–8:30pm. For more information, call 414-342-0705.

## Sunday, January 16

**Open Space Support** group that strives to create a welcoming, safe and supportive space for lesbians of all ages. \$5 fee paid as you are able. Meets 3rd Sunday each month at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave., 6–8pm. For more information, call Cheryl at 414-271-2565.

## Tuesday, January 18

**Project Q** Drop-in for LGBTQ youth under 24. For more information, call 414-223-3220 or visit [www.projectq.org](http://www.projectq.org).

## Wednesday, January 19

**Center Advocates** Phonebank SEIU, 633 S. Hawley Rd. Help find opponents of Wisconsin's constitutional ban on marriage and civil unions for gay couples. 5:30–8:30pm. Call Pabitra at (414) 271-2656 x119 or e-mail [PBenjamin@mkelgbc.org](mailto:PBenjamin@mkelgbc.org).

## Thursday, January 20

**Rainbow U Lecture** "Gay Games II & III: A Participant's View." Slide show presentation by Peggy Morsch of Cedar Creek Images. Free and open to the public. 7–8:30pm.

## Friday, January 21

**Project Q** Drop-in for LGBTQ youth under 24. For more information, call 414-223-3220 or visit [www.projectq.org](http://www.projectq.org).

## Saturday, January 22

**Project Q** Drop-in for LGBTQ youth under 24. For more information, call 414-223-3220 or visit [www.projectq.org](http://www.projectq.org).

**WI Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf** Meeting and socializing the 4th Saturday each month, 6:30–10pm. For more information, contact Suzette at [sgaray@uwm.edu](mailto:sgaray@uwm.edu) or Jake at [jakestercool@2way.net](mailto:jakestercool@2way.net).

## Tuesday, January 25

**Project Q** Drop-in for LGBTQ youth under 24. For more information, call 414-223-3220 or visit [www.projectq.org](http://www.projectq.org).

## Thursday, January 27

**Lobby Day to Stop the Constitutional Ban on Civil Unions & Marriage.** Join the Milwaukee LGBT Center's contingent to Lobby Day at the State Capitol (sponsored by Action Wisconsin). 10am–4pm. Bus leaves from Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. at 8am by reservation only. For more information or to RSVP e-mail [PFlaherty@mkelgbc.org](mailto:PFlaherty@mkelgbc.org).

## Friday, January 28

**Project Q** Drop-in for LGBTQ youth under 24. For more information, call 414-223-3220 or visit [www.projectq.org](http://www.projectq.org).

## Saturday, January 29

**Project Q Drag Show** A fundraiser for Project Q. Performers under 24 years old welcome. Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place. \$3 at the door. 8pm – until??? For more information contact Warren at 414-223-3220 or [Warren@ProjectQ.org](mailto:Warren@ProjectQ.org)

## Tuesday, February 1

**Stitch 'n' Bitch** Into needle crafts like crocheting, knitting or counted cross stitch? Join us to work on your projects, chat and enjoy the company of other LGBT people. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month at Outpost Natural Foods, 100 E. Capitol Dr., 7–9pm. For more information, contact [dawns@uwalumni.com](mailto:dawns@uwalumni.com).

## Saturday, February 5

**FORGE** (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression) A social support group open to all people interested in Female to Male (FTM+) and Significant Others, Family, Friends, and Allies (SOFFAs) issues. Meets 1st Saturday each month at the LGBT Community Center, 7pm.

## Sunday, February 6

**Out to Brunch** Lesbian potluck brunch meets 1st Sunday each month, 11am. Juice and coffee provided. Call for location. For more information or to be added to the monthly newsletter, call Deb or Donna at 414-276-5070 or write [deblang@ameritech.net](mailto:deblang@ameritech.net).

## Wednesday, February 9

**2nd Annual Speed Dating** for Nature Lovers at the Urban Ecology Center Preregistration required online at [UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://UrbanEcologyCenter.org) by February 2. Participants guaranteed five mini dates and may have as many as fifteen depending on the number of people registered in their category. Dating is open to heterosexual, gay, and lesbian singles in parallel dating events. Admission \$20 for non-members, \$15 for members of the Urban Ecology Center. 7–9pm. For more information visit [UrbanEcologyCenter.org](http://UrbanEcologyCenter.org).

## Saturday, February 12

**Have a Heart** A gala dinner and silent auction at historic Lambeau Field in Green Bay to benefit the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, by raising funds to support prevention programs and health and social services for their patients and clients. To order tickets or register, call 800-359-9272, ext. 1545.

**Gemini Gender Group** Support and social group for crossdressers and transsexuals. Meets 2nd Saturday each month, LGBT Community Center, 6–9:30pm.

## Group Meetings at The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and Around Town

### BiDefinition

A social and discussion group for bisexuals and those questioning or supporting. Visit [www.mkelgbc.org/community/bidefinition.asp](http://www.mkelgbc.org/community/bidefinition.asp) or [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/bi\\_definition](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/bi_definition) for more information. BWMT (Black and White Men Together) 6pm to 8:30pm, third Saturday each month. For more information, call 342-0705.

### Cream City Squares

Square dance Sundays, "friendship set to music." Casual attire. Singles, couples, and families are all invited. Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Street. Lessons are 1–3pm, club dances are 3–4:30pm. Meets every Sunday. For more information visit <http://iagsdc.org/creamcity> or e-mail [djdilges@execpc.com](mailto:djdilges@execpc.com)

### FORGE

(For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression) A social support group open to all people interested in Female to Male+ (FTM+) and Significant Others, Family, Friends, and Allies (SOFFAs) issues. Meets first Saturday of the month at 7pm.

### Gemini Gender Group

Support and social group for cross-dressers and transsexuals, 6pm to 9:30pm, second Saturday each month.

### Lake Park Lutheran Church

A "Reconciling in Christ" congregation (LGBT welcome), Sunday mornings, 2647 N. Stowell St. 8am worship in chapel, 9am education hour for all ages, 10am worship in sanctuary, fellowship hour following the service. For more information call 414-962-9190 or visit [www.lakeparklutheran.com](http://www.lakeparklutheran.com)

### Men's Voices Milwaukee

A men's choral group. Rehearsals every Monday, 7:30–9:30pm for its two seasons, August to December and January to May. Auditions two weeks before and after start of rehearsal season. For more information write [mvmchorus@hotmail.com](mailto:mvmchorus@hotmail.com)

### Metropolitan Community Church

A gay group here in Milwaukee. We exist to magnify God's love, minister God's will, celebrate God's creation, and cherish God's people. Sunday mornings, 1239 W. Mineral St. 10am Christian education and 11am worship service. For more information visit [www.queerchurch.org](http://www.queerchurch.org) or e-mail [review2004@yahoo.com](mailto:review2004@yahoo.com)

### Open Space

Support group that strives to create a welcoming, safe and supportive space for lesbians of all ages. Meets third Sunday each month, 6–8pm at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. \$5 fee paid as you are able. For more information call Cheryl at 414-271-2565.

## OutCare Sexual Health Center

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 5–9pm. Walk-in health center that is tailored to meet the needs of the LGBT community. For more information or to check the current clinic hours call 414-277-9370. A service of Planned Parenthood.

## Out to Brunch

Monthly lesbian brunch meets on the first Sunday of the month at 11am, call for location. It's a potluck with juice and coffee provided. For more information or to be added to the monthly newsletter call Deb or Donna at 414-276-5070 or write [deblang@ameritech.net](mailto:deblang@ameritech.net)

## Pilgrim Christian Church

815 Northview, Waukesha. An Open and Affirming Congregation, gladly welcoming and affirming all people. LGBT members participate fully, holding office, teaching children and sharing their faith journeys. Worship at 10am Sundays, call 414-443-0976 for more information.

## Positive Direction Milwaukee

Every Wednesday, 7–8:30pm. A social support group for HIV-positive gay men from Milwaukee and the surrounding areas. We provide a confidential, welcoming environment where we can seek sound social support, freely air our emotions and suggestions, and find new social opportunities with each other. Also, hosts various events, including get-togethers and social outings. For more information, call John at 414-461-5894.

## Project Q Drop-in

For LGBTQ youth ages 14–24. Every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. Call 223-3220 or visit our website [www.projectq.org](http://www.projectq.org) for more information.

## The Queer Program

Live weekly call-in show by, for, and about the Queer community. Live Mondays at 6:30pm on Cable Channel 96, Milwaukee Community Media. Hosted by Michael Lisowski and Charles Daniels. Replays on Saturdays at Midnight and 10pm.

## SAGE Milwaukee

(Senior Action in a Gay Environment) Various events. Visit [www.mkelgbc.org/community/sage.asp](http://www.mkelgbc.org/community/sage.asp) or call 414-224-0517 for more information and SAGE events listings.

## Stitch 'N Bitch

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7–9pm. OutPost Natural Foods, 100 E. Capitol Dr. Into needle crafts like crocheting, knitting, or counted cross stitch? Join us and work on your projects, chat, and enjoy the company of other LGBT people. Contact [dawns@uwalumni.com](mailto:dawns@uwalumni.com) for more information.

## Unitarian Universalist Church West (UUCW)

Two worship services concurrent with children's religious education classes at 8:45 & 11AM Sundays, 13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield. For more information call 262-782-3535.

## WI Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf Meeting

Every 4th Saturday, 6:30–10pm. Contact Suzette at [sgaray@uwm.edu](mailto:sgaray@uwm.edu) or Jake at [jakestercool@2way.net](mailto:jakestercool@2way.net) for more information.

Know an event  
that will interest  
the LGBT community?

Email us at

[qcalendar@queerlifeneeds.com](mailto:qcalendar@queerlifeneeds.com)



**Q Retail**

- 2Burn** (Ventless fireplaces, gifts)  
11708 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa 53226  
(414) 607-7000
- Body Ritual** (Body piercing, jewelry, gifts)  
2010 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee, 53202  
(414) 273-3777
- Avante Garde** (Body piercing)  
7219 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, 53214  
(414) 607-4068
- C3 Designs** (Custom jewelry)  
8628A S. Marketplace, Oak Creek, 53154  
(414) 764-3892
- Clinton Street Antiques**  
1110 S. First St., Milwaukee, 53204  
(414) 647-1773
- Eyez Unique** (Optical)  
2238 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee  
(414) 481-0868
- Genesis** (Custom jeweler, goldsmith)  
6011 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield, WI 53129  
(414) 281-1022
- Gallery 505** (Fine art)  
505 E. Silver Spring Dr., Whitefish Bay, WI 53217  
(414) 962-6302
- Great Frame Up** (Art framing)  
507 E. Silver Spring Dr., Whitefish Bay, WI 53217  
(414) 962-4889
- Grava Gallery** (Art framing)  
1209 E. Brady St., Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 277-8228
- Miss Groove** (Gifts)  
1225 E. Brady St., Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 298-9185
- Optix** (Fashion eye frames)  
2616 N. Downer Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 964-3125
- Out of Solitude Jewelry**  
918 E. Brady St., Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 223-3101
- Outpost Natural Foods**  
100 E. Capitol Dr., Milwaukee, 53212  
(414) 964-7789
- OutWords Books** (LGBT Books & Espresso Bar)  
2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee, 53211  
(414) 963-9089
- Popular News** (Adult books, videos)  
225 N. Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 278-0636
- Rubin's** (Furniture)  
224 E. Chicago St. Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 278-8100
- Saturn of Milwaukee** (Auto Dealer)  
3 locations  
www.saturnofwisconsin.com  
(888) 473-1632
- Sportland 2** (Motorcycles)  
7221 S. 13th St.  
(414) 764-2800
- Video Adventures**  
(Video/DVD sales/rentals)  
1418 E. Brady St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 272-6768
- Wishful Things**  
(Antiques)  
207 E. Buffalo St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 964-9799

*Did we miss your shop or business? Do you cater to the LGBT community? Email [qbusiness@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qbusiness@queerlifeneews.com)*



**A Time to Celebrate**

More than one hundred enjoyed our launch party at the Q Life office in December. Keep your eyes open for more festivities around the corner!



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[www.katiefalk.com](http://www.katiefalk.com)

**PENNINGTON** *continued from page 7*

Pennington is currently single, having left a four-year relationship about a year ago. Still on good terms with his 'ex,' they share custody of two cats and a dog, with Pennington now caring for Max, a yellow Labrador retriever.

"If you see a guy being dragged down Brady Street by his yellow Lab, say 'Hi!' It's probably me."

For more information on the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, call 414-271-2656 or visit [www.mkelgbt.org](http://www.mkelgbt.org).

*Jamakaya is an award-winning journalist, historian and grant writer who lives on Milwaukee's East Side.*

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will host a welcome reception for its new Executive Director, James Pennington, on Thursday, January 13, 2005, at the Community Center from 5pm-8pm. The Center is located at 315 W. Court Street near Downtown Milwaukee.

**LGBT Community Center Programs**

- David Bohnett CyberCenter**  
*computer classes, Internet access and more*
- LGBT Resource Directory and Information and Referral Line**  
*referrals to LGBT-friendly service providers*
- Project Q**  
*safe space/support for LGBT and questioning youth*
- LGBT Anti-Violence Project**  
*addresses impact of hate crimes, domestic violence and sexual assault on LGBTs*
- Therapy Assistance Program**  
*psychotherapy services on a sliding fee scale*
- Legal Night**  
*monthly program offering free legal consultation*
- LGBT Task Force on Aging**  
*collaboration with Senior Action in a Gay Environment and the Milwaukee County Department on Aging to improve services for LGBT seniors*
- Rainbow U Lecture Series**  
*monthly educational program*
- Library**  
*lending library with over 2,500 LGBT-themed books*
- Speaker's Bureau**  
*speakers available to discuss LGBT issues*
- Circle of Friends**  
*promotes HIV/AIDS awareness among men of color*
- OutVote**  
*nonpartisan voter education project*

For information on any of these programs, call 414-271-2656.

**LGBT Community Center Tenants**

- Cream City Chorus
- Cream City Foundation
- Diverse and Resilient
- Ebony Pride
- Galano Club
- Men's Voices Milwaukee
- Juana Vega Resource Center
- Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee
- National Organization for Women - Milwaukee
- Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
- PrideFest





# ORGANIZATIONS

## Statewide:

### Action Wisconsin

122 State St. Suite 309  
Madison, WI 53703  
Contact: Chris Ott  
(608) 441-0143

### AIDS Action Wisconsin

820 Plankinton Ave. Milwaukee 53202  
(800) 359-9272

### AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

(800) 359-9272  
820 Plankinton Ave. Milwaukee 53202  
(414) 273-1991

### BiNet USA

(National bisexual political organization)  
(202) 882-4384

### Diverse & Resilient

315 W Court Street # 101  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 390-0444  
www.diverseandresilient.org

### Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline

(Fri/Sat Eves 7pm-10pm)  
(414) 272-TEEN  
toll free 1-866-gay-youth

### Log Cabin Republicans-Wisconsin

P.O. Box 199 Milwaukee, 53201  
E-Mail: LCCWI@aol.com  
(414) 299-9443

### New Beginnings PENPALS

(Monthly newsletter)  
Box 25, Westby, WI 54667

### Outbound

(LGBT Nightlife Publication)  
P.O. Box 1461, Brookfield 53008  
(414) 915-3806

### Pride in Wisconsin Government

c/o OutReach, P.O. Box 310,  
Madison, WI 53701  
(608) 255-8582

### Quest

(LGBT Nightlife Publication)  
P.O. Box 1961, Green Bay, 54301  
(414) 433-9821

### Rainbow Families Wisconsin

(LGBT-Family Support)  
600 Williamson St., # 1P,  
Madison 53703-3588  
(608) 270-1024

### Wisconsin AIDS Library

(414) 225-1539  
e-mail: arcwlib@execpc.com  
(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

### WI. Legislative Hotline

(800) 362-WISC

## Milwaukee:

### Alcoholics Anonymous

(Request gay meetings)  
(414) 771-9119

### Bi Definition

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

### Brew City Bears

P.O. Box 1035 Milwaukee, WI 53201  
(414) 299-0401

### BWMT-Milwaukee

P.O. Box 091475  
Milwaukee, WI 53209  
E-mail: bwmtmilwaukee@aol.com  
(414) 540-9437, ext 3

### Castaways M.C.

(Levi/Leather club)  
P.O. Box 1697  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

### Charles D Productions

HIV prevention, counseling & testing  
203 N. 35th St. Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-934-9004

### Counseling Center

(LGBT support & discussion groups)  
2038 N. Bartlett Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 271-2565

### Cream City Chorus

315 W. Court Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 276-8787

### Cream City Foundation

315 W. Court Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 225-0244

### Cream City Squares

(G/L Square Dancing Club)  
(414) 445-8080

### 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

### Foster Youth Independence

2672 N. Holton, Milwaukee, WI 53212  
www.fyicenter.org  
Email: fyimk@aol.com

### Front Runners

(running group)  
(414) 332-1527

### Galano Club

(chemical free recovery club)  
315 W. Court St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 276-6936

### Milwaukee GAMMA

(sports/outdoors/recreation/social)  
P.O. Box 1900, Milwaukee, WI 53201  
(414) 365-3453  
Membership Info: (414) 358-2111

### Gay Lesbian Education

Employees of Metro Milw.  
(414) 462-8404

### Gay/Lesbian Studies UWM

(414) 229-6402

### Gay Youth Milwaukee

P.O. Box 090441  
Milwaukee, WI 53209  
(414) 265-8500  
gayouthmil@aol.com

### Gay People's Union

Hotline 414-645-0585  
PO Box 208 53201

### Gay Straight Alliance

(Waukesha County Technical College)  
GSA c/o Student Life  
C121, 800 Main St., Waukesha  
(262) 691-5388

### Gemini Gender Group

(TV/TS/TG support/social)  
P.O. Box 44211, Milwaukee 53214  
(414) 297-9328

### Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee

P.O. Box 862  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

### GLEAM/SPECTRUM

(GLBT Employees of Ameritech)  
P.O. Box 254  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
(414) 482-4310

### G/L Community Trust Fund

P.O. Box 1686, Milwaukee 53201  
(414) 643-1652

### Great Lakes Harley Riders

P.O. Box 341611  
Milwaukee, WI 53234-1611

### HRL-Pac

(Political Action Committee)  
P.O. Box 510407  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-0074  
(414) 319-9863

### Holiday Invitational Tournament

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

### 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

### MGALA

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

### 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

(Brian)  
(414) 704-1688

### Milwaukee House of Infiniti

HIV prevention  
RUN2 (youth) Sheba (transgender)  
610 N. Water St. Suite 340  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-727-5865

### Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

315 W. Court Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 271-2656

### Milwaukee Symphony Chorus

Auditions/Info  
(414) 559-9330

### Narcotics Anonymous

(request gay mtgs.)  
(800) 711-6375  
(414) 276-8546

### Outdoors Cooperative Sports Group

(414) 963-9833

### PFLAG

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

### Pathfinders

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

### PrideFest

(Annual Pride festival)  
PO Box 511763  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
414-272-FEST (3378)

### Project Q

(Youth Program of the Milwaukee  
LGBT Center)  
315 W. Court  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 223-3220

### The Queer Program-channel 96

live, Mondays 6:30-7:30pm  
replays, Saturdays midnight & 10pm  
queerprgrm@aol.com

### Rainbow Alliance at UWM

Box 122, 2200 E. Kenwood Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 229-6555

### Riverwest Rainbow Association

P.O. Box 12888, Milwaukee 53212  
riverwestrainbow@hotmail.com

### SAGE Milwaukee

(for older LGBTs)  
1845 N. Farwell Ave. Suite 220  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 224-0517

### Saturday Softball League

2333 N. 56th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53210  
414-350-7147  
www.ssb1milwaukee.com

### 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

### Two Spirit Society

(Indigenous LGBT People of America)  
1186 W. Glenview Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53213  
redtail1186@yahoo.com

### Wisconsin Haverim

(GLBT Jewish Group)  
Zohar Harari: zoharwi@yahoo.com  
(414) 202-8074  
Mark Behar: mpbehar@wisc.edu  
(414) 277-7671

### Wisconsin Outdoor Women

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

*Feel left out? Q Life's goal is to include all organizations that serve the LGBT Community. If we've missed you or it's time to update your organization's information, please Email: qorganizations@queerlifeneews.com*

**FREE** SYPHILIS & HIV  
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- 94 North • Wed January 12
- Fluid • Wed January 19
- Boom • Thur January 20
- Club 219 • Sat January 22
- Woody's • Wed. January 26
- Harbor Room • Wed March 5

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3251 N HOLTON  
MILWAUKEE  
414-264-8800

**STD** Specialties Clinic, Inc.

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Sunday: 6:30am-5:00pm

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## Clubbing in a Winter Wonderland



CLUBBING



Chris Schmidt

During the holiday season the clubs are hot and the crowds are even hotter. Though the holidays have passed, along with many of the best parties, the fun hasn't ended.

The bars and clubs don't close, and the vibrancy of the city endures.

The white of winter and the gut wrenching cold seem to have little effect on the growing diversity and enthusiasm of Milwaukee, a city which I believe to be one of the most exciting in the good old United States. So many options engulf the nightlife of this fine city, from fancy lounges to small hole-in-the-wall bars.

On a recent excursion down 2nd Street, I stumbled upon one of the neatest clubs in town, **Boom**. It's conveniently attached to the **Room**, an adjoining bar. Located at 625 S. 2nd St., Boom and the Room are hidden gems.

From the outside, the Room is seemingly dark, but to my surprise, I opened the door to a beautifully equipped neon orange bar — a club-goers fantasy. The finest liquor, great music and, most importantly, a friendly staff and crowd.

Whether you sit at a bar stool or snatch one of the many tables, this place just makes you happy. The Room also has an ample patio — obviously not for glacial evenings such as those we experience here in the winter wonderland of Milwaukee.

Boom and the Room have happy hour Monday through Friday from 5-8 p.m. With reasonably priced drinks as well as plasma screens for everyone's entertainment, the Room truly makes for a wonderful evening.

For those who wish to venture away from the Walker's Point area, an all-time favorite joint of mine is on Brady Street, on Milwaukee's "fashionable" East Side, the Hi Hat Garage.

The **Hi Hat** and the **Garage** are two bars conjoined by a sometimes slippery stairway (watch your step). The Hi Hat has what I believe to be the most amazing martinis in all of Milwaukee. Alongside an impressive food menu, the Hi Hat offers a wide range of wines by both the bottle and the glass.

Specials galore! Monday night at the Hi Hat is a "Friends of Mike" night where wine by the bottle is half price. For those industry folk, Tuesdays are to die for. On S.I.N. night (Service Industry Night) drinks are half price, excluding the famous martinis, making for, at least, a memorable evening. The ambience is great and the service is excellent. Located on the corner of Brady Street and Arlington Place at 1701 N. Arlington Place, the Hi Hat is truly impeccable.

The Garage, an attached and more laid-back bar, houses sufficient seating and wonderful DJs on specific nights. Thursday is ladies night and the ladies get two complimentary Finlandia vodka drinks — how could you go wrong?

With a newly added happy hour ending at 7 p.m., the Hi Hat is open seven days a week while the Garage is closed only on Sunday nights.

In all honesty, you haven't experienced Milwaukee at its finest unless you have visited the Hi Hat, Garage and the ever-popular Boom and its adjoined Room.

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Realty Executives Lakeside



# BARS & RESTAURANTS

Did we miss your bar or restaurant? We want to include hotspots that cater to the LGBT community. Email: [qbarandrestaurant@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qbarandrestaurant@queerlifeneews.com)

## Milwaukee

**ArtBar**  
722 E. Burleigh St, Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 372-7880

**Ballgame**  
196 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 273-7474

**Boom**  
625 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 277-5040

**Boot Camp**  
209 E. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 643-6900

**Cage**  
801 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 383-8330

**Café Fabrika**  
240 E. Pittsburgh Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 291-8860

**C'est La Vie**  
231 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 291-9600

**Chip & Py's**  
1340 West Town Square Rd., Mequon, Wisconsin  
(262) 241-9589

**Club 219**  
219 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 271-3732

**Fluid**  
819 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 645-8330

**Harbor Room**  
117 E. Greenfield Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 672-7988

**Harry's Bar & Grill**  
3549 N. Oakland Ave Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 964-6800

**The Knick**  
1028 E. Juneau Ave Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 272-0011

**Lazaro's Cuban Cuisine**  
565 W. Lincoln Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 645-2822

**M&M Club**  
124 N. Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 347-1962

**The Mosaic**  
2624 N. Downer Ave, Milwaukee, WI  
(414) 961-9560

**North Shore Bistro**  
8649 N Port Washington Rd Milwaukee, WI 53217  
(414) 351-6100

**Nut Hut**  
1500 W. Scott St. Milwaukee, WI 53201  
(414) 647-2673

**Out 'N About**  
1407 S. First St., Milwaukee, WI 53201  
414.643-0377

**Passion**  
200 E. Washington St., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 649-9003

**Switch**  
124 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 220-4340

**This Is It**  
418 E. Wells St. Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 278-9192

**Triangle**  
135 E. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 383-9412

**Woody's**  
1579 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 672-0806

**Walker's Pint**  
818 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 643-7468

## Racine/Kenosha

**94 North Dancebar**  
6305 120th, Kenosha, WI  
(262) 857-3240

**JoDee's**  
2139 Racine St., Racine, WI  
(262) 634-9804

**What About Me?**  
600 6th St., Racine, WI  
(262) 632-0171

## Madison

**Club 5**  
5 Applegate Court Madison  
(608) 632-0171

**Ray's Bar**  
2526 E. Washington St. Madison  
(608) 241-9335

**Shamrock**  
117 W. Main St., Madison  
(608) 255-5029

## Green Bay

**Cricket's Fox River Lounge**  
405 W. Walnut St. Green Bay

**Napalese**  
117 W. Main St., Green Bay  
(920) 432-9646

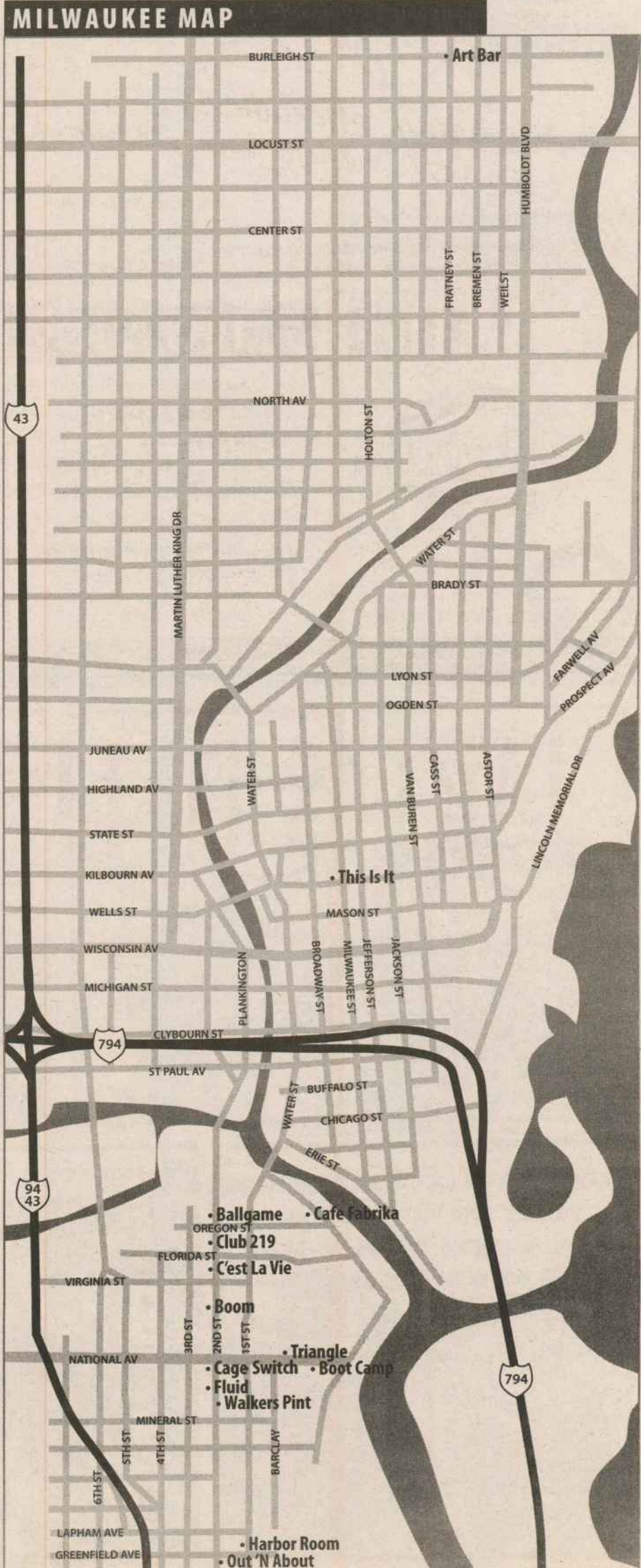
**The Shelter**  
730 N. Quincy St. Green Bay, WI 54302  
(920) 432-BOMB (2662)  
[www.TheShelterClub.com](http://www.TheShelterClub.com)

**Sass**  
840 S. Broadway Green Bay  
(920) 437-7277

**Za's Historic West Theatre**  
405 W. Walnut St. Green Bay  
(920) 435-5476

## APPLETON

**Rascal's Bar & Grill**  
702 E. Wisconsin Ave. Appleton, WI 54911  
(920) 954-9262  
[rascals@new.rr.com](mailto:rascals@new.rr.com)





ADVICE

**Anchors Away**

Need advice or a friendly pat on the head?  
Ask Sparky: [qadvice@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qadvice@queerlifeneews.com)

Dear Sparky,  
I have just been discharged from the Marine Corps, and I'm still friends with a couple of guys I was stationed with, but to this day, I haven't told either one of them that I like men. Pretty much all of my friends back home know, but I'm just not ready for them to go blabbing to these two. They're about to be "thrown into our pool," and I'm afraid my mouthy buddies will sink the ship. What to do?

(Name and area of residence withheld by request)

Dear Whoever,  
Sink the ship? Were you in the Navy or the Marines? If I were one of your chatty pals and had a couple of Marines "thrown into my pool," I'd honor your request ... and drool watching them "dunk" each other. Even if your friends can keep quiet, I believe you'll soon understand that you owe it to these gentlemen to share this information. If your friendship is of value to them at all, they'll appreciate you for who you are ... and your willingness to serve our nation. Tread carefully.

Dear Sparky,  
I think I might be falling for my gym teacher. I really like the way she takes care of her body, and whenever she smiles, she looks like a "supermodel" — it's corny, I know. I'm only 18, and she's about 35 or 36, but I think I'd be good for her. I overheard (I swear I wasn't spying) that she likes both girls and guys, which I could live with. I feel guilty about all this, but I still think I could get her to like me. Do you think my chances are good?

April

Dear April,  
When I was your age, I tended to objectify authority figures and role models. Like you, I had quite a few of them. You shouldn't risk your academic future on a crush. If you insist on a legitimate pursuit, give it plenty of time (well after graduation). Acting on these impulses now could get you both in a heap of trouble, and ultimately, distort your sense of mutuality — this is the key word here. You'll only be suited for each other if she shares your interests and values. Please exhibit some patience, and if your hormones boil over, take a study hall!

Dear Sparky,  
I'm out and proud, but I gotta tell you honestly, I'm sick of being flooded with all this gay TV! Maybe it's not so much the quantity of it, but instead the quality. I even think some of these actors are exploited and don't even know it. Are we ever going to see some solid gay TV?

Dan, Milwaukee

Dear Dan,  
Did we wake up on the wrong side of the couch this morning? In all seriousness, you'd better pinch yourself. Statistically, gay producers, writers and performers are enjoying more success than ever. I can only suggest: Get with the programming! I've found numerous shows, particularly "Queer as Folk" and, more recently, "The L-Word" quite rewarding, sensitive and entertaining.

By the way, have you seen "American Chopper"? We could do much worse, Dan. Keep the faith in our people and stay tuned.



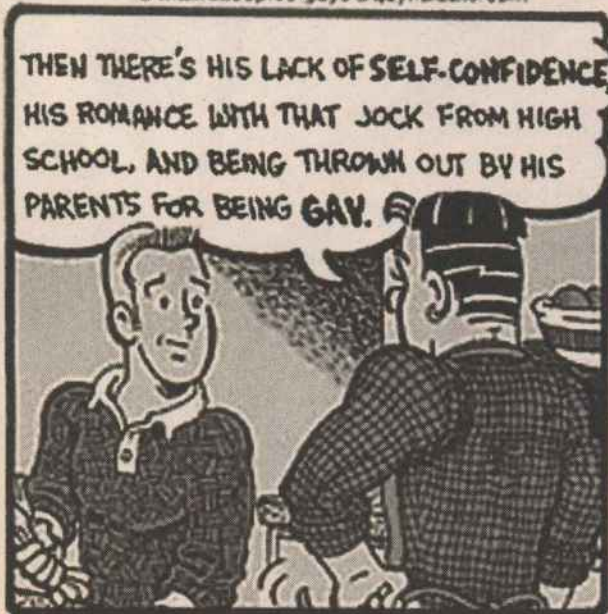
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## The Limited Lesbian

by Paula Martinac

When celebrated American thinker and writer Susan Sontag died recently, her obituaries all noted her marriage in the 1950s to Philip Rieff and the son they had together. In a double standard that seems odd now that obituaries routinely acknowledge same-sex survivors, few media outlets touched on her intimate relationships with women — including one with photographer Annie Leibovitz that lasted almost three times longer than Sontag's heterosexual marriage.

A big part of this omission has to do with Sontag's fierce, lifelong rejection of the identities of lesbian or bisexual — or “queer,” a term that even some academically chic straight people have claimed. The media, then, can simply say they're respecting Sontag's “privacy.” But the other part of the silence about Sontag's sexuality has to do with the limited and negative way U.S. culture defines the word “lesbian” — notably when it is coupled with “writer.”

Sontag's refusal to acknowledge her sexuality went way beyond the desire for privacy; it was also about the desire for power and influence. After all, being a lesbian writer — or even just a writer who is a lesbian

— has not been a wise career choice in our culture. In fact, it's been almost a guarantee of obscurity, with a few notable exceptions like novelist Rita Mae Brown and playwright Paula Vogel.

A big obstacle for lesbian writers is that the concept of “lesbian” still brings to people's biased minds an image of dumpy women who dress badly and hate men — and who wants to hear what they have to say? Curiously, many of the same obituaries that skipped over Sontag's sexuality extolled her glamour and attractiveness, her “luxurious” hair and “ravishing” smile — traits not commonly associated with lesbians.

Because of the prevailing stereotype of lesbians, then, many straight people — and some gay men, too — have decided that our writing couldn't possibly possess the depth and breadth of that of straight and gay male writers, whose art is expansive and “universal.” (Lesbians are often dismissed simply as purveyors of girl-on-girl romances, although heterosexual romance is a staple of straight publishing.) In a telling comment on the limited reach of even the most well-known lesbian writers, Sontag claimed never to have heard of Camille Paglia when the latter excoriated her in an essay titled “Sontag, Bloody Sontag.”

To quote her obituaries, Sontag was indeed “fearless” and “a hero” — she achieved fame as a critical thinker in a culture that has rarely associated intellectualism with women. But still, she was terrified of being construed as a dyke. When Carl Rollyson and Lisa Paddock detailed her same-sex liaisons in their unauthorized biography of her, she threatened legal action. The authors and their publisher didn't back down, so Sontag circumvented the supposed damage the book would cause by writing about her sexuality in “The New Yorker” as an “open secret” — a gratingly offhand phrase used by outed celebrities who had absolutely no intention of coming out on their own. (“What? Oh, that! Gee, I thought *everybody* knew.”)

In a strange way, though, Sontag's closeted-ness is less annoying than the fact that some famous gay male writers, themselves out for many years, have deemed her sexuality inconsequential. Larry Kramer, for example, called Sontag an “Intellectual with a capital I,” who was “beyond being a lesbian” and didn't belong in “*that category*” (my emphasis). Edmund White saw her as “first and foremost a citizen” (lesbians aren't citizens?), a woman for whom identity politics were too “provincial.” Even radical Michael Bronski wrote an extensive tribute to Sontag, rhapsodizing about

her intellectual achievements on such gay-interest topics as camp culture and AIDS, but jarringly avoiding the question of her own queerness.

It's hard to imagine, however, that any contemporary gay male writer would opt to keep his sexuality under wraps for career purposes — and what's more, that he would be casually excused by other gay writers for doing so. Would Larry Kramer really label any prominent man known to have sex with other men as “beyond being gay”? It's doubtful, since the phrase reduces “gay” to something trifling and inconsequential (like, say, “lesbian”). If you have any doubts, just contrast Kramer's thoughts about Sontag with his passionate attempts to “gay” Abraham Lincoln — even though the latter lived in an era when the concept of “gay” didn't exist and there was no sexual identity as we know it today.

Sadly, all this points to the fact that lesbian writers experience a peculiar double sexism — not just as women, who have a more difficult time being taken seriously as writers and thinkers than men do; but also as women who are independent of men.

*Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.*

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Jack Ferrig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is a founding member of the Association for Astrological Networking. He can be reached at [www.starjack.com](http://www.starjack.com).



## Window-shop, Virgo!

JANUARY 2005

SCOPES

Mars in Sagittarius lights up our energies for all kinds of adventures — new ideas, sports or travels. While he's sextile to Jupiter in Libra, your energies are better coordinated for coupled or group endeavors. This is a great week for synergy!

**ARIES** (March 20–April 19): Adventure beckons. On the way to new experiences, you could meet Mr./Ms. Right. If that office is already filled, be sure to include your baby in your pursuit of new vistas — your relationship will be better for it.

**TAURUS** (April 20–May 20): Don't be shy! You could seduce almost anyone you go after, but you have to make some effort. Even without trying, you're radiating erotic charm. That could get you into some trouble at work, but it's nothing you can't wiggle out of.

**GEMINI** (May 21–June 20): Your partner or a close friend offers creative inspiration, but it may happen through an argument. Sexual exploration — especially within partnership — will be even more helpful than usual for opening artistic channels.

**CANCER** (June 21–July 22): New approaches at work will prove very effective now. Creating a homey, domestic touch — whether it's having colleagues at home for some event, or just bringing in home-baked treats — will be especially helpful.

**LEO** (July 23–August 22): Indulge your tendency to playful outspokenness, and that will open other channels of expression. Anything from epigrams to dirty limericks will open the floodgates. Just remember — there are still some things that are better left unsaid.

**VIRGO** (August 23–September 22): You can be brilliantly economical this week, if you stop and think. Without forethought, you're a menace to your financial accounts, especially around home and kitchen stores. Window-shop first to get ideas; then improve on them, figure out a budget, and feel free to spend.

**LIBRA** (September 23–October 22): Your mouth is getting a little ahead of you, but that could be a good thing. Speaking more openly than usual could bring you great new opportunities. Just be sure to keep a balance between speaking and listening!

**SCORPIO** (October 23–November 21): You're probably in better financial shape than you realize, but there's a fire in you now that could either energize some opportunities or just burn a hole in your pocket. Hide the plastic, look at your resources, and make up a budget.

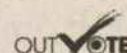
**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22–December 20): Your natural fire and independence make you an asset to any team — or too much of a maverick. Now is a good time to work on your cooperative skills. Whether in team sports or politics, you're sure to move your side ahead!

**CAPRICORN** (December 21–January 19): Odd hunches, inspirations, dreams and even nightmares offer inspiration that can help in your career. If that's not happening and meditation doesn't prime the pumps, aerobic exercise (jogging, swimming and biking) will start the wheels turning.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20–February 18): Throw your energy into new social arenas — anywhere sports or debates are likely to show up is where you should be now. Jump into the fray and you'll find new perspectives opening wide for you.

**PISCES** (February 19–March 19): You're the sexiest thing on the streets this week! Granted, this could undermine work and monogamy, but it's up to you to channel that energy where it will either do you some good or let you be bad.

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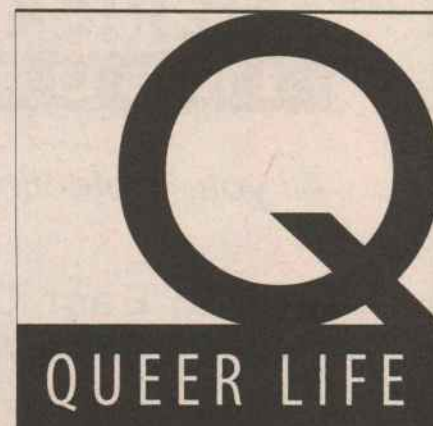
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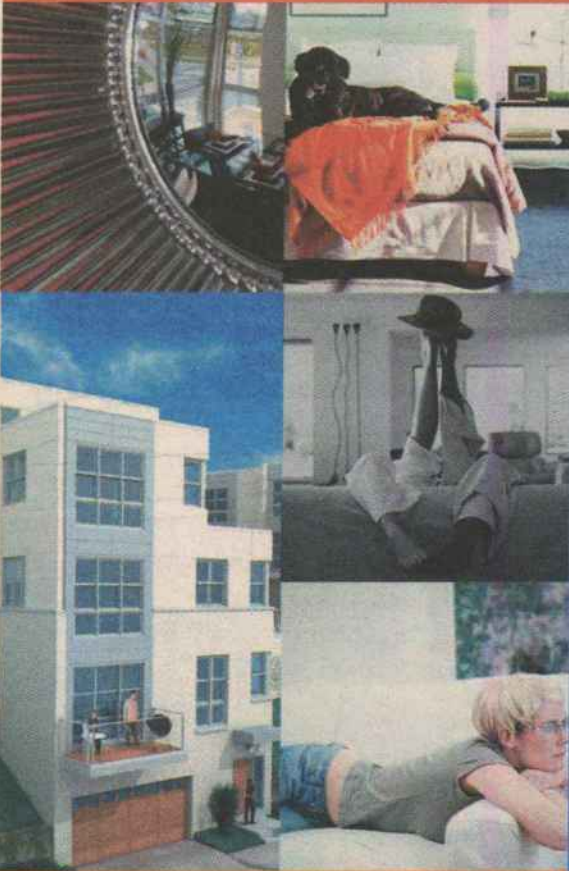
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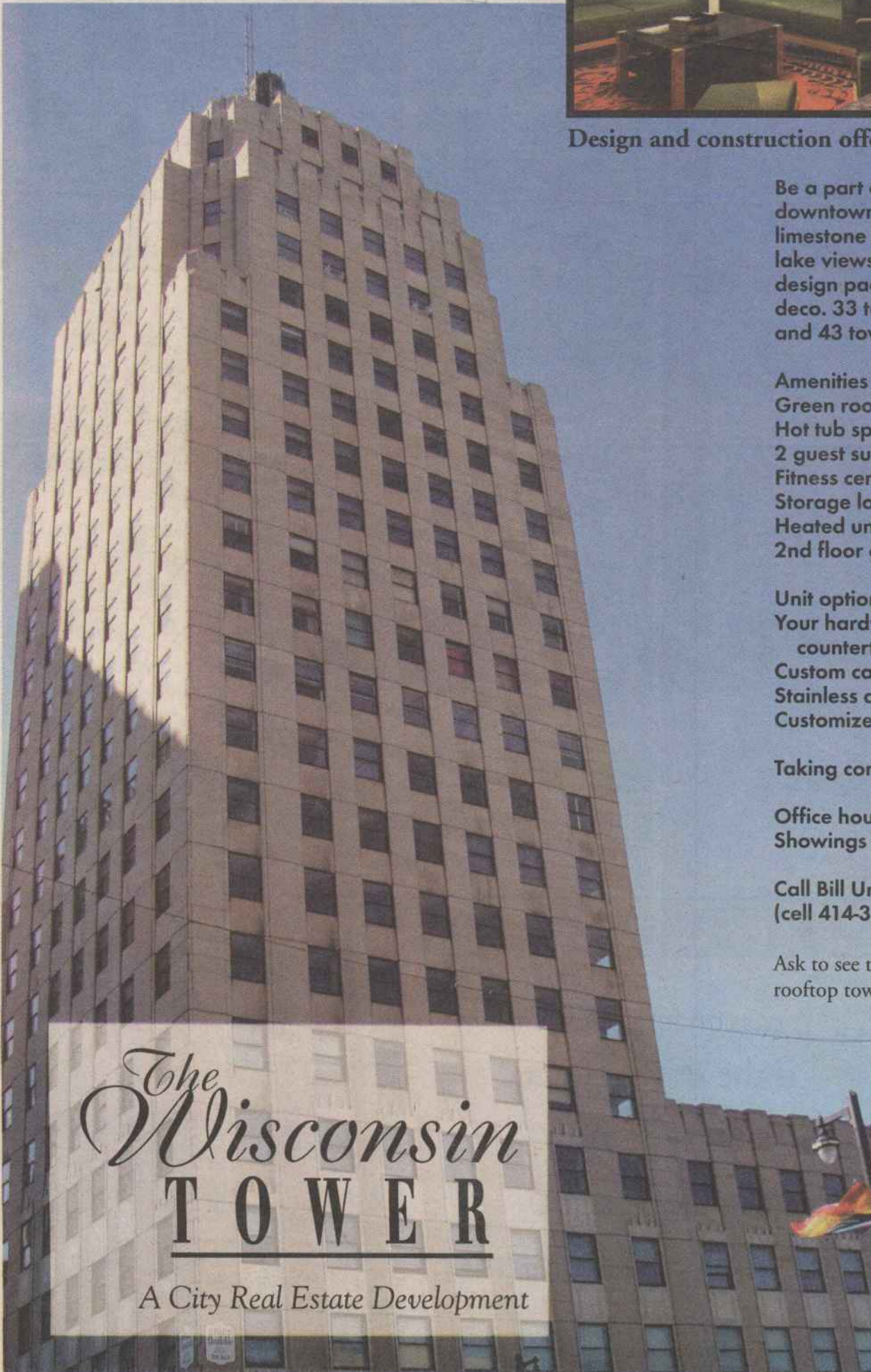
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