

Crossing Boundaries, Creating Intersections ..... pg 5

Christians Rally in Support of LGBTs ..... pg 8

Q-EDITORIAL: McGee the Bigot ..... pg 14

Q-SPORTS: Spring Fever Hits Milw. .... pg 38

Q-TRANS-GENDER: Assume the Position ..... pg 40

Q-SCOPES: Horoscope for March 2005 ..... pg 49

Wisconsin's Premiere LGBT News Leader

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# Gay Hate in City Hall Milwaukee Alderman's Anti-Gay Slurs Anger Community

By William Attewell, special to Queer Life

"Any man that would pull another man's pants down is a straight-up sick faggot."

Those words, spoken by Milwaukee Alderman Michael McGee Jr. on Feb. 10, ignited outrage in the LGBT community and put issues of hate speech, race relations and social justice on the front burner for community leaders.

The hate speech controversy erupted after the alderman spoke at a protest of about 100 people outside the Safety Building in Milwaukee about the lack of criminal charges in an October beating outside a police officer's home in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood.

McGee and others charge a racial cover-up in the case of Frank Jude Jr., a black man who was allegedly beaten by a group of white men who identified themselves as off-duty police officers.

At the rally, McGee also said, "At least with gays you don't know they are going to kill you until it happens."

McGee called Milwaukee County District Attorney E. Michael McCann "a dumb ass" and said the police officers involved were "hate mongers and KKK killers."

He also branded law enforcement officials in the case as "sissies," and added that he did not mean to offend all homosexuals with his remarks.

Since his Feb. 10 comments, McGee has repeatedly refused to meet with members of the LGBT community, and it appears he is not inclined to apologize for his language, according to several press reports.

On Feb. 14, McGee told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that he stood by his remarks, adding, "My constituents are supporting me fully and are proud of what they saw and heard."

### A Dramatic Turn of Events on Feb. 23

Events took a dramatic turn on Feb. 23, when openly gay State Sen. Tim Carpenter publicly confronted McGee at Milwaukee City Hall about his use of the word "faggot" and his subsequent refusal to apologize to the LGBT community.

McGee had called a press conference outside Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett's office in City Hall. After the press event, Carpenter confronted McGee — face to face — about the alderman's use of hate speech and his failure to respond to the LGBT community on the matter.

"Why are you disrespectful?" Carpenter said to McGee. "Why don't you return phone calls? When will you apologize for using the term faggot? You're an embarrassment."

With a fleet of TV cameras and reporters in tow, Carpenter literally chased McGee down the second floor corridor as the alderman fled into his city hall office. McGee barely acknowledged Carpenter during the exchange and could only be heard to mutter the words "Frank Jude" in response to Carpenter.

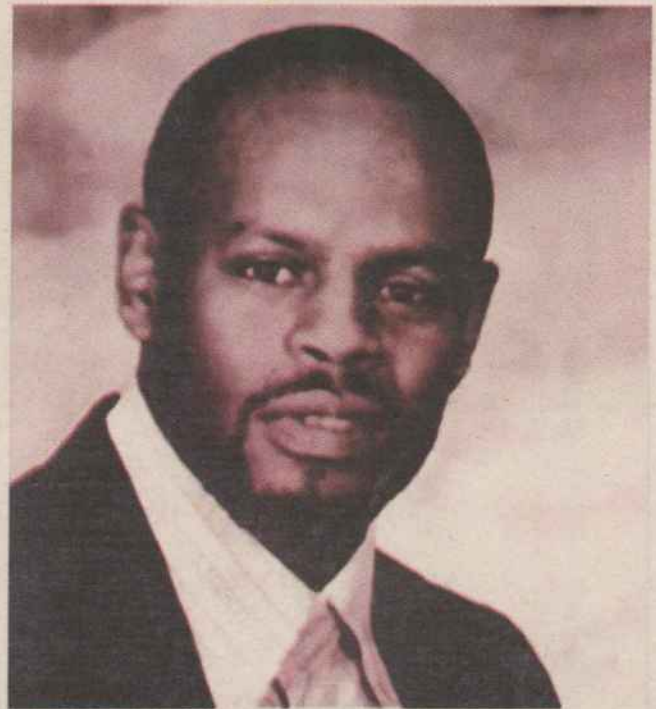
After the confrontation, Carpenter told Queer Life that he felt disrespected by McGee and that he still has not spoken to the alderman personally on the issue despite repeated attempts.

"I want to speak to him, man to man and elected official to elected official," Carpenter said.

The same day, Barrett told the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, "He owes an apology to the gay community ... [McGee's remarks] go beyond what is acceptable for any mature adult or elected official."

Common Council President Willie Hines also held a press conference on Feb. 23 and said in reference to McGee, "None of us are granted a license to inflame others with inappropriate labeling."

Six Milwaukee aldermen, Mike D'Amato, Bob Donovan, Michael Murphy, Willie Wade, Terry Witkowski and Tony Zielinski, took the unusual step of rebuking McGee in a let-



**'At the rally, McGee said, "At least with gays you don't know they are going to kill you until it happens."'**

— Alderman Michael McGee Jr.

ter in which they asked McGee to apologize.

In the letter the aldermen say McGee's comments "dipped well below the common threshold of statesmanship and civil decorum that we hold dear."

### Community Center Calls for Apology, Meeting

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center called a press conference Feb. 21 after McGee failed to respond to the center's efforts to open a dialog with the alderman on the issue.

Ironically, McGee represents the 6th aldermanic district in Milwaukee in which the center is located.

At the press conference, James Pennington, executive director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, requested a meeting between McGee and LGBT leaders. He also called for a public apology.

"It is my concern that inflammatory statements such as used by the alderman may lead to an atmosphere that is unsafe for LGBT people and may foster the horrific kinds of violence visited upon Frank Jude Jr. for simply being himself," Pennington said at the press event.

Charles Daniels, an African-American LGBT activist also spoke at the press conference. He said he was concerned that allowing McGee's words to stand would make it easier for other elected officials to engage in hate speech without consequence.

"I was shocked," said Daniels. "This is something we have to address and something we cannot tolerate. We are not out to condemn McGee but to show him that his words have power. However, McGee is trying to get justice for a hate crime by using hate words."

Daniels called for minority communities in Milwaukee to come together in the search for justice in the Jude case and against McGee's homophobic language, adding, "There is no room anymore for hate crimes or hate words in Milwaukee."

"It seems he has given us a clear message that he won't meet with us until after the Jude case is settled. [McGee] has just turned his back on us," Pennington later told Queer Life. "We are going to be sending

### PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT:

## A Call to Action Against Ald. Michael McGee

Hate speech and homophobia have no place in City Hall. Milwaukee citizens cannot allow to stand Alderman Michael McGee's public, homophobic hate speech on Feb. 10.

As advocates for social justice for all, Queer Life News supports the call for justice in the Frank Jude Jr. beating. However, it is plain wrong for Ald. McGee to fight hate with more hate.

We urge you to support the Milwaukee LGBT Center, Milwaukee elected officials and other community leaders in their efforts to secure an explanation and full public apology from McGee. We ask you to join us by contacting McGee and other city elected officials to express your concerns and demand a public apology from the alderman.

We also ask you to take the time to read our special report: Gay Hate in City Hall. It gives a fair, full account of McGee's statements along with exclusive coverage of events that you will not find anywhere else.

## New Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

### A Celebration of LGBT Artistic Culture and the LGBT Artist and Performer

By Holly Grey

The new Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is opening March 26. The emerging Arts Center will showcase, through its eclectic exhibitions and productions, the diversity and personality of the Milwaukee-area LGBT community.

The brain child of Paul Masterson, Mark Hooker of The Uncommon Theatre Company, Ray Bradford of RSVP Productions and Don Hoffman of Q Life, this new Arts Center will house rotating exhibitions of artwork in all media and an assortment of productions from local theatre companies utilizing local performers.

"The LGBT community has a one-of-a-kind perspective of the world that should be expressed and celebrated through the arts," explained Paul Masterson, co-founder and curator of the new Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. "This center will provide the forum for showcasing who we are."

By creating this unique space the founders plan to display subject matter that speaks directly to gay and lesbian sensibilities, including political, romantic, erotic and social imagery and performances.

The founders envision this space to be the cultural hub of the Milwaukee LGBT community. Over time, they anticipate the space to become home to art instruction classes, workshops, lectures and even yoga classes and more. This distinctive space will also be available

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**GAY HATE** *continued from page 1*

letters to members of the Common Council and other elected officials looking for support on this issue."

"A public apology is necessary in order to heal the wounds inflicted by the inflammatory statements Alderman McGee made at the rally," Pennington added.

**The LGBT Community Reacts Strongly**

Despite McGee's initial backtracking, many gays and lesbians in Milwaukee felt the damage had already been done.

At a Feb. 14 event at Milwaukee City Hall, hundreds of LGBT citizens and allies gathered to show their opposition to a proposed constitutional amendment banning civil unions and same-sex marriages in Wisconsin. Several people expressed their outrage about McGee's use of hate speech. Others asked for an apology from McGee and some called for McGee's resignation from the Milwaukee Common Council.

"I want him removed from office," said Milwaukeean Carrie Johnson. "It is completely inappropriate. Anyone who is enforcing our laws and representing our community and uses that kind of language is just plain wrong. He shouldn't be in office."

"All I can say is, wow," said Charles Perkins who also attended the Valentine's Day rally. "I voted for this man in the election. It turns my stomach that he would say something like that."

"I think it is probably about the most insensitive thing a human being can say, much less someone who represents our community in elected office. It is an absolute travesty," Bay View resident Aimee Gironimi said.

"I am surprised at McGee's remarks because he is a person of color," said Michael Zummo of Milwaukee. "For someone in his position of authority to be so irresponsible is appalling."

**City Hall and Elected Officials Weigh In**

According to sources, some elected officials in city government privately urged McGee to make an immediate apology after his remarks and indicated they were troubled by McGee's words. Other sources said that McGee had not been seen in his city hall office for several days after his initial remarks and was "ducking" reporters.

Inside city hall, the reaction was almost unanimous against McGee's language. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett was also concerned about McGee's language. According to press accounts, McGee also labeled Barrett a "slave owner" on Feb. 17.

"There is no room for slurs," Barrett told Queer Life. "[McGee's] statements are completely unacceptable and I am not embarrassed to say that."

Barrett added that McGee's remarks did not reflect his position on LGBT citizens in Milwaukee. Barrett went on

to explain that he thought that McGee had been caught up in the heat of the moment, and that the community shouldn't allow McGee's language to distract from the larger issues in the Jude case.

Milwaukee Alderman Mike D'Amato also labeled McGee's words as a "slur" and called for an immediate public apology.

"McGee's issue with the police is pure in regards to the Jude beating," D'Amato told Queer Life. "However, to alienate a segment of the population that would be a natural supporter of civil rights issues like this is just wrong."

"I am very disappointed," said Alderman Robert Donovan. "McGee is really doing the city a great disservice."

Donovan added that McGee owed an apology not only to the LGBT community, but to the city of Milwaukee and Milwaukee District Attorney E. Michael McCann as well.

Alderman James Bohl labeled McGee's comments as "inappropriate and destructive."

"I don't think [McGee] deliberately sought to create this situation," said Bohl. "Clearly, the best thing for him to do would be to apologize over his remarks. I hope he does."

Openly gay State Senator Tim Carpenter also expressed concerns about McGee's choice of words.

"I believe an apology is in order here. As a fellow elected official from Milwaukee, I hope Alderman McGee understands that he has a responsibility to all of his constituents," Carpenter told Queer Life.

**Issues of Race Relations and Social Justice**

Brenda Coley, a lesbian activist and the director of adult services for Diverse & Resilient believes that McGee's words are especially harmful to young people and "questioning youth," who are making decisions about whether to come out to their families and to the community. She indicated that McGee's remarks help make "the climate unsafe" for such individuals.

"I live in [McGee's] district and I don't support his homophobic remarks," said Coley. "There are many African-American people who are part of the LGBT community — you have natural allies there, allies who would be as outraged about the Jude incident as McGee is. They would be out there protesting in support of McGee's stance in the Jude incident."

Coley says that McGee made a mistake by alienating members of the LGBT community and that the African-American and LGBT communities could be working together through partnerships and collaborations toward common goals.

"This is a sad situation. It is also an opportunity to educate our community and our elected officials," said Coley.

Paul Williams, president of the Human Rights League Political Action Committee (HRL-PAC) responded quickly to McGee's remarks and fired off a letter to the alderman on Feb. 11.

In the letter, Williams expressed concerns about McGee's language and reaffirmed HRL-PAC's commitment to supporting the fight for justice in the Jude case.

"We cannot overlook your choice of words at the rally," the letter reads. "For the same reason you spoke up on behalf of Mr. Jude, we must now speak up on behalf of the thousands of gays and lesbians who live in Milwaukee. Your comparison of gay people to 'hate mongers' and 'KKK killers' was derogatory and demeaning."

**Behind the Scenes Action**

After the Feb. 10 rally, Patrick Flaherty, director of community relations for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, received a voice-mail from McGee in which he said he didn't mean to "diminish, hurt or harm anyone in the LGBT community." However, McGee has failed to respond to numerous follow-up calls from the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center on the issue.

According to Pennington, the center worked hard to open a dialog with McGee. After McGee didn't return the center's numerous phone calls, Pennington hand delivered a letter to the alderman's offices at city hall on Feb. 14.

In his letter to McGee, Pennington called for a public apology to Milwaukee's LGBT community. The letter was co-signed by Bill Serpe, executive director for Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE).

"I ask that you make a public apology to the LGBT community for your remarks at the rally," the letter said. "I also ask for an opportunity for a small group of LGBT leaders to meet with you to discuss how we can work together in the future to meet our common goals."

After more than a week of daily attempts to contact McGee at his city hall office, Queer Life spoke with his aldermanic staffer Ronald Love on Feb. 18. Love told Queer Life that McGee was very busy and had larger concerns than dealing with the issue of his anti-gay language at the Feb. 10 rally. However, Love did say that he would bring the matter to the alderman's attention.

Love further said that while he did have gay friends and could understand the concerns of the LGBT community, he personally didn't have a problem with McGee using the word "faggot," saying that it was not as bad as using the "N" word because of the larger issues involved with the Jude case.

Love also said, "Bring it on, we're not afraid," when informed that the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center would be holding a press conference on the issue.

This reporter personally confronted McGee on the second floor of Milwaukee

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**ARTS CENTER** *continued from page 1*

to rent to organizations for fundraising or other events.

"We want the synergy of the entire community to be highlighted in this unique space and we want to bring together in a cultural way all LGBT people and our supporters," said Mark Hooker, former New York actor and founder and Artistic Director of the Milwaukee-based Uncommon Theatre Company whose production, "Gay Broadway," will open the Gay Arts Center the last weekend in March.

The space will also be shared with Queer Life, Wisconsin's LGBT newspaper. According to Q Life's editor, Don Hoffman, this match is a natural bridge between the queer and arts communities. "We're excited to be supporting this creative venture. It's time to showcase, celebrate and foster both our professionals and the more edgy side of the LGBT art scene," Hoffman said. "I hope this Arts Center will be a meeting place for not only those who create art, but those who enjoy it as well."

**The Space**

Nestled on the southwest fringe of the Third Ward and on the northeast edge of the Walker's Point area at 703 S. 2nd St., the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is in the heart of Milwaukee's "gay district."

**Because of this important contribution to Gallery Night, the East Town Association and the Historic Third Ward Association have honored the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center by selecting it to be their featured gallery for that weekend.**

The hardwood floors, cream-city brick, 18-foot ceilings and large "storefront" windows of this quaint and charming re-habbed former factory combine to create a light and airy exhibit and theatre space.

There is plenty of natural and track lighting to enhance the presentation of art works and provide a comfortable viewing environment. The center also has a stage with room to seat 65, making a comfortable setting for "in-the-round" plays and cabaret productions.

"This is a very intimate space and perfectly located. I am very excited and glad to have this space for RSVP Productions," raved Ray Bradford, founder and artistic director of RSVP Productions.

**The Exhibits**

The first exhibit will open in conjunction with Milwaukee's renowned Gallery Night and Day, April 15 and 16. The group exhibition will feature four local artists and highlight two colorful Milwaukee-related panels of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

This will be the first time that the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be part of Gallery Night. These particular panels have never been shown in Milwaukee. Because of this important contribution to Gallery Night, the East Town Association and the Historic Third Ward Association have honored the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center by selecting it to be their featured gallery for that weekend.

Nancy O'Keefe, the Historic Third Ward Association's executive director and co-host of Gallery Night, shared with Masterson that she felt "another gallery is important to the community" and that she "can't wait to see" the AIDS quilt panels.

In addition to the AIDS quilt, four Milwaukee artists will display their works in a range of media: three-dimensional, colored-pencil tiered constructions by Ross Johnston; heart images as acrylic paintings by Maureen Kane; ceramic, stacked animal sculpture and porcelain vessels by Jef Raasch; and stream-of-consciousness pieces in ink and watercolor by Steve Slaske. Artists Johnston, Raasch and Slaske have all exhibited extensively throughout

the country, and Kane has displayed her work in numerous state and local shows.

Masterson will curate several other group shows throughout the year featuring other local LGBT artists and work that is LGBT-themed. Another one of his goals is to provide support for emerging and underrepresented LGBT artists.



**The Performances**

A cabaret-style performance entitled "Gay Broadway," produced by the Uncommon Theatre, will open the center the evenings of March 26 and 27. "Gay Broadway" brings together a troupe of talented cabaret singers performing on and off Broadway gay-themed show tunes. "It should be a fun evening, and a great opening performance for this new space," declares Hooker.

Edgy, risky, thought-provoking and sometimes just plain fun productions emphasizing gay themes, feminist concerns and other socially relevant issues pack the schedule for the performances by the Uncommon Theatre Company and RSVP Productions throughout the rest of the season.

"Twilight of the Golds," a play by Jonathan Tolins and produced by RSVP Productions, will open in June around Pride-Fest weekend. The themes of this heavy drama include bigotry, abortion and genetic testing. The issue of homosexuality is explored as a family struggles to decide if they want to keep their unborn child — who they have been told will be born gay.

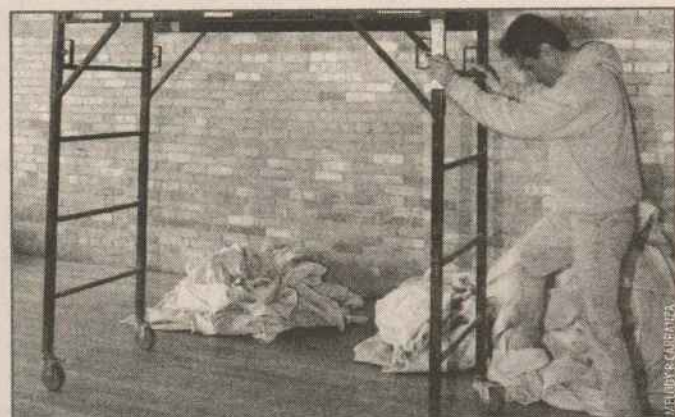
On RSVP Productions' agenda for November is a "black comedy" entitled "Reckless." Written by Craig Lucas, this play is about a wife on a bizarre, hilarious and sometimes nightmarish journey dodging a murderous husband, numerous psychiatrists and other unscrupulous characters.

Hooker is currently looking into the rights for the musical "Naked Boys Singing" — which is precisely what it sounds like — to present later in the year. Hooker is also considering producing — strictly for the Gay Arts Center — a Charles Busch play, "Red Scare on Sunset." "This play hints at the McCarthy era and prejudice against certain groups and packs a powerful political punch, especially given our current social environment," proclaimed Hooker. Charles Busch is the author of "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom" and "Psycho Beach Party" among many other plays.

If all goes well, he's planning on doing an entire season about powerful women, including a Greek tragedy. "My favorite Greek heroine of all time is Clytemnestra,

who murders her unfaithful and self-possessed husband. Who can't identify with that?" laughed Hooker.

*For more information about the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and a complete schedule of its exhibits and performances, please stay tuned to future articles in this newspaper or contact Paul Masterson at 414-383-8200.*



Mark Hooker



Ray Bradford

**Contents**

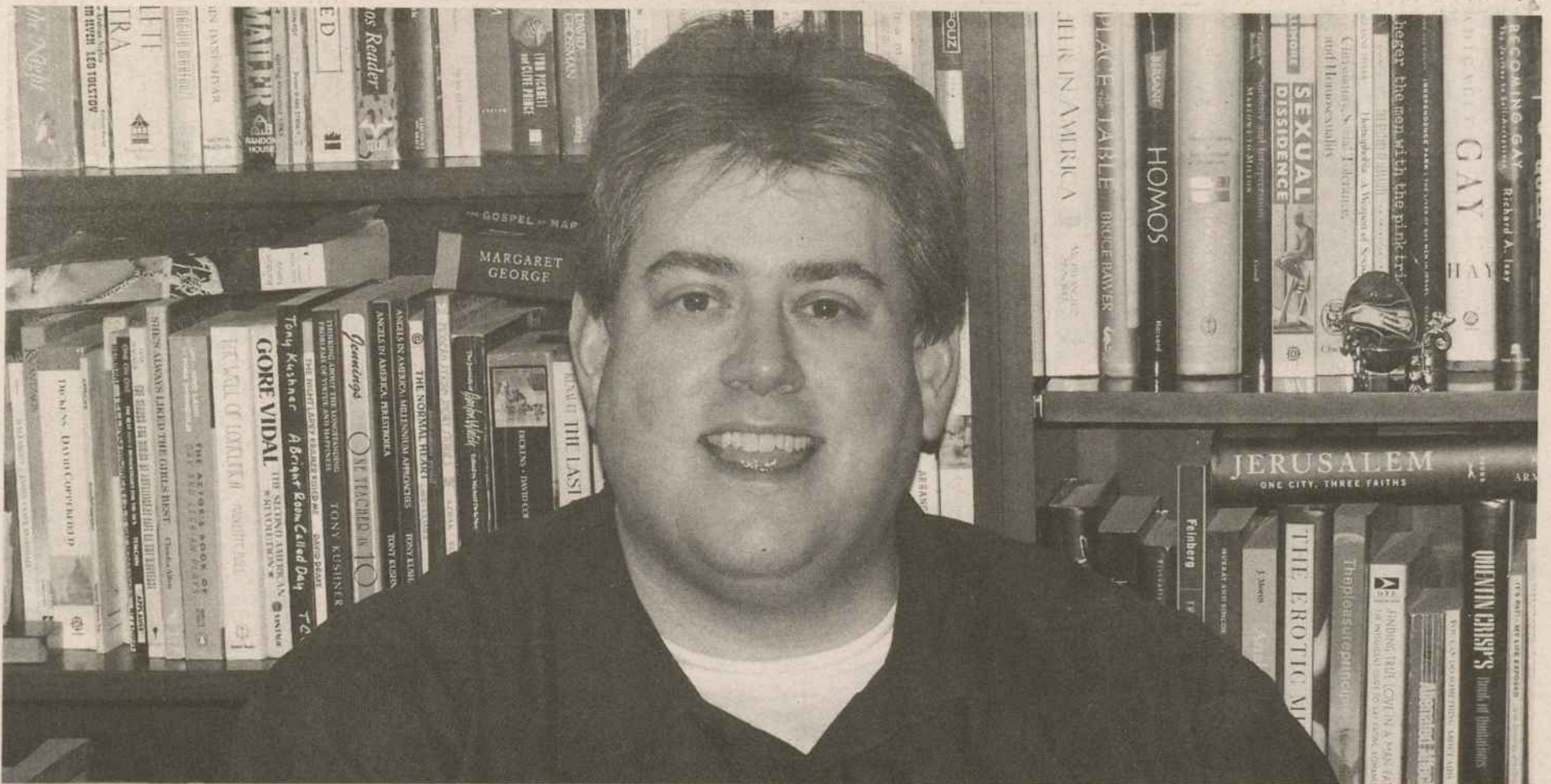
Q Friends: A PFLAG Mom Spreads Her Love .....	13
Q Editorial: McGee the Bigot .....	14
Q Politics: Kittens Versus Gays .....	15
Q Women: Saddle Up and Find a New Ride! .....	16
Q Diversity: Can You Hear Me Now? .....	17
Q Madison: LGBT Youth of Color Deserve a Better Future ....	18
Q Religion: Worshipping a Different Jesus .....	18
Q Arts Calendar .....	21
Q Health: Getting Serious About LGBT Youth.....	22
Q Youth: What We Call Love.....	23
Q Lesbian Health: Speaking of Lesbian Health .....	23
Q Decorating: Wall Flowers and Paper Dolls.....	24
Q Travel: Desert Paradise .....	29
Q Theater: Fame: The Luck of the Irish .....	29
Q Films, Books and Music.....	30
Q Pets: Night and Day .....	32
Q Couples: Traveling and 'Together' Time.....	35
Q Zines: Alien Assumptions.....	36
Q Sports: Spring Fever Hits Milwaukee Sports.....	38
Q Family: Breaking Up with Children .....	39
Q Cooking: Sugar and the Devil?.....	40
Q Transgender: Assume the Position .....	40
Q Seniors: There Are More Old Queers Than You Think .....	42
Q Clubbing: Tonight's the Night for Art .....	45
Q Events Calendar .....	47

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# Crossing Boundaries, Creating Intersections: Jamil Khoury Does Both with 'Precious Stones'

## Lesbian Love Affair Brought Center Stage During Israeli/Palestinian Conflict

By Sura Faraj

If you were to climb the stairs to the upper floors of Jamil Khoury's thoughts, you might find yourself out of breath. If you took the elevator, you might get dizzy.

But let Jamil transport you there on his voice, and you'll be happy to go for the ride.

I spoke to the playwright of "Precious Stones" in February and found him to be articulate, passionate and a pleasure to interview. A complex thinker, every topic he touched meant weaving in other threads. Indeed, his identity is hard to pin down.

An Arab American, a playwright activist, a queer feminist, he wears many hats. Even in the process of being interviewed, he often turned the questions back to me asking, "Do you agree with that?" and at one point even said, "Maybe I'm just talking too much about myself."

A feminist, indeed.

Khoury's play, "Precious Stones," is about two women, Andrea, who is Jewish, and Leila, who is Palestinian. They form a Jewish/Arab dialogue group and end up falling in love. True to his own complexity, Khoury has only two actors portraying all six characters.

The play explores issues of sexuality, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, and class. While this may seem like too full a plate for your average theatrical meal, it's easy to see, after speaking with Khoury, how this came about. Khoury based his play on issues he himself has struggled with.

### Background

"Precious Stones" takes place in 1989 in Chicago, during the first intifada. Khoury was in Palestine in 1989 and 1990. He says, "Today there's hopelessness and despair, whereas when I was there, there was a great sense of hope, and although

terrible things were happening, there was this idea that the conflict was going to be resolved, and Palestinians would get independence."

Jamil Khoury was born in Chicago to an American mother and a Syrian father. Like many mixed-blood Arabs, Khoury knew some spoken Arabic but didn't know how to read or write it. While studying Arabic as an undergrad, he decided that he needed immersion in the language, took a year off and went to study in Damascus, spending a total of five years in various places in the Middle East.

He got a job as a refugee affairs officer in the West Bank, living in Jerusalem and working in the refugee camps.

Khoury brought his many-sided self with him. "I think people like us, you know — mixed-blood — we bring a lot of our own complexity and baggage when we go to the Arab world." Khoury says he wrote "Precious Stones" because he wanted to share those experiences in a creative manner.

The name "Precious Stones" evolved from images of what stones represent, from stones as tools of liberation during the intifada to stones used for building, the holy Ka'aba stone, the Dome of the Rock, or the Jewish tradition of putting stones on graves. The significance of stones touches on gay history too, he says. "Among other things, stones were thrown during the Stonewall uprising in New York City."

Clearly, "Precious Stones" is not one-faceted. National, sexual and class politics

were all things that Khoury and people around him were grappling with, and he includes them in the play. "We don't function in compartments. There are many facets to our personalities and our realities, and why do they need to necessarily be separated?"

While Khoury defines himself as "a much more driven activist at the time," he says, "Now that I'm producing theater, I've shifted. I think this Silk Road Theater project is just a different type of activism."

### Queer and Feminist

Khoury is gay. He and his partner, Malik Gillani, who is Pakistani, have been together eight and a half years and run the theater together.

However, his identity isn't limited to just being queer. Because of his partner, Khoury says, "I live in the South Asian community, probably more than I do in the Arab-American community."

He also hasn't limited his political identity. "From a young age I was very influenced by feminism and as a teenager started identifying as a feminist."

He says of this growing awareness, "I had a consciousness that there was something wrong with the gendered arrangements in American culture. There were all these messages that I received about being a boy that I felt didn't make sense, and simultaneously there were all these messages about what a girl was that I didn't buy."

"When I heard about a women's movement and I would see women protesting,

and then simultaneously a gay movement, it was all really attractive to me. I remember thinking, 'Oh, I'm part of that.' So when I came to terms with the fact that I was gay, around 12 or 13, I realized this was the puzzle piece that was missing.

"I was really hungry for some way of understanding, so I spent a lot of time at the library. There were tons of feminist and gay books, and I would just sit and devour things."

Before queer theory emerged, Khoury says that the politics of gay liberation fell short for him, and feminism became the complement. "I always thought feminism was a godsend. It was an analysis of gender, and I just ran with it. It was extraordinarily liberating. To me, the gay male identity and the feminist identity always went hand in hand."

Indeed, referring to "Precious Stones," Khoury continues, "When you read feminist books, you're exposed to strong, powerful women. Those are the characters I've written."

He adds, "If I'm going to label myself, I would say 'queer feminist.'"

### Inherited Memory, Inherited Identity

That label doesn't include his Arab identity, but Khoury grappled with it when writing his characters. "I was raised on a steady diet of the Arab-Israeli conflict and still felt a lot of anger towards Israel and toward Jewish activists on behalf of Israel. For a lot of Arabs, the issue of Jewish suffering and the holocaust become really difficult to confront because the idea is that it's used by Zionists to justify Palestinian suffering or Israel's crimes.

"I wanted to be able to look at some of the emotional catalysts for the behavior on both sides, the whole issue of inherited

continued on page 7

**'When you read feminist books, you're exposed to strong, powerful women. Those are the characters I've written.'**

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## Vote Pro-LGBT in April 5 Elections

The Human Rights League Political Action Committee (HRL-PAC) reminds the LGBT community to vote April 5 to elect candidates who will fight for and defend LGBT equality. HRL-PAC will announce its complete list of endorsements March 9.

HRL-PAC has already endorsed Elizabeth Burmaster for State Superintendent of Public Instruction prior to the primary on Feb. 15. She won that race with 60 percent of the vote. Additional endorsements will include races for Milwaukee School Board, Municipal and Circuit Court judges.

"Elizabeth Burmaster deserves to be re-elected because she has demonstrated her commitment to creating a safe, inclusive educational environment for all children," said Williams.

All HRL-PAC endorsements will be available on the group's Web site, [www.hrl-pac.org](http://www.hrl-pac.org), or by phone at 414-319-9863.



## GAY HATE *continued from page 3*

City Hall on Feb. 18. McGee stated that he "didn't have time to talk" and literally scurried into his offices in full sight of other elected officials.

Queer Life has also learned that several African-American LGBT activists have been meeting to discuss a strategy in regards to the incident.

Queer Life will follow this story as it develops.

*See Editorial on page 14*

## 2,000 Registered for Chicago Gay Games



Chicago — The 2,000th person to register for Gay Games VII was either a Swedish badminton player, a New York volleyball player, a singer from New Zealand, a South African wrestler, or a member of a Los Angeles softball team that registered as a group. The nature of Chicago's 24-hour, worldwide, online registration system means that registrations come in all hours of the day and night. Registrants come from 26 different countries on six continents.

"We want to thank our volunteers, partners, sponsors and the athletes and artists who continue to support the Gay Games movement, nearly 25 years after the first Gay Games took place in 1982," said Suzanne Arnold, one of Chicago's two co-chairs.

Gay Games VII Sports and Cultural Festival will take place July 15–22, 2006. Over 12,000 athletes from more than 100 countries will compete in 30 sports ranging from softball to dancesport, swimming to tennis. The weeklong event will include band, cheerleading and color guard performances, chorus, an ancillary arts festival, and a series of community-organized social events and parties.

Registration for Gay Games VII is now open at [www.gaygameschicago.org](http://www.gaygameschicago.org).

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**BOUNDARIES** *continued from page 5*

memory, inherited identity, what's passed along to us."

And yet Khoury is able to portray Jewish characters sympathetically. "This play was a long tough journey," he says. "I wanted to create Jewish characters who were three-dimensional, who were likable. I wanted to be respectful to them. I did not want to write 'good Palestinian, bad Jew.' I thought that was too easy, and it was a copout.

"But giving the best airing to both sides would make the play more relevant, would allow the play to reach more people, would create a forum for making Jews and Arabs hear some things they don't want to hear, and make them grapple with that.

**'I was able to cross, with relative ease, all these boundaries that they could not, and go into a world that would look down upon, and have nothing to do with, people in camps.'**

"So I had to really look at the history of persecution of Jews. I immersed myself for a period of time in reading Jewish history, particularly Eastern European history because the character, Andrea — her parents come from Poland. It is a very painful, sad history."

The effect of that investigation is evident. Khoury says, "I've always had Jewish people in my life, but there's always been this issue that would be a huge wedge between us. I've been able to let go a lot and just look at this as a human tragedy that has a solution, that can be resolved. Both peoples are really victims of a tragic past."

This is carried into the play. Apart from two chairs, the only prop in "Precious

Stones" is a 12-foot by 8-foot, combined Palestinian and Israeli flag. "They sort of bleed into each other," Khoury says, initially unaware of the irony of his words.

**Portraying the Conflict**

Khoury goes to the extent of creating one character as a right-wing Zionist. "I wanted to write her in a way that was respectful. I don't agree, but those are views that a lot of people have." His characters display multiple perspectives. "It's kind of the intra-Jewish debate that is portrayed. You see this 'back and forth' between the characters."

His audience is appreciative. "A lot of Jews have thanked me for that, saying, 'I have those arguments all the time — that's my mother' or 'that's my boss.'"

"I hope it has the effect of not demonizing one side while removing any blemish from the other, because there's definitely the intra-Arab debates taking place, and introspection and self-criticism. Leila's husband is very critical of the Arab governments, and that was also important for me, that people see that amongst Arabs there are these debates and divisions and self-criticism."

His art remains respectful after the fact. "I'd like the audience to take this information and do what they want, maybe study more, research more, come out on one side or the other. I don't like heavy-handed theater. You see some plays and you almost feel insulted by the playwright. I wanted to assume the audience was intelligent and can sort things through and arrive at their own conclusions."

Khoury chose to write about the Is-

raeli/Palestinian conflict in the context of a relationship between two women. "So many of my primary influences around the issue of Israel/Palestine have been women activists and women writers who have done so much courageous, interesting work. There are a lot of examples of Jewish and Palestinian women reaching out to each other and working together in a way that defies the militaristic discourse of the conflict which marginalizes women all the more."

**Class Not Dismissed**

Khoury also brings class issues into the play because he recognized, "There's a certain façade that goes up with middle-class, suburban existence in terms of how you behave and things that aren't acknowledged or discussed."

He realized that his parents had to do a lot to achieve even the appearance of a certain status. He started exploring class.

"Then in the Arab world," Khoury says, "I'd find myself existing in all these distinct class milieus because as a Westerner I have all this privilege. When I had a job with the U.N., on the one hand I was interfacing with the upper middle-class Palestinians and some Israelis, and, on the other hand, working with really impoverished people, all in one day. I would go from these camps where there was running sewage, and 10 to 12 people were living in one room under really trying conditions, and then go to restaurants in Tel Aviv."

He sums it up, "I was able to cross, with relative ease, all these boundaries that they could not, and go into a world that would look down upon, and have nothing to do with, people in camps. Whereas I was in

awe of them because of the intifada and all their incredible courage. So it [class] was kind of hard for me to ignore."

In the play, Leila comes from an upper-class background, and Andrea is the daughter of holocaust survivors from a working-class background. "I wanted to flip the class paradigm, you know, 'rich Jew, poor Palestinian,' and I feel it works. It forces the audience to look at some of their stereotypes."

Regarding stereotypes of Palestinians, Khoury says, "A lot of American perceptions tend to be very negative, and rooted in this — people in camps, terrorists, savages. Leila is sort of an amalgamation of a number of women I knew, very committed to the Palestinian cause, very worldly, educated, sophisticated. It's giving a window into experiences which Americans don't probably have."

Interestingly, Khoury, who has a master's degree in religious studies, didn't write religious conflict into "Precious Stones." Neither of his characters is particularly religious, though both are respectful of their traditions. Conversely, there is difference in the composition of viewers. Audiences have been predominantly more Jewish than Arab and more lesbian than gay male. "During our first run, which was seven weeks, we would often say that 'lesbians and Jews are our bread and butter.' They filled our houses."

*Precious Stones will run March 5 at the UW-Milwaukee Union, 2nd level at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). The play is free (with complimentary ticket). There will be a post-show discussion with playwright Jamil Khoury and actors Heather Graff and Maja Wampuszyc. For more information, visit [www.srtp.org](http://www.srtp.org) or call 414-229-5918.*

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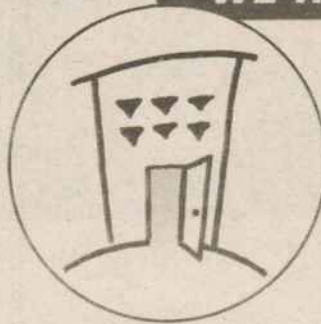
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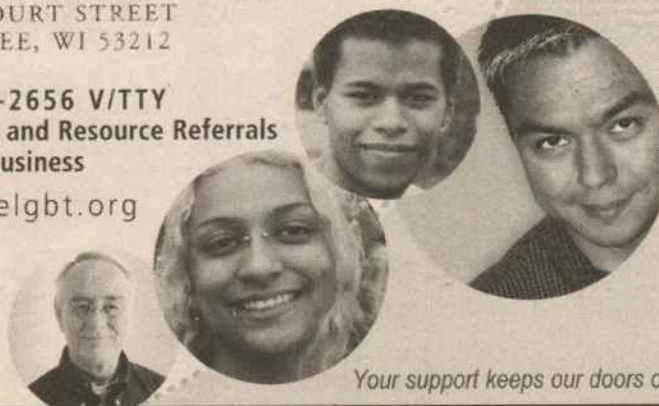
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# Christians Rally in Support of Their LGBT Neighbors

By John Quinlan

Madison — Echoing throughout the cathedral-like setting of the State Capitol Rotunda, strains of "Jesus Loves Me" and "Amazing Grace," sung by LGBT-supportive people of faith, resoundingly drowned out the taunts and jeers of fundamentalist hecklers.

At the same time, professionally stenciled signs proclaiming "Homosexuality Is a Sin" and "Jesus Says, Marriage Is Between a Man and a Woman" couldn't hold their own against dozens of lovingly hand-painted signs with messages like "God's Love Is Big Enough to Hold ALL Families" and "I Believe in Separation of Church and Hate."

The occasion was a legislative Lobby Day, on Feb. 22, sponsored by Christians for Equality, attended by over 200 Christian clergy and lay people from all over the state.

"As people of faith and of the Scriptures, we seek to create a society where all are seen as equal in the sight of God," proclaimed former United Methodist Bishop Donald Ott, to cheers and applause. "Certain basic rights and civil liberties are due all persons. The constitutions of our state and our nation should not codify societal prejudices, but rather affirm that equality for all time." Bishop Ott was joined by clergy from more than a dozen faith traditions who pledged to continue to speak out, making it clear that homophobic right-wing Christians do not speak for all Christians.

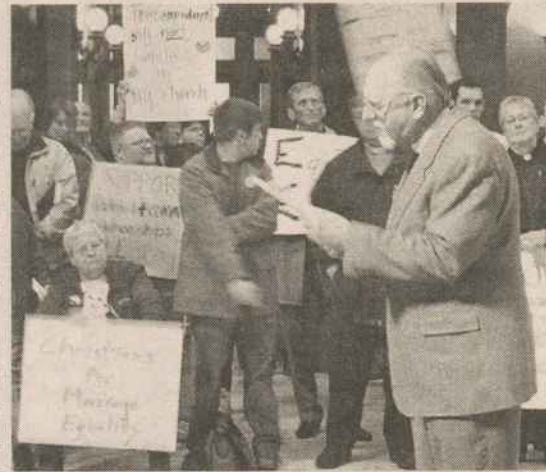
Hoping to turn back a second legisla-

tive vote on the path to a referendum on an anti-gay state Constitutional amendment that threatens to strip away many basic protections, event organizers sent delegations to all 33 state senators. Some were met with rudeness and closed doors. However, many felt encouraged by the resulting dialogues with senators and their aides.

As a delegation from Dodgeville told Q Life, they felt they'd given a human face to the issue, and taken away some of the moral high ground previously held by the amendment's proponents. They were able to point out the fact that the effects of the amendment were decidedly un-Christian — removing individual rights, and hurting children and families in the process.

Media were well-represented at the event, including both daily Madison newspapers, several radio stations, and two of the three major TV stations.

Although it was unknown if any legislators' minds had been changed, the event clearly had enormous value as a vehicle for public education in the long campaign that lies ahead. Several days before, GOP legislative leaders had announced their plans to place the amendment question on the November 2006 ballot.



## PrideFest Seeks Award Nominations, Volunteers, Marketplace Vendors



PrideFest 2005 is shifting into high gear with a call for PrideFest Award nominations, marketplace vendors and volunteers. The festival will run June 11 and 12 at the Henry Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds) on Milwaukee's lakefront.

PrideFest is accepting nominations for the annual PrideFest Awards presented at the festival's opening ceremonies. Awards will be given in three categories: the Community Service Award for community involvement, the Stonewall Award for demonstrating the spirit of the Stonewall Riots by fighting to bring about change for the benefit of others, and the Lifetime Achievement Award for an individual who has been instrumental in changing the course of our community's history. Nominations are due by April 15.

PrideFest is also seeking volunteers to work in many different capacities. Immediate needs are female co-producer, public relations and marketing director, marketplace director and assistants in multiple areas. The festival offers a rewarding, team-focused way of contributing to the LGBT community and celebrating LGBT culture and pride.

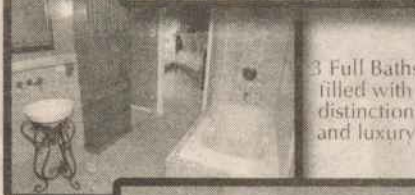
The PrideFest Marketplace provides an opportunity for businesses and community organizations to interact with over 15,000 people who attend the two-day festival. Those interested in reserving a space are encouraged to respond by March 31 to meet the early reservation deadline and save money in booth fees.

In addition to the sheephead tournament, PrideFest will be bringing back many favorite activities, including the popular Leather Show, the Gay Idol talent contest and a boat cruise along the festival shoreline. Updated information will be announced on the festival Web site.

For more festival information call 414-272-3378 (FEST). The festival Web site, [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com), will be updated in the coming weeks to allow users to download information and forms.

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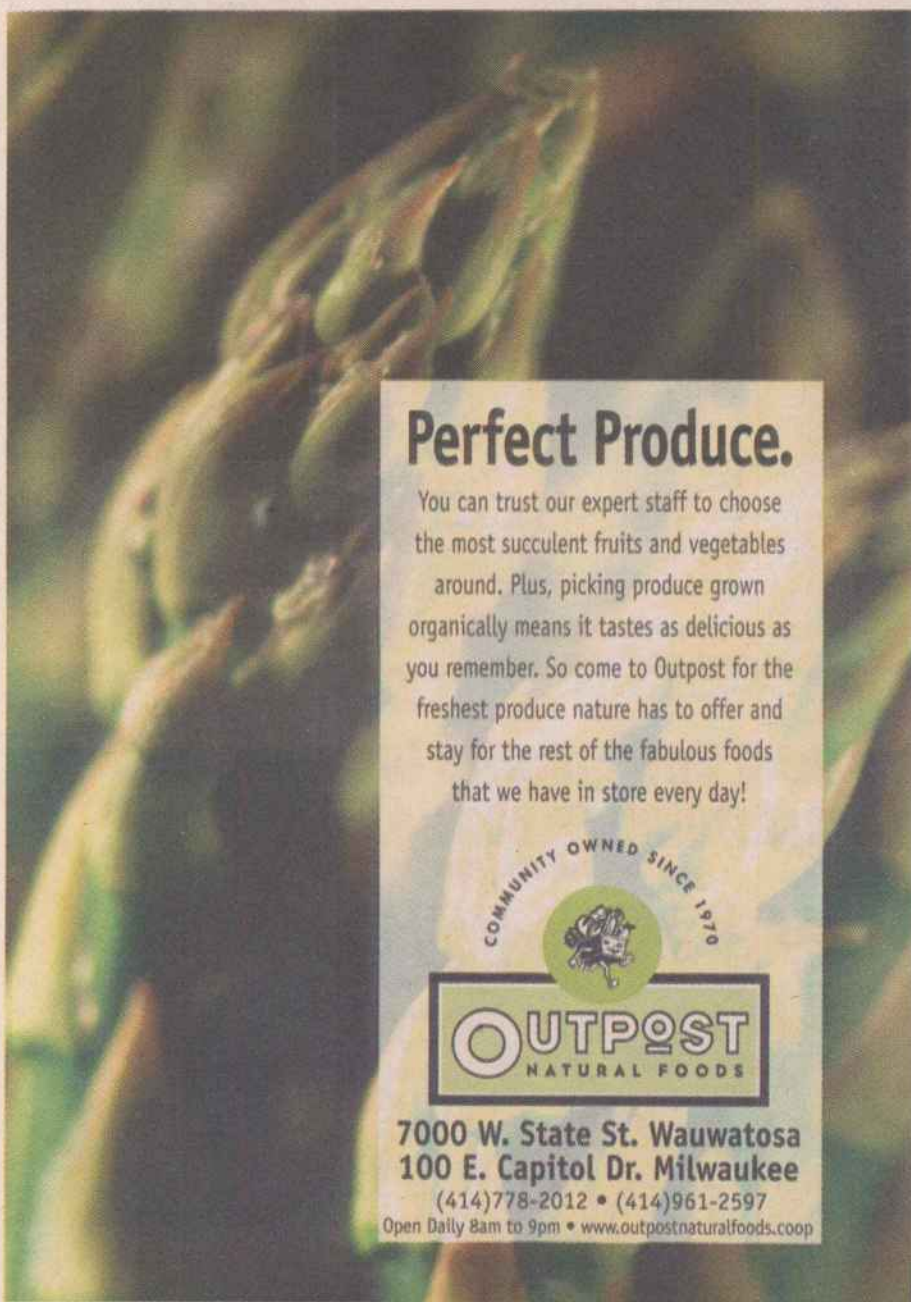
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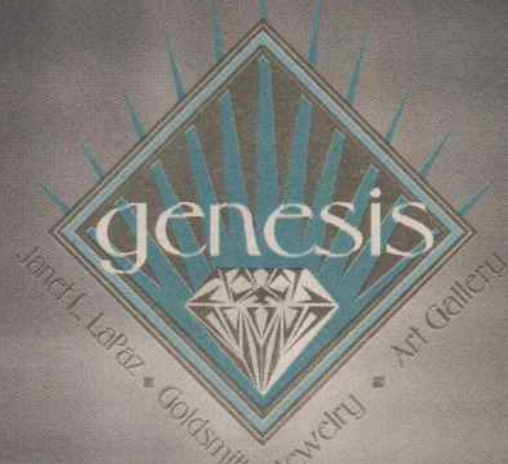
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## Hundreds Rally on Valentine's Day to Oppose Constitutional Ban on Civil Unions and Same-Sex Marriage

Feb. 14 — More than 600 people celebrated Valentine's Day rallying with faith and community leaders, gay and straight couples, and fair-minded Wisconsinites from all walks of life to say the proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and same-sex marriage "Goes too far!"

"The Bible is about one simple word, and it's a great word for Valentine's Day," Pastor David Dragseth of Lake Park Lutheran said to an overflow crowd that filled three floors of Milwaukee's city hall rotunda. "Love!"

State legislators will soon resume debate on a constitutional amendment that will hurt real Wisconsin families. The proposed amendment would invalidate any legal status "identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals."

Among the threatened programs is Milwaukee's domestic partner registry. Committed, loving couples use the registry to gain access to health insurance and other protections for their families at participating employers, such as SBC, Wells Fargo, and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Rally participants included State Representatives Tamara Grigsby and Jon Richards, County Supervisors Peggy West and Marina Dimitrijevic, and Elna Hickson, a happily married

woman about to celebrate her 45th wedding anniversary. "My husband and I don't understand the thinking or the moral convictions of those who believe it is their place to define who can love, how to love, or how to validate that love," Hickson said to the cheers of the crowd.

The rally was sponsored by the "No on the Amendment" Coalition, a diverse group of clergy and civic organizations united against a constitutional ban on civil unions and same-sex marriage.



## Coley Joins Diverse & Resilient Staff as Director of Adult Services

Diverse & Resilient, Inc., announced that Brenda Coley has become their first Director of Adult Services. Coley brings with her a wealth of experience related to LGBT work, HIV prevention, and community organizing.

Coley worked for the Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) for over eight years, in positions ranging from research assistant to field/project coordinator.

Coley has most recently led the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center as its interim executive director. Before that she served as their associate executive director. This move to Diverse & Resilient will be an excellent opportunity for Coley to take more of a statewide role.

The move will also be an excellent opportunity for the organization to learn from Coley's multiple talents, focusing them on the expanded role of Diverse & Resilient in LGBT adult development.



## Canadian Prime Minister Urges Canadians to Support Gay Marriage

Ottawa — Prime Minister Paul Martin kicked off parliamentary debate on his controversial same-sex marriage bill suggesting that real Canadians would back a bill allowing gays to marry.

But Conservative Leader Stephen Harper retorted with accusations of intellectual dishonesty, suggesting that Martin's approach was insulting and that he was "wrapping himself in the flag."

Martin told the House of Commons that legitimizing gay marriage is a matter of protecting minority rights and the Canadian thing to do.

"The people of Canada have worked hard to build a country that opens its doors to all ... regardless of their differences," Martin said to the House and members of the press. "If we do not step forward then, we will step back, and if we do not respect a right, then we deny it."

## NYC Health Officials Warn of New STD in Gay Men



New York — New York City health officials have issued a warning to gay and bisexual men that a new sexually transmitted disease stemming from chlamydia is beginning to circulate.

Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) has been found in two cases in New York City and reported by the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene. The commissioner of the department, Dr. Thomas Frieden, stressed the need for men to practice safe sex to protect against this disease during intercourse.

"LGV is a serious condition and its emergence in New York City reflects continuing high levels of unsafe sexual activity among men who have sex with men," Frieden said in a press conference yesterday.

Frieden urged doctors who treat gay and bisexual men to be on the lookout for symptoms of LGV to prevent this from becoming an outbreak. Frieden told reporters that the disease is often misdiagnosed.

The disease can be treated with antibiotics if diagnosed early. Left untreated, there can be permanent damage to the bowels and scarring of the genitals.

## Alliance School Moves Forward, Identifies Location

The Alliance School of Milwaukee, a small high school dedicated to serving the needs of students who face harassment and discrimination in traditional learning environments, is reaching the final stages of preparation to open its doors in August.

Alliance, particularly dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming space for LGBTQ youth in Milwaukee and its surrounding communities, has identified a potential location in the downtown area and is in immediate need of funding for the lease and renovation costs.

Supporters who want to help make the existence of a queer-friendly school a reality in our community are urged to donate to the effort.



Jennifer Wilson, a planning team member, says, "We are heartened by those who have supported and continue to support and believe in the mission of Alliance."

Tax-deductible donations can be made payable and sent to: The Alliance School of Milwaukee, 3934 W. St. Paul Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53208. For more information, please call 475-8899, mailbox #11111.

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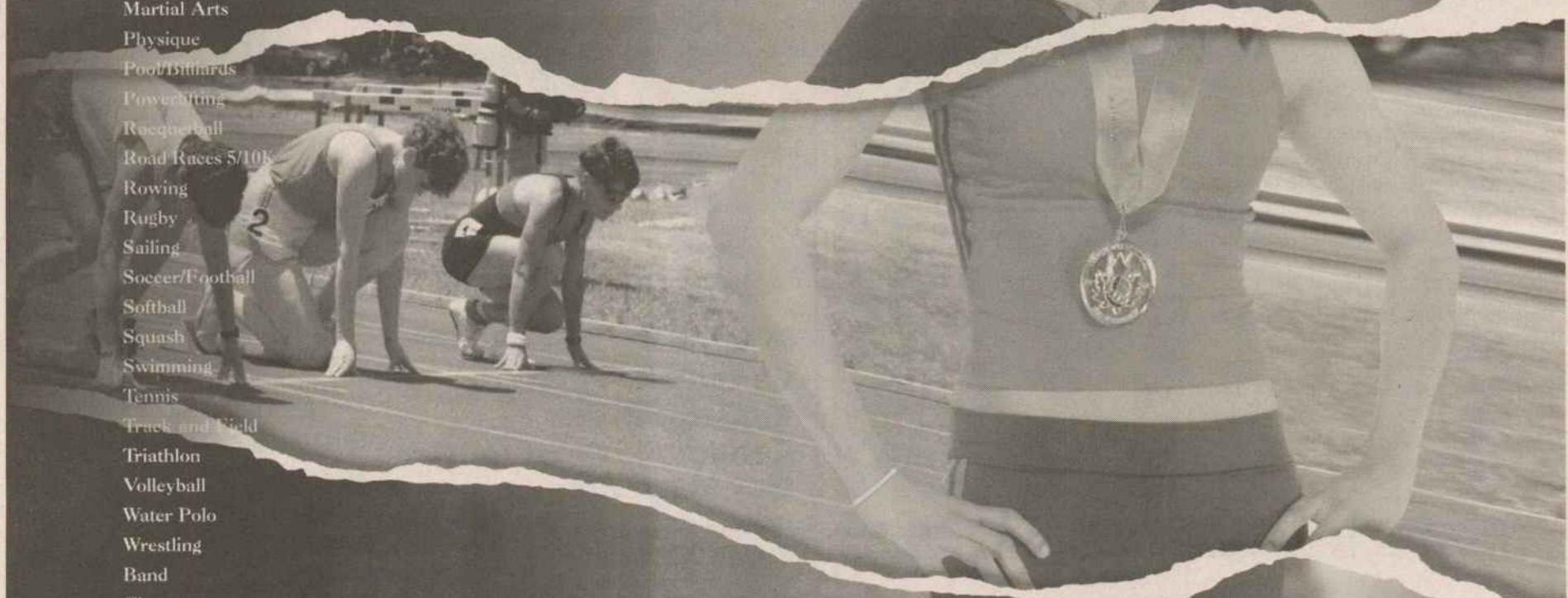


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## Bush Budget Cuts on HIV/AIDS Don't Match His Promises

Washington — Upon introducing President Bush's 2006 budget plans Feb. 7, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has expressed grave concern over Bush's lack of interest given to several HIV/AIDS prevention programs. While a few were given marginal increases, according to the HRC, several flat-lined and some even saw budget cuts.

"This budget does not reflect the concern President Bush showed during his State of the Union for HIV and AIDS care and prevention," HRC Vice President of Policy David M. Smith said in a statement to the press. "Unfortunately, the president's actions do not match his words."

Several organizations that Bush mentioned by name in his State of the Union address were all but ignored, according to the HRC. The Ryan White Care Act, which provides assistance with unmet health needs for people living with HIV/AIDS, was highlighted by the president, but instead of receiving the \$10 million budget increase they requested, their budget was flat-lined.

Similarly, the Centers for Disease Control saw its HIV/AIDS research budget cut by \$4 million. At the same time, the HRC says money was given to several programs promoting abstinence among teens, many of which have no backing by the scientific or medical communities.

## Leonard Sobczak to Receive 'Change Maker' Award

On Wednesday, March 9, Leonard Sobczak will be presented with the annual "Change Maker" award at the 22nd Annual Anniversary Awards Celebration of the Wisconsin Community Fund in Milwaukee. The event, which includes a silent auction, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, runs from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at the Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place.



Sobczak is being honored for his long-time generosity as a donor and activist with the

Community Fund, the LGBT community, environmental organizations and other progressive causes. Sobczak, the president of Eastmore Real Estate and an openly gay man, is currently a member of the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission. In that role, he has initiated the expansion and professionalization of diversity training within the fire and police departments and promoted changes to improve the climate for LGBT officers and firefighters.

The featured speaker at the March 9 event will be Wisconsin native Tracy Gary, prominent donor activist and nonprofit consultant who is the author of "Inspired Philanthropy: Creating a Giving Plan." Gary's latest venture is the Changemakers Fund, dedicated to expanding and strengthening community-based philanthropy.

Tickets to the awards celebration are \$25. Proceeds benefit the Wisconsin Community Fund and the many social justice organizations it supports. For tickets or more information, call 414-225-9965.

## Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Urges Lesbians to 'Kiss Off' Smoking

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has announced the start of an innovative and creative anti-smoking and smoking cessation advertising campaign that targets lesbians over the age of 40.

The "Delicious Lesbian Kisses Campaign," part of an ongoing national effort to raise awareness of lesbian health issues including the adverse effects of smoking, was developed by, for and about lesbians.

A kick-off to the Milwaukee advertising campaign, "Kiss Off Smoking," is being sponsored by the Center. "We're very excited to be working with Q Life, Out 'n About and the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee to introduce the smoking cessation campaign to women in Milwaukee. Lesbians of all ages — smokers and non-smokers — are invited to join us at Out 'n About on Saturday, April 16 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. for a smoke-free party. Ronnie Nyles and stand-up comedian Tanya Atkinson will be performing, and we'll have door prizes, give-a-ways and a kissing booth," said Kathy Herbst, director of programs for the Center.

The campaign, funded in part through a grant from the American Legacy Foundation, will also debut in Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, PA; and Phoenix, AZ.

"We're delighted to be working with the Mautner Project. They've been leaders in addressing lesbian health issues and once again have come up with a creative, innovative approach to addressing a serious health issue for lesbians," said Herbst.

One version of the ad illustrates a very suggestive substitution to smoking. Juxtaposing images of women's lips, the tagline reads: "Want to kiss me all night? All over? Put that cigarette away. Let's put your lips to better use."

For more information, including PDF copies of the ads, please contact Kathy Herbst at 414-271-2656 or via e-mail at kherbst@mkelgbc.org.

## Feminist Bookstore Poised to Open in Milwaukee



Broad Vocabulary, Milwaukee's soon-to-open Feminist Bookstore, has announced its location. Broad Vocabulary will open their doors some time in March in the Bayview neighborhood at 2241 Kinnickinnic Ave., next to Cafe Lulu.

They are tentatively scheduling their Grand Opening on April 9, but final details will be posted on their Web site at broadvocabulary.com.

The owners, Kelly Todd, Amy Daroszeski and Molly Tennessen, plan on selling new and used feminist and progressive fiction (including LGBTQ literature), nonfiction and children's literature. They will also have music, art, bumper stickers, posters, gifts and greeting and post cards available.

While they are still working on the details of their opening, the owners plan to have a space in which community members may host book clubs, discussion groups and other meetings. Their hope is to highlight local and national feminist authors through book-signings and lectures.

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Mar 12	1:30-4:00	Wauwatosa Library 7635 W. North Ave.
Mar 24	6:00-8:30	West Allis Library 7421 W. National
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All those years have been most rewarding to me and I think I received more than I gave.

## A PFLAG Mom Spreads Her Love

I am honored to be asked to be friend of the month of Q Life.

I am a PFLAG mom and started my journey in August 1994, and what a journey it has been.

Knowledge is power, so I educated myself by reading and getting involved with the LGBT community. So many doors opened up for me and I started looking at another world, which I would have never been able to see from my comfortable life in the suburbs.

My husband, Miklos, and I are proud parents of our one and only son, Marc, who happens to be gay. And we love him just the way he is.

My promise to myself was to make this a better place for all our children, gay or straight. I have met so many remarkable people on my journey, which not only encouraged me to work harder but also gave me support.

There are several episodes which made an impression on me. It was the year Ellen came out and our own Mark Belling found it important to make a whole show out of it.

Well, I did have to call him and tell him that he is a homophobe. I guess nobody ever called him that before. I must admit he gave me enough time and respect to let me say what I had to say. After he hung up he told his audience that he cannot believe that this woman from Menomonee Falls called him homophobic.

And I could not believe what happened the next day when I showed my face at work. People came rushing up to me thanking me for speaking up. Several gay men shook my hand thanking me for being in their corner. A mother told me her secret which she had never told before — that she has a gay son (she got a big hug).

Another lady told me she drove home from Oshkosh listening to the radio, hearing my voice and paying attention. She said, "I wish you had been there 20 years ago when my brother killed himself because he didn't want to be gay and my parents could not understand or accept him."

Days like these make me proud to be a PFLAG mom; to be able to make a small difference in some-

one's life.

Walking in Gay Pride parades and AIDS walks is so rewarding to me when I hear people shouting the thank-yous. Those are times which reduce me to happy tears.

I think back on all the fundraisers I have attended on behalf of PFLAG for much needed money for our two billboard projects and all the generous people who put on those dance parties. People like John Murges and Gregg Hutterer, along with the bars Woody's, Switch, Fluid and Pure. We could have not done this alone. And most of all the support from the LGBT community, they were with us all the way.

All those years have been most rewarding to me and I think I received more than I gave.

A big thank you to Q Life for letting me be your friend of the month and the future. Together we surely can make a difference!

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



QUEER LIFE

703 South 2nd Street • Milwaukee, WI 53204  
Phone 414-383-8200 & Fax 414-383-5066  
www.queerlifeneews.com

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 Premier LGBT News Leader, Q Life serves an important buying audience ready to embrace companies friendly to the gay community.

To place a display ad, please contact Carole Wehner, Ad Sales Manager, at 414-383-8200 or 414-704-7103 or cwehner@queerlifeneews.com.

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# McGee the Bigot

Here we go again.

As highlighted in our cover story, hate talk fills the news, and this time the LGBT community is at ground zero.

What is even more disgusting about this latest, hurtful, obnoxious slur is that the person who said it, continues to say he stands by it, and that his constituents agree with him.

Baloney!

Michael McGee Jr. is a bigot.

Bigots come in all sizes, shapes and colors. We can't let McGee off the hook just because he is African-American. We also know his bigoted comments don't represent all people in the black community.

Now before we go too far, we need to clearly state that most members of the LGBT community stand behind the African-American community in demanding justice in the Frank Jude Jr. beating.

However, we can't fight hatred with more hate. That's precisely where Michael McGee went wrong. In fact, there are so many things that Michael McGee and his staff said and did that were wrong, that it's hard to believe this man is an elected official who aspires to be looked up to by his constituents in the 6th District and by Milwaukeeans in general.

It appears to us that Michael McGee is not only a bigot, but is clueless. McGee is out of touch, and has absolutely no idea of what his words mean to a community of justice-minded people who know firsthand how hate can hurt.

Also, McGee seems to forget that queers are all colors, and believe it or not, Mr. McGee, there are even some LGBT constituents that are black and live in your district. Nevertheless, you should at least realize that the Milwaukee LGBT Center is in your district and thus, this makes your hateful, mean-spirited, igniting comments even more damning. In fact, regardless of how you personally feel about queers, it's your job to represent us. Like it or not.

McGee's perception might wrongly be that the LGBT community is all white. But we know that's wrong. However, this should serve as a wake-up call that we, as a community, need to make sure that people of color are represented in our organizations. We must do everything we can to empower people of color and make a pledge to ourselves to reach out to underrepresented populations to bring them into the fold of our LGBT leadership circles.

Queers should also stand in solidarity with the African-American community, because in the past we too have endured hate crimes. Unfortunately, some members of the African-American community have been targeted by the very people that are supposed to protect them, namely the Milwaukee Police Department.

That behavior is despicable and deplorable and we demand a clear accounting and justice for any and all types of these crimes.

However, we must ask, how can the LGBT community stand arm-in-arm to fight bigotry with the likes of a man who clearly sees us as second-class citizens who can be demeaned and disposed of? While we must, we need respect too.

Kudos to the Milwaukee LGBT Center, Charles Daniels and Carmen Murguia for organizing a press conference last week demanding a public apology from McGee.

It was the right thing to do.

Also, hats off to State Senator Tim Carpenter for confronting McGee at a press conference that McGee had called to demean the Mayor for allegedly throwing out an award he received from an African American organization.

Carpenter had the chutzpah to show up at McGee's show, and in front of the media, he asked McGee why he hasn't yet apologized for his statements. McGee, as you might expect refused to answer Carpenter and in fact he fled sheepishly into his office for cover.

Carpenter did and said what so many of us wanted to do. But like most of Carpenter's past actions, he did this with class and determination.

As Carpenter and the others showed us, in order for our community and our issues to be taken seriously by all Milwaukeeans, we must not allow ourselves to be demeaned and marginalized.

But that being said, we need to get better at responding to issues as important as this one, in a quicker fashion.

We respect the Milwaukee LGBT Center's strategy to try to reason with McGee. But waiting more than a week to publicly demand an apology was simply too long. We must be ready, in the future, to respond more quickly after an event like the McGee situation. We must figure out how we can line up our allies rapidly to demand justice.

Even the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, which is certainly no bastion of support for the gay movement or our issues, was fast to strongly editorialize against McGee and his antics. As a community, we too must have systems in place to get the word out about how we feel, especially when a situation is as inflammatory as this.

We must use this event as a learning tool. We must pledge to work together to figure out clear strategies and proper time lines when the community is pushed up against the wall.

The LGBT community is now at a very precarious crossroads. We have united and demanded justice. We've asked that a man who appears to have very little reason, apologize.

What if he doesn't, then what?

We must not back down. We must fight until McGee says he's sorry.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, namely Executive Director James Pennington, must step up to the plate and lead our community and allies in protest. No matter how much of a political hot potato this issue may be, the Center must not duck, and in fact, must face this unfortunate situation head on.

The Center has a staff of very dedicated, competent organizers who are seasoned in orchestrating political action. These people must be called up immediately and must begin to draft their plan of action. Waiting any longer to do this would be a big mistake.

In addition, we must ask our straight allies — mainly those in positions of power in Milwaukee and the state — to unite with us to take this fight to the next level.

If McGee won't listen to us, he might listen to his peers. They know what he said and did was wrong. They also know that his comments have put a black eye on the city of Milwaukee.

We're asking that the Milwaukee Alderpersons start the ball rolling by issuing a city resolution condemning these bigoted and hateful remarks. We know some of the Alderpersons have circulated a letter of disapproval, but the city must now officially take a stand on this issue.

We're also asking that other elected officials, here in the city as well as statewide, make public statements denouncing this and other hate speech.

And our calls for justice shouldn't stop there.

We're also asking our readers to press Milwaukee's District Attorney, E. Michael McCann, to act in a swift manner to prosecute the police officers allegedly responsible for beating Frank Jude Jr.

Ultimately, if we want to live in a better world, with "justice for all," we need to recognize that there is no room for hate, either for, or from anyone.

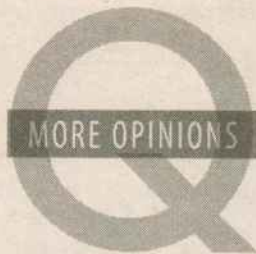
Alderman McGee,  
don't you agree?

OPINIONS & Editorial

Chris Beetow  
TOONS



Have something to say? Tell it like it is.  
Email us at qopinions@queerlifeneews.com



Dear Q Life,

Here is a letter that we sent to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, which as of yet has not been published. We thought your readers might like to read it.

Sandra Jones  
Brenda Coley

To The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:

On December 17, 2005, an interview with Dr. Sandra Jones appeared in the "Take Five" section of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. Sandra dropped out of the Milwaukee Public School system at age 17. Seventeen years later she began college, and 17 years after that, she received her Ph.D.

The Journal Sentinel article included all the obstacles she faced as a student and as a black woman. However, the Journal Sentinel would not mention what she said about her 17-year same-sex relationship or how she and her partner struggled along side each other through every one of those years.

According to the reporter who did the interview, the Journal Sentinel editors made the decision to exclude that aspect of the story. Apparently, dealing with gay issues in a normal context was too controversial for its readers.

Imagine our surprise when we open the February 16, 2005, issue of the paper to the editorial page and found a cartoon harpooning Alderman Michael McGee for his unfortunate comments at a rally protesting the vicious beating of Frank Jude by off-duty Milwaukee police. Admittedly, Alderman McGee's derogatory and hurtful comments deserve criticism. His gay bashing indeed made this a gay issue. The editorial cartoon therefore gives the impression that the Journal Sentinel is defending the rights of gays everywhere.

We find it truly ironic that the Journal Sentinel can deal with gay issues when they are steeped in sensationalism. Yet, LGBT folks living normal everyday lives in happy relationships and being successful is too controversial. The Journal Sentinel should be wary of speaking out of both sides of its mouth on LGBT issues. We can be a part of your newspaper, used for sensationalism, but when we are living our lives normally and successfully, the Journal Sentinel does not want to include that.

We in the LGBT community are indeed asking McGee to be accountable for his words. After all, many LGBT people, including us, live and vote within his aldermanic district. We ask the same accountability from the Journal Sentinel that claims to report the news objectively. We truly question whether your newspaper is really concerned about the well being of LGBT people, or in using them only when they can make sensational headlines.

Brenda Coley  
Sandra E. Jones

Dear Q Life,  
**A Perspective on Hate Speech and Hate Crimes from a Person of Color  
Hate Explosion**

In the past few months, Milwaukee has yet again burned with hate! We have all been witnesses to public exploitation, brutality and the tearing of communities.

A couple of months ago Mark Belling, a white talk show host, was freely able to exploit the Mexican (American) community on the radio by declaring the very people who are the foundation of our society a derogatory racist term: 'wetbacks.'

Shortly after, Frank Jude, a member of our community, was once again a Black man victim to police brutality, beaten by the very people who were suppose to protect him.

Every day our fellow neighbors are shot, deprived of basic needs such as food and health care, profiled and abused for being black or brown and abused for being "faggots" or "dykes."

All of these issues are important but none seem crucial enough to bring people together to change our community. Instead people are willing to get more angry at the people who could be their allies, use discriminatory terms that blow their mouths to cover their anger and just sit back and complain.

In the past few months, different Latino groups in Milwaukee have attempted rightly to remove Belling from his talk show. Black leaders and communities have attempted to hold the police department responsible for their terrorist acts on our civilians and every day.

**BUT we have not won!**

We have not won because we have not come together. We have allowed ourselves to be divided and conquered. We have worn one another out fighting the wrong people, or rather we have not together demanded that our elected officials, our leaders, police officers, business leaders and people with power reach out to unite the community.

**WE have allowed ourselves to be played by hate!**

The LGBT community is both a victim and perpetrator of this problem. As a whole, we did not rise to help take Belling off air beyond condemning him, nor did we pay attention to Frank Jude before we heard Alderman McGee unfortunately cry out hateful words against LGBT people.

My LGBT brothers and sisters of all genders and races, now is the time for us to step up. We can not follow in the footsteps of Alderman McGee who sees political gain in scapegoating the LGBT community by saying we are taking the focus off Jude, when in one minute he could have apologized for his wrongful comments and pulled us together to back Jude.

We cannot fall into the hands of the people who want to see "minority" communities split apart. We must stand strong and pray that our Alderman sees the hypocrisy of his words and begins to understand that there are LGBT people in the Black community.

We can use our voting power to show McGee that we do not stand for any form of hate and also turn the focus to ensuring that Frank Jude receives justice and his perpetrators are rightly punished. We must also educate our youth to never so easily scapegoat any oppressed community.

Let us focus our energy and come together as black, brown, yellow, immigrant, citizen, whatever religion, LGBT, straight, and gendered people to organize not for crumbs but rather to create a real movement to change Milwaukee.

I believe it is possible, but it will take dialogue, leadership, cooperation and people! It will take our leader, Alderman McGee, apologizing for his useless words and us working to force the police to take action on the brutality of Frank Jude.

Together, we can build stronger coalitions and bring justice for all hate crimes and hate speech.

Apart, we will only destroy ourselves.

Pabitra Benjamin



Patrick Flaherty

**After the sensational headlines, there's very little said by and about real life LGBT people, especially home-grown Wisconsin folk.**

# Kittens Versus Gays

You might think I'm horribly cranky if I said there wasn't enough coverage of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people in our local media. After all, we've all been inundated with stories about gay marriage, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," or the annual "some gay men are still having lots of unprotected sex" exposé.

But after the sensational headlines, there's very little said by and about real life LGBT people, especially home-grown Wisconsin folk.

Take the case of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. A search for "kittens" on our paper of record's Web site, jsonline.com, yielded 10 stories about the furry critters since the November election.

Searching the word "gay" brings up dozens of stories for the same time period, but only 12 that mention real-life lesbian or gay people in Wisconsin. The stories include quotes from two Action Wisconsin spokespersons, one story about a group of LGBT business owners, and a photo and caption describing Britt and Noel Brown speaking at the huge Valentine's Day rally organized by the "No on the Amendment Coalition" at City Hall.

It's no wonder that a majority of Wisconsinites would vote today to write into our constitution a ban on civil unions and marriages for gay and lesbian couples. Many think we only exist in San Francisco and reality TV, and that our mere presence brings on calamities like divorce, Republican victories, and higher standards of male grooming.

On Valentine's Day, Britt Brown spoke movingly to a crowd of over 600 for 15 minutes about the challenges his family faces without access to marriage. His life got a caption no more descriptive than a short note scribbled on a vacation photo. We are seldom, if ever, depicted in the paper as neighbors, family members, committed couples or community leaders — that is, real people deserving of the same rights and responsibilities as other Wisconsinites.

The Journal Sentinel is not a total loss. Its editorial board is a consistent proponent of LGBT equality. Its business section is eager to cover our community; and MKE, the Journal-owned free weekly aimed at younger professionals, seems to go out of its way to be inclusive. The Metro and front page sections, however, seem to have decided that the hard realities of our lives aren't hard news.

Whatever drives the decisions about editorial content at the Journal Sentinel, it is not serving our democracy very well. Wisconsin voters will be going to the polls soon to vote on whether to write LGBT people out of the constitution, and our only depiction in the media is that "the gay community" — never individual people with faces and loved ones — is at the center of abstract political controversies.

Because Journal Sentinel news reporters see us as objects, not subjects, in issues related to our lives, even policy reporting gets distorted. It's why the paper has written a series on the possible impact of TABOR, the amendment to limit public services and taxes that won't see a vote until 2007, but nothing of the consequences of the antigay amendment, which cleared its first hurdle a year ago. It's also why the paper sides with the religious right when it describes Wisconsin's proposed constitutional amendment simply as "defin[ing] marriage in Wisconsin as a union between a man and a woman," never including the proposal's ban on civil unions and comprehensive domestic partnerships.

Virtually all of the constitutional ban supporters have dropped the charade that the ban won't outlaw civil unions, a little white lie that helped comfort moderate legislators who voted for it last year. Those who've come clean include the amendment's own sponsor, Rep. Mark Gundrum; the Family Research Institute; and Ralph Ovedahl of Wisconsin Christians United, who gloats that civil unions are just marriage "in drag."

So why do Journal Sentinel reporters keep to the marriage-only story line? Because there is still one straight white man with a tie and a title, State Sen. Scott Fitzgerald (R- Juneau), who says it won't ban civil unions. That's enough for Journal Sentinel reporters to rule out the written opinion of the legislature's own nonpartisan chief of legal services, a letter from family and constitutional law scholars at the University of Wisconsin, and the experience of eight states that passed similar bans last November.

The problem with this selective truth-telling is that it misleads the 60 percent of Wisconsin voters who support either equal marriage rights or civil unions. Moderate voters who support civil unions but not marriage will end up voting for the amendment because they've only been told half the story. In that case, the paper of record will have written the story of our second class citizenship for a generation.

That's heavy. I wouldn't want the byline on that.

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# Q Cowgirls and Cowboys, Saddle Up and Find a New Ride!

**Q** For the more adventurous cowgirl — and cowboy, for that matter — a canter to the newly opened The Tool Shed, 804 E. Center St. in the heart of Riverwest, should definitely be added to your round up.

No cattle prods or branding irons, but just about anything else can be rustled up at this comfy women-owned erotic specialty shop.

A hodgepodge of doodads, thingamabobs, whatchamacallits and doohickeys are nestled in and getting cozy on the shelves stacked with "boy butter," nipple clamps, condoms, jewelry, handcuffs, tool boxes, lip balm, leather whips, clothing and the ever practical duct tape and batteries.

Even if your saddlebag is crammed full with every imaginable "toy" out there, I am confident you will find something new or different at The Tool Shed to add to your collection.

Unlike other "brick and mortar" or online outfits, The Tool Shed features a large and enticing display of "ready-to-go" multi-shaped massagers in a variety of yummy colors for your hands-on exploration. When fired up, each device buzzes, whirls and twirls, seemingly screaming, "Pick me. Pick me." Here you are able

to compare and contrast speeds, pulses and noises from this jumbo assortment of gizmos allowing you to make the "right" purchase the first time.

Shoppers can mosey around and peruse a plethora of "how-to" manuals each supplying insights and instructions (many with illustrations) that will jump-start your imagination on a whole new range of endless possibilities. Other provocative reading materials, from the latest issue of "Girlfriends" to reprints of pulp fiction classics, pack the overflowing bookshelves.

Scattered throughout the store are a generous number of tongue-in-cheek novelty items ranging from handy-wipe packets that suggest they can "wipe your sins away" to bubblegum whose wrapping sports "I Love My Penis."

Co-owners Molly Cassidy and Eilis O'Herlihy have succeeded in creating a very non-intimidating and friendly environment and have truly grasped the simple concept that shopping should be fun. Even the most bashful shopper will enjoy shopping and buying here.

Old cowgirls can always learn new tricks — so in addition to the fun and abundance of pleasurable



products, O'Herlihy and Cassidy have near future plans to add educational programs to the store's offerings. O'Herlihy explained, "A local registered nurse will be providing monthly workshops on a variety of topics including Latex and Allergies, Strap On Basics, Safe Sex and How to Find the G-Spot."

According to O'Herlihy, toy party planning for men, women and couples is also in the works, and The Tool Shed's Web site should be available for online shopping within the month.

Plans for additional merchandise include expanding the store's book selection and possibly adding DVDs and videos for sale. In the meantime, O'Herlihy will be happy to take your special order.

For updates on all the happenings at The Tool Shed, contact the store directly. The Tool Shed's hours are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 7 p.m. Call 414-562-9338 for more information.

Giddy-up!



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# Can You Hear Me Now?

## Acknowledging the LGBT Deaf Community

Within any community there is always a common goal. Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf's mission includes defending the rights of lesbian and gay deaf people, fostering fellowship, and advancing their interests concerning social justice.

Locally, the Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf (WISCRAD) formed a chapter in April 2004, in an attempt to establish a strong support network. Other organizations such as the Deaf Gays/Lesbians of the West and the Gay and Lesbian Association of the Deaf-East have risen up to advocate for the rights of gays and lesbians in the deaf community. In the virtual world, DeafVision Inc. provides Internet domains for organizations to outreach to the queer deaf community.

Without these organizations, outreach would be much more difficult. Considering the obstacles that affect us all, such as HIV/AIDS prevention, youth advocacy, coming out of the closet, issues that affect our transgendered community and political and social support, organizing for our deaf is rather vital.

### Protesting PrideFest

During the summer of 2003 at Milwaukee PrideFest, many of our deaf LGBT community members protested because PrideFest didn't allocate interpreters for events. This action assisted with the creation of WISCRAD and also helped raise awareness in the hearing community.

An active youth leader, Charles K. Perkins, talks about how he wants to work to relate to the deaf community: "My eyes were opened in 2003 when PrideFest was protested by the deaf/hard-of-hearing LGBT members for not providing interpreters for the shows. That's when I realized the unfairness that the hearing people were putting on the deaf/

hard-of-hearing people. Thus, once I found out that I could take American Sign Language (ASL) at UWM, I jumped on the chance, with the mission to help out and bring awareness when I can, and for the fact that there is really no LGBT member that I know that knows ASL at the LGBT Center. How are we going to be a community if we can't be fair to all our members?"

### American Sign Language

According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, "ASL is a complete, complex language that employs signs made with the hands and other movements, including facial expressions and postures of the body. It is the first language of many deaf North Americans. ASL is said to be the fourth most commonly used language in the United States."

ASL has always fascinated me as I have all forms of communication, and I feel that everyone should get a feel of what communicating via sign language is all about. Recently, one of my close friends has been taking a class in ASL at the university. While this form of communication can be difficult, the skill can give you the power to expand your horizons and communicate with our LGBT deaf community.

Pamela Wright-Meinhardt wrote in "Deaf Way II Anthology," "It is sadder that in this life there are many who hear but do not listen ... is lack of hearing then a handicap if one who cannot hear can listen, feel, un-

derstand, and love?" After reading this I realized that the true reason that organizations such as WISCRAD have formed is due to communication. Within the deaf community, communication is broadened and there is more emotion and feeling within that connection.

I urge you to take a look at the Web sites of these organizations. Knowledge is power and we, as a community, need to organize and reach out. Let us take the responsibility of listening to our neighbors.

Check out the following Web sites: [www.wiscrad.org](http://www.wiscrad.org), [www.rad.org](http://www.rad.org), [www.dcara.org](http://www.dcara.org), [www.deafvision.net](http://www.deafvision.net), [www.deafqueer.net/glade](http://www.deafqueer.net/glade)

## DIVERSITY



Deon Q. Young (dyoung@queerlifeneews.com) is a field specialist at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. He lives in Riverwest.

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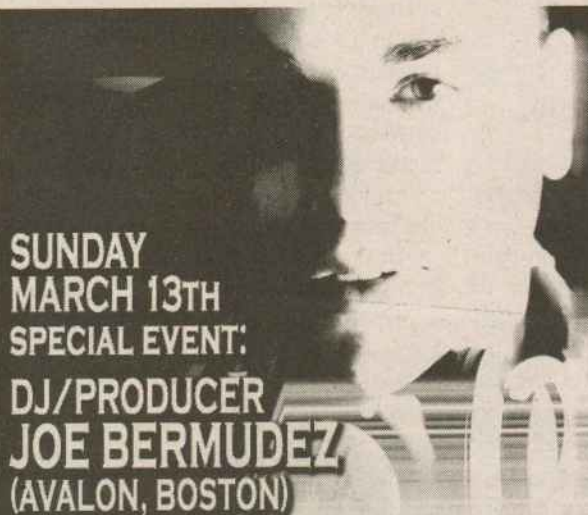
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## LGBT Youth of Color Deserve a Better Madison Future

MADISON



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

In understanding the true value of diversity, Proud Theater youth "get it" in a way that others, years older, never will. Ranging in age from 13 to 18, they gather each week under the sponsorship of OutReach to improvise and perform theatrical pieces and music that reflect the realities of their young lives. (Their culminating performance will be at Madison's Bartell Theater over the weekend of May 13.)

Approximately half of Proud Theater's members are youth of color, and anti-racist and multicultural themes pervade their work. For these talented youth, rainbow symbols have multiple meanings.

I thought about them a lot last week — especially those who are LGBT young people of color — as a racially divisive controversy broke in Madison. What does the future hold for these youth in Madison?

Unfortunately, for many, there may not be a future in Madison at all — something that should concern a city that prides itself on progressive traditions of tolerance and acceptance. African-American community leader Charlestina Daniel's experience in coordinating a group of 36 LGBT youth of color, through Briapatch's Teens Like Us program, tells an important story. Two years later, not a single youth had remained in Madison — there just wasn't a sense of community for them.

With racial insensitivity often pervading the gay community, and homophobia pervading many communities of color, these youth felt that they had little choice. On the UW-Madison campus, student leaders also point to a steady loss of LGBT students of color. Others move on quickly following graduation.

Madison, with its significantly smaller and less diverse population, is not Milwaukee. The isolation felt by individual LGBT people of color (who don't constitute one monolith-

ic community, regardless) is, in part, linked to what has also been a lack of critical mass — a function of being part of relatively small sub-communities in a city of 200,000. Still, there's no reason that these realities can't be addressed.

Madison, like most Wisconsin cities, is becoming increasingly diverse. In the last 25 years, the ethnic and racial minority population has gone from about 8 percent to nearly 20 percent. In Madison elementary schools, fully 35 to 40 percent of the children are multiracial or children of color, revealing an even more diverse future, one also reflected in the numbers of LGBT young people of color. These youth deserve a much greater sense of community than they have now.

This brings us to the current controversy that still reverberates around the announced intention of Madison's Club 5 to bring drag performer Shirley Q. Liquor to town Feb. 25. A dangerous, divisive situation was narrowly avoided with the canceling of the appearance of Charles Knipp — a southern white

**With racial insensitivity often pervading the gay community, and homophobia pervading many communities of color, these youth felt that they had little choice.**

man who performs dressed in blackface as the caricature of an older black woman on welfare with 19 children, painfully reminiscent of the demeaning and dehumanizing blackface traditions of minstrel shows. Club 5 owner Ed Grunewald says that he was unaware of the true nature of the act at the time it was booked, and promptly cancelled when better informed.

We could be content to simply move on, and sweep this whole unfortunate incident under the carpet. However, my hope is that this will be a wakeup call for us all — an opportunity to pay renewed attention to the voices and needs of LGBT people of color in Madison. Some great ideas for action are already coming forth, and we'll be reporting on their progress in future columns. For the future of our youth, and in the hopes of building the best community for all of us, we can't afford to do anything less.

## Worshipping a Different Jesus

Jesus Christ. The man at the center of the Christian tradition is everywhere these days, from the signs held aloft by protesters to the lips of politicians, appearing on both the radical right and the progressive left. But who is he?

The Jesus of the fundamentalists is clear — a man of judgment and condemnation. Many of us have encountered Christians who worship this Jesus. They don't just pray to him, they prey on us with discriminatory legislation, creating hostile workplaces, and otherwise enforcing their bigotry.

The judgmental Jesus of the fundamentalists comes from a focus on the apocalypse. Christian fundamentalists think of Jesus returning during a cataclysmic war between good and evil as a king who wins the battle and destroys evil people.

The "Left Behind Series," written by fundamentalists, is about this apocalypse. The authors describe Jesus judging his enemies — anyone not a born-again Christian fundamentalist — and casting them into an eternal fire. At some point fundamentalists went from worshipping a merely judgmental Jesus to glorifying a genocidal one.

I grew up in another kind of Christianity. My local church could easily have been called "Our Lady of the Status Quo." It was a nice church with good people. But I don't think our faith ever led us to take any risks, challenge any cultural taboos, or even question

**Fundamentalists went from worshipping a merely judgmental Jesus to glorifying a genocidal one.**

the way things were. The Jesus we prayed to was placidly predictable.

Personally, I find status-quo Christianity even more disappointing than that of the fundamentalists; at least fundamentalists stand for something. It reminds me of what Martin Luther King once said, "We will

have to repent not merely for the vitriolic words of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people."

In my own life and faith I've come to embrace a different sort of Jesus, one who is neither violent nor silent. All I can conclude when I encounter the Jesus of the fundamentalists or of the status-quo Christians is that we worship a different Jesus and love a different God.

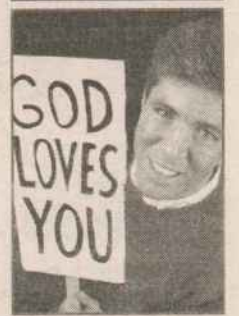
I worship the Jesus of the cross and of the resurrection. When I remember the story of Jesus' death, and when I look to his cross, I see Jesus suffering with all humanity, with the poor, and with the oppressed. In my heart the Cross stands as God's eternally loud no to all the violence and all the acquiescing silence of our world.

When I remember the story of Jesus' resurrection, of how Jesus still lived among the disciples in spirit even though he died, I see Jesus triumphing over all our human attempts to hurt and destroy. The resurrection to me is the promise that nothing can separate us from the love of God and that true community and abiding love is possible between humans. In my heart the resurrection comes as God's eternally shouted yes to humanity's triumph over death, destruction and pain.

This is who Jesus is for me — the face of God saying NO to violence and silence and saying YES to humanity's triumph over all the forces that would break us apart. Who do you say he is?



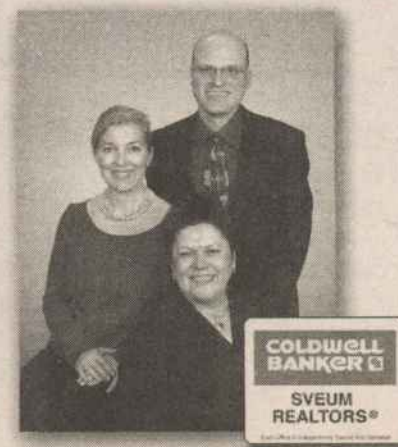
RELIGION



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.

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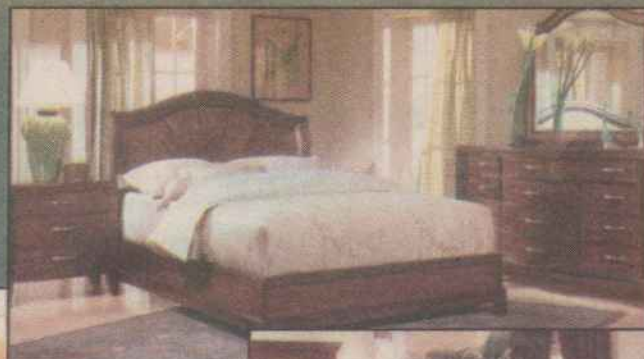
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## Out Now

### Model Railroad Show

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

### A Sleep of Prisoners

Passions, moral dilemmas, sacrifices,  
hidden truths and fears.  
Chamber Theatre Studio Theatre  
158 N. Broadway  
414-276-8842  
[www.chamber-theatre.com](http://www.chamber-theatre.com)  
[patrick@chamber-theatre.com](mailto:patrick@chamber-theatre.com)  
Through March 6

### The Underpants

Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
Stiemke Theater  
108 E. Wells St.  
414-224-9440  
Recently extended

### The Visual Voice: Communication Design Alumni Exhibition

Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design  
Layton Gallery  
273 E. Erie St.  
414-276-7889  
Through March 19

### Lana Mae's Honky-Tonk Laundry

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

### Out of the Shadows

A portrayal of the healing journeys  
of women survivors of physical and  
sexual abuse, and our connections to  
each other. Thirty-two black-and-white  
toned prints by Jan Goff-La Fontaine.  
Charles Allis Art Museum  
1801 N. Prospect Ave.  
414-278-8295  
Through March 27

### Hotcakes' One Year Anniversary Show

Jeremiah Ketner: Every Morning,  
Every Day, Every Night  
3379 N. Pierce St.  
414-961-7741  
Through March 27

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

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

## Thursday, March 3

### This Is Our Youth

A Midwest premiere of Lonergan's  
"slice-of-life" dramatic comedy.  
Boulevard Theatre  
2252 S. Kinnickinnic  
414-744-5757  
[mbucher@juno.com](mailto:mbucher@juno.com)  
Through March 20

## Friday, March 4

### Bach at Leipzig

Quadracci Powerhouse Theater  
Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
108 E. Wells St.  
414-224-9490  
[www.milwaukeekeerep.com](http://www.milwaukeekeerep.com)  
\$6 to \$48.50  
Through April 3

### Kirtan with Ragani

North Shore Presbyterian Church  
4048 N. Bartlett Ave.  
[www.raganiworld.com/calendar.html](http://www.raganiworld.com/calendar.html)  
7:30pm

## Saturday, March 5

### PICK Precious Stones

An award-winning play that boldly  
examines the Israeli-Palestinian  
conflict in the "safe" yet turbulent  
terrain of American Diaspora. Two  
women, one Jewish, the other  
Palestinian, join forces to organize  
an Arab-Jewish dialogue group, only  
to find themselves falling in love. As  
they each cross "enemy lines," they  
stumble upon the disputed territories  
of sexuality and class.

In dramatizing the fear, insecurity,  
anger and hurt that permeate this  
complex relationship, the play  
uncovers the layers of familiarity, hope,  
kinship and eroticism that inevitably  
strengthen it.

Dialogue with playwright Jamil  
Khoury and actors following the  
performance.

Silk Road Theatre Project  
UWM Union, 2nd level  
2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
414-229-5918  
7:00pm, doors open 6:30pm  
Free (with complimentary ticket)

## Sunday, March 6

### Choral Evensong for Lent IV

All Saints' Cathedral  
818 E. Juneau Ave.  
414-271-7719  
3:30pm. Reception to follow

## Tuesday, March 8

### PICK Women Without Borders: Film and Video Festival

From the edges of experimental  
filmmaking to the far corners of the  
globe, the lives and experiences of  
women are explored. Included is  
Marilyn Mallet's *La Cueva Sola* (March  
13), a symbol of women's struggle  
against Pinochet's dictatorship. Mallet  
meets with Chilean women from three  
generations who have emerged as  
heroes, among them Isabel Allende.  
UW-Milwaukee Union Theatre  
2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
414-229-6015  
Free  
Through March 13

## Wednesday, March 9

### My One and Only

Gershwin musical.  
UW-Whitewater's Young Auditorium  
930 W. Main St.  
262-472-2222  
[www.uww.edu/youngauditorium](http://www.uww.edu/youngauditorium)  
7:30pm

## Thursday, March 10

### PICK Boswell's Dreams

Renaissance Theaterworks  
In 1762, an eager young Scotsman  
arrived in London with an  
unquenchable appetite for sex, fame  
and fortune — and an irrepressible  
desire to befriend the most famous  
man in England: Samuel Johnson.  
Off-Broadway Theatre  
342 N. Water St.  
414-278-0765  
Through March 27

## Friday, March 11

### The Beauty Academy of Kabul

Documenting the poignant and often  
humorous process through which  
women with very different experiences  
of life come to learn about one another.  
UW-Milwaukee Union Theatre  
2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
414-229-6015  
7 and 9pm. Free

### Danny and the Deep Blue Sea

Broadway Theatre Center  
158 N. Broadway  
414-291-7800  
Through March 26

### SALT: Relics in Their Seasons DanceCircus and One Drum

Collaboration of Betty Salamun, Mark  
Lawson and Jahmes Tony Finlayson  
Humphrey Masonic Center  
790 N. Van Buren  
414-277-8151  
[www.dancecircus.org](http://www.dancecircus.org)  
8pm  
Repeats March 12

### The Last Five Years

Skylight Opera Theatre  
158 N. Broadway  
414-291-7811 ext. 223  
[www.skylightopera.com](http://www.skylightopera.com)  
Through March 27

### Wisconsin Playwrights' Original One-Act Festival

Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the  
Arts  
262-781-9520

## Saturday, March 12

### PICK Nobody Knows My Name

Documentarian Rachel Raimist  
explores a fascinating and diverse hip-  
hop feminist community.  
UW-Milwaukee Union Theatre  
2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
7 and 9pm. Free

### Tale of Two Stephens: Music of Schwartz and Sondheim

Skylight Opera Theatre  
158 N. Broadway  
414-291-7811  
Through March 26

## Tuesday, March 15

### Bulgarian Opera's Carmen

UW-Whitewater's Young Auditorium  
930 W. Main St.  
262-472-2222  
[www.uww.edu/youngauditorium](http://www.uww.edu/youngauditorium)

### French Flavors

Works by Poulenc and Fauré  
Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts  
2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.  
7:30pm  
414-229-4308

## Wednesday, March 16

### Chicago: Women in the Director's Chair International Film and Video Festival

Chicago Cultural Center  
[widc@widc.org](mailto:widc@widc.org)  
773-281-4988  
Through March 20

## Saturday, March 19

### The Chieftains

Uihlein Hall  
929 N. Water St.  
414-273-7206  
[www.marcuscenter.org](http://www.marcuscenter.org)  
Repeats March 20

### Noche de Gala

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of tapas, fine wine and a silent auction,  
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414-384-3100  
[www.latinoartsinc.org](http://www.latinoartsinc.org)

## Thursday, March 24

### PICK Rolling Thunder

A feast for the eyes and ears! Fourteen  
gleaming kettledrums arrayed across  
the stage, two timpanists and a piece  
that will rock Uihlein Hall! Debussy's  
orchestral fantasy will leave you  
spellbound.  
Marcus Center for the Performing Arts  
929 N. Water St.  
414-291-7605  
Through March 26

## Friday, March 25

### PICK Gay Broadway!

A collection of gay-themed Broadway  
show tunes from today's & yesteryears  
most popular hits.  
Milwaukee Gay Arts Center  
703 S. 2nd St.  
414-248-6481  
Through April 2

### Chaps!

A rollicking 10-gallon hit musical.  
Milwaukee Repertory Theatre  
108 E. Wells St.  
414-224-1761  
Through May 29

### What the Night Is For

In Tandem Theatre  
A play by Michael Weller, best suited  
for ages 17 and up.  
Walker's Point Center for the Arts  
907 W. National Ave.  
414-672-2787  
Through April 10

## Monday, March 28

### Amy Rohan

Solo guitar and vocals.  
Linneman's Riverwest Inn  
1001 E. Locust St.  
414-263-9844

## Tuesday, March 29

### PICK Sufi Poetry Night

Informal poetry readings of Rumi and  
Hafiz.  
Club Timbuktu  
520 E. Center St.  
414-265-7000  
[www.clubtimbuktu.com](http://www.clubtimbuktu.com)

## Thursday, March 31

### Kathy Mattea in Concert

UW-Whitewater's Young Auditorium  
930 W. Main St.  
262-472-2222  
[www.uww.edu/youngauditorium](http://www.uww.edu/youngauditorium)

### Wisconsin Film Festival

877-963-FILM  
[www.wifilmfest.org](http://www.wifilmfest.org)  
Through April 3

### Gross Indecency

Boulevard Theatre  
2252 S. Kinnickinnic  
414-744-5757  
[mbucher@juno.com](mailto:mbucher@juno.com)  
Through April 24

## Coming Soon

April 7: La Poesia Visiva: Visual Poetry,  
Haggerty Museum of Art  
April 20: David Sedaris, Pabst Theater  
April 21: El Eterno Femenino/The  
Eternal Feminine, Latino Arts Center  
April 22: Elton John, Bradley Center  
May 6: You Should Be So Lucky,  
Uncommon Theatre  
May 6: The Marijuana Logues, Pabst  
Theater





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.

# Getting Serious About LGBT Youth

Since 1997 the State of Wisconsin has known about a health crisis in schools. Lesbian, gay and bisexual youth have reported serious problems in over 20 health-related areas. Perhaps because these youth are so diverse — coming from urban and rural areas, youth of color and white, female and male, privileged and poor — they have been overlooked. Or maybe public school and health officials get confused because these youth are generally able to bounce back from serious problems.

Precious little is being done to address the severity of this situation for Wisconsin's LGBT youth in public schools. The private crises and public costs associated with anti-gay violence in Wisconsin schools are just too high and too alarming to be overlooked. (Transgendered youth are not even specifically a part of the data available.)

During alternate years, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction orchestrates the administration of a large national school survey here in Wisconsin: the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Thousands of students from across the state take this survey to help the federal and state governments understand the status of young people in a variety of risk areas.

In 1997, 1999 and 2001, YRBS data showed that students who reported being threatened or hurt because someone thought they were gay, lesbian or bisexual were also more likely to report that they carried a weapon to school, were involved in physical fights, and failed to attend school because they felt physically unsafe.

In addition to risk behaviors related to violence from others, these youth who are harassed in school

also reported feeling depressed, considering suicide, attempting suicide or having been treated for injuries from a suicide attempt.

The consequences of being harassed in school also appear to contribute to their higher rates of drug and alcohol use. These teens report more tobacco use; binge drinking; and cocaine, inhalant, and heroin or methamphetamine use.

These data are unacceptable. Worse, however, is the determination that they will no longer be collected in Wisconsin. Fearing that school districts will fail to cooperate in this voluntary survey, officials in the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction have eliminated this item from the YRBS as it is administered here. Other states, like Minnesota, Vermont and Massachusetts, go much further than asking about harassment; they include items about sexual identity, gender expression, and the sex of those with whom youth are sexually active.

Adults in the LGBT communities in Wisconsin can no longer be naive about youth. While we clearly cannot overlook the continuing harassment of youth in schools, we must first get over our beliefs that somehow they have it better than we did because "Queer Eye" has made it to prime time.

LGBT youth are incredibly diverse and resilient. Many are finding wonderful allies in school, at home and in their communities. Many of those

**The private crises and public costs associated with anti-gay violence in Wisconsin schools are just too high and too alarming to be overlooked.**

at the greatest risk continue to bounce back from their crappy experiences in school. But too many do it alone, and too many don't make it at all.

Getting serious about LGBT youth will take our united will. It will take our connecting with one or more of the 10 community-based LGBT youth groups in Wisconsin (find them all at [www.diverseandresilient.org/youth/raygroups.asp](http://www.diverseandresilient.org/youth/raygroups.asp)); they can all use your financial support. At the local school district level, we will need to learn how secure the gay straight alliance (GSA) is in the schools that we support with our taxes. Getting serious about LGBT youth will also take our expanding our political, legislative and electoral agendas to understand where decision makers stand on the issues that are impairing the health of our young people.

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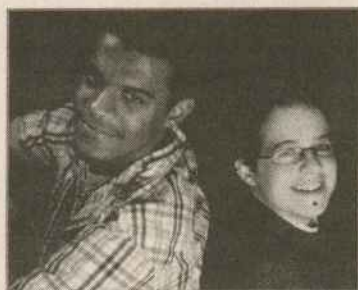
**Diverse & Resilient** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in Wisconsin through the development of groups and communities to take action. The organization's name is intended to serve as reminder that LGBT people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

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# 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.*



# What We Call Love

Our hearts begin to pound, our throats seem to close, sweat pours down our faces and everything occurs in slow motion.

We're walking their way with a nervous smile spread across our faces, our eyes darting back to our friends, who sit giggling at the table across the room — walking slowly to where the person of our dreams awaits. For weeks, we would venture to the coffee shop hoping to catch a glimpse of the perfect body and flawless face of the other. For hours we would sit on opposite sides of the building surrounded by friends occasionally peeking through the crowd to see if that perfect person were peeking back.

Daring to take the risk and walk over to the other, we remind ourselves to breathe. Heart pounding, throat closing, sweat pouring.

Infatuated with the other, we as youth often reenact these scenes day in and day out. We visit places on a regular basis just to catch a glimpse of that person we dream about every night. We fall in love with the thought of loving someone. We dream of perfection and create a person that doesn't even exist. Very rarely is the person we create in our heads the one we really find.

Yet when we finally get the nerve to go up to that person, we ignore everything we hate or everything we find to be strange and only focus on the things that we've dreamed about.

We call it love.

We feel as if we've known the person for years even though it's only been half a day, and so after a few more days we let down our guard completely. We've finally found the person of our dreams there's no point in waiting anymore.

Sex.

What was meant to be a special moment shared between two people who would give the world for each other is sometimes trivialized by today's youth and turned into a game. It's a game we play whenever we're blinded by infatuation. A game we play whenever we find that something might not be going as well as we thought it would with the person we "love."

In order to keep the person of our dreams, we might think the only thing left to do when a relationship of one month is coming to a close is to have sex. Show them the time of their life and maybe they'll stay. The perfection we see in front of us will hopefully be ours forever.

However we have to know that that's the wrong way to go about it. Instead of dreaming about perfection, we need to learn if the person we admire really is what we would call perfect. We need to get past the stage where we smile and giggle across the room in a coffee shop, and instead approach with intentions of only forming a friendship.

What we feel isn't love, and what we see isn't perfect. We need to learn to respect ourselves, see ourselves as equal to the person we dream of instead of putting them on a pedestal and worshipping their every move.

We, as youth, need to learn to be honest with ourselves. Sharing that part of ourselves with someone should be more than just a way to keep him or her. It's something we do when we're finally committed to that special person.

We know we're in love when we can look into their eyes and still find our bodies act the way they did on that first day: heart pounding, throat closing, sweat pouring.

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

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# Speaking of Lesbian Health

LESBIAN HEALTH By Lesley Salas

Until very recently, science has turned very little attention to the unique health needs of women. For example, if you are a female taking any prescription drug, chances are the clinical trials that determined its safety and effectiveness were conducted exclusively on men.

The risk factors, needs and characteristics of lesbians, a minority within this overlooked group, are even less understood. Certainly, the discrimination and rejection lesbians experience take a toll on our health. This translates into higher rates of obesity, often leading to heart disease, mental health concerns, and increased tobacco and alcohol use.

In addition, the lack of education among medical providers and the embarrassment many lesbians experience when asked inappropriate questions about sexual activity or birth control use have kept many of us away from necessary reproductive health screenings and treatments. Since lesbians as a whole are less economically well off than the general population, we are also more likely to be without health coverage — another barrier to accessing adequate health care.

This column will take a look at all the issues mentioned here and more. We will expose problems and seek solutions. Co-edited by Kathy Herbst, Director of Programs for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, and Lesley Salas, member of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) board, "Q Lesbian Health" will appear every other month in Q Life. We are committed to diversity of age, race and ethnicity in discussing lesbian health issues. Therefore, we will invite guest columnists from time to time to expand our understandings and perspectives.

We'll also share the good news. We've discovered some wonderful organizations working to counteract this lack of attention

The risk factors, needs and characteristics of lesbians, a minority within this overlooked group, are even less understood.

to health issues for lesbian and bisexual women.

Scientific research, advocacy with the medical community and educational resources for LGBT people is the focus of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, found at [www.glma.org](http://www.glma.org).

Their Lesbian Health Fund has studied topics such as cancer-screening issues for butch women and healthcare priorities of lesbians of color with children.

The Mautner Project for Lesbians with Cancer ([www.mautnerproject.org](http://www.mautnerproject.org)) offers information on cancer prevention, as well as a variety of supportive services for lesbians who have received a cancer diagnosis. (Check out their breast self-exam page!) Even Curve Magazine has covered health issues such as sexually transmitted diseases, lesbians with disabilities, and insemination over the years. You can find their archive of easy-to-read articles at [www.curvemag.com/stories/health/index.html](http://www.curvemag.com/stories/health/index.html).

In Milwaukee, LAMM and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center are committed to addressing the needs and concerns of lesbians. The LGBT Center is sponsoring a "smoking cessation" event in April targeting lesbians over 40, and LAMM's "Young Lesbian Leadership Initiative" is planning an event to educate young women about safer sex. For more information, contact the LGBT Center at 414-271-2656 or LAMM at 414-272-9442.

We look forward to sharing information we've gathered on these vital issues. Here's to your health!

*Lesley Salas is a Cuban-American lesbian with two children. She is currently pursuing her main interests: writing, dance, Scrabble and a variety of social justice issues.*

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# Wall Flowers, Paper Dolls and the Demise of an Expressway



Mary Stearns (mstearns@queerlifeneews.com) is the owner of Orientations, Ltd., which she co-founded in 1977. Originally, the business imported Korean chests and other Asian antiques. Orientations now offers a full range of interior design services. Mary is an allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers.

Although I devoted last month's column to redecorating a room with paint, I confess that painting is one of my least favored activities.

On the other hand, I love to hang wallpaper. Many people consider wallpapering to be slower and harder than painting, but I'm not one of them. Indeed, I learned to wallpaper to avoid painting. To me it is like wrapping a gift from the inside out. So this column is about wallpapering, wallcoverings in general, and about how the act of wallpapering stopped an expressway.

The choices in wallcoverings are huge. Choices range from wallpapers backed with paper, to vinyl backed with fabric, to fabrics not designed as wall-covering specially treated to be hung. Selections include solids to make walls look painted and overall geometric, floral, scenic or period styles. Surfaces can be smooth textured or glossy. Many wallcoverings are materials, such as silk, linen, bamboo or leather.

The most user-friendly way to hang wallpaper is to select a pre-pasted pattern. Strips of wallpaper are cut to the desired length and dipped into water troughs; they are then ready to hang.

Heavier papers and those of vinyl must have

the paste applied directly to their backs. There are a variety of pastes on the market to accommodate the type of paper to be hung. The paste is usually applied with a wide brush, but there is also a bottle of paste with a squeeze-type applicator that appears to work well.

Other equipment that you need is not extensive: a pair of shears, a straight edge, an X-acto knife, a plumb bob, brushes (for smoothing surfaces as well as pasting) and rollers to flatten seams.

**We flattered ourselves into believing that we stopped an expressway from being built with our wallpapering prowess.**

Instead of a professional wallpaperer's table (which can be rented), my friends and I used kitchen or dining room tables or, when we were much younger, the floor. We were the paper dolls; we could do anything.

One of the things we flattered ourselves into believing is that we stopped an expressway from being built with our wallpapering prowess.

Over 30 years ago, an expressway was proposed to run from the lakefront due west. Areas of the city along Walnut Street and beyond are still recovering from the demolition done in preparation for the highway. It was not popular with everyone; many of us were actively working to prevent its construction.

Another paper doll, my friend Diane, and I volunteered our wallpapering skills to be sold to the highest bidder in a fund-raising auction to raise money to fight the expressway. I don't remember how much Diane and I went for, but we sure wallpapered our way to the demise of the expressway.



When you hear "wallpaper," do you still conjure up images of those big cabbage roses? The ones from your grandmother's bedroom?

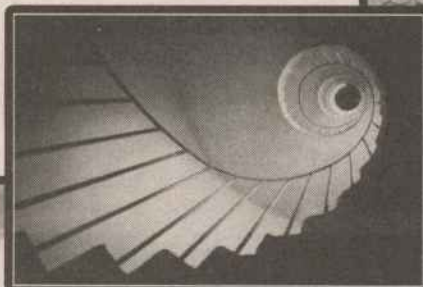
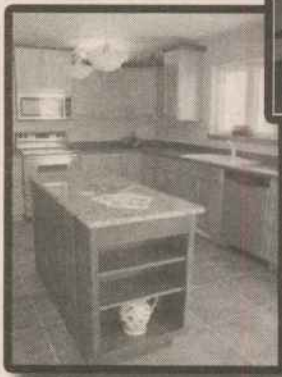
Well, you are in for a surprise.

Those wall flowers are alive and well and out there on the dance floor right now, with their dance cards full.

Unlike the paper dolls, who have retired.

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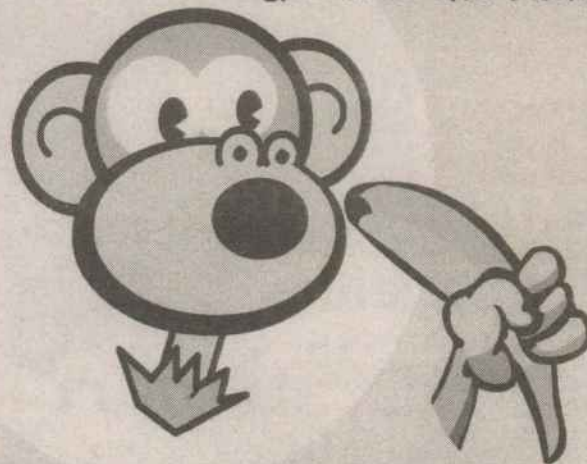
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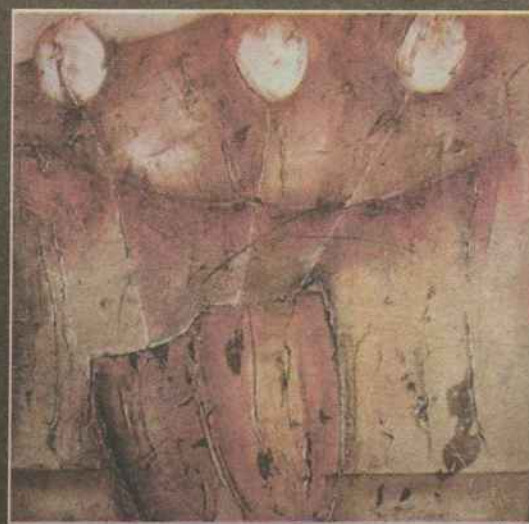
# Original Works of Art



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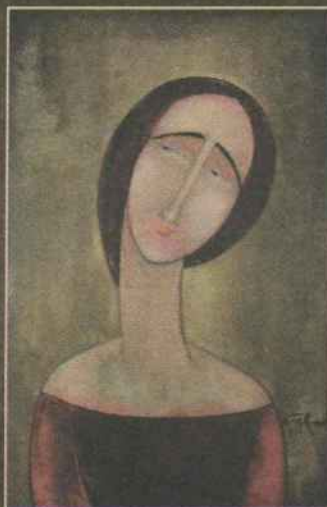
Brad Smith



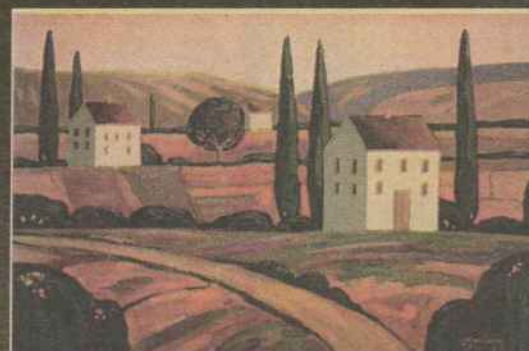
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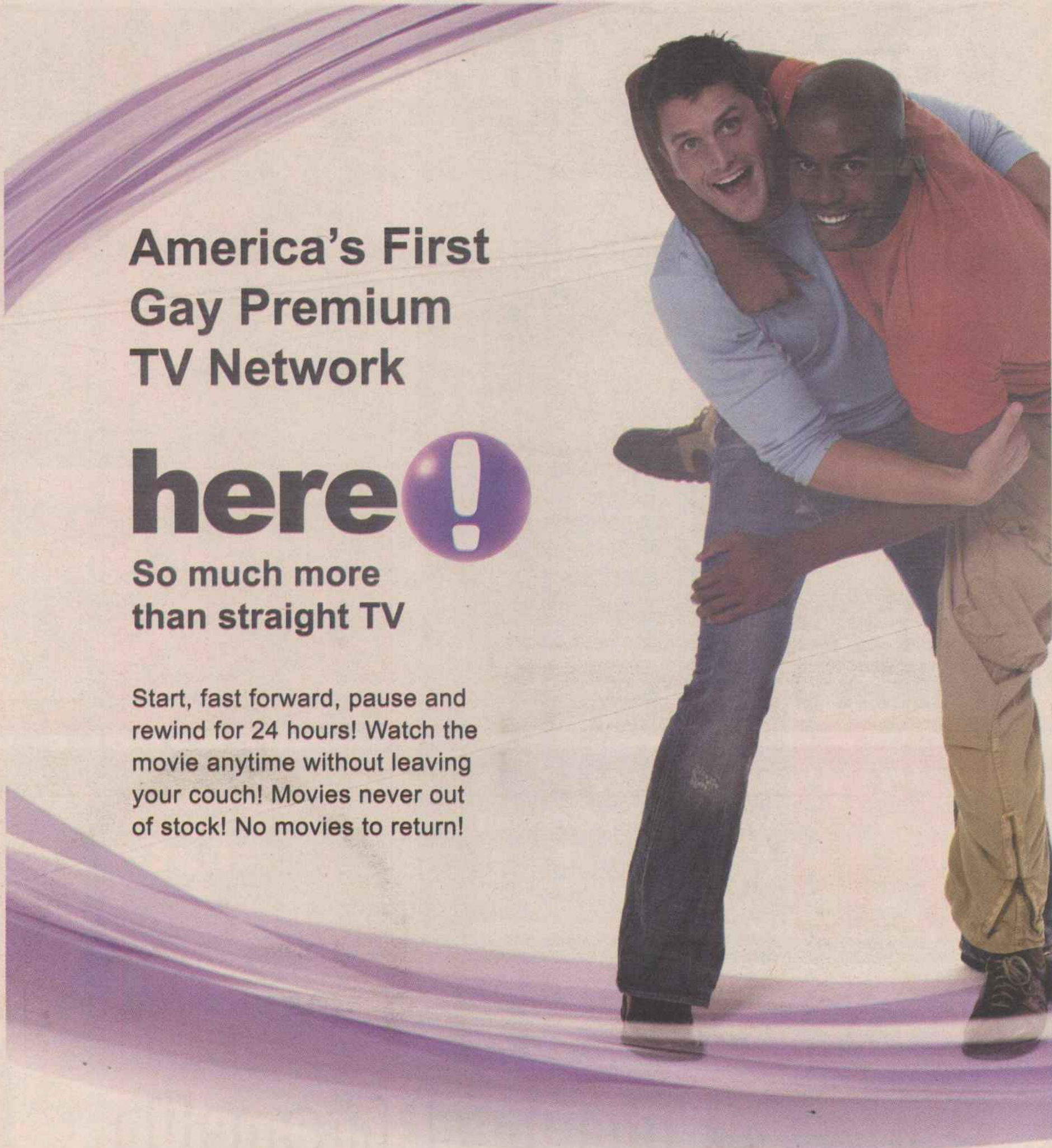
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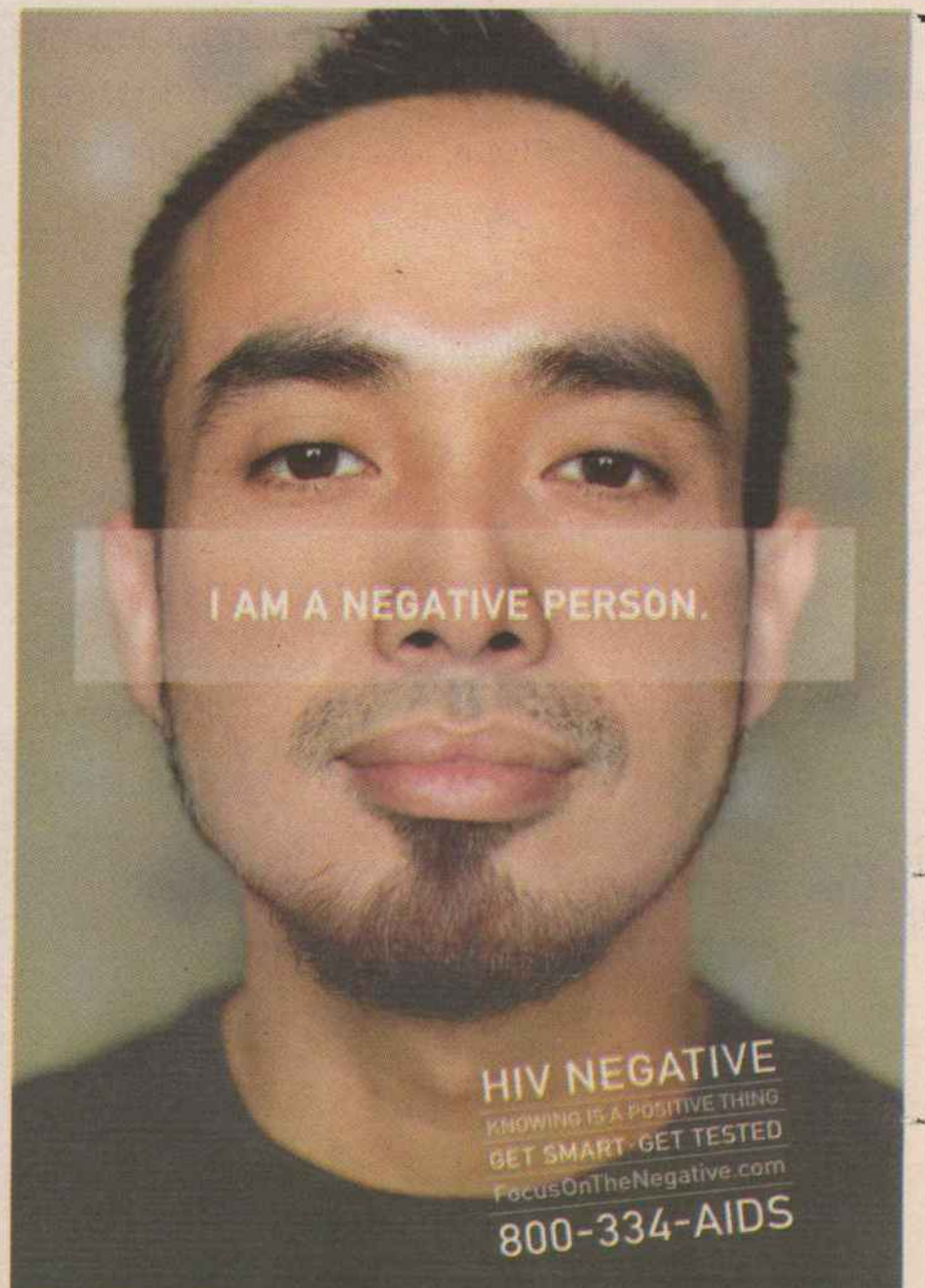



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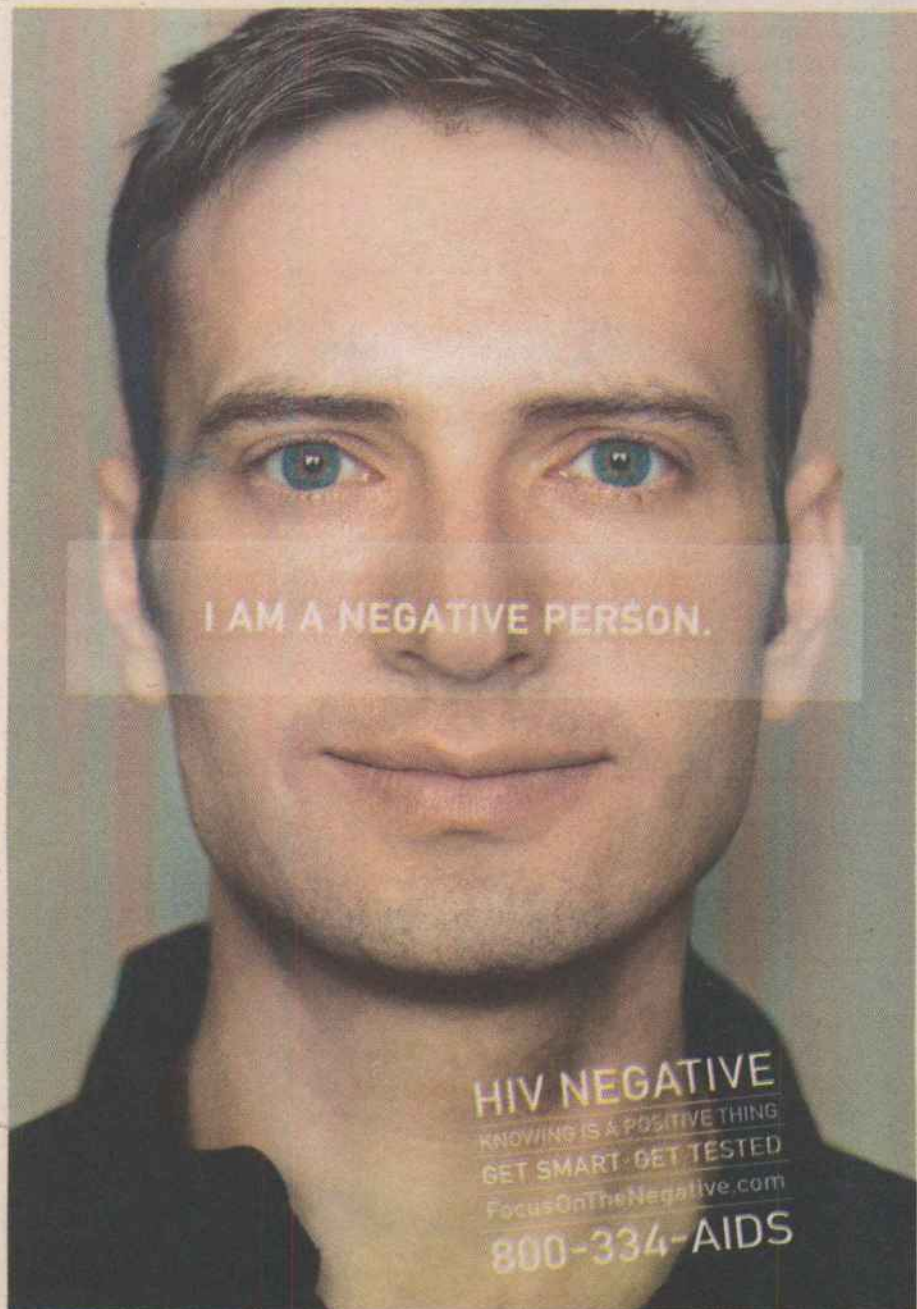


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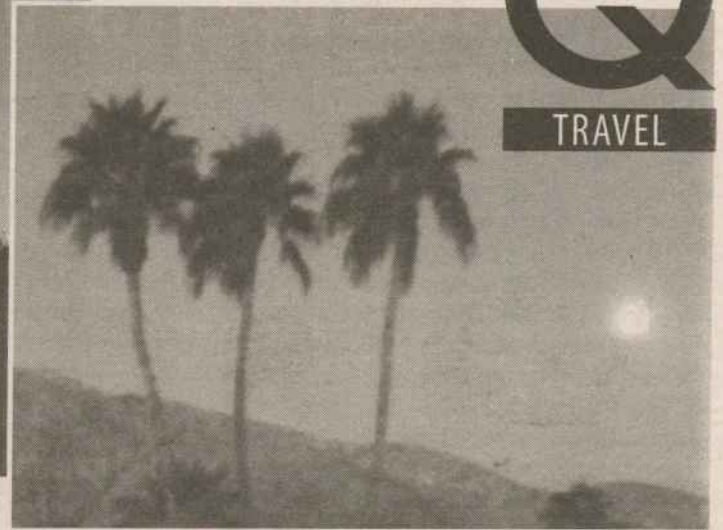
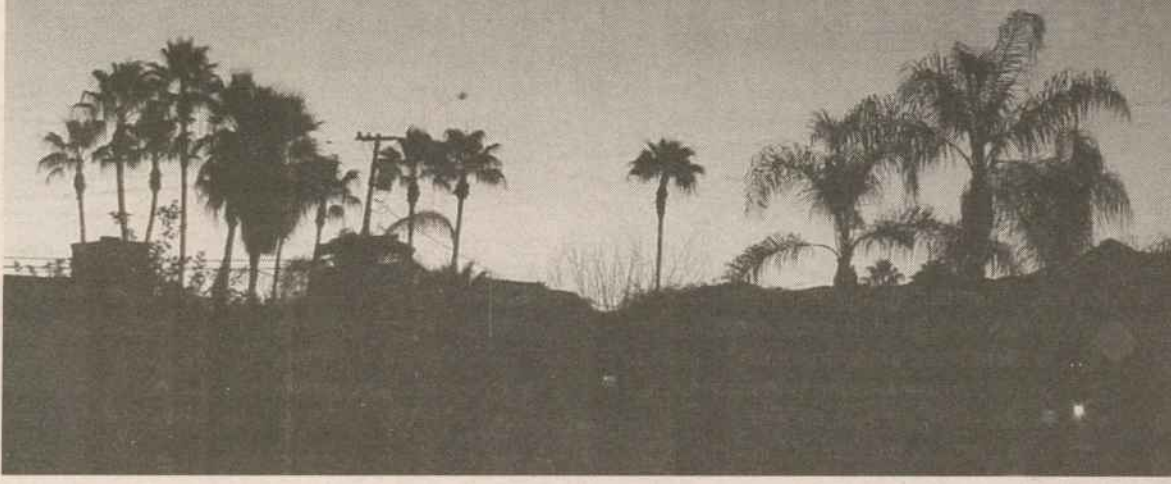
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# Desert Paradise — Palm Springs, California

By Brian Reinkober



TRAVEL

As the winter months progress, March and April are sometimes the most difficult to endure. Many times, winter in Wisconsin simply does not want to release its grip on the state. A great way to escape from the cold is to head to the desert playground for both gay men and women, Palm Springs.

Palm Springs is located in southern California. It is a two to three hour drive from either Los Angeles or San Diego, depending on the traffic. Palm Springs is nestled in the Coachella Valley between the San Jacinto Mountain range to the southwest and the Joshua Tree National Forest to the northeast.

There are no direct flights to Palm Springs from Milwaukee, but there are from Chicago. Northwest, American and United airlines all fly into the Palm Springs International Airport from their hubs of Minneapolis, Dallas and Chicago, respectively. Cost for a roundtrip ticket will usually run between \$300 and \$400, depending on the time of year, but cheaper fares can be found.

Originally a vacation spot for the Hollywood elite in the 1950s, Palm Springs saw itself grow stagnant in the '70s and early '80s. However, thanks in part to the gay population, Palm Springs has seen a tremendous rebirth since the early '90s that continues today.

The local gay population thrives within the city. Gay-owned businesses are everywhere! Restaurants, resorts, spas and retail establishments dot downtown and the surrounding valley. Be sure and check out Blame It on Midnight for a great evening of dinner and entertainment. The "Warm Sands" area has numerous gay resorts that cater to the international gay tourist. My personal favorites are Inn Exile, All World's Resort and Santiago.

Bars will be crowded most nights due to the touristy nature of Palm Springs. Hunter's Video Bar is a must for everyone to experience. They also have great happy hour drink spe-

cial. Check out Badlands if you would rather play a game of pool or darts and the Tool Shed for the leather crowd. All are very popular.

Thursday nights are hopping in downtown Palm Springs. Every Thursday evening, Palm Canyon Drive is transformed into Villagefest. It is a street fair that has local artists, food, music and a farmers' market. While visiting the street fair, don't forget to keep an eye out for a bronze sculpture of "Lucy Ricardo" sitting on a park bench or "the walk of stars" that lines the street.

While in Palm Springs, you must take a ride on the 360-degree aerial tramway. From the base, you will climb over 6,000 feet to the top of the San Jacinto Mountain Range. Bring a change of clothes, as there will be as much as a 50- to 60-degree temperature difference. At the top, enjoy breathtaking views of the valley floor or the Salton Sea. There is an excellent restaurant at the top. During winter, you can even go cross-country skiing on the trails at the summit.

For the international gay tourist, regardless of gender, there is always something to see or do in Palm Springs. The Nabisco Golf Championships (formerly known as the Dinah Shore Championships) are held in Palm Springs at the end of March. For the boys, head for the White Party.

So pack your bags, everyone, and head for this desert oasis.

*Tip of the Trip: Try flying into Ontario International Airport which is about an hour's drive from Palm Springs. This route maybe cheaper because it's considered a Los Angeles airport and priced accordingly. Savings can sometimes be over \$150 per ticket.*



## Fame: The Luck of the Irish; or a Curse on Your Blarney Stones!

Wish you could win the lottery or be the next "America Idol?"

Everyone wants to be a star. First of all, it takes hard work. Second, fame and wealth won't bring happiness. Would you want to be in the National Enquirer every week? Even Jennifer and Brad now have their problems.

If you follow the arts, Milwaukee is a great place to find your career. Be a big fish in a small pond. You don't need the luck of the Irish; you just need self-confidence. The curse is insecurity. So go out and celebrate St. Patrick's Day. "Look to your rainbow, and follow your dream."

### Sweepstakes of Shows

I always mention my Aunt Blanche. She took me to many stage plays when I was growing up in Chicago. Being single, she seemed like my own Auntie Mame.

Speaking of plays, "Danny and the Deep Blue Sea" by John Patrick Shanley opens at Bialystock and Bloom. Afterwards stop at Mo's Irish Pub on Wisconsin Avenue.

If you are interested in romance, the musical "The Last Five Years" will be performed at the Skylight Theatre.

Then, there will be the world premiere of "Boswell's Dreams" at Renaissance Theatreworks.

For those country-loving folks, Lana Mae's "Honky-Tonk Laundry" is a huge success at the Stackner Cabaret.

The classic "The Glass Menagerie" plays the Rivoli Theatre in Cedarburg.

Then head downtown Milwaukee to the Harp

Irish Pub on Juneau Avenue for some Irish beer.

### Beer, Porn, Adultery

That title may sound like your average weekend hangover after Flannery's Pub on Wells Street.

For a tale of adultery, sneak to "What the Night Is For" at In Tandem Productions.

I remember a young actor I met in Chicago. He was appearing in the play "Life With Father." For this role his hair was dyed bright red. Hating it, he did not socialize much. We were good friends for about two weeks, and then he returned to California.

Years later, I was reading a novel by a famous porn star. In it he wrote that, as a young stage actor, he appeared in "Life With Father" in Chicago — with bright red hair.

It was Jack Wrangler — the porno star.

### Follow Your Rainbow

In our first issue I mentioned a set designer soon to be a stage director. If you attend Off the Wall Theatre, you have seen his wonderfully creative sets. This artist is David Roper.

He now moves up that rainbow of success, to stage director. The Milwaukee Premiere of "Tantalus," a thriller, marks his new debut. Try to catch it!

The Waukesha Civic Theatre opens the farce "Caught in the Net" by Ray Cooney.

And the pants are still down to her ankles in "The Underpants" at the Stackner Cabaret. I recently saw this hilarious production, and no wonder that it is being extended.

Several UWM students from S-markino Theatre

Underground presented their original work "Bring the War Home." I attended this fine effort at the new Brady Street Pharmacy space and the place was packed.

### Theatre Talk/ More Blarney

"Aviator," the box office hit nominated for best picture, really gets into the kinky sex life of Howard Hughes. Was Cary Grant one of his interests?

"Closer" by Patrick Marber, also nominated, will be intimately staged as a sensuous theatre production in town next season. Where?

Dame Edna has a new show on Broadway, now being extended to June 4.

Mark Hooker plans to soon announce a new theatre company he is developing in town.

Karl Miller will portray Hitler in a shocking upcoming production.

And as you travel near W. Pierce Street, stop in for a drink at the new Tazzbah bar. We wish Steve much success with his new venture!

### Last Month's Trivia Answer

"My Funny Valentine" is from the musical "Pal Joey."

### New Trivia Question

The movie version of "Finian's Rainbow" starred what popular, classic, song-and-dance man? Answer next month!

Gotta run, as Aunt Blanche just dyed her hair bright green!

Anything interesting? Send it to me. So, till April Fool's...



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.  
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from the ashes of the gay:*

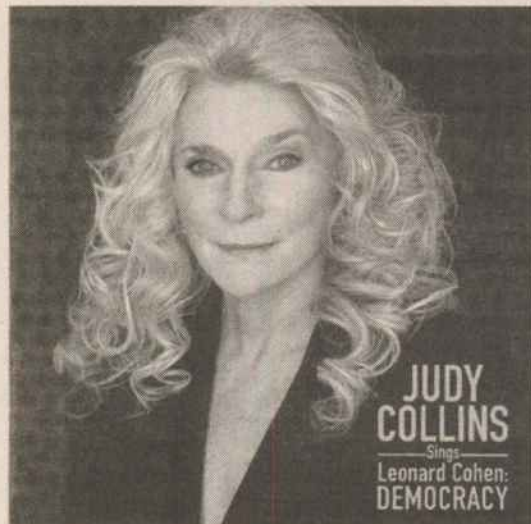
*Democracy is coming to the USA*

If Bob Dylan is the quintessential wandering bard, Judy Collins anchors that generation still floating along. If Dylan believes that his destiny "had nothing to do with representing any kind of civilization" as he states in his new autobiography, Collins did and continues to represent civilization and to champion a message of empathy. Shedding selfishness, greed and hatred, she suggests, will make for a happier individual and a better world.

She should know because she has demonstrated the staying power and repertoire of few singers. Her crystalline soprano voice found a home in folk music with its American traditions and, often, activist overtones. But for all the success and name recognition it has brought her, music remains a higher calling for Collins, more important than singing in, or in the style of, a Las Vegas show.



Roxanne Kupfer (rkupfer@queerlifeneeds.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.



**The theme for this year's Women's History Month, observed in March, is "Women Changing America." With courage, spirit and boundless grace, Judy Collins has made America a little better.**

thoughts and feelings, their desires and concerns.

In her autobiography, she credits Cohen's songs, which "carried me through dark years ... when our spirits were strained to the breaking point." She was referencing her personal battles with depression, substance abuse, a bitter divorce, along with acclaim. Collins continued to face terrible loss — her greatest came in 1992 when her only son took his life. In spite of the pain, the guilt and the despair inside her, she continued to perform, to accept sorrow while embracing joy.

The theme for this year's Women's History Month, observed in March, is "Women Changing America." With courage, spirit and boundless grace, Judy Collins has made America a little better. Album after album, her strong words have been enhanced by her powerful voice. Outside the concert hall, she added that voice to progressive causes.

Her involvement in so many aspects of American life is indeed mending the hurt in all of us.

"Democracy" brings together remastered songs such as the classic "Suzanne" and the reverent "Story of Isaac," as well as "Song of Bernadette," performed live at Wolf Trap. It also contains three new recordings, including the vigorously warm title song.

Leonard Cohen, Canada's poet laureate of the 1960s, has been Judy Collins' consistent songwriter and close friend. Cohen, who was a published poet and novelist before being introduced to Collins, added to the traditional folk music a profound literary lyricism and a strong historical perspective. Their collaboration resonates with deep respect for language and a shared belief that music should tell stories about people, their

## Alice in New England's Wonderland

### "Land's End: A Walk in Provincetown"

Michael Cunningham

"Do not understand me too quickly" French essayist Andre Gide implored his readers. Each reading of Michael Cunningham's book brings another discovery about the fabled oceanside enclave located at the furthestmost tip of Cape Cod.

Provincetown is old. It came into existence in 1720 when neighboring Truro separated itself from the rambunctious community. Cunningham arrived in Provincetown in the 1980s, as a writing fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center. Down on his luck, with no money or prospects, Provincetown came to his rescue.

Like so many before him, he was bewitched by its kaleidoscopic summer bustle and winter silence. The book, Cunningham says, represents "the story of my particular devotion" to a special place "three miles long and just slightly more than two blocks wide." His presentation is much better than any guidebook, although it is that too.

A visit to P-town offers an Alice-in-Wonderland experience: stretches of reality punctuated by the bizarre, the magical, even the breathtaking. Consider this bit of history: "Provincetown's first settlers were the Pilgrims who sailed the Mayflower ... in 1620." Alas, the shortage of fresh water made them pack up and sail on to Plymouth the following spring. Much to the chagrin of Provincetown, history books fail to accurately record where the Pilgrims disembarked.

Life in Provincetown is often an "eccentric sanctuary" where "bad behavior is frowned upon; unorthodoxy is not." Town life knits together gays and lesbians with old timers with little friction. Many of the seasonal clerks at the local A&P (chains are almost nonexistent there) are drag queens by night.

The culture of carnival with definite gay overtones delights all: heterosexual and homosexual, retirees and college students, tourists and Cape Codders. Cunningham tells about a slice of life on the main road: As he passes a drag queen distributing flyers for a show, "The man in question, an extremely tall man wearing Minnie Mouse eyelashes and a blue beehive wig that made him just under eight feet high, stood before a raptly attentive boy, about four years old. 'All right,' the man in the wig said, 'but this is the last time I'm doing it.' He lifted his wig off his head and showed the child the crew cut underneath. The child fell into paroxysms of laughter. The man replaced his wig and walked on."

Let's zigzag back to another "reality check" in this wonderland tour. Provincetown oozes with culture: There are several bookstores, two movie theaters, countless art galleries and a new repertory theater. The Fine Arts Work Center launched or furthered the careers of artists like Maria Flook or Cunningham himself.

In June, the Film Festival has screenings all day in at least five venues. The town's history is a "Who's Who" of arts and literature. Eugene O'Neill wrote 26 plays while living there. He made a local librarian into the character that murdered her child in "Desire Under the Elms." John Waters and Divine, who lived there, often return. Norman Mailer and poet Mark Doty continue to live in town. Cunningham still owns a home he can return to.

In case your idea of travel is more in tune with "Where the Boys Are" than high art, head to Herring Cove, "largely the province of gay men ... the Piazza San Marco of gay male Provincetown." Past the Wood End lighthouse is the Long Point beach. "[G]ay men go to the beach with Speedos and a towel, while lesbians take as much as they can carry," Cunningham dryly observes.

In the afternoon, the fun continues... with dancing and drinks at the crowded Boatslip Hotel perhaps. Later in the night, "the town is full of people fully prepared — eager to do things they would not consider doing at home." The legendary A-House (no one calls it by its full name, Atlantic House) "is so densely

populated by beautiful men, it would be easy to imagine that beauty is the fundamental human state." After the bars close at 1 a.m., tradition has it to head down to Spiritus Pizza, the "world's biggest festival for loiterers."

A book to read before heading to P-town and to return to for countless unalloyed moments of recollected pleasure.

## Michael Cunningham Redux

### "A Home at the End of the World"

directed by Michael Mayer

screenplay by Michael Cunningham

DVD

In an interview in *The Advocate*, British director John Schlesinger ("Midnight Cowboy," "Darling," and the milestone "Sunday, Bloody Sunday") said, "My big regret is that I was never able to direct a film of Michael Cunningham's brilliant novel 'A Home at the End of the World.'"

A pity, indeed.

Not that Michael Mayer's film is bad (although I disagree with its presence in *The Advocate's* Top 10 of 2004). In fact, Mayer's screen debut captures well the forces that pull families and individuals apart and together. In this fluid ecosystem, happiness is book-ended by pain.

Reminiscent of French-Canadian cinema, the film carries in its modesty of purpose a deep humanity. The story follows the relationship between Bobby (Colin Farrell who is much better here than in grandiose history) and Jonathan (Dallas Roberts in his first major film role), growing up in the late 1960s in the Midwest. They share a sense of marginality not uncommon at that stage in life. They are by no means angry rebels. In fact, their non-conformism and sexual exploration are expressed in a gentle yet palpable way, reminiscent of "La Vie En Rose."

Upon graduation, Jonathan heads to college in New York while Bobby enters the workforce as a baker. He moves in with Jonathan's parents when his own father dies and lives with them until they move to Arizona. Bobby then re-joins Jonathan, now a struggling journalist, in the run-down New York apartment he shares with Clara (Robin Wright Penn), a free-spirited woman possessing both intellectual substance and financial stability.

The friendship becomes a triangle which continues through their relocation to the country, the birth of a daughter and more. The film's investigation of love in a world that continues to encourage (and sometimes legislate) monogamous, heterosexual relationships is most intriguing.

Without aspiring to be another "Jules et Jim," this film does come to a similar conclusion: As much as great *joie de vivre* can exist in the three-way arrangement, the relationship cannot be sustained.

The film is at its weakest in the cinematography. Whereas the characters work well in their freestyle arrangement, the camera tends to restrict their movement in tight angles and dark compositions. In spite of the shortcomings, I hope both Mayer and Cunningham continue their film exploration.



MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM  
LAND'S END



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**Outwords Books "Top 5 Picks for March"**  
**THE BEST DVD CHOICES FOR A COLD MARCH NIGHT!**

**For the Boys:**

1. **Touch of Pink**  
 Cultures clash while the ghost of Cary Grant offers his blessings in this warm and wonderful romantic comedy.
2. **Cowboys & Angels**  
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3. **Testosterone**  
 This sizzling cinematic adaptation of James Robert Baker's riveting novel – with a nude Antonio Sabato Jr. thrown in for good measure!
4. **Blue Citrus Hearts**  
 Young love and teen angst at its most heart-breaking in this story of growing up, friendships and survival of "outsiders" in the south.
5. **Philadelphia**  
 Just re-released in a 2-disc anniversary edition, "Philadelphia" remains a powerful, affecting drama with Tom Hanks' Oscar-winning performance!

**For the Girls:**

1. **Suzanne Westenhofer: Live at Village**  
 Everyone's favorite lesbian comic at her most fabulous.
2. **Un Amour de Femme**  
 A familiar story of a married woman who falls in love with a young dancer in this sexy, French lesbian romance.
3. **Inescapable**  
 "A Family Affair" director Helen Lesnick has created a sultry erotic drama about two women caught up in a torrid, secret affair.
4. **Goldfish Memory**  
 An audience favorite at last year's LGBT film fest – a light-hearted romantic romp amongst gay, lesbian, bisexual and straight 20-something Dubliners.
5. **Mango Kiss**  
 The road to love is a bumpy one as butch Lou and femme Sass begin to explore the sexual adventures of San Francisco!

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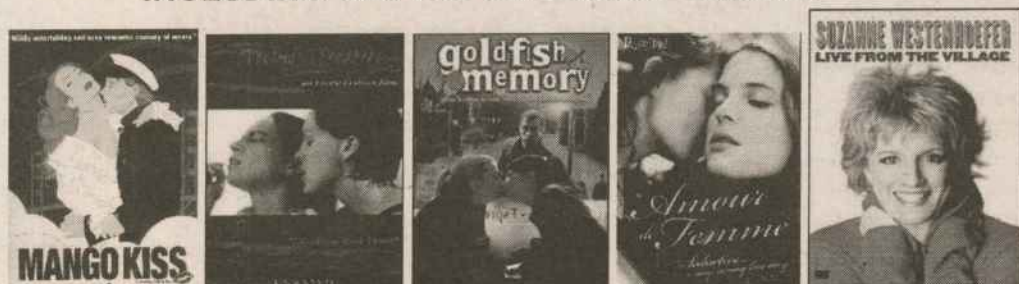
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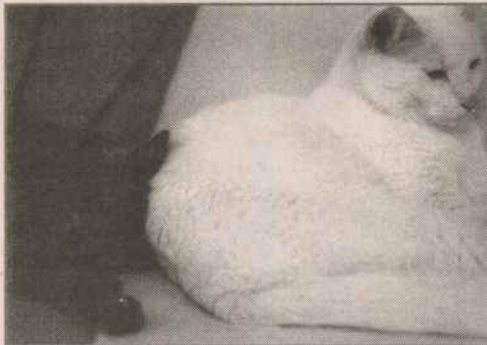


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# Night and Day

By Maureen M. Kane

My two cats are like night and day — even their fur coats reflect that notion. They are so opposite!

When I named them, I was only inspired by their fur color. Gesso is the white paint that artists use to prime their canvas (but I spell it with a "J" 'cuz he's a boy). The other one, Smudge, is named for the smudge stick, a charcoal drawing tool. Their names may both come from similar artistic media, but they couldn't be more extreme in their personalities.

Jesso is aloof, more cat-like in his overall demeanor, while Smudge makes eye contact, "talks" to me, and follows me around like a puppy. Jesso is the picky eater, licking every morsel at least once and dropping each one outside of the bowl before finally eating it, while Smudge just wolfs down his food like a starving dog. Needless to say Jesso has maintained his ideal weight, whereas Smudge has gained a pound every year.

When going to the vet to get that annual checkup and weigh-in, Jesso screams bloody-murder, hissing and howling like he actually is being murdered. Sweet and pudgy Smudge sets down on the cold hard metal table purring away. I have come to understand it has nothing to do with my nurturing — it's all nature.

For example, nature uses camouflage for

**Nature uses camouflage for protection, and my cats use it as an artistic portraiture technique — at least when I try to photograph them!**

protection, and my cats use it as an artistic portraiture technique — at least when I try to photograph them! As I sift through the piles and pages of photos, I notice quite a few shots exhibiting this basic survival instinct.

There's Smudge on the gray pillow in front of the gray radiator, as Jesso chooses the white radiator in the light-colored basket. Here's Jesso and Smudge both on the couch, back in the old apartment, lying on their respective colored blankets and throws. Another photo has Jesso's white head popping out of the computer box, and Smudge, not immediately seen, lurking in the shadows.

Their colors also suggest their favorite part of the day. Jesso, the light one, prefers the morning and is constantly underfoot just after I wake up, wanting attention, petting or brushing. As soon as I sit down, (rare on weekday mornings) he sees it as an invitation to be purring sweetly on my lap. This is my joy on Sunday mornings, but terribly inconvenient on hectic workdays. On the other hand, Smudge is my cuddly night kitty, he's my snuggle-bug while watching TV on the couch or reading in bed.

I love both of them, equally and individually, so very much. I am reminded of a story I tell from my childhood. I used to ask my parents which one of us five kids was their favorite. My mom would say, "You're my favorite daughter named Maureen," and I would glow just for a moment until the words sank in.

How I understand that sentiment today with my two very different cats.



PETS

Maureen M. Kane, owner and graphic designer of MMK Design for over nine years, has contributed her design skills throughout the community. (She designed the layout of this Q Life newspaper, for example.) Maureen owns a duplex in Riverwest, has a lifetime batting average of .340, and continues to run.

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## Ask the Vet

Dr. Jane Pohlman is a veterinary manager at the Wisconsin Humane Society. She has been employed with WHS for eight years.



have been seen at a level of about one ounce per pound of body weight.

Question: I heard that grapes and raisins are bad for some dogs. Is this true?

Answer: Yes, grapes and raisins can be dangerous for dogs. In fact, they can even be deadly. Dogs are attracted to grapes and raisins because they are sweet. Up until a few years ago, if you asked a veterinarian about dogs eating grapes or raisins, they would have said not to worry about it.

Today we know differently. Ingesting grapes and raisins often leads to kidney failure. Vomiting is usually the first problem noted within six to 12 hours after ingestion. The vomitus often contains partially digested grapes or raisins. Other signs can include diarrhea, loss of appetite, lethargy and abdominal pain. Dogs may then go on to develop kidney failure within 24 to 72 hours after ingesting grapes or raisins.

The reason some dogs develop toxicity is unknown and the amount needed to be ingested in order to cause problems is also unknown. However, problems

Due to the potential severity of problems that could arise by ingesting grapes and raisins, prompt and aggressive treatment is required. Treatment consists of preventing further absorption of potential toxins and aggressive intravenous fluid therapy as well as other

medicines to help keep the kidneys functioning well. A veterinarian will need to check blood levels daily to monitor kidney function.

Remember, it is important to always feed your dog a high-quality dog food, preferably one that your veterinarian recommends for your dog's age and lifestyle. Also, to keep your dog at a healthy weight, limit the number of treats your dog receives. Don't hesitate to call your veterinarian with questions you may have regarding your dog's health.

Have a tough companion-animal-related question? Submit your questions to [askthetvet@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:askthetvet@queerlifeneews.com)

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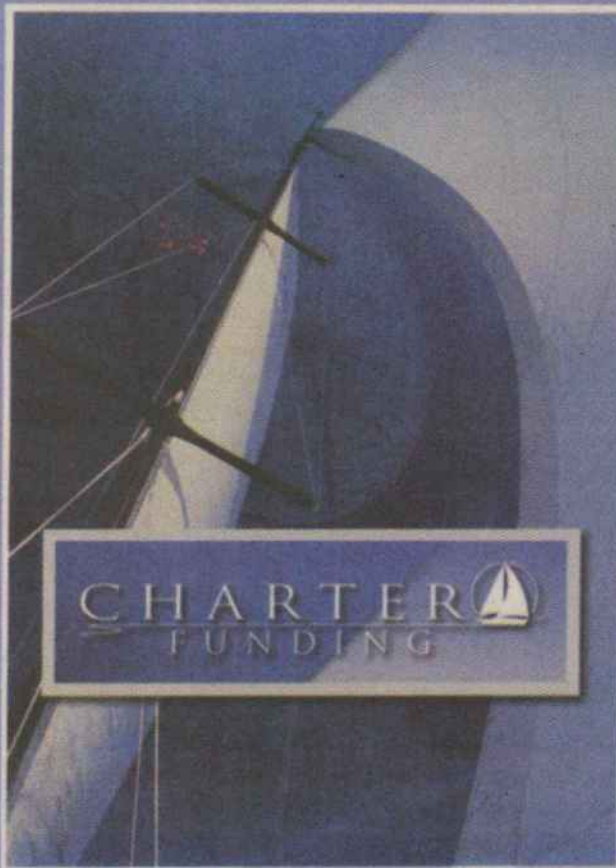




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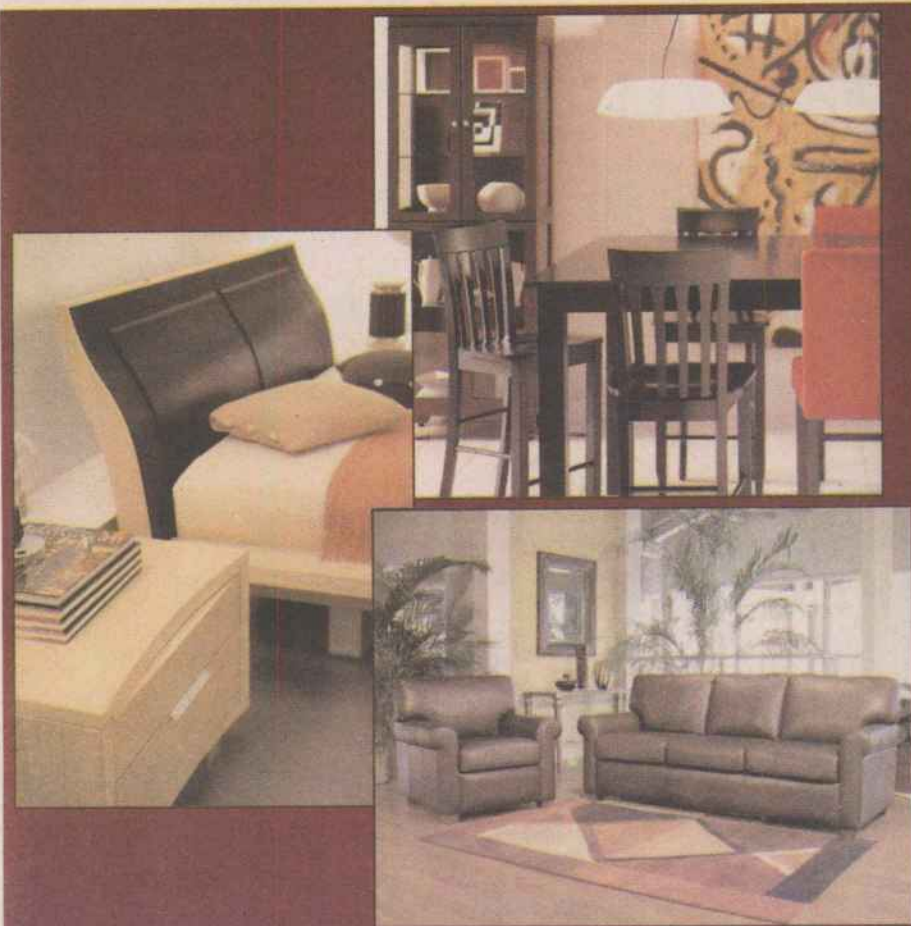

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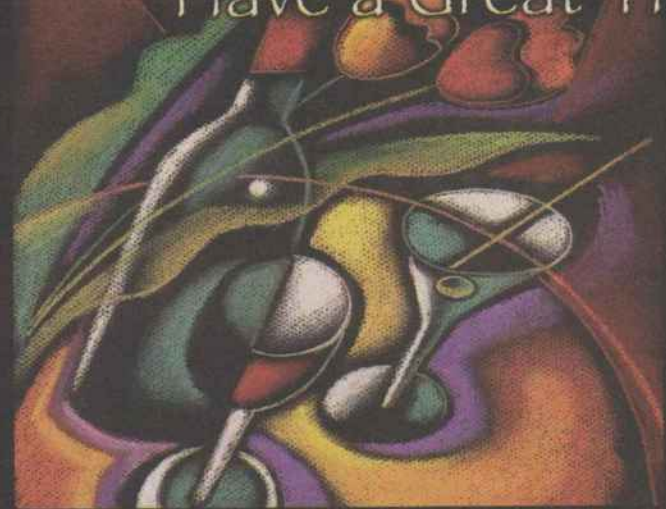
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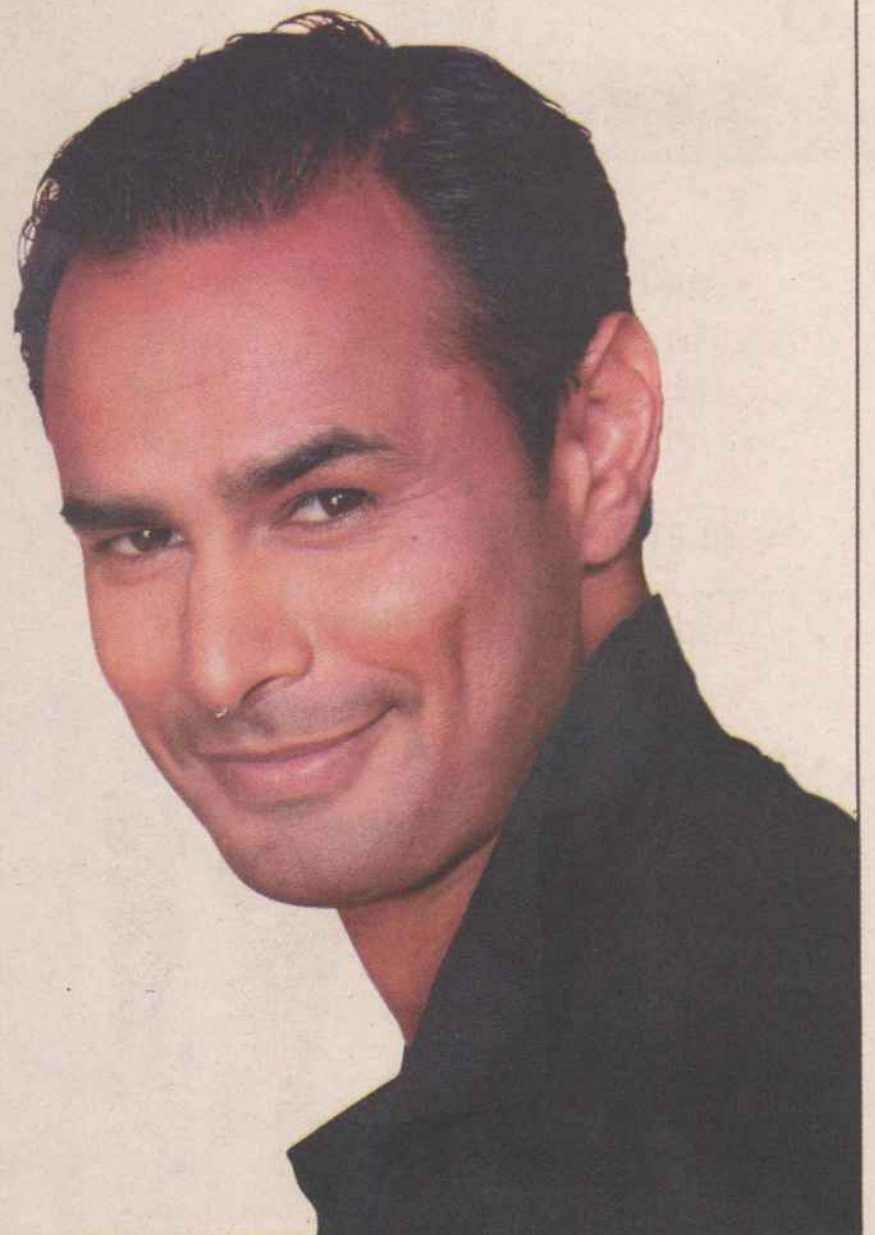


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# Q

## COUPLES

Amy Underberg is co-mother to Ralph, a mixed breed dog. When she's not working hard, she can be found walking Ralph in Bay View or hanging out with friends in Milwaukee.

Sarah Berg is also the co-mother of Ralph. When she's not at the office with Ralph, she can be found at the gym or driving her "vehicular billboard" (lots of bumper stickers!) around Milwaukee.

# Traveling and 'Together' Time

### How and where did you meet?

Amy: We have been together for almost four years...but we met at work.

Sarah: Although we met at work, we didn't even think about dating until my previous relationship ended — and even then, my friends had to point out to me that she was interested! She had stopped by on her day off and brought coffee and donuts, and when I told my friends about this I said that I thought she was being nice! Lucky for me, my friends rolled their eyes and pointed out that she wasn't just being friendly.

### What attracted you to each other?

Amy: I was attracted to Sarah's fun personality. She's got a good sense of humor and it's always good to have that. Sarah has a good heart also.

Sarah: Among the many things that caught (and still catch) my eye are her kindness and goodness — it sounds clichéd, but Amy is the type of person who will go out of her way to help people.

### What's the most important thing you get out of this relationship that you didn't get from previous relationships?

Sarah: I feel that the most important thing is the true knowledge that I have someone "watching my back," that's always there for support — and that I'm able to give that kind of support to Amy. It's very rewarding to have your partner accept the encouragement you put out there. I've been in other

relationships where that doesn't happen and it gets very frustrating in a very short period of time.

Amy: My previous relationships weren't failures; they just weren't the Right One! In our relationship, there's more loving and giving; we support one another unconditionally.

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

Sarah: I feel like our happiest times are when we are together. Amy's work is such that she works long hours so our "together" time is limited although we live together. Just being at home, doing domestic stuff but knowing that we are doing it for our relationship is kinda nice!

Amy: Our Sunday mornings are a very happy time: We listen to a particular public radio show, walk the dog together, have time for a breakfast together. I also really like to travel with Sarah — it's fun and she usually gets me to try something I would never do on my own. Last year we went to visit a friend in Switzerland and we went hot air ballooning, which, as a person who doesn't like heights, I'd never do on my own!

### What are your hopes for this relationship?

Amy: My hope for our future is to grow together and grow old together...

Sarah: Exactly!

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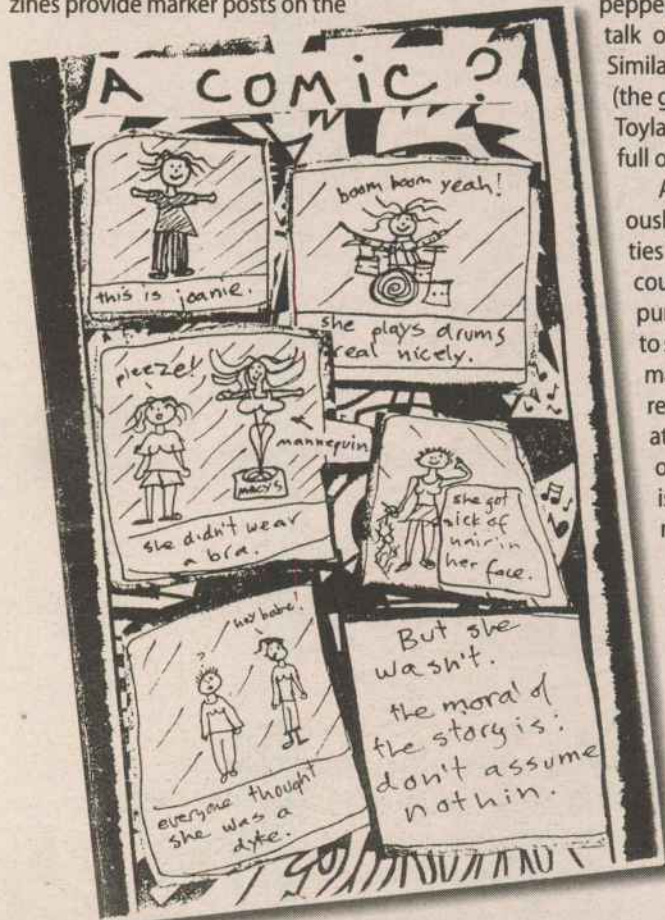
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# Alien Assumptions

Do you ever feel you aren't this enough to be that? Are you frustrated by the random comments of clueless people? In this month's two zine selections from QZAP, the authors work out the kinks, so to speak, ask questions and assert individuality in the face of assimilationism. These zines provide marker posts on the



way for readers choosing to express the lovely, fundamental, and incongruous elements making each of us who we are.

Even though Christine of *girl fiend* (Issue 4, 1993, 20 pages) was a student at Hampshire College at the time this zine was produced, it is not peppered with 25-cent vocabulary words, talk of paradigms or intellectual wanking. Similar in style to the bands she listens to (the gr'ups, Fifth Column, Bikini Kill, Babes in Toyland) she writes in brutally honest form, full of confusion and contradiction.

As her thinking unfolds, she simultaneously embraces and rejects various identities ascribed to her by others. Christine could be a Riot Grrrl because she puts on punk rock shows, is a feminist, and wants to subvert dominant culture; but she summarily dismisses baby-doll dresses, barrettes and glossy magazine articles that attempt to codify Riot Grrrl. In staking out an identity all her own, she actually is more true to the soul of the Riot Grrrl movement than she wants to believe.

On to the next zine. Mini-zines rock! Typically made out of a deftly folded single sheet of paper, a well-crafted mini-zine can provide the biggest bang in the smallest package. **Resident Alien** (Issue 1, 2002, 10 pages) by AJC gets right to the point.

We are not to assume because of his brown skin, Hispanic surname and Mexican heritage that he speaks Spanish. AJC is confi-

**Mini-zines rock! Typically made out of a deftly folded single sheet of paper, a well-crafted mini-zine can provide the biggest bang in the smallest package.**

dent in expressing himself and unapologetic, yet finds himself flustered in the face of an assumption made by a Latina at a party who, without so much as an introduction, addresses him in Spanish. Then when she learns he only speaks English, she compounds her error with a hurtful epitaph designed to deny him his heritage.

Unfolding the zine reveals the second story, in which racism is intertwined with an anonymous sexual encounter with a racist gay skinhead. (Note: not all skinheads are racist.) The story veers from humorous to frightening, but illuminates an unconventional way to confront bigots.

There is power to be found in the freedom to construct our personal identities and to embrace and celebrate unique expressions of our life experiences. Zines, by the very nature of being outside mainstream media, provide a forum for the message to be delivered in undiluted form.

Next month in QZines, the oldest living queer zines tell all — how Holy **Titclamps** and **Fanorama** still thrive after more than a decade in existence!

**These and other zines can be found at [www.qzap.org](http://www.qzap.org), home of The Queer Zine Archive Project.**



Christopher Wilde ([cwilde@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:cwilde@queerlifeneews.com)) is a co-founder of QZAP, an artist, DJ, and Mac tech support specialist building community in Riverwest.

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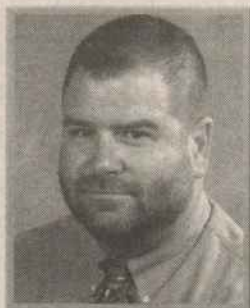
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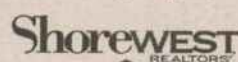
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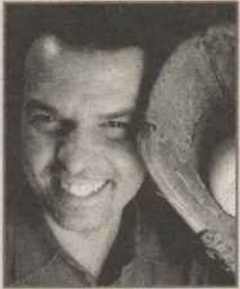


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# Q

SPORTS



Brian Reinkober (breinkober@queerlifefornews.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.

## Spring Fever Hits Milwaukee Sports

### Softball

On Saturday, March 12, Woody's will play host to SSBL Bingo. There will be two sessions and each session lasts for two hours. Start time is approximately 3 p.m. for the first session. Cards are \$5 each or three for \$10. This marks the official start of fundraising efforts to support the Dairyland Classic 2005, which takes place over Labor Day weekend.

Members of the Saturday Softball League (SSBL) traveled to San Diego last month to reapply for membership status into the North American Gay Association Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) at the winter meetings. The vote was unanimous in Milwaukee's favor. This opens the door for Milwaukee to participate in the annual Gay Softball World Series. This event takes place the third week of August and brings upwards of 10,000 people into the host city. Upcoming World Series will be in San Diego for 2005 and Fort Lauderdale in 2006. There is also the potential that Milwaukee will put in a formal bid to host this event for 2009. It has already hosted the event twice, in 1979 and 1985.

Milwaukee was an original founding member of NAGAAA dating back to 1977 along with New York City, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Toronto. Milwaukee left NAGAAA in 1998 after the Atlanta World Series. That started a seven-year hiatus for Milwaukee from NAGAAA that now comes full circle with the unanimous vote. Milwaukee joined Austin, Tex.; Oklahoma City; and Orlando, Fla., in gaining membership status at 2005 meetings.

SSBL inducted its first members into the Hall of Fame at Ballgame last month. The first members of this elite group are: Suzy Arnold, Wayne Bernhagen, Ron Burbey, Chuck Cicirello, Shirley Fitzpatrick, Lou LaSota, Todd Muma, Dan Nelson, Arturo Olazabal, Tom Salsieder, Tom Theis and Jerry Warzyn. The 12 inductees were all recognized for their outstanding achievements

for SSBL over the years.

Teams are now forming for the upcoming season. Games are played at Mitchell Park Domes. If you are interested in playing, please contact the bar of your choice for more information or visit [www.ssblmilwaukee.com](http://www.ssblmilwaukee.com).

### Darts

The darts season enters its final weeks of competition with the Ballgame Killers standing on top of the leader board, leading by a comfortable 10 points over the 2nd place Fluid Bullsh\*\*ers by virtue of their 11-1 win in week 19 against the ONA Crackers. Fluid has control over the 2nd thru 4th places with only 3 points separating the 3 Fluid teams.

The end-of-season banquet for the dart league will be held March 9.

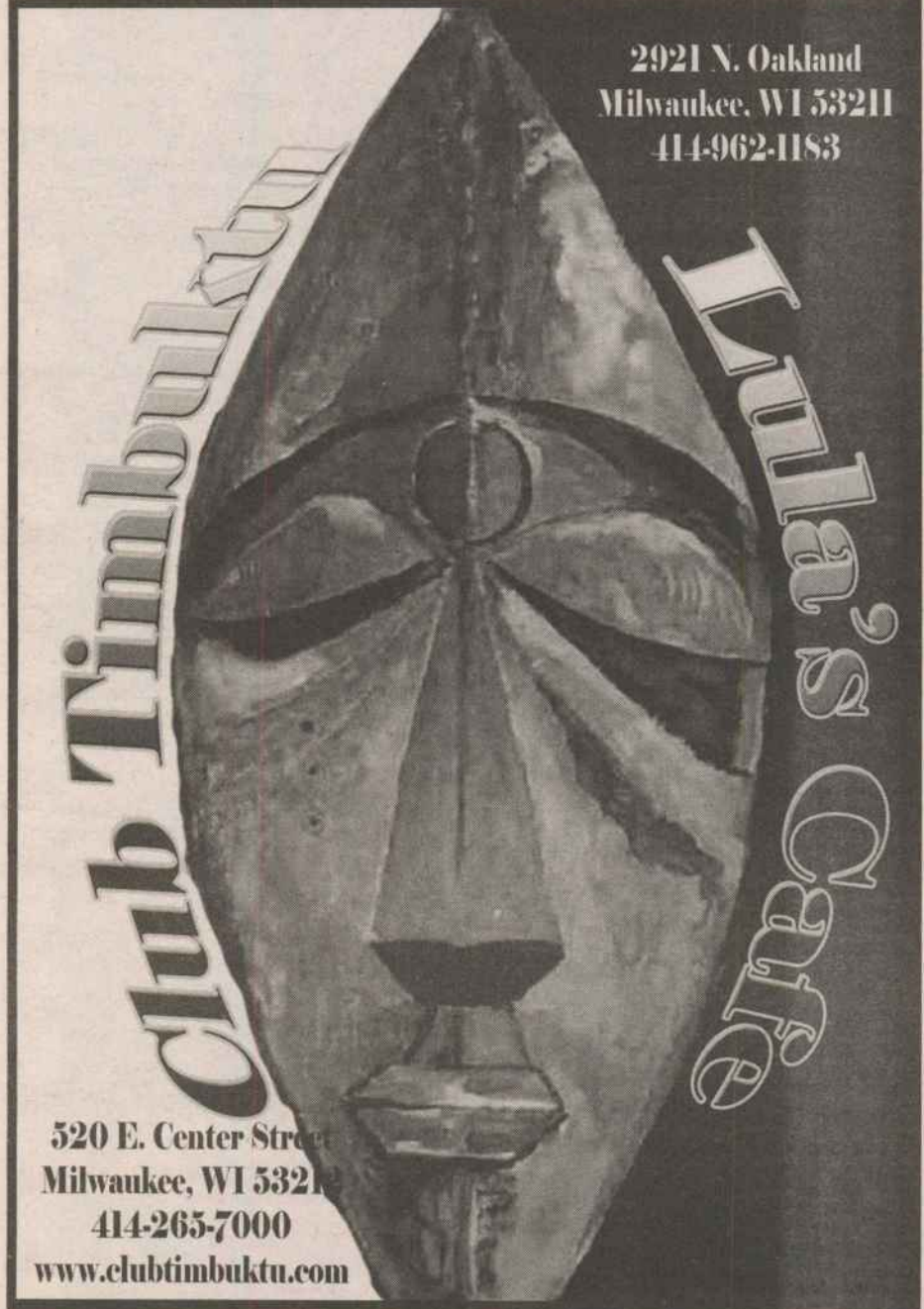
### Bowling

Rita Bowl, a fundraiser for the Holiday Invitational Tournament (H.I.T.) will be held Friday, March 18, at the AMF Lanes in West Allis at 8 p.m., with registration starting at 7 p.m. Space is limited, so the sooner you sign up the better. Cost is \$20 per bowler. This is one of the most exciting fundraisers that bowling has during the year and one that should not be missed. Even if you are not a bowler, stop on down and watch these bowlers do amazing things with their bodies and bowling balls.

Teams are organizing to travel to the M.A.K.I.T. Bowling Tournament in Kansas City, Mo. The tournament takes place March 24-27. For more information, please see any one of the league officers on Monday Nite at AMF Lanes in West Allis.

### Tennis

The tennis governing body wanted me to inform everyone that there will be some exciting new structural changes to the Milwaukee Metro Tennis Club this year. Look for details soon in this column or visit [www.milwaukeeetennis.com](http://www.milwaukeeetennis.com).



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# Breaking Up with Children

Megan Krick (mkrick@queerlife news.com) is an active member of Rainbow Families Milwaukee.



PARENTING



We all know breaking up is hard to do. It is even harder when there are children involved. There are many factors that have to be considered at the end of a relationship. How to talk to the children is one of the factors. The division of property and visitation are other factors.

### Out of Love

When you fall out of love with your partner the tension level in the household can become unbearable. Children in the household can feel this tension and many times this can have adverse effects on them. Kids sometimes will act out or try to please adults in an attempt to lessen the tension level.

### Talk to your Kids

During this time it is important to talk with the

children to let them know what is going on. But you have to be careful about how much you say. You do not have to tell the kids everything. There is a fine balance between too much information and not enough information; finding that balance is every parent's challenge.

Bottom line: It is important that you do not bash your partner when you are talking to the children. No matter how bad things are between the two of you, you need to keep everything civil. Being able to hold civil conversations will make the breakup easier to handle. Civility also makes it easier on everyone. When parents are not arguing and yelling at each other, children can understand what is going on much easier.

### Custody

Determining custody and visitation for the kids is another factor that has to be addressed. The custody of the children is a very important issue when dealing with a breakup. Typically the biological parent will have custody of the children. Usually the only exception is if the biological parent is seen by a court of law as unfit to parent. The non-biological parent may have visitation rights to the children. It is important to establish a visitation schedule and have it set up as a court document. By having a court document, the non-biological parent has a legal right to see the children and it can be enforced by the legal system. A kid must know that when the break up happens, they won't lose a parent.

continued on page 40


## There is more than one way to become a parent.

You can parent a child on a temporary basis through foster care or become a parent for life through adoption.

### Foster Care

### Special Needs Adoption

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**CHILDREN** *continued from page 39***Dividing the Property**

Another factor that will need to be addressed is the division of property. When you break up there is a tendency to want to take items that are questionable. Each person can think that certain items belong to them and then there can be fights over material possessions. It is important to rise above the pettiness of the breakup and rationally divide joint property. Being able to divide the property in a rational manner will make the kids less upset about the breakup. Also, don't forget sometimes kids feel ownership over stuff in the house as well. Be careful when deciding what goes where. Don't be surprised if the kids have special feelings about certain items. Be prepared to listen to your kids and welcome their feelings on where they would like to see stuff go as well.

**Final Point**

While breaking up is hard, it is sometimes harder to stay in a relationship that is unfulfilling. Talking to your kids and ensuring that they understand what

is going on is vital. Each person will have different issues that arise during the split and will have their own ways of dealing with those issues.

If we are smart and really try, we can make getting through this very difficult time, for both the ex-lovers and the children, a little easier.

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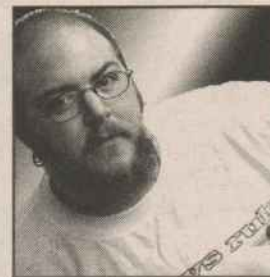
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# Q

TRANSGENDER



Michael Munson is an emotionally intense, transgressively gendered, passionate social agitator who strives for inclusion and harmony by focusing on our human similarities and strengths. He is lovingly committed to his partner and their 10 year old son.

## Assume the Position

We choose to make statements about who we are by the labels we use and how we express ourselves through dress, language and behavior. In this way we literally embody who we are, boldly stating our positions to the world.

Yet, because perception is relative, everyone views those statements differently, through the prism of their own experience. Their own choices, biases and prejudices play into the position their minds assign to us. What happens when those positions are ones we have deliberately not accepted or are trying to leave?

There are all sorts of examples of this: people clinging to our histories because they don't see transformation, assigning us attributes in order to more easily group us "with" them or "against" them, or seeing things in us that we don't choose to see in ourselves.

What do we do when people do that?

One solution is just to ignore it, unconsciously or consciously. Many trans people have simply taught themselves not to hear challenges to their identity. Others have chosen not to fight every little snipe, saving themselves for bigger battles.

Another solution is to try disproving it. This can be a simple denial: "I am not!" Unfortunately, people often see this as protesting too much and, hence, reinforcing their judgment. Some go overboard to prove their loyalty.

You can run or fight, but you can also change the context. I suspect this last choice is the only one that works well. Find a new position to occupy.

Is Tiger Woods Asian or African? His father took a transcendent position that says

the question is irrelevant: Tiger is American.

Another example? A self-identified transwoman, a person born male who presents as female but in a highly masculine way, was in synagogue when a child asked, "Daddy, is that a boy or a girl?" The person simply turned, smiled, and said, "Some people are both." The child thought for a moment, smiled back, and went on to other topics. A new position had been created.

Whatever response we choose, however, it comes down to one emotional button: How do we feel when our position, our identity, is challenged? Do we flee, fight, or stand still and try to understand what is being said and why?

It's very important to understand the context. Why is this person assaulting my identity? Do they not understand, are they trying to manipulate, or are they playing to an audience? Or do they see something in me that contradicts my message? Are they telling me that my view of myself is not seamless — that my "slip" is actually showing?

I accept all of those possibilities, and more. It's not always something I am doing that triggers their response; it may be some issue that's entirely theirs. But my choices at that point provide possibilities for their response to change. I can allow things to cool, find a different way of saying the same thing, or listen to understand their point of view a bit more thoroughly.

People will always challenge who I am. I have become grateful for that, for I have found a place of peace, seeing myself reflected in the faces of and words of others, and then deciding: Did they see me, themselves, or our shared humanity?

## Sugar and the Devil?

As Easter approaches many of us gear up our sweet-tooth for the onslaught of sugar! My mantra, much to the ire of my partner, has been "sugar is the devil's food." I say this in slight jest, but it also has good merit when it comes to the foods we consume on a daily basis. The sugar I speak of is the refined sugar you find in so many foods (candy and soda being major culprits). This sugar can act the part of the devil for those who are trying to fight that never ending battle of weight.

Food comes in three types: carbohydrates, proteins and fats. Sugar, like many things such as fruits, vegetables and grains, is a carbohydrate. When a carbohydrate is consumed it generates a release of insulin in your body. Insulin will convert any excess calorie in your system into a fat molecule. It does not matter if the calorie comes from a carbohydrate, a protein or fat. For carbohydrates, refined sugars are the worst instigators of insulin production due to the speed and amount of insulin they produce. Fats and proteins do not produce a significant insulin release into your body. This is part of the basis behind the Atkins diet.

Now I am not suggesting that you take this drastic a measure. I believe everyone should have a good balance of carbs, proteins and fats. Often when people diet they try to reduce the amount of fat they eat. This usually means they eat more carbs (sugars), which will be counterproductive unless you drastically reduce your calorie intake. A wiser solution is to eat a balanced diet coupled with moderate exercise.

Anyway, enough of the lecture on sugar.

Check out this recipe for a Honey Mustard Ham. This ham should help you keep well balanced and could also be part of a traditional Easter meal.

Hope the bunny is good to you this year — but not too good!

### Honey Mustard Ham

8-9 pound ham butt  
(bone-in or semi-boneless)  
¾ cup brown sugar  
1 cup orange juice  
½ cup honey  
½ cup brown mustard

½ tsp. cayenne pepper  
1 tsp. ground cloves  
½ tsp. ground cinnamon  
3 sweet potatoes, peeled and quartered  
1 tbsp. vegetable oil  
salt and pepper

With a knife, score parallel lines in a grid pattern, with cuts one inch apart and ¼ inch deep, across the rounded, skin side of the ham. Press the brown sugar onto the scored ham. In a large bowl blend together the orange juice, honey, mustard, pepper, cloves and cinnamon. Place the ham in a large plastic bag and pour the marinade into the bag. Gently squeeze the bag to distribute the marinade around the ham. Place in a large bowl and refrigerate for one to two days. Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a large mixing bowl, toss the potatoes with the oil, salt and pepper. Layer the potatoes on the bottom of a heavy roasting pan. Remove the ham from the ham marinade and place, scored side up, on the potatoes. Cover and bake for 45 minutes. Pour the ham marinade into a saucepan and bring to a simmer. Reduce the heat and simmer for about 20 minutes. Remove from heat.

Remove the ham from the oven and baste on all sides with the reduced marinade. Bake for 15 minutes. Remove the ham and baste again. Return the ham to the oven and continue baking for and additional two hours, basting every 20 minutes, for a total cooking time of three hours. Remove from the oven and let rest for 15 minutes before carving.



Steve Ahl  
(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.



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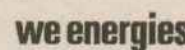
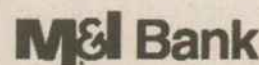
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# There Are More Old Queers Than You Think

Do you remember when all we had were statistics?

I mean now we have data and demographics and focus group results and blah, blah, stuff, blah. Frankly I have always thought demographics would be a great name for a drag stripper... "And now, ladies and gentlemen, here she is, all the way from Silicone Valley, Miss Dee Mographics." OK, so I jest.

Please note that whatever you call these numbers, when talking about the population, there is no way to know how many LGBT people there are in the world. Unfortunately census forms and other documents for gathering information about folks only ask if you are male or female. Admittedly some of us on any given day might check both, but then we also might just say yes for the question "Sex?"

What these gatherers of information don't ask are questions about sexual orientation or gender identification. So it is really only by guess and by golly that we come up with a number for how many of us there actually are. Some say 3 percent, 5 percent, 7 percent or 10 percent of the population are LGBT. Others consider that since

many gay people move to larger cities that we should count 18 percent in those areas. So when I do my calculations I go to 8.5 percent.

According to the 2000 United States Census, there were 153,189 people 60 and over in Milwaukee County. So taking that number and using the 8.5 percent multiplier, I ask the question, Did you know that there are more than 13,000 people in Milwaukee County who are over the age of 60 and lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered?

Now, try to imagine one half of the Bradley Pavilion or one fifth of Miller Park. That's how much space it would take for all of us.

That's a lot of old queers.

What is really amazing to me is that SAGE/Milwaukee, the only organization representing that segment of the population in this area, only has about 750 names in its database. So we wonder where the rest of those people are.

As a group, we have a lot of influence. What would happen if all 13,000 elderly gay people all showed up in the same place at the same time? Like at one of those annual senior fairs or to line up for flu shots. Think how it would affect revenue figures for one day at an event if they all came. Regular ticket price \$15, seniors \$10. Assuming that there was an event with those prices and all of the 60 and over LGBT people showed up, they would lose \$65,000 at five dollars a head.

Unfortunately not all of us are as "out" as others, and that's OK. Many people have decided to live a quiet life for lots of different reasons. Hopefully, if you are reading this, you will understand that you are not alone.

To all of you lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people out there over the age of 60, do the math. Figure out how many of us there are in this world. Then stand up and be counted.

You just might offend some people, but you'll find out you have a lot more friends in life than you think.



**SENIORS**



William "Bill" Serpe (bserpe@queerlifeneews.com) is the executive director of SAGE/Milwaukee. He is single, loves to travel and lives with two cats, Clio and Chloe.

**Now, try to imagine one half of the Bradley Pavilion or one fifth of Miller Park. That's how much space it would take for all of us.**



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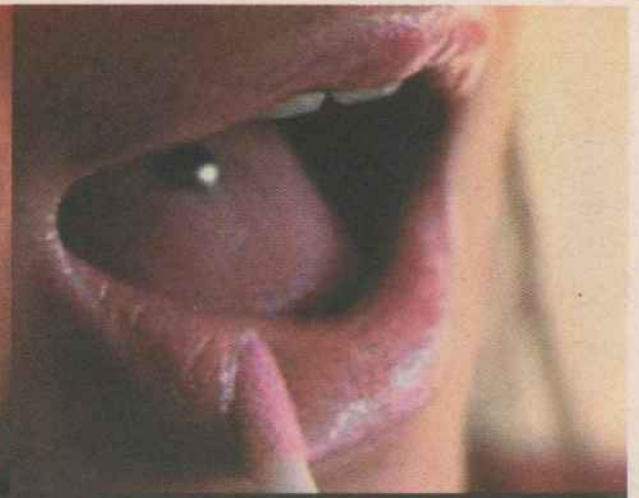
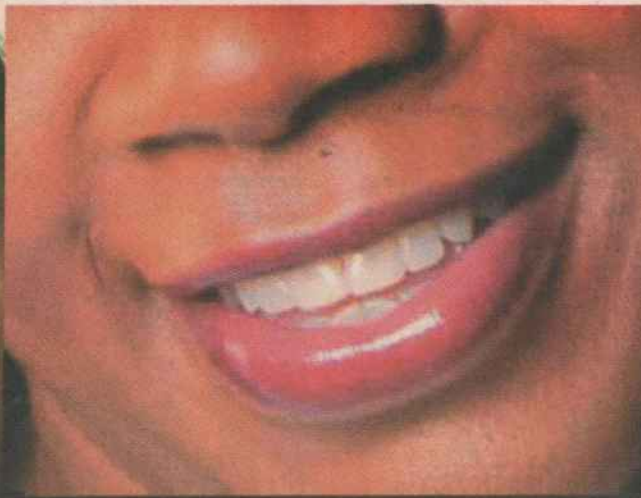
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# Tonight's the Night for Art

The **Mosaic Piano Bar** is a unique blend of music, art and hospitality. Situated in a relatively small locale on Downer Avenue on Milwaukee's fashionable East Side, the Mosaic, 2624 N. Downer Ave., offers something for everyone, young and old alike. The overall ambience is wonderful — quiet, yet lively. A friendly face will always greet you, and when you walk through the door, you'll truly feel as if you are at home.

The name Mosaic is quite fitting as the bar is simply that, a beautiful mosaic of ceramic and tile. The art-filled walls provide a comfy atmosphere. Dimly lit and very well-maintained, the Mosaic, for me, is a great neighborhood place that satisfies my every bar desire.

The Mosaic is unique in that it offers a free martini with a ticket stub from the adjacent Downer Theater. Additionally, the Mosaic has specials on Wednesdays and Thursdays. They offer \$2.50 domestic beers as well as \$2.00 off any of Mosaic's specialty martinis. Thursday night is also ladies' night, where women receive half off all rail drinks, meaning any drink not using top shelf liquor.

Wednesdays, for you creative, artistic folks, is open mic night. From 9 p.m. until midnight anyone is welcome to share their

poetry, spoken word, or musical talent in the Mosaic's wonderful front room. With a homey feel, the front section of the bar has plenty of seats at cozy intimate tables situated right in front of a beautiful piano. Live music fills this warm hotspot on Fridays and Saturdays with one of the many musical talents they host.

As an intimate location the Mosaic makes for a great date spot, though meeting friends for drinks and good music is always another magnificent idea. All in all, the Mosaic is one of my favorite East Side locations. Give it a try.

Another wonderful place to consider and definitely experience is the **Art Bar** located at 722 E. Burleigh St. in Riverwest, an area of the most varied types of people, lifestyles, and overall self-expression.

After going to the Art Bar's holiday party I was sold on its originality and lively crowd. The name explains its interior to a tee. Art Bar features local artists' work throughout the year. With an ever-changing aesthetic, frequenting Art Bar makes for a different encounter with every visit. The drinks are good and the service is as it should be, prompt and friendly.



*Christopher Schmidt (cschmidt@queerlifeneews.com) frequents many area clubs. He is always on the lookout for the newest hotspots. Stay tuned for more on Milwaukee's wonderful array of nightlife opportunities.*

**Wednesdays, for you  
creative, artistic folks,  
is open mic night.  
Anyone is welcome  
to share their poetry,  
spoken word, or musical  
talent in the Mosaic's  
wonderful front room.**

A plethora of people shows up, especially on art opening nights, as well as on Thursday, which is Boys' Night — lots and lots of men.

These are just two more examples of the forever-changing, broadening nightlife situation in Milwaukee. Trust me, anyone would have a good time at either of these great spots.

**ACLU** American  
Civil Liberties Union  
of Wisconsin

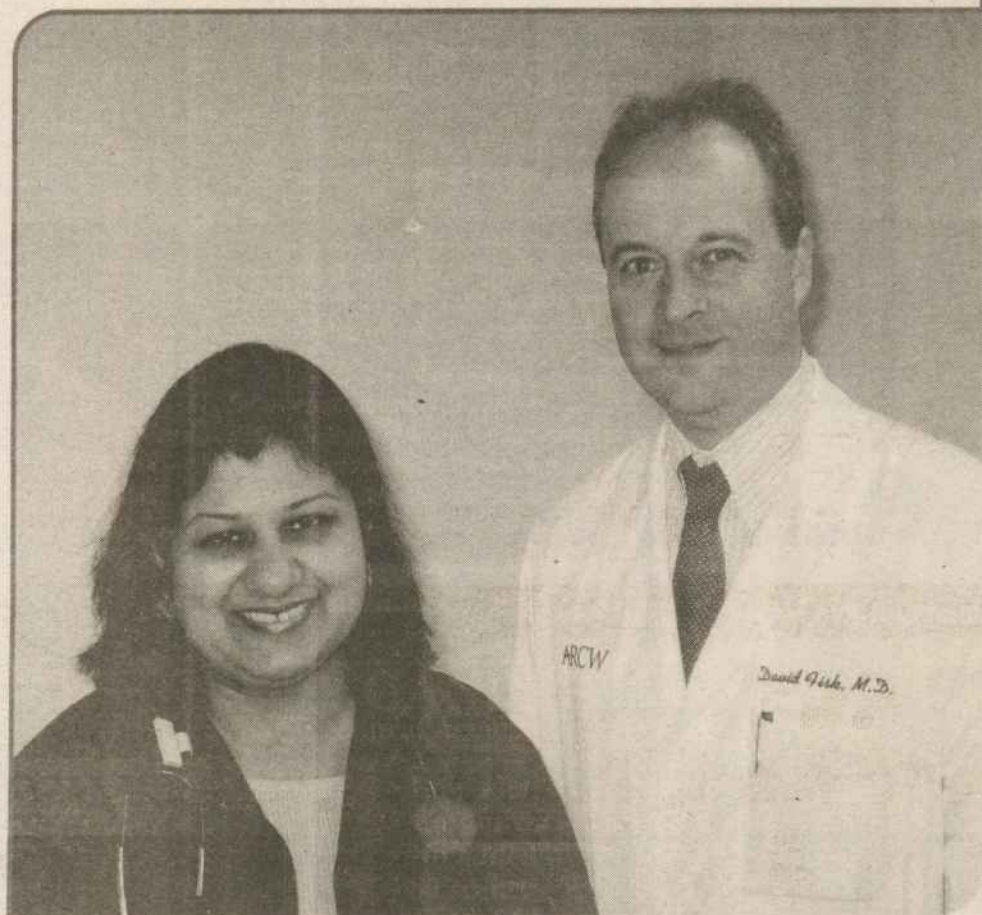
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**Dr. David Fisk, ARCW Physician, Infectious Disease & Internal Medicine Specialist, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin**

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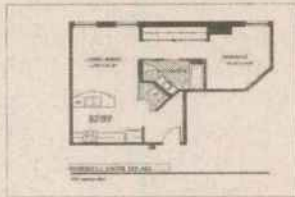
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**Brady Street Area**  
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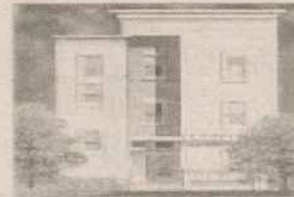
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# 101 2BR, 2BA - \$235,900  
# 201 2BR, 2BA - \$239,900

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1924 N. Hubbard  
# 405 2BR, 2BA - \$264,900

## EDGEWATER TERRACE



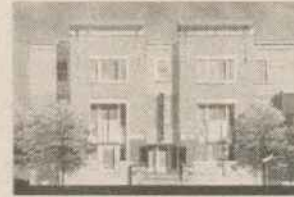
**Lake & Marina Views**  
1707 N. Prospect Ave.  
# 7A 2BR, 2BA - \$229,900

## BREWER'S HILL



**Historic Cream City**  
224 W. Vine  
# 201 1BR, 1BA - \$189,900

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

Know an event that will interest the LGBT community? Email us at [qcalendar@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qcalendar@queerlifeneews.com)

### Saturday, March 5

**FORGE: How to Handle Public Restrooms**  
Presentation by Waring Finck, a local lawyer familiar with issues faced by the trans community. Come with your questions and listen to a lively exchange on fears of passing, differences in bathroom etiquette, etc. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. info@forge-forward.org, www.forge-forward.org/socialsupport or 414-278-6031.

### Sunday, March 6

**Brunch Club** Lesbian potluck brunch. Meet new friends the relaxed way — over food! 11am. Susan Kohler@med.ge.com.

**Choral Evensong for Lent IV** Sung by the All Saints' Cathedral Choir and Noahotah House Chapel Choir. Reception to follow. 3:30pm. All Saints' Cathedral, 818 E. Juneau Ave. 414-271-7719.

### Monday, March 7

**SAGE: Politics as Unusual** Come in and discuss political issues that affect the LGBT community. 5pm. SAGE/Milwaukee office, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220.

### Tuesday, March 8

**Lesbian Reading Group** Marijane Meaker's memoir, "Highsmith: A Romance of the 1950s." 7pm. Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave. outwardsbooks@msn.com or 414-963-9089.

### Thursday, March 10

**Legal Night** Free legal consultation with LGBT-friendly attorneys. First come, first served. 6–8pm. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St.

### Friday, March 11

**Egyptian Belly Dance Demo** Not sure if it's for you? Try it free! Doors open at 6pm. Bucketworks, 1319 N. MLK Dr. www.bucketworks.org or 414-305-1324.

### Saturday, March 12

**Interactive Lecture** Chris Carmichael, a hall of fame inductee gives a presentation to secrets of success and training six-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong. www.pabsttheater.org or 414-286-3663.

**Socially Awkward** Check out a mix of sketch comedy and improv. Show starts 8pm, doors open 7:30pm. \$5. Bucketworks, 1319 N. MLK Dr. www.bucketworks.org or 414-305-1324.

### Monday, March 14

**Outwards Books Club** Ethan Mordden's "Buddies," one of his classic "tales of Gay Manhattan" series. New members welcome. 7:30. 2710 N. Murray Ave., outwardsbooks@msn.com or 414-963-9089.

### Thursday, March 17

**SAGE Brown Bag Book Club** Bring your lunch and join in the discussion of our March selection, "Nicholas and Alexandra" by Robert K. Massie. April selection will be "A Single Man" by Christopher Isherwood. 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220, 11:30am.

**Rainbow U: Ready to Buy a Home?** What do you need to know about mortgages? What if you don't have money for a down payment or closing costs? Your questions answered by a representative from Moneyline Mortgage Company. 7–8:30pm. Free. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St.

### Saturday, March 19

**Black and White Men Together** 6–8:30pm. bwmtmilwaukee.org or 414-540-9437, ext. 3.

**SAGE/Milwaukee Monthly Movie** "Desert Hearts." Popcorn and soft drinks will be served. 4:30pm. 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220.

**Global Day of Protest** Rally and march on the second anniversary of the war, calling to end the war, bring our troops home, and rebuild our communities. 12 noon. O'Donnell Park Plaza (near the orange sunburst sculpture on the east end of Wisconsin Ave.).

### Sunday, March 20

**Open Space Drop-in** Discussion group for all lesbians. Real talk, meet new friends. Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave., 6–8pm. Cheryl at groups@execpc.com or 414-271-2565.

### Friday, March 25

**LAMM Game Night** Bring a dish to pass and your favorite board game to play with other cool womyn. 6–10pm. Free. LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St.

### Saturday, March 26

**WI Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf** Meeting and socializing for deaf and hearing-impaired LGBT people. 6–10pm. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. www.wiscrad.org or sgaray@uwm.edu.

**Oral History Interviewer Training** Food will be provided. RSVP to Cheryl Kader, 961-0775. 10am–1:30pm. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St.

### Tuesday, March 29

**YPM Café 9: How Inclusive Is Your Workplace?** Pushing the boundaries of creating a more inclusive workforce and broadening the potential talent pool in Milwaukee. Emphasis on people with disabilities and LGBT community. \$10. 504 W. National Avenue 414-643-7677.

### Sunday, April 3

**Brunch Club** Lesbian potluck brunch. Meet new friends the relaxed way — over food! 11am. SusanKohler@med.ge.com.

Deadline for April issue is March 21.

# HOP ON IT!



**IGBO Milwaukee  
2005 Jewel-Osco  
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Think Easter dinner...think Jewel-Osco...and thanks from IGBO 2005!

For any questions, please contact [IGBOMILW2005@aol.com](mailto:IGBOMILW2005@aol.com) or see our website for more details at [www.igbo25.org](http://www.igbo25.org)  
Watch for more coupons in April! Thank you for supporting IGBO Milwaukee 2005!

# Q BARS & RESTAURANTS

## Milwaukee Area

### ArtBar

722 E. Burleigh St.  
414-372-7880

### Ballgame

196 S. 2nd St.  
414-273-7474

### Bella Caffè

189 N. Milwaukee St.  
414-273-5620

### Boom

625 S. 2nd St.  
414-277-5040

### Boot Camp

209 E. National Ave.  
414-643-6900

### Cage

801 S. 2nd St.  
414-383-8330

### Café Fabrika

240 E. Pittsburgh Ave.  
414-291-8860

### C'est La Vie

231 S. 2nd St.  
414-291-9600

### Chip & Py's

1340 W. Town Square Road,  
Mequon  
262-241-9589

### Club 219

219 S. 2nd St.  
414-271-3732

### Fluid

819 S. 2nd St.  
414-643-5843

### Harbor Room

117 E. Greenfield Ave.  
414-672-7988

### Harry's Bar & Grill

3549 N. Oakland Ave.  
414-964-6800

### The Knick

1028 E. Juneau Ave.  
414-272-0011

### Lazaro's Cuban Cuisine

565 W. Lincoln Ave.  
414-645-2822

### M&M Club

124 N. Water St.  
414-347-1962

### The Mosaic

2624 N. Downer Ave.  
414-961-9560

### North Shore Bistro

8649 N. Port Washington Rd.  
414-351-6100

### Nut Hut

1500 W. Scott St.  
414-647-2673

### Out 'N About

1407 S. First St.  
414-643-0377

### Outwards Books, Gifts and Coffee

2710 N. Murray Ave.  
414-963-9089

### Passion

200 E. Washington St.  
414-649-9003

### The Soup Market

2211 S. Kinnickinic  
414-727-8462

### Switch

124 W. National Ave.  
414-220-4340

### Tazzbah Bar & Grill

1712 W. Pierce St.  
414-672-8466

### This Is It

418 E. Wells St.  
414-278-9192

### Three

722 N. Milwaukee St.  
414-225-0003

### Triangle

135 E. National Ave.  
414-383-9412

*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)

## Racine/Kenosha

### 94 North Dancebar

6305 120th  
Kenosha  
262-857-3240

### JoDee's

2139 Racine St.  
Racine  
262-634-9804

### What About Me?

600 6th St.  
Racine  
262-632-0171

## Madison

### Club 5

5 Applegate Court  
608-632-0171

### Ray's Bar

2526 E. Washington St.  
608-241-9335

### Shamrock

117 W. Main St.  
608-255-5029

## Green Bay

### Crickets Fox River Lounge

405 W. Walnut St.

### Napalese

117 W. Main St.  
902-432-9646

### The Shelter

730 N. Quincy St.  
920-432-BOMB (2662)  
[www.TheShelterClub.com](http://www.TheShelterClub.com)

### Sass

840 S. Broadway  
920-437-7277

### XS Nightclub

1106 Main St.  
920-884-2949

### Za's Historic West Theatre

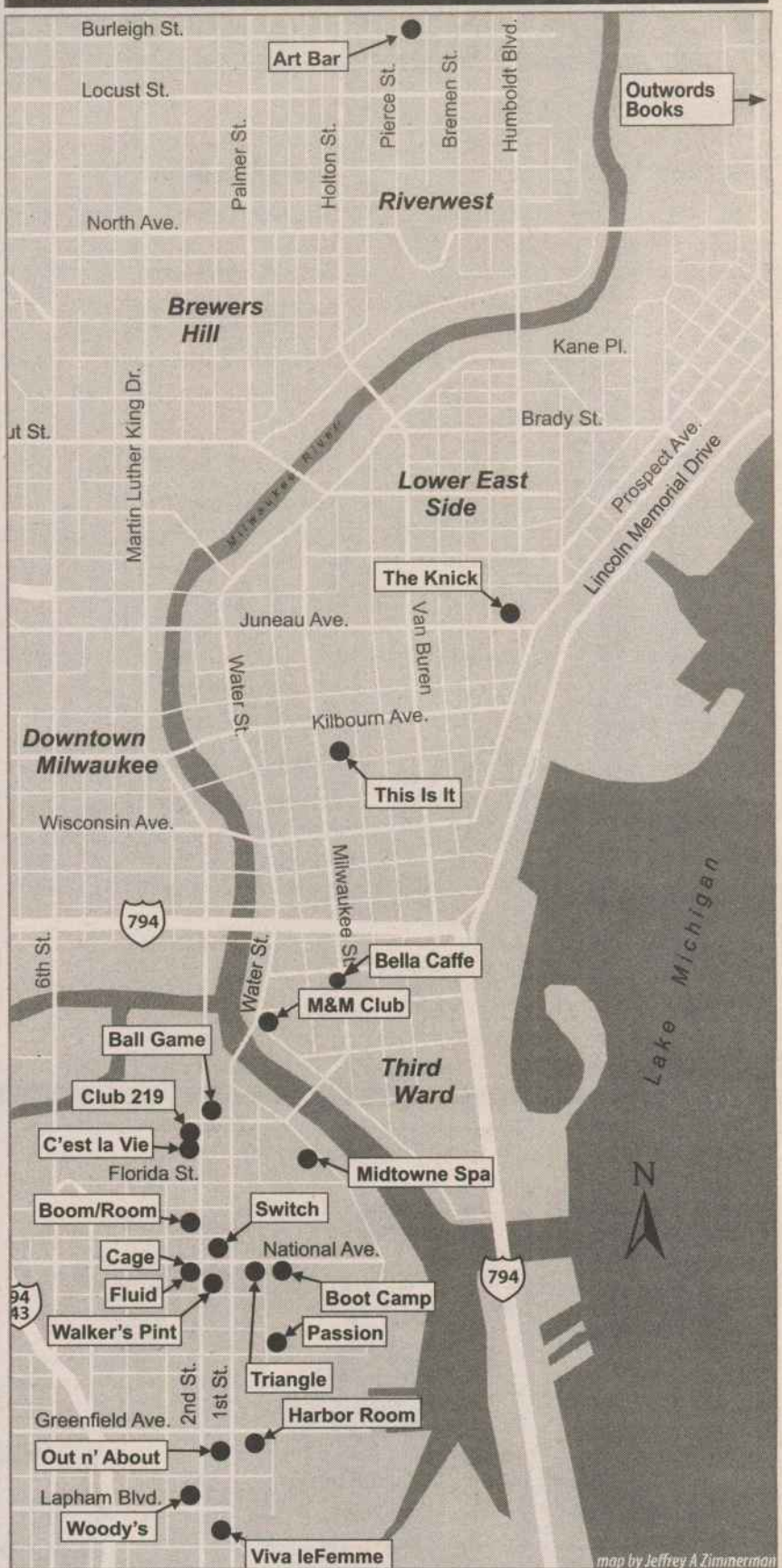
405 W. Walnut St.  
920-435-5476

## APPLETON

### Rascal's Bar & Grill

702 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
920-954-9262  
[rascals@new.rr.com](mailto:rascals@new.rr.com)

## MILWAUKEE MAP



map by Jeffrey A Zimmerman

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## HUME LAW OFFICES

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# Club ?

Guilty Pleasures?  
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Milwaukee  
414-273-3777

**Avante Garde** (Body piercing)  
7219 W. Greenfield Ave., West  
Allis  
414-607-4068

**C3 Designs** (Custom jewelry)  
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Oak Creek  
414-764-3892

**Clinton Street Antiques**  
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www.thecookingstore.us

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Milwaukee  
414-481-0868

**Genesis Jewelry & Art  
Gallery**  
(Custom jeweler, goldsmith)  
6011 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield  
414-281-1022

**Gallery 505** (Fine art)  
505 E. Silver Spring Dr.,  
Whitefish Bay  
414-962-6302

**Great Frame Up** (Art framing)  
507 E. Silver Spring Dr.,  
Whitefish Bay  
414-962-4889

**Grava Gallery** (Art framing)  
1224 E. Brady St., Milwaukee  
414-277-8228

**Miss Groove** (Gifts)  
1225 E. Brady St., Milwaukee  
414-298-9185

**Optix** (Fashion eye frames)  
2616 N. Downer Ave.,  
Milwaukee  
414-964-3125

**Out of Solitude Jewelry**  
918 E. Brady St., Milwaukee  
414-223-3101

**Outpost Natural Foods**  
100 E. Capitol Drive, Milwaukee  
414-964-7789

and  
7000 W. State St., Milwaukee  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
414-778-2012

**Outwards Books, Gifts and  
Coffee**  
2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee  
414-963-9089

**Popular News**  
(Adult books, videos)  
225 N. Water St., Milwaukee  
414-278-0636

**Rubin's** (Furniture)  
224 E. Chicago St., Milwaukee  
414-278-8100

**The Tool Shed**  
(Women owned, gay focused  
adult toy store)  
804 E. Center St., Milwaukee  
414-562-9338  
toolshedtoys@yahoo.com

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888-473-1632

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414-964-9799

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Jack Fertig, 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).



MARCH 2005

SCOPES

Talk things out, Libra!

Sun in Pisces helps us to see through the emotional constraints Saturn in Cancer has wrought, but it still insists on psychic integrity. If that sounds dull, Mars aspecting Pluto brings in some energy - but still, as RuPaul says, you better work!

**ARIES** (March 20 - April 19): Although home is a comfortable refuge, let it be a hidden resource while you get as far away as possible to explore new opportunities. Seek new contacts with powerful people - and powerful contacts with new people.

**TAURUS** (April 20 - May 20): Open up to someone you know you can trust. You have a lot on your mind and need to talk. Topics may well include new sexual explorations! Again, the more carefully you choose someone to share with, the further you can go.

**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20): You're feeling a little vague about your ambitions, but don't be scared to dream. If you bring those dreams to earth knowing what you really have to offer, you could make them come true. Your partner's erotic ambitions, however, might be more of a challenge!

**CANCER** (June 21 - July 22): Push your intellectual limits and be prepared to get a bit lost. Being a little out of your depth and eager to learn is not "stupid," so don't be intimidated! A colleague or partner may have some excellent ideas for more effective cooperation.

**LEO** (July 23 - August 22): You're a great performer, but sexually you may be deeply frustrated with anything less than real intimacy. Sublimation can be good. Focus on learning artistic techniques that can open up new depths of expression.

**VIRGO** (August 23 - September 22): Boundaries in relationships and organizations are vague, but with a little finesse you can turn a small faux pas into a very useful lesson. Don't be scared of arguments at home. They can solve problems and open new opportunities.

**LIBRA** (September 23 - October 22): Offering help to colleagues will move you toward a promotion down the road. Arguments at home are ultimately about your own control issues. Talk things out calmly, and be at least as critical of yourself as you are of others.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 - November 21): Being a smarty-pants is sure to get you into big trouble - but for a true Scorpio, that's the good news! This is an excellent time to consult with someone on your finances and taxes. The worst is not as bad as you think.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 - December 20): Take time out to remember those who have passed - perhaps close friends, ancestors, or historical heroes. Strengthen your connection to past and present community to affirm a basis for your own self-worth.

**CAPRICORN** (December 21 - January 19): Dreams can be very empowering now, and keeping a dream journal is valuable. Clarity while awake may be more of a challenge. Logic gets in the way. Pay close attention to moods and feelings. Poetry and music can help.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 - February 18): Trust your hunches at work, especially if they tell you to work harder. Your efforts will be well rewarded! Co-workers are more reliable than friends now. Listen to fair criticism, whether hard or supportive. Accept flattering remarks with gracious thanks, but be wary of the flatterer.

**PISCES** (February 19 - March 19): These days, your idea of fun looks like work to other people. This could complicate birthday surprises, but try to be nice! Enjoying your work - and showing it - is good, but foresight and teamwork will really get you ahead.

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# Q-CLASSIFIEDS

## EMPLOYMENT

Q Life is looking for regular columnists, including those outside the Metro Milwaukee area, cover story writers and, in some cases, for substitute columnists. Send 2-3 writing samples and a letter saying your specific interest in writing and your involvement in or knowledge of the LGBT community. No phone calls please. editor@queerlifeneews.com

## PERSONAL AD

GWM, 52, shy but curious, 5'11", 175-180 lbs, br/blu, n/s, HIV-. Honest and reliable. Looking for the same. No games. You: 30-52 w/similar interests (musical theatre, books, films, dining, walks and chats over coffee). N/S, HIV-, looking for GWM who is looking to try for LTR/Buddy. Leave a message. Mark-414-225-9683.

## HOUSING

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Roommate wanted to share 2 bedroom spacious 3rd floor attic apartment. Cathedral ceiling in living room, updated bathroom with shower, galley kitchen, wireless internet, washer and dryer, and all utilities included except phone. Prefer quiet, neat, well grounded male. \$375 plus security. Call Jim 414-339-0910.

Great 1 Bedroom at 2035 N. Prospect Avenue-HWF's, parking, laundry. Just off the lake. \$550-heat included. Call Becky Lee at 414-350-6096.

Huge 2 Bedroom on South Side-3064 S. 13th Street-Formal dining room, Eat in Kitchen, Brick. \$625-has garage. Call Becky Lee at 414-350-6096.

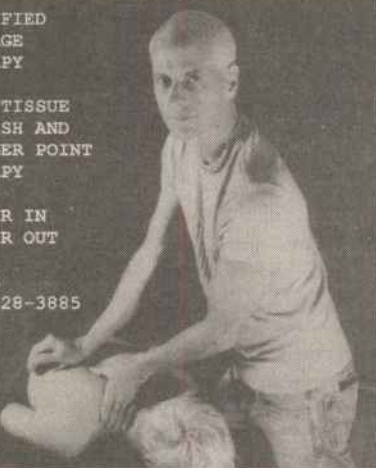
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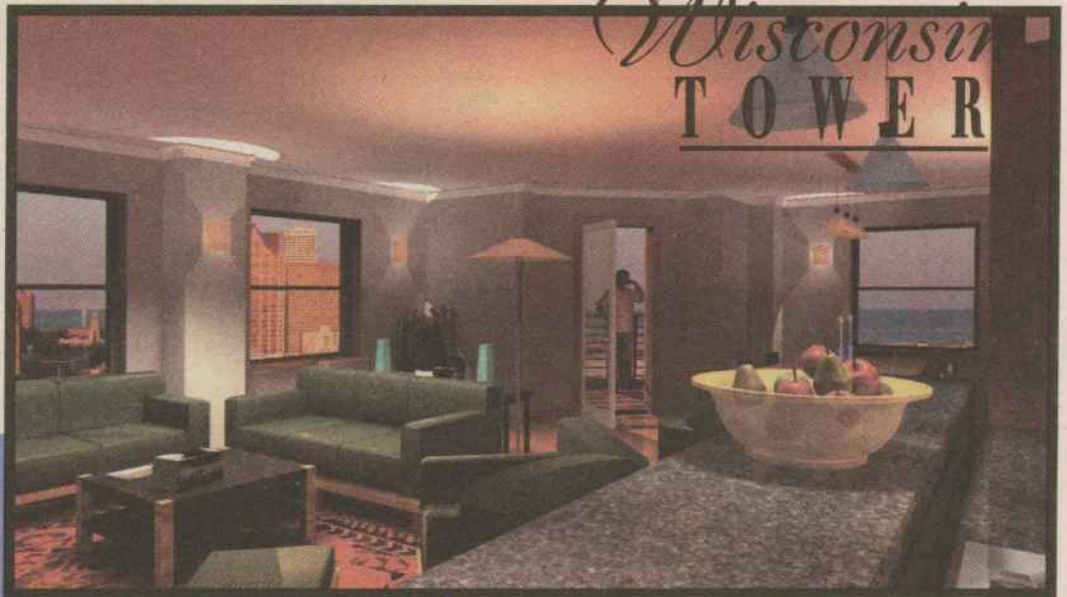
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