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Wisconsin's Premiere LGBT News Leader

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Red Hot and Revolutionary

Q Life's Exclusive Interview with RuPaul

By Milo Miller

We caught up with RuPaul a couple of weeks ago. The shining diva of all that is glam-drag is currently touring to promote her new album, "RuPaul Red Hot," and her upcoming doll/action figure.

In between gigs and the rest of her

fabulous life, RuPaul chatted with us on the phone, prior to her engagement at PrideFest, about where she was going, independent media, and just what secret messages are embedded in her albums and performances.

Underground and Independent

Milo: From your Web site I see that you were at one time very involved in "underground" or independent media culture, including self-publishing, and performing in indie films and television. Do you ever feel a "loss of freedom" after making the move to more mainstream media?

RuPaul: Yeah, sure, definitely. I really do miss a lot of the anonymity that I had with that. I could no longer go into the men's room and create a pro-

duction in one of the stalls, because everybody would say, "Oh Gawd, Miss RuPaul! Did you see what she was doing in that men's room stall over there?"

Milo: Do you have any thoughts, ad-

'It's more relaxed drag now, the hair is down. I wear pants. It's more touchable, which is actually more revolutionary.'

vice or suggestions for up-and-coming performers and artists who are trying to make the shift from underground, independent media? Especially since over the last 10 years of your superstardom, a whole lot has changed?

RuPaul: Yeah. As a side note to your previous question, I'm actually gearing toward more underground, guerilla tactics in terms of art. The Internet has made it easier to do that kind of thing. Plus, because I am established, I don't have anything to lose. I've

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Photo by: Mathu Anderson

Civil Union or Marriage: Reframing the Discussion Are Some LGBT Groups Out of Touch?

By Sura Faraj

In June, State Rep. Frank Boyle (D-Superior) will be introducing civil unions legislation for the State of Wisconsin. What Boyle calls a "very significant human rights bill" for LGBT people is also a fairly unknown one. In various communications with a number of politically aware people, Q Life couldn't find anyone aware of it. The bill is on the political back burner of Wisconsin LGBT organizations, because all efforts are now being geared toward defeating the proposed constitutional amendment, which would ban both gay marriage and any civil unions, including those which could result from passage of this bill.

The bill, which contains gender neutral language, would define a civil union as being between any two consenting adult individuals who engage in a domestic partnership contract — similar to marriage between a man and woman.

Boyle, who has been introducing similar legislation for years (and was one of the first to do so in the country), says, "We allow partnership contracts for all kinds of purposes under the Wisconsin statutes, and yet we deny in a very discriminatory way that same contract for domestic partners." His motivation for this, he says, is pure and simple. "It's a human rights issue. It's an issue of economic and social justice. It's an issue of things that we ought to be standing for and very few people have the courage to."

The bill would give domestic partners the same responsibilities and liabilities as married couples, including the same tax burdens and breaks, the same authority regarding spousal benefits, division of property, and disposition of the custody of children in cases of partnership breakups. "Essentially, all of the benefits and the liabilities would be the same under a civil union contract that we currently give to

married couples in Wisconsin," says Boyle.

Over the last eight years of introducing the bill (formerly the "Domestic Partnership Bill"), the language has largely stayed the same. This time around, Boyle intends to include people who are related by blood who may also benefit from contracts covering domestic partnership. He gives the examples of a son and an aging mother or two sisters who live together. Boyle says, "If we allow benefits to only certain individuals, we discriminate. There are over 250 benefits that we give to a very select group that we sanction because of their relationship."

Are Civil Unions Worth the Fight?

While this may sound good to our community, not all of those who advocate for LGBT causes find civil unions worth working for at this time.

Politicians and organizers seem to agree that the likelihood of this bill even making it to a vote are slim, given the makeup of what they refer to as the extremist and conservative Republican-dominated legislature. Some question the value of expending effort when the legislation, if passed, would be trumped and discarded if the proposed constitutional amendment banning civil unions and gay marriage passes.

Even Sen. Fred Risser (D-Madison), who will be introducing the bill in the Senate, says, "I think the amendment is vicious and all effort ought to be made to defeat it." But, he points out, "The bill is a proposal that some people will accept where they won't accept marriage."

Will LGBT organizations in Wisconsin be working to pass this bill? Patrick Flaherty, director of Center Advocates in Milwaukee said, "We haven't even been approached by Rep.

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Milwaukee's LGBT Community Mourns the Passing of Lew Broyles

By William Attewell, Special to Q Life

The Rev. Lew Broyles, a prominent Milwaukee gay activist and spiritual leader, died suddenly on May 16 at the age of 50 of an apparent heart attack. Broyles died while visiting friends in Mississippi.

Broyles served as pastor for the gay-inclusive Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church on Milwaukee's near south side. He was also a high-profile member of Milwaukee's LGBT community and was heavily involved in a wide range of community organizations over several years.

Broyles was perhaps best known for leading the annual interfaith service and gay "weddings" at PrideFest. Broyles often said he was grateful for the opportunity to bless so many gay and lesbian couples at the annual PrideFest event and at private ceremonies.

"PrideFest was one of the first gatherings where idea of the mass weddings started. That was because of Rev. Lew," said Allan Hauth, board member of the MCC church. "Lew thought this very important. He was very proud that the idea of a mass gay wedding — like

the one at PrideFest — caught on all over the country."

"He was one of the first persons to make it point to invite our community to participate in the interfaith service at PrideFest," Dave Bodoh of the Two Spirit Society, a LGBT Native American faith and community group told Queer Life. "Lew wanted to include people of all different cultures and



Rev. Lew Broyles

religions in the interfaith service. I considered him a true ally and friend."

Members of Broyles' congregation were shocked by the news of his death.

"I think everyone is absolutely stunned," said Karla

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Homophobe Watch

Not So Strange Bedfellows?

These two staunch "family values" state legislators continue their bigoted, homophobic attacks on the LGBT community by promoting a mean-spirited amendment to our state constitution which would ban any possibility of same-sex marriages or civil unions. Recent national headlines show us this type of right-wing G.O.P. behavior is sometimes driven from the closet of internalized homophobia. All their talk of defending "family values" has spawned whispers from a number of state political insiders who are now wondering: When these two talk about "family values" just which "family" are they talking about?



Rep. Mark Gundrum



Sen. Scott Fitzgerald

Official Pride Guide Inside



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RuPaul *continued from page 1*

never had to operate in terms of being too careful. The only reason I've ever had to be careful was because of endorsements and morality clauses in endorsements. But at this point I don't have an endorsement deal with anybody so I can be buck wild. Actually, I encourage young people to do those things, you know ... make movies, and wheat paste their towns, and do whatever they can without getting busted by the cops. As for up-and-comers, it's wide open. The rules get rewritten all the time. Obviously certain rules stay the same. Like the way human senses interpret art, or interpret visuals and interpret sounds. There are certain things that don't change, but you can definitely shift people's perceptions.

Milo: Do you have stuff coming up in terms of underground art?

RuPaul: Actually, yeah. My record ["RuPaul Red Hot"] was done entirely independent. I'm very proud of it because we were able to reach a lot of people not on a major label, but on my own label. Video, distribution, everything we've done with it has been done in the old guerilla style. There are other things coming up that we've done the same way, where we've taken up the reins and created something where

there was nothing.

'I want to experience this human thing. The human thing is outrageous, it's fantastic.'

Performative Gender

Milo: In the biography section on your Web site, you talk about at some point making a transition from "punk drag" to "black hooker drag." To whom or where do you look for inspiration now? Getting away from that do you see yourself going back toward "punk drag" or something else entirely? Something that may be equally showy and trashy?

RuPaul: The look evolves on its own at this point. I wouldn't really go back to the "punk drag" or "black hooker drag" because I'm so much older, and those things really work on young kids, y'know? A young kid can go out in drag dressed in trash bags and smeared makeup and look fabulous, I mean, they're young! On an older drag queen it doesn't work that way.

My look is always evolving. I'm open to it. It's more relaxed drag now, the hair is down. I wear pants. It's more touchable, which is actually more revolutionary.

Milo: Would you say that your performance is more yourself, or more of an escape? More putting on a character, like you'd put on a frock?

RuPaul: It's never really been an escape, because you can't get away with that for a long period of time because the audience catches on. You really have to be yourself. You really have to be there for it, otherwise people won't be compelled by it. People won't stand for it. When I'm performing live onstage, when it's good, it's always me. It's always been this part of me that loves life, that loves people, and a communication of energies.

The Message Is Still the Same

Milo: Other than being RuPaul and being sort of larger than life, do you have messages in your performances and recordings? Is your work about creating social change or is it more about entertainment these days?

RuPaul: Well, all of my work is chock full of satanic messages. I want people to join my evil empire. No, that's a joke. My message has always been the same, which is that this frickin' life is a gift. That you better go out and live it. That you better love somebody and better let somebody love you. It's as simple as that. It's as big that, and that's a huge, huge message. It's a very simple message. I'm on this planet just like everybody else, and I want to experience this human thing. The human thing is outrageous, it's fantastic. But there are other forces, other people who feel threatened by you being free, or living your life, or doing what you want to do. So it then becomes political, man. Because people feel threatened by it.

Lust for Life and Evolution

Milo: I know that you've done so much AIDS outreach work over the last 15 years or so. Where else are your activist energies?

RuPaul: Well, today it's really in mentoring young people. I'm not just talking one-on-one. I'm not talking Neverland Ranch or anything. I'm talking about showing young people how you can live your life without this stupid, fricking thing of "straight acting." Those are two of the most dangerous words that can be spoken in gay culture, and it's really retarded the gay movement. I'm really showing young people how to proceed without having to compromise flamboyancy and lust for life and the use of lots of color in your program.

It's sad, you know. I grew up in the '70s and early '80s. That was a time when the sexual revolution was in full bloom and people were willing to experiment and not be afraid. But then, when frickin' AIDS came along everything got f**ked up. You know, I think it's time to embrace color again, and I mean that metaphorically.

Milo: Do you think that we are leading toward another type of sexual revolution now?

RuPaul: I think so. It's the only place we can go. I think that art, film, and music ... all the arts ... fashion, have reached a glass ceiling because of our culture's inability to accept love between two men. It's the only thing that we in our culture have not accepted. Because we

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BROYLES *continued from page 1*

Sanborn, longtime friend, roommate and senior deacon at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church. "It is a difficult time."

Broyles was born in Ohio and came to Milwaukee in the early 1990s from Mississippi. He was employed full-time as a senior research associate at the Medical College of Wisconsin's Center for AIDS Intervention and Research (CAIR) for the past 12 years.

"He was a leader of HIV prevention programs with gay men. He also he was very active in our prevention programs with other communities including the homeless and those with mental illness," said Dr. Jeff Kelly, director of CAIR.

"People may not know that Lew was very funny. He was one of the funniest people I knew. He saw the foibles in himself and other people very clearly," added Kelly.

Broyles also hosted the long-running Milwaukee public-access cable program "Gay by God's Will." Broyles often said that he took special pride in dealing with homophobic callers to the show.

"He would see a homophobic person and see the good in them," recalled Jeff Kelly. "Lew was a person with unbelievable optimism. He always saw good things in people. I think that is the defining thing in his life."

A charter member of SAGE-Milwaukee, Broyles also served two stints on that group's board of directors.

At the time of his death, he was the interim chairman of the board.

"We are all saddened," Bill Serpe, executive director of SAGE-Milwaukee told Queer Life. "Lew was always the voice of reason on our board. He found a way to get people to look at issues from a different point of view. That was his strongest contribution — keeping the board calm and bringing a voice of reason when needed."

In 2001 and 2002, Broyles was called on to moderate two contentious PrideFest town hall meetings. He later served as a member of the PrideFest Task Force.

"With heavy hearts, we wish to acknowledge the great sadness we feel at the passing of Rev. Lew Broyles, a community leader and long-time friend of PrideFest," an official statement from PrideFest read.

"Rev. Lew was always ready with a kind word and an engaging story, told only the way he could tell it," the PrideFest statement continued.

Broyles was a fixture at local gay bowling league events and served on the board of the Holiday Invitational Tournament's International Gay Bowling 25th Anniversary event held last month in Milwaukee.

Broyles was also proud of his role in purchasing a building for the MCC church in Milwaukee.

"Lew was instrumental in our building search process," explained Allan Hauth. "We were turned away from the first building we had found, simply because we were a gay church. Eventually — with Lew's help — we found the right building."

"When Lew first became our pastor we were meeting in the Astor Hotel and there were only three or four of us," recalled Hauth. "With Rev. Lew's leadership, we slowly grew and now we

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CIVIL UNION *continued from page 1*

Boyle. I don't even know who he approached in Madison," Flaherty continues, "We'll have to take a look at what our legislative priorities are. Right now, I think the overwhelming political consensus in the LGBT political community is that before you can move forward on any proactive things you've got to make sure that gay and lesbian people aren't written out of the constitution." Flaherty defined the "overwhelming political consensus" as coming from Action Wisconsin, Center Advocates and other statewide LGBT groups.

Flaherty says that Center Advocates "would support anything that is an improvement over the current situation, which is that lesbian and gay couples are treated as strangers by the law." However he says, "The LGBT community's political infrastructure is incredibly underdeveloped and we have to be strategic about what kind of resources we have. We have to make them go as far as we can."

Flaherty also believes that before pursuing a proactive agenda, the far right legislative leadership in the Assembly and the Senate must change.

Chris Ott, executive director of Action Wisconsin, acknowledges that civil unions would be a step forward, but he says when it comes to fighting for, funding or organizing around the civil unions bill, "Our resources are stretched. Stopping the amendment is where we're putting all our energy right now." According to Ott, "Action Wisconsin's position for almost two years now has been in favor of marriage equality ... creating this other category called civil unions is kind of 'separate but equal,' and organizationally that was not a position that we were going to actively support."

Both Flaherty and Ott point out that civil unions, even those conferring all the benefits of marriage, wouldn't necessarily be recognized in other states, as marriages are. However, gay marriages are currently in that same boat — recognized by neither other states nor the federal government.

Marriage: Fundamental Protection or Traditional Baggage?

Ott says Action Wisconsin would welcome civil unions as a step toward marriage, but it falls short of "full marriage equality." "The reason — at least on the right

— that they are so worried and irrational about marriage equality is because the word itself has a great deal of power. The word itself is a fundamental protection ... and I think to have full equality we need to have access to that word as well," says Ott.

Flaherty also speaks of the meaning of marriage and says that "civil unions don't have the cultural blessing that the word 'marriage' does. Not everyone needs that, but some people are looking for that."

Flaherty appears to be right. Not everyone needs or wants that "cultural blessing" of marriage.

Some LGBT couples believe they should have the same protections without taking on the mantle of marriage.

The power of the word "marriage" is obvious when listening to those on the religious right who say gay people shouldn't marry. But some people — both straight allies and folks in our own queer community — say they also have problems with the word "marriage." They cite the traditional baggage that goes along with it.

Clearly, anyone should be allowed to marry, regardless of the gender of their partner. But should that be the only discussion out on the table? Some may not choose to participate in a tradition that is steeped in a history of patriarchy and religious symbolism or which evokes, for them, a cultural expectation which they have no interest in mimicking or representing.

Others may view marriage as an institution that is outdated or at least inadequate given that over half of marriages end in divorce. Terms such as "husband" and "wife" don't give all people a sense of comfort, stability or commitment. Should those couples be left out of basic civil rights?

Some argue that our community, which has so much creative access and ability, should be able to figure these things out without resorting to marriage as the first or only option.

Boyle's civil union legislation may be a step in that direction. "I understand the purist concept that 'we want gay and lesbian marriages legalized,'" he says, "but I find it a bit disingenuous. I think the whole concept of marriage a religious farce, and for them to advocate and simply to fall into that terminology and that religious sanctity, it kind of amazes me."

Framing the Discussion

Risser remains hopeful about getting a committee hearing on the bill, but he also points out, "You don't introduce bills necessarily with the expectation that they'll

pass. You introduce them for several reasons. One reason is to get a discussion of an issue."

Boyle believes we should "seize the initiative and introduce something positive rather than constantly being assaulted by the rightwing religious fanatics."

Lizzi Dahlk, a queer Milwaukee resident, also questions how the community decides where to put its energy. "Do we have our own agenda of issues important to us locally and nationally? Or do we react to the next homophobic issue that emerges? We should be taking the initiative, meeting the needs of our community rather than reacting to divisive tactics that are used against us."

Another community member, Vala Mohr, says, "Looking back on the last election, I think our agenda of civil rights got attached to this phrase 'gay marriage' and I think it held us back." Mohr supports civil unions legislation in Wisconsin. "Marriage is a very traditional word and can be very limiting for us. If you look at how the LGBT community has defined what love and family can mean in a society you have to admit there is nothing limiting in that. It's all about redefinition, courage and creativity. I think we need a term that can encompass that. Civil union is a good term because it's a relatively new concept and it can be anything we want it to be," she says.

Strategy for Passage

When asked if he views this bill as a strategic move or a winnable fight, Boyle responds, "I see it as a fight that will ultimately be won."

Advice from Risser on fighting the amendment can also be applied to fighting for civil unions. His recommendation is to get newspapers and religious groups on board. As an example of their power, he offers, "It's the religious groups and editorial boards who have kept the death penalty from being acted on in Wisconsin."

The history of civil rights movements and women's suffrage demonstrates that fighting for something is more powerful and will attract more supporters than fighting against something.

A strategy for civil unions appears to come with a large base of built-in benefactors. From straight and LGBT couples who aren't interested in marriage to family members who want to care for their loved ones to others not necessarily tied into sexual relationships, those benefiting from civil unions legislation are myriad.

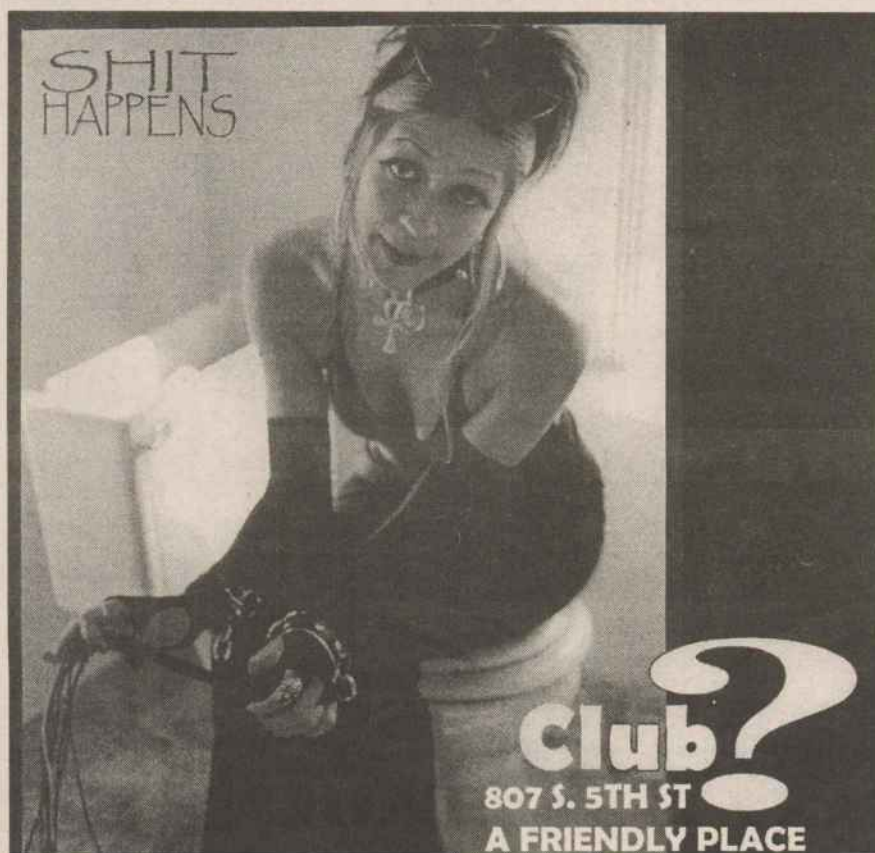
Allies for civil unions (who wouldn't necessarily directly benefit from them) also represent a wide base of support for equal rights. Thanks to the foundation built by organizers in fighting the amendment, many people and organizations are aware of civil unions and the distinction between them and marriage. A group called Christians for Equality in Wisconsin is one such organization. Action Wisconsin's Chris Ott says about them, "Many

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'It's all about redefinition, courage and creativity. I think we need a term that can encompass that. Civil union is a good term because it's a relatively new concept and it can be anything we want it to be.'
—Vala Mohr

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A Powerful Woman with a Big Voice Q Life's Exclusive Interview with Taylor Dayne

By Tim Grair

Taylor Dayne has been a star since the 1988 album release "Tell It to My Heart." Her hits range from club favorites such as "Prove Your Love," "With Every Beat of My Heart," and "Naked Without You," to chart-topping ballads like "I'll Always Love You." She recently starred in "ReMaking: Taylor Dayne" on VH1.



QL: When you first hit the pop scene, you were an instant sensation. Did you feel like you had control over your career?

TD: You spend your first 20 years trying to make it, so to speak, and you have that overnight stardom, as you will, it's never really overnight. You can never really prepare for that kind of attention. I don't know what prepared is. You just go for things that you think are the next best move.

QL: I saw you sing with Curtis Mayfield and you had a big hit with a Barry White cover. Is soul your biggest influence?

TD: I'd have to say it's pretty strong, and considering I just recorded three songs with Mike Mangini going in that direction, I would say that it's an incredible influence for me, absolutely. Curtis, and the Temptations too, Sly Stone with the rock influence, or Jimi Hendrix; the obvious ones are the Aretha's and the Al Green's.

QL: How many LGBT Pride, celebrations have you performed?

TD: (Laughs) Who could count at this point?

QL: Are you received differently by gay audiences in particular, as opposed to other crowds?

TD: I'm definitely an icon for the gay audience. They've definitely celebrated me and are an incredible fan base, always have been. Shocking at first but then, wow, I guess they're dressing like me. Celebrating my style, you know, a powerful woman with a big voice.

QL: What do you think of female impersonators who perform as you?

TD: I've seen so many. It's hysterical.

QL: Would you ever pull a Cher and perform with a female impersonator?

TD: Why not? It's not like I haven't already. It's not like I paid them — they just got up and did it.

The Illusion Behind Reality TV

QL: You still chart in the clubs, what prompted the makeover on VH1?

TD: The show's producers came to me and at the beginning they were just doing Vince Neil [from Mötley Crüe] and I was like, well, what is that? He was doing the whole physical thing and I think that's not of interest to me. They said, "But it's a real musical program. We want to put you with the best producer who is hot right now." Really my absolute intrigue was that it was about the music. Then they also said, "We'll put you with the best stylist, the best choreographer." I said, "I think I can handle all that." The music producer turned out to be Rodney Jerkins. That's how VH1 twists it and go with what they

do for TV.

QL: What was it like having the cameras around you all the time?

TD: Yeah, it can be nerve-racking. Absolutely. Certainly in your personal environment. Welcome to the world of reality TV! We shot for a month and got maybe an hour of footage.

QL: On the show, you submitted to a Botox treatment, but you didn't consider plastic surgery. Any specific reasoning?

TD: Oh my god! The producers said, "Well, Vince did all that, what do you think?" Well, that was Vince. Whoop-de-woo. I mean Botox? It's not like I hadn't had it before. Has anybody ever had electrolysis? I'm certain the drag queens are just laughing, thinking, "Hey, what's that?"

Raising the Musical Bar

QL: Are you trying for the mainstream again?

TD: Absolutely. When you say mainstream, to me, I've never stopped making records. I had a deal in Europe through BMG as recently as a year ago until they merged. I was putting out a record then. I'm working right now. It's not me going away, it's just getting the opportunity.

QL: You're still in fine voice. You sing everything from pop to jazz. Are they pushing you in a different direction or style?

TD: No, it's not a matter of pushing. It's just a matter of figuring out the next, best move. What's next, what's going to challenge me, what does the audience want to hear. You know, I'm not a 21-year-old pop singer anymore. You've got to always continue to raise the bar.

QL: The new single is more rock oriented. Will the rest of the album follow suit?

TD: It was a one-off. The style with Rodney was rock, but it's got that R&B flavor to it. I've always had that vocal edge anyway. That's why it felt kind of natural on a lot of levels. When you listen to "Shelter" or you listen to the whole "Can't Fight Fate" record. When you really think about it, I've always had that soul but flash rock-y kind of influence anyway, like on "I'll Wait." The stuff I did with Mike was definitely more soul, but when you think of Chaka Khan, you think soul but she's always had that edge to her voice.

QL: Will there be club mixes?

TD: Always, baby.

From Harley Fest to PrideFest

QL: Have you been to Milwaukee before?

TD: I can guarantee you that I have. I did a little Harley Fest out there once.

QL: Do you have a motorcycle?

TD: Nope. A few exes have. I've got a helmet.

QL: Have you performed with RuPaul before?

TD: Yes. He's a great guy. We've known each other for years and he's a big fan. Yeah, he's a doll.

QL: Will you two be doing any duets?

TD: You never know with him. If he comes up to me and we talk about it before...

Faith and Charity

QL: The main page of your Web site (www.taylordayne.com) prominently features information on tsunami aid, plus

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CIVIL UNION *continued from page 4*

of them are very open about saying that they are not in favor of marriage for gay and lesbian couples, but they're concerned about the fact that the amendment would rule out the possibility of civil unions."

With these and other allies on board, a significant number of LGBT community members appear to be wondering if

the focus of organizing activity should be shifted toward fighting for the rights of all of us together. That shouldn't be hard since Action Wisconsin, Center Advocates and other groups have already laid great groundwork in fighting the amendment. More creative options for giving equal protection to queer and other families are also being explored. (Watch for an

upcoming report.)

Perhaps it's only through shared thinking that we can successfully come up with language that makes both pro-marriage and pro-civil unions advocates happy.

Editor's note: In full disclosure, Patrick Flaherty and Lizzi Dahik are paid staff members of Q Life.



Sura Faraj (sfaraj@queerlifeneews.com) is the associate editor of Q Life.

She is also an organizer, activist, poet and flag dancer. She calls Riverwest home and headquarters for action.

RuPaul *continued from page 3*

have not accepted it, we get movies that are made of old TV shows. Fashion that is retro. That's the '80s, the '70s. We keep going backwards with all the arts. I think that art hasn't been able to move forward because of our culture's inability to accept sexuality on its own terms. Life on its own terms. So we're basically in a holding pattern.

I think the only place we can go, and I hope the younger generation of young people will take it there, is to say, "F**k it, we've got to accept life on life's terms. We can't be afraid anymore." The right-wing people are saying, "Censor television, censor books," all this stuff, mainly because they don't have to be the ones to talk to their children about sex. Well, why not? Because they don't know, they're afraid of it, and they'd rather live in ignorance. Well, you can't live that way. You just can't. You can't live that way and expect for life to evolve.

We're frickin' stuck. I don't want to see another movie based on some '60s or '70s TV show.

Here for the Experience

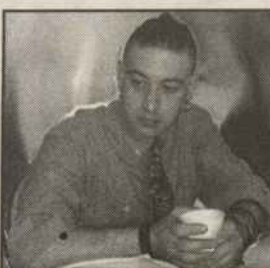
Milo: My next question is about where you see yourself going. If you can talk about that, and your new superstar doll action figure?

RuPaul: I want to continue to create fun pieces of art products to add to my legacy. I'll continue to make music, and do the doll, and perhaps a line of wigs, and makeup, and clothing, and things like that. But also I want to live in the moment, and be here for the experience. I don't want to think too far ahead. I'm happy with my place in history, I just also have to make sure that my story gets passed on because our culture, our media doesn't have room for someone like me who clearly doesn't sell the idea of getting married, and being a consumer, and buying insurance and buying cars and all that stuff. The media and consumer culture sort of applauds people like Britney Spears for having a baby, and that's sort of mundane.

Milo: Do you find that your attitude, what you just expressed to me, is in conflict with the larger gay community now?

RuPaul: In a way, it is. Because I grew

up in a different time. Today's gay community wants equality. [It] wants to be equal to straight people, wants to be straight acting, wants everything straight people have. Well, I don't f**king want everything straight people want. I'm frickin' gay! I want, by law, to get whatever I'm entitled to, and to be treated as an equal. But, y'know what, I don't want a baby. I don't want a lot of things that other gay people want. [laughing] I don't want to be thought of as straight. I don't! I want to live an exciting life of adventure.



Milo is passionate about rock 'n' roll, zines, vegetarian food, pansexuality, alternative energy, Riverwest, reading, genderbending, modern art, 20th-century pop culture and changing the world.



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DAYNE *continued from page 5*

you have links to a variety of other charities. Have you always been so involved with charity efforts?

TD: I guess I always have but I'm more conscious of it now. It's just more important to have it featured and focused when people are coming onto the site. These are particular organizations that I work with, like today I'm dealing with the Lollipop Organization or Meals on Wheels. Tsunami relief was pretty obvious, as I was recording at the time. So for me to stream it and for people to give back — this is part of the Kabbalistic stuff I've been doing. I'm a lot more aware of the sharing process. It's just a matter of consciousness and being more aware.

QL: Was it a result of exploring Kabbalah that got you more into charity?

TD: Absolutely, because the whole consciousness of it and the whole process of it is sharing — sharing and receiving.

QL: How long have you been interested in that?

TD: Studying? A little over two years now.

QL: Was faith important to you before that?

TD: Born and raised a Jewish girl on Long Island, N.Y., I absolutely ran in the other direction, whatever direction that was. It's really hard to say. I mean, faith is a really important thing: determination, desire, ambition. But it tires out, there's only so much wind you have. You always constantly question yourself, "What am I doing this for? Why am I still in this race? What is my purpose?" Those are major questions. Everybody's asking them. It's

It's just a matter of figuring out the next, best move ... You've got to always continue to raise the bar.

no different for me. I'm constantly asking, "Why do I have this desire? Why do I wanna be in this freaking industry? Why do I even give a sh*t?" A lot of questions, and I'm asking them. Somebody turned me on to Kabbalah and I went and had all my questions answered. It's pretty basic. I don't care what religion or basis of faith or spirituality you're doing, you've still got to work at it. It's not like there's a magic pill. Believe me, I wish there were. It doesn't really matter what you're doing but I believe it comes down to the same things: taking care of those around you, calming yourself down enough to see things around you, giving back, finding your purpose.

Looking Ahead

QL: So what's in the future?

TD: Honey, releasing this music. Promoting and marketing it. Getting a strong following and getting the music out there.

QL: Any more television?

TD: Yeah, working on that right now. Not quite in development but talking to producers. Let's just call it a hybrid of my life. I'm really not interested in having a camera following me 24/7. I like things more scripted. But there'll be a lot of truth in it. Trust me on that. An exaggeration of it but the truth is the truth. Maybe Daddy Dayne can show up, he's a funny boy.

See Taylor Dayne headlining this year's PrideFest on Saturday, June 11.

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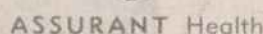
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Retail Activism

Holly Grey

Grab your handbags, pocketbooks or wallets and bring an open mind. After nearly three years of planning, a new independent bookstore has opened providing a plethora of good reads and a small meeting space for progressive groups and book clubs. LGBTs, queers, feminists, liberals, radicals, free thinkers, activists and left-leaning thinkers of all manner may find another home in which to congregate and collaborate at the crisp and tidy Broad Vocabulary.

"Queers and feminists, to us, are inseparable," explained Kelly Todd, Broad Vocabulary's co-owner and founder. "My business partners, Molly Tennessee and Amy Daroszeski, and I have been actively involved in the LGBT community for years. We have a strong history of activism and for us, opening this store was just another form of activism."

"Our most important goal is to educate and build a community. We want to raise awareness on gender issues and other forms of oppression," stated Todd. "Our goal is not just to sell books."

With this said, the store, however, does stock a variety of books for the LGBT and queer reader. The store has a specific section for LGBT books, and many other



LGBT books and magazines are scattered throughout the store. Additionally, the first book club sponsored by the store is being held for LGBT youth.

In addition to LGBT and queer reading, the bookstore houses new and used leftist and liberal literature, feminist fiction and nonfiction, nonsexist children's books, erotica, magazines and political theory, educational and environmental materials. Sprinkled throughout is a selection of novelty items including T-shirts, greeting cards, coffee mugs, homemade candles and bumper stickers.

The owners think the bookstore will provide the opportunity to show people that feminism can be smart and fun. They feel it's important to help break down the prevailing stereotypes of the white, middle-class, 1970's feminist. "So many of our friends who have very little feminist back-

grounds are so surprised to find the books they were reading in high school on the shelves here in the store," said Todd.

"Representations of feminists as man-hating, bra burners is so, very, very boring and antiquated," expanded Todd. "Feminism is about providing opportunities, respecting choices and eliminating stereotypes. We hope the bookstore's presence will help change Milwaukee's perception of feminism."

Changing perceptions and keeping a

We hope the bookstore's presence will help change Milwaukee's perception of feminism.

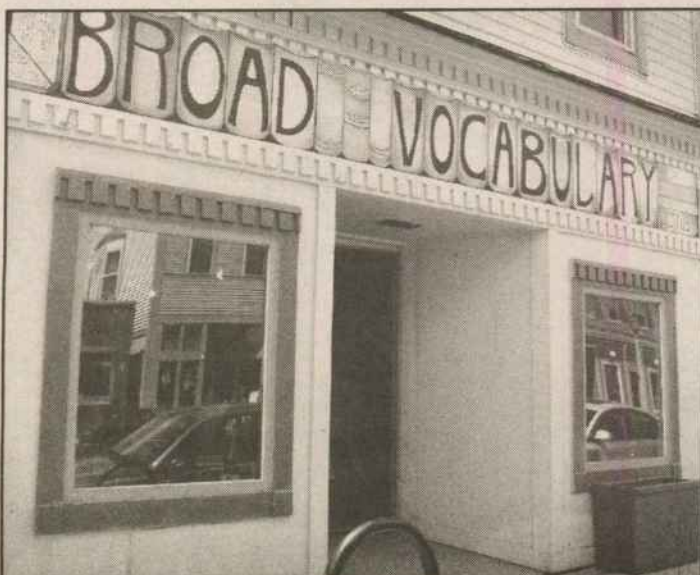
bookstore open and generating revenue are lofty goals. Since 1997, 30 percent of feminist bookstores in the United States and Canada have closed, according to Dr. Rose Norman of the University of Alabama Web site. Additionally, the American Booksellers Association, which represents 2,000 independent booksellers, claims their membership has declined by half in a decade. Will it be possible to sustain a small niche market store in the world of mega-booksellers and online retail conglomerates?

"There is nothing like a bookstore. Rifling through the shelves. Turning the pages. Discovering something new as you peruse the books. I think most people will feel far more comfortable asking for a title here than they would at Barnes and Noble," concluded Todd. "Besides, it is very encouraging to see the women who started A Room of Her Own, a feminist bookstore in Madison, celebrating their 30th anniversary this year."

For Todd, Daroszeski and Tennessee the next step is to get the word out that the Broad Vocabulary is finally open and the space is available free of charge for meetings, workshops, book clubs and other small events. "Eventually, we would like to create a newsletter and/or zine to keep people informed of new book releases and upcoming happenings including poetry/spoken word nights, small music events and discussion groups. We also plan on putting up fliers announcing these events

in a variety of places around the area. Basically wherever they will let us," laughed Todd. An announcement about their grand opening in mid-June is forthcoming.

Broad Vocabulary is situated on a bus line in a well-lit area at 2241 S. Kinnickinnic in Bay View.



BROYLES *continued from page 3*

have over 40 members."

Many other members of Milwaukee's LGBT community expressed shock and sadness over Broyles' death and acknowledged his many contributions to the community.

"He was such a hard-working and genuine human being. I think it is interesting that he understood and worked well with people who were not religious," said Eldon Murray, veteran community activist and SAGE-Milwaukee founder. "I think he is going to be missed."

"People might not know that he was very good about visiting the ill in our community," added Murray.

"I knew Lew for over seven years and called him friend and confidant from the moment we met," said James Pennington, executive director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. "He was always willing to dialogue, listen or lend a shoulder for leaning or crying. Lew never spoke a word of judgment or condemnation in the face of differing personal or world viewpoints. [He] truly lived what he preached: love, mercy, justice and compassion."

Broyles had most recently attended the May 14 Men's Voices Milwaukee Spring concert in Milwaukee. Many community members recalled interacting with him at the event.

"Lew was a hugger, you always got a hug from him," remembered Bill Serpe. "Lew came out to leave the concert. I turned around and I lost my balance on the steps. Lew grabbed me and said, 'Don't worry, I got you.' It is a wonderful feeling to know that the last thing I got from Lew was a hug. It is so indicative of the kind of person he was."

HRC Condemns Appointment of Extremist Group to Represent Wisconsin in Lawsuit

Washington — The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) condemned the decision by a committee in the Wisconsin Legislature to appoint the Alliance Defense Fund, a religious extremist group, as the state's counsel in opposition to a lawsuit that seeks to ensure the partners of state workers get equal health benefits.

"It's like having the class bully represent the entire student body," said HRC President Joe Solmonese. "This group is far from unbiased and the people of Wisconsin did not elect it to speak for them. Wisconsinites did elect the attorney general, who should be the one seeing this case through. The Legislature has seriously overstepped its bounds."

The Alliance Defense Fund has an extensive history of anti-gay actions. Recently, the group was involved in a lawsuit to overturn a voter-enacted domestic partner registry in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Alliance Defense Fund co-founder James Dobson has attacked SpongeBob SquarePants for being gay and has called for a "second civil war" in the United States.

"Wisconsin's interest is best served with an unbiased, thoughtful assessment

Several community members noted that Broyles' activism for those infected with HIV/AIDS went back several years.

"I remember that he pitched in on everything," recalled Jeff Kelly. "Years ago in Mississippi — in the early AIDS — Lew came up with the idea of how the community could buy a housing facility for people suffering with HIV. He convinced local bars to help with fund-raising. Eventually, the gay community was able to purchase a building."

"Lew tried not to take sides in the gay community here in Milwaukee," added Kelly. "He was involved in things that were worthwhile — no matter what the internal politics were. He tried to be responsive to the community as a whole."

"Lew was a very happy person and he did not fear death," remembers Hauth. "I worked with him at CAIR. He would come in whistling every morning. I would ask, 'How can anyone be so happy so early in the morning?' He would say: 'It is a new day, isn't everyone happy?'"

"Lew believed that God is there for everyone," recalls Karla Sanborn. "I think his most important message was the need to let the whole world know that God loves everybody. It doesn't matter what your sexual orientation is."

Survivors include his mother, Elizabeth; father, Lewis Sr.; a sister, Pandy; a brother, Cliff; and nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from noon to 4 p.m. June 4, including a memorial service at 2 p.m., at Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St. Memorials to the church are suggested.

regarding equal employment benefits," added Solmonese. "Employees with same-sex partners are now doing equal work for less compensation. Domestic partner benefits make good business sense. They enhance an employer's overall compensation package with negligible cost to the company and are a hallmark of whether a company values diversity. If the Legislature is hearing from the Alliance Defense Fund, I urge legislators to also hear from companies in the state that have already learned these lessons."

The University of Wisconsin is the only "Big 10" school without domestic partner benefits, putting it at a competitive disadvantage when recruiting faculty. At least 60 major employers in the state already offer these benefits, including: Miller Brewing Company, American Family Insurance Group, Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance, SC Johnson & Son Inc.

Eleven states — California, Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington — offer domestic partner health benefits. Through its marriage law, Massachusetts also ensures equal health benefits.

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A Memorial to Barry R. Robinson, 1955-2005

By Mary Stearns

Barry R. Robinson died suddenly April 19 at his home in Verona. He was 49 years old, and the cause of death was a heart attack.

"Madison Arts Scene Loses One of Its Finest" was the headline in the Wisconsin State Journal. Very true, but art was just one facet of his life and career.

Robinson was a native of North Carolina and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from East Carolina University in 1977 and a master's degree in arts administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Business School in 1979.

From the time of his arrival in Madison, he was deeply involved with the arts. He worked for the Madison Civic Music Association from 1977 to 1979. He was managing director of the Jefferson Council for the Performing Arts.

Robinson was a member of the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission and its chairman for 10 years. He was also a member of the Madison Civic Center Foundation.

The University of Wisconsin Theater was another facet of his life. He became its business and public relations manager in 1980 and stayed in that position until his untimely death. Among many awards



for his work, he received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Service to the University in 2003.

His membership in the Salem United Church of Christ in Verona was another important part of his life. He was the organist at Sunday services as well as the founder and director of the Back Row Chorus, a men's singing group. A day after his death, the group changed its name to the Barry Robinson Chorus.

Finally — and this on a personal note — I knew Barry for 17 years as a summer resident on Fence Lake in Lac du Flambeau. Barry and his partner of 26 years, David Schumacher, bought a cottage on the lake in 1988. We met them shortly after my husband and I bought a similar property nearby. The four of us spent many wonderful times together, mostly in the Northwoods, but Barry and I forged an immediate bond. He quickly started to fill a sad place in my heart, the result of my brother Fred's death.

In the words of a song popular around the time Barry was born "the song has ended, but the melody lingers on." Barry's legacy will echo with every note the Barry Robinson Chorus sings.



Colorado Legislature Approves Nondiscrimination Bill, Strikes Down Marriage Ban

The Colorado Legislature passed a measure that would ban discrimination against LGBT employees. A House committee also struck down a proposed amendment to the Colorado Constitution that would deny marriage, along with other legal arrangements, to same-sex couples.

"Passage of S.B. 05-28 is a historic landmark for the cause of LGBT equality in Colorado," said Pat Steadman, a lobbyist for the LGBT state group Equal Rights Colorado. "This is precisely the bill that the authors of 'Amendment 2' tried to prevent our legislature from passing. This vote demonstrates just how far we've come in Colorado toward an acknowledgement

of the equal dignity of each and every citizen of our great state."

Colorado S.B. 05-28 would prohibit employment discrimination against LGBT individuals. The measure was sponsored by openly lesbian state Sen. Jennifer Veiga (D-Denver) and passed the Senate April 25 by a partisan 18-17 vote. The measure passed the House May 4 by a 36-29 vote. The Senate later concurred with House changes.

Sixteen states and Washington, D.C., have laws that prohibit employment discrimination based on sexual orientation, and six also prohibit gender-identity-based discrimination, including Colorado neighbor, New Mexico.

Hate Crimes Continued to Rise in 2004

Chicago — The Center on Halsted's Anti-Violence Project (AVP), in conjunction with the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), has released its annual report on violence against lesbians, gay men, bisexual people and transgendered individuals. The report examines data compiled from almost 2,000 hate-related incidents in 11 cities, states and regions across the country: the Chicago area; Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio; Colorado; Houston; Massachusetts; Michigan; Minnesota; the New York City area; Pennsylvania and the San Francisco Bay area. Additional information was included from Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo; Tucson, Ariz.; and Vermont. NCAVP's report is the most complete examination of such violence against LGBT people.

Across the nation, NCAVP reported an 8 percent increase in reported incidents of anti-LGBT violence. Such incidents rose from 1,720 in 2003 to 1,792 in 2004. The

total number of victims nationwide also increased, rising from 2,042 in 2003 to 2,131 in 2004.

Perhaps most disturbing is the 11 percent increase across the country in anti-LGBT murders, which rose from 18 in 2003 to 20 in 2004.

NCAVP's report on hate violence in 2003 detailed the rapid shift and 26 percent increase in anti-LGBT violence as the nation responded politically and violently to such victories for the community as the striking down of sodomy laws across the country and the right for same-sex couples to marry in Massachusetts.

The 2004 report looks at the continuation of that atmosphere, which lasted through numerous anti-lesbian and gay state ballot initiatives, a presidential call for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, and the demonization of lesbians and gay men in particular in the 2004 election cycle.

BlockOut Wisconsin Joins Fight Against Civil Unions Ban

BlockOut Wisconsin is a grassroots effort founded last year to fight the proposed constitutional amendment that would ban marriage and civil unions for gay and lesbian couples in Wisconsin.

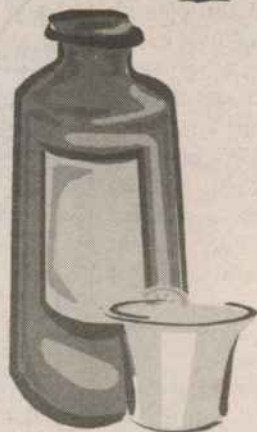
They have launched a new Web resource, BlockOutWisconsin.com. Its aim is to help facilitate person-to-person contact throughout the state about marriage equality and the ban on civil unions and same sex marriage.

The backbone of the effort is an "Adopt-A-Block" program that encourages people to take responsibility for educating their "block" (which can include family, friends, coworkers, neighbors etc.). Check it out online at www.blockoutwisconsin.com.

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Missouri Bars Lesbian from Becoming Foster Parent

Kansas City, Mo. — A lesbian who has spent her life helping children is challenging a Missouri policy barring lesbian and gay people from serving as foster parents. Lisa Johnston, who is represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), brought a challenge to the law in state court after an administrative judge, who found her to be otherwise "exceptionally" qualified to foster parent, denied her application solely because she is a lesbian.

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

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

In 2003, Johnston applied to the Department of Social Services (DSS) to become a foster parent to a child that she and her partner, Dawn Roginski, hoped to raise together. Like Johnston, Roginski, also 40, has devoted her life to helping children. She is currently a chaplain at a psychiatric treatment center for children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral disorders.

After Johnston applied to become a foster parent, the couple underwent an extensive home study and then began attending a training program for prospective foster parents. After completing seven of the nine

training sessions, DSS notified Johnston that it would no longer consider her for placement solely because she is a lesbian.

As required under state law, Johnston appealed the decision through the DSS administrative appeals process. Although the administrative judge found Johnston to be "exceptionally" qualified to foster parent, he denied her application in March 2005 solely because of her sexual orientation. The decision was based in part on Missouri law that banned sexual intimacy between same-sex couples that was rendered unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

On April 8, the ACLU filed a petition in the Jackson County Circuit Court on Johnston's behalf asking the court to review the order from DSS. The ACLU charges that DSS's decision banning Johnston from foster parenting is illegal.

"Decades of social science research has proven over and over again that lesbians and gay men are just as capable of being good parents as straight people, and their children are just as well adjusted," said Cathy Hiersteiner,

Ph.D., a child welfare specialist and founding member of Missouri Alternative Families Alliance. "This policy is bad for many reasons, but especially because it unnecessarily hurts the children who need our help the most."

Additional information about the case, including biographical information about Johnston and Roginski, is available at www.aclu.org/caseprofiles



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Thursday - Ladies Night

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Saturday - Girls Gone Wild / Food DJ Six, DJ Will

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Q
HAPPENINGS
International

Serbian Woman Beaten Because She 'Looked' Like a Lesbian

Novi Sad, Serbia — On April 3 at 3:30 a.m., in Novi Sad's Dunav Park, three skinheads beat up 27-year-old M.B. because, with her short hair, she "looked" like a lesbian to them. M.B. was walking home through the park when three drunk young men who appeared to be skinheads came after her, pulling her to stop walking. After she stopped, the young

men shouted: "So, you are a woman, you are one of 'them' — we should break your bones." One of the attackers first hit M.B. in the head, the others knocked her down and kicked her. After they had left the place, M.B. went home.

It is important to note that this is another one of the frequent instances of violence against the LGBT population across Serbia. A pilot poll conducted during February in Belgrade, Nis and Novi

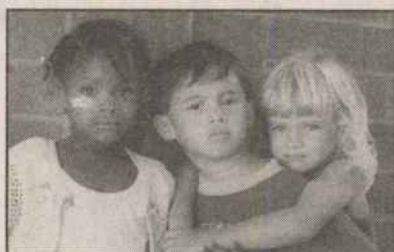
Sad shows the alarming data. Over 90 percent of people who participated in the poll are aware of cases of violence against lesbians and gay men, while 71.8 percent have suffered violence themselves. More than half those who took part in the poll suffered violence more than once because of their sexual orientation.

Labris, a lesbian human rights group, has commented, "Once again, we strongly protest and condemn this act of violence

and we request the competent institutions and authorities to react immediately and appropriately and prevent further spread of prejudice, discrimination and hatred against LGBT people." Labris is joined in the statement by a number of LGBT and human rights groups from within Serbia and other states that made up the former Yugoslavia.

Become a foster or adoptive parent.

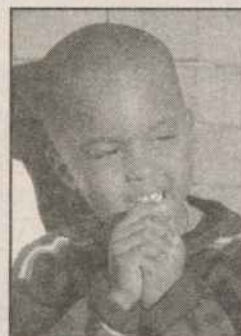
To learn more about how you can help a child in your community visit our booths at PrideFest or join us for an informational meeting:



Wednesday, June 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
at Children's Service Society, 1212 S. 70th St.

OR

Wednesday, July 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
at Lutheran Social Services, 647 W. Virginia St.



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MPS Committee Approves Home for New Alliance School

HAPPENINGS
State and Local

The Alliance School of Milwaukee has received approval from the ISR (Innovation/School Reform) Committee of the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) Board to open in August in the MPS Professional Development Center (PDC) located at 234 W. Galena St. The committee met May 10. Directors Goldberg, Spence, Hardin and Dannecker voted "aye" and director Horton voted "present."

as well as the proximity to downtown businesses and institutes of higher education make it an ideal site.

Kim Cosier, assistant professor of art education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, said, "I was so pleased that the committee gave its approval for Alliance to have a home. This brings us a giant step closer to realizing the important mission of the school. Alliance has the potential to significantly impact the lives of a great many people. Research and experience tell us that all it takes is one caring adult to change the course of a student's life — Alliance will offer its kids a cadre of caring adults! The concern that is shown to them promises to grow exponentially as the kids move out into the community."

Alliance will open in August with 100 students in grades 9 through 12. Seats are still available. For more information about enrolling, visit www.allianceschool.org or call 414-475-8000.



MPS Board Director Jennifer Morales enjoys a benefit for Alliance School

The PDC is in a building adjacent to MEC Middle School and houses some MPS administrative offices and the Milwaukee Teacher Education Center. It is also a block away from Golda Meier School. These resources

R.S.V.P. Productions Launches First Production at New Gay Arts Center

Love, family, birth, death. The cycles that propel us all through our tumultuous lives. They weave and intersect, often creating vicious torrents that can either loft us to great heights, or hurl us down into the flames.

R.S.V.P. Productions presents an adaptation of the award-winning HBO Special "The Twilight of the Golds" by Jonathan Tolins. The wheels of life turn with particularly harsh and heady inertia for a quiet Jewish family, the Golds. The daughter, Suzanne, is married to a geneticist whose work allows him to positively identify their unborn child has a certain trait.

The turbulence is particularly powerful for the brother, David, who shares the same genetic trait, or 'sickness' as the father puts it. A maelstrom of prejudice. An apocalypse of hate. Raymond Bradford directs this Wisconsin premiere which stars Mark Hagen, Carrie

Williams, Brian Richards, Alan Wallisch and Cynthia Paplaczky.

This is also the premiere of R.S.V.P. Productions new venue. The Gay Arts Center at 703 S. 2nd St. will be the new home of many exciting productions for R.S.V.P. It's a wonderful location featuring lots of street parking and is close to galleries, restaurants and bars.

Opening Thursday, June 16, "The Twilight of the Golds" runs through June 26, Wednesdays through Sundays. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 4:30 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$15 general seating, and \$20 reserved. Call the box office at 414-272-5694.

Future productions include the hilarious gay murder mystery "Drop Dead" playing for one week-end only, July 8-10 and, coming in November, the recent Broadway show "Reckless" by Craig Lukas.

Action Wisconsin's Milwaukee Pride Schedule

Action Wisconsin (AW) will be at the following events on Saturday, June 11.

12:30-2 p.m. at the Rainbow Cafe: Speakers training to Stop the Ban, co-presented with Center Advocates. Please register at least three days prior to the training session by sending us the following info: date of the training, your name, address, phone, and e-mail. E-mail lindsey.saunders@actionwisconsin.org.

3:30-5 p.m.: Action Wisconsin Executive Director Chris Ott will be on a panel on how to work together as a state to defeat the constitutional ban.

5:30-7 p.m.: Political rally.

AW is seeking volunteers to help with our outreach to PrideFest attendees on June 11 and 12. E-mail marcelle.richards@actionwisconsin.org to sign up. The Speakers Network is also seeking regular daytime volunteers and interns to help build the network, both during the summer and through the coming year. AW also needs help making outreach phone calls in Madison on several evenings in June. E-mail lindsey.saunders@actionwisconsin.org or call 608-441-0143, ext 309.



HAPPENINGS
National

Gay Games Documentary Premieres at New York's NewFest

San Francisco — The two decade legacy of the international Gay Games is the subject of filmmaker David Sectar's new 85-minute documentary, "Take the Flame! Gay Games: Grace, Grit & Glory." The film has its world premiere on June 4 during NewFest, New York City's annual LGBT film festival.

The film is narrated by Olympic diving legend Greg Louganis, who came out as gay and HIV-positive at the 1994 Gay Games IV in New York. "Take the Flame!" includes interviews and comments from numerous Gay Games participants and supporters, including prominent athletes such as Martina Navratilova, David Kopay, Bruce Hayes and Billy Bean; author Armistead Maupin; U.S. Ambassador James Hormel; and noted photographer Tom Bianchi.

Sectar's film tells the story of how the Gay Games changed the way the world thinks about the LGBT community and sports. Compiling the hundreds of photographs, video and

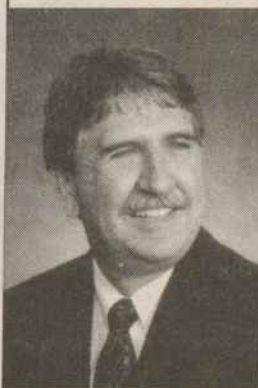
film clips involved dogged research into public and personal archival material, including the Federation of Gay Games' archives at the San Francisco Public Library.

Sectar shot much exclusive footage at the first Gay Games held in the southern hemisphere, Gay Games VI in Sydney, Australia, held in November 2002. Other material documents social conditions throughout the Gay Games' history, including the concurrent AIDS epidemic that took the lives of many people connected with LGBT sports, notably Tom Waddell.

The world premiere at NewFest will launch a series of appearances at LGBT film festivals during the next year, prior to Gay Games VII which takes place in Chicago July 15-22, 2006.

For more information about "Take the Flame! Gay Games: Grace, Grit and Glory," visit the Chicago Gay Games VII Web site, www.chicago2006.org. NewFest ticketing information is available at www.newfest.org.

Attorney at Law Warren J. Klaus

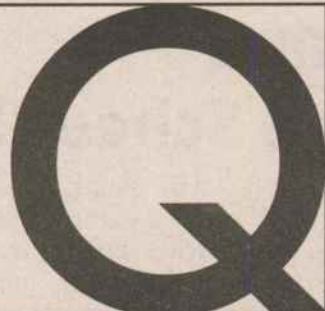


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A Milwaukee Spiritual Leader Passes ... But Is Not Forgotten

The word of the Rev. Lew Broyles' passing in May, left those in our ranks sad and downright shocked. His engaging wit and style touched so many... It was almost as if the dreary weather of late expressed our heavy hearts.

Lew was a man with lots of words, usually shared during his rousing sermons at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church.

But more than a man of the cloth, Lew was a gentle voice even away from the pulpit. He represented, as he liked to say, "all of God's children," including those who are LGBT.

A passionate community leader, Lew's style brought a bit of levity when issues facing our community appeared overwhelming and clearly backward.

When we sat down recently, Lew talked about how one of his most important accomplishments in life was his "marriage" of LGBT people at PrideFest year after year. In fact, he was almost giddy when he talked about the total number of "marriages" for queer people over which he officiated through his life. And even though Lew was involved in so many community organizations, he would never let on who he knew and how to get tough things done — it wasn't Lew's style to push his weight around.

You could tell he took great pride in bringing happiness to others and so, what better time to celebrate Lew's pride than now, during Pride month?

Lew wore pride on his sleeve and it was his honesty that made others feel good about themselves and what they believed in.

A compassionate, caring and modest man is how Lew will be remembered here in Milwaukee. And for those who believe in an afterlife... we can tell you this — God's getting an earful right now from one of our best allies.

Is Marriage the Only Way?

To us, the proposed constitutional ban on gay marriage and civil unions is wrong in so many ways that we could fill this entire paper with stories and examples of its barbaric and homophobic implications. But we don't feel we need to do that because, after all, we're preaching to the choir.

But when do discussion and differing views on this very serious issue become right or wrong to engage in? Many would say that, as the state's largest LGBT newspaper, Q Life should not question the motives and organizational decisions made by those in power in our community. After all, that could be viewed as divisive. However, nothing could be further from the truth.

LGBT people in this state

need to arm themselves for the war ahead.

Make no mistake about it, Q Life stands steadfastly behind efforts to oppose Wisconsin's proposed constitutional ban on gay marriage and civil unions. But as we polish our armor and plot our war strategy, we need to make sure we're able to communicate and build alliances with others who may or may not share our political views on every issue. After all, without an infantry of many soldiers we could lose both the battle and the war.

We respect Action Wisconsin's and Center Advocates' undying leadership on this issue. But we ask that both these fine, well-oiled machines with competent leaders at their helms make sure the discussion around defeating this bigoted ban is not stagnated by a limited number of people with the very same views.

There clearly is a difference between marriage and civil unions. No one is denying that. And you would be hard-pressed to find anyone in the LGBT community that wouldn't agree that if we got even one of these pro-

tections, it would be a step forward.

But we mustn't lose sight that some of the most powerful movements in our history were successful mainly because they fought for something and not against it. In this case, we know our backs are up against the wall since those seeking a ban want to strip us of our fundamental right of liberty. We know we need to fight back and we must do everything we can to try to stop this ban.

However, let's not close the door on all options that might become available to us in the coming months. Also let's not neglect the creative thinking in our community that could culminate in surprising results. We won't know what that could lead to if we disenfranchise a whole group of people and don't get the discussion out on the table.

continued on page 15



EDITORIAL *continued from page 14*

Our trenches are full of people, both veterans and newcomers, ready to fight the good fight. Let's not silence them by driving them away with what some might think excludes them.

For the good of our entire movement, whether we ultimately call our partnerships marriages or civil unions, we must realize now the only path to a winning strategy involves figuring out our common ground and building on it.

Kudos

A special hats-off this month must go out to the forward-thinking women who realized that Milwaukee lacked some feminist and queer perspectives in the marketplace. With the addition of **Broad Vocabulary**, a feminist bookstore in Bay View, southeastern Wisconsin has gained some knowledge on what it means to bring discussions of gender into focus through literature. We still haven't passed the ERA, but we hope we have enough votes to keep this fresh voice and new business alive.

The **ACLU** deserves a pat on the back for going to court to try to protect the rights of partners of state employees. This forward-thinking advocacy group realizes the difference between right and wrong as well as

bigotry and inclusion. In order for our state to compete for some of the best brains and workers in our nation, we must realize that Wisconsin needs to get with the program and offer the same competitive benefits available elsewhere throughout the nation. Gov. Doyle was right when he made this part of his budget for University of Wisconsin employees. Unfortunately the legislature doesn't see it that way and might legally be forced to come to their senses.

Congratulations to the **Alliance School, Milwaukee Board of School Directors** and **MPS Administrators** who led a successful effort to ensure that teens at risk, including those who are LGBT, will have another safe place to hit the books in August. With an approved new location, the Alliance School is now ready to do what they've been working toward for many months — teach a group of kids badly in need of non-traditional educational opportunities.

Although Alliance School organizers were hoping to move into the Bucketworks building and even secured a matching grant of half a million dollars for build-out, they were prudent to put the kids first. After all, the desperate need for more safe, inclusive learning environments should not be curtailed or stall because of bricks and mortar.

Apologies

I voted for Ald. Michael McGee because I thought McGee was a person who might "shake things up" a little and initiate some needed change. I voted for McGee and I was disappointed by the reported slur he made against our community in reference to the officers alleged in the Frank Jude beating, especially because so many of the queer people in my district also voted for McGee. Most disappointing has been the lack of a solid, public apology from him.

Despite my disappointment, I have to wonder how long we're going to play this broken apology record. Yes, the bigoted slur was tremendously inappropriate. Yes, it's vital that the LGBT community challenge prejudice and other threats to our dignity and equality, but we've done that. We've made it clear to all that the casual verbal attack McGee made on our community would not be tolerated without challenge. That point has been made, regardless of whether or not a formal apology is forthcoming. Attitudes are not changed by pressure, and change is not always evidenced by an apology made in response to bullying.

The LGBT community has publicly supported Frank Jude's cause and many of us have attended the vigils and meetings. The clear message is that we stand in solidarity with Jude, for justice and against hate crimes driven by ignorant bigotry. McGee cannot have failed to hear at least some of that message. What he chooses to do with it is left to be seen, but how long are we going to expend energy on this issue?

Let's move forward and give McGee another chance to mend the damage he wrought with his thoughtless insult. Let's give him an opportunity to show that he recognizes how all victims of unfair prejudice need to stand together, that strength against oppression is in unifying rather than dividing ourselves. Hopefully McGee now realizes, if he didn't before, that a large percentage of his actively voting constituents are queer and, apology or not, his words and actions need to serve his entire diverse district. If not, he won't be re-elected.

Hannah Medrow

**Greendale Police Continue to Stop Shoppers at Southridge Mall**

What was first suspected to be an abduction of a pregnant woman by four unidentified armed men at Southridge Mall on Saturday, April 30, later turned out to be a profiling operation conducted by the Greendale Police Department.

The alarming part is that these officers seek someone who fits the profile of a gang member and then they stop the person without first identifying themselves, according to a Latino citizen. The officers request the names of those stopped and interrogate them, while their names are checked for outstanding warrants. When people ask for their identifications they repeatedly refuse to identify themselves. They have no choice, but to identify themselves.

This type of profiling operation continues at Southridge. Chief of Police Robert Dams at Greendale calls it a proactive gang-suppression operation in which shoppers may be stopped for wearing caps cocked to the side, clothing with colors used by gangs, or flashy jewelry or for exhibiting gang-related tattoos in public. These types of hats, clothing and jewelry are also sold at Southridge Mall and anyone can buy them over the counter. Perhaps the Greendale police need to confiscate and close the stores that provide them to the public.

Also, there is no law that prohibits anyone from exhibiting any type of tattoo in public. No doubt, our "civil rights" are being violated by the Greendale Police Department.

But Chief Dams says the department is not profiling and officers should identify themselves before they stop anyone. Dams has started an internal investigation about officers not identifying themselves as previously reported.

H. Nelson Goodson
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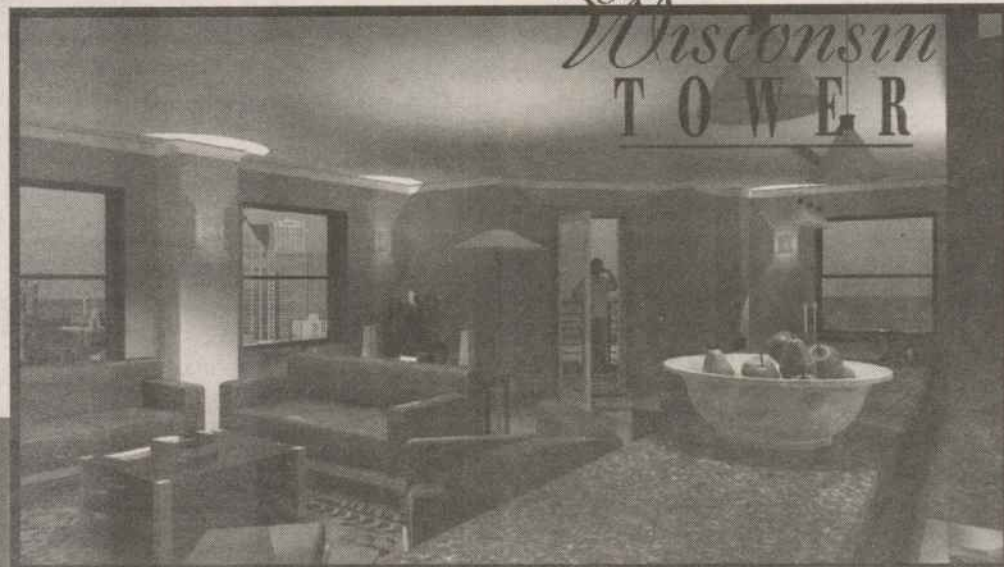
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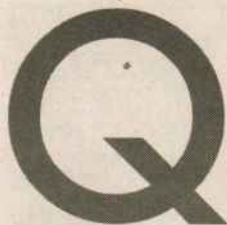
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YOUTH

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 About the T?

It is a constant struggle for young identifying lesbian, gay and bisexual youth to remain resilient and strong when it comes to the pressures of fitting in at school and in the community. Coming out can be an enlightening or a painful experience and there are abundant outreach programs and resources available for all who seek them.

Keeping that in mind, there is also an increasingly visible population of identifying transgender youth. What is most ironic about a community fighting for justice, equality and respect is the lack of knowledge in the LGB community regarding transgender issues. Through personal experiences we find that the LGB community tends to ignore any other types of gender identification. Some in the community don't understand what many transgender youth face and are apathetic when it comes to these issues.

While we're all equal, some of us tend to ignore the trials that others are put through, seeing them as unimportant compared to our own problems that we face everyday. However, we're all in this together, fighting for rights and understanding. While we ourselves might not be able to grasp how others conceptualize their issues, we need to show the support that they need.

We aren't denying that the community is indeed growing more educated about what it means to be transgender, but there are a lack of transgender workshops and transgender youth groups for people to attend in order for us to began to grasp the issues faced by this often ignored group.

With that said, it can be more of a battle for transgender youth to come out in an environment full of transphobia. The LGB community should be willing to embrace them with open minds, open arms, and

open hearts but there seems to be a degree of transphobia within the community.

Plenty of questions go unanswered every day at school and in the community. For instance, what if a young female-to-male or male-to-female transgender person has to use the restroom? Are they to use the restroom that they are "supposed" to use or should they use the restroom they know they truly belong in?

There is little to no support for transgender youth in the school system. Many transgender youth are constantly asking themselves, "Which bathroom should I use?" "Should I tell my teacher to use my preferred pronouns?" or "Should I just not say anything at all?"

Not saying anything about being transgender can possibly lead to depression, a sense of self-worthlessness and fear. By feeling worthless and afraid of the world around them, transgender youth might resort to suicide or other types of self-inflicted harm to try and erase the pain suppression they feel around them.

For each person identifying as female-to-male or male-to-female, the experience is different, as all coming out stories tend to be. Some people feel the need to shield their gender out of either fear or lack of support, and some individuals are embraced with love and acceptance. The LGB community needs to continue to combine transgender workshops and education forums as a way to include transgender youth and embrace everyone regardless of sexuality and gender.

What is most ironic about a community fighting for justice, equality and respect is the lack of knowledge in the LGB community regarding transgender issues.



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Moore Pledges Support to LGBT People and Families



By Congresswoman Gwen Moore, (D - Milwaukee)

Congratulations on the success of Q Life and thank you for inviting me to be this month's Q Friend! It is an honor to have this opportunity to address my friends in the LGBT community.



Gwen Moore

Throughout my life, I have always endeavored to understand people whose lives and experiences are different from my own. As a student, I chose to study foreign languages as a way of gaining insight into how other cultures and communities live. I have always been proud of my commitment to diversity — not a hollow commitment to tolerating others, but a firm belief that we all benefit from celebrating the contributions different communities make to the well-being of our society.

It has been very easy for me to embrace the LGBT community because I understand how my fate is linked to my neighbor's. I understand that advancements for women and people of color cannot come at the expense of LGBT people. I recognize that economic empowerment is a goal that we all share, and one we will all be denied if we allow divisive politics to shift our focus.

I believe, deeply, in the goal of equality and civil rights for all.

I am disturbed by the current efforts to use the Constitution to deny full equality to LGBT people. The civil rights protections that are enshrined in our state and federal constitutions are the product of years of bloody struggle. I respect the effort expended to win those protections. I am proud to have participated in those struggles, and to have helped open new doors for groups whose opportunities had been limited by centuries of prejudice and discriminatory practices.

Now, some legislators have introduced a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin.

Too few people understand the scope of this amendment, and the impact it would have on real families in our community. Should the proposed amendment pass, it could endanger the domestic partnership registries established in many Wisconsin municipalities. In states where similar amendments have prevailed, corporations that offer domestic partner benefits have been vulnerable to lawsuits, and public entities that offer these benefits have been forced to discontinue them.

The potential for these setbacks is all too real, and all too scary.

As a state senator, I opposed legislation to ban gay marriage and I pledge that I will continue to be a voice for LGBT rights in the

It has been very easy for me to embrace the LGBT community because I understand how my fate is linked to my neighbor's.

U.S. House of Representatives.

As a member of Congress, I am committed to using federal law as a tool to empower and support LGBT people and their families. I pledge to you that I will:

- Support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to prohibit employers from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation and ensure fairness in hiring;

- Work to ensure that same- and opposite-sex domestic partners of federal employees receive the same benefits available to spouses;

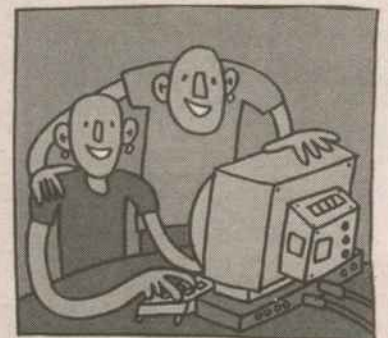
- Support the equal treatment of domestic partners under federal tax law; and

- Fight to expand the Family and Medical Leave Act, to cover employees taking leave to care for ill or infirm domestic partners.

As progressive people, we must work to make room at the table for everyone, rather than seeking only to protect our own seats.

Wisconsin Gay News

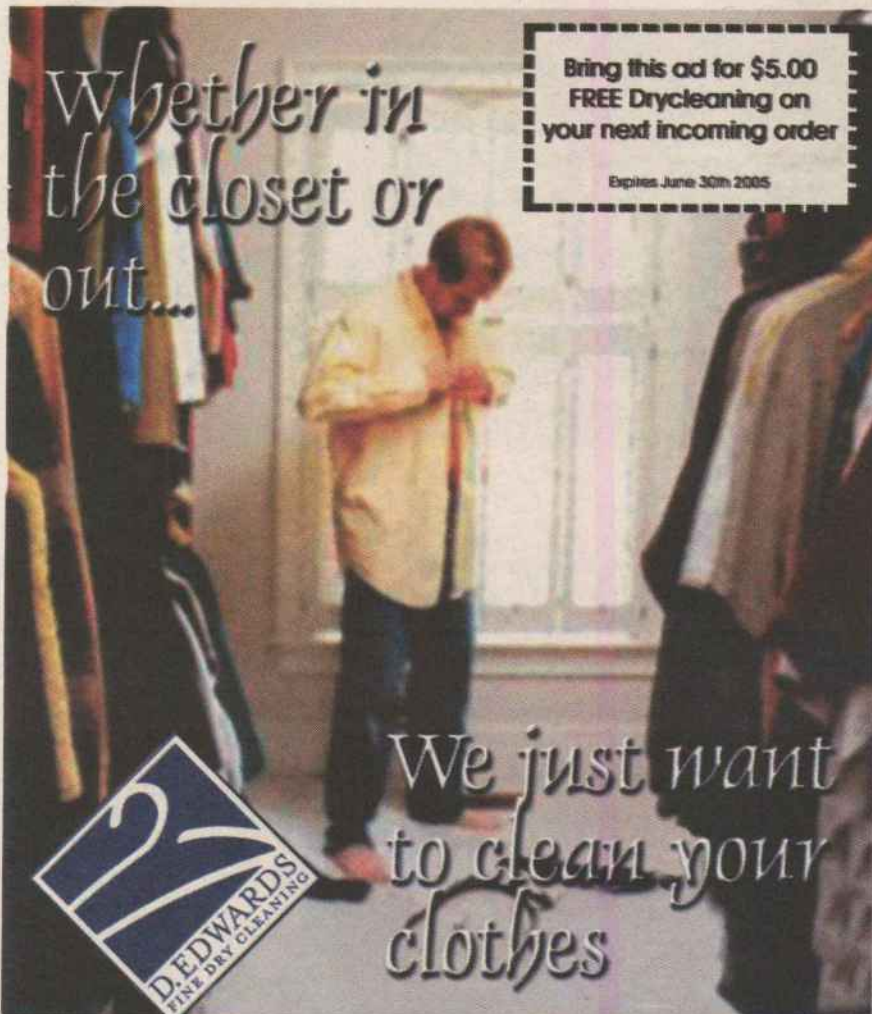
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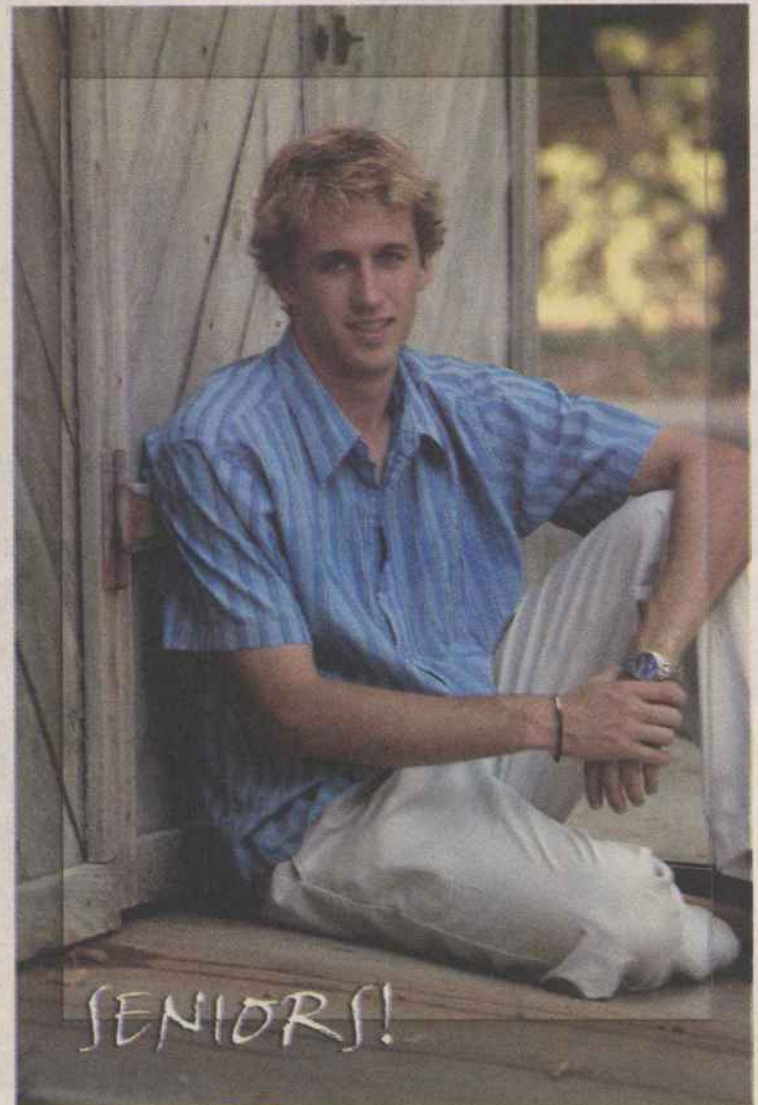
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Christopher Schmidt
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frequents many area clubs. He is
always on the lookout for the newest
hotspots. Stay tuned for more on
Milwaukee's wonderful array of nightlife
opportunities.

PUMP Up the Party

With Milwaukee's ever-popular PrideFest right around the corner, the city is planning wonderful events for both June 10 and 11. Held at the Summerfest grounds, PrideFest brings people from all over the state, as well as surrounding states, together for an all-out, no-holds-barred bash. Though I am sure almost all of the bars and clubs in Milwaukee and the surrounding areas have wonderful agendas for these two fun-filled evenings, you must attend the two that will rock your world.

For quite some time now I have frequented the nightclub Three, located at 722 N. Milwaukee St. in downtown Milwaukee, and I have always thoroughly enjoy myself. Three has many different themed nights and, in my opinion, Sunday's party, named PUMP, is simply amazing. With wonderful drink specials and with a wide variety of both men and women clientele ranging from the young to the club veterans, PUMP is simply remarkable. Bartenders Josh Muller and Christian Pavlock add a smile to the evening

with impeccable service and outstanding drinks. With a revolving \$6 martini special, PUMP makes for a very affordable evening, especially because there is no cover charge.

Promoter Gregg Hutterer and DJ John Murges put on a wonderfully organized and fun-filled evening. They founded PUMP two and a half years ago and it is still going strong. John Murges is a household name in Milwaukee, having been the resident DJ at the annual Make A Promise event recently held at the Milwaukee Art Museum (benefiting AIDS awareness and research) as well as a frequent installation at Three. Not only does DJ John Murges perform his wonderful beats in this small yet delightful space with an ample dance floor, he is going to be headlining the special PrideFest event at Moct Bar, 240 E. Pittsburgh Ave., just one block east of 1st Street over the Water Street bridge.

On June 11, Moct Bar, which houses the ever-popular Café Fabrika, will turn into a club-goers paradise. Starting after the

The positive energy that flows through the grounds screams 'let's party.' As one of my favorite weekends in Milwaukee, PrideFest and its after party at Moct Bar on June 11 won't let down even the most avid party-goer.

nightly PrideFest fireworks, this party will be the party of the year. DJ Plez from Chicago, as well as DJ John Murges, will lay down the tracks. All proceeds from the minimal cover charge will go to benefit PFLAG of Milwaukee, an organization that promotes the health and well-being of the LGBT community here in Milwaukee and all over the country. Once the Café Fabrika section of Moct Bar is transformed into a large, state-of-the-art dance floor and the lights start illuminating this wonderful space, the music will take over, turning it into a night not to miss. You would be foolish not to attend.

PrideFest, held on June 10 and 11, is a must for homosexuals and straights alike. The positive energy that flows through the PrideFest grounds screams "let's party." As one of my favorite weekends in Milwaukee, PrideFest and its after-party at Moct Bar on June 11 won't let down even the most avid party-goer.

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When I Look at Her, I'm Home

What attracted you to each other?

Des: I have to admit her beautiful smile and bedroom eyes immediately got engraved in my head. I started to experience strange feelings of giddiness when she touched me, nosiness when she was away, cluelessness when she was around me and, well, sleepless nights if she slept over. I was hooked and the chemistry took over. The natural elements of love began to brew as I hoped that she would feel the same.

Kelly: Desiree is a very passionate person in terms of what she believes in. She immediately challenged me intellectually and in terms of thinking about myself and about the world around me. She makes me want to be a better person. I became hooked instantaneously and always found ways to spend time with her. She has a great sense of humor and is a beautiful person both inside and out!

What is unique about your partner?

Des: Being with Kelly has given me the opportunity to really experience love. I now understand the poetry, movies, stories and love songs because I am in love. She completes me. When I look at her I'm home. I would die for her. I would kill for her. I see my unborn children in her eyes. I count the days when we are away. She is the sunshine in my eyes, and the one person I long to be with...

Kelly: Ditto.

What is the happiest time you had together?

Des: Our second kiss, because we were both uncertain if it was going to happen. Once it did, I had butterflies in my stomach and my whole world at that moment was so surreal and exciting because I wanted this new feeling to stay with me forever. And it has.

Kelly: Besides that amazing kiss, we are living apart right now, so I am most happy on the weekends when we can sleep in together and spend the entire day doing nothing in each other's company. We communicate, laugh and spend the day sharing kisses and hugs! It gets me through each week!

What are your hopes for this relationship?

Des: I hope I will be able to give Kelly all that she needs. I hope that she will be able to give me what I need. I hope our families will accept our relationship unconditionally someday. I hope that love is all we will need forever. And I hope that our relationship lives on as long as we do.



COUPLES

Desiree Alva, 24, (on the left) is a Chicana from San Antonio. She is a full-time master's student at UW-Madison and associate advisor for the Multicultural Student Center. Kelly Ocasio, 22, is a recent UW graduate and teaches bilingual kindergarten in Milwaukee. Both love their kitty, Gia. They have been together two and a half years.

Kelly: We are actually finally moving in together next month and are very excited about starting our lives together! I hope that our relationship will be embraced not only by family and friends but by the larger society. I hope that our children will be able to live in this society without feeling ostracized. Lastly, I hope that everyone has the opportunity to experience the kind of love that Desiree and I share.

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

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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.

Don't Look Down On Floors

Fashion at your fingertips? Yes. But fashion at your feet?

"Flooring is a fashion statement," says Bob Kashou of George Kashou Carpet Co. on Milwaukee's East Side. Well sure, Kashou has been selling floor coverings for over three generations. They'd be delighted if we changed our carpets as often as we update our wardrobes.

But as an interior decorator rather than a fashion plate, I do tend to agree with Bob. The basics in any room, the Holy Trinity, are the shell: walls, ceiling and floor. This is the foundation from which the rest of the decorating evolves.

Today's flooring comes in such a large variety of materials, textures and colors that we have the freedom to choose just about anything we can imagine. The safe, beige wall-to-wall carpeting of the '50s has given way to hard-surface floors accented with area rugs. Just as off-white walls have been enlivened with color and texture, floors are becoming more practical and exciting.

Hard-surface floors are being unearthed in older homes — often oak on the main floors, maple in the bedroom areas and pine in attics. In newly built houses, homeowners and builders are specifying hardwoods, ceramic, terra cotta, porcelain and stone, where subflooring covered by carpeting, sheet vinyl or tile was once the norm. The hard, natural surface floorings allow for more flexibility in style, are easier to care for and tend to be kinder to people with allergies.

They are also beautiful.

Area rugs are widely available in all traditions and price ranges from home improvement megastores to high-end specialty rug dealers. Rugs can be put down easily, taken up for cleaning or changed to create different atmospheres. Having said all that, I believe that there is still nothing as luxurious, rich looking and sink-your-toes-into-it feeling as a wall-to-wall carpet in the bedroom.

In addition to the classic oriental rugs and carpeting that their reputation is built on, Kashou offers wood, cork, rubber and bamboo flooring. Years ago, we persuaded Sam Kashou to construct an area rug for a bowed-front living room. Not only was the carpet to be cut and bound in an unusual shape, but we also specified a contrasting border inserted to match a custom-bordered runner in the stairway of the adjoining foyer.

My late partner, Joanne Johnson, was a wonderful artist and a needlepoint-canvas designer before we started Orientations. She painted a glorious floral design on a client's round, glassed-in conservatory floor. At another client's, she painted a border on a dining room oak floor echoing the colors of the rug it surrounded. Another floor we designed (not painted by JJ — she retired, just like the Paper Dolls), created a handsome hand-painted Mediterranean look with a faux marquetry adaptation on a hardwood

kitchen floor.

During the Shorewood Village Hall renovation in the '80s, we fell in love with a WPA era rug that was in the village manager's office. Unfortunately the rug's condition was too poor to continue its use. So we had a custom reproduction made, adopting the original design and using the new color scheme. After repair and cleaning, the original rug was hung in the stairwell of the east entry. There it can be admired by many — a slice of history as well as an efficient noise barrier. It looks great. Go visit it and the new one in the manager's office too.

While you are out looking at floors, and if you're thinking about what to do in your own place, there are many floors in public spaces to visit for ideas.

The floor in the great hall at Villa Terrace, a decorative arts museum of Milwaukee County, is a pegged, planked style seen in the Mediterranean villas. The Hotel Metro on Mason Street has a fabulous bamboo floor in most of its first floor public areas. The Milwaukee Art Museum's Calatrava addition features a stunning marble floor, while the east entry floors are a durable end-grain hardwood. The older section of the museum has floors covered in hardwood parquet.

Fashion underfoot? Oh, yes! From now on, for the height of fashion, don't look down on floors. Look at them.

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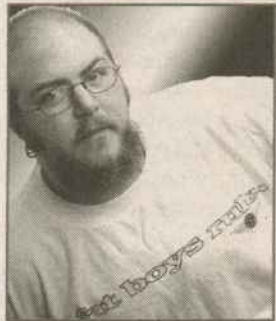
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Michael Munson is an emotionally intense, transgressively gendered, passionate social agitator who strives for inclusion and harmony by focusing on our human similarities and strengths. He is lovingly committed to his partner and their 10-year-old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

Inner Pride

An 80-year-old woman stands at her kitchen sink, serenely watching the cardinals feed in her back yard. The tap lets out a slow trickle of water that rinses a handful of strawberries. Deftly, she pulls the edge of the paring knife towards her thumb, easily removing the green from the berry. Just as smoothly, she slices off a juicy bit of the berry and eats it directly from the blade.

Watching her — seeing the pure pleasure she attains from these simple berries and the birds that fill her yard — one would question if she had studied Buddhism or yoga. Her spine straight, a peaceful smile brightens her face. Her calm, steady and unflinching assuredness surrounds her and penetrates those around her.

When I think of Pride, I don't see drunken masses at PrideFest. I don't picture cheerful people on the streets proclaiming their queerness. I don't even envision people being proudly out to their family and friends.

When I think of Pride, I imagine a community of people who are at peace with themselves, people who are so comfortable in their skin that it radiates out to the world and that brilliance touches others. This tribe of prideful people may include those who are shy or outgoing, freshly out to themselves or elders in their community, actively involved with other queer people or fully content in their close circle of friends. The main ingredient is that they are filled to the brim with love, compassion and acceptance — of themselves.

When I initially became involved with trans folks nearly 15 years ago, I was stunned to encounter a community of people who hated their bodies. I saw FTMs who emerged from lesbian-feminist backgrounds abhor their bodies. I saw MTFs

become misandronistic. The focus was often on disliking what was, rather than on looking forward to (and working towards) what will be. The focus was shame-based and frequently centered on covering up who they were, rather than accentuating the positive(s).

When this kind of self-loathing becomes a cultural norm, it is difficult to proclaim "I love my car (even though it needs a little bodywork)," in part, because it's hard to be the odd one out within a community, and because it's very challenging for any of us to learn to love ourselves, even when we see "flaws." Are any of us flawed, though? What happens when we daringly love ourselves enough to transform the image we have of "flawed" to "unique"?

Every time I slice strawberries, I think of my grandmother. She always used to say that the best strawberries were the ones that were a little bruised, because they were sweeter than the rest. I think of the juxtaposition of her quiet, inner

I was stunned to encounter a community of people who hated their bodies.

peacefulness and her love of the boldness of red — the strawberries, the cardinals. She was the first to teach me about contradictions and complexity, and more importantly about unconditional love. From early on, I deeply felt the love she had for her tall, uncoordinated, socially awkward granddaughter. I remember how she gently corrected other members of my family to use the "right" new name and male pronouns. She instilled in me a self-assuredness — profound inner peace — for who I was.

My transness, like others', has often been viewed as "bold" and "courageous." My journey, though, has simply been about aligning my body and mind — loving who I am, not hating it — and sharing my complexities with others. That's pride. If we could all reach a place of self-love and self-acceptance, what would our community look like?

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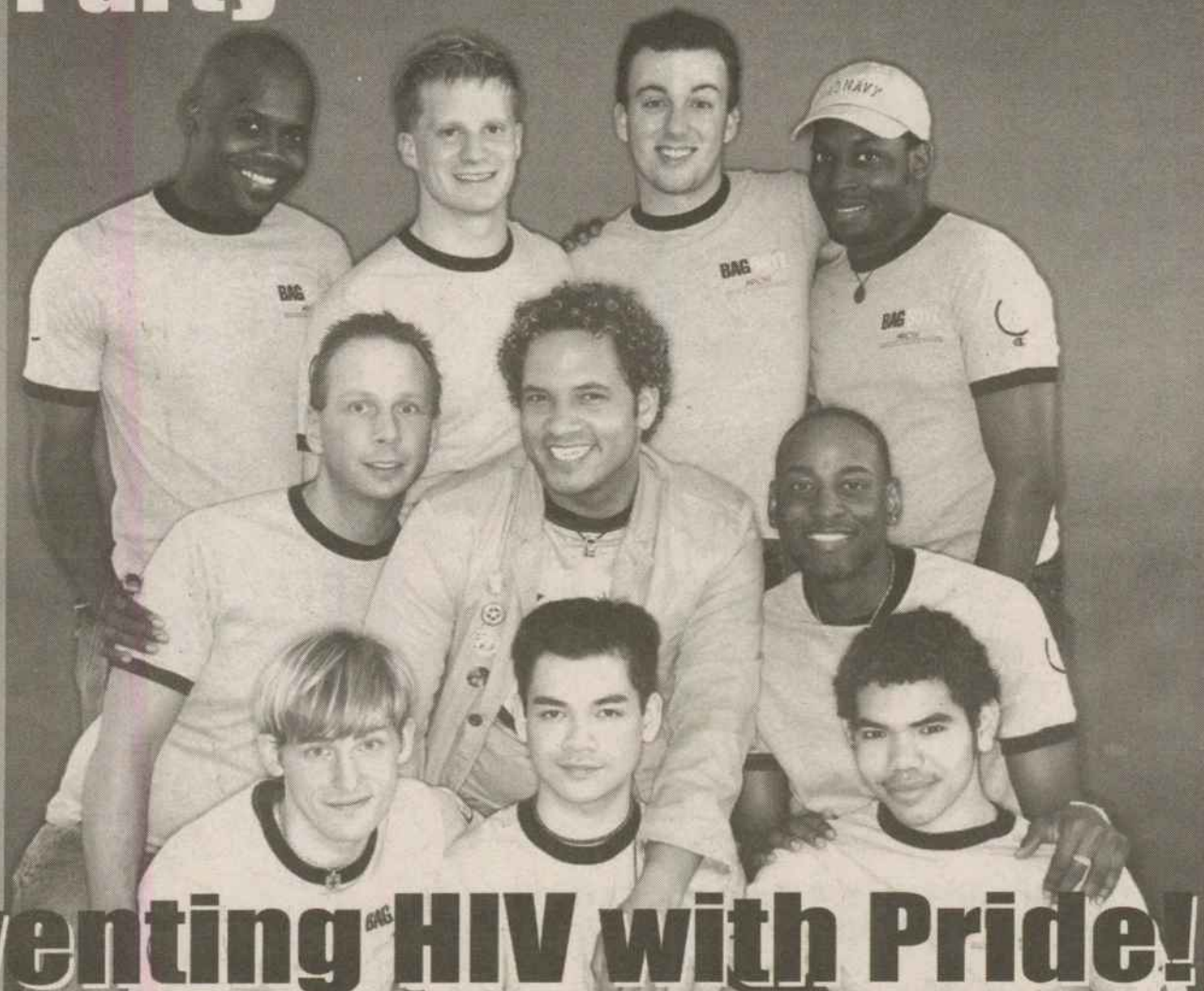
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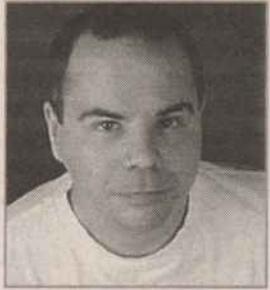


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Hometown Heroes: The Queers Who Made Milwaukee Famous



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

As we celebrate Pride this month, it's a great opportunity to take a look at two phenomenal publications from Milwaukee that reflect the quirky and irreverent nature of queer zines. Like the city itself, these zines are left-of-center and have roots in political dissent. Despite their similarities, the ends to which these authors use wry humor differentiate them from each other.

Fuh Cole [Issue 3, 1993, 40 pages] took its cues from such legendary zines as Johnny Noxema's *Bimbox*. A pastiche of cut-and-paste xerography with liberal usage of Sharpie markers, *Fuh Cole* rocks for the simple reason that it unashamedly gets in the reader's face. Dave makes apologies to no one and doesn't spare his cutting remarks. Lest readers assume he's simply a "bitter old queen," he assuredly is none of the three. His anger is there for good reason, but through the frustration, there's still an implied sense that Dave is working to change his circumstances for the better.

The subtitle for *Fuh Cole 3* is "the Fuh Kinko's issue" detailing the story of a suburban Kinko's that refused to copy his zine because they disagreed with its content. He responds with a brilliant "culture jam" by inserting postage-paid Kinko's comment cards in each copy of the zine and encouraging readers to send in them in.

**Like the city itself,
these zines are left-of-
center and have roots in
political dissent.**

Eventually, he had to stop the campaign and add a disclaimer when Kinko's corporate office made amends. Dave is also adept at thoroughly dissecting form letters and propaganda from organizations like The March on Washington or *Out Magazine* and making sardonic comments in the margins. *Fuh Cole* folded shortly after Dave left Milwaukee.

Mutate [Issue 9, 2005, 32 pages, www.mutatezine.com] started roughly a few years after the final issue of *Fuh Cole* and it's still distributed free of charge. "Form suggests function" can be applied to this zine, as it is folded in half-standard style, making it fairly unique. This style came about after the introductory issue, whose modified mini-zine format required a time-

consuming process to assemble. Early issues often had few written articles and heavily relied on graphic art to carry the weight. These graphics, however, were certainly not lacking — they were clever, cheeky examples of detournement, the concept of taking a photo or graphic and altering it subtly to render an entirely different meaning.

Issue 9 brings together cool visual elements, tight writing, and thought-provoking commentary on advertising, media and pop culture. Defying the typical clichéd questions one often finds in music interviews, Milo profiles queer dyke hip-hop artists God-des and Tina G (coincidentally both Wisconsin natives). He is also unabashedly bisexual and a feminist, and strives to be inclusive of the wide range of the queer experience. Check out "Blurotica" for the best example of his varied desires condensed into sensual short-story form. What stands out most of all is a commitment to activism. If an article isn't about ways to save the planet through conservation or reducing consumerism, it's about personal or sexual politics.

The energy behind *Mutate* is still going strong and after Issue 10 appears (at an indeterminate future date) there are plans to publish all 10 issues together in an anthology. Stay tuned!

Next month, get out your passport and brush up on your foreign language skills when we'll look at the European zines **Easily Gressed Out** and **Androzone**.

These and other zines can be found online at www.qzap.org, the Queer Zine Archive Project.



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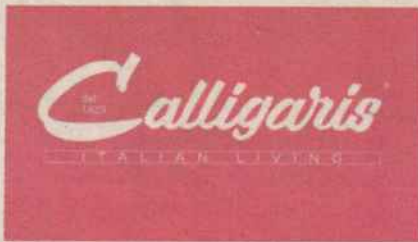
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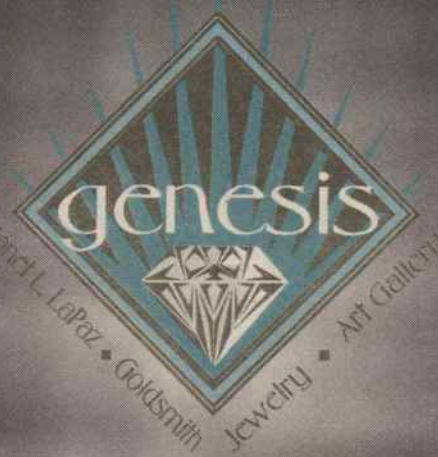
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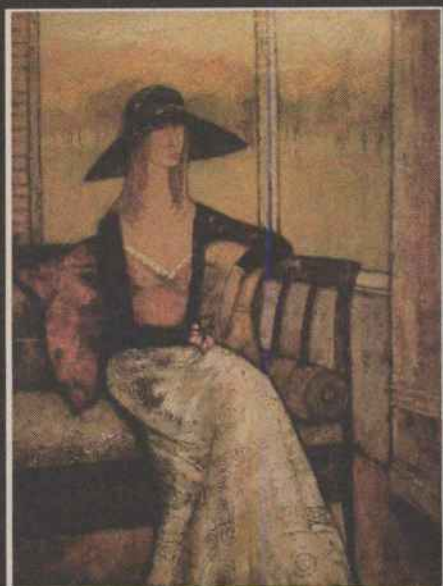
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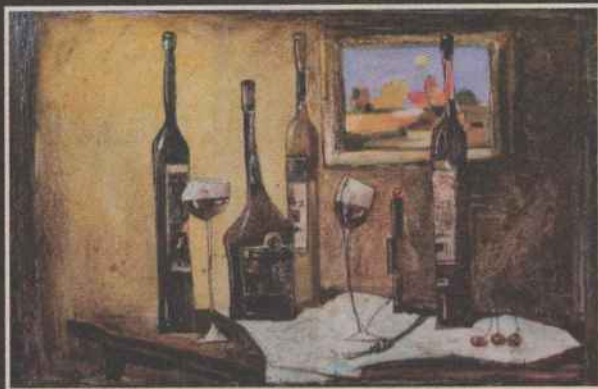
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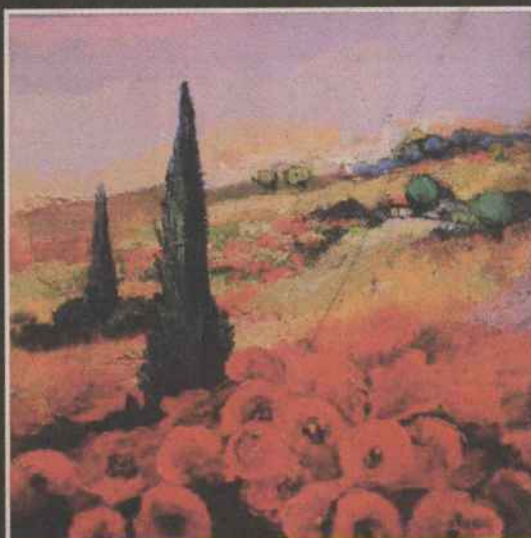
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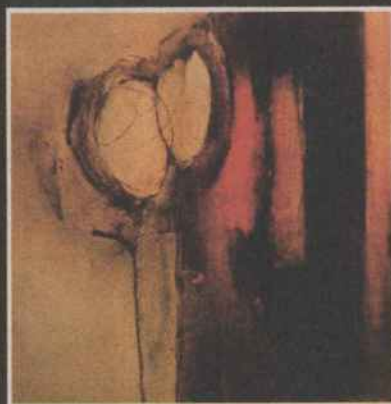
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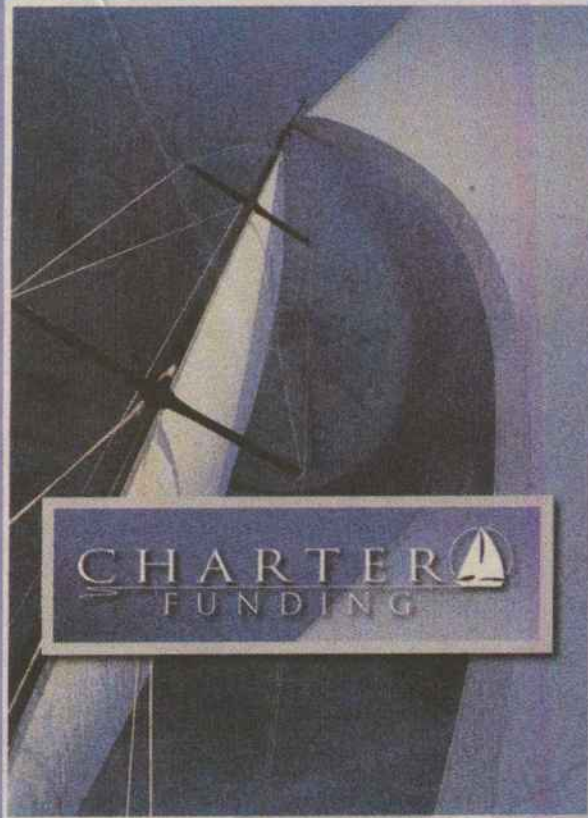
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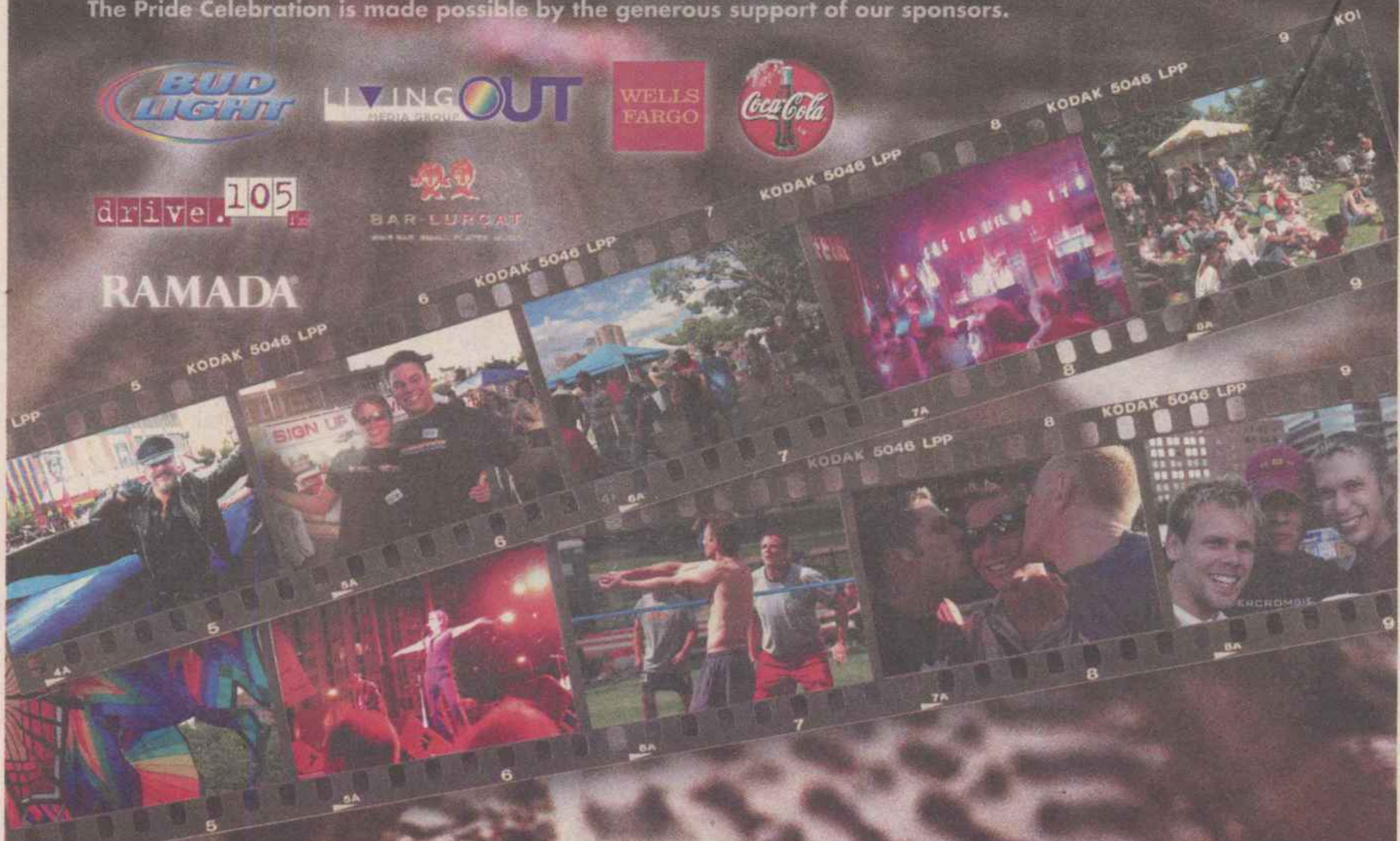
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LESBIAN HEALTH



Kathy Herbst is the Director of Programs at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and a Lesbian Alliance board member. She has a long-standing interest in women's health issues.

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.

An Immodest Proposal

WARNING: Researching lesbian risk factors can be hazardous to your health!

My blood pressure spiked more than once as I attempted to research lesbian health and any morsel of information I could find about lesbians of color.

It all started out quite innocently. I was Googling around for information on health risks for women from different ethnic/racial groups. (Obviously, I was already once removed from the "lesbian" topic, but you take what you can get.)

I quickly discovered that the only articles you can find about (straight) women of color and health care usually end with a sentence like this: "There should/could be more research done on culturally sensitive approaches to health care/disease/risk factors for [Latinas, African Americans, Asian-Pacific Islanders, etc.]. Hopefully, somebody will come along and do this someday."

Here are a few of the things I was able to piece together:

Breast Cancer

A fact sheet from the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation states that "women who partner with women and lesbians do have a greater risk of breast cancer than other women." It seems lesbians are more likely to have two basic risk factors — never having had children and/or not seeing a doctor on a regular basis. So, if I am a lesbian mother who has been to the doctor frequently, am I exempt from lesbian health risk factors?

Confused about who's at risk and why? Not surprising given that women with so-called "known risk factors" make up only a small percentage of new breast cancer cases.

To add insult to injury for women of color, "Latino and African-American women are almost three

times more likely than Anglo women to have never heard of a mammogram," according to Carlos Molina of the American Public Health Association.

Reproductive Health

One major problem for lesbians is lack of access to preventive or screening services. This means that lesbians (and a disproportionate percentage of women of color) often do not find out they have cancer until it has advanced to more dangerous levels. In addition, lesbians (and women of color whether lesbian or not) are often in households with lower income than the general population and more likely to have no or inadequate health coverage.

Those who do have access may not want to face the embarrassment of the "birth control" interrogation section on most doctors' intake forms. For those with the courage to out themselves, the response on the part of the doctor may be less than enlightened. Some lesbians have actually been told that, since they don't have sex with men, they do not need Pap smears to check for cervical cancer.

Other Health Issues

Speaking about women in general, Sherry Marts of the Society for Women's Health Research insists, "We have more than just one body part, folks." Her organization wants to expand the definition of women's health beyond breast and reproductive health, what some call "bikini medicine." A recent American Medical Association study bears her out — lung cancer is the current number one killer of women. Wouldn't it be nice to know if this also applies to the lesbian subgroup of women? My frustrating Internet search did lead to one

Sherry Marts of the Society for Women's Health Research insists, 'We have more than just one body part, folks.'

diabolically clever idea. Since they're starting from scratch on gender and culturally sensitive investigations of women's health, why don't lesbians just lobby for "culture" status? We can then demand the level of attention (and research funding) that everyone else is clamoring for.

If I were to be an extreme radical, I would also argue that researchers should study lesbians in an ethnically/racially sensitive way *and for once get information that's of value to real people.*

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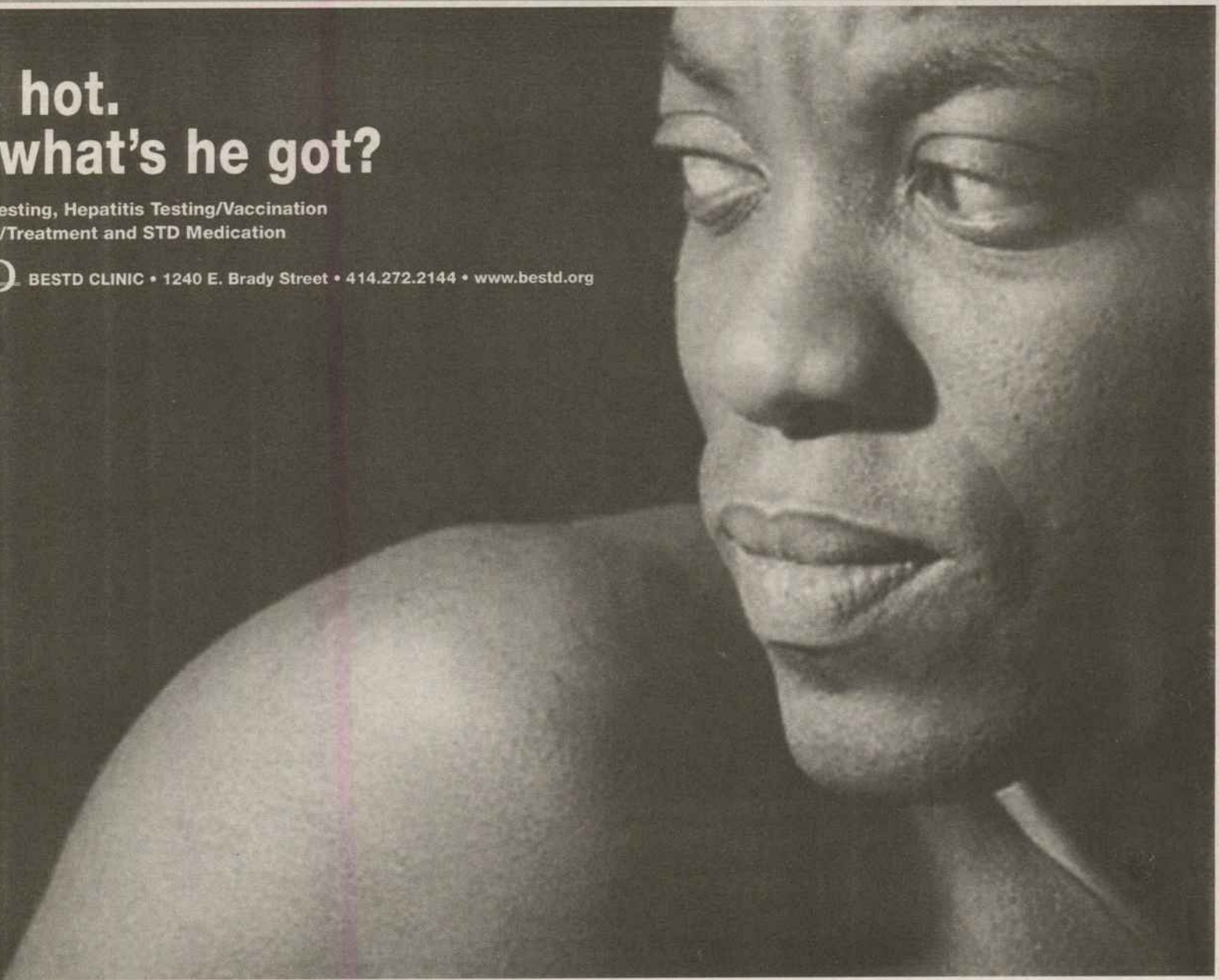
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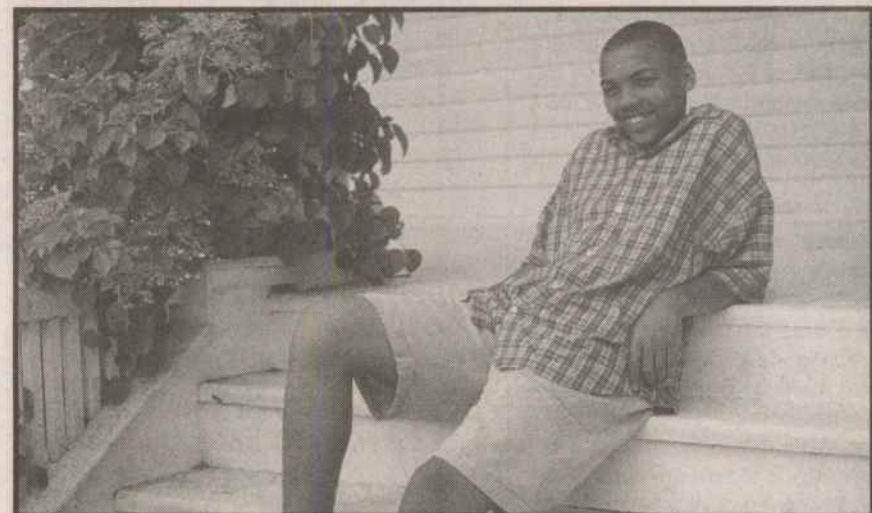
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Summer Fun

Finally!
 It is the time of the year that Wisconsinites live for. It is the time when our attention turns outdoors — to runs along Lincoln Memorial Drive and festival weekends. It is also prime time for athletics for all.

SSBL, the Saturday Softball Beer League, started its season May 7 with a full-day schedule. While the weather was not summer-like, it was reminiscent of the kind of weather during the old Milwaukee Classic held over Memorial Day weekend. Temps were in the 50s with a brisk northeasterly wind, making opening day very cold. The weather did not cool down the spirit of the crowd and the teams that played.

SSBL has 13 teams for its 2005 season with two teams from Madison making the one-hour trek over to Milwaukee. All games are played at the Mitchell Park Domes on Saturdays starting at 10 a.m. Concessions are available at the field for a donation.

Results from SSBL Week 1 (May 7)

Switch 22	Out N' About 4
Fluid 17	Triangle 2
Mad. Easy Riders 12	Out N' About 7
Best D Clinic 15	Woody's 0
Harbor Room 20	Q Life 4
M&M Club 14	Mad. Easy Riders 9
Best D Clinic 9	Walker's Pint 7

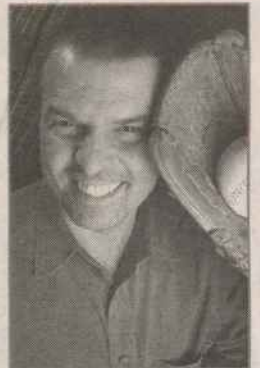
Anyone interested in playing softball this summer should e-mail SSBL at players@ssblmilwaukee.com or contact one of the teams listed above (Madison Rough Riders and Ballgame had bye games) to sign up. All levels of experience are welcome.

Upcoming team fundraisers include Woody's on June 18 (county fair, "gay style"), M&M Club on June 25 (outdoor barbeque and hole-in-one golf tournament), Switch on July 16 (shower party), bus trip to Madison on July 23, and Fluid's raffle fundraiser on July 30.

Many SSBL teams are making their way to out-of-town tournaments. M&M Club, Woody's and Harbor Room went to Minneapolis over Memorial Day weekend to play in the North Star Classic. Over the Fourth of July weekend, teams from Madison, Fluid and Woody's will make their way to Toronto, New York City and Chicago. Good luck to all of the SSBL's teams as Milwaukee softball continues to climb in the country again.

Finally, the players and friends of SSBL are hard at work in Miller Park. They have worked several days already and are starting to make a name for themselves with their employers.

If you happen to be at Miller Park in June watching our Milwaukee Brewers battle the New York Yankees, Chicago Cubs or Minnesota Twins, be on the lookout for the Saturday Softball League concession stand. If you are interested in helping out SSBL at Miller Park, just e-mail concessions@ssblmilwaukee.com.

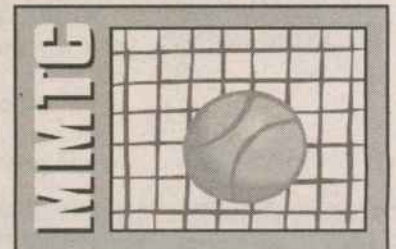


Brian Reinkober (breinkober@queerlifeneews.com) is the commissioner of SSBL (Saturday Softball League) for three years running. He is also involved in the bowling league and the tennis league.

Tennis

The Milwaukee Metro Tennis Club (MMTC) begins matches this month at Merrill Park (35th and Michigan Streets) on Sunday, June 5. Starting times are noon and 2 p.m.

This year, the tennis league has a brand



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new look, which includes a new logo. Nice job, Eric, on the logo! Good luck to the MMTC this year for another great season.

Team Wisconsin

Team Wisconsin 2006 is now forming. Teams are needed in all sports at the Gay Games, to be held July 15–21 in Chicago. Registration parties have already been held in Madison and Milwaukee with more to come. Team Wisconsin's goal is to unify all Wisconsin athletes under one team and to showcase the talents of our athletes. If you are interested in helping or volunteering for Team Wisconsin, visit www.teamwisconsin2006.com.

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A Side to Every Grill

Ah, finally — it's grilling season! Time to get those grills out of storage and start a fire. Now, this is Wisconsin, so I am sure everyone already knows how to grill up some superb brats and burgers. But every great burger or brat needs an equally good side salad. This

month we will take a look at two different pasta salads to accompany the food you grill. One salad is mayonnaise-based; the other is vinaigrette. Both are excellent, but if you are only able to make one, then let me give you a hint: You can never beat Mom's!



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.

Mom's Mac Salad

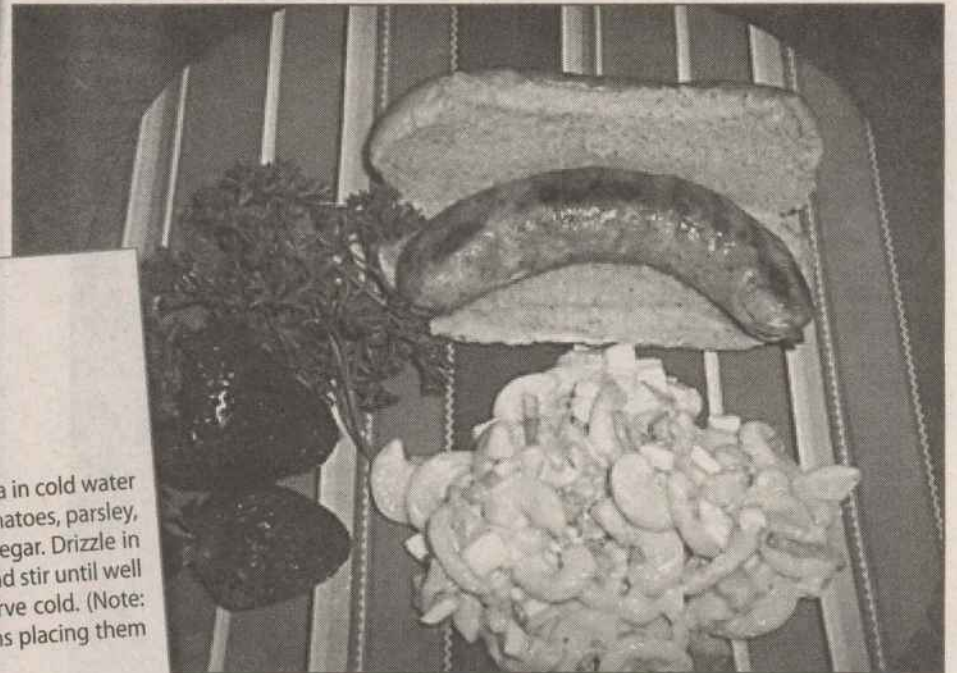
- 2 1/2 cups macaroni
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 cups celery, diced
- 1/2 cup shredded carrots
- 1/2 tsp. dry onion
- 6 hard-boiled eggs, diced
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 pint light Miracle Whip

Cook macaroni (with the 1 tsp. salt) according to directions on the package. Drain and rinse macaroni in cold water until cooled. In a large bowl combine the celery, carrots, onion and eggs with the cooled macaroni. Set aside. In a medium-sized saucepan, combine the sugar and water. Place over high heat and stir constantly until mixture begins to boil. Boil for 1 minute. Let mixture cool slightly and then add the Miracle Whip. Stir to blend well. Pour the Miracle Whip mixture over the macaroni and stir until well dispersed. Serve immediately or refrigerate and serve cold.

Steve's Pasta Salad

- 16 oz. penne pasta
- 1 can artichoke hearts, diced
- 2 oz. sun-dried tomatoes, diced
- 1 tbsp. parsley, chopped
- 1 tbsp. basil, chopped
- 3 oz. crumbled blue cheese
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 2 tsp. sugar
- 1/4 cup rice wine vinegar
- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 2 tbsp. pine nuts

Cook pasta in boiling water according to package directions. Drain and rinse pasta in cold water until cooled. In a large bowl, combine the cooled pasta with the artichoke hearts, tomatoes, parsley, basil and blue cheese. Set aside. In a small bowl, add the salt, pepper, sugar and vinegar. Drizzle in the olive oil while mixing with a whisk. Pour the oil-vinegar mixture over the pasta and stir until well dispersed. Garnish with the pine nuts and serve immediately or refrigerate and serve cold. (Note: Prepare sun-dried tomatoes according to package instructions — this usually means placing them in water briefly and then draining.)



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DIVERSITY



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

What Faith Means to an LGBT Individual

Currently in our political climate there is a huge debate about acknowledging gay and lesbian couples and their rights. There are many state-level arguments about recognizing same-sex marriages and civil unions across the country including a similar debate here in our home territory. Much of the fight against same-sex marriage is based on religious beliefs. While there are many people who externalize hatred based on certain passages from the Bible, there are others who are committed to their faith without that hatred.

Some members of Christianity, Islam and many other religious faiths do not support the hateful remarks that many religious leaders and churchgoers promote. "Homosexuality is a sin" is a frequent motto in our society. However, there has been a huge debate within science and spirituality to combat that phrase. To many congregations, homosexuality itself is not a sin, to love and desire someone of the same sex is not a sin. So what is the sin? Is it to kiss another person of the same sex or to be sexually intimate in general? Some believers in God find it is expression of same-sex love with a sexual act with which they are uncomfortable.

But one reason many gays and lesbians have turned their backs on the church is that they have been treated poorly and called names including "disgusting," "sodomite" and other hateful terms — just for falling in love with someone of the same gender and wanting to express that love.

Fear has been a tool used by some to promote biblical passages that supposedly support their positions. However, there are also passages regarding not using pigskin, mixing fabrics, or eating shellfish, for which many pro football players, fashion design-

ers and models, and seafood restaurants would all be condemned.

Why is homosexuality their prime target? How have so many gay and lesbian individuals held on to their faith despite all of the hateful remarks and recitations of biblical text? Many say it is their own spiritual relationship with their creator, which some define as the essence of a friendship with someone that you can count on and trust. For some the personal relationship brings indescribable fulfillment and joy into their life.

Eric Stoeckler, a 20-year-old student from Menomonee Falls, feels his faith is very important to him. Although his family and church preach that being gay is wrong, he has developed a personal relationship with God. It is his faith that keeps him going. After going through a program entitled "Love and Action," a program that implements reparative therapy, he found that his own connection with God is important. "People themselves are imperfect," says Stoeckler, "and over the past years the Bible has been re-written to the point where you cannot figure out what is true and what is not. There have been many different interpretations. It is hard to believe that someone who created you can hate you."

The Rev. Jaime Washum, pastor at Underwood Baptist Church, also reflects on the messages of Christ that our society pushes out. "Jesus spoke about love and challenged the status quo, he hung out with those who were hated, the prostitutes, the homeless, and the tax collectors. Much of his actions were against hypocrisy and judgmental attitudes."

The advice from both Stoeckler and Washum is that each individual should develop his or her own personal, spiritual relationship with God, in whatever

'It is hard to believe that someone who created you can hate you.'

way He is defined to you. It is important that everyone find mental, physical, emotional and spiritual balance.



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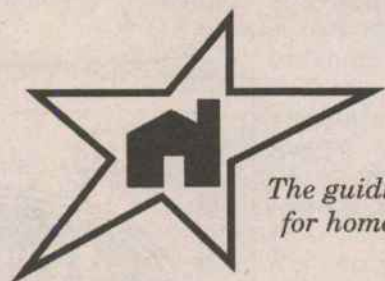
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POLITICS



Patrick Flaherty (pflaherty@queerlifeneews.com) is a longtime activist for LGBT equality. He works at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and lives with his partner in Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood.

Filibusted

The Republican Party, born as the party of emancipation and matured as the champion of individual freedom and limited government, is getting a little twitchy in middle age. It seems it's a bit intoxicating controlling the presidency and the U.S. House and Senate. Add to this the federal courts, where Republican presidents have appointed seven of the nine current Supreme Court justices as well as majorities on seven of 13 federal appeals courts, and intoxicating may be too

mild a word. These days, in fact, the Grand Old Party is behaving something like a crystal meth fiend: deluded by overpowering self-confidence and strangled by paranoia.

Not content with having 95 percent of their judicial nominees approved by the U.S. Senate, the Republicans have begun an

Not content with having 95 percent of their judicial nominees approved by the U.S. Senate, the Republicans have begun an all-out war for total control.

all-out war for total control, sniffing at any opposition to President Bush's most radical nominees and smelling treachery. Despite holding all the power, the Republicans are convinced as firmly as any addict that the world is persecuting them. So they're going nuclear. They want the Senate rules to work for them 100 percent of the time, so they're after the filibuster, a senate procedure nearly as old as our republic that is meant as a safeguard to protect the minority from being bulldozed by the majority.

What's so wonderful about the filibuster? If you're like me, the impression you have of the filibuster is less like the noble "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" depiction of fighting corruption, and more like the white supremacist Strom Thurmond speechifying for 24 hours to stall civil rights legislation. In a filibuster, any senator can hold an item up unless 60 of the 100-member body vote for cloture. In other words, a super-majority is needed to end a filibuster, which doesn't sound very democratic.

But our democracy is full of such idio-

syncratic rules and procedures, including a not-so-democratic Electoral College that (along with a Supreme Court practicing the kind of judicial activism that makes Republicans smile) made George Bush president in 2000 in the first place. Virtually all are built-in checks and balances designed to limit the power of government, something conservatives value.

Our judicial system is of course a vital part of these checks and balances, and the courts only work when peopled with an independent judiciary, not stacked with ideologues of either party. The Senate has a constitutional role in determining who gets lifetime appointments to the top courts, and it's only appropriate that it approaches this responsibility carefully and not as a rubber-stamp.

Most presidents have had the integrity not to try to ramrod nominees who place ideology before the law. Many of the Supreme Court's groundbreaking decisions were written by moderates appointed by Republican presidents. It would be pretty hard to describe the only two current Democratic appointees — Ginsburg and Breyer — as liberal firebrands, as well. Occasionally, a president has gotten greedy and pushed a party favorite, only to have his hand slapped by the Senate performing its constitutionally required quality control.

That was the case in 1987, when Republican Ronald Reagan nominated arch-conservative Robert Bork to the highest court. The Senate, since it was in Democratic hands, didn't have to resort to the filibuster to reject Bork and weeded him out for being outside the mainstream by a simple vote.

Chastened, Reagan eventually appointed Anthony Kennedy as Supreme Court justice instead. The system worked as it was meant to, with temperance trumping ideology. Kennedy went on to write two landmark cases protecting gays and lesbians from the tyranny of the majority: the 1996 Romer v. Evans decision striking down an anti-gay Colorado constitutional amendment banning civil rights protections and the 2003 Lawrence v. Texas decision ending criminalization of gay sex.

President Bush has been especially desperate to get his fix of flame-throwing conservatives named to the top courts, including Janice Rogers Brown, who declared Social Security and minimum wage laws as part of America's "socialist revolution;" and William Pryor, who as Alabama attorney general was a vicious anti-gay champion. Only the filibuster has kept these extremists from legislating from the courts.

With critical issues related to civil rights, reproductive choice, and church/state separation recently decided by 5-4 decisions, the Senate deserves to approach the confirmation process with all its tools at its disposal, including the filibuster. It's true, as conservatives assert, that filibusters — rarely used at all in Senate business — are rarer still in judicial confirmations.

But it's equally true that U.S. presidents have never been as ruthless in their pursuit of a radical remaking of U.S. society as George W. Bush. Not content with getting his way 95 times out of 100, Bush and his Senate allies want to blow up Senate rules. It would be wrong for the Senate to give in: like a tweaker taking a bump of meth, the president and his party will barely be satisfied before moving on to their next power-grabbing high. And the firebrands Bush appoints will be persecuting gays and other minorities for the rest of their fiendish lives.



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RELIGION



As I talk with people who are coming out, or with families of someone who has come out, a question always arises as to the origin of homosexuality. Is one queer by birth or by choice?

Most people come down on the side of being LGBT by birth. I think there may be a hidden cost, personally and spiritually, to definitely deciding if one is queer by birth or choice.

One comment in particular is often made as proof positive that one is queer by birth: "Who

would choose to be gay?" I've heard this observation from LGBT people and from our allies alike. And every time I hear it, I'm struck by the implicit homophobia of such a comment. The observation echoes with self-hatred when we suggest that we'd be straight if only we could. I want to ask, "Why not choose to be gay?"

It's not that I deny the prejudice and intolerance we all face. But no amount of bigotry

continued on page 39

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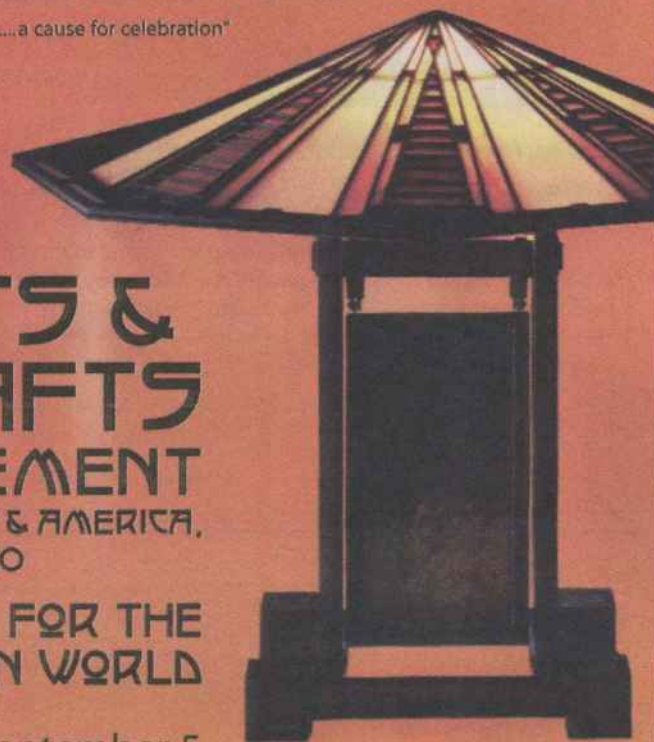


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Frank Lloyd Wright, *Table Lamp from the Susan Lawrence Dana House, Springfield Illinois*. Made by Linden Glass Company, United States; c. 1903. Glass, bronze and zinc. LACMA, Gift of Max Palevsky. ©Frank Lloyd Wright/Artists Rights Society.



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RELIGION *continued from page 38*

would keep me from choosing my partner. I would always choose my partner. It doesn't matter how many laws are passed against us, or how many times a fundamentalist preaches against us, I would still choose him. Even at home, when the laundry is not done and the dishes are piled up, I would choose him. So I say that I choose to be gay every day because I dearly love my partner.

Affirming our sexual orientation, whether it is by birth or choice, is a matter of personal and spiritual dignity. Particu-

Affirming our sexual orientation, whether it is by birth or choice, is a matter of personal and spiritual dignity.

larly in a patriarchal society, where sex is so controlled and regulated, claiming the choices we make about our own bodies is an act of self-respect and even liberation.

It may seem that the "gay by birth" argument is foundational to the movement for LGBT rights. Conventional wisdom assumes that if one's sexuality is predetermined, then it is unfair to discriminate on the basis of this inborn trait. This assumption misses how our spiritual traditions deal with choice.

For instance, the Roman Catholic moral tradition teaches that homosexuality is a genetic condition not unlike hair color. Yet at the same time the Roman Catholic tradition teaches that the response to this is not acceptance of LGBT people but imposed celibacy on them.

The situation is even more extreme

among evangelical Christians. Evangelicals strongly teach that humans are by birth born into a sinful condition. Their focus is on making a lifestyle choice; that is, choosing Jesus Christ. They organize their lives around a choice.

What happens in the Roman Catholic and evangelical traditions of Christianity is that regardless of one's birth, what matters are the choices one makes. This theme is replayed over and over again in most religious traditions. The choices we make, and not the birth we have, is the source of spiritual integrity.

Given the importance of the choices we make in spiritual traditions, we would do well to ground our arguments for LGBT rights in an explanation of how choosing to be queer is morally and spiritually sound.

Indeed when it comes to explaining the origins of homosexuality, and the reasons to support LGBT civil rights, we would do well to offer an argument that parallels the justifications for the freedom of religion. Whether one is a Lutheran by birth or by choice is irrelevant to the question of freedom of Lutherans to worship. Wouldn't we be puzzled to hear Lutherans say, "Who would choose to be Lutheran?"

I think it is time we stop answering the question, "Is one queer by birth or choice?"

What matters is that we live as proud LGBT people, affirming the worth and dignity of our lives.

Rev. Andrew Warner (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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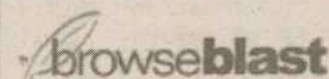
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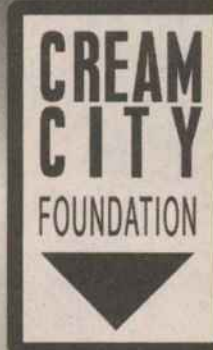
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WOMEN



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

Hug a Lawyer?

Sometimes you just have to give in and bestow a hug or two on a lawyer. For many of you, this may not be so agreeable, but if you are a lawyer, a parent of a lawyer or a partner to one, you most likely concur with me.

As I write this, I'm envisioning all of us giving a big group hug of encouragement and thanks to the feisty coalition of 26 law schools entitled FAIR (Faculty for Academic and Institutional Rights). FAIR and its gaggle of lawyers are challenging the Supreme Court and the Solomon Amendment.

The Solomon Amendment requires that institutions of higher learning propagate, accommodate and subsidize the U.S. military's message of disapproving of homosexuality as spelled out in its "don't ask, don't tell" policy, regardless of the schools' commitment to nondiscrimination.

The Solomon Amendment requires these institutions to assist military recruiters in the same manner they assist other recruiters. If they don't comply, they risk losing federal funding. The amendment also allows for the denial of federal money to these institutions if they prohibit or prevent ROTC or military recruitment on campus.

Congress first adopted the Solomon Amendment in 1996 in retaliation for the growing resistance among law schools to allow recruitment of their students to the judge advocate general corps (JAG). While law schools complied with this amendment by providing campus access to the recruiters, many did not supply administrative support. Because of this, a new policy was added to the amendment in 2001. This policy required military recruiters to be treated exactly like other recruiters on campus. For many law schools, this policy change made compromise nearly impossible.

Thanks to FAIR's efforts, the Supreme Court last month agreed to decide whether Congress could constitutionally withhold federal funds from universities that show their support for LGBT rights by upholding their

**The Solomon Amendment
requires these institutions to
assist military recruiters in the
same manner they assist other
recruiters.**

nondiscrimination policies through restricting access to their campuses and students by military recruiters.

FAIR is the latest group to structure an issue of LGBT rights in the context of the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech. In this case, FAIR advocates for LGBT rights, rather than LGBT rights opponents, are the ones invoking the freedom of association.

In 2000, the Supreme Court upheld the right of the Boy Scouts to exclude LGBT people as an aspect of their right of "expressive association" not to carry or convey an unwanted message. The Supreme Court ruled that the Boy Scouts are not required to accept gay men as scoutmasters.

Just as the Boy Scouts want to indoctrinate young boys with their anti-gay values both expressively and by example, the law schools are asking to inculcate their students with their chosen values by expression and example in the enforcement of their nondiscrimination policies.

I would like to tell you that Milwaukee-based Marquette University Law School and the University of Wisconsin Law School in Madison are members of FAIR, but FAIR members have concealed their identities during litigation out of fear of financial repercussion.

Grab your favorite law school professor or closest lawyer friend and give them a huge hug. For this one, they deserve it.



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Gender Orthodoxy for Infants

OK, I admit it. This is one odd health column for a Pride edition of Q Life. As a reader you might be expecting some celebratory statement — maybe even a proposal that Pride parades are good for your health. This column is much less pleasant or encouraging. It's about babies, doctors and our nation's need to assign us into boxes. Please, read on.

"No longer should we be lied to, displayed, be injected with hormones for questionable purposes, and have our genitals cut to alleviate the anxieties of parents and doctors. Doctors' good intentions are not enough. Practices must now change."

Cheryl Chase of the Intersex Society of North America said this in May 2005 as part of an appeal by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission entitled "A Human Rights Investigation into the Medical Normalization of Intersex People." The Commission further stated that the standard medical approach to intersex infants leads pediatric specialists to violate their patients' human rights.

Even though it seems that the medical profession as a whole agrees that intersex is really a psycho-social concern, they still use surgeries and hormones to change the child's body in ways that are "medically unwarranted, risky, irreversible, and not consented by the patient." And they do this rather than providing psycho-social supports either to the infants or their families.

Intersex conditions are defined as those in which an infant is born with sex anatomy different from the standard male or female. About one in 2,000 children is born with genitals that obviously blend both male

The same rigid gender rules in our society that are meant to crush us as lesbians, gay men, transgender people and bisexuals are secretly and regularly being applied to infants.

and female elements. Even more are born with subtler intersex conditions.

So, why should the LGBT community care about intersex people?

We should care because this is a human rights issue closely allied to our own. We should care because the same rigid gender rules in our society that are meant to crush us as lesbians, gay men, transgender people and bisexuals are secretly and regularly being applied to infants. We should care because our community knows what it means to "be lied to, displayed, be injected with hormones for questionable purposes."

Education, information, advocacy and politics are all intertwined with our health. As LGBT folks, we know that people are uneducated, misinformed, and (at times) opposed to us. We are used as political capital to raise money and garner votes. Why? Because at some deep level we challenge the constraints associated with gender. Just like these intersex babies do.

During Pride celebrations this month and throughout the summer, we will understandably be celebrating our successes. We will dance, parade and shout. But, while we are at it, six young intersex people in Wisconsin will face the knife because of our national insistence on sexual "normalcy."

If we don't care about these young people, we will all be losing a part of our hard-fought independence from gender orthodoxy. We cannot afford that.

For more information, visit The Intersex Society of North America's Web site, www.isna.org.



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.

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ORGANIZATIONS

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

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MGALA

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mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.
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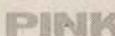


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Q



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.

John Schlesinger: The Complexity of a Gay Filmmaker

"Edge of Midnight"

William J. Mann
book

We know his films: "Midnight Cowboy," "Darling," "Sunday, Bloody Sunday." We hardly know the man who made over 50 films and directed a dozen more plays and operas. William Mann's book makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of the work and life of this important artist. Actually, it was Schlesinger's partner of three decades who approached Mann about writing the biography. Schlesinger had suffered a stroke following a bypass operation in 2001, and while physically incapacitated, his memories as well as those of hundreds of friends and collaborators Mann consulted were still very fresh.

Perhaps Schlesinger's greatest legacy was to act as a cultural mediator bringing disparate, sometimes opposing traditions and ways of life together. He was born in London in 1926 to a comfortably middle-class Jewish family. At an early age he seemed comfortable with the recognition that the arts interested him. He also understood he was homosexual — without torment, anguish or any wish to conceal.

Professionally, he began without a splash at the BBC where he carried on the long tradition of British cinematographers like John Grierson. But to the simplicity and sometimes starkness of his productions Schlesinger added warmth and wit. Mann notes that Italian director Vittorio De Sica, with whom Schlesinger worked on just one production, was impressed with the young director's eye for small moments and background.

British cinema of the '60s was ripe for greater authenticity, reflecting the increased openness in the society at large. Schlesinger was also ready to evolve from documentaries to features like "Billy Liar," "Darling" and perhaps his greatest British work, "Sunday, Bloody Sunday." The characters in all these films challenge the prevailing conformism but they are not messengers of anger or rebellion. "John would have recoiled at the idea that he was making movies for a cause," Mann writes. Schlesinger preferred to refrain from positing any particular moral judgment.

While "Darling" remains ever so relevant as a social satire of mod London, the main character, beautiful Diana, is no better or worse than anyone trying their best and making the best of it, for life is all about compromise. And "Sunday, Bloody Sunday" remains as powerful today, not because it dared to show a kiss between two men, but because it showed for the first time on screen "a complicated,

FILMS, BOOKS and MUSIC

honorable gay man, simply and fully human." That was the doctor played by Peter Finch as described by author Michael Cunningham. Cunningham continued, "It was revelatory, I began to believe, after seeing that movie, that I could have a future as neither more nor less than myself and that being myself was more than enough to be."

A quiet revolutionary, John Schlesinger was.

Rock Hudson: Hollywood-ism, Gays and an American Idol

"All That Heaven Allows"

directed by Douglas Sirk

"Seconds"

directed by John Frankenheimer
DVD

During his very long career, Rock Hudson was primarily a romantic lead, adored by millions of fans (and the studios for which he made fortunes). Yet he was always a gay man. His stormy marriage to a studio secretary lasted a number of years. His extravagant parties — for men only — were an open secret. Was Rock a victim of his time? Tormented and desperate because he could not openly express his homosexuality?

Actually, Hollywood was as accommodating as a place could be for a gay man in the '50s and '60s. As critic David Ehrenstein notes in his book "Gay Hollywood: The Open Secret," "The closet ... was less a means of individual self-protection than a press supplied system for keeping the sexual status quo in place." In other words, it could be suggested that Hudson's gay life outside the studios was not that different from Joe Kennedy's widely known, but not openly discussed, life with his mistress, Gloria Swanson, and others outside his marriage.

Marcello Mastroianni, the legendary actor once commented on the attributes of his craft, "By nature the actor is a kind of wonder who can allow himself to change personalities." Hudson, who had an uncanny ability to assume diverse personalities for the screen, continued the performance off-screen. The performance was, of course, appearing straight to those not in his circle.

In "All That Heaven Allows," a film of visually arresting beauty, Hudson is the working-class, younger man romancing an older, rich widow. Director Douglas Sirk was himself something of a contradiction. An intellectual director of refined plays and films in his native Germany (forced to flee with his Jewish wife), he made a living and a

fortune in Hollywood with the traditionally scorned "women's pictures" (melodramas rescued by mostly gay directors like Pedro Almodovar and Werner Fassbinder). It was perhaps the challenge of great talents like Sirk and Hudson to turn the predictability of the genre into works that eloquently mirrored the times and human condition.

In 1966, approximately a decade after making "All That Heaven Allows," Rock Hudson made a daring move by accepting the lead in John Frankenheimer's "Seconds," a flop at the time, something of a cult film now. In this chilling twist on the Faust legend, Hudson gave a flawless performance. Aided by the quiet horror created through cinematographer James Wong Howe's work, the handsome star became the character to lead the battle against the American obsession with youthful appearances.

"Seconds" was also an ambitious exploration of the individual struggle to maintain individuality in a homogeneous world. "I do feel that society wants everybody to be exactly the same," Frankenheimer said in a 1969 interview, "I think the theme of the indomitability of the human spirit is very much there [as is] the fight against regimentation." He could have been speaking for his star who, if not an activist in the street, perhaps inspired those who took up the struggle of

personal choice outside of the movie theaters.

Rock Hudson's acts of daring were limited to his screen personas. In the context of his Hollywood, we can imbue him with boundless talent enabling him to make the transition from motion pictures to television, as well as to star in roles out of his "expected" hunk persona. In films by Frankenheimer and Sirk he brought to the screen some of the greatest movies ever.

Seriously Entertaining "Bounce"

music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

CD

Stephen Sondheim's first new musical in the 21st century, "Bounce," did not make it to Broadway. Conceived almost half a century ago, it took nine years of labor, four drafts, three titles and one lawsuit before the love stories (straight and gay), the family tales, and the clever pronouncements on almost everything American (from architecture to musical theater and a national dream) were put together.

Alas, the tepid responses after just two runs at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Goodman Theatre in Chicago stopped the show from transferring to Broadway. The CD may therefore become something of a collector's piece. That is reason enough alone to buy it.

As the 20th century came to an end, that venerable American institution, the Broadway show, was dominated by opposites. On one hand, there were "theme park" or "techno-musicals" such as "Beauty and the Beast," and on the other, "solemn" productions such as "Parade." The former shows were, in Sondheim's words, "recycled culture," while the latter confused the "serious musical with mere solemnity."

"Bounce" is a whimsical, delightful work. But its playfulness does not preclude seriousness. "Its melodies," noted critic Frank Rich, "like much of Sondheim's work, offer an intricate construction that continues to pay new dividends on repeated hearings." In a style that recalls the Bob Hope and Bing Crosby road movies, "Bounce" tells the story of the Mizner brothers, one a show promoter always ready for a con job, the other an architect whose flowery styles were warmly embraced by the Palm Beach crowds. Their road is full of rough spots, not only the disastrous events they share with the rest of their countrymen like the Florida land bust, but the obstacles they bring on themselves because of their own greed and opportunism. Through all the adversities that life throws at them, the brothers have the resilience to bounce back. "[R]ound the bend there's something great," is the Mizner brothers' favorite refrain in life.

For over five decades, Sondheim has shaped a fantastic assortment of stories into musicals filled with insight and wit. His illustrious career began under the influence of Oscar Hammerstein II, the family neighbor in his youth. He was still under 30 and just an unknown when Leonard Bernstein gave him his big break on "West Side Story." Once in tryouts, Bernstein had his own name removed as co-lyricist giving full credit to Sondheim in a generous and apparently rare gesture of recognition of the young newcomer's work. Sondheim never let his mentor down.

Music for the Global Village

"The Sound of White"

Missy Higgins

CD

It's clear from listening to her newly released CD why the young singer has climbed so quickly to the top of the charts in her native Australia. Each song is a bright lyrical conversation with her listeners. Like the album title suggests, her music is unadorned, almost stark. Perhaps it's this quality that makes it memorable. In her melodies one hears the individual strains that influenced the compositions: jazz and piano ballads, pop and blues, with the sum total being unmistakably Higgins.

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Exclusive to Q Life

Outwords Books "Top 5 Picks for June"

Best Coming Out Titles

Fiction:

1. "Geography Club" by Brent Hartinger

Russel thinks that he is the only gay kid at Goodkind High but soon learns that his best friend, Min, and Kevin, the cute baseball jock, are too. Together they decide to start their own club.

2. "Annie on My Mind" by Nancy Garden

Garden's 1982 classic tells the story of Liza, who puts aside her feelings for Annie after a disaster at school but eventually allows her love to triumph over the ignorance of people.

3. "Rainbow Boys" by Alex Sanchez

Sanchez's popular debut novel chronicles the senior year of three gay teens struggling with issues ranging from coming out to first love to an HIV scare.

4. "Am I Blue?" by Marion Dane Bauer

Bauer's critically acclaimed collection of original stories devoted to the topic of growing up gay or lesbian, or with gay or lesbian parents or friends, features works by Francesca Lia Block, Bruce Coville, M. E. Kerr, and many others.

5. "The Front Runner" by Patricia Nell Warren

The story of runner Billy Sive, "The Front Runner" became the "coming out" book for more than a generation of gay men.

Nonfiction:

1. "Free Your Mind" by Ellen Bass and Kate Kaufman

This groundbreaking book is a step-by-step guide for LGBT youth — and their families, teachers, counselors and friends — to understand, accept and celebrate their sexual orientation.

2. "Revolutionary Voices: A Multicultural Queer Youth Anthology" by Amy Sonnie

Celebrating the hues and harmonies of LGBT society, "Revolutionary Voices" is a collection of experiences, dreams and fantasies expressed through prose, poetry, artwork, letters and diaries.

3. "Coming Out to Parents" by Mary V. Borhek

Borhek's seminal classic is a two-way survival guide, with one section for lesbians and gay men coming out and a second section offering guidance for parents.

4. "In Your Face: Stories from the Lives of Queer Youth" by Mary L. Gray

This unique collection of real-life accounts explores the lives and identities of 15 LGBT teenagers who bravely tell of the hardships and emotions they've experienced.

5. "Now That You Know" by Betty Fairchild and Nancy Hayward

Written by two mothers of gay children, this award-winning book counsels parents on how to respond supportively to gay children and focus on bringing families together.

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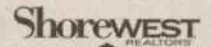


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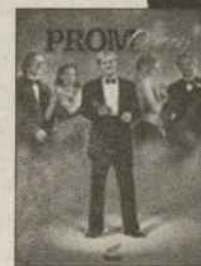
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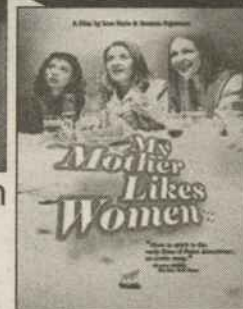


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Q

PETS

Carole Wehner and Roxanne Kupfer

Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing: An Authorized Essay About Jack Wehner and Luna Kupfer

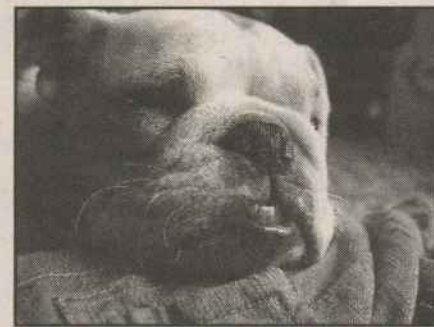
It was a long interview — it lasted over one hour. Gaby and I knew we had to give it "our best," that our answers had to be the right answers. And the questions were tough: Do you have a fenced yard? Do you have central air conditioning? Does Gaby bring a lot of her friends home? Is her brother rough with pets? How much time do you spend at home? We left exhausted and unsure... But when the call came just one day later, we were elated. We had been chosen! She certainly didn't share our happiness and responded with total indifference to our compliments and, frankly, our fawning over her. When friends came to admire her, she just trembled.

So it was, that for at least one month, our newly adopted English bulldog lived in the closet, my bedroom closet. Food, treats, squeaky toys... nothing worked. Until Sir Galahad, aka Jack Wehner, appeared at the closet door.

It was love at first sight, and three years since that special moment when she first laid eyes on him, Luna never stopped loving Jack. And they are a perfect pair: Jack, tall and slim with his golden tresses (and long tail) flying in the wind, and Luna, perfectly plump, white with spotted ears, waddling on her short legs. From time to time they have spats. Often

Jack just steps over her. Wherever Jack is, Luna seems to say, must be a good place for her too.

Every week they drive together to Doggy Day Care for a day of play, nap time and just chatting and laughing with many other four-legged friends. It's just like carpooling, which my children outgrew many years ago, but so much more fun the second time around because Jack and Luna are much better behaved in the car. Jack likes to put his nose through the slightly open window; Luna just happily pants, knowing her best friend is close.



*Is your pet queer? Or are you queer?
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Ask the Vet

Dr. Steven Cybela has been one of the veterinarians on staff at the Wisconsin Humane Society for the last four years. Prior to that, he was an associate in a private small-animal practice in Milwaukee.

Question:

When I walk in my neighborhood, I see signs that say to keep animals off the grass because of the pesticides. Can my companion animal walk near those areas, or is even that dangerous?

Answer:

With the advent of spring, and a desire on the part of many homeowners to have a green, weed-free lawn, it seems that those little warning signs pop up with a frequency and abundance rivaling the unwanted weeds themselves.

The chemicals most commonly used by lawn care companies are called 2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D) herbicides, although others may be used. A study published in last year's "Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association" has linked exposure to 2,4-D herbicides to increased risk of developing cancer of the urinary bladder. Certain breeds, particularly terriers (especially Scottish terriers), seem to be at increased risk compared to other breeds. Other studies have suggested a link between lawn chemicals and another type of cancer called lymphoma. These herbicides are also suspected to be human carcinogens.

The development of cancer is likely due to long-term, low-level exposure to the herbicides in certain sensitive individuals, but it is wise to minimize any exposure to them. It may not be necessary (or even possible) to keep a large distance from already treated areas, but you



should avoid being nearby when an area is being sprayed. For previously treated areas, you should avoid walking your dog near enough for him or her to be able to sniff or eat the grass, or to stray onto it. If your dog does accidentally come into contact with a

treated area, washing his or her feet (or giving a bath if greater contact occurred) is a good idea. If treated grass is ingested, or your animal displays any unusual behavior or signs of illness after exposure, you should contact your veterinarian for advice.

As for your own yard, there are alternatives to using potentially dangerous chemicals. Some companies are now offering so-called organic treatments that do not involve the traditional herbicides.

All older dogs (those greater than five years of age) should be examined at least yearly by a veterinarian, who may recommend laboratory testing to assess your companion's health and to identify any problems which may not otherwise be apparent.

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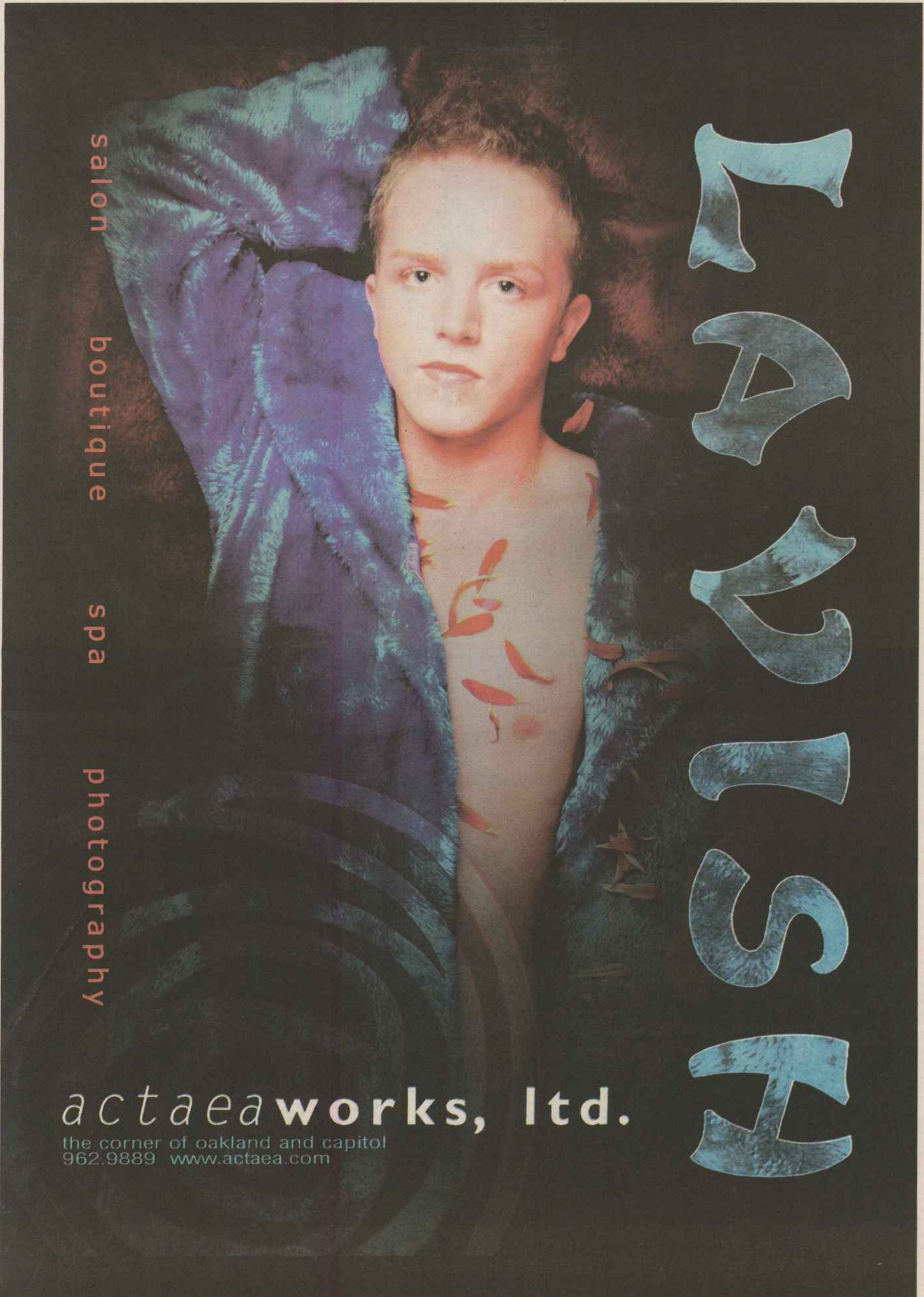
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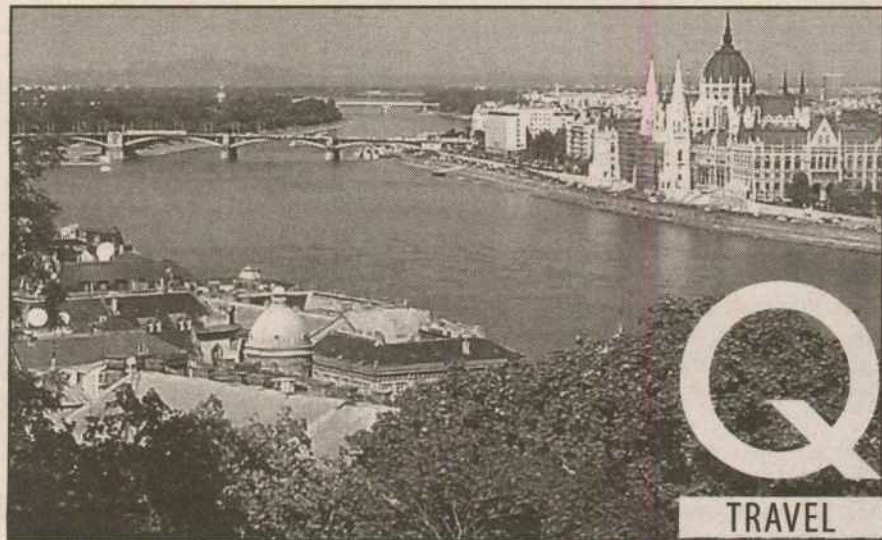
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TRAVEL

By Brian Reinkober

Modern Dance Clubs, Historic Turkish Baths

Behind the former iron curtain lies a country that is recognizing the value of being a world partner. Its capital has come out of the closet to show the rest of the world that it truly is a world-class city. No, it's not Prague, or Warsaw or even Kiev. I am referring to Budapest, Hungary.

Budapest started as three separate cities: Buda, Obuda and Pest. The majestic Danube River flows between the hilly Buda and Obuda side and the relatively flat Pest side.

Getting to Budapest can be a bit of a chore since there are no direct flights out of Milwaukee or Chicago. In fact the Hungarian airline, Malev Airways, only flies to New York City. My suggestion is to fly to Europe the least expensive way possible and then fly into Budapest via a low-cost carrier like Ryan Air, Air Berlin or Easy Jet. These are some of the European counterparts to Southwest or AirTran in the United States.

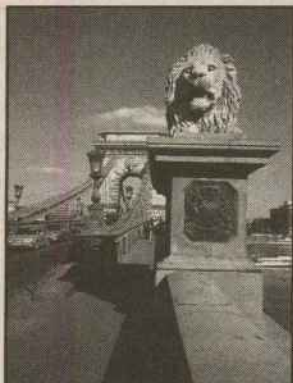
Once in Budapest, you'll first be impressed by the friendliness of its people. Many people speak English, so even if Magyar (the official Hungarian language) is not your second language, you will be able to easily move around the city. The people of Budapest have gripped democracy much more readily than some of the other former Soviet satellite countries. As an American tourist, you will not feel uncomfortable or intimidated. Restaurants and shops are in abundance yet markets are still a favorite to barter.

There are some magnificent sights to see while in Budapest. Parliament is the country's largest building and sits on the banks of the Danube. A walk on the Chain Bridge over the Danube River is also an activity not to be missed. Two lions on either side guard the bridge. It is especially beautiful at nighttime. Another activity that you might wish to do is a cruise down the Danube.

A trip to Budapest would not be complete without a visit to one of the many Turkish baths. These baths have existed since Roman times, but it was the Turks that used and harnessed the natural springs. The baths are open year round. Beautiful ornate buildings were erected and the natural springs were tapped to create therapeutic pools. The most famous of all the baths in Budapest are the Gellert Baths and the Rudas Baths. Many of these baths are co-ed and are gathering places at all times during the day. In some, there are separate pools for men and women. Take an afternoon and treat yourself. You will truly get a flavor of Hungarian living.

Gay life in Hungary is actually not as covert as you might think. Many men and women congregate at the numerous dance clubs that are in Budapest. Be sure and check out Café Capella. It is a great dance club with three levels and is always packed.

All in all, Budapest is a great destination for the gay traveler.



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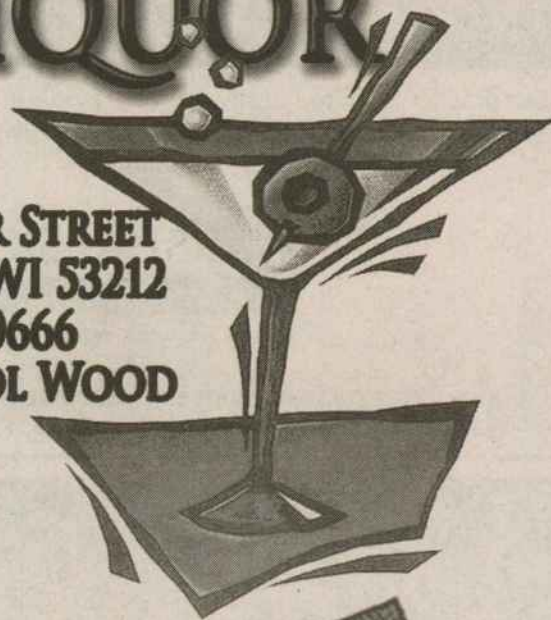


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June is here, and "Pride" is here! Time to start our summer of great festivals. Milwaukee is a town that really knows how to celebrate!

We can all take Pride in our Wisconsin heritage and celebrities. That classic image of "Happy Days" and "Laverne and Shirley" is still with us (especially on Nick at Nite), but we are moving on up in the image department.

Did you know that parts of the **John Belushi** movie "Blues Brothers" were filmed here? The year I moved to Milwaukee, the entire Third Ward was made to look like 1920s Chicago for the filming "Dillinger" with **Mark Harmon**.



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

That classic image of 'Happy Days' and 'Laverne and Shirley' is still with us; but we are moving on up in the image department!

My Star Student

Actor **Anthony Rapp** is a very up-and-coming star. He was in "The Beautiful Mind," and also in the original Broadway production of "Rent." Young Anthony grew up in Joliet, Ill., and I directed him several times over the years. When he gave me "Thanks" in a Broadway playbill, it made me beam! On one of my visits to Milwaukee, I went to see him play the lead in "Oliver" at the old **Melody Top Summer Theatre**.

I have grown to love this town, and we can all be proud of its theater boom. Theater critic **Damien Jaques** recently wrote an interesting article about how impressed guest directors are with the talent in our town.

Our Legends and TV Stars

This state has its fair share of legends

born here. The MGM stars **Spencer Tracy** and **Pat O'Brien**. "Bewitched" star **Agnes Moorehead**. Also famous stage and screen stars **Alfred Lunt** and **Orson Welles**. Imagine them working on some of our stages.

Also, from television, Wisconsin natives **Daniel J. Travanti**, **Kristen Johnston**, **Charlotte Rae**, and **Jane Kaczmarek**. The **Zucker** brothers and **Mark Borchart** are well-known film directors from the greater Milwaukee area.

Comics, Musicians and Singers

Wisconsin has raised some wonderful comics, and that is nothing to laugh at! **Gene Wilder**, **Jackie Mason**, and from Madison the late **Chris Farley**.

In the music world, the wonderful singer **Al Jarreau**, and that "bejeweled" outrageous piano player **Liberace**.

The famous **Pabst Theater** was the home of many stars including **Alfred Lunt** and **Lynn Fontanne** — what a great acting couple!

Summer Theater Highlights

Our season of fine theater is almost over. But there is still a large variety of local plays and dance recitals. **Bialystock and Bloom** is presenting the hilarious comedy "Polish Joke." This fun show is a Milwaukee premiere. The **Wide Sky Dance Project** by "Danceworks," will perform at the **Cabot Theatre**. The lovely musical "The Secret Garden" will play at the **Waukesha Civic Theatre**. And, for you **Marilyn Monroe** fans, the **Sunset Playhouse** performs the classic comedy "The Seven Year Itch."

Another show, in its premiere engagement at 703 S. 2nd St. is "Twilight of the Golds." The R.S.V.P. cast includes **Mark Hagen**, **Carrie Williams**, **Brian Richards**, **Alan Wallisch**, and **Cynthia Paplaczky**. Cynthia performed the entire season with R.S.V.P.

Productions to "Bravo" reviews.

More Theater Chitchat

I recently found out that the **Off The Wall Theatre** will present a one-weekend run of "Medea." This classic work will be directed by **Dale Gutzman**. I also heard that the **Boulevard Theatre** is changing their 2005-06 production of "Taming of the Shrew." So it now seems there will not be two productions of this classic running in town next season — as previously announced.

Please try to catch "Four Guys in Dinner Jack-ets" at **Broadway Baby**.

For those one-woman show fans, vocalist **Linda Stieber** recently closed at the **Broadway Studio Theatre** and is preparing to work on future cabaret acts... We all wish her the best!

OK, now after the show please try to support the area bar scene. The exciting **Tazzbah** is really turning into a new hot spot. They plan to serve food also, so it will be great after theater — or whenever.

Next month I will tell you about "Drop Dead," the campy, gay murder mystery coming soon — starring **Roger Uscila** and **Sandy Lewis**. I will also talk about our own local "celebs" — I do have lots and lots to talk about!

Last Month's Trivia Answer

Ricki Lake was only in the movie version of "Hairspray."

New Trivia Question

Did **Judy Garland** ever play a concert in Milwaukee?

My Aunt Blanche just told me the famous magician **Harry Houdini** was also from Wisconsin. Too bad he isn't around today to make her disappear.

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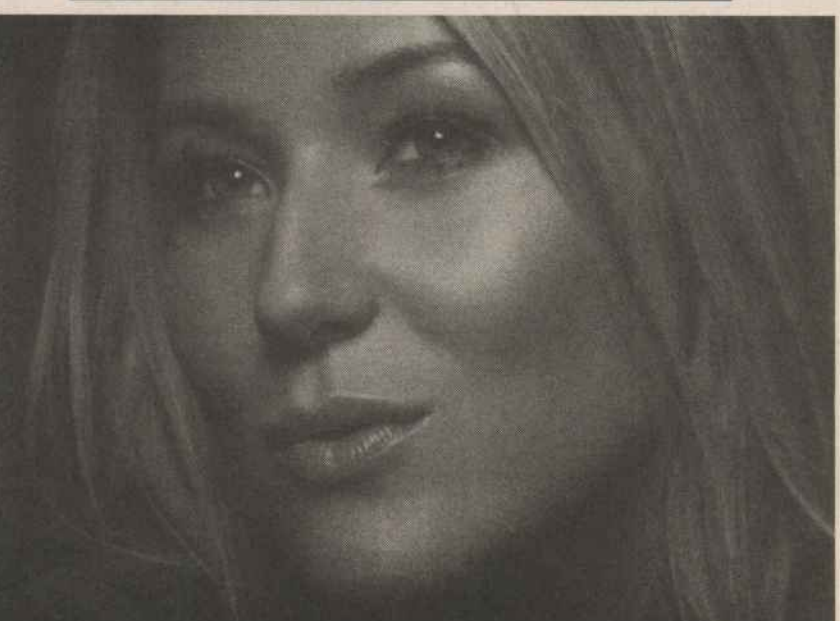
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Arts Calendar

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Out Now

La Poesia Visiva: Visual Poetry

Haggerty Museum of Art
530 N. 13th St.
414-288-7290
Through July 24

The Little Books That Could:
Celebration of Women

Kunzelmann-Esser Lofts
Skylight Gallery
710 W. Mitchell St.
2-4pm.
414-383-8805
Through June 15

The Mikado

Skylight Opera Theatre
158 N. Broadway
7:30pm.
414-291-7811
skylightopera.com
Through June 12

Wonder of the World

In Tandem Theatre
Walker's Point Center for the Arts
911 W. National Ave.
7:30pm.
414-444-2316
Through June 12

Thursday, June 2

Virtual Reality

Soulstice Theatre
3195 S. Superior, #102
8pm. \$8
414-431-3187

Friday, June 3

The Dangers

Linneman's
1001 E. Locust St.
10pm.
414-263-9844
linnemans.com

Saturday, June 4

Ill Groove Movement, Black Elephant,

Deepspace Shuttlecock
Shank Hall
1434 N. Farwell Ave.
414-276-7288
shankhall.com

8th Anniversary Gallery Opening

Niemi Sculpture Gallery and Garden
13300 116th St., Kenosha
2-7pm.
262-857-3456
bruceniemi.com
Repeats June 5, 1-5pm.

Present Music

Celebrating the ensemble's May tour of China with the new music of Chinese composers and a premier by visiting Chinese composer, Xiaogang Ye.
UWM Zelazo Center
2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.
7:30pm. \$16-36, students half price
414-271-0711
presentmusic.org

Sunday, June 5

Andrew Carroll

Historian and best-selling editor of "War Letters" visits Milwaukee during his 50-state tour of "Behind the Lines," a collection of wartime correspondence from the American Revolution to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.
Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop
4093 N. Oakland Ave.
2pm.
414-963-3111

Art for a Cause

Diabetes Insipidus Foundation benefit.
Bay View Bar — American Legion Hall
2860 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.
11am-9pm. \$2
414-385-0922
bayviewarts.org

PICK
7th Annual Milwaukee
Short Film Festival

Dirty Job Films
Times Cinema
5906 W. Vliet St.
7pm. \$10
dirtyjobfilms.com

Monday, June 6

Clay Stomp

Milwaukee Public Theatre
Ajula Youth Performance Troupe
Pewaukee High School
510 Lake St., Pewaukee
7am-noon
414-347-1685

Wednesday, June 8

Neko Case, Low Skies

Barrymore Theatre
2090 Atwood Ave., Madison
8:30pm. \$16.50

Fine Arts Quartet

UWM Zelazo Center
2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.
7:30pm. \$16, \$9 students/seniors
414-229-4308
Through June 15

Friday, June 10

PICK
Oklahomo!

It's hard to keep a good hoedown. "Oklahomo!" is back for its second run at Broom Street Theatre with rewrites that make the show more hilarious than ever. From Tammy Whynot, the resident drag queen, to Moo, the loveable transgender Holstein cow, there's plenty of campy and bent humor to entertain and offend everyone. "Oklahomo!" sinks its teeth into the "boy meets girl" kind of show with relish and spits it back as a mirror of today's stereotypes in the controversial tempest of politics, religion and gay culture.
Broom Street Theater
1119 Williamson St., Madison
8pm. \$7
608-244-8338
broomstreet.org
Through July 17

Saturday, June 11

PICK
Icon

House of Infinity, Alliance School, Diverse and Resilient, and Bucketworks present Be Your Own Icon: Reinventing What It Means to be LGBTQI. A fashion/performance art show featuring The Toms and DJ Billy.
Youth Area at PrideFest
Summerfest Grounds
6:30pm.
projectq.org

PICK
Jason Stuart, Taylor Dayne, and RuPaul

PrideFest, Summerfest Grounds
pridefest.com

The Merry Wives of Windsor

American Players Theatre
Hwy. C, Spring Green
608-588-2361
playinthewoods.org
Through October 2, various times

Wood and Stone Exhibit

Oliver's Art Gallery
Opening Reception celebrates natural earth featuring stoneware, raku, porcelain, pyrographics, furniture, carvings, paintings and pastels.
2820 E. Layton Ave.
4-9pm.
414-483-9555
Through July 29

Sunday, June 12

PICK
Pamela Means, Jade Esteban Estrada, and Sophie B. Hawkins

PrideFest, Summerfest Grounds
pridefest.com

Wednesday, June 15

Eric Johnson, Kaki King

Pabst Theater
144 Wells St.
8pm.
800-511-1552
pabsttheater.org

Thursday, June 16

Airplane!

Jewish Family Services Presents
The 25th-anniversary screening of "Airplane!" celebrating the talent of Jim Abrahams, David Zucker and Jerry Zucker, the creators of this 1980s spoof. Prior to the show, participate in a costume contest dressed as your favorite character. After the show there will be a Q&A with Abrahams, Zucker and Zucker.
Pabst Theater
144 E. Wells St.
7:30pm. \$15
pabsttheater.org

PICK
Cosmopolitan

Gallery 505 is pleased to announce its first group show where artists with different backgrounds, influenced by different cultures, come together. The show will include two-dimensional art from about 25 international artists.
505 E. Silver Spring Dr., Whitefish Bay
6:30-9pm.
414-962-6302
gallery-505.com
Through June 30

PICK
Twilight of the Golds

R.S.V.P. Productions
This exciting production deals with genetic research. What would your family do if you were told your child would be born gay?
Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
703 S. 2nd. St.
7:30pm. \$15
414-272-5694
Through June 26, various times

PICK
The Mad Cabaret

The Cabaret was created by Joy Dragland and has quickly become the hottest ticket in town every Thursday night. Joy moved to try her hand in the Big Apple, however the Cabaret continues unabated and the cast looks forward to her guest spot this night only.
The Slipper Club
121 W. Main St., Madison
10pm. \$6
608-268-0909
slipperclub.net
Repeats every Thursday

Friday, June 17

Broad Vocabulary Grand Opening

Come for a discussion by the Miltown Kings on gender performance and a martial arts performance from Alive and Kickin'.
2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.
414-744-8384
broadvocabulary.com

Wide Sky Dance Project

Cabot Theatre
Broadway Theatre Center
158 N. Broadway
414-291-7800
Through June 19

Saturday, June 18

Tartuffe

American Players Theatre
Hwy. C, Spring Green
608-588-2361
playinthewoods.org
Through October 1, various times

Up on the Roof:

Love Is in the Air

Cream City Chorus
Village Church Arts
130 E. Juneau Ave., Milwaukee
7:30 p.m. \$12 advance, \$15 door
414-276-8787

Thursday, June 23

Candida

American Players Theatre

Hwy. C, Spring Green

608-588-2361

playinthewoods.org

Through September 9, various times

Friday, June 24

Experimental Film/Video Series

Woodland Pattern Book Center
720 E. Locust St.
7pm. \$2
414-229-4758

Summerdances

Includes "Between Yesterday and Today," an ambitious performance using dance, music, film and original poetry to explore historical and contemporary meanings of the Holocaust. It examines historical memory, transcendence and the redemption of suffering through remembrance and explores the Holocaust as an historical event and as a metaphor for racism, xenophobia and remembrance. Beginning with specific historical references to the persistent persecution and extermination of Jews, homosexuals and other marginalized groups, the work broadens to explore images and sequences that recall genocide, xenophobia and racism in modern societies.
Mainstage Theatre
2400 E. Kenwood Blvd.
\$16, \$9 students/seniors
414-229-4308

Saturday, June 25

Bill Maher Orpheum Theatre

216 State St., Madison
7:30pm.
orpheumtheatre.net

Coming Soon

July 8: Glenn Miller Orchestra, Pabst Theater

July 8: Urban Rhythm Project, Danceworks

July 15: The Underwear Party, Orpheum Theatre

July 17: South Shore Frolics Festival of Art, Lions Club

Deadline for July issue is June 23.

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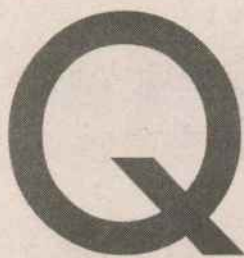
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EVENTS CALENDAR

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Email us at qcalendar@queerlifeneews.com

Saturday, June 4

FORGE: The Process of Self-Discovery How did we figure out that we were trans? How did we come to accept our trans family member? Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. forge-forward.org or 414-278-6031.

Sunday, June 5

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

Healing Circle: The Healing Power of Amulets Our leader will be Aggie Goldenholz, a healer within the Jewish tradition and reiki master. Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church, 125 W. Saveland Ave. tippecanoe.org or 414-481-4680.

Saturday, June 11

Gemini Gender Group Support and social group for cross-dressers and transsexuals. 6-9:30pm. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. gemini_gender_group@hotmail.com.

Pumped with Pride For one Saturday night only, the PUMP! Boys are taking the show on the road to bring you a special Pride celebration to help raise much-needed funds for PFLAG Milwaukee. 10pm. Moct Bar, 240 E. Pittsburgh Ave. pumpmilwaukee.com.

Sunday, June 12

Locust Street Festival of Music and Art 29th Annual Event on Locust Street between Humboldt and

Holton. Kicks off with a beer run/walk. Live music all day on six stages, over 70 arts and crafts vendors, drum circle, kids activities, food, beer and more. 11:30am-8pm. 414-562-2020 or debra@riverwestcurrents.org.

Pride Parade

2pm, 1st and Greenfield

Bay View Arts Guild Meeting Networking and discussion of "July Frolics" and "August Tour." 6:30pm. Bay View Library, 2566 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. bayviewarts.org or 414-482-1543.

Tuesday, June 14

Lesbian Reading Group Jackie Calhoun's "Abby's Passion." 7pm. Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave. outwordsbooks@msn.com or 414-963-9089.

Wednesday, June 15

Community Shares "Agency Shuffle." Third annual round-robin view of what successful organizations are doing to cultivate a neighborhood on the north side. Vans will tour four northside agencies — Open Gate, Repairers of the Breach, Project Return, and Milwaukee LGBT Community Center — then return to America's Black Holocaust Museum for a reception. Vans leave at 5:30pm. 2233 N. 4th St., milwaukeeshares.org or 414-342-0883.

Thursday, June 16

Rainbow U Lecture Series "Latinas and Latinos Share Their Coming Out Stories." We'll have great storytelling, comida, refrescos and entertainment all to celebrate Pride Month and, in this case, Latina y Latino Pride! Speakers include Lilliana E. Gutierrez, Charles Perkins, Ricardo Perez, Desiree Alva, and Gilbert

Villalpando 6:30-8:30pm. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 414-271-2656.

Saturday, June 18

BWMT (Black and White Men Together) Open to all members, guests and visitors. 7-9pm. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. bwmtmilwaukee.org or 414-540-9437, ext. 3.

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. wiscrad.org.

Rainbow Families Milwaukee Support and social group for LGBT parents and kids. 3-6pm. mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com or 414-447-0251.

5th Annual Rainbow Home and Garden

Tour six beautiful homes and gardens in the Walker's Point neighborhood, a historic area and one of the three original villages that eventually grew into the city of Milwaukee. 414-271-2656, ext. 121.

Sunday, June 19

Open Space A Lesbian drop-in discussion group for real talk and new friends. Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. 6-8pm. Please be prompt. Door locked at 6:15. Contact Cheryl at groups@excepc.com or 414-271-2565.

Monday, June 20

Outwords Book Club William J. Mann's "All American Boy." New members welcome. 7:30pm. 2710 N. Murray Ave. outwordsbooks@msn.com or 414-963-9089.

Friday, June 24

Bucketworks Grand Reopening Bucketworks has grown within the Milwaukee community and many things have changed. Join Bucketworks for its Grand Reopening and third-year anniversary party. This event features food and drink from local businesses as well as local music, dance and fire-spinning performances throughout the evening! 7-10pm. \$10. 1319 N. MLK Dr. bucketworks.org.

Sunday, June 26

Community Living of SE Wisconsin We are a small group of individuals looking to form and promote various forms of cooperative housing and co-housing in the Greater Milwaukee area. info@closew.org or 414-349-2232.

Saturday, July 2

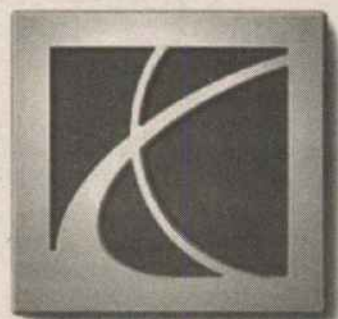
FORGE: The Language of Transgender Eskimos have dozens of words for snow. How many words do we have or use to describe gender or transgender? The mainstream media has shifted in how it uses language in relation to gender and sexual orientation. How has the transgender community used language to encompass who and what we are? Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. www.forge-forward.org or 414-278-6031.

Sunday, July 3

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

Wednesday, July 6

Madison Crossdressers Support Group 7pm. Outreach, 600 Williamson St.



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- Boom**
625 S. 2nd St.
414-277-5040
- Boot Camp**
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414-643-6900
- Cage**
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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**
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Mequon
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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
- Walker's Pint**
818 S. 2nd St.
414-643-7468
- Woody's**
1579 S. 2nd St.
414-672-0806

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

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- The Shelter**
730 N. Quincy St.
920-432-BOMB (2662)
www.TheShelterClub.com
- Sass**
840 S. Broadway
920-437-7277
- XS Nightclub**
1106 Main St.
920-884-2949

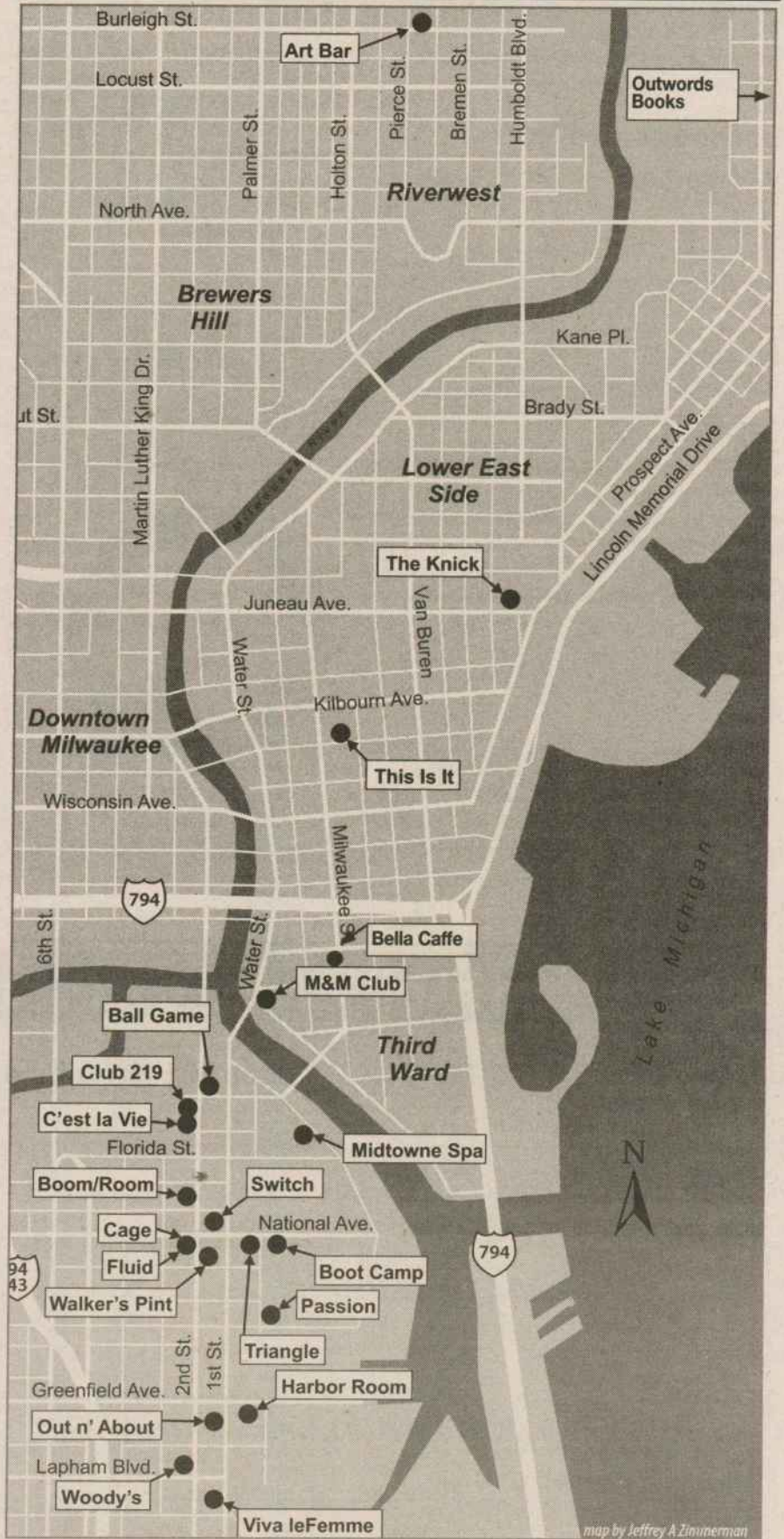
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- Crossroads Bar and Grill**
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920-830-1927
crossroads-appleton@tripod.net
- Rascal's Bar & Grill**
702 E. Wisconsin Ave.
920-954-9262
rascals@new.rr.com

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Writing Opportunities

Q Life is looking for one-time writers for the Q Pets and Q Couples columns. We pay \$40 per story. If you're interested in telling yours, please e-mail qpets@queerlifeneews.com or qcouples@queerlifeneews.com for more information.

For Rent

Lesbian couple looking for roommate to share Kunzelmann-Esser Loft Apt at 710 Mitchell Street. Apt includes central air, dsl/cable, washer/dryer, dishwasher, parking, storage, roof access. Building includes darkroom, computer lab, fitness center, and more. Rent is \$350, Available 6/1/05 or later. 12 month or 6 month lease. Call Alisa @ 414-628-1049 or astreets@uwm.edu

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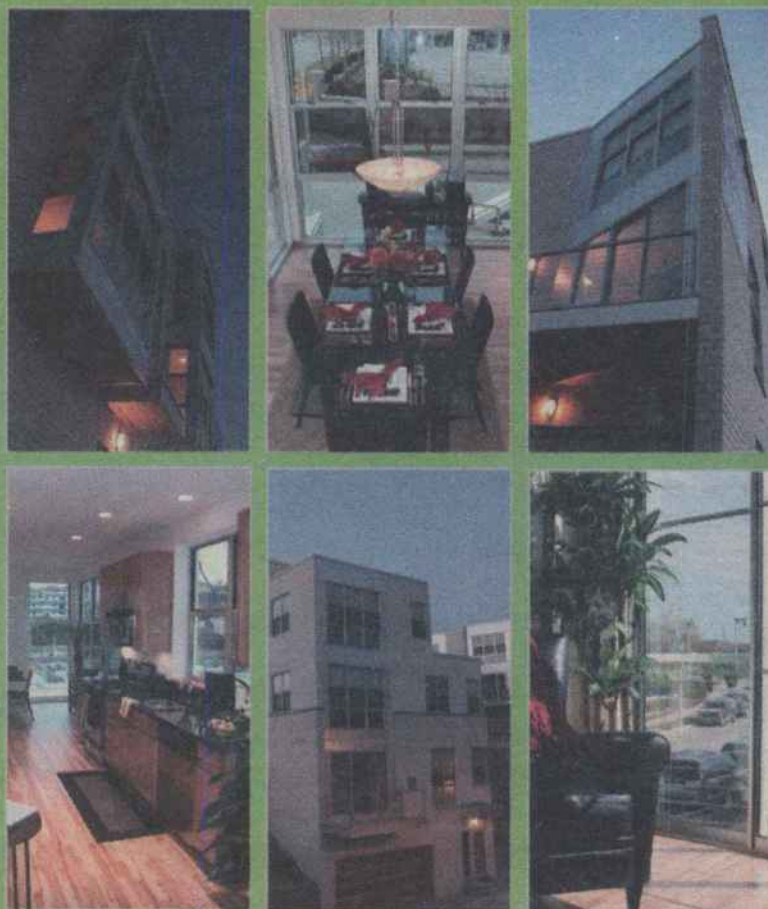
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