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Wisconsin's Premiere LGBT News Leader VOL. 1, ISSUE 8 | JULY 6, 2005

Fyrst Launches Second Bid at State Treasurer's Office

By William Attewell, Special to Q Life

Madison — Openly gay Dane County Supervisor Rob Fyrst has launched a second bid at becoming Wisconsin state treasurer, announcing his candidacy for the statewide post in the shadow of the State Capitol on June 7.



In 2002, Fyrst first ran for state treasurer and lost in the primary to fellow Democrat Dawn Marie Sass. Sass lost by a wide margin in the general election to State Treasurer Jack C. Voight. Voight, a Republican first elected to the

post in 1994, is seeking re-election to the post.

Fyrst was first elected in 2000 to the Dane County Board of Supervisors and was re-elected 2002 and 2004.

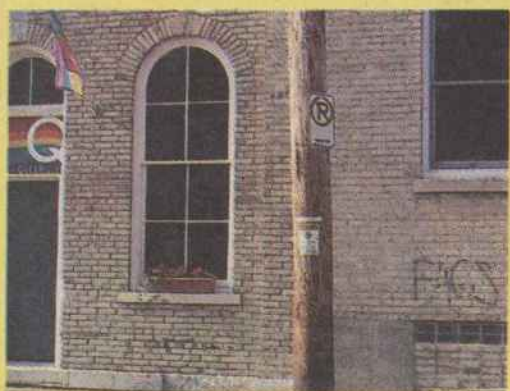
Fyrst, 36, is an African American and a gay father raising his adopted son, Tyler. Tyler is 12 years old.

"Four years ago, my son Tyler and I began an incredible journey of enlightenment. We traveled from Superior to Kenosha, from Marinette to La Crosse, from Madison to Wausau and many, many places in between. This trek across the dairy land of Wisconsin served as a reminder of why I love public service and why I love Wisconsin. It is the

continued on page 7

Homophobe Watch

Homophobic taggers used Q Life and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center as their canvas last month, defacing the cream-city bricks at our office with the choice, yet very unimaginative word, "Fags." While the immediate neighborhood appears to have gotten sprayed as well, nowhere else were any derogatory slogans used. Many would argue that this was nothing more than a random tagging or that the taggers were British, but unfortunately we know better. Our landlord is working carefully with us and is installing security cameras. If we catch the image of those responsible, you can bet Queer Life will fight back.



Flagging Tenants

Milwaukee Resident Says She's Outed from Her Home Because She's a Lesbian

Exclusive to Q Life
By Tim Grair and Don Hoffman

Your landlord has just found out that you're gay. They want you out. Now.

It can't happen here, right? Wisconsin has a law preventing discrimination in housing and employment. We were the first in the nation — back in the early '80s Lee Dreyfus, a Republican governor, signed that bill into law. However, that law appears to have very little bite.

Just ask Janet Ast.

Along with thousands of others, Ast went to PrideFest this year. She spotted a rainbow flag and decided to replace her butterfly and flower flag with something a little closer to her heart. Later that evening she raised her colors. Early the next morning she was apparently confronted by one of her landlords.

According to Ast, her landlord, Colleen Babinec, was quick to make her displeasure known. "I need you to take that flag down immediately," said Colleen Babinec, according to Ast. Ast assured Babinec that her newly acquired Pride flag merely represented support for equal rights for all humans.

Babinec was not mollified.

According to Ast, Babinec grew louder, more confrontational and asserted, "My brother died of AIDS. I know all about your kind of people."

Hoping to put an end to the situation, a fearful Ast said she did her best to diffuse the situation.

"Colleen, settle down, I'll take the flag down," Ast claimed she told her

landlord. With that, the flag was folded and put back inside.

However, it appears that the flag was not the issue but merely the flashpoint.

Before long, Ast received a 28-day notice to vacate from Colleen and Stephen Babinec's lawyer, Patrick J. Rubich terminating her lease.

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Janet Ast of Bay View sits on her front porch beneath her Rainbow flag Thursday June 23. Photo by Melody Carranza

PrideFest 2005: Pride Old and New

By William Duane

"A great time was had by all." That phrase could easily describe the experience at this year's PrideFest, Wisconsin's largest annual lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender celebration. Great weather and a star-studded lineup of mainstage acts combined to give 21,368 festival-goers a weekend of fun and pride unequalled in the memories of most.

According to the PrideFest Web site, the first official Pride event in Milwaukee was a picnic at Mitchell Park in 1988.



PrideFest began as a small rally focusing on political issues and LGBT civil rights, and has expanded over the years to include exhibitions on local community history, a marketplace for businesses, and national and international headline entertainment. This year's festival saw further growth in attendance — up more than 25 percent over last year, with gross revenues up \$25,000 over last year — and the addition of several new features.

Scott Gunkel, president of PrideFest, attributed the bigger crowds to a number of factors. "I think we had a great entertainment lineup, we did a great job promoting, we had a number of new things, and our new interactive Web site," he said.

In addition to a new sheephead tournament tent at the north end of the grounds, this year saw the addition of a silent auction. Gunkel said the sheephead attraction was well received but numbers were lower than expected. "We got about four or five hundred hits, and we were aiming for a

thousand."

The number of festival tickets purchased over the Web is not available yet, but Gunkel expects it to be high. "We had a lot at will-call," he added. People had to pick up their tickets at the will-call window at the front gate. In past years, there were delays to making the Web site interactive for ticket purchases.

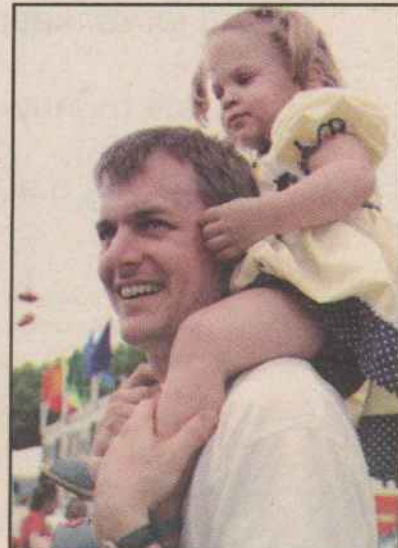
Saturday Night Strut

Saturday saw sunny skies in the afternoon and a near miss by an expected storm in the evening, giving the large crowd a chance to enjoy some prime-time entertainment. Kristin Miller and Brandon Wright, winner and runner-up of Rock Star Project 2005, were scheduled to judge the final competition of the Pride Idol competition on the dance stage. The performance by Jaizon Plaga, who sang Al Green's "Let's Stay Together," earned him the winning title.

Tret Fure and Kimi Hayes got the audience at the main stage up on their feet in the early afternoon. Maria Cadenas, Chair of Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM), complimented PrideFest on an "incredible" lineup. "They did a wonderful job of having diverse music genres and included top women performers," she said.

LAMM also sponsored the Lesbian Lounge and the Stonewall Stage, and helped organize the community rally Saturday afternoon featuring U.S. Rep.

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Photos by Melody Carranza



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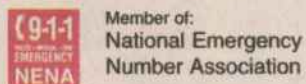
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FLAGGING *continued from page 1***Past Dealings**

Ast has lived in her flat on South Pine Avenue in the Bay View neighborhood since late last year. She claims she has paid her rent on time each month and, in fact, began paying an extra hundred dollars a month because she brought a new dog into her household. She says however that the dog has nothing to do with this recent issue involving her tenancy and points to the fact that her landlords gladly accepted her additional hundred dollars a month payment until this recent brouhaha.

Ast says she is a registered nurse who works third shift. "All I do is work and pay my rent and walk my dog," said Ast. But now, "I'm afraid to go out of my house. I don't know if they are going to come into my house."

While Ast clearly has a checkered past (more than a dozen civil and criminal citations dating back to 1996 in Wisconsin alone), she claims to have been a good tenant. In addition to paying her rent on time, she asserts she has kept her flat in good condition. She believes she has rarely asked for landlord assistance with repairs; she recalls one time when water was leaking from the upper flat, caused by a leaking toilet. It was fixed that very same day.

Since her landlords found out she was a lesbian, she contends things have been considerably different.

The Tuesday after PrideFest she tried to turn the light out in her bedroom and the pull chain came out of the fixture. Ast recalled phoning the Babinec's home to let Colleen Babinec know that it needed

to be fixed. Ast insists, not only was Babinec uninterested in repairing the fixture but she laughed at Ast and informed her that she wouldn't be there that long to see it fixed.

The next day Ast says she approached Stephen Babinec, who was mowing the lawn, about the light fixture and asked whether or not she needed to vacate the premises. According to Ast he replied, "Yes, you really have my wife pissed off."

The Other Side of the Story

Ast's landlord, 72-year-old Colleen Babinec, says nearly everything Ast told Q Life regarding this incident is true. "I did say all those things, and I'm not going to deny it," said a defiant Babinec.

Babinec continued, "But I'm not racist. I just know how you people are. I have a lot of compassion for you people, with my brother dying of AIDS and all. I don't discriminate. In fact, I once gave a black person \$8000 to buy a house. I have so many people that know what Janet [Ast] is saying is wrong."

Babinec claims that she has had numerous problems with Ast. "She has chopped branches off of trees in front of our house, changed the mailbox and even sometimes swears at her dog."

When asked if she knew about the dog, and accepted extra rent money for its board, she was quick to add, "I knew all about the dog — I was the one who told her she needed to pay extra money for the dog ... so that is not the issue. It's just she is so mean to it and swears really loud at it."

According to Babinec she had never served Ast with any type of formal letter in the past, outlining her displeasure.

"I was giving her the benefit of the doubt — but that flag was the straw that broke the camel's back," she said.

"I want her out now."

Rainbow Hater?

The flag at the heart of the disagreement is actually rather unremarkable. It is a standard size Pride flag and a quick trip through the Bay View neighborhood reveals an extraordinary variety of flags flying from many houses. Needless to say, the rainbow flag is well represented in a

neighborhood that is sometimes referred to, in the LGBT community, as "Gay View." Many of Ast's neighbors fly flags and, most telling, the Babinecs actually have three flags.

The only thing that seems to be special about Ast's flag is that it revealed to the Babinecs that Janet Ast is a lesbian. Ast says she has known she was gay for decades, however she self-identifies as a non-flamboyant person, and surmises up until she let her colors shine there would have been no reason for her landlords to suspect that she was anything but straight.

According to the Action Wisconsin Web site (actionwisconsin.org), "It is illegal to be kicked out of your home; threatened or intimidated; denied the ability to rent, buy, construct, or finance a home; or otherwise be treated unequally in housing because of your sexual orientation. The law applies to management companies, landlords, real estate agents, and subsidized housing."

Out on the Street?

But where does this leave Janet Ast?

She promises she's prompt paying all her bills on time, but she doesn't have extra money for legal expenses — though she knows that in order to protect her

rights she may require legal help. The law is only as good as its enforcement and that requires judgment from the court system.

In the meantime, she's unsure what to do. Her month-to-month lease will now expire at the end of July. Because of the recent history, she is certain that she is not welcome to stay that long. She knows she has few options: She can pay her rent and stay, fearing a Milwaukee County Sheriff eviction. She can pay her rent here and pay rent on another place as well and live there. However, her wallet is too thin for that option. According to Ast, these are bad choices.

The real tragedy is that she wants to stay.

"It's my home, and I don't want to go anywhere," said Ast.

Editor's Note: Within minutes after speaking to Q Life on the record, Colleen Babinec called us back. She demanded that we not print her comments. She said she knew she was talking to a reporter for the story, however now she has rethought what she said and decided that we should only tell Ast's side of the story. I told her that would not be fair to her. — DH

'I'm afraid to go out of my house. I don't know if they are going to come into my house.'
— Janet Ast



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PrideFest *continued from page 1*

Gwen Moore and local supporters like Peggy West. The rally was a success, although it was sparsely attended by fest-



Photo by Melody Carranza

goers, probably due to its location in the Dance Pavilion.

Meanwhile the Joan Rivers illusionist was a big hit with the audience at the main stage. The rapid-fire delivery of raunchy jokes and epileptic movements really did create the illusion that the queen of Hollywood's red carpets had appeared in the flesh. The performance was actually provided by Gary Dee from the "La Cage" cabaret revue of Aruba. Those who've seen the same revue in Vegas said Dee's work as emcee here was far superior to that show. The crowd seemed to agree.

Reaction was more mixed to the Cher impersonator, who wooed some listeners with her throaty range and tortured others with an extended rendering of "Happy Birthday" sung to some "lucky" soul in the bleachers.

As evening came on, Mark Weigle cooled down the sweaty crowd with his honky-tonk folk-rock. Advertised as another "James Taylor," Weigle is more country than rock 'n' roll, but his stage presence kept his fans riveted.

Jason Stuart got the crowd going for the main entertainment, and then handed it over to Taylor Dayne, who had every-

one grooving to her '80s hits. Then, of course, there was RuPaul, "Super Model of the World." Despite the late start time of RuPaul's set, which turned out to be only about 45 minutes long, this was the biggest crowd of the weekend, and perhaps the largest in PrideFest history.

There were the usual hits, multiple costume changes, and an impromptu walk down the runway with RuPaul and a couple of captive sign-language interpreters the performer yanked from the wings. Her highness exited, reminding us to love each other, and Saturday was finished.

Parade Anyone?

The much-debated new parade got going a little late on 2nd Street on Sunday afternoon. There was a good showing of vehicles of all shapes and sizes, including some elaborate floats from the bars. The parade took about 20 minutes to pass by.

The route, although not the first choice (organizers wanted to wrap around and head back to the lakefront), turned out to be a success. People outside some of the bars (La Cage, Walker's Pint and Boom/The Room), where tables were set up for viewing, were ready and noisy, as were the anti-gay protesters who set up signs at one point on the route, exchanging shouted Bible verses with passersby.

There was some confusion as to the route of the parade and some people who wanted to see it arrived late. Several organizations also pointed out that dividing their members between the parade and volunteering at PrideFest put them in an awkward situation.

Fresh Faces, Youth Pride

RuPaul repeated several times dur-

ing her show, "This is for the young ones," encouraging older people in the community to "show them the way."

And it did seem to be a younger crowd at this year's PrideFest. That was the impression of several long-time vendors, too. One vendor, who did not wish to be identified, said the younger crowd is certainly welcome, but they don't buy as much as an older demographic.

The Dance Pavilion saw increased numbers on Saturday night, and people stayed after the fireworks to enjoy another set from the DJs. Jason Hartell, who has come to PrideFest for several years to dance with friends, said the event has become popular in recent years with a diverse group of young people.

"A lot more straight people come down now," Hartell, who was there with his girlfriend, said. His friends usually hang out in the Pavilion. Do they enjoy the other attractions? "Yeah," said Hartell, "but mostly the dancing and the crowd."

PrideFest Public Relations Director Paul Williams was satisfied with the diversity of the crowd. "We designed a PR/marketing campaign to 'demystify' PrideFest," Williams said. "We had known that many people thought they had to be gay to attend ... so we set out to let people know that PrideFest welcomed everyone."

Covering Pride: Less of the 'Icky Stuff'

Williams said that some of the suc-



Photo by Melody Carranza

cess of this year's event was due to better coverage and more promotion in the local mainstream media. He pointed out that PrideFest spokespersons did "promotional appearances on several TV news and radio programs during the week prior to the festival." PrideFest also aired cable TV ads with well-known local comedian and actor John McGivern, and a cover story on PrideFest appeared in the preceding week's Shepherd Express.

An article about PrideFest, including a schedule of the entertainment lineup, was on the front page of the Cue section in the June 9th edition of the Journal-Sentinel, but a review of coverage of the event during or after the festival turned up very little. A story on the Pride Idol competition ran in the Sunday June 12th edition, deep in the Metro section, and a small notice about the rise in attendance appeared in the Monday paper.

Still, Gunkel called the overall media coverage "superb." He added, "Let me tell you how my mother put it... She said they didn't put a lot of the icky stuff in." In the past much of the coverage focused on negative images, like anti-gay protesters at the front gate, who were considerably fewer in number this year.

"I think we had a great entertainment lineup; we did a great job promoting, we had a number of new things and our new interactive Web site." — Scott Gunkel

A Few Glitches

The most noticeable hitch in this year's success was the delay getting the ticket windows up and running on Saturday so the festival could open. Due to a new computer system, which saw its first use at PrideFest, the gates were about 30 minutes late opening. According to Gunkel, there was a 45-minute delay opening the bars on the festival grounds, too. "We were the test," Gunkel said. PrideFest is the first festival of the summer season on the lakefront grounds.

Volunteer Mick Vilbaum, who sold tickets Saturday, reported that the cash registers kept crashing throughout the day: "About an hour or two into it, they all just went out." He suggested more pre-training was needed, pointing out that orientation for volunteers mostly focused on security.

Dave Kierstyn and John Petersen, who volunteered collecting goods for ARCW Food Pantry, said that some people who received tickets for donating food (four non-perishable items got you one day's admission) were scalping them at the gate.

While there was no trouble with the set-up and organization of the market-

place, vendors described the drop in attendance on Sunday as disappointing. One attributed it to people staying out later on Saturday to see RuPaul, and the fact that the annual "gay day" event at Great America was held just after PrideFest. The Locust Street Festival in Riverwest was also held on Sunday.

Nevertheless, Gunkel said that several vendors have already contacted him to schedule a booth

for next year, even though dates for PrideFest 2006 have not been finalized. "They're very enthusiastic," he said.

One vendor complained about the Pride Guide, noting it was "85 percent ads," and that the smaller, pocket-sized guides in the past were more convenient. The same vendor added that having the guide come out earlier this year was helpful to businesses. (Q-Life published the 2005 Pride Guide.)

The most commonly voiced complaint from festival-goers to vendors was the absence this year of "pride buttons," which in the past could be purchased prior to the festival for a discount on admission.

Maria Cadenas of LAMM questioned the diversity of the panel on gay marriage, saying, "One concern we had was that we were not invited to participate in the panel ... or that not many lesbians were at the panel."

As for the future, Gunkel and other PrideFest officials point to structural changes in the organization. The Cream City Foundation, along with an advisory committee, still helps to oversee PrideFest, after a disastrous festival two years ago left the organization in debt. Gunkel adds, "We have to wean ourselves away from CCF."

This year's success will certainly help.

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CLUB HAVANA

FYRST *continued from page 1*

people," says Fyrst.

"Wisconsin needs a state treasurer who will serve as a watchdog on their checkbook and ensure that the government is not balancing the books with smoke and mirrors," Fyrst stated as he announced his second run for state treasurer. "I will ensure your tax dollars are accounted for up front and clear."

Fyrst believes he is in a much better position to win the election this time around and says he has learned a great deal from his first run for the office in 2002.

"We have different dynamics for the election this time," Fyrst told Q Life.

"Last time, I only focused on Democratic voters. I worked my butt off at meetings and events — but, I hadn't thought about all the independents and Republicans who vote and agree with my stance on the issues."

Fyrst says getting his message out across the state and increasing voter turnout are high priorities this time around. "Voters need to know who I am and why I am running."

"I've got to raise more money and work harder on becoming more visible in key turnout areas like Milwaukee, Kenosha, Racine and the Fox Valley," Fyrst says. "I will be focusing on getting my message and my name out there. That will make it a different race this time."

Fyrst says the amount of early support he has received is substantial and encouraging. "I've already been endorsed by Congresswoman Gwen Moore, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, and Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk among many others."

Fyrst has been active in a number of state LGBT groups over the years, including GLSEN and OutReach in Madison. He is also seeking support from The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. The national group provides strategic, technical and financial support to openly LGBT candidates and officials.

Despite being openly gay, Fyrst believes that his sexuality shouldn't be an issue in the campaign.

"If I am asked if I am gay I will say, 'Yes, I am — but that has nothing to do with what the state treasurer's office does.' I think Tammy Baldwin is a great role model for me in this area. She is openly gay and it has not been an issue. I would love to be able to do the same thing with my campaign. Being gay is simply one part of who I am."

Fyrst is opposed to the proposed state constitutional amendment that would ban gays and lesbian from marrying in Wisconsin. He also believes the amendment has greater implications for all minorities in the state.

"I think this amendment is also an attack on people of color," explains Fyrst. "If

it passes, it says people of color or any other minority group could be singled out next. People of color need to realize this is not just about gays and lesbians. It is important to all of us."

Fyrst also encourages different minority groups to reach out and work together.

"We need to be willing to understand our differences and yet work together," says Fyrst. "Gays and lesbians need to reach out by attending NAACP dinners and events and Juneteenth Day celebrations. Likewise, African-American leaders need to show up at gay pride and gay community events."

Fyrst is also a member of the Advent Lutheran Church in Madison but says he is uncomfortable with the way religion is often used in politics.

"When you decide that your religious beliefs should trump other people's beliefs that is wrong. ... Republicans don't have the corner market on morality. There are many people of faith within all the political parties. It is wrong when religion is used to beat down people instead of building them up."

'I've already been endorsed by Congresswoman Gwen Moore, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, and Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk among many others.'
— Rob Fyrst

Fyrst says Wisconsin needs a state treasurer who will make accountability to the people a priority: "During the past 14 years, Wisconsin's government has been challenged by record deficits, unbearable hardships and unacceptable lapses in the public trust."

"One of these lapses has been in the connection between the people of Wisconsin and the state treasurer," adds Fyrst. "During the past 14 years, beginning with the Thompson administration, the Office of the Wisconsin State Treasurer has been whittled down in an effort to quiet the people's connection to their checkbook."

The general election for state treasurer will be held in November 2006. For more information on Fyrst's run for state treasurer visit www.addingupforwisconsin.com.

Quakers See God in Everyone

By Tricia Klos

George Fox founded Quakerism in 1647. He left the Church of England to create a religion that focused on a personal connection with God. Quakerism, which uses silent worship, is based on the belief that everyone has an "inner light" and "that of God within them." Quakers strongly believe in peace



Quaker Janet Hilliker

and equality and are often conscientious objectors and activists. Their involvement with civil rights includes leaders such as Bayard Rustin (an African-American and gay activist), Lucretia Mott (a woman suffragist from the 19th century) and others.

Janet Hilliker was an active Methodist for 10 years before she encountered Quakerism in 1969. She began attending a Quaker meeting because it was the only local church that supported peace in Vietnam.

"I had maybe two or three powerful religious experiences as a Methodist," said Hilliker. "As a Quaker, I began having very intense religious experiences every month. Being a Methodist had become ritualistic to me."

After Hilliker attended Quaker Meeting for about two years, she fell in love

with another woman. Confused about her sexuality, Hilliker turned to books for an explanation.

"I was really attracted to her on all levels; I loved her," said Hilliker. "But the results of my reading only told me that I was either very, very immoral or, under psychiatric standards, crazy. I felt that I wasn't hurting anybody. What I did to work that out was sit through silence at Quaker Meeting and meditate on the love I was having." Hilliker and the woman were in a relationship for a month and still remain friends.

Hilliker felt comfortable with her bisexuality in the context of Quakerism. "Within the general idea of being Quaker, everyone accepts that there's something of God in every person. We don't have a creed, so all of us are seeking. Each of our insights matters. My spiritual insight was that it's OK to be bi," she explained.

Hilliker has seen firsthand how the laws of a heterosexual society can negatively impact the lives of homosexuals.

"The worst event I've ever heard of concerns a boy who was the older of two children of a lesbian couple," said Hilliker. The boy became seriously injured, but his mother, not the birth mother, could not have him treated until someone who was related through blood or matrimony arrived at the hospital. "The boy was in pain, but he had to wait until the father of the woman's partner came. Now he has to accept that the rest of the world doesn't see his mother as his mother."

Hilliker mentioned FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Concerns), an organization which ascribes to the belief of God's presence in all people. It allows LGBT Quakers and their allies a chance to meet twice a year to discuss issues and also produces a newsletter roughly three times a year. The Milwaukee Quaker Meeting

has been marrying same-sex couples for approximately the past 15 years. At least four or five couples have gone through the ceremony, although some choose to have a commitment ceremony for political reasons.

Judy Payne and her partner Pat Bujard were married October 9, 1999, by Milwaukee Monthly Meeting.

"It was a very powerful experience," said Payne. "Even though we had been in a relationship before the marriage ceremony, the experience of making decisions with the Quaker clearness committee and ourselves, as well as having public declaration, expanded our "coming out" process. Getting married under the care of the Quaker Meeting deepened our relationship."

Payne commented on how comfortable it feels to be a homosexual Quaker. "Being lesbian has been so normalized in the Quaker community, I forget that it doesn't feel safe for me in some other situations to come out," explained Payne. "To have the unconditional support of a spiritual community is a very important element to my life and my relationship with Pat, my partner."

Kathy Dahlk, a straight Quaker, talked about the openness between homosexuals and heterosexuals in the Quaker community. "It's making those kinds of connections that help people change their minds, open their hearts, and get active."

For more information on FLGBTQC, visit www.quaker.org/flgbtqc. To find out about Quaker Meetings in the Wisconsin area, see www.quaker.org/meetings.html#WI. The Madison and Milwaukee Monthly Meetings are at right:

The Milwaukee Quaker Meeting has been marrying same-sex couples for approximately the past 15 years.

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608-256-2249

www.danenet.org/mmm

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LGBT Latinas y Latinos Share Their Stories

By Carmen Alicia Murguía

Throughout June, you can hear the pounding of congas and timbales from the Dominican Republic to Chile. It's not the running of the bulls, but the stomping of marchers in Barcelona and Mexico City. Whether it's Isla Mujeres, Mexico, Manati, Puerto Rico or aquí in Wisconsin, LGBT Latinas and Latinos are coming out, loud and proud!

The Juana Gloria Vega Resource Center (JGVRC) for LGBTQ Latinas y Latinos recently co-hosted the Rainbow U Lecture at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Donations were collected from those attending to benefit the Juana Gloria Vega Scholarship for Lesbian and Bisexual Latina Students. The scholarship was established in 2001 in honor of Juana, an

out lesbian and Mexican American who was murdered by her former lover's brother. (He is currently serving a life sentence.) The scholarship has awarded \$1,500 to three outstanding students and community activists.

The panelists for "Sharing Coming Out Stories" were Gilbert Villalpando and Desiree Alva, both born and raised in San Antonio and now master's students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and members of MECHA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán); Ricardo Perez, a member of the JGVRC board, the son of migrant farm workers, and a bilingual resource specialist; and Charles Perkins, a computer guru of African-American and Mexican descent, student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and actively working with Project Q's youth. Hosting the event was Car-

men Alicia Murguía, a veterana in the LGBT community, founder of the JGVRC and creator of the JGV Scholarship.

Adding to the excitement were members of Mo's Thursday night women's group as well as Charles Daniels of Charles D Productions, Inc., who donated Mr. & Mrs. Mystique Pageant Tickets to the JGVRC silent auction. DJ Harry O Santiago entertained everyone on the wheels of steel with the latest Latin mixes and hip hop that had everyone grooving!

The common theme for the evening was familia — both our family of origin and the family we create — the support networks that provide Latina and Latino LGBT communities space to feel and be safe, loved, strong and proud in their skin and



in the world.

Please visit www.mkelgbt.org/about/juanavegascholarship/about.asp for further information about the Juana Gloria Vega Scholarship.

CCF Announces Third Annual Women-Only Night Golf Tournament

HAPPENINGS
State and Local

The Cream City Foundation (CCF) announced its third annual Women-Only Night Golf Tournament.

The tournament was created to form a venue for women to raise funds and has attracted a myriad of supporters from LGBT and ally communities. Last year, CCF targeted all funds raised to go towards women-related LGBT programming, including \$1,500 given to the Lesbian Alliance.

The tournament will be held at Noyes Park Saturday, August 27. The event is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. CCF will provide free beer and food to all participants.

Entry forms may be requested from creamcityfund@voyager.net or obtained at the CCF offices at 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee.

MIAD Names Out Gay Man as President

The Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design has named Robert Rindler, Dean of the School of Art at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York, as its fifth president. Rindler plans to move to Milwaukee this summer with his partner, James Connors, and will begin working at the college full time in August.

"I'm honored and excited," said Rindler. "I've worked in art and design colleges for three decades, and leading a college of MIAD's high caliber is the opportunity of a lifetime. I'm really looking forward to become a part of the college and the art life of its community."

In addition to serving as Dean of the Copper Union School of Arts since 1994, Rindler also has served as Associate Provost of the Rhode Island School of Design, Dean of Students at the Boston Architectural Center and Professor of Art and Art Department Chair at the University of Vermont.

A practicing artist, Rindler's drawings and photographs have been exhibited nationally in numerous shows including solo exhibitions at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Boston Architectural Center, and the Yale University Art Gallery.

Madison Pride Hosts MAGIC and LGBT March on Capital

Plans are well underway for the MAGIC event in Madison on July 16 and 17. Entertainment over the two days includes All the Pretty Horses, Tongue & Groove, Simone Denny, a drag show and others.

Dykes on Bikes will kick off the rally/parade on Sunday. Organizers are expecting LGBT people, organizations, businesses and allies to convene on the steps of the State Capital and show a united front against discrimination.

The rally at the Capital will take place at noon and will feature Peggy Lautenschlager and Tammy Baldwin. It will be followed immediately by the parade (parade lineup begins promptly at 11 a.m.). As of press time, the identity of this year's grand marshal remains a secret but organizers promise, "There is something big brewing."

For more information on the march/parade or to download a participation form, visit www.madisonpride.org.

Alliance School Receives Large Challenge Party Funds

The Alliance School, a Milwaukee Public School designed to address the needs of students who seek a "safe space" free from harassment, bullying, and physical or emotional abuse, was the recipient of \$11,000 from the "Challenge Party."

According to Janis Shogren, The Challenge Party is a yearly fundraiser for LGBT organizations, including ARCW and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. All funds raised by the party go directly to the organizations.

This year, "challengers" named the Alliance School as the third group. The money raised for the school was the largest sum

ever raised for a third party group.

Alliance recently announced their new location, 234 W. Galena St., set to open on August 1. They are still receiving tremendous support and press, and the most recent inquiry is from TV-Asahi, a Japanese cable network, currently reporting on the problems in their country associated with student bullying. They are highlighting the efforts of Alliance as an example of how schools can effectively combat these problems.

Approximately 70 out of 100 student slots have been filled. Applications for new students are still being accepted.

Plymouth Church Receives Award for LGBT Work

Plymouth Church UCC, an open and affirming congregation on the east side of Milwaukee, received a prestigious award for its social justice activism. The "Justice and Witness Local Church Award" is given every two years by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ; Plymouth's denomination, to recognize a congregation that embodies Christ's teachings of radical hospitality for all God's children.

Plymouth was specifically chosen because of its work registering voters for the 2004 presidential election and its work against the constitutional ban on civil unions, domestic partnership and gay marriage. Plymouth organized two public meetings on the constitutional

ban to help people frame opposition to the proposed amendment within a faith context. Plymouth and its pastors also actively work with Center Advocates.

The United Church of Christ is a Christian denomination with a strong record of supporting LGBT rights. It was the first mainline Protestant tradition to ordain an openly gay man, in 1972. At the same synod at which Plymouth received its award, the denomination voted on a recommendation to recognize same-sex marriages. As of press time the vote had not yet occurred. The denomination offers its employees domestic partner benefits and many of its congregations perform weddings for same-sex couples.

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Diverse and Resilient's Hollander Receives Award and Commendation

In late May, Gary Hollander was presented the 2005 Distinguished Service Award by the Wisconsin Public Health Association, and three days later he was commended by Gov. Jim Doyle for "his advocacy and dedication in service to the youth of the State of Wisconsin." Hollander also received GLSEN of South Central Wisconsin's Community Ally of the Year Award, for his work in securing funding and providing "consistent technical assistance and support."

Hollander, the Executive Director of Diverse and Resilient, is a clinical faculty member of the University of Wis-

consin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine. He is also past president and board member of the Wisconsin AIDS Fund in the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

Since 1995, Diverse and Resilient has focused its commitment on the health of LGBT people in Wisconsin through capacity-building efforts. Diverse and Resilient serves as a catalyst to help LGBT youth groups get started, and continue to thrive, by providing mini-grants, consultations, adult and youth leadership training, and leadership coaching.

Religious Extremist Group to Represent Wisconsin in Lawsuit

Washington — A committee in the Wisconsin Legislature appointed the Alliance Defense Fund, a religious-extremist group, as the state's counsel in opposition to a lawsuit that seeks to ensure that partners of state workers get equal health benefits.

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said, "This group is far from unbiased and the people of Wisconsin did not elect it to speak for them. Wisconsin-

Alliance Defense Fund co-founder James Dobson has called for a "second civil war" in the United States.

ites did elect the Attorney General, who should be the one seeing this case through."

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.

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 and SC Johnson & Son Inc.

Food Drive at PrideFest a Great Success for ARCW Food Pantry

In only four hours, the Potawatomi Bingo Casino Food Drive at PrideFest collected 9,000 pounds of food for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's (ARCW) Food Pantry. The PrideFest donation is annually the largest food donation to the ARCW Food Pantry from a single event. More than 1,700 people made donations.

PrideFest Task Force President Scott Gunkel said, "We thank Potawatomi Bin-

go Casino for sponsoring this great community effort. This is one important way that we can extend the positive impact of the festival beyond PrideFest weekend."

ARCW's top-rated food pantries in Milwaukee, Kenosha and Green Bay provide people with HIV/AIDS healthy, nutritious food to meet the nutritional requirements of their medical regimens.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center: 'Pride of Artists' Continues, 'Manipulated Media' Opens, Yoga Classes Begin

The next Milwaukee Gay Arts Center art exhibition, "Manipulated Media", opens Gallery Night & Day, July 29 and 30. The show juxtaposes classical and traditional forms in glass, metal, stone and wood with contemporary digital ones. In addition to Greg Jacobson and Christine Taylor (both of whom have works in the present show, "A Pride of Artists," along with Ross Johnston and Joe Simon), the exhibition will showcase works by Richard Goldberg, Paul Masterson, Paul Mueller and Jesse Jack Sabbath.

Boston critic Ken Boutet wrote, "Gregory Jacobson's paintings and assemblages are multi-dimensional both physically and conceptually. Wading through fragments of cultural detritus, tinkering with components of mainstream and marginalized media while constantly reevaluating the poetics of painting space, precedes the actual studio act. From there the rigors of the multimedia balancing act begin." His three pieces reflect the intricacies of all of this.

Christine Taylor studied contemporary photography and digital media at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her alternative urban art photography spans a broad horizon of themes referencing both indie and pop-cultural fascinations and obsessions.

Richard Goldberg, a self-taught craftsman now living on a farm, builds functional furniture using traditional methods and tools. The synagogue collection box in this exhibit is constructed of Jerusalem stone and wood and was made for traditional "tzedakah" donations.

Paul Masterson works sheets of metal using traditional methods, hammering surfaces to create a variety of textures. "It's always a compromise of wills. There's a specific

Ex-PrideFest Leader Christine Klein Sues PrideFest

PrideFest received a pre-festival present in the form of a \$5,000 small claims lawsuit filed by former PrideFest director Christine Klein in early June.

Klein's lawsuit claims the money is due from PrideFest for outstanding invoices from her work as a paid PrideFest consultant in 2002.

Current PrideFest leader and PrideFest Task Force member Scott Gunkel disputes Klein's claims.

"This matter was settled in 2002," Gunkel told Q Life. "Klein is trying to reassert these claims and PrideFest is standing by its previous board decision in 2002. We are going to fight this."

According to Gunkel the 2002 PrideFest board of directors voted not to pay the invoices, indicating that Klein had previously been compensated in full for her

services to PrideFest. Klein suddenly "resigned" her PrideFest post in spring 2002, just a month before that year's festival. Klein departed under a cloud of controversy over her handling of PrideFest tax returns and other matters.

Klein disputes the claim that she "resigned" from PrideFest, telling Q Life, "That never occurred. I never resigned from PrideFest, I went in one day and they had changed the locks."

Klein says the dispute is not "personal" adding, "I wouldn't go off half-cocked. This is strictly business."

The total amount due, according to Klein's invoices is \$5,761.20. However, Klein is only suing for \$5,000. This is apparently to keep the matter in small claims court. A final court date for this matter has yet to be set.

Cream City Foundation Revises Grant Cycle

Cream City Foundation's (CCF) Board of Directors recently revised its grant cycle to move to a semi-annual giving schedule. The change was made to focus on creating a bigger impact within and for the southeastern Wisconsin LGBT community.

For the past few years, CCF has focused on supporting grassroots efforts, new initiatives, and building infrastructure of developing organizations.

"We are a visionary organization; in that we are here to ensure that regardless of political climate or situation, there will always be resources to continue the LGBT movement," said Maria Cadenas, CCF's Executive Director.

Grant applications will now be due by July 15 and February 15 of each year. Visit www.creamcityfoundation.org for more information.

Bottomless Cosmos for LGBT Film Festival

Queer Life News Chosen as the Official Media Sponsor for Gay Film Festival

Queer Life News and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) are hosting "Bottoms Up!", a fundraiser for the 18th annual Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival. Bottoms Up! will take place Saturday, July 30 from 7 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$15 at the door and the proceeds will benefit the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival.

Enjoy free Cosmopolitans, courtesy of Future Brands, appetizers and entertainment (TBA).

The LGBT Film/Video Festival is scheduled for Sept. 29 to Oct. 9, with the opening film taking place at the Oriental Theater and subsequent screening at the UWM Union Theatre. Other pre-fest events include a Schedule Release Party at the MGAC Sept. 1 (this will include a screening of the work produced as a result of our first-ever Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival Super 8 Invitational) and a screening of the Sundance Channel's TransGeneration on Sept. 9.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 S. 2nd St.

intention on the part of the artist but each metal has its own properties and responds differently to heat and hammering. The artist's original idea becomes influenced by the reaction of the metal."

Using classical Greek and Roman forms to produce an array of glass vessels Paul Mueller strives for geometric balance, function and expressive color combinations. His method is traditional Italian hot glass blowing employing cane, murini, mold blown, and applications.

The art postcards created by Jesse Jack Sabbath were made using a cell phone with a low resolution camera which offered a solarization setting. Sabbath's postcards display landscapes, local landmarks, shadows and random shots, once hidden by natural light, now transformed into an eerie and surreal world. The Calatrava becomes a Wagnerian ghost ship against an apocalyptic sky and its atrium a sardonic Cheshire cat's smile.

Kurt Sindelar creates his manipulations using image treatment, virtual painting, virtual sculpture, set design and virtual lighting. Sindelar combines and imports elements created in various 3-D programs then generates terrains, textures and lighting, producing fields of fantastic integrations of imagery and surreal landscapes.

In addition to art exhibits, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center hosts yoga classes. Eight-week classes in advanced hatha yoga, yagalates and beginning yoga all take place on Monday evenings starting in July. Instructor Ricky Heldt is certified in both hatha yoga and Pilates.

Yoga registration forms are available at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center or through Ricky Heldt at 414-759-8169.

"A Pride of Artists" runs through July 21. "Manipulated Media" opens Gallery Night, July 29, 6 to 10 p.m. The exhibition runs through Sept. 15. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and by appointment.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 S. 2nd St.

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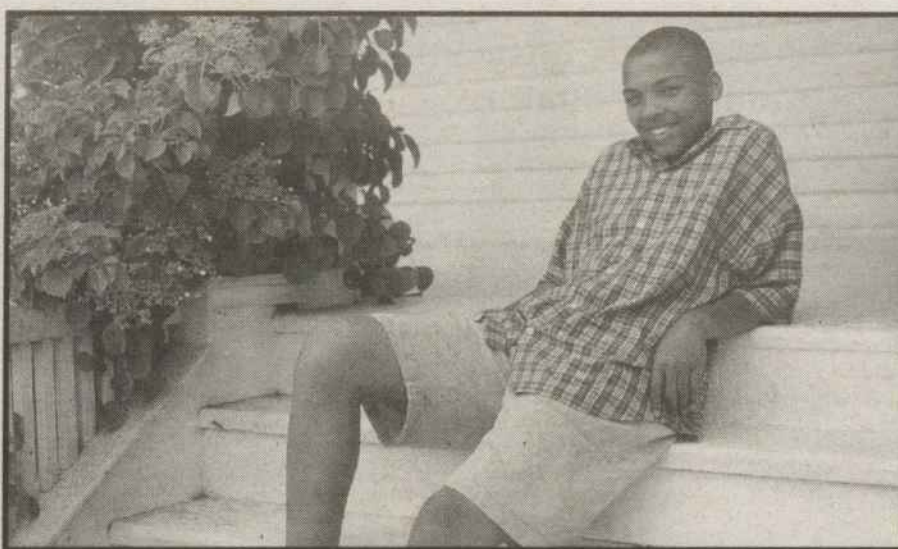
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Q Defying Statutes, Sri Lankans Hold First LGBTIQ Pride

HAPPENINGS
International

Equal Ground, an organization serving the LGBTIQ community in Sri Lanka, is organizing the nation's first gay Pride event on July 20 in the capital city of Colombo.

Homosexuality is still a crime in this island nation. Rosanna Flamer-Caldera, executive director of Equal Ground, says, "Gay people are treated with contempt and disdain and often harassed by the police, family and others. Police in most parts of Sri Lanka blackmail, extort from, and beat gay men and women who have no legal recourse." She noted that in some areas people are shot for being gay.

Organizers hope "Colombo Pride" bursts forth with an exuberance that defies the statutes and sends the message that queer people and their allies are willing to risk reputations to join together. This lively party will combine an evening of music, dance and entertainment which will include Sri Lanka's finest drag performers.

Equal Ground strives "to establish equitable status for all sexual orientations and gender identities" and to "identify, address and transform the intellectual and cultural context that perpetuates a divisive Sri Lankan culture." They can be contacted at equalground@gmail.com, or visit their Web site, www.equal-ground.org.

International Retreat for LGBTIQ Muslims Planned for Atlanta in September

The Al-Fatiha Foundation recently announced plans are moving forward to hold the 5th International Retreat for LGBTIQ Muslims and their allies over Labor Day, Sept. 2-5 in Atlanta.

This year's theme will focus on gender equity, anti-sexism and anti-misogyny and how these issues affect the lives of participants as LGBTIQ Muslims. There will also be an exciting training for those interested in working with the media and furthering the visibility for

queer Muslims. A community reception and awards event are also planned.

Registration packages with detailed information will be sent to participants when the venue is confirmed, and current information will be posted to their Web site. Packages will contain resources for hotel bookings, community housing, scholarship opportunities, speaker announcements and airline discounts. Contact organizer Faisal Alam at FaisalAlam@aol.com.

Voters in Switzerland Approve Civil Union Registry

Geneva — Despite opposition by the conservative Federal Democratic Union (FDU) and the Roman Catholic Church, a voter referendum in Switzerland affirmed public support for a civil union registry along with some basic rights for Swiss same-sex couples.

Legislation passed in 2004 by the Swiss Parliament had created a registry and granted basic partnership rights, but those who opposed that law banded together and gathered enough signatures to have the issue brought to a public vote. Using the tired rhetoric that any

recognition of same sex relationships would somehow undermine traditional marriage, the FDU rallied unsuccessfully to stop the broadly supported measure.

The vote is significant, as it is the first time a European nation has had a voter referendum on this issue. Switzerland, which is not a part of the European Union, joins EU member nations Belgium and the Netherlands, which both have legalized same-sex marriages, in offering some form of legal recognition of same-sex partnerships.

Gay Activist and Conscientious Objector Imprisoned and Beaten

By David Seitz

Amnesty International, War Resisters' International, and British LGBT rights group OutRage! are calling for the immediate release of imprisoned Turkish gay activist and conscientious objector Mehmet Tarhan.

Tarhan was detained April 8 and imprisoned at a military prison. He has been charged with "insubordination" under Article 88 of the Turkish Penal Code. Conviction results in imprisonment lasting from three months to five years.

Turkish men between the ages of 19 and 40 are required by law to serve in the military for at least 15 months. There currently exists

no option for conscientious objectors to war, such as Tarhan. Tarhan declared his objection to compulsory military service at a press conference in Ankara in October 2001. In addition to concern for Tarhan's safety and calls for his release, Amnesty International is calling on the Turkish government to adopt some alternative form of service for objectors to war.

Prison officials have allegedly failed to adequately address complaints that Tarhan has been subject to death threats and beatings by other prisoners at the urging of guards. At a May 26 hearing, observers noted signs of bruising on Tarhan's body and that he had difficulty breathing and walking properly.

Q American Psychiatric Association Supports Marriage for Same-Sex Couples

HAPPENINGS
National

Washington — The American Psychiatric Association's national assembly voted overwhelmingly in favor of a resolution supporting marriage for same-sex couples.

The resolution, voted on by 250 representatives from around the United States, is expected to be adopted by in July.

In a February 2002 statement, the Ameri-

can Academy of Pediatrics said, "Children deserve to know that their relationships with both of their parents are stable and legally recognized. This applies to all children, whether their parents are of the same or opposite sex." In a June 2004 statement, the American Medical Association said, "Having two fully sanctioned and legally defined parents promotes a safe and nurturing environment for children, including psychological and legal security."

Texas Governor Signs Anti-Gay Measure, Tells Gay Families to Move Out of State

Washington — Texas Gov. Rick Perry signed a measure sending a proposed constitutional amendment denying marriage for same-sex couples to the voters. He said, "Texans have made a decision about marriage, and if there is some other state that has a more lenient view than Texas, then maybe that's a better place for them to live."

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese responded to Perry's statement. "No family should have to leave their home

to be protected under the law. Almost 43,000 same-sex couples live in Texas and Governor Perry should be treating those families with the same amount of respect and dignity that he gives other constituents. To suggest that thousands upon thousands of families leave his state sends an extremely disturbing message."

The amendment will appear on this November's ballot for Texas voters to reject or approve.

Q New HRC Report Reveals Corporate America Leading in Protecting Gay and Transgender Employees

HAPPENINGS
National

Washington — In spite of recent boycotts from religious political groups against businesses like Disney and Ford Motor Company, U.S. businesses are leading the way in granting protections for LGBT families through expanded domestic partner benefits and nondiscrimination policies, according to a new report by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation.

"Corporate America knows that fair treatment is not just the right thing to do — it's good for the bottom line," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

The report, "The State of the Workplace for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Americans 2004," shows that at the end of 2004 at least 8,250 employers provided domestic partnership benefits — a 13 percent increase over the previous year. Among the Fortune 500, 216 companies provided domestic partner ben-

efits, a tenfold increase since 1995, when only 21 did so.

Nondiscrimination policies covering gender identity and expression continue to rise with a total of 51 Fortune 500 companies including transgender people in their policies. This is up 89 percent from 2003 when 27 Fortune 500 companies had the policy.

The closer a company is to the top of the Fortune list, the more likely it is to have an inclusive policy. Forty-nine of the Fortune 50 companies include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policy.

The report also found that a total of 67 cities and counties prohibited workplace discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression.

Download a report at www.hrc.org/sotw and also view a copy of the latest State of the Workplace report at www.hrcactioncenter.org.



Milwaukee-area clergy with the No on the Amendment Coalition gathered May 17th at Lake Park Lutheran Church to organize faith community opposition to the proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and gay marriage.

Photo credit: Dan Wilson/Bartoli Filmworks

Q Because She Was Pregnant

HAPPENINGS
WOMEN

A high school student was banned from participating in her school's graduation ceremony this past May because she was pregnant. Yes, you read that correctly, this happened in May 2005.

Undeterred, the student, Alysha Cosby, decided to proudly and with grit announce her own name and walk across the stage at the close of the program anyway. It was reported she did so to cheers and applause from many of her fellow seniors and dozens of others at the St. Jude Educational Institute's graduation ceremony.

"I worked hard throughout high school and I wanted to walk with my class," Cosby told reporters. Shortly after returning to her seat, Cosby, her mother, and her

aunt were escorted out of the ceremony and out of the building by police. "I can't believe something like this is happening in 2005. I feel like we have regressed instead of progressed," Cosby's mother, Sheila, told reporters. "My daughter has been through a lot and I am proud of her. She deserved to walk, and she did."

Officials from the high school in Montgomery, Ala. (you intuitively knew this happened somewhere down south, didn't you?), told Cosby to stop attending the school in March,

due to "safety concerns" and told her to finish her courses at home.

Cosby completed her courses at home. And even though she met all of the academic requirements and received her diploma, the school refused to recognize her at the ceremony. Her name was not even listed on the graduation program.

I'd like to know what kind of dangers could a high school possess for a pregnant woman? A miscarriage-inducing school lunch of sloppy joes and tater tots?

The school's principal, Johnny Mitchell, told reporters he was not penalizing Cosby because she was pregnant. He claimed he was concerned for her safety. "St. Jude's classes are held on two floors, but the school does not have elevators." Oh please, I've talked to plenty of once-pregnant moms and a handful of pregnant women and they all declared they could navigate stairs just fine and without incident. Cosby even had a doctor's note saying she was fit to attend school.

But lets not go off on a tangent here, for this true story gets even better — the father of Cosby's child, who was also a senior at the school, was allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony with the class.

But, of course, you guessed this ending already. Unfortunately, you know full well that women who "transgress" are punished and the men who do the same are given accolades for "just being boys," all the while being given a pat on the back with a wink and a nod for their sexual prowess.

I personally think this whole situation could have been avoided if we all just went back to the good old days of "confinement." It was so much "safer" and not nearly as offensive as public pregnancy.

And, while we are at it, let's go back to men's huts. We could all congregate at the edge of the village once a month. I'll bring the ice cream and DVD's.

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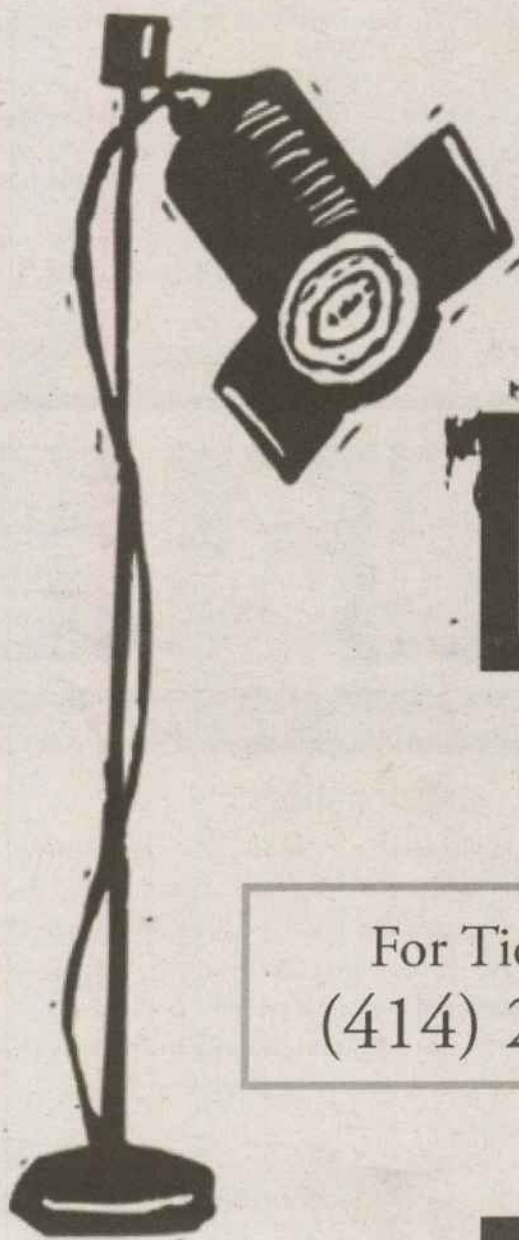
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Q
HEALTH

All Our Laundry



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.

This fall my mom will turn 90. I use hundreds of stories about her to regale listeners in the speeches I make. These stories spice up conversations I have with friends, making a point about the harshness, practicality and (sometimes) sweetness of the past. Like a stand-up comic, I can do quite a riff about the inconsistency of the messages she gave me.

One of the more vexing dilemmas she presented involves laundry. On one hand, it was crucial to air laundry immediately after washing because nothing is better than laundry dried in the fresh air. (Keep in mind that a cherry tree in the back yard provided the best pooping perch in the city for hungry summer starlings.) At nearly nine decades, my mom can still gush about sheets flapping in the summer breezes.

But the unusual converse of this rule was the taboo of "airing our dirty laundry in public."

Dirty laundry. It seems like most cultures I know have this rule. From "saving face" to "talking out of school," many of us have learned that we must not tell family secrets. To talk about them makes them so. To say them aloud makes us look bad, feel humiliated, shunned by all

decent people.

In the LGBT community it seems relatively easy to learn who has broken whose heart. We can readily learn about which organization has short-changed its executive director, or where there have been hints of financial impropriety. Still, this is the relatively clean stuff from our collective laundry basket.

The real dirt lies in our unexamined risk behaviors and unresolved scars from challenging childhoods and adolescence. National data shows we have tremendous struggles with methamphetamine, ecstasy, alcohol, cocaine, marijuana and more. We are disproportionately depressed, battered or battering, and isolated. Many of us have experienced sexual exploitation or worse. Yet locally it is hard to get even a vague impression that we too are struggling with these issues.

For the next several weeks, we have another chance to address our problems in community health focus groups and individual health surveys. (The survey is available online at www.diverseandresilient.org.) As you become aware of opportunities to speak up about these private crises in our queer family, consider lending your voice and your experiences to the efforts. Air all the laundry: our tremendous successes and our abiding challenges.

I'll watch out for my mom and the pooping birds.

The real dirt lies in our unexamined risk behaviors and unresolved scars from challenging childhoods and adolescence.



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Diverse & Resilient www.diverseandresilient.org
 315 W. Court St., Suite 101 | Milwaukee, WI 53212 414.390.0444

Q

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.

Proud

Last month, Wisconsin's largest-ever celebration of LGBT culture, PrideFest, was for me an elaborate Thanksgiving pageant. Except that looking at the thousands of revelers, I didn't see grim-faced pilgrims in black, but a swarming diversity that made me — it feels almost too ingenuous to say — proud. And thankful.

Thankful that from the moment I came out more than 15 years ago I was able to leave the alienation and soullessness of my suburban adolescence behind for my newfound community. Proud that I was becoming a member of a community that comfortably affirmed so many of my beliefs. As a gay person coming out, I had the deep human desire to belong to something larger finally satisfied for the first time (to say nothing of finally being able to get laid!).

As a young person coming out in the direct-action activism of the early 1990s, I felt grateful to come of age surrounded by such fearless friends. The pro-sex atmosphere of our little band was the perfect antidote to those diseased times, when news of AIDS and Jeffrey Dahmer swirled up in sulfurous plumes. Later, helping to organize AIDS fundraising events as a junior staff person, I was amazed to see from the dedicated volunteers who made up the event committees that lesbian and gay didn't just mean "outlaw" or "outcast," but also "professional" and "creative."

To someone who aspires to high elective office or worldly acclaim or to simply fall into place without noticed, being gay must feel like an obstacle or a curse, but to me it has always felt like home. With my strong political beliefs being what they are, I'm proud that 78 percent of LGBT people voted against George Bush and his earth-scorch-

ing agenda. I'm proud that U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin is one of the strongest voices in Congress for universal health care and that State Sen. Tim Carpenter and State Rep. Mark Pocan are among the hardest working members of Wisconsin's Democratic caucus, stumping for other candidates and showing the colors at all kinds of community events.

As a person whose career path has taken him into nonprofit social service, I am honored by all the LGBT people who have given up the big bucks to work for change and beauty in Milwaukee's nonprofits, including leading complex multimillion-dollar agencies like ARCW, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Safe & Sound, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Milwaukee, MIAD, one of the nation's largest united arts funds, St. Francis Children's Center, and more. I'm thankful that so many LGBT organizations in Milwaukee are led by people who put cooperation and the community ahead of narrow organizational self-interest and personal drama, like the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's James Pennington, the LGBT Film Festival's Carl Bogner, Cream City Foundation's Maria Cadenas, UWM LGBT Center's Yves La Pierre, House of Infinity's Owen Mahan, and Sage Milwaukee's Bill Serpe. I'm proud of all the LGBT people who have been part of Milwaukee's rich working class history, including the late Walter Brandt, who once led his local at Briggs and Stratton; all the old SSBLers at Allen Bradley (now Rockwell Automation); and John Goldstein, current president of the 60,000-member Milwaukee County Labor Council, and a tireless, unpretentious champion for social justice.

As someone who loves the excitement of the city, I'm proud that LGBT people are more likely than their straight counterparts to choose urban

To someone who aspires to high elective office or worldly acclaim or to simply fall into place without noticed, being gay must feel like an obstacle or a curse, but to me it has always felt like home.

living over suburban sameness. I'm proud that LGBT business owners create a life worth living with businesses serving our community. I'm thankful that brave LGBT entrepreneurs like Don Krause (Art Bar), Julia LaLoggia (Barossa, Red Room, Onopa), and Tim Talsky (Bella Caffe, Soup Market) take a chance opening up restaurants, night clubs, and retail stores that inject life into Milwaukee and that let straight and gay mix it up. I'm proud of our queer philanthropists who have made considerable contributions — sometimes over one million dollars — to Milwaukee's cultural landmarks like the Milwaukee Art Museum; but prouder still of community benefactors like Robert Starshak, MD, and Ross Draeger; Jack Smith; and Melissa Beastron and Janet Osborne, MD; who have chosen to invest in LGBT institutions.

Until science figures out the origin of sexual orientation, I guess I won't know exactly to whom or to what to express my appreciation for being gay, but until that time I'll thank my gay genes for one more thing — I'm glad there's still enough in me to pity the haters. They're missing out on a lot.

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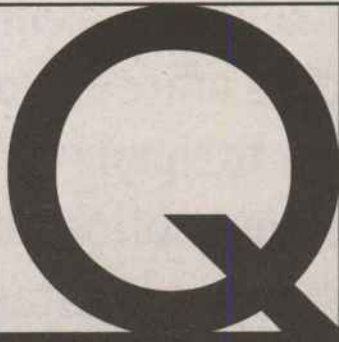
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Q Life is a monthly publication which highlights Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. Each issue contains insightful articles penned by local personalities who are in the know. Available throughout Wisconsin, Q Life fills a necessary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

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A Time to Celebrate

And so PrideFest and the Milwaukee Pride Parade have come and gone, and we're proud and relieved to report they both earned high marks.

PrideFest gained crowing rights. The two-day festival drew a staggering 21,000 people down to the lakefront for fun and frolic. Beautiful weather certainly helped the attendance numbers; however, it's important to also bow at the feet of the organizers who pulled the event off with very few glitches. Many in the PrideFest posse deserve a high five, but three of the folks stand out for their dogmatic determination and hard work.

Hats off to the festival's cheese: Scott Gunkel. Gunkel did a masterful job keeping all the ducks in a row. Even though there are still many in the community that question Gunkel's management style, you can't take away the fact that — in the end — it was under Gunkel's deft supervision that the 2005 festival smashed attendance records and left the beer tent full of green.

Another face in the crowd, co-producer and the often times embattled Cindy Taylor. Taylor is a passionate woman who has never been afraid to let her opinion be known. Mistaken for strident at times, Taylor brought professionalism to the fest. She also brought history — some good and some very bad. But one thing even Taylor's critics can't take away from her: Her heart and her mind were always in the right place — even though some of her quick responses were not always best thought out. Recently, Taylor announced she will be leaving PrideFest for health reasons. This is a major blow to the organization and will leave a serious void. The remaining management folks better hustle to find someone with her experience and savvy. This will be no easy feat.

Finally, Paul Williams, whose main function was media relations wore many hats with grace and style. Even though most of the straight media chose not to give Williams' words very much ink, he did a masterful job working his contacts to get the word out. He also was the driving force behind a very impressive Web site. Regular e-mail blasts to both the media and the thousands on PrideFest's e-list, helped to build the buzz and ultimately meant more folks through the turnstile.

To a lesser extent, PrideFest's national entertainment director, David Charpentier, also gets a tip of the hat with his choice of this year's festival entertainment. RuPaul and Taylor Dayne were smart choices — even though some of the smaller acts

were marginal at best.

All in all, the festival was a huge success with preliminary revenue numbers up more than \$25,000 over last year. It's a time for all involved in PrideFest 2005 to step into the limelight for applause and a bow. However, remember this festival is still in debt and remains at a crossroad. It's fair for the organizers to rejoice — but they must not rest on their laurels. Now is the time to double their efforts to patch wounds with the gay bars and really put into place a clear plan that will see the LGBT community band together — for a truly inclusive festival. The folks running PrideFest promised that this year — and that clearly didn't happen. They blame time. Now they have the time to make their promises come true. It needs to be done.

In addition, the Milwaukee Pride Parade was also a success. And for that, Outbound's publishers, Jim Dawson and James Kuchta, and community veteran Si Smits deserve praise. While it was clear that not as many as they hoped attended the Pride Parade, it still was an important, time-consuming venture that seemed to happen without incident. While many in the community may have taken a pass at attending the parade, the fact remains that the parade is still popular when those

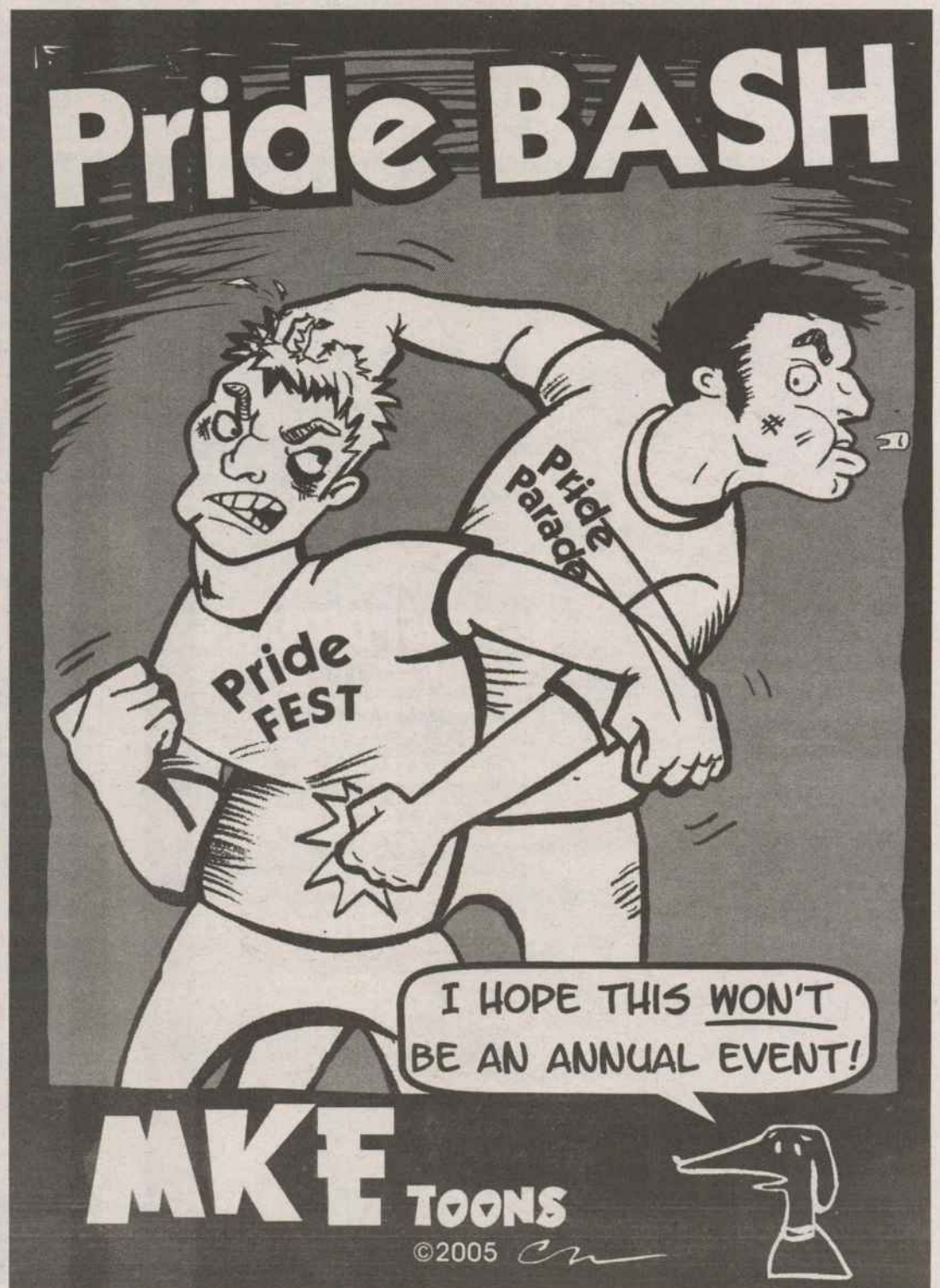


polled about its disappearance were allowed to weigh in. Jim, James and Si picked up the ropes and made this parade happen, when PrideFest just said NO. No one can and should take that away from them.

Also noted were the crowds in front of the bars on 2nd Street. That's also a good thing. The bars have been cut out of the PrideFest family and revenue sharing for years. They have every right to support and help organize a parade that ultimately affects their bottom line. They should not be thought of as greedy and must be brought into the PrideFest management circle.

The time has come for both of these events and those responsible for organizing them — as well as the LGBT bars — to put down their weapons of backbiting

continued on page 17



Editorial *continued from page 16*

and rumor floating and come together for the sake of a united community. Many believe this can never happen — but it must. PrideFest must decide how a parade fits into the overall festival plan — and decide what they will do to help and not hurt this effort. Many think the parade organizing and its ultimate home is back with those at PrideFest. In fact many in the community have said that is what PrideFest is planning to do. If that's the case, then PrideFest needs to involve this year's organizers immediately and set out right now to make this happen.

Don't ever abandon the parade again.

A Hateful Landlord

It certainly wasn't very neighborly of Steve and Colleen Babinec when they sent their tenant Janet Ast packing because she decided to put up a Pride flag at her house in celebration of gay pride last month. According to Ast, her landlord flipped out and even told her that she wanted nothing to do with her and her lifestyle. She allegedly went on to tell Ast that her brother died of AIDS and she knows the kind of people we are. She told Ast she would be receiving a letter from her attorney — which ultimately arrived — demanding Ast leave the apartment in 28 days.

Landlord Colleen Babinec doesn't deny saying any of it. In fact, she defiantly told Q Life that her comments to Ast were definitely said and she's not denying it whatsoever.

What led to this brouhaha is really still up in the air. It's a bit of a she did, she did — with Babinec claiming Ast did many things like destroying her property and constantly swearing at her dog. She also reminded us that Ast had a lengthy rap sheet and believed that alone proved she was nothing but a liar.

All of that may be true.

In fact, Ast has more than a dozen criminal and civil citations on public record in the state of Wisconsin, but that still doesn't make it right for Babinec to throw her out.

Bottom line is that Babinec claims she never sent Ast a letter — or even told her in the past that she was troubled by her actions. In fact she admitted to Q Life, if it hadn't been for the flag, she would not be throwing Ast out on the street.

So what does this really mean? Why did Babinec do what she did? You figure it out for yourself.

At the least, Babinec has bad judgment — and is just fed up.

At the worst, Babinec is a homophobe whose actions are highly illegal and should be challenged in court.

Kudos

We all know what a big influence religion has in our lives and our politics. This month, **Plymouth Church** deserves praise for walking its talk and working on behalf of all of God's children, and for its significant activism on LGBT and other social justice issues.

On that same note, we feel moved to speak out on the **Quakers**, who deserve mention for their Christ-like inclusion of queers and queer couples. As you can see in Tricia Klos' story, these "Friends" have been marrying our "family" for over a decade.

A tug on the whistle to **Alliance School**, Milwaukee's own "Little Engine That Could" which continues to grow and meet oncoming challenges. It was a good move on the part of "Challenge Party" organizers to name Alliance as the third group for their fundraising efforts, as evidence by the record-breaking donations. It's only right that our community keep laying down the tracks so we can educate our kids in a safe environment.

Speaking of kids, **Gary Hollander** deserves mention for the work he's done on behalf of young people, and he received it recently from Governor Doyle and GLSEN. As the director of Diverse and Resilient, Hollander has truly been a leader in fos-

tering development in young people and youth groups. Way to go, Gary!

Muchas gracias to **Carmen Murguía** who continues to bring visibility to LGBT Latinas and Latinos in the Milwaukee area. Organizing in marginalized communities is always a formidable task; double that marginalization and you've got a real challenge. Carmen took up that gauntlet and threw it down with sensitivity and style.

And last, but not least, hats off to **Rob Fyrst** for tossing his into the ring and running, once again, for State Treasurer. We need more openly queer people running for, and winning, local, state and federal offices. It takes a lot of guts to stand up and be the one to try and make that happen. Win or lose, just by running, Fyrst has shown his leadership abilities. Our hope is that this time around Fyrst will mount a formidable challenge. We urge the Democratic Party and its machine to rally around Fyrst early on. It's the only way an openly gay person running for state office has any chance to fend off the homophobic attacks that are bound to come from many Republicans and those on the right.

Straight Media Coverage Undetectable

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

As usual, the "mainstream" media either underreported or entirely ignored the Community Rally at PrideFest last Saturday.

It would be appreciated if you would print our remarks made at the Community Rally.

Richard Taylor
Raymond Vahey

[Richard's statement is below]

**PrideFest —
Community Rally, June 11, 2005**

Brothers and Sisters, Friends and Supporters of This Community,

I'm Ray Vahey — Please meet Richard Taylor. I won't call him my partner, that's too impersonal. I can't call him my spouse, civil law does not permit. He has been the Light and Love of my Life for 49 years. Fifty years will be just a benchmark; we're on our way to 75.

There is a great struggle going on that affects us all. It is the fight for Justice, Equality and Dignity. Together, we will win that battle. The stakes are high and the impact is devastating, even though we may not realize it until we face our moment of need and hit a brick wall. Richard and I have taken steps to protect each other. Even so, if I die first, Richard has no right to my Social Security. He is beneficiary of my IRAs, but he cannot take ownership of them as a spouse can. He may not be taxed by the federal government, but he surely will be taxed by Wisconsin.

Others face attempts to deprive them of their jobs, their homes and even their children, or to prevent them from adoption. In thousands of ways our dignity is attacked, and our very humanity and right to exist are questioned. As the old Irish song goes, "They curse us just for being what we are."

Together, we are going to change all that!

A church marriage is up to what the leaders of the religion see as appropriate in their hearts. But a civil marriage and all of the recognition, dignity, benefits, obligations and responsibilities that go with it are rightfully ours. The great peaceful Civil Rights Movement provides a beautiful model for success.

Civil rights were not given by a president, by

Congress, or by the Supreme Court. Those rights were achieved by the sacrifices of the prominent and the anonymous of their day — by Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King, Medgar Evers, Rosa Parks, by students from New York who wound up murdered in a Mississippi swamp, by Marian Anderson and Eleanor Roosevelt and, from the days of slavery, Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglas. Civil rights were won by countless unknown marchers, by sit-in demonstrators and by thousands who dared to register and vote. Let's take our lead from the deeds of those great Americans.

Our chains are not visible, but they are just as real and we must break them!

Right now we need to inform the nation, we need to convince the doubters, we need to motivate the disinterested, we need to inspire each other. The bigots and the narrow-minded will come along in time.

Center Advocates need our money — it's not tax deductible, but it's an investment in ourselves and the future of our way of life. The cause needs any support we can give.

We are not second-class citizens! We will not be disenfranchised! We will not be victims! We have values and we are worthy! We are proud and free Americans!

Frederick Douglas gave us the watchword: "Agitate! Agitate! Agitate!"

Now folks, let's applaud the movers and the shakers, the organizers, the dedicated public servants and religious leaders who have put their names on the line to support our cause.

Editor's Note: If you want to fund the fight against the constitutional ban in the Milwaukee area, you can send your checks to Center Advocates, 315 W. Court St., Suite 103, Milwaukee, WI 53212. For those in the rest of the state, donations can be sent to Action Wisconsin, 122 State St., Suite 309, Madison, WI 53703

**RuPaul Fan
Now a Fan of Q Life**

Hello, I have not previously had the opportunity to become acquainted with your site or organization, but as I read the RuPaul "Red Hot and

Revolutionary" article, I realized that I like what your company stands for and is about. As a black, gay male in Milwaukee, I think that it is important to be able to provide support for our gay and lesbian youth. You definitely have a supporter from here on out.

Marcus Jackson

Q Life Editor Out of Touch

The June coverage on Wisconsin's proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and gay marriage by our friends at Q Life was a little perplexing because it conflated the biggest legal threat to the LGBT community in a generation with an arcane parlour game debate about whether civil unions or marriage should be the ultimate goal for our community. As was reported, Center Advocates, the equal rights arm of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center that is co-leading the campaign with Action Wisconsin against the ban, has always been supportive of any improvement in the legal status of gay and lesbian couples. Indeed, while it was omitted from the story, Center Advocates' Equality Knocks campaign canvassed for Rep. Frank Boyle's domestic partnership bill in 2002 and 2003.

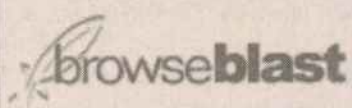
Unfortunately, the debate before our community at this time is not civil unions or marriage, but rather, will we be written out of the constitution — banned from both civil unions and marriage — for a generation, if we let this amendment pass. That is why we no longer feel it is responsible to mount anything other than the largest campaign for LGBT rights ever by defeating the constitutional ban, either in the legislature this year, or at the ballot box in 2006. Just because we are against this grave threat, however, doesn't mean we aren't for something. In every one of the tens of thousands of conversations we have with voters, we lead with stories of how long-term gay and lesbian couples will be hurt by the amendment's permanent denial of hundreds of rights, like making emergency medical decisions for an incapacitated partner, sharing health insurance at work, or inheriting the family home. Political consultants may urge us to "de-gay" the issue, or emphasize how straight people may be hurt, but we are loyal to our mission and values by telling the truths of our families and to our long-



term goals of improving the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

History will be a better judge of whether our movement's priorities are appropriate, but I can speak confidently from personal experience and on behalf of our vast team of community volunteers that the campaign against the antigay constitutional ban has attracted unprecedented enthusiasm, commitment and generosity from our community. More than 1500 people in Metro Milwaukee have stepped forward to volunteer for the No on the Amendment campaign, and our Team Equality volunteer leaders organize dozens of events for equality and against the ban. This includes regular phone banks and door-to-door canvasses in more than 15 municipalities, a 700 person rally at Milwaukee's City Hall, and community outreach in the African-American, Latino and LGBT communities. Three dozen ministers and rabbis in Metro Milwaukee are helping spread the word to their congregations about how the amendment hurts real people, and some are even taking up special collections for public education. Prominent leaders in our community are speaking against the ban, from Mayor Tom Barrett to U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, to business people. Ordinary people are digging deep to make the most generous contributions the LGBT movement has ever received. All of this suggests that is not the thousands who have taken action against the ban who are "out of touch," as Q Life implies, but rather the armchair observers who engage in theoretical debates while others take real risks to move the community forward.

Sincerely,
Patrick Flaherty
Director, Center Advocates



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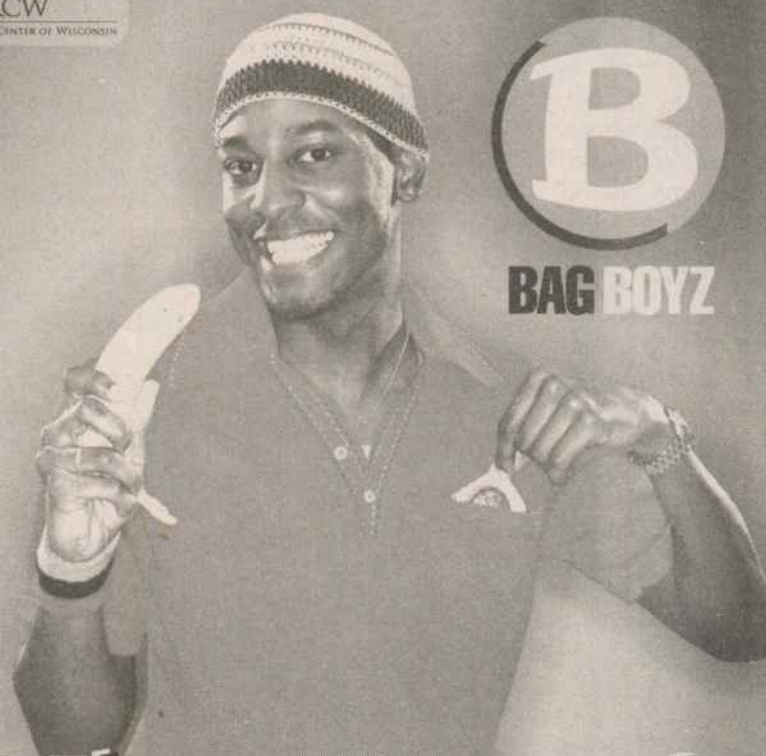
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Michael Munson is an emotionally intense, transgressively gendered, passionate social agitator who strives for inclusion and harmony by focusing on our human similarities and strengths. He is lovingly committed to his partner and their 10 year old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

The Cult of Masculinity

"A key factor in the formulation and promulgation of the cult of masculinity that also dismayed the gay liberationists was that the dominant gender style was not supermasculine. It was as if the 1960s and the counterculture androgyny never occurred." — Michelangelo Signorile in "Life Outside"

Dozens of years ago feminists started

challenging the constructs of physical beauty as defined by culture — recognizing that thinness, long-hair, skin-revealing clothes, hyper-femininity, back-damaging shoes and other enforced social aspects associated with womanhood, were both destructive and detrimental to the emotional and physical health of women.

Years later, gay men started examining the role of body in the archetype of masculinity. Unlike feminists who rebelled against mainstream notions of femininity, many gay men formed an unspoken, yet powerfully enticing cult of masculinity. Rather than revolt against the notion of a one-size-fits-all masculinity, the growing cult of masculinity created a mold that narrowly defined what constituted being "man enough." Enslaved in a culture of body fascism, men are often insecure about their masculinity and their (in)ability to reach the high standard de-

manded of the cult. The insistence on conformity is absolute, as is the promise of diet and discipline that dangle the hope of "a new you," clearly implying that the current "you" is in some way deficient.

The cult transmitted their dogma to younger, prospective members and the dogma was reinforced by the angular, smooth, buff, muscular men depicted in full-page ads in queer magazines, at scores of circuit parties held across the country, in the promotion of gym memberships and weight loss supplements, and in personal ads that declare "no fats, no femmes."

Ironically, the LGBT movement that emerged after Stonewall — a time of overthrowing oppression — has resulted in gay culture stripping diversity from our communities and promoting clones rather than iconoclastic ideals of personhood for themselves and others.

It is simple to understand the obsession many trans people have with their bodies and the uniform model of FTM masculinity and MTF femininity that pervades our subculture. The broadcast message that conformity is mandatory deters individuality and the unique expression of body, gender or identity. Body fascism erases the hardcore reality that bodies come in all sizes, shapes, configurations, abilities, colors, functionality, levels of hirsutism, ages and so many other kinds of variation. Militant body obsession within the "cult" critiques bodies rather than celebrating their exceptional distinctive beauty.

In the spirit of camaraderie, FTMs frequently share their surgical results with others in support settings, stripping off their shirts, behind closed doors. Rarely a celebration, a comparative discussion ensues — objectifying and scrutinizing one person's flesh against an unrealistic ideal of perfection. Onlookers act as art critics — noting nipples that are too large, thick scars, excess skin, dog ears, or any other qualities that detract from what they've deemed acceptable or attractive — seldom realizing they could not pass their own review.

White ropey lines butterfly out from his sternum. Velvety hair covering soft pockets of flesh bulge slightly above the horizontal line separating his new manhood from the rest of his body, the rest of his life. In front of the mirror, his smile beams back, gently nudging him to run his fingers across the scars. Electrified by how the raised seam holds together his past and his future, he removes the glasses that see this skin juncture as a battle scar.

There is so much more to life, to love, than the shell of our souls, though.

Body fascism erases the hardcore reality that bodies come in all sizes, shapes, configurations, abilities, colors, functionality, levels of hirsutism, ages and so many other kinds of variation.



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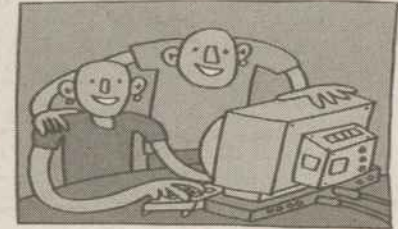
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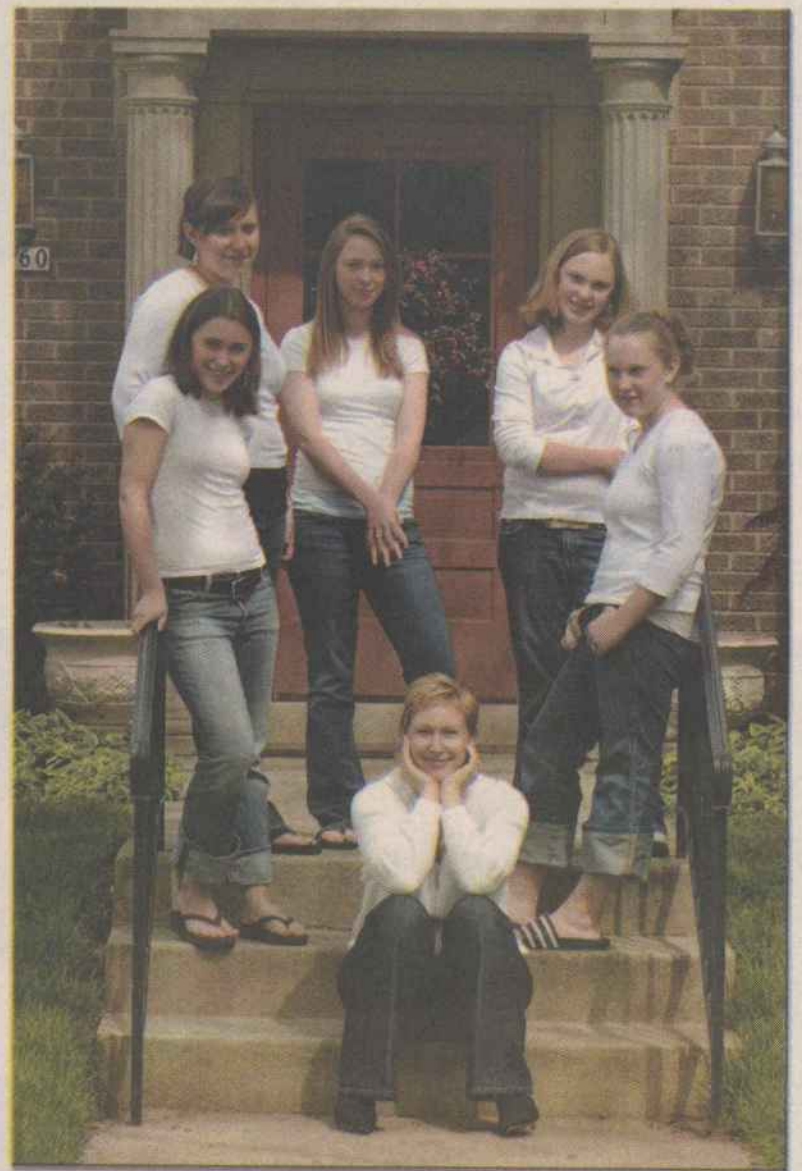
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Q Civil Rights vs. Gay Rights — Are They Similar or Different?

DIVERSITY



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

In discussing the political climate in American society, there is no avoiding the issue of gay marriage and extending rights to offer civil unions and domestic partner health benefits to gay and lesbian couples. In the same way, during much of America's history, there was no avoiding the issue of extending basic civil liberties to black Americans, for example, basic civil freedom, education, the freedom to vote, and the liberty to marry someone who was ... white.

Today there is a huge debate about whether gays and lesbians having the civil freedom to marry someone of the same gender is the same as blacks having the freedom to be full American citizens in the 1950s and 1960s and their freedom to marry someone of the white race.

Is it the same?

Of course there is a huge difference when it comes to racial ethnicity and sexual orientation; however, there is a simple matter that many blacks and whites fail to see. Discrimination in any form is wrong.

Leaders of the gay community need to understand that there has to be a dialogue with potential allies in people-of-color communities.

The tool many use to oppose the rights of gays and lesbians to marry someone of the same gender are scriptures from the Bible. While the Bible has often been used to promote love, guidance and leadership, it has also been used to promote slavery, segregation and other intolerance in our society. An entire article could be written about the discrepancies found in arguments based on passages in the Bible, but for now let's

just focus on issue of civil rights.

The Civil Rights Movement was about blacks having the freedom to be educated, the right to voice their opinion and vote, the right to not be considered as second-class citizens. The gay rights movement has been about the right of not being harassed, having sexual freedom, the ability to be recognized as decent citizens who want the ability to engage in relationships that are accepted and honored as every other relationship. It is hard to compare the aspects of both movements, but there is a common theme — being recognized fully and not as second-class citizens.

With the focus on civil unions and marriage at hand, organizations that have been leaders and architects of equality and justice for minorities, such as branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), have stepped up and acknowledged the similar battles that both communities have and will face.

By endorsing a marriage equality campaign in the state of California and making a statement against the federal marriage amendment, leaders of the NAACP have fought against issues that subject Americans to backward decisions and prejudicial legislation. Other leaders in the black gay community, such as the National Black Justice Coalition, have organized to take on the fight for equality for black gay and lesbian individuals.

Gay organizations and leaders of the gay community need to understand that we cannot talk about gays with potential allies in people of color communities in the same breath as civil rights, without first developing a dialogue that shows the big picture of the struggle for equal rights for everybody.

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When the Weather Is Right

With temperatures rising, no one wants to stay cooped up at home. In my opinion, Milwaukee is most amazing in the summer. From the festivals to wonderful parks and outdoor activities, Milwaukee blossoms into a completely different place during the warmer times of the year. One of my favorite past times used to be walking down Lincoln Memorial Drive to Bradford Beach to take a swim, play some volleyball, or simply to lie in the sun. All of these things are wonderful, but due to recent detrimental sewage catastrophes, I wouldn't suggest swimming or even going to the beach because it's not so pleasing to the senses, if you know what I mean.

My free time during the summer is now spent elsewhere, at one of the many wonderful restaurants and bar patios in the Milwaukee area. In the summer, this city is like a continuous party consisting of great food and drink that take place at one of the many festivities or at one of the area's countless top-notch patios.

My favorite place to get some rays on a beautiful scenic patio, as well as enjoy wonderful service, food and drink, is **Trocadero** located at 1758 N. Water St. where Brady and Water Streets intersect. Not only do they have a significant wine selection, the food and other drinks are phenomenal!

Trocadero is open seven days a week until bar time, though they serve lunch Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and brunch Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Their exquisite dinner menu is available Sunday through Thursday, 5 to 10 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 5 p.m. to midnight. From 3 to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, desserts, cheese platters and other smaller snacks are served ahead of the dinner crowd. Sunday



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

through Thursday, they also have a lighter late-night menu from 10 p.m. to midnight.

Usually pretty crowded on any given day, Trocadero welcomes and happily serves anyone ranging from the older suburban crowd to hipsters, and to those who flock there for the to-die-for Sunday brunch. It's a must during the summer with its wonderful terrace open during all hours of operation.

If you aren't looking to dine out, but need a place to grab some drinks Trocadero is your spot. The terrace, uncovered but with some seats in the shade, is a superb place to do just that. From Sunday until Thursday they have a late-night happy hour consisting of half off selected wines by the glass, rail drinks and tap beers. On Wine Lover's Wednesday you can get half off selected bottles, glasses and flights (a group of three or four types of similar wines served all at once in smaller tasting glasses) of wine. Mojito Mondays is just that, a special on Mojitos, the ever-popular Cuban mint rum drink.

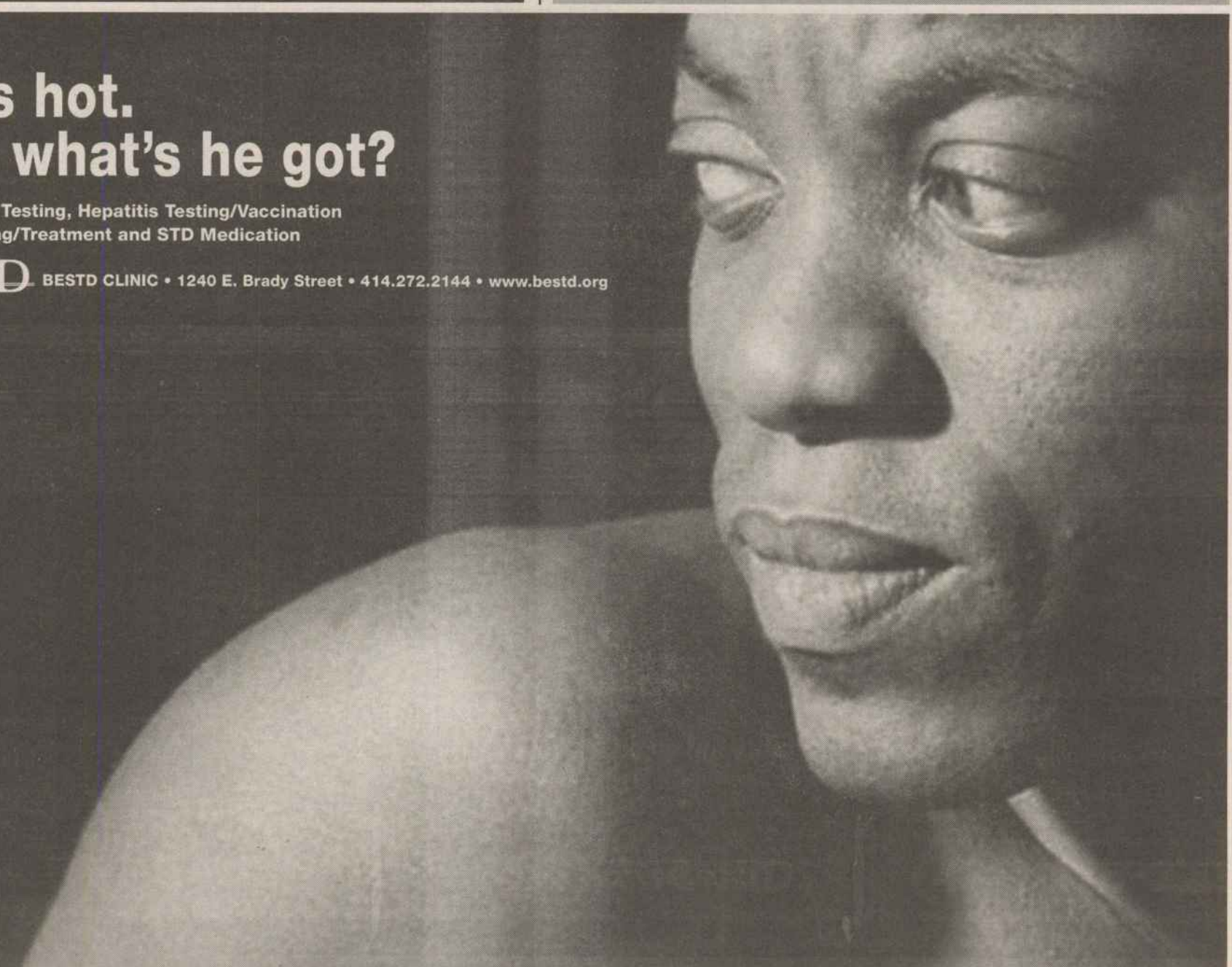
During the summer months I will be highlighting different bars and restaurants around town that have wonderful outdoor seating and service, though first you must try Trocadero. Enjoy!

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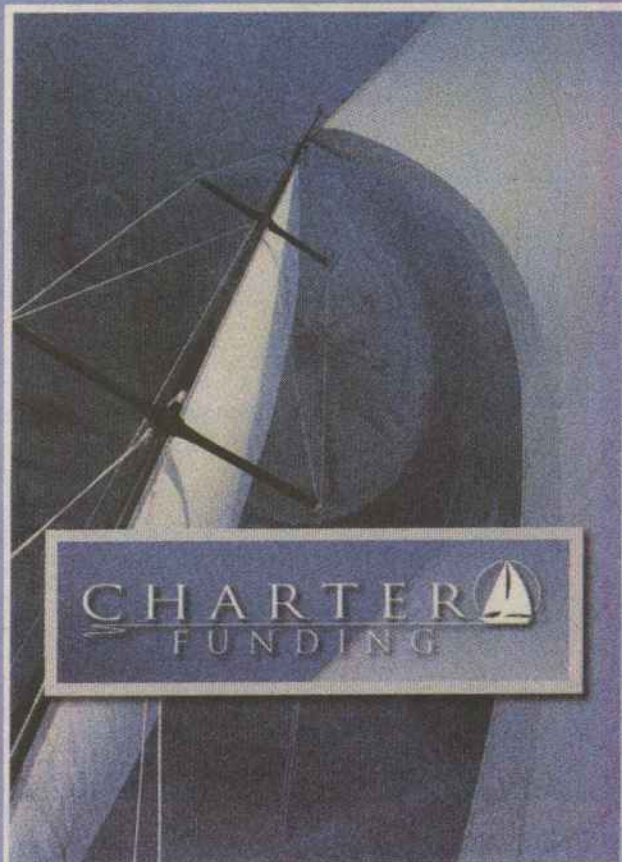




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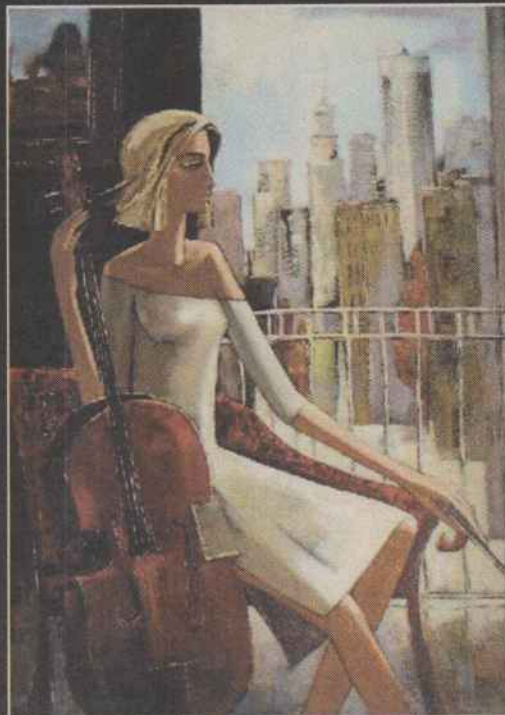
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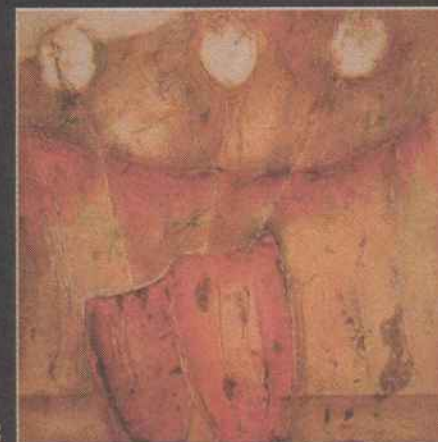


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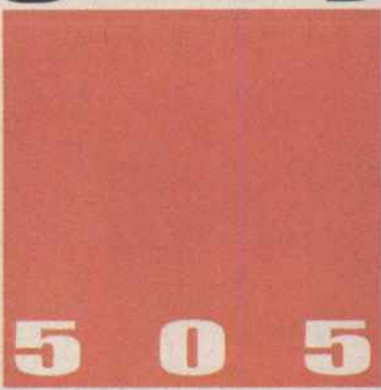
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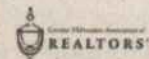
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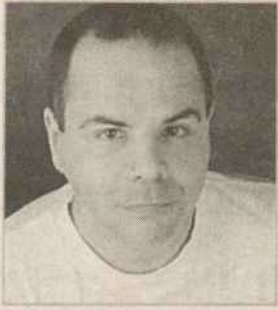
Organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. This exhibition is made possible by Sue and Bud Selig, with additional support provided by the Jerome and Dorothy Holz Family Foundation.

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.*

Also on view June 25-September 11
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Vive le Anarcho Queer Zines!



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

Bonjour, mon ami! This month we travel back to the dawn of 1990s queer anarchist politics. Europe, and France in particular, has been a fertile source of radical political thought and revolutions. In queer anarchist politics, there exists a whole world of activism seeking to unite queers across lines of class, culture, language, gender and sexual expression. Zines are a natural forum for communicating to different groups of people simultaneously, and because of their portability, they can be handed off in trade or for free and become an instant means to transport ideas across borders, over walls, or behind bars.

The introduction to **Easily Grossed Out** [Issue 2, 1993, 40 pages] states it is "mainly

puts it "ExGxOx is a member of the international confederation of cut 'n' paste zines." On the verge of heading off to study for a year at the University of Minnesota, Gwenaël's excitement about what lies ahead springs up on every page. He talks about flipping through some of his old issues of *Profane Existence* (the venerable Minneapolis punk/anarchist rag), spinning some of his records from the THD label, and what he expects to explore once he arrives. Along with those bits, he throws in a couple of interviews with bands like *Christ on a Crutch* and one with queer zinester Jason of *Kill The Robot*, who discusses veganism, bisexual identity, and queers in the hardcore scene. While there is not a lot of writing, Gwenaël still manages to pack a punchy zine with amazing, thought-provoking ideas and political beliefs.

Air brush or spray paint? The swath of pink sprayed across each cover of **Androzone** [Issue 18, 1995, 38 pages, www.geocities.com/androzone/] gives the feeling this is the zine equivalent of graffiti art. Originating in Paris, Bruno puts together a diverse blend of queer underground political writing and clever graphics. **Androzone** is written by default in French, however the editor takes great care in translating main portions of the text or having exclusive sections auf Deutsch, en Español, or in English. To set these sections off, he uses an appropriate beverage graphic (German sections have a beer stein next to them; English portions have a teacup).

This particular issue is fascinating as it gives us a look at the state of queer politics throughout Europe at the dawn of the European Community, before basic human rights issues were addressed on a cross-continental basis. Bruno made novel use of e-mail, at a time when Internet access was difficult to come by, to obtain information from countries such as Albania, Greece, Romania and the former states which made up Yugoslavia, where queer liberation was still in the beginning stages and, more often than not, homosexuality was outlawed and queer people were imprisoned. In earlier issues, **Androzone** provided information on getting zines and information to political prisoners. Most

of this issue is taken up with reviews of queer punk music from the Outpunk label and other lesser-known bands.

Androzone also lives up to the spirit the name suggests, that it is representative not just of gay culture, but builds an inclusive world which addresses issues of importance to lesbians, transgender folks, and bisexuals.

Because of their portability, zines can be handed off in trade or for free and become an instant means to transport ideas across borders, over walls, or behind bars.

Other sections include an extensive set of zine reviews, as well as information on safer sex techniques.

Next month: Rowdy Grrrls Never Get the Blues! **PxOxFx** and **Cowgrrrl Ink** show us patriarchy and misogyny really suck.

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

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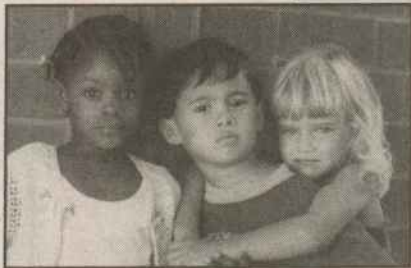
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SAT. 2
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ONE SHOT MICKEY ARTHUR DODGE & THE HORSEFEATHERS

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SCOTT HLAIVENKA & CHRISTOPHER DALLMAN
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ELATA & STONE FLOAT
FRI. 29
NO LONGER MICAH & THE TRANSIT DIARY w/ANDREW DEWOLF

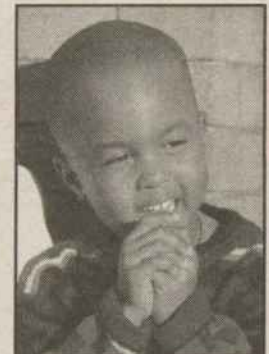
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Mary Stearns (mstearns@queerlifeneews.com) is the owner of Orientations, Ltd., which she co-founded in 1977. Originally, the business imported Korean chests and other Asian antiques. Orientations now offers a full range of interior design services.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

Picture this: a beautiful day — a soft day, as the Irish say — somewhere in the British Isles during the reign of Queen Victoria. A perfect day for a picnic. Now watch as servants carry a rolled-up carpet out of the manor house, unfurl it on the lawn to reveal the jewel tones of a classic oriental, and place a table and chairs around it. The table is set with linen, sterling, china and crystal. Isn't this familiar? Haven't you seen this before in a movie or read it in a book?

The creation of outdoor rooms isn't unique to the Victorians. It is as old as the Druids with their tree worship or the Greeks and Romans with their amphitheaters. In the 21st century, most of us don't have maids and butlers to haul carpets and indoor furnishings for al fresco dining, but we do have

Outdoor Rooms

weather-proof furnishings. The big-box stores and specialty shops carry furniture in a variety of materials: fake, but weather-resistant, wicker; low-maintenance materials like cast aluminum that resembles wrought iron; and, at the high end, teak, mahogany and powder-coated steel. There are also many waterproof and sun-resistant fabrics so that it is not necessary to lug cushions indoors when rain threatens.

Many homes are built with screened porches, patio or decks so all that is necessary to enjoy these spaces is to furnish them. If you are not so fortunate as to have these amenities built in, it's fun to plan your own outdoor room.

Garden centers and lumber yards, as well as the big-box stores, have plans and materials for the do-it-yourselfers. For those who prefer a more substantial feel, a gazebo is a nice option. Some are ready-made, some require assembling, and some require a pro to install. Options include open sides, screened windows, built-in seating and lighting.

To rejuvenate a tired deck or patio, you might arrange your furniture around an outdoor rug or even paint one on the wood or stone. A group of large pots planted with small trees or shrubs can act as a divider or provide privacy. Lattices, with or without climbing plants, are also a good way to cre-

ate outdoor walls.

Ever since the gods sent Prometheus to bring us fire, man has been fascinated by it. Just as the fireplace has held a major architectural and decorative position inside our homes, fire pits and outdoor fireplaces enhance our yards. The chimenea, a terra cotta

Wherever you live, whatever your budget, you can have an outdoor room.

import from Mexico, has become an outdoor favorite whose popularity has spawned a great selection of fireplaces to be enjoyed out of doors.

Along the Atlantic seaboard, most beach houses have outdoor showers. Some are free-standing with no walls for privacy; others are walled but open to the sky. Throughout the entire country, outdoor hot tubs are popular, even in the colder climates. They provide lovely places to relax and enjoy being at one with nature.

Wherever you live, whatever your budget, you can have an outdoor room — on the ground like a patio, up in the air like a deck or balcony or on a rooftop with a bird's-eye view. Just picture it!

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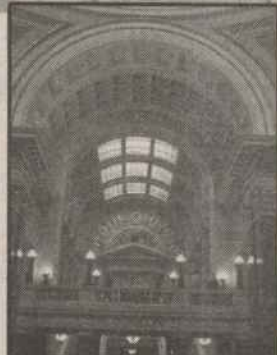
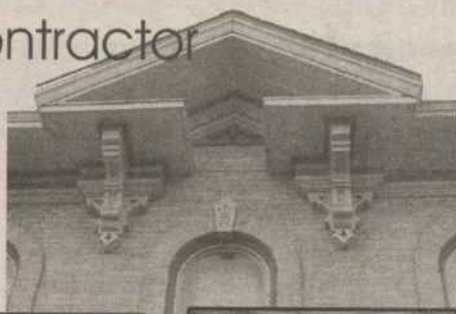
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Aloha, Milwaukee

For many people, flying off to any island is a dream come true. It can be very romantic, restful and beautiful. Let's not forget about the picturesque sunsets and the warm sandy beaches. How about the tropical food and drinks at every corner, whether on the beach or in the town or city? Combine all of these things and that is what you will experience in our 50th state, Hawaii.

Getting to Hawaii can be a bit on the expensive side, but there are always deals to be had. There are chartered flights out of Milwaukee direct into Honolulu, but you can get there with at least one connection from all of the major airlines that fly into Milwaukee. United and American fly direct out of Chicago to Honolulu.

Honolulu's airport is just like any other major airport and is very easy to navigate.

Walk up to the top of Diamond Head. The view of the Pacific Ocean as well as Honolulu is breathtaking.

Rent a jeep or convertible at the airport if you need any sort of transportation. You will enjoy the island that much more with the warm breezes hitting your face as you tour the island.

Waikiki Beach, which runs east of downtown Honolulu on the island of Oahu, is not to be missed. Whether your thing is to play in the Pacific Ocean, read a book on the warm, white sandy beach or to just people watch, you will find those great activities there.

For the gay tourist, Waikiki Beach is ideal because the main gay hotel and bar, Hula's, sits on the edge of the beach. Almost every room has a view of the beach as well as Diamond Head, the inactive volcano to the southeast. The rooms are very clean. The open-air bar, which looks out over the beach, is staffed with very friendly and personable bartenders.

There are many places of interest that are a must-see for the tourist, whether gay or straight, but if you are there for a week or so, walk up to the top of Diamond Head. The view of the Pacific Ocean as well as Honolulu is breathtaking. For the shopper, check out Ala Moana Center. Pearl Harbor is to the west of Honolulu where you can visit the USS Arizona Memorial. You will need to take a tour boat to the actual memorial and tickets sell out early in the morning, so plan accordingly.

Another fun activity is to explore the rest of the island of Oahu. The whole trip might take you two hours if you don't stop, but I would suggest an entire day for exploration of such places like the famous Dole Plantation where there are tours set up. Take a stroll through the pineapple maze that they create for the wandering tourist. Above all, purchase some pineapple while there. It truly will be an experience. Check the northern shores of Oahu for some of the most spectacularly sized waves that you will ever see.

Tip of the Trip: Because Honolulu is part of the United States, your cell phones will work as normal. If you have a long distance plan that is included, there will be no additional charges to talk to someone on the mainland.



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Got Rhubarb?

If you have a rhubarb plant in your yard, then you probably have lots and lots of rhubarb pie sitting in your kitchen. The rhubarb plant is very hearty and grows well in Wisconsin weather. Rhubarb stems come in two colors: red and green. They both taste essentially the same, but I prefer the red because it has a more appealing color when making pies and jams. Rhubarb is wonderfully tart which makes it an excellent choice for baking. Eating rhubarb by itself will definitely make you pucker, but blending rhubarb with some sugar will give you an excellent sweet/sour flavor that is sure to put a smile on your face. Since I'm of German heritage, this marriage of sweet and sour is one of my favorite things to eat. I have included recipes to make some rhubarb slush and rhubarb bread. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do. (Note: Rhubarb leaves are poisonous. Use only the stems.)

Rhubarb Slush

3 cups diced rhubarb stems
1 cup water
1/3 cup sugar

1 cup apple juice
1 16-oz. can frozen pink lemonade, thawed
1 2-liter bottle lemon-lime soda

In a saucepan combine rhubarb, water and sugar. Bring mixture to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 5 minutes or until the rhubarb is tender. Cool this mixture for about 30 minutes. In a food processor or blender, puree half the mixture at a time. Pour puree into a large freezer-safe container. Stir in apple juice and lemonade. Cover and place in freezer until firm. Let stand at room temperature for 45 minutes before serving. For individual servings, scoop 1/3 cup into a glass and fill with the lemon-lime soda. For a group, place the entire mixture in a large container and add all of the soda.



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.

Rhubarb Bread

1 1/2 cups brown sugar
2/3 cup canola oil
1 egg, beaten
1 cup sour milk
2 3/4 cups flour
1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 cups diced rhubarb stems
1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. butter

Note: To make the sour milk, place one tablespoon of vinegar in the bottom of your measuring cup. Pour the milk on top of the vinegar until you have one cup of liquid. Allow the mixture to sit a couple of minutes.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease and flour two loaf pans. In a large bowl combine the brown sugar, oil, egg, milk, flour, baking soda, vanilla, rhubarb and walnuts. Stir until well mixed. This will be a thick, sticky batter. Pour batter into the two prepared loaf pans. In a small bowl add the sugar, cinnamon and butter. Incorporate the butter into the sugar and cinnamon by using a pastry blender. Sprinkle sugar mixture over the batter. Bake for 45 minutes or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

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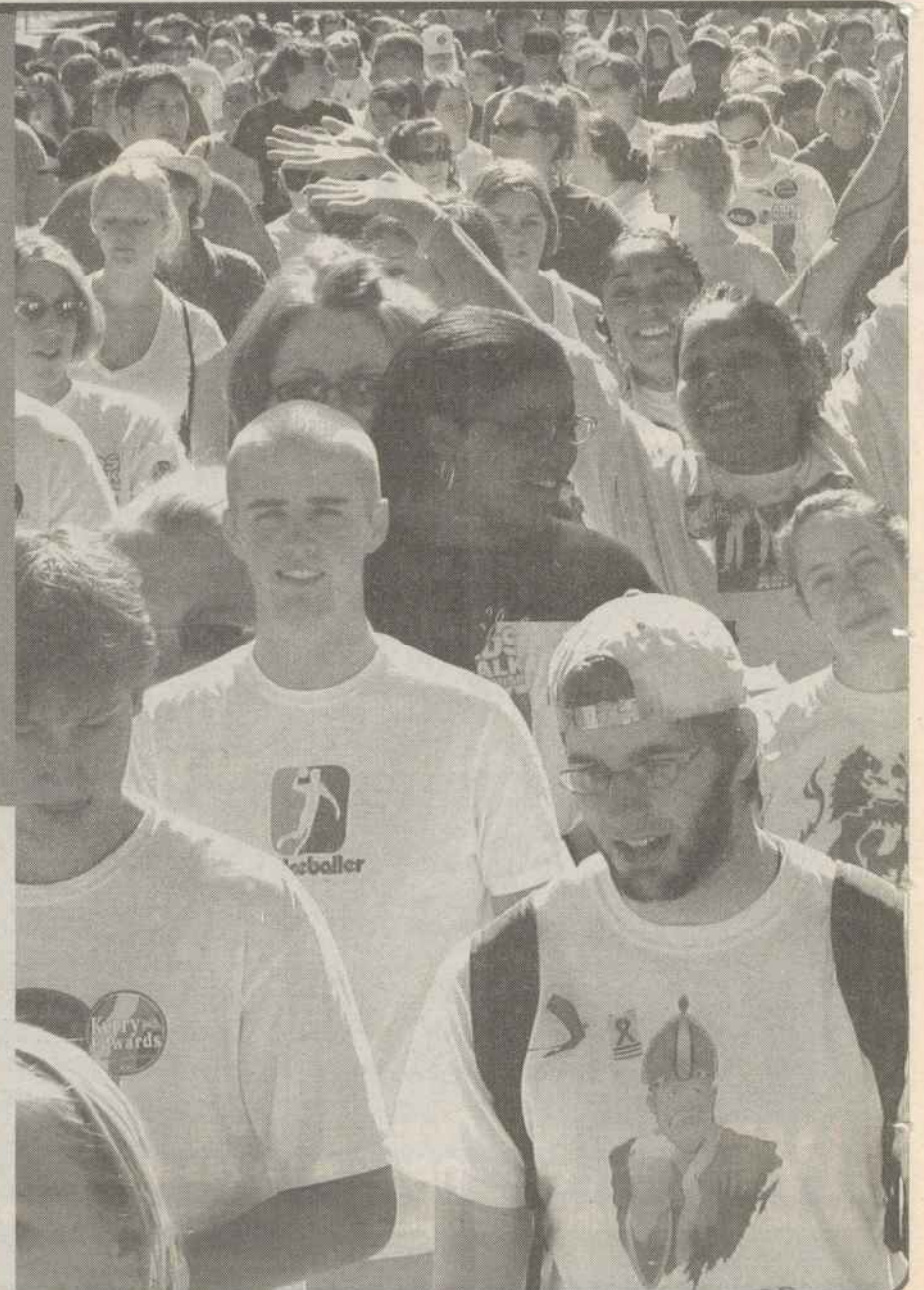
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RELIGION



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.

America's Religion

America does have an established religion. It's just not Christianity.

A few summers ago my partner and I went to Plymouth, Mass., to see a spiritual mentor of mine. As we toured the town, we came to a hill overlooking the harbor. A set of dramatic columns and a canopy stood over a boulder on the beach: Plymouth Rock, the mythical rock on which the first Englishman set foot on American soil. Crowds of tourists bustled by, paying their homage to America's past.

Plymouth Rock, the Liberty Bell and Arlington Cemetery are some of the temples of America's established civic religion. It might well be called American Shintoism.

Shintoism, the indigenous religion of Japan, celebrates the stories and lives of one's ancestors. The Shinto gods are claimed to have founded Japan. In some ways it might be called a religion that worships the spirit of the land. In much the same mold, our American Shintoism is a celebration of the American myth and our particular saints.

The mythic stories of American Shintoism give meaning and purpose to the lives of many folks. Stories like the myth of Thanksgiving speak to America's great virtues — sharing what we have with our neighbors, giving thanks to God, celebrating the rich bounty of our land. These same stories often overshadow troubling elements of our past; few Native peoples celebrate Thanksgiving with gusto.

July Fourth is the great high holy day of our civic faith.

July Fourth is of course the great high holy day of our civic faith. It proclaims the ideals of our nation — liberty and justice for all — and connects us with the moment of our founding. Like all good religious celebrations it memorializes heroic actions and uni-

fies the community. As I watch the parade and fireworks in our town, I realize I'm watching a religious festival.

Viewing American patriotism this way might help us understand what is going on for the LGBT community at this moment in history. We are involved in a great theological debate about the place of LGBT folks in America's civic religion. The form of this debate may be legal, but the concepts are really theological. The debate over gays and lesbians in the military is really a debate about the theological place of LGBT people: Who is an American? And the marriage question is really one about the extent of the promise of liberty and justice.

It often feels to me that liberals have abandoned America's civic religion. One example of this is the flag. Conservatives are much more likely to fly an American flag than liberals. My neighbors thought I might vote for George Bush in the last election because we fly an American flag. Heaven forbid it.

It must be said of course that this happens because we're aware of the dangers and bigotry inherent in a national religion. We are pained by the vast gap between America's high values and its real inequalities.

By leaving behind American Shintoism, though, we've given up too much. First, we care about how these theological battles are settled. To win these debates we need to do more than just showcase a few same-sex couples. We need to base our arguments in our national myths, weaving the reason for LGBT rights into the very fabric of America's founding. We need folks to reimagine Betsy Ross as a PFLAG mom. We can't win the fight for our rights if we've given up on our civic religion.

Second, much of our struggle for equality is a struggle for full participation in America. We are not fighting to be left alone, but fighting to be included. Participating in the civic religion is one way we embody the change we want. Instead of watching Fourth of July parades, we need to be leading them. What would it look like if LGBT folks not only marched in our own parade but participated in lots of July Fourth parades around Wisconsin? Personally I'd love to see one of our LGBT-friendly congregations or a PFLAG contingent marching behind Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner through the streets of Waukesha. Can you see a group of "Lesbians for Liberty" marching ahead of Alberta Darling through Whitefish Bay?

The successful movements for social change in America have largely worked because they reinterpreted America's national religion. It's time for our community to make its appeals in the mythic language of American Shintoism.

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PETS

By Annabelle Havlicek

Think Like a Dog

Scientific research indicates that dogs think in sensory impressions: visual, sound and odor images, to name a few. Now I'm not saying that my Rottie sits around my house watching videos inside his head. However, I am saying that he likely shares my ability to form and experience in his mind certain images, odors and sounds.

Dogs respond well to pattern, repetition and routine. Monday through Friday, my routine is pretty much the same: I wake up, have some coffee, take a bath, watch a little TV, get dressed, take my Rottie out for a 20-minute walk, leave for work. I have another routine when I get home: Say hello and pet my Rottie, pat my cat, take my dog out for another walk, make dinner, spend some time on various projects, go to bed.

By the time I'm ready to leave for work in the morning, my Rottie is lying in his favorite spot, sleeping. Why? Because my routine has created images for him that he could set his watch by.

Most times I arrive home at the same time every day. Occasionally I'm late. If I'm more than an hour late, he's gone to the hook where his leash hangs and taken it off the hook and it's usually lying close to the door where I'll be sure to see it when I come in. Sometime my shoes are there, too.

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

The puppy frantically searches for something to satisfy its desire to "experience" the owner — a magazine or book it saw his owner reading, a favorite chair where he sits ... his shoes. He sniffs, tastes, chews...

and ecstatically engages in a greeting ceremony with the puppy. This imagery is quickly ingrained and the puppy begins to anticipate this happy greeting experience. One day the owner is late. The puppy begins anticipating the happy images of his tardy owner and when the owner doesn't arrive, the pup starts fretting, pacing and worrying.

Finally, here comes the owner. The puppy innocently launches into its ecstatic greeting ceremony and then the owner spies the magazine or book or shoes chewed up and angrily disciplines the puppy.



What the owner has just done is totally confuse the puppy with conflicting images of its owner's arrival home. This sort of shock to the puppy's nervous system is called psychic trauma. A conflict has been instilled between the positive image of the owner (ecstatic greeting) and the negative (being late arriving home).

This is just one example of how dogs think in images and how we mold and change their behavior. I hope you start thinking more like a dog when you're trying to communicate better with yours.

Ask the Vet

Dr. Jeff Banwart has been one of the veterinarians on staff at the Wisconsin Humane Society for one year. Prior to this, he worked as a small animal emergency veterinarian for 10 years.

Question:

Recently my dog got in a scuffle with a raccoon! Although he doesn't appear to have been bitten, should I still worry about rabies or any other diseases?

Answer:

Dogs and cats that are properly vaccinated against the rabies virus should have adequate protection against exposure to this virus. This emphasizes the importance of regular visits to your veterinarian to make sure your companion animal receives the appropriate vaccinations. However, no vaccine can guarantee 100 percent effectiveness against disease in all cases, so be sure to have your dog examined by your veterinarian after any altercation with a wild animal.

There are other concerns any time your companion animal is bitten by another animal. Bite wounds are especially prone to bacterial infection. For this reason it is important to have bite wounds treated by your veterinarian. Proper cleaning of the wound and the use of antibiotics to prevent infection are common treatments for even the smallest bite wounds.

Human exposure to the rabies virus is a matter of great concern. Vac-



inating your pets can help protect not only your beloved animals, but your family members as well. Most of us are familiar with the amazing case of the Fond du Lac area girl who survived ra-

abies, but the positive outcome in her case is exceedingly rare! People should seek medical attention **immediately** if ever bitten or scratched by an animal. Appropriate, rapid medical intervention after being bitten by a rabid animal is essential in preventing the development of the disease in humans. Never try to handle a wild animal or break up a fight between wild or domestic animals by putting yourself in a position where you may be bitten or scratched. Call your local health department if you have questions about a possible exposure to rabies. It is very important that any animal that bites or scratches a human be evaluated for rabies.

For questions about wild animals, visit the Wisconsin Humane Society Web site at www.wihumane.org and click on the "help wild animals!" link.

Have a tough companion animal-related question? Submit your questions to askthetvet@queerlifeneews.com

WINGS Takes Off!



Nationwide, millions of night-migrating songbirds collide with lighted windows on tall buildings or become confused by other building lights and swirl around these lights until they drop to the ground in exhaustion. Millions more die in daytime window collisions at homes and businesses.

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www.wihumane.org

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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.

Women Who Love Music

"Double Standards"

Lea DeLaria

It seems she can do it all — and well. The first openly gay comic to appear on national television ("The Arsenio Hall Show," 1993), DeLaria has starred in movies ("The First Wives Club"), television ("Will and Grace," "The Drew Carey Show"), and on Broadway ("The Rocky Horror Picture Show"). She has performed with the New York City Opera ("Cinderella"), has performed with The Newport Jazz 50th Anniversary Tour and has made appearances at the Montreux and London Jazz Festivals.

A native Midwesterner, DeLaria was introduced to the world of jazz and its many nuances by her musician father. She also acknowledges the influence of John Coltrane who "spent a lifetime trying to sound unique and have his own style." The strong penchants for individuality and constant renewal have become her strongest trademark and the key to her success.

Drawing inspiration from many sources, DeLaria makes herself stand out as a vocalist of great talent and independent spirit. Ever the iconoclast, after her jazz vocal debut "Playin' It Cool," in which she interpreted Broadway tunes with a jazz flair, she turned to well-known rock tunes for "Double Standards." She gathered memorable pop songs such as Green Day's "Longview," Neil Young's "Philadelphia," Gwen Stefani's "Just a Girl" and The Doors' "People Are Strange," imprinting her personal jazz signature.

"Martha Wainwright"

Martha Wainwright

Like Rufus, Martha has an uncommonly rich voice (evidenced in her cameo role as a nightclub singer in "The Aviator"). Her self-titled debut, featuring 13 songs of loss, love, faith and desire,

suggests that she was destined to join the family trade — on her terms and on her own. Born in New York to Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle, she was raised in Montreal by her mother. She began performing at an early age with both parents. The CD's anchors, the dreamy, folk-inspired ballads "Far Away" and "These Flowers," are well balanced by "GPT," a piano-driven melody with a dash of cello, and "Ball and Chain," a sexually charged rocker song.

The Human Face of War "The German Officer's Boy"

Harlan Greene

Kristallnacht, a deceptively soothing and elegant word, has become synonymous with the horrific brutality brought against the Jews living in the German territories, an attack methodically planned and coordinated by Adolf Hitler and his Minister of Propaganda, Joseph Goebbels. On Nov. 9, 1938, mob violence broke out as police and crowds stood by and watched Nazi and SS storm troopers beat and kill Jews, break into Jewish homes and brutalize Jewish women and children. Throughout the Reich-controlled territories, shop windows were smashed and contents destroyed. Synagogues were desecrated and burned. Some 25,000 Jewish men were rounded up and sent to labor camps.

What triggered this savage devastation? It began because of the act of one Herschel Grynszpan, a 17-year-old Polish boy living in Paris, who shot and killed the Third Secretary of the German Embassy, Ernest von Rath. The life of the teenager remains rather baffling and his ultimate fate a mystery. In fact few history books have shed real light on the young man and many, in fact, continue to repeat factual errors. Thus in a very recent publication, "Auschwitz, A New History," author Laurence Rees refers to Grynszpan as a "Jewish student," although his education stopped well before he arrived illegally in Paris. This history, like most accounts, attributes Grynszpan's action as having been intended for the German ambassador in protest over the plight of his family and all other Jews.

In his own time, Grynszpan was strongly condemned by a majority of Jews because he enabled the Nazis to establish collective guilt for the killing. In Europe and the United States, the case initially attracted considerable attention. Funds for his defense were established and used to retain Vincent Moro-Giafferi, the F. Lee Bailey of European trial courts, to head the defense team. But the attention soon began to fade and by the time Grynszpan was extradited from the French prison to Germany he was a forgotten man.

However, throughout the documents, eyewitness evidence and histories related to the incident, rumors surfaced about a possible romantic link between a most unlikely couple — the Jew and his Nazi victim. In 2000, professor Hans-Jürgen Doscher published an exhaustive history of the events of Nov. 9, 1938, supporting the argument that the killing was the result of a homosexual liaison rather than a political statement.

The son of Holocaust survivors and a gay man, Harlan Greene had become aware of the mystery and the contradictory accounts surrounding the young Jew. Fascinated with the "puzzling, annoying, contradictory adolescent," Greene, the author of several books and a Lambda Literary Award winner, decided to fictionalize Grynszpan's life, including the family life, his journey through the underworld of Paris as a "rent boy" culminating in the tragic-fated romance between the "boy with dark, brooding eyes and olive skin" and the 29-year-old wealthy diplomat.

It is a very engaging, at times provocative book, although the historical background lacks depth and the young man's life in Germany as part of the impoverished Polish refugee population is somewhat maudlin. Greene barely hints at the thriving demi-monde of Paris, and, as recent books and films have shown, the homosexual community involved in entertainment played an important role in rescuing Jews and other "undesirables" from the Nazis. In spite of these shortcomings, "The German Officer's Boy" makes a notable contribution to a forgotten chapter in history.

Unsettled

"My Own Private Idaho"

Directed by Gus Van Sant

DVD

Like John Waters (see below), Gus van Sant has crafted deeply unconventional independent films as well as mainstream crowd pleasers ("Good Will Hunting" and "Psycho"). He discovered cinema while attending the prestigious Rhode Island Institute of Art and Design in the 1970s, immersing himself in all genres, from the avant-garde of Andy Warhol and the Mekas brothers to the classics of Orson Welles and Alfred Hitchcock, and shifting his artistic focus from painting to filmmaking.

"My Own Private Idaho," recently re-released as part of the Criterion Collection in a special edition double set, reminds us Van Sant's work is important. Released in 1991, his third feature remains his most anarchic and ambitious. It's certainly the finest blending of his art school influences and the powerful artistic trends dominating during the 1970s and 1980s. "The bard of dysfunction," as Van Sant is sometimes referred to, because his characters are marginal figures, whether misguided geniuses or lonely and down-and-out, he has chronicled their stories without judgment or psychological rationalization.

In "Idaho" he weaves together a striking visual tapestry using Portland's Skid Row and its City Hall, Shakespearean characters and Warhol stars as a living tableau against which the two mismatched male hustlers (superbly played by River Phoenix and Keanu Reeves) cross paths, become close friends for a while, then part ways. "Idaho" is hard to define — it is a romantic comedy except street people cannot sustain a fantasy structure. It is also a "road" picture; a few scenes even remind us of "Easy Rider," but it's an "Easy Rider" without sentimentality or political symbolism.

Interviewed in "American Film," Van Sant ("whose flair for simplified answers would make Andy Warhol proud," notes the interviewer) said his film is "about looking for a home. You may not find one, but you keep looking." The adventures of Van Sant's pilgrims are both bleak and compelling. Even the disappointment that these voyagers eventually experience is not without romanticism, warmth, humor and indeed celebration of human survival.

"Idaho" has a profound and cumulative impact that builds from the wealth of vivid details and powerfully simple dialogue. Meticulous about details, the street hustling milieu was researched for weeks before production; this included some of Van Sant's real-life buddies (he makes no secret of his own gayness or his interest in the streetwise homosexual world romanticized in the works of Jean Genet and William Burroughs). Authentic hustlers interacting with the ordinary, affluent world surrounding them resulted in a powerful, against-the-tide work.

John Waters' Newest Camp "A Dirty Shame"

Directed by John Waters

DVD

It's hard to believe it's been almost a quarter of a century since John Waters shocked, puzzled and delighted us with "Pink Flamingos" and "Female Trouble." The Kitschmeister has returned after a four-year sabbatical from filmmaking with another tale set in "Trashtown, USA, the Sleaziest City on Earth, the Hairdo Capital of the World," his native, and ever-so-beloved, Baltimore.

The latest epic, rated NC-17 "for pervasive sexual content," features the decency brigade of suburban Pinewood battling against the fans of "depravity" headed by a convenience store owner turned sex addict, her mammary mammoth daughter, a sex evangelist and other wacky characters. Of course this magnate of bad taste has impeccable savor faire when it comes to his production team and acting team.

"Dirty Shame" is produced by legendary Christine Vachon, best known for her work with independents such as Todd Haynes ("Far from Heaven"), and features notables like Tracey Ullman, Johnny Knoxville, Chris Isaak, Selma Blair and, for a fifth time, Patricia Hearst (the former "Tanya" of the Symbionese Liberation Army and granddaughter of William Randolph Hearst). Camp at its best ... or worst? Not for uptight people.

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Exclusive to Q Life

Outwords Books "Top 5 Picks for July" SUMMER FICTION BESTSELLERS

For the Boys:

1. *The Blood of Kings* by John Michael Curlovich
Curlovich's bloodcurdling gay vampire novel remains at the top of the Outwords bestseller list!

2. *All American Boy* by William J. Mann
As Wally unravels the dark side of his all-American family, he must make peace with the boy he was, to become the man he needs to be.

3. *Light Before Day* by Christopher Rice
Rice's latest novel is a riveting and complex story of an elusive serial killer and a labyrinth of revenge and sexual obsession.

4. *Bite Club* by Hal Bodner
A rollicking dark comedy in which the crime-fighting community and the undead gay community create an unholy alliance to stop a monster!

5. *The German Officer's Boy* by Harlan Greene
What really happened that afternoon in November 1938, when the young gay Polish Jew walked into the German embassy in Paris and shots rang out?

For the Girls:

1. *Distant Shore, Silent Thunder* by Radclyffe
The latest in Radclyffe's "Provincetown" series follows the adventures of Deputy Sheriff Reese Conlan and her lover Dr. Tori King.

2. *Have Gun, We'll Travel* by Lori L. Lake
Dez Reilly and Jaylynn Savage's quiet hike in the Minnesota forests nearly turns deadly in the third offering of Lake's popular "Gun" series.

3. *Abby's Passion* by Jackie Calhoun
When her world turns upside down, Abby faces tough choices to finally discover that love is the most important thing in life.

4. *No Ocean Deep* by Cate Swannell
Their past comes to haunt Jo Madison and Cadie Jones in this exciting sequel to Swannell's "Heart's Passage."

5. *The Way Things Should Be* by Carrie Carr
In Carr's latest, Amanda begins to feel her own biological clock ticking while her sister prepares for the birth of her first child.

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DJ JOHN MURGES



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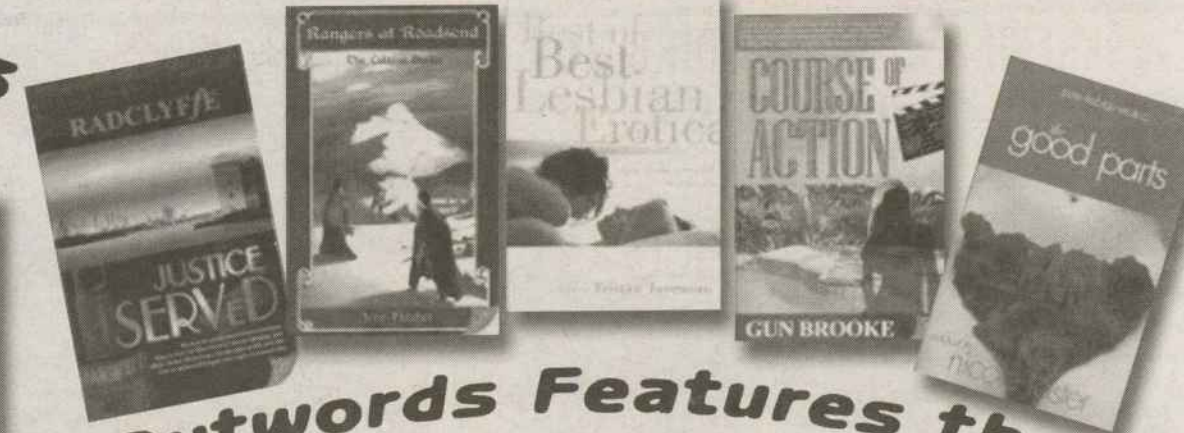
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Out Now

Camouflage

Luckystar
207 E. Buffalo St., Milwaukee
414-223-4502
luckystarstudio.com
Through July 16

A Pride of Artists

Exhibition of works by Greg Jacobson, Ross Johnston, Joe Simon, Christine Taylor. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee
9am-4:30pm daily
Through July 21

Mark Mothersbaugh's Postcard Diaries 2005

KM Art
226 S. 1st St., Milwaukee
414-226-2272
my.exccpc.com/~artkm/
Through July 30

Shear Madness

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts and Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Vogel Hall
123 E. State St., Milwaukee
888-612-3500
marcuscenter.org
Through July 31

Beauty and the Beast

Fireside Dinner Theatre
Business Hwy 26 South, Fort Atkinson
800-477-9505
Through August 14

Candida, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Tartuffe

American Players Theatre
Hwy C, Spring Green
608-588-2361
playinthewoods.org
Through October 9, various times

Cutting Loose

Pabst Mansion
2000 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee
414-931-0808
pabstmansion.com
Through October 30

Thursday, July 7

Comedy on Broadway

Skyline Opera Theatre
Broadway Theatre Center
158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee
9:30pm. Free
414-291-7800
Repeats every Thursday

Florentine at the Lake

Florentine Opera
Alterra Coffee Roasters
1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee
7pm. Free
414-291-5700
Repeats July 21

Friday, July 8

PICK All the Pretty Horses

All the Pretty Horses may be one of the most visually-arresting bands you'll ever see. Combine their haunting, hard-edged music touching both on Ziggy Stardust and Black Sabbath simultaneously with the stage act, and you've got performance art at the highest level. "Most of the time, transgender events have been limited to [gay bars]. That's been their home, and I wanted to help them start making the step out into the real world, and have the transgendered community really have the opportunity to be out in the open with everybody, and not in hiding. It's a little bit more risk-taking, but I think it's what the community needs to do." —Venus, Siren Mag

The Stones Throw
304 Eau Claire St., Eau Claire
715-552-5882
thestonesthrow.com
Repeats July 10, Milwaukee

PICK Drop Dead

R.S.V.P. Productions
An over-the-top campy, gay, fun, murder mystery.
Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee
8pm. \$10
414-272-5694
Through July 10

Glenn Miller Orchestra

Newsradio 620 WTMJ
Pabst Theater
144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee
8pm
414-286-3663
pabsttheater.org

Urban Rhythm Project

Danceworks
A two-weekend celebration of rhythmic dance styles: tap, hip-hop, and percussion. Co-hosted by Danceworks FUEL and Danceworks on Tap. Guest artists include Especially Tap/Chicago, Funktion, and more.

1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee
7:30pm. \$18, \$12 students and seniors
414-277-8480
danceworks1661.org
Through July 17

Diabolique: Images of the Devil in Contemporary Art

Walker's Point Center for the Arts
911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee
414-672-2787
wpcam-milwaukee.org
Through October 1

Saturday, July 9

Gathering on the Green

Annual arts festival with the Gathering on the Green Festival Orchestra, the Milwaukee Ballet, The Florentine and Skylight Operas, and other performing arts groups.
Rotary Park
4000 W. Highland Rd., Mequon

Sunday, July 10

PICK All the Pretty Horses

See July 8 description.
Club Anything
807 S. 5th St., Milwaukee
414-383-5680

Monday, July 11

Angie Stone
Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
929 N. Water St., Milwaukee
7:30pm
414-273-7206
marcuscenter.org

Thursday, July 14

4-K-Torce
Dominican meringue and bachata.
Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
Alterra Coffee Roasters
1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee
7pm. Free
latinoartsinc.org

The Reversible Kellys' Variety Show

Mad Planet
533 E. Center St., Milwaukee
414-263-4555
mad-planet.net

Friday, July 15

PICK The Underwear Party Featuring RuPaul

In addition to RuPaul, other special guests include Joy Dragland, Ms. Desiree Matthews, Solid Gold and DJs Jeremy Thomas, David Muhammad and Nick Nice. Acceptable attire for the event includes boxers, briefs, panties, lingerie, swim trunks, bikinis, pajamas or any other sexy undergarment in your closet.

Orpheum Theatre
216 State St., Madison
9pm, \$18 and \$22
orpheumtheatre.net
theunderwearparty05.com

Kiss Me Kate

Sunset Playhouse
A play-within-a-play unfolds, where each cast member's onstage life is complicated by what is happening offstage.
800 Elm Grove Rd., Elm Grove

8pm. \$18
262-782-4430
Through August 6

PICK The Importance of Being Earnest

Uncommon Theatre
Plymouth Church UCC
2717 E. Hampshire Ave.
7:30pm. \$10
414-248-6481
uncommontheatre.net
Through July 30

Sunday, July 17

Kelly Brightwell

Two Degrees Coffee, A Room of One's Own
307 W. Johnson St., Madison
3pm. Free
608-257-7888

South Shore Frolics Festival of Arts

South Shore Park
2900 S. Shore Dr., Milwaukee
bayviewarts.org

Thursday, July 21

Full Moon Party

DJ John Munges
Art Bar
722 E. Burleigh St., Milwaukee
9pm. Free
414-372-7880
pumpmilwaukee.com

Friday, July 22

Clare Byrne and Dancers/ NYC

The New York City-based dance company, along with Eric Reed, performs "Sweet Chariots," a collection of vibrant dances infused with the energy of jazz and gospel music.

Danceworks
1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee
7:30pm. \$18, \$12 students and seniors
414-277-8480
danceworks1661.org
Repeats July 23

PICK Brent Harpinger and Michael Jensen

Jensen is the author the steamy 1999 gay historical novel "Frontiers" and its just-released sequel, "Firelands," a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award. Harpinger promotes his "Geography Club," sequel to "The Order of the Poison Oak."

A Room of One's Own
307 E. Johnson St.
Madison
6pm. Free
608-257-7888

PICK Jewel

Pabst Theater
144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee
8pm
414-286-3663
pabsttheater.org

Natty Nation

UW Memorial Union Terrace
800 Langdon St., Madison
9pm. Free
608-262-2215

Once on this Island

Soulstice Theatre
This charming musical about class distinctions and struggles is sung in storytelling fashion.
Marian Center
3195 S. Superior St., Milwaukee
8pm. \$15
414-431-3197
charsoulstice@netzero.com
Through July 30 various times

Saturday, July 23

Brent Harpinger and Michael Jensen

See July 22 description.
Harmony Café
124 N. Oneida St., Appleton
2:30pm
920-734-2233
and
Positive Voice
618 Stuart St., Green Bay
6pm
920-435-4404

Wednesday, July 27

It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman

Campy Broadway musical from the '60s about Clark Kent's alter ego.
Off the Wall Theatre
127 E. Wells St., Milwaukee
414-327-3552
Through August 7

Thursday, July 28

Pangaea

Caribbean steel drum.
Alterra Coffee Roasters
1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee
7pm. Free latinoartsinc.org

Friday, July 29

Babyface

A portion of every ticket sold will be donated directly to Milwaukee's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Back-to-School Festival
Pabst Theater
144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee
8pm
414-286-3663
pabsttheater.org

PICK Rebel Grrrl at Art Bar

Rebel Grrrl's one-year anniversary!
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Art Bar
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Dancemakers

UWM Peck School of the Arts
2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee
414-229-4308

Experimental Film and Video

Woodland Pattern
720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee
7pm. \$2
414-263-5001
woodlandpattern.org

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PICK Manipulated Media

Traditional manipulations in glass, metal and wood juxtaposed with contemporary digital and multiple-media by Richard Goldberg, Greg Jacobson, Paul Masterson, Paul Mueller, Jesse Jack Sabbath, Kurt Sindelar and Christine Taylor.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee
6-10pm
414-383-8200
www.milwaukeegayartscenter.com

Saturday, July 30

PICK Bottomless Bottoms Up! Cosmo Party

Queer Life News and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center host this fundraiser for the 18th annual Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival. Bottomless cosmopolitans, appetizers and entertainment
Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee
7-10 pm. \$15

City Ballet Theatre

Dances by Lee Wei Chao, Louis Hurd, Andre Tyson, and Karl von Rabneau
Alverno Pitman Theatre
3431 S. 39th St., Milwaukee
7:30pm
414-382-6044

Holly Golightly

Mad Planet
533 E. Center St., Milwaukee
10pm
414-263-4555
mad-planet.net

John Legend, Common, De La Soul

The Rave
2401 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee
414-342-7283
therave.com

Coming Soon

- August 11: Naked Boys Singing, MGAC
- August 12-13: Latin Rhythm Weekend, Danceworks
- August 15: Terry Firkins, DeLind Fine Art
- August 31: Richard III, Off the Wall Theatre
- September 2: The Jammer, Broadway Theatre
- September 15: Coyote on a Fence, Off-Broadway Theatre
- September 19: Fe-mail, HotCakes Gallery

August Arts Calendar deadline: July 20

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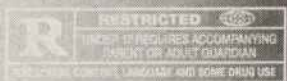
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AND
MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY DON ROOS

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MONDAY, JULY 25TH AT 7:00 PM

Beginning July 11th, pick up your complimentary (admit two) pass
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OPENS IN MILWAUKEE FRIDAY, JULY 29TH!



The Fireworks of the Broadway Series, and the Tony Awards!



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.

It's July, and Milwaukee goes a little "insane" in the summer with all the wonderful lakefront festivals and fireworks — we have to make up for all those winter blues. Many of the downtown theater companies are on a summer hiatus but there are still plenty of opportunities for outstanding theater as well as many art festivals.

If you are taking a trip to New York in the near future, there are lots of Tony Award-winning shows on Broadway. The dynamic **Hugh Jackman** was recently the host of the **Tony Awards** show. The **Monty Python** musical "**Spamalot**" won for best musical. For best play there was "Doubt." The best musical revival was "**La Cage Aux Folles**." Go see this show for the exciting costumes alone! I was extremely impressed by **Norbert Leo Butz**, who won best lead actor for "**Dirty Rotten Scoundrels**."

Should you plan to travel to Chicago, last year's best musical award winner, "**Wicked**," is playing in the Windy City. This musical is based on what happened in Oz before our little Dorothy arrived.

Marcus Center Plans Exciting Broadway Series

The **Marcus Center** hosts "**Little Shop of Horrors**" July 5-10. I believe my friend **Anthony Rapp** is playing the lead. The 2005-06 Broadway theater series includes "**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat**" starring **Patrick Cassidy**, which runs September 6-11. "**Movin' Out**," coming October 11-16, is the **Billy Joel**-inspired musical with choreography by **Twyla Tharp**. The 30th-anniversary tour of that little curly redhead

"**Annie**" ("I'll learn a new song Tomorrow") is coming into town March 28 to April 2, 2006, with Miss Hannigan. Looking ahead to July 25-30, 2006, **Maureen McGovern** stars in the musical version of "**Little Women**." **The Marcus Center** brings the finest in Broadway to our town.

It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's "Oliver" and "Kiss Me Kate"

Around our local theater scene there is still lots to be seen, especially flying at **Off The Wall Theatre**. The seldom-performed musical "**It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman**" will bring the superhero to life on stage. Also, last month I mentioned the **Sunset Playhouse** and their production of "**Kiss Me Kate**." This delightful backstage musical features music by **Cole Porter**. Then finally **Village Playhouse** of Wauwatosa and **Brookfield Players** merge for "**Oliver**." This family-friendly musical is based on **Oliver Twist** by **Charles Dickens**.

Queer Life, The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and **R.S.V.P. Productions** will combine their efforts for "**Drop Dead**" July 8-10, for one week-end only! For a special summer price of only \$10, you will laugh along with this hilarious spoof of show business. It's an over-the-top campy, gay, fun show!! If you loved "**Shear Madness**," you are sure to enjoy "**Drop Dead**."

The Swank Celebrity Scene Around Town

Mark Hooker of **Uncommon Theatre** is now in rehearsal for "**Naked Boys Singing**" (lucky Mark). This Milwaukee premiere should be lots of fun. I

will highlight this show in our August issue. Also "**Oklahoma**" which had auditions last month at **Bay Players**, cast the handsome and talented **Michael Bruening** in the lead role.

Kay Stiefel, Tony Clements, Tami Rentmeester and **Norman Moses** all started in community theater around town, and I plan to highlight actors who are making a name around town in an upcoming issue.

Hey, before I go off to some awards show, I want to tell all of you to please support the area bars. Attendance has been down at many top bars, and it could be the bad economy. But every bar has Specials! Check them out, get off the Internet and meet some real people! Patios at **Harbor Room, Triangle** and **Tazzbah** are wonderful in the summer. Also check out the food and atmosphere at **Barclays Cafe**.

Last Month's Trivia Answer

Young Judy as one of the **Gumm Sisters** played Oconomowoc, but **Judy Garland** never played a concert in Milwaukee.

July Trivia Question

Was the MGM musical version of "**Kiss Me Kate**" filmed in Technicolor and 3-D??

My Aunt Blanche is the costumer for "**Naked Boys Singing**" and wants to go measure with a yardstick!!



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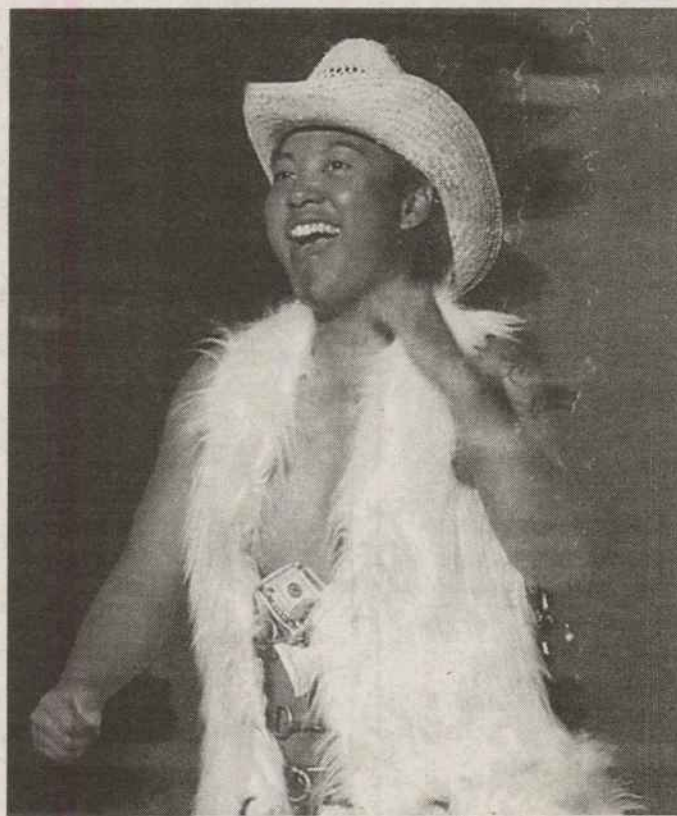


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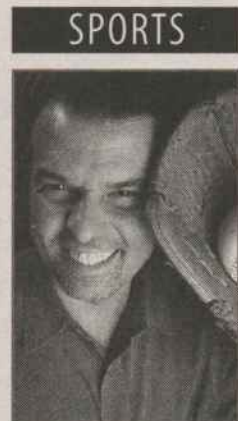


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Q



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.

Suiting Up for Summer!

Well, sports fans, we have finally hit those wonderful three months called summer. It is what we Wisconsinites wait for nine months out of the year. Now that it is finally here, let's see what's happening in the way of LGBT sports.

Golf

On June 18, 24 golfers took their woods and drivers northwest of Milwaukee to Scenic View Country Club near Slinger to compete in the Ozabooboo Golf Tournament. The Ozabooboo Golf Tournament is to honor four Milwaukeeans who have passed away: Arturo Olazabol, Dick Krekowski, Jim Flora and Jim Swanson. The Ozabooboo is a scramble tournament where each foursome hits a shot and then the foursome use the best hit ball to hit their next ball.

In the end, the foursome of Mike Kuharske, Barry Demet, Greg Glomski and Corey Kallas won the event. For their efforts, they

each received a medal at the awards ceremony/dinner which was held afterwards at Ballgame. Congratulations to you all.

Other trophies were awarded to Pam Woythal for the longest putt, Rodney Stockel for the longest drive and Corey Kallas for the shot closest to the hole.

Tennis

The Milwaukee Metro Tennis Club (MMTC) is well into their season now with a total of eight teams from local bars. Through play on June 19, the team from Out 'N About is at the top of the standings with 18 points, followed closely by Walkers Pint and Woody's with 15 points each.

It is not too late to sign up for MMTC. Peter "Hobbit" Nys informs me that they are still looking for tennis players. All levels of experience are welcome to join. Players are positioned with other players of comparable skills. There are four levels that an individual can be placed in ("A" level thru "D" level). Games are played at 12 noon and 2 p.m. every Sunday at the tennis courts at 35th Street and Michigan Avenue.

After each week's games, there is a social at one of the local sponsor bars. On June 6, the social was held at Fluid where tennis players competed in some heated games of Texas Hold 'Em Poker. On June 19, the social was held at Woody's.

Upcoming socials will be July 10 at the Triangle, July 17 at M&M Club and July 24 at Boom.

Softball

Softball is also into the meat of its schedule. There has been exciting action both on and off the softball fields.

Over Memorial Day weekend, three teams ventured to the Northstar Classic Softball Tournament held in the Twin Cities. Harbor Room, M&M Club and Woody's all started out the tournament in good fashion, with Harbor Room going 3-0 and M&M's and Woody's going 2-1 in round-robin play.

Unfortunately, the first round of tournament play saw all three Milwaukee teams lose to their opponents, all from Minneapolis, finishing on Saturday. To make matters worse, because of the losses on Saturday, Harbor Room and Woody's had to play each other in the first game Sunday morning, which would cause one Milwaukee team to go home early. Harbor Room was victorious and sent Woody's packing.

The news would not get any better as Harbor Room's next opponent was M&M's.

Harbor Room again came out victorious but sent a second Milwaukee team home.

Harbor Room would eventually make it to the third place game, but ended up losing to another Minneapolis team and ended Milwaukee's last chance to bring home some hardware.

Over Fourth of July weekend, the Fluid Twist will be fighting for dominance in the Windy City Showdown in Chicago, while the Madison Rough Riders head across the border to Canada to compete in the Canada Cup. Look in the next issue of Q Life for the results of each team.

Meanwhile, in Milwaukee, league play is heating up at Mitchell Park Domes. Through competition on June 18, the Madison Rough Riders remain undefeated at 4-0, followed closely behind by Switch at 4-1.

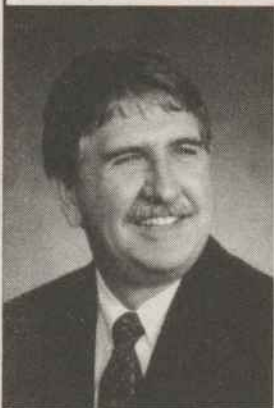
Standings (through June 18)

Madison Rough Riders.....	4-0
Switch Hitters.....	4-1
Ballgame Bells.....	2-1
Fluid Twist.....	2-1
Harbor Room Seemen.....	4-2
Best-D Clinic Glide.....	4-2
Woody's.....	3-2
Walker's Pint U'Haulers.....	2-2
M&M Club.....	2-2
Madison Easy Riders.....	2-4
Milwaukee's ONA.....	0-4
Q Life.....	0-4
Triangle.....	0-5

Teams play every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Mitchell Park Domes with the exception of July 23, when the league will travel to Madison to showcase SSBL to our sister city in Wisconsin. Refreshments are provided and everyone is welcome to attend.

Lastly, plans are being finalized for Milwaukee to send its representative team to San Diego to compete in the GSWS (Gay World Series of Softball). This will be the first team that Milwaukee will be sending to NA-GAAA's GSWS since 1997 in Atlanta. Due to a change in the structure of World Series play, Milwaukee is able to send a team without adjusting the structure of its current league play. This year, the Milwaukee Kosmos will be represented by players from eight of its 13 teams. Competition will be held in San Diego from August 15 to 21. Good luck to the Milwaukee Kosmos!

Attorney at Law Warren J. Klaus



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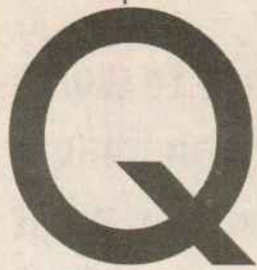
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EVENTS CALENDAR

Know an event that will interest the LGBT community?

Email us at qcalendar@queerlifeneews.com

Wednesday, July 6

Madison Cross Dressers Support group. 7pm. Outreach, 600 Williamson St., Madison. outreachinc.com or 608-255-8582.

Thursday, July 7

Madison Transgender Support group co-sponsored with Madison Area Transgender Association. 7pm. Madison LGBT Center, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St. lgbtcc.studentorg.wisc.edu or 608-265-3344.

Big Gay Social Group A safe place to discuss and explore the impact of sexual assault in the LGBT community and its effects on healthy queer relationships. 7pm. Campus Women's Center, 800 Langdon St., Madison. 608-251-5126.

Saturday, July 9

NAACP National Annual Convention, "Conscience of a Nation" Exhibits and sessions on police brutality and racial profiling, health care, civil rights, employment discrimination, political prisoners, voting rights, current legislation and more. Midwest Airlines Center, Milwaukee. 410-580-5780, www.naacp.org Through July 14.

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

Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba A public send-off party and program featuring DJ Paul Finger spinning the best in Afro-Caribbean music, and samples of African cuisine. A speaker will explain why people are committing civil disobedience to defy the U.S. restrictions on travel to Cuba. 5-8pm. Club Timbuktu, 520 E. Center St., Milwaukee. ifconews.org

Monday, July 11

Bay View Arts Guild Meeting Ceramics demonstration, networking and discussion of the August tour. 6:30pm. Beth Eaton Knepler's Studio, 1811 E. Estes St., Milwaukee. bayviewarts.org or 414-482-1543.

Thursday, July 14

Open Mic Night Broad Vocabulary's first Open Mic Night! Second Thursday of every month. Sign-up 5:30pm; O.M. 6pm. 2241 S. Kinnickinnic, Milwaukee. 414-744-8384.

Bastille Days Get closer to French culture: Storm the Bastille, listen to the mimes, learn French, eat crepes, check out the mini Eiffel Tower. Cathedral Square, Milwaukee. Free. Through July 17.

Friday, July 15

13th Annual OutReach Awards Banquet The OutReach awards recognize LGBT leadership and commitment in Madison. This year's categories include Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Outreach Volunteer of the Year and the newly introduced Lifetime Achievement Award. 7 John Nolen Dr. outreachinc.com or 608-255-8582.

Saturday, July 16

Madison Pride Weekend The Magic Picnic Saturday and Sunday at Brittingham Park; parade and march July 17. madisonpride.org

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.

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

Amigas Latinas 10th Anniversary Dance Celebration for lesbian, bisexual and questioning women. 7 pm-midnight. \$20. Plumbers Union Hall, 1340 W. Washington, Chicago. www.amigaslatinas.org

Sunday, July 17

Madison Pride Rally and Parade Speakers Peggy A. Lautenschlager and Tammy Baldwin reflect the growing support and changing views of LGBT communities within our state. Rally and march begin at Capitol Square and conclude at Brittingham Park. 12 noon. madisonpride.org

Open Space 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@execpc.com or 414-271-2565.

Rainbow/PFLAG Family Camp An opportunity for families with LGBT heads of households to gather together. Join in common meals served family style, afternoons on the beach, family arts and crafts projects and evening campfires. Fun, hospitality and emotional and physical safety for all. Moon Beach Camp, 7250 Birchwood Dr., St. Germaine. ucci.org or 715-479-8255. Through July 23.

Thursday, July 21

Festa Italiana Italian food, flag throwers, the Venice Choir, Zoppe Family Circus, Bocce, gondola rides and fantastic fireworks. www.festaitaliana.com Through July 24.

Saturday, July 23

One Drum Dance to the eclectic world rhythms of this multicultural ensemble performing with an extensive collection of ancient, modern and one-of-a-kind instruments. 9pm. Club Timbuktu, 520 E. Center St., Milwaukee. www.clubtimbuktu.com

Thursday, July 28

Ladies Night! At Broad Vocabulary, women-only consciousness raising groups are still alive. Topics will change depending on the direction the group takes. Fourth Thursday of every month. 6pm. 2241 S. Kinnickinnic, Milwaukee. 414-744-8384.

Living Fiercely, Loving Fearlessly 19th Annual Adodi International Summer Retreat. Ado (plural Adodi) is a Yoruba word for a man who loves another man. The Adodi are thought to embody both male and female ways and were revered as shamans and leaders. Through July 31. Montgomery Bell State Park, Burns, TN. Presented by Adodi Chicago info@adodichicago.org or www.adodichicago.org Through July 31.

Saturday, July 30

Next Actors: Summer Theatre for Youth Benefit Next Act presents an educational program providing a diverse group of teenagers the opportunity to collaborate with adult artists. Performances of the students' work are held at the end of the program. 7 and 9pm. \$15. Off-Broadway Theatre, 342 N. Water St., Milwaukee. nextact.org or 414-278-0765.

Saturday, August 6

FORGE: Surgery and Body Modification Surgery and other body modifications can be an important marker in some people's lives. A discussion of surgical techniques, skill and personality of various surgeons, healing, desired outcome, stating intentions with a surgeon, after care, and financing will be addressed. LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. forge-forward.org or 414-278-6031.

Tuesday, August 9

Michigan Womyn's Music Festival 30th Anniversary. Performers include Bitch, Le Tigre, Ferron, Sistas in the Pit, Tribe 8, Hanifah Walidah, Suzanne Westenhoefer, Indigo Girls, Wise Fool New Mexico and more. www.michfest.com Through August 14.

Deadline for August Events Calendar is July 20.

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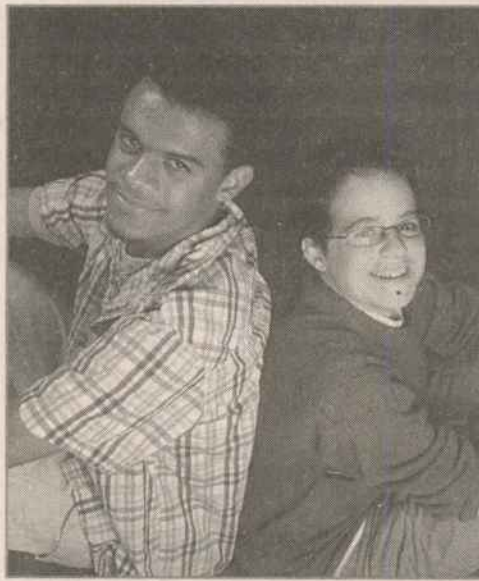
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Q

YOUTH

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



We Create Our Image

The image of beauty is constantly being displayed in media around us. Fashions, attitudes, and beliefs are shown in a way that may seem desirable and attractive to many. Such images are made to paint a picture of fantasy and perfection for those who are watching and listening.

Television shows are consistently creating unreal situations, throwing in unbelievably good-looking teens or young adults playing the roles that are supposed to represent the youth of today. Many of us take in these images and try to emulate them, from the way these fictional characters dress to the way their noses are shaped. The youths of this nation are catching a fever that isn't only dangerous to them physically, but mentally as well.

MTV's "I Want a Famous Face" captures one of these crazes on camera and presents it to the world. This show describes the dangers that are part of the risk of plastic surgery and warns that it is a decision that should be made with a lot of consideration.

Unfortunately the reasoning these young adults have for being on the show in the first place wouldn't be considered good by many people's standards. Knowing that the title basically tells it all, these individuals are choosing to

do it because they want to look like their favorite celebrities, copying the images that are being forced into their mind by the media which are the symbols of beauty that our nation holds in such high esteem. Some would say that youth are becoming much more shallow in the way they look at beauty and are becoming more judgmental. However the things we watch and the people we find to be beautiful shape the way we view the world.

Growing up watching cartoons, we're always taught to believe that the skinny girl is the innocent victim while the fat, wart-infested witch is the evildoer. Beauty is always good while evil is always presented as ugly or undesirable, when in actuality evil is desirable and good normally takes the back seat in many decisions we make.

Queer youth should especially watch out for these automatic assumptions. We, as a minority among teens, should be the least concerned about our appearances, but we find that the situation is actually reversed. A lot of us are caught up in believing that we have to look good in order to feel good and we get caught up in a mainstream view.

While we're being oppressed by society, we should be worried about the labels being placed upon us and not so much of the way society displays youth as a whole.

TV shows are now placing their token gay guy in the background. We see stations trying to boost their ratings by bragging about two "lesbians" kissing at the end of an episode of "The OC." And most of us, getting so caught up in the crowd, run to

We shouldn't have to worry about living up to an image. We're better than what society thinks we are, and we don't have to accept the way they portray us.

watch these shows just because we think that it's great that we, queer youth, are even on TV.

We shouldn't have to worry about living up to an image. We're better than what society thinks we are, and we don't have to accept the way they portray us. Queer youth are just like other young people in this world, but we don't get portrayed as such. Yet some of us act as if we do. From the flamboyant guys on "Queer Eye" to the mockery of "Boy Meets Boy," these are the only types of images which seem to portray us in the media.

We, as a group, shouldn't get caught up in the craze of famous faces. We have to change the world ourselves and hope that someone, somewhere, is watching. Be the image the media fails to see. Portray yourself in the light you see fit.

Youth: Your comments and encouragement are welcome at: qyouth@queerlifeneews.com



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Premieres July 8
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ARE WE THERE YET?



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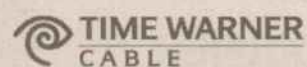


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Switch
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Q The Personal Is Political

FRIENDS

Larry Marx works for the Proteus Fund, a national progressive foundation working to strengthen the movement for social justice, including a civil marriage initiative. He has worked for social change for 25 years, the past 10 and a half as co-executive director of Wisconsin Citizen Action. Larry lives with his spouse and two children in Bay View.

I'm touched and honored to be chosen as this month's Q Friend! Brad was a friend of mine at the University of Illinois. I remember him telling me he was in therapy for reasons unclear to me. He gave me a book, "Male Sexuality," saying "maybe you can use this — it doesn't really apply to me." Brad was cautiously casing me as his first, potentially safe prospect to come out to. But after I made some flip, dumb comment to hide my own bewilderment about sex, I wasn't his choice. I felt terrible at how obtuse I'd been once he came out. I realized how easy it is to hurt someone just for who they are.

After college, I directed a social change group's canvass in Chicago. My boss Barbara,



a lesbian activist, became my role model, teaching me what the women's movement slogan — the personal is political — really meant. I had never met anyone who so completely embodied Gandhi's phrase "be the change you want to see" in all aspects of her rich life.

One specific instance came during our planning for a national conference of canvassers from environmental and public interest groups. Barbara insisted that part of the program include the film "The Times of Harvey Milk." The other canvass network balked, arguing it would make some folks in the audience uncomfortable — not them, of course, "we're not homophobic" — but we shouldn't create an "unwelcome environment" for anyone else who might be!

Barbara persevered against that sheer gall and inconsistency and she prevailed. We showed the film to the entire conference of

more than a thousand people in a hot, central Ohio university auditorium. It was my first time seeing it, and I was moved to tears. But nothing prepared me for the reaction. From the first, the entire auditorium clapped in unison, slowly, like one big handclap, to which people added their stomping feet and then hooting and hollering and hugging in a riotous howl of unity that lasted 10 minutes. I was moved to my core by the power of people coming together, community emerging with differences intact, and the sense that underneath the politics of justice and freedom I wanted to devote my life to was this huge ocean of love and hope.

I had the same experience soon after that when Harold Washington won the mayoral primary in Chicago by beating the machine and becoming the first African American to lead the city. The coalition that elected him was based on more than 100,000 newly registered African-American voters but also, crucially, included gays and lesbians, Latinos, and white progressives (including me). Harold's whole-hearted embrace of the gay community defied the stereotype of homophobia in the African-American (particularly male) world, and helped raise consciousness for tens of thousands. But he also showed a lot of us what a better, more inclusive, and truly winning politics looks like.

Specific gay people and the community in general have enriched my life in innumerable ways. I feel a sense of debt and gratitude. So I got goose bumps when I heard the thrilling news from Massachusetts and saw the wedding ceremonies in San Francisco and New Paltz, N.Y. As the former co-director of Wisconsin Citizen Action, I still beam with pride that our organization took a stand for full marriage equality for all people. And I volunteer for the LGBT Community Center Advocates' "No on the Amendment" campaign to help make another headlong breakthrough toward the world I want to live in, and that I want my two daughters to live in. I do it for them, I do it for my friends and neighbors Lynn and Cheryl and their two kids, I do it for my friends Barbara, Patty, Ellen and Mark, I do it to honor the memory of my father who came to this country as a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, and I do it for myself: to create a time and place where everyone is accepted, everyone has community, and everyone feels loved, a sense of hope, and proud of who they are.

Taylor to Cut Back on PrideFest Duties

With the completion of another successful PrideFest, Cindy Taylor, who served as PrideFest Co-Producer for the past two years, will step away from those duties to focus primarily on her other duties as festival Treasurer. Taylor will continue to be centrally involved with the festival as Treasurer until the completion of the festival's fiscal year on July 31, and will then assess her time commitments to work, health and family to determine in which capacity she will continue with the festival.

In an e-mail to the PrideFest Production Team and Task Force, Taylor said, "It's with a heavy heart that I'm letting you know that I've decided to relinquish MANY duties with PrideFest... It's been a pleasure! I'll still be around though!"

"Cindy has played a critical role in revitalizing PrideFest, so her knowledge and talents as Co-Producer will be sorely missed," said Scott Gunkel, PrideFest Task Force President.

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COUPLES

Persistence and Discipline

What attracted you to each other?

Melody (Mel) Carranza (left), 51, is a freelance photographer, and Karen Livingston (right), 52, is a programmer/systems administrator for United Water Services. They have been together for 23 years and have owned a home in Bay View for 20 years. They have two very handsome English Springer Spaniels, Louie and Gus.

Mel: What first attracted to me to Karen was her beautiful smile and how well she played pool. I walked into the Sugar Shack and saw this incredibly sexy woman thoroughly enjoying kicking ass at the pool table, so I put my quarters up. I asked her out that night, but she was going to school so she said she had no time for dating. We would see each other occasionally at parties and at the Shack, and every time I saw her I'd ask her when she'd be done with school so we could go out. I truly respected her commitment to school and found that very attractive.

After having earned her degree, she finally agreed to go out with me and we've been together since. I remember talking to my mom on the phone, who incidentally was at the Sugar Shack with my sister Melissa, and her telling me that Karen was there and had finished school so to get down there before she left. My ma liked Karen and told me to ask her out because she was pretty and nice.

Karen: What first attracted me to Mel was her good looks and passionate ways, but as I got

to know her, I soon fell in love with her sincerity, confidence and persistence in pursuing me. I admired her for the unshakable love she had for her mother — this was an unselfish character trait that I believe is hard to find.

With a last name like Carranza, when I was invited for a spaghetti dinner I imagined that I would be in for some great Italian food, thinking, of course, the name



Carranza was Italian. I soon would learn that Carranza is Mexican, and my findings were confirmed when I learned that Mel substitutes tomato paste with enchilada sauce.

What's the biggest difference between you and your partner?

Mel: Karen is better at thinking things through. I'll make a decision quickly. She's better with money. A couple of years ago we built a second home in Egg Harbor and if it hadn't been for Karen's discipline with money, that dream would never have come true. She is less judgmental than I am. She also cries during sad movies.

Karen: Politically and ethically our core beliefs are very much the same, although, Mel is more political than I am. I have learned much from this. Mel likes to volunteer more than I do, and often volunteers me without much warning. I've never seen Mel shed a tear during a sad movie. Don't you find this odd?

How do you handle fights?

Mel: I don't handle fights very well. Who does? If we get into a fight I have to know why she's upset at that exact moment. I can't just let her be, I tend to be very pesky and have to leave the house and go buy a pack of cigarettes, all the while thinking it's the end of the world. Then I come home and apologize

Karen: I usually go for a long walk with our dogs to clear my head. We don't fight often. We have learned that there is too much going on in our lives to waste time fighting. We have never stayed mad at each other longer than a few hours.

What are your hopes for this relationship?

Karen: That we continue to learn from each other, seek new adventures and enjoy good health. Mel and I are life partners.

Mel: I was volunteering for Queer Life during Pridefest and Karen met me at the end of my shift. After all these years together, as she walked up to the booth, I was struck by what a beautiful smile she has and how glad I was to see her. What more can a woman hope for?

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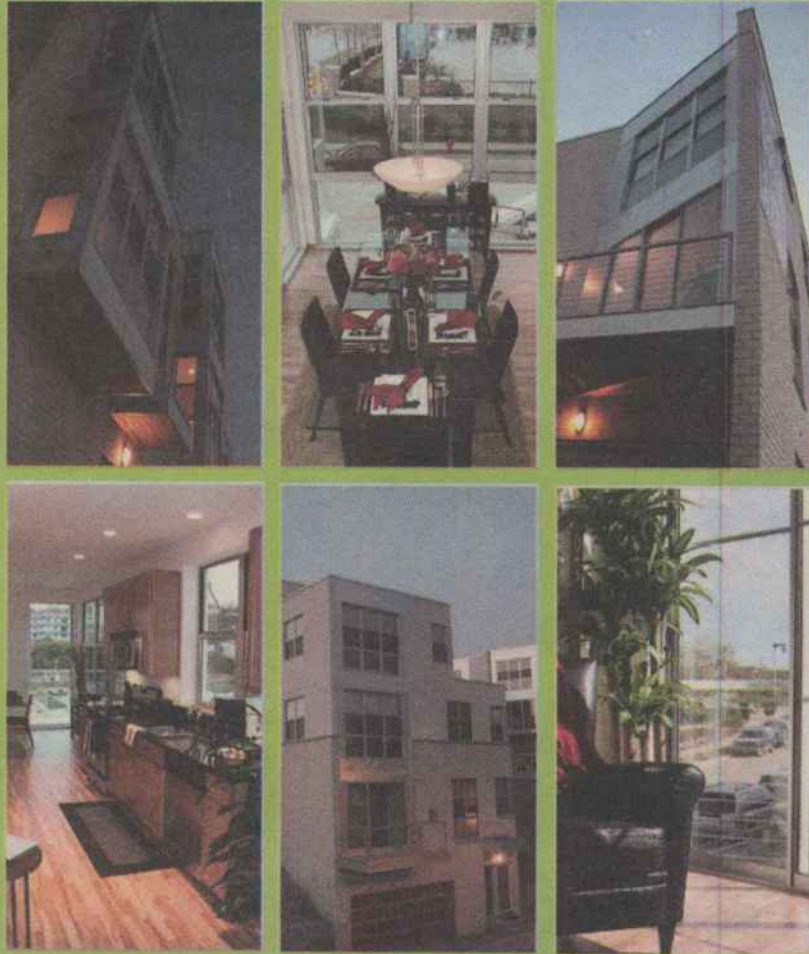
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