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CAUGHT! WITH THEIR PANTS DOWN

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Files

\$600k Lawsuit After Milwaukee Vice Squad Shutters 'Naked Boys Singing!'

By William Attewell

"Naked Boys Singing!" went silent in Milwaukee on Aug. 18 after the Vice Squad of the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) shut down the production because of what it said was a license violation. The City of Milwaukee has now determined that the nonprofit status of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center exempts the unclothed boys from needing such paperwork and a new production of the show is now in the works.

"Naked Boys Singing!" is a musical-comedy revue featuring a cast of men performing in the nude. Productions of the show are currently playing in New York and Chicago. The play has run into trouble with authorities before, in such cities as Provincetown, Mass.; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Atlanta. Eventually, all three cities held

performances of the show.

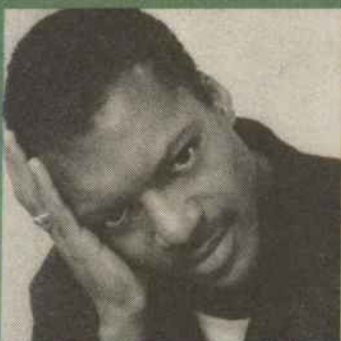
The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center has filed suit over the incident and claims the closure of the play was discriminatory, selective and unlawful. The claim also notes that the center was exempt from the permit requirement as a charitable organization.

The claim seeks \$500,000 in punitive damages, \$100,000 for anticipated legal fees, \$27,720 for loss of ticket revenue, \$3,000 for loss of advertisement revenue, \$1,700 for the cost of rights for the play and \$2,000 for legal fees to date.

"It appears that they have censored a constitutionally protected theater production on the pretext that the producers did not have the proper permits," said Chris Ahmuty, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin.

"When the police and the city start closing theaters, censoring performances and discriminating against groups because of their sexual orientation or the content of the show, civil rights are being violated and art is being subjected to censorship," said Mark Hooker, director of the Milwaukee production

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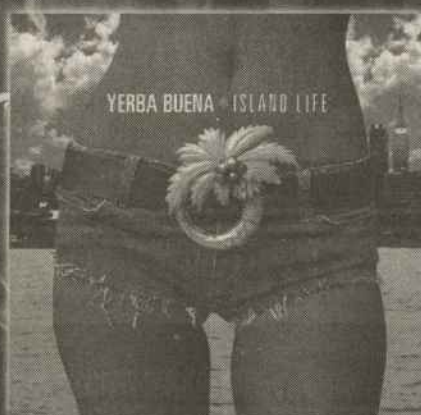
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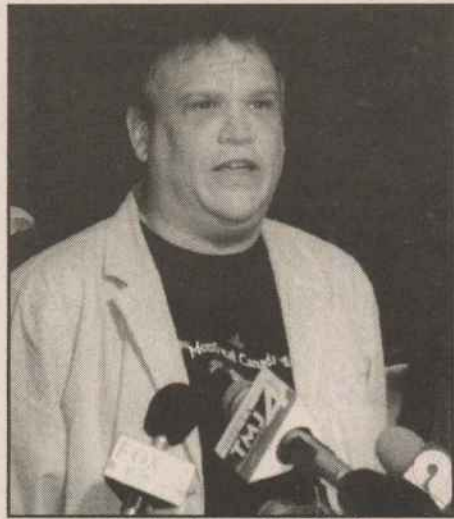
Homophobe Watch

Gays 'Responsible' For New Orleans Devastation Group Claims

An evangelical Christian group is blaming gays for hurricane Katrina. Repent America says that God "destroyed" New Orleans because of Southern Decadence, the gay festival that was to have taken place in the city over the Labor Day weekend. We urge you to prove them wrong. Please be a part of the LGBT community response. We encourage to make a donation at www.rainbowfund.org.

'Naked Boys Singing!' Shuttered

from Page 1



Mark Hooker, director of the Milwaukee production of "Naked Boys Singing!" speaks at an Aug. 25 news conference.

of "Naked Boys Singing!"

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's Paul Masterson and Mark Hooker also took the unusual step of publicly calling for an apology from Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and MPD Chief Nannette Hegerty for the police closure of the production. An open letter to Barrett and Hegerty was published in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel on Aug. 31.

However, Barrett beat them to the punch. In an Aug. 30 letter to Milwaukee Common

to send the vice squad rather than another unit of the MPD and I am waiting for that information," read the letter. "If that decision or any other action was taken because of hostility toward the gay community I will apologize."

Barrett has also asked for a town hall meeting at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center with himself, Hegerty and members of the LGBT community. He also expressed concern over perceptions that Milwaukee is a homophobic city.

"The larger issue for me as mayor are the concerns being raised by some leaders in the LGBT community that they are being targeted and subjected to selective prosecution," Barrett said. "I will not tolerate any action of the city that would contribute to that perception or not promote the inclusiveness to our diverse city."

Barrett may have some reason to be concerned about a perception of homophobia in Milwaukee city government. Milwaukee Alderman Michael McGee garnered national attention after his homophobic remarks made in the wake of accusations that Frank Jude was severely beaten at the hands of off-duty Milwaukee police officers earlier this year.

The subsequent tornado of publicity over the closure of "Naked Boys Singing!" in Milwaukee scattered that story as far as CNN, the New York Times and the Hindustan Times of India.

Community veterans have also pointed out

When the police and the city start closing theaters, censoring performances and discriminating against groups because of their sexual orientation or the content of the show, civil rights are being violated.

— MARK HOOKER

Council President Willie Hines, Barrett asked the Common Council to address concerns over the closure of "Naked Boys Singing!" by the vice squad.

The Common Council has jurisdiction over the City Clerk Licensing Division. Confusion over the licensing of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center was evidently a contributing factor in the play being shut down by the vice squad.

Barrett has also asked Hegerty to investigate the handling of the matter.

"Chief Hegerty is investigating the decision

that MPD has a dismal history of discrimination and abuse against gays and lesbians stretching back decades.

"I have asked Chief Hegerty to join me in a town hall meeting to discuss this and other concerns the LGBT community has with the city and MPD. Chief Hegerty has agreed and my office is currently coordinating details with the LGBT Community Center to host this meeting," Barrett added.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center praised

We received a complaint and it was assigned the vice squad. That is standard operating procedure. It had nothing to do with content of the show.

—MPD CHIEF NANNETTE HEGERTY

Barrett's call to action on Aug. 31.

"It is reassuring that the mayor has shown real civil courage and leadership by demanding accountability from the city's administration and MPD when their powers are misused," said Masterson.

"I hope the mayor can begin a healing process to restore Milwaukee's reputation," stated Hooker.

How Did It Happen?

Police began looking into the center's licensing after right-wing religious zealot Drew Heiss filed an open records request Aug. 2 for the art center's licenses to serve alcohol, show nude photos and have nude dancers. The request makes no mention of the theater license, which the center applied for on Aug. 3.

In recent years, Heiss has been a fixture at the gates of PrideFest, protesting what he calls the "sodomite parade." He has slammed gays for "flaunting their perversion." On his Web site, Heiss posted a photo of what he says is PrideFest attendees flashing the "secret devil worship sign."

Heiss has also openly advocated that the murderers of abortion clinic doctors and staff should be exonerated for committing "justifiable homicide." Heiss was cited by police in Milwaukee — and elsewhere — for disorderly conduct and other criminal behavior. In fact, court records show over 20 offenses and civil actions.

Hegerty, the police chief, told Q Life that there may be a misunderstanding as to the actions and procedures in place for the vice squad. Hegerty said the police action was not because the production related to a gay theater.

"That assertion is not true," Hegerty told Q Life. "Our vice squad does investigations in regards to nudity and public performances. We received a complaint and it was assigned the vice squad. That is standard operating procedure. It had nothing to do with content of the show."

Hegerty also expressed her strong interest in attending the proposed town hall meeting with the LGBT community saying, "I would love to be there."

The show was canceled Aug. 18 after police threatened to arrest Hooker for the perceived licensing violation. Hooker said police told him that if he sold one ticket to the play, police would arrest him and treat him like "a common criminal."

Hooker then organized a press conference in lieu of a performance.

When asked at the press conference at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center why the Vice Division, which typically enforces drug and prostitution complaints, was responding to a license violation, Lt. John Kaltenbrun of the Milwaukee Police Department Vice Division said he was following orders and conceded that as far as he could recall he hadn't heard of the division enforcing license violations in the past.

In the immediate aftermath, there was apparently much confusion over why the vice squad was called in to shutter the play.

Initially, MPD spokesperson Anne Schwartz told reporters the vice squad was called in because of the show's title. Later, she indicated, "It had nothing to do with the content of a show."

"The reason they are not on the same page is simple," says

Masterson, "When you misrepresent the facts, or simply don't know them, you get caught."

Sources say the police investigation into the incident will likely take weeks and that results of the internal investigation might not be made public until the city attorney clears it due to the pending lawsuit.

After reviewing a letter from the Internal Revenue Service confirming the nonprofit status of Circlestage Inc. and determining Circlestage to be the fiscal agent for the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, the City Clerk Licensing Division

I will not tolerate any action of the city that would contribute to that perception or not promote the inclusiveness to our diverse city.

—MILWAUKEE MAYOR TOM BARRETT

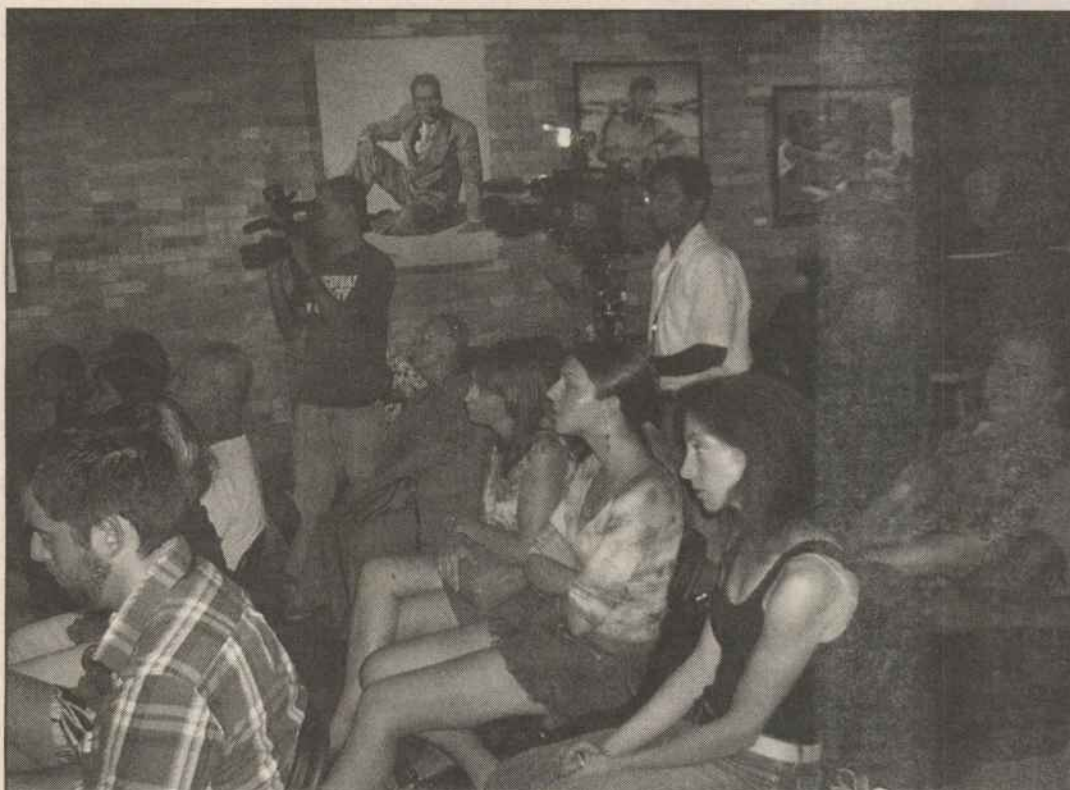
decided that no theater license requirement would be imposed, a letter from the division to the arts center said.

The theater performances at the center may continue "pending further investigation" the letter continued. Despite the city's reversal, logistics of producing the play made restarting the current production untenable.

Attorney Richard Hart, who is representing the center in its claim, said that because the documentation was provided in early August, city officials already knew of the center's nonprofit status, which qualifies it for an exemption from the theater permit requirement.

The Milwaukee production of "Naked Boys Singing!" will be back after new auditions. The new production is slated to run Oct. 29 through Dec. 3.

Full Disclosure: Q Life editor Don Hoffman is a co-director of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Hoffman was also a board member of the defunct Circlestage Theater whose nonprofit status was transferred to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Queer Life News and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center share leased space at 703 S. 2nd St.



Audience members who showed up for a performance of "Naked Boys Singing!" on Aug. 18, were instead treated to news cameras and a press conference after the production was closed by the Milwaukee Police. Photo: Patrick Flaherty.

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Truth and Consequences: The Return of Syphilis, the Great Imitator

By William Duane

"I was cheated," says George.

George (name changed for confidentiality) has been in an open but committed relationship for the past 11 years. Last year he and his partner decided to have a three-way with someone they met online. George said it was the first and only time. He admits that he didn't use protection when he topped with the other man. As a

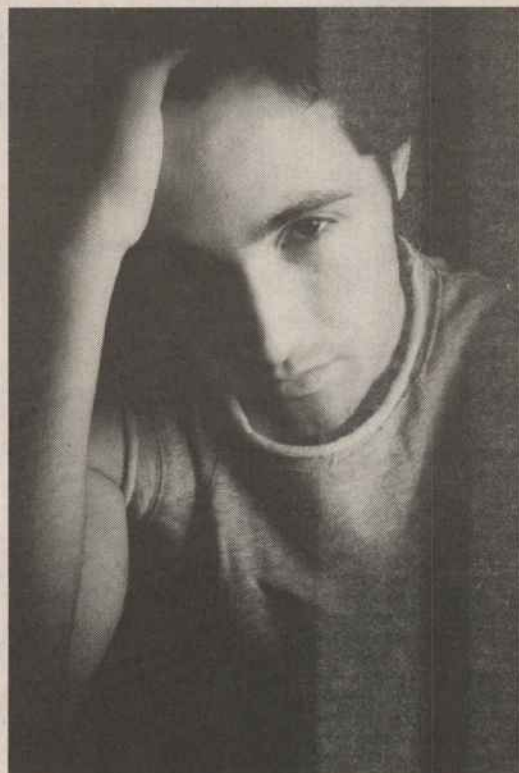
I would like all gay men to be as concerned about sexual health as they are about any other subject.

—CASEY REILLY

result, after decades of living in big cities hit hard by HIV and syphilis outbreaks without contracting anything, George found himself infected with both syphilis and HIV.

According to the state, last year there were 51 new cases of syphilis in Wisconsin. So far this year there are already 37 new cases. Fred "Casey" Reilly, a registered nurse at STD Specialties, a clinic on Milwaukee's North Side, says that men who have sex with other men they meet over the Internet, via phone chat-lines and through other sources of anonymous sex, account for many of the new syphilis cases.

The number of new cases may not seem like a lot, but the Syphilis Elimination Program, run jointly by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)



so many other diseases."

Syphilis is caused by spirochete, a corkscrew shaped bacterium, and develops in several stages, which may overlap. In the first stage sores appear around the genitals, or internally in the rectum or vagina. Since they're painless, the infected person may not know they're there.

A poster put out by the elimination campaign shows a picture of an attractive African-American man, along with the title "Appearances Can Be Deceiving."

George can attest to that. His one "low-risk experience," as he describes it, was with an attractive, healthy looking guy. When George developed a rash on his palms and feet, a second-stage symptom of syphilis, his doctor sent him to a dermatologist, who misdiagnosed it as an allergy. It wasn't until his primary doctor tested for STD's that the truth emerged. George says he wasn't open about his sex life with his doctor.

"A lot of it is what people are telling you," Reilly explains. "If patients aren't open with their doctors, diagnosis can be delayed."

With syphilis, delay is disastrous. Left untreated the disease enters into a latent stage that can last for years, but the organism continues to do damage. One-third of untreated people develop serious damage to the nervous system, heart, brain and other organs. Blindness, dementia and death are all possibilities. Damage from long-term infection cannot be reversed.

A Double Threat

Syphilis is more infectious than other STDs, and people with syphilis are at higher risk of being infected with HIV. The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin works with some clients who are co-infected with HIV and syphilis or other STDs. Doug Johnson, a registered nurse for ARCW Health Services, says "HIV and syphilis are a potentially serious combination." Johnson says that "syphilis, when the syphilitic sore is present, either orally, anally, penile or vaginally, makes HIV much more highly transmissible to another partner." The syphilitic sores are infectious with both organisms. Johnson adds, "When a person has HIV and syphilis, other potential serious conditions can occur much earlier rather than years down the road."

Treating syphilis with penicillin or other

antibiotics in the early stages is usually successful. But Johnson points out that "treatment of syphilis in an HIV-positive person is also more complicated and may also result in a failure to be adequately treated, requiring re-treatment."

Getting the Word Out

Recent outbreaks of syphilis in gay men initially took officials by surprise. Since 2000 a number of cities have seen surges in syphilis, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, San Antonio, Miami, and Norfolk, Va. The number of cases in New York City more than doubled between 2001 and 2002. In the 1990s the CDC focused its efforts against syphilis on prostitutes. There were few reported cases among gay men, so the outbreaks required the agency to shift gears.

How can syphilis in the gay community be stopped? Reilly at STD Specialties is very clear: "We can beat this, but it all depends on getting the word out." To him that means letting gay men know they have to take responsibility for their own sexual health. "I would like all gay men to be as concerned about sexual health as they are about any other subject [relevant to the community]."

Reilly explains that many men diagnosed with syphilis are on the "down low" and don't identify as gay. Reilly says, "They're married or have girlfriends. Some of them have wives of childbearing age." (Syphilis can be passed from mother to child.) "Syphilis in a baby is a terrible thing," Reilly shudders.

According to Johnson, the "down low" phenomenon, which is on the rise according to recent surveys, "makes diseases like HIV or syphilis really difficult for us to measure."

Added to these difficulties are the re-emergence of anonymous sex in the gay community and the perception that there are no serious consequences now that better treatments for HIV/AIDS are available. This attitude fuels a largely Internet-based culture of anonymous hook-ups and sex parties.

For George, being gay is not an issue, but being sick is another matter. He has not had sex with his partner since being diagnosed. Although his treatment for syphilis was successful, the experience, along with his HIV status, have made him unsure. "What can I do?" he asks.

For now, regular sessions with a therapist are helping. Asked how his partner, who tested negative for syphilis and HIV, is holding up, George shrugs and says gently, "He cries a lot."

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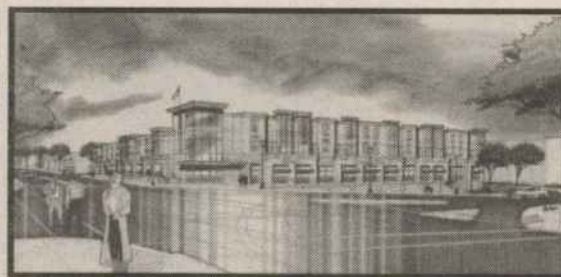
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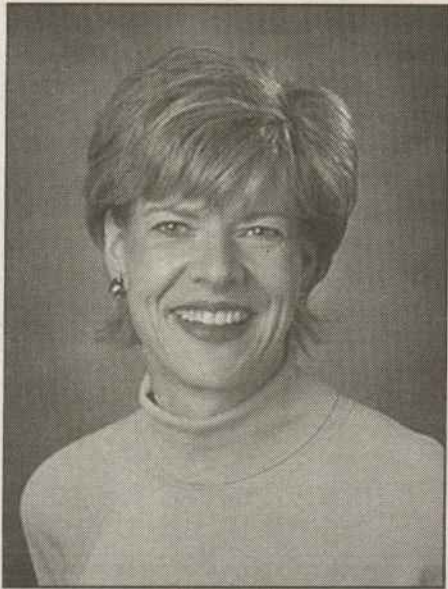


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Tammy Baldwin to Headline HRL-PAC Garden Party Fundraiser

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin will be the featured speaker at the annual HRL-PAC Garden



Rep. Tammy Baldwin

Party for LGBT Equality on Sunday, Sept. 11. The event will be held 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the historic Washington Heights home of Carlton Stansbury and Scott Meier. The home, located at 5000 W. Washington Boulevard, is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

"Congresswoman Baldwin hosted the first HRL-PAC Garden Party in 1999, just after her historic election to Congress," said HRL-PAC President Paul Williams. "Since then, she has become a national advocate on many issues, including healthcare and LGBT equality. We are thrilled that she will join us again for this year's event."

Funds raised at the event will be used to support candidates throughout Wisconsin who will fight for and defend LGBT equality. Since 1999, HRL-PAC has raised over \$60,000 to help elect pro-LGBT candidates to office.

"This event highlights the fact that the LGBT community is a part of every neighborhood in Milwaukee and Wisconsin," said Williams. The annual Garden Party takes place in different neighborhoods from year to year. In 2004, the event was held on the city's East Side, and the year prior it was held in Bay View with featured guest Sen. Russ Feingold.

A light brunch and cocktails will be served. The suggested donation is \$100, but all donations are greatly appreciated.

In the Money: PrideFest Posts Record \$90k Profit

PrideFest has announced net revenue of approximately \$90,000 for this year's festival. While festival-related expenses and income are still being finalized, festival organizers are confident that profits reached the record level.

"Thanks to great support from the community, PrideFest had its best year ever," said PrideFest Task Force President Scott Gunkel. "It was a year of many broken records, but the most important was the record income."

"The many volunteers, sponsors, vendors and the community at-large all came together to make this success possible," said 2005 Treasurer Cindy Taylor. "It's a testament to the great potential of PrideFest."

The Task Force is planning a community town hall meeting to be held in October. The date and location have not yet been finalized. The town hall will offer an opportunity to review details of the 2005 festival and serve as a kick-off for the 2006 event, which will be the 10th year PrideFest has been on the Summerfest grounds and its 18th year overall.

Following the close of the festival's fiscal year, an independent audit will be conducted to verify all financial information.

The PrideFest Task Force is assessing options for using the surplus, including the possibility of paying off the remaining deficit from 2003. Additionally, funds will be placed in a reserve to prepare for the 2006 festival.

"We know there will be some increases in operating costs next year," said PrideFest Co-Producer Michael Hall. "Our goal all along has been to ensure the longevity of the festival, and we need to look at all the options to make sure we can continue moving in that direction."

In other news, Cindy Taylor will step down from the Treasurer position on August 31st, but she will continue to serve on the Task Force for 2006. Dan Simoneau, former treasurer for the Cream City Foundation, will become the new PrideFest Treasurer. Simoneau has worked in the festival cash room the past two years and has a strong knowledge of the festival's financial systems.

Several other additions have been made to the PrideFest Production Team: Heather Kincaid has joined as Secretary; Dori Klitzka has joined as Volunteer Director; and Karina Willes has joined as Web Development Director.

"We are thrilled that all of these people have stepped forward to continue building PrideFest, and we hope more people will volunteer their time," said Hall.

PrideFest is Wisconsin's largest celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) culture and community and is held annually in June at Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee's lakefront.

For more information about volunteering, call (414) 272-3378 or visit www.pridefest.com.

As Wisconsin's only LGBT political action committee, HRL-PAC has supported over 60 pro-LGBT candidates and has sponsored community candidate forums, including the first ever LGBT-focused gubernatorial forum and a Milwaukee mayoral forum. HRL-PAC also seeks to bring LGBT voters together with candidates and elected officials at several yearly events.

For more information about the Garden Party or HRL-PAC, call 414-319-9863 or visit www.hrl-pac.org.

OutReach Seeks to Coordinate Relief for Katrina Victims

Madison — In the wake of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, OutReach is helping with relief efforts.

To that end, a number of people from Madison's LGBT community have contacted OutReach and asked that organization coordinate a program that would connect LGBT people in need with members of our community who have housing to offer. As a result, OutReach is asking for help from the community.

The organization is seeking people willing to open their homes for victims of the disaster. Volunteers are needed to assist in coordinating the effort and provide transportation. The organization is working on donations of food,

clothing and other essentials.

If you are interested in assisting with this program in any way, please contact Nikki at OutReach, 608-255-8582 or e-mail at comrel@outreachinc.com.

Center Street Daze Set for Sept. 10

The annual Center Street Daze celebration will be held on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on E. Center Street, between Humboldt Ave. and Holton Street in Milwaukee's Riverwest.

The event will feature an outdoor pool tournament, African market and music, a scavenger hunt bicycle race, music and entertainment, arts and crafts vendors, food, beer and more.

The highlight of the day may well be the Push Cart Race with witty commentary by Frank Chandek, "Celebrity Judges," cheering crowds, trophies, and paparazzi aplenty. Entry is free and open to anyone. Carts must be human powered and hand made. Several Center Street businesses are sponsoring carts. Register at Fuel Café at 10:30 a.m., race starts at 11 a.m. For more info, contact Sparky at 414-264-4797 for rules and entry info. The Riverwest Artists Association sponsors the race.

For more info, call The Uptowner at 414-372-3882 or email Tess Reiss at contessa_milw@yahoo.com.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Announces New Yoga Classes

Ricky Heldt, a well known local yoga and pilates instructor, will offer continuing hatha yoga and yugalates in a new fall session beginning September 12. Classes take place in the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd Street in Walker's Point.

Each six week session will meet Monday evenings. Hatha yoga will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. Yugalates will follow from 7:10 to 8:10 p.m.

Heldt is an experienced instructor certified in both traditional hatha yoga and Pilates. He has long studied the Eastern disciplines of meditation, chi gong and tai-chi and has been teaching hatha yoga and pilates for over four years. His personalized style of interactive instruction in a small class setting allows the student both expertise and insight into correct form. The approach is an all-encompassing one that allows the beginner to feel comfortable and encouraged while the advanced student will be challenged.

Hatha Yoga is a class for people who understand the basics of yoga and want to continue. This class is great for a deeper understanding of yoga. It is recommended that participants have already taken at least one yoga class.

Mayor Tom Barrett and Wife to Chair AIDS Walk Wisconsin

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and his wife Kris have been named Honorary Chairs of AIDS Walk Wisconsin 2005. The 16th annual walk will take place along Milwaukee's lakefront on Sunday, September 25th.

"For over 20 years Tom Barrett has shown tremendous leadership in the fight against AIDS," said Doug Nelson, ARCW president and CEO. "During his years in the state legislature, as our representative in Congress and now as Milwaukee's mayor, he fought alongside us for more AIDS funding and enlightened AIDS policy."

Barrett and his wife have long been supporters of the the fight against AIDS epidemic in Wisconsin.

"Kris and I are so happy to be chairs of the

AIDS Walk this year. As HIV and AIDS continue to affect people living in our community, we are proud that we can help in this way," said Mayor Barrett. "Kris and I come to the AIDS Walk every year because AIDS remains a terrible threat in Milwaukee. We encourage everyone to come out and join us, whether this is their first year or 16th year participating in the walk."

The theme for this year, "A World Without AIDS Begins With You," reflects the commitment of thousands of walkers since 1989. Over 4,000 people are expected to walk. AIDS Walk Wisconsin is the largest single-day fundraiser for AIDS in the state. The walk along Milwaukee's lakefront includes a 10K route and a 5K route, with both

beginning and ending at the Summerfest Grounds.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin benefits the medical, dental and mental health clinics of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, as well as ARCW's comprehensive social services and aggressive HIV prevention programs.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin proceeds also benefit Camp Heartland, Elena's House, the LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, the Manitowoc County AIDS Task Force, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, the Milwaukee No Condom? No Way! Campaign, and the Sheboygan County AIDS Task Force.

To join the Barretts at the AIDS Walk, call 800-348-WALK or go to www.aidswalkwis.org.

Yogalates is Heldt's blend of the best of both hatha yoga stretching and traditional pilates strength exercises. Pilates is the system that focuses on the physical core, strengthening, as Heldt puts it, "from the inside out." Pilates trains the body center, namely the abdominal region, legs, and back. Yogalates is a class for students who want more challenge.

Each six-week session costs \$40. Please register soon as space is limited and classes sell out fast! Registration forms are available at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center or through Ricky Heldt at 414-759-8169, email rickyroo4u@yahoo.com.

Men's Coming Out Group to Start at Outreach

Madison — A 10-week men's coming out support group is forming and will begin run-

ning on Wednesday nights from September 14 through November 16 at 7 p.m. at Outreach, Madison and south-central Wisconsin's LGBT community center and safe space.

The purpose of the group is to offer support to men who are dealing with the realization that they are not heterosexual and how that affects their everyday lives and to support those people previously or currently in same sex relationships.

The men's coming-out support group will identify and discuss the stages of coming out and explore topics such as how to deal with family members, physical and sexual safety, legal rights and discrimination, and spirituality, among others. Two trained volunteers will facilitate each meeting.

For more information, contact Outreach at 608-255-8582 or email programs@outreach-inc.com.

'John Clayton' Owner of C'est La Vie Dead at 74

Colorful Milwaukee gay bar owner Clarence Germershausen, owner of C'est La Vie has died at age 74. Germershausen was more well-known in the community by his "nom de plume" John Clayton.

According to reports, Clayton died of complications due to cancer and had been ill for a number of weeks.

Clayton's C'est La Vie has been a fixture in Milwaukee's gay bar scene for at least four decades. Sources say the bar will remain open for the foreseeable future.

Chamber Theatre Names New Artistic Director

Selecting the successor for Montgomery Davis, Chamber Theatre's co-founder and the only artistic director in its 31-year history, is a process not to be taken lightly. However, after a year-long, national search that turned up a field of over 100 applicants, Chamber Theatre is certain that they have made the right choice or, rather, the "Wright" choice, in naming C. Michael Wright their new artistic director.

"Our first priority was to build on Monty's legacy of producing entertaining and provocative works of literary merit," says board president Michael Grebe. "We are confident that Michael will take us in new directions and explore new ways to accomplish that mission, while remaining true to the artistic standards that have sustained us for 30 years."

Wright first came to Milwaukee in 1984. After years of performing in regional theaters across the country he decided to make Milwaukee his home. His impressive career has earned the respect and admiration of fellow

artists, educators and the theatergoing public.

Over the past eight years he has held the position of associate artistic director at Next Act Theatre, but Wright is eager to move on, asserting "I am ecstatic about this new position. For a few years now, I have been fantasizing about being an artistic director. I love Next Act Theatre and have gained much from my eight years with the company, but I am so ready for a new challenge."

This new challenge involves filling the very large shoes of his predecessor, who will now assume the role of artistic director emeritus. "I have great respect for Montgomery Davis and all of his hard work in building Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and will certainly rely on Monty as an important resource," says Wright. "His 30 years of experience with the company and vast knowledge of theatre and literature is invaluable. I plan to keep both Monty and Chamber Theatre co-founder Ruth Schudson in the artistic family and intend to find projects that will keep them on our stage."

Davis has an equal admiration, stating, "Michael and I are like two trains on the same track." We find ourselves liking the same new plays and have similar views about our audiences, what they like and respond to. I think this attraction bodes well for Chamber Theatre and its mission."

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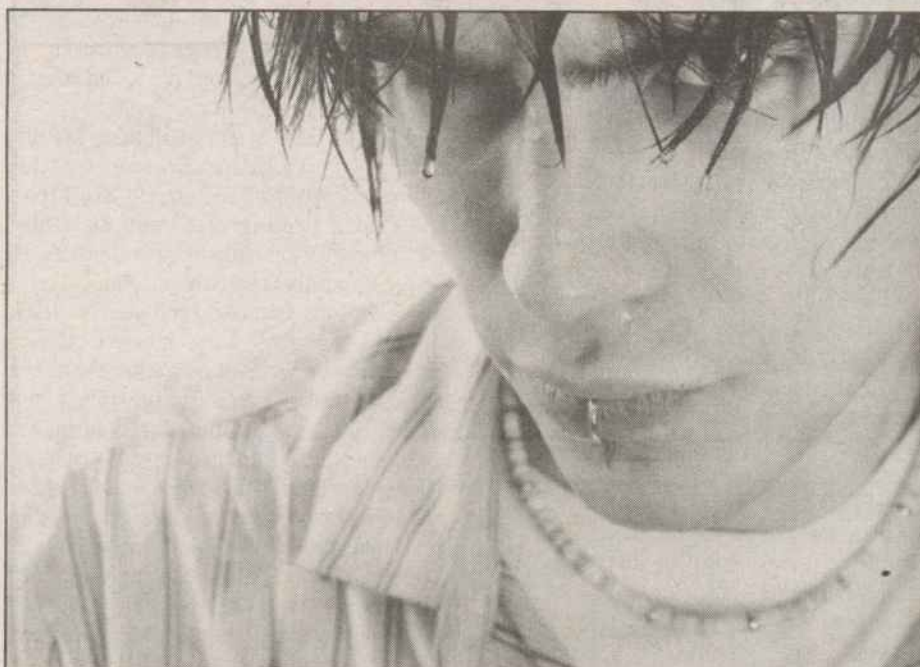
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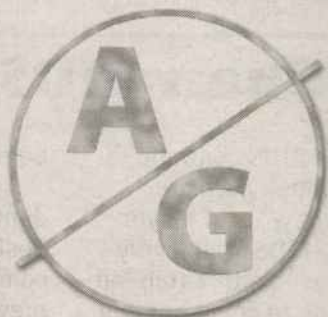
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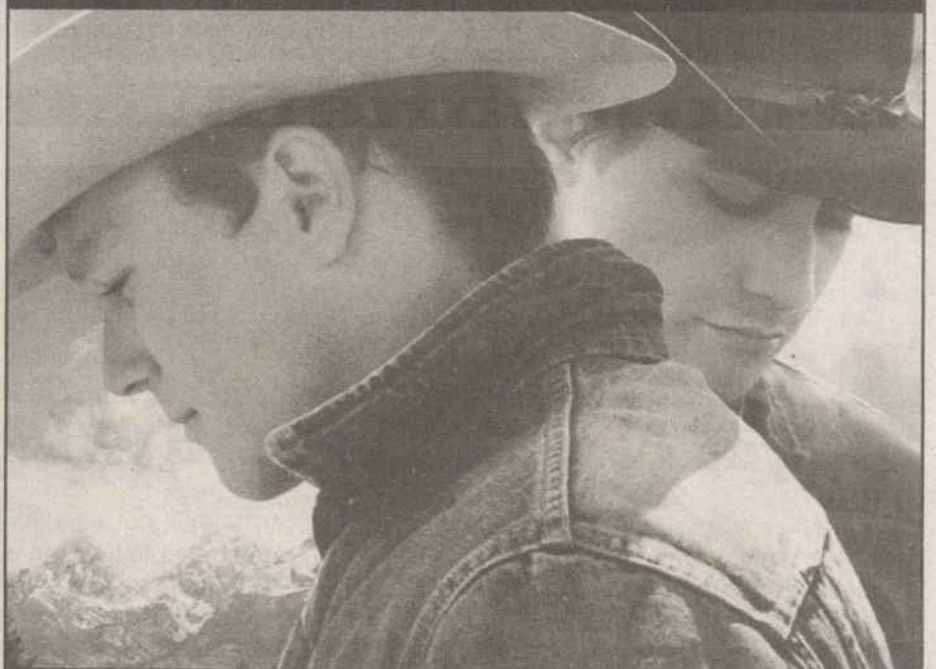


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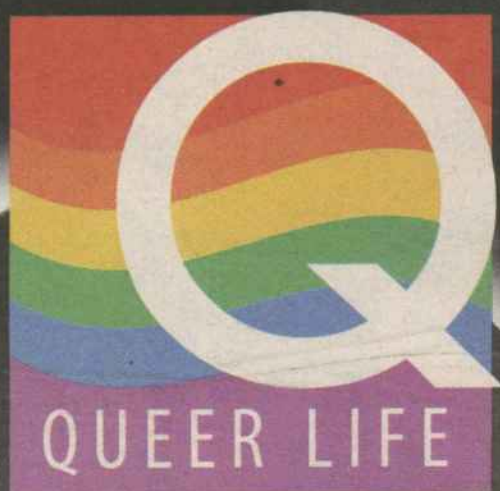
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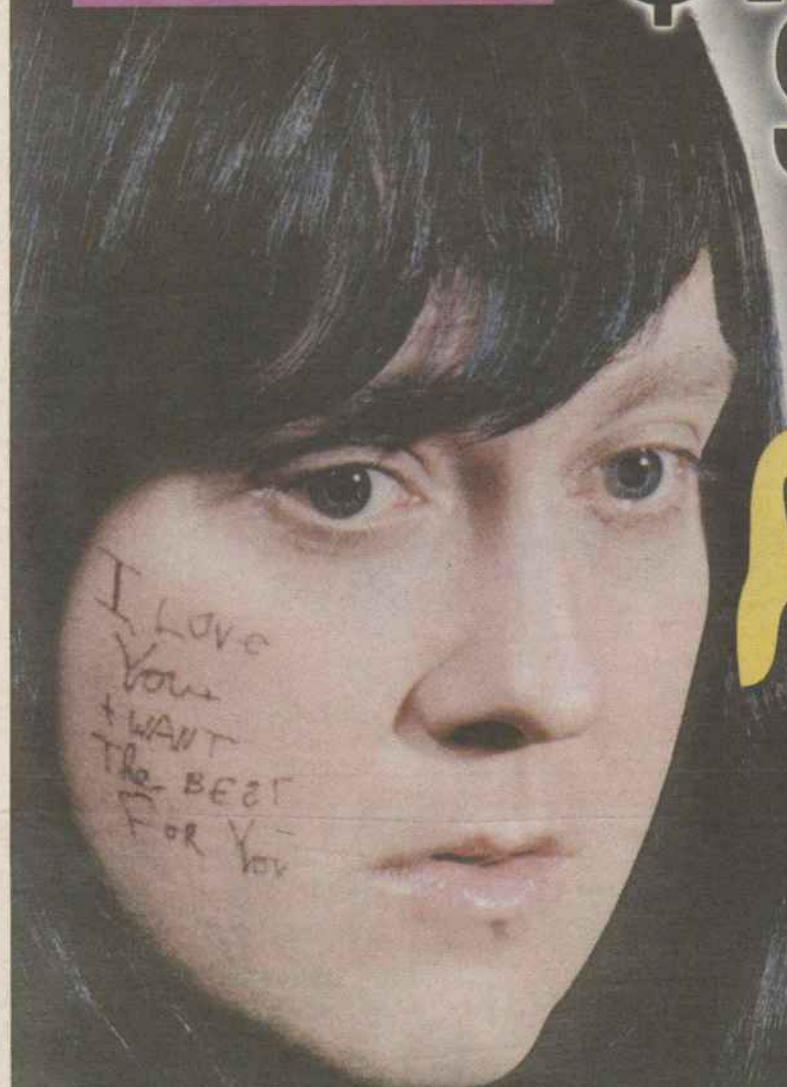
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Rehnquist's Death May Move Supreme Court Further to the Right



Washington — Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist died on September 3 at his Virginia home.

A Wisconsin native, Rehnquist was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. He continued to perform many of his duties on the court but a few days before his death went into a decline.

Rehnquist was appointed to the Supreme Court

as an associate justice in 1971 by President Nixon and took his seat on Jan. 7, 1982. He was elevated to chief justice by President Reagan in 1986.

Rehnquist's death gives President Bush an opportunity to nominate a second conservative justice to the high court. The president has nominated Judge John Roberts to

replace Rehnquist as Chief Justice. Roberts was originally slated to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor who is leaving the court to spend more time with her husband.

Roberts nomination raised concerns of LGBT civil rights groups. Despite doing pro bono work on a gay rights case Roberts has a history conservative legal opinions as a legal advisor to President Reagan and the first President Bush. Earlier this month four national gay rights groups announced their opposition to Roberts nomination

Rehnquist has not favored LGBT civil rights in his rulings on the Supreme Court. He supported maintaining Georgia's sodomy law in 1986. In 2003 when the Supreme Court took up the sodomy issue again — this time involving a case in Texas - Rehnquist sided with the minority when the law was overturned

Rehnquist's death offers Bush a third chance to put a long term conservative imprint on the nation's highest court. In addition to finding a replacement for Rehnquist on the bench, the President will have to select one of the justices to be Chief Justice.

One name that surfaced as a possible chief justice earlier this year was that of Scalia, a staunch conservative, strict constitutionalist, and vocal gay rights opponent.

"The court has largely signed on to the so-called homosexual agenda," Scalia wrote in the dissent on the Texas sodomy ruling and took the unusual step of reading his dissent from the bench.

California Senate Approves Same-Sex Marriage; Battle Moves to Assembly

Sacramento, Calif. — The California Senate approved a bill on September 1 that would legalize same-sex marriage in the state.

By a vote of 21-15, the Senate became the first legislative chamber in the nation to approve gay marriage legislation. It sets the stage for a showdown vote in the state Assembly, which narrowly rejected a gay marriage bill in June.

The vote came as a state appeals court is considering appeals of a San Francisco judge's ruling overturning California laws banning

Democrats voted with Republicans to reject it and a handful abstained from voting.

At the time it looked as though the issue of legalizing gay marriage in the state was dead.

In a surprise move Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) attached the measure as an amendment to a marine bill that was already in committee in the Senate. It passed in the 21 to 15 vote. Both the marine bill and its same-sex marriage amendment returned to the Assembly for a final vote.

Both supporters and opponents of gay marriage are mounting an all out effort, rallying their troops and swamping lawmakers with calls, e-mails and faxes.

Equality California, the state's largest LGBT rights group, is focusing its attention on those Democrats who did not vote the first time.

If the measure passes the Assembly, the spotlight will be on Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger who has sent mixed messages about whether he would sign the legislation.

Vatican Draws Up Plans to Ban Gay Priests

Rome — The Vatican has drawn up a religious instruction preventing gay men from becoming priests bringing the new Pope face-to-face with his first controversy.

The controversial document, produced by the Congregation for Catholic Education and Seminaries, the body overseeing the church's training of the priesthood, is being reviewed by Benedict XVI, according to press reports.

The document expresses the Church's belief that gay men should no longer be allowed to enter seminaries to study for the priesthood.

Though the Catholic Church has officially deemed homosexual practice "gravely disordered," there is currently no bar on those of non-heterosexual orientation becoming priests provided they adhere to celibacy.

The report, which has not been formally approved or made public, is being drawn up as part of the Vatican's overall response to the sexual abuse scandals in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Critics of the Church say there is an implicit implication by the Vatican — and vigorously disputed by lesbian and gay Catholics and by scien-

tific studies — that gay priests are more likely to abuse the young than heterosexual ones.

Pope Benedict XVI is known to be strongly against any change in the Church's teaching on artificial contraception, homosexuality, priestly celibacy and the role of women.

Meanwhile, a small group of Americans held a silent vigil on Sept. 3 to remember Alfredo Orlando, a gay Catholic academic who set himself on fire in St. Peter's Square in 1998.

The Americans, from the LGBT religious group Soulforce, were led by Rev. Mel White. They called on Pope Benedict to apologize for the treatment of gays by the Catholic Church.

Rapper Kanye West Calls for End to Gay Bashing

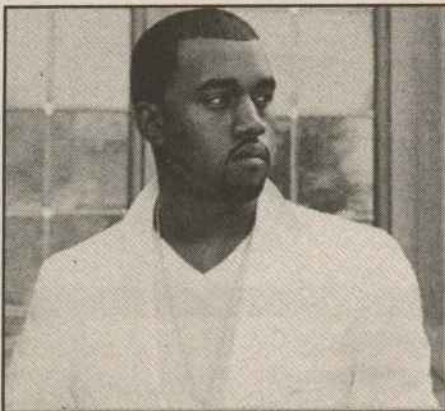
New York — Kanye West says "gay" has become an antonym to hip-hop — and that it needs to be stopped. During an interview for an MTV special, the 27-year-old rapper launched into a discussion about hip-hop and homosexuality while talking about "Hey Mama," a song on his upcoming album, "Late Registration."

West says that when he was young, people would call him a "mama's boy."

"And what happened was, it made me kind of homophobic, 'cause it's like I would go back and question myself," West said on the show, "All Eyes on Kanye West."

West says he changed his ways, though, when he learned one of his cousins was gay.

"It was kind of like a turning point when I was like, 'Yo, this is my cousin. I love him and



Kanye West

I've been discriminating against gays."

West says hip-hop was always about "speaking your mind and about breaking down barriers, but everyone in hip-hop discriminates against gay people." He adds that in slang, gay is "the opposite, the exact opposite word of hip-hop."

Kanye's message: "Not just hip-hop, but America just discriminates. And I wanna just, to come on TV and just tell my rappers, just tell my friends, 'Yo, stop it.'"

Gill: \$1 Million to Katrina Relief

Denver — Openly gay philanthropist and founder of the Gill Foundation Tim Gill stood next to Republican Gov. Bill Owens on September 2 and announced \$1 million in matching grants to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief.

The Gay & Lesbian Fund for Colorado, part of the Gill Foundation, will match donations of up to \$250.

The Gill/Owens announcement says, "This tragedy is bigger than political divisions, it's bigger than divisions based on race, based on sexual orientation or anything else."

"Those least able to afford it will be the ones that have the hardest time recovering," Gill said.

Gays Disappear From Network TV

Los Angeles — Despite the emergence of three LGBT television networks, gay and lesbians have all but disappeared from the six major broadcast networks according to a new study by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

GLAAD says the actual number of LGBT representations on the six networks comprise less than 2 percent of all characters on the networks. The 2005-06 schedule, has only 16 "series regular" and recurring gay, lesbian and bisexual roles and there continue to be no transgender characters.

The 16 characters appear in 14 different scripted programs out of a total of 110 shows on the broadcast networks. While this number is up from the 11 characters counted last season, GLAAD said the lack of representation is still cause for concern.

The report found that male characters outweigh females 57 percent to 43 percent, and that the faces on network scripted shows continue to be largely white.

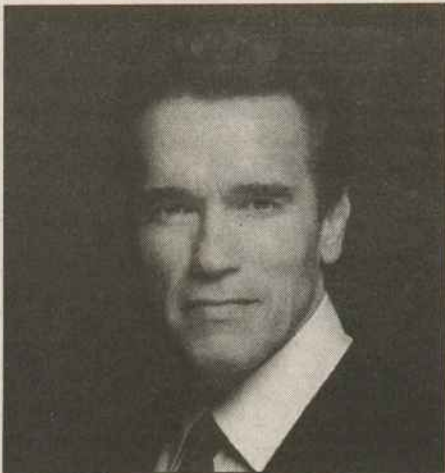
McCain Backs Arizona Ban on Gay Marriage

Tucson, Ariz. — Advocates of gay and lesbian rights said they are "shocked" that U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has endorsed a change to Arizona's constitution which would ban gay marriages and deny government benefits to unmarried couples.

The amendment "would allow the people of Arizona to decide on the definition of marriage in our state," McCain said in a statement.

"I'm really surprised that McCain is doing this," said Kent Burbank, director of Wingspan, a Tucson organization that advocates for the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

A state law already bans same-sex marriages in Arizona, but supporters of the initiative are concerned that a judge could rule the law unconstitutional.



California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger

recognition of gay marriages and as gay marriage opponents are trying to qualify initiatives for the ballot next year to put a ban on same-sex marriage in the state constitution.

The Campaign for Children and Families, a group that has been leading opposition to same-sex marriage in California, said it was "horried" by the vote.

"Every Californian who believes marriage is for a man and a woman must rise up today and demand that their state assemblymember oppose AB 849," said Randy Thomasson, president of Campaign for Children and Families.

The measure failed by four votes in the Assembly earlier this year when a quarter of the



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Dusty Springfield Bio-pic to Avoid Lesbian Angle

Hollywood — An upcoming film of singer Dusty Springfield has angered fans for failing to acknowledge her lesbian relationships.

The film, slated to be released by Universal Studios, will not make any mention of



Dusty Springfield

Springfield's bisexuality, according to various press reports.

The movie, "Dusty" is set to follow the singer's rise to stardom, up to the seminal album "Dusty in Springfield."

However, it will reportedly omit her many lesbian relationships, which she admitted to in the 1970s. According to the press reports, film executives are wary of including gay content after a series of cinema flops including Oliver Stone's bio-pic of Alexander the Great.

ACLU Codemns Harasment of Gay and Transgender Youth at Hawai'i Juvenile Facility

Honolulu — The American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal civil rights lawsuit on Sept. 1 on behalf of three young people who say they've been abused and harassed because of their sexual orientation and gender identity while at the state's juvenile detention facility.

The Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) is one of two facilities in the state where minors who have had trouble with the law are sent primarily for rehabilitation. However, papers filed in the U.S. District Court for the

District of Hawai'i by the ACLU paint a picture of a punitive, terrifying atmosphere for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth at the facility.

"HYCF is supposed to treat all young people who've had trouble with the law equally and help them make positive changes in their lives, but for LGBT youth being sent there is a brutal and degrading experience," said Lois Perrin, Legal Director of the ACLU of Hawai'i. "The government should take care of our state's most troubled youth and teach them how to be productive citizens, not brutalize and abuse them."

Citing an extensive list of shocking incidents, the ACLU alleges that officials at the Hawai'i Office of Youth Services and HYCF ignored and sometimes even participated in an atmosphere of anti-gay harassment, humiliation, and fear for youth in the facility, despite repeated pleas by doctors and psychologists who were concerned about the wards' safety and well-being.

According to the brief, youth correctional officers routinely told a lesbian ward and her girlfriend that their relationship was "bad" and that they were going to hell and referred to the couple's relationship as "this butchie shit." Other guards routinely made lewd and humiliating remarks to the couple, including, "You two eating fish earlier? At least you're not finger-banging yourselves in the TV room."

In another case, male wards in the facility surrounded a ward who was perceived to be gay in the shower, threatening him with rape, and once rubbed semen into his face in the bathroom. When the young man reported the incidents, HYCF did nothing.

Catholic Cardinal Slams Gay Adoption

Edinburgh — Scotland's most senior Catholic representative has slammed plans to allow lesbian and gay couples to adopt north of the border, warning the Scottish Executive that children will become "guinea pigs in some distorted social experiment."

Cardinal Keith O'Brien wrote that he was opposed to the proposals, because he believed that lesbian and gay people should not be allowed to adopt children.

Additionally, he warned that they would be placed in a "gravely immoral" situation and pointed to a recent Spanish report from a pro-Catholic group that suggested children of same-sex relationships were likely to suffer mental distress.

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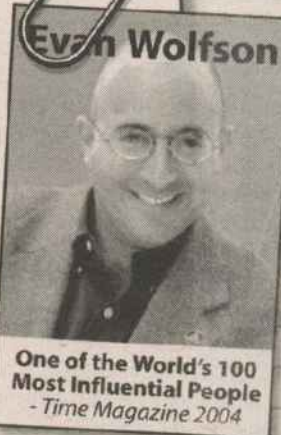
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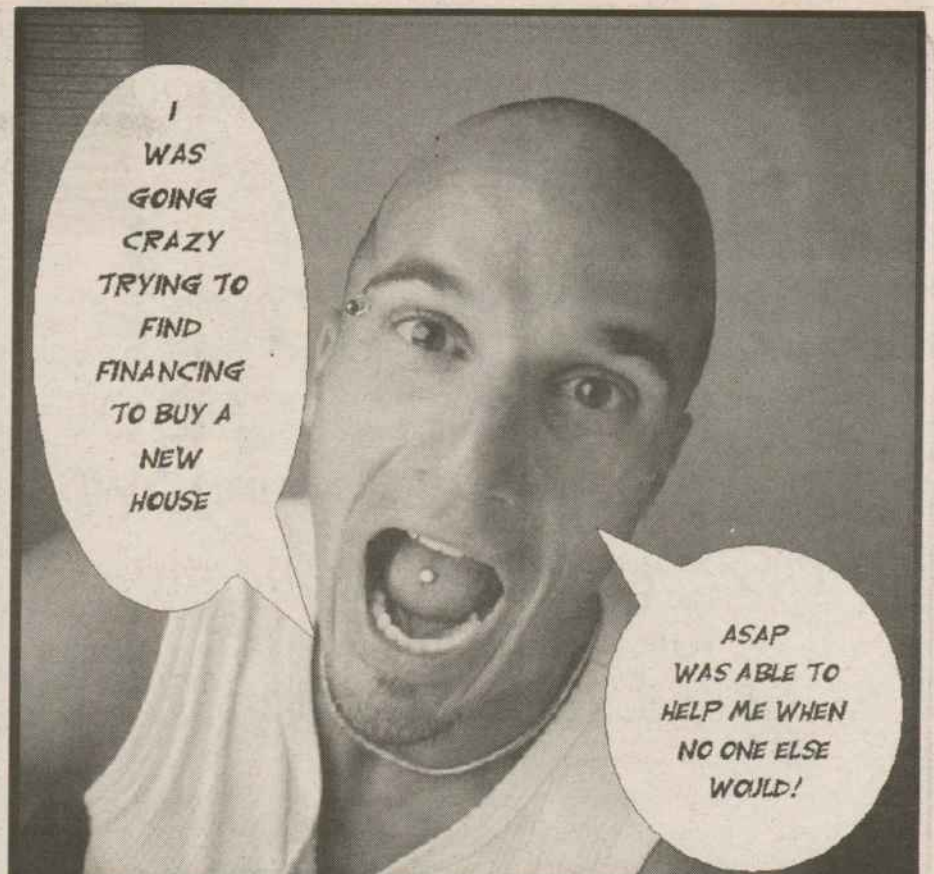
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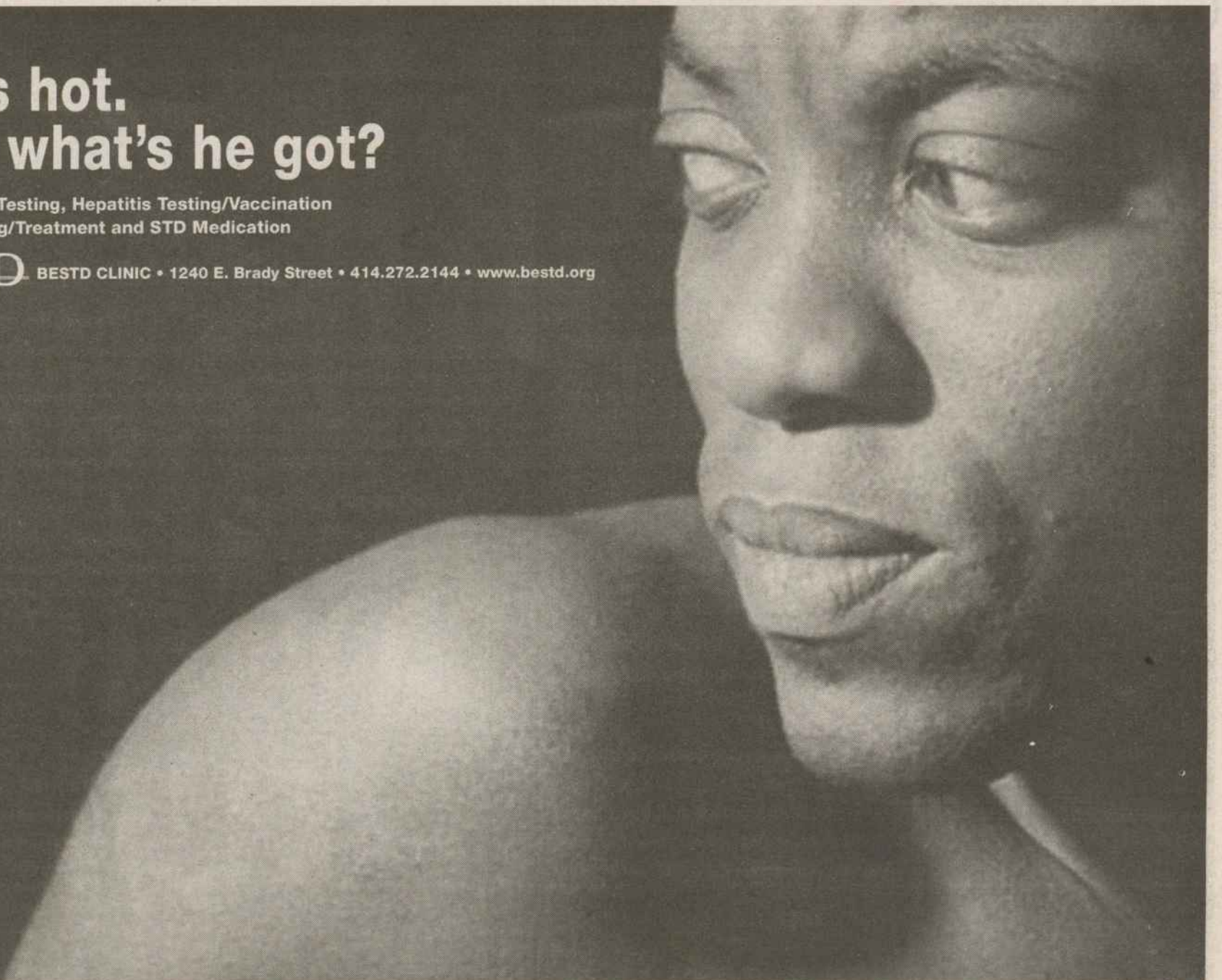
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Top LGBT-Friendly Colleges

Where was this list when I was investigating institutions of higher learning during that long, hot Kansas summer between my junior and senior years in high school?

The Princeton Review recently released its annual list of best colleges, including a list of the 10 schools most accepting of LGBT students. Big surprise, my alma mater is not on the list.

A Wisconsin school made the list however. Nestled in the thriving, well-known "gay mecca" of Appleton is Lawrence University, coming in at number eight. Who knew?

Regardless of what we might think of Florida, with its right-leaning voting habits and past hanging chad problems, a Florida college tops the list. According to a survey completed by 110,000 students at 361 colleges, the leading school for being most accepting toward LGBT students is not in Key West, but in Sarasota. I wonder if the New College of Florida will announce this in their marketing. I mean, recruitment materials? I think prospective students might find it nice to know that outside of Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Key West, the "gulf coast" provides refuge for more than Midwestern snowbirds.

The inclusion on the list of Mount Holyoke College (South Hadley, Mass.) and Bryn Mawr (Bryn Mawr, Pa.), both notorious lesbian hotbeds, should surprise no one. Rounding out the queer friendly list are: Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn.; Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.; Eugene Lang College, New York City; St. John's College, Annapolis, Md.; Emerson College, Boston; and Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, Calif.

Of course, there is also a top 10 list of not-so-friendly campuses. Brigham Young University's (Provo, Utah) presence on this list should not surprise even the most head-buried-in-the-sand person on the planet. Mixing



WOMEN

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

Mormons and queers is like wearing white shoes after Labor Day. I'm old school, pardon the pun, but you know there are some things you just shouldn't do. What is a surprise is that Brigham Young is listed at number 10.

The number one spot is held by Hamden-Sydney College in Hamden-Sydney, Va. (I haven't heard of it either), followed by the University of Notre Dame in a close second. I don't know about you, but I have often wondered about that little Fighting Irish mascot and which team he "plays" on. No offense to the leprechauns, but think about it.

Baylor University, advertising on its Web site as "the largest Baptist university in the world" near lovely downtown Waco, Texas, is third, followed by Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.; Grove City College, Grove City, Pa.; University of Tennessee-Knoxville; Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas; College of Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass.; and Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

As you head off to school this fall, be safe, be proud and don't forget to study. Midterms and final exams are brutal regardless of your sexual orientation.

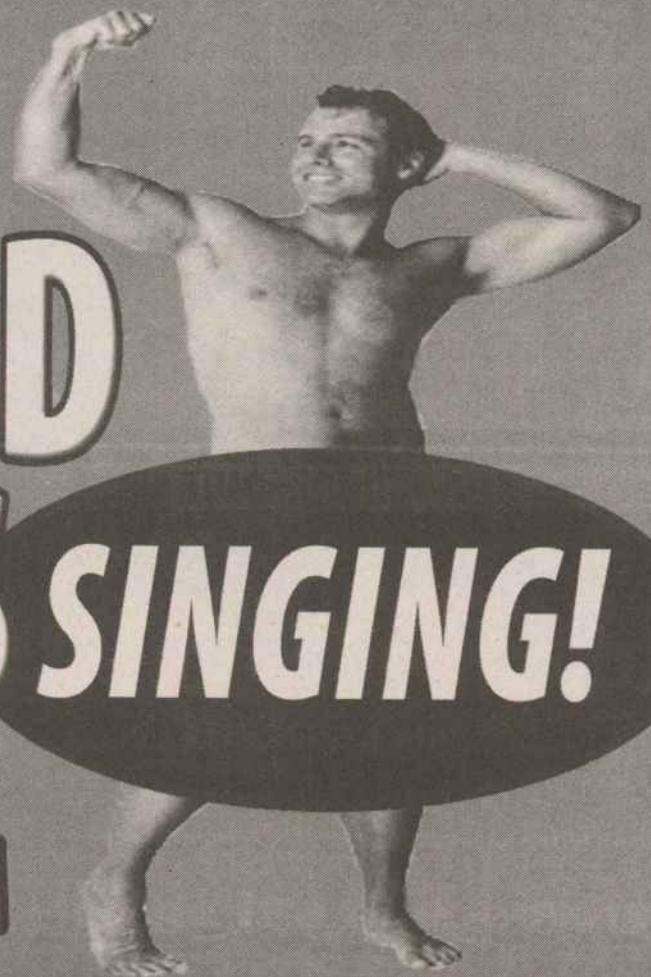
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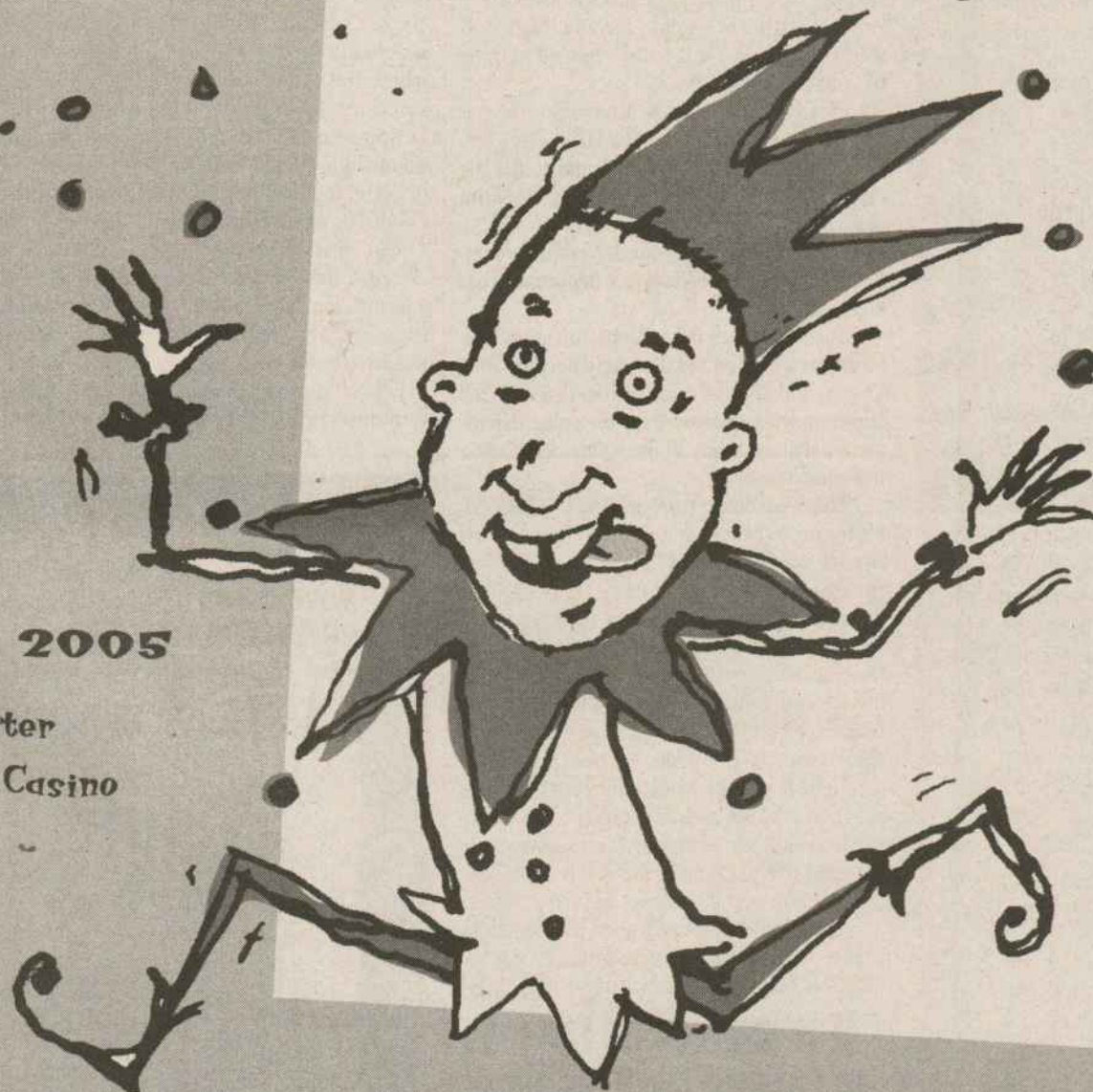
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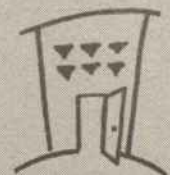
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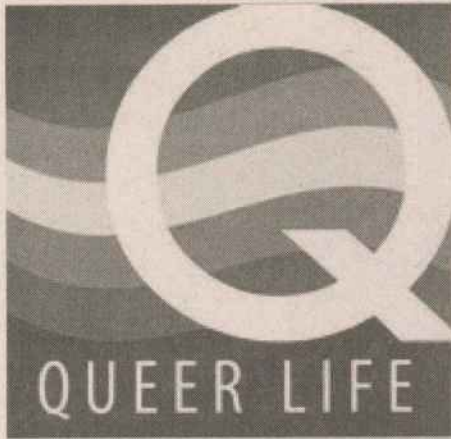


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Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Naked Boys But Were Afraid to Ask



Guest Editorial by William Attewell

The Milwaukee Police Department's Vice Squad shut down the production of "Naked Boys Singing!" at the fledgling Milwaukee Gay Arts Center on Aug. 18.

It was unjust. The subsequent tornado of publicity scattered the story as far as CNN, the New York Times and the Hindustan Times of India. It would defy the laws of journalistic physics to ignore the story — especially with keywords like singing, naked men, gays and the Milwaukee Police Department — did I mention gay naked men singing? Even this writer engaged in some blow-hard blogging.

Clearly, something went terribly wrong at 749 W. State St. and at the City Hall's City Clerk Licensing Division. The city committed a big civil rights boo-boo. Can you say freedom of speech?

Given the spiraling murder rate this summer, you'd also hope the police department has higher priorities.

The Milwaukee Police Department and the Licensing Division must be held accountable. The gay and non-gay communities deserve a full and complete explanation for the police department's actions. It has all the hallmarks of selective enforcement.

That assertion is true, because it is impossible for me to believe that the Vice Squad would shutter a production of "The Nativity Play" at the Church of the Holy Baby Jesus because police thought it didn't have the right permits.

Remember, it was a religious fanatic who got the ball rolling on this issue. Police began looking into the center's licensing after right-wing religious zealot Drew Heiss filed an open records request with the city about the naked boys.

Heiss is well known for his bitter, graphic abortion protests and has been cited by police in Milwaukee and elsewhere for disorderly conduct and other criminal behavior. In fact, court records show over 20 offenses and civil actions.

We all know how much good has been done in this world — in the name of God — at the hands of religious fanatics. Can you say 9/11?

It is impossible for me to believe that the Vice Squad would shutter a production of "The Nativity Play" at the Church of the Holy Baby Jesus because police thought it didn't have the right permits.

Religious fanatics have even blamed gays for the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina!

Sadly, gays and lesbians across Wisconsin — and around the world — still live in a very hostile climate of homophobia. In Iran, gays are being executed simply for being who they are.

The proposed constitutional amendment in Wisconsin, which would ban gay marriage and

civil unions in Wisconsin, has already brought many religious wackos out of the woodwork. Sadly, the worst is yet to come in that regard.

In its naked boys publicity blitz, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center called for an apology from Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Police Chief Nannette Hegerty in an open letter published Aug. 31 in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

Barrett's office beat the center to the punch on Aug. 30 when he took the extraordinary step of requesting a town hall meeting with members of the LGBT community and Hegerty. Barrett has also asked Hegerty for a review and explanation of the police department's handling of this matter.

Barrett's office may have been a bit slow out of the gates on this issue but has since handled the issue extremely well, and I expect a full explanation from Hegerty will be made public after the lawyers have sorted everything out.

I also do not believe that either Barrett or Hegerty is an enemy of the LGBT community. I applaud their clear and thoughtful responses on this issue.

In a bureaucratic twist of fate, it turns out it is actually the Milwaukee Common Council which has jurisdiction over the City Clerk Licensing Division — so the whole thing is falling into the lap of Milwaukee Common Council President Willie Hines. We should all be watching how he and his fellow Common Council members react.

So, what's the bottom line? First, the Milwaukee Police Department has a dismal, long and pathetic record with minority groups. The litany of police abuse of minorities stretches back as far back as I can remember. I call on the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission, the mayor and police chief to

redouble their efforts in ensuring the Milwaukee Police Department is providing equal protection for all its minority citizens.

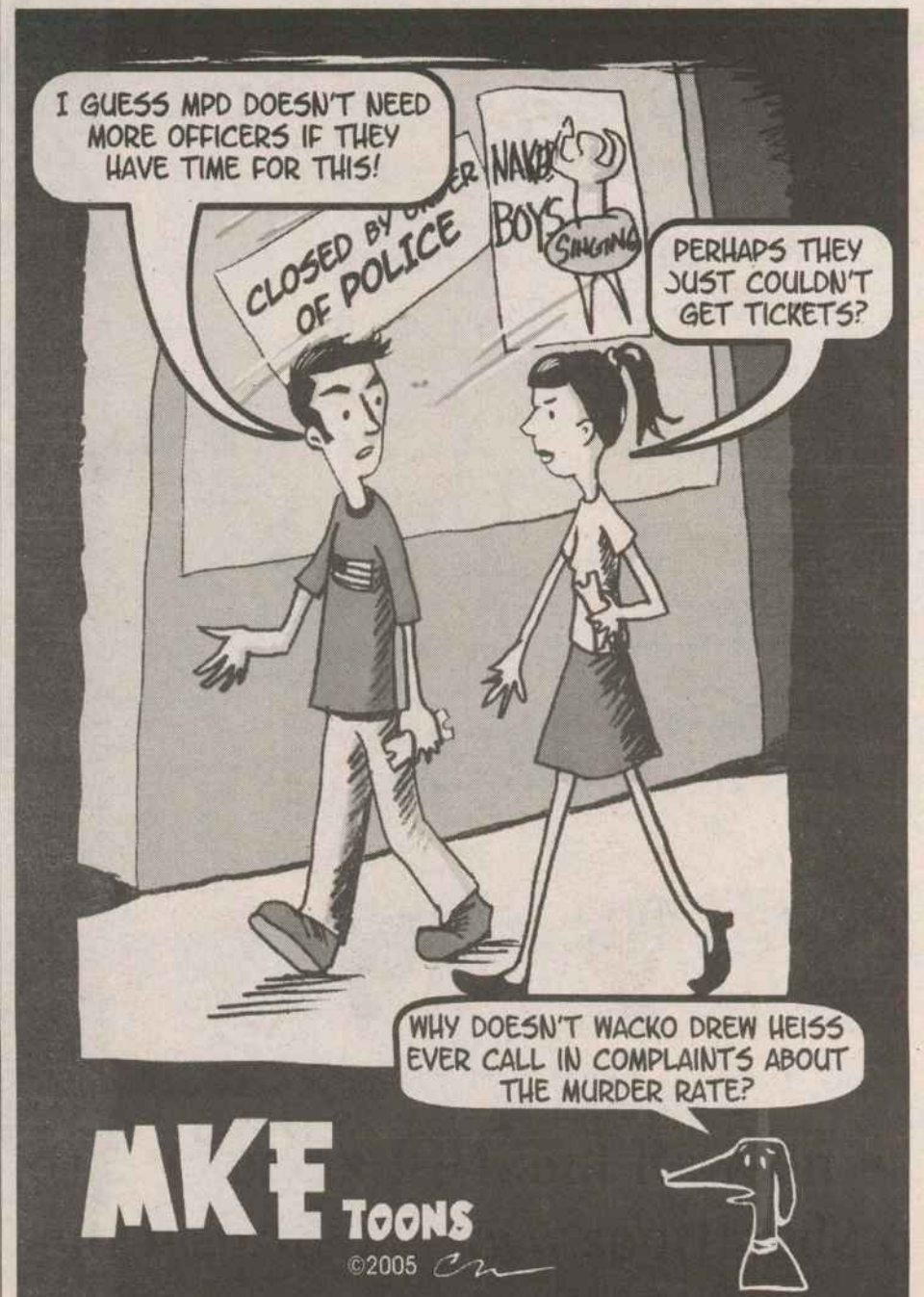
Second, Milwaukee's LGBT community needs to turn out in droves for the Town Hall meeting proposed by Mayor Barrett at the

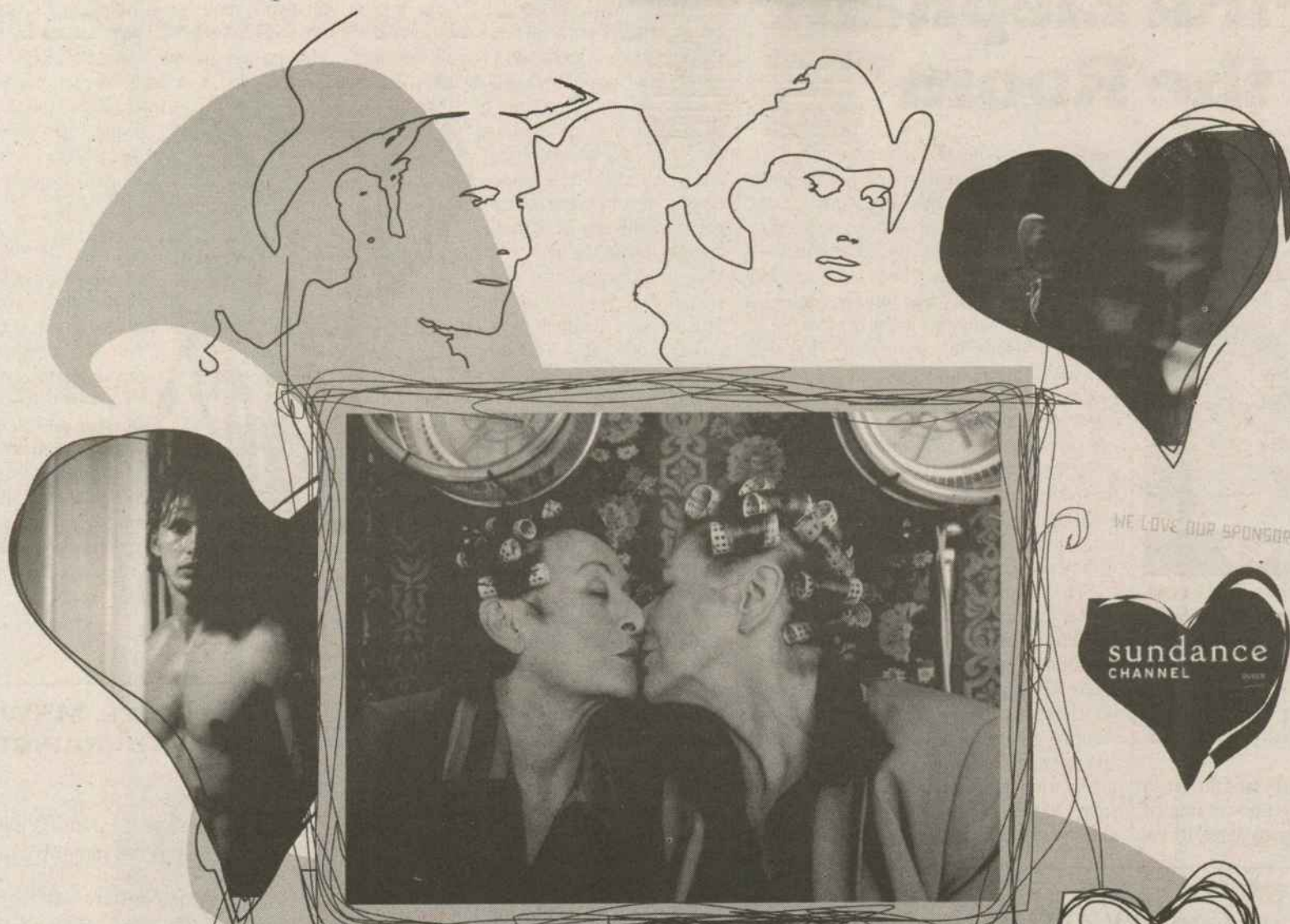
I do not believe that either Barrett or Hegerty is an enemy of the LGBT community. I applaud their clear and thoughtful responses on this issue.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. This is your chance to register your concerns.

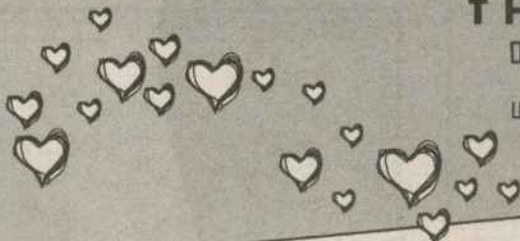
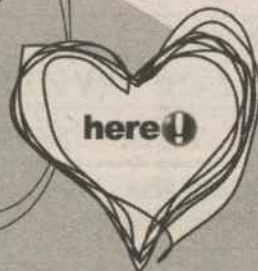
Third, always remember who our allies are. There are bigger fish to fry than naked boys. Wisconsin's LGBT community will need as many allies as it can get with the looming constitutional amendment. We should take great care not to alienate our political friends and always keep our eyes on the prize.

Finally, I suggest that Mayor Barrett and Police Chief Hegerty consider attending the grand reopening performance of the Milwaukee production of "Naked Boys Singing!" at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Just think of the message that would send to Drew Heiss. I'm sure that would be an eye opening experience for everyone involved. I'll even pay for their tickets.





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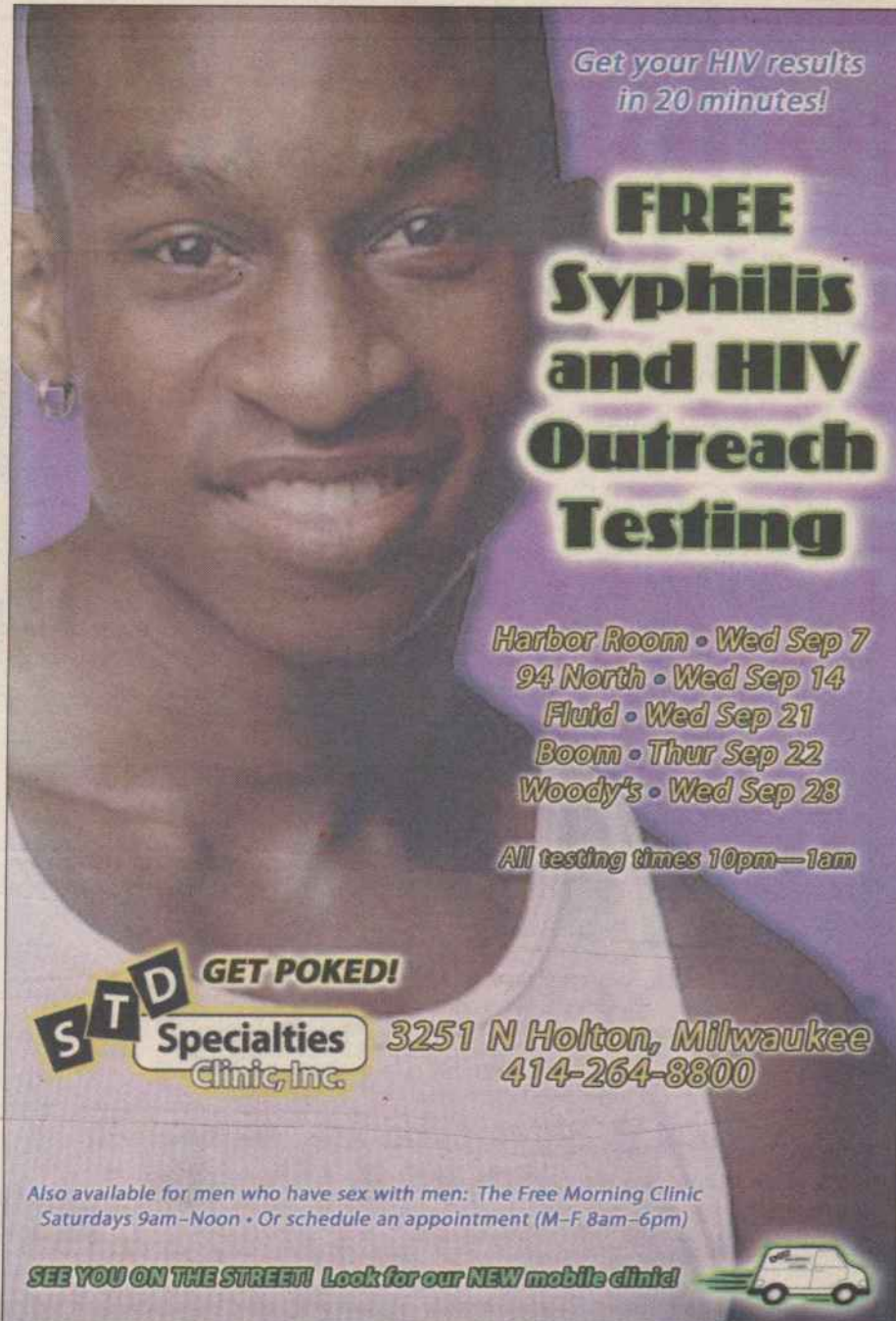
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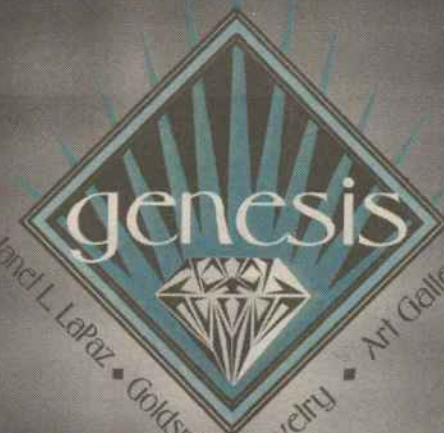
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Frank Lloyd Wright, Table Lamp from the Susan Lawrence Dana House, Springfield, Illinois. Made by Linden Glass Company, United States; c. 1903. Glass, bronze and zinc. LACMA, Gift of Max Palevsky. © Frank Lloyd Wright/Artists Rights Society.



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A Commentary Deferred

I have waited as long as I can to talk about the nasty little secret in our community. In the past year, I have written about the reality of our goodness in the face of discrimination, the steps to take in order to change health behaviors, and the healing aspects of relationships. I have urged readers to get interested in developing the youth in our community, in transforming the public health system, and in becoming more open and assertive with our healthcare providers. This column has addressed the needs of intersexed infants, our own alcohol and drug risks, and our individual needs to develop advance directives for health care.

These are all valid and important issues, but I've stalled in addressing the secret although we are daily affected by it and challenged by it.

Charles "D" Productions, House of Infiniti, 16th Street Community Health Center, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, ARCW, BESTD Clinic and Diverse and Resilient have been doing a wonderful job of tending the issues surrounding this secret for some time now. They are having good results with these issues; our community owes these organizations a debt of gratitude for the work they've been doing to keep some of the devastating outcomes of the secret in check. The Black Health Coalition, Asha Family Services, The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, Horizons, United Migrant Opportunity Services, and STD Specialties have also stepped up to the task of keeping the secret in check. The Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program has partnered effectively with all of our LGBT programs and allied groups in an effort to make our lives better, less burdened by the challenges we are facing after 20 years of our best efforts.

But this secret is straining to be told, and most of us are each year accommodating it with what appears to be fatigue, indifference and res-



HEALTH

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

ignation. It saps the energy, creativity and resources of our LGBT community.

The secret is HIV, and it represents the private crisis of hundreds in our community and the public cost to us all.

Recent government data suggest that over 45 percent of men of color who have sex with men in the nation's largest cities are infected with HIV. In Wisconsin transmission rates are on the rise for gay men. These are not some random people unknown to us whose lives do not touch our own. These are our African-American, Latino, Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander and white gay, bisexual and transgender brothers and sisters.

I have waited to address this issue because I wanted to put HIV in the context of other health issues that we all face.

However, no one among us can afford to keep this issue quiet and under wraps much

longer. We have to discuss it and move on it more assertively, with greater candor and renewed commitment. This means that each of us, transgender, women and men alike, will need to take personal responsibility for our own safety, challenge the recklessness among our friends, and reach past our internalized oppression to reach out to every blessed one of us.

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Believe in Something More

Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Church in America (ELCA), issued a call in August for Christians to come together across denominational lines to confront the problem of fundamentalist Christianity. It's about time! As the LGBT community has long known, fundamentalist Christianity threatens the spiritual well-being and human rights of many across the globe.

While there are conservative Christians throughout the world, fundamentalism as a religious movement began as an American idea almost 200 years ago. Churches at that time faced a problem. People had moved west, moving out beyond the established churches. In

order to minister to these frontier people, preachers began to hold revival meetings.

The Christianity of the revival tent was very different than that of established churches. The preachers in the revival tent had one day or, at most, a week to make someone a Christian. So they condensed all of Christianity to a question: Do you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? Saying yes meant that one was born again. Tent preachers gave vivid pictures of heaven and hell to help frighten their listeners into belief. The depth and beauty of the Christian life became a simple yes or no given in a climate of fear.

Though it was long absent from political power, fundamentalism is now a dominant polit-

ical force in our country and around the world. Jimmy Carter was the first fundamentalist elected president. Since his election, every president has claimed to be "born again." Around the world fundamentalists are remaking Christian communities into their own image.

Yet Christianity, like any religion worth following, ought not to be reduced to simple formulaic questions. Spirituality is a lifelong quest for truth and meaning, not a multiple-choice quiz. We need progressive Christians to stand up to fundamentalism, offering an alternative vision that is more spiritually nourishing.

So far, much of the liberal response to fundamentalism has been to engage the basic questions fundamentalists ask: Are you saved? Is the Bible literal? Was Mary a virgin? In particular liberals have had much fun pointing out all of the inconsistencies in the notion that the Bible is literally true. From the conflicting creation stories to contradictory ethic codes — drink, don't drink — there is a lot of material in the Bible to use in poking holes in the literalism of fundamentalists.

While humorous, this approach does little to actually dissuade fundamentalists. It even weakens the case of progressive Christians by making us look as though we don't take the Bible seriously.

Instead of critiquing fundamentalism for its



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.

literal reading of the Bible, a better way would be to lift up the fuller vision of Christianity offered by progressives. In differentiating ourselves from fundamentalists, we ought to say, "We believe in something more." For progressives, Christians do believe in more: There is more to knowing God than fearing hell, there is more to Jesus than one day's declaration, and God has more to say than what was written down 2000 years ago.

The best way to create an alternative to Christian fundamentalism is show how we as LGBT and progressive people of faith believe in something more.

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Pure Bloods, Mudbloods and Muggles, Oh My!

A local LGBTQI organization recently conducted focus groups within subpopulations of the LGBT community. I was stunned to learn that they were hosting three separate transgender focus groups: (1) general trans, (2) Latino/a (MTF), and (3) African-American (MTF).

As the founder of one of the two largest trans groups in Wisconsin, I offered to help advertise and promote the focus groups to encourage higher attendance (especially of underrepresented FTMs). I was quickly informed that the Latino/a and African-American groups were closed to outside attendees.

While I was excited to hear that there are enough Latino/a and black transgender folks to form separate groups, I was also disheartened because countless people who fit the demog-

graphics of those groups are unaware of their existence, and I wondered about the implications for the transgender community of dividing the community by race or ethnicity.

People tend to form separate groups for a variety of reasons, including:

They have no knowledge of existing groups. They have had a negative (or not fully satisfying) experience with an existing group, stimulating the need to create a space that feels "safer."

Existing groups create an unwelcoming (or even hostile) environment.

They want to address specific issues that would detract from existing groups' purpose(s).

Since the transgender community is relatively small, what effect does being fractionalized have on it?

Many of us have become indifferent (and apathetic) to inclusion. We are content to exist in groups that "look like us" — with people who are of the same race, gender, class, physical ability, transition status and sexual orientation.

Some people believe different means dangerous, and they become dangerous in the face of difference.

While the transgender community isn't necessarily becoming dangerous, we may be so paranoid of potential attacks that we withdraw or create our own inner sanctums — sanctums we believe are safe because they protect us from those we perceive to be dissimilar.

We are asked every day to choose between a plethora of opposites: Male or female. Gay or straight. Rich or poor. "Pure blood" or "muggle." Old or young. Black or white. More often than not, others place us — without our consent — into one of these opposing categories.

Many transpeople balk at being sorted into one gender category or another — because frequently the assignment is just plain wrong. Similarly, many people are unwilling to be put into a single racial category.

A growing group of people don't fit the mold and refuse to accept only two genders or a limited number of racial options. Over seven million Americans identified as multiracial on the 2000 census, and while there are no U.S. government statistics on gender fluidity, more



TRANSGENDER

Michael Munson (mmunson@queerlifeneews.com) 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.

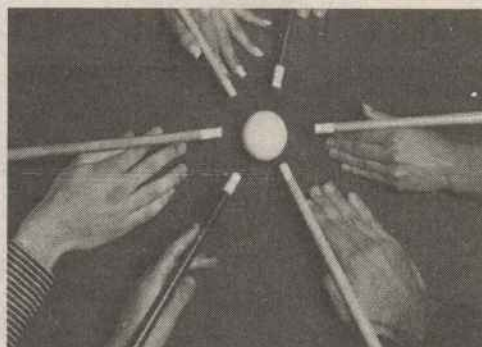
and more people are blurring gender lines.

What has racial separatism and isolation done for the people of the world? We can spend our time developing support networks for people who fall on one side of the line or another, or we can use our energy to remove barriers that keep us divided.

We will only be able to dismantle the walls completely, if each one of us confronts racism and race-based assumptions every day. We can honor differences and at the same time build on the strength in our similarities. It is hard work to think in new ways, to

stand up for injustices (small and large), and to overtly strive for inclusion — but those efforts are worth it.

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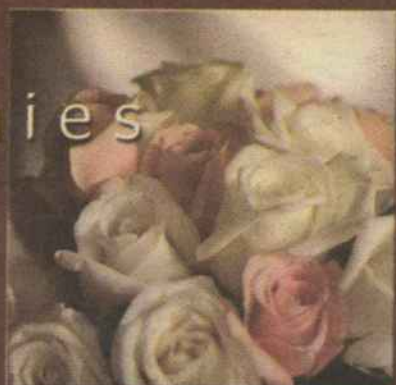
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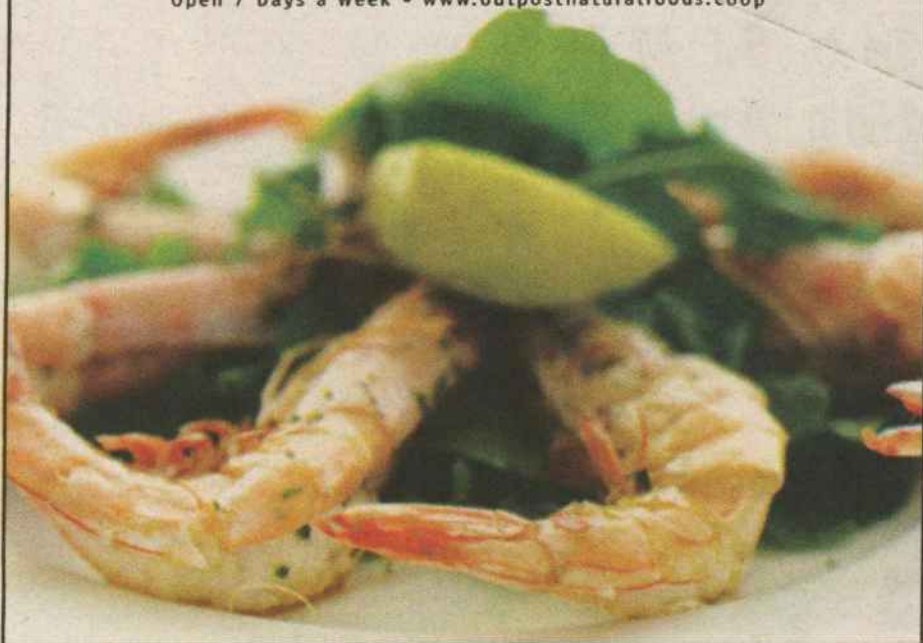
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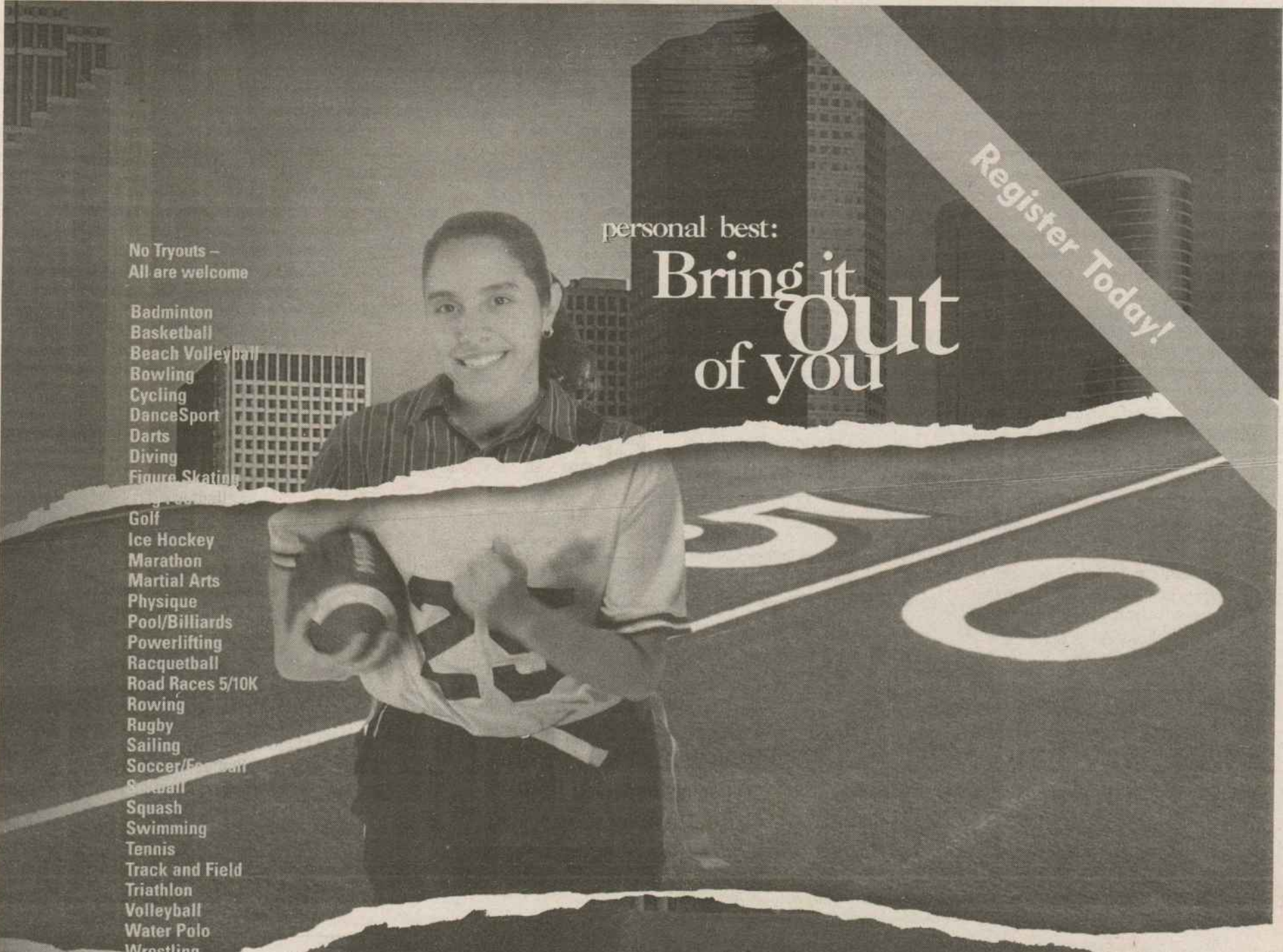


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Community

Calendar

Wednesday, Sep. 7

Body Mine. Participants will discuss a variety of issues relating to the body, including health, body image, abortion and more. Led by Evelyn, nurse-in-training. Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 6 p.m. 414-744-8384. broadvocabulary.com.

Saturday, Sep. 10

Center Street Daze. The daze kicks off with the thrill-a-minute Push Cart Race sponsored by the Riverwest Artists Association. Music all day on four stages, outdoor pool tournament at the Uptowner, scavenger hunt bike race sponsored by Breakaway Bicycle Courier, UPROC skateboard area, arts and crafts vendors, food, beer and more. Center Street between Humboldt and Pierce. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. Push cart race info: Sparky at 414-264-4797. contessa_milw@yahoo.com.

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

Sunday, Sep. 11

When Love Hurts. Gay men's discussion group will give the opportunity for gay and bisexual men to talk about abuse in gay men's relationships. Contact Sheldon Walker at 414-271-2565.

Monday, Sep. 12

Bay View Arts Guild Meeting. Bay View Library, 2566 S. Kinnickinnic, Milwaukee. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Sep. 13

Lesbian Reading Group. Zsa Zsa Gersick's exploration of lesbians in the military: "Secret Service." Everyone is welcome to come and join in the discussion! Outwards Books, Gifts and Coffee, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free. 414-963-9089. outwardsbooks.com.

Thursday, Sep. 15

Understanding Non-profit Finances Level I — Beginners. Workshop on financial topics of particular importance to non-profit managers and board

members, including: Fundamentals of Reading Financial Statements, 7 Signs of a Financially Healthy Organization, and 7 Major Financial Reports. Breakfast provided. Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee Office, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102, Milwaukee. 8 to 10 a.m. Free to Community Shares member organizations, \$10 for non-members. RSVP to Pam Beyer at info@milwaukeeshares.org or call 414-342-0883 by Sep. 12.

Saturday, Sep. 17

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

Peace and Justice Festival. Helping Stone Soup Council continues a more-than-a-decade-long tradition with its annual Harvest Peace and Justice Festival. This year's theme is Gay Rights. Featured speaker: the Rev. Elaine Thomas (Angels of Hope - Metropolitan Community Church) speaking on gay marriage. Christa McAuliffe Park (north edge of Baird Creek Park) on Sitka Street. Noon to 6 p.m. Tim Torres or Kim Diaz at 414-496-9464.

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

WI Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf. Meeting and socializing for deaf and hearing-impaired LGBT people. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 6 to 10 p.m. www.wiscrad.org.

Monday, Sep. 19

Elder Abuse and Adult Protective Services Conference. National, state and local experts will provide insight on how to prevent and/or intervene early in cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation, including the most challenging cases, such as self-neglect. Discussion of financial exploitation will continue. dhfs.state.wi.us/aging. Through Sep. 21.

Marriage Debate. Have you ever wanted to see a fierce advocate of equality stand up to the lies told about our lives and our families? Nationally recognized LGBT leader Evan Wolfson will debate equal marriage rights with Glenn Stanton, vice president of Focus on the Family. UWM Union Theater, 800 Langdon St., Madison. 7:30 p.m. actionwisconsin.org.

Outwards Book Club. The latest "Scott & Scott" romance, "Hot Sauce." New members are always welcome! Outwards Books, Gifts and Coffee, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. Free. 414-963-

9089. outwardsbooks.com.

Thursday, Sep. 22

Ladies Night! Women-only consciousness raising groups are still alive! Topics will change month to month depending on the direction the group takes. Open to all who identify as a woman, FTM and MTF folks. Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 6 p.m. 414-744-8384. broadvocabulary.com.

Take Back the Night. Rally, march and candlelight vigil for women survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Anti-Violence Project will have an information table at the event to help raise awareness of the impact of violence on LGBT people. Peck Pavilion, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 5 p.m. 414-229-2852.

Understanding Non-profit Finances Level II — Advanced. Workshop on financial topics of particular importance to non-profit managers and board members, including: Fundamentals of Reading Financial Statements, 7 Signs of a Financially Healthy Organization, and 7 Major Financial Reports. Bring your own lunch; drinks and desserts provided. Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee Office, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 102, Milwaukee. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Free to Community Shares member organizations, \$10 for non-members. RSVP to Pam Beyer at info@milwaukeeshares.org or call 414-342-0883 by Sep. 12.

Operation Iraqi Children. Beginning Sep. 22 a gigantic truck will be parked at Comedy Sportz with the goal of filling the truck with school supplies for Iraqi children. Supplies needed are: blunt-end scissors, 12-inch rulers with metric markings, pencils with erasers, small pencil sharpeners, large erasers, colored pencils (no crayons), notebook paper, composition books, folders with inside pockets, and zippered pencil bags. Comedy Sportz, 420 S. 1st St., Milwaukee. Drop off: Thursday 4 p.m. to midnight; Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 10 a.m. to midnight. Interested volunteers contact boqanoic@yahoo.com. 414-272-8888. comedysportzsmilwaukee.com. Through Sep. 25.

Saturday, Sep. 24

Transition Fluidity. Guest speaker Blue Strom will discuss how she came to various decisions as she started and then stopped her transition. She will share pictures so attendees can see what physical changes have occurred from pre-T, through taking hormones, to the person you will see before you at the meeting. She will also address how she and her

partner navigated being known as two dykes in the community, to being seen as two boys (both beginning T within a few months of each other), to now being recognized as a male/female couple after Blue stopped transitioning. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 7 p.m. 414-278-6031. forge-forward.org.

Sunday, Sep. 25

Susan Murphy-Milano. Susan will sign and discuss her book "Moving Out, Moving On." This is a workbook and CD for women in change and includes strategies for leaving abusive relationships. A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore, 307 W. Johnson St., Madison. 2 p.m. 608-257-7888. roomofonesown.com.

Thursday, Sept. 29

Genevieve G. McBride. Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton will introduce the author of "Women's Wisconsin: From Native Matriarchies to the New Millennium." A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore, 307 W. Johnson St., Madison. 6:30 p.m. 608-257-7888. roomofonesown.com.

Saturday, October 1

FORGE Gynecologic (and Breast) Health. FTMs, butches and other trans-masculine people often feel somewhere between hesitant to adamantly opposed to having gynecologic exams. Pelvic and breast exams are frequently emotionally and physically uncomfortable; but they don't have to be. Come learn why it's important to have regular pelvic and/or breast exams and how to make it easier by reducing your fear/apprehension and working with your provider to make the experience more comfortable. [Note: FORGE is in the process of recruiting a medical provider who will discuss strategies and techniques to ease GYN exams discomfort.] Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 7 p.m. 414-278-6031. forge-forward.org.

Sunday, October 2

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

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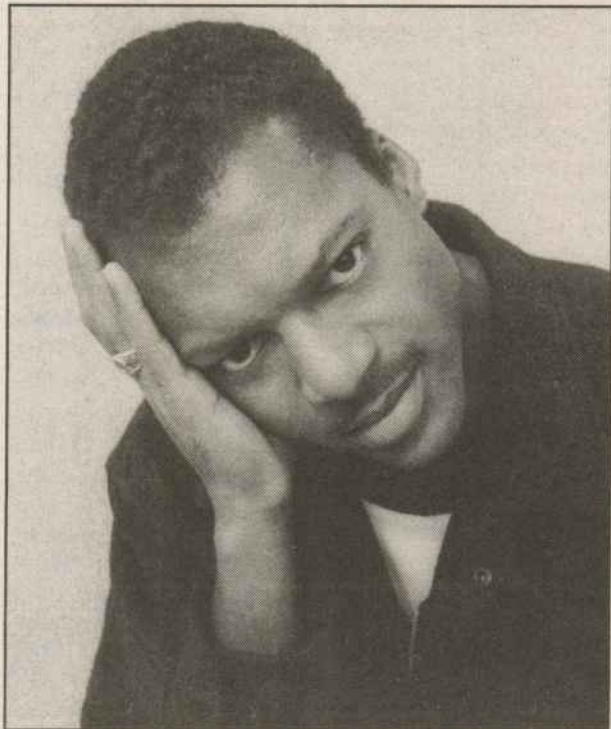
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Author Craig Hickman at Outwords

Outwords Books is especially pleased to welcome back for an appearance Craig Hickman, an accomplished poet, dancer, activist and performance artist. Craig Hickman will read and sign copies of his poignant new memoir, "Fumbling Towards Divinity," at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sep. 15, at Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee.

Bestselling author Craig Hickman had had enough of the secrets and cover-ups and lies and



Politics, Sex, and Culture."

In 1993 Hickman founded the independent publishing house Parfait de Cocoa Press. Committed to publishing queer writers of color from New England, Parfait de Cocoa has published his own chapbook, "The Language of Mirrors" (1993); a collection of his poetry and prose, "Rituals: Poetry and Prose" (1994); and Jay Critchley's artist book, "Playing Games: Zoa the Greek Fertility Goddess Shoots for the Gold" (1995). In 1996, Hickman incorporated the press as an imprint of Mojo Productions.

As a performance poet, he has been featured at venues in major U.S. cities and universities including Brown, Bowdoin, Harvard and Yale. Hickman opened for pop recording artist RuPaul at Boston's PrideFest 1993 and co-organized and performed in "Rites and Permissions," a tribute to the late poet and activist Essex Hemphill, and "Celebrating Our Community: Remembering Our Lives," a poetry revival honoring the lives of gay men of color lost to AIDS, which he performed with poets Thomas Grimes and Philip Robinson.

In 1997 Hickman understudied "Angels in America" at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. He co-produced and starred in Gail Burton's original play "Muses," and he appears in

the independent feature film "Never Met Picasso," filmed on location in Boston, starring Margot Kidder.

the independent feature film "Never Met Picasso," filmed on location in Boston, starring Margot Kidder.

Don't miss out on the chance to meet Craig Hickman at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sep. 15. This is a free event and all are welcome. For further information, call 414-963-9089 or visit www.outwordsbooks.com.

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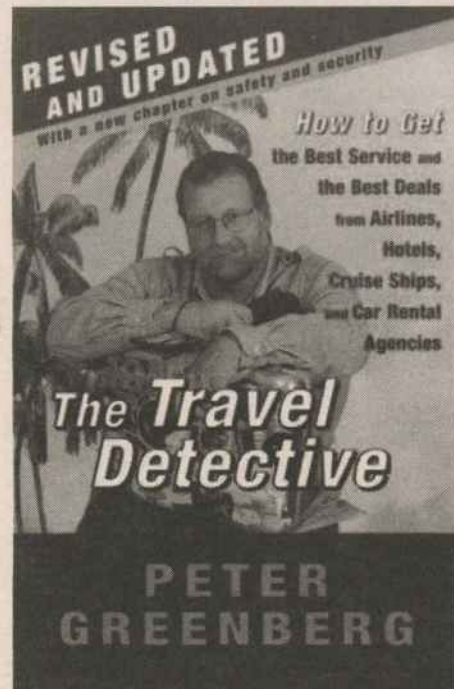
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Gays Ahoy!

The Travel Detective

Peter Greenberg, book

Lesbian women and gay men are the poster children for the way one is supposed to travel, according to Peter Greenberg, the nation's premier travel writer, reporter and sleuth. During a recent visit to Milwaukee to



promote his newest book, he described the travel industry's relationship with the gay community as a "huge spike": from rejection and distrust to coming to terms and openly embracing the segment.

As far as Greenberg is concerned, "gay travel" will soon become "good travel" for the industry and tourists in general. Gays have the interest in learning about other cultures, they have the money and they are gracious travelers. In fact, so enthusiastic is Greenberg about the positive influence of gay and lesbian travelers that he encourages them to venture into lesser-known countries and areas to show "by example" that homophobia is based on myth and hearsay not real people.

In recalling a case where fear turned to courting, Greenberg cited a San Francisco-based lesbian tour company that chartered a ship to take some 250 women around the Greek Islands. The typically male chauvinistic crew was rejoicing in the prospect of hosting so many women at close quarters until they were told that the guests would not be interested in the advances of the handsome male crew. Disappointment quickly gave way to respect and mutual enjoyment. Six years later Greek men and lesbian cruise guests are going stronger than ever before.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Greenberg became the youngest ever correspondent for Newsweek magazine. He spent many years in San Francisco and Los Angeles, writing for Newsweek and The Los Angeles Times and producing television for Paramount Studios. He is currently the travel editor for NBC's "Today

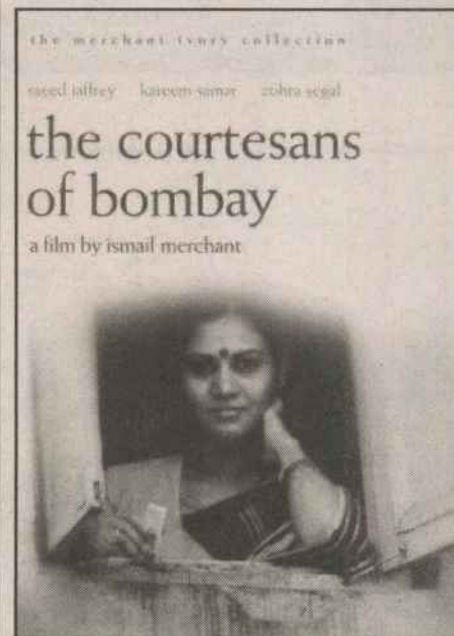
Show" and Travel Channels' chief correspondent. He is also the author of "Hotel Secrets from the Travel Detective" (accommodations from bed-and-breakfasts to five-star resorts) and "The Travel Detective Flight Crew Confidential." (Tip: Since gays and lesbians represent a significant number among those who fly for a living, the what, where and how pertaining to cities and airports is especially useful.)

In his latest witty and worldly book, Greenberg offers numerous insider details that travel agents and the travel establishment in general cannot or will not provide — information that will make the travel experience more pleasurable and less costly. The scoop on which cruise brochures tell lies, where to find information about small towns, which hotels have the worst water pressure in their showers, which coach seats on which planes are better than first class, how to negotiate the best deal when agreeing to be bumped from a flight, the truth about frequent flyer programs, and much more.

At present, some of the spots Greenberg considers to deliver best value are Canada, Australia and New Zealand, South Africa and Thailand. If he had only one piece of advice to give, it would be that we eliminate from our vocabularies the five-letter word L-A-T-E-R that prevents us from the enjoyment of travel.

The Courtesans of Bombay, Roseland directed by Ismail Merchant, DVD

Indian-born Ismail Merchant recently died in London at the age of 68. What do you mean you've never heard of Ismail Merchant? Who does not know films like "Maurice," "The Remains of the Day," "The Mystic Masseur," "Jefferson in Paris," "Howard's End," "The Europeans" and "A Room with a View"? These



are just a few of the many films that he produced and/or directed with James Ivory. The Merchant/Ivory company has become synonymous with thought-engaging, literate entertainment. Their finely crafted movies, largely independent productions, focused on character and



MUSIC, BOOKS & MOVIES

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

storytelling, bringing out the beauty of the human spirit of British aristocracy as well as of those living on the edge of society and exposed only to drab routine. At a time when AIDS was beginning to ravage homosexual communities, "Maurice" was a powerful adaptation of E. M. Forster's novel affirming same-sex love.

The long-time Merchant/Ivory collaboration extended to their personal lives; the two remained partners for over four decades. Merchant, the gregarious epicurean was primarily the businessman, the deal-maker of their production company. "He has a lot of ideas ... some seem crazy ... but they turn out successfully," Ivory mused in an interview with critic Robert Long.

"The Courtesans of Bombay" and "Roseland" are among their lesser-known works and have in common a backdrop of dance and music. One of only four works that Merchant directed, "The Courtesans" is a gentle exploration of social displacement and the clash of Eastern and Western civilizations. Sometimes recalling Bollywood with lovely dancing and singing, "The Courtesans" also pays attention to the personalities behind the public acting. The docudrama is set in the Bombay tenement of Pavan Pool where the courtesans perform the traditional arts of singing and dancing before a male audience.

The breadwinners of the neighborhood are the women, who begin their trade as children. Sometimes more than money is exchanged but the subject of sexual favors, while acknowledged, is never seen in the film. Merchant opens a window on an exotic world, a world where tradition faces change and the harsh realities give way to the shimmering rituals of entertainment.

"Roseland" is an homage to the famous New York ballroom. Aside for a few moments in a cold wintery Manhattan, the film takes place wholly within the self-contained universe of the dance hall. A memorable human comedy, the film retains a sunny look despite the loneliness and regret that sustain most of the characters. The casting of the film is admirable, particularly Christopher Walken and Geraldine Chaplin.

As with the more exotic "Courtesans," it's easy to get caught up in this film, with its wonderful, compelling dance scenes (the Peabody and the Hustle are among the more evocative) and its cinematography that is always engaged with the characters.

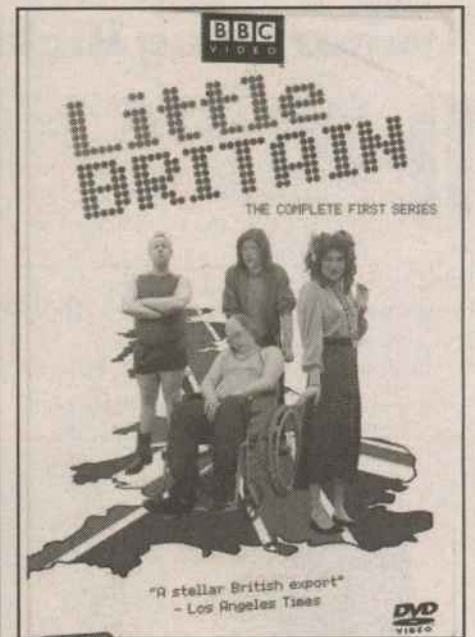
The loss of Ismail Merchant is great and so is his legacy. His films captured the essence of what it is to be human and frail yet full of hope and gentle humour.

"Little Britain"

The Complete First Series, DVD

Rejoice, all you Britannia fans, with this two-disc set, nearly four hours of the BBC 3 hit comedy series. Too coarse for some, difficult to catch the nuances at times because of the British accents, it is a travelogue around an alternative Great Britain, a universe populated by lunatics, social misfits and over-the-top eccentrics.

Meet Vicky, the incoherent trailer trash teen; Emily, the unconvincing transvestite; and Andy, sitting all day in his wheelchair lovingly cared for by Lou who has no clue that his friend can walk. Matt Lucas, one of the series' creators



and stars is unforgettable — and at times unforgettable.

The series jacket introduction says it best: "Little Britain presents the breathtaking debris of modern life in all its glory."

"The Very Best of Cher"

Strolling in Provincetown on any day of the summer, one is sure to run into at least a half dozen Chers. The real diva remains an icon to the gay community because she's glamorous, sexy, fun and outspoken. She wears enough costumes and wigs to outfit an entire neighborhood — in a flashy sort of way.

But, like Tina Turner, Cher is much more than a fashion chameleon and consummate entertainer. She is a trail blazer; she often encountered (perhaps even encouraged) adversity in her personal life as well as her show-biz life, only to make a comeback and soar higher and bigger than ever before.



The album is a merry-go-round of the various stages of Cher's musical trip: the pop/rock songs of Sonny and Cher (including their signature "I've Got You"), Dylan-like ballads ("All I Really Want to Do"), melodramatic story songs ("Dark Lady"), 1990s anthems of assertiveness ("Believe" and "Strong Enough").

Visualize, while listening to "Half Breed," Cher in one of designer Bob Mackie's more spangled creations. As music critic Mark Bego recalled, "Atop her head a huge white feathered headdress, decorated with alternating red and yellow feathers, cascading from her head down to her toes. [The dress], a backless halter top with sequins and tassels and from the waist down, a long loincloth reaching down to her silver strapped platform shoes."

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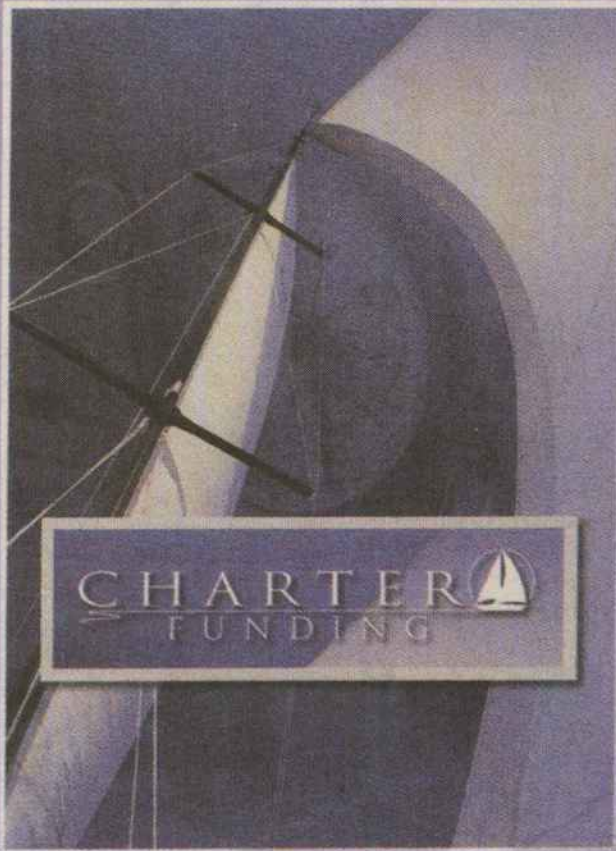
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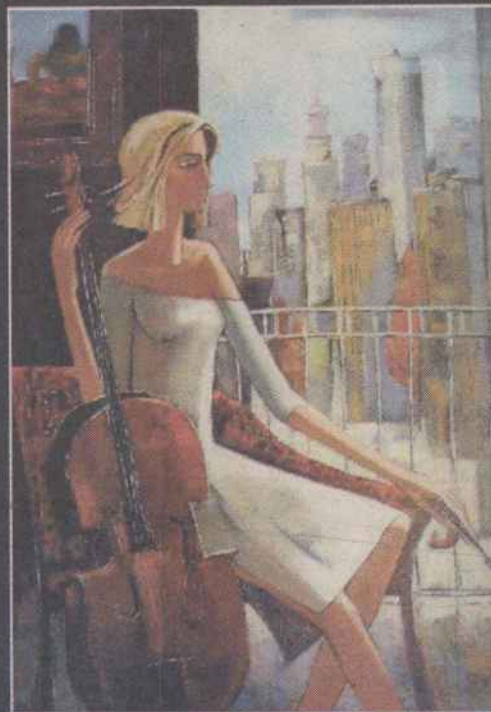
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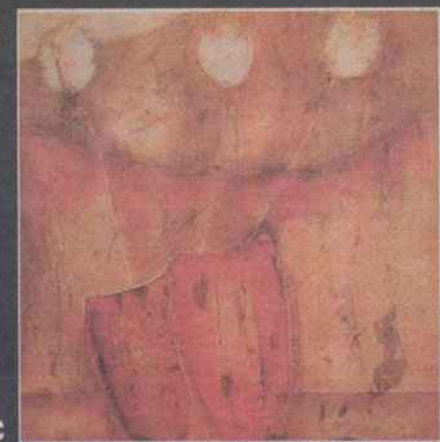


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Let There Be Light

In the beginning, according to the Old Testament, God made two great lights — “the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night.” Many thousands of years later, we have many more choices for illuminating our environment.

In our homes, the general rule is to have three sources of light in a room: ambient, or general, lighting; high illumination to light areas for performing tasks or reading; and soft light to enhance an area or create a mood.

Ambient lighting can be achieved naturally during the day with large windows and skylights and at night with overhead fluorescent or incandescent fixtures, track lighting or fixtures that wash walls and ceilings with light.

General task lighting in kitchens and work areas is often created with under counter lights, hanging fixtures and lamps. For enhancement lighting, lamps, strips of lights, uplights, and candles are all good. Equipping all electrical switches with dimmers provides the ability to adjust light levels and give varying degrees of brightness to rooms or smaller areas.

There are hundreds of alternatives to the ordinary incandescent bulb, many of which offer excellent color rendering. A tungsten filament inside a glass bulb produces incandescent light. It infuses rooms with a warm wash of golden color. Halogen lamps are part of the incandescent family. A filament enclosed within a tiny tube that contains halogen gas produces their light. The light from a halogen bulb is slightly cleaner, sharper and whiter than that from a tungsten bulb.

Fluorescent lamps are a practical choice because they use less energy, cost less to operate and generate less heat when in use. They are less popular because the older lamps created a harsh, greenish hue, but the technology has improved greatly and fluorescents now come in a variety of colors from warm whites to cool. The warm fluorescent bulbs can enhance reds and yellows while the cooler ones make blues and greens resonate. In warmer climates it is nice to use the cooler lighting to make rooms feel cooler; in cooler climates the warmer lighting makes rooms feel warmer.

Creating intimate areas using soft lighting can be the most fun and is the easiest for anyone



DECORATING

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. Stearns is an allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers.

to accomplish. This can be as simple and ordinary as illuminating your dinner table exclusively with candlelight or as complex as running a permanent tracer light in your flooring. Other applications may include uplighting indoor (or outdoor) plants with a canister light. Canister lights are readily available in the big box stores or by mail order. Placed at the base of plants, they direct the light up with the use of a floodlight or an ordinary bulb. If the canister is on an angle, the light shines through the plant's branches and projects their shadows on the wall.

Electric sconces permanently wired on walls or non-wired sconces in which you can use candles — very romantic — are another way to wash walls with light.

Electrified torchieres or torch-like lamps lit by candlelight are also very effective.

A low-level light lamp placed on a table can provide soft illumination for a collection of objects, an artwork or a small sculpture. It makes a wonderful nightlight, especially with a mirror behind it.

Outlining architectural details or hanging a plant with strings of small lights, either all white or colored, lends warmth and drama to a room or intimate area that you would like to feature.

Any of these choices, any of the bright ideas you may come up with, can warm and soften your space. Low light can become the highlight of your room.



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ASK THE VET

Dr. Randal Zeman is a veterinary manager at the Wisconsin Humane Society. He has been employed with WHS for 18 years.

My cat is now 12 years old. I have been offered a kitten by a friend of mine, and I would like to give it a loving home. I'm worried this might stress out my older companion — that all the activity might even give her a heart attack. Is that what could happen?

A: Your cat may do fine with a new kitten. There are just a few things you should do to increase your chance for success.

First make sure your cat is in good health. Have your cat examined by your veterinarian, if you haven't done so within the last year. The stress of a new addition to the house could make a medical condition worse. An older cat that is healthy will probably do well with a kitten. In fact, she may become more active with a companion animal and get more exercise as a benefit.

Is the new kitten in good health? Also have her examined by your veterinarian. Tests can be done for feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency virus. You want to make sure that the kitten doesn't pass any contagious diseases on to your cat.

Next do a proper introduction. Bring the kitten into a room where she can be separated from the cat by a door. Make sure you don't use one of your cat's favorite rooms and make sure the kit-

ten has her own litterbox, food and water. This way she is not intruding as much on your own cat's territory. You can take the kitten's empty carrier and place it where your cat can explore and smell it to get a taste of being with this kitten. Give your cat positive reinforcement through all of this by giving her treats and attention.

After a couple of days, if your cat seems comfortable with this situation, then you can let the cat and the kitten have visual contact through a screen in the doorway or by wedging the door slightly open, about an inch. Once they are both comfortable with this you can let the new cat out. Be sure you are there to supervise the initial encounters. There may be hissing, growling and spats through all of this, but cats usually will not harm each other. If you think they are having a serious fight, break it up with a soft pillow or squirt gun — do not use your hands.

Once the cat and kitten seem entirely comfortable with each other, you can leave them alone together all the time. Hopefully, you will be lucky and they will get along so well that they will play and sleep together.

For more information about having two felines in your household, visit the Wisconsin Humane Society's newly designed Web site, www.wihumane.org. Click on "Education," then "Ask the Expert and Behavior Tip Line," then "Cat Behavior," then the article "When Two Is Better Than One."

Dogs behaving badly?

Have you got a pet problem? Then ask the vet!
Send your questions to:
askthetvet@queerlifeneews.com

Tribute to Jobi

I am one very lucky man. I have spent the last 17 years of my life (almost half to be exact) with the most adorable and affectionate "guy" on the planet. This "guy" has been with me through numerous moves and life changes, some of which at the time, I wasn't sure I would make it through. He was always there to give me a kiss when I needed it most, keep me warm on cold Wisconsin nights and to give me that look, only he could do, that would melt my heart in an instant. Jobi, or "my little guy" as I often called him is my Miniature Long Haired Dachshund.

I bought Jobi when I was just 18 years old from a pet store. Having learned many things about the pet store industry, I would never make that choice again but I was too young and uninformed then. He was sitting there in one of those little cages with his sister. They were so cute I just couldn't help but ask to see them both. We spent quite some time in the little play area together and I was quickly charmed by the little black and tan male. He finally had free reign and yet all he wanted to do was sit up in my lap and trade kisses for pets. I fell in love with him on the spot and brought him home that day.

I had no idea what I had gotten myself into. Nobody at the store tells you what to expect. I had never house trained a puppy or for that matter, trained a puppy at all. I was a young and social guy and had no idea how much my life needed to change. The first night in his new home, Jobi was not going to settle for sleeping in a box by my bed. At the time I had no idea what a crate was and what a lifesaver they truly are. He cried and barked all night. I tried to keep my hand in the box for him to smell but that was not enough. I soon gave in and brought my "little guy" up into my bed. He quickly found a spot in the crook of my arm and settled in. So started my new life with Jobi.

Of course, there is not enough space to allow for a full detailed story of my life with Jobi. Though every day with him was an adventure, there are a few memories that come to mind often. There was the time that he got a hold of a new, economy sized jar of Vaseline and licked the entire container clean. Then there was the time I took him to the emergency vet on a Sunday because he wasn't using one of his front paws only to have him hop off the exam table and run around the room like nothing was wrong, right AFTER the costly x-ray was taken. The first time he was on a boat, he saw us pull a turtle out of the lake on a fishing line. He was so entranced by this that he could never go out on a boat again without demanding to sit on the boat ledge and stare into the lake looking for his lost friend. But honestly the things I cherish the most, many people would find quite boring. These are the things that make me smile each day. Things like see-



PETS

By Michael Haertl

ing him waiting for me to finish my shower so he can lick my ankles, watching his tongue slip out of his mouth when he sleeps, and more recently, the way he puts his front paws on the first stair as he waits for me to give him a lift up the stairs which he is too old to climb anymore. These are just a few of the many things I will miss when the time comes.

Well Jobi is not fairing too well at this time. He is in the final stages of kidney and liver failure. I am doing the very best I can to ensure he is comfortable and not in pain. He has been a true dachshund through and through his whole life and I suspect he will be stubborn up to the very end and will not go easily. To be honest though, I don't expect that he will be with me by the time this gets printed. As I type this now, he is curled up by me feet sleeping, with his tongue poking out, and I can't imagine the day that I will look down and not see him laying by me. You know, dogs do that to you. They worm their way into a very special and delicate part of your heart that no one else will ever have access to and there, if your lucky, they spend the next 17 years keeping you warm and happy. I write this as both a way to help me work through this difficult and painful time and as a tribute to you, Jobi. Thank you for sharing your life with me, I know I have been blessed. I truly love you.

If the collar fits, wear it.



Patches doesn't mind wearing a collar. Just as long as he's wearing the right kind of collar.

Like most dogs, Patches prefers NOT to wear a choke collar because it can be harmful to his neck. The pain these collars cause makes it more difficult for the dog to concentrate on learning.

The Wisconsin Humane Society wants you to replace choke, pinch and prong collars with more humane and effective ones.

To learn about a gentle leader or sensation harness, visit the Wisconsin Humane Society's Animal Antics retail store at 4500 W. Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee.



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Curtain Up — Light the Lights



THEATER

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

Well, my fine friends of the arts, it is September, and time for yet another exciting season of live theater. Actually I can't believe that summer is almost over. I had such a busy schedule this summer, that I hardly had a chance to enjoy it. And now with these gas prices I hardly have any money left to go out to a festival, or even out for a drink. If gas prices keep going up, it will really be hard on the arts this year; in fact it will be difficult for any travel and entertainment.

But let's think positive! In looking around our town, I can see that a great season for Milwaukee theater fans is "coming up roses."

Top Four Theater Towns

How many of you have read the new Art Scene, published by Marcus Promotions Footlights? It is a great magazine full of local theater listings. They had an interesting article about Milwaukee theater. Would you believe that our town ranks fourth nationally? There are now 27 theater companies!

It is no surprise that I wonder how all these live theaters can survive. And actually, every year one or two more companies are started. This is a very competitive business. Recently some 20- to 30-year-old producers came on the scene. It is like Mickey and Judy saying "Let's put on a show!" I actually used to put on lots of plays in my family back yard. I can also remember opening my first professional theater in Chicago. I was about 30 years old. Needless to say, it lasted just a little over a year. I did not have the experience or business sense to keep it running successful.

So Many Productions — So Little Time

The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts is bringing the highly popular rock musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" to their stage. With "Annie" and "Joseph" in their season, it is easy to see that this season is one for the family. The **Next Act Theatre** presents "Coyote on a Fence" by Bruce Graham.

"A Flea in Her Ear," that classic farce, is opening at **Milwaukee Repertory Theater**. Watch for "Hate Mail" by **Bill Corbett** at **In Tandem**. **Cornerstone Theatre Company**, in the lovely Brumder mansion, hosts the new play "Family Tea."

On the musical scene, **Skylight Opera Theatre** is opening the charming "Little Women" by **Mark Adamo**. This is not the same version that is playing later this season at the **Marcus Center**. Then **Boulevard Ensemble** brings us the nostalgic 1940s hit "Louisiana Purchase." Rounding out the opening season, **Broadway Baby Dinner Theatre** opens the **Neil Simon** farce "Rumors."

The Corn Is High This Month

In our great area community theaters, **Sunset Playhouse** is staging the delightful Jewish play "Crossing Delancy." The **Bay Players** bring you a large cast of singers and dancers for the new revival of "Oklahoma." Young **Betsy Katschke** shines in the show. She is the youngest little professional in the cast. Her older sister **Katie Katschke** is soon to appear in the **Chamber Theatre** production of "Brighton Beach Memiors." Talent sure runs in the family. Recently both sisters starred in "Annie" at the **Fireside Dinner Theatre**.

A Little Gossip Won't Hurt

Rosie O'Donnell will be returning to Broadway in "Fiddler on the Roof" as Golde. Her co-star **Harvey Fierstein** should be playing Golde, and **Rosie** should be Tevye. This looks like the gay version of "Fiddler." They sure are breaking the "tradition." But I feel this is a step in the right direction for all gay people in the arts. It is time to be accepted.

That big-eyed, beautiful **Kay Stiefel** was recently seen in "The Tafettas" at the **Chamber Theatre**. I was told the audience loved the songs and gave the show a standing ovation. **Kay and Jack Wilson** will perform upstairs at the **Skylight** later this season.

Brady Street Pharmacy has the new Astor theater, and they are doing some interesting original one act plays. This is a fun place to check out, and while there have something to eat in the nostalgic restaurant.

Lots of love to **Michael Johnston** for the great comments in his last column about the production of "Twilight" by **R.S.V.P Productions**.

Another new theater space is **Bucketworks**

on Martin Luther King Drive. This new intimate theater space is worth checking out.

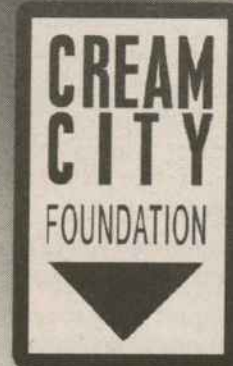
Last Month's Trivia Answer

"Hair" was the first full frontal nude musical.

This Month's Trivia Question

Was handsome **Gordan McRae** the lead in both "Oklahoma" and "Carousel"?

Well, my Aunt Blanche says that before this summer is over she and my Aunt Sally want to go camping at "The Boot Camp."



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Womyn's Music Festival Led to Love

Q Life: How and where did you meet?

Maria: We met at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival at the Thursday Night Stage when Laura Love was one of the headliners. That Thursday was the first day of rain after some very hot and dry days.

Jenny: I knew there was a reason that I had to get to Michigan that year! After a few amazing and very hot days, on Thursday night, it rained. I had made myself a little mud-free space with a good view of the stage, and this beautiful woman came over and asked to share my tarp. I could not take my eyes off of her. I found every excuse to follow her around and spend time with her for the remainder of the fest. And it worked.

Q Life: What attracted you to each other? What is unique about your partner?

Maria: I love her ability to analyze and see beyond what is given to her by society. She can take any issue and instinctively understand its connection to everything else. She can look at society and the structures and rules we follow



COUPLES

Maria Cadenas moved to Wisconsin from California to attend Beloit College. She is the executive director of the Cream City Foundation, a community-based philanthropic foundation that provides charitable grants to programs and projects that improve the quality of life for LGBT communities in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Jenny Durnall is a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee working on her master's in sociology with a focus on the lesbian feminist movement. She plans to get her Ph.D. and eventually teach sociology at a small, lesbian-friendly liberal arts college. She is a board member of the Lesbian Alliance.

and walk away because she understands that most of it is a game. She is the most intelligent person I know, she teaches me something each day. And she has beautiful eyes.

Jenny: For me it was love at first sight. One look at her amazing smile, so welcoming, so warm and so beautiful was all it took. But of course, it was more than physical. I just knew that she was special and unique, one of a kind. And I knew that I needed to spend the rest of my life with her. She is an amazing person — so kind, kinder than anyone I have ever known. And she is so intelligent. She knows how to do everything from running a nonprofit to writing beautiful stories to fixing things around the house, and she gives everything her all. Once she starts something she finishes it above and beyond expectations. She is so talented and that just amazes me.

Q Life: What is the happiest time that you had together?

Maria: I don't know how to answer this because there is not just a "time," more like a continuum of feeling at home with each other. This includes the times we don't see eye to eye or get on each other's nerves. I think the happiest time is when we are home and can put all worries and the world away for just one second and enjoy being there with each other. Like an early Sunday morning.

Jenny: Wow. This is a hard one. Every morn-

comes from a more quiet and introspective household where you deal with your issues on your own. We've come to handle our differences by talking to each other in "monologues" where each of us gets to say her say, and then we compromise and work on it. I think the most important thing is to listen to each other and really take action and ownership of a resolution — and at the end laugh and put it all behind us. No grudges.



Maria Cadenas and Jenny Durnall at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival.

ing when I wake up next to her is the happiest moment of my life. There is no one time that stands out in my head, because she is my home and my happiness. I love spending lazy days with her at home and I love doing the big things with her like taking our annual trips to our first and real home, the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. And we did have a very beautiful commitment ceremony.

Q Life: How do you handle fights?

Maria: I come from a loud family where to solve issues you are expected to cry, yell, and then finally laugh and put it all behind you. She

Jenny: I usually like to avoid fights, but when they happen, I am pretty quiet. I listen and let her get it all out. After that, I am silent some more. And then, later, when the mood is a bit calmer, I approach her and, usually, I try to make her laugh to lighten things up. Once we are both able to smile at each other, we are able to talk it out and work on the problem together.

Outwards Books

'Top-5 Picks for September'

Exclusive to Q Life. Latest gay and lesbian DVD releases! In honor of the LGBT Film Festival Beginning in September, the best DVDs of 2005!

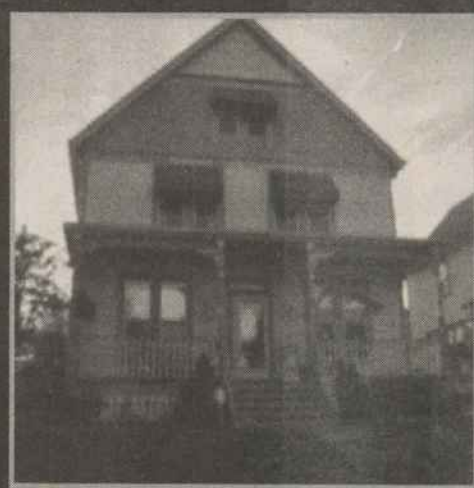
For the Boys:

- 1. Eating Out** Sexy Ryan Carnes plays gay in this romantic, screwball comedy that was the hit of last year's LGBT Film Festival.
- 2. Brother to Brother** This critically acclaimed drama brings to life the gay Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s featuring such extraordinary figures as Langston Hughes, Wallace Thurman and Zora Neale Hurston.
- 3. Prom Queen** It's prom time, and Marc dreams of taking his boyfriend to the big dance. This heart-warming true story tells how the gay teen's family and straight friends rally together to send Marc and his boyfriend to the prom.
- 4. Bear Cub** Pedro, an attractive Spanish "bear" finds his freewheeling gay bachelor lifestyle thrown topsy-turvy when he agrees to take care of his precocious young nephew Bernardo.
- 5. Bad Education** Acclaimed Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's new film boasts sexy Gael Garcia Bernal in a fascinating tale of gay desire, revenge and murder.

For the Girls:

- 1. D.E.B.S.** "Clueless" meets "Austin Powers" in Angela Robinson's smart, hilarious spy spoof about love at first gun sight in another Milwaukee LGBT Film Fest favorite.
- 2. Intentions** Happily married theater professor Renee falls truly, madly, deeply in love with beautiful graduate student Eve Carsow. But can she control her passion before it is too late?
- 3. Goldfish Memories** A very queer Dublin shines in this sexy and fun Gaelic romp about on a group of 20-something gay, lesbian and bisexual Dubliners who navigate the turbulent waters of romance.
- 4. Girl Play** Robin and Lacie are cast to play lesbian lovers in a new play and suddenly find themselves falling in love in for real in this smart, sexy film from director Lee Friedlander?
- 5. My Mother Likes Women** Sofia's daughters are thrilled to hear that their mother has fallen in love again but are in for a surprise when they find themselves introduced to her new girlfriend.

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Flying Pigskins

Can it already be that time of year when the pigskins are flying through the air every weekend with the Badgers on Saturday and the Packers on Sunday? Will Brett Favre have another stellar year as he gets closer to breaking records such as Dan Marino's Most TD (that's touchdown) Passes Thrown? It won't be long before the leaves start to turn, but rest assured, sports fans, there are some serious sporting activities going on around gay Milwaukee.

Bowling

Can it be that time of year already that bowling has begun with the Monday Nite Irregulars once again? Games are played at 7 p.m. and are held at AMF Lanes in West Allis. This year, the league has voted to change the number of players that can bowl on a team to seven, so there are teams looking for subs. Stop by the bowling alley any Monday. Good luck, bowlers, on another great season.

Softball

The SSBL is winding down its 29th season. In August, the league divided into three divisions for their playoff mode to determine the champions in each division. Results will be posted in the next edition of QLife.

The Milwaukee Kosmos are the real story of the month. As I told you last month, the Kosmos were heading down to San Diego to compete in the Gay Softball World Series (GSWS). The Kosmos players are made up of individuals that play on a team within SSBL and like to travel to compete in tournaments around the country. Teams represented in San Diego were Harbor Room (Ross Katzman), Woody's (Greg Roth, Mike Kuharske, Cheri Schessler, Kim Stuart and Brian Reinkober), M&M Club (Bill Car and Joe Woeller), Switch (Jonathan Cervero), Madison Rough Riders (Doug Hinderliter), Ballgame (Dean Petrowsky), Q Life (Paul Masterson) and Fluid (Brian "Kitty" Williams, Eric Van Egeren and Peter "Hobbit" Nys).

The Kosmos finished the round robin games with a record of 2-1 by beating the Long Beach Screamers and the San Diego Live and Let Live, while losing to the Seattle Madison Street Pub Maulers. That record gave the Kosmos a seventh seeding in tournament play out of 26 teams in their division.

The Kosmos played like champions as they breezed their way to victories over Portland Bella Boys and the San Diego Bourbon Street Gamecocks. Their toughest competition to date came against the Memphis Diamond Dawgs. The Kosmos tenacity came through however as they crushed the Dawgs 15-8 and making them



SPORTS

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

one of only four undefeated teams going into Friday's play. The Kosmos' luck ran dry on Friday as they were beaten by the Nashville Shock, moving them into the losers' bracket in the double elimination tournament. They came back to beat the Long Beach Enervators in their next game, forcing a showdown with the Chicago Hydrate for third place. Exhaustion took over and the Hydrate soaked the Kosmos 14-2 and knocked them out of the tournament.

Congratulations need to go out for a great fourth place finish and making Milwaukee proud of you!



Darts

Like the Monday Nite Irregulars, the Milwaukee Gay Dart League is starting up for another fall season. Their games, however, are held on Wednesdays. Stop by your local gay watering hole to inquire about joining a team.

Basketball

What??? Can it be? A new sport is trying to work its way into the Milwaukee gay basket of sports! That's right, sports fans. We are trying to put together a Milwaukee basketball team to travel to Chicago to play in the Windy City Athletic Association Men's (and Women's, but they are separate) Basketball league. The Web site is www.wcaa.net. No information has been posted yet on this coming season, but last year things started in January. Contact Eric Van Egeren at evanegg1@aol.com if you are interested in playing. I will relay more information in this column as I get it.

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Arts

Calendar

Out Now

Richard III. Shakespeare's notorious bad guy comes to Wells Street. Off the Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells St. Call for times. 414-327-3552.

Clare Mente. Clarence is known for paintings of childhood memories and views of his life as a Merchant Marine. KM Art, 226 S. 1st St., Milwaukee. 414-226-2272. myexecpc.com/~artkm. Through Sep. 24.

The Jammer: A Roller Derby Love Story. Bialystock & Bloom. Smack! Slap! Smooch! These are the sounds of the roller derby. The Studio Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. www.bialystockbloom.com. Through Sep. 25.

Terry Firkins. A retrospective of several of this artist's favorite painting themes. DeLind Fine Art, 400 E. Mason St., Milwaukee. 414-271-8525. Through Sep. 30.

Diabolique: Images of the Devil in Contemporary Art. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. 414-672-2787. wpca-milwaukee.org. Through Oct. 1.

Candida, Macbeth, The Merry Wives of Windsor, The Play's the Thing, Tartuffe. American Players Theatre, Hwy C, Spring Green. 608-588-2361. playinthewoods.org. Through Oct. 2.

Parallel Play. Watercolor, acrylic and mixed-media paintings and wallcloths by Thea Kovac and Dan Schuchart. Gallery 1661, Danceworks, 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Through Oct. 15.

WORD. Text in art. Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh St., Milwaukee. 414-372-7880. artbar-riverwest.com. Through Oct. 20.

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

Comedy on Broadway. Skylight Opera Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 9:30 p.m. Free. 414-291-7800. Repeats every Thursday.

Thursday, September 8

Leo Kottke. Alverno Pitman Theatre, 3431 S. 39th St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-382-6044.

Open Mic Night. Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. Sign up 5:30 p.m., show 6 p.m. 414-744-8384. broadvocabulary.com.

The White Stripes and The Greenhornes. The Rave and Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-342-7283. therave.com.

Friday, September 9

Blue Rose: The Rosemary Clooney Story. This musical tribute takes us on a unique journey through the highs and lows of Rosemary Clooney's colorful life as a

star of radio, television and movies. Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 414-224-9490. milwaukeeep.com. Through Nov. 6.

Nova Czarnecki. The show consists of recent figurative oil paintings that merge black and white with vibrant patterns and places. Rowe Art Gallery, 100 N. East Ave., Waukesha. Opening 6 to 8 p.m. 262-547-1211. cc.edu. Through Sep. 25.

A Flea in Her Ear. A classic French romp that will have you in stitches from start to finish. Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 414-224-9490. milwaukeeep.com. Through Oct. 9.

Hand Made: New Watercolors by Helen Klebesadel. Grace Chosy Gallery, 1825 Monroe St., Madison. 6 to 8 p.m. 608-255-1211. explorewisconsin.com/gracechosygallery. Through Oct. 1.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Uihlein Hall Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-273-7206.

Sasha Kinens. Opening cocktail reception. Katie Gingrass Gallery, 241 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 5 to 9 p.m. Through Oct. 16.

An Evening with Alec Soth. Milwaukee's Coalition of Photographic Arts to host an artist lecture followed by a question and answer period and book signing. MIAD Todd Weir Auditorium, 273 E. Erie St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-232-4789. alecsoth.com.

Saturday, September 10

Ballet Soirée! Children are invited to come dressed in dance attire and celebrate the fine arts with the Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops and dancers from the Milwaukee Ballet. All Milwaukee-area Schwartz Bookshops. 10 a.m. schwartzbooks.com.

Q Pick

Circus De' King. Miltown Kings host their monthly show. B-Side, 235 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. Doors open 9 p.m., show 9:30 p.m. S6. 414-272-8466.

Q Pick

TransGeneration. A special Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival screening. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 414-248-6481.

Sunday, September 11

Amber's Alert. This reading explores America's present social fabric and how wars, Homeland Security, the Patriot Act, the collision of hard-won constitutional liberties with historically unprecedented fear, paranoia, denial and mistrust have created a new America in a new century. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. 4 p.m. Pay what you can. 414-347-1645.

Adrian Belew. Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. S20. 414-276-7288. shankhall.com.

LJ Bukem and MC Conrad. Mantra Lounge, 1905 E. North Ave., Milwaukee. 10 p.m. S5. 414-274-0007. mantralounge.net.

Q Pick

Pump's 2nd Annual Drag Review. A benefit for AIDS Walk Wisconsin followed by PUMP! With DJ Plez. Three, 722 N. Milwaukee St. 414-225-0003. pumpmilwaukee.com.

Tuesday, Sep. 13

Reverence: The Films of Owen Land (Formerly Known as George Landow). His works fusing an intellectual sense of reason with the most irreverent of wits, Owen Land was one of the most original American filmmakers of the 1960s and 1970s. The second program will also include the premiere of his most recent work-in-progress. UWM Union Theater, 2200 Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free. Repeats Sep. 20.

Wednesday, September 14

Q Pick



Indigo Girls. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 800-511-1552. pabsttheater.org.

Opera in the Courtyard. Florentine Opera Company. Italian Community Center, 631 E. Chicago St., Milwaukee. 6 p.m. Free. 414-291-5700.

Thursday, September 15

Coyote on a Fence. Next Act Theater. Illiterate but likable, Bobby Reyburn is a funny guy who loves to do impressions. He's also a member of the Aryan nation, a racist predator sentenced to death for his horrific crime. Off-Broadway Theatre, 342 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-278-0765. Through Oct. 9, various times.

Q Pick



Craig Hickman. This Wisconsin native will read from and sign copies of his poignant new memoir, "Fumbling Towards Divinity." Outwards Books, Gifts, and Coffee, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free. 414-963-9089. outwardsbooks.com.

Friday, September 16

667: The Number of the Neighbor of the Beast. 1119 Williamson St., Madison. 8 p.m. S7. 608-244-8338. broomstreet.org.

Shawn Gurath — All Over. Art exhibition opening. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. 414-248-6481. Through Oct. 15.

Out of Fashion. A showcase and runway show of wearable sculpture that blurs the line between fashion and art. UWM Union Art Gallery, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 5 to 8 p.m. 414-229-6310.

George Carlin. Fox Cities PAC, 400 College Ave., Appleton. 7 and 9:30 p.m. 920-730-3760. foxcitiespac.com

Saturday, September 17

Experimental Film and Video: Birthday Girl. The world of pre-adolescent imagination and ambition rarely receives such scrutiny — a world where the internalization of values and norms is violent, thorough and irresistible. Woodland Pattern, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m.

S2. 414-263-5001. woodlandpattern.org.

Monday, September 19

Fe-mail. A noise duo consisting of Maja Ratkje and Hild Sofie Tafjord, both known from the anarchistic improv quartet SPUNK. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 414-961-7714. hotcakesgallery.com.

Juliana Theory. Rave and Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. S12. 414-342-7283. therave.com.

Thursday, September 22

Lecture and Salsa Dancing Lessons. Lecture by Felipe Rodriguez entitled The History of Salsa. Find out what is it about Salsa that makes you want to move. Followed by Salsa dance lessons by the Latin Dance Company. UWM Union Art Gallery, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 5 to 8 p.m. 414-229-2864. hernandezcenter.uwm.edu. Through Oct. 6.

Two Team Comedy Competition. Comedy Sportz guarantees a good time. Fun, fast-paced comedy show where two teams battle for laughs and points as the audience decides who wins! Union Gasthaus, 2200 Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 9 p.m.

Friday, September 23

Natalie MacMaster. UWM Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St., Whitewater. 7:30 p.m. 262-472-2222. uwm.edu/youngauditorium.

Saturday, September 24

Hallelujah! Present Music. UWM Zelazo Hall, 2419 Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-271-0711. presentmusic.org.

Thursday, September 29

Q Pick

17th Annual LGBT Film Festival. Opening Night at Oriental Theatre, 2230 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee. All other screenings at UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. mkelgbt.org/moviefestival. Through Oct. 9.

Friday, September 30

Ronald K. Brown/Evidence. Art, Faith, and Social Justice. UWM Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee 7:30 p.m. 414-229-4308. Repeats Oct. 1.

Sleepytime Gorilla Museum and the Billy Nayer Show. A costumed festival of hyperventilating self-derangement, which has yet to include much of a puppet show, but has included human performers of varying stiffness. Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. S10 in advance, S12 at the door. 414-276-7288. shankhall.com.

Thursday, October 6

4K-Torce. A night of dance highlighting Latino music and celebrating Hispanic heritage month. Union Gasthaus, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 9 to 11 p.m. 414-229-2864. hernandezcenter.uwm.edu.

Friday, October 7

Antony and The Johnsons with Guest Coco Rosie. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. S10. 800-511-1552. pabsttheater.org.

Coming Soon

October 8: Maggie & Suzzy Roche, Pitman Theatre

October 15: Big Night Out, Northern Lights Theater

October 23: Nom Tom with Jason Kahn, Hotcakes Gallery

October 28: Icons — The Lesbian and Gay History of the World, MGAC

October 30: Henry Rollins, Rave and Eagles Club

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Fall for Soup

Can you believe it? Summer is ending and fall is almost upon us. One of the nice things about the change in seasons is the change it brings in the foods we eat. Summertime is all about the grilling, while fall and winter were made for soup. There is nothing better on a cool fall day than curling up with a hot cup of soup. You can take advantage of the fall vegetables that are available when making soup. Here are a couple of vegetable soups that I hope you will enjoy.

Nutty Squash Soup

- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 tbsp. canola oil
- 1/2 cup mixed nuts
- 1 large butternut squash, peeled and diced
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 2 tsp. ground coriander
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 6 cups water
- 3 oz. goat cheese, diced
- 2 tbsp. chopped fresh Italian parsley, for garnish

Heat the olive and canola oils over medium heat in a large soup pot. Add the mixed nuts and stir until toasted, about three minutes. Transfer the nuts to a small plate, leaving the oil in the soup pot. Add the squash, onion, salt, cumin, coriander, ginger and pepper to the pot and cook, stirring occasionally, for about five minutes. Add the water to the pot. Bring the soup to a simmer and cook until the squash is very tender, about 20 minutes. Transfer the toasted nuts to a blender. Add the soup, and purée until smooth. You may need to do this in two batches. Return the puréed soup to the pot and heat. Stir in goat cheese until blended. Ladle the soup into a bowl and sprinkle with parsley, if desired.



COOKING

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 Milwaukee area.

Nutty Carrot Soup

- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 tbsp. butter
- 1/2 cup almonds
- 1 lb. carrots, sliced
- 1 small onion, diced
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1 tsp. ground coriander
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 6 cups water
- 1 15-oz. can garbanzo beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- 2 tbsp. chopped cilantro, for garnish

Heat the olive oil and butter over medium heat in a large soup pot. Add the almonds and stir until toasted, about three minutes. Transfer the almonds to a small plate, leaving the oil in the soup pot. Add the carrots, onion, salt, cumin, coriander, ginger and pepper to the pot and cook, stirring occasionally, for about 10 minutes. Add the water and beans to the pot. Bring the soup to a simmer and cook until the carrots and beans are very tender, about 15 minutes. Transfer the toasted almonds to a blender. Add half the soup and purée until smooth. Return the puréed soup to the pot and heat. Stir in yogurt until blended. Ladle the soup into a bowl and sprinkle with the cilantro for garnish, if desired.



Homocore Chicago

At the intersection of Queer and Punk there formed a subculture movement called Homocore. Inspired by the San Francisco-based zine of the same name by Tom Jennings, the early 1990s saw the development of alternative queer culture in the form of punk bands, zines, info shops and gatherings. Homocore represented a notion that queer folks of all stripes, backgrounds and differing political philosophies could form community through punk rock and activism. This took root in Chicago with ease since elements of dissent were well established, represented by artists like Joan Jett Blakk and places like Quimby's Queer Store and the Fireside Bowl. Sadly, there is no longer specifically a collective Homocore Chicago, but fret not! The energy still exists, embodied by one of the newest queer zines, and in the local bands that tour nationally.

How I learned to love myself, and occasionally other men [Issue 1, 2005, 24 pages, www.beetfarm.org/tunazine] is ostensibly a coming out zine, but it is really oh so much more than that! True to autonomous personal and political beliefs, editor Dave delves into the tangled mess one can create whilst trying to sort out sexual identity. He encountered bisexual manifesto by Jeff Subhumyn, an activist and zinester who was one of the many people who came from around the Midwest to participate in Homocore Chicago events.

Dave's narrative about his queer sexual awakening is frank, brutally honest, and delivered with an edgy sense of humor. "I remember how many times I'd be thumping away, wondering 'I sure hope this is over soon, I want to go get a Slurpee...'" is how he described his thoughts on having sex with a woman prior to his enlightenment, when he realizes, "My version of gay not only allows, but encroges [sic] sex and relationships with male bodied guys, trans guys, girl bodied girls and trans girls. I like being gay and having sex with girls, because it makes me feel like a deviant. Like I'm breaking



ZINES

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

rules, drawing off the page, etc." Nice to see rough and tumble page layout and cover art by traveling queer punk artist Damien.

P. C. Casualties [Issue 2, 1992, 20 pages] was produced in Ann Arbor by editor Mark Freitas who later was instrumental in helping establish Homocore Chicago. The hallmarks of what were to come are found in the various gems of this issue, specifically one of the most legendary interviews ever in a queer zine.

Mark had the opportunity to sit down with Pete Shelley and Steve Diggle, two members of the seminal Greater Manchester, England, punk band the Buzzcocks. For years, it was a well-known secret that this band was not only queer friendly, but they embraced a queerness of their own. Off tape, but seemingly not off the record, Mark made no bones about asking them if they were once lovers and they answered affirmatively. Not terribly surprising that Pete Shelley, who charted his first post-Buzzcocks solo hit "Homosapien," would openly discuss his past.

In addition to punk, there are articles about Exotica and Techno Rave predating the rise in popularity of both genres. P. C. Casualties is smart in that way. It isn't beholden to any fixed idea of what is, or isn't, punk or queer. This spirit lives on in the Chicago-based band Rotten Fruits, of which Mark is a part: www.rottenfruits.com.

Next month: Perchance Perzine — get up close and "personal" with shortandqueer and Flaming Jewboy.

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

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Suzanne Westenhoefer, Almost a Hometown Girl

By Holly Grey

Interviewing the comedian Suzanne Westenhoefer is like interviewing a close friend — a really funny close friend. Genuine, sincere and accommodating, Suzanne answered my questions with the same storytelling élan and humor shared in her routines.

Having started her comedic career on a dare in the very early 1990s in a bar in South New Jersey, Suzanne hit the rough and tumble comedy scene with her permed '80s big hair and lesbian bravado blazing. Holding the title of the First Openly Gay Comedian to appear on Letterman and possessor of an HBO special (and thousands of other performances), the reigning lesbian queen of stand-up is still holding court in the comedic trenches and loved by lesbians (and gay men and straights) everywhere.

After a three-year onstage Milwaukee hiatus, Suzanne returns to the home of beer and brats Friday, Sep. 23, at the Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts.

Suzanne talked to me by phone from her Los Angeles home. As we talked, Suzanne sent an instant message to her girlfriend, Jennifer, at her job in marketing, telling her that she was talking to me in Milwaukee. Jennifer wrote back insisting that Suzanne tell me her mom plans to have cheese curds for Suzanne in her dressing room. I ask Suzanne if she has ever had cheese curd before. She said, "No. They look horrible, but I heard they are really good. I promise to try them this time."

Q Life: What can we expect from your upcoming show besides laughing our heads off?

SW: There has been crying. No, seriously, my hair is a smaller. I know, it took me a while, but I finally realized my hair had gone out of style so I had it cut. I really was too busy to think about bringing my '80s hair into at least the '90s.

I also have a new girlfriend and she's from the Milwaukee area. Her family, including her mom, who have yet to see me on stage, will be in the audience, so I plan on dropping a lot more F-bombs.

Q Life: So, wow, I didn't know you have a new girlfriend. How did you meet her?

SW: I can't tell you. No, I mean I can't tell you 'cause it's in the show.

Q Life: For the Suzanne Westenhoefer "newbies" out there, how would you describe your comedic style?

SW: I am very normal and very normal looking and I talk about things you have thought of. I've collected all those thoughts and say it. I do about 75 to 90 minutes. It can be pretty improvisational so it's never the same at any show.

Q Life: After all these years, do you get nervous before a gig?

SW: I do not get nervous; however, I go through this really weird thing. I start thinking I will never be funny again, but that goes away rather quickly. It's weird and hard to describe.

Q Life: What do you do to unwind after a show?

SW: It usually takes me about an hour to unwind. If the audience leaps up and gives me a standing ovation then it takes me longer, I lie in bed and relive the show over and over.

I also do crossword puzzles in ink. Yes, in ink. My mom asked me why in all my interviews I mention I do crossword puzzles in ink and I told her it is my one big accomplishment.

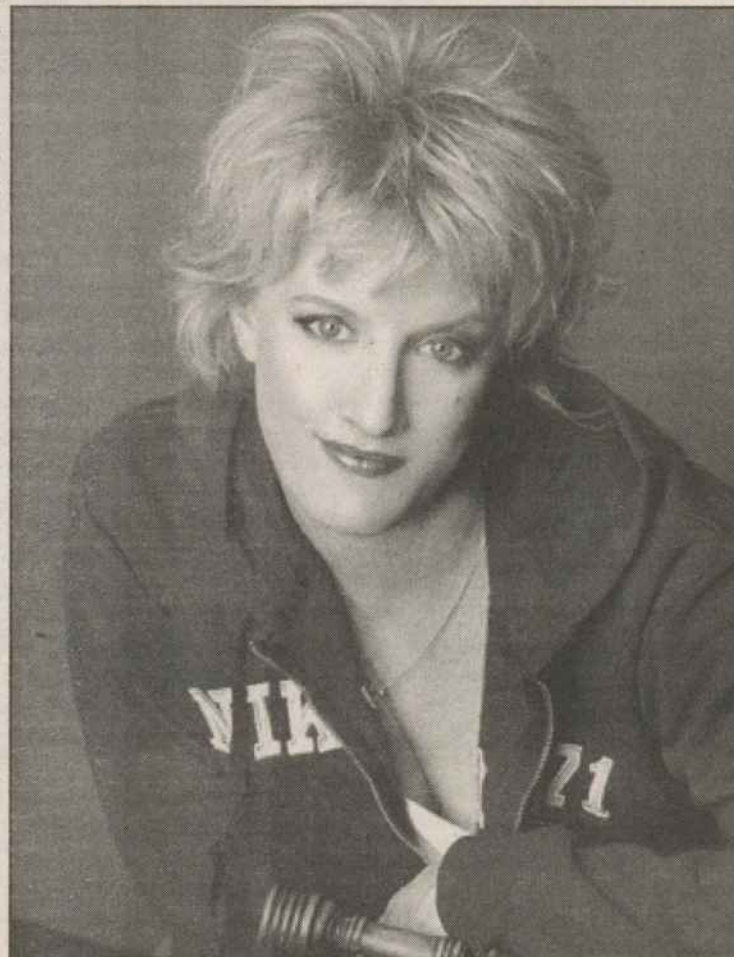
Q Life: What motivates you?

SW: I have this gene in my body that makes me tell stories and entertain. Regardless of what profession I was in, I would be funny. I would be the funniest hairdresser you knew or the funni-

est bartender. Hey, wait a minute, I was the funniest bartender, years ago.

It's also important for me to be openly gay. In 1990 I was already openly gay, so when I started in this career I wasn't going to pretend I had a boyfriend or stuff like that. I had to do it open. It was a little frightening, but I think it made a big difference.

Q Life: Why do you think lesbians find Martha Stewart so hot?



SW: That's easy. Because she is so butch and strong and that's hot. Plus, she wears that L.L.Bean clothing and we lesbians can all certainly relate to that.

Q Life: Do you think Rosie O'Donnell should do something with her hair?

SW: I think she has poker straight hair and what can she do? That bi-level cut she had was very painful, wasn't it?

Q Life: Of course, Milwaukeeans love to know what others think of our fair city, so what is your favorite part of the city, besides getting out of here?

SW: I like Milwaukee. I feel as if I am almost a hometown girl. My girlfriend's family is from Waukesha and Wauwatosa and I have spent a lot of time there. I was there for Thanksgiving. I

have never had a bad time. I like the antiques and have had several good brunches at The M&M Club.

My girlfriend and I just vacationed in the U.P. I think Wisconsin got rooked on that one when they were drawing out the state lines. It is beautiful up there.

Q Life: Speaking of antiques, are you still collecting Fiesta ware?

SW: I still have my collection, nearly 600 pieces, but I don't have room in my house here in L.A., so I've stopped. One of my best finds I purchased in Milwaukee, believe it or not. It's true. I found a cobalt mixing bowl lid, I think for the #4, in Milwaukee eight years ago.

Q Life: What's your favorite, sex or food?

SW: Mmmmm. Wow, no one has ever asked me that one before. Now let me think. I would have to say eating, right after sex.

Q Life: If you won \$100 million in a lottery, what would you do first?

SW: I would buy my sister a house. She and her girlfriend are the best and I would love to buy them a house. I would also buy my home straight out in L.A. Then I would continue to give to my favorite groups — Planned Parenthood, the Human Rights Campaign and the Lesbian Task Force.

I shared with Suzanne that if I won, I would pay the \$10 million to ride in the Russian spacecraft. She laughed and said, "That's really cool, but I couldn't do it. I'd be all freaked out about the logistical stuff like how many suitcases could I bring and what shoes to wear."

Q Life: What else are you doing?

SW: Logo, the new gay TV cable channel, bought my Bravo special and it ran last month. I am really hoping to do more with Logo and Here, but I think there is so much material for these channels to work with, that they are really weighing what's going to make it. I feel these channels have no time to

make mistakes if they are going to survive.

I am also working with the Game Show network. They are creating a remake of the old game show from the '40s and '50s called "I've Got a Secret." They are doing an all-gay panel and I'm the only lesbian on it. The pilot is running at the end of this summer.

Also, I should go now. It's been really nice talking with you, sweetie, but, you know, I'm a Buddhist and I have to go chant.

Suzanne Westenhoefer will perform at the Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts located at 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. on Sep. 23.

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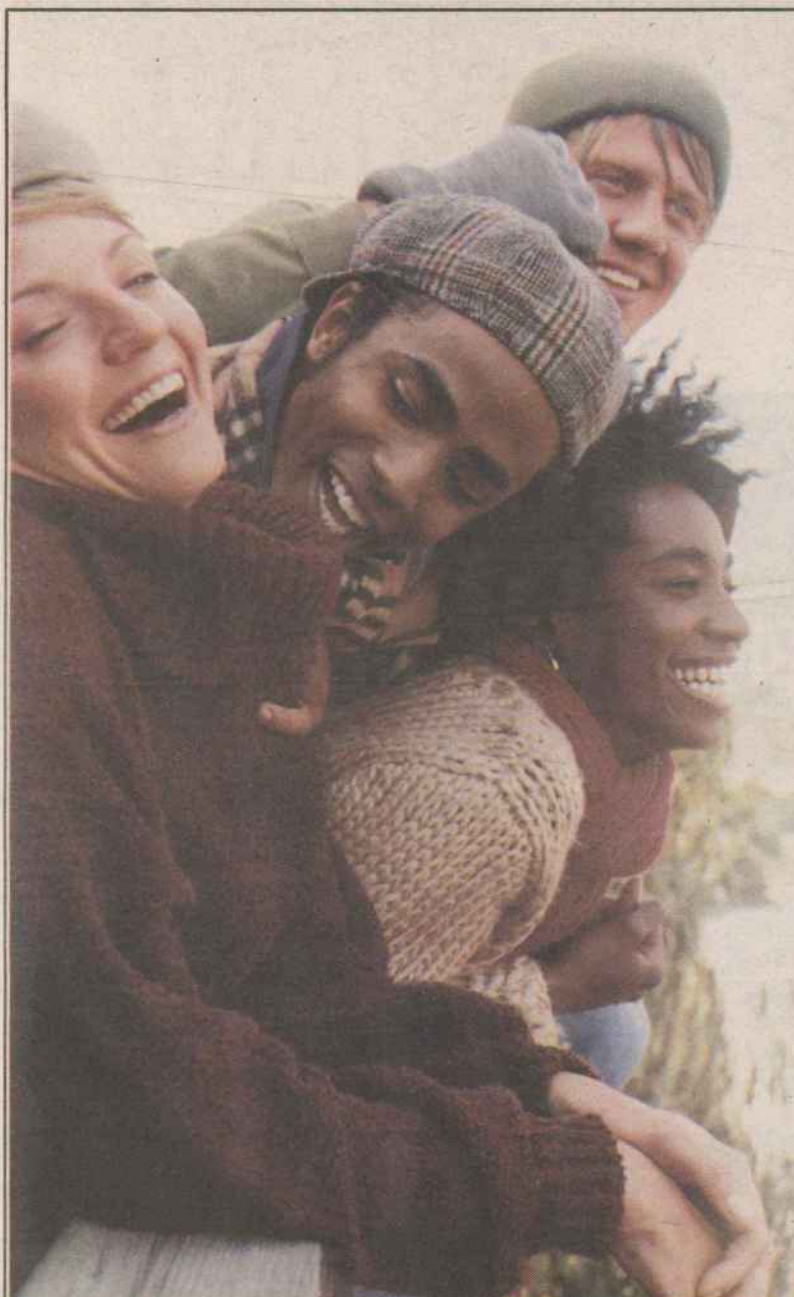
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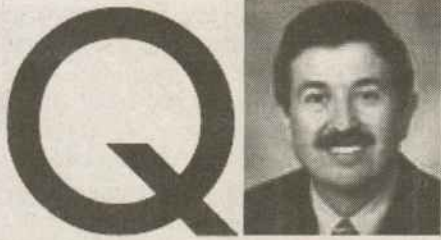
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William G. Andrekopoulos is the Superintendent of the Milwaukee Public Schools.

A Message from the Superintendent

Congratulations on the continued success of Q Life and thank you for inviting me to be this month's Q Friend. It is an honor to be provided this opportunity to address your readers and acknowledge the diversity that enriches the Milwaukee community.

Each September, as another school year begins, I take time to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year and what we hope to achieve in the upcoming year. I am happy to share that message with you.

As the Superintendent of Schools I have promoted the need for a high-quality education to ensure the academic success of all Milwaukee Public School students. My core beliefs include the idea that students benefit from the collaboration of all community partners — parents, business, community organizations, teachers and administrators. When all partners join to ensure the academic success of our students, the entire community benefits.

In recognition of the need to address the concerns of all students, a number of new, small high schools are opening in MPS. One of those schools is The Alliance High School. It is a teacher-led school based on providing a safe and nurturing environment for any students who may have felt

marginalized or bullied in other schools.

All children need a safe environment to live well and learn. If anyone in the LGBT community knows of an event or behavior relating to the treatment of children that should be brought to our attention, our Parent Information Center should be contacted at 414-475-8467.

Our efforts will continue to be aimed at ensuring that every child receives a high-quality education and graduates from high school ready for college or employment, and prepared to be a good citizen. We will also continue to work to reduce the achievement gap between the district and the state. Teachers using the Learning Targets in every classroom are making an impact on student achievement, especially in the elementary grades, but much more needs to be done.

Community volunteers have been very supportive. It means a lot when students see adult role models volunteering time to show the importance of education. That message bears repeating to the LGBT community because all of the community must contribute to the success of students in MPS. That includes adult role models comfortable with themselves. They can provide a very meaningful message to children. A community is enriched and enhanced by the diversity of its members.

So in closing, I want to thank you for your support and remind you that MPS needs more involvement from adults to fully meet the needs of our children. Contact a school and ask what you can do to contribute to the needs of the children. Volunteers can also call 414-475-8180 for information on cooperative tutoring at local churches. Thank you again for your efforts, and thank you for this opportunity to communicate with the readers and community served by Q Life News.

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Wild Saturday - Girls Gone Wild!

Alexander: Back in the Closet

DVD Review By Dustin Leimgruber

Late last year, maverick director Oliver Stone released his epic bio-pic "Alexander," a characteristically trippy exploration of Alexander the Great starring Colin Farrell. Stone refused to shy away from historical evidence of Alexander's bisexuality and unapologetically explored his close relationship with childhood friend Hephaestion.

Unfortunately, the film's promotional tagline, "Fortune Favors the Bold," did not prove true. Critically regarded as one of the year's worst, "Alexander" was chastised as a train wreck and mocked for its groundbreaking queer love story, the likes of which have never before been played against such big budget spectacle. Stone's bold choices ultimately alienated critics and mainstream audiences alike. Forever the renegade, Stone first defended his vision, blaming a "raging fundamentalism in morality" for the film's poor box office.

Now, a mere nine months after its release, it seems that one of our greatest rebel artists has caved to the fundamentalist agenda. With the release of the film on DVD, Warner Brothers and Stone have re-edited a so-called "Director's Cut" that excises the bulk of the queer content. Stone has suggested it was done to make the film "more accessible." Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has released a press statement condemning the changes but nevertheless many stores are now carrying the "Director's Cut" under the impression that it is an expanded, definitive version rather than the truncated, homophobic compromise that it is.

The trims are more significant than a mere eight minutes of missing footage would suggest. The packaging trumpets "Alexander: The Director's Cut" as "Newly Inspired, Faster Paced, More Action Packed!" It could just as easily have read "Freshly Neutered, Straighter, More Butch!" The first indication that Alexander has suddenly gone straight is the elimination of a tender pre-battle scene between him and Hephaestion (Jared Leto). "On the eve

of battle, it is hardest to be alone," Alexander tells Hephaestion in the original cut, "Stay with me tonight." In the new cut, the battle simply begins and Alexander rages across the desert hacking and impaling. Hephaestion is reduced

tense exchange with a eunuch preparing his evening bath. These erotically charged moments have been removed as well. Most egregiously, a movingly intimate balcony scene between the two lovers has been gutted.

Alexander's line "Hephaestion, I missed you. I need you," followed by Hephaestion's flirtatious teasing ("You still hold your head cocked") and his self-conscious romantic musings ("You strike me still ... you have eyes like no other...") have all been plucked from a scene that is now more about battle plans than the mutual love between two men.

Later, Alexander takes a bride played by Rosario Dawson. While Leto's Hephaestion has been all but banished from Stone's Wal-Mart-friendly cut, Dawson's Roxane actually gains screen time. An acrobatic sexual encounter between Alexander and Roxane is now extended and much more explicit, apparently to reinforce Alexander's new-found hetero bent.

Curiously, while the loving relationship of Alexander and Hephaestion has been buried, Alexander's more overtly sexual and prurient relationship with his eunuch is largely preserved. A device often used to underline Alexander's excesses and moral transgressions,

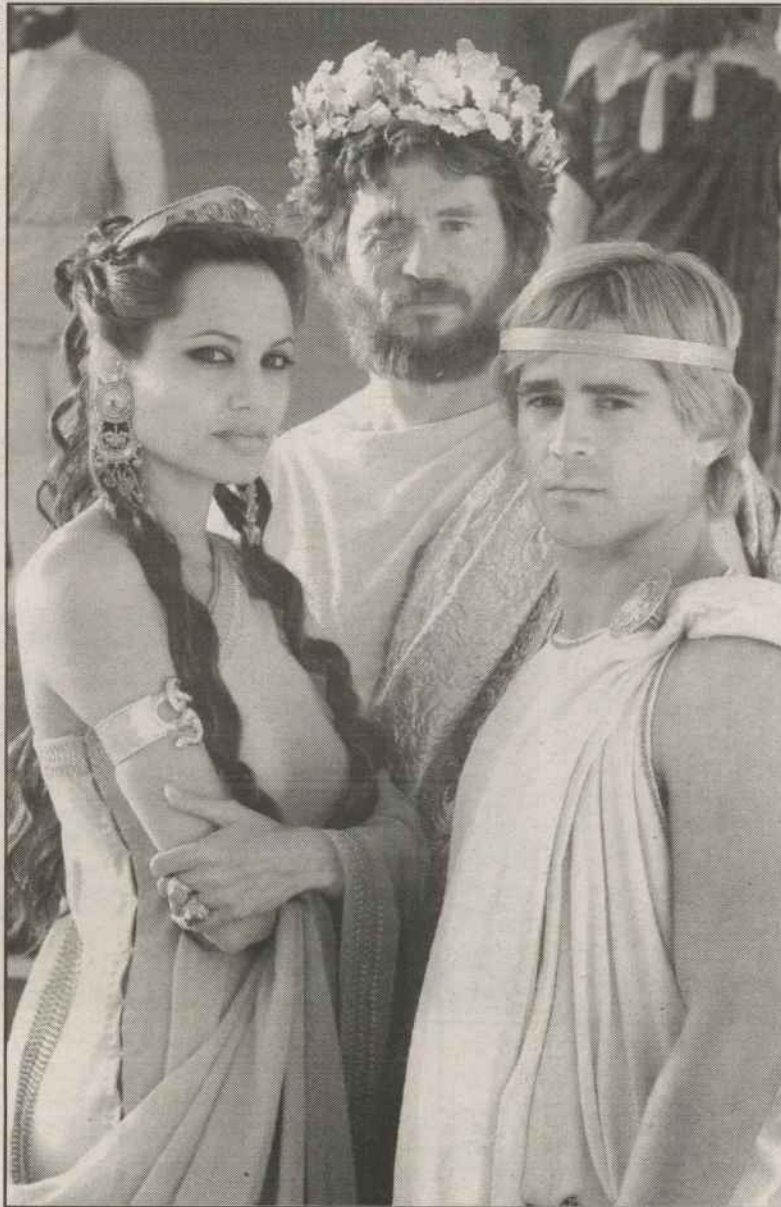
this fling is the darker, more cautionary of the two and as such it's somehow less threatening to the moralistic crowd this new version caters to.

On the DVD's commentary track, Stone

fumbles to justify the cuts, often contradicting himself. He repeatedly emphasizes the phrase "platonic soul mates" and disturbingly argues that "The constant speculation on [Alexander's] bisexuality, demeans the greatness of his life." The director's ambivalence about this subject is further confused when he muses over Alexander's trifecta of lovers: a man, a woman and a transgendered eunuch. "He's pansexual," Stone claims, "Alexander is looking for the end of the world. He would explore everything." Stone seems caught between the two versions, defending the truth of his original vision while rationalizing its mutilation.

In fairness, Warner Brothers has also released the original cut of the film to DVD. However, it must be asked why the alternate version exists at all. Additional trims and substantial reorganization of scenes indicate that Stone was either not pleased with his original assembly or was completely demoralized by its critical drubbing. As the author of the work, he has complete authority to hone it to his satisfaction. After all, filmmakers have been re-imagining their movies for years (much to the dismay of consumers buying the same titles again and again). But Stone has publicly admitted that the queer elements were toned down in response to the current political climate. Last December he told Daily Variety, "...[T]he film simply did not open in the South. There was a clear resistance to the homosexuality." Considering the film's anemic box office, the "Director's Cut" seems like a last ditch effort to make a few more Middle America dollars.

The original theatrical cut of "Alexander" is a messy masterpiece. It's restless and ragged, like the conqueror himself — a rowdy, drunken romp full of shouting and crying, blood and big ideas. It's masculine and feminine, oppressive and repressed, campy and brazenly proud. If that's not the makings of classic queer cinema, what is? Sadly though, most viewers will stumble upon the homogenized "Director's Cut" and never know what they're missing. "Alexander's" matter of fact depiction of bisexuality achieved great strides for LGBT representation in film. But the "Director's Cut" penetrates the chest and carves out the heart, leaving a potentially mortal wound on the future of mainstream queer cinema.



Angelina Jolie, Val Kilmer and Colin Farrell in "Alexander."

to an anonymous extra.

Once his army has occupied Babylon, Alexander again pleads with Hephaestion to "Stay with me tonight" and shares a sexually

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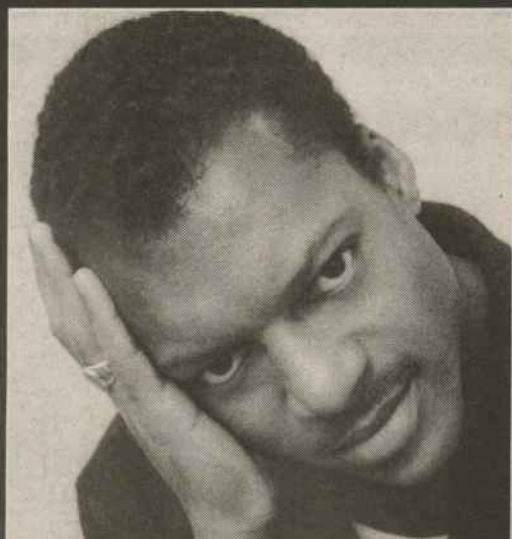
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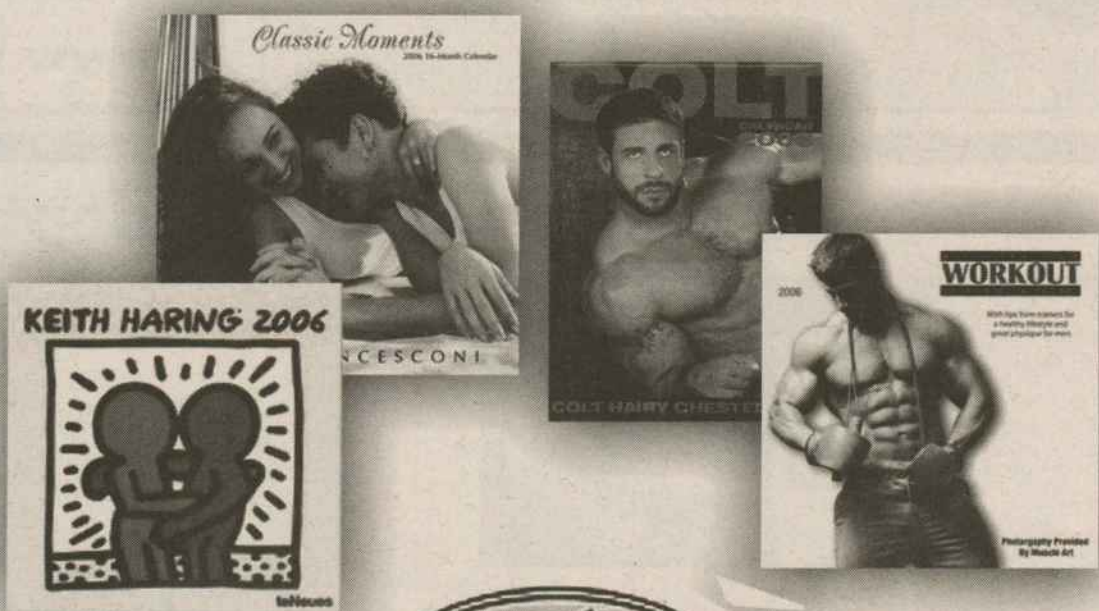
The book to be discussed is "Secret Service: Untold Stories of Lesbians in the Military" by Zsa Zsa Gershick. Everyone is welcome to join in on the discussion.



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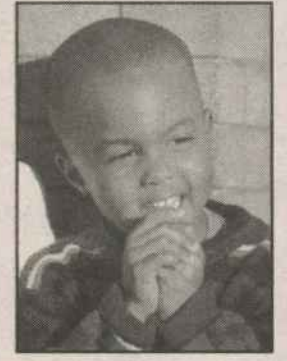


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A New Riverwalk

Finding new destinations in Milwaukee can be quite challenging for a local, though the ever-changing night-life and restaurant scene calls attention to new target spots almost weekly. This past week I visited **Riverwalk Bistro**, a new restaurant in the Historic Third Ward. Riverwalk Bistro, 223 N. Water St., has an individualistic aesthetic that appeals to all.

With ample seating upstairs and downstairs, Riverwalk Bistro caters to anyone's needs. The patio is intimate, a perfect place to take a date or to just sit and have a cocktail and watch the passing boats along the Milwaukee River.



Unlike many of the RiverWalk restaurants, the seating is plentiful yet the patio is not enormous, so you feel like people are actually paying attention to you.

The menu consists of soup, salads, sandwiches and entrees. With a nice variety of local fish and seafood on the menu alongside simple yet amazingly delicious sandwiches, the menu at Riverwalk Bistro has something for everyone. I chose the grilled ham and Gouda cheese sandwich — something I never would have thought of, even being the cheese lover that I am. Combined with the stone-ground mustard, spinach, tomato and amazing country bread, this sandwich might possibly be the reason for



CLUBBING

Christopher Schmidt frequents many area clubs. He is always on the lookout for the newest hotspots. Stay tuned for more on Milwa

my return.

Not only is the food good, experienced bartenders seem to concoct to perfection some of the most amazing drinks in the city, even drinks as seemingly simple as a vodka lemonade. For example, my mother is on a Long Island iced tea kick. (To tell you the truth it almost made me revert back to my college days where Long Islands were the drink of choice.) None of that pre-mixed nonsense was anywhere in sight. The wine list offers an array unique to menus here in Milwaukee. Though I'm a wine lover, I recognized only two wines on the page-long menu. After having four glasses of different wines, I am ready to go back to this quiet yet engaging nook to try them all.

While much of Milwaukee is trying to go for trendy and up-to-the-minute spots, Riverwalk Bistro keeps it simple and to the point. There is no room for misinterpretation, what you see is what you get. The food and drink menus are straightforward, and the dapper, polite staff are there when and where you need them. I don't have even one complaint about my experience at Riverwalk Bistro. Friendly and inviting, the Riverwalk Bistro is somewhere you must go.

Riverwalk Bistro is open Tuesday through Thursday 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday 11:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. They are closed on Mondays.



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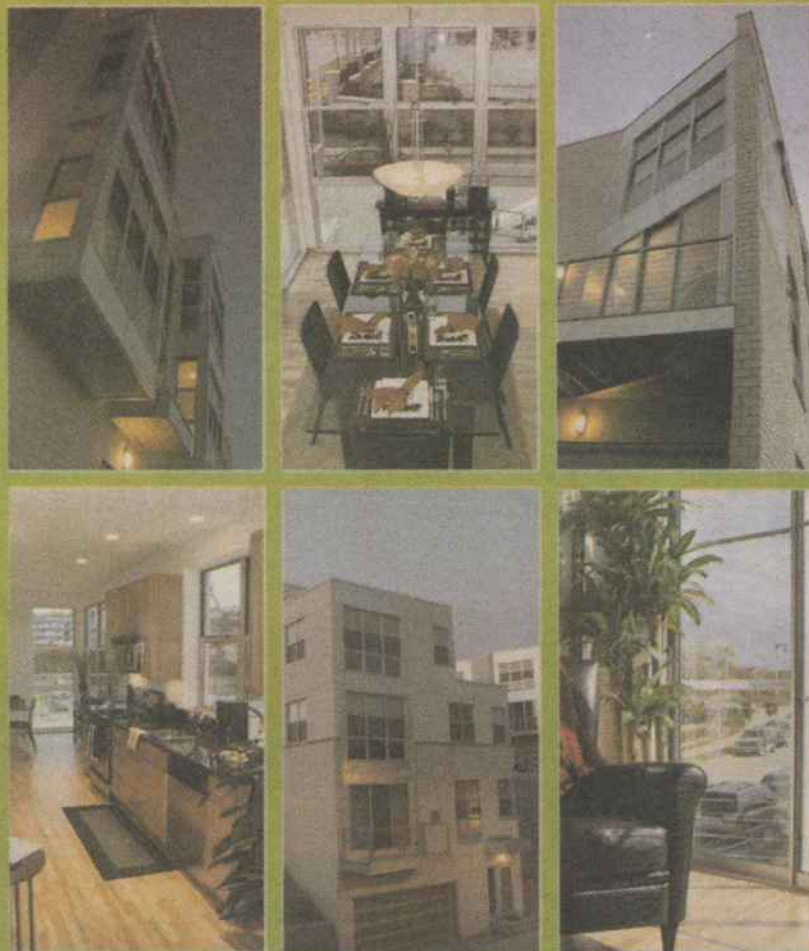
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