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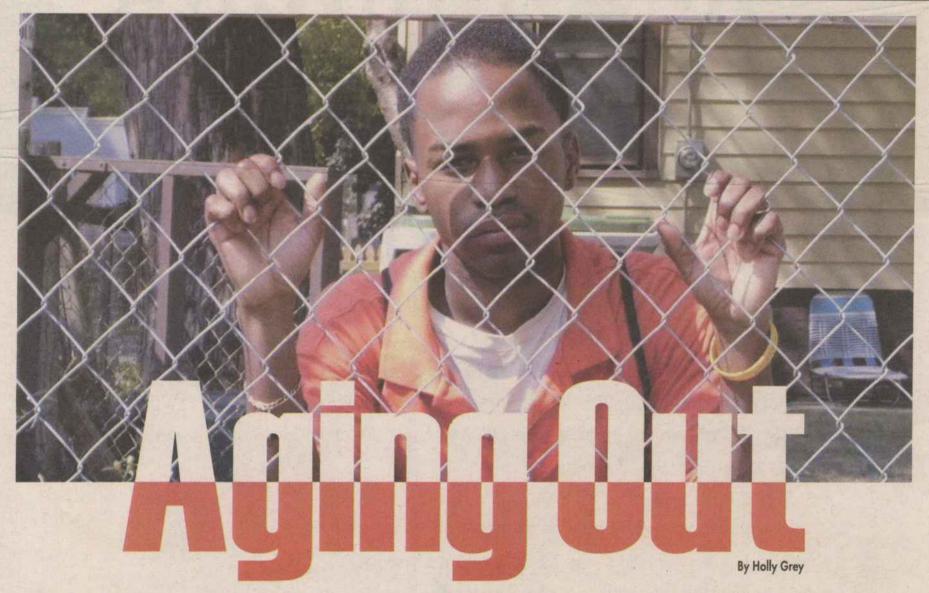
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Naked Boys Singing! We're B-A-C-K! Page 43



Vol. 1, Issue 11 - October 2005

Wisconsin's Premiere LGBT News Leader • QUEERLIFENEWS.COM



Foster care youth are ejected from the system with little or no support

f you are a gay kid, turn 18 and are aged out of the foster care system with no job skills, no home and no high school diploma, what do you think is going to happen? What options do you have? Prostitution becomes a real option when you are a kid thrown into this situation," explained James Pekrul.

"I know what these kids go through. I was in foster care for 18 years and was abused. At 18 I was thrown out of my

home with no high school diploma and no job skills. I was homeless. I vowed at that time that one day I would help kids to keep from becoming like me."

All these past experiences culminated in Perkul founding the Foster Youth Independence Center of Milwaukee (FYI) three years ago.

Aging out is a term used to describe the state mandate that says when a foster child turns 18, all the State's custodial rights regarding the child cease. At the same time, payment to the foster family for the child's care stops. So for many of these young adults, like Perkul, life as they know it ends; they are left homeless and alone.

Materials produced by FYI say that "children who age out of foster care in Wisconsin are 12 times more likely to become homeless than other children" and "over 20 percent of these children report living in five or more places within 18 months" of aging out. In all, a little

over one-third of aged-out children do not have a high school diploma or GED and fewer than one in 10 attend college.

A recent study by the Wisconsin Independent Living Advisory Committee found that aged-out children experience unemployment or underemployment. In addition, they are far more vulnerable to physical and sexual victimization and utilize public assistance in higher

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Star Jade Estaban Estrada to Perform

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AIDS Walk Wisconsin Raises \$383,028

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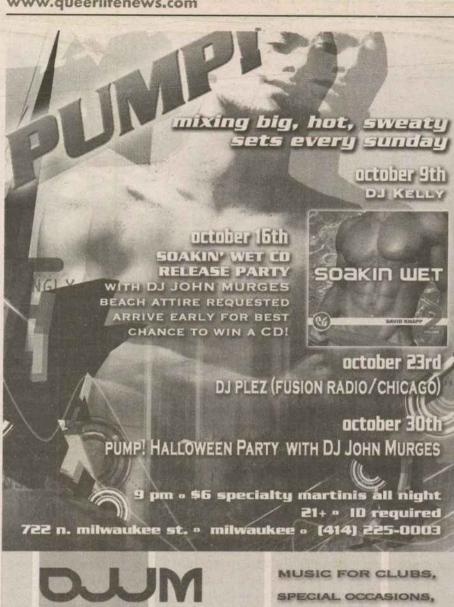
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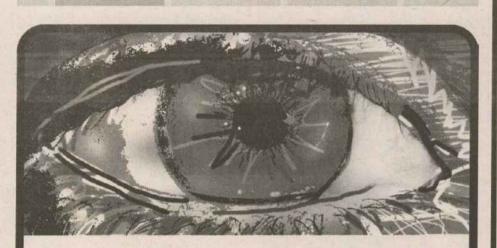
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A Letter from the Editor

Why are we soooo late? I know from several dozen e-mails and calls that many of you want and deserve to know.

When you're in the newspaper business, you rely heavily on committed staff members that must all wear several hats. When one of those main folks is unable to perform — I learned the hard way — HAVOC ensues. I simply got caught off guard without a game book. However, that being said, I, as the editor, must take full responsibility for our late arrival this month.

This experience has made me smarter for the wear, and I am committed more than ever to continuing to meet Queer Life's high standards as Wisconsin's Premiere LGBT News Leader for almost a year. This paper truly is a community paper that our brothers and sisters call their own and cherish.

Thank you for your loyalty and continued readership.

Don Hoffman, Editor-In-Chief

Everything Is Coming Up Roses in Portland

hat do we think of in Wisconsin when we think of roses? Mostly it centers around the Rose Bowl possibilities of the Wisconsin Badgers football team. However, heading west for the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., should not be your only thought; I offer you the City of Roses, Portland, Ore.

I have been to many cities in my lifetime, but I must tell you that Portland gives me the same hospitable feeling that Milwaukee does. Portland is approximately the same size as our hometown here, but it has many things to offer the gay tourist. Whether you are into indoor or outdoor activities, Portland should be your destination.

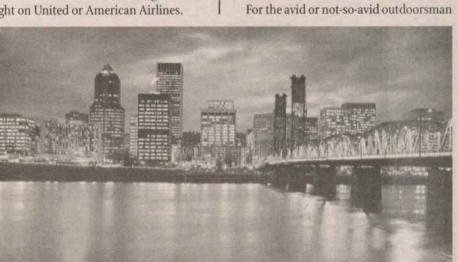
There are no direct flights out of General Mitchell to Portland, but you can easily get there on any of the carriers with a simple connection. You could also make the 90mile drive south to O'Hare to get a direct flight on United or American Airlines.



TRAVEL

by Brian Reinkober

Restaurant. Sit outside for great people watching. Afterwards, head on over to Embers for a neighborhood bar experience. For the dancing queen, Slaughters is a must, complete with its own Rainbow Room Video Lounge. For the hardcore leather man, Portland Eagle is a two-story establishment with parties going on practically every weekend.



Once you arrive in Portland, you will immediately know that you are in the great Northwest. The air is usually crisp and cool with a scent of evergreen.

Located on the banks of both the Willamette and Columbia rivers, Portland is in an ideal location. The downtown district is very pedestrian friendly. Pioneer Square, with all of the major retail establishments plus Saks Fifth Avenue, Nordstrom and Nordstrom Rack and Nike Town, is a must for the gay shopping tourist.

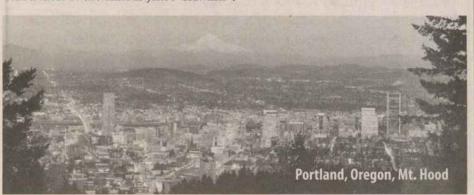
Chinatown, in the Waterfront District, should also be on your list of places to visit. It is highlighted by the Royal Family Ginseng Plaza. In the center of Chinatown is one of the largest Chinese shopping areas in the U.S., with a central fountain with live birds and many shops and outdoor cafes.

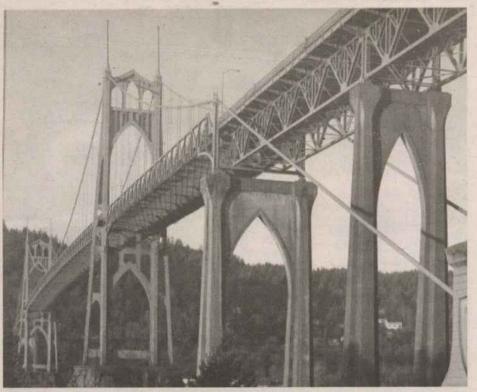
At nighttime, head over to the Burnside Triangle, "the gay area of Portland." Start with a meal at the famous Jake's Crawfish or woman, traveling outside of Portland offers some of this country's most spectacular scenery. Drive east on I-84 following the Columbia River Valley. The scenery is breathtaking! Waterfalls are everywhere. Get off State Highway 35 and drive south for incredible views of Mount

Driving west to the coast and along State Highway 101, you will see some amazing rock formations and rough and rugged coastline. Sunsets are not to be missed!

So if you are looking for a great place to visit on the West Coast without the buffedup clones and the attitude, this is it!

Tip of the Trip: The Light Rail is the best mode of transportation for getting around Portland, Day and week passes are available. If you are just going to be staying in Portland, spend a couple of bucks to ride it from the airport to anywhere in the city.





St. Johns Bridge, Portland, Oregon

Aging Out

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

proportions than other children. The Department of Health and Human Services reports that 6,274 children aged out of the foster care system between 1992 and 1998.

Working with kids ages 15 to 18, FYI provides early intervention services that help transition foster children from custodial care to living independently. "What we want to do is intervene early so these kids don't have to go through the hardships and crisis that a lot of foster



kids end up going through when they age out," Perkul explained. "On many levels we function in the place of parents.

Case managers from the Milwaukee County Bureau of Child Welfare refer children to FYI for a specific service. After meeting with the child, FYI develops an individualized program for that child's specific needs. A program may be designed to help the child with a job search, including training on how to fill out a job application or how to interview. In some instances, the program may include the purchase of an outfit for the referee to wear to a job interview. Other youths need assistance with homemaking or self-care skills.

For many, the major challenge is securing affordable housing. FYI assists the young adults in locating apartments and then subsidizes the rent until they can manage on their own. In return for the rent assistance, the youth is required to work with FYI in becoming completely self-sufficient.

"We do charge a fee for our services, but it is not enough to do one-on-one with the young person," said Perkul. "So many times we can do the how-to-find-ajob training, but there will be no money left over to buy the interview outfit. It's a struggle."

"Grant money exists, but it's very limited," Perkul elaborated. "We are currently working with 25 kids. The plan is to work with 100 kids next year. In order to reach our goals and meet all these kids' needs, we are actively seeking donations from individuals and corporations to fill in

FYI's biggest organizational challenges are twofold. "Educating the public on the crisis of aged-out foster children and obtaining grant funding and donations is crucial to the well-being of our efforts," explained Perkul. "We can't survive and assist these kids without it."

To aid in building public awareness of the challenges facing aged-out vouth, FYI is holding a free public viewing, to be followed by a discussion, of the awardwinning documentary "Aging Out." "Aging Out" chronicles foster care youth as they are ejected from the system and forced to fend for themselves without family support or a stable home and with meager financial resources and survival skills.

The viewing will be Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Gordon Park Pavilion, 2828 N. Humboldt Blvd. "Donations will be greatly, greatly appreciated," stressed Perkul.



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International Happenings

AIDS Virus 'Could Be Weakening'

HIV Still Considered a Life-Threatening Infection

The virus which causes AIDS may be getting less powerful, researchers say.

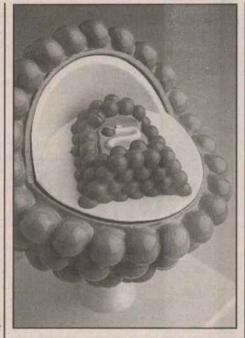
A team at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, in Antwerp, compared HIV-1 samples from 1986-89 and 2002-03.

They found the newer samples appeared not to multiply as well and were more sensitive to drugs — though some other studies argue the virus is becoming more resistant.

The researchers, writing in the journal Aids, stressed their work in no way means efforts to prevent the spread of HIV should be scaled down.

They were only able to compare 12 samples from each time period, and they were unable to fully tease out any effect that drug therapy may have had on the virus.

Researcher Eric Artz said, "This was a very preliminary study, but we did find a pretty striking observation in that the viruses from the 2000s are much weaker than the viruses from the '80s.



"Obviously this virus is still causing death, although it may be causing death at a slower rate of progression now. Maybe in another 50 to 60 years we might see this virus not causing death."

Keith Alcorn, senior editor at the HIV information charity NAM, said it had been thought that HIV would increase in virulence as it passed through more and more human hosts. But the latest study suggested that the opposite is actually occuring.

"What appears to be happening is that by the time HIV passes from one person to another, it has already toned down some of its most pathogenic effects in response to its host's immune system," he said.

"So the virus that is passed on is less 'fit' each time. This would suggest that over several generations, HIV could become less harmful to the human hosts it infects. However, we are still far from that point — HIV is still a life-threatening infection."

Marco Vitoria, an HIV expert at the World Health Organization, said other diseases — such as smallpox, TB and syphilis — had shown the same tendency to weaken over time.

"There is a natural trend to reach an 'equilibrium' between the agent and the host interests, in order to guarantee concomitant survival for a longer time," he said.

However, Vitoria stressed that the latest findings should not lull people into a false sense of security, and he questioned whether it was possible to draw firm conclusions from such a small study.

Christian School Expels Girl for Having Lesbian Parents

Ontario, Canada — A 14-year-old girl was expelled from a Christian school because her parents are lesbians, the school's superintendent said in a letter.

Shay Clark was expelled from Ontario Christian School Sept. 22.



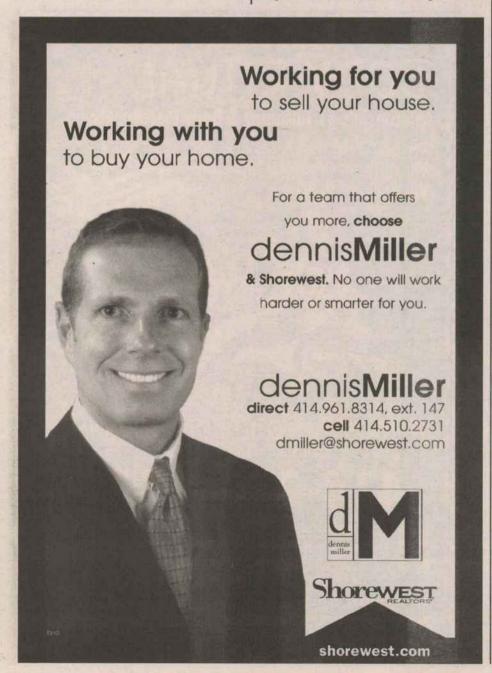
"Your family does not meet the policies of admission," Superintendent Leonard Stob wrote to Tina Clark, the girl's biological mother, in a letter.

Stob wrote that school policy requires that at least one parent may not engage in practices "immoral or inconsistent with a positive Christian life style, such as cohabitating without marriage or in a homosexual relationship," The Los Angeles Times reported.

Shay and her parents said they won't fight the ruling.

School administrators said they learned of the parents' relationship this week after Shay was reprimanded for talking to the crowd during a football game, Clark explained.

Clark and her partner have been together 22 years and have two other daughters, ages 9 and 19.



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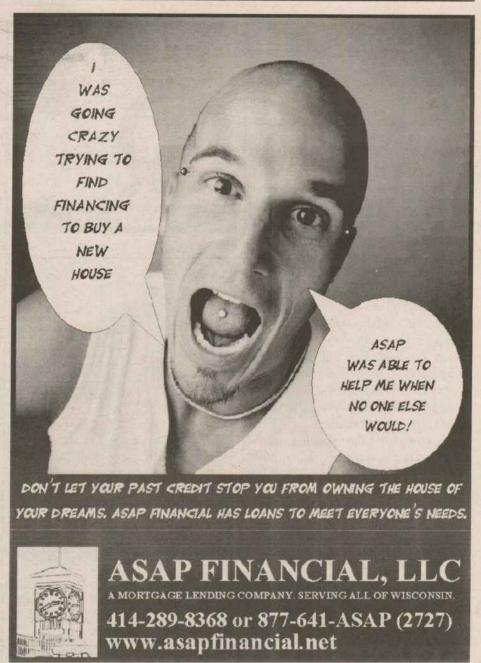
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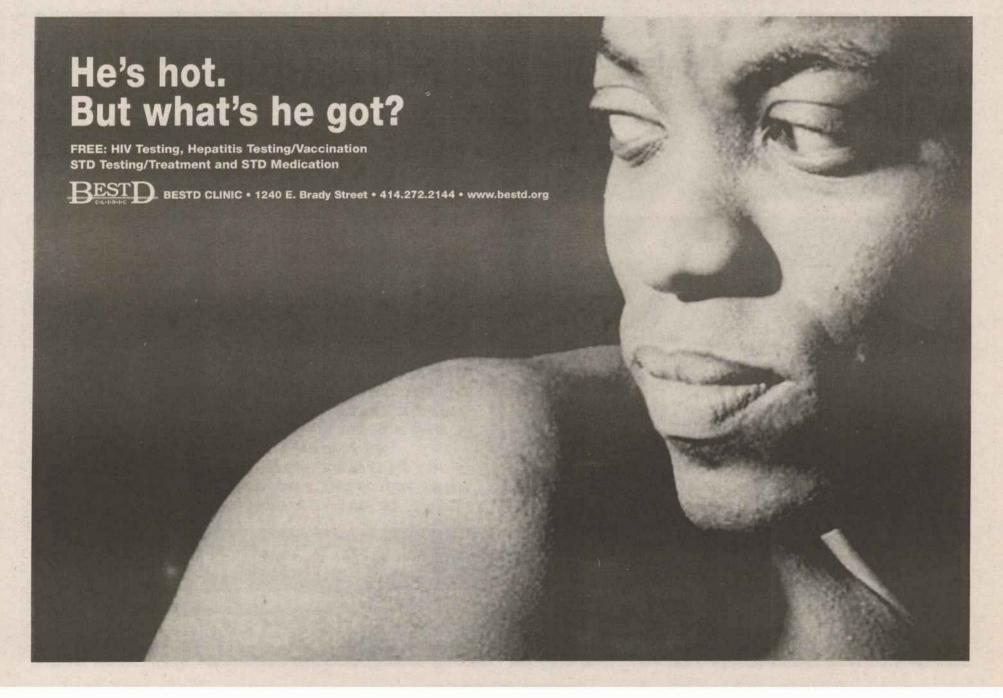


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Walking in My Shoes

ake up. Shower. Brush teeth. Stare into the closet. Since coming out I find myself staring back into my closet more than ever.

Whether you think it a blessing or a curse, members of the LGBT community are often, both appropriately and stereotypically, thought of as pioneers in the realm of beauty and fashion. So we wear nice clothes and realize that matching is the difference between glamour and tacky — does that mean that we all need to know our designer labels and "bling" like J-Lo? Well, the verdict is still out on that one...

Q Fashion will be an outlet for reporting on what's happening in the realm of fashion in Milwaukee and around the world, highlighting local designers that are weaving fashion into all of our lives, and bringing accessible fashion to the backs and feet of all of queer Milwaukee.

The changing of the colors has already started — the trees that is. Fall is often misunderstood as the end of life. But it is simply the beginning of a new cycle of that will bring new leaves, colors and styles.



FASHION

By Kurt Dyer



This fall think of your fashion as the beginning of a new way of dressing. Be vibrant! Fall often showcases the orange, brown and yellow that are traditionally associated with this season. But this fall think bold. Wear a bold green with some



yellow. Or try some Moroccan blue with brown. Add lively color with scarves and hats in reds, burnt olive and atmosphere. Let yourself "bling" in your own way.

One easy way to make a statement this fall begins with your feet. Put those Birkenstocks and Skechers back in the closet and make room for these hot new styles. The three brands that I suggest for this season are Puma, Asics and Gola. Puma has always been a favorite of mine. Not only does Puma turn brilliant styles and colors into sleek design, but they also make shoes that are comfortable to wear. Imagine that. You can shop online or check out area stores that carry Puma.

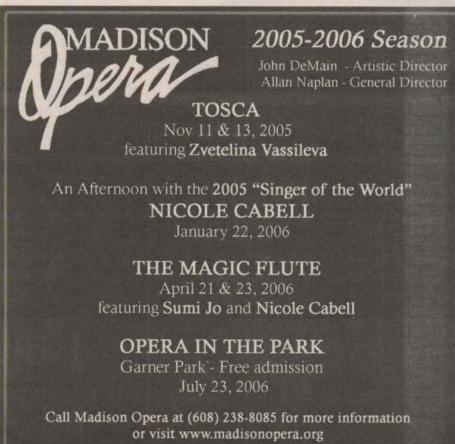
Asics is a new favorite of mine. With a bit of a classic, retro feel, Asics weave the past into hot new fashion for the future. If you aren't one to shop online, plan a trip to Urban Outfitter's in Madison — one of the only Wisconsin retailers of this brand.

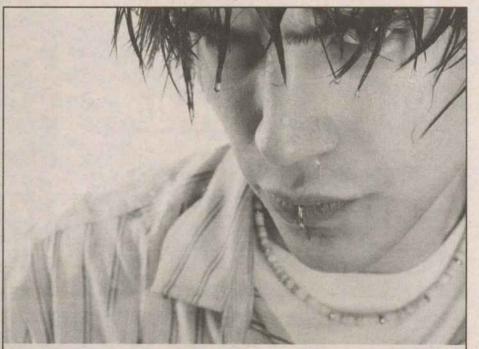
Check out the Onitsuka Tiger line of Asics; you'll be impressed with the selection. Again, these shoes combine wonderful color, detail and design with comfort, making it a lot easier to stroll around looking hot without making that "damn these shoes really hurt face."

Lastly, my new found love: Gola. Gola is similar to Puma and Asics, with their innovative designs and vibrant colors, but differs from them with its dress shoes. Gola has some really great styles that are more dressy for those occasions when you might not want to have a tennis shoe look. Unfortunately, not many local places carry Gola, but you can always buy them online.

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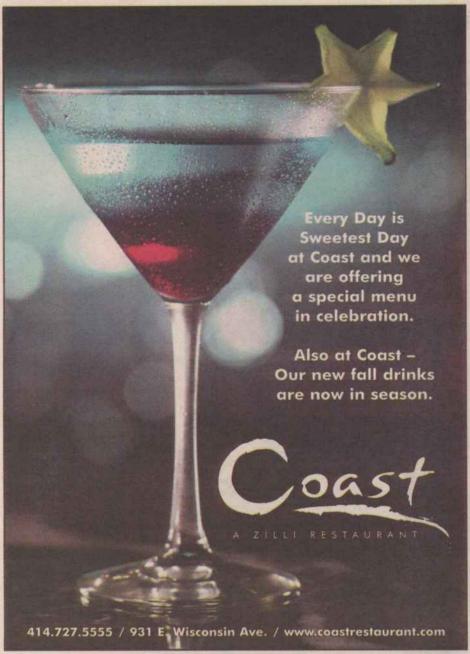
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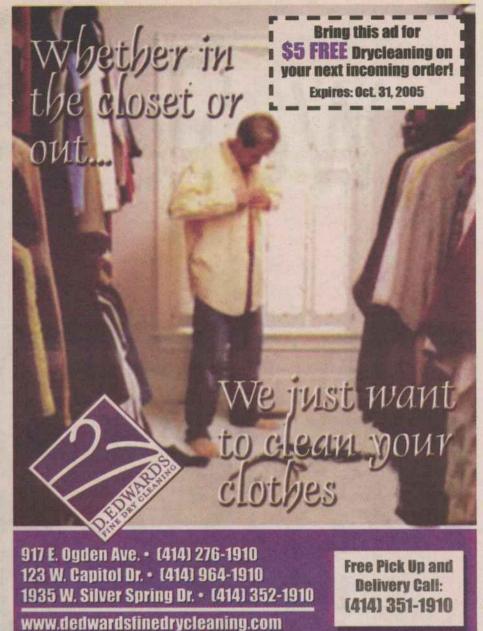
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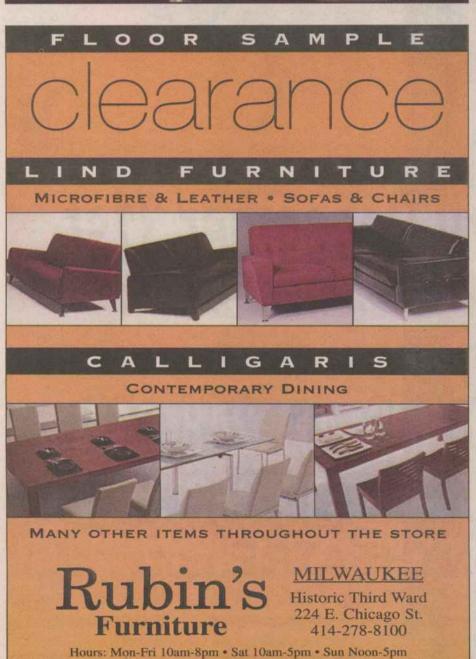
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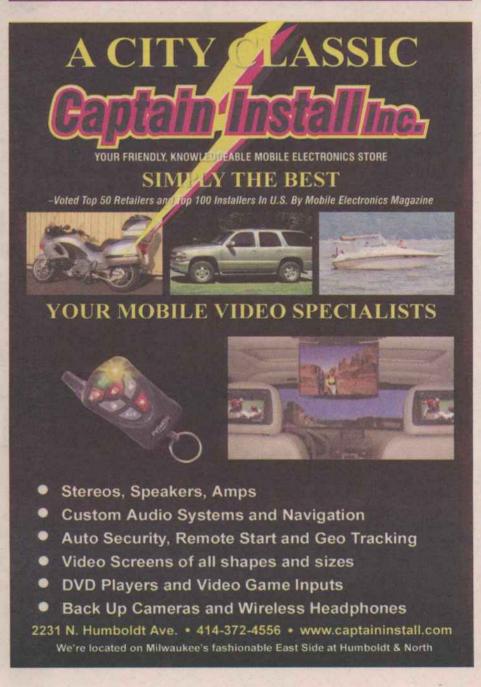
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Wisconsin Happenings

AIDS Walk Wisconsin Raises \$383,028

Over 2,500 people joined Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and wife Kris in the 16th Annual AIDS Walk Sept. 25. The Barretts, longtime supporters of the walk, were the honorary co-chairs of the event, which brought in \$383,028.

"This is real life. We have a commitment to do everything we can to end this pandemic," Barrett



told walkers during the event's opening ceremonies. Joining Barrett onstage were Miller Brewing Company Vice President Mike Jones and his family, Julie Kubasa of Miller Brewing Company, state Sen. Tim Carpenter, state Rep. Jon Richards, **ARCW Executive Vice President and** Chief Operating Officer Mike Gifford, and ARCW client Sheila Jones and her family. Ceremonies were emceed by Kiss FM DJ Wes McCain.

Walkers completed the 10and five-kilometer routes despite sporadic downpours.

"I think our walkers would walk through a tornado for us," said Dan Mueller, chief development officer for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). "This is truly, truly amazing."

With the number of people living with HIV in Wisconsin at a record high, funds generated from the walk will support the thousands of men, women and children with HIV who rely on ARCW and other agencies that help them access health care, housing and important social services. The walk also supports important, aggressive HIV prevention programs aimed at people most at risk for HIV.





LGBT Center Hosts Big Night Out

The Big Night Out dinner, auction and live performance will benefit the programs of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, a nonprofit social service organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBT people in the Metro Milwaukee area, for its third year.

The Big Night Out will take place Saturday, Oct. 15, at Potawatomi Bingo Casino's Northern Lights Theater from 5:30 to 10 p.m.

This year's theme is "Joker's Wild," with Milwaukee's own John McGivern - comedian, writer, actor, and producer - and Tanya Atkinson as the evening's

Guests will also enjoy the lovely setting at the Northern Lights Theater where they can mingle on the mezzanine, sip cocktails and bid on items in the silent auction. The silent auction will include terrific deals on hotels, theaters, restaurants and more.

"We are excited to have such a fun event to really bring together Milwaukee's vibrant and growing LGBT community," says James Pennington, the center's executive director. "We work hard to unite our community and having such an event really allows us to come together and celebrate how far we've come. In the process, the funds raised will be put to great work toward our future goals as a community united for change.

This is a black-tie optional event, and tables are forming now. Cabaret-style seating in a digitally designed theater ensures that every seat in the house is a good one. Tickets are \$75 or \$100; for entertainment only seating, tickets are \$35. To reserve tickets, purchase a table, donate auction items or learn more, call 414-271-2656 ext. 121.

Common Council Opposes Ban on Civil Unions and Gay Marriage

organization running Metro Milwaukee operations for Wisconsin's No on the Amendment campaign, announced a victory Sept. 27 with the Milwaukee Common Council's 13-2 vote to oppose the proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage for same-sex couples. Alderman Mike D'Amato was the measure's chief sponsor.

"The strong vote by Milwaukee's leaders sends a message to Madison politicians

Center Advocates, the equal rights | that our community stands by our locally approved domestic partner programs. Milwaukee created these programs to help recognize and protect gay and lesbian families that are denied access to marriage under our discriminatory laws," said Advocates Director Patrick Flaherty.

> Milwaukee created a domestic partner registry in 1999 that is used by corporations like SBC, Medical College of Wisconsin and Wells Fargo to determine eligibility for company domestic partner insurance.

In 2001, the City of Milwaukee began offering health and bereavement benefits to the partners and families of gay and unmarried heterosexual employees.

The vote to oppose the ban directs lobbyists to work against the ban.

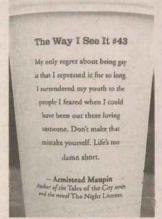
The ban must pass the Wisconsin Legislature a second time and then be approved by voters in November 2006 to change Wisconsin's constitution.

National



Happenings

Starbucks Coffee Cups with Gay Quote Pulled



Waco, Texas — A Starbucks at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, has pulled coffee cups featuring an author's quote about growing up gay.

The quote comes from novelist Armistead Maupin, who gained critical acclaim and literary fame for his Tales of the City series.

The quote on the cups reads: "My only regret about being gay is that I repressed it for so long.

I surrendered my youth to the people I feared when I could have been out there loving someone. Don't make that mistake yourself. Life's too damn short."

Aramark, the dining contractor for the Baylor Starbucks,

pulled the cups from the campus store after an e-mail said the quote was inappropriate at a Baptist university.

"My understanding is it was a decision made by Baylor dining services staff, and I've not yet been able to trace it back to any Baylor administrators telling them point-blank to pull the cup, Baylor spokesman Larry Brumley told the Associated Press.

"I think they were trying to be sensitive. Obviously, Baylor is a Baptist-affiliated institution, and Baptists as a denomination have been pretty outspoken on the record about the denomination's views about the homosexual lifestyle."

In August, Baylor University ranked as one of the worst schools for LGBT students in the Princeton Review. And in February 2004, Baylor was accused of stripping student Matt Bass' scholarship to its theology school after discovering he was gay.

After students rallied to support him, the school cracked down on organizers. CNN noted student leader Darrin Adams was threatened with expulsion just days before his graduation.

"It's the same way Baylor deals with any issues — just remove them," Adams told the PlanetOut Network. "Their whole attitude of nonconfrontation not only provides them with more problems but is also an un-Christian approach to dealing with life."

Michigan to Offer Domestic Partner Comes Before Benefits Biological Rights

Lansing, Mich. — A Michigan judgeruled late last month that public universities and governments can provide health insurance to the partners of gay employees without violating the state constitution.

The ruling sets aside a legal opinion issued this year by Republican Attorney General Mike Cox saying that the city of Kalamazoo could not provide benefits to gay partners.

Cox cited the constitutional amendment approved by voters last November that made the union between a man and a woman the only agreement recognized as a marriage "or similar union for any purpose."

Twenty-one gay couples who work for Kalamazoo, universities and the state filed a lawsuit challenging Cox's interpretation.

In the Sept. 27 ruling, Ingham County Circuit Judge Joyce Draganchuk said the purpose of the amendment was to ban gay marriage and civil unions, not to keep public employers from offering benefits to gay employees.

A spokeswoman for Cox said he was reviewing the ruling and considering whether to appeal.

Jay Kaplan, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, urged Cox to not "waste" taxpayer dollars on an appeal.

The ruling could have an immediate impact on state employees. A spokeswoman for Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, said the administration would ask the state Civil Service Commission to quickly approve domestic partner benefits.

Philadelphia — The Superior Court of Pennsylvania has affirmed a lower court ruling awarding custody of twins to Patricia Jones, a lesbian mother, ruling that Jones would provide a better home than her ex-partner, Ellen Boring, the children's biological parent.

In its opinion, a unanimous three-judge panel stated, "We believe that the record supports a finding by clear and convincing evidence that the best interests of the children are served by granting primary physical custody to Jones, for a number of reasons discussed in the trial court's opinion."

"We are pleased to see that the court kept its eye on the prize — the children's best interests — and granted primary physical custody to the parent who is best able to provide a stable and loving home, regardless of biology," said Alphonso David, a Lambda Legal staff attorney who argued the case before the court. "This means that even though there is often just one biological parent in families headed by same-sex couples, biology alone does not trump the best interests of the child."

Patricia Jones and Ellen Boring were partners for 14 years. During that time they planned a family resulting in twins for whom both Jones and Boring served as caregivers. After the couple split up in 2001, the trial court found that Jones had parental rights to the children and awarded joint custody to both mothers, giving primary physical custody to Boring.

Later, Jones filed for primary physical custody of the children citing Boring's history of contempt in observing the visitation schedule set by the court and her attempts to unilaterally remove the children from Pennsylvania.

The court's decision makes clear that once a person has been granted parental rights, that individual does not need to prove that the biological parent is unfit to obtain custody of a child, but instead is judged by the same standards used in cases involving heterosexual nonbiological parents.

Gay Penguins Call It Quits After Six Years

New York — One of New York City's best known gay couples is calling it quits after a six-year union.

Silo and Roy, two male chinstrap penguins who have been living together and have been studied by scientists from around the world, have ended their six years living together as husband and husband.

Zoologists first took notice of their relationship in 1999 when the pair were attempting to incubate a rock as if it were their own chick. Later, when zookeepers found an egg that had been abandoned by its mother, Silo and Roy were given the egg to look over.

The pair successfully hatched and raised their adopted chick and have since inspired six other gay penguin couples to "come out" at New York's Central Park Zoo.

However, in recent months, Silo's eye wandered to Scrappy, a single female who arrived this year from San Diego's Sea World. Last month, Silo moved moved in with Scrappy.

Bill for First Lady!

New York — Gay Democratic supporters of Hillary Clinton for president are tapping cross-dressing comedy as a serious political strategy with the launch of Bill-for-First-Lady.com. The campaign Web site features live-action comedy videos of "Bill Clinton" in "Jackie-style" drag, wearing a pink skirt, matching high heels and a pink purse. The site hopes to generate one million e-mails from Americans urging Hillary to run for president in 2008.

The Democratic Web site, which uses comedy to convey its message, has produced two two-minute campaign videos depicting Bill Clinton preparing for the role of first lady. The first, entitled "Boxers, Briefs or Thong?" shows Bill trying on skimpy pink lingerie — much to the shock of a flabbergasted saleswoman. In "Men's Room?" Bill struggles to use a urinal while decked-out in a pink skirt, high heels and very uncooperative pantyhose.

"We may be having a gay old time with our campaign style, but Hillary is a serious candidate and this is a serious strategy. In addition to showing support for Hillary to run for president in 2008, Bill-for-First-Lady. com is about beating Republicans to the punch and to the punch line by making the inevitable 'Bill as First Lady' jokes old before they can hurt during the election," said campaign manager Luke Montgomery.

Montgomery was once a vocal Clinton critic on gay rights issues. As a teenage gay activist, Montgomery made headlines in the early Clinton years for his attention-getting presidential interruptions. Montgomery interrupted the president's 1993 World AIDS Day speech and his 1994 Easter Sunday church services.

"Having grown-up and unfortunately grown gray, I now realize what a great president Bill was, not just for gay



WWW.BILLFORFIRSTLADY.COM

Americans, but for all Americans. With this campaign I hope to pay Bill back for all those silly headaches I caused him when I was a kid," said Montgomery.

A spokesperson for the campaign includes "Bill" himself. Organizers are making available a comic Bill Clinton voice impersonator for appearances on radio shows across the nation as part of the campaign.

Sandra Bernhard Takes Condoleezza Rice to Task

New York - Sandra Bernhard iconoclast, actress, author, comedienne, singer - was the keynote speaker at the Human Rights Campaign's Pacific



Sandra Bernhard

Northwest Dinner in Seattle Sept. 17. Bernhard mixed humor, hope and outrage as she spoke about everything from Dick Cheney ("just plain mean") to personal responsibility and single motherhood at the annual event for the nation's largest advocacy group for LGBT rights.

Attended by 800 guests, the event raised money for the Human Rights Campaign's local and national efforts to promote equal rights. Among the targets of Bernhard's barbs were Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Barbara Bush and the Iraq War.

Bernhard opened her address with an imagined conversation between herself and the Secretary of State. "Sandra, I'm just feeling so isolated," confided Bernhard's Rice. "I'm gay, I'm black, I'm a woman."

"Barbara Bush has her finger on the pulse of America. I'm so glad she's back and more compassionate than ever," Bernhard added, referencing the former first lady's recent comments about Hurricane Katrina victims. "That's right, of course people just sat around New Orleans, boring, uninspired, soulless New Orleans, and dreamed of someday relocating to the Astrodome."

Bernhard was equally nonplussed with America's disinterest in the war in Iraq: "Everyone is so busy waiting for Amy Grant to come to their town with her three wishes, they managed to forget about all the pain and heartache."

Meanwhile, Bernhard's acclaimed 1989 one-woman show "Without You I'm Nothing" is being released on DVD for the first time by Sony/MGM.

EACH DA the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's programs and services improve the lives of LGBT people.

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ccording to the Foundation Center in New York, A a foundation is an entity that is established as a nonprofit corporation or a charitable trust, with a principal purpose of making grants to unrelated organizations or institutions or to individuals for scientific, educational, cultural, religious, or other charitable purposes. This broad definition encompasses two foundation types: private foundations and community foundations. A community foundation, in contrast, normally receives its assets from multiple sources. Moreover, a community foundation must continue to seek money from diverse sources in order to retain its public status. The Cream City Foundation

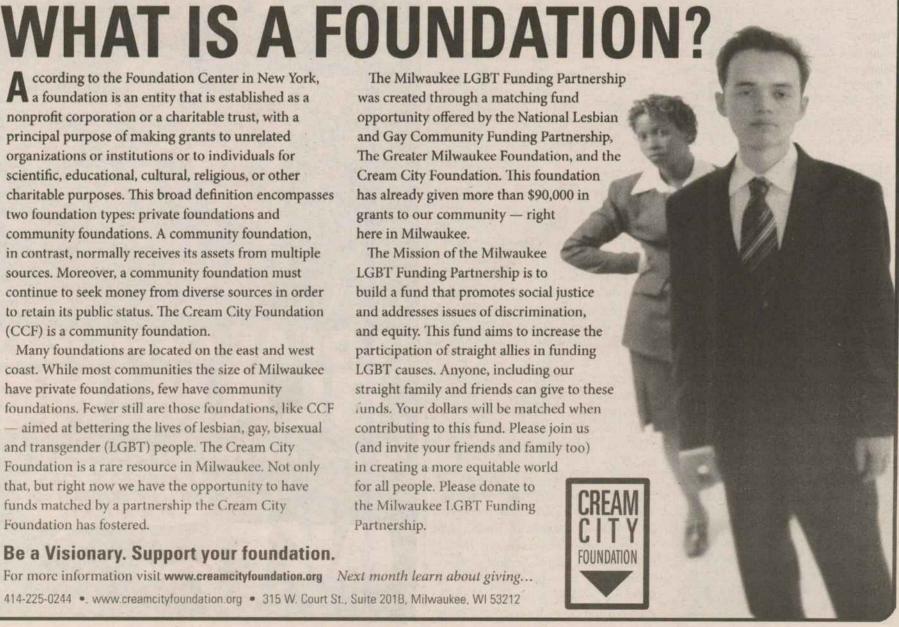
(CCF) is a community foundation. Many foundations are located on the east and west coast. While most communities the size of Milwaukee have private foundations, few have community foundations. Fewer still are those foundations, like CCF aimed at bettering the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. The Cream City Foundation is a rare resource in Milwaukee. Not only that, but right now we have the opportunity to have funds matched by a partnership the Cream City Foundation has fostered.

The Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership was created through a matching fund opportunity offered by the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership, The Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and the Cream City Foundation. This foundation has already given more than \$90,000 in grants to our community - right here in Milwaukee.

The Mission of the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership is to build a fund that promotes social justice and addresses issues of discrimination, and equity. This fund aims to increase the participation of straight allies in funding LGBT causes. Anyone, including our straight family and friends can give to these funds. Your dollars will be matched when contributing to this fund. Please join us (and invite your friends and family too) in creating a more equitable world for all people. Please donate to the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership.



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

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Objectivity and Truth: Backbones of Real Journalism

Q

EDITORIAL

any have contacted Q Life over the past three weeks and offered words of encouragement to me and to others who are involved with the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and the recent unlawful closing of "Naked Boys Singing!"

I'd like to thank you for your kind thoughts and tell you how much we all appreciate your wisdom and support.

However, it also appears that some of you were confused and even angry about the fact that I, as editor, did not come out swinging against the cops and the city of Milwaukee over a story that has now been covered in hundreds of media outlets throughout the world.

The reason is quite simple: My silence was the right thing to do.

One of the first lessons one learns as a reporter — and as an editor — is that you must always be objective. When you are too close to an event, especially when the event hits home — as did this horrific issue — it's probably best to put some distance between you and the ink pen.

Make no mistake about it. I could have gone on for well over a thousand words about how absurd the closure was and just how prejudicial the city and the police's action were. In fact, there are many circumstances regarding the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's dealings with the city that are almost comical. When all the facts come out regarding the direct connection between a high-level city employee and actions to ensure "Naked Boys Singing!" was closed, many here at home will have to use an elevator to pick their jaws up off the floor.

No if, ands or buts — what the city and the MPD Vice Squad did was outrageous, and when the jury is given this case common sense will prevail. This is an issue of civil rights that affects all of us, straight or gay. We must be vigilant now, before it reaches the point that a police state controls our freedom of expression and basic human survival.

There is another unfortunate issue regarding the entire situation — an issue just as important if we, as members of the LGBT community, are to survive here in Milwaukee. It's the issue of fairness and objectivity.

We were all absolutely surprised to see that in most cases the straight media and organizations did a better job covering the event than did our own gay brothers and sisters. In fact, it was amazing to see that the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel — by no means a publication that goes out of its way to tell the "gay side" of the story — carried the torch and did no fewer than six stories

about this police action. All in all, they were on base. It's not that the state gay media ignored the closing — it's just that when many of them covered it, their stories were out of touch, full of misinformation and misstatements.

Bottom line on this entire issue: The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center never needed a small theater license in the first place. The City of Milwaukee has now admitted that. We were singled out for being a gay organization.

The LGBT community in Wisconsin deserves objective media outlets that tell the truth based on the facts. Our straight counterparts demand that, and we must as well. When it appears that we are lowering our own standards of journalism by reporting rumor and innuendo, it does our entire community a great disservice. Hype sells. Reporting on stories where it appears the victim is at fault also is sexy. But it's wrong.

It's often easier to take the fast way out and repeat gossip. But we all know better than that. I hope all the brouhaha over this closure will spotlight what we do right and wrong as gay journalists and publications.

I think you, the reader, need to look long and hard at where you're getting your information. If your news source is printed on yellow paper, don't you deserve better?

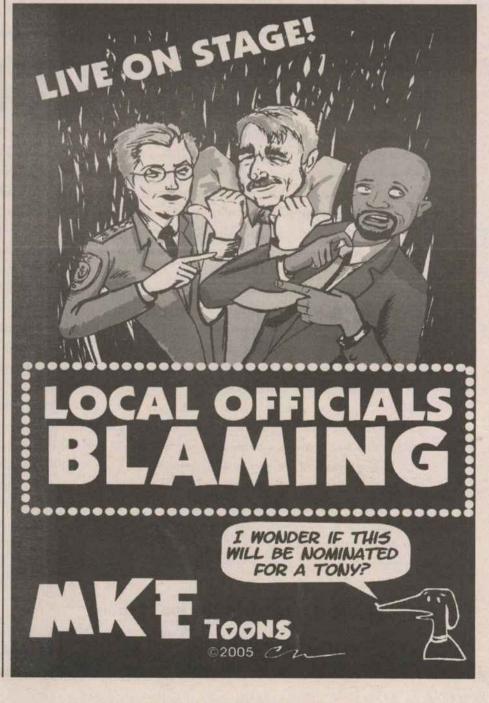


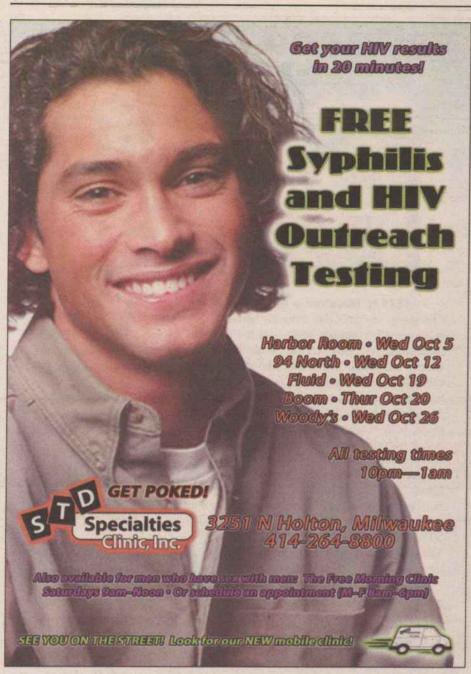
WORTH SAVING

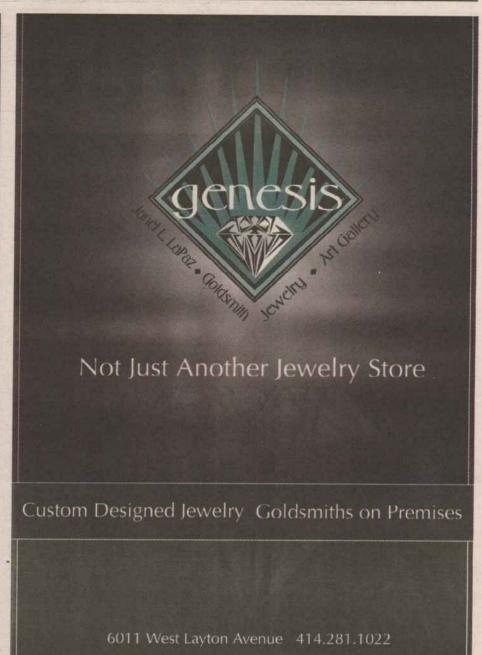
A special note of encouragement to the folks at Foster Youth Independence (FYI). As our cover story highlights, FYI is right in the middle of a financial crunch. This organization helps many young people who are aging out of the foster care system to make it on their own.

The problem is, no matter how good its mission, the organization is running out of money and may soon be forced to close its doors. FYI helps both straight and LGBT youth at a time when they need it the most.

We call on members of our community to rally around this group and dig deep inside their pockets to help in any way they can. Losing an organization like Foster Youth Independence will hurt not only the young people aging out of the foster care system, but all of us who call Wisconsin home.







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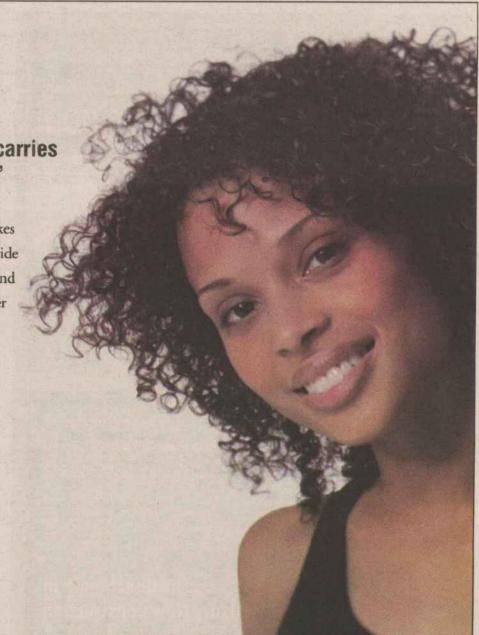


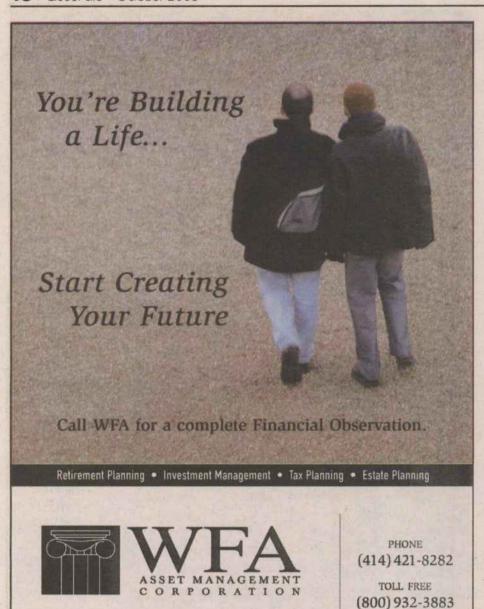
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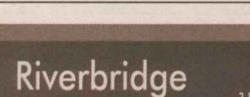
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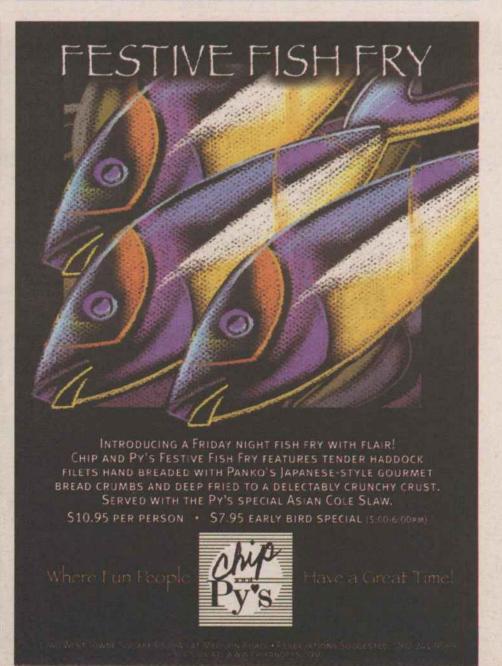
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have a high regard for doers. So it was with great admiration that my partner and I met with Dr. Janet Osborne and musician Melissa Beastrom to talk about their lives and passions and drink good wine.

Friends since undergraduate school and married in a commitment ceremony two years ago in Vermont, the Milwaukee-based couple is ardently committed to the civil rights and equality of all LGBT people.

Not only do they give of their time — Beastrom is on the board of the Milwaukee LBGT Community Center and both are actively involved in fundraisers and other outreach events — but they selectively and generously give money to candidates and organizations who support LGBT causes.

Closest to their hearts is the battle for Wisconsin LGBT civil rights. Their involvement began in earnest with a push four years ago for domestic partner benefits at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where Osborne is the Division Director of Gynecologic Oncology, and continues with Beastrom's recent involvement in a gay-marriage rally on the steps of the state capitol in Madison.

Inspired by the words of Tony Kushner, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of "Angels in America" who spoke at a recent



WOMEN

Holly Grey (hgrey@queerlifenews.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.

fundraiser, Beastrom and Osborne wrote a check for \$5,000 to the Center Advocates, the equal rights arm of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center that is solely focused on local efforts against the proposed constitutional amendment banning civil unions and gay marriage.

"Mr. Kushner said that no one is going to fight this battle for us and we have to give until it hurts, explained Beastrom. "This resonated with us."

"By donating this money we felt we were making an investment in our future, expounded Osborne. "We could not live with ourselves if this amendment passed and we had not done everything we could to defeat it."

It is estimated there are more than three million people living together in same-sex relationships in the United States. These couples simply do not have the same rights as heterosexual couples in the United States.

Currently, without equal rights, samesex couples can be denied the right to visit their sick or injured partners in the hospital and LGBT workers are not entitled to family leave to take care of their partners. Despite paying payroll taxes, LGBT partners receive no Social Security survivor benefits. They are also forced to pay estate taxes on any property inherited and taxes on a 401(K) inherited from a deceased partner. Elderly LBGT couples, unlike elderly married heterosexual couples, do not have the right to spend their last days together in a nursing home. "We must talk about these inequalities with everyone. Talking about our rights as gay people is the crucial first step in the battle," elucidated Beastrom, "but with all good fights those with the most resources traditionally win."

Funding for conservative, right-wing causes and organizations is nearly \$400 million across the country. These groups are traditionally well-organized and prepared for battle.

"Wisconsin has a tradition of being a leader for gay rights. I can't believe the people of Wisconsin would roll us back, but we have to do all we can to ensure this doesn't happen," concluded Osborne.

Attorney at Law Warren J. Klaus

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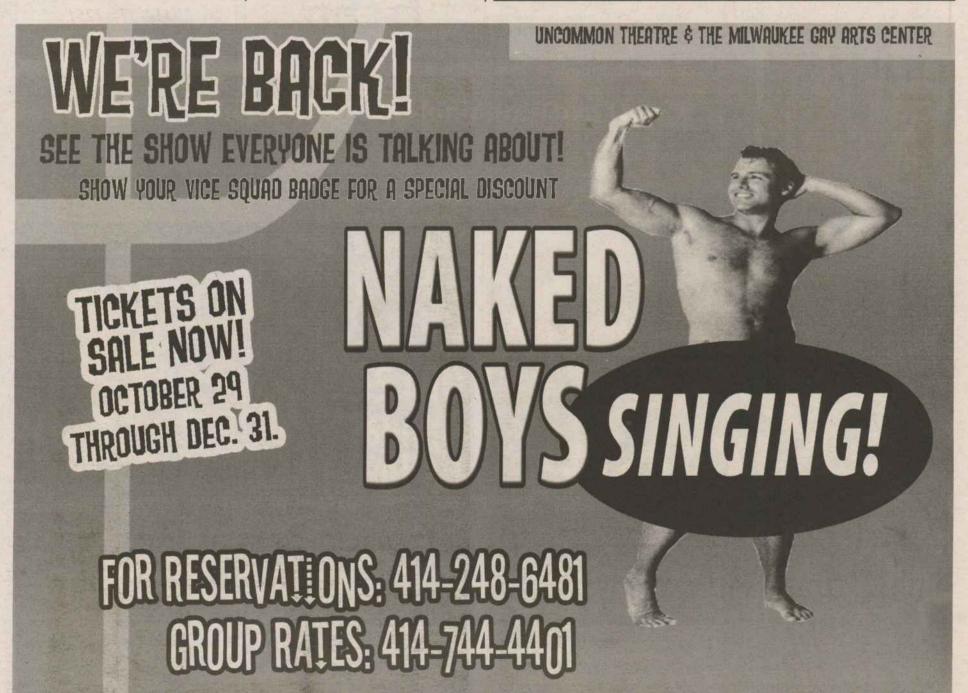
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Bearing False Witness

s Julaine Appling a liar? Appling, head of Wisconsin's Family Research Institute andlead spokesperson for a constitutional ban on civil unions and gay marriage, went apoplectic when I noted late last year that after months of concealing the full impact of Wisconsin's proposed constitutional amendment, she'd finally come clean in a Q Life interview and admitted that the ban outlawed civil unions. Appling fired back in a news release that she "has never said that the proposed Wisconsin constitutional amendment to preserve traditional one-man/one-woman marriage in this state 'bans civil unions."

You see, amendment backers have to keep the full scope and harm of the ban under wraps, since 60 percent of Wisconsin voters support either marriage or civil unions for lesbian and gay couples. Since the ban wipes out both, staying on message for ban supporters means staying flexible about the truth.

For all of 2004, legislative backers and the Family Research Institute deliberately focused exclusively on the proposed amendment's first sentence, which limits marriage to heterosexual couples. At the same time ban proponents denied or concealed the harm posed by the second sentence, which bans any status "substantially similar" to marriage, thereby outlawing civil unions and probably even existing government domestic partner programs like Milwaukee's and Madison's domestic partner registries. Newspapers, including this one, followed their lead, either describing the amendment as merely a marriage ban or noting that the second sentence's impact was in dispute — even though the Legislature's own nonpartisan legal counsel had advised that it outlawed civil unions. Such a campaign of distortion helped the ban sail through the Legislature in March 2004 and start with a considerable lead in the polls.

Appling's lust for publicity overwhelmed her message discipline, however, when Connecticut passed civil unions in April. "Wisconsin's proposed Defense of Marriage Constitutional Amendment ... has been carefully crafted to ensure that such 'lookalike marriages' would not be valid here," gloated Appling in a press release. "In drafting Wisconsin's proposed marriage amendment last year, Rep. Mark Gundrum (R-New Berlin) and Sen. Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) did an excellent job of making sure marriage is truly protected in Wisconsin — not just in name only," she added.

There is no honor among ban backers, apparently, because Fitzgerald said



POLITICS

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

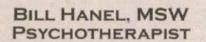
just the opposite in floor debate on the amendment in March 2004: "We are not imposing our beliefs on other people. We are simply restating the law. The proposed constitutional amendment doesn't prohibit civil unions. It does not. It actually opens the door for future discussion." Of course, Fitzgerald, too, was engaged then in what Madison lobbyists like Appling call staying on message but what ordinary people call lying.

The campaign to defeat the ban on civil unions and marriage will depend on the No on the Amendment campaign's ability to catch up to the hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin voters who have been deliberately and systematically misinformed by Appling and Company and convince them of the real harm the ban does to thousands of gay and straight Wisconsin families. Whether there is time in the coming year for the truth to catch up will determine if Wisconsin can eventually become like Massachusetts, where 6,800 lesbian and gay couples have legally married, or Vermont, where more than 1,100 couples have had civil unions, or California, where thousands have registered as domestic partners with the state to gain comprehensive legal protections for their

To experience downright dishonesty from opposition that poses as the arbiter of Christian values is disappointing. Last month, the Massachusetts Legislature rejected 3-1 a milder constitutional ban, one that would have ended marriage rights for same-sex couples and created civil unions in its stead. Little more than a year earlier, the ban had passed with majority support. One legislator who had initially supported the ban said that he had looked into the eyes of children of same-sex parents who had legally wed and realized that rather than harming families, gay marriage had strengthened them. Reality had caught up with rhetoric.

Another Massachusetts legislative supporter of marriage equality noted in the debate that it was time for ban backers to get over their obsession with gay marriage. After all, he said, they seek no law banning straight people who break every one of the Ten Commandments from marrying whomever they please — just gay people. In Wisconsin, ban backers like Appling and Fitzgerald have taken this obsession even further, opening themselves to accusations that they haven't merely ignored the Ten Commandments, but actually broke one, the Ninth Commandment: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

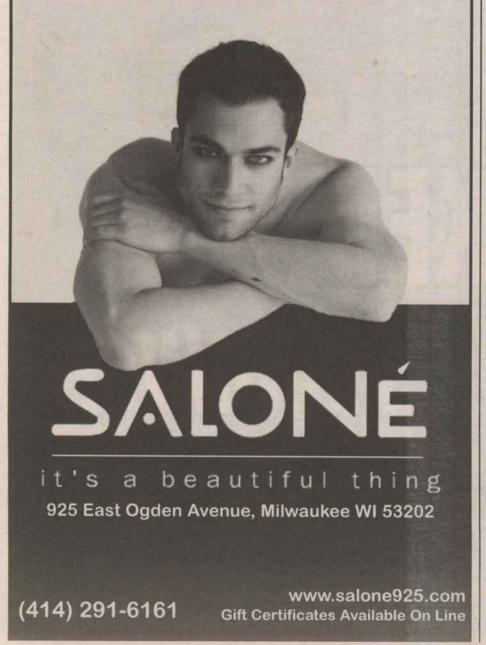
We'll leave that for a higher power to decide and trust that Wisconsin voters will have ample opportunity to make their own just decision next year about the ban — one based on all the facts.





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Curing Our Biggest Problem

e are a sad lot. As a group, we're depressed too. We disproportionately have a sense that our lives are meaningless. Fewer of us find the joys in life that heterosexual people do. And if we are also poor and under 25, things are even worse.

The 2005 LGBT Health Planning Project, conducted by Diverse and Resilient and funded by the University of Wisconsin Medical School's Partnership Fund for a Healthy Future, has been led by Brenda Coley. Her work involved over 10 focus groups, the review of more than 100 academic articles on LGBT health, and responses from more than 650 LGBT people in Wisconsin. A dozen LGBT leaders — and a few allies — from around the state contributed to the thinking that went into this significant undertaking. To date, it surely represents the largest effort to understand our health needs.

Surveys in this project were gathered at four Pride events, through 10 social networks, and through a Web-based survey program. Results were analyzed by a mixed group of community health planners, including three University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee faculty members.

From addressing asthma to sharing concerns over "bottom surgery," survey respondents from all five health regions and 40 percent of Wisconsin counties have consistently pointed in the same direction: We are a sad lot.

So sad that survey respondents were six times more likely than our heterosexual peers in the general population in Southeastern Wisconsin to state that they had considered suicide in the past year. And, while seriously high rates exist across all age groups in our community, they are nowhere higher than among 18 to 24 year olds, who report suicidal thoughts at 10 times the heterosexual rate. Almost two in five of this age group had thought of suicide.



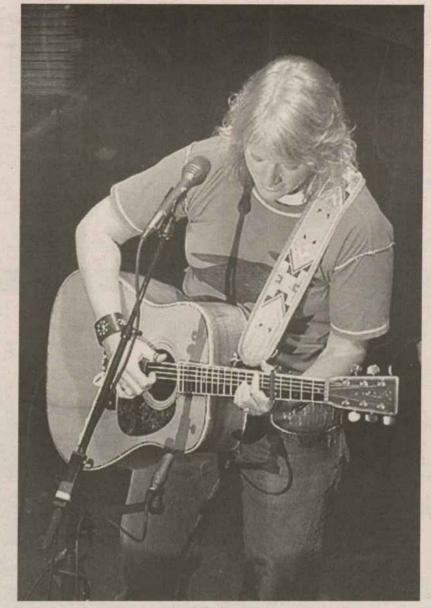
HEALTH

Gary Hollander, Ph. D. (ghollander @queerlifenews.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.

Because one in five of us also reports that we have either driven while intoxicated in the past year or we have been a passenger when the driver had too much to drink, it would seem that our depression goes beyond merely thinking about suicide. We are also taking major risks with our lives and with each other's.

Before we leap to the conclusion that this heavy dose of depression and despair is consistent with our cultures as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people, we also need to look at what national research points to by way of causes. Discrimination and harassment appear to be the culprits. Combined, these two factors seem to result in our devaluing who we are in contrast to each other and to those around us.

While way too many of us seem to be medicated with prescriptions and alcohol (again from the survey data), we may be better off addressing the real causes of our feeling hopelessly blue: poor treatment in society. The bigger bang for our health dollars may be setting the world right for ourselves, each other, and people everywhere who get crapped on for just being who they are.



Indigo Girls Photo Caption



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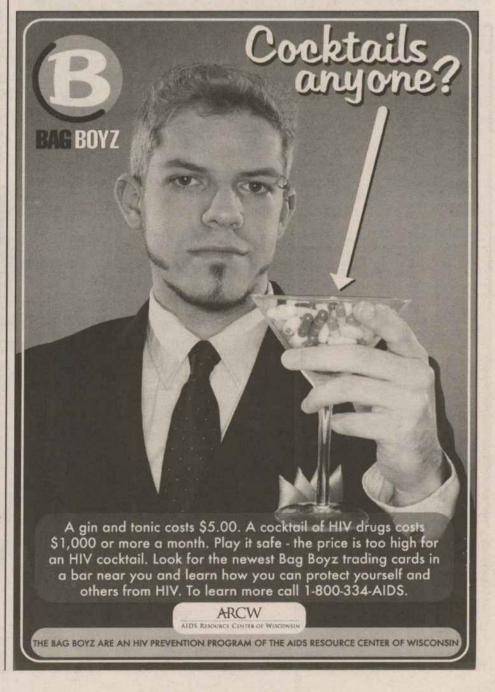
is a nonprofit organization whose mission is the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in Wisconsin through the development of groups and communities to take action. The organization's name is intended to serve as reminder that LGBT people are everywhere, engage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

Diverse&Resilient

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Was Rehnquist a Liberal Christian?

upreme Court Justice William Rehnquist, who died last month, grew up at my congregation. Rehnquist and his family belonged to Plymouth Church in the 1920s and '30s.

There are two memories of him at the church. One is that he received a parking ticket while attending a dance in our gym. Apparently it was his only violation of the law throughout his lifetime. The other story is that Rehnquist received a pair of roller skates as an award for his knowledge of

the Old Testament. One might say we had a hand in teaching the chief justice about both God's law and American law.

I've long wondered how a liberal congregation could have raised such a conservative man. What happened in our church school? Didn't we teach him about serving the poor and the oppressed, about how all the Lord required was that we show kindness, and about all the other things Jesus commanded?

But recently I learned that ours was not

the only liberal congregation Rehnquist an openly gay Republican. Both Rehnquist (or president) of the congregation. attended Greensboro UCC in Vermont.

All of these congregations affirm the dignity of LGBT folks and are unmistakably liberal congregations. What does it say about conservative Republicans that one of their foremost leaders was apparently a liberal Christian?

In a recent case of interest, Rehnquist joined with Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas in opposing the ruling that overturned sodomy laws across the country

attended. He was an active member of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, ELCA, in McLean, Va. This congregation supports LGBT causes. Its pastor, the Rev. George Evans, received an award from PFLAG for his commitment to LGBT rights. Another famous member of the congregation is former Wisconsin Rep. Steve Gunderson, and Gunderson served as Moderator Furthermore, in the summers Rehnquist



RELIGION

Rev. Andrew Warner (awarner@queerlifenews.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.

(Lawrence v. Texas). Their dissenting opinion held that homosexuality was widely considered immoral and unacceptable.

What must Rehnquist have thought as his pro-LGBT pastor gave him communion? What must he have thought as a lesbian teenager beloved by the congregation read from the Bible? For though Rehnquist signed an opinion that homosexuality was unacceptable, he heard in his church that God loves gay people.

Of course Rehnquist is not the only conservative who appears to be a liberal Christian. Gubernatorial hopeful Scott Walker and Republican state party chair Rick Graber belong to liberal congregations as well.

Andthereareplentyofprominentliberals who attend conservative congregations; Sen. John Kerry, for example, is a practicing Roman Catholic. However, liberals have not made piety a litmus test. Meanwhile social conservatives have made consistency and fidelity to one's faith their highest virtues.

Many social conservatives say their opposition to LGBT folks is based on moral principles and the Christian tradition. But it seems some of the most conservative leaders in our nation and state are living secret lives as liberal Christians.

Social conservatives talk about tradition and community values. But they are going against the teaching and values of their communities of faith. How conservative is it to reject the norms and traditions of your church?

It just seems fundamentally wrong for social conservatives to promote Biblically based bigotry while worshipping God beneath a rainbow flag.





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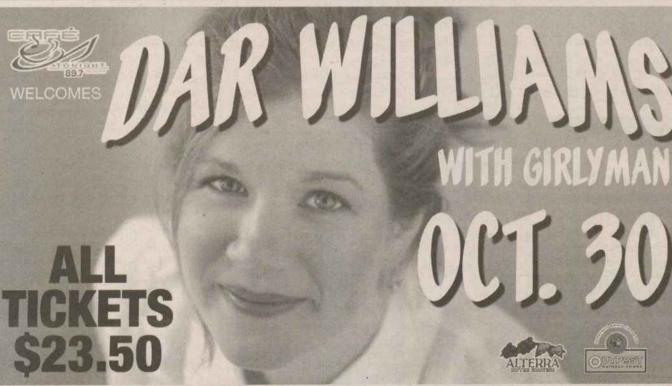
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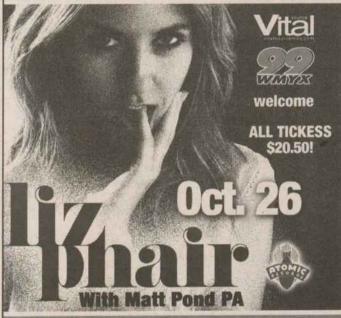


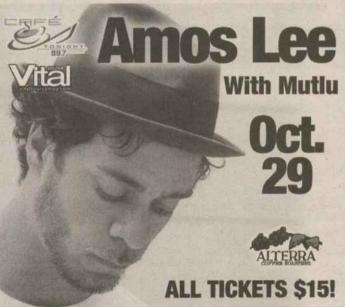
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The Moody Blues 10.28

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The Australian Pink Floyd Show 11.5

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LIZ PHAIR Matt Pond PA October 26

NICKEL CREEK The Ditty Bops October 28

AMOS LEE Mutlu October 29

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JOHN MAYALL & THE BLUESBREAKERS Robben Ford, Eric Bibb November 3

THE MUSICAL BOX Lamb Lies Down on Broadway November 4

TONY BENNETT November 6

LYFE November 8

In Praise of Madness and Sanity

"Sometimes I wonder about what madness really is; perhaps just lack of a shared context on the part of an individual?

Or someone who rejects the assumptions which that context is buttressed by?"

- Ben Singer

have been haunted by Ben's words. They remind me of how fine the line between madness and genius really is.

It seems a key part of transgendering to reject the shared context of the world and create a new context for ourselves, a new idea, a new way of being in the world.



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Yet, if we lack the shared context, we lack the connection to the world others live in.

It might seem that madness is wildness and individuality; but in its worst form, madness is a disconnection from the shared context that leads to an inability to connect with and function in the world. It's when we can't find a way to resolve our own flights of fancy and the demands of the world that madness entombs us, cutting us off from the world.

In many cultures, this madness - being between the world where most of us live (the shared context) and some other world - is a gift, the mark of a shaman.

Transcendence demands madness, demands the ability and willingness to see things as they are not and the courage to leave the shared context. Yet, living in this culture demands sanity - the understanding of the shared context. We have to be both sane enough to know and understand the rules (to grasp what others say to us) and mad enough to break the rules (to grasp what the world of our heart says to us).

Madness and sanity are not an either/ or proposition, but rather another tale of aspects, of requiring that we be both mad and sane in a bubbling brew.

Madness is wonderful when it doesn't isolate us from the world. Sanity is wonderful when it doesn't isolate us from ourselves.

These beliefs often make me seem contradictory to people, speaking both for sanity and madness. My responses tend to speak for balance. Sometimes, some people demand more madness, more transgression, more freedom, more wildness. Sometimes, other people demand more sanity, more shared context, more social concern, more tameness.

It's a struggle for many trans people to differentiate between madness and sanity



TRANSGENDER

Michael Munson (mmunson@queerlifenews.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.

- knowing that our inner world is so different than the world we are expected to live in. The cost of staying in this world is often giving up what is in our hearts. Who could trust a heart that is willing to face certain stigma for being true to itself - for wearing a dress or binding breasts?

For many who reject the shared context today - those who are not really embracing their own madness but rather just rejecting what they see as confining sanity - I wonder how they work to find balance. Rejecting the imposed standards of our parents is an important part of individuation, but participating in the shared culture, playing our part in building and supporting community, is the mark of an adult.

How do you celebrate both your sanity and your madness? Where are the challenges that force you to make hard decisions and lose your way? Like, perhaps, staying employed? Somehow, the bill collector is always a good argument for sanity, for keeping your place in the world. Maybe that's why so may artists have spent so much time arguing for madness, for leaving the shared context to create new.

I like madness. I like sanity. I just like them together.



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Boot Camp

209 E. National Ave., 414-643-6900

Cage

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Café Fabrika

240 E. Pittsburgh Ave., 414-291-8860

C'est La Vie

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Chip & Py's

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Club 219

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

Conversations

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Fluid

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The Flying Hicca Wine Bar Gallery 5000 Vliet St., 414-431-1390

Harbor Room

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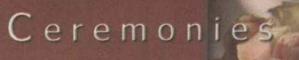
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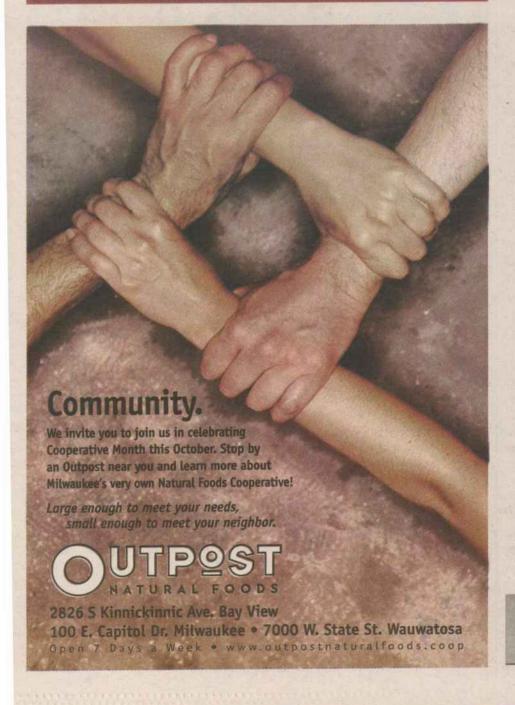


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Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Presents Jade Estaban Estrada

Latin Pop Star Will Perform Two Original Works Oct. 28 and 29

ward-winning New York City choreographer, singer and cabaret artist Jade Estaban Estrada came to Milwaukee to perform at PrideFest 2005 and met Paul Masterson, the director of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Masterson invited Estrada to perform his original works "Icons: The Lesbian and Gay History of the World" and "Tortilla Heaven" at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. And thus Estrada added Milwaukee to his current national tour.

"This brilliant musician is quickly rising to become one of the most historical figures in American pop culture."

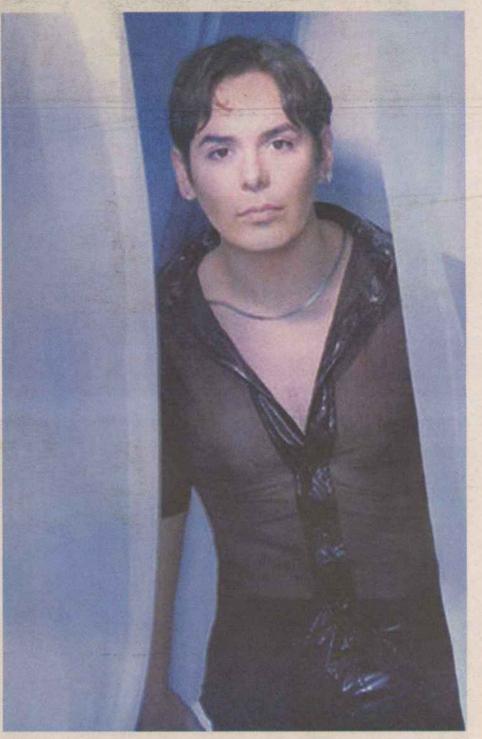
- Talent in Motion magazine

Estrada has a long and varied stage history that includes appearances on Comedy Central, throughout Europe and Japan in a broad range of shows, and now on tour with "Icons." Genre magazine calls him "the most exciting Latin pop artist ever to emerge onto the music scene." He has performed in seven languages and in 33 countries to date and his hypnotic music can be heard on the Golden Globe and Emmy-award-winning police drama "The Shield" on FX.

Talent in Motion magazine states, "This brilliant musician is quickly rising to become one of the most historical figures in American pop culture." During his Passions Tour 2002, the Palm Beach Post hailed him as "an emerging Latin artist" and the San Antonio Express-News crowned him "a show biz messiah," while the Minneapolis Star-Tribune cut to the chase and called him a "hottie."

In 2002, Estrada decided to write a oneman show about gay history's most notable personalities. The result was a monumental success, and now Estrada is touring the country with "Icons: The Lesbian and Gay History of the World, Volume 1."

What is "Icons"? One might better ask who? Estrada's introduction to the show clarifies it all: "Once upon a time, there were six icons. Meet Sappho, Michelangelo, Oscar, Gertrude, Sylvia and Ellen. One day, they decided to make history." And history



Jade Estaban Estrada

it is. Estrada takes his audience through centuries of gay art, philosophy, conflict and triumph through the eyes of these icons. The Dallas Morning News called the performance "a heartwarming, musical romp through gay history."

"Tortilla Heaven" is a comedic yet very real story of first, second and third generation Mexicans trying to relate to one another. The first generation lives a humble life and makes home feel more like home; the second abandons its roots in order to assimilate into big city life; the third tries to understand it all without knowing the language of its people. When these generations finally meet, speaking the same language seems to be the easy part.

It's a difficult journey of understanding why your family is so different. Whether you love them or hate them, they are going to be there when you need help the most!

Jade Estaban Estrada will appear at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. He will perform "Icons: the Lesbian and Gay History of the World, Volume 1" Friday, Oct. 28 and Saturday, Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. and "Tortilla Heaven" Saturday, Oct. 29 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 each (\$12.50 when paying by credit card) and can be purchased at www.uncommontheatre.net or by calling 414-248-6481 or 414-383-3727.

Learn more about Estrada at www. getjaded.com.



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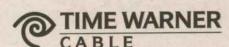


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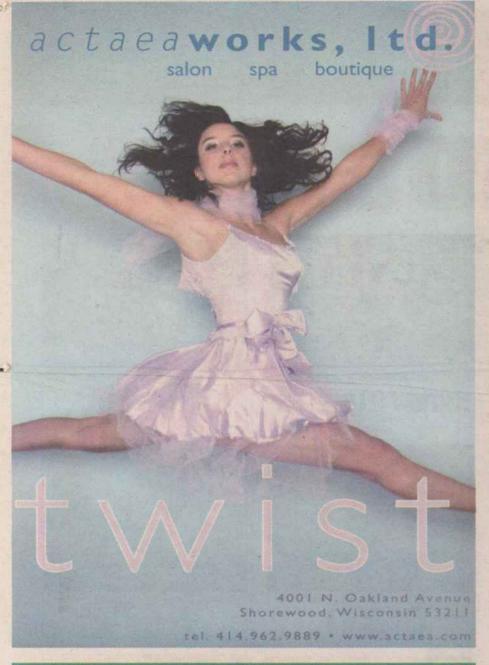


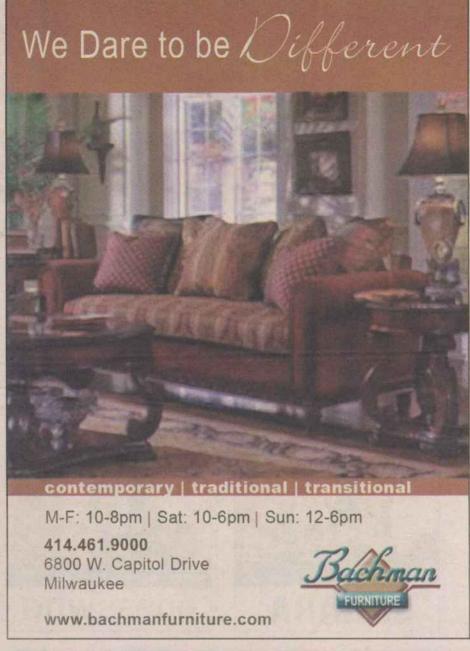
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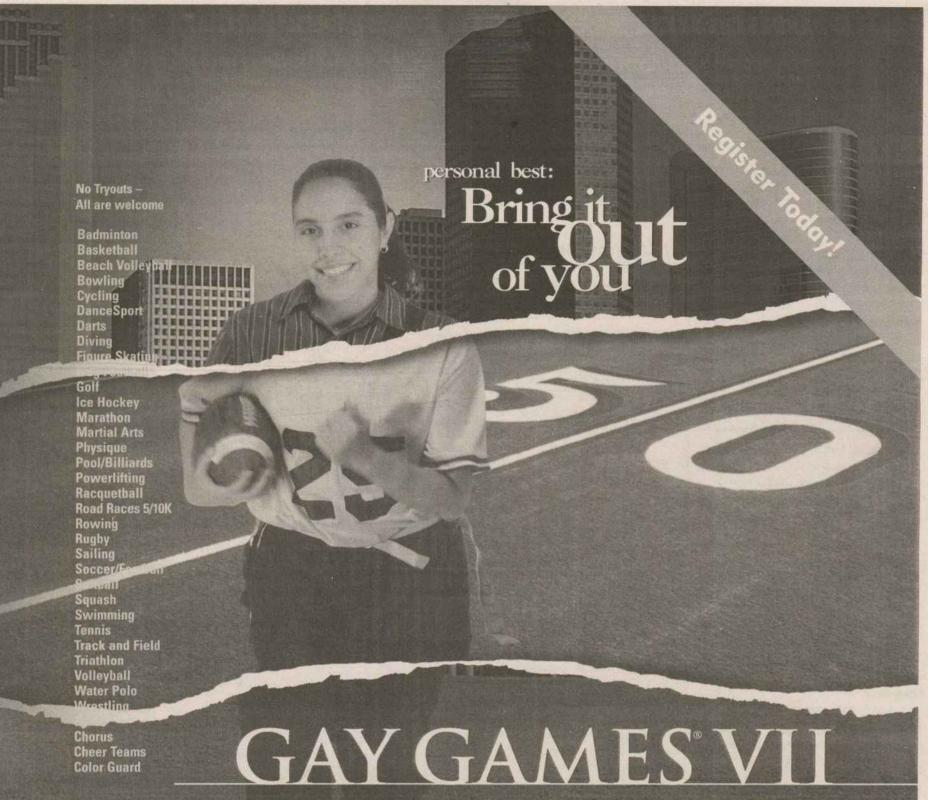












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Community



Calendar

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 5

Body Mine. Monthly discussion group. 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.

Men's Coming Out Group. Continuing support group for men who are dealing with the realization that they are not heterosexual and how that affects their everyday lives. Also supports those previously or currently in same sex relationships. Outreach LGBT Community Center, 600 Williamson St., Madison. 7 p.m. 608-255-8582. outreachinc.com. Wednesdays through Nov. 16.

THURSDAY, OCT. 6

4th Street Forum. Does stem cell research promise great medical and financial benefits for Wisconsin? Or is using stem cells a dangerous moral practice? Meets every Thursday. Topics for October include: contraception and abortion, a death of one's own, and the death penalty. Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. 12 noon. 414-272-2833. fourthstreetforum.org.

SATURDAY, OCT. 8

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

MONDAY, OCT. 10

Outwords Book Club. Scott Heim's "Mysterious Skin." The novel behind the movie playing at this year's Milwaukee LGBT film festival. Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089. Outwordsbooks.com.



barbara.overstreet@cbexchange.com

TUESDAY, OCT. 11

Lesbian Reading Group. Kim Baldwin's "Force of Nature." New members welcome. Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089. outwordsbooks.com.

SATURDAY, OCT. 15

Big Night Out. Are you ready for the Big Night Out? This third annual gala fundraiser for the LGBT Community Center promises to be another outstanding success, bringing together Milwaukee's vibrant and growing LGBT community. The Big Night Out will feature a silent auction (including two tickets on Midwest Airlines and hundreds of dollars in gift certificates), live entertainment, awards presentations and a sumptuous dinner. Northern Lights Theater, 1721 W. Canal St., Milwaukee. 5:30 p.m. 414-271-2656 ext. 121.

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

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

30th Anniversary of the Women's Studies Program, UW-Madison. Celebrate this anniversary with an afternoon symposium, reception, banquet, awards and entertainment. Please contact SuAnn Rose, Women's Studies Program Administrator with questions at surose@wisc.edu or 608-263-4704.

SUNDAY, OCT. 16

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

Who Killed Sara? Bill Lueders of the Isthmus newspaper introduces. Sheila and Doug Berry, authors of "Who Killed Sara," the true story of a murder in Madison and what the writers believe is the terrible false conviction of Penny Brummer. A Room of One's Own Bookstore, 307 W. Johnson St., Madison. 12 noon. 608-257-7888. roomofonesown. com.

TUESDAY, OCT. 18

That's Entertainment. A Soulstice Theater Benefit. Enjoy an evening of dinner and entertainment featuring the vocal group A Fine Romance. Joey Buona's Restaurant, 500 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Appetizer buffet 7 p.m., sit-down dinner with dessert 7:30 p.m. \$25. Repeats Oct. 19.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 19

Maintaining Center in the Midst of Change. Dr. George Catlin, author of "The Way to Happiness," will speak about radical changes ahead in our world and how we can best adapt to them. We are on the verge of a major transformation of our political, social and economic systems — all as part of a great spiritual renewal. Catlin believes we will soon see fully enlightened individuals on the scale of Christ or Buddha who will put a choice before all humanity: cooperate and share the resources of the earth or continue to compete and destroy ourselves. Friends Meeting House, 3324 N. Gordon Pl., Milwaukee. 6:30 p.m. theteachings.org. Repeats with Transmission Meditation Oct. 20.

SATURDAY, OCT. 22

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

SUNDAY, OCT. 23

Social Volleyball. First of the new fall/winter 2005 Milwaukee GAMMA volleyball season. Refreshments provided. Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay St., Milwaukee. 1 to 3 p.m. \$6. 414-258-6081. milwaukeegamma.com.

TUESDAY, OCT. 25

Auditions for Angels in America: Millennium Approaches. Uncommon Theatre. Needed are three men and two women, ages 20 to 40; one man and one woman, 40 to 60; one African-American man, 20 to 40. Please read the signs and do not enter the main gallery area, since there are classes and

performances in progress. Auditions will be held in the auxiliary reception area of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 414-467-8347. jblooming@yahoo.com. uncommontheatre. net. Repeats Oct. 26 with callbacks Oct. 27.

THURSDAY, OCT. 28

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. 6 p.m. Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 414-744-8384. broadvocabulary. com

SATURDAY, OCT. 29

Halloween Dance. Project Q. Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., Milwaukee. 8 to 11 p.m. \$3 before 9 p.m., \$5 after 9 p.m. 414-223-3220. projectq.org.

Night of the Living Domes. A fundraiser for Milwaukee Public Theatre. Live music by De la Buena and Cache, haunted Dome tour, beer tasting, fortunetellers, entertainment throughout the Domes complex, cash bar, and food for purchase. Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee. 6 to 11 p.m. \$20, \$10 children 5 to 18. 414-347-1685.

SATURDAY, NOV. 5

FORGE. Guest speaker on hormones to be announced. FORGE is in the process of recruiting a local physician to come speak, answer questions and discuss medical aspects associated with testosterone use. 414-278-6031. www.forge-forward.org.

SUNDAY, NOV. 6

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

Deadline for November issue is Octber 19.



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Madtown Roundup

ello from Madison. As the new president of the board of OutReach, the LGBT community center for Madison and South Central Wisconsin, I want to reach out to the rest of the state to let everyone know what's going on here.

OutReach is busier than ever. Our fantastic staff—Nikki Baumblatt and Harry Straetz — and our fantastic volunteers — too many to name — are hosting 17 groups at the moment. During the second quarter, we had nearly 600 people use our space. Nikki's busy putting the annual directory together; it should be available by early October. The directory is THE place to look for products, services and organizations aimed at LGBT persons and allies. Please visit the businesses that advertise in the directory; they support us, so we should support them.

OutReach will host its annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on Sunday, Oct. 9, at Tenney Park. If you're a current OutReach volunteer, or you have been one recently, we hope to see you there. Call OutReach at 608-255-8582 for more information.

Speaking of busy, Action Wisconsin keeps hiring new staff members and has moved to an even larger office in the same building at 122 State St., Suite 309. They always need more volunteers for various tasks, so check out their Web site, www. actionwisconsin.org, for more information.

The biggest task for Action Wisconsin right now, of course, is defeating the proposed state constitutional amendment that would prohibit civil unions and marriages for same-sex couples. This amendment will hurt real families and it goes way too far. We all need to pitch in one way or another to help defeat this amendment. Writing discrimination against LGBT persons into the state constitution would be a major setback for what was once known as the Gay Rights State.

On Sept. 21 Action Wisconsin hosted a debate between Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry and a leading same-sex marriage activist, and Glenn Stanton from Focus on the Family, one of the nation's leading anti-gay groups. It was the marriage event of the season, with a reception for Evan just before the event. The debate itself packed the Memorial Union.



MADISON

Bill Turner is president of the OutReach board of directors in Madison.

All the intellectuals in the crowd should save the dates Nov. 4 and 5. The University of Wisconsin–Madison LGBT Campus Center will sponsor the UW System LGBTQ Research Symposium on those dates. You can send a proposal via e-mail to lgbtrs@gmail.com or snail mail to LGBT Campus Center, 2nd Floor, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53706, Attn: LGBT Research Symposium.

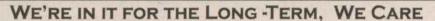
Last Saturday was AIDS Network's annual AIDS walk. They started off from Brittingham Park, and ended up walking right through the Capitol. Pretty cool, huh? It was the largest walk yet for AIDS Network, with 267 walkers, nearly 200 volunteers and 14 corporate sponsors. The money's still rolling in, but so far they've collected \$37,000. The top team this year, for the third year in a row, was the Shamrock Bar, which raised over \$5,370.

Madison organizations that want to have their events included here should e-mail me at: drturner@mindspring.com.











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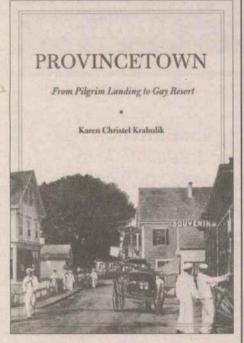


Gay Mecca

"Provincetown: From Pilgrim Landing to Gay Resort"

by Karen Christel Krahulik, book

rahulik is a noted young academician. Newly appointed associate dean at Brown University, she directed the Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Life at Duke University and holds a doctorate from New York University. Her book is anything but academic.



A sometimes resident of Provincetown, she carefully researched the town's history over a three-year period, completing more than 70 oral histories, locating countless photographs, maps, documents and mementos. Perhaps even more noteworthy — and on a lighter note — she was a lifeguard at the local lesbian beach.

A very readable history, Krahulik's narrative is also informative and insightful. The book traces the history of the beguiling coastal village from the landing of the Mayflower pilgrims to its transformation into a whaling seaport and most recently a gay and lesbian tourist destination. She also examines the way different groups, including Portuguese fishermen and their families, artists, bohemians and tourists, have shaped the community and navigated various economic and cultural disputes. Krahulik believes that one of the town's greatest assets is the way it managed to build an effective community structure in spite of its residents' sexual, ethnic, racial and economic differences.

The book, which grew out of the author's doctoral dissertation, also provides a fascinating account of the phenomenon of population displacement. Almost all who came to live in Provincetown were eventually supplanted by the manual workers and the consumers they were determined to attract. Thus the Yankees were displaced by the Portuguese sailors and their families, who were in turn replaced by artists, gays and lesbians, with the super wealthy arriving most recently. To be sure, it is a story of gentrification that is being played out in many places, including Milwaukee. In the context of the larger economic and political forces, the rift between the haves and the

have-nots, Krahulik remains optimistic that the gays and straights, the wash-ashores (vacationers who stay on as citizens) and oldtime Portuguese, the Irish and the Yankees will manage to co-exist in the future.

2005 Milwaukee LGBT Film/ Video Festival

utfest, which began in the late 1980s as a small-scale showcase at the University of California, Los Angeles, has grown into one of the most sought-after venues for independent and foreign films, regardless of the fact that all films involved reflect gay and lesbian life in some way, according to the historian David Ehrenstein. As at any good film festival, film is central, the engine of an entire cultural happening. But it is certainly not the only thing: Discussions with and between filmmakers, artists and viewers, receptions and opportunities to make contacts on personal and professional levels are all key components.

Included in this year's Milwaukee LGBT festival is a cornucopia of features and shorts, documentaries, fiction and animation, domestic and international films. Of particular note is "Cote D'Azur," a French production which premiered at Robert De Niro's Tribeca Film Festival. Reminiscent of Eric Rohmer's sophisticated comedies, it unfolds like a fairy tale in a series of enchanting and humorous encounters on the French Riviera. Emerging beneath the surface of a summer holiday for a Parisian bourgeois family is a hilarious journey about self-discovery, unbreakable family bonds and true love.

Of interest are two documentaries that focus on the unlikeliest of heroines. The first is a nun who has been leading the opposition to the Catholic Church's policies towards gays and lesbians. Although the Vatican machine (specifically Cardinal Ratzinger, the current Pope Benedict XVI) demanded that she publicly condemn homosexuality or face serious consequences, the nun responded with modesty, determination and faith. This compelling film, "In Good Conscience: Sister Jeannine Gramick's Journey of Faith," juxtaposes a stiff and stifling hierarchy with the hopeful message of inclusion of Sister Jeannine.

In western Canada, filmmaker Karen Duthie finds another improbable heroine, Michelle Dumareq, a likable 20-something mountain bike racer, who happens to be a transsexual. "100% Woman" embodies a peculiar Canadian paradox: an instinct to blend in (Michelle is one of many young women working hard to climb the path to national and international championships while supported by her loving, middle-class parents and friends) while simultaneously eschewing conformity in a radical way (she discusses with surprising candor the turmoil over her identity as a child and teenager as well as the scrutiny, controversy and sheer opposition from fellow athletes and the media).

As a treat, the festival is showing "Just the Two of Us," the first work by Barbara



MUSIC, BOOKS & MOVIES

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

Peeters, a Roger Corman protégé who went on to direct other sex and horror exploitation favorites like "Bury Me an Angel" and "Humanoids from the Deep."

The dykesploitation work has been most recently screened at the San Francisco LGBT Film Festival and hailed for its feminist sympathies. Personally, I disagree with this perspective but find the film a "must" as a rarity and a perfect example of camp: unconvincing dialog, weak acting, a fair number of mildly titillating scenes (of course, in 1970 the sex was an eye opener). Shot on location in the Los Angeles area, "Just the Two of Us" masterfully displays a vulgarity and bad taste that mock Hollywood's upscale pieties while simultaneously using many of its conventions.

"The King of Rock 'n' Roll"

Little Richard, CD

ne of the original rock 'n' roll greats, Little Richard merged gospel with R&B; pounding the piano and wailing with contagious abandon his often imitated "woos" and his equally envied but much less achievable "awopbaloobopalopbamboom." It all began for Richard Penniman in the early 1950s when Specialty Records was sufficiently impressed with the demo tape they got from a young man in Georgia. At a recording session in New Orleans, after "cleaning up" the lyrics of "Tutti Frutti," Little Richard was born. While there have been other R&B greats, none of them matched the sheer electricity of Richard's vocals, and certainly nobody came close to his sartorial extravaganza, six-inch pompadour and dramatic makeup.

The foundations of his fame, "Long Tall Sally," "Good Golly, Miss Molly," "The Girl Can't Help It" and "Lucille," songs that were to influence the Rolling Stones, the Beatles and the entire British invasion, are all in



this delightful collection. Impressive, albeit less well publicized, are the backups of New Orleans tenor sax Alvin Tyler and drummer Earl Palmer.

In 1958, Richard gave up rock 'n' roll to study theology, and he was eventually ordained as a Seventh Day Adventist minister. Although he attempted several comebacks, it was the rock 'n' roll revival that saved his career and legend. In these uncertain times for the Delta, especially its grande dame, New Orleans, listening to the happy music of Little Richard can give us all hope.



"East Village Opera Company"

CD

nabashedly cerebral and sonically a tower of emotion, the East Village Opera Company ensemble has been turning heads throughout New York and the East Coast. The Metropolitan Opera sells their CDs in its gift shop and offers discounts to ticket buyers who show a copy of their CD.

The union of classical music and mainstream pop does not begin, and certainly will not end, with the East Village Opera Company, but what distinguishes this group is that it treats its classical music repertoire not as a museum piece but as a contemporary, relevant and fun form of entertainment. They perform some of the best known arias, such as "La donna e mobile" from Rigoletto, "Nessun dorma" from Turandot, and "Habanera" from Carmen, in the original language and at full length, an added plus.

The company's Canadian co-founders, singer-songwriter Tyley Ross and arranger/multi-instrumentalist Peter Kiesewalter, have assembled a powerhouse five-piece band — a string quartet with the superb voice of AnnMarie Milazzo — for an innovative musical experience. According to Ross, "With modern recording technology and a wide variety of musical styles at our disposal, our goal has been to approach these songs the way we feel the composers would were they alive today."

Passionate, flamboyant and electrifying, the CD will delight opera novices and aficionados alike.

Feng Shui: You Can Practice It

e in the West have long looked to the East for inspiration in all areas of life. Our fascination with Eastern philosophies manifests itself in our adaptation of art, food, physical discipline, massage, medicine etc. The Chinese practice of feng shui (pronounced "foong swee" in Cantonese, "fong shwee" in Mandarin) is the art of placement, a way of creating harmony between us and our environment to enhance our well-being.

The theory and practice of feng shui is ancient and complex; it grew from observations that people are affected positively or negatively by their surroundings, that people in some places are noticeably luckier, happier, healthier or more peaceful than others. Indian and Japanese cultures believe, as do the Chinese, that there is a universal energy that flows continually through all forms of life and changes made by man or nature can vary its course. Literally, feng shui means the flow of wind and water. The wind disperses the invisible life energy and the water contains it. In the practice of feng shui, positive energy is attracted and cultivated and negative energy is eliminated.

As a practical matter, you can adopt the principles of feng shui to arrange and decorate your home.

Let's start with the front door and entrance to a home. Positive energy will be attracted here by being sure the door itself is in good repair and keeping the area neat and well lit. The light is left on at night even if no one is at home.

Inside the entrance there should be an area of transition from the outside world to personal space — a place to stop, sit down and take off your shoes. This allows the positive energy to flow inside spreading prosperity and opportunity, while barring negative energy.

Interior space should be warm and welcoming; dark, narrow entrances discourage people and positive energy. Spaces can be opened by using soft lighting or hanging an artwork, especially a landscape. If your back door is in line with your front door, you must take measures to prevent the positive energy from running straight through the house. A hanging crystal, wind chimes or a folding screen will



DECORATING

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

keep the positive energy within your home.

Living rooms are the most public rooms in our homes and should encourage the free flow of positive energy. Ideally, the orientation should be such that the room will be able to capture the most sun. If this is not possible, the feng shui can be adjusted by using bright, cheerful colors or adding a fish tank to provide a focal point. The movement of the fish will simulate the flow of energy. For softness and balance, it is good to use throw pillows, and for coolness, leafy green plants.

Furniture should be in proportion to the room; pieces that are too big will interrupt the energy flow, making people feel uncomfortable. So that people feel secure, furniture should be placed against the wall and never in front of windows or doors. The positioning of furniture should allow for the free flow of energy and conversation. Arrange the pieces at an angle instead of directly across from one each other, which can be too confrontational.

To break down barriers between people, place a table to share between chairs. Do not place furniture under exposed beams because people seated under them will feel oppressed. If this is not possible, hang a pair of bamboo flutes from the beam. Again, hanging crystals, green plants and folding screens will slow down negative energy.

Feng shui offers a new way of looking and listening to our environment. If your home makes you feel happy and in control of your environment, then you have created good feng shui.

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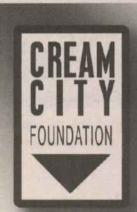
ASK THE VET

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

My friend insists that her 11-yearold dog doesn't need to be neutered because of his old age. Would you recommend that he be neutered? Also, what are the benefits of having your animal spayed or neutered?

Answer: As a veterinarian employed in a large animal shelter, I see on a daily basis the results of many of our community's dogs and cats being allowed to remain intact.

Your friend may argue that her dog never leaves the yard or that he is too old to sire puppies. Or she may express fear that, at his age, anesthesia and surgery would be too risky for him. All of these arguments



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315 W. Court Street, Suite 201B Milwaukee, WI 53212 are understandable. However, they are not necessarily true and they overlook the benefits to her dog.

Is your friend's dog too old to sire pups, and, at his age, wouldn't anesthesia and surgery be too risky? It is possible for an 11year-old dog to successfully breed. Eleven is old enough for a dog to be considered a "senior," so we do worry more about the ability of certain organs, such as the liver, kidneys and heart, to tolerate anesthesia. However, a complete physical examination and some laboratory work by your friend's veterinarian should help determine her dog's suitability for surgery. If he appears to be a good candidate, then there should be little concern, as we have a number of very safe anesthetic agents available to us in veterinary medicine, and the risk should be no greater than in a younger dog. If the pre-operative assessment uncovers health problems, the surgery may be postponed until steps can be taken to address them - or the surgery may indeed be too great a risk for the potential benefit to be derived. In either case, your friend will have the benefit of knowing more about the general health of her senior dog - and the option of dealing with any health concerns she may not have been aware of previously.

Altered animals are generally more home and family oriented, and generally make better companion animals: They are not always seeking out a mate or frustrated if they are prevented from doing so. Other than this, the surgery will not change the animal's general personality, as some fear. The surgery does not make them "fat and lazy" - although their calorie needs do decrease afterwards, as less energy is required, with no need to support reproductive processes. Males who are neutered are less likely to roam and neutering may, in some dogs, be useful in reducing certain forms of aggression. Neutered male dogs are less likely to have prostatic disease and do not get testicular cancers. In general, neutered males (and spayed females) live longer and healthier lives than their unaltered counterparts.

In conclusion, I would urge your friend to consult with her veterinarian and schedule an examination for her dog to see if he is a candidate for surgery. She will be ensuring that he is not responsible for any unplanned and potentially unwanted litters, and, even though he is already a senior, that he lives as long and healthy a life as he can.

My Cats Have Trained Me Well

'm a person who has thrived on routine, so it didn't take long for my cats, Fritz and Pearl, to train me in theirs. As a novice, of course, I caused them great frustration, but by the end of our first six months together, I began to get the hang of it.

I realized each cat would respond to his own name, but there were times when I needed only to say "hey, boys" and whistle, and they would both come running, especially if I was in the kitchen.

Actually, I was a quick learner around anything that concerned food. Fritz and Pearl taught me definite routines for mealtime. They seem to enjoy the anticipation and preparation involved. Pearl likes to spend the 30 minutes before supper alternately in my face and pushing his bowl around the kitchen floor. Fritz, on the other hand, often will wait patiently on the top of the stove.

Once the boys had convinced me they were born to be outdoor cats (at least during the day), those routines were not hard to master. They didn't heed my calls of "kitty, kitty" when I wanted them to come home, but once I understood that they preferred my whistling and "hey, boys," they promptly rewarded me. Pearl has never been one to roam far, but Fritz claims a two-block realm. When either of them appears on my deck, unless it's suppertime, I don't have to reward them with food; they merely want to be brushed or scratched or chatted with before going back to their adventures.

There is only one routine I have not been able to master, despite 12 years of practice. Fritz and Pearl are adept at sliding open the





By Lizzi Dahlk

screen door from the deck into the kitchen. However, I can't convince them to close it behind them. I don't mind an occasional insect finding its way in, but birds, chipmunks, and other prey, especially live, occasionally cause havoc for us all.

Finally, my bed is the site of many important sleep routines. When I'm ready to retire, Fritz and Pearl immediately saunter into my room and jump up to sit at the head of my bed. By the time I'm propped with a pillow against the headboard, my current book in hand, Pearl is stretched along my left leg, Fritz along my right. At some point during the night, each leaves to take up watch at a window or finish supper or just roam around, I guess.

As the sun rises, Pearl returns to his original position, and Fritz gently walks up to my face, nudges my cheek or ear, and lies down at my shoulder. At first, I interpreted these signals as nonnegotiable demands for me to get up, but now I understand I have the option of going back to sleep. They'll give me another wake-up call in an hour.

There are times when it's not just the three of us, and I think the boys adjust to the breaks in our routines better than I do. At least, after my guests say good-bye, I'm the first to comfortably resume them.

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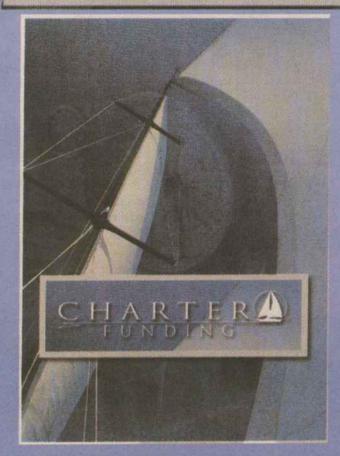
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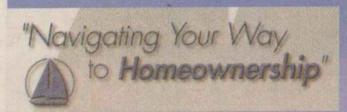
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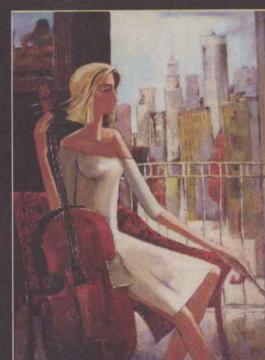
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Sensationalism and Art



THEATER

Raymond Bradford (rbradford@queerlifenews.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.

s I once told you, I grew up in the windy city of Chicago. My father managed several movie theaters. I went to the movies more than once a week. I remember "Psycho" and how nobody was allowed to enter the theater after the movie had started. There were also the awful William Castle movies! I screamed at "The Tingler" and "The Haunting of Hill House." Either the seats were rigged to tingle or a large skeleton would walk out in the dark. Most of the audience laughed, but it sold tickets.

The movie "The Moon Is Blue" opened and it was banned by the censors. It became a major hit! The movie version of the soap opera type smut novel "Peyton Place" opened to sell-out crowds. Most of these movies were very innocent by today's standards, but their shock value sold the tickets.

Police were always stationed around the lobby. During the run of the original "Frankenstein," they had nurses placed in the lobby, just in case someone passed out. Those Hollywood studio heads certainly knew what they were doing!

"LIVE" Onstage Sensations!

In the late 1960s the rock musical "Hair" opened. The original show was banned in several cities because of the full frontal nudity. Eventually all the press made it a major Broadway hit. There was later a New York nude musical review titled "Oh, Calcutta." It became a cult classic, and when the Chicago production came to Rush Street, I was asked to come in and choreograph some musical numbers. When I showed up for the audition, all the nude men and women were dancing. I can't tell you how weird a sight that was. It was more a turn-off than a turn-on.

Most recently **Kathleen Turner** walked across the Broadway stage naked in "**The Graduate**." The show had weak moments, but the nudity sold. But was it "Art"?

Lots of Great New Theater "Art"

The hit Billy Joel musical "Movin' Out" plays at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. There also will be two exciting versions of "Dracula" — at the Milwaukee Ballet and the Cedar Creek Repertory Company.

Bialystock and Bloom will bring us "We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!" The new Dramatists Theatre will present "Balm of the Gilead." The Playwrights Studio Theater will perform "Café Des Bon Temps." And a Latino Arts group will show us "The Latin American Songbook."

Milwaukee Repertory Theater opens "The Clean House." The Rosemary Clooney

songbook "The Blue Rose" continues at the Stackner Cabaret. R.S.V.P. Productions will present one weekend of "Let's Go to the Movies" featuring JP Clemente and David Brady. Also coming up is the Craig Lukas play "Reckless" featuring Cynthia Paplaczak. This show played Broadway last season. These two productions take place at the new Astor Theatre on Astor Street.

Taking It All Off — Milwaukee Style!

Over the past few years, I have gone to several productions in our town that featured some interesting nudity. The first show I saw at Bialystock & Bloom, "Bent," showed a nude young man walking across the stage with a towel — slight brief nudity. When the same company did its sexual "Killer Joe" there was slight female frontal nudity in a dimly lit room.

The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre had a very brief male nude scene in one of their major productions last season. It was interesting, and sort of shocking, and very tasteful. Off the Wall Theatre performed a well-reviewed production of the life of Hitler. One of the male nude cabaret dancers did a number with a very carefully placed hat. All of these shows presented nudity in a tasteful, "artistic" manner.

The Return of the 'Infamous'

A lot of "Sensationalism" happened around our town this past month with "Naked Boys Singing!" There was lots of newspaper and TV coverage. There were several interviews on the radio. For those of you who might be living on another planet:

The show was closed because of a licensing problem (now solved) — not because of the full frontal nudity. It is now the "infamous" production running Oct. 29 til New Year's Eve. If you go to the show during the holidays, you might even see the guys in cute little Santa hats!! One week before the show opened, I met two of the original cast members out drinking. They told me they were warned that the show could be closed by the police, or that there might be protestors. So be careful what you wish for!

It is always great to have a second chance in this life. The original opening failed to bring in the newspaper critics. Maybe the second time around this hot, "infamous" topic will bring all all sorts of reviews and press. It is a chance to bring the show back in even more glory than the original. The public is now waiting to see those "hot" guys and their clever musical numbers. We now really want to see what this "Naked Boys Singing!" is all about, and why it was closed in several other locations over the years.

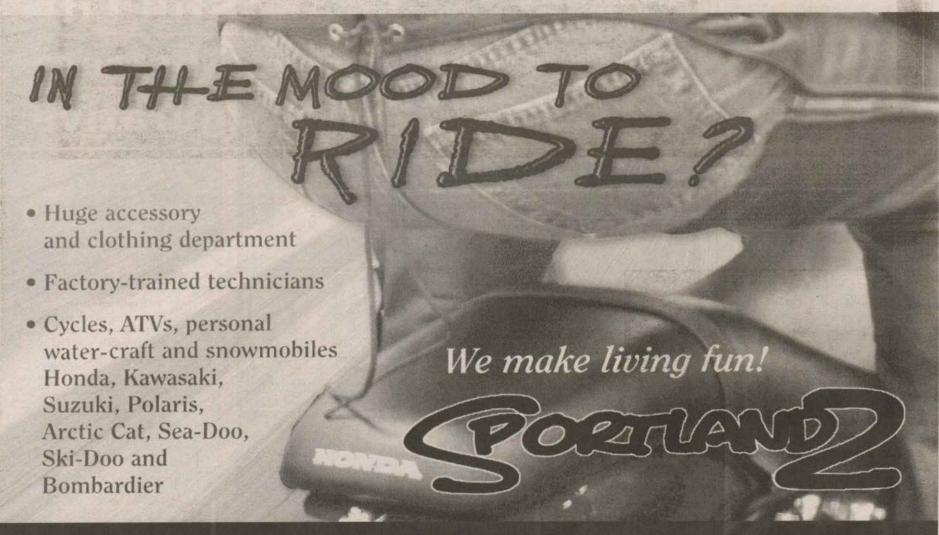
The very next question is How do you ever top this one? "The Return of Naked Boys!" or "Naked Boys II: Follow the Bouncing Balls!" or maybe "Naked Girls Singing!" — sing to the bouncing breasts!

Last Month's Trivia Answer

Gordon McRae starred in both movie musicals — not on Broadway.

This Month's Trivia Question Was Cindy Williams ever in a "nudie" movie musical?

Aunt Sally wants to be the first to be considered for "Naked Sagging Seniors



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What's Love Got to Do With It?

ctober is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, an opportunity for lesbians to support heterosexual women abused by their male partners. After which we return to lesbian "utopia" where, as women who partner with other women, we are safe from abuse of all kinds — physical, emotional, verbal and sexual.

Yeah, right! Unfortunately, intimate partner abuse can happen in any relationship regardless of the gender of the partners. In fact, research suggests that abuse happens about as often in same-sex as in opposite-sex relationships and can be just as serious.

It is difficult for many of us to recognize or acknowledge intimate partner abuse in our communities. Too often we look for signs of physical abuse and, in their absence, assume that the relationship is fine.

But abusers (whose main goal is to wield power and control over their victims) use a variety of tactics including threats, intimidation, jealousy and humiliation.

Women who have been abused often say that the emotional and psychological abuse were more damaging and had a longer impact than the physical abuse. Bruises and broken bones heal with time, but how do you heal a bruised or broken spirit and regain a sense of self, safety and control over your life?

If you suspect a friend is in an abusive relationship, there are signs to watch for. Does one person control the other? Does one person belittle or demean the other? Is one person afraid of the other? Is one person jealous and possessive? Does it make you tense or nervous to be around the couple's interactions?

Talking to a friend about your suspicions is another challenge. Victims of abuse often are ashamed, embarrassed and reluctant to acknowledge what's happening. The victim may fear the loss of the relationship, the anger of her partner or having others think badly of her partner. Confronting or leaving

her partner without proper planning may create a dangerous situation for her.

Even if she's willing to admit that abuse is happening, she may not be ready or willing to do anything about it. It is common for victims of abuse to leave the relationship only to return to the abuser. In fact, it is estimated that this cycle repeats an average of seven times before a woman leaves for good.

Why does she stay? The reasons are myriad and complex. She loves her partner and believes her partner loves her. She's dependent financially, emotionally and physically on her partner. They share a home, belongings, a history, friends and sometimes children. She believes she doesn't deserve anything more or better. She's afraid of making the lesbian community "look bad" to the outside world — a world that already defines our lives and relationships as sinful, perverted and unhealthy.

When victims don't leave, friends



LESBIAN HEALTH

by Kathy Herbst and Lesley Salas

and family members often shake their heads or, even worse, wash their hands of the situation. It is very important to stay focused on being supportive in any way we can. Isolation is a tactic frequently used by abusers to control their victims, and if we remove ourselves from the life of the victim, we may be unwittingly making it harder for her to leave.

As a friend, there are things you can do. Don't ignore the situation. Let your friend know that you're aware of the abuse and that she is not to blame and does not deserve it. Listen, express concern, validate her feelings, share resource information and encourage her to do safety planning. Give her time and space to make her own decisions.

Finally, educate yourself about the dynamics of intimate partner abuse and find out what resources are available to help victims. You can start by visiting the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Web site, www.mkelgbt.org, and clicking on Anti-Violence Project under Programs. Get the tools you need to help you become part of the solution.



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Outwords Books 'Top-5 Picks for October' Gay and lesbian fiction best sellers! Exclusive to Q Life.

1. "Terror of the High Seas" by Melissa Good.

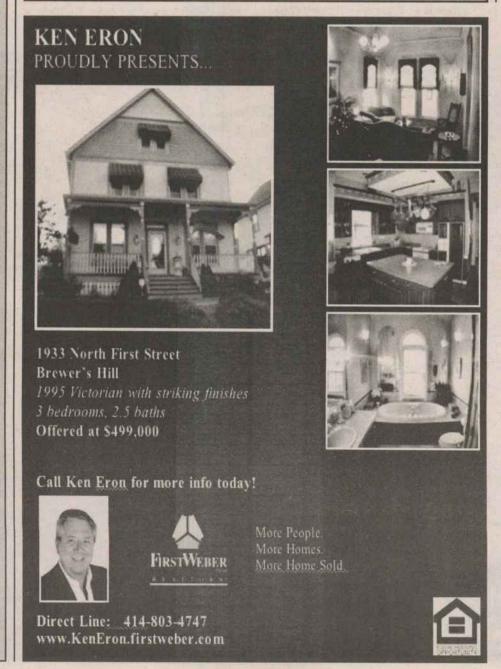
Melissa Good's latest novel finds Kerry and Dar on
a fabulous Caribbean vacation which turns deadly
when they come face to face with pirates.

FOR THE GIRLS:

- 2. "Mulligan" by KG MacGregor. Louise Stevens' life changes after her partner's death until she meets Marty Beck, a flirtatious, fun-loving and infuriating golf pro who pushes all her buttons.
- 3. "Justice Served" by Radclyffe. Newly promoted detective Lieutenant Rebecca Frye once again assembles her unorthodox team of lovers and friends to bring a deadly informant in the police department to justice.
- 4. "Infinite Loop" by Meghan O'Brien. Regan O'Riley doesn't believes she'll find true love until she meets Mel Raines, a lonely cop haunted by a painful past.
- 5. "Hunter's Way" by Gerri Hill. Homicide detective Tori Hunter teams up with a volatile new partner, Samantha Kennedy, to solve the cases of a serial killer and drug deals gone bad.

FOR THE BOYS:

- "The Brothers Bishop" by Bart Yates. Yates
 crafts another poignant and elegant work the
 powerful story of two brothers who discover just
 how difficult it is to go home again.
- "Hot Sauce" by Scott Whittier. Celebrity chef Brad Drake's fabulous life is suddenly shattered by evidence of his hunky boyfriend's infidelities.
- 3. "Third & Heaven" by Ben Patrick Johnson. Third and Heaven, a little diner in West Hollywood, plays host to four friends who, over breakfast each week, share love, tears and laughter.
- 4. "Bitch Slap" by Michael Craft. In Craft's final "Mark Manning" mystery, Mark flirts with infidelity, adjusts again to the empty nest and, of course, grapples with a murderer.
- 5. "The Boys in the Brownstone" by Kevin Scott. Snow traps the eccentric crowd at the Brownstone bar on the night before the night before Christmas unleashing a whirlwind of love stories.





cerwin@shorewest.com

Till Next Season

SSBL ended its 28th season the weekend before Labor Day with games being played at Wick Field. The three divisions proved very competitive. Congratulations go out to the Madison Rough Riders for taking first place in the upper division, to Fluid for the middle division, and to the newcomer team this year, Q Life, for the recreational division. Awards will be given out at the SSBL end-of-season awards dinner Oct. 15.

The highlight of the softball year was the Dairyland Classic. Thirty-seven teams from across the United States and Canada converged onto Milwaukee over Labor Day weekend to compete.

That Thursday night, the Dairyland Classic had its kick-off party at Triangle. Teams from New York City and St. Paul were already in town for the weekend tournament. James and the Triangle team did an amazing job of making everyone feel very welcome. Thanks, guys!

Friday night was highlighted by two parties: the registration block party at M'ONA'S and the welcoming party at Woody's. The weather was ideal and the beer was flowing freely at both events. There was a pig roast at M'ONA's so everyone could feast and get to know one another before going to the balloon drop at Woody's, where everyone had a chance to win money and free drinks.

Saturday's games were held at both Wick Field and Sijan Field. After the round robin, Kurt gave an incredible opening ceremonies display, complete with an airplane that welcomed all the players and a chilling rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by Woody's Scott Malcom.

The oddest event of the tournament occurred on Saturday as Wick Field had a mini microburst that lifted the SSBL tent completely into the air about 15 feet before it crashed down onto the field. Imagine, queens from all over the United States shouting for Dorothy and Toto to be saved.

Sunday's softball games were capped by the Dairyland Classic awards dinner at the downtown Hilton. Congratulations go out to all of the teams that won. At the awards dinner, SSBL inducted its second group of members into the SSBL Hall of Fame. New members inducted into this elite group were Dawn Pinkowski, Mike Hughes,



SPORTS

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

Bruce Thompson and Mark Upham. They join Suzy Arnold, Wayne Bernhagen, Ron Burbey, Chuck Cicirello, Shirley Fitzpatrick, Lou LaSota, Todd Muma, Dan Nelson, Arturo Olazabal, Tom Salsieder, Tom Theis and Jerry Warzyn. The inductees were recognized for their outstanding achievements for SSBL over the years. Each member was presented with an individual plaque. If you see any of them around town, please take a moment to congratulate them and thank them for their hard efforts throughout the years.

Darts

The dart season started Sept. 14 with 20 teams entered this year. The dart season will go through mid-February. Games are played Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. during the fall and winter. Will Arnie Garcia take the top spot again or will his Aqua Net finally get the best of him? Only the dart board knows. Check out current standings at www.m-gdl.com.

That's it for now, sports fans.

Winners of the 28th Dairyland Classic C-COMPETITIVE

1st — Indianapolis Sluggers

2nd — St. Paul Townhouse Arrest

3rd — Madison Rough Riders

4th — Minneapolis Mess

C-RECREATIONAL

1st — Chicago MPG

2nd — Toronto Our Guys.com

3rd — Minneapolis Racers

4th — Minneapolis Bad Puppies

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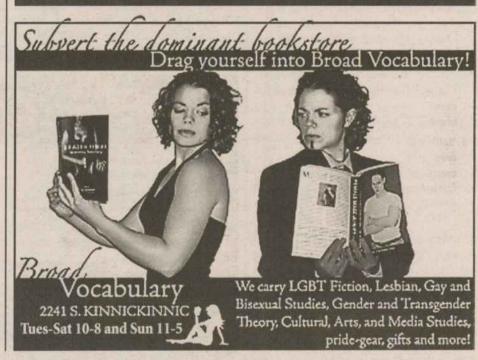
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1st — Chicago Bulldogs

2nd — Chicago Equality

3rd — Minneapolis Stampede

4th — Milwaukee Fluid Twist





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Arts



Calendar

OUT NOW

100. Windfall Theatre. Imagine you have just one hour to choose one memory to live forever... Village Church Arts, 130 E. Juneau, Milwaukee. 414-332-3963. Through Oct. 8.

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. milwaukeerep.com. Through Oct. 9.

17th Annual LGBT Film Festival. UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. mkelgbt. org/moviefestival. Through Oct. 9.

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 Aryan Nations, 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.

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

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.

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

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

Louisiana Purchase. A rare Irving Berlin musical comedy. Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 414-744-5757. boulevardetheatre.com. Through Oct. 23, various times.

Girls on Parade. Artwork by Carrie Skoczek. KM Art, 226 S. 1st St., Milwaukee. 414-226-2272. Through Oct.

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

667: The Number of the Neighbor of the Beast.Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson St., Madison. 8 p.m. \$7. 608-244-8338. broomstreet.org. 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.

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. milwaukeerep.com. Through Nov. 6.

Japan on the Road: Two Cultures/One Spirit. An international exchange between members of WP&S/WAAM (Wisconsin Painters & Sculptors/Wisconsin Artists in All Media) and 30 Japanese artists will take place in the coming weeks. Neville Public Museum of Brown County, 210 Museum Pl., Green Bay. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. artinwisconsin.com. Through Nov. 13. Other exhibits throughout Wisconsin.

Cosmopolitan. Gallery 505, 505 E. Silver Spring Dr., Whitefish Bay. 414-962-6302. gallery-505.com. Through Nov. 15.

THURSDAY, OCT. 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.

Q PICK

Café des Bon Temps. Dan and Vittorio meet. Dan is an openly gay, high-profile doctor in New York City. Vittorio is a Cuban refugee who, as a Marieto, was forced to come by way of flotilla to America. Ano-holds-barred perspective. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave, Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$19, \$16 students and seniors, group rates. 414-687-8090. Through Oct. 16, various times.

FRIDAY, OCT. 7

Antony and The Johnsons with guest Coco Rosie. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$10.800-511-1552. pabsttheater.org.

David HB Drake. Songs from this Midwestern troubadour's latest CD will be featured in his "Oct. Country" concert tour. Wild Hog in the Woods Coffeehouse, 953 N. Jenifer St., Madison. 8 p.m. 608-244-5403. davidhbdrake.com.

Third Annual Opening Reception. Madison Area Open Art Studios. Hue Gallery, 1934 Monroe St., Madison. 5 to 9 p.m. madisonopenartstudios.com. Studios open to the public Oct. 8-9, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 8

Creepy. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 414-803-4734. hotcakesgallery.com.

So Scary It Will Pop Your Cherry! A Miltown Kings Halloween drag show and haunted hallway. B-side Bar, 235 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, 9 p.m. \$6. 414-272-8466.

Q PICK

Zero Church. Maggie and Suzzy Roche blend every possible genre from a capella Handel and barbershop harmonies into a music marked by refreshing honesty, eccentricity and humor. Alverno Pitman Theatre, 3431 S. 39th St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-382-6044. roches.com.

TUESDAY, OCT. 11

Mike Doughty's Band. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 800-511-1552. pabsttheater. org.

Movin' Out. Five-time Grammy winner Billy Joel and legendary director/choreographer Twyla Tharp have joined forces to create this spectacular new musical. Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-273-7121. marcuscenter. org. Through Oct. 16.

THURSDAY, OCT. 13

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.

FRIDAY, OCT. 14

Brighton Beach Memoirs. Based loosely on Neil Simon's own life, this heartwarming coming-of-age tale focuses on him and his large, cantankerous family in their overcrowded Brooklyn home in 1937, as they struggle to overcome the effects of the depression. Broadway Theatre, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-276-8842. chamber-theatre.com.

SATURDAY, OCT. 15

Company Man. A thematic exhibition of contemporary visual art exploring issues surrounding work. Chase Building, 21st floor, 111 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. Through Nov. 5.

Tommy Dorsey Orchestra. Fox Cities PAC, 400 W. College Ave., Appleton. 7:30 p.m. 920-730-3760. foxcitiespac.com.

The Winter's Tale. The destructive forces of jealousy and envy are pitted against the redemptive power of love and forgiveness in this cautionary tale of one family's journey to reconciliation. Hope is eternal. Peck School of the Arts Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 414-229-4308. milwaukeeshakespeare.com.

Q PICK

Women in Shadow and Light. Jan Goff-LaFontaine reads from a photo essay book of women recovering from abuse. Women tell stories of hope. A Room of One's Own Bookstore, 307 W. Johnson St., Madison. 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. 608-257-7888. roomofonesown.com.

MONDAY, OCT. 17

Poet's Monday. Milwaukee poet Jennifer Morales will be the featured reader. Linneman's Riverwest Inn, 1001 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 9 p.m. Open mic 7:30 p.m. 414-263-9844. linnemans.com.

FRIDAY, OCT. 21

Dracula. Milwaukee Ballet. Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-273-7121. marcuscenter.org. Through Oct. 30.

John Mominee and Scott Hefti. Color takes center stage in the abstracts of Mominee and the realisms of Hefti. Katie Gingrass Gallery, 241 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 5 to 9 p.m. 414-289-0855. Through Nov. 20.

The Tony Monaco Trio. Tony Monaco is recognized nationally and internationally as one of the modern masters of the Hammond B3 organ. The Stones Throw, 304 Eau Claire St., Eau Claire. 9 p.m. \$10. 715-552-5882. thestonesthrow.com.

QPICK

Our Big Fat Greek Wedding. Twelve local artists will transform the second floor at the M&M Club into an exhibition featuring a smorgasbord of paintings, prints and drawings. M&M Club, 124 N. Water St., Milwaukee, 414-347-1962.

Red Letter Reading. Lina Ramona Vitkauskas, author of "Shooting Dead Films" and "The Meanest Man Contest," and Ander Monson, author of "Vacationland." Woodland Pattern, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. \$3, \$2 for open mic readers. 414-263-5001. woodlandpattern.org.

Reflections. Art at Kunzelmann-Esser reflects what transpires when multiple artistic minds and talents influence and create in the same living space. Do not miss your chance to witness such artistic diversity. Kunzelmann-Esser Gallery, 710 W. Mitchell St., Milwaukee. 5 to 10 p.m. 414-647-8770.

The Shakespeare Stealer. First Stage Children's Theater. Todd Wehr Theater, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-273-7206. marcuscenter.org. Through Nov. 13, various times.

We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay! This Bialystock & Bloom production introduces Antonia and Margherita, whose husbands have big appetites but small wallets. So when a riot breaks out at the local market, what are two working class girls to do but steal bag upon bag of groceries? Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. Through Nov. 13.

SATURDAY, OCT. 22

Emeline Michel. Haiti's Emeline Michel carries the flag of a world without borders with a positive voice and strong Creole roots of Rasin Kreyol. Alverno Pitman Theatre, 3431 S. 39th St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-382-6044. emeline-michel.com.

TUESDAY, OCT. 25

Solos and Duets. Jason Kahn of Zurich and Jon Mueller of Milwaukee will perform percussion and electronics. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. \$7. 414-803-4734. hotcakesgallery.com.

FRIDAY, OCT. 28

Q PICK

Icons. The Lesbian and Gay History of the World. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 414-248-6481.

Winnipeg Babysitter. A selection of videos that surfs the golden age of Winnipeg public access television. Includes work by Guy Maddin, Fearless Dog, the Royal Art Lodge and others. Woodland Pattern, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. \$2. 414-263-5001. woodlandpattern.org.

SATURDAY, OCT. 29

QPICK

Naked Boys Singing. A second chance to see the show the vice squad closed! Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 414-248-6481. uncommontheatre.net. Every weekend through New Year's Eve.

SUNDAY, OCT. 30

Assif Tsahar and Cooper-Moore Duo. Alternating Currents Live. Woodland Pattern. 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-263-5001. woodlandpattern. org.

Henry Rollins. Spoken word performance. Rave and Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-342-7283. therave.com.

TUESDAY, NOV. 1

Guster. Orpheum Theatre, 216 State St., Madison. orpheumtheatre.net.

THURSDAY, NOV. 3

Pyretown. A romantic drama. Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-744-5757. boulevardtheatre.com. Through Nov. 27, various times.

COMING SOON

Nov. 5: Patricia Barber, Alverno Pitman Theatre

Nov. 5: Don Linke Trio, Peck School of the Arts Recital Hall

Nov. 12: Catch as Catch Can, Danceworks

Nov. 18: El Dia que me Quieras, Latino Arts Auditorium

Nov. 25: Animal Crackers, Broadway Theatre Center

Deadline for November issue is October 19.



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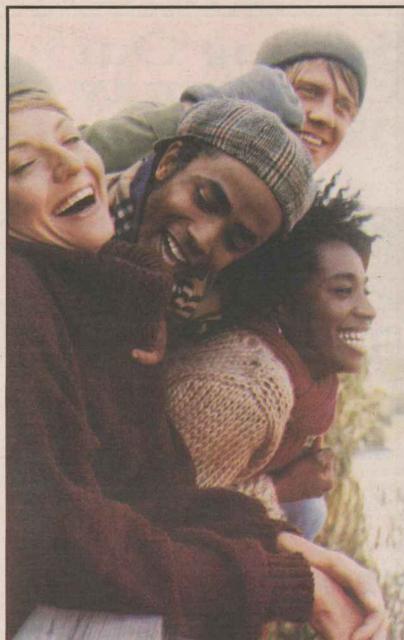
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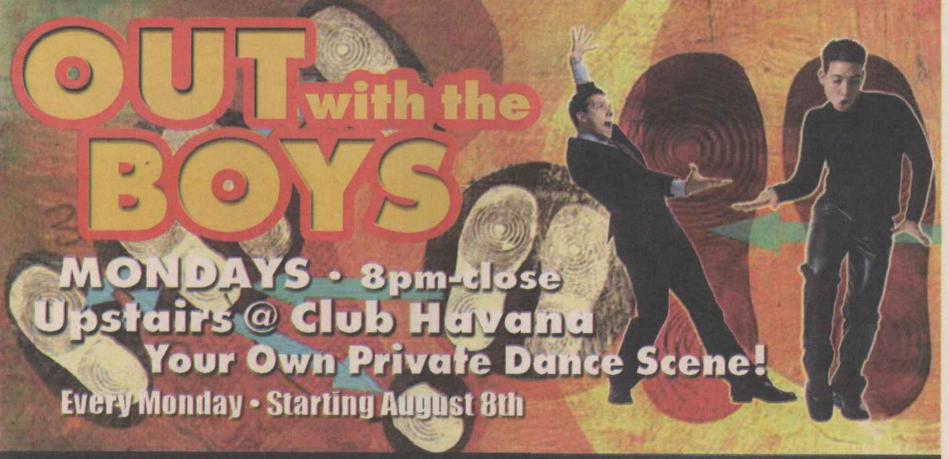
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A Little Help from Friends

ver the past several months I have been invited to many wonderful dinner parties and group gatherings. One of the fun things about attending these social occasions is sampling all the delicious food. On a couple of these occasions I came across some great dishes that received high acclaim from everyone in attendance. I asked for the recipes so that I might share them with you. Many thanks to Will Pelfrey and Galen Lemke for sharing their fantastic and widely praised recipes with us (and for being such good friends).

Grits, like Will's Cheesy Grits, have long been a staple of the Southern diet because of their simplicity and versatility. Grits are made from dried corn, ground to produce cornmeal. They may be found in coarse and fine grinds, and the degree of the grind defines the product. Hominy is a very coarse grind (and is made with lye). I recommend the coarse grind as the fine grind comes out resembling porridge. Instant grits are not worth eating and should be avoided at all costs. No self-respecting Southerner would cook, eat or socialize with one who cooks instant grits.

Will's Cheesy Grits

2 cups water

2 1/2 cups milk (whole or 2%)

2 tsp. salt

1 cup grits

2 tsp. black or white pepper

5 tbsp. butter

6 oz. grated cheddar cheese



COOKING

Steve Ahl (sahl@queerlifenews.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.

Bring the water, milk and salt to a boil over medium-high heat. Once at a boil, stir in the grits and pepper. Lower the heat to a simmer and cover. Stir every two to three minutes, being careful to stir out any lumps. Cook approximately 20 minutes or until the grits are thick and creamy. Remove from the heat and stir in the butter, one tablespoon at a time. Just before serving add the grated cheese and stir to combine.

Galen's Guac

3 ripe avocados

1 tomato, diced

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

1 bunch green onions, chopped

1 tsp. garlic salt*

1 tsp. ground cumin*

1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper*

Peel and pit the avocado. Mash with a fork, leaving the mixture slightly lumpy. Place the avocados, tomato, cream cheese, onions, garlic salt, cumin and cayenne pepper in a bowl and stir until combined. Serve with your favorite tortilla chips.

* Or more to taste.

Perchance **Perzines**

hen I'm drawn into a debate about whether blogs are the new zines, I demure. I believe that perzines, short for "personal zines," certainly paved the way for blogs, yet never fully get credit for how amazing they are. Readers often take for granted the personal observations made by zinesters due in part to the fact that perzines are often the choice of folks making their first venture into zine writing and, as such, may come across as overwrought, angsty commentary and suffering from a lack of focus.

However, from the pens of gifted writers, perzines pack a punch. shortandqueer and flaming jewboy are no exception. They rise above the level of navel gazing and share with us ways to incorporate deeper emotions into our personal experiences. These zinesters aren't afraid to bridge the gap between life and death, denial and acceptance.

Friends Are Important

Written to mark the passage and honor the memory of a good friend, shortandqueer [Issue 1, 2004, 24 pages] is a veritable who's who of Kelly's universe of friends. Friend Jamez was the one who inspired Kelly to become a zinester after Kelly noticed what a cool network of people Jamez had developed through zine writing. Buried in that information is the gem that Kelly felt he was a "math person" and not really a writer. That type of modesty is hard to find. Kelly's friends also represent a wide range of different life experiences, from gender queers and people of color to artists and just plain folks, who really aren't all that plain when Kelly shares anecdotes about them.

Another standout of shortandqueer is that all the photos used are copies of personal photographs. In a world where zines are typically filled with appropriated graphics, it's refreshing to see lots of great candid photographs filled with smiling faces and people being silly and having fun. The text itself also provides a "snapshot"



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

about the subjects. Be they friends or lovers, we see a lifting of the veil on some aspect of Kelly's connection to them.

Happy though most of these revelations are, Kelly is also not afraid to say when things went wrong or if animosity arose. We are, however, always taken back to a central faith in family built by one's own hand and through personal connections with the world.

What's Not to Love?

flaming jewboy [Issue 2, 2000, 36 pages] is the chocolate of Judaism in the peanut butter of Situationism. In this insanely brilliant melding of kvetching, 1970s porno graphics, xerographic art, and poetry, Avram lets loose a torrent of detailed personal information, tempered with sardonic comments and practical realism. An issue "dedicated to Jon-Erik Hexum and DeForest Kelly, FLAME ON!" means lovers of obscure pop cultural references (Hexum was a hunky 1980s TV star, who may have been gay, who died in a tragic stunt accident; Kelly, of course, was venerable Dr. McCoy on Star Trek but not gay) are in for a treat. Avram weaves a compelling personal narrative, in a nonlinear way that keeps interest piqued. Detourned artwork simply adds to the flavor. If there were a "gay" issue of Heeb, it would only pale in comparison. In the San Francisco GLBT Historical Society (www.catalogq.net/wwindex.html) zine collection, there are other issues of flaming jewboy. They are worth checking out.

Check out The Queer Zine Archive Project on the road at the Madison Zine Fest (madisonzinefest.org) at the University of Wisconsin College Library and Helen C. White Hall Oct. 14 to 16 or visit QZAP online at qzap.org.



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'Naked Boys Singing!' to Indulge Audience Vices Again

After Unlawful Closing by MPD Vice Squad, Cast Rises to the Occasion

By Paul Masterson

aked Boys Singing!" takes to the stage again Oct. 29 after the Milwaukee Police Department's vice squad shut the production down. It will run weekends through New Year's Eve.

According to Anne E. Schwartz, spokeswoman for the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD), the production was closed because the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center lacked the proper license. However, because of its status as a nonprofit and charitable organization, the center never needed a license to hold theater productions. This was clearly stated in the legal language surrounding this enormous debacle by the City of Milwaukee.

Therefore, curtain up! Light the lights! The naked boys are coming, and they want you to be there when they do.

I once again talked with Mark Hooker, the director of the production.

Q Life: Mark, what do you think about all the controversy surrounding the Milwaukee production of "Naked Boys Singing!"?

MH: I thought the whole thing just got hugely inflated. There was never any legal justification for the closure in the first place.

Q Life: Did you feel supported by the community during the rough ride that followed?

MH: The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center tackled this prejudicial action head on with the support of community members at large, as well as the American Civil Liberties Union and even some local churches. Yes, it was hard, but I felt blessed.

Q Life: How do you think this affected the cast, and do you think they will have any performance anxieties?

MH: The cast is eager to mount this production again. They were only allowed the first weekend of their run — which was, of course, anti-climactic for them. Now that it's back up, I think their performance instincts will kick in and the results will be huge.

Q Life: Do you have any comments about the ongoing litigation against the City of Milwaukee?

MH: Not really, Paul. I'm a director, not a lawyer. But I have always been a big believer in the penal system and I'm putting my faith in Lady Justice.

Q Life: Will the events surrounding "Naked Boys Singing!" affect how you choose productions in the future?

MH: Yes. Because of this incident, I intend to push the envelope even further next year. On a serious note, I do believe that our civil rights were violated, and that we were the victims of gay discrimination. Police Chief Hegerty may not be homophobic herself — I don't know her — but I think MPD's actions certainly were, and she is ultimately responsible for their actions.

Q Life: So what envelope-pushing productions do you have in mind for next year?

MH: We're currently planning on producing "Angelsin America," "Seduction," "Say You Love Satan," "Strangers on a Train," "Antigone" and "Perestroika." We're also going to have guest performances by individuals such as Jade Estaban Estrada and perhaps one or two guest theater groups. For instance, I'm hoping to bring in a production of "Vagina Monologues" that another local company is working on.

Q Life: That sounds very ambitious.

MH: Well, I want to give our audience the biggest bang for their buck. And with a couple of the shows, such as Jack Heifner's "Seduction," I'm hoping we don't get another visit from the paddy wagon. But if we do, we'll continue to fight for our rights.

"Naked Boys Singing!" reopens Saturday, Oct. 29, with a special 10 p.m. performance at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. This show will be a fundraising benefit for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

Other performances reopening weekend are Sunday, Oct. 30, at 8 p.m. and Monday, Oct. 31, at 9 p.m.

Performances will continue Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through Dec. 31. Call the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's Uncommon Theatre Box Office at 414-248-6481 for reservations. All tickets are \$20.

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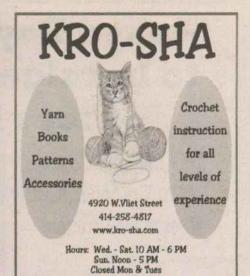
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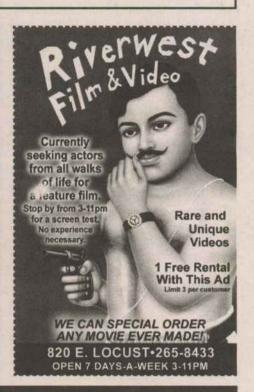
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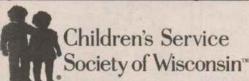
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FRIEND

The Rev. Jamie P. Washam pastors Underwood Memorial Baptist Church in Wauwatosa. She has served the congregation since fall 2003. The church is a diverse body of believers, committed to social justice and God's radically inclusive love. As an agent of God's love in the Universe, she considers it an honor to get paid to do what she would do in her free time anyway.

My God

grew up in a staunchly Southern Baptist household in west Texas, where the women were strong and the men were compassionate. The thought of growing up and becoming a preacher never occurred to me, because all the pastors I knew were men. I was a third of the way through Divinity School before I allowed the possibility to seriously enter my mind.

God has a way of surprising us, and moving us beyond our expectations and comfort zones. The more deeply I studied and delved into my faith, the more troubled I became at the discrepancies I found. How could a loving God create an entire population to live and love in a way that was simultaneously condemned? Ours is not a trickster God. Either God was smaller than I believed, or the biases and the assumptions they rested upon were faulty. I believe the latter.

Knowing the experience of a close cousin and later walking alongside a lifetime friend during their heartrending coming out processes only furthered my understanding that the fear and hatred aimed at the LGBT community by most Christians stem not from God but from their own interpretations of God. Years of struggle, prayer and life combined to convince me that when God says everyone, it really means everyone.

As a Christian, I believe God calls us to lives of extravagant grace, radical inclusion and relentless compassion. Everyone has a place in the family of God, and we are responsible for making this vision a living truth on the ground.

We must act, not just in our own selfinterest, but on behalf of others, because we truly believe, as Jesus did, that what diminishes one of us, diminishes us all.

The religious conservatives do not speak for me, nor many of us, yet they try to control the conversation on gay marriage and rights. Their rhetoric and actions divide and decide who is righteous enough to be in the family of God, and further, what that family looks like. This is not acceptable.

Poet Saul Williams writes:

WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CREATE A NEW CURRENCY

ONE THAT WILL TRULY ALLOW US
TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS
FOR REASONS BEYOND GUILT AND PITY

It is a brand new day. This goes beyond tolerance to full blown inclusion. I cannot keep quiet. It would take more courage, at this point, for me not to speak out, and to not call out those who choose to spread hate and shame in the name of God. I refuse to acknowledge or worship a God of fear and division.

Love is love, and justice and equality are basic tenets of faith. Fear and love cannot coexist, and we are not a people of fear. God has enough love for all of us. May we also.



Bars Bars Bars

t seems as if new bars and clubs are sprouting up throughout Milwaukee at a rate similar to that of the downtown condo craze. Every time I drive through downtown Milwaukee something new grabs my attention. Being the night owl I am, I can't help but check out these new spots. One of the newest additions to the night scene is Euro Café Bar. Located at 324 E. Mason St., just west of Milwaukee Street, Euro Café Bar draws large crowds on any given day of the week. In giving it a sleek Flux designed interior, Euro Café Bar owners Spiro Asimakopoulos and Tony Anagnou created an aesthetically pleasing and inviting place to party at night or simply grab a coffee drink during the earlier hours.

With loud house, dance and Europeaninfluenced music provided by DJ Eric Romero continuously pounding, nights at Euro Bar can get quite crazy. Full of beautiful people, its wait staff and bartenders don't fall far from the clientele in that department. With a younger, trendy crowd, Euro Bar is my type of place. Wonderful drinks and the occasional drink special mean you can't go wrong. On Tuesdays Euro Bar offers half off already reasonably priced Grey Goose vodka drinks from 8 p.m. until close. On Wednesdays they offer \$4 Captain Morgan drinks and \$4 Captain Morgan Tattoo



CLUBBING

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

bombs, the equivalent to a Jaeger bomb. On one of their busiest nights, Thursdays, you can indulge in \$5 martinis from 8 p.m. until bar time. Let me tell you, the bartenders know their stuff and the drinks are great.

Alongside Euro's fantastic drinks comes a food menu they have concocted with the neighboring, famous **Karl Ratzsch's** German cuisine restaurant, a staple in Milwaukee for many years. From onion rings to crab cakes to more substantial items such as sausage, cheese or hot snack plates, the wonderful staff from Karl Ratzsch's comes and takes your order and, surprisingly, the food comes in a New York minute. Sandwiches, strudel and salads are also on the menu. And let me tell you — I've been going to Karl Ratzsch's since I was a child and everything is remarkable. The menu is available from 4 to 9 p.m. daily.

Euro Café Bar opens Monday through Friday at 4 p.m. and Saturdays at 6 p.m. It is closed Sundays.







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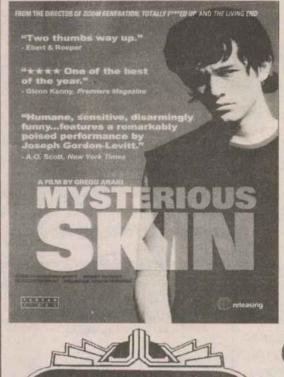
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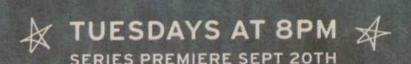
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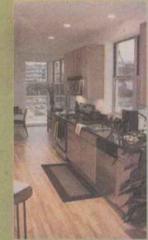
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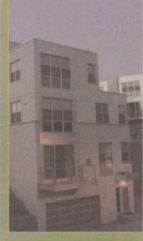
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