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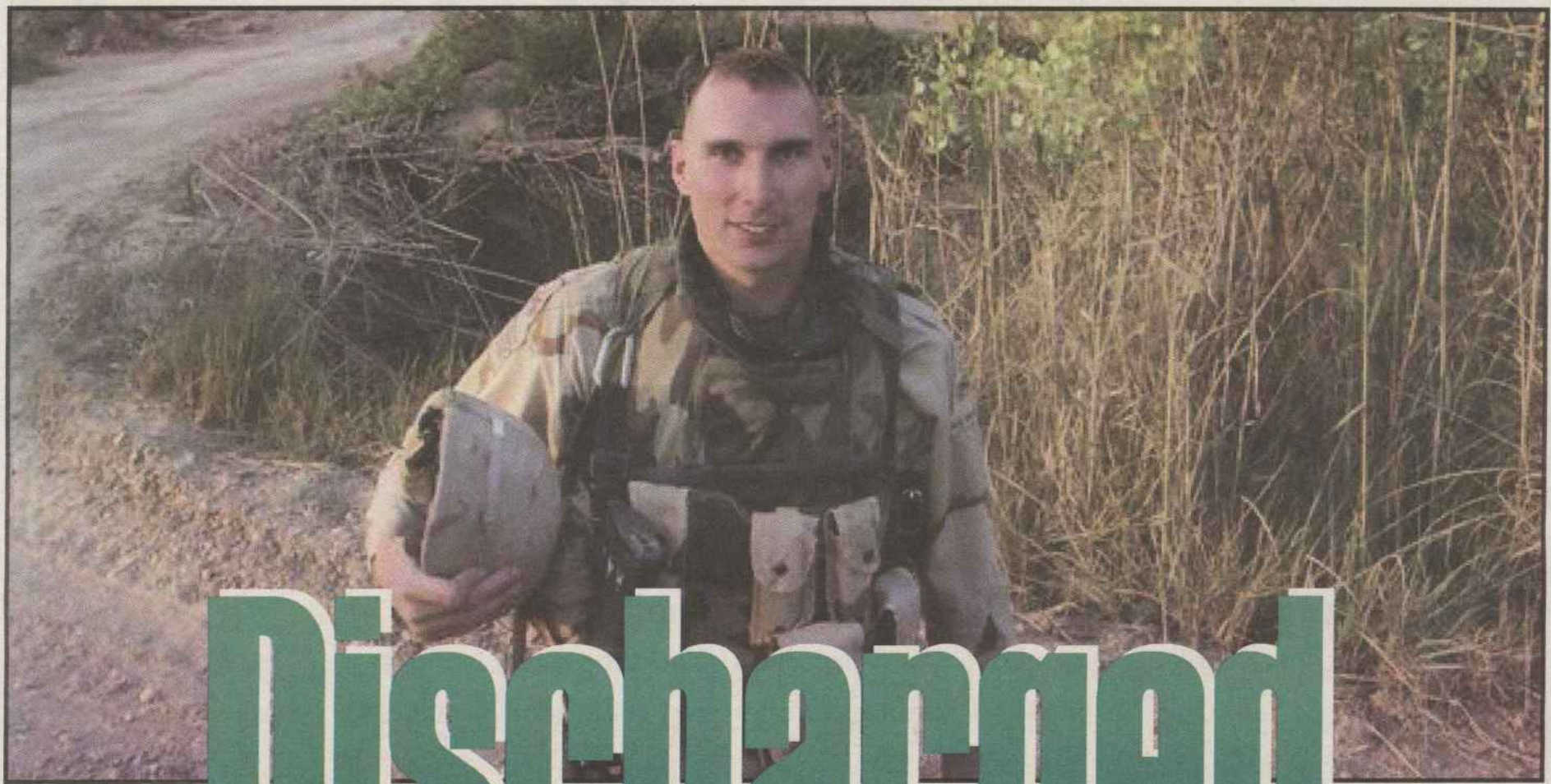
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# Discharged

By Holly Grey

## Uncle Sam boots area gay soldier from IRAQ

“It says I was kicked out for being gay. I’m not ashamed to be gay, but this follows me. I’ve been labeled as substandard. Future employers will know what happened. I was a good soldier and on my paperwork it says I was discharged for ‘homosexual activity.’ I’ve been stigmatized,” explained former Marquette University student and Army artilleryman Jeff Howe.

“Six months before my second tour was over in Iraq my boss woke me up out of bed, told me to get in uniform and took me to a secluded area. Here he told me I was being separated from my unit and the Army for homosexual conduct,” said Howe. “I was shocked. All of a sudden, I

am told to pack my stuff and I can’t tell anyone what’s going on. Everyone knew something was going on, but I couldn’t talk to anyone about it.”

Separated from his unit and buddies, Howe felt isolated, alone and embarrassed.

“I was embarrassed, not for being gay, but for being exposed as a liar,” Howe said. Under the military’s “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, and to be accepted, Howe had to lie to his friends and colleagues about being gay. “When I talked to my co-workers, I would always say I had a girlfriend or say I met a new girl, even though I was really talking about a guy or my boyfriend. Friendships are based

on truth and I had to be a liar in order to serve my country.”

Even though he had been out for years, Howe knew he would have to go back into the closet to join the Army. “I left Marquette University and was working as a corporate marketing manager in San Francisco when the Sept. 11 attacks occurred. I started to do a little bit of soul searching and in the summer of 2002 I joined the Army to help out the country,” he said. “I felt like I needed to do something.”

Sacrifice for your country can mean a lot of things. Howe was prepared to give the ultimate sacrifice of his life for his country if necessary; however, throughout

his military experience he also had to sacrifice who he was in order to serve the country he loved so much.

On Aug. 3, Howe was honorably discharged under the military’s Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell policy. The Army uncovered Howe’s online profile on Connexion.org, an LGBT community site.

Paradoxically Howe’s experience transpired while the Army was experiencing one of the leanest recruiting years since it became an all-volunteer service three decades ago — missing its enlistment target by the largest margin since 1979.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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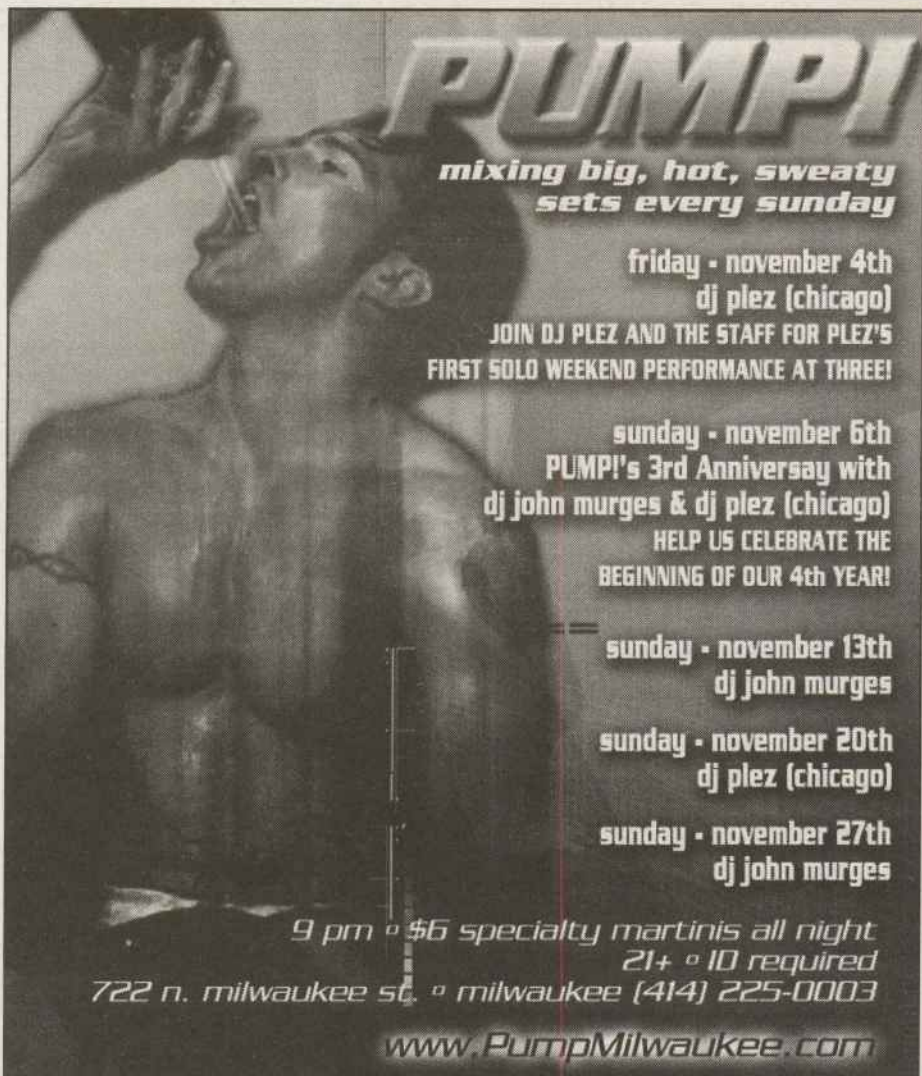


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# Discharged

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Howe had originally enlisted for a two-year stint. In late August 2004, as he was getting ready to leave Iraq, his stay was involuntarily extended until April 2006. "So that's another central irony of this case," he said. "One day they force me to stay in the Army and tell me I have to go back to Iraq, and that it's central that they have all the bodies that they need. And then as soon as they find out that I'm gay, they say, 'Get your stuff and get out of Iraq. There's no place for you in this Army.'"

Howe claims he never knew that keeping an online profile stating he is gay was a violation of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. "I thought it was as long as you didn't make a statement to somebody in the military, like one of your superiors, that you're pretty much good," he explained. "And if they did find something like that, they would at least ask you about it."

"What started the whole thing was the Army started investigating me after I posted a photo on my unit's blog of an American vehicle that was destroyed by an enemy rocket," said Howe. "Because of that photo,

they thought I was an insurgent."

Howe took pictures of the destroyed vehicle because he thought it would be interesting to post on the blog for folks to see back home. According to Howe, somebody from another unit found the picture upsetting and brought it to the attention of someone higher up in the Army.

"They wanted to make sure I was not trying to aid the enemy or working for Al-Qaeda," explained Howe. "In hindsight and under the circumstances, when you are in that environment I guess their reaction was reasonable."

In the end, Howe could have rebutted the Army's decision, but that would have required more lying. "Some people think I was taking the easy way out, but I would have had to lie again," said Howe.

Howe went on to describe how important he feels the passing of the Military Readiness Enhancement Act, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in March, will be for the armed forces and potential and enlisted soldiers. Wisconsin Reps. Gwen Moore and Tammy Baldwin are co-sponsors of the act. If passed, the act will

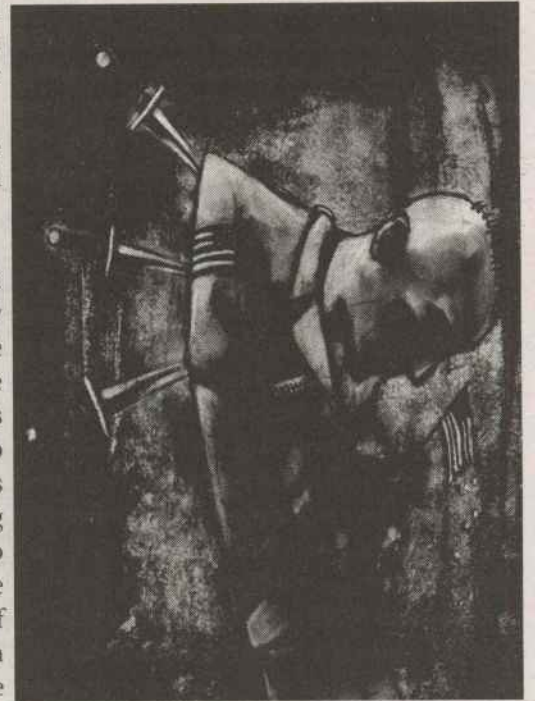
enhance the readiness of the military and allow gay personnel to serve openly.

"I think the Army is a great institution. I have seen the effect it can have on other guys," concluded Howe. "Don't get me wrong, obviously there are things wrong. I wouldn't be doing this interview if I was anti-Army, but it's just crazy that during this time of great need, I can't serve my country because I am gay."

Howe plans on returning to Milwaukee in January to finish his final year at Marquette University.

Editor's Note: According to a recently released poll by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life and the Pew Research Center for the People, 58 percent of all Americans support allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the U.S. military. This poll follows other recent polls showing growing support for allowing gays to serve openly. In March a poll by the Boston Globe revealed 79 percent of Americans support allowing open service. Recent Gallup polls have

reported between 65 and 79 percent support for lifting the ban on gays in the military.



## Holiday 'Diversity Tree' Sale

### Gay Arts Center Builds Bridge with Gay and Non-Gay Communities

By PAUL MASTERSON

*It's that time of year again.*

As the last leaves fall from the trees and the chill of winter descends upon us, we can at least look forward to the holidays as a respite from the impending arctic winds and long dark months. We can begin to store our warmth with the company of friends and family among the traditions and rituals of the December holidays.

Whether you celebrate Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa or winter solstice, the symbol of the decorated evergreen can provide your home with a traditional symbol of welcome and hope.

This year the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, in cooperation with MO'NA's Out 'N About, will sell diversity trees and diversity door wreaths as a fundraising effort for the center.

The sale will take place at MO'NA's beginning the weekend after Thanksgiving and continuing through Dec. 23 or as long as the trees and wreaths last.

Trees will include Fraser Fir, Scotch Pine and Balsam measuring 5 to 8 feet and will cost just \$35 each regardless of size. The 18- to 20-inch wreaths, complete with a rainbow ribbon ready to hang on your door or wall, will cost \$25.

All sale proceeds will go toward the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's operational costs. This donation is tax-deductible.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC), a nonprofit charitable organization, opened in March 2005 to provide local LGBT artists with a safe and inviting environment to promote LGBT visual and performing arts, as well as to support community organizations and

provide educational opportunities. It has already presented nearly two dozen artists in a succession of successful art exhibitions, staged a cabaret and two theatrical performances, and welcomed Jade Estaban Estrada. It is currently showing "Naked Boys Singing!" which reopened Halloween weekend after being unlawfully closed by the Milwaukee Police Department's vice squad in August.

MGAC has also hosted numerous fundraising events for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, and the LGBT Film and Video Festival.

#### MO'NA's Comes to the Rescue

Beverly Beenen and Pam Norby, co-owners of MO'NA's have donated use of the patio area adjacent to MO'NA's for the diversity tree sale. It's a familiar spot for many: Besides being the perfect summer hangout on balmy Milwaukee nights, the patio and parking lot have often been shared with other organizations for special events. It was the assembly area for the 2005 Pride Parade and the site of Saturday Softball League's Dairyland Classic bash.

Beenen and Norby are going all out to support the sale and make the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Diversity Tree Sale another in this series of community events.

The patio area will be turned into a holiday happening with MO'NA's wonderful sense of ambience. Plans are being made for a special weekend for families to enjoy an old-fashioned holiday tradition of picking out an evergreen. Hot cider, roasting chestnuts and perhaps even a Santa Claus will provide an open house atmosphere.

"It should be an event for kids. Buying

a tree is a holiday tradition, a tradition easily lost. Maybe this will encourage families to start a tradition. Buying a tree is a "moment" bringing people together," said Beenen.

This is all part of Beenen's mission to encourage more cooperation between LGBT groups and, in fact, the entire community.

"I don't understand why we don't cooperate. It's very frustrating. We try to get the entire community in here — all ages, gay, lesbian, transgender, straight. We want a community 'at large.' It's such a struggle."

The Diversity Tree Sale is another means of achieving that goal. Beenen believes that holidays are a logical connection to the community as a whole, to family and friends. Trees are an avenue to bring a diverse people together.

For those familiar with MO'NA's it's easy to understand why the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center asked Beenen and Norby to consider providing the venue for the sale.

It's a comfortable space, open and light, that offers patrons a friendly and cozy retreat from the holiday hustle and bustle. It may be odd to think of this LGBT bar and restaurant as a family locale but Beenen points out their Sunday brunch draws more and more families with kids. She expects the Diversity Tree Sale will add to that holiday festival atmosphere with "kids running around."

#### Community Leaders Agree

James Pennington, director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, expressed enthusiasm for the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's fundraising efforts.

"It's a great way for the community to come together. The Milwaukee Gay Arts

Center and MO'NA's will provide a means to celebrate with our family of choice — an alternative family that reinforces the sense of community when many LGBT people are separated from their natural families," said Pennington.

When asked about the unique partnership and collaboration between the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and MO'NA's, Maria Cadenas, executive director of Cream City Foundation (CCF), said, "We must strive and continue to find common ground and establish collaboration among our LGBT organizations, businesses and allies to enable the creation of meaningful and sustainable change that allows for strong and powerful LGBT communities."

The Cream City Foundation is a funding organization which supports programs and events that benefit the LGBT community. The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center recently received a grant from CCF.

#### Pre-Order or Buy Your Tree and Wreath

You can stop by and pick out your own diversity tree or wreath at MO'NA's Out 'N About, 1407 S. 1st St., Milwaukee, starting Nov. 25. Sale dates are Nov. 25 to 27, Dec. 2 to 4, 9 to 11, 22 and 23. Sale times are Fridays 7 to 10 p.m., Saturdays noon to 6 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Volunteer tree elves are needed to help staff the sale. Please call the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center at 414-383-3727.

For more information or to preorder your tree and wreath, call 414-383-3727. A limited number of trees and wreaths will be available so preordering is highly recommended.

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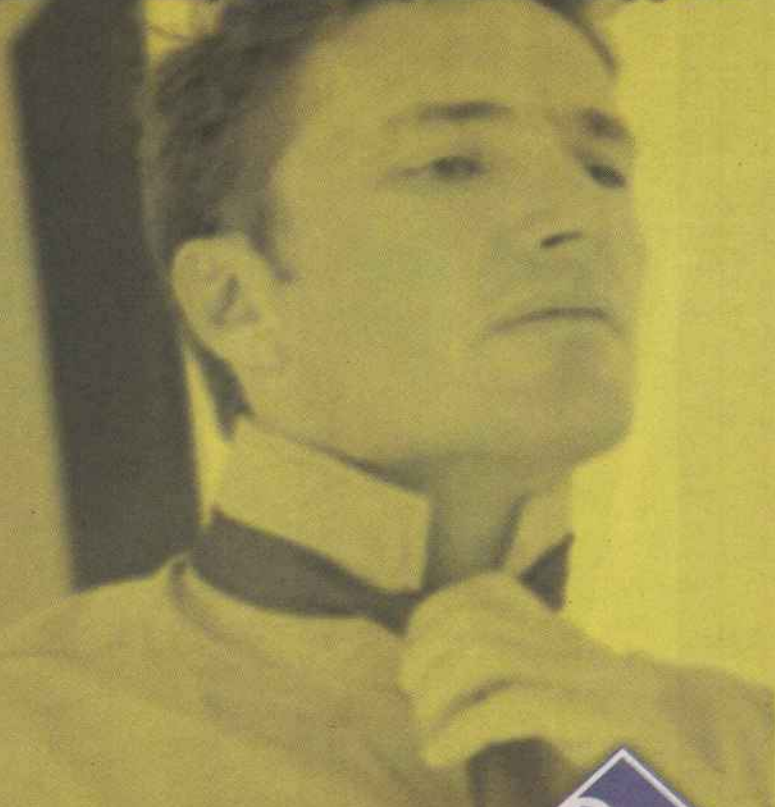
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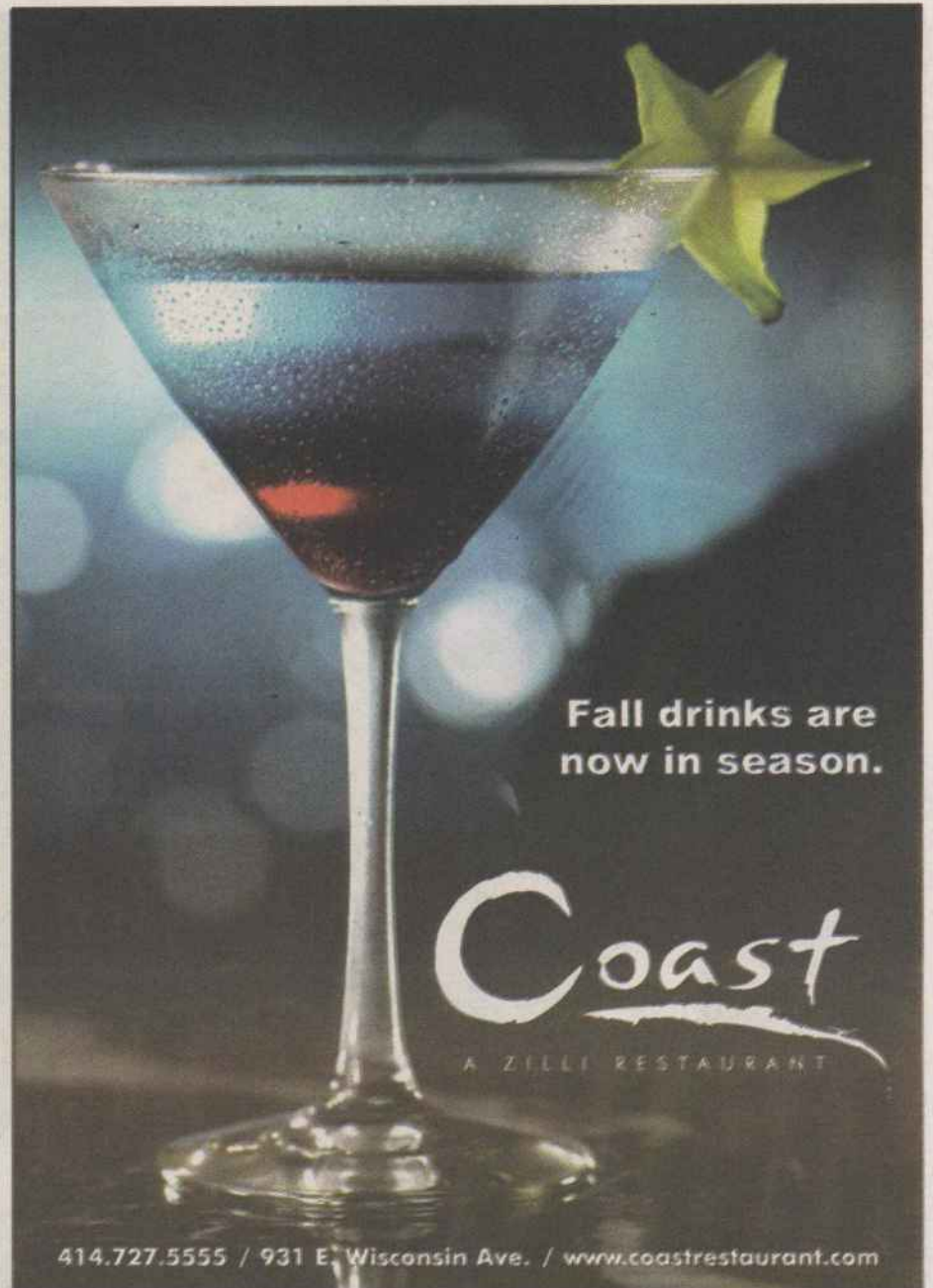
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Happenings

## Gays and Quilting Are Easily Sewn

A Conversation with Denise Cawley

*Q Life* asked Paul Masterson, the director of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, to speak with Denise Cawley about the fiber arts, their role in the LGBT creative community and the quilting exhibition she will curate in April.

Masterson: Denise, fiber art may be unfamiliar to many, so what exactly are we talking about?

Cawley: It's a vibrant contemporary art form. There's a big variety of fiber art: quilts, felting, combining types of weaving, sewing, knitting, dying or anything that includes fibrous materials. It's both multimedia and a convergence of media. Even metal can be included in a fabric quilt.

Masterson: Is there an LGBT niche in the fiber art world?

Cawley: The quilt world is the last frontier of my personal outing process and I would think for many others as well. Ironically, in the LGBT community there's an expectation that "dykes" repair cars, not make quilts. There's always been an LGBT quilt world but until the Internet, the network was small. Now we're connected.

Masterson: So, this is more of a lesbian community art form?

Cawley: Not at all. Traditionally one might regard quilting as a women's world and there's a historical female relationship to it, but there are a lot of gay men involved in fiber arts as well.

Masterson: What are your intentions and expectations as curator of this national quilting show?

Cawley: I see the LGBT quilt world coming together through this event. We've been a virtual community online, even to

the extent of working on each other's projects. Now we'll have the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center as the focal point of actually meeting and quilting together. Appropriately enough, Southeast Wisconsin is the national hotbed of fiber arts. It's a major quilting region and resource of supplies and new techniques.

It will also introduce this art form to the LGBT community. Of course, it will help recognize the LGBT artists within the greater fiber arts world.

Masterson: And how will the show fulfill your goals?

Cawley: I want the show to focus on the art, original designs and patterns, and on a diversity of styles and methods. I've already received applications from a number of artists, including some from Canada, and expect to have a dozen or more artists ultimately represented. The show will include a retreat for members of the LGBT quilt community that will be open to the public.

Graphic designers Maureen Kane and Michael Prost will jury the show's applicants. Both are recognized in the community as both artists and teachers.

Masterson: The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's opening art exhibition featured three blocks of the AIDS Memorial Quilt. We've talked about your show producing a panel to be donated to the Names Project, the quilt's curators. How will your event accomplish that?

Cawley: We've given that a lot of consideration. We feel it would best reflect the Milwaukee LGBT community and the tradition of quilting by making it a truly communal effort. Our artists will provide the materials and design but we will encourage visitors to the show to make a stitch or two to complete the panel. Each stitch will be symbolic of a prayer, a thought, or an act of memorial. It will be dedicated to all those we have lost.

Masterson: Thank you for this interview, Denise. We're looking forward to your show.

Cawley: It's been my pleasure. Thank you for the opportunity.

## Barrett to Meet with LGBT Community

**Milwaukee**—Mayor Tom Barrett will attend a townhall meeting for members of the city's LGBT community on Thursday, Nov. 3, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The event will be held in the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Community Room, 315 W. Court St, on the north edge of downtown.

The event will be an opportunity for LGBT community members to ask the mayor questions and hear his vision for the city. "Mayor Barrett has a long history of supporting our community. As the bar is raised on what makes a city stand out as an LGBT-friendly community, we're confident that Mayor Barrett's leadership on equality will continue to excel," said James Pennington, executive director of the LGBT Community Center.

For more information, call Patrick Flaherty, the center's director of community relations, at 414-271-2656 ext. 112.

## Second Dentist Joins ARCW Dental Clinic

With a patient load expected to surpass 1,000 by year's end, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Dental Clinic has added a second dentist and expanded its partnership with the Marquette University

School of Dentistry.

Natalija Georgieva, DDS, recently completed a year as a resident in Marquette's Advanced Training Residency Program and has been retained by Marquette for an additional year to participate in the collaboration with ARCW. Georgieva became interested in the effects of HIV on oral health last year when she visited ARCW to conduct research for a presentation about dental treatment for HIV-positive patients.

"We are so fortunate to have Dr. Georgieva join our clinic," said ARCW dental director Steve Debbink. "Already she has had a positive impact on our clients and allowed us to increase our capacity to meet the growing demand of HIV-positive patients in need of dental services."

Only 16 percent of ARCW's dental patients have commercial insurance; 44 percent have no insurance at all. The ARCW dental clinic is the only HIV-specific dental clinic in the state and takes patients regardless of their ability to pay.

## Iconography of Identity at the Gay Arts Center

Four Local Artists Featured

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center opened a new art exhibition on Gallery Night, Oct. 21. Its title, *Iconography of Identity*, intends to define the artists' notions of icons, both personal and societal. Four

local artists, Shawn Gurath, David Martin, Vala Mohr and Carolyn Snow, present the theme in a range of perspectives and styles. Their works span various media including latex, iron, pastel, plaster, acrylics and oils.

Shawn Gurath defines his iconographic work as a documentation of important and intimate aspects of his life — a visual journal that he needs to make. Largely self-taught, he works in a variety of media. In this exhibition Gurath displays his unique view into the complexity of iconography, one that reveals human emotions and a strikingly broad range of personal experiences.

Gurath's identity juxtaposes the extroverted with the introverted. His works are both social and emotional in which conflicts mesh with critical contemplation. All comprise a trip through an arcade of sensory input with as much diversity as commonality. Images explore the inner warmth of wombs and the red-lit intimacy of corner bars. These parallel environments of droning ambient noise, a common pulse and unseen umbilical cords share a certain security from the outside world threatened only by an impending moment of separation: the act of birth or last call.

His lively neo-impressionist landscapes contemplate the icons of the natural world through plays of color. Other works are dark, depicting nightmarish displays rich with intimate personal symbolism and painful emotion.

Dave Martin received his Bachelor of

## Gay Arts Center Hosts International Quilting Show

Call for Entries

In spring 2005 Milwaukee became one of the few American cities to have a Gay Arts Center. This cultural center and gallery hosts classes, plays, musicals and art exhibitions showing the diversity of LGBT artists. Building on that success, quilting will now be added to the repertoire.

More than 15 percent of U.S. households participate in quilting. While many think of quilting as a hobby for mostly (straight) women, America is filled with gay and lesbian quilters, fiber artists and surface designers. This exhibit will be on view in Milwaukee April through June 2006. The arts center will also host quilting events during the weekend following the April 21 opening.

All work must be made by artists who identify as LGBT. Collaborative pieces where at least one member identifies as LGBT will also be accepted.

All work must be classified as a quilt containing three layers or as fiber art containing some form of thread, beads, yarn, fabric, paper or other protein-based fibers.

Art should be a personal expression of the fiber or quilt artist. Depiction of LGBT issues is optional but not required. Art quilts, traditional quilts, weavings, surface design and mixed media are all acceptable forms to express your view. Pizzazz Studios is acting as a guest curator for this exhibit. Direct questions regarding the show and how to enter to Denise at [dmccawley@earthlink.net](mailto:dmccawley@earthlink.net).

## AIDS Campaign Hits Home

By Holly Grey

Hot, black and adorned in bling, the alluring model posing in the poster is a gay man and straight woman's dream. Bold letters across the poster read, "HIV Never Looked So Good. Get Tested — It's OK."

"We as a society need to be real about this — HIV/AIDS is not just a gay thing," explained Charles Daniels, AIDS activist and founder and executive director of the Milwaukee-based Charles Daniels Productions Inc. "We don't want the poster's message to offend someone, but so many black women are attracted to men they perceive as having money. So many just look at the package and are not looking at what's underneath. This campaign, we think, will effectively get that message across."

This new campaign will be launched in the Milwaukee area Dec. 1 in conjunction with World AIDS Day. The campaign was developed to create awareness about HIV and AIDS not only within the black American community but throughout the entire metro population.

"The purpose of these posters, T-shirts and, soon to be, bus stop signs is to reach all gay or straight black Americans and their social networks. They will be seen in barbershops, bars and other places throughout the city. People need to be aware HIV/AIDS is affecting everyone. For every one white woman, 35 black women and 13 Hispanic women are effected," explained Daniels.

In June 2005, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that black Americans represent about half of all people living with HIV in the United States. Black Americans

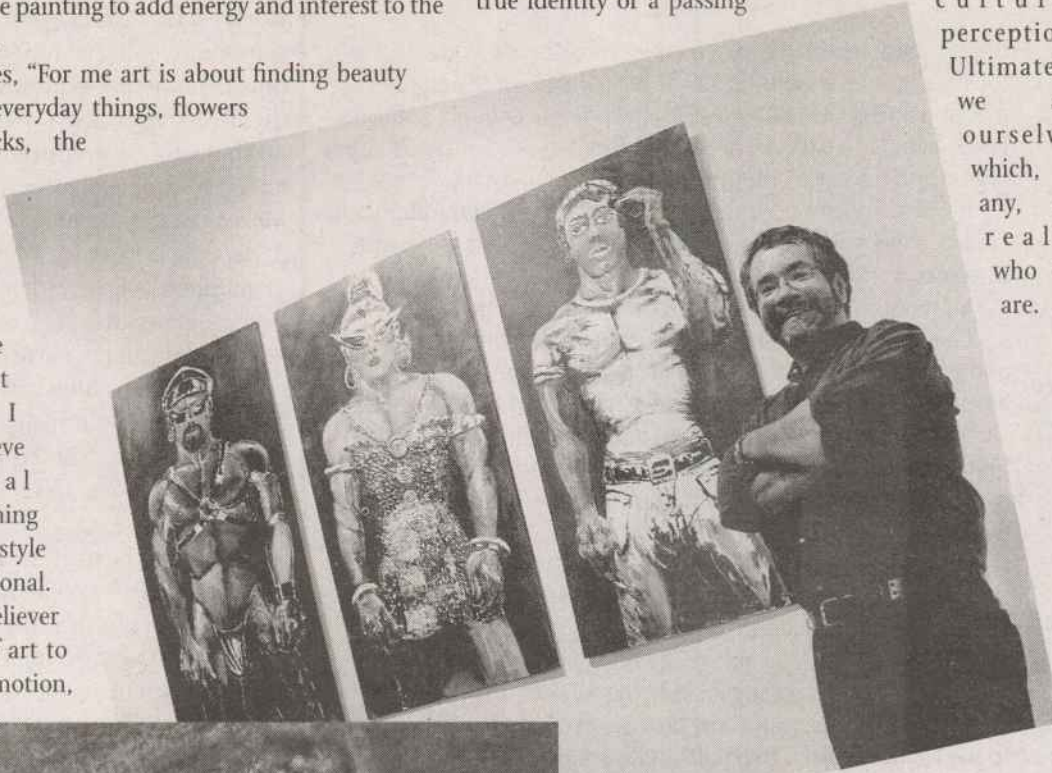
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Fine Arts from Peck School of the Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has spent a lifetime observing, drawing and painting. His style is that of a portraitist, rendering his subjects in oil on canvas. The image is viewed frontally or from above and is created by using brush strokes and knife painting to add energy and interest to the painted surface.

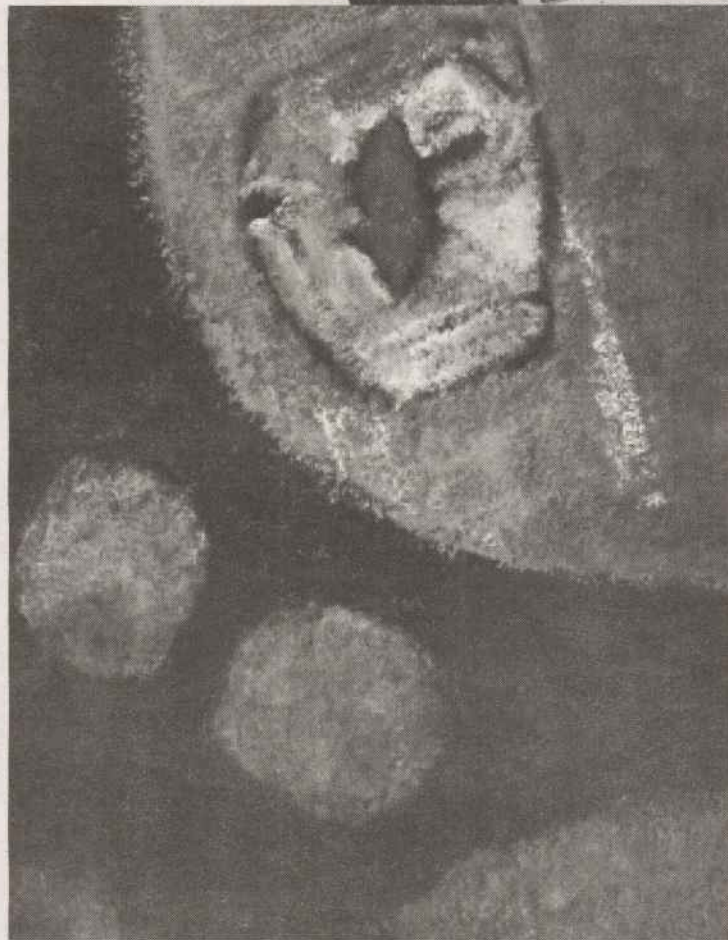
Martin states, "For me art is about finding beauty and design in everyday things, flowers and knickknacks, the things with which we surround ourselves to comfort and reassure us. With light and shadow I attempt to achieve monumental status, something like an icon. My style is representational. I am a firm believer in the power of art to influence our emotion,



our mental state and our attitude. My paintings are meant to be positive."

His "Three Faces of Steve" triptych shows Steve, Stephanie and Stevie, a trinity reflecting social identities, or multi-personalities, that current culture has raised to iconographic levels. Are they real or imagined? Are they our true identity or a passing

cultural perception? Ultimately, we ask ourselves which, if any, are really who we are.



Vala Mohr received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in sculpture from Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design. Mohr presents sculptural gloves in iron and latex. These icons stand as documents of women's gloving, a social and historical phenomenon dating back centuries. Mohr takes this traditional statement of fashion, protection, decoration and, in the specific case of women's gloves, gender repression and turns it into her iconographic medium.

Her "Opera Guns" are reminiscent of gauntlets worn by knights and musketeers as articles of defense. They are transformed into iron cages as articles of social confinement. The large latex and iron "Opera Gloves" explore obligatory fashion accessories. Once intended to obscure women's hands from view as a representation of both modesty and repression, Mohr has turned them into overt expressions of femininity. One is textured in nipples, the other more naturally.

Abstract expressionist painter Carolyn Snow combines the color of Fauvism with

the ambiguity of German Expressionism. She paints kinetic and abstract forms in acrylic paint, often on hand-textured Hardbord. Her palette arrays vivid colors to depict sensual and powerful metaphoric images of people, places and things intended to capture the viewers' hearts and imaginations. Her icons are male and female, the extended family, static and in motion, observing and doing, but all part of daily existence. Snow sees them as primitive blatant life forces, representative of humanity, maternity and ancestral lineage.



Snow has participated in group shows and art fairs. She recently held a solo show at Lovely, an Aveda Salon in Bay View, and exhibited at the First Annual Milwaukee Artist Market, a public art show at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Snow's work can be found in Illinois, Indiana, New York City and Wisconsin.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. Iconography of Identity runs through Dec. 4 and can be seen Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and by appointment.

Clockwise from above left: David Martin with his triptych; a work by Shawn Gurath; Carolyn Snow with some of her works; a Carolyn Snow painting.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

now account for 54 percent of annual new infections, though they are just 13 percent of the population.

The statistics are alarming: Black women accounted for 72 percent of all new HIV/AIDS cases among women in the United States and black Americans account for two-thirds of new AIDS cases among teens. Other recent studies have shown as many as a one-third of all black gay and bisexual men under the age of 30 may be HIV positive.

"Our goal is finding new ways of battling the epidemic before it reaches you," Daniels explained about his 12-year-old organization. "These posters are trying to send the message that you just can't jump in the water without knowing the temperature."

"I took the posters to be printed and two Hispanic teenage employees at the printer saw the posters and asked, 'Is that a gay thing? If so, we are not interested' — as they turned their backs," said

Daniels. "I thought to myself, these are the kids who are out there having unprotected sex. These are the guys who need to see the posters the most."

Last month, Daniels presented the campaign at the Wisconsin annual community-based HIV/AIDS organizations conference and at a similar convention in Cleveland to rave reviews. "It was amazing to see and hear the outcry of positive responses," said Daniels. "In Wisconsin, we wore the T-shirts on stage and showed the poster — people clapped. In Cleveland, I got 14 business cards from people wanting me to send them the poster. I have spent a year and a half thinking about this, studying it, putting the idea through focus groups and working with several models,

it was great to hear such an outcry."

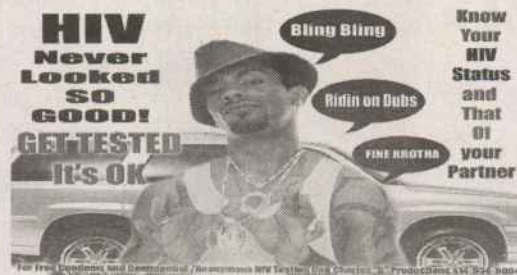
Daniels' organization has been extremely active over the years in boosting awareness and education about HIV/AIDS within the Milwaukee black community. His group hosts an annual HIV awareness cookout each year the day before Labor Day and sponsors various other outreach events including pageants and Black Gay Pride at State Fair park. In addition, his organization conducts free and anonymous HIV/AIDS testing and supplies educational material and condoms.

Daniels believes this Wisconsin state-funded advertising campaign is just one more inventive way to foster awareness in the community.

According to

statistics, AIDS diagnoses continue to decline every year among whites while remaining at the same level among blacks. In 2001 the AIDS case rate among black Americans was 11 times higher than that among whites. HIV/AIDS is among the leading causes of death among black men and women in the United States.

This epidemic has grown steadily more black and brown. No matter how you slice the numbers — male or female, young or old, gay or straight — this epidemic is attacking black Americans aggressively.





## National **Q** Happenings

### St. Louis Passes Resolution Calling for Repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

**St. Louis** — The St. Louis Board of Aldermen approved a resolution Oct. 21 urging Congress to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel in the military.

The resolution, introduced by Aldermen Board President James Shrewsbury on behalf of Gateway Stonewall Democrats, says in part that the board "respectfully urges Congress to pass and the president to sign the Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2005 (H.R. 2059), thereby ending the discriminatory federal policy of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'" Shrewsbury's resolution was passed by unanimous vote.

The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, introduced in March, would repeal the military's ban and allow lesbian, gay and

bisexual personnel to serve openly. The bill currently has 98 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives.

"A strong national defense is in the best interest of every community," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN). "Our fighting forces are better able to win wars, fight terrorism and protect our homeland when the most talented Americans, regardless of sexual orientation, are allowed to serve. From New York to California, Americans who value security over discrimination are igniting a grassroots movement to topple 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.'"

Resolutions supporting the Military Readiness Enhancement Act have recently been approved

by city councils in New York, Chicago, West Hollywood, San Francisco and Cathedral City, Calif. In September the California State Assembly approved a similar resolution, making the state the first to officially oppose the military's ban.

"The men and women of St. Louis, gay and straight alike, deserve the opportunity to give back to our nation through service in the armed forces," said SLDN St. Louis board member Kathleen Clark. "Today's resolution is not just a condemnation of the current ban on gays serving openly, but also an affirmation of the more than one million gay veterans who have already served honorably and with distinction. The best way to thank them for their service would be to end the gay ban."

### Gay Soldiers Are Dying Too

**Washington** — As CNN reports that American casualties in the war in Iraq have reached 2000, statistician Gary Gates estimates that more than 25 of those killed were gay or lesbian. More than 65,000 lesbian and gay Americans are on active duty and serving in the National Guard and reserves, according to an earlier estimate by Gates.

"Lesbian and gay soldiers are fighting and dying in Iraq, too," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN). "Because of the muzzle placed on the 65,000 gay service members now reporting for duty, the stories of those wounded and killed often go untold. There is no doubt, however, that the LGBT community has served and sacrificed in Iraq, just as they have in every American conflict since the American Revolution."

On Oct. 25 President Bush said, "We've lost some of our nation's finest men and women in the war on terror." As Osburn points out, "Those finest men and women of our nation include gay and lesbian

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

### 'Noah's Arc' First African-American LGBT Series

**Washington** — In collaboration with Logo, the Human Rights Campaign sponsored a six city sneak preview tour of "Noah's Arc," the first African-American LGBT TV series.

"We're proud to be promoting a show that finally gives visibility to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender African Americans," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "We should all have the opportunity to see ourselves in our media."

"This is a historic moment not only for the African-American LGBT community, but for the whole LGBT community," say Chris Wagely, marketing manager for Logo.

Other sponsors include the Black AIDS Institute, Comcast and DirectTV. The series premiered on Logo Wednesday, Oct. 19. Sneak previews were held in New York City, Atlanta, Dallas, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

### Kansas Court Ensures Fair Treatment for Gay Youth

**Washington** — In a unanimous Oct. 21 decision, the Kansas Supreme Court struck down a law that sent Matthew Limon, a gay teen, to prison for 17 years when a heterosexual teen would have been sentenced to only 15 months.

"The Kansas Supreme Court leveled the playing field today," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "We

teach our children not to treat people differently but our law does just that. Matthew Limon has served more than his time and we applaud the American Civil Liberties Union and the court for this important victory for equal treatment under the law."

Matthew Limon lived in a school for developmentally impaired teens in 2000 when, a week after turning 18, he and another teen, 14, had sexual contact. Limon was sentenced to 17 years in prison. But under the state's so-called Romeo and Juliet law, heterosexual teens in the same experience would have received no longer than 15 months.

### Organizers of Million More March Break Promise

**Washington** — Breaking an agreement reached in a meeting Oct. 12, the Million More March organizers excluded an openly gay speaker from the stage.

Though march organizers originally balked at including a gay speaker, the Oct. 12 meeting with gay and lesbian African-American leaders, Minister Louis Farrakhan and the Rev. Willie Wilson resulted in an agreement that openly gay longtime activist and author Keith Boykin would speak.

"The march's goal was unity but the result was division," said Donna Payne, senior diversity organizer for the Human Rights Campaign and a participant in the Oct. 12 meeting. "Minister Farrakhan and Rev. Willie Wilson went back on their word this weekend. It's past time for us to speak the truth and that means being honest about the diversity within the African-American

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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troops. Their families and loved ones, however, are left to grieve alone, without recognition from our government or our military. ... The blessings of liberty must include the right to serve openly without fear of retribution from the U.S. government."

Since the U.S.-led invasion began in March 2003, more than 15,000 American service members have been wounded in the conflict, according to the Defense Department. According to recent estimates, more than 150 of those wounded have been gay or lesbian. Earlier this year, Robert Stout, a Purple Heart recipient wounded in Iraq, came out in an Associated Press interview.

## Political Hearing on Marriage Undermines Families

**Washington** — An Oct. 20 hearing in the Senate Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee focused on the failed proposal to write discrimination against same-sex couples and their families into the Constitution.

"They're playing cynical political games that threaten the security of American families," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign. "While some Senators are trying to appease their extremist base, millions of Americans who support equal rights and responsibilities for all families will see through these hearings. Not only would the amendment ban marriage for same-sex couples, but it would threaten domestic partnerships and civil unions. It's time for Washington to get back to helping all families, not hurting them."

Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kansas) called for the hearing on the so-called Marriage Protection Amendment. Despite intense pressure from the White House and extreme right-wing organizations, the amendment, which requires two-thirds approval in each chamber, failed last year in the House by a 227-186 margin and in the Senate with a vote of 48-50.

International

Q

Happenings

# Queer Humanitarianism

## Gay Dollars for Global Issues

**San Francisco** — Rainbow World Fund (RWF) has returned from a humanitarian aid trip to Guatemala. Their team of 13 volunteers collected and delivered more than 1,000 pounds of medical and school supplies — including antibiotics, IV bags, and medical equipment — along with much-needed financial assistance for organizations working to improve the lives of Guatemalans.

During its trip, RWF met with groups and individuals fighting to improve the lives of Guatemalans through better health care, education, safe water, labor rights, indigenous (Mayan) rights and LGBT civil rights.

Hurricane Stan, which hit Central America in early October during RWF's trip to Guatemala, killed more than 2,200 people in Guatemala and El Salvador and left more than 200,000 people homeless. The hurricane destroyed entire villages and critically damaged the country's roads, communications and

healthcare systems.

In response to this devastation, RWF is launching a campaign to help the people of Central America recover. To donate, go online to [www.rainbowfund.org](http://www.rainbowfund.org) and specify "Central America." One hundred percent of funds will be directed to RWF's relief efforts, in partnership with Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE), in Central America.

This campaign follows RWF's fundraising for Hurricane Katrina (which generated \$350,000) and the Asian tsunami (\$250,000). "RWF's work is about serving humanity, gay and straight alike," said RWF founder Jeff Cotter.

Since 2000, Rainbow World Fund's mission has been to promote LGBT philanthropy in the area of world humanitarian relief. "RWF provides a united voice and a large visible presence for LGBT humanitarian concern and service to the larger world community," said Cotter. RWF is based in San Francisco and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

## Equality Forum Announces China as 2006 Featured Nation

**Philadelphia** — Equality Forum, a national LGBT civil rights organization, has announced China as its featured nation at Equality Forum 2006, an international LGBT event to be held May 1 to 7 in Philadelphia.

According to Malcolm Lazin, executive director of Equality Forum, "Our board of directors has selected China to highlight its emerging grassroots gay and lesbian civil

rights movement. China is beginning to make important changes."

In 2005, Equality Forum celebrated the Gay Pioneers, who started the organized North American gay and lesbian civil rights movement in 1965, through annual demonstrations in front of Independence Hall. "Equality Forum 2006 will honor China's gay pioneers, who are bravely stepping out of their closet," stated Lazin.

Dan Zhou has been named the 11th recipient of Equality Forum's International Role Model Award, given annually to a person who has helped progress LGBT civil rights. Zhou, 31, a Shanghai attorney, is a leader in gay and lesbian civil rights and HIV/AIDS activism in China. Zhou was profiled in the June 27 issue of TIME Magazine.

Zhou will receive the award at the International Equality Dinner at the National Constitution Center May 6.

The 13th annual Equality Forum will feature over 80 programs, parties and special events. There is no registration fee, and all substantive programming is open to the public at no charge. For further information, visit [www.equalityforum.com](http://www.equalityforum.com).

Equality Forum is a national nonprofit and 501(c)(3) GLBT organization headquartered in Philadelphia. Equality Forum undertakes high impact initiatives, produces documentary films, highlights LGBT history and presents annually the largest national and international LGBT civil rights forum.

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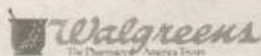
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WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

community. We're owed an apology."

When Payne and Boykin arrived at the march Oct. 15, Boykin was not featured on the list of speakers, despite the earlier agreement. Wilson told them that Boykin would not be appearing onstage, saying they hadn't called back to confirm. The group claims to have confirmed with Farrakhan's assistant as agreed to during the meeting.

"There is no way we're going to come together as a community if people are shut out," said Alexander Robinson of the National Black Justice Coalition. "Minister Farrakhan has previously kept his word while Rev. Wilson has been anything but cooperative. Regardless of who's responsible, it's time for someone to step up and say enough."



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# Our Health... Really

For the past 10 months, a group of LGBT leaders and their allies have been looking at the health of Wisconsin's LGBT people. Under the leadership of Brenda Coley, director of adult services at Diverse and Resilient, focus group and survey participants from around Wisconsin have shared their health concerns and successes. People have shown themselves to be thoughtful, concerned and committed to their own health and the health of others in the community. They have also pointed to where some of our real health issues persist, and where they don't.

In this process, more than 650 individuals have completed lengthy printed or electronic surveys. This group also involved a diverse slice of our LGBT communities across the state. An almost equal number of men and women responded. A small but important number of transgender participants also responded (20 individuals) to the survey, and even more to the call for focus group participants. About 20 percent of the respondents were people of color, with just over half of these identifying as African American. Eleven percent identify as bisexual and about 5 percent state that they are queer or some other identity group besides lesbian, gay or bisexual. Just over

a third of respondents were 25 to 39 years old, an equal number were 40 to 54, 17 percent were 18 to 24, and the remainder were 55 or older.

Through this detailed and comprehensive process we learned a great deal about our health as a people. Like the general population in Wisconsin, we get our flu shots, experience high blood pressure, have heart disease and diabetes. We do a fair job of avoiding sources of skin cancer. We get regular dental checkups, eye exams and cholesterol tests. While we could do better with vegetable and fruit consumption, we look pretty much like the general population in this regard. We wear seatbelts and use bicycle helmets just like everyone else. Lesbians and bisexual women are getting mammograms and gay and bisexual men are accessing specific health services at about the same rates as the general public.

Where we differ is in accessing healthcare services and in preventing our own health problems in some really specific areas. This is where we have real work to do.

First, we are less likely to have health insurance, more likely to have a household member who is not currently covered and more likely to have household members who were not insured during the past year.

Second, we are more likely than



## HEALTH

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

the general population to experience depression, struggle with stress management and consider suicide. We are considerably more likely to fear for our safety and experience violence in our daily lives. We also drink more, binge more, and are more likely to drive while intoxicated. We smoke tobacco more, too.

Finally, and this is interesting, we are far more likely to spend our resources on massage therapy, chiropractic treatment, yoga and acupuncture than the general population in Wisconsin.

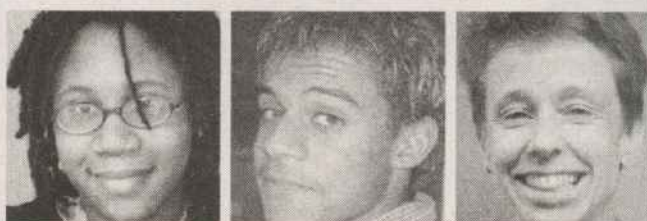
In 2006 these findings will be used to plan more health promotion and disease prevention activities for LGBT people in Wisconsin. We need to put our resources where they will do the most good and our attention where we have the greatest needs. Really.

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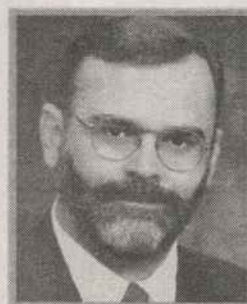
is a nonprofit organization whose mission is the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in Wisconsin through the development of groups and communities to take action. The organization's name is intended to serve as reminder that LGBT people are everywhere, engage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

**Diverse & Resilient** [www.diverseandresilient.org](http://www.diverseandresilient.org)

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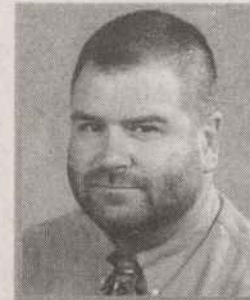
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## Hooker on Ex-Gays

### Tim Wilkins, Former Homosexual, Spoke at UWM

By Mark Hooker

I wanted to make a fashion statement when I went to hear a lecture by Tim Wilkins, a "former homosexual" who heads Cross Ministry, a religious organization that claims to convert gays into heteros. So I put on my faded handmade Cher jeans which I wore to 23 of her farewell tours over the last two years. The jeans were topped off by my Plymouth Church T-shirt with the slogan "Our Faith Is 2000 Years Old — Our Thinking Is Not." For me, this outfit represented the yin and the yang of my spiritual life. God was with me.

I was prepared to stand out — a lone, practicing, unrepentant homosexual drowning in a sea of religious gay-haters. In point of fact, my outfit was not the most outrageous (there were even people with tattoos!), and the chic impact of my outfit was dwarfed by a fist fight that broke out between two guys in the audience who apparently had a difference of opinion about the subject matter at hand. I feel compelled to point out that the evangelical-type guy threw the first punch. (Inner voice: I love it when Christians punch people in the name of Jesus. What would Jesus have done? What would Cher have done? "Do You Believe?" I asked myself.)

After the two-hour lecture on the gay-to-straight ministry and the so-called Bible-backed science behind it, there was a question and answer period. One question stood out. A handsome young man politely asked Tim, "Have you had any homosexual feelings for men since you converted?"

Tim answered, "Well, let me put it to you this way: Before, my homosexual feelings were like the roar of Niagara Falls; now, they're more like a dripping water faucet."

The room was silent. Apparently I was the only one who found this illustration amusing. I decided to ask a few questions of Mr. Wilkins after the event, if he stuck around. And he did! So I waited my turn in a small line of journalists. Yes, I have witnesses.

"Hi," Tim said, shaking my hand. The journalists stared at me. Apparently this was press-only time. Who knew?

"Hello, I'm Mark Hooker ... from ... er

... Q Life (Inner voice: Yeah, that's it, I'm covering this for Q Life.) and I wanted to ask you if you have considered the fact that the book we call the Bible was written by mere mortals such as you and me — people 2000 years ago who had their own agendas, prejudices, lack of scientific knowledge and so on."

Tim continues to look at me, smiling.

**MARK:** What I mean is, your whole belief system is based on the presumption that God dictated the Bible, and that every word of it is true and applies to modern man.

**TIM:** I believe that the Bible was divinely inspired.

**MARK:** (Looking at Tim's jacket and wondering if it was made of mixed fibers — a Biblical abomination that I would personally never commit.) But why are the writings in the Bible any more likely to be divinely inspired than, say, the TV show "Will and Grace"?

**TIM:** I can't answer that. The Bible and "Will and Grace" are so far apart.

**MARK:** So you HAVE seen "Will and Grace."

**TIM:** (Staring, nonplussed.)

After an uncomfortable nanosecond, Tim asked me a question.

**TIM:** Where are you from, um ... Mark?

**MARK:** Longview, Texas. Why, did you hear the accent?

**TIM:** What are you doing living here?

**MARK:** (Inner voice: Is he trying to distract me by talking about my favorite subject: me?) My partner is an assistant professor here at UWM.

**TIM:** And what do you do here?

**MARK:** I'm a theater director.

**TIM:** Well, not to perpetuate stereotypes — I studied music and the arts — but a lot of homosexual men are attracted to life in the theater.

**MARK:** (Staring at Tim, nonplussed.)

**TIM:** You know, Mark, God is a jealous God. It's like in the musical Oklahoma — do you know the character Ado-Annie? (Singing) "For me, it's all or nothin'. It's all or nothin' for me."

I notice that Tim has a nice voice, and I'm perplexed at his detailed knowledge of musical theater. I restrain myself from replying, didn't she also sing "I'm just a girl

who can't say no"??? I mean, if you're going to try to back up your Biblical points with a musical theater reference, I'll top you every time.

**MARK:** (Pointing out my jeans with pictures of Cher and all of her little "Cher Crosses.") If God is that jealous, I'm beginning to feel guilty about the 23 farewell tours that I went to over the past two years.

**TIM:** Well, Cher IS a great singer.

At least Mr. Wilkins did not cross me on this. All hell would have broken loose. He may never know how close he could have come to incurring my wrath.

**MARK:** Thank you for your insights.

**TIM:** It was nice meeting you.

I left feeling that Tim Wilkins and I had different points of view that would never be resolved. Standing there together, we were both mirrors of the world in which we all live.

I believe in a higher power that does not care with whom you form a loving relationship.

Mr. Wilkins believes that God is a peeping Tom who looks with disapproving omnipotence into our bedroom windows, keeping track of our sex acts and filling out a report card for judgment day.

I believe that the Higher Power created everyone with equal rights and free will — and that the HP hopes we will choose to exercise love and tolerance with that free will.

Mr. Wilkins believes that God allows Satan to tempt our frail and inherently sick souls with "vices" such as homosexuality, which he considers a disease.

At least he was cordial as he offered his opinions of the certain eternal damnation of gays worldwide, I'll give him that. I wish some of the other religious zealots would take an Emily Post lesson from him.

As I walked home, I felt very sad, because I don't really believe that we will ever live in a world of total love and acceptance. Maybe that awaits us in the beyond, in what some people conceive as "heaven." And I hope that the Higher Power deems heaven to be an all-inclusive place. I hate the heat.

On the upside, at least I got to see a hot fist fight.

## PrideFest Retires

### 150,000 Debt

Three years ahead of schedule, PrideFest has paid off its remaining debt from the 2003 festival year.

"We have witnessed a complete turn around in the financial standing of PrideFest as an organization," said Scott Gunkel, PrideFest Task Force president. "Our success is largely attributable to the tremendous outpouring of community support that PrideFest received, but also the implementation of sounder fiscal controls."

PrideFest held a community townhall meeting Oct. 20 to celebrate the retirement of the debt and to preview the 2006 festival season. The first half of the event focused on acknowledging the people who helped the festival achieve its goal of becoming debt-free.

"There are many people to thank, including the Cream City Foundation, the festival Task Force and Production Team, Milwaukee World Festivals, the Legacy Fund donors, and all of the people who believed early on that the festival could survive," said Task Force member Cindy Taylor.

The 2003 festival ended its run with a debt of nearly \$150,000. After a community mobilization effort, a reorganized festival leadership team led by the Cream City Foundation and the PrideFest Task Force conducted an aggressive fundraising campaign. Community members and organizations immediately donated nearly \$78,000.

"It was a great leap of faith for people to invest in PrideFest when it was in such bad shape, but the commitment of those people has helped to rebuild the festival," said Task Force member Paul Williams.

The 2005 festival broke many records, including attendance and number of merchandise vendors and sponsors, and retained earnings of \$90,000. In 2005, PrideFest experienced revenue growth of 20 percent and expense growth of -1.1 percent. These factors all contributed to the ability of the festival to retire the debt, said festival organizers.

PrideFest is Wisconsin's largest celebration of LGBT culture and community and is held annually at Henry W. Maier Festival Park on Milwaukee's lakefront. The 2006 festival will be held June 10 and 11.



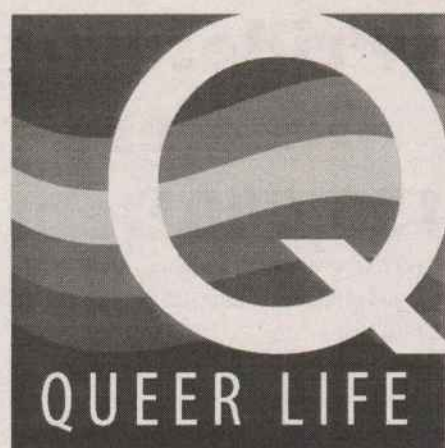
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#### PRODUCTION & DESIGN

J Harvey

#### PHOTOGRAPHER

Melody Carranza

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## It Simply Doesn't Make Sense



### EDITORIAL

Over the past year we have written about several issues that simply don't make sense. However this one takes the cake.

Senior reporter Holly Grey, in our cover story this month, talked to a dynamic soldier who was recently kicked out of the Army because the Army found out he was gay. Now, that in itself is not very surprising — since our government has a very discriminatory policy against allowing gays to serve their country. But the witch-hunt tactics used to find out that Jeff Howe was queer would make even Sherlock Holmes proud.

Make no mistake about it — Jeff Howe is gay. And even though he likes men, he wanted to serve his country. He felt this passion after the Sept. 11 attacks. He never lied to Uncle Sam about his sexual orientation and lived up to his part of the bargain: He wasn't asked ... and he didn't tell.

But Howe apparently got himself in some hot water when he posted a picture of a blown up American vehicle on his blog. You see, Army folks don't like it when pictures of destruction are sent home. So the brass decided they would find out what this guy from Illinois, with ties to Milwaukee, was up to — and lo and behold they found an old Web site where Howe talked about being gay. Next thing specialist Howe knew, he was on his way back home — with his walking papers.

So why can the Army get away with this?? Not sure. But it all seems so ridiculous considering the U.S. armed forces continue to miss their recruitment goals as the death toll in a very unpopular war tops two thousand. I guess being a homo might mean Howe is seen differently by military brass. After all many of these rough and tough

fighting boys in charge believe they've never met a gay person in their life. But if Howe is willing to carry a gun, put his life on the line and die if necessary, what gives?

Jeff Howe is more of a man than the Army flak that sent him packing. He served his country with pride and has nothing to be ashamed of. The Army, however, deserves a swift kick in the ass. At least if they wanted to get rid of Howe for being a "fag" they could have played nice and been honest about it. They didn't need to wimp out by searching out old information that has nothing to do with Howe's ability to fight. That's not what real men do.

Who's embarrassing their country now?

#### Still No Movement

This past week we had the great pleasure of venturing to Madison to meet with the cheeses of the No Amendment. Just as a reminder, that's the homophobic gay marriage ban that will most likely be on the ballot statewide next November. And while the conversation was interesting and heated, it appears little has changed in

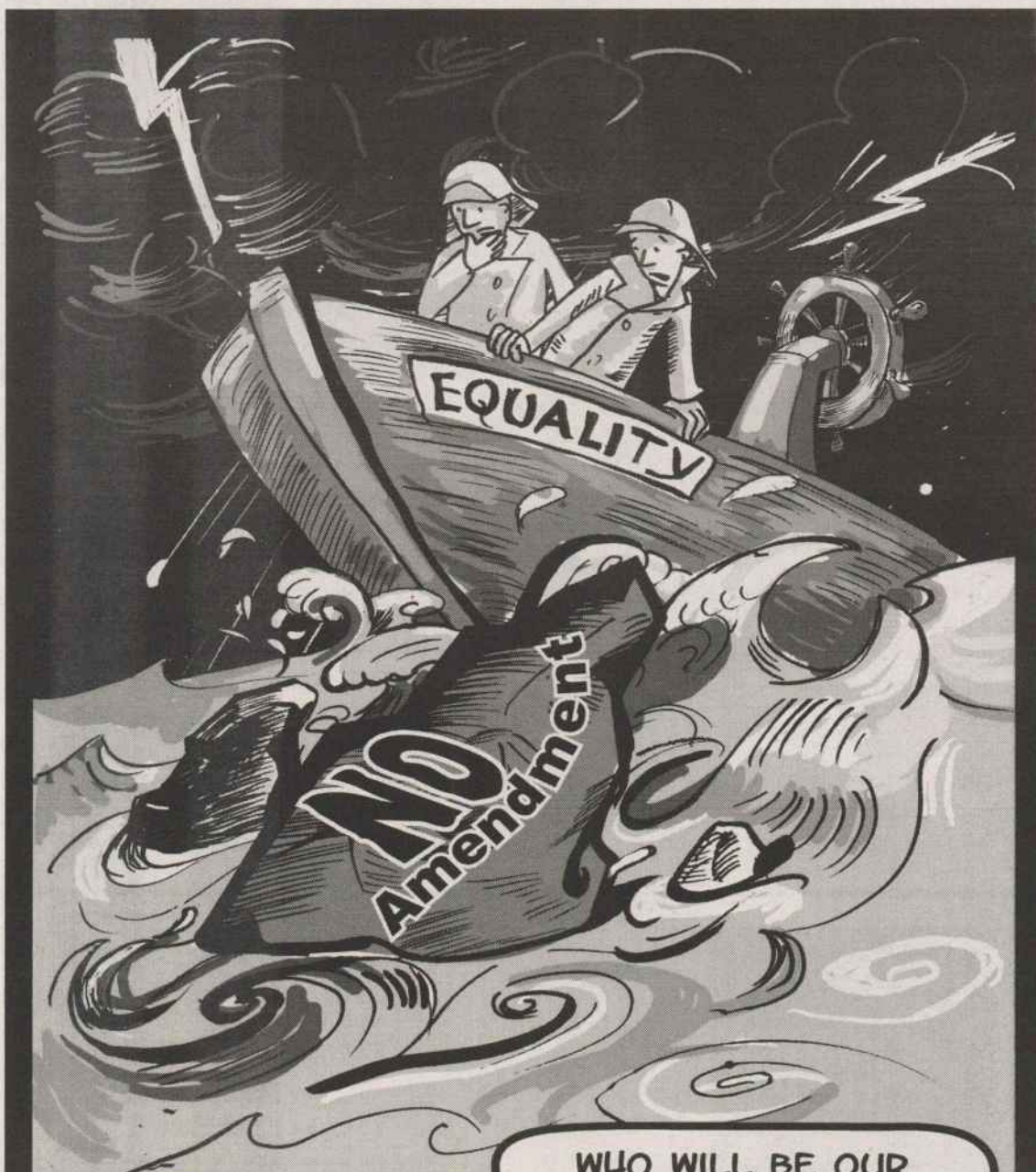
their hiring of a campaign manager since the last time we wrote about this issue (July 2005). Folks in charge pointed to the fact that they have hired several staff members and a well-known consultant to help them in their search for the best person to run this important, winnable campaign. But still no one is at the helm.

Time and a possible victory continue to tick away. The point of no return for winning a campaign like this is almost here.

Queer Life continues to call on Action Wisconsin to make an immediate decision on who the boss is going to be. We need someone in place NOW to ensure the defeat of this gay-hating measure. A campaign must begin in earnest.

Hiring a consultant was a smart move. Getting a campaign manager on board immediately is crucial. Please take heed of this advice.

The rights and liberty of Wisconsin's LGBT community are on the line.



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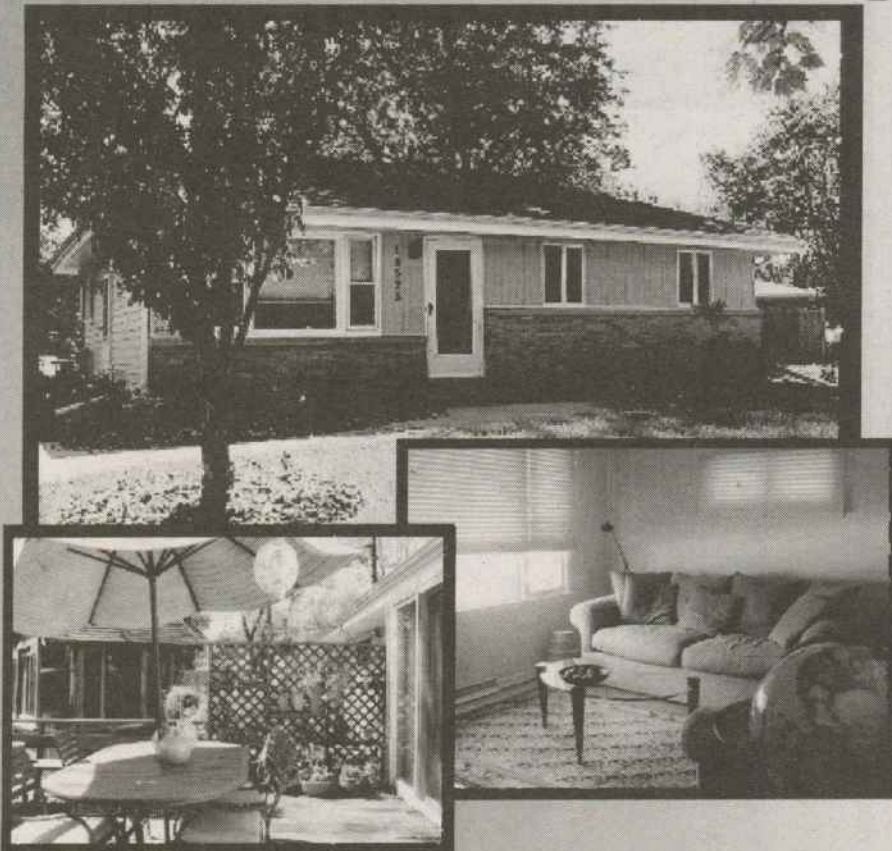
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## Under Pressure

*"Here I am on the other side of the gender binary from that place where I started, never allowed to linger in that comfortable place in between."*

— Matt Rice

Over the past few years, several "successful" trans people have chosen to transition back to the gender they were assigned at birth. Outsiders presume these people made mistakes or regretted their original choice to transition. The truth, in most cases, is that this fluidity — even if generated by a tidal wave pushing them in each direction — was simply part of their greater life's journey.

Life journeys, by their very nature, are unique to each individual. When part of a journey involves exploration off the beaten path, it is common to seek out other hikers. This type of community provides companionship and a structure within which to share what has already been learned.

While groups provide safety — if someone falls or loses their way — they can often, very subtly, guide, determine and dictate the course of action for all members. The maintenance of a homogeneous group — all dressed in the same hiking boots and backpacks; all fixed on the same goal of moving up the mountain with the identical equipment and techniques — eliminates the possibility of forging new routes, building

original skills or even increasing self-reliance.

It is a delicate balance between encouragement and peer pressure; between community and coercion; between cookie-cutter treats and hand-sculpted indulgences.

Logically, many trans people seek out others who are on a similar life journey, often through social support groups or at narrowly focused community events.

Usually we find these groups through labels. MTF. FTM. Transwoman. Man of transsexual experience. For some, these labels are hand-me-downs. For others, they are the name-brand, current fashion statement. The irony is that oftentimes we choose these labels not because of what they include — individuals seldom agree that their label encompasses all of who they are — but because of what these labels exclude: In the case of a trans label, it means: "I am not on the traditional gender path." For nearly all of us, the labels bind, constrict, scratch and never quite fit.

Regardless of the labels' poor fit, however, in part because it is far easier in our culture to be either female or male than "something else," and in part simply because of natural group dynamics and the human desire (perhaps especially strong among those who've strayed from social norms) of wanting to find "people like me," trans groups often tend to foster the presumption that everyone is transitioning



## TRANSGENDER

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


from one gender to the other. But this tendency needs to be struggled against. Not all of us think in black and white; some of us prefer grayscale. Or burnt ochre, cerulean blue, sienna brown.

If exploring gender is part of our unique life's journey, what does it say to those of us who need to hike the most craggy paths? Can we trudge up the mountain and decide that the scenery was beautiful at the top, but realize we prefer to see the world from a different angle? Our responsibility as a community is to accept and support each other as we are, not as we want or expect each other to be. We need to honor those whose course can be plotted linearly, as well as those who fit a scatterplot or a bell curve.

What would happen if we were allowed to linger in that "comfortable place" — wherever that might be?



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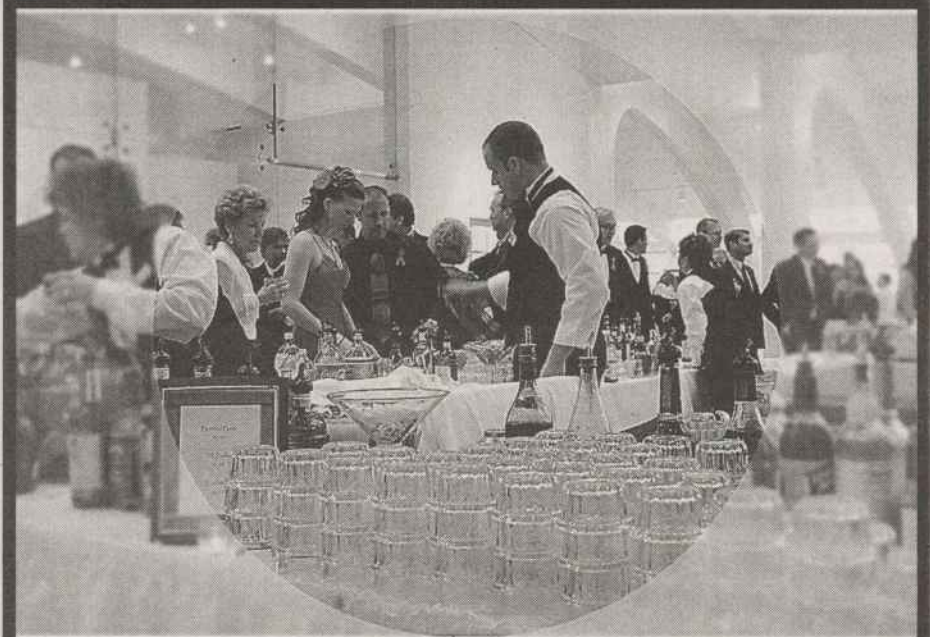
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# How Old Is Old and What Do You Call It When You Get There?

**A**ge is relative. You're only as old as you feel. You don't look that old. Age before beauty. The older you get the better you look. And on and on and on.

We talk about age all the time with seemingly little regard for what age is or what it means — until you get to be of an age when you might be considered "old" and then you try to understand what all of those nuances are about.

I remember, when I was 20 I had the pleasure of spending the evening with a man named Scotty, who was a bus

driver and 30 years old. To my horror, I remember saying to him, "I hope I look as good as you do when I get to be your age." Keep in mind that this is part of the gay male myth that past 30 is over the hill. Again, I ask, where is that hill and how high is it? Of course we know now that over 30 isn't over the hill. After certain birthdays we just look at things differently.

Interestingly enough, there are many different approaches to determining when a person is "old." The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) solicits members when people turn 50. I remember getting that letter and wondering if I was now old or just older. But if you say older to my friend Edna, he will respond, "Older than what?" Good question, Edna.

The federal government will provide benefits for the elderly to people who are 60 and over. When you look older (gray or white hair being the usual giveaway) you are frequently asked are you a senior and would you like the discount? That leaves you to ask what age you need to be to get this benefit. That age varies from 50 to 65, so sometimes you get the discount and sometimes you don't. I have often wondered, if I say yes will they ask to see my ID?

Speaking of that, do you know anyone over, let's say, 45 who looks younger than

21? Neither do I, yet I am all too frequently asked for my ID when purchasing liquor or cigarettes. Yes, I understand why the policy is needed, but give me a break. I haven't looked anywhere near 21 since I was 35, and now, with an entirely white/gray head of hair (and full at that), I think I deserve the respect that goes with getting this old — that means not having to show an ID when purchasing alcohol or tobacco. (However, I still think I am too young to own a handgun, so keep checking that one.)

The words that are associated with aging are also regularly disputed. I've already shared the problem with the word "older." What about elderly defined as "approaching old age"? Senior is "a person who is older than another," while senior citizen is "a person of or over the age of retirement." Hmmm, "age of retirement"? Retire, as defined in the American Heritage Dictionary means: 1. To withdraw, as for rest or seclusion. 2. To go to bed. 3. To withdraw from business or public life. 4. To take out of use or circulation, leaving me to still wonder, at what age is this expected, required, elected, imposed or rewarded?

So, how old is old? The answer seems to be, yes, old is as you see it. What is it called when you get there? That is also a personal thing. For me old is a daily choice regulated by how I feel when I wake up.



## SENIORS

Bill Serpe (bserpe@queerlifeneeds.com) is the executive director of Milwaukee's Senior Action in a Gay Environment.

Sometimes that is based on how long it takes me to wake up and other times it depends on how long it takes to get everything moving in the right direction. If you ask me how old I feel mentally, I will tell you about 22 which is why I am so frequently surprised at what I see in the mirror.

The one positive that I have heard over and over again from people who have arrived at a particular age, one that they have chosen, is that they would never go back and do it over again. We "elderly types" are, for the most part, proud of where we are and what we have struggled all of these many years to become. We are wise, sometimes forgetful, clever, experienced, often grouchy, thoughtful, pensive and wonderful. We are to be venerated, respected and, whenever possible, adored. And we like to be included, pampered and loved.

How old is old? Who knows? Who cares?

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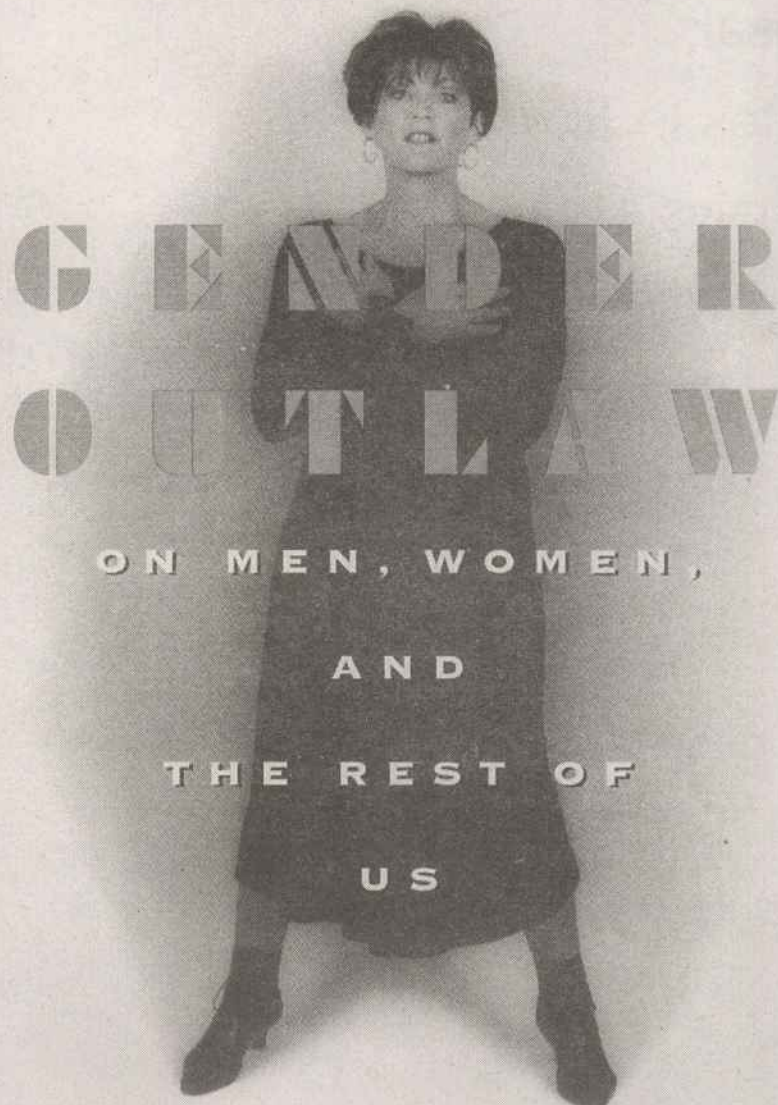
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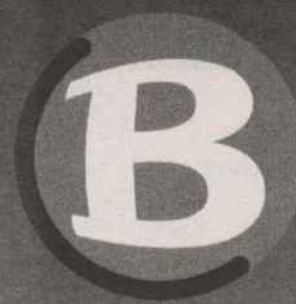


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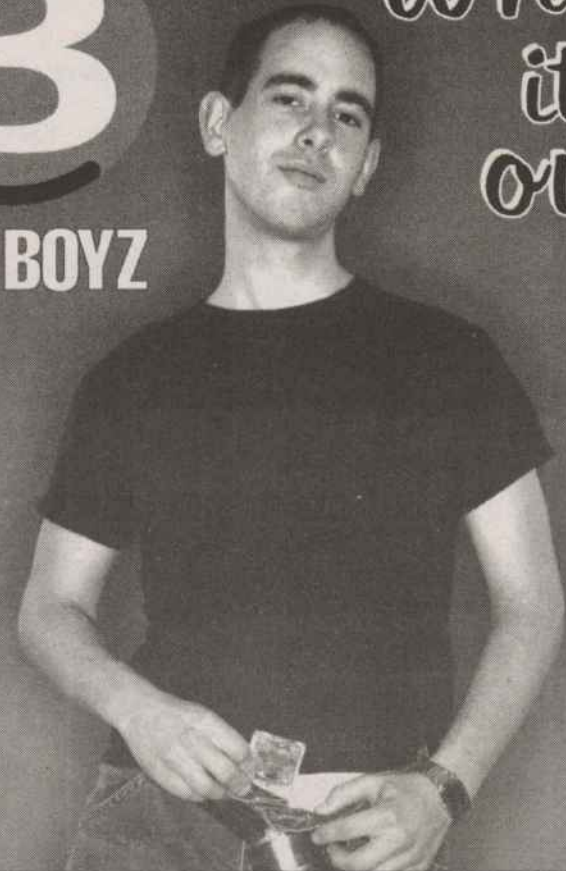
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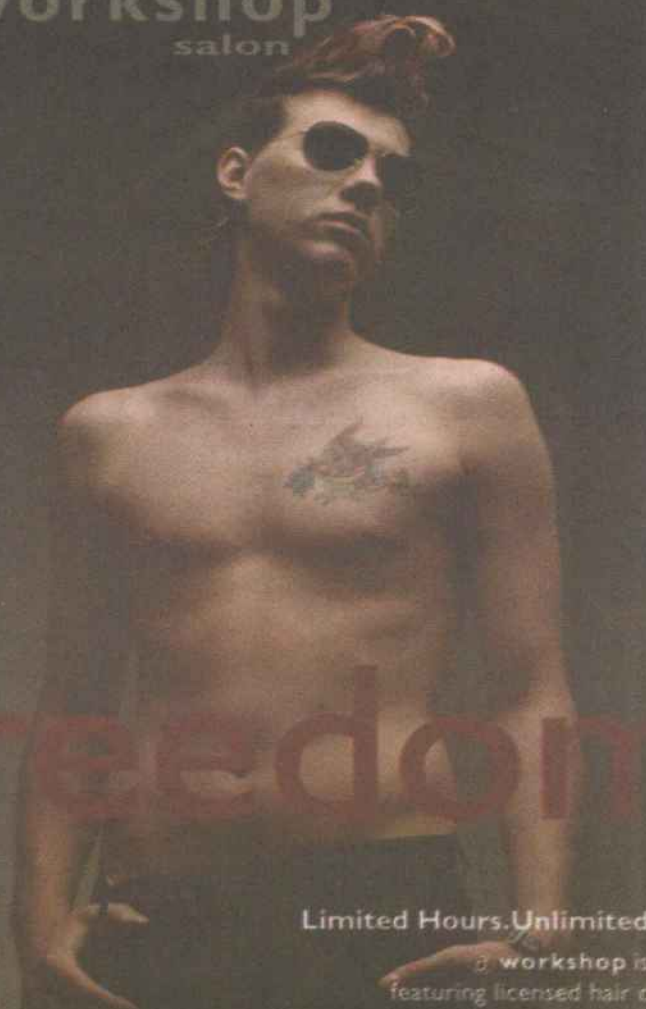


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# Looking for Justice

There are days when I become discouraged in the work for LGBT rights. There are times when I wonder how we can succeed. The radical right seems so organized, powerful and well-funded. It is then that I remember something the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. once said.

In the midst of the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, King advised, "The arm of history is long but it bends towards justice." I've always found his words a deep comfort, a spiritual maxim to keep close when the present world seems a shambles. But his words ring particularly true as the spiritual affirmation which underlies work for social justice and civil rights.

Our American history is filled with examples of folks who could see a more just tomorrow despite the oppression and injustice of their day. One story I treasure is of a slave woman named Mumbet. She lived during the American Revolutionary War in Massachusetts. Almost all Americans considered slavery a God-given and Biblically sanctioned institution.

Mumbet heard her master talking with his wife about the Declaration of Independence. As she listened to



## RELIGION

Rev. Andrew Warner (awarner@queerlifeneews.com) is a pastor at Plymouth Church UCC on the East Side. He lives with his partner Jay and their two children in Whitefish Bay. Your questions about LGBT spirituality are welcome.

them read the Declaration out loud, she realized the words included her. All people are created equal! Mumbet sued for her freedom and eventually brought her case before the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts.

Many considered her case frivolous. But the Massachusetts Supreme Court took her claim seriously. In 1781 it became the first court to declare slavery unconstitutional because it violated the state constitution's provision for equal protection under the law. It was a groundbreaking decision, derided at the time I'm sure, but vindicated by history. Mumbet and the justices who ruled in her favor worked on behalf

of God's intention to liberate the oppressed. In Mumbet's courage and in the ruling of the court we can see history bending towards justice.

And we can see history bending even now on the issue of same-sex marriage. Two years ago the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts opened the way for the legal recognition of same-sex marriage. The court ruled that the equality clause of the Massachusetts Constitution prohibited the state from discriminating against gay and lesbian couples. The same court which gave Mumbet her freedom also gave the freedom to marry to thousands of same-sex couples in Massachusetts.

Mumbet died without seeing her dream of freedom for all slaves realized, but she could have faith that history was bending towards justice. It was not till a generation after her death that slavery ended in America. We may not see LGBT rights fully realized in our own lifetimes, but I take hope in the words of Martin Luther King and the witness of women like Mumbet. History is bending towards justice.

This is the spirituality that gives me hope: I look towards the future and I see a day when justice will prevail.

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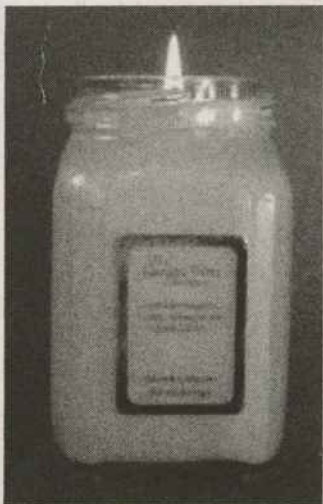
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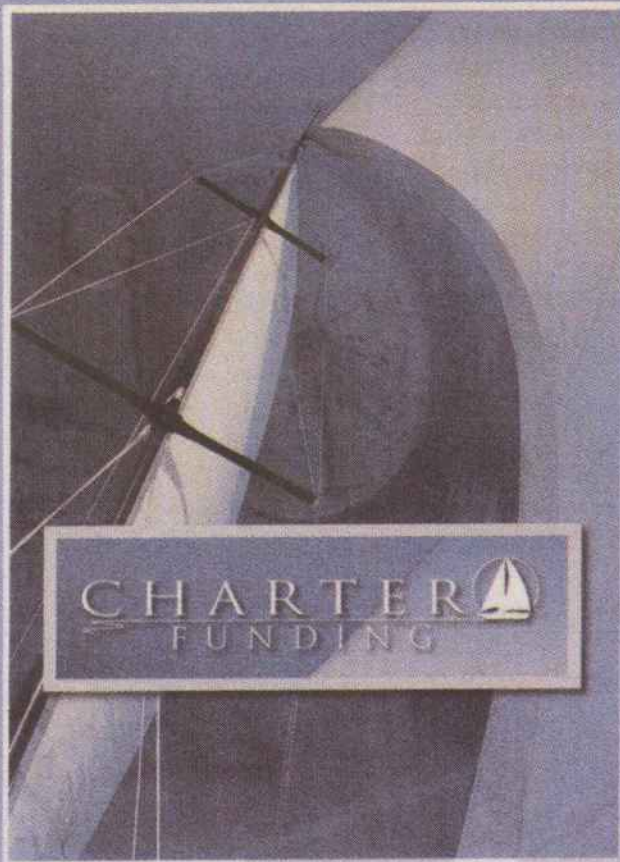
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## Cream City Foundation Grants Seek to Strengthen LGBT Communities

**T**he Cream City Foundation has awarded three major grants during their summer grant cycle, targeting services and programs that create social change, enhance visibility and provide resources for LGBT communities.

"Our donors are the community we serve," said Kevin Loos, president of the Cream City Foundation. "That is why we work to ensure that our grants are real catalysts in the move for a more equitable society. That is our responsibility as stewards of a community foundation."

These organizations and programs received grants: Diverse and Resilient's Youth Institute Program and Youth Development Specialist Workshops were granted funds to aid youth in the growth and development of LGBT youth groups around the state; Milwaukee Gay Arts Center received general funding to provide a safe, secure and friendly environment for LGBT artist to express, display and perform LGBT relevant art; and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center received funds to continue their Domestic Abuse Peer Awareness and Education Training for lesbian and bisexual women.

"All the programs funded included great steps to increase collaboration among

other LGBT organizations and non-LGBT allies, sound outcome measurement, and services that will improve the lives of LGBT people," stated Maria Cadenas, executive director of the Cream City Foundation.

The Cream City Foundation recently completed strategic planning that calls for a focus on striving to create real social change through their grant making, including the support and encouragement of LGBT groups to maximize resources and increase collaboration. The plan led to the updated grant cycle timeline, the creation of free technical workshops and the establishment of an annual LGBT summit.

The strategy focused on providing more funds to targeted projects. 2005 grant recipients showed an increase of 25 percent in dollars going to the community and serve a variety of populations, including youth, women and the arts.

The Cream City Foundation was established in 1982 to provide charitable grants to programs and projects that improve the quality of life for LGBT communities in Southeastern Wisconsin. The foundation funds grants and initiatives that would work to establish real social change in the treatment and quality of life for LGBT individuals.

# Conversations

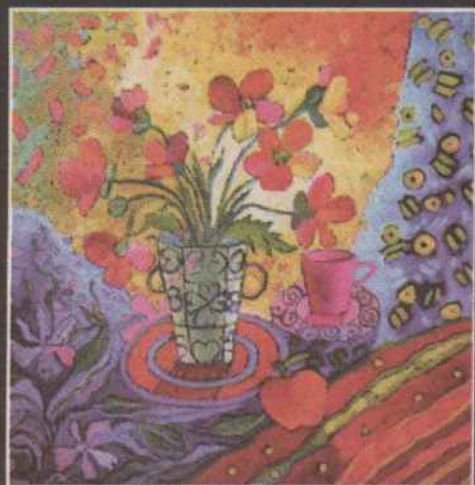
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## November Calendar of Events

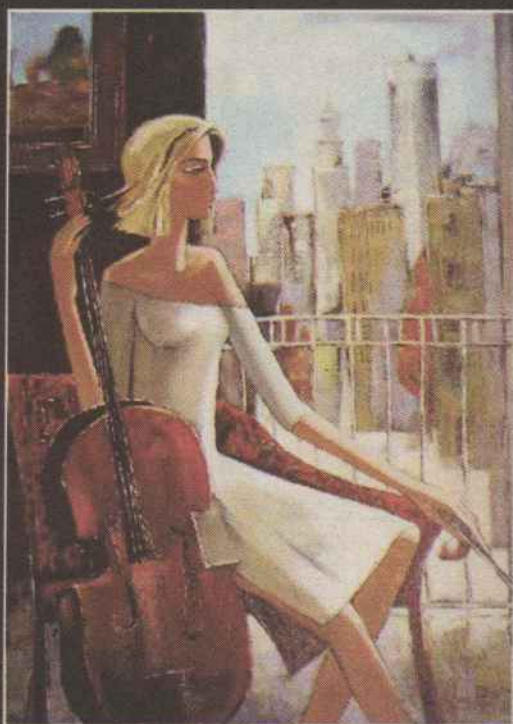
- Monday - Karaoke Night with Tim Cole**
- Tuesday - \$2.00 Tuesdays**
- Wednesday - Queens Night Out**  
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- Thursday - Ladies Night Drink Specials**
- Friday - Teen Night with DJ Will**
- Wild Saturday - Girls Gone Wild!**



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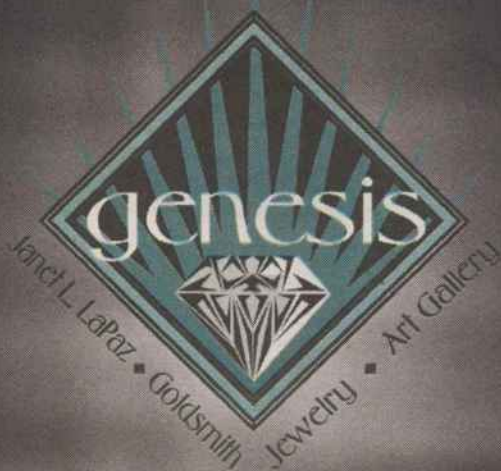
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# The Values We Live By

"We need a governor who shares our values. Doyle vetoed proposals defining marriage as between a man and a woman." — Scott Walker, Republican gubernatorial candidate, from his three-point campaign announcement (from www.scottwalker.org)

"We must protect and reinforce those values that have made our quality of life so special. Values like faith and family, hard work, active stewardship of our natural resources, and good citizenship. ... In fact, Jim Doyle is showing us how [government can do great damage to the Wisconsin way of life.] ... He's said no to defining marriage as being between one man and one woman." — Mark Green, Republican gubernatorial candidate (www.votemarkgreen.com)

"As attorney general I will work to protect Wisconsin's values and the sacred union between a man and a woman. There should be no ambiguity about this in our law or our state constitution. I strongly support efforts to amend Wisconsin's constitution to define and protect the sanctity of marriage." — J. B. Van Hollen, Republican candidate for attorney general (www.vanhollenforag.com)

"He's pro-life, supports the Second Amendment, including the right to carry, and believes marriage is between one man and one woman." — from the Web site of Paul Bucher, Republican candidate for attorney general (www.bucherforag.org)

I have had hundreds of conversations with voters about Wisconsin's proposed ban on civil unions and gay marriage as part of Center Advocates' Equality Knocks campaign, and I've noticed something. The folks I meet run the range, from heart-warming supporters of marriage rights for same-sex couples, to hostile proponents of a ban on legal protections for lesbian and gay couples (some would probably support a ban on our breathing).

The people who are most ardent about passing an amendment outlawing civil unions and marriage almost always talk in terms of values and beliefs: "I don't believe in gay marriage," or — my favorite — "I don't believe in homosexuality." ("Umm, surprise! It wasn't some Platonic apparition that just rang your doorbell," I think to myself.) And once someone's position is stated as belief, it's pretty much unassailable. Beliefs are central to a person's identity, and they help a person make sense of facts — beliefs define facts, not the other way around.

But I noticed that when I spoke about the ban, I talked in terms of facts, not values: The ban permanently denies a partner the ability to make emergency medical decisions ... or takes away health



## POLITICS

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

insurance from domestic partners ... or limits bereavement rights; the ban goes beyond banning marriage to banning civil unions and domestic partnerships.

When I positioned my statements, I phrased our opposition as: We're against the ban because... We think it goes too far because... — as if the ban can be rationally evaluated like other referenda, like setting county sheriff elections every four years instead of two or deciding whether the school needs a new gymnasium.

The two Republican candidates for governor and the two GOP candidates for attorney general quoted above get it. They know that most voters see marriage in emotional, not factual terms. And they aren't shy about exploiting that. Much of the rest of their platforms are full of technocratic proposals — but all frame their opposition to equal rights for gay and lesbian couples in terms of basic beliefs.

So what does "our side" do? Well, mostly they just duck the issue. Even though all the major Republican candidates showcase their opposition to gay marriage to varying degrees (Walker is the least offensive, now rarely mentioning same-sex marriage, which is noticeably absent from his Web site's 14 position statements), Democratic candidates seem to all be coached to take the Fifth. When someone is forced on the record, it usually is to say that the ban isn't needed because gays already can't get married. Weak.

Preventing redundancy is hardly a value statement. Some of the strongest statements I've heard against the ban from legislators were made in private, including from one who talked about what it meant to him as a father of a gay child and from another who said that when it comes to "picking on people, leave me out."

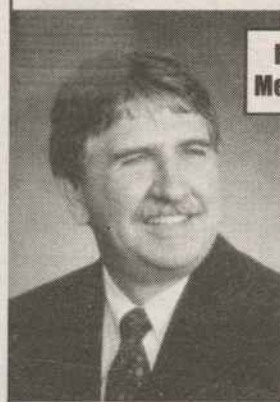
Voters can get real emotional traction out of a father's love or standing up to a bully. These kinds of statements deserve to be part of the public debate, not lectures about the sanctity of our constitution or reassurances that our laws already ban rights for lesbian and gay couples.

And me? The next time someone tells me they don't believe in homosexuality, I'm telling them I don't believe in discrimination.

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# The Sublime Antony at the Pabst

Review by William Duane

It's difficult to gauge the distance between the mainstream in music right now and artists like Antony and the Johnsons. Perhaps it's because the boundaries of the mainstream, with the help of artists like Antony, are getting stranger all the time.

Antony and the Johnsons arrived in Milwaukee Oct. 7 for a one-night performance at the Pabst Theater, and the reception ranged from outright enthusiasm to total stupefaction. What is it that brings out some people in Milwaukee to see artists that challenge with subtlety and grace even though their ears are still trained to the Top 40? Are they there solely because Antony and the Johnsons have just won the Mercury Prize for best album for their latest CD, "I Am a Bird Now" (Secretly Canadian, 2005)?

Granted, the Mercury Prize is a big catch — sort of the British version of a Grammy — but hardly a reason to attend. The marketing of this band as one more contender for pop status is actually quite ridiculous. They'll never please the singles-only listeners. But a little closer attention would have yielded everyone a fine experience at the show.

CoCoRosie opened the evening with a 45-minute set drawn mostly from their well-received CD "La Maison de Mon Reve" (Touch & Go/Quarterstick, 2004). Equal parts performance artists and hip-hop wannabes stumbling around their parents' basement, the duo of sisters Bianca and Sierra Casady can careen suddenly into surprising areas, from alien arias to sleazy street innuendo.

On songs like "Jesus Loves Me" and "Madonna" they showed off their range admirably. But the costume

changes and fine tuning of various electronics on stage were distracting — even though there were some unintended eerie effects, like a mask left on top of the head appearing to stare archly at the rafters. CoCoRosie have opened for bands like Bright Eyes and Devendra Banhart, and this latest guest role provides them with the perfect launching pad for their own tour.

After a brief intermission Antony and the Johnsons took the stage with refreshing casualness. The delicacy of Antony's voice, which seems to drop off the scale or soar above it into some imperceptible place, does not fit neatly into any category. He belongs to a rare group of vocal artists, including Klaus Nomi, to whom he is often compared, and Rufus Wainwright, to whom one could draw a less obvious line. (Wainwright appears on "I Am a Bird Now," along with Lou Reed, Boy George and other stellar guests.)

All of these singers have a quality of voice that comes with long, hard work — that total stylization that allows the voice to become what it often is called but in reality seldom is: an instrument. In this way, the singer's voice is allowed access to the music, rather than always remaining in the foreground as it does in pop.

The words of an Antony and the Johnsons song are contorted by choice, but the sound created is whole, so that the music reaches a luminous range not accessible to most artists or, evidently, to a lot of listeners in the audience. To complain about the

singer's diction, as did someone near me, is to miss the point. The phrasing of an Antony or a Klaus Nomi or a David Bowie is not simple. But just listen, intensely, and a whole new set of possibilities opens up.

On performances of "Hope There's Someone," for which the band just produced a new video, and "For Today I Am a Buoy," Antony and his musicians reached an undeniable peak. Antony's gradually increasing piano tempo on "For Today," and near perfect instrumentation on other songs, had great impact in person. Backed by cello, violin, guitar, and even guests CoCoRosie on several songs, Antony was in superb form, even if he appeared rather tired out by several months on the road. (Milwaukee was the last stop on the band's U.S. tour.)

This was, after all, Antony's 15 minutes after serving in New York cabarets and clubs for many years. He was once referred to as the city's "premiere torch-song singing androgyne." Last year he appeared in the opening sequence of auteur director Sebastien Lifshitz's "Wild Side" to sing his sublime "I Fell in Love with a Dead Boy." The film, along with the band's new video, recently played at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee cinema.

Antony is finally getting some deserved attention.



## Codebreaker in Orbit, Again

Review by William Duane

Local synth-pop band Codebreaker threw a release party for their CD "What Is This Earth Love?" (self-released, 2005) on a Saturday night at Riverwest's Mad Planet, and no one seemed disappointed. But then Codebreaker has been a recognizable name in the local scene for some time, churning out reliably catchy and well-produced songs that have won national exposure on cable TV and other outlets.

Codebreaker has a sophisticated approach to pop that owes a lot to '70s funk, with a flair for theatricality on stage that often drives their small but tight knot of fans into a frenzy. This was certainly the case at the Planet when they took the stage late after opening sets by Etiquette. But the lights, revved up tunes and sweaty dancers draped over the front of the stage — including, of course, the girl in the FBI hat — are not the whole story.

Led by hyperactive singer Steven Hawley and Sage Schwarm (formerly of Citizen

King), Codebreaker has earned its reputation as one of the brightest new stars of the electronic kingdom. The latest album has 10 new songs and a remix of "Body Talk" by Jason Todd of Def Harmonic. Their two previous, less-than-full-length releases, "Spacecamp Luxury" and "2," sold well enough locally and over the Internet to get them attention from indie labels but they seem to be waiting on the smartest bid.

Comparing themselves to New Order, Francoise Hardy, Stereolab, and the Clash is perhaps not that revealing — but it's intriguing for those who haven't heard these guys. If space had a soundtrack, one version goes, Codebreaker would be the composers. Their wild, anthem-like flailing on stage doesn't hint at the sublimity of past and present songs like "Body Talk," "Capsule," "Futureshoc" or "Moody Automatic," but then the crowd needs more help.

Codebreaker has perhaps relied too much on their known identity with this latest CD, not exploring or fumbling around in the electronic dark as much as on their previous efforts. "What Is This Earth Love?" is a good anthem to the undiscovered and underappreciated masses who worship club music put through the blender of times past, but it doesn't discover anything new for Codebreaker.

Their insistence on absolute independence of publishing and resources is somewhat annoying, and precious, too. The Internet may be the new source for music, but I don't want to have to go to Sony-Connect to get a band as good as this.

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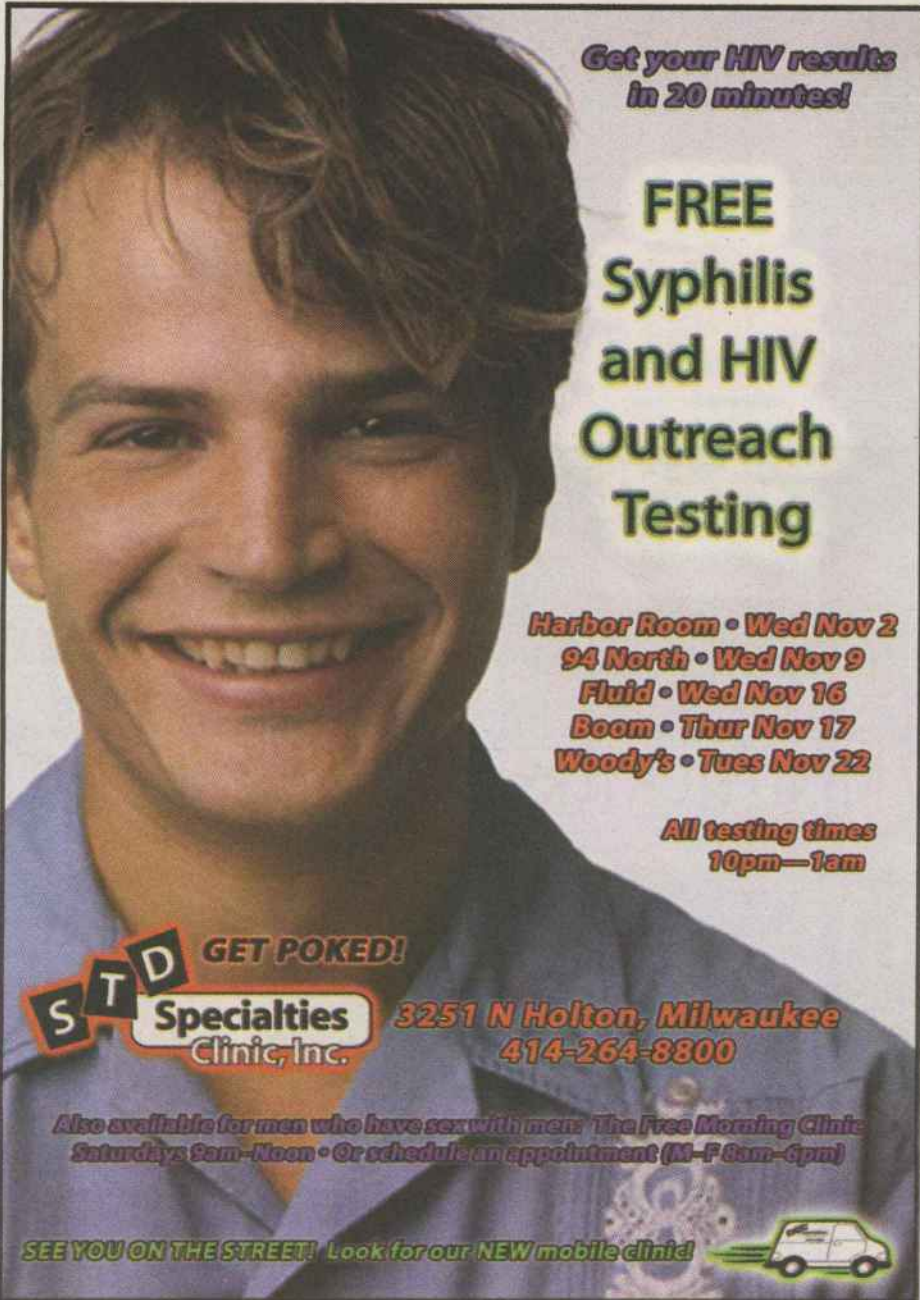
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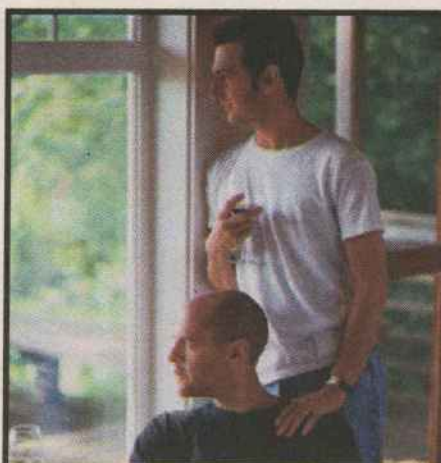
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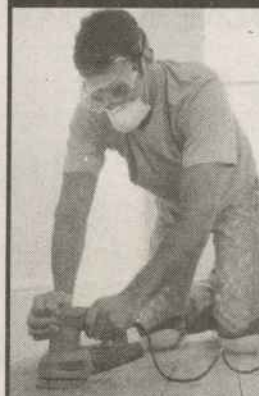
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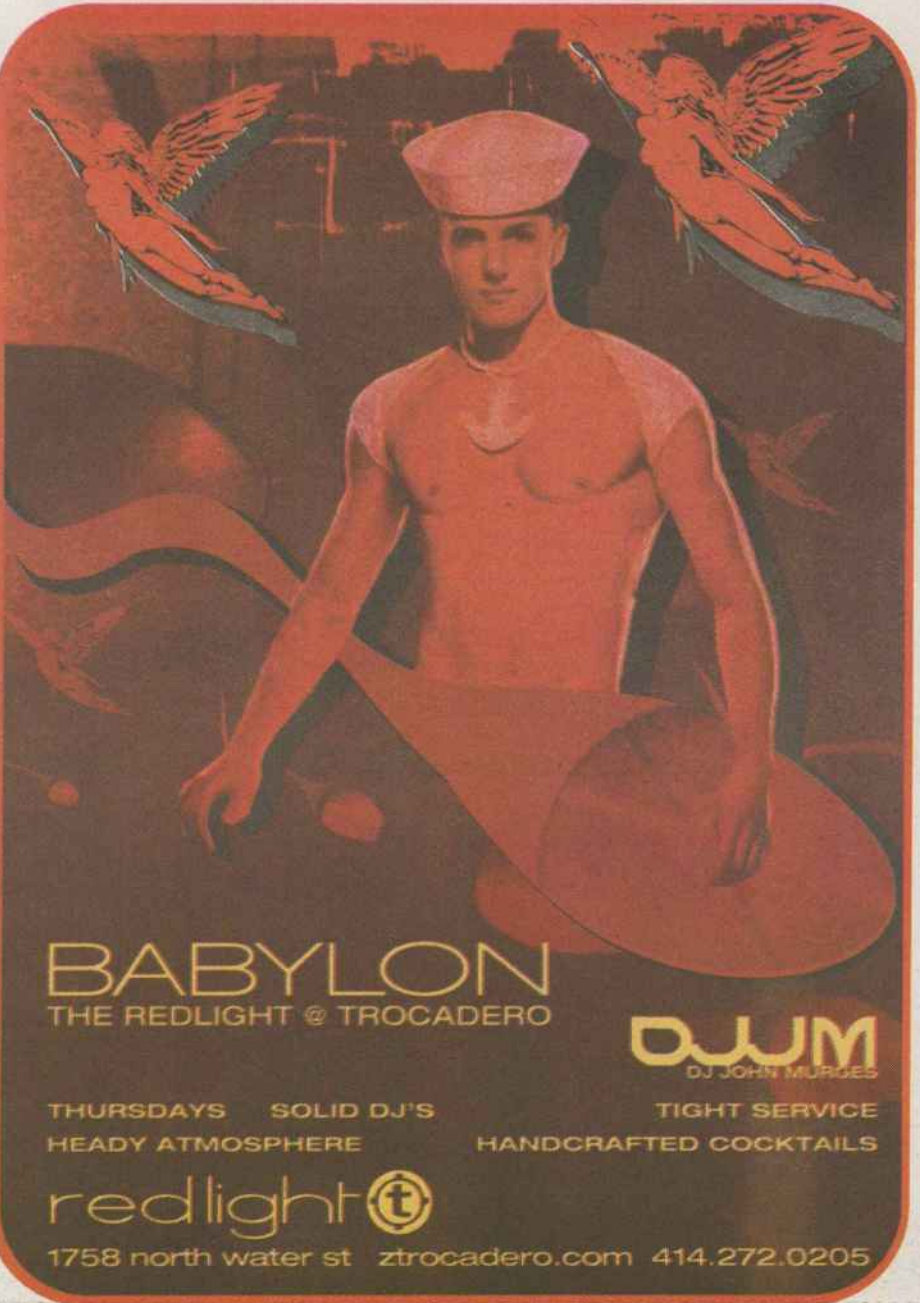
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**THE INTERPRETER**



**Premieres Nov. 17**  
Will Ferrell, Robert Duvall, Mike Ditka  
**KICKING & SCREAMING**



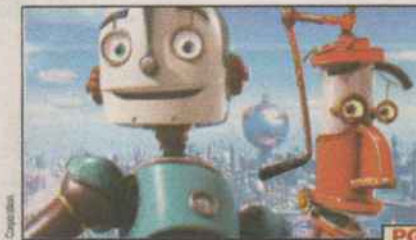
**Premieres Nov. 23**  
Jet Li, Morgan Freeman, Bob Hoskins  
**UNLEASHED**



**Premieres Nov. 24**  
Orlando Bloom, Eva Green, Liam Neeson  
**KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**



**Premieres Nov. 25**  
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# Madison Tidbits

**B**y the time you read this, the 2006 OutReach Directory will be on the street — what every up-to-date queer needs for finding LGBTQ resources in Dane County and South Central Wisconsin. We ask for a \$2 donation, but you can have one for free if you want.

Put Nov. 4 and 5 on your calendar — those are the dates of the first annual University of Wisconsin System LGBTQ Research Symposium. The symposium, part of the UW System Inclusivity Initiative, will take place in the Mosse Humanities Building on the UW-Madison campus. Events start at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4, and at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 5.

Will Fellows, author of "Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest" and "A Passion to Preserve," will give the keynote address Saturday at 10 a.m. I'm scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Saturday. My topic will be Wisconsin's leadership in LGBT civil rights as demonstrated by the nation's first state law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, but also the nation's first state supreme court decision allowing a lesbian to petition for visitation with a child she and her ex-partner conceived and raised as part of their relationship.

Other speakers are coming from Superior, Eau Claire, Whitewater, Platteville, Oshkosh, La Crosse and Stevens Point — almost every UW campus. Hmm... which one is missing from this list?

On Oct. 28 noted queer scholar Lauren Berlant will speak at 4 p.m. in 6191 Helen C. White Hall. Berlant is a great example of

queer scholarship in action — she teaches in the English department at the University of Chicago but writes about LGBT political issues.

On Nov. 22 sociologist Mary Bernstein will visit under the auspices of the sociology department and the Institute for Legal Studies. Bernstein writes about the LGBT civil rights movement. She will speak at 12:05 in 8417 Social Science Building.

Memorial Union was the place to be Sept. 21. That was the date of the Action Wisconsin debate on same-sex marriage between Evan Wolfson from Freedom to Marry and Glenn Stanton from Focus on the Family. All agreed that the right-wing arguments are starting to sound pretty tired.

Even so, we need to remember that the state constitutional amendment to prohibit civil unions and same-sex marriages is not dead yet. On Saturday, Nov. 5, Action Wisconsin will canvass door-to-door in Madison. Visit their Web site, [actionwisconsin.org/volunteer](http://actionwisconsin.org/volunteer). If you're not into canvassing, check out the site anyway — Action Wisconsin needs all types of volunteers.

Speaking



## MADISON

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

of volunteers, free chili once a year may not be the best reason to volunteer for OutReach, but it's a good one. The annual OutReach volunteer appreciation picnic was held Oct. 9. Board members provided chili, salad, beverages and — best of all — a magic show.

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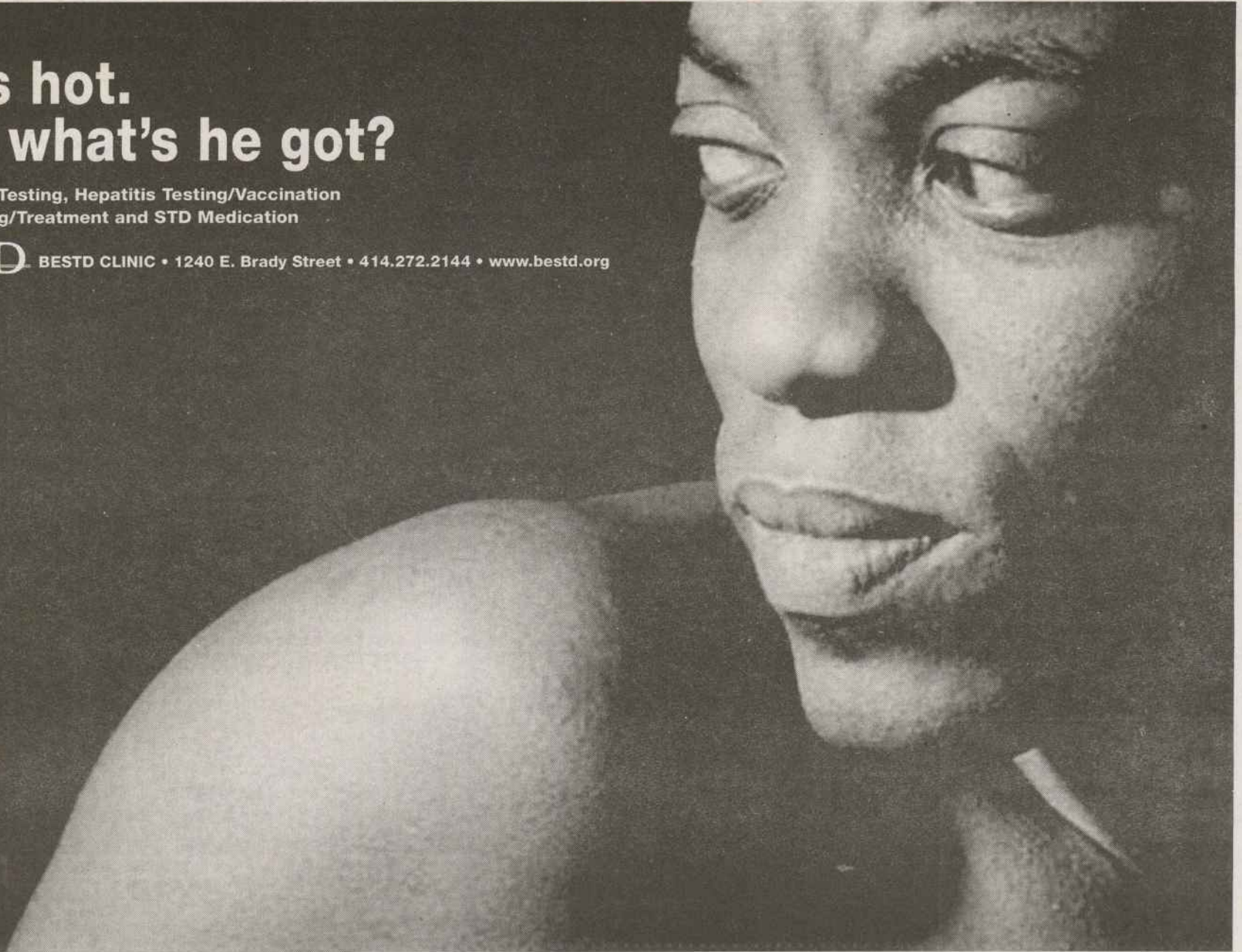


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# New Yoga Class Sessions at Gay Arts Center

Ricky Heldt, the well-known local yoga and Pilates instructor, will offer continuing hatha yoga and yugalates in a new session beginning Dec. 19. Classes take place in the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. in Walker's Point.

Each six-week session will meet Monday evenings and consist of hour-long classes. Hatha Yoga will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. Yugalates will follow from 7:10 to 8:10 p.m.

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

while the advanced student will be challenged.

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

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

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

# Stop at Yield

There aren't many places in Milwaukee to just hang out and listen to good music and have great food and drink. But I seem to have found the perfect place: **Yield Cafe**, a new restaurant and bar at 1932 E. Kenilworth Place on Milwaukee's East Side.

Music ranging from good old '80s songs to new age, hip hop and garage bands draws a crowd more diverse than that of any restaurant bar in Milwaukee. Newly renovated and revamped into a friendly space, Yield is quite welcoming.

Not only does Yield have great music, but the food and drink menus can fulfill any desire. Let me tell you, the daily drink specials will blow your mind.

First off, Yield offers a great Happy Hour seven days a week: half off all rail drinks and tap ales from 4 to 8 p.m. Mondays you can enjoy a \$2 Finlandia vodka cocktail while sipping on a \$1.50 Pabst Blue Ribbon, a good old Milwaukee staple. Tuesdays two-for-one Red Bull drinks keep the energy of the place at a high.

Wednesday nights are for beer lovers. Half off all cocktails and draft ales alongside \$6 chmielios drinks, which consist of a wonderful concoction of Stoli razz, orange, citron, Chambord and lemonade, will blow your mind, if that's what you are looking for. Thursdays are my favorite night. \$5 martinis and \$1.50 Pabst Blue Ribbon makes for a great evening. All of the above specials begin at 9 p.m. and run until bar time, which, unfortunately, is 2 a.m. in Milwaukee.

On Sundays the specials pick up again with \$3 bloody marys from noon to 6 p.m. for all those trying to recover from a rough Saturday night. On Sundays Yield also offers \$2 Harp and Guinness from 3 p.m. to close. With no specials on Friday and Saturday nights you would be surprised at the large turnout for both dinner and drinks, both early and later in the evening.

I have only covered the drinks so far, but it's the outstanding food that first caught my eye at Yield.

In conjunction with a tasty wine menu, the food selection is wonderful.



## CLUBBING

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

With health in mind, much of the food is as good for the soul as it is for your body. The ménage à trois of hummus was exceptional. The infamous executive chef Nick Burki has created something for everyone. Simple and sweet. Asian tuna tartare; parmesan crisps with goat cheese mousse; a fresh mozzarella and heirloom tomato salad; an exotic fruit plate; bruschetta, avocado, tomato, and crab spring rolls; carpaccio or beef tenderloin; and the ever popular artisanal cheese platter all grace the menu and your mouth with ease. The presentation and excellent preparation make a night out at Yield an absolute must!

It's not over yet. The delectable sweet menu, served until bar time, includes some basics and some ever-popular Nick Burki specialties. The flourless chocolate cake — yes, I said flourless — comes with a homemade raspberry sauce that is to die for and of course a bit of mint for accent flavor. Mango and macadamia cannoli, vanilla cheesecake, tiramisu, key lime pie, and last, but not least, a duo of strawberry and chocolate mousse are all options as well.

Yield is a wonderful neighborhood place to relax, eat great food, and get delightfully wonderful drinks. So when you go out, whether it is a Sunday or a Friday, don't stop drinking, just drink at Yield.

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# CREAM CITY FOUNDATION (CCF) INCREASED THEIR 2005 GRANT DISTRIBUTION BY 25%.

*"It is very rewarding to be able to increase our grant distributions this year, and we hope to double the increase by the end of 2006,"* said Terri Coughlin Grants Committee Chair

Cream City Foundation has dedicated a significant portion of staff time to help LGBT organizations gain grant writing skills through free workshops and one-on-one teaching sessions.

*"Our goal is not only to increase the amount of dollars from the Cream City Foundation,"* said Executive Director Maria Cadenas, *"but to increase funding to LGBT programs and organizations from other sources as well."*

## WHAT DOES CCF FUND?

Specific projects to enhance the lives of LGBT people in Southeast Wisconsin are funded by CCF. This year youth, women, and the arts among others are receiving funds. The following are a sampling of the projects CCF is funding through its 2005 grants.

### Children's Service Society of Wisconsin receives grant for Alliance for LGBT Youth.

Children's Service Society provides supportive services to LGBT youth and their biological and/or foster families. Services offered include counseling for individuals, youth and their families. This program works to meet the needs of LGBT youth in foster care and to expand the pool of available foster parents for LGBT youth. Grant moneys will also be used to encourage LGBT identified and/or LGBT friendly individuals or couples to become foster parents. LGBT youth make up a disproportionate share of children in foster care and this grant seeks to improve the situation. Contact Jane Ottow at 414-453-1400 for more information about this three-year project.



### Cream City Foundation funds Domestic Violence Peer Awareness/Education Training through the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

This grant will focus on intimate partner abuse in lesbian and bisexual women's relationships. CCF grant will provide training to enable program participants to more effectively respond to abuse in the lives of women they come in contact with. Training will also assist women in learning to talk to other women about abusive relationships. Contact Kathy Herbst for more information about the scope of this grant program at 414-271-2656.

### Youth Institute funded with CCF grant.

**Diverse and Resilient** received a grant for a youth institute and youth development specialist workshops. This project provides LGBT youth groups, youth leaders, and youth development specialist with training, education, and program development skills to develop quality programs. Contact Gary Hollander for more information at 414-390-0444 about how this grant from CCF will assist LGBT youth groups.



### Milwaukee Gay Arts Center receives funding from CCF for General Operational Support!

Milwaukee's up and coming jewel - **The Gay Arts Center** is a great addition to the gallery and theater scene. This new organization offering programs and resources dedicated to awareness, development, exposure, and dialogue with LGBT arts. This grant will be used to expand the means and level of communication between the varied sectors of the LGBT art community as well as between the LGBT community and its straight counterparts. Contact Paul Masterson at 414-383-8200 to learn more about the role of the Gay Arts Center and its grant from CCF.

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# Mad Fun in Madtown

Last month, QZAP participated in the 2005 Madison Zine Fest, a subsection of the Wisconsin Book Festival. Who says that zines, let alone queer zines, are a waning art form, or that a Zine Fest is only about zines? Josh McPhee, author of "Stencil Pirates," led a workshop on graffiti art and stencil making. Punk Planet magazine celebrated the release of its 70th issue with a reading hosted by

associate editor Anne Elizabeth Moore, author of the brilliant "Hey, Kids, Buy This Book," which explores how young people (and adults) are affected by marketing and advertising.

While strictly speaking the Zine Fest includes all types of zines, the queer zinester contingent was impressive. Friendly, amazingly talented people from even far-flung places like Davis, Calif., were represented at the main event and various workshops throughout the weekend.

## Going to Reseda

Among the many people who tabled at Saturday's main event on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus was Randy Stern, who promoted his chapbook zine *The Boy from Reseda* [2005, 36 pages, www.autumnbridge.com]. His free verse prose is direct and cutting, and abounds with acerbic observations of situations which will make

you nod your head in agreement or chuckle quietly to yourself in delight at recognizing commonality. "A scene off of Gay.com" in particular stands out as a unique way to process an Internet-fueled cross-country trick gone horribly wrong.

Interesting to note, Randy is the founder of Gen-X Bears, yet his work touches only obliquely on what one typically sees from self-identified Bears. Instead, we see more of Randy's political views in poems such as "I am not a Mundane American." His inclusionary language and representations of issues important to non-white folks makes for compelling reading. As an added bonus, Randy hosted an open mike reading as the final event of the fest.

## Whatever Happened to Liberation?

The cover of *Sticky Fingers* [2005, Issue 6, 24 pages] sports a yellow sun-like inked circle around the title graphic with an illustrated 1970s-style gay cowboy in tight jeans. Ed Gravy's narrative style is comforting and familiar, even when he's dealing with profound topics. His essay exploring queers and anarchism is a must-read for any queers who are outside of mainstream "gay" culture.

Using the metaphor of lenses (accompanied by hand-drawn graphics of eyeglasses), he begins to deconstruct current political climates in this country in terms which neither presuppose the reader has knowledge and beliefs similar to his, nor falls into the trap of some anarcho-political writing that is little more than condescending bluster. I think that's the real secret to why I like this zine. Even if I strongly disagree with



## ZINES

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

what Ed says, I get the sense it's OK to "agree to disagree" as long as there is a learning process involved.

In the article "HIV still sucks, but don't trust the medical profession!" he riffs off the skewed logic presented by groups such as Alive and Well who argue that there is no link between HIV and AIDS and who advocate people infected with HIV stop taking medication. While no one group has a definitive answer, and there is merit to the argument that pharmaceutical companies must be held accountable, health issues have such detailed aspects varying from person to person, that giving blanket advice about what to do in response to a diagnosis of HIV infection does a terrible disservice.

Stirring up some trouble? Next month *Deviant Recipes* and a one-off Charlotte Cooper zine tell you how!

*These and other queer zines can be found by visiting The Queer Zine Archive Project online at qzap.org.*



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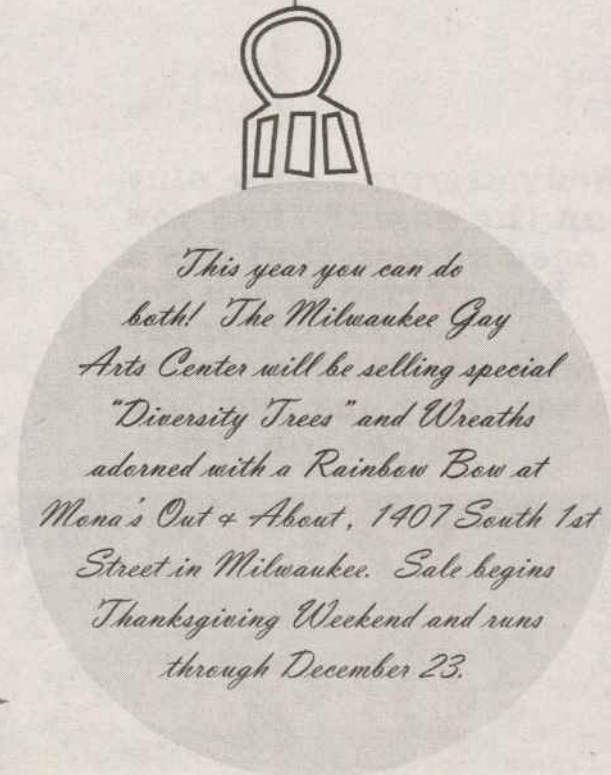
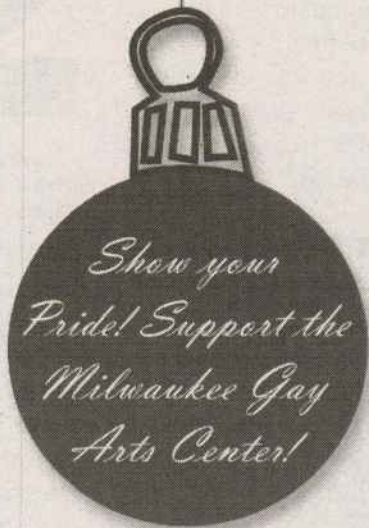
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## Cranberries: A Thanksgiving Staple!

It's cranberry time! These tart red orbs are the perfect complement to a Thanksgiving turkey dinner. A quick and easy option for getting your cranberry fix is to buy the jellied version at the grocery store. While this may be good, it is also plain and ordinary. Cranberry Fluff, a favorite family recipe from my mom, is an excellent variation. I also include here a recipe for some awesome Cranberry Tea. This is my personal favorite tea. It is well worth the time and effort. I hope you enjoy.



### COOKING

Steve Ahl (sahl@queerlifeneews.com) resides in the Third Ward. He is employed as a chemist for a company located in the Milwaukee area.

#### Cranberry Fluff

- 1 lb. fresh cranberries
- 2 cups chopped apples
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups mini marshmallows
- 8 oz. whipped topping

Grind the cranberries and apples in a food grinder. (If you don't have a food grinder you can use a food processor.) Stir the sugar into the cranberry-apple mixture. Cover and refrigerate overnight. The next day stir in the marshmallows and whipped topping. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

#### Cranberry Tea

- 2 cups cranberries
- 6 thin slices gingerroot
- 2 2-inch pieces stick cinnamon
- 4 whole cloves

- 4 cups water
- 1/4 cup honey
- 4 tea bags
- 4 cups apple juice

Stir together the cranberries, gingerroot, cinnamon, cloves and water in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat. Cook, uncovered, over medium heat for three to five minutes or just until cranberries begin to pop. Remove from heat. Stir in honey and add tea bags. Let stand four to five minutes. Strain the cranberry mixture through double-thick cotton cheesecloth. Discard solids. Return strained mixture to the saucepan. Add apple juice and heat through. Serve warm. Makes eight cups.

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## Community



## Calendar

**SATURDAY, NOV. 5**

**FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression).** Hormones. Guest speaker 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. forge-forward.org.

**Snake Days.** Is that snake poisonous? Can I keep it as a pet? These and other questions were asked by some of the nearly 4,000 people who attended Snake Days in 2003. The opportunity to touch exotic snakes and other reptiles is back by popular demand. Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee. 414-278-6198. mpm.edu. Repeats Nov. 6.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 6**

**The Dance of Harvest.** Judith Kubish and Hal Dessel lead us in dances celebrating harvest. Experience the healing integration of body, word and song through the richness of the understanding of many cultures. Living Waters Contemplative Life Center, 125 W. Saveiland Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Donations accepted. 414-481-4680. tippechurch.org.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 8**

**Lesbian Reading Group.** Bestselling lesbian romance writer Peggy Herring's latest, "Midnight Rain," will be discussed in November. New members welcome. Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089. outwardsbooks@msn.com.

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**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9**

**The Reality of Iraq.** Q and A session and light refreshments will follow a lecture by George Martin. Martin is the program director for Peace Action Wisconsin and a national co-chair of United for Peace and Justice, the largest U.S. peace coalition. Unitarian Church North, 13800 N. Port Washington Rd., Mequon. 7 to 8:30 p.m. 262-375-3890. ucn@netwurx.net.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 10**

**Alverno Debate Series.** What is the place of faith in the political process? It can be argued that all art is a form of prayer. That said there is some art that not only makes a conscious connection with faith and spirituality but also serves as a means of political engagement. Wehr Hall, 4100 W. Morgan Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. Free. 414-382-6000. alverno.edu.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 12**

**All-You-Can-Eat Chili Benefit!** Come to the Village for an all-you-can-eat chili dinner and silent auction to support the outreach endeavors of this fabulous neighborhood church in the heart of downtown's entertainment district. Enjoy a spicy array of homemade chili and live music and do some holiday shopping at the silent auction! Village Church, 130 E. Juneau Ave., Milwaukee. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$15. 414-273-7617.

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

**Green Party Fundraiser.** De La Buena & We Be Jammin. Club Timbuktu, 520 E. Center St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-265-7000. clubtimbuktu.com.

**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. wisrad.org.

**MONDAY, NOV. 14**

**Bay View Arts Guild Meeting.** Members and potential members are invited to a very social meeting this month! Home Bar, 2659 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 6:30 p.m. 414-482-1543.

**Outwards Book Club.** Ethan Mordden's epic classic "How Long Has This Been Going On?" will be discussed. Read the book and come join the discussion. Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray

Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089. outwardsbooks@msn.com.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 19**

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

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

**SUNDAY, NOV. 20**

**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. 414-271-2565. groups@execpc.com.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 24**

**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. broadvocabulary.com. 414-744-8384.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 26**

**4th Annual Intergenerational Thanksgiving Potluck.** Get together with other members of the LGBTQ Community to celebrate Thanksgiving. Turkey and ham will be provided. As you are able, please bring a dish to pass: last names A-N: side dishes, veggies, rolls; O-Z: desserts. Sponsored by Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, PFLAG, Lesbian Alliance, BWMT, SAGE, & Plymouth UCC. Plymouth UCC, 2717 E. Hampshire St., Milwaukee. Doors open 4:30 p.m., dinner 5 p.m.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 29**

**Community Shares Wreath Auction.** A benefit for Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee. It promises local artists new challenges and great exposure. Roots Restaurant, 1818 N. Hubbard, Milwaukee. 5 to 7:30 p.m. 414-342-0883.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 3**

**FORGE.** Family issues — we all have at least one. We'll discuss issues of coming out to family; family acceptance and rejection; building a close network of friends that become your family; bringing children into your life through adoption, insemination or through traditional means; legal issues associated with parenting; blended families and much more. 414-278-6031. forge-forward.org.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 4**

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

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7**

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

**Deadline for the December issue is Nov. 23.**

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# Set the Stage

**M**any rooms in our homes can lend a little drama to our lives, but there is no room like the dining room to provide a stage, the table, and a captive audience, your guests.

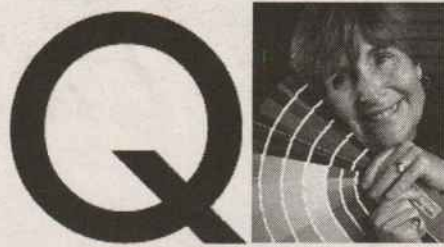
With Thanksgiving approaching, here are some ideas to make your holiday table center stage for the big event. You do not even need a dining room to try them out.

The classic table decorations for Thanksgiving include all the bounties of a fruitful harvest: sheaves of grain, wreaths of fruit and cornucopias spilling fruits, veggies, nuts and berries. Fall also provides ears of corn, pumpkins, gourds, squash, cabbages and kale. Chrysanthemums are the flowers of the season, but I like to use anything that has survived the frost. And I try to augment my color palette with hothouse or silk blooms.

Starting at the front door, you may herald the coming feast with a Della Robbia style wreath of nuts and fruits that announce the colors of your table. Plain or decorated grapevine lends a simple, contemporary look, and a bunch of Indian corn tied together with some bittersweet embraces the spirit of the day.

Featuring natural produce as part of your table setting is fanciful and fun, as well as classic and traditional. I like to hollow out pumpkins, put a container of water inside each, and fill it with cut flowers, branches of berries, dried wheat stalks or cattails. Smaller hollowed-out pumpkins provide holders for short, stocky candles, tall tapers or votives to flank the centerpiece. Smaller pumpkins or gourds sitting at everyone's place serve as placecard holders or provide a focal point for a scattering of candy and nuts for each guest.

A practical and edible arrangement for your Thanksgiving stage could be a



## DECORATING

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

cornucopia: a bowl or a basket spilling fresh fruit and nuts down the length of the table. Add fresh flowers in water tubes and intersperse tea lights among them. The concept here is to create the feeling of a successful harvest and to illuminate it for your audience.

The traditional reds, golds and greens may not work with your general dining room décor or dishes. In that case, pick a color or two from your walls, linens, carpet or china. Dark colors make colors and accessories pop, so a tablecloth in a dark tone of your chosen color or colors serves as a dramatic backdrop for them.

Using just one color to create a monochromatic display can heighten the drama. One of the most beautiful holiday tables I have ever seen was achieved when the hostess did everything in white — linens, dishes and clear crystal. She spray painted white a variety of pumpkins and squashes, dusted them with silver glitter, and placed them on a mirror in the center of the table with white candles flecked with silver for illumination. A show stopper.

Set the stage, light the lights and join your audience in giving thanks for each other and the earth's beautiful bounty.

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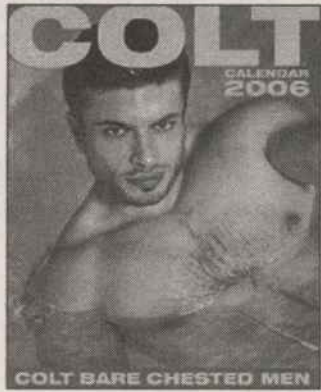
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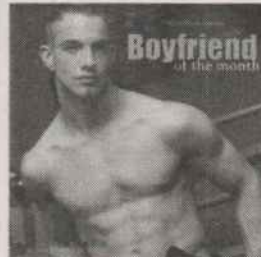


Calendar

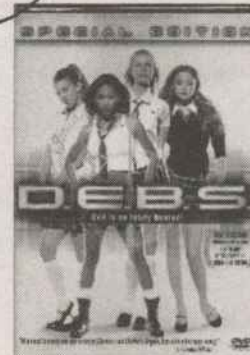


Top 10 Reasons Why It's Great To Be Gay During Christmas!

1. You don't have to make plans with all your friends.
2. You can have a special dinner with your partner.
3. You can have a special dinner with your partner.
4. You can have a special dinner with your partner.
5. You can have a special dinner with your partner.
6. You can have a special dinner with your partner.
7. You can have a special dinner with your partner.
8. You can have a special dinner with your partner.
9. You can have a special dinner with your partner.
10. You can have a special dinner with your partner.



Calendar



Movie

Calendar

KEITH HARING 2006



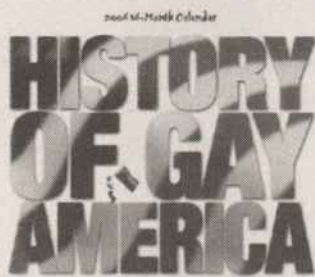
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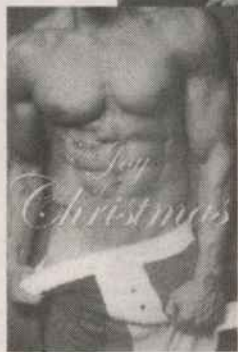
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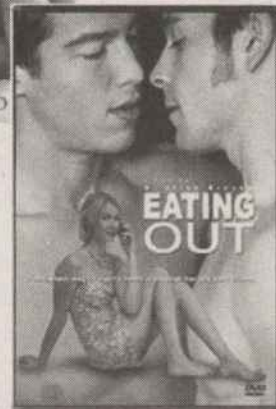
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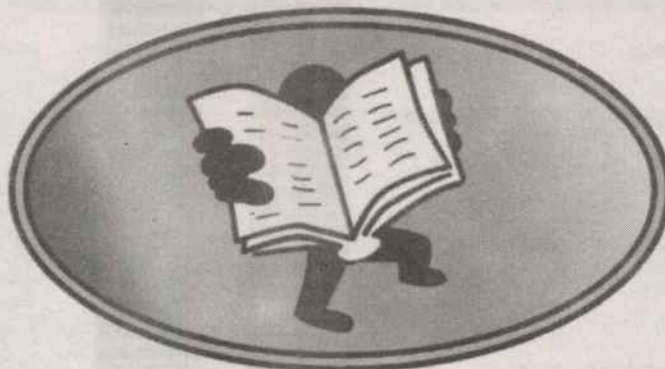


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**ASK THE VET**

Dr. Jeff Banwart is one of four staff veterinarians at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Before coming to WHS, he worked as a small animal emergency veterinarian for 10 years.

**I've been hearing a lot about canine flu in the news. What is this disease and how serious is it?**

**Answer:**

There has been great public concern lately about a respiratory infection in dogs that was first recognized relatively recently. This disease is commonly referred to as canine flu and is caused by the Canine Influenza Virus.

Canine flu was first recognized in racing greyhounds in Florida five years ago and has now been identified in at least seven other states. While research into this disease is fairly new, early evidence shows that the virus is very contagious: Approximately 80 percent of dogs who are exposed to it develop disease symptoms. One to 10 percent of those dogs will die from the disease. The disease tends to be more severe in young and old dogs, but all ages and breeds can be susceptible.

Two forms of the dog flu can be seen. The more common — and less severe — form has clinical signs of a dry or moist cough for 10 to 21 days. These signs are very similar to a disease called kennel cough which is usually much less severe. Some dogs will also have a discharge from the nose and a mild fever. Dogs with this form of the disease will recover, although some may need medical care at a veterinary hospital during their recovery. Some dogs develop a more severe form of canine flu that leads to potentially life-threatening pneumonia. These dogs often become quite ill with a high fever and respiratory distress.

Canine Influenza Virus is spread by transmitting respiratory secretions from infected dogs to other dogs. The virus can be spread by inanimate objects and has been reported to be transmitted between dogs on people's skin and clothing. The virus can be killed with most common disinfectants, including a 10 percent bleach solution.

Part of the difficulty in controlling the dog flu is that there is no quick, easy test for identifying dogs carrying the virus. The current test only identifies dogs with the virus approximately seven days after they develop the disease, and it takes up to two weeks to find out the results of this test. However, your veterinarian may be able to differentiate between the dog flu and other less serious respiratory diseases during a thorough physical exam. Therefore, it is important to have your dog examined by a veterinarian whenever signs of respiratory disease appear.

**Mama Is Always Alpha**

Our boys, Louie and Gus, are full-blooded brothers, from different litters. Louie is the oldest at 7 and Gus is a year younger. They are English Springer Spaniels and have both been in the show ring (Conformation). Gus is a finished champion and is used at stud.

Louie didn't like the discipline and travel involved in being shown — he's our wild and crazy boy, so he is "altered." It was a pretty painless decision, for us anyway, to neuter Louie, as intact boys have territorial issues over dominance, such as who goes out the door first, who sits higher on the couch or who gets licked where/when. For the most part, Gus is the dominant one, for obvious reasons, but Louie is the elder and as such still likes to assert his authority every now and then at which point I, the human alpha bitch, intervene.

Last spring we were asked to dog sit Louie and Gus's dam (mother), Eleanor, for a couple weeks. We're always careful when introducing dogs to one another as they respond differently when they're on or off lead. On lead they may feel more threatened and, in the case of our boys, act like lurching fools.

They hadn't seen their-mom in at least five years, so we decided to have short play meetings, at the park and our home, two weeks prior to her stay.

At the first meeting we were pleasantly surprised (I had my squirt gun loaded) that there was not the usual incessant mounting activity projected on to the new member of the "pack." When attempted it was met with a stern look and a little lift of the lip, which



**PETS**

By Melody Carranza



probably meant don't mess with mama. The following meetings were incident free, so we were looking forward to Eleanor's visit.

A short visit is different than a long one that evolves into a claim of the key position on the couch. All the dogs have been crate trained, so we were anticipating that Eleanor would be spending some time in hers if things got tense. To our surprise, she ascended to alpha member of the "pack" in a matter of hours with no interruption to daily life. Eleanor went out the door first, was at the highest position in a room and was licked first.

I can't say for sure whether the boys bowed to her because she is their mother or because she's an old bitch that won't suffer fools.

But I can attest to this: When all three dogs would head upstairs, Eleanor would stand at the top and allow her boys to join her by pulling them up by their ears. That proved to me that they know their mother, because only a mama would place her boys.

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## Arts

## Calendar

## OUT NOW

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

**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.

**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.

**Creepy. Hotcakes Gallery.** 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 414-803-4734. hotcakesgallery.com. Through Nov. 6.

**Day of the Dead: Ofrendas Exhibit.** This time-honored Mexican tradition creatively expresses heartfelt memorials to the deceased. The ofrendas, or altars, are created by professional local and regional artists, as well as by families from the neighborhood. 1028 S. 9th St., Milwaukee. latinoartsinc.org. Through Nov. 11.

**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. 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.

**Reckless.** R.S.V.P. Productions. This bizarre Christmas fantasy by Craig Lucas was recently on Broadway. Astor Theatre, 1696 N. Astor St., Milwaukee. \$12. 414-272-5694. Through Nov. 13.

**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.

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

John Mominie and Scott Hefti. Color takes center stage in the abstracts of Mominie and the realisms of Hefti. Katie Gingrass Gallery, 241 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 5 to 9 p.m. 414-289-8855. Through Nov. 20.

**Safe Harbor: Books in Boxes.** Whether to protect, enhance or restrain, the artists' books in this show explore the partnership between books and their repository, their safe harbor. Bay View Book Arts Gallery, 2693 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 414-758-8699. bayviewbookarts.com. Through Nov. 20.

**Mike Judy.** Acrylics on canvas and pastel on paper. There is always a bit of humor in the work, and a kind of wry toughness. Pat Hildon Gallery, 133 W. Pittsburgh Ave. #301, Milwaukee. 414-227-0991. Through Nov. 25.

**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.

**Nohl Fellowship 2004 Exhibition.** Gallery One. Vogel Hall, 3253 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee. 414-229-5070. arts.uwm.edu/inova.

**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.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 4

**Q PICK - The Complete History of America (Abridged).** The team that gave us several hilarious plays in the "Abridged" series has written a

wonderfully funny romp through the history of our country. Marian Center, 3195 S. Superior St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$12/\$10 students and seniors. 414-431-3187. soulsticetheatre.org. Through Nov. 19.

**Day Dreams.** Opening reception featuring Stephen Hayward and William Bryant. Artists explore abstract, playful and expressive dreamlike images. Almont Gallery, 342 W. Main St., Waukesha. 6 to 8 p.m. 262-542-1522. almontgallery.org. Through Nov. 30.

**Musical Box: The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway.** This amazing performance at The Pabst Theater by The Musical Box presents the music of "The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway," Genesis' most famous recording and tour, complete with matching sets, lights, effects and instruments from the original Genesis tour! Riverside Theater, 116 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-286-3663. riversidetheater.org.

**Christine Sikora.** Opening reception. Lemon Street Gallery, 4601 Sheridan Rd., Kenosha. 6 to 9 p.m. 262-605-4745. lemonstreetgallery.org. Through Nov. 27.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 5

**Australian Pink Floyd.** WKHL. Riverside Theater, 116 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-286-3663. riversidetheater.org.

**Q PICK - Author! Author!** Daniel Helminiak, author of "What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality" and "Meditation Without Myth." Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 2 p.m. Free. 414-963-9089. outwardsbooks@msn.com.

**Q PICK - Capoeira Angola Performance.** Experience powerful chants, pulsating percussive rhythms and playful cunning movements of the African-Brazilian dance and martial art. Wisconsin Dance, 112 E. Mineral St., Milwaukee. 4 p.m. Free. 414-732-8379. capoeirala.com.

**Patricia Barber.** This is jazz on the frontier, fusing the genre with classical new music and a range of pop and world idioms in an inimitable personal style. Alverno Pittman Theatre, 3431 S. 39th St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-382-6044. patriciabarber.com.

**Don Linke Trio.** Jazz concert with Don Linke, guitar; Sam Monroe, drums; Doug Ebert, upright bass. Peck School of the Arts Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors.

**Vieux et Nouveau.** A two-year anniversary with a fashion show and silent auction to benefit Danceworks dance studio. Danceworks, 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Auction 6 p.m., fashion show 7:30 p.m. \$10. 414-287-9049. vieuxetnouveau.com.

## THURSDAY NOV. 10

**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, NOV. 11

**Beauty and the Beast.** Modjeska Youth Theatre Company. Modjeska Theatre, 1134 W. Mitchell St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$5-\$22. Through Nov. 20, various times.

**Q PICK - Happy Spunksgiving.** Cherry Pop Burlesque. All the turkey and undressing you could want. Club Majestic, 115 King St., Madison. 8 p.m. \$18. cheerypopburlesque.com. Repeats Nov. 12, various times.

**Q PICK - Torso.** Based on the most sensational crime in Canadian history, "Torso" is the story of Evelyn Dick, who went on trial for being accused of killing her husband, John Dick. Hot Water Club, 818 S. Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$16. 414-467-1144.

**To Think of Time.** DanceCircus. A concert blending dance, music, video graphics, poetry and storytelling. Reception to follow. Humphrey Masonic

Center, 790 N. Van Buren St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$15/\$10 students and seniors. 414-277-8151. dancecircus.org.

**Variety 68.** The latest installment in a series of historical multimedia cabarets created by Robert Ragir, Jerry Fortier and Yehuda Yannay. Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$15/\$5 students and seniors. 414-229-4308. Through Nov. 13, various times.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 12

**Birthday Show.** A Miltown Kings drag show. B-side Bar, 235 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 9 p.m. \$6. 414-272-8466.

**Catch as Catch Can.** Danceworks, 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$15/\$10 students and seniors. 414-277-8480 ext. 4. Repeats Nov. 13.

**Unicorn Cloud.** Some have said kathryn e. martin is the James Brown of the art world. Others have said a better comparison would be Felix Unger. Either way, her work will knock your socks off. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 5 to 9 p.m., artist talk 5:30 p.m. 414-961-7714. hotcakesgallery.com.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16

**Symbiopsychotaxiplasm Take One.** The making of a film about a dissolving marriage that simultaneously takes note of the relationship between the film's director and the cast and crew. UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 17

**Symbiopsychotaxiplasm Take Two 1/2.** William Greaves, considered the dean of African-American filmmakers, is the recent recipient of the Career Achievement Award from the International Documentary Association. Greaves will attend the screening. UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 18

**Art vs. Craft. This year buy handmade for the holidays.** Ninety vendors from Milwaukee and beyond. Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. 5 to 10:30 p.m. \$2/free kids 13 and under. flyingfishgallery.com.

**El Día que me Quieras.** Always suave and self-assured, Argentinean tango singer/songwriter Carlos Gardel was the picture of romance, the archetypal "Latin lover" of the 1920s and 1930s. Latino Arts Auditorium, 1028 S. 9th St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-384-3100. latinoartsinc.org.

**Ladies, Compose Yourself!** Cut from the same cloth as Bette Midler and Carolyn Warren, the hysterically funny Tony Award-nominated Sharon McNight storms into town singing songs written by living female composers and "a couple of broads." The Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 8 p.m. \$25/\$22 students and seniors. 262-781-9520. wilson-center.com. Repeats Nov. 19.

**Tres Historias Made in Uruguay.** Uruguayan artist Martin Morante transforms scenes of everyday life in modern Montevideo into visual poetry tinged with gritty realism and social commentary. 1028 S. 9th St., Milwaukee. 5 to 7 p.m. latinoartsinc.org. Through Dec. 30. Warning: Contains Graphic Images. A cultural critique through comics exhibition. Union Art Gallery, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 6 to 9 p.m. 414-229-6310.

**UWM Symphony Orchestra.** The orchestra will be joined by the UWM Choirs, conducted by Sharon Hansen, in a selection from Orff's Carmina Burana, Part I. Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 is on the program. Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors. 414-229-4308.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 19

**Bremen Music.** The Inkwell Collective, No Longer Micah, and Nick Pottebaum. Bremen Café, 901 E. Clarke St., Milwaukee. 9:30 p.m. \$5.

**Hormonal Imbalance.** Cultural Affairs Presents. Hey, girls! Make it a hot night of music and laughter with the Four Bitchin' Babes, a mood swinging

musical review! Four musical divas of heavenly harmonies share estrogen-fueled songs and stories that celebrate the best of babes, boys and Botox. The babes are Sally Fingerett, Debi Smith, Nancy Moran and Deirdre Flint. UW-Whitewater's Irvin L. Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St., Whitewater. 7:30 p.m. 262-472-2222. fourbitchinbabes.com.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 20

**Thanksgiving Concert.** Present Music. Concert and pre-concert talk with composer Daron Hagen and performances by the Milwaukee Choral Artists, Milwaukee Children's Choir and The Bucks, an American Indian singing and drumming group. The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 820 N. Jackson St., Milwaukee. 3:20 p.m., concert 4 p.m. \$16-\$36, students half price. 414-271-0711. presentmusic.org.

## TUESDAY, NOV. 22

**Vienna Choir Boys.** The Vienna Choir Boys date back to Emperor Maximilian's court in 1498 and have evolved into an ensemble of 100 choristers aged 10 to 14. This concert will feature their regular repertoire, which includes pieces both sacred and secular and holiday music from the Latin Adeste Fideles to season favorites. UW-Whitewater's Irvin L. Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St., Whitewater. 7:30 p.m. 262-472-2222. www.wsk.at.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 25

**Animal Crackers.** Skylight Opera Theatre. Cabot Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-291-7800. skylightopera.com.

**Scenes of "The Bay."** Nine Wisconsin artist's plein air renderings of different areas of Whitefish Bay. Gallery 505, 505 E. Silver Spring Dr., Whitefish Bay. 414-962-6302. gallery-505.com. Through Jan. 6.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 26

**Malian Blues Band.** Come out for deep organic original groove. Club Timbuktu, 520 E. Center St., Milwaukee. 9:30 p.m. 414-265-7000. ktruschmusic.net. Repeats Dec. 3.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 1

**Milwaukee Stories.** An original production directed by Sheri Williams Pannell. Peck School of the Arts Studio Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors. 414-229-4308. Through Dec. 4, various times.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 2

**Q PICK - Laughing Stock.** Quadracci Powerhouse Theater. Summer stock has never been so hilarious in this backstage look at a dedicated thespian's valiant attempt to turn a dilapidated barn into a place for theater magic. Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 414-224-9490. milwaukeerep.com. Through Jan. 8.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 3

**Fasten Warehouse Benefit Show.** Join Fasten Clothing Cooperative in our third year and fifth active season, for an event to support the Fasten Co-op Clothing Gallery. Silent auction closes at midnight. Donations accepted at the door. MOCT, 240 E. Pittsburgh Ave., Milwaukee. 414-303-1981. fastencollective@yahoo.com.

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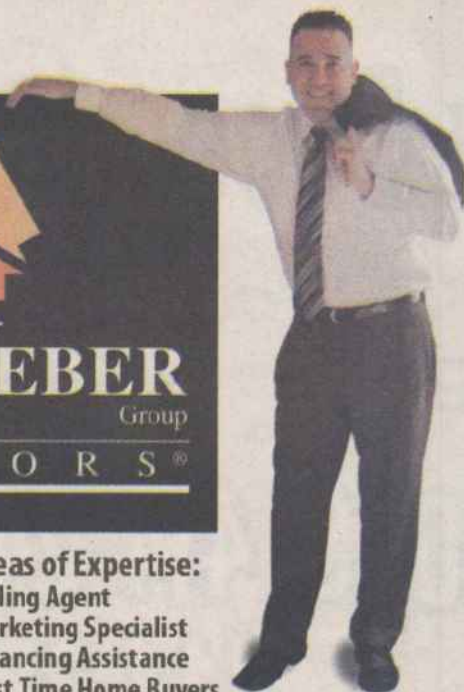
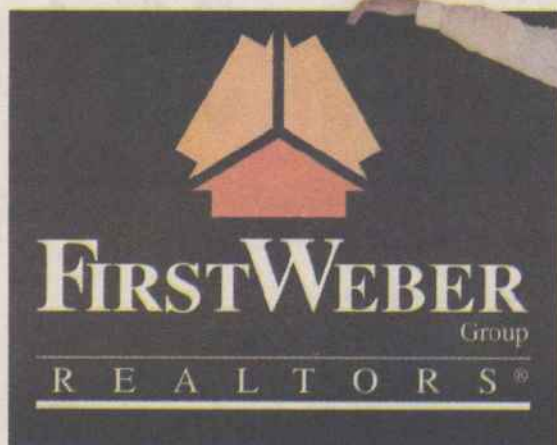
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# Professional vs. Community Theater



## THEATER

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

I recently directed a large-scale production of "Oklahoma." The show featured local community theater actors, and yet the talented cast came off as good as the recent Broadway revival. I remember the crowds for "42nd Street" and "Into The Woods." But alas, this recent large production will be lucky to break even.

It is sad to note that several area community theaters have recently merged or closed after years of successful shows.

The fact is, "Live" theater is much more exciting! And many successful TV and Broadway stars got their start in local community and college theater. Many people are aware of the equity theatres like the Milwaukee Rep and the Skylight, but not the smaller venues. These small venues are also professional theaters.

Nearly all the community theaters use paid professional directors, but the actors

work for the experience, or pleasure of performing. Then what actually is a "professional"?

Professional theaters can use equity actors, or salaried non-equity actors; smaller venues may use upcoming professionals who work for a stipend. The budgets for the larger companies can be huge; the smaller venues can be extremely clever and creative with smaller budgets. Some community theaters have such large budgets the shows can rival the large area touring Broadway shows.

Someone mentioned to me that they see lots of the same talent in the professional and community shows. This is somewhat true! Local actors are like Broadway "gypsies." They want to perform, and if they like the show, they may not need to make any money. Many only have a "life" when they are in a show. That need for "applause!"

Some small professional companies do not pay their actors. The actors work for the experience only. I truly feel professional companies should pay their actors something unless the actors are apprentices or students.

### Such a Busy Theater Month!

Cardinal Stritch College offers the classic "Look Homeward Angel." The Boulevard Ensemble opens the exciting "Pyretown." And R.S.V.P. Productions opens the Christmas fable "Reckless" at

the Astor theater.

The Chamber Theatre also offers some early holiday fare: "The Old Lady Shows Her Medals" with "A Christmas Memory."

Playwrights Studio Theater presents the musical revue "A Joyous Yuletide Noel." You can also catch the show that plays over and over again, "Fiddler on the Roof," at Shorewood Players. Try to see some of the community shows in addition to professional ones. It's hard to tell the difference in talent and quality.

The Skylight Opera will bring us the event of the year!! "Animal Crackers," the classic Marx Brothers hit!! Nobody should miss this hysterical show.

Next Act plays "Red Herring." Off the Wall Theatre has a Sondheim delight, "Putting It Together," with those fantastic Sondheim songs. The Milwaukee Theater has Valerie Harper in "Golda's Balcony." Milwaukee Rep presents "Clean House." And for those of you who like dance, Danceworks presents "Catch as Catch Can."

Last of all is the traditional "Fireside Christmas" in Fort Atkinson.

### Goings on Around Town

Dear Ruthie had another fabulous Halloween gala at M&M's! Gladys Chmiel is appearing at the Chamber Theatre. Norman Moses and Ray

Jivoff are Marx Brothers in "Animal Crackers." JP Clemente can be seen in "Putting It Together."

Paul Helm closes in "Blue Rose" at the Stackner Cabaret. Cynthia Paplaczyk plays a silent mute in "Reckless" — if you know Cynthia, that is really acting!

I was excited to hear that Michael Wright has become the artistic director of Chamber Theatre. The Bay Players are holding auditions this month for their upcoming version of "The Underpants," which played at the Rep last season.

**Last Month's Trivia Answer**  
Cindy Williams was in the movie "The First Nudie Musical."

### This Month's Trivia Question

Did Carol Burnett star in a Stephen Sondheim musical besides the concert of "Follies"?

My Aunt Blanche did not go out in costume for Halloween — and still won first prize for the ugliest costume!!

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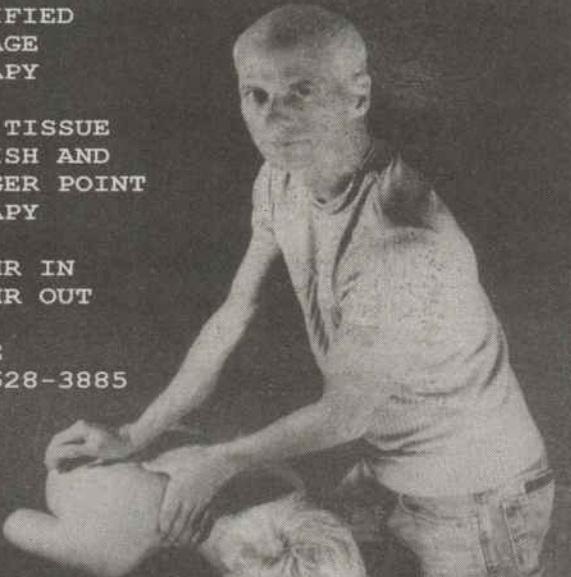
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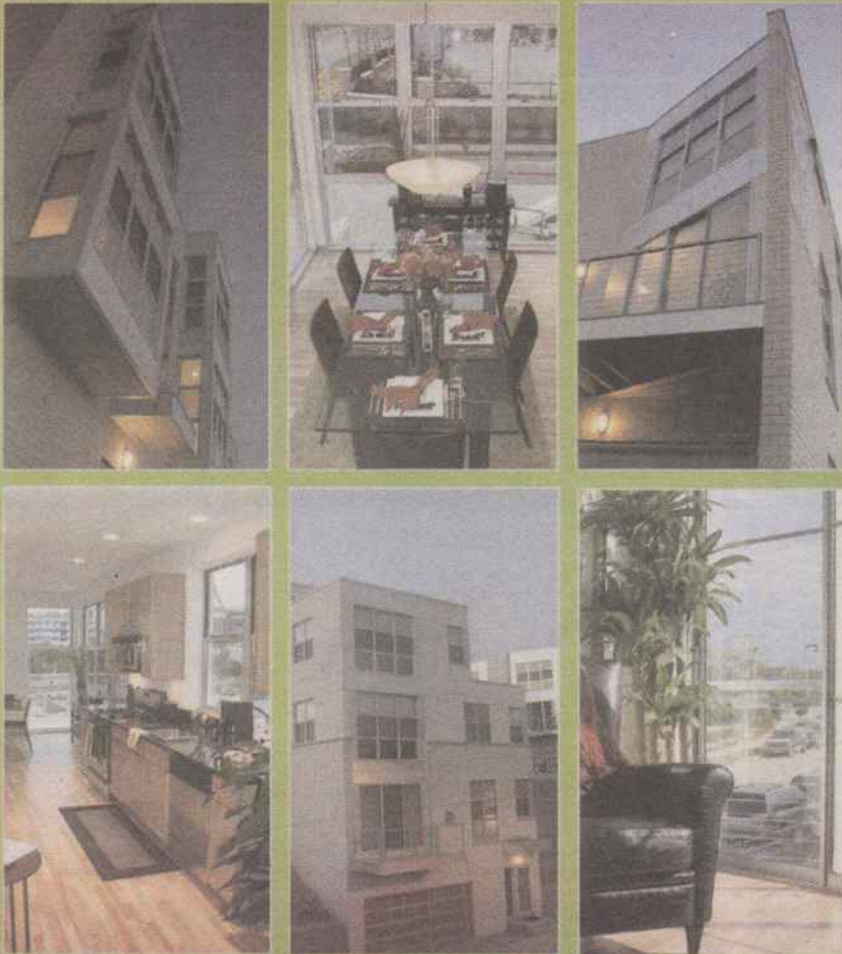
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