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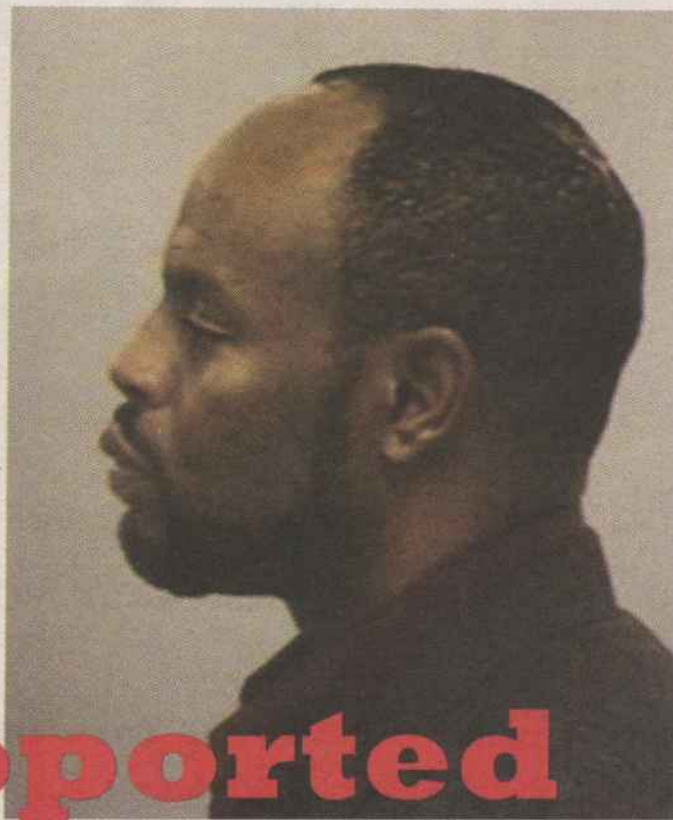
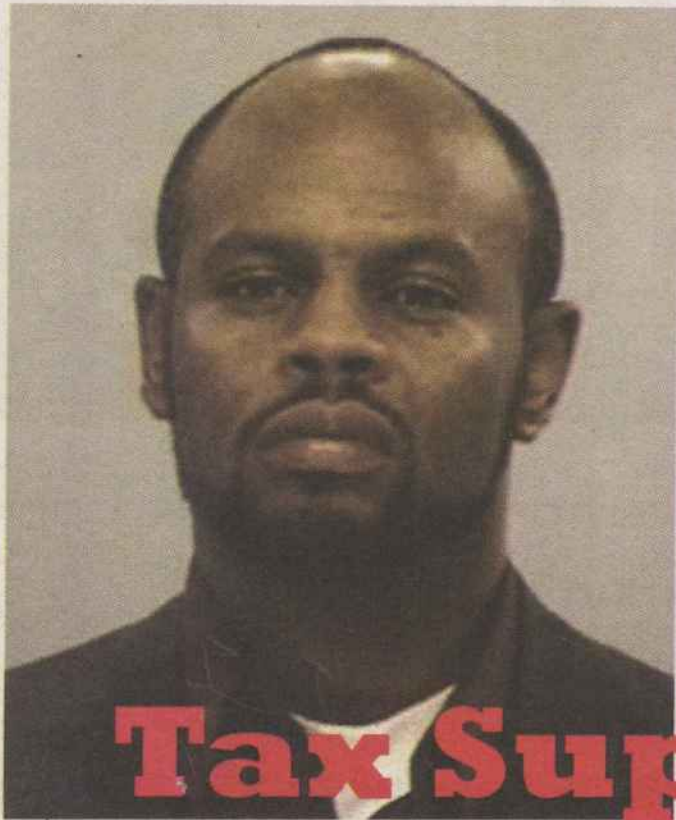
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Vol. 2, Issue 1 • December 7, 2005

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Wauwatosa Police Department Photos

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BIGOT?

By Holly Grey

Milwaukee alderman accused of gay hating once again

Contradictory, vivacious, conflicting, polarizing or uniting — whether you support Milwaukee's District Six Alderman Michael McGee or not, he seems to be embroiled in perpetual controversy.

The uber-publicity seeking alderman was recently arrested in Wauwatosa on municipal charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest and accusing all involved of racial profiling.

McGee, 36, was arrested Nov. 11 at about 10:54 p.m. in the 6000 block of West North Avenue, where he was pulled over after a conversation with police in the parking lot of a Blockbuster store.

According to the police report obtained by Queer Life News, Wauwatosa police officers James Donovan and Russell Sadowski responded to a call from a Blockbuster

employee regarding a suspicious car in the parking lot after closing time. In the car was McGee. The report indicates that the officers explained to McGee that the employees were afraid to leave the store and that the alderman understood their concerns. While handing McGee his driver's license, the officer told him he was free to leave.

As the squad car pulled away, the report said, the officer heard McGee screaming, "Hey, fuck you all for calling the police on me."

McGee was pulled over minutes later. When asked by the officer why he was shouting at the Blockbuster employees, McGee said he was angry that someone called the police on him. In the end, McGee claims his arrest in Wauwatosa was racially motivated.

A few months earlier, this same alderman made the

news when he refused to apologize for using the word "faggot" to describe off-duty cops charged with beating Frank Jude Jr. at a party on Milwaukee's South Side.

More recently, in late October, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that McGee was entangled in multiple accusations, including an accusation by two local Riverside University High School students that he accused them of lesbianism on a bus trip to the Millions More Movement in Washington, D.C. The activities involved during the trip were, according to the alderman's own statements, designed "to promote cultural awareness and unity among individuals from all backgrounds."

Gaining cultural awareness and feeling a sense of

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Lesbian Artists Highlighted At MGAC

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Softball and Women a Perfect Match

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Milwaukee Needs a Leader, Not Just a Good Guy

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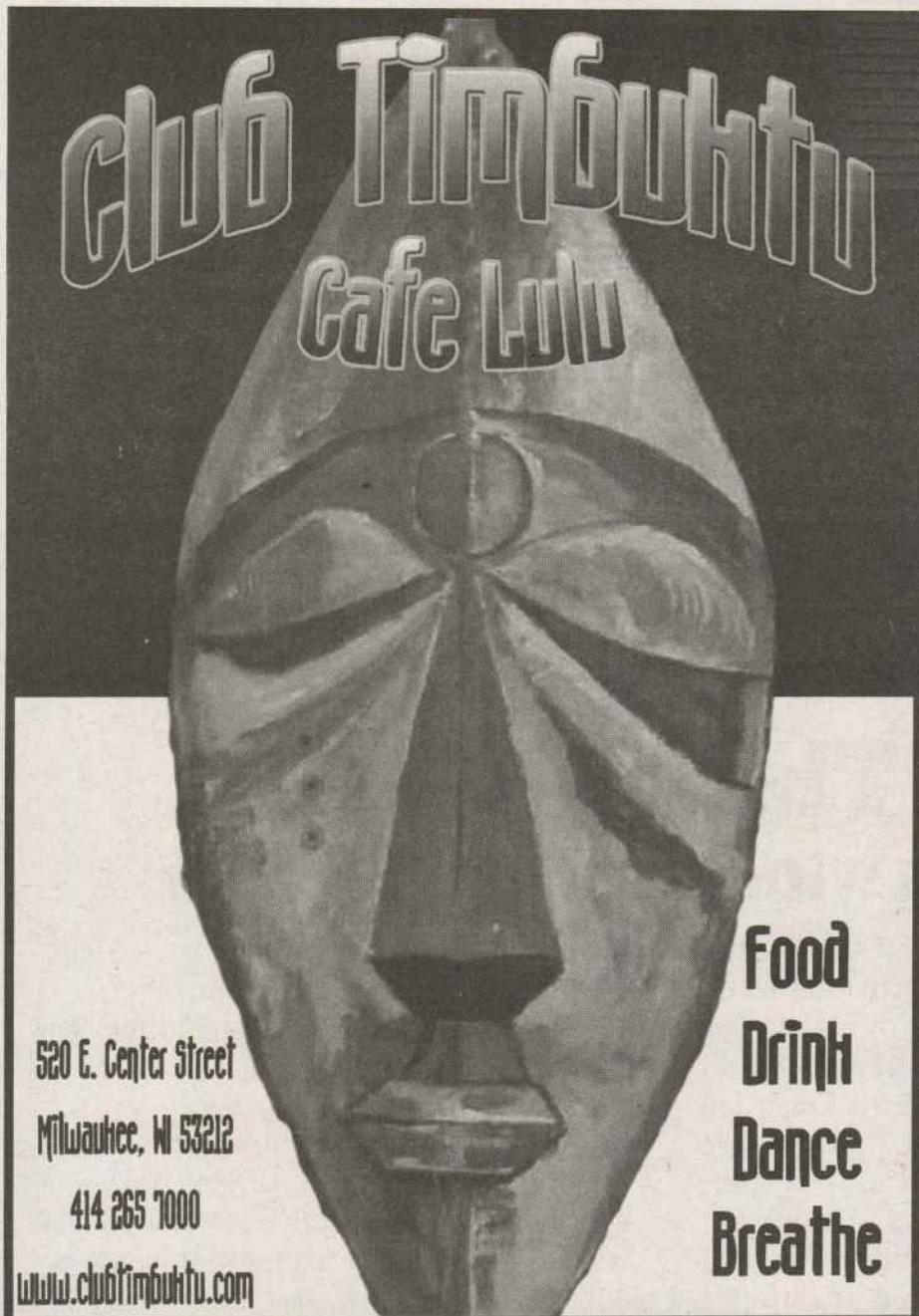
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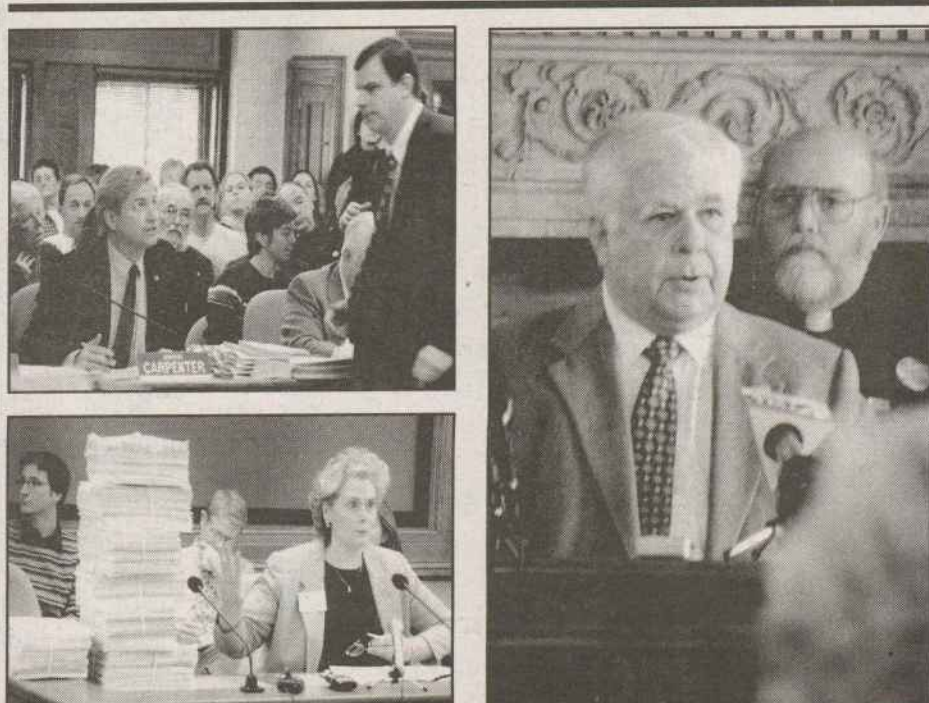
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Madison - Legislative Committee hearing on the proposed referendum banning gay marriage and civil unions here in Wisconsin. Q Life will continue to be your best source for information on this important issue.

Bigot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

unity was not what the two students, who spoke with Journal Sentinel reporters Cary Spivak and Dan Bice, experienced on the trip. Their story ran in the Oct. 22 issue of the Journal Sentinel:

"Keenya Hofmaier and Rosetta Riley ... endured nearly 40 hours on a crowded bus with little food, missed most of the D.C. event, were subjected to hours of what they said were racist videos and, to top it all off, were accused of being lesbians by an alderman. ...

"Before returning to Milwaukee, the

alderman confronted the two with his concerns about their behavior.

"Specifically, here's what Hofmaier and Riley said happened next:

"You guys have been acting funny," Hofmaier said McGee remarked. "People have been questioning you."

"Riley recalled he said, 'You've been acting uptight this whole trip.'

"Asked where he was going with those comments, McGee told them: 'Read between the lines — you've been awfully touchy-feely.'

The girls demanded to know whether McGee — never a friend to the gay community who they said repeatedly used the slur 'faggots' on the ride — was labeling them lesbians. He didn't respond.

"I said that was an inappropriate comment," Riley recalled telling him.

"McGee, they said, then walked away."

In McGee's Oct. 26 rebuttal statement he says that Hofmaier and Riley "fabricated allegations filled with innuendo about events that never took place and statements I never made during the trip to D.C."

He goes on to accuse Spivak and Bice of bias, claiming their article was "a blatant attempt to demoralize the objective of the Millions More Movement and the credibility of black leadership in the city of Milwaukee."

Q Life's attempts to reach Hofmaier and Riley were made to no avail. Q Life was curious to know whether they had actually

learned something from McGee on the trip after all. Did they learn to use the local press as McGee does to garner publicity? Or did they learn that local "leaders" are sometimes hypocrites who preach out of both side of their mouths — claiming to promote unity and cultural awareness all the while disenfranchising local taxpaying LGBT people by using words like "faggot" and calling young girls lesbians for "acting funny"?

Editor's Note: McGee did not respond to several calls from Q Life seeking comment. This behavior is typical and unacceptable. We always seek to be fair and balanced.

A League of Their Own

SSBL Women Hit the Mound Without the Boys in Tow

By Holly Grey

Leather gloves, summer sun, home plate, friendship, bats, competition, athletic girls in shorts — all reasons to join the new women's softball league forming in Milwaukee this spring. If you are a recreational or competitive softball player wanting to hit home runs or just be part of a team and meet some new people, this could be the league for you.

"We are hoping to promote the spirit of camaraderie and level the playing field by forming this new, women-only division of the SSBL (Saturday Softball Beer League)," explained Kimberly Stuart, director of SSBL's women's division. "Currently, women do play on SSBL teams, but because they are playing with and against men, it's sometimes not a very level playing field for the women. By forming our own women's division, we hope to level the playing field for all levels of female players."

"I want this division to be an avenue for camaraderie and for women to come together. I want women to come out and have some fun," explained Stuart.

According to Stuart, Chicago currently has 39 women's teams, Minneapolis has 26 and Madison has one. "It would be great to form at least four teams here in Milwaukee to play each other and eventually play these other teams," Stuart said. "I see the Milwaukee SSBL women's division as a way for women to come together across the region."

Stuart is a competitive softball player who got involved with the SSBL as a volunteer umpire after her stint in the service. She is passionate about softball and was recently nominated to umpire at the Gay Games in Chicago next summer. This past summer she umpired at the Gay Softball World Series in Dallas.

Stuart said, "I would love to bring the Gay Softball World Series back to Milwaukee in the near future."

This new division will be part of the storied SSBL founded in 1978. Created to provide an avenue for LGBT players to get together on a weekly basis and play ball, the SSBL, according to its Web site, was formed "in order to fill the needs for a safe, comfortable and formalized structure for homosexual men and women to compete in softball."

The SSBL became an official league in 1978 with eight teams competing that year. In 1979, the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (N.A.G.A.A.) was organized, and the SSBL in Milwaukee, along with leagues from San Francisco, New York City, Los Angeles and Toronto, became one of its charter members. Also in 1979, N.A.G.A.A. named Milwaukee the host city for the Gay Softball World Series held that year.

Since 1978 SSBL has either started its season or capped the season off with a softball tournament. As legend has it, back in 1978 the weekend classic tournament idea was formed like so many other good ideas — over drinks in a bar. Three guys were having a drink at the former Wreck Room on a cold and snowy night in February 1978, when one of the guys suggested holding a softball tournament over the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

Wayne Bernhagen, owner of the Wreck Room (which closed several years ago; the building is now a part of the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design campus), thought the idea was a great one. Bernhagen, known for promoting Milwaukee and the gay community, agreed to have the bar sponsor the tournament.

The three original instigators scoured "Damron's Gay Guide" to find other teams across North America to invite to that first

tournament. Over 50 invitations were sent out and word spread quickly. In the end, teams from as far away as Toronto and New York City participated in the 1978 Memorial Weekend "Wreck Room Classic."

Each year the tournament grew. By 1989, 33 teams from across North America — including, for the first time, several women's teams — were participating in what was by then called the Milwaukee Classic. In 2002, the tournament changed its name again, to Dairyland Classic, and was moved to Labor Day weekend.

Today hundreds of people at all skill levels participate each summer in the SSBL. Hundreds more participate each Labor Day weekend in the Dairyland Classic. League membership includes men and women, heterosexuals and LGBT people of all ages.

"In addition to managing the weekly ball playing and hosting the Dairyland Classic, the SSBL offers skills clinics designed to help players better their hitting, fielding, running and throwing skills. The clinics are run by league members and former league members," explained Stuart. "They can really help the recreational player looking to improve their skills or help the competitive player wanting coaching to hone their skills."

"Our league play is governed by rules set forth by the American Softball Association and the league body. The playing rules and format are almost identical to other leagues throughout the Milwaukee area," said Stuart.

"I really want women of all skill levels to join us. I want them to come out, build support, meet new people and have some fun," reiterated Stuart. "If you don't play, come out and watch us play. We welcome cheerleaders."

To join a team or for more information, visit www.ssblmilwaukee.com or contact Kim Stuart at 414-531-2128.

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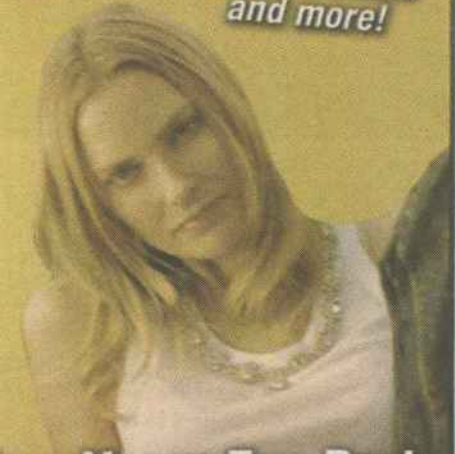
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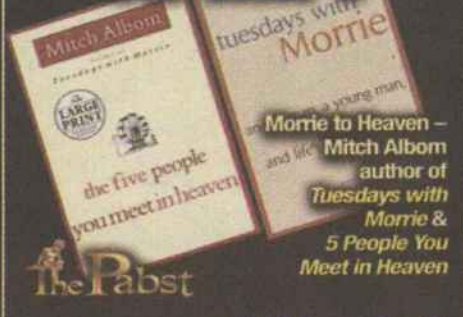
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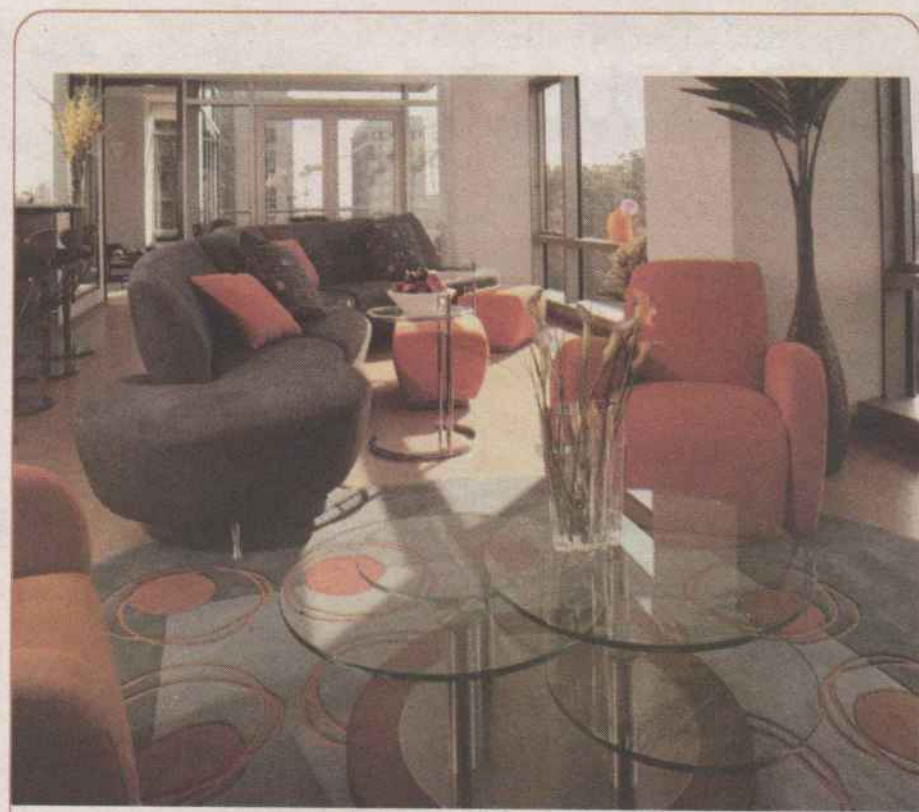

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Belly Dancing for Men

MGAC Workshop to Be Held Dec. 11

By Paul Masterson

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) announces its latest foray into diversity and cross-cultural collaboration.

On Dec. 11, Shaia Fahrid will offer a Middle Eastern Dance Workshop for men. This event will be an introduction for Middle Eastern Dance classes. Dates for Shaia's upcoming eight-week dance course will be announced at the workshop.

Belly dancing is a dance form usually associated with women in Middle Eastern countries. It is considered the oldest known form of dance. Its male counterpart, known as "masculine style," is just as popular as the women's version, if not more so.

The tradition of men dancing with men in the Middle East and Mediterranean is an ancient one. Tribal, ethnic and cabaret dance styles have been the turf of males for centuries. It can still be seen today throughout the region, especially in Egypt and Turkey. But, beyond tradition, Middle Eastern dance offers another attraction for its modern proponents: exercise.

Raging On

This latest rage in aerobic exercise is sweeping the country and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is proud to be the first venue to offer it here in Milwaukee.

Belly dancing is a logical extension of more rigid exercises like weight training or aerobics. It focuses on the torso and requires independent control and isolation of the muscles of various parts of the body.

This discipline improves flexibility and, through energetic movement, cardio burn at the same time. Posture and attitude play a major role in the style as well, with specific movements relating to male roles in the ancient world, namely, those of protector, warrior and hunter. Hence masculine style belly dancing exhibits spirited, sharp and heavier traits as opposed to softer, demure feminine ones. These masculine movements are intended to project power and energy.

The workshop and classes will be lead by Shaia Fahrid, owner of Shaia Fahrid Egyptian Dance Studio. Her credentials include extensive dance studies in jazz and salsa as well as ballet with Milwaukee Ballet.

Shaia is an instructor for all these forms of dance and is also a producer of hafta, Middle Eastern extravaganzas that feature dance and drumming. She continues her studies with several belly dance instructors, taking private lessons and master classes in Milwaukee, Chicago and Madison

A 'Pure' Belly

A belly dance purist, her style is known as Egyptian cabaret. In addition to instructing all levels of belly dance at her studio on Milwaukee's East Side, she teaches at several local schools and the Shorewood Community Fitness Center. Her classes in belly dance for mothers and daughters, belly dance for teens, and belly dance for seniors reach a full spectrum of participants. Monthly workshops are conducted by Shaia or visiting professional belly dance instructors and drummers; recent and upcoming workshops

include Beginning Turkish Cabaret Belly Dance, Floorwork, Veil Work, Middle Eastern Drumming, and Dancing with a Drummer.

Shaia emphasizes fun. This is an activity based on primal, hypnotic drum rhythms and exuberance so dancers will find themselves swept into sensuous movement.

"I use belly dance to lift the spirit and improve both body self-image and emotional self-image, focusing on the beauty that we all possess at this very moment. The art of belly dance, or Oriental dance, can free one from everyday burdens of stress, negativity, and boredom. In the dance, we all become our fully realized selves," says Shaia.

Men Galore

This is your opportunity to enter the mystical world of Rags Sharqi, or Oriental dance in a class specifically geared to men. Shaia teaches and performs primarily Egyptian cabaret style belly dance, but also included in her repertoire are folkloric movements such as Saiidi and Ghawanzee, from the dances of the Egyptian gypsies.

Class attire: Participants will dance in bare feet, no shirt or a fitted stretchable top and stretchable athletic pants. Please come prepared.

The Middle Eastern Dance Workshop for Men at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center will be held Sunday, Dec. 11 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$5.

For more information visit www.milwaukeebellydance.com. The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 S. 2nd St.

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LGBT Holiday

Benefit Begins

It's that time of year — we're all wondering where to find that perfect holiday tree and wreath. Why not support LGBT arts and Camp Heartland and get a beautiful tree at the same time?

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and Camp Heartland are collaborating with MO'NA's Out 'N About to present Milwaukee's first LGBT holiday tree, ornament and card sale.

Pick out your own fresh White Pine, Scotch Pine or Balsam Fir holiday tree. Trees measure five to eight feet and cost just \$35 each, regardless of size. Diversity wreaths, complete with a rainbow ribbon and ready to hang on your door or wall, cost \$25 each. All tree and wreath sales benefit the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

Camp Heartland offers beautiful tree ornaments, holiday cards and a special book, "A Journey of Hope — Inspiring Stories of Courage and Unconditional Love," by Neil Willenson. Sales benefit young people affected by HIV.

Camp Heartland is joining the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center to raise funds for their respective organizations.

Sale dates are weekends, Friday through Sunday, December 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 22 and 23. Times are Fridays 7 to 10 p.m., Saturdays noon to 6 p.m., and Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 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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Wisconsin



Happenings

Penis Boys Reach Out

Fundraiser for Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Announced

In a unified show of support, the two actors who make up the cast of "Puppetry of the Penis" will present special, intimate "sneak peek" performances at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St, at 9 p.m. on Mondays Nov. 28 and Dec. 5.

In conjunction with gay-friendly Miramar Theatre, the boys decided they would lend support to help the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center recoup some of its substantial loss from

the unlawful shutdown of "Naked Boys Singing!" by the Milwaukee Police Department Vice Squad in August. That show has since reopened and runs weekends at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center through Dec. 31.

The cost of this special fundraising sneak peek is just \$10 and is limited to the first 200 respondents.

"It's our pleasure to help defend art. We must all band together to ensure art is not censored and our freedom of speech and expression are protected," said William

Stace, owner of the Miramar Theatre.

For tickets to the special sneak peek, call 414-248-6481 or order online at www.uncommontheatre.net. Seating is extremely limited for this very intimate performance.

The full production of "Puppetry of the Penis" is being performed at the Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland Ave., Milwaukee. The performance runs Nov. 9 to Dec. 11. For more information, visit www.themiramartheatre.com.

New Yoga Classes at MGAC

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center expands its fitness and educational programs with a new intermediate yoga class in addition to continuing classes in hatha yoga and yogalates.

Ricky Heldt offers continuing hatha yoga and yogalates in a new session beginning Dec. 12. Each six-week session meets Monday evenings and consists of hour-long classes. Hatha Yoga takes place from 6 to 7 p.m. Yogalates follows 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 Eastern 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 beginner will feel comfortable and encouraged while the advanced student will be challenged.

Yogalates is Heldt's blend of the best of hatha yoga stretching and traditional Pilates strength exercises. Pilates focuses on the physical core, strengthening, as Heldt puts it, "from the inside out." Yogalates is a class for students who want more challenge.

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

Intermediate Yoga Starts Jan. 7

New hour-long Intermediate Yoga classes start Saturday, Jan. 7 at 9 a.m.

Chris Jansen, a popular icon in the Milwaukee health and fitness scene, will teach these classes. Jansen instructs a broad range of aerobic and yoga classes in various local venues and holds certifications in group exercise systems and Pilates through the Aerobic and Fitness Association of America (AFAA). He has six years of experience in the fitness industry and has been teaching yoga for three years.

Jansen's Intermediate Yoga concentrates on fitness. His style of yoga differs from that based on meditation and focuses on physicality and strength. In Jansen's words, "Yoga is a journey." Anyone of any age can make that journey with progress based on ability and training.

Each eight-week session costs \$40. Please register in advance if possible. Pick up a registration form at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center or e-mail milwgac@yahoo.com and a form will be sent to you.

All classes take place at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. in Walker's Point.

Men's Voices Concert Features Settings of Frost Poems

Men's Voices Milwaukee (MVM) will hold its 5th annual holiday concert on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 8 p.m. at the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.

Titled "Frostiana, A Winter Night's Journey," the concert will feature settings of two well-known poems by Robert Frost. Artistic Director Jerrad J. Fenske commented, "The Randall Thompson settings of 'Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening' and 'The Pasture' are mirror reflections of each other stylistically and fit the Frost poems perfectly."

Three favorite settings of the traditional "Ave Maria" add a reflective dynamic to the program, which also includes a wide selection of traditional holiday music ranging from the Middle Ages to more recent times.

This year's "Frostiana" concert is Fenske's first as artistic director of Men's Voices Milwaukee. Fenske is also organist and choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Milwaukee and is on the choral faculty of Cardinal Stritch University.

Men's Voices Milwaukee is a choral ensemble dedicated to musical excellence by performing a broad range of men's choral music. MVM is committed to broadening and strengthening the LGBT choral movement in southeastern Wisconsin (and beyond) through performance, education and outreach activities.

Thirty-five men currently sing in the group. Principal accompanist for MVM is Joseph Paul Carpenter, a well-known keyboard and choral artist in the Milwaukee area and a Mr. Gay Southeastern WI-USA title holder.

Tickets are available from any MVM member or from the box office at the Zelazo Center. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door (or \$15 at the door with four nonperishable food items donated to the Hunger Task Force).

Victim Outreach/Advocacy Program Launched

With the hiring of a new Victim Outreach/Advocate, the Anti-Violence Project (AVP) of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is expanding its ability to serve LGBT crime victims. The AVP, which began in 2002, has trained hundreds of domestic violence and sexual assault service providers throughout the state to more effectively serve LGBT people.

"Our work with mainstream organizations has been extremely successful," stated Kathy Herbst, director of programs and coordinator of the Anti-Violence Project. "Adding the advocate position to the project will enable us to do a better job reaching LGBT people themselves with information and support."

In addition to leading community outreach efforts, the advocate will provide crisis intervention, serve as a liaison with law enforcement and other service providers, and offer follow-up services to LGBT victims of violent crimes, including domestic abuse, sexual assault and hate crimes.

"Our objective is not to duplicate existing services but to give LGBT people the opportunity to have someone by their side who understands the unique issues and concerns facing them," says Herbst.

The advocate will not be working alone. A team of volunteers will assist with outreach efforts into various communities. The long-term goal of the AVP is to help create an environment where LGBT people and communities acknowledge, identify and appropriately respond to domestic violence and sexual assault.

The expansion of the AVP is made possible by a grant through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) program of the Department of Justice.

ARCW Awarded New Federal Grant for Prevention Services

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) recently received a major federal grant to expand HIV prevention services in Wisconsin.

ARCW received a \$1,271,600 grant over five years to provide substance abuse treatment and HIV and Hepatitis C prevention services to minority and post-incarcerated populations.

While racial and ethnic minorities comprise only 12 percent of Wisconsin's population, they account for 54 percent of infections reported between 2000 and 2004. The rate of HIV among prisoners is five to seven times higher than that of the general population. It is also estimated that nearly 20 percent of the national prison population is infected with Hepatitis C.

ARCW will partner with Wisconsin Correction Services, the state's leading community service provider and the state's two leading Latino-serving organizations, Sixteenth Street Community Health Center and La Casa de Esperanza.

The coalition will work to reduce substance abuse in Wisconsin, including the use of alcohol, methamphetamines and injection drugs that can result in high-risk behaviors for HIV and Hepatitis C.

"The core elements of this program will be risk reduction counseling and rapid HIV testing," said Scott Stokes, ARCW's Director of Prevention. "It makes sense to provide testing to these populations right away so we can get them into medical care if they test positive or work with them to reduce their risk if they test negative."

'No on the Amendment' Web Site Launched

Madison — In one year, Wisconsin voters are likely to step into their polling places and vote on an amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution that would ban civil unions and marriage for lesbian and gay couples.

Action Wisconsin has launched a new Web site about the proposed amendment, www.actionwisconsin.org/amendment.

The site includes lists of leaders and organizations that publicly oppose the amendment, personal profiles of the people involved, a blog that will chart the campaign, tools for people to inform voters in their communities about the amendment, and background about what the amendment would mean for Wisconsin families.

Mainstream Christian leaders and institutions — including three regional synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, three regional Presbyterian bodies, and the Wisconsin United Methodist Conference — oppose the amendment because they believe it is unjust. A list of these leaders is available on the new site.

In anticipation that it will be difficult to defeat the amendment in the Legislature, Action Wisconsin is partnering with the Milwaukee Center Advocates to form a statewide campaign to defeat it at the ballot box in November 2006.

National



Happenings

Catholics Urged to Speak Out Against Vatican Decision Banning Gays

Washington — After recent reports of a decree from the Vatican banning gays from the priesthood, the nation's largest LGBT rights organization is calling on fair-minded Catholics to speak out in their local parishes.

The Human Rights Campaign is sending out a call to action to hundreds of thousands of its members nationwide asking them to speak to their local priests about the Vatican's

discriminatory policy.

"We are calling on all Catholics of goodwill to speak to their priests and express their deep concern at this decision," said Harry Knox, director of the Human Rights Campaign's Religion and Faith Program. "We're speaking directly to Catholics in the pews and urging them to consider what Jesus would do if he saw his neighbor treated this way."

HRC Launches Transgender Equality Education Campaign

Washington — The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) launched the first-ever advertising and landmark education campaign on transgender issues last month with a new handbook and an ad in Roll Call, the leading publication for Congressional news.

Produced in partnership with the National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE), the ad campaign focuses on the stories of hard-working Americans who have been discriminated against in the workplace because of who they are.

"These moving ads put this issue in front of Congress in a big way," said Mara Keisling, executive director of NCTE. "Coupled with the education that many of us have been doing for years, these ads will go a long way toward building the support we need to pass a transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination law. This isn't the beginning and it won't be the end, but it's a big chapter toward getting this done."

HRC's new publication, "Transgender Americans: A Handbook for Understanding," was also distributed to every member of Congress. The handbook addresses many of the challenges facing transgender Americans without legal protections, including employment discrimination and healthcare issues.

NCTE also released a new publication: "Make Your Voice Heard: A Transgender Guide to Educating Congress" is available for free download at www.NCTEequality.org.

Gay Candidates Win Seats in Tough Territories

Washington — The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund announced that of the 55 gay and lesbian candidates they endorsed in 2005, 35 won their races or performed well enough to proceed to a runoff.

While some of these wins were considered groundbreaking, the 2005

election year was not free from gay-baiting and outright attacks on candidates' sexual orientations.

In Ohio, a state that went for George Bush last year, four endorsed gay candidates won races. Three of the wins were for new seats.

In Harrisburg, Pa., Dan Miller garnered 22 percent of the vote, enough to secure a new seat on the Harrisburg City Council. This marks the first time an openly gay candidate was elected in that city.

In Texas, where a statewide vote to ban legal recognition of same-sex relationships passed overwhelmingly, 33 percent of Houston voters supported Sue Lovell for an at-large City Council seat, enough to propel her to a Dec. 6 runoff.

Anti-gay attacks against Norfolk, Va., City Treasurer candidate Vivian Paige appear to have contributed to her loss. Fraudulent fliers placed on cars outside an NAACP candidate forum proclaimed that Vivian Paige, a highly qualified candidate and certified public accountant, is a proud lesbian and "doesn't care what people think!"

Full election results are available at www.victoryfund.org/election.

Senate Passes Common-Sense HIV Treatment Bill

Washington — The U.S. Senate passed legislation Nov. 3 that will save lives as well as save the federal Medicaid program millions of dollars in long-term care costs by allowing states to provide Medicaid coverage to low-income, HIV-positive Americans.

The bill, which creates "demonstration projects" under Medicaid, is similar to the Early Treatment for HIV Act (ETHA) and was introduced by Sens. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) and Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.). It passed the full Senate by a voice vote.

Currently a person with asymptomatic HIV infection is not eligible for Medicaid until he or she has progressed to full-blown AIDS. Only after developing AIDS does Medicaid coverage become available — significantly impacting a person's quality of life and increasing the long-term cost of

care and treatment.

A recent study by PriceWaterhouse-Coopers indicates that ETHA would, over 10 years, reduce the death rate for persons with HIV who would qualify for Medicaid by 50 percent and reduce Medicaid treatment costs by 70 percent, or close to \$1.5 billion.

100 Members of Congress Co-Sponsor Bill to Repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

Washington — One hundred members of Congress now support the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1059), a Congressional bill that would repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel.

The bill, introduced in March by Rep. Marty Meehan (D-Mass.), is co-sponsored by Republican and Democratic lawmakers, including nine members of the House Armed Services Committee.

According to C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, public support is behind the bill. Osburn says, "Seventy-nine percent of Americans support allowing gays to serve openly, and clear majorities of conservatives, church-goers and junior enlisted personnel believe the time has come to place national defense ahead of federal discrimination."

The Pentagon reports it has discharged more than 10,000 service members since 1993 for being gay, including nearly 800 with skills deemed "mission critical" by the Department of Defense. Those discharged include linguists, combat engineers, pilots, medical professionals and others.

"My husband is a Vietnam combat veteran who probably served with gays," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-Fla.), a co-sponsor of the legislation. "One of the army nurses who cared for him after he was severely injured was a lesbian. Did her sexual orientation make her ... less qualified? Of course not." Her husband, Dexter Lehtinen, a former acting U.S. Attorney, received a Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam.

Human Rights Campaign Salutes Retiring Rep. Jim Kolbe

Washington — Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) announced last month that he is retiring from Congress. Kolbe is currently the only Republican member of Congress to serve as openly gay.

Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese issued this statement: "Congressman Kolbe's remarkable career of public service inspired millions of people across the nation. Together with openly gay Reps. Tammy Baldwin and Barney Frank, he sends a message of hope to LGBT young people that any American can achieve their dreams regardless of their sexual orientation.

"At a time when equality can spark fierce partisan battles, Jim Kolbe continues to prove that fairness for LGBT Americans has no party boundary. He made history in 2000 as the first openly gay speaker at the Republican National Convention.

"Kolbe was instrumental in overturning the ban on domestic partner benefits for District of Columbia government employees and in the mid-1990s he led the bipartisan effort to preserve President Clinton's sexual orientation nondiscrimination policy for federal workers. We are proud of our years working with him in Congress and salute his service to this country."

International



Happenings

LGBT Leadership Conference Votes to End Rights Violations Urges Closeted Officials to Come Out

Washington — LGBT elected and appointed leaders from across the United States and around the world passed an historic resolution in Seattle last month at the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference calling upon "all nations and governments to adopt a vocal, clear and consistent policy on international human rights abuses against LGBT people that includes a call on other countries to abolish sodomy laws."

Attendees from as far away as Sri Lanka and Poland vowed to continue to bring attention to the horrific record of some countries on this issue. For instance:

—There are reports that in Iran more than 4,000 citizens have been executed since 1979 because they are gay or lesbian.

—In Malaysia, "carnal intercourse against the order of nature" is punishable by whipping and up to 20 years in

prison.

—Being gay in Saudi Arabia can lead to jail terms or even beheadings.

The leaders also approved a resolution to "encourage all LGBT legislators and all other LGBT public officials to be open and honest about their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression so that their input on future legislation and proposals will be enhanced by a freedom to share both unique and common professional and personal life experiences with their colleagues and the constituents they represent."

The Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference was presented by the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute in collaboration with the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials.

U.S. Reps. Barney Frank and Tammy Baldwin were among the speakers at the conference.

Germany to Host 2010 Gay Games

Chicago — The Federation of Gay Games announced last month that Cologne, Germany, will be the host city for Gay Games VIII in 2010.

Cologne won the right to host the games at the conclusion of an extensive

bidding process in which Johannesburg and Paris also sought to host the games.

The Gay Games are a quadrennial athletic competition and cultural festival that highlights participation, inclusion and achieving one's personal best while helping to advance the cause of equality for the LGBT community internationally.

The Gay Games was conceived by Tom Waddell, an Olympic decathlete, and was first held in San Francisco in 1982

with 1,350 participants. Subsequent Gay Games were held in Vancouver, New York, Amsterdam and Sydney, Australia.

Gay Games VII will take place in Chicago July 15 to 22 with over 12,000 athletes from more than 100 countries competing in 30 sports. For the first time, the Gay Games will receive widespread television coverage on the Q Television Network.

Stigma Equals Inspiration

By Holly Grey

Camp Heartland, the brain-child of Mequon native Neil Willenson, was created in 1993 to help kids living with AIDS/HIV escape their outsider status and enjoy the simple pleasures of community.

More than just summer camp, Camp Heartland makes life better for these children through year-round support, advocacy, recreational programs and community AIDS/HIV awareness efforts.

But the Camp Heartland experience doesn't stop there. "We assist others who want to start their own AIDS/HIV awareness or support organization. In so many cases we assist them in getting started for free," said Willenson. "We want to collaborate, share our knowledge and assist in any way we can."

Willenson's goodwill spirit of noncompetitive collaboration is going international. Last month, Camp Heartland launched Global Heartland, a project designed to establish collaborative relationships across the world with other AIDS/HIV organizations.

"A research trip to India is scheduled where we hope to learn how we can assist the over five million people living with AIDS/HIV in that country," explained Willenson. "The stigma is as bad there as anywhere. Thirty-six percent of the population in India feels that people infected by AIDS/HIV should kill themselves. In many ways, India's attitude towards people infected with AIDS/HIV now is

like it was here in the United States a few years ago."

Willenson is fully aware how stigma can be used as a powerful tool to isolate as well as a powerful tool to motivate. Stigma was the initial motivator driving Willenson to start Camp Heartland.

In 1991, when Willenson was 20 and a senior at the University of Wisconsin, he was shaken by a headline in his hometown newspaper, "AIDS Hysteria in Mequon," and the story that followed. The article focused on a Nile Wolff, a 5-year-old boy with AIDS who was getting ready to enter kindergarten. According to the story, the people of Mequon, allowing their fears and prejudice about HIV/AIDS to get the better of them, were up in arms about Nile entering school. All Nile wanted to do was go to school.

Willenson was transfixed by this story and felt he had to get involved. For the next two years, he got to know Nile and his family. In 1993, Nile, then 7, shared with Willenson his wish to go to summer camp. It was this wish that inspired Willenson to found Camp Heartland.

Set on 80 acres in Willow River, Minn., Camp Heartland provides children affected by the isolation of AIDS/HIV the opportunity to meet friends and others who know what it feels like to have difficulty making friends. It is a place of love and acceptance, a place where children can talk about their illnesses and experience the joys of being a kid.

What began as Willenson's quest to give Nile a week of summertime fun and friendship, has now become a

year-round community striving to make a lifelong impact on hundreds of children and their families in the United States and, soon, across the globe.

Each year Camp Heartland creates and sells holiday cards as a way to raise funds. This season's festive holiday cards were created by artist Eric Waugh and Camp Heartland campers. "The sale and popularity of these cards has really picked up steam over the last few years," said Willenson. "We typically make around \$10,000 a year selling these cards."

Also on sale as a fundraiser is Willenson's book "A Journey of Hope: Inspiring Stories of Courage and Unconditional Love." The 132-page full-color book features stories, poems and reflections by and about the children of Camp Heartland. It also includes a collection of more than 100 photographs by award-winning photographer Katja Heineman.

The latest statistics on the world epidemic of AIDS and HIV were published by UNAIDS/WHO in December 2004. The report estimates that two million children were living with AIDS/HIV in 2004. At the end of 2003, the Centers for Disease Control estimated that 405,926 people were living with AIDS in the United States; 1,998 of these were children.

It was also reported that young people ages 15 to 24 account for half of all new HIV infections worldwide — more than 6,000 become infected with HIV every day.

MAKE CREAM CITY FOUNDATION A PART OF YOUR LEGACY.

AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER.

This time of year we are inundated by requests from our favorite organizations to make tax deductible gifts before the end of the year. With so many worthy causes it is hard to know where to send your money so that it does the most good or how to best fund strategic future growth. That is why keeping a strong giving strategy that includes planned giving is important.

A charitable gift by bequest is a way for you to make that large contribution you always wanted to give, but were unable to afford during your lifetime.

It is also important to remember that the State of Wisconsin will not recognize your partner, family of choice, friends, or charity of choice without the instructions you leave in your will. It is up to us — as LGBT people to make sure our legacy continues by ensuring organizations we care about are included in our gift planning.

"I want my money to go to an organization like CCF that makes the most of it, and advocates for causes I care about," says Anne Hefter, a lesbian occupational therapist from West Milwaukee.

"Planned giving is important not only from a financial perspective, but as part of the social changes we want to accomplish," said Tim Clark, Treasurer of the Cream City Foundation. "Change takes time, and planned giving is a way to commit our values to a long-term financial strategy that will make a difference in the lives of LGBT individuals. This gives us the power of change."



CCF donor Anne Hefter

Create a Legacy for Future LGBT Generations!

Since 1982, the Cream City Foundation has depended upon visionaries who invest in the strength and future of the LGBT community in Southeastern Wisconsin. Recently the Cream City Foundation established the Legacy Circle Society, which is composed of supporters who believe in our mission and leave a portion of their estates to strengthen the economic security of the LGBT community for years to come.

Maria Cadenas, Executive Director of Cream City Foundation (CCF) says, "Your support through a planned gift to CCF assures continued strategic support to strengthen LGBT communities of tomorrow."

Gift planning is a great way to make a lasting contribution to the

LGBT community while taking advantage of favorable federal and state tax laws. In addition, by supporting the Cream City Foundation you know your funds will only be used to support worthwhile projects and programs that move the community forward.

A legacy gift is a great way to demonstrate your commitment to the LGBT community and can be an effective part of your personal financial planning. Remember that defending LGBT freedoms, equality, and rights requires constant planning, organizing, collaboration, and visibility.

If you have already included Cream City Foundation please call our office at 414.225.0244 to add your name to the Legacy Circle Society.

THANK YOU TRENDSETTERS FOR HELPING CCF IN 2005!

A trendsetter is an individual or organizations who has taken steps to ensure the future success of LGBT communities by investing in our community foundation.

Anonymous	William R. Frank	Daniel P. Lagerman	Tina Owen	Mason Sherwood and Mark Franke
Christopher Ahmuty	Roger A. Gremminger	Karen Lamb	Joseph R. Pabst	Todd M. Siefert
Joseph W. Barbian	Jennifer Gryniowicz	Katherine and Ian Lambert	Leon P. Pascucci	Leonard J. Sobczak
Carl Bogner	Scott Gunkel	Kevin Loos	Queer Life	Carlton D. Stansbury
Jane M. Bowers	David L. Johnson	Jose A. Milan	Gregory S. Porter	Robert Starshak and Ross Draegert
Warren E. Breitlow	Jerry Johnson	Dennis B. Miller	William J. Radler	Chris C. Tam
Maria Cadenas	Timothy R. Kent	Sarah W. Morgan	Ritz, Holman, Butala, Fine LLP	Cindy Taylor
Tim Clark	Marian E. Ketterer	William H. Morley	Tony Rhodes	Gregg A. Vergetis
Terri Coughlin	Gwen Kibbe and Maryrita Hurley	Douglas E. Nelson	Don F. Schwamb	Thomas B. Wilson III
Chris Doerfler	Konrad K. Kuchenbach	Jerrilee O'Malley	Jim Schleif	
Tina P. Flores				

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Your giving today is part of a larger vision for the future. Cream City Foundation, your community philanthropic organization, is needed to encourage programs and organizations that are the foundation of LGBT communities of tomorrow. Make Cream City Foundation a part of your long range plans. For more information visit www.creamcityfoundation.org
315 W. Court St., Suite 201B
Milwaukee, WI 53212 ph: 414-225-0244

How do I make sure CCF gets my assets when I die? *Ways to Plan Ahead*

• **Name the Cream City Foundation in your will:** The most common planned gift is a gift through your will. You can arrange a gift of a specific amount, a percentage, or all or part of the residual of your estate.

• **Beneficiary Designation:** Naming the Cream City Foundation as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy or retirement fund is a simple and effective way to support the future LGBT community. While most

Americans use insurance policies to provide financial security for their loved ones, such policies can also be used to fulfill charitable goals.

You stipulate whether the bequest is for the general support of the Cream City Foundation or for a specific purpose. A bequest may also be made in honor or memory of another individual.

For tax purposes, you should be aware that the Cream City

Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and that all contributions and bequests made to the Cream City Foundation are tax-deductible.

For more information on gift planning and advice, please call Mr. Chris Gawart — an attorney and supporter of our foundation who is willing to talk to anyone who may have planned giving questions. He can be reached at 414-277-5807.

'Holidaze' Art Exhibit and Sale at MGAC

Three Women Artists Featured

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) announces a new art exhibition and sale opening Dec. 10. The show will feature three artists, Elizabeth Brown, Carolyn Snow and Julie A. Steele, presenting their works in diverse media.

Spiritualism and Nature in Metal

Elizabeth Brown creates a broad range of art in media ranging from painted and sculpted gourds, to oil on canvas, to wood carvings, ceramics and jewelry. In this exhibition, Brown showcases her work as a professional metalsmith and jeweler.



Her first artistic expression came as a child sculpting human figures in red Georgia clay. She now devotes her energy to art full time. She follows her bliss at Sage Woman Creations, her home studio in Bay View. Her work is an extension of her spirituality and expresses her love and deep

appreciation of life. Each work of art is unique and awaits connection with just the right owner.

Working in sterling silver and gold, she uses traditional methods such as lost wax casting technique

and hand hammering and chasing to produce a full spectrum of powerful women's jewelry. Each piece is a special creation full of character and nuance.

Brown's inspiration often derives from both ethnic and organic designs. These reflect black American spiritual and cultural influences but with a very personal, contemporary perspective.

Her work appears in collections in France, Greece, the United Kingdom and throughout the United States.

Color and Metaphor

Carolyn Snow recently participated in the MGAC exhibition "Iconography of Identity" with a group of pastels and acrylics. Her style blends and combines the colors of Fauvism with the abstract ambiguity of German Expressionism.

Snow paints in acrylics, often on textured Hardbord. Her works are kinetic and abstract in form. Vivid colors and sensual and powerful metaphoric images of people, places and things capture the viewers' hearts and imaginations.

Here Snow includes a collection of new works on architectural and other subjects.

The Poet's Dance

The dance, specifically the poet's dance, is the theme of the works by Julie A. Steele.

Steele graduated from MIAD in 2004. However, as Steele states, "I am not 21." This exploration of her artistic



self has taken place at a moment of profound change, when according to Steele, "I was in full gear. I was a train wreck so I decided to start over and moved to Milwaukee."

The result of that metamorphosis has allowed Steele to express her identity as a lesbian, which she discovered when she was 12, in her art and poetry. Here, Steele presents the emotion and physicality of the dance as she experiences it with the women in her life. It is a beautiful dance but an easily misunderstood one.

As a woman artist, Steele attempts to provide a glimpse into the multifaceted aspects of the dance: Softness is juxtaposed with roughness, passion with compassion. All of that, and all the rest, contributes to the

pains and joys of growth in the love of women.

Steele defines herself and her work in this context: "I am in touch with the softer side of me. I try to share that in this series. I find myself trying to challenge women to explore who they are, their true self, the all of them. I am fortunate to be able to express myself in my paintings and my poetry. I hope the viewer is reminded of a dance that they once had. With any luck I hope the viewer is in the midst of an amazing dance with all of their heart."

All art works and jewelry items are available for sale.

"Holidaze" opens Saturday, Dec. 10, from 6 to 9 p.m. and runs through Jan. 14. Exhibition hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment. The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 S. 2nd St., just north of National Avenue in Milwaukee's Walker's Point.

Strange and Playful Moments at Performance Art Showcase

By Sura Faraj

The jarring sight of stillness greeted the audience during the half hour "Pre(y)lude" of the Performance Art Showcase presented the evening of Nov. 12 at Vogel Hall. Chicago artist Joseph Ravens, seated on a stool and bent over his own knees, his hands holding an upside-down bowl at his feet, maintained this still posture the entire 30 minutes. He fully engaged many audience members simply by doing nothing, a feat which drew peak attention during the last five to 10 minutes as Ravens' muscle-twitching increased as he attempted to sustain his motionlessness.

The Crow Show and Craving

In his other piece, "Ravenous," we were treated to a delicious dose of intellectual teasing and pleasure, as Ravens, acting the raven, presented us with definitions and displays of insatiability and desire along with compelling and high-contrast visual, audio and movement performance. One hopes that this artist visits Milwaukee more often.

Desire also found a place in pieces by Madison's Tracy Doreen Dietzel who lip-synched "Mountains of Things" by Tracy Chapman and "Constant Craving" by k.d. lang, while gesturing and hula-hooping.

Quirky and mildly freaky would describe her combination of swiveling and lip-synching ("liphoooping") to these songs in front of video clips showing Wal-Mart and other consumer fixations.

Intimacy Explored and Overshot

Poetry slam participants did not quite deliver the engagement of "all your senses" as assured in the program. However, Autumn Blaze, Darlin' Niki, Dan Vaughn and Dasha Kelly moved the audience. All gave up their usual high-energy performances with spirit, getting deep-down intimate and giving us a view into their lives by touching on relationships, self-esteem and loss. Autumn Blaze's performance was most rousing.

On the other hand, getting intimate was not part of "Fash Attack!! Let's Get Intimate," by Lindsay Hayden and Allison Halter, who brought us lust more than intimacy. Sexual references were plenty but lacked subtlety.

Word is that Hayden and Halter composed the music for the show, and although both fashion and music were entertaining, this was more a fun skit than performance art. Unfortunately, the creators gave us a clichéd, overwrought and mildly annoying ending of "straight girls

get gay boys in bed" — all with a limited fashion palette.

Signs, Spinning Balls and Paper Balls

As an Aquarius (the water bearer), Renee Simone Bebeau silently offered up "zodi[agua]rius," the pouring of water in 12 different ways to represent each of the signs of the zodiac. Her presentation (which reminded one of a priest at an altar consecrating the sacrament) included an audio-visual component. Composed by Jeff Cartier, it indulged viewers with the sounds of water and visuals of the zodiac. Bebeau's audience responded to it all, sometimes engrossed in the message she was trying to deliver, sometimes laughing in delight at how well she captured traits.

Special mention goes out to Peter Barrickman and Randy Russell who, in homage to Carter Bryson, constructed a twisted eulogistic disassembly of artistic intent and meaning, and something else, I'm sure.

They were able to harness the brilliance, energy and personalities of a dozen other artists and present them in a spectacle of truth-telling (facts differing depending on who did the telling) and encompassing some of the real lives of these people. I'm sure that, viewed another

two or three times, this particular piece, "The Spinning Rainbow Ball" (what's in a name? I have no idea), would continue to reveal deeper meaning, humor and randomness to delight the playful mind.

Harvey Oppenorth made himself useful by putting the audience to work. His request that everyone crumple an extra piece of paper in the program and throw it on the stage — because he hadn't quite finished his piece — added some delight I'm not sure he anticipated. The sight of hundreds of those crumpled balls landing onstage was memorable. That he used all that paper, carefully swept up to the back of the stage, to construct a giant paper ball which he rolled out onto the stage at the end of the performance was just more tangible evidence of audience participation in this evening.

Don't you just love performance art?

All in all, a job well done. Kudos to associate producer Pegi Taylor, assistant producer John Loscuito, stage manager Maretes Hein, and the Marcus Center for hosting this testament to local talent. Kudos too to all the performers and to the light, sound, and other folks who made a great evening for an appreciative Milwaukee audience.

Lip-Sync Love



Couple

Bios: Joshua D. Schumaker and Tim Krueger live together on Milwaukee's East Side. Tim, 36, has worked for Sears at Southridge Mall for the past 11 years. His hobbies include horror movies, KISS, Star Trek and Star Wars. Joshua, 25, is an amateur actor currently working on the production of "Naked Boys Singing!" at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. He also works at a second-hand furniture store on the South Side. Performances of "Naked Boys Singing!" continue at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center through Dec. 31.

How and where did you meet?

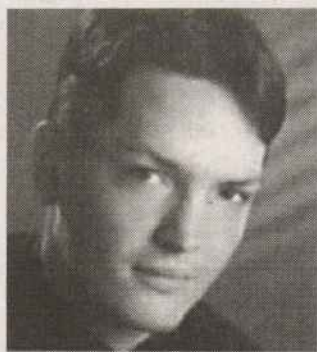
Josh: We met at karaoke. I have my one weekly trip down to Switch for karaoke on Thursday nights. And on this particular night, I had gone down to Switch as usual. It was July 14.

Tim: I remember that night. I had just gotten off work and I wasn't planning on going out, but I was forced to anyway. As soon as I sat down at Switch, my ex-roommate brought this hot looking guy over. I wasn't sure what to think, but, man, he was so hot I figured, what the heck, let's see where it goes.

Josh: That's right, my friend caught up to me in the bar and wanted me to meet his new roommate. So he introduced us. We then spent 45 minutes or so talking at that table. The only interruptions were when I had to get up to sing. After I had finished my last song the three of us decided to go over to Boom for a drink. At Boom, Tim and I spent another hour or so talking on the patio. Neither of us really got

a chance to finish the drinks we had bought because we spent too much time talking. At bar close, Tim drove me home and I got the first of many wonderful kisses good night.

How do you handle fights?



Joshua D. Schumaker

Tim: That's very, very funny! We have not had a real fight yet, but I have learned that I don't win that much with Josh. I do get my way every now and then when he lets me.

Josh: Now that makes me sound like a control freak! I'm not really that bad, but honestly we haven't had any major fights. We have disagreements now and again, but I usually win. I guess Tim's just a pushover, because I'm not that much of a control freak.

What's the biggest difference

between you and your partner?

Josh: You mean other than the 11 years that Tim has on me? Actually that's part of the reason we work so well together. We each grew up in a different decade so we both have our own ways of thinking. We can see the same situation from two different angles and come to almost the same conclusion. Obviously this means we have different tastes in music, movies and things of that nature. But surprisingly, we have quite a bit in common.

Tim: The one thing that differs is that Josh can sing and dance. I have no talents in those areas so he can do all the work, and I can just watch and love him even more.

What are your hopes for this relationship?

Josh: I hope that we are together for a long time. I have not been this happy in a relationship in over five years and I don't ever want this feeling to go away. I love Tim very much and thank God that I've got him almost every single day.

Tim: My biggest hope is to be the best husband I can be to the man of my dreams. Without Josh in my life I know where I would be, and it would be a very dark place. I love him so much that I would never give up on him or us in anyway.

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through the door

sunday - december 25th
Holiday Recovery Party
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saturday - december 31st
New Year's Eve with
dj john murges & other dj's

sunday - january 1st
New Year's Recovery Party
with dj john murges

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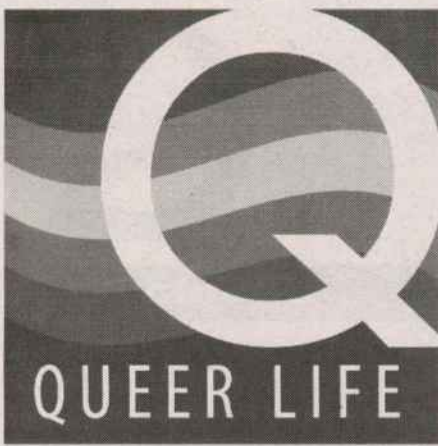
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Q Life is a monthly publication which highlights Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. Each issue contains insightful articles penned by local personalities who are in the know. Available throughout Wisconsin, Q Life fills an information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

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Milwaukee Needs a Leader, Not Just a Good Guy



EDITORIAL

His smile and charm fill a room—even when his audience is less than friendly. And after Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett's latest meeting with the LGBT community at the LGBT Community Center last month, it became clear to us just how Barrett became mayor in the first place. His quick wit and Irish wink made even some angry folks soften immediately. And as the evening went on the mayor had the group eating out of his hand—forgetting why they were there in the first place. That's a good skill for a politician to have.

Rewind to Aug. 18, when the Milwaukee Police Department Vice Squad used a bogus licensing violation to unlawfully close down a gay production of "Naked Boys Singing" at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

Can you say PR nightmare? The city got bashed by the press and finally conceded it was wrong. Police Chief Nan Hegerty and the mayor got pulled into the middle of the melee, each pointing a finger at the other as the person to blame.

And even though the mayor opened the meeting with a statement about how wrong he thought that was, he came short of a formal apology.

That, in itself, isn't a big deal since the city of Milwaukee now faces a \$650,000 discrimination lawsuit backed by the ACLU. Barrett, who is a good lawyer, knows not to admit the city's fault

because that might open taxpayers' wallets even wider.

But it seemed the mayor simply didn't get it. Any of it.

According to the media tracking service hired by the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, hundreds of media reports with potentially more than 10 million readers learned just how discriminatory Milwaukee is.

News of the "Naked Boys Singing" closure was covered coast to coast and even as far away as Thailand.

Folks who once knew us only for bowling, brats and "Laverne & Shirley" now see us as a U.S. city that hates gays. Mr. Mayor, that isn't something to take lightly or to be proud of.

However, Barrett's approach shouldn't be that surprising.

During the meeting we asked him to explain why he had not publicly denounced the continual bigoted, hateful and discriminatory statements

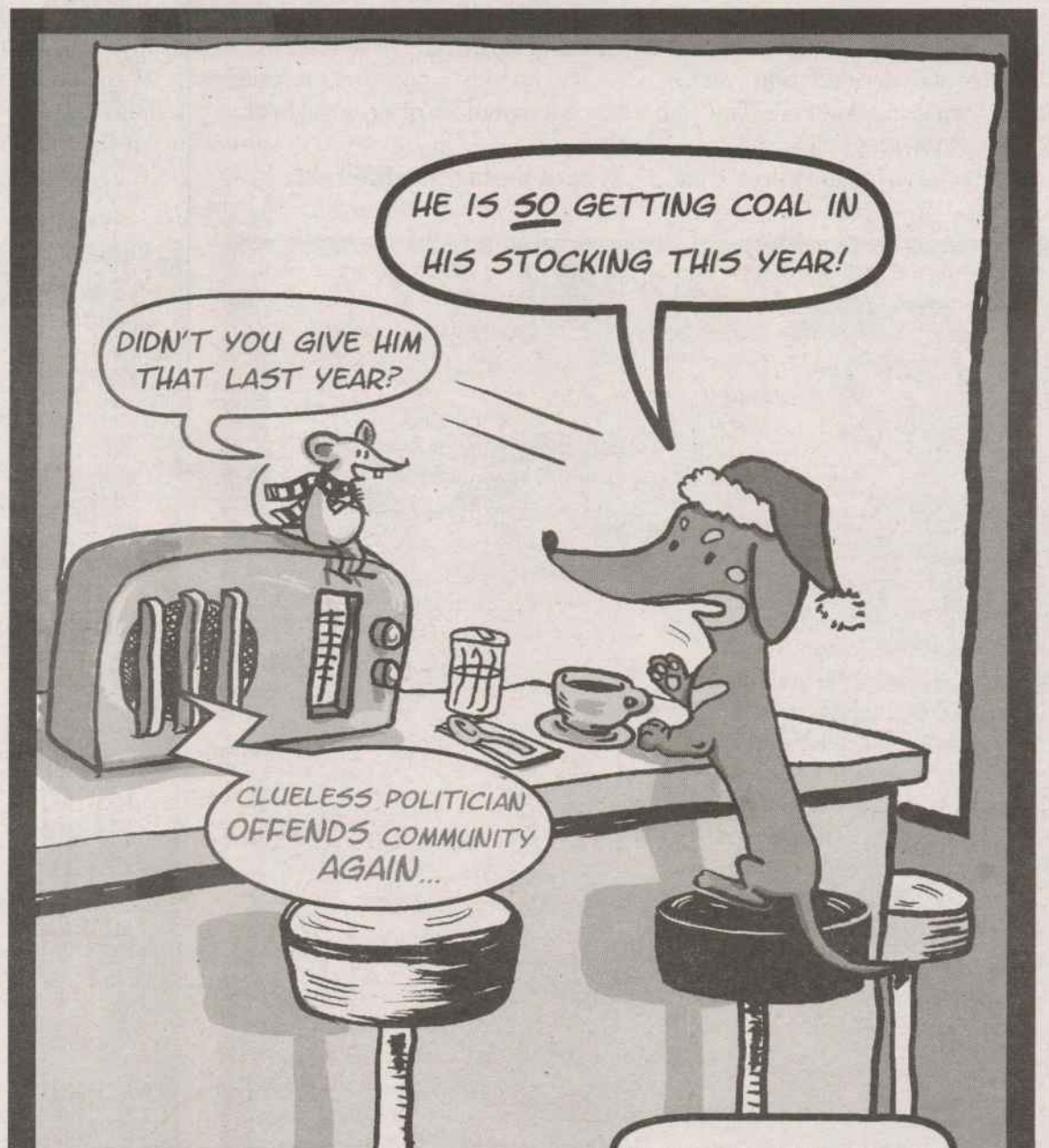
made by Milwaukee Alderman Michael McGee Jr.

Barrett pointed to a statement his office put out immediately following the gay bashing that denounced McGee's comments. But the mayor went on to say, "I didn't want to make a big deal about it."

WHAT?

Barrett contended that coming out against McGee in a public way or demanding that McGee apologize for his sickening remarks would only make the situation worse—or give the "misguided McGee" what he wanted: attention. He might have a point there since it is clear that McGee is an egomaniac who will do anything he can to stay in news headlines—apparently even if it means possibly breaking the law.

continued on page 15



MKE TOONS
©2005 *Chris Beetow*



EDITORIAL *continued from page 14*

But, Mayor Barrett, overall, your being a Mr. Nice Guy simply won't work. You're off base on this and deep down inside you know that.

If a white alderman used the N word to describe Milwaukee residents, my hope is that you would step up to the plate — call a press conference and denounce the hate talk. After all, you're the mayor, you're the face of Milwaukee. We need you to represent this city and not be afraid to let the nice guy image get a little beaten up now and then.

Finally, overall, Mayor Barrett, you are a great supporter of the LGBT community and have been for years. Your voting record (excluding the vote for DOMA) while in Congress proves you're a champion of our causes and our fights. You were the chair of the AIDS Walk this year and you've done a great job of putting gays in top administrative positions in city hall.

But all that doesn't erase these latest missteps.

Tom Barrett, we are proud to call you our friend — but sometimes even friends screw up and need to be told what's right and what's wrong.

If you are listening to a group of people close to you in your administration on how to deal with an issue such as this, we think it is high time you sent them packing.

Deep down inside, many in the LGBT community are disappointed and hurt, but we still hold that it's not your ignorance or naiveté. It might be out-of-touch aides who don't know what a disaster it would be for you to not stand up and denounce hate.

Tom, you're a good, just guy.

You're a man of integrity and show great civil courage.

Please prove to us once again how much the LGBT community means to you — before it's too late and we lose hope for good.

Btw — while it's impressive that staff leaders at the LGBT Community Center had the moxie to get the mayor to come and talk directly to our community, it was a little bit distracting to watch them stumble over each other, racing for photo ops with the mayor. Sometimes restraint works better than outright geyser gushing when it means getting a leader to understand your point of view.

Also interesting: Mayor Barrett's most visible out gay appointee, Neil Albrecht, former director of the LGBT Community Center was absent when his new boss came to the center. Neil, we wish you had been there to share your vast knowledge and ask some of the same tough questions you posed to the police chief when she visited. Maybe the mayor had you doing something more substantial that night. When asked by Q Life why he wasn't there Albrecht was concise: "It was my personal choice." Hmmm.

A Bigot Paid with Our Tax Dollars

How odd and ironic it was to see one of Wisconsin's biggest bigots and hate mongers marching with his band of brothers for justice and equality. The man: homophobic Alderman Michael McGee Jr. The place: Wauwatosa, Wis.

Unless you're living under a rock, you must have heard how this hateful media gadfly was hard at work once again, spinning the media and making headlines. That is exactly what he likes to do — and so many buy into it.

Now before we go any further: If McGee was the subject of racial profiling in Wauwatosa during the latest Blockbuster Video parking lot fiasco (see our cover story), he has every right to be disturbed. We must all be disturbed because there is absolutely no place for this type of behavior in our society.

The problem is this: McGee is in no position to call anyone else a racist; he lives his life as an openly gay-hating and gay-bashing Milwaukee alderman who uses every opportunity to steal the spotlight and continue his anti-gay rants. And it appears he doesn't only share them with adults: He has now decided to show just how much of a civic role model he is by not only trying to poison those who should know better, but by trying to influence youngsters' impressions of the world we live in. Maybe that's because those adults smart enough to see just how low McGee will go for his 15 minutes of fame aren't filling his egotistical needs anymore and he must now resort to directing his hateful speech at high school students. If this is not a man with several issues and lot of baggage, we don't know who is. Can you say way over the legal flying limit?

The bottom line on this entire issue is the same as it was back in spring when, during the Justice for Jude demonstrations against MPD brutality, homophobe McGee first spread his venom and referred to the abusive police as nothing but "faggots" who wanted to pull down the pants of their victim, Jude.

McGee is a hateful, mean-spirited man with little vision for his district. His hate talk continues to put a black eye on the city of Milwaukee, and his apparent interest in demeaning youngsters is appalling and indefensible. He's a bully on a mission — and because he's allowed to do and say whatever he wants, he'll continue to use his job, paid for with taxpayers' dollars, as the stage for his show. It appears that he'll stop at no cost and has effectively muzzled the city's entire leadership circle, which does not respond to his asinine and damaging behavior. The only one that isn't afraid of McGee seems to be McGee himself.

Unless that's why he's so homophobic in the first place.

Dear Editor:

Your editorial critique of Action Wisconsin's search for a campaign director was unfair — unfair and misinformed. Perhaps you might consider focusing your efforts on defeating the ban instead of attacking our community leaders. I'm sure you won't print this letter. My guess is that you are a misinformed coward with a personal agenda.

Ming Yang
Madison

**Letters to the Editor****History Is Not Events, It's People****HISTORY**

Don Schwamb has been active in the LGBT community since the early 1970s. He has served as president of CCF and GAMMA, vice president of ARCW, and in many other roles in other organizations. The LGBT history Web site, mkelgbthist.org, is Don's passion today, consuming much of his spare time.

Past articles in this series have discussed particular organizations and movements in the history of the LGBT community in Milwaukee and Wisconsin, and we'll do more of that in the future. But for the next few articles, we'll look at some other aspects of LGBT history.

The Milwaukee LGBT History Project was formed three years ago and brought together a diverse group of people interested in preserving the history of LGBT life in the area. The group's preliminary focus was to conduct oral interviews of people who helped shape Milwaukee's LGBT community; those interviews were summarized and displayed at subsequent PrideFests.

While oral interviews continue to be one focus of the group, members of the History Project have embarked on new projects. At last year's PrideFest, a timeline displayed at the history exhibit was a huge hit viewed by over 350 people, many of whom added their own recollections to the chart.

The popularity of the timeline, which can be viewed at mkelgbthist.org, illustrates that it is people like all of you who make and live history. We each hold memories of "what was" in the past, and as we go about our daily lives as LGBT people, we are creating what will become history. Each time we patronize a gay business, attend an LGBT event, or participate in an organization, we are creating what will become history. Just five or 10 years from now, people will look back and think about how important a certain meeting

was, how popular a particular PrideFest or bar was, how much fun an organization was, how pivotal a play or other event was — because what each of us individually decides to do combines to make an "event."

But even as we are creating future history, we must be careful not to let the past slip away. Hundreds of you have things stuffed away in closets (pardon the pun) and attics that the History Project wants to see. Past issues of GPU News, ACT UP newsletters or fliers, photographs of events or the interiors of old bars — in many cases, these are all but lost.

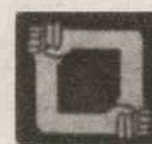
If you have anything at all from Wisconsin's LGBT past that's more than 10 years old — let us know! We will scan or photograph and return anything we don't already have access to. Photographs of softball teams, pageants or leather runs, organization meetings, bars, events of any kind; newsletters or other items from organizations; memorabilia such as T-shirts or buttons; programs from plays or chorus performances — anything! And especially any publications from before 1980: Milwaukee Calendars, RAGG, etc. — all are rare and virtually inaccessible today. Please contact us at the e-mail address on mkelgbthist.org and offer to let us see what you have.

(And when the time comes that you want someone to take historical materials off your hands, we can accept your items into the permanent archives of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to better document LGBT history in Wisconsin.)

In the meantime, get out there and enjoy Wisconsin's diverse LGBT community. Make history!

Puzzler of the Month

Can you identify either of the two logos displayed here? Each was a prominent symbol of a particular business or organization in Wisconsin's LGBT past. Tell us what you know about either one, and we'll feature some of your comments and recollections in a future article.





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Yuletide Balls

Once again, sports fans, the cold weather is upon us. Although the Packers do not seem to be going to the playoffs, there is still some hot action going on in your local Milwaukee bars and on the lanes in West Allis.

Bowling

The board members of H.I.T. once again put on their high heels and ran a great H.I.T 27. The games were all held at AMF Bolero in West Allis. A great opening night celebration was held at the Room/Boom and once again the banquet was held at Potawatami Bingo. Look in this publication for results of H.I.T 27 next month.

Some exciting news happened last month during the Sunday Night Best'D Clinic Bowling League. John Malinger bowled a 299 AMF Bolero in West Allis. Nicely done, John!

The Monday Nite Irregulars League is also in the meat of their season with the Fluid She Devils taking the lead in the standings as of mid-November. This team, consisting of Bill Buresh, Rick Harrelson, Mark Groth and Del Thacker and subs Jeff Genevose and Doug Oetzel, is amazing to watch as they have a 58 handicap. Second place is currently a dog fight (or should I say turkey fight?) among the Desperate Bowlers, LaCage, Pin Pricks and Boom.

Basketball and Volleyball

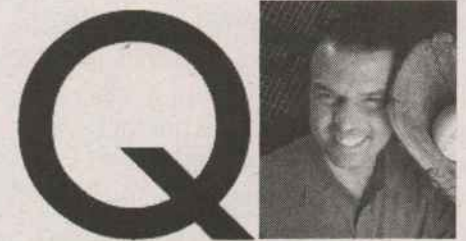
There has been interest in, not one, but two new sports that are trying to get a footing in Milwaukee. Eric Van Egeren is leading the way to put together a basketball team that will compete on Saturdays during the winter in Chicago in the gay basketball league. Please contact him at evanegg01@aol.com.

Plans are also underway to form a gay volleyball league in Milwaukee. Volleyball is not new to Milwaukee. Back in the 1980s, the Saturday Volleyball League was formed and competed for a couple of years. GAMMA has also been involved throughout the years in hosting volleyball events and tournaments.

A group of people headed by Lamonte Cook and Brian Reinkober is forming a "new" gay volleyball league. Games would be played, starting in spring, at a very familiar sand pit in Walker's Pint. If interested, please send an e-mail with your name, phone number and ability and you will be contacted in the upcoming months. Also look for informational fliers in your local bars in the upcoming weeks.

Softball

Plans are already in the works for SSBL's 2006 season. This year promises some exciting things that will



SPORTS

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

enhance the softball experience. One of the big things is that SSBL is trying to bring back a women's division. All interested women should contact SSBL at women@ssblmilwaukee.com to get more information.

Milwaukee and Madison are seriously thinking of bidding for the Gay World Series 2008 which would take place in August. This cannot happen without ground support from our city and our league. This will take many volunteers, but your board is committed to bringing the Gay World Series back home. You will soon be able to see the logo and the tag line to show your support and "back the bid" for Milwaukee and Madison to bring this tournament home.

That's it for now, sports fans. Here's wishing all of you a very joyous and prosperous holiday season!



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Outwords Books

'Top-5 Picks for December'

The Very Best DVD Releases from the Past 12 Months!

Exclusive to Q Life.

FOR THE GIRLS:

- 1. D.E.B.S.** Sultry crime boss Lucy Diamond (Jordana Brewster) is back and the D.E.B.S., an elite team of paramilitary college coed superspies, are hot on her trail. "D.E.B.S." is a smart and sexy spy spoof about love at first gun sight.
- 2. Fingersmith.** The lives of two young women collide in this excellent film adaptation of Sarah Waters' engrossing Victorian thriller that alternates between the twisting back alleyways of Dickensian London and the cloistered gloom of a Gothic mansion.
- 3. Goldfish Memory.** A very queer Dublin shines in this refreshing comedy-drama about a group of young people navigating the turbulent waters of romance. A sexy and fun Gaelic romp that features lesbian, bisexual and gay characters.
- 4. Round Trip.** Shahar Rozen's powerful drama tells a simple story of the budding love between a 40-year-old Israeli mother of two and the beautiful African woman hired to be her children's nanny.
- 5. Girl Play.** When Gabriel (Dom Deluise) casts Robin and Lacie to play lesbian lovers in his latest production, he unwittingly sets in motion a true-life lesbian romance.

FOR THE BOYS:

- 1. Eating Out.** This winning gay screwball romantic comedy stars sexy Ryan "Desperate Housewives" Carnes and former American Idol Jim Verraros.
- 2. Mysterious Skin.** A hit at this year's Milwaukee LGBT Film Fest, "Mysterious Skin" returns director Greg Araki to the forefront of queer filmmakers. Based on Scott Heim's poignant novel.
- 3. Just a Question of Love.** French director Christian Faure offers the year's best gay love story as out and proud Cédric (Gallic hunk Stephan Guerin-Tillie) falls for cute, closeted student Laurent (Cyrille Thouvenin).
- 4. Brother to Brother.** Combining an intensely sexual and dramatic story that takes place now with a memory film-within-a-film set in 1930s Harlem, "Brother to Brother" is an extraordinarily original and ambitious LGBT film.
- 5. Touch of Pink.** Funny and romantic, "Touch of Pink" offers Alim (Jimi Mistry) as a partnered gay man who — with not always helpful advice from the ghost of Cary Grant — tries to play it straight when his traditional South Asian mother visits.

Battling the Bulge

You may be eating better and not even know it.

As shocking rates of overweight and obesity in the U.S. continue to make headlines, a number of major food companies have been reducing fats, sugars and salts in the foods they produce, most notably Nestle and Kraft. (Due to changes in its formulation, Hershey's dark chocolate is actually kind of good for you.) General Mills has begun using whole grains in its cereals, leaving behind the empty calories of their overprocessed white-flour versions.

But if you're locked in a lifelong struggle with the scale, this may not be enough. Women, particularly women of color and lesbians, are susceptible to excess weight. For example, the Centers for Disease Control estimate that 78 percent of African-American women are overweight (with a body mass index, or BMI, over 25) and 50 percent are obese (BMI over 30). But ever-changing dietary fads, contradictory research findings and the time crunches of everyday life make it almost impossible to figure out what to do about it.

First, calculate your body mass index to see what category you fall in. Take your

weight in pounds, divide it by your height in inches squared (for example, for a 5'2" person that would be 62 inches times 62 inches), and then multiply the total by 703.

A number over 25 is a warning signal, over 30 is a concern and over 40 puts you in the category of life-threatening obesity. If your weight tends to concentrate around your waist, you have an additional risk of heart problems.

If your BMI is too high for your own good, take a few steps to drop 10 to 20 pounds. Even small losses make a big difference to your health. Your blood pressure decreases, your cholesterol generally improves and you lessen the risk of Type 2 diabetes with lower glucose (sugar) levels in your blood. Here are some quick tips to start you on the right path:

Cut back on dietary fat and sugars. It will help both weight and heart health. Fat-free foods often sneak in sugar to improve taste, so check labels carefully. Avoid such ingredients as partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, shortening, palm oil or high-fructose corn syrup, or any product where more than 30 percent of calories come from fat. (And if you



LESBIAN HEALTH

by Kathy Herbst and Lesley Salas

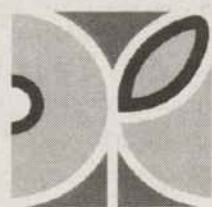
eat a whole bag of sugar-free SnackWells in one sitting, you've really defeated the purpose.)

Watch what you drink, as well as eat. Carbonated beverages can be laden with sugar, and even the diet ones tend to leach the calcium out of your bones. Large quantities of fruit juice can also defeat a diet. And the alcoholic beverages that seem to be everywhere this time of year are full of empty calories.

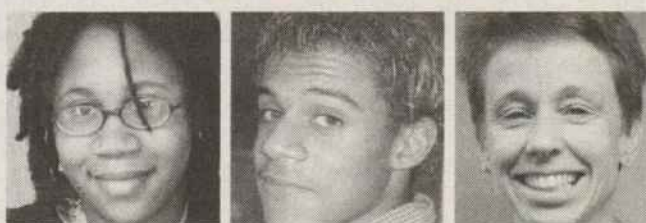
Stop "thinking fat." If you have a sedentary lifestyle, squeeze half an hour of walking into your day. Change unhelpful attitudes or beliefs about yourself and your body. Instead, set realistic weight-loss goals and congratulate yourself for small victories. Find friends who will reinforce the "new you." Even if a health condition or slow metabolism keeps you overweight, improved exercise and diet will make you look and feel better.

Make it easy on yourself. Eat at specific times and places to reduce the temptation to snack. Smaller plates will help you control your portions. Go food shopping when you're not hungry, and lay out your exercise clothes as a reminder to get moving.

(In the interest of full disclosure, Lesley Salas currently has a BMI of 39. Stay tuned as our heroine tries to lower this number during the trying holiday season.)



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Capitol News

Salutations from Madison, where the queers are busy and the legislature is nervous.

The Dane County LGBT Domestic Violence Committee is looking for participants for a series of discussions on healthy LGBT relationships. The committee will provide training to individuals who are interested in hosting a discussion among their friends, and committee members will attend or not as you prefer. Call Harry at 608-255-8582 or e-mail him at programs@outreachinc.com.

Harry is also the person to confirm the date for an OutReach inservice on domestic violence and sexual assault, tentatively scheduled for Dec. 10 from noon to 2 p.m. Thirteen people attended the Oct. 22 inservice on hate crimes, featuring Madison police detective Alix Olson and Bonnie Augusta of the Madison School District.

Dec. 1 was World AIDS Day, and organizers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison put together a busy schedule of events including a UNICEF documentary entitled "Zimbabwe" followed by a panel discussion, a candlelight vigil on library mall, a short play about HIV and a condom bar crawl(!).

We already know what everyone in

Madison and South Central Wisconsin is doing for New Year's Eve: The Final Pink Party! Yes, you read that right, after 10 glorious years, the Pink Party will retire on its 11th birthday, early in the morning on Jan. 1, 2006. Keep your eyes peeled for more details about the queerest New Year's Eve blowout in the state — in the entire Midwest, even.

The first-ever UW System LGBT Research Symposium was a huge success. Faculty, graduate students and undergraduates from almost every UW System campus converged on the Humanities Building in Madison on Nov. 4 and 5 to learn about saying "queer" in French, anti-gay Web sites, and litigation on lesbian/gay civil rights issues in federal courts, among many other topics. The staff of the LGBT Campus Center at UW-Madison deserves a big round of applause for putting together a fascinating event.

Action Wisconsin's new office was the place to be Nov. 7 — exactly one year before election day 2006, when the state constitutional amendment to ban civil unions and marriages for same-sex couples will probably be on the ballot. Action Wisconsin has added so many new staff that they moved yet again, this time to a larger space in the same building on State Street where they were



MADISON

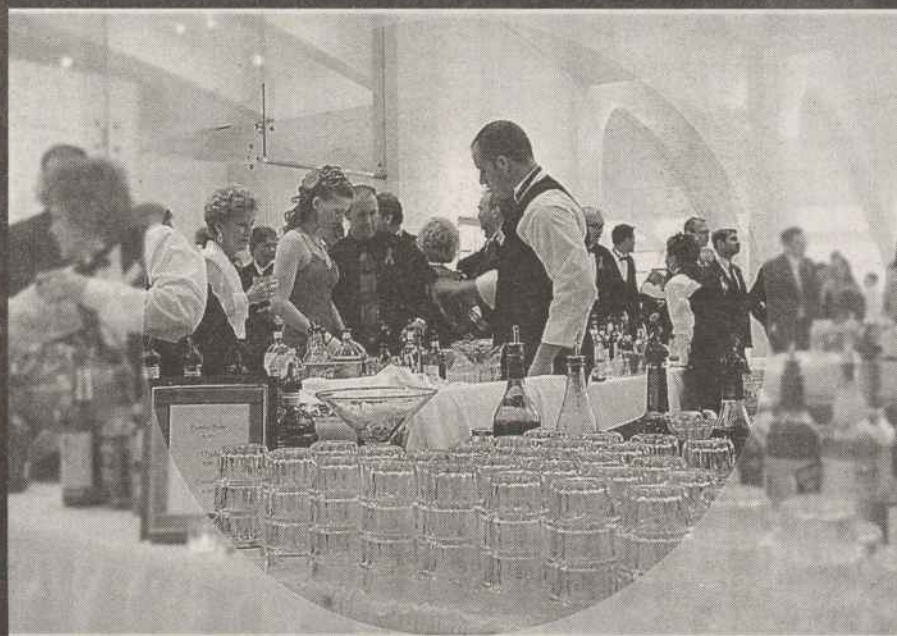
Bill Turner is president of the OutReach board of directors in Madison.

before. AW Executive Director Chris Ott and other staff members ate cake and hobnobbed with volunteers. Openly gay state legislator Mark Pocan was among the attendees.

Madison's celebration of the seventh annual International Transgender Day of Remembrance took place Nov. 20 at the Memorial Union on the UW campus. Featured speakers included U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, Dane County Supervisor Kyle Richmond, Madison City Councilman Michael Verveer, local gender therapist Sue Gill, police detective Alix Olson, and statewide transgender activists Laura Gutknecht and Ann Marie Knittel. The local youth group Proud Theater performed and read names of transgendered persons who have died from violent hostility to their gender identities. Sponsors include UW's LGBT Campus Center, Wisconsin Group Working for Equality, the Madison Area Transgender Association, and OutReach.

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MELODY CARRANZA PHOTOGRAPHY



EVENT AND EDITORIAL

melodycarranza.com

LAMM Responds to UWM Post's Sterotyping of Lesbians

By William Duane

What constitutes stereotyping of LGBT issues in the press if not the "framing" of certain issues in specific ways?

This is the question hanging in the balance in a dispute that has erupted between the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM), the largest local LGBT organization, and the UWM Post, the main news source on campus at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The issue started when the Post ran a series on gay men titled "Being Queer in Milwaukee," and LAMM wrote a letter to the editors pointing out that there was no lesbian representation in the piece.

LAMM board member Jennifer Durnall contacted Post writer Diego Costa to offer information for further stories about lesbian issues. In an open letter to the Post expressing LAMM's displeasure with the stories that eventually appeared, LAMM Chair Maria Cadenas wrote that LAMM worked with Costa to "ensure that the UWM Post would focus on awareness, education, and on telling the truth about lesbian lives and experiences." Durnall provided what she thought would be a number of facts and useful sources.

But in the series of articles that appeared in the Post Oct. 26 under the title "Lesbians Inside," what Durnall and others at LAMM say readers found was a sensationalistic attempt to appeal to straight male readers by sexualizing lesbians. In pieces like "Lesbian Fantasy for the Straight Male Gaze" and "The Semantics of Lesbian Porn," complete with photos of scantily clad women, Durnall says, "The framing of the articles was not what we

had discussed" with Costa.

"It was not raising awareness, not informative," Durnall says. "A few things got in, but they were framed with naked women."

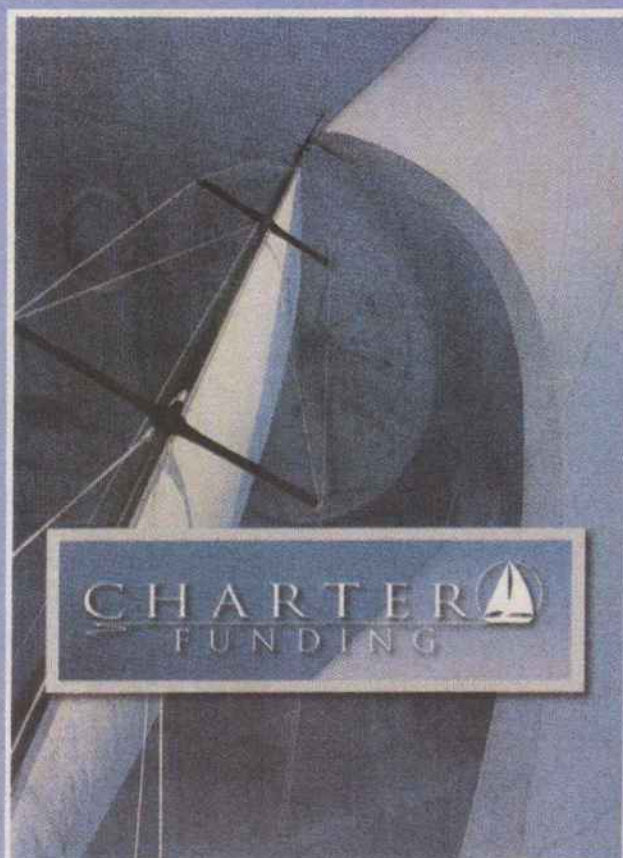
Costa says that he is "very pleased" with the articles. Responding to the charge of sensationalism, he says that he "brainstormed" with a colleague about the content of the pieces. "There are a million ways you can go about it," he said.

Perhaps comparable to the framing of gay men as weak and unappealing, the oversexualizing of lesbians has been a familiar staple of mainstream media for decades. But when asked about this, Costa simply repeated his statement that there are a "million ways" to cover the issues. Durnall and others at LAMM wonder why this particular and familiar way of framing lesbians was the one chosen.

But Durnall says she wasn't completely surprised. When she first contacted Costa about the "Queer in Milwaukee" series not containing any coverage of lesbian issues, she says that he told her he "thought this might happen." Durnall maintains that Costa, while not entirely dismissive of LAMM's and the lesbian community's concerns, was never focused on them.

While not responding directly to criticisms of the framing or content of the "Lesbians Inside" series, Costa admits, "Maybe they didn't speak to the things that LAMM wanted [covered]." Then why speak with them? He says that they were just "one source" among many.

But Durnall doesn't buy it. She says, "We had some inkling he might take a sexual angle ... portraying lesbians as sexual, as fantasy for the male gaze." And so the title reads.




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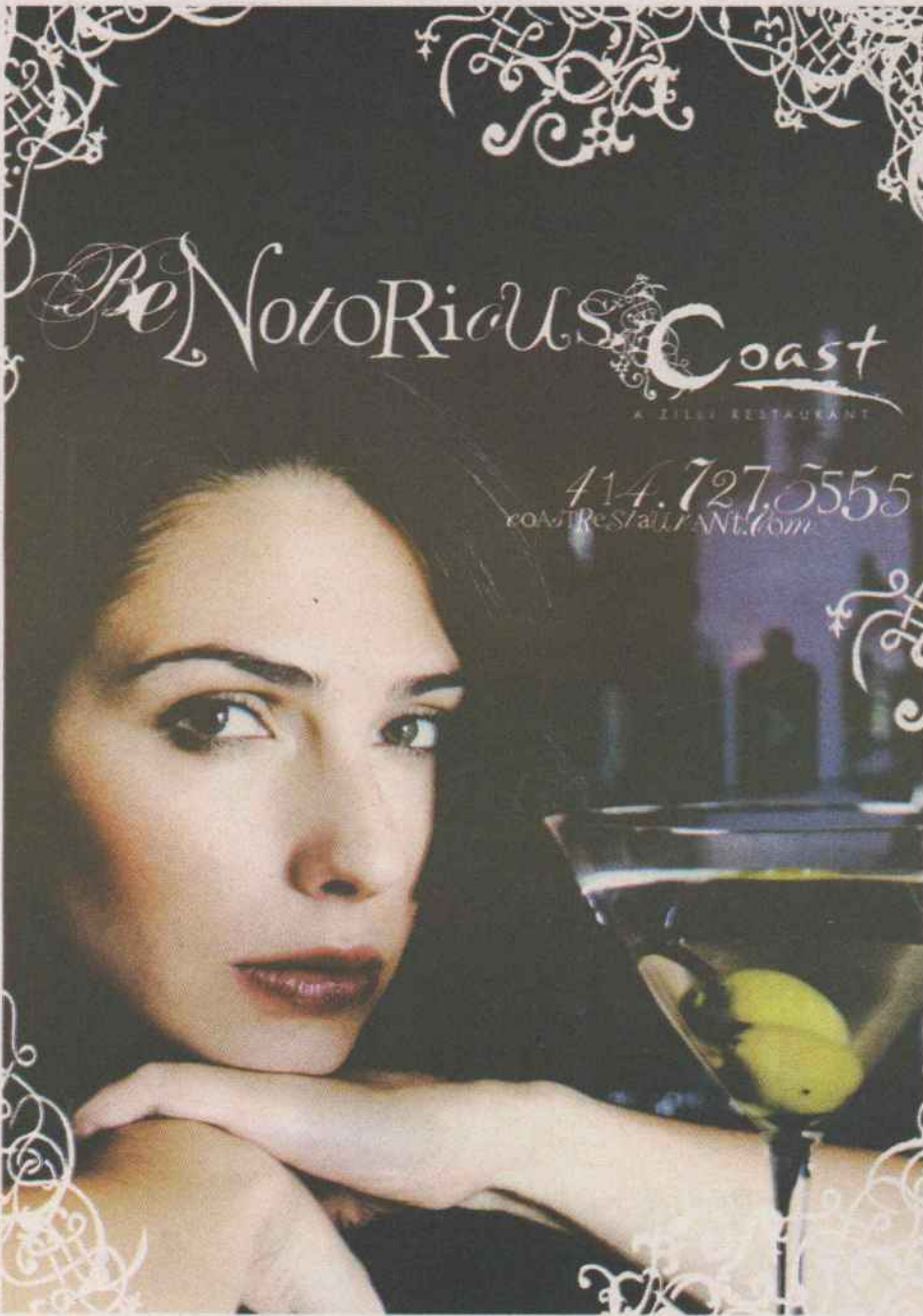



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A Family of Blessings

The family of Jesus is perhaps history's most famous adoptive family. We often overlook this in the story of Jesus' miraculous birth among the animals in the barn. But if we pay attention to the Christmas story it emerges that Joseph adopted him.

Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married when they both had unusual experiences. Mary was visited by an angel, who told her she would bear a child. So Mary was engaged to be married while she carried someone else's child.

Joseph, aware that he was not the father, planned to break off the engagement. But then in a dream he learned that Mary's pregnancy was from God. Joseph reconciled himself to this knowledge and raised Jesus as his own son.

Christian scripture connects Jesus to the lineage of the ancient King David through Joseph. This is a sign of how permanent the bonds of adoption become. Jesus was fully Joseph's son, not by blood and bone but by love and tears.

As Joseph learned with Jesus, adoption is a great way to form a family. My partner and I had long desired to have children. One night



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.

we were with some friends, a straight couple from our church, when we all started talking about what we would regret never doing in our lives. I said immediately, "Being a father." Our friends looked at us and said, "You can do that; you can adopt."

We found out that we could adopt. We eventually adopted two babies from Guatemala, our sons Tomas and David. And like Joseph, we saw our dream come true.

Now sometimes when I'm out with my children I'll be asked, "Are they brothers?" I know the person is trying to ask if they are biological brothers. But I answer, "Yes, they are both my adopted children; we're a family, and they are brothers though

they are not biologically related."

People need to learn that family is about more than blood and bone, it is about love and tears. Certainly those of us in the LGBT community already know this. Some of us have experienced exclusion from our "blood" relatives, but have found new relations in a family of friends. Perhaps this intimate knowledge that family can be built on love is why so many LGBT couples are open to adoption.

It may also be why organizations like Lutheran Social Services of Milwaukee are looking for LGBT couples to adopt and provide foster care for children. We get that family is more than blood.

If you dream of adopting or providing foster care for a child, you might start by calling Molly Herrington at Lutheran Social Services (414-304-3638) or the Special Needs Adoption Center (414-475-1246).

Remember, adoption is not just about having a child; it's a spiritual journey. In the case of my family, it brought us closer to Mary, Joseph and Jesus, the most famous adoptive family.

At Christmas time, when I watch the pageant in my congregation and see nativity scenes around the city, I always watch Joseph. I know why he looks so proud of his new son, Jesus.

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Cream City Review has reinvented itself again and again, distilling the cultural pulse of American literary life, concocting for us a most wicked Midwestern brew. — Timothy Liu

Beginnings, Middles and Endings

November was a milestone for many causes. In some places, a long cause was ending. Mainers voted at long last in a referendum to keep their nondiscrimination law covering LGBT citizens.

Pat Peard, a long-time leader with Maine Won't Discriminate (MWD), the pro-LGBT campaign, told an ecstatic crowd at the victory party, "After 28 years, it's over, you guys. We won," according to the Portland Press Herald.

Indeed, the first bill to protect against anti-gay discrimination in Maine was proposed in the 1970s. Year after year, equal rights activists kept up the fight, at times winning in the legislature only to have voters twice repeal the nondiscrimination law.

Victory in November 2005 for MWD campaign manager Jesse Connolly meant something more than a resume boost leading to bigger and better campaign jobs — Jesse's late father was one of the Maine legislators who first proposed banning anti-gay discrimination nearly three decades earlier, and the hard work of the campaign was a way of honoring his dad's legacy.

In Texas, the quick and anguished debate over marriage equality was ending, too, albeit without the happy ending in Maine. The Texans who could be bothered to get to the polls in this otherwise sleepy, low-turnout election voted by a 3-1 margin to ban civil unions, domestic partnerships and marriage for lesbian and gay couples. KKK and megachurch rallies apparently gave yes voters the moral courage to mess

with Texas queers.

Such a resounding loss is hard to take, especially when leaders of the Yes campaign have already announced that they will move to ban gays and lesbians from adoption, taking children away from the only parents they have known.

Texas Rep. Warren Chisum, sponsor of the constitutional ban, is also moving on to a new hobby with his supporters — ending Texas' no-fault divorce laws. Apparently Chisum thinks it's too easy for an abused woman to leave her man in Texas and wants spouses to go back to the days when ending a bad marriage meant proving in court that one of the parties committed adultery or stopped giving it up on demand. That'll be character building for the kids!

In Wisconsin, November was more of a middle marker. Republican scorched-earthers Rep. Mark Gundrum and Sen. Scott Fitzgerald announced what Action Wisconsin's Josh Freker dubbed a "Thanksgiving Gotcha," with their sudden resurrection of Wisconsin's proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and gay marriage.

Following a week of bad press, including editorials against the ban from the Capitol Times and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Batman and Robin of Wisconsin's anti-gay movement moved quickly to pressure their legislative colleagues to sign on as co-sponsors.

The next step will be a public hearing, most likely before the Wisconsin Senate Judiciary Committee, and then a vote in

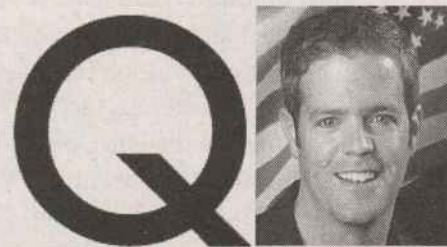
both houses, with a simple majority (no possibility of a gubernatorial veto) moving the issue forward for a showdown. This second legislative vote (the first passed in March 2004) would be the middle step of a three-step process to put discrimination in the constitution, with the third and final step requiring that state voters approve the ban in a November 2006 referendum.

The No on the Amendment effort, co-led by Action Wisconsin and Center Advocates, is working smart and hard to defeat the ban and deprive the Family Research Institute types of the blood in the water the Texas loss created.

The campaign has made some real progress, already identifying, a year out, more than three-fourths the number of "no" voters that the Oregon campaign (the closest campaign we came to winning) found by election day.

More importantly, Wisconsin is the first No campaign to hire an experienced campaign manager a year out from election day. Mike Tate, well-connected in the state and former Deputy State Director for the \$5 million America Coming Together Wisconsin operation last year, is taking the reigns of a unified campaign.

The Wisconsin campaign has also launched a Web site, for now at www.actionwisconsin.org/amendment, and is aggressively fundraising to avoid the on-the-cheap Texas results (professionals suggest a campaign budget of roughly \$500,000 per congressional district; a well-run campaign in a state like Texas, with 32 congressional



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.

seats, would cost about \$16 million, far more than the \$268,000 the Texas No campaign had raised a week short of election day). National organizations, from the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, to HRC, to the ACLU, have visited Wisconsin and, while there are mountains to be moved, they like what they see.

There were other markers in November as well. With the only two gubernatorial races going to Democrats, Arnold Schwarzenegger's ballot initiatives rejected by voters as coldly as he rejected gay marriage, anti-evolution school board members booted out in Pennsylvania, and Federal Marriage Amendment proponent George Bush's poll numbers at all-time lows, it looks like it may be the beginning of the end for right-wing imperiousness.

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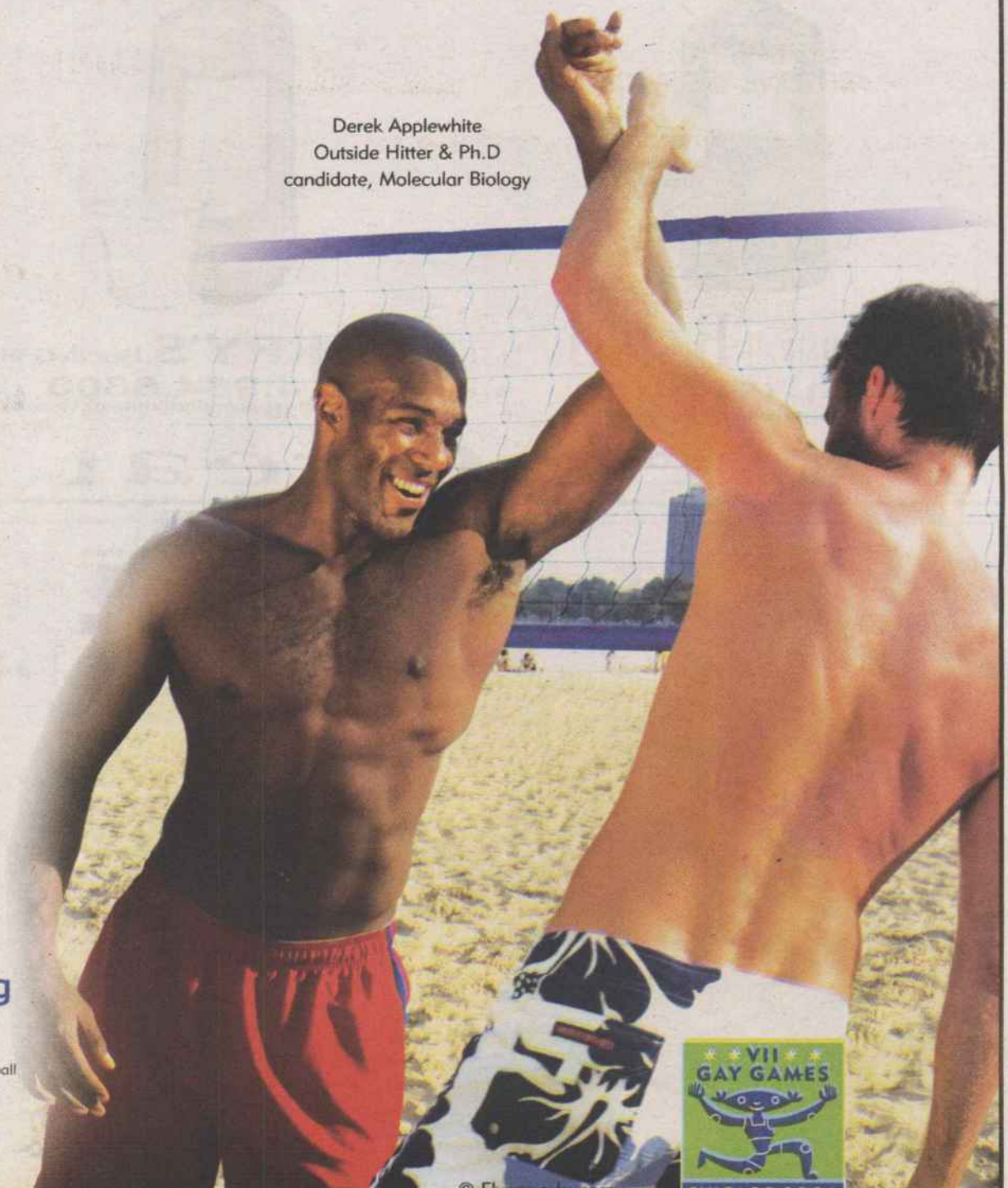
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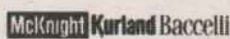
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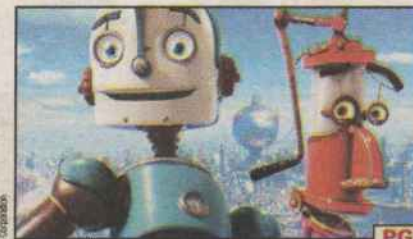
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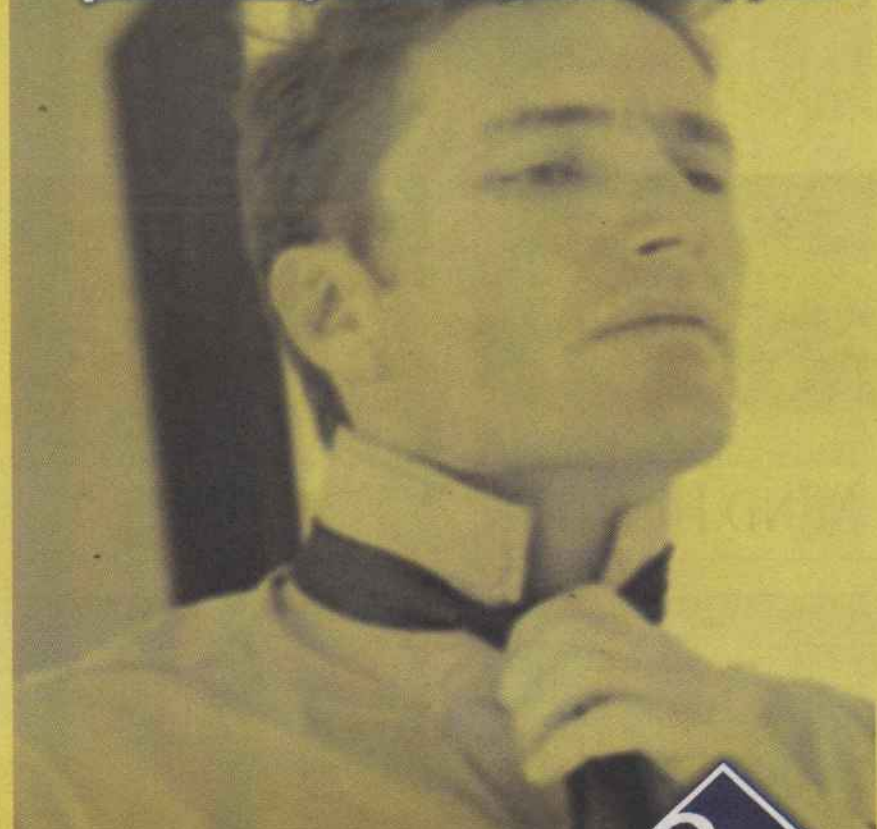
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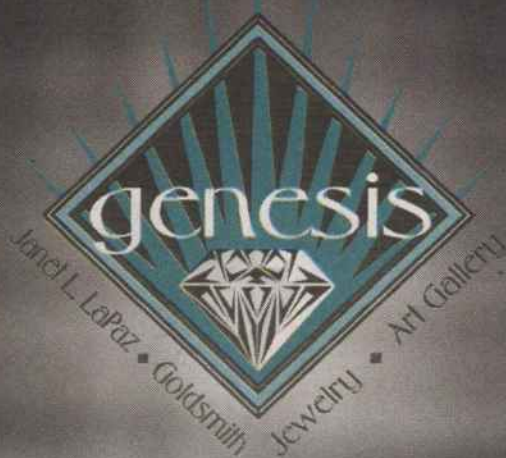


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It's a Wrap

The season is coming wrappedly upon us when we present our families and friends with gifts in celebration of December holidays. The presentation of these goodies usually involves the pleasure, for some, or the nightmare, for others, of gift wrapping. For the former group, I offer some suggestions on how to enhance your wrapping pleasure; for the latter, some ideas on how to simplify your chore.

One of the greatest boons for simplifying gift wrapping is the abundance of gift bags. They are available in any price range; in plastic, paper or fabric; and in many shapes and sizes. It's a cinch to pop a gift into one of these bags, then tape or tie it closed or cover the gift with tissue paper.

For an unusually large gift, a newly decorated room, say, all you need to do is tape a great big bow across the doorway. Or use ribbon, pretty string or yarn to lead the way to a gift that can't be wrapped — a car, pet, plant etc. Use a card to inform the recipient of where the trail starts.

In some Asian and African countries the custom for presentations is to wrap the object in fabric — sometimes made into bags, sometimes just as a length of yard goods, like a scarf. The Chinese are the masters of presentation with beautiful boxes specifically designed to hold objects. They are usually covered with brocade with lovely closures and are great for storing or

displaying their contents.

Making your own wrapping paper can be a fun family activity or a way to satisfy your creative muse. Plain newsprint, shelf paper or even fabrics can be painted, block-printed or written on. Decorate unadorned gift tags and envelopes to coordinate with the paper or use them separately.

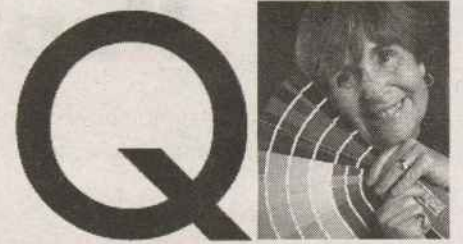
The very young can be assisted in cutting designs on potatoes and then dipping them in paint or inking them on stamp pads to create patterns on paper or fabric. Stamps, stickers, seals, colored pens and glitter are available commercially to personalize gift wrap.

Remember the surprise balls from when you were a kid? You might want to create something like them with small gift items. Wrap and roll small items in a continuous length of crepe paper streamer to make your own surprise ball.

Or fool the recipient of a small gift by wrapping it a number of times. For example, wrap a small square box, perhaps with a ring or other piece of jewelry inside it, then place it in a larger box, wrap that, and place it in a still larger box, so that the new owner has no clue what's inside.

Other ideas:

- Tie packages with two or



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.

more ribbons, raffia, cords or yarn of different widths, textures or colors.

- Tie ornaments, bells, key chains etc. on packages.
 - Hang decorated envelopes containing gift certificates, cash or IOUs on a Christmas tree, or prop them against a coffee cup, on a pillow etc.
 - Tuck pinecones, holly, mistletoe or winterberry under package ties.
 - Use cookies with recipients' names on them as gift tags.
 - Write directly on plain paper with metallic markers.
 - Try nontraditional color combinations: hot pink and chartreuse, turquoise and burgundy, blue and copper.
- When you are all done thoughtfully and creatively plotting and wrapping your gifts, sit back, admire your handiwork and remember the old saying: It's not the gift that counts; it's the thought that counts.

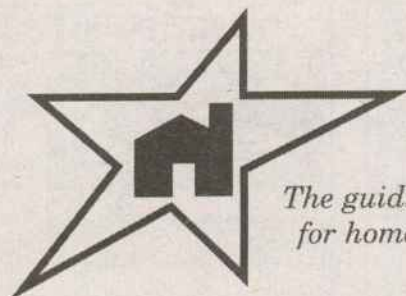
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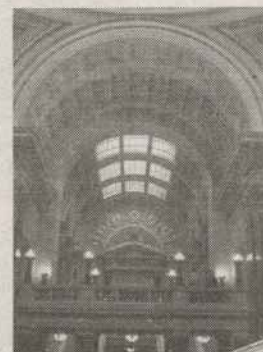
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Happy Anniversary

Sing along with me: "Happy anniversary, happy anniversary, happy anniversary, Q Life (jazz hands!!!!)."

It has been one year since that inaugural copy of Q Life hit the newsstands. I am very proud and fortunate to have been a part of this journey.

This coming year is going to pose a real challenge. I will have to dig deep into my recipe library as we cross the same paths from the previous year. I am ready for the challenge.

In the December issue last year I listed a recipe for Fairy Food. A few months later

I received a response from a Q Life reader that had a couple of questions on making this candy. I thought it would be a good idea to print this recipe again with those questions and my answers.

Questions:

I enjoy your recipes. My mom's favorite candy is fairy food so I tried your recipe and gave her a bunch for a pre-Lent gift. Now I want to give her some for the Rainbow home and garden event. Just a few questions:

1. Some of the pieces tasted of baking

soda! I thought I mixed it in well, so any suggestions? Otherwise she loved them.

2. "Dipping" those pieces in the melted chocolate was a time-consuming mess. Any suggestions to make it easier? Could I add butter to make the chocolate thinner? Or would that make it too thin to harden properly?

3. I lost lots of candy when I broke the pieces since so many broke into small crumbs and other pieces too small to dip. Suggestions?

Despite my questions, I will make the candy again since it is such a treat to make it so easily and almost quickly — and it tastes just like fairy food! And my mother is so impressed.

Answers:

Thanks for the feedback. I will try to answer your questions as best I can:

1. I would suggest you stir the baking soda prior to adding it or sift it through a small strainer into the syrup mixture. This should break up any clumps and help distribute it throughout the mixture.

2. Dipping in melted chocolate is always difficult. Here are some suggestions for making it a little easier. Adding a tablespoon of butter (or paraffin wax, the stuff used for canning — this is what my mother uses) will help. Also using a double boiler will make for a more consistent temperature and easier handling.



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.

3. I also experience a lot of small pieces when breaking the fairy food apart. I have not come up with a solution to this problem except they make for good snitching for the cook!!!

Fairy Food

This is also known as Angel Food — how appropriate!

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp. vinegar
- 1 cup dark syrup
- 1 tbsp. baking soda
- 2 12-oz. packages chocolate chips

Combine sugar, vinegar and syrup in a saucepan and cook over medium heat to 300 degrees using a candy thermometer. Stir constantly so it does not burn. Remove from heat. Add the baking soda. Stir well and pour into a well-buttered 9 x 9 x 2 inch pan. When cool, break into chunks and dip into melted chocolate.

<p>PARTS HOUSE in FIFTH WARD</p> <p>Designer finishes enhance studio with original HWF & exposed brick & beam. South facing wall of windows w/balcony. Kitchen w/stainless appliances, oak cabinets, corian counter & breakfast bar. Walk-in closet w/steps to sleeping loft & cubby. Built-in computer nook. In-unit washer/dryer. Outside parking space included. \$139,900.</p>	<p>SHOEWORKS LOFTS in BREWERS HILL</p> <p>Ample space with a private entrance from Reservoir. Kitchen w/granite counters, breakfast bar & stainless appliances. Living room's enormous windows let in warm southern sunshine & offer a great view of the city. HWF. BR w/new carpeting/walk-in closet. In-unit laundry. Heated parking right outside of unit back door. \$199,900.</p>	<p>1825 N. 2nd St. in BREWERS HILL</p> <p>Stately Mansion, completely renovated to open-concept 2 story home w/townhouse style 1BR apt. Wide plank oak HWF, open staircase, exposed cream city brick, GFP, & high ceilings adorn historic masterpiece. Endless possibilities...single family/condo conversion, room for fabulous garage or carriage house... Spectacular!! \$499,900.</p>
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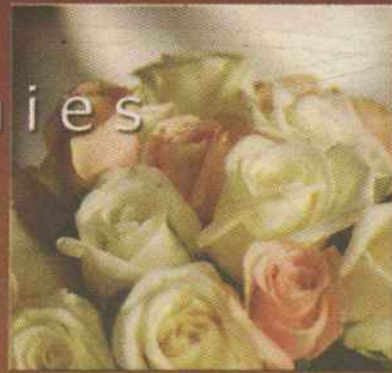
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You Better Watch Out, You Better Not Cry

The holiday season is upon us. For most, that seems to be a pretty good thing. Parties to attend, gifts to buy, cookies to bake and decorating to do the way only gay people know how — almost to excess but always in good taste. (Well, almost always.) It is a fun time of the year with the hustle and bustle, the coming and going and doing...

However, it isn't that way for everyone. For some this is a terrible time of the year, and for still others it's that old "bah, humbug!" thing. Though I have never seen a live humbug, so I have trouble accepting that as an excuse. Being grouchy and nasty is so unbecoming. It makes wrinkles appear on your face and sets people off so they don't want to be around you. If that's your goal, then congratulations, you've made it. But why would you want it to be that way?

I feel the same about these attitudes toward the holidays as I do about people who say they won't eat a certain food because when they were a kid their mother made them eat it. Get over it. It's a long time since you were a kid and as an adult you can make a conscious decision to change your point of view. Same with the holidays.

Many people complain that the holidays have become so commercialized. Well, it has always been that way. At least in any of our lifetimes. OK, maybe a few of you are old enough to remember getting into the horse and buggy to go to grandma's house where everything was rosy, gifts were mostly hand made and no one ever argued. A few of you at best. Even if the holidays are too commercialized, you can ignore it and just do your own thing. Ignore it like you do anything or anyone else that no longer makes you happy.

Some of you might say, "So-and-so died at this time of the year and that makes it rough." It does make it rough,



SENIORS

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

but so-and-so isn't sitting in the great beyond asking you to feel that way. He's decorating and partying and enjoying the season. He's remembering the good times and so should you.

So often we say, "It just isn't like it used to be." True, it isn't. But what is?

We all have at least one good memory of Christmas, or Hanukah, or Kwanzaa, or whatever you celebrate. Maybe it's a feeling that you used to get, or a sound that you liked, or an aroma that made you happy. Start with that memory and build your own tradition from there.

It isn't necessary to get involved in the entire holiday thing if you don't want to, but don't write the whole thing off. The only person you are really affecting is yourself — unless you have a partner and then you should remember that you have no right to spoil it for that person. If you can't give it up for a few days, go away, dig a hole, climb in and hide. You won't enjoy that either, but you won't be bothering anyone else.

Or, get into it. None of us has so many years left that we can afford to waste time being unhappy. So don't. Sing a carol, decorate a cookie, buy yourself a gift. Be nice to someone you don't know. Make something of this time of year. It's more fun and easier that way.

Happy holidays.

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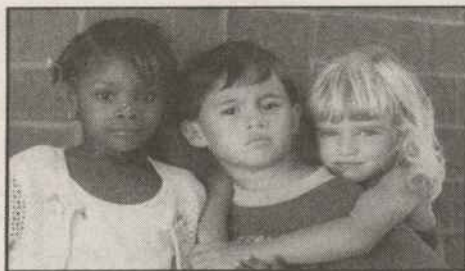
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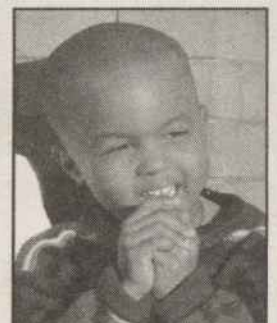
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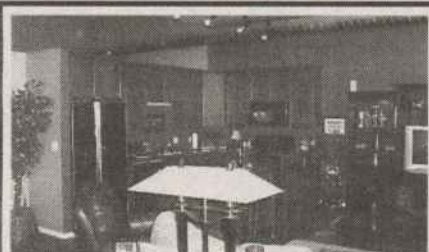
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Whirled Peas

I know that I have a silly streak in me.

I love the joke about the guy who walks up to the horse and asks, "Why the long face?" I like reading clever plays on words, like bumper stickers — ones that remind us to advocate for "whirled peas." I laugh whenever I see that one.

Recently this reminder about world peace, however, has seemed a bit more sinister to me. It seems like a futile reminder, a trite statement that suggests that we are in the process of giving up on an important human goal of cooperation. In the context of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and the current government, which appears to have repeatedly lied to us, we may feel rather resigned to a lifetime of political, economic or international strife.

Are we as LGBT people also becoming resigned to lives of ongoing discrimination and harassment? Several years ago I witnessed a group of gay, lesbian and bisexual people talking about their lives as youth and as adults. Two of the panelists described their childhoods as relatively free of harassment and their parents as supportive.

But as the presentation went on, it was clear that these characterizations were about situations that were anything but free or supportive. The panelists had been bullied in

school, ejected too early from home, and forced to barter and bargain in dangerous ways for housing. They were told, "I don't have any problem with you being lesbian, just don't bring it around here!"

There are several problems here. First, sexual orientation is not something we can leave at the door. We don't just "happen to be gay." Second, nothing about us — including our sexual identities — deserves rejection. We are a lovely people who are collectively and individually good.

Third, "live and let live" does not mean "stay away or lie about who you are." Many of us heard that in subtle ways at home, school, church and work; in stores, neighborhoods and clubs; for some us the message hasn't been subtle. Fourth, these repeated messages that we deserve less love lead us to begin to expect less love.

Ultimately, repeated discrimination, harassment and rejection make us hold ourselves in lower esteem. While we appear immune to the sticks and stones, we are more often resigned to them. Just as we might see the bumper sticker that reflects our cynicism about world peace, so too have we given up on our right to fair and equitable treatment everywhere.

When this happens, we become a community of folks who take



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.

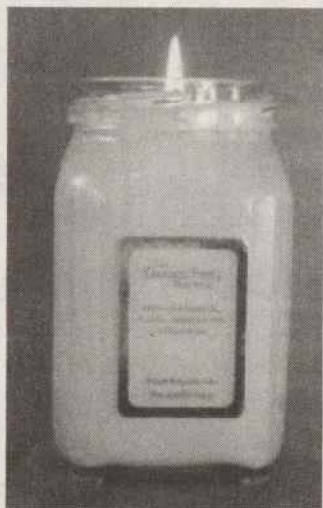
irresponsible risks with ourselves and each other.

The recent health survey conducted among LGBT folks in Wisconsin by Brenda Coley, Director of Youth Services for Diverse and Resilient, highlighted several of these risks. One risk behavior stands out for me now, especially at this time of year when communities across the state will celebrate holidays with alcohol. More than one in seven survey respondents reported that they had driven a car, or been a passenger in a car, while the driver was intoxicated. This suggests we do not comprehend how precious and valuable we are.

We cannot give up on ourselves this way. It is silly to do so — and it isn't a laughing matter.

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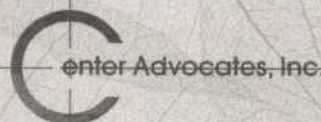
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ASK THE VET

Dr. Jane Pohlman is a veterinary manager at the Wisconsin Humane Society. She has been employed with WHS for nine years.

As a holiday gift, I'm planning to give my friend a gift certificate for her cat to see a veterinarian because I don't think she can afford to do this on her own. I'd like to call around to ask the vets about costs. What else should be discussed?

Answer:

This is a great gift idea considering the average cost of owning a cat is \$250 to \$300 per year. This includes food, toys, veterinary visits, litter, and some initial costs. I am not sure that most people realize the expenses involved in being the guardian of

a cat.

A general visit to any veterinarian will include a physical exam and assessing the need for other services, depending upon what is found during the physical. Most veterinarians recommend a physical exam at least once a year. Sometimes more frequent exams are recommended for older animals. The physical exam allows a veterinarian to detect health issues early, which can result in greater success when treating the problem. If a problem is detected, the veterinarian will recommend a course of diagnostics or treatment.

Depending on the findings of the physical exam, the need for vaccinations will be discussed. The most common vaccinations in cats are for upper respiratory viruses and for Panleukopenia virus. This vaccination is usually called the distemper combo vaccination, meaning that all three shots are given in one vaccine. The need for other vaccinations and their frequency will be determined on an individual basis after discussing risks with your veterinarian.

The necessity of testing a cat for Feline Leukemia or Feline

Immunodeficiency Virus can also be discussed. This is usually based on exposure to other cats so it too is something that will be individualized depending upon risk assessment.

Other important issues to discuss include the benefits of spaying or neutering the cat as well as the importance of keeping cats indoors, which will help to prevent fleas and ear mite infestations. A microchip is a good recommendation, just in case the cat should escape outdoors. This is a permanent identification that aids in reuniting guardians and pets. Another good gift idea is to purchase a breakaway collar and tag. The tag should include the guardian's contact information, which again helps reunite companion animals with their guardians.

Your friend can also ask for recommendations about diet and weight management as well as questions about the cat's behavior.

As you can see, there are many different issues that may be covered at a veterinary visit. All of them will help keep your friend's cat healthy.

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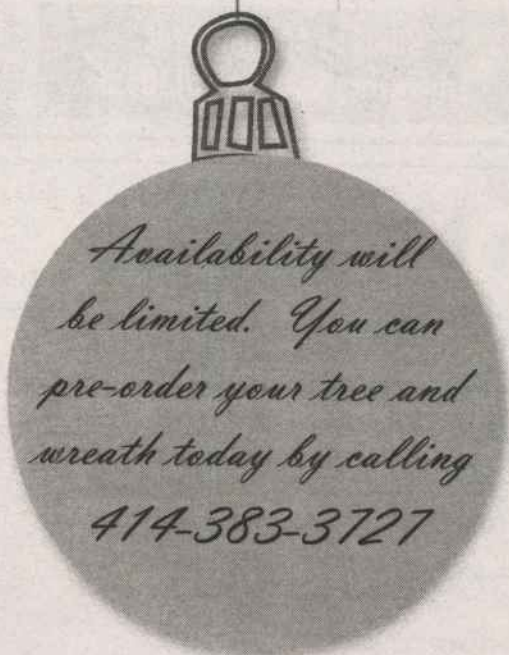
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It's Simply A Matter of Civil Rights

At a political event in June, I joked that if the constitutional amendment banning same-gender marriage and civil unions was passed, I would consider making Minnesota, where I intend to go to college, my permanent residence.

A few minutes after my comments, a friend, fellow churchgoer and fellow progressive approached me.

"You are a fink if you bail out on us here in Wisconsin," she chided.

She's absolutely right, of course. Wisconsin, for all its faults, is a wonderful place to live and has much to offer workers and families, gay or straight.

Not all LGBT young people are getting that message, however. Attacks on academic freedom; access to contraception; stem cell research; inclusive, comprehensive sexuality education and the freedom to marry are accelerating the state's "brain drain" by sending a chilling message: "Take your innovation and creativity elsewhere. What you're selling, Wisconsin's not buying."

Women and men more qualified than I have demonstrated that this constitutes poor economic policy. It should also be of particular concern to all those who care about the future of the LGBT community. What will happen if the next generation of Chris Otts and Tim Carpenters and Tammy Baldwins (not to mention Gwen Moores and John Richardses) skips town for the

freedom and fairness afforded by a growing number of coastal states?

The remedy to this, as I see it, is quite simple: Pay it forward. Begin investing seriously and comprehensively in the future of Wisconsin's gay community through scholarships and grants that encourage LGBT and allied activists and professionals to come and remain here. Minnesota has developed a model program, the Minnesota GLBT Educational Fund, but, with the exception of a fund at UW-Madison, Wisconsin seems lacking by comparison.

I am not suggesting, as some have, that the overall focus on the struggle for marriage equality alienates folks my age. Many of my peers and I see equality as an inevitable eventual political reality that will convey the normalcy of homosexuality and significantly improve gay life, irrespective of whether we as individuals choose marriage for ourselves. We understand, however, that such a reality will not be achieved without our hard work.

Nor do I stand in ignorance of the fact that marriage, HIV/AIDS education, and other concerns necessarily take priority when the LGBT community considers where to allocate its resources.

Nor is it my intention to appear contemptuous towards any of these noble efforts. More and more, queer youth are finding it socially acceptable to put a name



YOUTH

David Seitz (davidkseitz@yahoo.com) is a senior at Wauwatosa East High School. He is opinions editor of the nationally recognized East High School Cardinal News and an active member of Amnesty International and Unitarian Universalist Church West in Brookfield. Questions and comments are welcome.

to their feelings, to self-identify, and this is certainly attributable to the courage and work of older generations. Were it not for the strength and example of today's leaders, tomorrow would surely seem more desolate.

But the ultimate aim of all that we and our leaders work for is to create a world marked by high quality of life and full civil and social equality for LGBT folks. That vision requires us to meet the present with the urgency of the moment, but it also demands that we invest in an attainable and sustainable future.

Let there be a day when gay kids and allied kids joke nervously about escaping to Wisconsin. Let them come, and find their hopes fulfilled. Let there be a day when Wisconsin sets the standard for LGBT equality and for welcoming a creative class. And let that day be sooner rather than later.

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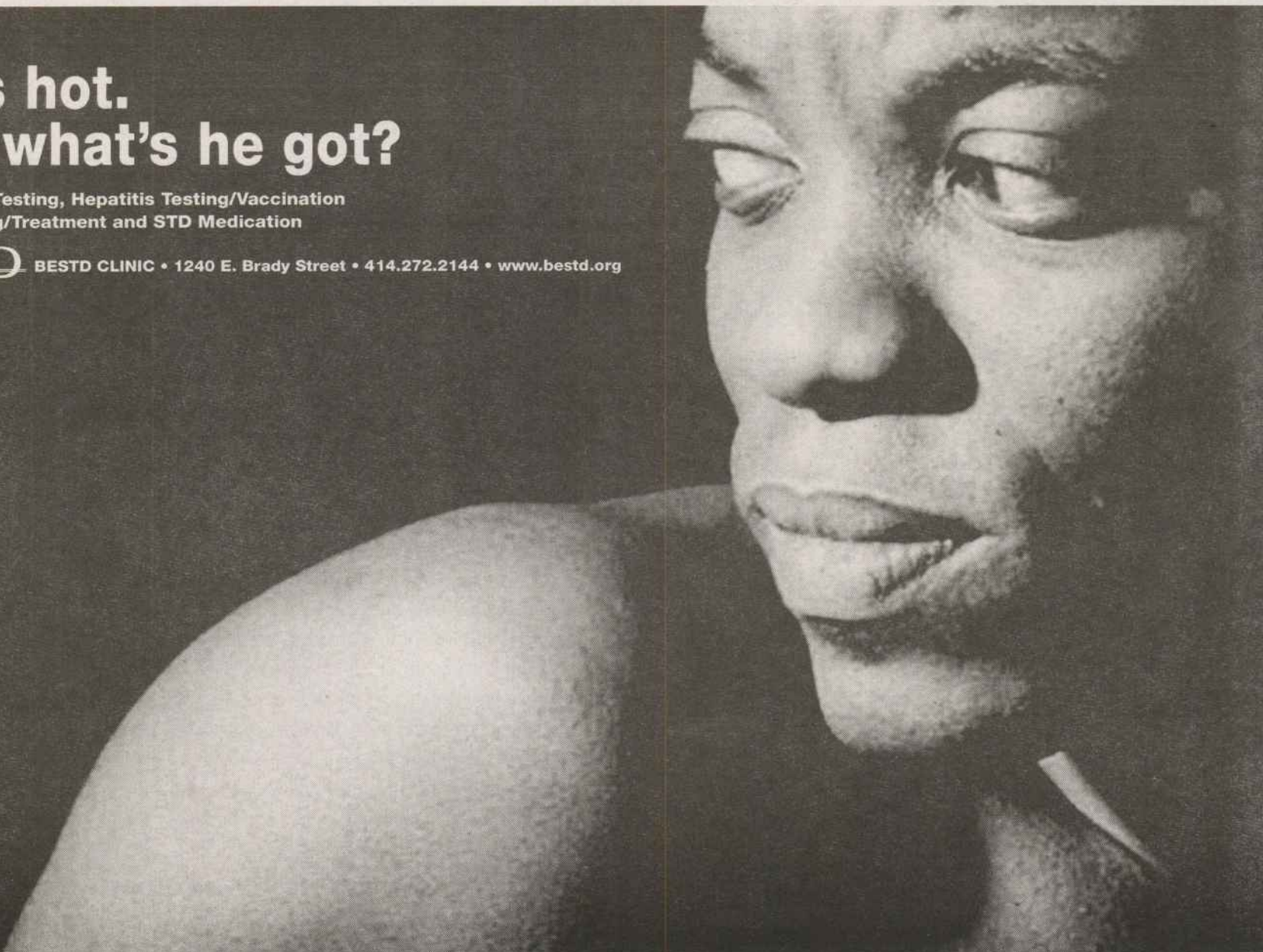
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Stirring Up Some Trouble?

A bumper sticker told me so. "Well-behaved women rarely make history." So who are these troublemakers and how do they cook up a mess of trouble? First of all, they start with some **Deviant Recipes**, fresh ingredients, and a little **Spice** to knock things up a notch. These women live their ordinary lives, yet come across to other women as "radical" and "out there" — and those are the mild descriptive terms.

Dissent between women, especially those who are seemingly close in ideology, can be vicious and devastating. These zinesters have felt the teeth of critique and condemnation but emerged more powerful than before with an unshakable force of conviction. These are the women who make history!

Davis Deviants

Mistress Althaea has to be one of the best noms de plume out there. For me, "Mistress" always conjures up an image of a woman who can play both sides of the coin. Naughty or nice, strict or full of wild abandon. **Deviant Recipes** [Issue 3, 2005, 16 pages, deviantrecipes.tribe.net] brings out multifaceted sides of the Mistress and her band of dykes from Davis, Calif.

Articles touch on gentrification, radical love, and gender identity and are peppered with quirky humor and in-your-face opinions. The accompanying illustrations by Miss Schnookums are pen-and-ink drawings, but that description belies the whimsy and amazing talent behind this graphic style. The writing, too, reveals a deft literary skill upon each new read.

Classic quotes are easy to come by. In "Spit or Swallow?" — a take on what it is like to be a dyke having a thing for a bio boy — we're drawn into what for some is an edgy subject and completely disarmed by observations such as what can be said before bio boy's pants come off and penis comes out, "Hi, I'm a 25-year-old lesbian and I wouldn't have the faintest notion of what to do in bed with you."

In another article, a discussion about gender normativity is punctuated with the observation,



ZINES

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

"I am sick of having to disguise my sexuality under some kind of veil, as if it could hurt someone." Safe to say, you won't find Mistress Althaea or any of the contributors disguising anything as they continue to spread more lovin' from their deviant ovens.

Ginger It Up a Bit

Who better to deconstruct the Spice Girls' whirlwind of pop fluff and their super catchy feminist phrase than London's Charlotte Cooper? Prior to her success as a writer and her clashes with severely misguided feminist lesbian editors and censorious Canadian customs officials, Charlotte cut her proverbial teeth in the zine world. In the 1990s, she created several one-off "story zines."

Spice [one-off, 1997, 8 pages, www.charlottecooper.net] has a unique vignette for each band member. Sporty is the subject of a refreshingly graphic description of how the writer wants to get down and dirty with her. Ginger is knocked off her unofficial leadership pedestal. Posh's singing ability is compared to the vocal stylings of the late Linda McCartney and she's dissed for having the only monosyllabic moniker.

The best commentary is saved for the last page, under a photograph of seminal punk band New York Dolls in full-on drag (pre Buster Poindexter in, oh, so many ways), when she sighs, "I caught myself just wishing ... those Spice chicks could be more like them." Once you enter the wonderful world of Charlotte's art and activism, you, too, may wish the same thing!

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



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Times Change

"No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man."
—Heraclitus

From the late 1980s through the late 1990s, my partner and I had intricate rituals surrounding most holidays. The customs for some holidays were simple — going to the same place, doing the same things in the same ways. Some holidays were more complex, requiring some juggling to meet multiple family schedules and needs, as well as to create something meaningful for us as a couple.

In the 10 years between 1990 and 2000, we loved, cared for, cleaned out the houses of, interfaced with the parents and extended families of, and buried nearly all of our friends who eventually died of AIDS.

Our trips to Mapfest over Labor Day weekend weren't the same, because we didn't pick up John. Memorial Day was no longer the same, because we didn't have Jay scrubbing his dentures and crashing in our hotel room in Chicago. New Year's Eve wasn't the same, because Rick no longer joined us for a traipse through Milwaukee's nightlife. An army of men who were part of the tapestry of our lives — the meals we shared, the parties, the political rallies we marched in, the joy — all gone. Times changed.

The years inched forward and my

partnership of 15 years dissolved into a close, loving friendship and my life melded with a new partner and a child. Those rituals that were developed and reinforced over 15 years shifted and blended with my new partner's, as well as building our own. Times changed.

Before I transitioned from female to male, in the mid '90s, I had heard a great number of trans people say that their families had disowned them and they were left to be on their own, getting through the holidays the best they could, alone. I came out to my family. Times changed.

Things didn't change in the ways so many people expect them to. I was not disowned. I was the same basic person, in the same basic family, doing the same basic things. My name changed. The pronouns people used changed. My father switched from saying "the boys" (my two older, identical twin brothers) to referring to them as "the twins" — recognizing that he now had three male children. All of us have danced with how to deal with my childhood in our conversations with non-family members (and even amongst ourselves) — figuring out which pronouns and names to use can be awkward, when looking backwards. Times changed. (But not very much.)

Those of us who transition from one gender to another generate a huge amount of change for those around us to adjust and



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.

adapt to. Some SOFFAs perceive a loved one's gender change as a loss. Others may just take some time to acclimate. Some may never choose to work through their issues about acceptance and love. And sometimes our families (of origin or chosen) don't live long enough to see us in all of our glory. Times change.

Change can be viewed as a void or loss, or can be welcomed as an opportunity to throw open the doors and absorb the abundance around us. Change creates an opening for new experiences, new rituals, and new love.

What if, for every "no" or rejection we receive, we reach out to others with a loving, exuberant "yes!"

Times change. Embrace life in all of its permutations.

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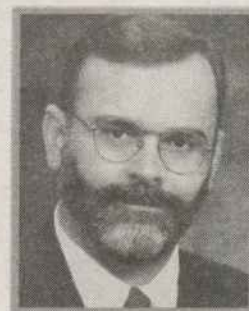
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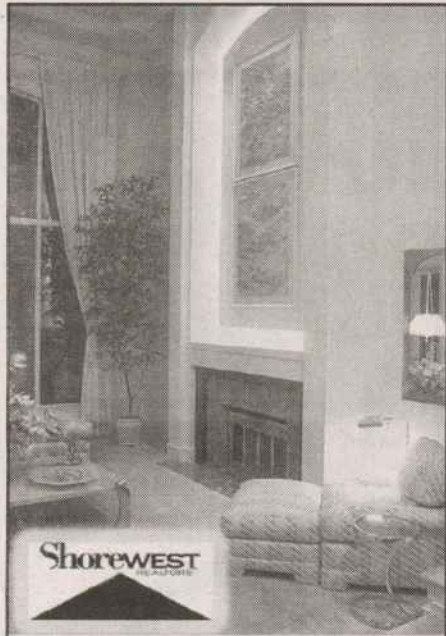
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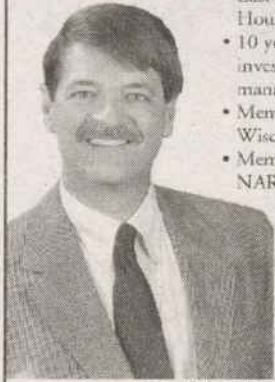
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Viva la Vivo

With winter underway, nightlife options seem more limited. The patios and decks are closed and quite possibly full of a fresh coat of snow. Yes, I said the dreadful word: snow. But the nightlife selection is by no means inadequate. Milwaukee is a place that can cater to any season, whether it's 90 degrees out or 30 below zero.

Having visited the majority of Milwaukee's finest bars and restaurants, I have always had my favorites. Vivo Urban Bar & Grill located at 600 E. Ogden Ave., just west of Van Buren, is one of those. With an amazing menu and outstanding bar, Vivo is my favorite place to sit and either have a cocktail or

indulge in an all out meal with friends and family.

Vivo is a celebration of food, which is exactly what the word means. The wonderful menu consists of many Cuban and Mediterranean influenced dishes. With your ever popular empanadas and the wonderful selection of fresh seafood on the menu, you can't order anything that's not up to par.

This bi-level restaurant has two bars and two wonderfully decorated floors of dining space. I have been going to Vivo since it opened in 2003 and not once have I had a bad experience. The wonderful, educated staff knows what you want when you want it. The bartenders are quick and polite, working the bar like it's the back of their hand. Prompt, quick service adds to the enjoyable experience.

Vivo has a happy hour Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. The happy hour consists of discounted premium beers, \$3 select imported beers, \$3.50 select premium spirit drinks, and \$4 Chilean wine specials.

As if one happy hour isn't enough, Vivo delightfully offers a reverse happy hour. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, Vivo offers the same specials as it does during its regular happy hour. Let me tell you, it's worth it.



CLUBBING

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

And the fun doesn't stop there. I went to Vivo on a Wednesday and it was awesome. Alongside \$5 sangria and Basque lemonade, a red and white wine mix, Vivo offers retail pricing on select bottles of wine. It was cheap, and I don't mean cheap in a bad, tacky way; I mean financially you won't leave the bar broke even if you spoil yourself with a few bottles of wine. A DJ provides nice non-intrusive beats that soothe the soul. I had a blast.

While winter may depress you, what happens around Milwaukee during these, in my opinion, awful months shouldn't. There is a lot to do in Milwaukee during the winter. So don't cheat yourself: Visit Vivo Urban Bar & Grill. The crowd is nice and the staff even nicer. A delightful mix of people will have you coming back for more. Whether a drink or a meal, Vivo is the place to go.

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Community



Calendar

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7

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

Christmas Tree Fundraiser. You will be able to get your real Christmas tree at The Tree Lot. The trees, available for a \$20 suggested donation, will be Blue Spruce, White Spruce, Balsam Fir, and Douglas Fir. Appleton Church, 815 N. Richmond St., Appleton. Monday through Saturday, 4-8 p.m. 920-983-7453.

MO'NA's Christmas Tree Sale. We have 100 beautiful trees on our patio just waiting to go home with somebody. MGAC will sell trees at MO'NA's each weekend between now and Christmas (as long as there are trees to be sold). Please come down and buy a tree and/or wreath. The trees are 4 to 8 feet tall and sell for \$35. All proceeds benefit the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center! MO'NA's, 1407 S. 1st St., Milwaukee. 414-643-0377. www.milwaukee-out-n-about.com.

El Mercado. A wide selection of one-of-a-kind gifts at this special holiday Mercado Navideño (Christmas market). Featured is a beautifully fashioned selection of knits, weavings and jewelry from Peru, as well as quality art pieces by Latin American artists and lovingly crafted ceramics by members of the UCC's senior center and Bruce Guadalupe Community School students. Latino Arts Gallery, 1028 S. 9th St., Milwaukee. 5 p.m. 414-384-3100. www.latinartsinc.org. Through Dec. 22.

THURSDAY, DEC. 8

A Sense of Community. House Party Event for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center hosted by Nancy Meeks. Light refreshments will be served, bring a friend . . . or two. There's no obligation to give, but please bring your checkbook. Once you hear about the work being done, you'll want to make a donation! Reservoir Court Condos, 126 W. Reservoir St., Milwaukee. 5:30-7:30 p.m. 414-271-2656 ext. 121. www.mkelgbt.org.

Legal Night. Free legal consultation with LGBT-friendly attorneys. First come, first served. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 6-8 p.m. 414-271-2656 ext. 111. www.mkelgbt.org.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

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

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

MONDAY, DEC. 12

Hermanos Latinos. Gay or bisexual Latino men are invited to a new social, educational group meeting. AIDS Network-Gateway Mall, 600 Williamson St., Madison. 6:30 p.m. 252-6540 ext. 22. Repeats Mondays.

Outwords Book Club. Christmas romance is in the air in the December selection, Kevin Scott's "The Boys in the Brownstone." New members welcome! Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089. outwordsbooks@msn.com.

TUESDAY DEC. 13

Lesbian Reading Group. Stacey D'Erasmus's acclaimed novel "A Seahorse Year" will be discussed. Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089. outwordsbooks@msn.com.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

Mix 'n' Mingle. Dance with DJ John Murges and drink \$5 holiday martinis. Fundraiser for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh St., Milwaukee. \$20 donation. 414-271-2656 ext. 121.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

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

Brunch with St. Nick. Meet St. Nick dressed and enjoy holiday music, make seasonal crafts and share a hot breakfast. Tour the "European Village" with Saint Lucia and see how cultures across Europe decorate for the holidays. Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St. \$25 adults/\$15 children 4 to 18/\$8.50 children under 4 (includes Museum admission as part of brunch package). 10 a.m.-noon. RSVP 414-278-6170. www.mpm.edu.

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

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

Christmas Party. Santa bags, food and drink specials all night. La Cage - Etc., 801 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 10 p.m. 414-383-8330.

THURSDAY, DEC. 22

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

SATURDAY, DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Dance and Party. The Galano Club is a safe, sober and smoke free environment. Come join us for a evening of fun, music and loads of food. Galano Club, 315 W. Court St. Suite 201, Milwaukee. 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. \$5/\$7 non-members. 414-489-1333.

SUNDAY, JAN. 1

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

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4

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

SATURDAY, JAN 7

FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression). A social support group open to all people interested in Female to Male (FTM+) and Significant Others, Family, Friends, and Allies (SOFFAs) issues. 414-278-6031. www.forge-forward.org/socialsupport.

Deadline for January issue is Dec. 26.

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"Wrestling with God and Men"

Steven Greenberg
book

"Religion has the power to entice us to think, to challenge norms," believes author and Rabbi Steven Greenberg. He cautions, however, that "in every tradition, there will be those pressing for a rich conversation and those trying to suppress it." His book is the product of the rabbi's own 10-year struggle to reconcile his embattled identities as Orthodox Jew and homosexual man.

Greenberg approaches long-held assumptions and challenges them with scholarly, well-researched analyses of biblical texts, rabbinical commentaries and literary sources. Emerging is a startlingly fresh interpretation of the ubiquitous condemnation verses in Leviticus as well as the story of creation, the destruction of Sodom and the love of David and Jonathan.

Central to a valid reading of the Bible on the topic of homosexuality, Greenberg insists, are the notorious verses "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman, it is an abhorrence" (Lev. 18:22) and "If a man lies with a male as one lies with a woman, the two of them have done an abhorrent thing" (Lev. 20:13), because they are in fact not about homosexuality.

In looking at the text, Greenberg reads that humiliation, sexual violation and shaming of a man by a man are the subject of the prohibition (a male must not sexually penetrate another male as in the "lyings with a woman," that is, anal penetration).

He also provides solid commentary on the Bible's absence of a prohibition on lesbianism and its references to sexual involvement between women. Punishment

for unearned hubris by a man is a slide into the role of a woman, Greenberg says, because women are often considered subservient to men in the Bible.

Through the text analysis as well as personal insights, Greenberg is searching to provide gays and lesbians a way to connect to a loving God. No one, he believes, would wish to participate in a religious community where God is the enemy. Indeed, Rabbi Greenberg's innovative reading of biblical texts may offer reconciliation even in circumstances where the gay community and the religious establishment remain in conflict but agree to disagree in continued dialogue.

What is unique about Rabbi Greenberg is that he remains embedded in traditional Judaism. He does not subscribe to the notion that the Bible is no longer "relevant." And he probably would disagree with Jewish feminists who have bitterly attacked traditional systems of religion.

An educator with an international Jewish think tank, Greenberg also contributed to a documentary about gay Orthodox Jews, "Trembling Before G-d." He has created with the film's director, Sandi DuBowski, a worldwide outreach project and was a major organizer of the First Orthodox Mental Health Conference on Homosexuality.

"The Killing of Sister George"

Directed by Robert Aldrich
DVD

The French were the first to point out the brilliance of Robert Aldrich's examinations of morality and survival. He was born into a Brahmin banking family in New England; after

college he opted out of the family business and headed to Hollywood. Trained as an assistant to legends like Charles Chaplin and Joseph Losey, he was relentless in his efforts to retain the creative autonomy virtually unknown in the Hollywood studio system.

In 1967 he directed the rousing World War II drama "The Dirty Dozen," his best-known film which also became the year's highest grossing release. Starring Lee Marvin, the film reveled in predictable bold action. But it distinguished itself from other Hollywood fare by addressing head-on the disappointment and disaffection felt by war veterans — feelings which struck a very familiar chord with the Vietnam-era audiences.

Using money earned from the movie, Aldrich bought his own studio and continued to experiment with subjects that would stretch Hollywood's accepted parameters, often to their limits.

"The Killing of Sister George" was apparently one of Aldrich's favorites although scholars generally gloss over it when discussing his oeuvre. Adapted from a hit play by Frank Marcus, the film flopped when it was first released and major critics panned it. The X rating it received, which greatly restricted its circulation potential, was changed to an R some four years later but only after Aldrich spent \$75,000 on legal costs.

The controversial property was a fine fit for the maverick director's attraction to insiders/outsideers like himself and an examination of the ways in which such individuals survive or collapse in a culture defined by convention and pretense.

"Sister" George is a plump and jolly do-gooder in a BBC soap opera set in a Curry and Ives kind of village in Great Britain. Off screen, George is a brassy, cantankerous, hard-drinking dyke involved in an odd domestic relationship with a much younger Lolita, nicknamed "Childie."

The "killing" is the metaphorical exit of George's BBC screen character not because of a drop in ratings but because of her scandalous behavior (including the assault, during an episode of drunkenness, of two young nuns in a cab — a scene treated by Aldrich as slapstick) which affronts her producers and company executives.

If the plot suggests that George is the unlikable character, Aldrich in fact depicts her as the most real individual in a cast of phonies. Her open lesbianism is neither romanticized nor denigrated. George has little chance for a happy, full life — not because of her sexual preference but because the environment she lives in rejects individuals who remain true to themselves.

Just like Robert Aldrich, the film director.

Jane Monheit

"The Season"
CD

This eclectic holiday-themed CD from jazz singer Jane Monheit ranges from the Carpenters' "Merry Christmas Darling" and the 19th century carol "I Heard the Bells on



MUSIC, BOOKS & MOVIES

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

Christmas Day" to perennials like "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town."

Inspired by Ella Fitzgerald's "Ella Wishes You a Swinging Christmas," Monheit decided to try her hand at holiday music with her regular jazz band. The result is original, creating a sound blending Monheit's natural elegance with powerful yet impressively controlled presentation.

A long-standing American tradition in jazz and popular music, this is an elegant holiday compilation following in the steps of Frank Sinatra and Mel Tormé.

Jim Verraros

"Rollercoaster"
CD

Electrifying at times, "You're Getting Crazy" reveals great promise on the part of a young performer. "Billboard" said of the title song, it "stirs the beats into simmering frenzy ... with a video (not part of the CD) showcasing Verraros' pretty-boy looks and slick moves."

The 2002 American Idol contestant came out in "The Advocate" in early 2003 and since then his career seems to have taken off with music, videos and films. Let's hope he will retain his identity and style rather than fall in with the mainstream of pop music and video that quickly turns into a forgotten fad.

Eurythmics

"Ultimate Collection"
CD

This recently released compilation carries the listener on a journey through some of Eurythmics' best musical landscape of the 1980s and '90s. Formed in London some 25 years ago, the innovative band popularized the synth pop genre, using dramatic synthesizers and keyboards. Sartorially, Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart stood out with their androgynous suits and runner utility coveralls.

While their music, like much of '80s pop, is light on meaning, it remains very enjoyable to listen and dance to. Included in the CD are the giant hit "Sweet Dreams (Are Made of This)," "Here Comes the Rain Again" and "Sisters Are Doin' It for Themselves" with Aretha Franklin.

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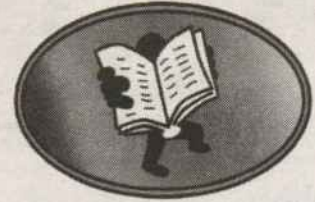
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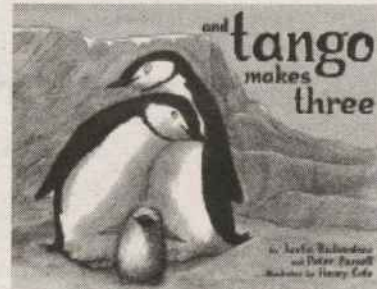
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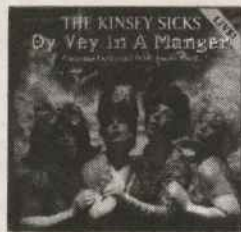
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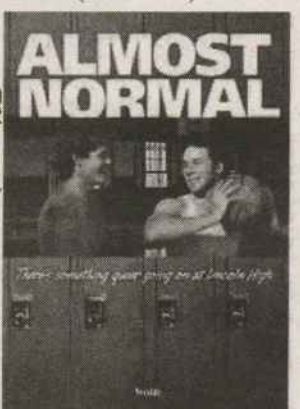
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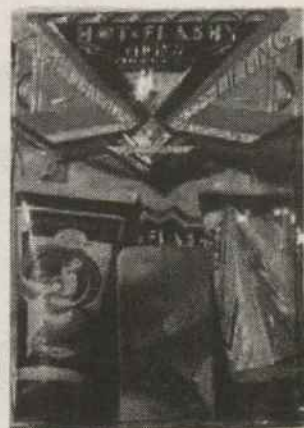
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Arts **Q** Calendar

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.

Puppetry of the Penis. Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland Ave., Milwaukee. 414-967-0302. www.themiramartheatre.com. Through Dec. 11, various times.

Winter Solstice. Cooperative exhibition with 14 artists. Beginning Dreams Forever Studio/Gallery, 833 E. Burleigh St., Milwaukee. 414-562-3037. Through Dec. 11.

roll-run-hit-run-roll-tick-pick. Exhibition of Jin Soo Kim sculpture and installations at MIAD. Frederick Layton Gallery, 273 E. Erie St., Milwaukee. Through Dec. 17.

Holiday Double Bill. "A Christmas Memory," by Truman Capote, and "The Old Lady Shows Her Medals," by James M. Barrie. Chamber Theatre, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Through Dec. 18, various times.

Red Herring. Next Act Theatre. Rapid-fire jokes and down-to-the-wire action make this hard-boiled, spy-chasing thriller a real crowd-pleaser for the holiday season. Off-Broadway Theatre, 342 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-278-0765. www.nextact.org. Through Dec. 18, various times.

Animal Crackers. Skylight Opera Theatre. Cabot Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. 7:30 p.m. 414-291-7800. skylightopera.com. Through Dec. 18.

Scrooge - The Musical. Leslie Bricusse's 1970 musical version of the Charles Dickens classic. Racine Theatre Guild, 262-633-4218. www.racine theatre.org. Through Dec. 18, various times.

The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus. First Stage Children's Theater. A tale of the life of Claus from youth to old age. Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. Through Dec. 24, various times.

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. 5-7 p.m. latinoartsinc.org. Through Dec. 30.

Holiday Hell. Christmas on television is the theme for this hilarious holiday satire guaranteed to delightfully twist your season into shape. Best suited for 16 and older. In Tandem Theatre, 2109 N. 53rd St., Milwaukee. Through Dec. 31, various times.

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.

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.

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. milwaukeekeep.com. Through Jan. 8.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7

Cowboy Christmas. Michael Martin Murphey, "singing cowboy poet," is not only the number one, best-selling singer/songwriter of American cowboy music, he's one of the world's most respected singer/songwriters in the pop and country-western field. But he's a man apart, a man who rides his own trail so resolutely that the word "rebel" doesn't begin to describe his stance. UW-Whitewater's Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St., Whitewater. 7:30 p.m. 262-472-2222. www.uw.edu/youngauditorium.

First Annual Jewelry Sale. Students from the jewelry and metalsmithing area of the UWM Peck School of the Arts present at least 500 pieces of jewelry that are unique and sometimes outrageous in design but all address the idea of value, preciousness or "cheapness." UWM Union 8th Note Café, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 414-229-6216. Repeats Dec. 8.

Living Colour. Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 520. 414-276-7288. www.shankhall.com.

Nickel and Dime. Joan Holden's adaptation of Barbara Ehrenreich's best-seller. Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors. 414-229-4308. Through Dec. 11, various times.

Holidaze. Gallery Exhibit. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. www.uncommontheater.net. Through Jan. 14.

THURSDAY, DEC. 8

New Dancemakers/Social Art. A concert choreographed and performed by the department's majors. Site-specific pre-show performances by Kate Westerlund 30 minutes prior to each concert. Mitchell Hall Chamber Theatre, 3203 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee. 5:30 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors. 414-229-4308.

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, DEC. 9

Late Night with John McGovern and Friends. With special guests Jane Matenaer from WMYX and stand-up comedian Steve DeClark. Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells St. 11 p.m. \$15. 414-224-9490. www.milwaukeekeep.com.

UWM Student Film and Video Festival. A night of the best short films and videos from the film department. UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-229-4070. www.aux.uwm.edu/uniontheatre.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

The Buffalo. Bremen Café, 901 E. Clarke St., Milwaukee. 9:30 p.m. Free. 414-431-1932. www.bremencafe.com.

Q Pick - Frostiana — A Winter Night's Journey. Men's Voices Milwaukee. Helene Zelazo Center, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 414-229-4308.

Natale in Italia. The Concord Chamber Orchestra with the choirs of St. Robert Parish, St. Eugene Congregation and St. John Vianney. The music of Pietro Yon, Gian Carlo Menotti and Antonio Vivaldi heightens the special feeling of the season with a distinctly Italian flair. Basilica of St. Josaphat, 2333 S. 6th St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$10/\$6 students and seniors. 414-628-6018. www.concordorchestra.org.

Q Pick - Tis the Season. African American Children's Theater. Talented children ages 7-14 perform a holiday show that will brighten your spirits. Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, 325 W. Walnut St. 12 noon. \$15. 414-461-5771. www.aact.us. Repeats Dec. 11, 3 p.m.

Mary Osmundsen. Q and A with artist. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 5-9 p.m. \$7. 414-961-7714. www.hotcakesgallery.com. Through Jan. 8.

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

Alessandro Bosetti. Italian sound artist and musician who moves on the line between sound anthropology and composition. As a saxophonist, Bosetti has developed an instrumental language that incorporates extended techniques, noises and a strong influence from electronic music. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. \$7. 414-961-7714. www.hotcakesgallery.com.

Burkina-Fuso Independence Party. Club Timbuktu. 520 E. Center St., Milwaukee. 10 p.m. \$5. 414-265-7000. www.clubtimbuktu.com.

Sing-Along Messiah. Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 3 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 12

UWM Guitar Program Student Ensemble Recital. 7:30 p.m. Free. Peck School of the Arts Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 414-229-4308.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel. Mozart and Schubert: Memorable Melodies is part of the 20th anniversary season. Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., Madison. 7:30 p.m. 608-262-2202. www.union.wisc.edu/theater.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15

Art Fusion. Solo dance performances, "Creation Project," a collaboration between Present Music and the music department, art and fashion originals — all from MHS students. Milwaukee High School of the Arts, 2300 Highland Ave., Milwaukee. 6 p.m. 414-934-7000. www.milwaukeehighschoolofthearts.org.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

Very Dirty Christmas Show. Miltown Kings. 18 and up show. Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland Ave., Milwaukee. 9 p.m. \$6. 414-967-0302. www.themiramartheatre.com.

The Nutcracker. The Dance Factory. UW-Whitewater's Irvin L. Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St., Whitewater. 2 and 7 p.m. 262-472-2222.

MONDAY, DEC. 19

A Very Merry Classic Christmas. Capita Productions. This production features Robin Adkins as Nat King Cole and Cassandra McShepard singing the favorites of Billie Holiday and Dinah Washington. They will be joined by six spectacular dancers including two dance teachers from local public schools. Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-967-0302. www.themiramartheatre.com.

SATURDAY, DEC. 20

Soulstice Songs and Stories III. Our third, annual winter solstice celebration will take place on the third floor auditorium at the Marian Center. Please join us for an appetizer buffet, drinks and a wonderful show by the Soulstice family. The

Marian Center, 3195 S. Superior St., Milwaukee. Reception 7 p.m.; show 8 p.m. \$15. 431-3187. www.soulsticetheatre.org.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21

Q Pick - Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price. Co-sponsored by Vital Source Magazine and Peace Action. Bremen Café, 901 E. Clarke St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. Free. 414-431-1932. www.bremencafe.com.

FRIDAY, DEC. 23

Riverwest Accordion Club. Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh St., Milwaukee. 414-372-7880.

THURSDAY, DEC. 29

A Talent to Amuse. Don't miss this delightful one-man show as Gary Briggie recounts the joys, passions and clever wit of actor, singer, playwright, composer, lyricist, director and producer Noel Coward. Skylight Opera Theatre, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. www.skylightopera.com. Through Jan. 8.

SATURDAY, DEC. 31

The Aimee Mann Band and The Michael Penn Band. WUWM Café Tonight welcomes two powerhouse singer/songwriters. It's a rockin' New Year's Eve. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 9 p.m. 414-286-3663. www.pabsttheater.org.

Pink Party. OutReach's last New Year's Eve Celebration. Performers include Lynette and Tongue and Cheek. Inn on the Square, 22 S. Carroll St., Madison. 9 p.m. 608-255-8582. outreachinc.com.

FRIDAY, JAN. 6

Classic Examples. Danceworks. A fresh start to the New Year with three brand new dances created and performed by resident choreographers Dani Kuepper and Sarah Wilbur and guest artist Lee Wei Chao. Cabot Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 7:30. 414-277-8480 ext. 4. Through Jan. 8, various times.

COMING SOON

- Jan. 13 Combat Theater: Milwaukee Youth Arts Center
- Jan. 22 Whose Line Is It Anyway?: Pabst Theater
- Jan. 27 Angels in America: Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
- Jan. 28 Bon Jovi: Bradley Center

Deadline for January issue is Dec. 26.

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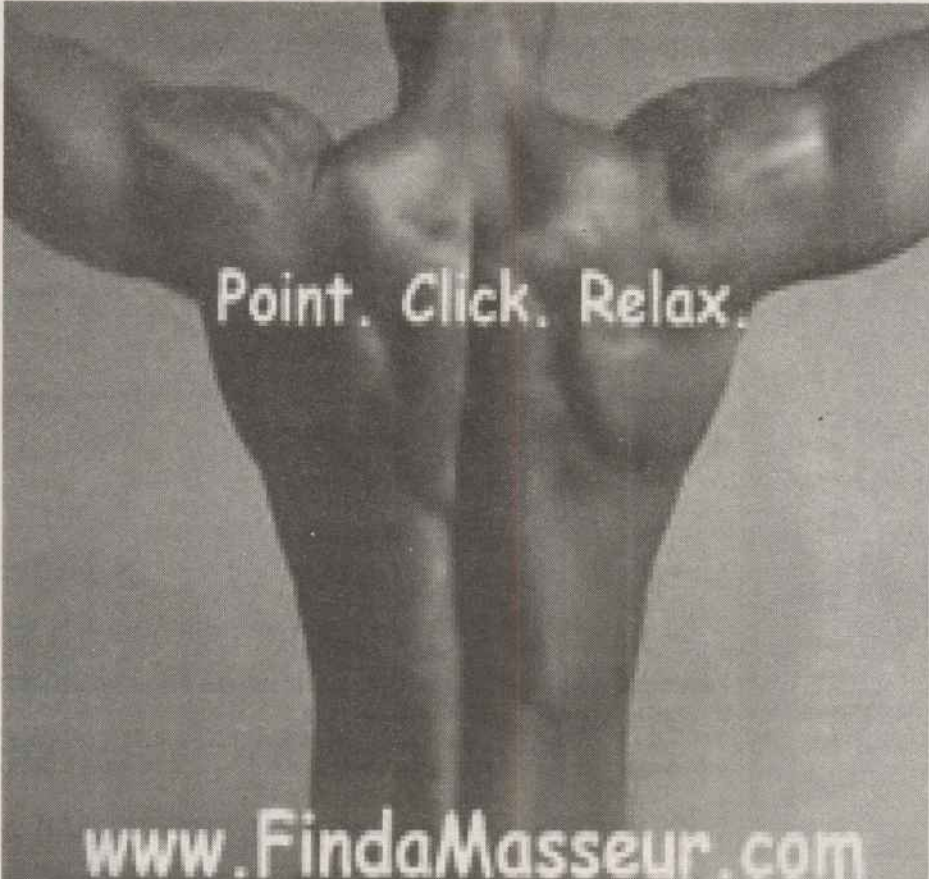
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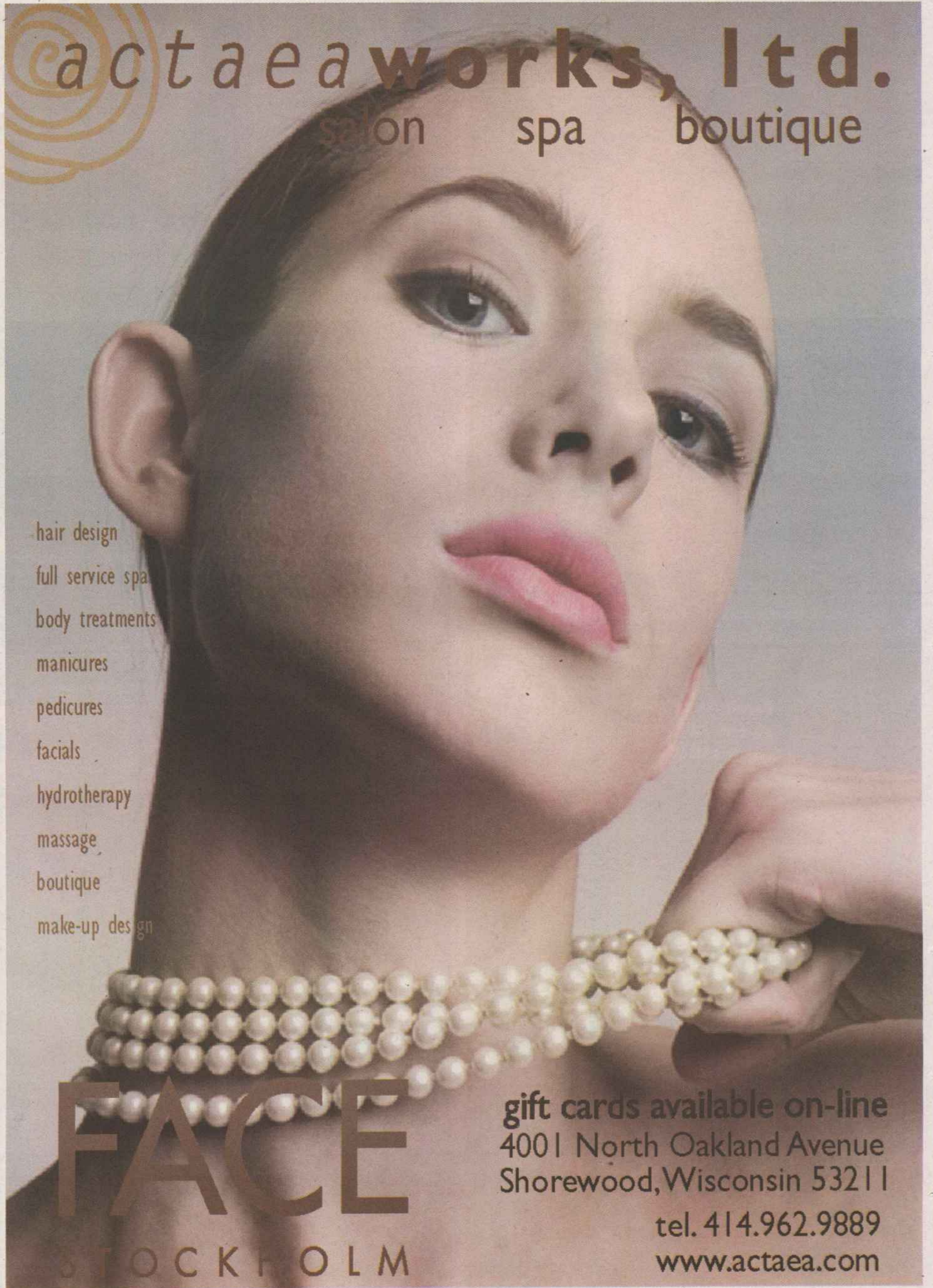
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Tradition, Tradition — Bah, Humbug!



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.

This month I have been writing for Q Life one year. I have discussed things about my life and the pros and cons of the theater as a profession. I have announced many new and exciting shows opening around the Milwaukee area.

Some of my columns have been of interest to theater people; and sometimes people have found it exciting when I mentioned famous celebrities plus our own local stars. It has been a fine year, but I am looking forward to 2006!

Bah, Humbug — Enough Already!!!

As I look at the theater and TV schedules for December, I say,

“Humbug!” I am no Scrooge, but can't some new and exciting events take place during the holidays? Why are we so stuck in the past? The same TV specials, the same holiday plays. It reminds me of the movie “Groundhog Day.”

Lots of Holiday Shows — Old and New!!

This list looks like the one I wrote last year at this time. Déjà vu. But there are a few new specials to look forward to. The **Sunset Playhouse** will open the classic 1930s play “**Holiday**.” The **Stackner Cabaret** brings us the new and exciting “**The Andrews Brothers**” — this show really sounds like a must see! Another new holiday show is by **McMann and Tate** productions, “**Suppressed Holiday Memories**.” Then **In-Tandem** theater company has the well-titled “**Holiday Hell**.” Take your little nieces and nephews to **First Stage** to see “**The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus**.”

As for regular seasonal events, **Off the Wall** presents yet another annual “**Holiday Punch**.” But one thing is for sure: **Dale Gutzman**

will have new holiday jokes and comical put-downs — all done in fun, of course. And you traditional folks can return to “**A Christmas Carol**” performed by **Archangel Productions**, by **Falls Patio Players** and, at the lovely **Pabst Theater**, by the **Milwaukee Repertory Theater**.

The nuts are cracking again at the **Milwaukee Ballet** as they bring us “**The Nutcracker**.” Oh, and this one sounds just so cute: “**Uh Oh, Here Comes Christmas**” at the **Waukesha Civic Theater**.

What Goes Around, Comes Around

As I head into 2006, I have decided not to be a gossip columnist. In real life, I do not like gossips. That only works in Hollywood, where the theater diva gossips sit around the lobby cutting others down. I do not make a habit of that! What goes around comes around!

I have felt a lot of positive energy lately. I want to go into the New Year surrounding myself and my work with people who are supportive. I most recently had an extremely positive experience while

working on the show “**Reckless**.”

In the coming year I plan to highlight certain entertainers, writers and dancers.

Please support the bars this holiday season. Make some friends and make an effort to talk to that single person who may be sitting alone in the night. Also support the hard-working bartenders. Go see “**Naked Boys Singing!**” and see where they might be wearing their Santa hats.

Last Month's Trivia Answer

Actress and comedian **Carol Burnett** starred in “**Putting It Together**” on Broadway. She also was featured in the “**Follies**” concert. Both shows were **Sondheim** hits!

This Month's Trivia Question

Was the show “**Animal Crackers**” the only **Marx Brothers** musical the **Skylight** has ever produced?

Aunt Blanche and I want to wish you the most sexy Christmas your stocking can fill!!!!!!

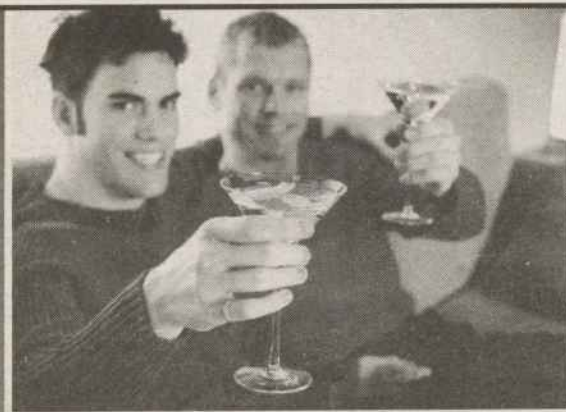
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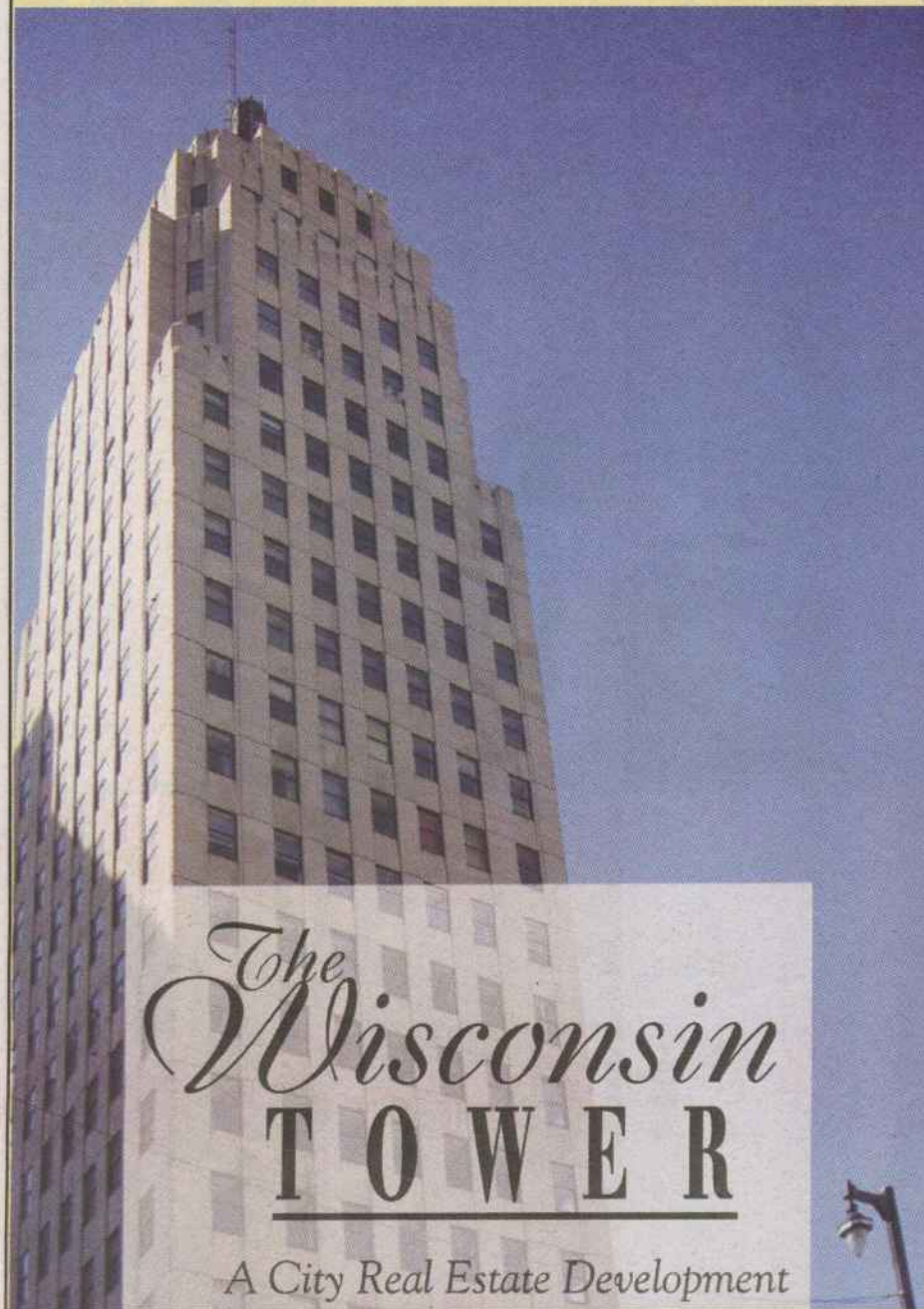
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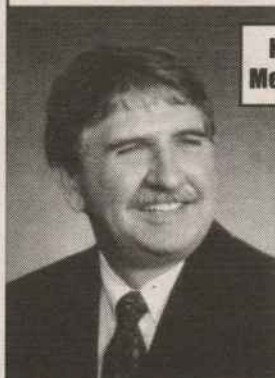
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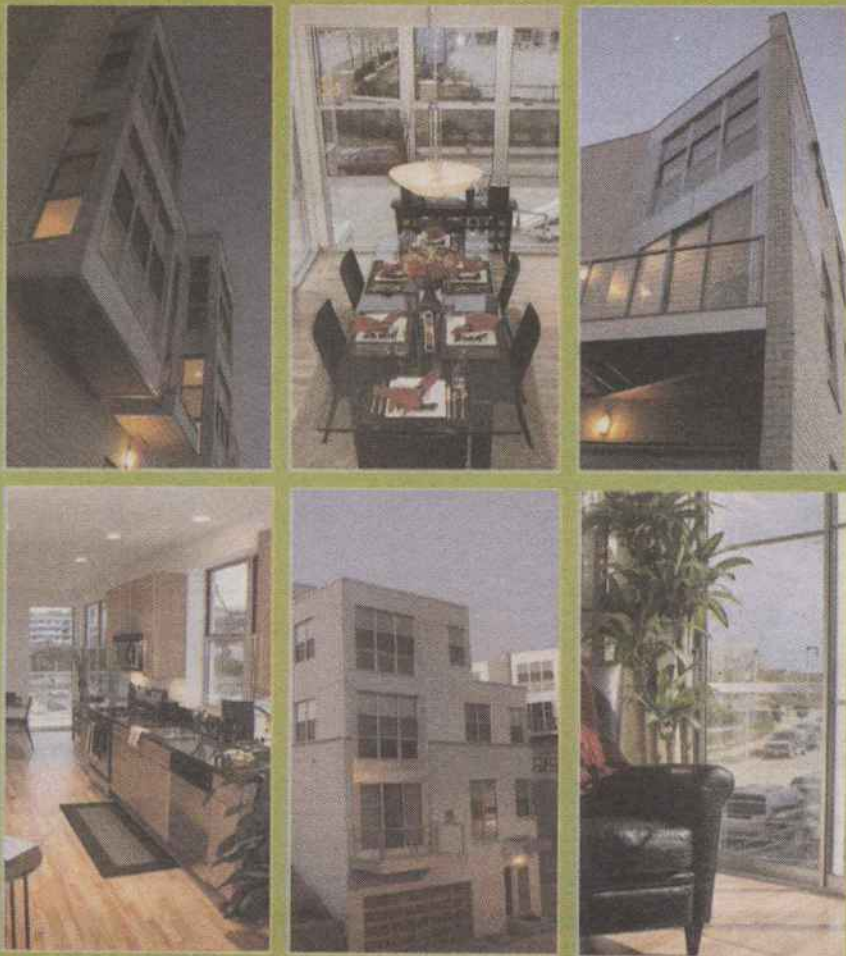
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We like to think of it as 360° of living. A neighborhood. A playground. A lifestyle. A cultural feast. A serendipitous mixture of old and new. Urban and natural.

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MARINE TERMINAL

360° of living

