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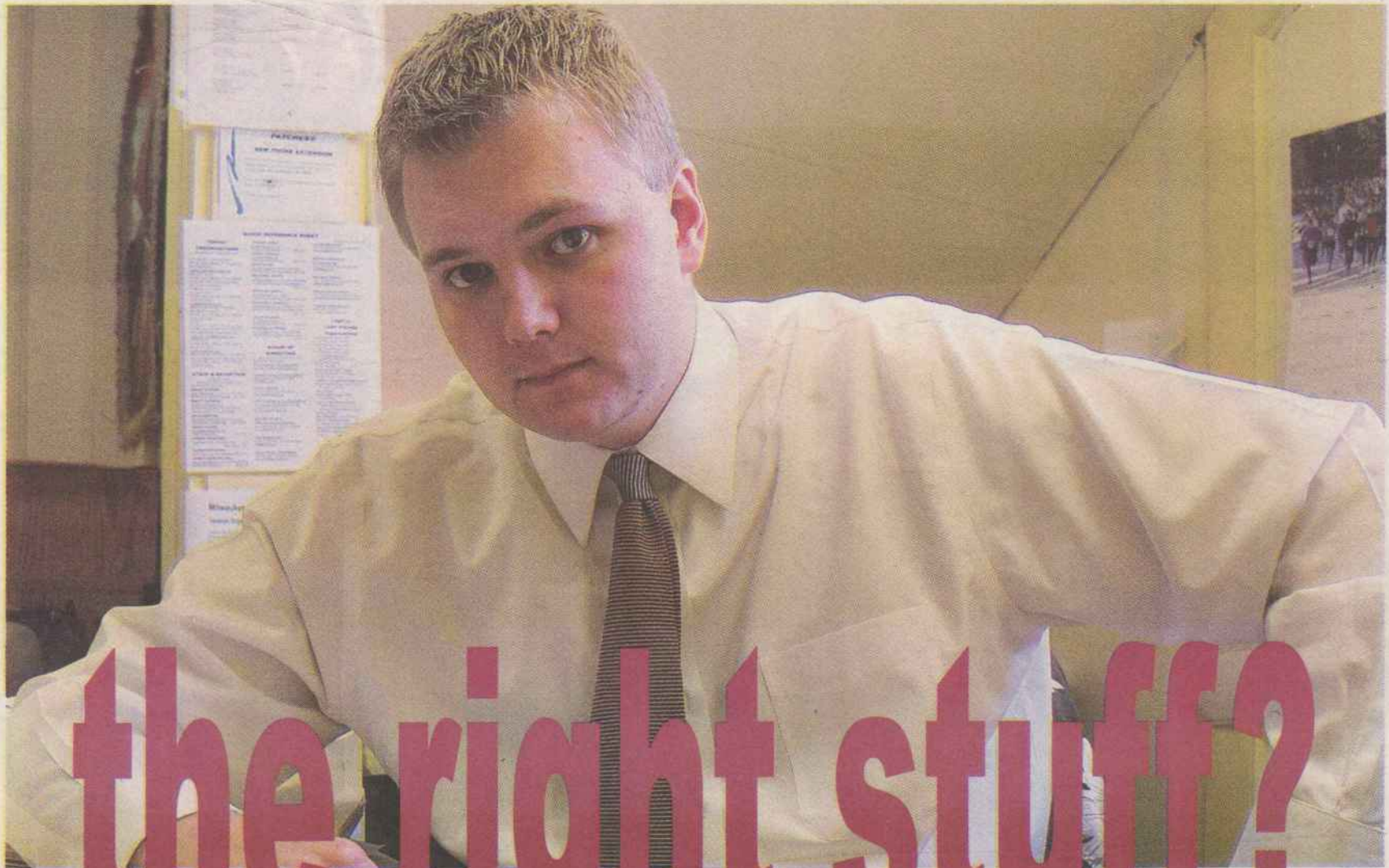
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Is 'Brokeback Mountain' Broke?



Vol. 2, Issue 3 - February 2006

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the right stuff?

By Holly Grey

Action Wisconsin Makes Bold Move Hiring Tate

Confident, enthusiastic and driven are words used to describe Action Wisconsin's recently appointed state campaign director, Michael Tate. However, are these personality traits going to be enough to convince Wisconsin voters to defeat the proposed anti-gay amendment in November?

"Michael brings an interesting set of attributes to the position," claims Michael Childers, an Action Wisconsin board member since 2003 and the current board treasurer. "Not only does he possess strong personal

characteristics, but he's intelligent, thoughtful, politically well-connected and very committed to social justice. In addition, he has great experience."

Tate has abundant past experience working for local politicians and a variety of political organizations. He was the state director for Howard Dean's presidential campaign, earned a degree in political science at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, and was the deputy director of America Coming Together, a

grassroots voter mobilization effort where, according to Tate, he oversaw a \$6 million budget and a paid and volunteer staff of 6,000.

Tate, a Wisconsin native, also worked in 2002 as the state field director for Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk's gubernatorial bid. He was a regional political organizer for AFSCME Council 40 during the general election and has been employed in various capacities for the Democratic Party of America.

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Right Stuff *continued from page 1*

"We were fortunate to have received a large number of applicants interested in this position, including many from out of state, but Michael obviously best fit the position — between his personality, commitment and experience," stated Childers.

"Gay marriage has been used as a wedge issue and I have had enough of the garbage. This is the civil rights issue of our generation and I couldn't sit on the sidelines. Working for Action Wisconsin is a great opportunity," said the motivating Tate.

Tate comes to his new position, as he says, "ready made to go." "Action Wisconsin has been doing really great work for the last two years," Tate said. "We have already identified 75,000 voters who will vote no in November and have 4,000 individuals working in 40 counties talking to voters."

An All-Out Blitz

Action Wisconsin's efforts thus far have focused on reaching individual voters through phone calls, door-to-door canvassing, and a range of outreach events including a Speakers Network.

Six hundred speakers from around the state have already been trained, according to the Action Wisconsin Web site, "to bring something personal to the debate about the amendment. Some of our speakers can tell you why their religious convictions compelled them to stand up for equality, others have gay family members and others are involved simply because they are morally opposed to writing discrimination into our constitution."

As November nears, Tate

plans an all-out blitz to educate and reach the electorate via direct mail and ads on the radio and on television statewide. Additional campaign strategies are being made and implemented to reach a wide range of voters via the Internet. Tate also confirmed that Action Wisconsin will continue its outreach efforts to Christian organizations and the business community.

"The opposition plays on people's fears. They exploit these fears and have divided the public. They have convinced some that voting against gay marriage will somehow protect families and children," explained Tate. "The opposition who use quotes out of the Bible rile me up the most. I've gotten crank phone calls and e-mails. It's happening more often, but I feel if people are shouting at you, you are doing something right."

Tate is wholeheartedly convinced Wisconsin voters will beat this amendment. "LGBT families are in every community. We are staffed and prepared to get out and talk to voters in every nook and cranny in the state. Wisconsin has a history of fair and independent voters. I believe once voters understand the impact of this amendment on real families in their communities and once they hear about the far-reaching consequences of this amendment, we are going to win."

"Voters also need to understand that this amendment is not just about marriage or civil unions. They need to understand that passing this amendment will have a huge impact on all domestic partners," said Tate. "This impact was recently felt in Ohio, regarding their unmarried

domestic violence law, soon after the anti-gay amendment became law in that state."

Many Ohio courts ruled that existing Ohio domestic violence laws could no longer be applied to unmarried perpetrators because they conflict with the amendment's ban against granting marriage-like protections to those who are not married. These courts found that the amendment required them to declare unconstitutional the parts of Ohio law that protect unmarried couples from domestic violence.

Anti-gay amendments, like the one being forced on the electorate in Wisconsin in November, will have additional negative consequences directly affecting gay and lesbian couples in lifelong, committed relationships. The proposed Wisconsin amendment will deny equal rights to taxpaying lesbian and gay couples living in Wisconsin. By banning civil unions and marriages, it will also threaten any sort of legal protection or recognition for unmarried couples.

Without the right to marriage or civil unions, gay and lesbian couples will continue to pay higher taxes and will continue to be denied basic protections under the law. They will continue to receive no Social Security survivor benefits upon the death of a partner, despite paying payroll taxes. They will continue to pay federal income taxes on their employers' contributions toward their domestic partner's health insurance, while married employees do not have to pay such taxes for their spouses. They will continue to pay all estate taxes when a partner dies. Gay and lesbian individuals often pay significant tax penalties when they inherit a 401(k) from their partner. They will continue to be denied family leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Currently a marriage license extends 1,049 rights, benefits and responsibilities under federal law and nearly 200 more under Wisconsin law. The proposed Wisconsin constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage will make the denial of marriage permanent.

Massachusetts is still the only state that issues marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Connecticut and Vermont each have a

statewide civil unions law that provides for state-level spousal rights to same sex-couples within the state. Hawaii, Maine and New Jersey have statewide laws that provide some spousal-like rights to unmarried couples, and California's domestic partnership law provides almost all of the same state level spousal rights to unmarried couples.

Like many organizations that have fought or are fighting anti-gay amendments in other states, Action Wisconsin puts a lot of hard work into fundraising.

"The more money we raise, the more ads we can run and do other things to reach the voters. Our fundraising efforts are done through a variety of means including house parties, soliciting large donors and through e-mail campaigns," explained Tate.

Tate hopes that those who want to get involved but may not have the funds to contribute will go to the Action Wisconsin Web site (www.actionwisconsin.org) to explore the myriad ways of becoming engaged in the fight. "A gift of labor is a great gift," said Tate.

In July, the Human Rights Campaign, America's largest LGBT civil rights organization, contributed \$50,000 to Action Wisconsin to fight the amendment. The Brico Fund, a Milwaukee-based organization working to drive change that creates a more just and equitable society, also donated \$75,000 to Action Wisconsin and the Milwaukee-based Center Advocates.

"This campaign is about winning. I believe the fair and independent Wisconsin voters will reject this harmful and far-reaching amendment in November. We have a tremendously strong infrastructure created. This strong infrastructure, along with a dedicated team of volunteers and staff members, will allow us to fight every day for every vote. We are ready for this battle. We are going to win," Tate concluded.

"Michael is a terrific leader to drive the campaign," said Childers. "He has excellent management and communication skills and is very well-connected politically. In the end, we will win."



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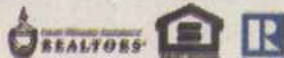
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You've Gotta Have Heart ARCW Green Bay Fundraiser Highlights 'People Above All Else'

By Dan Mueller

Special to Q Life

I'm pleased to extend readers of Q Life an invitation. It's an invitation to be a hero and celebrate the building of community. It's an invitation to join in Wisconsin's ongoing fight against AIDS by honoring some deserving people and rededicating ourselves to improving the lives of those in northeast Wisconsin with HIV.



Dan Mueller

Not only is this invitation an easy one to respond to, but it's a fun one as well.

On Saturday, Feb. 18, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) will host its 15th Annual Have A Heart silent auction and dinner, themed "People Above All Else." This event, which takes place in Green Bay, marks our continuing commitment to placing the well-being of our clients, patients and people at highest risk for HIV, above all else. The theme celebrates the community's partnership with ARCW to develop and implement new services for people with HIV and AIDS in northeast Wisconsin.

ARCW Expanded Services

Helped by a brigade of generous donors, ARCW recently concluded a capital campaign to renovate a new, professional office building in downtown Green Bay. This facility is welcoming to all. It is accessible for people with disabilities and allows ARCW to serve the 250 clients from northeast Wisconsin who turn to ARCW for help each year.

Within this new building is a brand new food pantry distributing food to meet the demanding nutritional needs of people with HIV and AIDS. Made possible by a generous gift from a philanthropic fund overseen by Green Bay's historic Union Congregational Church, the pantry already is serving 100 individuals or families affected by HIV and AIDS. ARCW's food pantry is a strategic collaboration with other caring groups as well. The Greater Green Bay Community Foundation is supporting our pantry with funds to help purchase food, and Brown County's Task Force on Hunger supplies food that is stocked and handed out by community volunteers. We are pleased, as well, that the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region has awarded ARCW a grant to help expand services through Appleton and surrounding counties.

Apart from our new building and food services, ARCW continues its collaborations with Dr. Raymond Bachhuber, Dr. Barbara Lauderdale and Dr. James Lacey to assure everyone with HIV has access to quality medical care. Drs. Bachhuber and Lacey have been treating AIDS patients for over 20 years and will be featured in ARCW's "20 Giving 20" exhibit on display at Have A Heart. This exhibit highlights the contributions of 20 individuals and organizations who have given 20 consecutive years to the fight against AIDS.

ARCW's legal services team of attorneys continues to advocate on behalf of our clients' and patients' rights in northeast Wisconsin. ARCW's housing services staff makes sure no one with HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin goes homeless.

Our Bag Boyz team in Green Bay regularly carries lifesaving prevention messages to a new generation of young gay men in local bars. Green Bay is also one of 10 cities throughout

Wisconsin where we run Lifepoint, our clean needle exchange program, which reaches out to injection drug users. And finally, we offer free, anonymous HIV testing that produces test results in 20 minutes.

These services are expensive, yet ARCW continues to offer them to all people regardless of their ability to pay.

15th Annual Have A Heart Dinner

Have A Heart will bestow special honors on two popular northeast Wisconsin organizations, the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and the Guernsey Gala.

The Oneida Nation of Wisconsin has supported the work of ARCW for 13 consecutive years through corporate sponsorships of our Have A Heart and AIDS Walk Wisconsin events totaling nearly \$100,000.

Guernsey Gala is a northeast Wisconsin fundraising pageant started in 1996. Area bars sponsor contestants, who enter to win the coveted title of "Guernsey Queen," and have raised more than \$130,000 for the fight against AIDS since the pageant began.

We are excited to be joined on Feb. 18 by the talented jazz musicians of Lawrence University as well as the highly acclaimed Lawrence University Jazz Singers, part of a long-standing jazz tradition at Lawrence University. They have performed with Diana Krall and received Downbeat magazine's student music award, "Outstanding Vocal Jazz Ensemble." It will be a great night.

Our evening is set. Our honorees are announced. ARCW's commitment to leading the fight against AIDS in northeast Wisconsin is strengthened and our invitations are extended. Now all we need is you. If you are a Q Life reader in another community, you'll appreciate the great hotel packages that have been arranged through the Radisson. If you cannot attend, consider donating a ticket so an ARCW client or patient may be treated to a night they would not be able to afford.

For all the strong strategies and smart community collaborations, AIDS is a cunning and expensive disease that forces us to use all the support we can to fight it. More than 830 people in northeast Wisconsin have been affected by HIV since the start of the epidemic. For the past 14 years, Have A Heart has been bringing the community together to raise the money needed to support this special community of clients and patients, the people we continue to place above all else. I hope you will accept our invitation to join us at Have A Heart.

Have A Heart will take place Feb. 18 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center at Oneida Casino in Green Bay. Tickets for Have A Heart are \$50 and \$75. The \$75 ticket includes two complimentary cocktails, preferred seating and wine served with dinner. To purchase tickets, call Bill Keeton at 800-359-9272, ext. 1592, or e-mail him at Bill.Keeton@arcw.org. Tickets can also be purchased by clicking on the Have A Heart link at www.arcw.org.

To learn more about any of ARCW's services for people with HIV in Green Bay, call 920-437-7400. If you have questions about HIV and AIDS, call our hotline at 800-334-AIDS or visit www.arcw.org.

Please join us Feb. 18 for a wonderful evening!

Dan Mueller is vice president and chief development officer of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.



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Wisconsin



Happenings

Court Awards \$87,000 to Action Wisconsin

Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Patricia McMahon has ruled that the defamation case brought against Action Wisconsin by Grant Storms, a speaker at the 2003 "International Conference on Homo-Fascism," was frivolously filed.

McMahon ordered payment to Action Wisconsin of more than \$87,000 in attorneys' fees and costs, noting that the substantial time and resources expended by Action Wisconsin's attorneys was both reasonable and necessary, particularly

"given the threat to Action Wisconsin's mission and purpose."

Storms had claimed in the lawsuit that Action Wisconsin defamed him by issuing a press release in December 2003 which stated that, in his speech, Storms "apparently advocated the murder" of lesbian and gay people. In June, McMahon found that this interpretation was rational and dismissed the suit. In this most recent ruling, McMahon described the plaintiff's and his attorney's behavior in this case as wasteful. She ruled, "Plaintiff and counsel

knew or should have known that the action filed and maintained against Action Wisconsin ... is without any reasonable basis in law or equity."

"Those people who might try to use lawsuits to interfere with Action Wisconsin's free speech and advocacy should be on notice: We will not let Action Wisconsin be intimidated. ... [T]here are consequences for bringing frivolous lawsuits against our clients," said Lester Pines, one of the attorneys with Cullen Weston Pines & Bach who represented Action Wisconsin.

LGBT Community Strategic Group Planning Meeting

The Cream City Foundation (CCF), Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE), Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Rainbow Families and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center invite all LGBT leaders to join them for an open discussion to talk about the need and structure for an LGBT community strategic group.

"During CCF's 2005 LGBT Summit, which was open to all LGBT organizations in Southeastern Wisconsin, individuals in attendance expressed an interest in strategizing as a community," said Maria Cadenas, executive director of CCF. "We thought it prudent to open the discussion to the entire community and see where it led."

CCF is taking the role of providing staff support, but no official leadership role, on the endeavor. "For it to be a true community group, the community itself needs to guide and mold it; however, we understand the cost and time of planning such an effort may be an impediment for it to happen," said Cadenas, "that is why CCF is offering my staff time to help arrange the meetings towards the effort. Again, the leadership and structure will have to come from the process and the community, not any one particular organization or individual."

The meeting will take place Feb. 8 at 5 p.m. at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. For more information, contact Maria Cadenas at 414-225-0244.

Ted McMahon Promoted at ARCW

Wisconsin (ARCW) is pleased to announce the promotion of Ted McMahon to Director of Housing Services. McMahon will head a team of housing case managers and facility staff across the state. He will also oversee operations of ARCW's two housing facilities and provide leadership and direction for two housing projects deemed special projects of national significance.

McMahon has a deep history with ARCW and 12 years of experience in the fight against AIDS, beginning in 1994 as a youth prevention specialist in Kenosha. In 1996 he became a case manager before being promoted to a supervisor in 2002. McMahon began his role as housing director in November.

"Ted was such a natural choice for this position," said Roma Hanson, ARCW vice president of social services. "His compassion and dedication to his clients and his knowledge in this area made him a good fit. He brings so much energy and talent to help him in this endeavor."

A lifelong resident of Kenosha County, McMahon has been a resource to the LGBTQ community in Southeast Wisconsin as a frequent speaker at PFLAG- and LGBT-sponsored support and education meetings.

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National



Happenings

Maryland Court Ruling Supports Marriage Protections

Baltimore — A Maryland circuit court ruled last month that it is a violation of the state constitution to deny same-sex couples the protections provided to married couples.

"This is such an exciting moment," said Lisa Polyak, who with her partner, Gita Deane, is one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union. "Our participation in this lawsuit has always been about family protections for our children. Tonight, we will rest a little easier knowing that those protections are within reach."

Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Brooke Murdock issued a decision finding that denying same-sex couples the ability to marry violates the state constitution's Equal Rights Amendment, which protects against

discrimination based on sex.

The court ruled, "When tradition is the guise under which prejudice or animosity hides, it is not a legitimate state interest." The opinion further noted, "The Court is not unaware of the dramatic impact of its ruling, but it must not shy away from deciding significant legal issues when fairly presented to it for judicial determination. As others assessing the constitutionality of preventing same-sex marriage note, justifying the continued application of a classification through its past application is 'circular reasoning, not analysis,' and that it is not persuasive."

The ACLU filed the lawsuit on July 7, 2004, in partnership with Equality Maryland, on behalf of nine same-sex couples and a surviving gay partner.

The state is expected to appeal the decision.

National Black Justice Coalition Ad Features Justice Thomas and Judge Alito

Washington — A leading black civil rights group has released an advertisement that takes on Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. The National Black Justice Coalition ad challenges the influence of religious intolerance on the U.S. Supreme Court.

The ad — published in the Afro-American Newspapers in Baltimore and Washington, and in Roll Call, the Congressional newspaper — features a photograph of Justice Thomas, who is black, and his wife Virginia, who is white. Noting their interracial relationship, the ad asks, "Offense Before God?"

Until 1967, Thomas's marriage would have been illegal in 36 states, said NBJC Director of Religious Affairs Sylvia Rhue. "Forty years ago, opponents of interracial marriage cited the Bible to justify their discrimination. Today, opponents of same-gender marriage cite the Bible to justify their discrimination," Rhue added.

"If Clarence Thomas had been on the Court in 1967, how would he have voted?" the ad asks, referring to the Supreme Court decision that legalized interracial marriage. It continues, "If Samuel Alito had been on the court in 1967, how would he have voted?" The ad argues that "using religion to justify discrimination is the real offense before God."

"We want to remind those who benefited from our nation's commitment to equality not to deny that right to others," said NBJC Executive Director H. Alexander Robinson.

Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association Receives Gift from CNN for Scholarships

Washington — The National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) Scholarship Fund endowment is the recipient of a \$100,000 donation from CNN to support the Leroy F. Aarons Scholarship Award. The academic award is named in memory of NLGJA's founder, the late Leroy F. Aarons, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and editor.

The \$5,000 Aarons scholarship will be awarded annually to an LGBT undergraduate or graduate student who plans a career in journalism and is committed to furthering NLGJA's mission of fair and accurate coverage of the LGBT community.

"CNN is only as strong as its journalists and this donation helps ensure that we not only support an outstanding organization of journalists but a deep resource for hiring future CNN anchors, correspondents and producers," said Jim Walton, president of CNN Worldwide.

Leroy F. Aarons dedicated his life to journalism until his death at age 70 in 2004. He believed that the LGBT community could advance if the news media did its job by simply telling the truth.

Military Culture Turns a Corner with New Publication

Santa Barbara, Calif. — A new four-volume series on the cultural and psychological dimensions of American military life includes, for the first time, a chapter on the open service of gay troops. The chapter describes social and institutional changes needed to lift

the ban on openly gay service members in the U.S. armed forces.

Experts say the inclusion of the topic in a publication endorsed by major military scholars reflects a shifted landscape on the question of military service by gays. Because a majority of junior enlisted service members now say that gays and lesbians should serve openly, according to an Annenberg poll, and because the vast majority of service members now say that they feel personally comfortable around gays and lesbians, integration is seen as a much less difficult option than it would have been 12 years ago, when President Clinton tried to lift the gay ban.

The new chapter, written by Dr. Gregory M. Herek, a professor of psychology at the University of California, Davis, and Dr. Aaron Belkin, Director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara, appears in "Military Life: The Psychology of Serving in Peace and Combat."

The chapter examines how military culture could smoothly integrate openly gay and lesbian troops. It offers "some practical issues relevant to replacing the [current] policy with one that does not discriminate against personnel on the basis of their sexual orientation." This focus is unusual since debate on the topic more commonly centers on whether known gays should be allowed to serve rather than on how to implement a change in policy.

According to Nathaniel Frank, senior research fellow at the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, the chapter "reflects an evolving understanding that the current exclusionary policy on gay troops is harmful and outdated, and that change is inevitable."

Overcoming the 'Gay Generation Gap'

Amherst, Mass. — LGBT people must overcome communication challenges when working together across generations, according to a new publication by the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies, a nonprofit, independent think tank. People from different age cohorts have very different experiences and beliefs that reflect rapid changes in the treatment of LGBT people.

Dr. Glenda Russell, a co-author of the report, noted, "LGBT adults tend to project their own experiences onto today's young people, when in fact the lives of today's young people are often quite different."

For example, "alternative proms" organized by LGBT adults for LGBT high school youth often seem to be designed to meet the needs of the adult organizers who missed their own proms rather than the needs of today's young people. From the other direction, young LGBT people sometimes complain that no one is doing anything about discrimination, apparently unaware of decades of prior activism by LGBT adults.

Young people often provide a perspective that is both less constrained by past strategies for problem solving and less reliant on older — perhaps incorrect — assumptions about the degree of homophobia. Adults, on the other hand, have greater experience and resources and are more familiar with the historical roots of the LGBT movement.

The study concludes with concrete suggestions for the LGBT community and organizations to overcome these communication barriers.

Gay Film Preservation

Celebrated director Roland Emmerich ("The Day After Tomorrow," "The Patriot," "Independence Day") has pledged \$150,000 to support Outfest's Legacy Project for LGBT Film Preservation. The largest gift in Outfest's 24-year history, this donation is the first lead gift toward a three-year, \$1.5 million campaign supporting Outfest's new LGBT film preservation collaboration with the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

"As a filmmaker I know how important it is to protect my work," said Emmerich. "The independent gay and lesbian films of the last 30 years have had no one to save, restore and protect them until now. I'm proud to play a part in launching the Legacy Project and encourage everyone to help save these precious, affirming images."

Outfest's Legacy Project for LGBT Film Preservation is the only program devoted to addressing the crisis in LGBT film preservation. Through the Legacy Project, Outfest and the UCLA Film & Television Archive have established the largest publicly accessible collection of LGBT films in the world. In addition, Outfest and UCLA are collecting film prints and other material for permanent preservation and will strike new prints for widespread public exhibition, restore damaged films to their initial release forms and educate filmmakers and the general public about LGBT film and video preservation.

Abortion at War, Reviving the Struggle

Q Opinion

By Mingwei Huang

Today abortion rights are hanging by a thread. With staunchly anti-choice Samuel Alito replacing Sandra Day O'Connor, the swing voter on the U.S. Supreme Court, we may see the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 case legalizing abortion.

In 1985, Alito proudly said that he believed the Constitution does not protect the right to an abortion. At his confirmation hearings, Alito refused to distance himself from that 1985 statement. He also dissented in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, concluding that a woman does not need her husband's consent to have an abortion. Whether the Court will actually overturn such a precedent is food for thought. If *Roe* does stand, we will definitely see the passing of more restrictions on abortion.

Under today's restrictions — mandatory 24-hour waiting periods, restrictions on minors, lack of Medicaid funding — abortion is legal, but inaccessible. Poor and young women suffer the most and turn to abortions reminiscent of "back-alley" abortions. All women are restricted by the lack of abortion clinics. In fact, 87 percent of U.S. counties do not have an abortion clinic. As a result, many women must arrange transportation, which is an added burden on their finances and time.

Abortions are expensive, at an average cost of \$487 according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute. Of women seeking abortions, 57 percent live below the poverty line. Because of the Hyde Amendment, Medicaid does not pay for an abortion except in cases of rape, incest or endangerment of the mother's health.

Poor women scrounge up the several hundreds of dollars necessary for an abortion by foregoing basic items, selling belongings and resorting to prostitution among other acts of desperation. Many poor women are forced to have abortions farther into their pregnancies because acquiring the money is so difficult. And when an abortion occurs farther into the pregnancy, the cost is greater and the risk of complications is higher.

Women under 18, who account for about 19 percent of abortions, might have difficulty obtaining parental consent and anti-choice judges might deny their requests to waive the mandatory notification. Laws against transporting a minor across state lines and a 24-hour mandatory waiting period for an abortion further limit access for minors.

Today we still see back-alley abortions because of these restrictions. When abortion was illegal, abortion was a life and death issue for women.

The Era of Illegal Abortions

The death toll from illegal abortions before 1973 in the United States is conservatively estimated at 5,000 to 10,000 women annually. Many desperate women attempted to induce an abortion themselves. They injected bleach, Lysol or Drano into their uteruses with garden hoses or by douching; threw themselves down stairs; punctured their cervixes with coat hangers, knitting needles, crotchet hooks or scissors; and ingested turpentine, gunpowder, whiskey or bleach.

Others spent tremendous amounts of money — sometimes from their life savings or prostitution — on back-alley abortions conducted in filthy rooms, hotel rooms, the back seats of cars and homes. Abortionists collected payment upfront, did the procedure with unsterilized tools and no anesthesia, covered the woman with gauze or towels and abandoned her. Horror stories abound about women being picked-up, blindfolded and driven to a remote area so they would be unable to implicate those involved. Some abortionists raped women or offered to reduce expenses in exchange for sex. There were also reports of intoxicated abortionists.

Consequently, some women died immediately; others hemorrhaged severely or became ill from infections while

foregoing medical help. Visiting the hospital was risky because of the possibility of arrest. The "Monday morning abortion lineup" of women in stretchers was rather common. They received their paycheck on Friday, rushed to see an abortionist, then nearly died over the weekend. Of the women surviving, the majority were traumatized or permanently disfigured.

The Strength of the Right

If we want to keep abortion safe, legal and accessible to all women, we must revive the pro-choice movement that has been stagnant for too long. The Christian right is incredibly strong and influential today. Their uncompromising demands and their "sanctity of life" and "sanctity of marriage" rhetoric have infiltrated every branch of government. With George Bush's "family values" driven re-election, he has a tremendous social debt to fill. Our new Supreme Court is anti-choice. Congress is dominated by right-wing ideologues. And in addition to being strong on the government level, the Christian right is well-organized and strong on a grassroots level. The grassroots, activist base of the Christian right regularly protests, terrorizes clinics, and continues to mobilize Bible-thumping zealots.

One example of the strength of the Christian right is clinic violence. According to the National Abortion Federation, since 1997 in the United States and Canada, there have been a reported 80,000 acts of clinic violence or disruption, including 41 bombings, 166 arsons, 100 butyric acid attacks, 373 physical invasions of the clinic, 654 anthrax threats, 1042 acts of vandalism, 355 death threats, three kidnappings, 17 attempted murders and seven murders.

One of four abortion clinics regularly experiences violent tactics like those mentioned. Furthermore, 7 percent of clinics attribute physicians and staff quitting to violence and personal harassment. The fewer the abortion providers and clinics surviving attacks, the more narrow access. As can be seen, the Christian right is organized and dedicated to the cause more than we can fathom. They are strong at both a government and grassroots level.

What can be said about the pro-choice movement? Unfortunately, pro-choice politicians are not fighting for our abortion rights but passively allowing the Christian right to push their ideological agenda through Congress. At a grassroots level, the movement has shifted from a strong, grassroots movement in the spirit of the 1960s and '70s, to a massive, ineffective lobbying campaign.

The Democrats usually resonate as our pro-choice allies. However recent history proves otherwise. The Democrats, who want a more "moral" image after losing the 2004 election, are on the defense in the abortion war. This becomes evident through the rhetoric of one abortion rights poster child, Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, who commented that abortion is a "sad, tragic choice for many, many women." Instead of an uncompromising defense of abortion rights, Clinton is now looking for common ground with anti-choice bigots. Democrat Howard Dean, who was believed to be too liberal for America, is now welcoming pro-life Democrats.

While the right wing is aggressively pushing its anti-abortion crusade in Congress, the Democrats are supporting anti-choice legislation. Only 33 senators voted against the ban on late-term abortions which are protected by *Roe*. Instead Democrats allowed the Christian right to coin the medically inaccurate term "partial-birth abortion" to

further polarize Americans on abortion. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act also passed, notably with a vote from John Kerry. The bill elevates the unborn fetus to the status of a person.

Some Democrats are even taking anti-choice initiatives on their own. For example, John Kerry co-authored a bill with Christian fundamentalist Rick Santorum recently allowing pharmacists to deny women emergency contraception.

In handling the Supreme Court, the Democrats have not tried their best to keep anti-choice nominees off of the court. John Roberts was confirmed. Alito will probably not be filibustered. It has become clear that in today's political climate, we cannot depend on politicians or the Supreme Court to protect our rights.

Rebuilding a Grassroots Movement

The only way we can defend legal and safe abortion is to fight for it. We won our right to abortion through a strong, unapologetic grassroots struggle. With the momentum of the Civil Rights Movement and the antiwar movement, the women's liberation movement emerged in the mid-1960s. Thousands of women and men raised demands for abortion rights, child care and equal pay for women in hundreds of public demonstrations. They employed direct action tactics such as marches, sit-ins and rallies. We won abortion rights as a result of the mass radical movement, despite having a conservative-packed Supreme Court and Richard Nixon in office.

After *Roe*, the movement has faded as a result of a shift in politics that has transformed the grassroots struggle into a lobbying quest. Today the remnants of the movement are a massive lobbying campaign to collect money and push a watered-down form of activism — write a letter, make a phone call or click the "take action" button on an e-mail. The donations fund campaigns of politicians who passively allow the right wing to push their anti-abortion agenda as restriction after restriction is passed without contention.

To regain lost ground and make additional strides for abortion rights, we must rebuild the grassroots fight that proved successful in 1973. This means making uncompromising demands and incorporating direct action tactics that will force politicians to take a strong stand for abortion rights. In addition, movements in other progressive areas build on the momentum of other social gains. With a new, powerful women's movement, the chance of successful gay rights and antiwar movements becomes extremely likely. This is a cause worth fighting for and it's up to us to take it on.

Mingwei Huang is from *Our Bodies, Our Rights!* The group meets Sundays at 6 p.m., TITU of UWM's Memorial Union. Contact her at huang5@wisc.edu.



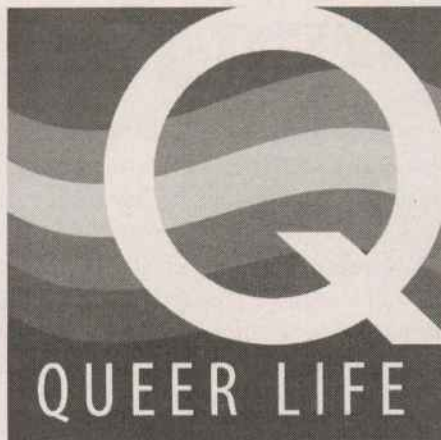
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Q Life is a monthly publication which highlights Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. Each issue contains insightful articles penned by local personalities who are in the know. Available throughout Wisconsin, Q Life fills an information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

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Tate's Different Direction Deserves a Shot



EDITORIAL

In what can only be seen as a most hopeful sign, the folks in charge of our community's fight against our state's homophobic ban on gay marriage have finally gotten off square one and hired a campaign chief to lead the fight.

And even though it appeared several times that Action Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Center Advocates were dragging their feet, the hiring of Michael Tate is a welcome harbinger.

Tate, a quick-on-his-feet, seasoned campaign professional, has been around politics for a while. He's managed thousands of workers and campaigns that have spent millions of dollars.

His last job was a noble one.

Even though it didn't lead to a campaign victory.

But it's unclear how much Tate had to do with the demise of "ya-hooing" Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean. As state director here in Wisconsin, Tate faced a sinking ship — armed only with a beat-up bucket full of idealistic messages. Add to that the extra emphasis Dean put on Wisconsin with his proclamation that he needed a victory or he'd exit the race all together. We know what happened. Dean dropped out. But Tate went on to help the Democrats win Wisconsin and stay true blue during the November 2004 election.

The country of course wasn't that smart.

Mainly because of that outcome we find ourselves where we are today: fighting for our lives and our rights. We also find ourselves asking what the correct steps are to convince our state's electorate that they should defeat one of the most homophobic state constitutional bans in our nation's history.

The real question though is, Is Tate the right guy? Does he have the strategy? How about raising three to six million bucks?

The jury is still out on that.

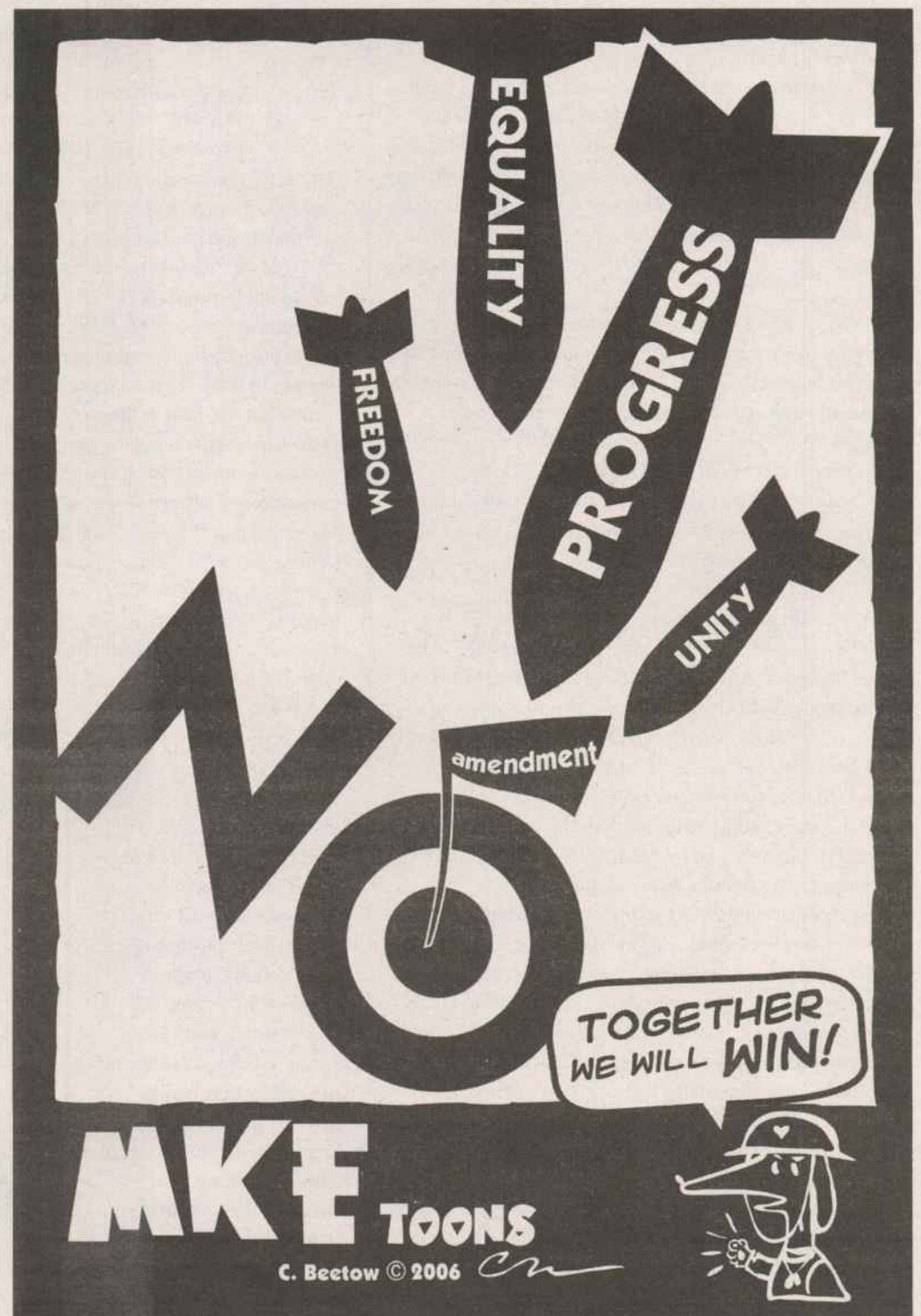
We do know that he appears to understand the basics of how to win campaigns — even though he's the first to highlight his not-so-winning past. What we don't know is if he'll have a strong enough vision to lead our often fractured community to

unity and ultimate victory. We also have no idea if he can raise the money needed to win this race. But at least he's identified the amount we need to raise, a figure we've been asking about for months.

It's all in the packaging. Tate says he knows that. He also says this campaign must be won by convincing non-gays we deserve the same rights as they have.

But one issue Tate seems very mum about is just how far we need to push our current gay leaders (or nonleaders) to start thinking in a different way. He's candid when it comes to listing what internal obstacles he must overcome, but he stops short of saying the community and its leaders must get tough in order

continued on page 11



EDITORIAL *continued from page 11*

to win.

That, quite honestly, was disappointing, but not surprising considering Tate is still new on the job. To his credit, however, he did agree that our passive past "would not be his first choice."

How right Tate is.

We must empower our friends and allies to be unafraid of speaking up when something is right and something is wrong. We have a tendency in our community to want to do what is politically correct and never challenge the misguided actions of some very powerful folks because of how they look or the positions they hold.

This is the reason we in Wisconsin are where we are today — marginalized and afraid to speak out.

Tate seems like a straight shooter who isn't shy or fearful of putting together a campaign based on the hateful words of this homophobic legislation. He seems poised to let it rip. And he knows what Mike Dukakis learned in 1988: Nice guys finish last. He's also the new breed of the Democratic Party, one that is not going to lie down and let itself be used as a welcome carpet adorning the steps of the religious right and their hateful speech.

Tate must be allowed to run this campaign the way he sees fit, and those in other LGBT leadership positions must take a back seat to his thoughts and his vision.

It is time for our community to put its faith in other leadership. While our current leaders have done a competent job, we can no longer be held back by those afraid of their own shadow.

Tate gets that. We hope the egos of others will allow them to as well.

If not, Tate will lose his ability to make real change — and our campaign will go down in defeat.

If Tate has some real say, we might be one of the first states in our nation to defeat hate.

Dear Editor:

Sources at Milwaukee County say the government's financial health is in dire straits. Fiscal calamities such as the debacle at the Milwaukee Public Museum and the recent disclosure that the Parks department is running \$2.3 million dollars in the red, are putting tremendous stress and strain on government workers, their families and the County's ability to carry out its civic responsibility.

For several years, Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker has fought against raising taxes. His commitment to Milwaukee County property owners is to be commended. But in the long run holding fast to his dogmatic beliefs places at risk the very system he is responsible for.

The fiscal chaos now coming to light without question present another blemish on the County's image and fuel more resentment towards the government by the taxpayers. To prevent further erosion of the people's trust, Walker must take corrective and decisive action now.

Walker can begin to clean the acute fiscal disorder that continues to plague the County by initiating an inquiry into the financial wheeling and dealing of the Parks department.

According to Milwaukee County budget director Stephen Agostini, the first warning Parks director Sue Black received regarding her spending was in March 2005. Black was Walker's choice to run the Parks department. Agostini informed Black that she needed to show some spending restraint. It appears that Sue Black brushed off those concerns and continued to spend money she did not have. March 2005 to January 2006 e-mails between fiscal and management analyst Leslie Sperber and James Keegan of the Parks department indicate Walker's office and Black's office knew of the fiscal dilemma facing the Parks department before the County Board got wind of it.

This is where Walker's leadership comes into question. With Parks starting to hemorrhage in early 2005, why didn't he take charge of the situation?

Sources at the County state that Sue Black moved money without proper authorization and that she continued to spend — taking money from various accounts in order to satisfy her department's appetite for dollars. Agostini stated to me, however, that he never authorized any appropriations transfers from Parks.

The spending spree Black engaged in may have violated financial protocols and longstanding procedures designed to prevent spending overruns, said an official at the County who asked for anonymity.

In fact, some supervisors are stating that Black's failure to report her fiscal deficit when she learned of it in 2005 is a major violation.

Did Walker know what was taking place? What was Black telling Walker about her department's budget?

Is Walker is going to hold Black accountable for this current crisis? Is anyone going to be held accountable for this "fiscal oversight"?

Listen! Hear that? Yes, silence from the Citizens for Responsible Government, Charlie Sykes and Mark Belling. The three monkeys: hear no evil, see no evil and speak no evil illustrate poetically the hypocrisy of the leaders of the so-called "taxpayer revolt."

These guys are just part of the side show. The real action is at the County Board. Will Supervisor James White get his forensic audit? Will Walker hold Sue Black accountable? Will the "taxpayer revolt patriots" come to the rescue? Stay tuned for another episode of: Walker plays hide and seek with Milwaukee County dollars.

Robert Miranda
editor-in-chief,
the Milwaukee Spanish Journal

Dear Maria:

I am sending you this letter today to express my disappointment with the Cream City Foundation and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation in the Funding Initiative project.

This week several organizations, some out of existence and others just sex clubs, received your Jan. 4, 2006, letter announcing your funding

cycle. In asking around the community I have found out that several new organizations were not contacted, and once again, as in the 2004 funding cycle, the LGBT Community Center (a 501 (C)3 organization) and Community Trust Fund was omitted from your mailing. This was also communicated to Ms. Gryniewicz and Mr. Marks after the first funding cycle, with no response.

Those who received their letters on Friday, Jan. 6, 2006, surely are not given much time to prepare their applications to meet your February 1 deadline. It has been widely known that this cycle was coming up because some organizations have had prior knowledge and have already prepared their proposals. This is all the result of insider knowledge, mostly consisting of the initiative's advisory committee knowing of this funding cycle, and telling the organizations with which they are affiliated. This is an unfair playing field for many groups that you discriminate against in the LGBT community. Secondly, why wasn't this up-coming funding cycle announced in the gay press, so LGBT organizations not on your mailing list could be made aware of it?

In addition, the LGBT community was not informed as to who received funding in the last cycle. No announcement was given to the gay or straight press. Only a slight mention was made in the CCF newsletter, which is not available to the LGBT community. Needless to say, almost everyone knows who received most of the funds and why everything is being kept hushed up.

I find this arrogance by the CCF and GMF in our community outrageous. You ask for funds from community businesses, foundations and individuals, and show very little accountability to the general public. The GMF has refused to meet or respond to requests from the community, those whom you somehow feel less deserving and refuse to recognize. In addition, you have not expanded your advisory committee to include new representatives, such as replacing Ms. Wise, who has left the community. Instead, you maintain your small nucleus of insiders, people affiliated with the organizations that submit grants, and then recommend approval of their proposals to GMF.

This outrageous fleecing of our community has to stop. Donors must be made aware of where their funds are going. The continuation of current practices only hurts all charities in the community.

Si Smits
Executive Director
G/L Community Trust Fund

Dear Si Smits:

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation and Cream City Foundation wish to clarify misinformation included in a letter from the G/L Community Center on Jan. 8, 2006, to the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership and several LGBT media outlets. We would like to note that there have been no other criticisms or expressions of concern from the LGBT community and their allies other than from the G/L Community Center in regards to the Fund.

The Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership is a collaborative fund created by the Cream City Foundation and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation along with National Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues to help encourage giving to LGBT communities in the area. As such, Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the Cream City Foundation established a diverse advisory committee comprised of Milwaukee community leaders and organizational leadership from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the Cream City Foundation. This led to Denise Wise, former president of the Cream City Foundation, being replaced by Kevin Loos, current president of the Cream City Foundation. Any additional members are nominated through a nomination process led by a nomination committee.

In 2004, the Partnership distributed \$91,000 in grants to various organizations in the area including emerging organizations serving the LGBT community. Grantees included Boys and Girls Club of Milwaukee and Project Q, The Counseling Center of Milwaukee and Diverse and Resilient, The Task Force on Family Violence and Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Wisconsin

**Letters to the Editor**

Citizen Action Fund and Center Advocates, House of Infinity, FORGE, and PrideFest, among others. Our grant review process is overseen by an impartial grants committee which does not include LGBT organization leadership. A press release was sent to all media outlets in Southeastern Wisconsin announcing the grant distributions and all donors received information about grant recipients in 2005.

The 2006 RFP process indicates the second cycle for the Partnership, and as the G/L Community Center's letter itself acknowledges, the RFP cycle was widely known throughout the community as it going to be available. In addition, the RFP was sent on Dec. 22 to various media outlets including Queer Life, Outbound and the Journal Sentinel among others. In total, over 150 agencies received phone, e-mail and fax notification of the cycle in December. Any organization wishing to see the RFP could also view it online at each respective foundation's Web site. In addition, paper copies of the RFP went out to all known LGBT organizations in early January, including past grant recipients. Listening sessions for the RFP were scheduled for Jan. 11 and reminders of the deadline have been mailed.

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation and Cream City Foundation want to ensure the community that our goal is to build strong LGBT communities that interact with our allies in the Greater Southeastern Wisconsin area and increase LGBT quality of life.

We thank all community support and ask that if there are any questions about our management of the Fund that they be directed to Maria Cadenas, executive director of the Cream City Foundation, at 414-225-0244 at this time.

Sincerely,
Jim Marks
Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Maria Cadenas
Cream City Foundation

Join the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Annual Membership Meeting

On Wednesday, February 15 hu la on over to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, located at 315 West Court Street, for the annual membership meeting! Reception 6:00 p.m., Annual Meeting 6:30-8:00 p.m. Join us to hear about new programs and meet other members, donors and staff. Members get to vote in new board member elections. New members are welcome... Why Become a Member? The Community Center exists to serve the needs of the entire LGBT Community in the Metro Milwaukee area. The Center is here to empower the Community by providing health services, social and educational programs, activities, and events. Membership to the Center helps to provide important services to the LGBT community. Donors enjoy exclusive benefits, including invitations to special events. To truly experience the benefit of our efforts, please become a member. For more information please call Angie Guerra, Director of Development & Marketing at 414.271.2656 ext. 121.



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Sweet Revenge

I truly thought that our August move into a new apartment was uneventful for my cat, Darwin. Recent occurrences, however, lead me to believe otherwise. It has not been hard to determine when his plan to drive me totally crazy took root. Shenanigans started shortly after the move. I say this because, as I look back now, I know exactly when his furry toys began to disappear.

As cat people, we're well acquainted



with those colorful mice that can be purchased in packs of three, five or a dozen. So, caring mother that I am, a five-pack seemed necessary to calm little Darwin's nerves during the move. A month into our new residency, however, I was dumbfounded by the fact that I was only able to locate two of his coveted toys. In a 500-square-foot apartment, there were few places they could go. My frustration began to emerge when, weeks later, the remaining

three dropped off the face of the earth.

When several days of obsessive searching turned up nothing, I succumbed to Darwin's needy glances and purchased another dozen for my guy. Halfway into the new package of toys, I again realized something was amiss. I elicited the help of every unsuspecting soul that ventured into my apartment. "Please," I begged, "help me find those damn mice. I feel like I'm losing my mind!"

Concerned visitors moved stoves, dug under cushions and overturned chairs — with limited success. Now and then, a straggler was found but, by this time, we were quite a few mice in the red.

It was time for me to admit defeat and accept the sad fact that my cat had gotten the best of me. I continued to buy Darwin mice when his supply dwindled, but by this time I was burned out and broken, barely noticing that the drain in my bathtub



PETS

By Cindy Klemp

seemed to be running slower and slower with each passing week. Then it happened. One cold December night, while I was in the middle of a much-needed shower, a single, lowly mouse popped from the drain and floated to the surface. My heart skipped a beat as I realized the significance of what had just occurred.

I grabbed my towel, sat dripping on the couch, and waited the hour it now took my tub to fully drain. Returning to the bathroom, I was able to pull two more mice from the drain — each one more slimy and smelly than the one before. I summoned my daughter who, coat hanger in hand, was able to retrieve four more mice from the drain.

A bottle of Drano has eaten the hair off the remaining mice and the water flows a bit more freely. I am still hoping that a call to my landlord won't be in order. A screen has resolved Darwin's fetish and I've learned that next time I call to my cat, "Darwin, where's your mouse?" and he heads for the bathroom ... I better not dismiss it as silly feline antics.

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ASK THE VET

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

I have a 2-year-old cat and she isn't spayed. Is she too old to be sterilized? What are the benefits and how much will it cost?

Answer:

Spaying or neutering is an important part of being a responsible guardian and plays a vital role in providing basic preventive health care for our furry family members. Spaying and neutering protect pets from several serious diseases, reduce the likelihood of inappropriate behavior and, most important, prevent unwanted pregnancies.

This is crucial for preventing the pain and suffering of neglected and stray domestic animals.

Unless your companion animal's age or medical condition makes the animal a serious risk for general anesthesia, it is never too late to have your animal spayed or neutered; however, the greatest benefits are seen when the procedure is performed at a young age. Most veterinarians recommend spaying or neutering your puppy or kitten between two and six months of age. Ask your vet for his or her recommendation.

The health benefits of spaying and neutering are numerous. Spaying female dogs and cats prevents the development of cancer/tumors of the ovaries and uterus, and reduces the potential of developing breast cancer. Dogs spayed before their first heat cycle have less than a one percent chance of developing breast cancer. Spaying also prevents pyometra, a life-threatening infection of the uterus. The treatment of some diseases, such as diabetes, epilepsy and

adrenal gland disease, is more complicated in non-spayed females.

Neutering males prevents the development of cancer of the testicles and reduces the potential for cancer or benign enlargement of the prostate. Equally important, neutering at an early age reduces the potential for unwanted behavior such as aggression, spraying/marketing territory and roaming.

The cost of this surgery will vary based on the companion animal's sex, size, age and medical condition. Contact your veterinarian to find out the fees for this surgery at your veterinary hospital. It is important to look at this expense as an investment in your animal's health and as insurance against more costly medical treatment for the preventable diseases discussed above.

Having an animal that is spayed or neutered is rewarding for so many reasons, particularly because it prevents the suffering of unwanted offspring. The Wisconsin Humane Society and

the Milwaukee Area Veterinary Medical Association sponsor "Spay Day" each February. Local veterinarians and veterinary technicians donate their time to spay and neuter animals for people in the Milwaukee area who are unable to afford this surgery. This year, Spay Day will be held Feb. 28. Contact the Wisconsin Humane Society if you think you might qualify for this program.

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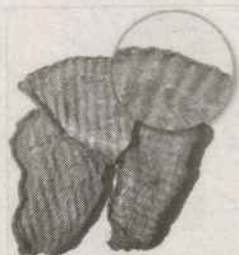
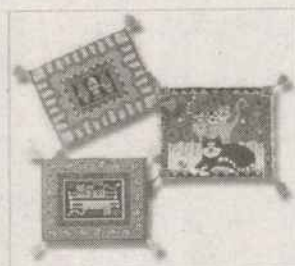
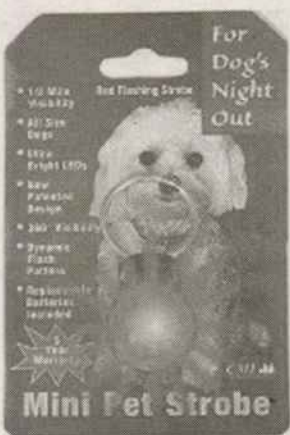
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That Time of Year

Ah, that time of year when the sun begins to return! Winter is still upon us, but there is some sense that everything might turn out all right. Days are getting longer, and the sun is rising in the sky a bit higher each day.

Holiday hype and tattered tinsel have been boxed up; even the post-holiday sales are whimpering to a close. Our hibernation is nearly at an end. It is mere weeks before our thoughts will turn to renewal and a fresh start in spring.

Romance is also again on the rise. And we all know what that means: It is time for an STD test. Yep, a test for sexually transmitted disease (STD) or infection (STI).

By our own self-report last year, one in 10 LGBT folks over the age of 18 in Wisconsin had a diagnosis of an STI in the previous year. Only half of us reported that we had an STI test in the past two years.

There are significant differences among men, women and transgender folks in this report. For example, Wisconsin lesbian and bisexual women reported about 6 percent had an STD diagnosis, but 60 percent had not been tested in two years. Among gay and bisexual men, the rates were higher for STDs (17 percent) but better for testing (35 percent not

tested in two years). Among FTM and MTF transgender people, 25 percent reported they were unsure if they had an STD, but none reported a diagnosis. Still, only one in two had been tested in the past two years.

So each of the gender groups in our LGBT community is at risk of serious problems. Gonorrhea, syphilis, Chlamydia, genital herpes, Human Papillomavirus (HPV)/genital warts, Hepatitis C Virus (HCV), Chancroid, nonspecific urethritis, crabs, scabies, and other nasties await us (or currently dwell within). If we have been 100 percent abstinent since our last test, there is no need for alarm. But even if we have had sexual contact with only a single partner, we may be at some risk. Fidelity cannot always be assumed, of course. But we also cannot assume that even an absolutely faithful partner did not come into the relationship with an infection. Furthermore, so-called serial monogamy is not just a fascinating habit of heterosexuals.

Testing is readily available in the Greater Milwaukee area. Testing can be done at your personal physician's office or your preferred healthcare clinic, and excellent services are also available through the Brady East STD (BESTD) Clinic, STD Specialties,



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.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, and the Milwaukee Health Department.

Blood tests and oral/vaginal/anal/urethral/penile swabs don't sound like much fun. They're not. Still, the sense of security and well-being that comes from testing, getting results, and completing treatment — either cure or containment — is valuable. It is valuable to us and to others.

It's that time of year. Why not plan for an STD test before we reach daylight savings time? Just like changing our smoke alarm batteries, we'll have a reminder that things can be made right with some attention to details.

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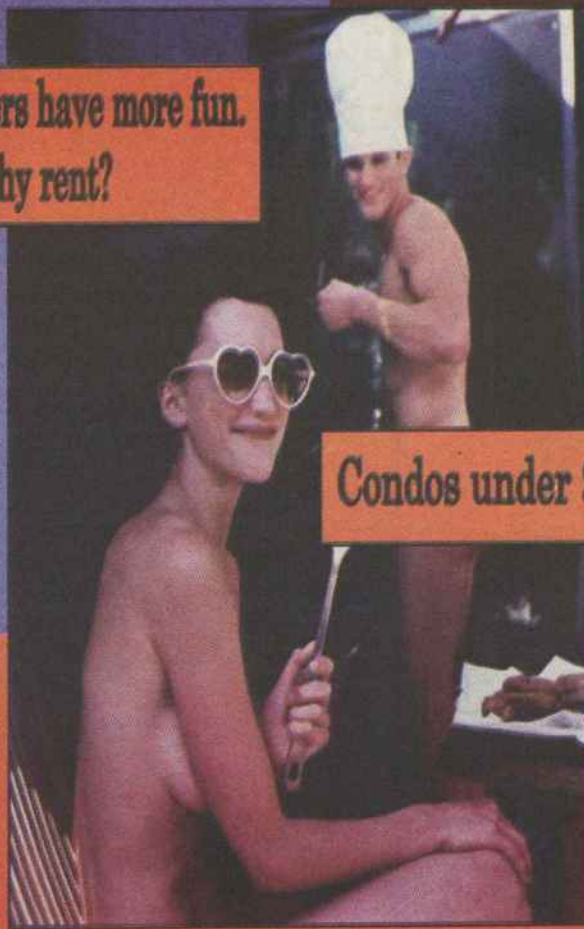
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Designing Woman

An Interview with Shanel Regier

Shanel Regier is a big-time designer with a small-town personality. At only 25, she has earned her spot in Milwaukee's fashion scene, yet remains down-to-earth and approachable. She spent a morning with me to share her thoughts on her design and fashion in Milwaukee.

Q Life: Your parents named you Shanel. Did they think you would be a fashion designer one day?

Shanel Regier: [Laughs.] No. They saw an ad in a magazine for the perfume and liked the way it sounded. Originally, it was spelled with a "C" but the nurse called me "Channel" when I was born, and they didn't want me to go through life being called "Channel" so they changed it to an "S."

Q Life: You grew up in Nebraska. Has that had an effect on your fashion?

SR: I don't think so. The one thing, in hindsight, that was a sign that I'd be doing fashion design is that I loved going thrift shopping and playing around with the old clothes I found.

Q Life: You teach a course at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD). Tell me about that.

SR: My class will be "Introduction to Sewing Through Sculpture." I'm hoping to have students choose an era and any medium besides fabric and recreate an item of clothing. I want my students to envision clothing in different ways.

Q Life: You started doing sculpture before you started designing clothes. How was that transition?

SR: Yes, that was my major when I attended MIAD. My senior thesis is where I started designing clothing. I was really stuck on the project, so I spent all my time thrift shopping. My advisor said maybe there was something there for my senior thesis. That's when it really began for me. Every show that I've done since has been about reconstructing this resale clothing. It's been a natural evolution for me. I see it as still doing three-dimensional art.

Q Life: I read that your signature colors are red, black and white. Is this true?

SR: I did a few shows with those colors but they don't define me. I'll take a break from them for a while but I'll always come back. Everything in black and white is amazing — it's nostalgic and at the same time so modern.

Q Life: Do you have a woman in mind



FASHION

By Kurt Dyer

when designing clothes?

SR: As a beginning designer, it's hard not to design clothing that looks good on me or someone with a similar shape as me. I don't have models at my house all the time to test my clothes, so I'm always trying stuff on myself. Plus, I want to design clothes that I'd wear myself.

Q Life: What do you think of the casual aesthetic that seems to dominate our culture?

SR: It makes sense for our busy lifestyles, but it does make me sad because I really like to be dressed up all the time. I like original pieces and fantasy. Most of my pieces are about fantasy and nostalgia. I wish there were more places in Milwaukee to dress up — to really dress up.

Q Life: You've worked on projects with the LGBT community, including a benefit show for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. How do you see yourself as a designer involved with the LGBT community?

SR: I do shows because I want to support that particular cause. I have a great friend that I met through MIAD and he has really helped me consider my support of the LGBT community and help out where I can.

Q Life: Do you think gay men are really more creative?

SR: [Laughs.] Is this a trick question? All of the gay men I know are very creative but that's probably more to do with my field than their sexual orientation.

Q Life: How can young designers make a name for themselves?

SR: Put out work. I don't think it's solely about talent; it's more about getting your work out there.

Shanel sells her pieces at Lela, 321 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Third Ward or www.elaboutique.com.

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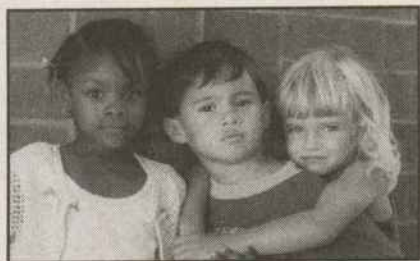
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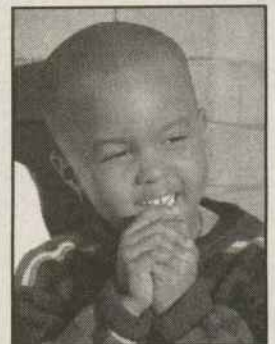
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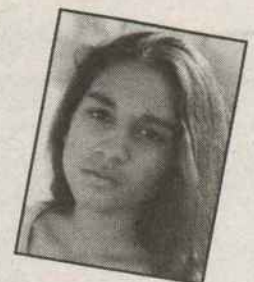
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A Taste Trifecta

Part of designing a dinner is combining foods, spices, and flavors that complement each other. Many popular food combinations are already well established: turkey-dressing-cranberry sauce, fish-chips-coleslaw, and bratwurst-sauerkraut-mustard to name just a few.

In March 2005, Q Cooking listed a recipe for Honey Mustard Ham. Whenever I make this ham, I like to couple it with some Hot Spiced Fruit and German Potato Salad. This combo of ham, spiced fruit, and potato salad makes for a taste trifecta. Give it a try at your next dinner party.

Hot Spiced Fruit

- 1 20-oz can pineapple chunks, undrained
- 1 8-oz can pineapple chunks, drained
- 1 15-oz. can cling peach slices, drained
- 2 15-oz. cans pears chunks, drained
- 1 15-oz. can apricot halves, drained
- 1 11-oz. can tangerine slices, drained
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1/2 tsp. allspice
- 1/2 tsp. ground cloves
- 1 2-inch stick cinnamon

Combine all ingredients in a medium saucepan. Cut apricots in half. Place pan on stovetop over medium heat. Heat for approximately 20 to 30 minutes. Lower heat if mixture begins to boil too rapidly. Remove the cinnamon stick and serve hot.

German Potato Salad

- 10 medium potatoes
- 1/2 lb. bacon, diced
- 1/3 cup onion, diced
- 1 cup water, divided
- 1 tbsp. flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup vinegar
- 1 tsp. dry mustard

Wash potatoes and place in a large stockpot filled with cold water. Place pot on stovetop and bring water to a boil. Cook until potatoes are just soft, about 30 minutes. Drain the hot water and refill pot with cold water. Allow potatoes to sit until cooled, then drain again and allow potatoes to dry slightly. Peel potatoes and cut in half the long way. Slice potatoes into a large bowl and set aside. Place the diced bacon and onion in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Stir occasionally until the bacon is cooked and the onion is soft and translucent.

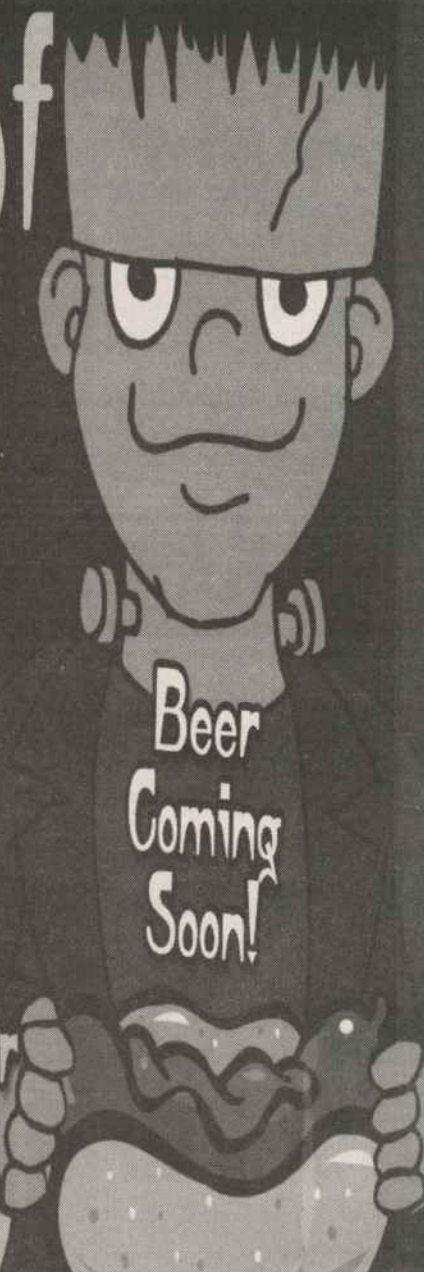


COOKING

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

In a separate container with a tight seal, put 1/2 cup water, the flour and the dry mustard. Shake until the flour and mustard are well mixed into the water. Add the remaining 1/2 cup water to the skillet with the bacon and onion. Stir, then add the water-flour mixture, sugar and vinegar. Bring skillet mixture to a boil, stirring constantly. Boil for about one minute. Remove from heat. Pour the skillet mixture over the sliced potatoes and stir until well combined. Transfer the potato salad to a crockpot. Place on low setting and heat for approximately one hour.

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Sexual Healing: Leaving 'Brokeback Mountain'

By Jesse Jack Sabbath

One thing becomes immediately clear upon listening to the audio book of Annie Proulx's "Brokeback Mountain." It's infinitely better than Ang Lee's adaptation, a fact which, in itself, isn't shocking. Audiences everywhere have come to expect Hollywood bastardizations of their most beloved authors' literary feats.

That's not to say that "Brokeback Mountain" isn't faithful to the plot; the basic events (and the dialogue, for that matter) match up almost exactly. But what's missing here is passion. Emotion. From Proulx's story, which was packed full of repressed sexual energy (and a fair amount of tenderness), Ang Lee has crafted one of the most apathetic homosexual love stories in recent memory. The performances of leads Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal (tragic cowboy heroes Ennis Del Mar and Jack Twist, respectively) do nothing to heat up the sterile retelling.

Perhaps this is a consequence of the Hollywood star system, in which actors are never fully able to shuck their celebrity skins. Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal cannot be greater than the sum of their parts, and thus, their initial sexual encounter comes off more like a drunken one-night stand between old, bored fuck buddies than it does an animalistic release of homosexual tension. Regardless, it's certainly no act of love. For 20-odd years, their subsequent meetings degenerate into tedious arguments and when Jack finally exclaims to Ennis, "I wish I knew how to quit you," some members of the audience can't help but agree.

Still, "Brokeback Mountain" isn't all bad. The lush greenery of the lovers' mountain hideaway couldn't be more beautiful, and it's surely an appropriate symbol of Jack and Ennis'

assumed affections. Michelle Williams, as Ennis' wife, Alma, displays a subtlety of emotion not evident back in her "Dawson's Creek" days. Here, all grown up, she is the silent enabler of her husband's intrigues, a scorned woman whose fury is thwarted by denial. Similarly, there's a certain low-key bitterness keenly exuded by Jack's wife, Lureen, played by Anne Hathaway.

Arguably, with same-sex unions at the forefront of the political battleground, the film couldn't have come at a better time. Or a worse time. On the one hand, it seems to put forth the notion that denying one's nature leads not only to self-destruction, but to the destruction of those around one. Ennis ends up alone, the father of estranged children; Jack is wounded, to say the least. On the other hand, at a time when neoconservatives are attempting to gain the moral high ground on many issues, a film suggesting that homosexual love stems from drunken evenings of unprotected sex and ultimately blooms into lifelong adulterous relationships might not be a film that the gay community, in search of allies, is wont to embrace — at least, not without discussing it first.

Sure, audiences love it. It's a tragedy; romanticizing the film's dead-end relationship helps keep the film afloat. But like so many passable black female characters in interracial melodramas like Sirk's "Imitation of Life" (or earlier, sexually charged female characters, in general), the ends justify the means. "Of course," Hollywood tells poor Ennis and Jack, "Kiss away, boys!" But all the while there lurks a killer underneath. Jack Twist's unrequited, fatal devotion transforms him into a modern-day Saint Sebastian with whom many middle-aged homosexual men will surely identify.

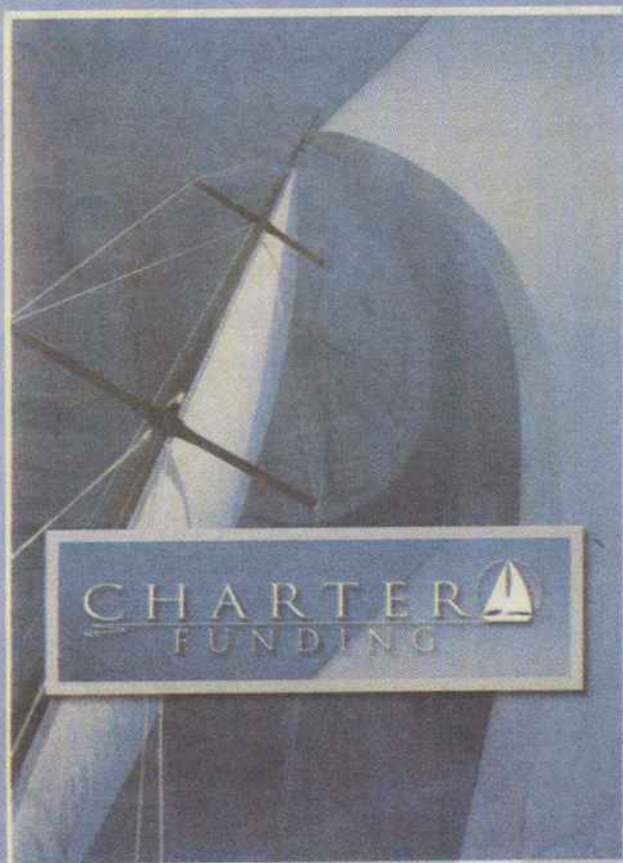
But one has to ask oneself: Does the queer community really need another martyr?



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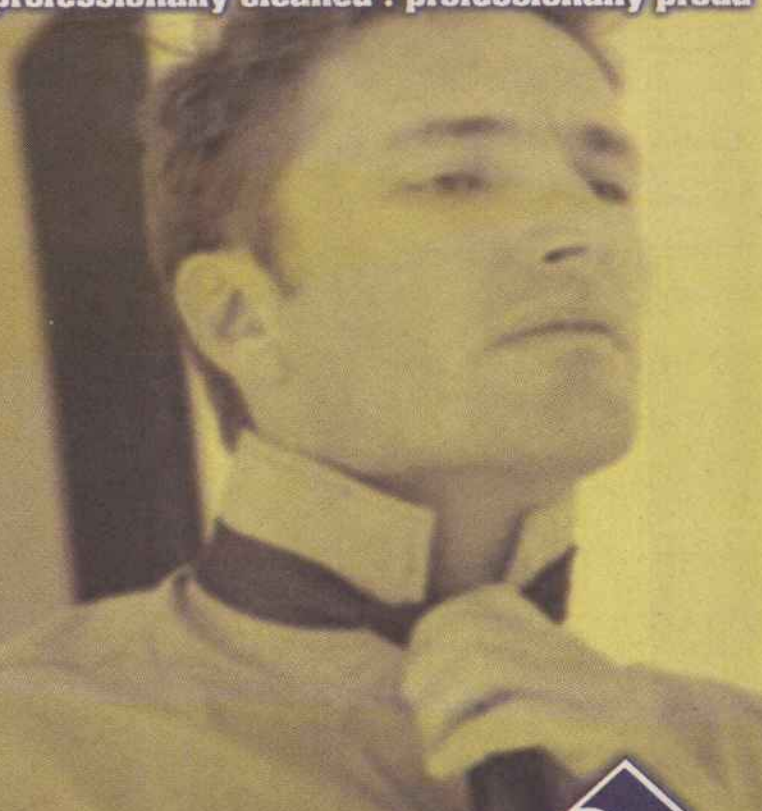
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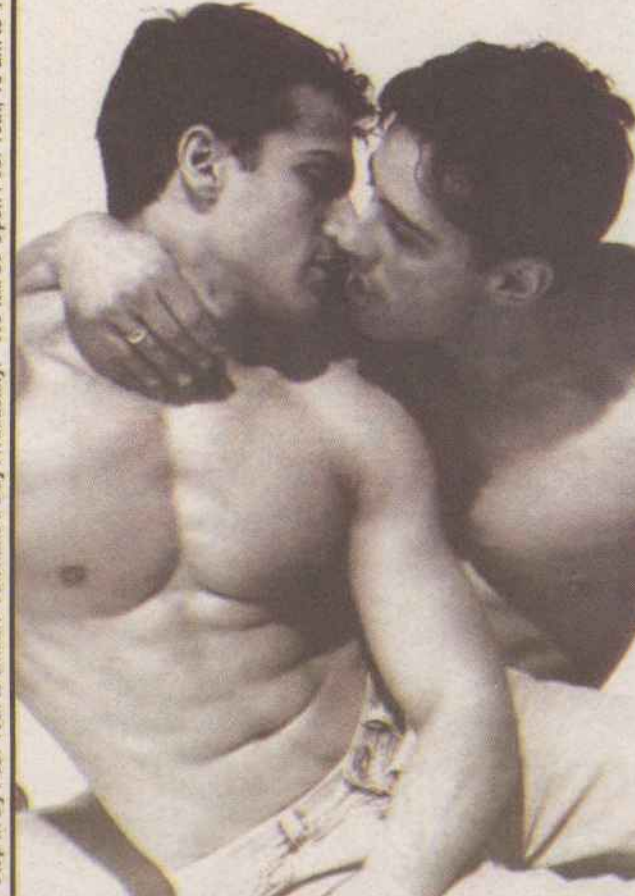



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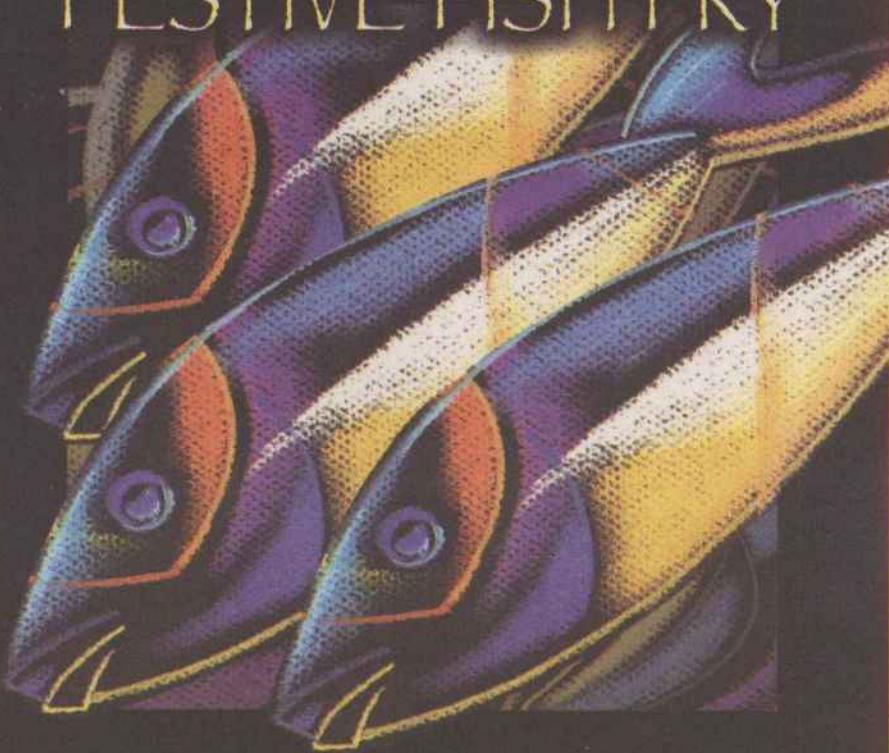
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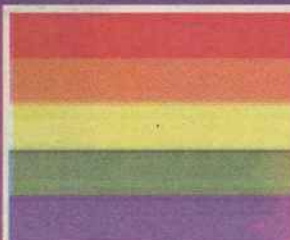
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2nd Street Rainbow Flag Project

Dear Neighbor, Walker's Point has long been known as a neighborhood steeped in pride and diversity. Its unique make up is celebrated throughout Milwaukee, luring thousands of city residents to our vibrant streets. Because your business contributes greatly to Walker's

Point as a destination for arts, dining, commerce and entertainment, we are reaching out-- to ask for your help!

As you may be aware, 2nd Street Rainbow Flag Project, as a part of the Milwaukee Pride Parade, a coalition of both gay and non-gay area business and community representatives, announced a plan to install rainbow pride flags on 2nd Street in the January 2006 edition of Q Life. While this concept has received praise from many in our neighborhood, we can not move forward without your support.

As part of the recent surge in Milwaukee neighborhood development, the plan for 2nd Street in Walker's Point entails a year-round display of nearly 50 pride flags extending from Pittsburgh to Lapham Avenues. The flags measure 18x36" and will be hung vertically from city light poles.

The city government has already given us a green light for the project and all ordinances and regulations for hanging the flags have been discussed and complied with.

The purpose of the flag project is multifold. Beyond beautifying the neighborhood by creating public art, a sea of color along its 15 block route, it will identify our Walker's Point community as one celebrating its diversity. As in many of Milwaukee's revived areas such as the Third Ward, Brady Street, Riverwest, and Bay View's Kinnickinnic Avenue, the combined efforts of a broad spectrum of citizens have contributed to the revitalization of one of Milwaukee's oldest and most historic neighborhoods. Residential and business development, restaurants and bars, community and arts centers have sprung up in a wave of entrepreneurial enthusiasm that promises to continue unabated.

The addition of the rainbow flags will attract more visitors and new residents alike, pushing forward the appeal, attraction and value of the neighborhood.

The 2nd Street Rainbow Flag Project invites businesses, individuals, and organizations to sponsor one or more of the flags. The cost is only \$85 each and includes a nylon flag, its mounting hardware, city rental fee, as well as a replacement flag.

Installation will take place in May just in time for PrideFest and a bigger and better Pride Parade that will march along 2nd Street.

James Kuchta Editor, Outbound Magazine Project
Don Hoffman Editor, Queer Life News
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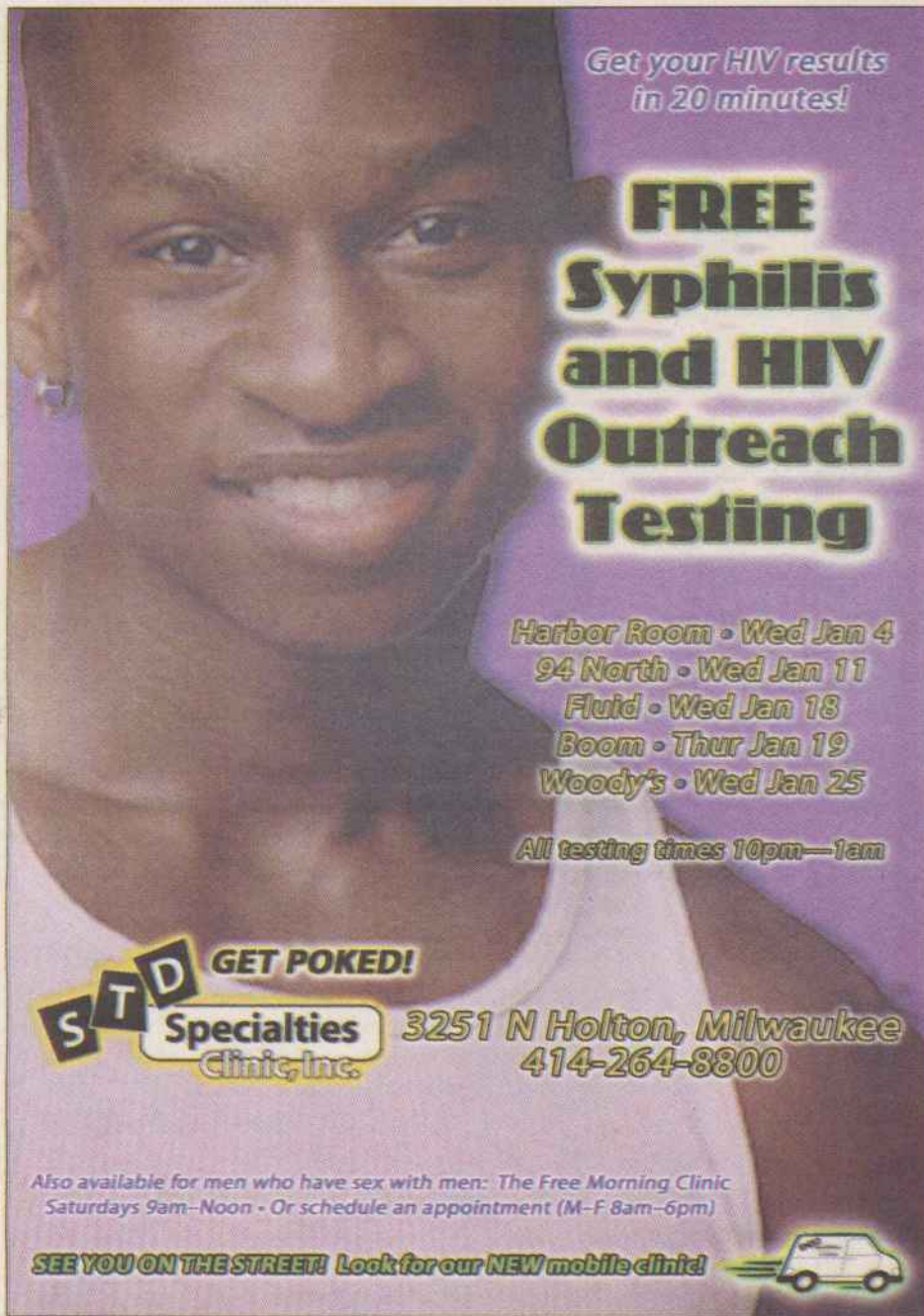
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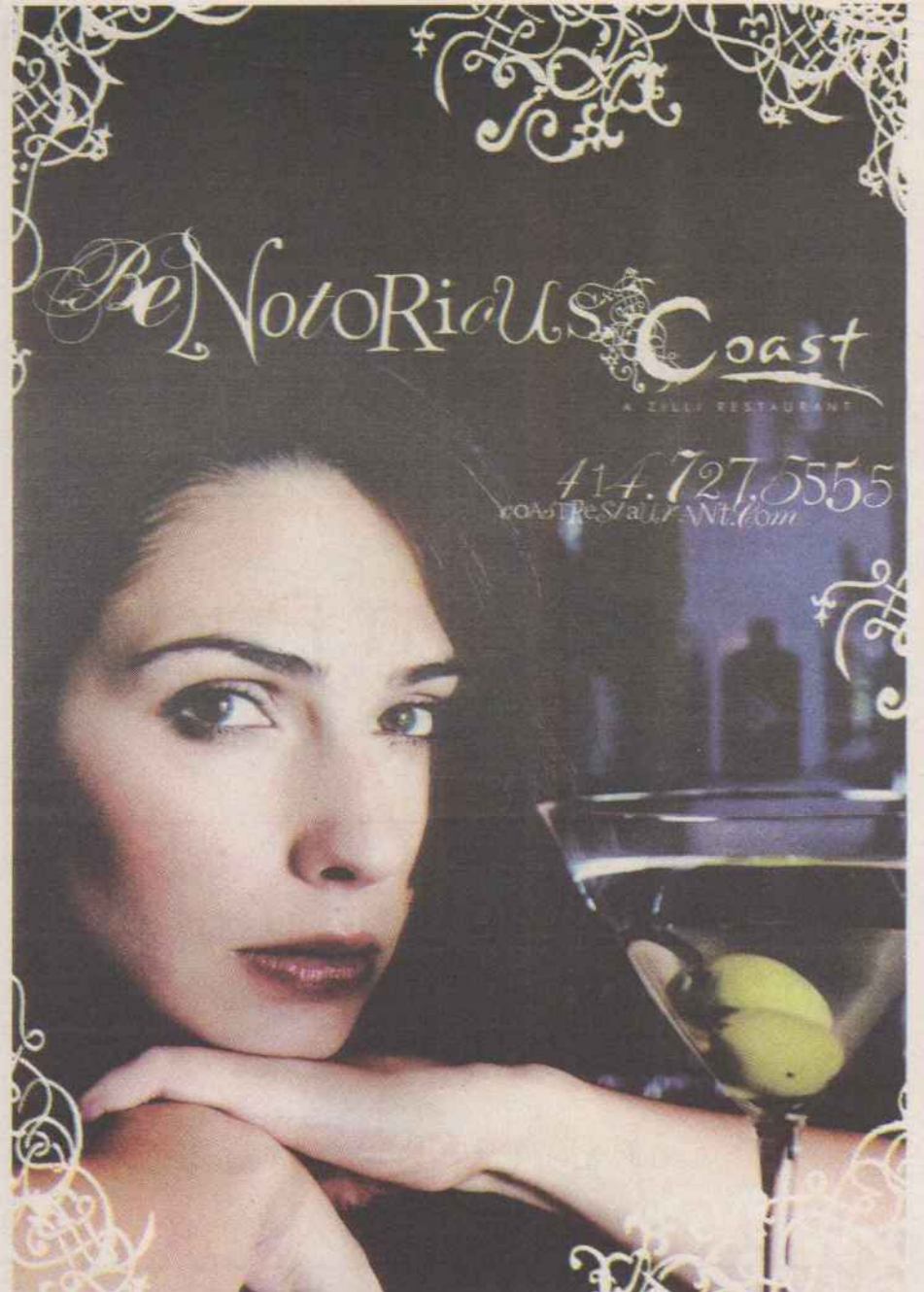
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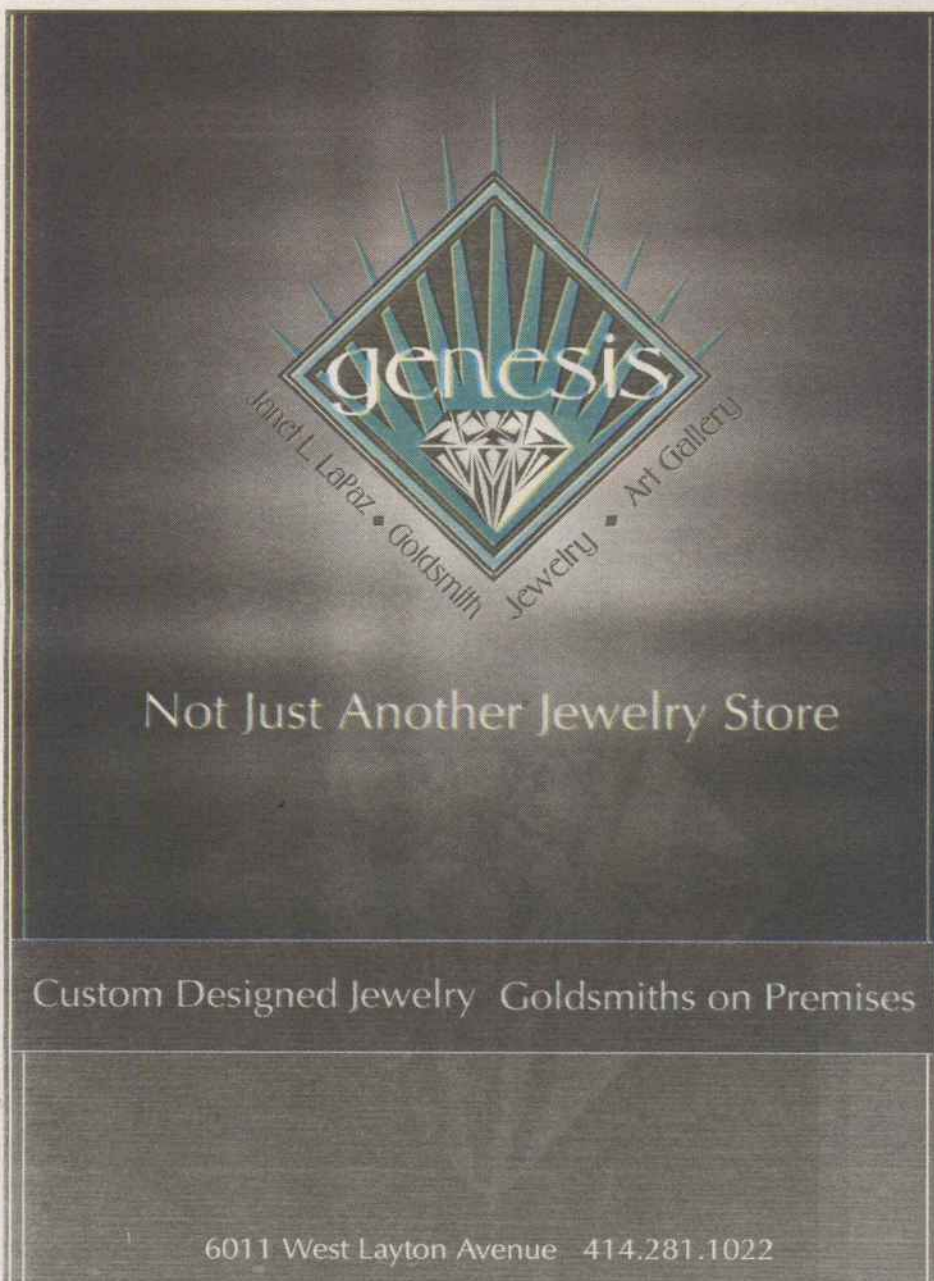
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God's Gay Love

What do you do with Leviticus? Or what do you do with Romans? More often than not I am asked these questions by people struggling with issues of religion and homosexuality. Some are people coming out for the first time. Others are long-out LGBT folks reconsidering the church for the first time. Either way, questions of the Bible can be central to our personal faith.

There are verses in Leviticus and Romans that do condemn homosexuality. The fundamentalists are right about those few verses. Of course they are wrong about the truth of God.

The Leviticus passage (Lev. 18) is part of a section of rules and legislation about behavior. Those rules prohibit the Israelites — the folks who wrote these rules 3000 years ago — from acting like their neighbors. Hence, there are rules against everything from shellfish to worship of Molech to homosexuality.

Folks have lampooned Leviticus in many ways — most often by pointing out the laws Christians no longer even consider obeying, such as ones against eating shellfish and wearing mixed fibers, or ones in favor of stoning disobedient children.

Personally, I find it more helpful to look at all of the things Leviticus

and Paul consider moral and proper. While both Leviticus and Paul denounce homosexuality, they accept and approve of slavery. Paul's law code condemned two men for their love while protecting the abhorrent practice of slavery. To me, it is not the laws against shellfish that undermine the literal authority of Leviticus, it is the acceptance of practices like slavery.

Thankfully, the Bible itself gives us a way to understand the truth of God beyond the literalness of 3000-year-old laws. One of the phrases I treasure most from the Bible comes from the Prophet Micah, who said, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

For me, the words of Micah serve as a way to understand other authors of the Bible. There is nothing that serves justice in Leviticus' acceptance of slavery. There is no kindness in Paul's condemnation of homosexuality. So, frankly, I read beyond these narrow words to the truth I find in Prophets like Micah and in the life and teachings of Jesus.

Of course this opens me up to charges from fundamentalists. "You are a cafeteria Christian" or "You can't pick and chose the word of God." Such comments show that the debate over homosexuality is really a larger



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.

religious issue.

Across the spectrum — Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, and on — people are struggling over the authority to interpret their traditions. On one side are traditionalists who want to limit the authority to define truth to the priests, rabbis and imams. On the other side are everyday folks who believe they can find and define the truth for themselves and within their communities.

I find the most interesting people of faith are those who struggle to find the meaning and beauty in their tradition while reforming what seems unjust and unfair. What do I do about Paul? I read beyond his condemnation to find the truth of God.

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Just Do It!

After the holidays, all of us have been inundated with messages about fitness. Even the most fit and healthy among us could exercise more. Trans people and SOFFAs are no different than the rest of the U.S. population in this regard!

However, we are different in several significant ways.

First, many of us already have skewed images of our bodies, so when we see anorexic bodies of celebrities or models — often pasty white, with blemish-free skin, “perfect” lines/curves and expensive (and skimpy) clothing, we may feel even more estranged from the body we see in the mirror. (Of course, non-trans people face similar dissonance between their bodies and the cultural images plastered in the media.)

Our warped body images may deter us from joining a gym, because we feel our bodies are just so unlike the “ideal” body that there is no point in even trying to become fit.

Trans people who are motivated to start an exercise program may encounter barriers that feel so insurmountable that we give up before we get going. Our ID may not match our gender presentation, resulting in embarrassment or the inability to join a gym. Even if our paperwork seems congruous to an outsider, we may be asked to use a gendered locker room that is not in line

with our sense of gender, or we may even be asked to not use the changing rooms at all.

We may have basic concerns about our safety in gendered spaces. How can we navigate the locker rooms without being harassed or fearing physical violence if someone discovers we are transgender?

Some of the everyday measures we use to enhance our ability to “pass” as a woman or man (which obviously aren’t important to a large number of transgender people) may have dangers at the gym. For example, a pre- or non-op FTM may bind his chest and wear multiple shirts in order to give the appearance of a flat chest. During exercise, this may result in injury from limited range of motion, inability to breathe fully, or even heat exhaustion because his binder is too tight.

Likewise, the pre- or non-op MTF may feel limited in what activities she can choose. She may love swimming but feel the need to gaff in order to create a smooth, “feminine” line in her bathing suit — but this may make swimming painful.

For those of us who aren’t trying to fit into either male or female categories, the concerns are similar.

It often seems easier to just do nothing.

But some fairly simple strategies



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.

can make exercising manageable and enjoyable. Try changing and showering at home, so you don’t need to step foot into either locker room at the gym. If you do need to change at the gym, try working out with a friend who uses the same gendered locker room as you do, so you can feel a little safer with a buddy.

Or skip the gym and just step outside. Some of the best exercise comes without any expensive memberships or equipment. Walk or jog in your neighborhood or in a park. Pick up a yoga video at your library to use at home. Find someone to work out with — it’ll help motivate you to keep going, and will minimize risks and injury.

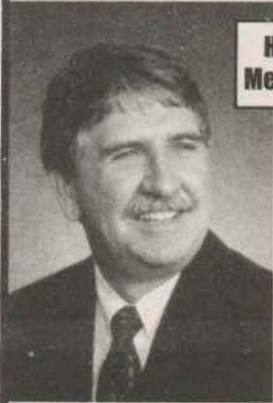
Whatever you end up doing, move your body and be as healthy as you can be! *[Remember, if you are going to relax in a whirlpool after you work out: Latex prosthetics can melt!]*



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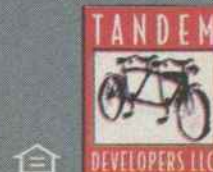
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Softball Goes Coast to Coast

A belated Happy New Year, sports fans. My apologies for my absence — there has been good reason but, alas, a new year is already upon us and softball has hit a home run with news!

SSBL Expands to Madison

In one of the more important votes in recent years, the teams of SSBL voted unanimously Jan. 21 to expand its operations to include a Madison division. The vote was 22-0 in favor. This opens the door to the possibility of more than 20 SSBL teams for the 2006 season. Even more exciting, ground work is being laid so SSBL could eventually include more Wisconsin cities. As a founding member of NAGAAA, the national governing body of softball in North America, Milwaukee has always taken the lead when it comes to gay softball in America. January's vote reinforces that to show the country that Wisconsin is where it's at!

SSBL Women's Division Possible

Responses thus far has been very encouraging for adding a women's division in SSBL for 2006. We have received numerous inquiries from women in the Milwaukee area. If interested, contact Kim at women@ssblmilwaukee.com.

Second Annual Snowball Softball Cup

Set your sights on softball in the snow. "What?" you ask. Yes, that is correct. On Saturday, Feb. 25, at Mitchell Park, SSBL will hold its second annual Snowball Softball Cup. Last year four teams participated in hopes of capturing the "iceberg" trophy. If you are interested in playing, e-mail SSBL at snowball@ssblmilwaukee.com.

Softball Tournaments

Three Wisconsin teams flew to opposite ends of the country over MLK weekend to strut Wisconsin softball and show those southerners how things are done!

The Fluid Twist, headed by manager Jim Strange and Fluid bar owner Bill Wardlow, paid a return visit to cold and windy Orlando, Fla., to defend Milwaukee's number one "D" division title, given to the Kosmos in 2005. Other members of the Fluid Twist team making the trek were Brian Williams, David Foppe, Scott Francois, Eric Van Egeren and Peter Nys, with guest appearances by Kurt Baldwin and Toby Heney from Woody's,



Joe Woeller and Ms. Nadia (formerly of the M&M Club and now living in Orlando) and Shannon Britton and Greg Toth from Tampa Bay, Fla. Anne Strange also made the trek to keep the boys nice and warm with blankets and alcohol.

The Fluid Twist went 1-1 in round robin play beating the Minneapolis Dragons and losing to the Orlando HRC Equalizers. This gave them the 11th seed

overall in the "D" division. Unfortunately, first place was not in the cards this year; however, the Fluid Twist missed the team spirit award by one vote and the team that won the spirit award was the team that the Twist voted for! Way to go, guys!

Equally exciting, Fluid's bartender, Kitty, cranked a grand slam. I can almost see those blond locks of his blowing in the breeze as he rounded the bases. Finally, we might have seen the last of the Fluid Twist and their name. Rumor has it that one night in a local Orlando watering hole, the Fluid Twist decided on a name change. Is it really true, guys? If it is, I can guarantee you that there is no other team that has ever been called the Fluid *%^&* (it's a secret!).

Meanwhile clear across the country in Palm Springs, Calif., two Madison teams, the Rough Riders donning their traditional red and black uniforms and the Bedazzlers in their trendy purple ones, set their sights on the 15th annual Winter Classic. A total of 111 teams battled it out in their respective divisions in the Coachella Valley. Sounds rough, doesn't it — Palm Springs in January!

Both Wisconsin teams had some hard-fought games, but lost their second game in tournament play, forcing both teams down into the tough losers bracket for Sunday play. When the desert sand had settled the following day, the Rough Riders were good enough to take second place, losing to only a single team (albeit twice), Charlie's Angels from Chicago. Congratulations to both the Rough Riders and the Bedazzlers on making Wisconsin proud. Believe me when I say this, softball fans: The country is talking about Wisconsin softball!



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.

Volleyball

Plans are also underway to form a gay volleyball league in Milwaukee. Volleyball is not new to Milwaukee. In the 1980s, the Saturday Volleyball League 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 you are interested, 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 local bars in the coming weeks.

Darts

Don't miss next month's article, which will crown the Milwaukee Gay Dart League Champion. Will it be the team from Fluid, La Cage or Ballgame? Only the dartboard knows now, but soon you will too.

Saturday, February 18 • Radisson Hotel at Oneida Bingo & Casino
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Fighting the Anti-Marriage Amendment and More

The battle against the proposed amendment to prohibit civil unions and marriage continues to heat up. Folks at Action Wisconsin are tanned, rested and ready for the big fight. If you're looking for ways to participate, visit them online at www.actionwisconsin.org.

Area churches have stepped up to fight the civil unions and marriage ban. Madison-area UCC and Unitarian congregations and PFLAG are sponsoring their own phone canvassing nights with the No on the Amendment campaign to help identify voters who will vote no in November. If you or your group wants to get involved with this voter education effort, contact Justin Sweet at justin.sweet@actionwisconsin.org.

If you want to watch the action in person, the State Assembly is expected to vote on the amendment in the coming weeks. Action Wisconsin urges people to be present in the Assembly Gallery during the debate and vote. Anyone can follow along online at the No on the Amendment blog: <http://>

noontheamendment.blogspot.com.

Be sure to contact your legislators one more time to express your opposition to the bill.

Dialogues on Racism

Last year 124 people attended one of the YWCA's "It's Time to Talk" dialogues on racism. People said they were "surprised by the honesty of participants" and they "appreciated the openness and lack of interruption." Come see what all the talk is about. Join us for a meaningful cross-cultural dialogue about race in the Madison community. The first "It's Time to Talk" free community brown-bag lunch of 2006 was held Jan. 24 at the Catholic Multicultural Center, 1862 Beld St., from noon to 1 p.m. There will be others. Get more information and register by e-mailing racialjustice@ywcamadison.org or by calling Colleen at 608-257-1436.

Gay Games in Chicago, July 15 to 20

Organizers in Madison hope to see a big turnout for the Gay Games

in Chicago in July. They held a rally and registration event Jan. 22 at C'est le Vin, a downtown wine bar. If you missed that event and want more information, contact Jill Nebeker at jill@small-potatoes.net or Cathy Seabaugh at CathySeabaugh@gaygameschicago.org.

Queer Theater Productions

Broom Street Theater will present "A Wake," a new slice-of-death comedy by Callen Harty. It will run every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 8 p.m. from Jan. 13 through Feb. 19 at the Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson St. The play tells the tale of Adam Molony, scion of an Irish Catholic family in a small Wisconsin farming town who dies in a tragic accident involving a cow. Come watch as actors milk this theme for all it's worth.

In April, Stage Q will present "Jesusland," by Jeremy Thomas Poulsen. Imagine living in a country ruled by religious fanatics. Imagine your personal life being controlled by those who value *their* God over *your*



MADISON

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

life. Imagine your personal freedoms being drained away. Imagine this wasn't already happening... Jesusland will run April 7 through April 29. For more information, e-mail jesusland@stageq.com.

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A Cure for V.D.

This month's selections from the archive contain healthy doses of cynicism to help cure your V.D. blues ... Valentines Day, of course! I don't know if I've ever come across any zines that actually celebrate love in the mushy, squishy way that most greeting card companies suggest you honor a day associated with love and romance. (And wasn't St. Valentine martyred anyway?) Instead, leave it up to the weary, care-worn writers and artists to give you the real low-down on love.

A mix between a comic zine and poetry book, **Satan Heartbreak'r** [One off, 2001, 24 pages] signs off the introduction with "hugs and a punch in the mouth" so readers pretty much have it laid out for them from there on out. A majority of the comics have a sexy edge to them. Two of these feature anthropomorphic representations of hot encounters between a pair of foxes and a pair of monkeys. Interspersed between comics are faux personals ads typed with a 1960s-era typewriter. My favorite, "Babbling Idiot Seeks Reason to Shut Up," ends with the best line: "[ID]on't tell me your name, just how far to open my mouth." Amen!

There is a subtle current of SM in some of the illustrations toward the back, with explicitly worded text to accompany them, and lots of sexy graphics throughout, including a centerfold drawing of a strap-on blow job (complete with a tongue-

studded servicer!). The zine is a quick read and worth it for the art style and unabashed, ambiguously gendered sexy bits.

One seldom finds carefully crafted cynicism that is not of the bile-spewing variety. **Hormone Frenzy** [Issue 3, 1995, 28 pages], the brainchild of Mark Connorton of Cambridge, England, reflects classic queer zine style with thought-provoking content inclusive of all things queer. Deeply feminist, it includes refreshing blurbs like "Just Say No to Genital Supremacy," which confronts the issue of gay men using derogatory terms to describe women's genitals. Mark is a person of many talents, and drawing is one of them. There are comics throughout, including "Supermarket Lust," which chronicles a past job working at a supermarket in the middle of nowhere. The story is a brilliant blend of humorous observation and sage advice about not going out on a date out of boredom and lack of action. The comic "Bad Sex" is even more explicit about dates that go from bad to worse and sex that goes from worse to "This is about as sexy as being rubbed down with newspaper." Yikes!

Most of all, **Hormone Frenzy** was one of the many queer zines that brought together queer punk/homocore music fans and helped foster community. A review of Bruce La Bruce's first film, "No Skin Off



ZINES

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

"My Ass," has additional comments from Mark's "London correspondents," Jo David and Rachael House, who themselves are queer zinesters and artists. Also sprinkled throughout the issue are quick notes or comments about queer bands Sister George, Mouthfull, Pansy Division (whose greatest hits album, "The Essential Pansy Division," came out in January), and God Is My Co-Pilot. Tucked away in a corner of one page is a clipping from a music mag referring to "Rollins-cropped" guys and not being able to imagine having sex with them. Mark detours this with the handwritten comment "I can!" Other issues of **Hormone Frenzy** have cheeky Henry Rollins (of Black Flag fame) references as well. This is one of the best queer zines ever, a highly recommended reading!

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

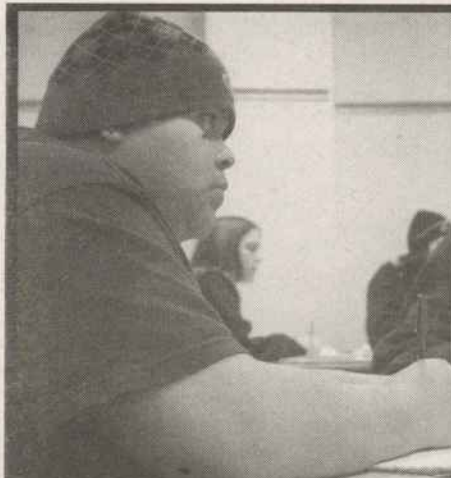
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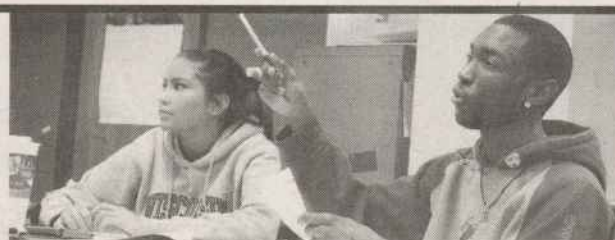
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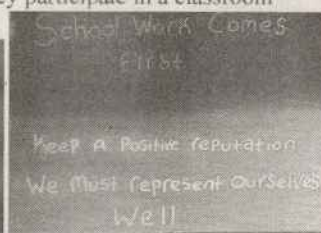
Maria McGrath takes notes during math class.



Justice Meyer and Terrell Lacy participate in a classroom discussion.



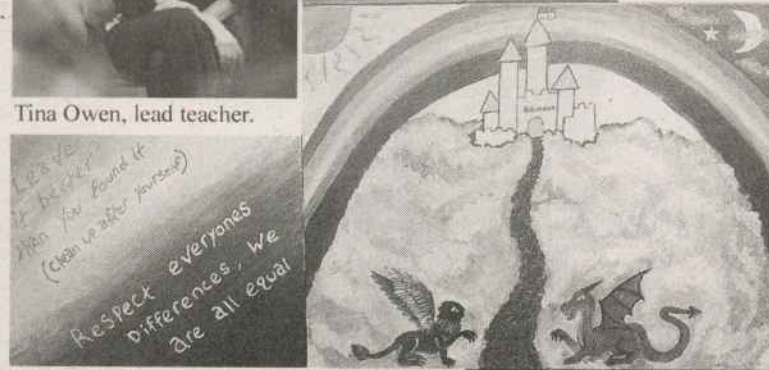
Tina Owen, lead teacher.



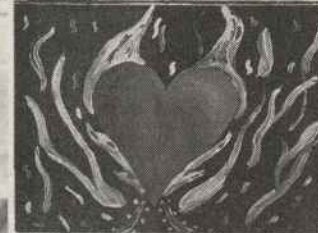
Author and performance artist Kate Bornstein, poses for pictures with students after giving a lecturer.



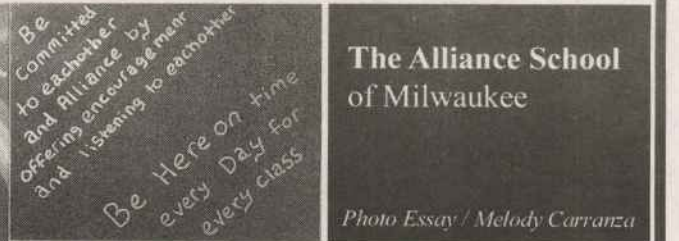
Student, Jordan Cross, organized a teddy bear drive, which will benefit the kids in foster care at St. Aemilians.



During the Community Meeting, which is held every Thursday morning, Emily McCarron tells her promise for the coming year.

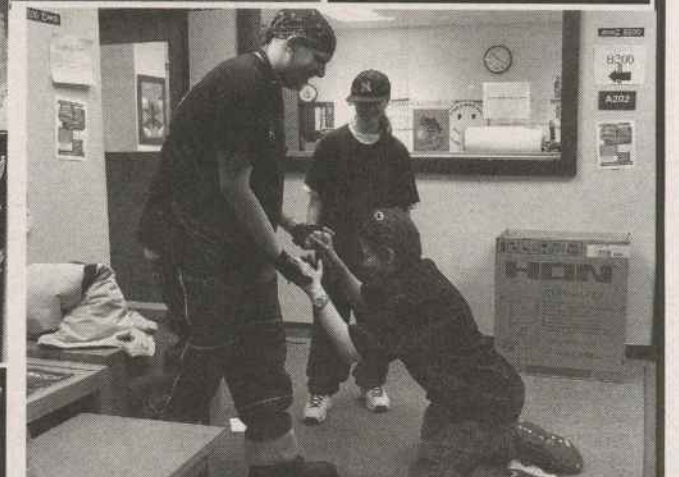


"The Alliance Six Agreements" painted by Kate Kelly and Alicia Seaver



The Alliance School of Milwaukee

Photo Essay / Melody Carranza



Chris Yoder, Amber Zimdars and Ashley Werner rehearse for the Comedy Sportz competition, which will take place in February among area high schools.

Goin' Stag

In a now infamous homophobic sermon he gave last summer, Washington, D.C.-area minister Willie Wilson shared a complaint from his high school age son: "I ain't got nobody to take to the prom."

"Yeah, well," I remember thinking. "You and me both, pal."

According to the elder Wilson, his son's high school was so overrun by — you guessed it — homosexuals that he couldn't find a prom date. (An aside: Wilson described the few remaining heterosexual girls as unsuitable for his son due to their physical unattractiveness. That's funny; last time I checked, the concepts of inner beauty and inherent human worth were timeless Judeo-Christian values.)

Naturally, my inability to find a date for Wauwatosa East High School's upcoming Senior Ball stems from the opposite circumstance, one which I suspect is much more common in American high schools: Virtually no one is out.

So it would appear that, like Wilson's son, I'll be going stag to my last formal high school dance. Boo hoo.

It sounds counterintuitive, but I actually find a great deal of solace and consolation in that fact.

Of course, I don't find it particularly encouraging that so few of my LGBT peers have a strong enough sense of sexual identity or a supportive network of friends to avow who they are. These things do take time. But with the average age at which people come out plummeting faster than President Bush's approval ratings, one would expect to see more movement.

Still, in my case, going stag brings me closer to mainstream. Most of my straight friends who are around my age are at a stage of emotional capacity and maturity at which such silly high school age things are put in perspective. We tend to agree with web comic and advice columnist Natalie Dee, who wrote to a self-doubting single woman, "If I have said it before, I have said it a billion times: Not having a boyfriend does not make you worthless, just like having a boyfriend does not automatically make your whole life awesome."

The heartier elements of this

stage of emotional maturity, like self-respect and emotional autonomy, will last us throughout our adult lives.

What's more, a sense of perspective exempts us from much of the self-imposed stress, awkwardness and silliness that some of our peers endure at these dances. Going stag means we get to wear and eat whatever and dance however we please, which is exactly how sincere, serious dating is supposed to play out in real life.

Wow. What a problem to have.

For all of us, happiness and normalcy have little to do with what happens to us, less to do with how things appear, and everything to do



YOUTH

David Seitz (davidseitz@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.

with the attitudes we choose. That's what Wilson should have told his son instead of blaming homosexuals for every social ill he could think of. It's also what we as LGBT people must know as we create and sustain ourselves, and as we grow.

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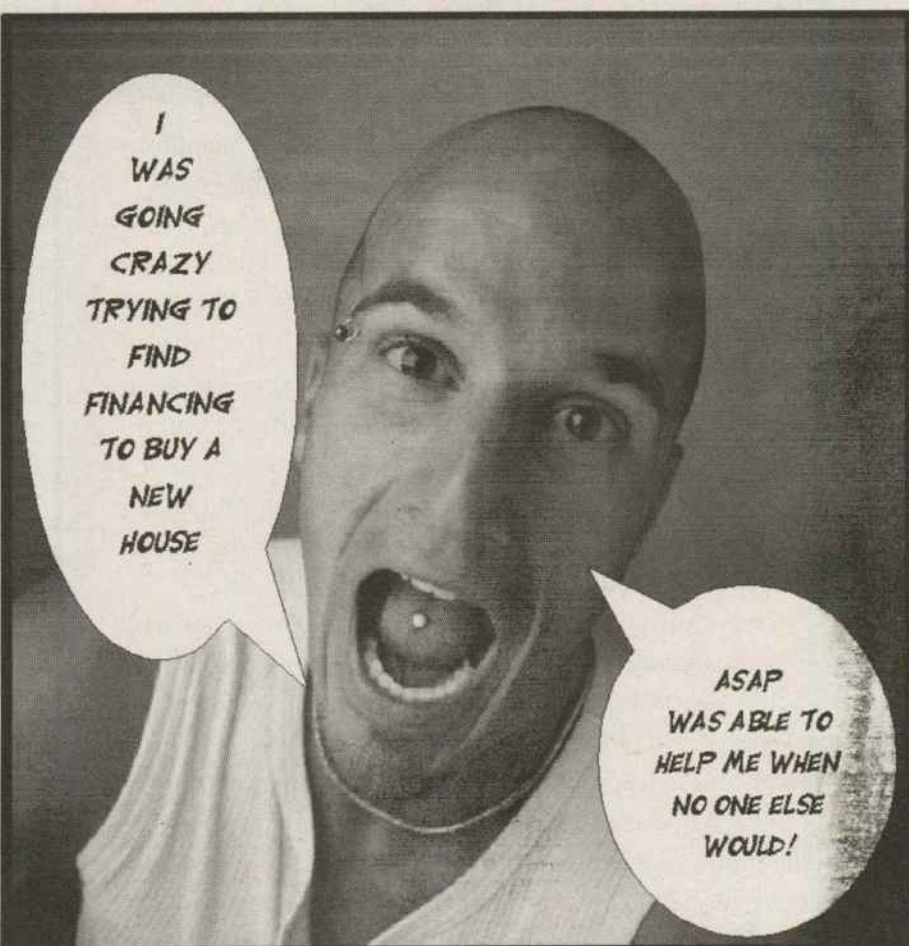
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During Cream City Foundations' 2005 campaign these members of the community lead the way in making the funding drive surpass the \$70,000 goal.

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DON'T FORGET BE A PART OF STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Milwaukee - The Cream City Foundation (CCF), Senior Action in a Gay Environment (SAGE), Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Rainbow Families and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center invite all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) leaders to join them for an open discussion to talk about the need and structure for an LGBT Community Strategic Group.

The meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2005 at 5PM. The meeting will take place at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center located at 703 South 2nd Street in Milwaukee. For more information or questions please contact Maria Cadenas at 414.225.0244.

Cream City Foundation is a community-based philanthropic foundation that provides charitable grants to programs and projects that improve the quality of life for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities in Southeastern Wisconsin. If you have benefited either directly or indirectly from an organization Cream City Foundation has funded, you are invited to show your appreciation and, in the process, secure these benefits for others. Because widespread participation is vital to our success, we welcome all gifts, large or small. We also value the gift of your time in volunteer opportunities we have available. For more on how to give, please visit www.creamcityfoundation.org

Plan now for your organization to benefit from Cream City Foundation funding. If your organizations or programs is in Southeastern Wisconsin and addresses LGBT issues and concerns we want to hear from you.

To be considered, applicants must submit a letter of intent (LOI) Packet prior to the grant submission date. All grant applications must be submitted by July 15th or February 15th. Should the grant request be funded, the award will be sent in the following quarter.

Cream City Foundation does not fund:

- Any paid staff positions
- Partisan political activity or lobbying
- Private, for profit activity or organizations
- Projects/programs outside the State of Wisconsin

For more information on how to apply for a grant from Cream City Foundation please visit www.creamcityfoundation.org

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Cream City Foundation is a proud member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee.

Special thanks to the foundation support of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and the Nonprofit Management Fund. The Nonprofit Management Fund and Queer Life News have made this ad campaign possible.

Outwords Books

'Top 5 Picks for February'

New and Noteworthy Titles
for Black History Month
Exclusive to Q Life.

FOR THE GUYS:

- 1. "A Deeper Blue: Passion Marks II" by Lee Hayes.** Lee Hayes continues the passion and drama from "Passion Marks" in this sizzling sequel.
- 2. "Out of Bounds: Coming Out of Sexual Abuse, Addiction, and My Life of Lies in the NFL Closet" by Roy Simmons.** The second NFL player ever to come out and the first to come out as HIV-positive, Roy Simmons was a star offensive lineman who quit football after just four years rather than be exposed as gay.
- 3. "Best Black Gay Erotica" edited by Dariack Scott.** A masterful collection celebrating sex between black men, "Best Black Gay Erotica" raises the standard for literary erotica and features the hottest gay African-American writers.
- 4. "Beyond the Down Low" by Keith Boykin.** Boykin breaks new ground by going beyond the media hype with the first responsible look at the down low, the phenomenon of black men who have sex with other men.
- 5. "Freedom in the Village: Twenty-Five Years of Black Gay Men's Writing, 1979 to the Present" edited by E. Lynn Harris.** Fiction and poetry are matched in eloquence by nonfiction pieces, as best-selling author Harris showcases the best black gay writing from more than three decades.

FOR THE GAL'S:

- 1. "Bliss" by Fiona Zedde.** Fiona Zedde has crafted a sizzling and insightful debut novel about a young Jamaican-American career woman who discovers that there's much more to love than meets the eye.
- 2. "Warrior Poet: A Biography of Audre Lorde" by Alexis De Veaux.** The first biography of the author of "The Cancer Journals," an American icon of womanhood, poetry, African-American arts, and survival.
- 3. "You Make Me Wanna..." by Nikki Rashan.** This masterfully written sequel to "Double Pleasure, Double Pain" offers another voyeuristic, yet intimate look into Kyla's journey to self-discovery.
- 4. "Afrekete: An Anthology of Black Lesbian Writing" edited by Catherine E. McKinley and Joyce DeLaney.** "Afrekete" celebrates black lesbian experiences in their variety and depth with a bold, tender and touching collection of fiction, poetry and nonfiction.
- 5. "Darkness Descending" by Penny Mickelbury.** In this fourth Mimi/Gianna Mystery, Mimi Patterson, the passionate, investigative reporter and her partner, Lt. Gianna Magione, find balance with each other while seeking those who hate enough to commit blackmail, rape and murder.

Community



Calendar

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 1

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

Women's Tackle Football Open Tryouts. Do you have what it takes? All prospective players must be 18 or older and must bring a copy of their insurance card. Pius IX High School Fieldhouse, 135 N. 76th St., Milwaukee. 7:30-10 p.m. \$35. 414-550-2087. www.milwaukeekeemomentum.com. Repeats Sunday Feb. 5, 9 a.m.-noon.

THURSDAY, FEB. 2

Do Wisconsin Kids Count? Who gets a healthy start? Do Wisconsin children receive the health care they need? Who should pay to keep our children well? What programs work? Moderator: Jack Murtaugh, co-chair, 4th Street Forum Executive Committee. Bring your lunch or purchase it from Turners Restaurant. Historic Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. Noon. Free. 414-272-2833. www.4thStreetForum.org.

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

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

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FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression). Indigo is not in the gray scale. February's meeting will focus on nontraditional and/or emerging identities and gender expressions. Don't know what a metrosexual is? Come to the meeting and find out! 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.

SUNDAY, FEB. 5

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

THURSDAY, FEB. 9

Foster Care: Protect or Neglect? Children with no place to go — all in great need. The country and state stumble; there's not enough money. Does anybody, anywhere have a remedy? Moderator: Denise Callaway, director of communications, Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Bring your lunch or purchase it from Turners Restaurant. Historic Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. Noon. Free. 414-272-2833. www.4thStreetForum.org.

SATURDAY, FEB. 11

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

Hot Valentine. A Womyn-only dance. Get ready to get your groove on! Couples and singles come join this annual party! Cash bar, free popcorn and new DJs. South Shore Pavilion, 2900 S. Shore Dr., Milwaukee. 8-11:30 p.m. \$10 in advance/\$12 at the door. Ticket locations: Broad Vocabulary, Outwords, Outpost.

Relationship Fair. Have fun, interact and learn about healthy relationships. UWM Union Concourse, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee.

SUNDAY, FEB. 12

The Art of Erotic Dance for Women. Join Exotic George and learn the basics of erotic dance in this women-only class. You will learn the history of erotic dance, how to choose music and props, moves to make a routine sexy, and how to put a routine together to perform for your partner. This class is designed for women of all ages, sizes and ability. You must preregister. A Woman's Touch, 200 N. Jefferson St., Milwaukee. 1-4 p.m. \$38. 414-221-0400. www.womenzalternativeadventures.com.

MONDAY, FEB. 13

Outwords Book Club. Come and join the discussion of John F. Parker's first Kevin Porter mystery, "Come Clean." New members welcome! Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089. outwordsbooks@msn.com.

TUESDAY, FEB. 14

The Lesbian Reading Group. Rose Beecham's new mystery, "Grave Silence," is the book to be discussed. Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089. outwordsbooks@msn.com.

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WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

VOG Beauty Bar. A spa for gay men that starts off with a complimentary martini reception and a night of massage, manicures, make-up and other indulgences. DJ John Murges. Mct, 240 E. Pittsburgh Ave., Milwaukee 414-273-6628. www.pumpmilwaukee.com.

THURSDAY, FEB. 16

Where We Live: Is There a Place for Everyone? Can poor people find decent housing? Can builders make affordable housing profitable? What and who stand in the way of finding an adequate place for the poor to live? Moderator: Marcus White, executive director, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. Bring your lunch or purchase it from Turners Restaurant. Historic Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. Noon. Free. 414-272-2833. www.4thStreetForum.org.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18

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

Have A Heart. 15th annual Have A Heart fundraising dinner, honoring the people who have helped pave the way in the fight against AIDS in Northeast Wisconsin. \$50/75. 800-359-9272 ext. 1592. www.arcw.org.

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

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

SUNDAY, FEB. 19

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

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

Family Survival: Making It in 2006. Families struggle, children suffer. How do we shape our economy to make decent family life possible? What's needed to promote the common good? Moderator: Enrique Figueroa, Ph.D., director, Roberto Hernandez Center, assistant to the provost, Latino Affairs, UW-Milwaukee. Bring your lunch or purchase it from Turners Restaurant. Historic Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. Noon. Free. 414-272-2833. www.4thStreetForum.org.

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, FEB. 25

Dancing Through the Decades. Eat at Paulo's dressed in costume and receive a food discount and free admission to the dance party. Entertainment provided by Rock 'n Roll DJ Eagle Entertainment. Dance contest from great musical eras, music trivia and prizes. Dance contest proceeds will be donated to the local chapter of Parents of Murdered Children (POMC) in memory of James "Nino" Sustache. Paulo's Pizza, 5121 W. Howard Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. \$5 per person/\$8 per couple.

SUNDAY, FEB. 26

Camp Bingo. A benefit for AIDS Network. High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington Ave., Madison. 2:30 p.m. \$15. 608-252-6540.

Deadline for March issue is Feb. 20.

Banish the Gray with Plants and Flowers

Probably the greatest natural asset that we Milwaukeeans share is Lake Michigan. The lake, however, can also encumber us with sunless, gray days. For readers who find the absence of light a bit (OK, maybe extremely) depressing, I'd like to suggest some natural ways to cheer up your indoors and get you through the winter.

Gardening is the most basic of languages, the labor from which we are all born and nourished. Not to take sides with

either evolution or intelligent design, I do fancy the sight of that garden with Adam, Eve and the apple tree — sans snake, of course. We need to bring indoors the green world of growing things.

Even if your space is limited, there are many plants to choose from; a small green plant on a table, window sill or shelf is heartening. If you don't have a green thumb, you may want to select a member the philodendron family. These thrive when cuttings are stuck in water and don't require much attention, water or light.

Easy to grow and visually rewarding are the bamboo plants that have become ubiquitous lately. Called "lucky bamboo," they are usually planted in pebbles to keep them upright while growing in water. Like philodendrons, they require very little care.

If you crave the look of lush greenery but don't

have the time or inclination to nurture a plant, a perfect solution is the aptly named air plant. It looks lush and airy, and thrives on air alone.

Ferns, with foliage that tends to spill out of their pots, are right at home on pedestals or hanging from hooks. I was once painting some movable, louvered shutters in my kitchen window when a friend called. She laughed when I complained about my chore and said to throw out the shutters and go buy a big fern. A great solution. I hung it in the window where it provided privacy and thrived on the light. Other plants that love to be set on a pedestal or hung in a pot are spider plants, Christmas cactus, wax plants and ivies.

Dish gardens composed of several types of cactus are very attractive and require very little water, although they love the light. Many cactus varieties look right at home in contemporary settings because of their great lines and shapes. Some bloom, and they come in all shapes, sizes, heights and shades of green.

If you want to try floor-standing plants, look at Norfolk Island pines, many varieties of palms, peace lilies, ficus, rubber trees and corn plants. They can stand in windows providing height and privacy; they can serve as room dividers; or they can be banked in corners with different plants of varying heights. Many do well



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.

with artificial light and look fabulous when uplighted so that their silhouettes are projected onto walls.

For some color, the croton plant with its large, leathery, finely colored leaves of green, red and yellow is a great choice. It can range in size from one to six feet and can go outdoors for the summer. Flowering plants such as hibiscus, camellia, oleander, azalea and poinsettia also provide color indoors and do well outdoors in the summer.

With Valentine's Day but a heartbeat away, there is an abundance of plants, many flowering, that might make a nice gift for you or your honey. Be seduced by the pots of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths at the florist, garden center and grocery store. Take advantage of the three bunches of cut flowers for \$10 and the right card. You can't change the weather, but you can banish the gray with color, light and life.

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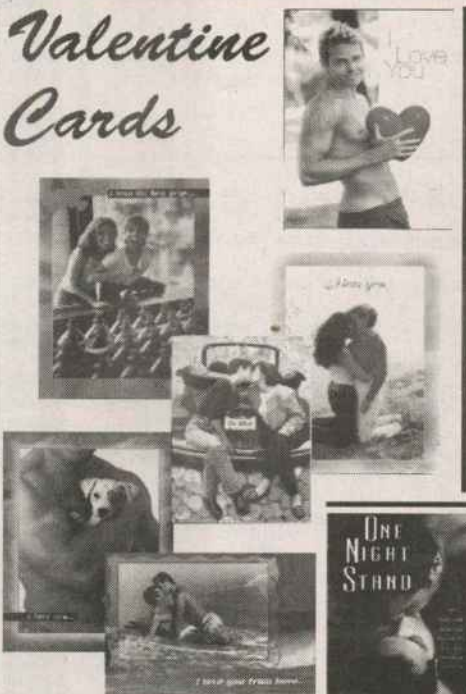
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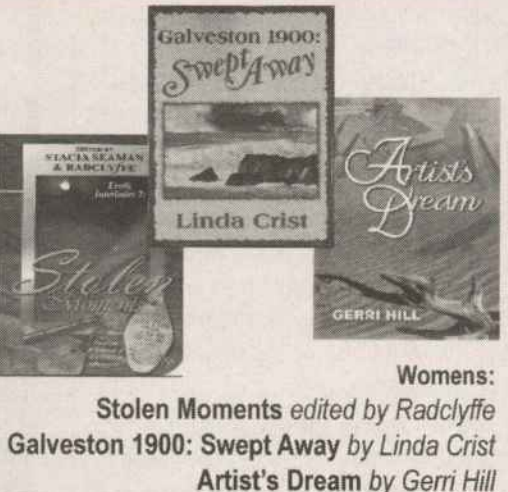
Mens:
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A Deeper Blue:
Passion Marks II by Lee Hayes
Beyond the Down Low by Keith Boykin

Womens:
You Make Me Wanna by Nikki Rashan
Bliss by Fiona Zedde
Darkness Descending by Penny Mickelbury

Valentine Cards



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Womens:
Stolen Moments edited by Radclyffe
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Arts

Calendar

OUT NOW

Material Witness: Quilts by Nancy E. Kimpel. In addition to the literal interpretation of the Milwaukee skyline, Kimpel creates quilts that are inspired by the abstract patterns she finds in nature. Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, 2220 N. Terrace Ave., Milwaukee. 414-271-3656. Through Feb. 5.

Hola Mundo/Hello World. Artists and students learn to connect to the world around them through photography. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. 414-672-2787. Through Feb. 7.

School of Stonehouse. Skulls, snakes, arcane symbolism, wasted urban landscapes, paintings on everything from stop signs to six-by-nine-foot banners to L71 Debbie snack cake boxes — this show is packed with visual overload in a mind-bending variety of sizes and materials. KM Art, 226 S. 1st St., Milwaukee. 414-226-2272. Through Feb. 11.

Hearing Aids and Other Prosthetics. This exhibition brings together the work of Yevgeniya Kaganovich and Heather Layton, two artists who explore the physical and psychological complexities of human communication. Union Art Gallery, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. Through Feb. 16.

Angels in America. Tony Kushner's epic story. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 414-248-6481. uncommontheatre.net. Through Feb. 18.

Hard Times: Germany 1920s to '30s. Exhibit of lithographs by German painter and graphic artist Hans Baluschek. Cardinal Stritch University, 6801 N. Yates Rd., Milwaukee. Through Feb. 19.

Heather Hartz. A Milwaukee native unveils her latest mixed-media and sculpture work. Studioma, 901 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. 414-534-1228. www.studioma.com. Through Feb. 23.

Smoldering Fires. Taken on an historical journey by young activists and coming face-to-face with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Dashaun determines to turn his neighborhood — and his life — around, in the name of his one true friend. This play contains mature themes and language, and is not recommended for children under 10. First Stage Children's Theater, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-267-2929. Through Feb. 24.

Womyn's Boxes. An exhibition featuring three women artists. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 414-383-3727.

Emilija Pasagic. Communication and love through representational still lifes that culminate paint and beeswax. Gallery 505, 505 E. Silver Spring Dr., Whitefish Bay. 414-962-6302. www.gallery-505.com. Through Feb. 28.

Public Display of Affection. This original installation by Chicago-based street artist Chris Silva expresses the artist's concern for the state of human culture and our lack of regard for each other, ourselves and the nature of the world. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. Through March 4.

Panic Express. Bialystock & Bloom. Milwaukee's newest cult phenomenon blending hilarious video segments, live action performance and countless surprises aimed at delighting, shocking and tickling audiences with unending glee! Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. www.bialystockandbloom.com. Through March 21.

THURSDAY, FEB. 2

Goran Kralj. Former lead singer for The Gufs performs an all ages show. The Gasthaus, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 9 p.m. Free.

Q Pick Havana. This rising soul singer from California performs from her new CD, "Life: Living in Fearless Emotion," a mellow, sleek and minimal slice of So-Cal USA soul. Opening the show is Blacksky and The Midnight Collective. Club Timbaktu, 520 E. Center St., Milwaukee. 9 p.m. \$6. 414-265-7000. www.clubtimbaktu.com.

Winterdances/Faith. A work created by guest artist Ronald K. Brown for dance majors and members of the Ko-Thi Dance Company, and new work from faculty members Luc Vanier and Janet Lilly. Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$19/\$10 students and seniors. 414-229-4308. www.arts.uwm.edu.

Q Pick In Praise of Proverbs. Milwaukee Public Theatre. Featuring the Ajala Performance Troupe. "In Praise of Proverbs" was inspired by the books of artist/author Ashley Bryan and incorporates timeless sayings from a variety of African tribal sources expressed through music, dance and story. Lincoln Center

for the Arts, 820 E. Knapp St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$5/\$3 children 18 and under. 414-347-1685. Group shows Feb. 2 and 3.

FRIDAY, FEB. 3

Ethos Percussion Group. Ethos will be joined on stage by choral students from Brookfield East High School and Milwaukee High School for the Arts performing Missa Luba, a mass in Congolese call and response style. Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 8 p.m. 262-373-5035. www.wilson-center.com.

First Friday — Carnival. Celebrate Carnival with music by Chicago Samba followed by DJ White Bread. Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Dr., Milwaukee. 5:30 p.m. 414-224-3200. www.MAM.org.

Proof. kopper bear productions. A Pulitzer Prize-winning play by David Auburn about trust, family, genius, insanity... and mathematics! Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Rd., Elm Grove. 8 p.m. \$17/\$12 with any Wisconsin-based theater company ticket stub. 262-782-4430. www.kopperbear.org. Through Feb. 19, various times.

Surface Sublime. Guest curator Nicholas Frank has assembled work by six artists whose use of plastic materials and whose resolute focus on the surface reflects and represents new ways of looking at the diffuse surfaces of our inner and outer worlds. Inova, 3253 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee. 6-9 p.m. 414-229-5070. Through March 5.

The Man Who Turned into a Dog. This bilingual version of the tragicomic tale of a desperate man who takes on a seemingly ridiculous job as a guard dog pointedly, and literally, explores the dehumanizing effects of unemployment. Free shuttle service from the UCC's parking lot at 6th and Washington to the front door. Latino Arts Auditorium, 1028 S. 9th St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. \$20/\$15 seniors/\$10 full-time students. 414-384-3100. www.latinoartsinc.org.

SATURDAY, FEB. 4

Futuristic Love. A blast into the future, drag style. Milwaukee LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. www.milwaukeegay.com.

Late Nite Catechism. An uproarious piece of theater that takes the audience members back — sometimes nostalgically, sometimes fearfully — to the children they once were. This time the rewarded students get glow-in-the-dark rosaries and laminated saint cards. The Majestic Theatre, 115 King St., Madison. 608-255-4646. www.frankproductions.com. Through Feb. 12.

FRIDAY, FEB. 5

Ave Maria. The Bel Canto Choral Artists. The 25-voice professional core of the Bel Canto Chorus will perform 12 settings of the "Ave Maria" text in different musical styles dating from the Renaissance to today. St. Joseph Center Chapel, 1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee. 3 p.m. 414-481-8801. www.belcanto.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 8

Quiet Observations. Opening reception. Lee Ann Garrison's oil paintings find meaning and significance in small, ordinary things. Her still lifes depict traditional subjects like lemons, pears and seashells that serve as a narrative to her work. \$5/\$3 seniors/free for military and students. Charles Allis Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. 5:30-8:30 p.m. 414-278-8295.

THURSDAY, FEB. 9

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

Trixie True, Teen Detective. Assembly of Talent. A musical based on the Nancy Drew/Trixie Beldon teen detective stories. Off the Wall Theater, 127 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$14/\$10 students and seniors. 414-327-3552.

FRIDAY, FEB. 10

The Mickey and Judy Show. A show with Jeff Harnar and Shauna Hicks. Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 8 p.m. 262-373-5035. www.wilson-center.com. Repeats Feb. 11.

The Moonlight Room. It's 2 a.m. in a Manhattan hospital waiting room as two teenagers await news on the fate of a friend who has overdosed on a recreational drug. An emotionally charged 24 hours lie ahead. Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-291-7800. www.chamber-theatre.com. Through March 5.

SATURDAY, FEB. 11

Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-286-3663. www.pabsttheater.org.

TUESDAY, FEB. 14

Sheryl Underwood's Valentine's Day Comedy Roast. Riverside Theater, 116 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-286-3663. www.riversidetheater.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

Q Pick Vintage — Families of Value. A fantasy documentary that intimately explores three African-American families through the eyes of lesbian and gay siblings — two or more in the same family. Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free. 414-229-4070.

THURSDAY, FEB. 16

Q Pick The Twelve Disciples of Nelson Mandela. Based on the story of the first wave of South African exiles who left Bloemfontein in 1960 and worked to keep the anti-apartheid movement alive from East Africa, Europe, America and Cuba. Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free. 414-229-4070.

FRIDAY, FEB. 17

The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It. Windfall Theatre. A riotously funny, sexy, sassy theatrical romp that proves "all the world's a stage." Village Church Arts, 130 E. Juneau Ave., Milwaukee. \$15. 414-332-3963. Through March 4.

SATURDAY, FEB. 18

Atimevu Drum & Dance Ensemble. Rhythm, drumming, dancing and more! A wonderful and interactive performance with a world beat. Club Timbaktu, 520 E. Center St., Milwaukee. 9 p.m. 414-265-7000. www.clubtimbaktu.com.

Muzika! Mila! Present Music. The music and dance of Eastern Europe. Performances include Ethnicity, Viata Romaneasca Dancers, Na Lesa Folk Ensemble, the Czech Moravian Dancers, and Mila Vocal Ensemble. Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 Art Museum Dr., Milwaukee. 6:30 p.m. 414-271-0711. presentmusic.org.

TUESDAY, FEB. 21

Erica Trio. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-286-3663. www.pabsttheater.org.

The Actor's Nightmare. R.S.V.P. Productions. Two hilarious one-act plays by Christopher Durang. Astor Theatre, 1696 N. Astor St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$12. 414-272-5694. www.rsvptheater.com. Through March 4.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

Q Pick How Little We Know of Our Neighbors. A consideration of surveillance and the idea of public space, Baron's new documentary examines England's Mass Observation movement, a social science project initiated in 1937 that used hidden cameras to study human behavior. It morphed into a spy unit during World War II, then into a market research firm in the 1950s. Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. \$2. 414-229-4758. www.woodlandpattern.org.

Time for a Nice Cuppa... An exhibit of work by Wisconsin artists including tea pot designs and other art associated with tea culture. West Bend Art Museum, 300 S. 6th Ave., West Bend. 262-334-9638. www.wbartmuseum.com.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

Q Pick Jane Siberry. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 800-511-1552. pabsttheater.org.

Contents. Recent work by Lindsey Wolkowicz. New solo art exhibition opening, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 6-9 p.m. 414-383-3727.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

HAFLA: Joy of the Dance. A belly dance party featuring the best Chicago and Milwaukee belly dancers, drum jam and refreshments. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 6-10 p.m. \$10. 414-383-3727.

Deadline for March issue is Feb. 20.

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Mounting Momentum

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Update

'Contents: New Works by Lindsey Wolkowicz'

"Contents," an exhibition of recent work by Lindsey A. Wolkowicz, opens at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center March 2 with a reception Friday, March 3, from 6 to 9 p.m. Wolkowicz most recently exhibited in Milwaukee with her studio mates in "New Work from the Seventh Floor."



Wolkowicz combines traditional drawing and painting media with construction materials like wood, polyurethane and spackle, creating a surface presence that provides physicality and illusion simultaneously.

In her images, the figurative element is elusive, appearing flat or transparent at one point and tangibly visceral the next.

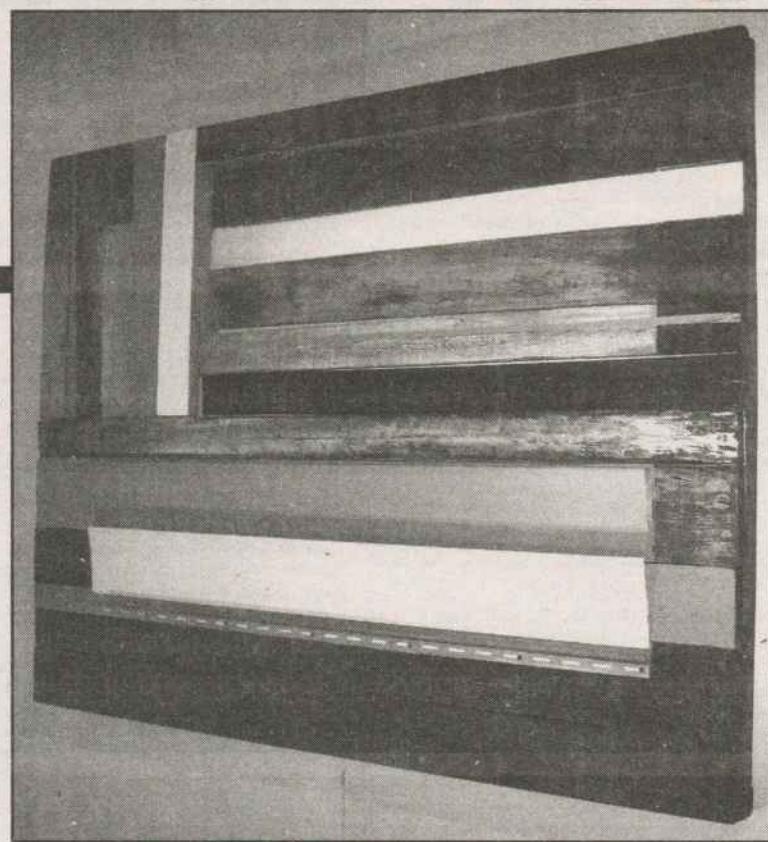
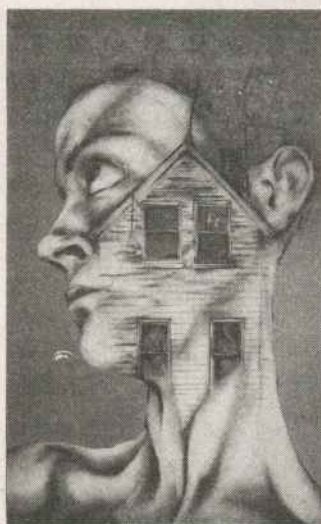
The architectural, psychologically charged space offers a similar visual play, occupied by the figure and then shifting to appear as though it is contained within the human body itself. Ultimately, the body, whether figurative or constructed, becomes a container for experience.

The formal and material qualities of the work are not intended merely to set up contradictions or conflicts between real and not real. Instead, Wolkowicz's work

addresses the parallel existence of the sensations of absence and presence in our daily lives. Wolkowicz produces images where what is seen and what is felt co-inhabit space; their meanings become interdependent.

Her work presents a world where that which is physically experienced in our everyday lives is no more real than that which now exists only as memory, with evidence of that experience made visible in the body and peeling paint of a doorframe alike.

"Contents: New Works by Lindsey Wolkowicz" runs through April 14.



Hafla:

The Joy of the Dance — Belly Dance Party and Drum Jam



Shey

Shaia Fahrid's Egyptian Productions presents a Hafla Belly Dance Party at MGAC on March 4, from 6 to 10 p.m. Nineteen professional and amateur belly dance artists from Chicago and Milwaukee will perform Egyptian cabaret, folklore and tribal dances.

Local talent Shafiq will preside as master of ceremonies with Galatea, Kael, Kendra and many others dancing. Shaia will perform

and present a special surprise: her nascent male dance troupe, Extreme Taqasim.

Chicago dancers include Kimahri, 2005 winner of the prestigious and coveted Golden Navel Award, Sumaya, Mahira and Shey (Shey is 9 years old and has danced with her mother, Mahira, for three years) along with numerous others.

The Hafla will also present two tribal dance groups including Chicago's Blue Cat Tribe and Milwaukee's own Anjum Bellydance.

A Middle Eastern drum jam and open dance will follow after intermission

MGAC invites everyone to attend this exciting family evening of entertainment. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$10.

GAMMA Game Night March 11

Join Milwaukee GAMMA for its monthly Game Night at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, Saturday, March 11, from 7 to 10 p.m. Bring your favorite board game or deck of cards. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided. Open to members and non-members 18 and over. Contact Richard at 414-530-1886 or e-mail gamma@milwaukeegamma.com for more information.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center will be presenting both visual and performance art at the 2006 PrideFest. More to be announced in the coming months!

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. For more information on events, call 414-383-3727 or e-mail milwgac@yahoo.com.

Saint Sebastian Project Update

The Saint Sebastian Project already has struck a cord among regional and national artists.

According to Paul Masterson, director and curator of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, the call for contributions to this special art exhibition, set to open in June, has already received national response.

Thus far, artists from Boston and New York City have promised to produce works especially for this unique undertaking. Local artists, including several who have already shown at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center gallery, have also indicated they will enter new art works.

The Saint Sebastian Project hopes to assemble a broad range of works in media ranging from traditional to more unusual ones such as video or interactive installations.

Deadline for artists to commit to enter their works is March 15. Installation will take place in late May with the opening planned for PrideFest eve, Thursday, June 8.



Shaia

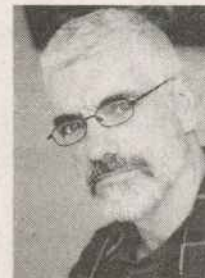
Classes at MGAC

Sundays 4-5:30 p.m.
Middle Eastern Belly
Dance for Men with
Shaia Fahrid
8-week session: \$40

Mondays
Yoga with Ricky Heldt
Hatha Yoga 6-7 p.m.
Yogalates 7:10-8:10 p.m.
6-week session: \$40

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Paul Masterson - Director





By Holly Grey

"We are not trying to make a political statement. It's simply about the music and having fun," explained Melissa Beastrom, director of Milwaukee's newly forming Women's Choir. "We are hoping to fill a void in Milwaukee by starting this new women's choir and providing one more option for women to get together."

Inspired by Men's Voices Milwaukee, an all male chorus formed in 2001, Beastrom, Diane Gregory, Ron Thate, Janice Lang and others in the LGBT community envisioned an all women's choir.

"The idea of forming a women's chorus had been in my head for quite a while, and then I began to hear a lot of talk from others in the community about a chorus forming. I was so excited about the idea that I decided to really get involved. I jumped in and started helping to promote the idea and contacting women who I thought would be interested," said Janice Lang, one of the original members.

A Choir of their Own

Harmonizing Women Band Together to Make Music

Although the idea had been geminating for a while, the choir is in its infancy. Thanks to the efforts of Beastrom, Lang, Thate and Gregory, two informational meetings and one set of individual auditions have taken place. Additional auditions will be held over the next month. To date roughly 30 women have shown up at these events and expressed keen interest in participating.

Preparations are underway to begin holding practices once a week on Tuesday nights at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, with the ultimate goal of putting on two performances a year. Beastrom said she also envisions the new Women's Choir performing at some point with Men's Voices Milwaukee.

Men's Voices Milwaukee currently performs three to four times a year and also appears at numerous benefits. Beastrom is hoping the Women's Choir can arrange a Christmas show or something similar with Men's Voices Milwaukee. "Or maybe we could perform a few songs," said Beastrom. "So far the guys have been

very encouraging. They have been great about it."

The Women's Choir is open to new members. Potential members will meet and audition with the director for vocal placement. The auditions are fairly informal. Beastrom will ask each woman to sing a provided selection. "This simple audition will help me determine individual range, ability and, in the end, vocal placement," said Beastrom. "I strongly encourage anyone interested to participate and not be afraid of auditioning."

Beastrom does not picture the choir being for those interested in singing excerpts from the "Marriage of Figaro;" however, she emphasizes that the direction the choir takes and music will ultimately be selected by the participants. "I'm the director, but I want the choir to be everyone's choir. I anticipate we will perform a variety of music, but I don't want to make the music selection."

"Our ultimate goal is to provide another venue for enjoyment and to socialize. I want women to be very comfortable and to sing and have

fun," concluded Beastrom.

For the date and time for the next auditions, contact Melissa Beastrom at 414-264-1051.

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Heart Truths

What better time to talk about heart health for women than February, St. Valentine's month? We all know someone who has died or been disabled by a heart attack or a stroke. But did you know that women die more often than men from these conditions and that more women die from heart disease each year than from breast cancer?

If this is news to you, that's not surprising. Until very recently, there's been little research on women and heart disease or on how our symptoms differ from men's.

How important is heart health? Your heart is at the center of your body's systems, pumping oxygen-rich blood to your organs so they can function effectively. When your arteries become weak or clogged, well, let's just say that's as inconvenient and dangerous as the Marquette Interchange project. A heart attack occurs when an artery is so blocked that no oxygen or nutrients can be pumped back to your heart.

How do you know you're having a heart attack? You're probably familiar with the signs and symptoms more common to men: pain in the chest, shortness of breath, an irregular heartbeat. These aren't signs you

should ignore. If you feel heavy pressure or squeezing in the chest, call 911 within five minutes. But women might also experience other, lesser-known symptoms: pain that travels into the neck, jawbone or back and does not get worse when you move; indigestion or other gastric upset; or a vague feeling of anxiety or doom.

Their tendency not to want to "bother anybody" when they first experience symptoms is one reason women die or are disabled more often from heart problems. Women tend to think of the needs of others before their own. But if you feel something serious is going on, get help quickly. Every moment you delay can cause permanent damage to your heart muscle.

Unfortunately, many doctors and emergency personnel fail to look for or recognize women's heart attack symptoms. If you can, have someone with you during a health crisis to keep asking questions until you get answers. Insist on good, prompt care!

Problems with your veins, arteries and heart can also lead to stroke. A stroke occurs when blood flow to the brain is clogged. The warning signs for stroke include sudden numbness on one side of the body, sudden

confusion or trouble with speech, sudden difficulty seeing out of one or both eyes, sudden dizziness or loss of coordination, and a severe headache with no known cause.

When you visit a doctor, be sure to ask what specific risks you might have for heart disease. Have your blood pressure checked regularly, by medical personnel or at a free pharmacy blood-pressure machine. Since you can have high blood pressure and feel fine, this condition has been called "the silent killer."

Annual checkups including blood tests for cholesterol levels are important. Cholesterol is the gunk that clogs up your arteries worse than those orange barrels on I-94. Tests to determine your blood sugar levels are also important, since women with diabetes are seven times more likely to have heart disease. As women age and/or go through menopause, we experience different heart-health risks that should be discussed with a medical professional. If your healthcare provider doesn't offer up this information, be sure to ask.

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute has developed "The Heart Truth Road Show" to educate women about heart disease. Call 800-



LESBIAN HEALTH

by Kathy Herbst and Lesley Salas

575-WELL or visit www.hearttruth.gov for excellent resources specific to women. Go to www.nhlbi.nih.gov for heart-healthy recipes and information on high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes as risk factors.

May your heart be happy and well.

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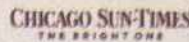
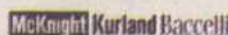
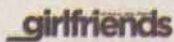
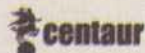
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Out of the Show-Biz Closet



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.

Not that long ago the gay lifestyle was a big secret in Hollywood and Broadway. There have been gay people in the theater arts ever since man first put his foot on a stage. But to keep a public image, the lifestyle of many performers was hidden in the closet.

Gay people in the arts today can be open and proud. "The Celluloid Closet" chronicles the history of the gay (or movie sissy) in the film world. It shows how much the public attitude has changed towards seeing gays on film.

In Milwaukee, "Brokeback Mountain" has been breaking box office records. This spring the Chamber Theatre will present "Take Me Out," about a gay baseball player. On Broadway a new play titled "The

Little Dog Laughed" deals with a male Hollywood star in a time when he had to keep his real life a secret. So we now have cowboys, baseball players and Hollywood stars coming out of the closet!

Milwaukee Still a Conservative Town

It was wonderful to see the crowds at "Brokeback Mountain" at the **Oriental Theater**. The opening night audience was filled to the top balcony and, may I say, "So gay!" I felt very proud, but concerned.

How far will the TV, movie and theater gay lifestyle boom go on before it becomes "Just another phase"? Let's face it, gay is really the in thing to be right now! This is especially a cool thing to be among the younger generation. They even say, "You're so gay"!! What will be the new fad next year?

A Valentine of Theater

This month the **Cornerstone Theatre** presents its annual "Valentine Cabaret." The show has wonderful music, and a few super comedy bits. The **Chamber Theater** brings us "The Moonlight Room." And the **Milwaukee Ballet**

presents the beautiful and exotic "Scheherazade."

That cozy **Boulevard Ensemble** theater has "The Play About the Baby." **Windfall Theatre** welcomes "The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It." Then the Milwaukee Repertory Theater premieres "Intimate Apparel."

If you are into seeing a comic Jewish show, "Beau Jest" is opening at **Broadway Baby Dinner Theater**. And for those **Tennessee Williams** fans, the classic "The Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" claws it way into the **Sunset Playhouse**.

Don't forget "Angels in America," produced by **Uncommon Theatre**, closes soon at the **Gay Arts Center**. A must see!

Dear Ruthie's Nightmare!!

Our own glamorous and popular "Dear Ruthie" will be appearing in "The Actor's Nightmare" by **Christopher Durang**. This hilarious backstage parody (also starring **Kirk Thomsen**) is being presented at the **Astor Theatre** on Brady Street by **RSVP Productions**. This fun and exciting evening will also include those junior detectives, "The Hardy Boys," in a campy sexual who-done-it! Check

out the fun restaurant at the **Brady Street Pharmacy** before the show. The menu is reasonable, with great ice cream sundaes. You might also "check out" that new exciting young actor **Brian Bzdawka**, at the **Boulevard Theatre**.

In closing, it was wonderful to see everyone out enjoying the holiday season. I know you might be swamped with bills and the post-holiday blues, but turn on the sunshine! Save some money with all the two-for-one night specials the bars offer. Better yet, check them out after a movie or play.

Last Month's Trivia Answer
Yes, **Anthony Rapp** from "Rent" had a supporting role in the movie "A Beautiful Mind."

This Month's Trivia Question
What top female star appeared in the film version of "The Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"?

My Aunt Blanche thinks that "Brokeback Mountain" is the new 2006 remake of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid."

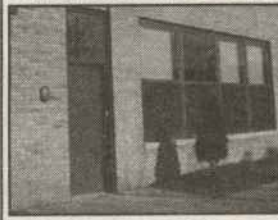
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Ample space with a private entrance from Reservoir. Kitchen w/granite counters, breakfast bar & stainless appliances. Living room's enormous windows let in warm southern sunshine & offer a great view of the city. HWF. BR w/new carpet-

ing/walk-in closet. In-unit laundry. Heated parking right outside of unit back door. \$199,900.

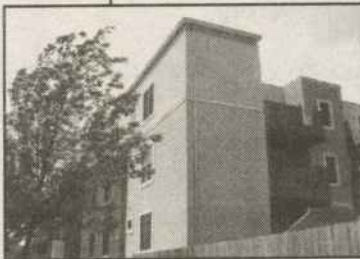
1825 N. 2nd St. in BREWERS HILL



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

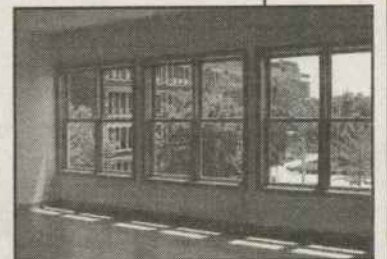
conversion, room for fabulous garage or carriage house... Spectacular!! \$499,900.

RIVERVIEW in the UPPER EAST SIDE



Riverview West Only one unit left! Milwaukee River & Locust \$229,900. New construction, contemporary style 2BR, 2BA unit across from an east side park. Oversized windows, wonderful hardwood floors & finishes, wood railed balcony, in-unit laundry, underground parking included. Kitchen w/hardwood cabinetry, solid surface countertops, butcher block island & generous appliance allowance.

Riverview East Milwaukee River & Locust \$229,900. High style, contemporary design, new construction 2BR/2BA units occupy an entire floor across from an east side park. Oversized windows give light on all sides. Wonderful hardwood floors & finishes, private deck, in-unit laundry, ample storage, detached parking. Kitchen w/hardwood cabinetry, granite counters & generous appliance allowance.



HI-FI LOFTS in RIVERWEST



Buy a new condo, get a free car! Studio or 1 BR w/lots of windows & light. Multiple open-concept floor plans, some w/patio & private entrance, in a converted factory. All appliances included, stainless cabinets, butcher block countertops, in-unit laundry,

CA. Detached parking included. From \$149,000. hifilofts.com

ROXWELL LOFTS in WALKERS POINT



Dramatic & architecturally delightful studio or 1 bedroom. Trendy new loft conversions with all refinished, original cream city brick, beams, HWF, high ceilings & over-sized windows. Chic custom Kitchen & Bath. Appliances included. Washer/

Dryer hook-ups. Surface parking available for \$10,000. From \$93,000.

LAKE DRIVE TOWNHOUSE



UPPER EAST SIDE, Warm, welcoming townhome in Northpoint Historic District. Private courtyard entry. Corner NFP in LR. Double doors to private garden. Planked wood floors thru'out main level. Kit w/breakfast bar nook. In-unit laundry, walk-thru closet.

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Bay View Area — Cozy 1BR upper. Newly remodeled; on a dead-end, quiet street. Country-type backyard; very lovely view. Rent and security \$525 each; utilities are separate. Pets? 414-384-7113.

For Rent — West Allis efficiency apartment (2BR and bath). Includes appliances, heat, electricity, laundry and off-street parking. \$500. 414-545-6539 or 414-329-0648.

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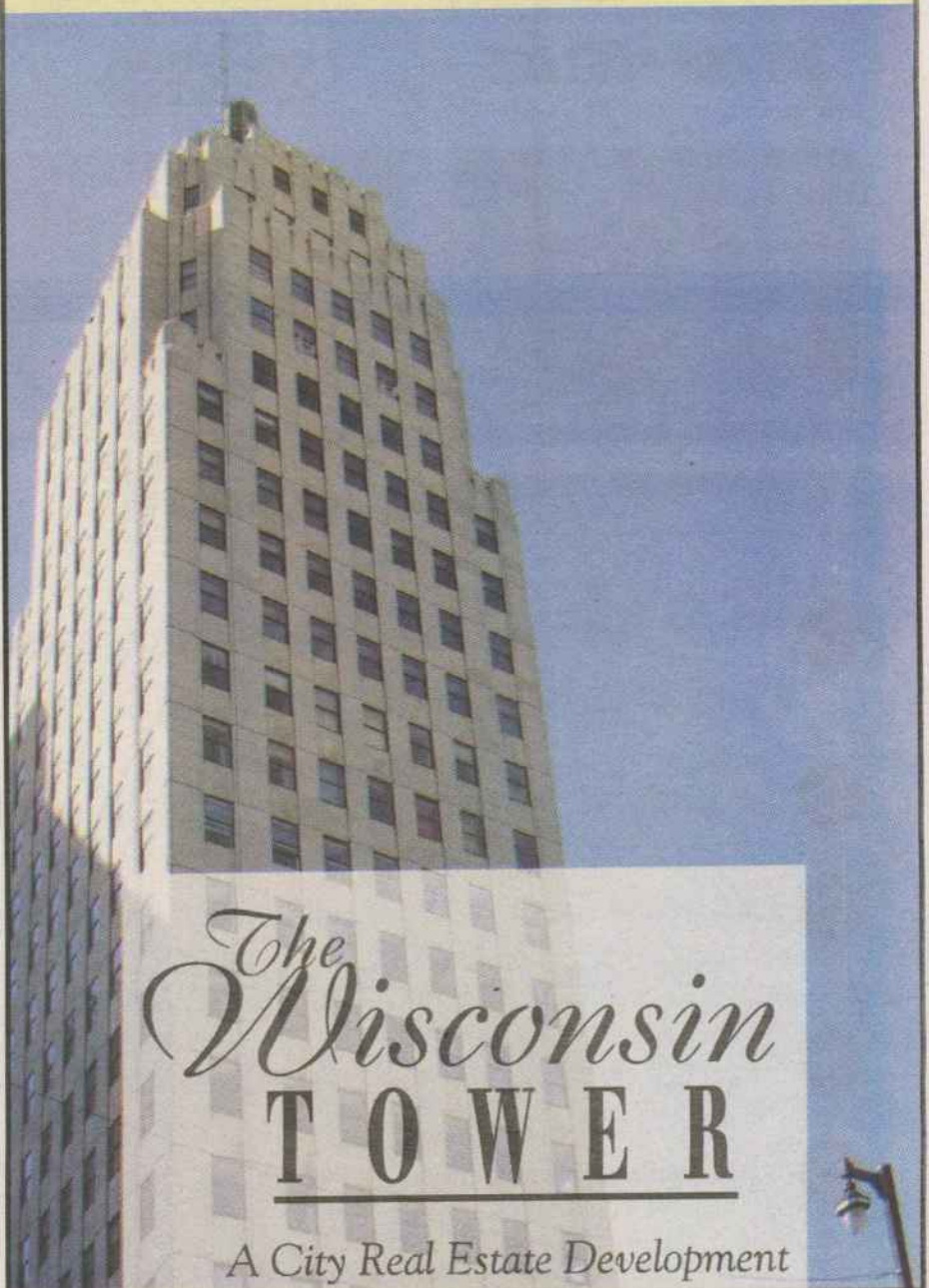
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