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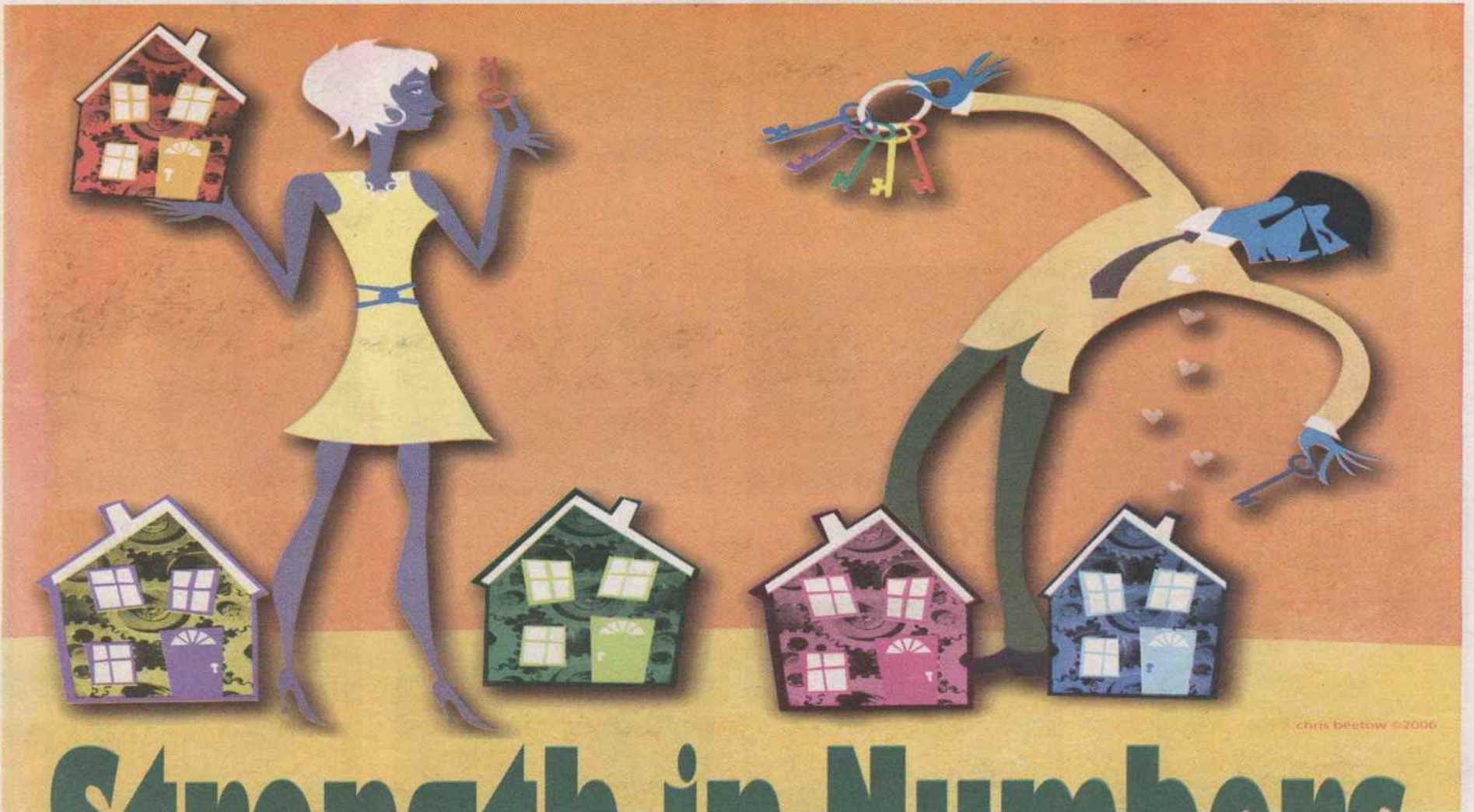
Seduction
Steamy London Cast
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Strength in Numbers

By Holly Grey

LGBT Strategic Coalition Forming

Amid perceived fragmentation and disorganization, and on the heels of a Milwaukee-area LGBT summit held this past fall, the idea of creating a unified collaboration among local LGBT advocacy groups and individuals is germinating. According to many, it's about time.

The summit brought a variety of LGBT organizations and their leaders together in the same venue — many for the first time.

“We realized at the summit that many of the attending organizations had the same needs. We also learned that there are a lot of organizations out there

with good people doing good work and we had never met,” explained James Pennington, executive director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

“The Milwaukee LGBT community as a whole has similar needs and diverse needs. We need to talk about what we need and build a stronger cohesiveness. There is strength in numbers.”

Milwaukee LGBT organizations and the community at large have a reputation among many people for infighting and disjointedness. “There is competitiveness for funding and membership,” said Pennington. “We also sometimes find it hard to embrace each other’s

issues, but hopefully, by developing this coalition, we can dispense with that and be more vocal as a group in a positive way.”

So far, the group is calling itself the LGBT Strategic Coalition. However, this name could change as the group becomes larger and more defined, and solidifies its mission and goals. Currently, the main objectives of the coalition are to develop a deeper sense of community, find common ground within the LGBT community and create a united front.

“We want to build and promote LGBT people as a

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R or TV-MA
DOOM



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R
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Waiting...



Premieres March 24
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Just Like Heaven



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Voices of Peter Sallis, Ralph Fiennes
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Wallace & Gromit THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT



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Gwyneth Paltrow, Anthony Hopkins, Jake Gyllenhaal
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London's Shamelessboyz Invade Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's Uncommon Theatre Company has formed an alliance with the British theater troupe Shamelessboyz. The Shamelessboyz, who have their home on the London Fringe at the Barons Court Theatre, is a company of gorgeous guys who perform theater that is gay, risky and sometimes raunchy.

The first joint venture between the English and U.S. theater companies will be Jack Heifner's raunchy new erotic comedy "Seduction." Sexy, decadent and immoral, "Seduction" holds up a mirror and lets us see what's good, bad, sad or hilarious in our search for human connection.

Peter Bull is the artistic director of the Shamelessboyz. He produced "Vinegar Tom" at the Etcetera Theatre and the world premiere of "Dangerous." He

recently produced the European premiere of "Seduction," which transferred to Club Revenge in Brighton. Peter then directed the new production at Battersea Arts Centre and the Players Theatre in New York. Peter most recently worked with Phil Price on Mark Hooker's production of "Naked Boys Singing!" in Milwaukee.

After the Midwestern premier of "Seduction" at MGAC's Uncommon Theatre Company, the troupe will take the production to Bailiwick Repertory Theatre in Chicago.

Performances will be at MGAC, 703 S. 2nd St., at 7:30 p.m. nightly from March 31 through April 9 (excluding Mondays). Tickets are \$20. Call MGAC at 414-383-3727 for more details, or order tickets 24 hours a day at 1-800-595-4849.

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Strength *continued from page 1*

unified community. After the summit, it was agreed upon that we need to be better organized and to work together better," explained Maria Cadenas, executive director of the Cream City Foundation. "Our goal is to build a unified front for the LGBT community."

"I don't want to be the only

Currently, the main objectives of the coalition are to develop a deeper sense of community, find common ground within the LGBT community and create a united front.

voice," said Pennington. According to Pennington, as the newly appointed director of the LGBT Community Center last October, when Milwaukee Alderman Michael McGee was making headlines because of the Frank Jude Jr. beating and for calling the District Attorney E. Michael McCann a "dumb ass," he was hard pressed to find other LGBT leaders to take a stand against McGee and his homophobic comments. "How do we get together to create a response team to these types of events?" asked Pennington. He's hopeful that the coalition will bring LGBT leaders together and stand as an amalgamated LGBT voice against future anti-gay attacks.

Both Cadenas and Pennington have a strong vision of what they would like to see come out of this coalition; however, they both stress that the group's mission and objectives will be defined by the community. "Our main goal is

to be a community first. Find common ground and then become a united front," explained Cadenas.

Nearly 20 organizational leaders and individuals including Pennington, Cadenas, Bill Serpe of SAGE, Laurie Schultz of Rainbow Families, Joe Pabst and Sandy Hienz met on Feb. 8 to begin discussions on collaboration and getting the word out that the group is forming. "We need to get the word out to everyone interested — individuals, business owners, funders — really any LGBT who is interested in building a strong community. Everyone is welcome to join," emphasized Cadenas.

Word is spreading through the media, e-mail blasts and word of mouth.

The next meeting will be held March 18 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and is open to any LGBT person who wants to help.

Cadenas said the Cream City

Foundation has committed staff time and other resources to the budding coalition, but she stressed that CCF is not leading this charge.

"We want to raise up the various LGBT communities within our community and create a unified front with a unified voice," explained Pennington. "We need to bring people together."

Community:

1. a unified body of individuals: as (a) a state, commonwealth; (b) the people with common interests living in a particular area; broadly: the area itself; (c) an interacting population of various kinds of individuals (as species) in a common location; (d) a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society; (e) a group linked by a common policy.

2. society at large.

3. (a) joint ownership or participation; (b) common character, likeness; (c) social activity, fellowship (d) a social state or condition.

From Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

Camp Heartland's 8th Annual Party with Heart ... Untamed!

Special to Q Life

By Elizabeth Shriner

What goes on at the Milwaukee County Zoo in the middle of winter? For one evening this March, the answer will be an evening full of untamed fun! This year, the Zoo's Peck Center is the home of the Camp Heartland signature Party with Heart ... Untamed fundraising event, which benefits the organization's programs for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

The event, to be held March 11, will feature the delicious desserts of Cakes by Stephanie, the music of the Heroes and Milwaukee's Rock Star Project, psychic readings from Aradia's Oracle, and a silent auction and cash raffle.

After eight years of this event, Camp Heartland proves they know how to throw a party.

"Party with Heart brings together a vastly diverse group of individuals rarely seen at fundraisers," says host Tony Chakonas, an active Camp Heartland supporter who has been attending the event for many years. "I appreciate knowing that anyone interested in supporting Camp Heartland is welcome to attend."

The crowd at the event is diverse, and includes both long-time supporters and first-time guests.

A Unique Experience

Party with Heart provides a unique experience for party-goers — something you might want to try if you need a change from the ordinary black tie affair. The evening begins at smaller individual parties thrown by gracious hosts throughout the greater Milwaukee area.

These parties are orchestrated by the hosts themselves and come in a variety of sizes, venues and themes. Hosts invite their own guests and Camp Heartland provides invitations and materials to display at the party. During the event, guests are encouraged to make a donation to Camp Heartland. From there, it is on to the finale at the Milwaukee County Zoo, where hosts and their guests meet up with those from other parties.

This year's Party With Heart is sponsored by Bostik Inc., Home Care Medical Inc., Miller Brewing Company, the Northwestern Mutual Foundation, Potawatomi Bingo Casino and the RW Baird Foundation. The silent auction will feature items from generous businesses and organizations across southeastern Wisconsin and beyond, truly highlighting the region's best. The music of the Heroes, a local band that has played the event for several years, promises to keep guests on the dance floor. Adding to the excitement, contestants from the Rock Star Project — a contest to discover local talent — will be performing throughout the evening.

Get Involved

Want to join the "untamed" crowd at the zoo? Hosting a party gets you and your guests in the door to this exclusive event. Have a great auction item or want to promote your business to Party With Heart's nearly 500 guests? Call Elizabeth at 414-272-1118.

Purchase of a table for 10 for \$1,500 allows you to attend the Camp Heartland pre-party with complementary cocktails, hors d'oeuvres by Shully's, and a quartet band. The pre-party starts at 6:00 p.m. at the zoo.

The Beneficiary

Camp Heartland is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Milwaukee and Minneapolis. It was started in 1993 by Mequon native Neil Willenson, to provide children impacted by HIV/AIDS with "the best week of their lives." Its mission today is to enhance the lives of children impacted by HIV/AIDS through year-round support, advocacy, recreational programs, and community AIDS awareness efforts, and it continues to draw local and national support. One hundred percent of the proceeds from Party With Heart will go toward Camp Heartland programs for children affected by HIV/AIDS. Learn more at www.campheartland.org or 800-724-4673.

Party With Heart...Untamed will take place on Saturday, March 11, at the Peck Center of the Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 W. Blue Mound Road. The executive sponsor, staff and board pre-party will begin at 6 p.m., followed by the finale from 8 p.m. to midnight. To purchase a table at the pre-party and gain admittance to the finale, call Mary at 414-272-1118. To make a donation of time, money or an auction item, contact Elizabeth at 414-272-1118 or Elizabeth@campheartland.org.

Elizabeth Shriner is the event coordinator at Camp Heartland.



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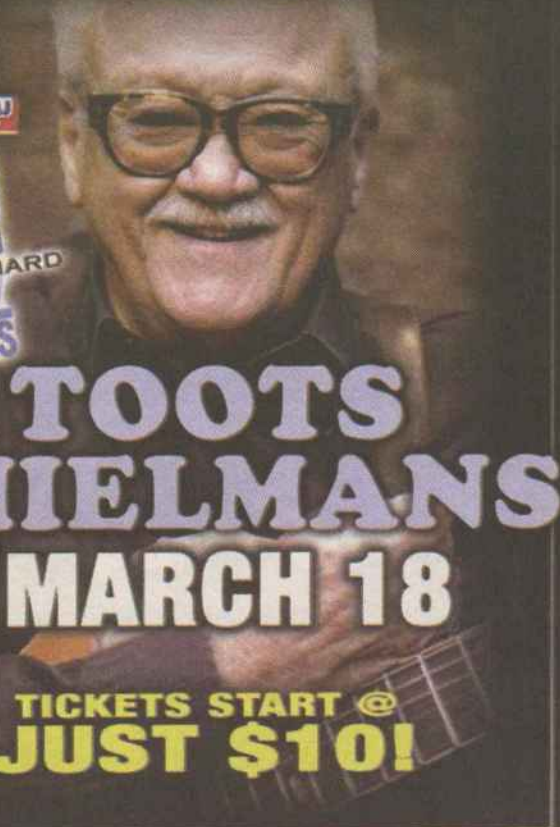


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Martha Wainwright
Mar. 30

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Mitch Albom
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April 12

2006 Hal Leonard Jazz Series
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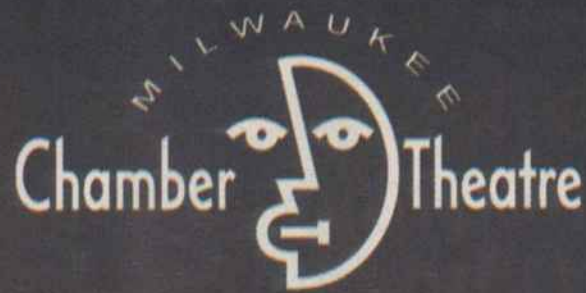
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aqualung
March 5

Belle & Sebastian
The New Pornographers
March 11

Irish American Roots Concert
Michael Martin
Murphy
March 17

Oasis
The Redwalls
March 22

Train
Brandi Carlile
April 11



TAKE ME OUT

by Richard Greenberg

Directed by Patrick Holland

Featuring John McGivern,
Eddie Collins, Jim Fletcher,
Hasani Issa, Chike Johnson,
Luke Leonhardt, Dan Mooney,
Isai Padilla, Lucas Peterson,
Jonathan Wainwright

When Darren Lemming, the star center-fielder of the New York Empire, casually announces he's gay at a press conference, he assumes the news will be readily accepted by everyone. It isn't. Hilarious and hard-hitting, TAKE ME OUT illustrates the upshot as the news of Lemming's disclosure steers its way through the team, the media and the nation.

This production contains locker-room nudity and adult content.

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Wisconsin



Happenings

200 Benefits of Marriage in Wisconsin

Madison — Action Wisconsin and the Human Rights Campaign have released a survey outlining the nearly 200 legal benefits and protections of marriage under Wisconsin law. The Wisconsin Assembly is nearing final approval of a proposed constitutional amendment that would permanently deny these protections to lesbian and gay couples.

"This survey brings into sharper relief what it means for Wisconsin's lesbian and gay families to be frozen out of legal recognition," said Action Wisconsin

communications director Joshua Freker. "Gay families in every part of the state are doing the work of taking care of each other and their children, yet they are denied important legal protections that would make them stronger and more secure."

The legal protections conferred on married spouses under numerous Wisconsin statutes include:

- Spouses can seek workers compensation claims in the event of a spouse's untimely death.
- Transfers of real estate between a

husband and wife are exempt from the state's real estate transfer fee.

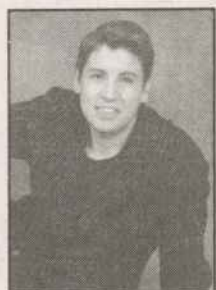
- Spouses can see medical records relating to treatment of the other spouse.

In addition to the state-level benefits and protections it confers, marriage brings 1,138 benefits at the federal level, according to a 2004 General Accounting Office report.

The complete survey is online at www.actionwisconsin.org/pdfs/wi-marriagebenefits.pdf.

Author Maytee Aspuro y Gonzalez Appearing at Outwords

Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee will be welcoming former Milwaukeean Maytee Aspuro y Gonzalez for a publication party March 21 to celebrate the release of her debut novel, "Hesed," a timely and insightful exploration of the tension between contemporary religious



Maytee

institutions and people with lesbian and gay identities.

Set in Chicago, "Hesed" follows the lives of two women with

divergent worldviews. Elizabeth Ann Kelly is a young, devout Anglican priest, new to a troubled, ethnically diverse neighborhood. Nicole Isabel Thera is a respected business consultant and owner of the Elysian Fields — a pub, restaurant and dance club that caters to the lesbian and gay community. As their journeys progress, the two women are confronted with personal and social challenges that alter how they see themselves and each other. "Hesed" has a March 2006 release date and is published by Cavalier Press.

Speakers' Network Training

The Action Wisconsin Education Fund and Milwaukee LGBT Community Center are sponsoring a Speakers' Network Training for individuals interested in working to stop the proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex civil unions and marriage.

Trainings will be held this month on Thursday, March 2 (register by March 1 at <http://eqfed.org/>

[aw/events/milw1/details.tcl](http://eqfed.org/aw/events/milw1/details.tcl)) and Monday, March 20 (register by March 19 at <http://eqfed.org/aw/events/milw2/details.tcl>).

Both trainings will be from 6 to 9 p.m. at Plymouth Church UCC, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., Milwaukee. For more information, call Talia Schank at 414-271-2656 ext. 119.

Cuban born Aspuro y Gonzalez resides in Madison. She holds a master's in management from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee and a master's in religious studies from Edgewood College in Madison. She is a career executive with the State of Wisconsin.

Aspuro y Gonzalez will read excerpts from and sign copies of "Hesed" at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, at Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee.

This is a free event. For more information, visit www.outwordsbooks.com or call 414-963-9089.

'Vagina Monologues' Returns to Milwaukee

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed at both the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and the University of Wisconsin—

Milwaukee after a one-year hiatus.

Eve Ensler's Obie Award-winning play is based on interviews Ensler made with women about their vaginas and experiences associated with the vagina. The performers in the UWM student production include traditional and nontraditional UWM students. UWM senior Rose Wasielewski will direct the show.

Originally from Milwaukee, Wasielewski, a theater major,

has directed three one-act plays, including a student production of Edward Albee's "The Zoo Story."

The opening performance of "The Vagina Monologues" will be at 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at www.uncommontheatre.net or at the theater box office one hour before the show.

continued on page 8



With Center Advocates board and staff members looking on, Advocates President Jamin Mahan presents a check for \$41,000 on Feb. 15 from Center Advocates to Michael Childers and Campaign Director Mike Tate of Fair Wisconsin. Fair Wisconsin is a joint project of the Advocates and Action Wisconsin to defeat the ban on civil unions and gay marriage in the November 7, 2006 election.

continued from page 7

UWM performances will be held Thursday and Friday, March 30 and 31, at 7 p.m. in the Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Tickets to these performances are \$5 and may be purchased in advance at 414-229-4308 or at the door one hour before the show. A portion of the proceeds will go to organizations that work to end violence against women.

These benefit productions are part of the V-Day College Campaign. V-Day is a global movement born in 1998 as an outgrowth of "The Vagina Monologues" to stop violence against women and girls. V-Day is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations.

Through benefit performances of "The Vagina Monologues," unique documentary film projects and innovative gatherings designed to change social attitudes toward violence, V-Day generates broader attention for the fight to stop worldwide violence against women and girls including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual slavery. The "V" in V-Day stands for victory, valentine and vagina.

Amy Phipps, president of the UWM College Feminists, the student organization that is producing the play for the second time, says the "alarmingly high level of violence against women all over the world" has prompted her to produce the show again.

Director Wasielewski saw the film as a freshman at UWM. "I was completely blown away by the stories, by the intimacy I felt when I saw it, and the camaraderie of the women that had put it on," she said. "When I got the opportunity [to direct it], I jumped on it."

Wasielewski said she is looking forward to directing "The Vagina Monologues" at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center because of the diversity of stories and the play's ability to capture women's experiences more generally. "There are a couple of monologues about lesbians and some of the things they have gone through," she said. "And the different ways females culturally look at their bodies, I think anyone can relate to."

National



Happenings

Missouri Judge Grants Lesbian Couple License to Be Foster Parents

Washington — A Missouri Circuit Court ruled last month that in the case of *Lisa Johnston v. Missouri Department of Social Services* the state of Missouri's actions were "arbitrary and unreasonable" in denying a foster parent license based upon the plaintiff's sexual orientation.

The nation's leading children's health, welfare and mental health organizations have issued statements declaring that a parent's sexual orientation is irrelevant to his or her ability to raise a child. These organizations include the American Medical Association (2004), Child Welfare League of America (1988), National Association of Social Workers (2002) and American Academy of Pediatrics (2002).

"Recent polling shows the overwhelming majority of

Missourians believe that gay and lesbian parents should be able to provide a needy child with a stable and secure home," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "The simple fact is that today's ruling mirrors the values and beliefs of the people of Missouri."

A statewide poll conducted by Hart Research in November 2005 for HRC and PROMO conclusively found that Missouri voters believe gay and lesbians are fit to serve as parents. For example, 84 percent of respondents said the state should not remove children from someone's care simply because that person is gay or lesbian, and 73 percent favored looking at adoptions by gays and lesbians on a case-by-case basis, based upon what is in the child's best interest, rather than simply banning all adoptions by gays and lesbians.

Doctor Prescribes Anti-Gay 'Treatment' for Lesbian

Kissimmee, Fla. — Southern Legal Counsel and the National Center for Lesbian Rights filed complaints last month with the Florida Department of Health and CIGNA Healthcare of Florida against Dr. John R. Hartman and Dawn Pope-Wright, a physician's assistant, in Kissimmee, Fla.

The complaints were filed on behalf of Jamie Beiler after she had consulted Hartman's office for a routine medical matter. At the close of the visit, Pope-Wright gave Beiler a packet of anti-gay propaganda referring to homosexuality as "sinful" and advising lesbians and gay men to change their sexual orientation. The complaints allege that Hartman and Pope-Wright violated their ethical and professional duties by falsely presenting their personal beliefs as medical information and by providing Beiler with unwanted treatment that has been rejected as ineffective by all major health and mental health organizations.

"When I opened the sealed packet, I was shocked and outraged," said Beiler. "I was extremely offended and I felt like I had been violated. To this day I dread the thought of ever having to go to a doctor's office again."

Beiler first made a formal complaint with Hartman's office manager, who informed Beiler that their office routinely disseminates the anti-gay materials to patients.

Attempts to change a person's sexual orientation have been rejected by every major health and mental health organization. According to the American Psychiatric Association, "The potential risks of 'reparative therapy' are great, including depression, anxiety and self-

destructive behavior."

According to Kathleen DeBold, executive director of the Mautner Project, the national lesbian health organization, experiences like Beiler's are indicative of deep-seated homophobia in the healthcare system which jeopardizes the health of a medically underserved population.

According to Dr. Doug Beers, a board-certified primary care physician in Portland, Ore., "Doctors must take seriously any sort of advice that we give people. ... In this circumstance, the danger was compounded by the fact that the treatment was delivered without the patient's knowledge or consent and without explaining the risks associated with it."

Lawsuit Seeks Records on Surveillance of LGBT Groups

Washington — Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) announced last month that it has filed a federal lawsuit as part of its efforts to obtain information related to the government's domestic spy program.

In December, news reports indicated that LGBT organizations were the target of surveillance by the federal government. The Pentagon labeled university student groups opposed to the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual service members as "suspicious" and "credible threats" of terrorism. Additional news reports indicate groups as disparate as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and Greenpeace have also been the targets of surveillance.

A Freedom of Information Act filed by SLDN in January to obtain more

information about the program and its impact on the LGBT community has thus far elicited no substantial information from those agencies, forcing the organization to seek a court order.

"The federal government has attempted to stonewall the public's right to know, and SLDN is aggressively challenging its decisions," said C. Dixon Osburn, the organization's executive director. "The Bush administration consistently tells the public that surveillance is conducted only on terrorists and Americans communicating with terrorists; yet information obtained by credible media sources indicates that it is also spying on groups that support civil rights, animal rights and the environment. To suggest those groups are terrorists is an act of modern-day McCarthyism."

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, seeks information from the Department of Defense, Department of Justice and their related agencies, and alleges that government agencies have "wrongfully withheld agency records" requested by SLDN. It also asks the court to "establish a date certain" by which time expedited processing of the original FOIA must take place and "order [the agencies] to disclose the requested records in their entirety."

Senator Arlen Specter (R-Utah) said the Bush administration had not adequately justified why it did not seek court approval for the surveillance program and that he believed the program to be illegal. Specter, who is chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, characterized the administration's explanations for the program as "strained and unrealistic."

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld called the program "no big deal."

Showings of 'Brokeback Mountain' Outrage Notre Dame

Religious leaders outraged over showings of "Brokeback Mountain" and other gay-themed films at the University of Notre Dame plan to shut down an annual screening series run by students, faculty and alumni, according to the series' co-founder Liam Dacey.

Originally called the Notre Dame Queer Film Festival when it began in 2004, the series has been denounced by Bishop John D'Arcy as "an abuse of academic freedom." Organizers were forced to remove "queer" and "festival" from its name this year because the school's Catholic authorities feared it celebrates homosexuality.

Among films in the 2006 series were "Happy Endings," by filmmaker Don Roos, a 1977 Notre Dame graduate, and the rough cut of a new documentary, "The Saint of 9/11," about the Rev. Mychal Judge, a heroic gay New York fire department chaplain who died while ministering to people during the attack on the World Trade Center.

"When the Queer Film Festival debuted on campus, everybody suddenly had hope that there was a new spirit of understanding for queer studies at Notre Dame," said Dacey. But Notre Dame's new president, the Rev. John Jenkins, has hinted strongly that this will be the festival's last year. Jenkins said he plans to issue new guidelines governing what types of events may be organized by academic departments. He says that any event that "appears to be contrary to, or inconsistent with, the fundamental values of a Catholic university, should not be allowed at Notre Dame."

The Princeton Review ranks the University of Notre Dame as one of the most homophobic schools in America. While leading Catholic institutions of higher learning such as Georgetown, Fordham and DePaul include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies, Notre Dame refuses to provide such protections for its faculty and staff. Administrators at the University of Notre Dame have clashed fiercely with gay students through the years and continue to deny them any official recognition on campus.

So What About ...?

Disease that Affects Many Middle-Aged Gay Men Hits Home An Interview with a Friend and Prostate Cancer Survivor

By Paul Masterson

Bill H., 53, a retired nurse, currently resides in West Hollywood, Calif. He is a personal friend of about 30 years. We have a great time together since we share common interests in the arts, food, exercise, politics and life in general. Recently he had a blood test that showed elevated levels of prostate-specific antigen (PSA), an indicator of potential prostate cancer. After weighing the options, Bill scheduled his operation. He is now cancer free. I spoke with Bill about his experience.

Q Life: How did you learn about your prostate cancer?

BH: I had a PSA test that came back 6.1 after a 1.1 result two years ago. My doctor recommended a follow-up biopsy and that came back positive for cancer in one out of six samples.

Q Life: Is this lifestyle related?

BH: Not at all. And it's not due to my HIV status. It's in the family. Two uncles had it but both were diagnosed when they were much older. After I was diagnosed I told my twin brother to get checked. He tested positive as well.

Q Life: What were the options?

BH: Chemo or surgery to get rid of it or hormones to slow the growth of the cancer. Hormones are recommended for older patients and chemo only has a 30 percent success rate. If it fails, you can't get the surgery and more chemo is useless. So I went for the surgery. I

interviewed three surgeons and picked the one I felt most comfortable with. I had it as soon as it could be scheduled.

Q Life: Were you worried?

BH: I thought I was going to die. But the biopsy indicated an early stage and my doctor was optimistic. Still, I was afraid he was wrong and that the surgery would reveal that the cancer was worse. I felt a sense of dread but tried not to respond to that.

Q Life: How did the procedure go?

BH: Without a hitch. The doctor said the tumor was contained and is now 100 percent gone. He called it a "surgical cure." I needed assistance for about a week after, but now, almost a month later, I'm up walking around. I still have some pain and discomfort but no serious side effects like incontinence or sexual dysfunction. I'm taking five milligrams of Levitra every other day to maintain circulation. Everything still works but I'm not in a hurry.

Q Life: What about your twin brother?

BH: His results were not quite as good: a 90 percent cure since his cancer had spread a little further.

Q Life: And the future?

BH: Well, I'll be around for a lot more years because I got treated. When I die it won't be prostate cancer that kills me.

Q Life: What is your advice for others?

BH: Everyone should get tested and not ignore the results.

Help Keep the Promise Alive Annual ARCW Event Raises Money for AIDS

Special to Q Life

By Joseph W. Brooks

Twenty years ago HIV/AIDS was a very different disease than it is today. With infections on the rise and no treatment in sight, fear and helplessness infiltrated LGBT communities around Wisconsin. Twenty years ago a small group of concerned volunteers came together to ease their sense of helplessness and fight back against HIV/AIDS. These volunteers decided to put together an event that would raise funds for the prevention and care services to individuals battling AIDS. This dedicated group made a promise to each other that their fundraising event would not cease until a cure for AIDS was found.

In 2006 HIV/AIDS infections are still highest among gay men, and while science has provided much improved treatment options for this disease, a cure has yet to be found. Twenty years later the promise of the small group of volunteers continues with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's 20th annual Make A Promise event. With the help of hundreds of donors and volunteers Make A Promise will happen once again to support the prevention, treatment and care for thousands of individuals across Wisconsin living with this complex disease.

Anyone who has attended Make A Promise can attest that this event is not only an important fundraiser for HIV/AIDS but also a wild celebratory evening of the progress that has been made over the history of this epidemic. This year's event will be no different. In partnership with East Towne Ballrooms, Make A Promise will provide an evening of furious and seductive ballroom dance with the help of 24 of Milwaukee's hottest professional ballroom dancers. Strictly Ballroom at Make A Promise 2006 will be held Saturday, March 25, at the Midwest Airlines Center in downtown Milwaukee. Choreography is currently underway and the sexy routines and fabulous costumes will leave even the amateur ballroom dance fan looking for more. Guests will join in with the fun as Milwaukee's very own DJ John

Murges takes over the dance floor with his eclectic sounds to keep the party moving.

As part of Make A Promise, ARCW gives community leadership awards to individuals who have made a significant contribution to the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin. This year's award winners include Gov. Jim Doyle, Jose Milan of the National Association of Theater Owners of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, and Dr. Richard Olds of the Medical College of Wisconsin. These award winners will be present at Make A Promise to accept their awards.

As if the entertainment, dancing and awards were not enough, Make A Promise offers one of Milwaukee's largest and most colorful silent auctions, with items ranging from a luxurious stay in Tuscany to original artwork that cannot be found anywhere else. There is no shortage of variety and interesting items to bid on at this silent auction. Top the evening off with a delicious dinner and a devastatingly delicious dessert and the night is complete.

Help to keep the promise alive and join us for Strictly Ballroom at Make A Promise as we salsa, cha-cha, merengue and fox trot our way through the evening. Tickets are \$85, \$125 and \$200, with various incentives at each ticket level. Call Bill Keeton at 800-359-9272 ext. 1592 to purchase tickets or for volunteer opportunities. Tickets can also be purchased by visiting www.arcw.org and clicking on Make A Promise. The proceeds from Strictly Ballroom at Make A Promise benefit the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

I look forward to seeing you on March 25 for the big event!

Joseph W. Brooks is a development associate for ARCW

**This event is not
only an important
fundraiser for HIV/
AIDS but also a wild
celebratory evening**

Body Image Journal of a Guy with HIV

Part Two: The Buffalo Hump

Special to Q Life

By Mark Hooker

For years now, I have lived with an unnatural distribution of body fat which is, in HIV lingo, referred to as buffalo hump. Once upon a time I found Marty Feldman's portrayal of Igor in "Young Frankenstein" hysterical. Since the occurrence of the AIDS-induced condition called lipodistrophy and this particular manifestation of it, however, reruns of that movie send me into hysteria.

I first noticed the beginning of the buffalo hump back in 1997 when I saw a picture of myself shirtless that someone happened to take from the side. Thinking that I must be slumping from spending too much time in front of a computer, I went to a chiropractor for adjustments. But the massage therapist at the chiropractor's office worked on me before the doctor came in, and exclaimed in her southern accent, "That's not bad posture, that's a hump!"

Oh, ridiculous, I thought. But it continued to grow. And grow and grow and grow. It grew to the point that I had to use numerous pillows just to sleep. I became addicted to pain pills in the process. I had to buy shirts in size XXL to have any hope of buttoning the collar to wear a tie. My mobility was compromised to the point that I had to twist my entire torso to check traffic before switching lanes when I was driving. I had become Igor. (In case you are under 35, that's a "Young Frankenstein" reference — rent the DVD.)

After much Web searching, I came across the name Dr. Kenneth Stein about two and a half years ago. Stein is a Chicago-based plastic surgeon who has a lot of experience with reconstructive procedures for people with HIV/AIDS. I

made an appointment with him. He immediately said that he could reduce my pain and improve the appearance of my buffalo hump with ultrasound assisted liposuction. I got a price quote and immediately went to work to get pre-approval from my insurance company.

My insurance at that time was through Actor's Equity Association (the union representing professional stage actors). The insurance carrier was CIGNA. Stein sent CIGNA a letter stating the medical necessity of this procedure and pictures that he had taken in his office.

After months of no response from CIGNA, I began the laborious process of phone calls, phone trees, 45-minute waits, and being transferred from one department to another. I spent countless hours of my life on the telephone over several months.

The first order of business was to ask Stein's office to re-send all of the records, since CIGNA claimed that they had never received them in the first place. The pre-approval request was assigned to a doctor on the CIGNA staff, who, after a couple of months, sent me a letter denying approval of the procedure due to its "cosmetic" nature.

I appealed to CIGNA, and the case was assigned to parties unknown except for a contact who went by the name "Amanda." She was somewhere in Connecticut.

In the meantime, I was enrolled in a study on the effects of human growth hormone (HGH) on lipodistrophy in AIDS patients at Rush Medical Center in Chicago. It was a triple-blind study and might last as long as a year. I was instructed on how to give myself daily injections of what might — or might not — be the real drug.

Right away, I felt that I was getting real HGH. For one thing, my joints started to hurt. It felt something like arthritis. This was one of the major side effects the literature described. The first phase of the study was 12 weeks. I got used to the joint soreness. And much to my delight, the buffalo hump started to shrink. In addition, the belly fat ("protease paunch" in HIV lingo) started to shrink. My body was looking great. I was sleeping better. There was still a lot of pain, but this was progress.

Then phase two of the trial came. After a few days, the joint pain went away and I noticed my body going back to where it had been before the study started. I talked to the clinical trial nurse about this. In the course of our discussion, I found out that after the study was over, the HGH manufacturer would only give me 12 weeks of the real drug. Then I would be on my own. And let's face it, unless they gave it to me forever, what good was it? HGH only works while you're taking it.

So I dropped out of the study with the knowledge that there was a treatment out there for everyone with lipodistrophy — but HGH is years away from being approved for treating that condition. Consequently, even if you can get a doctor to prescribe it, insurance will not cover it. And the cost of HGH treatments exceeds \$40,000 per year. So that was out.

After months passed with no word from CIGNA or "Amanda," I finally decided to bring the case to the Wisconsin State Insurance Investigations office. Within about 30 days I got word from the state that they had investigated the claim but there was nothing they could do for me.

By this time, my insurance had run out. I had been on a COBRA extension. I was now awaiting my FORWARD card and applying for Medicare. But I had finally had enough. So two and a half years after first seeing Dr. Stein, I made an appointment to have the liposuction he had recommended and end my agony.

Without insurance approval, I went to his office, and went under the ... not the knife ... the lipo device. The results were better than I had hoped for. Not only did my back look normal again, but I was able to slowly reduce the number of painkillers and sleeping pills that I was used to taking just to fall asleep. I'm still not totally off the pain and sleeping pills because, as I said, I've become fairly dependent on them. Nevertheless, my mobility is starting to improve. I'm sleeping much better now, and the sharp stabbing pains in my neck have subsided.

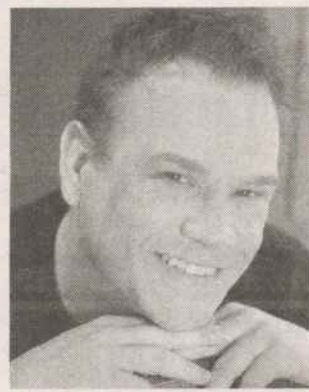
And I can once again wear size large shirts.

So I am slowly but surely improving! This is all due to Dr. Stein's expert and loving care. And it is absolutely no thanks to insurance companies and the sorry state of medical politics in this country.

I am a very strong and determined man. But I wonder how individuals without my tenacity deal with impossible situations like this. What kind of country do we live in, where insurance companies decide for doctors what is and is not medically necessary?

What needs to happen to force the insurance companies to do what is right?

Until next time, friends, stay well.



Mark Hooker

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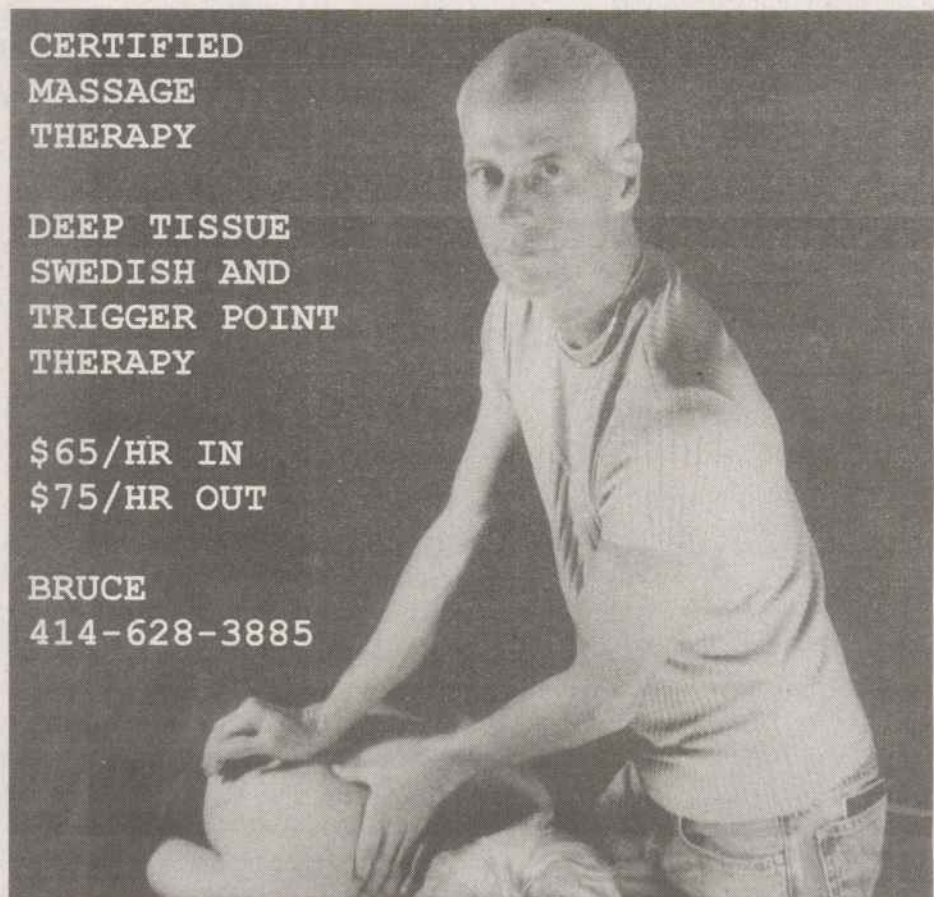
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Pride in Our History

It's already March, and once again PrideFest, our local celebration of pride and right of place, is fast approaching. (This June will be the 37th anniversary of Stonewall!) For many years PrideFest has had some type of history display in the history tent (though it hasn't always been an actual tent). In the mid-1990s, Jamakaya and Steve Brondino put together an excellent compilation of history that was displayed for about three years. (Unfortunately that physical display is lost, and due to copyright issues we cannot use the information from it that we still have.) A few years later, Jerry Johnson resurrected the concept and began

almost single-handedly to display some of his incredible collection of fliers and other local, historical LGBT newsletters, media and general literature, as well as LGBT-themed movie posters.

In 2003, the then-new History Project conducted interviews of several notable Milwaukeeans who had made significant contributions to Milwaukee's LGBT community (including Susan Cook, Shirley Fitzpatrick, Ron Geiman, Si Smits and Karen Snider) and displayed summaries of those interviews alongside Jerry's movie posters. That display of notable people, and more of Jerry's extensive collection of local memorabilia, again took center stage at the 2004 PrideFest, this time in a brick building on the north end of the grounds. That year also featured several panel discussions relating the experiences of some of the area's organizations and individuals, and displays of memorabilia from a few groups, including SSBL and BESTD.

Last year, in the same building, we put together a "Milwaukee LGBT History Timeline," which was a huge hit. Spanning some 40 feet of wall space, the five-foot-high display attracted over 3,000 visitors, many of whom added personal notes and experiences to the timeline. You can view the timeline at www.mkelgbthist.org/timelines.htm. Note that everything the present History Project does is owned by our community groups, so none of it will be lost to the future due to copyright issues etc. — as has some of what was done in the past. Also last year, a side room hosted screenings of various

short movies and feature films, and we sponsored several talks at the Stonewall Stage, such as one by Miriam Ben Shalom relating her experience battling the Army's discriminatory practices.

For the 2006 PrideFest, to be held June 9 to 11, we again will have the same building, just north of the Main Gate and the dance stage. Plans this year are to concentrate on a particular segment of time (perhaps the 1970s or 1980s) and a specific area of interest, and display literature and memorabilia pertinent to that time and subject. We're working with SAGE on that project, and we're excited by what we think will be another very popular display. If you want to help out with this year's PrideFest history display, or the history project in general, contact the SAGE office at 414-224-0517.

So did everyone find the advertising logos in the January Q Life? Scattered throughout that issue were logos from the River Queen, Beer Garden, Neptune, Wreck Room, Ten Hundred East and other bars from years past. If you didn't spot them, take a look now (hopefully you keep all your Q Life issues!) to see if you can find them.

This month's historical curiosity: This



HISTORY

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



Photo by Ron Geiman

photo shows four people very active in Wisconsin's social life, hanging out together in December 1984. Do you have any idea who they are and where they might be?

What would you like to see in future Q History articles? We want to keep make this article informative and maybe a little fun for the readers. We welcome your input at mkelgbthist.com.

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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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Stepping Up to the Gay Plate



EDITORIAL

It all seems to make such good sense. A unified group of like-thinking professionals with the same kinds of missions getting together to form an alliance.

In this case we're talking about the very smart, forward-thinking individuals highlighted on our cover this month.

This group of both gay and non-gay folks — mostly based here in Milwaukee — have met a few times, and it appears the collaboration is starting to gain momentum. While their purpose is still very much up in the air, their ideas are fertile and their need for unity is OVERWHELMING.

As highlighted several times on these editorial pages, Milwaukee's gay community leadership is fractured and rudderless.

And that's being nice.

Whenever our community is faced with issues that need immediate response, we flounder and, most of the time, bury our heads. Can you say Alderman Michael McGee? While there has been a movement of late to change this backward and damaging leadership style, our community is only as strong as our weakest link. This weak link is clear: our inability to communicate with each other and a lack of the leadership needed to begin real collaboration among us.

We can't tell you how many times Queer Life has heard people complain that they have no idea what's going on in Milwaukee's LGBT community. Whether they have a question on what the calendar looks like for our more than three dozen groups and organizations, or they want to know where to turn to organize when their rights are being assaulted by city officials, we simply have few answers for these folks. And not necessarily because we don't have the services or the resources. Bottom line: We have done a miserable job coordinating our assets and an even more deplorable job getting the word out about them.

Queer Life strongly applauds the valiant effort being organized and believes all community members

should get behind it. We have such power in numbers — but those numbers are useless when we don't have the equation to count them. It's imperative that we work together and that our current leadership supports this very important mission. Our community's ability

to move forward is already being challenged with the state's possible constitutional ban on gay marriage.

We can no longer sit back and believe the right thing will just happen.

WE must make it happen.

Dear Editor:

I want to thank Q Life for the February cover story on the campaign to defeat the civil unions and marriage ban.

Thanks to an unprecedented level of cooperation between Center Advocates and Action Wisconsin, we were able to hire Mike Tate to lead this historic campaign.

Due in part to this cooperation, we hired a campaign manager earlier than any other campaign that has fought one of these amendments. We were also able to recruit someone with extraordinary political and organizing experience.

Center Advocates and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center are crucial partners in the campaign, and Action Wisconsin has been thrilled to form a partnership with them. For over two years, they have been aggressively educating Milwaukee-area voters about the civil unions and marriage ban and recruiting meaningful support from many non-gay organizations. Their work, along with the work of Action Wisconsin, has laid an incredible foundation for a victory in November.

The work to defeat the civil unions and marriage ban will require an extraordinary level of involvement and money from Wisconsin's LGBT community. I am convinced that we have the unity, cooperation and political leadership necessary to win. Now we need your help.

We will win in Wisconsin in 2006.

Sincerely,

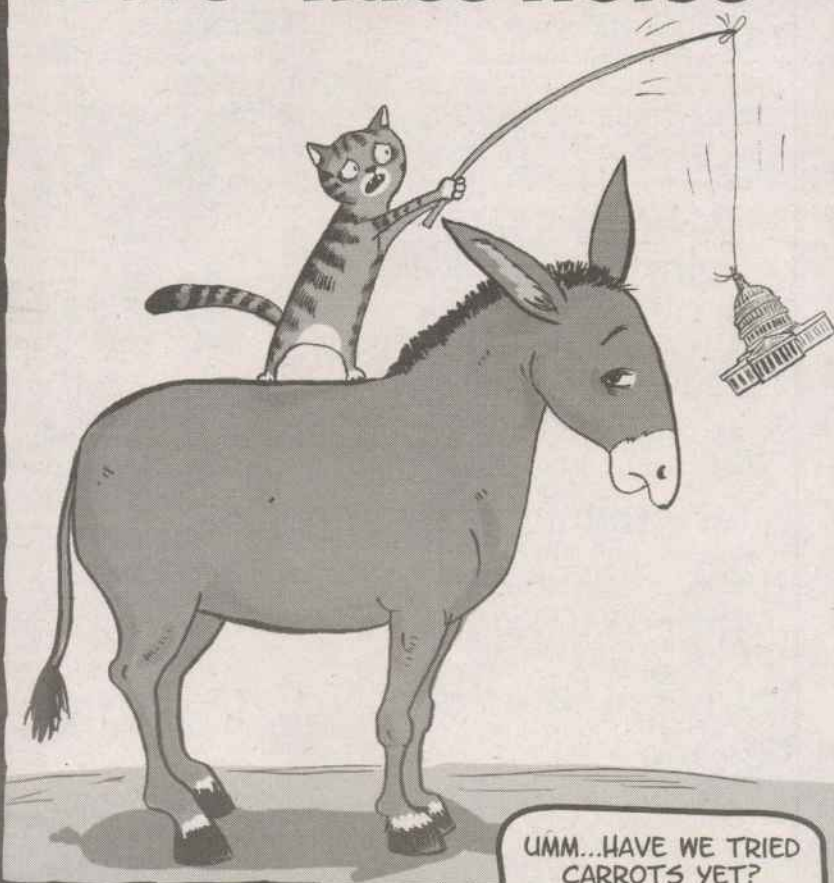
Michael Childers

President, Action Wisconsin



Letter to the Editor

Official 2006 DNC "Race Horse"



MKE TOONS

C. Beetow © 2006



Hey Doc, I'm Gay!

Medical College of Wisconsin Students Talk with LGBT Panel

By Paul Masterson

Does your doctor know you're gay? Should you tell your healthcare provider? Should a medical history questionnaire include sexual orientation? These are just a few of the questions raised during a panel discussion held on Feb. 14 as part of the Medical College of Wisconsin's (MCW) mandatory human sexuality course for second-year students. The course addresses a broad spectrum of issues including sexual orientation.

Kristine James, MCW's medical education coordinator, has facilitated the collaboration with local LGBT community volunteers for the past 15 years. Michael Lisowski, community activist, has assisted James as a liaison and participant recruiter.

James sees the panel's purpose as a means to provide future healthcare providers with an introduction to the realm of LGBT patients. For most students, this is totally unfamiliar terrain. According to James, medical students are often from conservative and somewhat sheltered backgrounds so even this brief exposure helps broaden horizons.

The Feb. 14 session opened with panel members introducing themselves, telling their coming-out stories, and sharing general thoughts on LGBT issues and the healthcare system. Students were then encouraged to ask questions throughout the session.

Topics ranged from "How can health care providers ask sensitive questions?" and "How can they understand and respect the lifestyle and specific needs of LGBT patients?" to "How can those patients

expect to be treated?"

Beyond these basics, the panel raised questions concerning attitudes, ethics, respect, trust, equality of treatment and the obligations of healthcare providers. Other topics included homosexuality as choice or biological predetermination, the need for sensitivity training, the dangers of conscience clauses (denial of healthcare based on moral beliefs) and gay marriage. LGBT mental health, the need for accessible LGBT resources for the healthcare community and the diverse sexual spectrum, such as intersexed and non-gay people who have same-sex partners, were touched upon as well.

Personal Experiences as a Lesson Plan

Panelists then related their personal healthcare experiences, both positive and negative. The latter documented the inequality LGBT patients and their partners face in a system fraught with ignorance, blatant homophobia and legal restrictions.

One shared the trauma of being denied information about a partner who had been hospitalized. Another explained why a chronic health issue prevented travel to, or even through, states with anti-gay laws. Since these states are not required to recognize LGBT relationships or advance directives (living wills), a medical emergency there would have potentially serious ramifications. More frightening was the report on a study showing that rates of LGBT suicide and depression increased in Texas after the anti-gay constitutional amendment was passed there.

The subject of HIV revealed some surprises as well. Although one would hardly expect a doctor to still believe HIV is a disease of gay white men, one panelist told how a healthcare provider required an HIV test before treatment would be provided — although this was not required of a heterosexual patient.

A Better Informed Future?

Over the years, James noted, she has seen a marked improvement in the students' response to the program. Fifteen years ago, when the class was asked, "Who knows a gay person?" few hands were raised. Today, nearly all respond yes. That suggests that previous prejudices are receding. This year, the students' open attitude and genuine interest impressed both panelists and facilitators alike, she observed.

However, one revelation was surprising. When the question of choice versus biology was raised, many students seemed undecided. The majority acknowledged biology while one student believed homosexuality was a choice. Still, it was only one.

In general, this non-mainstream input remains pertinent and definitely benefits the students. And although the 90-minute session was much too brief to cover the myriad of LGBT health issues, it did show the obvious need for full integration of the subject into the standard curriculum, ideally in an expanded course.

Papal Bling-Bling and Tchotchkes at the Milwaukee Public Museum

A Gay Ex-Catholic Perspective

By Paul Masterson

Tiaras and crosiers and bling, oh, my! Tiaras and crosiers and bling, oh, my! We're off to see the tchotchkes, the wonderful tchotchkes of God!

I know, I know, the way things are going these days, riled-up Catholics will be protesting in gay neighborhoods because I've dared criticize the display of papal extravagance now at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

As far as a \$400 million historical memorabilia and art collection goes, the exhibit "Saint Peter and the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes" is great stuff — definitely so holier-than-thou, big time. Still, call me thin-skinned, but it's more than a tad galling to see this magnificent display of saintly self-indulgence. It's infuriating. Especially in light of the Vatican's recent statement denying gays access to the priesthood. And, although that doesn't directly affect me as an ex-Catholic, albeit one once bound for the priesthood, I do sympathize with my gay Catholic would-be-priest brethren who will now have to endure the humiliation of asking the women in the last pew to move over.

I suppose one can cite human weakness or mental illness to explain the Holy See's pedophilia crisis, but when the Roman Catholic Church turns on gay priests as scapegoats, the question of credibility must be raised. An institution so steeped in hypocrisy should hardly be hawking its art collection as a fundraising project or as a distraction.

One doesn't have to look far beyond the swirling Bernini columns to see the curling smoke from burning homosexual "heretics," literally or

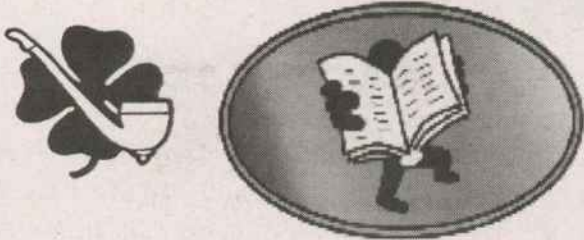
symbolically. Ironically, if you take LGBT personalities out of the ecclesiastical equation, you have a big, blank, cracked ceiling in the Sistine chapel and various voids in the hierarchy of saints, martyrs and popes — not to mention a lot of closed churches.

In a recent conversation I had with a gay Roman Catholic Republican, he defended both his religious and political allegiances. However, he was quick to point out that he didn't accept either's offensive "details" — namely, the ones that contradict his lifestyle. But, he confessed, despite the Vatican's and the GOP's homophobic agendas, he does find God through the Catholic Church and certainly is opposed to both taxes and state handouts to the underprivileged. Enough said.

So, yes, for the art's sake, the "Saint Peter and the Vatican: The Legacy of the Popes" exhibit is worth a whirl, but consider the other legacy while you gaze.

Or just donate the \$17.50 ticket price to the Fair Wisconsin No on the Amendment campaign.

If you take LGBT personalities out of the ecclesiastical equation, you have a big, blank, cracked ceiling in the Sistine Chapel.



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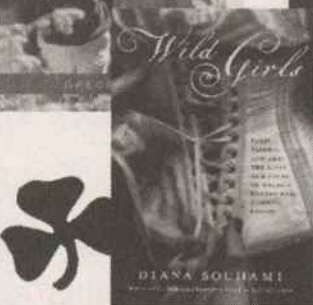
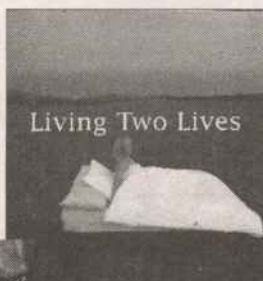
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Finding a True Spiritual Community

"It is a common mistake these days," conservative talk show host Tony Snow says, "to politicize anything and everything." He's right.

Of course, not even the pragmatic common-ground builder in me wants to even pretend I agree with much of anything Snow says. But there is, unquestionably, truth to the assertion that certain aspects of human affairs, like our basic common dignity, aren't really supposed to be up for debate. After all, that's why it's so frustrating to see marriage equality for same-gender couples treated like just another political football.

A big part of what I love about good, honest, public policy debate is that we can acknowledge the kernels of validity in the views of others, and even compromise. That's quite simply not the case with civil rights issues, though. For me as a gay man to "see where someone who disagrees with me is coming from" on marriage equality is, fundamentally, to deny my own humanity.

But let's say that this flagrant heterosexism is, at least in the short term,



YOUTH

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

layer of assumed self and revealing the complexities of actual self, that I couldn't be appreciated as a religious person in the same way. Discussion of the very normalcy of homosexuality had long been marked by equivocation and ambiguity at this church.

And there I was, no longer standing quite so solidly on my own merits, no longer recognized as David the Doubter or David the Devout, but simply as David the Homosexual. By simply talking about who I had always been and expecting what I always had from life and community, I was an issue raised. I was living, breathing politicization of church.

The ironic truth is that there was nothing political about my desires or interests at all. Homosexuality is by no means intrinsically a political or values statement. It's not an assertion at all; it's a biological reality, as natural and beautiful and God-given as heterosexuality. What makes us good or bad or irreligious or religious people is entirely dependent on our individual insights and actual choices.

What is political is the undue burden placed on LGBT people by outsiders, by political and church authorities whose decisions have kept millions from living normal religious and family lives as they otherwise would.

I ultimately decided to join a different religious community, Unitarian Universalist Church West in Brookfield. The change was amicable, and based largely on theological (rather than "political") differences with my former church.

But I've come to understand that there exists an inextricable link between a religious community's theology and how it treats its LGBT people. Knowing that I'm welcome, that I'm not an "issue to reconcile," that I'm one of a number of out and proud LGBT members has given me the space I need to grow as an individual.

That's what church is supposed to be about.

I was no longer recognized as David the Doubter or David the Devout, but simply as David the Homosexual.

something of a social reality. LGBT people should certainly be able to expect comfort, safety and full affirmation in important life environments outside of politics, right?

The obvious answer is "Well, not always." And for me and countless LGBT folks, perhaps the most disappointing environment was or is a place one would expect to be a source of hope and moral inspiration: spiritual community.

I'm not suggesting that my personal experience was as painful or challenging as that of many who were brought up in extremely constrictive, close-minded faith traditions. I was raised in a decidedly mainline Protestant religious community. In almost every way, it was and is a fine church.

But I found as I came out, as I engaged in the spiritual process of unraveling the

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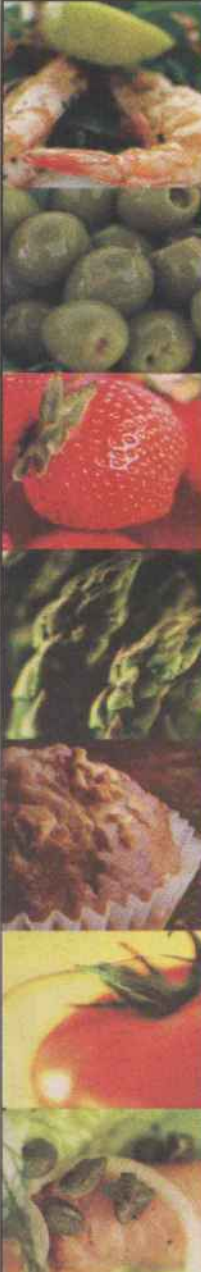


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Reaching Out

In January, a group of volunteers from Madison's First Congregational UCC (United Church of Christ) met at Action Wisconsin to work a phone bank in opposition to the proposed amendment banning civil unions and marriage for same-sex couples. They have committed to continuing every month until November. Other UCC congregations have pitched in as well, including Orchard Ridge UCC and Community of Hope UCC.

There's always room for more volunteers in the fight against the anti-marriage amendment, so contact Action Wisconsin at www.actionwisconsin.org.

Channel 3 Runs Series on Amendment

During the week of Valentine's Day, Madison's Channel 3 ran an in-depth, three-part series on the proposed state constitutional amendment to prohibit civil unions and marriages for same-sex couples. Features included interviews with same-sex couples about how the amendment would affect them, and a short debate on Valentine's Day between Bill Turner, president of the OutReach Board of Directors, and Julaine Appling, executive director of the Wisconsin Family Research Institute, a leading supporter of the amendment.

Women's Work/A Celebration

Women's Work/A Celebration, running March 23 to 25 at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts, features nine female artists showcasing their work in disciplines as varied as their backgrounds.

Performances of Women's Work/A Celebration will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday,



MADISON

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

March 23, and at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March 24 and 25, in Promenade Hall in the Overture Center at 201 State St. Tickets go on sale through the Overture Center Box Office, 608-258-4141, in early March. For more information, contact TAPIT/new works at 608-244-2938 or info@tapitnewworks.org.

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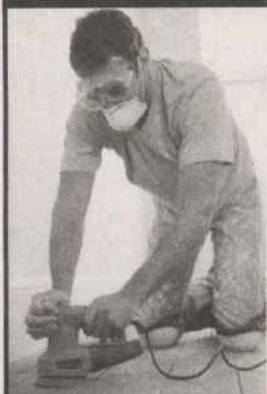
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Get a Little Irish in You

As a wee lad I was raised on a healthy diet of meat and potatoes. Stews are an excellent way to get that full meat-potato-vegetable dinner all in one pot. Below is a recipe for Irish Stew in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

So what is the one special ingredient that separates Irish stew from all other stews? The lamb? The potatoes? Maybe, but I think it's the beer in the broth! Make some Irish soda bread to go alongside the stew to sop up the broth. Now you have a little Irish in you!

Irish Stew

- 3 to 4 pounds lamb shoulder, cubed
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 3 tbsp. canola oil
- 9 new potatoes, cut into large dice
- 1 large onion, cut into large dice
- 3 carrots, cut into large dice
- 2 stalks celery, cut into large dice
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 12 oz. beer (recommended: Guinness Extra Stout)
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp. ground thyme
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 tbsp. flour
- For garnish: chopped parsley (optional)

Place the diced potatoes in a large crockpot. Set aside. Heat oil in a large skillet. Add the salt, pepper and lamb. Sauté the lamb over medium-high heat until golden brown (you may have to do this in a couple of batches). Place the sautéed lamb cubes on top of the potatoes in the crockpot. Add the diced onion, carrots and celery to the same skillet used to brown the lamb (leaving the lamb juices in the skillet). Cook over medium heat for approximately five minutes. Add the sautéed vegetables to the crockpot. In a container with a tight-fitting lid, combine the chicken broth, thyme, garlic powder and flour. Shake container to disperse the dry ingredients. Pour this mixture and the beer over the ingredients in the crockpot. Place the bay leaves on top and cover. Cook on low for eight to 10 hours. Stir the stew. Scoop into bowls to serve. Garnish with parsley.

Irish Soda Bread

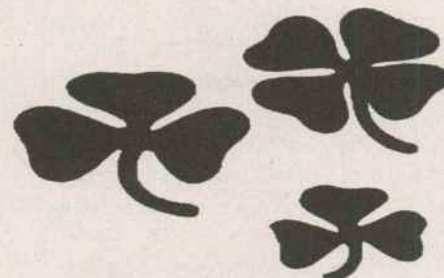
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/4 cup rolled oats
- 3 tbsp. brown sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 1/2 tbsp. unsalted butter, cold
- 1 cup buttermilk



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.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large bowl combine the flour, whole wheat flour, oats, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Cut in butter with a pastry blender or fork until the mixture resembles course crumbs. Add the buttermilk and stir until just blended. Knead the dough for one minute and then flatten into a seven-inch circle approximately 1 1/2 inches thick. Slit top in quarters and place on a baking sheet. Bake 35 to 40 minutes.



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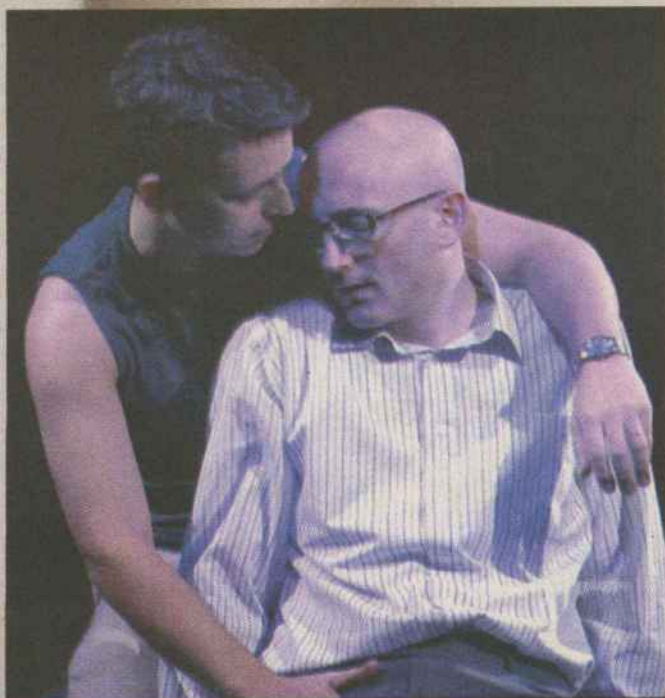
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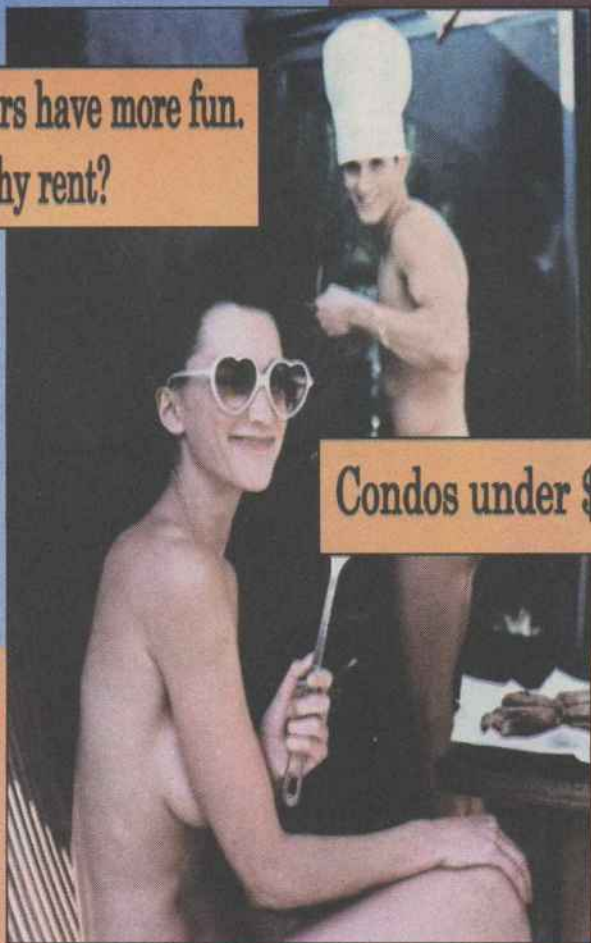
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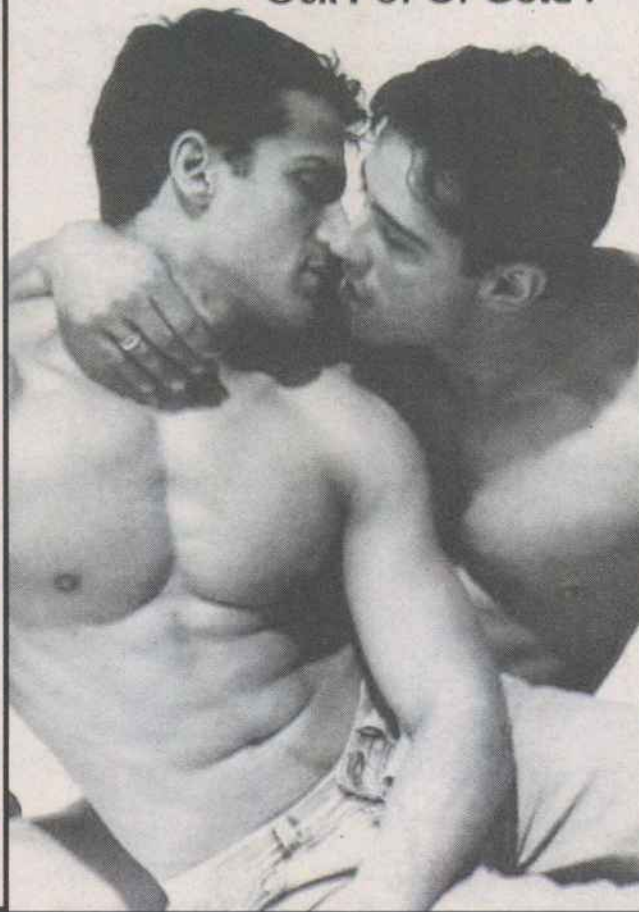
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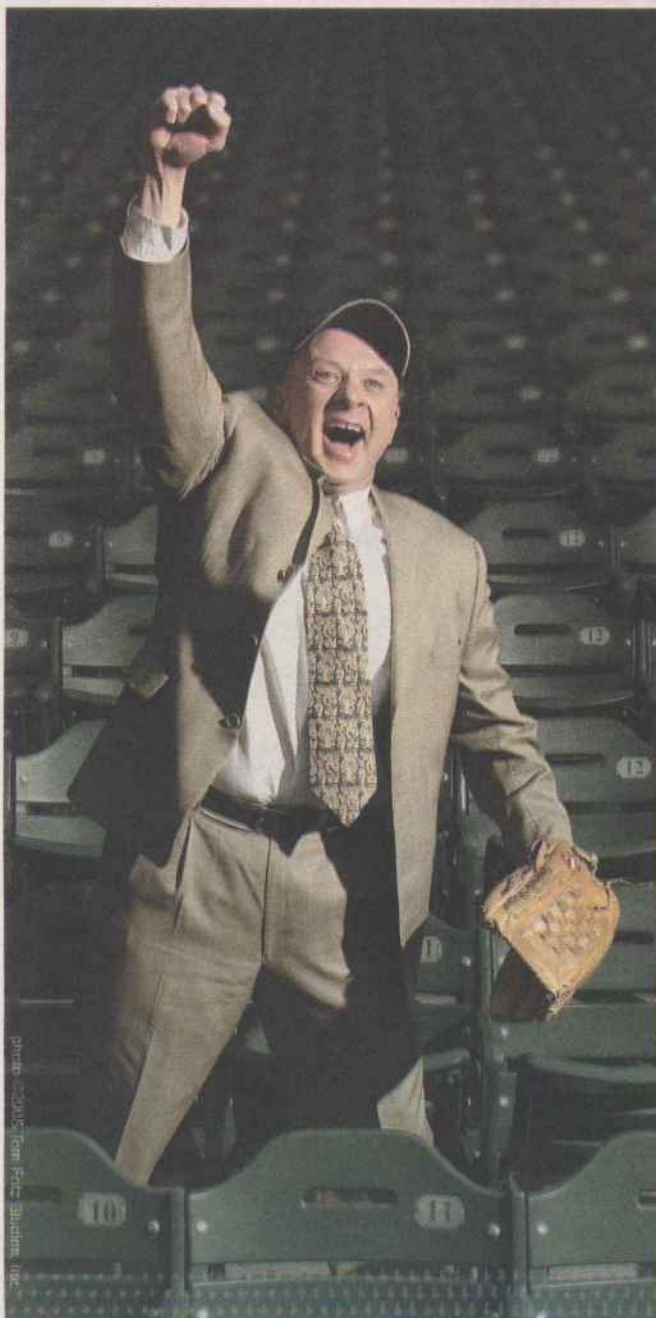
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Working Through Anger

Recently a friend debated with me the wisdom of using anger to make decisions. His perspective was that anger serves as good fuel for decision making and that conflict breeds creativity and success. He went on to observe that anger had prompted many of his best and loftiest accomplishments. I pointed out, to his chagrin, that it had also contributed to the end of friendships, relationships and jobs.

In a nation where everything seems to be commodified (that is, where everything becomes a commodity — something for sale), there is a logic to my buddy's position. In the United States we have elected (literally) to be a nation of competition. We keep track of who is first, on top, largest, strongest, wealthiest, smartest. And not just sexually!

But anger also slows us down and impedes our thinking. When anger rests on a foundation of fear, it can get supercharged and erupt as aggression and violence. When it simmers and fumes over long periods of time, anger gets the ripe, antique odor of a Kryptonite ball of resentment.

Why this interest in anger in a column devoted to health? Because it kills. Anger kept within literally eats away at us, triggering chemicals that we cannot adequately process. These alter our metabolism, hearts, lungs and brains. Anger pumped up by fear can lead to violence in our homes and streets, abuse of our intimate partners and violence toward strangers.

Decisions made solely or largely on the basis of anger generally do not lead to resolutions; instead they lead to retrenchment by one or all parties involved. Anger that is uninformed by full, flexible, personal and situational assessment is reactive and not responsive. For as brilliant and capable as we are as people, LGBT communities, organizations and politics are remarkable for how they are littered with successes that are marginal and advocates who feel miserable.

By this time many folks have likely put this column aside, believing that their anger is justified and therefore useful, but for those still reading here's the thing: Anger is



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.

often justified, it just isn't fully current. That is, we feel angry because something in our environment is triggering a recollection of something we were told or experienced that required defense. But a trigger isn't the thing itself.

Anger can be a healthy reaction to a real or perceived injustice that is visited on us as LGBT people. It can pinpoint where a potential problem exists. Women get to observe their anger over sexism inside and outside our communities. Transgender and bisexual people get to notice their angry feelings over the ongoing lip service that is paid to them while their people are exploited in countless ways. The demeaning attitudes hurled at gay men every day should remind them of the backlog of injustice that they experience from early on in their lives.

But we must work through that anger to get our full and flexible thinking back. When we do this, we increase our creativity, find more allies in our midst, garner the support of others, come up with workable solutions and find time to relax. In short, when we take the time to know ourselves, our past hurts and our fears, we find a place to understand our anger in the context of the real present. We get ourselves back, our thinking and our health.

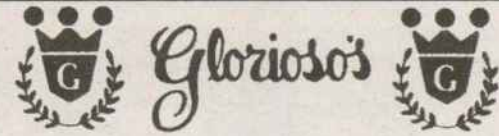


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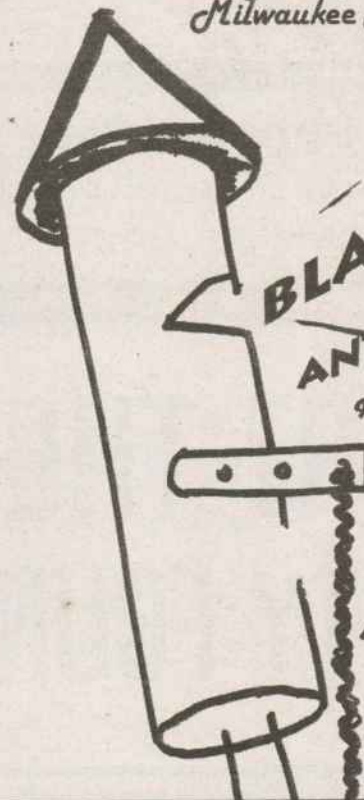
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"It is very rewarding to be able to increase our grant distributions in 2005, and we hope to double the increase by the end of 2006," said Terri Coughlin Grants Committee Chair

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

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

WHAT DOES CCF FUND?

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

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

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

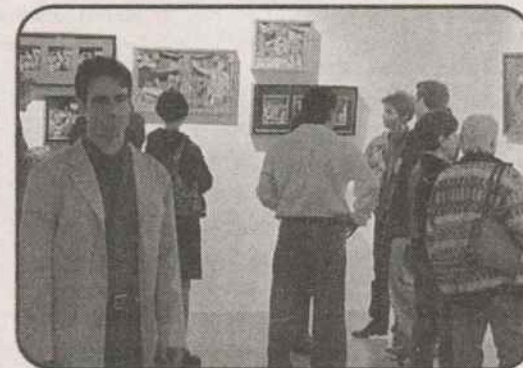


Cream City Foundation funds Domestic Violence Peer Awareness/Education Training through the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

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

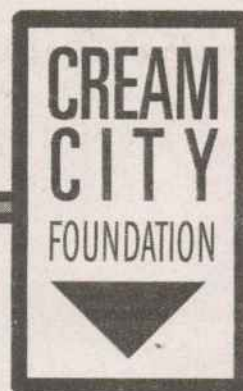
Youth Institute funded with CCF grant.

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



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

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



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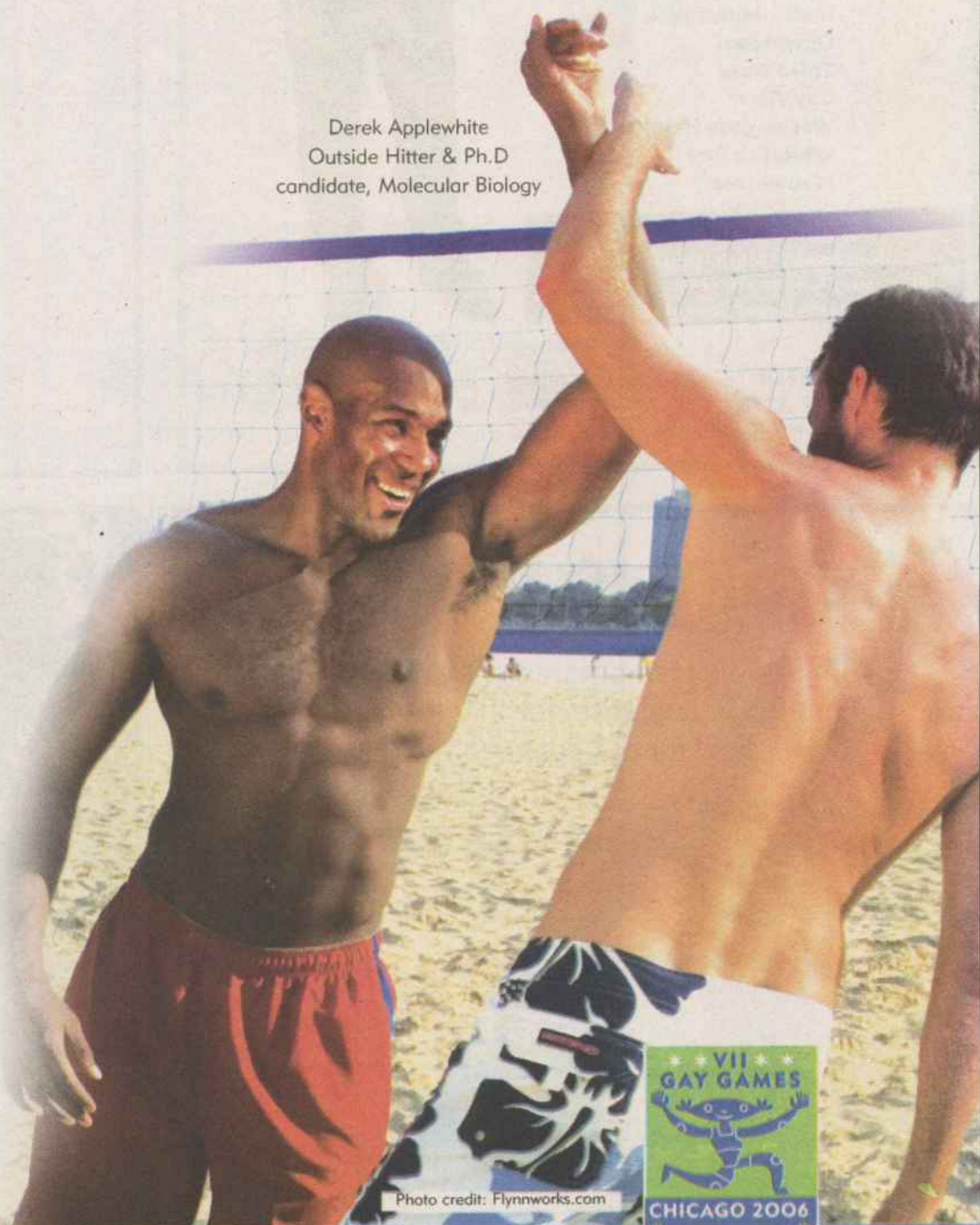
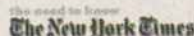


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RELIGION

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.

It is common these days for folks to say, "I'm spiritual but not religious." Often, by calling themselves spiritual, people mean that they pray to God and have a sense of the divine working in the world but do not participate in a community of faith, whether a church, temple or mosque.

The Rev. Lillian Daniels, a prominent progressive pastor from Illinois, often asks spiritual but not religious folks, "So this

I need to be both spiritual and religious because working for a progressive society is more than I can do on my own.

means you love Jesus but don't like his friends?"

LGBT folks have lots of reasons to love God but to not like his friends. The politicians pushing anti-gay amendments in our state and others wrap themselves in a cloak of piety, claiming the moral authority of the Bible for what they do. Many of us have suffered from the hateful speech of the radical right, sometimes from the mouths of our own families. Too often it seems that "religious" is just another word for "repressive." It is no wonder that we are tempted to say, "I'm spiritual but not religious." What self-respecting queer person can stand these friends of God who attack us?

But perhaps we've just known the wrong friends. The FAIR Campaign, which is organizing opposition to the anti-gay-marriage amendment, reports that over half a million adults in Wisconsin belong to congregations or denominations officially opposed to the amendment. Imagine: There are as many religious people in communities of faith opposed to this amendment as there are residents in the city of Milwaukee!

Even if we've grown up in a faith community that was more repressive than religious, we can find and join a church, temple or mosque that is progressive. There are LGBT-affirming congregations in every corner of Wisconsin. Certainly a half million fellow citizens have found a way to be both spiritual and religious.

But I would add that it is spiritually important to find a religious community. My

Spiritual or Religious?

spirituality, my personal relationship with the God of love, causes me to be committed to a vision of society that is progressive, equitable and fair. The discrimination and segregation in our city pains me, the poverty and violence appall me, and the reality of human need motivates me.

My spirituality leads me to work actively on progressive causes. And yet it is clear that any project that is worth working for is also larger than anything I can accomplish on my own. My spirituality leads me to embrace causes that are larger than what I can do on my own, causes that are even larger than a lifetime.

My participation in a congregation grows naturally out of my spiritual commitments. It is only with the help, passion and work of others that I can work towards my vision. I need to be both spiritual and religious because working for a progressive society is more than I can do on my own.

If you have been hurt by some of the so-called friends of God on the radical right, it is time to find new friends of God. Check out one of the religious communities supporting the FAIR Campaign. Learn what it means to be religious because you are spiritual.

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The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and Action Wisconsin have already trained 698 people in 12 communities statewide on how to communicate effectively about the harms of the amendment. Our trained supporters inform their circles of friends and family, and many speak to organizations such as their church, service club, or sports team.

Register for a Milwaukee Speaker Action Network Training

MILWAUKEE TRAININGS TO STOP THE AMENDMENT:
Thursday, March 2nd, 6-9pm - or - Monday, March 20th, 6-9pm
Register: speaker@actionwisconsin.org

Both trainings will be held at Plymouth United Church of Christ
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For more information, contact Talia at (414) 271-2656 x119.

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Keep Your Laws off My Body

On Jan. 24, Wisconsin legislators passed a law that denies transgender people access to individualized medical care while they are incarcerated. Although lawmakers claim to be reducing unnecessary expenses, Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) have filed a lawsuit on behalf of two MTF inmates stating that this new legislation violates the basic

constitutional right of equal protection. Wisconsin is the only state in the country to have enacted such a law.

Many states follow the terse policy from the Federal Bureau of Prisons which states that if a person who enters a correctional facility is already on hormones s/he should be allowed to remain on hormones, unless there is a medical reason why this course of

treatment should be altered. Any changes in hormone administration (increase, decrease or cessation) must be approved by the prison's medical director prior to implementation.

Wisconsin's prejudicial choice to legislate the denial of medical care for transgender prisoners is overtly isolating a segment of the prison population by disallowing equal access to medical services. Legislators clearly wouldn't enact a similar law declaring that all diabetics must be stripped of their medications upon entering the prison system, since that would be cruel and inhumane and would likely result in a worsening of their condition, if not death.

Unfortunately, legislators have no framework within which to understand that the abrupt cessation of hormone therapy in a transgender person can also cause serious, even life-threatening, physical damage (not to mention emotional harm).

There are many reasons why transgenderism is not given equal weight when compared to other medical/mental health conditions.

Circular arguments emerge when examining how and why a transgender person should be given equal access to healthcare that includes the use of hormones. Usually, in order to initially access hormones, a transgender person must see a mental health professional who diagnoses him or her with "gender identity disorder" (GID) — a condition defined by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV). That mental health diagnosis (302.85) is often the key to unlock the physician who will prescribe hormones under a diagnostic code in the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10). Why, then, if GID is considered both a mental health and medical condition — with one recommended form of treatment being hormone therapy — are legislators dictating that persons with this condition cannot receive the recommended continuation of medical care? (Likewise, many insurance companies are routinely denying coverage



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.

of hormones, surgery and medical expenses related to GID care.)

In some ways, transgender people are damned if they do, damned if they don't. We receive all the stigma associated with the label of a psychiatric condition and none of the "benefits" (insurance coverage, validity, respect, equal access under the law etc.) of having a recognized medical condition.

Many transgender people, however, do not consider themselves to have any form of "disorder." Others don't believe GID is a psychiatric disorder, since there is research that suggests a possible biological cause. Others note that there are psychiatric disorders that have a biological basis (such as schizophrenia, autism and bipolar disorder). Others, still, believe that one day — just like in the 1970s when "homosexuality" was removed from the DSM — GID will also be recognized as something other than a "disorder." But until that time, who has the right to determine the course of our lives or if we have the right to access and remain on hormones? Therapists? Physicians? Legislators with no medical knowledge?

When will we have the right to determine what happens to our own bodies?

Legislators are denying medical care for transgender prisoners, but they would never strip diabetic prisoners of their medications.



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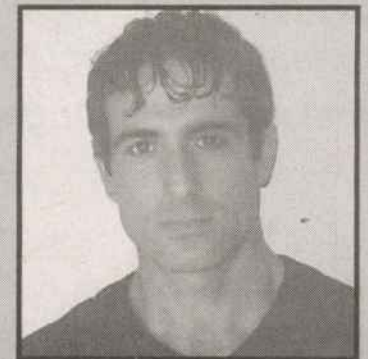
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Hide the Sofa

A posh gentlemen's club, the doctor's office, your grandparents' living room — these are the places some of us recall when we think of leather furniture. What a difference a new century makes. Today, leather furniture is in much wider use, with many color, style and cost options.

Previously, furniture was made only with top-grain leather, most commonly in black or shades of brown. It was extremely durable and expensive. Modern technology now permits splits, or thin slices, of leather to be cut from hides. Varying thicknesses of leather creates more pliability, softness and lower cost. Due to its thinness it doesn't have the durability of top-grade leather. However, contemporary consumers don't necessarily want their furniture to last for 10 or more years; they prefer to change or redo rooms more often.

Leather of the highest grade is still used for more traditional formal pieces and is available on more tightly upholstered furniture. The thinner, more pliable leathers like nubuck and suede are found on more contemporary styles and come in a wide range of colors.

The versatility of leather today makes it a great choice not only for sofas, loveseats and chairs in matching suites, but also for use in occasional upholstered pieces. Eighteenth-century-style furniture often features leather insets on table and desk surfaces. Beautiful walls can be created by applying leather to them — especially those hides with lots of texture, such as pigskin. Decorative screens with leather-covered panels and accents such as suede throw pillows, tooled leather tables

and lamps with leather bases and shades all provide decorative highlights. There is an abundance of small leather accessories on the market, including desk sets, picture frames and boxes.

A number of my clients have selected the classic look of a pair of leather chairs, some in classic Chippendale or Queen Anne wing-backs, others in more contemporary lounge or Barcelona styles. Other successful pairings include old-fashioned mahogany dining tables with contemporary leather and chrome chairs or modern glass-topped tables surrounded by leather upholstered Louis XIV style chairs.

What I love about leather is its rich good looks, comfort, easy maintenance, distinctive sound, durability and smell. It is truly a fabric for all the senses except taste — although it certainly reflects its owner's good taste.

The following guide from American Leather, a Texas furniture line, will help you get into the wide, wide world of leather.

Naturally finished leather

- Soft and natural with natural characteristics and markings; ages well and develops a soft patina with age.

- Is the most supple and sumptuous leather.

- Receives smallest amount of processing; colored with aniline dye that permeates hide leaving natural character intact.

- Should not be placed in direct sunlight.

- Requires normal leather care.

Nubuck or brushed leather

- Soft with brushed look and feel.



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.

- Has a lush nap.
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- Is more durable than suede but requires more care than natural leather.

Waxed, distressed leather

- Has a top layer of wax applied to create antique or distressed finish that will age well.

- Has subtle color variation.

- Is unique.

- Has strong markings.

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POLITICS

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

A nyone who reads Q Politics knows that I hold the primary threat to LGBT Americans to be the wave of state and federal constitutional amendments banning marriage and civil unions. In Wisconsin, we have entered the critical, final period leading up to a Nov. 7 referendum when Wisconsinites will either reject or approve adding discrimination to our governing charter.

While constitutional bans are the most visible threat to our community, they are but the tip of the spear of a large anti-gay, anti-privacy, anti-pluralist movement. We live in times when the U.S. president dumps gay marriage into the same disapproving line of his 2006 State of the Union speech as the lobbying scandal slowly rotting away at his own party (it is an election year, so after a short reprieve, "activist judges" are back like the horsemen of the Apocalypse). This is the same president who was reduced to sputtering when asked by a reporter if he'd seen "Brokeback Mountain." (My favorite comedic riff of this exchange came from David Letterman, who said that Bush

Sharks in the Water

had replied that he hadn't seen Brokeback Mountain, but did support drilling for oil there.)

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist has pledged to force a vote on the Federal Marriage Protection Amendment in June. Frist's announced retirement from the Senate would ordinarily release him from the low-brow drudgery of gay bashing required by the high priests of the religious right — except that he needs their blessing to compete in the 2008 Republican presidential primaries.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration, which apparently believes that government can't be trusted to negotiate lower drug costs for seniors but should be entrusted to play marriage coach, has announced that the government will spend \$1.5 billion over the next five years to help subsidize marriage. Of course, there's no question that marriage stabilizes families and helps protect children — which is why gay and lesbian couples want marriage for their families and why society benefits from marriage equality. But the Bush marriage money can't be used to save gay couples' marriages in the only state in the Union that permits it — Massachusetts.

If the constitutional bans are merely the shark's fin breaking the water, what lurks beneath? Well, government marriage money is not the only support the government is seeking to deny our community. A National Gay and Lesbian Task Force staffer notes that federal bureaucrats are quickly erasing "LGBT" as a category in government funding "requests for proposals," despite a public-health consensus developed in the 1990s that, like any subpopulation evidencing serious health disparities, the LGBT community required targeted services. (An

important study by Wisconsin's Diverse and Resilient in 2005 identified many of those local health disparities.)

Worse, the Bush administration is rescinding funding for LGBT services already granted: According to NGLTF, agencies working to stop the epidemic of methamphetamine abuse in gay men — like Wingspan, an LGBT center in Arizona; the New York LGBT Center; and Chase Brexton, an LGBT health agency in Baltimore — have had funding revoked in the middle of multiyear grants. And while HIV infections among gay men are on the rise again, our government's prescription for gay teens is cradle-to-grave abstinence, and CDC-funded researchers shirk gay-related studies or work hard to conceal them from religious right watchdogs.

In Wisconsin, when a large federal grant used by state public health authorities to fund community-based agencies doing vital HIV prevention and testing for gay minority men expired in 2005, there was no new federal source to take its place, in part because the Bush administration has been so vigorously redirecting resources away from culturally competent agencies to faith-based culture-war agencies. The funding cuts contributed to House of Inifiniti, an agency serving gay African American men, ending its HIV services in 2006, and the Wisconsin State AIDS Program had still not determined as of this writing how its services would continue.

Meanwhile, government largesse flows elsewhere in black Milwaukee. Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God, led by Republican Party delegate Bishop Sedgwick Daniels, has received \$1.5 million in Bush's

faith-based favors, and another \$1.1 million from the conservative Bradley Foundation (of "Bell Curve" infamy), to build a mini-empire in Milwaukee's central city. Holy Redeemer hosted a "Healthy Marriage" workshop last year and is planning an all-day Healthy Marriage conference in May, according to a U.S. Health and Human Services Web site. Busy running a successful social service network and tending to the spiritual needs of his large flock, Daniels still has time for one more important activity: serving on the Advisory Council of the Wisconsin Coalition for Traditional Marriage, the organization backing Wisconsin's ban on civil unions and gay marriage. Somebody cue the theme from "Jaws."

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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.

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Times They Are A-Changing!

a popular new movie can draw a larger audience than most of our smaller downtown theater companies.

Is it the cost? Yes, a professional theater ticket can cost a lot more than a movie. Can it be our ever-changing economy? With energy bills going up and taxes due — not to mention gas prices — who can afford a luxury like theater?

Or maybe we Americans are just getting lazy! One need not dress up to sit in front of the TV or play a DVD. Besides, you can stop your VCR or DVD and go out for a snack. Just try stopping a play at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater — or even eating popcorn during the show. And like I said, you have to dress up, get into your car and drive there. My, we sure have become a lazy society. Times they are a-changing!

Saying Goodbye to Top Theater

Recently it was announced that **Bialystock & Bloom** is closing after its current season. They have been a top theater company for 11 years. Did you happen to see their "Bent" or "Boys in the Band"?

Theater X was around for many years but closed last season. Trying to be clever and original in Milwaukee was just not selling the tickets.

That is a sad situation for the remaining companies. How can they make new exciting theater sell in this town?

Recently several community theaters have merged to try to make ends meet. Others are repeating the same old classics over and over. Some do shows with children, as that can guarantee higher tickets sales

— though it means much more responsibility for the theater company.

The **Marcus Center** is playing "Annie" this month and did "Joseph" earlier this season. Even some of the larger companies need to do popular shows to draw an audience. Many companies, including **R.S.V.P. Productions**, plan to cut back to two shows next season. Is this the rising costs of performing theater?

Your Chance to Support Theater

This month **Nevermore Theatre** presents "The Glass Menagerie." **Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre** will bring us a new twist on the classic "A Midsummer's Night Dream." The ever-popular **In Tandem Theatre** has "Two Rooms" by Lee Blessing.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater opens "A Month in the Country" and also "Ellington" at the **Stackner Cabaret**. Another classic work that is a must-see is "Richard II" at **Milwaukee Shakespeare**. **First Stage** presents "Tom Sawyer" for young adults.

Bialystock & Bloom open the new play "Matt and Ben." The comedy is about Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. The **Skylight** will bring you the popular musical review "Tintypes." **Cedar Creek Repertory Company** plays the old standard comedy "Harvey." Fear the curse of Dracula at **Off the Wall Productions** as they raise the dead with "Dracula Undead." On a lighter note, the **Bay Players** open the fairy tale spoof "Happily Ever Once Upon."

You Streisand fans should love the

"**Streisand Songbook**" at **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra**. Support a few shows this month.

"Angels" at Uncommon Theatre

"**Angels in America**" recently closed at the **Gay Arts Center**. The cast performed a very difficult work; **Mark Hooker** led the cast as Prior. His role was extremely believable every moment he was on the stage.

One of my friends from Chicago, **Alene Robertson**, is playing Miss Hannigan in "Annie" at the **Marcus Center for the Performing Arts**. She has won many awards in Chicago theater and starred in "Annie Warbucks" Off Broadway.

As I always say: Please support the area bars, and please support our great Milwaukee theater!!!

Last Month's Trivia Answer
Elizabeth Taylor starred as Maggie in the movie "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof."

This Month's Trivia Question

Did Sarah Jessica Parker star as the lead "Annie" on Broadway?

Aunt Blanche fainted five times during the recent "King Kong" movie. But she said she wasn't frightened — just so turned on by that Huge Hunky Beast!!!! Reminded her of her first husband.

The Vagina Monologues

A special UWM Student production of "The Vagina Monologues" directed by Rose Wasielewski



One performance ONLY
March 25, 8pm MGAC!

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Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

703 South 2nd Street.

Tickets on line at www.uncommontheatre.net

or call 1-800-595-4849.



VDAY
UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS

Community

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

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 x111. www.mkelgbt.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression). Body dysphoria vs. gender dysphoria. Are we all, by definition, dysphoric? What happens when your dysphoria doesn't ease through a gender transition? Come to a challenging discussion where we try to sort through these intricately entwined issues. 414-278-6031. www.forge-forward.org/socialsupport.

The Thickness of Delirium. Local filmmakers Brian James McGuire and Dan Wilson are having a fundraising party for their low budget indie film. A \$10 donation at the door entitles supporters to \$2 pints of beer, free food, raffle prizes and more. A \$20 donation at the door entitles you to also receive a free DVD of the film when it is released later this year. Supporters who are unable to attend may donate to the film or pre-buy a copy of the DVD at the Web site. Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh St., Milwaukee. 9 p.m. 414-975-3897. www.bartolifilm.com/projects/tod/.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

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

Carnaval Celebration. UWM celebrates all the excitement and pageantry of Brazilian Carnaval with a series of three events: samba dance lessons, mask making and a Carnaval celebration featuring a night of music and dancing with Chicago Samba. Open to the public; all ages welcome. UWM Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free. 414-229-3728. Repeats March 7 and 9.

THURSDAY, MARCH 9

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

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

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

6th Annual Riverwest Pub Crawl. Open-house walking tour featuring the taverns and restaurants of Riverwest. Each person gets a map and one beer at each stop. \$25 advance tickets can be purchased at Onopa, Uptowner, The Pub & The Gig. First 300 to sign up get free Pub Crawl T-shirt. Bring your friends or come by yourself! Day of event registration at Onopa, 1-5 p.m.

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

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

FORGE Forward 2007 Conference Organizing Meeting. Special meeting to discuss the basics about the conference: what we've done so far, where we're going, and how we plan to get there. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 Court St., Milwaukee. 2-4 p.m. 414-271-2656 ext. 111. www.mkelgbt.org.

Open Space. A 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, MARCH 23

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

VOG Beauty Bar for Men. Enjoy manicures, massages, facials and the primal beats of our own DJ John Murges. Martini specials and samplers throughout the evening. \$20 in advance/\$15 each for groups of four registering in advance /\$25 at the door. Pre-register by emailing VogInfo@yahoo.com. Mocht, 240 E. Pittsburgh Ave., Milwaukee. 9 p.m. 414-273-6628.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression). How many of us never learned how to tie a Double Windsor? What do all of those hand gestures mean in football? Is there a protocol for where to stand to wait for a stall in the men's room? Bring your questions about the things you never learned as a kid, but feel you must know now! If you have mastered some of these skills, come share your knowledge and experience with others! 414-278-6031. www.forge-forward.org/socialsupport.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

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

**Deadline for April is
March 24**

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The Tempestuous and the Gentle

The countdown to spring has begun! Speculation as to the way winter will play itself out is embodied in the folk wisdom "If March comes in like a lion, it goes out like a lamb." There's a fierce lion's roar to signal we're sick of shoveling snow and pulling \$30 parking tickets off our cars, then the tenderness of cruelty-free, organically raised lamb's wool brings warmth and comfort. The selections this month highlight the tempestuous and the gentle.

Being bundled in layers of winter clothes or cooped up inside brings some people down. However, for others, there is an inherent excitement to being bound or caged, or in pursuit of edgy forms of personal and sexual expression.

Certainly not a zine for the squeamish, **Brat Attack** [Issue 5, 1994, 56 pages] is "for leatherdykes and other bad girlz." This particular issue is the second since it changed format and print method, which catapults it to the "top drawer," well-deserved for a zine that pulls no punches in dealing head on with all aspects of SM realms, specifically tackling questions about classism and racism within these communities. In "Pvt. Felix's Bulletin Board no. 2" the editors devote a two-page spread for a variety of community members to sound off about their experiences as either participants or observers in the scene.

The article "Child's Play" delves into worlds of pain (physical, psychological) that some readers who've never had

similar experiences may find disquieting to read about. Yet in the carefully crafted nonjudgmental narrative, there is much to be gained from exploring how this writer integrated her pain into transcendent sexual expression and creative writing. The illustrated "Girls Night Out" shares an equally eerie tone. The comic, ostensibly a waking dream brought on by "too much cyberpunk," graphically illustrates violent street justice meted out to a lone crotch-grabbing misogynist.

Due to content, parts of or entire past issues of **Brat Attack** were banned by Canadian Customs authorities and a handful of U.S. prisons. To me, banned material is often the most compelling reading to get one's hands on, and if you're tough enough to brave it, this ranks as one of the best in the SM genre.

Cats, like lambs, generally have a warm and fuzzy reputation. Unlike lambs, kitties have claws! Australian zine **See Where the Cat Jumps** [One-off, 2005, 23 pages] may have a cutesy title and look upon first glance like nothing more than random scribbles in a high school notebook, but there are gems to dig out of the detritus scattered across its pages.

The author is vegan, and connects the dots of her vegan beliefs, feminism and anti-capitalism politics. Further developing these notions, and coming up against their limitations, she ponders, "how do you relate 'meat is murder' to sustainable indigenous peoples? yet feel righteous goin and buyin oreos?" There is a theme of transformation and discovery throughout, as in the centerfold "Relationships Tip #23: Resentment" in which Fluxxy Duran



ZINES

Christopher Wilde (chris@qzap.org) is a co-founder of QZAP, an artist, DJ and MAC tech support specialist building community in Riverwest.

suggests that a cure for overcoming resentment toward another person is to simply "draw a few ugly pictures of them." The truth there is that engaging your mind to the physical task of creation, rather than endless rumination in your head (which happens when it is impossible, for whatever reason, to work it out with the other person involved), helps you to truly process and let go of the negative feelings.

For some, there is an inherent excitement to being bound or caged, or in pursuit of edgy forms of personal and sexual expression.

A good sentiment for this time of year, too. Leave behind the crappy winter, embrace the coming spring!

QZAP will be at the Boston Zine Fair (www.bostonzinefair.org) March 18 and 19. Visit us at qzap.org.



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Arts



Calendar

OUT NOW

Public Display of Affection. This original installation by Chicago-based street artist Chris Silva expresses the artist's concern for the current 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 blends hilarious video segments, live action performance and countless surprises aimed at delighting, shocking and tickling audiences! Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. www.bialystockandbloom.com. Through March 21.

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 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.

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.

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.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2

A Daisy Chain of Video. A program of videos from seven curators. Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Dr. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3

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.

ResonsanCity. An ongoing project to gather microscopic sounds and images from various cities, and to amplify and transform them. The goal is to build a new city of sound and visuals inside the old one, and to inspire curiosity and exploration of one's own environment. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 414-961-7714. www.hotcakesgallery.com.

Q Pick

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

Proof. The story of Catherine, whose brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician, has died. The question is how much of her father's genius — or madness — did she inherit? Studio Theatre, 3195 S. Superior St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$12. 414-431-3187. www.soulsticetheatre.org. Through March 18.

SATURDAY, MARCH 4

HAFLA: Joy of the Dance. A belly dance party featuring 20 of the best of Chicago's and Milwaukee's belly dancers, drum jam and refreshments. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. 6-10 p.m. \$10. 414-383-3727.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Women's Film Festival: Women Without Borders. Works by women media makers. One program will feature works created by the women faculty and alumnae of the Peck School of the Arts Department of Film. UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. Multiple screenings, some free. 414-229-4070.

FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Tom Sawyer. First Stage Children's Theater. Whether Tom is wangling his way out of chores or making mischief on the Mississippi River, you can be sure that an adventure is close at hand—and perhaps a taste of danger, too. Along the way, Tom learns a few lessons—lessons about friendship, love and heartbreak. Todd Wehr Theater, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. \$19.50/ \$14.50 children 12 and under. 414-273-7206. www.firststage.org. Through April 9, various times.

SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Q Pick

Belle and Sebastian, the New Pornographers. They are private but not insular, pretty but not wimpy; they make gorgeous, delicate melodies that sound full-bodied. The Riverside Theater, 116 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$9-16. 414-286-3663. www.riversidetheater.org.

Comedy and Pet Theater. A unique circus extravaganza exclusively featuring animals rescued from an animal shelter. UW-Whitewater's Irvin L. Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St., Whitewater. 2 p.m. 262-472-5705. www.tickets.uww.edu.

How German Is American? Mark Loudon, co-director of the Max Kade Institute at UW, will deliver a multimedia presentation on the various ways, past and present, that German-speaking immigrants to the United States and

their descendants have contributed to and been influenced by other American cultures. West Bend Art Museum, 300 S. 6th Ave., West Bend. 2 p.m. Free. 262-334-9638. www.wbartmuseum.com.

Oumar Sagna and the Sindoolaa Band. Outstanding dancers and traditional music will keep everyone dancing. A family-friendly, all ages, smoke-free show. At 10 p.m. celebrate the return of the regular band members from their music trip to India and welcome new members. Exotic masquerades; performers on violin, mandolin, guitars, Kora, saxophones, flute, keyboard and drums. www.sindoolaa.com. \$5/\$10 CD. Club Timbuktu, 520 E. Center St., Milwaukee. 5 p.m. 414-265-7000. www.clubtimbuktu.com.

Passion of Faith. The 100 voice Bel Canto Chorus will be performing the Wisconsin premiere of Frank Ferko's "Stabat Mater." Basilica of St. Josaphat, 2333 S. 6th St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-481-8801. www.belcanto.org.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Q Pick

The Exonerated. A riveting drama about six people, wrongly convicted of capital crimes and condemned to death, who spent years on death row before being cleared of the charges and set free. UW-Whitewater's Irvin L. Young Auditorium, 930 W. Main St., Whitewater. 7:30 p.m. 262-472-5705. www.tickets.uww.edu.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Dancing Aloud. Text, characters and narrative jump off the page through the language of dance in this revival of one of Wild Space's most popular performances. Pitman Theatre, S. 39th St. and Morgan Ave., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$20/ \$18 students and seniors. 414-382-6044. www.wildspacedance.org. Repeats March 18.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

Fessenden. Each performance by this trio displays a delicate balance of acoustic and electronic sounds. Part of the Livingroom series. 900 S. 5th St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$7 suggested. www.croutonmusic.com.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Milwaukee Ballet at the Pabst. The company's mixed-repertory program will include Diego Carrasco, Simone Ferro, Michael Pink and a contemporary Milwaukee premier by New York City choreographer Darrell Grand Moultrie. Pabst Theatre, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$20-80. 414-286-3663. www.milwaukeeballet.org. Through March 26, various times.

Willing to Risk. Created by Danceworks' choreographers Sarah Wilbur and Dani Kuepper in collaboration with video artist Claudia Looze, this multi-media performance explores the science

and psychology of risk, made visible through explosive dancing and onstage risk-taking by a large and diverse cast. What is your definition of risk? John Michael Kohler Arts Center, 608 New York Ave., Sheboygan. 920-458-6144. www.jmkac.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

In Loving Memory. A haunting reflection by Robert Todd on the U.S. prison and death row system and the lives of those incarcerated. Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. \$2. 414-229-4070. www.woodlandpattern.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

The Vagina Monologues. ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY! UWM Student Production. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$10. 1-800-595-4849 or on line at www.uncommontheatre.net.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

Neko Case, Martha Wainwright. A very special performance with two artists custom fit for an intimate atmosphere. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$15 414-286-3663. www.pabsttheater.org.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Q Pick

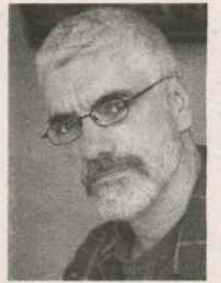
Seduction. Sexy, decadent and immoral, "Seduction" holds up a mirror and lets us see what's good, bad, sad or hilarious in our search for human connection. Featuring the "Shamelessboyz" London cast. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$20. 1-800-595-4849. www.uncommontheater.net. Through April 9.

Happily Ever Once Upon. A fairy tale parody for adults. The Bay Players, 1200 E. Fairmount Ave., Whitefish Bay. 7:30 p.m. 414-299-9040. Through April 8.

Deadline for April issue is March 24.

MKE GAY ARTS CTR

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Paul Masterson - Director

What's Happening at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

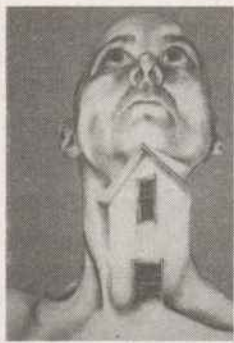
'Contents: New Works by Lindsey Wolkowicz' Opens March 3

"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, behaving as flat or transparent at one point and tangibly visceral the next. The architectural, psychologically charged space also 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 to merely set up contradictions or conflicts between real and not real. Instead, her 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

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 \$10 414-383-3727.**

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 MGAC 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.

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 Vagina Monologues' One Night Only!

A special UWM student production of "The Vagina Monologues" directed by Rose Wasielewski.

One performance only at MGAC, on March 25!

Tickets \$10. Call 1-800-595-4849 or on

line: www.uncommontheatre.net

Jack Heifner's 'Seduction'

March 31 through April 9

Featuring the "Shamelessboyz" London cast
All performances at 7:30 p.m.

What the Critics Are Saying About 'Seduction'

"Sexually, it's as full-blooded as a randy bull on Viagra. What more could you want? See it now!" 5 stars — *QX Magazine*

"Sexy, immoral ... powerful performances." 5 stars — *Whatsonstage.com*

"Enjoyable, amusing and well-paced." — *The Stage*

"Alluring, superbly directed ... powerful and shocking."

— *Newyorkcool.com*

"Cleverly efficient modular scenery ... deft work on lighting ... consistently incisive direction ... extremely talented British cast." — *CurtainUp.com*

Tickets are available at www.uncommontheatre.net.

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.

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Classics, Groban and Capote

Leonard Bernstein

Children's Classics - CD

For many, the term classical music is shorthand for music to stay away from. Not exposed to anything classical at home, at school or in most of the media, youngsters may grow up reminiscing about "traditions" such as Eminem and Britney. Frightening and sobering, isn't it?

"Children's Classics" is a sparkling primer for children and adults to classical masterpieces like Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" and Camille de Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals." Leonard Bernstein conducts the New York Philharmonic and also narrates "Peter and the Wolf."

After more than half a century, "Peter and the Wolf" remains the most popular children's composition. Written in 1936, the orchestral fairy tale was premiered at a Moscow Philharmonic children's program. Each character in the story is represented by an instrument in the orchestra: the bird by a flute, the cat by a clarinet, the duck by an oboe, the grandfather by a bassoon, the wolf by menacing horns, Peter by a string quartet and the hunters by the kettledrums and the bass drum.

In "Carnival of the Animals" lions, kangaroos and cuckoos are just some of the "pianists" who practice finger strengthening exercises that must sound very familiar to aspiring young musicians.

The third part of this CD, Benjamin Britten's "Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra," is both an instructional piece and one great composer's tribute to another (Henry Purcell), resulting in a lively composition.

Leonard Bernstein is an American legend, everyone knows that. Not very well known were his dedication to music for youth and his lifelong mentoring of young talent.

Josh Groban

Closer - CD

For fans of passionate, heartfelt music, Josh Groban's newest CD is perfect. A young man with a spectacular voice, Groban sings in English, Italian, French and Spanish about the human condition. Although he has a forceful tenor/baritone voice, it never overpowers his lyrics and the instruments are kept in the background.

"Closer" includes the beautiful tune "Oceano," a wistful weave of the profound powers of love and water, and the emotional "You Raise Me Up." Since the release of his first album in 2001 and appearances at the closing ceremonies at the Salt Lake Olympics, on television specials and at live concerts, Groban has become a well-rounded performer on a long-running musical journey.

Arisan!

directed by Nia Dinata - DVD

Tropical Malady

directed by Apichatpong Weerasethakul - DVD

These two films from Southeast Asia approach homosexuality from two very different angles. "Arisan," a high society comedy was a huge box office success in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim country.

Directed by a 30-something mother of two, "Arisan" captures the lives and habits of hip, metro professionals in Jakarta. The title refers to a custom and support network

originally created by Chinese ethnic businessmen that remains a traditional and popular monthly gathering of friends and relatives.

The film's three main characters, friends since high school, are rich, successful and good looking. The "arisan" they become involved in highlights their unfulfilled dreams and broken vows. Sakti, a promising architect is preoccupied not with his designs but with hiding his homosexuality. Having unsuccessfully tried to "cure" it with the aid of costly therapy, he is on a slow journey of self-discovery along with his friends. Notable in his quest is the graceful and understanding support of his aged and very traditional mother.

Although the plot, cinematography and acting are predictable, the film deals with homosexuality in a sensitive way — no small feat in a country best known for its heavy-handed horror films and fluffy teen features.

From nearby Thailand, Apichatpong Weerasethakul's "Tropical Malady" blends narrative and allegory into a subtle, wholly enveloping experience. The film is a fractured love story about the beauty, mystery and, ultimately, the impossibility of desire. The director, a former student at the Art Institute of Chicago who returned to live and work in Thailand, has successfully straddled the chaos of city life and the country's mysterious and delicate beauty.

Shot in the handheld style of a documentary film, "Tropical Malady" explores the passionate relationship between a handsome soldier and a shy village boy. The story is wrapped around a folk legend about a shaman gifted with the power to change his appearance. Winner of the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, it is an exhilarating adventure, a subtle contemplative film which argues against easy, tight definitions.



MUSIC, BOOKS & MOVIES

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

Naked in the Promised Land

Lillian Faderman - book

A personal memoir and documentary of mid-20th-century lesbian life, "Naked in the Promised Land" is the most recent work by Lillian Faderman, considered by many to be the foremother of lesbian and gay studies and scholarship.

Born in 1940, Faderman was the only daughter of an uneducated Jewish woman who had immigrated to the United States and struggled with poverty and despair in the sweatshops of New York. She was also plagued with unforgiving guilt, for being alive while the rest of her family perished in the Holocaust, and with heartbreak over a relationship with a man who persistently denied paternity to her daughter.

For both mother and daughter, Los Angeles, where they moved after living in New York, represented hope for a better life; indeed they saw the city as the promised land of glamour and riches that Hollywood movies consistently depicted. But, lacking the face and the voice of a child star, Lillian didn't become another Judy Garland when she began attending a neighborhood acting school. Instead she

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Interview with Bill Bartell of Cock N Toast

Sophisticated club-goer that I am, I have haunted comedy clubs from New York to LA (where I was a guest at the exclusive Magic Castle and saw Siegfried and Roy with their ... um ... white tigers).

But rarely have I been entertained as much at a comedy venue as when I attended one of the midnight shows by a group that regularly inhabits Comedy Sportz. The troupe has the enigmatic name Cock N Toast. I have no idea what the name means. Even troupe member Bill Bartell was vague about it. Almost secretive!

So I did my own extensive research into the words in the troupe's name. The results were stunning: Fully three fourths of the world likes cock and everyone on earth likes toast (especially the English). The data on the letter "N" were inconclusive. My findings: With a name like Cock N Toast, how can a comedy troupe lose?

I tracked down troupe member Bill Bartell at a lesbian bar and asked him some probing questions about his work.



Dave Theune, Dylan Bolin, Bill Bartell and Tim Higgins, not in the photo is Eric Price, who is in California

Q Life: Bill, why are you hanging out at M'ONA's?

BB: The drinks are good, I like the fish fry, and you never know when there will be a hot chick fight.

Q Life: Why did you go into the comedy sports arena?

BB: You mean the space or the profession?

Q Life: Well ... both.

BB: As for the arena, Comedy Sportz has a full bar, and we all

have drinking problems. As for the job itself, I like to make people laugh. I'm the edgy one. Plus comics get all the girls. Everyone knows that.

Q Life: I know you guys are straight, but let me ask you this, Bill ...

BB: [Raises an eyebrow.] Yes?

Q Life: What would you do if Matt Damon offered you a special on HBO, but only if you would sleep with him. Would you do it?

BB: Yes, I would sleep with Matt Damon — but no spooning.

Suddenly troupe member Tim Higgins walks into M'ONA's. Apparently straight men just love this place.

Q Life: Hi, Tim. Can you tell our readers about your most embarrassing sexual moment on stage?

Tim: I got a pair of SpongeBob SquarePants boxers from my lady at the time. These had no button on the fly, but the picture on them was great: SpongeBob is placed perfectly with his hand out, so it looks like he's cupping my balls. So I wore them. I wanted to show the audience and slowly opened my jeans. A huge gasp came from the crowd. I unknowingly exposed my cock to 200 people. Not many guys can say that they've shown themselves to 200 people at once. Then again, I didn't get a chance to see "Naked Boys Singing!" [Smiling] I have to admit, however, that I wasn't embarrassed. Even to this day some people ask if I still do the late show. Then they say, "I was there when you showed your penis!"

My thanks to Cock N Toast members Bill Bartell, Eric Price, Tim Higgins, Dylan Bolin and Dave Theune for this insightful interview. Shows are held at midnight every other Saturday at Comedy Sportz, 420 S. 1st St., Milwaukee. Call 414-272-8888 for scheduling information. The cost is a measly five bucks. Go, drink, laugh.

Next Month: An interview with Mark Salentine of Sunset Playhouse. It's not just for suburbia anymore!



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MUSIC, BOOKS & MOVIES

continued from page 38

distinguished herself with a precociously well-developed body, leading her to selling sex at the age of 14. Lily barely finished high school, supporting herself as a pinup girl. As she was coming to terms with her lesbian identity, she glided into a seductive and perilous underworld of addiction, pimps and prostitutes. Instead of falling to the bottom of the abyss, she enrolled at the University of California, Berkley, and worked her way through college as a stripper, eventually earning her Ph.D.

"Lillian Faderman has written with an amazing voice, clear-eyed view and wisdom on how we both save and surmount the past," said best selling novelist Amy Tan. Sometimes truth is more amazing than fiction.

Capote: A Biography

Gerald Clarke - book

The acclaimed film "Capote" is largely the story of the writer's all-consuming involvement in the murder of the Clutter family in a tiny Kansas town and the ensuing sensational trial, resulting in the best selling "In Cold Blood." For those interested in a comprehensive, nonjudgmental biography of the writer, there is none finer than Gerald Clarke's work, recently out in paperback. Clarke vividly recounts how Capote was, between the publication of his short stories in the late 1940s and the success of "In Cold

Blood" in 1966, a powerful literary talent and an intimate of the "beautiful swans," rich and famous women like Lee Radzwill.

The pressure brought on by the Herculean effort of researching and writing "In Cold Blood" shattered Capote's frail emotional stability. The last 20 years before his death in 1984 at the age of 59 were haunted by demons of a lonely childhood, alcohol and drug addictions, and fears of failure.

This is a compelling, vivid and always absorbing biography of Truman Capote, a kaleidoscopic figure whom perhaps no one will ever fully know.

Paid Advertisement A plea to all Wauwatosa residents

The Wauwatosa School board is currently debating what to do with the current East High School logo (a red arrow) and it's sport teams name "Red Raiders". Both are offensive to all Wisconsin American Indian tribes. The name & current were derived from the schools 1940's cartoon depiction "Tommy Raider" of an American Indian. Two "Tommy Raider" murals still exists on the walls of Tosa East. Please urge Wauwatosa School Superintendent Phillip Ertl (mailto:ertlph@wauwatosa.k12.wi.us) to end this racist & disrespectful depiction of my people. You may also contact the Wawautosa school members at; www.wauwatosa.k12.wi.us.
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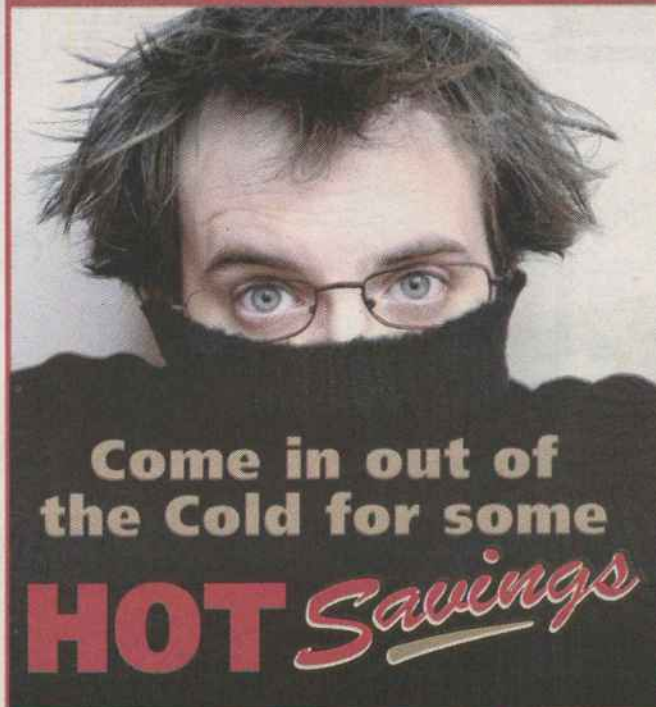
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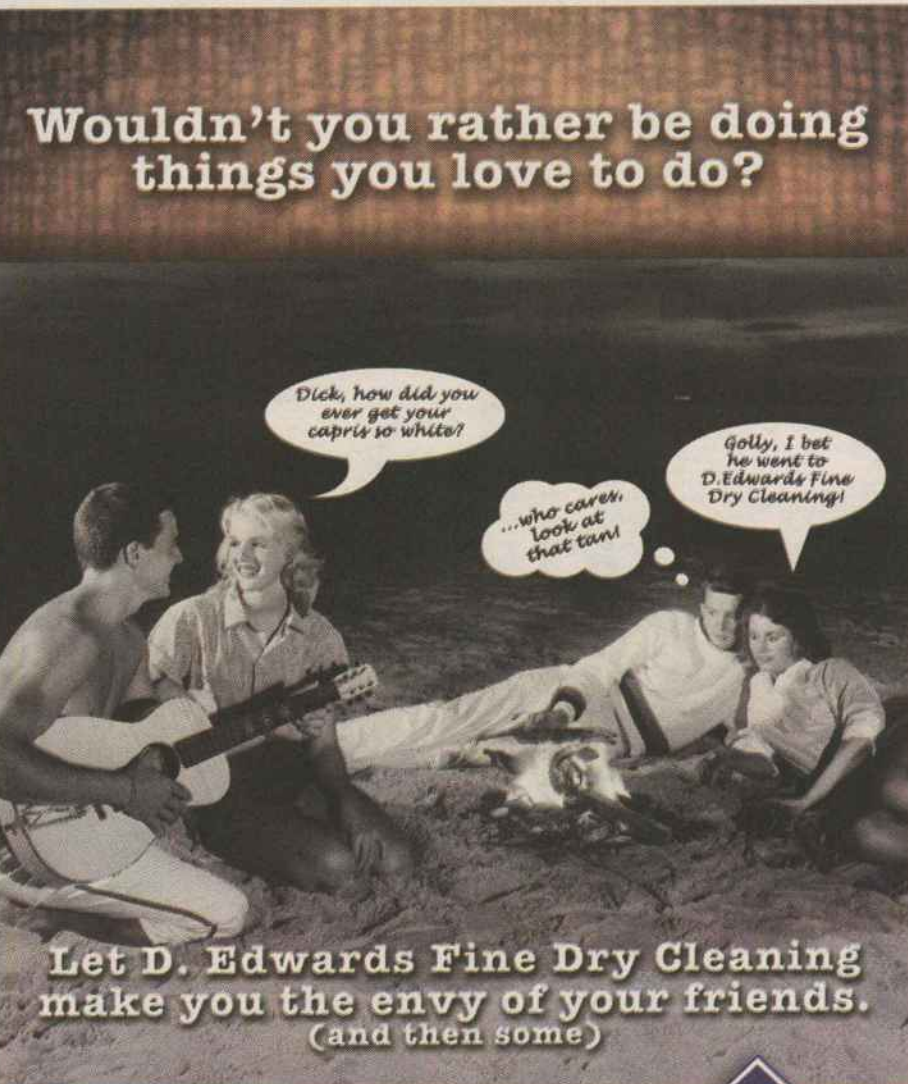
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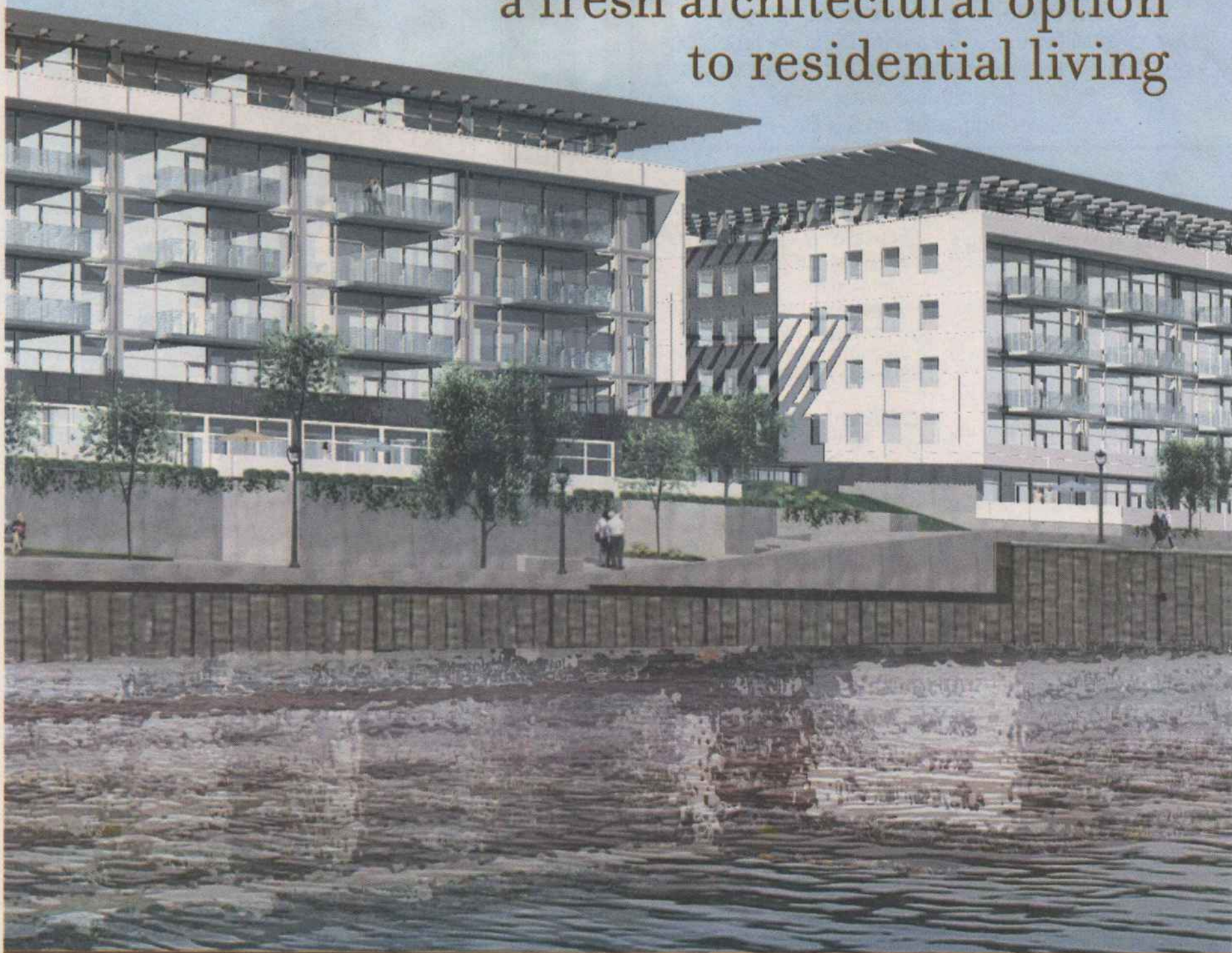
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