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## 'The Sum of Us' Adds Power to MGAC Lineup



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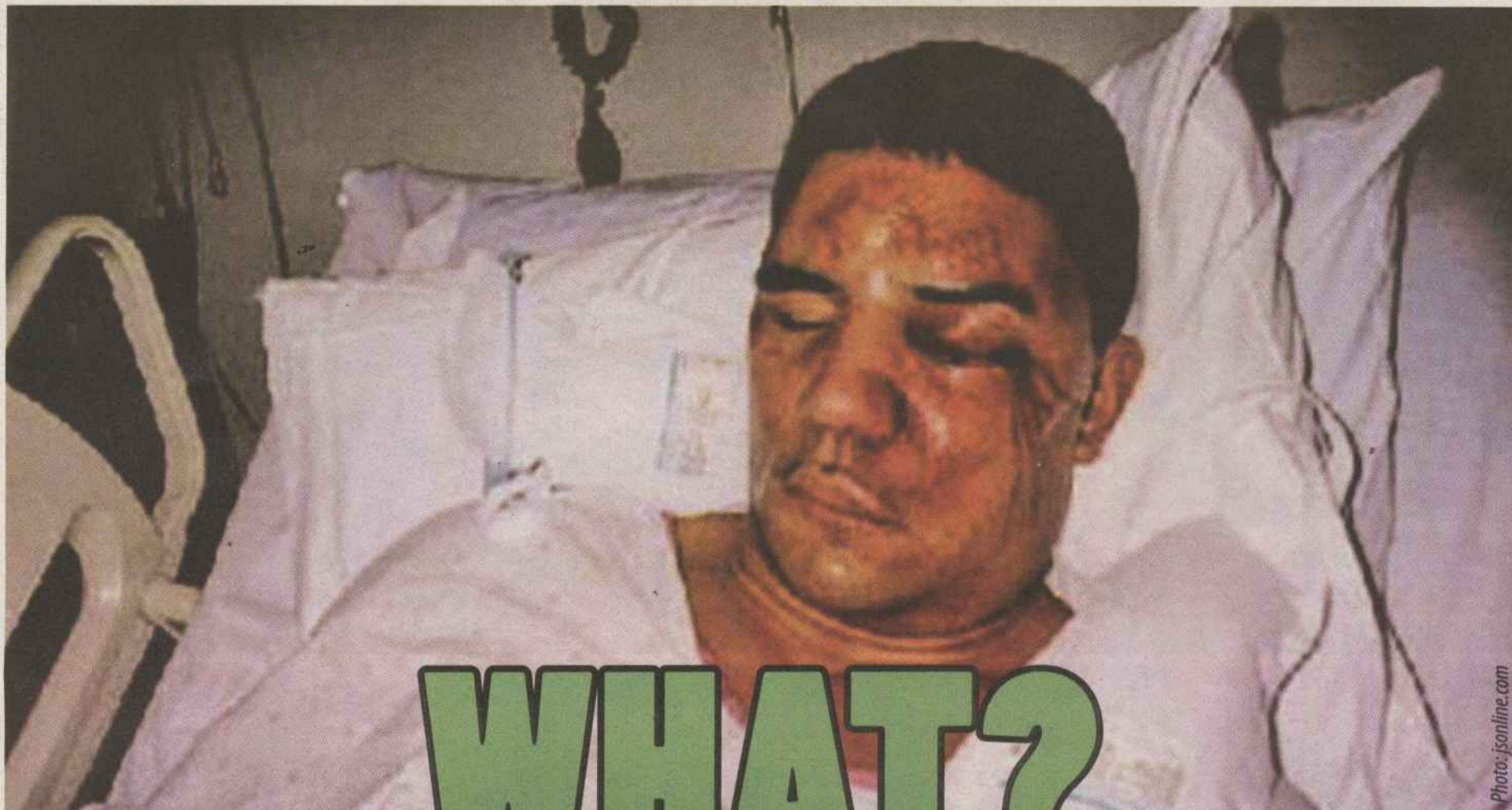


Photo: jsonline.com

## All White Jury Hands Down Troubling Verdict in Jude beating

By James Pennington  
Special to QLife

Justice is blind, we have heard it said. But justice is not color blind in the case of the all white jury that deliberated for more than 25 hours before finding three former Milwaukee police officers not guilty on four of five charges in the brutal beating of Frank Jude Jr. outside a Bay View home in October 2004.

The acquittals prompted more than 3,000 people to march through downtown Milwaukee the morning of April 18 calling for federal charges in the case. Led by Milwaukee civil rights pioneer Vel Phillips, marchers gathered at the Milwaukee County Courthouse before proceeding along North 9th Street and Wisconsin

Avenue to the Federal Courthouse.

"We want to let people know Milwaukee is not really the Selma of the North. ... This sends a message to a lot of people," Phillips said.

The march attracted numerous state and local public officials, ministers and community leaders. Although the crowd was diverse, it was mostly African-American. Many protesters carried printed signs that said "Stop the Violence with Peace and Love." Others carried handmade signs with statements such as: "Frank We Are Here 4 U," "Stop Police Crimes" and "Justice for Jude." One large poster displayed Jude's face, bloodied after the beating. Protesters chanted

throughout the march route, "Justice for Jude — Justice for all" and "We ain't gonna take it no more!"

Organizers handed out leaflets explaining that the march was to show "the verdict was unjust," that the U.S. Attorney should bring federal charges against the three officers and that the community needs to solve its problems by organizing.

State Sen. Lena Taylor, a friend and ally of the LGBT community, said she believed the march "gave people an opportunity to express their anger, disappointment and frustration in a productive way."

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Milwaukee High School of the Arts in Jeopardy

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Camp Heartland and MGAC Present 'Shed Your Winter Coat' - a Doggie Cocktail Party

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## New Cabaret Series at the MGAC

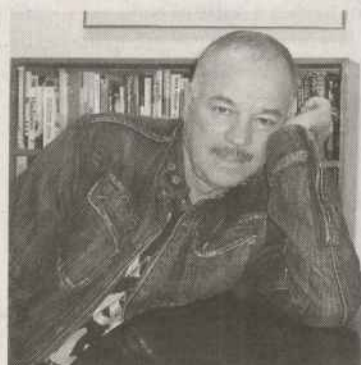
Beginning in May, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center will add a monthly cabaret series, sponsored by the Shepherd Express, to its diverse schedule of events. The series will showcase the sights and sounds of some of Milwaukee's most talented vocal, instrumental and spoken word performers, both gay and non-gay.

In an effort to reach out to the entire community, the cabaret series will be free to the public. Fundraising benefit performances for community organizations will charge a \$15 cover.

On May 19 at 7:30 p.m., the opening cabaret will feature renowned Milwaukee vocalist Jerry Grillo performing in a cabaret-concert to benefit SAGE-Milwaukee.

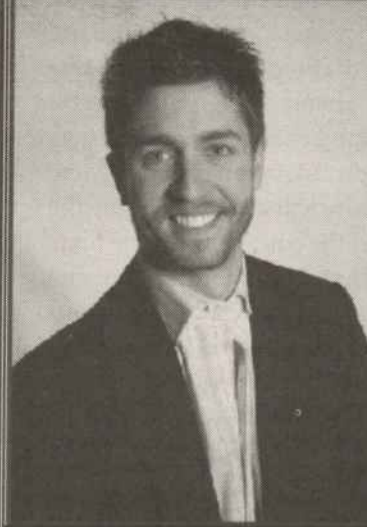
Grillo has performed in Milwaukee and throughout the Midwest for the past 40 years. During the last 12 years, he has recorded eight albums, which were critically acclaimed internationally. He also sings

regularly with the Nick Contorno Orchestra for private and public events. For more information, visit [www.jerrygrillo.com](http://www.jerrygrillo.com).



Jerry Grillo

All benefit tickets are \$15 and may be purchased through the MGAC ticket office at 414-383-3727 or online at [www.uncommontheatre.net](http://www.uncommontheatre.net).



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**What?** *continued from page 1*

Members of the Jude family attended the rally. Jude's mother, Debra Evans, who is white, addressed the crowd. "We appreciate the community coming out," Evans said. "We all have to work together and stand together for justice, not just for my son, but for justice for all."

I was among those who marched on behalf of Jude and others who throughout the years have suffered brutality at the hands of a handful of Milwaukee police officers. At the start of the march, sheriff's deputies lined the courthouse steps. Additional officers were on horseback. And some also had dogs.

Marching side by side with my brothers and sisters seeking justice was an amazing and empowering opportunity. The march was not only about Frank Jude, it was about justice

for all the citizens of Milwaukee and about the need for immediate changes — changes in the police hiring and training process, changes in the review process of complaints against police officers, changes in our jury selection process and changes in our legislature.

At the invitation of Sen. Taylor, I had the privilege of addressing the crowd at the conclusion of the march on the steps of the Federal Courthouse on East Wisconsin Avenue. I assured the crowd that their LGBT brothers and sisters were offering their support during this difficult time. Now is the time for all marginalized communities to set aside their differences, stand together and seek justice for one another and accountability from our elected officials and those hired to be servants protecting the citizens of Milwaukee.

The problem is not only that seemingly guilty individuals have

escaped responsibility for their actions. In the face of this travesty, the Milwaukee Police Department as a whole has again lost credibility among city residents — Latino, white and black. As testimonies from the case revealed, the culture of "protecting our own" regardless of truth is deeply ingrained among officers.

The day after the march, I had another opportunity. This time it was to consult with and provide guidance for Police Chief Nannette Hegerty and Assistant Chief Joe Whiten. They gathered seven community leaders to discuss strategies on how to begin the process of healing our fragmented and hurting community, and reviewed the steps taken by Hegerty immediately following the beating of Jude.

Not only are the citizens of Milwaukee outraged and angered by the jury's verdict handed down on April 14, but our police administration and officers on the beat are shocked and outraged as well. In a roll call video used with Milwaukee police officers and shown to the group, Hegerty made it clear that she believes the "officers that did this tarnished not only the badge of Milwaukee police officers,

they tarnished my badge as well."

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has joined other activists in our community in the continuing call for the reform of the Milwaukee Police Department and we commend Hegerty and Mayor Tom Barrett for their efforts thus far to stop bigotry of all kinds in the department. Reform of the system is necessary to make it possible to weed out bad officers.

The acquittals of the three fired police officers in the beating of Jude point to the need for further reform of the criminal justice system. The verdict also points to the need for laws punishing police officers who do not cooperate in the investigation of crimes committed by other police officers. Even if justice is not ultimately served in this case, we must be certain that reforms are adopted that will ensure justice is served in future cases.

Is justice blind? We must speak up and embrace all of our marginalized brothers and sisters no matter what flag we fly. The fight we fight is justice for ALL!

*James Pennington is the executive director of the LGBT Community Center in Milwaukee.*

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## LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care Need Your Help

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## LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care Need Your Help

By Jane E. Ottow

According to the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, approximately five to 10 percent of the general population is LGBTQ, and LGBTQ adolescents make up an even higher, disproportionate share of the foster care population. LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care, already coping with shattering problems and displacement, bear the often overwhelming added burden of hostility toward their sexual orientation or gender identity.

LGBTQ adolescents, like all children in the foster care system, are entitled to safety, support and respect, with their best interests always in mind. The LGBTQ and larger community share a collective responsibility to meet the safety, stability and permanency needs of these youth.

A study conducted by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund indicates that the challenges LGBTQ youth face in foster care are many. Some experience rejection from their caregivers and are subsequently bounced from caregiver to caregiver. Some attempt to gain a sense of control by leaving their placement (foster or group home) in order to find solace on the streets. This can lead to homelessness, prostitution, dropping out of school, alcohol and other drug abuse and legal issues.

Recognizing the challenges LGBTQ youth in foster care face, Children's Service Society of Wisconsin has taken a lead role in developing programming for them. Children's Service Society, along with other dedicated community partners, has formed the Alliance for LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care. The alliance focuses on examining the current status of LGBTQ youth within the community and particularly within the foster care community. Its vision is that LGBTQ youth will feel supported and safe regardless of their placements. The alliance hopes that

this initiative will ultimately improve LGBTQ teens' situations in foster care as well as in the community at large.

Members of the alliance represent a variety of organizations advocating on behalf of LGBTQ youth in foster care. The alliance offers sensitivity and awareness trainings for foster parents and other professionals who work with youth in foster care. It provides advocacy for the youth (which may include individual meetings with youth) and maintains a partnership with the national initiative for LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care. Additionally, a mentoring program has been initiated in collaboration with Milwaukee Mentors to pair healthy LGBTQ adult role models with LGBTQ youth in foster care, as well as within the general community.

In Milwaukee, there are youth in foster care who are struggling with their sexual orientation or gender identity, often hiding it from the foster care agency, their caseworkers and their foster families. Through various recruitment efforts, Children's Service Society is working to expand the pool of treatment foster parents for LGBTQ youth. Treatment foster care is home-based care for children and adolescents with significant emotional, behavioral and/or physical challenges.

Change a child's life by sharing your heart, opening your home and offering help to a LGBTQ youth in foster care. LGBTQ identified and/or LGBTQ friendly individuals or couples interested in becoming treatment foster parents are encouraged to contact the foster home licensing department at Children's Service Society at 414-453-1400. To become a mentor for LGBTQ youth in foster care, contact Michele Nash at Milwaukee Mentors at 414-372-6902.

*Jane E. Ottow, MS, LPC, is the LGBTQ Youth Program Coordinator at Children's Service Society of Wisconsin.*

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# End of an Era

By Holly Grey

For 30 years the M&M Club has graced the corner of Erie and Water Streets in Milwaukee's Third Ward. Sometime in May, this long-standing gay watering hole will be shutting its doors. M's, as it is so lovingly called by many, is closing.

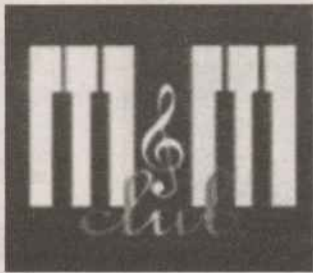
According to Jeff "Rita" Whitt, a bartender at M's for 18 years, the building is being sold to a Chicago realty group that plans to turn the institution into an Irish pub.

"It's still up in the air as far as an official close date. No money has been exchanged, but an offer has been made," explained Whitt. "The realty group has 60 days to go through the building

and make their final offer."

Whitt explained that Bob Schmidt, M's owner, who opened the bar in July 1976, had been actively seeking a buyer. "He put it out that he wanted a million for it and he got an offer," said Whitt.

Sheila B., a long-term patron who is saddened by the bar closing, said laughingly, "What can I do? I tried to drink as much as I could to keep the bar



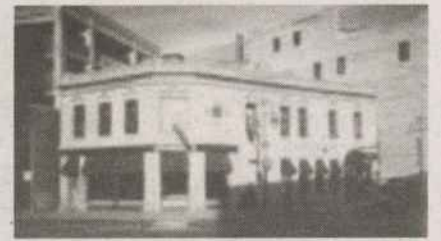
open." Other patrons were more serious in their comments. "I have a lot of good memories here and these memories will outlive the building. So in that sense the bar is not going away," said Doug Barren.

"This was the first gay bar I ever came to in my life. Back in 1979 this place was all dark and the

windows were boarded over. It was late afternoon and Rona was bartending. I remember being nervous, but in the end, I met most of my lifelong friends here," said David Chapdelaine. "I vividly remember when in the '80s this was the first gay bar to un-board their windows. I knew of no other bar that had done that. It was really brave of them. I kept thinking someone would throw a brick through the window at us or something, but it never happened."

M's was notorious for enhancing and changing the décor of the bar and restaurant area, the Glass Menagerie, over the years. A popular Sunday brunch location, M's added a deck to the back of the restaurant to accommodate more diners and add to the party atmosphere.

The M&M Club has a long-standing reputation as a friendly and safe neighborhood-like bar that opened its doors and arms to the entire LGBT community. For its diverse patrons, this place felt like home. "I met people here that I wouldn't have met elsewhere," explained Mike Bermklav. "This place was known for catering to all sorts of people of different ages, races, sexes,



orientations. I am very sad."

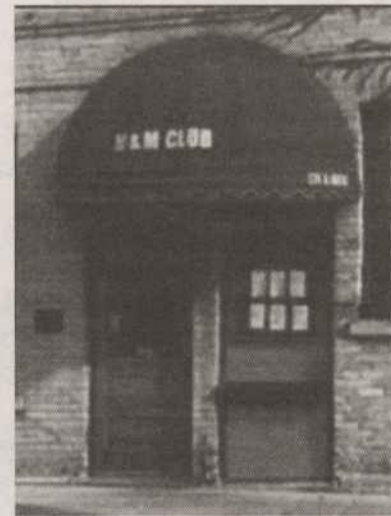
M's also had a reputation for generosity to the LGBT community. "They were always raising money for the community or holding a fundraiser, sponsoring a softball team or hosting a drag show," according to Bermklav. "This was also a great place to obtain the latest community news or gossip. The bartenders were always very discreet, but informative. I think this bar closing will leave a big hole."

"It hasn't sunk in yet. People are in shock," lamented David Howser. "There will be a void."

I know this reporter will sorely miss one of her favorite watering holes and its Friday night fish fry, Sunday brunch mimosas, and hopple popple.

There are no plans to reopen the M&M Club at another location. Mementos and fixtures like the

large mirrors are already being sold, and the piano is gone.



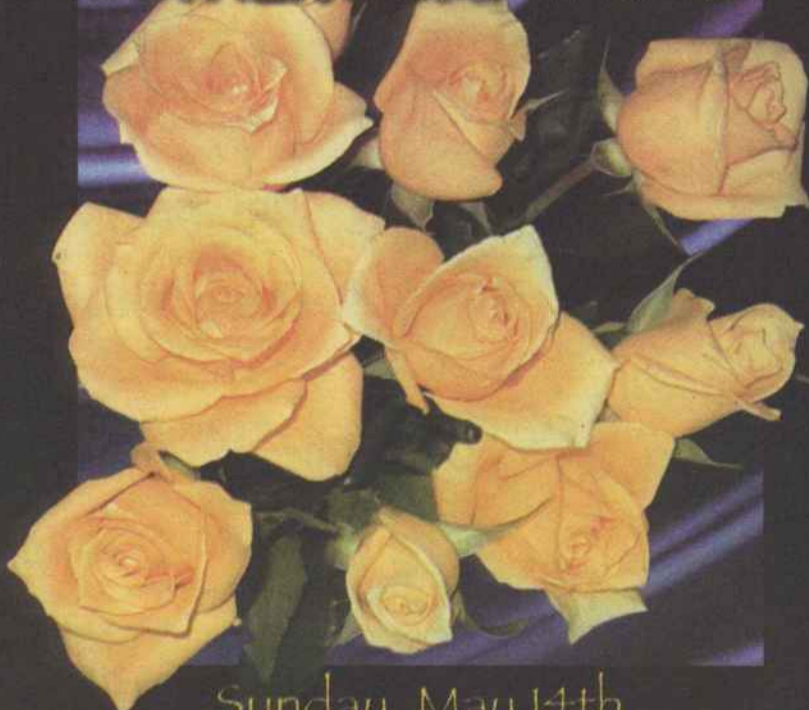
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Wisconsin



Happenings

## Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership Distributes \$25,000 in Grants

In April, the board of directors of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation approved \$25,000 in grants to more than a dozen local nonprofit organizations that serve Milwaukee's LGBT communities. The grants were awarded through the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership, a collaborative fund created by the Cream City Foundation and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation along with National Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues to help encourage giving to LGBT communities in the area.

A dozen local nonprofit organizations received grants, including the Counseling Center of Milwaukee and Diverse & Resilient, \$2,500; For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression, \$4,000; Galano Club, \$500; Lesbian Alliance, \$2,000; Milwaukee

LGBT Community Center, \$5,000; Seniors in a Gay Environment (SAGE) in support of the Milwaukee Aging Consortium, \$5,000; Oral History Project, \$3,000; and Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and Woodland Pattern Book Center in support of LGBT writers and workshops, \$3,000.

"The fund was honored to make grants to nonprofits that provide critical and necessary services to Milwaukee's LGBT community," said Len laquinta, a member of the grants committee. "With the help of our donors, we are able to support a wide range of programs impacting LGBT seniors, LGBT youth, and substance abuse prevention and treatment programs, as well as the arts projects with a unique LGBT focus."

The foundation received 14

applications requesting more than \$65,000 in support. "Our goal was to support a variety of organizations throughout our community, including collaborative efforts between LGBT and non-LGBT organizations," said Maria Cadenas, executive director of the Cream City Foundation.

The mission of the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership is to expand funding of non-AIDS related programs that respond to the needs of the LGBT communities in Southeastern Wisconsin. The partnership addresses community diversity, health, civil rights protection and the special needs of LGBT youth and older adults. It also increases service collaboration between LGBT groups and traditional community organizations.

## Visioning Project Schedules Listening Sessions

The Greater Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Visioning Project will be hosting community listening sessions during PrideFest. The sessions will serve as a forum to determine shared interests among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities as well as discussion of next steps for the Visioning Project. The sessions will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday during PrideFest at the Stonewall Stage.

The vision of the Greater Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay,

Bisexual and Transgender Visioning Project is to create a unified collaboration among lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and allies with mutual respect, trust and inclusivity, and to mobilize and empower presence that fosters equality and well-being for lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender people.

Note: The Visioning Project has moved away from the "LGBT" acronym to highlight that there are differences among communities and that there is room to work together. This is very important as it opens the process to acknowledging the need for respect and dialogue.

National



Happenings

## Black Press Steps Up Coverage of LGBT Issues

Historically, black press outlets have provided limited coverage of LGBT issues outside of marriage equality, religion and the down low. But in recent months, these outlets have been increasing and expanding coverage of black LGBT issues.

Part of that change is fueled by the growing visibility of openly LGBT people and allies from communities of African descent. Within the last year, Kanye West and the Rev. Al Sharpton have emerged as vocal combatants against homophobia within hip hop and black church communities, respectively.

"Many outlets are concerned that if they offer too much LGBT coverage ... their conservative readership will respond with letters of complaint and phone calls," says Katina Parker, GLAAD's

Media Manager for Communities of African Descent. "The increasing presence of vocal activists and allies challenges those assumptions and we see the results through more stories with LGBT angles."

The Amsterdam News, a weekly New York newspaper, is leading the way with articles like "Black New Yorkers: 'Gayest Great-Grandmother in the Country'" (Aug. 14, 2003) which profiles the life of the Rev. Magora Kennedy, a former Black Panther, a mother of five, a grandmother of 15, and an out lesbian whose activism dates back to Stonewall. Special attention is paid to youth issues in "Kids with Gay Parents Talk About Their Families" (May 12-18, 2005).

Jet Magazine covered the coming out story of WNBA MVP Sheryl

Swoopes' (Nov. 14, 2005) and its Feb. 20, 2006, tribute to Coretta Scott King acknowledged Mrs. King's commitment to LGBT equality. Most impressively, the March 27, 2006, issue featured a story about Jennifer Jones, a black lesbian senior at Hood College who won her school's homecoming king title after being barred from the competition the previous year.

With articles like "Two Mommy Household" (July 2002) Essence Magazine has given admirable visibility to black lesbians, in part due to the presence of editor-at-large Linda Villarosa, an out lesbian who has since left the magazine. However, the magazine's extensive down low coverage has characterized bisexual men as irresponsible disease carriers.

gay-straight alliances contributed to a greater sense of safety, fewer reports of missing days of school, and a higher incidence of planning to attend college.

Only nine states and the District of Columbia have comprehensive anti-bullying laws that specifically address bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation and only three of these laws mention gender identity. Nine other states have "generic" anti-bullying laws that do not specifically define bullying or enumerate categories of protected classes such as sexual orientation or gender identity. The remaining 32 states have no bullying laws at all.

The NSCS found that both states with generic anti-bullying laws and states with no laws at all had equally high rates of verbal harassment. States with inclusive policies that specifically enumerate categories including sexual orientation and gender identity, however, have significantly lower rates of verbal harassment (31.6 percent vs. 40.8 percent).

GLSEN's National School Climate Survey has been conducted biennially since 1999. This year's survey includes responses from 1,732 LGBT students between the ages of 13 and 20 from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

## Survey Sheds New Light on Experiences of LGBT Students

Washington — The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) has announced findings from its 2005 National School Climate Survey, the only national survey to document the experiences of students who identify as LGBT in America's schools.

Key findings of the survey include: Three-fourths of students heard derogatory remarks such as "faggot" or "dyke" frequently or often at school. Over a third of students experienced physical harassment at school on the basis of sexual orientation and more than a quarter on the basis of gender expression. Nearly one-fifth of students had been physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation and over a tenth because of their gender expression.

Furthermore, compared with the general population of students, LGBT students were five times more likely to report having skipped school in the last month because of safety concerns and twice as likely to report they were not planning to pursue any post-secondary education.

On the positive side, the presence of supportive staff and

International



Happenings

## Exhibit in Holland Depicts Persecution of Gays Under the Nazis

Amsterdam — Together with a number of gay Iranian asylum-seekers, a member of the Dutch Parliament, Ayaan Hirsi Ali, opened the exhibition "Who Can I Trust Now?" in the former refugee and transit camp Westerbork last month.

The exhibition tells the story of the persecution of and resistance by homosexual men and lesbian women under the Nazis and during the German occupation of the Netherlands. "Who Can I Trust Now?" is based on recent research and uses personal testimonies and unique visual materials.

The exhibit presents a review of the past that raises questions for the present, most notably: Are the freedoms that have been won by homosexual men and women in the Netherlands and Europe being given away? Such freedoms are put at risk by the threat of violence on the streets; the harassment of homosexual teachers and students, which forces them out of schools; and the asylum procedure, currently under consideration by the Dutch government, that would send homosexual refugees back to countries where homosexuality is punishable by death, such as Iran.

Sixty years after the German occupation of the Netherlands, this is the first exhibit dealing exclusively with the experiences of homosexual men and lesbian women under the Nazis. "Who Can I Trust Now?" is therefore also a late salute to these forgotten men and women. The legislation enacted by the Nazis remained in place for decades and the persecution of homosexuals was not recognized.

The exhibit will first be shown in the former camp at Westerbork, which was initially a camp set up for German Jews fleeing the Nazis and was later used by the Nazis as a transit camp for Jews and other victims of persecution destined for elimination. The exhibition will then tour the Netherlands. For more information, go to [www.vertrouwen.nu](http://www.vertrouwen.nu).

## Founder of Palestinian Lesbian Group Recognized for Human Rights Work

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) will present its 2006 Felipa de Souza Award to Rauda Morcos, founder of ASWAT (Voices), the first group for Palestinian lesbians in the region.

Since 1994, the Felipa Award has recognized the courage and impact of grassroots groups and leaders dedicated to improving the human rights of LGBT and other individuals stigmatized and abused because of their sexuality. The award embodies the spirit of Felipa de Souza, who endured persecution and brutality after proudly declaring her intimacy with a woman during a 16th-century inquisition trial in Brazil. It carries with it a \$5,000 stipend to assist and strengthen the ability of grassroots human rights groups to do their work.

In 2002, Rauda Morcos joined a virtual forum for Palestinian lesbians, the first opportunity for lesbian women to communicate openly with each other in Israel and in the occupied Palestinian territories. After the success of the online forum, Morcos co-

founded ASWAT, which means Voices, in January 2003 as a place for Palestinian lesbian women to meet face to face. ASWAT has since grown and developed a range of urgently needed programs under the guidance of Morcos.

"As the first Arab to be given this award, I am honored as a member of ASWAT and because such an award brings a sense of legitimacy to our organization within the Palestinian community," said Rauda Morcos. "Just think how this will sound to women or men in our communities — that a person gets awarded for who they are as a lesbian and that being a lesbian is something to be celebrated. The award also sends a message that LGBTQI people are not just about sex but also about political action and human rights activities."

ASWAT programs and services include advocacy, outreach and education; monthly support group meetings; an information center that runs the Web site and a support line; crisis assistance in response to hate crimes, employment discrimination etc.; and an educational project for service providers who work with youth.

Morcos will receive the Felipa Award at a ceremony in New York on May 23 and in San Francisco on May 25.



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## Camp Heartland and MGAC Present

## 'Shed Your Winter Coat' — a Doggie Cocktail Party

If you're a dog owner, you know well that sad look you get each time you walk out the door without a leash in hand — that look that says, "Hey, buddy, I thought we were best pals! Take me with you!" Well, on May 20, you can!

Camp Heartland and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center are hosting a first-ever Doggie Cocktail Party from 6 to 11 p.m. at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. Tickets are \$50 per human and include hearty hors d'oeuvres, a complementary first cocktail (followed by a fully stocked cash bar), and an evening of fun for both you and your four-legged friend. To make up for all the times you left your darling alone, pooches will be treated to free cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the Canine Club — a bar and snack buffet of their own!

**A First-Ever Event**

This exclusive event is the brainchild of Camp Heartland's development manager, Mary Vitrano. "I'm focused on making it fun and easy for people to support Camp Heartland kids. We've received a lot of positive feedback for coming up with fresh event ideas." She adds, "So really, our Doggie Cocktail Party is as a result of the unique relationship we're building with the community. We're looking forward to an entertaining night showcasing Milwaukee's most stylish hounds!"

Although the concept is dog-based, those who don't own a dog but want to support two great causes while having a fantastic evening are also welcome to attend. For dog owners in the crowd, the event will include a raffle featuring several dog related items — think dog salons, treats, toys, daycare passes and fashion! A photographer will be on hand to take photos that you can show off all summer long.

**Cause-Related Fun**

The partnership between Camp Heartland and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center stems from their common relationship with communities that have been impacted by HIV and AIDS. "I think that for a long time AIDS was seen as a disease that primarily affected gay populations. As it has become more manageable, many have forgotten that it started as the major disease of the LGBT community," says Don Hoffman, who serves on MGAC's board of directors. "It makes sense that the disease continues to be one that is held close to heart because we were faced with it early on, and it devastated so many of us. In respect for those who have passed, we should never forget. We need to make sure that we as a community continue to do what we can to fight this disease."

This event aims to do just that by raising funds and awareness for both organizations. The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center serves the Milwaukee and regional LGBT and general

arts communities by providing a safe, secure and friendly environment for LGBT artists to express, display and perform visual and performing arts as well as provide related educational opportunities.

Camp Heartland is a national nonprofit organization based in Milwaukee and Minneapolis. In its 13th year, Camp Heartland continues to bring hope, strength and a safe haven to hundreds of children around the country forever affected by the isolation and tragedy of HIV/AIDS. The organization funds 100 percent of camper expenses for each of the over 700 children a year that attend a week-long program at the Willow River, Minn., and Malibu, Calif., locations. At camp, children make friends, have fun, and develop new skills and self confidence, while experiencing a sense of liberation and unconditional acceptance. For many campers, Camp Heartland is their primary support network for HIV/AIDS related issues.

In addition to the summer camp, Camp Heartland supports these children with year-round programs including "mini-session" reunions, day trips, a national leadership retreat and the Journey of Hope Awareness Program, which allows campers to share their unique stories and important messages about compassion and prevention of HIV/AIDS to people throughout the country.

Campers receive newsletters, access to a crisis care hotline, and birthday and get-well packages through the year, all of which reaffirm that they are not alone in the midst of such an isolating disease. Year-round support is vital to the health of these children, nearly half of whom live behind a veil of secrecy, keeping their HIV/AIDS status hidden from friends and neighbors.

**Don't miss this rare opportunity to bond over cocktails with your four-legged friend! Call Mary today at 414-272-1118 ext. 26 to order your tickets.**

Visit [www.campheartland.org](http://www.campheartland.org) for more information on Camp Heartland's programs, services, and events and ways to get involved. For information about the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's upcoming shows and exhibits, visit [www.milwaukeegayartscenter.com](http://www.milwaukeegayartscenter.com).

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# Future of Milwaukee High School of the Arts in Jeopardy

## Haven for LGBT Kids Faces Funding Crunch

By Cyndie Ody-Weis

It's not just a stereotype: Gay culture and the arts go together. In Milwaukee, as in many other places, an LGBT presence permeates the arts scene. Similarly, LGBT teens thrive and the arts flourish at Milwaukee High School of the Arts (MHSA), the only dedicated arts high school in Wisconsin and a place where past and current students estimate that 40 to 60 percent of the student body is LGBT.

The future is uncertain for this pride of Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), this place of nurturing and growth that fuels Milwaukee's art venues and pride-filled hearts. MHSA is in financial trouble.

MPS Superintendent William Andrekopolous recently met with MHSA administrative leadership to discuss budget concerns. That meeting prompted a letter to families of current and new students. "It looks as though MHSA will be able to maintain its dedicated arts programs for the 2006-07 school year. ... [I]t is unlikely that the school would be able to continue its programming beyond that date," was the zinger in the letter sent in March. Principal Eugene Humphrey and MHSA Governance Council Chair Angela Hamilton, whose names appear at the bottom of the letter, add that hope is alive as MPS officials, parents, staff and students continue to explore new funding options.

Given that the percentage of rainbow students at MHSA has probably been stable for the past 20 years, and adding in their friends and allies, that means there are probably thousands of MHSA grads and fans reading this in their community news, Q Life.

### Arts Education Benefits Milwaukee and Youth

Perhaps you found an outlet for artistic self-expression or flourished in the creative, stimulating environment at MHSA. Maybe you remember your first dance solo, band concert or pit orchestra gig at MHSA. Certainly, all of us Milwaukee arts aficionados have relished performances of MHSA students. In the past couple years, MHSA students performed with Shorewood Players, Modjeska Youth Theatre, Art in Motion, Skylight Opera, First Stage, MYSO, Ko-Thi, Danceworks and Milwaukee Ballet Pre-Professional Program, among others.

Milwaukee benefits in so many ways from nurturing the next generation of creative minds. According to the Americans for the Arts Organization, students with academic and arts foundations are more productive workers, better team players and more creative problem solvers — all assets to the business and nonprofit worlds. In addition, students who participate in the arts at least three hours per day, three days each week are:

- Four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.

- Three times more likely to be elected to class office within their schools.

- Four times more likely to participate in a math and science fair.

- Three times more likely to win an award for school attendance.

Young artists read for pleasure nearly twice as often and perform community service more than four times as often as their non-arts-involved peers according to a study at Stanford University. And according to the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Endowment for the Arts, the arts deter delinquent behavior and truancy in at-risk youth while increasing their overall academic performance. Wow!

### Arts Schools Are Safe Havens for LGBT Kids

As a parent of a gay teenager and ally to LGBT folks, I have listened to hundreds of stories of harassment, ostracism and isolation. Standing in contrast to scary accounts of bullying and hate crimes are stories of LGBT teens flourishing at MHSA. Hundreds have told me they would not be alive today if not for a place where they could be themselves and have an outlet in the arts. MHSA is a life-supporting as well as an arts-nurturing venture.

Even the MHSA slogan, "Where students make their niche and never settle for one," celebrates excellence and affirmation. A glance at students leaving at the end of the school day confirms the diversity in appearance, associations and interests: A palette of hair colors, a harmony of apparel, a moving collage of shapes of instrument cases and a melody of individuality flow from the former West Division High School building at 23rd and Highland each school day.

Where else can our LGBT kids feel safe? Where else will artistic kids go? Where will they grow? Certainly, Milwaukee is rich in arts education opportunities for those who can afford and access it. But with 44 percent of youth at MHSA qualifying for free or reduced lunch, sometimes they have little money for the "extras."

And for many MHSA youth, arts are not extras; they are essential for students' well-being. An artistic and accepting community keeps kids alive. Without daily affirmation and acceptance, teens falter. LGBT teens commit suicide at three times the average rate. Our kids and our community all need MHSA to continue arts programming because it keeps kids alive and allows them to thrive.

### How to Help Keep Hope Alive

How can you help keep hope alive? How can the LGBT community and the Milwaukee community keep the music playing at MHSA?

Come downtown to Pere Marquette Park and the Wisconsin Historical Society on May 19, 20 and 21 for

Experience Art, a benefit festival and celebration of the best in arts education. The festival benefits MHSA and other MPS arts schools. Professional artists, current students and alumni can donate performances to generate funds to help sustain public arts education. In addition, The Love Monkeys will perform May 19; Hot Sauce, May 20; and Paul Cebar and the Milwaukeeans, May 21.

Dedicated volunteers from the MHSA family, community people and producer Bill Drilias, who was instrumental in establishing Summerfest and Bastille Days, support the festival with additional financial and practical support from the Cream City Links, a civic organization. For information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Amalia Schoone at 414-443-0240 or amalia@sbcglobal.net.

Attend performances: Ragtime, directed by Skylight Opera Theatre's education director Ray Jivoff, will run April 28 and 29 and May 6 at 7:30 p.m., and May 7 at 2 p.m. Call

**Come downtown on May 19, 20 and 21 for Experience Art, a benefit festival and celebration of the best in arts education.**

414-934-7000 for tickets.

Contact your school board members to ask them to preserve quality arts education at MHSA.

Donate your time, services or money. Call 414-934-7000 to volunteer by videotaping, photographing, or printing T-shirts, fliers and program brochures.

Advertise in program brochures. Call 414-934-7000 and ask for Lisa Sherman-Colt.

Check us out on the Web at [www.milwaukeehighschoolofthearts.org](http://www.milwaukeehighschoolofthearts.org).

Make a financial donation. Make your check payable to the Catch a Rising Star Foundation and mail to 2300 W. Highland Ave., Milwaukee WI 53233. Contributions are tax-deductible and all gifts received by May 10 will be recognized at Experience Art 2006 as well as in the 2006-07 performing season playbills.

By doing any of these things, you will make a difference! It's hard to predict how many lives you can touch with your gift of time, talent or money.

Help keep MHSA alive. Catch a rising star, launch a galaxy, support a rainbow. It's Milwaukee's future pot of gold.

# PrideFest Expands Its Horizons

## Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Pavilion Café and Wine Garden Presents Art, Entertainment and History

By Paul Masterson

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, the Milwaukee LGBT History Project and the UWM LGBT Film & Video Festival will collaborate to present a special arts and history pavilion at PrideFest 2006. The MGAC Pavilion will be open throughout PrideFest weekend. SAGE-Milwaukee will provide staff volunteers.

The MGAC Pavilion will host a PrideFest tradition, Milwaukee's LGBT History Timeline, as well as a special entertainment display created by Jerry Johnson. Johnson has assembled a significant archive of local LGBT history with posters and programs documenting nearly four decades of Milwaukee's gay theatre and arts. The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's contribution includes an exhibit of works by local LGBT artists and an interactive art project facilitated and directed by Rosso Art. UWM's LGBT Film &

Video Festival will show a video shorts program to round out PrideFest's new multimedia experience.

Another unique attraction will be on-going live entertainment at the top of each hour from 1-5pm including Shaia Fahrid belly dance, music, and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's Uncommon Theatre featuring Mark Hooker and cast members in spoken word performances. Woman's Voices Milwaukee will offer a preview of their upcoming inaugural concert.

As an added amenity, the pavilion will offer coffee, cold beverages and wine in a garden atmosphere with table seating. PrideFest visitors are encouraged to stop by on Saturday and Sunday to take a relaxing moment while enjoying the MGAC Pavilion's art show, history exhibit and live entertainment.

# 585 Miles of Hope

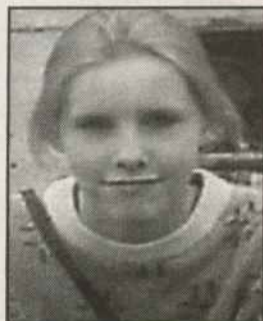
Special to QLife

By Kate Sherry

June is just around the corner. Soon most of us will be lounging in the sun, strolling along the beach, celebrating PrideFest and just enjoying the summer. But while we are marking yet another year of gay pride, there is another anniversary that should be noted.

2006 marks the 25th anniversary of the first reported case of the "gay cancer," which soon became known as AIDS.

Emily Jansen, 19, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, will be doing something this summer to help raise awareness of AIDS and the fact that it is still very much a part of our world. She is a cyclist in the AIDS Lifecycle5 biking event that will raise money for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center.



Emily Jansen

Established in 1982, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is one of the oldest AIDS service organizations in the United States, annually serving 120,000 individuals impacted by HIV and AIDS. It offers a comprehensive array of critical services such as financial benefits counseling, needle exchange, client advocacy and housing assistance.

The L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center has been a leader in battling AIDS and caring for those who are HIV-infected since the earliest days of the pandemic. The center's Jeffrey Goodman Special Care Clinic offers free primary and specialty medical care and distributes more than \$13 million worth of HIV medications to those who can't afford treatment.

The AIDS Lifecycle is not just any ride. It's a seven-day, 585-mile journey from San Francisco to Los Angeles. This year it will take place from June 4 to 10. Last year's AIDS Lifecycle raised more than \$6.8 million.

We recently spoke to Jansen about her involvement in the ride.

**EJ:** Yes, I'm pretty excited about it.

**Q Life:** What are your reasons for joining this event?

**EJ:** I think the number of people who have HIV or AIDS today is enough motivation to do something about it. In more recent times, I think, HIV/AIDS have become something of a non-issue. And although the rate of people with it is increasing, I think education and awareness aren't as prevalent as they had been. There should always be programs and information available to people to educate themselves, or medicines to help them, or financial help out there for them. This ride will help do that. One of the things I like most about the SFAF is that they have programs set up for high-risk rated groups so they can empower themselves with information, and with things like needle exchange, so that they can help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. And the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center is out there helping people with medication when they can't afford it.

## So, What About ... An Interview with Jerry Grillo

By Paul Masterson

Q Life recently spoke with Milwaukee jazz singer Jerry Grillo, who will be appearing on May 19 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center in the first of the center's new cabaret series performances. Proceeds from tickets sales will benefit SAGE-Milwaukee.

**Q Life:** Before we talk about now, could you tell us a little about yourself?

**JG:** Well, I'm a born and raised Minnesotan and came to Milwaukee in 1966 to teach at MPS [the Milwaukee Public Schools] and have been here ever since. I left teaching in 1992 to do music. I took jazz voice at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. I'd been singing pop and musicals but felt in order to be legitimate in a different form I needed to go back to school. I studied for two years with Jackie Allen who has since become a Blue Note recording artist. She encouraged me to record.

**Q Life:** And did you?

**JG:** Yes, I've made a number of CDs.

**Q Life:** And is jazz what you're doing now?

**JG:** Pretty much. My style is jazz and I sing big band standards from the '30s and '40s.

**Q Life:** Do you have a band?

**JG:** No, I play with different smaller jazz groups like the Fever Band, a younger

group of jazz musicians. But I've sung with the Nick Contorno Orchestra. It's a 15-piece, traditional, big band orchestra. Other times I sing with performers I happen to hook up with. It's all about improvisation so you don't need your own band.

**Q Life:** And your favorite song?

**JG:** I don't have one particular favorite. I like them all, especially the Tin Pan Alley standards.

**Q Life:** Do you compose as well?

**JG:** I've written a few songs. They're in an easier, smooth jazz vein. They're more pop with a jazz influence and meant to appeal to a wider audience.

**Q Life:** So, what about your cabaret appearance at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center on May 19?

**JG:** It's a beautiful space with clean live sound. I'll probably mic myself. I sometimes sing very soft but have the mic turned down low. It adds ambiance. I'm performing with Barry Veleman on keyboard. He's well known around town and has recorded with me on a couple of my albums. He's the best jazz pianist in town.

**Q Life:** How did the SAGE benefit come about?

**JG:** I was in contact with Bill Serpe and actually sang for them a number of years ago. Someone suggested it and I figured any organization like that can always use a boost.

**Q Life:** Do you feel that people in your age group are not particularly concerned about HIV/AIDS?

**EJ:** I think the majority would express sympathy about it, but it's not really an issue they choose to tackle or do anything about — unfortunately.

**Q Life:** How did you hear about the ride?

**EJ:** Through a friend of family. She did it last year as one of the roadies, and her partner participated in the ride. They both had so many good things to say about it and knew I was interested and invited me for this year's ride. I'm not sure if they will be participating this year, but I think they are going to help get me in contact with some of their friends who are going to be riding. There really isn't a buddy system during the ride, but in terms of preparation and things like that, every rider gets assigned a cycle buddy you can call regarding training and fundraising and any concerns you might have.

**Q Life:** How can others get involved even if they don't want to ride in the event?

**EJ:** By giving me a donation! I still have quite a bit to raise, actually, since it's been tough to get people to commit to it. ... I have family members who have checks ready, but beyond that, I might have to go door to door to see what I can get! Hopefully the readers who see this will be interested enough to log on and send a donation.

**Q Life:** How can people donate to help with your fundraising?

**EJ:** By visiting my link on the AIDS Lifecycle Web site, [www.aidslifecycle.org/2112](http://www.aidslifecycle.org/2112).

**Q Life:** How many cyclists participate in this ride?

**EJ:** Probably at least 5,000, but it could be more! They had more people sign up this year than for the past rides.

**Q Life:** It's a long ride — 585 miles. What do you do to take care of yourself during the journey?

**EJ:** They have people on site that help with your warm-ups by helping to stretch you out along the way. If you have problems completing the miles for that day, there are cars that can pick you up along the way and help you out. There are the roadies who set up the camps for the riders and cook food for them and basically look out for them. Plus the mileage varies day to day, mostly due to some hills here and there, so you may go only 90 miles one day, then less or more the next. So some days will be easier than others.

**Q Life:** Do you think you'll have any problem completing it?

**EJ:** I don't think so. I'm really positive about it, and I'm confident I can do it!

According to the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, almost 22 million men, women and children worldwide have died of AIDS, and an estimated 40 million people are living with HIV. The growing need for services like those provided by the beneficiaries of AIDS Lifecycle marks a growing need for action from the community.

It's people like Emily Jansen who keep AIDS awareness in the public eye. You can help her do just that by donating to the cause. Sponsor Jansen's ride at [www.aidslifecycle.org/2112](http://www.aidslifecycle.org/2112). For more information on AIDS Lifecycle5, visit [www.aidslifecycle.org](http://www.aidslifecycle.org).

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## The Jude Verdict: An Alarming Example of Missed Justice



### EDITORIAL

It's unclear exactly what went down in the jury room last month during the deliberations on the Frank Jude beating case. But whatever led 12 seemingly intelligent folks to deliver a not-guilty verdict against three Milwaukee police officers charged with beating a man to within inches of his life is unsettling and questionable at best.

Here are the facts.

Frank Jude was beaten. Our front cover picture proves that point.

Even the defense is not disputing that. Several civilians saw it happen. In fact hours were spent reliving this horrid, bone-crushing event.

The problem?

It appears the jury's acquittal had very little to do with the reality of the beating; the verdict boiled down to who said what — and the credibility of the witnesses the prosecution put on the stand.

That all seems to make sense.

Juries don't operate in a vacuum. When your star victim is hauled in from jail to testify in his own defense because he's serving time for beating up his own mom, even a sympathetic person would ask if Jude's anger issues may be partly to blame for the force with which the cops had to restrain him.

But then comes the picture of his broken face — viciously mauled after cops beat the tar out of him. And all feelings about Jude's bad judgment are off base.

So what went wrong? The bottom line is clear. The jury simply didn't buy the story the prosecution's witness put forward about, mainly, whose fists and boots were responsible for this vicious attack.

And what made the situation worse is that, because of the so-called "code of silence" that many police offices appear to live by here in Milwaukee, cops whose job it is to protect us and tell the truth stayed mum instead of speaking out against what they saw happen at the hands of their friends and peers in blue.

Even though it's clear many cops were there and saw what happened, very few came forward to set the jury straight on the events of the evening.

That's the real crime here.

A crime that demands justice and swift action by the mayor, police chief and other city leaders.

This "code of silence" must be challenged and be debunked. If that means federal investigators need to get involved in this case, then so be it.

Also, steps must be taken to ensure cops are held accountable for egregious actions such as these. After all, this "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil" mentality is what has brought the Catholic Church to its knees. It's also helped to empty several bank accounts of major archdioceses nationwide.

Something also needs to be said about

how our local D.A. handles cases like this in the future. Investigators must immediately speak to witnesses about what happens at a crime scene — especially a beating such as this at the hands of the very folks the taxpayers employ to protect them.

Finally, what was the judge in this case thinking to allow an all-white jury to decide this case?

While the jury members may have been chosen fairly from a pool of many, it is common sense to make sure people of color are represented in the decision making process. This was a highly charged incident — and no matter which way the verdict went, a diverse jury would have added credibility to their decision.

So now what?

The feds need to get involved and this case needs to be tried again, this time in federal court.

There is no question the police were wrong and this beating demands justice for Frank Jude and the rest of the people of Milwaukee that pay cops. Unfortunately, a retrial may continue to bring negative press to the city. However, doing nothing about this beating and letting these police officers skate free is even more dangerous.

Also, there needs to be a real move inside City Hall by the mayor and the police chief to stop this "good ol' boy, keep your mouth shut" attitude that police have employed and gotten away with for years.

Kudos to both Mayor Barrett and Chief Hegerty for speaking out against this beating and their vocal opposition to the jury's verdict. But now more must be done to ensure this never happens again.

The time has come for our city to stop being viewed as a bastion of hateful actions by the police against already marginalized communities. Beatings, intimidation and unlawful practices must not be tolerated and must be met with swift, strong action.

After all, who wants to live in a city

that continues to be thrust into the national spotlight for actions that are so blatantly hateful and discriminatory?

Maybe this is one reason why our city's population continues to drop each year. It certainly can't be driving people here.



### Letters to the Editor

Dear Holly:

I am glad to see your article made front page ("Flag Flap," April 2006). Again the bubblers are boiling at City Hall. Seems there are feathers being ruffled over this. You may have hit the nail on the head when you mention conspiracy. There may be larger forces at work here to keep those banners from going up. Developers in the area have the power here. There was little opposition from the area businesses. It is all the new development that is blocking the project.

You need to look into those as possible reasons for the sudden turn around by the city. These developers knew going into the projects that the neighborhood was primarily gay. A good portion of the buyers of their condos are gay. Would it make a difference to those gays that the developers they are purchasing their condos from are anti-gay? They will take their money but want to cater to the straight couples. Check it out. Love the story.

Maggie (not my real name)

Dear Editor:

I write this today as a politically active member and outspoken advocate of the LGBTI community in Milwaukee.

I am disconcerted by the alleged manner in which the organizers of PrideFest at every level have failed, in my opinion, to cooperate with those who support the current independent effort to

continued on page 13



letters continued from page 12

host a pride parade.

The current PrideFest leadership should do more to express their gratitude to the parade committee and the dedicated persons involved in this independent opportunity for public expression, and thank them for their willingness to continue the historic parade tradition, instead of creating such divisive opposition to the parade effort by offering the community a festival schedule in which its Sunday entertainment directly conflicts with the parade schedule.

PrideFest has, in my opinion, the ethical responsibility to reflect appropriate representation for the LGBTI community as a whole and its diversified opinions and organizations.

Unfortunately, it seems, however, that it consistently fails to rise to the challenge of inclusion of persons and groups that it may appear to disagree with.

In doing so, the festival has apparently become a private corporation whose LGBTI witness citywide appears to be driven more by profit and less by the pride that brought us all together at the very beginning of the movement.

This saddens me. I feel we need to get back to our roots for the simple reason that we are all called to do better, to place LGBTI people before festival profits.

If we cannot open our hearts to one another, how can we expect the public to sincerely open their minds to the concerns of LGBTI families and their cause for marriage recognition in our continued struggle for equal rights?

Concerned,  
The Rev. Neil Andrew, O.M.S.

Letter to editor?

An Open Letter from Rainbow Sash Movement (LGBT Catholics) Challenges Soulforce to Enter into Dialogue

The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. We are contacting you out of deep concern that you are doing harm to our efforts in communication with our Catholic Bishops. We understand your zeal. However, zeal must be tempered with prudence. We wholeheartedly accept your support but not your leadership. We are Roman Catholics who believe in our Teaching Magisterium, the Sense of the Faithful, and the Primacy of Conscience.

We ask that you respect our differences of faith, and allow LGBT Roman Catholics and other Catholic organizations to challenge the homophobia in our Church.

We do not doubt your good will, but we feel that you think you know better what is good for us than we ourselves do. In spirit of Christ we are calling for dialogue. However, we feel called to protect LGBT Catholics from those who would challenge our faith.

Peace of Christ,  
Joe Murray  
U.S. Convener, Rainbow Sash Movement

# Roadshow Review

## Pit Stop here in Milwaukee Enters Winners' Circle

By Michael Munson

**A** packed house filled the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center for the Tranny Roadshow on April 6. A diverse group of trans-identified performance artists, writers and musicians joined together for a second tour along the East Coast and through the Midwest.

The two-hour nonstop show began with co-organizer Kelly Shortandqueer's series of early transition vignettes, detailing humorous tales of coming out as male while working at Office Max. Kelly's fast-paced narrative set the tone for the show, framing basic transgender issues in ways that both trans and non-trans audience members alike could appreciate, allowing them to laugh at some of the struggles and ironies of gender transition.



Tona Brown shared three unaccompanied opera pieces followed by two reflective violin solos. Tona set the tone for seely quest's powerful poetry on Jewish oppression and broad-based discrimination. S/he softly, but fervently, spoke of hir father and hir disability and how the historic events in hir life shaped hir current reality.

Milwaukee's own Miltown King, Willy Fister, punctuated the evening with a head-banging lip-sync of "I'm Not Sick, but I'm Not Well." Audience members struggled to wrap their heads around the concept of a male-to-female drag king, but Willy's gender was irrelevant when s/he moved from hard rock to a series of three deeply serious poems, read with passion and intensity. Willy closed with a Power Point projection of images of discrimination and hardship,

while lip-syncing to "Try to See It My Way."

Much like Kelly Shortandqueer, co-organizer Jamez Terry also read a running narrative, this one focused on his 12 grandparents and filled with intergenerational stories. Funky AJ Bryce rocked listeners with his unaccompanied electric guitar, flying solo from his band, 42 Point Nothing.

The highlights of the evening came from Dylan Scholinski and Imani Henry.

Dylan's complex art was simply displayed in the adjoining bar area of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. He gently read pieces from his startling memoir, "The Last Time I Wore a Dress," interjecting witty comments as he read. He also shared details from several pieces of his art, including three frames from the series "Nine Ways to Commit Suicide," which takes a humorous look at methods of suicide.

Imani Henry — activist, writer, anti-war advocate — performed a short portion of his brilliant "B4T," weaving together multifaceted stories of his family and his trans emergence. If you missed Imani's performance, you'll have the chance to see him again next year as one of the headline performers at the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference. (For more information about the first national FTM+/SOFFA Conference to be held in the Midwest, go to [www.forge-forward.org/conference](http://www.forge-forward.org/conference).)

Special thanks to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and Q Life for hosting and promoting the event, making it possible for the Tranny Roadshow to serve as the first fundraiser for the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Onion also promoted and covered the performance, enhancing attendance and awareness of the event.



## 'Take Me Out' Hits A Home Run

By Jesse Jack Sabbath

**W**hether it's the celebrity obsession, which never deviates from its black-and-white dichotomy, the abhorrence of full frontal male nudity, or the tendency to make laughable caricatures out of homosexuals, there's something about Richard Greenberg's "Take Me Out" that is inherently American.

Still, even for those whose love of baseball has fallen shamefully by the wayside, the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's production of Greenberg's 2003 Tony Award-winning play is likely to inspire nostalgic laughter and tears.

Forget the naked men. Greenberg has acknowledged that their inclusion is an homage to realism not perversion, and indeed, nudity seems to fade in the face of the work's deeper themes, including manhood, synthesis and betrayal.

Hasani Issa is, at times, perfectly apathetic as Darren Lemming, a major league symbol of America's undying love of celebrity. Alternately, Eddie Collins, as Darren's intelligent jock friend,

Kippy, exudes an appropriate amount of dubious, apple pie charm.

The play's intermission reads a bit like an unnecessary seventh inning stretch, but, bottom of the ninth and bases loaded, Collins and company do their best to hit one out of the park.

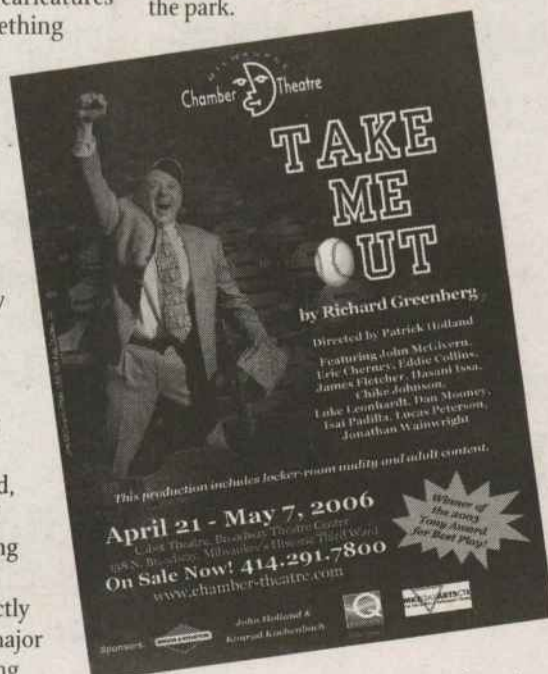
with a loose and somehow refreshing Southern repression. Likewise, Lucas Kwan Peterson stands out as the team's inherently eastern import, Takeshi Kawabata.

And although local icon John McGivern's Mason Marzac gives way, eventually, to a kind of Will and Grace inspired homosexual blackface, it's due more to the weaker second act than to his otherwise charming performance.

One has, indeed, to wonder whether some of the roles are intended to be played to a racist audience. The characters of Isai Padilla (Martinez) and Luke Leonhardt (Rodriguez) speak nothing but sexually charged Spanish which seems, sometimes, meaningfully lost to a particularly Anglo audience.

And perhaps that's the point. Perhaps it's realistically and currently American. Perhaps the play is about, as one character puts it, simply "honoring ourselves as we move through time." In all of our myriad forms.

Tickets to Milwaukee Chamber Theatre's production of "Take Me Out," which runs through May 7, are available at the Broadway Theatre Center Box Office, 158 N. Broadway, or by phone at 414-291-7800. For more information, visit [www.chamber-theatre.com](http://www.chamber-theatre.com).



Jonathan Wainwright's portrayal of seemingly vacant hick pitcher Shane Mungitt is fraught

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# Déjà Vu: Gay Sex in the New Millennium

## Available on DVD

By Jesse Jack Sabbath

There is beauty in the world. Dire beauty. So seems to say Joseph F. Lovett's little-known 2005 documentary, "Gay Sex in the '70s."

The film's opening, composed of random outtakes set to the sleazy disco beat of Taana Gardner's "Work That Body," does much to celebrate that beauty: the muscle boys, the Tom of Finland mustachioed leather men, the piers, the baths.

Through a series of interviews with those who survived the gay rights movement's seemingly utopian backlash, we're reminded of a period in history that appears to be (as one interviewee puts it) "the most libertine time the Western World has seen since the Romans."

Those interviewed, including erotic photographer Tom Bianchi and infamous gay activist Larry Kramer (who, contrary to popular opinion, is still with us), give an accurate and sometimes frightening overview of the circus that was gay sex

in the '70s — right down to the hot dog carts selling supplies to excited truck stop tricking homosexuals.

Ironically, Kramer, whose views on the state of the current gay rights movement might shock some folks, is allowed little screen time to polemicize. But perhaps he should have been. In a time when many think that the AIDS crisis has come and gone, there's certainly a niche for brutal honesty.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, men who have sex with men accounted for approximately half of new HIV diagnoses in the United States in 2004. Additionally, at some point, there appeared a whole (debatable disturbed) subset of homosexuals who began passing on the virus intentionally, and a subset of others who willingly had themselves infected.

One has to wonder if these are survivors of the primary AIDS wave, those who witnessed friends and lovers wasting away before their eyes. Or perhaps the majority of "gift givers" and "bug chasers" are historically vacant youths, kids bent on cutting their teeth and bitter because they "can't even smoke in a bar, not

to mention have sex in a park."

Regardless, "Gay Sex in the '70s" is not totally lacking in tenderness. One refugee of the plague plays constantly with a small pile of pottery shards, each plastered with a face of one of the fallen; another suggests that just having friends was the best thing about free love.

In fact, all of the film's subjects express their eventual disillusionment with the decade's unavoidably raunchy antics. Their rituals died. The sex became habit.

Homosexuals having gay sex in the '70s wanted companionship and closeness, as do most modern gays. Why, then, does it seem that they're once again substituting sex for conversation?

Will our own modern backlash (this, since medications have rendered HIV a livable condition for the insured) lead us to the same place? Are homosexuals again destined to metaphorically mirror the film's final image of broken-down piers, the lingering survivors a sporadic testament to their own dilapidated past?

# Legendary LGBT Novelist Felice Picano to Appear at Outwords Books

Felice Picano, who according to The New York Times Book Review is "a word machine who approaches the page with a newcomer's exuberance," comes to Outwords Books Gifts & Coffee May 13 to give a reading from his latest book.

Picano has recently published a collection of seven ground-breaking, science-fiction short stories, "Tales from a Distant Planet," that displays his typical stylistic mastery and daring.

In one story, "The Perfect Setting," landscape paintings give clues to the crimes they depict, crimes that occurred in the past, unbeknownst to the artist creating them.

People of different epochs experience fragile encounters and love affairs in "Ingoldsby," a unique time-travel story. And future interplanetary explorers find themselves caught up in a seductively dangerous planet in "Food for Thought." All seven stories are gripping experiences that will take readers not only out of this world, but on a literary journey that far surpasses the usual mundane read.

Considered a founder of modern gay literature, Picano, along with Christopher Cox, Robert Ferro, Michael Grumley, Andrew Holleran, Edmund White and George Whitmore, formed the legendary Violet


Quill, which helped create the post-Stonewall renaissance of American gay male writing. Picano also founded two publishing companies: the SeaHorse Press and Gay Presses of New York. He has been a regular writer for the San Francisco Examiner, the Lesbian & Gay Review and the Lambda Book Report.

Picano is the author of 20 books, including the best-selling novels "Like People in History," "Looking Glass Lives" and "The Lure" and the literary memoirs "Ambidextrous," "Men Who Loved Me" and "A House on the Ocean, a House on the Bay." He is also co-author, with Charles Silverstein, of the best-selling "The New Joy of

Gay Sex."

He has won the Ferro-Grumley Award for best gay novel ("Like People in History") and the PEN Syndicated Fiction Award for best short story and has been nominated for three Lambda Literary Awards. A native of New York, Picano now lives in Los Angeles.

Picano will read from "Tales from a Distant Planet" beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, at Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. This is a free event and all are welcome. For more information, call 414-963-9089 or visit [www.outwordsbooks.com](http://www.outwordsbooks.com).



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# It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Paint

As a decorator I'm always on the hunt for something new and unusual. So when Maren Valentine of the Sherwin Williams Company asked me to be a judge at their first ever faux painting competition, I immediately said yes.

For the last 20 or so years, the Sherwin Williams Company has been holding yearly Pro Shows for their contractors, painters and decorators. More than 50 talented painters and artists competed in the competition at this year's Pro Show at the Wisconsin State Fair Park Products Pavilion.

As judges, our charge was to evaluate each sample on the four elements of concept, color, materials and skillful application. The winning entry had to be unique with well-coordinated and compatible colors, and had to show innovative use of various media. Above all, there had to be evidence of artistic skill.

Faux painting takes its name from the French word for fake; its cousin, trompe l'oeil, means "fool the eye." Both were in evidence in the entries, delighting and fascinating us all. They showed wide interpretations of marble, stone, tile, wood and various plasters. One sample featured real tile in combination with fake painted tile. Another augmented the design with the application of leaves like decoupage.

Many artists showed their expertise in freehand painting or cutting original stencils. Several lovely samples employed the use of metallics (gold, silver, copper and bronze) — some bold, some burnished. A fabulous sample of mahogany and one of green and

black marble both called out to be touched.

But the judges' unanimous, no-discussion-needed, runaway favorite was a sample by Will Platt of Platt Painting in Pewaukee (262-691-4600). We were completely awed by his rendering of a highly textured, birch-like wood complete with knots. Using four colors, a plaster compound and techniques he learned at the Chicago Institute of Faux Finishing, Will created a sample that was excellent in concept, color, materials and skill.

Will started his career as a general painter, doing both indoor and outdoor projects. He became interested in the challenge of new and more complex painting techniques and immediately liked faux finishing. He specializes in it now because he loves it. And he obviously excels at it.

Faux finishing and trompe l'oeil are ancient arts. Stylized marbling and graining are found on Mycenaean pottery from 2200 BC. In the Third and Fourth Dynasties, a scarcity of timber led the Egyptians to produce realistic fake wood graining. Furniture and objects from their tombs show examples of faux painting, gilding and stenciling.

The English were using glazes and faux painting on walls, furniture and household objects as early as the 17th century. When John Wood the Younger's 18th-century Royal Crescent was rehabbed in Bath, England, in the early 1980s, I had the pleasure of staying at the hotel. It was there that I first saw the classic 18th-century art of layering color washes and glazes. My friends and I were

so taken with the walls that we followed the maids in the morning so that we could peek into as many rooms as possible.

In the 21st century, painting techniques have become more popular than wall paper. It makes sense: Paint has no seams, it's washable, and it lasts a long time. From the samples that were submitted to the faux finish competition, it is obvious that there are many painters and artists doing faux finishing in the greater Milwaukee area. For those of you who would like to do it yourself, two good sources are the Better Homes & Gardens book "Decorative Painting Step by Step" and "Faux Finishing for the First Time," by Rhonda Rainey.

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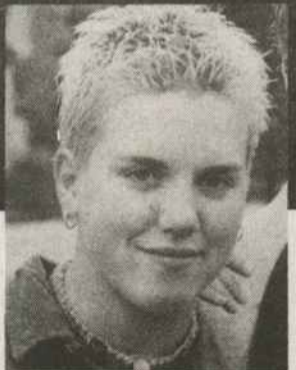
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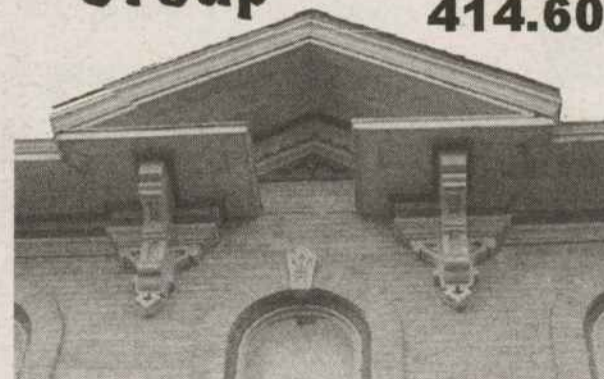


Project Q is the Youth Program of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.



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## 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.

**O**n Good Friday, Wisconsinites learned more about two tragedies: Two boys missing for weeks had been found dead in the McGovern Park lagoon, and a jury found three Milwaukee police officers not guilty of savagely beating Frank Jude Jr. while all were at a party.

In the case of the missing boys, the police response was proactive and aggressive. The police were extremely responsive, publicly reported their progress and process, and were routinely praised for their thorough investigation.

In contrast, the Frank Jude Jr. trial showed the police in a very different light. In this case, police were not only charged with using excessive force, but multiple officers who were present claimed they saw nothing. The two police officers who admitted they had seen their colleagues beat Jude reported peer retaliation. Some question whether the jury brought back not-guilty verdicts due to their own fears of police retaliation.

Although some believe racism is at the

# Police Violence Is a Trans Issue, Too

root of the Jude case (the accused officers are white; Jude is biracial), those of us who are not black and have had our own problems with police misconduct know that African-American Milwaukeeans are not the only ones in danger due to police willingness to cover each others' backs — even at the expense of serving justice, even when substantial battery has taken place. The Jude case suggests that police feel it is their "right" to take matters into their own hands — using violence whenever and however they see fit. The police code of silence coupled with the willingness to attack suspects puts a different spin on the slogan "Silence = Death."

There are other problems with the Milwaukee police force, some not well-reported. For example, national studies have shown that only 2 percent of rape allegations are false. Yet, according to the Sexual Assault Treatment Center, the Milwaukee police reportedly claim anywhere between 30 and 70 percent of reported sexual assaults are false allegations based solely on limited interviews with the victim. In these cases, the police refuse to process DNA evidence, collect crime scene evidence, or interview any other witnesses or suspects. Because the police deem these allegations false, victims are disqualified from accessing victims of crime funds to pay for necessary medical care.

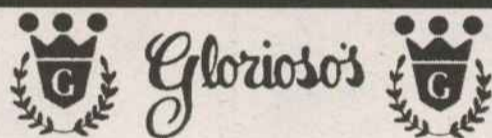
Is this a trans issue? It certainly is. While the Milwaukee police problem seems to be pervasive, socially marginalized

minorities are at increased risk. Trans people and SOFFAs are well aware of this. We are frequent victims of hate crimes, including battery, sexual violence and murder.

If we live through a crime committed against us, we know we could be subjected to treatment similar to what Brandon Teena ("Boys Don't Cry") received from the Nebraska police when he reported being sexually assaulted. We know from experience we may have to endure verbal sexual harassment from the police when we are literally bleeding from a crime committed against us. If and when we need police assistance, we know we may be taunted about our gender and asked offensive and irrelevant questions about the configuration of our genitals.

We worry whether we will even make it to the hospital, sexual assault treatment center or police station. In Tyra Hunter's case, Washington, D.C., first responders stood around her accident-damaged body slinging derogatory epithets, laughing at her "male" genitals and delaying urgently needed medical treatment. She was further mistreated at the emergency room, which resulted in her death. Dana Priesing noted, "ER staff, as evidenced by their actions, did not consider her life worth saving."

Our lives are worth saving. All of our lives are. The question Milwaukee faces is how we're going to ensure our police force not only agrees with that sentiment, but begins to live it.



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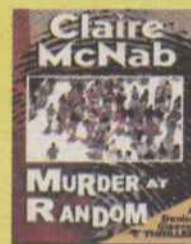
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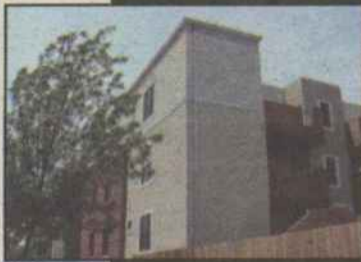
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# What a Friend We Have in the Quakers

The Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers) is holding a celebration of inclusive marriage on May 6 at their Meeting House, 3223 N. Gordon Place, in the Riverwest neighborhood of Milwaukee, starting at 4 p.m.

The Quakers began as a Protestant Christian movement in England in the 1600s. Early Quakers settled Pennsylvania and from there spread throughout the country. There are several branches of Quakers in America, with the Milwaukee Friends Meeting representing the most liberal branch.

One of the attributes of Quakers is that they have no established clergy. (Quakers call

clergy "hirelings.") Instead, the community takes on the roles and responsibilities of clergy. Hence they call their religious community a "meeting." Consensus and decisions arise through special worship sharing services at which people share their thoughts about a specific question. These services help the meeting reach clarity about an issue.

Kathy Daulk, a leader in the Milwaukee meeting, explains that the plan for the celebration grew out of a worship sharing on the proposed amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution that would ban civil unions and marriages for same-sex couples. "People spoke about feeling burdened and overwhelmed by the issue. We realized we needed something joyful and fun. We know how to throw weddings, so we decided to hold a celebration of inclusive marriage."

In the Quaker tradition a couple asks to be "taken in care of the meeting." A committee is appointed to work with the couple around the issue of their readiness to marry. The marriage can only take place once everyone on the committee is clear that the marriage should take place. At the wedding the couple sits in silence until they are ready to make their vows to one another. As part of the service the couple and everyone at the wedding signs a certificate witnessing to the marriage.

The May 6 marriage celebration will

include a special marriage certificate, one that affirms the rights of same-sex couples to marry. Everyone at the event will be invited to sign the certificate. In addition to the worship service there will be education events and opportunities to sign up for work such as canvassing. Gifts will be given to benefit the Fair Wisconsin campaign. Then there will be wedding cake and dancing. All kinds of families and children are welcome to attend.

The Milwaukee Friends have been holding same-sex weddings since 1987 — one of the first religious communities to do so. This early affirmation of LGBT people grew out of the long-standing beliefs of the Quaker tradition. One of those beliefs is that the light of God is in all people. "We believe that each person has their own measure of light. We need to come together as a community to have the maximum wisdom."

The implications of the commitment to honoring the light of God in all people are profound. First, Quakers came to place the emphasis on the wisdom inside the heart of each believer instead of on scripture or creeds. This allows the faith of Quakers to remain dynamic and responsive to God's continuing revelation. Second, it led to two other core beliefs: social equality and pacifism.

Daulk explains, "Early Quakers would be thrown into jail for not taking their hats off



## 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.

to nobles or for refusing to call anyone sir." This rejection of social hierarchies allowed women unusual leadership opportunities at the time. "We were the early feminists," Daulk adds.

This commitment to radical equality led Quakers to become pacifists. During the English Civil War both sides sought to recruit Quakers to their case. Quakers refused, leading even more of them to land in jail. The early resistance to war is still present in the Quaker tradition. Daulk says, "We examine our lives for the seeds of war. We try to live our lives in a way that takes away the occasion for war."

The Milwaukee Friends Meeting is a vibrant faith community representing one of the oldest progressive religious traditions in America. Join the Friends to celebrate inclusive marriage on May 6 or to discover your own light of God on any Sunday at 10:15 a.m.

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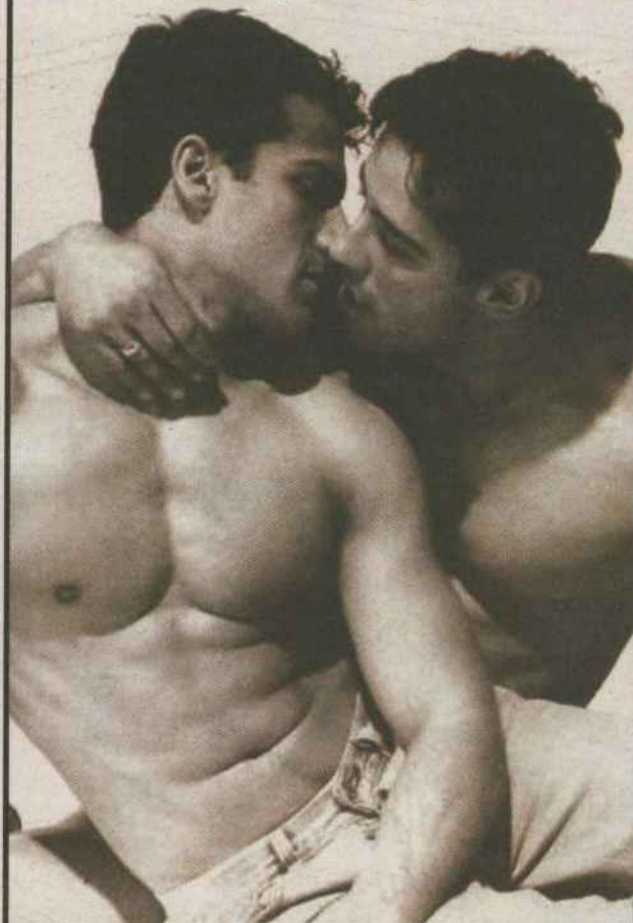
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# Our LGBT Children: A Gift We Unwrap Along the Way

**A**s mom of an out and outspoken gay teen, I am frequently asked, "Are you sure he's gay? When did you first know?" Looking back, I sometimes feel I've always "known;" however, there are many levels of knowing.

When Alex entertained us with a fabulous Cher impersonation at age 3, gay never crossed my mind. With slinky moves, a fabulous wig and perfect pitch, he belted the words to "Believe." Did I imagine a future for him as a female impersonator? No, I merely appreciated his creativity — and I taught him "I Got You Babe."

When Alex developed passions for platform shoes and flared pants, I admired his performer-like fashion sense. To me, it was all just part of Alex.

**I did not peg Alex as an auto mechanic any more than I predicted he'd become a fashion designer. He is and was just Alex**

Alex fell in love with Xena Warrior Princess and later Olivia, a horse. His obsessions included blocking dramatic scenes using Barbie dolls (whose costumes he designed and constructed), mastering gymnastics, collecting every episode of the Hercules and Xena videos, examining minute details of cars and roads, and studying marine biology. A visit to Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum heightened his interest in

Nelson Mandela, the Spice Girls and Ru Paul.

I did not peg Alex as an equestrian or auto mechanic any more than I predicted he'd become a fashion designer or entertainer. He is and was just Alex, a child with diverse interests, amazing talent and a passion for justice.

At the same time, more gay than straight male friends told me Alex reminded them of themselves at a young age. I was honored. I hoped my son would emulate my artistic, sensitive and caring friends.

Researchers report that gay men frequently recall feeling different during childhood. Many remember "gender atypical" interests, like Barbie dolls, cooking and fashion, and crushes on strong female role models, like Xena or Wonder Woman. Indeed, the Center for Gender Atypical Children at National Children's Medical Center in Washington, D.C., reports strong links between childhood gender atypicality and homosexuality in males. (The same does not hold true for females; that is, tomboys are not necessarily young lesbians.)

At some point, I associated my child's unique qualities with his being gay. Or at least I entertained that possibility. But I didn't obsess on it. My job was to teach him coping skills and strength of character to genuinely live the life God intended.

When Alex reached adolescence, it was clear. He loudly declared he was gay and, at 13, decided to tell the world. He thought other young, struggling kids could benefit from his being out. For Alex, coming out and being outspoken were automatically and inexplicably connected. To Alex, already a member of several minority groups, being gay provided one more reason to speak out and pave new pathways to acceptance and equality.

New pathways included asking his health teacher to add gay issues to the study of reproduction and STDs. And in an essay for English class, Alex challenged our old church to confront its hypocrisy.

So when did I know he was gay? It's sort of like asking when I knew he was black, Latino, outspoken or creative. I saw glimpses of all of these along the way. Overall, it's clearer looking back than it was in the moment.

Parenting requires that we build on kids' strengths, help them develop their talents, and endlessly love and support them — whether their traits are ones we appreciate or have difficulty embracing. Preparing children to make a difference, whatever they do and whoever they become, is a parent's gift to the world. At times, we must grow and change ourselves in order to prepare them effectively. Whenever parenting challenges my expertise, I learn more by reading, attending lectures and socializing to soak up





## PARENTING

Cyndie Ody-Weis is mom to two daughters and a son, all of whom date men. Cyndie is an active PFLAG member, college teacher and freelance writer, whose works have been published in *Roots and Wings*, *Adoptive Families*, *Adoptalk*, *Faithwriters* and *Advocate.com*.

cultures and discuss children's development — and mine.


Today, I wish the blessing of having a gay child on all of my closest friends, because it's wonderful. And I join parents everywhere this Mother's Day in saying thank you to all of our children for giving us insight, growth, fulfillment and love. You've made us who we are today.

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Many groups do not see themselves as health-related organizations. Such groups include community organizations, clubs and bars, foundations, housing agencies, transportation, justice groups, faith communities, recreational groups and neighborhood associations. These all play an important role in shaping health for better or worse at the local level.

**Community organizations, clubs and bars, faith communities and recreational groups — these all play an important role in shaping health**

What does this broader understanding of health mean for Milwaukee's LGBT communities?

For one thing, we will need to develop a common language to discuss

issues of health. Our historic and current marginalization and discrimination in the broader society and in government and community institutions contribute to our forgetting that we actually have each other. The commodification of healthcare and the proliferation of prescription drugs also confuse our thinking about health as existing beyond medical care.

We will also need to understand that issues of health have many dimensions. For example, government policies about tobacco use in public settings affect not only bar, restaurant and club owners, they also affect us individually and collectively. LGBT people annually lose lives and productivity to cancer and asthma directly associated with tobacco use. But tobacco use has become a rite of passage for many LGBT youths who feel powerless at home, in school and in the workplace. This issue of powerlessness must be addressed along with the development of tobacco policy to limit use in public venues.

Further, LGBT people will need to find ways to accommodate diversity in our values and goals related to health. Obesity and exercise, for example, are woven into some of the more challenging of our personal and group values.

Many lesbian and bisexual women and transgender FtM people have fought hard to reject the preposterous and dangerous rigidities of fashion that require near starvation. Some gay and bisexual men and transgender MtF people have gone the other way, embracing anorexia and malnourishment as a means of achieving



**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.

some sense of body acceptance.

Many of us avoid regular, lifelong exercise; others are addicted to it. We will need to find a bigger view of our physical selves, probably tackling the destructive undercurrents of desire and self-criticism that lead us to believe that we are anything short of beautiful.

This broader understanding of health means nothing less than a revolution for us all. We cannot easily share the responsibility of maintaining and improving the health of our community; shared responsibility can be too easily ignored, forgotten and abandoned. Only collaborative ventures with careful monitoring of progress will make a lasting difference in our health.

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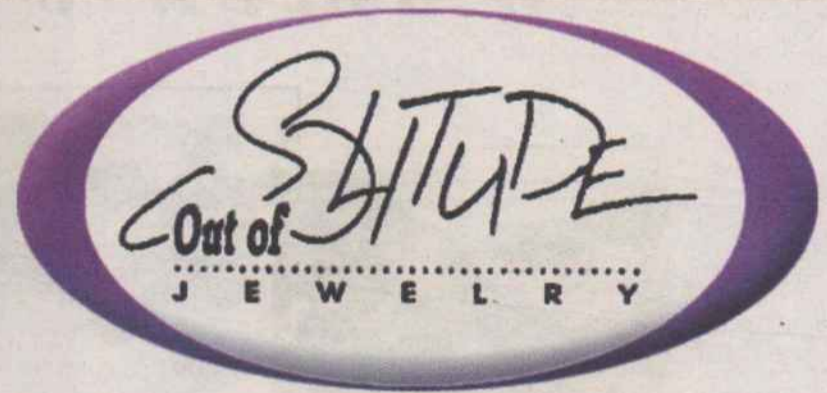
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## HISTORY

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](http://mkelgbthist.org), is Don's passion today, consuming much of his spare time.

By the time you read this, the news will either be widely known or the deal will have fallen through. But at the time of this writing, word is that the M&M Club will be sold and could close as a gay bar as early as May. Not a good way to start our annual celebration of PrideFest!

With the closing of Club 219 late last fall, that would mean the loss of two of the Milwaukee area's six oldest LGBT bars in less than a year. The oldest remaining bars would be This Is It, opened in 1968; JoDee's (Racine), 1972; and Ball Game and C'est La Vie, both 1974.

Many of us have seen the handwriting on the wall: With gentrification and the rapid development of condos in some areas near downtown, many existing businesses can only survive so long. They are being pushed out by demolition or redevelopment of surrounding buildings or by strangulation as patrons compete for parking with residents of the new housing units and mainstream businesses.

# History's Lost and Found: Part 2

OK, so that's progress, right? The concern, however, is that these bars are some of the last links to the "old" days. And we are losing them before we have had time to gather photographs and other historical artifacts documenting their history and contributions to the community.

The same is true of many of the area's other LGBT organizations and businesses. For example, much of the history of the GPU seems to be lost: We have been unable to locate minutes of meetings, annual reports, photos of events etc. (although the organization's two publications, GPU News and the Milwaukee Update newsletter, do survive in local library archives). And we have little or no information about businesses such as Thinking of You, Designing Men etc. and lesser-known organizations, such as WOW/Wisconsin Outdoor Women and many other lesbian organizations.

If you've read past Q History articles, you know that the Milwaukee LGBT History Project is trying to document and preserve our history by hosting a Web site ([www.mkelgbthist.org](http://www.mkelgbthist.org)), collecting oral histories and permanently preserving recovered

and donated materials in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee archives. But we need your help!

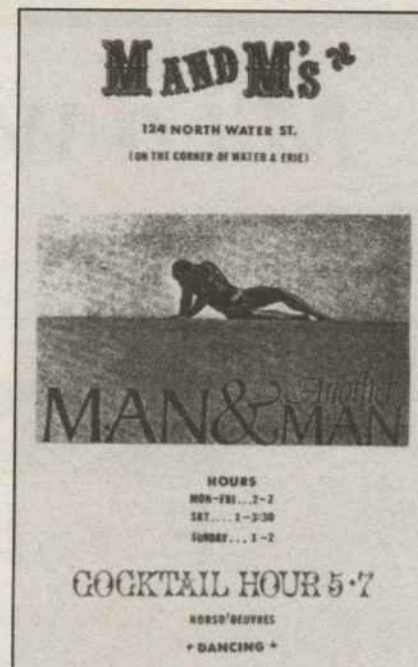
Please, if you have any photographs at all of bars, organizations or events, consider loaning them to us to scan and preserve or donating them outright. Consider loaning or donating old Wisconsin LGBT publications of any kind (especially rare are issues of RAGG, Gay Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Calendar, all from the 1970s), or old gay or lesbian posters, buttons, hats, shirts etc. It is important to collect these materials now, before they are lost to time or thrown out in your spring cleaning or a future move.

E-mail [webmaster@mkelgbthist.org](mailto:webmaster@mkelgbthist.org) if you have materials you wish to lend or donate. Or contact Bill at SAGE,

414-224-0517, with questions and comments or to be involved in our general efforts or our display at PrideFest.

And do visit us at PrideFest this year! Look for the History Project in the building directly north of the Main Entrance and the Dance Stage (same building we've been in the past two years). We will once again display many of the materials and information that have been saved — so come see our

**These bars are some of the last links to the "old" days. And we are losing them before we have had time to document their history and contributions.**



community's own "lost and found"!

This month's image: How old-fashioned things can look 30 years later! This is the first known advertisement for the M&M Club, as it appeared in the September 1976 issue of GPU News. I didn't know until finding this ad that the bar's name was originally derived from, or referred to, "Man & another Man." Ironically, for much of the past 20 years the M&M Club has been nearly as much a lesbian bar as a gay one! This term and ad were never used again; all subsequent ads referred to the business as either "M and M" or "M&M."

## Unified Collaboration Planned by LGBT Communities

For the past few months, more than 40 individuals, including a wide array of organizational leaders and business owners serving Greater Milwaukee's LGBT communities, have gathered to create the Greater Milwaukee LGBT Visioning Project to discuss a unified collaboration among LGBT communities and allies.

During the two initial community meetings in February and March, the Greater Milwaukee LGBT Visioning Project realized that building stronger LGBT communities requires respect, trust and inclusivity. Participants also recognized that the process needed to be taken on thoughtfully to ensure its success and that it should be led and guided by as many members of the community as possible.

"It was important for me to be reminded that in order to succeed we needed to be patient," said Joseph Pabst, a supporter and philanthropist of LGBT communities.

In order to move forward, the participants created a fluid catalyst committee in charge of leading the efforts. The catalyst committee has open membership and any community member can join at any time. The mission of the group is to provide a forum to determine shared interests and effect collaboration

among LGBT communities.

Scott Schmoller, a participant in the catalyst committee's activities stated, "Quite often, many of us in LGBT communities are so focused on our own immediate needs and personal affiliations that we overlook our community as a whole and how all of us can be bettered through collaboration and a stronger sense of community."

To determine these shared interests and develop a community vision, the group is initiating information-gathering efforts to determine individuals' perceptions of the Greater Milwaukee LGBT communities and resources. This will be done through widely disseminated surveys, interviews and listening sessions at PrideFest.

The catalyst committee will review all the information gathered to determine strategic goals and action plans. Finally, these action plans will be implemented in order to mobilize and empower presence that fosters equality and well-being for LGBT people.

The Greater Milwaukee LGBT Visioning Project is eager to grow and prosper through the inclusion of as many voices as possible. For more information regarding the project or to volunteer, contact Maria Cadenas at 414-225-0244.

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# Midwest Pride Meets on



## June 9, 10 & 11th 2006

**FRIDAY, June 9th 6pm - midnight**

Friday night's back in style! Start the weekend with a rousing **Community Rally, Lady Bunny** and outrageous comedienne **Margaret Cho!**

**SATURDAY, June 10th 11am - midnight**

Headliners **Berlin, Martha Wash, Bow Wow Wow** plus all of your favorite PrideFest activities including the **marketplace, dance pavilion, Wisconsin diva review, LGBT history exhibit, youth activities,** and much more!

**SUNDAY, June 11th 11am - 10pm**

Headliners **En Vogue** and **Cascada!** Don't miss the **interfaith service, the family area, the annual leather show** and much more!



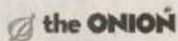
**Margaret Cho**  
- FRIDAY



**Lady Bunny**  
- FRIDAY



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# June 9, 10 & 11th 2006

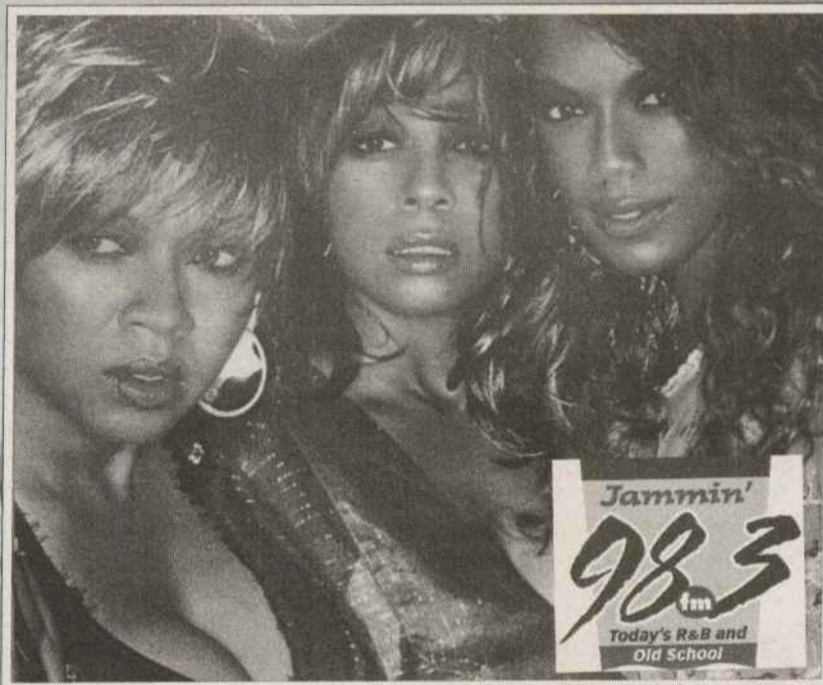
## Milwaukee's Lakefront



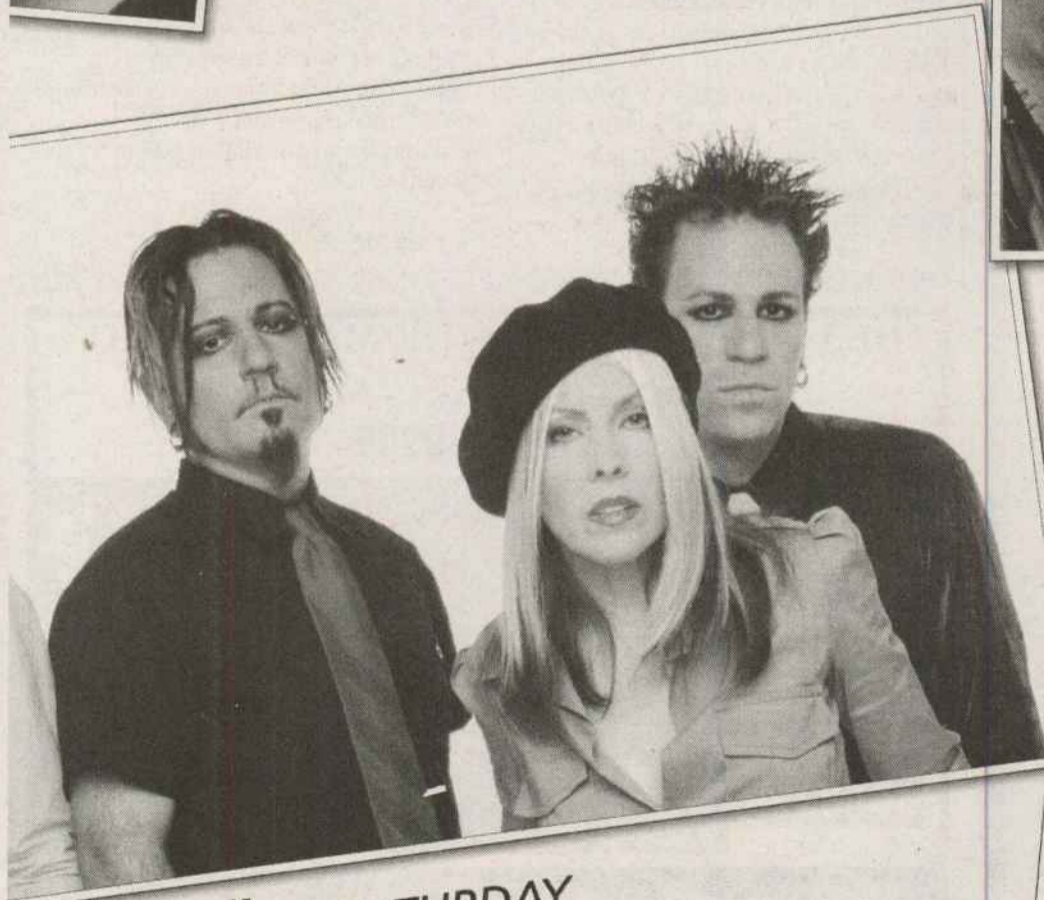
**Martha Wash** - SATURDAY



**Bow Wow Wow** - SATURDAY



**En Vogue** - SUNDAY



**Berlin** - SATURDAY

**Cascada**  
- SUNDAY

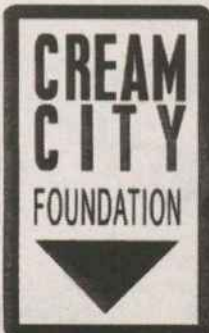


all for only \$25 at [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com)

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- 2 **Mail Your Donation** to Cream City Foundation, 315 W. Court Street, Suite 201B, Milwaukee, WI 53212
- 3 **Plan a Long-term Gift:** If you want to leave a legacy to the LGBT community, Cream City Foundation can help make it happen. All or part of your estate can be designated to CCF.
- 4 **Create a Donor Advised Fund:** This option allows you control of where your funds go. CCF does not charge any additional administrative fees for this work.
- 5 **Host a House Party:** We'll provide planning assistance to help you put it together and you invite your friends.
- 6 **Give at Work:** CCF is a member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee, simply contact your HR representative and ask about giving to CCF through donor choice.
- 7 **Give Through Employer Matching Accounts:** Most employers will match your gift to a nonprofit agency, just fill out the required paperwork or let us help you fill it out and your gift is automatically doubled!
- 8 **Donate Your Car:** Donation of your drivable vehicle offers you a tax deduction and revenue to CCF. By mentioning Cream City Foundation when you donate your car we will receive half of the sales proceeds. Contact our partner RCS at 262.251.8670 ext. 302 to arrange your donation.
- 9 **Shop at Pick N' Save:** CCF has joined the "We Care" program. Simply go to your local Pick N' Save store and add CCF's account number (131125) to your saver card. 1% of your total food bill will be donated to CCF.
- 10 **Volunteer for CCF:** We host many events, send mailings and hold fundraisers where extra hands could be of great help. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering.



**Be a Visionary.  
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## An Open Letter to State Sen. Scott Fitzgerald

Dear Sen. Fitzgerald:

I was deeply disappointed to read your response to U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold's historic endorsement of marriage equality for same-gender couples on April 4. Within hours, you released a statement blasting Feingold for purportedly "spending too much time in Hollywood raising money for his presidential campaign and not enough time listening to the people of Wisconsin" and claiming his position "puts him far outside of the mainstream." Those assertions couldn't be further from the truth.

Looking just at the numbers, polling shows that upwards of one-third of citizens — both in Wisconsin and in the country as a whole — support full marriage equality for same-gender couples. Roughly another third favor civil unions, which by definition confer most of the rights enjoyed by married heterosexual couples. What's more, when these numbers are broken down by age group, the clear trend is toward full support of equal rights for same-gender couples. So from a purely statistical standpoint, Feingold's belief in marriage equality is hardly a fringe position.

Feingold also has Wisconsin's long history of independent-minded progressivism to draw from. Hollywood, Calif., wasn't the first community in our country to formally refuse compliance with the immoral federal Fugitive Slave Law, the first to institute a worker's compensation program to protect families, or the first to ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation. In each of those cases, it was the people of Wisconsin who made history by putting fairness and equality of opportunity in front of morally complacent, knee-jerk politics as usual. In endorsing equality, Feingold shows that he's listening to the heart and soul of what has made Wisconsin a great place to live since our founders chose "Forward" as our state motto in 1851.

I'm also personally troubled by the suggestion that supporters of marriage



### YOUTH

David Seitz ([davidkseitz@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

equality find refuge only in places like Hollywood. I'm not from Hollywood, Sen. Fitzgerald. And with all due respect to the folks who live there, I wouldn't want to be. I'm a lifelong Wisconsin resident, and like many, many other LGBT citizens who value the work ethic and quality of life in this state, I want to be able to enjoy equal protections under our laws.

As is true of many Wisconsinites who leave the state for higher education, I've always hoped to one day be able to come back to a place like my hometown, work, own a home, contribute to the wider community, and send my children to quality public schools. That I happen to be a gay man does nothing to change my priorities, nor does it diminish what I have to contribute to whatever community my family and I ultimately choose. Lesbian and gay people like me have the right to expect the same opportunity to achieve the American dream for our families as our heterosexual friends do.

Feingold should be applauded for working to promote that equality of opportunity. He is advancing a mainstream position and continuing Wisconsin's enduring traditions of fair-mindedness and progress.

Respectfully,  
David Seitz

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## Community

## Calendar



## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

**Body Mine. Monthly discussion group.**

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

**Positive Direction Milwaukee.** Support group for HIV-positive gay men providing a confidential, welcoming environment where participants can find sound social support, freely air emotions and suggestions, exchange information and find new social opportunities. Milwaukee LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. 7-8:30 p.m. 414-461-5894. Repeats every Wednesday.

## THURSDAY, MAY 4

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

## SATURDAY, MAY 6

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

**Broad Vocabulary One-Year Anniversary.** Celebrates with some sex toy knowledge from the Tool Shed, a discussion of "queering the military," martial arts and self defense with Alive and Kickin', guest speaker Ellen Bravo, and spoken word artist Amy Welsh. Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 12 noon. www.broadvocabulary.com.

## SUNDAY, MAY 7

**LGBT Intro to Square Dancing.** No out-dated gender roles. Wear jeans, T-shirt, country glitter, retro, whatever. We dance with energy and style. What else would you expect? — we're gay! Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., Milwaukee. \$3. 1-3 p.m. 414-461-5359.

## TUESDAY, MAY 9

**Lesbian Reading Group.** Discussion of Ann Allen Shockley's "Celebrating Hotchlaw. New members are always welcome! Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089. outwardsbooks@msn.com.

## SATURDAY, MAY 13

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

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

## MONDAY, MAY 15

**Outwards Book Club.** The group will discuss Alan Hollinghurst's "Folding Star." New members welcome! Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089. outwardsbooks@msn.com.

## SATURDAY, MAY 20

**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. www.bwmtmilwaukee.org.

**Doggie Cocktail Party.** Fundraiser for Camp Heartland and Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. A not-to-be-missed party for dogs and dog lovers. To make up for all the times you left your darling alone, your pooch will be treated to free cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the "canine club" — a bar and snack buffet of their own! Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 6-11 p.m. \$50. 414-272-1118 ext. 26. www.milwaukeegayartscenter.com.

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

## SUNDAY, MAY 21

**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. 414-271-2565. Contact Cheryl at groups@execpc.com.

com.

## THURSDAY, MAY 25

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

## SATURDAY, JUNE 3

**Living Cultural Democracy.** Arts in changing communities. Americans for the Arts Annual Convention. Hilton Milwaukee City Center, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. www.tinyurl.com/grev4. Through June 5.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 4

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

## SATURDAY, JUNE 10

**Up Close and Personal with Nature.** Artist and teacher Kitty Lynne Klich and the Plymouth Arts Center invite painters, sketch artists and photographers to participate in a one-day guided tour and painting and drawing workshop. This workshop is a fundraiser for the center. Picnic lunch included. Rain date: June 17. Plymouth Arts Center, 520 E. Mill St., Plymouth. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. \$50. 920-467-9063.

## Outwards Books

'Top 5 Picks for May'

The Best Spring 2006 DVD Releases!  
Exclusive to Q Life.

## FOR THE GUYS:

- 1. Brokeback Mountain.** Little more can be said about the greatest gay love story ever made in Hollywood. Starring that sizzling coupling of Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger.
- 2. Loggerheads.** A young, gay drifter's search for acceptance drives this heartfelt, beautifully crafted tale of family, rejection and unconditional love.
- 3. Boys Life 5.** This fifth entry in the popular "Boys Life" series is dripping with homoerotic energy. Includes David Ottenhouse's superb "Last Summer," plus an early film from Eytan "Yossi & Jagger" Fox.
- 4. Blackmail.** A delicious Greek soap opera about a family pitted against each other in a bid for power and money — and a cute young stud, involved in a sexual relationship with an older man, who unwittingly becomes a pawn in the family's blackmail scheme.
- 5. Making Love.** Before "Brokeback" there was Harry Hamlin and the adorable Michael Ontkean in this classic, if much maligned, 1982 "breakthrough" romance that finally has a welcome presence on DVD.

## FOR THE GAL'S:

- 1. Unveiled.** This excellent drama follows Fariba, persecuted in Iran because of her love for another woman, who assumes the identity of a man to gain temporary asylum in Germany. Once there she falls in love with Anne before learning she must return to Iran.
- 2. The Journey.** Fans of "Fire," will welcome this second wonderful, lesbian feature from India. "The Journey" follows two high school girls who fall in love much to the dismay of their families.
- 3. Do I Love You?** A witty and sophisticated comedy about a 30-something lesbian who is deciding whether to break up with her girlfriend, have a baby, form a relationship with a man or transform into one.
- 4. Ultimate Lesbian Shorts.** This fabulous feast of lesbian shorts offers 10 films by some of the hottest up and coming lesbian directors.
- 5. Round Trip.** A luminously filmed story of the budding love between a 40-year-old Israeli mother of two who leaves her husband and a beautiful African woman hired to be her children's nanny.

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## The Origin of Love

**M**uch in the way Hedwig and the Angry Inch sings of "big rolling keg" creatures, the city of Toronto evolved an epicenter of queer zines consisting of an amorphous blob of dykes, fags, transgendered folks, punks, filmmakers and illustrators, some of whom later split apart in acrimonious fashion. Toronto is home to the performance space Buddies in Bad Times Theater as well as the zine shelf at the cleverly named bookstore This Ain't the Rosedale Library, so it isn't surprising that queer zines were able to thrive there.

Part radical manifesto, part one-handed erotic reader and all punk rock, **J.D.s** [Issue 5, 1989, 56 pages] is the gender-indeterminate parent of all queer zines. With contributors like Anonymous Boy and Dennis Cooper who produce some of the best queerly bent art in the world, **J.D.s** is a "must have" for all those who fall between the cracks of mainstream queer life and find themselves in the slam pit. **J.D.s** is also accessible to everyone through its reprint of letters the editors received from fans and haters alike.

The zine review section gave props to others in the "homocore" (later evolved into "queercore" to be inclusive) scene and they also encouraged zine trades, giving a nod to anti-capitalist sentiments. Editors G. B. Jones and Bruce La Bruce each worked on crafting their own artistic expression, and despite a falling-out later

on, they are still well-known in the queer avant garde today.

Issue 5 contains two examples of G. B. Jones' brilliant and stridently feminist reworking of Tom of Finland art. Frightened by the grotesquely disproportionate anatomies and oppressive obsession with authority figures found in Tom's work, Jones reconceptualizes the style into scenes from queer punk dyke life and culture that are realistic yet still capture the edgy nature of erotic art.

Bruce La Bruce's virtual fingerprints are all over the stories of queer punk boys getting it on at shows, in parents' attics or simply out cruising. He took this gritty sexuality and splurged it all over the big screen in such films as "No Skin Off My Ass." **J.D.s** wants YOU, badass!

Ranking as the most inspired and completely random concept from which to write a singularly awesome queer zine, **Double Bill** [Issue 2, 1992, 32 pages] explores radical queer thought through the cultural iconography associated with two fellows named Bill, William Conrad and William Burroughs.

Conrad, of course, was best known as a law man character actor who starred in the radio version of "Gunsmoke;" appeared on TV as a detective in Cannon, the crypto-gay Nero Wolfe, and Jake and the Fatman; and lent his voice as narrator of the Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoons.



### Zines

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

Then there is the wacko, bug-powder-snorting, misogynist Beat writer and artist William Burroughs, who allegedly killed his wife while in Mexico and got away with the crime. The brains and artistic brawn behind **Double Bill** were G. B. Jones, Johnny Noxema and Jena Von Brucker among others. The letters and reviews included read like a lovely who's who of the queer punk world — like the fan mail from a member of Bratmobile.

The juxtaposition of these seemingly disparate celebrities allowed all sorts of cultural analysis and commentary to pour forth, some of it so mind-bogglingly profound that it seems impossible that this zine evolved from simply watching too many TV reruns and receiving the now-infamous letter that Burroughs' assistant sent to a number of queer zines in the early 1990s claiming, of all things, to have been the founder of and the spirit behind queer zines.

*These and other queer zines can be found online at [qzap.org](http://qzap.org), the Queer Zine Archive Project.*

## Thanks a Brunch, Mom

**I**n celebration of Mother's Day, these recipes put a tasty twist on the standard breakfast fare. Treat your mother (or soon to be mother-in-law!!) to a brunch made with love.

### Pumpkin Gingerbread Pancakes

1/2 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup Hodgson Mill Whole Wheat  
Gingerbread Mix  
1 tbsp. sugar  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1/4 tsp. salt  
2 eggs, beaten  
1/2 cup canned pumpkin  
1 cup milk  
2 tbsp. melted butter

*Sift together the dry ingredients: flour, gingerbread mix, sugar, baking powder and salt. Make a well in the center and pour in the eggs, pumpkin, milk and melted butter. Fold everything together just to incorporate; do not overwork the batter. Heat a griddle to 350 degrees. Spray lightly with cooking spray. Pour batter onto preheated griddle in approximately 1/2-cup measures. When small bubbles start to appear on the uncooked surface, flip the pancakes. Cook for three to four more minutes or until the pancakes are set. Serve warm with syrup.*

### Cranberry Orange Scones

2 cups all-purpose flour  
1 tbsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. salt  
2 tbsp. sugar  
5 tbsp. unsalted butter, cold  
1 cup heavy cream  
1 cup fresh cranberries, halved  
1/4 cup orange juice  
1 1/4 cups confectioner's sugar  
1 tbsp. unsalted butter

*To make the scones: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Sift together the dry ingredients: flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Using a pastry blender, cut in the butter to coat the pieces with flour. The mixture should look like coarse crumbs. Make a well in the center and pour in the heavy cream. Fold everything together*



### COOKING

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

*just to incorporate; do not overwork the dough. Fold the cranberries into the dough. Take care not to mash the cranberries because their strong color will bleed into the dough.*

*On a lightly floured surface, press the dough into a rectangle about 12 by 3 by 1 1/4 inches. Cut the rectangle in half, then cut the pieces in half again to make four 3-inch squares. Cut the squares in half on a diagonal to make the classic triangle scone shape. Place the scones on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes until slightly browned. Let the scones cool before you apply the glaze.*

*To make the glaze: Mix the orange juice and confectioner's sugar together in a microwave-safe bowl. Stir until the sugar dissolves. Add the butter and nuke it for 30 seconds on high. Whisk the glaze to smooth out any lumps, then drizzle the glaze over the top of the scones.*



Arts



Calendar

## OUT NOW

**The Birthday Party.** The Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 414-744-5757. www.boulevardtheatre.com. Through May 7, various times.

**The Book as Sculpture.** Thirteen book artists from around the country will present their interpretation of the book as a sculptural form. Bay View Book Arts Gallery, 2693 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 414-758-8699. Through May 7.

**Consumerism and Contemporary Culture.** The 33rd Annual Juried Show. Student artists explore the theme of culture and consumerism in the 21st century. Union Art Gallery, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. Through May 19.

**Ellington: The Life and Music of the Duke.** Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells St. 414-224-9490. www.milwaukeeerep.com. Through May 14.

**Fifth of July.** Sharp and funny, but also deeply revealing, this is a story about strength and the inner war that must be fought if one is to perceive the good that life can truly offer. Bucketworks, 1319 N. MLK Dr., Milwaukee. \$16. 414-243-9168. www.dramatiststheatre.com. Through May 14, various times.

**From These Green Heights.** An award-winning play about the rise, fall and ultimate redemption of Ballymun, a ravaged, high-rise housing project in the fields outside Dublin. UWM Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. \$10. 414-229-4308. Through May 6, various times.

**Hainsworth Collection of American Paintings.** An exhibition of 67 paintings accompanied by a scholarly color catalogue. Primarily late 19th- and early 20th-century works. Rahr West Art Museum, 610 N. 8th St., Manitowoc. 920-683-4524. www.rahrwestartmuseum.org. Through July 16.

**Raisin in the Sun.** An award-winning play from the first black woman to have a show produced on Broadway. UWM Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. \$10. 414-229-4308. Through May 7, various times.

**Rappaport and Vern: Inner Spaces/Outer Limits.** Blurred strokes. Sharp angles. Muted colors. Vivid works. Familiar formats in unfamiliar ways and places where people randomly encounter them. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. Through May 6.

**Quilting: Fibers of our Community.** Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 414-383-3727. www.uncommontheatre.net. Through June 2.

**Seussical.** Todd Wehr Theater, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-273-7206. www.firststage.org. Through June 11.

**Take Me Out.** The star center fielder of the world champion New York Yankees is young, rich, famous, talented, handsome and so convinced of his popularity that when he casually announces he's gay at a press conference, he assumes the news will be readily accepted by everyone. It isn't. He unintentionally changed his life and the lives of his teammates. Contains nudity and adult content. Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-291-7800. chamber-theatre.com. Through May 7, various times.

**The Zoo Story.** Edward Albee's breakthrough drama about two men, a park bench and the cataclysmic bond they form. Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. \$25. 414-233-0479. www.bialystockbloom.com. Through May 21, various times.

## THURSDAY, MAY 4

**Creation Project Concert.** Present Music. This world premiere of a Milwaukee Sign Language School original composition "Rondo a la Kid" will include 15 students from the school. Milwaukee Sign Language School, 7900 W. Acacia Rd., Milwaukee. 12:45 p.m. 414-389-3800. www.presentmusic.org.

**René Izquierdo.** Classical guitar concert. Peck School of the Arts Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 414-229-4308.

**Swan Lake.** Uihlein Hall, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-273-7206. www.milwaukeeballet.org.

## FRIDAY, MAY 5

**Chamber Improvisation Trio.** This trio redefines chamber music with spontaneous constructions of intensity, nuance and beauty. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$5. 414-467-7271. www.hotcakesgallery.com.

## Q Pick

**What Is It?** Hollywood's quirkiest leading man, Crispin Glover, appears at the Times Cinema with his controversial new film. Here's an opportunity to meet the most original personality ever spawned by Tinseltown. Times Cinema, 5906 W. Vliet St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. and midnight. \$17. 414-453-2436. www.timescinema.com. Repeats May 6.

**Grease.** Modjeska Youth Theatre Company. Modjeska Theatre, 1134 W. Mitchell St., Milwaukee. 414-384-4550. www.mytheatercompany.org.

**The Wizard of Oz.** Waukesha Civic Theatre. Margaret Brate Bryant Civic Theatre Building, 264 W. Main St., Waukesha. 262-547-0708. www.waukesha-civictheatre.org. Through May 21.

## SATURDAY, MAY 6

**Olivia Block.** A sound artist who combines field recordings, scored segments for acoustic instruments, and electronically generated sound. Livingroom, 900 S. 5th St. #103, Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$7 suggested donation. www.croutonmusic.com.

**Sam Harris.** Some call him the greatest entertainer of our time. Harris rose to national fame as the first male vocalist grand champion on Star Search. Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 8 p.m. \$35. 262-781-9520. www.wilson-center.com.

## Q Pick

**Your Mother Dances.** And other questionable influences. An hour of witty, physical and accessible dances. Danceworks Studio Theater, 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$15/\$10 students, children, seniors. www.danceworks1661.org. Repeats May 7, various times.

## SUNDAY, MAY 7

**Concord Chamber Orchestra.** St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1615 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa. 3 p.m. \$12. 414-628-6018. www.concordorchestra.org.

**Hughie and Zoo Story.** The Actor's Group. Two one-act plays. Eugene O'Neill's "Hughie," about a man "in the know," and Edward Albee's "Zoo Story," in which one man interrupts another's life. Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Rd., Elm Grove. 262-782-4430. www.actorsgroup.net. Through May 20, various times.

## THURSDAY, MAY 11

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

## FRIDAY, MAY 12

**Comedy and Pet Theater.** Gregory Popovich, a star of the Moscow Circus, brings his talented animal shelter alumni to the stage. Ruth A. Knoll Theater, 147 N. Rural St., Hartford. 262-670-0560. www.schauercenter.org.

**Light and Texture: Drawings in Pastel.** Award-winning artists present atmospheric landscapes, intense still lifes and intriguing abstract drawings. Katie Gingrass Gallery, 241 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 4-8 p.m. 414-289-0855.

**Shakespeare Dishes the Dirt.** Milwaukee Dance Theater. A romp through Shakespeare's life and works as seen through the jaundiced eyes of his wife, Anne. She spills the beans as only a long-suffering wife can. Off Broadway Theater, 342 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$20. 414-278-0765. Through May 27, various times.

**Suzanne Grzanna.** Grzanna is a dazzling saxophonist with sultry vocals that make you melt in your seat. Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 8 p.m. \$15. 262-781-9520. www.wilson-center.com.

## SATURDAY, MAY 13

## Q Pick

**Felice Picano.** Picano is the author best-selling books and one of the founders of modern gay literature. He will read from his newest novel, "Tales from a Distant Planet." Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 414-963-9089. www.outwardsbooks.com.

**Milwaukee Underground Film Festival.** Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. www.filmmilwaukee.org. Repeats May 14.

**Rocky Horror Picture Show.** A loving couple, a few lost monsters and a sweet transvestite from transsexual Transylvania sing and dance through a campy, sloppy salute to horror movies and sexual liberation. Bring your sense of humor. And some toast. The Oriental Theatre, 2330 N. Farwell Ave., Milwaukee. Midnight. 414-276-8711.

## SUNDAY, MAY 14

**Fantastique Mozart.** Festival City Symphony. Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 414-963-9067. www.festivalcitysymphony.org.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

**Pajama Jamboree.** Children's classical pops concert with a guest children's performing group. Marcus Center, 123 E. State St., Milwaukee. 414-963-9067. www.festivalcitysymphony.org.

## THURSDAY, MAY 18

**Evita.** The Fireside Dinner Theatre, Business Hwy. 26 S., Fort Atkinson. 800-477-9505. www.firesidetheatre.com. Through July 30, various times.

**Spotlight on Brahms.** Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 8 p.m. \$45. 262-781-9520. www.wilson-center.com.

## FRIDAY, MAY 19

**Jani Ian and Sophie B. Hawkins.** Cedarburg Performing Arts Center, W68 N611 Evergreen Blvd., Cedarburg. 262-376-6161. www.cedarburgpac.com.

**Redletter Series.** Minneapolis poet Juliet Patterson will read from her debut poetry collection, "The Truant Lover," with poet Angie Vasquez. Woodland Pattern, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free. 414-263-5001. www.julietpatterson.com.

**WPCA's Annual Members Exhibition.** This salon-style exhibition is a unique opportunity for artists at different points in their careers and working in a wide range of media and styles to exhibit together, showing the depth and breadth of contemporary art in Wisconsin. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. 5-7 p.m. 414-672-2787. www.wpcamilwaukee.org. Through July 1.

## SATURDAY, MAY 20

**Exchange.** MARN Mentor/Mentee Show. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 5-10 p.m. 414-467-7271. www.hotcakesgallery.com.

**Miltown Kings.** The Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland Ave., Milwaukee. \$6.9 p.m. 18 and over; dance will follow. 414-967-0302. www.themiramarttheatre.com.

## SUNDAY, MAY 21

## Q Pick

**Keep Your Damn Mouths Shut!** This special end-of-the-run performance and party will be a fast-paced, fun retrospective of all the plays Bialystock & Bloom put on stage in its 11 years of dazzling Milwaukee audiences. Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. \$50. 6 p.m. 414-233-0479. www.bialystockbloom.com. Through May 21, various times.

**Spring Concert II.** Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra. Elmbrook Auditorium, 777 S. Barker Rd., Brookfield. 414-267-2950. www.myso.org.

**Youth Wind Orchestra of Wisconsin.** Carroll College, Shattuck Music Center, 218 N. East Ave., Waukesha. 262-524-7633. www.cc.edu.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

**Choke Cheery Corners.** The Actors Group. Enjoy the story of a Wisconsin family's world of hopes, regrets and forgiveness. Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Rd., Elm Grove. 262-782-4430. www.theactorsgroup.net.

**The Sneetches.** Star-belly Sneetches and Plain-belly Sneetches learn how silly it is to judge people on superficial things — and also that prejudice can be costly. M and W's Playhouse at Rags Kids Clubhouse, Southridge Mall, 5300 S. 76th St., Greendale. 414-272-7701. www.mandwproductions.com.

## THURSDAY, MAY 25

**You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.** In Tandem Theatre. "Peanuts" comes to life in this timeless classic. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. 414-444-2316. www.intandemtheatre.com.

## FRIDAY, MAY 26

**Man of La Mancha.** Skylight Opera Theatre. The epic tale of Don Quixote told through a blend of music, romance, comedy and tragedy. Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. www.skylightopera.com.

**Murder at the Howard Johnson's.** There's a laugh a minute in this screwball comedy as Arlene tries to "off" her husband with help from her lover. Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Rd., Elm Grove. 262-782-4430. www.sunsetplayhouse.com.

## SATURDAY, MAY 27

**The Naked Cabaret.** Just as wild as it sounds. Featuring Diane Lane, Dimitri Tascas and Bill Theisen. Cabaret follows Friday and Saturday evening Man of La Mancha performances. Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. www.skylightopera.com.

**Aida.** Florentine Opera Company. This all-new production of one of opera's most revered classics will captivate your imagination. Uihlein Hall, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-273-7206. www.florentineopera.org.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 2

**Mostly Mozart.** Milwaukee Children's Choir. A dose to the season celebrating 250 years of Mozart with our own prodigies — the choir's 400 youth, grades 1-12. Elmbrook Church, 777 S. Barker Rd., Brookfield. 414-771-6602. www.milwaukeechildrenschoir.org.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 3

**Sticks.** Present Music. Percussion fest featuring Milwaukee Youth Symphony and Pius XI High School students. Zelazo Center, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 414-271-0711 ext. 103.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 4

**The English Beat.** The Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland Ave., Milwaukee. \$25. 7:30 p.m. 414-967-0302. www.themiramarttheatre.com.

Submission deadline for June issue is May 21.



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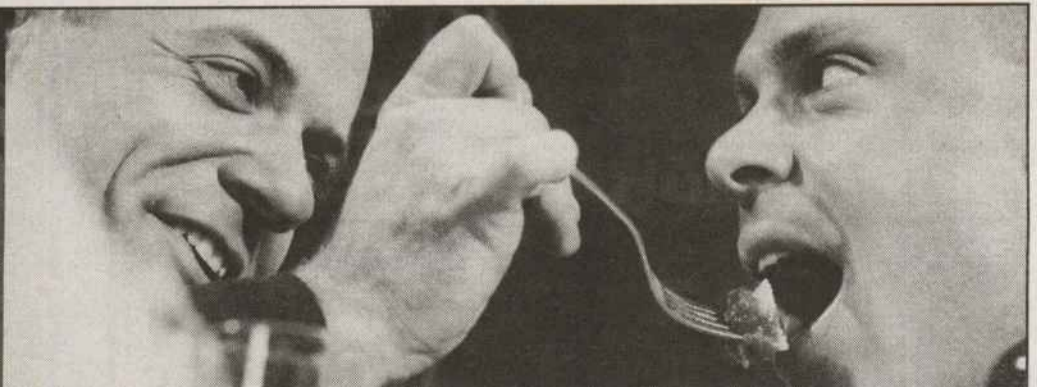
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Q



## HOOKER'S CORNER

Mark Hooker

Playwright Jack Heifner's adaptation of Arthur Schnitzler's erotic "La Ronde (Reigen)" is a fresh and timely update called "Seduction," revolving around gay characters. After playing in San Francisco, New York City, London and Brighton, "Seduction" came to Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's Uncommon Theatre Company on March 31 for the Midwest premiere and ran for nine scheduled performances.

"La Ronde" was an immediate scandal in Europe in 1897, and a 1921 version of the play was shut down by the police, who arrested the actors for breaking obscenity laws. As the artistic director of the Uncommon Theatre, I wondered what the Milwaukee reaction to this gay adaptation would be in the year 2006. Surely we would not have a repeat of the now infamous closing of Uncommon Theatre's production of "Naked Boys Singing!" when the Milwaukee police reacted in the same way as their 1921 counterparts. After all, Heifner is an established New York playwright, with credits such as the Off Broadway play "Vanities" and the book to the Broadway musical "Leader of the Pack," to name just two of his many successes.

We were prepared for the worst. But hurray! The police did not come! Fortunately, the audience did, and the Shamelessboyz Theatre Company of London was more than enthusiastically received.

Upon researching "La Ronde," I was surprised to learn of its many incarnations: a film version by French director Max Ophüls in 1950, an Off Broadway musical called "Hello Again," and a British adaptation by playwright David Hare in 1998 starring Nicole Kidman and entitled "The Blue Room."

A gay version was inevitable. And Heifner has done a superb job portraying a segment of gay culture with tenderness, hilarity and pathos. He kept the original structure of two characters per scene, with one character moving to the next scene in a series of seductions that run the gamut from sexy to sad to moving to pathetic.

Director Peter Bull has artfully staged the play so its many locales are represented through the emotional content of the scene rather than a literal place. Bull's style of directing is straightforward and detailed without extra fluff. Bull's technique is reminiscent of Bob Fosse's choreography. On the surface it is simple. But every nuance, each small gesture, tells another part of the

## London's Shamelessboyz Delight Milwaukee Audiences

story.

Bull's directing concept of Seduction is enhanced by the ingeniously simple use of six white boxes (design concept by James Galloway) that are quickly moved into different configurations for each scene and by the eloquent lighting design of Robert Stenson, who creates mood through color, shadow and subtle light changes that seem to merge almost imperceptibly with the inner life of each character.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that Stenson flew to Milwaukee straight from another theater job in London — and immediately proceeded to turn the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center into an "instant black box theater" with black fabric, 2 x 4's and grommets! It was the most magical transformation I have ever seen (other than when I had my hollow cheeks permanently plumped).

The soundtrack to the show was put together by Juhani Naukkarinen. It had everyone in the audience asking where the music — especially Liza Minnelli's rendition of the Petshop Boys' "You Pay My Rent" — came from so they could log on to Amazon.com as soon as they got home.

Five talented and handsome British (one Dutch) actors take on two roles each, yet the audience is always aware of who each character is in spite of minimal costume change. The characters are so strongly drawn from within the psyche of each actor that we never lose sight of who is who in



this disturbing chain of sexual encounters.

Phil Price (Rent Boy/Teenager) displayed a depth unusual for an actor so young. Particularly in the role of the Rent Boy, it would have been easy for him to go for the obvious — rough street trade making a living. Instead, his performance tugged at the heart strings with the raw emotion of a young man who had no choice but to be hardcore on the outside, even though just under the surface was a scared little boy who had no place in the world and no one to really love him. He is one of those actors you just like to watch, even if you can't figure out quite why.

Gareth Watkins (Sailor/Professor) is a dynamic young character actor (I don't mean that in the usual sense; he is very handsome).

He created two completely different personalities in the Sailor and the Professor — one a gruff, uneducated, mixed-up brute; one a sweet, insecure, depressed young man. Watkins is a rare actor who savors every moment on stage (like a gourmet meal), completely drawing in his audience, making us hungry for more.

Graham Townsend (Student/Writer) played the spoiled brat student and the manic writer with conviction and clarity. His intensity and utter concentration as an actor make him irresistible even when he is playing an unlikeable character. Graham's agile body takes on the characteristics of each character he plays, creating distinctive ways of moving and expressing each character. He is a master of physical contrast.

Menno Kuijper (Handyman/Actor) was heartbreaking as the Handyman who was unfortunate enough to be abused by the sailor, and terribly mistreated by the "upper class" student. This was a real, grounded, and well-acted section of the play for Menno. I had a harder time with his portrayal as the Actor. For my taste, there could have been less camp and more game playing for the Actor character. That said, Menno is a natural comic actor (he reminds me of Charles Busch) and I enjoyed his performance.

Adam Blake (Businessman/Producer) comes from a theatrical family, and it shows. He is a powerful actor, completely at ease

with himself on stage, and has the gift of "listening." Adam never stops living in the imaginary circumstances of the play from beginning to end. Without ever distracting from his acting partner, he is fully engaged in every moment — wheels turning in his head — and he gives a breathtaking performance. He also has a beautiful, deep, melodic voice that is sexy beyond belief.

So I guess you can all gather that I liked the production.

The Shamelessboyz will now have a run of Seduction at the Bailiwick Theater in Chicago June 27 through July 9 with David Zak as artistic director. The Bailiwick Theater is located at 1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, IL 60667. Call the box office at 773-883-1090 or e-mail Bailiwick@Bailiwick.org.

Coming up: Look for the Uncommon Theatre's Production of "The Sum of Us" May 25 through June 10. Tickets are \$20. Call 414-383-3727 for more information.

Also see Uncommon Theatre company member Sandra Stark in a production of "Fifth of July" at Dramatists Theatre through May 14. The production will take place at Bucketworks, 1319 N. Martin Luther King Drive. Tickets are \$16 for adults; 13 for seniors, students, and members of Bucketworks. To reserve tickets call 414-243-9168.

Until next time in Hooker's Corner, stay clean!

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# Good Things Come in Small Packages

Milwaukee has a huge number of great professional theaters. Many of us grew up with the famous Milwaukee Repertory Theater, formerly the old Fred Miller Theater on Oakland Avenue. That space is now home to Miramar Theater, and The Rep now has its home on Wells Street. The Skylight Opera Theatre used to have its home on Jefferson Street but can now be seen in the Third Ward on Broadway. We also have the Riverside Theater, the famous Pabst Theater and the new Milwaukee Theater.

But are you familiar with the smaller, intimate, Off Broadway-style theaters that our town has to offer? These many small theaters offer challenging and exciting works. They also provide the chance to see future stars perfect their talents. Any weekend you can choose from a variety of classics, farces, musicals and original works.

The Boulevard Ensemble has been around for 20 years; its studio theater is located on Kinnickinnic Avenue in Bay View.

Cornerstone Theatre has performed out of the lovely Brumder Mansion on Wisconsin Avenue. Currently this successful company is looking for a new venue. For many seasons In Tandem Theatre has had a home in Walker's Point, but this exciting company is also looking for a new venue. Dramatists Theatre works out of the new-age-loft-style Bucketworks on Martin Luther King Drive.

A former storefront on Wells Street has been home to Off The Wall

Productions, which offers something for everyone. Renaissance Theaterworks has an outstanding reputation and often performs at the Broadway Theater Center. R.S.V.P. Productions, formerly on Wells Street, has relocated to a successful location on Brady Street, which is also the home of the Astor Theatre. R.S.V.P. will offer some very funny sex farces next season.

The Uncommon Theatre, located at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, offers a diverse variety of gay-themed plays, many with highly sexual themes. Last but not least, the Windfall Theatre in the Village Church on Juneau Avenue offers a wonderful mixture of plays and musicals.

I urge you to try one of these intimate theaters. Shawn Gulyas, Mark Bucher, Dale Gutzman, Raymond Bradford and Mark Hooker (now there is a mixture of stage personalities!) promise many exciting Off Broadway-style shows right here in our wonderful town of Milwaukee.

I will feature some well-known community theaters in the future.

### From 'Seussical' to 'Mancha'

The Skylight Theatre will offer that wonderful classic musical "Man of La Mancha." It is spring and time for another "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" — brought to us this time by In Tandem. Broadway Baby Dinner Theater opens the new comedy "Remember Me." Off The Wall Productions presents a seldom-seen

musical, with great music, based on the classic film "Lost Horizon." This is a must-see, along with Windfall Theatre's "Anyone Can Whistle," another seldom-seen work, by Stephen Sondheim, which promises to be an exciting night of theater.

For those of you who grew up on Dr. Seuss, the musical "Seussical" will be fun family fare at First Stage Children's Theater.

Sunset Playhouse is bringing back one of its popular comedies, "Murder at the Howard Johnson's." For the more artistic and cultured, Florentine Opera will welcome "Aida" and Milwaukee Ballet will present "Swan Lake."

As we approach June, R.S.V.P. Productions is working on the Milwaukee premiere of "Closer," by Patrick Marber.

On a sad note, Bialystock & Bloom will close its doors with "Zoo Story." We will miss Bialystock & Bloom's fine theater and the scene will never be the same.

### Fun Around Our Bars

OK, gas prices are really high and there's a lot of construction around 1st and 2nd Streets, but don't let those construction people scare you out of attending the Harbor Room. We all watch our money after tax time, and maybe a few of us are saving for summer vacations and PrideFest, but get off your butt and go out and support the bars. We must enjoy them while we still have them around. With all the new condos going up



## 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.

and rumors of a Walgreens on 1st Street — well, our time is running out around Walker's Point. If the bars spread out all over town, it'll mean more driving and less of a community.

Go in a bar, have a few drinks, and tip those hardworking bartenders. There will also be a new bar opening up in the Gay Arts Center — watch for it!!

**Last Month's Trivia Answer**  
Yes, "Take Me Out" did receive a Tony Award.

**This Month's Trivia Question**  
Did Rosie O'Donnell star in "Seussical" the musical on Broadway?

*My Aunt Blanche is on a long, much-needed vacation, so my crazy Aunt Sally is staying with me. She went to La Cage and won the drag contest ... which she didn't even enter.*

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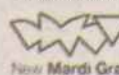
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## What's Happening at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

### THROUGH OUR EYES: QUILTS AND FIBER ART FROM THE LGBT COMMUNITY

Art exhibition, ongoing through June 3  
Gallery hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and by appointment

### MILWAUKEE MOMENTUM: AN EVENING OF WOMEN'S ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

A special benefit event for the Milwaukee women's football team with cash bar, silent auction and art sale  
Friday, May 12, 7-10 p.m.  
Tickets \$5

### INTRODUCING THE MILWAUKEE GAY ARTS CENTER'S CABARET SERIES

Presented by The Shepherd Express  
Jerry Grillo Tonight, a Benefit for SAGE-Milwaukee  
An evening of musical entertainment  
Friday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets \$15 — all proceeds benefit SAGE

### DOGGIE COCKTAIL PARTY

Camp Heartland Benefit  
Cocktail party fundraiser for Camp Heartland and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center  
Saturday, May 20, 7-11 p.m.  
Tickets \$50  
Although the concept is dog-based, anyone who wants to support two great causes while having a fantastic evening is welcome to attend. For the dog owners in the crowd, the event will include a raffle featuring several dog related items — think dog salons, treats, toys, daycare passes and fashion! A photographer will be on hand to take photos that you can show off all summer long.

### THE MILWAUKEE GAY ARTS CENTER'S UNCOMMON THEATRE

Presents  
David Steven's  
'The Sum of Us'  
Opening performance Thursday, May 25, 8 p.m.  
Additional performances May 26 and 27; June 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10; all performances 8 p.m.  
Tickets \$20/\$10 seniors and students (box office night-of sale only)  
New! Beginning with "The Sum of Us," discounted senior and student tickets will be available for box office purchase only.

### SAINT SEBASTIAN PROJECT ART EXHIBITION OPENING AND RECEPTION

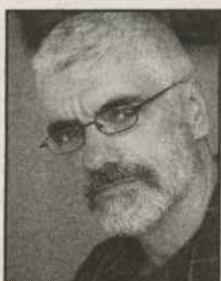
Thursday, June 8, 6-9 p.m.  
A new art exhibition featuring over a dozen national, international and local artists in a broad range of media including cellular phone and classical photography, paintings, sculptures and drawings on the theme of Saint Sebastian in the LGBT context.

### (IN THE) HEAT OF THE HAFLA

Belly dance party  
Saturday, June 17, 6-10 p.m.  
Tickets \$10  
A belly dance party featuring professional and amateur dancers and troupes from Chicago and Milwaukee. Middle Eastern food, music and dance. A fabulous evening of flamboyant family entertainment.

### CLASSES

Middle Eastern Belly Dance for Men  
Sundays, 4-5:30 p.m.  
Until further notice: No yoga classes on Monday!



Paul Masterson - Director

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 milwagac@yahoo.com. All theater and event tickets are available at www.uncommontheatre.net



## Milwaukee Momentum Scores TD with Art and Photography Show Women's Athletics Featured

By Amelia McCarthy

On May 12 from 7 to 10 p.m., local artists will come together to display artwork and photographs featuring women's athletics at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Proceeds from the show will benefit Shatter the Ceiling Inc., a Wisconsin nonprofit organization created to help young women pursue their dreams, believe in themselves and believe that anything is possible.

This opening reception includes a cash bar, a silent auction and the opportunity to purchase art and photographs.

"We are very excited to host this event. It is a great opportunity for local artists to showcase their talents and for us to support a great cause," commented Paul Masterson, director of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

Shatter the Ceiling Inc. is comprised of two divisions. The first, VISION, is a mentoring program between female college athletes and inner-city, female, high school students targeted to begin in fall 2006. The second, the Milwaukee Momentum, is Milwaukee's first women's tackle football team. The Momentum plays in the National Women's Football Association, the largest women's tackle football league in the world with 38 teams in 25 states stretching from Maine to California.

Momentum players range in age from 19 to 42 and come from a variety of backgrounds — from engineer, attorney, police officer and postal carrier to teacher and college student. Team members travel to practice and play from as far away as Western Springs, Ill., and Madison, Wis. They all, however, have a common goal — to play football and pave the way for other young women.

Come watch the ladies in action as they take on the Cincinnati Sizzle on Saturday, June 10, and the Cleveland Fusion on Saturday, June 17. Games start at 7 p.m. and are played at Hart Park in Wauwatosa. For more information, visit [www.milwaukeemomentum.com](http://www.milwaukeemomentum.com) or call 414-550-2087.

Admission to the art and photography exhibit at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, is \$5 at the door. Artwork and photographs are still being accepted for the show. Call Amelia McCarthy at 414-224-7699 to be considered for inclusion.

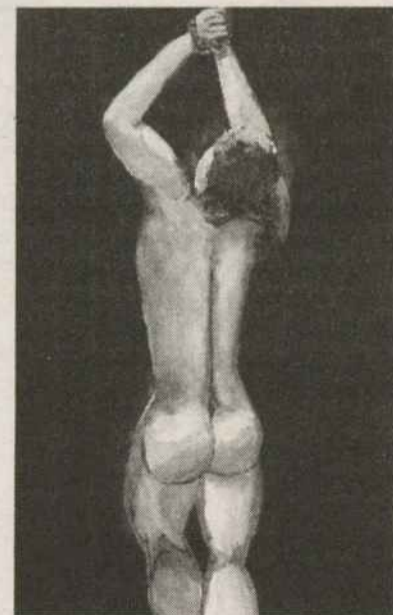
**Amelia McCarthy is a managing member and trial attorney specializing in complex commercial litigation and catastrophic injury at Gass Weber Mullins, LLC, a law firm in the Third Ward.**

## Saint Sebastian Project Update

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center will open a special art exhibition Thursday, June 8. The exhibition promises to be a significant event in the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's history with more than a dozen international, national and local artists represented. The media range from traditional forms such as black-and-white photography and paintings on canvas to more contemporary forms such as cellular phone photography and even a musical instrument.

All works present both the positives and negatives associated with the theme of the gay heart. These range from bliss, ecstasy, love, loyalty and commitment to suffering, sacrifice, the destruction of beauty, loss, hatred, victimization and oppression.

The Saint Sebastian Project's PrideFest eve opening reception begins at 6 p.m. and is open to the public.



## MGAC's Uncommon Theatre Presents 'The Sum of Us'

By Mark Hooker

After a successful run at a smaller venue in St. Francis, David Steven's drama "The Sum of Us" is coming to Walker's Point. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's Uncommon Theatre will present "The Sum of Us" from May 25 through June 10.

"I'm excited to have the chance to revisit the show," Mark Schuster, director of both productions, explained. "I'm looking forward to the chance to expand the audience and share our work with the gay community. We have a quality production with a contemporary message that's worth seeing. Our prior audiences were a mixture of gay and straight people, and it was interesting to see the different reactions to specific scenes and characters."

The lead character in the production is played by local actor Alan Stevenson, who is frequently seen in productions at Sunset Playhouse.

"I love the characters and the message presented," Stevenson said. "It's a challenge to tell this story by finding out who these people are, what they think and what makes them tick. It's the sense of discovery that I find most rewarding — and the rest of the cast and crew, of course. It's also fun as an actor to play the emotional roller coaster that's so much a part of the show. Laughing and crying — all good. Oh, and there's a lot of making out!"

"The story is truly timeless," added Schuster. "It's about family, acceptance, the search for happiness, and real people making choices about very personal issues and concerns. It's not about kings or dragons or movie stars or aliens. It's about people like you and me finding their way through life. Gay or straight, there is always the concern of being accepted for who you are and what you believe. I know these kinds of people; I am these kinds of people. We're telling a story about a father and son. I strive to make these people and situations real and accessible to

today's audience."

Stevenson agreed, "The gay aspects of the show are vital to the storyline, but the larger message is about love, tolerance and acceptance. It has universal appeal."

"We've been lucky enough to draw a wide variety of theatergoers," Schuster said, "from high school students to 30-somethings to grandparents. I think there is something in the show for everyone to relate to. We all have families, we all search for a mate, we all laugh and love. I hope anyone who enjoys good storytelling will give us a chance. I think they'll be pleasantly surprised at what they'll find."

Two characters in the show (one male, one female) will be re-cast for the new production. Greg, in his 20s and with a swimmer's build, and Joyce, a youngish 40-something woman in great shape, are the lead characters' potential mates. Anyone interested in auditioning for these roles should contact the director immediately at [marquis@execpc.com](mailto:marquis@execpc.com) to set up an audition time.

Uncommon Theatre production of "The Sum of Us" opens May 25 and continues May 26 and 27 and June 1, 2, 3, 9 and 10. All performances are at 8 p.m. at the Milwaukee Gay Art Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for students/seniors at the door on the night of the performance. Purchase tickets at [www.uncommontheatre.net](http://www.uncommontheatre.net) or by calling 800-595-4849. For more information, call the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center at 414-383-3727.

## PrideFest 2006

By Holly Grey

The 10th annual PrideFest, Milwaukee's festival dedicated to the LGBT community, starts Friday, June 9, and runs through Sunday, June 11, at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park (Summerfest Grounds) along the shores of Lake Michigan in downtown Milwaukee.

Known as one of the biggest pride celebrations in the country, PrideFest boasts a full weekend of entertainment, activities and, of course, partying. Organizers are hoping to attract 30,000 people — nearly 10,000 more revelers than last year — to celebrate our diverse sexual and gender identities, histories, cultures, families, friends and lives.

Margaret Cho, the ever-bawdy comedian and lover of the LGBT community, will start the festival off Friday night. On Saturday night, the legendary Martha Wash, '80s pop trio Bow Wow Wow and electro-pop band Berlin will hit the stage. Cascada, the energetic dance music diva, and EnVouge, the beautiful and talented '90s sensation, will wind down the weekend on Sunday night.

Other forms of entertainment will fill out the jam-packed, weekend-long celebration: The Pride Idol competition, PrideFest's talent competition, is back along with the ever-popular and always packed dance tent; spectacular fireworks are set to fill the sky each evening; and jugglers and roaming clowns will be on hand to entertain the kids. The always well attended bingo area is also back along with the Sky Glider and food and drink from a variety of vendors.

Scott Gunkel, PrideFest president, promises that this year's PrideFest will "carry on the tradition of offering a wide range of exciting activities for people of all ages." Dozens of vendors selling everything from shirts to crafts will be on hand, as will numerous social and political organizations in

the Market Place.

New to this year's celebration will be a martini bar, sponsored by Effen Vodka, near the dance tent, and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Café and Wine Garden. In the Oasis area, a new building will open with a VIP garden attached that is available for private events.

PrideFest is produced and run by an army of volunteers. "Our amazing team of volunteers creates a safe and hugely successful festival each year," said Gunkel. "However, we can always use more volunteer assistance." Over the weekend, PrideFest will depend on the generosity and hard work of more than 1,000 volunteers who assist in all areas, from security to food service. "Volunteers make PrideFest a success," explained Gunkel.

"I am also pleased to announce five new members to our board: Jenny Gryniewicz, Paul Masterson, April Calvert, Karen Wells and Gary Peterson. These good folks are also volunteers and bring a wealth of talent, experience and lots of hard work to the event," said Gunkel. "We will be looking for an additional five members to join us on the board after this year's event."

PrideFest began humbly in Milwaukee. It wasn't called PrideFest back in 1974, but a dance was organized by the Gay People's Union to celebrate community pride. Each year other dances and events were hosted, but it wasn't until 1988 that the first official pride event was hosted by the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay Pride Committee. That week-long event included a softball tournament and picnic at Mitchell Park, formal ball, film festival and town hall meeting with elected officials. Nine years later the officially named PrideFest moved to the Henry W. Maier Festival Park.

Festival hours are Friday, June 9, 6 p.m. to midnight; Saturday, June 10, 11 a.m. to midnight; and Sunday, June 11, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.



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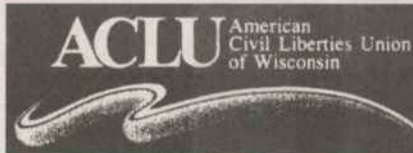
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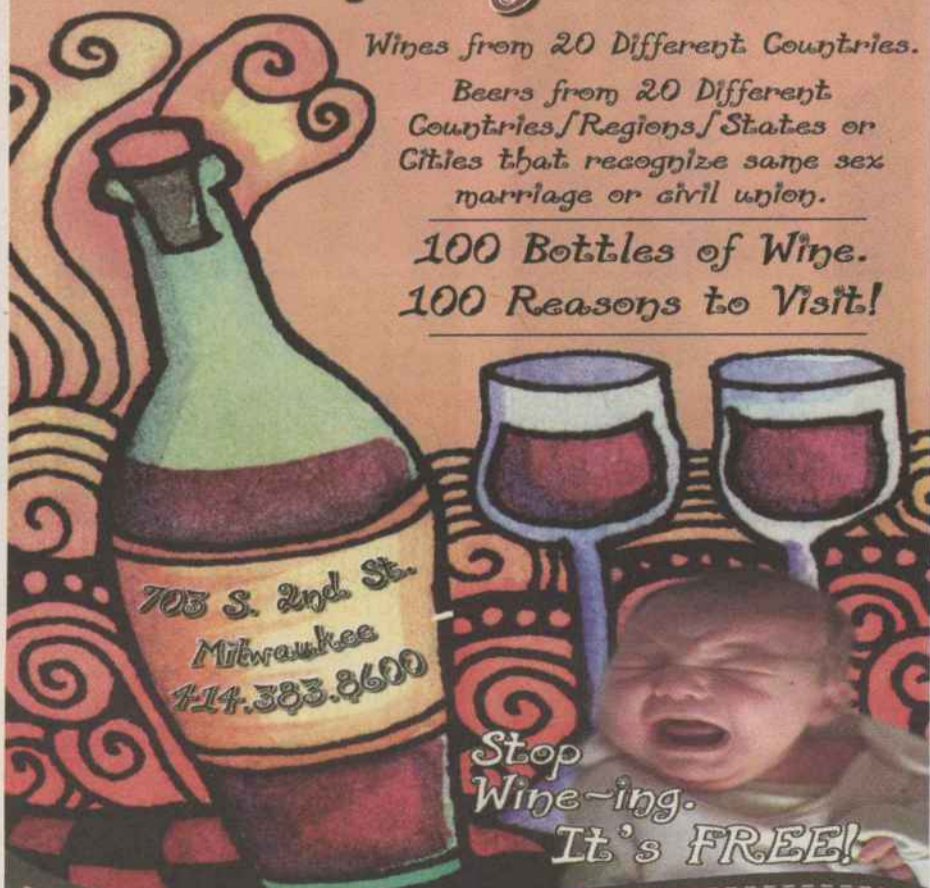
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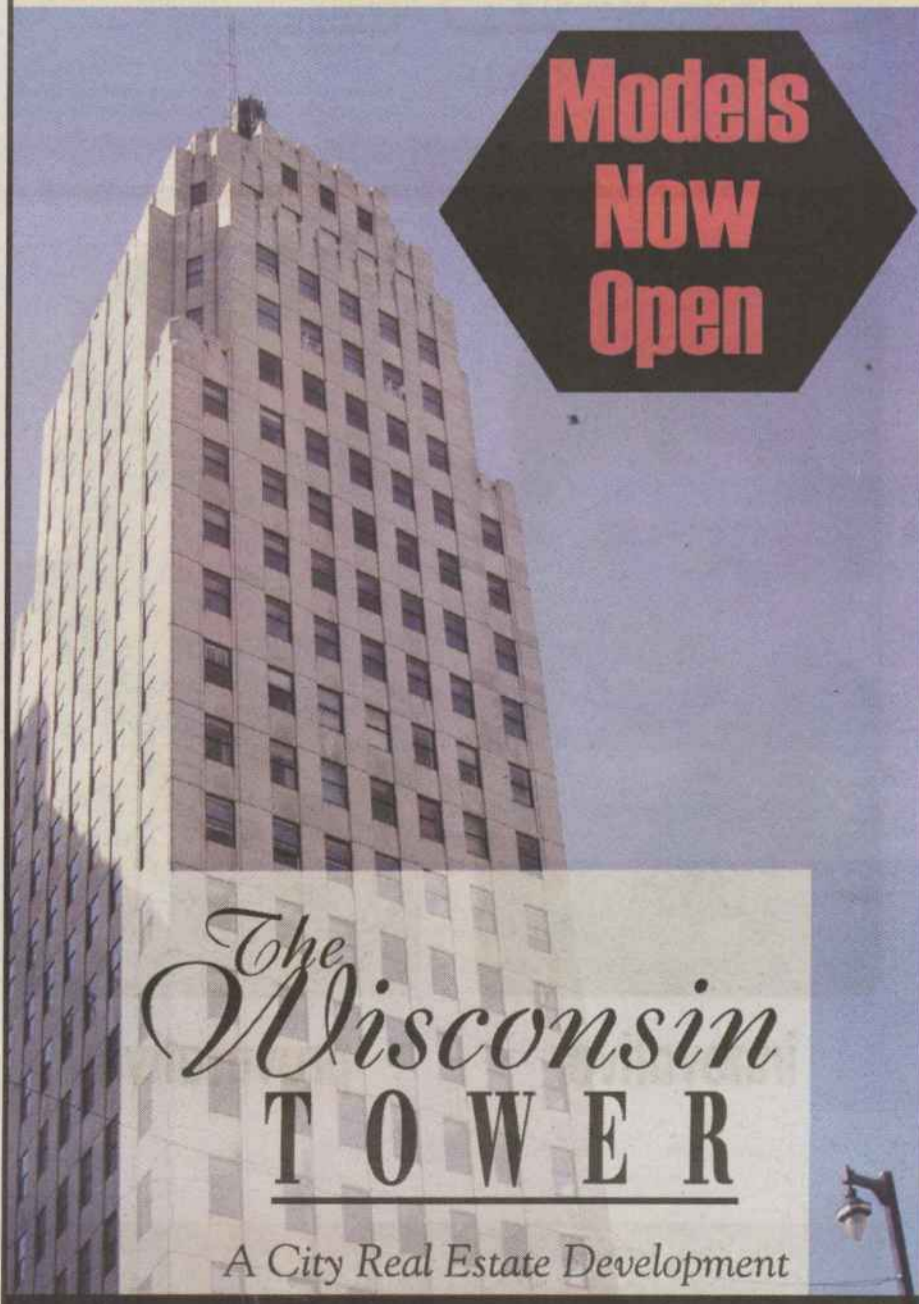
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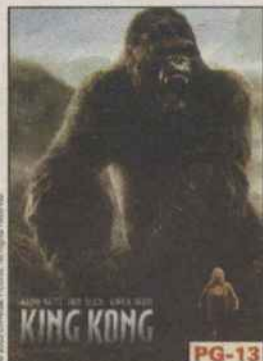
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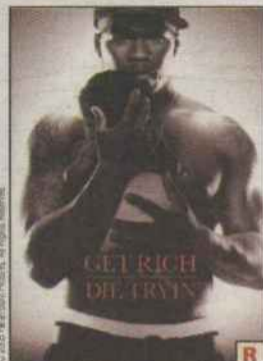
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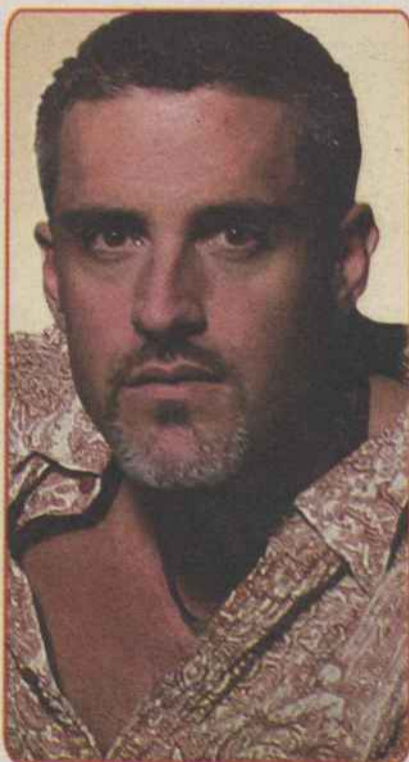
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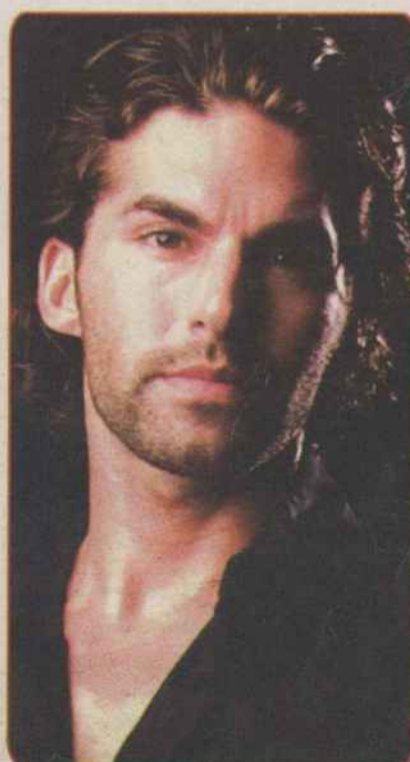
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