

## PrideFest's Newest Addition Attracts Thousands

**History, Art and Film Join Forces Under One Roof**

By Paul Masterson

According to attendance figures registered by SAGE volunteers, PrideFest's newest attraction, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Pavilion, drew at least 6,500 visitors in two days. A broad spectrum of organizations and visual and performance artists joined forces to present a very special arts and history exhibition.

Carl Bogner of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Film/Video Festival and UWM Libraries' Archive and Special Collections Director Michael Doyle created a two-hour video presentation including LGBT film shorts and 1970s-era local television reports on "homosexuals."



PrideFest 2006

The pavilion also housed a PrideFest tradition — the LGBT Time Line. Jerry Johnson's incredible 48-by-8-foot collage display of over three decades of LGBT entertainment posters, fliers and clippings covered a third of the building's walls. Beginning with the nascent gay entertainment industry in the 1970s, the collection ended with posters from the recent Academy Award-winning "Brokeback Mountain."

Live entertainment included a spectacular



show staged by Shaia Fahrid's women's troupe, Serpentine Dream; her men's troupe, Extreme

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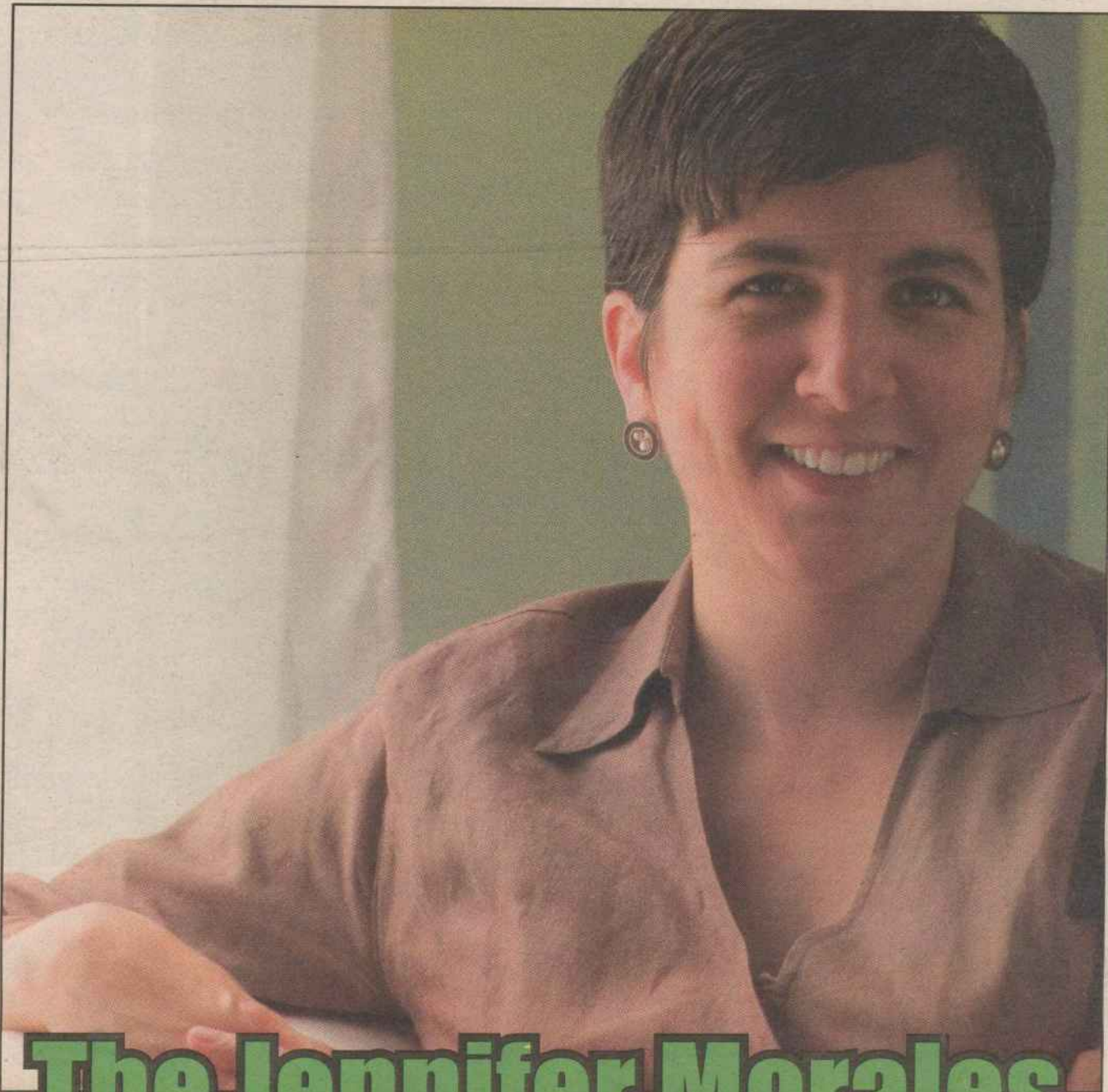


Photo by: Melody Carranza

# The Jennifer Morales Impact

By Holly Grey  
Special to QLife

Coming out has had a huge impact on Jennifer Morales' life, but will its impact be significant for the rest of the Milwaukee-area population? So far it has been. Morales, a Milwaukee Public School Board member, has already made a splash in the local press and within the LGBT community.

"I had doubts that my coming out would really matter, but many folks have come up to me and thanked me. During the Pride Parade spectators were shouting, 'Thank you! Thank you!' as I rode along the parade route. It was great affirmation that coming out does make a difference," explained Morales.

A last-minute speaker at PrideFest on June 9, Morales

was greeted with cheers and rousing applause as she took the stage. "Speaking at PrideFest was a little strange. I just got called earlier that day to speak, so I had to put things together quickly. It was a great experience and I was shocked by the audience's genuine outpouring of support."

So far, she has experienced no negative feedback since announcing publicly that she's a lesbian. "So many people have come up to me and thanked me for taking this step," she said, sounding surprised and relieved.

"It was so important to me to identify myself. It's important that I identify as a lesbian because I feel a particular responsibility with the proposed state

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## Raising the Bar

AIDS WALK WISCONSIN 2006 Pg 11

African-American  
LGBT Leadership  
Summit Held at  
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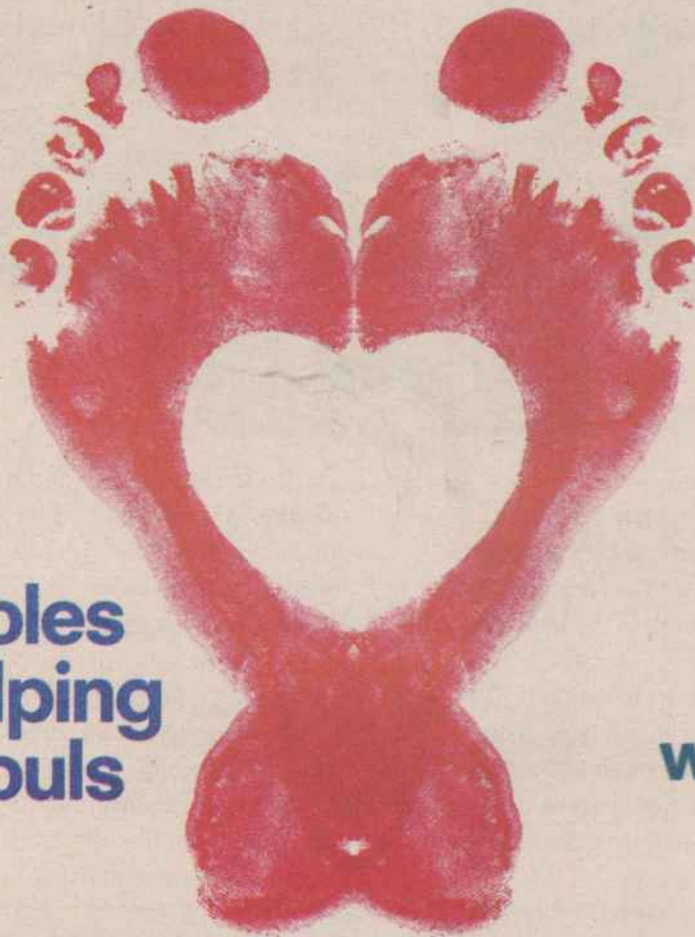


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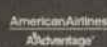
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**Jennifer** *continued from page 1*

constitutional ban on gay marriage and civil unions on the ballot in November," explained Morales. "I had to make a public statement to assist LGBT MPS employees and to help protect our families. Coming out allows me to be open about my relationship and frees me to be more vocal and become a more active participant in Action Wisconsin's efforts."

Morales is adamant about her obligation to MPS students and employees. "I think my coming out also helps a particular segment of the MPS population feel they have an advocate on the board. I was the first Latino on the board and I know that for many in the Latino community, they felt that I was like them and the one person they could go to. I hope to have the same impact on LGBTs within MPS."

Aspiring to continue to make an impact, Morales has put together a resolution asking the MPS board to take a stand against the constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages and civil unions and to provide domestic partner benefits for MPS employees. Morales does not know when the resolution will be presented to the board, but she believes it is not too far-fetched to think that school boards across the state will want to defeat the ban and provide domestic partnership benefits for all employees. "It's a matter of economics and fairness," she stated.

She hopes her colleagues on the MPS board are not too squeamish about the topic. It's hard for her to envision that they would want to discriminate in any way against MPS employees and the students they serve.

Morales hopes other LGBT people considering coming out do so. She also has a keen interest in seeing public figures and politicians come out. "Their coming out helps bring the issue of discrimination to the forefront," she explained. "They

should be honest about who they are, as everyone has a stake in this issue."

As a politician, she knows that every vote counts as well. "If voters know an LGBT person, they are more likely to vote against discriminatory bans on gay marriage and civil unions."

She also recognizes that Wisconsin voters have traditionally been fair minded. She anticipates voters in November will think carefully about the effects of this amendment and the long-term impact of defining a group of people as second-class citizens. "Is keeping one segment of the population as second-class citizens something Wisconsin wants to experiment with?" she asked. "I think Wisconsin voters will be fair and not discriminate."

After two marriages and three political campaigns, the newly out Morales is not resting on her laurels. Between her school board duties, her editing business, a one-year-old relationship with Tina Owens (lead teacher at the Alliance School of Milwaukee), and four kids in their new home on Brady Street, Morales has little spare time but does keep her sights on her political future.

Having unsuccessfully run against Republican state Sen. Alberta Darling in 2004, she has not ruled out running for office again. However, she did say that "electoral politics is about being in the right place at the right time. So who knows?"

Morales was elected to the Milwaukee Public School Board for Board District #5 in 2001. Her current term expires in 2009. Her diversified background in education research and publishing spans more than 10 years and includes being the editorial assistant and grant writer for Rethinking Schools, a national journal of urban education, and serving as the assistant director of two educational research centers at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her children attend Milwaukee Public Schools.

**PrideFest** *continued from page 1*

Taqsim; and male soloist Scirocco. In all, over 20 belly dancers performed to sensual Middle Eastern hits spun by Shafiq.

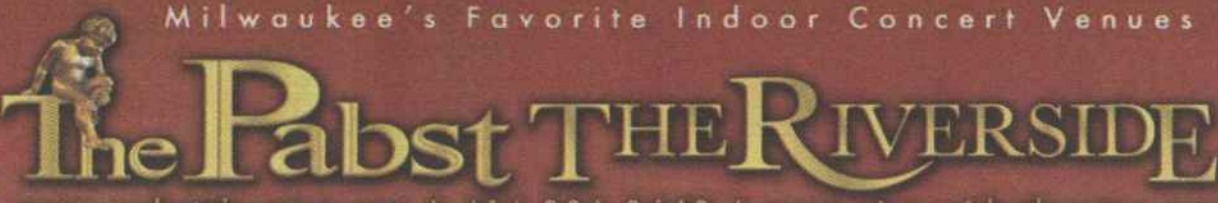
Women's Voices Milwaukee made their inaugural public appearance and sang a madrigal and love song as a preview for their June 17 concert. Mark Hooker crooned a couple of tunes from his cabaret act "Songs Men Don't Sing" with that certain flair only he can muster.

An artists' table discussion on "What Is Gay Art, Anyway?" took place on both days. The exact definition was never quite established, but plenty of perspectives emerged, giving the participants insights into the complexity of our artistic expression.

As an obsessive volunteer, I've been involved with various Milwaukee nonprofit organizations for nearly 15 years, and since February 2005 I've been the volunteer director of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. But this year's PrideFest certainly reinforced my commitment to the community. Working together with the Milwaukee LGBT History Project, 14 SAGE volunteers and the UWM Film/Video Festival alongside eight local artists and 20 dancers, all of whom dedicated their talent, time and effort, was an overwhelming experience.

I wish to thank all those who volunteered to make this effort such an incredible success, and I look forward to continued collaboration for PrideFest 2007.

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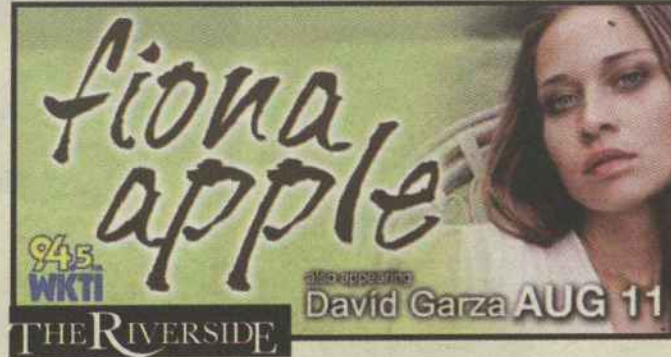
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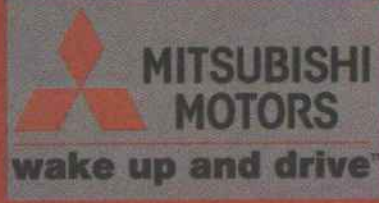
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## New Gay Fund Worth Over \$100,000

Robert Starshak and Ross Draegert established the Birch Lodge Fund, worth over \$100,000, with the Cream City Foundation as part of their support of the new Donor Advised Fund Initiative to encourage gifts of \$10,000 or more for LGBT communities.

"We are fortunate to have individuals in southeastern Wisconsin committed to the success of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities," said Maria Cadenas, executive director of the Cream City Foundation. "Partnerships and contributions like this go a long way toward achieving quality programs and to ensure the success for sustainable LGBT funding."

"The Birch Lodge Fund is vital to the continued growth and prosperity of Wisconsin," said Kevin Loos, president of the Cream City Foundation. "Not only does the fund show the benefit of having a philanthropic tool, such as the Cream City Foundation, but it creates a known source of income for top programs working for meaningful change benefiting all LGBT people in Wisconsin. We are proud to be a vehicle for Robert and Ross's philanthropic spirit and commitment to equality."

Starshak, vice president of the Cream City Foundation, and Draegert will use the fund to make a historic contribution to Action Wisconsin Education Fund, an organization aiming to provide educational resources on legal matters and other issues for Wisconsin's LGBT citizens and their families, and to educate the general Wisconsin public about the consequences of anti-

LGBT prejudice.

"It is important for each of us to stand up for a community that is fair, just and equal to all its citizens, including LGBT people," said Starshak. "The current political climate and legislative measures such as the proposed ban on civil unions and gay marriage make it even more important for us to contribute and support LGBT organizations and programs."

"We are committed to funding LGBT needs through Cream City Foundation because we believe strongly in the benefit of combined economic power to make a difference," added Draegert. "The Cream City Foundation has been there to help move LGBT programs and organizations forward, and we are excited to help its mission through our own fund."

Cream City Foundation launched its Donor Advised Fund Program in early 2006 with the creation of the Joseph R. Pabst Community Infrastructure Fund, which is currently funding a partnership between the Nonprofit Center and the Cream City Foundation to provide organization and leadership development workshops for LGBT leaders.

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

## Fair Wisconsin Thanks Faith Communities for Unprecedented Stand Against Civil Unions and Marriage Ban

In June, the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ, representing 241 congregations statewide, passed a resolution to oppose the civil unions and marriage ban, which will be on the Nov. 7 ballot, and the Wisconsin United Methodist Conference, which represents 501 congregations, reaffirmed its opposition to the ban.

Fair Wisconsin thanks these and the many regional Christian and Jewish institutions that have also taken a stand.

"Never before — in Wisconsin or any other state — have so many faith communities joined together to oppose one of these measures," said Fair Wisconsin campaign manager Mike Tate. "People of faith are critical to defeating the ban, and we thank them for speaking out."

The following faith institutions, representing nearly 500,000 congregants across Wisconsin, publicly oppose the civil unions and marriage ban:

Wisconsin United Methodist Conference  
Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Wisconsin Jewish Conference  
Madison Jewish Community Council  
Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)

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John Knox Presbytery (Presbyterian Church USA)  
Milwaukee Presbytery  
Winnebago Presbytery  
Southeast Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist Congregations  
Northern Yearly Meeting Religious Society of Friends  
They join hundreds of individual congregations and clergy who are on record against the ban.

"People of faith are compelled to speak out because the ban violates Christian and Jewish values of compassion and fairness," said Fair Wisconsin faith outreach director Eric Peterson. "The UCC, the United Methodists and other faith communities in Wisconsin are making bold statements of the Gospel in opening the doors of the church to all people and opposing discrimination as they have been called to do."

Fair Wisconsin recently hired Peterson, an active lay leader in the ELCA from Amery, to expand the campaign's faith outreach programs. Fair Wisconsin is now working with 14 regional faith outreach committees that plan adult education workshops, faith community forums and worship vigils.

## Surviving Sexual Violence: Workshops in Healing Methods and Writing to Heal

Milwaukee-area survivors of sexual violence and those involved with them will have several unique opportunities this summer to explore new ways to heal from the trauma of sexual violence.

FORGE's Transgender Sexual Violence Project has received funding from the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership to sponsor a series of free workshops open to primary and secondary survivors of sexual violence, their primary support people, and professionals and advocates who work with this population. The workshops are designed to:

- \* Foster hope and expand the possibilities of healing for sexual violence survivors who may sometimes feel "permanently" affected by their assault(s)/abuse;

- \* Introduce survivors, therapists and other support people to a variety of trauma treatment methods that have proven effective in helping sexual violence survivors heal;

- \* Showcase Southeastern Wisconsin therapists and bodyworkers who have significant experience treating sexual violence survivors and who are open to treating survivors of all genders and sexual orientations — including transgender and male survivors and victims of female perpetrators; and
- \* Increase the knowledge of therapists, sexual assault service providers and others about the unique needs of sexual violence survivors who are from sexual and gender minorities.

All workshops will be held at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. Potential participants are invited to attend the whole series or only the workshop(s) of specific interest to them.

**"Trans 101: What Providers Do (and Don't) Need to Know to Work with Transgender Clients" and "Transgender Sexual Violence: Unique Concerns and Issues."** Tuesday, July 11, 9 a.m. to noon with Loree Cook-Daniels and michael munson, FORGE. This workshop is particularly geared toward therapists, advocates and other professionals who work with survivors of sexual violence or other trauma survivors.

**"Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Setting the Stage for Trauma Resolution."** Thursday, Aug. 24, 6 to 9 p.m. with Neal Moglowsky, LPC, Center for Behavioral Medicine.

**"Imagery Rescripting and Reprocessing Therapy."** Thursday, Sept. 14, 7 to 9 p.m. with Gretchen Fincke, MSSW, Pathways Counseling Center.

**"EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing): An Option for Healing from Trauma."** Thursday, Sept. 28, 7 to 9 p.m. with Sue Gill, Ph.D., Madison

psychotherapist.

**"Experiential and Group Dynamic Experiences."** Thursday, Oct. 12, 7 to 9 p.m. with Peggy Scargall, MSW, Affiliated Wellness Group.

**"Multiple Bodywork Approaches: Minimizing Traumatic Re-experiencing."** Thursday, Nov. 9, 7 to 9:30 p.m. with Mark Robers and other presenters TBA.

### Workshops in 'Writing to Heal: Transformation Through Words'

In addition to the healing methods workshops, FORGE is sponsoring "Writing to Heal: Transformation Through Words" workshops on the third Thursday of each month. Although all trauma survivors and supporters are welcome, these events are specifically designed to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and intersex survivors of sexual violence.

Skilled facilitators will help survivors reclaim and re-create whole, vibrant, healthy lives through trauma-informed, structured, healing exercises using words, images, movement and voice. Although there will be opportunities for group discussion, participants are not required to share their work. "Homework" suggestions and a listserv will offer participants additional opportunities throughout the month to explore healing options and connect with others on a healing path.

Although a donation of \$5 to \$10 is suggested for the writing workshops, no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Upcoming writing workshops will be held July 20 and Aug. 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. All workshops will be held at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee.

For more information about either the healing methods workshops or the "Writing to Heal: Transformation Through Words" series, call michael at 414-559-2123, visit [www.forge-forward.org/transviolence](http://www.forge-forward.org/transviolence) or e-mail [sv@forge-forward.org](mailto:sv@forge-forward.org).

FORGE is a 12-year-old, national, Wisconsin-based organization serving the female-to-male (FTM) spectrum and SOFFAs (Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies). FORGE is hosting a national FTM+/SOFFA conference in Milwaukee March 29 to April 1, 2007. For more information or to sign up for e-mail updates on the conference, visit [www.forge-forward.org/conference](http://www.forge-forward.org/conference).

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## Lawmakers, Professional Groups Dispute Pentagon Document That Says Gays Are Mentally Ill

**Santa Barbara, Calif.** — Several members of Congress have sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld asking him to review a recently discovered Pentagon Instruction classifying homosexuality as a mental disorder.

The document, which was found by researchers at the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military (CSSMM), a think tank at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is a Department of Defense Instruction that was signed by the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness in 1996 and re-certified as "current" in 2003.

The letter, signed by nine members of the House Armed Services Committee led by Rep. Marty Meehan of Massachusetts, asks the Defense Department to update the classification. The letter notes that the American Psychiatric Association (APA) removed homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses over 30 years ago and affirmed that homosexuality "implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability

or general social and vocational capabilities."

The APA wrote its own letter to the Pentagon urging it to remove homosexuality from the Instruction and update it to reflect the current consensus of medical professionals. The American Psychological Association followed suit with a similar letter.

Edwin Dorn, the former Undersecretary of Defense who signed the original Instruction, agreed the document might be out of date. "It is certainly time to revisit the issue of whether homosexuality should be considered a mental disorder," he said.

Also last month, CSSMM issued a report card evaluating the military's treatment of its gay and lesbian service members. The military earned F's in four out of five categories: "Mental Health Classification," "Anti-Gay Harassment and Command Climate," "Evidence-Based Assessment of Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and "Family Support."

## Groundbreaking Film Centers on African-American Gay Dealing with Issues of Family and Church

**Washington** — A new Maurice Jamal film, "Dirty Laundry," is being called "groundbreaking" and "historically significant" for its candor in telling the story of an African-American son returning home to deal with being out to his family and his church. The Human Rights Campaign is a national sponsor of sneak preview screenings for the film across the country.

HRC President Joe Solmonese said the film "chronicles one man's story, but speaks to thousands of conversations happening in families across this country. We are extremely honored to play a role in supporting a film that openly and honestly brings to the screen issues of being out as a gay African-American man. At the end of

the day, this film will spark more conversations that will lead to the changing of hearts and minds."

The film comes from the creators of last year's hit "The Ski Trip." Once again writer/director Jamal tackles uncharted territory with his unique brand of comedy and drama.

## Gay TV Network Develops Original Film "In the Name of Love"

**Los Angeles** — here!, the gay television network, has developed an original film written by Chastity Bono and Garth Belcon.

"In the Name of Love" is about an influential Hollywood lesbian who is troubled by the steamy sexual dreams she's been having lately — dreams about a man. Meanwhile, her

straight best friend is about to have her first-ever lesbian experience. "In the Name of Love" turns the "coming out story" upside down as it takes a hilarious and controversial look at labels and assumptions on both sides of the gay/straight divide.

Chastity Bono is the author of "Family Outing," a collection of coming-out stories, including her own. She was previously the entertainment media director at GLAAD. As a child, Chastity regularly appeared on "The Sonny & Cher Show" with her parents, Cher and the late Sonny Bono. Chastity is also a singer/songwriter and percussionist. She has appeared on "Ellen" and in the independent films "Bar Girls" and "Fronterz."

Garth Belcon is a producer/writer and actor. His credits include the independent films "Fronterz" and "White Boyz."

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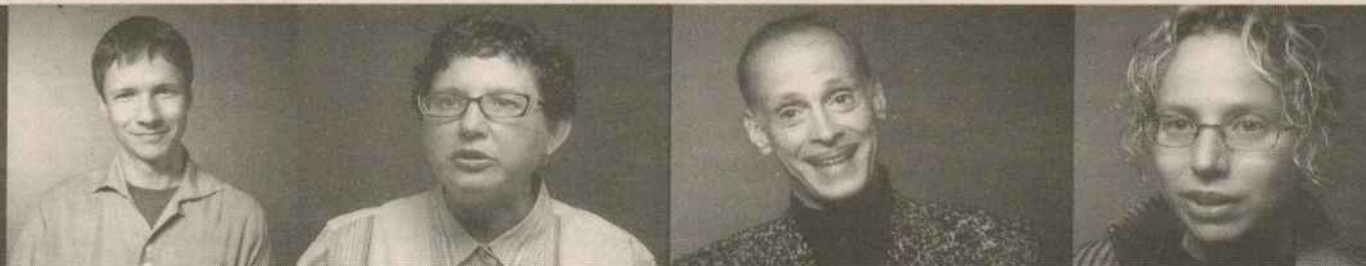
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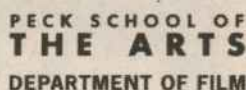
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Q Life is a monthly publication which highlights Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. Each issue contains insightful articles penned by local personalities who are in the know. Available throughout Wisconsin, Q Life fills an information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

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# Run, Jennifer, Run!

**Y**ou would think by 2006 we wouldn't have to sing the praises of someone who has the chutzpah to come out and tell Milwaukee she's gay. After all that's should be "so '90s."

Right?

And today, mention of someone's sexual orientation should receive at best a "so what?" from the average Joe.

Right?

Wrong on both accounts.

Unfortunately, we don't live in utopian times — and when a high-profile elected official like Milwaukee School Board member Jennifer Morales comes out, it's news. Especially for a gay newspaper.

So it's with respect, joy and a bit of sadness that we find ourselves covering Morales' announcement. Not because we don't stand firmly behind her decision to come out; we are happy she did. Not because we aren't proud of her accomplishments and her common-sense approach to help solve the many problems plaguing MPS. Morales is by far the shining star

of the often fractured school board. Her clairvoyant and calming style is a breath of fresh air — and she is one of the few members on the board who are truly there for the nearly 100,000 students in the system.

We just wish being gay and being a public servant weren't such a big deal. But we know it is.

During her interview with QLife, Morales continually impressed us with her wit and charm and a passion that is not seen in many folks. She spoke of why she chose now to come out and how important it was to her that this decision be made public before the anti-gay marriage amendment is on the ballot in Wisconsin this fall. She also highlighted the disturbing figures of just how many young gay kids face depression and discrimination and ultimately choose suicide because they feel they can no longer deal with being born gay. She was right to come out, not just for herself, but for Milwaukee as a whole. And in her often modest style, she used the plight of others to tell her story.

Kudos to Morales!

We hope she remains firm to her beliefs and will use her position in Milwaukee politics to forward the fight many LGBT folks deal with daily. We also hope Morales, a Latina, will gain statewide exposure and become a force in Wisconsin politics. It should never be forgotten that Hispanics are the



EDITORIAL

fastest growing population in our state and deserve proper representation.

Imagine.

Wouldn't it be nice to have someone from Milwaukee in Madison who we know will not only fight for the issues facing LGBT and Hispanic folks, but will also stand up for our city in general?

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## Raising the Bar

By Joseph Brooks and Bill Keeton

Special to QLife

Just in case you needed one, AIDS Walk Wisconsin has come up with another great reason to visit your favorite LGBT bar. This summer, as you raise your glass, you can also encourage your friends to join you as you "Raise the Bar."

In partnership with the Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, AIDS Walk Wisconsin is proud to announce the Raising the Bar Challenge. This exciting challenge invites LGBT bars in Milwaukee to take part in AIDS Walk Wisconsin on Saturday, Sept. 30, by forming teams and competing with other bars to win the Raising the Bar Challenge.

To date, three bars have accepted the Raising the Bar Challenge: PUMP!, Switch and Triangle. Bars can join the challenge at any time and AIDS Walk Wisconsin staff are available to help bars in their efforts to raise funds for the walk. Over the course of the summer, teams will be recruiting members and planning exciting fundraisers to help them take the lead in the Raising the Bar Challenge.

The top two teams raising \$2,500 or more will receive an additional \$2,500 to be added to their fundraising total, thanks to the generous support of the Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund. You can support these teams and find more information about the Raising the Bar Challenge at [www.aidswalkwis.org](http://www.aidswalkwis.org).

As we enter the third decade of this epidemic in Wisconsin, the AIDS Walk needs your help to make

a real difference in the fight against AIDS. Agencies benefiting from the funds raised through AIDS Walk work tirelessly to develop cutting-edge services and treatment programs for the ever-increasing number of people with HIV and AIDS and to provide high quality care and prevention services for the LGBT community. Today, these services mean long-term survival for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The Raising the Bar Challenge is an organized effort to increase support for AIDS Walk Wisconsin from within the gay community. While treatment options have continued to improve since the beginning of the epidemic, the rate of new HIV infections among gay men is unfortunately on the rise once again. In 2005, 60 percent of newly reported HIV infections were among gay men. Support for AIDS Walk Wisconsin from the LGBT community provides funding for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, the largest provider of care to the indigent with HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin.

One of the new challenges in the fight against AIDS is providing aggressive prevention programs while supporting the very costly healthcare needs of those living with HIV and AIDS. The cost of prescription medication, medical treatment and dental care continually increases. AIDS still affects the LGBT population, and more people than ever are now living with this horrible disease. This means your financial support through participation in AIDS Walk and the Raising the Bar Challenge is just as important now as it has been at any other time.

Participate in the Raising the Bar Challenge and join your favorite Raising the Bar team or start one at your favorite bar today! Your support for AIDS Walk Wisconsin translates into life saving services in the fight against AIDS.

For more information on forming a team or getting involved with the Raising the Bar Challenge, contact Bill Keeton at [bill.keeton@arcw.org](mailto:bill.keeton@arcw.org) or 414-225-1592.

Joseph Brooks and Bill Keeton are development associates at AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

## African-American LGBT Leadership Summit Held at UWM

By Brenda Coley

Special to QLife

On Saturday, June 3, 35 African-American LGBT leaders and a dozen of their allies met at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for a day-long summit to address the needs of the community and recommend strategies. Co-sponsored by Diverse and Resilient Inc. and Connexus, the summit enjoyed support from the UWM LGBT Resource Center, the Wisconsin Division of Health and Family Services, and the Wisconsin Minority Health Grant program.

Brenda Coley and Gary Hollander of Diverse and Resilient were joined by community activist LG Shanklin-Flowers in facilitating the program. Jeffrey Huff, Sandra Jones and Phyllis Kirk also led discussion groups that fostered the development of key recommendations. Huff, Jones and Kirk were joined by another six community members in planning and orchestrating the summit.

Participants in the summit started their day acknowledging over 50 years of leadership that has advanced African-American LGBT people in Milwaukee. They also reviewed key health

disparities that are faced by LGBT people in general and African-American LGBT people in particular; these were identified in needs assessments conducted by Diverse and Resilient in 2005.

African-American LGBT leaders met in caucus for most of the day, discussing issues of education, employment, economics, politics, infrastructure, communication, faith, family and social venues. Discussion groups highlighted key areas of concern and recommended preliminary strategies for further discussion in subsequent meetings.

Among other important observations, participants noted that, in general, African-American LGBT people experience the same challenges that other African-American people face in employment, education and economics. However, cultural alienation from other African-American people and from LGBT people limits the currently available solutions to these problems.

In discussion, leaders also noted that there is currently no infrastructure for African-American LGBT people in the African-American community or in the LGBT community. Further, many African-American LGBT people are experiencing a crisis in faith, noting the apparent futility in discovering real system change, particularly in schools, churches, law enforcement and government.

At the end of the discussions, participants generated a list of recommendations. These ranged from the development of opportunities for increased social and educational interaction to the development of an African-American LGBT network. More immediately, an organizing committee was formed to follow up on more than a dozen recommendations, assessing feasibility and setting priorities.

While African-American LGBT leaders were meeting, allies also met in caucus. Allies addressed issues of oppression like racism and homophobia, and they developed a series of commitment statements in support of African-American LGBT people. They also committed to meet and expand their ranks.

At the end of the summit, all participants met to share the results of their efforts in caucus. Specific planning steps were developed. Brenda Coley unveiled a "ladder of opportunity," which identified increasingly committed responses to the efforts of the day. Summit participants each signed commitments on this ladder to reflect their ongoing support for the African-American LGBT community in Milwaukee.

For more information on the summit or to get involved, contact Brenda Coley at 414-390-0444 or [bcoley@diverseandresilient.org](mailto:bcoley@diverseandresilient.org).

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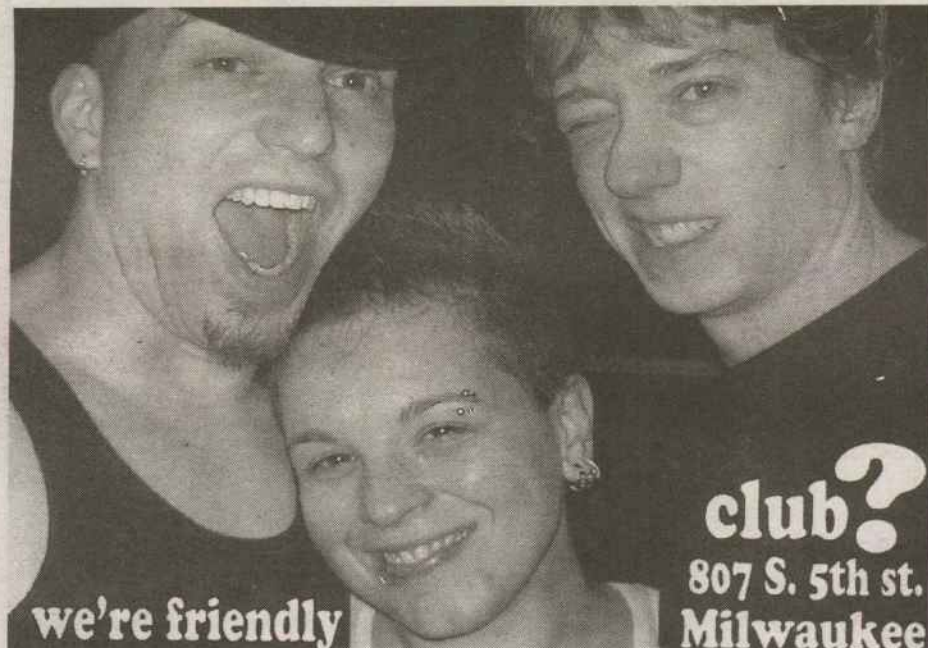
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- 5 **Host a House Party:** We'll provide planning assistance to help you put it together and you invite your friends.
- 6 **Give at Work:** CCF is a member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee, simply contact your HR representative and ask about 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.
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## Celebrate the Dog Days of Summer

### Held in Milwaukee's Walker's Point Neighborhood

By Mary Vitrano  
Special to QLife

Where can you bring your dog for an ice cold beer in the heat of the summer? This summer, you're in luck. On August 12, 2006 the Dog Days of Summer in Milwaukee's Walker's Point neighborhood will feature a Doggie Fashion Show, silent auction, live music, and lots of fun for you and your furry friend from 3:00 - 11:00 p.m.

#### Doggone Fun

Happening outside on 2nd street, this event will celebrate the summer with your dog at your side. Second Street from National Avenue to Pierce will be closed for the best outdoor party of the summer, featuring our four legged friends.



Contestants can enter into a fashion show with their dog, and celebrity judges will be on hand to help facilitate. The general public will also have a voting component that will be added to the score to decide the "Best of Show" for cash awards. A dog fashion show, beer and food vendors, and silent auction will be just some of the features you'll want to visit. Live music by Tyler Traband, Seb Brown, and Steppn' Out will be performed at the outdoor venue.

#### Event to Support Two Local Organizations

The first annual Dog Days of Summer will raise awareness and funds for Camp Heartland and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, both Milwaukee based nonprofit organizations. Camp Heartland is an organization that enhances the lives of children impacted by HIV/AIDS through year-round support, recreational programs, and community AIDS awareness efforts. 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.

The partnership between the two organizations is one based on the shared impact of HIV/AIDS in each community. This Doggie Cocktail event is the second of three fundraisers hosted by the Camp Heartland and Milwaukee Gay Arts Center team. Watch for the third Doggie Cocktail event of the season in December, so that you don't miss your chance to attend all three!

To learn more about each organization, check out the Camp Heartland website at [www.campheartland.org](http://www.campheartland.org) or Milwaukee Gay Arts Center website at [www.milwaukeegayartscenter.com](http://www.milwaukeegayartscenter.com). For more information on the event, or to enter you and your dog into the fashion show, please call Mary Vitrano at 414/272-1118 ext. 26.

## LGBT Film/Video Festival Is a Cultural Event and a Community Event

By Polly Morris  
Special to QLife

The 2006 edition of the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival is scheduled to open Sept. 7 at the Oriental Theatre and to continue through Sept. 17 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union Theatre. Once again, the festival is poised to show a range of work as lively, diverse and surprising as the community it serves. And this year — the festival's 19th — it will be doing so with the help of its first principal sponsor, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson & Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund.

An advised fund created to celebrate the love between Joseph Pabst and the late Robert Johnson, the Johnson & Pabst Humanity Fund supports organizations with a strong LGBT foundation that serve both the LGBT community and the community at large.

"The gift from the fund will enable us to expand outreach for the festival, connecting larger and more diverse audiences with the films that make the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival such an important event for the community," notes Carl Bogner, director of the festival.

"The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival

has a long history of serving both the LGBT community and the community at large," said Joseph Pabst. "It is both a cultural event and a community event, bringing people of all ages and backgrounds together to experience a wide range of LGBT films."



2005 event

The festival will be celebrating with its second annual fundraiser on Saturday, July 22. Come on down to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and Intermezzo Wine and Martini Lounge, 703 S. 2nd St., for a reprise of last year's samosas and a sneak preview of this year's festival. The \$15 admission gets you a free drink at Intermezzo. And Bogner will be glad to talk to you about all the work he is doing this summer.

Polly Morris is in the office of development and marketing at UWM's Peck School of the Arts.

## 2006 Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival Cooking with Gas!

By Matt Elasko  
Special to QLife

"I feel like I have just been saying or typing 'Please, please, please,' all summer," smiles Carl Bogner, director of the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival, who is in pursuit of the best new LGBT films for this year's festival. "A lot of time is spent trying to get a response from some very busy filmmakers or film distributors, either to get them to share a preview tape or to get them to allow us to screen the film. 'Please can we show it? Please let us present the film!'"

Such caginess on the part of the gatekeepers makes sense, concedes Bogner, given the fraught economics of filmmaking. But his persistence seems to be paying off. The 2006 Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival — one of the longest running film festivals in the city — will once again feature some of the best new films from around the country and around the globe in 11 continuous days of screenings.

One of the films Bogner is excited about is "The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros," from the Philippines. The 12-year-old boy at the center of this film is, for Bogner, the most heroic character he has encountered in the festival so far. Young Maximo would prefer dressing up and staging fake beauty pageants with his friends, but instead must contend with the extreme poverty his family faces and the criminal life his father pursues. "The very

low budget film is a triumph of resources, filmmaking in very adverse conditions, to produce a very moving, very touching film about a resolute queer kid," says Bogner.

In addition to this gem, Bogner is excited about "Looking for Cheyenne," a romance from France involving two women who break up over philosophical differences about how to engage with the world. "I think the film is a marvel," Bogner says. "It is a very satisfying romance but the characters talk convincingly about politics and ways to negotiate daily life. At times very funny and très engagé!"

Given the chance, Bogner is ready to talk about a lot more: "Boy Culture," the new film from Q Allan Brocka, the young — and very attractive — filmmaker who made "Eating Out," a comedy that wowed Milwaukee audiences two years ago; and "Another Gay Movie," from the screenwriter of "Edge of Seventeen." Says Bogner, "This film is a gay version of 'American Pie.'... Audiences go nuts for this film. And I think they are genuinely shocked at the levels, or depths, that this film will go to in pursuit of laughs. It's wonderfully crass."

All of these treasures can be experienced from Sept. 7 through 17. Read about the festival as it develops at [arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm](http://arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm). Or send your questions to [lgbtfilm@uwm.edu](mailto:lgbtfilm@uwm.edu). "We can always use volunteers," adds Bogner. So if you want to help out, drop him a line.

Matt Elasko is a journalism intern with the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival.



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# So, What About ...

## An Interview with Yolanda Roth

By Paul Masterson

Yolanda Roth is a Milwaukee singer, entertainer, softball player and Women's Voices Milwaukee board member. I first heard her sing at M&M's, where she regularly performed with her band, Rhythm & Torch. I was amazed. I knew had to bring her to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

Since then Rhythm & Torch has appeared at the center for the Doggie Cocktail Party fundraiser for Camp Heartland and for the Proud Crowd Reception.

I recently spoke with Yolanda, who will be appearing with Rhythm & Torch on July 15 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center as part of the center's new Cabaret series. Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit Women's Voices Milwaukee.

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

**Yolanda Roth:** Well, I'm a born and raised Milwaukeean and studied at the Wisconsin Conservatory. I've always loved music and always striven to improve myself.

**Q Life:** You also have quite a history of community involvement. You even play softball?

**YR:** Yes, last year I was a cheerleader but now I'm assistant manager for the Queer Life Gnu softball team and play center field. We attended the North Star Tournament in Minneapolis Memorial Day weekend. It was so exciting. I can't wait for another.

**Q Life:** How did Women's Voices Milwaukee come about?

**YR:** A lot of women wanted to see a women's choir so some of us said, "Let's get it together," and we looked to Men's Voices Milwaukee for support to get the choir started. We formed a board and started fundraising. I'm a board member at large and my role is to bring the membership and the board together. It's challenging. Our first show was June 17 along side MVM at the Helene Zelazo Center.

**Q Life:** And you had a preview at PrideFest.

**YR:** The PrideFest gig was perfect. It was exactly what WVM needed to get us ready for our first on-stage public performance. Many of our singers had never sung in public before. I have to thank the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and you for the opportunity.

**Q Life:** And how was WVM's debut concert?

**YR:** Wow, it was wonderful. I'm so proud of everyone. They were fabulous. The audience gave us a standing ovation for our Disney medley with MVM. Everyone was very complimentary, and all in all it was a very positive experience.

**Q Life:** So, what about Rhythm & Torch?

**YR:** Rhythm & Torch started two years ago. Before that I had sung with other groups like Cream City Chorus, a band called Big Bad Blues. And I've always been writing songs. I joined up with Steve Polifka on keyboard and Tony Ramirez on percussion and we began performing. We did regular gigs at M&M's and other Milwaukee clubs and events; now we'll probably become regulars at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

**Q Life:** What's the style?

**YR:** Rhythm & Torch's style is hard to classify. It's a little bit of folk rock, R&B, world music all rolled into one with a Latin flair. I'd say the sound is new in Milwaukee.

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

**YR:** We play a wide repertoire. The set list includes everything from our own compositions to Joe Cocker and Joni Mitchell with lots in between. But if I have to pick... My favorite songs include an original one I wrote, "The Letting Go." It's a ballad, not a love song but a torchy and really emotional song about how difficult it is to let go of things in your life. I wrote it when I was coming to grips with the loss of my mother and other separations. For a cover song my favorite is "I Will Survive."

**Q Life:** What will you do for your cabaret appearance at MGAC on July 15?

**YR:** Oh, my gosh, I am very excited. The set will definitely be more torchy. It's a wonderful venue with exceptional live acoustics and I'm happy to work with MGAC. I'm especially glad I can raise money for Women's Voices Milwaukee.

**Q Life:** And the future?

**YR:** More personal improvement ... more songs ... and, I hope, more joy for our audiences.

Tickets for Rhythm & Torch are \$15 and can be purchased at MGAC's box office, through WVM members or online at [www.uncommontheatre.net](http://www.uncommontheatre.net). The show begins at 8 p.m.



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# Villa Terrace: Classic Decorating by the Lake

If it hadn't been for Lloyd Smith falling in love and taking his bride to Italy on their honeymoon, Milwaukee might never have been graced with Villa Terrace and its Renaissance garden.

Villa Terrace was designed by a Milwaukee-born architect, David Adler, for the Smiths and built on the Lake Michigan bluff in 1924. Originally called *Sopra Mare*, Italian for "above the sea," the Villa was inspired by Villa Cicogna built in 1560 in Lombardy, Italy.

In the mid-1960s the Smith family generously donated their home to the people of Milwaukee County to serve as a decorative arts museum and to house objects from the Milwaukee Art Museum's decorative arts collection. In the 1990s, when severe and continuing budget cuts weakened the county Parks Department, the Villa Terrace gardens became wild and overgrown. The Friends of Villa Terrace came to the rescue by creating the Renaissance Garden Club for the restoration of the gardens. Another renaissance!

Under a master plan created by Dennis

Buettner of Buettner and Associates, volunteers worked with Buettner for two years to clear the neglected gardens. In 2000 the reconstruction was begun, and today

Villa Terrace boasts one of the most lush and learned local gardens.

According to Buettner, "During the Italian Renaissance, when rare, ancient Roman statues were unearthed, they were placed in prominent locations as garden features. Since that time it has been the fashion to use reproductions of mythological figures as garden sculpture. Even today, some 2000 years later, statues of the ancient mythological figures are used in

gardens for their intellectual meaning and historical charm."

The garden of Villa Terrace features antique statuary, reproductions and contemporary pieces.

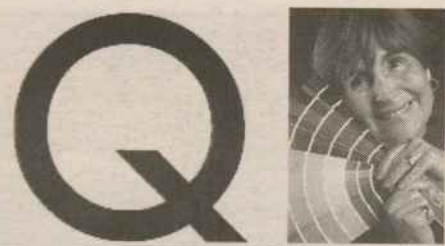
The entrance to the Villa is presided over by a sculpture of Mercury, the messenger of the gods. He stands in the middle of the courtyard surrounded by parterres (divided beds) of clipped boxwood hedges. The statue

of Mercury dates from the first or second century A.D. and is attributed to the Roman artist Giustiniani.

The terrace immediately outside the Great Hall is called Terrace D'Luna for its spectacular view of the full moon reflected in the lake. It also offers a bird's-eye view of the terraced gardens leading down to the lake. On the next terrace there are statues of putti, or babies, symbolizing the four seasons and various arts, including music, theater and architecture. In a small grotto on the next terrace is a lead dolphin, which represents the source of the water featured at Villa Terrace.

A statue of Ceres is located on the south side of the garden; she is the Roman goddess of the crops and the giver of grain. You may have seen her featured in a triangular shape in symbols of Sicily, the three-sided agrarian island off the south coast of Italy.

On the southeast, in a *giardino segreto*, or secret garden, is a sculpture of Diana, goddess of the moon and the hunt. Across from Diana on the garden's north side is a statue of Hercules, the most popular of the Greek gods. Hercules is known for his strength and courage, his great prowess as



## DECORATING

Mary Stearns ([mstearns@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:mstearns@queerlifeneews.com)) is the owner of Orientations Ltd., which she co-founded in 1977. Orientations originally imported Korean chests and other Asian antiquities and now offers a full range of interior design services. Stearns is an allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers.

an athlete and, most of all, for his beautiful body.

Other features of the garden are semi-circular stone benches, an obelisk, a fish pond featuring an iron lion mask and three lead fish spouting water to commemorate Milwaukee's three rivers.

At the bottom of the garden is the fabulous Neptune Gate. It is a commissioned, original work that was created by local artists Eric Moebius, Dan Nauman and Tom Latane and took two years to complete.

Neptune, the god of the sea, is an apt representative on the shores of Lake Michigan, Milwaukee's inland ocean. And an appropriate entrance to *Sopra Mare*.

Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum and Renaissance Garden (414-271-3656) is located at 2220 N. Terrace Ave., Milwaukee. It is open Wednesday through Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5, \$3 for seniors, and free for military and students with ID and children under 13.

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# Celebrating Freedom

In the summer of 1776, the founders of our country debated a declaration of independence. Discussion of the resolution was fierce, with some delegates holding out for yet more conversation with the British.

The resolution for independence actually failed on its first vote. On the second vote, two delegates from Pennsylvania skipped the meeting, allowing independence by their absence. These two men could not support independence but they also knew it was wrong for them to stand against it. So on July 2, by a resolution of the Second Continental Congress, the 13 colonies became the United States.

The Declaration of Independence, written to explain the July 2 vote of the delegates, became more famous than the vote for independence. Undeniably this is because of the stirring words of the Declaration, in particular, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

Along with election day, no other day is more important to our civic religion than July 4th. The day commemorates the founding of our nation and the ideals that continue to inspire and guide us. As we read the Declaration and celebrate its importance to American identity, we need to recognize the theological meaning of this secular document.

Jefferson, the main author of the Declaration, was a firm believer in religious tolerance and essentially an agnostic. What is important in the Declaration is what it doesn't say. It doesn't say that truth comes from papal authority, scriptural authority or hereditary authority. Instead the truth is apparent to men and women through honest reflection.

Over 200 years later we are still fighting over the theological claim that truth is self-evident. Religious fundamentalism — whether it is Christian, Muslim or Hindu — is based in the proposition that truth must be mediated by the religious authorities. There is a secular fundamentalism too; one sees it in totalitarian regimes that claim for themselves the ability to mediate truth. In all their varied forms, fundamentalisms are



## RELIGION

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

united by the common belief that truth is not self-evident.

In this context the Declaration is not just a dusty document worthy of patriotic sentimentalism but a daring affirmation of the ability of individuals to discern the truth. As such, the Declaration ought to be our answer whenever fundamentalists try to harangue us with scriptural proof-texts or papal bulls. We ought to say proof-texting is un-American because, for us, truth is self-evident.

This July we can best celebrate freedom by announcing the truths we hold to be self-

**We hold these truths to be self-evident: women can love women, men can love men, people are free to develop their gender identity.**

evident: that women can love women, that men can love men, that people are free to develop their gender identity, that what matters in marriage is love not gender.

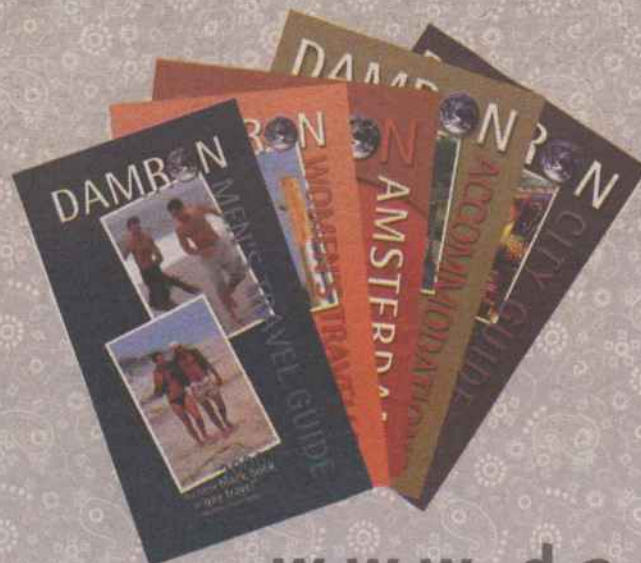
July 2 was a legislative victory, a one-vote margin of victory that allowed the colonists to become Americans. As important and crucial as the vote was, the Declaration was even more

essential. Beyond a legislative victory, how the founders talked about freedom and independence is what the colonists needed to hear.

We are engaged in many important legislative concerns, but what matters more is that we frame our debate in the context of our civic faith: Truth is self-evident, and that self-evident truth affirms the equality and dignity of all people.

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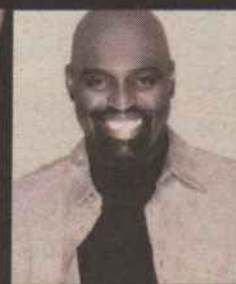
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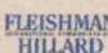
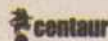
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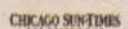
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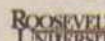


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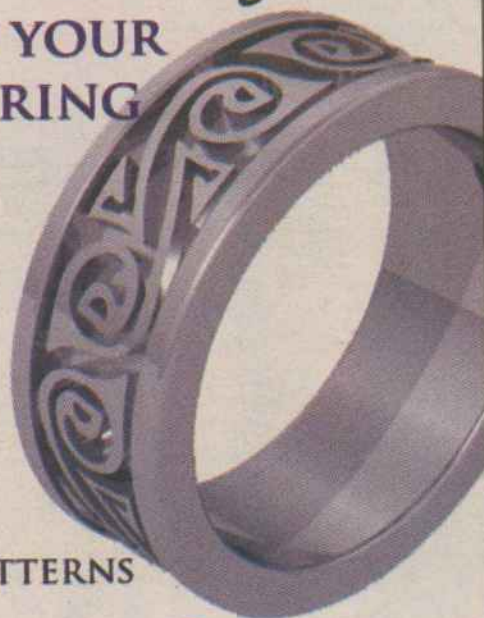


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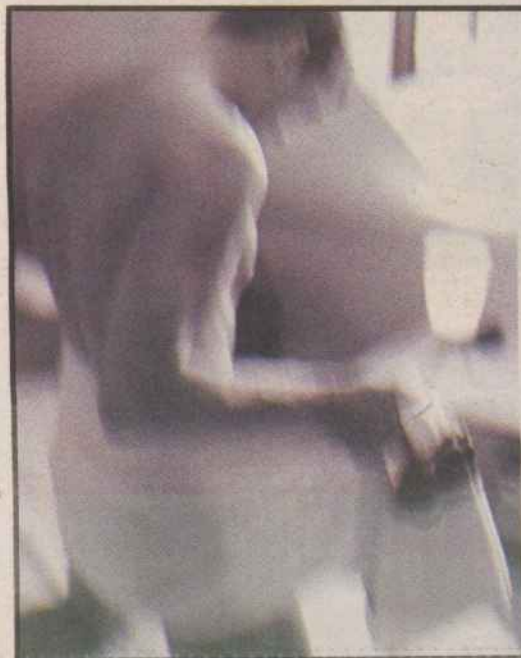
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## ON NOVEMBER 7th

Wisconsinites will vote on a constitutional amendment that would single out LGBT people for discrimination. Voters will consider this constitutional ban:

*"Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state."*

If passed, these two short sentences will affect us for a lifetime.

# THIS NOVEMBER WE CAN MAKE HISTORY.

## THEY SAY

LGBT people are "not a legitimate minority" and society is tolerant of gay people because they "can live wherever they choose."

"Gays have succeeded in adopting children into destructive, fatherless or motherless families. They've normalized sexual activity that leads to HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. They've convinced people that homosexuality is a predisposition rather than a choice."

## WE KNOW

The civil unions and marriage ban will hurt thousands of families. The denial of marriage already hurts loving and committed lesbian and gay couples who live in every part of Wisconsin. These couples have taken on the responsibilities of marriage, yet they are denied the critical legal protections that marriage provides.

But the ban goes beyond outlawing marriage for gay couples. It will also outlaw civil unions and threaten any legal protections for unmarried couples, including domestic partner benefits or even powers of attorney.

## IT'S TIME TO STOP THEM

Together we can make Wisconsin the first state to say "No" to a civil unions and marriage ban. We already have over 7,000 volunteers working statewide—join them during these last critical months of the campaign. Because when you wake up on November 8th, you'll want to know you did everything you could to win.

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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.

**P**ride can bring out the best in us, or the worst. It can unify us as a community, or pull us apart. It may not even be the greater "us" — the community as a whole — that unites or divides, but rather our own internal attitudes about who belongs and who doesn't.

The LGBT community has long had fractures in its core structure. One femur with a racist snap. Another with an ageist splinter. Ablism breaking through the skin by the tibia. Classism shattering the fibula. Sexism chipping away at our vertebrae.

Because we are all part of the broader non-LGBT world, we embody the mainstream ideology of -isms and have developed a host of other defense mechanisms that keep our multifaceted body broken into "us" vs. "them."

Most of us want to belong, want to be part of the "us" not the "them," so we absorb the messages and become walking clones, taking on similar physical characteristics, as well as talking the same talk. Even though

we repeatedly hear about diversity, our community looks more the same than varied. At least it tends to look the same, because the community has structured inclusion to look like the face reflected back in the mirror.

As my unquestionably female partner, our undeniably bored 12-year-old son and I (outwardly, unambiguously male), walked through the PrideFest grounds, I felt that recognizable sense of brittle alienation coupled with sweet familiarity. An alienation that was palpable — through the eyes, words and actions of others. A familiarity remembered, and longed for, though my own eyes, words and actions.

Many gay men and lesbians appear straight when standing alone but queer when with their partner or in a queer setting. Many trans people appear queer when standing alone, but straight when with our partner or in a queer setting, regardless of the gender or orientation of our partner.

At Pride, I felt painfully invisible and isolated. Each year, I bolster myself up to believe that the barriers are within me. If I change my attitude, I alter what I bring to the situation, which in turn contributes to change the community to honoring the complexities of the colorful collage of people who emerge for Pride.

In addition to feeling invisible about my queerness (because others perceive me as straight), my transness is also unseen (because others see me as only male). As my partner, son and I moved through the

grounds, I identified female impersonators, cross-dressers, butches and some MTFs. Some say FTMs have "passing privilege" — and those of us who want to (and can afford to) use testosterone and/or have chest surgery, do tend to pass well. But I'm not sure this is a privilege I want.

This unasked for privilege was given to me at the enormous cost of being recognized, validated and welcomed as part of my tribe. The place where queerness is celebrated is the very place where the richness of my "queerest of the queer" identity and relationship are shunned — where I am an outcast in my own community.

I refuse to assimilate in order for my diversity to be cherished.

If only we could see beyond outward appearances to define and embrace our community: past the color of our skin, the age and moveability of our bodies, the gender we were assigned at birth and the gender we choose today, or who we fall in love with. If only tears — like those of the phoenix — could mend a broken spirit, could set the fractured bones our community walks around with every day.

**Even though we repeatedly hear about diversity, our community looks more the same than varied.**

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# Hot Dam(s)

"Strawberry, grape, banana? How about vanilla? Or mint — that would keep your breath kissably fresh, too."

What a 57-year-old, white, gay guy won't do to sell safer sex to lesbians!

At PrideFest last month, staff and volunteers at Diverse and Resilient's booth easily unloaded 700 condoms. Transgender

folks, young people, straight folks and gay guys — they all grabbed for the colorful bags containing two pieces of candy, two condoms, lube and bubbles. (Bubbles? Well, for one thing it is a lot healthier to blow bubbles than smoke-rings after sex.)

But it regularly seemed like we needed to talk many women into taking dental dams. Here were some of the reasons we were given for not taking the dental dams. What do you think of these?

- "I'm not dating right now."
- "Me? I'm over 50!"
- "We've been together for a long time."
- "I don't even know what they're for."
- "I don't have a dental problem."
- "I don't have AIDS."

The funny thing about these excuses for turning down free dental dams (and, by the way, these puppies are really too expensive!) is that almost all of them have been used by

gay men about condoms. In reality, when we start dating or having sex is not the best time to prepare for sex. It is much more useful to be prepared for sex before we have the opportunity to have it. If you feel like a slut for doing that, take a deep breath and remember that at least you're a healthy slut.

Over 50? All the better to add some flavor to your sexual activities. Only turn down grape if you prefer pina colada.

So what if you've been together for a long time? What better opportunity to explore, try new flavors or at least figure out what this new fangled dental dam stuff is all about.

Don't know what dental dams are for? They are a barrier between one person's mouth and another person's labia or anus. They can help us prevent disease by reducing the risk of transmission. This includes herpes, warts, Chlamydia and other nasties.

Perhaps you've decided to abstain from sex. What could then be more fun than to fumble for your credit card or library card and plop down a banana-flavored dental dam as you continue your search?

Fortunately there were a bunch of real troopers in the PrideFest crowd. Many women openly discussed their preferences for fruitier flavors (like strawberry) over



## 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. He is also owner and principle consultant of Gary Hollander Enterprises, which assists organizations with their development, emphasizing change management, team development and cultural competency.

the floral taste of vanilla. A few women asked for several, one of each flavor. When told that she was unlikely to walk out of the Summerfest grounds without a new girlfriend, one young adult grinned and asked for two.

The only thing that is going to get dental dams into widespread (pardon the pun) use is widespread use. Social networks of lesbians and bisexual women can foster the use of these tools of disease prevention and pleasure promotion if they grab them when they are available.

**What could then be more fun than to plop down a banana-flavored dental dam as you fumble for your credit card?**





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

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# Red, White and Avocado?

Over the last couple of years I have become a big fan of the avocado. The subtle flavors of the avocado can compliment many dishes. In this recipe I use it with tomatoes and Swiss cheese for the toppings of an open-face chicken sandwich. This sandwich comes close to looking patriotic for your Fourth of July celebrations: The tomato is red, the Swiss cheese is white, and the avocado is ... well, almost blue.

**Fun Facts**

- Approximately 60 percent of California-grown avocados come from San Diego. Another great reason to visit San Diego!!
- Like the tomato, the avocado is not a vegetable, but a fruit. I like to think of this sandwich as chicken with fruit topping!!
- Alternate names for the avocado are alligator pear and butter fruit!!

**Chicken Avocado Tomato Melt**

- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. garlic salt
- 4 whole wheat hamburger buns
- 2/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp. lime juice
- 1 tsp. dried cilantro (or 2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro)
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 2 medium tomatoes, sliced (8 slices)
- 2 avocados, sliced

**Q**



**COOKING**

Steve Ahl (sahl@queerlifeneews.com) resides in Milwaukee's Third Ward. He is a chemist at a Milwaukee-area company.

4 oz. Swiss cheese, sliced (8 slices)  
Seasoning such as oregano, as desired, optional

Place one chicken breast between two layers of waxed paper. Using the flat side of a meat tenderizer, beat the chicken so that it's flat and has an even thickness, about 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick. Repeat with the remaining chicken breasts. Add the olive oil and garlic salt to a large sauté pan and place over medium heat. Place the chicken in the pan and cook until no longer pink in the middle, about five minutes per side.

Meanwhile, combine the mayonnaise, lime juice, cilantro and cayenne pepper in a small bowl. Set aside. Toast the hamburger buns in a toaster and then place on a baking sheet with the top and bottom of each bun together to make a long rectangle. Evenly distribute the mayonnaise mixture over the toasted buns.

Place one piece of chicken on top of each bun rectangle. Next, layer the tomatoes, avocados and Swiss cheese on top of the chicken. If desired, sprinkle the top of each sandwich with oregano.

Turn on the broiler of your stove. Move the oven rack to the top setting. Place the baking sheet with the sandwiches on the top rack. Broil the sandwiches, monitoring closely. Remove from the oven once the cheese has melted and is slightly browned. Serve immediately. This also reheats well in the microwave the next day if you have any leftovers!

**Q**

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# Astonishing Oneness; Amazing Bliss

A few Sundays ago, my son Alex took communion. He walked up to the altar with a bunch of teens. Some were mixed race like he is, some were LGBT or allies, still others were artsy kids, singers or dancers all. There was no bullying, no gay-bashing, no racism; just many commonalities among the teens.

I was in awe. Just a few years ago, Alex swore he'd never again enter a church, for he felt shunned by our old congregation for being gay. He thought being LGBT and Christianity were mutually exclusive because of lies perpetuated by society — and some churches. He felt hate from some churches, from people who advocated love your

neighbor while practicing hateful oppression. affirmed and welcomed, sharing in an age-old Christian ritual.

While communion might not seem extraordinary or magnificent, tears welled in my eyes. I cherished a moment of bliss while words from my childhood sang sweetly in my ear, "God's in heaven; all's right with the world." I simply couldn't make the moment last long enough.

In that moment, I felt enormous gratitude to a parade of people who paved the path for my son to be out, outspoken, included and OK.

To Bayard Rustin, black and gay like my son, whose dual passions for abolishing racism and homophobia seemed unified within the Civil Rights Movement. But Rustin was relieved of some responsibilities because he was gay. He continued on the MLK team, working behind the scenes in a less public stance. From him, I learned that I, too, need to do that sometime.

To Barbara Gittings, who relentlessly showed up at conventions of the American Psychiatric Association and whose very appearance helped change minds so that "homosexuality" would be removed from the list of psychiatric disorders. From Barbara, I learned that the very act of being there speaks loudly.

To Kelli Petersen, founder of the first gay-straight alliance, who at age 17 stood up to a school, a town, the state of Utah, the Supreme Court. From Kelli, I learned that when called to tasks that seem too big, ask for help, reach out, complete a piece at a time. But never give up.

To the LGBT community and countless others who spoke up, showed up, stood up or sat down; to those who said the right words or sang the song that reached the masses, I say thank you. Your footsteps paved the way for my son to be OK. Because of your struggles, perseverance and pain, I had my moment of bliss.

Because of your example, I know that bliss is not meant for lingering, but for

recharging and revamping.

As I reveled and recharged in that moment when "all's right with the world," a second verse graced my inner song — this one from a '70s commercial, I think: "You've come a long way, baby, but you've still got a long way to go."

Yes, although pearls of wisdom grace the solid path paved before us, there's much more work to be done.



## PARENTING

Cyndie Ody-Weis (MAMAQLN@yahoo.com) 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*.

**In that moment, I felt enormous gratitude to a parade of people who paved the path for my son to be out, outspoken, included and OK.**

neighbor while practicing hateful oppression.

And there stood Alex at the Lord's table with friends from Underwood Memorial Baptist Church, a welcoming and affirming church in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

The teens were respectfully solemn for their short wait in line. They approached the table that was prepared for all and received bread and wine. Then they sat and listened, exchanging glances, writing notes, commenting to one another — teen things. What a far cry from the bullying and name-calling and isolation that permeated Alex's childhood. Like so many other gay and gender variant kids, Alex felt different and alone then. But now he was connected,

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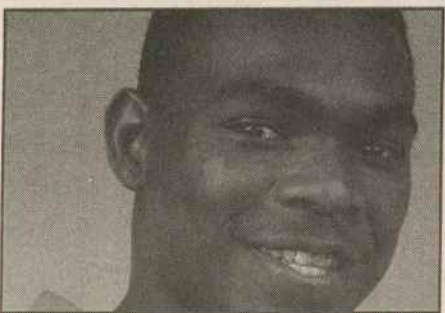
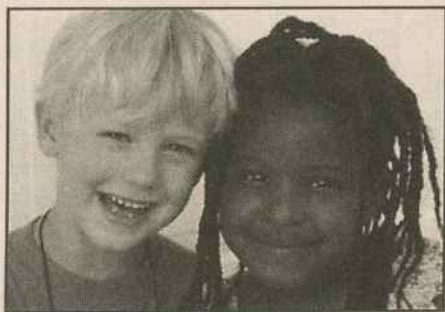
<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;"><i>Trauma-informed, LGBT-sensitive providers will highlight effective treatment options for survivors of sexual violence. Workshops are free and open to anyone whose life has been touched by trauma.</i></p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Free</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Trans 101 &amp; Trans Sexual Violence Basics</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">July 11, 2006 — 9:00am-noon</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Dialectical Behavioral Therapy</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">August 24, 2006 — 6-9:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Imagery Rescripting</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">September 14, 2006 — 7-9:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">EMDR</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">September 28, 2006 — 7-9:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Experiential Therapy</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">October 26, 2006 — 7-9:00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">Bodywork</td> <td style="padding: 2px 5px;">November 9, 2006 — 7-9:30pm</td> </tr> </table>	Trans 101 & Trans Sexual Violence Basics	July 11, 2006 — 9:00am-noon	Dialectical Behavioral Therapy	August 24, 2006 — 6-9:00pm	Imagery Rescripting	September 14, 2006 — 7-9:00pm	EMDR	September 28, 2006 — 7-9:00pm	Experiential Therapy	October 26, 2006 — 7-9:00pm	Bodywork	November 9, 2006 — 7-9:30pm
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## Goofiness Is Revolutionary!

Maybe it is the heat or not being in school, but numerous revolutions have been spawned during the month of July. Notable revolutionaries such as Nelson Mandela and Simon Bolivar have July birthdays. And there's no better way to celebrate the spirit of revolution than digging through the Zine Archive to find inspirational manifestos from queer folks who are determined to shake the status quo and give voice to ideas that seem perfectly logical yet are seen by the mainstream as shocking and unfathomable.

France has had at least two July revolutions in its history, so it should stand to reason that some of the best queer radical thought comes from there. **Mutants At Work** [Issue 2, 2005, 44 pages] is devoted to questioning conformity in both heterosexual and homosexual society. As with any good manifesto there is plenty of "how to" along with stories on ways to create your own better world. "Les Sextoys DIY Atelier" provides a step-by-step recipe for making your own sex toys, complete with advice and recommendations based on the author's past experiences.

This zine has a decidedly feminist slant that comes out in an anti-rape graphic, "Non, c'est NON!" (No means NO!), and in the untitled essay that kicks off this issue, discussing how the Nazis' deportation and treatment of lesbians is representative of how fascist governments have historically sought to persecute queer women.

Even though these topics are deeply serious, that's not the tone of the whole issue. Humor balances out the politics. One graphic is the classic publicity still from the TV program "C.H.I.P.S." with Erik Estrada as Ponch pointing directly at the camera and the words "You're a homo" underneath. A skull (used in classical Dadaist imagery) randomly appears, at times decorated with pigtales or a beaded necklace.

Despite my rudimentary French language skills, I was still able to pick up a good deal from the text. QZAP strives to be inclusive of queer zines in many languages, and we're pleased the editors of **Mutants At Work** continue to send us each new issue of this important political zine.

Part of the queer revolution that took place in Minneapolis during the 1990s involved the Emma Center, named for anarchist and queer ally Emma Goldman. Among the core group that kept the center running for its brief lifetime was Shawn Beanie Dicentralisti.



### Zines

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

He teamed up with Julia K., an activist from Berkeley, and together they created **Autonosexual Revolt** [Issue 3, 1994, 32 pages]. The concept of "autonosexual" is defined on page two as "one whose sexuality is self-defined and not bound by dominant categories like heterosexual or homosexual," as well as "an individual that does not attach ownership to their sex partner(s)." Amen!

This issue is populated with gemstones of radical thought and actively works to question orthodoxies of all kinds. The title

**Promising "treason to maleness is loyalty to humanity," the author discusses being a college jock with the tiniest dick in the locker room.**

of the article that was probably one of the first radical queer critiques of Madonna immediately sets the tone that the authors in no way, shape or form think she represents a radical rethinking of feminism or sexual liberation.

Another groundbreaking article, promising "treason to maleness is loyalty to humanity," discusses the author's observations on being a college-age jock with the tiniest dick in the locker room. The article and additional commentary from fellow zinester activist Jeff Subhumyn blow the lid off the notion that all males are obsessed in one way or another with large penis size. This issue is subtitled "The Punk Rock Issue" and rocks as hard as the best basement show you've ever attended.

For these and other zines, please visit the **Queer Zine Archive Project** online at [qzap.org](http://qzap.org).

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## When Politics Turns Personal

One of the nice things about public debate in a civilized country is how well folks can separate political disagreement from personal disrespect.

As a lifelong resident of our purple state, I've always been represented at some level of government by someone with whom I disagreed on many issues. But I've also been treated with genuine courtesy and respect by many of those officials.

In my experience, this can even apply to discussions of policies that are, in fact, hurtful on a personal level — like the proposed ban on civil unions, domestic partner protections and gay marriage.

When I talked about the ban with my state representative, who voted for it twice, she maintained a level of dignity and accessibility that has made me — a gay man — comfortable in discussing many other state issues with her.

Unfortunately, the ability to separate political disagreement from personal disrespect is not something that every Wisconsin public servant seems to be able to master.

I first met my current state senator, Tom Reynolds (R-West Allis), in August 2003, when he spoke as a dignitary at my Eagle Scout ceremony.

A year went by, and in that time, I came out of the closet and began attending Unitarian Universalist Church West in Brookfield.

In September 2004, I attended a listening session with Reynolds organized

by my fellow congregants regarding the civil unions and marriage ban. Reynolds insisted that there would be dire consequences for Wisconsin if the ban were rejected; he and his staff were the only supporters of the ban in the room.

Near the end of the meeting, I stood up and reminded the senator that he had spoken at my Eagle Scout ceremony. I went on to point out that the values of commitment, community and self-respect I had cultivated as a child were totally compatible with my sexual orientation.

Like everyone else at the meeting, I listed my name, address and opposition to the ban on a card that was collected by a member of Reynolds' staff.

A few weeks later, in an envelope from his Senate office, I received a reading from Reynolds on "reorientation" therapy, a discredited, shameful pseudo-science that operates under the assumption that, through Jesus and prayer, folks can somehow become "ex-gay." Attached was a handwritten note that said: "Hi Dave. I thought you and your family

might find this interesting. Tom."

Quite naturally, my family and I found it outrageous. We understood that Reynolds had extremely conservative views on homosexuality, but this personal intrusion was clearly inappropriate.

However, we were also frightened. I was one of very few openly gay folks at my high school and in my community; no one really knew what might happen to our family if we were vocal.

It wasn't until a reporter started asking me about my involvement in the community

that we felt comfortable talking to the news media about Reynolds' behavior.

I've had some time to reflect on it since then, and my mind keeps falling back on two fundamental questions.

For just a moment, let's forget about Democrats and Republicans, about opponents and supporters of civil unions and the marriage ban, about liberal and conservative religion.

First, under any possible circumstance, is it acceptable for an elected official who'd met me all of two times to cross deeply

**Is it acceptable for an elected official to cross deeply personal boundaries and suggest that I sign up for "ex-gay" treatments?**

# Q



## YOUTH

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

personal boundaries and suggest that I sign up for "ex-gay" treatments?

Second, is it possible to imagine any other elected official who would think that, under any possible circumstance, such behavior would be acceptable?

For the record, I do sincerely respect Reynolds' conservative Christianity and political beliefs. I love that this is a country that's big enough and free enough for folks like him and folks like me to live as neighbors.

But that level of freedom and civilization depends on the ability of our government leaders to separate political disagreement from personal disrespect.

And — much like becoming "ex-gay" would be for me — separating political disagreement from personal disrespect is something Reynolds apparently cannot do.

*This article was originally published on the editorial pages of the June 10, 2006, editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.*

**EACH DAY**  
the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's  
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- Project Q youth services safe-space
- Equality Knocks anti-discrimination initiative
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- The David Bohnett Computer Resource Center
- The LGBT Anti-Violence Project
- OutVote voter mobilization
- Resource referral phone line
- Home to 12 LGBT organizations
- Meeting space for community groups
- Volunteer opportunities

- Call the Center for year-round LGBT-friendly referrals
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  - physicians • attorneys
  - domestic abuse and sexual assault treatment providers
  - LGBT organizations & social groups
  - faith communities
  - substance abuse assistance



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# Community **Q** Calendar

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## Outwords Books 'Top 5 Picks for July'

Summer Fiction Bestsellers!  
Exclusive to Q Life.

### FOR THE BOYS:

- "Summer Cruising" by Dave Benbow.** The hunky passengers of the RMS Princess Diana, a rollicking all-gay cruise ship, enjoy the expected steamy sex and shipboard romance until a psychopath sets in motion a dastardly plan to send the luxurious liner to the bottom of the sea.
- "Light Before Day" by Christopher Rice.** It's a blessing in disguise when Adam Murphy is fired from racy fluff rag Glitz, since he's been chasing a real story involving a closeted Marine helicopter pilot, Daniel Brady, whose association with a pedophilic pimp produced a sordid videotape that led to Daniel's suicide plane crash.
- "Going Down in La-La Land" by Andy Zeffer.** Young, ambitious and gay, Adam Zeller has the looks and talent to become a star but soon finds himself dealing with down-and-out directors, washed-up starlets, crystal meth addicts and the pretty-boy Hollywood A-list.
- "Blood Prophet" by John Michael Curlovich.** In this gripping sequel to "Blood of Kings," Jamie Dunn returns to Egypt to search for his lover and mentor, Danilo Semenkara, a charismatic vampire who had initiated Jamie into a blood cult of ancient kings before vanishing.
- "Vampire Transgression" by Michael Schiefelbein.** Even after centuries, Roman aristocrat-turned-bloodsucker Victor Decimus remains haunted by Jesus' romantic rejection 2000 years earlier. Now in Washington, D.C., Victor has found love with Paul, an artist from Kansas whom he transformed into a vampire, and the two must defy agents of the Dark Kingdom.

### FOR THE GIRLS:

- "Turn Back Time" by Raddyffe.** Two women with nothing in common but a shared passion for surgery clash at every opportunity, especially when matters of the heart are suddenly at stake.
- "The Killing Room" by Gerri Hill.** Escaping to her cabin in the mountains after the shooting death of a young boy, Denver detective Jake McCoy meets psychologist Nicole Westbrook. The attraction is immediate but neither is ready for a relationship. Or are they?
- "Beneath the Willow" by Kenna White.** Childhood friend Sloan McKinley still carries a torch for Dr. Paris DeMont — a torch that still burns brightly after 25 years and threatens to consume them both, if only Paris will let it.
- "Whitewater Rendezvous" by Kim Baldwin.** A wilderness kayak adventure brings together two very different women. As they battle the forces of nature, they discover that true love may be nothing at all like they imagined.
- "Obsession" by Jackie Calhoun.** Lindsey thought she was content and comfortable with her husband, Gregg, and her grown children. But when Sarah loans her a copy of "Desert Hearts," Lindsey is intrigued by the intimacy between the women and realizes she has always felt just a little bit different.

## THURSDAY, JULY 6

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

## FRIDAY, JULY 7

**Theater Auditions.** Milwaukee's Boulevard Theatre will hold auditions for their 2006-07 season. Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 5-8 p.m. 414-744-5757. www.boulevardtheatre.com. Repeats July 8, 2-6 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JULY 8

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

## MONDAY, JULY 10

**Outwords Book Club.** J. E. Robinson's debut novel, "Skip MacAlester," will be discussed. New members welcome! 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089. www.outwordsbooks.com.

## TUESDAY, JULY 11

**Trans 101.** What providers do (and don't) need to know. Unique concerns and issues with transgender sexual violence. Loree Cook-Daniels and michael munson. Free educational workshop (geared toward providers). Part of the FORGE Sexual Violence Therapeutic Techniques educational series. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 9 a.m.-12 noon. 414-559-2123. www.forge-forward.org.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 12

**UWW College of Arts and Communication's Annual Golf Outing.** The Oaks Golf Course. 4770 Pierceville Rd., Cottage Grove. 11 a.m. 262-472-5943. www.academics.uww.edu/CAC/golf.htm.

## SATURDAY, JULY 15

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

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

## SUNDAY, JULY 16

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

## TUESDAY, JULY 18

**Lesbian Reading Group.** Kim Baldwin's "Whitewater Rendezvous" will be discussed. Everyone is welcome! 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089. www.outwordsbooks.com.

## THURSDAY, JULY 20

**Writing to Heal.** Transformation through words. An ongoing writing group for allies and survivors of sexual violence and other traumatic events. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 7-8:30 p.m. 414-559-2123. www.forge-forward.org.

## SATURDAY, JULY 22

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

## SUNDAY, JULY 30

**Waldorf Open House at Tamarack Community School.** Visit the school and learn about the benefits of a Waldorf education for kindergarten through grade 8. The open house will be held in conjunction with the Brady Street Artisan Festival. 1150 E. Brady St., Milwaukee. 2-5 p.m.. 414-277-0009. www.tamarackwaldorf.org.

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

**Generation Q.** Social group for 18- to 24-year olds. This group aims to be fun while being open and informative, without being intimidating. So if you're queer, questioning or both, and you want to talk, bring yourself down. OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison. 7 p.m. 608-255-8582. www.outreachinc.com.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

**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.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

**FORGE.** Snip, poke, tuck. Surgery and other body modifications can be an important marker in some people's lives. A discussion of surgical techniques, skill and personality of various surgeons, healing, desired outcome, stating intentions with a surgeon, after care, and financing will be addressed. We will also look at several non-surgical options. We encourage people to share their experiences.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

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

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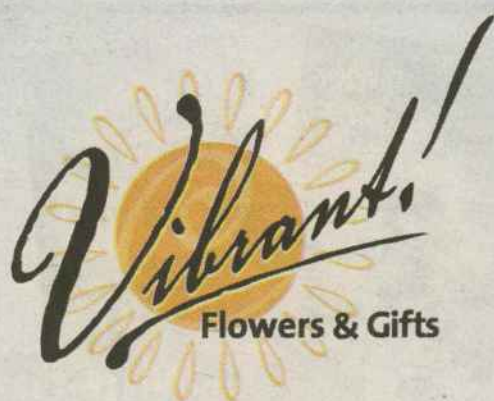
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EVENT AND EDITORIAL  
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## 'The Penetration Play' Opens at Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

By Mark Hooker  
Special to QLife

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents Winter Miller's "The Penetration Play" beginning July 27.

"The Penetration Play" is a witty, bitterly mocking play about the desperation of unrequited love and about that most recognizable of lesbians — the one who always falls for the straight chick. Playwright Winter Miller has written a tight, carefully structured script.

Jim Bloomingdale, the director ("Angels in America," part one and the upcoming part two, "Perestroika") has assembled a cast of three very strong actresses. Amie Strader plays Maggie, Ash's mother, who is having a rough time in her marriage. Jenna Wetzel portrays Rain, Ash's best friend, who is in love with her. Rounding out the cast is Tracy Doyle in the role of Ash, who is trying to come to terms with her life.

"We wanted to produce a play that spoke to the lesbian community while still echoing themes that everyone can identify with," said Bloomingdale.

"The Penetration Play" will be

performed at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., at 8 p.m. on July 27, 28 and 29, and Aug. 3, 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12. Tickets are \$20 each by reservation. Groups of 10 or more can call 414-383-3727 to arrange for \$15 tickets. Student tickets, available at the door on the night of performance only, are \$10. SAGE Milwaukee members may purchase tickets on the night of performance at the special SAGE price of \$5.

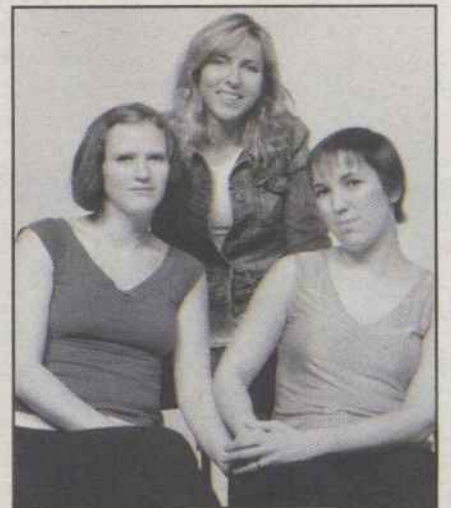


Photo by: Melody Carranza

For more information, call 414-383-3727 or visit [www.uncommontheatre.net](http://www.uncommontheatre.net).



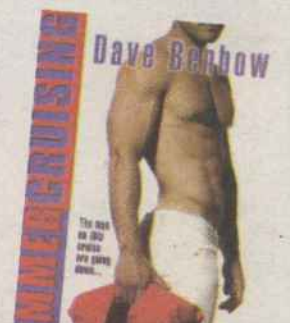
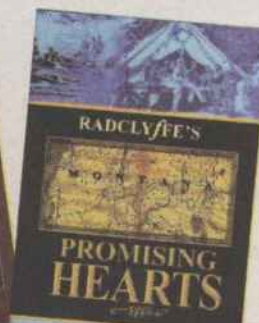
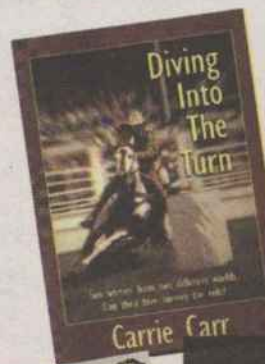
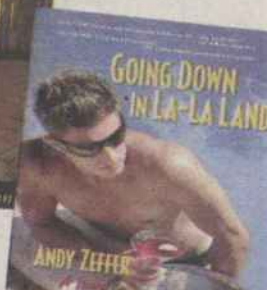
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## Arts

## Calendar

## OUT NOW

**Descendants of the Incas.** Opening reception. Peru's ancient culture is reflected in traditional textiles from the Andes, crafted with age-old techniques. Latino Arts Gallery, 1028 S. 9th St., Milwaukee. 414-384-3100. www.latinartsinc.org. Through July 31.

**Four Guyz in Dinner Jackets.** Make sure you buckle up as the Four Guyz' soaring vocals and incredible enthusiasm fuel this journey back to the days of dances in the gym and snuggling at the drive-in. Todd Wehr Theater, 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-273-7206. Through July 16.

**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.

**Knee Deep in the Shenandoah.** Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 414-467-7271. www.hotcakesgallery.com. Through July 30.

**Life from Limb.** Oil paintings by Jan Serr and pottery by Marjorie King. Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, 2220 N. Terrace Ave., Milwaukee. Through Aug. 13.

**Pastels.** Opening reception. Artworks of landscapes, still life and interiors. Katie Gingrass Gallery, 241 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-289-0855. www.gingrassgallery.com. Through July 25.

**Pastoral Reflections and Expressions in Glass.** Coalition of Photographic Arts (CoPA) board member Mark Stall exhibits his rural architectural photography along with Charles Gottschal. Saint John's on the Lake, 1840 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. 414-831-6875.

**The Saint Sebastian Project.** Opening reception. A special group show focusing on gay icons Saint Sebastian and Joan of Arc as images of persecution, ecstasy and destroyed ideals. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. 414-383-3727. www.milwaukeegayartscenter.com. Through July 15.

**Splash!** Featured artists Chris Sommerfelt and Julie San Felipe are watercolorists whose styles and techniques are literally worlds apart. Almont Gallery, 342 W. Main St., Waukesha. 262-542-1522. www.almontgallery.com. Through July 31.

## THURSDAY, JULY 6

**Refugee All Stars.** Documentary film. Majestic Theatre, 115 King St., Madison. 7 p.m. 608-251-2582.

## FRIDAY, JULY 7

**Anniversary Weekend.** Thanks for another terrific year! Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 414-963-9089. www.outwardsbooks.com. Through July 9.

**Encuentro Dance Theatre.** The first of two different programs, each highlighting all three aspects of flamenco. 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee. \$12-\$18. 7:30 p.m. 414-277-8480 ext. 4. www.danceworks1661.org. Repeats July 8.

**Fresh.** DJ Madhatter will host a night of hip hop. TLS, The Pizdamen, Class:Sick, The Mighty Thor, and Malicious will all be sharing the stage for the first time ever. 21+. Stonefly (formerly Onopa Brewery), 735 E. Center St., Milwaukee. 10 p.m. \$5. www.tommyleesoul.com.

**Starry Nights.** Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to the Wilson Center's "back yard" and enjoy this free concert. Food and beverages available for purchase. Bring non-perishables for Hunger Task Force. Gerlach Outdoor Theater, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 6:30 p.m. Free. 262-781-9470. www.wilson-center.com. Fridays in July.

## SATURDAY, JULY 8

## Q Pick

**Alamo Basement's 24-Hour Theatre.** A play conceived, written and produced 24 hours before the curtain rises. Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-347-0439. www.pinkbananatheatre.org.

**Tetuzi Akiyama.** Tetuzi Akiyama plays the guitar with primitive and practical implications, by adding a desire of his own to the instrument's characteristic nature in minimal and straight method. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-467-7271. www.hotcakesgallery.com.

## SUNDAY, JULY 9

**Don't Tell Me I Can't Fly.** Folk tales by Della Well. \$5/\$3 seniors, military and students/members free. Charles Allis Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. 414-278-8295. www.cavtmuseums.org.

## THURSDAY, JULY 13

**The Fenians.** An electrifying Irish musical quintet offers a mix of original creations and contemporary and traditional songs. Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland Ave., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$15. 414-967-0302. www.themiramartheatre.com.

**Grandma Duck Is Dead.** Local, original works by Larry Shue, Mary Diaz, Peter Woods and Jason Hart. Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$10. 414-347-0439. www.pinkbananatheatre.org. Through July 22.

## FRIDAY, JULY 14

**Is There Life After High School?** A pop-orchestrated musical in which the cast recalls the joy, laughter and pain of high school. Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Rd., Elm Grove. 262-782-4430. www.sunsetplayhouse.com. Through Aug. 6.

**Scholarship Exhibition and Silent Auction.** Opening reception. This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Professor Emeritus George Goundie. The silent auction will raise money for student scholarships in the Peck School of the Arts sculpture department. UWM Union Art Gallery, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 414-229-5830. Through July 28.

**Standard Time.** A tap program featuring original choreography set to popular jazz standards. 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$18/\$12 students and seniors. 414-277-8480 ext. 4. www.danceworks1661.org. Through July 16, various times.

## SUNDAY, JULY 16

**South Shore Frolic Festival of Arts.** The Bay View Arts Guild showcases the unique art and fine crafts of 70 local and regional artists. 2900 S. Shore Dr., Milwaukee. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 414-324-5690. www.gobayview.com/frolics.

## THURSDAY, JULY 20

**Choral and Organ Recital.** The Choir of Exeter Cathedral, England, will be led by Andrew Millington, organist and director of music at Exeter Cathedral. The Cathedral Church of All Saints, 818 E. Juneau Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-271-7719. www.ascathedral.org. Repeats with mass July 23, 10 a.m.

## FRIDAY, JULY 21

**Latin American Prints.** Opening reception. Erasmo Salgado, one of the most prominent collectors of Latin American art in the country, will show prints from his collection. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. 6-9 p.m. 414-672-2787. www.wpca-milwaukee.org.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

**Beauty and the Beast.** A tale as old as time. Greendale High School, 6801 Southway, Greendale. www.greendalecommunitytheatre.com.

## THURSDAY, JULY 27

## Q Pick

**The Penetration Play.** A witty, bitterly mocking play about the desperation of unrequited love and that most recognizable of lesbians — the one who always falls for the straight chick. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$20. www.uncommontheatre.net. 414-383-3727. Through Aug. 12.

## FRIDAY, JULY 28

**Aida.** Elton John and Tim Rice's rendition of this classic tale. Soulstice Theatre, 3195 S. Superior St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$14-\$16. 414-431-3187. www.soulsticetheatre.org. Through Aug. 12.

**Dancemakers — Critical Perspective.** New works by graduate students — a group of professional choreographers

and performers from all over the country. UWM Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$10/\$7 students and seniors. 414-229-4308. www.arts.uwm.edu.

**Kellie Lin Knott.** Part of Allis After Hours series. Charles Allis Art Museum, 1801 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. 7-9 p.m. \$5/\$3 seniors/members and under 12 free. 414-278-8295.

**Artist Exhibit.** Opening reception for Lizbeth Mitty. Includes live music, refreshments and appetizers. Hanson Dodge Creative, 220 E. Buffalo St., Milwaukee. 5-8 p.m. www.hansondodge.com.

## SATURDAY, JULY 29

**Fashion Show by Fasten Coop.** Music by Matt Hendricks. East Side Open Market, 1901 E. North Ave., Milwaukee. 12 noon. 414-747-9229. www.myspace.com/fastencollective.

**Wet Paint.** Air painting competition and silent auction. Almont Gallery, 342 W. Main St., Waukesha. 262-542-1522. Through Aug. 5.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 2

**Experience and Exhibition.** LGBT youth opening reception. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. 6-9 p.m. 414-383-3727. www.milwaukeegayartscenter.com.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

**Meditation Exhibit.** Several artists will be presenting various media on the theme of meditation. Bucketworks, 1319 N. MLK Blvd., Milwaukee. 414-305-1324. www.bucketworks.org

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

**Art in Flux.** Join us, rain or shine, for fine art, fine food (cash bar), a silent auction, music and dancing throughout the evening as 10 artists create large-scale steamroller prints in the street. Flux Design, 811 E. Vienna Ave., Milwaukee. 5-10 p.m. \$25. 414-276-7889. www.miad.edu.

**Falling People.** Opening reception for Micaela O'Herlihy. In exploring the idea of "falling people," he comes to finally feel OK about the fact that nothing is permanent. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 6-9 p.m. 414-467-7271. www.hotcakesgallery.com. Through Sept. 3.

Please send inquiries, comments and submissions to qlifelistings@yahoo.com.

**Deadline for August issue is July 20.**

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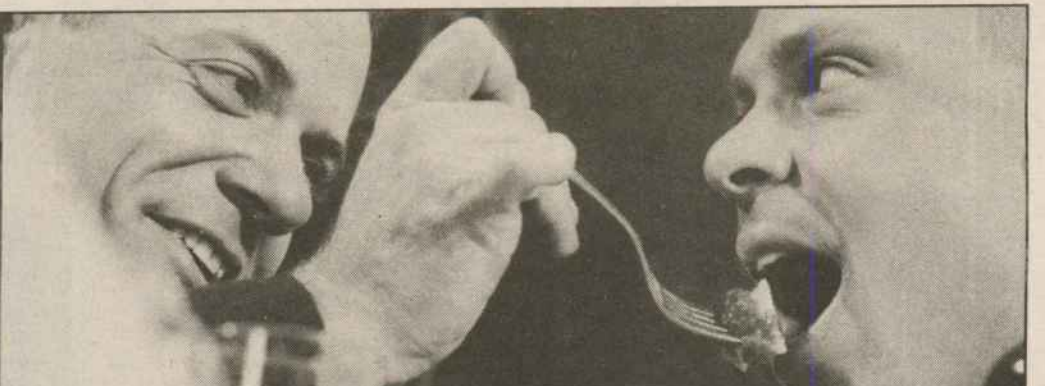
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## What's Happening at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

### Ongoing Exhibition

#### THE SAINT SEBASTIAN PROJECT

Through July 14  
Gallery Hours: Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and by appointment

### Saturday, July 15, 8 p.m.

#### CABARET NIGHT

Featuring Rhythm & Torch with Yolanda Roth, vocals; Steve Polifka, keyboard; and Tony Ramirez, percussion. A special fundraising benefit for Women's Voices Milwaukee. Sponsored by the Shepherd Express. Admission \$15.

### Friday, July 21

#### ART EXHIBITION OPENING

Ram Rojas — Collected Works

### Saturday, July 22, 7 p.m.

#### UWM LGBT FILM & VIDEO

#### FESTIVAL KICK OFF PARTY

Beverages and appetizers!  
Donation \$15

### Tuesday, July 25, 6–7 p.m.

#### ARCW AIDS WALK WISCONSIN

#### TEAM CAPTAINS' MEETING

### Thursday, July 27

#### THEATRE OPENING

#### UNCOMMON THEATRE PRESENTS

Jack Heifner's "The Penetration Play"  
Directed by Jim Bloomingdale

## What Does a Lesbian Do When the Woman She Loves Is Straight?

### Seduce Her Mom!

Show continues July 28 and 29; Aug. 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11  
All performances 8 p.m.  
Tickets \$20  
\$10 senior and student tickets may be purchased at the box office on the evening of the performance.

### CLASSES

Middle Eastern Belly Dance for Men with Shaia Fahrid  
Call 414-383-3727 for information

Until further notice: No yoga classes on Monday!

All theater and event tickets are available at [www.uncommontheatre.net](http://www.uncommontheatre.net). The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. For more information on events, call 414-383-3727 or e-mail [milwgac@yahoo.com](mailto:milwgac@yahoo.com).

## 2006 Gay Youth Art Show

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center announces a call to young artists for the 2006 Gay Youth Art Show scheduled to open Sept. 2.

In collaboration with Project Q, Diverse & Resilient and the Alliance School, MGAC will present a special art exhibition showcasing young LGBT artists.

The show is open to any Wisconsin artist age 13 to 21. Artwork in any medium will be considered; spoken word submissions are also encouraged. Novice artists will have the opportunity to participate in workshops facilitated by artists skilled in various media.

The deadline for entries is Aug. 27. For more information, contact the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center at [milwgac@yahoo.com](mailto:milwgac@yahoo.com) or 414-383-3727.

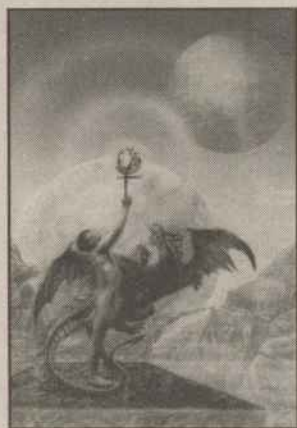
# 'Ram Rojas — Collected Works' New Art Exhibition Opens July 21

By Paul Masterson

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents a new art exhibition featuring Ram Rojas. His show of collected works spans an extensive range of media, styles and subjects.

Born in Venezuela, Ram Rojas studied at the National Art Academy in Caracas as well as in India, Italy, France, Los Angeles and New York. He now makes his home in Door County, Wisconsin.

Rojas' ability to manage a variety of media and subjects — ranging from classical oils to impeccably rendered watercolors to delicate drawings and airbrush portraits — has become his trademark.



Rojas was exposed to art and culture early in childhood. His instructors recognized his natural talent and interrupted his academy studies to send him to the United States along with other young artists from Europe, China and Australia for advanced art training. After extensive study, he was invited to participate in projects and shows in Los Angeles, New York and West Virginia, where there is permanent display of his work.

An international publishing company took notice. His masterful pieces became a regular part of their books and magazines covering a wide variety of interests.

Later, Rojas traveled to Europe and studied the Old Masters' works. While he was there, his work was printed in multi-language publications around the world, illustrating history, religion, art, mythology, philosophy and science books. His publishers sent him on an educational tour to India to study ancient cultures, methods and theory of oriental art.

After returning to America, Rojas studied at the Barnstone Studios in Philadelphia where he consolidated his intricate, wide experience with universal basic principles of design, anatomy, composition and color theory.

He then moved with his family to the California countryside to work on naturalistic pieces and portraiture.

Always interested in new techniques, Rojas taught himself airbrushing and quickly incorporated it into his classical training.

For the last decade, Rojas has been working in his own studio on the Door County peninsula and has painted a series of watercolors and oils of the upper Midwest. He became fascinated with the beauty of everyday existence in the region. Things we might take for granted hold a special quality of life and wisdom of tradition in Rojas' eyes.

The artist's integrity and dedication, combined with his unique cross-cultural exposure and natural talent, make him an exciting contemporary artist and a valuable asset to universal artistic expression.

"Ram Rojas — Collected Works" opens Friday, July 21, with an artist's reception from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., and runs through Aug. 25. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment.



## Bloomingdale Named Acting Artistic Director MGAC Theater Changes Leader

By Paul Masterson

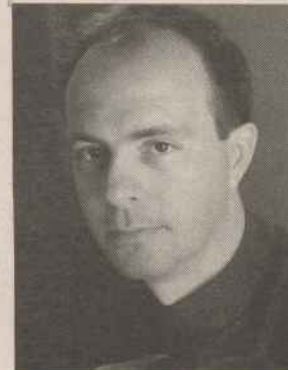
The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center would like to thank its departing artistic director Mark Hooker for his great work and steadfast commitment to producing LGBT-themed plays in Milwaukee. Hooker leaves behind an impressive year-long record of achievement. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

In the interim, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center welcomes Jim Bloomingdale as its acting artistic director.

A highly respected and experienced actor, Bloomingdale began his directing career at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center with "Angels in America" in January. He is currently in rehearsal for "The Penetration

Play." This lesbian-themed play by Winter Miller opens July 27 and runs through Aug. 11.

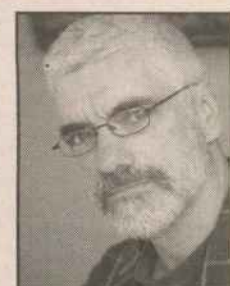
Bloomingdale will also direct "Perestroika," the second part of "Angels in America," in September.



Jim Bloomingdale

will stage five productions. Two of the plays

have already been scheduled: "Southern Baptist Sissies" by Del Shore, a tale of four gay men in a Texas Baptist church and how they learn to cope with urges that go against church teachings; and "Farm Boys" by Amy Fox and Dean Gray, a play, set in Wisconsin, that tells the story of a gay man and his lover returning to a farm he inherited from his deceased ex-partner.



Paul Masterson—MGAC Director

# Attitude! Attitude!! Attitude!!!

So, everyone wants their 15 minutes of fame! I say, "Fine, take your 15 minutes — but then please, grow up!" It would seem to me maybe Mom and Dad applauded their little child too much, or spoiled them, or told them that their little darlings can do no wrong. On the other hand, maybe there was only one parent; or none, and that child is just looking for attention. Maybe that ugly duckling grew up to be a swan and now wants to become a "Star"! Many know that Barbra Streisand was that duckling once upon a time ... then FUNNY GIRL! The new unauthorized best-selling book BARBRA certainly shows her shocking true colors. For her many fans, Barbra will be in Chicago this year for her live concert.

## The Diva Thing Again

Last year I wrote a column about the Diva. I must state again how frustrated I get around the small, Midwestern Diva. We all see them in the theater scene, movies and the club scene. In Milwaukee they are a big fish in a little pond. Let me tell you that nobody needs "attitude," but if you do have it, please, take it to New York or Hollywood. Soon!!!

## Our New Generation Gap

I see some Generation X-ers act like they rule this planet. Their parents are the Baby Boomers. The New York Times called the Boomers "success driven," while the Generation X-ers are "inconsistent" ... with their jobs and success. To get a new attitude adjustment lets start with the cell phones. Do you need them in by your ear 24 hours a day? Are you that lonely and insecure? Get off that computer! Meet real people and interact with

them. Get some friends you talk to other than cyberspace idiots!! I wonder if you know what live theater is? It is not a rock concert. Life is not just a DVD or a cable TV show.

Our Milwaukee theater scene is suffering right now. It is not just the economy. It seems those under 40 will only attend a show like "Rent" or "Wicked." Most theaters are supported by senior citizens. Once they are gone the theater will be in a sad state. Only in New York did the attendance of live theater improve this season. They also had been suffering with the economy and the post-Sept. 11 decline in ticket sales.

## Workable "Attitude"

It amazes me how many young actors talk back to their directors. How they arrive late for rehearsals or not at all. They also expect to get paid. They do not need the experience as they already are the next American Idol. Would they hang a poster or help look for a costume or prop? Many do not even promote their shows to the friends and family.

I ordered some professional wigs, and the actor threw them on the floor. Once I had an important rehearsal, and an actor did not show up. I called and got: "It is my lover's birthday and we are out drinking ... Sorry."! I really feel for these young people because "attitude" is only a sense of fear and insecurity. They are just afraid of life; as confident people just don't act like that. So again, please grow up!

## Summer Theater in Spring Green

American Players Theater in Spring Green has a wonderful season of summer

repertory theater. Their productions include THE MATCHMAKER, ROMEO AND JULIET, MEASURE FOR MEASURE, ARMS AND THE MAN and JULIUS CAESAR. The Actors Group at the Sunset Studio theater perform AS LONG AS IT TAKES. Then Sunset Playhouse will bring us a delightful summer musical, IS THERE LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL? Soulstice will enchant us with the new rock version of AIDA.

One of the most interesting musicals this summer is GRAND HOTEL. Off The Wall theater presents this must-see show; which is based on the classic MGM movie GRAND HOTEL. If nothing else, go to see the fabulous Marilyn White. At the end of the month you can audition for the Milwaukee-area premiere of THE FULL MONTY musical. The Bay Players will perform this recent Broadway musical in late September.

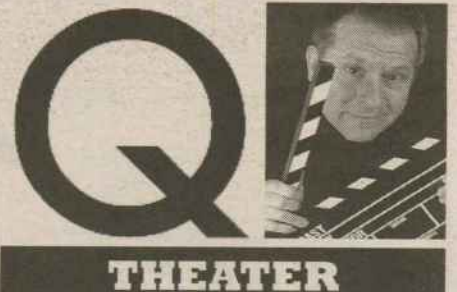
## More Super Milwaukee Talent

Because of space last month I left out several top Milwaukee performers to watch for in the future. Linda Stieber, Kelly Simon, Jake Russo, Marcee Sturino, Mark Hooker, Michael Endter, Sharon Rise, Jason Powell, Carrie McGhee — and the popular Dale Gutzman. Also Tony Clements is not performing in MAMA MIA and is again auditioning in New York. We wish him the best.

PrideFest was fun and exciting this year ... but where were the "real" hot men? I hope you all had fun and are finally enjoying the summer.

## News Flash!!!!

Another performer just got raves in



## THEATER

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

an RSVP show: Mary Morales in CLOSER. The Journal Sentinel called it pot of gold casting. In RECKLESS it was Kaitlin Jones; in JEFFREY, Ryan Schabach; in VAMPIRE LESBIANS, Dear Ruthie; and in JUDY, Linda Stieber. Kaitlin is auditioning in LA and Mary is moving to LA; Ryan was in LA and did some film work. Ruthie will be in DIE, MOMMY, DIE for Off The Wall; and Linda did a Garland review for the Skylight. Please mention me when you get an Oscar or Tony Award.

**Last Month's Trivia Answer**  
Angela Lansbury and Lee Remick starred in ANYONE CAN WHISTLE on Broadway.

**This Month's Trivia Question**  
Did Elton John compose the musical score for AIDA?

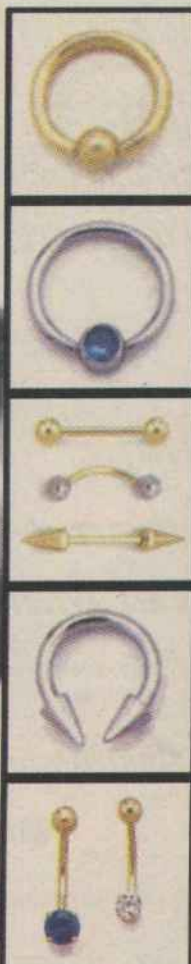
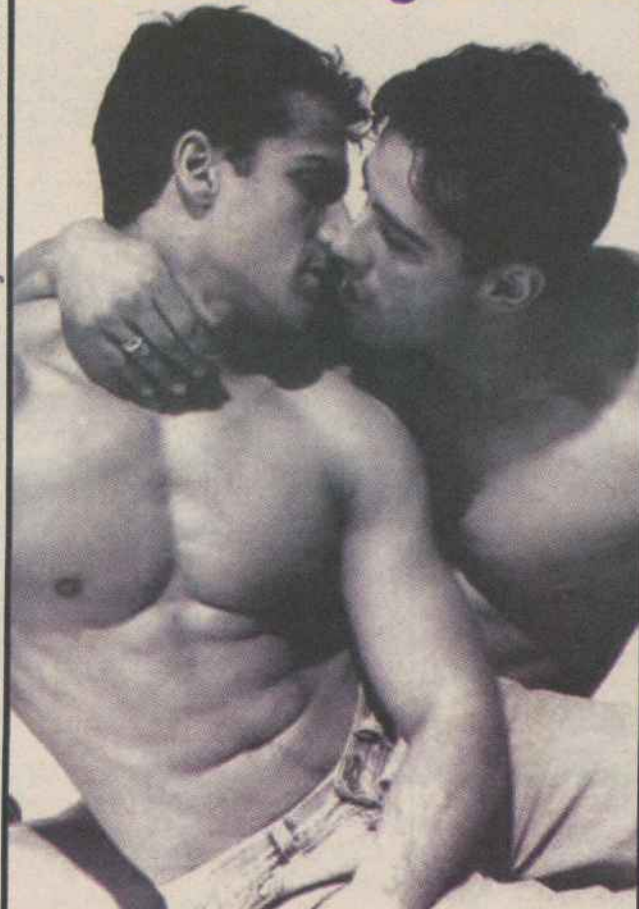
*Aunt Blanche got arrested at Bradford Beach; while sunbathing. It was not for nudity, it was for littering the beach!!*

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GREENFIELD	4818 S. 76th St.	414-431-0385	GRAFTON	1260 N. Port Washington Rd.	262-546-0234
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# July 8th and 9th

Miller Brewing Company



presents:

Madison Pride's

## MAGIC WEEKEND 2006

### Brittingham Park, Madison, WI

Featured Artists:

Saturday:

Featured Artists:

12pm to 6pm,  
\$5 Admission

Sunday:  
1pm to 6pm,  
Free Admission

\*ASL Translators all day



**Lady Miss Kier**  
(of Deee-Lite)



**Suzanne Westenhoefer**

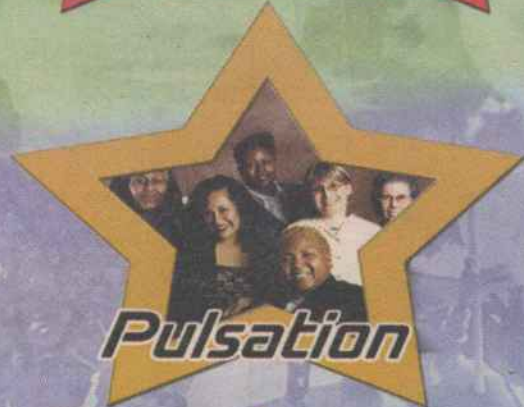


Pride March:

March From  
W. Washington  
to Brittingham  
Park  
Sunday, 12pm



**Tret Fure**



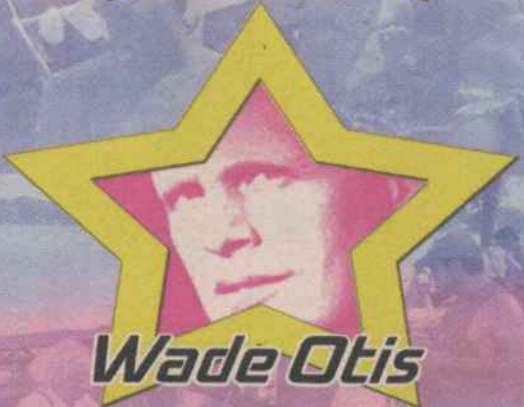
**Pulsation**

Rally:

1pm, Brittingham Park  
Sunday, After March



**Perfect Harmony**



**Wade Otis**



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