

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Civil Rights Lawsuit Moves Forward Against the City of Milwaukee

By Holly Grey

On June 29, 2006, a civil lawsuit was filed against the City of Milwaukee by the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

The suit contends that the City of Milwaukee was in violation of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's civil rights and freedom of speech when it shut down its production of the all-male revue "Naked Boys Singing" in August 2005.

The suit is demanding judgment against the city including reimbursement for operating losses sustained due to the show's closure and for attorney fees, as well as punitive damages for its discriminatory actions.

"It's just not right. A guy shows up the night the show opens, contacts the city, and the next day the show is shut down," explained Richard Hart, the MGAC's representing attorney. "The city tried to impose a permit regulation on the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center because of the complaint of one religious right zealot. This person asked for city records one day and the next day the show was shut down."

The show was canceled after Milwaukee police threatened to make arrests if the production went on. Police cited the center's failure to obtain a city theater license, required if a production charges to see a performance. In the end, a license was not actually required as the MGAC operates as a non-profit organization.

Milwaukee Police Department officials denied their enforcement was based on the show's sponsorship by a gay organization. The lawsuit argues that is exactly why the police acted, threatened to arrest the MGAC's director of "Naked Boys Singing," Mark Hooker, and shut the show down.

"This was an act of selective enforcement, which makes it a constitutional issue," Hart said.

The city has within 45 days of receiving the summons Hart filed to respond with a written answer. If the city does not respond, the Milwaukee County Circuit Court may grant judgment against the city and award money and other legal remedies outlined in the civil complaint.

Hart speculates that "they will try to remove the complaint out of the county court to a federal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Undecided Folks Hold the Only Hope for Victory

page 8

Interview with Joe Pabst

page 9

Dying to Be Heard

page 13

Take Me As I Am

page 21

Here Comes the Dairyland

page 29

Can You Spare a Dime?

page 30

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Too Far from Fair?

Wisconsin Voters Split Evenly on Gay Marriage

By Jennifer Morales

Fair Wisconsin is on a roll. With three months left in the effort to stop the proposed state ban on civil unions and same-sex marriage, Fair Wisconsin leadership is finding a lot to be hopeful about. Public polling is good. Money is coming in. TV ads are playing in three crucial markets across the state. And the opposition is playing defense, repeating Fair Wisconsin's arguments while trying to refute them.

Fair Wisconsin campaign director Mike Tate is feeling good, but as an experienced campaigner he knows better than to rest on early accomplishments. Asked to rate the campaign's progress so far, Tate said, "We've made a lot of progress and we're on the right track. The most impressive thing is that from March 1st to June 30th we've brought in \$1.3 million." Tate is especially pleased that 90% of that money came from Wisconsin and mostly in the form of small donations, both signs of a vibrant grassroots campaign. He also cited the fact that Fair Wisconsin has recently opened its fourth staffed office, and volunteers around the state are knocking on doors every week to talk with the voters who will decide on November 7th.

Proponents of the ban, organized in a coalition called Vote Yes for Marriage, have been less forthcoming about their finances

and organizing activities. Lorri Pickens, campaign manager for Vote Yes, and Julaine Appling, executive director of the Family Research Institute of Wisconsin, key players in the anti-gay marriage movement, did not respond to a request for comment for this article. Vote Yes for Marriage's June 30th finance report shows only \$2,454 raised, but Appling has stated in the press that they are currently spending money from the institute's existing resources to educate voters.

In July, Fair Wisconsin began running an ad in three, mostly rural television markets, including the areas around Green Bay, LaCrosse/Eau Claire, and Wausau/Stevens Point. Tate notes, "The first ad is basic. It puts the language of the bill on the screen and explains that the amendment would be taking away health care benefits, jeopardizing medical decisions. Most voters don't even know this thing is on the ballot yet, don't know what it means, and we're going to educate them."

Tate says that, based on conversations with his staff around the state, the ads are having an impact already. "Everyone is talking about this ad at the door. We have a much higher percentage of people who are saying they're undecided. And that's our goal. We think the TV ad has been very effective at opening up the conversation."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



MGAC's Ram Rojas - Collected Works Runs Through Aug 24

page 26



LGBT Film Festival Kicks Off

page 29

Q Arts Calendar

Page 28

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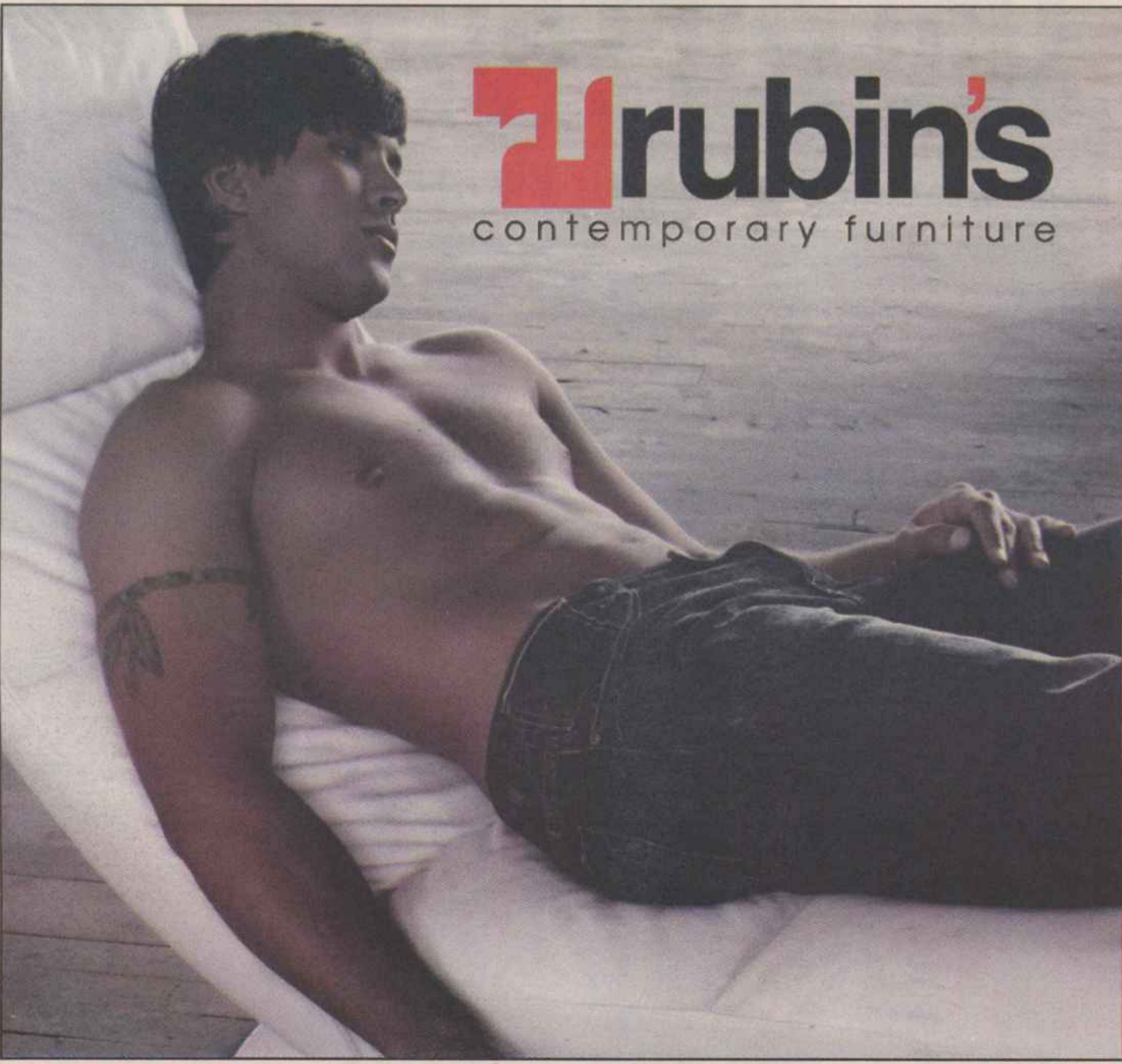
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CONTENTS

Vol. 2 Issue 9 • August 2006

- 7 Q National Happenings**
- 7 Q Wisconsin Happenings**
- 8 Q Editorial:** Undecided Folks Hold the Only Hope for Victory
- 9 So, What About...** An interview with Joe Pabst
- 10 Q Health:** Snapshot of Our Health in 2006
- 10 Q History:** The History Project at PrideFest 2006
- 13 Q Lesbian Health:** LGBT Youth: Dying to Be Heard
- 14 Q ZINES:** Friends Forever
- 15 Q Transgender:** Pioneers
- 18 Q Religion:** "A Queer Look at the Death Penalty"
- 19 Q Politics:** Backlash Masculinity
- 20 Q Parenting:** Foot in the Mouth and Gems in Your Hand:
Reactions and Advice from Other Parents
- 21 Q Youth:** Take Me as I Am
- 22 Q Cooking:** Friends - Take 2
- 23 Q Community Calendar**
- 24 Q Arts Calendar**
- 26 MGAC Update:** Ram Rojas runs thru August 25
Youth Art Show Opens September 2
- 26** PrideFest Sets Attendance Record
- 29 Q Sports:** Get Ready, Here Comes the Dairyland
- 30 Q Theater:** Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

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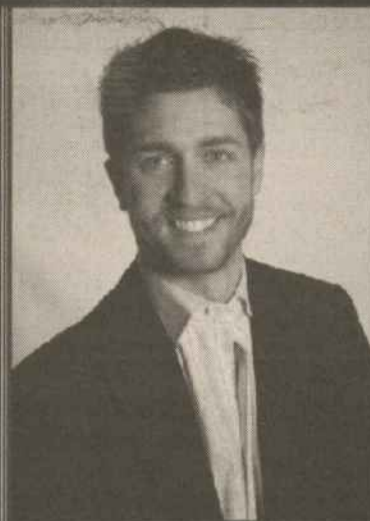
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Fair? *continued from page 1*

Fair Wisconsin is focusing its TV media buys on rural areas for two reasons, Tate says. "One, the cost factor," he said, noting that a 30-second spot in LaCrosse costs \$35 to run, while the same spot would cost \$150 in Milwaukee. "But the biggest factor is, and this is not to say we don't have a lot of work to do in the cities, but in Milwaukee and Madison we're dealing with a demographic that is more diverse, more urban, more likely to know someone who's gay. In the rural markets we have a lot more work to do."

A Divided State

Two polls released in July show Wisconsin voters closely divided on the proposed amendment. A poll sponsored by Wispolitics.com had support for the amendment at 48.5%, and 47.8% in opposition. A Badger poll also revealed a fairly narrow margin: 52.5% in favor of the ban versus 43.8% opposed.

One clear message from both polls was that if the vote were taken today, the matter would be decided by small groups of swing voters. The Wispolitics.com poll suggested that

moderate Catholics and younger voters could play a disproportionate role in the decision. The Badger poll showed the potential power of women, with female respondents supporting both same-sex marriage and civil unions more frequently than men.

Fair Wisconsin is organizing among these swing voter populations. "There are a couple of groups that are critical to the success of this campaign: African-American and Latino voters, and independent women in suburban Milwaukee." The organization has devoted considerable resources to staffing and volunteer efforts in suburban counties, and has recently hired an organizer dedicated to reaching out to people of color.

This summer, several court decisions and legislative initiatives in other states have struck blows against the progress of the marriage equality movement. In this context, people on both sides of the debate say that what happens in Wisconsin could be significant.

With such high stakes, both sides expect national involvement. Tate says that proponents of the ban will be bringing out the big guns,

like Focus on the Family's James Dobson and others "who can write big checks and then they [Wisconsin amendment proponents] will have a million dollars, too. They'll raise it from six people. We raised it from 6,000." Tate expects "a lot of TV" from ban proponents. "They'll be dirty. Their whole line is that we're lying." National support for the ban is necessary, "because they don't have support in Wisconsin for this issue. [Governatorial challenger] Mark Green is trying to back away from this issue because he knows he can't beat us."

"Wisconsin could be the first [to defeat a statewide vote on civil unions and marriage]," Tate says. "The work we've been doing has been making a big impact. It's going to get hotter and hotter. The right wing doesn't want to lose. We just have to want to win more than they do."

Turning the Tide

Like his opposition, Tate sees the battle over the ban as part of a larger struggle over the direction of the country, and he issued a challenge to progressives in Wisconsin: "If we can beat one of these back in the heartland, it's huge. This is a state that's progressive,

independent, fair-minded." Progressives need to "stand up, fight like hell, and prove your point," he says.

Conservatives oppose the ban, too, however. The "Republicans for a Fair Wisconsin" page on the Fair Wisconsin website features statements from conservatives about why the ban would be bad for Wisconsin's economy and against government intrusion into residents' personal lives. Many Republicans and independents responding to the Badger Poll support civil unions, with 42% and 71% support, respectively.

Asked what still needs to be done in the last three months, Tate offered two ways to get involved: "First, donate money and get all your friends to donate money. We're not going to get there unless everyone gives whatever they can give. Second, come on in and volunteer." He asks opponents of the ban to help with phone calls and knocking on doors, to "help us have this conversation with voters."

Disclosure: Jennifer Morales is a member of the board of Action Wisconsin, a central organization in the Fair Wisconsin coalition.

Lawsuit *continued from page 1*

Prior to filing this lawsuit, the MGAC filed a notice of claim against the city for \$634,420, for violating its own regulations and for harassment against the center because of the LGBT population it serves while allegedly knowing it was a non-profit entity.

Three days after receiving the notice of claim, the City of Milwaukee's Licensing Division reviewed a letter from the Internal Revenue Service which verified the center's non-profit status. The city at that point backed off the license requirement because the center, as a non-profit organization, didn't actually need the license.

At the same time, Milwaukee's mayor, Tom Barrett, asked the Milwaukee Common Council president and police chief to review the decision to shut down the show. Barrett also asked Police Chief Nannette Hegerty to join him at a town hall meeting hosted by the center to explain what happened.

"Naked Boys Singing" has been staged in numerous other cities around the world in recent years. The off-Broadway version has been running for nearly six years in New York City without incident. However, the Milwaukee production is not the only production to run into controversy. Milwaukee's production marked the fourth production to be shut down by local police forces, including those in Provincetown, MA; San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Atlanta, GA.

In 2005, the production in Atlanta was classified as pornography and was temporarily shut down by police. The all-nude revue later reopened after Atlanta's mayor, Shirley Franklin, interceded and said the police department had misinterpreted the city code. The Atlanta police department was forced to issue an apology.

court as this complaint is really about violation of federal civil rights."

More importantly, in January of 2005 a federal court ordered the city of San Juan, Puerto Rico, to pay the local producers \$1.3 million in compensation for closing "Naked Boys Singing" a day before it was to open at the state-owned Tapia Theatre.

The San Juan show was supposed to open in early August of 2003, and run for five consecutive weekends. After attending a rehearsal, however, San Juan's Public Safety Commissioner and other city officials canceled the show. Mayor Jorge Santini declared the work "immoral."

Similar to the MGAC's lawsuit filed against the City of Milwaukee, the producers in San Juan sued for damages and reparations and for redress for constitutional violations of free speech. They won handily.

Unfortunately, the current lawsuit filed against the City of Milwaukee is just one more indication of the continued need to fight for freedom of speech, civil rights, and against homophobia.

The Place of Transgender People Within Southeastern Wisconsin LGBT Organizations

In Wisconsin, as in most of the rest of the country, most multigender "gay" organizations describe themselves as serving the "LGBT" (lesbian, gay male, bisexual, and transgender) community. Despite that descriptor, many transgender individuals don't feel welcome or included at "LGBT" events, and some lesbians and gay men aren't sure they should be there, either. In many cases, organizations believe they are inclusive of trans people and issues, but trans people who have attended have spread the word that that isn't really the case in practice. This ambiguity creates stress and distrust among those who could potentially be political allies, social peers, and co-workers.

To begin assessing how well Southeastern Wisconsin LGBT groups have incorporated transgender individuals and issues into their organizations and to set the stage for improving intra-community LGBT relationships, FORGE, with financial support from the Cream City Foundation, is undertaking a community needs assessment. Two online surveys are now available. One survey, at <http://www.forge-forward.org/surveys/>, asks transgender individuals (including SOFFAs - Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies - of transgender individuals) to share their positive and negative experiences with local LGBT groups and businesses. This survey also asks basic demographic questions and assesses the respondent's interest in being involved "LGBT" organizations. All transgender persons of every sexual orientation - whether they participate in "LGBT" organizations or not - are encouraged to respond.

The second survey, also available at <http://www.forge-forward.org/surveys/>, can be filled out by anyone who regularly attends an "LGBT" organization. (Those who attend more than one organization are asked to respond for the one they know best or fill out separate surveys for each organization.) The organization survey asks about the types of meetings or events the organization sponsors, whether it has a policy about transgender inclusion, and its experiences with transgender members or attendees. This survey also solicits information on the knowledge gaps, training, or technical assistance needs the organization has vis-à-vis transgender issues.

In addition to the online version, printed surveys are available upon request (contact FORGE at P.O. Box 1272, Milwaukee, WI 53201 or info@forge-forward.org or 414-559-2123).

Survey responses will be accepted until September 20, 2006.

Everyone completing a survey has a chance to win a \$25 gift certificate. (If you belong to more than one organization and complete the survey for more than one group, you increase your chances of winning!) Organizations can also win - if at least five surveys mention your group or business, you'll be entered into a drawing for a \$100 donation!

On November 30, 2006, FORGE will host a community Town Hall Meeting at the LGBT Community Center to discuss the results of the survey, highlight identified best practices, and foster dialogue between community members and organizations.



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National



Happenings

A Season of Ups and Downs for LGBT Families

The summer of 2006 has been a dance of "one step forward, two steps back" for LGBT families across the country, demonstrating that the movement for equal rights is advancing but facing a renewed barrage of challenges.

On the national scene, an expected victory was realized when, on July 18, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected an effort to amend the Constitution to ban same-sex marriage. The Federal Marriage Amendment was defeated, with a 236 to 187 bipartisan vote against, with most Democrats and 27 Republicans voting in opposition. Requiring a two-thirds majority, or 290 votes in the House, a vote on the same measure failed 227-to-186 in the House on Sept. 30, 2004.

The Senate had already rejected the measure on June 7, 2006, with a 49-to-48 vote, and 48-to-50 on June 14, 2004. In the Senate, only two Senators changed their votes - Sens. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., and Arlen Specter, R-Pa., both this time voting against the discriminatory measure.

At the state level, courts dealt several significant setbacks to the marriage equality movement. Most disappointing was the July 6 ruling by the New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, that the state Constitution permitted the denial of marriage to same-sex couples. The Court's majority opinion ruled that the Legislature had a rational reason for denying marriage, saying it's more important to promote stability in opposite-sex relationships than same-sex relationships and suggesting that children do not do as well with lesbian and gay parents. Court of Appeals Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye dissented and wrote, "I am confident that future generations will look back on today's decision as an unfortunate misstep." One other judge joined the dissent.

The following week saw two further defeats: a Connecticut trial court judge ruled that, since same-sex couples in the state now have civil unions, they cannot demonstrate a sufficient harm from not having marriage; and a federal appeals court upheld a measure approved by Nebraska voters in 2000 that bars same-sex marriage and also denies gay partners legal benefits that come with marriage. That reversed the ruling of a lower federal court, which had voided the Nebraska law. Also in July, the Georgia Supreme Court issued a decision upholding a state constitutional amendment that denies marriage and the benefits of marriage to same-sex couples. The ruling reversed a lower court decision that held the amendment invalid on procedural grounds.

New measures to ban same-sex marriage are advancing in eight states this summer, including in Arizona, where activists filed a petition in July to put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot that would deny domestic partner benefits to couples in the state and strip cities that already offer these benefits of the right to do so. In Wisconsin, however, four former governors, Democrats and a Republican, issued a statement in late June against the state's proposed ban on civil unions and marriage. Governors Patrick Lucey, Martin Schreiber, Lee Sherman Dreyfus, and Tony Earl stated that, "The founding document of our state is designed to lay the foundation for our government and protect individual freedoms. The civil unions and marriage ban is wrong because it would mark the first time we have ever amended our constitution to limit freedom."

Wisconsin



Happenings

Governor Doyle Appoints William Pocan as Milwaukee County Judge

Governor Jim Doyle appointed William Pocan to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court on June 28. Pocan will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Michael P. Sullivan. Pocan's term will run from July 2006 through July 2007.

"William Pocan has the intellect and temperament necessary for a judge," Governor Doyle said. "His 22 years of varied trial and appellate practice make him an excellent candidate. He is also highly regarded as a leading advocate in consumer protection law, which will add diversity to the Milwaukee bench."

"I would like to thank the Governor for

giving me this opportunity to serve the people of Milwaukee County. I am truly honored," said Pocan, who is currently in private practice at Jastroch & LaBarge. "I will be a hardworking, fair judge, treating everyone who comes before me with respect. I will never forget what it is like to be a practicing attorney representing real people with real problems and concerns."

Pocan, a gay man and a resident of Milwaukee, was a founding board member of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Two events this summer bolstered the hopes of LGBT parents for legal recognition. The Arkansas Supreme Court handed down a ruling in June stating that no connection exists between a foster child's well-being and the sexual orientation of a parent. Any attempt to deny foster children a home headed by a gay family was ruled unconstitutional. In July, the American Academy of Pediatrics journal published a report finding that children of same-sex couples would benefit from marriage fairness for their parents. The report, "The Effects of Marriage, Civil Union and Domestic Partnership Laws on the Health and Well-Being of Children," is in the July 2006 edition of Pediatrics and was commissioned by the American Academy of Pediatrics Board of Directors. With 55,000 members, the AAP is the largest and most influential professional organization for pediatricians in the U.S.

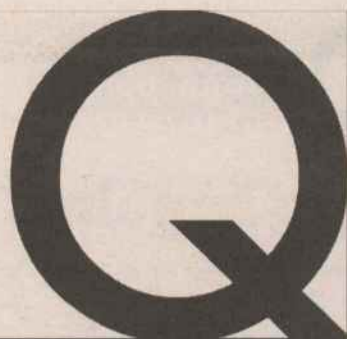
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Q Life is a monthly publication which highlights Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. Each issue contains insightful articles penned by local personalities who are in the know. Available throughout Wisconsin, Q Life fills an information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

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Don Hoffman

Associate Editor

Jennifer Morales

DIRECTOR OF SALES

Jessica Terlinden

AD SALES MANAGER

Kate Sherry

SENIOR WRITER

Holly Grey

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Steven Ahl, Ray Bradford, Patrick Flaherty, Holly Grey, Gary Hollander, Paul Masterson, Jennifer Morales, Michael Munson, Brian Reinkober, Lesley Salas, Don Schwamb, David Seitz, Cyndie Ody-Weis, Chris Wilde, Rev. Andrew Warner

PRODUCTION & DESIGN

J Harvey

PHOTOGRAPHER

Melody Carranza

CARTOONISTS

Chris Beetow

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Undecided Folks Hold the Only Hope for Victory

We are just about 13 weeks away now from one of the most important votes directly affecting the way LGBT folks will be treated here in Wisconsin. We of course are talking about the gay marriage ban that will appear on the ballot statewide in November. And while our cover story highlights a lot of reasons to be hopeful that state voters will be fair-minded and reject this bigoted hateful legislation, it's clear we're still way behind and need to continue to figure out better ways of getting our message out.

Fair Wisconsin, the organization in charge of the campaign to defeat the amendment has made several positive steps in the right direction. They seem organized and claim to have a field operation that will spell victory in November.

There are a couple reasons to believe them.

First of all, it appears they know how to raise money. Since March 1, 2006, they've raised \$1.3 million, with nearly 80% still in the bank. Nowhere near enough to purchase a substantial statewide TV campaign—but at least a start to get a few of the smaller TV markets started with “NO on the amendment” talk. Secondly, they appear to know the importance of a strong field operation. While the total number of paid canvassers continues to change, they claim more than two dozen are knocking on doors statewide in hopes of being able to talk with voters directly about the ban. Fair Wisconsin also claims hundreds of volunteers are out in the community spreading the anti-ban message as well. And finally—there appears to be consensus from at least several leaders in the community that the campaign is gaining some traction with both gay and non-gay folks.

But for as many reasons for us to be hopeful, there are some very scary signs that must not be overlooked. While many in the community are excited by recent poll numbers that show the race neck-and-neck (a poll commissioned by Wispolitics.com and the Badger poll), a closer look at the poll results unfortunately spell an uphill battle. It's not often that opinion on an issue which is so emotionally charged as this changes that much. In fact, few folks were undecided—less than 10%. That in itself is the problem. Even if half of the respondents who were not willing to give their opinion, vote NO on the amendment—it still appears the YES side is ahead. That is why finding out exactly who these undecided folks are, getting them to understand the issue, and ultimately getting them to vote NO is the only hope we have in defeating this far-reaching, homophobic legislation.

We get that.

We hope Fair Wisconsin does as well.

Another important factor



EDITORIAL

is figuring out how to peel away some of those that said they would vote YES. This is the most difficult battle. While some of these voters may indeed change their minds after they realize how far-reaching this amendment is—figuring out the key words and phrases to make them stand up and listen is tough. We hope Fair Wisconsin will do the research necessary to identify the messages to make even those that appear poised to vote YES change their minds.

All of this is easier said than done.

Unfortunately, in the end it's all going to come down to the amount of money raised and how it's best spent to get out Fair Wisconsin's message. Since money is

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always tight, Fair Wisconsin must rely on focus groups to test their battle cries. Those results must be treated like the gospel and then every message must be crafted based on those results.

Without this careful oversight Fair Wisconsin could spend a lot of its precious time either preaching to the choir or going after votes that would never come their way.

Full Disclosure: Editor Don Hoffman has personally financially contributed to the Fair Wisconsin campaign.



So, What About ...

An interview with Joe Pabst, Milwaukee philanthropist and supporter of the LGBT community's social and artistic health and welfare.

By Paul Masterson

Three years ago Joe Pabst founded the Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. Since then, the fund has distributed grants to over 20 groups, organizations and agencies including ARCW, BESTD Clinic, Camp Heartland Project, FORGE, Galano Club, LAMM, Men's Voices Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, and PrideFest among many others. I spoke with Joe Pabst about his work and expectations for Milwaukee's LGBT future.

Q Life: Joe, the Pabst family name is known worldwide, and you kept a fairly low profile until just a few years ago when you started the Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund. Now you're practically the Milwaukee Medici. How did that come about?

JP: My name has worked against me. Assumptions are attached to it – vapid, spoiled, not very mature. Still, I wanted to make a difference. I realized I could be effective by being public and wanted "LGBT" attached to my name because that's who and what I am. When I was in a relationship with my partner I didn't want to hide the fact that we were a couple; we had all the signs of marriage and I wanted it recognized. I was tired of the notion of "come to the party but leave that at home." I wasn't motivated by a desire for publicity but by emotion, like shouting "recognize me – I'm worth something." I want to make an impact.

QL: Did Greater Milwaukee Foundation have any hesitation setting up the fund?

JP: Hesitation? I'm sure there's always hesitation but they did it. I'm happy they took the risk and realized we're part of the community picture, part of the community at large.

QL: What's your philanthropic ideal?

JP: A good foundation...I believe in the community. The community's involvement could be better and should be, but based on passion, not social motivation with a greed for the status attached to it. I have a Peter Pan notion: I can't imagine why things aren't better. Where is the passion in the community?

QL: Why do you believe the passion is lacking?

JP: We live in a world now that is self-serving and self-indulgent. It should be balanced with a civic and social responsibility in whatever form – time, volunteerism, patronage of our cultural assets like

the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center or Men's Voices Milwaukee (MVM). I was among the first to support Women's Voices Milwaukee and that happened because of a good healthy collaboration. I heard about them through my connection with MVM. It was communication.

QL: Why do you think it's difficult to get the gay community involved – or, for that matter, the community at large?

JP: Historically, Milwaukee has had strong ethnicity – Germans, Italians, Poles and there were areas in town for each. They didn't venture out. Perhaps that's a factor why we don't embrace diversity, not a conscious choice but an emotional necessity. I don't think we should forget history but we shouldn't let it cripple us. We all have to be more proactive and receptive to things outside our comfort zone.

QL: Do you think we're heading in that direction?

JP: Wisconsinites are fair. There's a "live and let live" attitude, until it gets personal. I've experienced racism directed toward my own family. Change has to be deliberate, a conscious effort.

QL: Perhaps that's why we're facing the constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage and civil unions.

JP: Americans are not so much progressive as technologically advanced. It's like pain and suffering – two different feelings or, in this case, states of mind. I'm a supporter of Fair Wisconsin. Mike Tate has fervor and passion and he's doing a great job. I don't believe people should be denied basic rights. It's a horrifying thought. I believe marriage should be based on love as a romantic notion. But, every person should be entitled to basic rights, fairness, and love.

QL: So, what about the new Visionary Project to coordinate LGBT organizations and communication?

JP: I'm a part of it yet I'm cautionary about it. I'm impatient and I have to keep in mind that things don't happen immediately. Yet, I believe in the "vision." I'm in awe of Maria Cadenas and her efforts to make it happen.

QL: Do you think that the Visionary Project will change things?

JP: As I mentioned before, the role of the individual in the community is involvement. We should all be more involved, less insular. So, yes, I'm very hopeful.

FORGE Launches Hope for Healing Series

Therapists, HIV workers, sexual assault treatment advocates, an LGBT advocate, and a state official made up the 15-member inaugural audience for a Transgender 101 and transgender survivors of sexual violence training sponsored by FORGE on July 11, 2006.

The training, funded by a grant from the Milwaukee LGBT Partnership Fund, was the first event in a series designed to connect survivors of sexual violence with proven treatment modalities. The Hope for Healing series grew out of a national survey FORGE conducted that found that transgender survivors of sexual violence often felt they were "permanently" damaged, and had little or no knowledge of the many proven trauma therapies that have developed in the last few years. In many cases, survivors said they had encountered homophobia, transphobia, and/or sexism when they had first sought help, and were unwilling to seek out new therapists for fear they might be similarly prejudiced.

FORGE therefore interviewed leading trauma therapists in Southeastern Wisconsin, and screened them for knowledge of the needs of survivors of sexual violence and for unprejudiced attitudes toward gender identity and sexual orientation diversity. Those who were open to transgender clients but had little experience with transgender issues were invited to participate in the Transgender 101 training, subtitled, "What providers do (and don't!) need to know to work with transgender clients." As a public service, the training was also offered free to other professionals in the area who work with transgender clients. Followed by a workshop on issues unique to transgender survivors of sexual violence, the entire training required a 3-hour commitment.

In August, the series will resume with the first of five or six more workshops lead by Milwaukee- or Madison-area therapists and bodyworkers explaining and showcasing their trauma specialties. These workshops will be held on Thursday evenings at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court Street. Although the therapist-

presenters were selected in part for their comfort in working with LGBT clients, all consumers and professionals who are interested in learning about proven trauma therapies are invited to attend these free workshops. If you are looking for a therapist for yourself or clients, come enjoy this no-risk way of checking out who is available.

The August and September workshops will be:

- "Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Setting the Stage for Trauma Resolution," at 6:00 p.m. on August 24, presented by Neal Moglowsky, LPC, Center for Behavioral Medicine.

- "Imagery Rescripting and Reprocessing Therapy," at 7:00 p.m. on September 14, presented by Gretchen Fincke, MSSW, Pathways Counseling Center.

- "EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing): An Option for Healing from Trauma," at 7:00 p.m. on September 28, presented by Sue Gill, Ph.D., Madison psychotherapist.

For further information, call FORGE at 414-559-2123, or send email to SV@forge-forward.org. A downloadable/printable flyer listing all Hope for Healing workshops is available at http://forge-forward.org/transviolence/docs/Modalities_flyer2.pdf

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Snapshot of Our Health in 2006

Pride events have become a great way to take snapshots of our LGBT communities in Wisconsin. Q Life features photo essays on the events. Our agency and personal photo albums – either electronic or on paper – get updated. We get to notice who we are and who we are becoming.

In Milwaukee, Stevens Point, and Madison, Diverse and Resilient staff and volunteers took dozens of pictures. Among my favorites are the ones featuring the girls from SHEBA (Sisters Helping Each Other Battle AIDS) posing with me for glamour shots – well, at least some of us were glamorous.

At these Pride events we also gathered health data in the form of very short surveys. These are snapshots, too. Among the approximately 850 surveys we collected, we noticed that large numbers of respondents live outside of Wisconsin (e.g., nearly 80 Milwaukee survey respondents live in Illinois). We also saw in this

picture that about 10% of the respondents identified as heterosexual.

What else did we see in these snapshots? Well, it's a bit hard to say because no one wants this picture circulated too far. To be fair, the surveys may not represent lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender people in Wisconsin. We don't know how many people go to the events, are willing to take surveys, or are telling the truth. We don't know if those people who find our booth at Pride are different from those who never even notice we're there.

Still, it is a snapshot, and here is what's in it. We were able to use 687 surveys because respondents identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, or other. Of these, about one in four were between 18 and 24, 6% were over 55, and the rest were pretty equally divided between 25- to 39- and 40- to 54-year olds. Eighty percent identified as white, 9% Latino/a, and 8% African American. There were equal numbers of women and men, and 2% transgender.

About 13% identified as bisexual and 5% as queer or other.

About 42% are smokers. Seventy-eight percent of those in the snapshot drink at all, with about 10% drinking daily. Of those who drink at all, 70% binge drink at least once a month. Respondents from Stevens Point Pride reported the greatest likelihood of drinking at all and binge drinking; Milwaukee Pride respondents, the least.

More than one in five of the people in the snapshot report that they have felt afraid in the past year, mostly of strangers (15%), but others of current or past partners (4%) and family members (3%). Nearly one in nine are always or nearly always depressed; 5% are not managing stress well. One in seven have thought about suicide in the past year.

About 4 in 5 of the people in this snapshot have health care coverage of some kind.

Some of us will look at this snapshot and decide it is not a pretty picture; we'll



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 principal consultant of Gary Hollander Enterprises, which assists organizations with their development, emphasizing change management, team development and cultural competency.

ask if we can take it over. Some of us will complain about the photographer, the camera, or the location. But maybe a few will look at the snapshot and decide to take action, improving our health behaviors, working for domestic partner benefits, and organizing for change.

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HISTORY

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

Once again, the Milwaukee History Project had a major presence at PrideFest. We used the same building we have for the past few years (just north of the Dance Pavilion), and this year we had three major focuses: an interactive Timeline display; a video presentation; and entertainment posters.

As we did last year, the central focus was an interactive Timeline display: a large chart, 5 feet high and covering some 40 running feet of wall space. This chart chronicled, decade by decade and year by year, just a few highlights of the history of the gay and lesbian community in Milwaukee and Wisconsin: major events, organizations, businesses, and people. This was presented

The History Project at PrideFest 2006

along with some major national stories from each decade, to put local news in context. Visitors were encouraged to add their personal memories, recollections, and notes, and many took advantage of that opportunity.

As happened last year, we saw many people spend time looking at the display, and coming back again later with friends in tow: they had to bring other people to share the Timeline experience. (You can still view the Timeline: visit our web site, where you can view last year's Timeline at your leisure. We are working on putting up images of this year's Timeline as well: www.mkelgbthist.org/timelines.htm)

For the video presentation, the History Project compiled a selection of historical news footage documenting the emerging gay/lesbian community in Milwaukee in the 1970s. Much of this footage touched on topics of social equality raised by the early "gay rights movement" such as marriage equality, military service, and police entrapment. The footage was culled from the news film archives of WTMJ-TV, which is

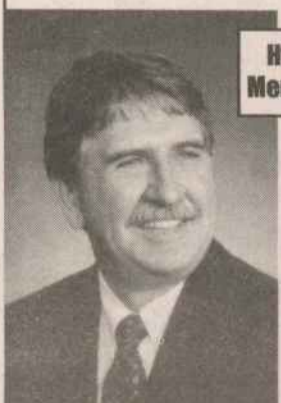
administered by the Archives Department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Finally, Jerry Johnson once again gathered a sampling of materials from his extensive collection of Wisconsin LGBT materials, and pulled entertainment-related posters and display items, enough to cover four walls! Posters from movies, plays, etc., were a hit, as they are every year. This year posters and other items from the movie "Brokeback Mountain" were of particular interest.

Between Saturday and Sunday we hosted between 5,000 and 6,000 people in the building, which also housed the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

The Milwaukee LGBT History Project Inc. this year is acting as a program of SAGE, which provides the group with more focus and structure. Bill Serpe, executive director of SAGE, is assisting the project in coordinating its four focus areas (oral histories, archives, PrideFest, and web site). Contact Bill at 414-224-0517 with questions or to volunteer to help.

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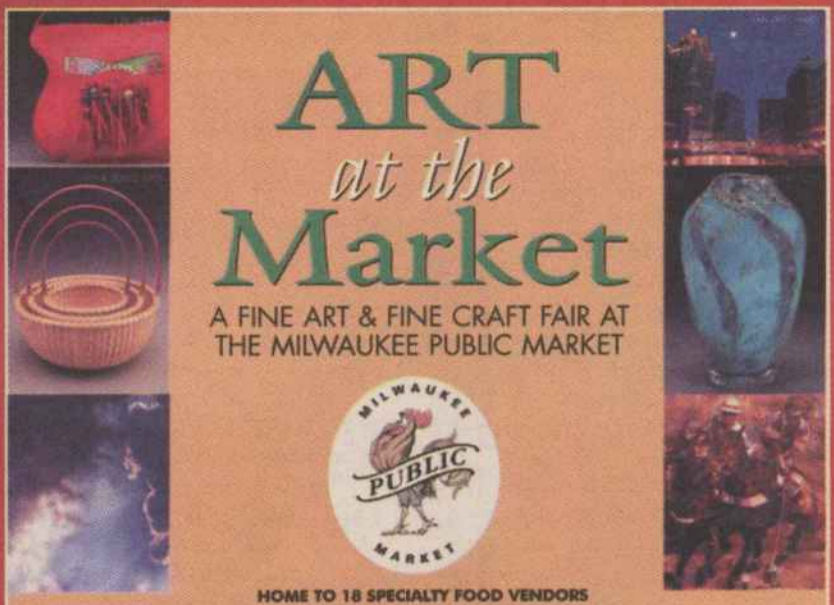
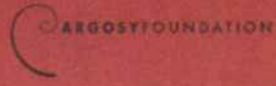
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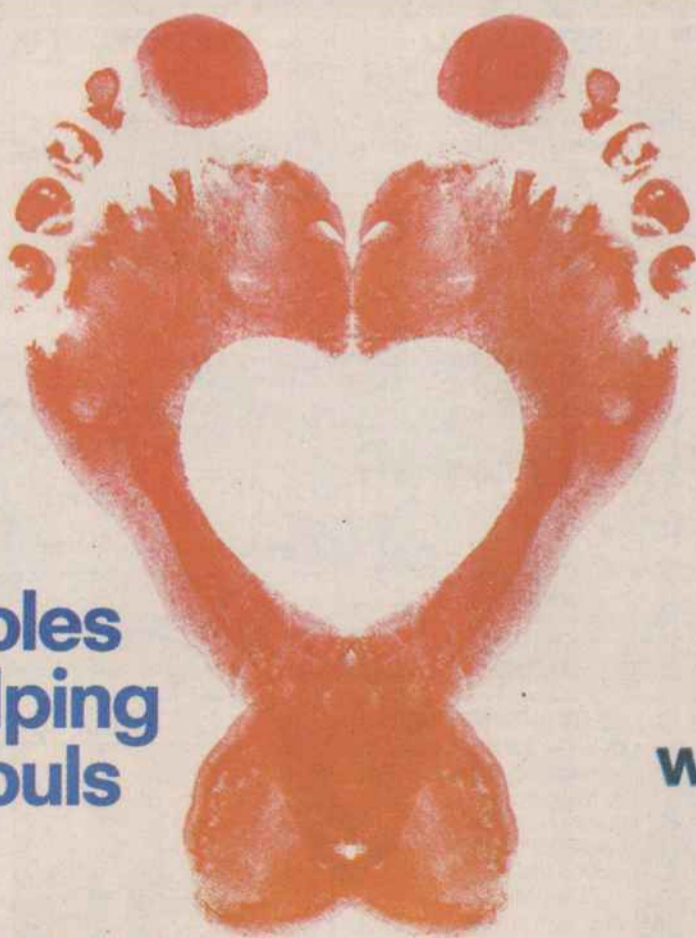
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LGBT Youth: Dying to Be Heard

Did you know that each year more teenagers die from suicide than from cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, and lung disease combined?

In 2004, 109 Wisconsin youth under the age of 24 successfully completed suicide, one of the highest rates in the country.

So we should be glad to know that the State of Wisconsin recently received over \$1 million in federal funds to combat youth suicide, right?

The June 25 issue of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel explained the focus of the recently funded project: "Experts cite Wisconsin's number of youths with high risk factors, such as living in isolated rural areas, keeping guns in the home and abusing alcohol or drugs."

I kept reading further down in the article, expecting to get to the part where they talk about LGBTQ issues as a major factor in youth suicide. Everybody knows that, don't they? Apparently not the Mental Health Association of Milwaukee County, recipients of the grant.

So the reality of possible rejection by family, the bullying and violence that often occur in school, struggles with gender identity and the sense of being too "different" to fit in are not considered major youth suicide factors in Wisconsin? Excuse me?

The article goes on to describe the program activities that are planned, which include "surveys of school children on their attitudes toward suicide, increased use of gun locks, new educational materials for the hearing impaired, better mental health services for American Indian youths and training teachers to recognize warning signs."

Good. Great. I applaud them. These strategies are all worth pursuing, but not at the expense of the LGBT community. We all know that about 10% of those rural and/or hearing impaired and/or American Indian youth are probably queer or questioning.

Tammy Baldwin, an openly lesbian Congresswoman from Wisconsin, spoke up on the federal level about this same invisibility of queer youth. Earlier this year presenters at a federally sponsored suicide prevention conference in Portland, Oregon, were told by officials to remove



LESBIAN HEALTH

Lesley Salas is a Cuban-American lesbian with two children. She is currently pursuing her main interests: writing, dance, Scrabble and a variety of social justice issues.

the words "gay," "lesbian," "bisexual," and "transgender" from the title of their talk. She and other colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives sent a letter to Michael Roberts, Secretary of Health and Human Services, asking him to explain why this censorship was occurring. In the end, the presenters were allowed to speak, but should it really be that difficult to openly address the struggles of LGBT youth in our society? (Ms. Baldwin won an award from the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association for her efforts. The full text of her acceptance speech is at www.glma.org.)

So what can we do here in Milwaukee? First, support the wonderful LGBT youth-oriented programs in our community, including Project Q at the LGBT Community Center, Diverse and Resilient (which recently did a statewide study regarding LGBT health risks), and the Alliance School, which creates a safe environment for high-school students impacted by bullying.

Be aware of the signs of suicide. According to Stephen K. Sponagle, M.D., of Community Memorial Hospital in Menomonee Falls, young people may stop talking about the future, hint that family and friends would be better off without them, or give away important possessions before a suicide attempt. At most serious risk are those who talk about the method, time, or place they've chosen, or the hopelessness of their situation. Help the suicidal person find gay-positive resources or even call 911, if necessary. In the words of Dr. Sponagle, "people considering suicide often are undecided about choosing life or death. With compassionate help, they may choose to live."

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Friends Forever

Much of queer zine culture is based on interconnected groups of individuals and friends who met either by hanging out at the same shows or

events, or by exchanging zines through the mail. Queer zines themselves are cousins to punk rock fanzines. The selections profiled this month are by two music fans who happen to be good friends, and they meld their love of punk and their queer identities into sweet, warm punk rock love packages — and what great packages!

In a tradition borrowed from the punk scene of which he's been a part of since his early teens, this first zine's author sports the cool nom de plume of Anonymous Boy. He periodically gathered up his comic drawings and put them out as numbered sets. **Anonymous Boy Collection** [Issue 3, 10 pages, 1993] may be short but packs a total visual punch. While drawn to look loose and informal, each page is deftly loaded with a range of punk and queer underground references. A graphic titled "Geeky pop punx masturbating" shows

bedroom wall posters of the bands Squeeze and Blondie (the "Parallel Lines" album cover, of course!) and a reference to the awesome "Baby Sue" comics on the third poster. The theme for almost all of his drawings pairs two or sometimes three punk rock hotties in a potentially real-life setting. He then plays upon the inherent sexual tension that permeates punk rock. The set-ups are nice, and involve specific bands. "I love Ramones fans 'cuz their rhythm is PERFECT!" reads the caption under an illustration of a decked-out, leather-jacket clad, Ramones-style punk masturbating a fully disrobed guy with stubbly body hair. Despite the lack of variation in body types (this is fantasy, after all), Anonymous Boy does make up for it with his fearless portrayal of the natural look of body hair, body fluids, and radical hair styles. The back cover is a hilarious send-up of fashion guides called "Anonymous Boy's Mean-n-Nasty Guide to Contemporary Style" that lampoons mid-1990s trends like XL sagging baggy pants, goatees, and the year-round wearing of ski caps. This issue is dedicated to Bruce La Bruce (sigh).

Why Deanna Troi of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" fame keeps popping up in various issues of Aunt Franne [Issue 4, 44 pages, 1996] could stem from the interview with Tribe 8 in the very first issue or just from the fact that Aunt Franne isn't afraid to commingle pop culture, punk, feminism, zine and record reviews all in one publication. This zine reads the way



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.

venerable punk rag Maximum Rock and Roll should read. It has an attitude and bite to the writing style, yet is still charming and endearing. Anonymous Boy is one of the main graphic contributors across all issues, and number four also has art by Rachael House of Red Hanky Panky and many pirated graphics from G. B. Jones, a founder of the queercore phenomenon. The zine review section is a treat because Aunt Franne reveals "I don't do bad zine reviews. ... But I just don't want to trash a zine just 'cause I don't dig it." Zines mentioned include Bamboo Girl, Bitch Nation and Wild Honey Pie. There are awesome interviews, a review of the 1996 queer punk festival Dirtybird, and dozens upon dozens of ads for indie punk record labels and bands. Aunt Franne succeeds in helping to build communities across all spectrums of punk rock life and respects diversity of opinion and thought.

The Queer Zine Archive Project has recently rolled out the fourth major revision of the website. Check it out online at www.qzap.org.

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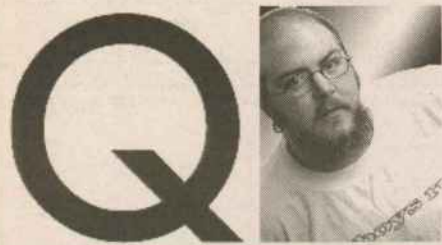
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TRANSGENDER

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.

What do three white, dead, non-trans men have to do with the transgender community? All were pivotal pioneers who jackhammered their way through oppressive mountains to create new roads for people to travel, speeding passage from one location to another.

Sometimes obituaries miss critical components of individuals' legacies. The work of these three men was not all shiny or unblemished. One was a pedophile. One was a misogynist. One wrote on topics that are still taboo even today. Two of the three likely never recognized the extent of the impact their work had on the trans community. All probably would not have considered themselves allies of the community, even though their work built a stronger foundation.

Vern Bullough was a highly published American historian, noted professor and sexologist. He is possibly best known as a historian of medicine and sexuality,

Pioneers

chronicling the development of American nursing, prostitution and "homosexuality." As an active humanist, he believed strongly that people should work to improve the lives of others. In the early 60s he persuaded the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) to support gay rights and was a charter member of PFLAG in Los Angeles (long before two of his children came out as gay and lesbian).

John Money, distinguished psychologist and sexologist at Johns Hopkins University was also widely published and had great influence as a professor, researcher, and leader in the field of pediatric and medical psychology. Many of his theories, terminology, and experiments have altered the course of how other professionals approach sex and gender issues.

Eric Rofes was an activist, writer, and queer political iconoclast who boldly shaped queer culture at a crucial period of the AIDS epidemic in the U.S. and continued on to raise awareness of health issues, beyond HIV, in the lives of thousands of gay men.

But how did their work impact the lives of transgender people?

Vern Bullough's multicultural, historically rich, and thorough approach to his work, allowed him to destigmatize subjects like prostitution and crossdressing. He spoke for queer and gender-variant people, before we could easily speak for ourselves. He played a central role in the development of the first International Congress on Sex and Gender,

hosted at his home university, CSU-Northridge.

John Money founded the first American sex reassignment center at Johns Hopkins University. Money is most well known for the "John/Joan" story – the real-life case of David Reimer, who was sexually reassigned as a child after a botched circumcision. This case (compellingly captured in the award-winning book by John Colapinto, *As Nature Made Him: The Boy Who Was Raised as a Girl*), has been central for theorists and clinicians to examine the true nature of gender's malleability and humane ways of working with gender variance.

Eric Rofes founded the Gay Men's Health Summit in the late '90s, offering a structure for gay and bi men to openly discuss health issues. Despite his widely read, analyzed and criticized writing about the "Ick Factor" (the basic belief that anyone with female genitals makes gay men react with "ick"), he was seminal in moving the gay men's community to a more inclusive place for transmen – at his Health Summit, and in other male-only spaces. He moved beyond his personal "ick factor" to embrace – figuratively and literally – transgender men into his work and life.

The success (and failure) of our allies is more than just germane to gender studies; it can determine the course of our lives by debunking outdated myths, encouraging new theories and allowing new and multiple choices for future research and for people living complex lives.

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BOY CULTURE

Thursday, September 7 at 7:30 pm

A new romantic comedy about sex and relationships from filmmaker Q. Allan Brocka, the director of *Eating Out*. With Darryl Stephens of *Noah's Arc* and *Another Gay Movie*.

BROKEN SKY

Friday, September 8 at 9 pm

The intense passions and serial hook-ups of four college age men elevated into a grand aria of obsession and entangled desire in Julian Hernandez's (*A Thousand Clouds of Peace*) spellbinding film.

LOOKING FOR CHEYENNE

Saturday, September 9 at 7 pm

The year's best lesbian romantic comedy is also a wonderfully witty contemplation of the politics of everyday life.

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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THE LINE OF BEAUTY

Sunday, September 10 at 1 pm

This BBC television adaptation of Alan Hollinghurst's Booker Prize-winning novel is a mixture of comic satire and textured social observation. *The Line of Beauty* deftly chronicles the ruthlessness of Margaret Thatcher's booming and oblivious 1980's against the background of the devastating outbreak of AIDS.

SAINT OF 9/11

Monday, September 11 at 7 pm

In an enduring photograph of September 11, rescue workers carry a Franciscan priest's body from the World Trade Center. This was how the world came to know Father Mychal Judge, chaplain to New York's Fire Department. *Saint of 9/11* weaves interviews with friends, colleagues, and congregants with archival footage and recitations of Father Mychal's words, offering a very moving story of a life's journey interrupted.

JACK SMITH AND THE DESTRUCTION OF ATLANTIS

Tuesday, September 12 at 7 pm

A mesmerizing portrait of an avant-garde pioneer—a filmmaker, photographer, actor, performance artist and a central figure of New York's underground culture from the 1960s until his death in 1989. At 9 pm we screen *FLAMING CREATURES*, Smith's 1963 masterpiece, with Andy Warhol's *CAMP*.



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 RULES OF ENGAGEMENT: AN EVENING OF WOMEN'S SHORTS
 Friday, September 8 at 7pm
 IMPERFECT UNIONS: A CONFEDERATION OF MEN'S SHORTS
 Saturday, September 9 at 9 pm
 LESBIAN SOLO: A PROGRAM IN THE FIRST PERSON
 Sunday, September 10 at 5 pm

LOVER OTHER

Wednesday, September 13 at 7 pm

Meet Claude Cahun and Marcel Moore: Surrealist photographers of the 1920's, lesbians and half-sisters, gender-bending artists, war resisters. Barbara Hammer explores the lives of two iconoclastic women who spent most of their years together as lovers and artistic collaborators. Paired with: JEAN GENET IN CHICAGO, a queer re-emphasizing of the events surrounding the 1968 National Democratic Convention as seen from the point of view of French writer Jean Genet.

RED DOORS

Friday, September 15 at 7 pm

An award-winning, crowd-pleasing independent film that comically explores the domestic cataclysms of one Asian American family as it strives to maintain tradition and achieve success.

ANOTHER GAY MOVIE

Friday, September 15 at 9 pm

Four randy high school boys make a pact to *all* get laid by the summer's end in this gay *American Pie*. And they will go to any lengths, or depths, to meet that goal. Extravagantly committed to gross-out humor, wonderfully crass, and with all the sophistication of an adolescent (gay, male, & horny).

A LOVE TO HIDE

Saturday, September 16 at 7 pm

A powerful and devastating film about the fate of homosexuals and Jews living in Nazi-occupied France and one of the most successful films in recent LGBT film festival history.

LOCATIONS

All screenings, except opening night, take place at the UWM Union Theatre, located in the UWM Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., 2nd floor.

TICKETS

Festival & Fiver Passes and Opening Night Tickets available at Outwards, 2710 N. Murray St. Opening Night Tickets also available from the Oriental Theatre. Passes and tickets for all other screenings may be purchased at the Union Theatre, open one half hour prior to screenings.

arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm

Visit our web site for a complete schedule, the latest info on after parties, a full list of our friends & sponsors or to join our e-list!

BACKSTAGE

Saturday, September 16 at 9 pm

A fascinating and troubling film about a mutually exploitative relationship between two women—an affair that explores the boundary between fantasy and pathology. Starring the imperiously stunning Emmanuelle Seigner as a self-involved diva and the unnervingly vivid rising French film star Isild Le Besco as her obsessed fan.

FILTHY, GORGEOUS, THE TRANNYSHACK STORY

Saturday, September 16 at 11 pm

Filthy, Gorgeous lets loose the seismic and needs-to-be-seen-to-be-believed antics of the drag artists of the San Francisco institution Trannyshack, a regular fixture Tuesday nights at that city's bar, The Stud.

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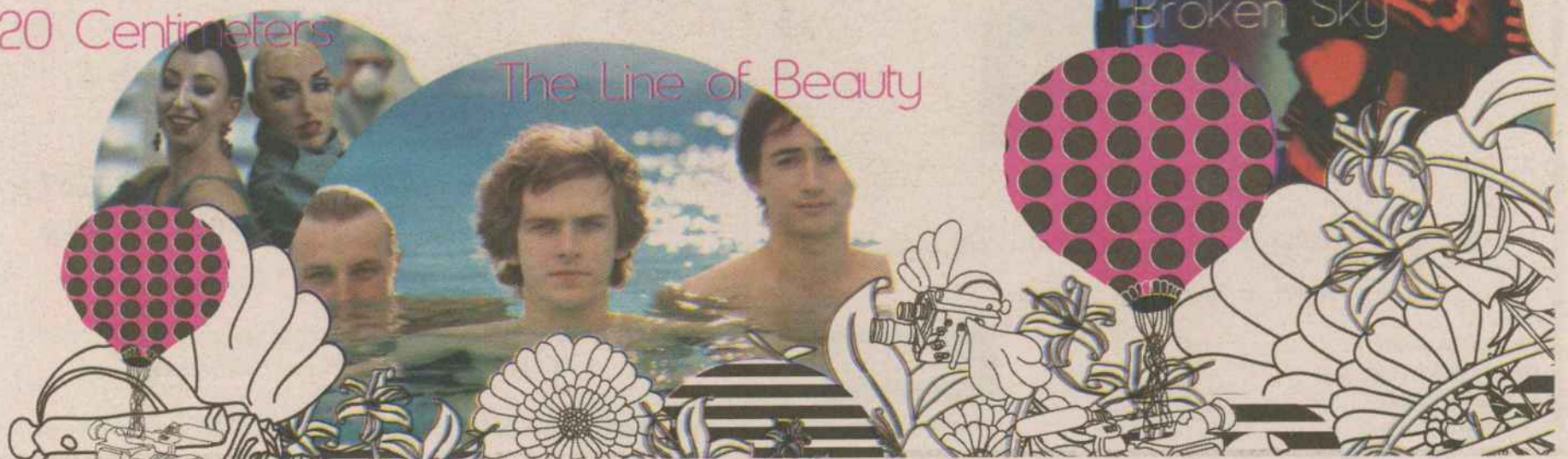
Sunday, September 17 at 7 pm

Marieta is a pre-op transsexual prostitute with a problem of about 20 centimeters in length. Don't miss Ramon Salazar's wondrous film about one narcoleptic transsexual's dreams of transforming herself, via surgery and lots of musical numbers!

20 Centimeters

The Line of Beauty

Broken Sky



A Queer Look at the Death Penalty

Our community is rightly organizing to fight a discriminatory amendment to our state constitution that would ban civil unions and marriage for same-sex couples. Even with the importance of defeating this amendment, there are other issues in the election that deserve our attention.

The same Republican-dominated machine that brought us the civil unions and marriage amendment is also pushing a referendum on the death penalty.

While the death penalty is not an issue that would seem to have much bearing on the LGBT community, I think it matters for reasons of fairness and of faith.

For Fairness: We can not overlook the fact that the same political sponsors of the civil unions and marriage amendment are behind the death penalty referendum. The sponsors of these measures want to take Wisconsin backwards – to a time before LGBT visibility, to a time of frontier justice.

The opposition to the amendment is led by Fair Wisconsin, whose name reflects the desire to live in a state where citizens are treated fairly by the state. The death penalty is certainly not fair. There have been over a hundred inmates on death row whose execution was stayed because additional evidence proved their innocence. Of those who are executed a disproportionate share are people of color and poor. The difference

between a death sentence and jail time should not be the ability to hire a good lawyer. There is a basic unfairness in how the death penalty is practiced in our country.

As LGBT citizens we ought to be especially concerned about fairness, not just on our issues but on all issues.

And for Faith: Supporters of the death penalty often draw spiritual strength from those portions of the Bible where God seems most judgmental. In a religion where God condemns, our own harshest judgments can seem like godliness.

The opposite of condemnation is not leniency but rehabilitation. I believe in a God who doesn't give up. In my reading of the Bible, particularly the story of Jesus, I find a God who is continually trying to save and redeem humanity. Murderers do need saving; I'm against the death penalty because I believe that God can work through us to rehabilitate all.

This dividing line between condemnation and rehabilitation is important for LGBT folks. The condemnation camp, ever ready with Leviticus, feels some behaviors and actions can strip away a person's dignity and rights. Do this and you're beyond the pale of humanity.

Such a line of reasoning is devastating to our community, whose behaviors have long been seen as on the edge of moral



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.

acceptability. I don't believe God only loves us when we are good; nor do I think we only deserve rights just because we're good. Every human has a right to live and to be free from cruel punishment.

Additionally, as a Christian, I pray to a God whose own death was the legal penalty for his accused crime. A scholar once said that the modern equivalent of the cross would be an electric chair. Imagine praying in a sanctuary under an electric chair. To me such an image says that Jesus would be against the death penalty.

I will vote against the death penalty because of my faith and my hope for a fair society.

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Backlash Masculinity

Another murderer who killed a Milwaukee man because he was gay was sentenced this summer. Jose F. Gonzalez, 22, was convicted in June for the first-degree strangulation murder of Randy House, 43, in South Milwaukee's Grant Park Lagoon last year. Gonzalez, whose rambling, erratic statement to the authorities ended up with an admission that he was "bi-curious" and alone in the park with House in the small hours of the morning after meeting him in a bar hours earlier. Gonzalez told police that he couldn't recall if he'd had sex with the victim but that House "grabbed my ass so I pushed him," according to police reports. Later, Gonzalez bragged to a Speedway convenience clerk that he fought off a man who tried to rape him.

Gonzalez did more than push him. Police found Randy House's body floating in the Grant Park Lagoon the next day, and an autopsy report noted that he had been strangled, but not before he was brutally beaten, with broken ribs, hematomas around the head, and a lacerated tongue. The murder has disturbing similarities to the anti-gay murder of Keith Allen Jemison, a closeted, part-time Milwaukee minister, according to police reports, and subject of my June column. Jemison was also murdered by a man deeply conflicted over homosexuality, having apparently carried on a down-low sexual relationship for months before murdering Jemison as a way of expunging the guilt. Both murderers were sentenced this summer by Judge Charles Kahn, who openly questioned why hate crime charges weren't included. Perhaps the most disturbing similarity to the cases, though, is the rather ho-hum response the murders have received in the mainstream and LGBT media (this paper, for example, chose its June cover story to denounce as homophobic a liberal downtown Lutheran church that had raised thousands of dollars for PrideFest and is formally against the civil unions ban, rather than cover the Jemison murder).

What is really agonizing to me is that our community is still churning out young men who are so repulsed by sex with another man that they turn to murder. Straight or gay, male or female, we've all received unwelcome passes at some point in our life but most of us react with body language, not murder. This is the generation (Jemison's murderer was twenty and House's twenty-one) whose gay and lesbian members are coming out earlier than ever, and whose straight cohorts support marriage equality in large numbers. This isn't Iran, or Alabama. This is Milwaukee, home to more gays and lesbians than anywhere else in the state. So how can this be happening?

A recent drive around town sparked some thinking. Miller Brewing has a new billboard campaign up, and there's nothing like a carefully focus-grouped beer ad to

Q

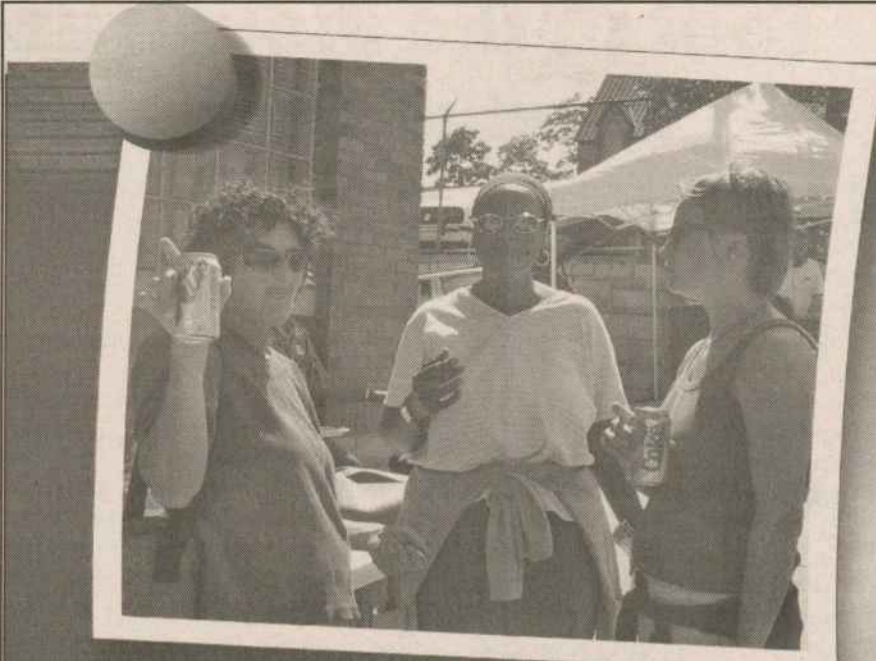


POLITICS

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

provide a little for-profit sociological insight into the male psyche. The series seems to be tapping into the embattled male. One billboard observes that real men never ask for help opening their beer. Another scoffs at society's laws by boasting that Miller drinkers are never afraid to light off a firecracker no matter what the season. Yes, American men may be taking home less real income than their fathers did. They may be graduating in smaller numbers than women from high school and college and going off to prison in record numbers. They may be anxiously trying to navigate the still-new beauty regimen imposed by television, advertising, and men's magazine style writers, who capriciously shift the lines that narrowly demarcate a dude from un-groomed slob and prissy fags. Yes, being a man may be as conflicted and contradictory as ever, but you can still demonstrate your rugged individuality by opening your own Miller Light and lighting off a bottle rocket. Or bashing a queer, for that matter.

We must do better by our young people. We must raise a generation - not just in tony suburbs but in rural communities and central cities and everywhere - where a young man feels free to seek out the pleasure of another man's body if that's in his nature, rather than extinguish the life of another to deny it. That work needs to be done by parents and school officials and LGBT youth programs like Project Q. But there's another way that Milwaukee can say hate violence is unacceptable: it can start using Wisconsin's hate crime law, which punishes criminal acts more severely if they are motivated in whole or in part by the victim's characteristics like race, sexual orientation, or religion. The retiring District Attorney never allowed his prosecutors to use the law, but a coalition convened by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center hopes to change that with the next D.A. The hate crimes coalition, including Latino, Jewish, LGBT, and other groups, is convening a forum for D.A. candidates in September to impress on them how hate violence hurts whole communities in Milwaukee. You can find out more at www.mkelgbt.org.



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Foot in the Mouth and Gems in Your Hand: Reactions and Advice from Other Parents

When our LGBT kids come out of the closet, parental reactions run the gamut. The past several months, I've asked LGBT friends and their parents about this. Here are some of the best (printable) parental reactions to their kids' coming out stories.

At first ...

Are you sure?
Do you want to see a therapist?
How long have you been gay?
How GAY are you?
I'm not surprised. I wondered when you'd realize; I've known all along.
You are the same person today as yesterday and my love for you will never change.

Hours or days later ...

Who else knows?

Should I buy you some condoms?
Who have you had sex with?
Congratulations!
(To a male) Are you going to dress like a woman?
(To a female) I thought you dressed like a man!

Months later ...

Yeaaaah, I want to go to PrideFest!
Let's close that closet and never go back in.

Sometimes these take a while ...

Hello? Babies 'R' Us? Do you carry rainbow crib blankets? My gay son and his partner are getting serious and I need one for my future grandchildren.

Senator? I've always supported you; now it's time you support my family. A fair

Wisconsin votes "NO!"

I also asked if they had any gems of wisdom or bits of advice for fellow parents of LGBT kids. Here are some heartfelt and mindful gems from those who have "been there."

1. Seek a support network to discuss the challenges and joys of parenting LGBT kids. To commune with families whose LGBT kids are doing well and with those who share challenges is essential. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is one such support network. At monthly meetings, PFLAG-ers support one another, explore LGBT topics and learn to more effectively advocate. See www.pflag.com for more information.

2. Acknowledge that parenting LGBT kids may be different than parenting heterosexual offspring. One parent exclaimed that advocating for gay rights and speaking up against the proposed constitutional amendment are as important as childhood immunizations or school choices.

3. Avoid excessive talk about hetero relationships. The parents of three teen children frequently asked the straight teens about boyfriends and girlfriends but seldom asked the gay son about his partners and he felt excluded.

4. Avoid sex-role stereotyping and assumptions about the genders. Gender is



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*.

more than it appears: self-concept, sexuality, body image, brain differences, interests, strengths and weaknesses.

5. Use inclusive language. Words such as partner instead of husband/wife/boyfriend/girlfriend, and commitment or relationship instead of marriage, portray an open mind and neutrality. Ask yourself, "Do my words include everyone?"

6. Do not shy away from talking to your gay kids about their lives. The topic comes out of the closet quite easily. Be sure to ask about who and what's important to them; their dreams, hopes and future plans; their weekend at Pridefest or trip to Fire Island. To avoid such conversations builds walls when it's better to build bridges of communication.

7. Explore LGBT history, relationships, culture. Learn about the causes of LGBT; identified genes, prenatal hormone levels, differences in the brain. Include references to your new knowledge in your daily conversation with friends and family.

8. Go to PrideFest. Visit the LGBT center. Take a stroll through Walker's Point and visit the gay bars.

9. Love your child! Continue to encourage, affirm, enjoy and be grateful for their special gifts, skills, and orientation.

10. Develop your advocacy skills. The LGBT community needs your support. There's much work to be done.

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Take Me as I Am

By the time Q Life goes to print, I will have held my combined nineteenth birthday and high school graduation party at my home in Wauwatosa. The purpose of the event was to promote recognition of all milestones by raising money for Fair Wisconsin, the campaign to defeat the proposed ban on any form of recognition for same-gender couples.

We will thank ourselves for having won the good life only when we've mustered the courage to ask for it.

In the time leading up to the event, I've invited a number of friends, relatives, fellow churchgoers and co-workers, and had a lot of great conversations about the ban along the way.

One discussion that sticks out in my mind was with a good friend and co-worker. "Oh, I see," I remember her saying. "You're

using your family and friendships to advance your political agenda."

While I understood her underlying meaning, the words she'd chosen to use bothered me. I explained that for me as a gay man and a person who cares about a lot of other gay and lesbian people, creating a Wisconsin that honors all milestones was not a political endeavor, but rather a deeply personal one.

While participation in the political process is an extension of personal values for all of us, it is not impossible to separate friendships and family relationships from political views. The marriage equality question, however, is not some pie-in-the-sky, highly abstract political exercise devoid of real human consequences.

My minister, the Rev. Suzelle Lynch of Unitarian Universalist Church West in Brookfield, shares a story from her sister, a lesbian in a long-standing relationship who was living in Ohio around the time of the 2004 election. In that year, Ohio faced, and, unfortunately, approved, a civil unions and marriage ban. Shortly after the ban's passage, a co-worker informed my minister's sister that though this co-worker had voted for the ban, it was "not meant to be taken

personally."

Hmm. That's funny. Last time I checked, harassment was defined by the victim, not the harasser. If you tell me with your vote that who I am "shall not be valid or recognized" in a society where you and I are supposed to be peers, I'm pretty sure I get to take it personally. Especially if you know me.

Margaret Cho puts even more plainly: "If you laugh your ass off to 'Will and Grace,' but you're against gay marriage, f-ck you."

Let's be clear. Our friends and the members of our families with whom we build relationships are engaging in a process that recognizes our humanity. To expect our loved ones to acknowledge that humanity to a point of natural fullness is — even when circumstances tell us otherwise — fundamentally reasonable, and in no way constitutes a political act. Rather, it is an act of genuine hope for and faith in human connection.

We must ask those close to us for their support for two reasons. First, when we appeal to the better part of the nature of the people around us, we convey our faith in their potential to learn, grow, and better support us in our humanity.

Second, it's how we'll win, both in



YOUTH

David Seitz (davidkseitz@yahoo.com) a graduate of 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.

November and in an even more enduring sense. Proponents of Wisconsin's civil unions and marriage ban are hoping the vote amounts to a sort of passive straw poll, that enough prejudice will linger to carry the ban through. The effort to defeat the ban hinges on the active process of community decision-making through democratic conversation. We will thank ourselves for having won the good life only when we've mustered the courage to ask for it.

We truly are, as the old protest song goes, "a gentle, angry people," and when we sing, it truly is for our lives. May we do so with awareness both of the height of the stakes and of the joy we can reap when hope is what we sow.

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Friends - Take 2

Several months ago I offered recipes that were obtained through some friends of mine. The article was called "A Little Help from Friends." I thought it would be a good idea to reprise that concept. Swapping recipes can be a lot of fun (and tasty!). Many thanks to Eric Sobush and Maurice Perry for sharing their recipes with us. I have tried these recipes and they are both fantastic!

Eric's Asian-Inspired Grilled Chicken thighs

- 10 - 12 skinless, boneless chicken thighs
- 1 cup garlic chili sauce
- 1 cup dark soy sauce
- 1 cup sweet chili sauce

Place the chicken thighs in a medium-sized bowl. Blend together the garlic chili sauce, soy sauce, and sweet chili sauce and pour over the chicken. Coat the chicken on all sides with the sauce, cover, and place in the refrigerator. Marinate in the morning and grill in the early evening.

Note: Check out an Asian grocery store for the sauce ingredients. They are more likely to carry these ingredients as well as be a little cheaper!



COOKING

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

Mo's Famous Ribs

- 5 lbs baby back ribs (or pork ribs)
- 6 cloves of garlic, minced or crushed in a garlic press

- Lawry's seasoned salt
- black pepper, crushed
- 2 jalapeno peppers, thinly sliced
- 2 medium onions, thinly sliced
- 2 green peppers, thinly julienned
- 2 yellow peppers, thinly julienned
- 2 red peppers, thinly julienned
- aluminum foil

Rub the garlic on each rack of ribs. Sprinkle seasoned salt and black pepper on ribs to taste, then layer the vegetables on top of the ribs. Wrap each rack in aluminum foil and marinate in the refrigerator for 24 hours.

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Meanwhile, remove the ribs from the refrigerator and allow them to come close to room temperature. Place the ribs, still wrapped in foil, in the oven and reduce the temperature to 300 F. Bake the ribs for 8 hours. Remove from the oven and serve.

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Community **Q** Calendar

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

Dinner for the Arts. All proceeds will go to Arts Education Programming at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts. North Star American Bistro, 19115 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 11 a.m. 414-573-9287. www.northstarbistro.com.

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

Outwords Book Club. Come and join the discussion of Michael Tomas Ford's new novel, "Full Circle." Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15

Lesbian Reading Group. The book to be discussed is "18th & Castro." Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089. www.outwordsbooks.com.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

BWMT (Black and White Men Together). Open to all members, guests, and visitors. 7 p.m. - 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 p.m. - 6 p.m. 414-447-0251. mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

Men's Voices Milwaukee. MVM sings a wide variety of men's choral literature and is auditioning potential new singers. Milwaukee LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. 414-628-7688.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy: Setting the Stage for Trauma Resolution. Free workshop for anyone who has been affected by sexual violence or any other forms of trauma. Free. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. 414-559-2123. www.forge-forward.org.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

Fiesta Night Mix and Mingle. Second Annual Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Edelweiss Cruise. Enjoy the unlimited margaritas and build your own taco bar. Pre-registration is required. 5 p.m. \$25/20 members. 1110 N. Old World Third St., Milwaukee. 414-271-2656 ext. 121. aguerra@mkelgbt.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

Court Street Block Party. A free event to thank the LGBT community for its generous support.

Outside the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. 414-276-2656.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2

FORGE Tackling Our Isms. How do racism, classism, sexism, ageism, heterosexism, ableism, sizeism, and many other isms affect us as individuals and as a community? How are we affected and ultimately hurt by stereotypes and oppression, either those of our own group or those of another group. What can we do to empower ourselves in the face of stereotyping and strengthen our connection with each other? Come begin the discussion of how we can deal with these issues not only in our daily lives, but also within the greater trans community and beyond.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 3

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

TUESDAY, SEPT. 5

Generation Q. This group aims to be fun while being open and informative, without being intimidating. So, if you're queer, or questioning, or both, and you want to talk, bring yourself down. This is a social group for 18- to 24-year-olds. OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison. 7 p.m. 608-255-8582. www.outreachinc.com. Repeats September 19.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6

Body Mine. A monthly discussion group where 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.

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

Deadline for September issue is August 20.



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Outwords Books Top 5 Picks for August

Mid-Summer New Fiction Bestsellers!
Exclusive to Q Life.

FOR THE BOYS:

1. "Everyone's Dead But Us," Mark Richard Zubro The latest installment of Zubro's popular, long-running "Tom and Scott" series finds our super sleuths on holiday on a fabulous, remote Greek island resort catering to a select gay clientele. Before you can say, "Holy Jessica Fletcher," the dead bodies start piling up!
2. "Full Circle," Michael Thomas Ford History professor Ned Brummel is quite happy with his life when he learns that a friend is possibly near death. Boarding a plane to his friend's bedside, Ned examines the major events and small moments that have shaped his world and his relationships with two very different men.
3. "Surf 'N' Turf," Scott & Scott Summer reading doesn't get any lighter than this latest "Scott & Scott" romance. Southern-boy Blakely and bookstore-owner Robert each escape to the same gay resort for the summer. Once there they find themselves amongst rival gangs determined to keep them from setting their hearts on each other.
4. "LA Heat," P.A. Brown When LAPD detective David Laine encounters hunky party boy Chris Bellamere, it is to interrogate him about the murder of one of Chris's many sexual conquests. When Chris's efforts to prove his own innocence mark him as a victim, David tries to save him, finding himself falling in love with a man who might be a brutal murderer.
5. "Now Is the Hour," Tom Spanbauer A powerful, entertaining story of self-awakening, the complex bonds of family, and of America during the late 1960s, this novel follows the journeys of 17-year-old Rigby John Klusener who leaves his home and family in Idaho and heads for a new life in San Francisco.

FOR THE GIRLS:

1. "Promising Hearts," Raddyffe Dr. Vance Phelps lost everything in the War Between the States and travels to New Hope, Montana, with no hope of happiness. Or so she thinks. Then she meets Mae, a frontier madam. Can two outcasts find refuge in one another's hearts?
2. "Too Close to Touch," Georgia Beers Kylie O'Brien is the kind of girl who believes in true love and is willing to wait until it shows up at her door. Gretchen Kaiser is a corporate workaholic and Kylie's new boss. But will Kylie find that Gretchen is just too close to ...
3. "The 100th Generation," Justine Saracen Archeologist Valerie Foret has spent a year searching for a tomb in the Egyptian desert. When she finally makes the discovery of a lifetime, she finds herself set upon by jealous rivals, religious fanatics, and much, much worse.
4. "18th & Castro," Karin Kallmaker Halloween Night, San Francisco, and it's a party like no other in the world. Welcome to the streets of the Castro, where the women aren't shy about what they want and how they'll get it. Crowds, costumes, and parties - the apartment building at 18th & Castro is in the thick of it all.
5. "Anticipation," Terri Breneman Attorney Toni Barston is assigned to prosecute a serial killer who has already confessed and agreed to plead guilty with a sentence of life without parole. Simple, right? Then a mistake at the city jail allows the killer to walk free. Soon the killing of prominent women in the community begins again.

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Arts Q Calendar

OUT NOW

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

The Penetration Play. 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. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee. \$20. 8 p.m. 414-383-3727. www.uncommontheatre.net. Through August 12.

Coffee and Art! Julia L. Elsner is showing 10 specially selected photographs. Starbucks Coffee, 2735 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee. Through August 12.

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

Dan Simoneau. The exhibition will showcase Dan's recent watercolors, acrylics. Artists Gallery, 414 6th St., Racine. Through August 27, various times.

Falling People. Micaela O'Herlihy. "By exploring the idea of 'falling people,' I'm helping myself to finally feel okay about the fact that nothing is permanent." Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 414-467-7271. www.hotcakesgallery.com. Through September 3.

Collecting Vernacular Sorting: Moment - Place - Object. An installation of several works by Robert Rindler, president of MIAD. East Gallery, 273 E. Erie St., Milwaukee. Through September.

MIAD Faculty Exhibition. Faculty participates in this biennial exhibition of their diverse talents and vision. Frederick Layton Gallery, 273 E. Erie St., Milwaukee. Through October.

New Art Show. Stop in and see 25 new pieces from artist Brenda Peterson. Wind Rose Wine & Martini Bar, Restaurant and Galleria, 312 N. Franklin, Port Washington. Through November 15.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Waukesha Art Crawl. Come check out Waukesha's arts, eats and gifts. 4 p.m. - 10 p.m. www.redhotartspot.com.

UWM Peck School of the Arts. Main Stage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-229-4308.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

42nd Street. The greatest show biz saga of them all features a small town girl who becomes a star in a big Broadway musical. The Fireside Dinner Theatre, Bus. Hwy 26 South, Fort Atkinson. 800-477-9505. Through October 15.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

Pants On Fire. A new comedy by playwright Bill Swanoe starring Joan Darling. Mineral Point Opera House, Mineral Point. 7:30 p.m. 608-987-4499 or 987-3292.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

Cream City Jazz Ensemble. Relax to various artists while savoring specialty coffees and pastries. Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, 2220 N. Terrace Ave., Milwaukee. 10 a.m. 414-271-3656.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

Q Pick

Beatrix - Jar. Part electro-pop band, part DIY sound art duo suitable for fans of Boards of Canada, Avalanches, Aphex Twin, and Stereolab. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-467-7271. www.beatrixjar.com.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10

Q Pick

Fabulous! The expert, engaging and very smart new history of the queer cinema. UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m.

Florentine at the Lake. The Florentine teams up with Alterra Coffee Roasters to bring audiences a bi-weekly concert series. Alterra Coffee, 1701 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Repeats August 24.

The Fourth Wall. Milwaukee premiere featuring Angela Iannone, Norman Moses, Rick Pendzich and Kay Stiefel. Cabot Theatre, Milwaukee. Through August 27, various times.

Grand Opening Celebration. Traditional, contemporary and modern works by local artists are on display and for sale at the gallery. Current Gallery of Fine Art, N88 W16475 Main St., Menomonee Falls. 262-255-3588. Through August 12, various hours.

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

Art Retreats. Focuses on an appreciation of natural beauty in your life. Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield. 262-781-9470. Repeats August 12, various times.

pOps. Hip-hop dancers perform choreography celebrating artists such as Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Prince and others. Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-277-8480. www.danceworks1661.org. Through August 13, various times.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

Jonathan Zorn, Rachel Thompson, Chris Burns. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-467-7271. www.hotcakesgallery.com.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Future Perfect. Artist Brian Yates piano rolls into two and three-dimensional compositions. Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Art Museums, 1801 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. 2 p.m. 414-278-8295.

Life from Limb. An exhibition with works by Jan Serr and Marjorie King. closes. Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Art Museums, 1801 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. 414-271-3656.

New Orleans Evening in the Garden. A warm southern evening with the great sound of traditional New Orleans music and most-loved Creole/Cajun food. 6:30 p.m. Charles Allis and Villa Terrace Art Museums, 1801 N. Prospect Ave., Milwaukee. 414-271-3656.

Poetry and the News. A three-hour workshop with exemplary texts by Juliana Spahr, Renee Gladman and others. Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. 414-263-5001.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18

Art to Art. A performance showcase featuring local dance artists. Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-277-8480. Repeats August 19.

Avant Retro. A reading series featuring local and regional poets and writers. Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-263-5001.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

Sabbatical Work. Professor Larry Chatman revisited Italy during his sabbatical to explore beauty and graffiti as an act of social and civil responsibility. River Level Gallery, 273 E. Erie St., Milwaukee. Through September 16.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

Mixed Six. Six choreographers will create and perform solo works using a unique grab-bag approach. This season's Mixed Six highlights artists using vocal and dance performance. 7:30 p.m. \$10. Danceworks, 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-277-8480. Repeats August 26.

UWM Peck School of the Arts. Opening reception of visual art. Vogel Hall, 3253 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee. 6 p.m. 414-229-5070.

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

Deadline for September issue is August 20.

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September 2

Tackling our "isms" --
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FORGE

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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.

Help make history this November by getting directly involved in defeating the ban.
www.fairwisconsin.com or 414.271.2656

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What's Happening at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

Ongoing Exhibition

WINTER MILLER'S THE PENETRATION PLAY

Directed by Jim Bloomingdale
What does a lesbian do when the woman she loves is straight? Seduce her mom!

Shows on August 3, 4, 5, 10, & 11
All performances at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$20
Senior and Student tickets for \$10 may be purchased on the evening of the performance at the box office. Special SAGE-Milwaukee member ticket, \$5.

ONGOING ART EXHIBITION "RAM ROJAS - COLLECTED WORKS"

Runs through August 24
Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and by appointment

AUGUST 26, SATURDAY, 8 P.M.

CABARET NIGHT!

Featuring Mark Hooker's "Cher Show" and vocal and keyboard artist Scott Malcom performing original songs. A special benefit for the upcoming Uncommon Theatre's production of Tony Kushner's "Perestroika - Angels in America, Part II"

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Call 414-383-3727 for information
Until further notice: No yoga classes on Monday!

All Theatre and Event Tickets at

www.uncommontheatre.net

All theater and event tickets are available at 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.

Interracial Dating Milwaukee Series Begins September

By Paul Masterson

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Milwaukee population's racial demographics include 50% white, 37% black, 12% Latino, and the remainder Asian, Native American, and others. In the city's LGBT community, the relative numbers are probably about the same. Yet the representation of minorities in LGBT life seems to be disproportionately low.

Does the local interracial dating scene reflect this phenomenon? Does the city's reputation of being among the country's most segregated imply an inherent racial divide in its gay community as well? Does prejudice exist in the dating scene? Or are attraction, chemistry, and compatibility simply a matter of preference with little or no awareness of the race issue?

In an upcoming series of articles, Q Life will explore this phenomenon through the eyes of our LGBT community. The questions may or may not be answered but they will be asked. In fact, more questions may be raised than answers given.

The series will focus on interracial dating and relationships from a variety of perspectives, including men with men, and women with women, and attempt to address the myriad racial combinations in both groups. It will attempt to cover the complexities of our social fabric in this particular context and present the varied perspectives of our own attitudes towards race and interracial dating - both positive and negative.

In the course of researching material for this series, interviews with individuals and couples, surveys, and input from our community's groups will provide the basis for the articles' content. Q Life would like to invite anyone interested in providing information, personal experiences, or views to contact the writer, Paul Masterson. Please email Pmasterson@queerlifeneews.com.

2006 Youth Art Show Opens at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center September 2

By Paul Masterson

On September 2, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents a special new exhibition, the "2006 Gay Youth Art Show." Nearly a dozen young artists, ages 14-21, will display works in a broad range of visual and performance media including photography, multimedia posters, illustration, spoken word, paintings, and sculpture.



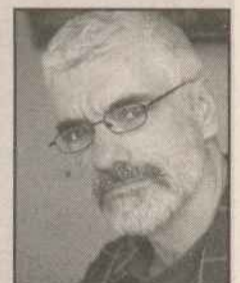
Bradley Richter, MGAC summer intern, organized and directed the show in collaboration with the Alliance School, Diverse and Resilient, as well as Project Q. The artists have been assisted by mentors and facilitators with a variety of media specialties. These include visual artists Shawn Gurath, Greg Jacobson, and Jacqueline Lindo; filmmakers Anthony Lopez and Jon Salimes; as well as graphic artist Maureen Kane and photographer Armando Gallegos. All volunteered to guide the process to produce this show.

Young artists are constantly embracing new mediums, new technology and a whole host of influences that are revolutionizing the concept of "fine art. One of the goals of the 2006 Gay Youth Art Show is to have artists help define what is relevant in the creative world. Every generation establishes its own notion of culture and in the process renders much of what came before obsolete," Richter said.

Cory, a contributing artist, reflected on his personal perspective and motivation, saying "art is my self-expression. I've been drawing a long time. A friend of mine passed away and I got into my art to escape so I wasn't thinking about him all the time."

The exhibition's progress has been documented by Anthony Lopez who filmed the workshops and interviewed the participants. His documentary of the exhibition's production will be shown during the opening night program and will be available for viewing for the run of the show, through mid-October.

The show opens September 2 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd St. The artists' reception takes place from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and includes a spoken word performance. The public is invited and admission is free.



Paul Masterson - MGAC Director

PrideFest Sets Attendance Record

PrideFest 2006 set attendance records with nearly 24,000 people attending, a 10% increase over last year's previous record. PrideFest's preliminary financials also look very good, according to festival officials, with expected retained earnings to exceed the \$56,000 earned in 2004.

Costs for this year's festival were significantly higher because of the addition of Friday to the schedule and a greater investment in the entertainment lineup. After two years without Friday night in its schedule, PrideFest returned to three days by presenting comedienne Margaret Cho, who helped push Friday's attendance to a record 6,171.

Highlights of the festival included Cho's and Lady Bunny's hilarious performances Friday night, Martha Wash's drop-down, drag-out sing-along with the crowd on the song "It's Raining Men," and Sunday night's rousing performances by En Vogue and DHT. Other standout performances included Berlin and Bow Wow Wow Saturday night.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- PrideFest's \$10,000 donation to Fair Wisconsin, the statewide coalition working to defeat the ban on civil unions and marriage;
- Milwaukee Public Schools Board Director Jennifer Morales' coming out speech at the Friday night Community Gathering;
- PrideFest Awards presented to Carmen Murguia (Stonewall Award) and the Cream City Foundation (Community Service Award).

The festival also devoted considerable time to educating attendees about the upcoming Wisconsin state amendment to ban civil unions and marriage. Festival leaders also awarded a \$10,000 check to Fair Wisconsin, the lead organization working against the ban, drawing on proceeds from Friday night PrideFest ticket sales.

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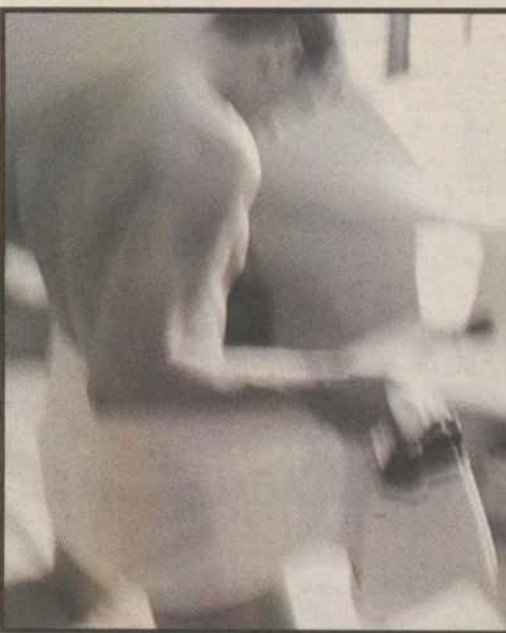
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Get Ready, Here Comes the Dairyland

Greetings, sports fans! I bet you thought that I had disappeared. Well, it has been an extremely busy summer so far with many things happening and in the works.

As many of you know, SSBL has been my passion over the last few years. This year has been no exception. SSBL has grown this year from 13 teams in Milwaukee to 22 teams and the addition of SSBL-Madison. We have played all of our games at Mitchell Park with the exception of interleague play where games were held at West Milwaukee Softball complex and Olebrich complex in Madison.

As of the time of this writing, Ballgame remains undefeated after beating the other undefeated team Walkers Pint 14-5 on July 15th in the competitive division. In the rec division, the Q Life Gnus, Harbor Room Seemen, and the MO'NA's Rec team are all in a heated battle for the top spot.

Milwaukee teams have been traveling this summer as well. Both Q Life and Team Woody's traveled to Minneapolis over Memorial Day weekend. While neither team brought home any hardware, fun was had by all. Over the 4th of July, Team Woody's traveled to the Canada Cup in Toronto, Ontario, where they placed 3rd. Also at the time of this writing, the Madison Rough Riders are competing in the Gay Games in Chicago. In August, the Milwaukee Kosmos will be representing our great league in Ft. Lauderdale in the Gay Softball World Series.

This brings us to Labor Day weekend and the Dairyland Classic. Once again, our



SPORTS

Brian Reinkober (breinkober@queerlifeneews.com) has been the commissioner of the Saturday Softball League (SSBL) for four years and is active in numerous sports around Milwaukee.

all of its volunteers have been working very hard at Miller Park, Mitchell Park and off the field to make this year's Dairyland, the best and the largest ever! The number of teams is yet to be determined but it may be as high as 50 teams.

Events during the Dairyland Classic include a "Salute to the Classics Party" on Thursday at Intermezzo and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. This will also be a meet and greet of all the Hall of Fame representatives from SSBL. SSBL has been working diligently to preserve its history and will have many articles, pictures, and programs which it has obtained. SSBL will also have many trophies on loan from other cities from past decades. There will be a silent auction, and finger foods served. Friday will be the Registration and Welcoming Parties at MO'NA's and Woody's, respectively. The other finalized party at the time of this writing was Woody's Tail Gate Party on Monday after the Dairyland Classic. \$40 will get you a ticket, transportation from Woody's to Miller Park, a tailgate party with beer, and a t-shirt. Tickets are available at Woody's and all are welcome.

For those of you who were at the Pride Parade over Pride weekend in Milwaukee, you more than likely got to witness Cheer Dorothy Cheer perform to the delight of the crowd. I am pleased to announce they will be returning to cheer on the teams and the Dairyland Classic. Who will win this year? What cities will come back this year to Milwaukee? How much eye candy will be around Labor Day weekend? These questions and more will be answered in just a few weeks.



Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Grand Slam Sponsor is Woody's. SSBL and

Interview with Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival Director Carl Bogner

By Connie Savides

To walk into the offices of Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival director Carl Bogner is to walk into the office of a man who is either very busy or organizationally challenged. But in talking to Bogner about this year's festival, it becomes clear that the piles of preview tapes and DVDs, the tilting stacks of press releases and sketches of flyers, the half-eaten salad, and the empty bottles of Yoo-Hoo are just indications of his passion for and excitement about this year's series.

What follows are excerpts of an interview with Bogner about the upcoming festival conducted by intern Connie Savides

Savides: Okay, you're a busy guy, how about we do this: I give you a word and you respond accordingly, your answers related to the festival.

Bogner [puzzled]: Okay...

Savides: When?

Bogner [relieved]: This year's festival takes place from September 7-17, opening at the Oriental Theatre with a screening of Q. Allan Brocka's *Boy Culture* [see www.boy-culture for more info on this hot, hot film!]. The rest of the festival will run at the UWM Union Theatre.

Savides: Fun?

Bogner: Well, I think the festival is a lot of fun. We are presenting the most over-the-top comedy we have ever presented, *Another Gay Movie*, from Todd Stephens, the screenwriter of *Edge of Seventeen*. *Another Gay Movie* is a gay *American Pie* about four teenage gay guys just out of high school who go to desperate lengths to get laid. It is either in very bad taste or hilarious. *Red Doors* is a funny and heartwarming comedy about an Asian American family and the troubles caused by their three daughters, who prove a little resistant to fitting any recognizable model of success or decorum. Oh, and our shorts programs (women's on September 8, men's on September 9) are among the more spirited screenings of the festival, with a short doc on lesbian roller derby queens, this wonderful short from Sweden about a mom who tries to keep her daughter from playing so much with her best girlfriend, and this whacked comedy about two women who take to stealing sperm in order to have a baby. Does this sound like fun?

Savides: Politics?

Bogner: Oh, given the ongoing marginalization of LGBT peoples, the festival is inherently political and we try to be as edifying as we are entertaining. We will

show documentaries that address marriage equality; the fate of trans women incarcerated in men's prisons [*Cruel and Unusual*]; and artists who are models of resistance [*Lover Other* and *Jean Genet in Chicago*]. I also find the drag queens who perform in the documentary *Filthy Gorgeous: the Trannyshack Story* to be wonderfully subversive. And there is this great film about FTM's and the lesbian community called *Boy I Am*.

Savides: Sex?

Bogner: *Broken Sky*, the new film from Mexican filmmaker Julian Hernandez, follows three or four young guys around as they fall in and out of love and bed. Everything is pitched to a high scale; the guys are all beautiful, every one is in full swoon. So, yeah, the coupling in the film...well, it gets rather heated. The best sex scene may be in *Backstage*, this French film about a teenage girl and her obsessive devotion to a pop star. The girl is determined to form some kind of couple with this woman, and she doesn't discourage her.

Savides: Fact?

Bogner: More documentaries: *small town gay bar*, about bars in the rural South; two docs about LGBT youth: *Follow My Voice: with the Music of Hedwig* about the making of a Hedwig tribute album and the kids at a New York City LGBT high school, and *CAMP OUT*, about an overnight camp for Christian LGBT kids; and *Jack Smith and the Destruction of Atlantis*, a clip-packed tribute to the great underground filmmaker and performance artist.

Savides: Fabulous?

Bogner: Oh, thanks, I'm glad...

Savides: No: *Fabulous*, the movie...

Bogner: Oh, sorry. Yeah, on August 10 we are showing *Fabulous: The Story of Queer Cinema* which traces queer film from experimental work of the late 1940s all the way to *Brokeback Mountain* and beyond. It'll be a fun night. We'll show some early lesbian and gay shorts. There'll be a queer film quiz. People will be asked to name the queerest film ever. They can win passes to the festival. Art Bar will host us afterwards for some piña colodas.

To ask Bogner your own questions about the series, email him at lgbtfilm@uwm.edu or visit www.myspace.com/mkelgbt, or chat him up at Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh, after the August 10th screening of *Fabulous* at the Union Theatre. Or visit the website at www.arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm.

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Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?

Yes, that is a 1930s Depression song. But there will be nothing depressing about our exciting Milwaukee theater season starting in September. The concerts, dance, and live theater will make everyone feel they are in New York and walking down Broadway.

August is a time when many artistic companies are doing a lot of planning. They are writing for grants and working out season budgets. They are also trying to get patrons to plan to attend the new season of events. So, this is your chance to support the local art scene. If you can't afford some small donation, maybe there are other ways to show support.

Our town has many professional companies. Our Milwaukee Repertory Company, the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, and the Pabst offer exciting artistic choices. There are also seldom-performed shows and original works being performed in our intimate venues. More than likely you won't see a star, but you will see some exciting local talent.

A Little Goes a Long Way

Many of the long-established companies have sponsors and support. Because they are so established, the sponsors seek out that exposure, similar to the commercials during a prime-time television show. Many of the smaller companies have a difficult time

getting any sponsor, because their intimate theater only offers 40-80 seats. So, a few of these local companies could use your support in any way possible.

The Boulevard Theatre, the Windfall Theatre, Off the Wall, RSVP, In Tandem, Dramatists and MGAC are all companies also seeking donations. Some have a donation box in the theater. Some need help to pay the actors a stipend (hint)! You may want to contact these companies (non-profit and for-profit) to ask what they might need.

They could use some old furniture for sets, lumber for building, paint supplies, or business supplies like a printer, copier, or an old laptop computer. It could be something sitting in your basement, attic, or garage. If you once owned a restaurant or bar, there might be an old lighting board or better yet, a follow spot. The Brady Street pharmacy has a large jar near the entrance marked "For Theater Donations." Brother, can you spare a dime?

Hot August Shows!

I hope that I am correct when I list some of the upcoming shows. Many companies have changed their show choices, or dates. My, things come and go so quickly here! "Die, Mommy, Die!" by Charles Busch has now been scheduled to open at the end of August at the Off the Wall Theatre. Boulevard has now scheduled "Beyond Therapy" by Christopher Durang to open this month. Charles Busch and Christopher Durang are favorites of mine, and I hope you enjoy their campy humor as much as I do.

The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre has announced a play/musical by A.R. Guerny,



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.

"The Fourth Wall," starring Kay Stiefel and Norman Moses. These two top performers are wonderful together! The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts has an exciting line-up. "All Shook Up," "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," "Dancer's Life," starring Chita Rivera, and "Sweet Charity," with Molly Ringwald. Can she top Christina Applegate?

Also American Players in Spring Green continues their repertory season all summer. Enjoy!

In closing, I could hear the music of Summerfest from my apartment. What a blast, literally! Have fun and remember all the festivals, but please still support our area bars. Have you tried Intermezzo?

Last Month's Trivia Answer

Yes, Elton John did compose the rock musical "Aida."

This Month's Trivia Question

Were the female leads of "Vampire Lesbians," "Psycho Beach Party," and "Die, Mommie, Die!" all played by playwright Charles Busch?

Aunt Blanche has had so many Botox injections she goes around singing "I am sixteen going on seventy-five" (more like ninety!).

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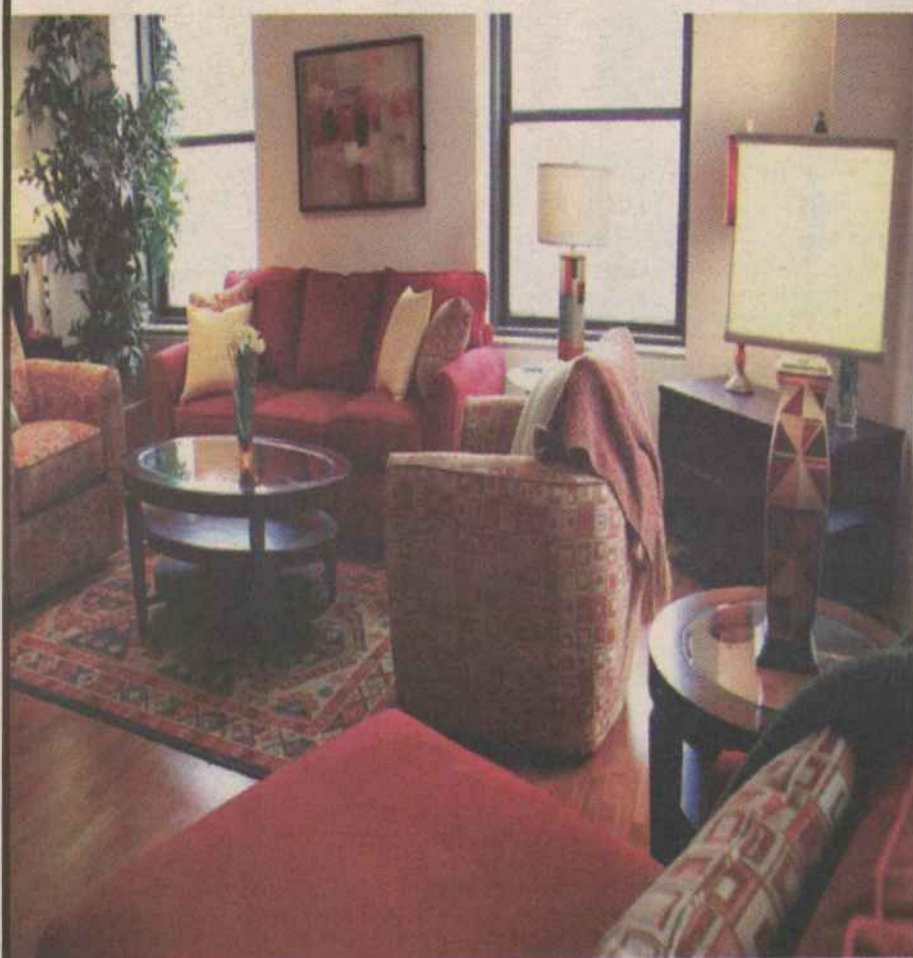
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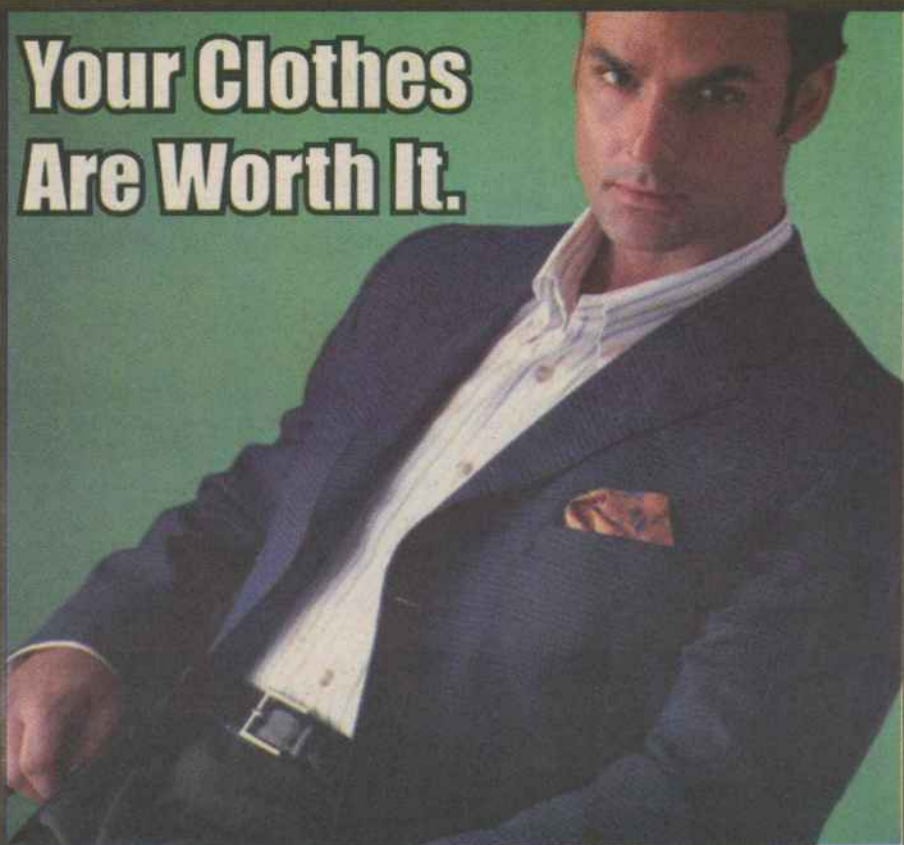
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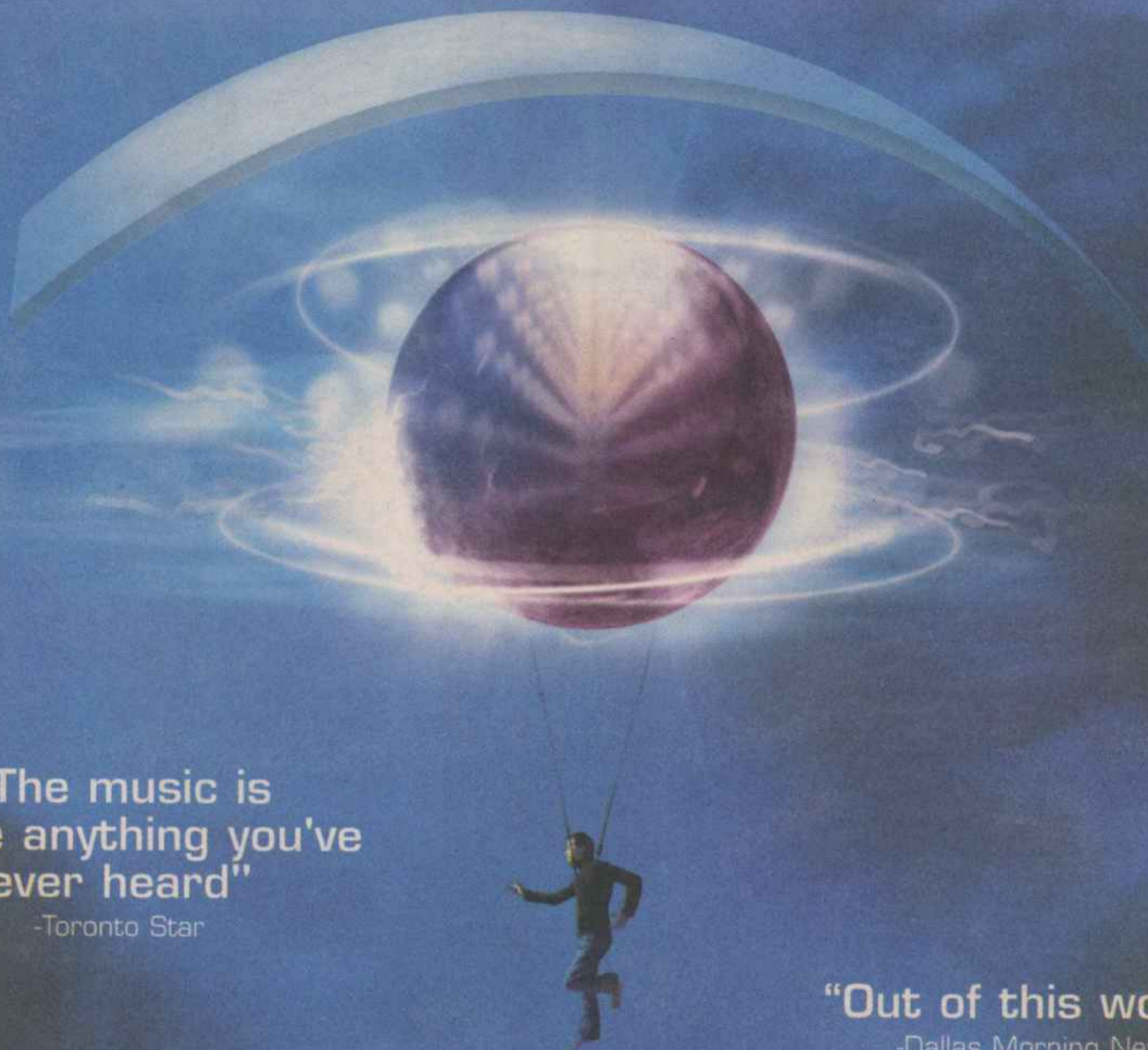
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"The music is unlike anything you've ever heard"
-Toronto Star

"Out of this world!"
-Dallas Morning News

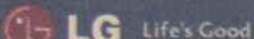
3 PERFORMANCES ONLY!
Bradley Center/August 18-19-20
Friday & Saturday at 8pm, Sunday at 7:30pm

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit cirquedusoleil.com

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE NOW AT:

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