



Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Executive Director Transition

James Pennington, the Executive Director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, has announced that he is resigning his position effective November 10, 2006. As Executive Director and a former minister, Pennington has been actively speaking as a



James Pennington

guest preacher in various churches in opposition to the Wisconsin Constitutional Amendment to ban civil unions and same sex marriage. These experiences have caused him to re-connect with the faith community. For that reason, he has decided to re-enter the field of pastoral ministry

as several opportunities have become available. However, he will remain at the helm of the Community Center until November 10 because, as he stated, "I believe it is important for me to remain with the Center until WE DEFEAT the referendum on November 7, 2006."

The Co-Presidents of the Board of Directors of the Center, Melissa Beaström and Sheldon Walker, praised Pennington for his effective leadership during his nearly two year tenure as Executive Director. Under Pennington's leadership, new programs and initiatives include an outreach program for transgendered youth lead by new Center employee Jay Botsford, an advocacy program for victims of domestic violence led by new Center employee Meighan Bentz, and a renewed emphasis on programming for underserved groups such as African-American adults, Latino/a adults, and transgendered adults by new Director of Programs Jennifer Ward.

Pennington also spearheaded the formation of the Milwaukee Visioning Project, a collaboration of LGBT organizations with the goal of creating more unity within the LGBT community and a mission of providing a forum to determine shared interests and effect collaboration among LGBT communities. In addition, Pennington has greatly increased the visibility of the Center within the LGBT community and the larger community by taking the lead in addressing social injustice and by speaking at various community rallies. Other milestones during Pennington's tenure include negotiating a new lease which now includes the entire building in which the Center is located, successfully recovering from funding cuts by the State of Wisconsin for HIV prevention programs and replacing these funds with other sources, and providing banners on the exterior of the Center to promote not only the Center but the various LGBT organizations that are tenants of the Center.

The Center's Board of Directors has formed a Search Committee which is developing the process by which the Center will conduct a nationwide search for Pennington's successor. The procedure for those interested in applying for the Executive Director position will be announced when this process has been finalized.

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Wisconsin's Premier LGBT News Leader • QUEERLIFENEWS.COM



By Patrick Flaherty

As we head into the final month before Wisconsin voters decide whether to officially denigrate loving same-sex relationships or leave them alone, I am inspired by two couples separated by generations but sharing a common story.

Ray Vahey and Richard Taylor met in September 1956, when Dwight Eisenhower was President and "Why do Fools Fall in Love" by Frankie Lyman was a big hit on the radio. While they preferred opera to pop, Lyman's ode was apt, because for two men to embark on a great love affair together in 1956 required more than a little foolhardy. This was an era when to love another man was still a criminal act in every state and when homosexuality could get you institutionalized.

Others of their generation entered fake marriages, but not Ray & Richard - they had the self-awareness and guts to give love a chance. They lived a kind of internal exile. For 48 years they kept the treasure of what they were building a secret. And then they emerged when their community was under attack like never before and just brought the grace and courage and wit that they lived their whole lives with and said, here, we're here to help. The two barnstormed Wisconsin speaking about how the proposed constitutional amendment was an insult to

the life they had built together, enduring the brutal homophobia of a benighted era only to face this assault in their final years. They spoke at churches, rallies, fundraising house parties - even the State Capitol, where Rep. Jon Richards introduced Richard to a standing ovation by legislators for his World War II naval service in the South Pacific, where his tanker came under Kamikaze attack. But the chamber fell awkwardly silent when Rep. Richards introduced Ray as his partner of 49 years.

Meeting them at a Center Advocates fundraiser in 2005 was like finding long lost relations. There are relatives on your mother's side of the family, relatives on your father's side - Ray and Richard are relatives on the gay side of my family. This last year and a half was a joy getting to know them.

They spent their lives incredibly curious about history and the world around them. They lived all over the US over the years - San Francisco in the 1960s, the DC area, the New York area. They were so well read. Richard would tell people how the Soviets helped win WWII, or how a gay British man broke the Nazi's enigma code, or how the real way to break the bad guys was through the boycott. He did his best to ban TV from the apartment (he called it the "idiot box"), and the Nation was the only news source he trusted Ray, with editing help from

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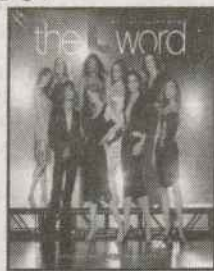
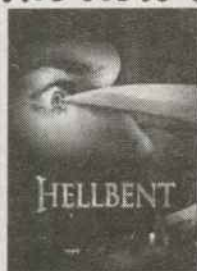
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Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered (LGBT) Communities will benefit by donors creating their own giving funds. Open a fund at Cream City Foundation (CCF) and you automatically become part of a community of givers who are seriously committed to supporting LGBT communities. Cream City Foundation sponsors events and provides other opportunities for donor advisors to share experiences, leverage funding, and learn about work being done in specific areas of interest.

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One donor, Joseph Pabst has joined forces with the Cream City Foundation to create the first donor advised fund within the Cream City Foundation. The Joseph R. Pabst Community Infrastructure Fund will directly target LGBT infrastructure and capacity development. This fund helps to ensure CCF's efforts to provide free board development, grant writing, and leadership development workshops and one-on-one counseling to LGBT organizations and leaders in Southeastern Wisconsin.

"I believe strongly in our community and in the way donors can step up to make change happen," said Joseph Pabst, "Cream City Foundation's dedication in ensuring a strong infrastructure to guide and ensure the success of its granting process encouraged me to support their effort."

"We are proud to allow Cream City Foundation to serve as a vehicle for additional support to the community," said Kevin Loos, president of the Cream City Foundation, "Joseph Pabst maybe the first to step forward as a donor who uses the donor advised fund structure within CCF to build our community, but we hope that others take the challenge and join him."

The Cream City Foundation will be offering donors the choice of starting a fund with a minimum donation of \$10,000 and with no administrative fees in an effort to encourage greater philanthropic commitment to LGBT communities. The funds may be established on an endowment basis or to allow for immediate use of capital. The only requirement would be that donors use the funds to support LGBT communities.

"As a community foundation, Cream City has a special responsibility to pull together all LGBT people in Southeastern Wisconsin, through vehicles like this fund, to develop and educate organizational leaders," said Maria Cadenas, Executive Director of the Cream City Foundation. "We are proud to be the home of the fund and to work closely with Joseph Pabst to have a real impact on LGBT infrastructure."

Cream City Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that has been serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community throughout the Southeastern

Wisconsin area since 1982. Joseph Pabst is also the advisor of the Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund and the Joseph R Pabst Animal Care Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

For more information on how you can establish a donor advised fund contact us. Cream City Foundation, 315 W. Court Street, Suite 201B Milwaukee, WI 53212 phone 414.225.0244, www.creamcityfoundation.org



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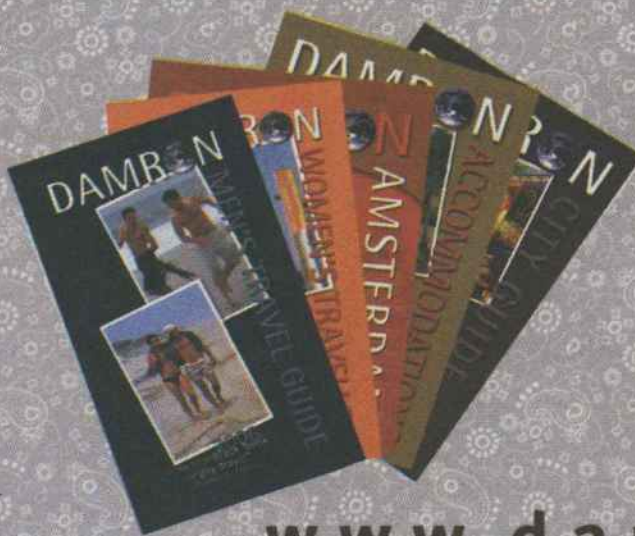
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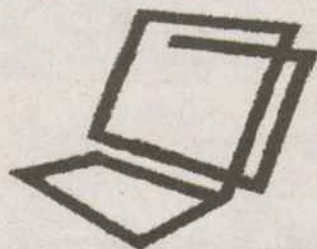
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LOVE *continued from page 1*

Richard, moved effortlessly through history for inspiration in his speeches, citing people like Frederick Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, Martin



Richard and Ray

Luther Kink, Sojourner Truth and Fannie Lou Hamer. His soft touch and courtesies led me to dub Ray the movement's "Minister of Diplomacy."

The two planned a large wedding ceremony for September 16 with the reception benefiting Fair Wisconsin. But Richard fell ill with cancer in May, and they were married instead in the hospital with friends and family at Richard's bedside. Richard fought hard, but he lost his battle to cancer in July. September 16th became a memorial tribute to Richard and his fifty years with Ray. Luminaries like US Rep. Gwen Moore and Rep. Richards spoke; as did family members like Bob Morgan, Nancy Knight; and local leaders like Renee Crawford and Wendell Harris. Nearly \$5,000 was raised that day for Fair Wisconsin, bringing the total in memorial gifts to something like \$17,000. All who attended felt a bracing reminder of what it is we are fighting for in Wisconsin, and just how

high the stakes.

Later in September, I attended a drag fundraiser in LaCrosse organized by Dave Kennedy for his partner, Nick Bahr, who is fighting leukemia. The young couple met seven years ago and was starting their lives together. When Nick's diagnosis came last year, Dave had to quit his job to care for him through month-long hospital stays, chemotherapy, weekly hospital visits, and sleepless nights. They moved to LaCrosse to be closer to Nick's supportive family.

The September 23rd benefit at Player's, a downtown LaCrosse gay bar, was packed with friends and Nick's entire family, including his mother, father, and brother. Nick's grandmother moved through the crowd, snapping Polaroids, bobbing to "Sexy Back," and thanking everyone for coming. Raffle tickets for prizes donated by local mom-and-pop businesses were sold. When Nick joined Dave on stage for the final number, the sight of so many going to wipe their eyes made it seem like a melancholy new line dance.

They hope to marry in Canada next year, health and finances permitting.

These two couples' endurance gives me hope and frankly makes me thankful. The people pushing for a constitutional amendment that makes life harder for couples like Ray and Richard, or Dave and Nick don't have this advantage. Their's is the fleeting, empty satisfaction of flipping someone off who cut you off in traffic. Our struggle sustains whether we win or lose tomorrow, or next year, or twenty years. Our struggle sustains because we are fighting for something, rather than against something.

If you would like to make a donation to honor Ray and Richard, go to www.fairwisconsin.com. To honor Dave and Nick, send a check to "Angel on my Shoulder," 1611 Pine Tree Lane, St. Germain, WI 54558, noting "Dave Kennedy and Nick Bahr" in the memo section.

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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.
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Gay Marriage Debate Sparks Restaurant Brawl in Wauwatosa

Special to QLife

By William Attewell

Wauwatosa — An assault on three LGBT friends caught on surveillance cameras at a George Webb's restaurant on Sep. 24 has Milwaukee LGBT activists asking the case be treated as a hate crime.

It all started innocently at a George Webb's restaurant at 6108 W. Blue Mound Rd. in Wauwatosa with the friends discussing the proposed constitutional amendment on November's election ballot that would ban gay marriage in Wisconsin.

Events took a violent turn in the wee hours of Sep. 24 when an unidentified man joined the discussion, grew irate and attacked the three lesbian, gay and transgender friends. The man also threw chairs and other objects and in addition to hurling anti-gay epithets

Jorryn Chamberlainmen a transgender man attacked in the incident quoted the suspect as saying, "It's never going to happen, it's never going to never going to pass in Wisconsin, and it's against God."

Danielle Davino, a friend of Chamberlainmen, witnessed the attack and says, "This man's verbal and physical violence was clearly based on his intolerance, ignorance and hatred of homosexual and transgender issues. This makes it a hate crime."

Michael Lopez, another restaurant patron attacked in the incident, required five stitches to close the cuts on his face and also called the incident a hate crime, "That's what it was, it was a very hateful circumstance, obviously the guy had a problem with gay issues, gay marriage."

As Queer Life went to press, Wauwatosa police were still pursuing an arrest in the case.

Jeff Sutter, Captain of the Wauwatosa Police Department told this reporter, "I never comment on a pending investigation. However, I will say that I am confident we will make an arrest. We are confident we will clear this case."

Sutter says he expects that an arrest will be made in days rather than months.

Sutter says he unsure what specific charges will be filed against the suspect, "We won't do that until after we make an arrest. After we make an arrest, we refer it to the district attorney's office. They actually make the final charges. However, charges against the suspect are likely to include disorderly conduct through different levels of battery."

Milwaukee County District Attorney E. Michael McCann was not immediately available for comment on the case. Later, an assistant in McCann's office stated that McCann was aware of the situation and "if it is a hate crime it will be prosecuted as such."

However, several LGBT activists are noting that McCann has never used the hate crime enhancer in relation to a hate crime committed against gays or lesbians.

James Pennington, executive director of The Milwaukee LGBT Center told Queer

Life News that his agency has been in contact with McCann's office and staff members have expressed concern to both the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office and the Wauwatosa Police Department.

The center is asking that McCann examine the appropriateness of using Wisconsin's hate crime penalty enhancer in the case when a suspect is apprehended.

Wisconsin's hate crime penalty enhancer (\$939.645) provides for stiffer penalties for crimes where a perpetrator "intentionally selects the person — in whole or in part because of the — race, religion, color, disability, sexual orientation, national origin or ancestry" of the victim."

Queer Life News will follow this story as it develops.

National



Happenings

Award-Winning Newsmagazine 'In the Life' Kicks Off New Season with In-Depth Look at Gay Military Personnel

WASHINGTON, DC — The award-winning newsmagazine *In the Life* begins its 15th season in October with an in-depth look at one gay service member's experience during the war in Iraq. 'A Call to Duty' features former Army Specialist Jeff Howe, who was the target of an investigation into his sexual orientation during his second tour of duty in Iraq. Despite a stellar service record, Howe was dismissed under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual personnel in 2005. More than 11,000 service personnel have been dismissed under the law since 1993.

"Specialist Howe's story is a vivid reminder of just why 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' doesn't make sense," said Sharra E. Greer, director of law and policy for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), which provided legal counsel to Howe during his investigation. "More than 65,000 lesbian and gay Americans are serving today in our armed forces,

but are subject, like Howe, to intrusive investigations and inhumane treatment at the hands of our federal government. 'In the Life' showcases the awful truth about the gay ban and the need to repeal the prohibition on service once and for all."

More than 125 service personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan have contacted SLDN for help since the war on terror began. In December 2004, the organization filed a constitutional court challenge to "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on behalf of twelve veterans who are seeking reinstatement in the armed forces. Congressional legislation to repeal the law is also pending in the House of Representatives, where a bi-partisan coalition of 120 lawmakers support ending the ban on gays in the military.

'A Call to Duty,' part of *In the Life's* season premiere, begins airing nationally in October. For local stations and air dates, please visit www.inthelife.org.

International



Happenings

'Holy war' threatened after Jerusalem gay parade approved

JERUSALEM — Police, prosecutors and city officials reached agreement Sept. 18 to allow a planned Gay Pride parade to go forward, Ynet News reported. But one extreme rightist leader, Baruch Marzel, predicted "a holy war against this event," the news service reported. The decision to allow the event, scheduled for Sept. 21, came after three hours of negotiation Monday between city authorities and gay rights groups. Marzel told Ynet, "The outcome was predictable. We will do everything we can to thwart the parade." Jerusalem's Open House, the leading gay

organization, had planned the march for mid-summer as part of World Pride activities but postponed the event after Israel initiated military action in Lebanon. Other World Pride events took place but the march was rescheduled for Sept. 21, a date initially opposed by city police because it coincided with a religious festival. Open House took the issue to the courts, leading up to the negotiations. Last year, a young Jewish extremist stabbed three people participating in the Gay Pride parade.

Thousands of South Africans protest gay marriage bill

Cape Town — South Africa — Several thousand Christians marched to parliament Sept. 17 to protest proposed legislation to legalize same-sex marriages. The Marriage Alliance, which is made up of about 100 churches and religious bodies, organized the marches across the country. In Cape Town, protesters handed a petition to a leading member of Parliament, which is shortly due to begin debating the civil unions bill. The measure, which is expected to be approved by year's end, was introduced to comply with a Constitutional Court judgment that found

that the common law definition of marriage in the Marriage Act of 1961 was unconstitutional because it failed to give the same status, benefits and responsibilities to same-sex unions that marriage accorded to heterosexual couples. The new bill provides for the recognition of domestic partnerships between adults, whether they are of the same or different sex. "Traditional marriages, in which one man and one woman create a lasting community, pass on time-honored family values to secure the future, and therefore are worthy of protection," Steve Swart, a lawmaker from the small African Christian Democratic Party, told the marchers.

Protests ensue over Philadelphia School Districts "Gay History Month"

Philadelphia — The Philadelphia School District has angered some parents over the printing of their 2006-07 school calendars on which, they have declared October as "Gay and Lesbian History Month." Protesting parents sent in complaints over the decision, stating that homosexuality conflicts with their religious

beliefs.

It is one of four special history months noted, along with Hispanic Heritage in September, African American in February, and Asian Pacific American in May. A spokesperson for the school district knew it would be controversial, yet believes that every student in the community needs to be supported. And that includes gay and lesbian students. Conservative leaders and many parents say the school district went too far.



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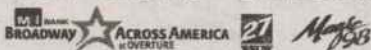
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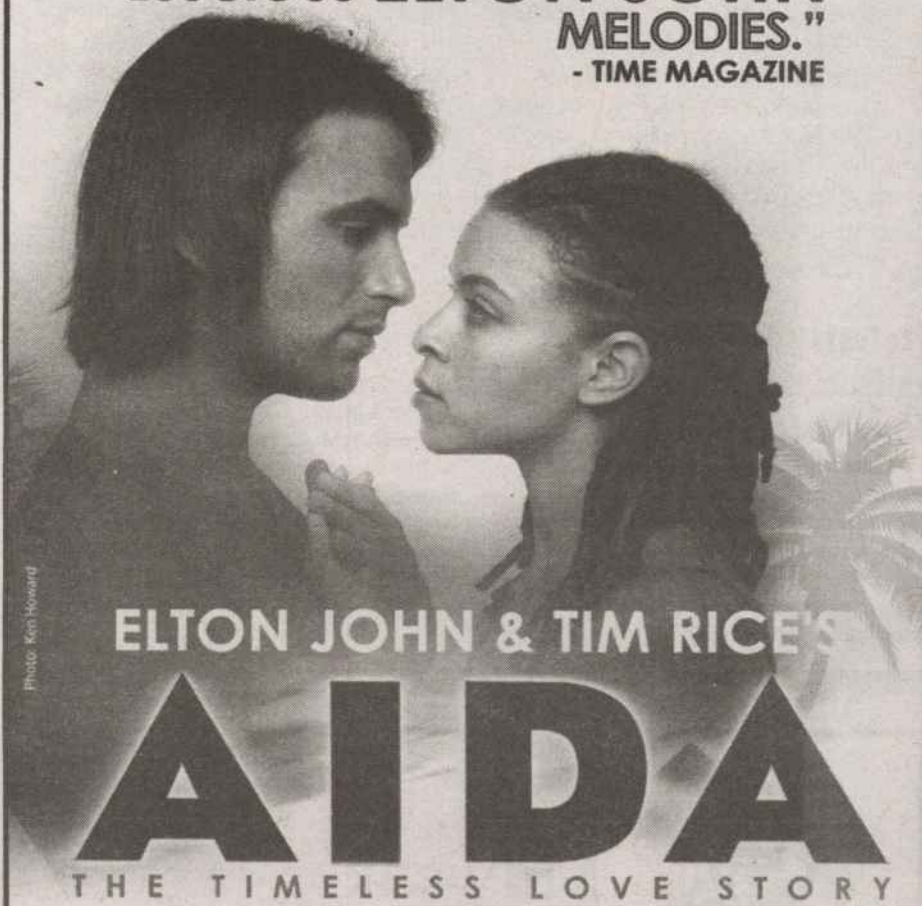
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Morning after Pill

Many of us lesbian, gay, bisexual and otherwise same-gender-loving folks have been talking about what to do on November 8, the day after the vote on a constitutional amendment intended to limit our pursuit of happiness.

We have heard grumblings about moving to Canada. Some are talking about dancing in the streets if the amendment is blocked by a majority vote. Still other LGBT people and allies are planning on the next steps for achieving human rights for LGBT people whether the amendment passes or not.

But, hey, I am a psychologist. I want to know what we're going to do with the boat loads of feelings we are going to have. I want to know how these are going to affect our physical and emotional health.

For the past several months, as things have heated up politically, we have seen and heard and felt increasingly open hostility and support for our community. We have learned that we are pedophiles, smut peddlers, and damned. We have learned that we are loved, respected, and even revered. But few of us have observed anybody seeing us for who we really are as individual humans who also have hopes and aspirations for closeness and the contractual commitments that clarify our unions.

In effect the invisibility of gay oppression has come down on us particularly hard in the past couple of years. We are talked about collectively everywhere, often with mystifying horror on one hand or support, on the other. But we are rarely seen as Jeff or Andrea or Jose or Cherise. We are numbers and behaviors instead of humans.

This sort of oppressive system plays havoc with our psyches, and we must work through the challenges this invisibility presents to us.

Many of us have pinned huge amounts of hope (as evidenced by the resources we're pouring into the campaign) on



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.

defeating the amendment. Even when Fair Wisconsin is successful, these folks will need to come down from the adrenaline that has been fueling them for months. Others have been keeping their heads down, avoiding the possible huge disappointment if the amendment passes. Both groups – those passionately involved and those scrupulously avoiding – will need to work through the aftermath of the election outcomes.

So, what to do?

Stop, look, listen and talk, talk, talk. Set up plans now for November 8. If possible, take the day off from work and plan to spend it quietly with friends and associates who will understand. From the 8th on, notice how you are feeling physically and emotionally. Are you getting into more arguments, isolating, drinking more? Looking at your behaviors will keep them in check (and prevent the jerks from getting to you). Make a date to listen to others who have invested loads in this election. Listen to them well, without interruption, for a chunk of time.

And when you talk, tell it like it is for you. That can make the morning after go much more smoothly.

Happy Halloween



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'LGBT Pioneers' call Milwaukee Home

Special to QLife
By Alison Glendale

Since when, has Milwaukee been a condo town? How did that happen? How is it that the land of beer and cheese, and smokestacks suddenly became this chic cool place to reside? Just who is buying up all these condos?

Well, apparently the answer many be us.

According to the folks at Tandem developers—LGBT folks are high on their list of new condo buyers. This Fall, Tandem Developers will break ground on the new Edge Condos, a 133 unit 6 story development in the Beerline neighborhood just north of downtown. When you see it, you'll know why it's also one of the most exciting, and urban-chic spots to hit town in a long time.

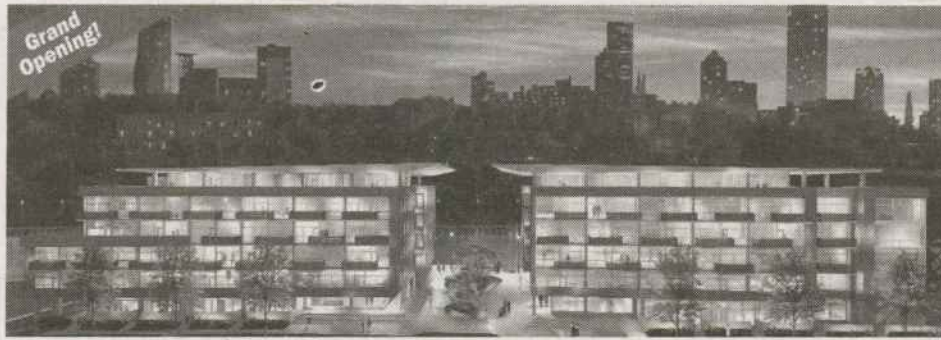
Recently, I visited The Edge Condo's sales office on 1890 N. Commerce St, and chatted with Roberta VanDuyse, of First Weber, and Jonathan Dennis from Tandem Developers about this innovative addition to Milwaukee's landscape.

QLife: This is a great sales office. Can I move in here?

Roberta VanDuyse: Thank you! This is one of the best sales centers I've been in. The model of The Edge Condos (just inside the lobby) is amazing. Here, the buyers get a great visual of what their new home will look like, and we are right there with them through the entire selection process.

QL: It seems like Milwaukee is just building and building downtown. How do you get an edge (excuse the pun) over the many other condo developments?

Jonathan Dennis: The Edge stands apart because of its contemporary design, and lifestyle oriented amenities. It is simply different and unique. The location is set against the natural beauty of the bluff of Kilbourn Park and the Milwaukee River. There's a tranquil, residential feel, yet we're connected to all the excitement that the city has to offer.



RV: Plus, homeowners will be able to enjoy the new Marsupial Pedestrian Bridge, which connects to Brady and Water Streets.

QL: And the interiors?

JD: Natural light! The finishes will be clean and natural, including granite counters, bamboo flooring, and stainless steel appliances, Grohe fixtures, ceramic tile, and energy efficient central hot water systems.

QL: Do you think the LGBT market is more responsive to this type of design?

JD: I think they are open minded to design that departs from tradition. In many of our projects, the LGBT community has played an important role in helping to revitalize neighborhoods. Our company is actively building new communities in Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis. In every location, the LGBT community is an important group of our homebuyers. The Edge offers an alternative to the more traditional condo developments here, and I imagine that the LGBT community would appreciate the difference.

QL: Roberta, tell me, how are sales?

RV: We opened in March, and have already sold 40% of the units! The ground breaking will be this fall, and we are expecting to be complete by the end of 2007.

QL: Finally, why Milwaukee?

JD: Why not? We believe that Milwaukee is an exciting and vibrant place to live and work. It has incredible cultural heritage, world class architecture, restaurants, entertainment, and employment opportunities. The Beerline neighborhood is the perfect setting because it represents a new wave of design in Milwaukee. In many cases, we have seen that LGBT buyers are the urban pioneers that help to spark the revitalization of whole neighborhoods because they value downtown living, and are often the first to move in.

RV: To me, and I really feel this way, The Edge is one of the coolest designs in the city, and it's at one of the best prices, with great views. It's a great addition to Milwaukee.

If you are in the market for a new home, you should visit The Edge Condos sales center. With the innovative and contemporary design of The Edge, the "New Milwaukee" is not so far away.



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

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Life's A Drag

During this year's Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival, the Queer Zine Archive Project sponsored the late night Saturday screening of **Filthy Gorgeous: The Trannyshack Story**. The film was a good match for the mission we have undertaken in creating the Archive, as it preserves for posterity the amazing talent

Leave it to the queens to create one of the few glossy mags that would actually qualify as a zine!

that comes together to form the queerest of the queer in glittery bleeding edge performance art. The performers featured aren't tired old drag queens lipsynching to outdated music but instead incorporate alternative and rock and roll in their over-the-top social and political commentary. These are the new generation Cockettes, the ones who serve notice on the queer community that there is no room for complacency and there are no sacred cows. This month's selections represent how the

worlds of drag and zines are intertwined. Mona's resume reads like she'd be a sensation at Trannyshack. She's a guitarist in the band Six-Inch Killaz, considers Angela Davis to be a role model, and identifies as a "bisexual transgendered anarchist." The only hitch is she's the queen of the London punk drag scene! **Girly** [Issue 4, 1996, 4 pages] is a down and dirty publication, printed on the British equivalent of tabloid size paper folded into quarters. This issue has pink ink airbrushed on the cover and chock full of interesting content. Throughout several issues of **Girly** there are standard columns such as "Get Her!" that features sharply worded opinion on topics related to the specifics of transgenderism and drag. This issue features pointed commentary on the gender segregation of clothing, and the effects of buying clothing that is, by society's definition, for an opposite gender. There is much discussion of image, and how projected image is used to navigate through the world. Little photocopied clippings and art dot the layout and accentuate the quirky nature of this little gem of a zine.

Leave it to the queens to create one of the few glossy mags that would actually qualify as a zine! The eponymous **Dragazine** [Issue 5, 1993, 32 pages] is a stunning time capsule of the world just prior to Trannyshack and at the tail end of the Klubstitute show era from which Trannyshack devolved, as it were. The photos and stories are a veritable Who's



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.

Who of the superstars of drag Lypsinka, RuPaul, Lois Comondenominator, and more. One of the best recurring features is "The Name Game" that lists the clever and groan inducing best drag queen names. A few of the articles are in the 'how to' vein, giving tips on how to put on false eyelashes and how to carry one's self ("Ladylike Department"). There is a heady mix of pop culture including a review of the then relatively unknown film "The Crying Game," rock and roll lyric quotes from the era of Glam, and celebrities like Karen Black and Ron Athey turning up in photo collages. They even give props to the then forthcoming queer zine fest Spew 3 that took place in Toronto later that year. This zine serves up mad style hot and yummy!

Lastly, a special thanks to Carl Bogner and Kurt Dyer of the LGBT Film Festival and all the projectionists and staffers at the screenings. QZAP is proud to work with them to bring films to Milwaukee that give voice to queers on the fringes and margins.

For these and other zines, please visit the Queer Zine Archive Project on-line at qzap.org.

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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.

"As far as I'm concerned the KKK can have their space, too; but it doesn't make them any less bigoted." -- anonymous blogger

The Michigan Women's Music Festival (MWMF) once again this year had many controversies and community splits over their historic policy of excluding trans-women from Festival grounds.

In 1991, a trans woman was asked to leave the MWMF when her trans status became known to Festival workers. Following her expulsion, the Festival created a new policy that only allowed "womyn born womyn" onto the grounds. In response to this policy denying some women (i.e. women of transsexual experience) access to the Festival, Camp Trans was formed in 1993 to protest. Over the years, Camp Trans has shifted its focus from protesting the MWMF's policies to being a place of refuge and education for transgender individuals and allies.

Women have historically been

oppressed by men, by institutions, and by exclusionary policies that disadvantage and constrain women. Ironically, the leadership of the MWMF has chosen to repeat this history by claiming their power to create new institutions, and then using that power to oppress others. MWMF leaders, just like the male supremacists, who previously defined what was and wasn't "womanly" behavior, have set policies that divide women into "acceptable" and "not acceptable" groups and even call into question the "realness" of other people's bodies, experiences and identities.

The exclusion of transwomen at MWMF implies that women who were not born and raised as girls, do not understand sexism or discrimination, and cannot understand systemic patriarchy and misogyny. This is ironic, and may reflect organizers' lack of experience with many transwomen who rarely have (or want) male privilege and are often acutely aware of discrimination based on living in a female gender.

What is the litmus test for womanhood? Where do we draw the line about who is a woman, or who is "woman enough" to be at Michigan? Some trans-women believe they are women born women; even though they were born into the wrong body, they believe in their identity as female was there from

A Litmus Test for Womanhood

birth. Some FTMs were raised as girls and continue to identify in some ways as female, even though they present in masculine ways. Do we assess womanhood based on the status of reproductive organs? Perhaps womanhood should be judged by chromosomal status? It is unlikely that even one percent of the population even knows their chromosomal status (and many womanly women are not pure XX).

It's likely most of the thousands of MWMF attendees each year would be outraged if their "womanhood" had to pass some gatekeeper's test that could result in their "failure" and exclusion. They expect to not be discriminated against based on their gender, race, sexual orientation, able-bodiedness, religion, class, or other attributes. Transwomen, however, are held to a different standard.

Who should be allowed entrance into an "all-woman" event? The feminist movement has long held that biology is not destiny, and that men have no right to tell women that one gender is better than another. Why are the women upholding the MWMF policy seemingly using those discredited standards against other women? Perhaps ALL self-identified women should be allowed entrance - including those who are butch, those who work in corporate America (for the patriarchy), women who eat meat,

consensual sadomasochists, femmes, mothers who have male children, and those who are trans. To do otherwise is to promote the same system of judgment and oppression feminists have long fought to liberate us from.

If the goal of the policy is to create "safe space" by creating a retreat from "male energy," perhaps MTFs should be recruited rather than shunned, since so many embrace female energy wholeheartedly.

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Project Q Wins \$100,000 National Grant

By Loree Cook-Daniels
Special to QLife News

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Project Q youth program beat 1:30 odds to become one of three youth programs nationally to win a three-year, \$100,000 grant from Liberty Hill Foundation's Queer Youth Fund.

The new project, the National Transgender Visibility Curriculum, builds upon a Transgender 101 series then-intern Jay Botsford developed and ran for Project Q. That series consisted of four programs addressing topics such as definitions, transgender history, transphobia, and how to be a good ally. Each program featured discussions; some also included films or exercises such as asking participants to identify the gender of a stranger who had just walked through the room or analyze a (non-trans) person's methods of gender expression. In another exercise, participants had to match 18 terms with their appropriate definitions and misconceptions. The series ended with a Jeopardy-type show that tested participants' retention of what had been covered (competing as a team against Project Q staff, the youth won).

Both Botsford and Project Q's Director of Youth Services, Kurt Dyer, report that the series made Project Q's transgender youth more comfortable, reduced incidents of anti-trans bullying and teasing, and resulted in an increase in trans youth participation. They estimate that of the approximately 600 youth Project Q serves annually, almost 20% now are trans-identified.

News of Project Q's transgender series spread among other LGBT youth groups, and led to an increasing number of calls for advice on how other groups could become more welcoming for their Trans members. It was those requests that led to Project Q's submission to the Queer Youth Fund's third round of funding.

Although Liberty Hill Foundation, one of 15 progressive social change foundations that participate in the national Funding Exchange network, normally only supports programs (both LGBT and mainstream) in the Los Angeles, California, area, its Queer Youth Fund casts a national net. Initially 88 groups applied; Project Q became one of 10 finalists and hosted a site visit for a team from the Fund in May. When Project Q won one of the three grants in June, it became the first Midwest program the Fund has sponsored.

Botsford formally joined Project Q's three paid staff members in mid-August to head the new project. In its first year, focus groups will assess what youth want included in such a curriculum. While Botsford begins designing the initial curriculum, the National Youth Advocacy Coalition will recruit an 8-15 member National Youth Review Board to provide feedback. After a pilot training, the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition, which sponsors a number of transgender college- and university-based groups nationwide, and local transgender organizations FORGE and Gemini Gender Group, will also help Project Q improve the curriculum before it is sent to a professional designer. Botsford will then focus on developing a "train-the-trainer" program that will be piloted with staff for ten Wisconsin LGBT youth groups.

In years two and three, the trainings will be expanded to at least 15 to 20 groups annually, divided between national conference workshops, train-the-trainers events, and presentations of the curriculum itself. A listserv and conference calls will provide follow-up support to trainees, giving them ongoing assistance in making their youth groups trans-friendly. Project Q will also begin building a resource library to support this technical assistance, and will assist other LGBT youth groups in finding funding to help them grow both their trans-related and overall programs. Dyer noted, however, that the basic curriculum will be available to youth groups at little or no cost, giving them incentives to implement the programming even if they have little available funding. More flush organizations may purchase curricula versions with more "bells and whistles" such as PowerPoint slide shows.

Project Q also expects to go after additional funding from other sources to add to the curriculum modules - reproductive issues and sexual health are two possible topics - and to begin to adapt the curriculum to make it appropriate for people older than its initial audience of 11-to-25 year-olds. They will also develop a "quick-and-dirty" guide to help youth groups that are not limited to LGBT youth become trans-friendly, and may produce a similar guide for groups that serve adults. The audiences for such guides might include child welfare workers and those staffing group homes.



QUEER LIFE

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

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The Power of National Coming Out Day

Mark Shields
Director, HRC Coming Out Project
Oct 2006 "Special Editorial to QLife"

When the press tour leading up to her debut in the CBS anchor chair, Katie Couric has said repeatedly that she wants to put more humanity into the evening news because that is what people connect with.

Maybe you love Katie; or maybe you're over her. Either way – she makes a strong point. Human stories, connection to real people's faces, feelings and experiences are powerful and poignant.

The power of National Coming Out Day, celebrated each year on October 11th, is that it gives gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and straight supportive Americans another opportunity to help put a human face on GLBT equality with their friends and family.

Research has shown that while most GLBT people would like to have more dialogue with their straight friends and family about what their lives are like, they hold back because they're afraid of sounding shrill or seeming like "activists."

At the same time, many straight friends and family of GLBT people have reported that they would like

to ask more questions and learn more about the daily experience of their GLBT loved ones, but they refrain from asking because they are afraid of invading privacy and having things "get weird."

Coming out is a first step. Learning



EDITORIAL

to talk openly and naturally about your life, what it's like to be GLBT or straight supportive and to bring those conversations to the family dinner table, to the doctor's office, to the office, your place of worship or anywhere else you may find yourself - is something else entirely.

National Coming Out Day is an opportunity to talk about your life, and help other Americans – the people in your life - understand in a more human way, why fairness and openness are important for everyone.

For more on National Coming Out Day, including resources and activities to help you celebrate the day with the people in your life, please visit www.hrc.org

October is our Month

Letter from the Editor:
Kate Sherry

Since December of 2004, Queer Life News has been proud to bring you insightful articles on the happenings in the LGBT community – locally, nationally and at times, internationally. This month, we return to the stands after a brief "intermission" so to speak in September. We want to thank our readers, and advertisers for reaching out to us with words of encouragement, and praise. It's always good to know you're appreciated.

You'll see we have a new film column, some fitness advice, and a new "youth" writer. We also have a guest editorial from Mark Shields of the Human Rights Campaign.

One major issue which Queer Life News has covered for some time now is of course, the upcoming November 7th vote to defeat the constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage.

It's going to be a very important

date in our history. We can either end up celebrating our fight for victory, or working through our defeat by picking ourselves up, dusting ourselves off, and starting all over again. I'm sure that either way - we're ready.

However, there is another date very important to the LGBT community that should not be overshadowed by voting booths.

October 11th is National Coming Out Day.

On that date, in 1987, the Aids Memorial Quilt made its first visit to Washington D.C, where over 500,000 people marched to promote government and public awareness of gay, bisexual, lesbian and transgender rights.

The purpose of the march and of National Coming Out Day is to celebrate homosexuality. Its also a day for many to publicly display their gay pride, and for some, to finally come out to their family and friends.

Coming out is a very personal process. One that may cause stress, anxiety and anguish. It may also be the happiest time of one's life, finally accepting who you are, and sharing that self with loved ones. When I came out to my mother back in 1991, all she could say was, "Do you think you're telling me something I don't already know?" When I asked her if she was okay with it, she replied, "Are YOU?" You see, I was the one doing all of the crying. She was totally fine. To her, it was no big deal. And I loved her more for it. Because it shouldn't be a big deal, really. It's just who you are.

We've certainly come a long way. We obviously have a long way to go. But take a moment on the 11th of this month to remember your "coming out" experience. To remember those who have gone before us. And to be there for those who are yet to step out of that closet. For it is those newcomers who will be there to help us continue the fight.

Brew City Bumming Bloody Marys and Breakfast Pasta at the Knick

I never thought Milwaukee had anything to offer. To be honest, I lived in New York for too long to think that any other city even existed outside of NYC, but, lately, I've dragged myself out to enjoy our town's offerings. Last Sunday, I went out for brunch at the Knick. When my friend suggested we go there, I foolishly thought, ah jeez it's going to be pricey and snobby. Was I ever wrong. The staff is just as sweet as can be (not to shabby looking either-big wink to the new girl) and the bloody mary (\$6.95) I inhaled was incredible. (Okay, so I had two) I love bloody Marys with a salad in 'em, and they did not disappoint. Super spicy and served in a fun glass. They also have something called the Queen Mary, (\$7.95) which sounds like a shrimp cocktail in your vodka tomato juice salad. Decadent!

We ate inside, since it was a tad nippy out, and though we got a wobbly table, its nothing that a little menu under the leg won't fix. And, boy oh boy the menu! What a great brunch selection! Omelets (the highest is only \$7.95) with chicken and havarti, or sun-dried tomato, asparagus, and brie, or my friend's favorite dish of the day- the stuffed French toast with chopped walnut caramelized apples and cream cheese! (\$7.95) Slap my ass and call me Sally,

I wanted it ALL! But, I went for the best of the best - the breakfast pasta with eggs! Who would have thought that eggs mixed in with pasta would make a good combo for breakfast?

But that dish was one of the tastiest food items I have ever had. And it was HUGE. Pasta, with eggs, onions, tomatoes and bacon (\$7.95) topped with bread crumbs, and parmesan cheese, YUM. The coffee was very good too, and coffee, for me, is a big decision maker as to weather or not I will return. (cuz that's how I roll)

I really would think that if they added a couple of bucks to the menu, it would still be more than worth it. You can either go to a diner and eat for \$4.95 – which certainly has its charm, or you can dine in a cool part of town, in a rest. with more than a touch of class, and get stuffed with treats for the palette. And only spend about \$10.00 – if you skip the Bloody Marys. But trust me; you don't want to do that.

The Knick 1030 E. Juneau www.theknickrestaurant.com



Food Review

By: Fannie Finnegan

"I'm gay, you're gay, let's do it!"

Like all gay teens, I am by and large surrounded by heterosexuals. Most of my closest friends, acquaintances, peers, and almost everyone I associate with on a daily basis identifies as a heterosexual. Each and every one of these people has the same value; they're all people.

By no means do I make an effort to surround myself with other gay people solely on the basis of their sexual orientation. To do so would be complete foolishness, if not borderline heterophobia. There have been a number of people, on a number of occasions, that have propositioned me with something along the lines of, "Hey, so I have this gay friend..." and are then utterly shocked when I don't respond with, "Oh, really? What's his number?"

When sexuality is the only factor being examined, as in these situations, there is by no means any guarantee that two people will date, or even get along at all. Oftentimes, when people suggest that sort of thing they are trying to be legitimately helpful, not homophobic, which is why a polite "Oh, that's nice," is in fact the proper response.

What's unsettling is that there are innumerable gay boys out there that would be immediately be interested, and would ask for 'his' number. This phenomenon that so many embrace is what I refer to as the "I'm gay, you're gay, let's do it!"-mentality. I've witnessed it first hand; it's everywhere:

A friend of mine, in Beloit, once told me that he was dating his current boyfriend "because, well, he's the only other gay guy in town." My friends have been puzzled to find that I'm not interested in the one other gay boy in my drama class. People have expressed their surprise at the fact that between myself and three other gay guys I hang out with on a regular basis, none of us are dating.

On less than ten fingers I can count the number of out gay boys in the 650-person microcosm that is my high school, and I can ensure that I have no romantic future with any of them. They're all perfectly nice, attractive guys, but there's just nothing 'there,' and that's okay.

On a lesser level this same effect is demonstrated on the ever popular and privacy-depleting website MySpace (www.myspace.com). My experience with the website has led me to the conclusion that there is some sort of unwritten rule between all homosexual males which states that upon the discovery of their similar orientations they must immediately become 'friends.'

Maybe this is some sort of backlash against sexual identification problems that people have had pent up for fourteen or fifteen years. Maybe they are still coping with the realization that other homosexuals exist. Maybe people just don't know any better. But despite what Jerry Falwell and the rest of



YOUTH

Harry James Hanson, a junior at Shorewood High School, is Co-President of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance, as well as an active member of both its drama department and school newspaper.

the Moral Majority set would like to believe, homosexuality is not an excuse for rampant promiscuity and sexual deviance. We have standards for our relationships and are just as fussy about our partners as the rest of mankind.

Think about it. If you asked any typical straight student at any typical high school who, at their school, they would consider pursuing a relationship with, they'd probably name off 1-5 people. Or, for example, I would never say to one of my straight female friends, "Hey look, there's a man walking on the other side of the street," or "You know, half of the people on this bus are male," because not only would it seem completely irrelevant but also out of place.

My point being that it is just as out of place in regards to homosexuals, male or female. Even birds and tree frogs are extremely selective while seeking a mate. Are homosexuals really a step below tree frogs? We may make up a small percentage of the population as a whole, but by no means should we expect or settle for less in our relationships.

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Hey!! Is that fat thing working for you? Is the reason you're still out of shape is that every time you step foot in a gym you feel intimidated? Well, here is your chance not to feel like a bunch of Dumbbells. Once a month, I will be giving you helpful tips to take your mind and body to a place where feeling good is feeling sexy. You can E-Mail me at Sweeneysgym@aol.com for any fitness question you would like me to dig into. So let's get started! Every body has different needs and goals, so each month I will talk about everything from a beginner to fitness stardom.

The Three Requirements for Achieving your Fitness Goals

1. Nutrition: Generally requires the consumption of six small meals every day each containing a portion of protein and a portion of carbohydrates. Proper nutrition accounts for over 60% of you achieving your fitness goals. Proteins are Nuts, Eggs, Chicken, Cottage Cheese, Tuna, and Steak, just to name a few. Some carbohydrates include, Yams, White & Brown rice, Baked Potatoes, Fruits, and Vegetables.

2. Cardiovascular Training: Generally required at least three times a week for a least

20 minutes. If you're a beginner, be smart and crawl before you walk, so you don't get burned out.

3. Strength Training: Generally required at least three times a week for three months in order to significantly change one's physical well-being. If you don't know how to work out with weights, that's ok, get help. Every gym has personal trainers, if they're good or not, that's for a future column.

You should be proud of yourself for reading this. You have just burned 150 calories, ok, and I'm just kidding. If it was that easy to burn calories then funnel cakes and cream puffs would be on the government food chart. Next month I will be talking about Nutritional products, and how to make the three requirements work for you, not against you. Because time lost, is just a step closer to the end?

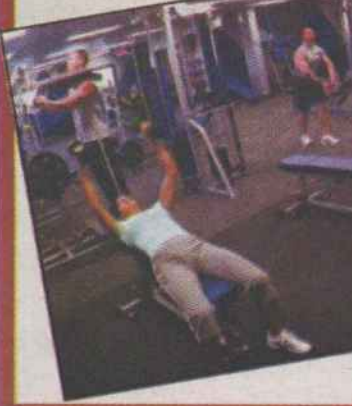
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Outwords Books

Top 5 Picks for October

Autumn New Fiction Releases

Exclusive to Q Life.

FOR THE BOYS:

1. **"Triptych of Terror," John Michael Curlovich, et al** Just in time for Halloween, here are three tales of gay terror: A gay teen discovers that Halloween means so much more than costumes and candy; an overzealous televangelist learns that on Halloween you might not get the chance to "do unto others" before they do unto you and a Celtic legend takes out its vengeance on the streets of Greenwich Village on Halloween.

2. **"Bound in Flesh," David Thomas Lord** Vampire Jean-Luc Courbet is back with his lover and fellow vampire Claude Halloran and together they wreak havoc on cities across the world, leaving a trail of bodies in their wake. One of their victims, Mike O'Donald, is the only one who may be able to stop them.

3. **"When the Stars Come Out," Rob Byrnes** The celebrated author of "The Night We Met" and "Trust Fund Boys" plumbs the depths of variously closeted men and delivers a hilarious, wickedly witty novel about the secrets kept, the lies told, and the love that can inspire bravery.

4. **"A Deadly Game," J.P. Bowie** Nick Fallon, private investigator, living the good life in Laguna Beach, gets a rude awakening when his past life unexpectedly catches up with him. "A Deadly Game" is an erotic thrill ride, filled with danger, excitement and suspense.

5. **"Exiles in America," Christopher Bram** Zack and Daniel have been together for 21 years. A few months before the Iraq War, a new artist in residence, Abbas Rohani, arrives with his Russian wife, Elena, and their two children. But Abbas is not quite what he seems, and soon he and Daniel begin an affair. After love throws the two families together, politics threatens the future of both in ways no one could have predicted.

FOR THE GIRLS:

1. **"Storms of Change," Radclyffe (due 10/12)** In the continuing saga of Radclyffe's popular "Provincetown Tales," Reese Conlon's obligations to family and country are put to the test as war engulfs the Middle East, while her partner Tory King must come to terms with the true price of love.

2. **"Writing My Love," Claire McNab** Vonny Smith is the author of best-selling Lesbian romances yet her editor Diana K Broswell is clueless that she is Vonny's motivation. Can Vonny woo Diana through her writing before Diana becomes aware of what is happening?

3. **"Sleep of Reason," Rose Beecham** When two year old Corban Foley is kidnapped and a goat's head left on the front lawn, most of Montezuma County turns out for the search. Detective Jude Devine soon finds herself caught up in a small-town soap opera whose players seem more interested in their fifteen minutes of fame than in the fate of little Corban.

4. **"Paid in Full," Ann Roberts** A quiet Sunday takes a deadly turn for real estate agent Ari Adams, who discovers a corpse in one of her listings. When her best friend, Bob, becomes the prime suspect, Ari's desire to prove his innocence puts her on a collision course with gorgeous Detective Molly Nelson.

5. **"Learning to Trust," J.Y. Morgan** Jace, the director of a college Achievement Center has a new graduate assistant, Taryn Murphy. Both women cannot avoid spending time with each other but both have their secrets and reasons not to trust. Soon they realize their problems are very similar. Yet, can a relationship develop between them or will their pasts haunt them forever?

The Print Media's Role in the LGBT Community

The local LGBT print media have an important role in helping keep the LGBT community organized and facilitating social interaction within the lesbian and gay community. They provide a vehicle for sharing information between businesses and organizations, to their customer and constituency base, and provide interaction between and within even those groups.

One of the primary means is to provide a vehicle for the local lesbian or gay-friendly business to reach their audience: by bars and other businesses placing their ads, they can both demonstrate support for the local print media, as well as keep their customer base informed of special events (drink specials, contests, etc.). This type of paid advertising is often the major source of income for these publications.

Another major means is to provide a forum for organizations to advertise their specialized offerings. Meeting notices, special events, rallies, fund raisers, etc. for different and diverse groups can be listed by the publications, thereby helping gays and lesbians to locate others of similar interests, or broaden their own interests.

The third role of LGBT media is to "get the word out". For many types of news stories, only gay or lesbian media will show an issue in an unbiased and non-judgmental light. Not so much that some stories need a "positive" spin, but more so that some issues require the more balanced approach that only LGBT media can provide. For example, coverage of any story primarily or largely affecting lesbian, gay, and bisexual people: major events (marches, rallies, pride celebrations), major news stories

(the Dahmer murders, early reports of HIV and AIDS, the 1993 cryptosporidium outbreak), and stories with far-reaching social implications (such as the marriage amendment soon going to the voters) all benefit from the more balanced and thorough coverage available only from LGBT publications.

Wisconsin and Milwaukee have seen their share of gay media publications. One of the earliest was the GPU News, which was published by the Gay Peoples Union (GPU) from 1971 through 1980. That publication

some stories need a "positive" spin, but more so that some issues require the more balanced approach that only LGBT media can provide.

soon had a national subscription base and was widely recognized as one of a handful of truly national gay publications in both scope and quality of content. Since then, locally-published publications have been more local in scope. The most

popular were usually "bar rags", primarily focusing on bar and organizational news; these are approximately 8.5x5.5" guides distributed free and found in stacks in virtually any gay and lesbian bar. The Milwaukee Calendar (later known as Gay Milwaukee) was printed from 1978 to 1981, RAGG from 1983 to 1986, and more recently Quest (1994-date), Out Bound (2002-date), and Edge (2003-June of this year). There is also currently a small-format guide, OutSource, printed 3-4 times a year.

The most successful local publication by far was In Step, which over its 20 year history



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.

(from 1984 to 2003) evolved from the "bar rag" format into a newspaper. Runner up to In Step in longevity is Wisconsin Light, a more in-depth news-focused newspaper for its full history of run (1987 to 2002). And now of course, since late 2004 we have had another full-size newspaper for Milwaukee and Wisconsin LGBT news- the paper in your hand, QLife.

There have been countless other local publications in the past 15 years; most of those not mentioned here were of short duration run or were largely newsletters for organizations. See the web site, www.wisconsinlgbt.org, to find out more about any of the publications in Milwaukee and Wisconsin's history.

While the print media may see its ups and downs, it will not likely disappear anytime soon. It provides a resource too valuable, too flexible, and too convenient to use, to be replaced by even the Internet.

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Emotional Childproofing: Parenting to Prevent Hate

Emotional childproofing, I call it. Just as we buckle car seats, toddler-lock cupboards and insist on bike helmets to prevent physical injury, parents also provide emotional safeguards before kids need them. Whether we teach life's lessons by lingering over dying flowers or remembering lost loved ones, whether we rehearse quick comebacks for the inevitable cruel comments our middle schoolers will encounter, parents provide kits chock-full of emotional childproofing devices. They prepare kids for life.

One essential child-proofing tool is barrier-removal; helping kids to see past color, orientation or appearance—anything that may block future contact with essential humans who may enrich their lives. This involves counteracting stereotypes, blasting

pre-conceived notions and annihilating hate.

As a parent to three minority youth, one a gay teenager, combating hate is written on my heart. Here are some suggestions to keep your kids from hating, stereotyping and missing all that life has to offer.

Be sure your children interact with people from all walks of life, all ages, orientations, races and religions. To know and love someone from every oppressed group provides a positive and genuine frame of reference. This immensely lessens participation in all forms of bashing.

Uphold a zero-tolerance policy for racist jokes and for those jokes that further stereotypes or uphold oppression. This includes blonde jokes, Polish jokes and those about the Pope. And, if jokes are told in your presence, model for your children the different verbal and non-verbal ways to respond to the offensive.

A simple, "what is funny about that?" or a blank stare can speak volumes.

Learn about differences among people, including gender variance or genetic and prenatal factors that influence LGBT development.

Traveling to far off lands or neighborhood festivals reveals cultural differences and exposes children to global issues.

Visiting Pride Fest—even volunteering to help—can open your eyes to LGBT culture and shows support for our neighbors.

Talk about it! Every month, every week, every day, ask about things you do not understand. A gay friend considers it an affirmation when someone cares enough to ask who he's dating and how relationships are going. A friend who follows the teachings of Islam appreciates a chance to share about customs and beliefs.

Be inclusive. A single parent friend appreciates references to ALL kinds of families and avoiding excessive talk about



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*.

"couples." Likewise, to mention weddings, moms and dads and the hetero world demands that our words give equal reference to dads and dads, two-mom families and rainbow families.

Provide literature, videos and magazines that represent ALL of the world's people. Decorate your home with art work and objects that depict same-gender couples, mixed race families and people with disabilities. My collection of religious symbols from around the world invites positive conversation about differences.

Annihilate words that condemn. While kids can usually list typical "bad" words to be avoided, be sure your family's list includes racist, gay-bashing and other pejorative terms. Words that HURT are "four-letter words."

Above all, remember that who you are speaks volumes. What you do and what you don't do—who you befriend and those you avoid as you interact with the world and go about your daily tasks is a mirror to your values and beliefs. Children absorb the vibes you exude. Some things are CAUGHT, not TAUGHT.

"Every month, every week, every day, ask about things you do not understand"



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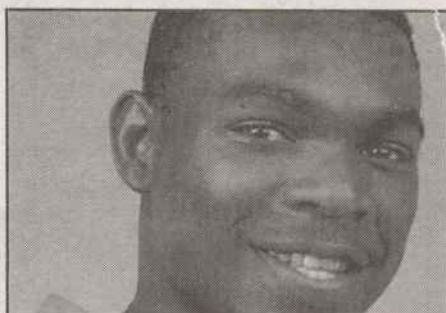
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Fair and Faithful: Eric Peterson's Story

Fair Wisconsin is connecting people of faith to the fight against the proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and same-sex marriage. Not since the effort to include LGBT folks within the states' non-discrimination statute have so many people of faith joined together in a statewide effort to protect the rights of LGBT people. Every mainline denomination, representing hundreds of thousands of Wisconsin voters, have come out against the amendment. Congregations are organizing fundraisers, hosting teach-ins, and participating in neighborhood canvases.

Eric Peterson is the lead organizer for the faith communities involved in this effort. As the faith outreach coordinator for Fair Wisconsin, Eric works with pastors and other religious leaders around the state.

Eric's spiritual journey mirrors that of many in our state. He grew up on a dairy farm in western Wisconsin. In high school he raised hogs. As a child he attended a Lutheran congregation in Amery.

Around the age of twelve Eric realized he was gay. But he was far from accepting himself. The church he grew up in didn't condemn homosexuality, but it was never talked about either. This left Eric feeling deeply alone as a youth. In that isolation he thought his feelings were wrong and tried to bury his attraction to the same sex.

Alcohol became an easy way out of his emotional issues. Drinking allowed him to avoid his self-loathing. It also wrecked his life, causing him to fail out of college. In a moment of brokenness his pastor and others confronted him with his alcoholism and through their efforts he began a journey towards sober self-acceptance.

A critical step along the ways was Teen Challenge, a drug and alcohol treatment center run by conservative Christians. It was in this conservative institution that Eric became a liberal Christian. The organization helped him become sober. It also reconnected him with his faith. At Teen Challenge he realized that though he'd forgotten about



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.

Jesus that Jesus had not forgotten him. However, the organization could not honor his homosexuality.

Returning to Amery, Eric came out to his friends and family. Some of the folks in his extended family were opposed to homosexuality on ideological grounds. But knowing and loving Eric softened their hearts. They made room for him.

His own story of coming out captures what can bring us success. People in Wisconsin, particularly in our more rural and traditional communities, are deeply loyal to their sons and daughters. When we come out and tell our stories people will make room in their hearts for us.

Eric's story also highlights the importance of faith communities to our lives, not just as political allies but as life-affirming communities. Many of the social ills we face in our community – alcoholism, isolation, unsafe behavior – would be helped by participation in a faith community. As Eric says, "Our community needs a shot of spirituality."

In his own life that shot of spirituality helped him overcome his alcoholism, reconnected him to his family, and now empowers him to fight for LGBT causes. Before this election take a chance on your community of faith – come out to them and go in to pray.

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Community



Calendar

MONDAY, OCT. 9

Outwards Book Club. Join a discussion of Edmund White's new memoir, "My Lives." New members are always welcome. Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089. www.outwardsbooks.com.

TUESDAY, OCT. 10

The Lesbian Reading Group. Join a discussion of Georgia Beers's "Too Close to Touch." Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089. www.outwardsbooks.com.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 11

Dance for a Fair Wisconsin. Cream City Squares and Fair Wisconsin. Raffle prizes, refreshments, cash bar, square dancing and a DJ. What more could you ask for? MONA's, 1407 S. 1st St., Milwaukee. 5-11 p.m. www.m-o-n-a-s.com.

FRIDAY, OCT. 13

East Side Under Foot. The East Side Association presents the festival to celebrate the time of harvest while offering cooking classes, street musicians, and performers, pumpkin carving, art demonstration, and children's activities. North Ave. between Oakland and Prospect. Repeats October 14.

SATURDAY, OCT. 14

The Big Night Out. Entertainment includes pop star AND global recording artist, Ari Gold Direct from New York. Silent auction, dinner and Equality Awards presentation emcee Ms. Ruthie. Northern Lights Theater, 1721 W. Canal St., Milwaukee. 414-271-2656 ext. 113.

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

MoonDance. Fundraiser for Three Gaits

Therapeutic Horsemanship Center. Three Gaits uses horses to help people with disabilities and one horse and rider will be included in the performance program. Raffles and silent auctions will be held. Bristol Equestrian Estates, Sun Prairie. 608-829-2585. www.moondance2006.org.

Wit and Wisdom with Noël Coward. A benefit for the Friends of Villa Terrace, to assist with their programming to benefit the Museum and Garden. Enjoy the sharp wit and urbane songs of Noël Coward. Gary Briggie returns to Milwaukee, expertly accompanied by Jamie Johns at the piano whisks you back to an era of society and sophistication. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served. Attendance limited to 80 guests. Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, 2220 N. Terrace Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-271-3656 ext. 12. www.cavtmuseums.org.

SUNDAY, OCT 15

Mod Times... an Evolution in Fashion. Team PUMP! benefit for AIDS Walk Wisconsin. Hot Water, 818 S. Water St. 414-383-7593. www.hotwatermilwaukee.com.

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

THURSDAY, OCT. 19

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

forward.org.

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

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

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

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


SUNDAY, OCT. 22

Social Volleyball. GAMMA. Play is open to men and women of all skill levels. Beulah Brinton Center 2555 S. Bay St., Milwaukee. 1-3 p.m. \$6. 414-530-1886. www.milwaukeegamma.com.

THURSDAY, OCT. 26


Election Series. Will the "Marriage Protection Amendment" Make Us a Better Society? Does the proposed amendment threaten civil unions and demean same-sex couples? Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. Noon. 414-272-2833. www.4thstreetforum.org.

Send November submissions to qlifelistsings@yahoo.com before October 20.



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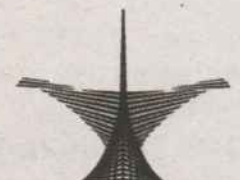
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Q



DECORATING

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

A number of years ago, probably some time in the 70's, there was a very popular poster called "Doorways of Dublin". It featured a dozen or so beautiful Georgian entries with solid paneled wood doors adorned with brass fittings and knobs. Though architecturally perfect, the doorways real charm was in the fabulous colors in which they were painted: bright canary yellow, fire engine red and cobalt blue. Delightfully surprising touches on stately, serious houses.

Paint is just one way in which you can make your entryway a focal point and an extension of your hospitality. Others include the use of lighting, plants, statuary and door decorations. Container gardening is currently very popular. A doorway flanked by colorful potted plants, small shrubs or trees always makes a cheerful statement. For a plain doorway, a highly textured pot might be just the ticket to wake up the area.

Rules of thumb are to keep the pots and

their planting in proportion to your doorway and the scale of plants in relationship to the container. If you use an upright shrub such as an arbor vitae (which adapts nicely to being potted), the proportion should be one third container to two thirds plant.

With a nod toward the Far East, Feng Shui suggests that the ideal front door should face the warmth of the sun to capture the spirits of fame, fortune and longevity. For shaded doorways, a hanging wind chime will stimulate the flow of positive energy.

The use of light can also have a dramatic effect on your entry. A pair of fixtures on either side of the door or a single fixture to one side should be in proportion to the entryway. Different colored bulbs give a variety of light levels and hues. Temporary lighting, such as luminaria (sand-filled bags with candles) or luau-style torches are great not only for special occasions, but also to give your doorway some sparkle.

A friend of mine has a small table to the left of her purple door, on which she has a seasonal flowering plant and a three-wick candle in a deep glass container. Another friend hangs a dozen or so glass balls with tea lights from the branches of the shrubbery on either side of his door.

Solar powered sets of lights, which look wonderful at night outlining walks leading to front doors, are inexpensive and easy to

install.

Flags, banners and signs enhance the look of your doorway and make it easier to find. Numerals, names and/or street addresses can be painted directly on doors or engraved on metal plates to be mounted on the door itself. Seasonal or personalized banners or flags look great flapping in the breeze or illuminated at night.

You can give your guests the red carpet treatment by running an indoor/outdoor length of red carpet up to your doorway. If your front door is inside a larger building, a lush red carpet or an oriental runner is as irresistible as the yellow brick road.

Indoor entries give you more options than outdoor. Silk flowers, ribbons and dried materials can be used in wreaths, swags or garlands.

My condo, which was built as a side by side duplex has a terrific interior entry. Our building is in the Tudor style and the interior doorways are arched and hung with heavy, dark, oak paneled

doors. I have numerous wreaths that I hang as the seasons change. This summer I had a large eucalyptus wreath, which I had studded with big, full-blooming silk peonies in shades of white, pink and maroon. The wreath itself echoes the slope of the rounded doorway, the peonies and foliage the shapes in a print hanging next to the door. The print was a house warming gift from the artist and the peonies from my son.

If you are not from Dublin, or not even Irish, you too can make a grand entrance.

"Flags, banners and signs enhance the look of your doorway..."



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Arts



Calendar

OUT NOW

Hansel and Gretel. Set in the late 1950s, when the two journey through a cornfield the happen upon an intriguing carnival scene, setting into motion a series of events that forces them to face their misguided desires and overcome their childhood fears. Skylight Opera Theatre, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. www.skylightopera.com. Through October 8.

John Colt Retrospective. UWM Union Art Gallery, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 414-229-5830. www.unionartgallery.uwm.edu. Through October 12.

Gay Youth Art Show. Nearly two dozen suburban, urban, black, white, Hispanic, Asian youth ages 13-22 and "friends of the family," present a broad spectrum of media and messages in this exhibition. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. 414-383-3727. Through October 14.

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot. Milwaukee's premiere of noted New York playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis's celestial courtroom drama. Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 414-744-5757. www.boulevardtheatre.com. Through October 15.

AC Art Association Membership 58th Annual Fall Exhibit. Alphonse Gallery, 1501 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee Through October 29.

Floral Exhibition. League of Milwaukee Artists. Artwork in oils, watercolors, acrylics, and pastels. Boerner Botanical Gardens, 9400 Boerner Dr., Hales Corners. 414-525-5600. www.leagueofmilwaukeeartists.com. Through October 29.

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.

THURSDAY, OCT. 12

Fasten Nation. DJ's Diamonds and Swan battle hot music for a cool evening on the all-night dance floor section. Runway show with Fasten Co-op of Local Clothing Artists. Moot, 240 E. Pittsburgh Ave., Milwaukee. 9 p.m. \$6. 414-747-9229.

The Guys. A moving tribute, by Anne Nelson, to the firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11/01. Soulstice Theatre, 3195 S Superior, Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$12. 414-431-3187. www.soulsticetheatre.org

Leaving Iowa. A hilarious, sentimental comedy about family vacations. Vogel Hall, 123 E. State St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-273-7206. www.marcuscenter.org. Through November 12, various times.

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

Sweet Smell of Success. Allegro Productions opens its debut season with a steamy film noir set in New York. Marian Center 3211 S. Lake Dr., Milwaukee. 414-243-9168. www.dramatisttheatre.com. Through October 21.

FRIDAY, OCT. 13

It's a Scary, Scary World. Milltown Kings. 18+. Miramar Theatre, 2844 N Oakland Ave., Milwaukee. \$6. 414-967-0302. www.themiramartheatre.com.

Through the Trees. A special group exhibition by local Menomonee Falls area artists. Current Gallery, N88 W16475 Main St., Menomonee Falls. 5-9 p.m. 262-255-3588.

Miguel Zenon. Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr.,

Brookfield. 262-781-9470. www.wilson-center.com.

THURSDAY, OCT. 19

Joe Egg. A warm, poignant, incredibly funny comedy with a provocative story. Broadway Theatre, 158 Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. www.chamber-theatre.com. Through November 5.

Woyzeck. This new and exciting premiere told through music, text, and movement features selected songs composed by Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan. Off Broadway Theatre, 342 N Water St., Milwaukee. 414-278-0765.

FRIDAY, OCT. 20

The Apocalypse is Breathtaking. Featured artworks by one of the co-op's leading directors and designers, Kathryn Wilson. Alongside her clothing designs, you can view her "photography, beautiful decay and clothing remnants brought back from 3525 AD". Fasten, 2224 Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 7-10 p.m. Through November 30th.

Milwaukee International Art Fair. Galleries, non-profits and nomadic curators from around the country and world will be participating, showing contemporary art in a genuine, old school Milwaukee beer hall. Polish Falcons Beer Hall 803 E. Clarke St., Milwaukee. 5-9 p.m. 414-372-7251. Repeats Saturday, October 21 Noon-9 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

The Visual Arts. A tribute to repertoire that was inspired by or is connected to great paintings, sculpture, and other visual art. St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1615 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa. 8 p.m. \$12/6 students and seniors. 414-628-6018. www.concordorchestra.org.

FRIDAY OCT. 27

In Part a Treatment of Success. Steve Wetzel will present his video as part of an exhibition for the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary L. Nohl Fellowship for Individual Artists and will include a brief reading from Markus's "From Here and Back Again the World gets Smaller Every Time I Light Those Candles." Woodland Pattern, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. www.woodlandpattern.org.

SATURDAY, OCT. 28

Chris Garneau with Gregory and the Hawk. Chris Garneau writes depressing rock songs and currently lives in Brooklyn, NY. A happy-go-lucky character, Chris loves spending time at state fairs with unusual animals. Watch them make beautiful music together. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-467-7271. www.hotcakesgallery.com.

MONDAY, OCT. 30

Dia De Los Muertos Exhibition. Alters will be on display. UWM Union Art Gallery, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 414-229-6310. www.unionartgallery.uwm.edu.

Send November submissions to qlifelistings@yahoo.com before October 20.

Pumpkins on a Roll

Duck season? Rabbit season? - nope, it's pumpkin season. It is that time of year to go out and pick up some pumpkins for carving (and eating for the culinary adventurous). The following recipe for Pumpkin Pinwheels is both a delicious and attractive dessert. Each slice of this cake will have a cool circular pattern made by rolling the cake with the filling. The presentation of this dessert makes it ideal for serving company or guests.



COOKING

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

Pumpkin Pinwheels

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup pumpkin cup flour
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp ginger
- tsp nutmeg
- tsp salt
- Filling:
- 1 cup powder sugar
- 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 4 tbl butter
- tsp vanilla

Preheat the oven to 375F. In a large bowl beat the eggs on the high speed of a mixer for 5 minutes. Gradually beat in the granulated sugar. Stir in the pumpkin and lemon juice. Stir together the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and salt. Fold the dry ingredients into

the pumpkin mixture. Spread in a lightly greased 15x10x1 inch pan that has been lined with wax paper. Bake for 15-17 minutes. Turn out onto a towel that has been sprinkled with powdered sugar. Starting at the narrow end, roll the towel and cake together. Place in refrigerator to cool.

For the filling: Combine the powdered sugar, cream cheese, butter and vanilla in a medium sized bowl. Beat with a mixer until smooth.

Remove the cake from the refrigerator and unroll. Spread the filling out evenly over the entire cake. Roll just the cake and chill. When ready to serve, remove from refrigerator and cut to make beautiful pinwheel slices.

Note: When selecting a pumpkin for cooking, the best selection is a "pie pumpkin" or a "sweet pumpkin".

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Three Great Flavors

What's Happening at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center in October

In the Art Gallery:

2006 GAY YOUTH ART SHOW
RUNS THROUGH OCTOBER 14

New Art Exhibition

Paul Roberts - Masculine Photographic Portraiture:
The Guy(s) Next Door 1974-2006

Opens:

Show runs through November 26
Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm
And by appointment

On the Stage:

Monday, October 16, and Tuesday, October 17 at 7pm

AUDITIONS FOR THE UPCOMING UNCOMMON THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION OF

Jack Heifner's "Comfort & Joy ~ a comedy of celebration" 4 Male and 2 female cast members are required.

Synopsis: First, an unexpected guest arrives, then an unexpected gift, then another uninvited person shows up. Mix this with the anxiously awaited parental unit, and dysfunctional with a capital 'D' is what comes to mind. Come see how the past affects our future - and how each of us should give and get comfort and joy.

Performances run November 30 through December 16

Monday, October 23, 7pm

CORNERSTONE THEATRE NEW PLAYWRIGHTS READING SERIES

The Night They Invented Champ Egan

By Peter Mikulas

Three Nights - Three Conversations - Three women - New pharmaceuticals - New people - Unexpected intrigue. Some rhythms from stand-up comedy? A "dramadey"? A "coma"?

Anyway, we hope for some laughs...

November Preview

The MGAC-Fest, November 11 through November 20, a very special 10 day festival of arts and entertainment including a belly dance Hafra extravaganza. The Cornerstone New Playwrights Reading Series, Cabaret Night, the Proud Crowd reception and much more to be announced!-

Classes:

MIDDLE EASTERN BELLY DANCE FOR MEN WITH SHAIYA FAHRID

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The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 S. 2nd Street in Milwaukee. For more information on events please call 414-383-3727 or email milwgac@yahoo.com

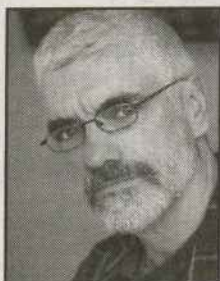
MGAC NEWS

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) has recently expanded its board of directors. Newly elected members include Mark Roeker, treasurer; Joe Sivoli, secretary; Shelly Hermann and Kate Sherry, board members-at-large.

More members are sought to help expand the board. Requirements include an interest in the future of LGBT arts in Milwaukee, experience in non-profit fundraising and other related skills as well as a commitment of time and energy to MGAC's mission.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is also looking for volunteers to assist in future theatrical productions, art show installation and other events.

Please contact MGAC at milwgac@yahoo.com for more information.



Paul Masterson - MGAC Director

MGAC presents Paul Roberts, masculine photographic portraiture "The Guy(s) Next Door 1974-2006"

New Exhibition opens October 21

By Paul Masterson

Like many young artists, Milwaukee native Paul Roberts left his roots for New York City. He now returns, an internationally recognized photographer, to present a solo exhibition of three decades of work at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

Roberts is often asked what led to his interest in photography. It all began in 1972 when his father shared a new Minolta SRT 101 SRL camera he purchased on a trip to Asia. Within a few minutes of his patient instruction, his son was hooked and started "taking pictures" of scenic and architectural subject matter. He progressed to animals, people in public places, local performances and, ultimately, to MEN.

Back in the late 1970s and early-'80s, male physique models in magazines and films (pre-video) were predominantly late-teen and 20-somethings—shaved, with "swimmer's" builds. That prototype held no interest for Roberts either artistically or sexually.

His attraction in very early years was drawn to ultra-masculine men: construction types, athletes, bodybuilders and the middle-aged hirsute male. As a teenager in the early 1960s, he discovered these men illustrated as sketches or photography in the miniature physique magazines he perused.

Remembering these images became an obsessive "mental vision" - he couldn't get enough. Consequently, these "physique studies" had a profound influence on both his artistic and sexual sensitivity and sensibility.

"I wanted to find hirsute, middle-aged men, the ones seldom seen on the covers or the pages of 'gay' publications from that time. As a matter of record, my photographic niche has always been this genre, long before the terms 'mature,' 'bear,' or 'daddy' ever became popularized," said Roberts

So, he advertised for this specific type and began building my portfolio. He pedaled his unpolished body of work to Charles Leslie, co-founder of the Leslie-Lohman Gallery that is now the Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation (LLGAF). "Leslie was especially encouraging and supportive. He invited me to participate in a group show of photographic male art in 1980," Roberts noted. The gallery still continues its patronage, allowing me to exhibit with many other artists in the LLGAF annual photography shows over the past two-and-a-half decades.

The many men who have graced his lens have educated him about the male psyche as well as lent their varied physical attributes to my photographic interpretations.

Roberts added, "while I have made mature men the primary focus of my work, I have, in recent years, diversified to include the 20- and 30-somethings. Every man I have photographed has been an artistic learning and growing experience."

And, for the record: the answer is No! The headshots and portraits you'll see exhibited here are not actors and models...okay, there's one actor and one model, but the rest are everyday guys next door."

Paul Roberts has published his photos in Blueboy, and European publications *Jean Paul*, *Off*, and *Hombres*. Over the years his photographs have appeared in *The Advocate*, *Vice*, and *Bear Magazine*, *Euro Bear*, *Playbill*, *The New York Times*, and on the covers of *HX*, *Pump It Up*, *Naturist Gay-zette*, and *100% Beef*. In 2001, he published *Shadows and Dreams*, a calendar with 39 black and white images of men.

Roberts' works have been included in the volumes *Male Bonding I*, *Male Bonding II*, and *Anthology II: Peasts*, published by the Phenomenon Factory (Venice, California) and have appeared in the exhibition *Bears: Icons of Gay Male Masculinity*, and book *Bear Icons II*, created by Les Wright, Mount Ida College, Massachusetts. In 2005, he had a one-man exhibition of 107 images at the Bear Cafe in New York City. In June 2006, the St. Sebastian Exhibition at the

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) included some of his work, and in early fall one of his pieces will be part of the Tom of Finland Foundation's Permanent Collection in Los Angeles.

Paul Roberts' "The Guy(s) Next Door" opens October 21, 6-9pm and Saturday October 22, 11am-3pm. Exhibition runs through November 26. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm and by appointment.



Aids Walk 2006

Saturday, September 30, 2006

Walkers strolled, ran, skated, and skipped along Lincoln Memorial Drive to help raise money for organizations throughout the state that provide life saving care, treatment, and advocacy for nearly 6,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. The money from AIDS Walk Wisconsin also supports the health, social service and prevention programs and services of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). B.D. Wong, popular star of NBC's *Law and Order SVU*, was the Honorary Chair of AIDS Walk Wisconsin.



Our Exciting Every-changing Theater Scene

Well, many exciting things are happening this fall. Also, changes are taking place. My job is to tell you about the exciting events in theater. Change always happens for a reason, and usually means better things will soon take place. But, as with everything in life; change can be difficult. Change, however, makes us grow!

Queer Life News has been a very exciting creative outlet for me, and I plan to continue to bring you the happenings going on in Milwaukee's theater scene. Our town is very well known across the United States as a major theater town, and we have a great fall lineup scheduled. Of course our most famous theaters are the Pabst, and the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. But, as I have mentioned on several occasions- keep your eyes open for exciting theater in intimate settings also. Our Milwaukee Repertory Powerhouse Theater opened **KING LEAR** by William Shakespeare. They also will entertain to the tunes of **SAM COOKE**, **FOREVER**, and **MR.SOUL** at the Stackner cabaret. The Stiemke opened **HALF LIFE**. These three shows opened very close together; so one must wonder at the technical work involved. On a very upbeat note, the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts rocked us with **ALL SHOOK UP**-The Elvis Presley musical. For those who loved **KING LEAR**, our Milwaukee Shakespeare company also dazzled us with **MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**. The magical operetta **HANSEL**

AND GRETEL enchants at the Skylight Opera Theatre. There was much drama in the air this September with **LAST OF THE BOYS** at Next Act Theatre. The Pulitzer prize-winner **'NIGHT MOTHER** played at Dramatist Theatre-which was located at Marion Center. **THE PIANO LESSON**, another award-winning drama, opened at the cultural Hansberry-Sands Theatre Company. Wow, September was a busy month! Boulevard Ensemble presented the Milwaukee premiere **THE LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT**. **PERESTROIKA**, The sequel to the AIDS drama **ANGELS IN AMERICA** continued at Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Off The Wall Theatre ended its star run of the campy **DIE MOMMY DIE** by Charles Busch. Dear Ruthie was the understudy to the lead role Mark Hagen performed.

Some extra exciting local highlights
DREAMGIRLS (soon to be seen as a major motion picture) is a take-off on the life of the Supremes. Can you imagine a teenage company putting on this vocally challenging show at the Modjeska Youth Theatre? Another truly fun and exciting show is the musical **THE FULL MONTY**. Recently on Broadway, this musical based on the popular movie; has come to The Bay Players for its Milwaukee area premiere. I just wonder if Whitefish Bay is ready for it. The Sunset Playhouse of Elm Grove had

several short comedies in a fun-filled evening titled **ALL IN THE TIMING**. Some of these productions are still playing in October; and many won critical acclaim.

October openings to watch for:
 Several great shows are opening in October as well. In Tandem will bring us **DRACULA VS THE NAZIS**. Now that sounds like a fun sci-fi night. The Renaissance Theaterworks always provides a truly professional evening of theater. They will open **MEMORY HOUSE**. Pulitzer Prize winning playwright August Wilson wrote **GEM OF THE OCEAN**; which performs at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater. **JOE EGG** comes to the Milwaukee Chamber theatre.

Many upcoming Stars to watch for
 Back a few months ago; I mentioned some outstanding Milwaukee talent to watch for. Many are appearing in several of the productions I mentioned this month. So watch for Brian Bzwada, Michael Bruening, Michael Endter, Marcee Sturino, and Amie Woolweber in **FULL MONTY**. Cynthia L. Paplaczky, Ken Dillon, and Mark Ninneman in **LAST DAYS OF JUDAS ISCARIOT**. Also, Jason Powell and Carrie McGhee will appear in an original comedy at Windfall Theatre **NAUGHTY ANGEL**.
 In closing please remember to be friendly to your bartenders...they all work hard for their tips. And don't be afraid to



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.

tell them if the service did not come with a smile...they need to know. Enjoy a safe and happy Halloween!

My Birthday was late in September, and my Aunt Blanche jumped out of a giant cake-NUDE!!!!

She said her birthday suit would also be her Halloween costume this year

Last August's Trivia Answer
 Charles Busch the actor does perform in drag in nearly all his plays.

This Month's Trivia Question
 How many Charles Busch plays has Dear Ruthie been in the company of in Milwaukee?

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Hottie hottie Hartnett



FILM

By: Dewey 'Ox' Oxberger

brings us to modern day Manhattan where we meet "the boss" (Morgen Freeman) and "the Rabbi" (Sir Ben Kingsley) sequestered atop their respective towers from which they run their rival crime syndicates.

Revenge for the death of his only son, The Boss hires "Goodcat" (Bruce Willis), the finest hit man in America, to kill the Rabbi's gay son. Stuck in the middle of all of this is Slevin Kalevra (Josh Hartnett), in Manhattan visiting an old friend who is nowhere to be found upon his arrival.

Confused? So is Slevin, who is mistaken for his absent host, and is then forced to pay his friends' gambling debts to the Rabbi. With the help of neighbor Lindsey (Lucy Liu), Slevin maneuvers himself through the mess while trying to stay alive. And he does all of this while half naked, an added bonus for the audience.

Though violent, the film is exceptionally funny and charming. To top it off, the relationship engendered between Hartnett and Liu is more sincere and adorable than any of the garbage love stories popped out in the last couple of years. I can't help but dote on this movie. Josh Hartnett, even with the awful Black Dahlia on his résumé, has officially arrived as a legitimate leading man.

Josh Hartnett isn't the only teenage heartthrob to shed his trivial title this year. Orlando Bloom was spectacular in Haven, and Ryan Gosling was even better in Half Nelson. Ashton Kutcher's The Guardian better be good if he plans to keep up with these now credentialed hotties.

In the next couple of months, worthy contenders like Marie Antoinette, The Prestige, Running with Scissors, The Last king of Scotland and Little Children will

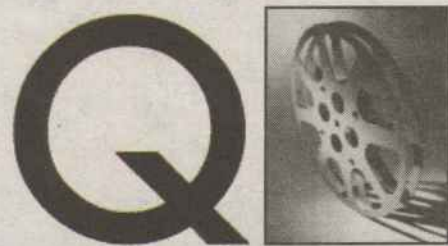
be making their debut. We'll see if they make the list. If you have any comments or additions for our top ten, visit our website at www.queerlifeneews.com.

Top 10 Movies of '06 (as of October 1)

- 1) Lucky number Slevin
- 2) Scoop
- 3) Brick
- 4) Half Nelson
- 5) Haven
- 6) Dave Chapelle's Block Party (documentary)
- 7) Why We Fight (documentary)
- 8) 16 blocks
- 9) Hostel
- 10) Little Miss Sunshine

Never Listen to Movie Reviews

Our number one movie of the year so far is Lucky Number Slevin. Reviews for this movie throughout most of the states have been sub par. This is not, I hope you have noticed, the first time the movie critics have made a mistake the likes of which you only saw by weather men. The most recent of these movie flubs was "The Illusionist"; our Milwaukee Journal Sentinel gave it three stars. You're confused now, saying to your self, "but Ed, three stars, that's a good review!" Exactly, this was not as good a movie as the movie reviewers might



FILM

By: Ed Roodney

have you think. First off, one should never trust a movie with Jessica Biel (7th Heaven). It does however have two proven actors in Paul Giamatti and Edward Norton who both give very good performances. The fault, aside from Biel, is not in the acting but in the writing and directing of Neil Burger. The movie seems to go along well up until the end when Mr. Burger tries an ending reminiscent to "The Usual Suspects", but while "The Usual Suspects" explains everything with a huge twist, "The Illusionist" has all of the twist with none of the explanation. Your best bet seems to watch the previews. You may be disappointed once in a while, but your odds are still better, and you may see a great movie. Or better yet you can listen to me! PS "Little Miss Sunshine" is highly overrated.

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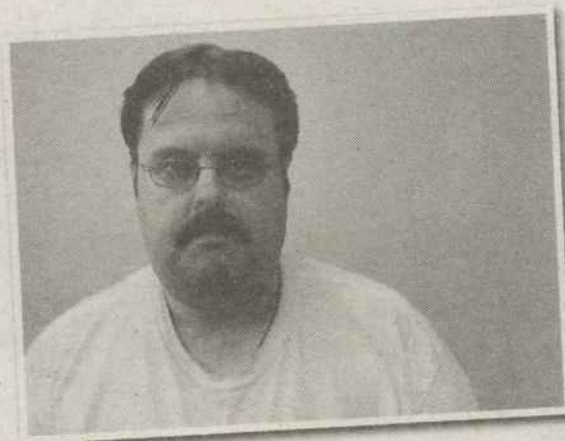
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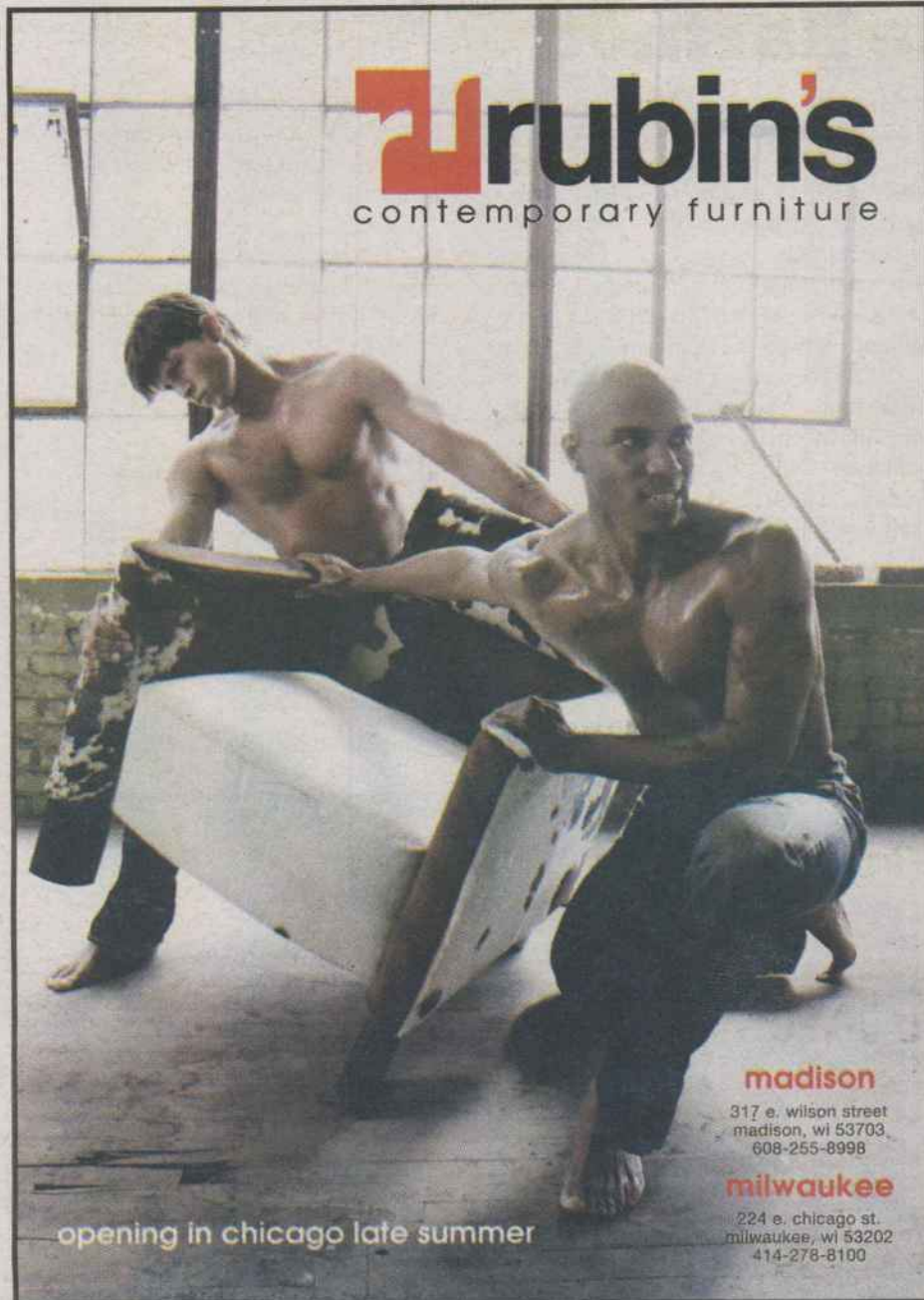
This November Wisconsinites will vote on a constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage for lesbian and gay couples. Even Jeff Cassidy a straight, Republican, resident of Kenosha is working to defeat the defeat it.

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