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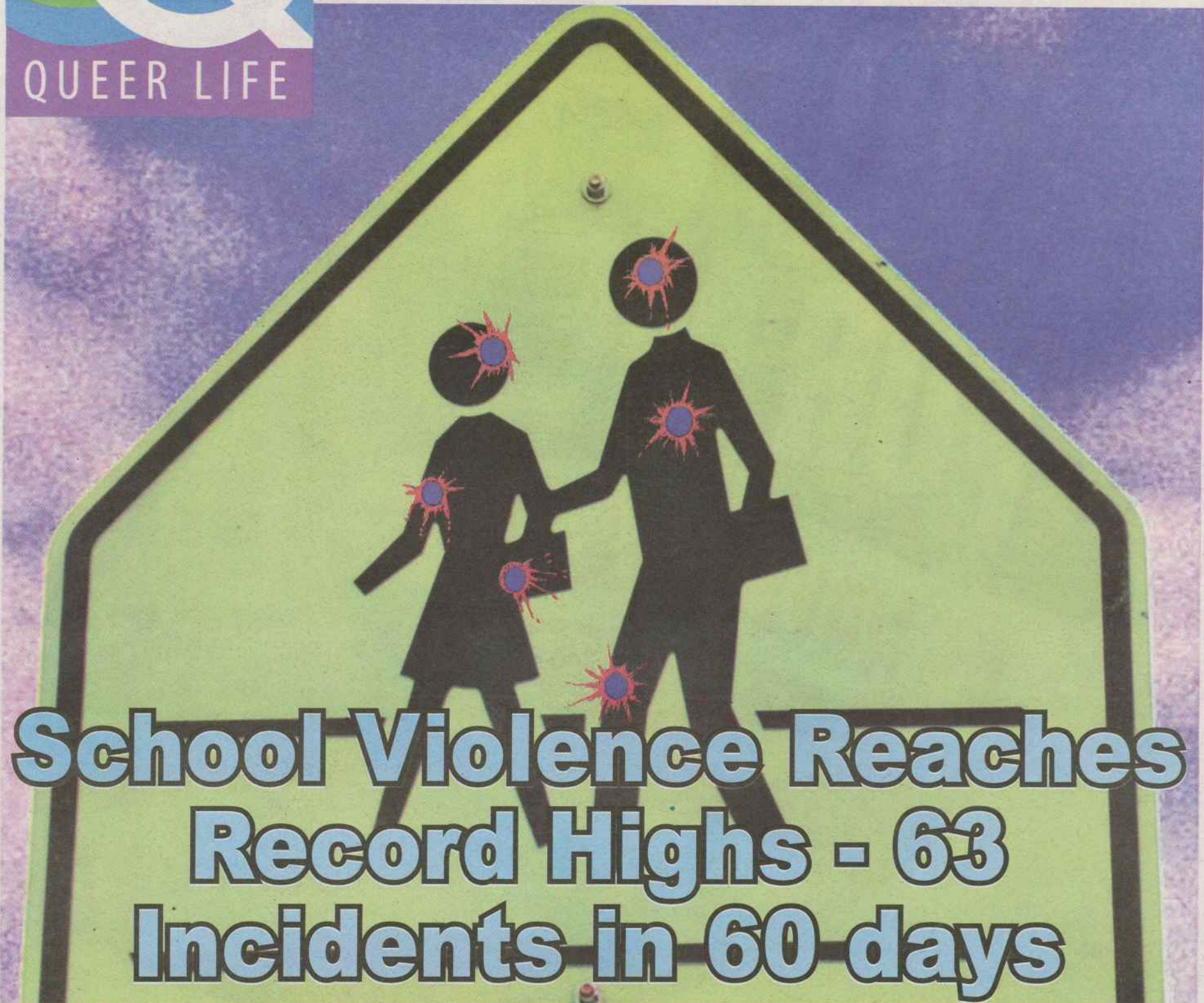
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Vol. 2, Issue 11 - November 2006

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# School Violence Reaches Record Highs - 63 Incidents in 60 days

By Cyndie Ody-Weis

Remember when the start of school evoked images of new backpacks full of school supplies, desks in a row and re-connecting with friends? Now an all too familiar back-to-school scene involves groups of students fleeing from a shooter while administrators intervene and police surround the school to "lock down" classrooms. Two incidents in Wisconsin - one thankfully halted by a brave student who spoke up - and 61 other violent episodes across the nation since the start of the 2006 school year transform images of schools from places of learning to hotbeds for violence.

According to The National School Safety and Security Services ([www.schoolsecurity.org/trends](http://www.schoolsecurity.org/trends)), 63 violent incidents occurred in U.S. schools since late August, 2006 - 15 died in nine of the incidents, 21 school shootings did not result in death and 33 other incidents include threats, foiled plots to kill or non-shooting episodes of violence in which nobody died.

Last school year (2005-2006) saw 27 violent deaths total. The past 10 years show a high of 49 deaths during the 2003-2004 school year and a low of 17 in 2001-2002. Clearly, 63 incidents signal an alarming start to this school year.

Analyzing the long list of shootings reveals a common scenario; males shoot females in rural areas - frequently after sexually assaulting them. In addition, "copycat" elements of Columbine, the ominous prototype of school violence, permeate the list with a North Carolina suspect in a black

trench coat in August and another trench coat - clad suspect in Missouri in October. A blogger called "trench" a.k.a. "Angel of Death," is a suspect in the Montreal shootings where three died and 19 were injured. The North Carolina man accused of murdering his own father at home before heading to school with pipe bombs in tow uttered "remember Columbine" when asked why he did it. Officers investigating recent shootings referenced the 1999 tragedy as well, calling one school shooting plan, "Columbine-like."

Upon closer examination, predictable patterns of the school tragedies go beyond gender, geography and garb. More often than not, alleged shooters have been victims of violence themselves; bullied, isolated from others, feeling different. Some had been called "gay" or "faggot" whether they were or not; some identified as gay. According to GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) studies of 3000 youth, the most common reasons for school bullying include physical appearance (39%), actual or perceived sexual orientation (33%) and gender expression (28%).

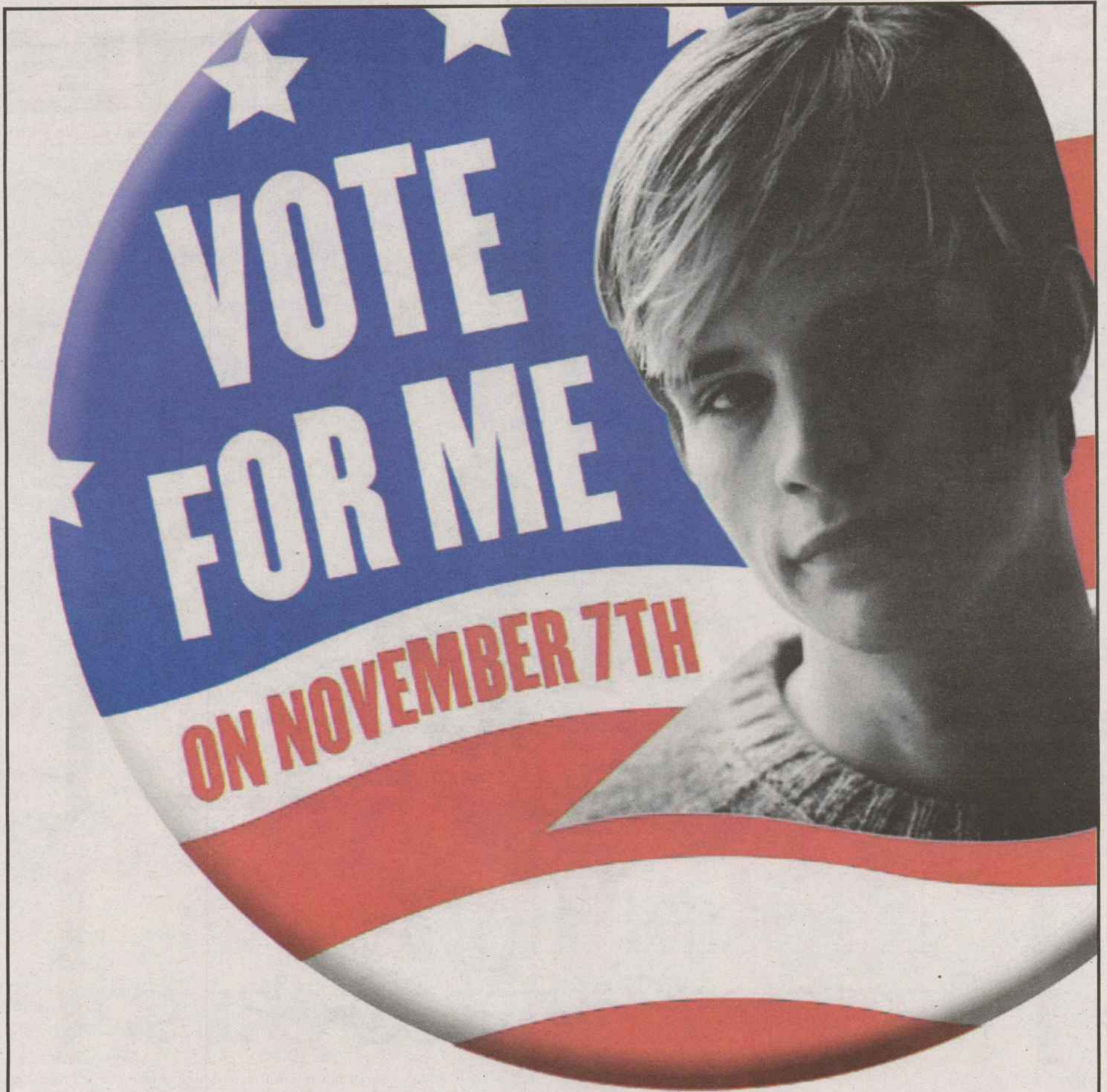
GLSEN Executive Director, Kevin Jennings says, "Far too often, adults and students alike dismiss bullying and name-calling, especially words like faggot, as 'boys will be boys.'" The truth is these are powerful words with destructive and sometimes unthinkable repercussions." GLSEN applauds the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Your VOTE is important  
Don't forget to vote on November 7th

Q Arts  
Calendar  
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**Hate stole my right to vote 8 years ago.  
Don't waste your right to vote on November 7th.**



Pledge to Vote on Matthew's behalf at [www.MatthewShepard.org/Vote](http://www.MatthewShepard.org/Vote)  
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The Matthew Shepard Foundation was founded by Dennis and Judy Shepard in memory of their 21-year old son, Matthew, who was murdered in an anti-gay hate crime in Wyoming in October 1998. Created to honor Matthew in a manner that was appropriate to his dreams, beliefs and aspirations, the Foundation seeks to "Replace Hate with Understanding, Compassion & Acceptance" through its varied educational, outreach & advocacy programs and by continuing to tell Matthew's story.

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**VIOLENCE** *continued from page 1*

recent plans for White House summit to address the record-setting two months of shootings. They will likely explore the role of bullying.

Researchers report that about 25% of children are bullied every day in U.S. schools and 75% of people report being bullied at one



time or another. Bullying can take the form of physical or emotional abuse, forced isolation and humiliation. Girl bullies more often collaborate with friends to shun others and spread rumors as a form of bullying while boy bullies resort to physical assault. Both bullies and the bullied are victims of a vicious cycle.

Considering that LGBT youth are intensely bullied (one study reports the average LGBT student is harassed 26 times per day—every 14 minutes!); three times more likely to commit suicide; likely to avoid school due to safety issues (22% of gay respondents skipped school in the past month because they felt unsafe there); and more likely to drop out (28% of gay students will drop out of school—three times the national average for heterosexual students); our LGBT students are a vulnerable group worthy of focused attention in planning for safe schools. Another especially alarming fact; four out of five gay and lesbian students say they don't know one supportive adult at school. Not one!

Certainly, not all shooters are LGBT, nor do all bullied youth respond to hurts by hurting others, acting out or turning the anger inward. Countless oppressed youth use challenges to grow strong and help others.

Working to turn the violence around is the Brighter Futures Coalition: local governmental and agency leaders; law enforcement, school and church representatives; and concerned others meet monthly to discuss what works. October's meeting showcased The Silver Spring Neighborhood Center (SSNC) in Westlawn Housing Project on Milwaukee's northwest side where Assistant Executive Director Anthony McHenry provides vision and leadership to engage youth. McHenry beams with pride as he describes youth finding purpose and a sense of belonging at the center—proven safeguards to lives of violence and crime. "The strong relationships are what sustain these outcomes,"

he says, reporting that only one participant was convicted of a felony and that there were no pregnancies among the female participants in the past six years; impressive statistics for the 70 or so youth served annually in the most intensive programming. Even more children and youth are served in other programs at SSNC. With funding from the state through The Brighter Futures Coalition, United Way and Safe and Sound, the SSNC successes show that positive and engaging activities for youth pay off. To enroll, call 463-7950.

Youth leaders like McHenry, as well as parents and teachers can sense in daily interaction with kids, which kids are the targets and who seems to withdraw rather than respond with resilience. McHenry says, "There are clear indicators when things (aren't going well)...history has told us that when kids stop showing up, that's a sign." He describes signs of youth withdrawal and the intense efforts provided to get them back on track. "For most kids we serve, our relationship with them is stronger than the parental relationship." He's quick to add that working with teenagers plays heavily into that as teen years are indeed a time of establishing independence from families—and McHenry is a "safety valve" of sorts to be sure independent teens stay on track.

Safety precautions are on everybody's minds in the wake of recent record violence. Some schools have safety plans for monitoring doorways, enforcing sign-in procedures and electronically monitoring all school staff and students via an automated system. Many

schools provide staff training on non-violent intervention and violence prevention. The state of Texas has developed a color-coded alerting system similar to airport security but with five levels ranging from green (low

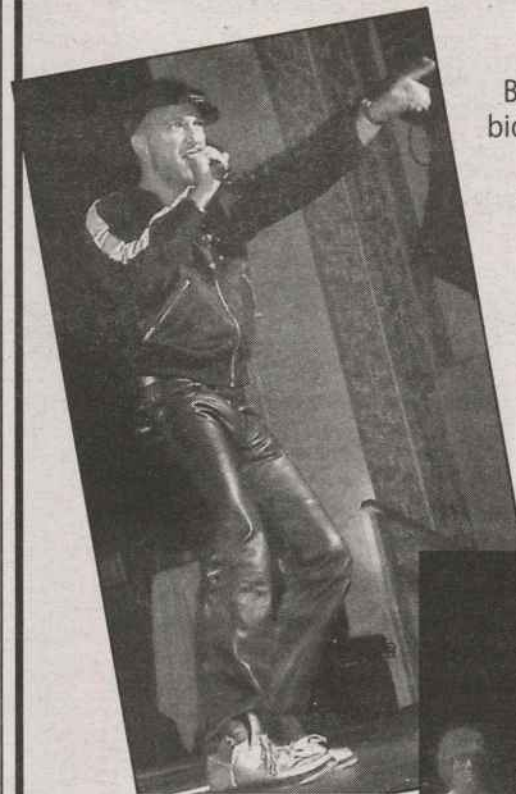
threat) to blue, yellow, orange and red (high alert). Levels are determined by recent violence or perceived threat and each level designates specific procedures to be followed. For more information, see <http://www.txssc.txstate.edu/txssc.htm>. Numerous books, articles and websites offer additional suggestions but the most universal advice for parents, teachers, coaches and counselors is to know the youth.

Knowing youth means taking the time to find the uniqueness in each one; know their worries, whereabouts and the names of their friends; offer yourself as a non-judgmental support person; encourage youth to watch out for one another and to tell you (and you must promise to respond) if things do not seem right with someone else. McHenry does that—and so can you. Every effort put forth, every moment spent can pay back tenfold—and you may be saving lives.

Sometimes it seems as if there are more questions than answers. As with most things related to a diverse and challenging society, each of us alone cannot halt the violence, but we all play a part.

**one study reports the average LGBT student is harassed 26 times per day—every 14 minutes**

**LGBT bash Big Night Out Oct. 14th at the Northern Lights Theater."**



"NYC recording artist Ari Gold performed at the crowded event."

**Big Night Out Silent Auction**

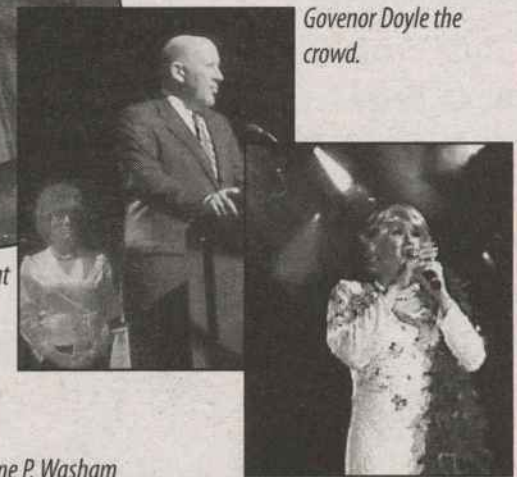
Between 2 and 3 hundred guests bid on items donated to our Silent Auction, enjoyed an excellent dinner and were entertained by recording artist, Ari Gold.

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JANUARY 20 & 21

**DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN**  
JANUARY 27

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NOVEMBER 11 5PM & 9PM

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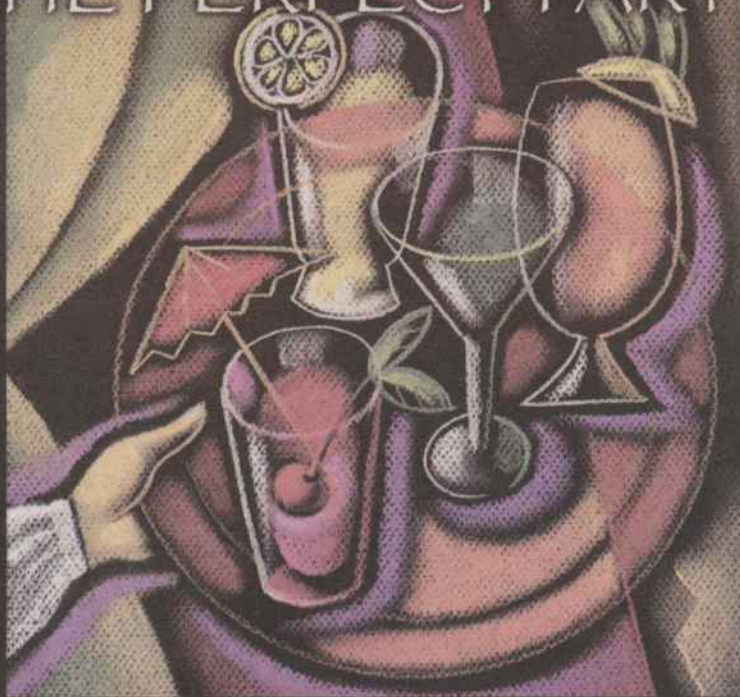
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## National



## Happenings

## Spouse of gay ex-lawmaker ineligible for federal death benefit

Former Massachusetts Rep. Gerry Studds, the first openly gay member of Congress, died this October at the age of 69 after developing two blood clots.

Studds' husband, Dean Hara, has since been informed that -- despite the couple's legal marriage in the state of Massachusetts, and unlike heterosexual spouses of former members -- he can't collect on his deceased husband's pension.

"This benefit is something that's there to protect their families," said Lara Schwartz, legal director for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights advocacy group. "He (Hara) is being treated like a total stranger to his partner."

The couple married in 2004 after Massachusetts legalized gay marriage, but the federal government does not consider Hara a legitimate "spouse."

When a former member of Congress dies, his or her spouse is eligible to collect the member's pension. But the Defense of Marriage Act forbids the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages or civil unions, and pension administrators say

they cannot release the funds to any relative other than a federally recognized spouse.

The Defense of Marriage Act -- passed in 1996 and opposed by only 67 members -- defines a spouse as "a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or wife."

"What we see here is the impact of legal discrimination," said Lee Swislow, executive director of Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, a gay rights advocacy group based in Boston. "The federal government does not respect that marriage."

"Former members of Congress serving out jail terms are still eligible for these pensions, but gay spouses are not," said Schwartz, referring to former members such as San Diego County Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, whose conviction on charges of tax evasion and conspiracy didn't affect his eligibility to collect a pension. "Frankly, it's insulting."

Studds' lifetime pension has been estimated to be worth an annual \$114,337, and Hara would have been eligible to collect \$62,000 each year for the rest of his life.

Kennedy said he doubts that the victims were ignored because of their sexual orientation. "Certainly if everything that Mr. St. Michel says is accurate, then of course it's a concern."

Police said if the attack happened the way St. Michel described it, it would be a hate crime, and officers could face disciplinary action.

## New Jersey Supreme Court in favor of Gay Rights

**New Jersey October 25-** The New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples have a constitutional right to receive the same state benefits, protections, and obligations as opposite-sex married couples.

The unanimous consensus of the court affirmed the equality of same-gender couples and instructed the New Jersey legislature to reverse an injustice that violates the rights of same-sex couples and their families, denying them equal access to the same rights, benefits and responsibilities offered to heterosexual couples.

The legislature must either amend its marriage law to include same-sex couples or provide these benefits, protections, and obligations by some other means such as civil unions.

## Providence Couple claims Police ignored Hate Crime

**Providence-** On October 14th, David St. Michel and his partner were allegedly attacked in the early a.m. in downtown Providence after last call. They are claiming that local police did nothing to help them.

"These guys started insulting us, and they were calling us all kinds of names," says St. Michel, "and the next thing we know we were jumped. I was tackled to the ground and punched and kicked several times."

Providence police said officers in the area saw a disturbance and went to check it out, but St. Michel claimed that police just let the suspects go.

"Maybe 30 seconds later they let the attackers go away, and then a squad car goes away," he said. "I was bleeding profusely. My lips were double the size. I was totally appalled, I mean, I didn't know what to do."

St. Michel filed a police report about an hour after the incident, and now investigators are looking into his claims that police didn't do enough to help.

"I don't know what happened at the scene that night. I was not there," said Deputy Chief Paul Kennedy of the Providence Police Department. "But I think it's incumbent upon us to do a very thorough investigation to find out what was said to the officers, and then what they did in response to that."

## International



## Happenings

## Marriage bill frustrates SA's same-sex couples

**20 October -** Gay and lesbian rights group in South Africa are outraged about a bill before parliament that falls a step short of granting full marriage to same-sex couples. The proposed Civil Union Bill aims to establish a separate legal institution for same-sex couples.

OUT LGBT Well-being, a South African non-governmental organization that provides mental and sexual health services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, argues that the Civil Union Bill continues to subject lesbian and gay relationships into a second-class citizenry status. They say that suggesting that same-sex marriage require a separate institution perpetuates stereotypes of same-sex marriages as unequal.

In summary, the Civil Union Bill would include all the rights and responsibilities of marriage, yet relationships would take on a different legal form and have a different name - "civil partnerships". Whilst same-sex couples may request the marriage officer to pronounce them "married", the law will not recognize the relationship as a marriage.

For some, the difference that the wording makes for their family and community is significant. A lesbian couple who both come from traditional

families mentioned that their families believe that marriage is the foundation for raising a stable family. "For us, it will be very difficult to raise a family that will be accepted and recognized by our parents and families if we are not married."

For heterosexual and same-sex couples, marriage is a way of publicly celebrating their love and commitment to each other, gay activists hold. The symbol of the union is just as important as the legal rights that go with marriage.

Significantly, the Civil Union Bill is a progressive move toward the regulation of domestic partnerships. This will go a long way in extending legal protection for the most vulnerable members in the domestic sphere, women and children. Also, the legal benefits that flow from civil and domestic partnerships will provide additional protection to couples - including same sex couples - including the right to intestate succession and medico-legal decisions.

Yet, there is a legal point of having a separate institution. The Bill implies that marriage cannot be administered equally with same-sex marriages, thus entrenching stigmatization and prejudice toward same-sex couples - perceived to be of a lower social status.

## Netherlands safe haven

**Amsterdam-** The Dutch government has granted special asylum rights to Iranian homosexuals, despite earlier comments by Immigration Minister Rita Verdonk who said they were safe so long as they were discrete.

Verdonk, whose tough stance on immigration and asylum has been condemned by many on the left, based her decision on an unpublished report by Human Rights Watch, which refers to systematic abuse of homosexuals in Iran. She also decided to extend a moratorium for Iranian Christian asylum seekers to remain in the Netherlands until May 2007 from this month.

"Homosexual Iranian asylum seekers can now find a safe haven in the Netherlands from the persecution and inhuman treatment they face in Iran," Frank van Dalen, chairman of gay rights group COC Nederland, said.

"A year ago, an Iranian asylum seeker with a death sentence hanging over his head was still sitting at Schiphol airport waiting to be deported," he added.

Earlier this year, a group of Iranian gay asylum seekers, who were due to be deported from the Netherlands after a government report concluded their sexuality did not put them at risk, became the focus of a bitter debate amid reports Iran may have executed men last year for being homosexual.

The government bowed to pressure in April and agreed to delay any deportations until it had reviewed the situation.

Islam's position on homosexuality became a major discussion point in the Netherlands when anti-immigration politician Pim Fortuyn, himself openly gay, accused Islam of being homophobic. Fortuyn was murdered by an animal rights activist in 2002.

## Town Hall Meeting on Transpeople in the "LGBT" Community

**Milwaukee -** Nearly every "gay" group in Wisconsin has changed their name or mission to include LGB and T individuals, but how many actually have trans members or routinely address trans issues? Have organizations had positive or negative experiences with transgender individuals' participation? What positive and negative experiences have trans people had at local "LGBT" organizations and events? Do Wisconsin transgender people WANT to be under an "LGBT" umbrella or is this wide-spread presumed inclusion based on implied political mandates? Do organizations want to limit their focus to LGB issues, but feel pressure to be more broadly inclusive of the "T"? What does "transgender" include, anyway?

Those are the types of questions

FORGE asked in a recent pair of surveys answered by 394 transgender individuals (47 from Wisconsin) and 55 organizations (30 responses from Wisconsin). On Thursday, November 30, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center (315 W. Court Street) the results of this survey will be presented at a Town Hall Meeting.

In addition to a presentation of the survey results, the Town Hall Meeting will include the implications for both trans people and Wisconsin organizations, and a discussion of best practices, as well as time for organizations to share their experiences and ask questions

*The Transgender Needs Assessment was funded, in part, by the Cream City Foundation.*

# The state of interracial dating in Milwaukee

## Part I

By Paul Masterson  
Special to QLife News

Ever watch "Bewitched," the sit-com based on a mortal and witch mixed marriage? When it originally ran in the mid-sixties, America's TV audience wasn't ready for an interracial couple. While attitudes on TV and in reality have changed dramatically, Milwaukee's gay community still struggles with its own diversity.

The U.S. Census Bureau documents Milwaukee's demographics as 50% white, 37% black, 12% Latino, and the remainder Asian, Native American and other races. These statistics are typical for a major Midwestern urban center. Yet a 2003 UWM Employment and Training Institute Report citing the U.S. Bureau of the Census found Milwaukee's level of segregation to be the highest of large metropolitan areas.

Whether imposed or self-imposed, or a combination of both, segregation and racism also pervades in certain LGBT circles, both white and black. There are few people of color in most bars or represented in our sports and other social organizations.

Despite the heady days LGBT liberation in the 1970's, Milwaukee's community still seems wary of interracial dating. As part of a national organization, Milwaukee's Black & White Men Together (BWMT) chapter was founded in 1980 to address that.

BWMT's mission is to offer an alternative environment for men to comfortably and safely interact with like minded people. Among its members, race is not a reason for rejection. For Milwaukeeans of color and their white partners, BWMT offered a safe haven, challenged racism within the gay community and helped dismantle the racial divide.

In BWMT's mid-80's heyday, it boasted 65 members and twice that attended the group's social events. But in the 90's, it briefly altered its appeal and included women.

Then, the ravages of the AIDS pandemic, the influence of Afrocentrism, the

idea that blacks should only date other blacks, decimated the organization's ranks.

According to D.A. Leonard, one of its current co-chairs, today's political climate and the general disengagement of younger gay men does not encourage the replacement of that lost membership. Currently, there are about 20 active members. But this figure does not necessarily imply a positive change in the environment for interracial dating.

A recently conducted on-line chat room poll indicates those who date interracially have less concern for the racial factor than for compatibility. Most respondents, especially younger men, said race was not a major part of the attraction. For others, however, interracial dating was simply out of the question.

Personal interviews revealed less positive experiences both on-line and in the bars. Black males interviewed for this article generally agreed that Milwaukee's acceptance of interracial dating is far from universal. Most repeatedly experienced outright rejection based on their race.

Peer rejection is also part of the equation. Both blacks and whites described negative attitudes from their friends when they date outside their race.

It seems that 25 years after BWMT's founding, things haven't changed much. "I didn't realize interracial dating was going to be so hard," said one. "I get the line 'I'm not attracted to black guys' even when I'm just casually starting a conversation. It's like a physical push," he added.

Milwaukee's cultural past, one marked by separate ethnic neighborhoods and the later influx of African-American population after World War 2, provides some insight into the current state of the racial divide, especially in the even more insular LGBT community. The ready acceptance of "others" into our smaller worlds might not be as progressive as elsewhere. Positive change is taking place, but slowly.

Future articles in this series will look into the state of interracial dating among women as well as among other racial groups. How this is reflected in the attitudes of LGBT youth will also be investigated.

To learn more about BWMT, see its website at [www.bwmtmilwaukee.org](http://www.bwmtmilwaukee.org).

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# Circling the Kill

Many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people don't know this, but many do: there are some in our midst who eat people alive. This is a nasty habit, a pattern of behaviors that is debilitating to those who do the eating and to those who get devoured. In fact, this habit is harmful to all of us who are visible and active in the LGBT communities and those who are not. Ask anyone who has taken leadership in the community and they will tell you examples of either being attacked or seeing someone close to them being attacked.

What I am referring to as an attack is the pattern of harsh public and covert behaviors aimed at lesbian, gay, and transgender leaders and their organizations. A small and generally disorganized bunch of individuals hurl their disappointments at people who elect to take the lead on our behalf. To clarify, an attack is an attempt to organize others to disempower leadership by focusing on real or perceived shortcomings. Attacks are not an effort to move an issue forward or present an opposing viewpoint; those efforts, when positioned well, assist existing and emerging leaders by networking, coordinating, or collaborating to make a positive difference.

No, attacks have a different agenda. They attempt to topple leadership. Attacks are confrontational for the sake of confrontation. They are mean-spirited. Attacks seek to resolve old unfinished psychic business for the attackers. They are one-sided, short-sighted, and underhanded even when done publicly.

## They are doing critical work on our behalf with virtually no resources to do it.

Okay, attacks are nasty business – but a health issue? In the LGBT communities, attacks on LGBT leaders are a health issue in several critical ways.

First, attacks result in weakening an already fragile LGBT community health infrastructure. Our organizational leaders – executive directors, directors, board members, key volunteers, spokespeople, and so on – are our United Way, our Jewish Community Center, health department, recreational division, Boys and Girls Club and Planned Parenthood. They are doing critical work on our behalf with virtually no resources to do it.

Second, attacks negatively affect service delivery. When an event is not perfect or shows some obvious problems, those on the attack seek the warm blood of the jugular and circle the kill through



## 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.

commentary at the bars or elsewhere in the community. They do not seek to meet personally with the organizer, offer time or other resources, or otherwise volunteer to improve subsequent events. Therefore, the leader does not learn how to improve services, but she is left with an additional time consuming task of self-defense.

Third, attacks disempower leaders, emerging leaders, and the LGBT community. The World Health Organization cites empowerment as one of the key elements of human rights in public health. The WHO notes that we do better in advocating for our health when we know we can and when we know how we can. But in communities where we are concerned about being shot down our opportunities to exercise our power are attenuated. We keep our heads down.

Fourth, attacks are essentially a dramatization of the experiences that transgender, bisexual, gay, and lesbian people face all of the time in the broader communities in which we live. These reenactments of gender and orientation oppression at the expense of our own community are at their core homophobic. Therefore, they negatively impact the mental health, social connectedness, and the well being of the attackers as well.

While there are many more examples, you get the point. But, what is there to do about this community phenomenon?

Interrupt it! When you hear someone going off about an LGBT leader or organization, ask what they have done personally and directly to address that person or issue. Ask what concrete suggestions they have to make and what they are willing to invest to make that happen in concert with that leader or organization, not in opposition to it.

When you find yourself joining in on the attack, ask what you are getting out of it. Challenge your motives and ask about your failure to show respect to another good lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender person. Ask about your investment in the health of our communities.

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# One Step at a Time

**H**ey!! Is that fat thing still working for you?

That's what I asked last month to all my readers. Well, what I found out was shocking. People are still thinking about their answer. What is there to think about? Every day you

don't do something active, you take a day off of your life. Still thinking? Well, stop.

A gym membership costs less than a round of drinks at a bar and has longer lasting positive effects.

Don't have anything to wear, blah, blah, blah. Here's what is really important:

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Look at the gyms lay-out of their equipment. Is it easy to go from one machine to the next? Is the equipment up to date? Look at the people working out when you are on your tour of the gym, does it look like a MySpace pick me up?

Last but not least, I know there are a lot of clean freaks out there. Is the gym clean? Does the restroom have 1 ply or two? (I like two ply myself.)

Achieving your Fitness Goals, one step at a time

1. Drink at least half your body weight in ounces of filtered water every day. For instance, if you weigh 150 pounds, drink 75 ounces of pure water a day.

## Every day you don't do something active, you take a day off of your life

2. Eat a healthy breakfast that includes both protein and carbs. Preferably a 1:1 ratio. The meal replacement shakes with fresh/frozen fruit make a quick healthy way to start the day. Other possible options include:

- Eggs & Toast.



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3. Never get into a rut and eat the same meals every day. Be creative with your meals and snacks by having a variety of choices.

#### Question: from Glenn

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#### Answer:

Machine Leg Extensions are the best exercise for isolating the quadriceps. The greater the angle of the backrest, the farther toward the back the pelvis rotates. This movement is recommended for beginners or people with bad knees, so that they can develop enough strength to move on to the more technically demanding exercises.

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# Gender Holiday

The thing I remember about the first time I was alone among a group of feminist women is telling about gender. It was in college, and I was nervously waiting at a meeting of the campus women's group to make some sort of announcement, probably on behalf of the LGBT group I belonged to (actually, it would have been "LGB," as my college years predated the movement's embrace of transgender issues). While I don't remember anything about why I was there that evening, seated on the floor with dozens of women, I do remember my posture. I had a revelation, as I sat there, with my body uncoiling as my nerves faded away. I realized how much energy I put into "fronting" being a man every moment of the day and how liberating it was in this sea of women to stop thinking, however deep below the surface, about whether I was acting man enough. All those uneasy questions – is this how a man crosses his legs, is this how a man walks across the quad, is this how a man talks, finally answered themselves. Yes, how I did all these things was by definition how a man does them, because I was a man.

I'm certainly not the first to comment on gender roles. Women, gays and lesbians, and especially transgender folks suffer the greatest casualties, but even straight men chafe under the gender corset. Gender is so central to our identity that it is often invisible. We pledge allegiance to our gender every day, for example, when we walk into the "appropriate" bathroom. It takes nothing more than a scratch at the surface

to understand the centrality of gender roles to homophobia; because of course those most subject to homophobic abuse are those most gender divergent – swishy gay guys and butch lesbians. Because loving a man is womanly and loving a woman is manly, people who love the same sex are committing gender treachery. The fact that you rarely see gay men or male couples portrayed in campaigns fighting bans on civil unions and gay marriage is another searing comment on gender and the relative status of women; because men who love men are acting like lowly women, their transgression is more despicable (it's the same reason why pants have become a unisex fashion expression, and not the skirt).

Of course, the ultimate gender traitor is a transgender person. And the full force of social disapproval is deployed against these individuals – from taking away their livelihoods, to refusing to rent a home, to inflicting outright violence and murder. The incident at a Wauwatosa George Webb restaurant in September may have started when three friends' conversation about gay marriage caught the unfriendly attention of other patrons, but the punches and projectiles came only after one of the victims came out as transgender. While there are differences between the discrimination faced by lesbians and gays and transgender people, just as there are differences between homophobia and sexism, it would be deliberately obstinate not to see the connection.



## POLITICS

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

That is why I am hopeful that our newly-mobilized gay and lesbian community will fight for the rights of our transgender allies in the coming year and in the process make gender's bind a little less pinched for everyone. Surely we are overdue to add gender identity and expression to state statutes on nondiscrimination and hate crimes, and while the legislative climate may make that a long journey, we can start by making improvements at the local level.

We can also mark November 20 as the National Day of Remembrance, a day to honor transgender people who paid with their lives to express gender their own way. In Milwaukee, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is marking the event with the UWM LGBT Student Center with a candlelight vigil at University Campus Ministries, 2211 E Kenwood, from 5:30pm – 6:30pm, followed by a reception in the UWM Union, 2200 E Kenwood.

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QLife 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, QLife fills an information void involving the LGBT community. As Wisconsin's Premier LGBT News Leader, QLife serves an important buying audience ready to embrace companies friendly to the gay community.

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## The Attack of the Angry Font

By Kate Sherry

*Do you know what you're going to write?*

*-ah, no.*

*Well, you'd better get working on it.*

*-I suppose.*

I've contemplated several different routes to this editorial. One choice was simply me letting off steam about some recent event. I then thought better of that idea. The next version covered my general observations of the LGBT community in Milwaukee, until it just got too long. Finally, with one overheard comment, I struck upon this one.

*You know, I have a friend who wants to help out the paper.*

*-really? Do they want to put in an ad?*

*Nah, but he wants to write a column.*

*-really.*

I have resolved myself to several realities over the last few months. One, for instance, is how there doesn't seem to be an end in sight to the 3/4 length women's sleeve. Is it so wrong to want a long sleeved blouse? Or how no matter how hard I try to follow my "Time Management for Dummies" book, my short attention span throws me off course. And lastly, I have found that people will never cease to amaze me.

*What happened to that one writer? Is she submitting anything?*

*-no, she says she's too expensive for us.*

*I thought she was all about community.*

*-yeah, well...*

Human behavior is a very strange thing.

It's very complicated, frequently hysterical, and often times disturbing. The brutal hate crime against NY man Michael

Sandy in early October, proves just how horribly demented people can behave towards one another.

Recent news has shown us adults entering schools and killing children, North Korea defying all, and going ahead with nuclear testing, and a young college student delivering sub sandwiches being killed for chump change. No matter how horrible things are, there is always another senseless event right around the corner.

*So, he hadn't yet said hello, and he was in my face lighting a cigarette. I mean, who does that?*

*-I swear, I just don't get people, I really don't.*

So when I heard recently, that our font choice for this paper was too "aggressive and male", I thought, "I have now heard it all." I mean, I can appreciate the fact that there is someone out there who doesn't like the look of the paper. That's okay. But with all the things going on in the world, and certainly all the things we personally face each and every day, we can surely find more important things to be upset about.

Yes, it's true that QLife is no stranger to criticism. The last few months have clearly thrown some surprising moments our way. Let us focus however, on the bright and shining fact that we are still here. We've got some work to do, but we are still here.

*I really liked your paper. It's less scandalous, and more "human."*

*-thank you.*

## Your Vote, Your Voice

By Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard  
Executive Director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation

"If you don't vote, you can't bitch." That's what my son, Matthew, used to say. After he turned 18, one of the first things he did when he moved to a new location was register to vote. He understood that the right to vote was also a privilege, a responsibility and a chance to be heard. When Matthew was beaten to death in 1998, anti-gay hate stole Matthew's right to vote. Today, the Matthew Shepard Foundation and I are asking you to vote with him in mind this November.

In the eight years since Matthew was murdered, I have traveled around the country speaking to millions of people – including over a million college students – about the importance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights issues and hate-crimes legislation. One thing that has struck me again and again is the lack of political involvement within the community. Polls suggest that numbers for voter registration and voter participation within the LGBT community are shockingly low.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation is undertaking an aggressive "Get-Out-the-Vote" campaign this year to bring attention to this issue and to promote an increase in voter participation by LGBT people and allies. But what I really want to ask those in the community who are not registered or who have not voted recently is: what the heck are you thinking?!

At a time when the stakes have never been higher and LGBT issues are – once again – in the forefront of the media and being manipulated to have a potentially

negative impact on our community, this lack of involvement is totally unacceptable. A primarily political tactic utilized throughout the nation by people who oppose LGBT civil rights was tapping into homophobic fears and directly targeting the LGBT community. Legislation and ballot initiatives that will negatively impact the lives of LGBT people and families for generations to come are on many local and state ballots this election cycle. Wake up, people: we are under attack!

We must make sure that the voice of the LGBT and allied community – in all of its diversity – is heard loud and clear. We need to educate ourselves about the issues and the candidates and reach out to our friends and families and get them involved as well. We need to hold each other accountable when it comes to voting – and, of course, we also need to hold those who are elected accountable. If we allow ourselves and each other to remain immobilized by apathy or pessimism, what we are really doing is colluding with those who oppose us. Friends don't let friends not vote. There is an old maxim that goes, "If you're not part of the solution, then you're part of the problem." From my perspective, if you don't vote, you become in your passivity a part of the hate.

So what do you need to do to become part of the solution? There are five tasks that you can do that will make a difference:

- 1.) REGISTER to vote
- 2.) LEARN the issues – find out what candidates want to do for you—and to you
- 3.) PASS IT ON, educate your family, friends and business associates about the issues affecting the LGBT community today and encourage them to use their vote
- 4.) Actually VOTE in the election
- 5.) No matter who is elected, STAY INVOLVED and hold your elected officials accountable.

You can go to our website [www.MatthewShepard.org/Vote](http://www.MatthewShepard.org/Vote) for more information and to PLEDGE to vote this November 7th.

Matthew's wallet always contained his voter registration card. He took his responsibility seriously. Matthew will never vote again. Today, I am asking you to vote for him. Use your voice. Make a difference for this generation and the next.

#### Letter to the Editor:

I'm no bible thumper. I am a complete Christian, who happens to be transgendered, and does not blindly follow the popular preacher of the day. Rather, I study the word and can proudly proclaim according to Christian Practices and doctrine, that the LGBT community does more to advance true Christianity than any other group of people.

Why do we allow these blowhards to bully us?

Make every cent you pay in taxes, fees, fines, etc. promote a positive result from the elected officials. There is nothing biblically or sociably wrong with any LGBT person in the world. Don't forget that. The problems come from war-mongers, hypocrites, and nay-sayers.

Maybe its time to go enmass to your local church and demand to be heard, go to any public appearance of any and all politicians and demand to be heard. Write all news media and demand to be heard.

Its election time-time to highlight the unfairness shown by anyone running for office. Its time they changed their tune.

J.LeVasseur  
Oshkosh, WI

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# Q

## POLITICS

Thomas Mamalakis

**E**lections are upon us, and again, we head to the polls to elect the best candidate, one who represents our beliefs, both political and social. Unfortunately, I believe that my fellow LGBT community has already decided to vote for whichever Democrat runs, without judiciously examining all candidates equally and fairly.

I fear that my community has marginalized our power by blindly voting for the left without the slightest sign of pause. The problem with any voting block is that if they forego appropriate examination of their vote, they then give their elected politician a free pass to govern without accountability.

If one assumes that the African American community would never vote republican, what incentive does the democratic candidate have to campaign for their vote, or worse, keep fighting for those very constituents after the seat is won. The same can be said for the republicans and the Christian right. President Bush wasn't concerned that the Christian right would vote Democrat when running against Senator Kerry three years ago, even though he didn't even attempt to follow up on his campaign promise to push through a constitutional ban

## Gold colored Rainbow

on gay marriage. Much of the Christian right blindly votes for the republican candidate. Consequently, President Bush feels little pressure to push a ban on abortion or gay marriage.

My point is - if a party and/or candidate know they have your vote, without question, you have successfully lost your voice and power. Like the African American population and the Christian right, I fear the gay population has also lost its power.

The solution to this problem is for the gay community to begin looking at both sides of the aisle for representation.

"But the Republicans don't support Gay rights!" I hear again and again. First of all, Republicans and Democrats aren't the only two options. Second, a majority of elected Democrats do not support gay marriage, and third, there are in fact, many conservatives that do support gay rights.

Removing the stain of the Christian coalition, true Conservatism champions smaller government and the individual's right for liberty, including the rights of gay Americans to live openly, with the exact same rights as straight citizens. My favorite example of a conservative politician in support of gay rights was Sen. Barry Goldwater. A (Libertarian) Republican, he believed that the military should allow gay members to serve openly. The last effort on this topic by Democrats was President Bill Clinton's atrocious "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" which was nothing more than a slap to the collective face of enlisted gays. Senator Goldwater despised the growing influence that evangelicals had on the Republican

Party, and he knew that the likes of Gerry Falwell and Pat Robertson would warp the truth and purity behind the conservative goal to preserve individual liberty.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, and some conservative candidates here in Wisconsin support extensive rights for the gay community. If they are not given a chance to be heard, then their democratic opponents will have no reason to champion our cause when elected.

I'm definitely not saying that the LGBT community should head out and vote Republican, nor should my community stay home and not vote at all. What I ask is that we examine each candidate, both conservative and liberal, and send a clear message to these candidates that our voting block is active, growing, and smart.



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## Gay Men's Bath Houses Part 1

Perhaps even before bars could openly call themselves "gay" or openly cater to the gay community, men's "bath houses" (a.k.a. spas or "health clubs") have been popular. And even in today's "sex via internet hookup" environment, men's bath houses continue to thrive. Most of America's larger cities have at least one gay bath house- and Milwaukee is no exception.

For those who have never been in a gay men's bath house, this type of establishment is typically a place for consenting men to find nearly-anonymous sex. Upon checking in, a man will be assigned either a locker or private changing room, and will shed all clothes, spending the remainder of his time at the location clad only in a towel. The typical facility will have showers, a steam room and/or sauna, and usually a hot tub, plus a TV lounge, and perhaps an outdoor patio. There will usually also be workout equipment- however infrequently used. Men will "cruise" each other in the various rooms and facilities, and if so inclined "hook up" with one or more other men- usually in a changing room, sometimes (although discouraged) in a common area. The atmosphere is largely one of anonymity. These businesses are popular with both gay men and bisexual men (especially those who are closeted, and/or traveling to the city); it holds great attraction for men into exhibitionism or voyeurism as well.

For some men, this environment lends

an air of excitement- but also makes the business a source of some controversy in both the "straight" and LGBT community. The open availability and practice of sexual activities is perhaps easily attacked. But on the other hand, it can be legitimately argued that these types of businesses provide a controlled and private environment for activity that might otherwise take place in a public place: a park, public restroom, alley, or cars. And as some more liberal countries (such as the Netherlands) have found, such controlled outlets for sexual activities (including legalized prostitution) also are proven to reduce the health risk because of their controlled and regulated nature. But for some reason the U.S. continues to be mired in religious fervor more often than reasoned tolerance: whatever happened to the concept of "live and let live" and acceptance of diversity (as long as it doesn't hurt others) is a mystery.

The first men's bath house documented in Milwaukee is the Finlandia Health Spa (a.k.a. Le Club Finlandia), located at 707 E. Knapp St. It advertised throughout the publication of the GPU News (1971-1981) as a typical gay bath house, or spa, advertising "Roman pool, private saunas, Swedish massage." There was also a gay men's bath house in Kenosha in the early-mid 1970's: the Kenosha Steam Baths (on 60th St.) was open from the early 1970s until about 1976.

With the rise of gay bars, more health



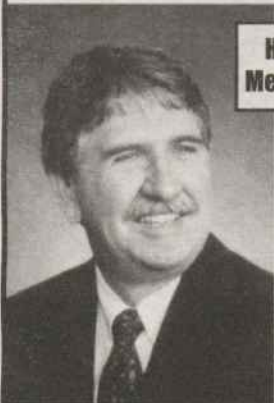
### HISTORY

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

clubs also opened. In 1974 two men's spas opened in Milwaukee. The Club Bath Milwaukee, a local affiliate of the then-popular national Club Bath chain, opened, in the alley behind 704 W. Wisconsin Ave. (the entrance almost directly facing the Fire Dept. administration building). And in the same year, the Club Health Spa opened at 225 E. St. Paul, possibly owned by the same people as the River Queen (the two businesses advertised together).

In the next issue, we'll explore the later years of gay men's "health clubs" in Milwaukee—from the late 1970s on. In the meantime, you can find out more about Milwaukee's gay bath houses, including samples of advertising and news articles from the 1970s and 1980s, at [www.mkelgbthist.org/business/health-clubs.htm](http://www.mkelgbthist.org/business/health-clubs.htm). As always, we welcome input if you have more information on any of the above businesses, or anything about Milwaukee and Wisconsin's gay and lesbian history.

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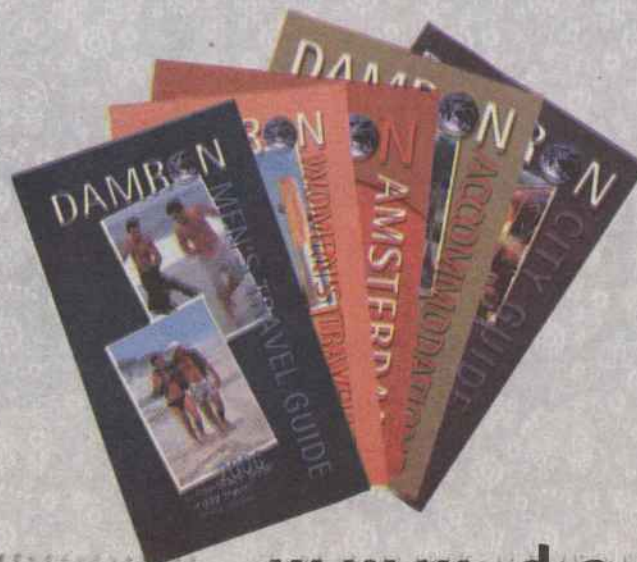


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## Respecting Our Diversity

It's no surprise to any member of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Communities that we are a diverse bunch of people with different identities, needs, and perspectives on the goals of what is commonly referred to as the "LGBT community" or "LGBT movement."

It also should be no surprise that we have things in common and share some of the same goals and oppressions. So why is it that within our movement it is so hard for some to respect and understand the differences between us and to work to unite on issues of common ground? The last issue of Q Life was a mixture of things that rally us to unity and things that continue the ongoing process of dividing us from each other by building walls. Specifically, I am referring to Michel Munson's article featuring his negative perspectives of not only a Feminist Music Festival, (Michigan Women's Music Festival) but of a gender identity group – female born females.

I am hurt and saddened by the fact that despite all the talk of diversity and respect within our community, people like me – female born females – seem to receive less of it than most. Especially when we assert our right to define ourselves for ourselves and to

gather together under the broad and diverse category of shared experience that shapes our gender and social identity as female born females in this Patriarchal society. If we are respecting all people, why is it so hard to extend this respect to MWMF and to the equally valid identity category of female born female?

Just as a local group has the right to define its membership as FTMs and their significant others only, so does an annual private gathering for female born females have the same right to declare and claim identity and space.

Those who have never been to MWMF because they are not female born females or do not agree with it should not blindly dismiss it. There are many of us, Michigan loving females, working right next to you on issues that matter to us all as a community group of L's, G's, B's and T's, as a movement of all people. And there are many transpeople who get this and who support and respect both MWMF and the rights of female born females to our identity, our experiences, and our space.

To quote Lisa Vogel, one of the founding mothers of Michigan, "there is nothing transphobic with choosing to spend one week

with womyn who were born as, and have lived their lives as, womyn. It is a powerful, uncommon experience that womyn enjoy during this one week of living in the company of other womyn-born womyn. Within the rich diversity now represented by the broader queer community, we believe there is room for all affinity groups to enjoy separate, self-determined, supportive space if they choose. We believe that womyn-born womyn have a right to gather separately from the greater womyn's community. We refuse to be forced into false dichotomies that equate being pro-womyn-born womyn space with being anti-trans; indeed, many of the womyn essential to the Michigan Festival are leaders and supporters of trans-solidarity work.

The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival respects the transsexual community as integral members of the greater queer community. We call upon the transsexual community in turn to respect and support womyn-born womyn space and to recognize that a need for a separate womyn-born womyn space does not stand at odds with recognizing transwomen as part of the larger diversity of the womyn's community."

MWMF is a place that celebrates and empowers female born females of all shapes,

# Q

## WOMEN

Jennifer Curtis has been an active member of the Milwaukee Lesbian community since 2002. She is also involved in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Visioning Project, a local group that is working to create unified and respectful collaborations between all members of our diverse community. She lives with her wife, cat and dog and is currently pursuing her PhD in Urban Studies at UWM

sizes, races, ethnicities, nationalities and beliefs. Female born females gather together for a week to define ourselves for ourselves and witness what those of us born female in this society can do as individuals and as an identity group once we are freed, if only for a week, from the oppressive power dynamic of the Patriarchy. At MWMF it goes without saying that *all female born females* –butch, femme, Lesbian, straight and everything in between are honored and welcome as part of the diversity that is being born, socialized and living your life as a female

# Q



## 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.

This past summer, I was fortunate enough to have a friend that was interning with Fair Wisconsin. Thanks to his persistent prodding, I not only became a regular volunteer, but also came to fully understand the marriage amendment itself, and its potential effects.

Before any canvassing session, the coordinators prep volunteers with how to handle any type of reaction, obstinate or otherwise. We were instructed to not engage in any sort of argument, and ignore any sort of verbal attack with a polite "Thank you," and dismissal.

Armed with all necessary information, proper responses, and pamphlets to hand out, I was ready to tackle door-to-door canvassing.

**The number of people blindly voting 'yes' is enough to make anybody's stomach turn.**

"Hello, Mr. Smith. My name is Harry Hanson, and I'm a volunteer with Fair Wisconsin. We're walking around your neighborhood today to talk to people about the marriage amendment that will be voted on this November, and how we can defeat it. Are you familiar with the proposed amendment?"

As I began knocking on people's doors, there was one simple question that wouldn't leave my head: "Why is anyone voting yes? What are their reasons? Their valid points?"

## Ignorance is Bliss - like Dirt is Cake

Despite Fair Wisconsin's cautions against engaging in any sort of verbal debate, I had mentally prepared myself to do so. Little did I know that I had overestimated the opposition.

I soon realized that a staggeringly high percentage of those that identified as *in favor* of the amendment, hadn't even heard of it before I read it to them, or they had, but usually not in its exact words. The number of people blindly voting 'yes' is enough to make anybody's stomach turn. Due to this abundance of ignorance, I found no chances for debate, and few 'yes' voters that were able to offer any sort of explanation at all.

The real horror, however, was yet to come. It was not those without the facts that completely boggled my mind, but rather the people who *did* try to justify their 'yes' votes. Vindications ranged from downright absurd to frustratingly illogical, but they were all equally misinformed.

Aside from the multitude of age-old religion based excuses, one of the most common rebuttals was, "Marriage should only be between one man and one woman."

When I kindly explained that gay marriage is *already* illegal in Wisconsin, and that is one of the things this amendment *wouldn't* change, I would get a huffy "I don't care," doors closed in my face, or just a confused stare.

Another frequent response was that, "Gay couples shouldn't be recognized because they would abuse health care and tax benefits." Oh yes, of course. Because the only reason I'm gay is to save a little money here and there. It's all a big conspiracy. Few took the time to consider that unmarried heterosexual couples would receive these benefits as well. When it was brought up, there were more perplexed faces and closed doors. One St. Francis man, without realizing his contradictory implications, shouted, "Well then everyone should just *get* married!"

as he slammed his door in my face.

After speaking to a woman who claimed that "If they were able to get married, there would be no more children and the humans would die out" and refused to be convinced otherwise, I realized that many people would much rather bask in their false conceptions than be enlightened. They hold the subconscious belief that considering any other opinion outside of their own preconceived notions is both bad and scary.

But more importantly, I found the answer to my original question: There *isn't* any reason to vote yes.

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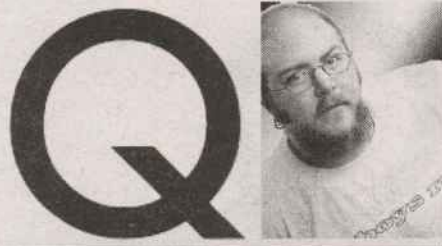
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**TRANSGENDER**

Michael Munson (mmunson@queerlifeneews.com) is an emotionally intense, transgressively gendered, passionate social agitator who strives for inclusion and harmony by focusing on our human similarities and strengths. He is lovingly committed to his partner and their 10-year-old son.

Fourteen years ago, my cousin Erik committed suicide just days before Thanksgiving. My partner and I drove over a dozen hours through an early winter storm to reach Erik's parents home in Iowa.

Throughout that profoundly painful weekend, I was awed by the scores of neighbors who quietly dropped by food, cards, and other practical comforts. They didn't stay long, perhaps out of respect of our family's grief, yet the message of their kindness was long-lasting and deeply felt.

I couldn't understand at the time and fourteen years later have yet to grasp the full implication, of how the simple act of bringing food could be so utterly healing and loving.

A few weeks ago, Charles Carl Roberts IV entered an Amish school and shot ten girls before killing himself. The horror of the school shootings resonates throughout the country - anxious parents, scared kids, nervous teachers, concerned lawmakers, overworked clergy, and grief-stricken

# Visible Kindness

communities.

In comparison to other communities faced with similar violence, the Amish community responded differently to the horror at their children's school. The Amish people brought food and forgiveness to Mr. Roberts' family.

Like so many of us, with or without children, the violence that abounds throughout our country (and the world) can feel overwhelming. Most of us want the violence to stop, but often feel helpless about what we can do, or we believe that we couldn't possibly make any difference about this devastating social problem.

The Amish live in ways that may be useful to take note of. Non-violent, community-centered, family-focused, forgiveness-granting communities may offer more than just hope for healing a wounded community; they may be the key to a radical change in how people can interact with each other peacefully and with integrity.

Amish men don't grow mustaches because they were worn by European soldiers, symbolizing aggression, violence and war.

For the first time in over seven years, I shaved off my mustache in solidarity with the non-violent Amish people, whose lives were changed at the hands of someone who repeated the pattern of violence.

I needed to visibly display my own pacifism by creating a pattern of facial hair similar to that of people who have a deep commitment to peace. While few people

have noticed the outward change, the staff at my regular coffee shop asked me why I shaved. My stated action was met with "cool" and "wow."

While it is not "cool" that the cycle of violence is so strong in our world that people aggressively (and fatally) lash out -- because they are so damaged or have no other skills that would help them heal from their own personal devastation -- it is "cool" to be able to do something that reframes violence and focuses on peace.

As we pass through November, I am reminded again of my cousin's suicide and the kindness of strangers. I am also reminded of all those who have died as a result of anti-trans violence, those honored and remembered on November 20 at the Remembering Our Dead rallies and marches around the world.

As my fingertips pass over my upper lip, the softness reminds me of my values and of the cosmic pain embodied in each of us. The dissonance of the smoothness with the harsh reality that any of us, at any moment, might not be able to contain our emotions, may have our hurts from 20 years ago force their way into our current lives, is almost too bitter to bear. Yet, I bite into the honeycrisp apple my parents brought from Door County, and I am reminded of the healing sweetness of love.

**QTransgender columnist, Michael Munson, responds:**

Ms. Curtis,

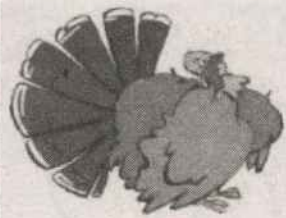
I am sorry you were so deeply offended by my October 2006, Q Transgender article, "A Litmus Test for Womanhood" about the Michigan Women Music Festival's continued exclusion of transwomen.

So often we hear the "side" of the dominant group in political issues that impact our community, and not from the "side" who is being oppressed. In this case, I was merely stressing a very crucial issue for many trans people, by using the recent Michigan controversy, as one example of how transgender people can easily be dismissed and excluded from spaces that are defined by female-dominant, non-trans culture and leadership.

I respect individuals' identities and in no way wish to take their power from them when I challenge the systemic issues of structures or organizations who create discriminatory/exclusionary policies. In highlighting disparities in systems, I am not presuming anyone is transphobic or bigoted, nor am I taking away their ability to define their identity as they choose. (Please note, though, that you chose (in a previous letter) to define my identity as a "transman" which is not at all an identity that I claim.)

We are a diverse community with different, sometimes conflicting, opinions. Thank you for sharing yours.

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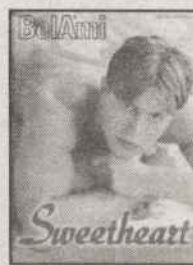
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# You're My Obsession

Campy, glossy, trashy! The subset of queer zines devoted to fandom and celebrities bring joy and amusement. If you tire of today's hyphenated heterosexual megastars and their attempts to adopt an entire generation of orphaned children in developing countries, this month's selection from the Archive will bring back a fresh perspective on why we as a culture obsess over the ridiculous and often phony details of the people we see on TV and in the movies.

The tabloid-size for the premiere issue of *Sexy* [Issue 1, 1992, 32 pages] is fitting. It falls somewhere between queer LA indie hipsters and a new form of Hollywood tabloid, exploring the visibly hidden world of queers in film and television. The editors are successful at pulling together disparate iconography like Paul Lynde and Tori Spelling and making it into a critique of who can and can't be out in the Industry. The "fagsploitation" theme on the cover pops up in interesting ways throughout the issue.

In a situation we see less and less of these days, namely Industry people who are told "not to talk to gay publications"

lest it besmirch their reputation, *Sexy* interviews an unnamed film director for a long look into the seedy underbelly of closeted Hollywood. Yet the cover entices us to hope for the future. Who knew that good old wife-swapping Charley Weaver from the '60s and '70s era Hollywood Squares would produce a hottie transgendered grandchild named Alexis Arquette? Alexis is certainly out and "talking" to gay publications, and easily gets work in the Industry. Cynically, though, the editors point out Arquette is no stranger to fagsploitation, suggesting there is yet another level for those who are out and get a lot of parts. The review section that features a biting six-word review of Gregg Araki's "The Living End" and the photo set of queer action heroes are notable standouts.

Chances are you have at least one if not a few queer friends who are obsessed about one celebrity or another. If not, you could live vicariously through the experiences compiled in the tome *Psycho #1 Fan!!!* [Issue 1, 1992, 28 pages]. This zine is the follow up to *Puberty Strike*, which I've never had the opportunity to

read so I'm not sure if it would shed light on the direction this zine goes. With nods to celebrities past and present, Editor Seth Bogart's taste in celebrities seemingly knows no bounds. It reads like a deeply disturbed issue of "Tiger Beat" or any number of those teen-themed mags from the 1970s, yet there is much more substance to take away from reading this content. Gary Coleman graces the cover and a very young Donny Osmond is the centerfold pin-up. But in true queer punk fashion, the pin-up page is a pastiche of the clichés associated with the Osmond phenomenon (remember the line of "Sweet Dreams" Donny pillows?!?). Most of the content in the zine is similar in nature, thus negating the glossy cover and pink spot color that would normally be associated with a high caliber publication. Seth also seems to have a soft spot for his



## 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.

contemporaries as well, especially if they are tough punk rock women, as seen in his profile of Anita, a woman from New Mexico he met on tour, or Janelle, who he interviews because he wants to know why she is "the trashiest girl in the U.S.A."

Special thanks to Yves LaPierre at the UW Milwaukee LGBT Resource Center for lending us *Sexy* and other zines in their collection for inclusion in the Archive. Please visit the Queer Zine Archive Project on-line at qzap.org.

## Hate Crime results in NY Man's Death

**New York** - On Sunday, October 8th, 28 year old Brooklyn, NY man Michael Sandy went online. He struck up a conversation in a popular gay chat room with a man he thought interesting enough to meet. His computer hook up turned out to be two gay men looking for an easy mark-a gay man who they could meet, and rob. Sandy happened to accept the invitation, and agreed to hook up at Plum Beach - a popular cruising spot in Brooklyn. Witnesses have told police that when Sandy arrived at the parking lot, they saw two young white men approach the car, grab at him, and begin beating him. Sandy bolted from his car and ran to the Belt Parkway. They caught up with him just as he ran onto the roadway, and watched as he was struck by an oncoming vehicle, dragged a short distance, and left on the side of the road with massive injuries as the driver sped away.

Instead of helping him, the attackers were seen dragging Sandy's body away from oncoming traffic, so they could rifle through his pockets one more time before fleeing.

Thankfully, police were able to track them down through computer printouts, and chat room conversations saved on Sandy's computer.

John Fox, 19; Ilya Shurov, 20, and Gary Timmins, 16 were charged with assault and robbery as hate crimes against Sandy. A fourth man accused of being an accomplice reportedly led investigators to the other three. The driver of the vehicle is urged to come forward.

Michael Sandy was an African American man. The attackers are white. Investigators are also considering the possibility that this was also a racial attack.

"It is critical that all jurisdictions treat these crimes seriously and report hate crimes statistics to the FBI and the public" says Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "We need to ensure the safety and protection of every single American regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity."

New York City Police have said that the charges would now be upgraded to include murder.

On October 13th, Michael Sandy passed away from his numerous injuries.

He had been in a coma since the incident on, and passed away a day after his family made the painful decision to remove him from the life support system.

It was also the day after his 29th birthday.

## Fair Wisconsin Dance sponsored by the Cream City Squares, hosted at Mona's, Oct 11.



The event was organized by Shari Strongheart of the Cream City Squares, pictured here with silent auction items. On the right, Mr. Don Dilges was the announcer for the evening.



Yeewah! Square dancers take off and get down at Mona's.

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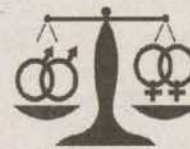
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## Community

## Calendar

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1**

**Sexpo.** Exploring Sex and Sexuality series. What you've always wanted to know, but never dared to ask about sex. Sign language provided. UWM Union Fireside Lounge, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free. 414-229-4116.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 4**

**Dazzle in Dairyland.** Forty-four cows will be sold at the live auction. The Friends of UW Hospitals and Clinics and the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board host the auction. An additional 40 cows will be offered through an Internet auction beginning at midnight on November 11. Proceeds from the sale of each cow will help build the new American Family Children's hospital and benefit other local charities. Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison. 6 p.m. wisconsin.cowparade.com.

**Activism/ Remembering our Dead.** FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression). A social support group open to all people interested in Female to Male (FTM+) and Significant Others, Family, Friends, and Allies (SOFFAs) issues. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 6-9:30 p.m. 414-278-6031. www.forge-forward.org.

**There's no Place Like Home.** You are invited to the hippest charity event featuring fabulous art and a runway show unlike any other. Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, holiday shopping, and voice auction will also take place. Benefit for The Grace Foundation. Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 790 N Van Buren St., Milwaukee. 6 p.m. www.givinggrace.org.

**SUNDAY, NOV. 5**

**Every Girl Needs a Little Support Now and Then.** A fundraiser for a Milwaukee local battling breast cancer with many auctions one of donated art made from bras. What better way to make this fight so much more fun? O'Brien's, 4928 Vliet St., Milwaukee. 3 p.m. \$5. 414-453-1890. Ask for Lori.

**TUESDAY, NOV. 7**

**Generation Q.** This group aims to be fun while being open and informative, without being intimidating. So, if you're queer, or questioning, or both, and you want to talk, bring yourself down. This is a social group for 18-24 year olds. OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison. 7 p.m. 608-255-8582. www.outreachinc.com. Repeats November 21.

**THURSDAY, NOV. 9**

**Sexual Violence Therapeutic Techniques.** Multiple bodywork approaches: minimizing traumatic re-experiencing with Mark Robers and Lynne Austin. Milwaukee LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St. 7-9:30 p.m. www.forge-forward.org.

**Danceworks Audition.** Intensive study scholarships for 5 dedicated intermediate to advanced dancers ages 16 through adult who have the desire to improve their technical skills, range, and expression through concentrated dance training and faculty feedback. Bring a resume if you have one. Come dressed appropriately for ballet and modern. Danceworks, 1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 6:45 p.m. 414-277-8480. www.danceworks1661.org.

**SATURDAY, NOV. 11**

**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.

**TUESDAY, NOV 14**

**The Lesbian Reading Group.** Gerri Hill's latest romance "Behind the Pine Curtain," will be discussed. Outwardsbooks, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089. www.outwardsbooks.com.

**Sexpo. Exploring Sex and Sexuality series.** Learn what the Experts know: how to have hot, safer sex. Sign language provided. UWM Union Fireside Lounge, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Free. 414-229-4116.

**FRIDAY, NOV. 17**

**Spiritual Retreat.** A spiritual retreat for LGBT persons working a Twelve-Step Program. This retreat will focus on steps three, seven and eleven. A community meal on Saturday is part of cost. The retreat center has a great kitchen for food preparation and storage for other meals and snacks. The Old Monastery Inn is open for lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Entire weekend cost is \$65 per person for a double room or \$90 per person for a single room. Please RSVP or direct questions and concerns to Raymond K-K 414-617-1152. greggray@wi.rr.co Retreat begins on evening of Friday, November 17 (check in after 5:30pm--Welcome Session at 7:30pm) through early afternoon on Sunday, November 19th at Holy Hill Retreat Center in Hubertus, Wisconsin (40 minutes from Milwaukee).

**SATURDAY, NOV. 18**

**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, NOV. 19**

**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.

**MONDAY, NOV. 20**

**Outwards Book Club.** Tom Spanbauer's beguiling new novel "Now Is The Hour," will be discussed. Outwardsbooks, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089. www.outwardsbooks.com.

**Transgender Day of Remembrance.** Art exhibit in the UWM Union Art Gallery, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. noon-5:30 p.m. Candlelight vigil, 5:30-6:30 p.m., on the front lawns of UCM and the Corner House followed by a reception and discussion, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Cornerhouse, 3074 N. Maryland Ave., Milwaukee. 414-223-3220

**SATURDAY, NOV. 25**

**Rainbow Community Holiday Potluck.** In the spirit of the holiday, please join us at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire St., 5:30pm, November 25. Bring a side dish to pass. Contact Mo at 414-271-2656, Ext. 114 for more information. Sponsored by Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Project Q, Black & White Men Together, MCC, Lesbian Alliance, SAGE, PFLAG.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 1**

World Aids Day

**SATURDAY, DEC. 2**

**Interactive Discussion.** FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression). A social support group open to all people interested in Female to Male (FTM+) and Significant Others, Family, Friends, and Allies (SOFFAs) issues. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 6-9:30 p.m. 414-278-6031. www.forge-forward.org.

**SUNDAY, DEC. 3**

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

**TUESDAY, DEC. 5**

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

Send December submissions to qlifelistings@yahoo.com before November 22.

**Outwards Books**

## Top 5 Picks for November

## New &amp; Noteworthy Non-Fiction Releases Exclusive to Q Life.

**FOR THE BOYS:**

1. **"Here's What We'll Say,"** Reichen Lehmkuhl-Reichen Lehmkuhl was playing the role of his life while in the Air Force. Not wanting to face a court martial for being gay, he was forced to live in a world where he had to watch everything he did and said for fear of being outed; and in another world where he was free to be himself.

2. **"The Confession,"** James McGreevey In August 2004, New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey made history when he stepped before microphones, declared "My truth is that I am a gay American." Now, for the first time, McGreevey tells the full story of his political rise and fall, in a book that blends intrigue and revelation

3. **"The History of Swimming,"** Kim Powers Powers details his frantic search for his twin brother Tim who disappears from Manhattan one weekend while in his late 20s. He falls in with two eccentric traveling companions who guide him on the last leg of his quest, driving through the night to the one final place where Tim might be.

4. **"Mama's Boy, Preacher's Son,"** Kevin Jennings Jennings's poignant, razor-sharp memoir describes growing up in poverty in the South, the death of his fundamentalist preacher father when he was eight, and his discovery a world of education and a world where it was possible to live openly as a gay man.

5. **"Religion Gone Bad,"** Mel White From Mel White, the bestselling author of "Stranger at the Gate" and former ghostwriter for Jerry Falwell comes an insider's exposé of the Christian Right's agenda -- and a playbook in how to resist it.

**FOR THE GIRLS:**

1. **"Different Daughters,"** Marcia M. Gallo Marcia Gallo offers a powerful history of the "Daughters of Bilitis," the pioneering lesbian organization committed to lesbian visibility and empowerment which during the 1950s dared to challenge the decade's bitter homophobic silence.

2. **"The New Essential Guide to Lesbian Conception,"** Stephanie Brill Brill covers the latest information in insemination and fertility technology and presents the most up-to-date information on developments in all areas of conception and pregnancy. The wealth of information included in this indispensable volume makes this the definitive resource on childbirth for the new American family.

3. **"James Tiptree, Jr.:** The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon," Julie Phillips Tiptree burst onto the science fiction scene in the 1970s with a series of hard-edged, provocative short stories. Then the cover was blown: the author was actually a 61-year-old woman named Alice Sheldon--world traveler, debutante, CIA agent, and experimental psychologist.

4. **"Kate: The Woman Who Was Hepburn,"** William J. Mann The first major Katharine Hepburn biography reveals the smart and complicated woman behind the image. Mann focuses on the longstanding rumors about Hepburn's lesbianism suggesting that the notoriously tomboyish actress lived her life as a man with little empathy for women's issues.

5. **"Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic,"** Allison Bechdel A powerful graphic novel-memoir, "Fun Home" documents Bechdel's childhood experiences and coming-of-age as a woman and lesbian. At its center lies her heartbreaking relationship with her distant father, which produces emotionally complex and poignant reflections.



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# True Blue

Color is the single most powerful element in decorating. It has the ability to transform surroundings, and elicit emotional responses.

This spring a friend and I were walking through some fields in Cedarburg when we spotted a bluebird. I haven't seen a bluebird in years. It's shade, a most startling blue -the bluebird of happiness.

Blue is an ascending color; it can lift our spirits. Because we are surrounded by so much blue in nature, it can be considered a relaxing color, one which provides us with a sense of tranquility and harmony.

Some shades of blue, however, can make us uncomfortable and evoke feelings of sorrow and gloom: "the blues."

Blue pigment is derived from three main sources: cobalt, ultramarine and Prussian. The very first blues were created from the mineral lapis lazuli. Lapis was expensive and rare, so blues were used mainly in religious art. Think of the radiant blues of the Madonna's robes in early Renaissance paintings and altar pieces.

Blue became more available when dyes were extracted from plants such as indigo and aniline.

Blues range from cool and pale to hot and vibrant-the cool blues of Turner landscapes to the hot blues of Matisse's jazz series. There are also the misty lavenders of Monet's water lilies and Dufy's combination of both warm and cool blues in his French Riviera paintings.

Milwaukee has its own love/hate

relationship with blue. Remember the blue shirt proposal for the airport? Rather than being offended that its work shirt image identified us as a blue collar community, I saw it as blue oxford cloth-a white collar shirt representing all classes of workers.

The Federal Building on Wisconsin Avenue is a shade of cobalt blue that Milwaukeeans tend to love or hate. My mother referred to it as the Milk of Mag building. Someone else called it the "crown jewel of downtown-a glittering sapphire."

Classically trained interior decorators were once taught that a north facing room should never be painted blue. But, like most conventions, that no longer applies.

The right shade of blue looks great anywhere so long as it pleases the eye of the beholder.

Blue was once the most popular color for kitchens, originally because it was thought to keep flies away, but more likely since so many tiles and ceramics are blue and white. Ironically, color researchers tell us that blue decreases the appetite.

Different shades of blue have ethnic and national associations-French blue, a gray-blue shade that is often seen in French provincial furniture or the strong blues that are in the Greek and Israeli (flags) and on the doors and shutters of many Mediterranean countries. In addition there are the blue and white of Japanese, Chinese, English and Dutch porcelains and pottery, the lovely dusty blues in Swedish furniture and interiors, and the deep jewel tone blues



## 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.

in oriental rugs.

In my own house we have a fair amount of blue, partly due to the fact that my husband is colorblind and blue is the one color that he can see, and also because we like it.

Feng shui, the ancient Chinese theory of design and placement suggests that shades of blue should be used in areas where you meditate or spend time in thought. The blue represents peace and contemplation.

What is true blue? The range is from blue with lots of red in it that is nearly purple to blue with lots of green and is almost turquoise- robin's egg, denim, periwinkle, cornflower, ice, smoke, wedgewood, azure, etc.

True blue is what's for you; the shade that looks great on you; the one you love to look at and the one that makes you feel good.

That's true blue.

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

### In the Art Gallery:

#### Paul Roberts – Masculine Photographic Portraiture:

The Guy(s) Next Door 1974-2006  
 Show runs through November 26  
 Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm  
 And by appointment

### On the Stage:

Monday, November 13 & Tuesday, November 14, 7-10pm.

**Auditions** for the upcoming Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Theatre production of Del Shores' Southern Baptist Sissies. Male and female cast members are required.

The play, directed by Mark Buchanan, takes the audience into the lives of four young men trying to come to terms with their sexuality and identity under the shadow of a small Texas Baptist church.

Performances run Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, late January through mid-February 2007. Dates to be announced. Please call for information 414-383-3727

### MGAC-fest November 11-20

A series of special fund raising benefits for the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Refreshments will be served at all events.

### Saturday, November 11 Cabaret Night

Hear the Latin torchy sound of **Rhythm & Torch** with Yolanda Roth, vocals; Steve Polifka, keyboard; and with featured guests Corky Morgan and Kimberly McLaren- a benefit for Women's Voices Milwaukee with a preview performance for their upcoming December holiday concert.

Also presenting Scott Malcom, vocals and keyboard  
 Tickets \$15

### Friday, November 17, 8-10pm

**Art of Edge:** a special night to celebrate the Edge:Leather, latex, fetish wear and uniform gear. Let our photographer take your picture for posterity!  
 Suggested donation \$5

### Saturday, November 18, 7-10pm

ProudCrowd Reception

### Sunday, November 19, 4pm-7pm

Hafla in time of Thanks

**Belly Dance Extravaganza** – professional, amateur, instructors and their students perform Egyptian cabaret and folklore style Middle Eastern Dance

Tickets \$10

### Monday, November 20, 7-9pm

#### Cornerstone Theatre New Playwrights Reading Series Part II

The Cornerstone Theatre Reading Series will feature an evening of short plays by Milwaukee playwrights. This is a great chance to see and hear the new work by exciting voices. Brief audience talkbacks occur after each play.

\$5 donation

#### Classes:

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

Watch for our NEW and IMPROVED website.

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



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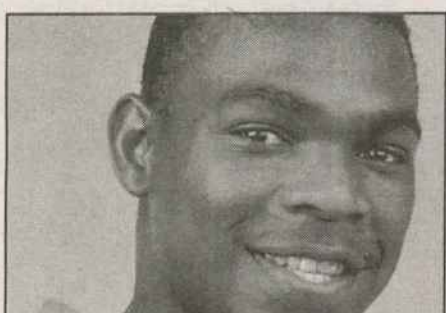


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# "Enchanted Evenings" in the Theater

In case you haven't noticed; the "Enchanted Evenings" are getting darker, and much colder. Just several weeks ago, we were still celebrating some of our popular Milwaukee festivals.

Now this is the time when many people rent a DVD, and stay home in the evening. Why be a couch potato? There is so much going on around our town; and many theater companies are starting their exciting Holiday seasons.

One of the most "Enchanting Evenings"

will be the Skylight Opera Theatre production of SOUTH PACIFIC. Watch for talented Paul Helm in the production company. Paul has been doing a lot around our town, and recently played the lead in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS this summer in Platteville, Wisconsin. The multi-talented Ray Jivoff is also someone to watch for in this upcoming production.

Linda Steiber will appear in the In Tandem production of A CUDAHY CAROLER CHRISTMAS; which will play the Vogel Hall this season. She was last seen at Sunset Playhouse in ALL IN THE TIMING. Both Linda and Paul starred in the successful RSVP Production of JUDY five years ago. The Fifth season of RSVP opens with a sex farce NOT NOW, DARLING at the Astor Theatre off Brady Street. The cast includes Kelly Simon, Earl Scharnik, Marcee Sturino, Alan Stevenson, Anne Miller, plus your favorite Cynthia L. Paplaczky. Since I am dedicating this show to the late John Bohan (Broadway Baby director); I have decided to return to the stage in the role he gave me when I first moved to Milwaukee.

### Many Top Notch Shows Coming Up

The busy Dramatist Theatre will present THIRD AND OAK. The Milwaukee Chamber Theater brings us DICKENS IN AMERICA. The Next Act theatre opens MERCY OF A STORM. Rounding out November will be the Boulevard Ensemble production GIVE 'EM HELL, HARRY.

Two shows which really sound exciting are that bizarre classic chiller CLOCKWORK ORANGE (the musical version); being presented at Off The Wall Theatre; and also the beautiful Deborah Staples in the Milwaukee Repertory theater comedy BORN YESTERDAY.

Rounding out the month the Florentine Opera production of DON GIOVANNI, and also the Ko-Thi Dance Company performing HARVEST 2006.

The young at heart should catch the delightful return of the First Stage Children's Theater show A CHRISTMAS STORY.

### Show Business Buzz around Town

Chris Wszalek recently directed the music for THE FULL MONTY. He will next be seen at the piano for THE CHRISTMAS SCHOONER at Shorewood Players. Then this busy artist will play for HOLIDAY PUNCH at Off The Wall Theatre.

Mark Bucher is having an extremely successful season with his Boulevard Ensemble company. He still keeps healthy and fit by walking all over town - usually with lots of theater flyers to hand out.

There will be several new bars opening, and I will tell you more about them next month. It is always great to support our bars, with a visit after the theater. I recently went to the new M's on 2nd Street. It was very crowded, and the new space is really exciting. I wish M's the best! Check it out!!!

In case you don't read the NY Times,



## 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.

you will be happy to know that A CHORUS LINE has returned to Broadway. This "Singular Sensation" show had closed 16 years ago.

### Last October's Trivia Answer

In CHORUS LINE the song "Dance Ten-Looks Three" is all about Tits and Ass?

### This Month's Trivia Question

Yes, Dear Ruthie has appeared in at least four Charles Busch plays in Milwaukee.

"Some Enchanted Evening you may see a stranger"-my Aunt Blanche drunk on a bar stool.

## Town Hall Meeting

### The role of "T" in LGBT

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Share best practices  
Discuss next steps

November 30, 2006

7:00-9:00pm  
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First Friday of Every Month @ 10 PM  
Featuring DJ John Murges  
& Other Regional & Local Guest DJs  
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# Queer Saints

The first day of November is special one in the Christian tradition: All Saints Day. Many churches celebrate and remember special men and women on this day or the following Sunday. We might wonder, "Who are our queer saints?"

Within Christianity there is a belief that all people are called to manifest the divine in how we live. In some Christian churches all of the members are referred to as "the saints." This reflects the teaching of Jesus, who told his disciples, "Be holy as God is holy, and be pure as God is pure."

Christianity also recognizes that some people have more completely lived a sanctified life, that is, a life that demonstrates the qualities of God. Paul, in the Letter to the Hebrews, said, "We are surrounded by a great cloud of witness." Those witnesses were the faithful people who uniquely expressed something about God in how they lived their lives.

The great Catholic theologian Karl Rahner once added that saints are important to Christianity because they "are creators of a new style of Christianity." Saints are often the ones who show us new ways to be Christian or who live out a new interpretation of scripture.

Christianity is not alone in celebrating some women and men as saints. The Jewish rebbe, the Islamic Sufi master, the Buddhist bodhisattva are all examples of venerated people. Every religious tradition lifts up particular men and women because they lived the truth of God and established new ways of being religious.

When I think of queer saints I think of people from the ancient history of the Christian tradition who seem very saintly and very queer. One of my favorites is "St. Maria called Marinus."

Maria lived in the fifth century in Egypt during a time when opportunities for women in Christianity were severely limited. Maria decided to dress as a man and to enter into a



## 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.

monastery under the name Marinus. One day Marinus took food to monks living outside the monastery in remote huts. He stayed over night in a tavern. That very night a group of Roman soldiers also stayed in the tavern and one of them had sex with the inn keeper's daughter. When she became pregnant she told her father that it was Marinus who impregnated her.

The inn keeper took the baby to the monastery and confronted Marinus and the abbot. The abbot gave Marinus the baby and kicked him out of the monastery. Marinus raised the baby outside the gates of the monastery, continuing to pray everyday as if he was still a monk and begged for food.

After many years Marinus died. In an act of kindness the abbot brought Marinus' body into the monastery for burial. As they prepared the body they discovered that Marinus was Maria. In the original text of the story it says the monks started shrieking like women at a funeral.

Maria/Marinus showed the monks of the monastery and the people of the region that women could lead lives of amazing faithfulness and holiness. Her life opened up new possibilities for women. For me, Maria/Marinus' life sounds like the daring and bold story of a transgendered saint who crossed the hard lines of gendered boundaries to be the person he was called to be. It is saints like St. Maria called Marinus that inspire me to be courageous and bold in living my own life of faith.

# Incidents and Accidents



## FILM

By: Dewey 'Ox' Oxberger

I admit that I have yet to see some of the most highlighted films of the fall, including *Flags of our Fathers*, *Last King of Scotland*, *The Queen*, and *Little Children*.

But of those that I have seen, and enjoyed, I feel that some unfortunately didn't hit their target. *The Departed*, with talented acting (Jack Nicholson, Mark Wahlberg, Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon), with an exceptional script, with perfect direction by Martin Scorsese, still failed as the end unraveled with over the top circumstance that prolonged the movie in an attempt to keep us closer and closer to falling off our seat in incredible suspense. *The Prestige*, another high hope for me, still made my top ten even though it introduces a fantastical element at the very end when everything seemed to be perfectly plausible throughout the whole film. I am infatuated with Christopher Nolan's movies (*Memento*, *Batman Begins*), and *The Prestige*, though just as superb, failed to close out the film.

On the other hand, *The Science of Sleep* was a beautiful, charming, visual treat that anyone with the slightest bit of smile in their soul can appreciate. Gael Garcia Bernal has proven,

yet again, that he is one of my generations top international forces in acting, and Charlotte Gainsbourg, daughter of a famous composer and actress, has also showed us that her performance in *21 grams* was not just a one time spectacle.

I am hopeful that the *Shortbus*, a film by John Cameron Mitchell, will live up to his previous film *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. Mitchell auditioned no name actors and spent the last couple years with them, developing the script, allowing the story to come from their own life experiences. Supposedly, all of the sex scenes in the film are real. Interesting, or just weird? I'm excited to find out.

Last but not least, *Marie Antoinette*. What a great film to remake. Perfect plot, perfect casting, great director (Sophia Coppola), crappy movie. What a let down.

As much as I love *Lucky Number Slevin*, I sure hope something comes out soon worthy of its number one slot.

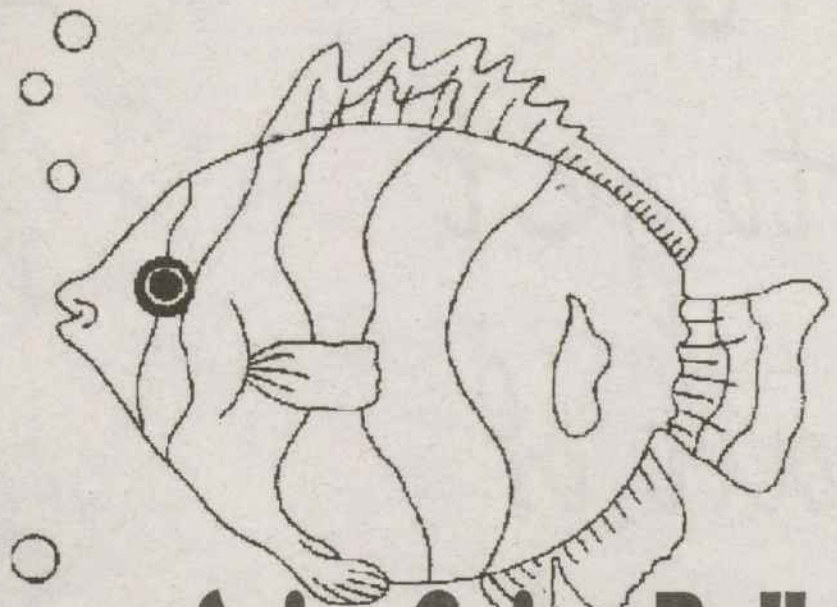
If you have any comments or additions for our top ten, visit our website at [www.queerlifeneews.com](http://www.queerlifeneews.com). Or write to [qfilm@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qfilm@queerlifeneews.com)

p.s.- *Jackass 2* is the best comedy of the year, *Beerfest* is a close second

### Top 10 Movies of '06 (as of October 25)

- 1) *Lucky Number Slevin*
- 2) *The Science of Sleep*
- 3) *Scoop*
- 4) *Brick*
- 5) *Half Nelson*
- 6) *Haven*
- 7) *Dave Chapelle's Block Party* (documentary)
- 8) *Why We Fight* (documentary)
- 9) *The Departed*
- 10) *The Prestige*

# MONA'S Fish Have Balls!!!



## Spicy Cajun Balls

Cod Fish Fry Beer Battered or Baked Every Friday 5pm - 1am  
Fridays dine in 5pm - 7pm and get 2nd fish fry for 1/2

### DINNER SPECIALS:

1+ Pound Porterhouse Steak Dinner - Shrimp Scampi - Mushroom Rockefeller  
\$5 Pizzas Tuesdays 9PM - Midnight

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