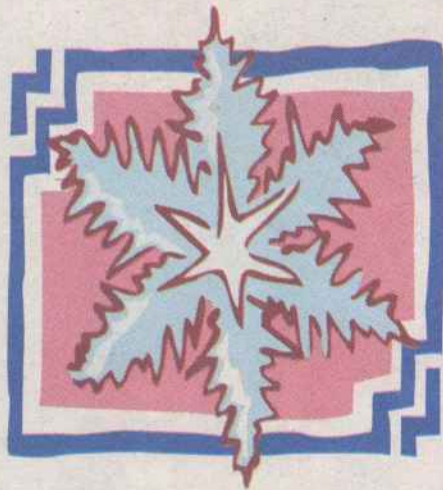


**From the STAFF  
of QLife News  
to you and  
your family.**



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Holidays**



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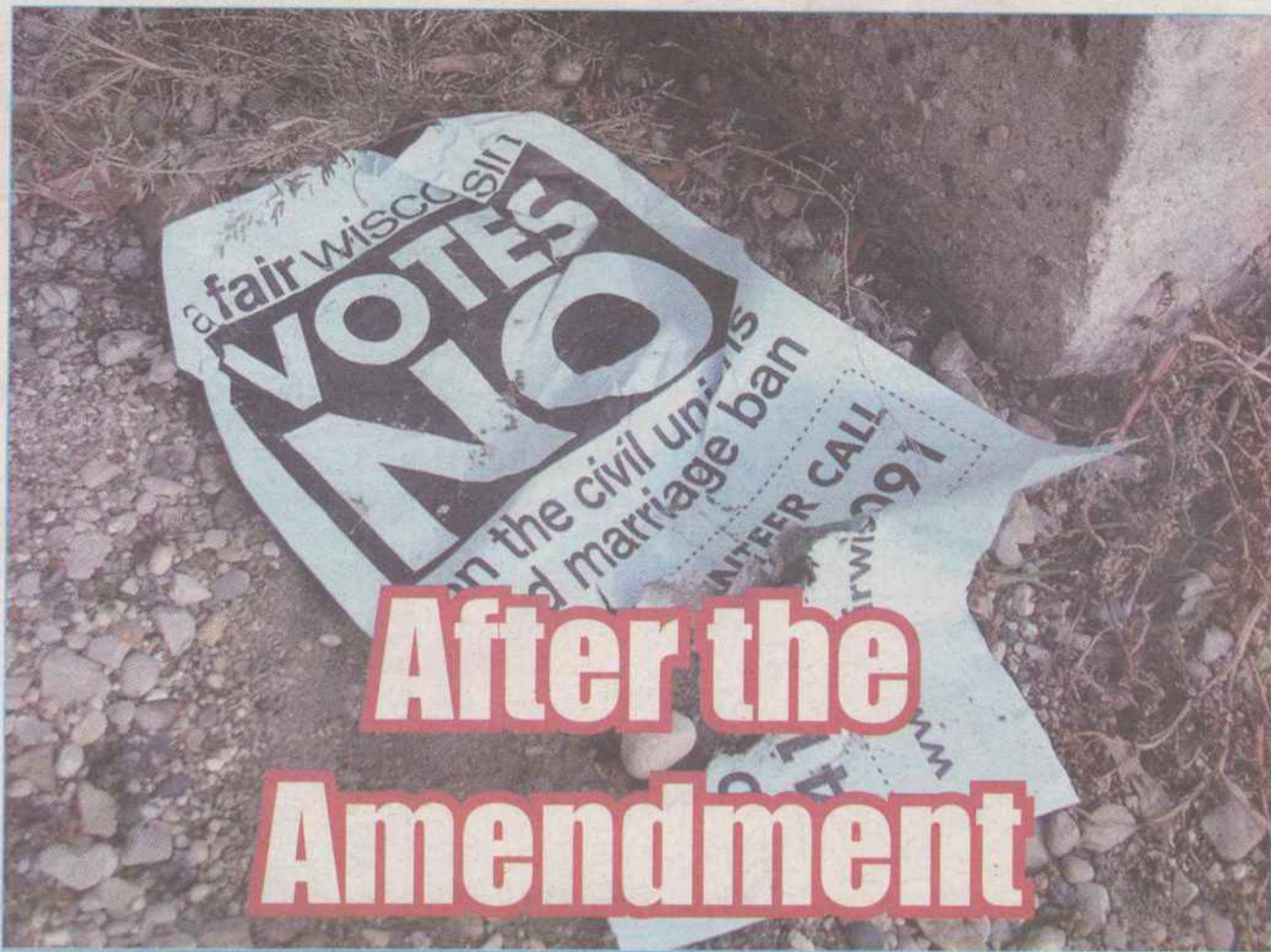
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Vol. 2, Issue 12 • December 2006

Wisconsin's Premier LGBT News Leader • [QUEERLIFENEWS.COM](http://QUEERLIFENEWS.COM)



By Jennifer Curtis

**N**ovember 7th has come and gone. As many of you know, eight states had ban-gay marriage amendments on their ballots. South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, Idaho, Colorado, South Dakota, Arizona and of course, Wisconsin. It passed in seven of the eight states, with just one state standing up for equality and defeating it – Arizona.

Sadly, 59% of Wisconsin citizens were in favor of discrimination and inequality.

Although it is true that gay marriages have never been allowed in Wisconsin, defeating this amendment may have been a step towards establishing gay marriages or civil unions, and would have also been considered a victory by gay rights activists.

Now, almost a month later, a sad, sullen silence has fallen over our community.

Where are our community leaders? At the time this article was written, both Action Wisconsin and the Center Advocates had no new information on their websites. Only a handful of UWM Students from the Gay and Lesbian group P.L.U.S and about 100 people in Dane County took to the streets in protest and in rage at the injustice done towards same-sex couples in Wisconsin.

People may be burnt out and upset, but now is not the time – the community needs to know what happened and to come together to figure out what to do next. There have been a few community meetings held by the Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Visioning Project and there are people thinking ahead and planning for what comes next. It's time to end the silence and think about what we as a movement want and need to do to ensure that the fight does not end here.

We have a lot of lessons to learn about what went wrong in Wisconsin. Why, with all of the volunteers, money, time, and connections, did more people vote against us than for us? Voter turnout was higher than it has been in years. An overwhelming number of young people, especially in university areas, turned out and most of them voted against the amendment and in favor of Gay and Lesbian equality. This is a good thing. However, many people who might have voted no somehow found themselves confused or

uninformed enough to vote yes. Others report being told by poll workers to vote yes, or being confused by the ads put out by Fair Wisconsin, or that they just did not have enough information and thought that a "yes" vote was a vote for Gay and Lesbian equal rights and not against it.

Some of the messages were unclear and despite all of the volunteers, the canvassing, the phone calls, many people went un-reached and went to the polls without a clue as to what this amendment was all about. A lot of the ads worked to negate the identity of Gay and Lesbian people because they were aimed at those undecided voters who may not like us, but hopefully would at least be "fair-minded." This confused and alienated many Lesbian and Gay people and our allies, and left many of us feeling like we didn't matter, all that mattered was putting out a message that would get a 'win' - even if it compromised our pride and our visibility.

What was missing? Marches, rallies, more intentional Gay and Lesbian visibility and lack of input and inclusion of people of color, for starters. It is important to note that both Latinos and African Americans voted largely in favor of the amendment - if more of them had been invited and included in the process from its early stages, and if more awareness and outreach had been done in the communities where African American and Latino people live, this may not have happened. Denise Cawley and her partner Anne Hefter, Lesbian moms-to-be sum up another one of the problems with the campaign, namely that, they "received more than 15 phone calls from Fair Wisconsin asking us to vote NO. We found ourselves wondering if they just kept calling LGBT supporters - who already would be voting NO, or if they were able to reach out to new audiences?"

But, let's not confuse reflection on what went wrong with finger-pointing. A lot of good work was done and things are not as bad as they may seem. People at Fair Wisconsin made a difference and mobilized a movement that hasn't moved that much in quite a while. Our community must thank them for that. And the election results, aside from the amendment, were great. Doyle and a lot of LGBT friendly people won, and now we have more friends in our state legislature and at the federal level than before. Word has it that

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## Everything Old is New Again

By Alison Glendale

Located on south 1st street and bordered by the river on the north at the base of the bridge lies an old building that is getting quite the makeover. Built in the 1930's, this Milwaukee pumping station worked hard for the city until it went out of service sometime in the late 1960's or early 1970's. It was too expensive for the city to demolish, so it sat empty for many years.

For a brief moment in time, it housed boats that were under repair. Now, it will dock boats while the owners and their guests sip martinis and watch any one of the numerous video screens. One has to wonder what the folks from the 1930's would think of their building now.

Welcome to the 2006 version of this art deco gem – the new Milwaukee Pump



House. The owners, business partners, and life partners, Michael Murray, and David Skwarek are two guys I would want to work for if I was looking for a bartending gig.

They may own the place, but they are looking to their staff to run it.

"It's not my bar, it's our bar, it's a community bar," says Skwarek. "I'm not going to be one of those owners who sit at the bar getting drunk and tossing people out. I can't stand owners who do that! We'd rather have the bartenders run the show. And we are going to have a great staff.

"Our job is to be cordial hosts" adds Murray.

The Pump House opens this month and has its grand opening slotted for New Years Eve. It will be a "video bar" something similar to Sidetracks down in Chicago. The concept might be similar, but certainly not the design. Inside the two-story building, an original crane remains hanging near the stairs, and the rest of the design includes three bars. One main bar serving just about everything, sits near the entrance. The other two bars are a "beer only" bar on the lower level and a martini/hard liquor bar on the second. There will also be lounge chairs, a pool table, two patios, a volley ball net, outdoor dining, small gaming area, boat slips, and even video screens over the urinals.

"Its gives them something to look at while they're in there" laughs Skwarek.

The kitchen at the Pump House will feature "upscale basket food," says Murray. "Casual, easy to eat food, yet tasty, and inexpensive. Things like sandwich

wraps, and appetizers." Outside dining will include a grill.

"Above the bar will be a theatre-sized screen, where we will show various video bits, or even a Golden Girls marathon – anything." Says Murray. "Its entertainment for the ADD generation. TV shows, musicals, all mixed in with the music. It will be a great visual experience when you come here."

"We also don't want people to think, 'oh this is another gay bar', and decide not to come, because it isn't just a gay bar, and it isn't just a straight bar, it's a bar for everyone," says Skwarek. Murray adds, "I want it to be a place for everyone. We like a mixed crowd -gay/straight/men, women, everyone."

Skwarek and Murray have been together for 18 years. "Which in gay years, is about 60" jokes Murray.

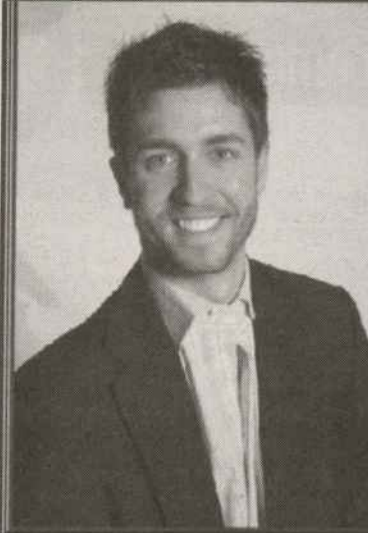
"It will be inclusive—everyone should feel welcome," Murray continues, "I mean, it's the 21st century, who cares what you do at night? Or with whom you do it? I think the community has evolved from just being gay or lesbian. That isn't all we are, and its time to be grown up about it. We aren't living in the gay ghettos anymore; we aren't cruising in the parks, or hiding ourselves. We can live wherever we want, we can raise families, and we're experiencing so many more things than just being gay. There is no exclusivity here."

They aren't very worried either about being off the beaten path. The building pretty much stands alone, and once the work businesses shut down for the day is over, and the neighboring evening, there will be no one disturb late at night. That will prove to be a big draw.

Being near the water adds yet another larger draw. "Where do you know any gay bar where you can sail on over and dock your boat?" asks Skwarek. "They can plug in overnight if they like as well. Here, there is room to hang out because it's a real marina."

"We think its going to feel like a seaside resort," says Murray.

We think so too. Michael and David look forward to seeing you at The Pump House Located at 2011 S 1st Street.



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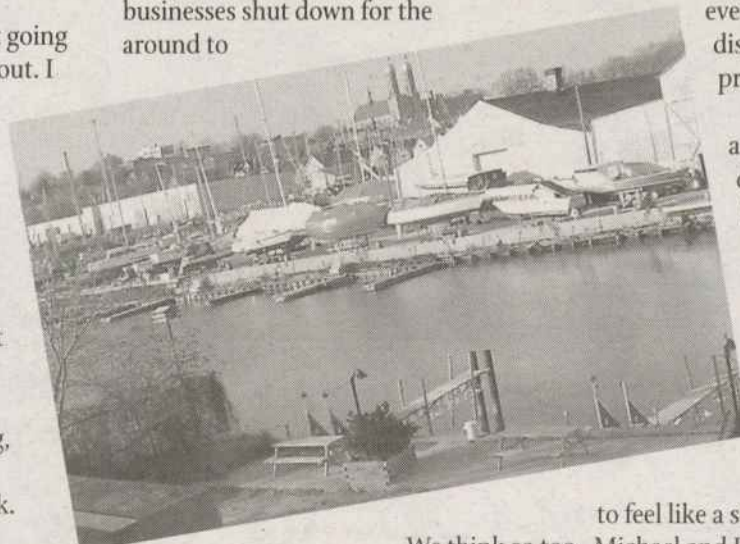
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## Community

## Q

## Calendar

**SATURDAY, DEC. 2**

**Catch a Rising Star.** "Friend"-raising event for MHSA. You are invited to a fabulous showcase of talent featuring student performances of the highest caliber in Vocal Jazz, Piano, Dance, Band, Choral Music, Visual Art, Instrumental Jazz Combo, Orchestra, Theatre and Writing that showcases the best in young talent. Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 Art Museum Dr., Milwaukee. 414-224-3220.

**Holiday Fair and Open House.** Enjoy food, music, school tours, children's activities, and shopping for beautiful hand-crafted gifts. Tamarack Community School, 1150 E. Brady St., Milwaukee. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 414-277-0009. www.tamarackwaldorf.org.

**MONDAY, DEC. 4**

**Foster Parent Recruitment.** Have you ever thought about becoming a foster parent? Attend our next informational meeting and learn more about the need for safe and loving homes as treatment foster care providers, with the deliberate inclusion of the LGBT community. Receive answers to your questions, as well as to learn more about our accountability to our youth. LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee. 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information

call Langston Verdin-Williams or Jane Ottow at 414-453-1400.

**FRIDAY, DEC. 8**

**LGBT Social Dance.** The Cream City Squares, square dance group, and Shoreline-Milwaukee, country-western dance group, will hold their Holiday parties. Potluck, dancing, and gifts. Hot Water, 818 S. Milwaukee St., Milwaukee. 6:30 p.m. 414-526-5055.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 9**

**Michelle Sewell.** Author in and editor of the anthology "Growing Up Girl: An Anthology of Voices from Marginalized Spaces" will be speaking about her work and her new book. Sewell is an award-winning screenwriter, poet, and founder of GirlChild Press. The Jamaican-born artist/activist work has appeared on NPR, in the Campaign to End AIDS Anthology, Port of Harlem Magazine, iRoster.com, and seeingblack.com. Broad Vocabulary Bookstore, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 6 p.m. or call 414-744-8384. www.broadvocabulary.com.

**MONDAY, DEC. 11**

**Outwards Book Club.** Come and join the discussion of Richard Stevenson's classic murder mystery "Death Trick." New members are always welcome. Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089. www.outwardsbooks.com

**TUESDAY, DEC. 12**

**Lesbian Reading Group.** The group will be discussing "Snow Moon Rising," the latest book by an Outwards favorite, Lori L. Lake. Come and join in on the discussion! Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089. www.outwardsbooks.com

**FRIDAY, DEC. 15**

**Shop to Stop Hunger.** Proceeds from the cover go to Hunger Task Force. With over 30 artists to choose from and a silent auction you are sure to find gifts to please everyone on your list. 1925 E. Kenilworth Pl., Milwaukee. 5-9 p.m. \$5. 414-534-8492. Repeats December 16 from noon-5 p.m.

**SATURDAY, DEC. 16**

Wiscrad Holiday Party. Buffet, door prizes, raffles, and cash bar. The Room, 625 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 16**

**2007 LGBT Panel Forum.** The Medical College of Wisconsin would like your help. Every year the Human Sexuality Class for second year students welcomes a panel of LGBT individuals to participate in a forum. The panel offers medical students insights into LGBT health issues and discusses experiences, positive and negative, with our future health care professionals. Please consider taking this teaching opportunity to assist students expand their understanding of the LGBT life style and its sensitive health questions. Tuesday, January 16 from 10am-12pm at the Medical College of Wisconsin, 8701 W. Watertown Plank Road, Milwaukee. For information, please contact Michael at 414-265-8500.

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Wisconsin **Q** Happenings

# Civil Unions ban sparks protest

**Madison-** (November) On Friday, November 17th, A group largely comprised of University of Wisconsin students rallied against the recent passage of the gay marriage and civil unions ban which passed in 71 of Wisconsin's 72 counties. Dane County was the only county in Wisconsin that did not pass the amendment.

The group also marched up State Street chanting "No justice, no peace, out of the closets, into the streets!" and "Pray, you'll need it, your cause will be defeated!"

The protest's turnout included members from several student organizations like the International Socialist Organization and Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group. The petitioners moved the demonstration to the office of amendment author Rep.

Mark Gundrum, R-New Berlin. Gundrum was not in his office when the protesters arrived, but he told The Badger Herald he was not surprised when he heard about the anti-amendment protesters.

"I guess nothing surprises me at Madison," Gundrum said. "They had their chance. They tried everything under the sun to try to defeat it, and there was overwhelming support of traditional marriage."

UW graduate student Paul Heideman participated in the demonstration and believes the amendment will be stricken from the Wisconsin Constitution "If people get together and actually show that gay marriage is something we want, I think we have the power to take it out of the

Constitution."

Heideman added that the people of Wisconsin have heard no arguments supporting same-sex marriage, which may be what needs to be done to spread the anti-amendment sentiment.

"There were plenty of discriminatory state amendments passed during the Civil Rights Era. Just because it's in the Constitution doesn't mean it has to be there forever," Heideman said. Gundrum, however,

felt the two issues can not be compared. "This has nothing to do with immutable characteristics such as race," Gundrum said.

Gundrum added the amendment is good for Wisconsin because "traditional marriage" is imperative to maintaining healthy families in the state.

National **Q** Happenings

# No Communion for Gays

**BALTIMORE** - In mid November, the nation's Roman Catholic bishops adopted new guidelines for gay outreach. Although the intention leans towards a welcoming attitude, they are telling gays to be celibate because the church considers their sexuality "disordered."

Gay Catholic activists insist that it would alienate the people it was trying to reach with such a contorted approach.

At a meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the statement, "Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination," was adopted by a 194-37 vote.

The bishops also overwhelmingly adopted separate statements encouraging Catholics to obey the church's widely ignored ban on artificial contraception, and directing parishioners to examine their consciences to decide if they are worthy of receiving Holy Communion.

If someone "publicly known to have committed serious sin or to have rejected definitive Church teaching" takes Communion without reconciling, the document says, it would encourage others to follow their lead and engage in sinful behavior.

America's Roman Catholic bishops continue to insist on their view that same-sex relationships are immoral.

"We hate to see our moral teachers squandering their moral teaching authority when there are important issues they should be dealing with - poverty and social justice and the war," said Sam Sinnett, president of Dignity USA, the nation's largest gay Catholic organization. "They're much more concerned with whether two homosexuals are going to get married or not," he said. "They've lost focus on the needs of the human race."

Anyone who persists in sinful behavior, such as gay sex or using artificial birth control, should refrain from taking Communion, the bishops said.

Francisco DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry, an independent outreach to Catholic gays, said the guidelines "propose that lesbian and gay people be viewed not in the entirety of their lives, but in one dimension only - the sexual dimension. They do not reflect good science, good theology or human reality. No other group in the church is singled out in this way."

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International



Happenings

## IRAN Hangs Gay Man in Public

**Iran 2006 November** - A gay Iranian man was hanged in public on November 14, in the western city of Kermanshah on the charge of sodomy.

Shahab Darvishi was charged with organizing a "corruption ring", deliberate assault, and "lavat", which means homosexual relationship between two men or sodomy, the official news agency

IRNA reported.

Darvishi was hanged in the evening in Kermanshah's "Freedom Square" in front of hundreds of people, the report said.

Under Iran's Islamic Penal Code, homosexuality between consenting adults is a capital crime and official Iranian sources express hostility to homosexual practices.

## Mexico Legalises Gay Unions

**Mexico** - November 06 Amongst fierce opposition from Roman Catholic leaders and conservative groups, Mexico City lawmakers overwhelmingly approved a bill legalizing same-sex civil unions in the Mexican capital.

With a vote of 43-to-17, Mexico City became only the second Latin American city to authorize gay unions after Buenos Aires in 2002.

"This is a triumph for the gay movement in Mexico like we've never seen before," said Alejandro Brito, a prominent gay activist. "We hope this will reinvigorate the movement and inspire us to fight for our full rights."

The debate is similar to the one in the United States, where voters in seven states approved referendums banning same-sex wedlock.

Conservative groups vow to prevent further spread of equal rights for homosexuals from happening.

The Roman Catholic Church, which says that 90% of Mexicans belong to it, opposes same-sex marriage. But since 1997, Mexico City has been governed by the left-leaning Democratic Revolutionary Party, or PRD, which has clashed with the church about such issues as abortion.

The PRD first proposed the civil unions bill in 2002, but abandoned it amid pressure from conservatives and the church. Mexico City Catholic officials accuse PRD legislators of using the civil-union law as political revenge. "These radical groups are very angry with the Catholic Church," said Hugo Valdemar, spokesman for the archdiocese of Mexico City. "The Mexican people are not ready for gay marriage"

"It's not just about marriage. It's also the fact of knowing that you're recognized as a couple," said Kathy Quintero, a 23 year-old psychologist.

Joel Nieto, a 19 year-old college student agreed.

"It will help reduce discrimination," he said. "But let's face it. This is a conservative country and we can't expect gay-bashing to end overnight."

Advocates argue that the law is not only geared toward same-sex couples. It also empowers platonic relationships, such as an elderly person and a care-giver or two roommates, to inherit pensions and property and share financial responsibilities.

The measure, expected to take effect early next year, will apply only to the 8.7 million residents of the capital.



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# We Shall Overcome

Over the last two and a half years my congregation worked to defeat the marriage amendment. During the final month of the campaign we held weekly phone banking at the church and sent volunteers out in neighborhood canvases. The work of the campaign was taken on by LGBT and straight members alike. We shared in the work and we shared in the pain of defeat.

In late November we gathered for prayer one night. As we sat in the sanctuary, I noticed how gloomy the stain glass windows looked. During the day, the sunlight streams through them, making the images of Jesus' life radiant. But that night the radiance had gone out, leaving the glass cloudy and the images obscure. The windows mirrored how I felt inside.

In the safety of our sanctuary we spoke together of our shared pain, our sources of hope, and our prayers for our community.

It was moving to hear each others testimonies. I spoke of my shock at the final results. I shared my sense of betrayal that many folks told pollsters they were voting "no" only to pull the lever "yes" on Election Day. And I named my frustration with churches and church organizations that speak about justice with one side of their mouth and homophobia with the other.

At the end of the service straight members made a covenant with the LGBT members. It was a covenant written by Rev. James Germain of Minneapolis and used at several churches this November. The straight members said in part, "This is a sanctuary where your lives will be celebrated, and your loves blessed, and your relationships honored. And from this place we will go out and fight together for human rights for all. This is a solemn covenant, which we here make with one

another. And woe to this Church if it should ever break that covenant, for in so doing it will have broken its own heart."

As their pastor I knew what the covenant would say, and yet when I heard it spoken I was still ready to cry. These were healing words that touched my vulnerable heart. Then we began to sing the old civil rights anthem, "We shall overcome someday." I looked around our church as straight and LGBT folks, young activists and elderly people, mothers and fathers sang together.

I cried then because of the power and hope and audacity of the moment. As discouraged as I was, I knew that I was not alone. I was surrounded by a community that loves Jesus and that follows Jesus in loving others. A community that believes Jesus loves everyone. A community that gives itself to work for justice and fairness for those whom Jesus loves.



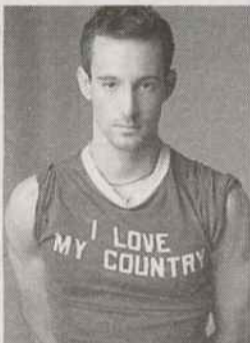
## RELIGION

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.

In that moment I realized it was our faces that were radiant, shining with tears, showing forth the love of our God in how we hugged and comforted and consoled one another. It was a radiance more beautiful than any window could ever be. In that radiance I knew I could hope amidst my anger that we shall overcome someday.

## The privilege of coming out

By Adrian W. Lilly



While relatively unknown in the U.S., Ivri Lider is the top-selling pop star in Israel and has maintained that status while being openly gay since 2002. Lider, who had a U.S. mini-tour in November, sat down with *Queer Life News* for an interview about his upcoming English release "Jesse" and coming out in Israel:

**Q: You have a song, "Jesse," on an upcoming compilation in January. Are you working on an English-language album?**

A: Well, I hope so. It's one possibility. We'll see what happens with that, I guess, and what they're [Music with a Twist record label] gonna feel like, and it depends on if they want to make a record or not.

**Q: When you released "The New People" in 2002, you came out publicly. What gave you the courage to come out publicly?**

A: I guess that I felt strong that I needed to be the first one to [come out]. I can say, it's a privilege ... to be able to influence your country's culture is amazing. And I think that famous people, when they come out, they really help a lot of young people and make life much easier for them... I have a lot of disrespect for artists who are not openly gay if they are gay. I think you're not allowed to be an artist and not come out. I know it sounds maybe a little harsh, but the reason is, basically, when you're an artist you have this contract with your audience. You ask them to love you. You ask them to buy your stuff. So you have to give back something. You cannot only ask and not give back ... That's why I feel that an artist that doesn't come out ... that sends a bad message. You can talk to me about whatever, but not that. Why? Because it's bad?

**Q: How long did you know you were gay?**

I think I knew I was gay when I was 10, maybe, and my first gay experience was when I was 24. So it took me a lot of years to act on that ... So my first album is full of this mixed up person who doesn't really know who he is or what he wants. And then I started living my true self — and, I was never in the closet in my family — it was

never like that ... I was very, very lucky with my family. I think my mother is really happy about it. She is. She even says that sometimes. It gives me a lot of strength.

**Q: How did you come out to your mother?**

... One night — I was living with her at the time — I didn't come home. And she said, 'well, where were you?' And I said, 'I met someone.' And she said, 'a boy or a girl?' I said, 'it's a boy,' and she said 'okay, cool.' And that was it. That was my coming out story.

**Q: What's it like to be gay in Israel?**

A: It's totally safe. I'm gay. Everybody knows I'm gay. It's all over the papers and stuff all the time, and I perform everywhere, not just Tel Aviv. In Tel Aviv, of course, it's very gay. Sometimes you think everybody's gay. It's very New York like. I perform everywhere, and I almost never get any trouble or remarks, or anything ... In a funny way, Israel is a liberal country. It doesn't look like that sometimes.

**Q: What about the riots in Jerusalem?**

A: That's why I'm saying it's in a funny way. Because then you go to Jerusalem, and you say, 'let's do a pride parade in Jerusalem,' and somebody can get killed. ... It's a different place, Jerusalem. It looks different. It feels different ... It's maybe the biggest religion center in the world ... And in Jerusalem, most of the religious people are very orthodox ...

**Q: Did you have any difficulty with religion and being gay?**

A: I'm totally not religious. I was born a Jew, my mother is a holocaust survivor, but I'm totally not religious. So, me, personally, no. I'm a Jew, because that's what my ID card says in Israel. You were born to a Jewish mother and a Jewish father, so you're a Jew.

The new song by Lider, "Jesse" about falling in love with a man is featured on Music with a Twist "Revolutions," coming out in January 2007. Wisconsin hip-hop duo God-des & She will also be featured on the compilation.

Lider's music, including the English song "Your Soul," is available for download at iTunes as well as emusic.com. Lider is also on MySpace, where his version of the Gershwin classic "The Man I Love" is available as a free download. His personal Web site is IvriLider.com.

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# Happy-er Holidays

The holidays are supposed to give you a warm and fuzzy feeling, right? So why do so many of us get the blues this time of year?

As Dr. Kenneth Johnson stated in a 2003 Columbia-St. Mary's Internet article, "There's nothing magical about the holidays. If you don't get along with your sister during the year, you're not going to get along with her during the holidays." Dr. Johnson cites "unmet expectations" as the main cause of holiday blues.

And nothing screams out "expectations" like our family of origin. Any number of family issues can pop up during the holidays. Maybe you're still recovering from abuse, rejection or abandonment by relatives. Are you out to everyone? Are you bringing a partner to a family dinner for the first time? Are you secretly blue because you broke up with someone but can't talk about it? It's like dynamite, the slow burn you experience when you have to act all jolly while playing down (or denying) your queer self.

It's so easy for us to feel like outsiders during the holidays. Some relatives believe they must pray over their queer family members in order to "save" or "cure" them - this is not generally a merry process for us.

If you do not have children, you might feel a twinge of sorrow when siblings bond around their status as parents.

Childless women often become family caretakers. Somehow your own pursuits as a human being take a back seat to the priorities of heterosexuality, such as childrearing. (Hey, you breeders, my girlfriend/house/pet/job/goals are just as important to me!) During the holidays you can feel guilt or resentment toward those who rely on you, such as aging parents, disabled relatives or irresponsible sibs. And these are the people you're trying to pick out the perfect gift for!

Take back your holiday season. Do it your way, with the time, energy and financial resources you can realistically spend. "Decide for yourself what the holiday means for you," Dr. Johnson recommends. Eliminate what doesn't feel right, especially if it's someone else's idea of an obligation. Heck, start some of your own holiday traditions, ones that make you and your chosen family happy!

Plan for stress, just like you do for any other calamity you wish to avoid. Make a list of all the things you want to do for the holidays, and then pare it in half. (I know I'm not the only one with a fine assortment of unmet cards from Christmases past in my back closet.) If you simply must attend

## Any number of family issues can pop up during the holiday



### LESBIAN HEALTH

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

an unpleasant family gathering, set up a fun activity for the next day. Looking forward to something sure beats feeling miserable in the present moment.

Most of all, be good to yourself. According to the Self Counseling website ([www.selfcounseling.com](http://www.selfcounseling.com)), "if loved ones are absent during the holidays, if relationships are broken or there have been other types of tragedies, do not pretend that they do not exist. Denial takes more energy than talking openly about these issues." If this is your first holiday season after the loss of a loved one, allow yourself to grieve a bit.

Get enough rest, eat and drink with moderation and find time for relaxation. Remember that exercise produces endorphins, the feel-good hormones. If you suffer from seasonal depression, try light therapy (10,000 lux units are best) for 30-60 minutes first thing in the morning.

This holiday season, shower yourself with self-care and acceptance. An improved outlook may be the best gift you give to others in your life. Peace and pampering to you and yours!

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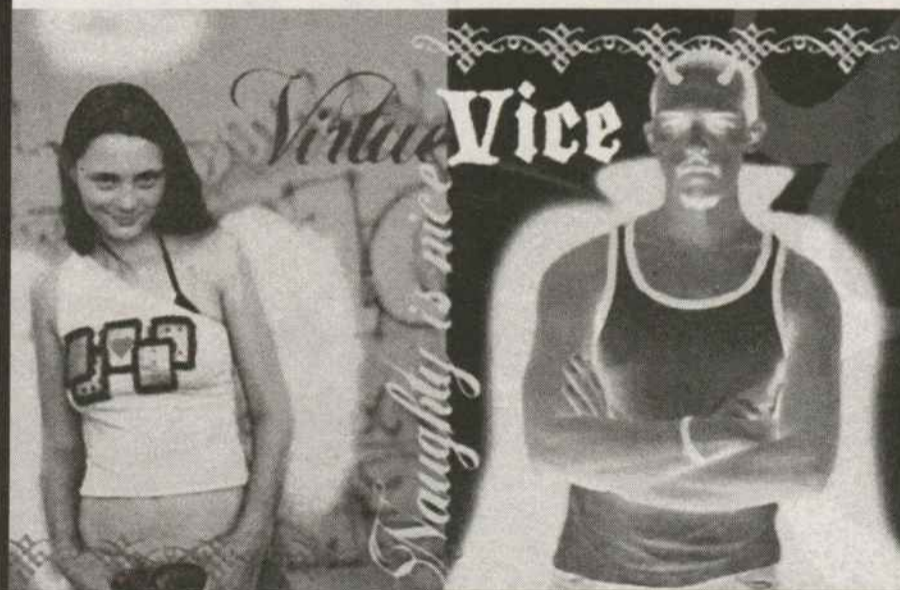
### AMENDMENT *continued from page 1*

Sen. Jon Erpenbach (Democrat, Middleton) is drafting a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would ban discrimination and open the way for state-sanctioned civil unions. And of course, there are the upcoming lawsuits, including one by the ACLU, that will test just what that second sentence means and will hopefully make it known that civil unions and domestic partnerships are not substantially similar to marriage. And let's not forget the many new allies, including religious leaders, who saw this issue as a catalyst to join the movement for Gay and Lesbian equality. We need to hang on to these new friends and allies. We can't let them forget about us and we can't forget about them.

We need innovative ways of keeping this movement alive. Gay and Lesbian equality is not a side issue, it is our very lives and whenever we can, however we have to do it, we have to come out, be visible, raise our voices, and be heard. Many have proposed boycotting heterosexual marriages ceremonies. Some advocate a boycott on all things Wisconsin (from cheese to paying taxes), to send the

message that Wisconsin is not Fair, but rather, Unfair and until all citizens are treated equally under the law, things are not going to be pretty. Some feel we should take to the streets - march, rally, and protest. Others believe we should wait for things to work their way through the courts, that we follow the legal route and try to prevent things from getting worse. No matter what course this movement or the individuals within it take, the point is that we have no choice but to keep going. This is not the time to retreat into our closets; this is not the time for silence. This is the time for action. We need to re-create a real social civil rights movement. We need to take lessons from this loss and keep the ball rolling, this time, in our court. We also have to learn from our history and the history of other social movements - no oppressed group was ever just handed their rights. It took decades of struggle, loss, and loud protest and civil disruption. People without rights rarely take this kind of thing sitting down. It's time to stand up.

## Join the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center for its next Mix n' Mingle



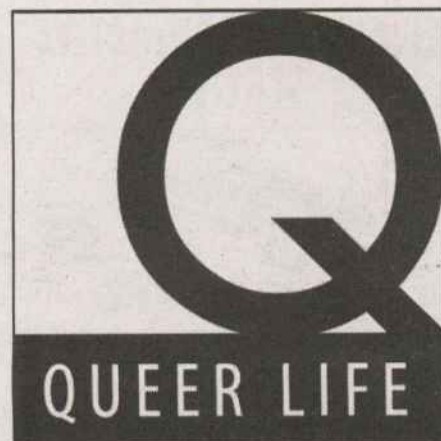
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QLife is a monthly publication which highlights Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. Each issue contains insightful articles penned by local personalities who are in the know. Available throughout Wisconsin, QLife fills an information 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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J Harvey

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## Two steps Forward, one step back

By Kate Sherry

Do you ever leave the television, or radio on while doing something else? It's just on for background noise, really, and to keep your subconscious entertained while you dust the living room, or surf the net, or chat with friends.

Do you ever have one of those moments where you think something, or read a line of a book, or say something to another person in the room, only to have the exact same thing repeated on your background noise from the TV or radio? Like telling the dog to "get out of here", only to hear a commercial or character say a second later "get out of here." You get the drift.

That always spooks me, because I think perhaps that it is a sign. One, of course, that I never seem to figure out, but a sign none the less.

Well, the other night it happened (sort of) as I was reading our cover story

submission from Jennifer Curtis.

There I was, staring at my laptop, thinking about the amendment outcome, and wondering what was next for those of us not only in the state of Wisconsin, but the LGBT community worldwide. There is still so much to do, and I don't know if we are holding our breath waiting to see what happens, or just sitting on the curb with the wind knocked out of us. A little dazed, perhaps, but not quite ready to throw in the towel.

I was reading the article, as well as online comments from other people, when all of a sudden, David Letterman said, "she was from the state of Wisconsin, and that is where the fight began."

Now, since I hadn't been paying attention to the show, I had no idea was he was referring to, or who he was talking about. Yet, it seemed to make sense. A lot of what I read prior to November 7th, was that Wisconsin had the best chance of defeating the amendment. Turns out, Arizona was the only state ready to stand up for equality. Good for them.

But Wisconsin fought a good fight. We really did. People, this paper's staff included, can sit back now and wonder what went wrong, and debate what should have been done, but that doesn't really matter so much now, as what can be done.



## EDITORIAL

Now, when we have the US Military suggesting that homosexuality is a "defect," and putting us in the same category description as "bedwetting" and the Roman Catholic bishops claiming that our sexuality is "disordered" -we clearly have a much larger fight on our hands. As big an issue as this November brought us, there will be many more thrown in our path, and we have to be ready.

Our fight may have started elsewhere. And decades ago. It will probably continue long into the adulthood of our children, and perhaps their children. But they will be able to look back at this moment in time, when Wisconsin's equal and fair minded individuals came out in record numbers to put up their dukes and get down to business.

We are from the state of Wisconsin. And this is where the fight continues.

## Men's Voices Milwaukee sing for Togetherness

Men's Voices Milwaukee (MVM) announces its 6th annual holiday concert on Saturday, December 9th, 2006, at 8pm. The concert will be held at the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts on the UWM Campus, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd.

Themed "Together for the Holidays," the concert will feature selections ranging from old English madrigals, to traditional holiday standards. MVM invites the audience to come together to celebrate "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and poses the question: "What are you Doin' New Year's Eve?" From the seriousness of a Russian Orthodox carol to the hilarity of "The 12 Days of Christmas," the chorus hopes to inspire togetherness in the community.

This year's "Together for the Holidays" is Ken McMonagle's second concert as returning Artistic Director of Men's Voices Milwaukee. McMonagle has been working with the chorus on a cohesive blend among the voices. "I am looking forward to giving our audience one of the best sounds this group can offer," McMonagle commented. The concert also features a guest appearance of the newly created Women's Voices Milwaukee under the direction of Melissa Beastro.

Thirty-two men are singing in this fall's group. Principal accompanist for MVM is Joseph Paul Carpenter, a well known keyboard and choral artist in Milwaukee. Additional instrumentalists and an artistic interpreter for the hearing impaired will add quality to the concert.

Men's Voices Milwaukee is a choral ensemble dedicated to musical excellence by performing a broad range of men's choral music. MVM is committed

to broadening and strengthening the LGBT choral movement in southeastern Wisconsin (and beyond) through performance, education, and outreach activities.

Tickets for "Together for the Holidays" are available from any MVM member or from the box office at the



Zelazo Center. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Reduced rates are available with a donation of four non-perishable food items donated to the Hunger Task Force the night of the concert. A silent auction to benefit the chorus will be held during the intermission.

# The state of interracial dating in Milwaukee

## Part 2

By Paul Masterson  
Special to QLife News

In the first article of this series, interracial dating in Milwaukee was presented in the context of Black & White Men Together's 25 year history compared to the present. The question was raised "have things changed?" In general, it seemed that, despite decades of LGBT liberation, relationships between people of different races hadn't made the same strides of universal acceptance.

The dynamics of interracial dating in Milwaukee, a city known to be among the most segregated in the country, reflect this dilemma. Black and white male couples mentioned overt or subliminal negativism as part of their everyday experience. Apparently, certain stereotypical presumptions pervade.

A typical example is a scene at a restaurant where inevitably the white partner is presented with the check at the end of dinner. Both black and white men interviewed for this series told of being snubbed by friends and family because of their partner's race. Most felt more palpable negativism especially by other LGBT people. Others mention the smug raised eyebrow reaction when introducing a partner of another race – as if something were understood to be behind the attraction aside from mutual compatibility.

Milwaukee's LGBT population has struggled within their own cultural environments. "Homosexuality is not an option in the black community," said one African-American respondent while a Caucasian man said essentially the same about his German Lutheran background. While rejection at this level might lead to dating outside one's own race, it has potentially more problems. Still, despite the social risks, complications, stigmas and stereotypes, many date interracially regardless.

Of those interviewed for this series, most date outside their race

exclusively. Some have never have dated another man of the same race while others eventually "got into the habit." The reasons and explanations ranged from "it just happened that way" to negative or unsatisfying experiences with same race partners.

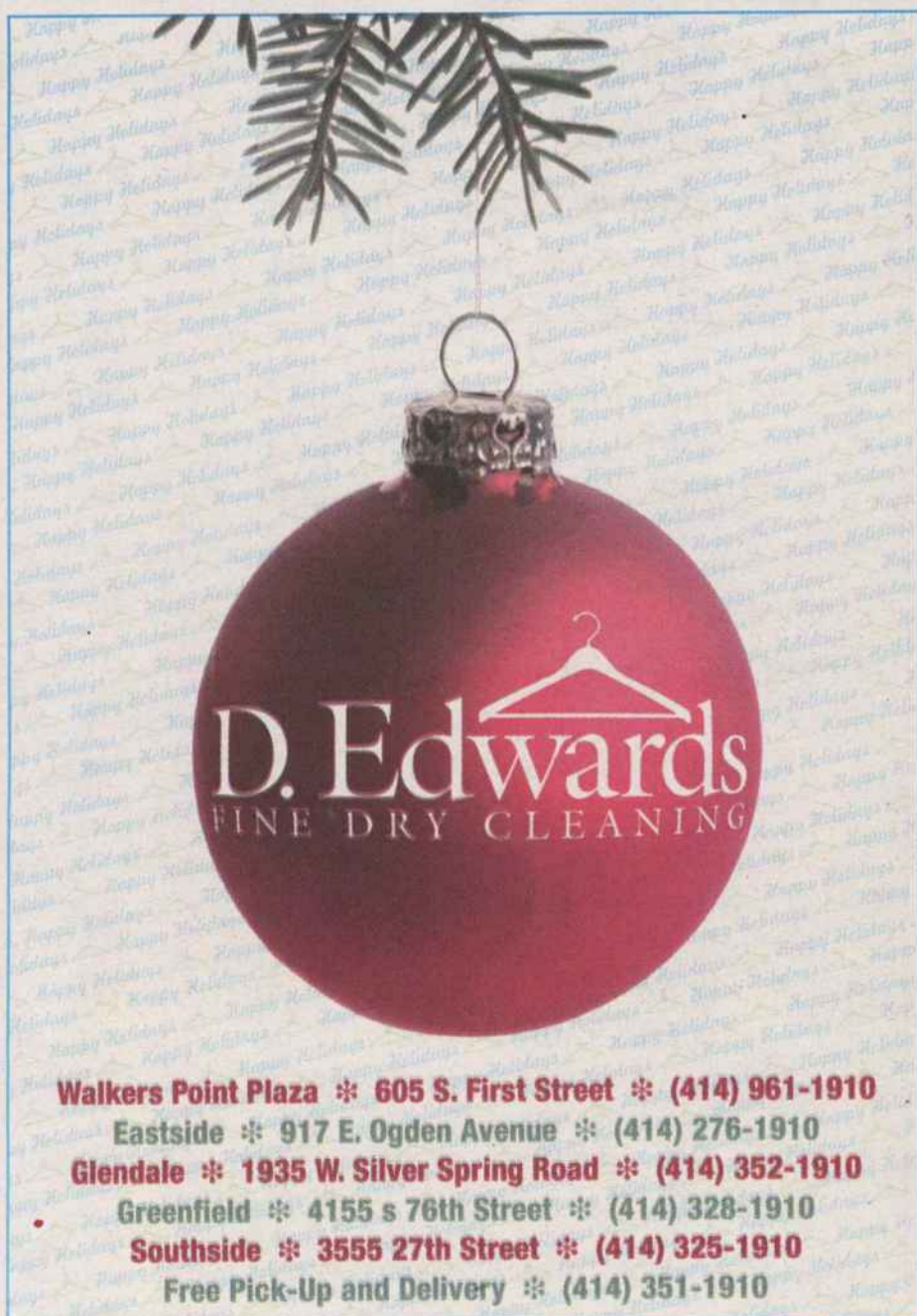
Many long term relationships exist. Confronting the issues of that equation seems to be part of the process. Many Milwaukee mixed couples in long term relationships tended to find new friends rather than deal with the prejudice of their old circle. "It got tiring to continually feel out of place among my friends," said one. Another mentioned outright hostility; as if interracial dating "just wasn't acceptable" or implied that their own race "wasn't good enough."

"We stopped going to the bars. It was just too strange. Maybe we were overly sensitive but we did feel unwelcome at times," said one couple. "Otherwise, it was life as usual. After a while, if the discrimination is even there to begin with, you ignore it and stop feeling different. It's all about accepting and being comfortable with who you are, particularly as a couple. If others don't...that's their problem," they continued.

Family relationships reflect a similar range of acceptance and rejection. In this area, both black and white respondents recounted the full spectrum of experiences when a partner of another race is introduced to the family. An African-American man told it this way: "first, they have to get over your being gay and then you bring home a partner...and then you bring home a white guy... My mom was actually fine with it when I took my partner home for her birthday party. My brother had some unkind words until my mom slapped him and said 'not in my house' and that was the end of it."

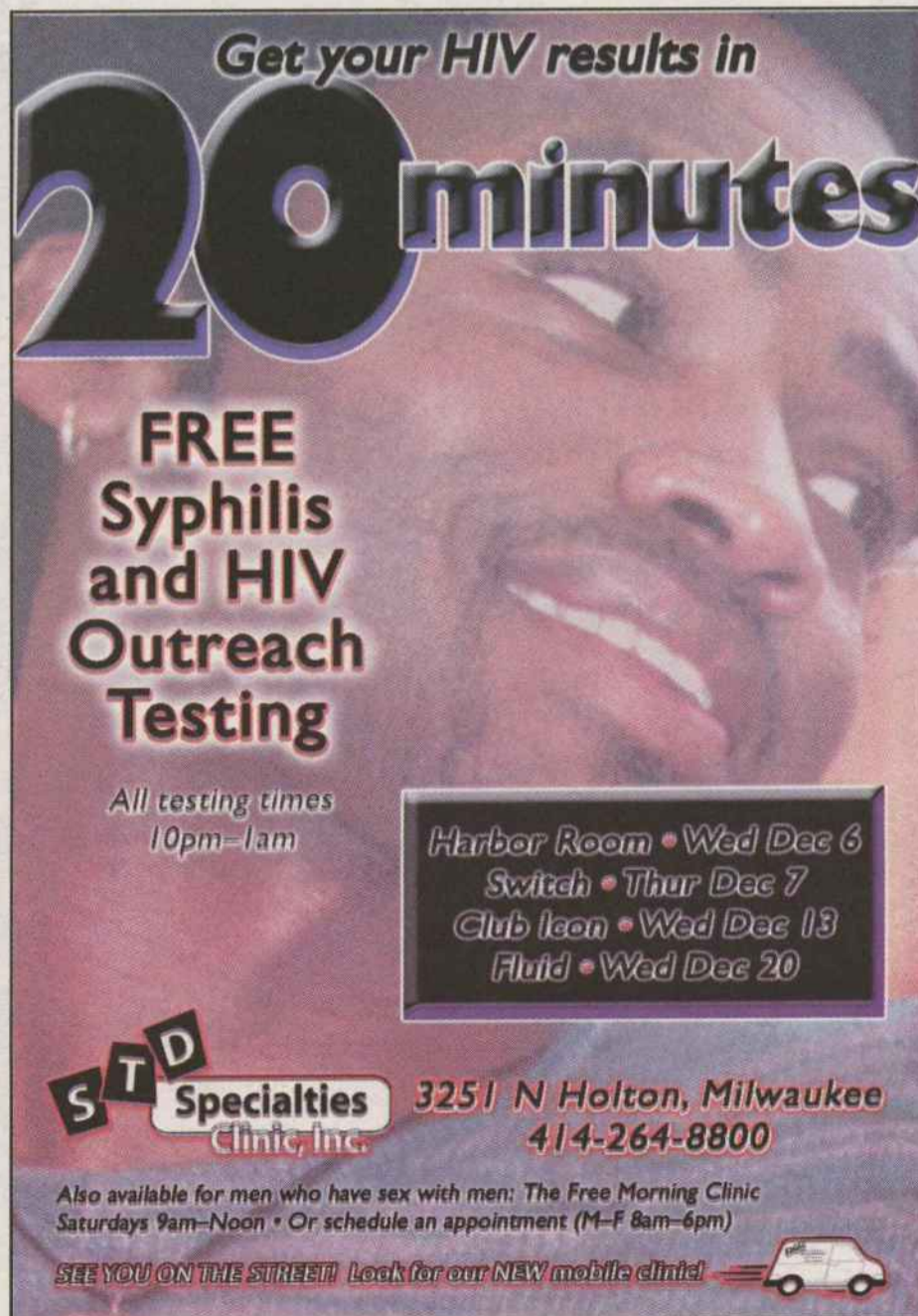
In the next part of this series, women share their perspective.

Please share your thoughts on the subject, email [editor@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:editor@queerlifeneews.com)



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## Crawl, Walk, Run this Holiday Season

Thanksgiving is here and gone, and Christmas is right around the corner, and you might ask yourself, why start working out now, when I will just eat nothing but chips, dip, and cookies for the next month? Starting a workout program before the holidays is a good idea. Most of us will eat something fattening at this time of year. Its smart to incorporate a good Cardio workout to off set all the excessive calories taken in. So if you're going to pick up that cookie, you will need some extra Cardio, to ensure the Holidays don't get the best of your bulge.

Okay, let's be realistic! There is not a lot of time to fit something new into your already busy holiday schedule. So let's keep it simple. Keep in mind, more is not always better and some thing is always better then nothing.

**Week One:** If you are a beginner, start off on the bike or a treadmill. You will do these only three days a week for the first week.

Treadmill: 20 minutes / 3.0 - 4.0 on the speed no incline.

Bike: 20 minutes / Resistance of 3.0-5.0

**Week Two:** This week you will increase the length of time and nothing else.

Treadmill/Bike increase your time to 25 minutes.

**Week Three:** This week you will increase time, speed & resistance.

Treadmill 30 minutes / 3.5 - 4.5 Incline of a 6.0

# Q



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**Week Four:** This may be a hard week to get to the gym so I have plan A & B.

A. Three days a week, 35 minutes, same Resistance/Incline as week three.

B. Two days a week, 45 minutes, same Resistance/Incline as week three.

Once again, the idea is to have you get started. I'm not going to talk about nutrition until January. Baby steps: you have to crawl before you walk...

**Question:** Jill asked me: "When girls train hard with weights, can they get as big as men?"

**Answer:** NO, women just do not have enough hormone in there body to do so. Women still can get muscular with the right training just not as big as a man.

Happy Holidays from the staff at Sweeney's Gym. Live life to your full potential.

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# What Comes after Bling?

**L**esbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are not exempt from the social norms about age as a commodity. In fact, there is some evidence that we are hit particularly hard by it. We value youth – though interestingly not young people themselves – and make middle-aged people and older people less viable in our community. In a social milieu where sexuality is prominent, the de-sexualization of aging populations is cause for concern. It is like older people are no longer in the game.

Too often bar ads and product sales in the gay press emphasize the barely post-pubescent figures of females and males (the latter must apparently be hairless, too). Even aging folks are clearly wrinkle-free, athletic, and coifed to suggest that the peels, Botox, and Clairol are a must.

Surely this phenomenon is not unique for queer folks. But, for most heterosexual people, there are sanctioned social roles that are adopted as people age. Heterosexual teens who date, become 20's who marry and later parents

## Bisexual men and women and gay men are shown to have more difficulties in preparation and adaptation to aging

and grandparents. In religion they are baptized, confirmed, marry, and have anniversaries. Their transition between roles are lauded from pulpits and campaign stumps. Heterosexuals take on civic duties and they grow as neighbors. In other words, heterosexual society has constructed roles for people as they age.

In a recent conversation, Loree Cook-Daniels of the Transgender Aging Network said, "The challenge for LGBT folks in this arena is that while we have pulled out of many social structures like religion, neighborhoods, and civic engagement, we have not necessarily created alternatives to them." She also noted that when the Social Security Administration was established, few people anticipated that we would be living as long as we now do. "Combine involvement with fewer social structures and more years to fill, and the challenge for LGBT folks doubles," said Cook-Daniels. Like non-LGBT peers, many LGBT people have not adequately planned for their aging or retirement. The difference is that we tend to have fewer of the social connections of nuclear family others use to bridge their gap between need and preparation.

Research suggests that many lesbians find a great deal of fulfillment later in



## Q 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.

life as they consolidate their learning and the values that were protective and productive in their youths. On the other hand, bisexual men and women and gay men are shown to have more difficulties in preparation and adaptation to aging. Some of us fantasize about establishing our own independent services for assisted living and ongoing care.

But solutions may really be more viable through strategies other than segregation. Most people today do not want to access long term care facilities. Instead, as they age, they want in-home care and support. There are too few of us – and fewer still have adequate resources – to create separatist facilities that can even remotely promise any more quality or competence than mainstream services do.

"We have a great opportunity right now to re-think our structuring of gay culture by age groups," added Cook-Daniels. We may want to set aside the culturally sanctioned glorification of the sparkle of youth as a commodity. Instead, we could contemplate the health and human challenges and benefits of desegregating LGBT culture by age. This does not mean that there aren't good reasons to have opportunities and venues to "caucus" in our age cohorts. Nor does this desegregation imply that we should have open season on raiding the funding streams that age-specific groups like SAGE and Project Q have developed. But it does question our failure to effectively and regularly interact across ages from 24 to 94.

We could create what comes after the "bling" of youth. What we create could be intelligent, sustainable, and completely human. Weather or not we elect to recommit to the very structures from which we have withdrawn, we can decide to unleash our aspirations to fit in at the center of things again at any age.

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## Gay Men's Bath Houses Part 2

In the previous issue, we began an exploration of gay men's "bath houses" (a.k.a. spas, or "health clubs"), discussing their history in Milwaukee prior to the late 1970s. We continue our history of those businesses.

In the late 1970s, the Club Milwaukee (Club Baths affiliate), which had opened in 1974, was one of the focal points of the gay men's community. They held annual "Mr. Club Milwaukee" contests, and held promotional events for the GPU, a gay church parish, and other businesses. Even the legendary Factory Bar got in on the action: in 1978 its owner, Chuck Cicerello opened the Broadway Health Club, upstairs from the Factory at 158 N. Broadway.

But men's health clubs in Milwaukee had now reached a critical mass, and had attracted the attention of the homophobic police department. In 1979 several violent raids on gay men's bath houses were launched by the Milwaukee Police Department, led by its homophobic Chief, Harold Breier. These resulted in dozens of arrests, and angry street protests by the gay community. Within 2-3 years nearly all of the gay men's spas in Milwaukee had closed.

Somehow the Club Milwaukee Baths managed to survive the police harassment- perhaps manager Paul DeMarco's involvement in the founding of the Cream City Business Association (CCBA) in 1981 had a hand in that. But its death knell was the HIV and AIDS health crisis. Almost as soon

as the "gay plague" first came to be suspected, both men's bath houses, and poppers, were near the top of everyone's list of villains in the crisis- believed to either cause or contribute to the spread of the disease. It was now the public health authorities who were keeping a close eye on any activities they thought might be sources of contagion. The pressure from health authorities was too much, and in February 1988, the Club Bath Milwaukee succumbed and closed its doors- a trend nationwide as virtually the entire Club Bath chain was closed down, city by city.

Larger cities managed to retain a few bath houses throughout the worst years of the AIDS crisis, almost all locally owned and operated, and some have survived for 20 years or more. In Chicago for example, both Man's Country and Steamworks have thrived- and these have continued to be meccas for gay men from Wisconsin looking to engage in that type of activity.

After more than a 10 year absence, gay men's bath houses are seeing a slow resurgence throughout the country, although confined to primarily the largest cities. Milwaukee gained a new spa in 2000 (a local affiliate of an 8-location chain, mostly based in the southwest US), but it has been on tender footing with police and health authorities. It does its best to maintain order, and the BESTD Clinic has cooperated by holding HIV screenings at the local spa about twice a month, and also working with them on any other health scares, helping them



### 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.

show a sense of responsibility for the health of their patrons.

But still, even in the 21st century, there is some police and health authority harassment in the conservative Milwaukee environment. As recently as in the past year, the local spa has been forced to observe ridiculous rules from time to time (such as mandating that changing room doors must be left open when occupied, for example). How long the local spa can remain open remains to be seen- and many Wisconsin gay men still prefer the more populated (and more anonymous) bath houses in more-liberal Chicago.

Find out more about Milwaukee's gay bath houses, including samples of advertising and news articles from the 1970s and 1980s, and the text of the previous issue of this article, 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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## Outwords Books

Top 5 Picks for December

### New & Noteworthy Non-Fiction Releases

Exclusive to Q Life.

#### FOR THE BOYS:

1. **"Bound in Flesh,"** David Thomas Lord Vampire Jean-Luc Courbet is back with his lover and fellow vampire Claude Halloran and together they wreak havoc on cities across the world, leaving a trail of bodies in their wake. One of their victims, Mike O'Donald, is the only one who may be able to stop them.
2. **"Now is the Hour,"** Tom Spanbauer A powerful, entertaining story of self-awakening, the complex bonds of family, and of America during the late 1960s, this novel follows the journeys of 17-year-old Rigby John Klusener who leaves his home in Idaho and heads for a new life in San Francisco.
3. **"When the Stars Come Out,"** Rob Byrnes The celebrated author of "The Night We Met" and "Trust Fund Boys" delivers a hilarious, wickedly witty gay romance about the secrets kept, the lies told, and the love that can inspire bravery.
4. **"The Deadly Game,"** J.P. Bowie Nick Fallon, gets a rude awakening when his past life unexpectedly catches up with him. Four years earlier, when a member of the Pittsburgh Police Department, Nick arrested Francisco Garcia, a drug dealer and cold-blooded murderer Now, Garcia has escaped from prison and plots revenge...
- 5 **"Two Spirits,"** Walter L. Williams & Toby Johnson Set in the Civil War era of the 1860s, this historical novel of the fabled Old West is an enlightening, accurate and moving account of oppression and tragedy. It is also a romantic and engaging tale of love, sexuality, personal discovery, and ultimate triumph.

#### FOR THE GIRLS:

- 1 **"Coyote Sky,"** Gerri Hill When Kate Winters finds herself with a case of writer's block, she's delighted when an old friend invites her to spend the summer in Coyote, New Mexico. Then she meets Sheriff Lee Foxx and suddenly, she can't quite believe that she's actually fallen in love... for the very first time in her life.
2. **"Storms of Change,"** Radclyffe In the continuing saga of the "Provincetown Tales," with both war abroad and upheaval at home, Reese Conlon and Tory King face their gravest challenge to their life together...
3. **"Shelter From the Storm,"** Peggy Herring When Nora Fleming returns home for her mother's 75th birthday, she faces the decision of a lifetime -- letting go of her career to move back home permanently, to the sprawling farm in a sad state of disrepair. Then Darcy Tate re-enters Nora's life -- the same Darcy Tate who had stolen her heart some thirty years before...
4. **"Fresh Tracks,"** Georgia Beers Amy Forrester can't think of a better way to spend the week between Christmas and New Year's than at the cabin with girlfriend Jo and her best friends! She expects a week of good food, fine wine, and lively conversation amongst these friends who share both beginnings and endings in a story filled with romance and possibility.
5. **"Borderline,"** Linda Crist Longing for a bit of peace and quiet, Kennedy takes Carson home to meet her family. But you never really completely shake your childhood, and Kennedy's past collides with the present, threatening to tear her family apart and, and placing her life and Carson's in the very balance.

# Celebrate the Season of Giving

The holiday season is here. As we sit down with family and friends, we have the opportunity to come out about who we are and to talk about the effect Wisconsin's vote against gay and lesbian families had on our lives. We have the chance to tell our stories to some people who, more likely than not, are ready to and need to listen. That old slogan "we are everywhere" still rings true and it is our responsibility to make it known. As a gift to yourself and to the Lesbian and Gay movement, come out, be visible, and let more heterosexual people know that by and large, Lesbian and Gay people are more like them than not, and that in reality, there is no 'us' vs. 'them' -- that all people deserve equality and the right to care for our loved ones and our families.

We should take this time to give gifts to the future of our movement. It's time to think how we should keep up the fight for our equality and how we can work to make our goals a reality. But these next steps won't do much good if we haven't thought about how we are going to fund the changes we wish to

see, to back up our goals with the resources we need to get us to that next level.

This is where the holiday season really comes in. If we want equality and freedom from discrimination we have to put our money and time where our dreams are and give what we can to make things happen.

I know many of you might be burnt out on giving -- you've given so much to Fair Wisconsin. But think about it this way -- the more you give money, time and talent to our community, the better prepared our community will be to rise to challenges, to set our own agenda and not have to rush around reacting to the agenda of those who want to see us scramble and fail while they use us as political toys that they hope will work towards their advantage.

We all know how it felt to be scrambling, to be working on this issue that was thrust upon us from the outside and to have our lives on the line. Funding our movement means that we won't have to do this. It means we will be putting a secure, solid, infrastructure in place that will meet the needs of gay and lesbian people and work



## 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

towards raising awareness about our lives and creating a new climate that is even more welcoming and affirming of our rights as human beings.

So, this holiday season surprise your partner with a couple's membership to the Lesbian Alliance. Wow her with a gift donation to Women's Voices Milwaukee. Or check out our own LGBT Community Foundation at Cream City Foundation to find our more ways you can give to create social change for our community.

Happy Holidays.



## 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.

When I came out during my freshman year of high school, I felt that I had fully liberated myself. I was gay, I was a gay boy, I was a gay boy and that was okay and fine and wonderful.

Most everyone that I've talked to has reported similar feelings of release and relaxation; knowing that you don't have to hide anything anymore or feel shameful. And these people, myself included, are right. It is good to be open about your sexuality and it is healthy to be out of the closet.

But lately I've been wondering if we might not be as open as we think. For example, I met a girl not too long ago who I was genuinely interested in, and attracted to. However, as soon my brain was able to recognize and reflect upon this attraction, I took a figurative ruler to my knuckles.

"What are you thinking? She's a girl. And you're gay. You like boys!" is the message that I was getting. And then it seriously took me a great deal of time to realize, "Wait a minute... there isn't anything wrong with that. You're allowed to like a girl if you want to."

When I finally did recognize what had happened, I was just sort of in shock. Because I am generally attracted to boys, I had just labeled myself as 'homosexual,' thus closing the door on my sexuality, rather than opening it.

What I do not mean to imply, by any means, is that everyone is 'bisexual.' This label is just as condemning as any other. Sexuality is a very personal matter that cannot completely be confined to single words like 'heterosexual,' 'homosexual,' or

# There's Nothing Wrong with Ambiguity

'bisexual.' We all have different genes and we all have different sexual orientations--lumping them all into one category seems like a rather foolish thing to do. Could you describe a person's eye color with just a single word? Hardly.

I might be attracted to males 99.9% of the time, but even so there's still that one in every one thousand females that I could also be attracted to. So why shut down that possibility, however slim it might be?

I'm not quite sure what all of this eagerness to label comes from. Perhaps it's because we all desire to fit into some sort of group that can be easily recognized and explained; or because it offers some sense of security and assurance. Whatever the cause may be, these labels are not healthy nor do they promote liberalism and an open mind, which are things that we all value.

I once gave a friend of mine funny looks when she told me that her sexuality was 'love.' It honestly made me frustrated. I thought to myself, "Oh come on. Just say you're gay or you're straight or whatever. There's no use lying about it."

Well, no more funny looks. No more

criticisms of those who claim bisexuality, or pansexuality, or whatever it may be. Ambiguity is something that should be embraced and accepted; not all bisexuals are merely 'gays that just haven't come out yet.' It's opinions like that one that encourage derogatory misconceptions and stereotypes.

Sexuality just simply isn't black and white or concrete, despite whatever we'd like to tell ourselves. And there's no reason why we should will it to be so. In the end, as human beings we are just plain *sexual*. It's our nature. There's no need for any prefixes whose sole function is to provide limitations for us.

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# "Real" ID

There has been an enormous sense of loss within the LGBT and allies community following the election. Unfortunately, there are other politico-legal issues that face our community, in addition to same-sex marriage.

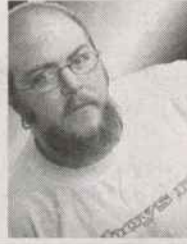
Wisconsin is a progressive state – the first, in 1982, to adopt a bill to ban bias based on sexual orientation. Protection is granted, however, only to those who experience harassment or discrimination based on their sexual orientation, not gender identity or expression. Trans people experience discrimination in many of the same ways our LGB brothers and sisters do, and in some ways that are unique to trans people.

The Real ID Act, authored by Wisconsin's very own Congressman James Sensenbrenner and signed into law in 2005, has just begun to complicate the everyday lives of transgender people. The Act originated following 9/11 and supposedly deters terrorism by creating national standards for driver's licenses. Stated most simply, the Real ID Act requires that information contained in Social Security records match driver's license/State ID data – specifically, name and gender.

Although the law differs in every state and individual bureaucrats often make idiosyncratic decisions, in general, changing the name and gender marker on a driver's license has been relatively simple for transgender people. A letter from a therapist stating that a person is living in their new gender has often been enough. Changing Social Security records, on the other hand, has often required proof of surgery (most commonly genital surgery, but often including chest surgery for FTMs) and/or a court order (which also usually requires proof of surgery). Since genital surgery is almost never covered by insurance and costs tens of thousands of dollars, many transgender people never have surgery. Of course, some do not want it anyway! The result is that often transgender people have Social Security records, a birth certificate, and other identification with our old name and/or gender marker, but manage to obtain a driver's license with our current name and gender marker so that we can get through routine check cashing, the airport, traffic stops, bar entrance, job applications, and the like without being outed and exposed to transphobia and violence.

However, now that driver's license

# Q



## 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.

information must match Social Security information, trans people in states that are already implementing the Real ID requirements – including Wisconsin – have lost this ability. As an outwardly undeniably male person (bearded, balding), I will now have to have an "F" on my driver's license. Not only will this cause me and my family untold hassles while we try to explain transsexualism and the Real ID Act to Home Depot clerks and Transportation Security Administration screeners, but it will make me a criminal each time I enter a men's restroom. Did you know that in Wisconsin you can be fined \$800 for using the "wrong" bathroom? Losing those congruent IDs will also lead to increased anti-trans discrimination in the areas of employment, housing, insurance, etc., as most trans people will be "outed" each time we are required to produce identification.

Wisconsinites (and people from all over the country!) will have a unique opportunity to learn more about the Real ID Act at the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference (March 29 - April 1, 2007), when leaders on this subject – NGLTF's Lisa Mottet, Lambda Legal's Cole Thaler, and NCTE's (National Center for Transgender Equality) Mara Keisling – will present "The End of Stealth: Living Trans in the 21st Century." A special meeting on "Strategizing Passage of a Trans Anti-Discrimination Law for Wisconsin" (also led by Mottet and Keisling) will also be convened at the Conference.

Yes, we've had a temporary setback on the road to legal (marriage) equality. Unfortunately, now's not the time to rest: we have more battles at hand.

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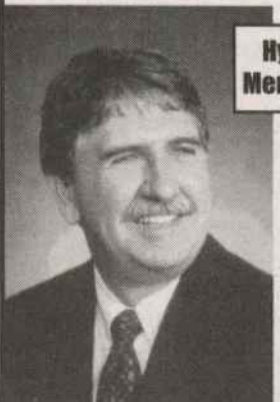
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# A Tale of Twin Cities

"Here comes Dick, he's wearing a skirt. Here comes Jane, you know she's sportin' a chain."

S o sing the venerable Minneapolis band, The Replacements, in their 1984 gem "Androgynous." The queer zine scene in Minnesota's largest metro area represents a microcosm of the evolution of the genre as a whole. From gay punk rags, to documenting the evolution of the transgender community, to thoughtful anarcho lesbian critique, the wealth of knowledge to originate from a seemingly white bread land is testament to the transformative power found in zines. Beneath the "Minnesota nice" surface have been people like John Killacky, formerly of the Walker Art Center, who continually brought the best and most controversial artists to town; performance spaces such as Patrick's Cabaret and Red Eye Collaboration; community building organizations like genderBLUR and Vulva Riot; and queer zinester legend TEG, whose **Bundle of Sticks** served as irreverent irritant to critics and fans alike. Oh, you betcha! Here's a nice hot dish sampling of what makes the Twin Cities a true "Funky Town" of queer zines.

## Femme in a Black Leather Jacket

In a small town, big city paradox, crossover may seem inevitable, but in this case, it's highly unlikely given the fact editors like Patrick Splat worked on **Loring Punk** [Issue 1, 1993, 20 pages] in isolation from more nationally known

Timmer's **Demure Butchness** [Issue 3, 1990, 48 pages]. Yet these fags have come up with Top 10 lists of the women they'd sleep with in a heartbeat that both include Annie Lennox! Loring Punk is definitely more gritty, subversive and streetwise, with personal stories of confronting dykes who are cops, a profile of Diamanda Galas, and prose by David La Terre, who it appears would never be found in **Demure Butchness**. Timmer is quite clear his zine is a poetry-free zone and instead romps on in bitchy, snarky fashion about his loves (most of the avant garde actors in Minneapolis, Sandra Bernhard, Madonna, and dick) and annoyances (Larry-bob, a writer for Equal Time newspaper, and guys who won't have sex with him).

## Dance Dance Revolution

In a town where the anarchist community center was named after radical activist Emma Goldman, it is no surprise that the Twin Cities are often at the cutting edge of queer personal politics. Evolving in part from St. Paul's Macalester College's Women's and Gender Studies program, **Transition: ALLY Work in the Twin Cities** [One-off, 2003, 28 pages] documents the thoughts, hopes, and beliefs of self-identified allies of the transgender community. These are excerpts from an oral history project edited together into readable form with photos of the interviewees. This unique style puts smiling faces to the thought-provoking text in such a way as to really



## 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.

bring their words to life and serve, in no small way, to inspire not only other allies but all people who struggle against the gender binary and gender disparity. The challenge to rise above conventional labels figures prominently in **vilde chaya** [Issue 1, 1995, 32 pages]. Rebecca asks readers to "use powerful language and audacious actions" and also to be "bad" in the sense of not conforming to acceptable (that is, oppressive) behavior. By using the beauty and power found in Yiddish, we're invited to a seat at the zine equivalent of a Seder, even so far as to have a bread recipe among the poems and thought provoking essays. Together, these two zines invite you to unleash your "wild animal" as a way to break down oppression against queer folks of all stripes.

Special thanks go to Lane McKiernan for donating a collection of amazing zines from the past ten years. Please visit the Queer Zine Archive Project on-line at [qzap.org](http://qzap.org)

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



## In the Art Gallery:

### B. J. Gruling Photography – Life in the Islamic World

Opening reception, Saturday, December 16, 5-8pm  
Show runs through January 18, 2007

B.J. Gruling lived and worked in Saudi Arabia from 1985 to 1990. During his four and one half years he was able to capture these photographic images of life in the Arab and Islamic world which you will see in this exhibit.



"It is my goal to show the warmth and beauty of the people and places in the Arab world; the human faces in everyday throughout the Islamic world."

Gruling grew up in Merrill and graduated from Merrill high school in 1975. He attended University of Wisconsin Marathon Campus as a pre-pharmacy student followed by studies at UW Madison School of Pharmacy where he graduated in 1982. After three years at Clement J Zablocki Veterans Hospital in Milwaukee, he traveled to Saudi Arabia and practiced pharmacy at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre in Riyadh.

While in Saudi Arabia, Gruling won the top award in a Kodak sponsored photography contest that received more than 4,700 entries. You will see this photograph, entitled an Egyptian Man at Abu Simbal Temple, in this exhibit.

Since returning to the United States, he has been a pharmacist at Froedert Hospital in Milwaukee and is currently the Clinical Oncology Pharmacist in the Cancer Center. Gruling resides in Whitefish Bay with his partner Rick Clark. He continues to enjoy photography and traveling.

**Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm  
And by appointment**

## On the Stage:

Friday, December 15, 8pm

### YOU'RE SO CRAZY, GIRL~!

Poetry by Carmen Alicia Murguia  
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An evening of readings by Milwaukee's own "Carmen," poet and activist.

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*The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 S. 2nd Street in Milwaukee.  
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### LOFTS on BROADWAY in THIRD WARD



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## Arts



## Calendar

## OUT NOW

**Children's Art in the Garden.** Catch these budding artists before their talents take full bloom. All the pieces are created by students from Milwaukee Area Public Schools and are inspired by the Renaissance Garden at the Villa. 1-4 p.m. \$5/3 seniors, military, and students/Free members. 414-271-3656. Through December 10.

**Ten-Minute Pays.** Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. \$18. 414-481-2110. www.wpcamilwaukee.org. Through December 10, various times.

**Working Dog.** Reception for Rosemary Curtin's abstract expressionism. Working Dog Gallery, 318 6th St., Racine. 5-8 p.m. Exhibit through December 12.

**Calling Forth Certain Experiences.** Thirty Milwaukee-based time based media artists selected by Jamal Currie. MIAD, 273 E. Erie St., Milwaukee. 6-8 p.m. 414-847-3239. Through December 16.

**Mercy of a Storm.** Next Act Theatre. A smart, romantic mystery that unfolds on New Year's Eve, 1945, as George and Zanovia find out just how strong love can be, and the cost for ignoring it. Off Broadway Theatre, 342 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-278-0765. www.nextact.org. Through December 17.

**Dickens in America.** Studio Theatre, 158 N Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. www.chamber-theatre.com. Through December 17, various times.

**South Pacific.** Cabot Theatre, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 414-291-7800. www.skylightopera.com. Through December 23, various times.

**A Cudahy Caroler Christmas.** Vogel Hall, 123 E. State St., Milwaukee. 414-273-7206. www.marcuscenter.org. Through December 31, various times.

**First Annual Holiday Art Show.** Barrow and Juarez Contemporary Art Gallery, 207 E. Buffalo St., Milwaukee. 414-765-1978. www.barrowandjuarez.com. Through

December 31.

**Three Man Art Exhibit.** It's worth the security check to see oil painter Marie Scott, photographer Dan Austin and pastel artist Shelly Rosenquist take a different approach to the usual three-man art exhibit by intermingling their three mediums among the giant wall space of the lobby of the Reuss Federal Building, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. Through January 5.

## FRIDAY, DEC. 1

**Peter Pan.** Modjeska Youth Theatre. Modjeska Theatre, 1134 W. Mitchell St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$10. 414-384-4550. www.mytheatercompany.org. Through December 10, various times.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 2

**Matthews, Ridding, Drury.** A trio of musicians from Madrid and New York City will perform electroacoustic improvisations. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. \$7. 414-961-7714. www.hotcakesgallery.com.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 3

**Woodland Pattern Holiday Open House.** Fill Thy Crack With Whiteness: A George Kuchar Xmas, a program of the celebrated underground filmmaker/exquisite video artist's holiday videos. Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 2 p.m. Free. 414-263-5001. www.woodlandpattern.org.

## SUNDAY, DEC. 10

**Wisconsin Masters Series.** Opening Reception. Charles Dix (1940-2005), an earthbound astronaut, explored the cosmic universe through his "close blending" of color and form to create images of planetary places unknown. Charles Allis Art Museum, 1-5 p.m. \$5/3 seniors, veterans and students/Free members and active military. 414-278-8295. Through January 28.

## MONDAY, DEC. 11

## Q Pick

**Maja Ratkje and Poing.** A concert of compositions and improvisations for this Norwegian trio of accordion, saxophone and double bass, and featuring vocalist Maja Ratkje. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. \$7. 414-961-7714. www.hotcakesgallery.com.

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

**Chicago Brass Quintet.** Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 1 p.m. \$18/15 students and seniors. 262-781-9520. www.wilson-center.com.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 21

**Bling in the Holla-Daze with Fasten.** Christmas party with DJ's Soma the Selector and Miss Lafontaine bringing you soul, funk, glam, and holiday jams, photo booth with pimpin' Santa. Bring in your kitschiest ornament or make your own at Fasten (supplies included) and enter a contest, killah prizes for the blingin'est! Fasten Co-op Clothing Gallery, 2224 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 7-12 p.m. \$3 suggested donation. www.fastencollective.com.

**Metro Milwaukee Young Playwrights Festival 2006.** Three short, award-winning plays written by Ryan Unsworth, Deanie Vallone, and Tori Vertelka will premiere during this new festival. Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. \$12/6 students and seniors. 414-290-8151. www.chamber-theatre.com. Through December 23.

## SATURDAY, DEC. 23

**Holiday Classics.** Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 8 p.m. 262-781-9520. www.wilson-center.com.

Send January submissions to: qlifelistings@yahoo.com before December 15th, 2006.

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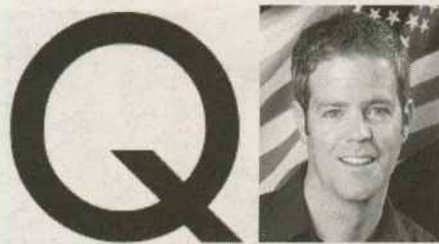


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## POLITICS

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.

The Howard Dean campaign came out of nowhere in 2003, when few felt George Bush, fresh off still uncorrupted victories in Afghanistan and Iraq, was beatable. Fewer thought that the governor of a small New England state who supported civil unions and dared to doubt the Iraq war could be a contender. But with an army of youthful volunteers, thousands of small contributors, a gutsy staff and above all a hype machine that assumed the confident posture of a winner, Dean became a sensation. The magazine covers had practically inaugurated him before hype was introduced to reality in the chill of Iowa's caucuses, January 2004. Dean came in third, and in his desperate attempt to keep his supporters believing the dream delivered his "I have a scream" speech, and it was all over.

Alas, despite our best hopes about our Wisconsin neighbors, the great talent laboring for us, and unmatched generosity of time and money, Fair Wisconsin has followed a similar arc. We lost the vote on the civil unions and gay marriage ban. Big, 41-59. So much was accomplished by Fair Wisconsin — new relationships in nongay communities. New donors and activists. Credit for a massive get-out-the-vote operation that drew youthful and fair-minded voters to the polls, helping return the State Senate to Democrats and narrowing the Republican advantage in the Assembly (nothing puts a stop to these antigay tactics more than having it backfire on the Republicans — not even defeating the amendment: the legislative leaders who scheduled this vote for the Gubernatorial cycle would marry someone of their own sex if it meant they could get a Republican

# The Scream

governor).

Action Wisconsin and Center Advocates, the two organizations preparing for the campaign, knew they couldn't mount the effort they needed to win on their own, so they hired a young professional campaign manager named Mike Tate (coincidentally Dean's field director in Wisconsin in 04). Tate brought new credibility to the campaign, with his Democratic Party relationships, obvious intelligence, and forceful bold leadership style. He quickly changed the tone from a tentative underdog operation to a machine committed to winning. He established a streamlined decision making structure from Madison that gave him total authority and the ability to turn the direction of the campaign on a dime at his command. Much of what Fair Wisconsin did this year is due to Tate.

Fair Wisconsin was launched in February, with lists and startup cash from both organizations. Wisconsin quickly became the "it" state — a chance to break the losing streak of marriage amendment votes because of our comparative advantages: while the campaigns in states with previous bans had months to prepare, Wisconsin activists had been working for Election Day for nearly three years. Thanks to smart, aggressive fundraising at the direction of the incomparable Heather Colburn, Fair already had a million in the bank by April, demonstrating viability. By Election Day, nearly five million was raised, more than the combined total raised by the seven other No campaigns. Wisconsin was the only blue state of the bunch.

On election eve, Wisconsin was the great hope of the nation. A Badger Poll at the end of October had the race nearly tied 50-46. A huge field operation had labored for months and the GOTV operation was one of the state's largest. So what happened?

The results are perplexing and require further analysis. Wisconsin's 41%-59% loss

was an undistinguished 5th place on Election Night, slightly better than Idaho but worse than Virginia, cradle of the Confederacy! It was a red state that made history November 7 by defeating their amendment — Arizona, with a disciplined message that used real-life straight people like firefighters to tell voters how the amendment would take health care and other domestic protections from their families.

Of 72 Wisconsin counties, only Dane County (resoundingly!) and LaCrosse County voted no. In voter surveys and exit polling, the no vote is consistently correlated with youth, urbanity, college education, and Democratic Party/liberal identity. And yet Milwaukee County, home to the most same-sex couples in the state, was a disappointing 45-55 loss (only a handful of its communities like Shorewood, Whitefish Bay, and Glendale

— but not the City of Milwaukee — voted no), outperformed by rural counties like Eau Claire, Iowa, Portage and Green. Was there a difference in the ads that played in those media markets? Why is it that the no

vote closely matched Doyle's paltry vote in Milwaukee's suburban counties, but generally lagged 12 points or more behind Doyle elsewhere. Exit polling showed that 37% of Doyle voters voted yes. Are Wisconsin Democrats really that antigay? Milwaukee's large African American community voted yes by significant margins, more than Black voters in Virginia according to exit polls. Should the campaign have had more of a sustained canvass in African American neighborhoods or invested in better lit or more radio ads?

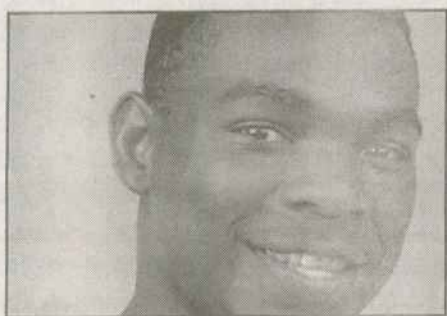
Ultimately the results show the Fair Wisconsin message was unpersuasive, even confusing. After starting with an education campaign in July to remind voters that more than gay marriage would be banned, the campaign made a noble but brief attempt to portray the harm to a lesbian family. When the polls didn't show the desired result,

Fair ads went the opposite way in early October, promising voters that a "no" vote also meant no gay marriage. The "Nothing Changes" ad told viewers "voting 'no' means everything stays the same. No special rights. No government intervention. Keep things the way they are, vote 'no.'" Another ad with a farmer modeled his homespun opposition to gay marriage, noting that marriage has always been between a man and a woman, though at least went on to say how a yes vote would hurt people. "No gay marriage, no special rights" became standard copy for Fair Wisconsin literature, too, especially in communities of color. For the last five weeks of the campaign, Fair doth protested too much. In its earnest desire to remind voters that a no vote didn't equal gay marriage, defensive repetitions violated the message maxim of George Lakoff's "Don't Think of an Elephant;" which reminds progressives that if you spend all your time saying you're not what the right says you are, you'll lose because you'll be fighting on their terrain, using their language, and their frame of reference.

Which brings me to Fair Wisconsin's scream moment. As the campaign cycled through messages looking for traction, it increasingly abandoned "no" arguments for "yes" ones with a "vote no" tagged on at the end (if you can't beat 'em, join 'em?). In desperation or smugness, somehow two automated calls were sent out the day before the election to tens of thousands of expected yes voters. One from a man named Ron told listeners to "...Vote no on the marriage amendment and send a message that you care about our family values and our children. We don't want activist judges getting involved to determine what marriage means. We know in Wisconsin marriage means a man and a woman. Vote no to stop activist judges..." The dirty trick didn't honor the risk and sacrifices made by Fair Wisconsin's 11,000 donors and 10,000 volunteers and all the other citizens who tried to cast their votes according to their conscience. It also didn't work. Let's hope the clever maneuvering of one or two in temporary leadership haven't damaged the long-term credibility of our LGBT movement.

*Disclaimer: Patrick Flaherty served on the Fair Wisconsin campaign's volunteer board of directors*

## On election eve, Wisconsin was the great hope of the nation



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# Make The Yuletide Gay!

**H**ave yourself a merry little Christmas. The season of gay yuletide fun. A special time for family, friends, and many holiday traditions. If it still feels like everything is exactly the same as when you were a child...it more or less is.

Have you ever spent Christmas in Florida, California, or Hawaii? Unless you were brought up in a warm climate; I'm sure you did not feel the cozy comfort of your traditional childhood Christmas. Even when it does not snow in Milwaukee; our Christmas memories somehow change.

Why do we need that traditional comfort? Might it be just like craving ice cream, or chocolate? Many of us watch our favorite childhood TV shows on Nick at Night. Like many Holiday movies and shows; we need to live those moments over and over again! It could just be like that

classic story of Peter Pan never growing up.

We forget that for many of us there is great pain in that traditional comfort. Not feeling part of the family unit; as we just felt different. Bringing our partner/lover over for the Holidays; and watching the discomfort on the faces of our family and friends. Even worse, not having a family, friend or partner to share Christmas and New Years Eve with. We never can escape our past; but somehow we can choose to let go, and just move on!

### Same Old Traditions

Well, many of the same traditions are still around our Milwaukee area theater scene. You either love them, or hate them!

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater brings us its annual **CHRISTMAS CAROL**. At the Pabst, this is the best Holiday show in town. The Milwaukee Ballet once again stages its classic **THE NUTCRACKER**. The Milwaukee Chamber Theater brings us a very classic event with **DICKENS IN AMERICA**. Then the famous Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra presents **DOC'S HOLIDAY POPS**. These shows should be just like your favorite Holiday comfort food!

### In With The New

Since I will be in Florida; I will be very untraditional. But, for my money I would see that hilarious annual Gutzman event of **HOLIDAY PUNCH** at Off The Wall Theatre. This year the **CUDAHY CAROLER CHRISTMAS** will find its

new home at Vogel Hall. **A VERY MERRY MCGIVERN** with John McGivern will play at Next Act. I am so glad the Milwaukee Rep is also doing something non-traditional. The classic comedy **BORN YESTERDAY**. The Cedar Creek Repertory Company plays the hilarious new comedy **JACOB MARLEY'S CHRISTMAS CAROL**. Sunset Playhouse stages the British play **SEASON'S GREETINGS**. All of these shows promise a change of pace to your plain old-fashioned Christmas!

### People and Places for December

James Searles of the Astor Theatre is working on a holiday film festival which will surprisingly take place in March 2007. It is **THE MIS-DIRECTED HOLIDAY FILM FESTIVAL**; so stop in and see James for the exciting details. Ken Williams is on stage at the Vogel Hall in **CUDAHY CAROLER CHRISTMAS**. Ken will then star in **THE UNDERPANTS** by Steve Martin, for RSVP Productions. Steve Martin has signed his autograph to his photo, wishing us success! Heather Clayton (also a fine singer); will make her dramatic debut in **SEASON'S GREETINGS** at Sunset Playhouse. Deborah Staples plays the lead in **BORN YESTERDAY** at the REP. And in closing, I had fun returning to the stage in the production of **NOT NOW, DARLING** with RSVP Productions last month. Please support your favorite bars; as they are even more fun during the Holiday Season!



## 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.

*My Aunt Blanche thinks THE NUTCRACKER is a porno flick.*

### Last November's Trivia Answer

The song "Tits and Ass" is from **A CHORUS LINE**.

### This Month's Trivia Question

Who originated the role of the dumb blond in the play and film **BORN YESTERDAY**?

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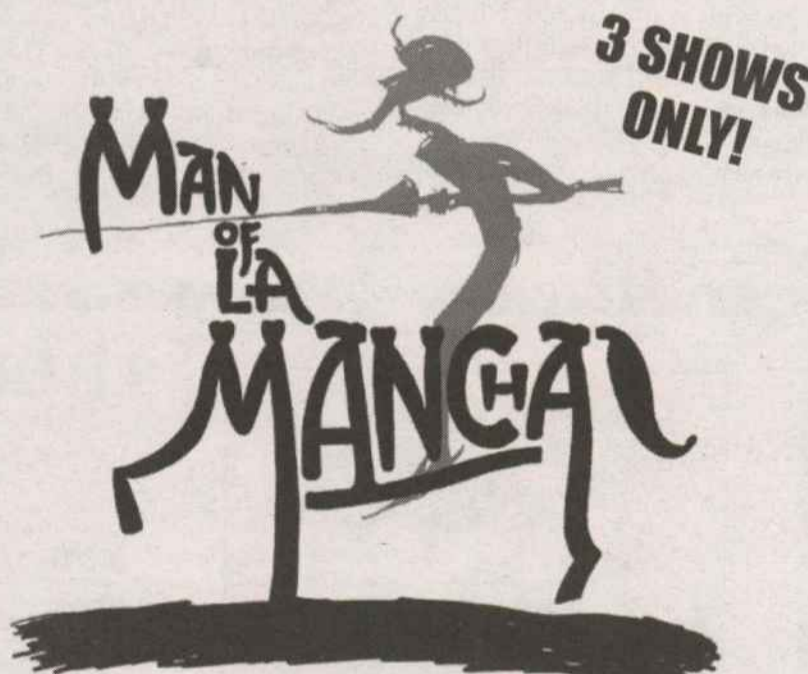
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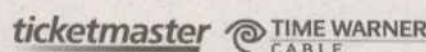


This 5 time Tony Award winning production reigns as the original "quest" musical. The centuries-old tale of Don Quixote has been told in many different ways, but none can compare to this lavish and triumphant Broadway musical hit. Poignant and often funny, Man of La Mancha is a treat for all the senses, and just might ignite your own quest for adventure. The lights, costumes, dancing and music will leave you breathless. The story will leave you speechless.

### The Milwaukee Theatre - December 15 & 16

For tickets call 414-276-4545 or visit [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)  
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Also available at The Milwaukee Theatre Box Office and all Ticketmaster outlets. Convenience fees apply. The Milwaukee Theatre Box Office, 500 W. Kilbourn Avenue, is open 10 am-5 pm M-F.



# Grandma's Parker House Rolls

The holiday season is upon us. Family gatherings and rituals, Christmas trees and tinsel, cookies, and the scent of food cooking all contribute to memories of the good old days. Grandma's rolls were always a welcome contribution to the family holiday feast. When asked how they were made, Grandma would always say "a handful of this and a handful of that." She was an old school cook. Rarely did she follow a recipe and learned most of her skills by watching her Mother and aunts.

The Parker House Hotel rolls were made famous in Boston. Today, the old hotel is known as the Omni Parker House. Founded in 1855 by Harvey D. Parker, it is indeed a place where one wishes the walls could talk. Among the notable visitors were F.D.R., J.F.K., Bill Clinton, Oliver Wendell Homes, Emerson, Longfellow, Charles Dickens, and many more. It is interesting to note that the famous were not only limited to the guests, but also employees. Ho Chi Min, the Vietnamese leader, worked as a baker from 1911 to 1913. Malcom X was employed as a busboy in the early forties.

The original recipe was even given to Franklin D. Roosevelt for use at the White House. I'll bet it doesn't top Grandma's!

- Grandma's Parker House Rolls**
- 2 packages of dry yeast
  - 2 cups of warm water (hot tap water is fine)
  - 1/2 cup of sugar
  - 1 teaspoon of salt
  - 1 unbeaten egg
  - 1/4 cup of oil
  - 5 1/2 - 6 cups of flour

- In a medium to large mixing bowl:*
- Dissolve the yeast in the water
  - Add the sugar, salt, egg and oil (Mix after each addition)
  - Add the flour last - one cup at a time. (hand mix after each addition.)
  - Turn out onto a floured board
  - Let the dough rest for 10 minutes
  - Knead the bread by lifting from the bottom and folding it over into the center of the dough ball. Push it away from you and make a quarter of the turn. Do this until the dough is smooth and elastic. Add additional flour as needed so your fingers don't get all sticky.
  - Oil a bowl, put the rounded bread dough into the bowl, and make sure to turn it over so both sides are oiled.
  - Cover with a dampened cloth and let rise for at least 2 hours.
  - Turn the dough out onto a floured surface, knead it to get most of the large air bubbles out, cut the dough into 36 pieces.



## COOKING

Annie Gilson comes from a large Irish/Polish family, and hails from Kenosha. She raised two children, and now has the pleasure of visiting with her grandkids. She, and the rest of her family, still want to get their hands on Great Aunt Kay's elusive recipes.

Note: If the dough does NOT feel light and fluffy but stiff and unyielding THROW IT OUT. Go to the store and buy some rolls.

-Shape each piece into a ball and place (nearly touching each other) in two greased 8 x 8 pans or one 9 x 11. -Bake at 375 for at least 20 minutes. Let them cool at least 15 minutes in the pan

Serve these rolls with your main dish this holiday season, be it turkey, beef roast, ham or, pasta. They are great for the leftovers a few hours after the main meal event, when everyone gets to picking at the rest of the carvings still sitting in the kitchen.

Enjoy!

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday.

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