



Learning from Herstory

By Jennifer Curtis

"I will not be afraid of being called the same names as the womyn before me...I take this legacy seriously," Alix Olsen, *Contemporary Lesbian Feminist Spoken Word Warrior*

Prior to the late 1970s, history was literally "his-story" - a long and glorious tale of the lives, works and wars of "great men," told from a male perspective and based upon the day-to-day experiences of predominantly white men. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, a revolution in how to approach history took place thanks in part to the efforts of the Women's Liberation Movement that fought for the voices and experiences of women to be included in any telling of history. Of course, the works of the women of the "second wave"

of Feminism were started by the women of the "first wave" who were standing on the shoulders of the women before them, and those women were carrying on the struggles and aspirations of the women before them.

This March marks the 20th anniversary of Women's History Month. Women's History Month is the product of a revolution in the way we conceptualize and tell the story of our shared past as human beings on this Earth. This month devoted to the experiences of women throughout history is a time to pause and reflect upon the lives of women. It is a time to learn things you may not have known, to re-learn things you thought you knew, and to honor the women

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CREAM CITY FOUNDATION HISTORY:

DO YOU KNOW YOUR RIGHTS?

In 1985, The Cream City Foundation paid for and distributed "Know Your Rights" cards to help protect the rights of Gay and Lesbian individuals stopped by the Police. In 1991, The Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee and the Cream City Foundation assisted the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender Community by starting an Anti-Discrimination project that advocated for gay men and lesbians under the nation's only state antidiscrimination law. Today, **Cream City Foundation** continues its support of LGBT rights by assisting organizations such as Fair Wisconsin and Center Advocates.

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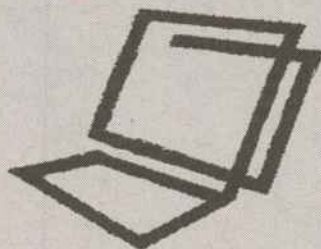
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ARTS/COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ARTS EVENTS MARCH 3-19

Milwaukee Shakespeare Richard II Directed by Alec Wild March 3rd 7:30 p.m.: first Friday preview UWM Mainstage Theatre. The Arts Center 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd.\$30 regular/\$22 seniors/\$20 previews/\$15 students with valid ID. Tickets: (414) 229-4308. More information: <http://www.milwaukee-shakespeare.com>

MARCH 8

Ellis in Concert, 9pm, Gasthaus, UWM Union Lower Level. Ellis' music has been described as joyful, unpretentious acoustic rock with influences of folk and a slight hint of country flavor. Sponsored by UWM Union Programming, UWM LGBT Resource Center, and the UWM Women's Resource Center. Free Event

MARCH 9

StageQ, Inc. announces its production of the comedy The Gays of Our Lives by Claudia Allen, directed by Tara Ayres. Runs through Saturday, March 31 at the Bartell Theatre at 113 E. Mifflin Street in Madison. Tickets are \$10 for Sunday and Thursday; \$15 for Friday and Saturday. Tickets are available on-line at www.stageq.com or may be reserved by calling 608-661-9696, ext. 3.

MARCH 22

Baroque on the Arno: Florentine Paintings from the Haukohl Collection. 6:15 PM. Travel to seventeenth-century Italy with Ian Kennedy, a specialist in Italian Baroque art, who will speak in conjunction with a loan of thirteen Florentine paintings to the Museum from the Haukohl Family Collection, the largest collection of seventeenth-century Florentine art in America. The loan includes artists such as Cesare Dandini and Alessandro Gherardini that usually can only be seen in Italy. Cost: Free with general admission. Lubar Auditorium. 414-224-3200

MARCH 31

The musical duo, SIDE BY SIDE, will perform in the second floor lounge at the Milwaukee Public Market noon - 2:00. Diane and Sandy will sing songs familiar and fun for adults and children. Diners are encouraged to join in. Requests are welcome. The Milwaukee Public Market is located at 400 N. Water Street. For further information contact Sandy Lewis - 414-961-2135

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MARCH 8

International Women's Day & Family Visitation: Why Have the UN & International Human Rights Organizations Criticized U.S. Treatment of the "Cuban 5?" featuring Alicia Jrapko, Int'l. Committee for Freedom for the Five. 7pm, at Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., Milwaukee. Free & open to the public.

MARCH 9

Lesbian Alliance Game Night & Potluck Friday. 6 PM. LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Bring your favorite game for an evening of fun. As you are able, please bring a dish to pass. For more information call 414-559-4610.

MARCH 16

Cream City Squares & Shoreline present a St Patrick's Day Dance at Hot Water, 818 S. Water St (Milwaukee) Light

Supper 6:30 PM Square Dancing 7-8:30 PM Country Western Partner & Line Dancing 8:30 PM to close Lessons provided for those who need it. FMI Laura 414-747-0388

MARCH 27

"Queer-Now and Then" UWM Golda Meir Library, Special Collections, Rm 472 The term "queer" speaks volumes about the ways LGBT people see themselves and are perceived by others. A discussion by an intergenerational, women-identified panel on the sexual politics of the word "queer" and its meanings in their lives. 7pm. Light Refreshments will be served. For info: Jennifer Murray, UWM LGBT Resource Center- 414-229-4116 FREE and Open to the Public

MARCH 31ST

SAGE/Milwaukee's Third Annual Spring Fling--"Gay Parea" at MONA's 1407 South First Street, Milwaukee. 6-10pm. Tickets for the event are \$15 pp. Includes appetizers/snacks, soda, cake, coffee and corsage/boutonniere. Full bar service will also be available for cash purchase. "Spring Fling" King and Queen will be crowned at 7:30 PM. Tickets are available through by mail through SAGE/Milwaukee's office (414) 224-0517 or contact Raymond Konz-Krzyminski at (414) 617-1152

For full event calendars, please visit our website at www.queerlifeneews.com. To submit events to our listings, please send them to qlifelistings@yahoo.com. Deadline for April events is March 20th.



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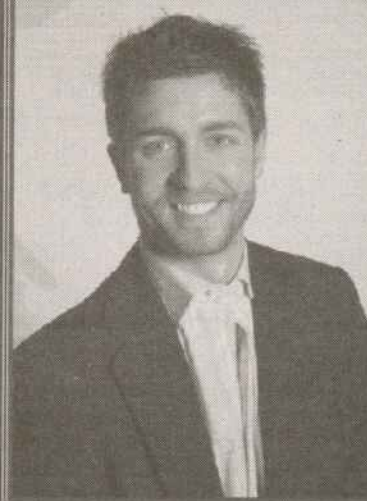
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WOMEN'S Quote

"You can't win them all. But you can try."

— Babe Didrikson Zaharias



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Womens *continued from page 1*

whose lives were devoted to making this world a better place for the women and the men of today.

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people have a lot to learn from women's history. Our stories are still not in the history books, and our social movements have had some of the same struggles, faced some of the same opponents. Below you'll find five key lessons that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people should learn from American women's history:

1). **Reform Takes Time.** It took over 72 years for women to gain the vote in this country. While the right to vote isn't the only major issue that women have faced throughout history, this issue is at the heart of women's struggle for equality and justice in the United States. For decades women had no legal rights and were legally the property of men, be it their father or husband. It was common belief in the early nineteenth century that women could not think for themselves and belonged in a 'separate sphere' from the public and active sphere of men, a sphere that rotated around the private and domesticated space of kitchen, home and family life. Ideologies of "true womanhood" insisted that women were the guardians of moral life and that they did not have the head for politics or education. In fact, many men and some women believed that educating women would not only upset the natural social order, but would cause the woman to become insane, or worse, sterile! Women had no rights to their own children, could not serve on juries, and had no voice in making laws they had to follow. The movement to gain the right to vote radically changed the ways that people saw women, politically, economically, and ideologically. This was the most radical work of the women's movement and it's greatest achievement to date. For any group of oppressed peoples forcing the shift from being non-persons to persons is the first and most vital step towards equality and justice.

2). **People In Power Aren't Just Going to Give You Any Rights.** Women were the first group to picket the White House. Beginning in 1913, Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and other members of the National Women's Party took the fight for suffrage to a new level. Women fought, were put in jail, and died to gain equal citizenship with men. So, why is it that today according to U.S Census Data from the 2004 elections only 74% of

women even bother to register to vote?

A woman's right to her own body was illegal by law until 1973 when the Supreme Court decided that abortion was a matter of privacy and something to be determined between a woman and her doctor, not the government. Lesbians and Gay men have protested bar raids, marched on Washington, and been beaten and jailed in their efforts for equal rights as well. The current state of our movement is one of ups and downs. Although civil unions are available in some states, most have banned any form of legal marriage equality. It's going to take more struggle, strategy, and time to have equal status under the law.

3). **Splits, Divides, In-Fighting, Diversity and Difference**

Not all women share the same experiences or history. At the same time women were fighting for their right to vote, African Americans were fighting for their freedom. Most suffragists were

WOMEN'S Quote

"The Vote is a power, a weapon of offense and defense, a prayer".
— *Carrie Chapman Catt, 1920*

white, middle or upper class women with little to no direct knowledge of the experiences of women of color or lower social class standings. These divisions carried over into the next generations of Feminism and were met with vocal protest and resistance from women of color as they began to take white Feminists to task for presenting their own experience as that of "all women." Audre Lorde and Pat Parker told their stories of being black, Lesbian and Feminist. In Parker's words, "The day all the different parts of me can come along, we would have what I would call a revolution." Latina and Chicana Lesbians like Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldua published *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* in 1981, a wake up call for Feminists about the existence of racism and classism in their own communities. Differences of race and class were confounded by differences in political ideology as women worked to define Feminism, envision equality, and determine which rights to work for and how to go about it.

4). **The Unique Experience of Lesbians**

In addition to race, class, and ideological differences, women also differed in their sexual orientation. In the early 1970s, Lesbian women, feeling excluded by a predominantly Gay male focused Gay Liberation Movement, and pushed out of the heterosexually dominated Women's Liberation Movement, joined together to form the Lesbian Feminist movement. All over the country Lesbian women started

25 Firsts in Women's Achievement

1. Ann Teresa Mathews First woman whose invention received a patent (for cleaning and curing corn) - it was granted to her husband 1715
2. Mary Katherine Goddard First woman postmaster 1775
3. Lucy Brewer First woman marine 1812
4. Amelia Jenks Bloomer Publisher/editor of first prominent women's rights newspaper 1849
5. Harriet Tubman First woman to run underground railroad to help slaves escape 1850
6. Susan B. Anthony Co-Founder of first US woman's suffrage organization 1869
7. Victoria Chaffin Woodhull First woman to be presidential candidate 1872
8. Clara Barton Founder of the American Red Cross 1881
9. Maud Booth Co-Founder of Salvation Army and Volunteers of America 1887/96
10. Suzanna Madora Salter First woman mayor (Argonia, Kansas) 1887
11. Blanche Scott First woman to fly an airplane 1910
12. Jeannette Rankin First woman in Congress 1917
13. Hallie Ferguson First woman governor of U. S. state (Texas) 1924
14. Jane Addams First woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize 1931
15. Hattie Wyatt Caraway First woman elected to U.S. Senate 1932
16. Amelia Earhart First woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean 1932
17. Conchita V. Cintron First U.S. woman bullfighter in Spain 1949
18. Valentina Vladimirovna Tereshkova First woman to fly in space, aboard Vostok 6. 1963
19. Mary Clarke First woman to be named major general in U.S. Army 1978
20. Sandra Day O'Connor First woman a justice of the U. S. Supreme Court 1981
21. Joan Benoit (Samuelson) First woman to win an Olympic marathon 1984
22. Madeleine K. Albright First woman Secretary of State and highest ranking woman in the U.S. govt. 1997
23. Halle Berry First African-American woman to win a Best Actress Oscar 2002
24. Condoleezza Rice First African-American woman to be appointed Secretary of State 2005
25. Nancy Pelosi First woman to become Speaker of the House 2007

domestic violence shelters and rape crisis lines, started record companies, put on women's music concerts and festivals, founded their own publishing companies, lived together collectively, and worked to create woman-centered safe spaces where Lesbian women could imagine a life free from Patriarchy. Radical writings like "The Woman Identified Woman," and *Sappho Was A Right On Woman*, fueled the movement as Lesbian women began tell their own herstory and shape their own future. Differences of race and class continued to divide the movement but many women found ways to work together across difference, especially on issues of violence against women. Lesbian women still face tensions within both LGBT and Women's organizations and are often met with a lack of understanding when forming their own separate organizations and spaces that seek to fill the gaps and empower Lesbian women as they define

themselves for themselves.

5). **All Oppressions Are Linked**

A glance at women's history informs us that women saw their own oppression was linked and not very much different from the experiences of others facing discrimination, prejudice, and unequal treatment by laws, religion, or custom. Feminist theory asserts that all oppressions are linked because they share a common source: the patriarchal capitalist structuring of society that depends on a hierarchy of haves and have not's.

Movements for LGBT equality can learn from this coalition building and take comfort in the knowledge that we are not alone, that others have been through this before, that others are going through similar or worse situations now, and that by joining together we can all work for a better world.

WOMEN'S Quote

"The most violent element in society is ignorance."
— *Emma Goldman*

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of Staind
March 7

Taylor Hicks
March 28

Norah Jones
M. Ward
May 5

alternative

St. Patrick's Day Party!
Of Montreal
March 17

The Gufs
April 13

The Decemberists
My Brightest Diamond
April 18

Sean Lennon
April 17

Galifone & Decibully
May 19

BLUES

Keb' Mo'
March 31

Kenny Wayne Shepherd
April 11

classic rock

Tommy Shaw & Jack Blades
Shaw / Blades
April 8

COUNTRY

The Last of The Breed
Willie Nelson
Merle Haggard
Ray Price
March 24

Emmylou Harris
March 29

comedy

WKLB's Comedy for Kids
March 2 & 3

Lisa Lampanelli
March 30

family

Discover Theater
Disney's Cinderella &
The Jungle Book
March 3 - 2pm & 5pm

The Shangri-La
Chinese Acrobats
March 18

Lord of the Dance
April 21

Jungle Jack Hanna
May 16

jazz

Ahmad Jamal Trio
March 10

Pat Metheny &
Brad Mehldau Trio
APRIL 5

Terence Blanchard
April 14

Frank Morgan Quartet
May 12

Bela Fleck &
Chick Corea
JUNE 10

classical

Nicola Benedetti
April 10

celtic

The Chieftains
March 8

Gaelic Storm
March 14

Lord of the Dance
April 21

WORLD

Antibalas
APRIL 26

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Chick Corea
JUNE 10

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JUNE 18

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MON. 16 APR. THE DECEMBERISTS

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Women's Twisted History

"All the Great Mothers are born from the primeval ocean or the watery abyss, the primordial womb of life from which all created forms emerge...Aphrodite is born from the foam of the sea. The brightly painted 'mermaids', flinging their arms and hair to the winds of every quarter on the prows of ships, may be a folk remnant of this inheritance." Anne Baring & Jules Cashford, The Myth of the Goddess (Mary as the Great Mother Goddess).

Many people think of Starbucks as an evil, spreading, overpriced empire of unethically-traded coffee. Interestingly, their search for a mermaid logo turns out to be a modern tale of feminism gone awry.

Their first choice for "Starbucks Coffee and Tea" was a mermaid taken from a 15th Century engraving. In this image, our girl flaunts her yoni (genitalia, Pearly Gates, fishy-smelling part, whatever you prefer to call it) and her naked torso. This twin-tailed siren has lopsided breasts (I like her already), a protruding belly and her legs (or should I say tails?) spread wide in a suggestive pose. Back then, sailors would plant such a mermaid on the prow of their ships to ward off evils and misfortunes during their voyages.

They obviously picked up on her magical powers, because they kept most of Raunchy Girl's features in a second version. Finally, the version we know today was developed as a result of customer complaints. Her hair was re-designed to demurely cover those troublesome breasts. The picture was re-centered. You see her face, her hair covering her breasts and those two tails on either

side. Now it's left to your imagination what's going on at the base of those kicked-up legs. Yet, even without the full impact of this not-so-little mermaid, Starbucks is thriving. Coincidence or cosmic synergy? You decide.

As a second-wave feminist from the 70s, I enjoy ancient matriarchal representations of female power. When patriarchy overthrew our awesome nature-centered society, men eliminated or re-interpreted our robust images of sexuality and fertility. This led to such distortions of femaleness as genital mutilation of Somali girls, veils to keep sexy Middle Eastern hair out of sight, and public breastfeeding frowned on as "disgusting" in the U.S.

And while we're on the subject of co-optation, guess where the Jesus-proclaiming fish symbol on bumper stickers came from? According to **The Women's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets**, "the fish symbol of the yonic Goddess was so revered throughout the Roman Empire that Christian authorities insisted on taking it over, with extensive revision of myths to deny its earlier female-genital meaning." (*Barbara G. Walker, ed, p. 314*)

Honk if you love Venus.... Or Hecate, Yemaya and Asthoreth.



LESBIAN VIEW

Lesley Salas is a Cuban-American lesbian mother of two. She currently enjoys life in Riverwest with her blended family: her partner, their lovable dog and disgruntled cat

As artist Barb Kobe describes it, "The mermaid is the symbol of the old Goddess energy that represents women, particularly the mysterious, life-generating element. She lives in the element of water, the element of the unconscious and dreams."

(See <http://www.barbkobe.com/mermaidstory.htm>)

Oh, how far we have fallen!

I have an idea of how to celebrate Women's History Month 2007. Let's stop wallowing in the rejection and falsification of women's strength in modern society. Let's reclaim our power as women, as merdykes, as the embodiment of birth, inspiration and transformation. Womyn, embrace your inner goddess. Just think to yourself, what would Xena do?

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Three Great Flavors

Mothers and Sons: Mama-Q and Alex Grateful to Judy Shepard and Matthew

This month, we hear from Q Parenting columnist, Cyndie Ody-Weis and her 16 year-old son Alex.

Thoughts from the mom-

I first heard about Matthew Shepard in 1998 when horrific news stories described a 21-year-old college student severely beaten because he was gay, then tied to a fence to die. Later, the story of Matthew's life and death aired on HBO and a theatre group compiled the facts into a stage play, *The Laramie Project*. I've seen both countless times, read the script and a reactionary book of poems and shared the videos with family and friends. Each semester, my students at area colleges and community groups hear about the horror of Matthew as we grapple with questions of hate, oppression, acceptance, "group-think," forgiveness and personal growth. Matthew's story is one I know well.

But on February 12, when Matthew's mom addressed the Carroll College community, I plunged into deeper horror and revamped fears. As I heard Judy Shepard describe Matt's loving personality and silly sense of humor, I longed for his gentle spirit to be among us. As the petite, soft-spoken woman described the near-lifeless, almost unrecognizable son she approached in the hospital after the brutal attack, I grieved for Judy and felt her pain. Mother-love for our gay sons links us, heart to heart, tear for tear. As a mom, Judy calmed Matt's fears and wiped his tears during his short life. It haunts me to imagine Matt tied to the fence, covered in blood except for lines from tears; white stripes down his face where tears rinsed blood away. In a right world, mothers wipe tears—tears do not cleanse blood.

Matt's tears renew my passion—and Judy's—to speak out and work toward justice for ALL people, especially our LGBT youth. "I have to do this," said Judy, at a pre-speech reception where we met, "I have to tell Matt's

story." Judy describes "healing" as she speaks to groups nationwide six months each year. "I am an introverted person, she adds, "The only way I get through is knowing that Matthew is with me."

Indeed, Judy spoke with confidence, passion and authority. Several times during the 90 minute presentation, I boiled with anger at the torture Matt endured. More times, I filled with gratitude for Judy's passion to make the world a better place for gay youth—for my son, Alex who sat beside me as I listened.

Thoughts from the son- Alex

When I heard Judy Shepard speak, I knew she was a very strong woman. I don't know many others who could stand up on stage and speak about the loss of a son—especially when the loss was so painful. How could anyone actually kill Matthew, an innocent young man? I just don't understand how anyone could be that cold-hearted.

If I could talk to Judy again, I'd ask what she wants to do to the people now, eight years after losing her son. Would she grant them the same mercy she did at the time of the court hearing, asking that they be spared the death penalty?

As for the two guys who killed Matthew, I wonder what they have thought about these past eight years. Did they think about Matthew and what his life could have been?

I also wonder how they were raised. Had they been taught to respect human life? Were they told that gays were evil or that homosexuality was wrong? Did their parents or churches or communities give them these messages? If their parents raised them to believe that being gay was evil or wrong, maybe their parents are responsible for the murder and should be punished too.

In so many ways, Matthew lives on. Because of his life and his death, Judy Shepard is speaking out, talking to thousands of people every week—mostly college

students. She tells them to stop the slurs against gays and end the put-downs; to stop using the word "gay" when describing something they don't like. She speaks out for equal rights, including marriage and fair treatment for LGBT people. And of course, she misses her son.

If Matthew were alive today, he'd thank his mom. Because he is gone, I'll say it for him—thank you, Judy Shepard, for your



PARENTING

Cyndie Ody-Weis (MAMAQLN@yahoo.com) is mom to two daughters and a son, all of whom date men. Cyndie is an active PFLAG member, college teacher and freelance writer, whose works have been published in *Roots and Wings*, *Adoptive Families*, *Adoptalk*, *Faithwriters* and *Advocate.com*.

strength and for working to make the world a better place for all of us.

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Wisconsin



Happenings

Wisconsin Domestic Partner Benefits

Madison - Fair Wisconsin released an updated list of employers based in Wisconsin that offer domestic partner health insurance. Governor Jim Doyle has announced he will include a request for state employee domestic partner benefits in the 2007 budget. The report can be viewed online: <http://www.fairwisconsin.com/news/dpupdate.html>. Fair Wisconsin's report shows that there are at least 130 employers with a presence in Wisconsin that offer domestic partner benefits. Nationally, over 9,000 employers and 265 of the Fortune 500 companies offer them.

PrideFest Seeks Suggestions, Volunteers

Milwaukee - Who would you like to see perform at this year's PrideFest? The festival is seeking suggestions for performers at its website, www.pridefest.com. PrideFest will be held June 8th, 9th & 10th at Milwaukee's Summerfest grounds.

"It helps us greatly to know which performers people are listening to and wishing they could see at the festival," said David Charpentier, PrideFest Entertainment Director. "We've already received many great suggestions, but would like to receive more feedback." PrideFest is also seeking volunteers to fill key positions on its production team and board of directors.

"As an all-volunteer organization, PrideFest depends on the skills and dedication of many people," said Scott Gunkel, PrideFest Board President. "Community members literally run this festival, so we are seeking the community's help in filling vacancies."

Open positions include the festival's Female Co-Producer, Marketing Director, and Web/IT Director. Skills needed for the Board of Directors include legal, financial and marketing. More information can be found at www.pridefest.com.

PrideFest's entertainment lineup will be announced in March. Additional details regarding festival activities and highlights will be released as they become available.

April 3rd Elections Critical for LGBT Equality

The April 3rd elections offer voters several options for electing candidates who support lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality. Wisconsin's Human Rights League PAC (HRL-PAC) has issued endorsements of candidates who are pro-LGBT.

The most critical of all races is the State Supreme Court election. It is expected that the winner of this race will play a key role in defining how the recently passed Marriage Amendment will affect LGBT families statewide. HRL-PAC has endorsed Linda Clifford, an attorney at powerhouse law firm LaFollette, Godfrey & Kahn. She has the support of four former Democratic and Republican governors, Senators Feingold and Kohl, and many other judicial, legislative and community leaders. Her opponent, Annette Ziegler, has received support from far-right, conservatives, and her judicial philosophy suggests she would apply a conservative, anti-LGBT approach to the marriage amendment and other gay rights issues.

In Milwaukee County, Judge Bill Pocan is seeking to be retained on the bench for Circuit Court Branch 26th in an important first for LGBT history. Last fall, Judge Pocan was the first openly gay person appointed to a judicial seat. Governor Jim Doyle appointed Pocan after over 22 years of extensive trial and appellate private practice experience. The Milwaukee Bar Association overwhelmingly selected Pocan as the most qualified candidate.

In a Milwaukee race that has had negative overtones, HRL-PAC has strongly endorsed Una Van Duvall in the recall election against Alderman Michael McGee. After months of McGee's efforts to avoid the legal recall, a primary election has been declared for April 3rd with the general election to follow on May 1st. Van Duvall supports equality for all constituents and has a strong economic development background that is desperately needed in the district. "Una Van Duvall provides a fair-minded, highly skilled alternative to the current alderman's propensity to insult the LGBT community in the interest of rousing homophobia," said HRL-PAC Endorsements Chair Laurie Guilbault.

Milwaukee School Board races will also be on the ballot. HRL-PAC has endorsed Stephanie Findley for the citywide at-large seat. Findley has made a strong commitment to providing LGBT and questioning youth with support throughout the school system.

Endorsement updates can be found at www.hrl-pac.org. Since 1997, HRL-PAC has endorsed candidates who have demonstrated a commitment to working for and defending LGBT equality. HRL-PAC invites candidates in targeted districts to answer an extensive survey regarding their positions on LGBT issues as well as their campaigns' viability to win. The endorsement process also draws on information collected through the media and Internet, personal interviews with candidates and reviews of incumbents' voting records.

Human Rights League-PAC's Endorsements for LGBT Equality in April 3rd Elections

Linda Clifford for State Supreme Court

Judge Bill Pocan for Milwaukee Circuit Court, Branch 26

Una Van Duvall for 6th Aldermanic District, Milwaukee Common Council

Stephanie Findley for At-Large Board Member, Milwaukee Public Schools

For additional information and endorsements, visit www.hrl-pac.org.

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National



Happenings

Civil Unions Granted in New Jersey

New Jersey - This February, hundreds of gay couples who had previously been joined in civil unions or married in other states or nations were granted the same legal rights as married couples, as New Jersey became the third state to offer civil unions.

More than a dozen other couples applied for licenses for ceremonies later in the week.

Couples applying for licenses must wait 72 hours before they can hold civil union ceremonies, the same waiting period for weddings.

Following a state Supreme Court decision, stating that gay couples had a right to the same benefits as married couples, New Jersey lawmakers created civil unions in December.

Supporters of gay marriage, however, say they may sue, contending that civil unions do not create the equality the court ordered.

Meanwhile, some social conservative groups, are pledging to block same-sex marriage by pressing for an amendment to the state constitution that prohibits such unions. Forty-five states have laws or amendments that ban same-sex marriage.

Under the civil unions law, gay couples get rights dealing with adoption, child custody, visiting a hospitalized partner, making medical decisions and getting the same access to health insurance coverage that employers offer spouses of workers. Civil union partners also now have the right not to testify against a partner in state court.

However, the federal government and most states do not recognize the unions. Therefore, a surviving member of a civil union would not be entitled to his deceased partner's Social Security benefits. And if a partner is hospitalized in another state, the other may not be allowed to visit.

Only Massachusetts allows marriage for same-sex couples.

'Highly Resistant' HIV Found In Washington State

Washington - Four men in Seattle have tested positive for HIV viruses that are highly resistant to several anti-retroviral drug classes. Last month, all four cases were found to have similarities. The King County Public Health Department is currently seeking the sex-partners of each man. All were crystal meth users and had multiple partners.

The department also said that those partners who have been found to date either were not HIV-infected or their HIV infection was not related to the current drug resistant strain.

"It's likely these infections are related to one another, but we still don't know how easily the virus is transmitted or how rapidly the condition might progress to AIDS," Dr. Bob Wood, HIV/AIDS Program Director for Public Health said.

HIV is treated with many different drugs. Over time, HIV virus can mutate inside people, particularly if people do not stay on their treatment schedule. These changes in the virus may reduce the drugs' effectiveness. Therefore, there are a growing number of people with difficult-to-treat types of HIV. Since HIV is continually mutating, new therapies are being developed to manage the changing virus.

While it may prove difficult to successfully treat patients with this highly resistant form of HIV, patients with this infection may still have treatment options.

Michigan Court Denies Benefits

Michigan - The Michigan court of appeals has ruled that public universities and state and local governments can't provide health insurance to the partners of gay employees without violating the state constitution. The three-judge panel said a 2004 voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage also applies to same-sex domestic-partner benefits.

"The marriage amendment's plain language prohibits public employers from recognizing same-sex unions for any purpose," the court wrote. The decision reverses a 2005 ruling from a county judge who said universities and government agencies could provide the benefits.

Gay couples and others had argued that the public intended to ban same-sex marriage but not block benefits for unmarried opposite-sex or same-sex domestic partners.

The appeals court agreed with the Michigan attorney general, Republican Mike Cox, who said in a March 2005 opinion that domestic-partner benefits for same-sex couples are not allowed in a state that does not recognize same-sex unions.

Jeffrey Montgomery, executive director of the Triangle Foundation, a leading gay and lesbian advocacy group in Michigan, said the legal sanctity of marriage was not in question. "This ruling will result in families being robbed of their health care and other basic necessities that are fundamental to protecting their well-being," he said.

International



Happenings

Nepal Trans Woman Gains Dual Sex Papers

KATMANDU - LGBT rights advocates are claiming a major victory in a country where transsexuals are often discriminated against, or rounded up by police for no reason.

The government has agreed to revise the citizenship records of Chanda Mausalman showing both male and female sex.

Mausalman was born biologically male. She presents as female and applied to the government to have her official records amended.

Blue Diamond Society, Nepal's LGBT rights organization, said it is the first time the government has officially recognized transsexuals in the country.

Nepal has come under increasing international condemnation for its treatment of sexual minorities. In January, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, criticized the new government of Nepal for not ending discrimination against the LGBT community.

Members of the LGBT community are arbitrarily arrested, held without a hearing and beaten and tortured by prison guards. Last year, police arrested 26 transsexuals in one raid.

Blue Diamond also said that people working in the areas of HIV prevention are regularly harassed by police.

Nepal was one of several countries named in last year's State Department report on human rights violators.

Mexico Weds Lesbian Couple

Mexico - The first gay civil union in Mexico's history took place in February, when a lesbian couple wed in the northern city of Saltillo. The couple traveled to Saltillo, Coahuila to take advantage of a newly passed law that made Coahuila the first of Mexico's 31 states to grant recognition to civil solidarity unions.

"The object of this law is that unions of people of the same sex be legally regulated and recognized, so that they can have some security in their future," said Coahuila State Assemblywoman Julieta Lopez Fuentes.

In November, Mexico City, which as a semi-independent capital zone has some of the same powers as states, passed a similar measure, the first in the nation's history, but that law will not go into effect until mid-March.



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Queer Life is the information voice of the LGBT community. As a monthly publication and the only state-wide gay newspaper headquartered in Milwaukee, each issue celebrates Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. From what's happening locally and nationally to features on everyday life, QLife has got it all.

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CIRCULATION

QLife prints 10,000 copies a month. It is a free, monthly newspaper, distributed throughout Milwaukee, and the state. You can find it at coffee shops, bars, libraries, stores, and a variety of gay friendly locales.

CONTACT QLife:

Queer Life's offices are open to the public. Regular business hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday except for holidays.

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Studies prove that LGBT consumers have deeper trust for brands and products that target gay consumers. Reach this powerful segment of the population in the pages of Queer Life and gain loyal customers, a significant percentage of the general population. 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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Letters to the Editor:

QLife welcomes letters to the editor and guest editorials. Letters must be signed and include author's name and phone number. Author's name will be withheld upon request. Send to editor@queerlifeneews.com. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the staff or its advertisers.

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WOMEN'S Quote

"A woman without a man is like
a fish without a bicycle."

Feminist Slogan, 1970

Nothing to Snicker At

By Kate Sherry

It's been a while since all of the hoopla surrounding the Mars Snickers ad that premiered during this year's Superbowl. Just to refresh: Two men, working under the hood of a car. One pulls out a Snickers bar, and pops it into his mouth. The other guy eyeballs the chocolate bar, and leans in to start munching on the other end. One "Lady and the Tramp" moment later, they have finished the Snicker bar, and are locking lips. What could they possibly do to erase that moment from their minds? "Do something manly" of course. They each rip hair from their manly chests and their hetero-selves are restored.

Was it a homophobic ad? Was it funny? Personally, I just thought it was a dumb ad. The Human Rights Campaign found it offensive, and immediately condemned it as homophobic. Website blogs were all abuzz with comments both for, and against the commercial. Alternate endings to the commercial were posted on their website, with the intent to have the public choose the best ending. One of the endings was, by the HRC, considered to be a "dangerous message to the public condoning violence against gay Americans." In that version, the two men attack each other violently. One with a wrench to the head, followed by him having his head slammed by the hood of the truck.

Within hours, the alternate endings were removed from the website - including a version showing players from the Bears and the Colts watching the ad and responding.

HRC commented that "This type of jeering from professional sports figures at the sight of two men kissing fuels the kind of anti-gay bullying that haunts countless gay and lesbian school children on playgrounds all across the country."

I'm sure the Mars company was trying, with this ad, to come across as funny. But, at who's expense? Should we be laughing at the expense of the two men who are disturbed at the situation they find themselves in? Is the absurdity of their reactions funny? Should we laugh at the fact that they compare gay behavior with "girliness?" A spokesperson for Mars Inc. released a press statement in which he explained that the intent of the ad was not to hurt anybody, and said, "We know that humor is highly subjective and we understand that some consumers have found the commercial offensive. Clearly that was not our intent." They agreed to stop showing it on television, or the web.

You know, there will always be advertising out there in the world that offends someone, somewhere. What about that Frosted Mini-Wheat commercial with the "pink" mini-wheat getting hit on by the other mini-wheat? Both are clearly surprised. One, for hitting on another "male" mini-wheat, the other for being mistaken as a "girl" mini-wheat just because he is pink.

Perhaps that is a stretch, but hopefully someday soon, companies will no longer allow horrified or violent reaction to the mention, or allusion of homosexuality in their ad campaigns. One can hope.



QLife Quickies

SAGE's "Gay Paree" Spring Fling

SAGE/Milwaukee Social Activities' Committee is adding a theme to their Spring Fling this year. Feel free to have fun and dress up French style or even better—"Gay Paree" style. Wear whatever will be most adaptable as you jitterbug, polka, slow dance, salsa, disco, or just "pose". Come "shake your groove things" to dance music from the 1940s through the 1980s. MONA'S (Milwaukee Out n' About 1407 South First Street, Milwaukee) will graciously host this dance mixer Saturday, March 31st from 6 o'clock to 10 o'clock PM.

The King and Queen of "Spring Fling" will be crowned at 7:30 PM. As in the past, the new queen and king will represent SAGE/MILWAUKEE in Milwaukee's Pride Parade this Summer. Nominations for "Spring Fling" Queen and King are open until 7:30pm on the night of the event, and can be mailed to the office, or given to any member of the Social Events committee. Tickets are \$15 per person. The cost includes appetizers/snacks, soda, cake and coffee. Other novelties included are your corsage or boutonniere. Cash bar will also be available. There will also be an opportunity to have your photo portrait taken for a donation benefiting SAGE/Milwaukee. "Spring Fling" tickets are available through SAGE/Milwaukee's Social Events Committee members, by mail through SAGE/Milwaukee's office (414)224-0517, or contact Raymond Konz-Krzyszynski at (414)617-1152.

Brands Supporting Equality Are Tops

ROCHESTER, N.Y. - A recent national survey conducted online found that 70 percent of heterosexuals and 88 percent of gay and lesbian adults polled are likely to consider a brand that is known to provide equal workplace benefits for all of their employees, including gays and lesbians.

Additionally, 77 percent of gay and lesbian adults say they are likely to consider brands that support nonprofits and/or causes that are important to them as an LGBT person.

here! Networks Expands Podcast Offerings

NEW YORK - here!, America's premium gay television network, announced that it is expanding its popular podcast slate to include an entire programming line-up aimed at reaching a diverse LGBT audience. In addition to "here! with Josh and Sara," the network's weekly internet talk show, this new initiative will include former K-ROCK DJ Ben Harvey hosting a series of original podcasts highlighting here! original titles, current events and a behind-the-scenes look at Hollywood with exclusive celebrity interviews. The podcast expansion, along with the network's goal to provide an arena for new voices, is part of an aggressive strategy to continue to build here! as a widely distributed, multi-platformed premium entertainment destination and content provider. For more information on how to get here!, please visit www.heretv.com <http://www.heretv.com>.

Poll: 55% of Americans would vote for gay man or lesbian for president

A new poll indicates that a majority of Americans would vote for a gay person for president. The Gallup survey finds that 55% of respondents would vote for a gay candidate if he or she were "generally well-qualified."

Given the wide range of backgrounds among the current field of 2008 presidential contenders, the poll asked how willing Americans would be to vote for them, and it included hypothetical candidates for good measure. The results, released earlier this week, reveal that 95% of those polled would vote for a Catholic, 94% would vote for an African-American, 88% would vote for a woman, and 72% would vote for a Mormon.

Say "I'm Gay" with a Hallmark

Hallmark Cards Inc., which has built its \$4.2 billion empire on sentiments for life's happier times, is releasing a new line of cards that will speak to those and other situations that the company says have either been ignored by greeting card companies or received only a smattering of attention from niche players.

The new line includes cards tackling cancer diagnoses, quitting smoking, caring for an aged parent, miscarriage, anniversaries of loss, loved ones in the military, and traumatic loss, such as someone dying in an accident or homicide. Others are more happy and even humorous, celebrating a year being cancer-free, nearing the end of chemotherapy or general encouragement for teenagers. No topics were off-limits, said company spokeswoman Rachel Bolton, noting two cards that could be sent to gay people who have disclosed their sexuality. The cards don't directly refer to homosexuality, only extolling the person to "Be You" or "This is who I am" or featuring a rainbow, a symbol of gay pride.

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus Day

In honor of the 20th Anniversary of the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Governor Jim Doyle signed a proclamation declaring Sunday, April 1, 2007 as Wisconsin Cream City Chorus Day. "It's no joke," said WCCC Secretary Ebbie Duggins. "We founded this group on All Fools' Day of 1987 and we're still here today. Needless to say, I'm very excited about the recognition we're getting for our anniversary." The Governor's proclamation, the first of several the WCCC expects to receive in the next few weeks, recognizes the 20-year commitment the group has made to celebrating diversity in the LGBT community and beyond.

Congrats! Cream City Foundation

Milwaukee. - February 22, 2007 was named Cream City Foundation Day. CCF received a commendation from Wisconsin's Governor Doyle and a proclamation from Milwaukee's Mayor Tom Barrett in honor of their 25 years of funding LGBT programs in southeastern Wisconsin. Gov. Doyle recognized Cream City Foundation for building a strong foundation and infrastructure in southeastern Wisconsin's LGBT Communities by distributing funds to emerging groups and programs that enhance the quality of life for LGBT people.



EDITORIAL

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

It was so funny that I decided to go to your website. It's very seldom that I have time to check out the happenings in Milwaukee. This morning, however, I went to your website and happened to read your editorial about the Celestine Prophecies. How coincidental? I read the Celestine Prophecies about 10 years ago and gained quite a bit of knowledge from the Insights (10 to be exact) - yes I also read the 10th Insight, and used it in my day to day life. Recently my move to Pennsylvania put me off focus and has gotten me stuck in an awful rut.

This weekend, I was thumbing (remote control) through the ON Demand selections to look for a movie and found the "Celestine Prophecies" film. I watched it and everything I was missing came rushing back to me. Then this morning I read your editorial. Now, that is a coincidence! - and "coincidences" are covered in the first Insight. What message am I supposed to get from it?

I was doing well in Milwaukee before I left and I now realize that it was the giving and receiving of energy from everyone in the LGBT community that made me successful - with both my magazine and then with the Pride Parade. I believe the amplification of all that energy being circulated is what made everything work for me. I just have not been able to recreate that in Pennsylvania as of yet. But give me time... I now know why I feel so drained! I have been letting people steal my energy. In Milwaukee there was a free exchange of energy that flowed from me to other people and back. Thank you for the editorial.

It has inspired me.

Sincerely,

James Kuchta

Former Editor of "Outbound Magazine"

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A Healthy Dose of Reality

The FORGE conference here in Milwaukee in March 2007 will bring together a wide range of transgendered folks and allies under a banner of inclusion. Conference organizers have been working tirelessly fielding concerns from those in our community whose health-related needs demand proper attention and planning so as to insure a comfortable, safe, and truly accessible environment for one and all. From these efforts, and from the people all along the gender spectrum who raise their literal and figurative voices to be heard, the queer community as a whole has a great deal to benefit from learning of and listening to the trials, tribulations, joys and heartbreaks of working to build a world where healthcare needs are addressed with dignity and fully met without compromise and value judgments or blank stares and silence.

Owners Manual

Written specifically for the Portland, OR area, **Hot Rods** [one-off, 52 pages, 2002] is a compendium of resources designed to assist "female-assigned, gender-variant" (FAGV) folks navigate through the complexities of transitioning. This guide works extremely well as it does not exist to define a single pathway for transitioning, but gently recognizes an FAGV person has a myriad of options available dependent upon a wide range of circumstances. The authors also tackle head-on the issue of classism as it relates to access to services, be they healthcare or bureaucratic concerns such as how to

change one's documentation to recognize a gender and/or name change. The guide is broken up into sections providing resources, reading lists, listserves, and even basic information about using clean needles and how to determine if one is in an abusive relationship. More guides like this need to be created, and the spirit of sharing good information is something to be fostered.

Inside Out

A recent development in personal identity has emerged as a parallel to the reclamation of "queer" by our community. The "crip," "gimp," or "queer crip" identity may make some people cringe or be uncomfortable. That's deliberate! The loud and proud queer crips have stories to tell that no one should miss, especially when queerness alone is an "other" and has its own challenges. When illness or accident adds another complex layer to one's personal story, the choice to be candid and unflinchingly frank brings to life just how beautiful the human condition can be. Hellery Homosex's **Ring of Fire** [Issue 3, 92 pages, 1999] is a punk rock approach to a life story involving gender queerness, loss of both legs in a train-hopping accident, and taking care of health concerns. This issue is cram packed with lovely hand-drawn illustration, and all original narrative is hand-written as well. With contributions from queer musician Nomy Lamm who chronicles the history of her experiences with her prosthetic leg, and a story about Hellery's affinity for



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.

Frieda Kahlo, there is wit and wisdom on every page.

A similar vibe can be found in **Canary's Tale** [Issue 1, 44 pages, 2002] but with much less emphasis on queerness. The author initially started this zine as a sort of newsletter to keep friends and family updated on her life after being diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Immune Dysfunction Syndrome. CFIDS can be triggered suddenly and severely by exposure to toxins of any form (even minute levels in some instances) or brought on by certain activity. **Canary's Tale** has a poignant feel to it, drawing us in to a world where poetry, art, travel, and living in non-Western cultures (one of the stories details her time spent living on Native American land in Montana) help to make sense of the mystery, frustration and wonders our bodies can produce.

These and other queer zines can be found on-line at qzap.org.

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WESTERN LEATHER in EAST POINTE

Open concept loft with beautiful, exposed Cream City brick walls & wood beam cathedral ceilings. Center island breakfast bar, SS appliances, & custom cabinets in Kit. Loft w/MBR, plus office/den area. 1.5 BA w/whirlpool. In-unit laundry. Ample closet space. One indoor parking space is included. **\$329,900.**

LOFTS on BROADWAY in THIRD WARD

Beautifully decorated 2 BR, 2.5 BA, 5th floor corner in Historic building w/balcony overlooking Third Ward & downtown. 13 foot beamed ceilings, exposed Cream City brick walls, maple floors, expansive thermal pane windows. Euro-bath vanity. In-unit laundry. Walk-in closets. Storage & underground parking incl. **NEW PRICE!! \$349,900.**

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HI-FI LOFTS in RIVERWEST

Only five units left! Lots of windows & light! Multiple, open-concept, 1BR floor plans some w/patio & private entrance, in a mid-rise, converted factory w/elevator. Appliances, SS cabs., butcher block countertops, in-unit laundry, central air are all included. Indoor parking spaces & 2 yrs. free condo fees included. From \$129K. hifilofts.com

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Amazing Grace

One of my first impressions of Milwaukee was the number of steeples that can be seen from the freeways. Often, it is noted how many bars there are in our city. While driving around, however, I also see many churches.

Despite the great number of churches and religious communities in Milwaukee, there has long been a lack of African-American congregations welcoming LGBT people. This changed last year when Rev. Wanda Washington founded Grace United Church of Christ, 4920 N. Sherman Blvd, Milwaukee (414-438-7333).

Grace will celebrate its one-year anniversary in early April. The congregation is a growing and vital place, attracting a diverse community of people. The worship style reflects the best traditions of African-American Christianity. Rev. Washington's preaching and teaching is also making it clear that LGBT people are fully welcome at Grace.

Before coming to Milwaukee, Rev. Washington served as senior associate pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. Trinity, the sponsoring congregation for Grace, has also sponsored other congregations throughout the Great Lakes region.

It was at Trinity that Rev. Washington was able to combine all the different segments of who she was as a Christian, as an African-American, and as a woman. "Trinity brought it all together for me, and gave me a sense of empowerment. It armed me with scripture and sent me out to preach about liberation and justice for all."

Reflecting on what she learned at Trinity, Rev. Washington feels that the church needs to address social and political issues that affect the lives of its members. "Church is more than Sunday morning," she says. Her sermons regularly touch on controversial issues such as the War in Iraq or AIDS. "People don't come back if you just talk about Noah without giving them anything relevant to their lives."

A significant part of her ministry is teaching people the inclusive nature of Christianity. All are welcome at Grace. This focus on inclusion makes Grace different from the many churches that focus instead on fire and brimstone.



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.

When I asked Rev. Washington what surprised her the most in this last year, she knew immediately. "I've been surprised by the all the hurt people who have been waiting for a church to accept them as they are. A lot of people don't realize their worth. So we keep saying, 'you are precious in the sight of God and in my sight.'"

Many of the people responding to Rev. Washington's gospel of inclusion are LGBT. "It is healing for people to be able to walk into a church and to talk about 'my partner' without encountering shame." Grace is a congregation where LGBT couples can have commitment services. It is also a place where all LGBT folks can find a message of God's love in a community committed to liberation.

As Rev. Washington looks ahead, she hopes her congregation will continue to address both the spiritual and the practical needs of its members and neighbors. Church members are working on creating an adult literacy center and a children's daycare. She is also expanding their Bible study programs. "We are connecting people with the Word of God and helping them look beyond the literal words to what God really means for us today."

Rev. Washington and Grace United Church of Christ are changing the church landscape of Milwaukee. At its worship services on Sunday at 10am and throughout its other ministries, Grace offers a place where LGBT people can worship in the African-American tradition, discover God's love, and have their lives transformed.

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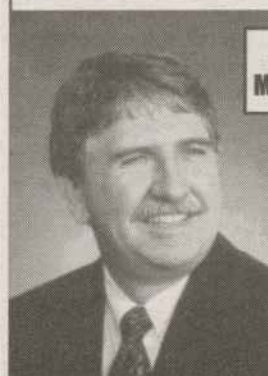
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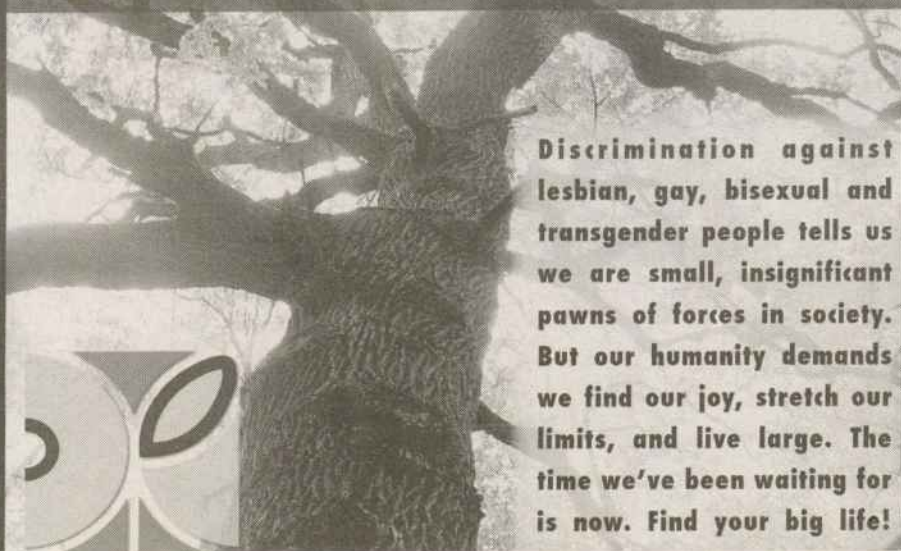
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Guide for Life

So February is here and gone, and I ask you, are you there yet? You know, going into that smaller pant size that you wore three years ago? If not, this must be your first time reading my column. For my long-time readers and new readers, this month will benefit both. If you would like to catch up on any columns you missed; you can go to www.myspace.com/sweeneysgym and click on the month. Okay, so your life is reshaped but your waist isn't. Reshaping your eating habits is just the start. This month I put together a guide so I'll keep it short and sweet on what I have to say. Note that this guide is set up in a bullet point format meaning

that one bullet point is a meal. So choose ONLY one of the options available.



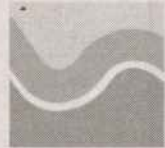
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Breakfast Choice:

- 1/2 Cup of dry oatmeal plus protein powder or 3 egg whites with your cereal.
 - Low-sugar cereal (Special K, shredded wheat, corn flakes, bran flakes, etc.)
 - English muffin / bagel with a small amount of peanut butter or a low-sugar jam plus 3 egg whites or protein drink.
- Use skim or fat-free milk in your oatmeal (add fruit with this meal).
Glass of juice (Mix 50% water with juice).

Mid-morning snack choice:

- A cup of yogurt / 1/2 cup of cottage cheese light (add fruit or vegetables with this meal)
 - A protein drink or a protein bar. (Half serving)
- Drink plenty of water

Lunch choice:

- A 4-6-8 oz. source of protein: Skinless chicken breast, can tuna in water, fish, etc. (make sure the protein source is broiled, baked, or grilled)
 - Salad with 1 cup of vegetables plus a source of protein.
 - A portion of starchy carbohydrate: (uncooked) 1/2 cup of brown rice, yam, brown pasta, baked potato, or choice of 2 slices of w/w bread.
- Water.

Mid-day snack choice:

- Again you may choose (1 cup) fresh vegetables and 1 serving of string cheese with a small protein source like 2 egg whites or 1/2 cup of cottage cheese.
 - Half serving of tuna or chicken salad mix
 - A protein drink or a protein bar.
- (No starch after 4:30PM)

Dinner Choice:

- A 4-6-8 oz source of protein, grilled, broiled, or baked. Your choices are the same as for lunch.
- 2 Cups of a fiber carbohydrate source: Steamed vegetables are your best bet, but you could substitute a medium-sized salad with a small amount of low-cal or light dressing.

Water or water-based fluids like iced tea (watch the sweetener), or crystal light.

Light Evening:

- Snack only if you must, but keep the portion size small and it should consist of veggies, or small salad.

Before Bed:

- An 8oz glass of a protein drink mix (with water or fat free milk)
- You can add a piece of fruit to your drink (low sugar).

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SOULFORCE

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Soulforce is a grassroots movement to free LGBT people from religious oppression. This non-profit organization, based in Lynchburg, Virginia sponsors activists that bravely visit institutions of learning that openly discriminate against LGBT people. These visits are an attempt to reach out to individuals and ultimately change policy.

For more information call Warren at (414) 271-2656 ext. 115 or visit www.mkelgbt.org

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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.

Long before our daily lives became dominated by multinational corporations, before our 1-800 calls were answered on the other side of the globe by workers who assumed Anglo names and studiously committed American sports team names to memory to make us feel comfortable, radical working people had an idea. Before American flag merchandise in highway rest stops was stamped "Made in China" and the all-American Abercrombie look assembled in Bangladesh, 19th century workers and intellectuals saw that the world was getting smaller. They knew the only way to keep from getting squeezed out the bottom of a giant consolidating profit-making machine was to band together across nationalities. Their anthem was the Internationale, a tune that seems archaic these days, but whose lyrics were known widely by university students from Europe to Latin America until only a decade or two ago.

My partner and I recently traveled to Sri Lanka and a visit to an LGBT Sri Lankan organization got me thinking of a different kind of internationalism, one that deepens the solidarity between LGBT people around

Toward a Rainbow Internationale

the world. I've always enjoyed visiting the gay scene wherever I go, whether its Denver or Charleston or Eau Claire or Ireland or Japan, and I know I'm not the only one. For me, its always felt a little like looking up distant relations I've never met, and it makes me feel at home.

Sri Lanka is a developing island nation off the southern tip of India, and while its tropical beaches and friendly culture have made it a popular winter retreat for Europeans, its mostly known for a nasty sectarian conflict that has been simmering – and occasionally roiling – since 1983. In this context, LGBT issues might seem trivial, and yet there are LGBT Sri Lankans who are striving for fulfilling lives just like their straight compatriots. Equal Ground is a new LGBT organization run by a Sri Lankan woman, Roseanna Flamer-Caldera, who also is co-secretary general of the International Lesbian Gay Association (ILGA), an international human rights organization working on LGBT equality. Flamer-Caldera might be known to American donors who channeled LGBT generosity through her organization to provide relief after the 2004 Tsunami, which killed more than 50,000 Sri Lankans. Her internationalism is inspiring.

Peace activists have a long history of establishing sister cities to connect local communities across national borders. Perhaps local American LGBT organizations could be matched with a sister organization overseas through the help of ILGA. Each matched organization would experience the joy of getting to know new people

and learning more about the culture and politics of another region. Organizations in developing nations might be helped financially or with other advocacy from their American partners. And there are many LGBT organizations in countries more advanced on LGBT equality that could return the favor, particularly in rural American communities. The most substantial benefit for US LGBT groups would be a chance to expand our worldview. As part of a larger culture whose national pastime's "World Series" barely includes Canada, LGBT Americans are as likely to suffer from the same withered vision as our fellow citizens after a half-century of US cultural and political dominance. The inexorable acceleration of globalization is likely to create powerful ugly xenophobic movements (we've already seen it in the vicious turn against immigrants) made up of Americans grown

brittle and complacent in spite of the changes in the world. LGBT leaders should do their part to make sure that LGBT people aren't part of them.

In the spirit of trying to think globally while acting locally, my partner and I have set ourselves a challenge to raise \$1,000 for Equal Ground, which is working in an environment where gay identity is barely understood, privacy is unprotected, and consensual sex illegal. We'll come up with the first few hundred; if you can be a rainbow internationalist, please send a tax-deductible contribution to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W Court Street Milwaukee, WI 53212 with "Sri Lanka" in the memo. For more about Equal Ground: www.equal-ground.org.



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This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History

By Don Schwamb

35 years ago-- 1972-- The March 1972 issue of the GPU News (Gay Peoples Union) newsletter was distributed to all members of the state Assembly and Senate, in the name of gay liberation and rights. Meanwhile, members of motorcycle-leather groups around the Midwest met at the Stud Bar in the Royal Hotel in Milwaukee to help the Lake Riders Motorcycle Club celebrate its anniversary.

30 years ago-- 1977-- The BallGame celebrates its 3rd anniversary. Other popular bars at the time include Your Place, Black Forest, Red Baron, and Factory/Inferno. Nationally, Anita Bryant loses her television show due to her anti-gay statements.

25 years ago-- 1982-- Assembly Bill 70 (AB-70), the Wisconsin "Gay Civil Rights Bill" has just been signed into law by then-Governor Lee Dreyfus, making Wisconsin the first state in the nation with anti-gay discrimination protection.

20 years ago-- 1987-- Mil-Ma-AIDS announces 26 bowlers raised \$2,600 for MAP (Milwaukee AIDS Project). Popular bars at the time include Grand Avenue Pub, Beer Garden, Club 219, Your Place, LaCage, Wreck Room, Cest La Vie, plus Shamrock (Madison), Pivot and 1101-West (both in Appleton).

15 years ago-- 1992-- Mardi Gras fundraiser is held for the Pride Committee; 2nd annual Miss Black Wisconsin Pageant is held; BallGame celebrates "19th anniversary" (this bar historically has trouble keeping count- this was actually their 18th); 1st Great Lakes Gay & Lesbian Film & Video Festival held.

10 years ago-- 1997-- ARCW holds 11th annual Make A Promise event; and ARCW and Center Project announce merger.

Find out more about these and other happenings at the Milwaukee LGBT History Project web site: www.mkelgbthist.org (or just "WisconsinGayHistory.org")



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Meet a True Drama(tists) Queen

There has been much talk around town about the Dramatists Theatre Company. Although this Milwaukee based theater company has only been around a few years, the critics in town have called Dramatists "The Theater to watch for in the future."

Local producer/director/actress/singer (and I also hear choreographer), Marjorie Schoemann must certainly welcome such raves. She is the current press favorite. The fact is that just a few years ago, she was an auditioning actress around our theater town. One could see Marjorie performing with such theater companies as the Off The Wall Theatre on Wells Street. She had a lead role in

CALIGULA, and also played the sultry lesbian in THE WILD PARTY.

To top all that, this past year she also opened Allegro Productions; which does such interesting musicals as SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS.

How does she do it all? The multi-talented Schoemann produces both Dramatists Theatre and Allegro Productions. Which means she is producing a new show just about every other month. It runs in the family, and working along side Marjorie on many aspects of the productions is her mother Virginia Schoemann.

The Dramatists theme each season is to focus on one major playwright. Last year it was Langford Wilson. Her very sensual BALM IN GILEAD by Wilson was very well received. This season features the work of Marsha Norman. The show 'NIGHT MOTHER', an intense 2 character drama was acclaimed as brilliant work by all of the press in our town.

For their first season, the Dramatists company worked at Bucketworks. This year the work of Schoemann can be seen at Marion Center for Non-Profits (3195 South Superior Street). This coming April Dramatists will present the show GETTING OUT by Marsha Norman. In the spring, Allegro Productions will stage the rock musical SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK LIVE! So, as you can see talented Majorie Schoemann is a true Drama(tists) Queen!

HOT March Happenings

The Stiemke Theater in the REP complex will welcome the classic THE

GLASS MENAGERIE. The Skylight Opera is jumping with SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE-which is a fun evening of HOT songs. The Boulevard Theatre will perform the drama THE DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES. I'm sure some of you remember the award winning film starring Jack Lemmon and Lee Remick OFF The Wall will present A DELICATE BALANCE by Albee.

Our own popular Next Act Theatre performs EARS ON A BEATLE. Renaissance Theaterworks presents a production of STRING OF PEARLS. If you love the two-character show LOVE LETTERS, you can take in this popular show at Cedar Creek Repertory Theatre in beautiful Cedarburg. The Nevermore Theatre performs THE FINAL HOUR; and THE ACTORS GROUP plays EXTREMITIES. Fans of Milwaukee's own late Larry Shue can remember his works with THE FOREIGNER at Waukesha Civic; plus the ever popular THE NERD next month at the Stiemke Theater. Soulstice opens the drama WIT this month. DON'T FORGET that "SCOTTISH PLAY" (hush, hush) by William Shakespeare at Milwaukee Shakespeare! Harry Potter and EQUUS

Daniel Radcliffe of Harry Potter movie fame, is making a sensation in London. He will be performing in EQUUS-and from the advance photos and rumors...he will be NUDE!

In Tandem Theatre here in Milwaukee will also be presenting EQUUS (alas not with Daniel)--but will their local star be



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.

performing nude? Catch it and see for yourself.

Next month I plan to spend time discussing some of the show selections that are being announced for 2007-2008.

My Aunt Blanche is seeing the nude EQUUS in London....she bought new binoculars. R.B. 2007

Last MONTH's Trivia Answer

Tom Cruise; the new Father starred in A FEW GOOD MEN.

This Month's Trivia Question

Who wrote the DAYS OF WINE AND ROSES movie theme song?

WOMEN'S Quote

"People call me a Feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute."

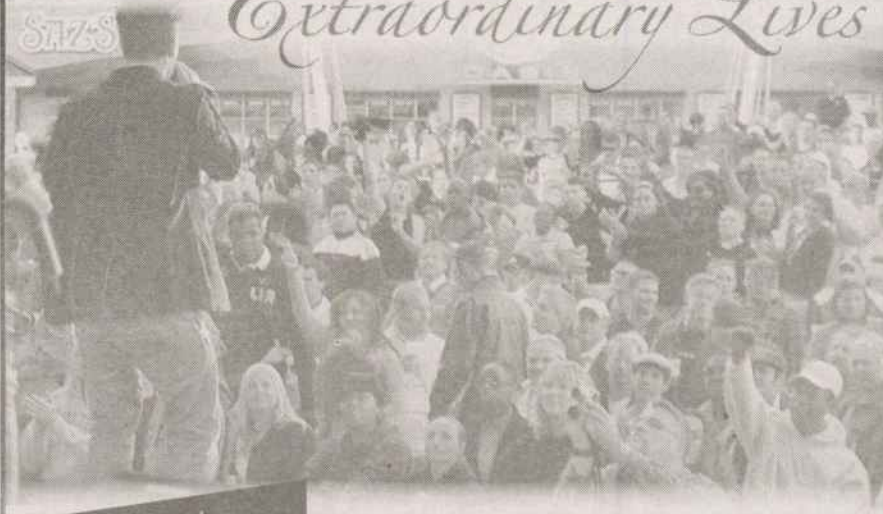
- Rebecca West, 1913.

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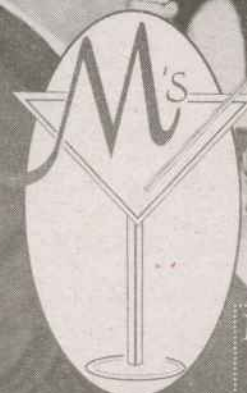
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How We Cope

For more than 20 years I ran or lifted weights every single day. For many of those years I did both. I remember how a buddy and I ran on the streets of the East Side of Milwaukee when it was over 100 degrees and along the lake front when it was 15 degrees below zero. And when one local gym went out of business, I just joined another. My biggest vice back then was buying running shoes and outer ware that met the layering needs of the avid runner. My earlier behaviors of tobacco use and alcohol abuse were things of the past.

For me, those daily exercises were a way of coping. Sure, they fit the criteria of healthy, rigorous physical activity; but mostly this was decompression time.

Decompression from what? This is where I think it gets tricky. I think my buddies and I were coping with much of the same stuff that many lesbian, gay, and bisexual people take for granted – the myriad examples of socially-sanctioned exclusion and bias experienced by queer people daily. This is tricky because some of us are justifiably proud of the modest gains made in civil rights in the past decades. Tricky, too, because some of us also would prefer to avoid thinking about what still needs to be done.

Two knee surgeries and some chronic shoulder pain make those old routines either impossible or impractical for me. So, how do we cope when the old methods aren't working any more, either because we can't keep them up or the stressors outweigh the methods?

Some of us work way too much. Some sing, dance, or read. Some of us participate in retail therapy. Some use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs. Some become politically active. Others use sex. Others, still, drama. Still others knit. Food is popular with others. Coping skills seem to be acquired primarily in the first few years of life; they are important in supporting healthy decisions. These are the very skills we use to interact effectively with the world around us, to manage the stressors that come our way. These skills help us face life's challenges in positive ways, without recourse to risk behaviors.

It seems that there are several ways that coping strategies figure prominently in our daily lives and shape our participation in community. But I think we will do best if we first recognize that we are indeed coping – not always perfectly or even well, but coping nonetheless. That means that we recognize that there are things outside ourselves that we are attempting to moderate through our behaviors. Second, I believe that we should evaluate how our coping strategies are working for us; what are their benefits and costs. Third, I think we should assess if we should be resigned to the stressors remaining or if we should change them if possible (a new workplace, a new neighborhood, a new policy or law).



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.

Our long-term health depends in part on our ability to cope. We should get some pay off for paying attention to how well we are doing.

And I have to find a good alternative to daily running.

WOMEN'S Quote

"I have an inalienable, constitutional and natural right to love whom I may, to love as long or as short a period I can, to change that love everyday if I please."

– Victoria Woodhull, presidential candidate, 1872

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Performing Gender: Perceptions on a New Gender

Both people within and outside of the trans community often think of transgenderism as a performance of gender. While these definitions are quite different – there are some key points of overlap. Those who don't understand transness well sometimes think that people are just "men in dresses" or people who are play-acting a role. Those within the trans community may look at performing gender in a way that acknowledges that every one of us chooses to act in certain ways that may be characterized in a gendered way.

Although some people may view gender – as they do the rest of their life – as a given, with certain sets of behaviors, attributes, attitudes, and expectations automatically assigned; others see gender (as well as other characteristics) as something that we can create through conscious daily choice.

The other day, my professional organizer, Jennifer, brought in one of the people she is training, Amy. We were all sitting cross-legged in the middle of my office floor, with stacks of papers all

around all three of us, some of us with file folders perched on our laps, some folders on nearby chairs, several file drawers propped wide open. I was handing individual papers to them, stating or pointing to where each was to be filed. At one point, I indicated that the needed file folder was on Amy's lap by reaching out and touching her thigh. It was one of those times where I was simply using body language, totally forgetting that this behavior – a perceived man reaching out to touch a relative-stranger's (woman's) thigh – is often construed as threatening. Although I felt Amy pull back slightly, I didn't say anything and we kept going – without any further physical contact.

I have repeatedly reflected back on this three second interaction, realizing that if Amy had viewed me as female, my behavior would have been perceived as unquestioningly unthreatening.

If I had come out to her as being trans, would it have served to reinforce that certain behaviors are not acceptable when they originate from someone of a particular gender? Would it have strengthened the "normalcy" of her gendered expectation?

Reminders like this are often painful to acknowledge, since I question if I can



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 12 year old son.

authentically be myself, or if I constantly need to explain myself or act in certain ways so that others don't mis-perceive me.

My Gender (perceived by others) + Behavior = Perceived intention

My personality did *not* change when my external gender did. The qualities I possessed when living as female continue on now, in my life as male. What has changed is how others perceive those exact same qualities and behaviors. Where once I was seen as affectionate, others now feel threatened.

Do I need to be more conscious of "performing" my gender in ways that conform? I certainly don't want to be perceived as threatening or harmful. Yet at the same time, I feel like I must strip away my natural personality in order to make others feel more comfortable. I want to be spontaneous and genuine, not always calculated and conservative.

I recognize, though, that I – like the hundreds of thousands of others – am shaping the world's view of gender and social expectations when I don't conform, when I don't explain, when I live my life as I always have – with kindness, gentleness, and sensitivity. Will you see my gender as performance? Or will you accept my genuine "realness" outside of the preconceived notions of constructed gender?

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Real Men Wear Heels

The first time I can remember stealing my mother's lipstick I was probably about five. I knew that I shouldn't have been doing it, but I just couldn't help myself—the thin, metallic, Estée Lauder tubes that made a tiny popping noise when you opened or shut them were just entirely all too alluring. I would take her shoes, too. Only the high heels, of course.

Luckily for me, my parents didn't put any limitations on my forms of 'self expression.' Not to say that my mother was thrilled when she found out her lipstick was missing, only to find it later, under my pillow. But I did have my own dress-up box, and they did let me wear skirts to kindergarten when I so desired.

Around the age of ten, when my feet got too big to fit into the tiny size six heels, and other clothes in my dress up box, I remember being gravely disappointed. Luckily, I can now afford my own heels and dresses, and in styles a little more exciting than what my mother's closet once had to offer (she never was one for red patent leather stiletto boots with seven-inch platforms). I can proudly say that I, Harry James Hanson, am a drag queen.

What does that mean exactly? For a proper definition of the term 'drag queen,' I think we must look upon the classic movie *To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar*, in which Wesley Snipes' character Noxeema Jackson explains, "When a straight man puts on a dress and gets his sexual kicks, he is a *transvestite*. When a man is a woman trapped

in a man's body, and has a little operation, he is a *transsexual*. When a gay man has way too much fashion sense for one gender, *he* is a drag queen." I truly could not have said it better myself.

Now, at the age of 16 I'm still not legally allowed to enter any of Milwaukee's clubs, so I've mainly found an outlet in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, which performs with a live cast once per month at The Oriental Theater, and welcomes all forms of sexual/gender deviance with open arms. Since I began attending approximately three years ago, I have since joined the cast, and I have yet to tire of any aspect of it.

I still reap a great amount of satisfaction from strutting about Farwell Avenue at 1 AM, with six-inch heels and eyebrows up to my hairline. It is truly empowering. And aside from basking in all of the attention that it earns me, that's why I do it: for the power trip. There's just something about making yourself up with exaggerated, barely-human proportions, putting on some ridiculous outfit, and then running around gawking at everyone and everything. It's like, you are a drag queen and you are the zenith of human outrageousness and nothing and nobody could ever get in your way.

If anybody were ever to ask me how I'd do in a fistfight, I would immediately respond, "With or without my heels?"

Additionally, I think it's a common misconception that all drag queens receive some sort of sexual gratification from



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.

dressing up as women. This isn't to say that some don't, but from my experience they are by no means in the majority. I'd say that most, along with "having too much fashion sense for one gender," just think it's fun, and enjoy taking part in the mockery of the beautiful female form. And I've often heard drag queens get a bad rap because people perceive them as being some sort of confused mess between a transgender person and a cisgender person, though if you actually spoke to one, he/she would tell you that wasn't the case at all.

In my opinion, if everybody had the balls to let loose on their ideas of gender, and put on a dress (Or a suit—drag kings are fabulous, too!) we'd all have a more liberated spirit and boosted self-confidence. With all this in mind, the art of queen-ery and its practitioners mustn't be underappreciated or overlooked... not that you could, even if you tried.



PASSINGS

Dr. Terry Boughner,

former *Wisconsin Light* editor

By William Serpe

MILWAUKEE - Dr. Terry Boughner, co-founder and editor of the *Wisconsin*



Light, passed away early in the morning on January 31, 2007. The son of Daniel Boughner and Marion Wirsing, he was born Daniel Terry Spence Boughner on August 28, 1940. Terry would have been 67 this

year. He is survived by his partner of 20 years, Jerry Johnson and one brother in Philadelphia, PA. Terry was born in McKeesport, PA, and earned his BA in History at Geneva College. At the Catholic University of America Terry earned an MA in History, and then a Ph.D. He then went on to become a Professor at La Roche College in Pittsburgh, PA where he taught history from 1969 to 1983. During that time he chaired the Social Sciences Division and the History Department, and was president of the Faculty senate for two separate terms. The 'Teacher of the Year' award was presented to Terry several years in a row as he was deeply beloved by his students.

The relationship between him and Jerry Johnson started when Terry responded to an

ad that Jerry had placed in the "Advocate." They corresponded for about two years, and then in June of 1986 Terry ventured to Milwaukee on the train to see his friend. After three days he got back on the train, went to Pittsburgh, packed his belongings and returned to Milwaukee on July 3, 1986. Their committed relationship started that day and lasted more than 20 years. In 1987 they began publishing the "Wisconsin Light" newspaper, a publication for the LGBT community, and continued to provide cutting edge news and commentary to the LGBT community for 11 years.

Terry was an accomplished writer and was considered an expert on the Gay Holocaust in Germany during World War II. In 1988 the Alyson Press published "Out of All Time; a Gay and Lesbian History" by Terry that had started out as a 24 part series in the GLCVOICE in Minneapolis, MN. In 1999 Terry was given a Lifetime Achievement Award from PrideFest for all of his volunteer work and creating and writing the *Wisconsin Light* newspaper.

In the dedication to his Book Out of All Time, Terry wrote: "To my beloved spouse, Jerry Johnson, whose love and faith have led me to understand gay love out of all time."

Terry will be sadly missed by Jerry and many dear and loving friends.

Tom Boll,

Milwaukee AIDS Project Co-Founder

MILWAUKEE - Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) and "Make A Promise" dinner co-founder Tom Boll died January 27 at age 59 at St. Luke's Hospital following a nearly decade-long battle with kidney disease. Boll helped raise critical funds needed for MAP in the mid 1980's prior to the arrival of federal funding. He also served on the first fundraising committee for ARCW.

In 1990 Boll was a key figure in the establishment of ARCW's signature

fundraiser, the "Make A Promise" dinner, auction and dance.

Boll's fundraising efforts, helped allow ARCW to grow, along with mergers and expansion of services, into a statewide organization and the fifth largest AIDS service organization in the nation.

"Tom had a heart of gold who always found unique ways to help people in need. When AIDS struck the gay community, he helped create the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. Then he joined with his many friends to start the Make A Promise Dinner to raise funds to fight AIDS. Tom touched many people with his kindness and led an exemplary life." -Doug Nelson, President and CEO, ARCW. Boll was also involved in the Fest City Singers, a gay men's choral group that was originally created to provide entertainment for the 1985 Gay World Series. For many years during its decade-long existence Boll served as the group's treasurer. Among its many concerts, the Fest City Singers also held benefits for MAP and ARCW.

More recently Boll was involved with SAGE/Milwaukee, serving as treasurer for the group in the early 2000's. Nearly a thousand Milwaukee gay seniors attended SAGE events in the last year.

Boll also was co-owner of T.T. Tulip Floral. A flower-filled visitation and service was held January 31 at the Hartson Funeral Home in Hales Corners. Boll was survived by his sisters, Barbara and Patricia, and by numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends in the LGBT community.

Barbara Gittings,

Pioneering Gay Activist

PHILADELPHIA - Gay rights pioneer Barbara Gittings has died at the age of 75 from a lengthy and brave battle with breast cancer.

Gittings first came to the public

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Writers needed for Milwaukee's gay news leader. Call 414-383-8200. Send resume to editor@queerlifeneews.com

MESSAGE

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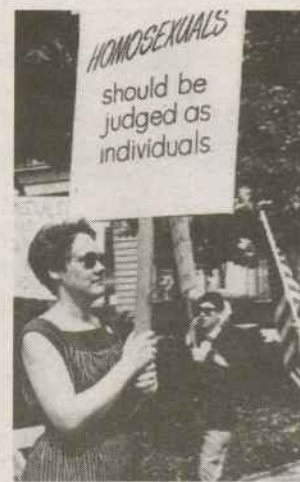
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spotlight in 1965 when she and a handful of gay men and lesbians held demonstrations outside the White House and Independence Hall seeking equal rights for homosexuals.

Those demonstrations were some of the first in American history and sparked an



era of gays coming out of the closet. Her involvement in the gay rights movement started in the late 1950s when she helped organize the New York City chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis,

where she met her life partner of 46 years, Kay Lahusen.

As an early community journalist, Gittings edited the D.O.B. publication "The Ladder" from 1963-66 and worked with Lahusen on her 1973 book "The Gay Crusaders."

She was active in the campaign that led to the American Psychiatric Association dropping its categorization of homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973.

On July 2, 2005 Gittings and Lahusen attended the unveiling of the first official historic marker in the nation recognizing the Gay Rights Struggle. Gittings continued to make appearances, even accepting an award from the American Psychiatric Association this past fall, but ill health finally led her and Lahusen to an Assisted Living Facility in Kennet Square, PA, where she passed away with Kay at her side.

Winter Madness

By Miss Sara

The winter months can be challenging for us gardeners, too many days cooped up indoors, snow and ice covering all, and another flower catalog in the mail that has everything we want! Just when I think I can't take another Feb. day, the sun appears to melt the snow and ice and venturing outdoors into our backyard is possible! So many surprises are awaiting - the red berries on the holly trees, early bulbs such as snow drops are blooming and daffodil foliage is pushing its way through the ground. A few of the clay pots that did not make it to the garage or shed for protection have cracked and broken, leaving new yard art to plant around in the spring.



When we are blessed with a day in the winter that allows us to be outside and poke around in our gardens, remember not to get too excited about outdoor projects as old man winter will return. Those are days that are great for cleaning tools and going through the pile of work shoes that have accumulated in the garage. It is also a good time to cut back monkey grass (lirope) and ornamental grasses, as the old growth must come down to make way for the new. Check out trees and shrubs to see if there are any damaged limbs that should be taken out, the ice and snow can be damaging to our woodies!

Winter is a good time to plan, think ahead, and take notes for the upcoming garden season.

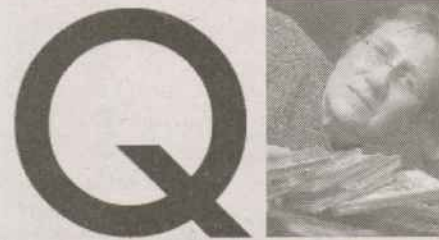
Relax with garden catalogs and make lists of what new seeds to try. Find new colors of annuals for your containers! The Internet also has a wealth of information available to all levels of gardeners. Spring will be here before we know it, and it just might find you wishing for a cold, cloudy day to be indoors!

PARTY OF THE CENTURY

By Deborah Davis

November 28, 1966. New York City. The Plaza Hotel. Five hundred forty very carefully selected guests dined and danced the night away at Truman Capote's Black and White Ball, the party of the century. Presided by Katharine Graham, president of the Washington Post newspaper, the gala was the coronation of Capote, notable author of *In Cold Blood* and *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. It was also a cultural benchmark. For the first time, New York, Washington and Hollywood intersected. The ultra rich, movie stars, royals and literati mixed with Capote's doorman and eleven of the Kansas friends he made during the months he spent doing research for the book. While the glittering crowd partied inside the historic ballroom, on the outside it was the post-Camelot 1960's, the ferment of civil rights, women's liberation and growing U.S. involvement in the Vietnam conflict.

Much more than a writer, Capote was a master self-promoter. As Davis writes, Capote organized his first event, also in costume, at the age of eight. Among the eclectic guests of the precocious child was a black adult acquaintance. The Ku Klux Klan raided the children's party, taking offense to the idea that a black man would socialize with whites. However, they snatched the wrong man and were



BOOK REVIEW

Roxanne Kupger has a lifelong love for movies and books which started in Paris decades ago. The mother of two creative children, she lives in Milwaukee and Cape Cod.

lambasted by the entire town. Capote was delighted that he was able to generate attention to himself

The Black and White gala, like his literary works received unprecedented coverage in the media. The New York Times printed the entire guest list. One year later, it was still a popular topic. In *Esquire Magazine*, William F. Buckley questioned whether the guest list was imbued with a larger, social meaning.

Headlines however masked Capote's diminished ability to focus on his writing. "Mojave", his short story published in 1975 by *Esquire*, was a thinly veiled attack on his socialite friends and their compromised lives. Feeling betrayed, the wealthy friends quickly ejected Capote from their cocoon. Capote began the rapid spiral into drug and alcohol abuse which ended his life at age 59.

A fascinating figure, Capote has been the topic of countless books, articles, television programs and films. While this book does not bring new information, it probes behind the scenes to give readers a deeper understanding of the author's life and works in the context of history.

WOMEN'S Quote

"Failure is impossible."
-Susan B. Anthony, 1906

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What's happening Gallery:

March 10, 7pm
Belly Dance Showcase with Mark Balahadia
A night of Middle Eastern extravagance featuring belly dancer Mark Balahadia and a host of regional and local professional belly dancers and troupes. A Shaia Fahrid Production. Donation \$10
<http://www.markbalahadia.com/about.html>

March 11, 4pm
Halla Alhambra Belly Dance and Flamenco Extravaganza. A special matinee of flamenco and belly dance fusion showcasing regional and local professional performers. A Shaia Fahrid Production. **Donation \$10**

March 23, 9pm
Cabaret Night with Eric Himan, singer-acoustic guitar. Eric released his debut CD and founded his own independent label, Thumbcrown Records. He quickly gained a "cult" following and broke from the idea of being a small-town act, for his unique sound that transgressed genres as he penned songs that dabbled in Blues, Folk, Pop, Blue Grass, Country, and Rock all served up with a pinch of wit and charm. Eric has shared the stage with Cyndi Lauper, India Arie, Ru Paul, En Vogue, Duncan Sheik, Melissa Ferrick, and many more. <http://www.erichiman.com/erichiman.php> **Donation \$5**

March 24, 6-9pm
TransART Exhibition opening, artist reception and readings by Dylan Scholinski
Dylan was born Daphne Scholinski. As a young girl growing up in the Chicago suburbs, she played first base in Little League and preferred drawing to playing with dolls. When she was 15 years old she was locked up in a mental hospital, diagnosed as "an inappropriate female", and spent the rest of her high school years undergoing extreme femininity training. At 18, her insurance ran out and she was discharged. Now 37, Dylan is an accomplished and successful artist and writer. His memoir, *The Last Time I wore a Dress*, has opened the public eye to the world of gender ambiguity and its ramifications. <http://www.dylanscholinski.com/bio.html> **Donation \$8**

March 30, 8pm
Cabaret Night with Coyote Grace, alternative folk rock acoustic musical duo
COYOTE GRACE is the Seattle-based acoustic duet comprised of Joe Stevens, a transman singer/songwriter from California and graduate of Cornish College of the Arts, backed up by Ingrid Eyen on vocals and upright bass, a sassy femme originally hailing from the hills of Southeastern Ohio. Partners on and off stage, their love of music and for each other permeates every song, conveyed through smooth harmonies, driving roots rhythms, and captivating lyrics of raw life experience. Read more and hear their music on <http://www.myspace.com/coyotegrace> **Donation \$5**

March 31, 8pm
"As Bees in Honey Drown", a play by Douglas Carter Beane, directed by Lexi Klupchak
As Bees in Honey Drown, a comedy revealing the pitfalls of the unquenchable hunger for fame. Eager "almost-famous" artists and, of course, authors, the occupation of the protagonist, are displayed as easily trapped victims of con artists who promise big, but empty, dreams. Add sex to the equation and there's more dysfunction than even in your own family! **Donation \$10**

April Preview:
April 1, 2pm April 6 & 7, 8pm
"As Bees in Honey Drown", A play by Douglas Carter Beane, directed by Lexi Klupchak, Donation \$10

Classes:
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For more information on events please call 414-383-3727 or email milwga@yahoo.com

Dear Tom Brady's boyfriend,

I have a big problem. The Bible tells me that I'm going to Hell because I'm gay. But that's not the problem. The real problem is that my boyfriend is threatening to leave me over this issue. He doesn't want to be with someone who thinks that his sexuality is inherently demonic.

-Jesus! I'm screwed

Dear Jesus I'm screwed,

You've come to the right place to deal with your theological problems. After all, I live within three blocks of a temple, a church, a mosque, and a liquor store. Talk about covering all the bases. Your relationship can be saved if we answer this simple, yet most important question:

Are homos damned to hell? Personally, I can't imagine a homo-less Heaven. Who would gossip with Mary about all the big boobied chicks that St. Peter kept sneaking in? But more importantly, with no homos, Heaven would be empty. After all, aren't we all a bit queer deep down?

I needed to put my own opinions aside, and find conclusive evidence to prove that queers made it up to Heaven. In preparation for this case, I once again headed back to my neighborhood apothecary, picked up an ounce of shrooms, and set to an evening of spiritual and theological enlightenment. I poured over ancient Buddhist texts, I read the Koran, I sang the dreidel song, and even went to Potawatomi casino for a couple hours of Native American guidance.

As if by divine design, I woke up in a sweat thinking that I had forgotten to DVR America's Next Top Model. Too wired to go back to bed, I paged through some obscure Sanskrit text that I had been translating before falling asleep. This was where I found my answer:

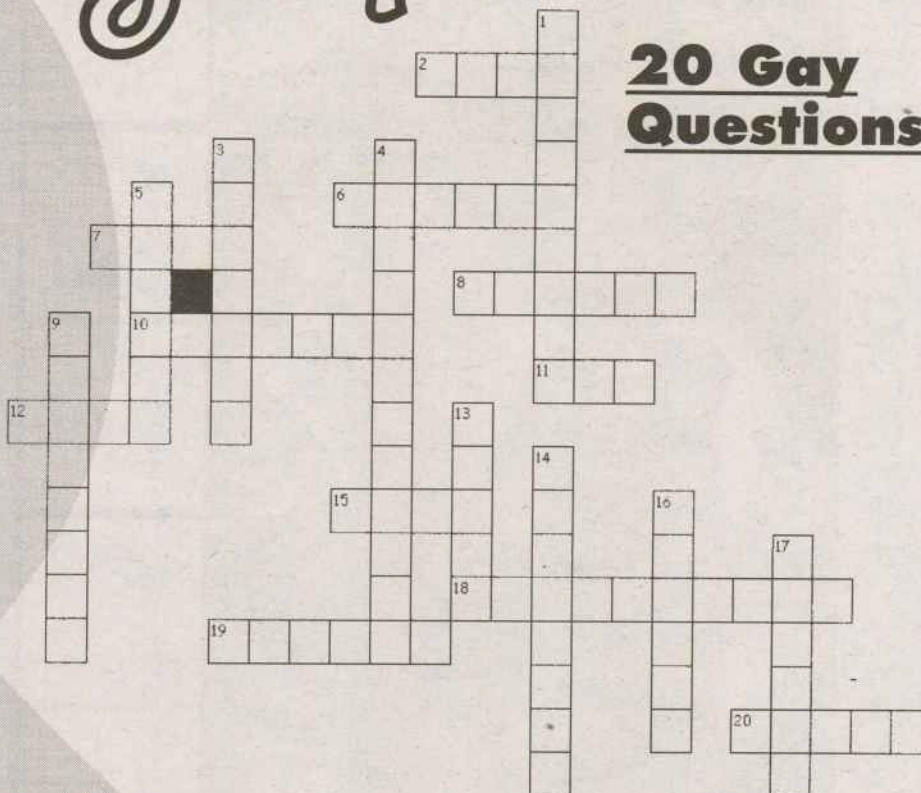
The gospel according to St. Birkenstock! (If you need to stop reading at this time for fear of getting struck but lightning, I totally understand). According to this gospel, St. Birkenstock was Jesus' lesbian cousin, and the muscle behind the 12 apostles. She was the one who taught Jesus to be a carpenter, wear frumpy brown clothing and never shave. It is, in fact, St. Birkenstock who has the relationship with Mary Magdalene, not Jesus (take that DaVinci Code!).

Before she moved to Jerusalem, bullies would drag the little lord around by his curly payees (hair), force him to change water into vodka, and of course, tease him for telling everyone that his mom was a virgin. Long story short, without St. Birkenstock, Jesus wouldn't have made it past age 16. Thanks to her, his story lives on, and children in the wealthy parts of the world can eat as much chocolate as they want on Christmas and Easter.

So, do homos go to Hell? Hell No! All thanks to St. Birkenstock; whose memory we celebrate every year on March, 10th, the day she and Mary Magdalene adopted two black babies from Ethiopia almost two thousands years ago.

La Page Folle

20 Gay Questions



Across

- 2. dorothy's last name
- 6. tales of the city author
- 7. newest batman
- 8. ellen's girlfriend
- 10. LGBT history month
- 11. stripes on the rainblw flag
- 12. LGBT pride month

15. san francisco supervisor assassinated

- 18. pink triangle
- 19. movie star died of AIDS '85
- 20. barbra as a dude

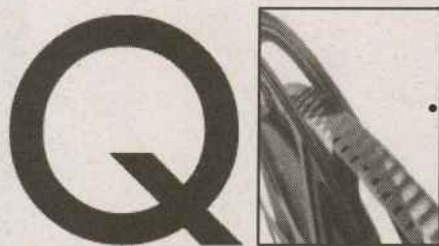
Down

- 1. comedienne/talk show host
- 3. britney's first born sean

4. first gay games city

- 5. penned in cold blood
- 9. olympic diver
- 13. designed the rainbow flag
- 14. cher's daughter
- 16. gay gray's anatomy T.R.
- 17. brokeback's heath

Why Drew?



FILM

By: Richard Smoker

On Valentine's Day Hugh Grant came out with a new romantic comedy entitled Music and Lyrics. A film about a washed up 80's new wave singer/songwriter trying to make a comeback. Grant can't seem to find any lyrics to go with his music so he turns to the woman that waters his plants (not innuendo) to help him out. They eventually fall in love and she "waters his plant" (innuendo). This plant lady love interest is played by Drew Barrymore. A woman whose acting career topped off at ET.

The producers of this film must have thought long and hard about how they could possibly compete with Grants previous love interests. How do you top Sandra Bullock, Rachel Weiss, and Julia Roberts (Roberts and Weiss having both won Oscars)?

"I know, let's cast that no talent round faced girl from Ever After!"

"By God, that's golden. Lifetime will be sure to pick it up! She still has her lisp right?"

"I believe she's seeing a speech

therapist."

"Get a hold of that woman right now! We must stop this before too much damage is done!"

They did, however, do right by casting Hugh Grant. This man's comic timing and delivery made even Mickey Blue Eyes an entertaining movie. Anyone who cheats on Elizabeth Hurley with a hooker named Divine must be a comic genius. With all it's faults in Barrymore Music and Lyrics makes up for it with Hugh Grant, and proves to be an entertaining movie.

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If You Paid for Serostim

You May Have a Claim in a Proposed Class Action Settlement Full Cash Payors, Co-payors and their Heirs are Included

You may be able to get cash from a \$24 million Proposed Settlement if you paid for the prescription drug Serostim. The Proposed Settlement is with Merck Serono International, S.A., Serono Laboratories, Inc., and EMD Serono, Inc. ("Defendants"). It is pending in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

What is the Class Action About?

Plaintiffs claim that Defendants improperly marketed Serostim, a drug approved by FDA to treat HIV/AIDS wasting or cachexia. The lawsuits claim that Defendants encouraged doctors to prescribe Serostim based on diagnostic criteria that were not approved by FDA. The lawsuits do not allege that Serostim is dangerous to patient health, or that Serostim is not safe and effective for its approved uses.

The Defendants deny any liability and have decided to settle to avoid the expense and uncertainty of litigation.

Who is Involved?

The Proposed Settlement Class includes all persons or entities nationwide that paid in whole or in part for the drug Serostim from July 1, 1995 to December 31, 2006, and their heirs.

What Does the Proposed Settlement Provide?

- \$10.8 million will be allocated to certain large Third-Party Payors (e.g., insurance companies) who have a separate agreement with the Defendants.
- \$13.2 million will be allocated to the remaining Third-Party Payors (82%) and consumers (18%), after attorneys' fees and the costs of administering the Proposed Settlement are deducted.

For Additional Information

For the Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement, information on your rights and how to file a claim:

Call: 1-800-378-3615 Visit: www.SerostimSettlement.com
or Write: Serostim Litigation Administrator, c/o Complete Claim Solutions, LLC
PO Box 24676, West Palm Beach, FL 33416

Who Represents You?

The Court has appointed attorneys to represent the Consumer and TPPs who comprise the Class. Class Counsel will request the Court award fair and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs not to exceed \$3.96 million, plus reimbursement of expenses.

You may hire your own attorney, if you wish. However, you will be responsible for that attorney's fees and expenses.

What Are Your Options?

- If you do not want to be part of the Proposed Settlement, you must exclude yourself, in writing, postmarked by **May 21, 2007**. Excluding yourself will allow you to bring your own claims against the Defendants.
- If you stay in the Settlement Class you can file a claim. Your claim must be postmarked by **July 19, 2007**. All claim documentation submitted by you will be kept confidential and will be used only for the purpose of processing claims.
- You may object to or comment on any part of the Proposed Settlement. Your objection/comment must be written and postmarked by **May 21, 2007**. You may also request in writing to speak at the Final Approval Hearing.

The Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement explains excluding yourself, making a claim, objecting/commenting and requesting to speak at the Hearing.

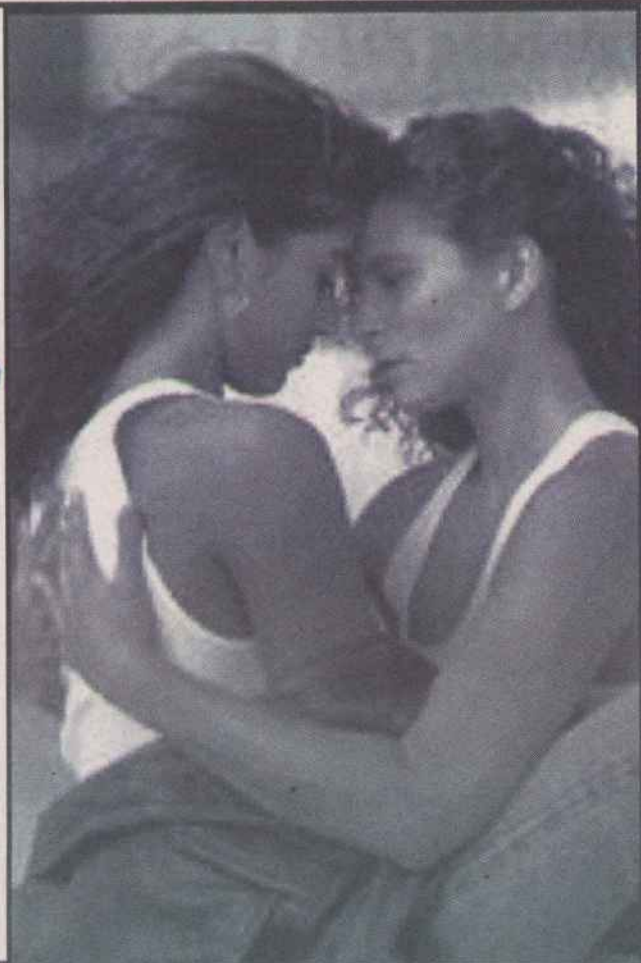
Will the Court Approve the Proposed Settlement?

The Court will hold a Final Approval Hearing on June 19, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. and will consider whether to approve the Proposed Settlement, award attorneys' fees and allow reimbursement of expenses.



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Over 7,000 square feet of ever-changing inventory
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The wall Between Two kinds of Love ...



The Woman
... WAS HER
TOUCH A
DISASTER!



The Teenager YOUNG...
VULNERABLE... WHICH
WAY WILL SHE GO?

The Maid
CUTE...
READY
TO
SERVE!

WHICH
WILL
SHE
CHOOSE



That Tender Touch

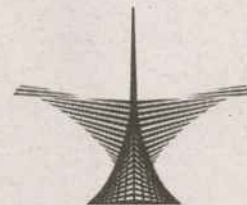
A Woman's Picture
every Man must SEE!

MAM Film
Thursday, April 5, 6:15 p.m.

Don't miss this hilarious 1969 rediscovered camp gem, introduced by award-winning LGBT film historian and filmmaker Jenni Olson. From lesbian lover to suburban housewife—this love triangle ends with predictably tragic results. Carl Bogner of UW-Milwaukee will lead a talkback after the screening.

\$5, free if you become a Museum Member at the door

Funded by Cream City Foundation, Joseph R. Pabst LGBT Infrastructure Fund.
Co-presentation of MAM Film and the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival.



MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

414-224-3200 | www.mam.org