

Halter Tops and Pleather Page 11 Are You Queer Enough? Page 17 Senior Pride a Reality Page 22

Vol. 3, Issue 6 - June 2007 Pride Issue

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PRIDE over Labels By Gene Martelli

'Gay Pride is a celebration of acceptance and self-love. Every group celebrates itself and it's achievements, and GLBT people should be no different. We need to celebrate achievements, each other, and ourselves."—Roger, Milwaukee

here was a time in the not so distant past, when the words "gay" and "pride" were not compatible. A life spent in the closet was often times, the best, if not the only option for many who came before us. Centuries of persecution, and laws against homosexual love, were more than enough to remain quiet about one's true sexuality. To the medical and psychiatric worlds of the late 19th century, "homosexual" meant the person was a "degenerate" - perverted, immoral and wicked.

Being labeled as a homosexual often meant ridicule, abandonment, and shunning. Sadly, discrimination and prejudice are still very much alive. Gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals, transgendered, and anything else seen as being out of the "hetero-norm" are still the last segment of society where it is "okay" to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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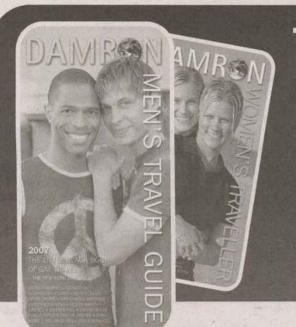


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On the Cover:



Maureen M. Kane is a graphic designer and owns her 10-yr old business, MMK Design. She teaches DTP software, and bookmaking; dabbles in the fine arts of painting, collage, assemblages and mixed media; and can be seen on the streets jogging or on the fields playing softball.

The cover illustration

is a mix of sketches, paintings, found images and scans merged together in Adobe Photoshop.

Living Memory LGBT History Timeline

he Transgender Aging Network (TAN) of FORGE is pleased to announce the release of a new teaching tool, "Living Memory LGBT History Timeline," available for download at www.forge-forward.org/handouts/LGBT_elder_timeline.pdf

Lesbian, gay male, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) elders may approach "mainstream" aging, health, and other

public and private services differently than their heterosexual and/ or gender-normative peers. Every person is shaped in part by the major public events that happen during their lifetime, whether these events are tragedies like 9/11 or struggles and triumphs like the Civil Rights Movement or passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Although each individual will draw different conclusions and make different life

choices in reaction to such public events, knowing what was reported in the media and discussed at dinner during a person's lifetime may help others understand how that individual's worldview was shaped.

To offer those who work with, live with, or love LGBT elder's insight into their concerns, lifestyles, and belief sets, the Transgender Aging Network (TAN) has constructed the "Living Memory LGBT History Timeline." Divided by decade (starting with the 1920s), the timeline cross-references how old those who are currently aged 50 to 100 would have been when critical LGBT events or changes took place.

"Not all of us know our history well,"

said TAN Executive Director Loree Cook-Daniels, "And even those of us who do can forget just how much change can take place during a lifetime. We can also forget how often advances are accompanied by setbacks, and the level of fear and uncertainty this can cause people who are old enough to remember, losing rights that had previously seemed secure. We believe this new timeline can be an effective tool to increase the cultural

competency of everyone who works with elders and who therefore may be working

with LGBT people."

The timeline may be copied and distributed in its entirety if it is used solely for educational purposes. All other potential users should contact tan@forgeforward.org to discuss reprint permission.



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PRIDE continued from page 1

downgrade, offend, attack, and demean. Negative attacks still spew forth from pulpits, gay bashing still occurring in alarming numbers, and we do not have full legal rights in our own country.

We have a long way to go.

However, amazing things have changed over the last forty years, and several great strides towards equality have even occurred within just the last few weeks. Several states have passed anti-discriminatory legislation to ensure we are treated equally, if only in the work place. And, gender-identity issues have even made it to the cover of Newsweek.

Had a certain transgender rights activist not fought back that fateful night in June of 1969, we might not have made the gains we have. You can thank the late Miss Sylvia Rivera, founding member of both the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance, for leading a group of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people outside of the Stonewall Inn, in NYC and into a riot following yet another police raid on a gay bar.

Thirty years later, in 1999, President Clinton officially declared June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month, now celebrated throughout the world. Corporate media

sponsors donate money to help bring us Pride events, there are several LGBT publications available for our reading pleasure, and foundations, organizations, and centers cater to the betterment of our community. Even our parents and friends have an organization for them in the LGBT community.

Recently, Queer Life News asked readers to comments on labels in the community, and on Gay Pride in general. Some see Pride celebrations as another way we segregate ourselves from the rest of society today.

I really don't know about gay pride parades, or festivals. I've been to several in many cities, and at least Milwaukee is more domesticated. There usually is a great diversity, but when it comes to the really "in your face" stuff with nudity, or crazy flamboyant stuff; I have a problem with it. I just don't think the community is in that place anymore. I don't know if that means I'm a homophobic-homo, but I just don't think that has anything to do with pride.—Jonathan, Madison.

While others honor the past:

"Gay Pride Parades, festivals, and events can never go away – we cannot become so "equal" that we forget to celebrate where we came from, and those who helped to get us here. It wasn't too long ago when gay relationships were confined to seedy hookups in dark, out of the way places, so go ahead and celebrate! Gary, Bay View

And feedback about labeling:

"It was us "fairies" and "dykes" who dealt with the repulsion of mainstream middle
America, while the "straight acting" ones were able to cower in their closets. I'm proud to be
one of those "fairies." At least we bring flair to the gay community. No one has fun anymore!
Instead, I'm an "embarrassment" to the self-hating mainstream 'queers" who view me as a

step back. I may be 'fem" I may be "queer" but mostly, I'm a big "flamin' Queen" who knows all about fighting for equality. I just didn't think I'd have to do it in my own community!" -Lewis, Madison



Labels don't tell

us what kind of unique individual the person is. They don't tell us what matters to that person, what their thoughts are, what their personality is, what their life experiences have been, except in that one respect. Owning a label can change the meaning, and put the power of the word in our hands.

"I'm proud to be a Dyke, and if I get called a "Dyke" by anyone else, I could care less."

Liz R. Milwaukee

Queer, for instance, is a term not many approve of due to its derogatory history. However, it's now an all-encompassing term for all individuals who defy sexual or gender norms, including transgender or transsexual individuals.

"We're all just a little bit queer, aren't we?" Diane, Cudahy

Had it not been for our courageous, and lets face it, fed up brothers and sisters in the 1960's, we might have never gotten as far as we have. Not everyone may agree just how to move ahead, but the

mere fact that we can is something to be proud of. Thanks to dedicated individuals, organizations, and equality-minded people, things can only get better.



"Until my dying day I will look back with pride that I found the courage to come face to face in battle against the spectre which for time immemorial has been injecting poison into me and into men of my nature. Many have been driven to suicide because all their happiness in life was tainted. Indeed, I am proud that I found the courage to deal the initial blow to the hydra of public contempt." Karl-Heinrich Ulrichs (1825-1895) pioneer of modern lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender movements.

She's such a Queen

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Concert Update

JUNE

2 BILL ENGVALL

2 ELLIOTT YAMIN

CHICK COREA & BELA FLECK

12 GODSMACK

CHRIS THILE

& THE HOW TO GROW A BAND
FRAC BAYAN SETTOS

\$15 BUCK SHOW

TE CÉSARIA ÉVORA

ROBERT EARL

MATISYAHU

JULY

29 JOHN FOGERTY

AUGUST

DREAM THEATER REDEMPTION AND INTO ETERNITY

O JOHN HIATT SHAWN COLVIN

NICKEL CREEK
FIONA APPLE

(I) GIPSY KINGS

TO CROWDED HOUSE

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA

THE ALLMAN
BROTHERS BAND
ROBERT RANDOLPH
AND THE FAMILY BAND

RUFUS WAINWRIGHT AND BAND

DIANA KRALL
 CHRIS BOTTI

SEPTEMBER

SIERRA LEONE Refugee all stars

GORDON LIGHTFOOT

20 STEVE VAI

22 TANGO BUENOS AIRES

OCTOBER

SUZANNE VEGA

CLINT BLACK

25 CAPITOL STEPS

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Concert Update

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QLife Quickies

Kent State opens gender-neutral restroom

Kent, **OH** – Following a growing trend on U.S. campuses, Kent State University has opened a gender-neutral restroom to recognize its transgender students.

The unisex restroom was relabeled with a new sign bearing four images: a man, a woman, a person in a wheelchair, and a man and a woman separated by a slash.

"There's no sign up there that this is for transgender or anything," Roy Kirksey, a university official explained to the Associated Press. "It's for anyone who wants to use it." The bathroom, designated "gender-neutral" after the Queer Liberation Front asked university administration to include transgender students, has a single toilet, a sink, a diaper-changing table, and a power-assisted door for the handicapped.

Thank You Global Fund

The Global Fund has committed grants totaling \$7.6 billion and now provides disease fighting help to tens of millions of people in 136 countries. The world's biggest fund for the fight against AIDS, TB, and malaria has significantly expanded its programs over the past year, and has set a target of tripling its annual income to at least \$6 billion per year by 2010. The Global Fund is financed by government and private donations. So far, they have given 450 grants worth \$3.5 billion to provide 30 million nets to ward off malaria carrying mosquitoes, drugs against tuberculosis for 2.8 million people, and antiretroviral medicines for more than 1 million people with HIV.





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<u>INTERVIEW</u>

Wisconsin's Female Vocalist of the Year: Ronnie Nyles

he had a guitar in her hand at the age of two. By four, she was leading her preschool class band with a baton. As one of the most revered female musicians in the Midwest, Ronnie Nyles seems to work at break-neck speed. If she isn't performing somewhere in Milwaukee, she's up north, or down south rockin' the house. Just reading her calendar of upcoming performances is exhausting enough, imagine working it. In the middle of all of the appearances, Nyles was recently nominated for a total of eight Wisconsin Area Music Industry Awards. She took home a big one.

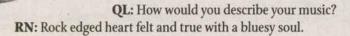
Queer Life: Eight WAMI nominations this year! How does it feel to be Wisconsin's Female Vocalist of the Year?

Ronnie Nyles: It's an honor to be recognized by your peers and a privilege to be among so many talented women performing and recording out there.

QL: Who were your influences?

RN: It's a combination of people within the music industry as well as outside of it.

My mom and grandmother have instilled in me the dedication and dream catcher in me that allows me to walk the path of my dreams. The teachers in my early education were positive and encouraging as well as the many musicians I've had the opportunity to work with who I've learned a great deal from, not only musically but performing and businesswise. As for musical style and writing, there are many Anne Murray, Joni Mitchell, Bonnie Raitt and John Mellencamp just to name a few.



QL: Do you do a lot of collaboration? Name one of your songs you're particularly connected to.

RN: I'm starting to do more song collaborating, in fact I've written a few with Tina Dimmer and most recently with Deb Lopez, formally of "Tomboy." And I'm pretty connected to anything I write but I guess as of late I would have to say "The Dairy Queen Song" which I will be going into the studio soon to record with Deb.

QL: Tell us about The Krash Band

RN: Anyone who is in the music business or knows someone in the music biz knows how difficult it is finding the right combination of musicians. I met Ron Plevak at a jam night that he was hosting on a very rare weekend night off. Months later, I was thinking of getting a group back together and I was in search of a guitar player and bass player and thought of Ron but had no way of getting a hold of him and a day or two later I ran into him. Fate! Ron and his bass playing friend, Andy Holcomb joined Tina, Tommy Capponi (Tina's cousin) and myself. The rest is history! It all just kind of happened, good things usually do! They're a great group of guys that bring some humor and personality along with their talent into the fold. I'm really enjoying what we are doing!

QL: Do you see yourself ever moving out of WI?

RN: There was a time when I thought to pursue more opportunities that I would have to move, but with the coming of itunes, YouTube, CD Baby, isound and many internet music sources the winds have changed, making it much easier to reach a wider audience from a home base. The music industry has changed, making it more accessible to everyone who doesn't have the BIG bucks behind them!

QL: Several of your songs seem to be dealing with loneliness, unrequited love, or just a bad ass broken heart. Why is that?

RN: I write from the heart and I guess I've had my share of some heartbreak and disappointments. It's part of life's journey.

QL: What's your favorite pizza topping?

RN: BLT (Bacon, Lettuce and Tomato) sounds delish, doesn't it!?

QL: Do you prefer jeans, or leather?

RN: It depends on who's wearing them!

QL: Is there any one artist whose style you emulate most?

RN: I've been compared to Melissa Etheridge for most of my career and have even been mentioned by Melissa herself in an interview during one of her Milwaukee performances. I've performed a few special shows called "Similar Features" featuring Melissa's early material.

QL: Have you ever just reached a totally connected & euphoric state while performing?

RN: Yes, and it's a feeling that you really can't describe. A song takes you there and the audience wraps you in it. When you're in that state you are pulled in, in a hypnotizing way. The music is in your head but the words and notes you sing appear out of no where. It's a connection at all levels that brings you to a high that is so indescribable.

QL: What is it about your music that appeals to your listeners?

RN: I think it's those highs and lows of the journey we all experience that makes that connection with them in the songs that I've written and the cover songs I perform.

QL: What's an average day off for you like? Assuming you actually take a day off?

RN: Yes, we are assuming ... huh, a day off? Well let's see ...possibly a ride on the Harley (if I'm not too tired), a little golfing, meeting up with friends or a quiet day/evening at home. But we are assuming.

QL: You've got PrideFest coming up, and then Summerfest, along with all your regular gigs-just how busy is your summer?

RN: Busy! That's something that I don't mind at all. The summer brings so many people together with a closeness that is so different from another time of the year. Having the opportunity to perform at many of the events and gigs over the summer months allows me to experience it, be a part of it and take it all in. As for vacation, those are the days I have a home.

Catch Ronnie at PrideFest 2pm on the 9th, and 6:30PM on the 10th. As well as SummerFest, and many spots around WI. Check out www.ronnienyles.com for complete schedule.

Erasure Comes to the Pabst

ueer Life News and Shepherd Express proudly welcome Erasure to Milwaukee's Pabst Theater Saturday, July 28 at 8 p.m. Tickets go on sale Friday, June 1st.

The UK's most enduring pop duo Erasure was founded by keyboardist Vince Clark and singer Andy Bell in 1985. Known for hits songs including "Oh l'Amour," "Ship Of Fools," "Chains of Love" and "A Little Respect," Erasure has sold more than 20 million albums worldwide since their 1986 album, "Wonderland." Erasure's 1988 breakthrough album entitled "The Innocents" went platinum (triple platinum in the U.K.) and garnered two Top 20 hits.

Erasure's new album, "Light at The End of The World," was released on May

22 by Mute Records. "Light At The End Of The World" features 10 tracks written and recorded over six weeks in Maine in the fall of 2006. Visit www.erasureinfo. com for additional artist information. Tickets are \$35.50, \$45.50 and \$55.50 and go on sale Friday, June 1 at noon at the Pabst Theater Box Office, on the web at www. pabsttheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552. Queer Life News will be giving away several pairs of tickets to the concert! Submit an email today, perhaps suggest an article you would like covered in QLife, include your name address and phone to be entered in a raffle giveaway for two tickets to Erasure at the Pabst on July 28th! Visit www.queerlifenews.com



Fair Wisconsin announces Eva Shiffrin as new Executive Director

Madison - The Fair Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin Education Fund board of directors have announced the selection of Eva Shiffrin as the new Executive Director of Fair Wisconsin. Shiffrin comes to Fair Wisconsin from the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, where she served as the staff attorney since 2002. Shiffrin was very active during the Fair Wisconsin amendment campaign in 2006 and was a founding member of Attorney's Against the Ban, a working group of lawyers that educated the public on the potential legal impact of the constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions.

"I am thrilled and excited to join Fair Wisconsin and look forward to leading it into the future. Fair Wisconsin is a powerful voice for Wisconsin's LGBT citizens and we will continue to fight for fairness and equality for all

Wisconsin families" said Shiffrin.

"Fair Wisconsin is the only statewide LGBT advocacy organization in Wisconsin and one of the largest in the nation, which meant we had many strong candidates apply. We are so pleased to be able to hire someone of Eva's caliber. Eva brings an enormous amount of passion, experience and determination to Fair Wisconsin, she is exactly the type of leader we need to continue to move LGBT rights forward in Wisconsin "said Aaron Sherer, President of the Fair Wisconsin board of directors.

Shiffrin has been an LGBT rights advocate for over twenty years beginning in high school. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Fair Wisconsin from both the legal and non-profit sector. Shiffrin has also worked as an attorney for the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups and an instructor for the University of Wisconsin Law School. She received her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin and her undergraduate degree from Indiana University.

Fair Wisconsin is the statewide advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and advancing the civil rights of LGBT citizens in Wisconsin.

Coming Together in Song

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center announces the release of the music compilation CD, "Unity in Harmony". Produced by Shelly Herrmann and Yolanda Roth, the compilation features local, regional and national LGBT recording artists.

While watching local performers at a MGAC fundraiser, Herrmann had the

idea to create a CD filled with LGBT performers.

"Shelly was at the show," says Roth, the soulful singer from local group Rhythm and Torch, "I had Corky, Scott, and a few other artists there. Shelly called me the next day and said, 'you know I was thinking, what if everyone got together and we put together a CD compellation?"

"When I thought of the idea, I thought of it as a gay "We Are the World" -

only not as cheesy." Says Herrmann. Roth continued, "This was right at the time when we lost the Amendment, and there was this general sense of grieving. I really wanted to do something because people were so pissed, but I was powerless as to just what to do. And when Shelly came up with this, I thought, this is the "something" I could do."

The CD's theme song "Stand Up" was written by Tori Fixx, Scott Malcom, Corky Morgan, and Yolanda Roth, and recorded at a studio in MN. The artists all donated their time and original works to the project, and proceeds from the sale of "Unity in Harmony" will benefit the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. "Stand Up" was the one song specifically written for the CD. "In one weekend!" says Herrmann. "Written, and recorded in less than a weekend."

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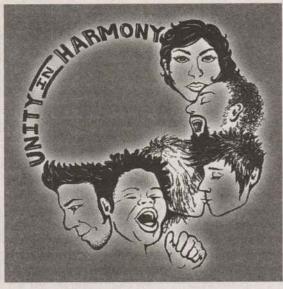
A CD release party, sponsored by V/Bar, Holiday House and Press, will be held at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Avenue, on Sunday, June 3rd at 5:30pm.

This event features entertainment, refreshments and a cash bar. Additionally, the CD can be

purchased for \$14 only at this event.

The MGAC Unity in Harmony CD Showcase with five of the artists will be live on stage at Milwaukee's PrideFest on Saturday, June 9th from 1130am-1pm.

The "Unity in Harmony" CD, with cover art by Lindsay Meeks, and graphic design done by Jen Carviou, Herrmann, and Roth, will be sold at the PrideFest Merchandise Booth for \$16.



It will also be available through CD Baby and other Milwaukee retail outlets. Recently, the crowd at MONA'S got an advance listen to the songs, and it's definitely worth having. A great CD mix, and a positive response to a discouraging loss.

"After the amendment loss, I thought it was time to put something positive into the community. To say we are capable of something beautiful. I wanted to put something out there that was Transgendered, Bi, Lesbian, Gay, all creating as one." Said Roth.

Hermann continued, "This community is already segregated, and so disjointed from one another. We wanted to show that we are able to work together. Everyone on the CD represents each part of the L-G-B-T community. That's where the Unity comes in. If we can produce this CD, imagine what we can do as a community if we would come together instead of pointing fingers and blame at one another. Forget that, and come together."

What better place to get their message of unity across than at PrideFest.



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Gay Slurs Okay, Ethnic Slurs a No-No

Manhattan - Following a prank phone call filled with ethnic slurs to a local Chinese restaurant, two NYC shock jocks have gone from being suspended, to being fired by WFNY radio station. This is the same radio station that ignored criticism after the morning show stars called a musician a "fag" on air.

"The Dog House with JV and Elvis," hosted by Jeff Vandergrift and Dan Lay, "will no longer be broadcast," CBS Radio

spokeswoman Karen Mateo said.

Outrage poured in from Chinese Americans over a prank phone call to a female employee at a Chinese restaurant. Racial slurs, four letter words, and telling her they'd like to see her "hot Asian, spicy" body part naked was finally enough for the radio station.

They had been scheduled to issue an apology on air with a spokesperson from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation for the prior homophobic remarks that the station had

originally laughed off.

While interviewing the local band "A Brief Smile", the shock jocks referred to bassist John Carnes as "Fag number 1" after the bassist criticized the station. After Carnes admitted being Bl-sexual, they asked him "how many badges of honor do you have in your colon?"

He was eventually kicked out of the studio while being told that his "sexuality makes him a bitch." The hosts also rated the band's

song poorly, calling it a "little faggy."

GLAAD called station Program Director John Mainelli several times before reaching him, even after being hung up on and told to "stop calling." Mainelli eventually called back and was unapologetic about the anti-gay tirade, defending the radio segment as "comedy."

McCain: Gay Troops an 'Intolerable Risk'

Washington DC - May 3 - United States Senator John McCain (R-AZ), a candidate for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination, has once again announced his support for the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual service members.

McCain says the law, passed in 1993, "unambiguously maintains that open homosexuality within the military services presents an intolerable risk to morale,

cohesion and discipline."

McCain, who voted in favor of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in 1993, says, "I remain opposed to the open expression of homosexuality in the U.S. military." In contrast to McCain's views, a growing number of prominent Republicans now support

repeal of the ban on open service.

Writing in The Washington Post in March, former Republican Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming said that, "I believe it is critical that we review - and overturn - the ban on gay service members in the military. I voted for 'don't ask, don't tell.' But much has changed since 1993." Simpson went on to say that, "We need every able-bodied, smart patriot to help us win this war."

In the U.S. House of Representatives, a bi-partisan coalition of 123 lawmakers

now support legislation to repeal the law.

A complete copy of Senator McCain's letter is available online at http://www.sldn.org.

Historic Hate Crimes Bill Passes

Washington DC - May 3 - United States Senator John McCain (R-AZ), Washington - The U.S. House of Representatives voted to pass the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, H.R. 1592, in a vote of 237 to 180. The proposed legislation has the endorsement of 230 law enforcement, civil rights, civic and religious organizations and the support of 73 percent of the American people. The Senate will soon consider an identical companion bill called the Mathew Shepard Act. The White House put out a "Statement of Administration Policy" stating, "If H.R. 1592 were presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill."

"I hope President Bush will look at this poll and realize how unbelievably out of line a threatened veto of this critical crime fighting piece of legislation is with a majority of Americans," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "It is past time for President Bush to join the majority of

Americans who want to see this bill become law."

Each year, thousands of Americans are violently attacked just because they are black, female, Christian, or gay. According to the FBI, 25 Americans each day are victims of hate crimes - that means approximately one hate crime is committed every hour. One in six hate crimes are motivated by the victim's sexual orientation.

The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act would strengthen the ability of federal, state and local governments to investigate and prosecute hate crimes based on race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability and gender identity.

It would strengthen state and local efforts by enabling the Justice Department to assist in the investigation and prosecution of hates crimes. The bill will also provide grants to help state and local governments meet the extraordinary

expenses involved in hate crime cases.

At the federal level, the LLEHCPA would eliminate the outdated intent requirement in current law that prevents the Justice Department from working with state and local officials in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. It would allow the federal government to step in when needed, but only after the department has certified that a federal prosecution is necessary. The LLEHCPA would strengthen the ability of law enforcement officials to investigate and prosecute hate crimes by:

Protecting All Americans. Under the current federal law the government has the authority to help investigate and prosecute bias-motivated attacks based on race, color, national origin and religion and because the victim was

attempting to exercise a federally protected right.

However the federal government is not able to help in cases where women, gay, transgender or disabled Americans are victims of bias-motivated crimes for who they are. Under this bill, federal authorities would have had the jurisdiction to prosecute the crime or could have provided local authorities resources that might have assisted them in pursuing a longer sentence.

Equipping Local Law Enforcement. The act would provide crucial federal resources to state and local agencies and equip local law enforcement officers with the tools they need to investigate and prosecute crimes. Too many local jurisdictions lack the full resources necessary to prosecute hate crimes. For example, when Matthew Shepard was murdered in Laramie, Wyo., in 1998, the investigation and prosecution of the case cost the community of 28,000 residents about \$150,000, forcing the sheriff's department to lay off five deputies in order to save money.

Ensuring Equal Application of the Law. The act would allow federal authorities to become involved if local authorities are unwilling or unable to act. In the hate crime on which the film Boys Don't Cry was based, 21-year-old Brandon Teena was raped by two friends after they discovered he was biologically female. Afterwards, Teena reported the crime to the police, but Richardson County Sheriff Richard Laux, who referred to Teena as "it," did not allow his deputies to arrest the two men responsible. Five days later, those two men shot and stabbed Teena to death. Had this federal hate crime law been in effect, federal authorities could have investigated and prosecuted the offenders when the local authorities refused to do so.







Oregon Joins in on Domestic Partnerships

Salem-OR - In a bipartisan show of support, members of the Oregon state Senate approved the Oregon Family Fairness Act (H.B. 2007) by a vote of 21 to 9. The act would establish domestic partnerships for committed same-sex couples and provide all the same state-granted privileges, immunities, rights, benefits and responsibilities for same-sex couples entering a domestic partnership as are granted to married couples.

Passage of the domestic partner bill comes 2 1/2 years after Oregonians banned gay marriage at the ballot box via a statewide

referendum

When the governor signs the bill, Oregon will become the 10th state to provide significant protections to committed same-sex couples. Massachusetts provides equal marriage rights; Vermont, Connecticut, New Jersey and California recognize civil unions or domestic partnerships that provide all the state-level protections of marriage to same-sex couples; Hawaii has a reciprocal beneficiaries law; and Maine and the District of Columbia provide registered domestic partners some level of critical protection. The Washington State domestic partnership law will go into effect on July 22, 2007, and New Hampshire will begin recognizing civil unions next year.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, same-sex couples in Oregon will be able to go to their county courthouse and enter into a legally binding contract that grants them rights and responsibilities. The benefits include nearly all those accorded to married couples under state law, covering the rights to jointly file state taxes, child custody, hospital visitation and

inheritance rights, among others.



Protest over Gay Partner Bill

Rome - Thousands of people, including families with their children, poured into a Rome piazza on May 12 to protest a government bill that would give legal rights to unmarried couples, including gays and lesbians. The counter protest with those in support of the bill is scheduled for June 16th.

One side of the legislation's debate supports Pope Benedict's call to defend the traditional family; the other side says the measure would recognize the basic rights of people who live outside marriage.

"Living together is not family," said one protestor."

People from across Italy began pouring into St. John Lateran piazza early in the morning, and by the end of the day, organizers said as many as 1.5 million people showed up, exceeding their expectations of 100,000. Organizers include lay Catholic groups and family associations.

Benedict sent a clear message; saying popular culture promoted sexual immorality and destroyed the sanctity of marriage. In a speech to the region's bishops, he also decried what he called the "plague" of extramarital unions.

The proposed legislation would not legalize gay marriage, as was done in Spain and other European countries, but would entitle unmarried couples who live together to rights, including hospital visits and inheritance.

Those opposed say the bill would take apart the traditional family based on marriage between man and woman. Supporters argue that the bill would make Italy a more civilized country by honoring the basic rights of people who live outside marriage, and planned to counterrally in Rome.

Like the Family Day rally, the Gay Pride demonstration is scheduled to take place in the piazza in front of Rome's cathedral, the basilica of

St. John Lateran.

The number of official marriages celebrated in Italy has declined steadily since the early 1970s, with 404,464 registered in 1971 and 264,026 in 2001, according to the national statistics bureau, Istat. In 2005, the number fell to just over 250,000. Istat does not keep statistics on the number of gay couples.

Serbian lesbian singer wins 'Eurovision'

Helsinki - On May 12th an estimated 100 million television viewers saw an openly-lesbian singer from Serbia win this year's Eurovision Song Contest.

The Eurovision Song Contest is an annual competition held among 24 European countries which each submitting a song to be performed on live television. Then the entering countries cast votes for the others' songs in order to find the most popular song in the competition.

Thousands of fans cheered for their favorite entries at the Helsinki Arena, with Marija Serifovic's song 'Molitva' ('Prayer') receiving the most votes during the show. Ukrainian drag queen Verka Serdyuchka took second place.

In Serbia, thousands took to the streets of Belgrade and other cities to celebrate Serifovic's victory. Massive sing-alongs of the winning tune and carhonking echoed through the night while government officials, political parties and President Boris Tadic congratulated Serifovic on her victory.

Serifovic told reporters "a new chapter has opened for Serbia. I am so proud.

All my success is made by singing."

She was given a hero's welcome by around 30,000 fans when she returned to Serbia and will embark on a promotional 'Winner's Tour', travelling to six European countries.

5,000 march in Warsaw Pride

In the predominantly Catholic country of Poland, activists are up against widespread belief that homosexuality is a perversion. That didn't stop them, however for having the largest Pride parade in their country to date. Thousands of people marched May 19 in the 'capitals' annual gay rights parade, not long after the education minister called for a ban on the "propagation of homosexuality" in Poland's schools.

Some of the 5,000 marchers carried placards reading "Stop homophobia," while others toted rainbow flags, a symbol of the gay community.

In past years, gay rights rallies in Warsaw and the western city of Poznan resulted in violent clashes but no incidents were reported this year.

The far-right All-Polish Youth, the official youth wing of the League of Polish Families until late last year, held a small counter demonstration nearby with placards reading "Homo go home."

Education Minister Roman Giertych called for a ban on the "propagation of homosexuality" in the country's schools, a plan that he argues would protect traditional family values.

"It is only to protect youth from the propagation of views that threaten marriage, threaten family, and threaten the duties of schools, which are to prepare one to fulfill family duties and the duties of a citizen," he said.

Robert Biedron, the head of the Campaign Against Homophobia, said after the march "The proposals not only rape the constitution, but also violate the basic norms of the European Union, such as pluralism, tolerance and democracy."

WI Cream City Chorus presents "In Our Own Words"

Diversity to

A CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O

n Saturday, June 23, the WCCC will present "In Our Own Words," a unique show that is more musical than cabaret performance. The final concert of the WCCC's 20th Anniversary season, the show promises to be a fun-filled evening as the chorus takes a humorous yet poignant look back at its first 20

back at its first 20 years. Playfully woven together into a single story by Artistic Director Kristen L. Weber, the show is built entirely of all-original songs by members of the WCCC

past and present with a couple parody numbers – always a hit with the WCCC audience – thrown in for good measure.

The 7:30pm show, which will be held at the Off-Broadway theatre, 342 N. Water Street, will also include the chorus's annual silent auction. Available items include a score and CD of Hairspray autographed by Marc Shaiman, tickets

to many sports and arts events, a wide variety of musical CDs by popular artists, gift baskets from "A Woman's Touch"

gift baskets from "A
Woman's Touch"
and "Central
Bark," and much
more. Additional
donations of
items are always
welcome. Tickets
for the show are \$12
in advance, \$15 at the
door (if still available).
Seating is limited,

so don't delay. Available through chorus members, or by contacting the chorus office at info@

contacting the chorus office at info@ creamcitychorus.org, 414-276-8787, or 315 W. Court Street, Milwaukee , WI

Halter Tops and Pleather

S o I saw this really amazing transvestite in Alterra the other day.

Not the RuPaul kind of 'amazing,' but an entirely separate category. This guy (and I do feel correct in saying 'guy' for the following reason-) looked like any 50-something balding male whose face you might see in an ad for a law firm or realty group.

Except, of course, for the minor detail

This thought was coming from the boy with an entire armoire filled with corsets, fishnets and ball gowns.

that instead of a business suit he donned baggy pleather pants and a black halter-top with red and blue stars on it. The outfit was complimented by several strings of trendy Madonna-esque plastic beads and crucifixes around his neck.

He was not wearing heels. He was not wearing a wig. He was not sitting like a lady. He hadn't waxed his eyebrows... or his back. I'm not even completely sure if he was wearing make-up. But there he was, just sitting in Alterra, drinking his hot beverage and minding his own business; in no way actively exhibiting behavior to draw attention to himself. He appeared to be working intently on some sort of collage, constructed of various women's magazines.

Whatever it was, it was sufficient to so exclusively demand his attention that he was completely oblivious to the fact that I was staring at him.

He told one of the baristas, "You know-you really, really look like Jennifer Garner. Has anyone ever told you that?"

"Who's that?"

"Oh, you know, that girl from Alias! You know!"

"...uuuh, yeah."

She looked nothing like Jennifer Garner, but she smiled anyway, and the transvestite returned to his collage.

I found myself wondering if this character was completely right in the head, to be honest. Though I quickly slapped myself on the wrist for thinking such a thing- why wouldn't he be, what is he doing that's really so remarkably odd? I mean, trannies in general might weird out a lot of people, but this thought was coming from the boy with an entire armoire filled with corsets, fishnets and ball gowns.

So what's the big deal? Why was I so

compelled to call each and every one of my tranny-appreciating friends, or to go up to this individual and just ask if he could sit on the other side of the room so that I might be able to get a nice portrait.

Given that I do have some semblance of tact, I was able to stay in my seat and observe from afar. And after further observation, I realized it. I realized what was so odd about this transvestite and why I found him so intriguing: He did not give a rat's ass about what any single person in that Alterra may have been thinking about him. He was not embarrassed, he was not ashamed, he was not afraid. And whether it was a matter of sexual orientation, or gender identity, or just clothing choices is of no significance.

Maybe this is because he 'wasn't all there,' which would also explain the intensity with which he was pouring himself into his collage, but I honestly think it was something other than just ignorance. I'm sure that rude people make rude comments to him all the time, and he must be cognizant of the fact that he 'stands out' a little bit. And yet... here he was.

And sitting across the room from this man, I just got the biggest grin on my face. I absolutely could not help it. I couldn't get over how beautiful all of it was- his entire existence.

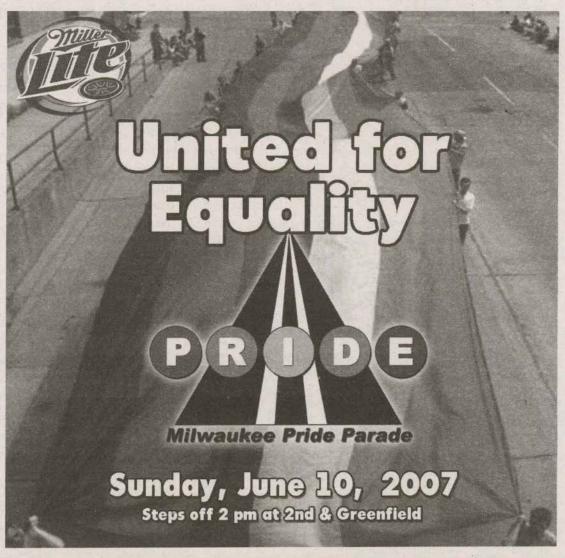
I aspire to be like him. I truly wish that I had the courage to get up in the morning and put on a halter top (with or without shaving my back...) just because I liked it, and not

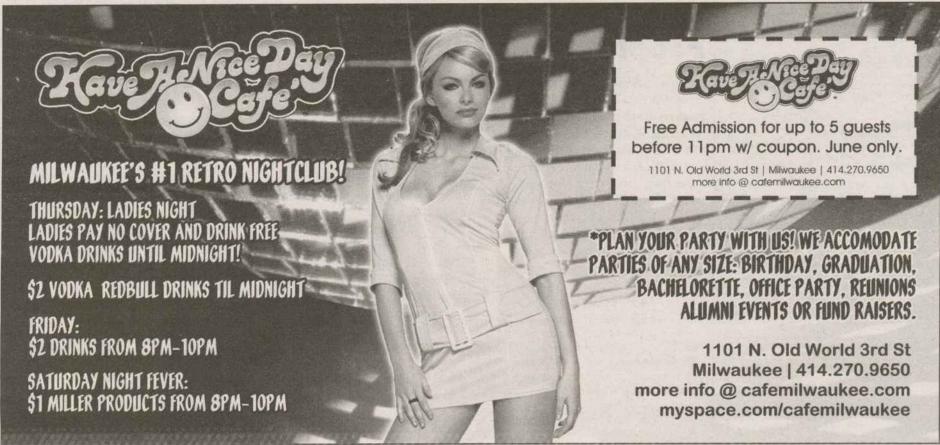


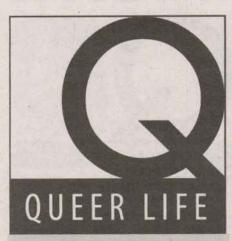
YOUTH

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.

because anyone else liked it or what anyone else would think of me while I was wearing it. If you think it's a cute top, that's all that matters.







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nity. As a monthly publication and the only state-wide gay newspaper headquattered 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, Qtile has got it all.

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Tommy Can you Hear Me?

Kate Sherry

So, former Wisconsin governor Tommy Thompson puts the blame on a faulty hearing aid, and his need to use the little boys room in explaining why he agreed that an employer should be allowed to fire a gay worker during a GOP presidential debate.

This was his second apology on the anti-gay comment made on May 3rd.

He also listed the flu, bronchitis, and a recent emergency room visit as reasons why he "didn't understand" what was asked.

I suppose he also left the iron on, forgot to feed the cat, left the water running, the dog ate his speech, the sun was in his eyes, he swallowed his gum, forgot to pay the rent, or perhaps, just perhaps, it's Bill Clinton's fault.

"I was very sick the day of the debate. I had all of the problems with the flu and bronchitis that you have, including running to the bathroom. I was just hanging on. I could not wait until the debate got off so I could go to the bathroom." Said Thompson.

You'd think a man running for President of the United States could remember to use the restroom prior to a televised debate.

The question in question at the debate was "If a private employer finds homosexuality immoral, should he be allowed to fire a gay worker?" Tommy's reply: "I think that is left up to the individual business. I really sincerely believe that that is an issue that businesspeople have got to make their own determination as to whether or not they should be."

The moderator paused then responded: "OK, so the answer is yes?"

Thompson replied, "Yes."

I watched it, I didn't see Tommy fumbling with a hearing aid, or microphone, he didn't SAY that he needed the question repeated. In fact, he answered "yes" rather quickly. He didn't hold up his hand and ask to be excused for a trip down the hall to the john. He looked like he heard the question, and he answered it.

And that's the way he should have left it. The excuses make you look even sillier, Tommy.

At first, he said that he misunderstood the question. He thought he was asked if there were enough laws already to address discrimination in the workplace.

That still doesn't make sense. If that were the case, then he would have (maybe) answered "no."

"I didn't hear the question. All I was thinking about was getting off the stage," Thompson said. "I said it, I'm

sorry, and it won't happen again, but it's not my record.... There's nothing discriminatory about me at all."

This is what we should think. After all, this is the same ex-govenor of our fine state (1987 to 2001) the man who signed into law more anti-discriminatory legislation that protected the rights of gays and lesbians than any governor in Wisconsin history. Thompson also signed off on a hate crimes bill and a state Bill of Rights for people with



EDITORIAL

AIDS and HIV infection.

So, do we give him the benefit of the doubt? Maybe he didn't hear the question. Maybe he was really about to blow.

With all the backtracking, and excuses, I don't buy it.

Should be interesting though, to see how much of his feet he can chew off in the future.



Rise Up People

Who is Beatrice Green and which division of the Christian Right (or Third Reich) is she from? How dare she dismiss the collective struggles (and triumphs) of the Gay masses with references to pedophilia and Bar Culture as if these aberrations define our movement? How severe our self-loathing that you would publish this editorial so clearly ghostwritten by Dick Cheney? Rise up, People, lest ye be defined by such obvious homophobes disguised as one of our

> Thomas Harding, MD Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Beatrice Green's letter to the editor ran in the May 2007 issue of Qlife. Letters to the editor do not reflect the opinion of the staff, or our advertisers. They do, however start dialogue in the community, so if something is on your mind, let us know.

That's so gay!

Recently, a California high school student was disciplined for using the phrase "that's so gay" as a slur. She then sued the school for violating her First Amendment rights. According to CNN.com, she used the phrase "as a response to other students asking her rude questions about her Mormon upbringing." (http://www.cnn. com/2007/LAW/05/16/thats.so.gay. ap/index.html) When a straight friend emailed me this story, I had to laugh. I wrote back, "Boo hoo! She needs to take her thin-skinned Mormon ass back to Salt Lake City and leave California to the homos." Looking back, I'm not proud of my salty comment. Criticizing the student's Mormon-ness was simply stooping to her closed-minded level. I should have higher standards for myself... as a gay person and a future lawyer. This August I'm starting Law School at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. I know: that's so gay. To me, "that's so gay" isn't a slur, but rather a compliment. Awesome new haircut? That's so gay. Great biceps? Super gay. Well-justified sense of Pride? That's the gayest thing of all.

> Carrie Wipplinger Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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Get It / Need It

By Keith Johnson

summer's here! Time to add some essentials to your warm weather lifestyles. Here are some suggestions.

REFINEMENT: Attention to detailing your skin. There are products on the market, which are readily available, or via Internet. Skincare products are extremely inexpensive so here are some cheap tricks. Neutrogena fresh cooling sun-block gel helps keep skin cool. SPF 30 and 45 with 100% of the UV spectrum for you sun lovers. Also check out the rest of their extensive line to protect your summer skin! More info is waiting for you on the web at www.neutrogena.com

FACE: Eyewear is personal but it's very important (regardless if you spend \$5 or \$500) that the lens provides UV protection for that time in the sun! Many local and online sources are available for you to pick and choose what you feel best! Check out Moxy on Farwell Ave, or detour on Brady St. Prices range from \$18-20. "Aviator" style being the most popular! I also suggest visiting www.bluefly.com as well for that hard to find purchase. Hot hunting!

THONGS: Either on your body or your feet, summer calls for it. Banana Republic, Gap and various other local vendors carry a wide range for men or women. Whether mild or wild you sure to find what you're

looking for

SHORTS: 3/4 - length solid or print it's all good. Madras - inspired is big this summer, paired with a solid "t" it's a popular look - especially with global warming on the rise for the next few months. Make the most of it kids!

MUSIC: EZZZE your mind with the sounds of artists who are relaxing and easy breezy, like Ceasaria Evora who is performing at the Pabst on June 16th, inspiring music from the islands of Cape Verde which will lull you into a state of perfect contentment. Also try the "Brazilian Girls" – the vocals will lull you into a state of summer bliss; especially if you can't get to these exotic places! If in your house and nothing else works tune into Radio Milwaukee 88.9 and enjoy the sounds of DJ Tariq the architect who will spin to these familiar sounds.

YUM FOR YOUR TUM: Here's a drink that will keep you cool and take you to the tropics with a big smile!

TIKI DREAM:

3/4 oz. Midori melon liqueur 4 1/4 oz. cranberry juice. Pour over ice into a sugar -rimmed highball glass. Garnish with a wedge of watermelon.

Have fun kids and enjoy your pride!

"HALL OF SHAME" ·Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad: for creating public and private scandals. President Ahmadinejad has overseen a widening campaign to "counter public immorality," arbitrarily arresting thousands of Iraniane for dressing or behaving differently. Ahmadinejad also uses religious vigilantes to raid homes and other private/ places in search of "deviant" behavior - including homosexual conduct. •Pope Benedict XVI: for undermining families. The Pope has intervened in politics in many other countries to condemn and threaten figures who support equal rights or any form of recognition for lesbian and gay families. US President George W. Bush: for jeopardizing public health. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) requires that one-third of HIV-prevention spending go to so-called "abstinence-until-marriage" programs. These programs threaten the health of LGBT people by sending a message that there is no safe way for them to have sex, and by denying them life-saving information. In some countries, such as Uganda, grants from the \$15 billion PEP-

FAR program have funded groups that actively promote

homophobia.



Let's Get Packing!

ummertime means picnic time. Gather up the utensils, plates, and rainbow picnic blankets, and pick a place to eat outside. Try Petrifying Springs in Kenosha or Boerner Garden in Greendale or choose a patch of grass and set up your picnic. It is a great time to enjoy the weather and soft breezes. I prefer picnic sandwiches with something crunchy like good dill pickle or carrot and celery sticks. Brownies for dessert would be great.

Smoked Turkey Wraps with Mango and Curried Mayonnaise .

SHOPPING LIST

- 4 tortillas
- 8 slices of smoked turkey
- 4 cups of romaine (thinly sliced strips)
- 1 cucumber (peeled, seeded, thinly sliced)
- 1 ripe mango (peeled, seeded, cubed)
- 1 avocado (thinly sliced)
- Fresh cilantro (enough for a 1/2 cup)
- 1 lemon
 - Mayonnaise

Directions:

Put 2 tsp. of curry powder in a dry heavy skillet over a medium heat. (About 2min) Put curry into a small bowl; add 1/2 cup of



COOKING

mayonnaise, 2-tsp. fresh lemon juice and stir. Salt and pepper to taste.

Lay a tortilla flat Spread with mayonnaise Layer two slices of turkey on top Layer one cup of lettuce Layer 1/2 c. thinly sliced cucumber Layer 1/4 of the mango Sprinkle 1/4 of the cilantro Top with 1/4 of the avocado slices

Fold opposite sides to the middle of the tortilla. Roll the other sides from one end to the other. When you are done it is suppose to look like tamale. Wrap tightly in plastic wrap; place in refrigerator or cooler. Put some pickles in a plastic bag and do the same with carrot and celery sticks. Go to your favorite bakery and get some monstrous brownies, grab your favorite drink, pick up your friends and go enjoy the day. Don't forget the napkins or paper towels.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

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This Is It! **Travels Back in Tir**

Milwaukee - On Sunday, June 3rd, This Is It! an authentic cocktail lounge that caters to the gay community, will hold a specialthemed party that will take guests through three iconic decades: the Roaring 20's through the Swingin' 40's. Get out the jazz rags, rouge your knees, unpack the fedora, brush off your tails and be a part of this spectacular evening.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) Milwaukee food pantry to help those affected by HIV/AIDS. There is no cover charge for this event. Rather, the cost of the first drink each guest orders will be donated to ARCW. Additional donations will also be accepted.

While costumes are optional, a grand prize winner and two runners-up will be chosen for best dressed. Guests can nominate themselves or others for one dollar per ballot, and a drawing will choose the winners. The grand prize winner will be presented with "The Fairy" award, the lounge's own version of the Oscar, Golden Globe or Emmy award. Runners-up will be presented with the privileged, "It's An Honor Just to be Nominated" and, "I'm Still Big. it's the Pictures That Got Small." Guests must be present to win. Go on, paint the town! Sunday June 3rd, 4-10pm, This Is It!, 418 E. Wells St, Milwaukee. For more information on this event of This Is It!, please contact Joe

(414) 278-9192 or visit www.thisisitbar.

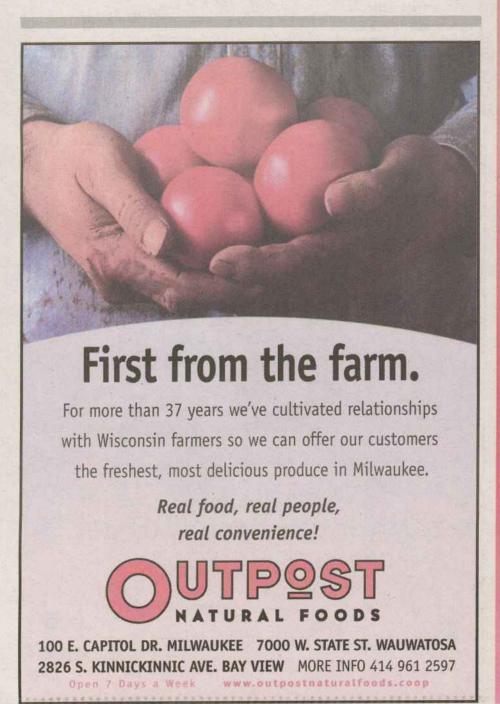
About This Is It!

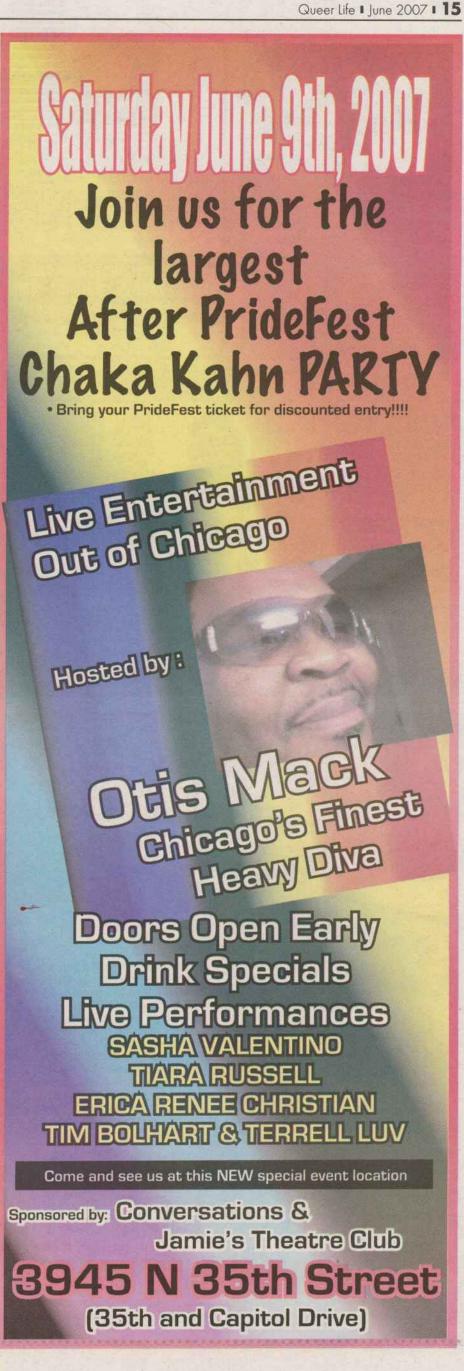
Established in 1968, This Is It! is an authentic cocktail lounge that caters to the gay community, and boasts a great jukebox of standards, jazz, disco, classic rock and country with a mix of current hits.

About AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) is at the forefront of HIV prevention, care and treatment, and is dedicated to providing quality medical, dental, mental health and social services for all people with HIV disease. With offices located in Eau Claire, Green Bay, Kenosha,

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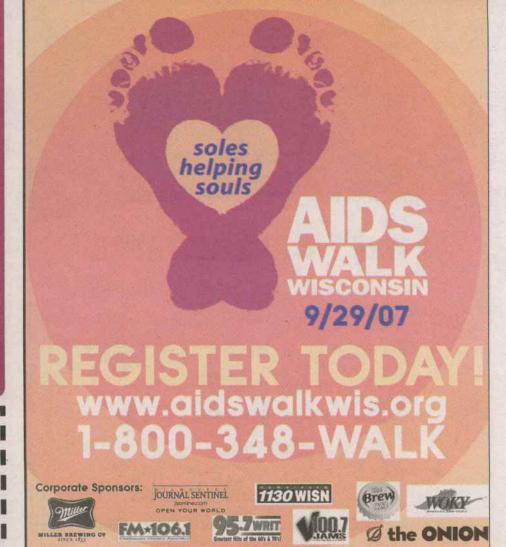
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Are you queer enough?

n April 12, 2007, eight Lambda Literary Award finalists were scheduled to read at the San Francisco Public Library. Only seven shared their work.

Finalist Peggy Munson, in the Lesbian Debut Fiction category, was excluded from this event – without warning, without just reason, without apology.

Why would one author be prevented from reading her work at this queer event? Bottom line: the organizers of the event policed her sexuality.

Of course, nothing in life is quite so simple or with one uncomplicated answer. Peggy is a talented, queer, femme, disabled emerging writer who eloquently and boldly constructs narratives that focus on the intricacies of gender, (queer), disability, and sexuality.

Due to her disabilities, she is unable to travel or speak in public. The San Francisco

We are splintering from within, fragmenting our community by dictating who is in the "out" crowd.

Library set up a TV/DVD player for screening her pre-recorded reading from her nominated novel, Origami Striptease. Authors, including a transman who is partnered with a femme woman, a straight spouse who is part of an anthology, and others read from their nominated books, including some content that was erotic. Peggy never had the opportunity to read that night, censored for being "too straight" and "too sexual." Because she was not physically present, she could not protest, and insist on participating, as advertised.

Peggy notes, "...this really underscores the perpetuity of invisible realities. Those pushed to the margins are pushed further to the margins by nudges of exclusion, and absence makes the heart grow more distorted."

A small number of people in power decided that Peggy's outstanding book is "straight" and depicts "straight sex" because it involves a queer identified femme and a trans-masculine character. While sometimes this equation (femme + FTM = straight) is true, it often is not. (In addition to relational dynamics defining queer, some argue that a femme identity, in and of itself, is a form of queerness, regardless of who that femme is partnered to.) Queerness is internally determined,



TRANSGENDER

michael munson (mmunson@queerlifenews.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.

not erasable by outsiders who are unable to conceptualize an expansive vision of queer identities and sexualities.

Event organizers basically said "Your book exceeds the boundaries of my comfort with sexuality, so I'm going to ban you." Doesn't that sound familiar? For years, books focused on queer relationships and sexuality were banned because they pierced the comfort zone of straight audiences. In their attempt to radically enforce queer borders, organizers merely ended up maintaining the status quo.

Peggy notes, "Random exclusionary gestures mirror a collective consciousness of systemic oppression and violence, and this is what all marginalized people feel so palpably. Isn't this what queer institutions should be fighting against?"

Who is coming at us with truncheons and epithets, forcing us to stand cuffed to the fence? When we take a hard look, it is not only the religious right, Republicans, or straight people who are casting us aside. We are splintering from within, fragmenting our community by dictating who is in the "out" crowd.

Are you "in" or "out" when you aspire to be "straight acting?" What does it mean when the only people you'll take to bed are those who aren't "fat" or "femme?" If you are over 60 or have kids, are you queer enough? What happens when you don't endorse queer stereotypes?

Do we, as a queer community, want to uphold systems of oppression and violence because we are so wedded to our prejudicial dogma, unable to see queerness in forms other than what we personally embody? We can learn to lay down our weapons – our fists and our words – and begin to see each other for who we really are.

Queer enough.

Peggy Munson is not related to the author of this column.

9th Annual Milwaukee Short Film Festival

Milwaukee -Dirty Job Films and Old Skool Productions present the 9th Annual Milwaukee Short Film Festival showcasing the best in local, national and international short films. The longest running festival of its kind in Milwaukee, this year's event spans two days at three venues on Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10, 2007.

For the first time, the festival will run a full-length feature film before the kick-off party: the Milwaukee premiere of *Realization*, from the Chicago film company Splitpillow. The film is broken down into seven different chapters, each one written and directed by a different team of people.

Realization screens at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 9 at the Astor Theater, the local historic treasure at the Brady Street Pharmacy, 1696 N. Astor St. After the film, join the MSFF team, filmmakers and independent film supporters for the kick-off party, 9 p.m. at the Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh St. with live music from the band Take Solace.

Another first-time event for the festival is a show featuring 11 short films from the past eight festivals. Winning films include *Gaucher* by Jeff Fitzimmons (2003 festival winner), *Aldara* by Eric Gerber (2004 festival winner), and *Chicxulub* by Malona P. Voigt (2006 festival winner). The "Best Of" show begins at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Times Cinema, 5906 W. Vliet St. Tickets \$5.00

The main attraction – the 9th Annual Milwaukee Short Film Festival – will begin at 7 p.m. at the Times Cinema. Tickets \$10.00 (for both events \$12.00) Length of films ranges from 2 minutes to 18 minutes. The lineup is as follows:

Wisconsin Films

The Furry Revolt by Jessica Bayliss; Moviebonics by Lance Miller and Donald P. Unverrich; A Boy Named Gil by Corryn Cue; Corporate Conflict by David R. Overbeck; Ruby by Adam Presti; Linger by Chantel Harpole; Kitchen Kung Fu by Karen Lindholm-Rynkiewicz;

The Image by Charles McQuire and She Never Screams by Jeff Fitsimmons.

National Films

Snare by Eric Gerber; A Noteworthy Occurrence by Andrew Gingrich and Matt Kane; Cigar at the Beach by Stephen Keep Mills; Sweet Dreams by Irin Evers; and Artificial by Michael T. Vollmann.

International Films

Succubus by Alison Reid, and Agnieszka 2039 by Martin Gauvreau.

Created by local and independent filmmakers, the Milwaukee Short Film Festival is proud to provide local talent with a venue for their work to be seen. Through community support, the festival also is able to offer one of the largest first prizes in the area – a \$1,000 grand prize. MSFF was named the "Best Local Festival" in *Moviemaker's* Winter 2006 issue.

For more information, call Ross Bigley at 414-807-4008 or e-mail rbigley@ hotmail.com



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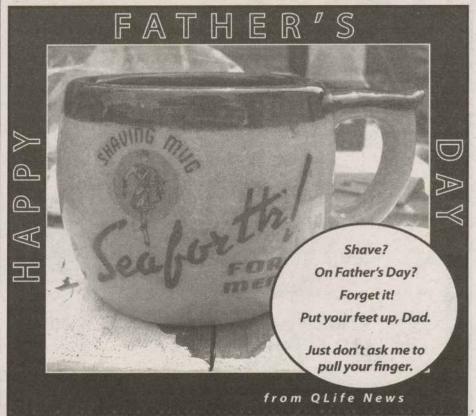
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Get rid of the Popsicle stick and duct tape!

ure Testosterone was a big hit! I single-handedly helped to get more testosterone out there then Major League Baseball in the year 2001. For new readers this month, no, I'm not a drug dealer; just lending a helping hand, without the hand. Last month I talked about a product called Tribulus Shot. Tribulus is a proven testosterone booster. Tribulus is a refreshing drink that can be enjoyed any time or place. Tribulus also can be taken in a stronger capsule form. The new shipment of Tribulus drinks and capsules, were a little hard to get, but finally made it through the doors of Sweeney's Gym. You can stop in at Sweeney's Gym 7 days a week to get your shot of Pure Testosterone.

So now that you have more

testosterone then a work release program can take care of, did someone say Pride Fest? (Hello!!) For the summer of festivals and late nights you're going to need a healthy pick me up. The summer is coming near and late nights and slow mornings are approaching. When you roll out of bed, skip the coffee and soda and pick up some Spark. Spark is from the makers of Advocare, which is a multi level company. Don't be fooled; Advocare has produced some amazing products that really work; Spark is just one of them. Spark sharpens mental focus, is sugar-free, and has longlasting energy. Let's face it, not everyone is perfect and having a drink or two with dinner never hindered my results. Once in a while every one has one too many. Spark, combined with Rehydrate, another

Advocare product, takes care of that hang-over and gets you on your way in the morning. This combo works very nicely for all my wine drinkers as well. Health and fitness is a life style. I'm not telling everyone to go out and get drunk, but as a wine drinker myself, I live for today, but still plan on tomorrow. Next month I'm going to tell you my secret of eating pizza once a week and still have a six pack of abs. No, it's not spending ten hours in the gym and doing 1,000 crunches daily. You will have to wait till next month and I will tell my pizza secret.

I want to thank all my readers and new members for last months over-whelming response to the Fitness Column 'Pure Testosterone.' Because of such a positive response, in June I'm keeping the couples' special. Since the government won't let you claim your other half, we will. At Sweeney's Gym we want you to try it before you buy it. Go to Sweeneysgym.com for Advocare Products (click on the link) and free one

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QLife Quickies

Arkansas city council approves domestic partner registry

Eureka Springs, AR -The city council passed, for the third consecutive time, a proposal that will create a domestic partner registry effective June 13

Opponents of the measure, of course, are hoping to have the issue up for public vote. Mayor Dani Wilson said the measure is a win for human rights and would equally benefit both heterosexual and gay couples. Elderly couples who fear losing their Social Security benefits if they marry might opt to register as domestic partners under this measure.

Critics say the registry would conflict with a 2004 state constitutional amendment that defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

The resort area of Eureka Springs is home to a both a hippie community and a strong Christian conservative movement.

What a Tangled Web

Researchers with the OpenNet Initiative, a collaboration between researchers at Cambridge, the University of Oxford, Harvard University and the University of Toronto recently studied the censorship of Internet websites to compare filtering worldwide.

They found that at least 25 countries around the world block Web sites for political, social or other reasons. A sign that the governments are taking notice.

In some countries, censorship was narrow. South Korea only blocks information about its neighboring rival, North Korea. However, China, Iran, Syria, Myanmar, Tunisia and Vietnam had the most extensive filters for political sites. Saudi Arabia, Iran, Oman, Tunisia, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen had the strictest social-filtering practices, blocking pornography, gambling and gay and lesbian sites.

Vermont Governor Signs Non-Discrimination Bill Into Law

Montpelier, VT - May 22- Governor Jim Douglas (R-VT) signed into law a bill extending existing anti-discrimination laws to prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender identity in employment, public accommodations, housing, insurance and credit

The Senate voted 27 to 1 and the House of Representatives voted 118 to 28 to pass the bill.

When the law becomes effective on July 1, 2007, Vermont will be the 9th U.S. state to ban workplace discrimination on the basis of gender identity. Currently, workplace protection laws exist in California, Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Washington State, as well as Washington, D.C. Oregon recently enacted a law, effective January 1, 2008, prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity. Iowa and Colorado have also passed legislation banning discrimination based on gender identity. In 1991, Vermont amended its anti-discrimination laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.

There are still 33 states where it is legal to fire someone from their job based on their sexual orientation, and there will still be 41 states where it is legal to fire someone based on their gender identity.

Sweeney's Gym; H

This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History JUNE

By Don Schwamb

35 years ago – 1972 - June 30-July 1st, GPU sponsored gay pride celebration at Estabrook Park. Follow-up "Gay-In" events held at July fireworks and July 12 Brewers game. NGU (New Gay Underground) pickets the popular gay bar The River Queen, alleging racism and sexism (against blacks and women) in the bar. The Stud Club is popular for leather men.

30 years ago – 1977 - AGC Theatre group in Milwaukee gets off to a good start with a show titled "An Evening of Imagination and Impersonation" at the Crystal Palace. Milwaukee's Wreck Room hosts a Mr. Wreck Room contest. Saugatuck Lodges in Michigan kicks off full month of activities, including a Motorcycle Club weekend, a Leather weekend, and a Movie Festival weekend. In Chicago, June 26 sees the city's 8th annual Pride Parade. Madison's Integrity/ Dignity gay ministry group is founded.

25 years ago - 1982 - (Wisconsin's LGBT publications from late 1981 to early 1984 are not held in any library, leaving very little historical record for this period. We continue to seek any and all copies of issues of OUT!, Escape, and RAGG magazine.)

20 years ago – 1987 - With no local Pride celebration planned, bars and media organize bus trips to Pride Parade in Chicago and MAGIC Picnic in Madison. Milwaukee hosts 7th annual National Assn. of BWMT convention. Milw. Gay/ Lesbian Cable Network produces a one hour program "A Question of Justice" examining the Rawhide Boys Ranch challenge to the 5-year-old Wisconsin anti-discrimination law. Madison's Tod Ziebert, early AIDS activist, dies of AIDS complications at the age of 29. Broom Street Theatre and ARK Repertory Theatre, both in Madison, presents two plays about forgotten subjects of gay history.

15 years ago — 1992 - Milw. Gay/Lesbian Cable Network wins several awards at national Gay and Lesbian Press Association's Awards Program in Los Angeles, including "Best Overall Gay programming" and "Best Special Project". UW- Stevens Point presents "Student Organization of the Year" to UW-SP's Ten Percent Society. The first actual "PrideFest" was held Sunday June 14 in Juneau Park, with 7,000 people attending (by contrast, 2006's PrideFest drew almost 24,000 people). (This is the first year the word "PrideFest" was used; in prior years the celebration was referred to as a Pride Parade and Rally.) Queer Nation protests opening of first Cracker Barrel in the state (which had anti-gay/lesbian policies). Bill Edwards shot and killed inside Loose Ends gay bar while celebrating his 28th birthday; his 25yo friend was also shot and injured.

10 years ago – 1997 - Wisconsin Light newspaper prints the largest issue in the history of Wisconsin LGBT publication, at 48 pages with a distribution of 13,000 copies- and starts a web site. PrideFest is held on Summerfest grounds, and the Pride Parade ends at the park's main gate; attendance was 12,300. Study group/ steering committee selects two finalist locations for a Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Gay activist/ attorney Tom Martin commits suicide by jumping off the Hoan Bridge. The ARCW offices are flooded, destroying the MAP Food Pantry and other storage.

For more information, please visit www.mkelgbthist.org, and www. WisconsinGayHistory.org







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Wannabe No More

hough I was baptized in Havana, Cuba, at six months, most of my childhood did not revolve strongly around religion.

My aunt (and godmother) Delia was the one behind my baptismal ceremony. Years later when Delia and her family left Cuba and came to the US, she remained one of my closest ties to spirituality. In teaching me the Spanish phrase "sin embargo" (anyway), her example was: "The Cubans and the Puerto Ricans don't like each other, but I love the Puerto Ricans anyway."

At 4'10" and 90 pounds, Delia was the leader of her six siblings, despite being a female and not the firstborn. I never saw my father more contrite than after a psychologically astute lecture from this sixth-grade educated, unassuming lady (who never even had to raise her voice). Her secret weapon was the truth. She treated everyone with respect and convinced them of the right course of action by appealing to "the better angels" of each person's nature.

I have always wanted to emulate Delia. But when I came out as a lesbian at 19, I swallowed the "queers are not children of God" argument whole. (It was the 70s, and the recently departed Jerry Falwell was in his prime.)

Yeah, sure, I partied with the Wiccans. I slow-danced with women in the basement of the Unitarian Church, because that was the only place that would have us. I did yoga and meditation. When I lived in San

Francisco, I would even pop into a mass at Mission Dolores once in a while. But I was more like a spy than a fully vested member of any religious tradition, even though I have participated in peace and justice mission work for a number of years.

Eventually the need to please my Cuban family brought me to the (false) conclusion that I should give heterosexuality a try. I married at 30. A few years later, my husband and I agreed that the Presbyterian Church was a good setting to raise our two children. But keeping up the illusion of "normalcy" was making me too uncomfortable. Trying to become invisible by losing myself was too much a price to pay for acceptance in the mainstream church

Keeping up the illusion of "normalcy" was making me too uncomfortable.

During the late 80s I began feeling like a double agent. I suppressed the urge to shout out during church, "Yeah, but would you want me here if you knew I was queer?" Well, I didn't know it then, but, yes, they



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

were willing to accept me. I was part of my church's social-justice discussion group called the Sojourners. For example, we sought the appropriate faith response to the Gulf War by inviting a guest speaker to talk about Islam. In one meeting where we tackled gay issues, I came out publicly. It was cathartic to finally release the stress and pain of hiding my sexuality. Some of the group members cried as I described my sense of being "less than" a child of God.

The past ten years have been a gradual process, but, long story short, I am now an openly lesbian Sunday School teacher at Plymouth UCC. It took me over 20 years of my adult life to really believe that as a queer (synonymous with sinner), I am worthy of the love of God as I understand her. The sixth, seventh and eighth graders, the poor dears, even consider me an authority on Biblical and religious themes. And they've met my girlfriend.

And you know what? I believe Delia is looking down at me from wherever she is and loving me sin embargo.



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Jerry Falwell, RIT?

friend from San Francisco back in the Midwest for a family funeral brought news of a funeral rite he'd just left back home in the heart of gay America - the impromptu vigil set up by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence at 18th and Castro within hours of the death of Moral Majority-founder Rev. Jerry Falwell. The Sisters, known for their pro-sex, politically-incorrect parodies, already had a tombstone inscribed with "Jerry Falwell, Rest in Torment (RIT)," and invited passers-by to "dance on Jerry's grave" on a conveniently laid-out patch of Astroturf. Seems Rev. Falwell, at the height of his worldly power in the early 1980s, used the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence in a fundraising letter to horrify his religious right supporters into sending in the dough. One gay man, who fled from his and Falwell's hometown of Lynchburg, Virginia, long ago, left a post on the San Francisco Bay Guardian website noting how liberated he felt to leave Lynchburg, home of Falwell and Fleet Enema.

My friend and I talked about the appropriateness of approaching the death of anyone, including one who built his career on vilifying gay people, with humor, or marking the event with a

The very same Falwell qualities that engender loathing from LGBT people earn him admiration from supporters

pointed press release, as NGLTF Executive Director Matt Foreman did. But then, the days after someone dies often cement a legacy - personal failings fall away and the memory becomes almost deified. Less often, because the living can usually afford. to be magnanimous with the dead (I've often thought that one of the worst parts of dying is that people who dislike you get to say nice things about you after your dead), a single failing or unflattering moment becomes the defining characteristic of a life - the university official who failed to keep his campus in order during the tumultuous 1960s, or the politician who showed tears defending his wife's public image. Their lives amounted to so much more, but that one ugly moment is what gets them a New York Times obituary.

So what of Falwell? Is it unfair to speak ill of this dead? The very same Falwell qualities that engender loathing from LGBT people earn him admiration from supporters. In a life as polarizing as Falwell's, reminding people of his

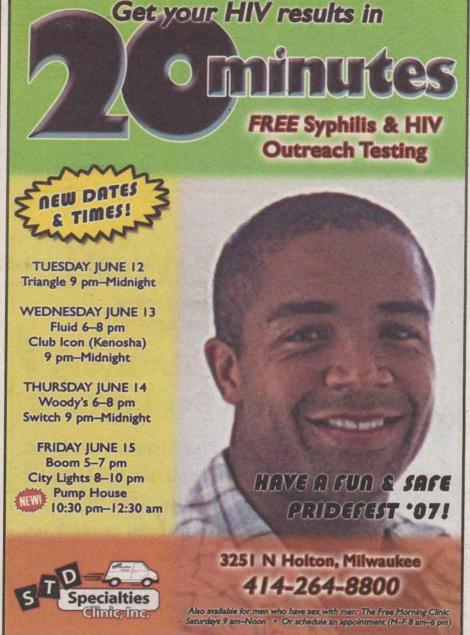


POLITICS

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

achievements is just as likely to trigger admonishment as admiration. As has been reported the last few weeks, Falwell became pastor of the Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg in the 1950s, where he became an early adopter of television and radio as a way of building his congregation and his profile. In the 1960s he opposed the involvement of Christian ministers in the Civil Rights movement, but founded the Moral Majority in 1979 to help organize and reengage evangelical Christians in politics after the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. Falwell and the Moral Majority are given some credit for delivering these voters in the 1980 election to Ronald Reagan. Rev. Falwell, who often volunteered that gays were "perverted" and AIDS the divine judgment of a "Just God" (on NPR's "Fresh Air," for example) in the 1980s, must have been quite satisfied that President Reagan didn't publicly utter the word until near the end of his second term. The 1990s saw Falwell ridiculed around the globe over his assertion that Tinky Winky, a cuddly purple creature with a triangle on its head, was a hidden gay icon indoctrinating pre-school Tinky Winky watchers into accepting homosexuality. Shortly after 9/11 he made his bestremembered proclamation, blaming gays and lesbians, "abortionists," and the ACLU for helping bring on the terrorist attack. By the time of his death at the age of 73, Falwell was also living down a statement that the Anti-Christ was alive on earth and living as a Jew. Still, Falwell lived long enough to celebrate the Bowers v Hardwick decision reaffirming sodomy laws in 1986 and to denounce the Lawrence v Texas decision striking down those same laws in 2003 as "as bad a day as the court has had on social issues since Roe v. Wade.

With advancing equality for LGBT people, Falwell is in a more peaceful place. The real torment for him would have been to live to see gay and lesbian couples happily, and legally, married across the land.







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info@forge-forward.org FORGE PO Box 1272 Milwaukee, WI 53201

Senior Pride is a Reality

n 1992, when Eldon Murray started looking into forming an organization here in Milwaukee for senior Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people, he was 62 years old. He had just reached an age that would allow him to collect social security if he wanted to. Having just turned 62 I know how comforting this can feel. It's

not enough money to live on, but it's better than nothing. Eldon Murray was a senior citizen in 1992, when he started looking into getting a group of like minded LGBT people together to form an agency to deal with issues of aging in that community. Those of you who knew him will remember that he lived on the Internet. So when he

started looking for other senior LGBT organizations he went to the Internet where he found SAGE of New York. A phone call later and he was on a plane to the Big Apple to do research. Upon his return he got together a group of people his age and older and started planning SAGE/ Milwaukee.

So what's the point? Eldon was a senior citizen when he started an organization in Milwaukee for seniors who were Lesbian, or Gay. Bisexual and Transgender were added to the program a few years later. He wasn't young and spry with lots of vim and vigor, but he was not going to accept being old and frail and full of aches and pains. That just wasn't his nature. Today, fourteen plus years later SAGE/Milwaukee is still going strong and is a legacy to a senior citizen who didn't understand the words, "I'm too old for that.'

Unfortunately, as I look around I see too many people who are senior citizen age who seem to be stuck in that old "I don't wanna do that" syndrome. Just like they were when they were little kids or teenagers. Only now they have added "I'm too old" to the mea culpa. To those people I say you need to put your 'Eldon face' on and do it. Do something. Get out of the house and get involved with life. It is happening all around you and is waiting for you to take part.

AS LGBT seniors here in Milwaukee, we need to be proud of the fact that we have one of only fifteen or sixteen organizations in the entire country for seniors who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and



SENIO

Mr. Serpe has been Executive Director of SAGE/ Milwaukee for three and 1/2 years. He sits on the Board of Governors for the Milwaukee County Department on Aging Care Management Organization by appointment from the County Executive. Bill is single and lives with three cats, Clio, Chloe and Buddy.

Transgender. We need to be proud of the heritage that we have created for the rest of the world. Now, when someone goes to the internet and types in 'senior gay organization' one of the results is SAGE/ Milwaukee. When they go to that website they find out that the seniors in Brew City are active, that they have options beyond turning on the television and waiting for...whatever. Which, by the way, comes sooner than you think. They see that we have activities that are intergenerational, activities for womyn only, and activities for purely social reasons.

So this June, be proud of your senior LGBT status. Get out and meet people and tell them your story about coming out gay in Milwaukee . Share your history with younger LGBT people and learn from them what they are going through now. Start a revolution in the streets for better health care for everyone. Go to a social event and maybe fall in love. You're not too old for that either. Life isn't over until it is over. And if you are reading this, it isn't over.



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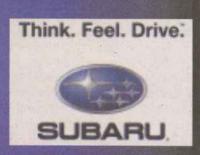
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AIDS Action Wisconsin

820 Plankinton Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53202 414-225-1568

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

820 N. Plankinton Ave. Milwaukee, 53203, 414-273-1991

National bisexual political organization 202-882-4384

Brady East STD Clinic 1240 E. Brady Street

Milwaukee, 53202, 414-272-2144

Diverse & Resilient

1240 E. Brady St. 2nd floor Milwaukee, 53202, 414-390-0444 www.diverseandresilient.org

Fair Wisconsin

122 State St., Suite 309 Madison, WI 53703 608-441-0143

FORGE

PO Box 1272 Milwaukee, 53201, 414-559-2123, 414-278-6031

Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline

Fridays and Saturdays, 7—10pm 1-866-gay-youth 414-272-TEEN

Generation Q

Social/support group for 18-24 year old LGBTQ youth OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison. 608-255-8582

Log Cabin Republicans-Wisconsin

P.O. Box 199 Milwaukee, WI 53201 414-299-9443

Outbound

P.O. Box 1961 Green Bay, WI 54305 800-578-3785 920-655-0611

Pride in Wisconsin

Government c/o OutReach P.O. Box 310 Madison, WI 53701 608-255-8582

Queer Life News

LGBT publication 2266 N. Prospect Ave Suite 200 Milwaukee, WI 53202 414-383-8200 www.queerlifenews.com

LGBT nightlife publication Green Bay, WI 54301 414-433-9821

Rainbow Families Wisconsin

LGBT family support 600 Williamson St., #1P Madison, WI 53703 608-270-1024

Wisconsin DHFS HIV/AIDS

Program P.O. Box 2659 Madison, WI 53701 800-991-5532

Wisconsin HIV/STD Hepatitis

C Information and Referral Center Free, anonymous, available 24/7 800-334-2437 www.irc-wisconsin.org

Wisconsin Legislative Hotline 800-362-WISC

Milwaukee

Alcoholics Anonymous

Request gay meetings 414-771-9119

Bi Definition

Bisexual community events 315 W. Court St., Suite 101 Milwaukee, WI 53212 414-299-9612

Brew City Bears

P.O. Box 1035 Milwaukee, WI 53201 414-299-0401

BWMT-Milwaukee

Black and White Men Together P.O. Box 1091475 Milwaukee, 53209

Castaways M.C.

Levi/leather club P.O. Box 1697 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Center Advocates PAC

Political action committee 315 W Court Street Milwaukee WI 53212 www.centeradvocatespac.org (414) 347-1892

Charles D Productions

HIV prevention and testing 1817 N. Martin Luther King Drive Milwaukee, 53212 414-263-9999

Connexus Listserve

LGBT people of color in Wisconsin Subscribe with a brief intro to: Connexus-subscribe@ yahoogroups.com

Counseling Center

LGBT support & discussion groups 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53202 414-271-2565

Cream City Chorus

315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 414-276-8787

Cream City Foundation

315 W. Court St. Suite 201 B Milwaukee, 53212, 414-225-0244

Cream City Squares

G/L square dancing club 414-445-8080

Fest City Singers

Gay choral group P.O. Box 11428 Milwaukee, WI 53211 414-961-0713

Firebirds

L/L group P.O. Box 159 Milwaukee, WI 53201

FORGE

FTM+ and SOFFA social support group P.O. Box 1272 Milwaukee, WI 53201 414-278-6031 www.forge-forward.org

Foster Youth Independence

2672 N. Holton St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 www.fyicenter.org

Front Runners

Running group 414-332-1527

Galano Club

Chemical-free recovery club 315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 414-276-6936

Milwaukee GAMMA

Sports/outdoors/recreation/social P.O. Box 1900 Milwaukee, WI 53201 414-365-3453 or 414-358-2111

Gay Lesbian Education

Employees of Metro Milwaukee 414-462-8404

Gay/Lesbian Studies at UWM 414-229-6402

Gay Youth Milwaukee P.O. Box 090441 Milwaukee, WI 53209 414-265-8500

Gay People's Union

P.O. Box 208 Milwaukee, WI 53201 Hotline: 414-645-0585

Gay Straight Alliance

Waukesha County Technical College GSA c/o Student Life C121, 800 Main St. Waukesha, WI 262-691-5388

Gemini Gender Group

(TV/TS/TG support/social) P.O. Box 44211, Milwaukee 53214 414-297-9328

Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee

P.O. Box 862 Milwaukee, WI 53201

SPECTRUM

P.O. Box 254

Milwaukee, WI 53201 414-482-4310

G/L Community Trust Fund

P.O. Box 1686 Milwaukee, WI 53201 414-643-1652

GlobalAge.org

Workplace issues and more! www.GlobalAge.org

Great Lakes Harley Riders

P.O. Box 341611 Milwaukee, WI 53234

Holiday Invitational

Tournament G/L bowling event P.O. Box 899 Milwaukee, WI 53201

Keep Hope Alive

HIV holistic support P.O. Box 27041 West Allis, WI 53227 414-548-4344

Lake Park Lutheran Church

2647 N. Stowell St. 414-962-9190 or www. lakeparklutheran.com

LAMM

Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milw. 315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 414-272-9442

MGALA

Marquette University G/L alumni P.O. Box 92722 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Marquette Gay/Straight

Alliance

Campus Ministry 617 N. 14th St. Milwaukee, WI 53233 414-288-6873

Men's Voices Milwaukee

315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 414-765-9198

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club

3957 N. 81st St. Milwaukee, 53204, 414-616-3716 414-530-9495

Metropolitan Community

Church 1239 W. Mineral St. www.queerchurch.org or

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 414-271-2656

Milwaukee LGBT History Project

P.O. Box 510194 Milwaukee, WI 53203 www.mkelgbthist.org

QLife's organizations that serve the LGBT Community are on our website. We are also looking for an individual, business or organization to sponsor this page so it can appear

monthly in print call 414-383-8200 for information. If we've missed you or it's time to update your organization's information, please email editor@queerlifenews.com.

> Milwaukee Symphony Chorus Auditions/info

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OutCare Sexual Health Center

Walk-in health center A service of Planned Parenthood 315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 414-277-9370

Outdoors Cooperative Sports

Group 414-963-9833

PFLAG

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Pathfinders

Youth counseling, shelter 1614 E. Kane Place Milwaukee, WI 53202 414-271-1560

Plymouth United Church of Christ

2717 E. Hampshire Street, 414-964-1513 or www. plymouth-church.org

Positive Direction Milwaukee

315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, 53212, 414-461-5894

Milwaukee, 53212, 414-272-3378

PrideFest, Inc. 315 W. Court Street

Project Q Youth Program 315 W. Court Milwaukee, WI 53212

The Queer Program

414-223-3220

Channel 96 P.O. Box 090441 Milwaukee, 53209, 414-265-8500

Queer Zine Archive Project

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Rainbow Alliance at UWM

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Rainbow Families Milwaukee C/O PFLAG

315 W. Court Milwaukee, WI 53212 Riverwest Rainbow Assoc.

P.O. Box 12888 Milwaukee, WI 53212 414-562-2344 riverwestrainbow@hotmail.com

SAGE Milwaukee

For older LGBTs 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220 Milwaukee, WI 53202 414-224-0517

Saturday Softball League

2333 N. 56th St. Milwaukee, WI 53210 414-350-7147 www.ssblmilwaukee.com

Sexual Compulsives

Anonymous (SCA) 414-299-0755

Shoreline Milwaukee

Country western and line dancing 414-747-0388

Silver Space For older lesbians

c/o Counseling Center 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53202 414-271-2565

SWANAQIM

LGBTI South West Asian and North African Queers in the Midwest. swanaqim-subscribe@ yahoogroups.com

Two Spirit Society Indigenous LGBT people of America 1186 W. Glenview Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53213

Unitarian Universalist Church

West (UUCW) 13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield. 262-782-3535.

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus

315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, 53212, 414-271-2656, Ext. 1021

Wisconsin Outdoor Women P.O. Box 94 Hales Corners, WI 53130

WI Rainbow Alliance of the veat

P.O. Box 432 Germantown, 53022 www.wiscrad.org

414-427-2082

Women's Voices Milwaukee 414-271-2656, Ext. 1021

OLife Quickies

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Chicago – Ever lose or damage a phone, and all of your phone contacts with it?

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Washington School's Tacky Surveillance

Gig Harbor, WA- Gig Harbor High School students demonstrated outside the school recently to protest an official's decision to show parents surveillance video of their daughter kissing another girl. The dean of students, Keith Nelson, had been asked by the parents of one of the girls to be kept informed of her behavior. He saw the two girls kissing, and holding hands, and turned the surveillance tape over to the parents as evidence. The parents then removed their daughter from Gig Flarbor School, and placed her in another school district.

Protesters believed it was an improper use of the surveillance video, which is primarily a security feature. Principal Greg Schellenberg agreed and said that from now on school officials may only use the surveillance for security monitoring and discipline for actions such as trespassing, vandalism and fighting. Too bad the parents think changing schools will change their daughter.

Marriage Equality? But of Course!

Brooklyn, NY – May 19 -Supporters of same-sex marriage rights marched across the Brooklyn Bridge from Manhattan to Brooklyn calling on the state to legalize gay marriage.

In April, Governor Eliot Spitzer proposed giving same-sex couples the same marriage rights as straight couples. Currently, Massachusetts is the only state to allow gay marriage. Other states, like New Jersey, permit civil unions.

"Let's bring marriage equality now," said Representative Anthony Weiner "It starts with you, it starts in New York, it starts in Albany. And with God's help, when our grandkids are raised up, they'll look back and say, 'marriage equality – but of course, what was the big deal?"

Spitzer's bill would require marriage licenses be issued regardless of gender, but would not enforce religious institutions to perform same-sex marriages.

Couple arrested over Marriage

Pakistan- A couple accusing of lying to a Pakistani court about the gender of the husband has been arrested. The couple married to prevent the bride from being sold into marriage to settle a gambling debt of her uncle. The husband, Shumail Raj, born female, had sex reassignment surgery 16 years ago. After seeking help from the courts against harassing relatives, the same court arrested Raj, and his wife Shahzina Tariq for lying to the court. Raj, who said his breasts and uterus were surgically removed at age 15 - making him a man - married Tariq to save her from the arranged marriage. A court-appointed panel of doctors ruled he is a woman because he has no penis. The father of the bride wants the marriage annulled because it goes against Islam.

Beyond Labels

"Sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can never hurt me."

f only that were true! Instead it is as if there is a part of the human heart that can only be reached by words, a place touched more by cruelty than violence.

As a Christian I think a lot about words. At Christmas time I read every year, "In the beginning was the Word... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." But also as a Christian I am aware of all the words that hurt, words we hear too often on the way into PrideFest from Christians armed with bullhorns.

The words of Christian homophobes are obnoxious, but what really hurts, are those same words said by those we love. Words of rejection shot out by parents or siblings or friends are the ones that go deep.

One of my brothers is a fundamentalist Christian who I had long delayed coming out to for fear of what he might say. I decided that I must come out to him before I was ordained as a minister. I wrote to share my story with him and my hopes for my congregation. He wrote back, sarcastically, asking if my letter was a joke because no truly Christian church would hire me. It was a letter that penetrated and hurt; our relationship has never healed from it.

When I want to understand the power of words, I turn to the writing of Vaclav Havel, the Chech dissident who became that nations' first democratically elected president. He writes of the dynamic by which important, liberating, beautiful words are turned into truncheons. He noted how the

stirring words of the French Revolution - liberty, equality, fraternity - became quickly twisted into excuses for violence. Indeed, the person who wrote those moving words was one of the first killed under the guillotine. Words and labels are susceptible to this because they promise knowledge but never capture the full reality of something. Human life is messier than any label can say.

I know it's true in my brother. The



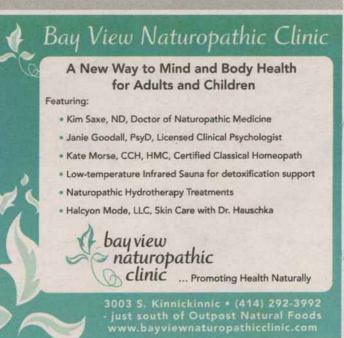
RELIGION

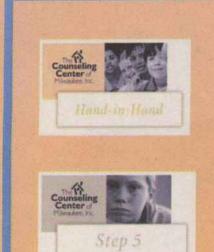
The Rev. Andrew Warner (awarner@queerlifenews. com) is a pastor at Plymouth Church UCC on Milwaukee's East Side. He lives with his partner, Jay, and their two children in Whitefish Bay. Your questions about LGBT spirituality are welcome.

labels of his faith help him straighten up the world into good and bad, saint and sinner, born-again brother and estranged brother. The labels hide the messiness. And for him I'm sure they hide the messiness of his own sexuality and his struggles over it.

There is a diversity among people who call themselves gay and lesbian and bisexual and transgendered and queer that is far more beautiful than any label can imply. Likewise with Christianity and spirituality and faith; the realities behind these words are messier than a tidy label suggests. Labels hurt and shame; they are unable to capture the richness of our real lives.

For me it is far better that we meet face to face, in the messy beauty that labels can never capture. I'm not sure if I'll ever see my brother with such shared vulnerability of spirit. But if I do, I hope I'll have the grace to say "I forgive you and ask your forgiveness for what wrongs I might have done to you."







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From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk:

What is "light pollution?" Is it really a factor in breast cancer?

-- Gudrun Smythe, Madison, Wisconsin

he glow of city lights blotting out stars in the night sky has frustrated many a stargazer, but recent studies have shown that "light pollution"—defined as excess or obtrusive light at night—can actually have serious health effects. Researchers have found that exposure to bright nocturnal light can decrease the human body's production of melatonin, a hormone secreted at night that regulates our sleep-wake cycles. And decreased melatonin production has in turn been linked to higher rates of breast cancer in women.

"Light at night is now clearly a risk factor for breast cancer," says David Blask, a researcher at the Cooperstown, New York-based Mary Imogene Bassett Research Institute. "Breast tumors are awake during the day, and melatonin puts them to sleep at night," he adds.

Epidemiologist Richard Stevens of the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory first discovered the link between breast cancer and light pollution in the late 1980s. Stevens found that breast cancer rates were significantly higher in industrialized countries, where nighttime lighting is prevalent, than in developing regions.

Lending credence to Stevens' research are the findings of another researcher, William Hrushesky of the South Carolina based Dorn Veterans Affairs Medical Center, who discovered that female night shift workers have a 50 percent greater risk of developing breast cancer than other working women. He also found that blind women have high melatonin concentrations and unusually low rates of breast cancer.

To reduce breast cancer risks from light pollution, Prevention magazine recommends nine hours of sleep nightly in a dark room devoid of both interior (computer screens) and exterior (street lamps) light sources. A study of 12,000

Finnish women found that those who slept nine hours nightly had less than one-third the risk of developing a breast tumor than those who slept only seven or eight hours. Even bright light from a trip to the bathroom can have an affect, so dim nightlights are recommended for night lighting.

Light pollution causes other problems besides increased cancer risks. According to the Questions & Answers About Our Environment

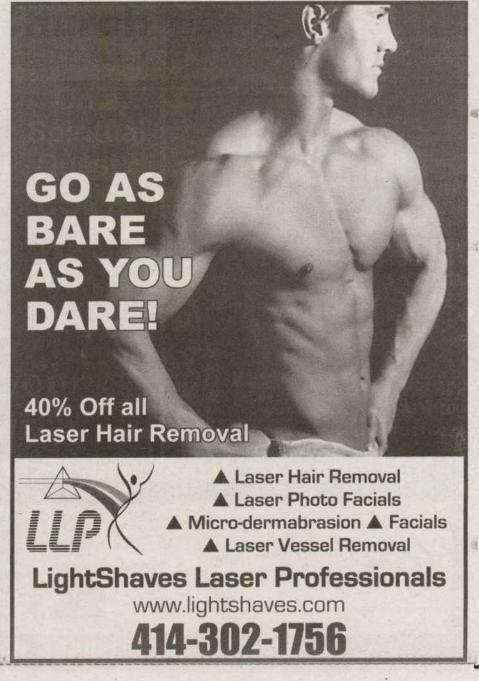
Sierra Club, birds and animals can be confused by artificial lighting, leading them away from familiar foraging areas and disrupting their breeding cycles. And the photosynthetic cycles of deciduous trees (those that shed their leaves in the fall) have been shown to be disrupted due to the preponderance of artificial nighttime lights.

Another environmental impact of excessive use of artificial light is, of course, energy waste. The International Dark-Sky Association computes that unnecessary nighttime lighting wastes upwards of \$1.5 billion in electricity costs around the world each year while accounting for the release of more than 12 million tons of carbon dioxide, the leading greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere. Individuals can do their part by keeping lights dim or off at home at night—and convincing their employers and local government offices to do the same.

CONTACTS: International Dark-Sky Association, www.darksky.org; Sierra Club, http://newyork.sierraclub.org/longisland/lightpollution.html.

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.





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Identity and Empowerment: Connecting with the Past, Shaping the Future, Celebrating the Present

s Elana Dykewomon writes, "Identity is not so much about its marks and brands, which are, after all, extremely fluid and subject to a hundred cultural pressures – but about identifying with each other." So, when I say that I am a Female, a Lesbian, I am also saying that I identify with, support, and as Dykewomon says, "cast my lot" with other Females, other Lesbians. Of course my lot is also cast with other marginalized groups. I identify with

Lesbians and Gay men have taken some of these labels and turned them into sources of pride and empowerment

and consider myself a part of the Lesbian and Gay movement based upon the affinity I feel for Gay males as we share experiences of oppression and discrimination as well as similar and often overlapping cultures of resistance and community.

Labels and identities can be sources of empowerment, sources of liberation, and sources of community when we claim them as our own and use them to strengthen and sustain our lives and to

form social movements. When they are put onto us without our consent, say by medical professionals, the religious right, or politicians, some labels can be harmful, denigrating, and sources of pain and resentment. But this statement does not always apply. Some Lesbians and Gay men have taken even some of these labels and turned them into sources of pride and empowerment (Queer is just one example of this). The trouble that many associate with labels is not something inherent about the label or identity itself, but the power dynamic and hierarchical social system that places some identities over others. The solution then, is not to do away with labels, but to do away with the system that privileges some over others.

I love being a Lesbian because not only does this speak to who I am now, but to where I am going and to where I have been by connecting me with a past, a legacy of other Lesbians. Women who have loved women have been known and have known themselves and each other by a variety of names, labels, and identities: from Sapphists, to Inverts, to Female Sex Variants, to Amazons, to Dykes, to Lesbians. Knowing the history behind my identity and knowing that I am a part of this legacy is important to me. It gives me strength and it lets me know that I am not alone. Identity is not something that is formed in isolation – it is



WOMEN

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

a collective process, created from interaction with a community of others – past, present, and future – who share similar traits, characteristics, experiences, and goals. Identities are who we are and who we want to be, they allow us to interact with others and to organize around issues that we share as members of the same identity group. It is only when we are able to proudly proclaim 'I am a _____" that we can be able to create the positive social changes necessary to live in a world where each person can identify as they please because no identity or label will be valued more than any other.

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Handy Matters: How to De-Dull Your Domicile

By Todd Schuster

ith the slump in housing sales, more Americans are opting to spruce up their current homes rather than go in search of a new house. While some homeowners may choose to run thru the streets screaming. Many homeowners are spending more than ever to redecorate their homes.

The real estate market in Milwaukee has not seen the same white knuckle plunge as other markets. Our once dowdy downtown has become the darling of big city developers, Smart Milwaukee homeowners and renters know that services adds value to their homes.

When you are thinking of redecorating, live a little-make your house your home, and forget about the next owner-they won't like what you did anyhow.

While remodeling cost can be high, the return is in increased home value. Kitchen, bathroom, and landscaping are still good places to spend your remodeling dollars.

Your best bet is to maintain the upkeep of your home by staying on top of those small projects. If you don't have the skills for do-it-yourself projects or don't have the time, there are professional Handyman services to help you with your projects.

Here are some tips for getting the most out of your home redecorating budget:

- Upgrades to countertops, cabinets and flooring remain the best investment when remodeling a kitchen. Homeowners report these improvements provide both the best return on investment at sale time, and the highest level of satisfaction while you're still living in the house.
- Paint remains one of the easiest,

fastest and most cost-effective ways to create a whole new feeling in your home décor. The cost of making a bold color change is the same as the cost of simply freshening a room's existing color. A new coat of paint can serve as the foundation for a complete room remodel, or more subtle change in décor.

- · Wall murals continue to be a favorite decorating tool for homeowners and interior designers. Easy-to-hang wallpaper murals can serve as a focal point or an accent to a room and enhance virtually any décor. Madonna's newly adopted son has one. So does Andy Roddick. For years, decorative wall murals have been popular and cost-effective ways to change a room's appearance. Try taking an elegant photo to a copy shop and have, an oversized copy made. Hey, if Madonna has one it can't be all bad. Better yet, make use of our local art shops. Try Hot Cakes, Tip Top Atomic Shop or Tory Folliard. Then spend time thinking over your purchase at the Art Bar.
- Bathroom redecorating always provides significant returns both in home value and homeowner satisfaction. With the trend towards spa-like baths continuing into 2007, investing in a new bathtub or shower is a great way to get the most out of your bathroom redesign. From whirlpool baths with heated jets of water to multi-head showers that massage, homeowners have a staggering array of options when it comes to upgrading their baths. Nothing shows class like fiberglass fish hanging from you bathroom walls!

Home design and renovation gives you a place to regenerate, rejuvenate and recuperate. Make your home your own and get help with the projects that are outside of your abilities.

Todd Schuster is the owner of Handyman Matters of West Milwaukee. A lifelong resident of Milwaukee, Todd enjoys helping his community update their residences and business locations. Todd brings 12 years of architectural design experience to his business. You can reach the Handyman Matters office at 262-240-2580. About Handyman Matters Founded in 1997 by husband and wife Andy and Colette Bell, Handyman Matters began franchising in 2001. Handyman Matters bases its business on preferred pricing, an hourly rate plus materials model benefiting the customer. The franchise company works with exclusive, customized software to support franchisees. They pride themselves on their customer relations and are steeped in community stewardship. All craftspeople are background-screened employees of the bonded and insured company, not outside sub-contractors. Handyman Matters has received consistent rankings in Franchise 500 and Entrepreneur magazines

If They Could See Us Now

s an out gay man in his thirties, the Pride season always puts me in a contemplative mood. I'm very thankful for an opportunity to celebrate my freedom - freedom that LGBT men, women, and transpeople in generations before us fought long and hard to secure. It's a remarkable fact that in Wisconsin, we have a space like PrideFest to join together, a safe space to be wholly who we are. I just wish that every visitor to PrideFest could show their true faces, and their lives, as a LGBT person. Unfortunately, we're not quite to the place in time where everyone can do so. I keep thinking that if many of the people who voted yes on the marriage amendment could see us all - sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, co-workers and parishioners - that knowing us would have made the difference. And I think, too, we need to do a better job of knowing ourselves. We are outsiders in a world of conformity, but we can do a much better job of acknowledging our own odd ducks, and nurturing a spot for them in our community. It's incredibly easy within our community to get caught up in a pecking order of labels and archetypes, but we need to remember that the "rainbow" consists of far more than the ROYGBIV colors, but has hundreds - if not thousands - of places on the spectrum where we all fall. I remember reading an essay by Dan Savage



MADISON

Patrick Erwin

several years ago, where he put forth the idea that Pride celebrations are best suited to being an emerging young gay person's rite of passage - like a gay child's prom, quinceaneara, or bar mitzvah. I agree, but we all need to be a part of that celebration. We can all play a role - and in some cases, be role models. My generation missed so many opportunities to benefit from a mentor, because we lost so many who went before us to HIV and AIDS. No one wants to be a buzzkill - there's ample opportunity during this season to enjoy entertainment and get your drink on. But in the quiet moments, I hope that the PrideFest revelers remember the long, bumpy path it took to bring us to the smooth, paved festival grounds. I hope that celebratory spirit carries over to the rest of the year, because our visible pride can generate tangible respect from the world around us.

New Harvest Foundation Announces Summer Garden Tour

he New Harvest Foundation has asked and received consent from a dozen generous gardeners to open their beautiful private gardens to the public in support of LGBT communities in south central Wisconsin. Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 1, so you won't miss this self-guided tour of some of Madison's most intimate and original gardens. The tour will start at 10:00 AM and end at 4:00 PM. The dozen gardens are concentrated in the near-south and near-east sides of downtown Madison and have been created by people who love to get their hands dirty and nurture their plants and create a beautiful living environment. These are your neighbors' gardens, the private yards

lovingly tended, that you've been curious to see. They are all unique urban hideaways blooming with each gardener's particular expression of pride.

Tickets and an attractive program, with map, are available in advance from select ticket outlets, which will be announced in mid-June, for \$10.00 each or at each garden location for \$15.00 on the day of the tour.

Come out and wander through these beautiful little sanctuaries and support the New Harvest Foundation. Whether you want to see unique flowers and yard art, gather new ideas for your own garden, or just enjoy a peaceful stroll with some great friends, plan on attending our early summer garden tour.

The New Harvest Foundation is the only foundation in south central Wisconsin that channels charitable contributions exclusively to organizations working to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights, services, culture and community development. Founded in 1984, we pool contributions of hundreds of donors each year to provide grant money to LGBT causes. Our mission is to empower the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities by providing money for projects which nurture our communities' strengths, pride, diversity and positive character for all to see. For further information, contact New Harvest Foundation atcwww. newharvestfoundation.org.







Morrissey at the Riverside

ast month, Steven Patrick Morrissey, a.ka.the Mozzer, the Miserable One or Morrissey to legions of fans, took to the Riverside Theater on May 12 and let it be known that misery—along with some well placed tongue in cheek wit—is still alive and well and living in the land of Moz.

Oh, yes misery can be beautiful especially when sung with such disarming eloquence in tunes such as "Disappointed," "You Have Killed Me" and "Life is a Pigsty." The capacity crowd was there to gawk, worship, adore and most of all, pay homage to the man from Manchester, England who's helped countless through their alienated adolescence (and still counting). Morrissey himself grew up lonely and fighting depression while struggling with his sexual identity, coming out as an adult. Who better to lead the masses? From the devotees of his former band, The Smiths to generations too young to know about the seminal 1980s band, the performer and audience were one, as evidenced by the rapt attention and singing along, with every lyric in place throughout the 100-minute show.

Leave it to He Who Cannot Be Consoled to entertain even before stepping out onstage. With a large white sheet covering the proscenium between acts, the audience watched obscure retro '50s clips ranging from singers in Spanish to a Brigitte Bardot (in her prime) singing in French. In addition, personal Morrissey faves included outtakes from screen tests for James Dean in East of Eden to video clips of the New York Dolls and

its lead singer David Johansen. (Morrissey wrote the book *James Dean is Not Dead* in addition to having been president of the New York Dolls fan club in the U.K. when just



fitting then that when Morrissey appeared, behind him was a floor to ceiling triptych of James Dean, all the more Mozlike since Dean was glancing sideways, casting a look of indifference.

He and his five-piece band (dressed in matching summer white shirts with

MAYARAMAN MARKANA

matching rolled-up sleeves and tan slacks) kicked it up right from the start with The Smiths' "The Queen is Dead," a cynical (what else?) view of the English monarchy, with

specific jabs at Prince Charles and his
Queen mother. Politics, ever present in
the Mozzer's songbook, were in evidence
with the excellent rendition of "Irish
Blood, English Heart," the live version
all the more intense with lead guitarist
Boz Boorer's clipped, pulsating beats
keeping time under Morrissey's
pointed lyrics before crescendo-ing
into the explosive chorus.

Of course, the alwaysanticipated witty, self-centric songs
were front and center; after all,
this is Morrissey, literally in the
solo spotlight. "All You Need is
Me" "Let Me Kiss You" and "At
Last I am Born" (one of number
of songs performed off 2006's
Ringleader of the Tormentors)
fulfilled the longing. Regardless
of crowd size, Morrissey
sings as if there's no one
else in the place but you. So

the connection to the audience is strong and palpable. It helps a lot when he also ripped off his blue shirt, mopping his brow and tossing it into the audience. As ever, Morrissey not only wears his heart on his sleeve but gives even that to the fans as he bares his chest as well.

"Life is a Pigsty" showed Morrissey at his most vulnerable, singing out: "Can you Q

MUSIC

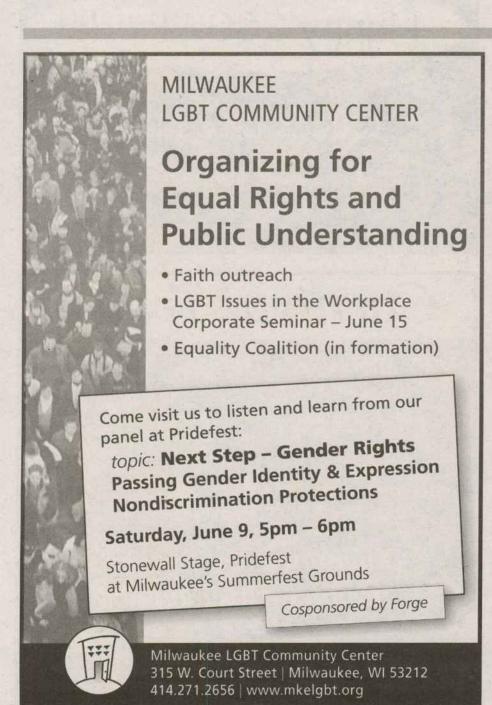
By Harry Cherkinian

stop this pain? Can you stop this pain? Even now in the final hour of my life, I'm falling in love again." And fall he did—literally, as he collapsed on the floor as the band surged into an extended instrumental version.

Segueing into a dreamy keyboard interlude of "Auld Lang Syne," the band smashed into the Smiths' classic song of isolation, "How Soon is Now?" adrenalizing the crowd with a ferocious beat, red lights smearing across the James Dean images. "I am human and I need to be loved, just like everybody else does," he cried out, the crowd in hypnotic unison.

After a brief step offstage, Morrissey and band returned, continuing to surprise and delight by performing the rarely covered David Bowie tune, "Drive In Saturday." Morrissey's second and final encore, "You're Gonna Need Someone on Your Side" was cut short as more and more fans jumped onstage to reach out and touch him. Ever the crowd pleaser, Morrissey lifted up and hugged one female stage jumper, before security rushed him offstage.

If Morrissey needs to be loved—and don't we all? - then he certainly found moments of consolation here in Milwaukee.







Pushing Rocks Uphill

everal times in the years I have written this column, some people have asked why I devote so little time to addressing health care instead of just plain ol' health, or even more public health. Since I have worked in health care in one way or another for over twenty years, I certainly have plenty to say. But my silence on the issue is predicated on my decision to limit the number of boulders I try to push uphill. And - in the case of transgender, lesbian, gay, and bisexual people - accessing skilled and culturally competent care can be a very steep hill and a really big boulder indeed.

Start with health care coverage. Our system relies on a matrix of mechanisms to pay for health care, including Medicare, Medicaid, employer sponsored programs,

and individual policies. While over 70% of the general public believes that health insurance and other employee benefits should apply to domestic partners (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2001), pitifully few employers do so. Not the state of Wisconsin, the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, or the vast majority of Milwaukee's corporations. Further, when employers do offer these benefits, they are not on parity with those of married couples because the "benefit" is taxed by the federal and state governments.

The results of this lack of benefits cannot be calculated. However, we do have indicators that in Wisconsin, lesbian and bisexual women are twice as likely to lack coverage as their heterosexual peers.

Lesbian and bisexual women may also have unique health needs that go unnoticed due to this lack of coverage. When they do see physicians, these women face assumptions by practitioners that all female patients are heterosexual (Lawson, 2002). Combined with limited coverage, the de-motivating effects of this failure to accurately recognize the needs of lesbian and bisexual women result in fewer visits for routine gynecological health screenings. Early detection for cervical cancer is largely predicated on the use of the Pap test, a measure unused by over a third of lesbian

Efforts to increase competence of medical providers regarding health care needs of lesbians, gay men, bisexual women and men, and transgender people of all sexual orientations remain inadequate. Both the Medical College of Wisconsin and University School of Medicine and Public Health have made efforts to include some training in their graduate school curricula. However, the realities of medical education, qualifying exams, internships and residencies reduce the impact of even the best constructed two-hour lectures included in a cultural competency seminar series.

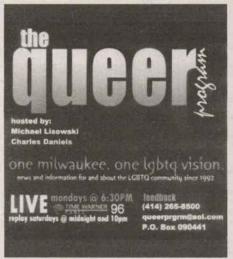
Incentives for health care providers to learn about us and our health care needs are very limited, too. Most operate on crushing reimbursement systems that require their adherence to efficiency models, moving large numbers of people through office visits with little time for discerning our unique needs.

A hopeless situation? I don't think so.



Gary Hollander, Ph.D., (ghollander@queerlifenews. 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.

I believe our current best bet lies on joining efforts for general reform of health care financing. Until we win that, each us can learn how to address our own health care provider, letting them know about us and our needs. Then, instead of a boulder, we can each carry a manageable rock uphill.





Attorney at Law Warren J. Klaus

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STILL HERE ... STILL QUEER. Happy 2007 Pride! Queer Life News 2266 N. Prospect Ave · Suite 200 Milwaukee · 414-383-8200. www.queerlifenews.com



Discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people tells us we are small, insignificant pawns of forces in society. But our humanity demands we find our joy, stretch our limits, and live large. The time we've been waiting for is now. Find your big life!

Diverse&Resilient is a statewide organization committed to the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Wisconsin. We accomplish our mission by helping grow the organizations and youth and adult leaders who aid us as a community. www.diverseandresilient.org

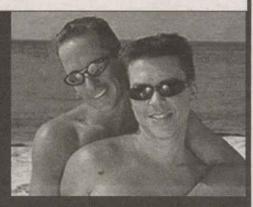
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Stonewall Was a Riot, Not a Brand Name

ypical to some watershed events is a fanciful notion of the event's origins and how it is celebrated years down the road. "Pride" is now shorthand for annual parades that kicked off the year after the 1969 Stonewall Bar riot. When society radically transformed in the 1960s, queer politics and identity too were shaken to their foundations and reemerged. No longer were homophiles in genderappropriate button down shirts or formal dresses the norm for demonstrations. Instead came the gender-busting long haired men in short shorts who linked arm-in arm with their granola dyke sisters, spreading messages of unity and action across cultural, social, and economic barriers. Pride events were open to all, free of charge, as a way to bring visibility and foster solidarity. But as the stigma of being queer melted away over time, complacency filled the void. Pride events now cost money just to attend and are simply opportunities for being marketed to by companies that often pay little more than lip service to the queer community. However, there are those activists on the fringes who are not daunted, still fight the good fight, and work to remind us how precious it is to be able to freely assemble in public, relax and be our true selves. Their messages and stories are conveyed via flyers, posters, and in zines.

Act up for your rights

The first wave of queer complacency came in the mid-1970s when queer folks were visible but still struggling to build community. When the AIDS public health crisis first hit gay men with such severity, the spirit of Stonewall rose again in the form of loosely affiliated groups called the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP). To get the word out about how to take care of our own, flyers such as an ACT UP Action Alert [one-off, 2 pages, 1993] were produced in order to be handed out quickly and conveniently at marches, demonstrations and at Pride.

Other groups also sprung up at this time to respond to the re-vilification of the queer community. The Lesbian Avengers were covert about their street-level politics as it often involved defacing public billboards or other guerilla actions. Lick Homophobia [one-off, ephemera, 1994] was a tag stuck on the handle of lollypops passed out at Pride that simple said "Lick Homophobia lick lick lick" on one side and "Lesbians taste good" on the other side. Punx like Patrick Splat of Loring Punk [Issue 1, 1993, 20 pages] used his zine to tell his side of the story of attending a Pride event with an upside down American flag with an anti-racist and anti-capitalist message on it, as his protest was getting lost in an era of hysteria about flag burning despite the fact he never had the intent to burn it.

Shame on Who?

As AIDS devastated the queer community, it left in its wake a generation of new activists pissed off enough to bring more direct challenges to the elitism that crept in during the post Stonewall complacency. These activists connected the dots that those who fight for queer rights must also ally and lend support to social and economic justice advocates and our rights do not exist in a vacuum. Out of the Closets and into the Libraries — a collection of radical queer moments ... [one-off, 32 pages, 2006] brings together the stories of the 1990s groups such as Queer Nation, Gay Shame, and Queer



ZINES

Christopher Wilde (cwilde@qzap.org) is a co-founder of QZAP, artist, DJ and Mac tech support specialist building community in Milwaukee's Riverwest.

Mutiny and ties them in with radical activism from earlier times. It highlights their histories with the hope that a clear understanding of the origins of queer rights, and of Pride as a concept and a celebration of freedom, will bring us a brighter, healthier, and united future.

Be sure to catch The Queer Zine Art Show and the screening of Bruce La Bruce's "No Skin off My Ass" on June 22! See the Calendar section for details.

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HRL-PAC is now Center Advocates PAC

The Human Rights League Political Action Committee (HRL-PAC) has changed its name to Center Advocates PAC.

The new political action committee is now affiliated with Center Advocates, the Milwaukee-based equal rights organization, giving the organization access to staff for the first time and reducing administrative costs for the previously all-volunteer HRL-PAC.

"Affiliating with the PAC unites the power of a political action committee with the day-to-day organizing agenda and extensive supporter lists of Center Advocates"

Advocates Director Patrick Flaherty.

"We look forward to the increased power and effectiveness of the affiliation between Center Advocates and Center Advocates PAC"

Dennis Kohler, Co-president of the PAC.

The PAC leadership will continue to be chaired by Kohler and Co-president Laurie Guilbault; and HRL-PAC treasurer Ken Barbeau will maintain his role in the new Center Advocates PAC.

Center Advocates PAC can be reached at (414) 347-1892, 315 W Court Street, Milwaukee WI 53212. The new website is

www.centeradvocatespac.org.

The two organizations held a party on May 6 at Bella Caffe celebrating the affiliation and honoring outgoing PAC President Paul Williams.

The Cream City Foundation

is soliciting applications for funding for groups and programs that enhance the quality of life for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people.

Letter of Intent Packet Deadline: June 15, 2007

The Cream City Foundation believes strongly in the importance of programs and organizations that use funding to strategically advance the dignity, worth and health of every LGBT person in Southeastern Wisconsin by achieving and impacting sustainable social change.

To accomplish this goal, in 2007 the Cream City Foundation is particularly interested in applications that focus on or include a component that raises positive LGBT visibility in the mainstream community.

The Cream City Foundation strongly encouragescollaboration among applications for any specific projects/program.

The Letter of Intent Packets must be submitted by 5pm on June 15, 2007.

For a copy of the LOI Packets visit
www.creamcityfoundation.org or contact Maria Cadenas at
414.225.0244 or director@creamcityfoundation.org
Technical assistance in preparing the LOI Packet
is available
at the CCF offices.

Cream City Foundation was founded in 1982 and is celebrating 25 years of giving to LGBT communities. Cream City Foundation was originally spun-off from the Cream City Business Association, an association of LGBT business owners formed to promote LGBT entrepreneurship and business support for the LGBT community. Initially begun with \$500 in seed money, Cream City Foundation has grown to provide over \$550,000 in grant dollars to many organizations and projects that are working to improve the quality of life for LGBT people.

For a list of recent grant recipients visit www.creamcityfoundation.org

MAMA Q Reflects on a PFLAG premiere

"Still Good Parents," a dramatic reading by Todd Wellman

s parents and friends of LGBT loved ones, we want to educate the world about the sensitivities we've developed along our journey as allies. But how and when do we bring up the topic? Certainly, there are situations that demand our attention and response, such as when we hear a homophobic remark or see our kids bullied. But what other opportune moments are we missing? How can we open the door for further communication in order to spread awareness?

PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) helps create ways to promote much needed awareness. According to the PFLAG website, PFLAG "promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through support to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity."

A recent Milwaukee PFLAG meeting showcased an innovative approach for initiating those LGBT conversations. "Still Good Parents," a dramatic reading by Todd Wellman, features three adult characters weaving their individual stories as parents of LGBT youth. Not only is "Still Good Parents" an entertaining and informative piece, it also opened conversations in a gentle and sensitive manner.

PFLAG actors, Rich Meerdink and Sue Seiler played parents of a MTF trans-gendered youth while actor Deb Reschwein's character was a lesbian mom to a lesbian daughter. The three parents shared memories and insights about their children, all of them transitioning through stages of realization, from denial and confusion to acceptance and affirmation. Their authentic performances compelled an attentive audience to engage in the

theme. As the "PFLAG Players" staged the reading, audience members laughed, sighed and occasionally wiped a tear as some scenes touched the soft spot of the common theme—parenting children and teens who are gender variant or may be LGBT.

Afterward, a Q and A facilitated by PFLAG leaders allowed audience members to share their thoughts, feelings and personal experiences raising their LGBT kids. The lively chat and insightful sharing affirmed that a dramatic reading was indeed a successful way to open dialogue on this sensitive and personal subject.

Wellman shared that he got his

inspiration from the "Beyond Pink or Blue" conference held at WCTC in May 2005. According to Wellman, Still Good Parents is a work in progress. Even while preparing for this premiere showing, he and the actors added personal touches as they collaborated in the creative process. The result was a dramatic reading packed with punch and poignant moments.

The script for "Still Good Parents" will soon be available on Wellman's website, www.toddwellman.googlepages. com as a free download. Staged without props or scenery, the piece can easily be incorporated into the classroom or community group meetings and it provides



PARENTING

Cyndie Odya-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.

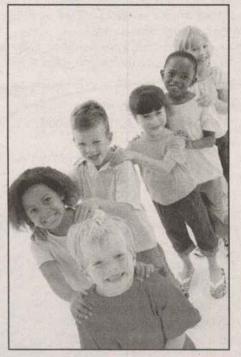
an effective way to open dialogue about our LGBT loved ones.

Thank you PFLAG for providing the venue, supporting the actors and leading the discussion. And thank you, Todd for providing the impetus for dialogue, for dialogue can heal and change the world.

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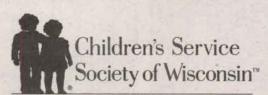


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ARTS CALENDAR

JUNE 2

Niemi Sculpture Gallery & Garden is celebrating their 10th Anniversary. Opening Reception 2-7pm, and June 3rd, 1-4pm. 13300 116th Street, Kenosha, WI 53142. 262.857.3456 www.bruceniemi.com.

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus, Madison's gay mens' chorus, is celebrating their 10th anniversary with a concert on June 2 at Mills Hall on the University of Wisconsin campus. The concert will feature both current and past members and will include two

new compositions commissioned for the event by composers Elizabeth Alexander and Craig Carnahan. Mills Hall located in the Mosse Humanities Building on the UW campus at 455 North Park Street, Madison, WI 53706. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors and available by going to Perfect Harmony's website at www.perfectharmonychorus.org to reserve tickets, or at the door.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents (In the) Heat of the Hafla Belly Dance Extravaganza featuring male dancer Valizan, 7pm – Tickets \$15 MGAC 703 South 2nd. St, MKE. Info: 414-383-3727

JUNE 3

The Summer Evenings of Music series begins with a program of works by Anton Bruckner and César Franck. 7:30 PM in the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard. Season subscriptions are available for \$64; single tickets are \$19 general admission and \$10 for students and seniors. For tickets, please call the Peck School of the Arts Box Office, 414-229-4308. Please see calendar for remaining concert events.

It's Time to Gather in the Garden! Official opening for the Renaissance Garden! Join the Friends of Villa Terrace on Sunday, June 3, at 1 p.m. to celebrate the opening of the Italian Renaissance Garden for the 2007 season. There will be music and Doves of Peace will be released. Take this first opportunity to amble through the newly planted gardens — and come early to enjoy Café Sopra Mare from 10 am — 1 p.m. with coffee,

food and music. FREE with General Admission to the Museum: \$5 Adults/\$3 Seniors, Military and Students/ FREE Members. Information: 414-271-3656.

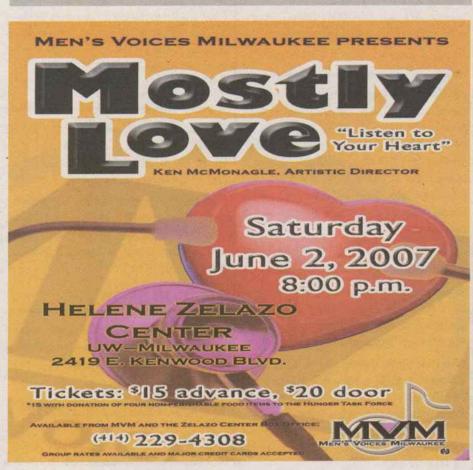
JUNE 6

QPICK

"A Midsummer Night McGivern." The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts will present A Midsummer Night McGivern in Vogel Hall thru July 1st. John McGivern brings his new one-man show to the Marcus Center. Join him for an evening of stories about being a kid during a Wisconsin summer. Stories from Memorial Day to Labor Day and all the summer in between give us a glimpse into McGivern Family History — in a way that only John can provide. Tickets are on sale now for \$32 and \$36 depending upon performance time and

continued on next page







ARTS CALENDAR

continued from preceding

seating preference. Tickets may be purchased at the Marcus Center Box Office at 414-273-7206, online at www.MarcusCenter.org or through Ticketmaster at 414-276-4545 or by logging onto www.ticketmaster. com.

Come see classic movies in a classic mansion. CAMILLE (1937) 108 min. with Greta Garbo, Robert Taylor, Lionel Barrymore, Henry Daniell, Laura Hope Crews. First published as a novel in the 1840s by Alexandre Dumas, then an opera by Verdi, countless stage shows and some 16 film versions. Garbo is the dying prostitute, Marguerite Gautier, who gives up everything for love at the zenith of her career. Movie Time: 6:30-10 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Movie begins at 7:30 p.m. FREE Soda and Popcorn. Beer and Wine for Purchase. Film Series shown every other Wednesday at the Charles Allis Art Museum. FREE with General Admission to the Museum: \$5 Adults/\$3 Seniors, Military and Students/ FREE Members. Information: 414-278-8295.

JUNE 8-9

Danceworks Performance Company Army of One. Dynamic dancers perform solo works by Dani Kuepper, Sarah Wilbur, and guest artist Peter Sparling. Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202, at 7:30 p.m. Main Event tickets are \$17/general admission, \$12/students and seniors. To purchase tickets: Danceworks Box Office: (414) 277-8480, ext. # 4; printable order forms available online at www.danceworks1661.org; fax orders to Danceworks fax: (414) 277-8485

JUNE 10

The Skylight presents Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience" May 18 - June 10, 2007 in the Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway located in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward, "Patience" is a humorous tale of two poets competing for the love of the young milkmaid, Patience. Tickets are available at the Broadway Theatre Center Box Office, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward, by phone at (414) 291-7800 or online at www.skylightopera.

com.

JUNE 11

Bay View Arts Guild Meeting 6:30 PM, preceded by Board meeting. Tour of pastel artist Shelly Rosenquist's studio. Meetings and membership open to the public. For location: www.BayViewArts.org or 414-482-1543.

JUNE 13

Soulstice Theatre is pleased to announce the production of Box Office and What Would Jeanne Moreau Do? two companion plays by Elinor Jones. The two pieces are light comedies about two friends who realize their lives have become boxed in and discover that the world is full of possibilities. 7:30 PM Friday/Saturday, June 15/16 - 8PM Tickets: \$12.00/10.00 The show will be presented during one weekend only! Seating is limited! 3195 S. Superior St, Suite 102 in Bay View. Soulstice is in the Marian Center for Nonprofits, at the rear of the building in the center. Call 414-431-3187 for reservations or reserve seats from our website at www.soulsticetheatre.org.

JUNE 15-16

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents: The Totally Gay Show, 5 one act plays by local playwrights, produced by John Manno and Pink Banana Theatre 8pm, MGAC 703 South 2nd.St, MKE. Info: 414-383-3727

JUNE 16

COVENIGMA is an event honoring the ten-year anniversary of the debut of Mark Borchardt's film COVEN (Subject of Chris Smith and Sarah Price's documentary, AMERICAN MOVIE. Featuring the films COVEN, AMERICAN MOVIE and a plethora of new film trailers from Mark and friends, as well as Laser Bob's intelligent light show, The Iconoclast Dancers, Fire Spinning, and glorious victuals from Chris Borchardt's STRATUS BBQ. Times Cinema 5906 West Vliet Street. 5:00 PM to midnight. Purchase your tickets now for \$15.00 at the Times Cinema box office or online at www.timescinema.com. COVENIGMA is a philanthropic

endeavor. Proceeds will help fund 88nine Radio Milwaukee and Guitars for Vets.

THRU JUNE 17

Mosaic Night Club presents J.J. Joyce Original Oil Paintings. J.J. Joyce paintings are filled with energy and movement using vibrant bold saturated colors and meticulous detail. Mosaic, 2624 N Downer Ave.

JUNE 19

Clarinetist Michel Lethiec performs as part of The Summer Evenings of Music series. 7:30 PM in the Helen Bader Concert Hall in the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard. Single tickets: \$19 general admission/\$10 students & seniors. Please call (414) 229-4308 or stop by the Box Office in the Zelazo Center. Box Office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10 am-5 PM and one hour prior to performances.

JUNE 22-23

Natyarpana Dance. Kripa Baskaran and her Madisonbased Natyarpana Dance Company will transport audiences to the temples of Southern India with their elegant art form "Bharatnatyam".

Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202, at 7:30 p.m. Main Event tickets are \$17/general admission, \$12/students and seniors. To purchase tickets: Danceworks Box Office: (414) 277-8480, ext. # 4; printable order forms available online at www.danceworks1661.org; fax orders to Danceworks fax: (414) 277-8485

JUNE 23

QPICK

WI Cream City Chorus will present "In Our Own Words," a unique show that is more musical than cabaret performance. The final concert of the WCCC's 20th Anniversary season, the show promises to be a fun-filled evening as the chorus takes a humorous

yet poignant look back at its first 20 years. The show is built entirely of all-original songs by members of the WCCC past and present with a couple of parody numbers, and will also include the chorus' annual silent auction. Available items include a score and CD of Hairspray autographed by Marc Shaiman, tickets to many sports and arts events, a wide variety of musical CDs by popular artists, gift baskets from "A Woman's Touch" and "Central Bark," and much more. Tickets for the show are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Off-Broadway theatre, 342 N. Water Street, 7:30pm. info@ creamcitychorus.org, 414-276-8787

JUNE 26

Pianist Diane Walsh performs as part of the Summer Evenings of Music series. 7:30 PM in the Helen Bader Concert Hall in the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard

Single tickets: \$19 general admission/\$10 students & seniors. Please call (414) 229-4308 or stop by the Box Office in the Zelazo Center. Box Office hours: Tuesday. through Friday, 10 am-5 PM and one hour prior to performances.

THRU JUNE 30

The Lesbian Alliance's Daughters of Sappho exhibit at the Milwaukee Arts Center continues this month. Hours 10am-4pm M-F and by appointment.

UPCOMING IN JULY:

JULY 1

Cellist Wendy Warner performs as part of the Summer Evenings of Music series. 7:30 PM in the Helen Bader Concert Hall in the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard. Single tickets: \$19 general admission/\$10 students & seniors. Please call (414) 229-4308 or stop by the Box Office in the Zelazo Center. Box Office hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10 am-5 PM and one hour prior to performances.

July deadline is June 22, 2007.



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Dancers, Artists, Musicians, and Yes Actors are all Gay-RIGHT?!

s we head towards our exciting annual PrideFest; lets talk a bit about labels the ones placed on people in the Arts. When I was a young boy; and painted, took dancing, and eventually acted...I was called the neighborhood "Sissy". Even if I liked girls, (and I actually did have many girlfriends) I was still the "Sissy". I liked things that boys aren't supposed to like. Was I Gay? Did the artist within me make me Gay? Did I just assume I was Gay; and then plan to never marry a woman, and have children?

All artists struggle to make a decent living in this difficult profession. Most of us never get famous; and many who do are dead before the world recognizes their genius and talent. Is being a Gay artist an easier choice? Living with a same-sex partner can mean an active sex life with no commitment to marriage and responsibilities. If I'm not married, I won't need to save for my family, or put my children through college. All I have to worry about is myself!

Honestly, would that be selfish? Are Gay people just taking the easy way out? One sees many a Gay person out at bars late at night. Many out of work, on unemployment; and still they have the time and money to party. Is this the Gay life of fun and no responsibility that people talked about years ago?

No one chooses to be Gay. It can

be a lonely life. Also, with no partner or children there will be no one to take care of us later in life. Unless one adopts, the situation could prove hopeless.

I have witnessed many Gay men passing away at a young age —not from Aids or cancer — but from heart failure. Men in their 50's and early 60's. Are they losing the will to live? I have seen their grieving lover. Is having a partner in life the solution? If someone has a caring, lasting relationship-God Bless! But, unfortunately I have witnessed many unhappy relationships, and so much cheating and breaking up. Are we heart-broken because we have had labels placed on us our entire life?

Let's face it; everyone just assumes that Broadway and Hollywood are full of Gay people in entertainment. One hears so many rumors every day. In fact right now it seems being Gay is the in thing! Did they win their Academy Award in bed? Maybe, but it is highly unlikely...talent is the only sure winner in Hollywood, or any of the Arts. It makes no difference who they sleep with at night

So, lets stop labeling. Cowboys, Policemen, Baseball, and Football players can all be Gay. Yet, they don't fit the stereotype. I have worked with, and directed many Gay performers. I've also worked with an equal amount of Straight men and women. Some with large families, and some in the medical and legal

professions. They might be labeled Gay because of their love for theater...but I can assure you they most certainly are not!

So, stop putting labels on people As Rhett Butler said "Frankly my dear, I don't give a damn"!

Many great Summer Festivals

Right now we are in a slow period for local theater. Over the years the top companies have found it too difficult to compete with all the great weekend Festivals. And who can beat PrideFest 2007, and Summerfest 2007?! RSVP Productions just closed a successful run of **THE**WOMEN starring Dear Ruthie. Watch for upcoming summer productions with Pink Banana Theater, and Insurgent Theater. Off The Wall Theatre will be hosting another Charles Busch show featuring Ruthie.
Watch for more upcoming details about

Sunset Playhouse will be presenting the musical **FOOTLOOSE** in July. Please watch for my details about that show in future Queer Life issues.

THE LADY IN QUESTION.

Summer can be a fun time in the bars, with outdoor patios and warm summer nights. Come to the **Harbor Room**, have a beer, and enjoy their fine patio. And please don't listen to the rumors going around. Harbor Room is one of the finest bars in Milwaukee, and will continue to be so for many, many years. In fact, they still have the best bartenders in town. Come

Last MONTH's Trivia

Charles Busch opened

his new play LEADING

LADY for a rather short

Broadway run.

This Month's Trivia

FOOTLOOSE??

Who is the famous

hunk who danced and starred in the movie

Answer

Question

Q

THEATER

Ray lives on the Lake on the East Side. He is artistic director of RSVP Productions at the Astor Theatre. He also directs theater in Whitefish Bay, and works as a free-lance director, and theater teacher. Highlights include working with Lana Turner, and Mickey Rooney.

check them out SOON! They are the most friendly, caring guys in town!

* By the way that 91 year old woman on roller skates at PrideFest is my Aunt Blanche...she loves PrideFest (and a huge heer)



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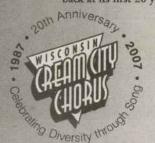
to ban discrimination against homosexuals

Roger on LOST rights divect action group. Forms in the Life of the control of an array in groups and a submorate Roce Society. However, and to existence in faults to a finish such as the reaching a general management of acts

from the control of the control o



Enjoy a fun-filled evening of original songs as the WCCC takes a humorous yet poignant look back at its first 20 years.





Saturday, June 23, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Off-Broadway Theatre 342 N. Water, 2nd Fl., Milwaukee

Tickets are: \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. SEATING IS LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY!

For tickets or more information: info@creamcitychorus.org • 414/276-8787

Great items in store for you at our ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION!

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 - SCORE AND CD of Hairspray, autographed by Marc Shaiman, and many other CDs
 GIFT BASKETS from "Central Bark" and "A Woman's Touch"... and much more!

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JUNE 2

Madison Gay Video Club "Eating Out 2: Sloppy Seconds" (Culture Q, dir. Phillip Bartel, 2006)

"Mirage" (Raging Stallion, dir. Chris Ward, 2007) 8:00 PM, http://www.mgvc.org, (608) 244-8675 (evenings) Note: Confidential Location. Email: mail@mgvc.org

JUNE 3

Celebrate the Roaring 20s through the Swinging' 40s with This is It! Travel back in time, and help raise funds for the AIDS "Resource Center of Wisconsin Food Pantry, at this authentic downtown cocktail lounge.

This Is It! has catered to the gay community



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since 1968, and is holding a special themed party that will take guests through three iconic decades. Get out the jazz rags, rouge your knees, unpack the fedora, brush off your tails and be a part of this spectacular evening. No cover charge! The cost of the first drink each guest orders will be donated to ARCW. Additional donations will also be accepted. Costumes optional. This Is It!, 418 E. Wells Street 4:00 - 10:00 p.m.

The "Unity in Harmony" CD release party, sponsored by V/Bar, Holiday House and Press, will be held at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Avenue, on Sunday, June 3rd at 5:30pm.

This event features entertainment, refreshments and a cash bar. Additionally, the CD can be purchased for \$14 only at this

JUNE 8

It's finally here! PrideFest kicks off today and goes through Sunday June 10th. Opening Ceremony tonight 7:30PM. Headliner: Kathy Griffin. Check Prifefest.com website for all the juicy details.

Lesbian Alliance Potluck & Game Night! Bring your favorite game for an evening of fun. As you are able, please bring a dish to pass. For more information call 414-272-9442. LGBT Community Center 315 W. Court St 6pm.

Saturday June 9th

The Next LGBT Step: Gender Rights!

housing, as well as fire someone soley based on their gender identity or expression.

Join us, as leaders in the transgender community tell their stories about discrimination and how you can help push for non-discrimination protections that are inclusive of gender identity and expression

5pm Stonewall Stage at PrideFest

Co-sponsored by Forge & Center Advocates

JUNE 9

Join us atop the Miller Oasis for a bit of women only space at PrideFest, and a bird's eye view of Saturday's headliners at the PrideFest Main Stage. 7-9 PM. Beverages will be available. For information: www.lesbianalliance.org, or www.myspace.com/lesbianalliance.

PrideFest headliner show starts at 9PM: Chaka Khan

Catch 5 of the artists from the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's new music CD"Unity in Harmony" as they perform at PrideFest! The "Unity in Harmony CD Showcase" will be live on stage 1130am-1pm. Check PrideFest schedule for details.

The 9th Annual Milwaukee Short Film Festival kicks off-at 7 p.m. at the Times Cinema 5906 W.Vliet St. Tickets \$10.00 (for both events \$12.00) Length of films ranges from 2 minutes to 18 minutes. For more information, call Ross Bigley at 414-807-4008 or e-mail rbigley@ hotmail.com

JUNE 10

Pride Parade Steps off 2PM at 2nd & Greenfield.

PrideFest headliner show starts 6PM-10PM. Main Act: Joan Jett and the Blackhearts

JUNE 14

Celebrate the 11th annual Dining Out 4 Life. The all day fundraiser features over 90 restaurants and bars in southeastern Wisconsin and the greater Milwaukee area. Participating establishments donate 25 percent of their total sales from breakfast, lunch and dinner to Camp Heartland, a national organization that enhances the life of children impacted by HIV/AIDS. Visit campheartland.org for a list of restaurants participating.

JUNE 16

Madison Gay Video Club "Whispering

Moon (Austria)" (Water Bearer, dir. Michael Satzinger, 2005) "Cock Fight" (All Worlds, dir. Michael Zen, 1996) 8:00 PM, http://www. mgvc.org, (608) 244-8675 (evenings) Note: Confidential Location. Email: mail@mgvc.org

JUNE 21

Windy City Times is proud to announce the return of the rock group, BETTY, to Chicago for a One-Night Only concert extravaganza. The show will benefit the Center on Halsted, Chicago's new gay and lesbian community center, and will take place in their new auditorium, 3656 N. Halsted St. 7 p.m. This is an all-ages show and a no-smoking, wheelchair-accessible event. Limited indoor parking available. Tickets for the show are \$25 each and can be purchased at www. WindyCityMediaGroup.com or by calling 773-871-7610. Tickets are also available at Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark.

JUNE 22ND

The Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP) in conjunction with the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival and Rhizome Space celebrates QZAP's third year with a film screening and Queer Zine Art Show. The 7pm film screening at Woodland Pattern (720 E Locust) features queer zine pioneer Bruce La Bruce's "No Skin off My Ass" and tickets are \$2. Kicking off at 8:30pm, the gallery show at Rhizome Space (3172 Bremen) lifts art from the pages of phenomenal queer zines by artists Miss Schnookum, Lane McKiernan, Cookie Tuff, Sina Shamsavari, and more. For more information: www.qzap.org

JUNE 23

Milwaukee

WI Cream City Chorus will present "In Our Own Words," a unique show that is more musical than cabaret performance. The final concert of the WCCC's 20th Anniversary season, the show promises to be a fun-filled evening as the chorus takes a humorous yet poignant look back at its first 20 years. The show is built entirely of all-original songs by members of the WCCC past and present with a couple parody numbers, and will also include the

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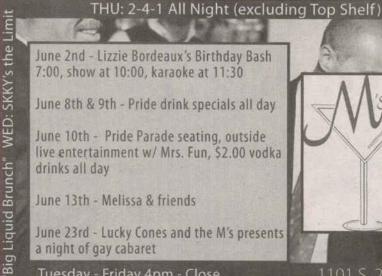
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CALL FOR ENTRIES

Entries for the ONE INTEN SCREENPLAY CONTEST-dedicated to the positive portrayal of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, trangendered and queer individuals in film-are being accepted online at www.OneInTenScreenplayContest.com and are limited to the first 250 entries for 2007

Prizes include cash, industry exposure and merchandise. Submission deadline September 1, 2007. Entry forms are available online through the contest website: www. OneInTenScreenplayContest.com. Entry forms may also be obtained through the mail by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to: CHERUB PRODUCTIONS One In Ten Screenplay Contest Post Office Box 540 Boulder, Colorado 80306 (303) 629-3072 www.OneInTenScreenplayContest.

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Cest La Vie 231 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-291-9600

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414-645-8330 Harbor Room 117 E. Greenfield Ave. Milwaukee, WI 414-672-7988

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Mona's Out 'N About 1407 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 414-643-0377

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Mil, WI 414-672-8466 This Is It 418 E Wells St. Milwaukee, WI

414-278-9192 Tracks 1534 W. Grant Ave. Milwaukee, WI

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Triangle 135 E. National Ave. Milwaukee, WI 414-383-9412

Walker's Pint 818 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-643-7468

Woody's 1579 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-672-0806

Just a sampling of watering holes in Milwaukee. We regret any omission at time of print. Please call 414-383-8200 to be added to the listing.

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SOME CCF HISTORY:

Wisconsin's Pride

Tn 1988 Cream City Foundation gave Lthe first \$500 to help create the first Milwaukee Pride Celebration. The event took place at Mitchell Park and educated the community by hosting events such as a bowling tournament, picnic, and a parade. Cream City Foundation funded PrideFest for eleven consecutive years, and saw the festival move from Mitchell Park to the Henry W. Maier Festival Park grounds. In 2003, Cream City Foundation provided organizational and financial support to pull PrideFest out of immediate bankruptcy. This included the full time support of Cream City Foundation's former Executive Director, Jennifer Gryniewicz. In 2005, only two years after Cream City Foundation's intervention PrideFest was able to pay off all its accrued debt. Today, Cream City Foundation is proud to support our community events that showcase

our pride including, PrideFest and the Rainbow Community Potluck and Thanksgiving

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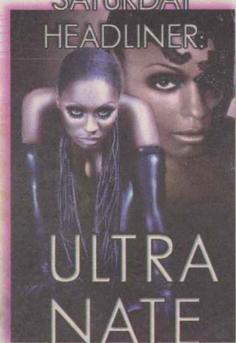






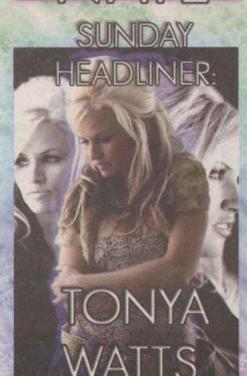
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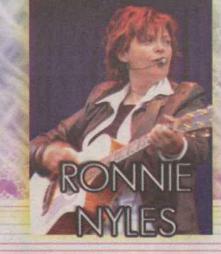






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