



# Serving Openly and Honestly It's Time

By Kathy Nichols

Intended to replace the U.S. military's current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, the "Military Readiness Enhancement Act", HR 1246, says, "sexual orientation will not be a bar to service unless manifested by homosexual conduct. The military will discharge members who engage in homosexual conduct..." It also prevents commanders from inquiring about a serviceperson's sex life and demands discharge of any who admit to being gay.

The MREA was originally proposed in 2005 by Congressman Marty Meehan (D-MA) and re-introduced in February of this year. Including Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Gwen Moore (D-WI), the bill has 124 co-sponsors. Meehan, also chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee, is set to resign from the House of Representatives this summer. Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) will replace him as the lead sponsor of this bill.

"Equality in our military is a vital part of equality in America. For too long the policy of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' has prevented talented and otherwise qualified men and women from serving their country," said Rep. Tauscher. "It's a discriminatory policy that runs counter to the most fundamental American values of patriotism and equality. And, in today's threat environment, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is impacting the overall readiness and effectiveness of our Armed Forces."

"Don't Ask" allows gays and lesbians to serve in the armed forces provided they don't reveal their sexual orientation or engage in homosexual acts. More than 11,000 troops have been dismissed as a result, a campaign promise of former President Bill Clinton and part of the 1994 Defense

Authorization Act. Many were in fields requiring extensive training, including code-breakers, translators, and intelligence specialists. The Government Accountability Office in February of 2005 reported that more than 800 persons let go as a result had abilities considered "critical" by the Pentagon, including 54 Arabic-language specialists. Discharges continued throughout this year, as one by one, soldiers (many Arabic-language specialists) were sent home from the Middle East for being gay or lesbian.

Before Clinton's term, the mandate against homosexuals serving was decided upon by the president. Upon his controversial proposal to remove the ban, Congress voted to write it into law.

The cost to American taxpayers has been somewhere between \$250 million and \$1.2 billion to remove these troops and train their replacements. As reported in the February 2006 issue of "Stars and Stripes", a paper published for U.S. military and Department of Defense personnel, there are presently about 65,000 gay service people actively involved or on reserve.

Prior to "don't ask", the Pentagon's stance was that 'homosexuality is incompatible with military service', and prospective recruits were questioned regarding their sexual orientation. Those who joined and were later thought to be gay or bisexual were subject to questioning and possible prosecution. They were also cautioned that they might be imprisoned if they refused to "out" other soldiers.

Alex, a former naval officer, remained in the closet from the time he

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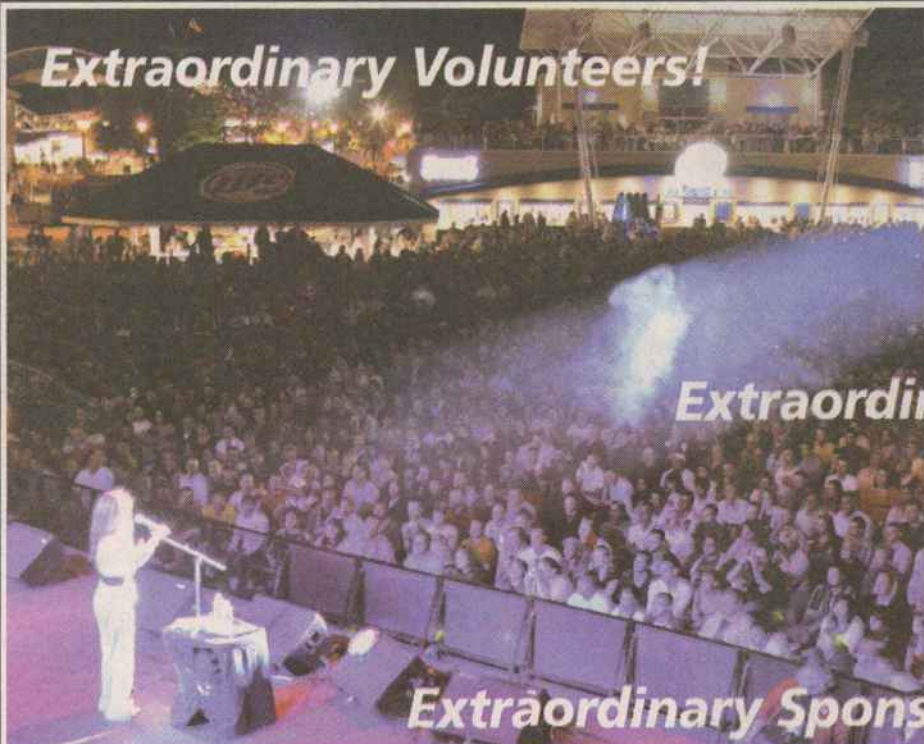
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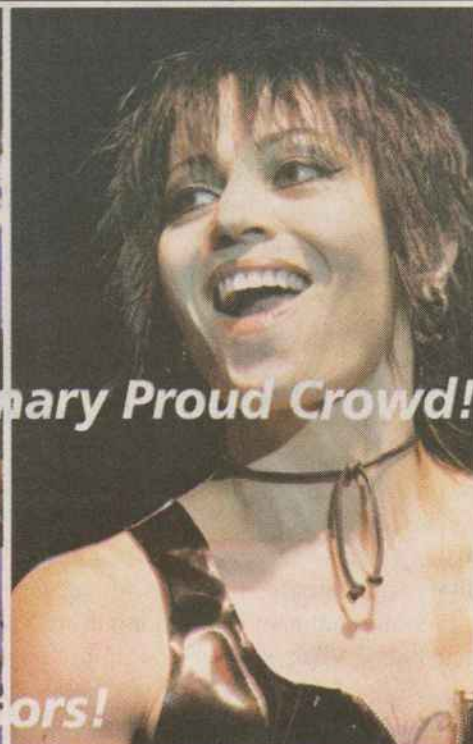
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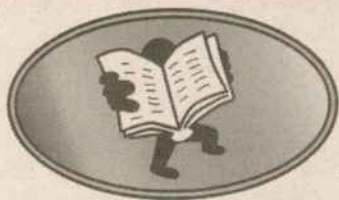
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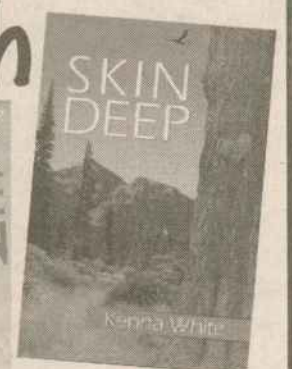
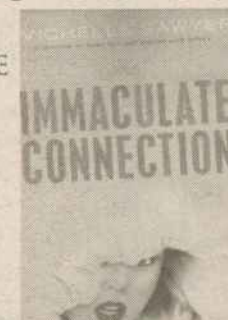
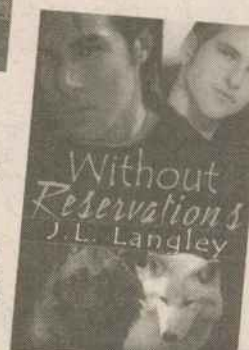
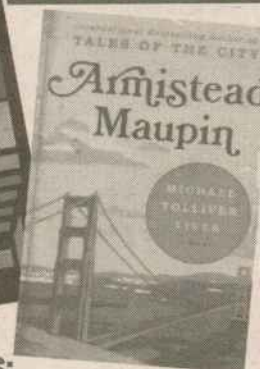
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**OPENLY** *continued from page 1*

started his term in 1985 until he finished ten years later. "Things were opening up more and more around the time I left," according to him. "We weren't allowed to hold hands or show affection in public, but we could go to a gay bar, provided we weren't in uniform," Alex says. "A little bit of the problem is probably because we were living in such tight quarters...we want to be able to be comfortable with everyone around - thinking that they're not going to strip you, they're not going to go through your belongings or try to be perverted with you," he offered as an attempt to explain why this policy was implemented.

"I don't think a soldier's sexual preference would impact his or her effectiveness. It comes down to the relationship between the macho element in the military and a perceived "not

macho"-ness of homosexuals," says Barry, who was a cavalry scout from August '91 to July '94 and in the National Guard for nine years after. "I think it's utterly ridiculous that we would put that ahead of our national security, especially in a time of war. I believe your sexuality should have nothing to do with whether you stay in the military or not as long as you are able to follow the same military guidelines as anybody else."

"I feel I could easily serve with someone who has a different sexual preference than I do, but that is because I am confident with my own sexuality and don't feel threatened by people of other preferences," he states.

Mike, a heterosexual man who was enlisted in the army from May of 1997 to May of 2001, when asked his opinion of opening the military to homosexuals and bisexuals, said "Honestly, the military, government, religion, any big

organization, is a method of control, and sex is one of the most liberating personal acts somebody can perform. By controlling that, you control lots of other things."

"I look at it like this: you don't want to sleep with everyone you work with. The fact that a man is gay doesn't mean he wants to sleep with every man he sees," says Mike.

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell" is as much, if not more, a political hot topic as it was in Clinton's time, and national polls suggest the vast majority of Americans favor the repeal. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Peter Pace's comments to the "Chicago Tribune" in June of this year regarding the "immorality" of homosexuality, putting it in the same moral category as adultery, in part lead to his not being reappointed to a second term. As chairman, Pace was the premier military advisor to the President,

the National Security Council, and the defense secretary.

In the June 2007 New Hampshire Presidential debate, Senator Joe Biden (D-DE) made the point that 'nobody asked anybody else whether they're gay in those foxholes, number one. Number two, our allies - the British, the French, all our major allies - gays openly serve.' During that debate, not one Republican candidate was in favor of repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell". In stark contrast, every Democratic candidate was.

John M. Shalikashvili, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and former supporter of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," feels the lift of the ban is certain. "When that day comes, gay men and lesbians will no longer have to conceal who they are, and the military will no longer need to sacrifice those whose service it cannot afford to lose."

## Cream City Foundation to Receive Grants for Youth

Cream City Foundation is one of four LGBT community foundations and funds selected to receive multi-year, matching grants as part of the FLGI + ADAM Queer Youth Initiative at Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues, an initiative to support organizations and activities that serve or address the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth.

"Too often, mainstream funders feel uncomfortable supporting LGBT youth organizations, because they are not familiar or understand the real problems LGBT youth face every day," said Maria Cadenas, Executive Director of the Cream City Foundation. "This initiative will help create resources for much needed programming and help us leverage and educate donors and Foundations about the very real needs of LGBT youth."

Other grantees include: the Berks County Community Foundation (Reading, PA), the Columbus Foundation (Columbus, OH), and the Pride Foundation (Seattle, WA).

In December 2006, public LGBT foundations and funds were invited to submit proposals. The four funded foundations will receive grants of \$22,500 that they will have to match over 3 years.

Preference was given to proposals that prioritized grant making to LGBT youth-serving organizations and projects that: involved youth in leadership roles; addressed

LGBT youth of color, young women, transgender and gender non-conforming youth, low-income youth, and youth in rural areas; and worked for systemic change, demonstrating an understanding of the interconnectedness of race, class, sexuality, and other issues.

ADAM is a funding collaborative of Ralph Alpert, Michael Dively and Weston F. Milliken, Ph.D.

The mission of Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues (FLGI) is to seek equality and rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) individuals and communities by mobilizing philanthropic resources that advance racial, economic and gender justice. To learn more about FLGI, please visit [www.lgbtfunders.org](http://www.lgbtfunders.org)

Cream City Foundation was founded in 1982 and is celebrating over 25 years and over \$500,000 of giving to LGBT communities. For more information visit [www.creamcityfoundation.org](http://www.creamcityfoundation.org)

Category(s): Philanthropic Sector, General LGBTQ Community, Youth Focus(es): Focus on Bisexuals, Focus on Gay Men, Focus on Lesbians, Focus on Transgender People. Topic(s): Civil/Human Rights, Family/Parenting, Government/Political, Health, HIV/AIDS, and Youth

## Challenge Accepted! Fundraiser benefits local Organizations

On June 22nd, a group of independent philanthropists held their 19th Annual Challenge Party to benefit Milwaukee's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Communities. As a privately organized fundraiser, the Challenge Party has to date, generated funds in excess of one-half million dollars for Milwaukee's LGBT community. They are also the recipients of the 2006 George Watts & Son, Inc. Civic Heroism Award, which was presented by Lord Wedgewood.

This year's "challenge to the community" was held at the Fox Point lakefront estate of Bonnie and Leon Joseph - known for graciously hosting several of

Milwaukee's charity events. The home is designed in the style of Frank Lloyd Wright, and owner Bonnie Joseph said, "offering this home for these fundraisers is what we live for."

For donation levels of \$300, \$500, and \$1000, guests were treated to first-class, music, food and drink - donated by several Milwaukee area business, or paid for by the ten Challengers' personal funds so that all tax-deductible proceeds go directly to the organizations of the donors' choices. Businesses contributing were: The Knick, North Shore Bistro, Harry's Bar & Grill for food, Signature Designs for flowers, Fluid, M's, Kruz, Pump House, Trysting Place,

and Walker's Pint for the bar supplies, Great Lakes Distillery for Rehorst Vodka, and music was by Matt Luther. Joseph said, "I've hosted many fund-raisers before, and never have I seen the spread of food like the one at this event!"

The charitable agencies, selected for 2007, provide services to Milwaukee's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. Recipients are: AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin - whose vastly expanded medical center now serves over 1250 HIV inflicted patients; The Alliance for LGBTQ Youth in Foster Care whose purpose to advocate for LGBTQ youth within the child welfare community;

and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, which plans to expand existing adult services to include on-site mental health services, massage therapy, tai chi and other wellness programming.

Dan Reidl, with ARCW stated that events like these are "where we shape our future."

Organizers were able to raise close to \$44,000 at this event.

Past years recipients have included Action Wisconsin Education Fund, SAGE, and Milwaukee's Alliance School.



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## Concert Update

### JULY

- 24 JIMMY EAT WORLD
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- 27 TILLY AND THE WALL
- 28 ERASURE
- 30 THE FRATELLIS
- 31 LUCINDA WILLIAMS

### AUGUST

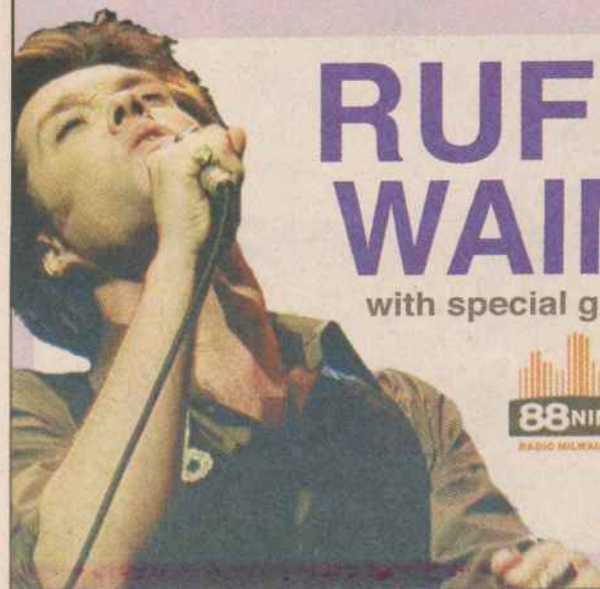
- 4 HI-5 HI-5 LIVE ON STAGE!
- 7 DREAM THEATER REDEMPTION AND INTO ETERNITY RIVERSIDE
- 8 JOHN HIATT SHAWN COLVIN
- 9 NICKEL CREEK FIONA APPLE RIVERSIDE
- 10 BÉLA FLECK AND THE FLECKTONES
- 12 THE RENTALS
- 16 PERRY FARRELL'S SATELLITE PARTY
- 16 GIPSY KINGS RIVERSIDE
- 17 CROWDED HOUSE
- 19 GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA
- 26 THE ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND ROBERT RANDOLPH AND THE FAMILY BAND RIVERSIDE
- 27 RUFUS WAINWRIGHT AND BAND
- 31 DIANA KRALL CHRIS BOTTI RIVERSIDE

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 SIERRA LEONE'S REFUGEE ALL STARS
- 16 DEVENDRA BANHART
- 19 GORDON LIGHTFOOT
- 20 STEVE VAI

### OCTOBER

- 4 CLINT BLACK RIVERSIDE
- 26 CAPITOL STEPS



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# AUG. 27



## Senate Passes Universal Health Care Plan

**Madison** - The Democratic-controlled state Senate cleared a universal health care plan that would cover nearly every state resident as part of the two-year budget.

The next step is the Assembly, where it is expected to be shot down by the Republicans who hold the majority.

A special bipartisan committee with lawmakers from both the Assembly and Senate to work out a budget will have the final word, before sending it to Dem. Gov. Jim Doyle for signature.

The budget passed on a partisan 18-15 vote.

When the Assembly debates the budget, it is expected to be different, but Democrats plan to add in a new universal health care plan, domestic partner benefits for state workers and funding for a variety of construction projects at the University of Wisconsin.

Supporters said it will make Wisconsin a health-care leader. But critics lament it is too expensive and will hurt businesses.

Doyle has been trying to get a partner benefits package for state workers for the past three years. Arguing in the House committee in support of the plan Rep. Mark Pocan (D) said the University of Wisconsin - Madison is losing key researchers as a result of being the only university in the Big Ten Conference not to offer the benefits. Since passage of the constitutional ban on gay marriage a number of professors, researchers and other staff have left the school and a spokesperson for the university said it has had trouble finding new staff.

## House Affirms Basic Right to Marry

A resolution authored by Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) passed the House of Representatives June 11th by unanimous consent - commemorating the fortieth anniversary of the Loving v. Virginia decision that ended the ban on interracial marriage in the United States and recognizing that marriage is one of the "basic civil rights of man" at the heart of the Fourteenth Amendment protections.

In June of 1958, two residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia - Mildred Jeter, a Black/Native American woman, and Richard Perry Loving, a Caucasian man - were married in Washington, D.C. Upon their return to Virginia, Richard Perry Loving and Mildred Jeter Loving were charged with violating Virginia's anti-miscegenation statutes. They challenged their felony convictions, culminating in the June 12, 1967 Supreme Court opinion in Loving v. Virginia striking down the remaining anti-miscegenation laws that were still in effect in sixteen states. In the unanimous opinion, the Supreme Court rejected bigotry against interracial relations, recognizing an individual's right to marry under the Fourteenth Amendment.

"The Loving decision marked an historic turning point in our nation's history," said Congresswoman Baldwin. "In affirming that marriage is a basic civil right, it brought an end to the statutes that criminalized interracial marriage. Today, once again, we are debating the marriage laws in this nation as same-sex couples seek the right to marry. I believe the Loving case informs this debate," Baldwin said.

## State Assures Access to Health Care for People with HIV

**Madison** - The Joint Committee on Finance (state legislature's budget writing committee), on a bipartisan 15-1 vote, supported a motion by State Representatives Robin Vos (R-Burlington) and Mark Pocan (D-Madison) and State Senators Lena Taylor (D-Milwaukee) and Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) to restore a vital pilot program to more effectively spend state dollars in the fight against HIV and AIDS.

The pilot program will ensure that at least 100 low-income Wisconsinites with HIV enrolled in a state and federally funded drug-only program will have access to health insurance at a lower cost to Wisconsin taxpayers.

"Wisconsin has been a leader in the fight against AIDS since the inception of the epidemic," said Michael J. Gifford, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) Chief Operating Officer. "This bipartisan group of JFC members renewed that commitment and have helped assure access to care for everyone with HIV."

Both the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly need to adopt the program as a part of their particular budget plans in order for the pilot to begin.

"We are very grateful to Representative Pocan for his outstanding leadership in the Assembly and Joint Finance Committee on this important issue," said Gifford. "Throughout his long tenure in the state legislature, Rep. Pocan has been a compassionate and outspoken leader in the fight against HIV and AIDS."

Currently, low-income people with HIV who meet specific eligibility requirements may enroll in the Wisconsin AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP). This program ensures people with HIV get the medications they need but does not cover physician visits or check-ups. Due to high costs of HIV medications, some of the individuals in ADAP were receiving several thousands of dollars of drugs per month - more than the cost of the most expensive insurance policies with a prescription drug benefit.

"Access to medical care and HIV medications are the two most important factors necessary for people with HIV to live a long and healthy life," said Gifford. "Through this pilot program, the state is able to assure everyone in Wisconsin with HIV will have access to both medications and medical care through the ARCW Medical Center, regardless of where they live or their ability to pay."

ARCW is Wisconsin's largest ASO and has offices in Eau Claire, Appleton, Green Bay, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Superior and Wausau. ARCW provides medical care, dental care, mental health therapy, legal representation, housing services, food pantry and social work case management to 3,000 Wisconsin residents living with HIV/AIDS. Additionally, ARCW also reaches 150,000 people annually at risk of contracting HIV with life saving prevention information and resources.

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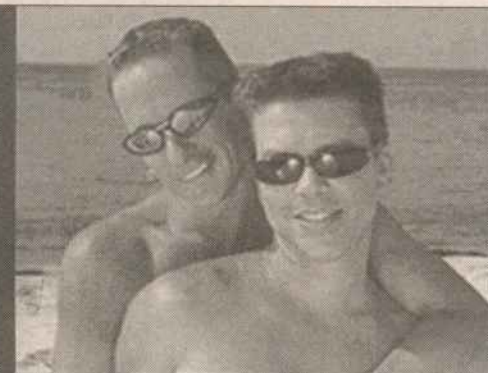
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National



Happenings

## N.Y. Assembly votes for marriage

**New York** - In a decisive 85-61 vote, a bill to legalize same-sex 'marriage' has passed the NY State Assembly.

Authored by openly gay assemblyman Daniel O'Donnell (D-Manhattan), brother of lesbian entertainer Rosie O'Donnell, and backed by New York Gov. Elliot Spitzer, the legislation stands almost no chance of passage in New York's Republican-led state Senate. However, four Republicans in the Assembly did vote for the bill, making it the first legislative chamber in the nation to pass a marriage equality bill with bipartisan support. The bill is one of several same-sex issues that have been dominating the state.

California is the only other state where legislators have voted to create marriage equality. In 2005, the vote passed both the Assembly and Senate but was vetoed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who vows to do it again.

A recent poll of NY registered voters, showed that 35 percent supported marriage equality while another 35 percent supported civil unions but not same-sex marriage. Twenty-two percent of voters said there should be no legal recognition of same-sex unions.

Currently, the New York legislation was contemplating legalizing homosexual 'civil unions,' which grants same-sex partners most of the same benefits that married heterosexual couples receive. O'Donnell says that is not enough, however.

"It will not provide equality for people like me," he said.

Although the same-sex marriage bill is important to Spitzer, the New York governor has explained that he will not force the Senate to act quickly on deciding its outcome. He feels that there are other more important issues that have a better chance of passing that need to be addressed first.

Republicans are conjecturing that some Democratic members who voted for the bill may lose their seats in the Assembly, though Democrats have a bulletproof 107-42 seat majority. The four Assembly Republicans who voted pro-marriage may also risk a challenge from the right in their primaries.

## Conservative Opposes "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

**SANTA BARBARA, CA** - In a recent Wall St. Journal Op-Ed, Former Republican Congressman Bob Barr called for the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," the policy which prohibits gay men and lesbians from serving openly in the military.

Barr, who was a member of Congress from 1995 to 2003, opposes same-sex marriage as well as efforts to classify gays and lesbians as members of a constitutionally protected minority class.

However, Barr feels that allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military would be consistent with conservative values such as saving money, promoting national security, and preserving individual privacy. He suggested that Republican presidential candidates who opposed the repeal of the policy show "a disturbing move away from conservative principles, in favor of what smells strongly of political expediency or timidity."

According to Dr. Aaron Belkin, Director of the Michael D. Palm Center, a research institute at the University of California, "Many Republicans agree with Barr's argument, but few party leaders have been willing to say so in public." Gallup has reported that a majority of Republicans support allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. Barr told Palm Center researchers that his support reflects a growing body of evidence, which shows that the ban is detrimental to military effectiveness.

## Local Galleries celebrating One-Year Anniversaries

The River's End Gallery in Waukesha and Milwaukee's Morning Glory Gallery are both enjoying their one-year celebrations, with parties, and specials offered to gallery goers.

The River's End Gallery opened its doors on August 5, 2006 and has had an outstanding year, just at a time when many galleries were closing their doors.

"We owe our success to the wonderful art community in Waukesha and the support of the expanding business district in Historic Downtown Waukesha," said Joan Skimmons, owner. "Our celebration theme is 'We thank our clients for a successful first year.' We would love for our clients to visit in August and see all of the new artists and expanded art collection. We have had a wonderful year and have been recognized by some prominent corporate art buyers and individual collectors."

The Morning Glory Gallery, located in the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Milwaukee, exclusively features fine crafts by members of the Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council (WDCC), a statewide professional crafts organization. More than 60 artists working in ceramics, fiber, jewelry, leather, photography, glass, wood, sculpture, and mixed media are represented in the gallery.

"We are thrilled to celebrate our first anniversary at the Marcus Center," says Barb Chappell, WDCC president. "Our gallery offers such a unique selection of contemporary fine crafts unlike any other venue in the city." For those looking for original fine craft work by a Wisconsin artist, a unique gift, or a handsome home furnishing, shoppers will find beautiful choices to enhance their lifestyle at the Morning Glory Gallery.

River's End Gallery caters to individuals and corporations looking for larger pieces of art. It carries the finest artists who create large paintings. Although many of these artists are from Wisconsin, the gallery also serves artists from Florida, Texas, Illinois, Minnesota, Virginia, Ukraine, and California. The gallery offers sculpture, art glass, art jewelry, smaller paintings, and prints. Many of the artists will create commissioned works for buyers with specialized interests.

For the entire month of August, the River's End Gallery will be showing thanks to its loyal clients by offering a 10% discount. In addition, there will be multiple events offered free or at a discount throughout the month. Events include: Waukesha Art Crawl (August 4 from 4pm-10pm) with an artist reception in the gallery and horse drawn carriage rides, and free artist demonstrations and painting instruction on August 11, 18, and 25 from 1:30pm - 3pm. Call 262-896-8875 to register for the classes.

River's End Gallery, located in Historic Downtown Waukesha at 380 W. Main St, 262-896-8875. [www.riversendgallery.com](http://www.riversendgallery.com)

The anniversary celebration at the Morning Glory Gallery will culminate during Milwaukee's Gallery Night & Day weekend on Fri.-Sat., July 27-28. A meet-the-artists reception will be held on Friday evening from 6-9 p.m. The gallery is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 12-6 p.m. and on evenings and weekends during performances in Uihlein Hall, or by appointment. The Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council (WDCC), founded in 1916, is the second oldest professional fine crafts organization in the nation, and is celebrating its 91st anniversary in 2007. For more information, visit [www.wdcc.org](http://www.wdcc.org).

## QLife Quickies

### Democratic candidates in support of gay rights

A recent survey by the Human Rights Campaign, reported that all of the leading Democrats running for president support extending federal rights to same-sex couples in states that recognize such unions. Participating in the survey were Sens. Joe Biden-DE, Hillary Clinton-NY, Barack Obama-IL, Christopher Dodd-CT, former Sen. John Edwards-NC, U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich-OH and Gov. Bill Richardson-NM.

"What these candidates are saying is that now, if you are a same-sex couple married in Massachusetts or in a civil union in New Hampshire, that if you file your taxes you should be recognized by the federal government," HRC spokesman Brad Luna said.

Besides Massachusetts and New Hampshire, eight states and the District of Columbia have laws recognizing same-sex partnerships to some degree. The other states are California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

### Essay Contest Announced

Community Intervention Programs/LeFlore Communications is sponsoring an essay contest as part of the Summer 2007 Mental Health Matters for Violence Prevention Project. The theme for essays should be: "How I am Demonstrating the Change I Want to See in the World." Two age categories for contest entries will be judged, with first, second and third-place prizes for: Youth/Teens -- ages 13-19, and Adults -- age 20 and over. Only one essay permitted per eligible individual. Your essay must be typed and no more than two pages. Entries are due by 12 noon on Friday, August 10, 2007. Your essay must include your full name, age/date of birth, address, phone number; email contact info. By entering the contest, first-place winners consent to the use of their essay on the website. A hard copy of your essay should be mailed (no email submissions accepted) to: MHM/VP Project Essay Contest, CIP/LeFlore Communications, P.O. Box 18376, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53218-0376.

The names of winners will be listed and the two top-prize essays will be published on the LeFlore Communications website at the end of August 2007. [www.leflorecommunications.com](http://www.leflorecommunications.com)

National



Happenings

## 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.

International



Happenings

## Israeli Gay Pride Not without Incident

**Jerusalem** - While thousands of Israelis marched in support of gay rights, one Orthodox Jewish man was busy being detained by Israeli police for carrying a small homemade bomb into the mix. He was nabbed prior to the parade, and told police that he had planned to plant the explosive along the parade route. The estimated 2,000 marchers were protected by 7,000 police officers deployed inside and around Jerusalem. The protection was needed after threats from religious Jews, who take exception to the event being held in a city they hold sacred.

Among those walking the route under rainbow banners and balloons, was Judy Enteen, a mother from Jerusalem, who held aloft a sign that read: "My gay son is a gift from God."

Alternately, many devout Jews, Muslims and Christians view homosexuality as an abomination. Most Jewish residents of Jerusalem are religious.

Police arrested more than 130 ultra-Orthodox Jews after learning of plots to disrupt the march and during protests in Jerusalem and religious Jewish towns, where officers used water cannon to battle stone-throwing protesters.

A similar Gay Pride march in Israel's secular metropolis Tel Aviv passed without incident earlier this month.

## Largest Gay Pride attracts 3 Million

**SAO PAULO, Brazil** - Millions of people packed the streets of Sao Paulo on June 10th for what organizers said was the world's largest gay pride parade. At least 3 million people filled the canyon-like Paulista Avenue surpassing last year's count of 2.5 million.

Tourism Minister Marta Suplicy said, "This is the biggest parade on the planet. Our city is showing, once again, its respect for diversity."

In comparison, recent gay pride parades in New York and San Francisco have drawn tens of thousands of people, and between 200,000 and 500,000 participants attended the 2004 world gay pride day celebrations in Berlin.

Parade organizer Nelson Matias Pereira said this year's participants are appealing for a "world where racism, sexism and homophobia, in all their forms, no longer exist."

Trucks blasting disco and electronic music rolled through the streets, in a carnival-like atmosphere, followed by marchers carrying banners with slogans such as "Dignity for All," and "All Forms of Love Bring Us Closer to God."

## Colombia passes gay Rights Bill...or...Do They?

**Bogota, Colombia** - Last month, Colombia's legislative body voted 62-43 to extend health care, social security, and inheritance benefits to same-sex couples, making it the first South American country to give such rights to gay couples. And, at the last minute, for its final vote, conservative senators knocked it down in an unprecedented move.

The Bill had been endorsed by conservative President Alvaro Uribe, and would have made Colombia the first nation in Latin America to grant gay couples in long-term relationships the same rights to health insurance, inheritance and social security as heterosexual couples.

The initial vote was the result of a long lobbying effort by LGBT activists. Canada is the only other nation in the Americas to offer such benefits to same-sex couples on a federal level.

Colombia's Senate and House of Representatives had approved different versions of the bill, and the last vote on the final, reconciled version was expected to be routine. But Sen. Manuel Virguez Piraquive, from a small party closely linked to an evangelical Colombian church, called for an unusual floor vote on the bill. Other conservative lawmakers then broke ranks with the pro-Uribe faction backing the bill and it was defeated, 34-29, in the 102-member Senate. Many of the bill's supporters were absent.

Sen. Armando Benedetti, a sponsor of the bill, vowed to restart the legislative process when Congress reconvenes on July 20.

Although states and cities have passed laws allowing gay couples to share assets, no other country in the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic region has done so at a national level.

While homosexuality is still taboo in much of Latin America, there has been increasing acceptance in many areas. Mexico City and the Mexican State of Coahuila recently joined the Argentine capital of Buenos Aires and the southern Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul in legalizing same-sex civil unions.

## Anti-Gay Violence on the Rise in Europe and North America

**New York** - The 2007 Hate Crime Survey, a new survey of hate crimes in Europe by Human Rights First, finds a rising level of crimes committed against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation.

The report was released at a meeting on combating discrimination held in Bucharest, Romania by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

"The growing public presence of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) community in many countries has resulted in a violent backlash," stated Maureen Byrnes, executive director of Human Rights First. "These crimes often go unreported because the bias and stigma against these groups remain high and many governments fail to offer sufficient protections for victims of anti-gay crime."

The survey examines hate-driven violence in the region from the Russian Federation and the Central Asian states across Europe to North America.

"In countries in which LGBT people have increased public presence has, in some cases brought with it a rise in violent backlash" the report finds.

"Only ten countries in Europe and North America currently have laws which enable a sexual orientation bias to be considered an aggravating circumstance in the commission of a crime," the study continues.

Although countries like Canada, the United Kingdom, Sweden and the United States are improving policies for the reporting of anti-gay crimes, the widespread lack of data on these crimes indicates that underreporting is still a major problem. Among other recommendations in its survey, Human Rights First urges governments to adopt stricter laws, provide more resources to law enforcement and establish official systems to monitor and report hate crimes on a regular basis.

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# Where's the 'Pride' in PrideFest?

Generally speaking, I go to Summerfest and other such festivals more for the people watching than the actual music or food.

But every time PrideFest rolls around in early June, I find myself almost reluctant to attend. It's not that there aren't interesting people there; that most certainly isn't the case, but rather that observing the population and the things that go on there is somewhat dispiriting. Other gay friends of mine have expressed similar sentiment, commenting that they "wouldn't be seen" at PrideFest, or that just thinking about it was "depressing."

For example, the way that gaggles of gay men walk around together, shooting judgmental, or occasionally interested, looks at other gaggles. And there's the lesbians, who travel in pairs rather than large groups, and look down at such behavior with transparent disapproval.

I could go on and on, listing stereotypical appearances and behaviors (that I myself would be a part of), but that hardly seems necessary. Underneath all of this judging and comparing and analyzing that everyone seems to be doing is a layer of sexual tension so thick that it would make Linda Lovelace bow-legged for days.

As a result of this tension, PrideFest has become more of a Cruising-for-Sex-Fest or Who-can-be-the-Cattiest-Queen-fest than

anything else. This is most true of my own generation, and the one before: the two that have technically had more sexual freedom and acceptance than any generations prior. Yet from looking around, one might think they were in New York City in 1971. For example, I hear about more unnecessary drama going down during at PrideFest than any other time of year.

## Just thinking about it was depressing.

And truth be told, it actually makes me ashamed to be gay. I immediately recognize the irony in this, of course- that PrideFest would instill something like shame, but it's true. It's like everyone is too caught up in what their hair looks like, or finding a 'hook-up' for the evening, that we forget to have any pride at all. Quite the opposite, in fact. I even overheard a passerby refer to the infamous Dance Pavilion as the 'AIDS Pavilion.'

Apparently, I'm not the only one who's noticed, either. A friend of mine who works for Cedar Crest Dairy, which provides ice cream for all other festivals held at the Summerfest grounds, informed me that the

company chooses to not sell their products at PrideFest because it is "not family oriented."

While I feel as though that should offend me... it's definitely true. I think that PrideFest has lost direction.

It's like PrideFest has become one big stereotype. I mean, I guess dancing around all over each other in our underwear to bad techno music is part of "gay culture" or whatever, but it feels like PrideFest should be more than that.

Now, if we're to look at this from an analytical perspective, perhaps that tension and cattiness is the result of all of the pent-up homosexual energy that people feel during the other 51 weekends of the year, and so when PrideFest comes around, and all of those people get together, it explodes into a big, flaming ball.

When I mentioned all of these thoughts I was having to a friend of the family, she replied, "Well that's how any gay pride celebration is going to be." In no way was she



## YOUTH

Harry James Hanson, a senior 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.

intending to be homophobic or offensive, just honest. And you know what? She's probably right. But that isn't okay, either.

So what do we do? I say, make every weekend Pride Weekend. Get out there and celebrate your sexuality whenever you want. Be gay every weekend. So what if this isn't Amsterdam or San Francisco? Love it, and embrace it, which are all things that we should be doing anyway.

But this way, maybe next June PrideFest will more visibly stand for its intended purpose: A celebration of a community united, proud of both our similarities and differences.

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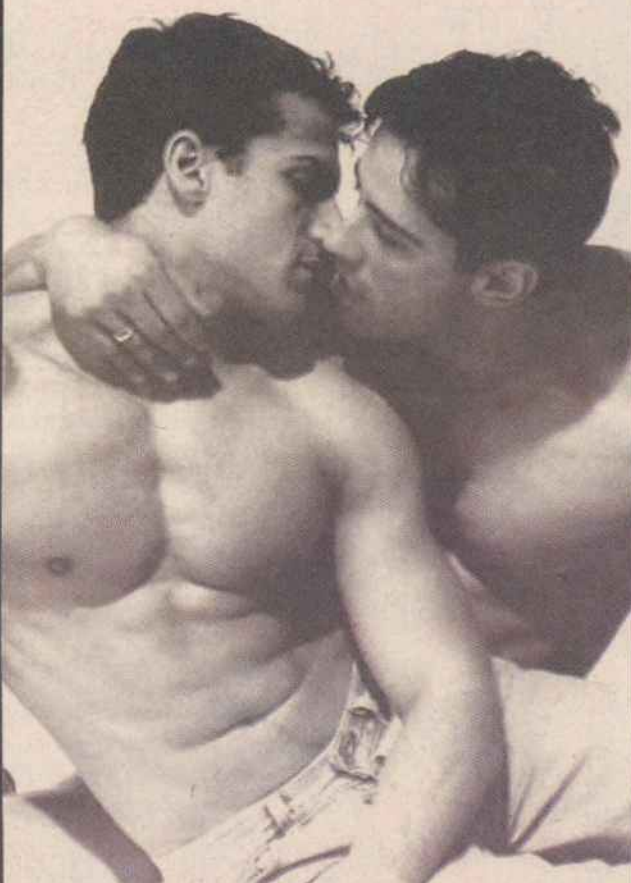


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# Young Hearts Be Free

In October 2001, I attended a screening called "Fever in the Archive: AIDS Activist Video" at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco. In the discussion afterward, an older gay white male commented in a proscriptive and pedantic tone about how it was good these videos were being aired again because he felt that "the kids today" were "not learning the lessons" he felt his peers had learned as a result of losing a significant portion of a generation to this devastating plague. It became increasingly clear that his generalities were upsetting a fair number of younger audience members, myself and my partner included. One young person succinctly challenged the man, and a heated exchange began in earnest.

In this microcosm, it became evident that the older man's condescension represented a problematic attitude in the queer community at large. Youth are treated with disrespect, their questions and experience dismissed out-of-hand. Worse yet is the fact that there are those who are sexually objectified or preyed upon by 'chicken hawks' with not so honorable intentions. All factors leading to young people missing out on opportunities to build friendships and bridges within the larger queer community. QZAP actively works to add zines to our collection that are peer-based, youth-oriented writing to foster a climate where queer youth of any background, and experience level get to add their voice and wisdom to the collective queer narrative.

Right here in Milwaukee, Project Q publishes **Scratch** [Issue 5, 2006, 16 pages]. Slick in design and layout, it provides opportunities for the community served by Project Q to show their creative colors while communicating vital information to Wisconsin's queer youth and their allies. Standouts in this issue include the winners of the pride essay contest, blurbs about Pride celebrations throughout the world, and "drama, drama, drama." The writing is informative and fun, touching on the serious as well as the sublime. There is a balanced approach to the topics such that history and health, advice and fluff all flow neatly together. In "are you a binge drinker" contributor Maureen White cuts to the chase and



**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.

presents important information about the effects of what over consumption of alcohol can bring immediately and long term. Milwaukee is lucky to have **Scratch**, please support their efforts!

The Cascade AIDS Project in Oregon generates a great deal of zines and publications for a queer youth audience. With a cute comic-style hand drawn cover of two young lovers sudsing their laundry together, **How To Get Your Groove On ... Fluid Free** [one-off, 2003, 16 pages] is a hot guide to everything but penetrative sex. This should be required reading for all lovers! From practical and whimsical ideas for spicing up sexy situations, the vibe here is open to a wide range of expression. This zine is free of value judgments and respectful of the myriad ways people express affection for one another ... or more than one! While the majority of ideas are brilliant (drawing a map to one's erogenous zones) one idea isn't exactly thought through. The lovers shaving one another's bodies suggestion doesn't reference safety factors required when shaving - a nick in the wrong place quickly negates the "fluid free" aspect, and no mention of advice that each participant being shaved should have their own separate razor to avoid any possibility of transmitting blood borne diseases. It ends with an invitation to share reader's fluid free fun. They found a fun and safe way to communicate information people often find embarrassing or difficult to talk about. It's also good to read for picking up new ideas on developing good sexuality skills.

Discover the Queer Zine Archive Project on the Web at [www.qzap.org](http://www.qzap.org).

## QLife Quickies

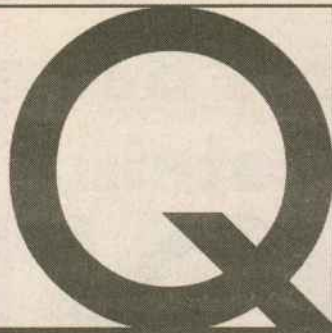
### Chicago-area library to add transgender collection

**Chicago-** The Oak Park Public Library received a \$3,000 grant by the Illinois State Library enabling it to develop the country's first transgender resource collection. They will soon begin acquiring materials aimed at educating and serving transgender people. The collection consists mainly of nonfiction materials and includes medical and legal information as well as coverage of social issues. With its own resources, Oak Park Public Library has augmented the collection with popular and lesser-known fiction titles as well as films.

### Crowd Stones Romanian Gay Rights Marchers

**Bucharest, Romania** -- Police in the capital of Romania came to the aid of people marching in one of a number of gay rights parades. Officers using tear gas moved in when people started throwing stones at about 400 marchers. Nobody was hurt but about 100 people were detained for throwing stones and fireworks. A week prior to the parades, police moved in to stop an attack on two men who were leaving a Bucharest movie theater hosting an annual "Gay Fest."

Romania decriminalized homosexuality in 2001.



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

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

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# 40 and Crushing

Kate Sherry

Hello, my name is Kate and I'm an Amyholic.

I mean no disrespect; I simply mean that I cannot control my addiction to British singer Amy Winehouse. I'm burning up her CD.

For those of you who have no idea who she is, you may be better off not knowing. Since my discovery of her music, I cannot get her voice out of my head. And, frankly, I don't want to. It's bewitching, and haunting, and smooth - even when broken and scratchy. Okay, there, I got it out.

But let it be known that this in no way diminishes my undying affection for Ms. Joan Jett, who rocked out at PrideFest last month! Before I put away my giddiness, I must again thank Paul Williams with PrideFest for making sure I was included down in the "pit" with the other media. But most of all, for giving me the best 40th birthday gift I could have asked for - meeting a woman whose music blew me away when I was 14 and made me think it was okay to be different, and true to yourself. Her music helped me through some harsh teen angst-ridden times, and for that I thank her, as well. (Thanks, Joan)



And what of Pride Weekend? I'll admit - I had an amazing time. We had our paper in several locations, (thank you SAGE, LGBT Ctr, and Diverse & Resilient) allowing me to work the grounds and meet people in the community. I was able to chat with many of our advertisers, and readers. So thank you all as well, for the laughs, support, good wishes, and praise.

In this issue, a few of our writers have decided to tackle their interpretation of that weekend. One gentleman I spoke to, while setting up his booth, was, for lack of a better word, angry at organizers, and thought that 'pride' was replaced with 'music.'

Harry Hanson echoes this in his column, saying the weekend was more of a hook-up joint than an actual celebration of "pride." Mama Q is beside herself with joy over the feeling of inclusion, while Don Schwamb praises organizers - yet still feels there is room for improvement.

I do agree with Don, in the sense that the Pride Committees for both organizations (FEST, PARADE) should be congratulated for all of their hard work, and dedication. Too many in the community complain without offering help, or suggestions for improvement, and if it weren't for the individuals who actually step up and "throw the party"; the rest of us wouldn't have anything to praise or criticize.

If you didn't go to PrideFest, or the Parade, you really did miss out. And it wasn't just Joan's arm around me (that's right, girls!) that did it for me - I genuinely had a great time watching the people around me celebrating, and communicating, and relaxing.

What a colorful, lively, energetic, vivacious community we have. Rich with history and hope, our diversity should be relished, not condemned.

So if the Pride weekend wasn't your kind of celebration, just throw another one! We can always use more laughs around here.

Get Amy Winehouse as a headliner, and I'm all over that.

**Special Editorial:**

## Why We Need LGBT Pride in the 21st Century

For those of us who have been out for many years, including myself, it can be easy to slip into a self-satisfied cocoon of complacency and declare that Gay Pride is a passé, irrelevant fixture of a bygone era. But to do so would be to ignore a whole world of difference, and oppression, for the vast majority of our Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans brothers and sisters who don't share in our relative security.

In most areas of the world, the right of LGBT people to even assemble to demand rights is effectively banned by governments and extra-legal violence by thugs who attack Pride celebrations. The recent shut down of Moscow Pride, and the effective suppression of Pride celebrations in most of Eastern Europe should be testimony enough to this phenomenon. It is important to remember that right here in the United States; we have effectively been declared non-citizens by the anti-gay constitutional amendments passed in half of our states.

While national opinion polls have been gradually trending in a pro-gay direction for several years, it would be arrogant and complacent of us to extrapolate from these trends to necessarily predict a pro-gay future for the United States.

The right of LGBT people to assemble and advocate for our rights is

increasingly under attack around the world. In most instances, right wing forces in the United States, who in a heartbeat would introduce repressive efforts here at home if given the opportunity, are funding these efforts.

God knows that we deserve to enjoy Pride Celebrations, but understand also that these constitutional amendments are an attempt to label us as non-persons, not deserving of pride, respect or rights. None of the leading Presidential candidates from either party endorse our FULL legal equality, let alone the many other things beyond legal equality that our community needs.

It is long past time that our LGBT movement began DEMANDING full rights from all politicians, regardless of party, and withholding support from these politicians who won't even endorse our full citizenship.

When we look at the suppression of Pride in places like Moscow, we shouldn't complacently congratulate ourselves about our relative freedoms here in the United States. Instead, we should salute the courage of our overseas compatriots (often in far more difficult circumstances) and resolve to finally win legal equality for our community here in the U.S. - full well understanding that mere legal equality is but a first step towards true acceptance, community, and LGBT liberation.

Andy Thayer  
LGBT Liberation www.GayLiberation.net



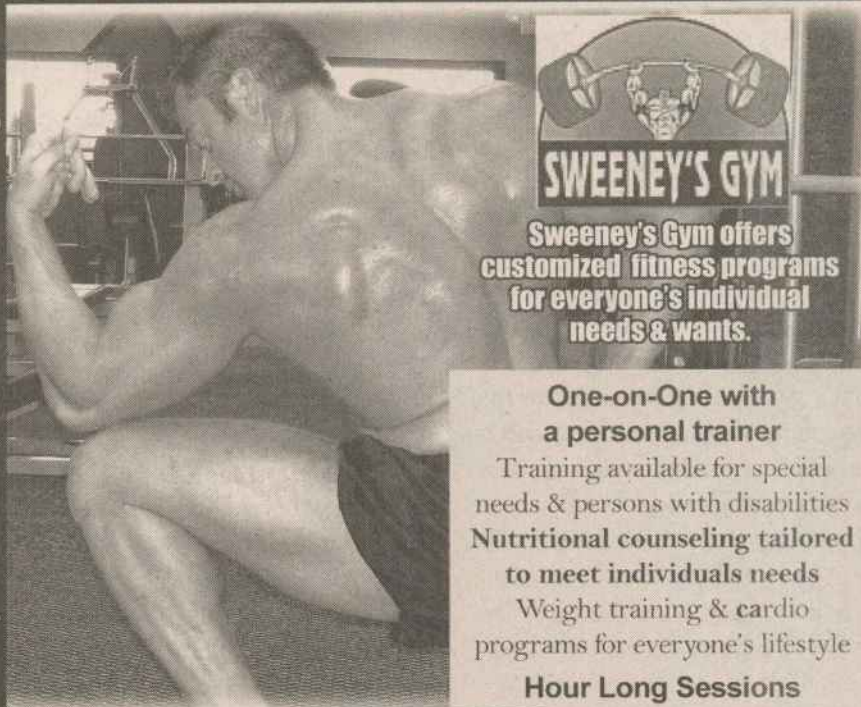
## Reply to Dr. Harding:

Although any HIV prevention outreach worker will tell you that the Gay bar culture is alive and well, you made at least one valid point in your letter - that pedophilia, which once was vigorously defended by the North American Man-Boy Love Association, probably is an aberration from...? But that is exactly my point, from what? Your letter assumes some sexual norms for the LGBT community but in forty years of living as an out lesbian and having taught LGBT studies courses, I have never seen an article or heard a speaker address the issue of LGBT values, sexual or otherwise. My editorial simply argues that as the community has matured and especially in the interest of our LGBT youth, it is time to do so.

Beatrice Green  
Dr. Harding's letter was published in the June issue of QLife. - Editor

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### Mocha Shake:

- 6 oz. water
- 2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream
- 6 oz. coffee\*
- 2 scoops chocolate protein powder

\*You may use 12 oz. coffee and no water for an extra pre-workout or morning kick!

### Frozen Chocolate Banana:

- 12 oz. water
- 4 to 5 ice cubes
- 1 banana
- 1-tablespoon heavy cream
- 2 scoops chocolate protein powder

### German Chocolate Cake:

- 12 oz. water
- 4 ice cubes
- 1-tablespoon heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon cream of coconut
- 2 scoops chocolate protein powder



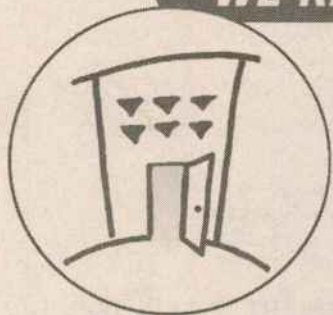
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Fitness is a lifestyle and is a year-round sport to most. I have to call out the summertime slugs. Just because you workout all winter long and were blessed to get the great arms and chest we all die for in 6 months, doesn't mean you should let that hard earned muscle go to your WAIST! Sweeney's Gym recommends that you tailor your cardio and weight training so that you are in and out of the gym in one hour. Keep in mind getting results is about training smarter not longer. Training in the morning is a good way not to miss a workout. Just think, you worked all day and its 80 degrees and sunny. Hmmm, let's think about this! Should you go to the lakefront or to the gym? I think my point has been made. So this summer I hope my summertime slugs pick up the weights and not the bad habits of years past. Stay fit, and enjoy your summer!

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## This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History JULY

By Don Schwamb

**35 years ago: 1972**– Survey of the homosexual lifestyle in Milwaukee garners 120 responses. Juneau Park is a hot spot for cruising, both in the park and its "tea room", and in the surrounding blocks, and Milwaukee Police are making many arrests. The Nite Beat at 183 S. 2nd St. is renamed the Riviera Show Lounge, with a first production titled "The Dolly Review" featuring female impersonators Winnie Storm, Mel Powers, Mother Chris, Andretta and others, and produced by "Norma Jean" Baker.

**30 years ago: 1977**– Red Baron disco has its liquor license renewed after charges of discrimination against blacks and women are heard. Alyn Hess steps down as President of GPU. UW-Madison creates an Assistance Committee to discuss and act upon any case of discrimination against a gay student. Ex-Governor Patrick Lucey answers a question about Anita Bryant by saying "I think that sexual preference ought not to deny any American citizen of all the rights and privileges that other citizens enjoy". The Milwaukee Gay Guide publishes its first issue, listing 18 gay/lesbian bars, 4 restaurants, 2 bathhouses, and 2 bookstores.

**20 years ago: 1987**– The Society Club, an organization of black gays and lesbians, holds an AIDS Benefit Ball for MAP (Milw. AIDS Project). Cream City Foundation funds the first gay cable show in Milwaukee: Tri-Cable Tonight. Lambda Rights Network fights a state bill intended to exempt Rawhide Boys Ranch from the state's gay anti-discrimination law. The U.S. Supreme Court rules we cannot use the term "Gay Olympics".

**15 years ago: 1992**– 19th annual MAGIC Picnic held in Madison on July 18th. Milwaukee Classic softball tournament estimated to have a positive economic impact of at least \$250,000 on the city. Eighty-three men are arrested in UWM restrooms over the course of a few weeks in July; reportedly, few of them are students or faculty.

Find out more about these and other events and history in Wisconsin's GLBT community at the Milwaukee History Project web site: [www.WisconsinGayHistory.org](http://www.WisconsinGayHistory.org)

# Roadmaps

*How do we get from where we are to where we are going without a map?*

If we're going somewhere we've not been before, we almost always either ask directions (and typically write them down, so we have a clear reminder which we can refer to at every turn) or use technology like Yahoo! Maps to help chart our course.

Likewise, if we have a major project to undertake, it's often smart -- if not absolutely necessary -- to write out detailed notes about what needs to happen (and in what order), obtain appropriate tools for the job, and collect any useful resources so we don't re-invent the wheel. For most

## If you want to get somewhere specific in your gender journey, do you have a solid plan of how to get there?

of us, whether we're planning on moving to a new apartment, changing careers, landscaping our back yard, planning a trip to Hawaii, or writing a term paper, we have to think about where we are and where we want to be when we're done with the project.

If you want to paint your bedroom, it won't paint itself if you don't outline how you are going to get from the bedroom in its current state to one that is freshly painted. While it may be as simple as buying a gallon of paint, typically you need to think through things. Do you and your partner agree on the same color? Are you physically able to do the job yourself or do you need to hire someone? Is there is enough space to move the furniture in to the middle of the room? Do you have all the supplies you need, and are you willing to have your house in disarray for a couple of days in order to complete this project?

Some questions might be obvious. Some might be irrelevant. Some questions, too, might be dependent on how much experience you've had with painting.

When considering "projects" -- that help you reach your desired gender destination -- many of us don't have a lot of previous experience to draw on. We are often charting our own course, writing our own lives, and venturing into the unknown.

Even if we are moving into territory that is totally unfamiliar, we can still create a conscious, concrete (but flexible) plan of actions to help us reach our goal.

Most of us, though, don't consider our lives as projects -- let alone projects that need to be broken down into manageable action steps that will ensure our success. Many people believe they don't need a plan when considering legally changing their name or gender, opting to start on hormones, pursuing surgery, or wishing others would interact with us in specific ways related to our gender.

It is no wonder that so many of us are depressed, since we are constantly wandering around aimlessly without a plan or any tangible ideas of how to get to where we want to go.

Action steps that are part of a larger



## TRANSGENDER

Michael Munson (mmunson@queerlifeneews.com) is an emotionally intense, transgressively gendered, passionate social agitator who strives for inclusion and harmony by focusing on our human similarities and strengths. He is lovingly committed to his partner and their 12 year old son.

plan work best when they are small and achievable. For example, it is typically overwhelming to think about saving up \$15,000 for surgery. However, it might be very manageable to decide to forgo the convenience of Starbucks and save \$4 for every time you make your own coffee. In a year's time, you could have over \$1,000 saved by simply changing your coffee routine!

If you want to get somewhere specific in your gender journey, do you have a solid plan of how to get there? Can you travel only on paved roads, or do you have four wheel drive to go off on uncharted paths? Figure out what you can do today to start making a difference in living your life in ways that fulfill your dreams.



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**Narcotics Anonymous**  
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# Queers. world

In the US we tend to believe we're in the forefront of things and way ahead of the rest of the world in our dedication to freedom. One good place to start finding out about what's going on in the rest of the world is the list of International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission's Felipa da Souza honorees.

Felipa de Souza was a Portuguese-born nun who was exiled to Brazil for lezzing up the convent, only to be convicted and tortured in 1591 by Brazil's arm of the

Morcos applauded the visibility that the international human-rights award gives LGBT people. "It's very good for gays and lesbians to know that we are also rewarded for our work," she said. "Lesbian life is not only about sex. It's also about activism... and...social change."

Morcos expressed disappointment that LGBT groups fail to "get" how they could be allies to other struggles for acceptance and equality. She laments the fact that "the LGBT community around the world has failed to be inclusive and to [make] the connections to other kinds of oppression around us."

For example, ASWAT boycotted an event called WorldPride in Israel, because it did not include the Palestinian and Arab queers. In her words, "We don't agree with having WorldPride in Jerusalem in Israel at the same time there is an occupation...in a place where there is war."

Morcos is not happy, either, with the recent change of focus of the LGBT movement. "I think that gay pride in the last couple of years really took a shift," said Morcos. "That shift is to run for marital rights and adoption and things that are not really radical. You don't have to get married in order to get rights. We need our rights as individuals as well." Of her and ASWAT's work, she says, "The thing we want to change is the system."

Another LGBT advocate on the world stage is Afro-French professor Louis-George Tin, who is lobbying

## Lesbian life is not only about sex. It's also about activism - and - social change.

Portuguese Inquisition for "sodomy" (i.e., sexual relations) with women. This persistence in asserting queer identity is the basis for the present-day Felipa de Souza award.

This year's awardee is Israel-based, Palestinian lesbian activist Rauda Morcos. She is co-founder and coordinator of ASWAT ("Voices"), the first organization for Palestinian lesbians in the Middle East.

During her recent interview with Robert DiGiacomo for gay.com,



### LESBIAN VIEW

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

the UN to commit to universal decriminalization of homosexuality. He started the International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) on May 17, 2005, the 25th anniversary of the World Health Organization decision that homosexuality is not a disease. Tin recently told writer Doug Ireland, "Look, gays and lesbians around the world cannot wait any longer for their love to cease being made a crime. Many are in jail, or at risk of being jailed. Some are being killed. This has to stop now." You can sign the petition he is circulating worldwide at [www.idahomophobia.org](http://www.idahomophobia.org).

As San Francisco opens a major "Gays in the Military" exhibit, let's remember our homegrown heroes in the quest for our rights. Air Force Sargeant Leonard Matlovich came out while serving in Vietnam in 1975. Matlovich, who died in 1988, left an enduring valentine to equality on his tombstone: "When I was in the military they gave me a medal for killing two men and a discharge for loving one."

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# Strengthening Wisconsin's Nondiscrimination Protections

For decades, discrimination stunted the economy in severe ways. Redlining kept banks from lending and making money in the central city, keeping the dream of homeownership from African Americans and other people of color. The professions shut out women and people of color, no matter how innovative or educated, starving the country of talent. We still suffer the lingering effects of discrimination today in our economy, despite significant progress made possible by anti-discrimination laws and cultural shifts.

But there's a gap in state and local nondiscrimination laws in Wisconsin that could be easily fixed. It's a loophole that Governor Doyle publicly stated he wanted to fix when he ran in 2002. It's a serious form of discrimination that is already banned in 12 states, including Midwestern neighbors Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. It's a form of discrimination that Governors in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania have issued executive orders to ban in state employment. Nearly one hundred local governments, including half the nation's biggest cities, and Dane County and Madison, have protected their citizens from it.

One-hundred-twenty-four Fortune 500 companies have declared this bigotry bad for business with policies expressly prohibiting it. Wisconsin businesses like Miller Brewing, SC Johnson, and Foley and Lardner do the same.

What is this invidious discrimination? It's the discrimination faced by transgender and gender nonconforming people. Transgender people and others who identify and express their gender in a way that is different than the gender assigned them at birth, face severe housing and employment discrimination – and even violence – in Wisconsin, yet are left unprotected by state nondiscrimination and hate crime laws. Research has shown that being transgender, like being gay, is deeply rooted, not a "choice;" but while Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in 1982, twenty-five years later the "T" in LGBT remains excluded from legal protections.

How serious is the problem? Center Advocates, the Milwaukee-based equal



## Q POLITICS

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

rights organization that I work for, has extensively surveyed the transgender community with allied organizations like FORGE. Many respondents told us they weren't hired for jobs they were qualified for, including a trans man who was told the job was filled by a better-qualified applicant, though the position was advertised as still vacant for months afterward. One trans woman told us about a temporary agency that told her only to "do it" at home, and another reported being passed over for a promotion for her own "safety." We heard from a transgender woman whose landlord told her not to dress like a woman outside of her home.

Discrimination in its most distilled form is hate violence, and here transgender people fare even worse. In September 2006, a transgender man and former Marine was beaten at a Wauwatosa George Webb restaurant by a man shouting anti-trans statements, the fracas caught on security tape and broadcast widely on television news. Wisconsin's hate crime law didn't apply because like current nondiscrimination protections, gender identity and expression are excluded. This is a flaw made brutally clear by the stabbing of a transgender woman several years ago in Madison, soon after she left a rally against antigay violence. Local prosecutors lamented that the hate crime law didn't cover the crime.

People who want a Wisconsin where everyone can contribute to society no matter who they are or what they look like will want to rally behind emerging efforts to fix state and local non-discrimination laws so that transgender people receive the full protection of the law.

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\*Magic Weekend is a part of Madison Pride Weekend, July 20th to the 22nd

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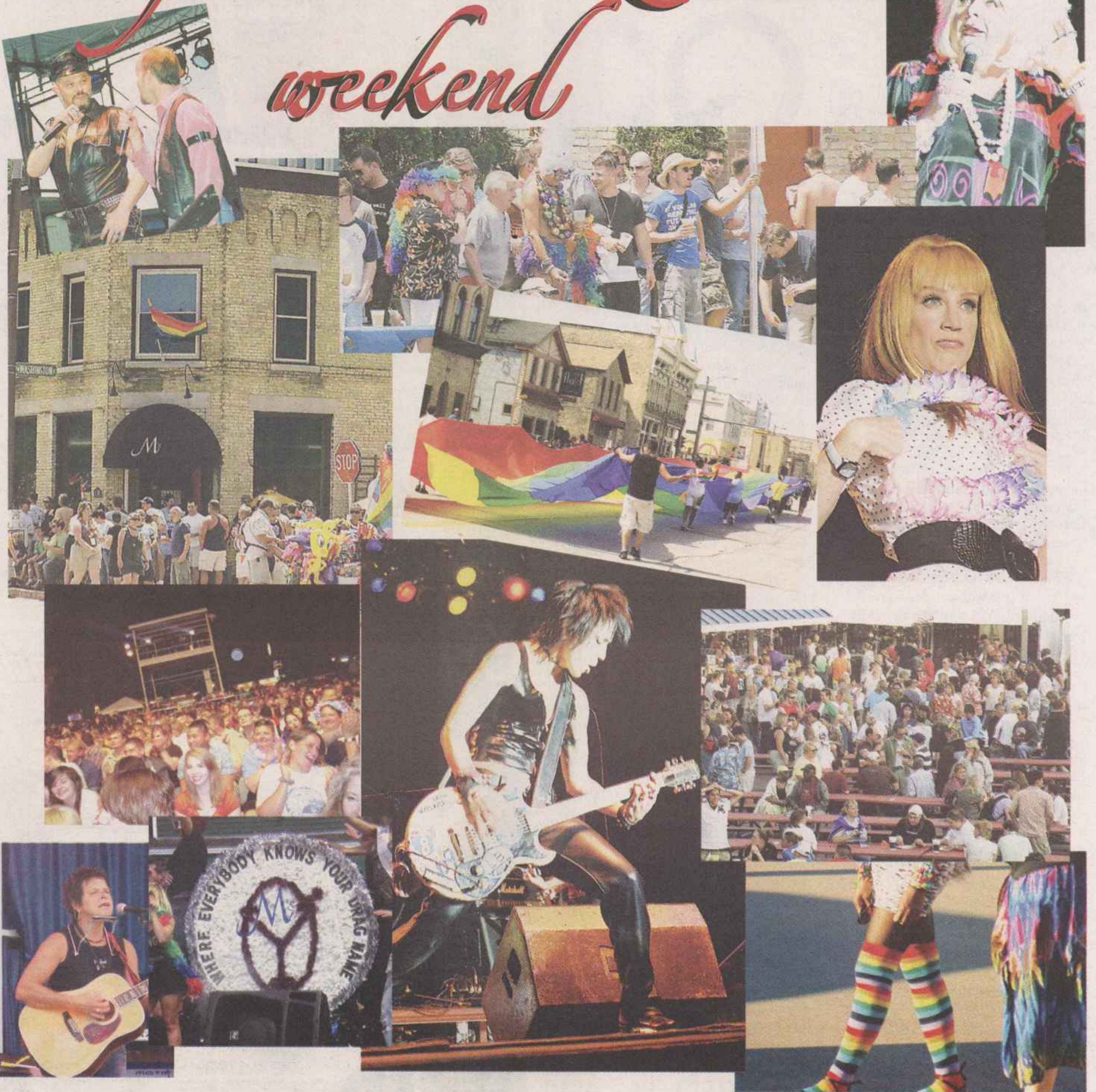
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**Children Service Society of Wisconsin**  
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Milwaukee, WI 53214  
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**Diverse & Resilient**  
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**Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline**  
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**Cream City Foundation**  
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Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-225-0244  
www.creamcityfoundation.org

**Cream City Squares**  
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www.myspace.com/  
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414-278-6031  
www.forge-forward.org

**Foster Youth Independence**  
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www.fyicenter.org

**Front Runners**  
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Milwaukee, WI 53212  
414-276-6936

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Milwaukee, WI 53201  
414-530-1886  
www.milwaukeegamma.com

**Gay Lesbian Education**  
Employees of Metro  
Milwaukee  
414-462-8404

**Gay/Lesbian Studies**  
at UWM 414-229-6402

**Gay Youth Milwaukee**  
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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)  
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414-297-9328

**Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee**  
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Milwaukee, WI 53201

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414-272-9442  
www.lesbianalliance.org

**Log Cabin Republicans**  
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Marquette University G/L alumni  
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**Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance**  
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**Milwaukee LGBT Community Center**  
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**Milwaukee LGBT History Project**  
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www.mkelgibthist.org

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**PrideFest, Inc.**  
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Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-272-3378  
www.pridefest.com

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**SPECTRUM**  
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Milwaukee, WI 53201  
414-482-4310

**The Queer Program**  
Channel 96  
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Milwaukee, WI 53209, 414-265-8500

**Queer Zine Archive Project**  
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Milwaukee, WI 53202

**Rainbow Alliance at UWM**  
Box 122, 2200 E. Kenwood Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
414-229-6555

**Rainbow Families Milwaukee**  
C/O PFLAG  
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Milwaukee, WI 53212  
mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com

**Riverwest Rainbow Assoc.**  
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riverwestrainbow@hotmail.com

**SAGE Milwaukee**  
For older LGBTs  
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Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-224-0517

**Saturday Softball League**  
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Milwaukee, WI 53210  
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www.ssbmilwaukee.com

**Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA)**  
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www.shoreline-milw.org

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**Washington Heights Rainbow Association**  
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www.washingtonheightsrainbow.org

**Wauwatosa Rainbow Association (aka Rainbow Fireflies)**  
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tosarainbow@yahoo.com

**Wisconsin Cream City Chorus**  
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www.creamcitychorus.org

**Wisconsin Gay Hockey**  
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home.wi.rr.com/wigayhockey

**Wisconsin Outdoor Women**  
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**WI Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf**  
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www.wiscrad.org

**Women's Voices Milwaukee**  
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## Churches

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http://tippechurch.org

**Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church**  
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Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414-383-1100  
www.queerchurch.org

**Plymouth Church**  
2717 E. Hampshire Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 964-1513  
www.plymouth-church.org

**Underwood Baptist**  
1916 N. Wauwatosa Ave  
Wauwatosa, WI 53213  
(414) 258-4246  
www.underwoodchurch.com

**Unitarian Universalist Church West (UUCW)**  
13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield  
262-782-3535



## IM by Rick R. Reed

### BOOK REVIEW

Review by Roger Uscila

# IM, a tantalizing instant message or a prelude to death?

Set in Chicago and its' nearby suburbs. It is a tale reflecting the contemporary mores of gay male life, which includes the one that many gay males are quite familiar with, hunting for sex via the Internet. It immediately catches and holds your interest as Tony sits down with his computer and begins his search, seemingly finding his ideal hot fantasy man. The story begins there and takes you on a chilling, twisting, and sometimes discomfiting ride into the heart and mind of a gay serial killer and those of his hapless victims. IM is well written and thoroughly believable, adding the element of chill. Much more than a telling of gore and mayhem, it conjures the emotions and life experiences of both, its' characters and its' readers. The characters are readily identifiable and well defined and you may find yourself in some of them, Tony, the good looking hot bartender, Milt, with refined sensibilities, wishing for a warm sophisticated lover, John,

facially disfigured, overweight and desperate. Even minor denizens ensnared into this drama of sexual allure and murderous deceit are fleshed out and given their due. Rick Reed has been called the gay Stephen King. **IM** (released in May by Regal Crest Enterprises) is Mr. Reed's latest release and is available online from Amazon .com, and other online booksellers, as well as by order at all bookstores. He has published three novels so far; *Obsessed*, *Penance*, and *A Face Without a Heart* as well as short stories and hosts a web site, www.rickreed.com. In 2006, his short story collection, *Twisted: Tales of Obsession and Terror*, was published. His short fiction has appeared in numerous anthologies. Mr. Reed is a former Chicagoan and now lives in Miami with his partner. He has a new novel *In the Blood*, (also from Regal Crest) a tragic vampire love story due to come out in September.

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# We have Come so Far Since 1969, but We Still Have a Long Way to Go

With Milwaukee's PrideFest 2007 now concluded, it's as good a time as any to examine pride celebrations, and gay pride in general. Once again this year, PrideFest set a record for attendance and income. Though the event was lucky to have the best possible weather and headline entertainment, there is always room for improvement - which looked at another way means there was some criticism.

For example, there is a lot of community dissatisfaction with canceling the fireworks for an extended Chaka Khan performance. My personal opinion: once something is promised/publicized and printed, it shouldn't be cancelled. It's also strange, in this year, celebrating the 20th PrideFest, to skip one of its signature attractions.

But let's keep an open mind and think of the bigger picture. A decent fireworks display on a caliber with that of 2006 would have cost the festival about \$15,000 - money that could be applied to entertainment, or saved for that all-too-often bad-weather year. The PrideFest Board weighed the options, and made the decision they thought would be best. Their good decision-making overall led to a 3-day schedule crammed with shows and quality performers. Even if there had been one day of bad weather, the entertainment alone could have carried the festival. So let's voice our opinions (mine, to bring back the fireworks), but respect and THANK the PrideFest Board for the overall quality of the event that their hard work has kept alive.

The Milwaukee Pride Parade is another subject. Resurrected two years ago by the bars after it was abandoned during PrideFest's dark years, it makes its run along south 2nd street. Common impressions are that there are several block-long gaps where there are virtually no observers on the sidewalks, and not enough floats. In addition, the location is out of the way, and not really visible to the community as a whole. There is also some evidence that having the parade on the same Sunday as PrideFest takes away

from PrideFest attendance. Should our Pride parade be held a separate weekend from PrideFest, so neither event detracts from the other? Or should we push the city to allow the parade to run in a more visible location, either along Wisconsin Avenue, or to end at the PrideFest grounds to better tie the two events together?

When all is said and done, our PrideFest outshines virtually every other celebration in the country. No other celebration has the concentration of things to do, the major headline acts, or the ability of the attendee to grab a beer and wander the grounds at will. The quality entertainment at PrideFest all around also draws even many "straight" people to attend, giving it a much more inclusive feel, while truly promoting an acceptance of diversity among and outside our community.

Madison's celebration is worthy of a capital city. Between its long standing traditional Saturday MAGIC picnic, and the Sunday parade starting at the Capitol and ending at the park for the day-two picnic, this city hosts a great celebration. Personally, I hope the Saturday MAGIC picnic makes a comeback to the "glory days" of the 80s in Brittingham Park, when a large turnout was typically followed by a laser light show on the patio of Rod's bar.

But what is it about gays and lesbians that we feel the need to have these annual pride celebrations? The Stonewall events of 1969 allowed more homosexuals to come out of the shadows and demand to be seen, as people with rights just like other "minorities." Milwaukee's first pride event

was as early as 1972: and in 1973, the GPU News reported that "Gay Pride Week in 1973's Milwaukee was the "most successful pride week ever held here" including a dance, rally, picnic, gay-in demonstration at the city fireworks, workshops and films. By 1981 GPU had a permanent committee to coordinate pride marches, parades, rallies, and events with other organizations. And Madison has had its MAGIC picnic most years since about 1973, and has had a parade every year since 1979: the "Dykes on Bikes" of Madison has been leading that parade since as early as 1980.

So what makes GLBT Pride celebrations in general different? Look at the other major festivals in Milwaukee: Festa Italiana, Mexican Fest, Indian Summer, many others: they are once-a-year events that pull together a particular ethnic group of people who, throughout the rest of the year, seldom have reason to congregate. In contrast, gays and lesbians gather together throughout the year at countless venues; we are a community onto itself, with our own publications, organizations, and businesses of all types that blanket entire geographical areas. Aside from working and living alongside "straight" people, many lesbians and gays shop, socialize, and relax primarily within their own "community".

Still, even within the LGBT community, there is a delicate balancing act between inclusion and exclusion. Many gay men don't want to frequent the same bars as lesbians (and vice versa); and lesbians often feel the need to have "their own" organizations, choruses, etc. Even beyond that, some gay



## HISTORY

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

men look upon other gay men into leather, or drag, etc with disdain or contempt. How can we ever expect all of society to accept us, if we can't even accept the diversity within our own community?

The once-a-year Pride celebrations are great to keep the larger community aware of our existence and rights, but our "gay" bars and "LGBT" organizations keep us working and growing together as a community. I wish I could see us 50 years from now - hopefully in a better place. We all need to work to get us there. For some, it means attending pride celebrations, and participating in GLBT organizations. For others, it means simply living a life where they are free to be open with family and friends about who they are. Both of these are possible only by all of us through our combined effort in participation in whatever ways we choose to be "part" of "our community".

## Get It / Need It

By Keith Johnson

Trent Wesley, a local stylist for over 30yrs in the beauty industry has been my personal influence for years. Trent started his career after graduating from IBA and training at John Delaria of New York. He went on to work at such great places as Hair Care Harmony, Diva, On the Hair Scene and finally his own place - Trents Salon located at 823 n 2nd St. at the "Chalet on the River" which has seen business's thrive for over 30yrs.

I asked this local Icon about his career spanning over 29yrs.

**Keith (QLife):** What do you feel about today's looks, style and movement in the modern trend?

**Trent Wesley:** I think people are looking more at shapes. As long as I've been a stylist, I've seen anywhere from the 20's to the 90's and I perceive the modern look for today as once again shapes, texture's, and "sexy" - a look both puritanical but with a lot of warmth.

The recent runway shows have traditionalist's like Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Armani, Anna Sui as well as new comers: Reyes of New York, Door Chung, Robert Tagliera and Jeffrey Costello. You'll see sleek hair for women and men; very little make up, clean fitted dresses, and jackets and pants accented by dark, almost moody colors. It's a change from the carefree bohemian look that we've seen from years ago. The look definitely seems a 90's twist on the old dapper styles of the 20's.

**QL:** So, where do people look for things and what should they look for? Because I love great shapes and definitely dark colors (which helps us all with our expanding waistlines!)

**TW:** Great shapes are basically carried in a variety of local boutiques and dept stores and these looks can be purchased for very little money.

**HAIR:** For a great cut go to Halo (located at 1221 E. Brady) and Glo Salon and Spa (located at 765 N. Jackson.) Both salons have reasonable prices, excellent customer care, and a staff with a wide range of knowledge in cuts, colors and products. The products

Abba or Dabinese are lines out of Italy, which are sold at Halo, and are sure to give your hair that great sleek modern style. If at Glo, try the lines Aveda, Logics, Graham Webb or American Crew for men - which by the way guys, has a great cologne for about \$10.00 called American Crew.

**SHAPES:** For those great monochromatic colors and clean lines for guys and girls, try Moxy and Detour. Both stores carry very reasonable prices. Try Bruce Paul Goodman if you want to spend more dough and for those fashion hagglers, TJMax, or Marshalls. For the computer savvy who also love to find great bargains and prices, go to overstock.com. Bayshore Town Square has a variety of stores for the savvy shopper or the shopper on a budget. Things to remember: the colors for next season? It's the revitalization of the color black and very slender form fitting silhouettes. So start that work out NOW.

**SHOES:** For you girls get out of those flats, tennis shoes, flannels and wife beaters and try on a nice pair of black heels with a strap around the ankle to accent those beautiful legs. Guys, being bears is out!!! Think fresh clean lines for hair and clothing, and tailored shoes such as loafers, wing tips, and oxfords in dark colors. Not only are these great to look at but sexy and will definitely give you more play with the fella's.

**QL:** Thanks Trent for your helpful words of advice - I'm sure we will all benefit from them.

Hope you all enjoyed our successful pride weekend and the rest of this very warm and balmy summer!

**YUM FOR YOUR TUM:** Here's a sophisticated and sexy drink for your new slender look and not to many calories when drinking one or two (oh what the hell! 3)

**Side Cars:**

Juice of 1/2 lemon

1oz. Triple sec

1oz. brandy

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# Intro to Womyn's Music

# Q



## WOMEN

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

*This article is part one of a two part series on women's music and women's music festivals. It will focus on the music part of women's music, while its sequel will focus on the festival and cultural aspects of women's music festivals.*

**W**omyn's Music\* transcends genre, time, and space. It is constantly evolving, yet rooted in the ambitious goals and uphill struggles of the 1970s Lesbian Feminist movement. Lesbians fueled their political and social visions of creating safe, woman-centered, and Lesbian-affirming spaces with music that focused on the real lives and experiences of Lesbians and women that was also written, performed, mixed, produced, distributed and marketed by women.

Cris Williamson's *The Changer* and the *Changed* and Meg Christian's *I Know*

You Know are must haves for any Lesbian interested in starting a collection of music that speaks to Lesbian experiences. These two albums kicked off the Women's Music movement, yet are still so relevant today. And all Lesbians should hear Meg's "Ode to a Gym Teacher" and be able to at least hum along with Cris's "Song of the Soul!"

Other albums to have in your Lesbian music collection, aside from Melissa and the Indigo Girls include Ferron's *Impressionistic*, a two-disk compilation of songs from her 1980 release *Testimony to Still Riot*, released in 1996. Ferron will be performing at Michigan this year with *Bitch*, another must-see Lesbian musician to add to your music collection, starting with cds from her days with *Bitch* and *Animal*. Their first album *What's that Smell?* will have you cheering, dancing, screaming, crying, and feeling very proud to be a woman and a Lesbian, which is the point of any form of Womyn's Music.

If you are into drums, introduce yourself to the music of drum-goddess Ubaka Hill. Her album, *Dance the Spiral Dance* is one-of-a-kind and so inspirational, even if, like me, you have yet to learn how to drum. She will put you in touch with the divine feminine and, for those of you who will be joining me and the thousands of other women this year, get you ready for all of the drumming that takes place at Michigan!

Other must-know Lesbian musicians and performers include Laura Love, Vicki Randle, Alix Olson, Ellis, God-des and She, Staceyann Chin and Doria Roberts. For more ideas about how to build and grow your

Womyn's Music collection, listen to WMSE's *Female Focus* radio show Sunday night from 10:30-Midnight on 91.7, WMSE or check out: The Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, August 7 - 12 at [www.michfest.com](http://www.michfest.com), The National Women's Music Festival, July 5-8 at <http://wionline.org/nwfm/> and United Lesbians of African Heritage (ULOAH)'s *Sistahfest* at <http://www.uloah.com>.

And, lucky for us Milwaukee Lesbians, our local Lesbian Alliance has kicked off a Lesbian Music Series. The Lesbian folk duo nervous but excited will perform on July 14th at the Gay Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For more info, check out [www.lesbianalliance.org](http://www.lesbianalliance.org).

*\* Since the 1970s, Lesbian and Radical Feminists have used this alternate spelling of 'women' to literally and symbolically remove 'men' from 'women' and to indicate a new and radical approach to constructing gender and gender roles outside of oppressive patriarchal constraints. Womyn are strong, free, and define themselves, and create their lives and culture by, for, and about womyn.*

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# Handy Matters: The Housing Market

By Todd Schuster

**O**kay, so you made some smart decisions about the housing market and now you're sitting pretty in a house with some equity. Or, maybe you've been in your home for a while and the house has equity but is short on modern style and convenience. It may be time to tackle



a home project that will improve both resale value and your enjoyment of the house for as long as you live there. But how do you decide where to put your money?

What home improvements will provide the biggest returns in terms of value and comfort? And how should you pay for the improvements? Here are some basic tips for deciding how to spend your home improvement dollars:

- For most people, their home is the single biggest investment they will make. Protect and grow that investment by selecting improvements that will increase the home's resale value. Increase the value maintaining the home. Professional handyman services can take care of jobs you don't want to deal with. You can also set up monthly or seasonal maintenance contracts with Professional Handyman services. These are services that add value to your home.
- If you already have a gourmet kitchen

and you like your bath the way it is, then consider your family's lifestyle when evaluating other possible home improvements. If you have more bedrooms than occupants how about a media room? A well-done media room in a condominium will eliminate your neighbor banging on the ceiling because a blast from your X-Box has reawakened past traumatic experiences.

• Even if you are undertaking the home improvement primarily to boost your own enjoyment of your home, some experts say it's important to consider resale value. I think those experts are worried about the wrong thing. Remember, it's your home, make it yours any way that makes you happy. If you are worried that potential buyers might not share your tastes, stop worrying, they won't. The Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design has a great interior school. Call this school and hire a newly minted designer. A good designer will listen to your life style, and work to give you cool functional living space. They will at the very least, will most certainly give you a fresh perspective on what a home could look like. Remember it's your home so it should fit your needs. Do your homework on financing options. A poor financing choice could mean you'll be paying high interest on your home improvement long after the last workman has left your house. When hiring workmen, do your homework. Make sure they are insured. Ask to see their insurances. Make sure they carry an honesty bond to protect you against personal property loss. Make sure they do background checks on the people that will have access to any rooms in your house.

*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. 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. 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*

# Choosing a Church

**R**ecently I was talking with a friend about how he chose a church. He'd grown up in the Methodist Church but as a teenager became very involved in the conservative youth movement, Young Life. That led him to Wheaton College and work with various fundamentalist causes. But he'd come to realize he didn't fit there.

I think so many of us have spiritual journeys like that – wandering from one congregation to another, one branch of Christianity to another, even from one faith tradition to another. Certainly this is true for me: my parents belonged to a Disciples of Christ church, then we joined the Catholic Church, eventually, after coming out, I found a new home in the United Church of Christ.

My friend has also found a congregation – an Episcopal church outside of Chicago, one that is not particularly liberal and not especially conservative. He said that as he looked at churches he kept asking himself one question: “do I want these people to bury me?”

Now my friend is not near death, but what he meant was, “is this a church I can commit my life too? Can I be here for the long term? And when I am gone, are these the people I want to remember me?”

It's a good question to ask when looking for a community of faith, either Christian or part of another religious tradition. It's not about doctrine, or purity of life, or even how good the music program is at the congregation. Finding a church is about finding a community that is worthy of your commitment, that you can be part of for the long term, and that, when you die, that will faithfully remember your life.

But framing the question of church



## RELIGION


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

membership this way – “Do I want these people to bury me?” – while it is a good question, is still a bit morbid. I think a better way to get at the same matter is to ask, “Can these people teach me about love?”

I joined a congregation, before I became a minister, because the congregation was one where we learn something together about love. There are two lessons about love that I learn as part of a congregation. The first is the lesson that God loves us; that no matter who you are, no matter what you have done, no matter what, God loves you. And the second lesson is that because we are loved, we can love others. I might come to realize God's love on my own, but I find it essential to be in a community in order to learn how to love others. It is in community that we learn how to love our brothers, how to love our sisters, how to love our neighbors.

Despite its imperfections, it is the lessons I learn about love that keep me involved in a community of faith. And in learning to love that I remember how to live.

## He looked at churches he kept asking himself one question: “do I want these people to bury me?”



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# Erasure Returns to Milwaukee this Month

## Interview with Vince Clarke

For Vince Clarke and his band mate Andy Bell, 2007 has been a big year for their group, Erasure. And there's still six months left to go.

The seminal synth pop band has been touring with other artists this past June in the True Colors Tour 2007, with proceeds benefiting The Human Rights Campaign as well as PFLAG and The Matthew Shepard Foundation. The duo released its 13th full studio album in May, the upbeat, dance-oriented *Light at the End of the World* (Mute Records). The twosome then headline their own 15-city U.S. tour into early August, making a rare stop at the Pabst Theater on July 28. They're just getting started, given their big summer plans.

"Things are going very well," Clarke says in a phone interview during a True Colors stopover. "We're just warming up, even though this has been two years in the planning" he adds referring to the True Colors tour, which includes Cyndi Lauper, Debbie Harry, The Dresden Dolls, Indigo Girls, and Rufus Wainwright (also coming to the Pabst Theater Aug. 27), among others. (For Erasure fans, there's an inside nod during the True Colors' encore when Bell, Lauper and others cover ABBA's "Take a Chance on Me" a throwback to Erasure's 1992 ABBA-esque EP which scored the duo their first number one hit on the UK singles chart).

Erasure itself has been making music for 22 years - Clarke even longer as an original

co-founder of Depeche Mode when DM formed in 1980. As chief songwriter, Clarke was responsible for much of the sound of DM's 1981 debut, *Speak & Spell*, marking its electronic terrain with the hit, "Just Can't Get Enough." Clarke left soon after and created Yazoo (Yaz in the U.S.) with singer Alison Moyet. Clarke's electronic pop songs juxtaposed against Moyet's rich, blues-influenced vocals spawned two albums and a number of chart hits in two years, before the duo went their separate ways and Clarke created the short-lived The Assembly.

Clarke ended up finding Andy Bell by placing an advertisement in the British music paper, *Melody Maker*. Bell was the 41st person to audition and by 1987 Erasure became the perfect platform for Clarke's incessantly catchy pop songs coupled with Bell's throaty singing rising above the electronic dance floor beats. And the duo has kept its electropop groove going on and off

the dance floor ever since.

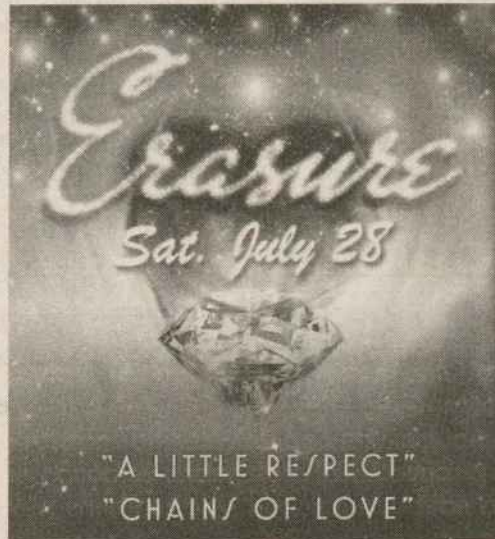
"This is one of our most upbeat records in a long time and it shows where we're at these days," Clarke emphasizes with the *World* disk. "We're feeling very good about ourselves and [both tours] give us the opportunity to play to a wider, larger audience and play some places we haven't

played for a very long time." (Clarke recalls playing Milwaukee "in the very early days" when Erasure opened for Duran Duran).

The music is just as reflective of the duo's positive mood and their songs are created literally, in the moment. "Our writing works when it's completely spontaneous--upfront and on the

table," Clarke points out. "When we've tried to be political in our work, it doesn't work out. It sounds forced."

One area that Erasure does succeed in politically is their staunch support of gay rights. "Andy's always been open and



### MUSIC

By Harry Cherkinian

upfront about his sexuality. He's never tried to hide it," Clarke emphasizes. "We've tried to be upbeat and it's inspired our audiences. People will come up and say, 'you know, I listened to you when I was in college and learned such and such and it helped me through a rough time.'"

With *Light at the End of the World* a return to the classic electronic Erasure sound, concert goers can expect many of the classics as well as the new material. And Clarke and Bell have their own ways to keep it fresh and exciting for themselves night after night.

"We're constantly revising the set list since we rehearse more songs than we need," he says, adding, "I have the ability to rearrange the songs and change the sounds of the songs."

With Bell on vocals and Clarke covering computers, guitar and keyboards, Erasure will also have three additional backing vocalists backeddropped by "futuristic" video screens featuring artwork from the new CD. What else can we expect on July 28?

"Lots of wigs," Clarke explains. "There's lots of costumes and hairpieces involved. We want a party atmosphere."

**Erasure performs at 8 p.m., Sat. July 28 at the Pabst Theater with 16 Frames opening the show. For more information call: 1-800-511-1552 or visit: [www.pabsttheater.org](http://www.pabsttheater.org)**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### JULY 4

**Happy 4th of July!** Special thank you to all of the men and women serving in our armed forces, both overseas and at home.

### JULY 7

**In the heart of East Town,** every Saturday morning, enjoy WI farmers selling homegrown produce, and merchants with home-baked breads and desserts, and unique arts and crafts, while being entertained by local musicians. Cathedral Square Park, 520 E. Wells St. Milwaukee. For more information, call 414-271-1416.

### JULY 9

**Stretch out those stiff muscles!** The New Yoga Session is beginning at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. 8-week session only \$40! Pilates - 5:30-6:30pm; Yoga 6:45-7:45pm. Call 414-383-3727 for more info.

**Monthly LGBT Book Club** at 7:30PM. Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave. Call 414-963-9089 for this month's reading selection.

### JULY 10

**EATING FOR ENERGY:** Featuring: Suzanne Monroe, Certified Health & Nutrition Counselor is part of the cooking summer classes being held at the Milwaukee Public Market's Madame Kuony's Demonstration Kitchen. This class will focus on healthy cooking that provides lasting energy for long summer play. You'll learn about specific foods that decrease energy, and others that increase energy. Recipes will include Power Salad, Savory Salmon Cakes, Energy Truffles, and more. 400 N. Water St. 5:30-7:00PM. \$25.00

### JULY 12

**Bastille Days!** July 12-15. This downtown location centered around Cathedral Square Park provides a unique setting that both residents and visitors of East Town, always find charming. The event is known for the impromptu street performers, roaming minstrels, a variety of interactive and musical entertainment, and the signature 43-foot Eiffel Tower replica. Don't forget the 5k fun run which kicks off the festival on July 12th. Cathedral Square Park, 520 E. Wells St. Milwaukee

### JULY 14

**Learn the basic massage techniques and communication skills** necessary to enhance your bonding experience with your partner. This class will focus primarily on head, neck, shoulders and back pain, but other concerns are welcome. Majority of the time will be spent with hands-on practice and demonstrations. Come prepared to experience and share in the nurturing, relaxing, and therapeutic benefits of massage. -Loose fitted, comfortable clothing is required. Class size will be limited to ensure individual attention. Cost: \$50/couple. 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. pre-payment and pre-registration required to hold your spot. A Woman's Touch, 200 N. Jefferson St. Suite 101, Milwaukee. Contact: [awt.milwaukee2@gmail.com](mailto:awt.milwaukee2@gmail.com) or 414-221-0400.

**My Best Friend is Straight!** The largest and best party of the summer. Come enjoy the tastiest food, fabulous guests, and share your straight friends with our gay ones! Of course, it's for a great cause as well. The event will be hosted at the fabulous new home of Joseph Pabst. Catered by Cream City Foundation's Kathy Papineau. Tickets \$25 in advance/ \$30 at the door. Tickets available online, Outpost Natural Foods (all locations) and Outwards Books (2710 N. Murray Ave) or by calling 414.225.0244.

### JULY 15

**White Men Together (BWMT).** General meeting at 7PM at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. for more info: 414-342-0705, or [bwmtmilwaukee@aol.com](mailto:bwmtmilwaukee@aol.com). Please visit [www.bwmtmilwaukee.org](http://www.bwmtmilwaukee.org).

**PFLAG Milwaukee** 5-7PM at Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 9235 W. Bluemound Road. For more info: 414-299-9198, or [www.pflagmilwaukee.org](http://www.pflagmilwaukee.org).

### JULY 17

**Schwartz bookstore** presents author Michael Tucker, in a 7pm talk about his book, *Living in a Foreign Language*. This Nonfiction/memoir from actor Michael Tucker writes about his experiences after purchasing a home in the Umbrian countryside in Italy. It's a lush and delicious memoir about finding home in a faraway place. Michael Tucker, veteran of stage, film and television, got his start at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, and is perhaps best known for his role on the long-running television series, *L.A. Law*. Schwartz Bookstore, 7 p.m. talk. 4093 N. Oakland Ave. (414) 963-3111

### JULY 20

**Belly Dance Drop-In with Shaia Fahrid** - professional and amateur dancers are welcomed to bring their favorite CD's and dance. 7-10pm at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. 383-3727 for info.

### JULY 21 & 22

**Its time for Madison's Pride 2007!** Ultra Nate, Tonya Watts, Ronnie Nyles and DIVA! Are just some of the entertainers lined up for the weekend. Also featuring new vendors & youth area! Brittingham Park, just down W. Washington. 12-6pm Sat. with \$5.00 cover. Sunday 12-6 No Cover! Parade is Sunday at noon, and don't miss the rally at the park at 1pm. For more info, go to [www.myspace.com/madisonpride](http://www.myspace.com/madisonpride).

### JULY 23

**Milwaukee Public Market** presents: HOPS AND HEAT Featuring: Lucy Saunders, author of *Grilling with Beer*. Thought you'd tried everything with the grill? Well think again. These recipes come with a kick - from BEER that is. You'll learn about blending spice rubs and get recipes for a glaze and mop sauce for use on chicken, veggies, fish, or whatever you choose. 5:30-7:00PM. \$25.00. Milwaukee Public Market, 400 N. Water St.

### JULY 25

**Schwartz Bookstore** presents: Historic Photos of Milwaukee. With Milwaukee native Elizabeth A. Chasco.

**This is a stunning collection of photographs,** many of which have never been published. The beautiful coffee table book shows the historical growth of the city from the mid 1800s to the late 1900s in gorgeous black and white photography. 7 p.m. talk. 2559 N. Downer Ave. (414) 332-1181

### JULY 28

**Oh l'Amour,** what's a boy in love supposed to do? Well, for one thing, he shouldn't miss Erasure at the Pabst! What started in 1985 as a rather promising electronic pop outfit called Erasure, has developed, a decade down the line, into the most successful and enduring pop duo the UK has ever produced. Erasure, aka Andy Bell and Vince Clarke, have sold eight million albums around the world and have successfully transcended a variety of musical fads and fashions to retain their pole position. It's a must see. Pabst Theatre 144 E. Wells St. 8pm. Tickets are \$35, \$45, and \$55.00. You can purchase them at the Pabst Theater Box Office, on the web at [www.pabsttheater.org](http://www.pabsttheater.org), [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com), or by calling 414-286-3663, or 800-511-1552. ENTER TO WIN: Q Life, proud sponsor of their Pabst appearance, will be giving away several tix in front rows. Call 383-8200 to be entered in raffle, or write editor@queerlifeneews.com. Include address/phone.

**Brady Street Festival,** from 10am - 10pm. Brady Street comes alive with music, wine, cheese, fresh produce unique vendors and much more! Sample or buy local and regional cheeses, specialty beers and non-alcoholic selections. Get ready for the Brady Street fashion show!

**Visioning Project Picnic.** You are cordially invited to the Visioning Project Community Picnic at Lake Park, Area 4 from 11am to 4pm. Lake Park is a one of Milwaukee's oldest parks perched on the bluff near Kenwood. For more information please call Maria at 414-225-0244

### JULY 29

**Waldorf Education Open House.** 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Visitors are invited to come for tours and information about Waldorf education for Pre-K through Grade 8. Tamarack Waldorf School, 1150 East Brady, Milwaukee. (414) 277-0009. [www.tamarackwaldorf.org](http://www.tamarackwaldorf.org)

### JULY 31

And its back to the **Pabst Theatre** for another musical treat. Lucinda Williams is in town performing with Charlie Louvin (from the legendary Louvin Brothers) 8pm. Musically and spiritually, Lucinda Williams' essence is like a mix of Janis Joplin, Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash, and Loretta Lynn. Get your tickets at The Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee. 800-511-1552 / 414-286-3663.

**Deadline for Aug submissions is July 20th.**

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## MAMA Q Reflects on PrideFest with a Grateful Heart

Another PrideFest has passed and precious memories linger. Trans teens, drag wear, strappy leather accouterments, toddlers in rainbow-adorned strollers; Milwaukee Pride is always a veritable feast for the eyes! My favorite people-watching subjects this year were several sets of middle age parents with their LGBT teen and young adult kids. It somehow just seemed so amazing- so right. To show their support by accompanying LGBT kids to PrideFest simply touched my heart as an epitome of parental love and affirmation and an overall celebration of diversity.

Ever since Milwaukee PrideFest, I've been contemplating the warm and welcoming community we have in Milwaukee. I guess some parents show Pride by being proud of LGBT kids while

others display Pride by staffing a booth as volunteers for an agency or silently protesting the protestors at the front gate, assuring safety for festival-goers. (Thank you PFLAG!)

How do you show your Pride? With a PFLAG logo or rainbow sticker? With an over-the-top rainbow infested outfit or hat? With a catchy phrase on a comfortable t-shirt? By volunteering to help in the parking lots or bringing cans for the ARCW food pantry??

While strolling the grounds, a friend and I asked a few people what it means to show Pride.

"I dance the night away, loving who I am, who I'm with and the freedom we have to be ourselves," said a young man who has attended Milwaukee Pride for about three years.

Another youth responded, "We can be ourselves here at Pride and we realize that our friends and our teachers, our enemies and everybody is all in one big family. And there are so many agencies and groups to serve us and support us. They are all here to help us. That's Pride. That's the Pride family."

### Their friends nodded as they pushed their young children in strollers

"We can be fabulous in our hottest dresses," said one drag queen. I complimented him on his sassy ensemble, complete with matching bag and stilettos.

"We hold hands with our partners, something we cannot always do, said a middle aged lesbian couple." Their friends nodded as they pushed their young children in strollers. We talked a bit about workplace norms, hate crimes and

**PARENTING**

Cyndie Ody-Weis ([MAMAQLN@yahoo.com](mailto: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*.

shopping mall homophobia. It's so sad.

As I talked to people, I felt the familiar and painful sense of hetero privilege. Simple things that I take for granted every day are once-a-year treats for so many PrideFest participants. We hetero folks can hold hands, show affection with partners, be ourselves and wear fabulous hot dresses every day. To be reminded that not everyone shares the same freedoms is humbling... haunting. While the mixed bag of feelings is painful and shameful, it also deepens my appreciation for the community where I am an honored guest. Mama Q has a grateful heart.

Thank you, Milwaukee's LGBT community for allowing me to be a part of your festival. As a PrideFest participant, I am proud of the community that invites me to share in the diversity and humanity that marks our commonality. As an ally, I am reminded of the strong alliance that provides a safety net for so many young people, including my son. As a friend, I cherish your caring, kindness and comfort. Thank you for the passion for equality that filled the air at PrideFest. It was absolutely palpable. Thank you for the voice of justice that rang as loud and clear as a beautiful melody. Thank you for your love of one another and your support of our youth. Above all, thank you for exuding hope.

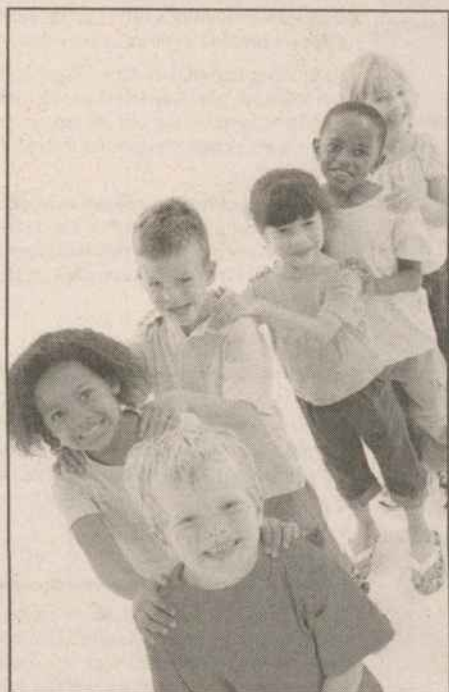
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From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

**Dear EarthTalk:**

*How is it that the Bush Administration is said to have "censored" climate scientists?*

-- Anna Edelman,  
Seattle, WA

**W**ord of the White House censoring federal climate scientists on global warming began leaking out to the press early in George W. Bush's first term in office, but only in the last few years have a few federal employees themselves been willing to go on record with such accusations.

A report released last January by two leading nonprofits, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) and the Government Accountability Project (GAP), found that nearly half of 279 federal climate scientists who responded to a survey reported being pressured to delete references to "global warming" or "climate change" from scientific papers or reports, while many said they were prevented from talking to the media or had their work on the topic edited.

"The new evidence shows that political interference in climate science is no longer a series of isolated incidents but a system-wide epidemic," says UCS's Francesca Grifo. "Tailoring scientific fact for political purposes has become a problem across many federal science agencies."

The issue first bubbled to the surface when Rick Piltz, who worked for a decade coordinating federal research on global warming as part of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program—first under President Clinton and then Bush—quit in mid-2005 alleging that his superiors were misusing and abusing the scientific information he was providing.

Piltz told reporters that Phil Cooney, an official with the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) who worked for an oil industry trade group before coming to the White House, had been editing and altering documents published by the program. "The changes created a greater sense of scientific uncertainty about observed climate change and potential climate change," said Piltz. Soon after Piltz's accusations became known, Cooney left CEQ to work for ExxonMobil, which has itself been accused of publicly misrepresenting the science of global warming.

Just when the brouhaha stirred up by Piltz appeared to be dying down, National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA) climate scientist James Hansen, who has been sounding alarms about global warming since the 1980s, rekindled the debate by telling reporters that NASA public affairs staff, under pressure from the Bush administration, were trying to censor his lectures, papers and website postings and keep him away from journalists. In response, NASA Administrator Michael D. Griffin vowed to support "scientific openness" on climate and other topics.

But openness is only a first step. Says Piltz: "Even if we succeed in lifting this heavy hand of censorship, there is still the problem of getting the political leadership to embrace the findings put forward by

# EARTH TALK



## Questions & Answers About Our Environment

the scientists."

**CONTACTS:** "Investigation Reveals Widespread Suppression of Federal Climate Research," Union of Concerned Scientists, [www.ucsusa.org/news/press\\_release/investigation-reveals-0007.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/investigation-reveals-0007.html); U.S. Climate Change Science Program, [www.climatechange.gov](http://www.climatechange.gov).

**GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION?**

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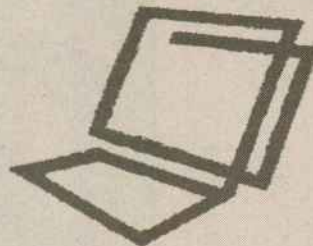
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# Yikes! We're going up in smoke!

In 2004, a staggering number of years of life were lost in Wisconsin through a completely preventable cause. By estimating that the average 35 year old can expect to live until age 77, the UW Comprehensive Cancer Center has calculated that the combined years due to premature death from tobacco use in that one year were 96,000. The direct health care costs for these lost lives and others living with tobacco-related illnesses during that same year were \$2.16 billion.

National studies and regional surveys of tobacco use by LGBT people have shown rates of tobacco use that are 40% to 60% higher than their heterosexual peers. In Wisconsin, that would suggest that between 31% and 35% of us smoke

tobacco given that the tobacco use rate for the general population in Wisconsin is 22%. The recent survey by Diverse and Resilient at Pridefest in Milwaukee on June 9 and 10 reflected a tobacco use rate of 33% for DAILY smokers and another 11% for occasional users.

The Pridefest survey is based on a convenience sample – people attending a Pride event may or may not reflect the average LGBT person in Wisconsin. Similarly, people who answer surveys while at Pridefest may not even reflect the average Pridefest attendee. Still, some credibility should be given these results because they comprise the responses of 600 LGBT people. Furthermore, these results are right on the money in comparison

to the national and regional surveys completed in recent years.

Speaking of “on the money,” these survey results suggest that we are spending \$162 million per year on health care because of LGBT people smoking. We could calculate that cost in terms of iPods (405,000 of them) or really great houses (648) or S-Class Mercedes (1,884 of those). But the bigger issue, the harder calculation, is the years of life lost. Seven thousand two hundred years among LGBT people in Wisconsin this year. And every year until we make the necessary changes.

Another feature of these survey findings is who smokes most. We considered gender, sexual orientation, race, age, and degree of “outness.” Age was the significant variable. Younger people smoked much more (60%) than older LGBT people (35%). In the next year or two we will be able to get even more robust data on our health behaviors as the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, produced by CDC and implemented by the State of Wisconsin, adds questions about sexual orientation and sexual behavior.

I can almost hear the chorus now: “This guy must hate gay people. Doesn't he have any pride? Was he ever any fun? Who is he anyway?”

Well, to clarify things, I am not at all opposed to smokers. I look at this way – if



## HEALTH

Gary Hollander, Ph.D., (ghollander@queerlifeneews.com) is president and executive director of Diverse and Resilient, a nonprofit committed to the healthy development of LGBT people in Wisconsin. He is also owner and principal consultant of Gary Hollander Enterprises, which assists organizations with their development, emphasizing change management, team development and cultural competency.

someone is a casualty of a multi-billion dollar campaign to smoke, who can possibly blame her or him? The cards are so stacked against smokers, especially if they came from a family that smoked, I am amazed that they do anything else but smoke.

Similarly, I am not opposed to accommodating smokers who are working to limit or stop their smoking. Nicotine replacement combined with group interventions have been shown to be very effective in assisting some LGBT smokers quit. I believe tax dollars should be devoted to assisting smokers who want to quit or limit their smoking.

What I am opposed to is pretending that tobacco use is not a really big issue for our community. I love my queer friends and acquaintances. I selfishly want them around for a very long time, instead of going up in smoke.

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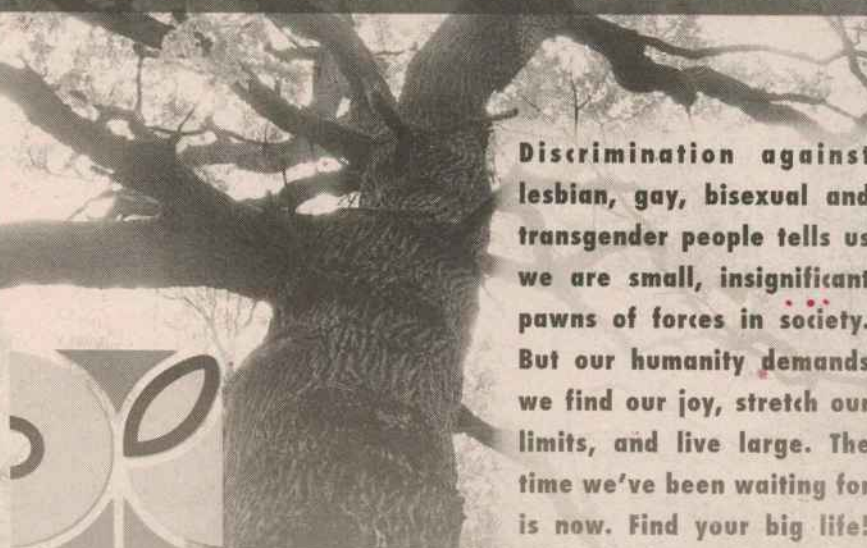
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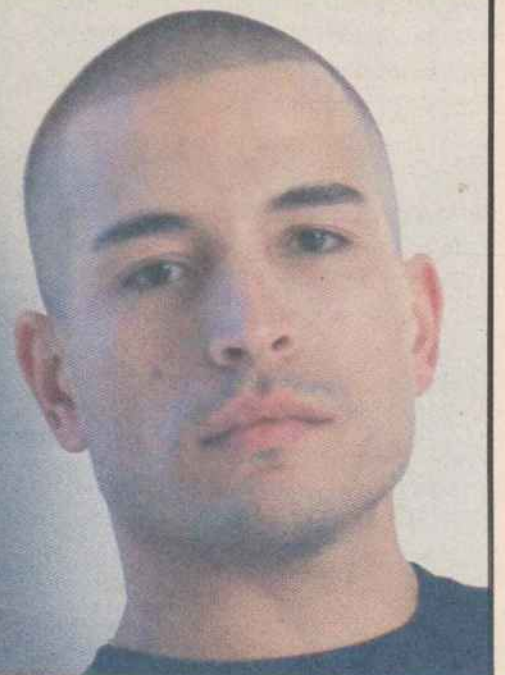
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## ARTS CALENDAR

## JULY 7

**Dance2XS:** Summer Dance Series 2007 continues at Danceworks Studio with this Chicago-based hip-hop group. Here for one night only, reservations are strongly recommended. 7:30 p.m.,

**All performances take place at Danceworks Studio Theatre.** To purchase tickets and for more information, please call Danceworks Box Office at (414) 277-8480, ext. #5, or online at [www.danceworks1661.org](http://www.danceworks1661.org)

**Check out the new art exhibit at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.** "points of (dis) location" with works by Carrie Hoelzer and Susan Retzer is a collaboration of musings and aphorism in space. Opening reception 6-9pm. 703 S. 2nd St. 414-383-3727 Show runs through August 23

**Madison Gay Video Club** "Shock To The System" (Genius Ent. dir. Ron Oliver, 2006) "Muscle Ranch II" (Buckshot/Colt, dir. Kristofer Weston, 2006) 8:00 PM, <http://www.mgvc.org> 244-8675 (evenings) Note: Confidential Location.

**"CAGED!** Artists in Their Natural Habitat" presented by the Lemon St. Gallery in Kenosha. Live Artists, Live Music, Live Auction, 5pm - 9pm. Auction starts at 7:00pm. Participating artists include: Kathryn Comstock, Edgar Cuarezma, Rosy Curtin, D'Goca, Chet Griffith, Diane Levesque, and Christian Villacres among others. Live Music! Lemon St. Gallery, 4601 Sheridan Road Kenosha WI 53140. Phone: 262.605.4745. Gallery Hours: Wed 11-9, Thurs 11-5, Fri 11-6, Sat 11-5, Sun 1-4, Closed: Mon/Tues

## JULY 8

**Music CD Showcase** featuring Eric Himan with special guests Corky Morgan, Yolanda Roth and Ryan Leech at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. from 6:30-8:30pm. MGAC 6:30-8:30pm. Admission \$7

## JULY 13

**Danceworks on Tap:** Universal Rhythm. Danceworks resident tappers present new tap works, and will be joined onstage by special guests Siempre Flamenco. 7:30 p.m. & Repeats on the 15th

To purchase tickets and for more information, please call Danceworks Box Office at (414) 277-8480, ext. #5, or online at [www.danceworks1661.org](http://www.danceworks1661.org)

## JULY 14

**Nervous But Excited.** The LAMM concert series 8pm, MGAC, 703 S. 2nd St. Call 414-272-9442 for tickets.

## THRU JULY 15

**Sci-Fi Love Life** with Bill Dunlap (Maryland) and Ric Stultz (Riverwest). Bill Dunlap is a painter, sculptor, illustrator and cartoonist who works with cheaper, more ephemeral material, like butcher paper, sticks, string and cardboard. His work has been featured at the Receiver Gallery, in the Chicago Reader, at the Bluetenweiss Gallery in Berlin, and many other venues. Ric Stultz splits his time between drawing, painting and designing. Stultz has shown at The Maverick Room

in Alberta, the Fashion and Textiles Museum as well as 4Wall in London, the V1 Gallery in Copenhagen, and at Premium Goods in Houston, the Rugue Buddha Gallery in Minneapolis, Hotcakes Gallery and others. Hotcakes Gallery, 3379 N. Pierce St. in Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood. 414/961-7714

## JULY 17

**NETworks Presentations and M&I Band Broadway Across America** - Milwaukee presents SWEET CHARITY starring PAIGE DAVIS as Charity Hope at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets on sale now and range in price from \$20-\$68 depending upon performance time and seating preference. Tickets may be purchased at the Marcus Center Box Office at 414-273-7206 or through Ticketmaster at 414-276-4545 or by logging onto [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Performance through Sunday, July 22 at the Marcus Center, 929 North Water Street, Milwaukee. Show times are Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; Friday at 8 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sunday at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

## JULY 20

**Gerald Casel Dance (NYC):** The Scheme of Things. New York based company brings meticulously constructed dances and theatricality. 7:30 p.m. Repeats the 21st \*Saturday's show is followed by the DanceLAB event: The Second Show: Cutting Edge Screendance. To purchase tickets and for more information, please call Danceworks Box Office at (414) 277-8480, ext. #5, or online at [www.danceworks1661.org](http://www.danceworks1661.org).

## JULY 21

**Madison Gay Video Club** "When Darkness Falls" (Jeff London Prod., dir. Jeff London, 2007) "Basic Plumbing III" (Falcon FVP 174, dir. Chad Donovan, 2006) 8:00 PM, <http://www.mgvc.org> 244-8675 (evenings) Note: Confidential Location

**CALL FOR ARTISTS!** Applications are due today for the Town Square Arts Fair. September 8th & 9th, 2007 at Bayshore Town Center. This is a fundraising event to benefit the Riverwest Artists Association, a member-run, non-profit art organization. The juried fair is open to all art mediums but work must be original and made by the applicant. Artist booths are 10' x 10'.

You can download an application from Riverwest Artists Association's website [www.riverwestart.org](http://www.riverwestart.org) <http://www.riverwestart.org/> or call 414.374.4722 or email [info@riverwestart.org](mailto:info@riverwestart.org) to have one mailed to you. Notification of acceptance will be mailed no later than July 28, 2007. For fees and more information please call 414.374.4722.

## JULY 27

**It's Gallery Night!** Check out all the great galleries in town, and make a purchase. Support the arts!

Start with the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, featuring their current exhibit, "Points of (dis) location" from 6-9pm. 703 S. 2nd St, in Milwaukee's Walker's Point.

**Gallery Night at Danceworks!** Reception and Gallery Tour Friday, July 27th from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Artists: Genevieve Davis and Julee duPlessis Title: The Soul

**of Dance and Imagery.** The expressive figurative paintings of Genevieve Davis and Julee duPlessis invite us to spontaneously dance with their images or to turn pensively inward to engage in passionate dialogues. For more information, please call (414) 277-8480. Repeats the 28th.

## JULY 28

**Oh l'Amour,** what's a boy in love supposed to do? Well, for one thing, he shouldn't miss Erasure at the Pabst! What started in 1985 as a rather promising electronic pop outfit called Erasure, has developed, a decade down the line, into the most successful and enduring pop duo the UK has ever produced. Erasure, aka Andy Bell and Vince Clarke, have sold eight million albums around the world and have successfully transcended a variety of musical fads and fashions to retain their pole position. It's a must see. Pabst Theatre 144 E. Wells St. 8pm. Tickets on sale now!

Madison's sexiest and most beloved Drag King Troupe **MADKINGS** visits Milwaukee for an evening of hot songs and laughter. The MADKINGS have been entertaining audiences throughout Madison since 2005. They perform Genres from Rock to Country to Show Tunes and everything in between. Join us for their Milwaukee debut! Their fabulous stage presence and hot style will leave you panting for more.

Make sure to bring your singles! Admission \$6. The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St, Milwaukee. Call 414-383-3727 for info.

## THRU JULY 29

**ARTFULLY ARTIFICIAL:** Welcome to the Dollhouse. The definition of a doll as "the artfully artificial representation of a human being," is the best way to describe the work in this unusual show. Book and mixed-media artists include Carolyn Brady, Darlene Hagopian, Robin Kinney, Dina Leib, Jim Maurer, Cathryn Miller, Petra Press, Jessica Poor, Corinne Stubson, Bernadine Tischer and Sharon VanRuiswyk.


The show runs through July 29, with extended hours on Gallery Night, July 27, from 1-9pm. The gallery is open Thursday-Sunday from 1-5pm and by appointment. Bay View Book Arts Gallery, 2693 South Kinnickinnic. 414-758-8699

## COMING IN AUGUST:

## AUGUST 15

**THOM PAINE, BASED ON NOTHING** by Will Eno, is coming to the Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre 2252 South Kinnickinnic. Local Milwaukee actor Tom Dillon, who has performed throughout Milwaukee with countless theatre companies, brings this one-man solo show to life. Directed by Mark Bucher, the show runs through Sept. 2 for more info: [www.boulevardtheatre.com](http://www.boulevardtheatre.com) for or phone at 414.744.5757

Due to space limitations all events will be considered for monthly publications if submitted by the 20th of the month. To guarantee your event is seen in QLife, please consider placing an ad. Call 414-383-8200 to speak to a sales rep today!



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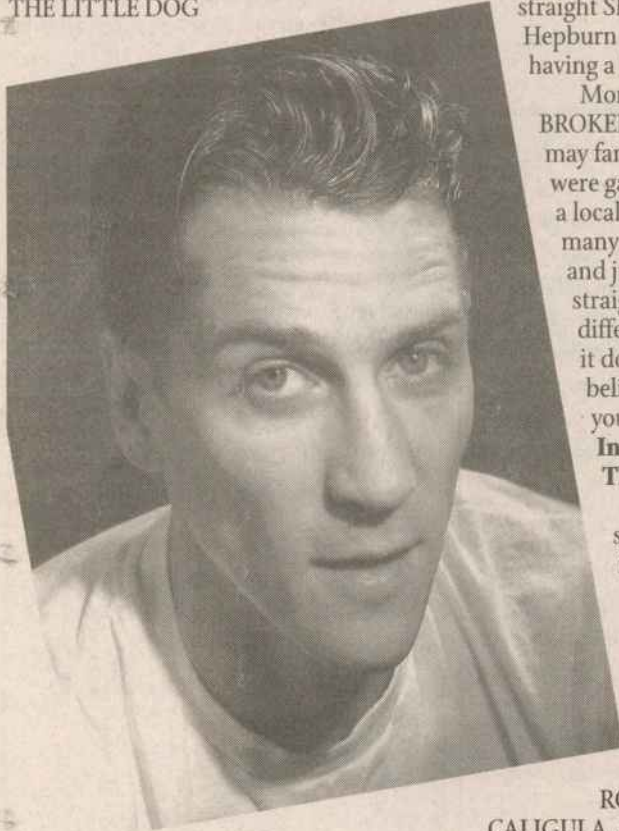
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# Straight in the Gay Scene

It is a well-known fact that many gay actors play it straight on the stage and screen. Years ago closeted actors feared losing their careers. Thankfully, today things are much different. The recent Tony award-winning Broadway play *THE LITTLE DOG*



LAUGHED deals with this issue. It is a play about a female agent trying to hide the fact the one of her male clients is gay.

On the other side of this issue, are the many straight actors who have successfully played gay roles. One of the first openly gay films is *THE BOYS IN THE BAND*, with gay roles played successfully by straight men.

In the movie *THE CHILDRENS HOUR*, straight Shirley McLaine and Audrey Hepburn played women accused of having a Lesbian affair.

More recent was the major hit *BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN*. While we may fantasize that both male leads were gay...they are both straight. As a local play director, I have directed many straight actors in gay roles, and just as many gay actors in straight roles. You may ask, "what difference does it make?" - but it does when it comes to being believable in a role, and doing your research for that character.

## Introducing Mr. Kirk Thomsen

Local actor Kirk Thomsen started acting when he was in High School. His dream of working professionally did not happen till he was in his early 30's. Looking several years younger than his age, was an advantage in this new career. Kirk has worked in *JEFFREY*, *ROCKY HORROR SHOW*, *CALIGULA*, and *RECKLESS* to name a few shows. Several of the parts Kirk has played have been as gay men. Both men I cast in *JEFFREY* are straight. I have to admit that while directing them there

were times I actually thought the two men might be seeing each other. The very open and intimate kissing scenes were so real that I wondered how they could feel so comfortable in these characters. But, after each performance they would return to their female partners. Over dinner recently I asked Kirk how he prepared for the role. He said the emotions he portrayed on stage were the same as he would feel for a woman in his personal life.

Kirk recently started a job as a bartender in one of our Walker's Point area gay bars. I asked him how it felt for a straight man to work in a gay bar. He told me it is all about customer service, and that there is no difference. But, he did notice that gay bars are much more open in their sexuality. Gay men will say a lot more about their sexual feelings and desires. In this way it is a totally different World. He also works dealing at POTAWATOMIE Casino.

Kirk has some interesting shows coming up in the future. For *OFF THE WALL* Theatre he will perform in *LADY IN QUESTION*. This Charles Busch campy play also features our favorite *DEAR RUTHIE*. My she gets around lately...what a STAR! Then Kirk will be in a production of *WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOLFE*. After that he will appear in the new play *DOG SEES GOD* for RSVP Productions - a spoof of the Peanuts gang all grown-up. He will also perform in a Dale Gutzman production of *HAMLET*. Lets all wish Kirk the best in his new job, and upcoming theater work.

Remember that Sunset Playhouse will be performing the live musical this month.



## 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.

## Last MONTH's Trivia Answer

Kevin Bacon starred in the movie role.

## This Month's Trivia Question

Several groups are performing the musical *JOSEPH* this summer. The role of the Pharaoh is a spoof on what famous Rock and Roll legend?

Try to catch it! Also Bay Players will be holding auditions for their entire theater season late July. Musicals *CHICAGO* and *INTO THE WOODS* are pending rights.

*Aunt Blanche is still lost at PrideFest somewhere. I'm sure I will find her soon... maybe at SUMMERFEST! R.B.*

# An interview with Carrie Hoelzer, artist.

By Paul Masterson

Carrie Hoelzer and Susan Retzer open a collaborative conceptual art installation, "points of (dis)location" July 7 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

Carrie Hoelzer is currently pursuing an MFA, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She spent several years teaching art in a high school setting, earning an MA in Education in 2001.

Susan Retzer earned her BFA in Electronic Art in 1993 from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. She is now turning to creating fine art; work in installation, lenticular imaging, and other digital media. Retzer is currently an instructor of Visual Communications at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

**Paul Masterson, executive director of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, recently spoke with Carrie Hoelzer about the installation.**

**PM:** Carrie, you are about to install a show with Susan Retzer, "points of (dis)location", at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. What issue will it address?

**CH:** "points of (dis)location" describes events or ways of isolation - of not fitting into the groove. Gender expectations in the heteronormative world create disengagement as a coping mechanism. The work addresses the unpleasantness, emotional anxiety and identity issues that come from not complying with the role fulfillment expected of us.

**PM:** Tell us about the show and the collaboration with Susan Retzer.

**CH:** Susan and I have a common perspective. We brainstormed and agreed on a focus with objects and images. It's easy to go off into other areas but we confined ourselves to the experience of disengaging from a situation - not wanting to be present in the environment that's set.

I work across media. The installation consists of large photos and objects. The images reflect an emotional obscurity - a body but the person is disengaged. The starched out

garments, dance costumes actually, are suspended so they appear as if someone is wearing them but the body is absent. They indicate performance and expectations in a gender specific way.

The pairing of objects and photos reinforces the concept of gender expectation in the patriarchal and heteronormative society.

**PM:** Can you elaborate on "working across media?"

**CH:** The way I work, the concept and how materiality communicates are the most important. One medium is too limiting. So, in this case, the photos aren't enough. The garments confront by interrupting the space of the viewer - the space is shared and the dialogue takes place. I like work that requires interaction and experience.

**PM:** Is this strictly a woman's or feminist's perspective?

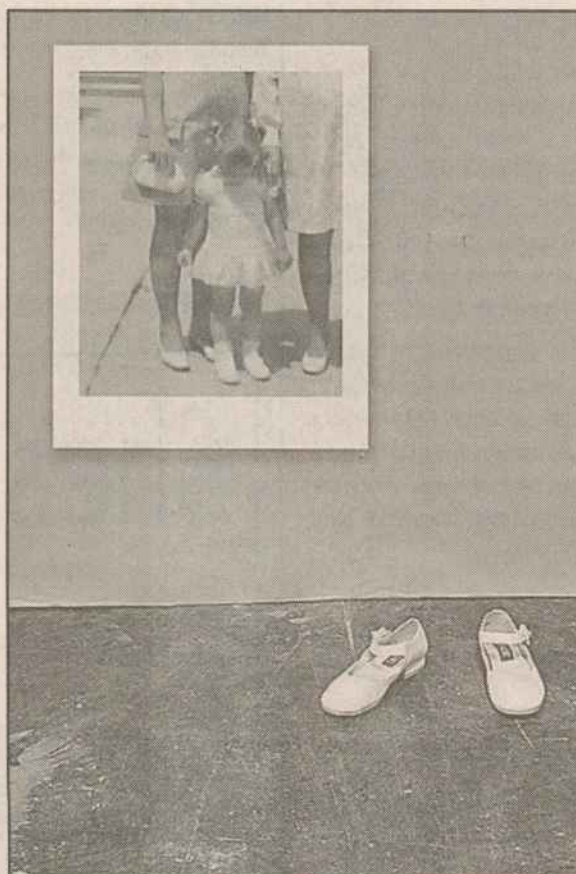
**CH:** I don't know how it could not be. My work reflects my experience and my experience is female raised in a small town with Catholic schooling. The show talks about female gender norms and expectations - suitable interests. But, a male can relate.

Feminism is misunderstood. I hold a social feminist viewpoint that espouses identity politics. Sanctioning behavior is a turn off. But, I'm not opposed to celebrating womanhood.

The show's concept is open ended and isn't specifically feminist. It's the about the source and mood rather than the point or a narration - it's about a sense of absence.

The goal is to be universal so anyone can engage in it.

*Points of (dis)location opens with an artists' reception on Saturday, July 7, 6-9pm and runs through August 23. Gallery hours 10am-4pm, Monday through Friday and by appointment. Special gallery hours from 6-10pm on Gallery Night, Friday, July*



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Prizes include cash, industry exposure and merchandise. Submission deadline September 1, 2007. Entry forms are available online through the contest website: [www.OneInTenScreenplayContest.com](http://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.com](http://www.OneInTenScreenplayContest.com)

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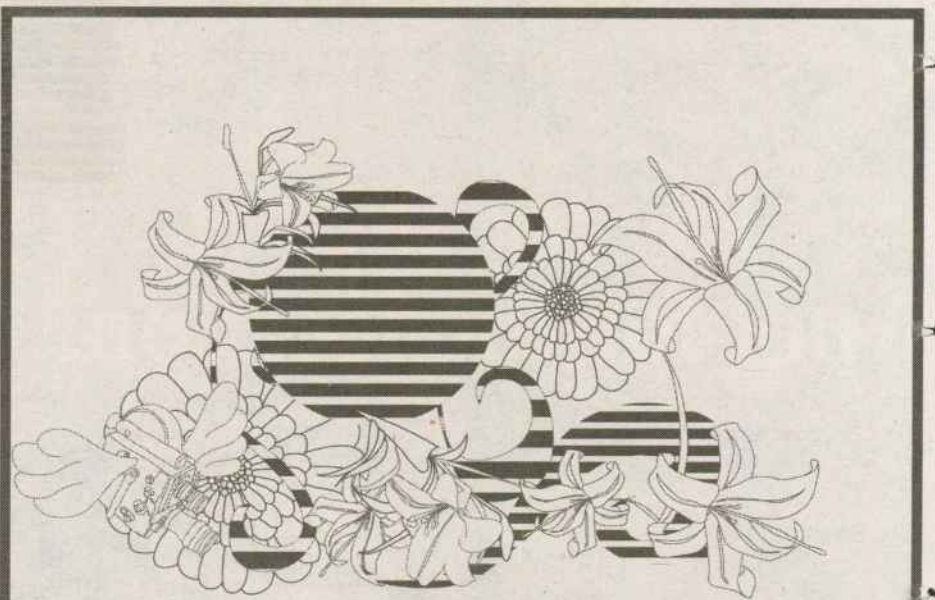
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**HI-FI LOFTS** - Open Sat. & Sun. 11-1 or by appt. 3059 N. West St., Milwaukee. All appliances included, stainless steel cabinets, butcher block countertops, in-unit laundry. Shower over tub and pedestal sink. Air conditioned unit. Heated floors in the first floor units and hardwood floors in the units on the 2nd-4th floors. Price ranges from \$139,900-\$199,900. [www.hifi-lofts.com](http://www.hifi-lofts.com)



Live in a distinct urban lifestyle. The John Phafel building is a nationally registered Historic Landmark that has been meticulously restored with top of the line amenities. Custom finishes, kitchen with heated granite and top end appliances. 18 ft. ceilings. #940094



2649 N. Prospect Ave. Beautifully renovated building. Prime location blocks from Downer shops. KIT boasts cherry cabinets, SS appliances, granite counters & breakfast bar. LR w/artificial FP & access to private sun porch. Kohler fixtures & pedestal sinks. Spacious BRs w/ample closets. In-unit laundry. \$224,900-\$244,900



Classic Urban townhome! Three bedrooms, three full & one half bath. Loaded with elegant architectural detail and quality finishes. Includes Brazilian cherry floors, 10' ceilings, honed Carrara marble, cherry cabinets. Library/sitting room with fireplace and floor to ceiling built-in bookcase. Four fireplaces. \$800's #937304



413 N 2nd St #290, Milwaukee. Historic warehouse loft condo with beautiful city views from your huge deck in cream city brick building 2 bedroom, 3 bath condo features high ceilings with exposed beams and gas fireplace. #939782



1325 N Van Buren #302, Milwaukee. Upscale Van Buren City Lofts with breathtaking city views from your own private balcony. Stylish condo features 16 ft. ceilings, gas fireplace, exposed brick walls, SS app. & loft area with 8ft ceilings and spiral staircase. Built in winecases with backlighting and computer area. #943943



2486 N Burien, Milwaukee. Completely reconstructed open concept home. Kitchen has 23 ft. ceiling with skylight, custom cabinetry and Sil Stone counter tops. French doors to huge cedar deck patio. Wide stairway to master bedroom with cathedral ceiling and sky-lit loft and master bath. #942721