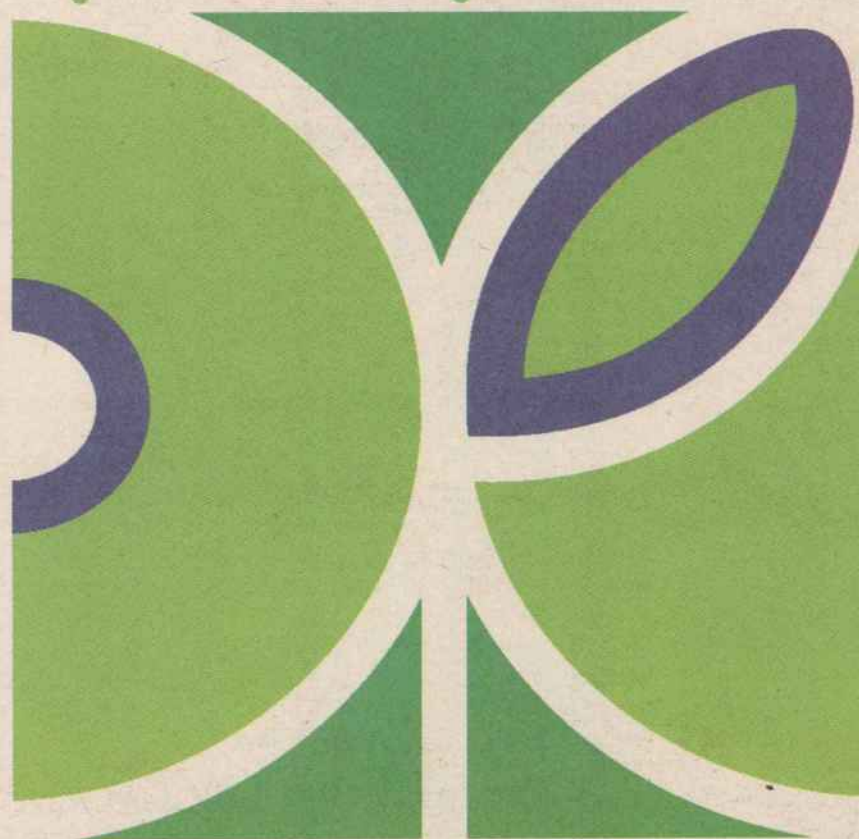




Direction, Focus, and a Mission:



Diverse & Resilient

By Kathy Nichols

"One of our big successes is that we've been influential in putting over \$350,000 back into other organizations since our inception," says Gary Hollander, Ph.D., with a smile.

Hollander, a licensed psychologist, is the President, Executive Director, and founder of Diverse and Resilient. "Our organization is a capacity-building, intermediary organization. Our clients are other organizations and leaders rather than the general public," he says. "We back places like the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and SAGE (Senior Action in a Gay Environment.)"

Diverse and Resilient works towards its goal by holding conferences, youth institutes, trainings, and meetings. Their intent is to aid the inception and continued success of various LGBT groups. D & R receives funding from a number of institutions, including the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the Medical College of Wisconsin, the Faye McBeath Foundation, the Threshold Foundation, the Wisconsin AIDS Fund, and private donors.

"What I noticed when I first started this program 11 years ago was that LGBT young people didn't have the skills necessary to build healthy lives," says Hollander. "But I knew that there was no way that we were going

to be able to build a big enough organization to meet those needs across the state of Wisconsin, so instead we decided to help other organizations do exactly that. After about 6 years of doing youth work, we discovered from young people that they were very concerned about aging out of programs because they didn't see a good, solid infrastructure for LGBT adults." The focus of D & R was then expanded to include people over the age of 24.

"When we first started doing this work, there was one volunteer doing LGBT youth work in the state of Wisconsin. Now we have dozens of volunteers and somewhere in the neighborhood of 16 to 18 full-time staff. The original budgets for youth work totaled about \$5,000 and now they're in the neighborhood of about \$750,000 a year. There were initially about 15 young people involved in one group and 11 years later, there are something like 800 to 1,000 involved," says Hollander.

"We here at D & R have a philosophy that development begins in the cradle and ends in the grave, so we're interested in the lifespan development of all LGBT people across the age spectrum," according to Brenda Coley, Director of Adult Services at D & R. "We've determined that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



ORGANIZATIONS

QLife's organizations that serve the LGBT Community are on our website. We are also looking for an individual, business or organization to sponsor this page so it can appear monthly in print call 414-383-8200 for information. If we've missed you or it's time to update your organization's information, please email editor@queerlifeneews.com.

Statewide

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

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
820 Plankinton Ave
POB 510498
Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-273-1991
www.arcw.org

BiNet USA
National bisexual political organization
202-882-4384

Children Service Society of Wisconsin
620 South 76th
Suite 120
Milwaukee, WI 53214
414-453-1400

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

Fair Wisconsin
122 State St., Suite 309
Madison, WI 53703
608-441-0143
www.fairwisconsin.org

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

Gay Youth Wisconsin
Hotline
Fridays and Saturdays,
7-10pm
1-866-gay-youth
414-272-TEEN

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

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

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

Queer Life News
LGBT publication
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414-383-8200
www.queerlifeneews.com

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LGBT nightlife publication
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Green Bay, WI 54301
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Madison, WI 53703
608-270-1024

Wisconsin DHFS HIV/AIDS
Program
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Madison, WI 53701
800-991-5532

Wisconsin HIV/STD
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Information and Referral
Center
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24/7
800-334-2437
www.irc-wisconsin.org

Milwaukee

Alcoholics Anonymous
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414-771-9119

Bay View GAYS
(414) 482-3796
bvgpresident@bvgays.com
www.bvgays.com

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

Black Pride
www.blackpridecdp.com
A Charles D. Productions
Program

Black and White Men
Together
P.O. Box 091475
Milwaukee, WI 53209
414-540-9437
www.bwmtmilwaukee.org

Brady East STD Clinic
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Milwaukee, WI 53202, 414-272-2144
www.bestd.org

Brew City Bears
P.O. Box 1035
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-299-0401
www.brewcitybears.org

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

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

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Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-263-9999
www.charlesdprodinc.com

Connexus
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Wisconsin
A Diverse and Resilient
Program
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Milwaukee, WI, 53202

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

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

Cream City Foundation
315 W. Court St.
Suite 201 B
Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-225-0244
www.creamcityfoundation.org

Cream City Squares
G/L square dancing club
414-445-8080
www.iagsdc.org/
creamcity

Femme Mafia Milwaukee
www.myspace.com/
femmefiamke

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

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

Foster Youth
Independence
2672 N. Holton St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
www.fyccenter.org

Front Runners
Running group
414-332-1527

Galano Club
12-step recovery club
315 W. Court St. Suite 201
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-276-6936

Narcotics Anonymous,
AI-Anon and
Sexual Compulsive
Anonymous Meetings
www.galanoclub.org

GAMMA- Milwaukee
Sports/outdoors/
recreation/social
P.O. Box 1900
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
P.O. Box 090441
Milwaukee, WI 53209
414-265-8500

Gay People's Union
P.O. Box 208
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Hotline: 414-645-0585

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

Gemini Gender Group
(TV/TS/TG support/social)
P.O. Box 44211,
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Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee
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Milwaukee, WI 53201

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Milwaukee, WI 53234
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Tournament

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Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-881-8071
www.hitmilwaukee.org

Lesbian Alliance (LAMM)
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-272-9442
www.lesbianalliance.org

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

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

Marquette Gay/Straight
Alliance
Campus Ministry
617 N. 14th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233
414-288-6873

Men's Voices Milwaukee
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-765-9198
www.mvmchorus.org

Metro Milwaukee Tennis
Club
3957 N. 81st St.
Milwaukee, WI 53222, 414-616-3716
www.milwaukeetennis.com

Miltown Kings
www.myspace.com/
miltownkings

Milwaukee Gay Arts
Center
703 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-383-3727
www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org

Milwaukee LGBT
Community
Center
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-271-2656
www.mkelgbt.org

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

Milwaukee Pride Parade
P.O. Box 070177
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-607-3793
www.prideparademke.com

Milwaukee Symphony
Chorus
Auditions/info
414-559-9330

Narcotics Anonymous
Request gay meetings
800-711-6375
414-276-8546

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

Outdoors Cooperative
Sports
Group
414-963-9833

PFLAG
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-299-9198

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

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

PrideFest, Inc.
315 W. Court Street
Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-272-3378
www.pridefest.com

Project Q Youth Program
315 W. Court
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-223-3220

SPECTRUM
P.O. Box 254
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-482-4310

The Queer Program
Channel 96
P.O. Box 090441
Milwaukee, WI 53209, 414-265-8500

Queer Zine Archive Project
2935 N. Fratney St.
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
315 W. Court

Milwaukee, WI 53212
mkerainbowfamilies@
hotmail.com

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

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

Saturday Softball League
2333 N. 56th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53210
414-350-7147
www.ssbmlmilwaukee.com

Sexual Compulsives
Anonymous (SCA)
414-299-0755

Shoreline Country Dancers
2809 E. Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207
www.shorline-milw.org

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

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

Washington Heights
Rainbow Association
(414) 258-8834
washhtsrainbow@aol.com
www.shingtonheightsrainbow.org

Wauwatosa Rainbow
Association
(aka Rainbow Fireflies)
(414) 774-9470
tosarainbow@yahoo.com

Wisconsin Cream City
Chorus
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-276-8787
www.creamcitychorus.org

Wisconsin Gay Hockey
414-202-5874
home.wi.r.com/
wigayhockey

Wisconsin Outdoor
Women
P.O. Box 94
Hales Corners, WI 53130
414-427-2082

WI Rainbow Alliance
of the
Deaf
P.O. Box 432
Germantown, WI 53022
www.wiscrad.org

Women's Voices
Milwaukee
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-534-5645

Churches

First Unitarian Society of
Milwaukee
1342 N Astor
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 273-5257
www.uumilwaukee.org

Lake Park Lutheran
Church
2647 N Stowell St
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 962-9190
www.lakeparklutheran.com

Living Waters
Contemplative Life
Center/
Tippecanoe Presbyterian
Church
125 W. Saveland Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-481-4680
http://tippechurch.org

Milwaukee Metropolitan
Community Church
POB 1421
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

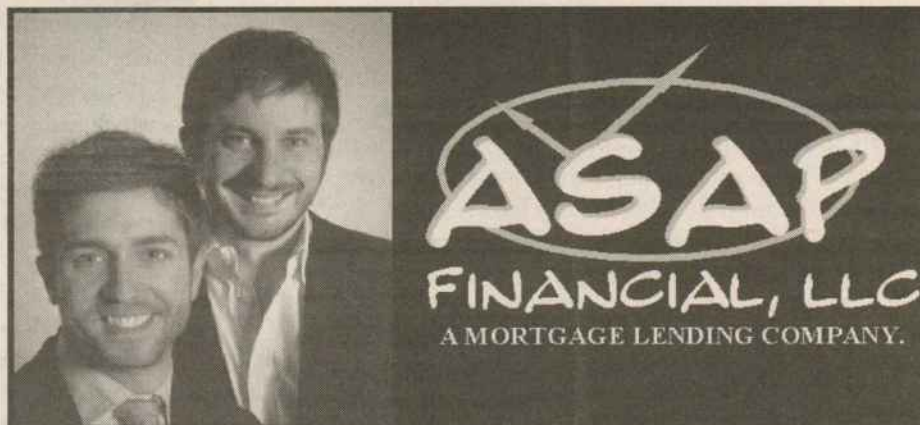
Underwood Baptist
1916 N Wauwatosa Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-4246
www.underwoodchurch.com

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

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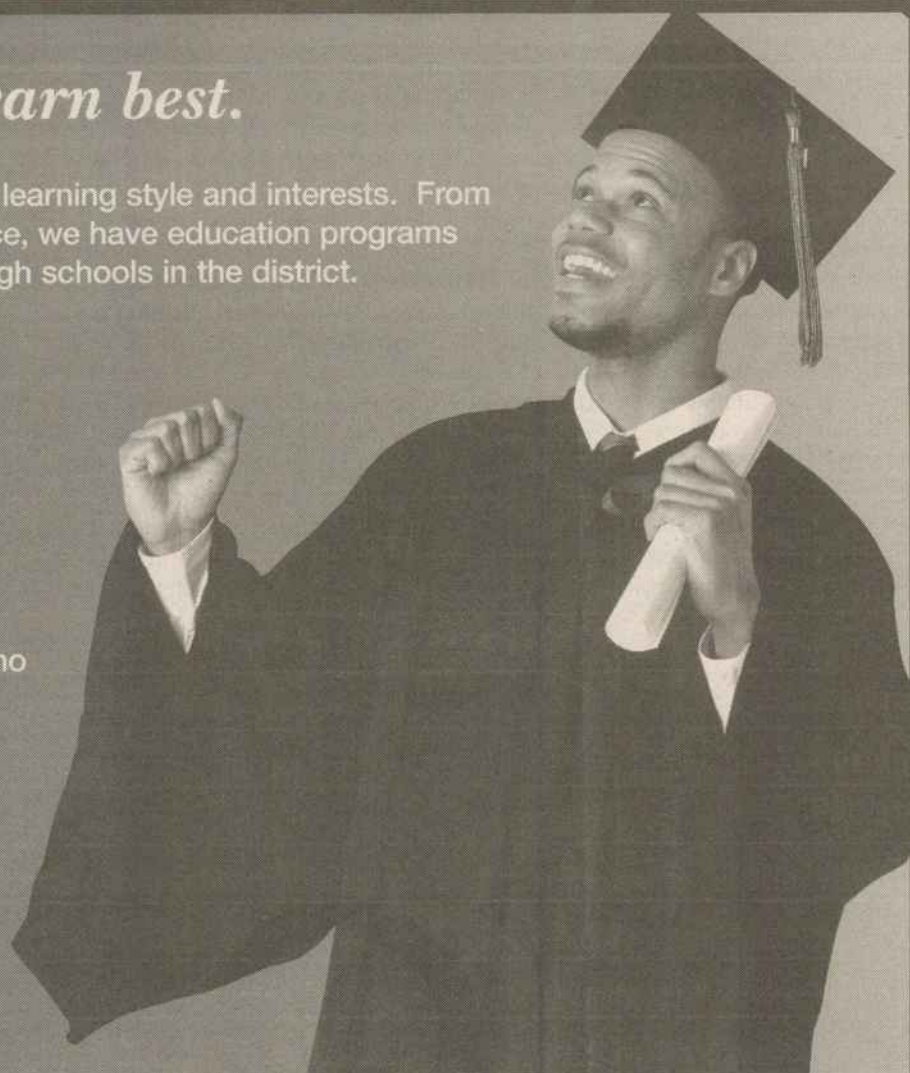
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*The classroom
is the most important
place in the district.*

DIVERSE & RESILIENT *continued from page 1*

there are certain behaviors that determine our health. And we know that discrimination and stress inhibit our ability to take on healthy behaviors. Smoking is an unhealthy behavior; drinking alcohol is an unhealthy behavior. We know that these things are a result of discrimination and what we call 'minority stress;' for people of color, it's 'multiple stress'."

"We are also teaching life skills and empowering transgender folks to lead healthy lives. Generally the issues are not about them...the problem doesn't lie with the people who have the identity; it's with other folks and how they relate to people with that identity," says Coley.

Diverse and Resilient holds workshops, such as their youth institute in Whitewater. For that particular one, they have approximately 40 - 50 teenagers and between 12 and 15 advisors stay in the UW-Whitewater campus dormitory for three days. Activities typically include an art project with artist-in-residence, Maureen Kane, as well as work on HIV prevention projects. The goal of these summer programs is to build leadership of LGBT youth so that they can go back to their community-based organizations and take on leadership roles.

The organization also involves itself with a number of projects focused on various issues dealt with by the LGBT community. Specifically, D & R assists with programming issues, training, and connections with resources. One project the group worked on was called "Project MPowerment".

"It was originally for gay and bi young men, for HIV-prevention, but we tailored it for our community

and our programs, which are for everybody," according to Mark O'Neil, Director of Youth Services. "It's not only about HIV-prevention but also about having some self-esteem, which really comes down to what HIV-prevention is about."

D & R has also been instrumental in the development of other LGBT programs that exist and are much more widely known, such as "Project Q" (the youth-centered program provided by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center). Partnering with the Medical College of Wisconsin, D & R is involved with a developing a three-year action plan to deal with intimate partner violence specific to Wisconsin's LGBT community.

"We operate a network with other youth programs around the state to sort of keep them talking to each other and to facilitate the work we do with them. It's called RAY, the Rainbow Alliance for Youth," says Program Assistant Rachel Federlin. "We work as a capacity-building and leadership development organization," she says. "We don't provide direct service, but we work with organizations that do. We also provide some of their (the youth groups') programs and give them training on how to run them as well as help them raise money."

"We really do look at HIV-prevention much more holistically than just handing out condoms and talking about how to put a condom on correctly. That's part of our focus, but it's more than that. If someone doesn't care about themselves, it doesn't matter how many times you teach them how to put on a condom, they're not going to care enough to do it," according to Federlin.

As reported in an April 2006 study put

together by Gary Hollander and Brenda Coley from D & R along with David Seal from the Medical College of Wisconsin, health issues affect the LGBT population at a higher rate.

When surveyed, 14% of LGBT persons questioned said that they "always or nearly always felt sad in the past 30 days", contrasted to 5% of the general population, and 22% LGBT acknowledged that they had "considered suicide in the past year," as compared to 3% of heterosexuals. Also reported were higher instances of being afraid for their personal safety (30% compared to 5%), drinking within the past month (80% compared to 68%), driving or riding with a driver who had had too much to drink (19% compared to 4%), and smoking (37% compared to 22%).

"In the surveys of ages 18 - 24 we did at PrideFest, there are significant numbers of alcohol, tobacco, and other risks that are higher for LGBT people. We couldn't find anything out there dealing with alcohol and LGBT youth, so we created a project; we've adapted a project that came out of the University of Washington. There's LGBT rehab, but no prevention," according to O'Neil.

For more information on programs at Diverse and Resilient, please visit www.diverseandresilient.org.



Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership Grants \$25,000

Milwaukee - The Board of Directors of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation approved \$25,000 in grants to six local nonprofit organizations that serve Milwaukee's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities. The grants were awarded through the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership, a collaborative fund created by the Cream City Foundation, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and National Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues to help encourage giving to LGBT communities in the area.

"On behalf of the community, the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership was pleased to be able to grant \$25,000 as part of our approach of strengthening and supporting valuable programs affecting LGBT individuals," said Jim Marks, Vice President of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

Six local nonprofit organizations received grants, including Children's Service Society of Wisconsin (\$5,000); Cream City Foundation (\$4,000); Diverse and Resilient (\$5,000); FORGE (\$3,000); and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center (\$5,000).

"The Fund was honored to make grants to nonprofits that provide critical and necessary services to Milwaukee's LGBT community," said Len Iaquina, Grants Committee Member. "With the help of our donors, we are able to support a wide range of programs impacting LGBT seniors, LGBT youth in foster care, and

transgender communities with a unique LGBT focus."

"The Fund's grant committee conducted a thorough evaluation of the proposals, before recommending organizations that are receiving funding," said Maria Cadenas, Executive Director of the Cream City Foundation. "Our goal was to support a variety of organizations throughout our community, including collaborative efforts between LGBT and non-LGBT organizations."

The Grants Committee was composed of: Neil Albrecht, Maria Cadenas, Chris Doerfler, Jennifer Gryniewicz, Len Iaquina, Jim Marks, Sernorma Mitchell, Joseph Pabst, and Melissa Nimke. Funds for the Partnership have been received from several individuals within the Founder's Circle, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Brico Fund, and the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership.

The mission of the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership is to expand funding of non-AIDS related programs that respond to the needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in Southeastern Wisconsin. The partnership addresses community diversity, health, civil rights protection and the special needs of LGBT youth and older adults. It also increases service collaboration between LGBT groups and traditional community organizations.



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CREAM
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Uniquely Rufus Wainwright

Rufus Wainwright is a musician in his own right. But given his artistic - and even historical - lineage, music, performing and a larger than life persona were his destiny from the start 34 years ago in Rhinebeck, New York.

The Canadian American singer songwriter, who performs at the Pabst Theater Aug. 27, is immersed in musical talent, given his surrounding gene pool. His father is Loudon Wainwright III (boomers will recall that ever-present radio staple, "Dead Skunk in the Middle of the Road") his mother is Kate McGarrigle, one half of the McGarrigle Sisters duo (along with Anna). Another aunt, Jane McGarrigle, is a film and television composer who's written and performed with her sisterly siblings. He's the brother of Martha Wainwright and the half-brother of Lucy Wainwright Roche. And father Loudon is a direct descendant of Peter Stuyvesant, the last Director General of New Netherland. But as his parents divorced when he was a child, Wainwright was raised in Montreal and was already studying the piano by age six.

At 13, he was already touring with his mother, aunt Anna and sister Martha. Yet for all the family togetherness, Wainwright was on his own when it came to his own sense of self.

He's out. Came out as a teenager. But it was not discussed or ever brought up with his parents. In the November 11, 1999 issue of Rolling Stone, Wainwright said that he thought his father knew he was gay. "We'd drive around in the car, he'd play 'Heart of Glass', and I'd sort of mouth the words, pretending to be Deborah Harry. Just a sign of many other things to come as well."

And he's never looked back, except nostalgically to recreate the music of one of his favorite gay icons: Judy Garland. Wainwright recreated Garland's legendary April 23, 1961 Carnegie Hall concert last June at Carnegie Hall with a 40-piece orchestra to sold out crowds. He covered the same 26 standards in his own style and interpretation, rather than mimicking another larger than life persona. And the evening itself was all in the family as mother Kate and sister Martha joined him onstage. All the more special was Garland's "other daughter" Lorna Luft, singing "After You've Gone" with him.

"Judy is not a gay icon at all. She is somewhere far beyond that. She is a gay beacon. A gay saint," Wainwright said in the British newspaper, The Observer last November. She topped his list of his 10 gay icons, which also includes Madonna,



MUSIC

By Harry Cherkinian

Streisand, Prince and Morrissey. "She has led the way through the darkness for some 50 years. Whether it's The Wizard of Oz or the Judy at Carnegie Hall LP, these are brilliant touchstones for the gay experience. A kind of communion takes place between a gay listener and Judy. And of course there is the drink and drugs counter-story, which is very gay for one reason or another."

That same darkness has also lingered on the edge of Rufus Wainwright and at times engulfed his life. At the age of 14, a man in London's Hyde Park raped him, after picking him up in a bar. In the early 2000s, he battled an addiction to crystal meth, taking it to a point where it temporarily blinded him. But he turned that addictive experience into his art, playing a cameo role as a drug addict on the hit British TV series Absolutely Fabulous to writing and recording a song about his addiction and rehab, "Go or Go Ahead."

Having recently released his fifth full studio album Release the Stars (Geffen Records) this past May, Wainwright continues to explore themes surrounding the human condition, be it lost love to lost lives amid wartime. The music is once again replete with the emotional honesty that soars and swoons amid the by now expected orchestral pop and theatrical flourish. His malaise over a former lover can be direct (as in "Between My Legs" with a refrain from Phantom of the Opera for melodramatic effect) as he is disillusioned with America ("Going to a Town").

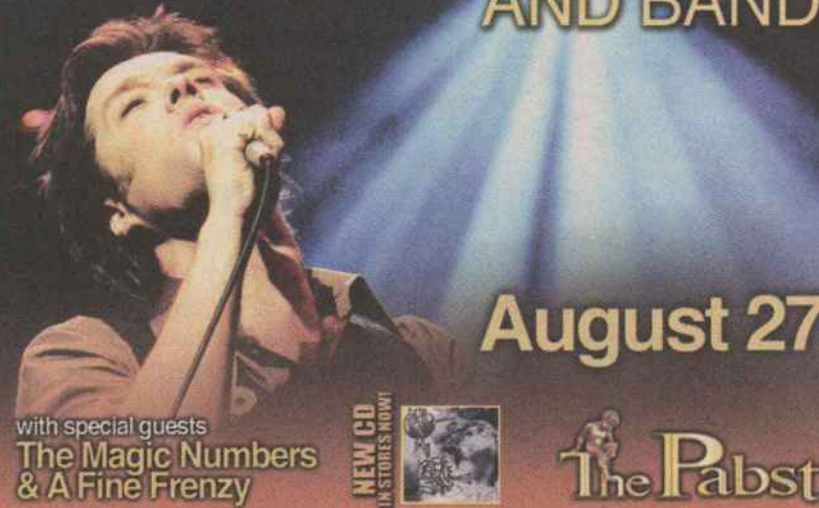
Doing it his way, the only way that is uniquely Rufus Wainwright.

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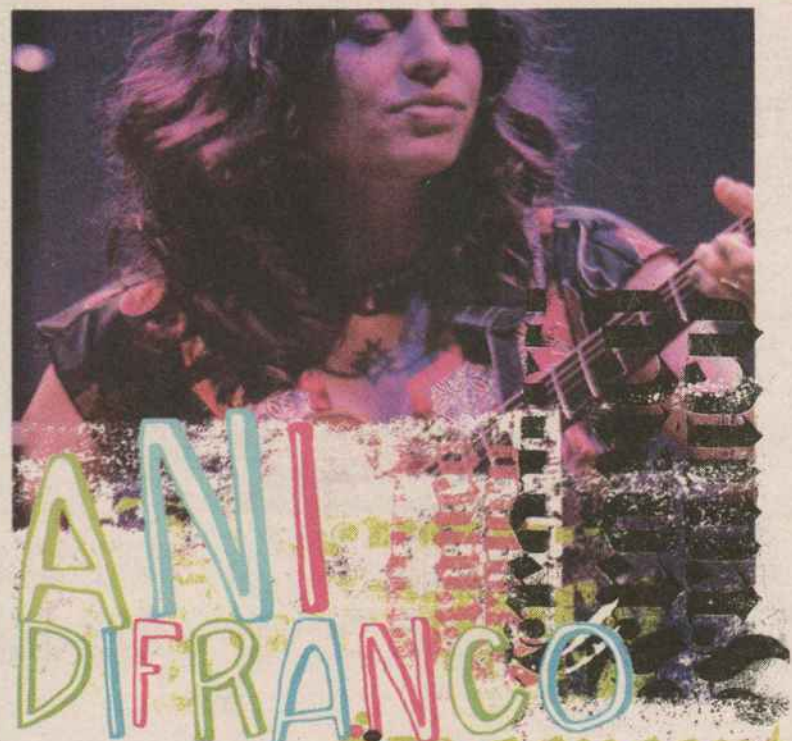
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Wisconsin



Happenings

Action for Queer Equality

Milwaukee - A special welcome goes out to a new Milwaukee-based grassroots organization, Action for Queer Equality - an organization aiming to raise awareness regarding discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in our country and our world by using dialogue and conversation.

AQE believes that all people deserve equal rights to marriage, family, and equal opportunities in education. They also push for anti-discrimination laws to include sexual orientation, as well as gender-identity. Achieving equality, and ending discrimination is quite the undertaking, but with dedication, strength, and plenty of open dialogue, anything and everything is possible.

Their initial meeting will be held at the Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church (1239 W. Mineral St) on Aug. 2nd at 6:30pm. For more info, visit <http://aqequality.interstateq.com> or call 414.628.1049. Welcome to the neighborhood!

Local LGBT Community Member Arrested

Wauwatosa - David Bodoh, 42, a local man familiar to the Milwaukee LGBT Community, was arrested July 12th, and charged with using a computer to facilitate a sex crime after arranging to meet a 14 year old boy. That 14-year-old turned out to be an undercover agent from the state Department of Justice who was posing as the youth on the Internet. Bodoh was then taken into custody.

Bodoh's initial contact with a minor was a young Oconomowoc boy with whom he corresponded until the youth's mother alerted authorities. They, in turn, contacted Bodoh, where they passed themselves off as a 14-year-old male.

Bodoh is the owner of a Wauwatosa construction firm, and has worked with several organizations in the LGBT community. He was charged on the 13th by the Waukesha Circuit Court, and released after signing a \$25,000 signature bond, and paying \$5,000 cash bond. A preliminary hearing is set for August 9th.

Under the terms of the bond, he cannot have contact with anyone under the age of 18, cannot use the Internet or possess any device giving him access to the Internet.

If convicted of the felony charge, Bodoh faces a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison, 15 years of extended supervision and \$100,000 in fines.

Much of the news stories surrounding Bodoh's arrest, focused heavily on his involvement with PrideFest. Scott Gunkel, President of PrideFest issued this response:

"PrideFest cannot comment on the allegations against volunteer David Bodoh because they are a legal and a personal matter. Mr. Bodoh had been a volunteer on the festival's production team, but he has resigned from his position.

"PrideFest reaffirms its ongoing commitment to creating a safe space for all people, and in particular youth. There is nothing more important to us than to ensure the safety of our patrons and all members of the community."

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A Transformed America - Q Life Interviews Matt Foreman



Matt Foreman

Center Advocates PAC will be hosting a fundraising garden party on Sunday August 26 from 11am to 1pm to raise money to elect pro-LGBT candidates in Wisconsin in the critical 2008 races. Matt Foreman, the Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the most quoted leader in the movement today, will be the featured guest. The party is at the historic home of Joe Pabst, 2770 N. Summit Ave on Milwaukee's East Side. "The Garden Party is the PAC's biggest event of the year and we are excited about the power our community is building with every dollar we raise at the event," said Advocates PAC director Patrick Flaherty. As of press deadline, more than \$10,000 in contributions had been pledged to the event. To donate, contact Center Advocates PAC at (414) 347-1892.

Q Life recently posed some questions to the Task Force's Matt Foreman between his nationwide travels for LGBT equality.

QL: Tell us about the Task Force

MF: The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is the oldest LGBT advocacy organization that works to build the political power of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community from the ground up. Our multifaceted work includes training activists and equipping state and local organizations with the skills needed to organize broad-based campaigns to defeat anti-LGBT referenda and advance pro-LGBT legislation. Our Policy Institute, the movement's premier think tank, provides research and policy analysis to support the struggle for complete equality and to counter right-wing lies. We are first and foremost on the ground—working shoulder to shoulder with local advocates for equality for our people.

QL: The Task Force seems to be quite active over the years in Wisconsin. What have they been up to?

MF: We sent senior staff to Wisconsin during the campaign to defeat the anti-marriage ballot measure. Our Political Director Dave Noble coordinated GOTV efforts in Milwaukee, and our Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs worked on voter protection in Madison. Also, our federal appropriations staff has been working with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center to secure new state and federal funds for its programs.

We have also been working closely with Center Advocates to add transgender discrimination protections to Milwaukee's discrimination law. We have helped craft

the language of the ordinance. Generally, we have been interested in helping pass statewide transgender discrimination protections for several years. Wisconsin was actually the first state to pass sexual orientation protections in 1982, and it is time to update the law. Thirteen states now have transgender nondiscrimination laws, and we are anxious to add Wisconsin to that list.

QL: A lot of people in Wisconsin know the Task Force through the Creating Change conference, which was held in Milwaukee in 2001 and co-sponsored by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

MF: The 2001 Milwaukee Creating Change held just two months after 9/11 was a very successful conference. People were anxious about political gatherings and with great collaboration from the Milwaukee LGBT Center, the host committee, the city government of Milwaukee - we pulled off one of the most successful Creating Change conferences.

QL: What's this we hear about a new date from the traditional November time for this annual meeting of thousands of activists?

MF: The 20th annual conference will be held Feb. 6-10, 2008, at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, Mich. We are thrilled that two champions of equality, NAACP Chair Julian Bond and Bishop Gene Robinson, will be there to inspire us as we move the conference into its third decade. Moving the conference from November to February means that our community will be able to plan ahead for a new year of action for LGBT equality, rather than arriving immediately after the elections, exhausted and focused on election outcomes.

QL: You're headlining a fundraiser for Center Advocates PAC on Sunday August 26 in Milwaukee. Why is it important for people who care about LGBT equality to participate in electoral process?

MF: Only by participating do we affect the public policies that impact LGBT peoples' lives. When we don't engage, when we don't vote, we give more power to our opposition. We end up with leaders who refuse to fund our health care, prohibit us from marrying, and prevent us from having anti-discrimination protections. Only when we participate in the electoral process and make our concerns known to elected officials, do we have a chance to get government working for us. It's a fundamental way to effect change in a democracy. But it is the floor, the starting point, not the ceiling. It is only the beginning - a transformed America where all are treated equally with dignity and respect is the ultimate goal.

National



Happenings

LGBT issues get their own Presidential Debate

Los Angeles - For the first time in history, a presidential debate devoted entirely to LGBT issues will take place on August 9th, in front of a live audience in Los Angeles. The one-hour long event arranged by LOGO and the Human Rights Campaign, will be broadcast on the LOGO network at 8PM CT, as well as through live streaming video at www.logoonline.com.

Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, John Edwards and Chris Dodd have confirmed they will participate. Several other Democratic candidates also may join the debate.

On the panel questioning the two Democrats will be Human Rights Campaign president Joe Solmonese and singer Melissa Etheridge.

"In the 2008 presidential election, issues of concern to the LGBT community have already been at the forefront of the national conversation," said Solmonese.

"From the repeal of 'Don't ask, Don't Tell' to the recent signing of a civil unions bill in New Hampshire, there is no doubt that voters will demand answers to important questions affecting our community."

The panelists in a statement said they plan to cover a range of issues including relationship recognition, marriage equality, workplace fairness, the military, hate crimes, HIV/AIDS and other important issues.

The LGBT vote is considered a decisive electoral force and according to exit poll data make up approximately 4 percent of the voting population.

"We're honored to give the presidential candidates a historic opportunity to share their views directly with the LGBT audience," Brian Graden, President, Entertainment, MTV Networks Music Group, and President, LOGO said in a statement.

"This forum continues MTV Networks' tradition of engaging vital niche audiences with voting and the electoral process."

LOGOonline.com and HRC.org will also be open for question submissions from people outside of the questioning panel.

Lesbian "bounced" for looking too Manly

NYC, NY - Manhattan resident and lesbian Khadijah Farmer went into the women's restroom at the Caliente Cab Company restaurant after NYC's Pride March only to be forced out of the bathroom, and restaurant by a bouncer who assumed "she" was a "he."

The incident occurred June 24th, when she had gone with her girlfriend and another friend to the restaurant to have dinner after the march.

Farmer said she was using the women's bathroom when a male bouncer burst in and banged on the stall door, saying a customer had complained that there was a man in the women's room.

Farmer is not a transgender person, but she said her appearance is masculine enough that she is sometimes mistaken for a man.

"I'm never upset with that," she said. "I say very kindly, 'I'm female.' Usually I get, 'I'm so sorry.'"

"I said, 'I am a woman and I am where I am supposed to be, and offered to show him some identification.' Instead, the bouncer escorted her to her table and forced her party to pay their check and leave.

"I'm just hurt that even my wanting to prove that I'm female wasn't enough," said Farmer.

The Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund is currently representing Farmer, and demanding that the restaurant train its staff not to discriminate on the basis of gender identity and expression.

New York City law prevents discrimination on the basis of gender identity.

International



Happenings

Lesbian couple killed in South Africa

Johannesburg, South Africa - A Johannesburg lesbian couple left a party at the home of one of their gay friends to drive another friend home. When they failed to return to the party as expected, people got worried. Their bodies were found in a field in Meadolands Township. They had been murdered "execution style" having been shot multiple times each. There was also evidence that Sizakele Sigasa, 34, and Salome Masooa, 23, may have been sexually assaulted.

A South African Broadcasting Corporation report said: "They were found ... raped, tortured, murdered and dumped. [Sigasa] was found with her hands tied with her underwear and ankles tied with her shoelaces."

Activist groups said they suspect the killings were an anti-lesbian hate crime, but police told the SABC they've not yet found any evidence to that effect.

A memorial service for the two women was held July 12

Indonesia Increases HIV/AIDS Spending

Jakarta - Over the next three years, with the major focus being on the hardest-hit Papua province, Indonesia will increase the amount of money it spends on fighting AIDS by 75 percent

Indonesia has one of Asia's fastest growing HIV rates, with up to 290,000 infections among its 235 million people, fueled mainly by injecting drug users and prostitution.

In areas like Papua -- where infections are 15 times the national average, health authorities have warned that a failure to take prompt action could result in 1 million people infected with HIV within a few years.

According to Welfare Minister Aburizal Bakrie, the government would increase the amount of money budgeted for the AIDS fight from \$67 million last year to \$263 million in 2010.

The government also wants to reduce its dependency on international donors, which have contributed up to 70 percent to the national AIDS budget, he said.

Papua, which now receives only 4 percent of the money budgeted for AIDS, but has the highest proportion of cases, will be the main focus of the new spending.

Quote of the Month

"Children have a right to a father and a mother, but not to two mothers, or two fathers. It is a homosexual atmosphere that harms minors and substantially increases the risk that they will turn that way too."

Judge Fernando Ferrin Calamita, Murcia, Spain.

Calamita recently made a lesbian mother choose between her two daughters, and her new partner, and awarded custody to their father.

The judge's decision goes against laws brought in by the government of Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero in 2005 that allow for same-gender marriages and for same-sex couples to adopt children.

Women's and gay groups have filed complaints, and the Judge's actions are being probed.

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Racism ends with you

Admit it. At some point you've made a remark, repeated a stupid joke, or made fun of someone's accent. When those things become systematic, or so ingrained in one's psyche that there is no trace of guilt or shame in believing the lies and stereotypes, it's racism. No hem and

haw, no hiding behind privilege or feigned ignorance. Admit what you've done is hurtful, be contrite and sincere in apology, and learn enough from the mistake not to do it again. When queerness is added to the cultural identity mix, the responsibility falls on each of us regardless of color not only to call out racism and actively work to end it but to build healthy values in its place. One of QZAP's central missions is to clear a path through the damage done to individuals and communities of color to allow the words and artwork of people of color to reach a wider audience of people whose lives would benefit from the wisdom contained within the expressions of the grief and the gladness from their respective cultural narratives.

In June 2007, in conjunction with the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival and Rhizome Space, QZAP put together an amazing assortment of art gleaned from queer zines. One of the standout pieces combined graphics lifted with credit from another zine, a detoured corporate logo, and a hearty rant that cut to the chase in terms of calling out objectification in mainstream advertising. Entitled "still just a ChinK," the piece from the beautifully crafted *Strange Fruit* [Issue 1, 1995,

56 pages] points out the inherent flaw in a Calvin Klein ad campaign featuring Asian model Jenny Shimizu. On the one hand, how great is it to have queer Asians finally represented in a mainstream medium but yet demoralizing that her presence in the photos is little more than titillating exploitation of ages-old "exotic" stereotypes. There are gems like this everywhere you flip. It all comes together nicely because there isn't any false sentiment about why these stories and images need to be heard and seen. From Gary Rosen's mash note style essay about queerpunk band Fagbash to Patty Power's mindblowing park cruising adventure with performance artist legend Ron Athey, this assemblage of creative talent in one zine is phenomenal and worth the effort of sometimes emotionally overwhelming content.

With a track record of the awesome *After School: Special* series detailing her dropping out of art school in favor of a more unconventional method of 'skool' and sharing her love of illustrated stories in *Queer Comics to Watch Out For*, Oxette has put out a zine destined to set the standard for how we can deconstruct racism and understand how it effects mixed race and bicultural people. *MXD zine!* [Issue 1, 2007, 28 pages] kicks off with Dr. Maria P. P. Root's "Bill of Rights for People of Mixed Heritage." The copyright date suggests it was written nearly fifteen years ago, but the messages are absolutely timeless and are required reading for anyone, regardless of whether



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.

they identify as mixed race or not. As I read *MXD*, I kept finding myself drawing parallels to Matilda's brilliant book "Nobody Passes," insofar as we all have the right to self-identify as we chose, and even more importantly to have our identity choices recognized without hesitation. Adrian Piper's "My Calling Card" hits that beat strong. It's a succinct business card sized statement that alerts the white receiver that they've made a racist remark in the presence of a person of color whose identity may not have been evident to them. The most poignant essay is Adrian Aberrant's "A Vandal's Quandary" in which he relates how he checked himself from chucking a brick through a Confederate flag shrouded window and that the resulting soul searching brought him to a better understanding of the power of symbolism. In the process he also crafts a self-awareness I wish more people cared to do for themselves, so that perhaps they could respect in others the complexities of personal identity.

Discover the Queer Zine Archive Project on the Web at www.qzap.org.

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Looking Past the Rainbow

When it comes to the art world, almost everything is subjective. What is 'good' and what is 'bad' often changes drastically from person to person. But at the same time there are certain universal truths about artwork. For example, that artwork should come from within the artist, and should be created because s/he feels inspired to do so. And along with that, the purpose of a piece of artwork should be to communicate something, whether it be a thought or emotion that the artist has personally, or merely an observation. It is these qualities that give art depth.

And unfortunately, it is also these qualities that seems to be lacking in so much of what is considered 'gay artwork.' When I use that term, I am not referring to all artwork made by gay artists, but rather art which is centered on homosexuality.

I'm talking about the sort of thing with rainbows, pink triangles, sinewy men and phallic symbolism abound. I am fully aware of how silly it sounds to be listing those things in sequence, but they exist conjointly in surprising frequency.

And aside from homosexuality, there is a common theme between all of these pieces. They can all be summed up in one, maybe two lines. "I'm gay." "I'm proud to be gay." "I'm confused about being gay." If that

is all that you're trying to say, why don't you just put it on a bumper sticker rather than waste space in an art gallery? It's old. It's become kitsch, or propaganda, rather than actual artwork.

On top of that, this artwork is created with the sole intention of being sold to and appreciated by a gay audience, or more specifically- Robin Williams à la The Birdcage.

The way that I've dissected this dilemma, I think that it mostly revolves around fear. These artists are afraid that their artwork will not be accepted or understood by the general public, so they narrow their focus to explicitly gay subject matter. And to a certain extent, they do have a point- would a straight person want a portrait of two Fabio look-alikes hanging in his/her living room? Chances are, probably not.

But at the same time, think about the art of other minority groups: Are Latinos the only ones that appreciate the artwork of Frida Kahlo? Are the Japanese the only fans of Hayao Miyazaki's films? Absolutely not.

And why is that? Because not only are they well done, they are also successful at communicating to the viewer. There is more to say about them than just one sentence.

So these artists do have a rational fear: that people will not understand



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.

their work. And it is definitely true that people tend to dislike things they do not understand. But if you're doing your job as an artist, people will be able to understand, and it won't be kitschy. That's the nature of art.

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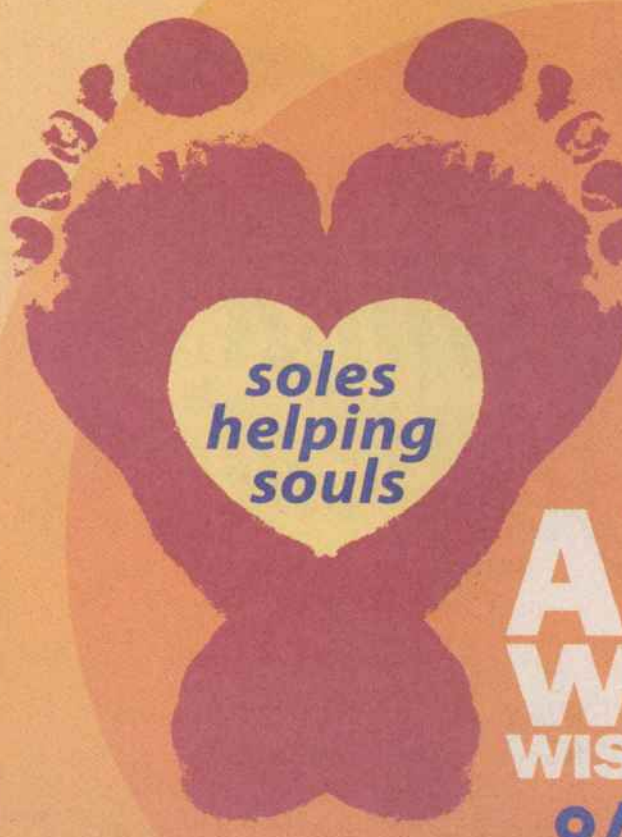
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Queer Life is the information voice of the LGBT community. As a monthly publication and the only state-wide gay newspaper headquartered in Milwaukee, each issue celebrates Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. From what's happening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

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Our Top Story Tonight!

Kate Sherry

If you are anything like me, which in your case, I hope not, you spend an incredible amount of time glued to a keyboard and monitor.

Doing what, you may ask?

Reading emails, news stories, and far too much garbage. Sometimes, however I come across something that really makes me stop and take notice. Of course, that is only after I satisfy my "garbage" intake reading about which celebrity is in rehab, which senator had an affair, or just how many hotdogs some random guy ate at the Coney Island hot dog contest.

One thing that got my attention recently, was Mika Brzezinski, an anchor on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program, and her refusal to cover yet ANOTHER Paris Hilton story. According to the news blip on AOL, the moment became an instant Internet sensation. More than 2 million people watched a clip of the incident, "around 10 times the number who watched it live on TV" they reported. It showed Brzezinski beginning the piece, then giving up, saying she couldn't go through with it. The copy headed to the paper shredder and that was that.

Good for her I say. If she did it because she really just can not stand to be a part of the Hilton-hype, or if she did it because she calculated a bit of media for herself, who cares. All that matters is that she got the word out that journalists and media heads should not be concerned so much about the day to day goings on for the pampered Paris, or for that matter, all the mind-numbing sensationalistic news that we often fall prey to.

However, sometimes it really is unavoidable, and you find yourself (or in my case) stuck with a choice to make.

Do I go ahead and publish the news covered on Fox 6, and other local, (as well as multiple on-line) news sources, or do I let it die out?

Do I mention a local LGBT community member arrested for using a computer to facilitate a sex crime with whom he thought was a 14 year old boy?

Do I mention the numerous phone calls QL received about it?

Would it make it any easier if I didn't know him?

If I ignore it, will it look like QLife plays favorites to the community, or that we look away when one of us does something terribly wrong?

I think about David Bodoh, and the crime he was arrested for, and I just am speechless. I'm angry, bewildered, and sad all at the same time.

I was also a bit peeved at some of



EDITORIAL

the media for playing up his connection to PrideFest, as I felt like it was giving them a black eye. PrideFest, and the many other LGBT organizations Bodoh was involved with have nothing to do with his personal choices.

We are so very lucky here in Milwaukee to have so many unbelievable organizations for the LGBT community. In fact, one of them is featured for our cover story, *Diverse & Resilient*, as part of our on-going series to introduce our readers as to what everyone is up to. We've covered the FORGE conference, Cream City Foundation, and we have the LGBT Community Center, and ARCW slated for issues down the road, as well as several others you may not even be aware of - all working for you.

The media in general should cover issues such as Bodohs - especially when a child is involved. And, although we can't ask them to "play fair" in these situations, I just wish they wouldn't toss the "look what the gays did now" card into the mix. But, sadly, its no surprise, - it's what keeps 'em watching.

Black Gay Pride Weekend

Milwaukee - Charles D. Productions, INC. presents an exciting lineup for Black Pride Events, August 12-19th. Headlining the event, is non other than Jennifer Holliday.

Milwaukee's Black Pride (CDP) is a seven day event that brings African-American and other people of color, same gender loving men and women together from across the country to participate in informative and engaging workshops and social activities that encourage meaningful dialogue and social empowerment.

Kicking off the event on Sunday, August 12th, is a block party being held at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center from 1-8PM. Enjoy the family cookout, the vendors and the great music.

"The main purpose of Black Pride (CDP) is to promote unity, and self-esteem among lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender people of color," said Eloise McPike, Executive Director.

"Black Pride (CDP) promotes a positive image within the greater Milwaukee area through community activities, volunteer work and services," Eloise said.

While Milwaukee's Black Pride (CDP) focuses on African-American and other people of color issues, this event welcomes the participation of all regardless of age, creed, gender, gender identification, HIV status, national origin, physical, mental or development ability, religion or sexual orientation.

Black Pride (CDP) was fortunate to obtain and host such national artist as MCLyte and Trina at previous prides as well as the Otis Mac Revue from Chicago, IL.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12 - KICKOFF SUNDAY! BLOCK PARTY at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. 315 W. Court Street, 1-8PM. Family Cookout, vendors and music

MONDAY, AUGUST 13 - Road Trip to Chicago! Otis Mac & the Ruffie Revue. \$25 includes admission.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14 - Club Finesse! Milwaukee's neosoul lounge \$5.00 Live entertainment featuring Charles "D"

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15 - Wet 'N Wild Wednesday at two clubs simultaneously! 7-10PM Conversations Niteclub presents female revue. \$7.00. Food & drink specials.

Viva La Femme Niteclub presents Male Revue 7-10PM. \$10. Food & drink specials

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16 - "Old school" meets "new school" talent night. DRESS TO IMPRESS. Old School stud party - best dressed wins prize. Drink specials all night. \$10.00 cover. Conversations Niteclub & Viva La Femme Niteclub

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17 - Idol Contest. 6PM. Finals night. Winners selected by panel of judges. \$5.00. Location to be announced. Call 414-263-9999 for more info.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18 - Main Event! JENNIFER HOLLIDAY LIVE IN CONCERT! MATC'S Cooley Auditorium. 6-10PM (With Opening acts!) Tickets \$15.00-\$30 per person. After party sponsored by Viva La Femme & Conversations Niteclubs TBA. 10PM. \$15 per person.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19 - Black Pride (CDP) Grand Finale Party To be Announced

"Although this will only be our third fest and we look forward to greater success in the future. In acknowledging our past sponsors, we wish to thank them for their support and trust in our venture":

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How to Stay Young -- Really!

The baby boomers are getting older, and it's not pretty. A lot of money is being spent on Botox, liposuction, plastic surgery and personal trainers. Ultimately, these efforts to continue to look good are, in part, doomed to failure. That is, they may be able to fight off the effects of aging on the outside, but they don't slow down aging on the inside. The fact is that you are as young as your blood vessels.

You are probably thinking, "I don't care how I look on the inside." But being young isn't just about looking good. It's about having a good chance of living for many years to come. And young, healthy blood vessels mean a lower risk for many of the most common causes of death - heart attack, stroke and kidney disease.

What does it mean to have young, healthy blood vessels? Children, teenagers and young adults who do not have early signs of atherosclerosis have arteries (the blood vessels that carry blood from the heart to the organs of the body) that are supple and compliant. These arteries can expand with each surge of blood that is pumped by the heart, so that blood pressure raises only a small amount rather than shoots up. This smaller rise in blood pressure with each heartbeat means you have a lower risk of a blood vessel breaking open due to high pressures. It also means that you don't have much atherosclerosis - the deposits of fat and scarring of artery



FITNESS

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walls that ultimately cause most heart attacks and strokes.

What happens to most people in America as they develop wrinkles and a paunch is that their arteries become stiff. Age and atherosclerosis start to harden the arteries. The result is high blood pressure, and a higher risk of stroke, heart disease and blockages in the arteries to the legs and kidneys.

How can you tell if this is happening to you? There are tests that researchers use to test the healthiness of people's arteries, but you don't really need anything fancy. If your blood pressure is high - such as a systolic pressure above 130 millimeters of mercury (mmHg) or a diastolic pressure over 85 mmHg - the chance that your arteries are feeling their age is high. The top number is, in many ways, even more important than the bottom number, because "stiff pipes" lead to big surges in blood pressure with each heartbeat. So, if your top number alone is elevated, or if the gap between your top and bottom number is high (for example, greater than 50 mmHg), then your arteries are aging.

The really, really good news is that you can keep your arteries young - much more effectively than you can try to hold off the superficial manifestations of aging. A few simple strategies that you've heard of before have all been shown to slow down and even reverse the signs of aging blood vessels. These tactics include:

Exercise as much as possible - a reasonable goal is 30 minutes or so at least three days a week, but ideally every day.

Control your cholesterol - reducing elevated LDL cholesterol has been shown to help restore flexibility to arteries.

Control your blood pressure - Constant exposure of blood vessels to pressures above normal takes its toll.

No smoking - the chemicals in cigarette smoke are killers of blood-vessel health.

No matter how old you are, these tactics can help your blood vessels stay young. You may be aging on the outside, but if your arteries are healthy you can avoid dying young and leaving a beautiful corpse.

This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History AUGUST

By Don Schwamb

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

35 years ago: 1972 - The Wreck Room bar opens, with an ad showing the front end of a car coming through the wall (a prominent feature of this bar for most of its 20+ years in business). Lydia's Bar relocated from Kenosha to Racine. Other popular bars include The Cove Bar and The Neptune, and "This Is It" serves food all the time, advertising "steak plate \$3.95". The Stud Club, recently renamed Michelle's, holds a contest for Mr. Stud and Mrs. Stud.

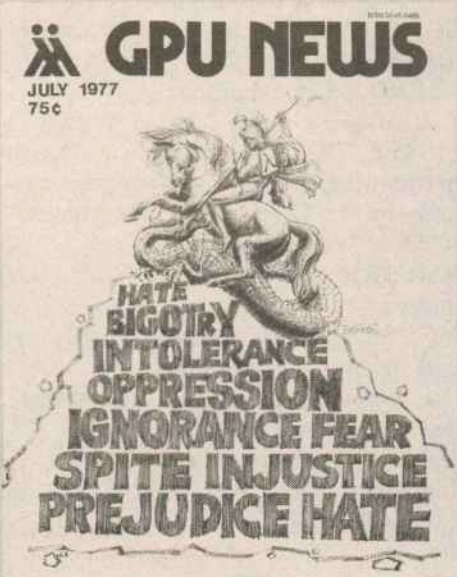
30 years ago: 1977 - July and August issues of GPU News include unique cover art by local artist Bob Stocki, which was also sold as posters: the July cover, "Fighting the Dragon", shows ten terms of intolerance, while the August cover, "The Language of Oppression", shows some 28 different words used to describe gay people (and which originally appeared on the cover of the January 1975 issue). At this time, the GPU News is an independent publication, no longer associated with the Gay Peoples Union, which was its origin; it has subscribers in every state, Canada, and several foreign countries, and is easily one of the top 5 gay periodicals in the nation.



20 years ago: 1987 - August has been a popular month for new bar openings: this month, Wreck Room celebrates their 15th anniversary, while Fannies celebrates their 4th, Back East, 3 years, and Gay St. Station, it's 1 year anniversary. Hot Legs however closed this month.

15 years ago: 1992 - Madison's Leather Weekend is held at Phaze II and Hotel Washington. The Blue Light Bar opens in Sheboygan. Two people are attacked after leaving This Is It bar in two separate incidents in a 2-week period; an arrest is made. Terry Boughner begins a series of articles in Wisconsin Light newspaper explaining the work of the ARCW.

10 years ago: 1997 - Kevin Rotar, popular Milwaukee bartender, drowns. Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament is held in Milwaukee for the first time ever. OZ bar (formerly the Mad Hatter) opens in Green Bay.



The Last Time I Wore a Dress

The last time I wore a dress was twenty years ago at my grandfather's funeral. It was a deep denim-colored skirt that my mother and I had sewn a few years before - long, flowing, full. With it, I wore a white, men's Ralph Lauren Polo oxford shirt beneath a yellow cable-knit sweater. Rubber-soled penny loafers, with navy knee-high socks completed the uniform.

These clothes were not worn by choice, but emerged after a controlled struggle - standing in the kitchen, listening to a murder of crows arguing outside of the window - about what was appropriate for a "young woman" to wear to honor her grandfather.

How could there not be a m el e when emotions were already running high and there was no knowledge of my gender identity being anything other than female? My family could not have embraced my masculinity at that point, because they simply didn't know.

I grew up in a family that was both very relaxed about clothes, as well as one where we all knew the "right" thing to wear on certain occasions. Jeans and T-shirts had their place, but so did skirts and suits.

I have an abundance of gratitude for the power-women in my life. I was raised in a family where women of all generations lived free of societal expectations about our abilities, strengths, and clothing. In my world, my mom led the Brownie troop where we used power tools as a regular part of our projects. My grandmother grew up on a farm, working hard, unafraid to roll up her sleeves and get dirty. My other grandmother was fiercely independent, taking on any challenge that came her way. They all wore pants.

I am grateful that in my kinship circle, family - the people who make up the greater whole - really does come first. The act of loving is far more important than the concept of who should be loved based on an identity characteristic or behavioral choice. Quite simply, if you are family, you are loved and supported. People are more important than politics or prejudice.

I've watched members of my family shift over time. Die-hard Republicans have voted for Democrats (and haven't been



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.

ashamed to tell others!). Homophobic and racist family members have lost their harsh edge of creating us/them separations. Rigidities have softened. Nevers have become maybes. Maybes, have become yeses. We have not held each other on immobile pedestals, or strapped each other down, limiting movement, freedom, or choice.

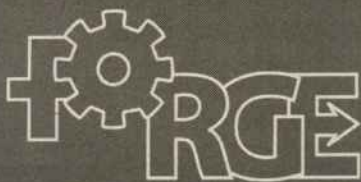
People in my family have been able to see me as the ever-changing person that I am - not restricted by preconceptions, illusions of morality or any other construct that would keep them from loving.

I'll soon be stepping into the same river I stood in 20 years ago, walking into the same funeral home and cemetery where my grandfather is buried. This time - my grandmother's funeral - is a time for multiple celebrations: of life, of death, of ever-evolving people, of love within a family (which is continually changing, but never wavering or diminishing).

On the phone, my parents encouraged me to wear to her funeral one of the dress shirts they gave me. Although my choice is different - opting for a pink Men's Warehouse oxford, which reminds me of my grandmother's Rose garden from years ago. I know that my choice is respected. I know that my choice is appropriate for a grandchild to honor his grandmother.

The world is a radically different place. My family has morphed and shaped into a new constellation, yet retained its same core values: Family is family. Love is love.

I have an abundance of gratitude for the power-women in my life



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Dairyland Classic Celebrates 30 Years

By Brian Reinkober

It's that time of year again! The Dairyland Classic is slated to take the fields over Labor Day weekend. Whether you are a softball player or fan, Dairyland Classic XXX will be an event not to be missed. This year, the 30th of the Classic, sets its sights on celebrating the rich and colorful history the tournament has with SSBL (Saturday Softball Beer League).

The actual softball games take place on Saturday and Sunday, September 1st and 2nd. The majority of the games will be held at Wick Field on Vliet Street on Milwaukee's west side with possible two other sites being considered as satellite fields if needed because of the growth in recent years of the Dairyland Classic.

Weeklong festivities include the transformation of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center into the "Classic" museum; showcasing memorabilia donated, or on loan to SSBL for the event. This will be open to the public starting on Wednesday, August 29 and will be open

through the course of the tournament. On Saturday evening, the MGAC will host a reception to meet many of the people that have been instrumental in the Classic and who are Hall of Fame members from SSBL.

The five newly inducted Hall of Fame members, Steve Behl, Chuck Braatz, David Fre, Rick Kowal and Bill Wardlow will be the special guests on board the Voyager, Milwaukee's largest cruising ship where they will be given their recognition. It will also be open to out-of-town softball players that have come to Milwaukee early to celebrate the weekend. Afterwards, the public is invited to Fluid for a reception starting at 8:30PM. Miss Katie's Diner and Pitch's Ribs will cater the event.

Friday, the main festivities start with the Registration Party at MONA's at 6PM. Once again, this year Pam and Beverly have opened up their locale for a great time where SSBL will provide a Friday Nite Fish Fry to all registered softball players.

However, the event is open to the public. Drink specials, rainbow jell-o shots and much entertainment will be on hand. Later that evening, the festivities shift over to Woody's, the Dairyland Classic's Grand Slam Sponsor. Steve Behl and Woody's have been sponsors for the last three years. This year, the Welcoming Party promises to once again be the big bash it has become known for.

Saturday's Opening Ceremonies include fan favorites Cheer Dorothy Cheer! As they entertain their audience with the rainbow colored pompoms and cheerleading outfits. New to the sponsorship family this year is Klement's Sausages. Food will be on hand at Wick Field and don't be surprised if you see the World Famous Sausages making a guest appearance also.

Saturday evening is slated for major

parties throughout the 5th Ward and Walker's Point areas with one of the major events happening at Boom and the Room this year. The "XXX" Party will be held there Saturday evening and will feature adult film star, Adam Faust, always a big crowd pleaser.

Sunday games continue at Wick Field until champions are crowned. The winners will be announced at the private awards banquet to be held at the Italian Community Center just west of the Summerfest Grounds. Everyone is then invited to the Thank You Party held immediately after the banquet to La Cage. Monday concludes with a "Send-Off Brunch" at a locale yet to be named. Finally as if all this wasn't enough already, for \$40 Woody's is having a Tailgate Party where all the Food, Beer and Transportation are provided along with a ticket to see the Milwaukee Brewers take on the Houston Astros.

As you can see, the Dairyland Classic in 30 years has made a lot of friends and has a lot of financial support, both gay and straight making this a truly special event for the citizens of Milwaukee.

Hope to see all of you over Labor Day Weekend and remember to get prepared to PLAY BALL!



QLIFE Event Giveaways!

Thanks to all of you who entered our Erasure concert ticket giveaway! Since that was such a success, we thought we would do it again. This time, we have two pairs of tickets for the CLIKS concert at Shank Hall on Aug.9th, (as well as tank top, poster, cd and buttons!) We also have tickets for the LGBT Film Festival to give away! Get ready for another great film fest. And hey, if you want to review the film you saw, by all means, send a review to us. We'd love it! So get to your computers, or phone, or walk on over here and give us your name/info and we will enter you into the drawings! Editor@queerlifeneews.com, or 414-383-8200. 2266 N. Prospect Ave, suite 200



Health - Within Your Grasp

I started writing my column about Brenda Coley, Adult Services Director of Diverse and Resilient, before I even got a chance to speak to her.

I had penned such gems as, "Butch women shy away from Pap smears. Lesbians and bisexual women don't get

mammograms often enough." All of which is true, but...

Brenda blew my pat assumptions out of the water.

"Women's health is about more than just body parts," she said. The statistics indicate that we are dying of the effects of

smoking, drinking, lack of exercise and overeating way more frequently than from breast or ovarian cancer. "These factors - the ones that we have control over - are the biggest determinants of health for all LGBT people."

Since becoming Adult Services Director in 2004, Brenda has overseen an LGBT adult health survey circulated around the state. Under Brenda's leadership, an amazing 2,600 surveys have been collected. "It's not the number of responses needed to truly reflect our community," Brenda admits. But Diverse and Resilient has certainly done more than anyone else in collecting health data about LGBT Wisconsinites, and Brenda's dedication is a big reason for that.

Surveys done at Pride celebrations, community centers and other LGBT hangouts also lack objectivity. "One of the greatest accomplishments of Diverse and Resilient since I've been here," stated Brenda, "is the fact that we have gotten sexual orientation and sexual behavior questions added to the statewide Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys for adults and youth." In other words, a random survey sponsored by the state will now gather information on the sexual orientation and practices of all Wisconsin residents. This statistically significant information is a powerful tool to raise awareness regarding our health issues. More importantly, it gives us a basis to identify gaps at the state and local levels



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.

and to formally seek the services and resources we need.

Brenda also convened focus groups to discover the concerns of Native people, African American trans people, lesbians, LGBT people in other parts of the state, etc. "You name the combination of race/ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation and geographic area of Wisconsin, and I've tried to talk to somebody in that sub-group," she chuckles.

When asked how she gained the trust of so many kinds of people, Brenda answers, "It's not rocket science. You set a nice table for people. When I call you to come to a community meeting, it's you that I want, Lesley, not somebody like you." D and R's health project is truly collaborative - the planning, infrastructure building and implementation are all developed through interaction with the community. "You see what a small agency can do with a direction, a focus and a mission," she says.

I make one last feeble attempt to

continued on next page

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MCC is a church for all people that was founded in the gay community.

A Home for the Outcast

Rev. Wendy Woodruff, pastor of Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) since January, is leading her congregation into a dynamic new future. She says of herself, "I'm butch enough to appeal to the guys and femme enough for the women."



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.

Like many in her congregation, Pastor Woodruff comes from a complicated spiritual background involving several different Christian traditions and long periods out of church life altogether. Earlier in life, Wendy married a man and had a son; now 31 and married. After that relationship ended in divorce she was able to come out as a lesbian and soon found the MCC congregation in the Chicago suburb of Hinsdale; she was spiritually home.

Originally Pastor Woodruff was attracted to MCC because it was a place of acceptance for LGBT people. More and more she finds herself committed to MCC as a place of welcome for all. "MCC is a church for all people that was founded in the gay community. So we're a church for

excite the Milwaukee MCC about this new vision of their denomination. She was drawn to the congregation because it "just felt right," a sense that this congregation could grow with her in serving God. Many in the congregation, as in our community, continue to mourn the loss of their previous pastor Lou Broyles. At the same time the congregation has grown in its self-confidence because of the internal fortitude they found in themselves during this difficult time. Their challenge, as Wendy sees it, is to create a greater visibility in the community for their congregation.

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The church will be doing this through several new initiatives. In addition to their Sunday morning worship services at 11am, the congregation will be starting in September a program called "Wednesday Night Fights." These conversations will consider decisive

topics, allowing people to understand each other's perspectives, and will conclude with communion, a sign that no matter how much we disagree we are all united in Jesus' love. Also in September, the congregation will begin to offer a Saturday series on "Saving Jesus."

With Pastor Wendy's leadership Milwaukee MCC is embracing a vision of being a congregation founded in the LGBT community but called to be a home to all people.



outsiders. Our edginess is important. We want to stay on the edges."

This vision of serving people on the margins of our society inspires Pastor Wendy. "We are walking with the immigrants, working with the homeless, and standing up against tax oppression." MCC's work is both local and international, extending to AIDS work in Africa and LGBT rights work in South America and Eastern Europe.

Pastor Wendy is working to

LESBIAN HEALTH *continued from preceding*

shoehorn Brenda's fresh insights into my canned version of our 'interview.' Women have a less rigid concept of beauty than men, right? "For lesbians and bisexual women, real women have curves - but they also have a greater risk of high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes," I wrote.

Not so fast, countered Brenda. "When I look at friends who are single and searching for a partner, I notice that many of them are struggling with weight issues." The inactivity characteristic of most smokers and morbidly obese people is not attractive to some potential mates. "Generally, we are not the same as men looking for the 'body beautiful,' but we want our partners to be healthy."

Brenda continued, "Racism, classism, sexism - these factors do exist, both inside and outside our community. They're real. But we don't have to act like victims. We are in control of our diet and our physical activity. We can make choices about what substances to put in our bodies." Beautifully said, Brenda. I surrender to your wisdom.

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Training in Alcohol Skills

Forty LGBT youth and a handful of their adult mentors from around Wisconsin devoted three hours of a hot summer afternoon to develop skills in using alcohol. The participants, all delegates to the 10th biennial Wisconsin Youth HIV Prevention Institute, came from Madison, Milwaukee, La Crosse and the Fox Valley to develop leadership skills in health promotion and disease prevention. They formed caucuses, created an art project, learned about HIV prevention and safer sex practices, and developed some lasting friendships while spending three days at the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater campus. All pretty standard summer teen camp activities.

Except for the alcohol skills training. In Wisconsin and elsewhere, we don't tend to teach teens about alcohol use. At best we generally admonish them, and then do something very different ourselves. We tell them not to use alcohol, while sometimes abusing it ourselves. The problem with this approach is that it doesn't appear to work. LGBT teens in Wisconsin consume alcohol at 140% to 150% of the rate of their heterosexual peers. The skill training session at this summer's Institute was a pilot for an ongoing training that will next be implemented at Project Q in Milwaukee and then in 4 other LGBT community-based youth programs around Wisconsin.

It is an adaptation of ASTP, an evidence-based alcohol abuse prevention program launched several years ago on college campuses. The adaptation largely addresses the different social circumstances of LGBT youth and of a somewhat younger audience.

In the session, teens are told that the training is not intended to tell them not to drink; nor is it intended to tell them to use alcohol. Instead, it aims to inform them sufficiently so that they can increase rational decision-making about use of alcohol, especially as it affects subsequent decision-making that may put them at risk for other unintended consequences, such as HIV/STD transmission.

Teens in the skills training session also observe the distinctions in volume of alcohol and amount of beverage. For example, 12 ounces of beer does not equate with 12 ounces of wine or other spirits. They similarly consider blood alcohol levels, how weight and nutrition might affect these levels, and how long it takes to flush alcohol from the system.

Participants at the Institute rated the session very highly, showing strong support for program messages and usefulness in their lives.

The skills training session also represents just one part of a larger intervention program. Other program components include the engagement of peer outreach workers, informal outreach



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.

activities, formal outreach activities, personal assessments, and resource referrals. The overall program is supported in a grant from Brighter Futures, locally monitored by Community Advocates. Mark O'Neil, Director of Youth Services for Diverse and Resilient, Inc., in consultation with the UWM Center for Addictions and Behavioral Health Research, was principle party involved in the adaptation of this program. Kurt Dyer, recently of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, also assisted in the editing.

It just may be possible that Wisconsin's alarming rates of new HIV and STD infections among LGBT teens and young adults can be reduced with increased skills in addressing alcohol use.

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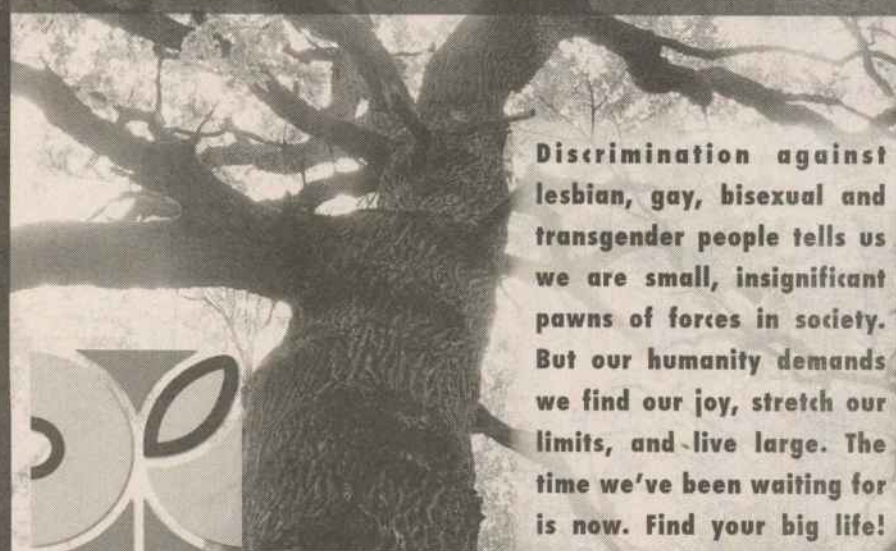
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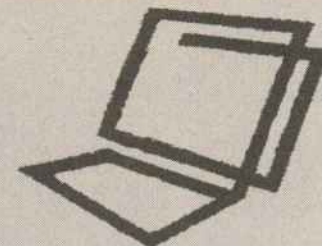


Discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people tells us we are small, insignificant pawns of forces in society. But our humanity demands we find our joy, stretch our limits, and live large. The time we've been waiting for is now. Find your big life!

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

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Intro to Womyn's Culture

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.

In addition to their focus on music, Womyn's Music Festivals also serve as homes for Womyn's Culture. Womyn's Culture celebrates the biological, social, cultural, historical, material, environmental and spiritual experiences of being female. Like other forms of culture, this celebration of female experiences includes but is not limited to: art, music, literature, poetry, political manifestos and theories, essays, nonfiction and all other varieties of the written word, oral history, stories, and legends. Dance, and perhaps most importantly, the spaces where all of these aspects of Womyn's Culture are created, shared, and passed on to the next generation of womyn. Womyn's Culture is not inherently 'Lesbian Culture,' but given it's focus on all

things female, it should come as no surprise that Lesbians have been central to its creation, maintenance, and survival.

Womyn's Culture is created by, for, and about womyn but on occasion it can be shared with a wider audience. The act of creating culture, of creating alternative ways of seeing and being seen, and in the case of Womyn's Festivals, an alternative way of living, is viewed by many womyn, (myself included), as radically political and brazenly feminist. The act of claiming spaces that value females and our experiences is one that flips the patriarchy on its head.¹ We still live in a society where men are valued more than women simply because men are men. This value translates into numerous forms of sexism, oppression and inequality. Men get paid more than women, men can walk alone at night without fear of rape, men can turn on a TV, pick up a newspaper, look at a painting, or go to their place of worship and see their lives, experiences and image reflected back at them without having to search or analyze very hard. There is an inherent power dynamic in our society that places all men above all women, and then creates other divisions across and in between - rich above poor, white people above people of color.

Womyn's Culture is founded with the purpose of remedying these divisions by valuing what is not valued, healing what has been wounded, and celebrating that which has been suppressed in all females.

It is about affirmation, safety, freedom, and empowerment.

No other place so best exemplifies the qualities of Womyn's Culture, and by extension, Womyn's Space, than the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. Michigan is a place to affirm your experiences of being female and to affirm those of other womyn, a place to feel safe walking alone at night and safe to share openly and honestly with

We still live in a society where men are valued more than women simply because men are men.

other womyn. It's a place to feel free to be who you are, all of who you are as a female and to embrace the differences between females while finding and cherishing the common ground that connects us to each other as womyn. In a space created by, for, and about womyn, a culture that celebrates the experiences of being born female, there's an awesome feeling of empowerment that comes from seeing and experiencing all of the different and amazing things females can do, be and create, when given the chance.

¹It should be made clear that Womyn's Culture is not about pushing men down, it's about lifting womyn up.



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The CLIKS Return to Milwaukee

"The Cliks are the band we have all been waiting for. No one else can inspire such crushed-out admiration and full-on rock star screaming. I thought those embarrassing fangirl days were long gone for me, but The Cliks have brought them back with a vengeance."
- Margaret Cho

Milwaukee- On August 9th, Canadian band The Cliks will perform songs from their debut CD, "Snakehouse," at Shank Hall (1434 N. Farwell Ave.) Many of you are already familiar with The Cliks, as their "Oh Yeah" video was #1 on LOGO's "Click List" and has remained in the top 10 for 23 weeks. The Cliks also hosted an episode of NewNowNext, back in May, and Cindy Lauper bumped up The Cliks participation in her True Colors Tour from spot appearances to being prominently featured in the last three West Coast tour dates.

On August 23, The Cliks will perform on "The Late Show with Craig Ferguson" (CBS). (Name the last queer/transgendered band that appeared on national television!) Furthermore, the fans, particularly transgendered fans, have made lead singer Lucas Silveira a bit of a role model. He is the first out transgender artist to be signed to a high profile label - Tommy Boy's Silver Label. Although the members of the band are all "out" members of the LGBT community, it isn't something that they use as a marketing tool. As well, they shouldn't, since their music clearly speaks for itself.

Front man, Lucas Silveira, posted a touching, achingly personal blog following the band's Pittsburgh show earlier this summer, on being transgendered, his fans, and why he says "Cyndi...you are my hero." Though Lucas insists on putting the music first, being one of the most visible - if not THE most visible - transgendered artist on the pop/rock scene, has made him a hero to many a transgendered fan. Almost daily, he receives fan mail from transgendered and questioning fans, many of whom regard Lucas as a their hero. For some, Lucas is the first person to whom they've revealed their personal turmoil. Read Lucas's blog at myspace.com/thecliks.

The Cliks is made up of Silveira (vocals/guitar,) Nina Martinez (guitar), Jen Benton (bass), and Morgan Doctor on drums. Catch this band now!

Silveira was gracious enough to take a quick moment out of their current touring schedule to answer a few of our questions.



QL: Give five words to describe your style.

Silveira: Rock n' Roll baby

QL: How was it touring with the True Colors tour?

Silveira: It was probably the highlight of our careers at this point. We had so much fun and were so well received and supported by Cyndi and all the other acts and the audiences. We walked away with a lot of new friends so it was an amazing experience overall.

QL: Are you well received by "straighter" audiences, or do you find it's hard to get them in the door?

Silveira: We're really well received by straight and queer audiences alike. We have a really diverse crowd and we're really proud of that.

QL: Since you'll be back in Milwaukee (Aug. 9th at Shank Hall) do you think you'll scarf down some brats, beer, cheese curds and kringle?

Silveira: Well, I'm a vegetarian so I'll pass on the brats but I'm game for the rest. When in Rome, right?

QL: Your performances have been described as "sweetly melodic" to "balls to wall" rock. Are there any particular performers you emulate?

Silveira: We definitely admire a lot of performers but we don't really try to emulate anyone. We just go on stage and do our own thing.

QL: Where can we catch you next on your Snakehouse tour?

Silveira: Portland, Maine today. But if you mean after Milwaukee, Chicago.

The Cliks - AUG 9th at Shank Hall, 8PM, 1434 N. Farwell Ave, \$10.00. Must be 21 with ID

Tickets at Shank Hall Ticketmaster outlets www.ticketmaster.com or by phone 414-276-4545

For more info on the band, and to hear some of their music, go to www.thecliks.com.

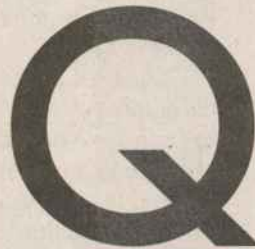
Madison Sees the Sundance

Summertime may be high season for Pride celebrations across the country, but the Madison LGBT community got a head start this past spring on celebrating its community pride when the Sundance Cinemas Madison opened. The theater, located in the Hilldale shopping complex, is the first location for Sundance Cinemas. The cinemas are part of a family of companies that have all grown from the Sundance Institute, started by legendary actor, director, and entrepreneur Robert Redford.

Many people are familiar with the Sundance Film Festival, which the institute produces, and the Sundance cable film channel. Nancy Klasky Gribler, vice president of marketing for Sundance Cinemas, hopes that the theaters will be known for much more than just a place to see movies. "This was really conceived as a welcoming community space." Indeed, the theater is much more than a series of screening rooms; included in the cinema space is a café, a juried gallery space, a spot to buy related Sundance merchandise, and a restaurant and rooftop bar. As Klasky Gribler notes, "Visitors don't have to buy a ticket to enter the facility - they can come in and explore." Visitors can also be out - outside, that is: the space includes gathering areas on the rooftop and outside of the theater. Klasky Gribler observed how Madison residents "love to be outside, and here, they can be."

Sundance Cinemas is also tweaking the "old school" moviegoing experience. These changes, according to Klasky Gribler, have been "embraced by the people who appreciate the amenities we provide." Among those amenities: wireless Internet connections in the theater area, and reserved seating in the theater. With reserved seating, moviegoers can purchase the tickets via the web before a show, or use monitors outside the theater if they'd like to buy tickets "at the door." The cinemas also refine the patron's experience by not playing commercials or ads prior to the start of a film.

When the theater was planning its grand opening, the decision was made to reach out to a number of arts and advocacy groups who make an impact on the lives of Wisconsin residents.



MADISON

By Patrick Erwin

As Klasky Gribler notes, "We really wanted to reach the community of Madison. We wanted to make sure we were touching all aspects of the community". As a result, Sundance Cinemas planned a grand opening week that included grand opening events to benefit the three organizations selected. Outreach, Madison's LGBT community center, was one of the groups chosen. A benefit for Outreach was held as part of the opening in May.

Outreach coordinator Nikki Baumblatt had high praise for Sundance Cinemas. "Our fundraiser was a huge success and we owe that completely to Sundance Cinemas and their desire to play a role in the communities in which they reside. I personally wished all businesses had the same sense of responsibility to their communities." Baumblatt also got to meet Robert Redford when

Redford came to Madison for a meeting with local political and community leaders after the cinemas opened. "Having him tell me how important the LGBT community was to him, and how happy he was that we were one of the three organizations selected made me believe that it wasn't just words, but his sincere feelings."

Sundance Cinemas will expand to other areas, including a possible location in Chicago. The second location, in the heart of San Francisco's film district, is slated to open later this year. In the meantime, the six screens at the Madison location will carry a cross-section of independent film, including full-length films with LGBT content. Klasky Gribler says that although most films will come through traditional distribution channels, there may eventually be synergy between the cinemas and the Sundance Film Festival, or may feature shorts from the Sundance Film Channel. Both the festival and the cable channel have traditionally been strong incubators for LGBT cinema; one of the mainstream LGBT films introduced at the festival was 2005's "Brokeback Mountain".

Sundance Cinemas is located at Hilldale Mall, 430 N. Midvale Blvd, Madison.

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QLife Quickies

More reasons to visit Britain

Britain - VisitBritain, the national tourist office for England, Scotland and Wales, highlights some of the latest reasons to visit Britain. The Scottish city of Glasgow boasts the popular Glasgay! Festival - an annual gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender arts festival taking place in November. Also in Glasgow, 'q!' gallery' recently opened, providing exhibition space and Scotland's first visual arts gallery dedicated to gay and lesbian art and artists. London is home to the largest gay and lesbian population in Europe, and The London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is the largest festival of its kind in Europe featuring around 120 film premieres as well as short films, master classes and interviews. Manchester boasts one of the world's biggest gay and lesbian arts festivals: queerupnorth - described as a three-week celebration of everything queer, culminating in a 'Night of Light' featuring music, costumes, lantern procession, candlelit flotilla on the canal and fireworks. For more information on lesbian and gay travel to Britain, visit www.visitbritain.com/rainbow.

Gay Pastor Defrocked

Washington - In a July 2nd decision, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) Committee on Appeals decided to remove Atlanta Pastor Bradley Schmeling from the church's pastoral roles because Pastor Schmeling is a gay man living his life openly and honestly.

"We are outraged at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) and are hurting for the St. John's Community," said Human Rights Campaign's, Harry Knox, Director of the Religion and Faith Program.

"The Committee has acted to hurt lesbian and gay people and those who love us in the cynical belief that we will simply go away. They obviously have forgotten God's constant love and God's call to justice. We will not go away. In fact, we will be present with Goodsoil and Lutherans Concerned at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly and at every Churchwide Assembly from now until the gifts and graces for ministry of all people are both recognized and celebrated."

HRC's Religion and Faith Program strives to open hearts and minds to new ways of viewing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Hungary for Eggs and bombs?

July 7th - Budapest - Skinheads and right-wing activists decided to throw rotten eggs and smoke bombs at gay rights participants during a parade in Hungary's capital. If that wasn't enough, they threw beer bottles at the police, while being dispersed. Members of the Movement for a Better Hungary and the Hungarian National Front said they were angry over the coming out of Gabor Szetey, a state secretary in the prime minister's office, as well as the promise to seek legalized same sex marriages by the Socialist-led ruling coalition. Some 2,000 people participated in the Saturday march.

Top 10 Gay Wheels

Gaywheels.com, the sole source of information specifically targeted to and about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) car-shoppers, announced its list of the Top 10 Most-Researched Vehicles during the second quarter of 2007.

Gaywheels.com Top 10 Most-Researched Vehicles

- 1) Toyota Yaris
- 2) Saab 9-3
- 3) Mazda MX-5 Miata
- 4) Volkswagen Jetta
- 5) Volkswagen Eos
- 6) Dodge Caliber
- 7) Toyota Camry
- 8) Audi A3
- 9) Volkswagen Rabbit
- 10) Infiniti FX

Gaywheels.com classifies vehicle manufacturers as gay-friendly or not based on their corporate policies for offering domestic-partner benefits to their employees in the U.S. The Top 10 Most-Researched Vehicles have always come solely from gay-friendly automakers, delineating the importance to LGBT consumers of a brand's corporate policies and positions in regards to the gay community.



Nina's Heavenly Delights
Opening Night - Thursday, September 6, 7:30pm
Oriental Theatre



The Witnesses
Centerpiece Film - Wednesday, September 12, 7:30pm
Oriental Theatre



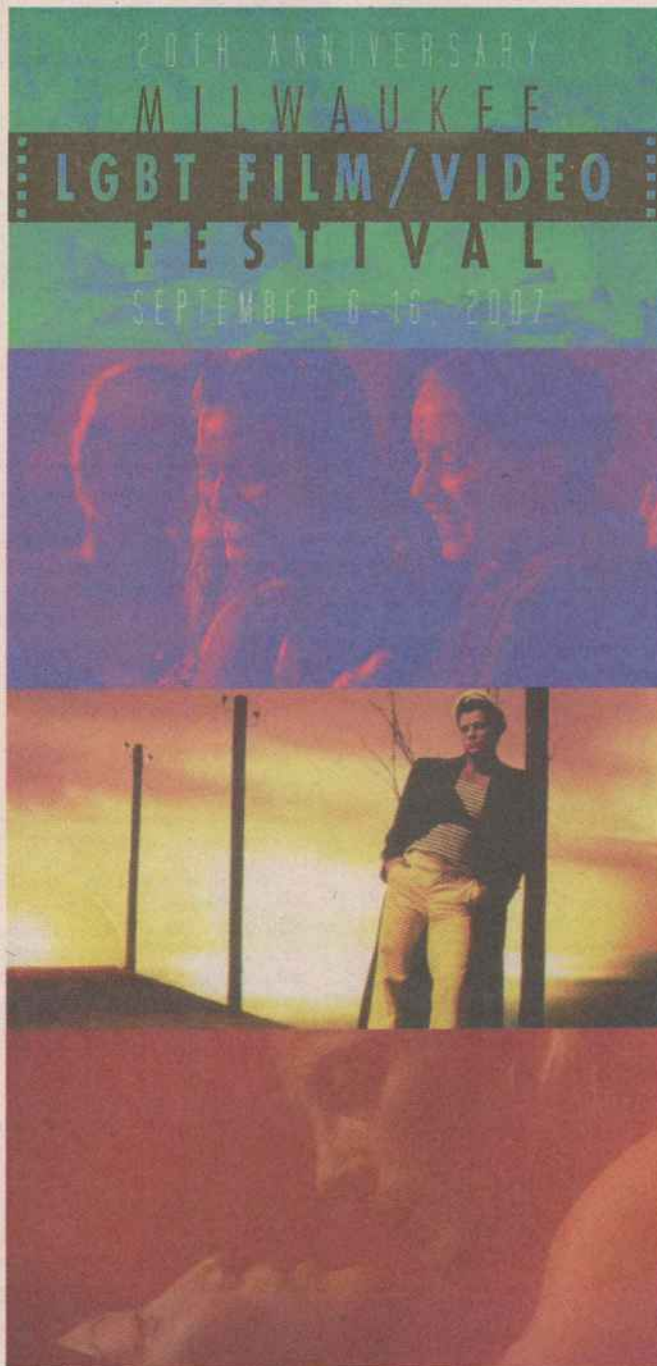
Itty Bitty Titty Committee
Saturday, September 15, 9pm
UWM Union Theatre



The Bubble
Saturday, September 8, 7pm
UWM Union Theatre



For the Bible Tells Me So
Thursday, September 13, 7pm
UWM Union Theatre



Tick Tock Lullaby
Sunday, September 16, 5pm
UWM Union Theatre



Times Have Been Better
Sunday, September 16, 7pm
UWM Union Theatre



The Gymnast
Friday, September 14, 7pm
UWM Union Theatre

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One of the community's longest running film festivals celebrates its 20th anniversary with an international array of the finest and newest in films and videos by and about the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. The screening-packed eleven days of features, documentaries, and shorts opens at the Oriental Theatre with the local premiere of Pratibha Parmar's *Nina's Heavenly Delights*.

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Glue
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UWM Union Theatre



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Handy Matters: It's Garage Make-Over Time!

By Todd Schuster

If your garage houses everything but your car, perhaps it's time to consider cleaning out and reorganizing. Making space for projects, hobbies and storage extends your living space. For some, the garage is the biggest room in the house; why not make it more livable? Do you



remember how much fun having a fort as a child? You have a huge space that can be anything, from an art studio to a meditation den. From sports equipment, lawn and

gardening tools, seasonal decorations and cherished relics that you can't part with, a roomful can be overwhelming — especially when considering the decision to toss or keep.

Realistically, if you organize everything, you may not have to get rid of anything. This is an opportunity to get the treasure off the floor and out from behind the door. With a step-by-step process you can create an organized, usable garage space and create storage.

Pick a nice day so you can use the driveway to begin organizing. Separate things into piles by group: sports gear, hand tools, fix-it supplies, yard paraphernalia and a junk pile. "Junk" being those things that you've hung onto that you "might use someday." Consider how many years it has gathered dust and toss or donate it to your local charity. The tax savings

from your donation might even help pay for your garage make over. Once you have everything in its respective pile, look at your garage space. Now that you have empty walls and floor space, you can put everything back and hope it stays nice, right? Wrong! You wouldn't leave pots and pans on the kitchen floor, why leave valuable equipment on the garage floor? Add cabinetry with shelving, drawers and doors to store things properly.

Adding cabinets also creates counter space for woodworking, fixing the car, potting plants or whatever your interest dictates. Modular cabinets can be arranged in and around your large items, like the refrigerator, ride-on lawn mower or band saw to create a space for everything.

With 2.5 billion dollars spent on garage renovation in 2006, it's growing in popularity. Adding cabinetry is more than organization, it's about lifestyle. You're taking the most cluttered part of your home and customizing it to create a finished extension of your square footage and adding to your home's value. Once your garage becomes a clean, organized space you can also use it for garage entertainment. Hang a flat-screen TV and sound system to enjoy football games and work on your project at the same time and have fun in your garage.

Certain companies make heavy-duty cabinetry specifically to handle heavy tools, machines and rough conditions typical of the garage. With their unique hanging system, the cabinets don't sit on the floor so they are level and easy to clean under. Make sure when installing your cabinets that you have done your homework on pound load capacity.

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUG 3

Save the date: The Milwaukee Guerrilla Gay Bar hosts the first takeover of a local straight bar. It's all in fun, as in jest. MGGB is above all just a chance for gays and lesbians in Milwaukee to go out and have fun at different venues while being around other gay folks. Get ready to show up en masse and party at a new one-night gay venue! Make sure you add them as a "friend" on your Myspace.com site, so they can alert you to the "secret" location. 8:30pm

Que viva la revolucion! MGGB does not condone any confrontational behavior. Remember it's about fun!

AUG 9-12

Piratey Fun, Tall Ship Tours And Sailing Excursions At U.S. Cellular Kenosha Days of Discovery - the biggest tall ship festival in the Midwest, at Kenosha Harbor. Tall ship tours, sailing excursions, music, exhibits, and an array of family-friendly entertainment including kid's activities at the U.S. Cellular KidZone. Activities get underway with the Parade of Sail Aug 9 at 4 p.m. For more information about U.S. Cellular Kenosha Days of Discovery visit www.kenoshadaysofdiscovery.com.

AUG 9

QPICK

The TV station LOGO and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation will present several 2008 presidential candidates—including Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Barack Obama—in a historic televised forum on LGBT issues. The one-hour event will be broadcast live at 8 p.m. CT in Los Angeles before a studio audience, and will be streamed online at LOGOonline.com.

AUG 10

Lesbian Alliance Potluck & Game Night! 6 pm.

LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Bring your favorite game for an evening of fun. As you are able, please bring a dish to pass. For more info call 414-272-9442.

AUG 12

Black Gay Pride brought to you by Charles D. Productions. Kick off party from 4-9pm. Runs through Aug 19th. Check ad in QLife for more info!

Riverwest Gardeners Market in Garden Park, in Riverwest. Sundays thru October 28, 11AM to 4PM. Fresh, local produce (some organic), flowers, herbs, arts & crafts. Live acoustic music from Noon-3PM. Garden Park, Locust & Bremen. MORE INFO: 414.265.7278.

AUG 16

Auditions - Men's Voices Milwaukee. Come Audition at 7pm Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. 315 Court Street.

AUG 17

QLIFE and Times Cinema team up to bring you Mommie Dearest! Dust off your best shoulder pads and held over to the Times (5906 W. Vliet St) on Aug 17th for the midnight showing! **Only \$6.00.**

AUG 23

Bay View Wine & Beer Fest. Join us at "Bay View On The Vine" wine and beer fest at Sven's European Cafe in Bay View, from 4-10pm each evening, on Aug 23-25th (Thu-Fri-Sat nites) Join us for wine, beer sampling, and sumptuous food on the grille at Sven's Outdoor Garden! 2699 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. \$20 at the door for wine and beer samples.

continued on next page

Project Q
is going to
SixFlags
GREAT AMERICA

Wednesday, August 22nd

Bus leaves Project Q (315 W. Court Street) at 9:45 AM returns at 8:00 PM.

Cost: \$30 (Includes admission to park and transportation) for youth ages 24 & under. • Youth ages 17 and under will need a permission form. • Adults (ages 25 & older) are welcome to join us. Cost for adults is \$35. • *Season pass holders can ride the bus for \$5.*

Payment secures your ticket and spot on the bus.
To register please call **(414) 223-3220** or email **ProjectQ@ProjectQ.org** for more information.

Project Q
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
315 W Court Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 223-3220 | www.projectq.org

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

continued from preceding

AUG 25

Rufus Wainwright at the Ravinia Festival. www.ravinia.org. 847-266-5100.

AUG 26

Lesbian Alliance Annual Picnic. 11 am - 4 pm. Lake Park Area #3, enter off of Kenwood Boulevard.

Help celebrate Women's Equality Day, the day women got the right to vote in the United States, as well as visit with friends at this annual picnic. Please bring a dish to pass as you are able - as well as a meat or veggie item to grill. Lesbian Alliance will provide grills, charcoal and beverages. For more information call 414-272-9442 or visit www.lesbianalliance.org.

From 11-1 enjoy good company, food and drinks, at a great location, and for a great cause. Center Advocates PAC are hosting a fundraising garden party Sunday, at the home of Joseph Pabst. Come help raise money to elect pro-LGBT candidates in

WI. Featured guest is NGLTF Executive Director, Matt Foreman. To donate, call 414-347-1892.

AUG 27

Rufus Wainwright at Milwaukee's Pabst Theater Monday, Aug. 27 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$39.50 and go on sale Friday, May 25 at noon at the Pabst Theater Box Office, on the web at www.pabsttheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552. Concert supported by Alterra Coffee Roasters.

AUG 29

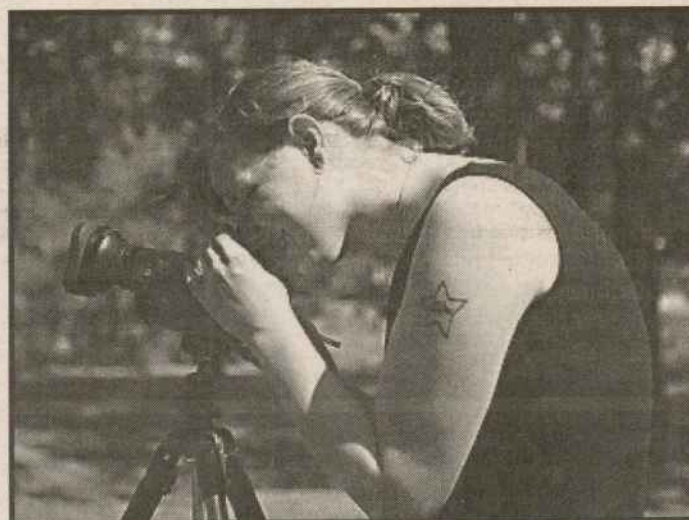
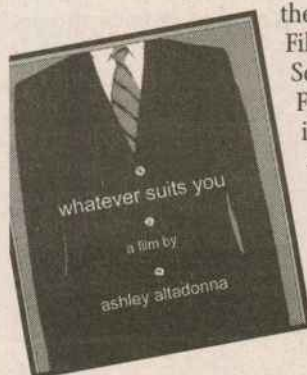
Check out the "Classic Museum" at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. they will exhibit memorabilia from the last 30 years of the Saturday Softball Beer League, and Dairyland Classic. Registration for the Dairyland Classic XXX starts at 6PM at MONA's, with their kick-ass fish fry. Drink specials, rainbow jell-o shots and entertainment abounds!

Calendar submissions for the September Calendar is the 20th of August.

An interview with Milwaukee filmmaker Ashley Altadonna.

By Paul Masterson

Ashley Altadonna graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee film program. She has produced numerous short film including *Whatever Suits You*, an autobiographical film about her transition. *Whatever Suits You* was recently shown at San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival as well as at the Seattle Transgender Film Festival and the Seattle LGBT Film Festival 2006. It will be in the Milwaukee in September.



PM - Ashley, as a transgender woman, how would you describe yourself?

AA: I'm a transgender, transsexual, lesbian, femme, bi-curious feminist.

PM: That covers a lot. As a feminist, people might presume you're a militant.

AA: I'm an activist but it's a misconception that feminism is militant. It should be for every one. The separations in queer community are due to misconceptions and the disassociation of older activists. They're trying to maintain gender binary and definition. The result is false perceptions. People impose preconceived notions on what transgender should be.

PM: Have you been accepted in the lesbian feminist circle?

AA: Trans-men are well received in the lesbian community but trans-women aren't - even if they consider themselves lesbian. For example, my partner, another woman, and I were denied admission to a lesbian event at PrideFest 2006.

PM: Because you're trans?

AA: Yes. It has to do with trying to maintain gender norms like the women's music festival that denies trans-women. Transgender people throw that off-balance and force society to question gender definitions. Exclusion only shows their need to define their specific "woman"

PM: It must be frustrating to transition and be scorned by your new gender as if you're trespassing. Are you angry?

AA: The result can be anger - on both sides. Anger is good as motivation but it needs to be used for positive change and not simply for its own sake.

PM: So what about your films? You just returned from San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival where *Whatever Suits You* was shown. How was it received?

AA: It was great and a real learning experience. It's interesting, San Francisco placed my film in the "bi" category. Another trans film was pulled because some considered it transphobic. There were protestors on both sides. Some protested the censorship; others the film itself. Censorship is tricky - calling something offensive requires weighing the

piece's merits against the rationale of the offense.

PM: Will you be in the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival?

AA: Yes, *Whatever Suits You* shows on September 8th. as an opening for an amazing documentary called "Red Without Blue". I'll also be at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center in December. I'm producing three films for that show.

I'd love to be in the Milwaukee International Film Festival. My distributor, Altcinema, is working on it.

PM: So, what about your style? How do you approach filmmaking?

AA: I do videos, preferably in black and white. Adding color to a film is another aesthetic choice, like lighting. I try to shoot video that looks and feels like film. I like the grainy quality that video doesn't have. Film has a different aesthetic.

Videos are crisp with defined visibility that can be used in good ways but film has a much more painterly quality - pointillism to the enth-degree. The grain on celluloid is like a photograph - as a culture we're used to not quite perfect images.

Video is so much more advanced but it's cold. The trend is that film will become archaic and replaced by video - they're cheaper, too. Movie-goers are going to regret it as video becomes the norm.

For some of us, the summer season brings cookouts and cocktails. Try one of these LGBT Stoli Martini's from Stoli Vodka to liven up a sizzling summer night!

Stoli® Rainbow-tini

- 1 part Stoli® Ohranj
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- 2 parts cranberry juice
- 1 part sweet & sour mix
- fresh raspberries or blueberries



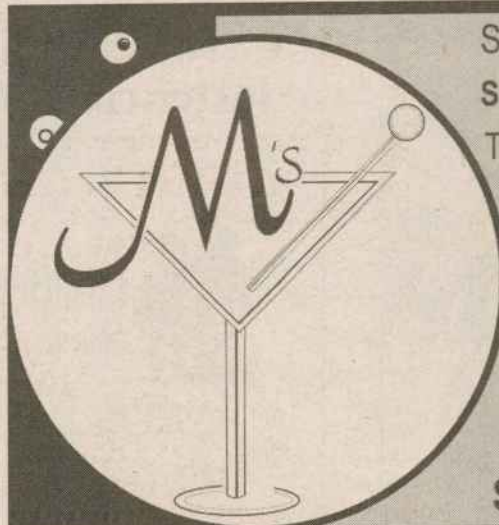
Pour all ingredients in shaker with ice. Shake and pour into martini glass. Garnish with fresh berries.

Stoli® LGBTini

- 2.5 parts Stoli® vodka
- Splash of limoncello
- lemon twist



Pour splash of limoncello in chilled cocktail glass. Shake vodka in cocktail shaker with ice. Throw away excess limoncello and strain vodka into coated cocktail glass. Garnish with lemon twist.



SUN: "Big Liquid Brunch"
Sundays: Drag Show 10:30 PM
TUE: \$3 Tall Long Island Night
WED: SKKY's the Limit!
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THU: 2-4-1 ALL Night
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FRI: Prize Night
SAT: Pull Tab Specials
Sat. Aug 4th: Karaoke

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Kindergarten Learning—Subtle Changes Speak Volumes

The week before Mother's Day, a Kindergarten teacher was helping children make cards for their moms. She sat at the table with four children who poured love onto paper and penned precious phrases, then embellished their masterpieces with stickers and sparkles and finally wrapped the finished cards in tissue paper. As fate would have it, each of the four children at the table was making not one, but TWO cards for TWO moms. Yes, at age five and six, these children had found one another in the busy classroom and as they worked on their cards, they talked about their many moms. Nearby, another girl looked longingly at the group. When the teacher invited her to join, she replied, "I thought this table was only for kids with TWO moms." With a little encouragement from the teacher, the child sat down at the table and began to create. "Thank you for letting me make cards too," she said, "even though I have only one mom."

When my colleague shared this story a few weeks ago, we both were pretty mushy; at first laughing with celebration and glee; then moments later, wiping teary

eyes at the poignancy of it all. For the two of us—both moms of gay children, the story highlighted how mainstream LGBT families have become; how absolutely normal it is to have two moms. That a little child felt like she might be one mom short of a full family—and that she wondered whether she'd fit in—revealed a delightfully transformed perspective for us. It somehow renewed our confidence that our respective children would have fulfilling futures in a changing world. Our grandchildren would make cards for us one day at the Kindergarten tables. While our LGBT kids had more than their share of bumps and hurts along life's journey, their challenges somehow paved a smoother path for the younger ones who follow.

As I pondered this Kindergarten scene, I was reminded of a recent lawsuit in a Massachusetts Kindergarten classroom. That teacher read a book called, "Who's In a Family?" that depicted different kinds of families including one with two moms and another with two dads. One student took the book home to share with his father, who objected to the content, met with school officials to complain and ultimately took the case to court. The dad felt so certain of the harmful effects of his son seeing two dads in a picture book that he petitioned the court to outlaw the literature. He lost. At one point, he was criminally charged for trespassing on school grounds. During court proceedings, an official claimed that, "This children's book does not affect a child's reality,



PARENTING

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

rather it reflects the reality of today's society." Imagine!

There are days when I wonder if my struggles for a safe world for my son can

the story highlighted how mainstream LGBT families have become; how absolutely normal it is to have two moms.

possibly make a difference. I wonder if equity and a celebration of diversity will blanket the world. I long for a world without hate. I freely speak up for justice. As a straight ally, my toils pale in contrast with the efforts of the passionate LGBT community. To live day after day in the scorn of scoffers while enduring verbal and physical assaults of hateful homophobes can dim the brightest rays of sunshine and rob lives of well-deserved joy. That's just not fair. And yet, our quest continues.

May your spirits be renewed and may you recognize the fine nuances of a changed world and pause to appreciate them. Your efforts matter and your pain is not in vain. Across the continent, children and their parents are finding a new normal. The scales of justice sometimes sway into balance. And the subtle changes speak volumes.

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QLife is looking for a talented in the know writer from the Madison area to cover local events. Please send writing samples to: editor@queerlifeneeds.com or Call 414-383-8200 for additional information.

QLife NARI Tickets!

Oh my goodness!!! The most exciting time of the year is coming. The 17th annual Fall Home & Remodeling Show will be here Friday, September 28 - Sunday, September 30, 2007, at the Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park in West Allis, Wis.

Let's face it we all have that area we want to re-do perhaps with out even telling ones partner.

So get to your computers, phone, or walk on over here and give us your name/info and we will enter you into the ticket drawing!

Editor@queerlifeneeds.com, or 414-383-8200. 2266 N. Prospect Ave, suite 200

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From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that there is a lot of waste associated with tampons and sanitary pads and their packaging? Are there any environmentally friendly alternatives out there? --

-- C. Howard, Victoria, BC

Women of ancient cultures couldn't buy feminine hygiene products at the supermarket or drugstore chain, so they improvised, fashioning them instead out of various natural and biodegradable materials—from papyrus and wool to grasses and vegetable fibers. Modern women, however, have relied on a variety of disposable products that create significant after-use waste and can also be dangerous to their health. A typical American woman will use—and discard—as many as 16,000 tampons and their applicators over the course of her lifetime. The numbers for disposable sanitary pads run about twice as high. A 1998 study conducted by waste consultant Franklin Associates concluded that 6.5 billion tampons and 13.5 billion sanitary

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment



pads, plus their packaging, were ending up in U.S. landfills or sewer systems each year. Meanwhile, volunteers from the non-profit Ocean Conservancy collected more than 170,000 tampon applicators along American coastlines during a study conducted over a two-year period in 1998 and 1999. On the health front, the sterile look of feminine hygiene products does not betray the fact that the chlorine dioxide used to whiten them can "theoretically generate dioxins at extremely low levels," according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Although the chlorine bleaching of tampons and pads has become considerably safer since the early 1990s, prior to which the process released some 250 different organochlorines into the environment and delivered a product laden with dioxin, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) says that

no safe level for dioxin exposure exists. Dioxin is 10 times more likely to cause cancer than was believed in 1994, says the EPA, and a lifetime of exposure to tampons, in particular, can mean a significant accumulation of toxins in a woman's body and many non-cancer effects, including birth defects and child developmental delays. Additionally, tampons, because they interrupt the natural flow of blood, can facilitate bacteria growth and cause infection.

To address both the health and environmental issues associated with feminine products, a number of innovative companies offer alternatives. GladRags, Natracare, Lunapads, Many Moons and Pandora Pads all make a wide range of cotton pads and other re-usable products free of toxic substances. And Jade and Pearl shapes natural sea sponges to fit a woman's body, absorbing flow and likewise steering customers away from throwaway products made of bleached synthetic fibers.

Meanwhile, "The Keeper" is a reusable rubber cup designed to catch menstrual flow; its maker also sells a silicone version called the "Moon Cup" for those with sensitivities to rubber. Such products can last for up to 10 years before needing replacement and are approved by the U.S. FDA and Health Canada. Many of these healthier and environmentally friendly (and less costly) alternative products are available online as well as on the shelves of natural foods markets across North America.

CONTACTS: GladRags, www.gladrags.com; Natracare, www.natracare.com; Lunapads, www.lunapads.com; Many Moons Alternatives, www.manymoonalternatives.com; Pandora Pads, www.pandorapads.com; The Keeper, www.keeper.com; Jade and Pearl, www.jadeandpearl.com.

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

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See you next year! Fill out our brief survey at pridefest.com for a chance to win a 2008 weekend pass. Check out the new photo galleries while you're there.

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ARTS CALENDAR

AUG 4

Madison Gay Video Club showing of "Keillers Park (Sweden)" (TLA Rel., dir. Susanna Edwards, 2005) "H2O" (Titan Media, dir. Brian Mills, 2007) 8:00 PM, <http://www.mgvc.org> <http://www.mgvc.org>, 244-8675 (evenings) Note: Confidential Location

AUG 5

QPICK

Do not miss emphatically poetic, fiercely political rock icon Patti Smith at the Barrymore Theatre in Madison. Presented by Last Coast/True Endeavors and 105.5 Triple M. Tickets: \$25.00 Advance/\$28.00 Day Of Show. 7:30 P.M. Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI 53704. 608 241-2345. There will be a silent auction in the lobby as a fundraiser for the Center for Media and Democracy

AUG 6

Monday classes for 8 weeks. Take Pilates, or Yoga, or both. \$40. Pilates 5:30-6:30, Yoga 6:45-7:45PM. MGAC, 703 South 2nd St. 383-3727 for INFO.

AUG 7

Coyote Grace - in concert 8pm. Admission \$7. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St.

COYOTE GRACE is the Seattle-based acoustic duet comprised of Joe Stevens, a transman singer/songwriter from California, and sassy femme Ingrid

Eye on vocals and upright bass. Partners on and off stage, their love of music and for each other permeates every song. Read more and hear their music on <http://www.myspace.com/coyotegrace>. Info 414-383-3727

AUG 9

QPICK

Toronto based band, The Cliks are known for their blazing, uncompromising live performances. That, and the fact that they are made up of three lesbians, and 1 trans frontman. They are the band to catch now before they get too big to play the little places. See them on their way to the top! Shank Hall, 1434 N Farwell Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Box office open on Tuesdays from 11am to 2pm, or purchase tix online to Shank Hall shows at www.ticketmaster.com. Info: (414) 276-7288

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents MOONLIGHT AND MAGNOLIAS By Ron Hutchinson.

Thru AUG 26 at the Cabot Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee.

Box Office 414-291-7800 www.chamber-theatre.com

AUG 10

Growing Nation Release Party. 9pm. \$10. Opening Acts: Featuring L Boogie. 18+, Drinking w/Proper ID.

continued on next page



Nancy B. Meeks

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Charming East Side home has recently been updated to the height of sophistication. Open concept floor plan features gourmet KIT w/contemporary tigerwood cabs, SS countertops, illuminated bar area. 1st floor bath has Japanese soaker tub. Large MBR w/vaulted ceilings. LL has finished office space. Newer windows & roof. \$240's #951522



2649 N. Prospect Ave. Beautifully renovated building. Prime location blocks from Downer shops. KIT boasts cherry cabs, 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



River Crest Townhome! Enjoy your private entrance & 2 car attached GA. SS appliances in KIT w/island breakfast bar. Great room offers patio doors to your private balcony. Southern & Western exposures make this unit extra bright. BRs on upper floor with walk-in closets. \$280's #950846



Rare 1 BR plus den includes underground parking! Welcome to the Third Ward's toniest new building. Enjoy the views from balcony or spend time boat watching from the riverside courtyard. Stained concrete flooring & SS appliances. Fabulous master bath has soaking tub & separate shower stall. Kohler fixtures throughout. \$230's #951171

ARTS CALENDAR

continued from the preceding page

Growing Nation is a collective of singers, musicians, songwriters, spoken-word artists and emcees whose sound is firmly rooted in a rich heritage of soul, hip-hop, funk, rock, jazz and spiritual music. The group has opened for Charlie Wilson, Anthony Hamilton, Angie Stone, NE-YO, and Talib Kweli

Danceworks Cabaret Show: An evening of live music and entertainment by Skylight Opera favorites Becky Spice and Jaime Johns will be interrupted by clever dance vignettes from an array of local choreographer at 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.

AUG 12

The Rentals Return To Milwaukee's Pabst Theater To Perform An "Intimate Lower Level Show" With Special Guests: Copeland and Goldenboy. 8 p.m. with special guests Copeland and Goldenboy. Tickets are \$15.00 at Pabst Theater Box Office, on the web at www.pabsttheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552. Pabst Theatre, 144 East Wells St.

AUG 14

A Midsummer Night McGivern- Wisconsin's favorite comedic storyteller. Tues through Sat, 7:30 P.M. Sunday, 19th at 2PM. Tickets: \$25/\$20. 920-458-6144 website: www.jmkac.org

John Michael Kohler Arts Center Theatre 608 New York Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53081

AUG 15

THOM PAINE, BASED ON NOTHING by Will Eno, is coming to the Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre 2252 South Kinnickinic. 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 for or phone at 414.744.5757

Soulstice Theatre Company presents a free art display in conjunction with its summer show, Euphony: A Celebration of Song and Dance. The show runs Wednesday, through Saturday, August 18th in the third floor auditorium at the Marian Center on Lake Drive (between Howard and Oklahoma) in Bay View. Guidelines: Set up Monday, August 13 or Tuesday, August 14, Pick up Saturday night after the show or Sunday, August 19th.*Make a 10% donation to Soulstice for any sales. *Email a bio by August 8th. If you have questions or need further clarification, contact Jeffrey Berens at jeffrey7198@aol.com.

AUG 16

Perry Farrell's Satellite Party Performs At The Pabst. 8 p.m. Alternative music icon, Lollapalooza founder, and former Jane's Addiction and Porno For Pyros frontman Perry Farrell formed Satellite Party to launch a musical movement behind his passionate belief that people can change the world one step at a time Visit www.satelliteparty.com for additional artist information. Tickets \$23.00 at the Pabst Theater Box Office, on the web at www.pabsttheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552.

AUG 17

QPICK

The Times Cinema and Queer Life News bring you a classic film from the past - Mommie Dearest.

Queer Life & the Times Cinema present a very special Midnight Showing of



Mommie Dearest
starring Faye Dunaway as Joan Crawford

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17th
MIDNIGHT - \$6 ADMISSION

Advance tickets by phone or online at timescinema.com

SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION - the hilarious "Mommie Dearest" Music Video

59th & Vliet Street
(414) 453-3128



The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents "The Business of Selling Sex" An Exploration of Feminism and Sexuality produced by R. Alice Wilson and Susan Marie Bischoff. "Call Girls" A Three-Way in One Act Written by R. Alice Wilson and Colleen Duvall, Directed by Shawn Smith and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" - Inspired by a True Story. Written and Directed by Susan Marie Bischoff. 703 s.2nd St. 8pm - Admission \$8. INFO: 414-383-3727. To repeat Aug 24 & 25.

THRU AUG 23

The MGAC Gallery: "points of (dis)location" An installation by Carrie Hoelzer and Susan Retzer. A collaboration of musings and aphorism in space continues at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Check it out! 703 S. 2nd. St. 414-383-3727 for info.

AUG 24

QPICK

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents "The Business of Selling Sex" An Exploration of Feminism and Sexuality produced by R. Alice Wilson and Susan Marie Bischoff. "Call Girls" A Three-Way in One Act Written by R. Alice Wilson and Colleen Duvall, Directed by Shawn Smith and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down" - Inspired by a True Story. Written and Directed by Susan Marie Bischoff. 703 s.2nd St. 8pm - Admission \$8. INFO: 414-383-3727.

COMING IN SEPT:

Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars Perform An Intimate Lower Level Show At Milwaukee's Historic Pabst September 5th at 8 p.m. Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars formed in a refugee camp after members fled from their native Sierra Leone in West Africa during that country's brutal 10-year civil war. Visit www.refugeeallstars.org and www.anti.com for additional artist information. Tickets are \$29.50 and are on sale now at the Pabst Theater Box Office, on the web at www.pabsttheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552.

Deadline for September Calendar is August 20th



PASSINGS

Tammy Faye Messner Dies

"Live one day at a time, and never be afraid," said Tammy Faye Messner



to her readers on her website. This was as she battled colon cancer, weighing only 65 pounds. Doctors had stopped treating her cancer, which had spread to her lungs, and she passed away peacefully July 20th at her home in Kansas City, Mo.

Messner, who as Tammy Faye Baker helped her husband, Jim, build

a multimillion-dollar evangelism empire that collapsed in disgrace had frequently spoken about her medical problems, saying she hoped to be an inspiration to others.

In an interview with CNN's Larry King earlier this month, an emaciated Messner said, "I believe when I leave this earth, because I love the Lord, I'm going straight to heaven." Asked if she had any regrets, Messner said: "I don't think about it, Larry, because it's a waste of good brain space."

Just 24 hours prior to her death, a terribly frail Tammy Faye again appeared on "Larry King Live." During that appearance, she spoke of her love and devotion to the gay community. When a gay viewer asked her "why do you think you found it in your heart to love and accept us?" she replied, "Well, you know when we lost everything - it was the gay people that came to my rescue and I will always love them for that."

Tammy Faye was 65 years old.



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Meet You at the Astor

A few months ago, I moved into a lovely place built in 1890 right on lovely Astor Street. This historic Milwaukee Street has such old world charm!

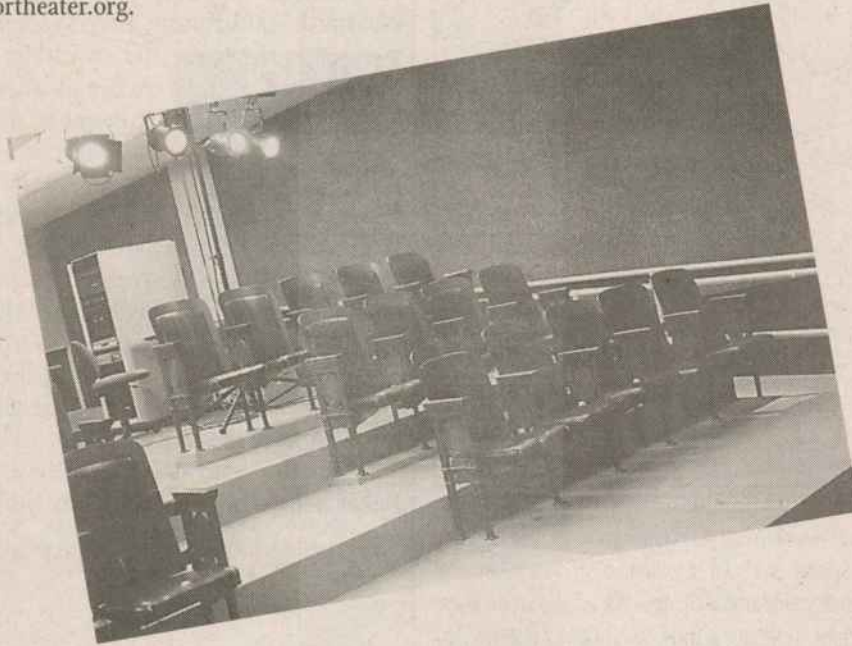
On the corner of Astor and Brady, you'll find a little gem filled with its own rich history - the Brady Street Pharmacy. This exciting location, owned by James Searles, is a complex combining a pharmacy, café diner, and new intimate theater. It's also a fun place to visit and James loves to help support many struggling arts groups.

Once the home of the Astor Movie Theater from 1915-1953, the historic site was purchased by James in 1983, and re-opened in 1984 as the business it

is today. I often eat in the diner and it is hard to beat the large amount of food, at such reasonable prices! My father managed movie theaters in Chicago, and I feel right at home at the Astor, among the many original projectors, lights and theater seats. You should plan a visit very soon. Go see a show, eat some lunch, or pop in to say "hello." In the meantime, be sure to check out their website for more info: www.astortheater.org.

performances there. If you have attended many local theater companies, you most likely sit in folding chairs. The Astor has some of the original theater seats from 1915.

Come visit James in the pharmacy, and you will have a true friend for years to come!



NON-PROFIT COMPANIES

In addition to my own RSVP Productions, the Astor is also home to Pink Banana. Ballet companies such as UW Parkside, and Danceworks are often in

Watch for the 2007-2008 Season to begin!

I hope you attended Spring Green this summer. The outdoor theater will present the classic "The Night of the Iguana." The Milwaukee Chamber Theater opens



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.

"Moonlight and Magnolias." Boulevard Ensemble Theater opens "Thom Pain" starring Tom Dillon. Enjoy your local arts!

Last MONTH's Trivia Answer

The Joseph spoof is rock-and-roll legend Elvis.

This Month's Trivia Question

What openly gay playwright wrote "The Night of the Iguana"???

Aunt Blanche was at PrideFest, but I found the 91 year old dancing the Can-Can at Bastille Days!

the queer program

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Q LIFE will grant credit only for any ad cancellation prior to deadline or errors in ad copy by Q LIFE. There is a \$35 charge for checks returned NSF.

Fax: 414-383-5066 or Mail to: 2266 N. Prospect Ave, Suite 200 Milwaukee, WI 53202 Deadline for Classifieds are the 20th of each month

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Q AUGUST CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

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

FOR RENT

Brady Street area flats: 1813 N. Marshall Nice 2 bedroom With enclosed sunporch - \$825 Aug 1st 1735 n. Franklin. Historic building With huge 3 bedroom upper with Large porch overlooking scenic yard. \$1,100 September 1st

1733 N. Franklin Awesome 1 bedroom with large yard. \$600 Sept. 1st Call Carole 414-704-7103

East side Apartments:

1823 E. Windsor Large 3 Bedroom flat with hardwood floors updated bath and kitchen. Just off Prospect. Walking distance to beach. \$1100 Sept 1. 414-704-7103

2033 N. Prospect 1 bedroom with hardwood floors. Heat included, laundry on site. Only 4 units In building. \$635 Sept 1st Call Carole at 414-704-7103

2039 N Prospect. 1 bedroom upper with heat \$650. Call Carole @ 414-704-7103

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Shorewood condo. Large 1 bedroom with balcony and underground parking. Affordable at \$130K. Call Carole @ 414-704-7103

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Office for rent in the popular Clock Tower located on the corner of Prospect & North. Rates starting at \$10/per sq. foot. 414-704-7103

CALL FOR ENTRIES

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

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



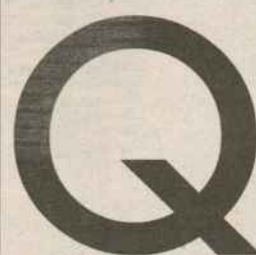
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Fluid 819 S.2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-645-8330
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Kathy's Nut Hut 1500 W. Scott St. Milwaukee, WI 414-647-2673
Kruz 354 E. National Ave. Milwaukee, WI 414-272-5789

LaCage 801 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-383-8330
M's 1101 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-383-8900
Mona's Out 'N About 1407 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 414-643-0377
PumpHouse 2011 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 414-744-7008
Switch 124 W National Ave, Milwaukee, WI 414-220-4340
TAZZbah Bar & Grill 1712 W. Pierce St. Mil, WI 414-672-8466
This Is It 418 E Wells St. Milwaukee, WI 414-278-9192
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Triangle 135 E. National Ave. Milwaukee, WI 414-383-9412
Walker's Pint 818 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-643-7468
Woody's 1579 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-672-0806

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



Tim Gunn A Guide to Quality, Taste & Style

BOOK REVIEW

Review by Roger Uscila

Want Quality, Taste, & Style?

A *Guide to Quality, Taste, & Style* by Tim Gunn with the able assistance of Kate Moloney is indeed a tome tastefully presented. Prominently featured on the dust jacket is a photo of Mr. Gunn, which serves as a perfect illustration of the book's subject. He is simply and elegantly attired, neatly groomed, a model of good posture, which is one of the book's topics. Beneath the jacket the book itself presents smartness, taste and sophistication, with a cover in a light muted shade of chartreuse with black lining and silver lettering on the spine, very stylish.

QTS's premise is that it's about you, and that understanding who you are is the key to creating your wardrobe and your own personal style. Fortunately it doesn't call for years of intense, searing, soul-searching therapy, just some self-appraisal in the mirror.

True to its billing *QTS* genuinely serves as a guide as opposed to a rule book. It is definitely directed to the female of the species, men receive scant attention. He also offers an explanation on the mysteries of American sizing and why you shouldn't be intimidated by it. Also included are sound shopping tips and a brief insightful explanation of the contemporary role shopping plays.

Mr. Gunn offers good, solid, practical advice in the breezy manner of your best chatty fashion friend, from assessing your body type, taking into consideration your height, coloring, proportion of your body, and importantly, the proportion of clothes in relation to your body, to diagnosing what's currently in your closet. Some stylish alternatives to some of the classics such as the little black dress are also offered.

Some gems of wisdom in the book:

- Distinguish between what *appeals* to you and what *actually works* for you.
- Always try things on for fit, that American sizing thing again.
- Identify what goes together, not just individual items

- Tempted by a new style but not sure if it really works for you? Opt for a piece that works with your current wardrobe.

- Shopping at a high-end boutique? Ask if they have an outlet, many do these days or you may find the same piece or a very close cousin at a cheaper store.

- Buy quality pieces that perform as they should for their intended function. Example, a leather jacket for \$60 that is stiff and unbending, no bargain.

The book does bog down a bit where he cites, at great length, several women whom he calls fashion mentors, who serve as examples of certain looks and styles. Catherine Deneuve, Angelina Jolie, Katharine Hepburn, Sarah Jessica Parker,

Martha Stewart, and many others. No accompanying photos are included to serve as illustrations.

In sum *QTS* is witty and insightful, offering practical advice and style suggestions useful to the seasoned fashionista and those thinking about how they want to present themselves to the world.

Tim Gunn is one of the stars of Bravo's massive hit show *Project Runway*. He was the Chair of

Fashion Design at Parson's The New School for Design from August 2000 to March 2007. Parsons, founded in 1896 as the Chase school has a long and distinguished history, which is interesting in itself. He has recently joined Liz Claiborne as the company's chief creative officer and will star in a new Bravo reality show *Tim Gunn's Guide to Style* in which he will give advice to the "fashion challenged". Kate Moloney is the Assistant Chair of the Fashion Design Department at Parsons and Mr. Gunn's partner in style.

A Guide to Quality, Taste & Style is available from Abrams Image, Publishers and bookstores.

BRENDA LEWISON ATTORNEY

Law Office of Art Heitzer

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MILWAUKEE, WI 53203

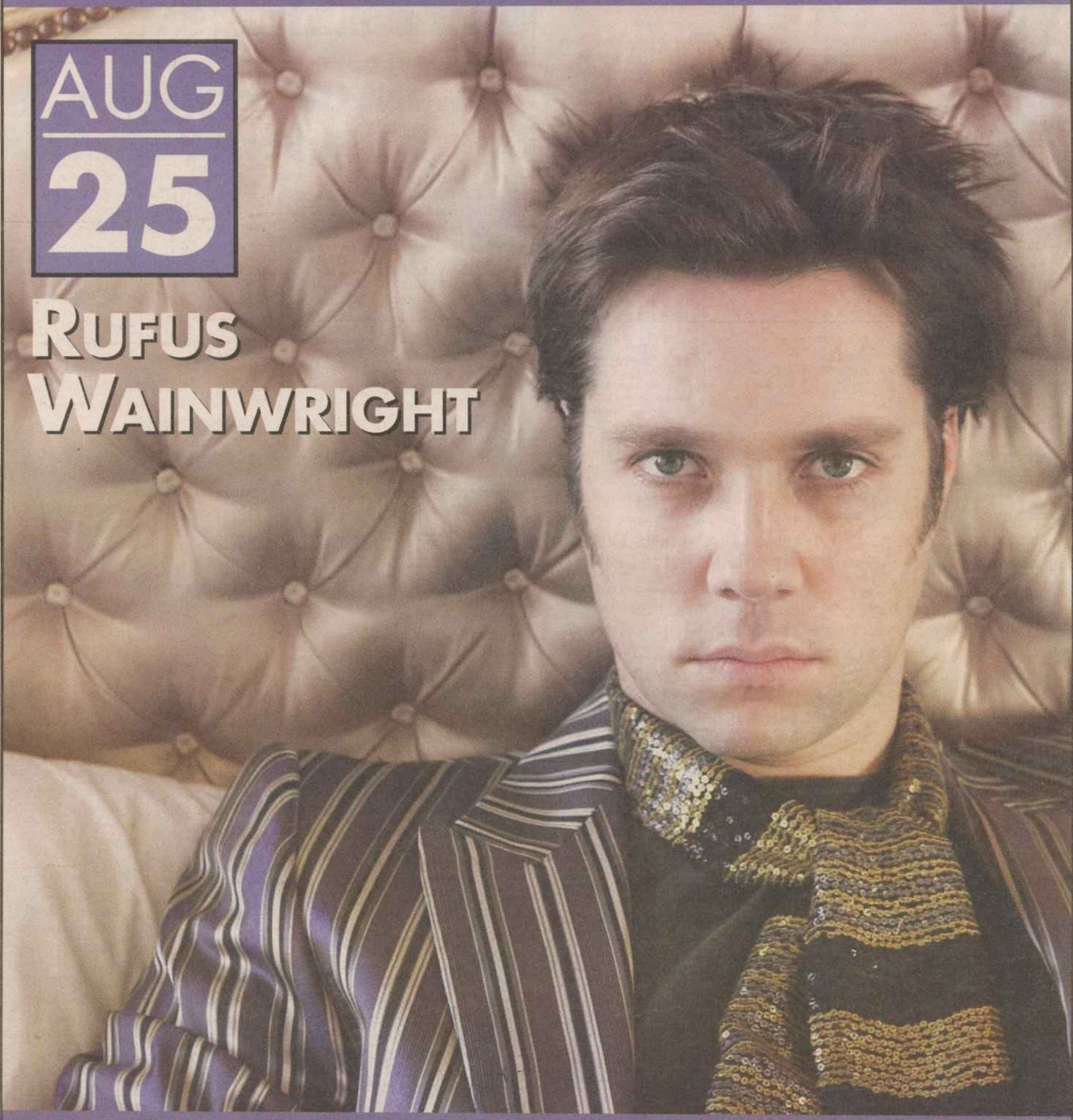
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