

Whose team are you on?

MILWAUKEE GETS AN LGBT SOCCER LEAGUE

By Kurt Dyer

There are few things that the masses can universally relate to but one thing you can count on is for heart beats to rise and anxiety to kick in when you talk to gays and lesbians about their early experiences in gym class and on organized sports teams.

Imagine joining a sports team where humiliation and degradation aren't the name of the game. Imagine a team where you aren't called "sissy" or "faggot"

if you miss a pass or fail to score. Imagine playing a competitive sport where you can get a congratulatory kiss from your partner when you come off the field without worrying about what your teammates might think. Imagine yourself as the next David Beckham with your patented corner kick that scores every time.

This winter, lesbian, gay and bisexual sports fans will imagine no more

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ORGANIZATIONS

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 500
Madison, WI 53703
608-441-0143
www.fairwisconsin.com

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

Gay Youth Wisconsin
Hotline
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7-10pm
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414-272-TEEN

Generation Q
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year old LGBTQ youth
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920-655-0611

Pride in Wisconsin
Government
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Queer Life News
LGBT publication
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Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-383-8200
www.queerlifeneews.com

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P.O. Box 1961
Green Bay, WI 54301
414-433-9821

Rainbow Families
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LGBT family support
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Madison, WI 53703
608-270-1024

Wisconsin DHFS HIV/AIDS
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Madison, WI 53701
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Wisconsin HIV/STD
Hepatitis C
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800-334-2437
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Milwaukee

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bvgpresident@bvgays.com
www.bvgays.com

Bi Definition
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101
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Black Pride
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Black and White Men
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www.bwmtmilwaukee.org

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www.bestd.org

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Levi/leather club
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Milwaukee, WI 53202
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Political action committee

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www.centeradvocatespac.org
(414) 347-1892

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www.charlesdprodinc.com

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Milwaukee, WI 53212
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414-225-0244
www.creamcityfoundation.org

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www.forge-forward.org

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Independence
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Milwaukee, WI 53212
www.fyicenter.org

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Running group
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Galano Club
12-step recovery club
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Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-276-6936
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Al-Anon and
Sexual Compulsive
Anonymous Meetings
www.galanoclub.org

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414-462-8404

Gay/Lesbian Studies
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414-265-8500

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Milwaukee, WI 53201
Hotline: 414-645-0585

Gay Straight Alliance
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Life
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Waukesha, WI
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Gemini Gender Group
(TV/TS/TG support/social)
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Milwaukee 53214
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Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee
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Milwaukee, WI 53201

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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

Madison Minotours
United Rugby Football
Club
PO Box 14282
Madison, WI 53708
info@
madisonminotoursrhc.org
madisonminotoursrhc.org

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.milwaukeeatennis.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
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Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-271-2656
www.mkelgbt.org

Milwaukee LGBT History
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Milwaukee, WI 53203
www.mkelgbthist.org

Milwaukee Pride Parade
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President@
prideparademke.org

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Sports
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PFLAG
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Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-299-9198

Pathfinders
Youth counseling, shelter
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414-271-1560
www.tccmilw.org

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PrideFest, Inc.
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www.pridefest.com

Project Q Youth Program
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mkerainbowfamilies@
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www.ssbmilwaukee.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
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Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-276-8787
www.creamcitychorus.org

Wisconsin Gay Hockey
414-202-5874
home.wi.rr.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
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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
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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
1239 W. Mineral Street
POB 1421
Milwaukee,
WI 53201-1421
414-383-1100
info@milmcc.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

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.

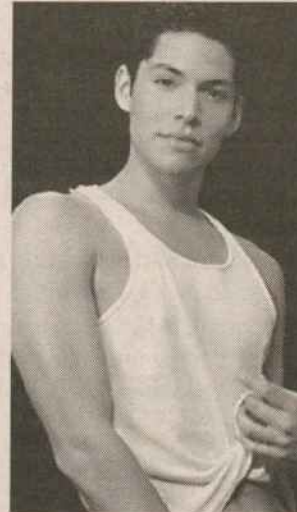
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'THE QUEER PROGRAM' Snags Gay Pop Star Aiden Bay

Milwaukee - Aiden Bay, song writer, producer, pop singer and performer, who is widely known in the gay youth and club community, will be a guest on 'The Queer Program',



Monday, November 12th, from 6:30PM - 7:30PM on Time Warner Cable Milwaukee Community Media public access channel 96. Aiden will also show clips

from his performances and music video, in addition to taking calls from viewers. No stranger to Milwaukee, Aiden recently performed at Cream City Foundation's 25th Anniversary Gayla at City Hall on September 22nd.

Aiden has always shown an interest in the spotlight, performing in countless

talent shows through his life. His magnetic and mesmerizing personality, angelic voice and hypnotizing dance moves have been attracting crowds for as long as he has been able to walk.

Aiden won the 2003 *Southwestern Idol*, a tournament in San Diego, California, modeled after the hit TV show, *American Idol*. During summer nights in 2006 Aiden hosted the Shamu Show at Seaworld San Diego. While this spotlight brought much attention to Aiden, few knew he was already in the studio preparing his debut album, 'Give and Take'. In a first for the record industry, fans have been keeping in touch with Aiden daily on his website www.MySpace.com/AidenBay.

'The Queer Program' is a weekly public access call-in cable television program by, for and about Milwaukee's Queer communities, providing greater visibility since October, 1992. "The Queer Program" broadcasts live on Mondays from 6:30PM - 7:30PM and replays Friday midnight and Saturday 10PM. To promote any announcements or events, or to schedule an appearance on "The Queer Program" call 414-265-8500, write The Queer Program PO Box 090441, Milwaukee, WI 53209, or email queerprgrm@aol.com

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SOCCER *continued from page 1*

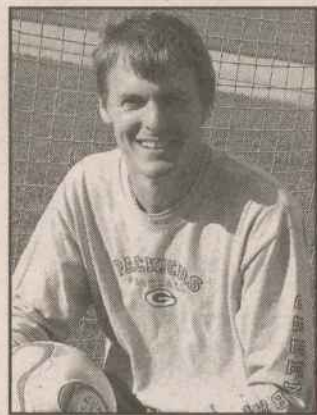
— at least in the Milwaukee area. Starting in February 2008 Milwaukee will host Wisconsin's first co-ed LGBT soccer league. The Milwaukee Gay Soccer Association (MGSA) in partnership with the Uihlein Indoor Soccer Park is proud to announce the Milwaukee Gay Soccer League.

"We are excited to be offering this new league this winter at Uihlein Soccer Park," says Dawn Urban, Indoor League and Events Coordinator for the Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club. "It's a very exciting time - not only will we roll out this new league, we also have new field turf, lighting throughout the building, and new flooring around the fields. Seeing more people play this fabulous sport is always a plus."

You might be reading this article and thinking: I've never played soccer before and I'm not really athletic so should I even play? The Milwaukee Gay Soccer League is the perfect place to learn to play soccer in a safe, comfortable environment that is based on having fun and socializing with other LGBT people. The league will consist of people with absolutely zero experience playing any sports to individuals with 15-plus years experience. Regardless of your skills this will be a great opportunity to be active during Wisconsin's winter. Come make new friends and perhaps realize your long-lost love affair with the sport.

"I think Milwaukee needs many more social and entertainment options for LGBT people," says Rachel Trainor - one of the many people who will be playing in the league. "A lot of gay and bisexual people play sports or want to play sports but often times it's not as accessible for them because of homophobia. I think this could open many doors and provide an outlet for a large number of people."

I sat down with four individuals who will be playing in the league to get their thoughts on soccer, the league, and their soccer prowess. Meet your teammates!



Dennis Kohler is the father of four (which includes his triplets) and lives in Germantown with his partner, Pat Brown. He is relatively new to soccer and ranks his soccer skills at 5.5. Asked if he preferred Cristiano Ronaldo or Fabio Cannavaro he laughed and shrugged, "I have no idea who those people are." His favorite soccer

position? Offense and defense, of course.

KD: When was the first time you can remember playing soccer?

DK: I probably kicked a ball with friends in college but didn't really play. I joined my first team about a year ago.

KD: What's your patented soccer move?

DK: Are you kidding me? [Laughs] I am still working on one.

KD: You've played on another men's league before. What was that experience like?

DK: I enjoyed it. I got to have fun and learn and play and compete. But the players were more serious than I wanted to be. I was in it for fun - not necessarily to win. I think the Milwaukee Gay Soccer League will be FUN. It will be a great way to get exercise during those cold months and I look forward to the socializing, the excitement, meeting new people, and finding my patented soccer move!



Rachel Trainor, 27, is a Taurus and currently works at Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation. She comes to the league with over 11 years experience playing soccer. She prefers blue knee socks and only buys Adidas. Coming in at a whopping 8 (out of 10) in soccer skills, she prefers

offense but can do both. "I'm just no goalie!"

KD: Have you ever played on a team before?

RT: Yes, I've played for 11 years starting back in the 2nd grade up to about 11th grade. I was quite good and was offered several scholarships, but the schools were either in Podunk or they didn't have a good social work program. I was offered a scholarship to play in Germany, and had to turn it down for financial reasons. I played on a league with a bunch of catholic girls and they were really mean to me. I was the black sheep on that team until more public school kids joined the league and then it became less of a clique.

KD: Why are you joining the league?

RT: I have a lot of fun playing soccer and I've never found a cozy team or league to play on. When I heard about this league I thought, 'why not?' And I think the after parties will be fabulous!

KD: Hottest soccer player?

RT: Well Beckham, of course. Oh, and that tattooed woman from the US team. [FYI: That would be Natasha Kai.]



Joe Witkowski is the manager of MIAD's student union and a Milwaukee native. He's no stranger to team sports - having played on a kickball team for over 5 years. His favorite color knee socks are pink and blood. "Real players bleed!" His penalty kick mantra is: "This kick is bananas...B-A-N-A-N-A-S."

KD: Have you ever played on a team before?

JW: The first time I played soccer I was 8, and not very good at all. In fact I was one of those kids that did a lot of kicking at the ground.

KD: Will you be doing any pre-season training?

JW: My preseason training schedule looks like this: Saturday: get up, walk over to the Highbury and drink some shots of Jameson to bring goals to what ever team is playing. Around noon I go home to take a nap. Occasionally I'll alternate this with looking at Cesc Fabregas of Arsenal. He is way hot.

KD: You've played on a mixed kickball team before - how do you think the experience with the soccer league will compare?

JW: Um...well I can't be as sauced as I normally am for kickball. But I know for a fact that a kilt looks awesome with knee socks.

KD: Why do you think Milwaukee needs an LGBT soccer league?

JW: Why not try something different? We have a long history of drinking in this city...why not do

something fun before drinking?

KD: Your patented soccer move?

JW: The Shot. It is a combo of arm curl and head tilt, with the direct delivery of target to its goal.

KD: What are you hoping to get out of the league?

JW: Phone numbers.



Amy Kistner is a therapist and dog lover working at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She's an Aries that recently left Riverwest for Bay View. The socks she'll be sporting this season: multi-colored stripes.

KD: Have you ever played soccer in a league before?

AK: Nope. I haven't played soccer on an official team. In grade school while I was in Belgium I played during lunch but I don't remember being very good.

KD: Why are you joining the league?

AK: Well mostly because it sounds fun. I like that it will be a different way to be active and socialize at the same time.

KD: How would you rank your soccer proficiency?

AK: I'd say my soccer skills are about an intimidating 2.5. Watch out! My patented soccer move is "Not-Getting-Hit-In-The-Face-By-Fast-Moving-Balls." It does take some time to master...

KD: Preferred soccer brand?

AK: Umbro? Is that a brand? I have no idea...

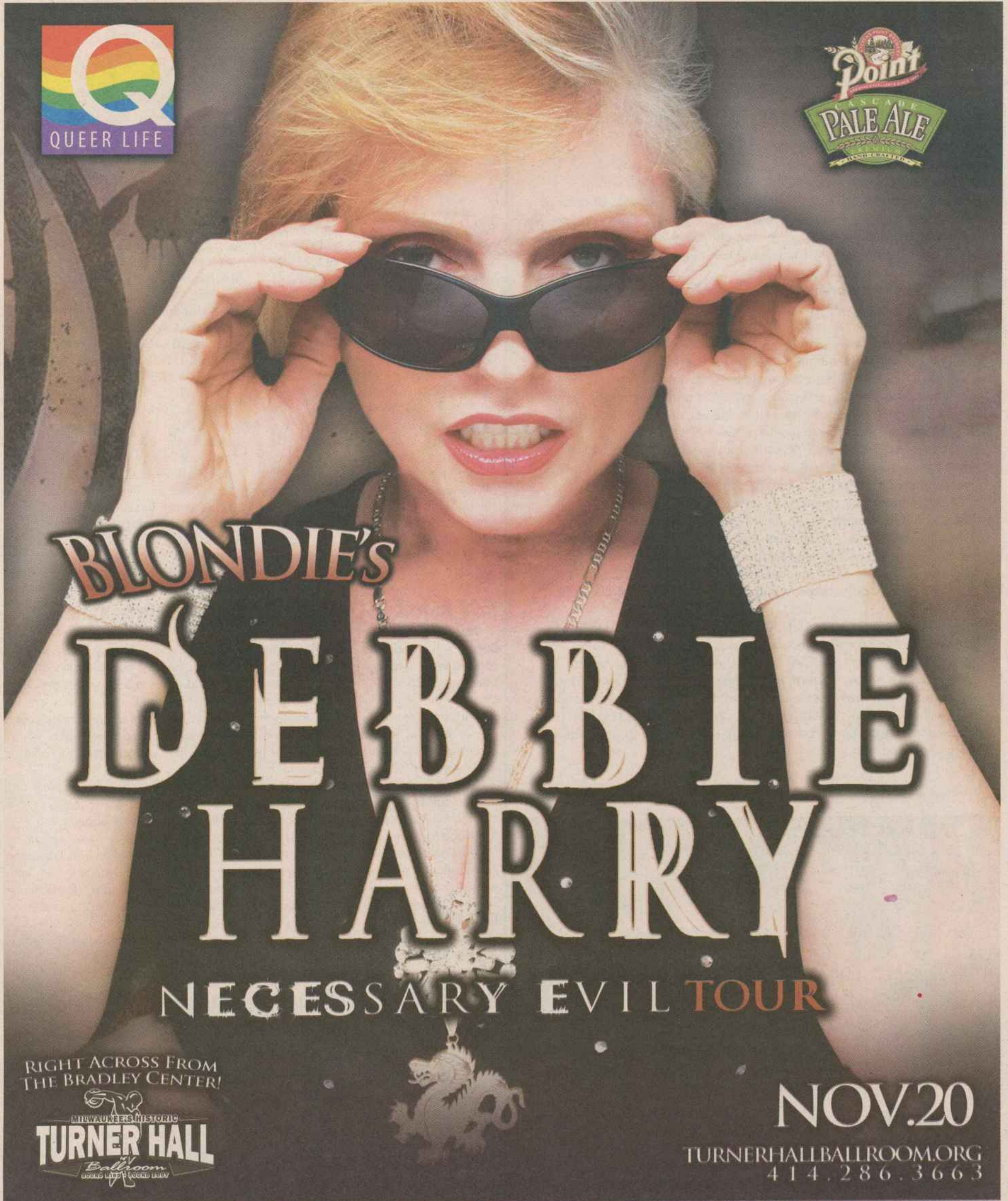
KD: Hottest Soccer player?

AK: Well regardless of your preference you gotta say Beckham but that tattooed lady from the U.S. team is hot too. [Again, that is Natasha Kai.]

The league will play on Friday nights at **Uihlein Indoor Soccer Park** located at 7101 W. Good Hope Road between February 29th- April 20th, 2008. Registration forms may be downloaded at www.milwaukee gaysoccer.org. Teams can consist of up to 15 individuals that are 18 years old or older. Shin guards are required.

Indoor soccer is very similar to hockey. Minus the sticks and ice, of course. There are five field players and one goalie on the field at a time. Teams generally consist of about 12 to allow players time to take breaks throughout the game. Games are 50 minutes with two 25-minute halves.

There are many ways that individuals can help out. First, consider forming your own team with your friends. Individual registrations can also be found on the Milwaukee Gay Soccer Association's website at www.milwaukee gaysoccer.org. You may also want to help support the league financially. The entire cost of the league is roughly \$9800 which includes the costs of jerseys, referees, fields, practices, and registration of the 8 teams. The league is currently working on securing partnerships with LGBT businesses and services that would like to advertise on the league jerseys. If you are interested in finding out about how you can help the Milwaukee Gay Soccer League please contact info@milwaukee gaysoccer.org or call Kurt Dyer at (414) 405-5878.

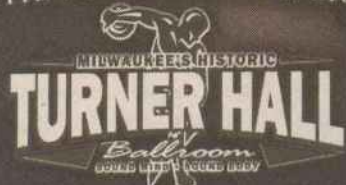


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Wisconsin



Happenings

ARCW Hires Kurt Dyer to Head Gay Prevention Efforts

Milwaukee, WI - The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is excited to announce the hiring of Kurt Dyer as an Associate Director of Prevention. In his new role, Dyer will head the agency's gay (and men who have sex with men HIV) prevention efforts. Additionally, Dyer will play a significant role in the implementation of the new ARCW social networks testing program.

"With all his experience as the founder of Project Q at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, we know we have in Kurt a strong leader to manage one of our most important prevention areas," said Scott Stokes, ARCW Director of Prevention Services. "ARCW is fortunate to have Kurt joining our team and the fight against HIV in Wisconsin."

At ARCW, Dyer will be responsible for leading and implementing prevention programming directed at gay men and at other populations most at risk for HIV infection statewide. He will also be responsible for developing new programs to meet the needs of at-risk populations. In addition to the BagBoyz HIV prevention outreach and ImsexEd Internet outreach programs, Dyer will be responsible for initiating new and innovative programs to reach the gay community.

"After spending a tremendously rewarding 8 years with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, I am excited to join the talented staff at ARCW," said Dyer. "I am eager to utilize my experience and vast community involvement to support and create important, life-changing programs to battle the HIV epidemic throughout Wisconsin. I can't imagine a more worthwhile cause to invest myself into than the fight against AIDS."

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



At the third MGGB takeover last month at the Irish Pub

Hang out with Milwaukee Guerrillas

If you haven't hung out yet at one of the Milwaukee Guerrilla Gay Bar (MGGB) takeovers, it's about time. Another one is scheduled for Nov. 2nd. Here's a blurb from their website: "Milwaukee Guerrilla Gay Bar once a month, takes over the coolest straight bar we can find, for one night only and you're invited, as long as you're gay, and game. MGGB was inspired by our comrades in Los Angeles and San Francisco who wanted to branch out of the gay and lesbian bars and

"take over" a hip straight bar for one night each month making it gay.

On the first Friday of every month, MGGB takes over the hippest straight bar we can find in Milwaukee. We don't tell 'em we're coming - we'll just show up - by the hundreds - and make ourselves at home."

Organizers don't announce the time or place until a week prior to the event, and the only way you're going to hear about it, is if you sign up on their website. Check them out, and we'll see you at the next one! <http://www.myspace.com/milwaukeeguerrillagaybar>

AIDS Walk Wisconsin Raises \$387,682

Milwaukee - AIDS Walk Wisconsin 2007 organizers are proud to announce 3,000 people from across Wisconsin gathered at the SummerFest Grounds and raised \$387,682. Every dollar raised at AIDS Walk Wisconsin benefits organizations providing HIV care, treatment and prevention services in the state.

"AIDS Walk Wisconsin 2007 was another highly successful event that will ensure access to care and treatment services for everyone with HIV in Wisconsin," said Doug Nelson, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) President and Chief Executive Officer. "We are so grateful for the tremendous support individuals and the Walk's corporate sponsors provide to ensure the ARCW Medical Center can continue to provide medical, dental and mental health care and vital social services to anyone with HIV, regardless of their ability to pay."

In addition to ARCW, other agencies benefiting from Walk proceeds include



Camp Heartland, the Chippewa Valley LGBT Community Center, Elena's House, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, No Condom? No Way!, Richard's Place, and the Sheboygan County AIDS Task Force.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin corporate sponsors include Miller Brewing, Assurant Health, the Sovereign Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, FM 106.1, 1130 WISN, AM 926 WOKY, The Brew 97.3, V100.7 Jams, My 95.7, WISN TV, Promolux, e, Clean Channel Outdoor, Midwest Airlines, Dynacare Laboratories, Travel Wisconsin, Walgreens, American Family Insurance, Starbucks Coffee, American TV and Appliance, SC Johnson, United Healthcare, Weyco Group, Milwaukee County Parks, the Onion, Whole Foods Market, Lamers Bus lines, Van Galder Bus Company, Central Bark Doggy Day Care, Managed Health Services, and Queer Life News

MPS Board to Consider Domestic Partner Benefits

Milwaukee - Jennifer Morales, member of the Milwaukee Public Schools Board, will introduce a domestic partner benefits resolution at a key MPS Board committee on Tuesday, November 20, at 6:30pm at the MPS administration building, 5225 W. Vliet Street. The resolution would make equal benefits a matter of policy for Central Office employees and recommend that the Superintendent seek labor agreements with its unions that treat the families of all MPS employees, gay or straight, fairly. Center Advocates, the Milwaukee-based equal rights organization, is calling on all Milwaukee residents who support equality to attend the November 20 hearing to register in support.

"Expanding access to health care for the partners and families of gay and lesbian employees in Wisconsin is one way Center Advocates is working to minimize the effect of Wisconsin's new constitutional amendment banning marriage for same-sex couples," said Patrick Flaherty, Center Advocates Director. MPS employees who are members of the MTEA (Milwaukee Teachers Education Association) have been advocating for domestic partner benefits since a town hall meeting convened on the topic by Center Advocates in late March. MTEA activists' work recently paid off with the appointment of a labor-management committee that will study the appropriateness of MPS providing domestic partner benefits.

Wisconsin public school districts currently providing domestic partner benefits include LaCrosse, Sun Prairie, Madison, and Middleton-Cross Plains.

SAGE/Milwaukee Holds First Annual Acorn Luncheon

Milwaukee - SAGE/Milwaukee (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) held its first annual "Acorn Luncheon" benefit Thursday, October 25th raising just over \$3,000.

This first time fundraiser for SAGE/Milwaukee also served as a venue for the organization to inform guests who are not Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) about the unique needs of the senior LGBT community. Proceeds from the event will be used to fund social events programming that provides opportunities to these seniors helping to reduce isolation. In 2006 SAGE hosted over 100 events with well over 1200 participants.

The 'Acorn Luncheon' was held at the Astor Hotel in the Grand Ballroom. Eighty-five invited guests enjoyed their lunch while the agency's Executive Director, William "Bill" Serpe, and two members of the Board of Directors narrated a presentation about the agencies programs, community partnerships and funding sources. Guests also enjoyed the piano stylings of William Gans, who, at 92, is the 2nd oldest member of SAGE.

Phoenix Care Systems of Milwaukee sponsored the luncheon. Donald Fritz, President of Phoenix Care spoke of their relationship with SAGE/Milwaukee and how it is growing and working to fulfill the agencies mission by 'committing to advancing quality of life for seniors who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender.'

The 2nd Annual SAGE/Milwaukee Acorn Luncheon will be held on October 23, 2008.

National **Q** Happenings

Governor Schwarzenegger Vetoes Marriage Equality Bill

Washington - As expected, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed a bill that would have given same-sex couples the equal right to marry under California law. The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act passed the Assembly by a 42-34 vote and the Senate by a 22-15 vote. Schwarzenegger also vetoed a similar bill in 2005.

"The Governor's decision to overrule the legislature, for the second time in two years, is nothing less than a decision to deny equality to same-sex couples and their families," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese.

"He chose to continue to relegate same-sex couples to the separate and unequal system of domestic partnerships. I am confident, however, that the Governor will not have the last word. I know that all Californians who believe in equality, will keep fighting until there is justice, until marriage equality is a reality in California."

California law currently permits same-sex couples to enter into domestic partnerships, but not to marry. *HRC strives to end discrimination against GLBT citizens and realize a nation that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.*

International **Q** Happenings

Iraqi Safe Houses to Close

London - Iraq certainly is not the safest place for homosexuals, and now it will be even less safe. Two IraqiLGBT run safe houses will unfortunately be shutting down due to lack of funding. The London-based "IraqiLGBT" has announced that up to 25 gay men will have to 'take their chances' in Iraq where religious militia persistently seek out gays and execute them.

A plea for funds was made and promoted on a number of LGBT online sites and blogs in several countries, but efforts to raise a substantial amount failed. The final count came in at just under \$2,000, which can only cover the cost of one house, for one month.

Violence against the gay community has intensified sharply since late 2005, when Iraq's leading Shiite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, issued a fatwa (religious decree) which declared that gays and lesbians should be "killed in the worst, most severe way".

Each house, which costs about \$1,800 for food, necessities, and security guards, accommodates between 10 to 12 gay men in a relative secure environment.

CREAM CITY FOUNDATION HISTORY:

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Cream City Foundation has a strong history of distributing funds to emerging groups and programs that enhance the quality of life for LGBT people. This includes a varied number of athletic and mental health services. Cream City Foundation has funded over 16% of its total distributions on services that include LGBT support groups at **The Counseling Center of Milwaukee**, the **Anti-Violence project** at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, health education and outreach in regards to HIV/AIDS, materials and promotion of health issues affecting LGBT Wisconsin residents, and much more. Cream City Foundation also funded sports organizations like the **Saturday Softball League (SSBL)**, **GAMMA's Cowles Volleyball League**, and **Holiday Invitational Tournament's** Bowling tournament. Today, Cream City Foundation continues its efforts to support programs and organizations working to create a safe and healthy environment for LGBT people.

25 YRS

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LGBT's Laugh Out Loud

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center presented their fifth annual benefit, Laugh Out Loud-At a Big Night Out, Saturday, October 13th raising just under \$19,000.

The Big Night Out continues to serve as the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's major fundraising event of the year. Event proceeds benefit the programs and services of the Center serving more than 5,000 individuals each year.

Four Equality Awards were granted during the event to members or organizations in the community who have truly stepped up to assisting the LGBT community.

The 2007 Equality Award Winners were FORGE, Joseph Pabst, Charles D Productions and Janet Goldman.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino reflected the theme with radiant decor provided by Daniel Klingler and Joseph Brooks, and McDill Design inspired graphic Design. The evening

began with a social hour and silent auction, including the musical talents of Rod Lauren on the piano. The award winning catering staff at Potawatomi Bingo Casinos presented the evening's cuisine, and GayCo provided entertainment! Productions. Laughing until it hurt was highly encouraged!



Charled "D" accepts his Equality Award at the Big Night Out bash

The mission of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is to improve the quality of life for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the Metro Milwaukee area. For a complete listing of upcoming Center events, and to view photos from The Big Night Out, please visit www.mkelgbt.org.

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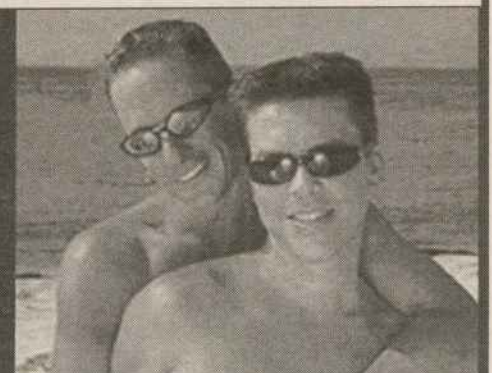
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Up The Mainstream Without a Paddle

There exists a delicate dance among radical queer zinesters between "keeping it real" by choosing to keep a low profile through limited circulation and having a desire to have their messages shared with the wider queer world around them in the hopes they can reach audiences they couldn't find on their own. As we here at the Queer Zine Archive Project celebrate the fourth anniversary of our

founding in November 2003, we take time out to explore a critical nexus point in the development of queer zine history when queer zines were plucked from obscurity and thrust into the light of mainstream LGBT media.

Tell Me About Your Childhood

During forays into discovering the stories of how queer zinesters such as Larry-bob of **Holy Titclamps** and **Queer Zine Explosion** and Reb of **Fanorama** started their own zines, an off-handed comment kept cropping up. They both have stated in interviews that they stumbled onto the queer zine scene through articles by the rock critic for **The Advocate**, a mainstream gay and lesbian magazine published bi-weekly since 1967. **The Advocate** itself wasn't always a glossy news mag, having roots as a Los Angeles area newspaper before going national. Twenty years later, the magazine was firmly entrenched as one of the few publications attempting to cover a wide range of political, social and cultural issues relating to a broad LGBT audience.

In the fall of 1988, the loaded sentence, "Where did you get this?" in the article entitled, "In Search of the Homo-Core Underground - A Beginner's Guide to Gay 'Fanzines,'" [**The Advocate**, 11 Oct 1988, pgs 52 - 53] launched rock journalist Adam Block headlong into the slam pit of queer zine culture. He had already

established his "alt-cred" long before this article by bringing the whispered innuendos of queerness in rock and roll out of the shadows and put it up on stage for all to see. His take on the origins of the scene starts from the premise that queer folk have an uncanny knack for "tracking down banned books, illicit information, covert culture, and hidden history" and offers up lyrical evidence from a Patti Smith song as reasons why underground media for queers exists. From the late 1980s to the early 1990s, Block helped tease out amazing aspects of radical queer life in over a dozen columns. He interviewed each of the founders of **J.D.s**, talked to African American queer punk diva Vaginal Davis about her rock career, and told firsthand stories of the queer squats (take-overs of abandoned buildings) that popped up in the then newly freed East Berlin. He adeptly wove factoids into his music reviews, such as Deee-lite being the first major label band to buy ad space in zines.

Block wasn't the only writer at **The Advocate** to sit up and take notice. Bill Van Parys, future executive editor of **Jane and Details**, chimed in with "Fag Rags Come of Age" [Issue 563, 6 Nov 1990, pg 70] and interviewed black editors of zines such as **Fertile La Toyah Jackson Magazine** and Chicago's **Thing** about wide ranging topics. Glen Helfand's "Not a Laughing Matter?" [Issue 576, 7 May 1991, pg 70] profiles Tom



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.

Shearer, first editor of **Diseased Pariah News**, the zine that challenged everyone's assumptions regarding the impact of the AIDS epidemic and brought politically incorrect humor and fighting spirit to the fore.

These articles peter out right about the time of the Queer Zine Explosion of the mid 1990s when the sheer numbers of published zines made them hard to ignore. The rise of the Internet and compendiums like **Factsheet Five** helped fans track down their favorite zines with little to no effort. While **The Advocate** was certainly never depicting radical queers on their cover and still don't, it is nice to know that in some small way, their staff of accomplished music and cultural critics nudged radical queer zines into the limelight and paved the way for them to be found and appreciated by a larger audience.

The Queer Zine Archive Project is a free digital archive of past and present zines on the Web at qzap.org.

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Women's Fund Lands Grant for Diverse Communities

Milwaukee - The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee has secured a \$125,000 matching grant from the Cultures of Giving Fund, established at the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors with major support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The grant will match donors' gifts to the Women's Fund to endow and support grants to social change programs serving women and girls of color through the following component donor funds: the African American Women's Fund Project, Latinas en Acción, and the Lesbian Fund.

"This grant enables our component funds to grow and start making meaningful grants much more quickly while building their investments at the same time," said Women's Fund Executive Director Elaine Maly. Each fund is challenged to raise up to \$30,000 in matching contributions from individual donors over the next two years.

The grant will be a catalyst for attracting, motivating and engaging culturally specific donors to the component funds. The Women's Fund projects that 80% of donors to Latinas en Acción and the Lesbian Fund will be new donors, and 40% of the donors to the African American Women's Fund Project will be new.

"One goal is to build women's philanthropic leadership and better support more women from diverse backgrounds as philanthropists," said Maly. "It is critical that underrepresented groups build community capital and

become strategic philanthropists while supporting the solutions to community issues through grant-making."

The grant is also highly significant for the Women's Fund. "This project has led us to examine our own culture of giving, and find ways to be more responsive," said Maly. "With it we can reverse the model of building endowment before grant-making, and respond to cultural traditions that place greater value on meeting immediate community needs."

The Cultures of Giving Fund initiative awarded grants to 14 non-profit organizations across the United States, including the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee.

The Women's Fund is the first and largest permanent resource in Wisconsin dedicated exclusively to funding and advocacy for the emerging needs of women and girls. Founded in 1986 as a component fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Women's Fund became an independent public foundation in 2005. In recent years, the Women's Fund partnered with the African American Women's Fund Project, and facilitated the organization of Latinas en Acción and the Lesbian Fund in order to promote collective giving as a strategy for creating change in specific communities. The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee is part of an international association of more than 130 women's funds.

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Center Advocates secures \$84,000

Center Advocates has secured \$84,000 in the recently approved State of Wisconsin budget to better connect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to LGBT-appropriate service providers in areas such as health, mental health, housing, assisted living, domestic violence, and other services.

"Center Advocates is especially appreciative of Sen. Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) for his tireless advocacy in making addressing LGBT health disparities a state budget priority," said Advocates Director Patrick Flaherty.

The annual funding will be shared by Outreach, Inc., serving South Central Wisconsin; and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, serving Southeastern Wisconsin, to expand services in their communities.

QLife Quickies

State budget passed

Madison- A Domestic partner benefits package for state employees was left out of the State Budget as it passed last month. Although included in the Senate version, the DP, which would have offered same-sex partners health care coverage, was removed from the Assembly version because it was seen as a minor budgetary issue separating the two sides. The Republican-controlled Assembly rejected Governor Doyle's previous budget plan on Oct. 9th, because they believed it had too much spending and taxes.

The \$57.2 billion budget will run state government through mid-2009, and it's passing ended the 115-day fight over tax increases between Republicans, who control the Assembly, and the Democratic-led Senate.

I'm not Gay. I'm just doing research!

Vatican City - Here's a new one: A top official in the Vatican's Congregation of the Clergy is secretly filmed making advances to a young man and asserting that gay sex is not sinful. He gets suspended pending a Vatican investigation, and states that he was only pretending to be gay as part of his "work" as a psychoanalyst. Apparently, his work also included frequenting online gay chat rooms and meeting with gay men.

What Monsignor Tommaso Stenico was *really* doing, according to his interview with La Repubblica newspaper, was *pretending* to be gay in order to gather information about "those who damage the image of the Church with homosexual activity."

The Vatican, of course, teaches that homosexual activity is a sin. Officials for the Vatican also spotted Stenico's office in the background of a television program on gay priests.

"It's all false; it was a trap." Stenico told La Repubblica, while insisting that his actions were merely an attempt to clean up the church.

That's one gay island

Uganda - Homosexuality is illegal in Uganda. The gay community, however, has been campaigning for recognition of their rights. Hoping to put an end to that, and to homosexuals in general, is Sheikh Ramathan Shaban Mubajje who has said he wants gays marooned on an island in Lake Victoria until they die.

Sheikh Mubajje, who feels homosexuality could lead to moral decay in the society if left to blossom, has met with President Yoweri Museveni to discuss the plan.

"I asked him to get us an island on Lake Victoria and we take these homosexuals and they die out there," Sheikh Mubajje said.

"If they [gays] die there then we shall have no more homosexuals in the country."

Sheikh Mubajje's statement correlates with recent plans by the Muslim Tabligh youth to form what they called an Anti-Gay Squad to fight homosexuality in the country.

Mahmoud didn't mean it

Tehran - But there are gays in Iran, Blanche! There are! According to the media adviser for President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran, the Western news media misrepresented his remarks on gays during a speech at Columbia University in Sept.

Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying there were no homosexuals in Iran, but what he actually meant was just not as *many* as in the US.

Speaking through a translator at the University, Mr. Ahmadinejad replied to a question about homosexuals in the Islamic Republic saying, "In Iran we don't have homosexuals like in your country -we don't have this phenomenon."

After widespread criticism, they want to clarify those remarks.

"What Ahmadinejad said was not a political answer," said Mohammad Kalhor, Ahmadinejad's media adviser. "He said that, compared to American society, we don't have many homosexuals."

Tammy Does Wisconsin Proud

The news broke in late September: just days before a key committee hearing, protections for transgender people had been stripped out of the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

With new Democratic majorities in both the US House and Senate, pro-LGBT legislation has been making significant progress for the first time. Hate crimes legislation that includes gay people and transgender people passed the House in April. Ironically, just as House leaders were removing transgender people from the employment nondiscrimination bill, their counterparts in the Senate took up the trans-inclusive hate crimes bill by a filibuster-proof 60-39, including 9 Republicans, passing it by voice vote. The hate crimes measure is now headed to a veto showdown with President Bush.

But while the general public apparently supports stiff criminal penalties for bashing transgender people, they still think it's ok to fire them - at least if US Rep. Barney Frank is believed. Frank, one of only two openly gay members of Congress who has accomplished much for LGBT people, finds himself at the center of the controversy. He's ENDA's lead sponsor, which has been kicking around since the Clinton years.

The bill was birthed in pragmatism, a contrast to the original effort to ban antigay discrimination, first sponsored by US Reps. Bella Abzug and Paul Tsongas more than thirty years ago, which would have re-opened the 1964 Civil Rights Act to add sexual orientation. That was deemed an exercise too prone to mischief toward the civil rights of all minorities. Instead, unlike the comprehensive protections of the Civil Rights Act, which cover housing and more, ENDA was a stand-alone bill focused on employment nondiscrimination. Originally introduced in 1994 to cover sexual orientation only, ENDA was broadened in recent years to include "gender identity and expression" to cover transgender people.

Frank's last minute maneuver with Speaker Nancy Pelosi and key committee chairman George Miller was apparently done with very little consultation with LGBT groups. As word leaked out that trans had been cut, a coalition calling itself United ENDA formed overnight to fight for the original comprehensive trans-inclusive bill. Members included national groups like the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and more than 300 other national, state and local organizations, including Center Advocates and Fair Wisconsin. The Equality Federation played a leading role in the grassroots rebellion at the back-room deal, with dozens of affiliates launching e-mail alerts. Lambda Legal noted that protections for gay people were weakened since so much workplace discrimination toward gay people is actually disapproval of gender expression, such as a gay man targeted because he is too effeminate or a lesbian that is too butch.

Soon the Human Rights Campaign, which in 2004 committed its large federal lobbying presence to supporting only a trans-inclusive ENDA, distanced itself from Frank's action, though it took a more nuanced approach from the other



POLITICS

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

organizations, noting that it would neither support nor oppose a sexual orientation-only bill.

But there was another name missing from the stripped down ENDA: Wisconsin's very own out lesbian US Rep. Tammy Baldwin. Baldwin, an original sponsor of the comprehensive ENDA, refused to attach her name to Frank's new bill, and in her principled, diplomatic way, moved quickly to remedy the situation without attacking organizations or leaders.

With the grassroots outcry from the very community ENDA was meant to protect, House leadership postponed the ENDA committee hearing from early to mid-October, giving activists precious time to solidify support for the original inclusive bill. But when the vote came on October 18, sexual orientation only ENDA passed 27 to 21, but only because 4 Republicans joined the 23 Democrats in supporting the measure. Four liberal Democrats, including presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich, voted against the bill to try to stop an ENDA without transgender protections from advancing.

Frank, Baldwin, HRC, NGLTF, and all the 300 LGBT organizations in United ENDA moved quickly to get back on the same page by supporting the "Baldwin Amendment." With permission from Speaker Pelosi, Tammy Baldwin introduced an amendment attempting to restore trans protections at the bill's floor vote (after Q Life's press deadline; visit www.unitedenda.org to see what happened).

The whole controversy seems to be a replay of the original debate in the LGBT political community about including gender identity protections in ENDA, which came to a head in 2003-04 after ten years of lobbying for trans inclusion by activists. Then, trans activists protested HRC until they would support a trans-inclusive ENDA, an act repeated this year at the organization's October 5th DC fundraiser after it was deemed complicit in Frank's deal. Then, too, Barney Frank opposed a trans-inclusive ENDA, warning it would be slow to pass and lose critical Republican support.

Back in 2004, Tammy Baldwin was right: "Some believe that a new ENDA containing transgender-inclusive language will be more difficult to pass, however, that must not deter us from seeking full civil rights for all," Baldwin was quoted in the Washington Blade in 2004. She was right then and she's right now. Thanks for making us proud, Tammy.

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Anti-LGBT Crimes Drop in 2006

By Loree Cook-Daniels

Both hate crimes and domestic violence incidents involving LGBT and HIV positive victims decreased in 2006, according to data released this summer by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP).

NCAVP, a coalition of 33 organizations (two of which – FORGE’s Transgender Sexual Violence Project and the Milwaukee Anti-Violence Project – are headquartered in Milwaukee), released its 11th annual report in two stages this year, with one report focusing on hate crimes and one on domestic violence. Domestic violence cases made up most of the reports NCAVP member organizations took in, with 14 organizations

reporting 3,534 incidents in 2006, a decrease of 15% from 2005’s reports. Over half of those reports, however, came from Los Angeles County. They explained their decrease as coming from cuts in funding, the “failure of previous contributing agencies to track/collect LGBT data in 2006,” and a change in “the way the LA Police Department categorizes crime statistics,” which led to their failure to report ANY LGBT domestic violence statistics this year.

The number of anti-LGBT hate incidents reported to NCAVP also decreased, albeit by a smaller amount: in 2006 there were 3% fewer cases over 2005, from 1,440 to 1,393. Here, too, factors related to member organizations’ visibility and funding may be as responsible for the decline as an actual drop in hate crime cases. However, NCAVP members believe that “anti-LGBT rhetoric from the political and cultural arenas” have a “profound effect on violence against LGBT people,” and noted that in both 2005 and 2006, such rhetoric has cooled after the initial increase around gay marriage fights. The report also notes that the number of organizations targeted for anti-LGBT violence fell by fifty-one percent.

The reports also discuss the characteristics of both victims and perpetrators. Here, though, changes from one year to another should be taken with large grains of salt, since the overall numbers are small (making, for example, two additional deaths equaling a 22% increase in murders). Also, NCAVP member organizations reported that often numbers went up for particular types of victims when a staff member with that same gender and/or

sexual orientation was hired or became more publicly visible. Nevertheless, some of these demographics are telling:

- Domestic violence cases are roughly divided between female and male victims.
- Hate crimes were more likely to be against men (57%) than women (41%), with 2% being against organizations.
- Hate crimes against transgender victims make up about 13% of reported cases, although in some cities, the numbers are radically different: transgender cases made up 54% of Tucson’s 33 bias crimes, and 26% of San Francisco’s 285 incidents.
- Heterosexuals reported 10% of the hate crimes. Although some of these straight people are transgender, the report noted, “the majority of these victims are simply heterosexual men and women who are thought to be gay men or lesbians by their attackers.”

Although statistical reports - let alone those about violence - are notoriously dry, these NCAVP reports have redeeming features, including case studies that can be used in training situations; information about the ebb and flow of funding and policy decisions, along with their implications for services; and good ideas such as the new California law that adds a fee onto domestic partnership registrations that then goes into a fund specifically addressing LGBT domestic violence.

To download a free copy of either report, go to <http://www.ncavp.org/> To report an LGBT hate or domestic violence crime or get services in Milwaukee, contact the Milwaukee Anti-Violence Project at 414-271-2656, X 123.

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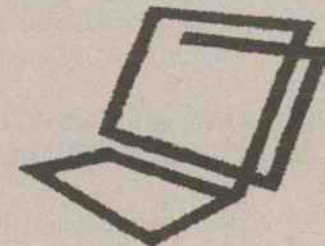
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QLife prints a free, monthly newspaper, distributed throughout Milwaukee, and the state. You can find it at coffee shops, bars, libraries, stores, and a variety of gay friendly locales.

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

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There's something about Fox

By Kate Sherry

On November 4th, television viewers will be given the opportunity to watch (or not) a reality dating show with a controversial twist. Originally shown in the UK in Feb, of 2004, "There's Something About Miriam" was widely criticized and discussed, and eventually part of a lawsuit involving the contestants. The Fox Reality Channel is bringing the show to the states, with a premiere (as of QL press time) on Oct. 31st.

Six men compete for stunning 21-year old Mexican model, Miriam's love after choosing her specifically from a lineup of women. They romance her until she makes her final choice, and then tells them what they didn't know from the beginning.

"I tried to be honest with all of you," says Miriam. "I love men, and I love being a woman. But - I am not a woman. I was born as a man."

Miriam, a pre-op transgender woman, later stated that she hoped the show would be a lesson of acceptance. "The show will help people understand better what people like me are all about. I am what I am."

Eventually, (or is it, 'inevitably') the men all sued for defamation,

(some reports say one punched out a producer) personal injury, conspiracy to commit sexual assault, and to prevent airing of the show. They settled the case, and the show hit the airwaves.

Critics said that it was "not a celebration of transgendered life," and that it was designed to "elicit horror from the winning contestant discovering that his dream date had a penis." It was called the "cruellest reality show ever" and had transgender groups fearing a backlash of public opinion. Perhaps the real "horror" these hetero-men experienced, is the fact that they were romantically and sexually attracted to someone with a penis. Is all the criticism based in homo/trans-phobia? Or is it a show that has gone too far to humiliate contestants for the sake of entertainment?

David Lyle, President of The Fox Reality channel says that the channel is "at the forefront of airing programs that create and stir up dialogue."

But will this show create positive dialogue? Will it create understanding and acceptance of transgender women, or transgender people/issues in general?

I mean, look at the whole Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) debacle. Transgender people were dropped from the bill out of fear that it wouldn't pass with their inclusion. Why? What is that telling our transgendered friends? You're on your own? That the LGB's

don't accept them? That we've come too far to have you screw this up for us?

If we aren't accepting, how is some shock reality show supposed to promote acceptance?

"There's something about Miriam" is really no different than any other reality show with contestants, and date, looking for love. Sure, there's the "I am not a woman" bombshell, but its no different than the multitudes of hetero-dating reality shows where the woman believes the man is wealthy, or employed, or not an actor. Miriam's choice agrees (albeit reluctantly) to go through with their one-week on a yacht prize, as it also includes \$10,000. I feel sorry for Miriam, as she is clearly giddy over this guy, who, eventually backed out of it, turned down the prize, and joined the rest of the men in the lawsuit.

Part of me does think the men should have been given the knowledge that some of the women they are choosing from 'could be' transgender. It would allow them to proceed with the dating, knowing that their choice just might not what they were expecting. But it would provide them the opportunity to get to know the woman, as Miriam hoped, for who she is.

The thought that this show just might force people to question their own homo and trans-phobias is great, but doing it through the humiliation of hetero-people, is not the best way to go.



Letter to the Editor:

Rev Warner announces that MICAHA has launched "The People's Campaign" to address "quality jobs and meaningful opportunities for Milwaukee's poorest citizens." (October Queer Life) The usual list of "jobs, job training" are the cornerstones of the campaign "to meet the needs of our city's poorest residents."

Neither Warner nor MICAHA acknowledge who is poor and why. Only with that knowledge can appropriate solutions be created. In Milwaukee the majority of people living below the poverty line are single mothers and children, people with disabilities, women caring for elders or disabled or injured people, women (and some men) working low-wage jobs, single moms who reached their W2 time limits

and can't find work, and some elders, mainly women. Notice the preponderance of WOMEN, especially caregivers, among the poorest citizens. And yes, that includes lesbian single moms, lesbians with disabilities, and lesbians working low-wage jobs.

Construction projects are great for that tiny percent of poor people who can get hired for that work, mainly men. But for the rest of our impoverished populations, MICAHA needs to be organizing for an increase in wages for all workers in retail sales, the service industry, restaurants, temporary jobs, nursing homes, and daycares. Those are the jobs that impoverish millions of women. MICAHA needs to fight for a government guaranteed income for all children and a caregiver pay for all caregivers. For the disabled poor and elder poor, MICAHA needs to lobby for increases in their SSI or SSD income, which barely covers rent, and a speeded up process for determining eligibility.

Even if we all join MICAHA in fighting for a raise in low-wage job pay, caregiver pay, guaranteed child income programs, and an increase in SSI/SSD, Milwaukee's poorest citizens would still have to find a way to survive in the meantime. How about

organizing for the obvious necessities to allow poor people to survive--while fighting for increased income at all levels?

The most pressing need for all categories of poor people (after increased income) is affordable family housing. But do our myriad of social service agencies, including MICAHA, advocate for affordable housing for every single family and individual? No. Shelters, food programs, therapy are offered to the destitute! Most of the government poverty funds now flow to those same shelter, food and therapy programs--instead of into the hands of the poor. This income provides upper and middle-income professionals with secure, comfortable lives and homes.

It is time to reverse this flow of income. I urge MICAHA and Reverend Warner and the People's Campaign to organize for housing and income for people in poverty. It is the least we can do.

Pat Gowens, Editor - Mother Warriors Voice

Mother Warriors Voice, published by Welfare Warriors, is a 21 year old, international, quarterly activist mothers-in-poverty news journal. Subscribe for \$15-\$25 (\$5 victims of poverty). Send to 2711 W. Michigan, Milwaukee, WI, 53208. Phone: 414-342-6662; WEB: welfarewarriors.org

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Invisible Anti-Trans Violence

November is the month that historically has housed the Transgender Day of Remembrance vigils around the world. Many cities are now adding transgender awareness weeks surrounding the Day of Remembrance, as a way of raising awareness and creating a sense of realism that it is valuable to know that transgender and gender non-conforming people can be alive, complex, human beings, not just mortality statistics.

Although many transgender individuals and SOFFAs may never experience violence in their lives, a significant number of people in our community have, will, or will know someone who has experienced trans-related violence.

Who's at risk for "trans" violence? We all are.

Some people may wonder how everyone could be at risk for violence related to trans-ness, even those who are not trans themselves. These are very important concepts to consider. Anti-"trans" violence, though, has much more to do with how someone appears or how situations appear, than violence occurring based on someone's internal – and therefore unseen – (gender) identity.

How many queer bashings are due to orientation vs. the fact that someone looks queer? From the outside, lesbian, gay, bisexual, metrosexual men, Hepburn-

esque women and anyone else who may have a visible appearance that does not match traditionally accepted male masculinity and female femininity are at FAR greater risk of prejudice-based violence than those who conform to societal expectations surrounding gender norms.

Even as our culture has become more genderedly progressive, there are invisible lines and invisibly prejudiced people. Walking down the street, we don't always know if someone is transgender. We also don't know if someone is a potential perpetrator of anti-trans (or any other form of) violence.

So often we forget that which is invisible. We erase from our minds the information we hear only once.

When Hillary Swank won an Oscar for her starring role in *Boys Don't Cry*, millions of Americans became aware of anti-trans violence. Most would likely remember Brandon Teena's name, but very few would remember that Lisa Lambert and Phillip DeVine were also murdered that night as a result of their association with Brandon.

Numerous cases of murder, sexual assault, physical battery, harassment and other forms of violence are initiated by the perception of one or more people's gender variance – or association with someone perceived to transgress gender norms. The people who are remembered and recorded

are only those who were transgender.

I refuse to sit by passively and have our community value some lives over others. I won't contribute to the erasure of human lives, by not naming those who have died.

We don't know when or where violence will erupt, or who will



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.

target us because of who we are, how we appear, or with whom we associate.

Maybe it will be in a military barracks, like where Barry Winchell was beaten to death with a baseball bat, because he was dating transgender woman Calpernia Addams.

Maybe it will be on the streets, like where 17 year old Darryl Fearon was stabbed to death when he came to the aid of three transgender individuals being harassed.

Maybe it will be sitting in a relative's SUV, like where Brandie Coleman was gunned down sitting with her mother and her transgender friend Niereah Johnson.

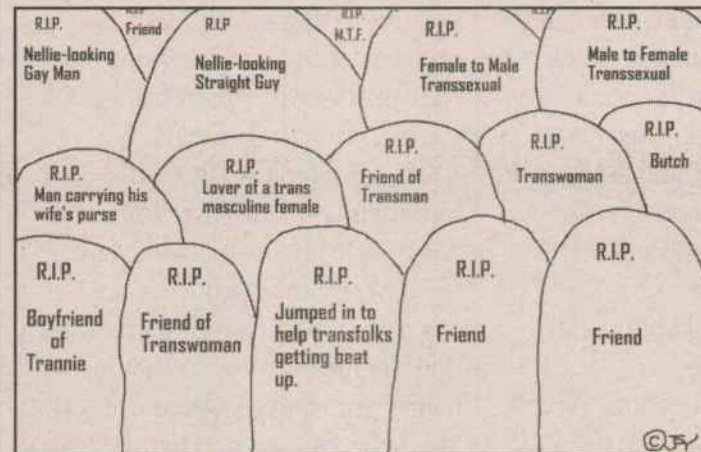
Maybe it will be out in a place where no one will record the violence, like where Barbara J. Gilpin was killed by a shotgun, along with her transmasculine partner Jacqueline Anderson.

Maybe it will be outside of a restroom, like where Willie Houston was shot to death because he was carrying his wife's purse and assisting a blind male friend.

These cisgender people who were victims of anti-trans violence are just as real as those who are trans. Their blood just as red. The loss to their families and friends just as profound.

There are invisible lines, but not invisible people who are harmed and killed every day.

Anti-trans violence *does* affect us all.



To see more of Jay Sennett's cartoons, please visit www.jaysennett.com

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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.

Thanksgiving is a particularly important holiday in my congregation, Plymouth Church, because we are named after one of the first English colonies. Beyond my church, Thanksgiving is treasured as a "sacred secular" holiday. Founded in commemoration of a religious festival, it now largely holds non-religious significance today.

The Pilgrims of Plymouth Colony suffered from poor planning and inexperience during their first year in America. It seemed that many would not live, and indeed many had already died - when to everyone's astonishment they survived long enough to harvest crops. A feast was declared to thank God for this good fortune and, famously, the Native Americans were invited to take part.

We often forget when we sit down at our turkey-laden tables that the Pilgrims were giving thanks to God over their narrow escape from starvation. And they were rejoicing just as the shortening days and colder nights announced the arrival of winter, a time of vulnerability and hardship through which they might not survive. The Pilgrims found a way to express their gratitude to God even though life had been hard and was likely to be harder still.

Most of us come to Thanksgiving this year worlds apart from the tenuous life of the Pilgrims marked as it was by the constant threat of starvation. Yet this can be a difficult and challenging time of year for LGBT people: we may not be invited to family gatherings, or only invited as

long as we keep secret our identity. This is a time of year when estrangements in our families become painfully evident. It is also a time when we can press ourselves to come out.

I remember the first Thanksgiving after I'd come out to my parents. It had not gone well and because of that I did not want to tell my brother John. An argument arose with my Dad because he wanted me to tell John: no secrets at the table. We were all crying as the doorbell rang and I said, "Fine, I'll tell him." To which my Mom replied, "Don't

**My Mom replied,
"Don't ruin
Thanksgiving!"**

Time for Thanks

ruin Thanksgiving!" "It's ruined for me!" was my answer.

John was less surprised than I expected; he had seen a book at my parent's house on dealing with your gay son and he was smart enough to connect the dots. I think he rather liked having a gay brother as it took some of the pressure off of him for the choices he'd made in his own life.

That Thanksgiving I was able to be truly grateful: for a Dad who got me to tell the truth when I didn't want to, for a Mom coming to understand her son, for a brother I couldn't shock, for a family

that loved me not matter what. A day that started as a ruined Thanksgiving instead became a new start for me with my family.

The Pilgrims, having barely survived to the harvest and facing a gloomily winter, still rejoiced over what was good and plentiful in their life. I have learned to do the same even in seasons of my life when it seems difficult. There is always something worth the expression of gratitude. And in my life that means not just sharing a decadent meal but taking the time say thank you to God. This Thanksgiving, what are you thankful for?

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Dustin Kette, Journal Sentinel food critic

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- Add a burst of pizzazz by using colored glass plates as accent pieces. For autumn entertaining, you could even place a bright fall leaf on a dinner plate, then place a see-through colored glass plate on top to create a layered effect.
- Look outdoors. Use seasonal greenery, including holly, running cedar or magnolia leaves on the table to add color. For Thanksgiving, decorate with fresh fall leaves and walnuts.
- Fill silver bowls with water and float candles for evening entertaining.
- Add feathers to festive floral arrangements to create a unique look, or use gold and silver bells as accents.
- Instead of flowers, fill clear vases with cranberries, lemons or greenery in water.
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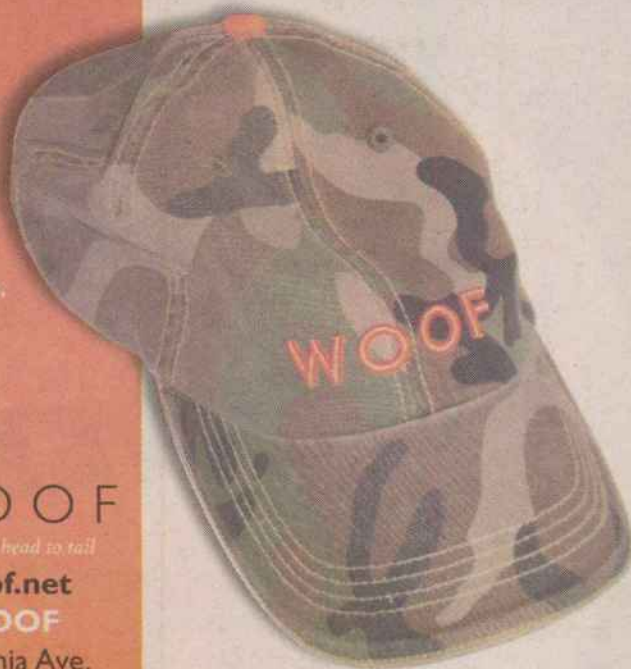
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From Movement to Market - and Back Again?

The Lesbian and Gay movement has become the Lesbian and Gay market. This is something that some of our scholars and leaders have known for some time now (*See Selling Out by Alexandra Chasin, and Virtual Equality by Urvashi Vaid*). However, most of us have been too happy, or, dare I say, too complacent, to really care about this whole 'selling out' thing. As long as our Pride "fests" are sponsored and we have a wide variety of rainbow wear to choose from, along with beer, car, and credit card companies targeting their commercials to the "LGBT market" many of us feel just fine.

The problem is all of this has pushed us away from any ability to challenge the status quo. With so many of us invested in the system, we have come to view any new gay-themed show or product as a victory for our movement. When was our last nationwide direct action protest or boycott? When did we last take to the streets to actually shut something down like the transportation workers in France? And sadly, no, an organized march on a weekend with permits and permission doesn't really count as a challenge or as a disruption (lest we forget: the very definition and purpose of protest is to challenge and disrupt).

But it doesn't have to be this way.

People are starting more and more to repeat and understand that old Radical Marxist Feminist belief that all oppressions are linked and stem from the same core - the capitalist patriarchal system. Many people are realizing that we are more than what we buy. Our rights are more than the right to get a slice of the (pretty rotten) pie. In fact, when we step out of this framework, we easily realize that we already have the rights we need in order to challenge this system that is unfair and exploitative of everyone in it - even those who benefit from it are trapped.

I propose that we start looking outside of our "LGBT" boxes and focus on our rights as human world citizens to simply be ourselves and to shift the course of destruction that some are taking our planet on from to one of creation. Easier said than done? I don't think so. All it takes is the ability to think bigger. To see our actions not just as part of the "LGBT" movement, but part of the human justice movement and to stop living in such a fragmented world that we consider the *L Word* to be a beacon of hope and equality. And it would also require that we as a people buy less needless stuff from companies that are directly profiting from oppression and inequality.

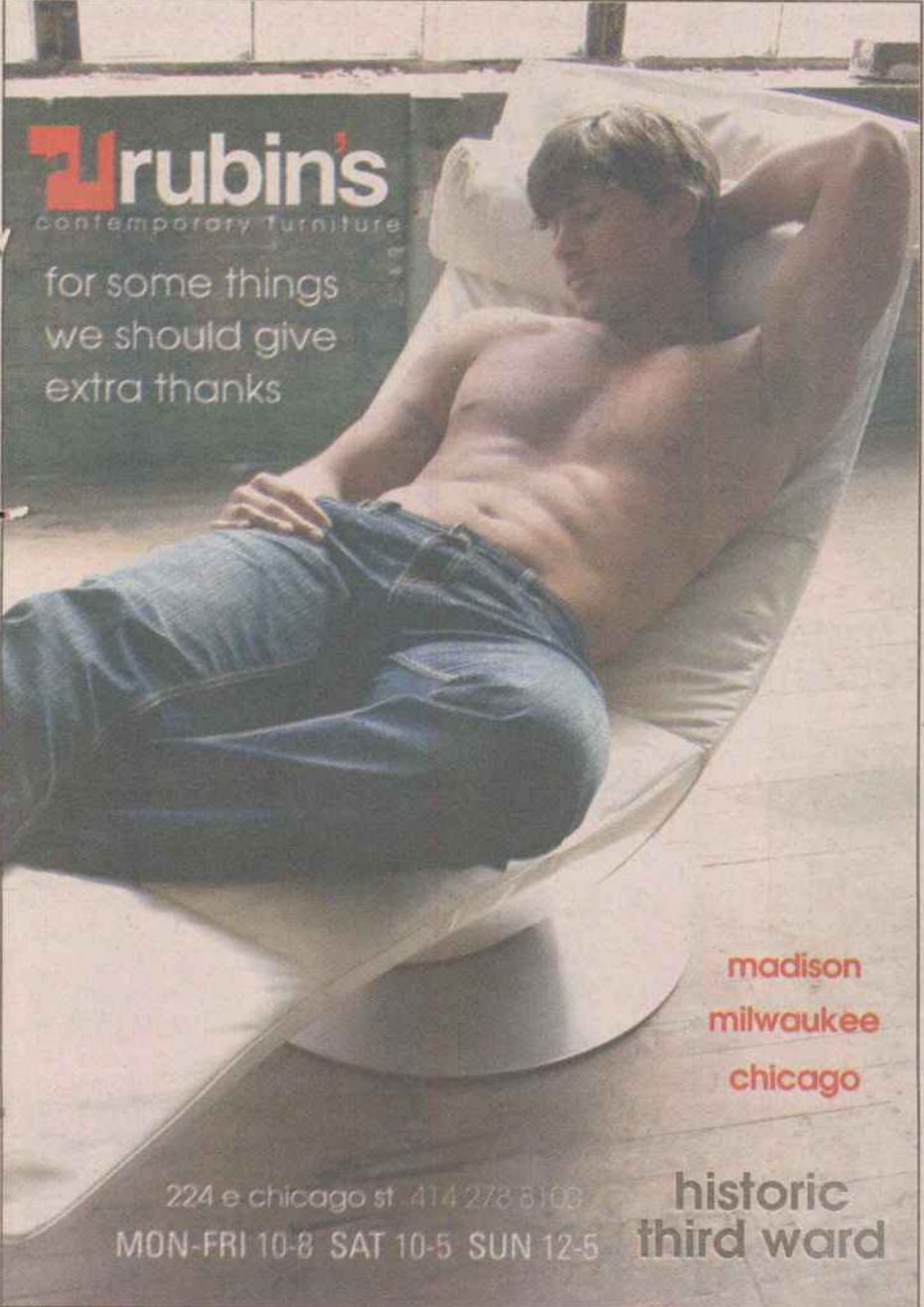
One good way to start this trend



WOMEN

Jennifer Curtis is a former board member of the Lesbian Alliance and was a founding member of the Greater Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Visioning Project Catalyst Committee. With her Masters in Sociology, she is currently working on her PhD in Urban Studies at UWM where she plans to study the consequences of neoliberalism on urban social movements. Jennifer is an ecofeminist who believes in think globally, act locally, and in reduce, reuse, recycle and loves spending time at home with her partner and their cat and dog.

towards simplicity, environmental sustainability and human equality would be to celebrate the annual "Buy Nothing Day" held on the day after Thanksgiving. This is the biggest shopping day of the year and yes, the deals are hard to beat, but the gratification of knowing that you did not participate in a system that oppresses you and others for at least one full day, well, to paraphrase a certain commercial - that's priceless.



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Don't Dream of Jeannie



LESBIAN VIEW

Lesley Salas is a lesbian Cuban American mother of two who writes for a living. She is interested in Scrabble, belly dance, social justice issues and laughing every day

My curiosity about other cultures, religions and languages recently prompted me to attend the Islamic Society of Milwaukee's presentation on "Combating Islamophobia: The Role of the Media" on October 20.

I had already left the lesbian part of me at the door, because mainstream Muslims and homosexuality don't mix, right? To be more accurate, I went into Cuban lesbian hiding mode, assuming that Arab and Muslim cultures have the same tight-knit family relationships, obligatory roles and taboos as Latino culture. (After all, the Muslim Moors dominated southern Spain for 700 years.) For those of you who don't know, hiding mode involves a pleasant and demure demeanor (femmy, if you can pull it off) and no mention of any of the queer

ideas that are going through your head.

Dr. Anna Mansson Mc Ginty, a UWM assistant professor of Women's Studies, gave a fascinating talk on the deeply rooted stereotypes of Muslim and Arab women in Sweden and the US. Her findings echoed those of Linda Steet, who studied images of Muslim and Arab women in the pages of National Geographic from 1888 to 1988. Recurrent themes range from the dancing girl or prostitute to the anonymous, veiled, "primitive" woman. In other words, Muslim and Arab women's choice of role model is either an exotic slut or a nobody. Dr. McGinty suggested that the news media update their "I Dream of Jeannie" clip art and photos. After all, there are plenty of intelligent, active, accomplished Muslim women (some wearing a veil or headscarf) who could easily be photographed in real-life settings.

The next speaker was Edina Lekovic, Communications Director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council. She defined Islamophobia as a fear; a distrust and suspicion of things related to Islam and Muslims or things perceived to be related to Islam and Muslims. According to Ms. Lekovic, it is an irrational fear with no basis, just like (and I quote) "arachnophobia, agoraphobia or homophobia." Sure, she's from California,

but still! She implied that being afraid of spiders, heights or queers is a personal problem...in front of the Islamic Society of Wisconsin! She exhorted those in attendance to get out of their comfort zones, especially if they wanted honest communication with their children.

Ms. Lekovic's suggested antidote to ignorance was for people to tell their stories. When the perceived "other" is just a blob, it's easy to dislike and misunderstand a stereotyped group. Studies have proven rigid views begin to melt away when people develop a connection with someone in the targeted group. Pictures and stories to counter stereotypes - is this starting to sound familiar?

I breathed a huge sigh of relief when I heard a presenter make a space for my queerness at this event. I soon felt a pinch of remorse. In our white-dominated society, don't queers of other "race, color, religion or national origin" (to quote the Hate Crime Act) feel as invisible in LGBT circles as I did at the Islamic Society?

Congress recently passed an updated version of the hate crime law to include "crimes motivated by gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability." Sen. Dianne Feinstein noted that the rates of reported GLB hate crimes are similar to those of other protected groups: 12

in 100,000 Muslims, 15 in 100,000 Jews and 13 in 100,000 gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. Hmm....more parallels.

Currently Milwaukee has a number of projects using visuals and stories to dismantle stereotypes about the queer community. What if we challenged ourselves to incorporate those with multiple identities? Edina Lekovic has already opened the door for me to broach the subject with my friends in the Muslim community, if I dare.

To discuss this article with Lesley Salas or suggestion of future topics please email her at: lesleysalas@yahoo.com.

Family Assets and Net Worth

Having a gay family member is an amazing asset, as many parents and siblings can attest. In our family, it provides endless fodder for substantive discussion about homophobia, hate and human rights. Whether planning strategies to promote greater understanding or discussing new research findings about the influence of genes and prenatal hormones on orientation, greater understanding is the outcome as we share and learn. Our family embraced these opportunities even before Alex, our own gay teenager came out, for we were blessed with Gilbert, my daughters' dear high school friend and an honorary family member. We took him to his first Pride Fest, an event as precious as seeing a baby's first steps.

Finding the similarities in our differences, developing sensitivities, exercising advocacy skills - these are but some of the gifts LGBT family members bring. Diverse families stretch boundaries of acceptance and the landscapes of life spring into increasingly vibrant color as we build on our unique make-up. Because of our diversity, we seek friends who celebrate differences. We join progressive community groups and religious communities.

On a recent Sunday, our pastor Jamie Washam pondered... "The more variety in our circle of friends, the greater our glimpse of the face of God." Our congregation at Underwood Baptist Church gives us all a BIG glimpse. I would not have gravitated there were it not for Alex, my gay teenager.

Diversity within our family has opened doors and built bridges, resulting in kids with worldviews and passions for

justice. Our well-filled family memory box holds recollections of international travel, study abroad, planning culture camps, dancing at the folk fair, rallying for rights of immigrants, becoming naturalized as first generation immigrants, advocating through four decades for gender equity, speaking out for justice and campaigning for "NO" to the amendment in Fall 2007.

I was struck by the impact of our unique experiences when my daughters were home from college for a recent long weekend. Both seniors at the University of MN, they pledged Sigma-Lambda-Gamma, a Latina multi-cultural sorority committed to service. The sorority was planning a seminar - Being an Ally to LGBT Students - and since I teach diversity issues at area colleges, they asked me for resources. Having gay family members calls us to action and we answer the call.

Not only do our unique diversity assets affect special events, but also, everyday happenings. My daughters' circle of friends smacks of the United Nations and their career paths reflect their passion for justice. Asian twins who speak Spanish, my daughters aspire to careers in Civil Rights Law and International Business. Currently, Ayla conducts research for an import company and Adrian works for Project Legos, a youth serving agency that promotes understanding and connection among diverse youth so that bullying will stop. Having a gay brother helped ignite the passion for human rights - and they carry their torches well.

Who knew that that an ad in The Milwaukee Journal in early 1990 would bring us this far along the diversity path? I wrote the 15 words: Christian Family with



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*.

young Asian children hoping to adopt infant of mixed racial ethnic background. A young birth mom read the 15 words, was pregnant and due in a few months. Her baby was born and she chose us to parent him. Our family was complete and our journey ensued. Who knew what an asset was placed in our arms 17 years ago?

Sometimes families don't realize what gems their LGBT children are and what catalysts for change. It's hard to see past challenging parenting moments and appreciate the opportunities for growth; it's much clearer in hindsight, I guess, that trials segue to treasures.

To quote a favorite line from the musical *Wicked* by Stephen Schwartz, "People come into our lives for a reason, bringing something we must learn ... and we are changed for the better." We are.

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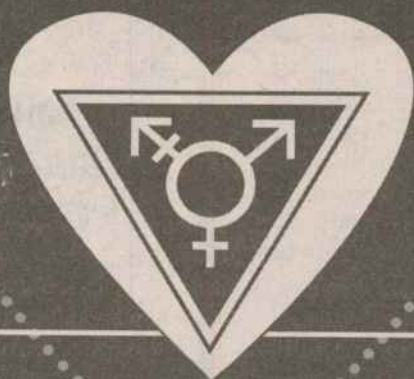
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Transgender Day of Remembrance November 20, 2007 Remembering our loved ones.



For more information about community events,
 contact the anti-violence project 414.271.2656 EXT.123

The Anti-Violence Project is available to provide advocacy, crisis intervention,
 safety planning, and resource information for members of the LGBT community
 who are affected by domestic violence, sexual violence, and hate crimes.



Anti-Violence Project of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
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 (414) 271-2656 | www.mkelgbt.org

Health is Science - Fitness is Fun

The Channel 12 News group has ranked Sweeney's Gym as one of the top three gyms in the Milwaukee area. The Business Journal places Sweeney's ahead of the rest. This month I'm giving some answers back to the community from questions I get through e-mail. Remember; Health is Science - Fitness is Fun.

The meal or snack you eat after working out may be as important as the workout itself. This is because once your workout is over, your muscles try to rebuild and become stronger or more aerobic - and they need nutrients to do this.

To get the best results possible from each workout, follow these two guidelines:

1. Eat as soon as possible after your workout.
2. Make sure your meal includes both protein and complex carbohydrates.

There are several forms of fat - some healthier than others. Trans fat, or hydrogenated fat, as well as saturated fat can contribute to high cholesterol. Trans fats, which are found in margarine and shortening, are formed when liquid oil is made solid at room temperature. Replace these unhealthy fats with moderate amounts of monounsaturated or polyunsaturated fats such as olive, canola, flaxseed, sesame and peanut oil.

The best cardiovascular exercise is the one you enjoy and are most likely to continue over a period of time. All cardiovascular exercises increase your heart rate, which in turn allows you to burn a high amount of calories while strengthening your heart and lungs. Try out a variety of cardiovascular activities such as jogging, stair climbing, bike riding or group exercise classes, and choose the ones you enjoy most. Keep going!

The Deadlift, a classic exercise performed with a weight bar, works several major muscle groups at the same time: the quadriceps (front of the thigh), the hamstrings (back of the thigh) and the gluteus maximus (buttocks).



FITNESS

Sweeney's Gym is family owned and operated by Michael Sweeney, a personal trainer for the last 8 years. Sweeney's prides itself on caring for people and their health.

Here's how to do a Deadlift properly:

1. Start with the bar resting on the floor in front of you. Bend down at the knees and hips so your thighs are about parallel to the floor. Grasp the bar with your hands shoulder-width apart.
2. Slowly stand upright, lifting the bar off the floor as you rise. Don't lock your knees when you're upright.
3. During the lift: Make sure you are using your thighs to lift, and not your lower back. Also, keep the bar as close to your body as possible.
4. Slowly lower the bar to the ground; concentrate on using your leg muscles rather than your lower back.
5. Do 1 to 3 sets of 8 to 12 repetitions each.

Stretching is an essential component of a successful exercise routine. Stretching will assist in increasing physical performance, decreasing risk of injury, increasing coordination and balance, reducing stress and enhancing enjoyment.

To get the most benefit from a stretching routine:

- Always warm-up before stretching
- Stretching should be slow and controlled without any bouncing.
- Hold each stretch at a point of mild tension for 10 to 30 seconds.
- Repeat this 3 to 5 times.
- Do not excessively extend, flex, twist or lock any joints.

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Pump House 9pm-Midnight
 - THURSDAY NOVEMBER 15
City Lights 9-11pm
 - FRIDAY NOVEMBER 16
Club Icon (Kenosha)
9:30pm-12:30am
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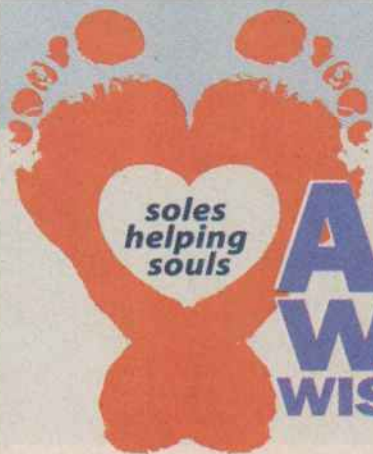


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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOV 4

Madison Gay Hockey. 6:40-10:00pm Games will be held at the Madison Ice Arena on Sundays. The season runs from September through February. The Madison Ice Arena openly supports being the home of the Madison Gay Hockey Association. Madison Gay Hockey, Madison Ice Arena, 725 Forward Dr, Madison, WI 53711 (608) 204-7606.

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee will host the play “Still Good Parents” as part of their popular Forum series. The play features three adult characters, each with a child who does not identify how the parents wanted them to, and was created to show children deserve love and guidance no matter which way gender manifests. Talk back with actors and Milwaukee-area author Todd Wellman to follow. 10AM, 1342 North Astor Street, Milwaukee.

NOV 6

Greg J. Duncan, author of Higher Ground speaks at Schwartz Bookstore, 2559 N. Downer Ave.

7 p.m. Northwestern University professor of education and social policy Greg J. Duncan tells the story of a group of committed activists and business leaders in Milwaukee who propelled their passion and pragmatism into New Hope—a fresh approach to addressing one of the country’s most enduring problems: poverty. Evidence-based and insightful, Higher Ground reveals how policymakers can make work pay and improve the lives of children in families struggling to escape poverty. More info call (414) 332-1181

NOV 7

Introducing Alder candidate Sura Faraj! Here’s your chance to meet 3rd aldermanic district candidate Sura Faraj and find out more about her exciting plans for visionary leadership for the East Side, UWM, Brady Street and Riverwest neighborhoods. Sura draws upon years of community and political activism to meet the needs of the most progressive parts of the city. Come to the Art Bar 722 E. Burleigh St. tonight from 6-8PM for the opportunity to learn more about the candidate best suited to meet our neighborhoods’ challenges with lasting solutions. Anyone 18 and older is encouraged to attend. Not registered to vote yet? Stop by to register!

The Artist’s Way Creative Cluster at FORGE, from 10:00-11:30AM. 315 Court St, Milwaukee. Finding Water: The Art of Perseverance (Julia Cameron) RSVP to info@forge-forward.org or 414-559-2123. \$60 for series. Repeats Nov 14,21,28, and Dec.5, 12

NOV 8

Two trauma specialists and writers are running “Writing to Heal,” a monthly drop-in program designed to help survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, hate crimes, and other traumas use writing to regain control over their lives. This group meets on Thursday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court Street, Milwaukee. Suggested donation is \$10, although no one is turned away due to lack of funds. Topic: Guilt

NOV 9

OutReach is holding a Transgender Support Group from 7-9PM. This group meets every 2nd and 4th Friday from 7-9PM. OutReach, Inc. Gateway Mall 600 Williamson St. in Madison. For more info, call 608-255-8582

NOV 12

Elliott Lewis, author of “Fade: My Journeys in Multiracial America” will discuss the shifting landscape of racial identity in the United States. UWM’s Union Fireside Lounge, 2200 East Kenwood Blvd, 7PM. Lewis’s book, “Fade,” weaves his own life story as a black-and-white biracial American with the voices of dozens of other multiracial people, illuminating a variety of coping strategies and revealing stark generational differences in the ways mixed race people have come to terms with their identity.

Celebrate the release of Friends of Art at the Schwartz bookstore, 4093 N. Oakland Ave, 7PM. Hear the fascinating history of the Friends of Art and their work with the Milwaukee Art Museum as told in an essay by Thomas Connors. Volunteers and attendees at the Friends activities over the past 50 years are featured in more than 60 black and white photos. Friends of Art is the primary volunteer support organization of the

continued on next page

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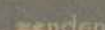
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A HOLIDAY SHOWCASE of 30 of Milwaukee’s best restaurants, complimentary bar and private performance of The Milwaukee Rep’s *A Christmas Carol* to benefit the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Medical Center and its medical, dental and mental health services that will be provided to more than 1,500 patients in 2007.

To purchase advance tickets, please call 1-800-359-9272 ext. 1598 or visit www.arcw.org and click on the Jolly Holly Folly link.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

continued from page 20

Milwaukee Art Museum, organized by volunteers in 1957.

Aiden Bay, song writer, producer, pop singer and performer, who is widely known in the gay youth and club community, will be a guest on 'The Queer Program', 6:30-7:30PM on Time Warner Cable Milwaukee Community Media public access channel 96. Aiden will also show clips from his performances and music video, in addition to taking calls from viewers. 'The Queer Program' broadcasts live on Mondays from 6:30PM - 7:30PM and replays Friday midnight and Saturday 10PM.

NOV 13

The Lesbian Reading Group meets at Outwards Books. The Book for November will be the new erotic romance by Gun Brooke, Sheridan's Fate. Everyone is welcome to come and meet the group and discuss a great book! 7PM, Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee 2710 N Murray Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53211. 414-963-9089 outwardsbooks@msn.com, www.outwardsbooks.com

The Lemon Street Gallery in Kenosha presents a Holiday Wreath Workshop by instructor: Franco Tarsitano. Workshop is \$40 and there is a \$15 "supply" fee payable to instructor. OR bring your own wreath & supplies! From 6pm-9pm. 4601 Sheridan Road, Kenosha WI 53140. Phone: 262.605.4745

NOV 14

The Distinguished Lecture Series at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will feature John Bul Dau, author and survivor of the Civil War in Sudan. Dau's lecture titled, "God Grew Tired of Us: Lost Boys of Sudan," will focus on the importance of human rights and ending the tragedy in Darfur. 7:30 p.m. in the Union Ballroom on the first floor of the UWM Union, located at 2200 East Kenwood Boulevard. Tickets may be purchased at the UWM Bookstore or by calling 414-229-4201 or 1-800-662-5668. Advance tickets: \$5 Students/\$8 UWM Faculty, Staff, Alumni/\$10 General Public. Tickets at the Door: \$8 Students/\$10 UWM Faculty, Staff, Alumni/\$12 General Public. Tickets can now be purchased online at www.bookstore.uwm.edu

NOV 15

LGBT & Allies Foster and Adoptive Parent support/Networking Group (including those caring for LGBT Youth) meeting to be held from 6:30PM to 8:30PM at Children's Service Society of WI, 620 S.76th St, Suite 120, Milwaukee. Jane Ottow, MS, LPC to Facilitate. Please call 414-453-1400, or 414-231-4834 for more info.

NOV 17

Belly Dance Cabaret with Shaia Fahrid - bring your favorite CD and dance with the region's finest belly dancers. Refreshments available. 8pm-11pm Donation \$5 Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. 414-383-3727 for more info.

NOV 19

Come and join the Outwards Book Club in November for a discussion of Clifford Chase's extraordinary novel of a teddy bear who winds up on the wrong side of America's War on Terror, Winkie. New members are always welcome. 7:30pm Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee 2710 N Murray Ave Milwaukee, WI 53211. 414-963-9089. outwardsbooks@msn.com, www.outwardsbooks.com

NOV 20

MPS Board to Consider Domestic Partner Benefits at a key MPS Board committee at 6:30pm in the MPS administration building, 5225 W. Vliet Street. The resolution would make equal benefits a matter of policy for Central Office employees and recommend that the Superintendent seek labor agreements with its unions that treat the families of all MPS employees, gay or straight, fairly. Center Advocates, the Milwaukee-based equal rights organization, is calling on all Milwaukee residents who support equality to attend the hearing to register in support.

NOV 24

The Sixth Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner, hosted by SAGE/Milwaukee, Mke LGBT Community Center-Project Q, PFLAG, Lesbian Alliance, Black & White Men Together, Mke Metro Community Church and Brew City Bears. You're bound to know someone! Plymouth Church, 2717 East Hampshire, Milwaukee, 4:30PM-7:30PM. Call the SAGE/Milwaukee office by Nov. 19 at 414-224-0517 to RSVP, and to find out which type of dish is needed to pass. And volunteering to set-up or clean up is always appreciated.

NOV 27

Save the Date! Jolly Holly Folly is at the Milwaukee Center, and it's one of the best meals in town! A holiday showcase of more than 25 of Milwaukee's best restaurants, complimentary bar, and private performances of the Milwaukee Rep's A CHRISTMAS CAROL to benefit the AIDS Research Center of Wisconsin Medical Center and it's medical, dental, and mental health services that will be provided to more than 1,500 patients in 2007. To purchase advance tickets, please call 1-800-359-9272 ext. 1598.

NOV 29

FORGE: Art, Body, and Soul is a monthly drop-in art exploration program focused on body image issues. We'll be using art to address issues associated with body size, race, shape, gender, dis/ability, and more to reach a place of deeper acceptance and self-love. Although an artist leads the group, no art experience or talent is needed to enjoy and grow from the activities. This group meets on Thursday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court Street, Milwaukee. Suggested donation (which includes all supplies) is \$10, although arrangements can be made for those who cannot afford the donation.

Coming in December:

DEC 1

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus presents: "In the Spirit of Peace" chorus concert. An evening of music inspired in part by a poem by Lau Tzu, as we consider how to create "Peace in our nation... peace in our hearts." Presented in conjunction with UUCW's hosting of panels from the AIDS memorial Quilt, on display the same weekend. UUCW, 13001 W. North Avenue, Brookfield. 7:30PM. TICKETS are \$15 each. Call 414-276-8787 for details

Holiday Fair and open house at Tamarack Community School. 10-5PM, 1150 E. Brady St., Milwaukee. 277-0009. www.tamarackwaldorf.org.

Deadline for the December Issue is November 20th.

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When "(S)He's Too Old To Die" Dies

Getting older has many different advantages and disadvantages. The disadvantages are easy enough to know. Our health usually takes on some dramatic changes; we can't do many things as easily as we used to. We've given up the idea of ever doing a cartwheel or disco dancing 'til the sun comes up. So we learn to adjust, doing more to keep our health in check, setting aside more time to do the things that need to be done and settling for watching a pretty younger person do a cartwheel. And dancing 'till dawn has become doing one dance at dawn or later in the day, whichever time provides us with more energy.

It's the advantages to getting old that are not so obvious.

- We don't have to prove who we are anymore. We are venerable and sageful and deserve the respect of others because of all that we have done in the past to prove who we are.

- We can take longer to say something, presumably because we want you to linger

on our every word, when in fact we are just trying to remember what we said at the beginning of the sentence.

- Many of us do have more time on our hands and that is why we go somewhere the day before an event to make sure we know how to get there and then on the right day, get there an hour early. (Oops, I still have to clean the bathroom. Why is he so early)

However there seems to be one advantage that old people take that just doesn't make sense to me. Those are the people who think it is okay to be mean or rude, just because they have gotten older. They feel like they have deserved that right.

I had an older friend once who told me how when she was in the check out line at the grocery store she would intentionally bang her cart into the person in front of her. When I asked her why she did this she said it was because she was older and had earned the right to be mean if she wanted to.

The worst part of this 'logic' is that

when you are that age, there is a much better chance that your passing will come sooner than later - leaving others with a last memory of you as being a mean person. It won't matter that she went to church every Sunday, or always gave nice gifts for birthdays. What will be remembered is that whenever she saw you she criticized the things you did, or told you that you needed a haircut, or was just plain nasty.

Our legacy is how we will be remembered. If that legacy includes a will with bequests that intentionally leave someone out because you couldn't get it resolved in your lifetime you are leaving behind an image of meanness, of being vindictive and self-centered.

The point I'm trying to make is that it truly is easier to be nice than to be mean. If we really expect people to respect our wisdom, then we have to be the kind of people that deserve to be respected. You'll know you are a mean or difficult person when fewer people show up at your door. People won't want to be with you for one



SENIOR

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

reason or another. Inflicting that kind of loneliness on oneself seems...stupid.

Leave 'em laughing seems to be the best bet. Or at least let people remember you with a smile rather than a sneer.

A Homo at Hogwarts?

Initially, I had an entirely different column planned out for the month of November. And then, on October 19th, a bomb was dropped: Dumbledore is gay.

For anyone who has not already heard this startling news, J.K. Rowling, author of the enormously popular fantasy series *Harry Potter*, announced that the beloved, older headmaster of Hogwarts was a homosexual while speaking publicly at Carnegie Hall.

Rowling explained that Dumbledore had fallen in love with rival Gellert Grindelwald, whom he defeated in a duel many years ago. "Falling in love can blind us to an extent," said Rowling, then adding that romantically, the character had been "horribly, terribly let down."

My first reaction to this news was just total shock. Dumbledore, the 70-something fictional wizard, was a homosexual? It sounded more like a headline from *The Onion* than actual news.

Retrospectively, there were perhaps a couple of lines that may have alluded to this fact in previous novels, though only very subtly suggesting that the headmaster may be playing for the other team. I think that the biggest shock of all was that Rowling just announced it, flat out, particularly given the controversies that the series has been subject to in the past.

Previously, *Potter* had been under fire from various Christian groups for the promotion of witchcraft and violence. On a forum on the Focus on the Family website, one parent wrote that "The book becomes very satanic," writes one, speaking of the first novel in the series. "This series is simply Satan's way of infecting the minds of our children," voiced another.

So how would fans react to this news? To find out, I went to the forums of popular *Potter* website www.mugglenet.com. While there were a good number of posts voicing their support for both Rowling and Dumbledore, a number of fans also wrote that they thought it was "disgusting," "immoral," or that this must mean Dumbledore had been a "pedophile." Others



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.

speculated that this was merely an attempt to "...sell more books and stir the tabloid pot!"

To me, such rash and negative comments indicate a clear lack of understanding for Rowling's writing. Stylistically speaking, she is known for her focused attention to detail. Because of this, I believe it's safe to say that Rowling has viewed Dumbledore's character to be gay all along, and this wasn't just some spur-of-the-moment publicity stunt. After all, Rowling's announcement had not been spontaneous, but appropriately prompted by the question, "Does Dumbledore ever find true love?"

By announcing this fact after the series has already been finished, Rowling proves just how irrelevant sexuality is. That's why she had never brought it up before: it simply wasn't an issue. It did not interfere with Dumbledore running the school, fending off evil Wizards, or doing other great things. It was just a part of his persona.

If there is one thing that the *Harry Potter* series promotes, it's that you can achieve great things no matter who you are or where you started. She herself has stated that *Potter* contains a "prolonged argument for tolerance," and has urged her readers to "question authority." Taking that into account, it makes sense that his character would be a homosexual. I applaud Rowling for taking this risk with her character. He exemplifies triumph in the face of controversy.

This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History NOVEMBER

By Don Schwamb

35 years ago: 1972

- GPU/ Gay People's Union, receives its papers of incorporation from the state.
- A gay man, and member of the GPU, is fired for being gay by the State of Wisconsin, and files a lawsuit.

20 years ago: 1987

- The Army announced that, following her latest court victory, Miriam Ben-Shalom would be promoted to sergeant's rank and given a small amount of back pay. (This was not to be the last word however; this case carried on for many years after.)
- New Hope MCC/ Metropolitan Community Church (Milw.) celebrates their first anniversary.
- A Milwaukee mayoral candidate forum for the gay and lesbian community is broadcast on cable channel 14 by Milw Gay/Lesbian Cable Network.
- A special isolated laboratory to study the AIDS virus is set up at the Milwaukee County Medical Complex.
- The Holiday Invitational Tournament/ HIT holds their 9th bowling tournament in Milwaukee.
- 1101 West bar in Appleton celebrates 7th anniversary

15 years ago: 1992

- The 1992 Elections mark great strides for gays and lesbians: Bill Clinton elected President, pledging to eliminate the gay ban in the military (yeah, right); four liberal women are elected to Congress; and locally, Tammy Baldwin is elected to the State Assembly (the first openly lesbian or gay official in Gay Rights State), while underdog Russ Feingold is elected as US Senator-- all on the Democratic ticket.
- After a meeting with Queer Scouts, the United Way- Milwaukee agreed to hold an information gathering meeting with local Boy Scout councils to inquire on their policy toward gays. Queer Scouts calls the move "more foot-dragging" by the United Way in resisting pulling funding the Boy Scouts because of their gay discrimination practices.
- The first local weekly program for gays and lesbians, Brand New Queer Program, tapes its first show for Warner cable channel 47.
- The MLGPC/ Milw. Lesbian Gay Price Committee, announces dates for 1993 celebration, and holds logo contest for "Forward in Pride".
- A March on Washington organizational meeting is held in Milwaukee at 3B's Bar.
- Two bartenders at Napalese Lounge in Green Bay, Monty Jensen and Julie Becks, foil a robbery of the bar shortly after closing, scuffling with the 20-year-old thief and holding him until police arrived.
- The Pageant held on Nov 8 is a record breaker, with over 300 people attending for dinner, 11 contestants for Miss Gay Wis and 7 for the title of Mr. Gay Wis. BeBe Douglas (hosted by Zas) and Mark Hemmerlein took the titles.
- Rascals Bar in Appleton has grand opening week (Rascals is still open, very popular for Friday fishfry too!)

10 years ago: 1997

- Sunday Gay Nights are being held at The Red Corvette on S. KK Ave. Within a few years however, The Park Avenue will take over the Sunday "gay night" business with a bar called Sundays (currently in Milwaukee, "Pump" is the Sunday-only gay venue).
- The Castaways motorcycle group celebrates their 19th anniversary.
- Angels of Hope MCC/ Metropolitan Community Church in Green Bay dedicates a new church.
- Robert Ambelang, known as Grandpa Condom for his and his wife's longtime volunteer service to the BESTD clinic, dies at age 84.
- Both Milwaukee Eagle and Woody's Bar open. (Woody's continues to be very popular for Badger and Packer games)

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

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From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk:

Are there any efforts underway to lessen the environmental impact—which must be considerable—of all the “18 wheelers” and other large vehicles that are numerous on our highways?

- Sadie Strauss, Madison, WI

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, although large trucks account for just six percent of total highway miles driven in the U.S., they are responsible for a host of environmental threats. These include over half the soot and a quarter of the smog-causing pollution generated by highway vehicles, six percent of the nation’s global warming pollution, and more than a tenth of the country’s oil consumption. A typical diesel-powered 18-wheeler can emit as much nitrogen oxide and fine particulates—key elements in the formation of asthma-inducing smog—as about 150 passenger cars. Although strict limitations on emissions of various pollutants from cars have been in place in the U.S. since the 1970s, trucks and other large transport vehicles have been allowed to emit as much as five times as much pollution per mile.

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

But thanks to new regulations put in place by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), new trucks coming off assembly lines in the years immediately ahead promise to be much cleaner and greener. Known collectively as the EPA’s Heavy-Duty Highway Diesel Rules, the new regulations mandate that trucks manufactured in 2007 or after produce 75-90 percent less nitrogen oxide and 90 percent fewer particulates than earlier models. Of course, with most of the trucks on the road made prior to 2007 and thus exempt from the new regulations, air quality improvements won’t happen overnight.

In the meantime, though, the federal government has also instituted new regulations mandating that diesel fuels contain 97 percent less sulfur, another primary component of smog, than previously required. This means that all diesel-powered vehicles in the U.S., new or old, will be polluting less. Regulators hope that the combination of greener trucks and cleaner fuel will eventually bring emissions from large trucks into parity per mile driven with cars and light trucks (SUVs, pickups and minivans).

Beyond making existing truck engines more efficient, new technologies promise to green the trucking industry even more. Biodiesel, a form of diesel fuel derived from renewable plant crops, is coming on strong. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, use of the most common blend, B20 (80 percent regular diesel and 20 percent biodiesel), cuts petroleum use by 19 percent, greenhouse gas emissions by 16 percent and hydrocarbon emissions by 20 percent.

Also, hybrid technologies popularized by the Toyota Prius are starting to show up in trucks. Federal Express is pioneering the use of hybrid technology in trucks by outfitting many of its new delivery trucks accordingly. And several U.S. cities now run hybrid diesel-electric buses. Environmental leaders hope such fuel- and emission-saving technologies will trickle down into the private trucking industry as well.

CONTACTS: Union of Concerned Scientists, www.ucsusa.org; EPA’s Heavy-Duty Highway Diesel Program, www.epa.gov/otaq/highway-diesel.

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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ARTS CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 1

Stephen Mills' Nationally Acclaimed 'Hamlet' Comes to Milwaukee. Presented at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts by The Milwaukee Ballet, "Hamlet" is a sensational ballet that combines classical and contemporary production. Complete with men dressed in Armani-inspired suits and female dancers in cocktail gowns. Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water Street, Milwaukee. Tickets start at \$22. To order call 414-273-7206 or visit www.milwaukeeballet.org. Thru Nov 4.

NOV 3

One of the most outspoken, creative singer-songwriters of our time, Tori Amos returns with her ninth studio album "American Doll Posse" and a Milwaukee show at The Riverside. Amos's multi-platinum career features the hits: Silent All These Years, Crucify, and Cornflake Girl among many others. Don't miss your chance to see Tori Amos live in concert at the Riverside Theater in Milwaukee. Reserved seat tickets are \$58, \$48 and \$38. Tickets and will be available at the Riverside Theater Box Office, on the web at www.riversidetheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents: G. B. Pergolesi's Stabat Mater (1736) Performed by members of the St. Paul's Choir under the direction of Jerrad Fenske, Music Ministry Director. MGAC 703 South 2nd St, at 7:30pm. Suggested Donation \$10

NOV 4

The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music presents a concert featuring members of the guitar faculty. Enjoy the textures and timbre of this versatile instrument. Conservatory faculty performing include: Matthew Schroeder, Paul Silbergleit, George Lindquist, Peter Baime, Nathan Wysock, Colin O'Brien, and Ben Kammin. FREE Admission. 3PM Helen Bader Recital Hall (1584 N. Prospect Avenue). Tickets can be purchased in person or by calling: 414-276-5760. For more information go to: www.wcmusic.org

The controversial series "There's Something About Miriam," one of the most widely discussed and controversial reality shows ever aired due to its dramatic conclusion begins tonight on the Fox Reality Channel. This show chronicles the journey of six men who travel to a luxurious house in Ibiza, Spain, and enter into a heated dating competition to win the heart of a stunning 21-year old Mexican model, Miriam. The fact that Miriam is a transgender woman is not revealed to the contestants until the final episode. The contestants filed a lawsuit, critics claimed it was the cruelest reality show ever, and transgender groups feared a backlash of public opinion. Is this really entertainment? You decide. Or not.

NOV 6

The Wallflowers perform at The Pabst at 8 p.m. - the band's first tour in over two years. Los Angeles-based Rock Band The Wallflowers made their album debut in 1996 with Bringing Down the Horse. The album featured tracks including the radio hit "6th Avenue Heartache" and Grammy winning

song "One Headlight." The band's latest album is 2005's Rebel Sweetheart. All tickets are reserved seating and are \$22.50 in advance and \$25.00 day of show. Tickets 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.

NOV 9

Professor Margery Deutsch celebrates her 24th year as music director and conductor of the UWM Symphony Orchestra in the Peck School of the Arts. Catch the UWM Symphony Orchestra, along with the UWM Choirs as they perform Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 and Borodin's Polovtsian Dances at the Helen Bader Concert Hall of the Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts. 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard. 7:30 pm. Single tickets are \$10 general/ \$7 for seniors, students and UWM alumni. Tickets may be purchased from the UWM Peck School of the Arts box office at (414) 229-4308. Also on NOV 10.

NOV 11

It's Cabaret Night at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center! With special guest artist Eric Himan, singer, acoustic guitar. Others performing include MGAC fave Scott Malcom, singer & keyboard. MGAC 703 South 2nd St. 8pm (doors open 7:30pm) Admission \$8. Eric Himan has penned songs that dabbled in Blues, Folk, Pop, Blue Grass, Country, and Rock all served up with a pinch of wit and charm. <http://www.erichiman.com/erichiman.php>

NOV 14

Singer, bassist, composer, arranger, and nine-time Grammy Award Nominee Meshell Ndegeocello seems impervious to labels. Catch her tonight at the historic Turner Hall Ballroom. Tickets on sale day of show at Turner Hall Ballroom, or at Pabst Theater Box Office and The Riverside Box Office, on the web at www.turnerhallballroom.org, www.pabsttheater.org, www.riversidetheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552.

The Boulevard Theatre is back with "Indian Blood" By A.R. Gurney, A tender, hilarious Thanksgiving remembrance that rivals the beloved film A CHRISTMAS STORY. Directed by Mark Bucher. Cast: Maureen Domemann, Sandra A. Stark, Caitlin Kujawski, Heather Clayton, Jaime Jastrab, Mark Ninneman, Mark R. Neufang, and Joe Redemann. Thru December 02. Boulevard Theatre, 2252 South KK, in Bay View. For more info (and to hear one of Mark's infamous outgoing messages, please call 414-744-5757)

The UWM Peck School of the Arts Department of Theatre presents "Modern Voices: Thornton Wilder Shorts" as part of the Lab/Works Series. Directed by Bill Watson in the Studio Theatre 2400 East Kenwood Boulevard. All seats \$5. BOX OFFICE located in the Zelazo Center, 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard (access from the parking lot to the south of the building. 414-229-4308 for more info.

NOV 15

Spiral Theatre announces the third show of its inaugural season, Someone Who'll Watch Over Me by Frank McGuinness running weekends at Spiral's very own new space at 534 West National Avenue (a block away from La Perla and La Fuentes restaurant). 7:30pm. Runs through Dec 2.

Tickets are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Students and Seniors and may be purchased online at www.spiraltheatre.com or by calling 414-248-6481.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents TRYING By Joanna McClelland Glass. Directed by C. Michael Wright and Featuring Richard Halverson and Molly Rhode. At the Studio Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Thru December 16. Box Office 414-291-7800 www.chamber-theatre.com

NOV 16

Wild, Witty, Wet, and altogether winning - Cirque Eloize RAIN is at the Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn Ave, Milwaukee, 8PM. Also Nov.17 at 2PM & 7PM. For tickets, please call 414-276-4545 or visit www.ticketmaster.com. Also sold at the Milwaukee Theatre Box Office, open 10-2PM M-F.

NOV 17

Sharon Jones & The Dap Kings perform at Turner Hall Ballroom. 70s-style soul singer Sharon Jones may be a well-kept secret, but not for long. The 51-year old appears in Denzel Washington's upcoming film The Great Debaters while her superbly nostalgic band, the Dap Kings, have been borrowed wholesale to back Amy Winehouse (on her smash hit "Rehab"). Catch her while she's in town at Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee, WI \$12 Advance / \$15 Day of Show. General Admission - Smoke Free. Tickets on sale day of show at Turner Hall Ballroom, or at Pabst Theater Box Office and The Riverside Box Office, on the web at www.turnerhallballroom.org, www.pabsttheater.org, www.riversidetheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552.

NOV 20

Queer Life News is proud to sponsor rock & roll hall of famer Deborah Harry!

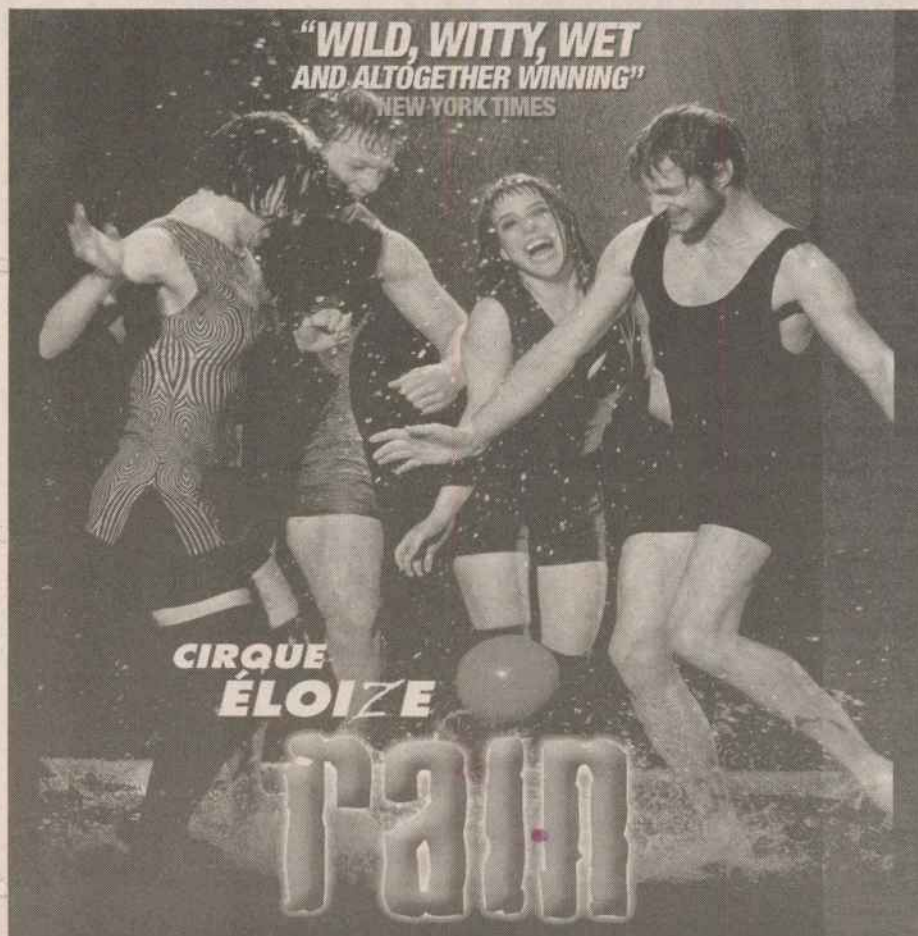
New Wave pioneer and front-woman of Blondie, Deborah Harry tours in support of her new album, Necessary Evil - a collection of 17 songs that feature Harry's distinctive voice and dexterity for musical genres in an intimate Turner Hall Ballroom show! The woman, who brought us hits including "Heart of Glass," "Call Me," and "Rapture." Is a must see. 8PM Turner Hall Ballroom, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee, WI. Tickets on sale in advance at Pabst Theater Box Office, The Riverside Box Office, or day of show at Turner Hall, www.turnerhallballroom.org, www.pabsttheater.org, www.riversidetheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552. (You can also try to win a pair of tix by sending email to editor@queerlifeneews.com, or calling 414-383-8200.)

NOV 28

The UWM Peck School of the Arts Department of Theatre presents "CAPRICHOS"

Directed by Kurt Hartwig, at Studio 508. All seats \$5. Studio 508 is located on the 5th floor of the newly renovated Kenilworth Square Building, 1925 Kenilworth Place. Entrance to the building is located off the pedestrian walkway between Prospect and Farwell Avenues. Box office located in the Zelazo Center, 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard (access from the parking lot to the south of the building. Tickets also available at the Kenilworth facility an hour prior to curtain. Call 414-229-4308 for more info. Thru Dec 2nd

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ARTS CALENDAR

NOV 29

The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music presents WE SIX, as they play bebop featuring the music of Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, Bud Powell, Thelonious Monk and others. Cabaret seating. Tickets: \$22 - general admission / \$18 seniors/students. Helen Bader Recital Hall (1584 N. Prospect Avenue). Tickets can be purchased in person or by calling: 414-276-5760. For more information go to: www.wcmusic.org. To purchase tickets or to make reservations call: 414-276-5760. 7:30 pm

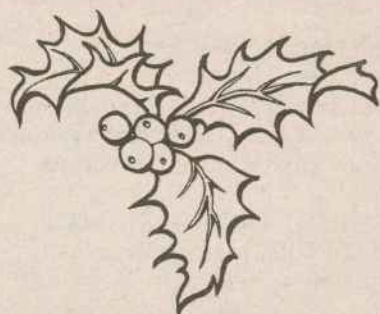
Cowboy Junkies! Live At Turner Hall Ballroom - celebrating the 20th Anniversary of The Trinity Sessions album. 8 p.m. The Trinity Sessions (1998) contained gutsy covers and simmering originals, including Hank Williams' "I'm So Lonely I Could Cry" and Velvet Underground's "Sweet Jane. Tickets are \$35 (General Admission) and on sale in advance at Pabst Theater Box Office and The Riverside Box Office, on the web at www.turnerhallballroom.org, www.pabsttheater.org, www.riversidetheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552, or day of show at Turner Hall Ballroom. For additional artist and album information, please visit www.cowboyjunkies.com.

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HAPPENING NOW at The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center:

Gallery: The 2nd Annual Gay Youth Art Show, a collaboration with MPS' Alliance School, Alliance School instructor Jill Engel, curator. Show runs through November 30. Gallery Hours: M-F 10-4pm or by appointment. Classes: Yogalates with Marc, Tuesday 5:30-6:30pm. 8 week session \$40. Middle Eastern Belly Dance for Men with Shaia Fahrid. Call 414-383-3727 for Information. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd Street, Milwaukee.



COMING IN DECEMBER

DEC 1

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus presents: "In the Spirit of Peace" chorus concert. An evening of music inspired in part by a poem by Lau Tzu, as we consider how to create "Peace in our nation... peace in our hearts." Presented in conjunction with UUCW's hosting of panels from the AIDS memorial Quilt, on display the same weekend. UUCW, 13001 W. North Avenue, Brookfield. 7:30PM. TICKETS are \$15 each. Call 414-276-8787 for details

Please send art listing to qifelistings@yahoo.com

Deadline for the December Issue is November 20th.

Word Warriors Released

Bay View - On November 14th Broad Vocabulary will welcome three revolutionary performance artists to help them celebrate the release of the anthology

"Word Warriors: 35 Women Leaders in the Spoken Word Revolution" (the first U.S. women's spoken word anthology, with a foreword by Eve Ensler of Vagina Monologue fame.)

Join Editor Alix Olson (NYC-based and internationally touring artist/activist) and contributors Andrea Gibson (Denver, CO), Natalie Illum (Washington, DC), and local poet

Jennifer Morales at for an amazing event, complete with some of the most radical feminist performance poetry of our time.

These phenomenal artists will give a sampling of their talents, talk about their involvement in "Word Warriors," and take questions from the audience. Bring your

friends and join them at Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, 7:00pm, as they celebrate feminism, queer politics and the spoken word revolution!

Word Warriors is the first all-women spoken word anthology, featuring the most influential female spoken word artists in the movement. Each contributor is a published writer, accomplished performer, and has received numerous accolades for her contributions to this art form. Contributors include Patricia Smith, Eileen Myles, Sarah



Jones, Michelle Tea, Suheir Hammad, Staceyann Chin, Lenelle Moise and many more.

Amy Ray says "Word Warriors is a treasure and a long time coming" while bell hooks urges "Let it resurrect you, let it take from deep silence into the comfort of soulful sound."

About Alix Olson: Since winning the 1998 National Poetry Slam and the OutWrite LGBT Slam in 1999, Alix Olson has co-authored *Burning Down the House*, published two books of poetry, and produced two spoken word CDs and the award-winning documentary, *Left Lane: On the Road with Alix Olson*. Olson has headlined HBO's Def Poetry Jam, and her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time Out*, *The Progressive*, *Girlfriends*, *The Advocate*, *OUT*, *Poets & Writers*, *Venus*, and hundreds of other regional newspapers and magazines. Alix is the recipient of a New York Foundation for the Arts Grant, a Hedgebrook Fellowship, and an OutMusic National Artist/Activist Award. She lives in Brooklyn, NY.

Someone Who'll Watch

Over Me

By Frank McGuiness

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Shall not be Recognized... a Photo Exhibit Hopes to Sway

By Paul Masterson

On a balmy October evening, an opening bustling with local LGBT personalities at the Third Ward's VP Gallery of Fine Photography had an unusual twist. Instead of Mapplethorpes or Tee Corinnes, the exhibited photos presented a family photo album of sorts: thirty Milwaukee-area LGBT couples in long-term relationships. "Shall not be recognized. Portraits of same sex couples" the exhibit, by photojournalist Jeff Percy was accompanied by statements by the subjects and author Will Fellows. It is an exhibition not for its own sake, but with a mission.

When Wisconsin's marriage amendment passed last November, Peary and his wife were moved to anger by the injustice of the vote. For them, the political debate has overlooked the human factor - to be recognized, same sex couples need

to seen and heard

Funded by PFLAG Milwaukee, Cream City Foundation, The J.G. Clark Family Fund, The Joseph R. Pabst LGBT Infrastructure Fund, and Ray Vahey, "Shall not be recognized" hopes to introduce the mainstream population to same-sex couples and change attitudes. The photos themselves are crafted to present a spectrum of almost unremarkable moments - some traditionally posed with pets, among friends and family, at work or at home and even with their own tombstone. The essential message is "we're your neighbors."

Like the "Love Makes a Family" photo show that toured UW campuses last year before the amendment vote, the 30 images strive to create an arresting yet accessible window into the ordinary side of LGBT life beyond the stereotypes. "It's a soft sell," admits Percy, "but that and hard sell confrontation by others are needed

to convince the 'middle' - where there's potential to sway opinion. The idea is to increase their comfort level with the idea of LGBT couples so they can't object to gay marriage."

The 30 images were taken over the course of a year. Couples volunteered to participate but an effort was made to present a diverse demographic spectrum. However, that presented a challenge and a political reality - only one African-American couple and one interracial couple appear. "The double edged sword of discrimination may have held some people back," Percy said.

The task of getting the message out there is another matter. Up to now, other than the LGBT-friendly Unitarian Society, no non-LGBT venue has scheduled a showing of the photos.

But Jeff Percy is optimistic. "Do I think "Shall not be recognized" is going to travel? Absolutely," he said. In fact, the

recent showing at the PFLAG's convention produced 90 inquires for possible bookings. The DVD version of the show will be sent to public libraries throughout Wisconsin where the vote favored the amendment. Universities and banks will be targeted as well. Funding is being sought to print and frame a second set of the collection in order to allow it to be shown simultaneously in two venues.

The opening display had a brief five-day run. The show then traveled to Virginia for a weekend exhibit at the PFLAG National Convention. The photos currently are being shown in a five-week exposition at Milwaukee's Leenhouts Gallery, First Unitarian Society, 1342 N. Astor Street. More information may be found at the project's website www.shallnotberecognized.org.

So you want to be an ACTOR!

So you want to be an actor! Maybe it is your time to shine, and get applause. Whether as a hobby, or profession, the dream of being on stage is something many people wish for.

Some have a natural flair, and come across well on stage, while others are shy, and find they are only able to express more once on the stage. Actually, many stage performers are incredibly shy.

It is not uncommon for the shy kid in high school to turn to the stage. Nor is it uncommon for those who dominated the high school, or college stages to not pursue theatre any further after graduating. Perhaps it is because Mom and Dad pushed them too much, causing them to resent it later on? Who knows.

Remember the show GYPSY where Mama Rose pushed both of her daughters so much that they both left her? One later

became a movie actress, and the other a famous stripper GYPSY ROSE LEE.

I teach many young people theater; and have also taught adults. I can see if someone has potential the very first time we work together. That is called STAR QUALITY. You either have it, or you don't.

If you are interested in the performing arts, please leave your name and number with James Searles at the Astor Theater on Brady Street. You can also get involved with some of our many local community theaters. You can start with auditioning for a small role to give you some stage experience. You can also work backstage; and become a technical person, working on the set, lights, or costumes. One can really learn from watching others on stage. Whatever you do; make sure you get into theater because you love it. There are too many people today that need attention. They are not team players, and often only do theater to be in the spotlight. There is nothing really wrong with that; but that is not the making of a true performer. Talent always wins in the long run!

I hope I see you on stage soon, if that is your dream. Also, remember to be a team player!

NOVEMBER

Happenings Around Town:

DOG SEES GOD-RSVP Productions
ASTOR THEATER (I told you all about this fun PEANUTS parody in our last issue).

THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTMAN SPELLING BEE- Marcus Center for the Performing Arts GREETINGS- Next Act Theatre

INDIAN BLOOD - Boulevard Theatre
THE MISER- Waukesha Civic Theatre
WHITE CHRISTMAS-Skylight Theatre (The Irving Berlin Christmas classic)

TRYING-Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
SOMEONE WHO'LL WATCH OVER ME - Spiral Theatre

A FIRESIDE CHRISTMAS-Fireside Dinner Theatre

THE MERRY WIDOW-Florentine Opera Company-Carroll College. Don't forget that CHRISTMAS CAROL is coming to the Pabst for its annual Holiday showing.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESS!

Soon it will be the Holiday season - it's time to get out and support your area bars and local business. Some of the bars have been slow, and you will enjoy getting out



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.

and having fun! There is so much more to life than your cable TV, and computer. Soon, Winter will be here; so go out and enjoy the beautiful Fall weather.

My Aunt Blanche came to America on the original Mayflower...so she looks forward to yet ANOTHER Thanksgiving. R.B.



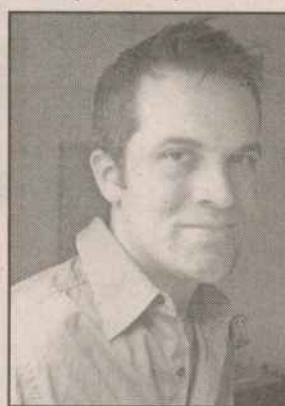
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Last MONTH's Trivia Answer
The play DOUBT did win a Tony Award.

This Month's Trivia Question
Is the song SISTERS from the movie HOLIDAY INN or WHITE CHRISTMAS?

Boulevard Theatre goes to Buffalo

This month, the Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre will present the Milwaukee premiere of celebrated playwright A.R. Gurney's comedy "INDIAN BLOOD," a



Mark Neufang

delightful memory play of a family holiday dinner is set immediately in the post-War years in Buffalo, New York.

Running November 14 -December 2, the cast includes

many noted local actors, including Maureen Dornemann, Jaime Jastrab, Sandra Stark, Mark Ninneman, Caitlin Kujawski, Hugh Blewett, and Joseph Redemann.

Also included in this wonderful, funny script is local actor Mark Neufang, who has worked extensively with local theatres, and who makes his Boulevard debut playing a gay uncle in Gurney's tale of the decline of a wealthy family.

In a recent conversation with Boulevard Artistic Director Mark Bucher, the two "Mark's" discussed how being gay affects playing a gay character. Neufang shares his perspective:

"Set in 1946, Gurney's play suggests that

being gay in the 1940s was not as much of a spoken, 'social issue' as it is today. The slight irony of this is that America had just come out of World War II, which sparked many social class and religious separations.

Families may have had a gay member, but it was not casually remarked upon or even discussed. When the young protagonist of this play asks his mother why his uncle never married, she responds with "Because different people lead different lives" and notes that he is a "confirmed bachelor".

Being a gay man in present day, playing a 1940s gay man in a prominent family presents an interesting challenge to me. Today, I think the gay community is more open to artistic expression and, in fact, validation of their identity in society - concepts that a post-WWI gay man could not even experiment with, lest he be considered psychologically imbalanced or a 'black sheep' in his family.

I appreciate Gurney's inherent respect for Uncle Paul. He renders the character with a quiet dignity I hope to convey, without glaring stereotypical behavior. Additionally, he poses no argument against the prejudices of the era, but portrays a moderately successful man maintaining his place in the world despite having to remain, for the most part, closeted.

The Boulevard Theatre is located at 2252 South Kinnickinnic in Bay View. For performance schedule and ticket information, please visit www.boulevardtheatre.com.

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Gay Youth Art Show opens at MGAC

Milwaukee - Jill Engel, MFA and art instructor at MPS' Alliance School accepted the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's proposal to curate the 2nd Annual Gay Youth Art Show as a learning experience for her students and to inform the community about the Alliance School. The show opened with an artists' reception on Gallery Night, October 19.

A total of 15 students, ages 14-19, from a diverse range of economic and social backgrounds, both LGBT and LGBT-friendly submitted works.

The smaller Alliance School is designed to address student's specific needs. "Not everyone functions traditionally - especially in the context of the urban experience and family issues," says Engel.

"Some kids are disenfranchised and deal with their world in a non-traditional way. Many have not been in school for years or have family issues to cope with - getting them to respond is accomplished by asking them what they know and what they like."

Engel's students come to the Alliance School with a wide range of abilities. The mix produces an open philosophy of taking what's there without specific expectations of classical backgrounds. "Teaching a strict curriculum doesn't work. In my art class, the stress is on stream of consciousness and surrealism, so anything goes," explains Engel.

"We encourage the kids to trust themselves, take an idea and express it through a creative process. The result is self-awareness by rethinking the world around them. From there the process continues into artistic creativity, development of individual styles and the motivation to create," Engel said.

The 2nd Annual Gay Youth Art Show is a product of that strategy. The artwork includes a variety of media from drawing and painting to collage. The October 19th opening was highlighted by a hair design show by Shug, a performance art piece that incorporated models presenting living art.

The collages showcased material morphed from other classes. They were created over the weeks of class - one includes poetry. "This teaches how ideas grow and develop over time. I let the students think about the technical criteria and skills when we do critiques," Engel said 'the formal aspects of art come into play by default. One student, inspired by Pokemon figures, morphed them into his own Picasso-like drawings."

The MGAC - Alliance School collaboration, established for the 2006 Gay Youth Art Show, is becoming a tradition. Plans for next years show are already being discussed.

The 2nd Annual Gay Youth Art Show runs through November 30th at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd Street. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm and by appointment.

Local Watering Holes

Art Bar: 722 E. Burleigh St. Milwaukee, WI 414-372-7880

Ballgame: 196 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-273-7474

Boom: 625 South 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-277-5040

Boot Camp: 209 E National Ave. Mil, WI 414-643-6900

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

City Lights Chill: 111 W. Howard Ave. Mil, WI 414-481-1441

Fluid: 819 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-643-5843

Harbor Room: 117 E. Greenfield Ave. Mil, WI 414-672-7988

Kathy's Nut Hut: 1500 W. Scott St. Mil, 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

This Is It: 418 E Wells St. Milwaukee, WI 414-278-9192

Tracks: 1534 W. Grant Ave. Milwaukee, WI 414-562-2020

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

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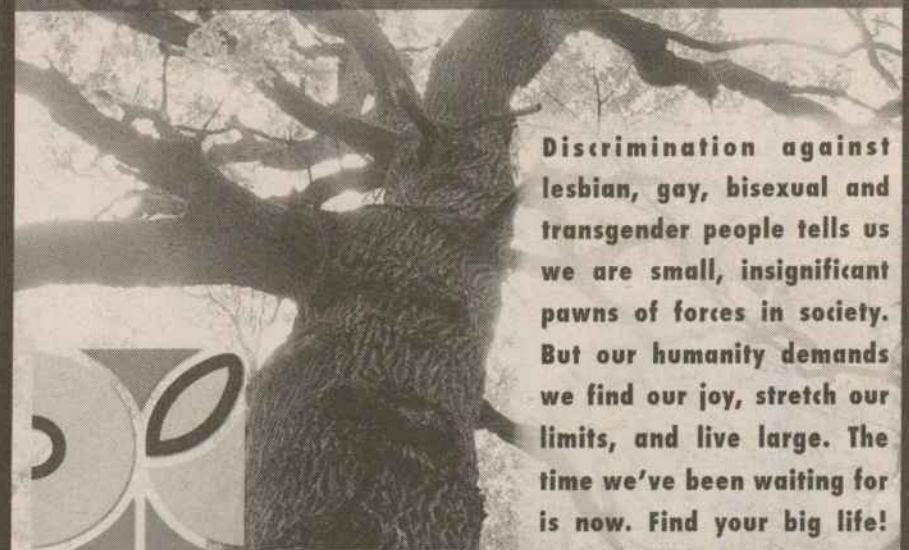
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Diverse&Resilient is a statewide organization committed to the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Wisconsin. We accomplish our mission by helping grow the organizations and youth and adult leaders who aid us as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

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