

By Alison Glendale

The doors were kicked wide open for contenders when incumbent 3rd District Ald. Michael D'Amato announced he would not seek re-election. There are now eight candidates for the position, all of whom bring various qualities and experience, as well as different personalities to the table.

As one East Side resident commented at a recent District 3 Aldermanic Candidate Forum at the Miramar Theatre, "this is better than television." It was an evening to see where candidates stood on issues such as parking, development, crime, UWM, taxes, and the environment.

While we wish to extend the best of luck to each of the eight candidates in the 3rd district (John Connely, Sura Faraj, Patrick Flaherty, Daniel Fouliard, Nik Kovac, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Matt Nelson, and David Schroeder) we want to put the spotlight on two candidates, who are not strangers to Milwaukee's LGBT community - Sura Faraj and Patrick Flaherty.

Is it all that important to mention that they are also "out" members of the community? Certainly not when it comes to discussing their qualifications, but definitely so when it matters to the visibility of the LGBT community as a whole. Both Faraj and Flaherty have histories with community activism, (both LGBT and non) and have also been a part of the QLife family at some point. Faraj as Associate Editor (2005), and Flaherty as contributing "QPolitics" columnist, (2004 - current).

Although QLife is not endorsing any candidate in any district, we did want to have the opportunity to speak to both Faraj and Flaherty about their decisions to run for 3rd District Alderman, and why they should have residents support.

Both candidates have answered numerous questionnaires from organizations, and newspapers, and we certainly did not want to miss

out on any of the fun. So, we joined in by sending them five random questions gathered in local establishments. Their answers have not been edited.

QLIFE: Why do you feel you are a good candidate for this position?

SURA FARAJ: I have more breadth of experience in community activism than any other candidate. I've been working for the good of my community for years—and not just as a paid job. I'm not a single-issue candidate, but have led the charge on many and diverse changes.

Not only queer issues—although I'm one of the co-founders of the LGBT Center, was on the steering committee of Riverwest Rainbow Association, and was the associate editor of Q Life—but also advocating on behalf of residents on complicated development and land use issues, the environment, poverty, unemployment, segregation, the prison system, the war. I'm a co-founder of the Riverwest Food Co-op, served on the board of the Riverwest Artists Association, co-founded Nerve House, an arts/activist publication, am the 2007 chair of the Riverwest Neighborhood Association, and that's just the start.

I have the strength and courage it takes to lead this district, and I showed that by my willingness to take on D'Amato. Now that he's dropped out, of course others want the job. I understand that Patrick wouldn't challenge D'Amato because they worked together, but D'Amato was harmful to our community in so many ways. We can have good LGBT policies without having to defend or bow to someone who's detrimental to other parts of our lives. We can elect someone who is good on LGBT issues, has integrity and is willing to work on all the issues.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Barack Obama - "Unashamedly black and unapologetically Christian."

Recently a member of our church shared with me an email denouncing Barack Obama, accusing him of belonging to a racist church and of being a covert Muslim. Perhaps you have seen emails or heard comments like this too.

Barack Obama belongs to Trinity UCC in Chicago, IL, a congregation that proclaims its identity as "Unashamedly Black and Unapologetically Christian." The congregation is primarily African American, though people of all races and ethnicities are welcome. In my

own visit to the church I was warmly received. As Barack Obama's memoirs make clear, participating in Trinity invigorated his spiritual life and gave him his hopeful vision. His invocation of "the audacity of hope" comes from a sermon by his pastor Jeremiah Wright (now retired).

Trinity, like my congregation, is part of the United Church of Christ. And like many UCC congregations, Trinity publicly welcomes the LGBT community. Given its strength - ten thousand members - it is probably the nation's largest gay-positive

congregation. Its inspiring work is not limited to Chicago alone. Grace UCC on Sherman Boulevard is one of several congregations it has started. Trinity stands proud as a congregation speaking against racism and oppression in its many forms.

Much has already been said about the way that Barack Obama as an African American candidate is upending expectations about race. One way to read the attacks on Barack Obama's church is to see them as the paranoia of white racists, who say in their hearts, "how dare he be unashamedly black." Obama is a threat because he, like many, refuses to live according to the rules of American racism.

At the same time what makes Barack Obama and his church deeply interesting to me is the way in which they are "Unapologetically Christian." It is this half of their motto which might be the biggest challenge to conservatives.

Trinity is a deeply religious place, yet without the homophobia and prejudice so often found in such places. Barack Obama's campaign reflects an intriguing union of heartfelt faith and socially progressive activism. He upends the conservative stereotype of



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.

Democrats as secular agnostics.

Two years ago it seemed that the radical right was ascendant as state after state passed anti-gay marriage amendments. Now one of the leading candidates in our country came to Jesus through the ministry of a LGBT-positive church. Barack Obama promises to set a new tone in Washington. We can certainly hope it is a new tone for LGBT people. This is why the character of his church is such a threat to conservatives.

Barack Obama is unashamedly black and unapologetically Christian. Alleluia and Amen!

Dykes on Bikes Roll On

The U.S. Supreme Court decided that the lesbian motorcycle group, Dykes on Bikes, is allowed to keep their name, after a challenge by a San Francisco lawyer who found the name to be "scandalous and immoral."

The high court refused to hear the appeal from East Bay lawyer Michael McDermott, who described the procession of motorcycles

kicking off Pride Parades as an "anti-male hate riot." The San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent was granted exclusive rights to "Dykes on Bikes" in 2006 from The U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., and has used the name for more than 30 years. Now maybe McDermott can try to find something else he thinks is harmful to him, and move on.

Door County Winter Weekend Getaway

Sick of the cold and snow yet? The sensible thing to do would be to pack your bags and head south to a more tropical climate for a vacation. As logical as that sounds not everybody has the means or even the desire to do a warm weather vacation. If you fall in this category - maybe a weekend getaway to Door County is just what you are looking for.

Just traveling north on Highway 43 from Milwaukee for 2 1/2 hours will take you to one of Wisconsin's finest winter wonderlands. Most people from Wisconsin are familiar with all that Door County has to offer in the summertime with its beautiful parks, scenic shorelines, arts and craft stores, unique boutiques and quirky small town bars and restaurants. What is less obvious is the fun and enjoyment the winter months can bring for visitors.

While overnight accommodation choices are obviously much smaller in the winter, there are still a good number of places to stay throughout Door County. One of the most popular spots is the Chanticleer Guest House near Sturgeon Bay. Gay owners Bryon Groeschl and Darrin Day have been operating this rustic bed and breakfast on this rural picturesque property since 1993. This converted farmhouse and barn, built in 1915, has eight large suites each with its own unique character. Each suite comes equipped with a fireplace, double whirlpool, private balcony and décor from yesteryear. If you are looking for something even more secluded and romantic two cottages and two cabins, within minutes walking distance of the guesthouse, are an option. Ponds can be found at each with wildlife roaming the countryside.

Other amenities offered are a sauna, hiking trails, a running sheep farm and spectacular views of snow-covered pastures. King sized beds and private bathrooms with showers are in each of the rooms. Also included is a delicious made to order breakfast delivered to your suite at your requested time or a breakfast waiting for you if you are staying in the cottages or cabins.

Some of the more popular winter recreation activities in Door County are snowshoeing, skiing, sightseeing and hiking snow covered trails. If you are looking to really pamper yourself the Saguara Day Spa is located nearby and is popular with many gay couples. Also all stores and shops are open in Sturgeon Bay during the winter. If you are willing to travel to Green Bay which is a half hour drive from Sturgeon Bay you will find museums, more shopping and a small but active gay night life. Several smaller bars, such as Sass, Napolese and the Shelter and the night club XS, are popular in the community.

With its quieter, peaceful charm, Door County makes a winter weekend getaway an appealing alternative to a more active, costly trip to a warm weather destination. And with its laid back country ambiance, a weekend in Door County could be a relaxing few days away from home and much easier on the pocketbook. The Chanticleer is also offering a winter discount of 10% off its rate for weekend bookings for both nights till April 30th with the exception of Valentine's weekend.

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Hoping for a Home Run

Milwaukee - On January 20th members of Milwaukee's LGBT community gathered at Woody's bar to show their support for 2 sports - the Packer game against the NYGiants, and the Gay Softball World Series. The Packers may be out, but with the very ready, very prepared, and very excited 2009 GSWS Committee in charge, Milwaukee has an excellent chance of becoming the host for the Gay Softball World Series in August, 2009. The Committee, comprised of several members of the Saturday Softball League (SSBL), welcomed two of the officials from the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance - Commissioner Roy Melani, and Asst. Commissioner, Chris Balton, who got a taste of what Milwaukee has to offer. On Feb. 2nd, the committee will once again meet with NAGAAA officials in Seattle as they pitch their bid for hosting the series.

Community members showed their support, and enjoyed a nice buffet, beer bust, and as always in Milwaukee, great company. Make sure to send your energy out to Seattle with the GSWS Bid Committee as they make Milwaukee proud! Bring the Gay Softball World Series to Milwaukee!



Members of the 2009 GSWS Bid Committee gather with NAGAAA officials at Woodys, Jan 20th, 2008

From (l to r) Geoffrey Bishop, Roy Melani (NAGAAA Commissioner), Chris Balton (NAGAAA Asst. Commissioner), Peter Nys, 2nd row: Mona Garcia (Co-Director of 2009 GSWS Bid Committee), Vince Pulera (VISIT Milwaukee), Kurt Baldwin, Brian Reinkober (SSBL Commissioner/ Co-Director of 2009 GSWS Bid Committee), Brian Rochon, Paul Masterson
Back Row: Mike Kuharske, Jeffrey Weigand, Dan Nelson, Arnie Garcia

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THE RACE IS ON *continued from page 1*

PATRICK FLAHERTY: I am a recognized progressive leader with a proven track record. I have shown that I work hard, I am trustworthy and I know how to lead. For over 14 years, I have been working in non-profit management – raising money and overseeing budgets, supervising staff, developing and implementing programs. I've led efforts to combat discrimination, increase funding for health disparities and other community needs and I've brought unlikely allies to the table to work together for their common interests.

These are all skills and experiences we need in city hall right now. As we chart the course of the future of the 3rd district and the future of Milwaukee, we need a leader who is honest, dedicated and achievement-oriented.

QL: Is there anything in your agenda geared towards creating a "greener" District 3?

PF: First, I'm committed to preserving the abundant natural resources we have in the 3rd district. I try to do my part by composting and collecting roof water in a rain barrel. I support the central park overlay district that would preserve the Milwaukee River north of North Avenue from development. I walk along the river almost every day with my dogs. Not only is this area an oasis in the middle of the city, but the vitality of the ecosystem in that area is critical to maintaining biodiversity, and ensuring that urban residents have opportunities to learn about and enjoy nature. If we let development encroach on the river, we will be sacrificing one of our greatest assets to short term economic concerns. We have to keep neighborhood residents engaged in this issue because development pressure is likely to intensify.

Second, the city of Milwaukee has already been an innovative leader in establishing green building design as part of its own development projects, for example when new public housing is built. I am committed to ensuring that City of Milwaukee operations maximize opportunities for environmental sustainability. I am also committed to developing a green approach to economic development that ensures we get the most "green" building we can out of our economic development work, especially when public funds are involved.

SF: I've always been a strong advocate for the environment, from my days working at Citizens for a Better Environment, to my current membership in the Milwaukee River Work Group, where we are creating public zoning to preserve the river as a natural and wild space.

I'm not alone. 3rd District folks care deeply about environmental issues as

a matter of social justice. I'm going for a natural fit to address the environment and jobs at the same time by building a local, green economy. For example, under my leadership, the city will offer low-interest loans as incentives to retrofit houses with solar panels and other renewable energy

technology. That's a win-win-win for our world, our pocketbooks and our economy, creating jobs in the environmental technology field.

QL: What are your top three priorities for your district?

SF: Environmental sustainability: I'll work for better public transportation, support of local business and bike culture and move the city to a green economy. Sustainable (and ending predatory) development: This will lead to better buildings and lower property taxes. Community security: Our street will be safer, our communities stronger.

PF: Ensuring that economic development serves neighborhood needs & community values; preserving and enhancing greenspace; improving public safety.

QL: What should local business owners in your district expect from you?

PF: I will help them navigate through city licensing and regulations, and I will always work to ensure that they encounter a fair & predictable process at city hall. My office will advocate for business owners when these processes break down and will constantly seek input on how city government – and my office – can be positive agents of change.

3rd District business leaders like Shelly Jurewicz, a VP at MMAC; Bryce Clark of Cempazuchi, Steve Iverson of Iverson Language Associates, and Bronze Quinton of Bronze Optical are supporting me because they know that I understand how critical business interests are and that I know how to bring business owners and community residents together to fight for our common interests. On the other hand, if a business is creating a nuisance for the neighborhood, I'll be just as focused in my efforts to get them to be better neighbors. That is the approach I will bring to city Hall

SF: I've owned my own businesses and I appreciate what our small business owners do, not just for our local economy, but our sense of community. Small business owners develop relationships with their customers. They don't close up shop when the wages or taxes are lower in another state. Small business is the bread and butter of our economy, and entrepreneurs are critical to our economic strength, to building our future, to reinforcing a sense of community.

I will help start up more local businesses through an innovative economy and microlending, and support existing small businesses through responsive city services. I will not be advocating for more Gaps and Blockbusters in our neighborhoods. I'll be working to help the man or woman down the street open up his or her own shop and make sure it thrives.

QL: What effect do you feel your status as an "out" LGBT community member will have on your campaign, if any? And is it important for the LGBT Community to vote for "one of their own?" Does it even matter?

SF: It's essential for people to see themselves represented, and for young LGBT people to see good role models. I'm representing for the LGBT community, and I'm not in the closet about it. I helped start the LGBT Center and that's on my lit and my website. As of this date, no other candidate in this race is being front-and-center about his queerness. I'm also representing for women – I'm the only woman of 8 candidates.

There's not one woman on the Common Council and I think many fair-minded people are wondering why that is. With me, the LGBT community has one of its own and can trust that I know city government, and that I'm thinking creatively about ways to solve the serious economic and social problems facing our city.

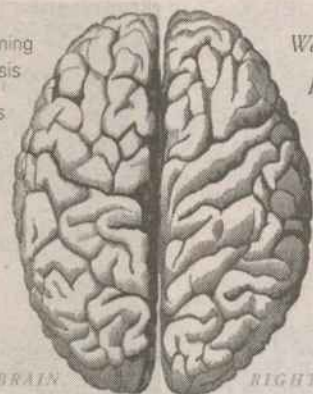
PF: I think it is important for LGBT community to have prominent leaders

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THE RACE IS ON *continued from page 4*

at all levels of government. I've spent much of my adult life working to fight discrimination and develop public policy that responds to the real needs of our communities. Too often, policy is influenced by ideology, misperceptions and misunderstandings. We need to make sure that LGBT leaders who understand our issues firsthand are at the table when public policy is being made.

I want people to vote for me because I'm the best candidate, period – not the best gay candidate. People should elect the person who has a demonstrated capacity to identify community needs, unite disparate communities behind a common interest and work through local government to get results. I have a proven track record – I helped shepherd Milwaukee's domestic partner registry through the Common Council and won health benefits for the partners of city workers. I set up the Milwaukee side of the Fair Wisconsin campaign. I have successfully worked with state government to secure funding for Milwaukee health needs. I am working to get domestic partner benefit for employees at MPS. This election should be about results and not just about identity.

To learn more about Sura Faraj, please visit www.suraforchange.com, and to find out more about Patrick Flaherty, please visit www.patricknewleadership.com

**Mike LaForrest,
11th District**

"Health Care. Equal Rights. Taxes. And not necessarily in that order" says 11th District Aldermanic candidate Michael LaForrest with a smile, after stating his top three important issues for his district. LaForrest, who is running with the Green Party, is no stranger to politics. In 2006, he ran for Secretary of State, and although he did not win, he did receive over 90,000 votes.

His support of the Green Party stems from the philosophy of the party "I like the four pillars," says LaForest. "Grass roots democracy, environmental wisdom, social and economic justice, and non-violence. Who can argue with that? It's very simple."

You'd think LaForrest was already in office, considering he's already received calls from constituents asking for help with various issues.

"And I'm not even the Alderperson." LaForrest pauses, and then adds, "yet."

He did the only thing he could do. "I told them if and when they elect me, I would solve the problem for them, but for now, the only thing they can do is contact the current alderperson. Until I'm elected, I'm a citizen just like them."

When it comes to local business owners, LaForrest is promising change.

"I'd lower property taxes for one thing, and be more attentive to their needs, whatever they may be. I have heard many complaints when getting signatures, about the incumbent's inattentiveness. They'll call him, make a complaint, and get no follow up. He just doesn't respond. I don't understand that."

LaForrest is also a strong believer that the LGBT community should support LGBT candidates.

"Not exclusively, as there has to be research done on every candidate but if we find an LGBT community member running for

office, we really need to support them, and vote for them."

"It goes back to the marriage amendment passing." Continues LaForrest, "If ten percent of the State Legislature was openly gay or lesbian, that amendment never would have passed. "Gay friendly does not mean "gay supportive."

He continues, "There were a lot of Democrats who voted in favor of that amendment. And the democrats for whatever reasons, are held up on some pedestal by the LGBT community, and that's unfortunate." He notes that it was democrats (Clinton and Gore) who pushed forward with the Defense of Marriage Act, and "Don't ask Don't Tell".

"It's all about equal rights," states LaForrest. "If you get someone who is openly gay, like myself, I am going to go to bat for the LGBT community. I don't want special rights, just equal rights, and we don't have equal rights at this time."

"At this point in my life, it comes down to not only knowing it's my right to run, but, it's a responsibility. As it should be for everyone at some point. If not to run for public office, to at least engage in the process somehow. Vote!"

"My candidacy is a change from the status quo. I'm a third party voice, and I bring a different perspective to the political arena. Win lose, or draw, I'm a winner. I put my name on the dotted line, and if I do get elected, I subject my life and my family's life to public scrutiny for the entire time I am in office. That's a lot to ask anybody who wants to run a campaign on \$200." LaForrest hopes that is something that will resonate with the constituency in the 11th Aldermanic district



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Wisconsin



Happenings

New Harvest Foundation Dinner Dance with Comedienne Michele Balan

Tickets for the New Harvest Foundation's dinner dance are now on sale! The event is an annual gathering of the Madison area's LGBT communities and their allies. The gala will be held at Monona Terrace in Madison on February 16th. Comedienne Michele Balan will headline the evening. Madison's Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus, an NHF grant recipient, will share pieces including music commissioned specifically for them.

The evening will begin with cocktails at 5 o'clock, moving into dinner at 6 o'clock. Following the performance by Balan, Madison's premier DJ, Nick Nice, will spin until midnight. Tickets will be available through NHF board members and the website, newharvestfoundation.org. Dinner and entertainment will be \$60 per person, \$110 for two or \$400 for a table of eight. A dance only ticket will also be available for \$10. It will provide admittance at 9 o'clock. The event is open to those eighteen and over. NHF co-chair, Woody Carey stressed that dinner and comedy club admission would easily run as much without the additional music and dancing and, with this event, the money benefits the LGBT communities.

Balan is probably best known as a finalist in the 2006 "Last Comic Standing" competition. Voted one of the "Top 10 Comics" by Backstage Magazine in 2004, Michele Balan is a brash, New York stand-up comedian who has performed on Comedy Central as well as in top comedy clubs, theatres, festivals and on cruises all over the country. Balan has released a DVD, "Live...Just Barely" recorded in New York at the famous Joe's Pub. Her comedy CD is entitled, "Neurotic by Nature." She has been described as a Female George Burns because of her talent for one-liners. For additional information about Michele Balan, visit her website at comickalan.com

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

Flaherty Resigns After Seven Year Tenure

Milwaukee - Patrick Flaherty, Director of Public Affairs, has resigned his position to focus full-time on his candidacy for 3rd District Alderman. As of January 23, 2008, he has taken a paid leave of absence. We wish him all the best in this new endeavor.

Patrick has been with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center as a staff member since July 2001 and as a volunteer since it's founding in 1996. He has served many roles, but is best known for his work as the founding Director of Center Advocates, leading its advocacy and community organizing programs. He was successful at establishing a citywide domestic partner registry, winning domestic partner benefits for city workers, and obtaining protections for gender identity in the City's Equal Rights Statement. His leadership resulted in the affiliation of the former HRC PAC with Center Advocates, providing the LGBT community with another vehicle for political influence. Flaherty also helped Wisconsin's LGBT centers to secure funding in the state 2007-09 budget, successfully fought state cuts to HIV programs serving gay African American men, and helped the United Way adopt a policy that includes sexual orientation. This month, the Center will begin the recruitment process for the next Director of Public Affairs. The position will be posted and they hope to have a new Director in early April.

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Feminine Shoes for the Masculine Foot

Style, comfort, affordability – three things every gal looks for when searching for that perfectly cute little shoe to wear out on a Saturday night. But what do you do when you're trying to get a size 14 foot into that cute little shoe? Options are few and far between, and if you are lucky enough to find the right size, you just might be losing out on style, or paying a pretty penny.

Right here in Wisconsin, one visionary shoemaker has created a new shoe line geared towards helping "the masculine foot" find "feminine footwear."

Based out of Verona, Wisconsin, LaDiva Footwear, is the brainchild (and sweat and tears) of Bernie J. Fatla, owner and president, who came up with the idea after reading a New York Times article about a drag queen lamenting over the lack of available, stylish, and comfortable shoes.

One "light bulb" moment later, and Fatla was launching www.ladivafootwear.com, a new line of feminine-styled footwear built to fit a masculine foot and designed specifically for transgender, drag queen and cross dressing customers. The entire line is manufactured in men's sizes ranging from size 10 (Medium) to 14 or 15, depending on the style.

"We wondered if it was even realistic to do this," says Fatla, "but after several focus groups, and taking the shoes around, people were really showing an interest, and were very supportive."

Fatla realized from talking to the people in these focus groups, that the transgender community, as well as cross dressers, were being ignored, and that everyday, comfortable footwear was also hard to find, and very much needed.

La Diva Footwear's tag line is "Where Style and Fit Matter" and Fatla said he is committed to bringing fashionable footwear to his customers. After 30 years in the shoe business, Fatla felt he had the knowledge, as well as the contacts, to get the project off the ground. A factory group in China has been

"unbelievably supportive and helpful in developing this product," Fatla said.

In an effort to ensure a proper fit, Fatla worked closely with Nettleton Shoe, a men's footwear line known for its commitment to proper fit, extended sizes and quality since 1879. Final fit trials of the shoes were then conducted with the target consumers so that a high quality, well fitting shoe was brought to market.

"The average men size is 10, 10 1/2. If you were a size ten and a half, and you want to find a pump, you'd have to buy a woman's twelve. And that's not very easy to find. Most women's shoes at Macys go up to size 10. Marshall's, maybe 11 or 12, and Payless, well, the patterns they have are limited. And there's no panache. We are changing that." Says Fatla.

La Diva Footwear is reasonably priced from \$59.99 to \$99.99. The line is a combination of leathers and man-made materials with an emphasis on quality, style and affordability.

"These are good quality leathers," says Fatla. "These are men's weight leathers, and we've put the cushioned insoles in them - we've done things to make a real quality product."

Plans for retailers around the country to carry LaDiva Footwear are in the works, and sales have already gotten off to a great start on the website. Boots, sandals, or pumps, flashy, or conservative, LaDiva is filling a much-needed void.

Fatla is confident in LaDiva's success. "My goal is to develop a nice line of footwear that has comfort and credibility and style - and bring to the market fun footwear."



Cage appointed to the board of the National Association of LGBT Community Centers

Milwaukee - Milwaukee - Dr. Maggi Cage, Executive Director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, has been appointed to the board of the National Association of LGBT Community Centers (NALGBTCC).

NALGBTCC exists to support and enhance lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community centers, which are critical to the wellbeing and strength of LGBT communities. Today, there are over 150 community centers throughout the country, with new centers forming on a regular basis.

"The National Association of LGBT Community Centers envisions a society that celebrates diversity, acknowledges the dignity of LGBT people, and embraces full human rights for all citizens. Furthermore, the Association envisions a time when all LGBT people, in cities and towns of all sizes, have access to strong LGBT community centers that enrich and improve their lives."

NALGBTCC focuses its efforts on creating networking opportunities for community center leaders, offering peer-based technical assistance and training to centers, helping communities to launch and grow new centers, and offering program solutions and materials that meet the needs of member centers throughout the country.

As a board member of NALGBTCC, Cage will oversee the work of the Association staff and assist with setting national policy for the Association. Cage says, "following in the footsteps of Neil Albrecht, founding executive director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, this is another opportunity for our community center to share at the national level what we know, have learned and achieved."

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. Since 1998, the Center has been bringing together many vibrant and diverse organizations and individuals in order to meet the needs of community members, to organize and advocate for human rights, and to increase the visibility of LGBT people.

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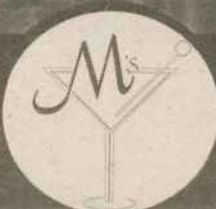
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National



Happenings

Austin Gay Groups Have right Idea

Austin, TX – In an effort to stop the infighting among its LGBT organizations, eight different Austin groups have formed an alliance that they hope will stir up the resources of the local LGBT community.

The Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has formed the Pride Coalition, an effort designed to help the different membership groups coordinate with one another to achieve mutual goals.

Jimmy Flannigan, president of AGLCC, said "ultimately, we can reduce the entire cost of doing business for the LGBT nonprofit groups through joint negotiations and economies of scale,"

Groups such as PFLAG, Equality Texas, HRC Austin, and many others working to nurture, educate, and promote the LGBT community will benefit by banding together

"We will no longer allow ourselves to be self-sabotaged by not creating a culture of open and honest communication," said Flannigan.

The coalition's member groups will be able to share volunteers and resources and coordinate on scheduling and exposure, all areas where they have competed against one another in the past.

Matt Foreman to resign from NGLTF

Washington, D.C. – The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has announced that Executive Director Matt Foreman will step down in April after five years in the position.

He will go on to lead the gay and lesbian program at the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund. He has led the Task Force for five years.

"We cannot adequately express our gratitude to Matt for his exceptional leadership over the last five years," said Mark Sexton, Task Force board co-chair. "During his tenure, our staff grew to 54 full-time positions and our budget more than doubled to nearly \$10 million. Our programming expanded strategically, our public profile increased dramatically, we've granted nearly \$5 million to state and local partners. And most importantly, the Task Force has played an essential role in building our community's grassroots strength. He has truly been an inspiration."

A national search will begin immediately to find Foreman's successor, according to the Task Force website. As of this year, Foreman will have served as Task Force executive director longer than any prior director.

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Seriously...they are really cool.

Send email to editor@queerlifeneews.com



Outwords Books

Top 5 Picks for February

A Celebration of the Best New & Noteworthy Titles for Black History Month Exclusive to Q Life.

FOR THE BOYS:

1. **"Baldwin's Harlem: A Biography of James Baldwin,"** Herb Boyd Award-winning journalist Herb Boyd combines impeccable biographical research with astute literary criticism, and reveals to readers the Baldwin's diverse views and impressions of the community that would remain a consistent presence in virtually all of his writing.

2. **"Right Side of the Wrong Bed,"** Frederick Smith At thirty-three, Kenny Kane seems to have it all: good looks, a great career, and a hot firefighter for a boyfriend — that is until he cheats on Kenny with a woman! Then Kenny meets Jeremy Lopez and he can't deny the chemistry. Soon Kenny's hanging with Jeremy and his boys... feeling like a kid again. But how long can a thirty-something like Kenny keep it up?

3. **"A Private Affair,"** Michael Warren Sean is a muscle bound private in the military looking for an exciting change in his love life. As he searches, his bedroom becomes a revolving door; from his wife, to his lover, to his sexy new roommate. But eventually he gets caught in a triangle of love, lies, deceit, and wild weekends.

4. **"Looker,"** Stanley Bennett Clay Brando Heywood and Omar Stevens have been best friends since high school. Omar, a celebrity journalist, juggles boy-toy liaisons and hanging in Griffith Park while celibate Brando concentrates on his career as an entertainment lawyer. When a steamy secret video of Brando and Omar's surfaces, both are forced to re-examine their feelings for one another.

5. **"Balancing Act,"** Jonathan Plummer Jonathan Plummer made headlines when New York Times best-selling author Terry McMillan filed for divorce, claiming that Plummer hid his homosexuality in order to marry her for her money and gain U.S. citizenship. Now, Plummer delivers a sexy and satisfying novel as deliciously racy as the life he has lived.

FOR THE GIRLS:

1. **"Every Dark Desire,"** Fiona Zedde Naomi McElroy's life in Jamaica has always been about the comforts of family and home. When she surrenders to complete ecstasy in a jasmine-scented garden under a full moon, Naomi becomes Belle, one of the undead whose carnal hungers are never sated.

2. **"Strapped,"** Laurinda Brown Seeking refuge in a lesbian existence, Monique morphs into a street thug with the soul of a woman. Inside the world of "Strapped," life is on real edge, unnerving, passionate, and true. Without the ones in your life who care, "Strapped" could be you.

3. **"My Secrets Your Lies,"** N'Tyse Sand is so focused on her own upcoming business ventures that she leaves Rene feeling lonely and neglected. Plus Rene is getting tired of her alternative lifestyle and the drama that it brings. While Sand's away, will Rene find what she's looking for in the arms of a man?

4. **"You Make Me Wanna..."** by Nikki Rashan This masterfully written sequel to "Double Pleasure Double Pain" offers another voyeuristic, yet intimate look into Kyla's journey to self-discovery.

5. **"Longing, Lust, and Love: Black Lesbian Stories,"** Shonia Brown Written by 25 new and established writers, this collection of sultry tales, edited by Shonia Brown, traces the varying stages of black lesbian relationships - from the art of tease to tying the knot. Every story finds women in different forms of infatuation, pursuit and devotion.

All of the above books and many more are available at **Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee** located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53211 (414) 963-9089 www.outwordsbooks.com

Black To Your Roots

Two outrageously fun black punk rock drag queens, both larger than life and ready to smash the status quo with a single (ahem) blow, live at the poetic heart of both the queer zine scene and radical queer politics. They are Joan Jett-Blakk and Vaginal Davis. As we begin, let's dispense with any notion of revealing real names, true origins or pesky facts! These ladies are legends and need not have the sorted details of reality pushed in their faces, and as ladies we don't ask their ages no matter how illogical their time lines become. Strap yourselves in for an over-the-top Black History Month lesson as we review the legends behind two iconographic figures that inspired a generation of radical queer kids to be fierce and fabulous.

What happened to the days of quixotic presidential candidates when seriously non-serious candidates took the wind out of the sails of the buffoons and criminals that typically run for the highest office in the US? Too bad we don't have a candidate like Joan Jett-Blakk to shake things up here in 2008! Ms. Jett-Blakk originally hailed from Chicago and in both the 1992 and 1996 presidential elections stood as the Queer Nation candidate. What would we have gained had Joan managed to win out over Bill Clinton? For one, according to QFM [Issue 4, 1992, 34 pages], the Fashion Bureau of Investigation would have been the new FBI (could they have saved us from the Parker Lewis-esque

bold colors and brash patterns of that era?). *Dragazine* [Issue 4, 1992, 16 pages] quotes Joan as saying, "If a bad actor can be elected president, certainly a good Drag Queen can!" Despite some amazing buttons, radical personal appearances (including a star spangled red, white, and blue outfit for an excursion onto the floor of the '92 Democratic Convention) and a charming personality, Ms. Jett-Blakk did not garner enough votes to defeat Clinton and has sadly faded into obscurity.

Vaginal Davis is a child prodigy of queer zines. According to her zineography, she started authoring zines as early as 1972, and hit her stride with *Fertile La Toyah Jackson Magazine* in the 1980s. This zine is the perfect melding of Ms. Davis' extensive knowledge of celebrity gossip and her wealth of experience in the industry as a professional entertainer. She pops up in one of the later issues of *J.D.s* [Issue 7, 1990, 60 pages] both in a blurb by BLaB (Bruce La Bruce) and as the author of "Rectus/Lingus" a guide to L.A.'s punk rock scene.

This frenetic collage of heavily photocopied pix with handwritten notations and doodles is chock full of cool factoids such as the punk roots of El Vez, (the queer Mexican Elvis). There are also the ubiquitous outings and hot, sexy anatomical details given on good authority! The connection with the film fags of Toronto wasn't accidental. Ms.

Davis most likely came to their notice as the star of several underground videos, such as 1987's "It All Started in Black" and a host of others as documented in an unauthorized biography zine *Evil Taco* [One off issue, 1992, 12 pages]. Also revealed in this bio zine are her plans for what was to become one of Vag's trademarks, the infamous zine *Shrimp*. For the uninitiated, shrimping involves saliva more than cocktail sauce and refers to toe sucking. Shrimping figured into some of Vaginal's live performances, including her 1996 San Francisco performance of "Fornication Yes, Theocracy No."

Along the way, Ms. Davis has also spent time in the recording studio, working with the Chicago area band *Robespierre* on a 7" single with the hit "Queens (Make the World Go 'Round)" and joined forces with rocker Glen Meadmore in a project under the band name *Pedro, Muriel and Esther* for the album "The White To Be Angry" which was produced by Steve Albini. Vaginal Davis is currently on an extended residence in Berlin, Germany where she continues to wow audiences and reign as queen of the queer punk scene. Ms. Davis has a web presence maintained by Larry-bob at www.vaginaldavis.com.

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



ZINES

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

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Are You Hitting Roadblocks Along the Way to Retirement?

More and more of us in the GLBT community are facing the reality that the financial demands of everyday living are getting in the way of our ability to save for tomorrow. We are not paying nearly enough attention to our long-term needs, especially the need to save and plan for retirement. Some of us plan to work longer to be better positioned for retirement, but we may not be considering the possibility that we may not have the luxury of retiring on our own terms.

Changes over the last decade have also had a major impact on retirement prospects. The stock market can go down, and stay down for a long stretch. Financial well being is affected not only by domestic economic policies, but also by events in foreign lands and the security of our homeland. While income may have grown, health care costs have been growing at an even faster rate. These challenges can be daunting

and leave many looking for a clearer path toward securing a comfortable retirement.

Prudential Financial's study, "Roadblocks to Retirement," sheds light on Americans' views about these challenges and how prepared they are to face them. According to the study, Americans' tendency to borrow and consume "today" is a national trend affecting everyone.

Primary challenges that surfaced in the 2005 study include:

When Retirement Arrives Uninvited

Issues such as downsizing, injury, health limitations or family emergencies can lead to a sudden and unexpected retirement. Four in 10 respondents indicate they were forced to retire, and nearly half of involuntary retirees were under the age of 60. Almost two-thirds of the people who retired unexpectedly said

they were not financially prepared. The "Dream" Retirement Could Be Just That For Many

Among those who were forced into retirement, six in 10 said they are simply trying to make ends meet. Even among those who retired on their own terms, two-thirds indicated they are just living "comfortably." Fewer than half of all retirees said they were able to travel or vacation as they may have hoped.

Many Expect To Just Work It Out

With retirement lasting 20 years or more for many Americans, their needs will change dramatically over this time. Retirement finances will need to last through the shifting demands. During the first ten years of retirement, seven in 10 Americans currently expect to continue working to supplement income and continue to build their nest egg. At the same time, 64 percent recognize they may be simultaneously coping with deteriorating health. In the second 10 years of retirement, 80 percent of respondents indicated health care was a top concern, with many retirees expecting to require nursing home care and/or run out of money.

Despite these challenges and a reluctance to save, about 80 percent of Americans who regularly save for retirement, hardly notice the "lost"



FINANCE

Kurt A. Schummer is a Manager, Financial Services with The Prudential Insurance Company of America, located at 10000 Innovation Dr., Wauwatosa, WI, 53226. 414-456-1770, ext. 7240 The Prudential Insurance Company of America 751 Broad St., Newark, N.J. 07102-3777.

spending opportunity. Ultimately they feel happy about their savings toward tomorrow's security.

Americans have clear retirement goals. However, many are not sufficiently informed to effectively plan for the transition to retirement. Help make sure you and those you care about are adequately prepared and protected into your retirement years. For additional tips and resources to help you take control of your retirement strategy, visit www.Prudential.com.

Kurt Schummer is a Manager, Financial Services, with The Prudential Insurance Company of America's Packerland agency located in Wauwatosa, WI. Kurt can be reached at kurt.schummer@prudential.com and 414-456-1770, ext. 7240. Prudential and its licensed financial professionals do not give tax or legal advice. Be sure to consult with your tax and legal advisors regarding your personal circumstances.



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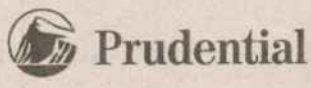
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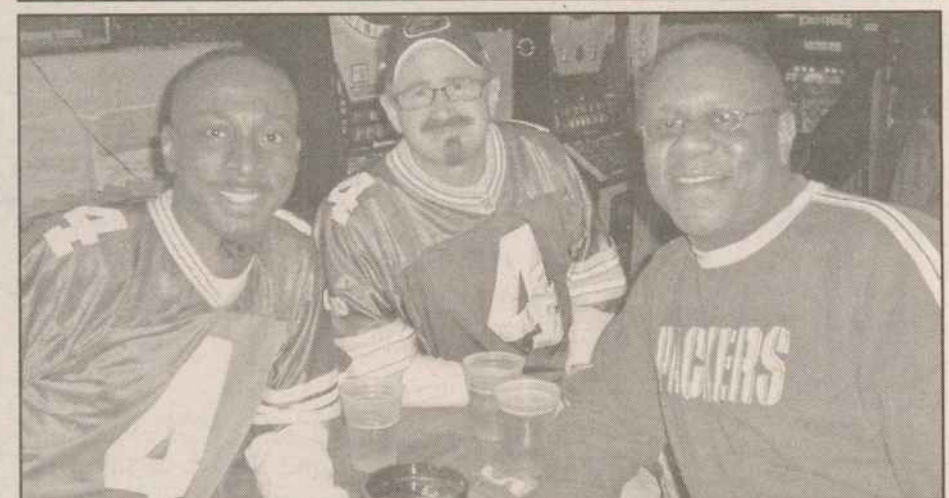
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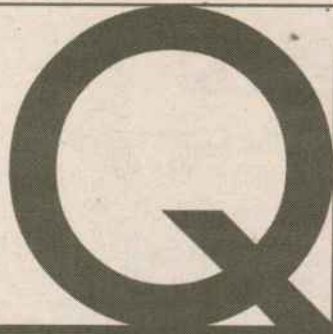
The Skylight Announces NEW Managing Director

Milwaukee - The Skylight is pleased to announce that Eric Dillner has been named Managing Director effective March 5, 2008. Mr. Dillner comes to The Skylight from Shreveport Opera where he served as General and Artistic Director for seven years. According to Board President-Elect and Chair of Search Committee, Suzanne Hefty "We are thrilled with the depth and breadth of Mr. Dillner's leadership in arts management, directing, teaching and performance. All of his experience will help launch The Skylight into a new level of artistic achievement and community connection as

The Skylight approaches its 50th Anniversary."

"It is with great anticipation that my family and I look forward to meeting the community and setting new goals for the growth and development of The Skylight," stated Dillner

Founded in 1959, The Skylight is a professional arts organization with a reputation for presenting broad and adventuresome repertoire encompassing opera, operetta and musical theatre, performed in the 18th century-style Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.



QUEER LIFE

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

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Politics to the Art head

By Kate Sherry

I have never hidden the fact that it is difficult for me to follow politics. I'm resolved to not understanding politics, science, math, or Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. The day I figure out how to put a database of addresses onto those sticky address labels will be the day I cry out in praise of the computer programming Gods.

Anyway, being (dare I say) less than enthusiastic towards politics (and all things mathematical) is a part of my being that I may possibly never be able to overcome. I'd like to, but more often than not, I've found that politics and politicians can't hold my attention long enough for me to comprehend what they are talking about, or for that matter, care what they are talking about. I'll concentrate on what is being said - until the inevitable happens - I've drifted off and have begun to wonder if I have time to make it to Target to buy cat litter before it closes. Or whatever else is on my list of things to do.

This year, however, things have taken a turn for the better. Politics seem to be too entertaining to drift off in mid-debate. But again, mind you, my brain works differently I think than most people. See, while I readily admit that I can't follow

politics, I also think most people just don't get me, or can't follow the humor in life. I'll certainly have a good grasp on what each candidate stands for, but I'll also have ideas for paintings, or a comic strip, or what they would look like in a wig. What is funny to me just might come across as idiocy to others. Ah, well.

Take for instance the forum at the Miramar with the candidates for the 3rd district. Honestly, I really did enjoy it, I learned a lot, and left there with the knowledge of who I would vote for, and definitely who I would not. Yes, the topics were very interesting, but when they were answering yet another question about UWM, I'd let my mind wander a bit.

The candidate's feet caught my eye after a while. I'll bet I'm the only one who took notice in the way they crossed, uncrossed, or tapped their feet, and how Patrick had really smart looking shoes on, and the fact that Nik's laces were undone. Or, just super long.

At one point, all of the men had their feet apart and Sura, on the other hand, had her feet crossed. Just an observation. Something about Nik Kovac's feet reminded me of a little boy, with the way that he turned them in from time to time. And Matt Nelson, with his one foot forward, one foot back approach was probably the most natural, and calm of the feet show.

I started imagining that I was in a Christopher Guest film, ("Best in Show", "Waiting for Guffman,") and was at a town hall, in some small community, listening to the local grocer, librarian, and realtor talk about why they would make the best

Alderman for that district.

John Connelly almost always began each answer with, "that's a good question." Sura Faraj, struck me as funnier than I was aware of, yet was crystal clear in her answers - often times receiving heavy applause. Which reminds me, it wasn't just the candidates who garnered my attention. Everyone around me is subjected to observation when I let my mind wander.

Patrick Flaherty caught the brunt of community passion when a woman yelled at him, interrupting his answer. She instantly became a character for me to draw. David Schroeder, with his, "oh ya got me stumped der" answers was hilarious, yet still not very likely to win. Matt Nelson dubbed the "loud talker" stood up with each answer because, as he put it, "my mother always taught me to stand up for what I believe in," and Daniel Fouliard's pineapple and constant self-promotion was too absurd to not be funny. I was not the only one who saw humor in the evening, however. When Sam McGovern-Rowen began to speak softly of his wife, and how she was the only "strings attached" to him, (a reference to his work with D'Amato) an older gentleman behind me muttered, "I'm gonna need a hanky." Come on. That's good stuff.

I know I'm not completely clueless to politics, and current issues. I just look at them in a different way. And sometimes, that "different way" doesn't go over well with others. Too bad.

I'm the one stuck with this brain and I'll do with it what I will. And if it keeps me laughing, that's all that matters.



Letters/Opinion

The LGBT Candidates in the race for Milwaukee's Common Council have sparked a lot of interest. Quest's January 24th issue offers up a great view of the three candidates we have too have profiled. These letters (2 of which, also appeared in the recent issue of Quest,) have been edited

We have the opportunity to elect one of our own for the first time to the Milwaukee City Council. Patrick Flaherty, an out-gay leader who has tremendous experience as a non-profit manager and LGBT community organizer, has gained tremendous momentum with the largest number of volunteers and the most endorsements of any candidate, gay or otherwise, for the open 3rd District aldermanic seat. In 2005, Patrick convinced Richard and me to come out publicly and to speak at PrideFest - which launched us as LGBT advocates and gave us the most exciting time of our 50 years together, and has inspired me to continue the struggle.

To be sure, we will need the combined skills and resources of everyone in our community to support Patrick. His leading opponent has the insider track and has galvanized support from the many powerful interests who have tried to stamp out the diverse character of the District. Patrick's years of commitment to LGBT civil

rights organizing make him the ideal candidate to land inside City Hall. Let's provide as much support to Patrick as he has provided to us over so many years.

Ray Vahey
Milwaukee, WI

I hope you'll mention the two gay candidates running in district 3 this year. You should, since Patrick writes for your magazine. I know both have worked on LGBT issues, but neither one of them even mentioned it at the recent forum at the Miramar. Am I out of line? Maybe there isn't a place for LGBT issues in city districts? I know their sexual orientation isn't going to make them do any better/worse of a job than their straight opponents, but I do think they should've given a shoutout to their community. Many of us were in the audience.

Evan Day
East Sider

I have been watching the 3rd district Alder race and attended the candidate forum at the Miramar Theater. It is good to see 2 gay candidates running for such an important seat on our Common Council. I've noticed that Patrick Flaherty has been working on LGBT issues for a decade, which is wonderful; yet, it appalls me that he doesn't use LGBT anywhere on his literature. In fact, he has several photos of himself and his family on his literature but not one includes his partner of over five years. At the candidate forum he kept making mention of all the "non-profit" work experience he has but failed to mention the cause(s) he works for. Sura Faraj has been open with her orientation and her literature includes her involvement in the LGBT community. She has my support for many reasons but her honesty and forthrightness are paramount in her bid for public office.

Stacy LaPoint

Lent for LGBT people

Lent is a time for renunciation of comfort, luxury, and pleasure while one contemplates sin, sacrifice, and salvation. Traditionally Christians have fasted during Lent. More recently the option is to give up some pleasure. The idea is that the deprivation will help focus the mind on the meaning of Christ's sacrifice for us. Christ died for our sins. Does this mean anything for LGBT today?

A Christian believes that we are made in God's image and that we are called to imitate the divine in our ensouled bodies. So how does a queer Christian experience a body called to imitate the divine will? That question requires more thought than simply adopting some good habits and then moving on.

God graced his creation with the gift of sexuality and as surely he meant us to use that gift to enrich the intimate bonds between lovers he meant sex to be enjoyed. But not abused. In this season of contemplation, while forgoing some pleasure, there is opportunity to reflect on how we have used or abused our bodies - with over-eating, with alcohol or drugs, with tobacco, by doing violence or with sex. Where the greater good is in using God's gifts to further his will here on earth the sin is in settling for a lesser good.

In reflection now, we ask - have we respected our bodies as the divine creations that they are? What does God require from us? Do not look for an answer here. Seek it within. That is the purpose of Lent.

Beatrice Green
Milwaukee

Have an Uninvited Guest at the Dinner Table?

Tips to Keep Your Animal Companions Healthy, Trim and Sugar-free

It seems like over the centuries, dogs have mastered "The Look" into a fine art form that crushes the heart of even the strongest guardian. Once eye contact is made, you'll often find your-self surrendering by flinging a delicious ricotta-stuffed tortellini into the air to watch your furry pal catch it mid-air. While dogs are notorious for using "The Look," cats can certainly put on quite a performance for a mere taste of your cream cheese, too.

Most people are guilty of sneaking their animal a quick bite and unfortunately, it can be the beginning of severe health problems. Animals who are overfed – and in turn become overweight – are more at risk for diabetes and arthritis, as well as skin, respiratory and urinary problems. Table scraps are also a leading cause of digestive problems.

The Wisconsin Humane Society would like to remind guardians of the

following tips to keep their animals trim, healthy and off the table!

- Do it cold turkey: Stop feeding table scraps to your little beggar. Now.

- Establish a feeding schedule and stick with it. It is also suggested that you discuss the schedule with your veterinarian to determine appropriate portions.



- Talk with your veterinarian about a healthy diet for your animals. He or she can recommend nutritious foods that don't contain a lot of fillers.

- There is a large normal weight range for cats and dogs due to varied body structures.

- When gently stroking your animal, you should not be able to feel the ribs and backbone. However, if you press lightly, you should be able to feel both ribs and backbone.

- Sparky and Mr. Whiskers should receive daily exercise – walks for your pooch and playtime for your feline. When it's really cold outside, consider bringing well-socialized dogs to "Pooch Playtime" at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Register at www.wihumane.org.

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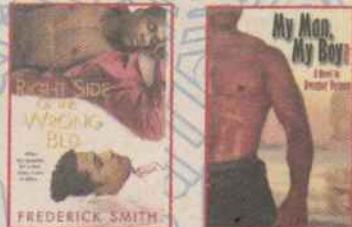


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The Science Project

Lesbians preparing to have a baby may have romantic notions of cuddling up with their partner over a candle lit dinner, making sweet passionate love, complete with lube, vibrator and chocolate and suddenly becoming pregnant. Others may choose to go it alone, inseminating themselves after tossing back a Corona.

Creating your love child sounds like a simple task for a Saturday night but in truth, the more you look at it as a romantic process the more likely you are to skip some crucial steps. There are so many processes that need to be

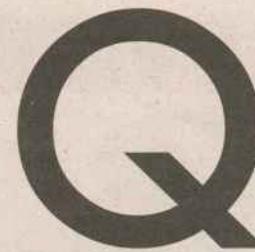
carefully planned, it would be better for you to think of the process as a college course - even a new major you are studying. Likewise, becoming too obsessed with 'your major' may turn you and your friends into crazed mommy wanna-bes - not pretty.

For that reason, we dubbed our experience "The Science Project." The first step in the Science Project involved

lots of conversations about whether we were up to having a child. I was actually at the doctor's office for my annual exam when she said, "so isn't it time you start thinking about having a baby."

What? Now? Me? Oh my goddess, my mind raced. Is it really that time? Am I ready? How could we ever afford that? How do you get a baby?

We spent months first exploring the idea of whether we wanted to be parents or not. We didn't get bogged down in how we would become parents; we first became solid in our desire for a child. Next the research



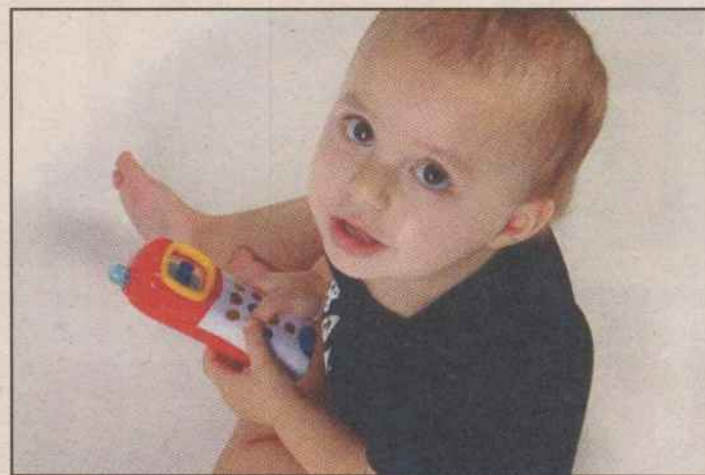
PARENTING

Fuchsia Woods lives with her partner of more than a decade. Their science experiment resulted in a beautiful baby boy.

inseminated at a clinic. Then when you don't get pregnant you will require in-vitro fertilization for another \$15,000 a pop. Then you might have this little army of queer springs (the off-spring of Queers) that not even the Discovery Channel will want to make a Saturday night special about.

As you research keep in mind

there are many ways to make your baby. You will need to find the path that is best for you. The information we gathered was created like that of an old family recipe. A little of this, and a little of that to make a baby. There are numerous pathways to becoming a parent. It may or may not involve making a baby.



began. I assumed there would be a myriad of books and websites telling me just what to do. I was disappointed to learn that the resources that are out there are written by folks living in larger more liberal metropolitan areas. I am not saying these don't have anything to offer, it is just that the laws and resources of our Milwaukee community are vastly different.

I read 65 books and explored countless chat rooms, and websites on the subject. My problem with most of the information out there is that many sources use scare tactics to make you think the only way to get pregnant is to spend \$3,000 a month to get

You might adopt, co-parent or foster. Your first step is becoming clear about wanting to be a parent because you are ready to give up every ounce of your time to participate in the most amazing miracle known to the species - witnessing the growth of another human being.

Over the next several columns we will explore known and unknown donors, legal steps to take here in Wisconsin, Ovulation 101, donor dads, how to inseminate at home, adoption, surrogacy, being a donor, and much more. Stay tuned for the next step in The Science Project.

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GET IT-NEED IT-WANT IT

By Keith Johnson

As we approach Spring and see those dark-haired tan cuties, perfect in everyway - we sit back and sigh, thinking to ourselves, "there is no comfortable or easy way to look like that." Or perhaps, "I'd rather just not take out the time or energy."

Here are some great ways to put a spring in your step and enjoy the warm spring and balmy summer nights.

SEXY NOW!!

FRAGRANCE: I've always used fragrance in my life. From cool crisp scents to warm musky ones - and only this year have I found one which best combines those two properties. Tom Ford, once the established designer of Gucci and YSL, (launching his own line in 2007) recently decided to create a fragrance for men that is creative and sultry. "Tom Ford black orchid." The scent combines the essence of patchouli, orchid, vanilla, leather, and various woods - creating a smoky but light enough scent to be carried through day into evening. The scent can be purchased online and although it is pricey (retailing at 60.00 for 1.0 oz/30ml) it's worth it. You only need a dab. The scent can be purchased online at tomford.com or at the various retailers that are included on the site.

COCKTAIL: The "sexiest" is a smooth crisp cucumber martini while lounging at "Trocadero/ Redlight" on their outdoor patio located at 1758 N. Water St. The drink is "Hendrick's" gin; a splash of limejuice and cucumber slices - shaken not stirred. It is not only refreshing but on their "Gaynite" (every Wednesday of the month) it helps get your juices flowing. After a couple of these and dancing I'm sure you'll lose a few pounds!

CUISINE: Organic inspired dishes are the key - especially because of the health benefits. We are lucky that we have not only weight friendly, but excellent local restaurants such as "Roots" (1818 n Hubbard). Also the

patio at "Osteria" which provides a wide range of Italian inspired dishes that are palette and weight-friendly.

When in a pinch - here is a quick recipe I always indulge in when the pocket doesn't allow me these luxuries but I also want to keep that waistline intact!

Watercress Insalate.

1 bunch of watercress rinsed
1cup of aged parmesan reggiano shaved not grated
1/2 lemon
2 TBL spoon of olive oil
Salt and pepper to taste
Rinse and dry the watercress, drizzle olive oil, lemon and season with salt and pepper. Add Parmesan shavings and toss.

VACATION GETAWAY:

Solimentra- a place of solace to get away from the yearly grind and plan a trip to a local or non-local getaway. Dan Taylor who owns a local night spot "Taylor's" also has a thriving b&b on the island of Vieques which is located in the Caribbean not far from the main island of Puerto Rico. Created by Dan and his business partner in 2004 and called the "Casa de Amistad," this great find offers reasonable rates, a fresh water pool, relaxing environment and a chance to just lay back and enjoy the sun with friends. Visit their website at www.casadeamistad.com

IDULGENCE: Healthy living, good people for the spring and summer, massage preferably with a good looking masseur, try www.masseurfinder for that! A great book one of my favorites is "Zen flesh, Zen bone" compiled by Paul Reys and Nyogen Senzaki this book focuses on self-rejuvenation and inner awareness.

Also, don't forget to grab a great pair of swim wear, a spf "Bio Elements", everyday protectant which can be found at your local salons.

This is my recipe for a great fashionable healthy spring and summer enjoy guys and gals and remember show that skin!!

Community Breakfast, Sensitive Topic

Milwaukee - Community members met on the morning of January 26th for the most recent breakfast meeting at the LGBT Center. The discussion moderated by Jane Otto (Children's Service Society of WI) was about "Intergenerational Relationships: Consensual vs. Coercive Sexual Activity within the LGBT Community." Panel members were Bill Serpe, SAGE; Kurt Dyer, ARCW (formally of Project Q), Randy Neff, Kano Psychotherapy; and Cathy Arney, Counseling Center of MKE.

"I can't recall ever having this be the topic of discussion at any meeting in the gay community," said Arney, who also brought up the recent arrest of David Bodoh on child solicitation



charges as the reason behind the morning's topic. Panel members shared definitions, and examples of sexual harassment, inappropriate relationships, and education/protection of our LGBT youth - often leading to heated discussions with those in attendance. One prevalent example centered on homeless LGBT youth offering sexual relations in exchange for food, money, or a warm bed for the evening.

"It's up to our adults to set healthy boundaries with our children. Its up to our adult community to set that limit" said Arney.

It's a sensitive topic, and one that QLife will cover more in-depth at a future date.

15 Years and Counting

Milwaukee - On Saturday, February 16, 2008, Charles "D" Productions Inc., invites you to come and be a part of history & help them celebrate their fifteenth year.

Founded in 1993, Charles "D" Productions has been actively working towards creating a positive awareness of LGBTQ communities of color, as well as providing services to the community around HIV/AIDS, Community events, Youth Development, Capacity Building, and social function.


They were a 2006 recipient of the Joseph R. Pabst LGBT Infrastructure Fund's Lesbian and Bisexual Women 25/25 Venture, and in 2007 received a grant from the Cream City Foundation for a media campaign for HIV testing and condom use within the African American community.

They promise an anniversary night filled with energy, and many enjoyable surprises - one being a new organization

name change! Plans for a new direction, and new board members are also in the works.

The evening's festivities will take place at the Wisconsin African American Women's Center at 3020 W. Vliet from 6PM-1AM, and include a sit-down dinner, entertainment, silent auction, information, music and more. For \$250, a table of six can enjoy the evening. A table of eight will be available for \$300, and individual dinners, including entire evening of events is available for \$45.

For information on advertising in the 15th anniversary booklet, or how to secure an informational table at the event, as well as to make reservations, please contact the Charles D' Productions offices at 414-263-9999 or charlesdprodinc1@sbcglobal.net. Donations are also appreciated. Help them continue addressing HIV/AIDS issues for another fifteen years and beyond.

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Stop It: We're Tearing Us Apart!

Most social movements and identity communities who seem themselves as presenting a challenge to the status quo sooner or later confront the tensions between pursuing a strategy they feel is 'radical' or deciding to take their concerns into the 'mainstream.' This tension usually succeeds in tearing the movement or community apart, splitting those who seek to achieve goals via joining the broader society and those who seek to radically alter that very society, into two different identity-camps that barely speak to one another - except for the occasional attempt to tell the other group what a bunch of sell outs or utopian hippy's they are.

However, both sides can be seen as both radical and mainstream. It's actually very radical to be a couple of Lesbian moms volunteering at a school bake-sale, and when public schools treat Lesbian parents no differently than heterosexual parents, the radical/queer/non-assimilationist people win on some level. The problems comes when one camp talks itself up at the expense of the other, or gets jealous of the other group for a recent victory in one area or another that in reality, benefits members of each group. For example, when a group working on LGBT issues gets mainstream press

coverage and another group takes this as an assault on their own LGBT source of press coverage. Both sources are needed if we wish to see any sort of success for the LGBT movement and its peoples.

If success is defined by equality, we need to reach out to those we would like to be treated as equal to. As long as we let society and ourselves lump us together in some kind of alphabet soup of outcasts, we will remain tied down to our infighting, internal divisions and petty competitions between groups and organizations.

The Women's Movement (Should I join NOW, or form a Womyn's collective?) has a long history of splitting off into various mainstream vs. radical factions, as does the Civil Rights Movement (Nonviolent resistance or Black Power?). This happens whenever you have people fighting for a space to identify as who they are and to have their identity be respected and equal to all other identities. This causes rifts and problems when the identities won't stop coming no matter how redundant (please someone tell me what is the difference between a pansexual and an omni-sexual) or ridiculously complex (as in white-vegan-lesbian-queer-atheist-wiccan-working-class-single-



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.

mom, or something equally as long), and when people build up one identity at the expense of others.

In search of spaces for our identity to be expressed we have lost ourselves in a sea of identities all fighting for the limelight, while the things that draw us together and unite us as human beings are often forgotten. Radical change to the status quo will come, but we have to first, as Gandhi said, be the change we wish to see in the world. This involves treating ourselves and our communities with respect, valuing that which is sustainable and working together to make things better for everyone, not just to make things better for our little group at the expense of others.



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.

Everyone has experienced sexism.

Everyone has said or done something sexist.

Everyone.

For many of us, sexism means not being hired for jobs we are qualified for, being denied care because we are the "wrong" gender for gender-segregated services, coping with sexist-based stigma about body size and shape in medical, relationship, or employment settings - all of which (and more) can translate into life and death issues.

Sexism doesn't need to be severe to cause long-term, detrimental effects -- for individuals and communities.

Many people continue to see sexism as unidirectional -- something men do to women - even though the reality is that sexism can and does happen to people of every gender, every day.

Unchecked Sexism

My partner was recently admitted to the hospital. I typically pack us for any outing, so I did for this one as well. As she was unpacking at the hospital, she asked me where I put her bras. I had forgotten! The nurse who was helping to get her settled piped in with "Leave it up to a man to forget to pack a woman's bras!"

Days later, I was having breakfast at my near-daily haunt, when an unknown woman asked about the flash drive that is almost always hanging around my neck. I could barely explain to her what it was before she turned back to her friend, loudly sighed, and disparagingly said, "Boys and their toys."

These two fairly tame cases show how women exhibited sexist behavior towards someone they saw as male. Even though they are simple examples, are they harmless?

I was pegged as "just a clueless guy" as they projected their underlying assumptions about all men onto me. The reality is that I'm usually a great packer, but this time, I was so deeply concerned about my partner that I made a simple error. The reality is that although I may be a geek, I use technology as a means to an end, not as something to flash around as bling. The reality is that I've experienced more sexism living as male than I ever did as female.

When left unchecked -- and sexism against men is frequently not addressed -- there is an evolution from small off-handed comments to large

universal statements (and underlying beliefs) about the character and anticipated action of all men.

We can more easily see when blanket statements are made about women. However, we live in a culture where it's acceptable to say things like:

Men are pigs.

Men don't ask for directions.

Men are violent.

Would it be acceptable to substitute "women" in the statements above? Of course not! Most everyone would see that as blatantly sexist. Yet, men can be treated as sub-human, devoid of feelings, and expected to be tolerant of name-calling and mis-classification.

Bi-directional sexism is not only a cisgender-perpetrated offense.

I have heard countless numbers of trans-masculine individuals uphold anti-male sexist ideology, too. I am repeatedly asked by FTMs for referrals to female medical providers, because they are unwilling to see a male provider despite their own hard-won maleness and experience of sexist prejudices. Similarly, I've heard dozens of MTFs classify testosterone as toxic (and not just for themselves).

We are bombarded with sexism everywhere we turn.

Every day, I hear something sexist. Towards women. Towards men. Towards maintaining a distinct separation between what is expected of women and of men (and making those of us who don't identify as either feel pressured to conform to one or the other).

TAXES

Health Care Expenses and the IRS

By Dan O'Keefe

Dan O'Keefe has been a CPA in Wisconsin for 29 years and is author of several articles for various publications including the Chicago Tribune, and several trade publications.

The costs of fixing bump and bruises, breaks and contusions are a pain to the patients. But they can ward off a high tax bill if the many types of medical expenses add up to a high enough number. All kinds of medically related expenses are eligible to be a tax deduction. They are common sense in their logic, even intuitive, in today's trendy parlance.

Medical expenses must attempt to care for or cure any injury or illness. Doctor bills, bandages, surgery costs, nursing fees, eyeglasses, and prescription drugs are all deductible. Doctor bills are not just limited to medical doctors, but also include psychologists, dentists, psychoanalysts, osteopaths, physician assistants, optometrists, and chiropractors.

Surgery costs are self-evident. The cost of a hospital stay, lodging and food are obviously deducted. But if you are going out of town or out of the country for a surgery, there are transportation, food and lodging to include in your deductions. Airfare, train tickets, bus fees, and auto mileage at twenty cents per mile are deductible. Lodging on the way, and in pre and post hospitalization is limited to \$50 per person a night. Meals are not deductible at all unless served as a part of a hospitalization. (Hospital food suddenly sounds much better!)

An important caveat to expenses incurred out of town is the IRS requirement that the services are provided by a doctor in a licensed hospital or a medical facility equivalent to a licensed hospital. Any exotic treatments from wannabe or hopeful doctors in unusual settings may be suspect if reviewed by the IRS.

The twenty cents per mile can be used when driving to all your doctor visits, trips to the hospital, or sessions with a therapist.

In order for medical expenses to be deducted, they must be paid in advance - either by cash, check, or credit card. Be sure not to deduct any expenses you are reimbursed by your health insurance or flexible savings accounts. Deducting such reimbursed expenses would be double dipping, something Uncle Sam frowns on.

Only prescription drugs or medications are deductible as opposed to over the counter medications. The only exception is insulin. Prescription drugs must be purchased in the United States. If they are imported from other countries, the prescription drugs no longer qualify as a deduction.

Some basic rules are set out to determine what is or is not deductible. Medical costs must be incurred for a specific ailment or injury. Expenses for one's general well being are not included. Vacations to improve morale, or recharge are not deductible.

This rule can be very subtle. With regard to weight reduction expenses, special foods are deductible only if they:

- More than meet basic nutritional needs
- Treat an illness (like obesity, hypertension or heart disease)
- Have written requirements by a physician. Only the amount by which the special food exceeds the cost of normal food can be deducted.

Weight reduction programs at a health club are viewed by the IRS as incurred for purposes of appearance, general health or sense of well being. Fees you pay for membership in a weight reduction group or attendance to periodic meetings are viewed the same way. If you can show the health club expenses are for a weight related illness, only the costs pertaining to the weight loss program are deductible, not the entire membership fee.

Your portion of any health insurance premium is deductible, even if you pay only a portion of the total cost. The emphasis here is on "health" insurance, not life, disability, accidental death and dismemberment insurances. Long term health insurance is also deductible as enacted by Congress.

While deductible health expenses are fairly easy to determine, the amount is subject to very high hurdle in the form of a computation. The adjusted gross income of Mr. or Ms. Taxpayer, say \$40,000 must be multiplied by 7.5%, or \$3,000. You will have to have \$3,000 in deductions to be even eligible to take a \$1 of health deductions.

Publication 502, "Medical and Dental Expenses" is the main resource for this column and is a very easy read for most taxpayers. It divides health expenses into two clearly marked groups: those deductible, and those not deductible. The reading is very clear. This particular publication can be obtained by a phone call to the IRS at 800-829-1040, or reaching the IRS website www.irs.gov and downloading the booklet.

QLife Quickies

British Teen Driven To Suicide Over Gay Taunts

London - After suffering the taunts and bullying of classmates for over a year, a 14-yr old girl ended her life by hanging herself in a tree. The classmates had teased her and called her a "dyke", although it is not known if she had identified as being gay. She was the second student at the same school who committed suicide as a result of bullying. An anti-bullying task force had been set up after the first student's suicide, but has so far failed to squash bullying in the school.

In an advisory sent to all schools across the UK last December, the government warned principals that turning a blind eye to homophobia will not be tolerated, and that students who taunt gays need to be disciplined.

Guam Senate Elects first Gay Member

The Guam Senate has elected its first openly gay member. Benjamin Cruz, with endorsements from the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, (a political action committee dedicated to increasing the number of openly LGBT elected officials) won 41 percent of the vote. Cruz, had previously been elected to a judge position.

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ARTS CALENDAR

NOW SHOWING

New Orleans Mardi Gras Indians: Contextual Portraits from an Insider's View at the UWM Union Art Gallery. This exhibition of photographs by J. Nash Porter was organized by Dr. Joyce Marie Jackson from Louisiana State University. The exhibition will have a closing reception on February 27 from 5-8pm with a live performance by Jazz Chant featuring Adekola Adedapo. The gallery is located on the Campus Level of the Union in room W199. Thru FEB 29.

The Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre opens 2008 on a "high" note by presenting the Milwaukee premiere of neglected playwright Ralph Pape's comedy "SAY GOODNIGHT, GRACIE." Thru FEB 3. Boulevard Theatre, 2252 South Kinnickinnic.

FEB 1

Its opening night for Next Act Theatre's "FAITH HEALER" by Brian Friel. Playing at the Off Broadway Theatre, 342 N. Water St. in Milwaukee now through March 2. Tickets range in price from \$24.00 to \$32.00 and may be purchased in person at the Off Broadway Theatre Box Office, 342 N. Water Street; by phone 414-2780765, or online at www.nextact.org.

FEB 5

FILM: Experimental Tuesdays: Shoot Shoot Shoot: British Avant-Garde Films of the 1960s & 1970s (Program II) UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. 7PM. FREE. For INFO: (414) 229-4070. The Peck School of the Arts Box Office, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. TUE-FRI 10-5PM and one hour prior to performances. Phone: 414.229.4308.

FEB 7

Soulstice Theatre presents a rare US production of BEAUTIFUL THING. Written by Jonathan Harvey and directed by Mark E. Schuster, the urban fairytale tells the heartwarming story of two teenage neighbors who manage to find love in the rough world of a working class housing project in East London. The 1996 film version of BEAUTIFUL THING won the 1997 GLAAD Media Award for "Outstanding Film." Performances at Soulstice Studio Theatre,

Suite 102 in the Marian Center for Non-Profits, 3195 South Superior Street, Bay View. 8:00PM. Repeats on Feb 8, 9, 15 and 16. Prices for tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. Seating is General Admission and reservations, though not required, can be made by calling 414-431-3187. Visit www.soulsticetheatre.org for more information.

Unruly Music, UWM's innovative contemporary music series, presents the second of two Electro-Acoustic Music Center (EAMC) concerts this season. "Reckonings: Five Decades of Electro-Acoustic Music" at the Peck School of the Arts Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. on the UWM campus - 7:30PM. Tickets \$10 general/\$7 students, seniors & alumni, and are available from the box office: (414) 229-4308. The Electro-Acoustic Music Center, directed by Jon Welstead, recently celebrated its 25th anniversary

FEB 9

AUDITIONS for Soulstice Theatre's production of "Marvin's Room" from 1PM-5PM at the Soulstice studio in the Marian Center (between Howard and Oklahoma on Lake/Superior in the back of the building). All roles are open. 3195 S. Superior, Suite 102, Bay View. Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script. Monologues are optional and a plus! Questions? Call 414-431-3187 or email from our website at www.soulsticetheatre.org.

FEB 10

The Fine Arts Quartet, artists-in-residence at UWM's Peck School of the Arts, continues their four-concert series today at 3PM in the Helene Zelazo Center of the Performing Arts, 2419 East Kenwood Boulevard. The concert includes quartets by Bartók, Haydn and the North American premiere of Ralf Gothóni's Forbidden Scherzo, February 30th. Interim Dean Scott Emmons will offer a pre-concert talk beginning at 2:15PM in Room 250, adjacent to the concert hall. Tickets are \$19 general admission and \$10 for students, seniors and alumni. For tickets, please call the Peck School of the Arts Box Office, 414-229-4308

A Special Note

Football season is just about over. You can now stop giving thanks to all the chips and hot wings and start working on your waistline. What? You have no money left? You're not one of those people, who spent \$5,000.00 on a Super Bowl ticket, are you? You must be the same person that whines about being fat and how you can't afford a Personal Trainer to help you get in shape. Well, phat boy, you can work with a trainer for over 6 months for what you paid for that one Super Bowl ticket!

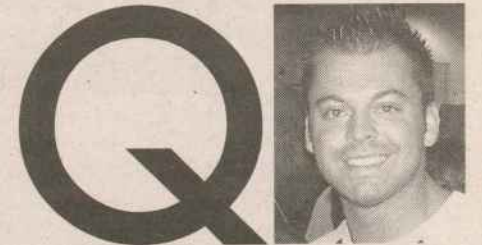
Now don't think that when you go into a gym or specifically, Sweeney's Gym that you're being judged, because you are not. My staff at Sweeney's is there to help you in any way possible.

See, I just need to vent for one minute. I see so many people spending money on Super Bowl tickets and ending up in the hospital after a heart attack before the game even starts! It's that same person I saw 5 months earlier who said he couldn't afford sessions with a trainer and didn't want to get a membership because he didn't know what he was doing. It's not that he didn't have the money, he just thought spending it on his health and sense of well being was not a good investment. Until, of course, he came back to get a trainer at the advice of his doctor.

All people think they are healthy - until they get sick. The man mentioned above said he was healthy when I first saw him, but just needed to "lose a little weight." So, if you think you're healthy, you very well may be. But, most people are not. Alternately, if you are thin it doesn't mean you shouldn't workout and keep your body internally working like a fine red wine.

I train my staff at Sweeney's to not "sell the gym" but to show people that staying healthy can be fun. It doesn't have to take up much of your time either.

I ask you - if you wanted to sail into the future what boat would you pick, a rowboat or a yacht? (You must be thinking what does this mean?) Well, when you workout, you improve what your body can do and for how



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.

long a period of time. If you don't take care of your body when you're as young as 35 you'll only be as good as a row boat - working hard, but not getting very far, with weight and health issues holding you back.

However, I don't want you to get hung up on thinking that if you're overweight that's the only time you should workout. The outside is how you want people to see you; the inside of you is just how many years those people will see you.

I have enjoyed writing in QLife for over a year now and have been able to help so many. I would like to say thanks to all of our new friends that stopped by our New Year's Fitness Party that Sweeney's Gym held in January. I would like to give one more thanks to all the volunteers who work on making this paper possible for you. A lot of hard work needs to be put into anything we do in our busy lives, so let's take time to give thanks to someone who has thanked you.

In next month's fitness column I will be back to give you my review on some new fads and which fat burners and protein shakes you should take. Till then, take fitness one day at a time because "Hey, Rome was not built in a day!"

Thanks to all my readers and QLIFE once again.

Sweeney's Gym is Fitness Done Right!! For more info on prices and personal training and all other information you can go to www.sweeneysgym.com

ARTS CALENDAR

FEB 12

FILM: Experimental Tuesdays: Corpora Luminum: The Body in New French Experimental Cinema UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. 7PM FREE. Info: (414) 229-4070. Artists to be featured: Delphine Lest, Philippe Cote, Xavier Baert, and Carole Arcega. Co-presented by the UWM Festival of Films in French.

The 2008 Artist Series At The Pabst welcomes Grammy® Award-winning Violinist Joshua Bell With Pianist Jeremy Denk at The Pabst Theater 7:30PM, 144 East Wells Street, Milwaukee. Tickets are on sale now for \$39.50, \$49.50 and \$59.50 at The Pabst Theater Box Office, online at www.pabsttheater.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552.

FEB 14

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents "CRIME AND PUNISHMENT" by Marilyn Campbell and Curt Columbus - Based on the novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Directed by Patrick Holland, and Featuring Drew Brhel, Leah Dutchin and Mic Matarrese. Studio Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Tickets 414-291-7800. www.chamber-theatre.com

Thru March 9

FEB 16

Cornerstone Theater presents "Love Letters" at Unitarian Church North, 13800 North Port Washington Road in Mequon. Show is at 8pm. Doors open one hour before. \$25.00 - senior discount available for afternoon show. For reservation or information call 262-377-5276. More INFO: www.ucnorth.org. Repeats on the 17th at 3PM.

Ronnie Nyles - WAMI'S 2007 Female Vocalist of the Year & Tallulah Who - Featuring Deb Lopez are taking the stage tonight at MONA'S, 8PM. 1407 S 1st St, Milwaukee.

FEB 19

FILM: EXPERIMENTAL TUESDAYS Actual or Pretend: An Evening with Artist Althea Thauberger UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. 7 pm FREE. INFO: (414) 229-4070 Canadian artist Althea Thauberger shares her video work, collaborative projects that involve the structure of melodrama and, sometimes, song to invite reflection on self-definition, alienation, community, and coercion within 'natural' worlds, and actual or pretend social/political structures.

Learning from Pros

In 1943, a Black teenager rode his bicycle to a customer's house to deliver a package from the pharmacy where he worked. It was his first day on the job and within his first month in Miami, Florida. While the U.S. was very different from his native Bahamas, he was happy for the job and elated that he had found it so quickly after his arrival. He was fifteen years old, athletic, well-spoken, and polite.

The teen rang the bell and moments later it was answered by the white woman who lived there. She immediately turned red and yelled, "Get to the back door." She then slammed the door; he could hear her pounding her way to the back of the house. Frightened, he quietly bent at the waist and left the package leaning on the sill of the door. He recalled more than fifty years later that he sped to his bike and peddled back to work as fast as he could.

Two days later he arrived at his brother's house where he was staying after an afternoon in the sun making deliveries. The shades were drawn, the house blank to the street. When he approached the door, it was quickly yanked open and he was pulled inside and pushed to the floor. "What did you do?" his brother cried. "The Klan was here and you are a dead man."

This incident and millions like it are part of the history of Black people in America. Left at this, it is a story of Jim Crow, slavery, terror, discrimination, segregation, bias, hatred, and destruction. It is the story of a black holocaust.

But this story does not end on the floor of a Miami home sixty-five years ago. It continues as the boy becomes a dishwasher, a laundry worker, a janitor.

It goes on as he becomes an actor, leading man, and a national icon for two decades or more. The story moves forward as he becomes the first black man to win an Academy Award for Best Actor. It is included in his riveting memoirs.

Sidney Poitier illustrates that Black history is not a story of domination but of victory of the human spirit and the human mind.

Black history month is a perfect time to reflect on each lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender person's need to disentangle ourselves from the bonds of the oppressive systems in the United States. To win this battle, each of us and all of us need to learn to bend the steel of gay oppression with our minds. In psychological terms, this process is called gaining psychological independence.

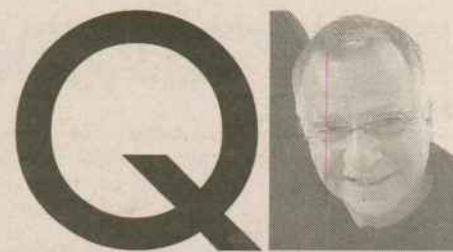
First, we must develop functional independence. We have to get our personal and practical affairs into shape. This means getting to work on time, balancing our check books, handling our bills, cleaning our homes, and getting our rest, nutrition and exercise. It means not being reactive to homophobia by selling out on ourselves in the countless ways that oppressed people can and do.

Then, we must achieve attitudinal and emotional independence. Emotional independence means that we approve of ourselves and stop seeking approval from heterosexual society. It means that we live with integrity and build sound systems of support for ourselves. We assess our family relationships and we set limits with them to assure that we both get and give respect. Attitudinal independence means we develop

positive beliefs and perspectives on lesbian, gay, bisexual people, our communities, and our community organizations. We break our ties to the negative views about our people held by oppressive systems.

Finally, we must gain conflictual independence. We resign from our jobs of either proving or disproving anti-gay views about us and our people. We give up the need to show others that we aren't "all that way" or to evidence through our actions that we are "badder than you can even believe." In other words, conflictual independence releases guilt, anxiety, anger, and responsibility for society's underestimation of our worth and goodness.

Psychological independence allows us to appreciate who we are, who we have become, and where we aspire to go as individuals and communities.



HEALTH

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

Black History Month is a great time to reflect on the people who have shown us how.

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FIND YOUR BIG LIFE!

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

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

www.diverseandresilient.org

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ARTS CALENDAR

FEB 20

The Toasters, w/ The Fear Nuttin Band, The Invaders, Something to Do Doors 6:30PM, Show 7PM Tickets: \$12 All-Ages, Drinking w/Proper ID The Miramar Theatre 2844 N Oakland Ave Milwaukee. 414-967-0302 www.themiramartheatre.com

FEB 21

The next concert on the Unruly Music series, Fragmente-Stille, features the Formalist Quartet.

Peck School of the Arts Recital Hall, 2400 East Kenwood Boulevard on the UWM campus. For tickets, please call the Peck School of the Arts Box Office: (414) 229-4308.

FEB 22

Spiral Theatre begins its run of the love comedy Butterflies Are Free. Featuring Ruth Amell, Ryan Dance, Sandra Stark, and Josh Wetzel, this 60's comedy tells an intimate tale of the interrelationships of three individuals, all of whom gain from their contacts with each other. Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 PM through MAR 8th. Spiral Theatre 534 W National Avenue, Milwaukee. Adult tickets are \$15, while student and senior tickets are \$10. Reserve tickets: info@spiraltheatre.com, online: www.spiraltheatre.com, or box office: 414-248-6481.

FEB 26

Avenue Q is coming to the Marcus Center at Uihlein Hall. A hilarious show full of heart and hummable tunes, AVENUE Q is about trying to make it in NYC with big dreams and a tiny bank account. Called "one of the funniest shows you're ever likely to see" by Entertainment Weekly, AVENUE Q features a cast of people and puppets who tell the story in a smart, risqué and downright entertaining way.

7:30PM. Marcus Center, 929 North Water Street, Milwaukee. Tickets: \$20 - \$62; On sale: NOW! Thru March 2.

FEB 29

Experimental Film/Video Series at Woodland Pattern Carousel: The Second Revolution

Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St. 7 pm Tickets: \$2 at the door. Climb aboard! The second annual Milwaukee Invitational Slide Show will feature amateur and seasoned photographers sharing any number of slides in any manner of show.

Deadline for the March Issue is February 20th. Please send events to qlifelistings@yahoo.com.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ONGOINGS

Gunther von Hagens BODY WORLDS 1: The Original Exhibition of Real Human Bodies - through June 1, 2008 at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Investigate the mystery of human anatomy and physiology in this first-of-its-kind exhibit. BODY WORLDS illustrates the vulnerability and wonder of the human body by showcasing nearly 200 real human specimens. Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee. INFO: (414) 278-2728 or (888) 700-9069, or visit www.mpm.edu.

FEB 2

Head over to the Miramar for another show by the fabulous Milltown Kings! Check out their "Love Your BODY" show at 9pm. Must be 18 and over. 75 cover. Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland Ave, MKE. Dress to Impress!

FORGE Social support meeting. Topic: Sexuality, Negotiation, and Staying Safe(r) Peer-based support for trans masculine and SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies) individuals in a friendly, facilitated setting. 6-9:30PM LGBT Community Center, 315 Court Street, MKE. Open discussion from 6-6:45PM, Topic discussion from 7pm-9:30pm. Free. INFO available at www.forge-forward.org/socialsupport/ or write info@forge-forward.org.

FEB 3

How fast can you eat 10 buffalo wings? Find out by competing in the Third Annual "Stuffing the Buffalo" competition. The Wicked Hop and Jackalope Lounj, 345 N. Broadway. Only \$10 for 10 wings, a commemorative "Stuffing the Buffalo" t-shirt and a bottle of Coors Light to eat at the pace you choose. 3-8PM. All proceeds of the event to benefit the children and families of Camp Heartland, national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children affected by HIV/AIDS. More INFO: contact Jessica Whitney at 414-272-1118 or via email jessica@campheartland.org

FEB 4

Birthday Bash Fundraiser for Patrick Flaherty, as he runs for Alderman of the 3rd District of Milwaukee. Cempazuchi, 1205 E. Brady Street from 6:00 - 7:30PM. Host list currently being compiled. If interested call (414) 232-5657. Host levels are \$417 (max), \$250, and \$100.

FEB 5

FAT TUESDAY! MARDI GRAS CELEBRATIONS ALL OVER TOWN - Check your favorite hangouts for what's going on. Here are a few:

UWM is having their 2nd Annual Mardi Gras Celebration from 11am-11pm in the Union Ballroom, Recreation Center and Gasthaus. All events are free and open to the public.

Mardi Gras Party at Bosley on Brady. Gumbo! Red Beans and Rice! And Lot's of Beads! 7PM, , 815 E. Brady Street, Milwaukee. 414-727-7975.

Super Tuesday! Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Fund raising event at KRUZ, 354 E National Ave at 7pm. Call 414-383-3727 for info.

FEB 6

Dare to Dream: The Life of a Tuskegee Airman museum lecture with Leon "Woodie" Spears 7 p.m at the Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee. Since his youth, original Tuskegee Airman Captain Leon "Woodie" Spears, USAF, dreamed of flying. This dream would carry him through the obstacles and challenges he and his fellow airman encountered in breaking the racial barrier to becoming military pilots for America. \$5, free for students and members. Reservations recommended, call 278-2714 for tickets.

FEB 7

Head to Broad Vocabulary and hang out with the Femknits - a feminist knitting & crocheting circle that is open to all genders and all skill levels. We meet twice a month at Broad Vocabulary, Milwaukee's Feminist Bookstore. Our meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm and the third Sunday of every month at 2 pm. Queer- and trans-friendly. Meets again on the 17th.

FEB 8

Head over to Stonefly to catch JackRaasch, Clementine, John the Savage and The Innocent Civillians! 10PM-2AM, Stonefly, 735 E Center St Milwaukee, 414-264-3630

Lesbian Alliance Game Night & Potluck 6 pm. LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Bring your favorite board or card game and a dish to pass! For more information call the Lesbian Alliance office at 414-272-9442.

FEB 9

Frontiers Gay/Bi Men's Social Group Film Circle. Showing: "Angora Ranch" (Water Bearer Films, 2006, 96 min) at 7:00 PM, <http://www.frontiersmadison.org>, 608-244-8675 (evenings) for location and info

Feel the love in the air! It's time for the Lesbian Alliance Valentine's Dance! Celebrate Valentine's Day at the only "women-only" dance in the area and the biggest Lesbian event of the year. Dance the night away with great music! 8PM, South Shore Pavilion, 2900 S. Shore Dr. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 non-members/\$10 members at the door. Tickets at: Broad Vocabulary, Outwords Bookstore, and all Outpost locations. Call 414-272-9442 or visit www.lesbianalliance.org for more info.

FORGE-sponsored Sex Toys 101 Workshop for transmasculine individuals and partners (open to anyone over 18) Hosted by A Woman's Touch, 4:30-6:00PM, 200 N. Jefferson Street, Milwaukee. Free. RSVP to FORGE info@forge-forward.org or 414-559-2123

FEB 12

Whether you're a Scrabble beginner or a regional champ, you'll find great word-freak fun at our Scrabble Night. Drop in for a game and learn some new tricks from resident Scrabble expert, Lesley Salas. Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee. 414) 744-8384

FEB 14

Canadian artist Ember Swift in Concert at UWM's Union Gast Haus, 2200 E Kenwood Blvd. Ember Swift is an activist who performs alongside of the amazingly talented Lyndell Montgomery. free and open to the public. Sponsored by Lesbian Alliance, UWM LGBT Resource Center and UWM Union Programming.

Writing to Heal: Transformation Through Words. Topic: Guilt, 7-8:30PM, LGBT Community Center, 315 Court Street. FORGE's monthly facilitated writing group focuses on healing for LGBTQIA survivors of sexual (and other) trauma. \$10 donation requested, sliding fee scale available. INFO: www.forge-forward.org / email info@forge-forward.org.

FEB 15

Stonefly in Riverwest is having their UNI-FI VALENTINES DAY PAR-TAY from 10PM-2AM. Stonefly, 735 E Center St Milwaukee, 414-264-3630.

Red Heart Hafra -A special Valentine's Day belly dance event with Shaia Fahrid. Celebrate love of the dance! Bring your favorite CD and dance with professional and amateur dancers to the music of the Middle East. 8pm, MGAC, 703 S. 2nd St, 414-383-3727. Pot Luck and other refreshments. Admission \$5

FEB 16

15 yrs & Counting. Charles "D" Productions Inc Invites you to come and be a part of history & help them celebrate 15 years of providing services to the community around HIV/AIDS, Community events, Youth Development, Capacity Building, and social function. A night filled with energy and many enjoyable surprises - One being a new organization name change! Evening includes: Sit-down Dinner, entertainment, silent auction, information, music & dancing, speakers and much more. Table of 6 for \$250, Table of 8 for \$300, Individual dinner \$45 includes entire evening of events. 6PM - 1AM at the Wisconsin African American Women's Center, 3020 W. Vliet, Milwaukee. For more information please call 414-263-9999 or charlesdprodinc1@sbcglobal.net. Donations appreciated.

continued on next page

Women's Fund Receives Grant

Milwaukee - The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, Inc. has received a \$60,000 matching grant from The Catalyst Fund at Tides Foundation. The Women's Fund is one of eight organizations selected nationwide to receive the first grants made by Catalyst, which was created in 2007 to address the shortage of funding to the sector of women who experience the greatest health disparities.

"Milwaukee has one of the highest poverty, infant mortality, teen pregnancy and high school dropout rates in the fifty largest urban cities," said Women's Fund Executive Director Elaine Maly. "We have health disparities in breast and cervical cancer outcomes and high rates of domestic violence. This grant will increase the resources available to combat these disparities."

The Women's Fund will use the matching funds for grants to support reproductive justice work at local organizations led by women of color. The term "reproductive justice" includes a broad range of work such as sexual and/or reproductive health and rights, and environmental justice; a diversity of strategies, and range of issues, from comprehensive sexuality education to parenting rights; HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment; and ending violence against women.

"We believe that women of color-led organizations are imperative to broadening the reproductive rights movement. They provide additional authenticity and credibility to the movement by including those most impacted by reproductive injustices," said Maly. "This initiative builds on the Women's Fund's social change platform, and provides a meaningful opportunity to support women of color as leaders."

The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, Inc : <http://www.womensfund.com>. Tides Foundation: www.tidesfoundation.org.

This Month in Wisconsin
LGBT History February

By Don Schwamb and Michail Takach

1973 - Thirty-Five Years Ago

- The State Personnel Board upholds the right of the state to fire a person because he is a homosexual. This in the review of an appeal by a gay man who was fired in July from his position as houseparent at Southern Colony and Training School.
- Judy Greenspan, a Madison lesbian-feminist, filed as a candidate for the Madison Board of Education. WCLU indicates they are ready to appeal.
- The Cove bar, at 157 S. 2nd Street, announces their re-opening. (That location housed some 5 different gay bars, the last closing in 1985.)
- On February 15, Bette Midler performs in Uihlein Hall, and the media reports "Milwaukee's gay community turned out en masse". According to a full-page article in GPU News in March, as she appeared on stage, The Divine Miss M. first groaned "Milwaukee, who would have thought I would be playing Milwaukee?" She then "did several locality jokes, including a parody of the Oscar Mayer theme, turning it into a teasing stab at Mayor Henry Maier." According to the report, "her campy style and humor quickly won the audience" (as if they needed to be won over!).

1978 - Thirty Years Ago

- The Milwaukee Calendar, a new "bar rag" publication, begins publishing. Featuring a comprehensive bar guide, bar ads, and a "Word game" (challenging the reader to find the names of 21 gay bars of the past), the publication is a breath of fresh air to the community. (The Milwaukee Calendar had a rocky history; after 3 years it was renamed Gay Milwaukee, then after briefly ceasing publishing, its publishers founded Escape newspaper, but that paper didn't last long either. But out of this history, the long-lived In Step magazine was to be founded in November 1983 by a major contributor to all the above: Ron Geiman.)
- Angelo, owner of the Mint Bar, dies of a heart attack. At 65, he was as vibrant and active as he had been when he opened The Mint the bar almost 30 years prior, in 1949 - 20 years prior to Stonewall! Operating the oldest gay bar in the city, Angelo had survived all too prevalent discrimination and social pressures. (The Mint Bar, operated by his wife Betty, continued to operate in the same location until 1986, when it was forced to relocate because of construction of the Bradley Center. It operated at 819 S. 2nd Street, now site of the Fluid bar, for a few more years. The name was briefly changed to Angelo's, before being taken over by new management - the end of an era.)

1988 - Twenty Years Ago

- Years before the arrival of the Internet, Manhunt set up a "computer matching service" office at 501 W. Mitchell Street, offering easy, inexpensive and confidential dating-by-mail.
- Shadows II offered "top shelf brands at rail prices in a comfortably elegant atmosphere" at 814 South 2nd Street, in a building that now houses the Fifth Ward Pub & Grill. Offering a daily cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres from 5-7pm, Shadows II was briefly known as "the Midwest's most beautiful gay bar."

1993 - Fifteen Years Ago

- Newly inaugurated President Bill Clinton was expected to fulfill a major election campaign promise - ending the historic ban against gays and lesbians in the U.S. military - when he issued executive orders forbidding military discharge based solely on sexual orientation. INStep magazine strongly encouraged readers to attend rallies and contact their elected officials to support ending the ban. As the debate raged into the year, Clinton compromised with the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" reforms that are still active today.
- The Pivot Club in Appleton hosted a special RuPaul show on February 13, 1993. Tickets were only \$4, and Pivot customers received extra discounts for attending the Pivot's 7th Anniversary Celebration.
- A special Mardi Gras Celebration was held at the Mitchell Park Domes on Sunday, February 21 to benefit the 1993 Pride Festival and Parade. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Light and INStep, the Celebration featured a costume contest, the Shoreline Country Dancers, the Cream City Squares, and the 219 Girls. "Let the sequins and feathers fly!"
- Arresting 18 men in two days for lewd and lascivious behavior at the Grand Avenue Mall, the Milwaukee Police Department were accused of racism and homophobia while intensifying an undercover sting operation. The public defender stated, "I think that any gay man in Milwaukee who uses the restrooms in Grand Avenue Mall runs the risk of being arrested and charged criminally."

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

continued from page 20

Madison Gay Video Club will show "Fluff" (Iron Rod, dir. Gregory Duke, 2003, Canada) "Grunts: Brothers In Arms" (Raging Stallion, dir. Ward & Leon, 2007) at 8:00 PM, <http://www.mgvc.org>, 608-244-8675 (evenings) for location and info.

New Harvest Foundation Dinner Dance for the Madison area's LGBT communities and their allies. Monona Terrace, One John Nolen Drive, Madison. Cocktails 5PM, dinner 6PM. Comedienne Michele Balan, DJ, Nick Nice, Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus, perform. Tickets available through NHF board members, and website, newharvestfoundation.org. Dinner \$60 per person; \$110 for two; or \$400 for a table of eight. The event is open to those eighteen and over.

FEB 17

Museum of Wisconsin Art Celebrates Black History Month with the African-American Children's Theater from 1-2PM. Open to the public, admission fees will be waived until 2PM. Featured will be the African-American Children's Theater (AACT) with a 45 minute performance at 1PM. The contemporary play will span the lives of Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks to present-day Naomi Sims and Mae Jemison, focusing on their achievements. Following this performance will be a brief lecture by African-American artist, Della Wells. The Museum of Wisconsin Art, Inc. (formerly the West Bend Art Museum) 300 S. Sixth Avenue, West Bend. Public hours are Wednesday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and Sunday 1:00-4:30 p.m. For more information, call 262-334-9638 or visit the website at www.wisconsinart.org.

Frontiers Gay/Bi Men's Social Group Annual Membership Brunch & Meeting. West Side Club, 437 County Hwy M, Madison. 11:30 AM, <http://www.frontiersmadison.org>, 608-244-8675 (evenings) for info.

FEB 19

Here's an opportunity to inform future Medical College of Wisconsin physicians how to ask sensitive questions; About your sexual orientation, gender identity and life experiences and how you would like to be treated in the medical community. To participate in this teaching opportunity (panel format), RSVP: to Kristine James at kjames@mcw.edu or 414-955-8992 OR Michael Lisowski 414-265-8500, mslisowski@aol.com. Medical College of Wisconsin, 8701 W. Watertown Plank Rd, ROOM H1210-30, 10AM. Parking available in Visitor's Lot across from Main Entrance. Will consist of three groups, (coffee and donuts provided) meeting from 10:30-12Noon.

FEB 28

Art, Body and Soul: Learning to Love our Bodies. FORGE's monthly facilitated art group uses art to address issues related to body image, including race, size, gender, shape, disability and more. All are welcome. No talent or art experience necessary. 7-9:00PM, LGBT Community Center, 315 Court Street, Milwaukee. \$10 donation requested, sliding fee scale available. More info at www.forge-forward.org or by emailing info@forge-forward.org

FEB 29

The Distinguished Lecture Series at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will feature Emmy award winning actor and passionate environmentalist, Ed Begley, Jr., at 7:30 p.m. in the UWM Union Ballroom. His lecture, "Living Green with Ed," will focus on changes anyone can make to live a greener lifestyle. Purchase tickets early and arrive early, seating will not be reserved. Tickets at the UWM Bookstore or by calling 414-229-4201 or 1-800-662-5668. The lecture will start at 7:30pm with the doors opening at 7:00pm with a book signing and reception afterward.

Rusty P's CD Release Party at Stonefly, from 10PM-2AM. Stonefly, 735 E Center St Milwaukee, 414-264-3630.

Deadline for the March Issue is February 20th. Please send events to qlifelists@yahoo.com.

ARCW Holiday Gift Program Tremendous Success

Milwaukee - The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Holiday Gift Program provided more than 700 children and adults impacted by the AIDS epidemic with holiday gifts during the 2007 holiday season. The ARCW Holiday Gift Program has been going for more 15 years and has served more than 3,000 clients and their children throughout its history.

"The holidays can be a stressful time for people living with HIV," ARCW Associate Director of Social Services Megan Corey said. "For many living with HIV, feelings of isolation and stress can be exasperated by pressure to purchase gifts and get into the holiday spirit. The ARCW Holiday Gift Program is designed to help alleviate some of the stress and ensure people have a gift to open to help make the holidays a little brighter."

The Holiday Gift Program matches donors with ARCW clients or their children who would otherwise not receive a holiday gift. ARCW clients from across Wisconsin can submit wish lists, which are then passed along to the donors who do the shopping on their own. Gifts are then turned into ARCW for distribution throughout the holiday season.

"In addition to being very grateful for the tremendous outpouring of

support from individuals, ARCW also thanks SBC and the Volunteer Center of Wisconsin as long time supporters of

ARCW

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

the Holiday Gift Program," Corey said. "These two organizations provided more than 400 clients and their children with more than 700 gifts."

For the first time, ARCW also conducted a gift drive at its annual Jolly Holly Folly fundraiser on November 27, 2007. Close to 50 donors brought gifts to this event alone, which also raised \$40,711 for HIV prevention, care and treatment programs conducted by the agency.

In 2007, the ARCW Medical Center emerged as the largest provider of HIV medical care in Wisconsin. The ARCW Medical Center provides medical care to more gay men, women and people of color than any other clinic in the state. ARCW is Wisconsin's largest and most comprehensive AIDS service organization with nine statewide locations providing medical, dental and mental health care, legal services, food pantries, housing services and social work case management to more than 3,000 people living with HIV.

Exploring Other Sides of Love

New York, NY - Roadworm Music announces the release of singer/songwriter Ron Morris' EP, "Boyfriend and Other Sides of Love". Known for his intimate storytelling and infectious pop melodies, Ron presents four new songs that take a look at a few of love's many faces, as well as four remixes of the first single, "Boyfriend".

"This EP gives me a chance to play with my reputation as a hopeless romantic folk/pop crooner. We've got loving, laughing, longing, loneliness...and murder. I think that covers all the sides of love."

The first single, "Boyfriend", uses good old-fashioned doo-wop and a familiar song on the radio to capture the playful waiting for a lover's return. Along with "Boyfriend" and it's re-mixes, the EP includes

story first." In 1997 he moved to NYC and began turning his stories into songs and singing them wherever he could find space: bars, clubs, coffee shops, theaters, subway stations, and living

rooms. "Speak True", his first studio recording, was released on the Roadworm Music label in 2005, and garnered critical acclaim. "Truth Stained Lies", Ron's new full-length album, will be released in late spring 2008 and will feature eleven brand new songs. For more info, please go to www.RonMorrisMusic.com.

Want a chance to win a Ron Morris CD? QLife will give one lucky winner the new "Boyfriend and Other Sides of Love" CD - own it before it's out- give it to your boyfriend! Send your name & address to editor@queerlifeneews.com.



MUSIC

"Masterpiece of Why" a cut from Ron's next full length CD, a boys will be boys version of the folk classic "Frankie and Johnny", and a cover of the Cher-made-famous "We All Sleep Alone".

Ron learned early on his first lesson in songwriting: "keep it simple and with the



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481-2367
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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, 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, 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, 53201,
414-559-2123,
414-278-6031

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

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

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

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

Queer Life News
LGBT publication
2266 N. Prospect Ave

Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-383-8200
www.queerlifeneews.com

Quest
LGBT nightlife publication
P.O. Box 1961
Green Bay, WI 54301
414-433-9821

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

Wisconsin DHFS HIV/AIDS Program
P.O. Box 2659
Madison, WI 53701
800-991-5532

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

Milwaukee

Alcoholics Anonymous
Request gay meetings
414-771-9119

Bay View GAYS
(414) 482-3796
bvqpresident@bvqgays.com
www.bvqgays.com

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

Black Pride
www.blackpridecdp.com
A Charles D. Productions
Program
1817 N. Martin Luther King
Drive #3
Milwaukee, 53212
414-263-9999

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

Brady East STD Clinic
1240 E. Brady Street
Milwaukee, 53202,
414-272-2144
www.bestd.org

Brew City Bears
P.O. Box 1035
Milwaukee, WI 53201

414-299-0401
www.brewcitybears.org

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

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

Charles D Productions
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-263-9999
www.charlesdprodinc.com

Connexus
LGBT people of color in
Wisconsin
A Diverse and Resilient
Program
12408 East Brady St.
Milwaukee, WI, 53202

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

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

Cream City Foundation
759 N. Milwaukee St.
Suite 212
Milwaukee, 53202,
414-225-0244
www.creamcityfoundation.org

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

Femme Mafia Milwaukee
www.myspace.com/
femmefamiamke

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

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

Front Runners
Running group
414-332-1527

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

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

GAMMA- Milwaukee
Sports/outdoors/recreation/
social
P.O. Box 1900
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-530-1886
www.milwaukeeegamma.com

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

Gay/Lesbian Studies
at UWM 414-229-6402

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

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

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

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

Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee
P.O. Box 862
Milwaukee, WI 53201

G/L Community Trust Fund
P.O. Box 1686
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-643-1652
www.glcommunitytrustfund.com

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Great Lakes Harley Riders
P.O. Box 341611
Milwaukee, WI 53234
bootedhog@aol.com

Holiday Invitational Tournament
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P.O. Box 899
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 Minotaurs United
Rugby Football Club
PO Box 14282
Madison, WI 53708
info@madisonminotaursrfc.org
madisonminotaursrfc.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.
Milw., 53222, 414-616-3716
www.milwaukeeetennis.com

Miltown Kings
www.myspace.com/
miltownkings

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

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

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

Milwaukee Pride Parade
P.O. Box 070177
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-607-3793
www.prideparademike.org
President@prideparademike.org

Milwaukee Symphony Chorus
Auditions/info
414-559-9330

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

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

Outdoors Cooperative Sports Group
414-963-9833

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Queer Zine Archive Project
2935 N. Fratney St.
Milwaukee, 53202

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

Rainbow Families Milwaukee
C/O PFLAG
315 W. Court
Milwaukee, WI 53212
mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com

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

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

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

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA)
414-299-0755

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

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

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

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

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

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, 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, 53022
www.wiscrad.org

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

Churches

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

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

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

Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church
1239 W. Mineral Street
POB 1421
Milwaukee,
WI 53201-1421
414-383-1100
info@milccc.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

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

Cuvee: 181 N. Broadway, Mil, WI 414-225-9800

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

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

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

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

Trip Out!

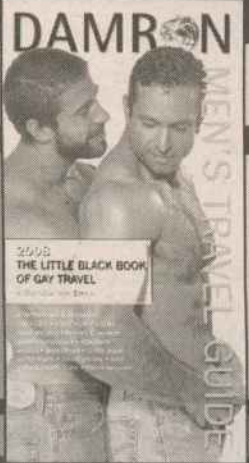
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Office Space Available: Only a few spaces left in the Clock Tower at Prospect and North Ave. 200-2000 Sq Ft. Call 414-704-7103.

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VOLUNTEERS

We here at QLife want to stick around. (And take over the world!) It is possible, but we need a little help from our friends. All we are asking, is that you let us know of any location you think would be a great fit for QLife to distribute the paper. On your way to work, school, or church, perhaps you see a fun store, or coffee shop, or business, or office building, and you think, "HEY! It would be GREAT if I could pick up QLife right here on the corner!" Let us know, where it is, and we'll take it from there. Sometimes, the business says "no" for whatever reasons, and sometimes they say "YES, of COURSE!!" So lets do it! What business should start carrying QLIFE? 414-383-8200.



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From Ray to Z to Me!!

I sincerely hope all of you had a Happy New Year. I must tell you I certainly enjoyed all the hugs and kisses at midnight!

The following weekend I had the pleasure of attending EVERYTHING FROM RAY TO Z a musical review starring Ray Jivoff, Kay Stiefel, and Jamie Johns at the Broadway Theatre Center. The applause in the audience was lead by actress Marilyn White. I saw artistic director Bill Theisen prior to curtain, and he was totally pleased with the outcome of this post-holiday show. Ray Jivoff, who arranged the musical review, was very open about his life; which was reflected in his strong flair for musical comedy. His lovely co-star Kay Stiefel also shared many moments from her life, and absolutely shined in every one of her wonderful vocals. Jamie Johns has a great stage presence; and was wonderful at the piano. He also

provided vocal support on the musical numbers. This production was certainly aimed at the Baby Boomer crowd. Ray had more character-type vocals; but by the audience reaction, he was the favorite when it came to comedy.

Some of the skits, such as the highlights from GOLDEN RAINBOW were very unfamiliar to the audience. Personally, I felt the first act was long enough to give the audience a delightful evening of entertainment for all. Congrats to everyone involved.

Kay Stiefel also does cabaret work with Jack Forbes Wilson. The two have performed at the REP and all over our town. I first met Kay Stiefel when we performed together in THE SOUND OF MUSIC. Later, I had the pleasure to direct her in 42ND SREET and INTO THE WOODS. I consider Kay one of the top female talents in our theater scene.

A Valentine of Theater

Despite the Milwaukee weather in February, there is certainly a great amount of theater out there to be seen this month. The awful December weather had me so concerned that I cancelled my February RSVP Productions show BAD SEED at the Astor Theater. During our recent below zero nights; I had LAUGHING STOCK playing at BAY PLAYERS. I had a familiar local critic in the audience who felt it was one of the funniest and best cast shows I had directed. But, in below zero weather we had only 35 people attend one night - very hard on local theater.

I wish the February shows the best, and may you be blessed with better weather and lots of heat!

ACACIA THEATRE- BLESSED ASSURANCE
BOULEVARD ENSEMBLE- CATHOLIC SCHOOL GIRLS
FIRST STAGE- SLEEPING BEAUTY
FLORENTINE OPERA- SLEEPING BEAUTY.
IN TANDEM-IRISH STEW
MARCUS CENTER-THE LION KING

MILWAUKEE CHAMBER THEATRE-CRIME AND PUNISHMENT MILWAUKEE REPERTORY-ENCHANTED APRIL (Stiemke)

QUADRACCI POWERHOUSE THEATER-GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS

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1 Triangle
Fr 9pm-Midnight

7 Woody's 9-11pm
Th

8 Kruz 6-8pm
Fr

Pump House
9pm-Midnight

15 City Lights 8-10pm
Fr

21 Boom 9-11pm
Th

22 Club Icon (Kenosha)
Fr 9:30pm-12:30am

25 Fluid 9-11pm
Mo

28 Switch
Th 9:30pm-12:30am

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**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.

NEXT ACT-FAITH HEALER
OFF THE WALL-JACQUES BREL
musical

SKYLIGHT OPERA-LA
TRAVIATA

SPIRAL STAIRCASE THEATRE
- BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE
WINDFALL THEATRE-THREE
DAYS OF RAIN

In our local community theater
Sunset Playhouse performs
CEMETERY CLUB, and WAUKESHA
CIVIC Plays THE WOMAN IN
BLACK.

This difficult weather has put many of us in a depressed mood. Try to get out of the house and support local businesses, and the bars. Try to enjoy your weekends as much as humanly possible.

Aunt Blanche is in a nursing home resting in Florida. She needed to get away from Milwaukee winters. She also loves to swim in the nude. The nursing home men love to watch!!! R.B.

Last MONTH's Trivia Answer

A BURLESQUE show is a series of comic skits and some vocals. They were popular in the 30's, and RSVP will recreate one this May at the Astor Theater on Brady Street. Hopefully comic DEAR RUTHIE will star in this production.

This Month's Trivia Question

What famous star flopped in THREE DAYS OF RAIN on Broadway?



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3217 N Oakland Ave - East side home recently been updated to the height of sophistication. Open concept floorplan features gourmet KIT w/contemporary cabinets, ss countertops, illuminated bar area. 1st floor bath has soaking tub. Large MBR w vaulted ceilings. LL has finished office/den space. Newer windows & roof. A must see. \$249,900 MLS # 951522



525 E. Chicago St., Milwaukee
Model Open Wed-Sun 11-1pm
Open concept loft w/high ceiling, stucco walls & oversized windows. 16' balcony, HWF in LR & KIT. Maple cabinets, granite counters, stainless appliances, & breakfast bar. WIC & carpet in BR. In-unit laundry. \$199,500-\$369,000



1835-1839 N. Martin Luther King Dr., Mil. Fantastic loft unit features many updates. Kitchen with Avonite solid surface counters, breakfast bar, honey washed maple cabinets & stainless appliances. 2 bedrooms with maple HWFs, large windows & crown molding. Generous bath w/20' deep soaking tub, vessel sink & ceramic tile. Large LL storage locker. \$145,900-\$149,900 #981198 & #981201



906 E. BRADY ST., MILW.
Historic Brady Place Townhome w/sunny southern exposure. Kitchen boasts granite counters, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances. Fantastic master suite w/adjacent sitting area and balcony. Relax in whirlpool tub or enjoy views from the rooftop patio. Expandable 3rd floor. \$339,900 #900019



2649 N PROSPECT #6, MILW.
Beautifully renovated building in a prime location just blocks away from Downer shops. Kitchen boasts cherry cabinets, stainless steel appliances and granite counters. Living room with artificial fireplace and access to your private sun porch. \$259,900 #900221



HI-FI LOFTS
MODEL OPEN SAT. & SUN. 11-1
3059 N. WEIL ST., MILW.
Fabulous condo units w/stainless steel cabinets, butcher block countertops, in unit laundry. 1st floor units feature heated floors. 2nd-4th floor units w/wood floors. Prices range from \$139,000-\$199,000 www.hifilofts.com



CITYSIDE PLAZA
MODEL OPEN WED.-SUN. 1-5
239 E. CHICAGO, MILW.
Live in the heart of the Third Ward's newest and most exciting community. Features 57 lavish loft style units. Hardwood floors, granite countertops, SS appliances. Occupancy 2008. \$199,900-\$449,900 #900566



Maple St #611, Milwaukee Hip & trendy Parts House condo unit features all of the amenities you are looking for. KIT boasts granite counters & stainless appliances. Marvelous bath w/ceramic tile & pedestal sink. Enjoy fantastic city views from your oversized wrap around balcony. Hardwood floor, natural fireplace, extra large windows. \$224,900 #981745



106 E SEEBOTH #411, MILW.
Unique 1BR plus den condo on the river. Kitchen boasts granite counters & designer lighting. Bath w/porcelain tile, Kohler plumbing fixtures and granite counters. On site fitness center & concierge services. Enjoy stunning views of the Milwaukee skyline from your private balcony. \$429,900 #956764



1809 N. COMMERCE #202, MILW.
Fabulous condo in the heart of the Beerline neighborhood. HWFs flow throughout the open concept living space. Superb kitchen is spacious and functional w/granite counter tops, maple cabinets and SS appliances. Large bedrooms w/walk in California closets. \$287,000 #971391



1530 N. Jackson St., Designed by national award-winning architect. 6 new homes. Walk to all the best of Milwaukee. Attached heated GAs; elevator; private terraces avg. over 180 sf; contemporary materials including cedar, burnished block, expansive glass; standard unit finishes include granite, stainless appliances, custom modern cabinetry, tiled baths, hardwood floors & more. \$459,000 #982150



GREENWICH ROW
1822 E GREENWICH AVE., MILW.
Eclectic and convenient, spacious yet efficient. 2BR, 2.5BA units feature luxurious appointments and modern conveniences. Overlook the vibrant East Side from your private balcony. Private entrances and 2.5 car attached garage. Prices range from \$294,800-\$304,850 www.greenwichrow.com



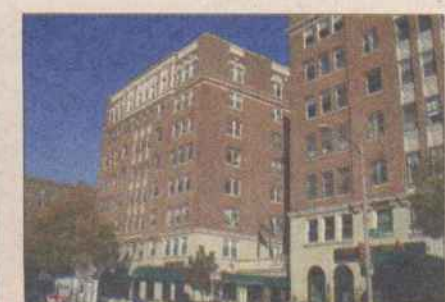
1017 S. 2nd St, Milwaukee Designer studio close to everything the city has to offer! Kitchen with granite counters & stainless steel appliances. Spacious bath w/stand up shower stall & granite vanity. High ceilings, oversized windows & hardwood floor throughout. \$139,900



6411 W. WISCONSIN AVE., WAUWATOSA. Spacious condo located in the Jacobs Park neighborhood features modernized kitchen w/granite counters. Open living room w/brick fireplace. Hardwood floors throughout. \$238,400 #951153



1855 E. CAMBRIDGE #306, MILW. Totally updated 1 bedroom, 1 bath unit is priced to sell. Kitchen w/tile floor, Avonite counters, new cabinets and appliances. Fabulous bath w/jacuzzi tub. \$112,000 #900200



1028 E JUNEAU AVE. #202, MILW. Second floor efficiency at the Kniekerbocker! Superb location! Walk right out your door & you are steps away from Lake Michigan, the Calatrava, museums, shopping & restaurants. \$69,900 #968309