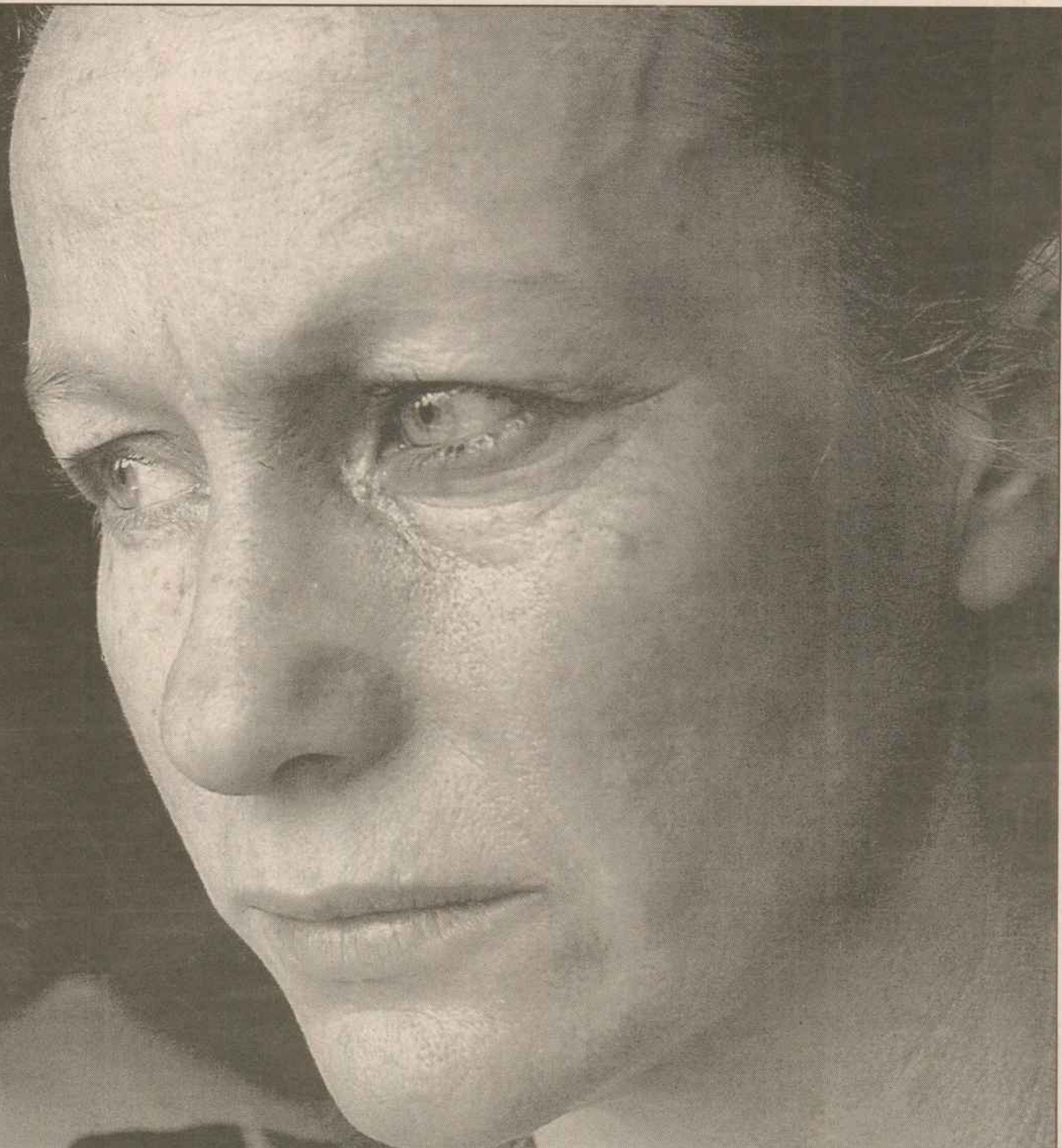




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Milwaukee's Anti-Violence Project

By Meighan Bentz, Anti-Violence Project Coordinator for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

The frightening murder of Vic Milford this year was a tragedy that brought grief and sadness, and has alerted many LGBT individuals to the cruelty of violence that caused the death of one of our own. The reality of violence, in its many forms, affects LGBT individuals on a daily basis. Violence can include assault or bias including the use of hateful language, Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Sexual Violence - such as harassment, abuse, and assault. These incidents and crimes are rarely revealed on the six o' clock news nor are they readily talked about. In fact, often the only people who know about these situations are the victims and the perpetrators of these violent acts.

The growth in awareness that was burgeoned in January occurred because formal networks such as the media, organizations, the police department, and businesses (along with informal networks consisting

of friends, family, and community members) shared information and reactions to an act of violence that very quickly became public knowledge. Many times, the forms of violence that afflict LGBT people in Milwaukee are not on the radar screens on a community scale. Due to the insular and isolated nature of our communities, informal networks remain quiet even though the collective awareness and voice that was exhibited after the murder of Vic Milford, is possible. This silence combined with the vulnerability and fear that comes with experiencing violence makes it difficult for LGBT victims to seek help.

Dr. Gary Hollander, the Executive Director and founder of Diverse and Resilient, Inc. provided a statement in response to the current climate. "Part of the difficulty with violence is that it surprises us because we can't be, or don't want to be, prepared. Common reactions to violence in our community are intense and unpredictable feelings,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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.lrc-wisconsin.org

Alcoholics Anonymous
Request gay meetings
414-771-9119

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

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

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

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
1240B 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.lagsdc.org/creamcity

Femme Mafia Milwaukee
www.myspace.com/
femmefiamke

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.milwaukeegamma.com

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

Gay/Lesbian Studies
at UWM 414-229-6402

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

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

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

Gemini Gender Group
(TV/TS/TG support/social)
P.O. Box 44211, 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

GlobalAge.org
Workplace issues and more!
www.GlobalAge.org

Great Lakes Harley Riders
P.O. Box 341611
Milwaukee, WI 53234
bootedhog@aol.com
Holiday Invitational Tournament
G/L bowling event
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.milwaukeeatennis.com

Miltown Kings
www.myspace.com/
miltownkings

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

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

Milwaukee LGBT History
Project
P.O. Box 510194
Milwaukee, WI 53203
www.mkelgbthist.org
Milwaukee Pride Parade
P.O. Box 070177
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-607-3793
www.prideparademke.org
President@prideparademke.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.ssbmilwaukee.com

Sexual Compulsives
Anonymous (SCA)
414-299-0755

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

SWANAQIM
LGBT 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.tt.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@milmcc.org

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

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

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

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

PRIDEFEST GEARS UP FOR JUNE WITH TOWN HALL, NEW WEB SITE

Milwaukee – PrideFest volunteers are busy preparing for the 2008 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender pride (LGBT) celebration scheduled for June 6, 7 & 8 at Milwaukee's Maier Festival Park (Summerfest).
"In March the community will begin to see signs of the many exciting activities that are planned for this year's festival. It's shaping up to be another incredible event," said PrideFest Communications Director Paul Williams.
A PrideFest town hall is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19 to coincide with the beginning of the festival's promotional campaign. The town hall will begin at 6:00 PM and will be held at the Hillside Family Resource Center, 1452 N. 7th Street in Milwaukee.
"We invite the community to join us as we reflect on PrideFest 2007 and preview this year's festival," said PrideFest President Scott Gunkel.
In addition, a redesigned version of the festival's web site, www.pridefest.com will be launched in early March. The site will feature a fresh, new look as well as

technical improvements.
Community members can stay updated on new festival information by visiting the web site and by signing up for e-mail alerts.
PrideFest continues to seek volunteers for its production team to help build the festival's infrastructure and deliver one of the nation's best LGBT pride events.
"PrideFest is run completely by volunteers, and it's their dedication that pulls the festival together year after year. We need the support of people who can use their skills to further develop this great community event," said Festival Producer Pete Minns.
Several volunteer positions are available at various levels of responsibility. Positions include Box Office Director; Web/IT Coordinator; Pride Guide Coordinator; Sponsorship Director; Treasurer-Elect, and Assistant positions in nearly all areas of the festival. A list of current openings and application procedures is available at www.pridefest.com and more information is available by calling 414-272-3378.
The mission of PrideFest is to celebrate the diversity of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) culture and community.

CONTENTS

Vol. 4 Issue 3 • MARCH 2008

- 5 **Our Community Speaks:** Walkers Point
- 5 Milwaukee LGBT and the Primary
- 6 **Q Wisconsin Happenings**
- 7 ARCW hires Dr. Kevin Roeder
- 8 Outwords Book Picks
- 9 **Q Health:** Queer Survival
- 9 **Q Woman:** Sexism Defined
- 10 Make A Promise Honors Nursing Profession
- 10 2008 MILMAIDS - Madison Bowling Tournament
- 11 **TAXES:** Adoptions, the IRS and Wisconsin
- 12 **Q Transgender:** Who Owns Your Story?
- 14 **Q Parenting:** Ovulation 101
- 15 **Q Youth:** Girl, you be lookin' cute today!
- 16 **Q Religion:** Bearing the Cross
- 17 **Q ZINES:** Gay Does Not Necessarily Equal Good
- 18 **Q Fitness:** Closet's, Pancakes, and Body Fat!
- 18 **Arts Calendar:** March 2008
- 19 MGAC scores coup with "Glory Box"
- 20 **This Month in LGBT History:** March 2008
- 20 **Community Calendar:** March 2008.
- 21 **MAMA Q:** Memories of the Battlefield
- 21 **Q Music:** Exploring Other Sides of Love
- 22 **So, what about...?** An Interview with Marion Araujo
- 23 **Q Theater:** In Loving Memory of My Favorite Aunt
- 23 **Q Classifieds**



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PRIDEFEST 2008 June 6, 7 & 8 at Milwaukee's Lakefront

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENTS COMING SOON!

PrideFest Town Hall

6-7:00pm, Wednesday, March 19th, 2008

Hillside Family Resource Center
(1452 N. 7th Street, Milwaukee, WI)

Join PrideFest organizers as they review PrideFest 2007 and preview this year's exciting festival.

Visit the NEW www.pridefest.com and sign up for e-mail alerts to get the very latest information and special offers!

VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

More information about openings and application procedures is available at www.pridefest.com.



VIOLENCE *continued from page 1*

repeated thoughts about an incident, recurring emotional reactions, and changes in routine behaviors. In Milwaukee LGBT communities, we may find ourselves feeling afraid, jumpy, or angry as we consider responses to street crime. We may find ourselves having conversation after conversation about violent incidents. Some may have a particular emotional response that comes back whenever they are in Walker's Point, near a favorite bar, or on weekend evenings. Still others will begin to stay home, increase their alcohol consumption, or isolate from friends.

Organizations, programs, and community awareness can each aid in coping with violence. They provide help with dealing with incidents, aid individuals in talking and listening, increase the realization that the survivors are not alone in their reactions, and move us toward regaining our daily routines. Anti-violence movements can also assist community members to get prepared for the possibility of violence so that our responses to it are not so unpredictable or unmanageable."

When discrimination is experienced in society, we become easily wary of coming out and seeking services. This is especially true for victims of violence; and assumptions that the law enforcement, attorneys, psychotherapists, and other service providers will be blatantly discriminatory are warranted. However, as stated by Gary Hollander, there are resources in Milwaukee that are available and safe for people to turn to.

One such resource available specifically for LGBT victims of violence is the Anti-Violence Project (AVP) at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. This program began in 2001 after the murder of lesbian activist Juana Vega shook up our communities. The initial goal for the AVP was to increase awareness of LGBT identities and dynamics at mainstream organizations that make up a network of service providers who assist victims of violence in Milwaukee.

Creating safe spaces for LGBT victims of violence remains a mission for the AVP, and is carried out through training and educational outreach. In 2005, the victim advocacy component of the AVP began, and over the past two years has helped 250 LGBT victims of violence and

provided education for over 1,000 members of the LGBT community of Milwaukee.

Services provided include safety planning, crisis counseling, advocacy, and help in accessing emergency resources. The AVP also provides referrals to advocates and organizations that make up the service provider network previously mentioned. We work hard to provide capacity building opportunities for other organizations that work with victims of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and training is facilitated to assist other providers in understanding how to support LGBT victims of violence.

Some forms of violence, such as the recent murder and hate crime in Los Angeles of 15-year old Lawrence King, killed by one of his classmates for gender expression and sexual orientation, reveals visible hatred that affects LGBT individuals. Other forms of violence, such as Domestic Violence (DV) are not as visible. It is difficult for people to know when friends or they themselves are being abused. Often relationships involve subtle forms of manipulation that do not appear to be abusive. DV can occur between people in dating relationships, long-term partnerships, between family members and in platonic relationships such as roommate situations. Some of the signs of abuse include:

- No longer having control over or access to your own finances
- Made to feel bad about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity and expression
- Not allowed to spend time with friends, or do things on your own
- Forced to have sex when you do not want to
- Prevented from using protection when having sex, or your partner refuses to use protection
- Experience of physical violence

If you are experiencing abuse, the most important thing to do is to tell someone you trust. This may be someone you do not already know, such as a service provider. Advocacy for DV situations can be found at the Task Force on Family Violence, and there are understanding therapists throughout the Milwaukee area. If you have a friend who is experiencing relationship abuse, one of the most important things that can be done for them is acknowledging that you know they are being hurt and letting them know that there are resources available to help them. It is not always safe to abruptly leave abusive relationships and it is best to receive help in doing so. Advocates can provide safety planning for obtaining resources and safely dealing with the situation.

As we process incidents of violence that occur in our communities, homes, and around our nation, it is important to keep in mind that there is strength in our networks of friends and chosen families, and support in both LGBT and mainstream organizations. Individual and community response to violence reflects human emotions that come from the core of who we are. Sometimes this is directed outward and embraced by a collective group of people, and other times this is taken inward for reasons of safety, fear, or grief. While we are already remembering the LGBT individuals we have lost in 2008, let's use our reactions to create action. The movement towards making our society safer for LGBT individuals began a long time ago. As our strength and pride in our identities grow, so too can our strength to work towards improving the climate we live in grow – making it safer for all.

Resources and information can be found at the AVP page on the website of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, www.mkelgbt.org, The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St, Milwaukee. 414-271-2656

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LGBT Center
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee

INFO:

414-841-3707

womensvoicesmilwaukee@
yahoo.com

WHAT: THE 7th ANNUAL YOUNG WOMYNS EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

YWEC is a three day, two night conference for all Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Allied female identified persons aged 24 and under. The cost is \$25.00 and scholarships are available. YWEC is also looking for adult role models to help out!

WHERE: Camp Minikani, Germantown, WI 53033 USA

WHEN: May 2nd, 3rd & 4th 2008

For more information or to register, contact Rachel Coles at (414) 292 3071 or rcoles@mkelgbt.org



Milwaukee

LGBT Community Center * 315 West Court Street * Milwaukee, WI 53212 * 414.271.2656 * www.mkelgbt.org

1998 - 2008: CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF BUILDING COMMUNITY

Our COMMUNITY Speaks!

Is this the Best Use of the Milwaukee Police in Walkers Point?

By Jim Collins

Since the robbing and killing of a gay man near 2nd and Walker St in Walkers Point just over a month ago, much talk of past problems in the area, and the need for additional police presence has occurred. But has anything really changed?

I have either observed first-hand, or been told first-hand accounts by others, of four situations that tell me that we may be worse off now than we were in January.

The first instances happened following the monthly "straight bar takeover" held by the Milwaukee Guerrilla Gay Bar group. Held at Steny's Tavern, just a block from the killing, the group's leadership wanted to demonstrate to the businesses and neighbors in the area, and the gangs, that we were not to be deterred, and to encourage gays and lesbians to "take back" the neighborhood; to not stay away. The event was the group's largest so far - over 250 LGBT people descended on Steny's for the takeover.

And yet, two things occurred that made me begin to question the effectiveness of the police presence. Around 9:15pm, as I began to park, I observed an unmarked police car in the area. I first thought, "good, they're around" But then quickly realized; I had immediately spotted them. They were parked in an obvious a police car at the same corner on which the murder had occurred, with the engine running. What gang or murderer would be stupid enough to return to the same corner to attempt another robbery - especially with so-obvious a police car right there?

A few hours later, several takeover participants were sitting in their car talking, deciding whether to go to the MGGB group's "after party" location. They were suddenly surrounded by police, ordered out of the car, rudely handled, and left puzzled over what they might have done to attract such overwhelming attention. They were given no explanation, and sent on their way. This incident left a very negative impression of police heavy-handedness on a large number of people.

Two weeks after the murder, two friends of mine parked their car within a block of Boom/Room, in a well-lit spot on the street, and went inside for about an hour. Upon their return to the car, they found a window smashed and contents of the car stolen. This told them that additional police presence, if there was in fact any, was obviously ineffective. They are hesitant to return to the neighborhood anytime soon.

The fourth incident occurred on the night of Tuesday February 19th. The gay bars

in the area had scheduled a "make-up" Mardi Gras for that night, because "Fat Tuesday" had been snowed out two weeks earlier. But at 9:50pm, just as Switch was expecting customers from the Mardi Gras crawl to arrive, FIVE police personnel entered to conduct a license check, and immediately intimidated both customers and employees by an apparent show of force. The 5 officers spent the next 22 minutes doing virtually nothing useful. All 5 took a walk throughout the bar, and then as two of the officers examined Switch's various paperwork, the other 3 stood around and talked. After the police finally left, those of us in the bar lamented the waste of police manpower, and taxpayer money, on so futile a visit.

So what has changed since the murder? If there is more police presence, it is in the wrong areas, and by officers who are either too poorly trained or supervised (or both) to be effective. If police want to be in the background, then don't park an obvious unmarked squad on the corner with the engine running. If the police want to be visible and truly looking out for trouble, then be in marked cars cruising the streets, not parked in a single spot from which only 10-15% of the area is visible. And what effect do they expect to have by running license checks? Even if that function is still necessary, a license check visit to a bar should not need five officers: a visit of three officers should suffice, while the other two cruise the area as backup in a squad car - showing neighborhood presence even as the license check proceeds.

This begs the question: who is managing our police forces? What are they trying to do to truly change the safety of the Walkers Point area? These incidents I relate above are all giving the community a negative impression of the area and of the police. And these are just a handful - chances are good there have been other similar incidents.

Finally, we have to wonder: would there have been this much attention to the initial murder if this had not been a Miller Brewing executive, and Miller had not stepped up to offer a reward? Too many incidents get little or no attention, because there is no one prominent enough to raise the media and police's interest. Yet even with interest high, any changes made thus far seem to be futile efforts.

There is a glaring need for the new Police Chief, the Mayor, and others to make radical changes to turn things around. We need effective police presence, not more heavy-handed harassment and futile gestures.

MKE LGBT Community and the Primary

By Paul Masterson

Wisconsin's February 19 primary gave Milwaukee LGBT voters a chance to be heard in the raucous 2008 election campaign. With the national presidential campaign seesawing between select candidates of both Democratic and Republican parties and the electorate much more aware of the implications of this historical election, Milwaukee LGBT voters are more involved than ever.

For the vast majority, Democratic candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton were the only choices. Obama's victory implies that Wisconsin, too, is ready for change. But, Milwaukee's LGBT voters seemed as split between the two as the rest of the nation with a definite preference for Obama. He's also finally using the "g" word. Speaking at a recent rally in Houston, Barack Obama rebuked the politics of hate saying, "I know how easy it is for politicians to turn us on each other, to use immigrants or gay people or folks who aren't like us as scapegoats for what they do."

In a talk earlier this year, Log Cabin Republican (LCR) Wisconsin chapter president David Huibregste said there was no official endorsement of any candidate at this time. Milwaukee gay republicans raised funds for Tommy Thompson and Rudi Giuliani but now those candidates are long gone. John McCain appears to be the likely candidate. The LCR decision to endorse or non-endorse will be made at the LCR National Convention in May. It may be a difficult decision.

McCain is against gay marriage and gays in the military but opposed to a constitutional amendment to ban same sex marriage. However, he may choose a very conservative running mate so a moderate Republican approach to gay issues is unlikely. Asked if there were an LCR non-endorsement of McCain would there a movement of Obama or Clinton Republicans in the manner of the

Reagan Democrats, Huibregste would only comment that individuals would make their own choice.

Meanwhile, in Riverwest...

Locally, Milwaukee's 3rd aldermanic district (Riverwest-Eastside) had the unique distinction of having two LGBT candidates among its field of eight contenders. Sura Faraj and Patrick Flaherty, both well-known community activists, ran strong primary races. Flaherty's well-organized campaign machine, buttressed by a long list of endorsements and financial resources allowed him 4167 votes for a first place victory while Faraj took fourth position with 1596. Of the nearly 13,000 ballots cast in the 3rd district, almost half went to Faraj and Flaherty. But Nik Kovac's 3406 votes put him in second place, the position that counts.

Now Kovac and Flaherty will vie for the office of 3rd district alderman. The question is how each candidate will maneuver its forces to win the April 1st election.

Flaherty's endorsements include many regional political figures like Congresswoman Gwen Moore and State Senators Tim Carpenter and Jeff Piale as well as a broad spectrum of organizations from the Milwaukee County Democratic Party to the Shepherd Express.

A key component in the election's outcome may be Faraj. Faraj came in second with endorsements and has a solid base of supporters for whom the LGBT issue is an important one. Her website now shows her endorsement of Nik Kovac.

Flaherty's chances to become Milwaukee's first openly gay alderman are good. Ultimately, the voters focus will be on the 3rd district's real concerns: area development, public safety and green space. How the LGBT issue will factor into the equation remains to be seen.

2008 Pride Parade Board



Here's the folks gearing up to bring you another amazing pride parade.



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Wisconsin



Happenings

Community Group Announces Membership Drive

Milwaukee - The G/L Community Center & the G/L Community Trust Fund have announced their annual membership drive for 2008. Membership in the G/L Community Trust Fund helps the groups and the southeastern coalition of organizations to continue providing services to our community. Yearly the organizations in the coalition provide information, guidance, assistance and social services to the GLBT Community.



In 2007 the Trust Fund was able to give assistance to sixteen groups and programs with grants and gifts totaling over \$ 11,100.00. Over the years the G/L community Trust Fund has distributed over \$78,000.00 to the GLBT community.

Following are listed the organizations that have received gifts and grants during 2007. ARCW Food Pantry, Gay Peoples Union, G/L Building Fund, Milwaukee Gay Art's Center, Mil Counseling Center, Metropolitan Community Church, Sage/Milwaukee, WISCRAD, BestD Clinic, Gay Youth Group Mil., G/L Endowment Fund, Men's Voices Milwaukee, Galano Club, Milwaukee Pride Parade, The Queer Program, and the Gay Fathers Group.

The G/L Community Trust Fund receives no government support or community grants to help in their work, so they need your support. Memberships are \$20.00 yearly and available to everyone in the community. Membership dues and donations are tax-deductible. Gifts can be mailed to the G/L Community Trust Fund, P.O. Box 1686, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Those interested in learning more about the Community Trust Fund are invited to visit the organizations web site at www.glcommunitytrustfund.com

OUR COMMUNITY

Sentiments Worth Reviving

By Lesley Salas

If you count the first Women's Conference in Seneca Falls, New York, as a stepping-off point for modern American feminism, then we've been at it for 160 years now.

In 1848 a group of brave and outspoken dissidents of both sexes created the "Declaration of Sentiments." It asserts women's inalienable rights to vote, to have legal and marital equality, to access higher education and to become leaders in the church. Strong abolitionist women and men such as Lucretia Mott and Frederick Douglass collaborated on this historic document.

The women who met at Seneca Falls had been the backbone of the abolitionist movement. As they dreamed of full and equal participation in American society for African Americans during the 1840s, they must have experienced a moment where they looked around and said, "Hey, what about us?"

If I view the rich language of the Declaration of Sentiments with an "LGBT" lens, I can't help but ask the same question.

Too little progress has been made in the "values" war regarding LGBT people. Compare our current status to the early feminists' description of how men oppress women:

"He has created a false public sentiment by giving to the world a different code of morals for men and women, by which moral delinquencies which exclude women from society, are not only tolerated, but deemed of little account in man." (Elizabeth Cady Stanton, *A History of Woman Suffrage*, vol. 1, pp. 70-71)

Don't make me say Larry Craig! Substitute "ostensibly straight men" for "men" and "out gay men" for "women" in this passage, and you'll see what I mean.

The older I get, the more I resent the pseudo-morality that serves as a means of social control in our society. In my view, the

actions of people like Fred Phelps, the preacher who celebrated Matthew Shepard's gay-bashing murder ten years ago, are fundamentally indecent.

I propose we focus on all the "LGBT missionaries" in Milwaukee. For example, Alliance School founder and lead teacher Tina Owen is on a crusade to make a safe haven for kids who have been bullied in regular schools.

Young people who are harassed because of their sexual orientation or gender variance often face the same or worse treatment at home. After growing up in a world that has bombarded them with "Christian" speechifying, emotional and physical abuse, many of these teens don't believe in themselves, much less that they're going to finish high school. Yet Tina has achieved a 93% graduation rate for her school since its founding in 2005. And she has disciples....

Lee was a lesbian teen whose life was spiraling out of control when she discovered the Alliance School. At her lowest point, she considered suicide. "I never thought I'd walk across that stage" to become Alliance's first graduate, she says. She credits Tina with giving her the confidence booster of her life, and is now on the path to becoming a lay missionary in her own right. Now identified as trans, Lee is planning to pursue a teaching degree at UW-M (along with training in body piercing) to serve a role model for the next generation. (Just because we're on a mission to help others, it doesn't mean we have to lose our flava....)

So for all of you who struggle daily to live righteously despite the "false public sentiment" of the dominant culture, I salute your courage and truly Christ-like behavior. Tina, Lee and everybody else who goes the extra mile for our people, you give me the strength to get up in the morning.

And to all you tired moralizers, you are so two centuries ago....

PFLAG welcomes Dr. Robert Minor

Milwaukee - Robert Minor, founder of The Fairness Project, will speak on "Looking at Homophobia in a New Way" at the March 16 meeting of PFLAG Milwaukee. The meeting will begin at 5:00 p.m. at Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 9235 W. Blue Mound Road. It is open to the public, with no admission charge.

Dr. Minor, professor of religious studies at the University of Kansas, is the author of several books, including, "When Religion Is an Addiction," "Gay and Healthy in a Sick Society," and "Scared Straight." His current research is on gender studies and the relationships of religion, gender, and sexuality.

And if you can't make it on the 16th, head to:

The Anti-gay Obsession of the Religious Right-wing

Milwaukee - Outwards Books is delighted to offer the program, "What really fuels the anti-gay obsession of the religious right-wing?" at 7:00pm on Monday, March 17th - an intriguing alternative to perils of excessive consumption of "green beer."

Leading the discussion is Dr. Robert N. Minor, Ph.D., author of the recently released book, "When Religion Is an Addiction," an eye-opening investigation and pull-no-punches exposé.

"The high of righteousness is the same as the high of cocaine," says popular psychological speaker Dr. John Bradshaw.

"Dr. Minor examines how a large portion of the right-wing uses religion the way an addict uses their addiction, including its obsession with politics today as its new high." He examines the often-found relationship between sexual and religious addiction, shows how liberals have been enablers, and recommends new strategies to respond to religious addicts. The religious right-wing in the US is on a bender and its latest fix is politics.

"When Religion is an Addiction" is published by HumanityWorks! Previous books by Dr. Minor include "Gay and Healthy in a Sick Society: The Minor Details" which was a Finalist for the Independent Publisher Book Award in 2004, and was named in national reviews as one of the best gay books of 2003. His "Scared Straight: Why It's So Hard to Accept Gay People and Why It's So Hard to Be Human" was also published by HumanityWorks! in 2002 and was named a Finalist for both a Lambda Literary Award and the Independent Publisher Book Award

A national resource for information on gender issues and gay/straight relationships for organizations, businesses, educational institutions, and media outlets such as NBC and USA Today, Dr. Robert N. Minor, Ph.D. has been speaking, consulting, and leading workshops for over ten years. A native of Milwaukee, he received the Ph.D. in Religion from the University of Iowa in 1975 and an M.A. in Biblical Studies from Trinity Divinity School in Chicago.

Dr. Robert N. Minor, Ph.D. will sign copies of

"When Religion Is an Addiction," following the discussion. This is a free event and all are welcome. Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. For further information, visit www.outwardsbooks.com or call (414) 963-9089.

Good Times for MKE's LGBT Center

LGBT Center awarded \$16,600

Funded through a collaborative partnership with the City of Milwaukee Health Department and the Milwaukee Community Tobacco Coalition, the primary purpose of the grant funding will be to implement an educational initiative to address community-wide, smoke-free air policy change and spread the word on the dangers of tobacco use.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will refer clients who use tobacco to the Wisconsin Quit Line, Fax to Quit Program, or other evidence-based tobacco addiction treatment services.

According to the National Coalition for LGBT Health, LGBT individuals are 40-70% more likely to smoke than non-LGBT individuals, making the LGBT population one of the highest smoking rates affected sub-populations. In addition, the American Cancer Society estimates that over 30,000 LGBT people die each year of tobacco related diseases.

For additional information please access the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center website at www.mkelgbt.org, stop by the Center for additional information, or call the Wisconsin Quit Line today at 1-800-QUIT NOW.

New Board Members!

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center held its annual meeting on February 7, 2008 and the membership elected Daniel Klingler to the board of directors. Klingler, a long-time volunteer and donor to the Center said, "Throughout my professional and educational career, all roads have led me back to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center."

Klingler, a half Blackfoot Native American Indian and the Director of Education for the Academy Waukesha - Paul Mitchell Partner School has a wide array of talents to offer to the Center. Klingler has experience with grant writing, theater, budgets and leadership development.

During its January board meeting, The Center's board elected new member Jeff Arnstein - who, until recently was the Chief Financial Officer for NYC's Arcus Foundation.

"Although I'm currently based out of New York, my roots are still very much tied to Milwaukee," says Arnstein. "My partner of 16 years serves on the New York LGBT Community Center board and we both look forward to how we can give back to our community in a meaningful way."

Arnstein, a certified public accountant and graduate of Columbia Business School's Institute for Non-Profit Management for Senior Executives has worked closely with non-profit boards in the past.

Sue Haertel, Center board Co-President says, "This is a very exciting time. We are moving in such a powerful and positive direction, and we're happy to have people like Daniel Klingler and Jeff Arnstein who are willing offer their skill base and connections to help us."

In addition, the Center and the board are extremely grateful to outgoing board secretary Stephanie Knuteson, who has been a board member since 2002. She has spent countless hours in her role as Board Secretary and as a member of the Finance Committee. Stephanie exemplifies the best in dedicated and committed volunteers at the Center.

The Center and its staff look forward to the hard work and imagination that will be brought to the board by its incoming members this year.

And to Keep those Good Times Coming....

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center appreciates donations of all types - cash, checks, credit and debit cards, and even gifts of stock - and seeks to provide a variety of ways in which its members and supporters can make charitable contributions.

One of the most common means of giving is the recurring gift, which is an ongoing commitment to the Center that:

- Lets you decide how much to give to the Center and how frequently
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- Allows you to give via a direct transfer from you checking account or credit card.
- Limits solicitation for a donation to the Center to once a year
- And, most importantly, helps the Center to sustain its new and existing programs and services, which include: Project Q, Anti-Violence Project Many Men-Many Voices, Community Organizing, Foster Parenting, Breast Cancer Awareness, Financial Wellness

If you are interested in learning more about making a recurring gift through direct deposit, please contact Patrick Price, Director of Philanthropy, at (414) 292-3065 or pprice@mkelgbt.org.

Take Me Out - to the Ball Game Concessions



Milwaukee - The Saturday Softball Beer League (SSBL) - Milwaukee announces its Miller Park Concession Training Session, Saturday, March 8th at 2:30PM at the Milwaukee Gay Art Center (MGAC).

Each year SSBL-Milwaukee raises funds by staffing Miller Park concessions during Milwaukee Brewers' home games. This effort allows SSBL-Milwaukee to support its league and produce the internationally attended Dairyland Classic Gay Softball Tournament.

Additionally, this year SSBL has won its bid to bring the Gay Softball World Series to Milwaukee in 2009. In order to raise the funds necessary to meet all its goals, SSBL is appealing to fans and supporters to volunteer at Miller Park with SSBL team players.

All volunteers must attend a training session to qualify.

A special training session for volunteers will be held at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street, Milwaukee on Saturday, March 8 at 2:30pm. Session will last 90 minutes.

For more information or to RSVP and make a reservation for training, contact Mona Garcia at monaandata@aol.com or call 262-617-1269

ARCW

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Hires Dr. Kevin Roeder to Lead Mental Health Clinic

Green Bay, WI- The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has named Dr. Kevin Roeder as its new Director of Behavioral Health Services. Dr. Roeder will begin his tenure with ARCW by launching a new location of the ARCW Mental Health Clinic in Green Bay.

"I am very pleased to begin leading the high-quality mental health program at ARCW," Dr. Roeder said. "Initiating mental health care services in Green Bay is another example of the strong commitment by ARCW to provide services to everyone with HIV in Wisconsin regardless of where they live."

Beginning in March, ARCW social work case manager Mike Larkey, MSW, will take on a new role as a mental health therapist and join Dr. Roeder in providing therapy to Green Bay area patients. ARCW expects to provide therapy to 50 patients by the end of 2008.

"Mental health therapy is an essential component of comprehensive health care for people living with HIV, many of whom face depression, anxiety, alcohol and other drug use issues and post-traumatic stress disorder," Dr. Roeder said. "ARCW mental health programs assist people living with HIV overcome these serious issues and help them successfully adhere to their medical treatments."

ARCW is Wisconsin's largest provider of

outpatient HIV health care. Currently more than 1,200 people receive medical, dental and mental health care through the ARCW Medical Center with locations in Green Bay, Kenosha and Milwaukee. More than 190 people living with HIV receive mental health services through the ARCW Mental Health Clinic. People living with HIV can also access key social services such as food pantries, legal services, housing support and social work case management to ensure success in their medical treatment at ARCW.

For more information about the ARCW Medical Center please call 1-800-359-9272, ext 6800.

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Community Support



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L-R, Brian (standing in for Melissa of M's) Betz (Walkers Pint) Bill (Fluid) Pam (MONA's) Chris and Mike (LaCage)



Outwards Books

Top 5 Picks for February

New & Noteworthy Fiction for March
Exclusive to Q Life.

FOR THE BOYS:

1. **"Blind Fall," Christopher Rice** When John Houck returns to the States from Iraq, he is determined to make amends with his commanding officer, Capt. Mike Bowers. Instead, John discovers Mike gruesomely murdered in his bed. John, who had no idea Mike was gay, reluctantly joins forces with Alex Martin, Mike's live-in boyfriend, to bring the killer to justice.
2. **"We Disappear," Scott Heim** When the murder of a teenage boy haunts Donna—a recent widow battling cancer, she turns to her son, Scott, who is fighting demons of his own. What Scott finds is a boy named Otis handcuffed in a secret basement room. With his mother's health rapidly deteriorating, he must unravel Otis's unsettling connections to other missing teens... and, ultimately, to Scott himself.
3. **"Gentleman Jigger," Richard Bruce Nugent**, Written in 1928—and never before published, "Gentleman Jigger" is the story of two brothers. Aeon, who passes for white and becomes a famous poet, faces the conundrums of love across the color line. Stuart, who is openly homosexual, joins the younger intellectuals of Harlem in defying authority figures, both black and white, at the notorious "Niggeratti Manor."

4. **"The Protector," N.L. Gallert** In defiance of his crime boss father, Soren flees to the FBI for help. Mason Ward, former US Army Ranger and security specialist is hired to protect Soren. He thinks it will be easy money but Soren's physical presence brings up desires Mason would rather not feel. Now Mason has to keep his mind on his job while being chased by thugs sent to bring Soren Buchanan home...dead or alive.

5. **"Code of Conduct," Rich Merritt** Don Hawkins has spent the better part of his life as a U.S. Marine, becoming the unofficial leader of a group of gay servicemen. Then Don falls for Patrick, a handsome young helicopter pilot. As their relationship develops, forces are at work in the Naval Investigative Service with a vicious agenda that will have unforeseen consequences...

FOR THE GIRLS:

1. **"The Lonely Hearts Club," Raddcliffe** First take three friends, add two ex-lovers and finally several new ones, then mix in more secrets than any of them know -- and the result is a recipe for explosive rivalries and incendiary romance in Raddcliffe's hottest romance to date.

2. **"Venus Besieged," Andrews & Austin Brown** Teague Richfield and basset hound Elmo head for Sedona and the sensual arms of psychic astrologer Callie Rivers for a much-needed vacation. But Teague and Callie's romantic reunion is interrupted by a provocative female shaman from Callie's past who involves the duo in a spiritual battle that takes place on a level even higher than the mystical red rocks of Sedona.

3. **"Beach Town," Ann Roberts** Closeted Kira Drake is miserable until a location shoot takes her to Ocean Beach, California, an idyllic seaside town. Away from her mother and agent, Kira meets Flynn McFadden, a gorgeous veterinary student and surfing instructor. Sparks fly and Kira soon realizes she must choose between her love for Flynn and the realization of her lifelong dream.

4. **"Deception," Erin O'Reilly** Lane Cuthbert knew exactly where she wanted to go and what she had to do to get there. Her goal was to challenge the network legal gurus for their positions, but first, she needed a juicy scandal or murder. What she found was a beautiful woman with a dark secret and in need of a lawyer.

5. **"The Right Kind of Love," Jeanne McCann** McCann's latest is a romance tested by both circumstance and the legal system, as a newly divorced woman finds passion with another woman. A lesbian relationship triggers a violent reaction from her ex-husband that puts her job, her family, and her new lover in jeopardy.

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

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Queer Survival

An ongoing set of studies involving queer women in California sheds some light on the health of all LGBT people in the US, even here in Wisconsin. These studies show that lesbians and bisexual and "homosexually-experienced" heterosexual women reported a greater variety of health conditions and limitations compared with exclusively heterosexual women.



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.

That information is not new. For some time, we have known that these health disparities exist and are real. However, these disparities mostly disappeared in the California studies when researchers took stress levels into account. For men, differences in health complaints may reflect the ongoing burden of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in the gay community. But for more than a decade now, "minority stress" has been viewed as the culprit behind these disparities.

Minority stress refers to that set of internal responses to incidents and experiences of bias and discrimination. It shows up as the consequence of ill treatment, poor interactions, limited opportunity, inadequate support, situations that are too challenging, caustic comments, community violence, and hate.

Minority stress is evident in our nutrition, cognition, rumination, and digestion. It shows up in our poor health behaviors, our slowed

responses, and our running from our problems. Minority stress looks like the flu, obesity, smoking, bingeing on anything, headaches, failed relationships, and chronic irritability or depression. We can track that last quart of Hagen Daz downed in one night to minority stress.

By calling out this major culprit, I don't mean to infer that we have no responsibility in our own health. Indeed, we must be accountable for our health behaviors while simultaneously addressing minority stressors.

This dual task - being accountable for our own health AND addressing stressors - requires something most of us have in abundance and something with which many of us struggle. We seem to have loads of persistence. In other words, we know how to hang in there and keep going. We may throw in the towel from time to time, but we come back to issues and doggedly pursue them. It is like the longest game of chess in the world; we strategize, observe, reflect, analyze, and ponder.

We manage the stressful situations. We manage everything. This has kept us alive and we get to be pleased and proud of that fact. Our survival as queer people has not been assured.

But many of us struggle with insistence. We don't go for broke; we circumvent the problem, find alternatives. Our political discussion as LGBT people emphasizes better access to health care rather than on access to better health care. We focus on the locked door and who has the key, instead of removing the hinges and demanding parity, inclusion, and representation.

What would our days be like if we shot off just one email everyday to a local media outlet asking where our people are? How would we sleep if we examined our treatment by our employers, co-workers, or families and told them what we wanted, based not on what we thought we might be able to get, but determined by who we are as spectacular people.

Insistence on right treatment may not make us individually popular, but it may make the difference we seek. We might just heal ourselves of the effects of stress by refusing to manage.

Sexism Defined

Just have to put this out there: Women cannot be sexist. Sexism is a process that stems from having the power to impose definitions, prevent access, and to (in other ways) discriminate and deny rights. Men as a collective category have power over women as a collective category. Women cannot as a group discriminate or deny rights to men as a group. A specific individual woman may have more power than a specific individual man. She may even be able to prevent him from accessing certain resources or from getting a certain job. But, that same woman will still face sexism from our society because sexism is a consequence of structural inequality, power hierarchy and historical male privilege. She will still be subjected to jokes about members of her sex on late night TV shows or in her office break room; she will still feel the need to go out of her way to protect herself from being the victim of rape, which regardless of misleading statistics and rhetoric, is still by and large a crime perpetuated by men against women.

This woman may say things like, "all men are pigs" but she cannot do anything that would write this into law or propose legislation that would deny all men the rights to Viagra. Just as African Americans cannot discriminate against white Americans, women cannot discriminate against men. There is no reverse racism - to say this is to deny the structural, historical and systematic power relations that exist between blacks and whites and to in actuality, fall into the trap of a deeply racist rhetoric. There is no reverse sexism, to say so, is to deny the power relations between men and women and to belittle the realities of sexism that women, as a group, face every day.

Even if we do get Hillary Clinton into office, this would still be a sexist society. Just look at the trajectory of her campaign - no other candidate has been subjected to the same questions, doubts, and jokes. No other candidate has had *his laugh* dissected and criticized by the media. As long as ignorance is a more easily traded currency than education, sexism will still be around.

When people can create jobs and names for themselves based upon their certain style of sexism, or racism, or



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.

homophobia - (I'm thinking here of certain talk show hosts, comedians, politicians, even authors) we have a deeply entrenched problem that isn't helped when people continue to misuse and fail to accurately define the realities of these painful sources of inequality and discrimination.

We live in a stratified society that rewards certain people with more power and access to resources than others. Our society is stratified by lines of race, class, and gender/sex, as well as by sexual orientation. I shouldn't have to go through the basics of Sociology 101 because one look around should be enough to let you know who has more power and access and who doesn't. We are also stratified within categories - that is to say that there is plenty of racism, sexism, and class-ism within the Lesbian and Gay and LGBT communities.

In honor of women's history month, let's all vow to take the "Educate yourself about sexism" challenge - it's time we really started to look at *power* in this community. We can't ignore its realities by changing its name, changing our names, or dusting off the surface. Inequalities and isms stem from deeply rooted historical power dynamics, not from individual acts, comments, or beliefs. These individual acts are situated within, get support from, and add to the larger structural relations of power, and can contribute to them, but they are not the main source of discrimination.

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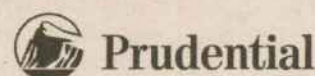
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Queer Life is the information voice of the LGBT community. As a monthly publication and the only state-wide gay newspaper headquartered in Milwaukee, each issue celebrates Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. From what's happening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

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Make A Promise Honors Nursing Profession

1982. I was fifteen years old when I first remember hearing the word "AIDS." It was presented to me as "some kind of cancer affecting only homosexual men". I wasn't a gay man, and didn't know anyone gay, so how could it possibly affect me? At fifteen, a health crisis of such magnitude was incomprehensible.

I couldn't imagine then, that by the time I was thirty, I would have lost friend after friend after friend to the disease. The final loss being so difficult to accept, I turned to alcohol to numb the reality of it all.

In those early years, my friends and I went from being told not to touch, kiss, share food, or even swim (a high school gym teacher told us this!) with an HIV+ person, to reading media accounts that were, for the most part, homophobic, to finally the arts - where plays such as "The Normal Heart," "Angels in America," and "As Is", provided a different form of information, education, and healing. And who hasn't heard of the AIDS quilt? I haven't had the honor of seeing it in person, but the photos of it laid out on the Mall in Washington D.C speak volumes of just how much HIV/AIDS has affected the world, not just the LGBT community.

No-one knew back in the early years just how long we would be dealing with this epidemic, or that there would be people in their 20's now, who have never experienced a world without AIDS.

The nearly - sixty Wisconsin nurses being honored April 5th at the 22nd annual Make A Promise Gala hosted by AIDS Resource Center of WI (ARCW), also had no idea how long they'd be dealing with HIV/AIDS - but they were always there. Always in the front lines, but never in the limelight, the courageous, dedicated nurses administered care, held hands, provided comfort, and never ever discriminated.

Make A Promise began twenty-two years ago by a group of gay men who were concerned about AIDS. They began a dinner party to raise funds for the Milwaukee AIDS Project, (now ARCW) which at that time was caring for many of their friends suffering with the disease. They made a promise to have the dinner every year to raise money, and over the years it evolved

into the formal gala it is today. This year, ARCW wishes to acknowledge the tireless work of WI nurses and nurse practitioners (each from various medical clinics) who have been great educators, and health care providers for HIV care and treatment.

"It's going to be a very powerful, emotional, spectacular celebration - for good reasons," said Doug Nelson, President of ARCW. "If you go back to the beginning of HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin, back in 1985, there was a lot of fear, and a lot of unknown. It was nurses who were the great educators about what AIDS was. These nurses where there never fearing this disease, and always fighting the stigma around it."

In those early days, when people were getting sick, and dying quickly from AIDS, it was nurses who comforted them through their final days. Thankfully, much progress has been made, and the disease today, is very different.

"People with HIV have a chance for a long and healthy life," says Nelson, "but they've got to be in medical care to have that chance. And once again, it is nurses who are helping people with HIV to adhere to these medical treatments. We are long overdue in celebrating the accomplishments of these nurses."

Nurses such as Mary Busalacci, who has strictly worked in the HIV/AIDS field since the early 80's at the beginning of the epidemic.

"I really think it's wonderful to be honored. I know that sounds cliché, but nurses are typically behind the scenes, and in the shadows of the doctors, so it's just wonderful -and to be honored and as a group."

Busalacci, who started out in home care, joined the downtown office of Dr. Gilson at the Aurora Medical Group in 1992. "We met at the beginning of the epidemic, and I've seen the disease change dramatically. That is why I can be really passionate about keeping

people on track with health care. I see how important the results are of doing what you need to do to live with chronic illness."

Busalacci, who started working with ARCW on the plans for this event last year, while she was president of the WI Nurses Association in AIDS care will accept the award on behalf of the nurses.

Sharon O'Dwyer, a nurse practitioner working for Milwaukee's ARCW for the last five years, is also the Clinical Director for the Kenosha ARCW office. Since 1992, she has been working with HIV/AIDS and did HIV care

in storefronts in several Chicago neighborhoods where HIV cases were the highest.

"The biggest honor for me is that it is really a privilege to take care of the patients I have taken care of," says O'Dwyer. "They have really taught me so much. And I think it is good to honor all people who are involved in this type of work. I'm just really thrilled that they've chosen the nursing profession."

The Make A Promise Gala takes place April 5th, at the Midwest Airlines Center, (400 W. Wisconsin Avenue) and brings a flair of "Swing" with it this year. Big Band music supplied by Milwaukee's own Swing Nouveau will help event goers cut a rug, following a silent auction, dinner, and celebration of nurses and nurse practitioners. Proceeds from the event support the prevention, care and treatment programs of ARCW, serving 3,000 people living with HIV disease throughout Wisconsin

"I really urge people who have been a part of the fight against HIV to turn out and say thank you to these nurses," says Nelson. "You can't help but know that you're contributing to that long legacy of those gay men who 22 years ago started Make A Promise, and also to celebrate the nurses who have been such a big part of this effort."



2008 MILMAIDS-Madison Bowling Tournament

Save the date! April 12, 2008 - MILMAIDS is a charitable bowling tournament that was started in 1985 in response to the AIDS crisis. This annual Tournament alternates locations between Madison and Milwaukee with all proceeds going to AIDS Organizations chosen by the host city. This year's beneficiary will be Madison's AIDS Network. This benefit tournament will raise funds to be used exclusively for direct client services. The event promises to be a great time and you don't have to be a good bowler to participate.

If you'd like to bowl, just contact Bret Dougherty at (608) 223-0488 bdddougherty@sbcglobal.net for a registration

form. Or a registration form may be printed from the AIDS Network website, www.aidsnetwork.org, and look under Events. The cost of the tournament is \$30 if paid in advance, \$35 if paid after March 28, 2008. The price includes bowling, buffet, prizes and donation. The tournament will be held at Bowl-A-Vard on Madison's east side. There's only space for 400 bowlers so get your registration forms in soon as it fills up quickly. Spectators and bowling enthusiasts are encouraged to attend and show your support for a great cause.

TAXES

Adoptions, the IRS
and Wisconsin

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 wary GLBT community does not think of the government as a helpful ally in any process, especially a process as personally meaningful as adoption. But really, the Internal Revenue Service is helpful. Tax credits are available of up to \$11,390 for each child that gay or lesbian couples adopt, which goes a long way to ease the high costs of the adoption process. It is the State of Wisconsin adoption laws that complicate the adoption process for gay and lesbian couples.

For instance, Judy and Maria, who live on Milwaukee's South Side, want to share their love with a child. Their eyes are set on Jill, a 6-year old dark haired cutie, living in Venezuela. The house glowed in anticipation of the new family member, as they looked to a place no one really thinks of for help: The IRS. The energetic parents pulled together the attorney fees, court costs, adoption fees, pre-adoption fees and brought them to their nearby Certified Public Accountant, Tom.

He advises them on their finances each year, and had already instructed them two years ago to:

- keep track of all of their 2007 expenses for adopting the child
- Detail and file travel, lodging, meals, lawyer costs, adoption fees, court costs and other related costs.

Judy and Maria explain they plan to bring Jill home the summer of 2008 and that the final adoption papers are expected by the end of this year.

Tom explains, "Because you have adopted a child from outside the United States, you cannot obtain the tax credit until the final adoption papers are processed. Hopefully the papers will come in 2008 and not be held up until 2009. The total expenses are still eligible for the credit, but the timing depends on the processing of the final adoption papers."

He continues, "If you had adopted an American born child, the expenses could be taken as a credit each year for the child until the \$11,390 was used up or when the adoption is complete, whichever comes first."

Maria responds, "That's good to know but what wrinkle in the law effects us since we can't marry?"

The law states that only those who are a party to the adoption can take the credit. In other words, in Wisconsin only a married couple or a single person can adopt a child. For Judy and Maria, that means the credit is limited to the adoptive parent, which is Judy. At the outset of adoption, plans were for Judy to pay all the expenses since she has the higher income and could use the whole tax credit.

After more questions and discussion, Judy and Maria soon return to their home on Milwaukee's South Side. They stop at Leon's for a well-deserved chocolate sundae and talk excitedly about their upcoming trip to pick up their new family member.

Some Adoption Expenses Not Allowable as a Credit:

- Surrogate parenting arrangement.
- The adoption of your spouse's child.
- Reimbursements by any state, local or federal program.
- Expenses deducted elsewhere on the taxpayer's tax return.
- Reimbursements by an employer's adoption plan.



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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.

A long-time leader in our community came into public attention after being arrested and convicted for pursuing an intimate relationship with a minor. His story was published in non-LGBT press and the news traveled quickly through the LGBT community. His story

Who Owns Your Story?

our community for other leaders to develop a panel discussion on consent, abuse and "intergenerational" relationships.

There has been disagreement about who has the right to talk about his situation, to name him, and whether or not it was appropriate to use him as the impetus for further, respectful discussion on the subject.

One core question emerges about where the line is between what is "public knowledge" vs. what encroaches on an individual's right to privacy. Similarly, just because his arrest is part of the public record does not mean he should always be associated with only those actions. Who gets to decide how history is recorded? What knowledge is made public and what is kept private?

When I transitioned, nearly 15

years ago, I gave my family and friends partial "rights" to my transness. My transness wasn't solely my own copyrighted material, since everyone in my life "owned" a part of me - the part of my story that they were in, the part of their story that I was in.

When I came out to my parents, I knew they would end up paralyzed if they didn't have the option of coming out to their friends, colleagues, co-workers, and neighbors in ways that felt comfortable to them - on their own timetable and in their own way. I knew, of course, that my transness would transform their language and how they chose to write me into or out of the stories they told their friends. They could, as some parents do, continue to use the name they gave me - and the pronoun the doctor declared - in all their interactions. They could choose to awkwardly sidestep the issue when someone asked about me, redirecting the conversation to another subject, or another one of their children. They could choose - and they did - to come out to their friends and associates, gradually telling people over time, in ways that fit the dynamic of their relationship.

It was not my right to infringe on how they wished to convey this information - their stories, their lives - to their friends, even though I was the central character in that part of their story.

Fifteen years later, the tables are

turned, but the essence of this lesson still rings true.

My son is in the process of transitioning from middle school to high school. I was thrilled to learn that his new high school has a GSA (Gay / Straight Alliance).

I realized that even though I was excited about his school's GSA, I could not march in and volunteer without first discussing it with my kid. It's hard enough being in high school without having information that *might* be sensitive or stigmatizing shared without your consent.

My transness (as well as being

We each own our own experiences

a fat, disabled geek who wears pink shirts) impacts *his* life; and his life (his high-spirited nature, his father's suicide, his obsession with Naruto) impacts *my* life.

Humans are interconnected, no matter how stoically we strive to be autonomous. Our lives touch each other, and yet we each own our own experiences. Our lives are not lived in isolation - our narratives almost always include others. Can we trust and respect each other enough to allow others to tell their own truths, to share their own stories, and to live their own lives - enmeshed with ours, but still separate and unique?



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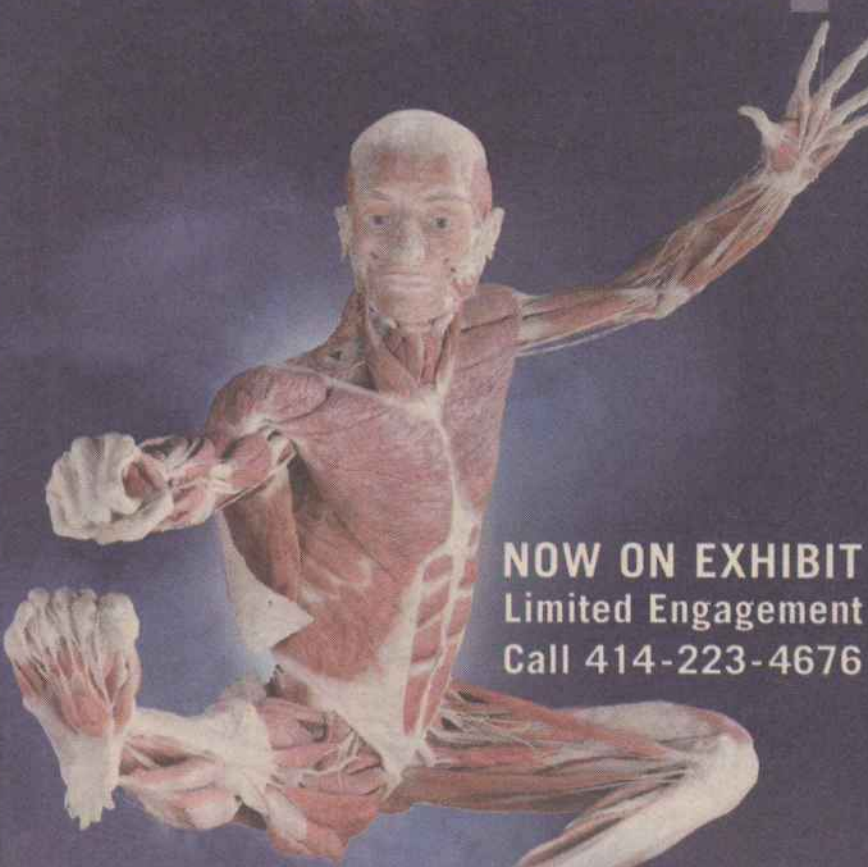
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Flaherty Wins Primary

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Patrick Flaherty, District 3 Aldermanic Candidate



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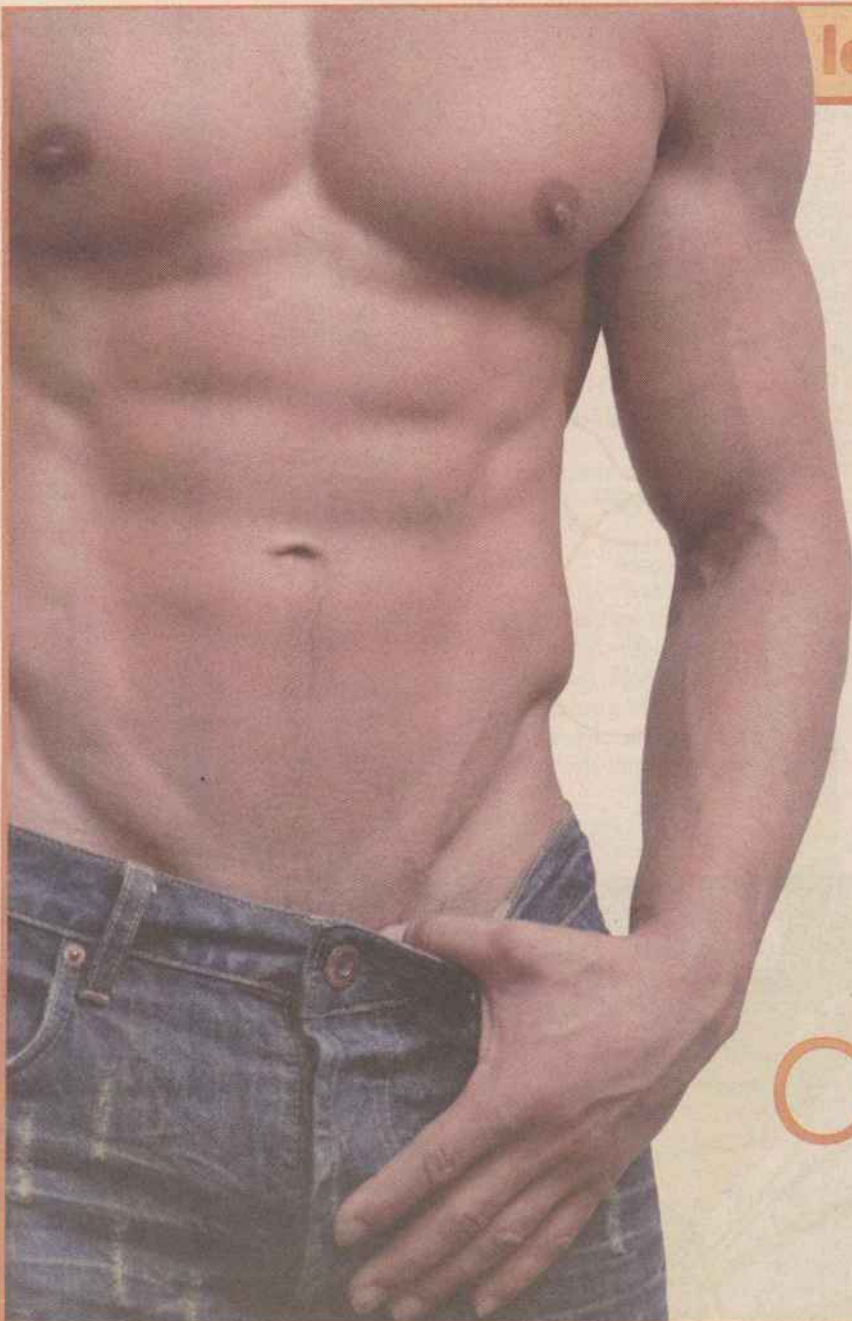
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Ovulation 101

Part II of the Science Project

It's 5:47am. The dogs are barking. They want to eat and go outside. My partner groans, "can you let them out today?"

"I can't," I say urgently.
"What do you mean you can't?"
"I have to take my temperature and pee on the stick."
My dear partner never knew that those days would only get worse. We went from "I have to test to see if I am ovulating," to "I have morning sickness and will puke", to now, "I can't get up, I am nursing the baby."

What is ovulation?

Ovulation is when an egg is released from the ovary, and it's the fertile time of your menstrual cycle. Each month, an egg matures inside your ovary. Once it reaches a certain size, the egg is released from the ovary and is swept into the fallopian tube toward the uterus.

Why should you care?

After untangling this egg mystery I could relate a headache to a certain day in my cycle, all my erroneous symptoms started to line up. It put me in touch with my body more than an

evening of the *Vagina Monologues*.

Tools to learn about ovulation

First you need time. Give yourself six months to know your cycle. Yes three months might be enough, but travel, diet, and stress all influence ovulation, so if you want to see the process and all of its variants, six months will give you a really good baseline.

Next, you need some tools (and yes one power tool.) My favorite was the Clearblue Easy Fertility Monitor. You can pick up those ovulation sticks at the local drug store for less than \$20, but they will not track your fertility like the monitor. Nor will it give you a clear idea of when you are going to ovulate. They will tell you that you are ovulating. This is more convenient



if you are having hetero-sex and can say, 'honey let's do it right now.' The fertility monitor (runs about \$150) is worth it's money if you are serious

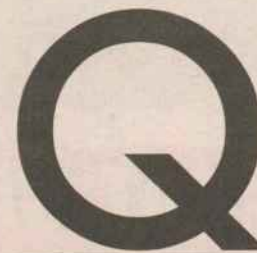
about getting pregnant. And let me make this very clear - getting pregnant can be very costly if you get a clinic involved, and the \$150 is nothing compared to fertility treatments or paying the clinic to help you track your cycle.

You need a digital basal thermometer and a chart. Take your temperature before getting out of bed at the same time every day. Use the chart listed in the resources area. It is the best chart out there (and created by a lesbian.)

Read Toni Weschler's book on tracking your fertility and start your homework. Track religiously every day. You will start to learn a lot about your body.

Why do all this work? Can't a doctor figure this all out for me?

Lesbians lack sperm and a lack of sperm does not predict infertility. While some lesbians may be infertile, you won't know that until you start tracking your cycle. The younger you are in trying to get pregnant the better



PARENTING

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

chance you have of your ovulation working as mother nature intended it to.

Going to a fertility specialist costs a lot of money and causes a lot of stress. The stress alone can cause you to not ovulate. And yes they can even shoot you up with hormones to make you ovulate. I have talked to many women getting shots of hormones to make themselves more likely to get pregnant, more likely to have multiple births and more likely to have a lot of stress. There are chat rooms full of lesbians paying \$3,000 a month to get pregnant. They try these methods for six months or a year and then don't get pregnant. Then the doctors suggest In vitro fertilization for around \$15,000 a pop. But why? Why subject yourself to that before you even know if you need a fertility specialist? It is time to pull out your inner Girl Scout and get working on your baby badge.

Resources:

Fertility Chart and great website:
http://www.maiaamidwifery.com/maia_fertility.pdf

The New Essential Guide to Lesbian Conception, Pregnancy & Birth by Stephanie Brill - owner of Maia Midwifery.

Taking Charge of Your Fertility, 10th Anniversary Edition: The Definitive Guide to Natural Birth Control, Pregnancy Achievement, and Reproductive Health (Paperback)
by Toni Weschler (Author)

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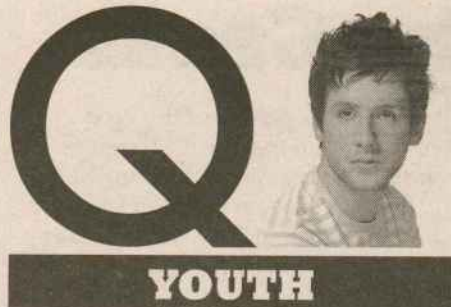
The most fascinating aspect of linguistics is the way it is always changing, and always evolving. Certain colloquialisms (or "lingo") will inevitably develop within any type of group that share certain things in common, whether that be race, religion, age, profession, or sexuality. The speech that I see developing amongst my gay friends here in Milwaukee is a truly fascinating representation of this development.

For example, most people only use the word "Mama" in reference to their mothers. However, "Hey Mama!" is typically how I answer calls on my cell phone, regardless of which friend is calling me. This occurs much to the confusion of outside listeners, who cannot seem to grasp that the definitions of words can be subjective. For us, "Mama" has no actual gender or maternal connotation. This usage is much the same as "dude," or "guys," which can often be used to refer to females as well despite their history of male specificity. "Mama" does retain a certain part of its original definition, however, in that it is an indication of love and respect that parallels the way we feel towards our actual mothers.

This sort of language development isn't anything new. Words and phrases such "fabulous," "fierce," and "working it," which today have entered the mainstream, were popularized by the rise of east coast ball culture and performers like RuPaul.

"Mama" is only one of few words for which we have altered the definition. Among them, two of the most popular are "girl" and "cute." My best friends, for instance, are "my girls," despite that many of them are male. I can also refer to any of them as "she" without thinking twice about it.

"Cute," generally used to describe



YOUTH

Harry James Hanson, a senior at Shorewood High School, is Co-President of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance, as well as an active member of both its drama department and school newspaper.

kittens or babies takes on a wildly different and often sarcastic meaning. For example, if one of my friends had told me a humorous story about how he had drunkenly thrown up all over himself the night before, my reaction would likely be: "Oh girl, that is TOO cute!"

The method of speech that we use is also atypical, in addition to the vocabulary. Oftentimes, it mirrors that which is typically associated with African American women, such as the above phrase. This is not a habit intended to mock or exhibit disrespect, but quite the opposite. We view black women as powerful, sexy, sassy and independent—qualities we all aspire to embody ourselves. In fact, I have personally observed that black women can overhear our conversations without so much as batting a false eyelash.

Of course, we do realize how ridiculous we sound, oftentimes even making each other laugh. But that is part of the purpose this language serves: it's entertaining. And yet, it fits. It's only logical that flamboyant people utilize flamboyant language. It's become part of our identities.

Aside from the humor and sarcasm, I feel like this type of speech also demonstrates a strong degree of social acceptance. It reflects our total lack of regard for the constraints our society so strongly associates with gender. And so by ignoring the traditional use of pronouns and gender-specific words, we are breaking down the gender binary. No matter what gender you are, you can always be my girl. And that's pretty cute.

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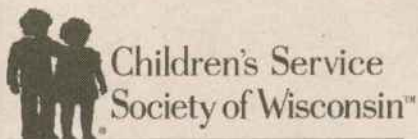
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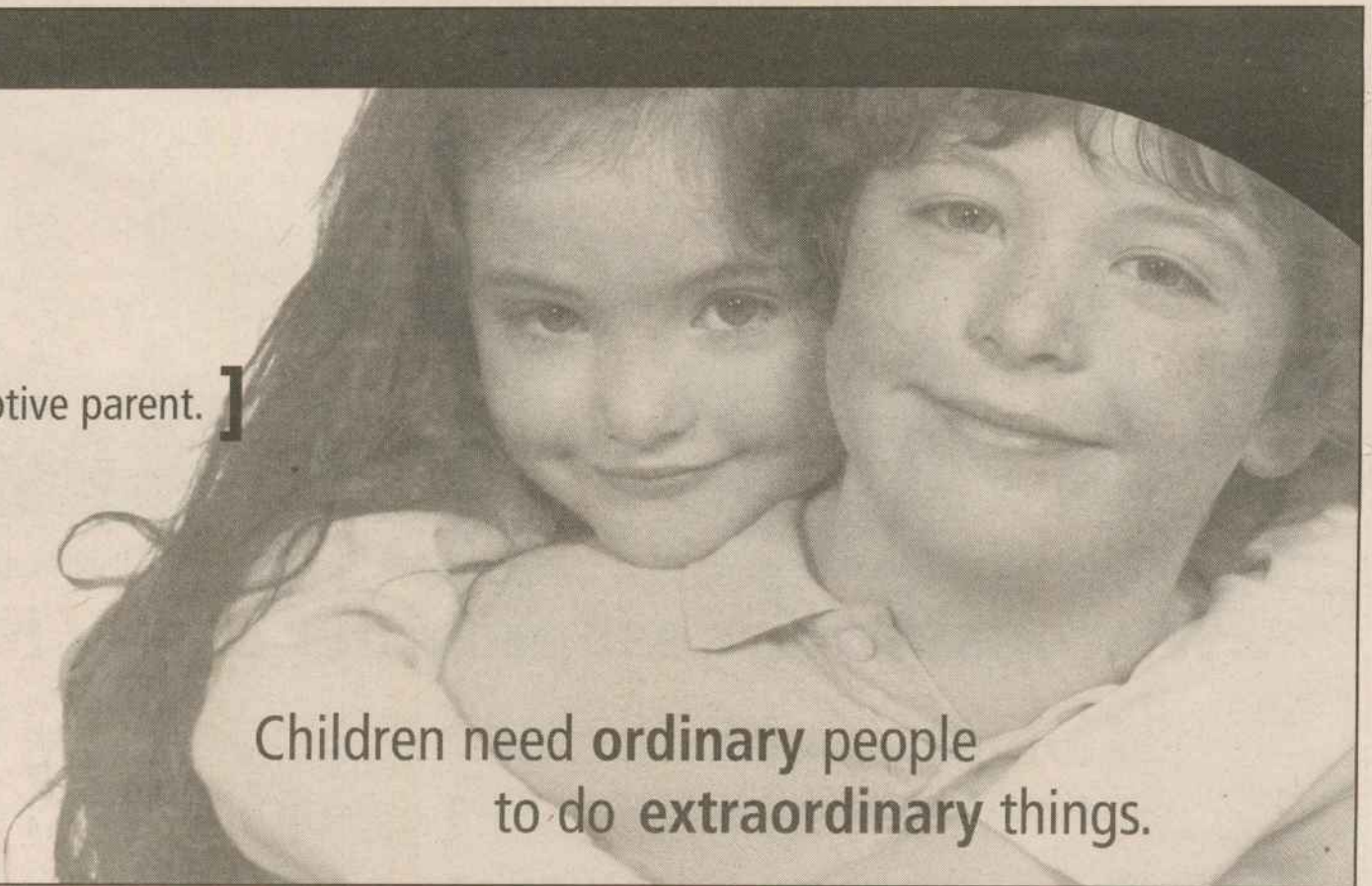
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Bearing the Cross

Am I alone in struggling with the crucifixion? The horrible moment when Jesus died – which we Christians disturbingly call Good Friday – is something from which my heart recoils. Like the women who followed him from his first days in Galilee, I want to stand back on that day; watching from afar as a beloved man painfully dies.

My own struggle with the meaning of the death of Jesus is only complicated by crass ways Christians have often talked about it, relishing in the violence of the scene (Exhibit A, Mel Gibson's "The Passion") and at the same time suggesting that all who suffer need to except it and "bear your own cross."

These common approaches to the crucifixion can be deeply spiritually damaging to the LGBT community. Homophobia and its physical expression in violence is not something we are meant to bear. The willful embrace of suffering is neither physically nor spiritually healthy.

What then, is the spiritual meaning of Jesus' last Friday? And what exactly do Christians mean when we commemorate it later this month?

In my prayer life I've returned again and again to some of the words that Jesus says on that last week and last day. Many of them come from the Book of Psalms. Most famously Jesus on the Cross cries out in agony, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken

me?" It is the opening of the 22nd Psalm, a psalm that movingly gives voice to a person persecuted unjustly.

The words from the psalm capture what it is that Jesus was undoubtedly experiencing. Yet I've come to see that this cry from the Cross was also Jesus expressing the pain and suffering of countless people throughout the centuries. For me, it is a moment when Jesus takes up the pain of the world and gives voice to the anguish of countless people who have been silenced. "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" is the prayer of thousands upon thousands.

In my faith, this reverses the

My highest calling as a Christian is to be like him – standing in solidarity with those who Suffer.

unhealthy advice to "bear your cross." Instead of suffering that I might feel close to Jesus, I find that in the Cross, Jesus has expressed solidarity with all who suffer. Suddenly it is not that I must accept gay bashing to feel close



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.

to God but that I worship the God who gives voice to those who suffer abuse.

If Jesus on the Cross is truly giving voice to those who are abused then my highest calling as a Christian is to be like him – standing in solidarity with those who suffer, giving voice to what so often remains squelched in our culture, and bearing up those who are victimized.

This month I will commemorate the day Jesus died. When I pray on Good Friday I will remember too all of those who are even now suffering in the world – a mother gathering her daughters as she flees the Janjaweed militias in Sudan, a person with AIDS struggling to afford medicine in the developing world, or a Trans-gendered man dealing with ostracism from his family and church. And as worship ends I'll remember to leave my church finding ways to be in solidarity with those who suffer.

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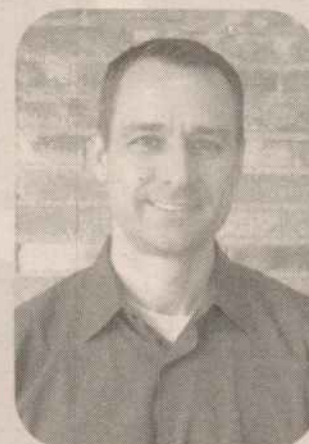
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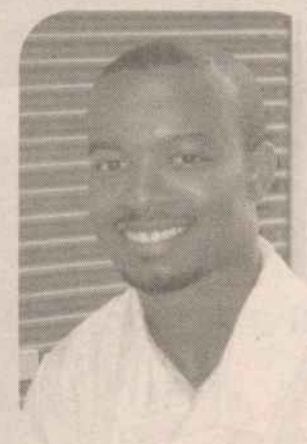
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Gay Does Not Necessarily Equal Good

As progressive queer folks learned last fall with the ENDA debacle in Congress, just because someone identifies as, or technically is by virtue of their sexual proclivities, a part of the LGBT community doesn't necessarily mean they will automatically have honorable intentions or the community's best interest at heart. Marginalized folks who have been blindsided by queer politicians, public officials, community leaders, or even just by everyday gays are sometimes left wondering "where is the rainbow?" after they get sold out or betrayed by the actions or inaction of misguided and frightening LGBT figures. Queer zines are seldom beholden to higher interests, such as a publisher or corporations, and are free to pull punches to knock out the negative actions of these bad actors and call them out for the hurt and damage they've done to individuals or entire groups.

Smells Like Teen Spirit

Perhaps the most in-depth excoriation of the (sometimes literal) skeletons in the LGBT closet arrived wrapped in a package with an unlikely name. *Teen Fag* [Issue 4, 40 pages, 1995] wasn't written by or for teens, but instead tapped into the joie de vivre and energy a queer teen might have. Editor Gordon Gordon, of Chow Chow Productions, sounded a more serious tone in this issue highlighting

the worst examples of when fags (and one dyke) are bad to an extreme. These aren't bitchy tales about trick-stealing queens, but thoughtful essays punctuated with macabre humor that looked beyond a 1970s "gay is good" ethos and grappled with how the LGBT community can reconcile rogue members who deliberately cause hurt on criminal scales.

Can't Sleep Clown Will Eat Me

Who better (or worse) to picture at the start of the article "Bad Bad Homos" than Chicago area serial killer John Wayne Gacy? The twisted hatred he possessed about his sexuality was deeply masked by the friendly façades of being both a professional contractor and a performing clown who visited sick children in the hospital. He acted out through brutally murdering young men from a vulnerable demographic - street kids and hustlers. Due to the extent of his crimes, he gained a morbid cult status and during his incarceration before his execution he allegedly had over 100,000 pen pals. Chicagoland also produced the infamous 1920s homosexual lovers Leopold and Loeb who, despite possessing high IQs and good family backgrounds, ramped up their thrill-seeking jollies from mere theft to murdering a neighbor boy. The article also discusses a case that residents of Milwaukee remember all too well and attempt to forget, that of racist chicken

hawk cannibal Jeffrey Dahmer. Rounding out the lurid tales of murders is the only lesbian on the list, Aileen Wuornos. Her killings were men who were her sex work clients and it may never be entirely clear whether these men tried to hurt Wuornos and she acted in self defense or if her violent streak simply couldn't remain in check.

Strange Bedfellows

The inner most circle of gay traitor hell is reserved for closeted and semi-closeted politicians. Currently roasting in the flames are those Pinko-baiting closet cases Roy Cohn and J. Edgar Hoover. Neither publicly came clean about their homo natures, instead they turned knives to stab at LGBT rights from inside the structure of the US Government. Both advanced policies that vilified homosexuality and ruined countless lives either through outright persecution or by keeping the anti-queer status quo alive. Cohn died an ironic death from AIDS in 1986 and missed, as Gordon points out, every opportunity to come clean and went to his grave wrapped in a self-denial that appears to be the hallmark of the most self destructive forces found within the LGBT community. By bringing to light the worst aspects of the gay community, *Teen Fag* did a favor by airing our dirty laundry in order that we may learn from the mistakes of the past to perhaps save lives, rather than take them.



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.

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

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Closet's, Pancakes, and Body Fat!

Many people who say they want to lose weight actually want to lose fat. Think about it: If forced to choose, what's more important to you - seeing a lower number on the scale or a trimmer body in the mirror? In fact, the people who successfully slim down often GAIN a few pounds. That's because they've increased their lean muscle mass while decreasing their body fat. And lean muscle weighs more than fat does. (Lean muscle also has tremendous calorie-burning capacity, so the more muscle you have, the better!)

The best way to increase your lean muscle mass:

- Strength-train at least 2 days a week, working each of the major muscle groups.
- Both cardiovascular and strength training workouts should ALWAYS be preceded by a warm-up.
- A warm-up is a low-intensity cardiovascular exercise performed for 5-10 minutes at a level just before

perspiration begins.

- Exercising "cold" muscles will greatly increase your risk of injury.

For most of us, body weight is a poor gauge of fitness. If you're working hard to lose fat but can't rely on the scale for some positive reinforcement, where do you turn?

The closet is a good place to start. The first signs of success will be that your tight clothes feel more comfortable, look more flattering and even become loose. In fact, it's quite possible that your body composition may change so much (you've gained lean muscle mass while losing fat) that you have to wear a smaller size — even though your body weight has remained about the same!

As you continue to lose fat over time, another major change will be that your muscles are much more defined and visible. It's also a good idea to have your body fat percentage measured by a personal trainer - both at the start of your fitness plan and several months later. By then, you'll be

looking and feeling better (with clothes and without)...but it never hurts to have a good number, does it?

Last month I said I would be highlighting a new product. This product, made by Met-Rx is for anyone looking for a product or food that they can enjoy and help them loose weight. The Protein Plus Original, High Protein Pancake Mix is a hot and delicious breakfast alternative. If you follow an athletic or fitness lifestyle, you know that the choices available for breakfast can be limited. Just how many times can you eat egg whites and oatmeal? That's why Met-Rx has brought back their high protein, low fat pancake mix. Met-Rx Protein plus high protein pancakes are sweet, light and fluffy, there's no need to add butter or syrup. Just add water, stir and pour onto the griddle. With more than twice as much protein compared to traditional pancakes, breakfast has never tasted so good!

So, are you thinking to your self, "I don't have time to make pancakes?"



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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.

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You can pick up your 2lb buttermilk pancake mix at Sweeney's Gym for under \$19.99. For more info about Sweeney's Gym and products go to www.sweeneysgym.com.

ARTS CALENDAR

NOW SHOWING

Spiral Theatre presents: "Butterflies are Free" A sweet romantic comedy about a blind boy who finds true love in his New York City east village flat. It stars the talented Ryan Dance and Ruth Amell. 534 West National Avenue Fridays, Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sundays at 4:30pm.

Thru March 9th. Adults: \$15.00, Students/Seniors: \$10.00 www.spiraltheatre.com. 414-429-9540

Boulevard Theatre presents, "Catholic School Girls" 2252 South Kinnickinnic, thru MAR 16. Tix \$15-\$21. INFO: www.boulevardtheatre.com or 414-744-5757.

MAR 1

Cityscapes - Featuring Cityscapes & Landscapes, from Urban to European. Reception 4-10PM Thru May 31. River's End Gallery, 380

W. Main St., Waukesha. info: 262-896-8875, www.riversendgallery.com

MAR 2

Free screening of "Young, Jewish, and Left" by Connie Michael Chameides. This energetic documentary explores the complex identities of young Jews who find themselves outside the mainstream because of their sexuality, race, spiritual practices, gender, or politics. 3PM, Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53207 | 414.744.8384

MAR 4

AUDITIONS: Women's Voices Milwaukee is holding Auditions & Rehearsals over the next several weeks! Tuesdays at 7:00PM at the LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St, Milwaukee. For more details, please call 414-841-3707, or email womensvoicesmilwaukee@yahoo.com. If you miss it tonight, Auditions also held on March 11th, 18th, and the 25th same time, same place.

MAR 5

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music presents: WE SIX - All Our Own. Two nights only! Repeats MAR 6. Helen Bader Recital Hall (1584 N. Prospect Ave, 7:30PM. The annual favorite featuring original music composed by members of We Six. Resident composers and arrangers Jamie Breiwick, Mark Davis and Paul Silbergleit will charm and captivate with their tunes and ballads performed by the full sextet. Tickets: Adults \$22, students & seniors \$18 Call 414-241-9551

MAR 6

The Milwaukee Dance Theatre and Present Music bring you: Antigone. Thur-Sun, 7:30PM, Sat, Sun 2PM. Tickets \$30, student discount avail. Call 414-278-0765. Off-Broadway Theater, 342 N. Water St. 2nd Floor, Milwaukee.

MAR 7

StageQ, Inc, the local not-for-profit LGBTQ Theater Company in Madison presents the musical comedy "Pulp" running thru March 29 at the Bartell Theater, 113 E. Mifflin Street, Madison. "Pulp" is a "comedy with music" spoofing the lurid 1950s novels of over-the-top stereotypes of lesbian romance. Directed by Tara Ayres. Performances are Thursdays (\$10) at 7:30PM and FRI & SAT (\$15) at 8PM. Tickets and reservations: www.StageQ.com / 608-661-9696, x3.

MAR 8

A Milwaukee Celebration to the Cosmic Spirit of Allen Ginsberg in the UWM Union Ballroom, 8pm. The tribute will include Ginsberg's music performed by The Blackholes, poetry presented by Antler, Jeff Poniewaz, Susan Firer, and others, and a psychedelic light show by Paka Paka Light Show. FREE and open to the public. After-party at The Art Bar, 722 East Burleigh, for the Blackholes, 11pm.

MAR 9

FREE FOR ALL SUNDAYS: Conservatory Piano Faculty Concert, 3PM at Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, Helen Bader Recital Hall (1584 N. Prospect Ave. Be dazzled by the great artistry of the Conservatory's piano faculty. Andrea DeGrieff Beisser, Teresa Drews, Kayme Henkel, Stefanie Jacob and Fumi Nishikiori will perform solos, duets and two-piano repertoire exploring the full range of Conservatory's wonderful 1932 Steinway. FREE Admission

MAR 12

Jana Brevick "Investigating Jana Brevick: The Research and Resulting Creations"

Jewelry and Metalsmithing. 7PM. Arts Center Lecture Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd, on the UWM campus.

MAR 14

Grace Potter & The Nocturnals with special guest Benevento/Russo Duo will perform at Turner Hall Ballroom, 8PM. Tickets \$14 (General Admission, Cabaret Seating) on sale at The Pabst Box Office and Riverside Box Office, www.turnerhallballroom.org and www.tickets.com, or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552. Also available night of show at Turner Hall box office.

MAR 17

Pink Martini at the Pabst Theatre, 7:30PM. 144 E. Wells St, Milwaukee. TIX: 414-286-3663

MAR 26

Adelheid Mers "An Organogram of the Peck School of the Arts" 7PM. Arts Center Lecture Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd, on the UWM campus.

MAR 27

"Impressions of Miles" featuring Jamie Breiwick, Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, Helen Bader Recital Hall (1584 N. Prospect Ave. 7:30PM. Miles Dewey Davis III was one of the most influential musicians of the latter half of the 20th century. Tickets: \$15 - Adults / \$12 - students & seniors. Call 414-241-9551

MAR 28

Turner Hall Ballroom presents: Low - a "bombastic" and "stunning" trio out of Duluth, MN.

8PM, Turner Hall Ballroom 1034 N 4th St, Milwaukee. General Admission \$14 INFO/TIX: www.turnerhallballroom.org. (414) 286-3663.

Wisconsin Center District presents, "WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND" at the Milwaukee Theatre 8PM. \$38 - \$58.00. 2PM SAT/SUN. Thru Mar 30. INFO: www.reallyusefulgroup.com

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MGAC scores coup with "GLORY BOX"

By Paul Masterson

Add internationally renowned performance artist Tim Miller to Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's long list of talent and events. Celebrating its third anniversary, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) scored a major coup in presenting the artist's first Milwaukee appearance. Miller's message: it's personal now - fight for your rights!

Miller's appearance was made possible by a Cream City Foundation grant made through the LGBT Funding Partnership of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. MGAC and Woodland Pattern Book Center partnered to receive the grant that brought LGBT writers and performers to Milwaukee.

A 60 strong and very diverse audience of gay men, lesbians and allies enjoyed a smart, sexy, edgy, sometimes naked, funny and poignant one- (muscular)-man show. Local luminaries in the audience included Boulevard Theater director Mark Bucher, Anne Kingsbury of Woodland Pattern, John Schneider (Theater X, John Schneider Orchestra), Wild Dance veteran Tom Thoreson among many others.

The show's timeliness, staged only a few days before Wisconsin's primary election, gave particular purpose to Miller's GLORY BOX, a tale of personal struggles with love and immigration rights for gays. After Wisconsin's marriage amendment passed, frustration and resignation were palpable among many in the LGBT community. Miller's reminder that we are second class citizens in the world's greatest democracy served to re-invigorate and, hopefully, encourage the Milwaukee audience to get out and vote.

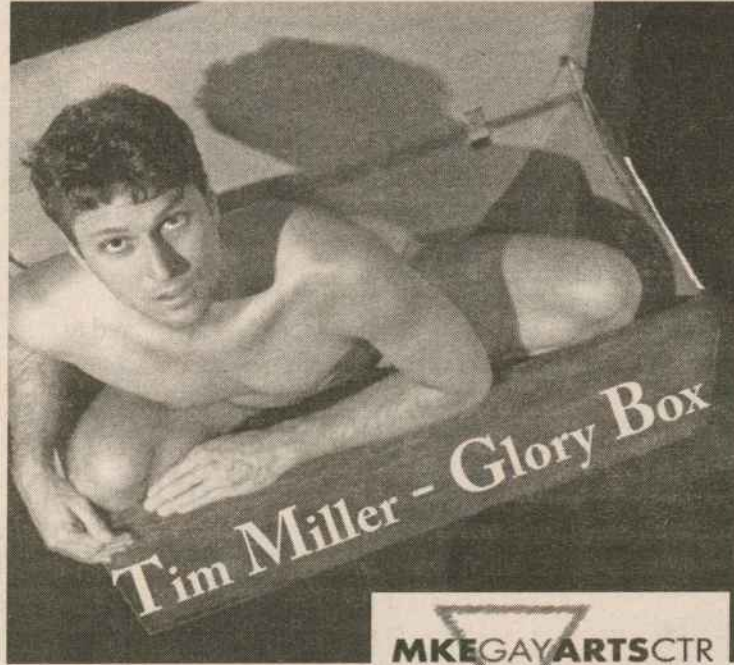
After the performance, Tim Miller mingled with guests in an hour long Meet & Greet

hosted by MGAC and Woodland Pattern Book Center. Miller autographed copies of his books for appreciative fans.

The show's lighting technician, MATA videographer Bradley Richter said "I believe Miller's performance was a call to action to get us back to our activist roots. A gay artist before a mostly gay audience in a gay venue might seem like "preaching to choir," but sometimes that choir needs to wake up. The "Act Up" mantra "silence = death" is almost dead itself. Gays love the empty irreverence of Margaret Cho but her work has no impact. Miller pushes the envelop not only as an entertainer but as an activist - that adds weight."

Audience member Fred Laupen called the show "an enjoyable, positive experience. Miller challenged me and I walked away with a better understanding of the artist's intent."

Miller summed up his visit by saying "I had a FANTASTIC time performing my show GLORY BOX at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center! I love the Cream City! In fact, I love saying CREAM CITY as much as possible! I perform all over the US - from the Walker Arts Center to Yale Repertory Theater to Actors Theatre of Louisville- and the energy, fun and community at MGAC was truly awesome. Paul Masterson and the whole MGAC gang looked after me so well. The really smart engagement that the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel gave my work in Tom Strini's interview with me was spectacular. The performance workshop at Woodland Pattern gathered community in such a great way in that extraordinary literary arts center. What a beautiful and warm arts center MGAC is -- one of the only dedicated queer arts spaces in our country! I hope Milwaukee looks after MGAC and sees it as a treasure in our national LGBT arts community!"



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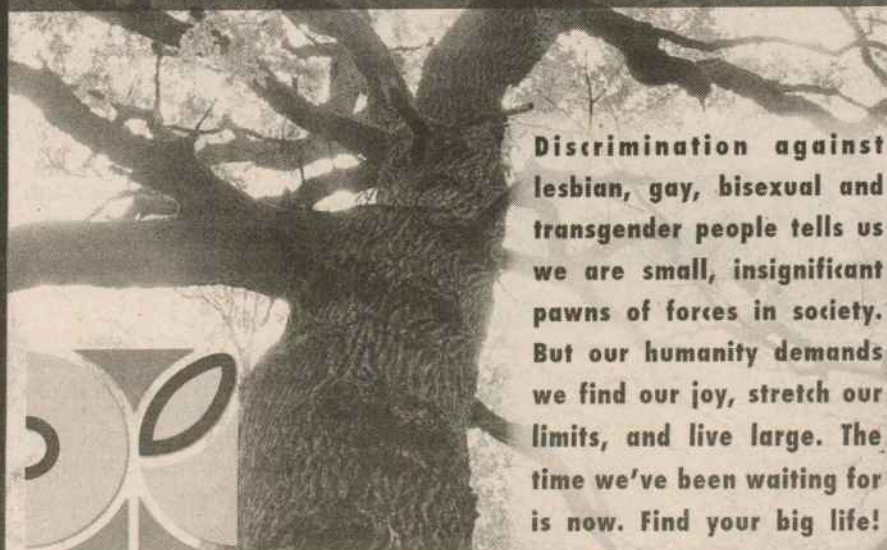
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| LaCage: 801 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-383-8330 | |

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

Q Life News would like to congratulate Mark, Mike, and the entire Quest Magazine family on reaching its 15th year in publication! It takes a lot of dedication, determination, and selflessness to run a local community paper, and they have proven time and time again, that they are in it for the long haul. Here's to another 15 years and beyond! **Congrats QUEST!**



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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This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History March

By Don Schwamb and Michail Takach

1978 – Thirty Years Ago

On March 4, Grace Jones made her Milwaukee premiere at the Red Baron nightclub (625 East St. Paul Avenue.) The disco diva made her grand entrance on a motorcycle, wearing a silver lame jumpsuit, sunglasses and a racing cap. As Jones closed the show with "I NEED A MAN," the entire club burst into a dance party. It may have been the Red Baron's finest hour.

1988 – Twenty Years Ago

On Tuesday, March 8, La Cage hosted a release party for HAIRSPRAY, then playing exclusively at the Brown Port Theater. The party featured hair-do and costume contests, with free giveaways of movie posters, film stills, soundtrack cassettes... and of course, free cans of hairspray.

1993 – Fifteen Years Ago

After Wisconsin's "hate crimes" laws were ruled invalid by the State Supreme Court, and appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, the LGBT media reported on several high-profile gay-bashings. In one controversial case, a 36-year-old Milwaukee man was violently assaulted in his own home by a stranger shouting homophobic insults. After being attacked with a sword, the victim suffered severe lacerations, broken bones, and a skull fracture that actually exposed his brain. Shockingly, the Milwaukee Police Department did not log the case as a hate crime.

1998 – Ten Years Ago


Just as domestic partnerships were finally being recognized by large corporations and city governments (including the City of Chicago), a bill to limit domestic partner benefits was introduced into the Wisconsin legislature. Bill AB-759 would have eliminated the possibility of health insurance coverage for the domestic partners of unmarried state employees, whether involved in same-sex or opposite-sex relationships. In addition, the bill would have banned the use of state or local funds to pay for any domestic partner benefits. Bill AB-759 was the first confrontation in a decade-long debate that continues to rage on today.

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



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ONGOINGS

Don't miss this exciting, and controversial exhibit! Gunther von Hagens BODYWORLDS 1: The Original Exhibition of Real Human Bodies - through JUN 1st. Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells Street Milwaukee. INFO:(414) 278-2702

MAR 1

The Miltown Kings Present KINGSTOCK II- Milwaukee's 2nd annual Drag King Invitational at the Miramar Theater, 2700 N. Oakland Ave, Milwaukee. Doors open 9:00PM, \$10. Ages 18 and up.

FORGE Social support meeting. Topic: Trans+ at Work. 6-9:30PM. Peer-based support for trans-masculine and SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies) individuals. Free. LGBT Community Center, 315 Court Street. INFO: www.forgeforward.org/socialsupport. or at info@forgeforward.org.

MAR 6

Femknits is 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. Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee. 414.744.8384

Milwaukee resident and scholar David J. Wagner will be at the Milwaukee Public Museum to lecture and sign his new book American Wildlife Art. 1 and 7 p.m. Reservations are recommended, call (414) 278-2714 for tickets. Admission \$5 for the general public, free for Museum members and students. MPM, 800 W. Wells Street Milwaukee.

MAR 7

Today and tomorrow, be sure to check out the Milwaukee Regional Science & Engineering Fair. Hosted by Milwaukee Public Schools' Wisconsin Career Academy, 4801 S. 2nd Street. Call (414) 483-2117 ext. 218 for more information.

MAR 8

UWM Peck School of the Arts hosts the 31st annual Grand Viennese Ball at Kenilworth Square East, 2155 N. Prospect Ave. 5:30PM, cocktails, music, silent auction, and art sale. Dinner/dancing at 7:15PM. Tickets \$195, and \$120 for UWM faculty/staff. INFO/TIX: www.arts.uwm.edu/gvball, phone 414-229-4308, or email gv-ball@uwm.edu.

Jam Ak Jam Afro-Dance Theatre live concert. 4PM and 7PM. Tickets: \$15 in advance \$20 at the door, \$12 for students kids and senior citizens. All-Ages, Drinking w/Proper ID. Tickets and reservation please contact Patrice N at 414 899 1733 or The Miramar box office. The Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland Ave, Milwaukee. 414-967-0302

The Saturday Softball Beer League (SSBL) - Milwaukee announces its Miller Park Concession Training Session. In order to raise the funds necessary to meet all its goals, SSBL is appealing to fans and supporters to volunteer at Miller Park with SSBL team players. A special training session for volunteers will be held at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street, Milwaukee today at 2:30pm. Session will last 90 minutes. For more information or to RSVP and make a reservation for training, contact Mona Garcia at monaandata@aol.com or call 262-617-1269

MAR 10

Why not check out the Outwords Book Club in March! The book club will discuss David Leavitt's extraordinary book, "The Indian Clerk." 7:00PM. Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray St, Milwaukee. New members always welcome.

Two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist and longtime Chicago Tribune reporter Richard Longworth, author of "Caught in the Middle", speaks at Schwartz Books, 2559 N. Downer Ave, 7PM. INFO: (414) 332-1181

The Wisconsin LGBT Youth Health Coalition seeks to increase knowledge, awareness, resources, and capacity to promote health and wellness behaviors

and to prevent and reduce risk behaviors among LGBT youth in Wisconsin. Join them as they meet from 8:30AM-3:30PM, (includes lunch) at Lowell Center, UW Madison., 610 Langdon St, Madison. Info: Mark O'Neil at DiverseandResilient.org. 414.390.0444, markoneil@diverseandresilient.org

MAR 11

The Lesbian Reading Group meets tonight at Outwords Book Store to discuss Tracey Richardson's "The Candidate." It's the book to be discussed during Women's History Month. Come and meet the group and discuss a great book! 7:00PM. Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray St, Milwaukee. New members always welcome.

Words, words, words - it's SCRABBLE night at Broad Vocabulary. 5:30-8PM. 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

MAR 13

FORGE's monthly facilitated writing group "Writing to Heal: Transformation Through Words" meets at LGBT Community Center, 315 Court Street, Milwaukee, 7-8:30PM. Tonight's Topic: Sexuality. No experience necessary, all materials provided. \$10 donation requested, sliding fee scale available. More info at www.forge-forward.org or email: info@forge-forward.org.

MAR 14

Charity event for Camp Heartland. Artasia, 181 North Broadway, Milwaukee. 6-10PM. Silent auction, wine and appetizers throughout the evening. Tickets \$20.00 All proceeds will benefit the children, youth and families of Camp Heartland, a national non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children affected by HIV/AIDS. 414-272-1118. www.campheartland.org.

MAR 16

Robert Minor, founder of The Fairness Project, will speak on "Looking at Homophobia in a New Way" at tonight's meeting of PFLAG Milwaukee. 5:00PM, Martin Luther Lutheran Church, 9235 W. Blue Mound Road. FREE and OPEN to the public. Dr. Minor, professor of religious studies at the University of Kansas, is the author of several books, including When Religion Is an Addiction, Gay and Healthy in a Sick Society, and Scared Straight. His current research is on gender studies and the relationships of religion, gender, and sexuality.

MAR 17

If you missed him last night, be sure to catch Author Dr. Robert Minor, at Outwords Books tonight! "When Religion Is an Addiction" "What really fuels the anti-gay obsession of the religious right-wing?" 7:00PM. Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray St, Milwaukee. This talk is a free event and everyone is welcome.

MAR 19

A PrideFest town hall is scheduled for tonight to coincide with the beginning of the festival's promotional campaign. The town hall will begin at 6:00 PM and will be held at the Hillside Family Resource Center, 1452 N. 7th Street in Milwaukee. Everyone welcome. PrideFest continues to seek volunteers for its production team to help build the festival's infrastructure and deliver one of the nation's best LGBT pride events.

MAR 20

Cream City Foundation wants to help you "Out of the Cold and into the BLU" at their Winter-Get-Away. Eisner Museum of Advertising, 208 N. Water St. 7pm. Join them for the second Winter-Get-Away with entertainment provided by BLU PRINT, an amazing band from Illinois! Great Food, Drink, Music and Friends. Benefiting LGBT causes. Tickets \$30 at the door, \$25 in advance from www.creamcityfoundation.org or 414.225.0244.

AUDITIONS! For "So you think you can Dance?" Held at the Milwaukee Theatre, 400 W Wisconsin Ave, the 20th-22nd. Registration is free, and starts at 8am today. Want to represent Milwaukee? For more info, check out: www.fox.com/dance/

continued on next page

Memories of the Battlefield; Tragedies of Lost Youth

A few weeks ago, my 17-year old was completing an assignment for English class. He was to recall verbal messages he heard during his childhood and early teen years and compile them into an essay with a central theme such as gender role, interests or orientation. I talked with him about the assignment. While I could remember his developmental milestones in great detail along with plentiful anecdotes, he had trouble with the recollections. He also remembered very few positive messages he had heard about anything, although I know that there were many.

"I don't like to think about those times of my life," he reported. "I just like to live in the here and now."

Perhaps that's better for now, although I hope he'll eventually draw strength from the difficult times. Like so many gay youth, my son endured years of torture. For him, things became so painful that I home-schooled him for most of middle school. Those were the worst times; ages 11-14.

While my son had many gifts and assets and experienced a rather privileged childhood in the safety net

of a highly diverse family, countless teens lack a base of support to fall back on. Some teens, forced to go it alone, handle bullying and torture in isolation. Their families and teachers never hear of the hell that they live each day. And even if the families do hear about the torture, many respond inappropriately by telling their kids to toughen up; deal with it.

According to a study in Counseling Today, gay youth hear anti-gay slurs such as "homo, faggot and sissy" about 26 times a day. That's four every hour - one every 14 minutes. Further, the study reports the school dropout rate for LGBT students is 28%; three times the dropout rate for straight students.

At its best, the verbal and physical bullying leads to distractions from schoolwork, poor peer relationships and feeling depressed. But it gets much worse. Several studies cite suicide rates for LGBT youth as three times the national average. It's a war out there for our kids and schools provide a big battlefield.

No wonder, LGBT youth are more likely to stay home with feigned illness or simply skip school due to the verbal abuse and threats of bullying. Our

friend Brian recalls how gym class was the worst time of his week - and one of the worst memories of his life. "Gym class was every Tuesday and Thursday and somehow, I'd feel really sick those mornings. The bullying happened all day long but gym class was unbearable. I could have been a good student but gym class kept me home 40% of the time."

So what can teachers do? Build relationships, establish trust and let students know you are an ally by displaying a symbol of diversity in your classroom and mentioning your LGBT connections. A teacher in a conservative parochial school reports that when she mentioned her gay son, she became a confidant to dozens of students who needed a listener and an ally. Another teacher displayed a safe schools sticker he received from GLSEN and every week, he had poignant tales of how one 3"x5" sticker opened doors and saved lives.

If Brian had one teacher to listen and understand during the



MAMA Q

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

most difficult times, his academic career and life outcomes could have been transformed. An ally teacher or community contact could have provided even more for countless other youth. Unfortunately, these youth are not available for interview. They are only precious memories who provide daunting statistics of the impact of bullying; young lives pointlessly lost in despair—through suicide. Lives that could have been saved if only one person showed they cared.

GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, recommends four approaches that schools can begin implementing now to address anti-LGBT bullying and harassment.

- Adopt a comprehensive anti-bullying policy that enumerates categories such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender expression/identity. Enumeration is crucial to ensure that anti-bullying policies are effective for LGBT students. Policies without enumeration are no more effective than having no policy at all when it comes to anti-LGBT bullying and harassment, according to GLSEN's 2005 National School Climate Survey.

- Require staff trainings to enable school staff to identify and address anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment effectively and in a timely manner.

- Support student efforts to address anti-LGBT bullying and harassment on campus, such as the formation of a Gay-Straight Alliance or participation in the National Day of Silence on April 25.

- Institute age-appropriate, inclusive curricula to help students understand and respect difference within the school community and society as a whole.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

showinfo/casting2008.htm

MAR 21

Join the American Red Cross in saving lives at an MPM hosted blood drive. 1-7PM, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St. This event is scheduled in conjunction with Gunther von Hagens BODY WORLDS 1: The Original Exhibition of Real Human Bodies. Admission to the exhibit is not required to participate in the drive. INFO: (414) 278-2728 or (888) 700-9069, or visit www.mpm.edu.

MAR 27

FORGE's monthly facilitated art group, Art, Body and Soul: Learning to Love our Bodies, uses art to address issues related to body image. Meets tonight, 7-9PM, LGBT Community Center, 315 Court Street. No experience necessary, all materials provided. \$10 donation requested, sliding fee scale available. INFO: www.forge-forward.org or email: info@forge-forward.org

MAR 28

Carnaval doesn't need to end in February! Keep the celebration going in March as UW-Milwaukee

celebrates all the excitement and pageantry of Brazilian Carnaval! 7-11:30PM in the Union Ballroom. Experience the lively rhythms of SWING BRASILEIRO and learn new moves to dance the night away! This event is free, open to the public, and all ages are welcome. INFO: contact: Rebecca Grassl, grassl@aux.uwm.edu, 414-229-3728.

MAR 28

commUNITY-LGBTQA Open Mic Night from 6:00pm-9:00pm in the UW-Milwaukee Union Alumni Fireside Lounge. This event is free and open to the public. 2200 East Kenwood Blvd.

MAR 30

Broad Vocabulary will host a benefit for the Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, featuring an art auction and ongoing readings by great local poets. Bid on some art to help this effort by UWM students. 1-4PM, Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee. 414.744.8384

Deadline for the April publication is March 20th for consideration. Please send to qlifelistsings@yahoo.com.

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“So, what about...?” An interview with Marion Araujo, actress



Marion Araujo, 28, lives with her partner in Bay View. She is treasurer of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center board of directors and works as a career development specialist for a non-profit organization. She is also an actress.

Her acting career began in college and she is now making her second appearance at the Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theater in Bay View. Araujo is playing in its production of Casy Kurtti's *Catholic School Girls* that recently opened.

Paul Masterson: Before we get into the present, what's your background in theater?

Marion Araujo: I attended a college that didn't have a theater major but I was able to perform in various school productions. I then went on to dinner and Community Theater. Last fall I auditioned for a show and got a role at the Boulevard. *Catholic School Girls* is my second show there.

PM: What else have you done at the Boulevard?

MA: I played several smaller roles in Anne Washburn's *The Internationalist*.

PM: I saw you in that. You got a very nice review from Damien Jacques as I recall. The play had an interesting quirk. Can you tell us about that?

MA: Yes, it was a little different. *The Internationalist* is about an American businessman in an unnamed eastern European country. The playwright created a non-existent language for that "foreign" atmosphere. The dialogue is scripted but entirely unintelligible. The "local" characters use it throughout the play when the American is in the scene to establish the sense of separation. It was a real challenge to learn lines and make them seem natural.

PM: So, what about Catholic School Girls?

MA: It's a really fun show, a "coming of age" play that takes place in the 1960's - so there's the turbulence of the times as a background: the Kennedy assassination, social upheaval, classic gender roles and, in the midst of it all, the four girls are growing up, discovering themselves - and boys - in the Catholic School setting, with nuns, of course. I play one of the girls. It's an all female cast. I had some apprehension of being in a show with eight women but it's been incredible - we may scare Mark (Bucher, director of CSG) at times but he's coping.

PM: It sounds like a totally different role for you.

MA: It is. I've never played a child before and *Catholic School Girls* is a "memory" play so all the characters grow up over the eight years of school. It's challenging as an actor but the audience will find it easy to identify with the characters - their experiences are universal - good and bad times, friendships - and, even if you're not Catholic, the nostalgia and relationships with teachers, nuns or otherwise, the terrorism of "sin," or doing anything wrong, will be very familiar.

PM: Mark Bucher's Boulevard Ensemble has been producing plays for 22 years. How does it feel to be part of Milwaukee theater history?

MA: It's a wonderful house. You can feel the energy and experience. It's a fantastic place for "out" actors - there's a professional comfort level. Mark Bucher is a demanding director and has high expectations so it's hard work. But Mark manages to make criticism a means to drive us to make something better. He's critical but encouraging. I feel like I'm learning and not just following direction.

PM: What's next?

MA: I'll be in another Boulevard production, Moliere's *The Misanthrope* playing Eliante. Mark's put a twist into the production - the love interests will be same sex so it will be a bit edgy but a lot of fun.

Catholic School Girls runs through March 16 at the Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, 2252 South Kinnickinnic Avenue in Bay View. For ticket information call 414-744-5757.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF MY FAVORITE AUNT 1916-2008

My Aunt Blanche passed away. She was my favorite Aunt, and she took me to the theater when I was a child. Everything I am today is because of her love and support.

For those of you familiar with the book and play *AUNTIE MAME*; she was my "Mame", and I was her "Patrick." Such Bosom Buddies! Part of my life also died with her death. I will miss this special person.

In respect to her life, and recent passing I will dedicate some fine shows in the Milwaukee area for you to (please) try and attend this month.

Aunt Blanche loved theater, and the best thing anyone could do to say thanks to this special woman; is to attend a live stage play and APPLAUDE!

Bay Players-THE GIRLS OF THE GARDEN CLUB
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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.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater- THE NIGHT IS CHILD / ENDGAME / HULA HOOP SHA-BOOP

Modjeska Youth Theater- OLIVER
Off The Wall Theatre- DEATH ON THE NILE
The Skylight-SOUVENIR

"Life is a banquet and most poor bitches are starving to death...so LIVE, LIVE, LIVE!" - Mame

Last MONTH's Trivia Answer

Julia Roberts bombed in *THREE DAYS OF RAIN* on Broadway.

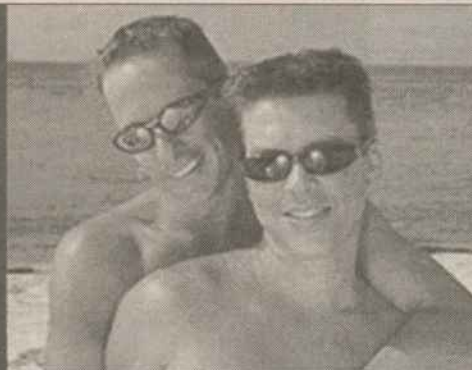
This Month's Trivia Question

Who played Auntie Mame in the Broadway and Film version?

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Milwaukee LGBT Community Center seeking Director of Communications

The Director of Communications is a senior staff member of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, reporting to the Executive Director and working closely with other team leaders to develop, implement, sustain and oversee an effective communications program that advances the mission of the organization. Communications includes web-based communication, written reports and other informational products, strategic use of mass media, and strategic communications collaborations with partner and peer organizations. Specifically, this position will develop appropriate materials, resources and initiatives to strengthen the Center's identity, and ensure the consistency of message communicated through a variety of media. All communication will be presented in a powerful, sensitive and holistic way that appeals to the needs and interests of a broad set of global constituents, including private donors, foundations, diverse communities, the media, elected officials, the general public and the many volunteers who support the Center's mission. Qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in public relations, marketing, communications or journalism, or related field; minimum of 5 years communications and/or media relations experience; computer literacy in word processing, database management and page layout; demonstrated success in managing and producing professional publications, and experience as a team leader.

Send resume to: **Milwaukee LGBT Community Center**

Attn: Maggi Cage, PhD., Executive Director 315 West Court Street Milwaukee, WI 53212

Please visit www.mkelgbt.org for full job description. Close date of March 7, 2008

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center seeking Director of Public Affairs

The Director of Public Affairs is a senior staff member of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, reporting to the Executive Director and working closely with other team leaders to develop, implement, sustain and oversee an effective public affairs program that advances the mission of the organization. Public Affairs includes the planning, coordination and implementation for community organizing activities and related C(3) activities, C(4) Center Advocates, and Center PAC. Based on strategic goals developed by staff and C(3), C(4) and with the PAC, the Director of Public Affairs works with staff to lead and implement strategies that improve the lives of LGBT people in the Greater Milwaukee area and advocate for their interests. Externally, the Director of Public Affairs works with elected officials, local, state and national organizations to advance the advocacy strategies of the organization.

Qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in political science, or related experience, prefer advanced degree in political science, law or related field; minimum of 5 years related experience; excellent oral and written skills a must, including public speaking and successful public/private/foundation grant proposal development; demonstrated significant track record of excellent interpersonal and conflict management skills and ability to inspire trust, confidence, consensus and support among colleagues, external partners, government, business, foundation leaders, the media, members, and the public; be a registered lobbyist, or register as one; and understand the differences between C3, C4 and PAC advocacy.

Send resume to: **Milwaukee LGBT Community Center**

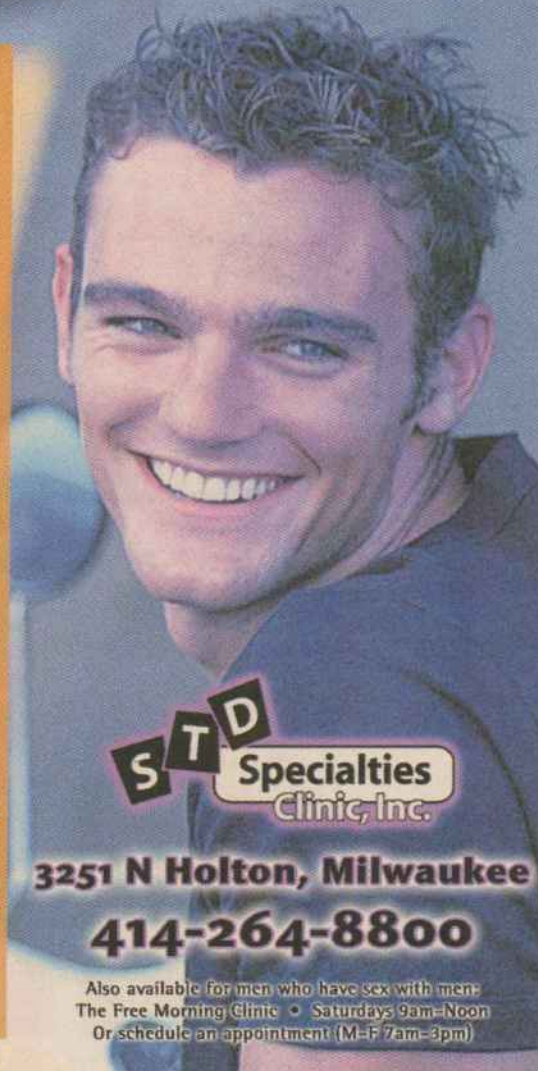
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- Th 27 Switch 9:30pm-12:30am
- Fr 28 Club Icon (Kenosha) 9:30pm-12:30am
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3217 N. OAKLAND AVE., MILW. East Side home recently updated to the height of sophistication. Open concept floor plan features gourmet kitchen with contemporary cabinets, SS countertops, illuminated bar area. 1st floor bath with Japanese soaking tub. Large master bedroom with vaulted ceilings, LL has finished office space. Newer windows & roof. \$249,900. MLS #951522



1830 E. KANE PLACE #4, MILW. Fantastic condo at Hathaway Towers. Located in a historic district of Milwaukee, this unit features hardwood floors, crown moldings & tons of charm. Entertain in the open concept living & dining rooms or relax in your very own hot tub while enjoying beautiful lake views. Close to all the city has to offer. \$269,900. #992563



215 W. MAPLE ST., #611, MILW. 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. MLS #981745



906 E. BRADY ST., MILW. Historic Brady Place Townhome with sunny southern exposure. Kitchen boasts granite counters, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances. Fantastic master suite with adjacent sitting area and balcony. Relax in the whirlpool tub or enjoy views from the rooftop patio. Expandable 3rd floor and tons of storage space. \$324,900 #900019



2110 N. COMMERCE ST, MIL. Bright and cheery condo unit with southern & western exposures. This lovely unit features updated kitchen with mosaic glass tile backsplash, great room with doors to private balcony, private entrance and 2 car attached garage. \$274,900. MLS #984959



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1835-1839 N. MARTIN LUTHER KING DR., MILW. 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 MLS #981198 & MLS #981201



6411 W. WISCONSIN AVE., WUWATOSA Spacious condo located in the Jacobs Park neighborhood features modernized kitchen with granite counters and newer cabinets. Open living room with brick fireplace. Hardwood floors throughout. \$238,400. MLS #951153



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



2626 W. PARNELL, MILW. Totally updated condo unit centrally located in Parnell Woods. Kitchen with ceramic tile, newer cabinets & a breakfast bar. New flooring throughout main level & newer carpeting on stairs and 2nd level. 2 spacious bedrooms, 1.5 baths. \$127,500. MLS #989037



GREENWICH ROW
1828 E. GREENWICH AVE, MILW. Eclectic and convenient, spacious yet efficient. 2BD, 2.5 bath units feature luxurious appointments & modern conveniences. Overlook the vibrant East Side from your private balcony. Private entrances and 2.5 attached GA. \$294,850-\$304,850 www.greenwichrow.com

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