

Tranny Road Show Returns to Milwaukee

By Alison Glendale

Traveling across country. Stopping to perform in small towns, progressive towns, liberal towns, and even towns no one has ever heard of, a small troupe of eclectic artists is out to entertain, amuse, and most importantly, educate audiences. This spring marks the fourth year of the Tranny Roadshow tour, a "multimedia performance art extravaganza" which first hit the road in 2005, with numerous artists – each one self-identified as transgender. They return to Milwaukee this month, as they drop in on the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center on April 12th.

"One of the reasons the show was invented in the first place, is because I wanted to go on tour and didn't see any venues where I fit in," says Tranny Road Show co-organizer Jamez Terry. "There aren't that many good venues available for these talented performers, and part of what we do is help other performers who aren't sure where they fit in with other peoples ideas of what a show should be."

In 2004, Terry, along with co-organizer Kelly Shortandqueer, began planning a show that would not only entertain, but also educate audiences. "That's a big part of it," says Terry. "We wanted to give people an idea of what trans people are all about." And although the performers are transgender, the show is not exclusive to the transgender community. Their focus is to present transpeople as multi-faceted – being transgender is just one part of their identities. These artists are, according to their website, also "singers, filmmakers, dancers, writers, jugglers, etc." Gender is only one part of what their art expresses. Terry and Shortandqueer began looking for fellow performers to join them on the road by writing up a casual email. "When we started in 2005, we didn't know how big it was going to become, and we wanted to go on tour, so we pretty much just asked our friends to forward the email along," says Terry. "And before we knew it, we received over a couple hundred responses. That's when we realized we had to be more

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By Kate Sherry

Milwaukee has something many cities in the USA do not – our very own art center dedicated to the LGBT community. While many such art centers do exist in several cities, they are quite often part of another organization – typically the LGBT center in town. Milwaukee joins cities such as New York and San Francisco as having a stand-alone gay arts center not part of another entity. "However" says Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) Executive Director and gallery curator Paul Masterson with a laugh, "I'm pretty sure we are the only one with a male Egyptian cabaret belly dance troupe." Indeed!

We sat down with Masterson to see how things were going, as they kick off their 3rd year in operation.

The charming Cream City brick gallery and performance space with the hardwood floors, storefront windows, and killer acoustics is run completely by volunteers and survives on donations, grants, and sales. And yet, its name is deceiving – the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is not just for art.

QL: What would you say to people who've never heard of MGAC?

PM: I think one visit will surprise them to the character of the space. We run so many different events that something should appeal to everyone, whether it's an art show, or music, or event. It's challenging to do it in a 1000 sq. ft room, but I think the ambiance has always made the experience a positive one for anyone who comes in here... the intimate comfort of it - it's just a wonderful multi-use space.

QL: While you showcase more LGBT artists than non, you don't exclude anyone outside of the community...

PM: One aspect of our mission is to bridge the gap between the LGBT community and the greater Milwaukee community. The belly dances are primarily non-LGBT. It's a whole artistic underground unto itself. These people are just incredible artists. It's traditional Lebanese or Egyptian cabaret style. The costumes, music, it's just a wonderful experience. Traditionally, belly dance is actually a woman's art, and it was intended as exercise and preparation for childbirth.

QL: Really? I've never heard that.

PM: (Laughs) Now you have! And there are yoga lessons, dance lessons with Shoreline Milwaukee....we do more than performances and art.

MGAC has hosted or held benefits, receptions, fund raising events and meetings for over a dozen local LGBT organizations, most at no cost. The participating organizations include GAMMA, SAGE, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee Momentum Women's Football League, PrideFest, SSBL, ARCW, Visioning Project, Lesbian Alliance, and many others. MGAC is available for rent for almost anything - commitment ceremonies, concerts - anything that has a potential for drawing a crowd.

QL: MGAC opened with "Gay Broadway" - a cabaret show in March, 2005 and followed it up with its first art show (featuring the AIDS memorial quilt) a month later. As the only LGBT arts center in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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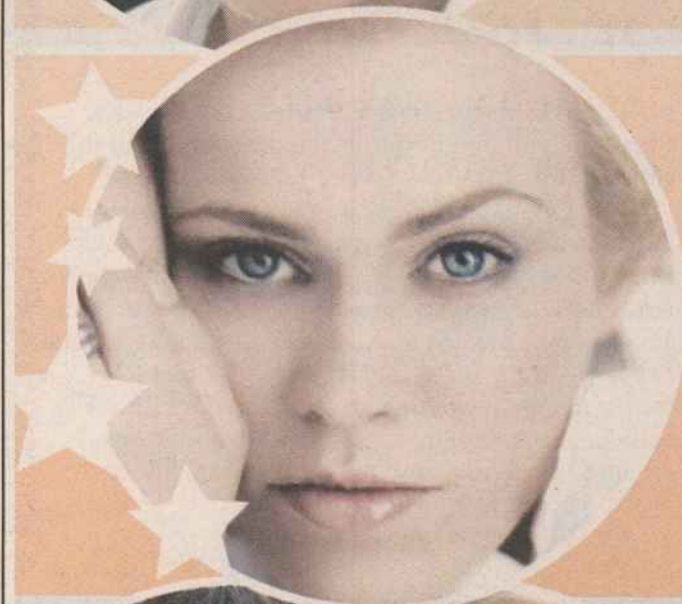
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Winter-Get-Away

March 20th - the Cream City Foundation helped event goers "Get out of the cold, and into the BLU!" at their second annual Winter Get Away at the Eisner Museum downtown. Everyone welcomed Spring in style, with food, fun, and great entertainment provided by Blu Print, an amazing band from IL. New faces were on the scene, and a new CCF media campaign, as well as the newly established Maria T. Cadenas fund was announced.



Executive Director Honored with Donor Advised Fund



Cream City Foundation's Executive Director, Maria T. Cadenas, has recently been honored by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson and Pabst Humanity Fund with the establishment of the Maria T. Cadenas Fund within the Cream City Foundation. "I have strong faith in Maria Cadenas as a leader and visionary, and I hope this helps her as she continues in her efforts to create equality for all LGBT people," said Joseph Pabst, advisor of the Johnson and Pabst Humanity Fund.

You can honor your favorite leader by making a contribution in their name to Cream City Foundation!

Cream City Foundation, 414-225-0244, www.creamcityfoundation.org. Cream City Foundation (CCF) is a member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee, a federation of 53 nonprofit orgs working for civil, consumer, women's and worker rights; neighborhood redevelopment; youth, seniors and family health; education and environmental progress. Support Community Shares through payroll deduction at your workplace.



ORGANIZATIONS

QLife's organizations that serve the LGBT Community are on our website. We are also looking for an individual, business or organization to sponsor this page so it can appear monthly in print call 414-383-8200 for information.

To update your organization's information, please email editor@queerlifeneews.com.

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JOE JACKSON • APR.21

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ASIA • APR.23

TRACY MORGAN • APR.25

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TEGAN AND SARA • MAY 7

RUSSELL MALONE • MAY 10

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BULGARES • MAY 16

RILO KILEY • MAY 23

MARTIN SHORT • MAY 30

DAVE KOZ • JUNE 1

AIMEE MANN • JUNE 13

CAPITOL STEPS • AUG. 16

GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA • AUG. 23

THE RIVERSIDE

LARRY THE CABLE GUY

APR.26 - 5PM & 8PM

CEDRIC THE ENTERTAINER • MAY 2

BOWFIRE • MAY 5

THE SWELL SEASON

FEAT. STARS OF THE FILM ONCE:

GLEN HANSARD @ MARKETA IRGLOVA • MAY 8

DAVE & CAROLE'S COMEDY-PALOOZA

W/ KATHLEEN MADIGAN • MAY 9

& STEPHEN LYNCH • MAY 10

TURNER HALL Ballroom

THE HOLD STEADY • APR. 11

TONY N' TINA'S WEDDING • APR.15-18, 19, 20

THE DIRTBOMBS • MAY 1

BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB • MAY 2

MARITIME • MAY 3

STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO • MAY 7

DEVOTCHKA • MAY 8

THE AVETT BROTHERS • MAY 10

M.I.A. • MAY 12

MARK KOZELEK OF SUN KIL MOON &
RED HOUSE PAINTERS • MAY 12

LAURA VEIRS • MAY 14

TIGER ARMY • MAY 24

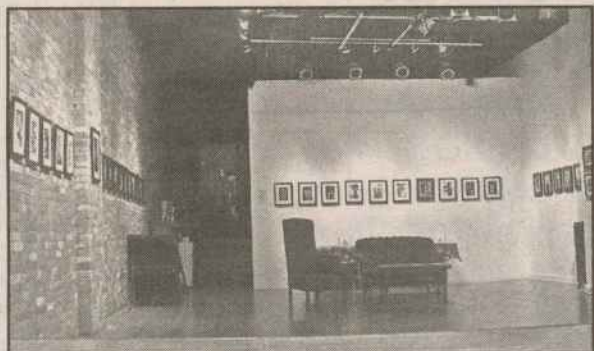
THEE SILVER MT. ZION • MAY 30

THE KOOKS • JUNE 1

SHE WANTS REVENGE • JUNE 13

MGAC *continued from page 1***Milwaukee, do you find you are under more scrutiny than non-LGBT galleries?**

PM: There is definitely more scrutiny in terms of people being very sensitive to how the LGBT community projects itself. But on the other hand, there are those who expect the MGAC to push the envelope and be a little bit more confrontational. Art for a lot of people, I think means confrontation. And landscapes and pretty portraits are not expressive of our political situation or our emotional situation.

*The Gallery***QL: Is there anything you've refused, or hesitated to show?**

PM: The Board has had discussions about the appropriateness of certain artists work, and again, in deference to pragmatics of who we are – a small arts organization – sometimes we err on the side of caution. But, generally every show has gone up as planned. Other times, work has been covered up for the sensitivities of a group that might be using the space for something else.

QL: For example?

PM: We had a male nude show up, (Paul Roberts – “The Guy(s) Next Door” photography) and the Lesbian Alliance rented the space for a meeting. In deference to their sensitivities, we covered up the artwork. Although some said it wasn't necessary, they were grateful. Some just feel uncomfortable surrounded by fifty-sixty nude male photographs!

The MGAC is no stranger to controversy – especially when nude males are involved. In 2006, when “Naked Boys Singing” (generally a successful show across the country) was shown by Uncommon Theater, in cooperation with the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, it drew nationwide attention (along with Christian protestors, and bomb threats) when it was shutdown by the Vice Squad of the Milwaukee Police Department over what the city claimed was the lack of proper licensing. Others cried discrimination.

QL: So what really happened?

PM: Basically, the city asked us to comply with an ordinance that did not apply to us. They should have known that as a 501c3 charitable organization we didn't need the theatre license we were asked to acquire. We were closed down, but reopened when the city said, “oops, we made a mistake.”

Although MGAC reopened the show, they were unable to gain the proceeds designated to benefit various AIDS research groups. A lawsuit against the city was filed to recoup advertising revenue, ticket sales, anticipated legal fees, and punitive damages. Ultimately, it was not successful.

QL: Some say that MGAC favors male art and artists.

PM: I think people who don't pay attention to what we do have that misconception because they

have their own agendas.

QL: We actually took a look over MGAC's performance and exhibit history, and it has been incredibly diverse.

PM: And we have a variety of shows planned through spring of 2009. Last year, we did three months of women's programming. One of the shows was the Lesbian Alliance; we took their work over to PrideFest and displayed it there in the MGAC Pavilion. Last year, we showed the work of trans artist, Dylan Scholinski, and did the Gay Youth Art show. Coming up is “Bruised Art” – a collaboration with the women artists of the Milwaukee Brew City Bruisers Roller Derby slated for this fall.

In fact, MGAC collaborates with a broad range of arts and other organizations – both LGBT and non-LGBT. One such partner, Milwaukee's Alliance School, has led to creating a new curriculum for the students. After a successful Gay Youth Art Show with Project Q and the Alliance School in 2006, they brought it back the following year. The 2007 show was guest curated by Alliance School art teacher Jill Engel – and has led to the “Gallery Experience” – the newest addition to the Alliance curriculum. The course takes students through the process of developing a concept, marketing, and then installing the artwork. Their hope is to have it included as part of the October Gallery Night here in Milwaukee.

QL: You also worked with an intern during that time.

PM: Yes, in the Summer 2006, Bradley Richter, a UWM art history student contacted us for internship possibilities, and received credit for facilitating the Gay Youth Art Show. We have had a couple more since then, and can always use the help. We periodically send out information to the universities announcing available internships.

QL: Are there any artists who stand out for you?

PM: Quite a bit actually. I'd say Dylan Scholinski, a trans artist, and author of “The Last time I wore a dress”. I met him through the Tranny Road Show in 2006, and he came back to do the art show a year later. Internationally known LGBT performance artist Tim Miller was just here. Music – we've had Eric Himan, Coyote Grace, who are coming back in May, and on and on. We also have Women's Voices Milwaukee coming up, and this month, we'll have St. Paul's Church, which will be showing “Art from St. Paul's” including photography by Joel Richter. Jerrod Fenske will also be performing here with United Saint Pauls Choir.

It's no secret that the arts can always use help financially. Although MGAC has yet to receive grants this year, they continue to apply, and have been grateful for the \$14,000 since 2005 from various sponsors – including the Cream City Foundation, Johnson & Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, G/L Community Trust Fund, Monday Night Irregulars Bowling League, and J. G. Clark Family Fund. Not to mention assistance from their own board members.

PM: We are all volunteers, so we aren't making any of the money. Outside of the occasional grant, funding comes in from art sales, donations, concession sales, MGAC memberships, and sometimes from the sale of furniture abandoned by vacating tenants in the building. Mark Roeker, from Marcia's 2nd Time Around will help us out by selling the furniture for us in his store. We also receive a small amount every quarter from the Pick-n-Save “We Care” process (helps non-profit organizations raise additional funds through supportive shoppers who use their Advantage Plus Savers Club card) Really, though, Joseph Pabst, and the Cream City Foundation, as well as board members such as Craig Bodoh have been very generous. They're actually the reason we are still here today.

QL: How many board members do you currently have?

PM: Right now, five. Some can only dedicate a year or two, and then move on, so board development is a continual process. We look for people who have an association with the center, and a belief in the mission. As well as a dedication to the LGBT community, and the arts.

As the board changed, and people came and went, Masterson's role grew more into the general administration of MGAC. He credits his broad experience with the arts to his artistic family, and his years spent working with Lufthansa Airlines, where he was fortunate enough to visit different cultures and see first hand art as means of communication.

*Artist Anthony Weber creates a mural for current show*

PM: In Milwaukee, as opposed to Milan, or Berlin, you don't have a thousand or more years of culture to rely on and that people are aware of, so that if you try to have any type of artistic production here, its tough to reach these people, when it's not part of their lives. But art, in general ...it's a tough sell.

We don't think that will be a problem. With shows and performances booked through next year, an upcoming collaboration with the Milwaukee Art Museum for the “Gilbert and George” exhibit, and managing “Scream” – the only Milwaukee LGBT SSBL softball team (2007 winners in their division!) not affiliated with a bar, The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is more than ready for the “tough sell.” For more information, or to donate, or volunteer, please visit www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org

NOW SHOWING:

“Assemblage, Collage, Entourage, and Montage – Variations on a theme of mixed media and text.” Works by Anthony Weber, and Brian Beck. Now through April 18.

APR 3: Rehearsal Belly Dance 7-9PM
APR 5, 6: Tribal Dance Show & Workshops with Rakhshanda
APR 12: Tranny Roadshow. 8PM \$10
APR 18: Belly Dance Night, Friday. 8PM
Art Show, opening April 26 – through May 30
 “Art from Saint Paul's
 Abstraction: Photography by Joel Richter”
Women's Voices Milwaukee, weekend of May 2-3

Going GREEN

URBAN AGRICULTURE: Pollinating Our Future in Milwaukee

By Jennifer Curtis

Recently Milwaukee was honored to be the location for the first national conference on Urban Agriculture. Hosted by the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute and Slow Food Wisconsin Southeast, and sponsored by various local groups including Outpost Natural Foods, Beans and Barley, the Milwaukee Urban Agricultural Network, and the Kitchen Table Project, the Pollinating Our Future Urban Agriculture Conference symbolizes that a fundamental change is underway regarding the ways in which we conceptualize food, agriculture, and the city. The term "urban agriculture" is no longer an oxymoron but a viable pathway to sustainability for our natural environment and for our cities.

Highlights of the conference included the keynote address by Michael Ableman, founder and executive director emeritus of the Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens, in southern California. Also an award-winning urban farmer, author, and educator, he conducts numerous workshops and sessions, from focus on the relationship between growing food and working towards social justice and equality, to the role of Urban Agriculture in urban sustainability, to how-to sessions on SPIN (Small Plot Intensive) farming and grant writing for urban farmers.

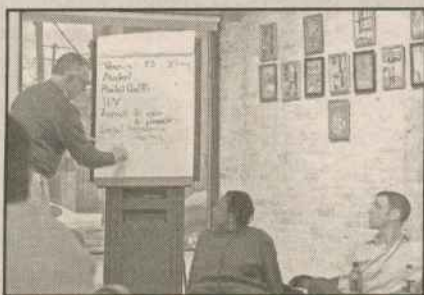
If you missed this conference, the good news is that we have excellent organizational resources and pioneers in the art of Urban Agriculture all around us right here in Milwaukee. The UW-Extension has a garden plot rental program that allows those in urban areas without access to gardening space to rent land and grow food – just call 414.290.2405 for more information.

Also, local resources like Growing Power (414.527.1546) and the Walnut Way Conservation Corp (414.264.2326) provide inspiring examples of how to do Urban Agriculture well and strengthen community at the same time.

In fact, studies have shown that having a community garden in the neighborhood works to reduce crime, increase a sense of pride and responsibility, reduce littering and vandalism, and increase feelings of safety and belonging in the residents of the neighborhood (www.region.waterloo.on.ca). In addition, urban agriculture provides people with fresh, healthy, local and at its best, organic food – a benefit to individual and planetary health by drastically reducing the amount of fossil fuels, harsh chemicals from pesticides to preservatives, and processed junk "foods" that have unfortunately become synonymous with the American diet.

If you want to support Urban Agriculture and the Buy Local and Slow Food movements, but aren't quite ready to grow your own food just yet, there are plenty of opportunities for you to get involved – farmers markets, locally owned co-op natural food stores like the Outpost, the Riverwest Co-op, and Beans and Barley, and regional farms that participate in Community Supported Agriculture and allow people to buy a share in the farm for a box of fresh vegetables every week June-October, are excellent ways to support our local economy and get involved in the Urban Agriculture revolution. For more information, check out the Farm Fresh Atlas of Southeastern Wisconsin at www.farmfreshatlast.org, or contact the Urban Ecology Center at 414.964.8505.

Health & Wellness 2008



Organization leaders and community members met on March 18th at MGAC to discuss the new "Wellness Area" at PrideFest this year. The meeting was led by Gary Hollander Ph.D, and Brenda Coley both from Diverse and Resilient, as well as PrideFest President Scott Gunkel, and LGBT Center's Julie Bock. The purpose of the area is to promote health and wellness within the LGBTQ community, and several activities

are planned. Sponsors of the Wellness Area: Diverse and Resilient, Cream City Foundation, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Best D Clinic, PrideFest, and ARCW. Other organizations and businesses were represented at the meeting, and many have chosen to step up and participate in the promotion of health and wellness. Be sure to keep an eye out for future information, and definitely stop by the area while at PrideFest!

TRANNY *continued from page 1*

organized than we thought," laughs Terry.

They have played colleges, art centers, and youth centers among other venues along the way during their cross-country tours, and the performers have varied in age – from the teens to over seventy.

"We're open to any kind of performance, and have had a pretty amazing array of things on our stage. We have a woman starting this spring who is 77. We're pretty excited to broaden our perspectives that way" says Terry.

Through it all, they have had musicians, poets, dancers, puppet shows, and will be joined this tour by a magician. "Really, we've had just about any kind of performance art," says Terry, whose own performance is mostly spoken word about his life. "I'm definitely not a comedian, but just about everything I do has humor involved. I try to have something new for each tour."

Terry admits to coming up material at the last moment – but he can't really be blamed, since he also has to iron out the organizational details of the shows. Like how to get the artists, who are spread across the country, all together for the tour. For the Wisconsin appearances, (they are also appearing in Madison on the 11th as part of the Multicultural Student Conference, at the Tripp Commons, Memorial Student Union, UW Madison, 8:30PM) they are

all flying into Milwaukee, renting a car, then flying back out on Sunday.

Appearing at the MGAC performance are: Jamez Terry, Kelly Shortandqueer, Ryka Aoki de la Cruz, and Dallas Marie Spitzer. They are also welcoming local WI performer Dove-Paige Anthony to the MGAC stage. This is her first performance with the Tranny Road Show, and she welcomes any opportunity to speak to audiences about the Trans community.

"The more people know about the Trans community the sooner we will have the same acceptance the rest of society has." Says Anthony.

After being the victim of a hate crime last November, which left her nearly deaf in her right ear, ("it was trans-hate that fueled the attack") Anthony switched gears from performing generally lighthearted material, to material with more of a political slant.

"It had the desired effect - it opened a lot of eyes in the community at large as to what the LGBT community is subjected to just because of who we are."

Her assailant was never caught. "Since then I've been doing spoken word any and every chance I can," says Anthony. "Change is now, and only we can bring it about. Its true what they say, Silence equals Death ...well I'm speaking up."

Be sure to catch these performers on April 12th, 8PM, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd Street.

april
is national volunteer month

why volunteer?

- o Be an integral part of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
- o Network within the LGBT community
- o Be a part of something
- o Give back to the community
- o Ensure LGBT programs and services remain strong
- o Keep the doors open

There are opportunities for everyone. Flexible shifts are available with personal one-on-one training. Consider volunteering today, because one person can make a great difference...

Contact Dave Martin, Operations Manager at 414.292.3066 to get involved today.

Thank you Milwaukee LGBT Center volunteers!

MIX N' MINGLE APRIL 8, 2008

April 8th join the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center for a *"Taste of the Tropics: Easy Asian Cooking Tips"* cooking demonstration with Erik & Dexter's Catering and Event Planning. Tickets are only **\$10** for members and **\$15** for non-members. Space is limited, you must **RSVP** by **April 4th** and send payment to the **Milwaukee LGBT Community Center** (atten. Robin Elizabeth) or phone **271-2656 ext 110**.



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MIX N' MINGLE APRIL 8, 2008

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Wisconsin



Happenings

WCCC's "Safe Harbor: Signs of Compassion"

Brookfield - Imagine a choral concert that includes actors, staging, spoken word, sound effects, musicians and more - that's choral theatre. Add in a wonderful variety of favorite tunes and new music by leading activist/songwriters (all made famous through their association with today's leading causes) and you have the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus' April 12th concert, "Safe Harbor: Signs of Compassion."

"We've taken everything our audiences have come to expect from the WCCC," says Artistic Director, Kristen L. Weber, "and taken it to the next level." According to Weber, "Whatever color ribbon you wear, whatever cause is dearest to your heart, the evening's music will bring many of the day's greatest concerns -- and hopes -- to life."

Homelessness, AIDS awareness, hospice care, breast cancer research and support for the troops are only a few of the causes touched upon in the evening's performance. The concert, "Safe Harbor: Signs of Compassion" will be held at 7:30 PM, Saturday, April 12 at the Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Avenue, Brookfield. Tickets are available: \$15 for adult; \$10 for youth; children under 10 are free. Special rate available for groups of 10 or more.

More information about the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, the performance, and ticket availability is available online at www.creamcitychorus.org. The group can also be contacted at 414-276-8787, or 315 W. Court Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

H.I.M launches HIV Testing Contest

Milwaukee - The Health Institute of Milwaukee (H.I.M), formally Charles "D" Productions introduces its new "HIV Never Looked So Good" Testing contest. Youth's aged 12-21, and Adults 22 and up are welcome to join, with the potential to win up to \$150. Contestants have started signing up already, and will be eligible to sign up until May 31st.

Each contestant must bring in African Americans for testing - preferably all men ages 12 and up. H.I.M will test anyone for free, but only African Americans who test will be counted. Anyone can enter the contest (Individuals, or groups.) An additional \$50 will be given to the youth or adult contestant who brings in the most African American men for testing. So, go and get your family, friends, and enemies to get a non-blood/confidential/anonymous HIV test. Knowing the status is half the battle. Results in 20 minutes. For more information and application, please call 414-263-9999.

Say it Ain't So! Guerra, of LGBT Center to Move On

Milwaukee - After almost four years of service to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and the Milwaukee community, Angie Guerra, Interim Director of Communications is resigning to relocate to Sedona, Arizona.

Guerra came to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center in 2004 as the Center's first Director of Development. In that role, she was able to help grow events like the Big Night Out and create social events like Mix N' Mingles' into roaring successes. Her winning personality and dedication to the community made her events both fun and well attended.

During the past four years the Center has seen tremendous growth and Guerra has played an integral role in helping to build relationships with key constituents and help spread the message of the positive work being done. "Angie has been a key leader at the Center over the years bringing stability and creativity to the staff. I will personally miss her as part of our management team, and as a co-worker. We all wish her the very best in her new endeavors" remarked Dr. Maggi Cage, Executive Director.

Prior to coming to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Angie worked with Visit Milwaukee, where she assisted meeting planners and helped convention goers learn about Milwaukee. She also played a hand in the creation of the Milwaukee LGBT lure brochure that the Visit Milwaukee sales team uses to entice LGBT visitors to come to our fair city. In addition, Angie has served on numerous committees and boards including, the Women of Color Funding Network, the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, A Qui Milwaukee Magazine Readers Advisory Board, Hispanic Professionals of Greater Milwaukee events planning committee and Visit Milwaukee's LGBT Advisory Team and Multicultural Committee.

Angie is excited about pursuing new

opportunities in Arizona, but says, "I am saddened to leave the Center at such a turning point. We are on the brink of such an exciting time, but now is my time to spread my own wings and explore other opportunities."

Angie, we are sure going to miss you. QLife wishes you only the best. Congratulations on your exciting new adventure!

Indoor Gay Soccer is almost Over!

Milwaukee - By now, you may have already headed on out to the Uihlein Indoor Soccer Park on Friday nights to see Wisconsin's LGBT Indoor Soccer League first hand! The Milwaukee Gay Soccer Association unveiled the new league on Feb. 29th with the first game of the 7-week season. Now going on its fifth week, the eight co-ed teams (over 100 players) have battled in a friendly, supportive environment, with the support of their cheering fans.

The MGSA was formed in fall 2007 when Uihlein Indoor Soccer Park agreed to provide space to the budding league. Uihlein Stadium located at 7101 W. Good Hope Road features three indoor fields, viewing balcony, and snack bar. A series of social events are being planned for members of the league to socialize, meet new friends, and build community.

"Milwaukee has been well overdue for a large gay sports league like this," said Rachel Trainor, captain for The Blue Light Special.

For a complete listing of matches please visit www.milwaukeegayssoccer.org

The Milwaukee Gay Soccer Association is made possible through the support of Jack H. Smith of Shorewest Realtors, the Joseph R. Pabst LGBT Infrastructure Fund, PrideFest, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Bella's Caffè, Club Icon, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, and Milwaukee's Out & About/Mona's.

Gay men's lives, rural to urban

Local author Will Fellows will present a program, "Exploring Gay Men's Lives," at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15. Fellows is the author of *Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest*, which was assigned reading for the male leads in the film *Brokeback Mountain*. Will Fellows's second book, *A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture*, examines gay men's extraordinary contributions in historic preservation. Both books were Lambda Literary Award finalists. The slide-illustrated program will include illuminating and entertaining overviews of both books, which seek to enhance understanding of gay men's lives, natures, and gifts. Admission is \$5 for First Unitarian members, \$10 for others.



Outwords Books Celebrates Poetry Month

Milwaukee - April is national Poetry Month and Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee, is delighted to offer two poetry readings during the month.

On Wednesday, April 23, Outwords welcomes to Milwaukee acclaimed Chicago poet, Gregg Shapiro at 7PM. Following his reading, Gregg will sign copies of his newly published collection of poetry entitled, "Protection."

The next week, on Tuesday, April 29, at 7PM, they will welcome back noted writer, essayist and poet, Yvonne Zipter. Ms. Zipter offered a program at Outwords back in 1995 following the publication of her book, "Ransacking the Closet." Now with the publication of her latest chapbook, "Like Some Bookie God," Yvonne returns to read from her latest collection of poems, including one which will be featured in the May issue of Poetry Magazine.

Gregg Shapiro is a 1999 inductee into Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame and a recipient of the 2003 Outstanding Support OMA (Outmusic Award). He is a pop culture journalist, poet and fiction writer whose creative work has been published in a multitude of literary journals including *Bliithe House Quarterly*, *Spoon River Poetry Review*, *Gargoyle*, *The Illinois Review*, *Columbia Poetry Review*, *Folio*, and *The Washington Review*, to name a few.

Noted gay poet David Trinidad, author of "Plasticville," writes, "In bed with a lover in Boston, putting a cat to sleep in Chicago, hanging laundry by moonlight in Washington, D.C. I like the way Gregg Shapiro's stanzas—packed with keen observations and physical details—place me solidly in his world. His in-your-face intimacy feels as necessary as it does generous and brave. Protection is a blessedly open and refreshingly out book of poems."

Originally a Milwaukee native, Yvonne Zipter had began writing her own column, at the urging of editor Tracy Baim, for *Windy City Times* and has been writing it ever since. "Inside Out," has been in national syndication for about fifteen years. Her first book, "Diamonds Are a Dyke's Best Friend," which Firebrand Books published in 1988 explores the enduring role of softball in the lesbian community. Yvonne's next book, "The Patience of Metal," is a collection of poetry that she self-published at the urging of her friends Minnie Bruce Pratt and Barbara Wilson. "The Patience of Metal" was a Lambda Literary Award Finalist. In 1995, Yvonne completed, "Ransacking the Closet," a collection of humorous essays, was published by Spinsters Ink.

Both poetry readings will take place at Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee, 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. These poetry readings are free events and everyone is welcome to join. For further information, please call (414) 963-9089.

OUR COMMUNITY

Media Consultant Hired for LGBT Campaign

The 41/26 Venture, a project of Cream City Foundation's Joseph R. Pabst LGBT Infrastructure Fund, has hired Media and Marketing Consultant, Denise Cawley, principal, Circore Creative. Denise Cawley will help create a media campaign around Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender issues, in particular those represented through "Shall Not Be Recognized," an exhibit featuring same-sex couples who have been together for seven years or more.

The media campaign will include billboards in southeastern Wisconsin, a media kit, as well as an expert's guide for responding to media that will be made available to all interested LGBT organizations and leaders. Additionally, the consultant will respond to LGBT related stories in the news that reflect the goals of the campaign and coordinate responses to media coverage on behalf of the 41/26 Venture.

"The media campaign was developed after a year of stimulating discussions," said Angie Guerra, a member of the 41/26 Venture Committee and interim Director of Communications for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. "I am very excited about the work Ms. Cawley will do provide visibility a presence for LGBT people through outdoor advertising."

"The committee obviously put a lot of time and thought into this project, and the hiring of Denise Cawley," said Tim Clark, President of the Cream City Foundation. "Ms. Cawley knows how to tailor marketing goals the resources of the organization with impressive results. Plus she has been an advocate for our community

for more than a dozen years; from her public relations and media work while on the first Board of Directors for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, to her work in LGBT arts, and parenting issues, Ms. Cawley has shown her commitment to LGBT rights and interests."

Photographer, Jeff Percy, one of the creators of "Shall Not Be Recognized," states, "Denise is a natural choice for this media consultant role. She has been a cheerleader for this project from the start." Denise Cawley, her partner of 12 years, and their son appear as subjects in the "Shall Not Be Recognized" exhibit.

41/26 Venture members include Joseph Brooks, formerly with ARCW; Maria Cadenas, Executive Director of the Cream City Foundation; Patrick Flaherty, former Director for Center Advocates; Angie Guerra of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee; and Michael Johnston, writer for Outbound magazine.

Cream City Foundation serves as a catalyst for social change on behalf of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities in southeastern Wisconsin. Their work includes strategic grant making, education, and media outreach. Find out more at www.creamcityfoundation.org. To find out more about the Shall Not Be Recognized exhibit visit www.shallnotberecognized.org.

(Editors note: We regret that we did not print this in our March issue)

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SENIOR

Beatrice C. Green, PhD is a professional grant writer and research consultant who has written articles on issues of concern to the LGBT community for over thirty years. She lives on the east side with her partner of 25 years, their cats and a mouse.

"What did homosexuality look like in the 60s?" you ask. My college *Abnormal Psychology* textbook said, that it was a mental disorder. It went on to describe latent *homosexuality* as a dormant form of the disorder that lurked just below the threshold of consciousness. It hinted that anyone could harbor the disease and implied that one should be on guard against possible temptation. One drunken homosexual encounter, enjoyable at the time, could result in a psychotic *abreaction*. Certainly there were people in mental hospitals whose only symptoms were in the insistence on their attraction to members of the same sex.

Where was one most likely to encounter a homosexual? Although there were stereotypes in the artistic professions, we never suspected our own generation's celebrity heroes - Cary Grant, Rock Hudson, and Tab Hunter - as being gay. In every day life, homosexuals were believed to prey on children and so one had to be wary of Boy Scout leaders, school teachers and, surprise, surprise, of doctors.

At the same time that undergraduates were reading these official texts, the discussion in graduate schools broadened considerably. Grad students learned that even Freud had questioned whether a homosexual required treatment or not. Apparently a woman had written to Freud asking if he would take her son who was a homosexual as a patient. After considering the boy's case, Freud told the woman that although he believed that the youth's life would probably be more difficult because of his attraction to his own sex that this was but a variation on the norm and the boy probably would not respond to his therapeutic method.

The Sixties Generation

Indeed Freud's theory of sexuality held that everyone was born with an undifferentiated *libido* and that one only developed homosexual and/or heterosexual object choice over time. From this scientific foundation the leftist philosophers Herbert Marcuse and Norman O. Brown argued for the sexual liberation that was to characterize the sixties.

The introduction of the birth control pill in 1963 freed women from the biological imperative that had destined them to heterosexual reproduction. It made *choice* a real option for millions and if women now could have options about reproduction, they could also choose to have sex for pleasure as well as to fulfill their *natural* destiny. Sex for pleasure? What an idea! If it was good enough for women, why not for men too? Thus the sexual revolution was born.

In this context a new homophile movement began to take shape. There were the older committed activists who had formed the Mattachine Society and lesbian Daughters of Bilitis but now also a younger generation of college kids radicalized in the civil rights movement and the antiwar movement. From different backgrounds and diverse political perspectives they came together in the seventies to abolish the notion that homosexuality was a mental illness

and to initiate the modern struggle for gay rights. From Berkeley to the streets of San Francisco, from NYU and Columbia to the streets of Greenwich Village, gay liberation began to change attitudes about homosexuality in America.

Forty years on we're the "Boomer Generation" now slated for retirement and the nursing home but determined to prove that we're not dead yet. Far from it! In fact we are not even old as that construction is being continually revised upwards. To propose eighty-five for an age-of-onset now seems appropriate. We are a unique demographic and not only as an historical curiosity. We have always, all our lives been pioneers. First to champion gay rights *en masse*, first to apply the technology of identity politics to our issues, first to "come out" proud, first to create visible institutions in the context of community.

Now the challenge is to lay down a vision of what it means to be older and proclaim *our vision* of what it means to be a senior in the LGBT community. The fullness of age rewards the survivor with wisdom, not only to be handed down to up and coming generations but to be shared and employed for the wellbeing of the community in the present. Thus the work begins.

Outwords Books

New & Noteworthy Fiction for April Exclusive to Q Life.

FOR THE BOYS:

- 1.) "My Most Excellent Year," Steve Kluger Meet T.C., who is valiantly attempting to get Alejandra to fall in love with him; Alejandra, who is playing hard to get and is busy trying to sashay out from under the responsibilities of being a diplomat's daughter; and T.C.'s brother Augie, who is gay and in love and everyone knows it but him.
- 2.) "Be Near Me," Andrew O'Hagen After years in England Father Anderton, a Catholic priest, joins a small parish in Scotland. He befriends two local teenagers and their company stirs memories of earlier happiness—his days at a Catholic school in Yorkshire, the student revolt in 1960s Oxford, and a choice he once made in the orange groves of Rome. But their friendship also ignites the suspicions of a town that resents strangers, and brings Father David to a reckoning with the gathered tensions of past and present.
- 3.) "A Perfect Waiter," Alain Claude Sulzer When Jakob fled Nazi dominated Europe for America with his lover, Erneste was heartbroken. Then, after decades of silence, he receives a letter from a penniless Jakob asking for help. And Ernest must decide if he will finally take action. Skillfully moving between two time periods, this exquisitely written story explores the nature of love and betrayal, memory, and regret.
- 4.) "Mahu Fire," Neil S. Placky Evil moves to paradise, as openly gay police detective Kimo Kanapa'aka battles an extreme religious group that opposes the idea of same-sex marriage. It begins with a simple shooting, but the danger intensifies as Kimo strives to unmask a killer.
- 5.) "Double Abduction," Chris Beakey Michael Bennett enjoys nothing more than spending time with his young nephew Justin. Then Justin vanishes while under Michael's care and Michael is forced into an uneasy alliance with enigmatic Washington, D.C. policewoman Gloria Towson, who believes Justin's fate is connected to a serial killer who targets gay men. Yet Michael may not be as innocent as he claims.

FOR THE GIRLS:

- 1.) "To Protect & Serve," V.K. Powell Assigned to the Vice/Narcotics Division, Alex is given the dangerous but career-building mission of catching the city's most notorious drug lord, Sonny Davis. Keri Morgan is young, enthusiastic and has her own reason to want Sonny Davis dead. Soon Alex and Keri are caught in a web of love, duty, vengeance and desire that will change both their lives.
- 2.) "Training Days," Jane Frances Traversing the Australian continent on a long-distance train should be a once in a lifetime opportunity for Morgan Silverstone, especially since she meets Marie, a French backpacker bound for the outback. Closeted for the sake of her job, Morgan finds Marie hard to resist. Will a few hours of unbridled passion be Morgan's professional undoing?
- 3.) "Fool on the Hill," Morgan Hunt For Tess Camillo and her roommate Lana, attending the concert of guitarist Cody Crowne should be excitement enough. But the next day, Tess discovers the singer dead. Tess finds herself drawn to a case that takes her to a creepy religious organization, with danger shadowing her every move.
- 4.) "An Affair of Love," S. Anne Gardner Blayne Aston-Carlyle is aloof, self-sufficient, and at the top of her game. Gabriella Matheson, a sculptor, appears to have the ideal marriage, complete with two lovely children. Both women are on a collision course to a passion they cannot fight, to a love they cannot ignore, to an ending that will change everything.
- 5.) "Heartland," Julie Cannon Political strategist Danielle Brookline, jaded and disillusioned, books a week at the Springdale for a much needed vacation before embarking on the job of a lifetime—the election of her candidate to the Presidency. Riley Dillon has spent the last four years working and sweating to make her ranch a successful business venture. Sparks fly when Riley comes face-to-face with Danielle among her group of new arrivals.

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

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Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second Street |
| May 1 | "LGBT People & Finances" with Jim Harper
Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second Street |
| May 8 | "Charitable Giving" with Jim Fischer
Home of Joseph Pabst, 2770 N. Summit Avenue |
| May 15 | "Retirement Red Zone" with Jeff Lewis
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
315 W. Court Street |
| May 22 | "Long-Term Care Insurance" with Julie Douglas
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
315 W. Court Street |

To register for this free series or to receive more information about this program, please call Patrick Price, Director of Philanthropy for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, at (414) 292-3065 or e-mail him at pprice@mklgbt.org.



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Is This as Good as It Gets?

"I remember when I was their age. We were creating change, making a difference, fighting for our rights. Today, these young people have it so good and they don't even know it! They don't know what discrimination is."



HEALTH

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

This is a riff that young people and their allies hear all too frequently. Perhaps the underlying message is that 30, 40, and 50-somethings are looking for recognition for a job well done. We broke open the closet and flexed our political and economic muscle. We created community -- often where none had existed before. A sensibility, a world view, an identity, and a politic emerged from our efforts.

Boatloads of praise, acknowledgement, and appreciation are due the generations who fought so hard and won so much.

But awards minted at the expense of young people still the voices of young people who question our resignation, complacency, desperation, and hopelessness. We might defer a critique of LGBT youths and young adults as not recognizing the gains of our generation until we at least nod to the plight of theirs.

The 2007 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) shows very unsettling -- even alarming -- situations for LGBT teens. They are

disproportionately at risk for alcohol and drug abuse. In comparison to their heterosexual peers, queer youth are more likely to have their first drink of alcohol before age 13, drink daily, and binge drink. They are also more likely to use marijuana, painkillers, and cocaine. They are similarly more likely to sniff glue and use heroin.

The same survey shows that queer teens are more likely to have ever smoked and to have been younger when they started to smoke. They are more frequent smokers and twice as likely as their peers to be daily smokers. Since they are less likely to accurately understand their risks as smokers, as a group they smoke more cigarettes per day and are more likely to smoke at school.

Mental health concerns are also serious issues for LGBT teens in Wisconsin. They are twice as likely to report feeling sad or hopeless in the past 30 days. They report thinking about suicide three times more than their peers do; they also report three times the rate of having attempted suicide in the past year.

Widespread experiences of violence may also account for some of these health disparities. In the YRBS, queer youth report more frequently being threatened at school and a greater likelihood of fighting and being injured at school. They are bullied more often and feel unsafe at school.

They are significantly more likely to report being forced into sexual activity.

Every queer person knows that the impulse to self-destruct isn't in us. It is smeared on us through discrimination and its attendant stressors. Homophobia, other anti-gay oppressive systems, transphobia, sexism, and racism -- they all plow through our sense of worth and prompt us to settle for what we get.

But the health risks of queer teens seem to challenge us. Youths and young adults reject the unspoken message that this is as good as it gets.

If we can't FIX it we'll BURY it!

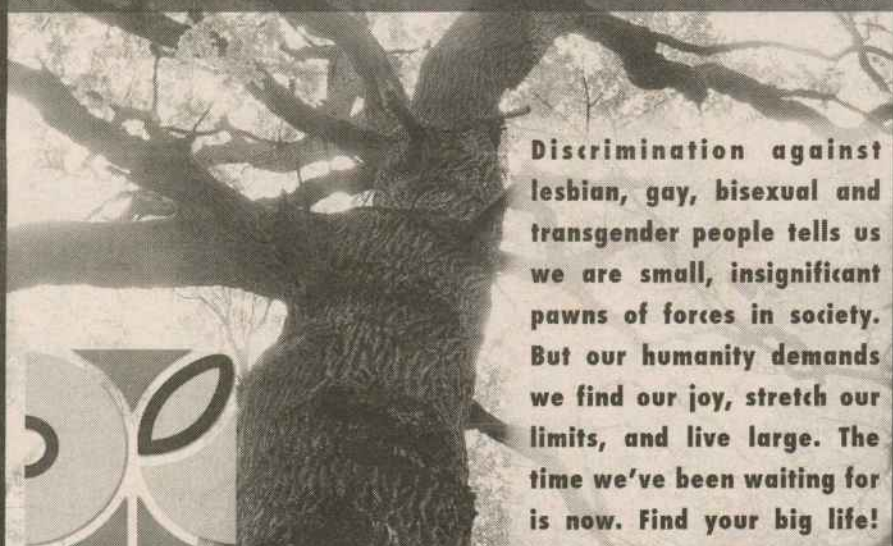
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Diverse&Resilient is a statewide organization committed to the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Wisconsin. We accomplish our mission by helping grow the organizations and youth and adult leaders who aid us as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

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WHAT: THE 7th ANNUAL YOUNG WOMYN'S EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

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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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PRODUCTION & DESIGN

Harvey Graphics

WEBMASTER

Datum

CIRCULATION

QLife prints a free, monthly newspaper, distributed throughout Milwaukee, and the state. You can find it at coffee shops, bars, libraries, stores, and a variety of gay friendly locales. Have you been wanting to get QLife delivered right to your home? Well, you are in LUCK! Subscriptions to QLife News are now available for \$24/Year. Send check to: QLife News, 2266 N. Prospect Ave, Suite 200, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Or, give us a call at 414-383-8200, and we will take your CC info over the phone. Visa/MasterCard only, please.

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

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Editorial April 2008

Hide Sally Hide

By Kate Sherry

"It's not a lifestyle that is good for this nation."

"I honestly think it's the biggest threat our nation has, even more so than terrorism, or Islam"

Oh Sally, Sally, Sally. You don't get out much, do you?

If you haven't heard the leaked audio recording of Oklahoma House representative Sally Kern comparing gays to terrorists and telling fellow Republicans the "homosexual agenda is destroying this nation," check out the video on youtube.com. Her anti-gay rant was in the middle of her speech to a group of Republicans who had invited her to express her views about homosexuality. What a wonderful example of ignorance and hate.

Sally, do you really believe that homosexuals are only pro-early childhood education just so we can indoctrinate 2 year olds into the homosexual lifestyle? Guess what? There is nothing wrong with teaching children early on about tolerance. Perhaps you need to go back to pre-school, and hear what hopefully our future generations are hearing - that it isn't okay to hate.

Better yet, why not start out by taking a ride and learning about hate crimes and homophobia first hand?

Take a ride in the Fag Bug, Sally.

We were fortunate enough to grab Erin Davies while she's driving cross-country in her fagbug, on her way to UWM this

month and ask her a few questions about her journey. The entire interview will be available online - www.queerlifeneews.com - but we will give you a sneak peak here.

Erin Davies, the woman driving across the country and making stops all over the states, is owner of the Fag Bug - by circumstance, and by choice. One day, when heading



out to her brand new VW Bug, she noticed it had been vandalized. Apparently set off by Erin's rainbow sticker on the bumper, the vandals decided to spray paint the oh-so-clever words, "FAG" and "U R GAY" on the car in red spray paint.

"Initially I wanted to get it cleaned right away," says Davies "but my insurance company made me wait five days for a quote. I insisted on getting a rental car and told them "the word fag's right next to my face you've got to be kidding me there's no way I'm driving this thing." Davies drove off in the rental, leaving her VW Bug at home, where it got a lot of notice. People began stopping her to discuss it, and eventually she had the idea to drive the vehicle to her school and park it where she teaches. It was only then when she decided to keep the car the way it was.

"Typically this type of thing is

covered up immediately, and by covering it up it remains an isolated incident and whoever it happened to becomes shamed by it. By leaving it on, the person who did it is the one who should be ashamed, not me," explains Davies.

Davies hit the road to promote tolerance, and to bring attention to the horrible facts of homophobia.

Along the way, people have called her names, demanded that she remove the slurs, and even attempted to remove the paint themselves. She's heard numerous stories of hate crimes, some resulting in deaths, and she's had more than a

handful of opportunities to change perspectives along the way.

"The interesting thing about fagbug is that it gives a visual representation to homophobia people endure everyday," explains Davies. "If someone calls you a "fag" there's no way for you to show someone else how hurtful it is. By having it on my car with red spray paint next to my face as I drive, there's no way someone can avoid seeing how hurtful it was meant to be."

Davies has been making a documentary along the way, and has received generous donations from Volkswagen to keep her journey rolling along. Soon, her fagbug will be wrapped to look like the rainbow colored bug on her website. Check it out, and while you're on there, send a donation if you can - www.fagbug.com.

Buy a rainbow sticker and send it to Sally Kern. She could use a little color in her life.

Letters/Opinion

Work for that Pride

For the past few years, I've always wanted to do my part in trying to perpetuate positive homosexual/bisexual/transgender acceptance within my community through some sort of education.

Year after year I'm turned off from attending Milwaukee's PrideFest because it seems as though our younger generation doesn't understand why we need such a celebration in the first place. We behave as if we're almost there, and can sit back and ignorantly anticipate a happy ending. Why is it that we act so cavalier to the regression of this country's human rights? We're pissed off, but what are we doing about it?

Gay television/film, such as "Queer as Folk", "Brokeback Mountain", "The L Word", "To Wong Foo", and "Will and Grace", give the illusion that our war is over. Although they don't portray complete acceptance, knowing that we've made it far enough to have gay entertainment leads us astray. Aside from local establishments such as "Fair Wisconsin", and much criticized "Human Rights Campaign" I personally don't see enough effort out there to help complete our struggle of social and legal acceptance.

Even Hilary, the Queen of Avoiding the Answer, tiptoes around the subject of gay marriage creating an illusion of being on our side. If "marriage" is a term deemed religious, then change it, because it goes beyond religion. It's about love and acceptance - concepts that this country seems to forget. The irony of love and acceptance is also the entire focal point of Christianity, but we're much too self preoccupied to notice. And frankly, I'm concerned that the gay community too has fallen on the distracted bandwagon.

Why aren't we out there making noise? I'm up for making a change. Contact me if you are as well.

Jeffrey Jacobs
jjacobs17@wi.rr.com

QLife Quickie

Columbia, SC, Passes Historic City Ordinances

Columbia, SC - The Columbia City Council voted unanimously to pass ordinances prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity in housing and public accommodations. South Carolina's Capital City is the first municipality in the state to pass comprehensive human rights ordinances in housing and public accommodations including sexual orientation and gender identity, and joins two other cities in the "Deep South" that have passed comprehensive anti-discrimination ordinances: New Orleans and Atlanta.

TAXES

Rebates and Tax Day

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.

It is now April, and the snow is finally going away. The days are longer with the sun staying up past dinnertime. Tax day will soon be upon us. All tax returns are required to be filed by Tuesday, April 15, 2008. A penalty will be assessed for returns filed late reducing any refund or increasing any balance due.

Usually after filing their returns, taxpayers will take a look at their refund or payments to figure out if they can make the amounts larger or smaller. If a larger refund is preferred, the number of exemptions filed on form W-4 with his or her employer should be decreased, or the amount of tax withheld could be increased by a dollar amount, say \$10 per week. Those wanting their weekly checks increased in place of a large refund can increase the number of withholdings.

The Internal Revenue Service discourages the underreporting of paycheck withholdings. If the balance due at tax time is too high, there will be penalties for underpayment. Also, if the completed form W-4 contains 10 or more exemptions, the employer is required to pass on the form to the Internal Revenue Service.

This year's filing deadline is unique.

Two weeks after the deadline the IRS will begin to send out economic stimulus rebate checks. A vital requirement to become eligible for the check is that each taxpayer must file a tax return. Many taxpayers do not file because their income is so low that no tax has to be reported.

To receive the check the taxpayer must demonstrate receipt of income of at least \$3,000. The income can include Social Security and veteran's benefits. Social Security Income (SSI) does not count toward the \$3,000.

For most single tax filers, those with income between \$30,000 and \$75,000, the rebate is pretty straightforward: \$600 for each taxpayer plus \$300 for each qualifying child under 17.

There are hair-curling complications when the income drops below \$30,000 or exceeds \$75,000. A taxpayer must have been assessed taxes of at least \$600 to receive the maximum amount of \$600. In other words if no tax is assessed the taxpayer will receive the minimum payment of \$300. If the single taxpayer is assessed taxes between \$300 and \$600, he or she will receive an amount between \$300 and \$600.

The term "taxes assessed", means the amount of tax the IRS charges before the child tax credit is considered. The term does not mean the balance due at the end of the return.

For those with income over \$75,000 the rebated is reduced by a percentage of every dollar above \$75,000 until there is no rebate to be awarded.

A qualifying child is any related child including foster children, who lived with the taxpayer for at least six months during 2007. The child rebate is not affected by the complications of the taxpayer's low-income complications. But when the income reaches beyond \$75,000 the sliding scale rules apply.

Here are two examples:

1. A single parent with two children, no wages, no social security benefits, no veterans payments, and with no taxes assessed before the child tax credit. Total income is \$4,000. The total rebate is \$900, \$300 for the taxpayer and \$600 for the two children.

2. A single parent with two children with income over \$40,000 has a tax assessed before child tax credit at over \$600. The total rebate is \$1,200, an individual rebate of \$600 and \$600 for the two children.

The rebate check will be sent to the same place the original refund check was mailed. If the taxpayer received the refund check by mail or by direct deposit, the rebate check will arrive the same way.


If the taxpayer wants to obtain a good estimate, he or she can go to www.irs.gov and enter Economic Stimulus Payment Calculator in the search box. Keep your 2007 tax return nearby and follow the easy directions.

Have a happy tax day and good luck in 2008.

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There She Was, Just Walking Down The Street....

I recently met with one of my few friends from high school, someone I hadn't seen in a long time. Normally, that wouldn't be the subject of an interesting article, since, after all, coffee is coffee and many people do re-connect with old friends.

When she first contacted me, she noted she had just read my column – and thus, had seen a relatively recent photo of me. She gave me a link to her blog, which revealed a recent photo of her.

When I opened the webpage, the face smiling at me was one that I could only barely recognize. Her physical appearance had *radically* changed. I spent the greater portion of an evening reading her blog and looking at photos of her. At times, I felt like I was voyeuristically staring at her, consensually stalking her, taking her in, following her on her journey, absorbing her new essence.

With each photo, I said to myself – and sometimes aloud – “Wow, she’s changed so much.” But then I had to laugh.

I, of all people, know about dramatic bodily change. She could easily have said the same thing about me, since I don’t look anything like I did 20 years ago, or even 10 years ago.

As we sip our coffee, she asks me, “Would you have recognized me, walking down the street?” Easily, the

answer was no. When I looked at her, just inches away from me, I couldn’t even say that her smile was still the same – because it wasn’t. It wasn’t frequently there 20 years ago. Mine wasn’t either. What changed? She now inhabits a body that is half the weight it is used to be. I now live in a body that is perceived to be a different gender.

What we’ve done is amazing and world changing. (That may sound egotistical or grandiose – and it is most definitely out of character for me, who thinks about my own transition as extremely ordinary and non-eventful.) It is not necessarily remarkable that she lost half her body weight or I changed my gender presentation, but it is significant because we both had the internal resolve and persistence to effect the personal changes in our lives that we were passionate about or committed to. Perhaps we reached our choices gradually, or maybe there was an alarming wake-up call, but we both realized that something in our lives needed to change – and we *created* that change, we each altered our life’s course.

New doors have opened for both of us. We both know what it is like to navigate the world in a new body, to have the world look at us in a totally different way. We may have had partners or friends who longed: “I want the old you back” – because



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.


our ability to change our bodies and lives scared them. Our changed realities force others to face the fact that individuals *are* capable of literally shaping their own lives – a truth that is far easier to avoid than accept, because it means that all of us are capable of changing the things we always believed were immutable.

The big changes in our lives, though, weren’t losing weight or changing gender. The real change was becoming content with who we are and even slowly being able to celebrate who we are.

Sometimes it takes seeing someone else’s journey to realize just how far you’ve come.

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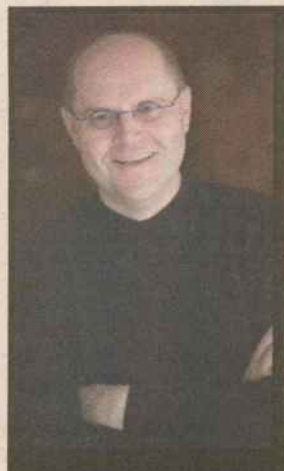
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QLife Quickie

WA Domestic Partnership Expansion Bill Signed Into Law

Washington – State of Washington Governor Chris Gregoire has signed into law a Domestic Partnership Expansion bill that will provide more than 160 new rights and responsibilities to registered domestic partners under state law. The bill passed the Senate on March 4 by a 29-20 vote. It passed the House last month by a 62-32 vote.


A 2007 law created a domestic partner registry that provided specific rights and responsibilities to same-sex couples as well as opposite sex couples with one partner over age 62. The bill the Senate passed will expand on the 2007 law. The new law becomes effective June 12, 2008.



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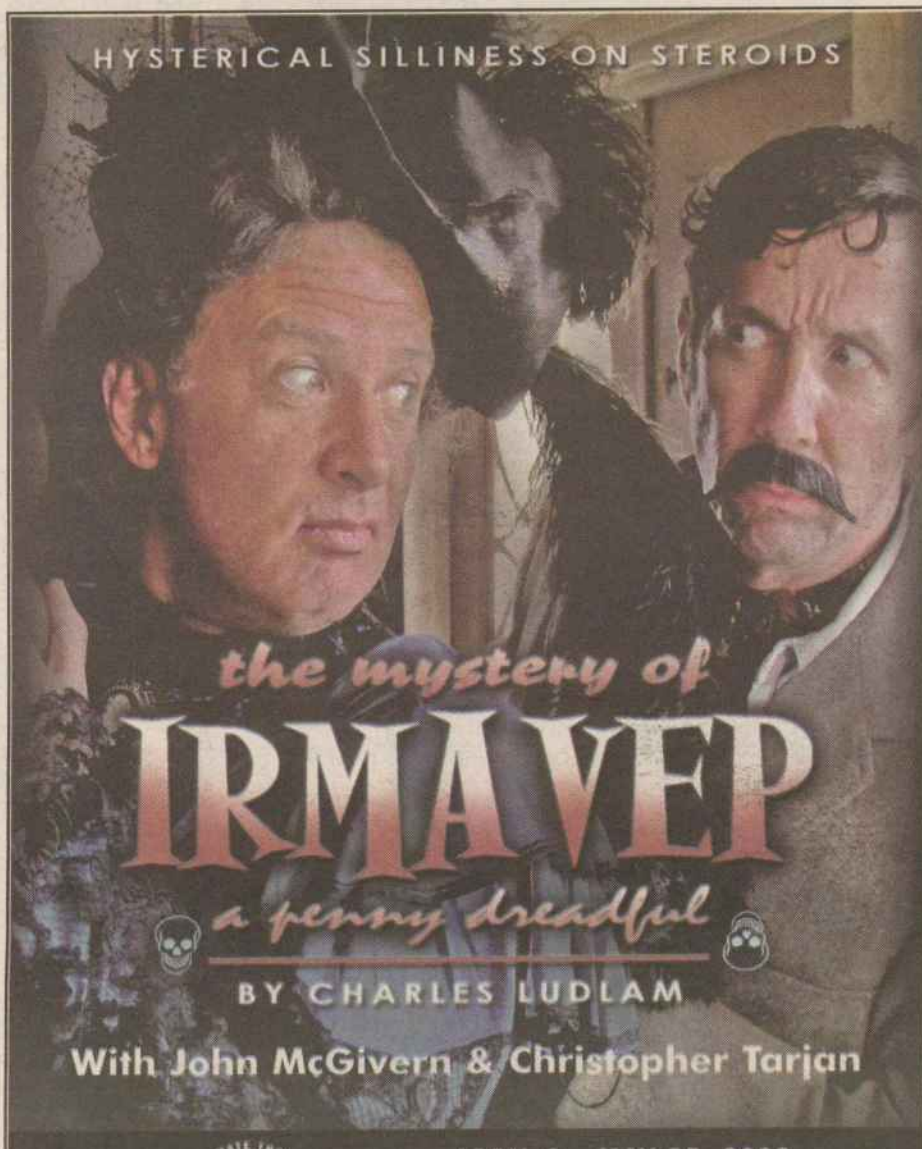


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Sperm: Fresh, Frozen, Spun?

Part III of the Science Project

Sperm, morphology, motility, fresh, frozen, and concentration – who knew I would learn so much about spooze? When my partner and I talked about becoming parents we were sure we wanted to have a baby ourselves. We're "do it yourselfers" at heart. Somehow we would need some sperm. Researching, selecting and purchasing sperm is complicated; far more difficult than buying a bathing suit or picking out new carpet. Every decision you make will have significant bearing on the rest of your life. To this

day, we jokingly say that if we would have known before inseminating that our donor had a life long history of fighting sleep – even as an adult, we might have looked for a different specimen as our son never wants to miss a thing.

Sperm is a largely unregulated industry. Unlike blood and other organ donations, the donors are paid. Many argue that this opens the process up for unethical practices. There are some donors out there that have as many as 65 children registered on the Donor Sibling Registry. Yet the practice of paying for

the sperm is one way that legal rights between each party are eliminated.

Most sperm specimens are frozen and quarantined for six to nine months under tissue banking guidelines. It is tested and re-tested for HIV. Yet in other countries like Italy they use HIV positive men as donors but spin their semen, separating the sperm from the semen as semen carries HIV and sperm do not. HIV positive sperm for donation is not my expertise so research it more if you are interested.

Freezing sperm slows it down considerably in its race to the egg. To be inseminated, you have to know when you are going to ovulate. Knowing that you ovulated is too late – especially if you are purchasing frozen spunk! Lots of clinics out there – including a well-known fertility clinic, in Milwaukee, on Lake Drive, tell you to make your appointment to be inseminated for the day AFTER you ovulate. In my opinion, your chances of getting pregnant with frozen sperm the day after you ovulate is very slim. After knowing some basic facts you may agree.

The life of sperm and eggs

Frozen sperm can live up to 24 hours. Whereas the stuff fresh from the tap (pun intended) can last up to five days in a happy vaginal environment. So lots of folks having hetro-sex, that can't believe they got pregnant, had sex before they ovulated. The sperm hung out in little caverns in the vagina and waited to pounce on the egg when the right cervical fluid was present.

Weschler's *Taking Charge of Your Fertility*, says the egg lives a MAXIMUM of 24 hours after release from the follicle (or 48 hours combined lifespan if two eggs are released in a given ovulation). The AVERAGE egg lifespan, as opposed to maximum possible lifespan, is closer to 12 hours. One book, *A Child Is Born*, says it

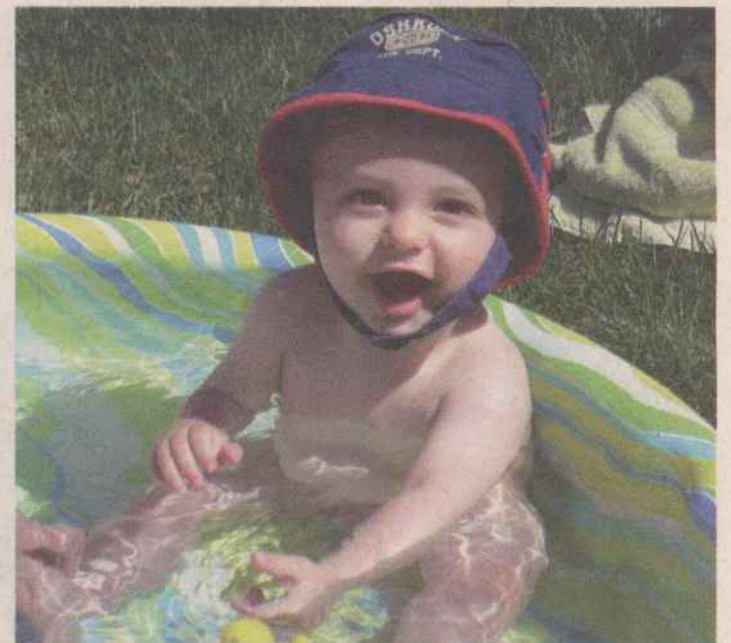


PARENTING

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

takes 6 hours for the sperm to swim up to the egg. Other sources I have read say it takes 12 to 16 hours. Some sperm won't make it through the cervix and some will stay behind at the cervix and wait (if the [cervical fluid] is right), while others will try to get through the uterus and the fallopian tubes.

Ok, so do the math: it takes 6 to 16 hours to get the sperm from the vagina



to the egg. Frozen sperm lasts up to 24 hours. Eggs live an average of 12 hours. So if you make an appointment to get inseminated for the day AFTER you ovulate you have very little chance of ever getting pregnant.

If this sperm and egg business is putting you in a quandary I suggest the very humorous book *Buying Dad*, by Harlyn Aizley.

Until next month, as Dorie from "Finding Nemo" would say, just keep swimming.

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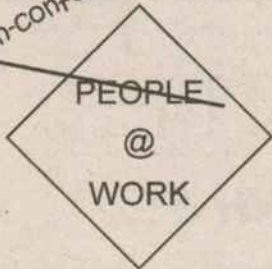
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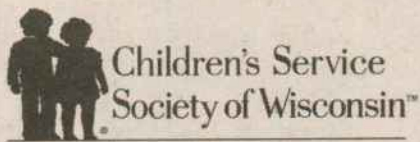
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Remembering a Legend: Lynn Morgan

Paul, near the end of his life, reflecting on all he had done, wrote to the church in Philippi, "Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

These same words come to mind when I remember the remarkable life of Lynn Morgan, who passed away this past February at the age of 84. Lynn



was a long-time resident of Whitefish Bay, where she worked as a tax-assessor for the village, but is best known in our community for her advocacy and volunteerism

on women's issues.

In recognition of her commitments and in honor of her life, a Memorial Service and Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Street, from 4:30-5:30 with reception following, then a dance at 7pm. Every woman, whether or not they knew

Lynn, is invited to come and celebrate "The Legend" in each of us. The events are free but donations will be accepted in Lynn's honor for the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, with each dollar matched and all funds providing services to lesbians in the metro area.

The beauty and power of Lynn's

life comes out in a story told by her longtime friend Mary MacArthur.

"We were watching TV and Oprah Winfrey's preview of her Legends Ball came on and Lynn said, 'I'm a legend, you're a legend, every woman is a legend. There isn't one woman anywhere that another woman isn't looking to her to see how she moves through life, solves problems. So every woman - young, middle aged, old - is learning from another woman. We should always take responsibility and be proud of it; don't let any woman ever forget it!'"

In significant ways Lynn's life was dedicated to helping women discover that they were legends themselves.

During her twenty-five years of work with the Counseling Center of Milwaukee she worked on issues of sexuality and sexual identity, helping women reclaim their bodies and

sexuality.

The impact of Lynn's work was life-saving because her message was often the opposite of the health information, and damaging views, fostered by parents, churches, and the culture at large. Lynn once poked fun at her own upbringing, saying, "I became interested in female sexuality because my

own information about sex was so inadequate. I came from a small town; in fact, the town was so small they taught Driver's Ed and Sex Ed in the same car." Lynn made sure that she provided help that was not there for

Lynn said, "Every woman is a legend. There isn't one woman anywhere that another woman isn't looking to her to see how she moves through life, solves problems."



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.

her in her upbringing.

Mary MacArthur notes, "Lynn was often that mother figure, providing the approval and healing many of us didn't receive growing up, so we could discover and claim whatever our sexuality was. It made no difference to Lynn if you were straight, gay, bisexual, or transgender; her commitment was to providing accurate information on sexuality and instilling pride."

Lynn Morgan leaves a legacy in Milwaukee in the hearts of women throughout our area that discovered the blessedness of their own sexuality and identity. She will be greatly missed; may she also be greatly remembered by people who keep on doing the things they have learned and received and heard and seen in Lynn.

Complete information on the event may be found at the Lesbian Alliance website: www.lesbianalliance.org

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Cutie Patooties

In March 2008 the City of Pittsburgh celebrated "Won't You Be My Neighbor Days" to mark the late Mister Roger's 80th birthday. This event inspired me to peruse the Archives for zines that playfully explore the heartwarming and heartbreaking sides of love and life as shown through illustration. These queer comics enable readers to leave behind the turbulence of the fractured world around us, allowing time to be wrapped in blankets of melancholy as well as wave flags of celebration. So put on your favorite sweater, change into some comfy shoes, and come cuddle up with these lovingly hand drawn stories designed to touch even the most cynical of queer hearts.

It Does a Body Good

One of the newest additions to QZAP is the short and sweet **Homobodies** [Issue 1, 12 pages, 2007]. Working from the sound premise that gay boys are not all go-go dancing, meth snorting freaks, **Homobodies** has single page vignettes of what hottie radical queer guys are up to in their daily routines. One of these pages hits close to home for those of us struggling with the effects of a brutal winter. With a charmingly drawn cloud of warm air puffing from the mouth of a shaved head guy, who nearly passes for a younger version of Michael Stipe, we find that this queer dude doesn't need central heating because

he dances all winter to stay warm. We watch one fellow in his kitchen fermenting food as dishes ferment in the sink behind him, while others are engaged in keeping house by "making their own damn cleaning products!" The attention to detail is astounding, as politically astute folks will find visual references to "no more prisons" and "Food Not Bombs" in a style not dissimilar to **Anonymous Boy's** sly band references in the backgrounds of his comics. It is refreshing to have a balance of characters here by seeing people of color and guys with varied body types and shapes representing the spectrum of boys you truly DO want to take home with you!

What's Another Name for Pirate Treasure?

Here's another queer person who has winter heating issues, but unlike her **Homobodies** brethren, Anne is drawing **Booty**, [Issue 20, 16 pages, 2007] not shaking it, illustrating herself in a babushka to stave off the effects of a thermostat set to 56°. **Booty** is densely packed with reflective narrative and a variety of drawing styles that remind me of **Liliane** although in an earlier issue she feels she emulating **Alison Bechdel** with I would respectfully suggest is slightly off the mark. **Bechdel** and **Booty** diverge as **Booty** has roots much more in indie rock and the real world, where **Dykes to Watch Out For** often feels contrived and



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.

heavy-handed. Anne expresses many details of her emotional life in matter of fact ways and with a poignant voice. While she may feel some panels are gloomy, there is a real power to clearly expressing a spectrum of emotional responses to modern life. On the whole, **Booty** reads like checking in with an old friend for an update on the ups and downs of a life well lived.

Liliane's creator Leanne Franson appears in page of **il pleut des gouines** [Issue 6, 36 pages, 2007] when Lola illustrates a snippet of their meeting in a café whilst Leanne tells of being a bi-dyke, and talks of her beloved pet dogs. This bilingual zine is one of the latest queer comics to come out of Montréal and expresses a beautifully chaotic interpretation of radical queer life. There is a quirky charm from cover to cover and Lola does not shy away from tackling complex issues such as BDSM. While touching on polyamorous relationships with her housemate who is suffering from a cold, the punch line of him falling asleep just as she gets fired up and full of a variety of thoughts on the subject is apropos of the overall feel of **il pleut des gouines**. By fits and starts, through push and pull of ideas and experiences, Lola's shared life experiences bring chuckles of recognition and her savvy political beliefs give readers much to think about while the anarchic drawing style wraps it all up in a gorgeous package.

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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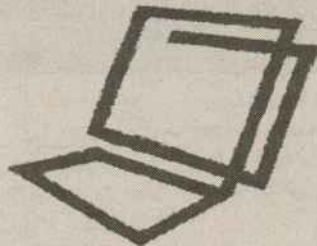
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Walk or Run - Get that Spring in your Step

Spring is here and you may want to work off some of that winter weight. Being indoors all winter long may be making you stir crazy, so we are going to be talking about running and walking outdoors. Keep in mind this doesn't mean you want to throw that gym membership to the wayside. You still need to keep the muscles and ligaments strong and everything in shape and looking great. Many people make the mistake of discontinuing their weight-training when summer comes - this is the number one thing you could do wrong for your body. Remember, weight training, along with your cardio workout is necessary to keep your body balanced.

Now slow down! It is true that warming up before a workout helps prevent muscle strain and injury. Warming up for 5 to 10 minutes enables you to move, run, play, and maneuver with greater speed. When your muscles are cold, they simply won't move as fast.

Consider the following:

- Warming up simply means doing light aerobic exercise such as: walking, jogging, or easy cycling.
- Your warm-up activity should be comfortable, not forced or strenuous. Don't confuse warming up with stretching. They're two different processes. You should always warm up first, then stretch.

• If you stretch cold muscles, you're risking muscle tears.

After you have warmed up and stretched, you are ready for your run. If you typically run outdoors, it is probably a good idea to use a treadmill every now and then, along with a full-length mirror close by. By observing yourself in a mirror, you can evaluate your running form and make adjustments where needed. Running form is largely dictated by what you do ABOVE the waist.

Your posture should be straight, no slouching. Your head should be in a neutral position; you should not be looking up or down. Your arms should be bent at about 90 degrees. They should swing back and forth at your sides as you run. Your hands should be lightly clenched, as if you were gently holding a fragile object in each one. Hands should face inward toward your body, not downward. Ideally, by improving the subtleties of your form in the mirror, you'll be better able to continue them when you hit the open road.

Go ahead and try running outside on paved roads and paths - such as trail running, this Spring. Because unpaved trails (e.g. in a wooded area) have curves and irregular surfaces, your running stride and rhythm may be very different than on smooth roads. The irregular surfaces also mean that you must pay special attention to foot placement. However, there are benefits

to running or walking on trails with irregular surfaces. Because your foot lands in various positions, you may work certain ankle, leg and hip muscles more than you do while running on smooth, straight trails. Your irregular stride on a trail can also give you a new kind of cardiovascular challenge.

In general, running on a treadmill is less demanding than running on the road at the same speed. When running on a treadmill there is no air resistance, and the treadmill's moving surface helps propel you forward. If you want your treadmill runs to be as physically challenging as your road runs, there is a simple solution; set the treadmill's incline at 1% and exercise at your usual road speed.

If you prefer walking to running, you'll be happy to learn that walking has benefits as well. By walking, you can strengthen the muscles in your lower back and buttocks. Tightly squeeze your buttocks (the gluteus maximus muscles, or "glutes") and keep these muscles contracted throughout your walk. This technique may not sound very elegant - and it may take a while to master - but your back will thank you. With this technique you are now burning fat and toning your butt and lower back at the same time. As I always say, workout smarter, not harder.

I recently read a study that found walking for 2 1/2 hours or more a week can reduce the risk



FITNESS

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

of cardiovascular disease by about 30% in postmenopausal women. Women in this age group (50+) are at increased risk for heart disease. Walking registered about the same cardiovascular benefits as more vigorous exercise, including tennis, jogging and aerobics. Of course, the benefits of walking aren't gender-specific. Men, too, can use walking as a way to reduce their risks for heart disease.

By walking and running, whether it be indoors or out, you can shed those unwanted pounds and change your body's composition.

Remember to warm up and stretch prior to your walks or runs to prevent muscle tearing and other injuries. Practice good form. Now get out there and enjoy the Spring weather while improving your health!

APRIL CALENDAR

GET IT WHILE YOU CAN...

Assemblage, Collage, Entourage & Montage: variations on a theme of mixed media with works by Brian Beck and Anthony Weber now through April 18 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Gallery Hours: 10-4PM M-F and by appointment. MGAC, 703 S. 2nd St. INFO: 414-383-3727

In Tandem Theatre is presenting the Broadway hit, "Mass Appeal" by Bill C. Davis at the Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th Street NOW thru April 13, 2008. Tickets \$20 for adults / \$16 for students, seniors (60+) and groups of ten or more. Reservations/INFO: 414-271-1371, www.intandemtheatre.com.

The Institute of Visual Arts (Inova) in the UWM Peck School of the Arts showing two exhibitions in its Inova/Kenilworth Gallery: An Organogram of the Peck School of the Arts, a commissioned project by Adelheid Mers, and an accompanying group show, *Indexical Frontiers*, featuring work by Michael Banicki, Annabel Daou and Renato Umali. The exhibition remains on view through May 11 and is free and open to the public. 2155 N. Prospect Ave. Gallery hours are Wednesday & Friday-Sunday, noon-5 pm & noon-8 pm on Thursdays.

APR 1

DEADLINE for submissions is today, for the 2nd Annual Lesbian Alliance Art Show focused on answering the question: "What is your community?" This show is open to women of the LGBTQ and ally community. Submit digital images of artwork via email with name/address/media type/dimensions/minimum bid (including 20% percent commission) and artist's statement to: lesbian_alliance_art_show_entry@yahoo.com. INFO: visit www.lesbianalliance.org or call 414-272-9442.

Project Q Drop-in For LGBTQ youth ages 14-24. LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court Street, Milw. 4:30-9PM. Repeats every Tuesday, Friday and Sat. INFO: 414-223-3220 or visit www.projectq.org.

"Yogalates," yoga-pilates fusion with Marc - 8 weeks \$40, Strengthen your core at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center! New students may join at any time. This class repeats on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30PM.

APR 3

"Bridging the gap" is a panel discussion addressing issues surrounded by social and cultural identities. 12-1PM in the Multicultural Student Lounge. Go get answers to those hidden questions you've been desiring to get answers to for so long.

Carla Gordon & Harmony France perform as part of the Bailiwick Cabaret Festival in Chicago, IL. 7:30PM. \$10 for one performance or \$15 for both. Studio Theater, Bailiwick Arts Center, 1229 West Belmont Avenue, Chicago.

Next Act Theatre presents "The Mystery of Irma Vep" at the Off-Broadway Theatre now until May 25th. Visit www.nextact.org, or call 414-278-0765 for tickets/info. Off-Broadway Theatre, 342 N. Water St, Milwaukee

APR 4

Games 17-20 of the Milwaukee Indoor Gay Soccer League at Uihlein Soccer Park

Games kick off at 9PM with the Guerrillas United vs Meerkats! Check out website for more info: www.milwaukeegayssoccer.org. Uihlein Soccer Park,

The Lemon Street Gallery in Kenosha is having its 7th annual juried exhibition from now until the 27th. Opening reception is tonight from 6-9PM. Lemon Street Gallery, 4601 Sheridan Road, Kenosha WI 53140.

APR 5

Make A Promise Gala, an ARCW Fundraising Gala Dinner & Auction at the Midwest Airlines Center in downtown Milwaukee. Live music and swing dancing! For details, or to donate an item for auction, contact Tad Gospodarek at 414-225-1598 or tad.gospodarek@arcw.org

Rakhshanda presents Samantha Riggs of Boob Boom Bollywood and the Sexy Scallywags

Tribal Belly Dance Show & Workshops, April 5 & 6 7PM at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S.2nd St. "Rakh 'n Belly Roll Show" featuring Samantha Riggs, Rakhshanda and many regional belly dancers. INFO: www.rakhshanda.com

Melissa Young & Bradford Newquist perform as part of the Bailiwick Cabaret Festival in Chicago, IL. 7:00PM. \$10 for one performance or \$15 for both. Studio Theater, Bailiwick Arts Center, 1229 West Belmont Avenue, Chicago

Head to Sheboygan for the

Saturday Apr 05, 2008 at 10:00 PM

Bluelite, 1029 North 8th Street, Sheboygan, 53081

Benefit/birthday show performers for the night include: Tempest Heat, Kurtis Ryan, D. Marco Dupree, Jazzy St. James, Keyon St. James, Jackie Christine, Jarica Jordan, Bryanna Banx, Kya Brooks, DeVry Shaw, Joel Z., Jozie Lynn, Dominique Mahon, Brandi Cox, and Betty Boop.

APRIL 8

"Fagbug" is coming to UWM! Last April Erin Davies VW bug was tagged with the word "fag" and "u r gay" for sporting a rainbow sticker. Ever since, she has been speaking at universities around the nation to spread awareness about homophobia, and hate crimes. Join us in hearing her speak about her experience. 7pm in the Union Ballroom West and April 9th 7pm in Sandburg Hall. She is planning to capture footage for a documentary that will be based on the reaction her "fagbug" gets at UWM and other campuses around the country!

Join the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center for a "Taste of the Tropics: Easy Asian Cooking Tips". Tickets \$10 members/\$15 non. RSVP by April 4th to 271-2656 ext110. Held at the Milwaukee Public Market, 400 N. Milwaukee St, Madame Kuony's Kitchen, 4th floor, from 5:30-7:30. Mix N' Mingle!

Join the Lesbian Reading Group at Outwords, 7:00pm - they're discussing "To Protect & Serve" by V.K. Powell. Everyone is welcome to join in on the discussion! Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray, Milwaukee.

APR 9

FREE HIV Testing 11am-2pm in the UWM LGBT Resource Center Union WG89. Advance sign up for a 30 minute appointment is required so either call 414-229-4116 or drop in today to secure your spot. Repeats on May 7th

APR 10

"Taking Our Power Back" is the theme for this month's "Writing to Heal" monthly drop-in program sponsored by FORGE. It is designed as a healing to help survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, hate crimes, and other traumas through writing. ALL survivors and supporters, specifically LGBTQI and male sexual violence survivors, are welcome. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 7-8:30PM. Suggested donation is \$10, although no one is turned away due to lack of funds.

APR 11

Premium reserved seating and general admission tickets on sale today for PrideFest! www.pridefest.com

"Foundations," the Union Art Gallery's annual first year student show, runs thru April 18, with an opening reception tonight, from

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Know Yourself -- Take inventory of your finances. Calculate your assets - cash, IRAs, mutual funds, real estate, life insurance - and your liabilities, like a mortgage or consumer debt and deferred income taxes on investments. Prioritize your objectives by what's most important to you: retirement planning, saving for college, increased investment returns, risk management, etc. Determine your current tax bracket and understand its implications for your strategy.

Start Saving Now -- Assuming an average 8% annual return and a retirement age of 65, every dollar

saved at age 25 is worth nearly five times as much as a dollar saved at 45. Probably the first thing to do is take full advantage of any employer match in any qualified savings program offered by your employer. Don't miss out on the "Triple Treat" of an initial tax deduction, matching employer contributions and tax-deferred earnings offered by most 401(k) or 403(b) plans.

Take Stock of the Market -- Mutual funds may be a good way to start in the stock market. Find one that's well managed and meets the risk profile you will be comfortable with. If you can, sign up for the built-in discipline of an automatic investment program. This will not only allow you to take advantage of dollar cost averaging, but may help you avoid the investment minimums otherwise required by some mutual fund companies. Also, if you choose a fund, plan to stick with it for a while. (Of course, a periodic investment plan such as dollar cost averaging does not assure a profit or protect against a loss in declining markets. You should consider your ability to make

continued purchases even through periods of low price levels.)

Curb Your Credit Cards -- If your total monthly debt payments (excluding your mortgage payments) are 20% or more of your monthly take-home pay, you're probably overextended. Analyze your debts and see if any of the interest rates are more than the after-tax return on your invested savings. If they are, it makes sense to pay off these loans out of your savings. If you can't pay off your credit cards in full every month to avoid paying interest, shop around for the card with the lowest available rate.

Be Wise with Windfalls -- If you come up with a significant lump sum - such as a bonus or inheritance - try to resist the urge to buy the hot sports car you've always dreamed of. Your long-term financial future will probably be a lot rosier if you invest at least part of it.

Keep Current -- Financial markets are a dynamic, fluid environment. That, combined with the impact of major life events such as births, deaths, inheritances, or new jobs, make it imperative that you carefully



FINANCE

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

review your strategy every year or so. Naturally, your review should be rigorous and disciplined, just like any successful game plan.

Kurt Schummer is a Manager, Financial Services, with The Prudential Insurance Company of America, located at 10000 Innovation Dr., Ste. 190, Wauwatosa, WI. He can be reached at 414-456-1770, ext. 7240, and kurt.schummer@prudential.com. Prudential, its affiliates, and their financial professionals do not give tax or legal advice. Be sure to consult with your tax and legal advisors regarding your personal circumstances.

APRIL CALENDAR

5-8PM. Gallery hours: Mon-Wed 12-5PM, Thurs 12-7PM and Fri-Sat 12-5PM. The gallery is located on the Campus Level of the Union in room W199.

Games 21-24 of the Milwaukee Indoor Gay Soccer League at Uihlein Soccer Park. Check out website for more info: www.milwaukeeegaysoccer.org. Uihlein Soccer Park, TIME??

APR 12

The Tranny Roadshow returns to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center tonight at 8PM! This is a multi-media performance art extravaganza. It is composed of an eclectic group of artists, each one self-identified as transgender, and includes poets, rappers, filmmakers, storytellers, breakdancers, rock bands, comedians, actors, folk singers, photographers, zinesters, and more. Tickets \$10. Reserve now! Call 414-383-372. MGAC 703 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee. Check out their website http://www.trannyroadshow.org

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus brings us to a "Safe Harbor: Signs of Compassion" Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Avenue, Brookfield, 7:30 PM. Tickets \$15 each; group rates available. Call 414-276-8787 or visit creamcitychorus.org for more information.

Catch Martine Locke in Concert at 7:30 pm. First Unitarian Society, 1342 N. Astor St.

Martine Locke has toured the US and Australia solo, released two albums, played over 300 shows incl. music festivals, colleges, clubs, pride festivals and living rooms and maintains a sense of fun, passion and independence. She's toured with Ani DiFranco and rocked the stage with The Cowboy Junkies, Arlo Guthrie and Luka Bloom. Presented by Lesbian Alliance & Womanspirit. INFO: Lesbian Alliance @ 414-272-9442.

APR 13

Spring Movie Memorabilia Show at Burnham Bowl Hall, 6016 W. Burnham, Milwaukee. 10-4PM, admission \$2. Start your collection today! Movie posters, souvenir books, autographs, videos, toys and more! INFO: 414-466-1877.

APRIL 14

Waldorf Information Evening. 7:00 PM. Learn more about Waldorf education for Kindergarten through 8th grade. Pre-register. Free. 414-277-0009. Tamarack Waldorf School, 1150 East Brady Street. www.tamarackwaldorf.org.

Come and join the Outwords Book Club for a discussion of Seth Rudetsky light-hearted musical comedy, Broadway Nights. 7:00pm. All interested readers are always welcome to join in.

APR 15

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Resource Fair, 10AM-1PM Union Concourse, UWM. Campus Communities United Against Violence makes resources related to sexual violence available in

recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness month. Please join us in the Union Concourse as we collaborate with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Anti-Violence Project to present ways to prevent violence from happening in our communities.

Local author Will Fellows will present a program, "Exploring Gay Men's Lives," at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., at 7PM. Fellows is the author of Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest, which was assigned reading for the male leads in the film Brokeback Mountain. Will Fellows's second book, A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture, examines gay men's extraordinary contributions in historic preservation. Both were Lambda Literary Award finalists. Admission is \$5 for First Unitarian members, \$10 for others.

APR 16

"SEXPO" 7PM Union Wisconsin Room, 12-1PM. Union 191a year-long series exploring sex and sexuality presents Tristan Taormino and the path to sexual empowerment. Tristan Taormino, author and national sex expert, will explore what it means to be sexually empowered, what

erotic power is, and her unique recipe for how everyone can become sexually empowered. Q&A and book signing following the lecture. Both events free and open to the public. Repeats: Thursday, April 17 - Seating limited.

APR 17

Waldorf Classroom Observation. 9-11AM. Visitors can observe classrooms in action, followed by discussion. Pre-register. Free. 414-277-0009. Tamarack Waldorf School, 1150 East Brady Street. www.tamarackwaldorf.org.

Financial series at LGBT Community Center with Kurt Schummer of Prudential Financial. Every Thursday through May 22ns.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre closes its 33rd season with Lanford Wilson's Pulitzer-prize winning romance TALLEY'S FOLLY, Tonight thru May 4. TALLEY'S FOLLY is the humorous, gentle story of long-awaited love, a lyrical valentine for an apple and an orange. Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Tickets, \$20-\$37, available Mon-Sat from noon-6PM at the box office, by phone (414) 291-7800 or www.chamber-theatre.com.

WATERING HOLES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kathy's Nut Hut: 1500 W. Scott St. Mil, WI 414-647-2673

Kruz: 354 E. National Ave. Milwaukee, WI 414-272-5789

APR 18

It's the final night! Games 25-28 of the Milwaukee Indoor Gay Soccer League at Uihlein Soccer Park. Check out website for more info: www.milwaukeeegaysoccer.org. Uihlein Soccer Park,

Belly Dance Drop In Night - bring your favorite CD and dance with professional and amateur dancers to the music of the Middle East. 8pm at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St.

Admission \$5. INFO: 414-383-3727

Spiral Theatre presents: YOU SHOULD BE SO LUCKY by Charles Busch at BUCKETWORKS 1340 North Sixth Street (at Vliet) 414-248-6481. Through May 3rd

APR 19

South East Wisconsin Discussion Group (SEWDG) is a Milwaukee-

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

M's: 1101 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-383-8900

Mona's Out 'N About: 1407 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 414-643-0377

PumpHouse: 2011 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 414-744-7008

Switch: 124 W National Ave, Milwaukee, WI 414-220-4340

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

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

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

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

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

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

APRIL CALENDAR

based discussion group for people interested in learning about Bondage & Discipline (BD), Dominance/submission (D/s), and/or Sadomasochism (SM). They meet in Milwaukee on the third Saturday of every month at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 6-8 pm. Open to anyone interested in discussion of various topics related to BDSM. INFO: email Esclave1@aol.com. SEWDG is not dating service. They are not here to hook people up with sex partners or act as a referral service for professional Dominants.

Brianna Lane and Liz Stahler bring their "Boston to Austin" duo to Milwaukee. Broad Vocabulary

APR 20

Are you looking for a book club? Longstanding East Side/Riverwest club offers diverse reads, lively conversation and yummy brunch every six weeks. Next meeting is tonight to discuss "Water for Elephants" by Sarah Gruen. For more information contact Lizzi at 414-962-8304.

APR 23

Poetry Reading with Gregg Shapiro. Gregg will read from his latest collection of poems, Protection. 7PM, Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray

APR 24

Climbing poeTree returns to UWM to present their newest work, Hurricane Season: A two womyn show about natural disaster and a shift in universal consciousness

7pm in the Union Wisconsin Room. Hurricane Season is a spoken word performance that explores critical issues facing humanity through the kaleidoscope of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

This event is free and open to the public. The Appearance of Climbing poeTree is sponsored UWM Union Sociocultural Programming, UWM Union Programming, Community Media Project and Latino Student Union.

For more information, visit us online at www.needabreak.uwm.edu.

APR 25

the UWM Union Art Gallery will present an amazing implosion of world cultures, drawing new audiences to the arts through the collaborative work of Leandro Soto, Raoul Deal, Milwaukee youth, playwright and filmmaker Dr. Awam Amkpa of New York University and artist Rene Maldonado. The installation will include painting, sculpture, prints, found and made objects, music, video and performance, as well as work by Milwaukee-area high school and university students, working in residency with exhibition artists. Gallery hours are Mon-Wed 12-5pm, Thurs 12-7pm and Fri-Sat 12-5pm. The Gallery is located on the Campus Level of the Union in room W199. Runs through June 13.

Spiral Theatre presents: STRABERRY DAQUIE an original one man play by their Sister London Company The Shameless Boyz (www.shamelessboyz.com) Also on April 26& 27. 10:30PM showtimes.

APR 26

Art from Saint Paul's—at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. A special collaboration with Saint Paul's Episcopal Church featuring visual art and music opens with an art exhibition: Abstraction: Photography by Joel Richter. Artist's reception from 6-9pm. Gallery Hours: 10am-4pm Monday through Friday and by appointment. Runs through May 30 at MGAC, 703 S. 2nd St. INFO: 414-383-3727

Miltown King's Queer Prom. at the Miramar Theater (Locust/Oakland) Door open at 9pm. \$7 cover. Dress in your Big Bottom Prom Finest!

APR 29

Poetry Reading with Yvonne Zipter at Outwards Books & Coffee. 7:00pm. Milwaukee native Yvonne Zipter will read from her latest chapbook, Like Some Bookie God

SAVE THE DATE:

MAY 1

Gasthaus Entertainment series welcomes Coyote Grace. 9pm in the UWM Gasthaus. This Seattle based acoustic duet are partners on and off stage, their love of music and each other permeates every song. Join us for smooth harmonies, driving roots rhythms, and the captivating lyrics of raw life experience. Free and open to the public! ADDRESS

MAY 2-4

7th Annual Young Womynz Empowerment Conference at Camp Minikani in Germantown. YWEC is at three day, two night conference for all Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allied female identified persons aged 24 and under. The cost is \$25.00. YWEC is also looking for adult role models to help out! Registration for YWEC is now open for attendees and adult role models. INFO: contact Rachel Coles at 414-292-3071 or rcoles@mkelgbt.org.

MAY 3

In recognition of her commitments and in honor of her life, a Memorial Service and Celebration of Life for Lynn Morgan will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Street, from 4:30-5:30 with reception following, then a dance at 7pm. Every woman, whether or not they knew Lynn, is invited to come and celebrate "The Legend" in each of us. The events are free but donations will be accepted in Lynn's honor for the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee, with each dollar matched and all funds providing services to lesbians in the metro area.

Images of Us Sports presents the WNBA At the Al McGuire Center, Marquette University. The WNBA returns to Milwaukee! Chicago Sky vs Indiana Fever. Group tickets available through March 2008 Order now: In packets of 10 or 25 @ \$10 per ticket Checks must accompany group ticket forms in order to be processed. Send Game inquiries via e-mail to info@iuousports.org. For more information about Images of Us Sports (IOU Sports), visit our website www.iuousports.org.

Forge presents: Testosterone! GUEST SPEAKER Dr. Steven Brown. We'll explore the benefits of hormone replacement in the process of transitioning for FTMs. The unsupervised acquisition and use of HRT may be associated with serious risks. Health consequences, based upon a critical review of the medical literature and strategies to reduce hazards will be discussed. Topics include appropriate monitoring, measuring progress, developing realistic anatomic and behavioral expectations, and factoring risks such as blood clots, osteoporosis, liver disease, cancer, and diabetes into the decision-making process. There will be plenty of opportunity to share your experiences as we learn together.

Deadline for the May publication is April 20th for consideration. Please send events to qlifelists@yaho.com.

This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History - April

By Don Schwamb and Michail Takach

1978 – Thirty Years Ago

Milwaukee made national news when Bruce Edgar, an 18-year-old freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, was denied employment at the Playboy Club in Lake Geneva. Exercising his rights under the Civil Rights Act of 1974, Mr. Edgar sought not a position as a bartender or bus boy, but instead the coveted role of Playboy bunny. When the Playboy Club refused to hire him for the position, the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union – and its executive director, Eunice Edgar (Bruce's mother) – threatened the Playboy Club with a sexual discrimination lawsuit.

1988 – Twenty Years Ago

On April 25, YP (Your Place) hosted the "Second Annual Fearsome Foursome Baby Bull Birthday Party." Described as a "country western extravaganza," this Milwaukee AIDS Project fundraiser featured a covered wagon cowgirl drag review, a "butch puppy" western dress contest, a Patsy Cline look-alike contest, an Old West buffet, an outdoor campfire with S'mores roasting, and special guest appearances by Mr. and Miss Gay Wisconsin. Performers included Doris Delago, Charlotte Lorraine, Mandi McCall, Nikki Cole, Rochelle Ciucci, Margo Muckraker and Karen Valentine.

Remembered as the first gay bar in town with a landscaped outdoor patio, YP was one of the neighborhood's most popular small dance clubs throughout the 1970s and 1980s. When it closed in 1989 after 24 years, YP was one of Milwaukee's longest operating gay bars in business. Thanks to its lasting popularity, the bar's lifetime was extended by 5 years when new ownership reopened the bar and kept it running until 1994. Club Paradise Gentleman's Club has operated at this site ever since.

1993 – Fifteen Years Ago

On April 25, LGBT Milwaukee was mobilized and ready for the 1993 March on Washington (MOW) for Lesbian, Gay & Bi Equal Rights and Liberation. Armed with a platform demanding massive funding for AIDS research, education, and patient care, as well as other civil liberties for LGBT Americans, Milwaukeeans boarded cross-country bus and train caravans to the nation's capital.

Since the previous march was scheduled for a Sunday, media outlets dismissed the protest as a "social event" and provided only minimal coverage. However, the power of the 1993 March on Washington could not be ignored, and attracted not only national but international attention when an estimated one million protestors showed up for the rally. MOW attendance more than doubled the population of the District of Columbia, with hotel rooms, flights and rental cars completely sold out between April 21 and 25. The event was so successful that it has been called the greatest display of gay power and unity in the gay rights movement, and according to some sources, it was also the largest civil rights demonstration to occur in American history.

1998 – Ten Years Ago

LaCage announced a \$750,000 remodeling project that promised the restoration of the building's original 1887 façade, the removal of exterior lead paint, creation of a second-floor performance space, installation of new lighting and sound systems, opening of an upscale basement restaurant, and numerous other improvements to existing bar and dance spaces. Since opening in 1983, the building had already seen numerous renovations and expansions, but this project was expected to totally reinvent the 111-year old property for the next century. Initially, the owners reported that the cabaret space would open in June 1998. The Wisconsin Light credited La Cage for creating both "exciting architecture" and a "new, badly needed space for live performances." (The second floor performance area remains unfinished 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

Please support our LGBT History by donating to the History Project. If you have items to donate, or can help financially, please write: webmaster@mkelgbthist.org.

HELP KEEP YOUR HISTORY ALIVE

The Milwaukee LGBT History Project

Storing documents and memorabilia of LGBT life in Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee LGBT History Project is a major undertaking to gather photos, documents, and archival materials from people and organizations while they still exist. They are currently being deposited into the UWM archives, where they are cataloged, stabilized, and preserved.

TO HELP, PLEASE CONTACT:

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"The Humble Little Condom"

by Aine Collier

Back when you were a kid, your mother was a fountain of advice. When it was cold, she told you to take a sweater. If it was snowing, she reminded you to take your mittens. When it rained, she cautioned you to remember your rubbers.

On that last note, you're still heeding Mom's advice.

Sheath, glove, prophylactic... whatever you call them, millions of people rely on those little round devices for birth control, disease control, and libido control, if doctors of yore were to be believed in their warnings and recommendations. Find out more in "The Humble Little Condom" by Aine Collier.

While nobody knows who came up with the idea of using a sheath of some sort as a means of birth control, ancient Greeks and Romans knew the family planning benefits of condoms. Because time in the coliseum was valuable then, the ideal family was small. If men weren't quick to use a device to prevent children, women surely were.

Although Collier hints that Shakespeare's father might have made them, condoms came under fire in the Middle Ages through the sixteenth century. Only prostitutes and women of low reputation were said to have used them, but not just for birth control: Columbus and his men brought an explosion of disease, which climaxed during that time. Doctors decried the use of condoms, but smart lovers weren't without them.

Over the years, condoms were easy to have around. Small home factories were erected in most major cities, but nearly anybody with sheep, lamb, or calf intestines and a little lye could make their own sheaths.

And then Charles Goodyear came along and rubbers - real, honest-to-Peter rubbers - were invented. After that, even Sears had contraceptives in their catalogs. By the 1920s, latex and cellophane gave condoms a longer wallet-life.

While prophylactics alternately were used as birth control and as

disease control throughout the years, Collier says that it wasn't until the spread of AIDS that the humble little condom prevented more than inconvenient babies or pesky gonorrhea. Gay men suddenly embraced them as a matter of life or death.

While it's easy to have a ball with this book, "The Humble Little Condom" is actually filled with fun-to-know asides and information that will tickle anyone who's carried one in a wallet, tucked one in a glove box, or gulped his way through a high-school purchase of contraband condoms.

Author Aine Collier thoroughly covers everything there is to know about the history of prophylactics and social mores over the last 2,500 years, and she does it partly tongue-in-cheek and partly with a professor's eye toward scholarly facts. This is an easy book to read, with short, informative segments and plenty of trivial asides that are almost guaranteed to lighten a wooden mood.



REVIEW

The Bookworm is Terri Schlichenmeyer. Terri has been reading since she was 3 years old and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 11,000 books.

No matter whether you love condoms or hate them, "The Humble Little Condom" is a fun, quirky book that belongs on the bookshelf of anyone who loves odd history or unusual information. Pick up your copy today. It's simply inconceivable that you would miss reading it.

GET IT-NEED IT-WANT IT

By Keith Johnson

Summer is always a time of frolic, festivals and fun!

Lately on the runway, there has been a buzz of "what to wear" to make yourself comfortable and alluring for these hot days to come! I decided after viewing loads of ethnic inspired clothing, jewelry and accessories from the various designers, to take a trip to India via Milwaukee.

Now, I love ethnic inspired clothing, but the runway was filled with "East Indian" inspired jewelry, clothing, and other accessories, which are very summer friendly for men and women. The "sarong", with it's draping for day and evening, ethnic inspired necklaces and bracelets paired off with modern "70's" inspired shapes and colors. So what's here in Milwaukee to recreate those looks guys and gals? I've scaled down a few local stores for deals!

1. GLAMOROUS TRAPPINGS

For great jewelry finds or for an East Indian inspired look, try the Village Bazaar. Located on 2201 N. Farwell, the business was established in 1972 by Kim and Hamid. They have artifacts from 45 different countries - anything from jewelry to sculptures and home furnishings. I purchased a wonderful Buddha sculpture to help me with inspiration. I also would suggest for you guys and gals, especially after "fashion week" talking to Kim about her wonderful display of northern Indian inspired bracelets and earrings, they are affordable and great for accessorizing your "Indian-inspired" outfits. The retail value for shopping for jewelry at this great place is anywhere between \$45-65 dollar - truly a great find and

after your day of shopping there, enjoy a movie at the Oriental Theatre located on 2230 N. Farwell Ave.

2. WHAT TO WEAR?

Who doesn't love a great summer dress? For you gals, try "the cotton paisley sweater dress" which is of course Indian inspired and will go with those wonderful accessories you will purchase from village bazaar. The dress retails for about \$130 and it can take you into day or evening for a good price and don't forget the hottest shoes. The "Emilia thong" is a winner for a hot summer day. Also remember if you can't find these items at your local stores try www.bananarepublic.com for online access.

For you guys and this would drive a "maharajah" crazy, the "the linen column embroidered shirt" from banana republic retails for \$49.50. Pair it up with a great pair of shorts and the "bode leather thong" from their shoe collection and any guy is going to love your sexy feet - not to mention those legs.

3. ITS ABOUT MEN

Don't forget, guys and gals, to pamper yourselves with exciting restaurants and local bars. My favorite place is Shi Chi located at 832 E Center. The dishes are an incredible fusion of Iranian and Northern Arabian foods. My favorite is the "Mama Ganoush" which is made with eggplant puree, garlic, lemon juice, tahini and just a hint of paprika. This will give you a great way to escape to the Middle East via Milwaukee for the summer while enjoying your wardrobe. Enjoy guys and gals.

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Friends of Dorothy

We all grew up being enchanted by THE WIZARD OF OZ. The magical 1939 MGM movie is based on the famous L. Frank Baum novel. It seems both gay and straight folks love this story of The Yellow Brick Road. Now, aren't all "OZ" fans actually friends of Dorothy? So, why do we only call gay men "Friends of Dorothy?"

It could be the Judy Garland connection, or those fabulous ruby slippers! Perhaps it is the title song, "Over the Rainbow." After all, aren't all of us each searching for our own rainbow - our own inner peace? Many gay youth had a difficult time being accepted; and growing up in the straight world.

"There's No Place Like Home", can really bring a tear to the eye of a struggling youth or even an adult.

Judy Garland is well known for her strong gay following; as is her daughter Liza Minelli. For me, and many fans our Judy (Dorothy) never found her rainbow. She was always searching like the rest of us.

Just having Spring around the corner, may make my rainbow. It has been one awful Winter!

Liza Minelli has turned 62; and her Mother's legend, and the story of Dorothy still continues. The Broadway musical titled "WICKED". This Stephen Schwartz show tells us more about the story of Glinda and the Wicked Witch. Let us all both gay and straight take OZ with us through our personal journey through life.

I hope you all find your Rainbow!!

APRIL SHOWERS OF SHOWS!

- GIRLS OF THE GARDEN CLUB-Bay Players
- ROMEO & JULIET-Florentine Opera
- SPAMOLOT-M&I Bank-Marcus Center
- TALLEY'S FOLLY-Milwaukee Chamber Theatre
- ARMADALE-Milwaukee Repertory Theatre
- THE MYSTERY OF IRMA VEP-Next Act Theatre
- FAT PIG-Renaissance Theaterworks
- YOU SHOULD BE SO LUCKY-Spiral Staircase
- A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE-Sunset Playhouse
- BEAUTY AND THE BEAST-Waukesha Civic Theatre

Lots of exciting shows to go see this month. Also the Spring weather should bring alot more people out to the bar scene. ENJOY!!!

My Aunt Sally once Tap-danced in a Chicago Speakeasy. The place was owned by gangster Al Capone. R.B.



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.



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Last MONTH's Trivia Answer

Rosalind Russell starred as AUNTIE MAME in the film and on Broadway.

This Month's Trivia Question

Who wrote the novel WICKED on which the Broadway musical is based?

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Art from Saint Paul's at MGAC-ecumenism meets humanism

By Paul Masterson

In November 2007 five women of the Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Choir under the direction of Jerrad Fenske performed the 1736



Pergolesi *Stabat Mater*. A church choir performance of liturgical music would be unremarkable were it not for the backdrop: the 2nd Annual Gay Youth Art Show at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC).

A result of a discussion about a collaboration, Fenske reflected on that first concert, "performing the Pergolesi *Stabat Mater*, a piece that expresses the sorrow of the Mother of Christ, in the gallery hung with young LGBT artists' work provided a perfect combination. The human suffering found in the artwork and in the music was an amazing statement."

It was the beginning of a continuing and ever expanding collaboration. Fenske sees it as "two visible entities that do not have a visible and public connection. This project spans that disconnect. How wonderful that Saint Paul's, as the most diverse parish of Milwaukee's Episcopal diocese takes the opportunity to reach out. In general, "the Church" sees itself apart from the community and wonders why people don't come to it. But, the idea is that we should go out into the community and that's what Saint Paul's is doing. MGAC itself is a wonderful and intimate venue with great sound in the midst of art. MGAC strives to reach out and bring LGBT art and artists to the greater community. That lends itself to a special relationship with Saint Paul's - we share a common mission."

Art from Saint Paul's

The upcoming *Art from Saint Paul's - Photography by Joel Richter, Music by Jerrad Fenske*, includes an art

exhibition-showcasing photographer Joel Richter, opening April 26. In May, Fenske directs members of Saint Paul's Choir in a concert of Baroque works.

Fenske presented the *Art from Saint Paul's* concept to Saint Paul's vestry, the church's governing board. "I was proud to stand before the vestry. I felt blessed and supported because we're striving for inclusiveness and the vestry is completely behind that. Diversity is our calling," Fenske said.

After its MGAC run, *Art from Saint Paul's* moves to the Great Hall of Saint Paul's Church. Richter's photographs will be on display and a concert will be held on June 6 at 5:30pm.

Visual Art & Music

Art from Saint Paul's opens with photography show by Joel Richter. Richter, a graphic designer, graduated from New York University with a degree in studio art with a concentration in photography. He has also graduated from traditional to digital work focusing on industrial landscapes and increasingly abstract images of light and architecture. His MGAC solo show contains predominantly recent work.

Richter expressed his hope that both LGBT and non-LGBT audiences will attend the show and concert at either venue to broaden their horizons. "I'm honored and excited to be a gay artist showing in a space with such great atmosphere dedicated to LGBT art. We've come a long way," Richter said.

An artist's reception takes place Saturday, April 26 from 6-9pm. The show runs through May 30.

On Saturday, May 10, at 7:30pm, the musical program follows. It includes *Psalmi brevis* by Andreas Hofer, a composer of the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg, as well as choral music of J.S. Bach sung by a chamber group of The St. Paul's Choir. Fenske will also perform harpsichord works by G. F. Handel and Claude Balbastre.

For more information on Saint Paul's Church see <http://www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org/> To reserve concert tickets, call MGAC at 414-383-3727

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