

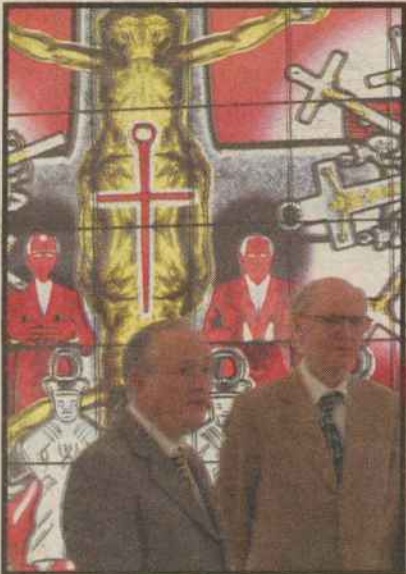


Sex, Money, Politics and Religion

by Paul Masterson

If you ever dine with artists Gilbert and George, you may be surprised when one excused himself to head for the Gents; the other accompanied him. The pair are one entity in all endeavors. They never stand alone.

Inseparable since meeting at art school in 1967, their artistic vision expressed itself in an initial spate of performance pieces. Appearing as living (and singing) sculptures they went on



Gilbert & George at MAM

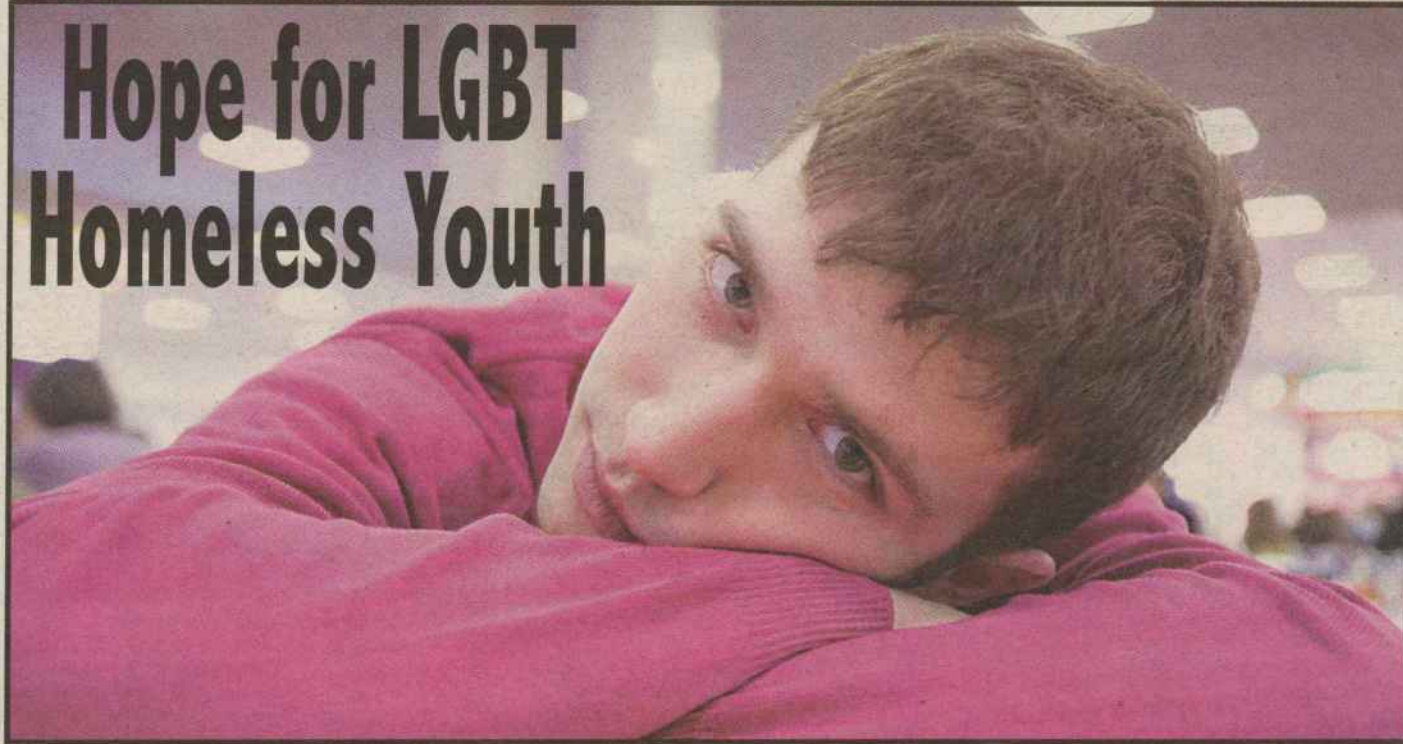
and on incessantly for hours. Finding this inherently fatiguing, Gilbert and George turned to filming their performance pieces allowing repetition without physical exhaustion. In an art world of minimalism, their figural concept was revolutionary.

In the early 1970's, their medium became photography. The inaugural works were black and white photo collages. They added red later. And, over time, the full spectrum of primary colors (and then some). But whether in black and white or the brighter palette, each image explodes with the artist duo's statement: conflict.

The focal venue is London's East End neighborhood where for 40 some-odd years, Gilbert and George live and observe. It has morphed from seedy and tough to immigrant ghetto to gentrified and up-market but always remained a microcosm of life's pleasures, fears, violence and mayhem for those who don't fit in.

continued on page 3

Hope for LGBT Homeless Youth



By Cyndie Ody-Weis aka Mama Q

When Greg (not his real name) came out to his family when he was almost 17, their anger flooded over him. His mom called him a slut, his younger sister, Jasmine said he was "creepy," and his three older brothers joked that he had always seemed more like Jasmine than a "real boy."

He was shocked. His family had always been supportive and close-knit, and involved in various activities with one another. Greg's dad, who lived with his new wife and three young children in a neighboring state spent school vacations with Jasmine and Greg, frequently taking them on a mini-vacation before spending time with them at his home. In the wake of the reactions his mother and siblings had to his coming out, Greg chose not to tell his father – thereby assuring he still had one supportive parent. However, Greg felt he could no longer fully share his life.

The extended family was another story. "You better not come," he was told when his cousins' annual summer birthday party rolled around, "you know how they are about queers." Not all slights were so blatant; plentiful subtle changes revealed his family's attitudes as well. At a family dinner, Greg was asked to use a spatula to serve himself pizza while his brothers and sister used their fingers to grab their slices. Cans of disinfectant spray appeared throughout the home like multiplying weeds and hand sanitizer adorned every sink and shelf. When Greg went out with friends, his family never asked where he was going or with whom, even though these were questions of general interest and caring for his older and younger siblings. Greg felt like a social outcast; a veritable leper. He stayed away from home, hanging out at friends' homes, the library or the LGBT Resource Center. Sometimes he felt like giving up.

In stark contrast to the family support offered to his older brothers, Greg found himself approaching his 18th birthday with no money, few friends and little family support. While three older brothers discussed major decisions with family members, Greg was denied these gradual steps to maturity. While the older brothers lived in the family home while attending technical school or college and exploring early job choices, for Greg the expectation was clear; he was to move out. Family obligation allowed him food and shelter until his 18th birthday but his mother reminded him often that when he was 18, she was done.

Greg's dad, while supportive of his son, did not have the physical space for Greg to live with his new family. Through the

family grapevine, Greg learned that his dad worried about the gay lifestyle rubbing off on his young son. Evidently, another family member had "outed" Greg to his dad.

Greg is one of the luckier ones.

According to an article on Advocate.com (June 29, 2006), a 15-year old boy lived to report that upon his "coming out," his father strangled him. A young teen girl lost part of her scalp to her angry mom pulling her hair after hearing she was a lesbian, and one dad put a gun to his teen son's head, kicked him out of the house and disowned him. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (Task Force) reports that 50% of gay teens experience a negative reaction and 25% are kicked out of their homes upon "coming out."

LGBT Youth Need Support

Parental reactions run the gamut and sadly, it seems that the youth who most need family support are least likely to get it. LGBT youth are especially vulnerable to depression, loneliness, and psychosomatic illness, according to a study in the Journal and Counseling Development. They are more likely to experience social problems, delinquency and to disengage with life and withdraw, according to a study in The American Journal of Public Health. The list goes on and on for LGBT youth fraught with multiple challenges and no place to go:

- Alcohol and drug use prevails among LGBT youth with 10-20% self-identifying as chemically-dependent (Wilder Research)
- LGBT youth are seven times more likely to be victims of a crime, (Natl. Runaway Switchboard Reports) and
- Three times more likely to participate in "survival sex," defined as exchanging sex for the basics of life, (Family Planning Perspectives Study)

Numbers

Accurate counts on how many homeless LGBT youth reside in the U.S. and in Milwaukee are hard to come by and confounded by varying definitions of homelessness: non-disclosure of orientation, difficulty in identifying sample populations and method of data collection (anonymous or to an unknown or known, perceived gay or straight, male or female researcher). While other studies report even higher numbers, The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that up to 1.6 million youth are homeless and the Task

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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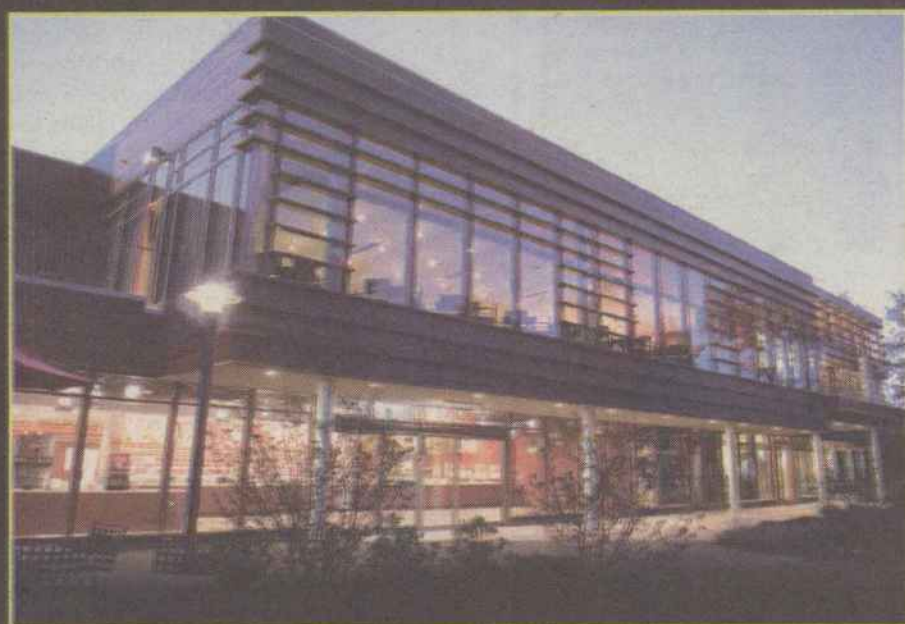


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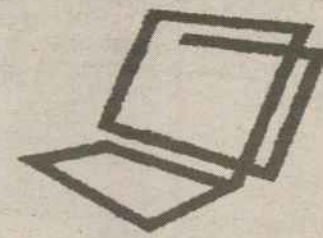
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Gilbert & George *continued from page 1*

The cityscape provides the ultimate resource for Gilbert & George's primary subject matter: sex, money, politics and race. The resulting artistic statement is universal. Milwaukeeans may reflect on their own neighborhoods that have transformed through changing demographics - one way or the other.

The Milwaukee Art Museum opened its Gilbert and George Exhibition on June 14 with the artists in attendance, their demeanor a performance piece unto itself. When a confrontational journalist asked why the works are in museums when, as "Art for all," they're intended to address the disenfranchised, Gilbert and George, adhering to their rule to remain calm, replied with the dead-pan and obvious "to make the them accessible." They then recounted the story of their first Milwaukee show in 1986 when a black youth approached them and thanked them for "speaking to him through their art."

Entering the exhibition the viewer becomes immediately immersed in eccentric experience designed by the artists themselves. Each work is divided into tile segments forming a grid. According to George, it's a practical device to allow easy shipping but it gives the works a unique quality that, in their grandeur, creates cathedral-like stained glass windows, imposing an environment of images and color. The viewer is dwarfed by the monumental floor to ceiling and wall-to-wall expanses.

Spread across a wall, the 1972 photo collage, *Balls or The Evening Before the Morning After*, depicts a blurred alcoholic binge as a sign of the times. *Apotasia*, from 2004, presents a sequence of graffiti with Gilbert and George flashing gang signs and the grand finale, *Bomb*, overwhelm the senses with a confrontation by more contemporary issues.

The dapper English gentlemen appear in their works as observers, participants or, as George noted, "dead." Their facial expressions respond to the theme or offer a proper, unemotional distance from the works' subjects - a reflection

of a world aloof to the suffering, poverty and social exclusion of the less fortunate.

Other works include male sexual icons - sailors and policemen, shown as amulets; a beautiful Rasta as object of devotion. The close-up and personal *Winter Tongue Fuck* is simply that.

Conflict in *Shitted* is perhaps the most blatant. Like *South Park's* comedic farting Canadians, *Terrance ad Philip* or *Mr. Hankey*, the *Christmas Poo*, this work employs a similar tactic. It presents both reality and taboo. Despite our distaste and aversion, we must admit we consist of excrement and find a certain awkward humor in its display. The symbolism beyond that is subject to interpretation.

Bugs and pubic lice appear as the glory of flora and fauna but also, according to Gilbert & George "because they're discriminated against."

The Gilbert & George exhibition is a rare moment in Milwaukee's art history and is a definite must-see. Special thanks must be given to former MAM director David Gordon and to the many members of Milwaukee's LGBT community including Joseph Pabst and Leonard Sobczak among many others for making this show possible.

Ms. Ruthie does Gilbert & George

Gilbert and George runs through September 1, 2008. Several special events celebrate the exhibition. Through Cream City Foundation, Milwaukee's LGBT community has collaborated with MAM to make these particularly exciting. Ms. Ruthie and members of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's board of directors will act as guest docents for three "gay tours".

On July 24, "Ms. Ruthie does Gilbert & George" gives museum guests another once in a lifetime art experience. The decadent docent du jour presents art through very special eyes for the "Express Talk" tour at 5:30pm. Later the same evening a second tour will be lead by Mark Ranum. MGAC's executive director, Paul Masterson, leads an "I don't know much about art but I know what I like" tour on Gallery Night, Friday, July 25.



BOMB

Gilbert and George
Milwaukee Art Museum
June, 2008

Joseph Ketner II, MAM's chief curator, calls the show "an extraordinary visual experience." That's an understatement. Unlike a typical chronological retrospective, Gilbert and George arranged their 40+ years of art with another strategy: make an unforgettable impact.

ing tough but boyish nonetheless, they represent a struggle for identity. In "Black Face Church" a church stained glass window is set over the face of a black youth like a crown of cultural weight. Their social island is apart from the normal and, as misfits; their conflict is their bond.

Outwards Books

Top Picks for July

New & Noteworthy Fiction for July Exclusive to Q Life Fiction Categories:

Women's Fiction — "The IHOP Papers," Ali Liebegott-Liebeggott's debut is a coming-of-age coming-out story in the tradition of Rita Mae Brown's "Rubyfruit Jungle" but more a celebration of sexuality. Having followed Irene to San Francisco, Francesca lands a job at the IHOP, works on her memoir about losing her virginity and never quite finding love.

Women's Mystery — "Wall of Silence," Gabrielle Goldsby After police detective Foster Everett witnesses the unspeakable, a cover up ensues. Uncertain what to do, she meets Riley Meideros. As the attraction grows, Foster vows to uncover the truth. But someone is determined to keep the truth buried, even if it means silencing Foster and Riley permanently.

Women's Romance — "Out of Love," K. G. MacGregor Judith O'Shea's career goals take a back seat when she finds herself falling hard for the enigmatic Carmen Delallo, owner and CEO of a Chicago consulting firm. Falling in love proves to be the easy part. Separated by miles, backgrounds and economic class, can their love survive?

Men's Fiction — "Call Me By Your Name," Andre Aciman In this erotically charged coming-of-age story, Elio finds himself attracted to this year's visiting resident scholar: Oliver, who is 24, fun, sexy and handsome. A trip to Rome, sanctioned by Elio's prescient father, will usher Elio fully into first love's joy and pain.

Men's Mystery — "Murder in the Rue Chartres," Greg Herren Following Hurricane Katrina, Chanse MacLeod returns to a different, shattered New Orleans. When he discovers that his last client was murdered the very night she hired him, he is drawn into a web of intrigue and evil.

Men's Romance — "Changing Tides," Michael Thomas Ford Ben is anxious about his 16-year-old daughter Caddie's summer stay. Then he meets Hudson, a Ph.D. candidate in town to investigate an unfinished Steinbeck manuscript. As Caddie finds a man of her own, a heretofore-straight Ben grapples with his feelings for Hudson while learning a few things about fatherhood.

Non-Fiction Categories:

Men's Biography — "Mississippi Sissy," Kevin Sessums Sessums, a journalist who specializes in celebrity interviews, describes his own childhood and youth, writing candidly of both sexual orientation and race relations in the '60s and early '70s. His observations on—and, more importantly, his experiences of—race relations engage and reveal, and remind readers of the complexity of social status.

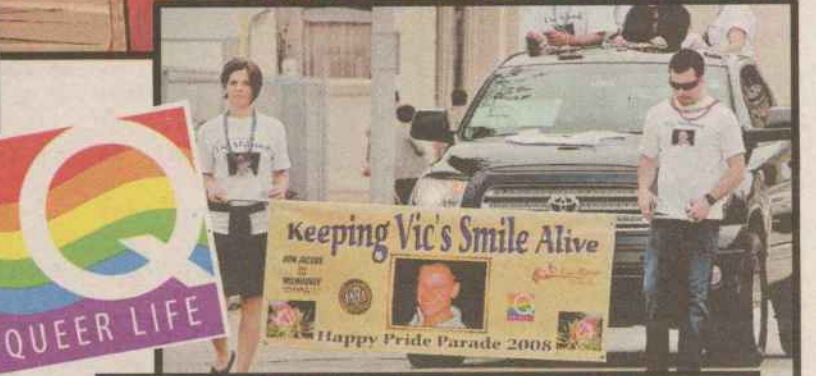
Bisexual — "Split Screen," Brent Hartinger

In this sequel to "Geography Club," best friends Min and Russel sign up to be extras on the set of a zombie film — learning there's nothing scarier than high school romance! In Attack of the Soul-Sucking Brain Zombies, Russel must choose between his long-distance boyfriend and a close-to-home ex. In Bride of the Soul-Sucking Brain Zombies, Min struggles to accept her cheerleader girlfriend's decision to stay in the closet.

LGBT Non-Fiction — "Gay Artists in Modern American Culture," Michael S. Sherry While few gay artists were "out," it is widely recognized that some, including Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee and Aaron Copland defined much of what seemed distinctly "American" on the stage and screen. Michael Sherry offers a sophisticated analysis of the tension between the nation's simultaneous dependence on and fear of the cultural influence of gay artists.

LGBT Anthologies — "First Person Queer," Richard Labonte and Lawrence Schimel In this amazing anthology of nonfiction essays, contributors write intimate first-person accounts of queer experience, from coming out to "passing" as straight to growing old to living proud. These stories of contemporary gay and lesbian life are funny, sad, and hopeful and which represent a wonderful diversity of genders, ages, races, and orientations.

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



PRIDE WEEKEND 2008

HOPE continued from page 1

Force reports that 20-40% of homeless youth identify as LGBT. A conservative estimate is 300,000 youth nationwide lack a permanent or predictable place to sleep at night.

In reports for federal funding, The Pathfinders Program of the Counseling Center of Milwaukee served 330 youth ages 11-17 during the 2006-07 grant year, with 34 (10%) identifying sexual orientation and 20 (6%) identifying gender identity as an issue at intake. The data do not indicate how many youth cited both.

Lisa Gunn, Program Director at Pathfinders indicated that a closing review updates information about each youth to allow for the most meaningful picture. Youth may disclose more after they settle in at Pathfinders, having gained trust with the adults in charge. According to Lisa, "the biggest thing is youth feeling safe in order to disclose any personal information including abuse— whether sexual or physical or emotional abuse. There needs to be a sense of safety where they are staying and a level of acceptance of them as individuals. Some programs succeed; others don't, based on this overall acceptance."

No similar data source is available for youth aged 18-25 but one thing that the younger and the older youth have in common is a disproportionate number—2/3 or more are youth of color, many from lower income families, according to a study in the Journal of Clinical Psychology.

Homeless 18-25 year olds sometimes move from home to home, couch to couch, staying with whoever will put them up for a night. Others are runaways, fleeing unsafe situations and finding quiet (or noisy) spots in public places not intended for sleeping.

While homeless shelters are an option for homeless folks across the country and while Milwaukee offers several options for a free overnight stay, LGBT youth are often targeted and assaulted by the others who sleep there. Others report being taunted by shelter workers about their appearance or orientation and many are assaulted by homophobic homeless

people either at or after their shelter stay.

In the Milwaukee area, the Salvation Army is committed to providing a "safe shelter and social services to those in need," according to Nancy Szudzik, Shelter Director at the agency. "Four people are assigned to a room and if anybody is feeling threatened or victimized, then staff conduct mediation to resolve the issues." The staff is trained to avoid any type of discrimination and "if anybody staying at the shelter makes derogatory comments about anybody," says Szudzik "that person is asked to leave. The Salvation Army is committed to having people regain and retain their dignity and they require that all residents are respectful of all differences."

Solutions?

What are the answers for this next generation of the Queer community? What programs have proven successful in similarly sized cities across the country? What options are in planning for Milwaukee?

For those under 18, placement in the foster care system can follow a court determination of CHIPS (child in need of protection and services). Court-ordered conditions for family reunification are ordered and a team of professionals provides mandated services. Some models for intensive family counseling have proven successful and while state child welfare laws vary, re-connecting homeless youth with family members is almost always the preferred option.

In Milwaukee, several agencies are under contract with Milwaukee's child protection system and Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, part of the Children's Hospital Health Network works in conjunction with other agencies to provide targeted services to the under 18 LGBT population in need of placement.

According to their website, (www.cssw.org) they recognize the challenges Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth in foster care face. They collaborate with other agencies in the Alliance for LGBTQ Youth in Foster

continued on page 5

HOPE *continued from page 4*

Care (Alliance) with the goal that these youth feel supported and safe regardless of their placements.

Specifically, the Alliance offers awareness education for foster parents, child advocates and social workers; advocates for LGBTQ youth in foster care and their families; maintains national, local and regional collaborations for LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care and supports recruitment efforts for safe and stable placements for LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care.

Many of the services offered by the alliance are appropriate for those over 18 as well, however funding is limited beyond age 18. In most cases, youth are allowed to remain in foster care longer allow them to graduate from high school.

Older Homeless Youth

For older homeless LGBT youth, (18-25), Milwaukee options are scarce and inconsistent. Homeless shelters are frequently not LGBT friendly and "couch-hopping" is pervasive among the youth. Informal arrangements with LGBT adults often succeed, but not everyone is fortunate to find these mentor/godparent relationships.

Across the country, however, two models shine as beacons of hope for homeless LGBT youth; the Host Home and the Drop-In Center. Currently, members of Milwaukee's LGBT community are coming together to explore replication of these models for Milwaukee area youth. Jacqueline White, a consultant who was instrumental in developing the model in Minneapolis, completed a feasibility study in December, 2007.

The Host Home Model

This involves screened and trained hosts who provide living space and guidance/mentoring to homeless LGBT youth. While hosts are frequently gay or lesbian couples with a desire to "parent," this is not a requirement. They must however, have awareness and competency in LGBT issues and a commitment to helping youth along the path to successful independent living and adulthood. Somewhat paralleling a foster home concept, interested people apply to a coordinating agency, which reviews applications and reference letters, conducts background checks and interviews and provides training.

In the Minnesota model, host homes must be within an hour of the twin cities and have lived in MN for a year. They must complete 14 hours of training in such topics as communication and boundaries, mental health and chemical dependency issues, homelessness and LGBT issues. Approved applicants provide written information about themselves for the youth to read and then all parties interview one another

to see if placement might work. A mutual decision is made to proceed with placement. For the youth to be eligible for the Minnesota program, they work with a case manager who will meet with them weekly to set goals related to education and employment, among other areas and monitor their progress toward independent living. While youth ideally succeed at independent living, the host families provide ongoing support in the role of extended family.

The Drop-in Center

Another successful alternative, this model offers homeless youth plentiful resources and can link them with shelters and other housing options. The Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park, Michigan (near Detroit) is one of four agencies in the nation with a focus on homeless LGBT youth and they successfully operate a drop-in center as well as a transitional living program and an emergency shelter.

The Michigan drop-in component provides two meals per day, a place to shower, do laundry, get job leads and lots of support and information. The drop-in center offers education sessions on a variety of topics related to independent living, health, HIV prevention, safe sex and self-sufficiency. The transitional living program, "Ruth's House" offers youth a comprehensive 18 months program with education and support to help them progress along the road to independence. In addition, Ruth's House offers short-term emergency housing.

Currently, a group of Milwaukee Stakeholders meet regularly to discuss alternatives and to develop a much-needed resource for Milwaukee homeless youth.

According to Maria Cadenas, Director of the Cream City Foundation, "(we) create change on behalf of LGBT community; this goes beyond doing direct services... we provide resources with organizations already doing work to increase visibility, convene dialogue and help to identify and fill the gaps in service in SE Wisconsin for the LGBT community."

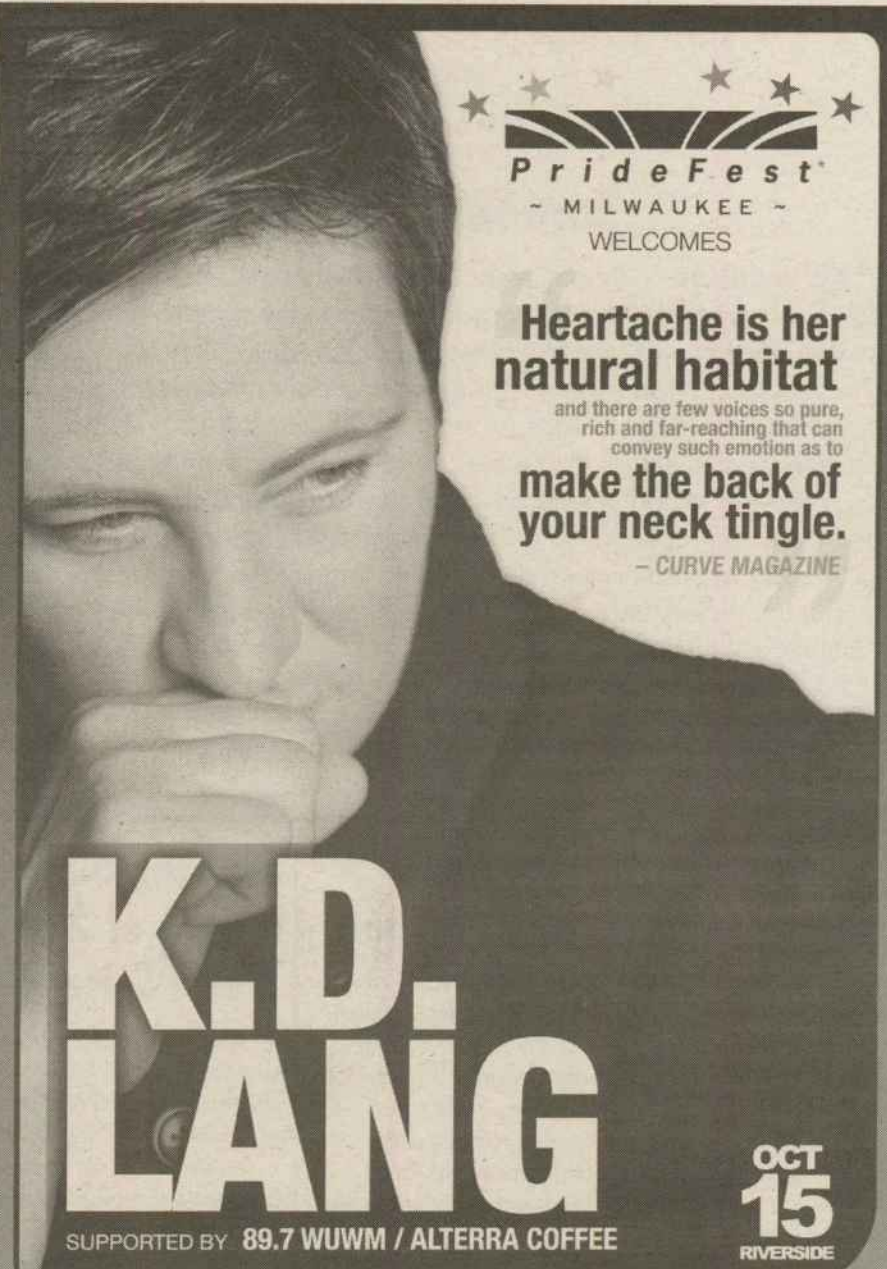
A current focus on older homeless youth; those who have aged out of the child welfare system and others, brings the group together. Cream City Foundation President Tim Clark stated that "Funding for the homeless youth project is allocated for over the next three years." The group strives to build on existing services in Milwaukee's public and private sectors while identifying ways to increase the success and avoid duplication of services.


Dedication plus Innovation plus a lot of hard work and perseverance hopefully equals a brighter future for the next generation of the amazing LGBTQ community in Milwaukee.

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Economy causes LGBT Community Center Hiring Freeze

Milwaukee - Philanthropy has always been a trailing indicator of the national economy, and after 18 months of an economic downturn, many community organizations in the nonprofit sector are feeling the "pinch."

Therefore, the Executive Committee of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has instituted a hiring freeze in order to monitor and assess national trends, both economic and philanthropic. Though the Center has experienced so far this year a steady rise in membership and corporate sponsorships, several significant grantmakers have switched their priorities to favor electoral activities for the current election year in lieu of the social services and community organizing programs provided by the Center.

"We want to continue to be good stewards of the charitable contributions and grants provided to the Center in support of its existing and developing programs and services," said Dr. Maggi Cage, Executive Director of the Center. "To do so requires that we move judiciously in our financial decision-making for the next several months."

The immediate impact of the hiring freeze means that the Center will not fill the Director of Communications and Director of Public Affairs positions at this time.

Paul Williams, who had been announced last month as the chosen candidate for Director of Communications said, "It is an unfortunate situation, but the Center's primary focus need to be on the continuance of its services that are so critical to the well-being of the LGBT community."

Workshop Retreat for Trauma Survivors and Partners

Milwaukee - Trauma leaves lasting scars not only on its survivors, but on their loved ones, as well. On Saturday, July 12, 2008, a Milwaukee-based, daylong retreat, "Loving Through Trauma: A Day of Connection and Healing for Lovers," will offer intimate partners of all genders, sexualities, and relationship configurations techniques to advance their individual healing and deepen their partnership connection.

Although there aren't enough services and support for people who have survived childhood abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, hate crimes, and natural disasters, there are even fewer resources to help the partners of such survivors. Yet trauma survivors' relationships are often deeply affected by the aftermath of trauma, many times in ways that neither the victim nor her or his significant other(s) recognize or understand. These effects can last a lifetime. Although relationships can be negatively affected by past trauma, they also represent a very rich opportunity for healing trauma survivors and deepening their interpersonal connections.

In this all-day innovative, creative, and very practical workshop, partners, lovers, and close friends will join together to gently explore how trauma affects their relationship and how they can heal together. Trauma-informed facilitators will employ couple- and small-group discussions, creative arts, negotiated touch, movement, communication exercises, and introspective techniques to give participants insights, tools, and skills they can use to promote healing and strengthen all of their relationships.

The retreat is open to all survivors of violence or natural disasters and their intimate partners, with a special welcome to those who may face barriers to traditional services, including gender identity and sexual orientation minorities; male survivors of family abuse; survivors of female perpetrators; polyamorous relationships; and survivors of ritual abuse and hate crimes. Cost of the workshop is \$120 per day (\$60 for each additional person); some scholarship assistance is available. RSVPs are required: call 414-559-2123 or email info@forge-forward.org.

This event is being hosted by FORGE (www.forge-forward.org). Co-sponsors include: A Woman's Touch, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, SAGE-Milwaukee, No Safe Distance, Metropolitan Community Church, Lynn Edwards, Ph.D., MMK Design, Full Circle Counseling, Pat Walsh Communication Strategies.

SSBL announces launch of 2009 Gay Softball World Series Website

Milwaukee - Milwaukee's Saturday Softball League (SSBL), NAGAAAFest 2009 Gay Softball World Series GSWS host, announces the launch of its new website at www.nagaaafest.com.

At its world series bid conference in Seattle last February, the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) awarded the 33rd annual Gay Softball World Series in 2009 to Milwaukee's SSBL. Since then, SSBL-GSWS committees have been hard at work preparing for the greatest gay world series ever held.

"NAGAAAFest 2009 promises to put world class into the Gay Softball World Series. August 28 to September 7, 2009 will be eleven days Milwaukee, the LGBT community and NAGAAA's 37 leagues will never forget," said SSBL Commissioner Brian Reinkober. Now its website is up and running at www.nagaaafest.com.

GSWS mascots Ms. Ruthie and Velveeta are the site's featured guides. They'll be posting a series of video vignettes in addition to the ones already ready to view.

The site features complete GSWS coverage with dedicated Tournament, Party - Events and Visit Milwaukee sections. Each section features instant access to details about all GSWS aspects including Sponsorship, Parties, City Amenities, Volunteering, Donating and Media coverage.

An extensive World Series section provides complete tournament information with maps and directions to fields, game schedule, host hotel descriptions and links for making reservations. A special Hall of Fame page honors NAGAAA's veteran softball heroes and will post NAGAAAFest Hall of Fame event news.

The "Party" button brings visitors to the Opening Ceremony at the lake front's Henry Maier Festival Park that will feature national name entertainment, NAGAAAFest Idol, the Talent Show held at the Pabst



Theater as well as all the other parties, the street bash and Closing Celebrations.

Users can also register for GSWS email updates. These will be issued throughout the year leading up to the 2009 NAGAAAFest to provide teams, player, fans and friends with the latest GSWS news and information.

A special VOLUNTEER button connects you to complete volunteer information and a registration sheet.

Go to www.nagaaafest.com and sign up now!

Golf FORE Equality - Helping LGBT Homeless Youth

Milwaukee - Golf FORE Equality, the golf outing to raise funds for the Cream City Foundation, will take place Saturday, August 2nd at Silver Springs Golf Course in Menomonee Falls, WI.

Sponsored by Prudential, event proceeds will fund services and programs affecting homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth. National statistics show that LGBT youth make up 20 - 40% of all homeless youth.

Play will take place on the 18-hole Falls course. Registration begins at 11 a.m.; followed by a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m. Awards, entertainment and dinner will follow the round. Players will have a chance to bid to play with Tret Fure, a women's music legend, online at www.GolfForeEquality.org ebay starting on June 20th.

Corporate sponsorships are available from \$500 to \$5000 dollars. Individual players are welcome and the fee is \$95. For information or registration, please call the Cream City Foundation at 414.225.0244 or visit www.GolfForeEquality.org.

Cream City Foundation was established in 1982 to provide charitable grants to programs and projects that improve the quality of life for LGBT communities in Southeastern Wisconsin. The Foundation funds grants and initiatives that would work to establish real social change in the treatment and quality of life for LGBT individuals. For more information visit www.creamcityfoundation.org.

4th Annual Rainbow Community Pot Luck Picnic

Milwaukee - For the fourth year in a row the Rainbow Community Pot Luck Committee is hosting its summer picnic event. Last year nearly 200 people turned out at Lake Park for an afternoon of food fun and games. As an intergenerational event the guests ranged in age from 1 year to

95. The host organizations for the picnic are SAGE/Milwaukee, Project Q (Milwaukee LGBT Community Center) PFLAG, Lesbian Alliance, Metropolitan Milwaukee Community Church, Black and White Men Together (BWMT) and the Brew City Bears.

This year's event will be held in picnic area #5 at Lake Park. Participants will be arriving at Noon and lunch will be served at 1:00 p.m. As a pot luck guests whose last names begin with A-G you are asked to bring veggies and dip, chips or other appetizer stuff; H-S Side dishes like potato salad, macaroni salad, baked beans, etc.; and T-Z desserts like pies, cakes and other sweetness stuff. It is recommended that these dishes be enough for at least 6 people. The sponsor organizations will provide meats and beverages, as well as vegetarian dishes.

"We would like to top 225 participants this year," said Bill Serpe, Executive Director of SAGE/Milwaukee. "This event is so much fun because it gives all of the Milwaukee LGBT community another opportunity to get together and enjoy each others company."

For more information call SAGE/Milwaukee at 414-224-0517 or any of the other sponsoring organizations.

This event is a promotion of the Rainbow Community Pot Luck Committee and has received funds this year from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund.

Art Will Fill Park at South Shore Frolic

Bay View - Tents filled with art will again line the paths in South Shore Park during the South Shore Frolic Festival of Arts on July 13. Over 70 artists from throughout Wisconsin and beyond have been accepted into the show. The wide range of media includes jewelry, painting, drawing, pastels, photography, ceramics, fibers, sculpture, wood, and mixed media.

"The jurying committee was particularly pleased that we met our goal of 70 high-quality artists early this year," said BVAG Frolic Chairperson Linda Beckstrom. "We are now planning the final set-up details to make the day enjoyable for the artists and for the many supporters who come to our little corner of the Frolics."

The Festival of Arts will be set up in South Shore Park, along the paths where Rusk meets Superior St., on Sunday, July 13, from 10AM-5PM. Artist applications are no longer being accepted.

The Bay View Arts Guild works with the Bay View Lion's Club on the art show part of the weekend's festivities. Further information is available at www.BayViewArts.org.

Part II - Shoulders back, chest out, chin high!

Four years ago I started a QLife article with this: "We're good. Good, good, good, good. We're good!"

In the months leading up to the next election the fact of our inherent human goodness as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people may be hard to hold on to. Even with the economy in shambles and the country in turmoil over a war we don't want, I will be surprised if gay people, our private lives, our sexual behaviors, and our interests in our civil rights do not become the fodder for debate and division among parties and candidates.

Political and social confusion about us and political parties' tactics of targeting us for their shortcomings can't negate the truth: we are good people. Our transgender sisters and brothers have freed the minds of millions from the gender traps that confuse us. Our lesbian and bisexual sisters have opened new professions and occupations for us all. They have nursed our sick and brought hope in the face of plague. Our gay and bisexual brothers have been fierce in the face of war and annihilation and racism.

Our accomplishments over the past 50 years are legendary. We have reclaimed cities from decay and neglect, protected reproductive rights, and moved federal bureaucracies. We have successfully protected our young, assisted our aging, and healed our sick.

And though there is much more that we can and must do, the fact remains that each of us is good, good, good - even if we do nothing at all. We are fine neighbors, co-workers, friends, family members, and allies.

We're just good folks.

As we are propelled toward the fall elections and face future struggles to maintain unconstitutional limits on our rights to pursue happiness, three tactics will likely serve us well. First, we should remain aware of how we are doing personally and as a community. Second, we have to remain mindful of what is true about us, even if the majority of the

population is incredibly confused. And third, we must move closer to the opposition so that they can recognize our goodness close at hand.

How are we doing? In the current government, many of us have gone numb. We can barely process the blatant hate language, let alone the subtle innuendos about us from elected officials and televangelists. Some of us are even becoming physically ill from this assault. We fear others and increase our isolation. We're becoming somewhat vigilant, even jumpy when we don't know the politics of our colleagues and family members. We're avoiding some tough conversations because we don't want to feel again the disappointment of rejection or disregard that followed the anti-gay marriage amendment.

As we're learning to check out how we're doing on a regular and ongoing basis, we can also pay attention to what is true about us as a group and as individuals. For starters, we can notice how deeply connected we are to one another and to our allies. Even when we're hunkered down, we remain personally, humanly, socially, spiritually, politically, and economically related to dozens, hundreds, thousands, even millions of others. The misinformation about how fragile our



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.

relationships are with each other and in the wider world is a lie.

We are also fun, creative, flexible people. We are generous with our time, talents, and treasures. We are generous in our willingness to forgive, get up, dust ourselves off and move forward. During this period of political noise, we get to show everyone our inherent human goodness by just being ourselves. We get to turn this mess around by getting involved.

Shoulders back, chest out, chin high!

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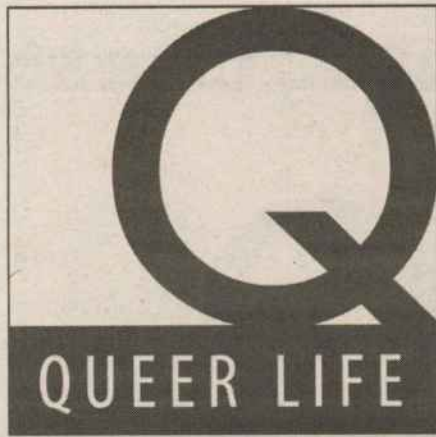
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QLife Quickie

UW-Parkside has new LGBTQ Resource Center Director

Kenosha - UW-Parkside is very excited to announce the arrival of the brand new LGBTQ Resource Center Director. Ana Guerriero comes from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant where she did both her undergrad and graduate work; and she served as their director for the Office of Gay and Lesbian Program for several years. Ana can be reached at 262.595.2456 or email guerrier@uwp.edu.



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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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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.

CONTACT QLife:

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Editorial July 2008

Running, not Walking - in the wrong Direction

By Kate Sherry

"I'm not only walking away from this community, I'm RUNNING!"

It was our fifth, perhaps sixth voice mail from someone clearly not happy being involved with Milwaukee's LGBT community anymore. He wanted out. He filled us in over several days, on how he felt about certain people, bars, organizations, behaviors, and HIV. Each time, he was anonymous, never leaving a number or a name. Some nights he would go on rather incoherently, but we found ourselves intrigued in a way, by our little voicemail soap opera that was unfolding.

"Some of us would rather have the gay community straighten up, and clean up than have all the problems that we do," he said. "We don't appreciate all of the negativity that these people promote." And by "these people", he meant us. The LGBT community.

We tried to figure out who our after-hours-after a few cocktails caller could be. But ultimately, and quite sadly, it doesn't matter. For he is many of us. His disdain for his own community is not foreign to me. This job allows me not only a position to hear of the progress our community is making, it also provides me with copious amounts of complaints and accusations about the organization, or person du jour.

I've had friends drop out of LGBT groups and organizations because they too, "can't deal with it anymore." I've talked to people out in the bars, who say they don't do anything with/for/around the LGBT community other than go and drink because they think the groups are either: A. only for certain LGBT people, or B. boring, and not worth it.

Never in my life have I been as involved in a community as I am now. We should be proud that we have organizations and

people doing wonderful work. Many for little to NO pay. We have numerous resources and individuals who would stop at nothing to make sure you are safe, and protected, and respected. Sure we're going to snap at one another, but we're also going to MOVE ON and FORWARD.

I also want to say that I had a fabulous time at PrideFest, and the Pride Parade! I want to thank the PrideFest board for working with QLife so wonderfully this year - we were honored to be sponsors. And the Pride Parade! How fun was that? The board did such a wonderful job - and announced that this year's pride parade was "well attended by the GLBT population of Southeastern Wisconsin, with final estimate ranging from 4,000 to 5,000." They had so much fun they put together a 40 plus minute DVD and are currently selling it on their website, located at www.prideparademke.org.

For me, one of the most incredible times I had at PrideFest, was when I was hunkered down underneath a beer pod - trapped on my way back to the info booth by the tornado-flood-monsoon-typhoon mess that roared through the grounds Saturday afternoon. People were given the opportunity to interact with one another. They shared stories, and jokes, and played games in the rain. After the weekend had died down, I stopped to wonder what it was about that particular moment that I felt so connected to, so happy about. And, although it was tasty, I know it wasn't just the beer.

It was the fact that the horrendous rains allowed us to get back to the basics of what PrideFest is about. Community. Roll your eyes if you want too, but that was it - plain and simple. Yes we were terribly wet...we were miserably, ridiculously wet...but we were sharing and experiencing something together, on the same level - as "one." And we were having a great time.

The Monday after, upon returning to work, my euphoric joyous "Pride"-full bubble was burst as one after one, the calls and emails came in assuming PrideFest was a bust. Yes, the attendance wasn't what they expected, and yes, the rain contributed to lower revenue for the weekend. Scott Gunkel, President of PrideFest, when contacted by QLife for financials, stated, "We seem to be doing alright, the reason there are no

exact numbers yet is that the final bills (Milwaukee World Fest - Summerfest people) don't all come in until about the second week in July. I have estimated quite high on the outstanding bills and it still looks good."

Even if it turns out not to be such good news, what will Milwaukee's LGBT community do? Will they come together, and build something together, or will they like our voicemail bandit, give up and run away.

Letter from PrideFest

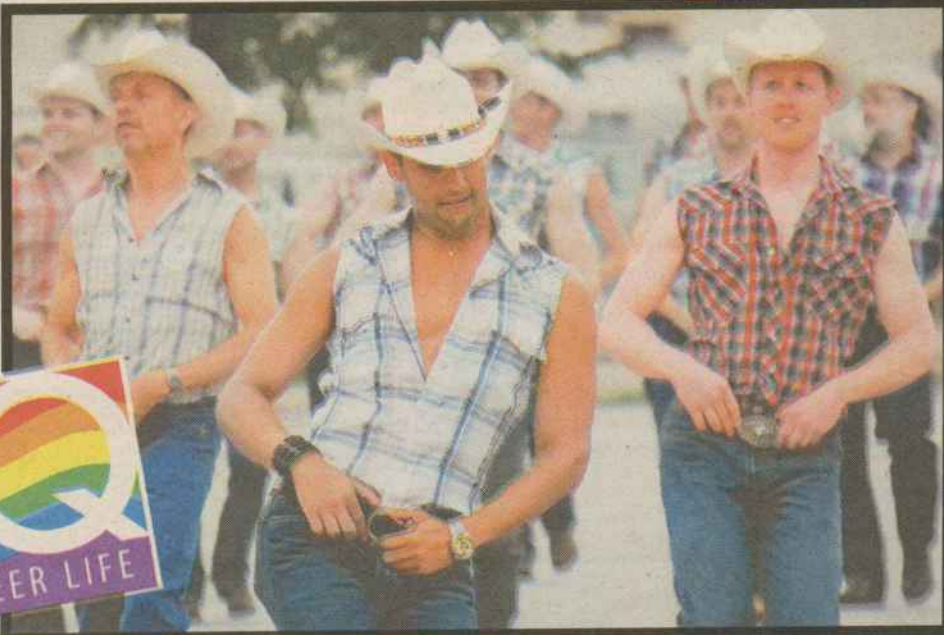
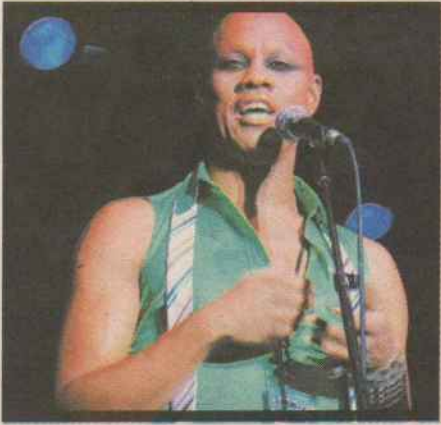
PRIDEFEST WEATHERS THE STORMS

Many people have expressed concern for PrideFest due to the unprecedented challenges the festival and its patrons faced over the weekend. Both the weather and a small protest drew attention away from the purpose of this event: to celebrate our lives and our community. However, I want to assure you that neither weather nor protesters can or will stop PrideFest and it's merry people from celebrating life, love and the history of the LGBT community. Our event is still a success. Our crowds were smaller this year than in previous years, and PrideFest's revenues will be down this year from previous years, but because of past successes and sound management, PrideFest will not fall. The strong involvement of the festival's many volunteers, who have worked diligently throughout the year to build financial and operational support, has made PrideFest strong enough to weather the storms.

I must acknowledge all those of the Production Team and Board who work all year long; all those volunteer groups and individuals that came together throughout the weekend; and all the sponsors that came forth and supported PrideFest. You have the thanks of PrideFest, the LGBT community and myself for all you have done to create and maintain this strong and wonderful organization known as PrideFest.

Scott Gunkel, PrideFest President.

PRIDE WEEKEND 2008



PRIDE WEEKEND 2008



This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History July

By Michail Takach and Don Schwamb

1978 – Thirty Years Ago

Located upstairs from the insanely popular Factory disco, the Broadway Health Club (158 N. Broadway) was one of the city's most popular bathhouses, and rightly so. A \$5 annual membership granted elite access to 43 rooms, 160 lockers, workout rooms, TV lounges, game rooms, a music room, a steam room AND a snack lounge. Most importantly, the Broadway Health Club also provided its members with a safe and discrete venue to meet and mingle. At least it seemed discrete, until May 6, when 30-40 uniformed policemen raided the property at 3:30AM during the "Great Bath Raid of 1978."

When the police arrived, the doorman asked them for membership cards for the members-only club. At that time, two vice squad officers jumped over the counter and began beating the doorman with flashlights. The doorman, afraid he was being robbed, used a barstool to defend himself. He was later handcuffed, arrested and charged with resisting arrest. The business owner called the club during the raid, was told he was being robbed, called the police and arrived at the property only to be arrested on three counts of sexual assault. Although there were almost 60 members on the premises during the raid, only 18 people were arrested. Ultimately, only 5 cases went to trial. The Vice Squad quickly pressed for counts of sexual perversion, a charge moving from a felony to a misdemeanor when new laws went into effect on June 1, 1978. As a result, bails ranged between \$1,000 and \$3,000, and some arrested were not released for 17 hours.

As the cases went to trial in July 1978, the gay community was enraged by the Milwaukee Vice Squad's legal maneuvers and continued police harassment. The owner of the Broadway Health Club was summoned by the City Attorney's office for bartending without a license at an adjacent property. The police issued an unusually high number of parking tickets in the neighborhood for several weeks. Four Vice Squad officers interrupted a Lambda Legal Defense benefit auction at the Baron Disco, and cited five citizens with conducting an illegal auction without a licensed auctioneer. (Twelve bottles of auction wine were confiscated and never returned!)

The GPU News ridiculed the Vice Squad's behavior in their July issue, THE VICE SQUAD WANTS YOU, in which they reported that a surprise after-hours Milwaukee Vice Squad raid was staged at the Milwaukee County Zoo, after several weeks of undercover surveillance by several vice officers disguised as pelicans. The article states, "Evidence of illegal and immoral goings-on in the rhino cages was presented. Arrested in the raid were two rhesus monkeys, four leopards, three frogs, and an undisclosed number of African beetles."

As the GPU writer noted, "A hundred years from now, anyone reviewing the police raid of 1978 will probably be struck by the silliness and humor of it all..."

Despite the Great Bath Raid of 1978, the Broadway Health Club remained in business for another three years, closing in 1981. The property now houses the Broadway Theater Center, home to the Milwaukee Chamber Theater and the Skylight Opera.

1988 – Twenty Years Ago

The Mint Bar, operating at 422 W State Street for almost 40 years, closed its doors on June 28 to make room for the construction of the Bradley Center's parking structure. The Mint Bar relocated to 819 S 2nd St (now the site of Fluid) and reopened as Angelo's Mint Bar II.

The Mint Bar opened in 1949 and was known as a "male bar" long before Stonewall. The bar began advertising in local gay listings as early as 1971. Owned by Angelo Aiello and his wife Betty, the Mint Bar celebrated 40 years in business on Saturday, May 6 at the new location, but closed only 3 years later.

1993 – Fifteen Years Ago

Afterwords Book Store and Espresso Bar opened on July 9, 1993, providing LGBT Milwaukee with an East Side outpost and gathering place. The business quickly expanded beyond books and magazines to offer music, movies, gifts, apparel, candles, and more, as well as reading groups and community meetings. After a trademark complaint, the business changed its name to Outwards in 2001.

1998 – Ten Years Ago

The Milwaukee Presbyterian Church stirred a national theological debate when it proposed to remove exclusionary guidelines that prevented gays and lesbians from becoming ordained ministers.

At the 210th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, the Milwaukee Presbytery would have asked all Presbyterians if they wanted to remove the recent amendment that requires all clergy officers (clergy, elders, and deacons) to uphold standards of "fidelity in marriage and chastity in singleness." The Presbyterian majority had adopted this standard, widely understood as an anti-gay ordination measure, in 1997. An amended appeal requested to change the language from "integrity" rather than "chastity." However, the proposal was rejected in a 412-92 vote.

"It is very clear to us that people matter, that we consider not who a person is but what a person does... and we trust our presbyteries and congregations to determine the fitness of individuals based upon their behavior," said Carol McDonald, part of the committee that fought for the inclusion of gay and lesbians in the ministry.

With each consecutive year, gay and lesbian ordination debates escalated at every Presbyterian assembly, as more and more presbyteries throughout the country protested the sexual orientation ban. In June 2008, Jane Spahr, a retired Presbyterian minister officiated one of the first legal lesbian weddings in California, in clear defiance of the Presbyterian ban on gay marriage.

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



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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.

Time and time again, I hear a significant number of transgender individuals make global statements.

• "It is impossible for transgender people to get good jobs."

Watch out: It's contagious!

• "The worst fear of all wives of crossdressers is that they will become transsexual."

• "The ONLY way I can get hormones is on the street."

• "Relationships [of any kind] don't survive transition."

• "The only alternative to transitioning is suicide."

These statements are often fully believed by the people saying them. They are unintentional, biased, viral marketing. The messages of disempowerment and victimization are so widely accepted and frequently heard, they become integrated into the fabric of transgender and SOFFA peoples' lives, creating hopelessness and blinding us from seeing other options. Statements of individuals become unquestioned truths for an entire community.

In essence, viral marketing creates self-fulfilling prophecies that define individual lives and shape the cultural norms of a community.

Do transgender people have it hard? Sure, some do. But so do single parents trying to earn enough money raise their kids. The veterans returning from war have it hard, too, as do the people who grew up without encouragement to stay in school. People with disabilities have it hard, as do those in the U.S. who don't speak English as their primary language.

However, not everyone who is trans, or a single parent, or a vet, or

disabled has the same constellation of challenges and joys. There is no universal truth that is woven into the shirts and skirts we slip on each morning that determines the outcome of our lives.

When I hear people making defeatist statements, I listen compassionately, but I also watch when some trans people beautifully and creatively persevere, blasting their way through one barrier after another.

We don't all share the same experiences.

Research has shown, for example, that MTFs are at higher risk for HIV than gay men or other previously identified high-risk groups. Yet, the MTF who has been in a monogamous marriage to one partner for the past 20 years is at significantly lower risk than an MTF sexworker (or a cisgender individual who is dating anyone). It's not accurate, then, to say that MTFs -- across the board -- are at higher risk for HIV. Some MTFs are at higher risk, but not all.

Not everyone responds to barriers in the same way.

I think back many years to two African-American transgender individuals who both came from economically challenged, single-parent families, where books were not highly valued. Both have "successfully" transitioned in ways

that are comfortable to them (both use hormones and both have had multiple gender-confirming surgeries). Both worked extremely hard (often living below poverty level) in order to reach their vocational goals. One is a flourishing sports medicine physician, and the other is a Battalion Chief of a large city fire department. They both were exposed to similar barriers (that some transgender and/or people of color face). They chose to not accept that they could not fulfill their dreams.

Sometimes "universal truths" morph

Some partners who adamantly believed they would leave if their spouse transitioned, end up staying. The enormous love within their relationship transforms and allows them to jointly share the process of gender exploration and the re-creation of both of their lives.

Globalized, universal statements fail us all. Our community(ies) stay oppressed and victimized when we believe superlative "all..." statements and when we rarely hear other perspectives. Can we neutralize the toxicity of our subconsciously-created viral marketing campaign by raising our awareness and shifting our language? Can we transform our own belief about success and better assure the survival of our community by listening to other peoples' stories without presumptions?

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ARCW Food Pantries to distribute 325 tons of food in 2008

Milwaukee - Through its statewide network of six food pantries, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) is currently on pace to distribute 325 tons of healthy, nutritious food to HIV patients and their families. Currently ARCW operates food pantries at its locations in Eau Claire, Green Bay, Kenosha, La Crosse, Milwaukee and Wausau.

"ARCW food pantries are constantly rated as one of the most important and appreciated services ARCW provides to people living with HIV and their families," said Roma Hanson, ARCW Vice President for Social Services. "Unfortunately, many HIV patients are often forced into choosing to purchase their medications or put food on their family's dinner table. Through our statewide system of food pantries, ARCW is working to make sure everyone with HIV has the nutritious and healthy food they need to keep or regain their health."

Eating healthy food is an important part of successful HIV treatment as it combats the loss of lean body mass and muscle. A good diet is also important because many HIV patients are at an increased risk for high cholesterol and heart disease. In addition to fresh produce, quality meats and easy-to-prepare meals, ARCW food pantry clients

may also consult with a nutritionist who is available to help put together meal plans and discuss better eating habits.

ARCW food pantries have been recognized by the Hunger Task Force in Milwaukee with a four-star rating for the past six years for their commitment to providing nutritious foods and quality customer service to clients with respect and dignity.

To learn more about ARCW Food Pantries, please call 414-225-1515.

Generosity at PrideFest for ARCW pantry

The wet weather at PrideFest 2008 did nothing to dampen the generosity of attendees as they donated more than 10,000 pounds of non-perishable food items to ARCW food pantries.

"We are deeply grateful for the longstanding and ongoing generosity of the LGBT community and their allies attending PrideFest as they have made our annual food drive there another success," said Hanson. "Our friends at PrideFest are important allies in the fight against HIV and in ensuring access to care and treatment for people living with HIV everyday. For that they have our sincere thanks."

ARCW Helps to Pay HIV Patients Rent

Milwaukee - The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) has provided \$560,000 in rent and utility assistance to 235 HIV patients throughout Wisconsin over the past nine months. The funds represent the ARCW commitment to eliminating barriers to successful HIV treatment.

"ARCW housing programs are designed to promote successful HIV treatment by making sure everyone with HIV has a safe place to sleep, eat and take their medications," said Tyrone Baldwin, the ARCW Director of Housing Services. "A safe home helps HIV patients adhere to complex medical regimens."

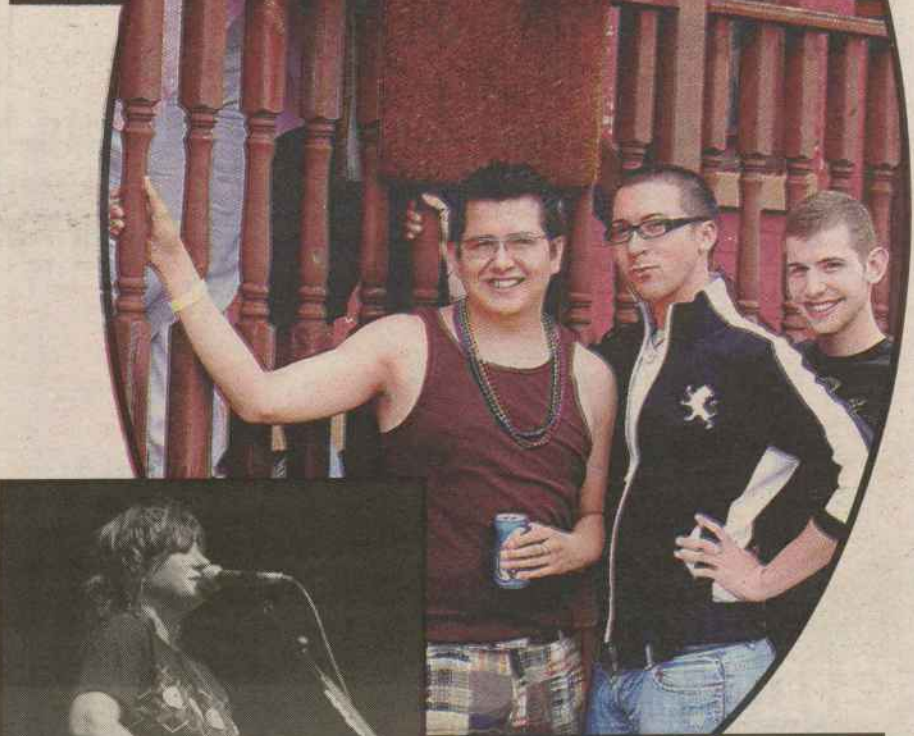
Through the ARCW housing and utility assistance program, people living with HIV

who are chronically homeless are eligible to have payments made on their behalf directly to their landlord, mortgage holder or utility company without their HIV status being disclosed.

"Our goal is to make sure no one with HIV disease is ever homeless. Alcohol and other drug use counseling, and training in job and life skills are routinely available to ARCW patients and clients who need them." Said Baldwin.

To learn more about ARCW housing programs please call 414-273-1991. To learn more about the ARCW Medical Center providing medical, dental and mental health care please call 414-225-6800.

PRIDE WEEKEND 2008



PRIDE WEEKEND 2008



JULY CALENDAR

JUL 1
 During July, Erica Heisdorf Bisquerra will show "Color Mess," an exploration in color using various paint media, in the upstairs gallery lounge of Rochambo Coffee Teahouse, 1317 E. Brady Street, MKE. Show Reception will be held between 7pm-10pm on Sunday, July 6th with \$3 beer and wine specials. Some artwork is for sale ranging from 20 to \$300. All sales are made independently of Rochambo. For an up-to-date calendar of show bookings visit www.myspace.com/rochambo_coffee

JUL 3
 Don't Expect Hymns! Gay singer-songwriter (and Kenosha native) Tom Goss performs tonight at the Milwaukee Gay Art Center. 8PM, 703 S. 2nd St Milwaukee. Goss creates acoustic pop with an enduring message, diving head first into issues of love, faith, sex, hope and redemption. His former life as a Catholic seminarian gives him an unusual perspective on life and love! Doors open 7:30PM, \$5 cover.



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Joe Simon's "Men for all Seasons" opens at MGAC, July 26

Milwaukee- The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center opens a new art exhibition "Men for all Seasons" featuring works by Milwaukee artist Joe Simon with an artist's reception on Saturday, July 26 from 6-9pm.

Joe Simon's acrylics present a new take on French advertising posters of the early 20th century. Those early advertisements typically sold products like cognac or wine with a smartly dressed woman to pique the viewer's interest.

Simon has created his series of liquor and candy versions from a contemporary and considerably gayer perspective. His mock potent potables and connived confections like Boy Beach Bourbon and Blue Lake Licourice sell a male aesthetic beyond the vice. Handsome, jocular models market their wares with wholesome, whole-hearted and unencumbered all-American charm.

The collection came about like most of Simon's output – a simple idea: in this case, a play on the traditional sex-sells theory of commercial art. Then the momentum set in.

"I always liked those vintage posters. They were risqué but clever. I bought a new chair and needed something to fill a large wall area behind it. A 3x4' poster style painting was the obvious solution. I painted the October themed Halloweeny Rum depicting a man in a pumpkin patch," Simon said, "then came December's Mistletoe Vodka with a man astride a moose set against a landscape of snow capped fir trees. I did a series of twelve to represent each month. That provided parameters as well – otherwise, there'd be dozens."

Once that project was completed, the candy line presented the obvious variation on the theme. Simon set about to contrive a line of sweets with similarly symbolic cachet.

"The different months presented specific challenges because they all

reflect something particular about the season. Doing research for each was a learning experience. September features Green Man Gin because I discovered Green Man. He's the mythic king of the forest. I set him set

in his court of flora and fauna – there's a moose in that one, too, - all enjoying the bounty of the end of the growing season. And, I'm self-taught so adding bugs and animals is an artistic challenge as well." Simon said.

Simon avoids the inclination to do predictable, Mapplethorpe-like sexual statements. Sexual symbols and subliminal messaging abound but they remain a subtext below the sense of

humor. His "type" is the mature buff buddy. Like the Gibson girls or 50's era Vargas pin-ups, it's Simon's sign of the times.

"I draw on the whimsy of old Valentine's, religious iconography or Victorian postcards. Male nudity was standard in art until we became inhibited. Now it hardly appears in art. People are still uncomfortable with the naked male body. I want to return to that innocence. It's our cultural identity and there's nothing wrong with that, so I won't deny it for the sake of complying with a false social expectation" Simon said.

But, unlike the unapproachable Marlboro man, Simon's appeal is nice-guy accessibility. "Ads usually cast attractive women to sell to house wives. The few men we see are hard and stern, selling cigarettes or other 'masculine' products. My guys are likable."

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is located at 703 South 2nd Street, a block north of National Avenue in Walker's Point. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 10am-4pm and by appointment. Joe Simon's "Men for all Seasons" runs through September 5.



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Planned Parenthood

Well, we did it. Using advice from Q Life's own columnist Fuschia Woods, and some of our own intuition and ideas, my partner and I are now Moms-to-Be. We are joining the massive Gay and Lesbian baby-boom and on our way to parenthood. But first, there's this 40-week waiting period known as pregnancy. And that is just an attempt to put it lightly. Between now and December, I'll be transforming into a totally different person, or so it feels. My life is ruled by biology, for better or for worse.

After the initial euphoria of finding out that we were pregnant, I went through a week long crying phase, followed by a very intense puking stage known ridiculously as "morning sickness" which lasted about 7 or 8 weeks and I hope, has finally passed due to some helpful medication and perhaps to just letting nature take its course. Now I am about to enter the best phase - the one where all of the books say I am supposed to be glowing, and energetic, and happy! I am really looking forward to this phase!

All of this is to say, that if you and yours are considering making babies, be prepared. The idea of "planned parenthood" doesn't really hold much weight with Gays and Lesbians- of course we have to plan our parenthood! We can't just do this by accident, - adoption takes time, money, effort, as does getting pregnant the "old fashioned way" via sperm donors, or surrogacy. And here in Wisconsin, either way we have those pesky and unfair discriminatory rules that serve as barriers to protecting and legitimating our families.



WOMEN

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

Given all of this planning, so far on this journey, the one thing I have learned is that the first lesson of parenthood is that nothing ever really goes according to plan. I did not plan on being sick for so long and having it impact my school, my work, and other aspects of daily living such as brushing my teeth, showering, let alone eating, drinking, or moving! We did not plan on the immense feelings of "oh my god, what have we done!" as the reality that we will be parents in December, and our lives will be changed forever, sinks in each week and with each change in my body and in our daily activities.

And we also could not fully prepare ourselves for how great those in our lives would be about our decision and my pregnancy. We have friends offering us the use of their pool, friends going to rummage sales nonstop searching for great baby things, friends supporting us by helping us rip out carpet and move heavy things around as we work to create a space for baby. And everyone at PrideFest was so nice - I even got to ride in one of those cart things! I also did not know just how wonderful, supportive, patient, and all around amazing my partner would be as she helped me through days and nights of sickness, fear, and as we grow more and more excited and attached to our baby and to the image of us as moms.

As the weeks and trimesters fly or slowly pass by it is wonderful to know that my partner and I are surrounded by love - not just for each other, but by people in this community who are really excited about the arrival of another baby born into our Lesbian and Gay family.

JULY CALENDAR CONTINUED

JUL 4

Its "Red, White, and Blue" night at MONA's! Every first Friday brings a different costume-themed contest! Wear your 4th of July finest and have the chance to win cash & prizes. 1407 S. 1st St, Milwaukee.

Face & Three Strikes Productions Variety Show - \$50 cash prize! Open to all contenders. Must sign up before 9:30PM, showtime is at 10PM. Hosted by Dominique Mahon and friends. \$3 cover. Kitchen open late! MONA's, 1407 S. 1st St, Milwaukee.

Outwords Books celebrates 15 years with special sales. Stop in to pick up a new treat! 2710 N. Murray Ave, Milwaukee.

JUL 5

Does the concept of binding boggle your mind? Ever wonder how some pre- or non-op guys stand to pee? Do you wonder how to get a nice, but realistic, looking bulge in your pants? Maybe you are more interested in tips about how to successfully use a gendered locker room without causing a stir. Or how to stay cool in the summer and pass, even without multiple layers of clothes or a binder? "Tricks of the Trade" is the topic at tonight's FORGE Social support meeting. 6-9:30PM, LGBT Community Center, 315 Court St. bring your favorite packing, binding, urinating devices to show and tell. This meeting will have a hands-on focus, offering suggestions, tips, techniques for the practicalities of binding, soft packing, hard packing, urinating, clothing styles, hair cuts, and more. Come share your knowledge and experience with others! Peer-based support for trans-masculine and SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies) individuals in a friendly, facilitated setting. Open discussion from 6-6:45pm, then Topic discussion from 7pm-9:30pm. Free. More info: www.forge-forward.org/socialsupport/ or by emailing info@forge-forward.org.

JUL 10

The summer party everyone waits for! "My Best Friend is Straight" Hosted at the beautiful home of Andy Nunemaker. 2239 N. Terrace Ave Milwaukee. Last year sold out, so buy your ticket early at www.creamcityfoundation.org. Sponsored by: Ernst & Young, Citigal Magazine, Eat Cake, Terri Coughlin, Laura Emir, Linda Honold, Robin Jens, Mary Louise Mussoline, Joseph Pabst, Ralph Resenhoef & Louis Horvath, Kurt Schummer - Prudential, Richard Steele & Robert Parish, and Sara Stum.

JUL 11

Spiral Theatre presents: WAIT UNTIL DARK -You've seen this thriller on film... now see it live on stage! Performances are 7:30PM at Bucketworks Playspace (1340 N. 6th St., just north of Downtown Milwaukee) To reserve your tickets, leave a message at the Box Office (414-248-6481) Thru July 26

JUL 12

Pride Alive in Joannes -Park, Green Bay. Celebrate community, diversity, and equality, with live music, entertainment, speakers, food & drinks & overall family fun! 11AM-9PM, 1430 E. Walnut St, Green Bay, WI.

JUL 6

SAGE Sisterhood Book Group will not be meeting during the summer months. Watch future newsletters for next meeting and the book selection. Movie Night for July and August has been cancelled.

JUL 7


The Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa will hold auditions for their fall production, "The Mouse That Roared," Mon and Tues, July 7 and 8, at the Brookfield Senior Center. The Senior Center is located at 2000 North Calhoun Road, Brookfield, WI. Auditions each evening are from 7-9:30. The play has a large cast and actors of all ages, including children, are encouraged to audition. Actors will read from script at auditions. Director - James Lentz, Jr. 414-364-7239

JUL 8

Celebrate the Bastille at the Milwaukee Public Market 5:30-7PM, for only \$29! This cooking class gives you two for the price of one, with chefs Brian Moran and Azmi Alaeddin, celebrating the Bastille with flavors of the Mediterranean. Milwaukee Public Market, 400 N Water St. Milwaukee. (414) 289-3107.

JUL 9

Salman Rushdie, author of The Enchantress of Florence will appear for a 7PM reading at Schwartz Books, 4093 N. Oakland Ave. (414) 963-3111. The Enchantress of Florence, is the story of a woman attempting to command her own destiny in man's world. Tickets are required for this event. One ticket will grant admission for up to two (2) people. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early, as seating is limited. Due to this special event, our Shorewood location will close to the general public at 6PM. on the day of event.



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A Fuss and a Holler

There are many elixirs for the summertime blues this month. Milwaukee will add another push pin to the zine event map, fresh political groups are taking up the old mantles of queer rebellion, new zines are circulating and above all, love is in the air. Let's cannonball into pool!

QZAP is excited to be a part of Milwaukee's first ever Zine Fest taking place July 18th - 20th. The main event is Saturday, July 19th on the UWM campus at the Golda Meir Library's Fourth Floor Conference Center. Scores of zinesters will set up shop for a day to sell, trade, and distribute zines, buttons, t-shirts, and the occasional arts and crafts. Throughout the day there will be workshops and other skill share events. Zinesters are, by their very nature, often involved in other pursuits, so there are a host of other events the day before and after the main event. Be sure to catch one of the band nights with performers like Dallas/Marie, who is returning to Milwaukee after rocking the house during this spring's Tranny Roadshow performance night. Lots of local folks you know, like People's Books Co-op, Riverwurst Comics, Bottles on the Sill distro, The Midwest Zine Collective; Chicago's Loop Distro and Grilled Tuna Zines and Microcosm Publishing from Bloomington, Indiana will be there. Check <http://www.midwestzines.org/5.html> for details and stop on by!

It's depressing to think that despite

the progressive traditions that have thrived in Milwaukee, there are still some retrograde elements in our midst. June's QLife featured a letter from a reader who questioned why BashBack! was to protest at PrideFest and unfairly sought to paint the group in a sinister light. In a snide dismissal of their concerns, the author suggested they simply shut up and "join the party."

Coming on the heels of the sore loser fest by Patrick Flaherty and his supporters in May's QLife (which sadly only showed how far they have drifted from their own radical roots), it is time to take a slow, deep breath and recall why it is that radical queers put themselves on the firing line in the first place. I found solace in a brand new zine I picked up at the Denver Zine Fest in May called *Hirsteria* [Issue 1, 28 pages, 2008]. Author Justinn channels a sense of urgency into a powerful critique of why marginalized queer folks fight oppression. This issue is dedicated "to all the brave, loving [sic] and furious people who have inspired so many of us to thrive in the deconstructed ground zero of our rebellion. To queer people who have fallen under the wheels of this tank of a culture."

I feel Justinn would be as disgusted as I and other folks were to hear that a moment of silence during the Pride Parade was quashed by the organizers because it was deemed a buzz kill. If we can't even spare one minute to

remember queer loved ones taken from us through horrendous violence, it is no wonder the BashBack! contingent must protest. Or in to put it another way, as the words pasted to Justinn's collage piece "Hey Queer" implore us to "marry the movement, be a soldier in the war against heterosexist oppression [...] join the mutiny before it's too late."

If political strife isn't your game, relax, baby! Just turn to the comics! QZAP arbitrarily named June "Queer Comics Month" and we highlighted Erika Moen's *Writing Love Letters to Your Pants* [mini-comic, 16 pages, 2003]. All too short but super sweet, the main story conveys how a burning childhood desire for an Easy Bake Oven led her to become an atheist. She resolves angst in "Check One" by determining she is simply a "people-lover" and de-stresses in "Day of Rest." We also received *Dykes and Their Hair* [Issue 1, 20 pages 2008]



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.

from Canadian zinester Teresa who signs off as "one East Asian dyke with Hair Style Fig. 6." She playfully examines why it is we attempt to categorize who is a dyke and who isn't by their hair. More importantly, she challenges herself and others as to why curls of any sort leave out the "hip urban dyke" and women of color from the game. Bogus, indeed!

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

JULY CALENDAR CONTINUED

relationships. ALL survivors and partners welcome 9:30-5PM. Pre-registration required. \$120 per day (2 people), \$60 for additional partners/friends. Some scholarships are available. Contact FORGE @ PO Box 1272, Milwaukee, WI 53201. info@forge-forward.org. www.forge-forward.org 414-559-2123 to register, or for more information.

Cathedral Square Park, Milwaukee. Pamela Means and MRS. FUN join forces as a jazz trio performing two sets at this wonderful festival! 6:30 - 9PM FREE!! Cathedral Square Park occupies an entire city block between Jefferson and Jackson on the West and East and Wells and Kilbourn on the South and North. www.easttown.com

Chef Tony Mandella has been an executive chef for many top local restaurants and will share some of his favorites with you at the Milwaukee Public Market. Learn how to make Crab Cakes Chinois Style with a Dijon ginger sauce, Pasta with Roma tomatoes and asparagus and topped with truffle butter. Chicken breast stuffed with fontina, sage and prosciutto and served with a champagne sauce. And finally a Baglioni sauce over fresh seasonal berries. 2-3:30PM, \$29. Milwaukee Public Market, 400 N Water St, Milwaukee. (414) 289-3107

JUL 18-20

The Milwaukee Zine Fest at UWM. The "Main Event" is Sat, July 19, with many presenting zines, distro, or related projects. Also panels, presentations, workshops, and bands to perform! Free and open to the public. Golda Meir Library, 4th Floor Conference Center, 2311 E. Hartford Ave, Milwaukee. Sponsored by the UWM Library. One particular workshop/dialogue of note is the Queer Zine Roundtable led by Milo Miller of QZAP (Queer Zine Archive Project). Join this group discussion on Queer Zines and the surrounding community. For more details on this event, visit <http://www.midwestzines.org/5.html>.

JUL 13

Tents filled with art will again line the paths in South Shore Park during the South Shore Frolic Festival of Arts. Over 70 artists from throughout Wisconsin and beyond have been accepted into the show. The wide range of media includes jewelry, painting, drawing, pastels, photography, ceramics, fibers, sculpture, wood, and mixed media. South Shore Park, where Rusk meets Superior St., 10AM-5PM. Further information is available at www.BayViewArts.org.

JUL 19

Rainbow Picnic sponsored by SAGE in picnic area #5 at Lake Park. Arrive at Noon and lunch at 1PM. As a pot luck guests whose last names begin with A-G you are asked to bring veggies and dip, chips or other appetizer stuff; H-S Side dishes like potato salad, macaroni salad, baked beans, etc.; and T-Z desserts like pies, cakes and other sweetness stuff. (for at least 6 people.) The sponsor organizations will provide meats, vegetarian dishes and beverages. For more information call SAGE/Milwaukee at 414-224-0517 or any of the other sponsoring organizations. Project Q (Milwaukee LGBT Community Center) PFLAG, Lesbian Alliance, Metropolitan Milwaukee Community Church, Black and White Men Together (BWMT) and the Brew City Bears

JUL 16

Three Strikes Productions presents: Diva Revue - Female Impersonators and More! \$3 cover. Showtime is 10PM. MONA's, 1407 S. 1st. St, Milwaukee. Over 21.

JUL 17

Pamela Means Jazz Project w/ MRS. FUN at Jazz in the Park,

How much can you talk in just a few moments?? Set your timers, its speed dating night at MONA's! 1407 S.1st St,

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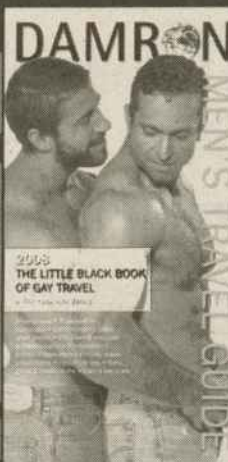
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Green with Fashion

The "greed decade" marked the birth of status during the late seventies to early eighties. I recall dozens of people flocking to local discos, making purchases from a new phenomena called "the mall" hoping to catch the latest trends and labels which helped them to define the level of status or prestige through their various social networking activities.

Things of course have changed since that time signaling a new generation of fashion forward individuals. These new groups of "upstarts" are less concerned with the pretense of their predecessors, being more reflective on social and environmental issues but nevertheless these earthier individuals still enjoy the allure of style as long as it is Eco-friendly and comfortable for their day to day existence.

When I began to process this article, I thought of the millions of dollars the average American dumps into landfills, buying plastic drink bottles, aluminum cans and various paper products - not realizing that plastic is a product of petroleum and takes a long time to biodegrade (read: not environmentally friendly).

Given this information I decided to see what this "green generation's" influence was on the industry. I actually discovered quite a bit and encountered some of the high-end deals and places.

The industries love of bottled water to hydrate one after a night or day of exertion have joined with companies such as "Sigg" a sleek maker of aluminum products and developed reusables of these waste products. Other's have followed in their footsteps such as Donna Karan, Stella McCartney, Tommy Hilfiger, Michael Kors, Kenneth Cole, Diane Von Furstenberg, Anna Sui, Chris Benz, Heatherette and Tom Ford just to name a few.

Yet what about "Green Dressing" and how it relates to all of this? I know over the years I haven't been green enough (I can't even recycle anything after all these years) but many young aspiring designers and seasoned ones as well have given a look at that new hot trend and have created some creative pieces for the summer and upcoming season.

What works for me?

Rock out in green and not look like an extra from "Green Acres"! I know new trends are always being dictated but wearing a simple frock inspired by the psychedelic era of the early 60's to late 70's can do the trick! Try anything from tie-dye tanks, flower power platforms to Peter Max prints to add extra bang in your wardrobe.

For a warm sultry night I would suggest Banana Republic as a start and

go for the "printed faux top" retailing at \$39 - perfect with the "bangle set" bracelets for \$39 - which are very interchangeable with every outfit for the season. For only \$29, snatch up the "poolside earrings" or the "pleated full skirt" at \$69 to go from day to evening.

These pieces are really flexible in your wardrobe from a very Eco-friendly manufacturer and keeping it simple always works.

Message in a bottle

My friends chastise me for being overpowering when applying scents but I love them for guys and gals. I love the overpowering smells on a sultry summer night, so here is my message.

"Coco Mademoiselle" - this very earthy scent is a mixture of bergamot, patchouli, rose, lemon, and cardamom and (I think) reminiscent of the original "Chanel no.5" It's fantastic! The scent is currently being carried at Bloomindales (which you can order online) or at Macys.

Tropical - Punch

When I advise people who are unsure of their personal style on how to dress I always have to eat my words. I love monochromatic, and fortunately for me I can wear them. I tend to use my "adult garanimals" as a safety device when I'm in a non creative moment, yet



FASHION

By Keith Johnson

and still I long for color and a breeze from the tropics during the summer.

I've always been a big fan of Latin America, vibrant colors, inspiring prints, and fantastic accessories which allow you to release your inner "Carmen" with a look that is not only seductive as it is empowering.

I would suggest for summer time frolics a cotton summer time bag - preferably the "true religion bag" a wonderful accessory, which reminds you of a Mexican serape, you can visit their site at truereligionbrandjeans.com. Also don't forget those "Carmen Miranda" inspired heels which can probably be found at "Mr.Shoe". These guys have an incredible assortment of styles and colors for a reasonable price range and conveniently located at 1533 N. Farwell on our "fashionable eastside".

All of these products and items will help you guys and gals have a very Eco-friendly summer! Happy pride and enjoy the great weather!

JULY CALENDAR CONTINUED

Milwaukee. Must be over 21 with ID.

JUL 24

Ms. Ruthie does Gilbert & George! Ms. Ruthie and members of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's board of directors will act as guest docents for three "gay tours". "Ms. Ruthie does Gilbert & George" gives museum guests another once in a lifetime art experience. The decadent docent du jour presents art through very special eyes for the "Express Talk" tour at 5:30pm. Later tonight, a second tour will be led by Mark Ranum. 700 N Art Museum Dr, Milwaukee. On the lakefront. You can't miss it.

Schwartz Books presents Nonfiction/Wisconsin author: David Maraniss - author of Rome '60: When the World Stirred at the Summer Games. 7PM, 4093 N. Oakland Ave. (414) 963-3111. Maraniss gets everyone in the Olympic mood with the blockbuster story of the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome—seventeen days that helped define the modern world. In addition to winning the 1993 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, he has been a Pulitzer finalist three times.

JUL 25

MGAC's executive director, Paul Masterson, leads an "I don't know much about art but I know what I like" tour at the Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N Art Museum Dr, Milwaukee.

Starry Nights—Free Outdoor Concert Series at the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts presents: Milwaukee singer, Mike Mangione. Sponsored by P2-Partners for Pathfinders-Friends of The Counseling Center of Milwaukee. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to the Wilson Center's "back yard" this evening and enjoy this free concert with family and friends. Delicious food and beverages are available for purchase as well. Gerlach Outdoor Theater on the south lawn, 6:30PM, 19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53045. For more information call (262) 781-9470.

JUL 26

The Young Men's Health Summit is a Project Q sponsored weekend retreat for young gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and allied young men ages 24 & under. The Summit is Saturday, July 26th - Sunday, 27th; registration is \$20 and is open until Thursday, July 10th. There are a limited number of scholarships available. Summit Guides (Youth Leaders) and Adult Advisors for the weekend are also needed. If you are interested, contact

Warren Scherer at (414) 292-3074 for a registration form. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center/Project Q, 315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, WI 53212.

JUL 29

Waldorf Education Open House 6:30 - 8:30PM. Visitors are invited to come for tours and info about Waldorf education for PreK through Grade 8. Tamarack Waldorf School, 1150 East Brady, Milwaukee. (414) 277-0009. www.tamarackwaldorf.org.

SAVE THE DATE!!

August 2nd Cream City Foundation invites you to Golf FORE Equality! - Featuring Tret Fure as the celebrity golfer! 11AM - Tickets include 18 holes of golf at Silver Spring Country Club, dinner, and entertainment by Tanya Atkinson and Yolanda Roth. Presented by Prudential. Visit www.GolfForeEquality.org for tickets and more info.

What's Happening

at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

July 3 Thursday, 8pm (doors open 7:30pm) Tom Goss indie acoustic pop singer/songwriter <http://www.tomgossmusic.com/live/> www.myspace.com/tomgossmusic cover \$5

July 11 Friday, 8-11pm - Belly Dance Night - drop in and dance.

July 19 Saturday, 9pm-12am - Leather Toga Party with a Twist A midsummer night's fetish dream in a Roman mood with fashion show and entertainment. Wear gear or a toga. Refreshments available. \$5 cover

In the Gallery:

July 26

Saturday, 6-9pm Joe Simon - Men for all Seasons. New art exhibition opening reception featuring the works of Joe Simon

On-going Classes:

Tuesdays - 5:30-6:30pm Yogalates, yoga-pilates fusion with Marc - 8 weeks \$40, Strengthen your core! New students may join at any time.

Deadline for the August publication is July 20th for consideration. Please send to qifelistings@yahoo.com.

**Our hope, our opportunity,
our future** - thank you for being a part
of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

We're looking forward to sharing with you
the best programs and services we can,
including new initiatives on;

- Foster Parenting
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Financial Wellness

1998 - 2008:
Celebrating
10 Years
of Building
Community

In addition, we plan to assess the Center's
facility and technology needs.

Come be a part of the excitement!

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
315 W. Court Street | Milwaukee, WI 53212
414.271.2656 | www.mkelgbt.org





ORGANIZATIONS

Statewide

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

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

BiNet USA
National bisexual political organization
202-882-4384

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

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

Fair Wisconsin
122 State St., Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703
608-441-0143
www.fairwisconsin.com

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

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

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

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

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

Queer Life News
LGBT publication
2266 N. Prospect Ave Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-383-8200
www.queerlifeneews.com

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

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

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

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

Milwaukee

Alcoholics Anonymous
Request gay meetings
414-771-9119

Bay View GAYS
(414) 482-3796
bvgsresident@bvgsays.com
www.bvgsays.com

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

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

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

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

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

Castaways M.C.
Levi/leather club
P.O. Box 1697
Milwaukee, WI 53202
Center Advocates PAC
Political action committee

315 W Court Street
Milwaukee WI 53212
www.centeradvocatespac.org
(414) 347-1892

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

Connexus
LGBT people of color in
Wisconsin
A Diverse and Resilient
Program
1240B East Brady St.
Milwaukee, WI, 53202

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

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

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

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

Femme Mafia Milwaukee
www.myspace.com/
femmefamiamke

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

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

Front Runners
Running group
414-332-1527

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

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

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

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

Gay/Lesbian Studies
at UWM 414-229-6402

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Great Lakes Harley Riders
P.O. Box 341611
Milwaukee, WI 53234
bootedhog@aol.com
Holiday Invitational Tournament
G/L bowling event
P.O. Box 899
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-881-8071
www.hitmilwaukee.org

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

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

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

Madison Minotaurs United
Rugby Football Club
PO Box 14282
Madison, WI 53708
info@madisonminotaursrfc.org
madisonminotaursrfc.org

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

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

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

Miltown Kings
www.myspace.com/
miltownkings

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

Milwaukee Gay Soccer
Association
info@milwaukeegayoccer.org
(414) 405-5878
www.MilwaukeeGaySoccer.org
Games on Friday nights at
Uihlein Soccer Park until
mid-April.

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

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

Milwaukee Symphony Chorus
Auditions/info
414-559-9330
Narcotics Anonymous
Request gay meetings

800-711-6375
414-276-8546

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

Outdoors Cooperative Sports
Group
414-963-9833

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sexual Compulsives
Anonymous (SCA)
414-299-0755

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

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

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

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

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

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, 53212
414-276-8787
www.creamcitychorus.org
Wisconsin Gay Hockey
414-202-5874
home.wi.r.com/wigayhockey
Wisconsin Outdoor Women
P.O. Box 94
Hales Corners, WI 53130
414-427-2082

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

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

Churches

All Saints' Cathedral
(Episcopal)
818 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, Wis 53202
414-271-7719
www.ascathedral.org

Bradford Community Church
Unitarian Universalist
5810 8th Ave
Kenosha, WI 53140
262-656-0544
www.bradforduu.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proudly Serving the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Community

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2821 N. 4th St. #532, Milwaukee, WI 53212

In the Eye of the Storm

by Gene Robinson

If you grew up in a church-going household, you were probably raised with the idea of a loving and forgiving God. You might have been taught to fear or be awestruck by Him, but the main theme of later-twentieth-century Christian churches was that God loves you unconditionally.

But what about homosexuals? Was your Sunday school teacher right about a loving God, or does the Bible condemn gayness as an "abomination"?

Author Gene Robinson discusses that at length in his new book "In the Eye of the Storm". He should know what he's talking about. He was the first openly gay priest to be elected bishop in the Anglican Church.

Years ago, Robinson was a seemingly heterosexual married man. When he "came out", people expressed different reactions. Some were supportive. Others shunned him, which shocks and confuses him. "Why," he says, "would people... debate my fitness for this [religious] calling, based not on my skills, experience, and faithfulness, but on my sexual orientation?"

When New Hampshire made same-sex marriage legal, Robinson and his partner wed, and Robinson

has plenty to say about gay and lesbian nuptials. "We need to make a clear distinction between civil rights and religious rites," he says. Churches and synagogues shouldn't be forced to embrace same-sex marriage, but

progress toward the civil right to marriage shouldn't be impeded.

"The kind of protections that became instantly available to Britney Spears – who, on a lark, decided one night in Las Vegas to get married – are not available to Mark and me despite twenty years of love and fidelity," Robinson laments.

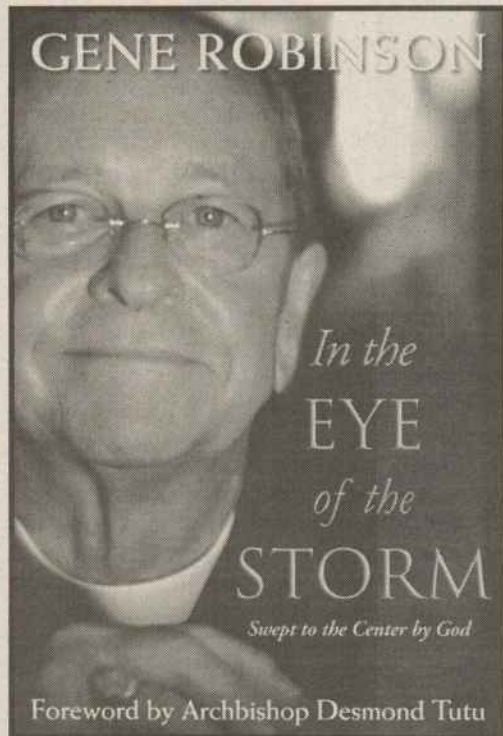
As for homosexuality as abomination, Robinson says that, in Biblical times, it was assumed that everyone was heterosexual and that homosexuals were "heterosexuals behaving badly". Biblical use of the word "abomination" is different from the modern meaning.

"You can't take a twentieth-century word, insert it back into an ancient text, and proclaim that it means something totally unknown to the authors of that text."

So how can you reclaim your spiritual life? If you've left your place of worship, go back. Come out, reclaim your place in the community, and support the younger generation. Be willing to pay the price for forward movement.

And remember: "We are all equals in the eyes of God."

Part of me liked this book. Author Gene Robinson writes with a thoughtful, gentle voice and his words



Q



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.

will give you comfort and make you think. He uses parables in interesting ways and, I noticed with fascination, never refers to God by pronoun.

On the other hand, "In the Eye of the Storm" can feel like a really, really long sermon, the kind where the bench becomes increasingly uncomfortable and you catch yourself checking your watch for the twentieth time.

The antidote to that is undoubtedly to savor this book and absorb the goodness.

If you've been longing for a religion that respects who you are, or if you're feeling spiritually bereft, check this out. "In the Eye of the Storm" will be a calming influence in the maelstrom of your mind.

"In the Eye of the Storm" by Gene Robinson c.2008, Seabury Books, \$25.00. 176 pages

ARCW MEDICAL CENTER

At the forefront of HIV health care

Every person with HIV disease has unique needs. At the ARCW Medical Center we are dedicated to learning what matters most to you. We provide the most advanced medical and dental care along with highly supportive mental health services. We help you understand your treatment options and provide the care that is best for you.



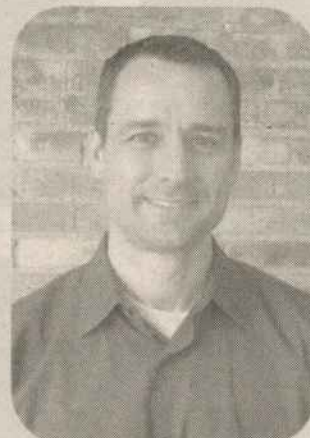
Nadia Damm, PsyD



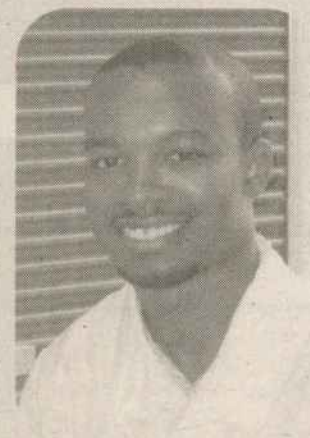
Iram Nadeem, MD



John Fangman, MD



Steve Debbink, DDS



Ajama Giscombe, DDS

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414-223-6800 or 800-359-9272 ext. 6800

ARCW

AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN

Would you stop loving him if you know he's gay?

Mama-Q has been incredibly busy the past month. You see, my three children graduated; two from college and one from high school. Also, my youngest turned 18 which means I am officially done parenting... or does it?

While all three are responsible, well adjusted and age-appropriately on the path to adulthood, I still have an important role in their lives. I hope I always will; even though the parent-child relationship naturally transitions as the teens and young adults progress toward full adulthood (and the parents toward their next stages). My 17-year old still lives with me and I see him daily. He strives for independence (a good thing) and I cook him breakfast before he leaves for Cosmetology College each morning.

My oldest two call or email from their Minneapolis homes to share parts of their lives with me. They ask me about major decisions. Job choices, car troubles, health concerns; all of these

feel better when mom plays a role in the decisions. Newsy emails and sometimes quick text messages remind me that through the various ages and stages, parents play an important role.

As parents, we are called upon to complete endless tasks, many of which are quite challenging. We strive to provide all of the tools and building blocks for our kids to carve out a niche in life and build upon their values and life purpose. They grow, develop, learn and transform before our eyes into successful adults; often with some tumbles, falls and re-routing. Our jobs are never complete; they just change along the winding road of parenting; a serious life-long commitment.

I can't imagine turning a child away. Sure, our human feelings cause us to react in anger to some things our kids do. Yes, family conflict is a normal part of life and a criterion for growth. Of course, our children are separate beings from us and will almost always be different people than we imagined! But adjusting parental dreams and

working through conflict is part of maturity! As parents, we must step up to the commitment we made the day we promised to parent!

When I hear about parents who push their kids out on the streets, my heart turns cold. When I hear about parents shunning their children because they are gay, I cringe and seethe in anger. How dare you abdicate your responsibilities! If you are not going to accept and affirm your children—no matter who they are and how they turn out—don't choose parenting!

As I worked on the feature article about youth homelessness, I paused countless times to regain my composure. The thought of verbally taunting or physically assaulting your children because of their God-given, in-born traits mangles my inner soul. Granted, I cannot know or imagine everyone's life situation. But I know that there is always hope. I know there are resources to help people through everything.



MAMA Q

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

Maybe we all could benefit from a dose of a recent campaign in NYC for it prompts people to consider the future before choosing parenting. Sponsored by the Ali Forney Center, the thought provoking campaign features loving photos of parents and babies with the caption, "Would you stop loving him if you know he's gay?"

I hope your answer is no. Better yet, commit to making your answer a "NO." Educate yourselves and adjust your attitudes until you can firmly say, "I will always love my child and I hope to love my child's lifetime partner too, no matter the gender or orientation."

It's your job.

The Abdominal Program Continues....



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.

Extra Effort Tips: Extra effort tips will assist you in reaching an awesome abdominal section sooner. For the first extra effort tip, begin to perform "tummy tucks" throughout the day, when seated, standing, and even when walking.

Workout # 3

Workout 3 increases the number of partial sit-ups performed. You will go all out, attempting 100 repetitions in a nonstop fashion. Don't worry if you don't quite get there—just try to increase the repetition count each workout. Remember: there are several workouts per week. For instance, if you only perform 60 partial sit-ups on Monday, try to reach 90 nonstop partial sit-ups by Saturday. By taking the workout in bite-sized chunks, instead of trying to do it all at once, you will gradually build up your body to the level where it can handle the challenge. This workout also includes an exercise for the lower abdominals—the leg roll. Perform this workout 4 to 6 days per week for 1-1/2 to 2 weeks.

Exercises	Sets	Repetitions
Partial Sit-ups	1	100
Crunches	3	30, 35, 20
Bike Crunches	2	15, 12
V-Raises	2	15
Leg Rolls	2	12
Abdominal Vacuums	3	10

Extra Effort Tip: Perform the abdominal vacuum twice a day for quicker results.

Workout # 4

Start each workout with 100 repetitions of the partial sit-up. This will really hit the midsection hard. It would be more difficult to do all 100 repetitions at the end of the workout. If completing the full workout (all seven exercises) is too tough or time consuming, break the workout into two sessions - one in the morning, and one in the evening. Again, if you are not teaching the listed repetition ranges, keep striving to increase your daily repetition count. Compete with yourself, not the listed repetition range - which is merely a guideline. Perform this workout 4 to 6 days per week for 1-1/2 to 2 weeks.

Ab Exercises	Sets	Repetitions
Partial Sit-ups	1	100
Crunches	2	35, 30
Bike Crunches	2	20, 15
V-Raises	2	20
Leg-Raise Crunches	2	12
Leg Rolls	2	15
Abdominal Vacuums	3	10

Extra Effort Tip: Perform the abdominal vacuum twice a day for quicker results.

Workout # 5

The repetition range increases in workout 5, as well as the set amount for several of the exercises. As mentioned earlier, if you are not making it through the entire workout, split it into two sessions;

one in the morning and one in the evening. Also, if you can't make the suggested repetition range, continue striving for improvement on your personal-best repetition efforts for each exercise. The reverse is also true; if you find the repetition ranges too low, shoot for a repetition range that is above the listed guidelines. Use this workout 4 to 6 days per week for 1-1/2 to 2 weeks.

Ab Exercises	Sets	Repetitions
Partial Sit-ups	1	100
Crunches	2	40, 35
Bike Crunches	2	30, 20
V-Raises	3	25
Leg-Raise Crunches	2	20
Leg Rolls	3	18
Abdominal Vacuums	3	12

Extra Effort Tip: Start to work on the obliques with some side bends and side crunches. Perform a couple sets of each for 40 repetitions of side bends and 10 repetitions of the side crunch.

Workout # 6

At this point your abdominal strength will have greatly increased to a point where you should be able to handle well over 100 partial sit-ups non-stop. The repetition count for workout 6 is increased somewhat, but if you take a look at the routine for workout 1 and compare it with workout 6, you can see a vast difference. By this point there will also be an immense difference in the appearance and strength of your waist. Workout 6 should put you close to the end of 60 days of waist-training. Your waist should be looking super when compared to what it was when you started this program two months ago. Use workout 6 for the next 4 to 8 weeks in a consistent fashion (4 to 6 days

per week, with at least one double workout per week), and watch the exercises cut gut-burning grooves into your midsection.

Ab Exercises	Sets	Repetitions
Partial Sit-ups	1	100
Crunches	2	50, 40
Bike Crunches	2	30, 30
V-Raises	3	25
Leg-Raise Crunches	2	25
Leg Rolls	3	20
Abdominal Vacuums	3	15

the QUEER program

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From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk:

Summer's going to be a scorcher this year, and I'd like to know how I can keep cool indoors without just running my energy-hogging air conditioners all the time. Any tips?

-John McGovern, Cohasset, MA

According to Harvey Sachs of the non-profit American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, the movement of air over the skin is what's key to keeping the body cool. So instead of turning on that A.C., see which direction the breeze is blowing outside (no matter how minimal it may be), and then open a few windows strategically to try to get it flowing through the house from end-to-end or side-to-side.

If the breeze alone isn't enough, apply some fan power. Even small tabletop fans, which can be had for \$30 or so at Target and similar stores, can really whip the air around. Placing one facing in by the window where air is coming in, and one at an opposite window positioned to blow warm air out, can create a nice "wind tunnel" effect in pulling air through the house.

This strategy can be especially effective at night when it is cooler. But then it's important to shut the windows when you leave for the day in the morning to keep the cooler air in and the warmth of the new day out. Keep blinds shut and curtains drawn, too, as sunlight pouring into the house only creates more heat. And remember that lights left on are not only wasting electricity—they're creating heat, as well.

Ceiling fans also do a nice job of circulating air in the rooms you occupy most, and though they do require some up-front costs for installation they use only about 1/30th the electricity of a room air conditioner.

Beyond moving the air around to keep cool, the website WikiHow.com lists several tips for using water to keep cool sans AC. One tried and true method is to wet your wrists and other pulse points with cold water, and then keep those spots cool by holding an ice cube wrapped in a face cloth against them. The relief

is immediate, and this method will cool down the entire body—by as much as three degrees Fahrenheit—for upwards of an hour. Another WikiHow suggestion: Wear a short-sleeved shirt and keep the sleeves wet with cold water (from a squirt bottle, faucet or hose). Keeping the pant legs of long pants wet is also a good way to keep your legs cool. Add in a breeze or a fan, and you can actually get cold.

Of course, if you just can't live without air conditioning, there are greener options out there. For starters, a single-window unit that keeps one room cool is far less energy intensive and polluting than central air conditioning that keeps all the rooms in the house (including those you're not using) cool. Look for new models sporting the federal Energy Star label, which marks units as energy efficient.

Another option for those in hot, dry climates is an evaporative cooler, which cools outdoor air through evaporation and blows it inside the house. These units make for a nice alternative to traditional central air conditioning, as they cost about half as much to install and use only one quarter of the energy overall.

CONTACTS: American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, www.aceee.org; WikiHow, www.wikihow.com; Energy Star, www.energystar.gov.

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

EARTH TALK



Questions & Answers About Our Environment

FIND YOUR BIG LIFE.

Diverse and Resilient is committed to the development and celebration of healthy lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people who thrive and find satisfying lives in Wisconsin. While our work is often behind the scenes, our programs stretch from Eau Claire to Milwaukee and Madison to Green Bay.

We believe that LGBT people are good. LGBT youth and adults are beautiful, creative, flexible, and smart. They are deeply connected to one another, to their families, and to their communities. They are born leaders and cooperative. Without LGBT people, Wisconsin communities would be at a loss in education, science, public service, health care, religion, business, industry, and the arts.

At Diverse and Resilient, we are proud of our accomplishments. In the past year, we have worked with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center/Project Q, OutReach (Madison), Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, SAGE Milwaukee, Positive Voice (Green Bay), Harmony Café (Appleton), the GLBT Partnership (Appleton), Seven Rivers LGBT Community Center (La Crosse), GALAXY/YWCA (La Crosse), Teens Like Us (Madison), GSA for Safe Schools (Madison), Cream City Foundation (Milwaukee), and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

We have worked on health promotion and disease prevention, including our higher risks for violence, alcohol and drug use, tobacco use, and mental health disorders. Diverse and Resilient recognizes that our community problems are within our power, even though their source traces to the stressors which oppressive systems put on us.

To do our work, we distribute nearly \$5,000 per month to organizations and community leaders who do the daily hard and exciting work of promoting health and building community.

These works - these partnerships - are about you.

We are proud of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Wisconsin.

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU.



1240B East Brady Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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diverseandresilient.org



Diverse & Resilient

Kenosha Native heads Home to Sing

Milwaukee - Diving head first into issues of love, faith, sex, hope and redemption, singer-songwriter Tom Goss creates dynamic acoustic pop/rock with enduring messages and hooky melodies.

His mom bought him a guitar as a high-school graduation present, and he



quickly taught himself to play. Inspired by Dave Matthews and David Gray, he soon started writing songs of his own.

Through it all, Tom felt a strong spiritual calling. While at the University of Central Missouri, studying to become a teacher, Tom decided he was meant instead, to become a priest. He moved to Washington, DC in 2004 to enter Catholic seminary. It didn't go as planned and, disillusioned by the institution in which he had placed his faith, he chose to abandon religious training - but not his quest. If he has any patron saints, they are Jack Johnson, Damien Rice, Ben Folds, and

Joss Stone.

Back in secular life, Tom sought new ways to work toward social justice, the issue that had led him to the church in the first place. He took a job running a breakfast program for the homeless. He began to build a life with his partner Mike. And he channeled his message of love, hope and reconciliation through his music.

In April 2006, he released his self-produced debut, *Naked Without*, and since then, has played scores of coffeehouses, bars, gay pride festivals and other events—honing his skills along the way. With the January 2008 release of his second CD, *Rise*, this soulful and energetic DC-based musician demonstrates just how far he's come. The six songs showcase his stylistic flexibility, from the urgent growl of "Morning Sun" to the sweet and unadorned "King of Something Right."

This month, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is pleased to welcome the 26-year old Kenosha native with the uniquely powerful voice, for a July 3rd one-night only performance.

Across Tom's songs echo themes of rebirth and renewal, of love and loss and what lies beyond. It's a playlist for anyone on a journey from darkness to light.

Tom Goss July 3rd, 8PM at Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St, Milwaukee, WI, 414-383-3727 for info.

"Entertaining" Spitfire Grill has Fireworks!

This past month our city did not see many theater productions. But, the good news is that the theater work we did have was quality. I had the pleasure of attending SPITFIRE GRILL at the Skylight Theater. Also, I went to see ENTERTAINING MR. SLOANE at Off The Wall.

This is the second production of SPITFIRE GRILL performed at the Skylight. The show was a replacement for NINE - The Musical. I did see a recent production of NINE - which was excellent at OFF THE WALL.

The rural Wisconsin setting of SPITFIRE was very interesting. The music by James Valcq was amazing and extremely difficult. James Valcq wrote the show with the late Fred Alley; who passed away suddenly in 2001. James is one of those successful Milwaukee talents, who also made a major success in New York, and is also known for his other talented work, ZOMBIES FROM THE BEYOND.

I loved the staging by Bill Theisen, and the set design by Peter Windingstad. The talented cast was lead by Katy Blake as Percy. She has an excellent voice. It has been many years since we have seen actor Tony Clements at the Skylight. (He has been touring in MAMA MIA). A more mature Clements was vocally on-the-mark as the Sheriff. I would say Becky Spice as Effy impressed me the most - in every scene she was in, she stole the show! Milwaukee audiences should see a lot more of her comic talent and vocal work. Skylight can add this second production of SPITFIRE to their list of successful shows!

"ENTERTAINING" SLOANE

The Off The Wall production of ENTERTAINING MR.SLOANE by the late Joe Orton was extremely well directed by Dale Gutzman. This is a very violent and adult play! The lead played by Karl Miller was a new totally different Karl on stage. Like Tony Clements in SPITFIRE it is great to see how these handsome leading men type, are maturing into strong more mature actors-and getting a lot of work.

Karl was great! The most impressive performance was by David Roper. He made the show. He is known for his quality set designs; but he could certainly make it in the acting field. The young male lead was not the description of a male muscle figure that everyone would desire. The characters kept talking about his muscles, yet he was so slim that dialogue should have been changed.

In all of the shows I was so proud to see actors like Tony Clements, Becky Spice, Michael Picaro and Karl Miller - all of whom I have worked with in the past.

"Damn" those Yankees!

The Sunset Playhouse in Elm Grove will present DAMN YANKEES this month. This musical is a Broadway classic. Look for Dick Katchke, Bill Jackson, and Bob Zimmerman in the ensemble cast. YANKEES is a fun show for the entire family!

The Spiral Staircase Theater at The Bucketworks presents the classic thriller WAIT UNTIL DARK. Look for Talented Brian Richards in the cast.

Also Off The Wall presents the musical FROGS which I discussed in my June Pride column.

Tony Awards!

The Tony Awards this season made Milwaukee proud. Milwaukee actor Mark Rylance won a Best Actor Tony for his performance in the farce BOEING BOEING. The most amazing thing about BOEING BOEING in revival; is that if any community or professional company in our town revived the old farce; they would get criticized for not being very original, or creative. But look - it worked on Broadway! Good for Mark Rylance and BOEING BOEING!

Have fun this Summer! And get out to the bars! Many of which have been slow with the high gas prices, and economy.

Last Months TRIVIA: Nathan Lane starred in the revival of FROGS recently on Broadway.

NEW TRIVIA: What famous TV Martian played the original Devil in DAMN YANKEES?

My Aunt Sally says she will see all of you at Summerfest, and the local lakefront festivals.....if she has her glasses on. 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.

PRIDE WEEKEND 2008



QCLASSIFIEDS - JULY 2008

FOR RENT:

Bay View: Near the lake. 2 Bedroom Lower. Heat, Laundry, Appliances, and dishTV included. Fireplace, Patio, HWF. Pets possible. Call Dan 414-481-0088.

Large (approx 1200), 3 bedroom duplex in Bay View. Hardwood floors, 9 ft ceilings throughout. Built-ins and great woodwork. Lots of light. Tons of storage (attic and basement). Back and side yard. Plenty of street parking. Washer, dryer, stove and refrigerator included. Close to 794 on/off ramp, lakefront, shops on KK, Humboldt Park, Starbucks, etc. Tenant pays all utilities \$850 upper/\$775 lower. Both units available Aug 1st. Call John for more info and/or to schedule a showing. 414-975-5678.

Whitefish Bay: Well-kept, older building. Blocks from Lake Drive, schools, Lake Michigan, and Bay Shore shopping. Spacious, 2 bedroom, dining room. \$875 includes heat, parking, and appliances. 5170 N. Idelwild. Call Paul at 414-374-9229.

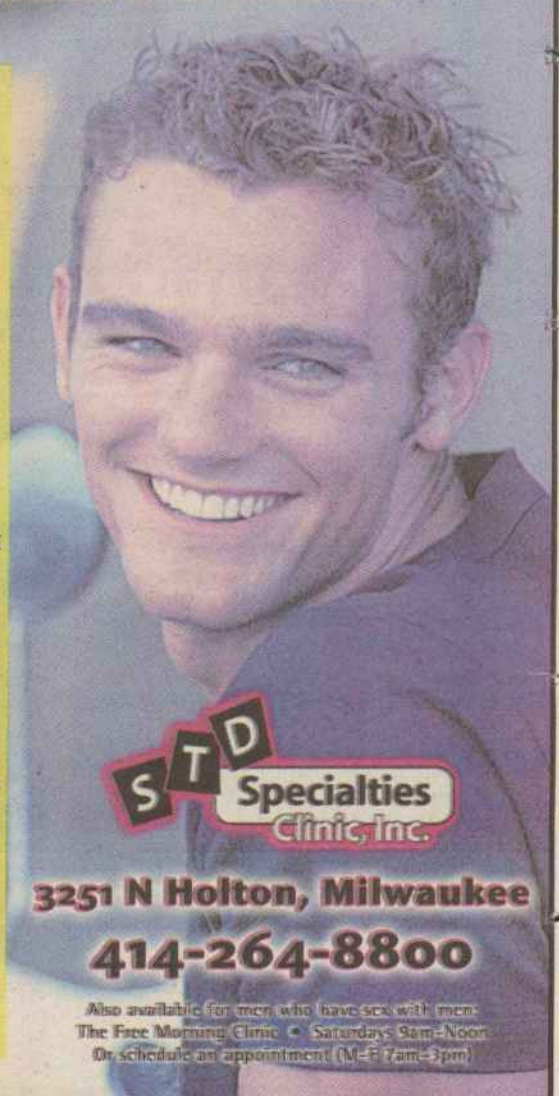
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Commercial Pizza Oven Three stack electric Edison Hotpoint Oven. \$1100 414-704-7103

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JULY '08 OUTREACH SCHEDULE

- 10 **Woody's 9-11pm**
- 11 **Kruz 7-9pm**
- Pump House 10pm-1am**
- 14 **Fluid 9pm-Midnight**
- 15 **Triangle 9:30pm-12:30am**
- 17 **Boom 9-11pm**
- 18 **Club Icon (Kenosha) 9:30pm-12:30am**
- 24 **Switch 9:30pm-12:30am**
- 25 **City Lights 8-10pm**



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904 E. PEARSON #118, MILW. Open-concept loft in Western Leather Lofts. Cream city brick, post & beam construction w/ open steel staircase. KIT offers custom birch cabinets & solid surface counters. Master BR has skylight & full bath w/ shower over the whirlpool tub. Central vac system & 1 parking space included. \$214,900. MLS #1017660



215 W. MAPLE, #403, MILW. PartsHouse Condo in Fifth Ward. Large 1 bedroom unit has open concept kitchen/living counters, SS appliances and solid surface countertops in kitchen. Bathroom has euro-designer porcelain sink and handcrafted tiles from France. One indoor parking place included. Large private balcony. \$159,900. MLS #1017883



3217 N. OAKLAND AVE., MILW. East Side home recently updated to the height of sophistication. Open concept floor plan features gourmet kitchen with contemporary cabinets, SS countertops, illuminated bar area. 1st floor bath with Japanese soaking tub. Large master bedroom with vaulted ceilings. LL has finished office space. Newer windows & roof. \$239,900. MLS #951522



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



215 W. MAPLE ST., #611, MILW. Hip & trendy Parts House condo unit features all of the amenities you are looking for. KIT boasts granite counters & stainless appliances. Marvelous bath w/ceramic tile & pedestal sink. Enjoy fantastic city views from your oversized wrap around balcony. Hardwood floor, natural fireplace, extra large windows. \$212,900. MLS #981745



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



2110 N. COMMERCE ST, MIL. Bright and cheery condo unit with southern & western exposures. This lovely unit features updated kitchen with mosaic glass tile backsplash, great room with doors to private balcony, private entrance and 2 car attached garage. \$269,900. MLS #984959



HI-FI LOFTS
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3059 N. WEIL ST., MILW.
So Ho chic condo units with stainless steel cabinets, butcher block countertops, in-unit laundry. 1st floor units feature heated concrete floors. 2nd - 4th floor units feature wood floors. Prices range from \$138,900-\$199,900. www.hifilofts.com



1750 N. PALMER, MILW. 1872 Historic Cream City Brick beauty in Brewer's Hill. Updated for modern sensibilities. This 3BR is true to it's historic roots. Enter through the tumbled marble foyer and make your way up the original stair way newly appointed w/designer wool carpeting. You will be impressed by the pride of ownership. \$299,900. MLS #1002270.



6411 W. WISCONSIN AVE., WAUWATOSA
Spacious condo located in the Jacobs Park neighborhood features modernized kitchen with granite counters and newer cabinets. Open living room with brick fireplace. Hardwood floors throughout. 2 car garage. \$238,400. MLS # 1014329.



1835-1839 N. MARTIN LUTHER KING DR., MILW. Fantastic loft unit features many updates. Kitchen with Avonite solid surface counters, breakfast bar, honey washed maple cabinets & stainless appliances. 2 bedrooms with maple HWFs, large windows & crown molding. Generous bath w/20' deep soaking tub, vessel sink & ceramic tile. Large LL storage locker. \$135,900-\$139,900. MLS #981198 & MLS #981201



1809 N. COMMERCE #202, MILW. Fabulous condo in the heart of the Beerline neighborhood. Hardwood floors flow throughout the open concept living space. Superb kitchen is spacious and functional with granite counter tops, maple cabinets and stainless steel appliances. Large bedrooms with walk-in California closets. 2 car garage. \$272,000. MLS #971391



311 E. ERIE ST., #418 MILW. Fabulous Marine Terminal Lofts condo boasts incredible river views through floor to ceiling windows and 2-story atrium. Large rooftop terrace. Finishes include maple doors, trim & cabinets, granite counters in kitchen and baths, tons of closet space. Fantastic master bath with luxurious whirlpool tub. 2 indoor parking spaces included. \$574,000. MLS #1006797



GREENWICH ROW - MILWAUKEE
1822 - 1828 E. GREENWICH AVE.
New town homes in Whole Foods neighborhood. 2BR/2.5 BA condos have it all. Renewable resource bamboo floors in LR, KIT, dining room and both BDs. Espresso stained cabinetry & doors, granite counters and stainless steel appliances standard. 2.5 attached car garage. \$279,900 - \$299,900



1506 16th AVE., Grafton Wonderfully maintained and spacious home in move-in ready condition! Master BR with 1/2 walk-thru bath into KIT. Beautiful picture window in living room makes home bright and sunny. HWFs thruout, private deck in backyard, and all new Pella windows in 2007. Finished lower level with 2 bonus rooms and HUGE rec room adds another level of living space! Total sq footage with lower level= 1,750. \$214,900 #997518



1530 N. JACKSON ST., Designed by national award-winning architect. Attached heated GAs; elevator; private terraces avg. over 180sf; contemporary materials including cedar, burnished block, expansive glass; standard unit finishes include granite, stainless appliances, custom modern cabinetry, tiled baths, hardwood floors & more. \$529,000. MLS #982150 www.urban-address.com



234 E. RESERVOIR #207, MILWAUKEE
Rare 3BR, 2 bath loft condo in Brewer's Hill. Large open KIT w/granite counters & stainless appliances opens to a huge great room perfect for entertaining. Oversized windows, exposed brick, HWFs & sophisticated color scheme add warmth & comfort. Faux finishes create depth & interest. Large master suite. In-unit laundry & 1 indoor GA space. \$279,900 #1005158



1846 N. 4th ST., #301, MILWAUKEE
Fantastic Reservoir Loft condo features heated concrete floors, oversized windows & exposed Cream City brick through out. Open concept living space is perfect for entertaining. Beautiful KIT w/granite counters & SS appliances overlooks extra large living & dining area. Master bedroom boasts a huge walk-in customized closet & an incredible master bath. 2 indoor parking spaces. \$329,900 #1006728