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QUEERLIFELINE.COM

It's Show(down) Time!

by Renee Crawford

"All politics is local," former Democratic Speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill once said, and the statement couldn't be more true. Focusing on local politics is my specialty and I'm going to give you my take on the political climate in Milwaukee and Wisconsin, how that relates to things going on nationally (and sometimes internationally) and especially how that relates to you.

The primary election on September 9, 2008 was special in some really interesting ways. Former GOP Wisconsin State Senator and now hard line right wing activist, Tom Reynolds thought he was going to pull a fast one on the people of Milwaukee. The plan was called Clean Sweep Wisconsin PAC and he was so bold about it, he even set up a Clean Sweep website to boast about his grand scheme.

Background:

The GOP has run the State of Wisconsin almost exclusively for nearly 30 years. Except for Governor Jim Doyle winning office in 2002, Republicans held the Governor's seat for 18 years. Democrats did not hold the State Assembly or the State Senate until 2006 when students came out all around Wisconsin in stunning numbers to vote against the anti-marriage amendment. While they were there, they also voted Republicans out of office en masse, including Tom Reynolds. It stunned the GOP, they lost the State Senate to the Democrats and the State Assembly came within 3 votes of being in Democratic control.

It didn't just stun the GOP however. The Dems were taken off guard as well. Everywhere in the state that a major college or university sat, the Dems won. Exciting stuff for political activists like me! Questions began to arise on both sides of the aisle. What three seats could we win to take total control of state government and actually begin to progressively reform Wisconsin again? Both parties studied the election of 2006 carefully and decided that 2008 was going to be a showdown.

And a showdown is what we have. The entire state assembly, all 99 members is up for re-election this November 4th. Democrats have candidates in more than 95 of those seats. The GOP knows that this is a tidal year for democrats and had to do something drastic to try to at least hold onto the Assembly this fall and this is why Reynolds hatched his scheme.

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By Kathryn Sherry

In 2002, after much planning, the vision of several University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) students, faculty, staff and alumni became a reality. The UWM's Student Association Student Fund Allocations Committee and the UWM Administration gave the go-ahead to create The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center at UWM. Now six years later and how are they doing? We recently sat down with Jennifer Murray, UWM LGBT Resource Center Director, and newly hired Program Coordinator/Student Services Specialist (And recent UWM grad) Warren Scherer to find out.

Since its inception, the LGBT Resource Center's mission has been and is to create a diverse and inclusive campus environment for all. The LGBT Resource Center provides a safe and welcoming space on campus for LGBT students and their allies; incorporating student-inspired programming, education, outreach and social groups.

QL: Just how did the two of you come to be involved in the UWM LGBT Resource Center?

MURRAY: I started here in 2004 as the Assistant Director under Yves LaPierre, (founding Director of the LGBT Resource Center at UWM.) Before that, I was a Community Health Educator with the Peace Corps for just over 2 years, working in West Africa.

If you were to view the art adorning Murray's office, her stint in the Peace Corps would not come as much of a surprise. Amidst the file folders, positive magnet words, and colorful photos, you'll find artwork depicting beautiful African designs. Scherer's office sits in the main room, appropriately, in the

heart of the center, among the students he is there to serve. Both Murray and Scherer are extremely welcoming, knowledgeable and most importantly, dedicated.

SCHERER: I was at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center for 4 years, working primarily with Project Q; providing direct service and supervising staff. In addition to that, I also assisted with grant writing, and recently graduated from UWM with a degree in Political science.

Prior to the LGBT Resource Center's opening, several LGBT-focused student organizations had come and gone with the changing of semesters - yet the need for such groups never dissipated. According to Scherer, the center was born out of the student's desire for "something more consistent, and permanent." Graduation and student life responsibilities can lead to a dip in activity for the student organizations, which more often than not changed the momentum of what they were trying to achieve. The LGBT Resource Center's existence allows for a continuity of service, and infrastructure.

MURRAY: There is a benefit to having institutional memory. We see the change in student needs and wants, and we really base our services on those ever-changing needs. We look to the students for input on how they want to celebrate LGBT identity, and what they want to see and have in the center. We really want to make sure that we are providing a safe, supportive space, welcoming to all students, and eliminating any obstacle or barriers students may have to academic, personal and social success.

Murray points out that the UWM LGBT Resource Center collaborates with many of Milwaukee's LGBT organizations. One such collaboration was with the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, which assisted in getting the "Sexpo" series off the ground in 2006. This popular series now led by UWM Health Educator, Laura Stuart (also owner of The Tool Shed) focuses on sex, sexuality, identity, and healthy relationships.

"Our goal with Sexpo is to create an open dialogue on campus about sexuality," says Stuart. "I want students to be able to make the best decisions for themselves about when, where and with whom they have sex, and I believe that providing a public forum through Sexpo shows that communicating about sex is something that's positive, not scary."

Additional collaborations have taken place with Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center's Anti-Violence Project, FORGE, Lesbian Alliance, and Project Q - to name a few, and

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Dirty Tricks

Rather than changing policies to appeal to a wider audience like politics is supposed to work, Reynolds resorted to dirty tricks. In 9 seats in the City of Milwaukee, Tom Reynolds recruited and ran non-Democrats as Democrats in the Assembly primaries. He used what they call the "pro-family agenda" which is anything but pro-family: school choice, immigrant bashing, anti-gay messaging (the incumbents targeted voted against the amendment in 2006), more privatization and the destruction of governmental services for the benefit of private individuals. Reynolds put money behind the effort, and used familiar and friendly faces to run these races in an attempt to knock off the incumbents in districts that will always vote primarily democratic. In other words, he made a deliberate attempt to trick the voters into voting against their own self-interest by feeding off the latent prejudices of the voters. It was a pretty dirty trick, but Reynolds didn't count on one thing. The voters of Milwaukee know what they are doing and they do their homework.

By underestimating the voters in the city of Milwaukee as being too stupid to see the truth, Reynolds actually did something that has resonated across the state and won't be tried again anytime soon. He LOST every single race. The incumbents in those races are in safe seats for a reason. They represent their voters with a great deal of respect and are worthy of their positions.

Center Advocates PAC played a critical role in some of these elections by creating and passing out literature that talked about the real pro-family candidates and their positions on the issues. This fall most will have no GOP opponent, Reynolds made his play, and now Dems need to focus on electing the +3 statewide and for the first time, give control to the democrats and give them a chance to solve the many problems Wisconsin faces due to decades of Republican leadership.

Too Close for Comfort

Now, for the November election. The type of extremist politics being played by the GOP this year is shameful. Racism, feigned sexism, gay bashing, class warfare, and the divide and conquer strategies we've seen this summer are to me intolerable and disgusting. It's time we in the state of Wisconsin stand up to our Progressive roots and say NO MORE to the politics of division, fear and distraction. I can't understand why the presidential race is even close in Wisconsin.

It shouldn't be close anywhere in the country. If the poor, the marginalized, the left out, the women, minorities, LGBT, youth and elderly, and anyone with a bank or investment account in our society just voted their self interest instead of paying attention to the politics of fear, hatred and division, it wouldn't be close.

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| Christopher Allan's Club 1226 (Oshkosh) — 2007 Runner-Up | The Shelter Club (Green Bay) |
| Fluid for an ASAP Cure (Milwaukee) | PUMP! (Milwaukee) |
| Club ICON (Kenosha) | Woody's (Milwaukee) |
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I do have hope. I do believe that Sheldon Wasserman will defeat Alberta Darling (who wants women to need the permission of their husbands to get a divorce in Wisconsin). I do believe that Sandy Pasch will win the state Assembly seat being vacated by Wasserman's run. I do believe that progressives will find 3 Assembly seats and pick up a few more in the State Senate. I do believe that Steve Kagan can and will defeat John Gard in the 8th Congressional district and that Marge Krupp could be the first woman to represent the 1st CD in Wisconsin.

I also believe that fundamentally, when voters get into the polling booth this November they will shed the racism and fear and hatred and make history and vote for Barack Obama.

I know I'm an optimist, but the first step to winning is to believe in the people around you. I believe in my fellow Wisconsinites to do the right thing this fall.

Renee Crawford is the Associate Director of the ACLU of Wisconsin, and currently sits on the board of Center Advocates. Her life's work has always been dedicated to protecting and promoting voting rights of Wisconsinites in a variety of ways and has been long time political activist in Milwaukee. She maintains the Crawford's Take www.crawfordstake.com blog in her spare time and articles from it have been featured on fightingbob.com, DailyKOS, wispolitics.com, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Shepherd Express as well as many other blogs and publications nationwide.

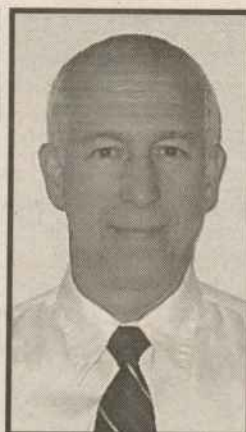
Support AIDS Walk — Raise the Bar

For the third year, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson & Pabst LGBT Fund will award the top two Raising the Bar teams each with a \$2,500 matching grant to be added to their AIDS Walk Wisconsin fundraising totals!

Join the challenge by simply forming an AIDS Walk Wisconsin team with your bar patrons!

Top Raising the Bar fundraising teams of 2007: Milwaukee Pumphouse (first place) We 'R' the Strongest Link: \$12,477.90. Runner-Up was Christopher Allan's Club 1226: \$12,013.00.

Who will it be this year??



Meet A Candidate

Michael D. LaForest – (Purple Party)
Candidate for U.S. Representative in

Wisconsin's 4th Congressional District

Running against:

Gwen Moore (D) U.S. Representative, Wisconsin's 4th District

Background for Michael:

Involved in political activism for about 20 years.

Ran for Wisconsin Secretary of State in 2006

Ran for Milwaukee City Alderman in the Spring 2008 election.

Purple Party:

An Independent ticket

Purple represents the coalescence of red and blue.

"I want to draw attention to the proposal that Congress has to start working together to resolve the many challenges our country is facing right now."

How do you feel about:

The U.S. economy:

"I believe the first thing congress should do to resolve our economic problems for the long term, is to address the issues of 1.) Our federal budget deficit, 2.) The trade deficit and 3.) The national debt. The US could balance the federal budget and address the trade deficit simultaneously by providing monetary incentives to companies that physically locate their businesses in the USA and employ American citizens. Also, the national debt absolutely has to be paid off in the next decade. The US congress should not allow the president to borrow any more money from foreign countries for any purpose. We're importing more than we're exporting and the US congress has allowed the President to spend money on international conflicts rather than on domestic projects that would put Americans to work. Our economy is saturated with debt due to the deregulation of the banking industry. And, with interest rates so low, there is little

incentive to save, particularly when cheap imports flood our markets.

Gun control:

I support the 2nd amendment of the constitution within the context that it was originally written. I oppose "concealed carry" and I believe military assault weapons should remain the property of the military and not be available to private citizens.

Health benefits:

If I am elected, I will either introduce or co-sponsor legislation to institute a single-payer, universal health care system in this county. I believe we can pay for this initiative by 1.) Combining Medicaid, Medicare, VA, and Tribal health funds; 2.) Appropriating funds away from other programs; and 3.) Applying minimal co-pays.

Gay marriage:

I support the right of two, unrelated, consenting adults to form civil unions. The US government should only recognize civil unions and the concept of "marriage" should be relegated to the churches where it belongs. If I am elected to Congress I will introduce legislation to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

Immigration:

There are many creative ways to resolve the immigration dilemma in the US and other Western countries such as in the EU.

a.) Fair trade agreements should be made between the US and developing nations to encourage those nations to develop their economy and employ their citizens.

b.) Unconditional IMF loans must be made to developing nations for the sole purpose of job creation.

c.) A guest worker program should be created for the purpose of allowing people from developing nations the opportunity to work in the US, but with the stipulation that they must return to their country of origin.

d.) Employers that hire guest workers must ensure that they are properly documented and, if necessary, assist those workers with that process.

e.) The U.N. must start a population control initiative in every country that has an escalating population, including the USA

ARCW Congratulates Distinguished Nurse Practitioner Winsome Panton

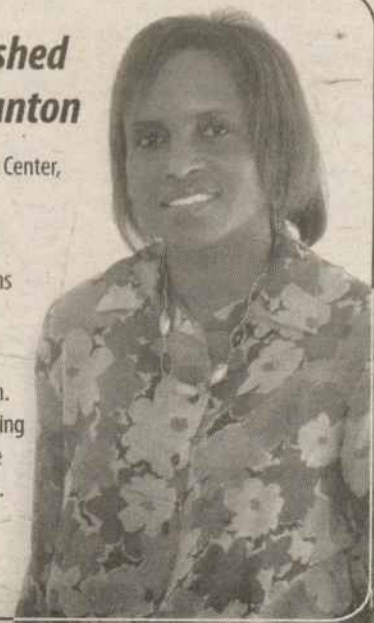
Winsome Pantan, a Nurse Practitioner at the ARCW Medical Center, has received Marquette University's College of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

"I have dedicated my career to ensure that African-Americans and all people diagnosed with HIV disease receive the quality health care they deserve," she says.

ARCW is proud to have Winsome as part of our medical team. To make an appointment with Winsome or any of our outstanding health care professionals at the ARCW Medical Center please call (414) 223-6800 or 1-800-359-9272 extension 6800.

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Outwords Books

Top Picks for October

New Fiction Releases Exclusive to Q Life

For the Girls:

"Beautiful Journey," Kenna White As flight Lieutenant for the British Women's Air Transport Auxiliary, Katherine "Kit" Anderson is determined to make a difference in the Battle for Britain as a ferry pilot, delivering factory fresh airplanes to combat bases. But it is gorgeous young teacher, Emily Mills, who has her flying in circles.

"Cooper's Deal," K.I. Thompson Nothing's going right in Addy Cooper's life, especially when her partner dumps her for their butch UPS delivery driver. Then the grandmother who raised Addy dies suddenly, forcing her to return home. There she is caught between two love interests, both of whom suspect her of murder. What more can go wrong? Plenty.

"Honesty," S.X. Meagher Finally the long awaited eighth entry in Meagher's planned twenty-six book serial novel "I Found My Heart in San Francisco." Back home, Jamie is determined to have it out with her father over his treatment of Ryan. But Ryan fears that the secrets she's been keeping will be revealed. Honesty is the best policy. Or is it?

"Lake Effect Snow," C.P. Rowlands News correspondent Annie T. Booker has covered Iraq for over three years when she is injured in Baghdad. Exhausted, she returns stateside. She finds her name is on an Iraqi hit list, her partner has left and her TV network wants the FBI assigned to her. When the danger escalates, Annie and FBI agent Sarah Moore must struggle to stay ahead of disaster.

"Remember Tomorrow," Gabrielle Goldsby Cees Bannigan has it all -- a successful home improvement television show, a new house, and an intelligent and beautiful woman. So what is she doing at the hospital bedside of Arieanna Simons, who had abandoned her a year before? Past secrets are revealed and Cees must decide if past betrayals can ever be forgiven.

For the Boys:

"With Caution," J.L. Langley, Remington Lassiter is learning the ropes of being a werewolf when his little brother turns up covered in bruises and he is driven to finally bring their abusive father to justice. Jake Romero realizes he has his work cut out for him when Remi asks for his help. Jake will do anything to protect Remi but he is about to uncover something far more deadly than they ever imagined.

"Masks: Rise of Heroes," Hayden Thorne There are strange things are happening in Vintage City and high school boy Eric seems to be right in the middle of them. There's a new villain wreaking havoc on the town, and on Eric's life but the new super hero who springs up to defend Vintage City is almost as bad, making Eric all hot and bothered.

"Screwed Up Life of Charlie The Second," Drew Ferguson A gay Lutheran teen, Charles James Stewart II chronicles a very memorable senior year at South High. Charlie uses journal entries to chart his feelings with typical teen angst: griping about his parents, describing his unrequited passion for straight friend Bink Binkmeyer. The most hilariously heated entries depict falling in love for the first time with Rob Hunt.

"Forgotten Song," Ally Blue Ben Carson didn't expect the love of his life to literally fall at his feet. But when a mysterious stranger passes out cold in front of him after a street fight, the heat between them is immediate. As Ben tears down the walls Eric has built around himself and Eric learns to trust again, their love deepens into one that could last a lifetime.

"Jesus Is Sending You This Message," Jim Grimsley Jim Grimsley's elegant and dexterous stories slowly, with a powerful voice, take an iron grip on his readers and offer an authentic vision of a stark, and often unforgiving world. Grimsley explores the dark edges and limitations of the human soul in this fabulous collection.

Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee located at
2710 N. Murray Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 963-9089. www.outwordsbooks.com

BARRIERS *continued from page 1*

their annual Drag Show to benefit Project Q will be held this February (21st) and is expected to once again bring in a crowd of over five hundred. It is open to all ages in the community, and is always a big hit.

Their collaboration with The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin allows the LGBT Resource Center to provide free monthly HIV testing services. The LGBT Resource Center also provides free safer sex materials such as condoms, dental dams and lube to UWM students.

Their collaborations with the Lesbian Alliance and their music series, has led to a standing relationship with the Gasthaus Entertainment Series in the UWM Union. The LGBT Resource Center's help in finding LGBT-identified artists is requested several times a year, and artists such as Coyote Grace, and Ellis have performed; this month, Girlyman (Thursday, October 9 at 9pm) will perform as part of National Coming Out Week celebrations. See web calendar for more details: www.lgbt.uwm.edu

MURRAY: These relationships that we've built with the community have been a benefit to us because we've been able to substantiate the programs that were offering and also support the community. We have this ideal environment where students are being nurtured and supported, and empowered in a way that when they enter into the community, they can feel a sense of belonging, and perhaps give back.

Murray also gives much credit to the UWM Peck School of the Arts, which she says has been "critical in supporting us by giving our center visibility in the fall semester at the annual Milwaukee LGBT Film & Video Festival." Murray laughs, "Which was, I can say without question, a great LGBT film extravaganza for this community!"

SCHERER: I saw so many films!

MURRAY: We've just had a lot of really amazing relationships with several entities. And, I don't think we would have amounted to what we are without that. I think the students have benefited but also have seen the value of people working together.

MURRAY: We've collaborated with Cheryl Kader, instructor in Women Studies and SAGE to host intergenerational discussions. Namely in March 2007 for Women's History Month we co-sponsored a program titled, "Queer: Now and Then." Panelists spoke to how "queer" was an offensive term to perhaps those who moved us through Stonewall, to today, where it's mostly seen as an umbrella term for those who don't fit into the mainstream.

QL: Does UWM include the Center when recruiting prospective students?

MURRAY: This is very exciting, actually. This is the first year that the Midwest is going to be hosting an LGBT campus friendly recruitment fair -- being held in the Twin Cities on October 3rd & 4th. The LGBT Resource Center and UWM's Department of Recruitment and Outreach will jointly attend the program so that we can talk about UWM and what we offer.

In 2006, the LGBT Resource Center at UWM was featured in the "100 Best LGBT Friendly Campuses Advocate Guide" this publication lists some of the top 100 LGBT friendly colleges in the nation, providing students with information on college campuses that are inviting and supporting of LGBTQ identities. One project Murray hopes to update in the future, is to be more regionally connected to Gay Straight Alliance's (GSA's), and to provide students with opportunities to see that they can go on to colleges with an LGBT identity -- something they may have found challenging in the high school environment. Her hope is that they see college as an inviting environment where their identity is not a barrier to their success.

QL: Are there many allied students who come through your doors?

SCHERER: Absolutely, on a regular basis. Primarily LGBT

students and that is IF they disclose how they identify, but yes, we do have many allied students. We have an allied group, as well as an LGBTQA bowling this year, which brings in LGBT-allies.

MURRAY: And there is no requirement for anyone to 'out' themselves. We really are here to serve the entire student population and wouldn't turn anyone away from our services, or the ability to just hang out and connect with the community based on their identity.

QL: You recently received a campus grant around 'safe spaces' programs, correct?

MURRAY: Yes, the "Access to Success" initiative provided us with a grant that works on recruitment and retention initiatives. Warren and I will be monitoring it and plan to launch a training program to compliment our "Safe Space Program." The intention being that all students can walk into a campus office and see the 'safe space' card and know that they can talk about their lives and LGBT status in an honest, unfiltered way.

SCHERER: Often, students come to me in an advisory capacity, and want one-on-one meetings with me, but if something is beyond my capacity, I am very honest with them that it is out of my realm of knowledge or expertise. But I will have made an initial contact with an appropriate referral or resource, so it isn't a cold call for the students.

Funding for the LGBT Resource Center comes primarily from the Student Association "Student Mandatory Fee," which also supports services such as the Women's Resource Center, the Children's Center, some of Athletics, and Student Activities Office. The LGBT Resource Center is currently working on grant writing to secure grants needed to support its programming. Results are expected soon from a recent campus climate survey implemented by the university to determine the effectiveness, diversity, and inclusiveness of the campus - if positive, it could lead to potential grants.

MURRAY: Eventually, we hope to set up a foundation account for UWM student and alumni, and those who want to support the LGBT Resource Center. Ideally, we'd like to turn it into scholarship dollars, because that would be a way in which it would feel mutually compatible. Students benefit, and alumni are giving to something that's really important.

QL: Do you think you have an impact on the rest of the UWM community?

SCHERER: I'm realizing just how much the LGBT Resource Center works with different courses, and groups. We're consistently asked to speak in courses on how to promote diversity and inclusion of LGBT students and their allies.

MURRAY: The Helen Bader School of Social Welfare, for one, has always invited us in and wants to make sure that the social workers are being educated and are knowledgeable about LGBT people. Intercultural Communications always makes sure to have an LGBT inclusive dialogue, and Diversity in Business talks about what corporations are doing, so its very nice, because we've had a lot of opportunities to plug different points with them. I think programs are being developed with a broader audience in mind, and LGBT students are enrolling, and multicultural students are enrolling, so that alone diversifies the perspective within that academic program. We've worked with several groups to have dialogue and a lot of the programs and events we do are collaborative in nature across campus.

The Division of Student Affairs, which the LGBT Resource Center is a part of, is, according to Murray, "about serving the students." The goal of the LGBT Resource Center is to make sure the students are well-rounded, involved and exposed to a very holistic, comprehensive idea of what it means to be a citizen who is aware and conscious of LGBT issues. "As well as invested in volunteerism, and student leadership, and engaged in research," adds Murray.

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BARRIERS *continued from page 4*

When it comes to that student leadership and making connections, the LGBT Resource Center is currently home to 13 student-led discussion, educational, social, and event groups.

MURRAY: We have the greatest number of groups we have ever had!

SCHERER: Thirteen! Admit One, B-Reel, Chicks who dig Chicks, M.I.S.F.I.T, M.I.A.M.I, B.I.T.E, Queer Women of Color, Trans and Allies, LGBTQA Bowling Knit & Bitch, Game & Complain, AlliED, Between the Lines, ...and I think we have a 14th in the making. There are numerous educational opportunities in each discussion and group. Many of the events are open to the public, while some are reserved for UWM students.

QL: Any backlash from other campus groups?



J. Murray

W. Scherer

MURRAY: From what I've observed, students have felt that different perspectives are both important and valued. The key is being respectful. There are always individual and groups that are not affiliated with campus, that have done various things students have found offensive, but they are in the "free speech zone" on our campus, so it's really a free speech issue. We just encourage students to have a discussion around that topic or issue, and learn from it. With so many divisions in our greater community, it is refreshing to see activism at the intersection of LGBTQA and other identities, where students work toward acceptance for all. LGBT students and their allies saying, 'we want to make this statement.' We are just building and building, ...the foundation has been laid...we want people to feel like the LGBT Resource Center at UWM is a place where they can be true to who they are on our campus. We want to be the place that just accepts them for who they are.

Both Murray and Scherer are excited about the future possibilities for the UWM LGBT Resource Center. Societal changes naturally bring on a change in the nature of the courses available, and those, Murray hopes, will help to engage students in relevant and pertinent

conversations.

Regarding the future? One major initiative for this semester is to launch the Safe Space Training component of the LGBT Resource Center's Safe Space Program. Ideally, students will facilitate or co-facilitate the training in order to relate student experiences on campus.

MURRAY: We will persist in the task of increasing visibility of LGBTQ students and their allies while maintaining the programs and events we are known for and promoting diversity and inclusion.

Additionally, the staffs of the LGBT Resource Center at UWM are beginning to plan for Spring 2009. They will continue and hope to increase their involvement and collaborative opportunities with the Student Association, the campus community, and the greater community.

For more information on groups, events, and resources available, please contact the LGBT Resource Center at UWM at <http://www4.uwm.edu/lgbt/>. Stop on by and pay them a visit: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Center - UWM Union WG-89.

The LGBT Resource Center at UWM offers:

Resource Library offering reading materials, videos and other resources for study. Donations are also accepted.

Safe Space: Before you get too uncomfortable talking about LGBT issues with UWM faculty and staff, look around for the "Safe Space" card. You can be who you are, open it up and feel free to 'tell it like it is.'

Speakers' Bureau: Want to find out what that psychology professor thinks about LGBT issues? Request a special guest speaker, and the Center will work on making that happen. Speakers are available for events and meetings both on and off campus.

Mentoring: Need some help with that 8am course? Falling behind? There are programs available to get you connected to other students to brainstorm, study and work it out - whatever it is.

Support: Groups are sponsored fully or in part by the LGBT Resource Center. Call to join or if you would like to start your own group.

Events/Meetings Calendar: Log on to the Center's website for chock full o' LGBT goodness at <http://www4.uwm.edu/lgbt/index.html>.

Elizabeth Brown to Show at Gilda's Club

Milwaukee- Bay View artist and living legend Elizabeth Brown will show a portion of her various artworks, and speak about well being to the body as well as "nurturance" to the soul - through the arts, on Wednesday, Oct. 22nd from 6-7:30PM at Gilda's Club Southeast in the Shorewest area of Milwaukee.

Gilda's Club Southeastern Wisconsin is "a community where men, women & children living with cancer, and their families and friends, join with others to build emotional & social support. A non-profit organization, Gilda's Club provides support, networking, lectures, workshops & social events, free of charge."

Many of you may know that Gilda's Club was developed as a result of the combined vision of the late comedian Gilda Radner, her husband actor Gene Wilder (a Milwaukee native), and Joanna Bull, Gilda's cancer psychotherapist

Brown is a multi-media artist, working with everything from silver, to gourds, oils, and pottery. Art work will also be available for purchase, with partial proceeds donated to Gilda's Club Southeast. Several months ago, she was QLife's feature article, and her story touched several in the community. "All these month's later, and I still have people come up to me, wanting a hug," says Brown, who still laughs at all of the attention.

"And I'm excited to be working with Gilda's Club," says Brown. "Lesbians in the community need to re-connect with this place. Men need to connect to this place, they all come here." For more information, please contact Gilda's Club, 4050 N Oakland Ave, and (414) 962-8201.



Elizabeth Brown

Photo: Kate Sherry

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M. Cage

Mayor Barrett

Mayor Meets with LGBT Community Leaders

Milwaukee- Last month, Mayor Tom Barrett met with several LGBT Community leaders to discuss concerns ranging from police presence in the community, homeless LGBT youth, senior issues, and hate crimes.

Inside the main room of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, were five large tables, pushed together and surrounded by what Barrett said resembled, "The Last Supper" when he entered the room. Dr. Maggi Cage, Director of the Mke LGBT Center led the group off with introductions, and one by one the rolcall unfolded. Organizations such as FORGE, PFLAG, Cream City Foundation, The Lesbian Alliance, Center Advocates, Children's Services Society of Wisconsin, Seniors Active in a Gay Environment, and Diverse and Resilient were all represented. Along with The Metropolitan Community Church, This is It! Bar, Queer Life News, and the UWM LGBT Resource Center.

Barrett agreed to "look into" the reporting (or lack there of) of hate crimes in Milwaukee against LGBT individuals, and was genuinely concerned with the response of the Milwaukee Police Department to violence in the LGBT community.

Cage inquired as to whether or not Barrett will make an appearance at the 2009 opening ceremonies for PrideFest, noting that his absence from the '08 ceremonies 4 months ago was disappointing. Barrett, who quipped, "My office warned me this question would come up," agreed to make a commitment to be present - barring of course, any "unforeseen" circumstances.

The hour-long meeting was certainly not going to resolve any of the issues presented, but did, however provide the Mayor with issues to consider on his agenda. He thanked the group for their concerns, and time, but did not leave before getting feedback for his recently proposed budget.

Wisconsin



Happenings

Doyle Appoints Flaherty to State Board

Milwaukee - Kevin M. Flaherty, a board member of the equal rights group Center Advocates, was recently named to the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Health and Educational Facilities Authority by WI Gov. Jim Doyle. Flaherty, a vice president and relationship manager with Associated Commercial Finance Inc., will fill a vacancy on the seven-member board through 2010. His nomination was supported by a broad range of LGBT, nonprofit, labor and faith leaders.

The WI Health and Educational Facilities Authority assists WI health care and educational institutions with obtaining and maintaining access to the broadest range of low-cost, private capital market financing available. "I am pleased to be able to offer my expertise in complex lending solutions and assist WHEFA in advancing its important mission," said Flaherty, who is based in Brookfield. Flaherty joined Associated Commercial Finance in 2002, where he manages commercial finance relationships and provides asset-based lending services. He holds a bachelor's degree from Northwestern University and attended the American Institute of Banking in Milwaukee. Associated Commercial Finance, Inc., is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Associated Banc-Corp.

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Good Reads come in Pairs

Milwaukee - Outwards Books is delighted to bring to Milwaukee two absolutely delightful gay novelists, Kage Alan, whose hilarious "Andy Stevenson vs. The Lord of the Loins" was released earlier this summer and Mark Richard Zubro, author of two popular Gay murder mystery series. This appearance is timed with the release of Zubro's "Schooled in Murder," the twelfth installment in his bestselling "Tom & Scott" series.

This author appearance with Mark Zubro and Kage Alan will take place at 2:00pm on Saturday, October 18th. In "A Simple Suburban Murder," first published in 1989 and still in print, Mark Zubro created the memorable Gay couple of Tom Mason, a schoolteacher and his boyfriend, the hunky professional baseball player Scott Carpenter. In "Schooled in Murder," Tom Mason has been teaching at Grover Cleveland High School for a long while - long enough to loathe the faculty meetings

but to know they aren't fatal. Usually. Having had all he can take of the endless bickering, he sneaks out of the meeting for a short break only to find the meeting over when he returns. Then he stumbles upon a trysting couple in the dark (one married, the other not) and, once the lights are turned on, a dead body in the corner. The body is that of one of his colleagues who stormed out of the faculty meeting earlier, a blackboard eraser stuffed into her lifeless mouth. Having disappeared from the meeting at roughly the same time, Tom finds himself in the unwelcome position of prime suspect. Will Tom have time to figure out who really killed the other teacher before the crime is pinned on him?

Incidentally, this fabulous couple was wedded in suitably bloody fashion in Zubro's 2002 installment, "Here Comes the Corpse."

Kage Alan introduced his intrepid protagonist, Andy Stevenson, in "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to My Sexual Orientation." During the summer of 1989, after Andy's freshman year of college, he accompanies his grandmother on a six-day trip to California. Upon arrival, however, life becomes a series of comical faux pas with relatives who can't remember his name, where women want to charge him \$10 to put suntan lotion on their bodies and where a handsome young man kisses him at an anniversary party. In "Andy Stevenson vs. The Lord of the Loins," Andy's love life really starts to heat up. Blond bombshell/poet Tristan may or may not be taking a liking to Andy, but how far will he go to find out? An invitation to visit the object of his confusion leads Andy to a night he'll never forget...which is exactly what he'd like to do. And just when things couldn't get more complicated, a chance meeting at a party finds Andy falling for a freshman named Alan. What's a guy to do after promising his new boyfriend that his middle name is "Discretion?"

Mark Zubro also boasts a second series, a traditional police procedural with openly gay cop Paul Turner. Titles in this series include "Political Poison," "Another Dead Teenager," "The Truth Can Get You Killed," "Drop Dead," "Sex and Murder.com," and "Dead, Egotistical Morons."

Mark Richard Zubro and Kage Alan will read and sign copies of their respective new releases at 2:00pm on Saturday October 18th, 2008 at Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee, located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. This is a free event and all are welcome. For further information, please call visit www.outwardsbooks.com or (414) 963-9089. Or stop by www.myspace.com/outwardsbooks.

New Hatha Yoga class begins at MGAC

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) announces the start of a new Hatha Yoga class with certified instructor, Dean Farrell. All levels are welcome and new students may join at any time. The 75-minute class takes place Wednesdays at 5:30pm at MGAC, 703 South 2nd Street in Walker's Point. Students should bring a mat, towel and water.

Farrell spent the majority of his childhood playtime performing acrobatics and twisting his body into various positions not only for fun, but because, according to Farrell, "it made me feel good mentally and physically." It was no surprise that he was instantly hooked when he discovered the healing and therapeutic benefits of yoga. Wanting to share and deepen his knowledge of yoga philosophy and asana, he attended yoga school and studied to become a teacher. In addition to his yogic studies, he studied paramedicine and graduated in 1995. His studies have been both scientific and spiritual.

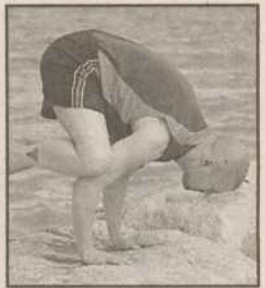
Farrell's teaching always encourages each student to honor the body and perform each asana posture ideally for their own body and discover their full potential.

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"Come to the present and explore the numerous benefits and options yoga has to offer."

For more information visit www.deanfarrellyoga.com. Classes are held at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street (one block north of National Avenue) in Walker's Point.



Karaoke Sing for the scholars of the LGBT community... AND WIN PRIZES FOR YOURSELF!

Karaoke Ric Fest IV-dedicated to Chef Lory Patin who died of cancer four days after the finale of last year's Ric Fest. She was one of the original committee members from the beginning and helped judge several preliminaries before her death. Our heart goes out to her family, friends, and partner!
Ric Fest Committee

Preliminaries: (Watch for brochures at the participating bars)
• Oct. 7-Mona's • Oct. 10/11-Frank's Power Plant • Oct. 18-Timothy York's Bistro (Racine) • Oct. 23-30 TBA
• Nov. 4-Boom, the Room
• Nov. 12/11-Walker's Pint
Finale: Frank's Power Plant Nov. 22, \$400 in prizes.

Special Thanks to places that have held benefits, donated silent auction items, and helped make Ric Fest the best it can be: This is It, Boot Camp, Triangle, Fluid, Kruz, Harbor Room, City Lights, Woody's, and all the bars that have held Ric Fest karaoke preliminaries!

Why Ric Fest? It's not about Ric!

It's about the kids who get the scholarships. Over \$5,000 has been raised in the past year that have benefited five LGBT students and straight allies with their quest for college.

Call (262) 573-3321 or krashmilwaukee@yahoo.com for info.

Wisconsin LGBT Leaders Address Health in Statewide Forum

Madison - Leaders from Madison, Kenosha, La Crosse, Waukesha, and Milwaukee met on September 21, 2008 to discuss progress in addressing LGBT health priorities for Wisconsin. Hosted by Diverse and Resilient, Inc. and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Family Medicine Department, the conference was held at the University of Wisconsin's Pyle Center in Madison.

Featured presentations included an update on tobacco cessation efforts by Steve Starkey of OutReach (Madison), a report on community readiness to address intimate partner violence by Molly Herrmann (Madison), information about minority health and access to services by Brenda Coley (Milwaukee), and update on efforts to address alcohol and substance abuse by Mark O'Neil and Jay Bottsford (both Milwaukee). Mental health, drug use, HIV disease, and state and national plans for Healthy People 2020 were also discussed.

In welcoming the participants, Brenda Coley, Director of Adult Services for Diverse and Resilient stated, "While our progress over the past seven years has been excellent, the work that remains is greater still." Coley went on to explain that LGBT leaders in Wisconsin had identified health priorities and formed partnerships to address them over the past 5 years. These partnerships are solid, but the work of public health is inadequately supported in Wisconsin with funding and infrastructure.

Participants also discussed in small groups the infrastructure needs for LGBT health in the state. Groups reported a host of needs ranging from awareness of issues and invisibility to financial supports and access to policy makers. These small group reports are being summarized and will appear in a forthcoming status report to be published later this year.

While the focus of the annual forum was the health of LGBT adults, youth issues were also noted. The Wisconsin LGBT Youth Health Coalition plans a press release and status report later this year as well.

Throughout the Forum, community partners in public health were noted and appreciated. Among them were the LGBT Community Center Network of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin LGBT Youth Health Coalition, academic partners at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, and the Medical College of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services - most notably the Division of Public Health's Margaret Schmelzer and the AIDS/HIV Program's Jim Vergeront.

Besides Diverse and Resilient, Milwaukee LGBT organizations represented at the event were SAGE Milwaukee, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Lesbian Alliance, and Cream City Foundation.

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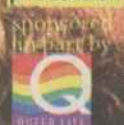


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Notorious Church of Hate Coming to Milwaukee

"Milwaukee and all of Wisconsin is in huge trouble." - Westboro Baptist Church.

This month, on OCT 10, two separate locations in Milwaukee will (if all goes according to plan) be under protest from the Westboro Baptist Church out of Kentucky - run by notorious gay-hater Fred Phelps.

The first stop on their schedule is **3:30-4:15pm: Hamilton High School, 6215 W. Warnimont.** Hamilton High is apparently a target because the school has a Gay Straight Alliance, and does not discriminate based on "sexual orientation."

The attack on Milwaukee ("the land of thieves" according to WBC) does not end there. They get back off their bus at **6:45-7:30pm at the Soulstice Lab Theatre at 3195 South Superior Street.** Soulstice is presenting their production of "Laramie Project" the well-known play about Matthew Shepard; slain in Laramie, WY, ten years ago simply because he was gay. The Westboro Baptist Church made international news when they picketed Shepard's funeral, praising his death.

"We will picket your filthy, goofy "theatrical production" of the Laramie Project in the MOST EVIL CITY in the nation of DOOMED america," they announced on their website.

"You hypocrites need to stop worrying about dead Matthew Shepard and worry about yourselves and your own children for God will shortly avenge His people, on you and those children. You are in big trouble! AMEN!"

The church's plans are always subject to change. No word as of press time if any pro-LGBT groups/supporters will be out in full force to shut the protests down, or if any of Milwaukee's LGBT churches plan to attend.

MPS Okays Domestic Partnership Benefits

Milwaukee - On September 25, 2008, by a vote of seven to two, the Finance and Personnel Committee of the Milwaukee Public School Board passed a resolution by MPS Director Jennifer Morales that calls for offering domestic partners of non-unionized MPS employees benefits "as nearly equal as possible to those offered to married partners."

The decision solidifies MPS as the first school system in southeast Wisconsin to offer domestic partner benefits.

"From the bottom of my heart, thank you!" exclaimed Center Advocates President Ray Vahey, on the night of the victory. Center Advocates initiated the campaign for domestic partner benefits at Milwaukee Public Schools early in 2007, kicking off a town hall meeting for MPS employees in March 2007.

"All the energy, stress, abuse & frustration paid big dividends. Now the stage is well set for 2009

negotiations," said Vahey.

The Advocates also worked with MPS Director Jennifer Morales in drafting and mobilizing support for her resolution to provide equal benefits to unrepresented employees. Nearly 100 equal rights supporters turned out at the measure's initial hearing in November 2007, and provided information for MPS administrators and board members. Both fair-minded citizens and those opposed attended the September 23rd hearing two nights' prior to the ruling. The majority of those opposed, cited God and religion, and "not wanting to pay for your live-in friend" as reasons to not pass the measure. One such opponent even questioned weather or not his family dog would qualify for benefits.

Congratulations to MPS Director Jennifer Morales, Center Advocates of Milwaukee, and all of the tireless volunteers and community members who stood up for equality. And, a special "Thank You" to the MPS Board for doing the right thing.

October Is GLBT History Month

- First celebrated in 1994, GLBT History Month was founded by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson.

- October was chosen as the month for the celebration because National Coming Out Day already was established as a widely known event, on October 11.

- October commemorated the first march on Washington by LGBT people in 1979.

- In 1995, the National Education Association indicated support of LGBT History Month by resolution at its General Assembly.

- LGBT History Month is intended to encourage honesty and openness about being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

- While it was first known as Lesbian and Gay History Month, the Coordinating Committee soon added "Bisexual" to the title. It has subsequently become known as LGBT History Month.

- On June 2, 2000, President Bill Clinton declared June 2000 "Gay & Lesbian Pride Month."

*source: Wikipedia

The 2008 glbt History Month Icons

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- Tennessee Williams • Alice Walker • Greg Louganis
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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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Queer Life's offices are open to the public. Regular business hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday except for Holidays.

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Studies prove that LGBT consumers have deeper trust for brands and products that target gay consumers. Reach this powerful segment of the population in the pages of Queer Life and gain loyal customers, a significant percentage of the general population. As Wisconsin's premier LGBT News Leader, QLife serves an important buying audience ready to embrace companies friendly to the gay community. QLife retains the right to reject any advertising material submitted, as well as the right to print the word "advertisement" on any ad. Advertisers will be billed according to the current rate card, at the frequency level earned. Advertiser and/or ad agency will hold Queer Life harmless from any loss or expenses arising from any disputes or legal claims related to advertising in this publication.

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Editorial, October 2008

Paper by Day, Counselors by Night

By Kate Sherry

It is 8:15pm, the office is closed, but I've stayed late to get a jump on the following day. The phone rings, and I wonder who thinks we are still open? But, really, it isn't so much that they call, or what time they call, it's what they are looking for that intrigues me the most.

It's what always makes me stop and think about what you, dear readers, might not realize about Queer Life News.

We aren't just supplying you with information about the community every month in print. Often times, behind the scenes, we are acting as a resource center for some, who perhaps, don't know where else to turn. I don't say that out of vanity or the belief that we are capable of providing resources, it is just that we receive many calls looking for information, help, assistance, and sometimes, just someone to talk to.

Tonight's caller was a man travelling on business. He wanted to know if there were any gay bars on the south side near his airport hotel. We pointed him in the direction of City Lights and away

he went. Obviously, he did not feel comfortable asking the hotel's front desk staff. Then again, perhaps he already did - and found that they too, were at a loss.

Yesterday, a young man called to ask for a list of organizations we thought might be suitable for him to send in a donation. We gave him a few suggestions based on what he was interested in supporting.

Last week, three calls: "Where can I get tested for HIV?" As well as, "I'm gay and I don't know how to tell my parents," and finally, "Are there any gay churches?"

Mind you, we do not, in any way, lead the callers to believe that we are experts in any of these matters. We simply provide the name and number of where they could turn to next - in the best way that we know how.

With each of these calls I feel a sense of reassurance that our presence in the community is not only welcomed, but also needed. At PrideFest, a woman came up to me to tell me that she was sent the paper from a friend when she relocated to Milwaukee. Alone, and not knowing how to meet people, she remembered an ad she saw in QLife for a church. Turns out, that was the very last ad that the church placed with us, and it allowed her to find a safe, welcoming place, and a few new friends. She was grateful, and we were pleased to have played a part.

How often do you read about LGBT news and events in the Journal? What about the other free local papers? Rarely, if ever, is news about Milwaukee's LGBT Community found. You saw how

long the Shepherd kept up their "gay page." While it is true that Milwaukee has seen its share of LGBT Media come and go, our friends at Quest have survived the longest yet - proving that the community, does indeed, want to be informed on the happenings around them. But neither one of us can do it without your help.

Last month, the feminist magazine, "Bitch" put out a youtube.com video pleading for \$40,000 in donations to keep the magazine afloat. It worked - they raised over \$50,000, and began production on their next issue. While I doubt such a tactic would work for us, it isn't like it wasn't considered. I'll be honest - it isn't just about getting NEW advertisers; we need several past ones to pay their outstanding invoices. Each time they ignore a statement, we cut an article, hours from office staff, or amount of pages to print. This means less LGBT News for you.

This is not an easy gig each month, but we will continue to do our best. By placing advertisements in LGBT media, businesses and organizations are saying that they support the community, and want your business. Please be sure to thank QLife advertisers, and those who advertise in Quest, Outbound, Our Lives, Madison Male, and any other LGBT Media. Let them know YOU appreciate them as well.

And while you're at it, feel free to send some of that love over here. If you know a business owner, ask them to give us a call.

Letters to the Editor, October 2008

Different Flavors Within our Ranks

Bea Green's August 2008 QLN article, "Gay Neighbors and the Construct of the 'LGBT' Community," left me a little puzzled, particularly when she said, "The Trans-sexual category has an entirely different history [from the rest of the LGB community]."

That is not true. When I co-founded a group in 1976, we called it the Gay People's Union even though it included lesbians, gay men, drag queens, butches, high femmes, and several other "types" of gay people. Just three years later, when I helped organize the first "gay" March on Washington, politics had changed and women demanded not just "Lesbian" in the March's name, but 50% representation of the leadership in all organizing bodies. This name addition didn't mean the original gay movement was by and for men only, and they had magnanimously "added on" lesbians' issues. It was a change that reflected women's interest in being seen for who we are, and getting credit for the work we were - and always had been - doing.

Similar changes took place in the '80s and '90s with name changes highlighting bisexuals and transgender people. These groups are not additions to the lesbian/gay rights movement, for we have been here all along. Calling us by name simply makes the full panoply of who our community has always been - and what we have always been working for - clearer. This process is continuing even as we speak, with many people adding on "Q's" and "A's" and "T's" to the list of who we are.

Although some are daunted and confused by the ongoing identification of different flavors within our ranks, this effort to make the unseen seen is an integral part of the LGBT movement. As a movement, we have always been about trying to move from invisibility within the larger culture to visibility, from lack of recognition of our common humanity to appreciation for our differences and our gifts.

Surely, after nearly 40 years of work, we have matured enough to not only continue to push the larger society in the direction of inclusion, visibility, and appreciation for difference, but also to embrace that same process within our own community.

Sincerely,
Loree Cook-Daniels
Glendale, WI

In response to "Have you Met my Person?" the QLife Sept. 08 Editorial:

Dear Person:

I can see the dilemma you pose about how to refer to the one you love is a difficult one. There are several frameworks one could use to answer this question. Feminism would say that everyone deserves to be introduced by his or her full name. As often women have just a first name in social and even business settings, it is best to give them the same respect one would a man. She could introduce you as Kate Sherry. (The person you are being introduced to should by now have heard so much about you there is no doubt that Kate Sherry is indeed the

introducer's object of affection.)

Another construct would be to use etiquette. Proper etiquette would say that it is a faux pas to introduce someone giving intimate details about their affairs in the bedroom - which is why the word lover is often construed as too much information. (Ms. Fuchsia does give you props for identifying how you would pronounce lover in Betty Davis fashion.) In this case you may be introduced as Kate or Kate Sherry - whom I have told you so much about.

In my informal surveying it is often construed that the word partner denotes legal, long-term, and or monetary tie-ins to one another. So introducing one as a partner often means, we are not just in a committed relationship, but also one where the parties have signed wills, or share a bank account. The LGBT community that Ms. Fuchsia surveyed said that occasionally these partners might live separate but share some finances and are tied with power of attorney documents or wills. The most common use of the word partner all agreed means that the parties live together, and share expenses for their household.

Taking all this into account, you have a few choices. I personally would opt for introducing you as, 'my dear Kate', 'the lovely Kate Sherry', or 'my sweetie, Kate'. As these show the affection you are looking for without giving me too much information about where you are in your intimacy journey.

Smiles,
Fuchsia Woods

Editor's Note: Thank you very much, Fuchsia. I knew I could count on you to set things straight! K.S.

New Day, New Reasons

We pretty much know the drill: there are good reasons we should be out. We even organized a national social marketing campaign to remind us to do so (though in recent years our national organizations haven't devoted much energy or attention to this effort). In Wisconsin, National Coming Out Day activities in October have moved from Main Street to campuses, and from middle aged folks to teens and young adults.

Historically, coming out as gay or lesbian was a matter of social justice. The reasoning went like this – if we come out, we take charge of our own lives AND we make it safer for other gay and lesbian people to disclose their sexual identities. Further, it would be much easier to organize people we can

find than people we cannot find.

Now, decades into the effort, there are new reasons to come out. Not that we have exhausted the need for safety of lesbians and gay men nor completely taken charge of our own lives. As communities, lesbians and gay men have collectively done a magnificent job of coming out to families, friends, co-workers, and employers.

But we have much more to do. Here are some additional reasons to come out today:

1. Bisexual men and women and transgender people do not as a group enjoy the same status as many gay and lesbian people. When we come out as any kind of queer, we take the opportunity to raise the water level for all LGBT people.

2. LGBT people are less apt to disclose their sexual orientation to neighbors than to family and friends. It has been argued that there is a general decay of civility and community in the U.S. that may account for some of this phenomenon. But, don't we think it odd that signs on our doors alert fire fighters to rescue Tiger or Spot in case of disaster, but we fail to let our neighbors know that they should also check for Tasha or Dennis if the house is on fire?

3. Coming out is a health issue. Failing to disclose our sexual

identity can limit our access to health information from our physicians, physician assistants, or nurses. True, at times it feels like we must come out to them at every visit, but we should disclose repeatedly, even when it feels unfair and tedious. Our health risks and health determinants are not identical to our heterosexual peers.

4. Coming out is a mental health issue. When we know ourselves to be someone other than we disclose to others, we feel inauthentic and increase a sense of anxiety. The milder forms of this anxiety show up as avoidance of situations and people. More severe forms become evident in psychological and physical stress-related disorders, including fatigue, generalized anxiety, sleep disorders, substance abuse disorders and gastric problems, to name a few. Sure, there are pills we can pop into our mouths for these problems. We can also pop something out: "Hey, everyone. I identify as bisexual!"

Who really wants to be the last out kid on the block? Those of us who are in our 30's, 40's, 50's, and over were more likely to come out in our 20's and 30's than the community members who are in their teens and 20's today. Our attitude seems to be been-there-done-that. However, it is not at all unusual for pre-teens and early teens to identify as queer, bisexual, lesbian, gay, transgender, or gender queer. They are



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.

doing so too frequently in situations where the expectations of visibility forged in the media aren't matched by the reality of their own lives and their own communities.

They would have a much better chance for a healthy transition into their newly disclosed identity, if their neighbors, aunts and uncles, pastors and rabbis, postal workers, teachers, crossing guards, cops, physicians, store clerks, and computer technicians were out as well.

New times call for new reasons to come out. And we have plenty of them. We are worth the effort.

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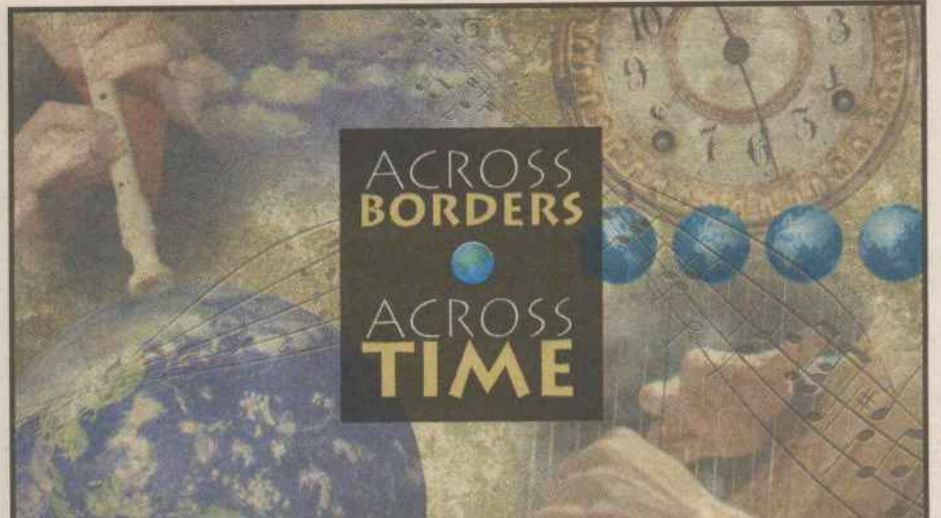
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Business and Life Partners Perish in Crash

Milwaukee interior designer Jon Schlagenhaft (left) and his business and long time life partner, Curt Stern (right), were two of three people killed in a September 11th Vilas County plane crash.



PASSINGS



Schlagenhaft, 50, and Stern, 40, operated Jon Schlagenhaft Design Ltd.

in Mequon. A 61-year-old man believed to be the pilot was also killed when the single-engine Cirrus SR21 aircraft they were in crashed at Lakeland Airport in Arbor Vitae. Schlagenhaft, born in Milwaukee, worked at Robert Forrest Designers on Milwaukee's east side. He worked his way up to an assistant designer, before becoming the firm's president. He started own firm in the early 1990s.

Founder of the Radical Faeries loses Cancer Battle

One of the few remaining midcentury gay activists, who risked ostracism in the 1960s by protesting the military's exclusion of gays and advocating for gay men to speak up for their rights and explore their spirituality has died.

John Lyon Burnside III, an inventor, and longtime partner of the late gay rights pioneer Harry Hay, as well as founder of the Radical Faeries, died Sept. 14 at age 91 after a bout with cancer.

Hay, who died in 2002, is acclaimed for starting the Mattachine Society in 1950, believed to be the country's first gay rights organization.

The Radical Faeries group (now with chapters around the globe) is known not only for its members embracing feminine qualities, but also their practice of pagan dance and prayer and a connection to nature.



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TRANSGENDER

Michael Munson (mmunson@queerlifeneews.com) is an emotionally intense, transgressively gendered, passionate social agitator who strives for inclusion and harmony by focusing on our human similarities and strengths. He is lovingly committed to his partner and their 12 year old son.

"A" is an active alcoholic. "C" is a male bulimic. "T" has a long history of family abuse that affects his day-to-day life, but is unwilling to see a therapist. "I" was arrested for having sex with an under-aged youth. "V" is highly perfectionistic, to the point of losing sleep over small details. "12" is HIV positive and actively barebacks with multiple partners. "S" is rabidly anti-male in his personal life, although regularly works with men professionally. "T" is an active abuser in her primary relationship. "S"2 is acquiring hormones from Mexico and does not have a prescription or physician.

All nine of these individuals are current leaders in the local LGBT community. All of them are rock-solid, committed activists who have contributed to our community in profound ways; effecting dynamic, sustained change. All of them are human.

Last month at the Milwaukee LGBT

Activism Perfected

Film/Video Festival, I bumped into a fellow genderqueer FTM friend and activist who was volunteering at the Festival. He was busily going about setting up tables, interacting with incoming attendees, and gently giving directions to a volunteer. As I watched him for a few minutes, I started to feel the creepy, horribly guilty feeling of being a monstrously bad activist. Here I was, just coming to watch a film with my partner, not volunteering that night at the Film Festival – or any other night.

(Of course, I was facilitating a discussion following the film, but that didn't really count as volunteering or being an activist – even though, from an outsiders' perspective, it was probably both.)

As I silently struggled with my Activist Inadequacy Syndrome (AIS), I realized that my internalized (AIS-induced) construction of an activist was dreamily unattainable. AIS is a chronic condition that distorts and minimizes the tireless hard work of activists across the country, creating doubt, conflict, and exhaustion. One of the diagnostic criteria of AIS is individuals believing that in order to be a "good" activist they must achieve perfection in all aspects of their life so others can clearly see they are walking their talk.

If AIS distorts the concept of activism, what does make someone an activist? It has very little to do with personal perfection, but has everything to do with individual passion and

commitment to changing systems that don't work. Activists recognize social and political disparities and make it their mission to advocate for underserved populations. Activists have a deep-seated desire to see things be different than they currently are, and embody a willingness to take action.

What do trans-activists look like in our community? "H" is a transwoman who works a lower middle class, manual labor job, but gives rides to anyone who needs to get to a trans (or LGBT) event. "E" is a formerly lesbian-separatist, who shows up at every opportunity to stuff envelopes for trans event mailings. "R" is a stealth FTM who works behind the scenes providing free and low-cost graphic design to trans organizations and events. "O" is a straight, white cisgender woman who constantly fights for the rights of transgender individuals by pointing out disparities and erasure at every opportunity – both in her professional work and personal life.

These people are activists. People who work hard and who care even harder. We are people who strive to live our values and create positive change in other peoples' lives. It's our striving that makes us activists and heroes, not our "success" of achieving specific goals. Activists don't need to be perfect, we just need to be willing to put ourselves out there, to make our best effort, and to acknowledge our own (and others') humanness.



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QLife Quickies

GLAAD for TV

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) have announced that the number of gay and lesbian TV characters on broadcast networks will double this season.

GLAAD's yearly survey reveals that there will be 16 regular LGBT characters on major network scripted series in the 2008-2009 season. This is double the amount of LGBT characters in last year's season, and the most recorded since GLAAD began carrying out the survey 13 years ago.

Windy City to get LGBT School?

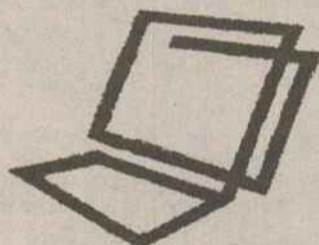
Chicago just might be the next major city to launch an all LGBT high school. The Social Justice High School—Pride Campus, which would offer college prep classes in a safe environment, was on the agenda at a public hearing attended by over 200 people.

"Gay, lesbian and transgender students are often overlooked in our district and this is a school for all students," said Chad Weiden, who would become the Pride Campus' principal if the school is approved. Administrators at the meeting however, said the Pride Campus would be open to all students.

Andy Thayer, co-founder of the Gay Liberation Network, is not too quick to give his approval, stating, "The notion that the Pride Campus is a silver bullet to set aside all needs of LGBT youth is mistaken."

If plans for the school are approved backers don't expect it to open until 2012. A site for the school is yet to be determined.

If District chief executive Arne Duncan decides to go forward with the plan, there will be at least one more public hearing before the board votes on Oct. 22.



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This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History October

By Michail Takach and Don Schwamb

1978 – Thirty Years Ago

Milwaukee's LGBT population was outraged by California Proposition 6, the "Briggs Initiative," which would allow anyone involved in any capacity with the California School System to be fired if they were gay, rumored to be gay, or simply referred to anyone or anything gay. This would be the first attempt in American history to limit gay and lesbian rights through ballot voting. The proposition suggested that any school worker accused of being gay would have to publicly prove otherwise, subjecting friends and family to intense cross-examination and self-incrimination. By threatening individuals with public shame and scrutiny, the Briggs Initiative was perceived as nothing more than a witch-hunt.

Throughout the country, people feared that the Briggs Initiative was only the beginning of legalized discrimination against gays and lesbians. A week before the election, 61% of California voters supported the movement. In response, the LGBT community embarked on one of the first large organized awareness campaigns in American history. Gays and lesbians were encouraged to come out to their friends and families on an unprecedented scale, and to speak out against the initiative in churches, community centers, letters to newspapers and even door-to-door canvassing. Despite these brave efforts, activists were met with great resistance, and most expected a landslide victory for California Proposition 6.

The Log Cabin Republicans, who organized in response to the controversy, fiercely lobbied for support from public officials, including former California governor Ronald Reagan. Their efforts have been credited with changing the course of California legal history. One week before the vote, a determined Reagan spoke out against the Briggs Initiative, a move that swayed public opinion tremendously, motivated local and state political leaders, and resulted in the proposition's defeat by one million votes. The Proposition even lost in Orange County, then the most conservative voting district in California.

Soon after the Proposition 6 controversy, the Berkeley City Council approved the strongest gay rights ordinance in the country, forbidding discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in employment, credit, schools, city services and housing, except in two-unit owner-occupied houses.

1988 – Twenty Years Ago

LaCage announced the opening of Jazz, a "not so loud adult retreat" that featured fine wine and champagne, imported beers, ice cream and blended drinks, shrimp and snow crab claws by the piece, Sunday morning specials and lounge singers. The new venue was located in the back bar area between the original La Cage and its dance floor / performance venue annex, then known as Dance Dance Dance. It's difficult to imagine today, but Jazz really was a quiet oasis between the bar's two thumping dance floors, and actually succeeded in creating the illusion of a quiet, cozy, classy bar where many intimate conversations could be had. During La Cage's perpetual renovation projects, Jazz would be reintegrated into the greater bar complex, only to be sectioned off again in a mid-1990s "Backstreets" remodel that added tinted glass, parking meters and street signs, then once again opened up when the glass wall was removed a few years later.

1993 – Fifteen Years Ago

Nationwide controversy was brought to Milwaukee when the children's book "Daddy's Roommate" was found on the shelves on the Sussex public library. Concerned citizens had called for its removal in other cities and states, and now the battle had come to the Sussex children's library.

"Daddy's Roommate," by Michael Willhiote, was one of the first positive portrayals of homosexuality in children's literature. The book tells the story of a boy whose parents have divorced and whose father now lives with his new boyfriend. The American Library Association lists "Daddy's Roommate" at number 2 in their list of the 100 most challenged books from 1990-2000, second only to Alvin Schwartz's gruesome "Scary Stories" series.

Despite the uproar, the library Board voted 5-2 to keep the book in the library. The Board of Directors vowed to form a committee to consider the selection and placement of books children could access in the library. Citing a social tradition of protecting children, the Library Board president expressed that non-traditional books like Daddy's Roommate "played havoc with parent's expectations of a library." Some parents expressed concern about the call for censorship. "I don't want a library saying what books I should take out. You start with the children's section...and then it can go to adults."

In September 2008, The New York Times addressed rumors that Republican Vice-Presidential candidate Sarah Palin tried to remove books from her hometown library, including "Daddy's Roommate." Her campaign manager, Laura Chase, read the book, found it inoffensive, and suggested that Ms. Palin do the same. "She said she didn't need to read that stuff," commented Chase. "It was disturbing that someone would be willing to remove a book from the library and she didn't even read it." Author Michael Willhiote commented, "Ms. Palin is a very good mother and everything. But she is my mortal enemy. She is one of the enemies of the First Amendment...I can hardly organize my thought here, I am so offended by this."

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

Coming Out at Prenatal Yoga Class

This past month I decided that I would do what all of those slightly hippie/natural mom pregnancy books recommend that I do and take some prenatal yoga. Now, yoga and I have never been friends, but something convinced me that maybe now that I was pregnant and that this was a special kind of yoga, that it all might just work out this time.

I was all set to go to this class full of other preggos, I'm about 5 minutes late, and I get there and I am the only one. The instructor is very nice and after waiting a few more minutes she suggests that we get started. So, we do. And I did not sign up for a one-on-one session! Things like yoga, or any classes that involve a room full of mirrors, make me want to at least have the option of hiding behind others just in case I have to take a break or cheat a bit on certain moves. But, all in all, I suppose it went ok and it wasn't that frightening. Oh, it was hard, but I guess as my partner tells me, that is no reason not to like or to quit at something.

During the class the instructor asks me if my husband and I are excited and if he massages my feet. I say without hesitation that yes, my partner and I are excited and that yes, she does massage my feet. The yoga instructor almost starts crying and clapping at once. Somehow my being a lesbian was totally the best news of her entire day. She starts talking about how it is so wonderful that we are doing this and then she tells me that she has a gay son and soon we are both just sitting on the floor in some yoga position perhaps, just talking about all things gay for the rest of the session. She said her son wanted to have kids but she did not know how he would do it, but meeting me made her feel better about his chances of having a family. At the



WOMEN

Jennifer Curtis 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. Jenny and her partner are expecting their first child in December and in case you were wondering, they are registered at "Babies R Us".

end of the class she hugs me and says, "See you next week." It was great that my openness about being a lesbian gave this woman the chance to talk about her feelings as the mom of a gay son, but now this means that since we bonded about this I have to return to yoga next week again!

I did return to yoga and I hope that I can keep it up. It isn't getting any easier, and I am getting a lot bigger, but, I think it is worth it to keep this contact with a woman who prior to meeting me was clearly in need of more connection with the lesbian and gay world.

I was not expecting yoga in Brookfield to be such a gay-positive experience, but it was. You never know how your coming out moment is going to impact someone else, and for that reason, you really shouldn't hold back. Not only does coming out help you and the LGBT cause, but it might also help those heterosexual people who have been waiting for the right time to come out as parents of lesbians or gays, or as supportive allies.

OCTOBER CALENDAR

OCT 3

Tonight through Sunday at the Boulevard Theatre (2252 S Kinnickinnic), catch a performance of "The Constant Wife". Tickets \$20. 8PM shows FRI/SAT, and 2:30PM SUN. 414-744-5757 for reservations. Make sure you show up on time, or you'll hear about it from Mark B!

Tonight, through the 5th, The Bay players present the musical, "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" \$16.00-Adult, \$14.00-Senior, \$7.00-Student/Children. Evenings 8PM, Matinee 2PM. Whitefish Bay High School Auditorium, 1200 E. Fairmount Avenue, Whitefish Bay. Bay Players Hot Line: 414-2999040. www.thebayplayers.com. Info: Sandy Lewis - 961-2135. sjaylewis@yahoo.com

MiLO: The Milwaukee Laptop Orchestra offers a concert of improvisations and new compositions by group members. Surround sound, wireless networking, video projections, and electro-acoustic music fuse into a dynamic evening at the intersection of music and technology. Peck School of the Arts Recital Hall, 2400 East Kenwood Boulevard. Tickets: (414) 229-4308. \$10 general/\$7 students, seniors & UWM alumni, faculty & staff;

If you're in the Chicago area, stop by the David Leonardis Gallery (River North) for the opening of new works by artist Max Estes - his first in Chicago. Reception from 6-11PM with music by Ashland at 8PM & 10PM! If you can't make it to the opening, head on down on til November 5th. David Leonardis Gallery (River North) 217 W. Huron St. #5, Chicago, IL.

Find the Gay-Friendly Campus for You! High school seniors and their families in search of a gay-friendly college will find many to choose from at Campus Pride's Gay-Friendly Campus Admission Fair, Today at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Learn about gay-friendly colleges, scholarship resources, and how to have an effective campus visit as an LGBT student. Free and open to the public, 2-5pm, 300 Washington Ave. SE, in Minneapolis, Minn., on the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus.

OCT 4

AIDS WALK WISCONSIN on the Lakefront - Summerfest grounds is the kickoff spot.

As in past years, the main gates will open to Walkers at 10:00 a.m. on the day of the Walk for breakfast, entertainment and other fun events. The Walk itself will begin at approximately 12:00/12:30 p.m.

Kevin Jerome Everson, Charles Burnett and Iverson White gather at 2 pm for a panel discussion, "The Verité Impulse in the Films of Burnett, Everson and White," moderated by Portia Cobb, director of the Community Media Project. An installation of experimental short documentaries by Kevin Jerome Everson will be on view beginning at 1:15 pm. FREE. Kenilworth Square East, 1925 E. Kenilworth Pl, 4th floor

OCT 7

MAMMA MIA! the smash hit musical based on the songs of ABBA, returns to the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets \$34 - \$72 Purchase in person at the Marcus Center Box Office, online at MarcusCenter.org or by calling (414) 273-7206. Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 North Water Street, Milwaukee.

OCT 8

Lights! Glamour! Fashion! Show: The Fashion Show to benefit the Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts is now in its eighth year. This annual fashion show and luncheon attracts 500 guests from across the Milwaukee metro area. This year's show will feature fashions from Andre Furs, GIGI of Mequon, Zita, Picardy Shoe Parlour, m.e. Lou, and Suiters. Seats are going fast! To book your seat by the red carpet contact Kara Roeming at (262) 373-5029 or kroeming@wilson-center.com.

Robyn Ochs will be at UWM today to speak on: "Bisexuality 101: Myths and Realities." At the Union Ballroom West, 7-9PM.

OCT 9

Monique Buzzarté: Presented in conjunction with the Center for 21st Century Studies. In this lecture/recital, Monique Buzzarté performs music for trombone and live electronics, and discusses the process and experience of improvisation. Peck School of the Arts Recital Hall, 2400 East Kenwood Boulevard. Tickets: (414) 229-4308. \$10 general/\$7 students, seniors & UWM alumni, faculty & staff.

OCT 10

The Westboro Baptist Church is on the warpath today at Hamilton High School, and the Soulstice Theatre's production of "The Laramie Project." While we don't recommend getting involved in any arguments with these crazies, perhaps

UWM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA launches its 25th season under the direction of conductor Margery Deutsch, at 7:30 pm, Helen Bader Concert Hall, Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Tickets: \$10 general/\$7 students, seniors & UWM alumni, faculty & staff. Subscriptions available.

OCT 11

National Coming Out Day! Come Out to Outwards for Special Sales, Free GayCard Renewals and much, much more! Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee 2710 N Murray Ave. 414-963-9089 outwardsbooks@msn.com, www.outwardsbooks.com.

The 2008 Big Night Out event at Potawatomi Bingo Casino's Northern Lights Theater. This is an annual gala dinner, live auction, and awards ceremony to benefit the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. This year's entertainment provided by Danceworks Performance Company. More info, visit www.mkelgbt.org.

OCT 13

Come and join the Outwards Book Club for a discussion of J.L. Langley's rousing and arousing new novel, My Fair Captain. Come and meet the group and discuss a great book. 7PM, Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee 2710 N Murray Ave. 414-963-9089 outwardsbooks@msn.com, www.outwardsbooks.com.

Queer Theater Artist, Writer, Educator, & Instigator; S. Bear Bergman performs Clearly Marked, a hilarious, high-impact, thought-provoking theater piece that peels back the layers of the labels we all wear and digs in to what's underneath. Union Theatre (E294) from 11:30am-1:30pm. Sponsored by the LGBT Resource Center at UWM & Milwaukee Hillel Foundation; and co-sponsored by UWM's Center for Jewish Studies. More info: www.sbearbergman.com/theater/clearlymarked.php.

OCT 14

The Lesbian Reading Group meets at Outwards. The book to be discussed is Nicola Griffith's science fiction classic, Ammonite All interested readers are always welcome to join in. 7PM, Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee 2710 N Murray Ave. 414-963-9089 outwardsbooks@msn.com, www.outwardsbooks.com.

Alistair McCartney's reads from his highly praised, darkly comic first novel, The End of the World Book. 7:30pm. \$10. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd St. 414-383-3727 milwgac@yahoo.com

OCT 15

Chosen Towns: The Story of Jews in Wisconsin's Small Communities, a new documentary film will air statewide tonight at 7PM on both Wisconsin Public Television and Milwaukee Public Television. The documentary is a partnership between docUWM (a documentary media center based in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Peck School of the Art's film department) and the Wisconsin Society for Jewish Learning's Wisconsin Small Jewish Communities History Project.

Its finally k.d time! The voice, the legend, Miss. k.d. lang is coming to the Riverside Theatre tonight. Did you win tickets through QLife?

OCT 17-18

Gallery Night. Check out what the local art galleries are up to. Here are a few to swing by: Charles Allis Art Museum (1801 N. Prospect) "Big and Little: Paintings by Sheboygan artist Susan Diehl. MGAC (703 S. 2nd St) "Third Annual Gay Youth Art Show" w/students from the Alliance School, Gallery Grand (604 N. Water St) "It's a Man's World...or So They Think." Dean Jensen Gallery (759 N. Water St.) "The Newspaper House: An Installation by Joan Backes - an ambitious new work!

Suzanne Rosenblatt and Danceworks Art Gallery present: Energy in Ink. The lithography, ink paintings and poetry of Suzanne Rosenblatt feature the energy of the human figure in motion. Oct 17, 6-9pm, reception, gallery tour and poetry reading, "Creativity presentation" -7:30PM, Oct 18, 10AM -2PM. Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water Street Milwaukee, WI 53202.

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Don't Forget! Forget What? I Can't Remember!

Did you hear the one about the 78-year old man that was married to a 25-year old man? The 78-year-old told a friend, "He's handsome and built like a swimmer and he is always ready for sex. He's perfect." His friend replied, "That's wonderful, you must be very happy?" The 78-year-old replied, "I would be, but I can't remember where I live."

There are some who might call that joke ageist, but the truth of the matter is Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are a serious part of aging and the number of people with the disease is growing. It is estimated that 10 million baby boomers will develop Alzheimer's disease. If you take 8% as an estimated number of people who are LGBT baby boomers they will eventually account for 800,000 cases of the disease.

Dementia is a clinical syndrome of loss or decline in memory and other cognitive abilities. It is caused by various conditions that result in damaged brain cells. Mild cognitive impairment is a condition in which a person has problems with memory, language or another essential cognitive function that are severe enough to be noticeable to others and show up on tests, but not severe enough to interfere with daily life. Forgetting things is a normal part of aging, so when you can't remember why you walked into the kitchen it is probably because of your age rather than dementia.

So how should we already older queers look at this situation? Some of the data out there are conclusive enough to share. Because they live longer than men do, more Lesbians and Bisexual women will develop dementia. More of all of the LGBT community will develop the disease because the number of deaths due to heart disease, cancer and stroke, the three leading causes of death, is

decreasing. As a result, unless there are new treatments to prevent Alzheimer's and other dementias, the remaining lifetime risk of these cognitive disorders will increase.

Then there is Alzheimer's prevention. As I was recently reminded, you cannot prevent Alzheimer's. However, from The Healthy Brain Initiative A National Public Health Road Map to Maintaining Cognitive Health published by the Alzheimer's Association in 2007; I have learned that there is... "An emphasis on primary prevention. Public health focuses on reducing the factors that put people at risk of cognitive decline, while increasing the factors that promote and protect cognitive health. Thus the Road Map focuses on intervention in health promotion and the risk reduction that preserve cognitive performance - rather than prevent dementia."

We need to consider nutrition and healthy eating, keeping our minds alert and maintaining a regimen of



SENIOR

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

physical exercise. Researchers are getting closer to finding a cure for Alzheimer's, but until they do, we have to do whatever we can to keep our cognitive functions working. We also need to stop saying, every time we can't remember something, it must be Alzheimer's. It is more likely just your age. A reminder that even though you may feel like you are 22, and possibly cosmetically changing your looks to appear younger, unless you are working at keeping yourself and your brain healthy, your brain is getting older faster than the rest of you.

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OCTOBER CALENDAR CONTINUED

OCT 18

Author! AUTHOR! Outwards is delighted to host gay mystery writer Mark Zubro, Schooled In Murder and novelist Kage Alan, Andy Stevenson vs. The Lord Of The Loins. 2PM This is a free event and everyone is invited. Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee 2710 N. Murray Ave Milwaukee. 414-963-9089 outwardsbooks@msn.com www.outwardsbooks.com.

OCT 19

Shank Hall welcomes Melissa Ferrick, with Coyote Grace. 8pm, \$15.1434 N. Farwell.

OCT 21

FILM: Experimental Tuesdays: THE FILMS OF CAROLEE SCHNEEMANN: A SELECTION. UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. 7 pm, FREE. Information: (414) 229-4070. Work to screen includes two parts of her Autobiographical Trilogy, Fuses (1965-7) and Plumb Line (1968-71) and more.Co-presented by the UWM Film Department, the Women's Resource Center, the Union Theatre and the Center for 21st Century Studies in conjunction with the Since 1968 conference.

OCT 22

This Milwaukee premiere showcases the life and works of British literary lioness and poet Stevie Smith. Whitmore's script celebrates Smith's poetic genius, humor and isolation with rare artistry and affection. Featuring Amber Page, Sally Marks and Ken Dillon. Three weeks. Perfect for school groups, book clubs and literati! Call for group rates: 414.744.5757 or visit www.boulevardtheatre.com runs through November 9th

OCT 25

You'll Have A Frightening Good Time at tonight's Halloween Women's Dance (costumes optional) at the Marian Center. Doors open at 7:30 PM. DJ/music from 8-12. Cash Bar - Ample Free Parking - Door Prizes. Tickets sold at door - \$12. Dance sponsored through the generosity of, and in memory of, Lynn Morgan, community advocate. Marian Center, 3211 S. Lake Drive, St. Francis, WI 53235. more info: youralegend@yahoo.com.

OCT 27

UWM DANCE Dept. Dance and Technology Symposium with Trey McIntyre. Kenilworth Square East, Room 120, 1925 E. Kenilworth Pl. 4PM- 5:15PM. FREE. McIntyre will discuss the concepts behind and show footage of his latest project, The Sun Road.

OCT 30

Dynamic pianist Gloria Cheng presents a solo recital featuring works by Witold Lutoslawski, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and Steven Stucky. Peck School of the Arts Recital Hall, 2400 East Kenwood Boulevard. Tickets: (414) 229-4308. \$10 general/\$7 students, seniors & UWM alumni, faculty & staff.

OCT 31

Drag it to the Dump! Milwaukee's first drag show in a junkyard - is also a benefit for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin! Presented by "Drag it Out! Productions" and sponsored in part, by QLife News. Tonight, 8pm show at the Mill Valley Recycling Center 1006 S. Barclay between Mineral and Washington. Mystery guests, djs, a special slide show in remembrance of Simply Divine, and an after party at Club 200 East. Whaaat? Who would miss this?? Featured performers: Eda Cockwell, Dawn Davenport, Connie Chung, Jolene, Evie Collete, Bunny Hop and the Miltown Kings! Many prizes available, many winners! This is going to be one fun hot mess.

OCT 31-NOV 1

UWM OPEN HOUSE. Don't miss this opportunity to see the entire UWM campus. Open to the community, and prospective students

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"I am My Own Wife"

A review by Paul Masterson

Doug Wright's one man play "I am my own Wife" chronicles the unlikely history of one of 20th century Germany's most compelling personalities, Charlotte von Mahlsdorf.

Born Lothar Berfelde in Berlin in 1929, at age 16 in 1945, he had survived World War II, collected dozens of old 78-rpm records, murdered his father and escaped execution through the kindness of a stranger. He was also a transvestite, later adopting the name Charlotte von Mahlsdorf after his Berlin-Mahlsdorf neighborhood.

In the following decades, living in the communist police state, the German Democratic Republic (GDR), Charlotte established the Grunderzeit Museum in the family estate, assembling a vast collection of furnishings and household items from the end of the 19th century. The shellac record collection would number 15,000.

Directed by John Langs and starring Michael Gotsch as Charlotte and 34 other characters, the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre's Stiemke Theater's production of "I am my own Wife" is an astounding, gripping and compelling saga of extreme dimensions. The play's merits needn't be extolled any further here - it has already received awards too numerous to list. Wright's narrative is not only a story about an individual's survival but also of the grander scheme of things: life, history and the spectrum of human weakness, strength, truth, fiction and emotion.

Michael Gotsch presents adroit and convincing role hopping. He enters the stage as the soft spoken Charlotte wearing a simple black headscarf, blouse, skirt, apron, black stockings, orthopedic shoes and a double string of pearls, then suddenly shifts to John Marks, a loud American Southerner who, when speaking in broken German snippets, makes the language sound like just another Texas accent. Gotsch proceeds throughout the play giving the dozens of secondary characters specific personae from the incarcerated antiques dealer to the brash German pop talk show host, reporters, sundry guards, secret police agents and politicians - but always in Charlotte's costume.

The two main characters, Charlotte and the American playwright Doug Wright, expose the plot through their interaction and reactions to Charlotte's peculiar story that, through flashbacks, present time sequences, conversations, reflections and interviews becomes ever more a twisting turning maze of reality-tinged fantasy or fantasy-tinged reality that keeps the audience quite literally on the edge of their seats.

Gotsch's solo performance is lost in the myriad of characters, all played with such palpable conviction that it is truly as if the stage is jammed with the comings and goings of nearly three dozen actors.

For a gay viewer, the story is too fantastic. A primer in GDR life might be Florian Henckels von Donnersmarck Academy award winning film, "The Lives of Others" to help understand the extraordinary circumstances of existence in a "big brother" police state. Add being gay to the equation (although the communists struck down the Nazis' anti-homosexual "paragraph 175" from the law books, being gay wasn't any easier), add being an obstinate transvestite and aloof to the regime, even as an informant for its secret police, and the plot thickens to the point of choking on its own regurgitated foibles.

Yet, Charlotte, the survivor, rather than changing that bizarre reality coexists within it, leaving everything "as is".

This remarkable play runs through **October 5** and is a must see.

**Madison to welcome U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Exhibit:**

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945

Madison- Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (GSAFE) is proud to host the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum traveling exhibition, *Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945*. The exhibition, coming to Wisconsin for the first time, will be co-sponsored by the UW-Madison General Library System.

Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945 is made up of more than 200 reproductions of photographs, documents and artwork that examine the Nazi regime's efforts to eradicate homosexuality and the devastating effects the regime had on the gay community.

The exhibition explores the Nazi racial and social ideals and policies that were the basis for the persecution.

In addition, an exhibition of books, photos, and documents from library and private collections will be on display.

The exhibition will be on display at UW Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison from Oct. 10-Dec. 10, 2008. An Opening Reception will be held on October 18. The exhibition is free and open to the public during library hours; a driver's license or other photo ID is required.

The theme of the program of events associated with the exhibition is *From Hate to Hope*. For a complete list of events free and open to the public, please visit <http://www.gsafesafeschools.org/>.

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

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Deductions and Donations – Understanding the Taxes

By Patrick Price

As Director of Philanthropy for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, I quite naturally have numerous conversations about charitable contributions with existing and prospective donors and members. And over the course of those conversations, I have noticed much confusion as to what people believe constitutes or does not constitute an allowable tax deduction from a charitable donation and how to properly document it. So, I will try to offer some clarification, but please remember that you should consult with your tax advisor or attorney before making any "significant" contribution to a nonprofit organization.

1. There is no specific dollar amount of deduction that the federal government allows. All deductions must be valid.

2. Charitable contributions must be made to a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to individuals or non-501(c)(3) organizations are not deductible as charitable contributions. (Note: religious organizations do not actually have to file with the IRS in order to qualify as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.) A qualified organization (except a religious organization) should be listed in IRS Publication 78, since the organization had to receive a letter of determination from the IRS that indicates nonprofit status.

3. Payments to organizations and people who are not qualified are considered "gifts," which are not deductible.

4. Non-qualified organizations include:

- Chambers of commerce and other business leagues,
- Civic leagues and associations,
- Country clubs and other social clubs,
- Homeowners associations; and,
- Political organizations and political candidates.

5. Your time (for example, as a volunteer) is not deductible.

6. If you wish to make a contribution (such as for an educational conference) to a specific person employed by or volunteering for a qualified organization, then you must discuss your intent with the development or philanthropy officer of the nonprofit organization. Generally, this type of gift would not be deductible.

7. If a specific (not aggregate) cash contribution has a value less than \$250, you must obtain the following documentation:

8. Bank record, such as a canceled check, bank copy of a check, or bank statement containing the name of the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; or

9. Written communication from the religious organization that must include the name of the charity, date of the contribution, and the amount.

10. If a specific (not aggregate) cash contribution has a value equal to or greater than \$250, then you can deduct the contribution only if you have acknowledgment of your contribution from the qualified nonprofit organization or the appropriate payroll deduction records (pay stub or W2) if you are a participant of a workplace giving campaign.

11. Only actual donations, not pledges to pay at some future date, are tax-deductible.

12. The deduction for a contribution of clothing and/or household items is based upon the fair market value of each individual item. The fair market value is generally much less than the original cost. If the value of the property has appreciated, there are separate rules that apply (which I will not describe here as those instances are less common). The items must be in at least "good" condition.

13. Fair market value is based upon the quality of the item and what that used item would sell for in the open market. The open market in this case would be the value of a consignment store or thrift shop. You can also use a published guide. My tax advisor recommends the Salvation Army Guide (www.salvationarmysouth.org/valueguide.htm). On occasion, I have also checked eBay to see what the open market might support as an initial bid for the item, which could be translated into a fair market value.

14. For non-cash contributions (think personal property such as jewelry or artwork) you need to obtain a receipt from the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that includes the organization's name, a reasonable description of the property, and the date of the contribution. If the contribution exceeds \$250, then you must have a more detailed listing of the item, including the date of purchase and the original cost.

15. Separate rules apply for the gift of vehicles, boats, real estate, etc. Additionally, your contribution might be limited in a particular year based upon your adjusted gross income and the type of nonprofit organization to which the contribution is made.

Again, I cannot reiterate enough that you should always consult with your financial or legal advisor before making any "significant" contribution to a nonprofit organization.

Patrick Price is an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and of the Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement. He is Secretary of the Board of Directors of The Chicago Council on Planned Giving. In addition, Patrick is a recognized Kellogg Executive Scholar of the Kellogg School of Management of Northwestern University (Evanston, Illinois) from which he was awarded a Certificate of Professional Achievement in Nonprofit Management.

Are You Out Enough to Be a Parent?

Yesterday, we took our son to West Allis Memorial Hospital for a simple day surgery. Prior to arriving, I got to come out over the phone three times to each department in the hospital as they asked for the names of the parents. They would ask questions like, "do you have the right to authorize care," and "are you the legal guardian?" Questions were asked about family health history. Each conversation was another teachable moment for the person on the other end of the phone. One even asked if our son was adopted. I kept clearing it up by saying, "our son has two moms and both are legal guardians."

Upon arriving at the hospital, we had to show identification to check our son into day surgery. My partner was



listed as the guarantor on the insurance and signed all the papers. We had three or four nurses during our stay and we got to introduce ourselves – coming out again to

each of them. We did the same for the anesthesiologist and the doctor doing the surgery. All the staff were very warm and welcoming to us. By the time the day in the hospital was over I think I had come out about a dozen times.

Anytime a situation merits it, I will come out. I don't introduce myself as a lesbian, but the moment I am asked about my husband, or my child's father, I simply reply with 'my partner' or I may tell them our son has two moms. Several times yesterday I



PARENTING

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

said, "This is our son's other mother, my partner" which made it abundantly clear. Being a parent, one has these situations come up a lot more often than they did when I was just a person in a couple.

Sometimes I hear people talking about becoming parents who are very closeted in their own lives. I wonder if they realize how out they will need to be to raise their children with pride instead of shame about their family. Do they plan on seeking domestic partner insurance benefits? Do they plan on letting the child speak freely about their family? Do they plan to make legal arrangements for their child to be fully protected? Do they plan to tell the child's playmates about who the child lives with?

Just weeks after our son was born, we made our first expedition out into the world. We were walking about and a stranger approached the stroller to peer in at our beautiful baby. She complimented me on him and then as my partner walked up the woman turned and said to me, "you're 'Mom' – and who is this?" pointing at my partner. We stammered and said "Auntie." It was a moment of shame and we were unprepared for how with a child you have to come out to total strangers. We vowed to never lie again after that moment. We just didn't know total strangers would ask these things. One could argue that it is none of their business. But then I ask you, how else will they learn that LGBT people are wonderful people who are just like them?

So are you out enough to be a parent?

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Who's That Girl?



FASHION

By Keith Johnson

During the fall/ fashion week 2008, some of our old fashion favorites seemed to come out of the closet in many ways. Kate Moss - the last of those incredible diva's known as the "supermodels" who, in the late 1980's, paved the way for unconventional models is one of them.

Kate's incredible "Jean Shrimpton and Twiggy looks" captured the fashion audience on a global level, creating a sensation that has lasted almost 20 yrs. In the September/ 08 issue of "Interview," she talks with writer Glenn O'Brien on her "Wit, Wisdom and Her provocative nature."

O'Brien writes: "Before little Kate Moss, supermodels were imposing Amazons, over 6ft in heels swaggering and swiveling down the runway with hot hauteur." He also states tongue in cheek, "So along comes this little 14-year-old Brit with a sweet smile and naughty eyes and she blew away the whole supermodel aesthetic. Kate moss was the Kurt Cobain of mannequins. She rocked but in a whole new way and the outrage was palpable."

Throughout Kate's notorious drinking binges, her being blamed for a sudden rise in eating disorders and her love affair with heroin (and Johnny Depp), this magnificent legendary beauty has always made an amazing comeback with quite a bang as usual.

To get more tidbit's on this 80's fashion icon and her incredible photo spread, check out the September issue cover story at www.interview.com.

FASHION WEEK 08/09

Fashion week in NYC Sept 5-14th was fantastic. Despite the current economic setbacks, retailers and

designers alike seem to be having a very positive outlook. "It's been fun and funky," stated one aficionado describing the long 7 days.

From the Chanel-inspired designs by Marc Jacobs (flirty A-line mid-length skirts, wonderful form fitting jackets and of course Chanel's signature beret and derby hat) to the bold geometric prints reminiscent of the early 80's from Jonathan Saunder everyone was buzzing. Jacobs even reproduced the glass staircase on the runway - which Chanel was known for hiding behind as she viewed her collections.

One thing for this season:

Bold makeup for those bold prints, and mysterious overly accented eyes.

For hair:

Sleek, well sculpted ponytails (whether parted in the middle or left as is) bone straight mid-length hair with bangs as an accent (reminiscent of "Cher" during her earlier career with Sonny.) Also, when caught in a pinch the classic up-do - honestly every girls best savior.

For men:

Zac Posen is the guy for me. Wonderful slim pants and jackets in dark smoky colors. Wear them with a light v-neck summer sweater or basic -T. Michael Kors, (formerly a judge on "Project Runway") followed the theme of slim with his silhouettes and seemed to have taken a more colorful side for Spring '09, but as usual always classic and subdued.

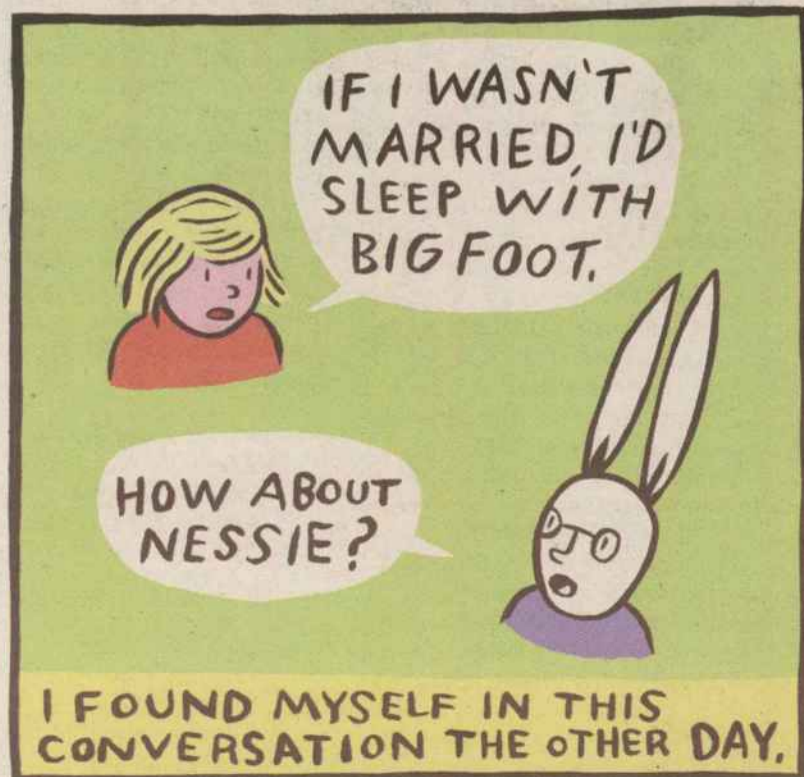
My favorite is the "Rodarte" spring collection with the company's deconstructed 1980's inspired looks for both men and women - lot's of talent there! Perhaps a new revitalized version of the esteemed Japanese designer Comme des Garçons?

You Studs, lipstick gals, and Chic Trans - you can check out more about "fashion week New York" by visiting www.wwd.com, log on to fashion week 2008/09 and find out about the parties, numerous collections and the folks who attended these inspiring events.

So in the words of designer fashionista Betsy Johnson, "Until next Season"!

My Life as a Bunny

by Max Estes



DON JACOBS MILWAUKEE *Never wonder if you paid too much.*



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When Irish Zines Are Smiling

One island, two nations, generations of unresolved political and religious strife combine to create an environment where radical queer thought is infused with a powerfully motivating call to intellectual arms. Few queer zines come from this part of the world, let's look at the two most influential to see how an Irish queer perspective can contribute to our understanding of global LGBT issues.

A Fairy Is a Person In Your Neighbourhood

I was first introduced to Northern Ireland's **Muff Monsters on Prozac** when I accidentally nicked it from my London zinester friend Rachael House whilst watching an episode of Teletubbies in the late 1990s. That scenario was rather appropriate for a zine that combines a childlike glee with hardcore angst and simmering sentiments. The main force behind MMOP is Ruth Moonbubble, a 20-something dyke living a standard punk rock life in Belfast who counts Lisa Simpson, Xena, Patti Smith, and Laurie Anderson among her pantheon of

influences. The artwork is a clever blend of stolen clip art modified with speech bubbles and pen scratches to bring to visual life the seditious concepts buried in the text. "Your Apathy Becomes You" is the outstanding rant taking to task every aspect of consumer driven queer identity and reminds readers that rebelling, protesting and dying for freedom should have brought about better things for queers than alcoholism, rampant consumerism, and domestic violence. [Issue 2, 1997, 28 pages]

Ruth also brings in other voices to help round out the message. For a perspective on the US queer zine scene, she interviews Sabrina, author of the legendary zine **Bamboo Girl**. Sabrina points out to her how queer people of color are left out of wider queer and gender communities because these groups are uninterested in examining the legacy of racism and its effects.

Lest one get the impression that a gloomy outlook prevails throughout MMOP, it is best to examine the bits of optimism that grow like weeds through sidewalk cracks. With cartoon characters and childhood icons as predominant imagery one can see through the bitter

cynicism and know Ruth is hard at work to create the better world she envisions, even if it takes a blend of prescription and herbal medication to get her, and all of us, there.

Butch, Butcher, Butchest

A title's origin can reveal an interesting inner truth. Such is the case with **Butcher Queers**. The name came about through a misunderstanding by an American tourist who interrupted a group of co-conspirators plastering stickers around the streets of Dublin. Rather than comprehending "butcher queers" as a challenge for queers to toughen up, she read it wrongly as some bizarre invective toward violence. [Issue 1, 2008, 32 pages] This is often the case with radical queer messages. While we don't expect mainstream heterosexuals to "get it," often the fiercest backlash comes from within our own community.

In the premiere issue, Stephen McCabe dissects the thorny issues surrounding whether "fag hag" behavior is simply another form of homophobia as it serves to perpetuate stereotypes and creates a disturbing dichotomy where straight women chillin' with fags is the cachet of coolness, but hanging with lesbians is not. This type of critique is absolutely vital to the health of the queer community as a whole. We seldom find gay men helping dismantle sexism.

The most pointed commentaries are the "HivenMan+" comics. In issue two we glimpse a bathhouse hookup between a drunken, vulnerable twink



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.

and a daddy looking for action. What is not expected is the masked figure in the shadows keeping an eye on the unfolding scene. With superhero reflexes he pounces at the opportune moment and headlocks the daddy who is about to bareback. He produces a condom, unrolls it onto daddy's cock and when done proclaims, "Now you're good to go." [Issue 2, 2008, 32 pages] The point of "HivenMan+" is not to deny anyone the right of sexual expression but that gay men are responsible for protecting one another.

Butcher Queers is an excellent model for what radical queers can do to engage the mainstream. Take the form of an artsy literary mag, cram it full of subversive messages couched in non-judgmental terms expressing a liberating sentiment, and produce it ad-free with funding from The National Gay and Lesbian Federation. Here's hoping we'll see many future issues of Ireland's only queer zine!

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

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"Down to the Bone"

by Mayra Lazara Dole

Life can be confusing sometimes, especially when you're a teenager.

Your parents tell you one thing, but your own moral compass tells you another.

Teachers give you information but learning on your own proves them wrong. You'd like to believe what your friends tell you, but you know from experience that they don't know everything, either. Even your own body betrays you by handing you good hair one day and zits

the next.

In the new book "Down to the Bone" by Mayra Lazara Dole,

a young woman knows what she wants, but her family and many of her friends hate her for it. Can she stay true to herself?

The last day of school before summer vacation is supposed to be *muy bueno*, but for Laura Amores, things were terrible. Laura was daydreaming in class, re-enjoying a love letter when Sister Asunción tore it from her hands and read it aloud. Within minutes, the entire school – possibly the entire Cuban community of Miami – knew that Laura was in love with a girl.

As the whispers of *tortillera* ran through the halls, Sister Superior's office and called Laura's *mami*. Demanding that Laura reveal the name of the "degenerate" who wrote the letter, Mother Superior kicked Laura out of school. Mrs. Amores then kicked Laura out of the house.

With the summer stretching ahead of her and nowhere to live, Laura takes shelter at the home of her best friend, Soli. Laura has a job, and she plans to pay her share. Soli's mother says she can

stay as long as she likes. But Laura wants to go home. She misses her *mami*, and she misses her little brother.

When Laura finds out that her former love is dating a man in Cuba, Laura doesn't believe that Marlina could forget everything so easily. How could Marlina throw away a relationship that meant so much?

But as summer moves into fall, Laura begins to think that Marlina may be right. If Laura falls in love with a boy and forgets about being attracted to girls, maybe *Mami* would let her move back. But is being accepted worth living a lie?

I was intrigued by this book not because of what it's about, but because of what it is: a book that's meant for teenage girls who are struggling with their own identities, but one that won't scare them half to death, either.

"Down to the Bone" is almost a coming-of-age story, filled with confusion, self-awareness, self-realization, peeks of life-goes-on happiness, and the kind of support that girls going through these very



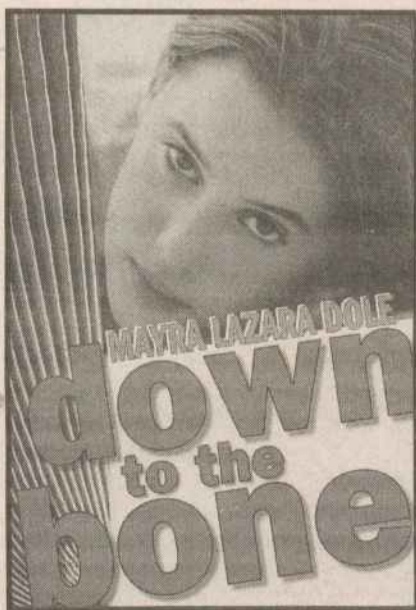
REVIEW

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.

emotions will need. Author Mayra Lazara Dole gives Laura a great (albeit quirky) personality, and the friends she makes and family she creates will leave you – and any girl to whom you give this book – cheering.

If you know a teenager who is beginning to confront her own gayness or one who's struggling with the issue of acceptance, give her this book. "Down to the Bone" just might be the pick-me-up she needs.

"Down to the Bone"
by Mayra Lazara Dole
c.2008, Harper Teen
\$16.99 / \$19.99 Canada
367 pages



Talent that puts Milwaukee On The Map!

Last month I discussed all the Milwaukee talent that went on to win theater awards and become well-known celebrities. Milwaukee can be so proud of the talented artists from the area. This month I wanted to mention some people who also make Milwaukee shine.

These actors and comics are also well known; but we see them mostly in our area. Some have played the country, but others are home to our town only. I have told several they should also try to get agents that could make them major STARS!

In our town we have comics John McGivern and Dear Ruthie. They have both made a major name in this town. John is a wonderful comic, and has been host to several strong shows in Milwaukee. Dear Ruthie is also a comic who appears in local clubs, and has acted in productions of DIE MOMMY DIE and TIME SQUARE ANGEL.

Last month John hosted a ME TV special about the "FONZIE" statue. I thought he was wonderful as he hosted the HAPPY DAYS cast. He was the highlight of the entire special. Both of these comics have a huge following and make Milwaukee their home. Watch for both of them in shows coming up in the next few months.

In the area of theater we have David Flores, Tony Clements, Kay Stiefel, and Norman Moses. They are

all residents in our area who have made a strong name in our Milwaukee arts scene. Almost every month one of them has a show playing in town, and the reviews are usually outstanding. I think all are NYC material also. Lets keep our eye on them!

Shows For October To Plan And Attend!

This is another busy month. First Stage presents CHARLOTTE'S WEB. In Tandem will bring us ALL THE GREAT BOOKS. Milwaukee Chamber Theatre has the award-winning RABBIT HOLE. Milwaukee Repertory Theater will bring us EURYDICE.

One show, which should interest you, is LARAMIE PROJECT; which will be shown at Soulstice Theatre. This amazing work features Brian Richards and Allison Roth. At the Sunset Playhouse in Elm Grove the comedy ESCANABA IN THE MOONLIGHT by Jeff Daniels. Lots of great shows, and lots of wonderful talent.

Fun ALPHABET TROUPE Show!

At the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, I attended the Alphabet Troupe show. I found the show extremely fun; and it also had lots of great songs, and deep emotions. The show featured Sandy Lewis and Roger Uscila. This original work was written and directed by Margie Rock.

As I watched this work, I thought about doing a show about how it is to be Gay and over 40. There was a show Off-Broadway called TROLLS. I found the title so hard to say. I think anyone who calls older Gays Trolls should be banned from the earth.

It is not easy being older in a scene that is so full of youth in the bars. But, times are changing and the Baby-Boomers are going to be around a long time, so being mature in the bars will be the norm. Life can be fun as a older Gay; and shows should celebrate that fact.

Once a guy who was drunk called me a Troll in a bar. I went home so depressed. Of course, it got me into BALLY'S and I do work out more now. But, it hurt. But there is a laugh to the story. This young guy came up to me on another night recently and asked me to go home with him. He told me he thought I was interesting...and then said he had his birthday and was over-the-hill at 30! I did not go home with him, as I remembered the TROLL incident. But, it made my day having him now try to pick me up!

October Fun!

The bars are having lots of fun holiday parties. Try to attend and enjoy this haunting season. Also, congrats to Miller Bill on his retirement. He had a super bash at Harbor Room, and we all



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.

wish him the best in life.

Last Months Trivia: Rosalind Russell did not do her own singing in the movie version of GYPSY....she was dubbed in on some songs by actress Lisa Kirk.

New Trivia: Did Deborah Kerr sing her vocals in the movie KING AND I?

My Aunt Sally is going to a Halloween party dressed as a leather guy from the BOOT CAMP scene. So What else is new????? R.B.

florentine opera Camerata

The Florentine Opera Camerata is a LGBT-friendly affinity group that presents a variety of opera-related social events, with a focus on providing audience education and generating enthusiasm for opera within the community.

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-Sunday Artist Socials-

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November 16, 2008

February 22, 2009

April 5, 2009

For more information about Florentine Opera Camerata and other great events only offered to our new LGBT-Friendly group, please call Lindsey at 414-225-1946 or email ldenil@florentineopera.org.

WWW.FLORENTINEOPERA.ORG



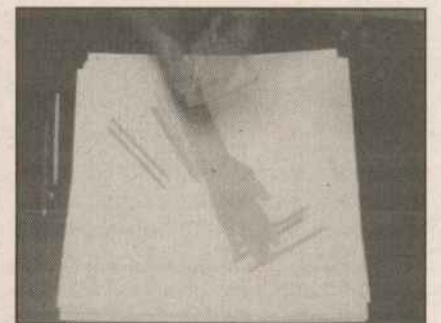
What's Happening at:

3rd Annual Gay Youth Art Show at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

On Friday, October 17, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) presents a very special new exhibition, the "3rd Annual Gay Youth Art Show - Ritualizations.

"Ritualizations" highlights work created by students at The Alliance School. The Alliance School is an MPS charter school with a 60% population of LGBTQ students. Over a dozen young artists, ages 14-19 will display a broad range of media including fiber, video, drawing, painting; photography and sculpture.

Guest curators Jill Engel and Carrie Hoelzer, local artists and art educators, present an exhibit of exploratory art that deconstructs identity and the urban experience. Engel, a specialist in ceramics and fiber arts, is the art teacher at Alliance. Hoelzer works predominantly in photography and video, and is currently a visiting artist at Alliance. MGAC intern Katie Kriesel, an art therapy major from Alverno College, assists Engel and Hoelzer.



The students articulate their issues with humor, anger, irony, poignancy, nostalgia and the grotesque. Engel and Hoelzer guide students to stress ideation and self-reflection. Their work is a culmination of both personal experience and the creative process. The art is relevant, spanning themes from incarcerated family members to teen parenting and from constructions of femininity to repetition and futility. The teen artists use their creativity as a means of positive risk-taking.

"Ritualizations" opens with an artists' reception on Gallery Night, Friday October 17, 5-8pm and on Gallery Day, Saturday October 18 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street. The public is cordially invited and admission is free.

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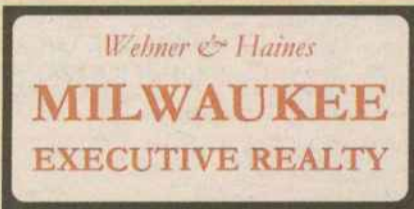
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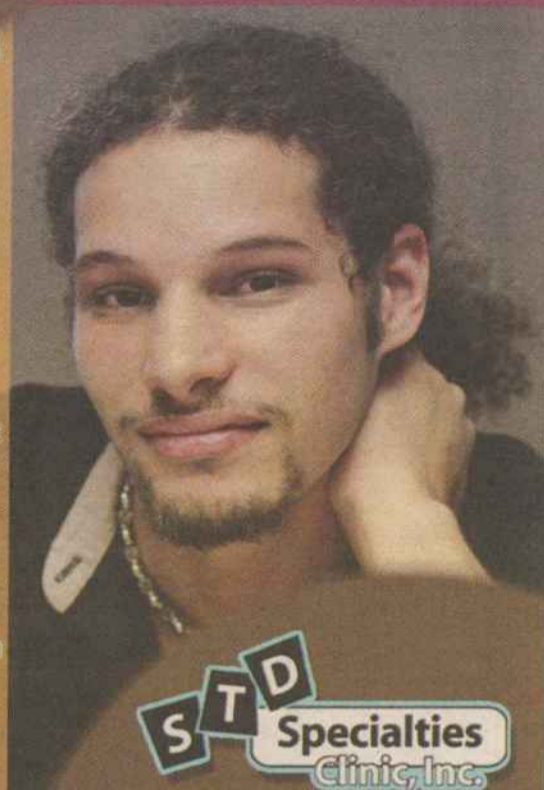
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3217 N. OAKLAND AVE., MILW. East Side home recently updated to the height of sophistication. Open concept floor plan features gourmet kitchen with contemporary cabinets, SS countertops, illuminated bar area. 1st floor bath with Japanese soaking tub.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



2080 N. COMMERCE #511, MILW. Stunning loft condo with soaring 24' ceilings. Foyer has natural slate floor. KIT w/SS appls, Corian counter tops & under cab lights. LR/DR have bamboo floors, exposed trusses & duct work. Lofted MBR overlooks LR/DR. Community room & exercise room complete the package. \$299,900 MLS #1029075



2649 N. PROSPECT #3 & #4, Milw. Beautifully renovated building in a prime location just a few blocks away from Downer shops. KIT w/cherry cabs, SS appls, granite C-tops & breakfast bar. LR has AFP. BA has Kohler fixtures & ped sinks. \$234,900-\$246,900 MLS #1028267 & 1028266



925 PEARSON, MILW. Fabulous Pearson Bourn town home w/3 FP's, Brazilian cherry HWF & crown molding throughout. KIT outfitted w/Viking Professional SS appls & huge granite island. Spa like MBA w/marble flr, whirlpool tub & dual sinks. \$569,000 MLS #990578



2110 N. COMMERCE ST, MILW. 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. MVP \$250,000-\$259,900. MLS #984959



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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 \$134,900-\$199,900. www.hifilofts.com



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



1809 N. COMMERCE #202, MILW. 1872 Historic Fabulous condo in the heart of the Beerline neighborhood. HWFs flow throughout the open concept living space. Superb KIT, spacious and functional w/solid surface c-tops, maple cabs & stainless appls. Large BRs w/walk-in California closets. \$260,000 MLS #1034134



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.



545 E. WELLS #702 MILW. Unique Cathedral Square condo. Open concept LR w/HWF, flr to ceiling windows & door to balcony. KIT has granite, BB, GE Profile SS appls, & maple cabs. BR has WIC, flr to ceiling windows. BA w/marble flr & whirlpool tub. 1 pkg space, community & exercise rm in this sought after building. \$289,900 MLS #1035368



1610 N. PROSPECT #204, MILW. Spacious condo at The Newport w/2BR 2BA. LR features huge windows, BI storage & nook with storage. KIT has BB, CT flrs, Corian and newer appls. MBR has BIBS & storage, amazing WIC, MBA w/marble c-tops, dual sinks & vanity. \$199,999 MLS #1032098



1329 & 1335 W. LLOYD ST., MILW. New construction in Josey Heights. 2 story Colonial features KIT w/oak cabs, LR w/GFP & FDR. Spacious MBR suite w/private balcony & beautiful MBA. 2 car detached GA & full LL. MLS #973010 & 973035



GREENWICH ROW - MILW.
1828 E. GREENWICH AVE. Only One Unit Left!!!!!! New town homes in Whole Foods neighborhood. 2BR/2.5BA condo has 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. \$289,400 MLS# 988043



7861 N. FAIRCHILD RD., FOX POINT Fabulous mid-century modern with loads of outstanding updates. Contemporary KIT w/attached laundry room. Family room has exposed lannon stone walls & natural fireplace. Formal LR & DR. Master suite has 2WIC & spa BA. \$479,900 MLS #989260



1530 N. JACKSON ST., MILW. 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, MILW. 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. \$269,900 #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