

QUEST



A Rainbow Of LGBT Candidates Color Milwaukee's Common Council Primary

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OPENLY GAY CANDIDATES ENLIVEN MILWAUKEE CITY COUNCIL PRIMARY February 19 Primary Likely Bigger Than Spring Election

By Mike Fitzpatrick

Milwaukee - Milwaukee's 2008 common council race has already been described by various pundits statewide as "vigorous," "energetic," and a "watershed election." Fourteen of the fifteen districts will have contested races in the Spring general election to be held April 1.

Moreover eight of the districts will hold primary elections February 19 to winnow down candidate fields with as many as nine contenders. To make things even more interesting, political experts are predicting a larger turnout for the primary than for the general election due to the presence of the wide-open presidential primary for both Democrats and Republicans on the same ballot. Record numbers of voters have turned out in nearly every state that has held a primary election or caucus thus far.

While most Milwaukee political junkies may be taking particular interest in the 6th District race where embattled, anti-gay epithet-shouting Alderman Mike McGee is running his reelection campaign from the county jail, the city's LGBT community is delighting in the prospect of three openly-gay candidates running for seats on the council. The problem for some gay voters will be that two are running against each other.

(Editor's Note: For personal reasons a fourth candidate who identifies as LGBT declined Quest's offer to be included in this story. Also, announced 12th District candidate Victory Ray - profiled in a Quest feature last November - dropped out of the race prior to the January 2 filing deadline.)

The most seasoned gay candidate, in terms of numbers of races run, is 11th District contestant Michael D. LaForest who is involved in a three-way race against incumbent Joe Dudzik and Dennis L. Bach. This is LaForest's second try for public office. In November, 2006 LaForest ran as the Green Party candidate for State Treasurer, garnering over 93,000 votes, while "spending just \$200."

"I ended up with about 4.6% of the total vote, which is pretty darn good," LaForest said. "I got the most votes of any third party candidate."

LaForest and his partner of seven years have lived in the 11th District since April, 2007. "We bought this house here and remodeled it," he said. "I'm living here full-time, working as an employment

counselor." LaForest's partner is a teacher in the Milwaukee Public School system.

LaForest, who describes the dominant make-up of his southwest district as "Polish," is running to unseat a Polish-surnamed incumbent who has served about six years, but feels there are several issues that may favor his challenge. "Property taxes are extraordinarily high in Milwaukee and I really, truly want to try to lower property taxes," he said.

The city's sluggish snow removal response in recent years also has LaForest's attention. "We had a big fiasco down here the first couple of snowstorms," he noted. "People are really angry about it."

But LaForest sees the issue that "really hits home in this neighborhood" are police and fire department staffing problems. According to the challenger, many police and firemen reside in his district and "people are very angry at the incumbent."

"He voted to eliminate six full-time positions from the Milwaukee Fire Department and he's done nothing to fully staff the Police Department," LaForest said. "There are about 200 police short of a full staff - that's an incredible number to be short."

Community safety is a top priority for LaForest. "It's right on my website: to fully staff both the police and fire department," he said.

And if elected, LaForest will serve all the people. "An elected official has to serve, to be the voice of their constituents. That's what I believe is the greatest failing in our state and local governments. When people get elected they go to their posts thinking they are their own voice. They're not."

As for being an openly-gay candidate, LaForest is asking his community to look at the bigger picture. "I'm not asking people to vote for me just because I'm an LGBT member," he said. "But if the LGBT community wants to have equal representation in our government, we've got to start voting for and encouraging LGBT members to run for public office."

Will LaForest be the first openly-gay candidate to serve on Milwaukee's Common Council? Possibly. "I'm optimistic in my race because the incumbent is not very well liked," he said. "I think I will at least win the primary."

LaForest sought the endorsement of the Center Advocates PAC (formerly the Human Rights League PAC) but the LGBT-issues focused politi-

cal action committee decided to endorse no one in the 11th District. "I'm registered as a Green Party candidate, even though this is a nonpartisan race, I'm still registered (that way)," he said. "I think that is why I'm not being endorsed... because I'm not a Democrat. I could be way off base, but I think that's why it is."

Quest asked Center Advocates PAC co-chair Laurie Guilbault to comment on LaForest's allegation. She disagreed with LaForest's assessment. "Because we're a nonpartisan political action committee, we do not take party affiliation into account," Guilbault said. "We have - in the past - endorsed Republicans, though that has been rare. We have, of course, endorsed Democrats and we have, of course, endorsed some Green Party individuals. This is a nonpartisan race, so it was not even a question in this race. We hope that more party-affiliated individuals, regardless of whether they're right or left, do include more progressive ideals of equality for LGBT individuals in the State of Wisconsin."

Guilbault cited several reasons, including limited resources, political viability and PAC membership in the various council districts, for the limited endorsements in the February 19 primary. Guilbault also noted that there will be another endorsement process for the Spring general election.

LaForest hopes his example, win or lose, will encourage other members of the LGBT community to run for office. "You don't have to be an Einstein or a wealthy person to run," he said "we need people to run for public office."

As for his own race, he hopes his LGBT neighbors will "rally behind qualified LGBT community members who are running for public office."

"I'm ready, I'm willing and I'm qualified to serve," LaForest said.

To learn more about LaForest's campaign, visit his website at: www.laforstfire.com.

Third District Race Features Two Gay Candidates

The decision last November by longtime 3rd District incumbent Michael D'Amato not to seek reelection has resulted in a flood of candidates to succeed him. Eight are running - John A Connelly, Sura Faraj, Patrick Flaherty, Daniel Foulard, Nik Kovac, Sam McGovern-Rowen, Matt Nelson,

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Quest: Wisconsin LGBT News & Entertainment - Cover Story

David Schroeder. Faraj and Flaherty are gay.

Sura Faraj describes herself as "a long time community activist" who has "been involved in a very wide range of issues."

Faraj was the 2007 chair of the Riverwest Neighborhood Association (RNA). "I've done a lot of work in Riverwest so last year I was the chair of RNA," Faraj said. "Previously I was one of the founding members of the Riverwest food co-op. I was on the steering committee of the Riverwest Rainbow Association during its most productive years."

Faraj also touts accomplishments outside of the Riverwest neighborhood. "I'm a founding member of the Milwaukee LGBT Center," she noted. "I've been working to preserve the bluff of the (Milwaukee) River from development for over ten years." Faraj's work to preserve the river has resulted in her being selected as a working member of the Milwaukee River Work Group.

Faraj is also the co-founder of *Nerve House*, which is an arts and activist publication, and a founding member of the Wisconsin chapter of the American-Arab Antidiscrimination Committee.

Faraj is also interested in urban agriculture. "I've been participating with the City of Milwaukee's northeast side plan and on their contract management team," she said.

Faraj's varied career experience - small business owner, real estate broker, journalist and activist - has brought a variety of expertise and community involvement to her candidacy. "I owned my own wholesale whole grain bakery, and was the associate editor at *QLife* for a year," she said. "I've worked on criminal justice issues at the Benedict Center and I've worked at Citizens For A Better Environment as their bookkeeper. It's a lot of different backgrounds."

Faraj was one of the first candidates to announce for the race, along with close friend Nik Kovac. Both were featured in an August, 2007 OnMilwaukee.com profile piece. "Nik and I were the first two to step up and run against Alderman D'Amato. I think that shows some leadership and some gumption that the other candidates don't have," she said. "This wasn't an opportunistic move for me. This was my desire to make my community better. People know that. I think I'm going to get a lot of credit for that."

Development is a key issue in the district, according to Faraj. "The area has been overdeveloped with upscale housing, specifically condos," she said. "I have a lot of experience in development, starting from my days as a real estate broker, through my work on zoning around the river, to my position as chair of the RNA where I helped resurrect our development committee. Development has been viewed in very narrow terms in this city. I am the candidate who is bringing up the idea that development is not just upscale housing. Development includes cultural development, development includes economic development and development needs to be sustainable."

Faraj also feels being openly gay in her campaign materials says something about her candidacy. "I'm the only candidate with LGBT on my literature, or website or press releases," she noted. "So I consider myself to be the only 'out' LGBT candidate. Patrick (Flaherty) has done some wonderful things for the gay community. It surprises me that he

doesn't want to mention LGBT on his lit or talk about the initiatives that he helped pass."

Faraj was surprised when she did not receive an endorsement from the Center Advocates PAC, who selected Flaherty instead. "I was the first LGBT candidate to step up and run," she said. "I'm the only woman running for an all-male Common Council in this district. I was surprised that they didn't at least do a dual endorsement."

Quest asked PAC co-chair Guilbault about dual endorsements. "Over the years when we have done dual endorsements, there has always been a group of individuals who have been disappointed with us for not narrowing down the slate for them," she explained. "Obviously we're not saying that because we have endorsed someone that you 'must' vote for them if you're for LGBT rights. We chose not to do dual endorsements because we thought it would be a disservice to the community."

Faraj noted that she expects to lose votes from some district voters by being open about her genetic sexual predisposition. "I've talked to people who've asked me 'What does LGBT mean' and were very disappointed to hear what it was," she said. "But I'm representing, and I'm representing proudly. I trust that my community is bigger than bigotry - and that fair-minded people are looking for fair-minded leadership and vision, not just some easily recognizable 'politics as usual' package."

Faraj has other endorsements however. "I have a lot of endorsements and I'm very proud of them," she said, listing openly lesbian Milwaukee Public School Board member Jennifer Morales (who is also serving as Faraj's campaign treasurer), former Alderwoman Lorraine McNamara-McGraw (who immediately preceded D'Amato), and former 9th District Alderman Don Richards, among nearly a dozen others. "I'm going for the people's endorsements."

Faraj feels her vision for her community drives her candidacy. "I think there's been a real lack of vision in this city," she said. "We haven't had leadership, we haven't had thought towards our future, other than our very, very immediate future. I think this district is the engine for Milwaukee: we have the highest rate of education, the most creativity. We have the lake and the river, some of the finest resources in the city. It's a diverse district and I'm a diverse candidate that can represent people from all kinds of concerns. My background can speak to everybody."

Faraj has a "100 day plan" of action. Should she get the voters' nod, "something the other candidates don't have."

Quest asked for key points of the plan, which Faraj was quick to offer. "I'm going to open an office in the district, I'm going to secure the river with solid, protective zoning," she said. "The Milwaukee River has become a key issue in this race and I'm the only candidate who has been working to stop development along the river for over ten years."

Faraj offered additional action steps. "I'm also going to propose legislation to kick start the green economy," she said. "The Mayors' talking about this but we need to get that going. The city could offer low interest loans to homeowners to retrofit their houses with renewable energy or environmentally sustainable appliances. It would be good for the environment. It would be good for the economy because we need people to make those, we need people to install them, we need people to sell

them and we need people to service them."

Faraj noted the green economy initiative could also be a "win-win-win-win" because "its good for homeowners, good for business, good for the economy" and "will help reduce crime."

"We have 59% unemployment among black men in our central city," Faraj said. "That is far worse than during the Great Depression, that's worse than South Africa. You cannot have that kind of unemployment and not expect some kind of fall out. We need jobs in this city."

Lastly, Faraj would put urban agriculture on "a fast track" toward implementation and meet with each neighborhood association in the district. "We have hundreds of people who were very interested in not only starting community gardens and victory gardens in their own yards - but urban agriculture as a serious source for our food. Locally grown, organic and something that again could potentially provide jobs, while reducing the carbon footprint of the City of Milwaukee."

Faraj feels that her wide variety of interests will ultimately benefit the LGBT community. "Because I have so much support from my (wider) community, I can bring more support to LGBT issues. People know that LGBT issues aren't my only issues. People know that I truly care about my whole community. I have a unique opportunity among all the candidates to really make LGBT issues central without making them threatening. A lot of people claim me as their own. I'm broad issues person and a broad issues candidate. People know that and people respect that"

For more information on Sura Faraj's campaign, visit her website at www.suraforchange.com.

Also running in the field of eight candidates is Patrick Flaherty, a self-described "nonprofit leader and community organizer" who "wants to put my track record of results to work for the residents of the 3rd District," owned a home there district since 1994.

From his near daily jaunts canvassing the district, Flaherty has identified "three qualities that people are looking for." One is trustworthiness. "There's a sense that the 3rd District office has lost some of that sense of trust with the (voters)," Flaherty said. "I want to bring that back."

"People are also looking for a responsive alderperson," he added. "I'm looking to make government more responsive - that's what my career has been about. So when someone calls our office, they're gonna get a return call back and we're gonna get to the bottom of their problem."

Achieving results is the last quality Flaherty feels voters are looking for. "It's something that distinguishes me from a fine field of candidates," he said. "I have led the passage of four different pieces of legislation through the Common Council. I think I'm the only candidate who has worked the state budget process to bring resources back to Milwaukee. I've managed millions from forty different funding streams. And I can take the heat!"

Flaherty enumerated his four Common Council successes in reverse order: "Last summer we got the nondiscrimination ordinance updated to cover transgender people and military veterans - and also to end the city's own exemption from its own rules. In 2005, we got the city to direct its lobbyists to work against the ban on civil unions and marriage. In 2001 I worked with all the stakeholders to get

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domestic partner benefits for City of Milwaukee workers and in 1999 I led the passage of a domestic partner registry that a lot of area employers require to put a gay or lesbian partner on the company health plan."

Flaherty also explained his success with the state budget process. "We worked the state legislature to get money in the state budget to adjust health (care) disparities in southeastern and southern Wisconsin."

Flaherty also feels one other thing distinguishes him from his fellow candidates. "I've always been involved in the big issues of the day," he said. "I helped organize 'Take Back The Night' rallies in the district... to helping organize the first AIDS Walk. I currently serve on the board of Citizen Action, which is a coalition organization that helped bring about SeniorCare and is working for health care reform."

Flaherty can point to a number of key endorsements as well, including the Milwaukee County Labor Council and the local council of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees union. "I've got the deepest resumé in the race. I've got this history of bringing unlikely coalition partners to work together," he said. "I think the east side and Riverwest have had a lot of contentious battles and I think the district is looking for someone who can bring people together and move the process toward positive solutions."

That resumé includes Flaherty's LGBT background, though—as his gay opponent Faraj notes—it's hard to find directly in his official campaign materials. "I am most certainly running as an openly gay candidate," Flaherty noted with a chuckle. "I think I'm probably one of the best-known gay people in Milwaukee. My problem has not been getting support from the gay community—it's been overwhelming."

Flaherty sees having two LGBT candidates in the race as a positive sign the gay community is

bouncing back from the marriage ban loss in 2006. "I think that it's a sign of progress that we have multiple LGBT candidacies," he said. "I remember that after the (1996) 'No On Nine' campaign in Oregon, the following year I think there were six openly gay members added to their state legislature. So I think to some degree what we're seeing is a growing awareness of how important elected representatives are to the lives of LGBT folks."

"But I'm not running as the gay candidate, I'm running as the best candidate," Flaherty added.

Because most of the initiatives he has worked on benefited the city's LGBT community, others have suggested that Flaherty is a "one issue candidate," a tag he strongly denies. "This is sort of Zen-like: I'm not gay enough but I'm too gay!"

"My goal is to get out and talk to the thousands of east side and Riverwest voters," he said. "And demonstrating that I've got the track record that they're gonna want in their next alderperson."

Flaherty then suggested that voters ask the organizations that are endorsing him. "I'm probably the only candidate who's been out there on picket lines, been there at rallies protesting the elimination of shared revenue under Governor McCallum," he said. "I've been there fighting for community benefit agreements when there's large public outlays in development projects."

One of the biggest issues facing the district is redevelopment, according to Flaherty. "We need more transparency in the development process," he said. "We have the good fortune to be a part of the city that's growing but it is growth that needs to be managed in a transparent way that allows for neighborhood input."

Environmental issues also are high on Flaherty's priority list. "We need to protect the green space along the Milwaukee River," he noted. "It's a wonderful escape from the city to walk down this area that divides the district. It's been returned to a green state and we need to

protect that from being developed."

Public safety and shared revenue are also important. "We need to make sure that people feel safe leaving their homes," Flaherty said. "We also need to fight for Milwaukee's fair share in shared revenue. Today only a third of our city budget comes from shared revenue and ten years ago it was almost half of the city budget. It creates enormous pressure on property taxpayers. The average 3rd District assessment is twice the city average. People are willing to pay that necessary for quality services, but it would also help if we got our fair share from Madison... and strategic about growing other areas of the city so that the property tax burden were more evenly distributed."

Flaherty has received the endorsement from Center Advocates PAC for the primary contest. Though he is the director of Center Advocates, he is not involved with the PAC. "We have separated myself entirely from that (PAC) decision-making process," he said. "We have protections in place that separate me from the endorsement decisions of the organization. It's not a surprise that an organization that I founded would believe in the same values that I do but I had nothing to do with that endorsement, but I'm proud to have it."

PAC co-chair Guilbault volunteered confirmation of Flaherty's separation from all PAC matters during discussion of other Center Advocates endorsements independent of any *Quest* query.

Flaherty is thankful for all the support from his community. "I'm very appreciative of all the LGBT support I've received thus far," he said. "I've received both financial and volunteer help."

To learn more about Flaherty's campaign, visit the campaign website at: www.patricknewleadership.com.

Quest will continue to cover the progress of all gay and gay supportive Milwaukee Common Council candidates throughout the Spring election cycle.

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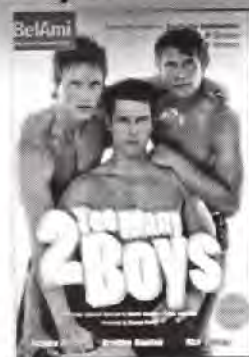
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Letters To The Editor:

3rd District Milwaukee Common Council Campaign Draws Supporter Letters

Dear Editor,

Voters on Milwaukee's East Side and in Riverwest, have a rare opportunity in the primary election for Common Council to choose among a variety of progressive candidates, including TWO from our LGBT community. That's great! But something's troubling me, and that's why I'm writing.

Although there is a wide field, I'm just going to comment on the two LGBT candidates, Sura Faraj and Patrick Flaherty. They both bring a lot to the table in terms of their experience, but their approach to this election is very different and I think that speaks volumes about their integrity and what we could expect once elected.

I've seen Sura speak and know of her work as chair of the Riverwest Neighborhood Association. When I checked out her website, I see she has really broad experience as an entrepreneur and activist, and there is a lot of information about her positions. She's been actively involved in efforts to protect the Milwaukee River and on a number of social justice issues, and was a founding member of the LGBT Community Center.

On the other hand, I've always thought of Patrick as one of the gay community's organizers, and it is deeply disturbing to me that he seems to be hiding this in his campaign. I've checked out his campaign materials - website, brochures and press releases - and he doesn't mention LGBT anything, anywhere. His partner, Kurt, isn't even in his family photo! And Patrick's materials don't offer any particulars about his positions or his experience outside the gay community.

I know some *Quest* readers might think they should support Patrick Flaherty because they know him or have worked with him. If you are one of those folks, be sure to check out Sura Faraj (and the other candidates) before election day. You'll see that Sura has worked on gay issues, and so much more - and she doesn't think she needs to be in the closet to win. She's got experience AND integrity. We could use both at City Hall!

T.J. Smiley
Milwaukee, WI

To the Editor:

I am writing to alert your readers to the opportunity we have to elect one of our own for the first time to the Milwaukee City Council. Patrick Flaherty, an out-gay leader who has tremendous experience as a non-profit manager and LGBT community organizer, has gained tremendous momentum with the largest number of volunteers and the most endorsements of any candidate, gay or otherwise, for the open aldermanic seat, which represents Milwaukee's East Side and Riverwest neighborhoods.

In 2005, Patrick convinced Richard and me to

come out publicly and to speak at PideFest. That launched us as LGBT advocates and gave us the most exciting time of our 50 years together, and has inspired me to continue the struggle.

I have gained so much inspiration from watching Patrick's campaign get out of the gate. Many LGBT activists who go back with Patrick to his college days at UWM when he organized Take Back The Night marches, did clinic defense, performed civil disobedience for LGBT rights, have come out of the woodwork to help out. Not to mention all of us who know Patrick from his more recent work co-founding Fair Wisconsin, and at the LGBT Community Center, not to mention his years

of experience at ARCW.

To be sure, we will need the combined skills and resources of everyone in our community to support Patrick. His leading opponent has the insider track and has galvanized support from the many powerful interests who have tried to stamp out the diverse character of the District. Patrick's years of commitment to LGBT civil rights organizing make him the ideal candidate to land inside City Hall. To contribute or volunteer, go to www.patricknewleadership.com or call Patrick's campaign at 414-372-4631. Let's provide as much support to Patrick as he has provided to us over so many years.

Ray Vahey
Milwaukee, WI

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"Tim Miller sings that song of the self which interrogates, with explosive, exploding, subversive joy and freedom, the constitution and borderlines of selfhood. You think you don't need to hear such singing? You do! You must!" *Tony Kushner, author of Angels in America*

GLORY BOX is a humorous, sexy and charged exploration of Tim Miller's journeys through the challenges of love, gay marriage and the struggle for immigration rights for gay people and their partners. From Miller's hilarious grade school playground battles over wanting to marry another boy to the harrowing travails of being in a bi-national relationship with his Australian-Scottish partner, **GLORY BOX** leads the audience on an intense and humorous journey into the complexity of the human heart that knows no boundary. **GLORY BOX** (the Australian term for "Hope Chest") conjures an alternative site for the placing of memories, hopes and dreams of gay people's extraordinary potential for love.

SOULSTICE THEATRE STAGES INTIMATE PRODUCTION OF ACCLAIMED COMING-OUT DRAMA, "BEAUTIFUL THING"

By Tat A. Filata

The sentiment of "Make Your Own Kind of Music" – as sung by American music legend Mama Cass – permeates the upcoming **Soulstice Theatre** production of

Jonathan Harvey's **BEAUTIFUL THING**. Directed by **Mark E. Schuster**, the urban fairytale tells the heartwarming story of two teenage neighbors who manage to find love in the rough world of Thamesmead, a working class housing project in East London.

Jamie is bookish and shy while **Ste** (short for Steve) is more athletic. Neither one has an ideal home life. Jamie's mother **Sandra** is bitter over her financial situation and her romantic life, but settles for a bloke named **Tony** and covers up her disappointment with scathing humor. Next door, Ste's father and brother abuse him verbally and physically. On the other side lives **Leah**, who's been kicked out of school and is obsessed with the music of Mama Cass.

Life drifts along until one night Ste is beaten by his brother and is taken into the safety of Sandra's flat. Embarrassed, sleeping head-to-toe, Jamie realizes that he is in love with Ste.

Director Schuster felt drawn to the play, which is rarely staged in the US. "I like to put up shows that I can find some personal connection to," he explained. "The issues of growing up different, dealing with family situations (both good and bad), the aches of first love, the choice

beautiful thing

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to hide or reveal your true self and whether or not to 'let people in' are all issues I've dealt with."

The production stars **Zachary J. Kunde** (Watertown Players' "Aladdin") as Jamie, Soulstice alumni **Jillian Smith** ("Rain Dance") as Sandra, and **Chris Darnieder** (RSVP Productions' "Dog Sees God") as Ste. Also featured are **Amanda Carson** ("Stop Kiss," St. Olaf College) as Leah and **Doug Giffin** (aka DJ Doug from Milwaukee's Switch bar) as Tony.



"It was difficult finding two actors to play the main characters, who are 15 and 16 years old," remarked Shuster. "I'm really excited about casting Zach and Chris, as I think they'll lend a great air of authenticity to the production."

Film buffs may recall that **BEAUTIFUL THING** was adapted into a wildly popular motion picture in 1996, winning the 1997 GLAAD Media Award for "Outstanding Film."

Soulstice Theatre seemed to be a perfect fit to present the inspirational tale, noted Schuster. "Char (Manny, Soulstice's Artistic Director) has been very gracious to allow me to do the kinds of shows I want. I do 'gay plays' which I hope 'challenge, inspire and entertain' just like all the other great shows Soulstice presents. And the intimate studio space is perfect for this type of show!"

Founded in 2001, Soulstice Theatre is a non-profit corporation which exists to create meaningful theatre that challenges, inspires and entertains. The group is proud to donate a portion of box office receipts to a community group whose mission matches the meaning of its current production. For **BEAUTIFUL THING**, this means a donation to **Project Q**, the youth program of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

BEAUTIFUL THING will be performed **February 7, 8, 9, 15 and 16** at 8:00 p.m. February 7 is a "Pay What You Can" preview. Performances will be held at the **Soulstice Studio Theatre**, located in Suite 102 in the Marian Center for Non-Profits, 3195 South Superior Street, Bay View.

Prices for tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. Seating is General Admission and reservations, though not required, can be made by calling 414-431-3187. Visit www.soulsticetheatre.org for more information.

STAGEQ OFFERS DARK NIGHTS AND BIG LAUGHS THIS FEBRUARY

Madison - StageQ, the local not-for-profit LGBT Theater Company announces the launch of "Dark Night Shorts," a collection of short plays by Linda Suzuki and Carol Mullen and directed by Katy Conley. Tara Ayres, Artistic Director for StageQ explains: "Dark night" is a theater expression for the nights a play is not running in a theater. Since the rent is still being paid for these off-times, we decided to allow a couple of new (to us) writers a chance to feature their talents." StageQ is offering the play "Looking for Normal" as it's main feature this month and "Dark Night Shorts" will play during the week and on an open Sunday afternoon.

"Dark Night Shorts" is a collection of one-act plays; five comedies and one poignant story. Authors Linda Suzuki ("I Never Told Anyone This") and Carol Mullen ("One More Chance") each had plays in last season's sold-out run of "Queer Shorts 2." The success of "Queer Shorts" 1 and 2 is what prompted StageQ to look for other venue opportunities for some of our favorite new writers.

StageQ veteran Katy Conley is directing the series. The cast includes Pam Adams, Kevyn Raddcliffe, Ana Gundlach, Leonie Dolch, Emily Hickey, Yvette Mikhail and Amanda Bell.

"Looking for Normal," the main feature this month is the story of a husband and father coming to grips with her own transgender. The play runs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

"Dark Night Shorts" runs February 12 - February 27, 2008 at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin Street in Madison, WI. Performances are Mondays-Wednesdays at 7:30pm and Sunday, February 17 at 2pm. All tickets are \$10. Tickets and reservations are available at www.StageQ.com or by calling 608-661-9696, x3.

SAME-SEX DANCE CLASSES BEGIN FEBRUARY 4

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) will host beginning ballroom dance lessons for LGBT same-sex couples starting Monday, February 4. MGAC has a beautiful hardwood floor that was made for dancing. Classes will be taught by Laura Sutherland, who is an experienced dancer and teacher affiliated with Shoreline-Milwaukee, the community's LGBT country dance club. Laura will offer lessons in east coast swing (jitterbug), two-step, waltz, and west coast swing. Couples will dance to big band, blues, rock, country and pop. The lessons are being offered at a very reasonable rate and incorporate practice time. Laura also may offer a line dance from time to time. No dance partner is required to participate but smooth soled shoes are recommended. For more information, call Laura at 414-747-0388.

JACQUES BREL IS ALIVE AND WELL AND AT OFF THE WALL

Milwaukee - Off the Wall Theatre is proud to be starting out the New Year with one of the most beloved musical revues ever created. "Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris" is an intimate, thrilling musical journey through the songs of one of the world's greatest musical poets.

Jacques Brel was actually Belgian, but spent most of his career writing and performing in Paris. His cabaret performances are legendary, achieving in Europe the same status as Judy Garland's Carnegie Hall concert.

Off the Wall Theatre is delighted to be presenting a brand new version of this popular revue, featuring a number of songs never before performed on the American stage. Director Dale Gutzman has done the show twice before, first for the Skylight Theatre, and then again for his own company.

This time, Gutzman is taking the songs back to Brel himself. He has found new translations for some of them that are closer to the French originals, and the entire show will be presented as a French cabaret performance. Rare film clips of Brel himself performing will pepper the evening, and the singers will be backed by a musical combo that will include an accordion.

Popular as they are, so many of Brel's songs in America are very different from the originals. The entire message of many of the songs has been changed. Some of the songs in the show that seem sad, are in reality quite funny in a very dark humor sort of way. Brel had a very good sense of ironic comedy, which doesn't usually come across in the show. His observations on life are wry, and this is an element often missing from American productions.

Gutzman has also put into the show several Brel hits that were not in the original production. Then, the order of the show has been altered to suit what Brel himself did with the songs when he sang them. The warm and fuzzy hippie feeling the show had when it first appeared, has been replaced with a night club excitement and an edge that Brel himself brought to his work.

When Gutzman last did the show, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel critic Jay Joslyn, said the production was "like fine wine."

This time around, Gutzman has assembled a dream cast, some of whom have done the show several times. David Flores, and Marilyn White were both in previous Gutzman versions of the show. Robert Hirschi and Sharon Rise, are accomplished musical performers with Off the Wall Theatre. Mary De Battista while doing her first show with Off the Wall, is a well known Milwaukee talent, especially gifted at lyric interpretation.

Joining them will be a recent addition to the Off the Wall Family, Ben George, who has spent the past few years living in Brussels, and will be doing some of the songs in the original French. George recently played Claudius in Gutzman's production of "Hamlet."

Musical Director Chris Wszalek has put together a combo which is going back to Brel's original orchestrations in some cases and lifting them off of CDs to recreate a true French cabaret feeling.

All in all, this promises to be a very special evening of Milwaukee Theatre. Old and young alike will be moved to laughter and tears by the musical magic of Jacques Brel. "Jacques Brel Is Alive and Well and Living in Paris" will be presented at the At Off the Wall Theatre. February 21-24, 27-29, and March 1 and 2. Tickets range from \$22 to \$26 and limited cabaret seating is available. For tickets call 414-327-3552 or visit the theatre's website at: www.offthewalltheatre.com.

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ROOMMATE WANTED IN APPLETON
gwm in appleton looking for male or female roommate. Rent is 270.00 month plus 1/2 electric. The apt. is an upper apt near downtown Appleton. I am in my late 30's but age is unimportant. NO pets or smoking allowed but you can smoke outside. Must be quiet. Bedroom fits a single or double bed. Serious Inquires only NO freaks call 920-470-4200 Tim

Wanted younger gay male to help handi-capped middle age man with daily chores, and a friend to do things with. Prefer clean, non-smoker/honest, person. Live in accommodations available. Fox Valley area. Call 920-738-0112 for details. [2]

HOME TO RENT/SHARE-DePure
Room to rent in large non-smoking historic home, fireplace, library, living-dining rm., parking, whirlpool, steamroom-shower, weight workout-movie screening room, washer-dryer, telephone, cable, internet, utilities, with work/rental references \$550. Skyking_Concorde@hotmail.com [2]

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Roommate Needed Eastside UWM
Milwaukee Apartment across from UWM. Perfect for a mature student. Available 5/1/08 or negotiable for anytime earlier. Must be ok with a friendly cat. Rent is \$450 plus half utilities. Off-street parking. E-mail cgobert@uwm.edu for information including pictures of the apartment.

NW STORY HILL AREA Gay owned and occupied 4-family: Upper one bedroom, perfect for one person (cat ok) smoking outside, very clean in/out h/w floors lots of windows, quiet, driveway parking, heat/water incl., laundry in basement, close to miller park and bars-\$550. John 414-305-8885 (53rd & Wisconsin)

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Help Wanted: Experienced Bartender for Milwaukee Gay Bar. Part-time or Full-time. City of Milwaukee license required. All shifts (afternoon/evenings) available. Please send cover/resume with salary requirements to: bartender@live.com [1]

MILWAUKEE: THE NAKED HANDYMAN
BiBM, 29, 5'11", 170, athletic, hard worker, clean, d/d free, non smoker - does cleaning & small repair jobs evenings & weekends. \$75 flat rate (carpet shampooing extra) contact styxmilw@yahoo.com or call 414-453-0087 evenings before 10 pm. [2/27]

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FOR SALE: SILICONE breast enhancers normally \$340 now from \$200-225 all sizes & colors. Rick 414-321-8005 [3/12]

Wanted: Lovers of erotic lifestyles. All ages & genders, fetishes, role playing, cross dressing, corsets, boots, leather, B&D, also want to add more items to my collection. 414-788-4908

Wanted to Buy: Everything 80's mens shirts, jackets, pop/rock music pins etc. What did you wear to the legendary Club 94 back in the 1980's. Phone Jim, "The Memorabilia Collector (262)637-2539 [2]

Interested in trading or watching Bel Ami videos? **Madison** (608)236-4502

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50 year old CERTIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST in Appleton offering Swedish relaxation, sports massage and deep tissue massage in my private studio by appointment only. Please call (920)915-4318 Serious inquiries only please. [2/27]

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sissy bois. I'm in SE WI. near Trevor area, looking for friends & maybe a ltr. please call (847)309-9125 Rainy [1]

BiW Married male ISO a CD, TV or TS passable preferred for romantic company, cuddling, kissing and ??? Call (920)809-3615 I am in my mid 50's clean d/d free UB2 Very Discreet [2]

Sexy physically fit submissive CD ISO passable CD's or physically fit str8, Bi hung dominant males (or females) to humiliate, degrade, ridicule me. Like Porn? Have lots. Send info, pics, stats, ideas to Rachell P.O. Box 541 Kenosha, WI 53141-0541 (262)496-0364 Also seeking photographer. [2]

Attractive BiWM 53 seeks TV's TS, female or female-female couples for friendship, possible relationship. Into leggings, corsets, light s&M, boots, BiFemales, uncut males and Neo-pagans especially welcome. Call (414)640-6364 9am-9pm lv message [2]

MEN looking for MEN
SWM needs oral servicing daily. Young, slender, feminine boytoys wanted. Let's discover each others bodies. Must be discreet, Milw area only call (414)766-0121 [1]

WM 55+ Touch me, strip me. ISO buddy 45+ meet at Bally's south Ridge, St. Francis, go to your place or bath. Love being naked in front of strangers during early AM hours. Fetish for cock rings. Share smiles, finger tips, kisses, hold hands, opening creative expressions, vanilla/kink, let's break the seal on a brown bottle together. D/D free, health aware, discreet, sexually intelligent, bare back cautious. Date me, talk to me, just write me or F-me. AA11/BA PMB#130, 10238 West National Ave. West Allis, WI 53227 [1]

GWM 152# 49yo looking for M&M toys, water sports, toilet play, sports gear fetish, jocks, cups, boxing gear, swoping dirty underwear & spandex or laying in bed watching porn, body shaved hair, inked would also like to try dirty Bi couple out. (262)719-9439 [1]

PERSONALS MESSAGES

Out on the town? Please drive responsibly. **DO NOT DRINK & DRIVE**, call Yellow Cab, Green Bay 920-435-1111

Over 50's Men's Group
Here's a chance to meet guys our own age on a different level than the bar scene or an in-out hookup. It's an attempt to provide an opportunity for socializing and establishing relationships on whatever level you feel comfortable. (No married bi's please) (920)495-9714 (best between 9-10pm) [1]

Looking for fun nice guys to golf with this spring and summer. Maybe a cold mug of beer after! Call Kev after 5 pm Please, Green Bay Area 920-328-3805 [1]

Wanted younger gay male to help handi-capped middle age man with daily chores, and a friend to do things with. Prefer clean, non-smoker, honest, person. Live in accommodations available. Fox Valley area. Call 920-738-0112 for details. [2]

CROSSDRESSING

WM sexy submissive crossdresser, ISO other phy fit passable CD's also very much into interracial sex (black males with white females) ISO husband, boyfriends whose wives or GF's enjoy interracial sex. Lets talk! Rachel P.O. Box 541 Kenosha, WI 53141 [1]

Sexy pre-op white transsexual seeking pleasure 45 years 5'8" tall long brown hair 36c breasts 145 #. Seeking white or Hispanic men weight proportionate to

height for fun sexual times. Love a mans feet especially when he wears sweaty socks. Foot worship for your pleasure as well as other pleasures. Contact Cathy weekdays after 5pm or all day weekends 262-605-9508 in Kenosha [1]

I'm a 45 single bi very cute crossdresser, 6' 185 blue eyes love to dress in heels hose and dress and look very sexy. I am looking for other crossdressers, or sissy for play. Not into anyone who does not like to CD. I'm bi but only play with other crossdressers or

Man on Man Fun! 18+ Record & Listen FREE! (920) 431-9000, code 4166

Slim WM wants to be enthusiastic oral love buddy. Just unzip & pull it out, no questions asked. Steady, patient, reliable sucking from start to finish. Can host. Let's watch adult DVD's & relax. Will do it nice, no strings. www.HeywoodJablome39@yahoo.com Answer is yes! [1]

Milwaukee GWM 63 seeks 45-65 any race, non-smoker for friendship/relationship. I am HIV neg but POZ welcome for safe sex. Retired librarian into academic/cultural pursuits, classical music, history, politics, movies, sports, swim, working out together! guys2mate@gmail.com [1]

GWM 39 blonde hir blue eyes ave build 6' tall 7 cut looking for hot bottoms 18-40 please - not 43, 50 etc. Slim to bodybuilder type. I will lick you from head to toe before I plow you, also into kissing/hugging, feet, boots, jockstraps, jock gear, tops are welcome and hot sluts are welcome. I have a fantasy about doing it with a lifeguard, military, jocks - body bulider, Miller/Bud drivers, so lets do it! Write or call Chris 3319 S. 99th Ct #2 Milw, WI 53227 (414)727-1089

All Male Chat! 18+ record & listen FREE! (920)431-9000 code 4120 [P]

GWM, 54, single, seeking a "son" or younger "brother" for sex buddy/companion. Open to LTR. Prefer a nice looking GWM, 26-45, who is emotionally & romantically stable. I am 5' 11", 180#, br/blu, uncut, clean-shaven, healthy, clean, HIV neg, spiritual, professional & kind. I have many interests including film, books, travel, collecting, cuddling and sex. I love holding hands & kissing. I live on Milwaukee's east-side near the lake. I have my own place. We can learn & love from each other. Contact Marc @ 414 225 9683 [1]

Upper Peninsula Man 45 looking for friends, who could possibly come visit me in Marquette MI. at my home for fun and good times. I'm 178' blue eyes



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brown/blondish hair sometimes I dye it. 5'11" about 7 3/4" cut Email me if interested toddka82000@yahoo.com

Single BI White Male, 36 Yrs Old, 5'6" 200 LBS. Brown Hair, Brown Eyes. Looking for PEN PALS that might want to HELP ME Out Financially & To get to Know Me Better. I want somebody that is TRUSTING - LOVING CARING. I dont want a GAME PLAYERS or LIARS!! I am Currently living in Cincinnati, Ohio in a HALFWAY HOUSE. Send Your LETTERS to: Billy P.

Green 115 West McMicken Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 [1]

Fun, funny, creative, hiker, seeks man for cooking together, playing cards, or talking & laughs! 773-585-6275 Chicago P.O. Box 63, Lawrenceville, IL. Tommy

WM 45, 180# 6" cut, looking for men to orally service. I love to swallow large loads of one or more men. Must be Sunday afternoons only at your place Milwaukee area, I'll make it worth your while. E-mail stats & phone moonscape2006@yahoo.com

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looking for 1 buddy! caring, loyalty, a+! i'm decent, not superficial, sex addicted, self-ish, love Vegas, beaches, walking, playing games, talking nutrition or travel! 773-569-6333 Tom 3658 w. 79pl., Chicago. pen pal wanted too!

Mature male 100% bottom searching for Mature Waukesha, Peewauke,

Hartland, Deerfield, oconomowoc, Watertown 100% top men or GWM. Will try anything incl toys. Must have a den. Contact M Kramer P.O. Box 144 Nashotah, WI 53058 [2]

Weenie Licker, deep sucker, tounge teaser, cum slurper. Hungry, enthusiastic, patient, private swallower for nice men. Available, dependable, discreet, d/d free, WM in good shape. I like full saved-up loads and in throat spurts. North IL or South WI. Can host or travel. email satisfine@yahoo.com [2]

GWM Madison Area very feminine, very submissive loves to give oral and recieve anal. I'm looking for a man (any race) who can give me what I need. I can travel to Madison or Milwaukee for the right man. Please call Jeff (920)390-2171 [2]

23yo RACINE BOY LOOKING FOR OLDER TOP i want a daddy to teach me new and dirty things im open to whatever u can think of email me at nbarns262@yahoo.com and we can start having fun [2]

Keosha area **WANTED MALE LOVER** has to be discreet long term I am 6ft 2 slender atheletic italian male 40ish write me honeysuckle111@yahoo.com [2]

Feminine, submissive GWM seeks black man or men who can satisfy my desire to give oral and recieve anal. Are you man enough to tame my hot ass? Call me please, I can travel between Milwaukee and Madison. Jeff (920)390-2171 [2]

Single GWM 37 158# 5'6" hoping to meet single man for freindship, dating, poss LTR. Not into bars much. Interests are music and more. Love Latino's and Oriental men a plus. Call (414)791-7013 [2]

SGWM 41-6ft-165lbs. Shaved head, goatee. 8" ISO buddy. Text 715-864-9434 [2]

GWM 61, 5'9" 183# Top ISO GWM 45-65 bottom, interested in LTR. I am no more than average looking & not concerned about looks. I live in Waukegan, IL & will go to Milw & Kenosha. (224)321-9809 No calls after 8pm No inmates, no fatties. [2]

SBIWM 50+ clean cut, masculine build, d/d fre and discreet. **ISO uncut men**, any age or weight who want hot BJ's. (Let me worship your foreskin) also into 69ing, anal & more. I live in SE Wis & can entertain or travel some. Send letter of interests (photo would also be nice) to Boxholder P.O.

Box 44166 West Allis, WI 53214 [2] **46 yo GWM looking for friendship/relationship.** I'm handicapped w/ speech impediment, but mobil. Smoker, social drinker, willing to relocate. (262)644-8305 Mark Schicker 326 James St. Slinger, WI 53086 [2]

GWM 58 yo 6' 215# submissive bottom who loves it all anal, oral. I love to suck cokes, swallow your hot cum, will do anything to please that special top. I'm looking for **Central Wis/Marshfield area.** (715)387-2534 after 7 pm [2]

Still searching for young submissive bottoms in West Central Wisconsin. Can host and am willing to train if necessary, or I can travel also. Call 608-427-2269 or e-mail brownie3@mwr.net [2]

GWM feminine, submissive, very oral and very anal likes to be ridden

hard and put away wet. If you like to do ti (anything) I want you to do it to me! all races are welcome and desired. Please call Jeff (920)390-2171 [2]

Bi looking for MEN & WOMEN
Attractive very horny white Bi couple from Green Bay M 30's F 40's is seeking a Bi curious M/F couple or single female to have hot sex with, first timers welcomed. Can host. Friendship a+, clean D/D free UB2. Write with contact info Barb & Mike #316 304 N. Adams St, Green Bay WI 54301 [1]

I'm 29, 5'11" 180# masculine, clean bottom looking for tops. If you are a couple M&M M&F or just male, contact me. Email with your info & I will call you soon. Older & younger males a turn on. epmandm@yahoo.com [2]

WM 50+ I enjoy being serviced orally ISO orally talented individuals M/F or anyone in between for discreet

encounters. Send phone # & best time to call to PMB#143 1528 S. Koeller, Oshkosh, WI 54902 [2]

Central Wis Bi-curious WM 39yo 6' 215#, I have a 7 1/2 x 2 1/2 cock uncut. Brown hair & eyes, looking for another bi or bi-curious male in Central Wis area. Must be clean, no diseases/drugs also **NO GAYS**. Looking 4 my 1st time. Must be between 35-45 & discreet, will travel only in Central Wis or NE Wis. Serious guys only email Fireball4you@yahoo.com [2]

Attractive BiWM 53 seeks TV's TS, female or female-female couples for friendship, possible relationship. Into leggings, corsets, light s&m, boots, BiFemales, uncut males and Neopagans especially welcome. Call (414)640-6364 9am-9pm lv message [2]



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NEW ON DVD by Glenn Bishop

Boys Life 6 & Boy Crush

In preparation of writing this review, Glenn had watched the seven short films that are included in **"Boy Crush"** with several friends over the holidays. Pleasant and enjoyable, **"Boy Crush"** nevertheless proved to be extraordinarily unremarkable. Thus a bleary-eyed Glenn found himself up into the wee hours of the morning needing to refresh his admittedly failing memory.

Only two of the shorts in **"Boy Crush"** truly stand out: **"Hitchcocked,"** David M. Young's clever, sexy variation Alfred Hitchcock's classic shower scene from **"Psycho"** and the futuristic **"Oedipus N+1"** by French filmmaker Eric Rognard.

"Hitchcocked" finds hunky Fred (David Grant Beck) having hooked up online with the downright adorable Al (Yuval David). Delighted that such a muscle stud like Fred would find him attractive; Al eagerly welcomes the suggestion of starting off with a shower. But what's the story with Fred's collection of antique straight edge razors?

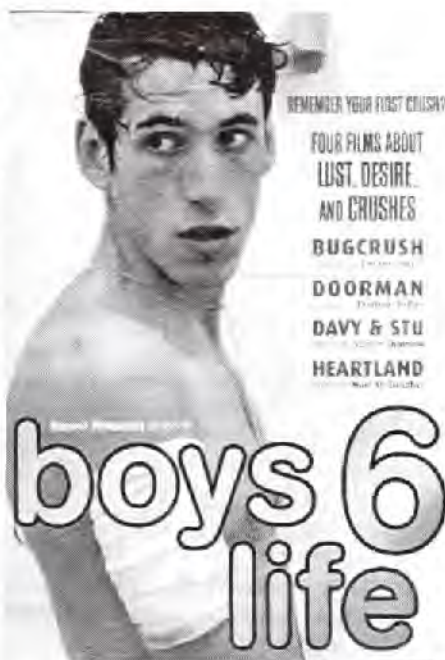
In Rogand's speculative drama **"Oedipus N+1,"** handsome young Thomas (Jalil Lespert) has been cloned back to life thanks to his domineering mother (Nicole Jamet), a woman eerily reminiscent of presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton. Mom insists he is engaged to a perfectly lovely girl named Helena. But if that's the case, why does Thomas keep remembering boyfriend Kazo (Dimitri Storage)? Boasting terrific production designs and values, an intriguing screenplay and fine performances, **"Oedipus N+1"** is absolutely compelling viewing but at a mere 26 minutes, perhaps too ambitious.

Adolescent angst and emerging teenage sexual desire figure prominently in the best of the remaining shorts. In Hong Khaou's sunny **"Summer,"** young Leung (Peter Peralta) dares to kiss his best pal. An even more surprising handjob figures prominently into Daniel Falcone's bittersweet **"Night Swimming."** Cute, deaf teen Sean (Shad Sager) must find ways to communicate his feelings toward a teammate in **"Running Without Sound."**

Words like "extraordinary" and "unforgettable" seems totally inadequate to describe Carter Smith's seductively creepy **"Bug Crush,"** the opening film of **"Boys Life 6."**

Ben (Josh Barclay Caras) is definitely the odd man out at his high school, entirely lacking any notion of "coolness." Then he meets new kid Grant (Donald Eric Cumming), who is dark, dangerous and quintessentially yet another "rebel without a cause." Ben's infatuation is complete and absolutely apparent to the few friends who pay him the least bit of notice. So obsessed is he, Ben blithely ignores warnings from his two friends. Eventually his stalking takes him to the gym locker room late one night where in an astonishing scene; Ben finds and then surreptitiously spies upon Grant in the shower.

His courage fueled in no short measure by a few swigs of vodka, Ben takes the initiative to talk with Grant and is duly rewarded with the invitation to hanging out together that night. His enthusiasm is only somewhat dampened by Grant's two friends tagging along. After an absurdly long drive to his home deep in the woods, Grant begins to seduce the frightened, sexually naïve boy. Ben's face is a



Buy it, rent it or forget it

Much like its predecessors in this extremely successful series, **"Boys Life 6"** continues to offer some of the best gay shorts to be found anywhere featuring fabulous new and upcoming filmmakers to watch out for. Thought provoking in addition to entertaining, the films that compose **"Boys Life 6"** are sure to stay with long after the DVD player has been turned off. That's not a claim that can be made of Wolfe Video latest compilation of boy shorts, **"Boy Crush."**

Just the facts...

"Boys Life 6" has a combined running time is approximately 80 minutes. All of the shorts are in English.

The SRP is \$24.95 and is available now.

DVD extras: Original theatrical trailers from the **"Boys Life"** series.

"Boy Crush" has a combined running time is approximately 80 minutes.

All of the shorts are in English except for **"Out Now"** which is in German and **"Oedipus N+1"** is in German, with English subtitles.

The SRP is \$24.95 and is available now.

mask of apprehension, his physical desire nearly overcoming his new friend's disturbing tales of bugs. The growing tension becomes palpable, so much so that Glenn was heard to scream. "Get out while the going is good." Sadly Glenn's pleas fell on deaf ears. Following the film's shattering climax, Glenn was left shaken and for the time in decades, really quite afraid to be left alone in the dark...

"Bug Crush" is not for the squeamish or the faint of heart.

Also afraid of the dark is Davy, one of the adorable leads in Soman Chainani's charming **"Davy and Stu."** Travis Walters' Davy is a slight, slender, and dreamily romantic youth while Stu (Nicolas Cutro) is a brawny, rugby player. Seemingly total opposites, these two unlikely friends meet most afternoons in the nearby swampy bog, far away from their small town's many nosy parkers. Anton Dudley's genial screenplay beautifully captures their deepening relationship and growing attraction.

Rounding out **"Boys Life 6"** are Etienne Kallos' erotically charged, **"Doorman"** and **"Heartland"** by Mark Christopher. **"Doorman"** offers an explosive character study of sexually-repressed Latino doorman Diego (Jamil Mena) who initiates a relationship with cute new tenant Garret (Stephen Sheffer). Christopher's **"Heartland,"** finds openly gay son HG (Corey Sorenson) returning home to Iowa to help his aging, alcoholic father. Unhappy to be there, he meets the sexy, invariably shirtless hired hand Ryan (Lachlan Nieboer) who is definitely not quite as he appears.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH BANS BREAKAWAY BISHOP

Fresno - The Episcopal Church banned a California bishop January 11 from practicing his religious duties until March after he led his congregants to secede from the national church.

Bishop John-David Schofield drew sharp criticism from the U.S.-based denomination when he urged his conservative diocese to sever its ties to the church last month in a fight over the Bible and homosexuality.

Clergy and lay members of the Diocese of San Joaquin became the first full diocese to break from the U.S. wing of the 77 million-member worldwide Anglican family when they voted to secede December 6.

According to Rev. Canon Charles Robertson, an assistant to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Schofield cannot give sermons, do confirmations or perform any religious rites until the national denomination's leaders meet to determine a final judgment by March 13. "He was aware of the consequences of his action, warned repeatedly, and there comes a time when it is important for the church to hold its own leadership accountable," Robertson said. "This allows him time to recant and to steer off this course."

Despite the secession vote, the national church considers the diocese and its property to be still a part of the U.S. denomination, a claim Fresno leaders reject. "The holdings of the diocese are still holdings of the diocese unless the court rules something differently," diocesan spokesman told the Associated Press. "There isn't any law to deal with this because nobody foresaw that such a thing would happen."

The Fresno-based congregation had explored breaking ties with the American church since 2003, the year Episcopalians consecrated the first openly gay bishop, V. Gene Robinson of New Hampshire. The diocese serves about 8,500 parishioners in 47 congregations in central California.

PLANETOUT SHARES FALL TO RECORD LOW

New York - Shares of PlanetOut Inc. sank to an all-time low January 15 after the LGBT media conglomerate reported that it was considering a possible sale of the company.

PlanetOut shares fell 23.1%, to \$4.77. Earlier, the stock traded as low as \$4.60 - its lowest since a reverse stock split last October.

On January 14 the San Francisco-based company announced that it had hired Allen & Co. to "help review strategic options, including a possible sale." PlanetOut also advised it will stop providing earnings guidance or hold quarterly earnings calls.

PlanetOut operates the website gay.com and publishes The Advocate and Out magazines. Shares had plunged in 2007 after PlanetOut said last May its first-quarter loss widened on decreased sales and higher operating costs. Shares sank again in July when the company wrote off another \$24.9 million on its goodwill value and other intangible assets. However, shares rebounded, however, when Microsoft's Bill Gates reported he owned 12.8% of the company's common stock in a regulatory filing that month. Last October, PlanetOut enacted a 1-for-10 reverse stock split to improve share prices.

After closing several international offices PlanetOut also said it would sell its RSVP Vacations unit to Atlantis Events Inc. for an undisclosed amount. Both RSVP and Atlantis specialize in gay and lesbian cruises and vacations. PlanetOut has attempted since then to simplify its business model and focus on improving its advertising revenue.

Quest Health Beat:

GAY STAPH, FINGER SIZE, HERPES KNOWLEDGE DEFICIT, HAPPY HOMO COUPLES & NEW HIV MED

By Mike Fitzpatrick

Is there new "gay plague"? Do fingers point to both same sex orientation and brittle bones? Are gay men herpes oblivious? Are gay couples happier than their straight counterparts? And will a new HIV drug give hope? These are some recent news items on Quest's health news beat. Daily updates are available on the ONU: Quest News Update page online at www.quest-online.com.

Virulent Staph Infection Hitting Gay Men: A new, highly drug-resistant strain of the so-called "flesh-eating" MRSA bacteria is being spread among gay men in San Francisco and Boston, researchers reported January 14. According to the study in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the bacteria seemed to be spreading primarily via anal intercourse but also through casual skin-to-skin contact and touching contaminated surfaces.

Additional gay communities seeing similar outbreaks of the staph infection include New York City and Boston. Study authors warned the infection could soon spread among other groups and

become a wider threat if not properly identified and treated. The new strain seems to have "spread rapidly," the researchers wrote, and "has the potential for rapid, nationwide dissemination" among gay men.

According to the University of California - San Francisco, the city's Castro district has the highest number of gay residents in the country. One in 588 residents is infected with the new multidrug-resistant MRSA strain, the study found. That compares with 1 in 3,800 people in San Francisco, according to statistical analyses based on postal zipcodes. A separate part of the study found that gay men in San Francisco were about thirteen times more likely to be infected than other people in the city.

MRSA, the acronym for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria, was once spread chiefly in hospitals. But in recent years, a number of healthy people have acquired it outside hospitals. Nearly 19,000 people died in the United States from MRSA infections in 2005, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The infection can cause unusually severe problems, including abscesses and skin ulcers. Among gay men in the study, MRSA was spread by skin contact, causing abscesses and infection in the buttocks and genital area. The bacteria can invade through the skin to produce a condition known clinically as necrotizing fasciitis, known in popular culture as flesh-eating bacteria. They can also cause pneumonia, damage the heart and produce widespread infection through the blood.

Anti-gay "Christian" political groups such as Concerned Women for America and the Family Council issued press releases claiming a new AIDS-like "gay plague" was threatening the United States. The right-wing driven media hysteria prompted the CDC to issue a press release on January 17 noting that new staph strain was being seen in multiple communities and was not specifically sexually-transmitted.

San Francisco researchers in their study suggested that scrubbing with soap and water might be the most effective way to stop skin-to-skin transmission, particularly after sexual activities.

Finger Ratio Points To Sexual Orientation, Bad Knees: Your fingers can point to many things - and not just physically. Scientists recently have discovered that people whose index finger is shorter than their ring finger run an elevated risk of getting osteoarthritis. The finding strengthens the curious biological importance that the index finger/ring finger ratio - known as 2D:4D - has on people's lives.

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It also has been associated with hormone levels, athletic prowess and sexual orientation.

Lesbians are more likely to sport a "male" ratio than straight women, which supports the idea that sexual orientation is shaped by hormonal exposure in the womb. A 2006 paper in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* suggested that gifted sports-women show a "male" 2D:4D. Generally, a longer ring finger is thought to indicate higher exposure to prenatal testosterone. In women, the index finger is either similar in length or slightly longer than the ring finger.

Nottingham University researchers compared finger lengths of 2,000 osteoarthritis sufferers with those of 1,100 healthy individuals. Those with relatively long ring fingers - the pattern usually seen in men - were twice as likely to be in the osteoarthritis group. Women with this "male" finger ratio were particularly likely to have bad knees. **Gay Men Don't Know Herpes:** Results of a new survey released at "Out And Healthy," the first-ever national LGBT health conference reveal gay men know little about the HSV-1, the virus that causes cold sores. Of self-identified gay U. S. adult, only about one third of those who suffer from cold sores are aware that HSV-1 can be transmitted from the lips to the genital area which may result in HSV-1 genital herpes.

A GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare survey of gay men found a low awareness of HSV-1 among gay men. 30% percent of respondents who experienced cold sore outbreaks (outside the mouth) got them once in the past 12 months while another 33% of gay men cold sore sufferers experienced them two times or more per year. Cold

sores often are painful and typically last between eight and ten days if left untreated.

Cold sores are triggered by fatigue, stress, cold weather, hormones, illnesses such as colds or flu, physical trauma and the sun. Prolonged or excessive exposure to UV rays, whether natural or artificial as in tanning salons, can irritate the area around the mouth and cause a cold sore outbreak.

The *Sexually Transmitted Infections Journal* reported in May, 2007 that in the past decade investigations document an increase in frequency of genital HSV-1 herpes compared with what most people know as genital herpes that stem from the HSV-2 infection. Explanations about the increased frequency of HSV-1 genital infections include a rise in the reporting rates of oral-genital contact among men who have sex with men.

Research Says Happiest Couples Are Homos: Gay and lesbian couples are more likely to have satisfying marital and family relations than straight couples, according to a leading researcher in both family issues and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) relationships.

Robert-Jay Green, executive director of the Rockway Institute which is affiliated with the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University, reports that new research show that gay and lesbian couples appear to be better than straight couples in respect of two key factors that promote healthier relationships - flexibility about gender roles and equal division of parenting and household tasks. "It all comes down to greater equality in the relationship. Research shows that lesbian and gay couples - by virtue of being composed of two partners of the same gen-

der - have a head start in escaping the traditional gender role divisions that make for power imbalances and dissatisfaction in many heterosexual relationships," Green said.

In a series of studies that Green conducted with Michael Bettinger and Ellis Zacks, lesbian couples were found to be emotionally closer than gay male couples, who in turn were found to be emotionally closer than heterosexual married couples.

The research also showed that lesbian and gay couples tended to be dramatically more flexible in the way they handled rules and roles in the relationship, for they avoided the traditional division of labor and division of expressive versus instrumental roles toward which heterosexual couple typically evolve over time despite their best intentions, especially after the birth of children.

Other research on parenting also found significant advantages for same-sex couples. In three separate studies, it was found that lesbian partners tended to share parenting and household responsibilities more equally, besides being more satisfied with this division of labor.

In heterosexual dual-career families, on the other hand, mothers often did much more childcare and housework compared to fathers, regardless of equal hours spent at work, an imbalance that often leads to resentment over time.

All of these family researchers concluded that the freedom to defy traditional gender-linked parenting roles helped gay men and lesbians take good just as good care of their children yet preserve greater feelings of fairness in their couple relationships compared to heterosexuals.

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ples demonstrate closeness and flexibility. We found high levels of both characteristics in 79 percent of lesbian couples, 56 percent of gay male couples, but in only 8 percent of heterosexual married couples," Green said. "Clearly, the more egalitarian approach taken by same-sex couples is an advantage that could benefit straight couples too."

FDA Approves New HIV Drug: The Food and Drug Administration has approved etravirine for the treatment of HIV infection in adults who have failed treatment with other antiretrovirals.

Etravirine, which will be sold under the brand name Intence, is a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, or NNRTI, that helps to block an enzyme that the human immunodeficiency virus needs to multiply, the FDA said. It was approved for use in combination with other anti-HIV medications.

Etravirine is the first of second generation NNRTIs, known also as DAPY drugs, because of their fluid crystalline structure, which makes it harder for HIV to create a mutation that can resist the drug. NNRTIs reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase white blood cells that help fight off other infections and may reduce the risk of death or infections that can occur with a weakened immune system.

The government gave etravirine a priority review, a status granted to medications aimed at treating serious or life-threatening conditions. The drug is distributed by Tibotec Therapeutics, a division of Ortho Biotech Products, L.P., a Johnson & Johnson company based in Bridgewater, N.J.

QUINLAN RECEIVES MADISON'S MLK HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Madison - Long time gay activist John Quinlan has received the City of Madison's Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award. The award was presented during Madison's annual celebration of Dr. King's birthday on Monday, January 21 at the Overture Center. Quinlan is the Adult recipient of the MLK Award, with Lauren Rock receiving the Youth Award for 2008. Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz presented plaques to both recipients.

According to Cieslewicz, the award is presented every year to individuals who have made "outstanding and significant contributions in the spirit of brotherhood, sisterhood and harmony toward making our City an ideal place in which to live."

Quinlan, who currently co-hosts the LGBT issues-oriented Forward Forum on WTDY-AM, has a long history of experience in the areas of civil rights advocacy, print and broadcast journalism, and community organizing experience. Prior to a three year tenure at Madison's OutReach from 2002 to 2005, he served as the director of the city's Tenant Resource Center, public relations director at AIDS Network, and as an editor and freelance journalist for a number of state and national LGBT publications.

Quinlan also has served on more than a dozen nonprofit boards and government committees, including as membership chair of the local Rainbow Coalition, president of the Fair Housing Council of Dane County, trustee for the ACLU of Wisconsin, president of the Wisconsin Community Fund, and co-chair of the city of Madison's Study Circles on Race program. He currently serves on the advisory committees for the Madison Mayor and the Madison Superintendent of Schools and Rainbow Families Wisconsin, on the civil rights coalition "Communities United," and as secretary for the LGBT interfaith group "Coming Out, Coming Together." In 2002, Community Shares of Wisconsin presented him its "Sally Sunde Award" for outstanding contributions toward social justice.

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award was created by the City to promote the values for which the Reverend Dr. King bore such eloquent witness.

MAGGI CAGE TO SERVE ON NATIONAL LGBT CENTER BOARD

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

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

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

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

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

The mission of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is to improve the quality of life for lesbian,

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

OUTREACH OFFERS FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICES AND EVENTS

Madison - OutReach is offering two new family friendly services and events for LGBT families living in the Madison and south central Wisconsin area: a babysitter referral service and an upcoming play date. Parents looking for an LGBT friendly babysitter now can call OutReach at 608-255-8582 or stop by for a referral. Staff and volunteers will be happy to assist your search. Also, those interested in becoming an LGBT friendly babysitter and would like to receive an application are asked to call the same phone number stop at the agency's office, located at 600 Williamson Street, Suite P-1, pick one up. Candidates may also request an application by emailing Leslie Kuhn at: lkuhn@wisc.edu or Josh Bartz at: gerk23@aol.com.

The My Family PlayGroup has set a bowling party for Saturday, January 26 at Badger Bowl, 506 E. Badger Road, from 3 - 5 PM. The event is \$6.00 per person. If interested, please RSVP with Jim at 669-1657 or by email at: jhs1120@yahoo.com.

My Family Playgroup is a social group for LGBTQ parents & their children ages 0-10 (though older children also are welcome) to meet other families and make new friends. For more information, visit the My Family website at: www.myfamilyplaygroup.com.

OUTREACH PARTNERS WITH UW-MADISON CLINIC FOR AFFORDABLE COUNSELING SERVICES

Madison - The UW Educational & Psychological Training Clinic, in co-operation with OutReach, is making counseling services available on a sliding scale to the LGBTQ

communities. Services are provided by counseling psychology graduate students and are supervised by licensed psychologists/counselors. They provide services to individuals, couples, and families with a variety of pressing concerns such as anxiety, depression, grief, and general life adjustment problems.

Bilingual counselors and Spanish interpreters are also available. The clinic is located on campus in Room 316 of the Educational Science building, 1025 W. Johnson St. Clinic hours are 5-8 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays. For appointments and an initial screening please call 608-265-6120.



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Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie

Your Intellectual Whore

(An effervescently gay advice columnist)

Disclaimer: Although the author of this syndicated column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Barbie responds to all emails...whether you deserve it or not. Send your questions to Uncle Barbie at: askunclebarbie@aol.com



TWO SPIRITED

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I am an American Indian from a local tribe. I was thinking that I might have an alternative sexuality. I do not want to be different or separate from the others in my group. What should I do? **Signed, Trying to Find My Place**

Hello Trying Place,

In many ancient cultures (including Eskimo, Native American, and European-Pagan traditions) the people who were transgendered, bisexual, lesbian, and gay were considered spiritually gifted. They would take roles in the tribe such as being Shamans, medicine people, wise womyn, the counselors, and the ones who saw visions or spiritual dreams with messages of guidance for the rest of the community. These sacred people were commonly referred to as being two spirited and often held special healing energies. The title comes, in part, from the belief that people with sexual orientations other than heterosexual possessed blessed androgyny. This balance of having both feminine and masculine spirits gave birth to the term, two spirited.

Does any of this strike a chord within your spirit? Individuals in the transgendered,

bisexual, lesbian, and gay community are inherently spiritual people with special blessings and sacred gifts. However, everyone on Mother Earth is a sacred and spiritual being whether you are gay or not. This is our birthright--claim it!

Be Proud, Barbie

SNOBBISH DYKES

Dear Barbie,

Why do the lesbian women of this town have such attitudes--very strange? I always thought lesbianism meant women who love women.

Signed, Vi

Hello Vi,

Lesbianism means different things to different people. The term lesbian has no intrinsic meaning by itself. The meaning comes when you give it significance by attaching value to the word. It is important to remember that not all the lesbians in this area are alike. Try a different social group, organization, new friends, or fresh environment. Keep looking girl. You will eventually find your heart's desire as long as you are relentless in your seeking.

Merry We Meet, Barbie

MOTHER NATURE IS A TRAMP

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I am a shy Witch. I need a date, but am too chicken to find a date. What's a Witch to do?

Signed, Craft Single

Hello Craft Single,

Ya know, several people have asked me about how to find a mate--mostly during conversations with my fellow Pagans. However, only a few have actually sent in written questions to me. I am pleasantly surprised at the interest this topic is generating. Any hoo, I have a hard time picturing any Witch (female or male) being shy. The Craft has traditionally promoted self-empowerment. Find your inner-power. If you are shy, I suggest that you look to the Earth Goddess as a role model. She kicks ass! If you don't mine me saying so, Mother Earth has no problem getting laid. She will take it any way she can get it. Biologically speaking, nature spends most of its energy on trying to reproduce itself. If there is a moment when nature is not actively mating, it's busy raising young, and then getting ready to mate again. Don't believe those artistic images that our Christian society shows us (in magazines and posters) of a virgin Mother Nature dressed in pure white with butterflies circling her blonde head. Let's face it, Mother Nature is a tramp. If you really want to find a mate, listen to your animal instincts, and just let nature take its course.

Witching You Well, Barbie

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Thank You Sir:

by Jeff Hicks



Leather people: who and what, are we ?

Dedicated Leather folks are often looked upon as weird, freaky, strange, warped, and many other misnomers. We are however who as well as what we are. We tend to follow our thoughts and ideas further than most of the average people that we meet. As we heard ourselves being referred to in early Leather publications: "We march to the beat of a different Drummer". It is that beat which exists within ourselves and we are sensitive to.

It can manifest itself in many ways. Each Leather person will find their own way to live their life as they see it. It will often mean going against the grain of the society at large but usually that is not a great concern. Typical of societies in general we tend to put titles on each other so as to identify each other. Very often in Leather groups we tend to self-title. That will give each individual an opportunity to declare to others some clues to the thoughts and feeling that express who and what we are. That can often be an opener to meeting someone new or letting a new group know something of what we are thinking. From titles such as Sir, boy, Madam, Girl, Master, slave, etc. the basic focus is set. Add to that a reference to Bondage, foot person, Leather clothing, Corporal punishment instruments, sadist, masochist, chain, rope, electro, and any other broad reference to play styles. We can also hint to degrees of intensity of play. Master Electro Dom, rough bondage boy, Madam Cell keeper, Serving girl, domestic slave, Paddle Master. Each of these titles gives specific clues to our type of play and level of interest. Yes we do often refer to our activities as "play". That is because we view it a play; very serious play, and as the art of enjoying who and what we really are.

Also, some times we can tend to be a clique. All too often that is true. But why would we want to think and act that way? That is all too often our reaction to non-Leather people. We very seldom enjoy intimate activities without some form of the Dom/sub, power exchange relationship being involved. Those who do not enjoy this type of interpersonal activity will tend to not want to associate with anyone Leather. And more so they are often afraid to be intimate with anyone who lives that life. As a result, we tend to be standoffish to non-Leather people. But then again some are separatist within the Leather community as well. They might like rope rather than paddles or Leather toys only. Some chain bondage people will not associate with straps and rubber bondage people, etc, etc. This typical human behavior has not enhanced the Leather scene popularity. Perhaps that is just as well because, it is a scene for those who understand it, need it and have come to know it. Many might experiment but few will find it to be their life. For those who do find themselves there, remember : We may not be even 10 % of the 10 % of humanity, but we will find ourselves to be :

Who we are, what we are, and how we will always be. Questions; Comments ?

I have recently seen references to another shift in the Leather scene: The change/growth from Old Guard to New Guard to "The next generation", (TNG). It is now time for the community to offer some insights and or feelings about this. Good or bad, let me know. -- bdsmbuy1971@sbcglobal.net

Upcoming events:

Sat, Feb. 9th N.E.W. Brotherhood and Shelter's Black n Blue Ball. featuring a raffle and drink specials and a boot black attending
Also, Mar 7th & 8th, The Shelter Club presents it's Mr. Gay WI Leather contest.

Late Winter we will be looking to see The WI. L/L Daddy/boy contest.

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www.creamcitychorus.org

Cream City Squares
(414) 445-8080
djdilges@execpc.com
www.lagsdc.org/creamcity

Front Runners
(414) 332-1527

GAMMA - Milwaukee
PO BOX 1900
Milwaukee, WI 53201
(414) 530-1886
gamma@milwaukeegamma.com
www.milwaukeegamma.com

Holiday Invitational Tournament
PO BOX 899 Milwaukee, WI 53201
(414) 881-8071
director@hitmilwaukee.org
www.hitmilwaukee.org

Harmony Cafe
124 N. Onelda St.
Appleton WI 54915
920-734-223
www.harmonycfe.org
www.myspace.com/harmonycfe

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

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club
3957 North 81st Street
Milw, WI 53222 (414) 616-3716
Moenell@MSN.COM
www.milwaueetennis.com

Miltown Kings
www.myspace.com/miltownkings

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
703 S 2nd Street
Milw, WI 53204 (414) 383-3727
milwgac@yahoo.com

Milwaukee Pride Parade
P.O. Box 070177
Milw, WI 53207 414-607-3793
www.prideparademke.org

PrideFest
PO BOX 511763
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(414) 272-3378
www.pridefest.com

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

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

Wisconsin Gay Hockey
(414) 202-5874
wigayhockey@wi.rr.com
home.wi.rr.com/wigayhockey

Women's Voices Milwaukee
315 W Court Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 534-5645

LGBT Service and Advocacy Organizations

Center Advocates
315 W Court Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 271-2656
www.centeradvocates.org

Charles D Productions
315 W Court Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 263-9999
charlesdprodinc1@sbcglobal.net
www.charlesdprodinc.com

Connexus
1240B East Brady Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Cream City Foundation
315 W Court Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 225-0244
director@creamcityfoundation.org

Diverse And Resilient
1240B East Brady Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 390-0444
director@diverseandresilient.org
www.diverseandresilient.org

Fair Wisconsin
122 State St
Suite 309
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 441-0143
www.fairwisconsin.org

FORGE
PO BOX 1272
Milwaukee, WI 53201
(414) 278-6031
info@forge-forward.org

G/L Community Trust Fund
PO BOX 1686
Milwaukee, WI 53201
(414) 643-1652
glcentermil@aol.com
www.glcommunitytrustfund.com

Galano Club
315 W Court St Suite 201
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 276-6936
mail@galanoclub.org
www.galanoclub.org

Gay Youth Milwaukee
PO BOX 090441
Milwaukee, WI 53209
(414) 265-8500

Gemini Gender Group
PO BOX 44211
Milwaukee, WI 53214
(414) 297-9328

Human Rights League-Political Action Committee
(HRL-PAC)
PO BOX 510407
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(414) 319-9863
www.hrl-pac.org

Lesbian Alliance
315 W Court Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 272-9442
lamm@milwpc.com

Log Cabin Republicans
PO BOX 199
Milwaukee, WI 53201
(414) 755-1954
membership@lcrwi.com

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
315 W Court Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 271-2656
www.mkelgblt.org

Pathfinders
1614 East Kane Place
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 271-1560
info@tccmilw.org
www.tccmilw.org

PFLAG Milwaukee
315 W Court Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 299-9198
pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com

PFLAG Racine/Kenosha
PO BOX 580058
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158
(262) 694-2729
pflagkenosha@aol.com

Positive Direction Milwaukee
(414) 461-5894

Project Q
315 W Court Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 223-3220
kurt@projectq.org
www.projectq.org

Queer Program
PO BOX 090441
Milwaukee, WI 53209
(414) 265-8500
queerprgrm@aol.com
www.10minuteflash.com/sites/31390

Queer Zine Archive Project
2935 N. Fratney St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
qzap@qzap.org
www.qzap.org

Rainbow Over Wisconsin
702 East Wisconsin Avenue
Appleton, WI 54911
www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org

SAGE Milwaukee
1845 North Farwell
Suite 220
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 224-0517
email@sagemilwaukee.org

Transgender Aging Network
6990 N Rockledge Ave
Glendale, WI 53209
(414) 540-6456
loreecd@aol.com

UWM LGBT Resource Center
UWM Union WG89
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53201
(414) 229-4116
jrmurray@uwm.edu
www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT

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

LGBT Neighborhood Associations

Bay View GAYS
(414) 482-3796
bvppresident@bv gays.com
www.bv gays.com

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

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

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Wisconsin LGBT Groups and Organizations

LGBT Social Groups

Black and White Men Together
PO BOX 091475 Milw., WI 53209
(414) 540-9437
bwmtmilwaukee@aol.com
www.bwmtmilwaukee.org

The Brunch Club
jennieragland@wi.rr.com

Brew City Bears
PO Box 1035 Milwaukee, WI 53201
(414) 299-0401
info@brewcitybears.org
www.brewcitybears.org

Castaways
PO BOX 1697
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Femme Mafia Milwaukee
www.myspace.com/femmefamiamke

Great Lakes Harley Riders
PO BOX 341611
Milwaukee, WI 53234
bootedhog@aol.com

N.E.W. Brotherhood
PO Box 12793
Green Bay, WI 54307-2793
http://www.NEWBrotherhood.org

Rainbow Families c/o PFLAG
315 W Cour Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com

LGBT Welcoming Churches

Angels of Hope MCC
3607 Libal Street
Green Bay, WI
angelsofhopemcc.org
aohmcc@netnet.net
920-983-7453

Appleton service at
UCC chapel
724 East South River Drive
angelsofhopemcc.org
aohmcc@netnet.net
920-983-7453

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

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

Footstep Fellowship
First Presbyterian Church Chapel
(715)355-8641
P.O. Box 171 Wausau, WI 54402
footstepfellowship@yahoo.com
www.geocities.com/footstepfellowship

Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church
P.O. Box 1421 (1239 W Mineral St)
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 383-1100
info@queerchurch.org pastor@milwcc.org
www.queerchurch.org

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

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

Unity Church of Kenosha, Racine
9220 26Th Ave. Kenosha, WI 53143
Rev.Don (262) 914-8389
hellodjd@sbcglobal.net

Other Service Agencies with LGBT Programming

Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin
820 Plankinton Ave
PO Box 510498
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(414) 273-1991
www.arcw.org

Brady East STD (BESTD) Clinic
240 East Brady Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 272-2144
bestd@execpc.com
www.bestd.org

Children Service Society of Wisconsin
1212 S 70th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 453-1400
jane.ottow@cssw.org
www.cssw.org

The Counseling Center of Milwaukee
2038 N. Bartlett Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 271-2565
info@tccmilw.org
www.tccmilw.org

OutReach
600 Williamson Street,
Suite P1
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(608) 255-0018 (fax)
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Beloit, (608)361-0000

Club 5 Bar/Restaurant 5 Applegate Ct
Madison, (608)277-9700

Ray's Bar & Grill 2526 E. Washington
Madison (608)241-9335

Shamrock 117 W Main St.,
Madison (608)255-5029

Captain Dix (Rainbow Valley Resort)
4124 River Road WI Dells, WI (866) 553-1818

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Eau Claire (715)835-9959

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Superior (715)394-2580

The Main 1217 Tower Ave
Superior, WI (715)392-1756

OZ 320 Washington St, Wausau
www.totheoz.com (715)842-3225

Club Night Out 2533 Cty. Rd. M, Stevens Point
(715)342-5820 www.club-nightout.com

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SASS 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay
(920)437-7277

THE SHELTER 730 N. Quincy St. Green Bay
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Tipsy's On Broadway 301 S. Broadway,
Green Bay 920-455-1005

XS Niteclub 1106 Main Street, Green Bay

Club 1226 1226 Oshkosh Ave Oshkosh,
(920)651-1226

Blue Lite 1029 N 8th,
Sheboygan
(920)457-1636

ROCKFORD, IL (815)

The Office 513 East State
Rockford, IL (815)965-0344

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN (262)

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(262)857-3240 www.club-icon.com

JoDee's 2139 Racine St, Racine
(262)634-9804

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Art Bar 722 Burleigh,
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(414)273-7474

Boom 625 South 2nd St
(414)277-5040

Boot Camp 209 E National
(414)643-6900

C'est La Vie 231 S 2nd
(414)291-9600

City Lights Chill 111 W. Howard Ave
(414)481-1441

Fluid 819 South 2nd
(414)643-5843

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KRUZ 354 E. National (414)272-KRUZ

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8015 2nd, (414)383-8330

M's 1101 S. 2nd Street
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(414)643-0377

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(414)647-2673

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