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#### **ROCKFORD, IL (815)**

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Oh Zone 1014 Charles St Rockford, IL (815)964-9663



GWM, 35, 5'6", 150 lbs., versatile, looking for friends, possible LTR. Open-minded and fun! (414) 719-3751 or write Wayne, PO Box 336, Kenosha, WI 53141 [2]

GWM seeking friendship, possible LTR. Blond hair, blue eyes, goatee, 5'7", swimmers build. I am professional and stable, seeking stable, fun, humorous & adventurous man. Serious replies only. Jim. (414) 744-6433. [2]

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

Looking for a petite female to give erotic massage to another female. **Wauwatosa** area. E-mail pic & info to [geoandanita@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geoandanita@sbcglobal.net) [2]

ISO a man for discreet relationship in the **Kenosha** area. I'm WM, 175 lbs., 6'2", Italian, nice body, good looking. Write [magiccarpet16@yahoo.com](mailto:magiccarpet16@yahoo.com) [2]

**DAD SEEKS HORNY SON.** Your own bedroom free in loving country home to smooth young naughty boy. Love to suck and top young guys. Can also travel to you, discretion assured. (608) 427-2269 or e-mail [brownie3@mw.net](mailto:brownie3@mw.net) [2]

LTR Search! SWGM, 30s, 5'8", 140 lbs., athletic, honest, romantic with a heart of gold. I'm ready to take on the world, but wish someone could share it with me. Are you the one? (920) 562-8589. All calls/messages answered. Let your dreams come true; now begin. [2]

Seeking friends for friendship & more! Also do massages for men...and more! Best time to call 10:30 am - 9:30 pm weekdays only. No late night calls, please, & no messages. (920) 707-6467 [2]

39 y.o. GM down to earth, conservative guy seeking friendship. Enjoy quiet walks, spending evenings stargazing, gardening, quiet time together watching a movie or just enjoying a sunset. Looking for a responsible, independent person for friendship; if the chemistry is there something more romantic. However, my real goal is a friend to share some time, and weekend trips with. Prefer someone who is within a half hour of **Wausau**. (715) 297-3343. [2]

BiWM, 52, seeks attractive white CD, T/S or female for long term relationship. Age, weight open. Not into pain, bondage, scat. Into oral (give/receive), fancy lingerie, make-up, scary movies, chess. Must be at least 18.

(414) 763-0884 9am-9pm any day. Leave message. [3]

Wanted! Lovers, friends, friendship. **Appleton** area. (920) 730-9316 10am-4 pm, no call after hours. Ask for Ken. [3]

Looking for a white couple w/bi male or a gay male to take control of me and tell me what to do. I love to s-k c-k, take it in my a--, and take a nice big load on my face. **Milwaukee** area. Must be 35-65 w/ at least 5" c-k. (262) 378-2135 or e-mail [bfree27@wi.rr.com](mailto:bfree27@wi.rr.com) [3]

Zestful 55, healthy as 19, varied interests, sitting-active, nature-vegas, seeking buddy! Let's walk. (773) 585-6275 **Chicago**; leave number. [3]

GWMC seeking men over 21 for friendship & oral pleasure! If you are at least 7+, cut, D/D free & of good hygiene, willing to please and be pleased, contact me at [Bootzee@aol.com](mailto:Bootzee@aol.com); please, no heavies or kinks! Smoke & social drink OK. [3]

GWM, 50, tall, slender, shaved and smooth, seeks GWM, any race, for hot encounters. I am strictly a bottom looking for a well hung top man (or men) to fill my orifice. I am also great at giving oral. Contact Terry [erminet2003@yahoo.com](mailto:erminet2003@yahoo.com) [3]

## Oh Out Cover...

Tony Ritschard grabbed these pics from a closing party at Chicago's Gay Games 2006



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## WASHINGTON COURT UPHOLDS GAY MARRIAGE BAN 5-4

**Olympia** - The Washington Supreme Court upheld the state's ban on gay marriage July 26, dealing the gay rights movement its second major defeat in less than a month in another liberal-leaning state that had been regarded as a promising battleground.

In a 5-4 decision, the court said lawmakers have the power to restrict marriage to a man and a woman, and it left intact the state's 1998 Defense of Marriage Act. Earlier this month, New York's high court dealt gay couples a similar blow when it upheld a state law against gay marriage.

The July 26 ruling surprised and delighted gay-marriage opponents, given Washington state's liberal politics, particularly in Seattle. "This is more than we could have imagined. We are shocked, and pleasantly shocked. We were prepared for the other direction," said Jon Russell, field director for the Faith and Freedom Network.

Disappointment was perhaps greatest in Seattle, home of the state's most visible gay community. "There aren't words to describe how hurt people in the gay and lesbian community are. There's a lot of tears and a lot of anger right now. Emotion is raw," state Rep. Ed Murray said. Murray is a Seattle Democrat and one of four openly gay state lawmakers.

The state Supreme Court overruled two lower courts that had found the ban violated the Washington Constitution's "privileges and immunities" section. The gay-marriage ban "is constitutional because the Legislature was entitled to believe that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples furthers procreation, essential to survival,"

Justice Barbara Madsen wrote in the controlling opinion.

However, Madsen and other members of the majority invited the Legislature to take another look at the "clear hardship" that the



ban causes for same-sex couples.

In a dissent, Justice Mary Fairhurst said the majority improperly bowed to public opinion. "Unfortunately, the (majority) are willing to turn a blind eye to DOMA's discrimination because a popular majority still favors that discrimination," she wrote.

The 19 gay and lesbian couples who sued to overturn the law were dismayed by the ruling. "I believe that our constitution should treat all of its citizens the same, and in this case the court was willing to treat my family differently than other families," said Brenda Bauer of Seattle, who sued along with her partner, Celia Castle. "Today's a pretty sad day for our family."

Leaders in the Legislature did not commit themselves to any course of action. "Just as the public is divided over the issue, so is the Legislature," Senate Majority Leader Lisa

Brown said.

After years of declining to state her personal views on the matter, Governor Chris Gregoire accepted the decision but then said that the state should provide gay and lesbian couples with the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexuals, but without actual marriage.

"The Supreme Court has ruled, and we must accept their decision whether we agree with it or not," Gregoire began, then added, "As to my personal beliefs, Mike and I received the sacrament of marriage in the Catholic faith. State government provided us with certain rights and responsibilities, but the state did not marry us."

"I believe the state should provide these same rights and responsibilities to all citizens," the governor said. "I also believe the sacrament of marriage is between two people and their faith; it is not the business of the state."

In Seattle, King County Executive Ron Sims, who backed the push to legalize marriage for same-sex couples, said his next step would be to press for civil unions. They give gay couples many of the rights that come with marriage and are allowed in Vermont and Connecticut. "There's still hope in the long run," Sims said. "I still dream for a just society."

Forty-five states have laws banning marriage between same-sex couples or limiting marriage to between a man and a woman. Massachusetts is still the only state that allows same-sex couples to wed.

In other recent rulings on the issue, courts reinstated voter-approved bans on gay marriage in Nebraska and Georgia, and Tennessee's Supreme Court ruled that voters there should have a say on allowing marriage for same-sex couples.

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## PERSONALS

**Looking for Mark Weber**, age 32, from **Milwaukee**. I met you in Toronto on June 23rd. I'm Aaron, 43, 6'4", hairy. I really regret not spending more time with you and I'd really love to hear from you; so, if you read this, please call Aaron (416) 236-7538

**Billy Blaze**, this is Alex. Hopefully, you'll see this and call me. I'd really love to catch up. I'm (262) 672-9942 or (414) 573-9234 or [adacia99@yahoo.com](mailto:adacia99@yahoo.com). [1]

**Milwaukee** HIV+GWM, excellent health, love all races, 6', 160 lbs., early 40s, 31" waist, 7.5-8" cut, social smoker, dark br. hair, bl. eyes. E-mail [canolli@myway.com](mailto:canolli@myway.com). I have pics.

50 y.o. BiWM, 6', 180 lbs., seeks man or men friends who need full oral service on a regular basis. LTR preferred. [www.fullfilmy-mouth@yahoo.com](http://www.fullfilmy-mouth@yahoo.com) [1]

WM, 57, in good shape, athletic, seeking to gratify wants and needs of mannish, kindly, gentlemen with private, personal pleasure and possible LTR. Reply to [www.gr8suknswallo2@yahoo.com](mailto:www.gr8suknswallo2@yahoo.com) [1]

BiWM, 44, 5'10", 190 lbs., clean, discreet, disease free, ISO BiWM 35-60, for oral pleasures, d/d free, discreet. **Oshkosh** area. (920) 251-2343 [1]

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

GWM, 50s, **Johnson Creek**, looking for a sex buddy. 6', tummy, great legs in stockings,

oral, anal. Feminine side looking for passion & sex. Available day or night at my place...drinks, hot videos & lots of sex. [jduchow@charter.net](mailto:jduchow@charter.net) [1]

Sexy, submissive, blond bi female; my Master has ordered me to seek dominant females, couples, fit/hung males (7" or more) to use me as their sex slave. Also seek submissive females/males to serve with me. Write w/ photo & SASE to Boxholder, 1528 S. Koeller Rd. (PMB 340), **Oshkosh**, WI 54902 [1]

**Racine** MWM 54yo CD/Tranny, passable at night, 5'11", blue eyes, blonde, slutty, trashy appearance, sensual, erotic, sweet, honest, sexy. Visiting from New Mexico, seeking men or CD/Tranny for intimacy/erotic exploration, dining, cookouts, chess, cocktails, hanging with. 1/2 is extreme liberal, I can be pure fun 4U. Not into games & not gold digger. Can entertain & gr8 cook. 9am-9pm NMCcell 505-459-6896

50 Nordic Calif. Redwoods Care Bear model: 6'2", br/bl, seeks blond or bl/gr 18-30s, long c-k, has goals, wants family +. Christopher, Box 1934, Redway, Calif. 95560 [1]

Zestful at 55, healthy as 19, many interests - sitting, active nature, vegas, seeking buddy! (773) 585-6275. **Chicago**/Tommy, or leave #.

**Eau Claire** area! WM, 48, heavy, seeks male(s) for occasional sex. I'm healthy, clean and discreet, expect same. Videos, condoms and lots of lube. Age, race, build unimportant. [jtec47@hotmail.com](mailto:jtec47@hotmail.com) [1]

Sexy, white, 45 years, pre-op transsexual. 5'8", 145 lbs., long br. hair, 36C chest, seeking white or hispanic male 25-40 for casual get-togethers. I've a very strong fetish for male feet, especially when you are wearing sweaty socks. Cathy, **Kenosha** (262) 605-9508 Mon.-Fri. after 5 pm only, or all day weekends. [1]

Male, 41, blond, nice build, looking for she-male in **Fox Valley (Green Bay to Fond du Lac)** area for fun. I like to go to bars, shoot pool, darts, dance and have a good time. E-mail [Farmstud20@yahoo.com](mailto:Farmstud20@yahoo.com) [1]

Interested in trading or watching Bel Ami videos? **Wausau** area. (715) 845-6467 [1]

40 y.o. Master seeks bi/str/gay/CD & trans males or female submissive slaves. Must have own place! All responses answered, but must explain why you should be my slave for discreet and safe sessions. Respond to Boxholder, PO Box 1282, **Brookfield**, WI [1]

BiWM, 40, good looking, in shape, 6', 195, sexy long blond hair, seeking hot, hung males for encounters. Love to give oral and more. Willing to dress for the occasion. Contact Boxholder, PO Box 511722, **Milw**, WI 53203

**Waukesha** single good looking 35 y.o. male, 160 lbs., will travel to meet male/female couples, lesbians looking for one-time stud, for wild sexual pleasure. No single men. E-mail [no1erocker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:no1erocker@sbcglobal.net) [1]

BiM seeks in shape, B/GM or couples, 25-50, for no strings attached fun. I'm in early 40s, great shape, smooth, inexperienced, but willing to try new things, no pain. Must be very discreet. E-mail to [saxowoe@yahoo.com](mailto:saxowoe@yahoo.com) [1]

51 y.o. totally submissive slave seeks a strict, dominant and controlling Master to train me to meet all of your needs. Seeking long term relationship as a slave and willing to do whatever my owner wishes. Call boy (414) 527-1613.

I live in the **Sheboygan** area...wanting to meet couples and select males for a great massage, no charge. E-mail [timfree5569@yahoo.com](mailto:timfree5569@yahoo.com) [1]

MTF transsexual seeking interested party willing to help with copying/printing, postage & distribution of a newsletter for incarcerated MTF transsexuals. Purpose of newsletter is to help these very isolated individuals develop a support system in one another as well as info which may help in their current circumstances. Circulation less than 500 every other month. Respond to: Quest (#105), PO Box 1961, **Green Bay**, WI 54305. (pd. ad)

ISO orally experienced individual to service uncut 50+ WM often. Can be crossdresser, TS, TV; submissive a +. Discretion assured. Tele # & best time to call: PMB 143, 1528 So. Koeller, **Oshkosh**, WI 54902 [1]

GWM, 175 lbs., 5'9", 6" cut, looking for a man (men) 18-40 to orally service on Sundays, your place. I love to swallow and do multiples. Must be D/D free and in good shape. Reply to [moonscape2006@yahoo.com](mailto:moonscape2006@yahoo.com)

GWM, 46, 152 lbs., buzzed head and goatee, very outgoing, ISO fun M2M, male couples or male/female couples. Into things from mild to wild. Interested?! **Milwaukee** area. (262) 219-9439 [2]

Friend or someone special wanted, or pen pal, travel partner! Love beaches, camping, picnics, fishing, shopping - 3658 W. 79th Pl., **Chicago**. I'll call u or (773) 569-6333. Tom. OR any new or 2nd job wanted/considered.

## WISCONSIN BAN OPPONENTS EXPAND OUTREACH, LAUNCH NEW TV ADS

**Madison** - New offices, new TV ads and outreach activities are marking the final 100 days of the campaign to defeat the proposed state constitutional ban on marriage and civil unions. New Fair Wisconsin offices have been opened in Eau Claire and LaCrosse in the last ten days, and a storefront location will open on Madison's State Street shortly. The new sites join the Green Bay, Madison and Milwaukee operations.

"We're growing exponentially every day as more people understand what's at stake," Fair Wisconsin Campaign Manager Mike Tate said July 26. "In recent weeks, we walked in the Marshfield Dairy parade, talked with voters at the Fond du Lac County Fair and this week alone, we'll canvass in nearly 20 communities - everywhere from Menomonie to Sheboygan."

Fair Wisconsin continues to build on its 28 community Action Networks, coordinators in every county of the state, nearly 7000 volunteers and unprecedented faith organizing.

"Through these new offices and online organizing, thousands of us are out talking about the ban every day—from church meetings in Green Bay to the Rock County 4-H Fair. These are people from different communities, different backgrounds and different faiths who are all working together to defeat this amendment," Tate said, "and it's efforts like these that will ensure Wisconsin votes no in November."

On the media front, it was another week, another new ad. The thus far one-sided mass media dialogue on the proposed amendment banning legal recognition of all unmarried couples continued July 24, when Fair Wisconsin began airing its second ad in three media markets covering nearly all of greater Wisconsin outside of the Madison/Milwaukee metro area.

The thirty second ad reinforces the arguments made earlier in July to viewers in Eau Claire, the Fox Cities, Green Bay, LaCrosse, Stevens Point, Wausau and surrounding areas about the the November 7 ballot measure. The ad explains that although voters will hear a lot about gay marriage, the ban is about much more than just gay marriage.

The ad repeats the explanation that the second sentence of the ban will outlaw civil unions and domestic partnerships for all unmarried couples - gay or straight - and the critical legal protections that would be available. "That so-called ban on gay mar-

riage - looks can be very deceiving," the narrator in the ad warns.

The second ad eschews directing viewers with Internet access to the website devoted to opposing the ban: [www.GetTheFactsWI.com](http://www.GetTheFactsWI.com), also affiliated with Fair Wisconsin. The new ads continue to supplement the work of a reported 7,000-plus volunteers canvassing door to door, phoning and speaking out to educate likely voters statewide about the far-reaching consequences of the amendment and to

encourage them to vote "No." Last weekend, volunteers knocked on thousands of likely voters' doors or spoke with people at fairs and farmer's markets in almost two dozen cities and towns throughout the state.

The "don't be deceived" message in the new ad appears to indirectly respond to a recent press release issued by the "Vote Yes On Marriage" campaign. On July 14, Julaine Appling issued a press release claiming the July 10 ad contained "outrageous lies," and took offense with even the

[www.TheShelterClub.com](http://www.TheShelterClub.com)

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"GetTheFactsWI" website name. However, the press release avoided directly challenging any of the substantive points of the Fair Wisconsin ad, referring instead to amendment language in a state where no court challenge has yet surfaced. Courts in Ohio, Michigan and Utah are currently considering a variety of issues triggered by the broad, vague language of the second sentences in those states' ratified amendments.

On July 27 Fair Wisconsin also previewed a third ad on the organization's website, featuring "person in the street" interviews with a variety of people trying to read and interpret the amendment language. The preview was part of a statewide email and media release "to raise at least \$10,000 in online contributions to put this on the air in western, central, and northeastern Wisconsin."

"We decided to take cameras into streets around the state to find out how people react when they read the text of the ban," the press release said. "When people actually take the time to read both sentences of the amendment, they immediately wonder

what it all means. They begin to suspect there's a whole lot more going on."

Ban supporters appear to be focusing on behind the scenes efforts with a claimed

with them," Appling said.

Appling also addressed apparent concern among some church members about jeopardizing their tax-exempt status. Appling saluted pastors who "aren't shirking their God-given responsibility as their community's moral gatekeeper just because someone says, 'What if we lose our tax-exempt status? Or what if gifts to our church aren't tax deductible any more?'"

FRI's political arm for the ban battle - Vote Yes On Marriage - has yet to do more than issue an occasional press release. The pro-amendment committee reported to the Wisconsin Election Board that it had raised only \$2,454 in donations and other contributions in the last fiscal quarter.

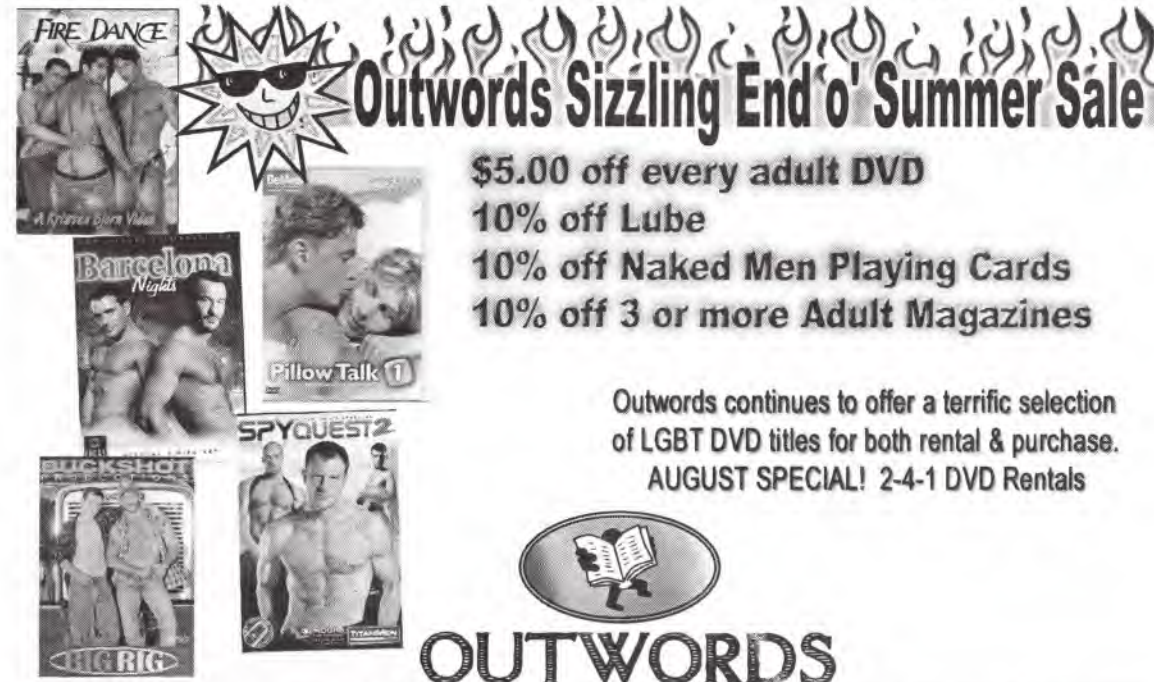
That contrasts with Fair Wisconsin's \$1.3 million raised, that included a \$275,000 in cumulative contributions by Madison philanthropist Dale Leibowitz. Other major donations to the group included \$80,000 from the Human Rights Campaign, \$25,000 from the state teachers' union and \$25,000 from Esmond Harmsworth, a Boston literary agent.

## ALL UNMARRIED COUPLES

DENY HEALTHCARE  
DENY MEDICAL DECISIONS  
DENY PENSIONS

5,000 faith communities "representing well over two million" congregants, according to the July 24 "Wisconsin Family Connection" broadcast by Family Research Institute of Wisconsin director Julaine Appling.

Appling also addressed apparent concerns about dissent over the amendment issue within those congregations. "These pastors have been undaunted in the face of congregants who disagree with them and threaten to leave, taking their money and influence



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<b>Selective Video</b> 2709 W. Beltline Hwy. Madison, WI 53713 608-271-3381 Open 24hrs.	<b>City News &amp; Video</b> 1606 Pearl Street Waukesha, WI 53186 262-513-8481 Open 24hrs.	<b>Supreme Video</b> 945 N. Wahsburn Street Oshkosh, WI 54904 920-235-2012 Open 24hrs.
<b>Special Souvenirs</b> 9284 Skyline Drive Allenton, WI 53002 920-488-2704 Open 24hrs.	<b>Select Video</b> 16475 W. Russell Road Zion, IL 60099 847-395-6142 Open Noon-Midnight, Mon-Sat	<b>Sheridan News &amp; Video</b> 12212 S. Sheridan Road Pleasant Prairie, WI 53140 262-694-6769 Open 9am-Midnight
<b>Success Video</b> 1819 Douglas Ave. Racine, WI 53402 262-638-2435 Open 9am-Midnight	<b>Super Video III</b> N6441 5th Ave. Plainfield, WI 54966 715-335-8277 Open 8am-midnight	<b>With this coupon receive 15% off any store purchase</b> Offer expires 8/16/06 Not valid with any other offer.

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**Appleton North** (1819 N. Oneida St.): Spacious 2 BR lower, all hardwood floors, deck, full basement, hookups, yard, 2-car garage, cat OK, \$600 mo. + sec. 1 yr. lease, smoking outside. (920) 915-1103 for showing. [1]

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**Roomy 3 BR / 1 BT lower duplex in South Milwaukee** (1307 E. Rawson Ave.), HW floors, yard adjacent, garage & street parking, W/D hook-up, pets OK, \$650 a mo. Security deposit required. (414) 587-9439 [2]

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**Roommates Wanted!** Newer country home, 10 acres of land to run on, utilities incl. \$300 mo. Call for info. **Iola/Waupaca** area. (715) 281-2529 after 2 pm. [2]

**Green Bay Room for Rent!** One of our roomies is transferring to UW-La Crosse; we have a rare opening. Comfy, no hassel, nice guys. \$205 mo., furnished. No security deposit required if you are reliable. Dsl & satellite already in room. (920) 436-9032. Mike. [2]

**Room for rent!** Gay male, 42, seeks roommate. Walking distance to bars, 10 x 50 deck, half shaded. Nicely decorated, secured **Milwaukee** location, shared bath, laundry in unit. \$275 mo. + half utilities. Jim (414) 765-9594 or e-mail [jimoclary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimoclary@sbcglobal.net) [2]

**Madison East Town**, 5 min. to MATC. Gay owned, quiet & secured clean 2 BR apt. Perfect for serious student or quiet professional. Private entrance, patio, garage, W&D in unit. A/C, large yard, everything you need. Available Aug. 15, \$725 mo. (608) 335-9740 [2]

**FOR SALE/EMPLOYMENT** 1975 Holiday Rambler 31' - sleeps 4, air conditioned, set up on

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## ACTIVIST GROUP ADMONISHES GAY LEADERS FOR "TUNNEL VISION" ON MARRIAGE

New York - Hoping to move beyond the narrow confines of marriage politics in the United States today, a coalition of leading lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists have issued a major statement titled, *Beyond Same-Sex Marriage: A New Strategic Vision for All Our Families and Relationships*.

Endorsed by over 250 notable signatories, the July 27 statement offered a new vision for securing governmental and private institutional recognition of diverse partnerships, households, kinship relationships and families. Signatories of the statement included *Tales Of The City* author Armistead Maupin, Columbia law professor Kendall Thomas, American University Law Professor Nancy Polikoff, Terry Boggis the director of the family program at the New York LGBT Community Center, and Joseph DeFilippis of Queers for Economic Justice.

While the document supports efforts to secure marriage equality for LGBT couples, it also states that "marriage is not the only worthy form of family or relationship, and it should not be legally and economically privileged above all others". The signers say that "the struggle for marriage rights should be part of a larger effort to strengthen the stability and security of diverse households and families".

Authored by a group of nearly twenty LGBT and queer organizers, scholars, lawyers, funders and writers, *Beyond Same-Sex Marriage* advocates for a flexible set of economic benefits and options, regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender/gender identity, class, or citizenship status. The document calls for the legal recognition for a wide range of relationships, households and families - regardless of kinship or conjugal status.

The statement also endorses access for all, regardless of marital or citizenship status, to vital government support programs including but not limited to health care, housing, Social Security and pension plans, disaster recovery assistance, unemployment insurance and welfare assistance.

The document also calls for separation of church and state in all matters, including regulation and recognition of relation-

ships, households and families, and "freedom from state regulation of our sexual lives and gender choices, identities and expression."

Authors of the statement observed that the LGBT movement's focus on marriage equality as a stand-alone issue has "left us isolated and vulnerable to a virulent backlash." They back same-sex marriage equality as a way to secure rights and benefits for some LGBT families, but say that the LGBT movement must "respond to the full scope of the conservative marriage agenda by building alliances across issues and constituencies".

Joseph N. DeFilippis, Executive Director of Queers for Economic Justice, noted that the document was signed on to by non-gay celebrities, as well as academics, LGBT activists and organizers, lawyers, and world-renowned artists. "(It) speaks to the great hunger for a strategy that is different, and more expansive," DeFilippis said. "It is obvious that people feel that our current strategies have failed to recognize the ways in which we actually lead our real lives, and the protections that all people deserve, regardless of whether they are coupled."

The *Beyond Same-Sex Marriage* statement noted that "U.S. Census findings reveal that a majority of people do not live in traditional nuclear families." The statement cited single parent households, senior citizens, blended and extended families, adult children caring for their parents, close friends or siblings living together and care-givers for those living with extended illness as constituencies who "will be helped by separating basic forms of legal and economic recognition from the requirement of marital and conjugal relationship."

"For the African-American community, marriage has never been the only way we make or define our families," Kenyon Farrow, a black gay activist and signatory said. "*Beyond Same-Sex Marriage* can shape policies to give dignity and protection to all of our families."

The full text of *Beyond Same-Sex Marriage: A New Strategic Vision for All Our Relationships and Families* - along with a current list of signatories - is available at [www.beyondmarriage.org](http://www.beyondmarriage.org).



## Diversion of the Day Community Calendar

**Saturday, August 5**  
**Guernsey Gala Softball Tournament**  
(Green Bay) at Perkins Park

**City Lights Chill (Milw.)** Patio Grand Opening

**Club ICON (Kenosha)** Wear your ICON T-shirt or dog tags and get in for only \$1

**Madison Gay Video Club**, 8pm *Sideline Secrets & Barcelona Nights*. (608) 244-8675 eve.

**Napalese (Green Bay) MISS NEW WI USofA Pageant**. Regist. 8 pm; show 10:30.

**Shelter (Green Bay)** The "Bomb Boys", go go dancers @11pm \$1 shots

**Positive Voice/Fox Cities PFLAG & Angels of Hope MCC picnic**, noon to 6 pm. Bring a dish.

**Sunday, August 6**  
**Ballgame (Milw)** Cribbage Tournament

**Tuesday, August 8**  
**BESTD FREE 30-min. HIV testing @ Midtowne Spa**, Milwaukee, 6-9 pm (also Aug. 23, Sept. 12 & 27)

**Friday, August 11**  
**LaCage (Milw)** Cher & Cher Alike 10:30pm  
Transformation presents an all Cher lineup,  
Silent Auction during show: benefits ARCW  
**Shelter (Green Bay)** Kitty Litter Show 11pm  
Raffle after show benefits Guernsey Gala

**Saturday, August 12**  
**Captain Dix (Wis Dells)** Mr & Ms Captain Dix Pageant

**City Lights Chill (Milw.)** Full Moon Party  
**Shelter (Green Bay)** 2006 Guernsey Gala Closing Ceremony benefits ARCW also 80's Night afterwards

**XS Niteclub (Green Bay)** 7th Annual Sage LaRue Memorial Show. Sabrina White, Kofi & Miss Duwanna Moore featured. Show 10:30 pm; champagne reception at 9:00

**Monday, August 14**  
**Outwards Book Club (Milw.)** meets at 7:30 pm; *Full Circle* by Michael Thomas Ford is up for discussion.

**Tuesday, August 15**  
**Ballgame (Milw)** Softball Team Fundraiser Drawing held today. Win a trip to Las Vegas!

**Friday, August 18**  
**BOOM (Milw)** Dr Slippy's Birthday Party 9pm  
**Tazzbah (Milw)** Wear leather and get 2-4-1

**Saturday, August 19**  
**Argonauts & Castaways Joint Run at the Hilbert Farm; sign up now.** Very little space left. You just might win a prize for the best themed campsite and/or find new friends.

**Bare Mens Group Gathering - a nude gathering 1329 Center St., Racine.** (262) 637-2848

**City Lights Chill (Milw.)** Underwear Party  
**Madison Gay Video Club**, 8 pm: *Adam & Steve* and *Deep Water Beach Patrol*. (608) 244-8675 evenings

**Wednesday, August 23**  
**BESTD FREE HIV testing @ Midtowne Spa**, Milwaukee, 6-9 pm (also Sept. 12 & 27)

**Thursday, August 24**  
**FORGE**, meeting 6-9 pm. Neal Moglowsky, LPC, of the Center for Behavioral Medicine will discuss *Dialectical Behavioral Therapy: Setting the Stage for Trauma Resolution*. (414) 559-2123 / [www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org)

**Friday, August 25**  
**BOOM (Milw)** The ROOM Presents: The Follies Brassiers, a benefit for the Milw. G/L Community Trust Fund.

**Saturday, August 26**  
**ARTBAR (Milw)** ACLU Happy Hour 4-7pm  
A benefit for Fair Wisconsin

**Captain Dix (Wis Dells)** Under the Sea party & swim suit contest FREE Dells boat cruise with room (2 hour cruise starts 2:30 pm)

**Sunday, August 27**  
**Boot Camp Saloon (Milw)** Annual August White Party, a benefit for the G/L Community Trust Fund. Complimentary wine, hors d'oeuvres, donations appreciated.

**C'est La Vie (Milw)** A special party in memory of John Clayton (ask bar for details)

**Wednesday, August 30**  
**Club ICON (Kenosha)** Karaoke Contest begins (Wed nites) \$500 1st \$100 2nd \$50 3rd

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND**  
**Welcome Dairyland Classic Softball Palyers!**

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND Saturday, September 2**  
**SWITCH (Milw)** Laborday weekend Foam Party

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND Sunday, Sept 3**  
**Tazzbah (Milw)** Summer's End Picnic 5-10pm

**Tuesday, Sept. 12**  
**BESTD HIV free testing @ Midtowne Spa**, Milwaukee, 6-9 pm (also Wed., Sept. 27)

**Wednesday, Sept. 27**  
**BESTD HIV free testing @ Midtowne Spa**, Milwaukee, 6-9 pm

**AIDS WALK WISCONSIN**  
Sat., Sept. 30 - Milwaukee  
[www.aidswalkwis.org](http://www.aidswalkwis.org)

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## Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie (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. Send your questions to Uncle Barbie: AskUncleBarbie@msn.com.

### Dear Uncle Barbie,

I saw you at the Witch's Ball, and I was just wondering something. How do you handle all the social harassment for being both gay and Pagan? I have been slowly coming out of the closet for several years now, and I am still not totally out publicly. I have also recently discovered my spiritual path with Wicca. However, I have been hassled by my Christian friends for becoming a pagan. I can only imagine how much more rejection I would run into if I came out of the "broom closet" to my family and coworkers. Is this what every witch goes through when they reveal their religious preference? And I thought that coming out as a lesbian was difficult!!! Signed, Mooncat

### Hello Mooncat,

In recent years, the Pagan community has experienced many displays of religious persecution and hatred from so called "Christians." Self-righteous fundamentalists threaten to destroy our Pagan culture and take away our freedoms. Publicly acknowledged Witches/Pagans have been unjustly criticized in this town (and other cities) just for simply existing. It is at moments like these that we need to remember that now is the time for peace—not hate. I am not saying that we should tolerate hatred, but instead we need to counteract it spiritually with positive energy. The "Giver of Life" (by any name) asks that we love one another and to lead by example.

When I first "came home" to the Craft 12 years ago and had my first degree initiation into a coven, I despised the Christian religion that I was raised with because they had persecuted Pagans for so many years (and some continues to do so). Interestingly, as I matured in my spiritual growth, I discovered that I did not need to verbally attack my previous religion in order to establish myself as being separate from it. Everyone has his or her own spiritual path in life, and all of us are at a different spiritual stage of development. That is the reason why there are so many different religions in the world instead of just one. Every religion serves some purpose in helping others grow in their spiritual evolution.

Whether it is religious persecution, racism, or homophobia, all forms of prejudice must be addressed and rectified. However, the people who hold prejudicial views must be treated with justice and love because to hate them back is to think and become like them! The "Creator" is pure love, so how can anyone spread hatred in Her name. No religion in the world says that it is okay to degrade or mistreat fellow human beings. As an ordained Pagan minister, I believe that we are on Mother Earth to love all living things. It is not our place to judge.

So Mooncat, the next time one of your Christian friends start



to get on your case about being Pagan, just speak to them in words that Christians understand—Jesus said, "Let whoever is without sin cast the first stone." (I know it is a stretch for a White Witch, like me, to quote Jesus, but what the Hell.) If we work to fight against prejudicial views with pure love, others may follow our example.

Goddess Bless You, Barbie

### Dear Uncle Barbie,

I have been having really weird dreams lately. Sometimes I am trying to run, but can't. Sometimes, I am falling and sometimes I am flying. What does all of this mean? I know that there are many different explanations for dreams, so I was wondering what yours is? Signed, Restless Sleeper

### Hello Sleeper,

I think of dreams as being like a playful child that lives deep within the mind and only communicates to us when we are asleep. Is your dream child talking to you? What is it saying? Pay attention to your dreams because they carry messages for you. Any good dream analyst knows that a dream can warn you about pending danger, or direct you to good fortune. It's like having a little guardian-fairy in your head.

So what is a dream, anyway? For some people, dreams tend to be emotionally based. Biologically speaking, your brain is continually working and processing the sensory information signals that your body sends it. Psychologically speaking, the mind also tries to figure out emotions and make sense of them. We are constantly experiencing emotions (to some degree of another), even during sleep. When you experience these emotions during your sleep, the brain makes a dream out of it (kind of like a movie). It's the mind's way of dealing with that feeling.

So when you try to interpret your dreams, ask yourself, "What emotion did I experience during the dream?" Too many people try to interpret their dreams by focusing only on the symbols of the dream, and they ignore the feelings. I believe that the core message of your dream lies in the heart of your emotions. Usually these are emotions that people are not comfortable expressing when they are awake. Put differently, dreams are avenues of expression for feelings that must be heard, but which cannot be expressed in the awakened state. That's why so many of our dreams are of a sexual nature. People may feel anxious about their sexual desires, and therefore force those emotions into the subconscious where they later surface in a dream form when the person's guards are down. So pay close attention to your dream fairy, and let it guide you on your magical path. -- Dream On, Barbie

## DISGRACED CLOSET CASE SPOKANE MAYOR DEAD OF COLON CANCER

Seattle - The former mayor of Spokane, Washington, who was booted out of office last year after a sex scandal, died on July 22 of cancer. James West, 55, died at the University of Washington Medical Center here with his family and pastor by his side, his family said, according to a medical center spokesman.

According to *The Spokesman-Review*, the Spokane newspaper that ran articles that led to West's ouster, West died after a three-

year battle with colon cancer. In December, 2005 Spokane residents voted to recall the conservative politician following reports that he had offered city jobs to young men in hopes of having sex with them.

The former Boy Scout leader had been a prominent Republican political figure and leading state legislator until 2003, when he resigned to run for mayor of Washington's second-largest city. While a legislator, West had co-sponsored a bill

that would have made it a crime for unmarried teenagers to have sex, and often opposed gay rights proposals.

*The Spokesman-Review* said West trawled gay chat rooms and websites, quoting three young men who said they had communicated over the Internet with West and had been offered city jobs or positions by him.

Confronted with the reports, West acknowledged he had led a double life but denied offering anything in exchange for sex. He also denied misusing his city-owned computer during the Internet exchanges or for downloading pornography.

## REPORT CLAIMS U.S. GAY RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

New York - A new report has alleged the United States isn't doing enough to protect its gay citizens from discrimination and abuse and asks the United Nations to intercede. The report, released July 17 by the human rights organization Global Rights, came the same day that U.S. officials were to be questioned by the U.N. Human Rights Committee in Geneva.

The report, titled "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender & Intersex Human Rights in the United States" could spur U.N. officials to grill the U.S. delegation about gay rights and protections.

The committee questioning, scheduled to

occur July 17 and 18, is the first inquiry of its kind regarding human rights in the U.S. since 1995, according to Mark Bromley, a Global Rights spokesperson. Questions were expected to focus on war-related issues, like the handling of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, but gay rights advocates hoped U.N. officials would give some attention to their issues.

"What we're hoping is this [report] will convince [the U.N. Human Rights Committee] to ask probing questions of the official U.S. delegation about human rights as it applies to LGBT Americans," Bromley said. "In particular, we're trying to

push the committee to ask the U.S. government how it plans to deal with gaps in the legal framework for LGBT Americans."

The report alleges several "major gaps" in protections for gay Americans. It says that "standardized non-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression" are needed at the federal level. The report also notes that 21 states, and federal codes, still lack hate crime statutes that cover real or perceived sexual orientation. "The failure of many states and the federal government to add sexual orientation to the categories of bias motivated hate crimes," the report said, "creates the impression that those crimes are less serious than other bias motivated crimes."

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Bromley claimed U.N. officials appeared ready to criticize U.S. claims that ample rights and protections already are in place. "There's a sense that the committee will issue a fairly strong rebuke," he said, "but whether the U.S. will take it to heart is another question."

## FIRST OPENLY-GAY LEGISLATORS ELECTED IN ALABAMA & OKLAHOMA

Patricia Todd made history on July 18 when voters in Alabama's 54th legislative district voted to send the Democrat to the State House. Todd led community activist Gaynell Hendricks by a scant 59 votes in the runoff race. With 100% of boxes reporting, the unofficial count showed Todd had 1,173 votes, or 51%, to Hendricks 1,114 or 49%.

Todd will replace retiring veteran legislator George Perdue. Todd, 50, currently serves as the associate director of AIDS Alabama. She said being gay was not a part of her campaign, nor was the fact that she is white and was seeking election in a majority black district.

"I concentrate on talking about the district," Todd said, referring to the racially and economically diverse district which stretches from a suburban community through Birmingham and includes some of the city's richest and poorest areas. "Other people have focused on the gay issue or my being white, but that has not been a part of my platform. The issue to me is poverty in Alabama."

Howard Bayless, board chair for the LGBT advocacy group Equality Alabama said Todd's campaign was not about her being gay. "She's an incredible candidate and she has had an incredible message and it's been an incredible journey for all of us," Bayless said. "This is totally about who's the best candidate."

Todd led the June 6 primary, but did not receive the more than 50% vote total needed to avoid the runoff with Hendricks. Two of the other three candidates in the primary endorsed Todd, raising expectations for her in the runoff. Todd also received the endorsement of the national Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund.

In Oklahoma City Democrat Al McAffrey won a three-candidate primary race July 25 with 51% of the vote, avoiding a runoff in the House District 88 seat in the heart of Oklahoma City. No Republicans filed for the seat.

McAffrey, a longtime Oklahoma City funeral director and a Navy veteran, said he didn't hide his sexual orientation, but didn't make it the focus of his campaign. The District 88 seat was held by longtime state Representative Debbie Blackburn, who is being forced out of office because of term limits.

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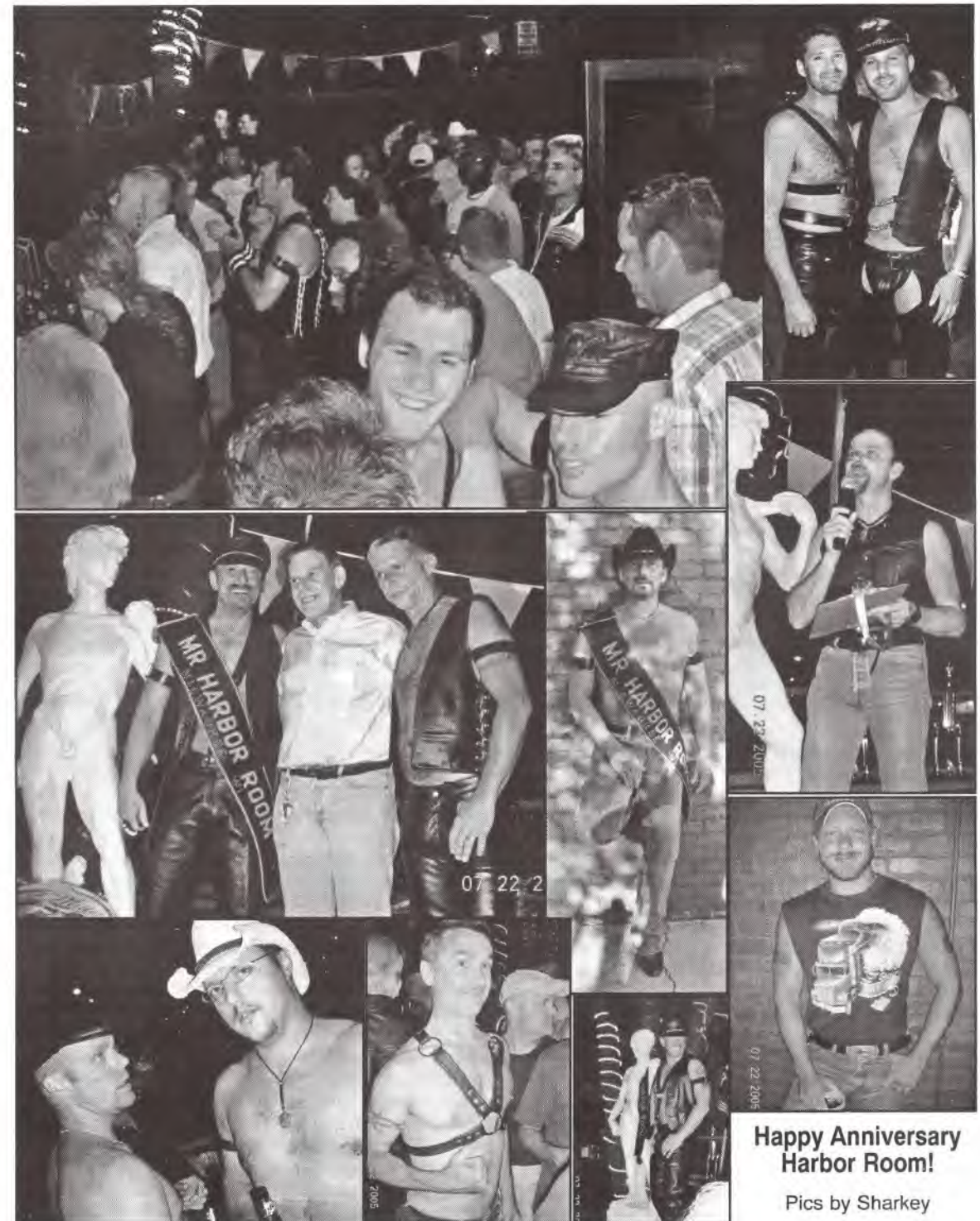


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## GEORGE MICHAEL CAUGHT IN THE BUSHES AGAIN, WILL SUE PHOTOGRAPHER



**London** - George Michael is planning legal action against a photographer who snapped him cruising for sex on Hampstead Heath, he revealed July 28. The singer believes he is a victim of harassment and that he should not have to worry about who is watching him in the early hours.

He has no plans, however, to take action against the *News of the World*, which printed pictures of the star returning to his Mercedes coupe on the heath after reportedly picking up a 58-year-old jobless van driver from Brighton on July 23.

Michael told BBC News 24 that he was sick of coverage of his private life. "I have done nothing this year against the law, I've done nothing to encourage talk about my sex life," he said. The question is not whether I bring it to the public, but it is why do I have to defend it in public, because I don't want to talk about it at all."

Michael claims that he unashamed about cruis-

ing. "I don't know anybody who actually goes to Hampstead Heath at two o'clock in the morning for anything other than playing about with another member of the human race. If they are there, then they are a little bit strange or they just don't know the local area. A very large part of the male population, gay or straight, totally understands the idea of anonymous and no-strings sex," the singer said.

Michael, who begins a 25th anniversary tour in September, has been upset by newspaper reports that followed the tabloid story. After one suggested his boyfriend, Kenny Goss, had called off their planned civil partnership, he felt compelled on July 25 to ring up a popular British television talk show. He denied the suggestion and revealed he had spent more than a million pounds on a tenth anniversary present for Goss.

In the BBC interview Michael says he is suing the photographer "because they're [photographers] harassing me and I should not have to worry about who's watching me at 2.30 in the morning."

It has been a bumpy year for Michael. He was in the news in April after he allegedly struck three cars with his Range Rover before driving off, and a month before that he was cautioned by police for possessing marijuana after they found him asleep at the wheel of his car.

Nor is it his first cruising scandal. He came out to the world in 1998 after he was caught by police in a Los Angeles park toilet. He was fined and ordered to carry out community service for lewd behavior.

## COLORADO GAY DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP CAMPAIGN GOING TO THE DOGS

**Colorado Springs** - Opposing groups working to sway voter opinion on same-sex unions have turned their campaigns into a true dogfight. The battle between Norman versus Sherman also pits two Colorado-based institutions against each other: the gay-friendly Gill Foundation and James Dobson's Focus On The Family.

In late June, pictures of a little Brittany spaniel named Norman began appearing on Colorado Springs light posts, billboards and television ads, uttering a one-syllable "Moo" instead of a "Woof."

It was the Gill Foundation's \$900,000 campaign to boost its message that gays & lesbians are "born different" & don't really choose their sexual preference. That message was expanded on [www.borndifferent.org](http://www.borndifferent.org).

Filmed locally, the "Born Different" campaign has told the story of Norman, who differs from his littermates in one way: He moos. Five 30-second television spots traced the floppy-eared protagonist's journey from pariah pup through reparative therapy (a bulldog vainly tries to teach Norman to bark) to adored adoptee of a woman who rescues him from the pound.

The borndifferent website's narrative makes the campaign's premise explicit: "You can't change the way you were born. If you disagree, ask yourself this one simple question: When did you choose to be straight?" The campaign targets neither religious fundamentalists nor gay-rights activists, but a "fat middle zone" of heterosexuals who have never

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seriously considered the nature of sexual orientation.

"Obviously, Norman is a metaphor," campaign spokesman Bobby Rauzon said. "Too often, these types of discussions [about homosexuality] are overcome by political agendas, or it becomes an issue of marriage or religion ... We're interested in having people think of this in personal terms."

No sooner had Norman mooed than the machinery of Focus on the Family whirled to life to counter the Gill message. James Dobson's Colorado Springs-based ministry stands firmly against same-sex marriage, gay rights initiatives and, now, mooing puppies.

On July 17, Focus unveiled its new "straight" puppy website, [www.no-moo-](http://www.no-moo-lies.com)

[lies.com](http://www.no-moo-lies.com), featuring a basset hound named Sherman, who barks as biology intended. During a news conference, a Focus employee dressed in a dog suit, who serves as a mascot at the group's visitors center, made a brief appearance. "Dogs aren't born mooing, and people aren't born gay," a Focus news release stated.

The dueling doggies were dropped into the city that gays and lesbians have nicknamed "Ground Zero" for being the birthplace of Amendment 2, the 1992 measure that banned anti-discrimination laws for homosexuals. The amendment was approved by state voters but declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1996.

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## UK REPORT: GAY MEN EARN 6% LESS THAN THEIR STRAIGHT CO-WORKERS

**London** - Gay men face considerably lower wages than their heterosexual colleagues and are less likely to be in work, despite the introduction of a law to prevent discrimination against sexual orientation in the workplace more than two and a half years ago, a report said July 28.

Men in same-sex relationships were paid 6% less than their heterosexual counterparts and were 3% less likely to be employed, according to an article in the Centre for Economic Performance's CentrePiece magazine. However, lesbian women in couples were paid about 11% more than heterosexual equivalents and were 12% more likely to be in work, partly due to child care commitments

heterosexual women might have, the report said.

Workplace inequality worsened for gay men and lesbians if they were below 40 or employed in the private sector. The pay gap for gay male couples widened to 7% if they worked in the private sector and to 8% if they are aged 40 or younger. Lesbians in couples still earned more than heterosexuals, but the premium was pared back to 9% if they were below 40 and even further to 6% if they worked in the private sector.

Raw data also found that gay couples were typically more educated and more likely to live in London, reasons for suggesting their pay might be higher, but once differences in age, education, race and regional settlement were taken into account, gaps in hourly wage and employment were discovered.

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couldn't even raise enough funds for commercials! HRC gave only token seed money because they thought something could be gained by prioritizing the bulk of their resources on Oregon voters that year.

Well, the results were impressive over there in Oregon with 44% voters on our side, but it wasn't enough to keep it out of their state constitution, probably because the language lacked a far-reaching collateral damage clause that pertains to unmarried straight couples; whereas, yours does (as if the ban on gay marriage, itself, wasn't enough to vote no). Nevertheless, I do believe that we will win here in November because: Wisconsin is different; and Wisconsin is progressive; and Wisconsin is *fair*...and "A Fair Wisconsin Votes No."

I moved to Georgia in 1982, just as my home state became the first state in the nation to enact the first gay rights law. Twenty-four years later, Wisconsin can make history again and to serve as a model for other states facing the same aggravating nonsense we are dealing with now. Because we're making this November election relevant to them, I envision a large coattails effect from our push to get the fair-minded voters to the polls. I also envision swelling with pride on November 7. I'm also running my mouth right now to my gay friends here in Georgia about the impressive campaign that Fair Wisconsin is running.

Lastly, and most importantly: If this Georgia gay man can volunteer part of his vacation time in Wisconsin to help out with "A Fair Wisconsin Votes No", then what is the excuse y'all have in not getting involved with attaining a victory *within your reach* on your own home turf? (I encourage you to contrast how 76% of Georgia voters in 2004 voted for the constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage *versus* the latest polling data of Wisconsin citizens, most likely to vote upon the same cookie-cutter language on your November ballot.)

At what point will you *start* getting involved? Or, do you want to resign yourself to feeling like a third-class citizen, as how we feel here in Georgia (because even civil unions are now banned down south here)?

Sincerely,

D Marlin Knapp, Lawrenceville, GA

## Activist Taylor Dead At 81



Milwaukee - Eloquent gay activist and World War II veteran Richard Taylor succumbed to stomach cancer here July 28, just a month shy of what would have been his Golden Anniversary with partner Ray Vahey. The couple have been outspoken opponents of Wisconsin's proposed civil union ban. They testified at legislative hearings in Madison and have told the story of their half century love affair to thousands around the state. Visitation was held August 2 and Taylor was interred at Forest Home Cemetery. The family has asked that memorials in Richard's name be donated to Fair Wisconsin, P. O. Box 2102, Madison, WI 53701.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR: A GEORGIA PEACH BATTLES WISCONSIN'S PROPOSED CIVIL UNION BAN

(Editor's Note: Quest's news editor Mike Fitzpatrick met the author of the following opinion piece July 22 while the two were working on a volunteer canvass in Green Bay. Fitzpatrick encouraged him to follow through on his idea to share his very special story with Quest's readers.



Marlin is a 53-year-old Wisconsin native who now lives in suburban Atlanta with his long-time partner and their cat Bubba. Marlin's partner declined to be identified because of an association with state government. Marlin works for Quest Diagnostics, the nation's largest provider of clinical lab testing. His employer scores an 85% on HRC's Corporate Equality Index.

Marlin also volunteered to battle Georgia's anti-marriage/civil union amendment by doing "opposition research". Marlin currently serves as president of an evolving neighborhood association.)

Last week I visited Wisconsin to celebrate my mother's 90th birthday. I kept it in the back of my mind that, if the election were held today, she and others in my family would probably vote yes on the ban against civil unions and marriage. They would do so, knowing fully well they have an imme-

diately openly gay family member in me.

It's a "hot button," emotional issue with me. Like Mary Cheney, I really don't believe in begging others for what ought to be my civil rights. I'll let others do that for me, when it comes time to lobby my own dysfunctional family members.

However, I did ask my supportive gay-friendly niece if she saw any evidence that Fair Wisconsin was making headway in getting our points across to the general public.

Very delighted was I to learn from her that the first Fair Wisconsin commercial was being broadcast to my hometown people in Clintonville from the Green Bay media market. She described it to me in detail and added that she thought it was powerfully effective.

Then I saw it with my own eyes, while watching TV with my mom. I wholeheartedly agree with my niece's opinion. As soon as I was able, I visited [www.fairwisconsin.com](http://www.fairwisconsin.com) to learn much more. Even though I was only going to be in Wisconsin for a few more days, I volunteered to help in the Fox Valley and Green Bay.

The very next day, I received a call on my cell phone from volunteer coordinator Mitch. I made it a point to get involved with getting

signatures on a petition in the Appleton farmer's market. But that wasn't enough. I wanted to do more. I met up with Mitch and he gave me a short training session. After that I did door-to-door canvassing of voters on streets in Green Bay on Saturday and, again, in Appleton on Sunday afternoon. That still wasn't enough and I felt the urge to do more.

Well, here it is: My purpose in writing this letter is to let your readers know that Fair Wisconsin is doing all the right things! As far as I'm concerned, anyone, who contributes dollars to "A Fair Wisconsin Votes No" message, can expect a high rate of return from their money. Based on the reactions of voters, with whom I spoke in northeast Wisconsin, I have never felt so confident that Wisconsin will be the first state to buck the falling dominoes effect that we've seen so far in all the states that approved a marriage discrimination amendment to their constitutions.

You guys stand a lot better chance of defeating this mean-spirited amendment proposal than what we had here in Georgia! All the while we were resisting basically the same language to be found on our November ballots in 2004, Georgia GLBT's had a gut feeling in our stomachs that we were going to lose. (I encountered substantially more voters blinded by anti-gay religious dogma in Georgia than I did in my foray on Wisconsin turf.) Why, we



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## HRL-PAC FUNDRAISER FEATURES GOVERNOR DOYLE



**Milwaukee** - The community is invited to support pro-LGBT political candidates at the 5th Annual Human Rights League Summer Garden Party on Sunday, August 13. Governor Jim Doyle will be the featured speaker, and the event will be held in the private garden of Milwaukee's award-winning rose gardener, Bill Radler.

The event will be held from 1-3:30 PM at Radler's home, 10020 West Meadow Drive in Greenfield, near the Boerner Botanical Gardens, a ten minute drive from downtown Milwaukee.

The annual Summer Garden Party raises money for candidates in Wisconsin who will work for and defend lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality.

"With the amendment to ban civil unions on the ballot in a cynical ploy to hurt the LGBT community and Governor Doyle, it's more important than ever for the LGBT community and its allies to support pro-LGBT candidates," HRL-PAC President Paul Williams said.

While there is much attention focused on the amendment and Governor Doyle's re-

election, there are several other critical races in the fall. "By winning just a few key legislative races, we can make it clear the LGBT community cannot and should not be used as a scapegoat by right-wing politicians," Williams noted.

Governor Doyle is known nationally as a public official who strongly defends LGBT



equality. He has repeatedly denounced the amendment to ban civil unions and recently appointed an out gay judge to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Mr. Radler is the former Garden Director of the Boerner Botanical Gardens, but he is perhaps best known today as the creator of the trademarked Knock Out rose, which has received the prestigious All-America Rose Selections award plus numerous international awards. In 2005, the Knock Out was the most purchased landscape rose in the country.

Radler has also introduced several other new hybrid roses, and in 2007 he will introduce his second AARS winning rose, the Rainbow Knock Out, the most sought after new variety of rose. As a special treat, Mr. Radler will have Rainbow Knock Outs on display at the event.

## AIDS WALK WISCONSIN 2006 SET FOR SEPT. 30

**Milwaukee** - The 17th annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin has been set for Saturday, September 30 along the city's Lakefront. This year's "Soles Helping Souls"-themed event will be the walk that pushes the total amount of money raised for the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin to over \$9 million.

As of July 26, 1500 people are registered for AIDS Walk, a quarter of the way toward a goal of 6,000. Walk organizers said the figure is approximately one month ahead of where they have been over the past couple of years.

The walk also has secured more than \$150,000 in in-kind sponsorship for the event. Organizers also have secured more than \$75,000 in corporate sponsorship dollars for the Walk, putting them well within striking range of this year's \$100,000 goal!

The primary beneficiary of this year's Walk is the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. ARCW has nine offices across Wisconsin and will serve more than 3,000 patients this year. ARCW uses money raised at the Walk to support a variety of aggressive and innovative HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs like the Bag Boyz and the IM Sex Ed internet program.

Money also is used to fund ARCW's Primary Care health program for individuals living with HIV/AIDS that is available to anyone regardless of their ability to pay. The overwhelming majority of ARCW's clients do not have health insurance.

The Walk also funds the only HIV specific dental clinic in Wisconsin, legal and housing services for people living with HIV and AIDS.

In 2005, 374 new cases of HIV infection were reported in Wisconsin. More than 9,100 cases of HIV have been reported in Wisconsin since 1983.

AIDS Walk Wisconsin has had a long tradition of presenting celebrity honorary chairs who have a passion for the fight against AIDS. Better Midler, Danny Glover, Chastity Bono, Tipper Gore, and Gregg Louganis have joined AIDS Walk Wisconsin to talk about their connection to the cause and thank walkers for their commitment and dedication. The announcement of the honorary chair for this year's walk has been scheduled to be announced on Tuesday, August 1, after *Quest's* deadline.

For more information about this year's walk, visit [www.aidswalkwis.org](http://www.aidswalkwis.org). Registrants may also call 1-800-348-WALK, or contact organizers by email at: [aidswalkwisconsin@arcw.org](mailto:aidswalkwisconsin@arcw.org).

## DOOR COUNTY ARTIST'S EXHIBITION OPENS



**Milwaukee** - The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents a new art exhibition featuring Ram Rojas. His show of collected works spans an extensive range of media, styles and subjects.

Born in Venezuela, Ram Rojas studied at the National Art Academy in Caracas as well as in India, Italy, France, Los Angeles, New York. He now makes his home in Door County, Wisconsin.

Rojas' ability to manage a variety of media and subjects ranging from classical oils to impeccably rendered watercolors, to delicate drawings and airbrush portraits have become his trademark.

Rojas was exposed to art and culture early in childhood. His instructors recognized his natural talent and interrupted his academy studies to send him to the United States along with other young artists from Europe, China and Australia for advanced art training. After extensive study, he was invited to participate in projects and shows in Los Angeles, New York and West Virginia, where there is permanent display of his work.

An international publishing company took notice. His masterful pieces became a regular part of their books and magazines covering a wide variety of interests.

Later, Rojas traveled to Europe and studied the old masters' works. While there, Rojas' work was printed in multi-language publications around the world; illustrating history, religion, art, mythology, philosophy and science books. His publishers sent him on an educational tour to India to study ancient cultures, methods and theory of oriental art.

After returning to America, Rojas studied at the Barnstone Studios in Philadelphia where he consolidated his intricate, wide experience with universal basic principles of design, anatomy,

composition and color theory.

For the last decade, Rojas has been working in his own studio on the Door County peninsula and has painted a series of watercolors and oils of the upper Midwest. He became fascinated with the beauty of everyday existence in the region. Things we may take for granted, hold a special quality of life and wisdom of tradition in Rojas' eyes.

The artist's integrity and dedication, combined with his unique cross cultural exposure and natural talent, make him an exciting contemporary artist and a valuable asset to universal artistic expression.

"Ram Rojas - Collected Works" opened Friday, July 21 with an artist's reception at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street. The show runs through August 25. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 10 AM - 4 PM and by appointment.

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