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PROP 8 RULING & TARGET BOYCOTT DOMINATED RECENT LGBT NEWS

by Mark Mariucci

LGBT activists around the US celebrated Judge Walker's ruling overturning the discriminatory Prop 8 law passed in California. Imediately there was a stay on the implimentation of the ruling pending an appeal. Meanwhile California Govenor Arnold Schwarzenegger called for the stay to be removed and allow same sex marriages to resume.

California attorney general Jerry Brown had also written in favor of allowing same-sex marriages to resume even though he previously opposed a request to block Prop. 8 prior to trial.

Republicans as well as Democrats around the US have been strangely silent on the issue wishing to avoid it possibly due to the upcoming elections which they want focused on the economy.

"Today is, in no uncertain terms, historic," said Jody M. Huckaby, executive director of PFLAG National. "With this monumental ruling, all families win and at last have the security of knowing that all of our loved ones — both straight and gay — have the same freedom to marry. Today's ruling sent the message that equality means equality for all."

The ruling will now be appealed and most thing it will end up at the Supreme Court. A decision in favor of striking Prop 8 there would have far reaching effect on other states and their ruling including Wisconsin.

Green BayTV station Fox 11 quoted Law professor and former Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Janine Geske, "It doesn't impact us right now. It's one federal judge deciding on the California constitutional amendment. If the united states supreme court would reach a similar decision, it would mean the constitutional amendment that we have voted for and passed would be unconstitutional. But we're a

long way away from that happening."

The Green bay news station also spoke with Julaine Appling, president of Wisconsin Family Action. "The ruling from the judge is hardly surprising, however, it is disappointing and it is distressing to think that a single judge can undo the will of over a million people in California."

LGBT activists would argue it is the job of the courts to protect a unfavored minority from the will of a majority when they vote to discriminate.

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin stated in a prepared release. "We live in a democracy wherein majority rule is checked and balanced by the guarantee of inalienable minority rights. This case, as it wends its way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, presents jurists with fundamental questions about minority rights and majority rule. I believe Judge Walker got it right, declaring that denial of marriage rights and protections to gay and lesbian citizens violates the Constitution even if it reflects the will of the majority of Californians," said Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Co-Chair of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus.

The fight to bring marriage equality to the LGBT community is far from over. Rea Carey, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force writes, "The tide is turning nationwide in favor of marriage equality, but our work is far from over. Today's ruling is just a beginning step in what will likely be a long process, yet we are confident that fairness will prevail. Our conversations are breaking down barriers and helping to transform our country."

For more complete coverage online see QNU @ www.quest-online.com

The other story of special interest to Wisconsin's LGBT community was news of Best Buy and more importantly Target corporate headquarters giving money to political group Minnesota Forward that aims to elect anti-gay Republican Tom Emmer.

Target alone gave \$150,000 with Best Buy contributing 100,000. Consumers have taken to Facebook to call for a boycott of Target that has been growing virally for the past week.

Target defended its action in an email to employees saying Target's political donations are intended to support business objectives such as job creation and economic growth. Target also said its support of the gay community is "unwavering."

Best Buy also informed employees of its decision but had gotten only a handful of phone calls

Of curious interest is the other candidate that is running against Emmer. Pro-gay former U.S. senator Mark Dayton is in the lead heading into the August 10 Democratic primary. The Advocate wrote in an article published July 30, "An heir to Dayton-Hudson Corp. fortune, Mark Dayton is the great-grandson of George Dayton, who stared the Dayton's department store chain. In 1962, Dayton's opened the first Target, a discount department store." Mark Dayton's has promised to tax the richest Minnesotans which is a position Target and Best Buy oppose as being bad for job growth in Minnesota.

HRC had rated Target and Best Buy at 100% with its corporate scoring system calling into question its system as being flawed.

Target has since appologized to the LGBT community for an "insensitive political contributions" promised increased responsibility for future contributions.



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OUTREACH CHANGES DATE ON AWARDS BANQUET

Madison - Outreach, Madison & south central Wisconsin's LGBT Community Center has announce a change of date for the 18th annual awards banquet. The change comes as a result of the original date, September 17 conflicts with a Jewish holiday. The new date is Friday, September 24 and will still be held at the Monona Terrace. The schedule of times and speakers remains unchaged.

"When we set the date for our event over a year ago we were not aware of the conflict with the Jewish holiday Yom Kippur. We apologize for scheduling the event on the eve of this important holiday, and for the inconvenience that the date change may cause people," Harry Straetz, Program Director stated in a press release send to Quest.

Tickets are on sale now. Call (608)255-8582 or go to www.lgbtoutreach.org for more information.

SMOKING CESSATION PROGRAM CONTINUES AUGUST 19TH & 26TH

Milwaukee - Room2Breath is an LGBT smoking cessation program co-sponsored by Diverse and Resilient and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. The seven week quit group series is held at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center at 315 W. Court Street from 6 to 8pm.

Wisconsin became smoke-free in bars, restaurantsand all other public buildings on July 5. For many, this was an opportunity to try and kick the habit rather than stand outside a bar to light up.

If you have been thinking about quitting, do it in a friendly supportive group. Contact Dave at 414-292-3066 for more information on the next Quit Group Series.

WISCONSIN CAPTIOL PRIDE IN MADISON AUGUST 20, 21, 22

Madison - Wisconsin Capitol Pride (WCP) has announced that 2010 PRIDE Festival will be held August 20-22nd. The Pride Festival in its second year will be held Saturday, August 21st on Willow Island at the Alliant Energy Center. The Pride Festival will celebrate the diverse LGBT community in Dane County and Greater Wisconsin and will feature various events ranging from live concerts, to contests as well as community and family-oriented activities. Wisconsin Capitol Pride has become the sucessor to Magic Picnic which was held annually for decades on or around July 20. The two organizations are not related.

The 2010 Pride Festival, which will commence on Saturday, August 20th from 11:00 am — 11:00 pm, and will feature performances by Goddess and She, Dot Dot Dot, and Tuo Tuo as well as an all-star lineup of other acts. Admission will be \$8 pre-sale / \$10 at the gate.

The focal point of Sunday, August 22nd activities will be a Pride parade, beginning at I pm that will circle Madison's Capital Square, and end with a Rally on Library Mall.

MTV BECOMES FIRST NETWORK TO RECEIVE AN "EXCELLENT" RATING IN FOURTH ANNUAL GLAAD NETWORK RESPONSIBILITY INDEX

The CW Leads Broadcast Networks for First Time; CBS Once Again Receives a "Failing" Rating for Lack of Inclusion of the LGBT Community

Los Angeles, CA - The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) today released its fourth annual Network Responsibility Index (NRI), a report that maps the quantity, quality and diversity of images of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people on television. Primetime programming on the five broadcast networks was evaluated as well as original primetime programming on 10 of the highest-rated cable networks. MTV became the first network in the history of the NRI to earn an "Excellent" rating from GLAAD. Of its 207.5 hours of original primetime programming, 42% included LGBT-inclusive images that reflected the ethnic and racial diversity of the LGBT community as well as a strong cross-section of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

"It is with great pride that GLAAD honors MTV with our highest mark of excellence in recognition of the network's commitment to fair and accurate representation of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community," said GLAAD President Jarrett Barrios. "From their inception, MTV programs like 'The Real World' and 'America's Best Dance Crew' have offered richly diverse portrayals of gay and transgender people that help Americans better understand and accept our community."

GLAAD reviewed a total of 4,787.5 hours of primetime programming for inclusion of LGBT characters or issues on the five major networks (ABC, CBS, The CW, Fox and NBC) from June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010. GLAAD also examined 1,227.75 hours of original primetime programming on 10 highly-rated cable networks. Each hour was reviewed for on-screen LGBT representations. Based on the quantity, overall quality and diversity of these representations, a rating was assigned by GLAAD's Entertainment Media Program to each network: Excellent, Good, Adequate, or Failing.

Additional findings from the GLAAD Network Responsibility Index:

Broadcast Networks

- After three years in second place, The CW is now the top broadcast network with 35% of its primetime programming hours being LGBT-inclusive. This is the highest percentage ever recorded for a broadcast network, though it should be noted that The CW airs less primetime programming hours than the other four broadcast networks.
- ABC dropped to third place in terms of its percentage of LGBT-inclusive programming hours (26%). ABC received a "Good" rating because of the quantity and strong quality of its LGBT images.
- Fox ranked right behind The CW in its percentage of LGBT-inclusive programming hours (30%) but received an "Adequate" rating because of the stereotypical and defamatory nature of some of its content. NBC also received

- an "Adequate" because of the comparatively low quantity of LGBT stories (13%).
- CBS once again received a "Failing" rating with only 7% LGBT-inclusive hours of primetime programming, the vast majority of which came from its reality series.

Cable Networks

- In addition to MTV's groundbreaking "Excellent" rating, for the first time a majority of cable networks received higher than an "Adequate" rating. ABC Family (37%), TNT (34%), Showtime (32%), Lifetime (31%) and HBO (26%) all received "Good" ratings for the quantity and quality of their LGBT-inclusive original programming.
- FX aired a significant amount of LGBT-inclusive programming (27%), but often relied on stereotypes or problematic representations of the LGBT community.
- USA (4%), A&E (3%) and TBS (2%) all received "Failing" ratings for their lack of LGBT-inclusive images.

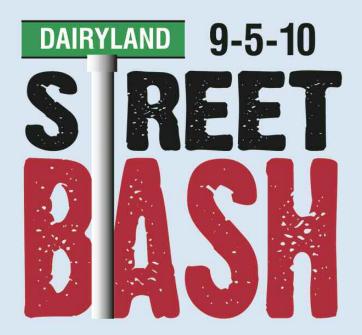
"When television networks share real stories of our community, audiences begin to see the common ground that we all share," said Barrios. "Over the last year, viewers across the country celebrated the arrival of Mitchell and Cameron's baby on ABC's 'Modern Family', while teens and parents everywhere were moved by Kurt Hummel's relationship with his father on Fox's 'Glee.' These images and stories are being noticed by viewers, critics and Awards programs and we urge other networks to open their airwaves to such powerful and inclusive messages."

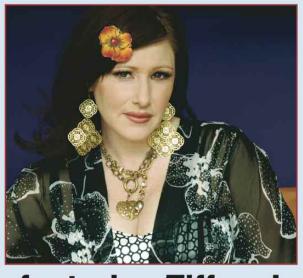
The fourth annual GLAAD Network Responsibility Index was sent to programming executives at the 15 graded networks, and GLAAD's Entertainment Media Program will continue to advocate for improvements in the quantity, quality and diversity of their LGBT representations.

The Executive Summary and full report can be viewed online at www.glaad.org/nri2010.

The 15th Annual GLAAD Where We Are On TV report on diversity will be issued in September 2010. This analysis will examine LGBT inclusion as well as the gender and race/ethnicity of all scripted characters scheduled to appear during the 2010-2011 season.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) amplifies the voice of the LGBT community by empowering real people to share their stories, holding the media accountable for the words and images they present, and helping grassroots organizations communicate effectively. By ensuring that the stories of LGBT people are heard through the media, GLAAD promotes understanding, increases acceptance, and advances equality. For more information, please visit www.glaad.org.





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Schedule of events:

- 3pm Beer tent opens
- **3-5pm** DJ John Murges
- 5-6pm Rents Due
- **6:15-7:15 pm** Pulsation
- 7:30-8:30pm Awards
- 9-9:30pm Tiffany
- 9:30-11:30pm DJ John Murges



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PRO-MARRIAGE MARCHERS HEAT UP ANTI-GAY GROUP'S "SUMMER" TOUR Marriage Equality Backers Outnumber NOM Rally Attendees 8 To 1



By Mike Fitzpatrick

Madison - The Wisconsin stop of the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage's (NOM) "Summer For Marriage" Tour received a warm welcome here July 27 on the steps of the State Capitol. However the heat came in the form of a counter-demonstration by supporters of full marriage equality who outnumbered the NOM backers by more than eight to one.

Actual head counts tallied 466 pro-equality marchers to just 54 for the NOM crowd, according to Arisha Michelle Hatch of NOM Tour Tracker, a project of the California-based Courage Campaign Institute.

"When you consider that over two dozen of the people in their crowd were organizers, their turnout was even more pathetic," *Quest* Madison Bureau reporter Dan Ross said. Ross noted that the NOM crowd dwindled as their rally progressed, suggesting a number of the attendees were curious bystanders who were in the Capitol area and decided to see what all the fuss was about.

The noisy counter-demonstrators chanted "Keep your hate out of our state" and other slogans, effectively drowning out the amplified remarks of NOM Executive Director Brian Brown, spokesperson

Maggie Gallagher, Madison Bishop Robert Morlino, State Senator Glenn Grothman (R-West Bend) and Wisconsin Family Action director Julaine Appling.

Sporting what appeared to be a mid-term election season makeover, the newly-bleached blonde, bespeckled Appling clearly was miffed by the size of the counter-demonstrators as she began her opening remarks. "Thank you all for coming," Appling quipped. "(We hoped our turnout would be larger) but our people actually have jobs."

Grothman took the protesters to task for their behavior during his remarks, claiming right-wing activists don't engage in such behavior. ""I've been here for very extreme feminist rallies – we never shout them down," he said, prompting several demonstrator cat calls about recent Tea Party antics

NOM's Brown capsulized the rally's official purpose by saying "We're standing up for a great good, We're standing up for the foundation of our society."

The exuberance of the marriage

equality backers had been fueled by both an 11 AM rally on the UW-Madison Library Mall followed by a noisy march up State Street to the Capitol and the NOM event.

Supporters came from all over Wisconsin, encouraged by a broad-based coalition of LGBT-supportive organizations, among which were Fair Wisconsin, Freedom to Marry, GSA for Safe Schools, IMPACT, the International Socialist Organization of Madison, the LGBT Campus Center of UW-Madison, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Out-Reach, Pride Alliance of Madison Area Technical College, Proud Theater, Queer-Straight Alliance of the UW-Madison, 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center of La Crosse, the Socialist Party of South Central Wisconsin and Wisconsin Capitol Pride.

Featured speaker at the rally was Assembly Representative Mark Pocan (D-Madison) who suggested that time was on the side of marriage equality supporters, noting that voters under 30 overwhelmingly opposed the 2006 so-called Marriage Protection" Amendment to the state constitution. "Those are the people who are becoming the majority and taking over as decision-makers," he said.

We want marriage equality, and we are not going to stop organizing and agitating until we get it," Pocan concluded.

John Becker and Michael Knaapen, a Milwaukee couple who married in Canada, also shared their story at the rally and their views about the NOM folks gathering a half mile away. "Their hatred of my marriage will never be stronger than my love for my







husband," Becker said.

Following the speeches the crowd stepped off for the march up state street, chanting "Hey hey ho ho, homophobia's got to go," "Gay, Straight, Black, White -We demand our equal rights" and other slogans and carrying colorful signs, balloons and other props. Placards ranged from the supportive ("Str8 Support 4 Gay Marriage") to the comical ("Is Your Marriage Insecure It Needs Defending?") and even the intellectual, quoting Thomas Jefferson ("Christianity Neither Is Nor Ever Was Part Of Common Law"). The final unit in the march was a huge, street-wide rainbow flag.

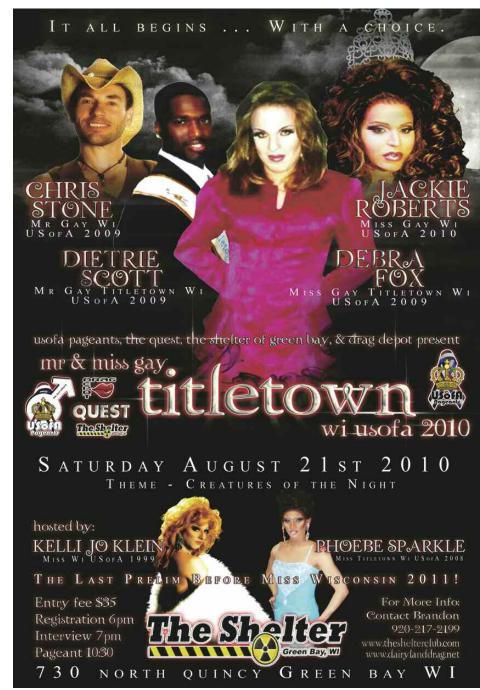
By the time the marchers reached the Capitol steps police had cordoned off the NOM area with yellow caution tape, making the poorly attended event appear as much an accident as a rally.

Katie Belanger, Executive Director of Fair Wisconsin, the statewide LGBT equality organization which took the lead role to the final planning and promotion of the counter demonstration, was happy with the marriage equality supporters' massive response to the NOM event.

"Fair Wisconsin is extremely pleased with the overwhelming support for marriage equality from across the state at the March for Marriage Equality on Tuesday, July 27," Belanger told *Quest.* "Nearly 500 people from Madison, Milwaukee, Platteville, Stevens Point, Eau Claire, La Crosse and Green Bay joined us and our partner organizations in showing that Wisconsin is a fair and decent place to live and that all people, gay or straight, deserve the protections and respect that marriage provides caring and committed couples."

"From the passage of domestic partnerships in 2009 to the growing support for repealing our state's discriminatory constitutional amendment banning marriage equality and civil unions, Wisconsin is moving in the right direction," she added. "We were proud to show the National Organization for Marriage, Wisconsin Family Action and antigay extremist groups like them that we won't take another step back."

The 19-state, 23-city NOM "Summer For Marriage" tour continues through August. Though the group's events have drawn more potesters that supporters thus far, Wisconsin's response, which came just a week prior to the first anniversary of the state Domestic Partnership law, has been the largest anywhere in the country to date.





FAIR WISCONSIN CELEBRATES THE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP PROTECTIONS

Madison - One year ago today, Wisconsin took an tic partnerships provide, such as hospital visitaimportant step toward equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as couples across the state began registering as domestic partners.

"Today we celebrate the anniversary of a historic achievement for Wisconsin's 15,000 samesex couples," stated Fair Wisconsin Executive Director Katie Belanger. "We are very grateful for the exceptional leadership of Governor Doyle, the Co-Chairs of the Joint Finance Committee Rep. Mark Pocan and Sen. Mark Miller, and the many state legislators who worked tirelessly to achieve this landmark victory. They know that the government shouldn't stand in the way of someone being able to care for their long-term partner."

Over 1,500 same-sex couples across the state have registered as domestic partners and are enjoying the limited legal protections that domestion and family medical leave to care for a sick or injured partner.

"Although domestic partnerships fall short of full equality, they mark an important shift in the direction of our state," Belanger continued. "Wisconsin has resumed its rightful place at the forefront of the quest for fairness.

Domestic partnerships mark the first pro-fairness advance for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community since Wisconsin became the first state in the country in 1982 to include sexual orientation in our nondiscrimination laws. The passage of domestic partnerships also makes Wisconsin the first state in the Midwest to protect same-sex couples via legislation and the first state in the country with a broad constitutional amendment banning marriage equality and civil

unions to enact domestic partnerships.

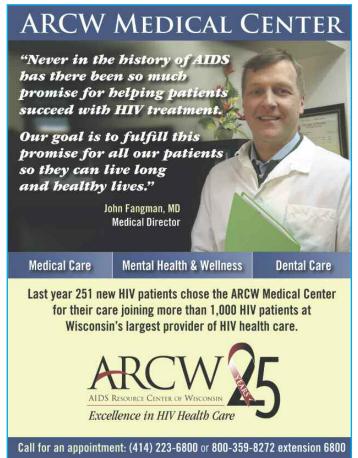
Fair Wisconsin, one of the state's most respected advocacy groups, has a proud history in education, grassroots organizing, outreach, and political action in the cause of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality. With a statewide board of directors and a full-time staff, Fair Wisconsin is the only organization to represent the Badger state in the Equality Federation, the national alliance of state-based LGBT advocacy organizations. Fair Wisconsin, along with our national and regional allies, recently helped enact important domestic partnership protections for same-sex couples, making us the first state with an existing constitutional amendment banning both marriage equality and civil unions to enact domestic partnerships. To learn more, visit www.fairwisconsin.com



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Theatre & the Arts Cover Feature

Thrill Me - The Leopold and Loeb Story opens at MGAC

Add two handsome lovers, Nietzsche, a roadster, a grisly and gruesome "crime of the century" thrill killing, and a parole board. What do you get? A musical, of course!

First performed at a New York City fringe theater festival in 2003, Stephen Dolginoff's *Thrill Me – The Leopold and Loeb Story* ran off-Broadway in 2005 to critical acclaim. Since then it has played in cities across the USA as well as in Australia, Brazil, Greece and Japan. Currently, it's playing in Kansas City and in Seoul, South Korea.

On September 17, Theatrical Tendencies launches its inaugural season with the Milwaukee premiere of *Thrill Me – The Leopold and Loeb Story* at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

Founded by David Carter and Mark Schuster, Theatrical Tendencies is Milwaukee's newest stage company and the only one dedicated to LGBT relevant theatre. Its opening production, *Thrill Me*, offers audiences a rare opportunity. Along with Dolginoff's musical, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center itself will be part of a total immersion experience. Within MGAC's walls, Theatrical Tendencies will create a 1920's warehouse environment and present a historic exhibit of the Leopold and Loeb story.

Often praised by critics, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's intimate space provides an ambiance well suited for a variety of theatrical settings. For *Thrill Me*, the late 19th century storefront venue with its high ceiling, cream city brick wall and hardwood floor is a made-to-order set.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's executive director Paul Masterson explains, "when David Carter asked me about the art show that would be up during *Thrill Me*, I described the work and that I thought it would suit the show. Then David proposed the warehouse concept. There wasn't much need for discussion; it was obviously a perfect match. So, I rescheduled the art show to accommodate Theatrical Tendencies's production."

A conversation with playwright Stephen Dolginoff

A lot has been written about Leopold and Loeb. Playwright, composer and lyricist Stephen Dolginoff's version is uniquely different; aside from being a musical, it's a dramatization, not a documentary. Dolginoff spoke with many people who knew Leopold as an older man after his release from prison in 1971. However, none of Leopold and Loeb's immediate family or friends survive from the period of the murder. Dolginoff recreated the lovers' relationship based trial transcripts and newspaper accounts.

Asked about the cast of two, the characters of Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, Dolginoff explained his purpose. "Thrill Me is solely about those characters. In fact, there is little mention of others in the play. It's an intimate view of a relationship. It's about power, codependence and love. This is the fabric of their relationship." Dolginoff said.

Two characters also provide intimacy "You

take an audience on a specific journey when they only get the point of view of two people. It's about a love relationship gone wrong. By limiting the number of characters I could liberate myself from simply creating another documentary," Dolginoff said.

The play's success relies on that intimacy. Dolginoff mentioned the current run of *Thrill Me* in Seoul, South Korea. "It's a giant hit. The audience is 98% 20-something women. They're obviously relating to the love story. The show is in a mainstream theater and the advertising showing the men kissing is on buses, billboards, in the subway — everywhere. It's having its effect on the public consciousness I'm sure."

When asked about the critics who suggest the work is a modern opera, Dolginoff shrugged. "I wrote it as a traditional musical about a non-traditional subject. Still, it's more than a typical musical where the dialogue is interspersed with songs. In *Thrill Me's* the songs tell the story," Dolginoff said.

The Cast

Marty L. McNamee performs the role of Richard Loeb, the criminal mastermind. McNamee is a familiar face on the Milwaukee stage. He appeared at the Skylight in *Plaid Tidings* last winter. While rehearsing for *Thrill Me*, McNamee is performing in *Hula Hoop Sha-Boop* at the Stackner Cabaret.

"Thrill Me has been on my radar for years. It's a creepy show. My purpose is to make audience care about the characters. Given the subject matter and the seemingly frivolous love affair, it will be up to us, the actors, to portray Leopold and Loeb as human beings who really existed. Their love was dysfunctional in a Bonnie and Clyde way. Their conflict is in part about their being gay in 1924 - perhaps being criminals was their way of being something worse than gay," McNamee said.

"Musically, it's a piece with meat on its bones. I'm used to doing more conventional musicals. I truly enjoy that. But, *Thrill Me's* music creates the characters. I need to be a great actor in addition to a competent singer to communicate the role. It's exceptionally challenging."

Matt Walton plays Nathan Leopold. Walton is currently pursuing his BFA in Musical Theatre at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. He already has an impressive resume' but this role offers something new.

"It's the scariest role I've taken on – scary because Nathan's real. My usual roles are the typical, larger-than-life characters of the classic musical. Playing Nathan I have to be true. And, unlike the typical musical, the action takes place around a gruesome event. Again, it's all true," Walton said.

Walton finds it hard to talk about his character. "Nathan Leopold is difficult to figure out. Actually both the characters are ambiguous in terms of who's the bad guy. Nathan is more a realist yet he goes along with Richard, the criminal mind, because he loves him – they even

An interview with Theatrical Tendencies' co-founder David Carter

QUEST: Why did you and Mark Schuster form Theatrical Tendencies? **David Carter:** Mark and I had been doing shows around town for other organizations in various capacities, most recently at Soulstice Theatre in Saint Francis. It wasn't often that we were able to do shows that had meaning to us. We knew the process was much more fulfilling when we really cared about the material. The next logical step was to form our own company and do shows that resonated in our souls.

QUEST: How long were you and Mark at Soulstice?

David Carter: Mark brought me in to Soulstice about 5 years ago to light *The Sum of Us.* He'd been on the board for several years before that. Working with Char Manny and Soulstice is what gave us the confidence that we could make Theatrical Tendencies work. Starting from scratch on a shoestring budget and growing into a respected company is the path we are on. We gained tremendous insight into that path at Soulstice and owe Char a debt of gratitude.

QUEST: How did you select Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) as Theatrical Tendencies' home?

David Carter: We were comfortable at the MGAC. I had done a number of shows there and knew the space would work for us. Mark did *The Sum of Us* at MGAC in 2006 after its run at Soulstice. It's a natural tie to our mission of diversity and offers the LGBT community an opportunity to see their lives represented on stage.

QUEST: Why did you decide to open Theatrical Tendencies' inaugural season with *Thrill Me – The Leopold and Loeb Story?* **David Carter:** Mark and I talked forming our own theatre company for several years. *Thrill Me* was always at the top of our list of plays we wanted to produce. We really like its darkness and the very real story it tells. Our best work has revolved around relationship stories. Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb's relationship is the heart of *Thrill Me*.

QUEST: How does *Thrill Me* fit your mission?

David Carter: Our mission is to present diversity. Diversity comes from many places. Its shape has changed and evolved over time. In looking back at our history through a subject like Leopold and Loeb we can explore how attitudes of the times play a role in shaping the destiny of young people. Would Leopold and Loeb have had the same outcome if they had lived in today's more accepting times? Having to hide who you are from society can have an incredibly adverse affect on how you live your life and the choices you make. Life isn't always pretty. We need to remember some of the ugly history in order to move on to prettier, happier times.

QUEST: And the play's message?

David Carter: There are many messages in *Thrill Me*. Most will be personal to each audience member. At its core, *Thrill Me* is a relationship story. The actual murder is not the focus. The story revolves around Nathan and Richard's passion, their anger, their lust, their desires, their brilliance, and their very young and naive ages – both were 19 at the time of the murder.

The message involves how people react to being in love, particularly a one-sided love. It poses the question, how does being in that kind of relationship influence your ability to make choices? We have to consider the answer in light of the closeted lives they were living. There are lessons to be explored. Some performances will be followed by Talkbacks to give the audience the opportunity to discuss all of this, the psychology involved and the relevance to our lives.

make a contract. Richard seems out of touch. He over-analyzes. The love affair is just a part of his plot," Walton said.

Reflecting on the music, Walton added "the score is inseparable from the play. The music is modern and flowing without a lot of slow spots. The underscoring sets the tone. It leads into the songs. It can seem like one continuous song.

Theatrical Tendencies' *Thrill Me – The Leopold and Loeb Story* opens on September 17th and runs through October 2^{nd} at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2^{nd} Street in Milwaukee's historic Walker's Point neighborhood.

Performances are on Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm. *Thrill Me* runs approximately 90 minutes without intermission.

FMI or tickets visit Theatrical Tendencies' website <u>www.theatricaltendencies.com</u>.

MAD MAN IN THE MIL Artist James R Reinke at MGAC

By Paul Masterson

Wisconsin artist James Russell Reinke has a particular passion. It's evident in his art. Whether lino prints, oils, 3-D pieces or great expanses of tapestries done in inks and acrylics, there's a common theme: the male nude.

Like centuries of artists before him, Reinke focuses on his subject with ardor, admiration and attention to detail. He expresses maleness unapologetically. He's quirky, carnal and candid. He's all about the joys of genitilia, strapping broad-shouldered angels, recumbent cowboys and mythological minotaurs.

His favorite works are the Greek classical nudes and it shows. "The idealized male form enamors and amazes me. Greek nudes represent the symmetry of disciplines - mind over the body and body over the mind. The figure is the form. I enjoy Michelangelo for these same reasons. Most of my work does not contain the discipline, but does express the obsession to run like an athlete or to run your hands over an athlete. Through my art I have tried to make the works that I want to see or hang," Reinke said.

Reinke's works, especially the lino prints, recall the German Expressionists but without the Angst. The cuts are raw. They deconstruct the



figure to its literal bare bones. Pecs and abs, gluts, lats, serratus define their strength in bold lines. The sensuality and sexuality is reminiscent of Picasso, Chagall and Warhol. Still, there's a contemporary twist, a dose of Haring and Mapplethorpe and ultimately an innocence of purpose that is purely the artist's.

His artist's statement is a bit more serious. "Art is a luxury that few can afford. Art as a luxury is grounded in politics. Politics very rarely exhibit the love of man for his fellow man. The Sistine Chapel with man in all his stunning glory is a product of the church. Commercialism and advertising have overtaken much of man's creativity. The chase of the dollar foreshadows the need of expression.

The desire to live beyond this lifetime, to

be seen or known as creating beauty in this world can only come through art. This form, our shell is truly all we have. From the primitives to the future, our bodies are what carry us and hold us together. The physical is the spiritual.

My work and I are products of our time in history. For me that includes the influences of HIV/AIDS, gay rights, racism and sexism. Expression is empowerment. Art history has covered so much ground. I can only try to fill in gaps or recreate to expand its accessibility"

Mad Man in Mil – the Art of James R Reinke runs through Spetember 10 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street in Milwaukee's Historic Walker's Point neighborhood. Call 414-383-3727 for gallery hours.

HAIR"What a Piece of Work Man Is"

By Brody Hess

HAIR was everywhere on July 16th as Sunset Playhouse opened o a full house. HAIR was in the aisles, on the stage and on our minds. With the current war dividing our nation, the topic of the Vietnam era and its divided society was pertinent and poignant.

With the left and right at odds and liberation movements on the rise, the nation was in utter chaos. HAIR reflects this desolate scene while taking you into the hearts and minds of high-schoolers torn between family and friends.

The result is tragic. And yet the spirit of the show is liberating.

This personal freedom offended audience members who were ignorant to the nature of the show and walked out at intermission (the song "Sodomy" may have provided a hint). It's been over four decades since HAIR's first production yet not enough progress has been made for people to understand and appreciate it. Ironically I witnessed others purchase additional tickets at the same time. The polarization was telling.

Certain members doubtlessly were offended by the attitude towards homosexuality and the trans-gender culture. One male character openly fawns over Mick Jagger and another is a transvestite. Conservative audience members were bound to be shocked. If only they followed the characters who had no qualms about love for all people regardless of their orientation.

For 1968, this was lurid. Today we thankfully have more people who understand and accept the LGBT community for who we are.

But understanding wasn't the only part of the show that was captivating. I got lost in the beauty of the story, the flow of time fleeing me. Alan Piotrowicz's Lighting Design was mesmerizing. The pulsating stream of colors in the acid trip scene were beautiful and appropriate.

Sara Wilbur Price's choreography was spot on. This show calls for rhythmic movement throughout. Price nailed it.

Pat Hopkins' drumming was also a treat. Also, J. Michael Desper's bare-bones set was well suited to the show.

Unfortunately, there were times when the chorus outshone the soloists. Pitchiness was frequent for some. There was also the inevitable technical glitch when Sheila's (Hannah Gaffney) microphone failed. However miking this utterly talented singer was pointless. Without her microphone she easily sang over the band and was audible to the entire audience. I understood her un-amplified voice better than others'.

Katherine Duffey (Chrissy) was absolutely hilarious. Her charm and warmth brought necessary counter-point to a very heavy story. She artfully embodied her character, making me laugh throughout the entire performance.

Ryan Stajmiger, Zach Woods and Stuart Mott (Claude, Berger and Woof, respectively) also did an outstanding job. Neither overbearing nor dull, their performances were compelling, cohesive and complimentary.

Ashley Levells' singing was a strong part of the show. Her soulful voice set the stage for the show and grabbed the audience with the opening number.

Without a doubt, Jacob Bach's "Margaret Meade" was the most humorous part of the show. Eccentricity at its finest.

All in all the show was incredible. I honestly hadn't cried that much in years. This production of HAIR certainly showed me "What a Piece of Work, Man is

WATTS' INTERIOR DESIGN MAESTRO, LANCE KLEEBA

by Chrisanne Robertson, Fine Crystal Buyer, George Watts

Watts' landmark store in Milwaukee's East Town is a jaunt worth making, certainly for its architecture, dining in the city's most historic tea room, the Watts Tea Shop; but most definitely for the Midwest's most awe-inspiring array of stylish home and table appointments.

It's here at George Watts that interior designer Lance Kleeba works. I sat down with him recently during the store's busy tourist season, with preparations underway for its 140th Birthday Party on September 23rd.

When Lance first came to Watts as a teen, he came to wander the store and be inspired by lavish table settings and gifts. Years later, he would search the store for *objets d'art* for residential and business clients. Calling his style 'Traditional Eclectic', Lance mixes antiques with new pieces, like juxtaposing an English Highboy with a digital wall mural. He adores layering fabrics in different patterns in the same room, and on the table advocates mixing family heirlooms like your great-grandparents china from the 40's with something current like sparkling stems by Marc Jacobs for Waterford.

Kleeba forecasts Americans nesting even more, and dinners and parties with friends becoming more focal. "Dinner gatherings where you pull out all the stops are a way to express your style and

your personality. Increasingly, I see Home being a haven, and making your space more loveable is key. Time is precious when we're there, and it's great



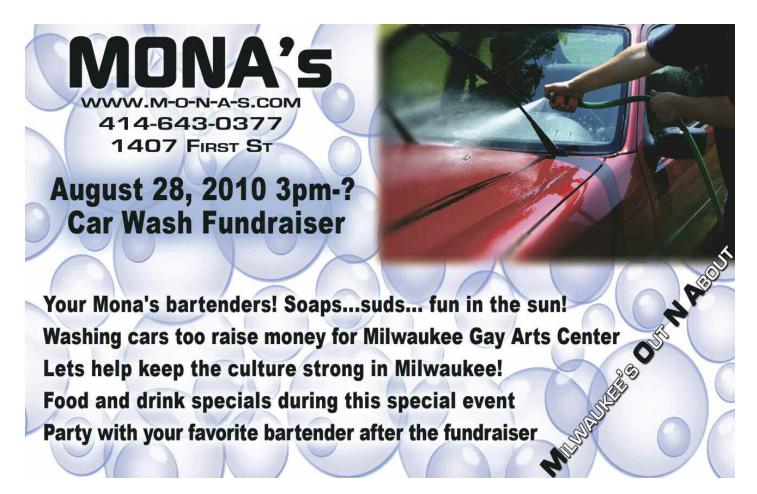
when all the pieces make being there fabulous. Expressing your taste also comes from training your

eye and delving into the history of objects, both modern and great age."

"Buy what you like, what touches you. It can't be strictly based upon what's an investment, although educate yourself and know what will increase in value because of hand-work or provenance."

Lance has no formal training in interiors. He attended UW-Milwaukee and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in South African history. He travels widely with his partner but quickly adds he loves living in Milwaukee

"Milwaukee is becoming a major city. Urban living with the influx of more condos adds a real cosmopolitan energy. At Watts, we're channeling a spirit of eclecticism with an always-changing assortment you won't see at the mall or even in Chicago. We present the trends for our next generation of customers and we added a Second Floor destination called 'Mister W's', which makes us more "man-friendly". There you'll find wine, bar and men's accessories. Even though Watts has been very-gay friendly for decades, only within the last few years are we "out" with our ads which are our heartfelt welcome to the LGBT community in Southeastern Wisconsin and beyond. Come Downtown for our Big Birthday Bash on September 23rd, but also keep us in mind when you want to create a Registry that reflects your tastes. You'll have fun here, we'll offer you a glass of champagne and we'll give you expert direction for stylish living."



A CROSSE PRIO

Saturday, August 28th NOON-11PM La Crosse's South Side Oktoberfest Grounds Buttons \$5 in advance, \$10 at the gate!



PERFORMING:

Ronnie Nyles (pictured right) Sick Of Sarah

also

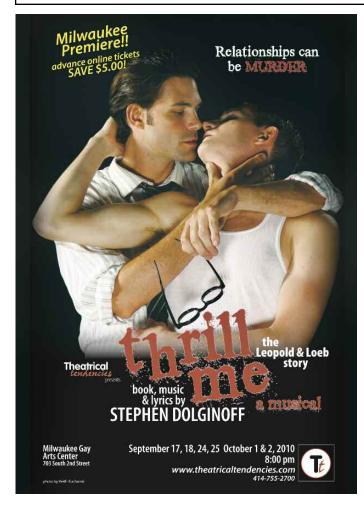
Kids Area with inflatables **Vendors**

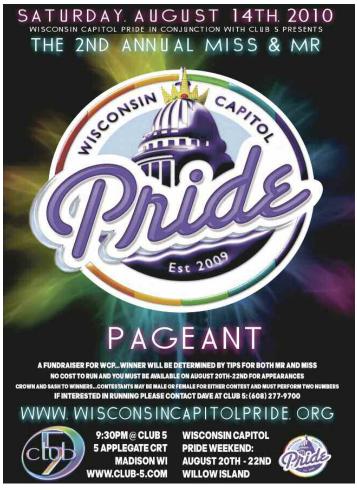
Plus a show of

hometown Pride with the cast of Illusions LaX Girls and Savanna & Company













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DIVERSION OF THE DAY Community Events Calendar

Friday, August 13

Harbor Room (Milw) Switchback REUNION Party - Male dancers, drink specials & no cover!

Napalese (Green Bay) Argonauts of Wisconsin Club night 9pm "Dog Days of Summer"

Shelter (Green Bay) Ronnie Nyles live 9pm \$3 Bud Light Bottles

LaCage (Milw) "Visit to Candy Shoppe" Madonna's Birthday, Special Show at 11pm

Saturday, August 14

Ballgame (Milwaukee) AidsWalk Fundraiser an Party 1-5 pm

Comedy City @ the Sport Corner (500 Grant Street De Pere) A special fundraiser for the Harmony Cafe GLBT Services - 7:30 pm

Shelter (Green Bay) Ronnie Nyles live 9pm \$3 Bud Light Bottles

Sunday, August 15

Fluid (Milw) Bingo 4 pm

Tuesday, August 17

Cardinal Bar (Madison) Latin Gay Night - Pride Week 7pm

Thursday, August 19

Shelter (Green Bay) FREE HIV Testing from 7-9 pm

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, August 20-21-22
Argonauts/Castaways Joint Run (on the farm in Hilbert)
Visit www.argonautsll.org for more info and application.

Wisconsin Capitol Pride, Madison See ad back cover Rainbow Weekend @ Bristol Rennassaince Fair 21st & 22nd only

Friday, August 20

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (Kenosha) A night out under the stars... LGBT Family friendly movie night at the Keno Drive In, Bring your own chairs & bug spray etc.

Woof's (Madison) Spit & Seamen III 10:30 pm

Saturday, August 21

ICON (Kenaosha) Miss ICON Layonna Kooch presents "Out of the Closet"

Kruz (Milwaukee) M.A.U.L. Bear Night 9-close

Madison Gay Video Club "Soundless Wind Chime [Cantonese/subtitles]" (TLA Rel., dir. Kit Hung, 2009) "Brent Corrigan Double Feature: Heat/Summit" (Dirty Bird, dir. Brent Corrigan, 2009/2008) 8:00 PM, http://www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Shelter (Green Bay) Mr & Miss Gay Titletown-WI USofA Pageant 10:30 pm

Woof's (Madison) AWOL Party 10 pm - Close

Sunday, August 22

ICON (Kenaosha) After the FAIRE Party Free pizza and drink specials

Friday, August 27

LaCage (Milw) Back To School Party 11 pm

Saturday, August 28

ICON (Kenaosha) ICON All Male Revue 10pm

LaCage (Milw) Miss Club Wisconsin Pageant 9pm

LaCrosse Pride (LaCrosse) NOON-11PM @ La Crosse's South Side Oktoberfest Grounds, Ronnie Nyles, Sick Of Sarah, Kids Area with inflatables, Vendors, and a show of hometown Pride with the cast of Illusions, LaX Girls, and Savanna and Co.

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (Kenosha) Life's A Beach! @ North Beach, Racine 2-5pm

Friday, Septmeber 3

Stage Q (Madison) Lesbian "Big Chill" Last Summer at Bluefish Cover 8 pm

Sunday, Septmeber 5

Dairyland Classic Street Bash 3pm - 11:30 pm

National Ave, Milwaukee Between 1'st and Water (Boot Camp & Kruz)

Friday, Septmeber 24

Monona Terrace (Madison) OUTREACH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

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

Front Runners (414)443-0379 www.ullrwolf.com/frontrunnersmke/welcome.html

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

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

Harmony Cafe Appleton 233 E. College Ave., Appleton (920) 734-2233

Harmony Cafe Green Bay 1660 W Mason (920) 569-1593 www.harmonycafe.org myspace.com/harmonycafe

Men's Voices Milwaukee c/o U.C.C. 2717 E. Hampshire St., Milw. 53211 (414) 861-5526 www.mvmchorus.org

Miltown Kings myspace.com/miltownkings

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club 3957 No. 81st St. Milw., WI 53222 (414) 616-3716 Moenell@msn.com www.milwaukeetennis.com

Milwakee Gay Arts Center 703 So. 2nd St. Milw., WI 53204 (414) 383-3727 milwgac@yahoo.com www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org

Milw Gay Volleyball Assoc. www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com director@milwaukeegayvolleyball.com

Milwaukee Pride Parade PO Box 070177 Milw., WI 53207 (414) 607-3793 www.prideparademke.org

PrideFest (414) 272-3378 PO Box 511763, Milw., 53203 www.pridefest.com

Saturday Softball League 2333 N. 56th St., Milw. 53210 (414) 350-7147 www.sshlmilwaukee.com

Shoreline Country Dancers 2809 E Oklahoma Ave Milw, 53207 info@shoreline-milw.org www.shoreline-milw.org

Theatrical Tendencies 6650 W State St. #120 Wauwatosa, WI 53213 414-755-2700

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

Women's Voices Milwaukee 315 W. Court St., Milw., 53212 (630) 890-5984

LGBT Service and Advocacy Organizations

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

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

Connexus 1240B E. Brady St. Milwaukee, WI 53202

Cream City Foundation 759 N. Milwaukee, Suite212 Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 225-0244 director@creamcityfoundation.org

Diverse And Resilient 1240B E. Brady St. Milw. 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 Milw, WI 53201(414) 559-2123 info@forge-forward.org www.forge-forward.org

G/L Community Trust Fund PO Box 1686, Milw., 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 / Bi Fathers Support Group c/o Outreach, 600 Williamson St. Madison, WI 53703 Serving Dane, Rock, Jefferson Counties For location & dates e-mail doolguy@charter.net

Gay Narcotics Anonymous Meets Fridays @ 7 p.m. 315 W. Court St., 2nd Fl. Milw 53212 (414) 276-6936

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) 315 Court St #9 Milwaukee, WI 53203 (414) 455-5292 www.hrl-pac.org hrlpac@yahoo.com

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

LBGT Center of SEWisconsin 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, WI 53403 (262) 664-4100 info@lgbtsewisc.org LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region

303 Pearl Street, PO Box 3313 La Crosse, WI 54602-3313 608-784-0452 www.7riverslgbt.org

Log Cabin Republicans PO Box 199, Milw., WI 53201 (414) 755-1954 membership@icrwi.cm

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

Pathfinders 1614 E. Kane Pl. Milwaukee,

WI 53202 (414) 271-1560 info@tccmilw.org www.tccmilw.org

PFLAG Milwaukee 315 W. Court St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 (414) 288-9198 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

Positive Voice PO Box 1381 Gree

PO Box 1381 Green Bay, WI 54305-1381 (920) 435-4404 info@pvinc.org www.pvinc.org

Project Q 3215 W. Court St., Milw., 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

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

Rainbow Over Wisconsin 702 E. Wisconsin Ave. Appleton, WI 54911 www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org

SAGE Milwaukee 1845 N. Farwell - Ste. 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 PO Box 413 Milwaukee, WI 53201 (414) 229-4116 jrmurray@uwm.edu www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT

Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf Box 353, Hartland, WI 53029 www.wiscrad.org LGBT Social Groups
Argonauts of Wisconsin

Box 22096, Green Bay, WI 54305 argonews@sbcglobal.net www.argonautsll.org

Bear Club 4 Men Box 13463, Green Bay, 54307 www.bc4m.com bearclub4men@gmail.com

Black & White Men Together PO Box 80395, Milw 53208 (414) 461-5359 bwmtmilwaukee@aol.com www.bwmtmilwaukee.org

Brew City Bears PO Box 1035, Milw., WI 53201 (414) 331-3744 bcb4men-alan@sbcglobal.net www.bcb4men.info

Brew City Soul Brothers Brewcitybrothers@yahoo.com

The Brunch Club jennieragland@wi.rr.com

Castaways
PO 1697 Milwaukee 53202

Dodge Co. Gay/Bi Men's Social Group of Wisconsin mellow14u@care2.com care2.com/c2c/group/DCGLBTSGOW

Femme Mafia Milwaukee myspace.com/femmemafiamke

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Great Lakes Harley Riders PO Box 341611 Milw, 53234 bootedhog@aol.com

Men (MenEnjoyNudism) Box 0631, Milwaukee 53207

N.E.W. Brotherhood Box 12793, Green Bay, 54307 www.NEWBrotherhood.org

Rainbow Families c/o PFLAG 315 W, Court St., Milw, 53212 mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com

LGBT Welcoming Churches

Angels of Hope MCC 3607 Libal St., Green Bay, WI (920) 983-7453 Appleton at UCC Chapel, 724 E. South River Dr. aohmcc@netnet.net www.angelsofhopemcc.org

Church of Atheism 206 Vine St., Eau Claire, WI 54703 (706) 593-2686 church_of_atheism@yahoo.com www.freewebs.com/churchofatheism First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee 1342 N. Astor, Milw.,53202 (414) 273-5257 office@uumilwaukee.org www.uumilwaukee.org

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

Fox Valley UU Fellowship 2600 E. Phillip Lane Appleton, WI 54915 (920) 731-0849 www.fvuuf.org

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

Love of God Cathedral Universal Anglican Church 9633 W Greenfield Ave West Allis, WI 53214 www.L-O-G.org RevJ@MilwaukeeMinistry.org

Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church PO Box 2421 1239 W. Mineral St. Milw. WI 53204 (414)383-1100 info@queerchur h.org pastor@milmcc.org www.queerchurch.org

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

Preble Park Presbyterian Church 607 Ravenswood Dr. Green Bay, WI 54302 (920) 468-7125

SS Cyril & Methodius United Indepenment Catholic Church Neenah, WI 54956 (920) 836-2199 stcyrilandmethodius@centrytel.net

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

Union Congregational UCC 716 So. Madison St., Green Bay 54303 (920) 437-9266 Fax (930) 437-3765 unionucc@gbonline.com

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

Neighborhood Associations

Bay View GAYS (414) 482-3796 bvgpresident@bvgays.com www.bvgays.com

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

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association tosarainbow@yahoo.com

Other Service Agencies with LGBT Programming

Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin 820 Plankinton Ave. PO Box

510498 Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 273-1991 www.arcw.org

Brady East STD (BESTD) Clinic 12240 E. Brady St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 272-2144 bestd@execpc.com www.bestd.org

Children Service Society of Wisconsin

1212 S. 70th St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 (414) 453-1400 jane.ottow@cssw.org www.cssw.org

The Counseling Center of Milwaukee

2038 N. Bartlett Ave. Milw, WI 53202 (414) 271-2565 info@tccmilw.org www.tccmilw.org

OutReach

600 Williamson St. (Ste. P1) Madison, WI 53703 (608) 255-8582 www.lgbtoutrach.org

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LAND OF THE ENLIGHTENED? NOT QUITE YET.

by Brian Mahany

On Wednesday, August 4th, a United States District Court judge ruled unconstitutional California's Proposition 8, a ballot initiative that banned same sex marriages. Less than I year ago, President Barack Obama signed into law the Matthew Wayne Shepard legislation making the commission of a crime against someone based on their sexual orientation a federal hate crime. Both events are milestones in the war on discrimination.

Passage of a law or an important court victory does end our battle for equality. Unfortunately, the battle against all types of discrimination is far from over. Over the last decade, we have watched discrimination become more subtle. But it remains alive and well in all flavors and colors.

Within the work place and housing industry, most landlords and employers know they can no

longer blatantly refuse to hire someone based on the color of their skin. And in increasing numbers of jurisdictions, it is no longer proper to consider sexual orientation. Those laws, however, do little to change attitudes or assure equality.

Public attitudes are slow to change. In many cases it requires one or more generations to effect meaningful change. Unfortunately, the courts continue to see record numbers of discrimination cases. More cases instead of fewer.

As a society, we must be ever vigilant to discrimination around us. A company with a quiet policy of not hiring gays might be harder to spot but the conduct is still illegal. And virtually every jurisdiction in the United States now has "whistle-blower" laws to protect concerned employees that oppose discrimination in the workplace.

Getting co-workers to stop using the term "fag"

or "nigger" was relatively easy. Changing the attitudes of those workers and ending discrimination in workplaces, accommodations and housing is not.

Yes, it is time to celebrate our hard fought victories but let's never rest until we work and live in a world where we are free to openly celebrate our diversity. Be vigilant for hiring and promotion trends at works, secret code words and unequal pay. As one temp agency found out, writing "hockey player" on interview notes or "likes cupcakes" had nothing to do with a prospective workers hobbies or food preference. It was nothing more than a thinly disguised ploy to let managers know whether to hire or reject a candidate.

Brian Mahany is an attorney representing victims of illegal discrimination. He welcomes comments and can be reached at brian@mahanyertl.com

HELP RECONSTRUCT MILWAUKEE GLBT HISTORY!

The Wisconsin LGBT History Project needs your help to reconstruct a part of the history of GLBT life in Milwaukee, and all Wisconsin! Various Wisconsin gay and lesbian publications have been preserved and donated to the Project. As a result, we are fortunate to have excellent resources portraying and documenting the history of the past 40 years of what happened locally in the GLBT community. Unfortunately, until these publications are "indexed" the wealth of information they contain is difficult to find. As a result, much of the information goes unnoted or unheeded.

In order to improve access, we are reaching out to different organizations in Milwaukee, including SAGE/Milwaukee, to help get these excellent resources "indexed."

Indexing is easy and FUN! You can explore the publications, reliving past

years' people, events, places, and organizations a few weeks at a time, document what you see for others to find, and pretend you're working at a great public service! All it takes is some time—as much or as little as you choose—and a high speed internet connection. Yes, you can probably work at slower internet speeds, but we don't want to see you age visibly just because you're helping the GLBT Community.

Publications already scanned and posted on line, ready for indexing include:

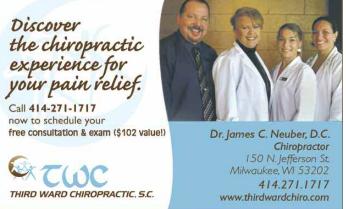
- Wisconsin In Step various issues from 1984 to 1993, 2001, and 2003.
- Wisconsin Light 1990
- Quest Volume 6 issues (2000)

f you are interested and able to help, please contact Bill Serpe at the SAGE/Milwaukee office—414.224.0517. Or contact Don Schwamb by emailing webmaster@mkelgbthist.org









ASK THE IRREVERENT UNCLE BARBIE Your Intellectual Whore

(An effervescently gay advice columnist) Disclaimer: Although the author of this 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 questions to askunclebarbie@aol.com

MISS INFORMATION (the poisoning of religion)

Dear Uncle Barbie,

Homosexuals are the direct descendants of Cain. It says so in the Bible. In the book of Genesis, after Cain killed Abel, he was cast out into the wilderness. Then "spiritual beings" descended from the heavens and mated with the people. Those "beings" were demons, and the result was gay people! That's why gays are so evil. Read your Bible if you don't believe me. --Signed, Diana B.

Hello Miss Information,

ARE YOU HIGH?! Have you been gargling with opium water-again? Your letter hurts my head like a hangover. Are you seriously trying to tell me that you think gay people are the spawn of demons that interbred with humans? What does the initial, "B," stand for in your last name-Brainless?! You know what? I remember when I was in high school, the same sort of thing was being said about the Jewish people. The anti-Semitic lies being spread around school were that Jews descended from Cain, and since Cain was "bad," so, too, were the Jews. Their zealous illogic went so far as to say that the stereotypical "Jewish nose" was proof of their "demonic" bloodline. It's that same kind of religious-fueled hatred that you seem to be spewing now. (Same shit; different day.)

Simply put, you don't know the Bible, and I refuse to get into a theological argument with a semi-informed individual. That would be like getting into a pissing match with a skunk! So instead of me debating with you, I contacted the St. Thomas Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota to ask for some insight and clarification into your crazyass letter. (And I want you to know that I spent the better part of a sunny afternoon interviewing biblical scholars, so you damn-well better appreciate this!) So let's dive right into this cesspool of illogic and see how mucked-up we can get, shall we?

According to one theologian, there is a book called, Enoch that was cut out of the regular Bible. This book of Enoch describes angellike beings that married female humans. A race of giants was the resulting offspring. "The Nephilim were on the earth in those days--and also afterward. When the children of man had multiplied, it happened that there were born unto them handsome and beautiful daughters. And the angels, the children of heaven, saw them and desired them; and they said to one another, 'Come, let us choose wives for ourselves from among the daughters of man and beget us children." (1 Enoch 6:1-2). Apparently these heavenly beings practiced witchcraft because the next paragraph states, "And they taught their wives magical medicine, incantations, the cutting of roots, astrology, and taught them about plants. And the women became pregnant and gave birth to great giants called Heroes whose heights were three hundred cubits." (1 Enoch 7:2). (I must say, readers, this is some pretty weird shit, huh?)

To get a broader perspective, I interviewed a second biblical scholar. He shed some light on this subject by giving his interpretation of that portion of the Bible by adding, "Because there is a mythical, sexual aspect to the Nephilim story, it takes on a sense of immorality; that's why the author writes about them just before the story of Noah's flood. It reads as if there was chaos involving celestial super-human beings, and that they were unstoppable. The only solution was to flood the earth, and kill everyone. The remnant of God's faithful (Noah and family) would repopulate the earth and begin a new human race, void of giants and immoral people."

I asked him what Cain and Abel had to do with the angels and giants. "First, Cain (the hunter) killed his brother Abel (the farmer) because God loved Abel's fruits and grains (vegetarian) sacrifice better than Cain's (meat and only meat) sacrifice. Cain was banished to the land of the Canaanites (present day Israel) and it was from Cain

that the Canaanites got their name. No Cain and Abel connection with the angels and the giants."

I wanted to know what this theologian thought of the person who wrote the strange question. He commented, "The Bible was never written to be a history book; some things were expressed in a certain 'style' in order to convey a deeper meaning. It is a collection of writings-over many and many millennia-of a people, who told the stories of how they understood God

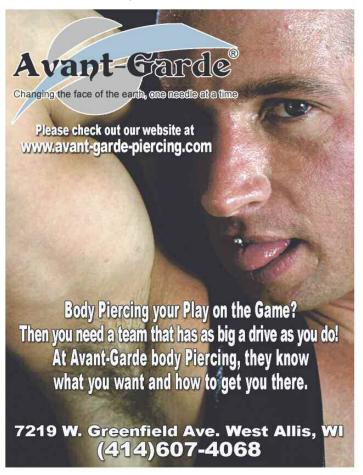


Satan's little helper!

to be relevant in their life. And they sought to preserve in writing who they understood this God to be, how he relates to us and us to him, and how we can best live our lives; all of which is like trying to understand what the ocean is by wading in up to your neck."

I pondered these words, and did some personal soul searching of my own. Now I would like YOU to do a little soul-searching, Miss Information. How is God relevant in YOUR life? How do YOU relate to God? Perhaps your god is only relevant to you as a faultfinder to help you find something "wrong" with everyone you don't like. Perhaps you relate to your god through the hate and anger that is produced when you condemn others as "evil." I do not understand how you can hate in the name of your god. My God is a God of love. So, we must be talking about two different gods here because the intolerant god you describe seems to be a real ass hole.

(And that, ladies and gentlemen, is the Bible according to Barbie.) **Sleeping with the Devil, Barbie**



NEW LGBT FILMS AT THE MULTIPLEX by Glenn Bishop

"The Kids Are Alright"

The kids might well be all right; we're not so sure about Glenn. Lots of reasons. Take, for example, the new movie "The Kids Are All Right" by director Lisa Cholodenko, the film to be reviewed assigned for this issue of *Quest*. With his special press screening invite in hand, Glenn managed to arrive for the screening promptly — 24 hours late. Yes, yes, Glenn really needs to coordinate Outlook with his iPhone.

matinee screening, the question is whether or not Glenn can confirm this film deserves the multitude of hype it has received since its debut at Sundance? Well, yes. For the most part, it does.

Nic (Annette Bening) and Jules (Julianne Moore) and their two bright and shiny off-spring form one of these newfangled alternative families. One, in fact, nearly mirroring that of director Lisa Cholodenko and here longtime partner musician Wendy Melvoin.

The oldest child, 18-year-old Joni (Mia



If only Glenn actually knew how to coordinate Outlook with his iPhone.

Not to worry, there was to be a free screening at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre later that week — on the night of the flood. White-knuckled at the wheel, Glenn somehow managed to swerve and miss the sinkhole mere moments after the black Cadillac Escalade took its much publicized leap into immortality.

Wishing to retain the cloak of anonymity he so richly deserves, Glenn decided it prudent to head home.

Glenn isn't certain if the free screening of "The Kids Are All Right" actually took place that night or not. No matter. Once home and deeply relieved to find that his residence remained afloat, it was all Glenn could do to put on bunny slippers, wash down a Valium

with a big glass of red wine and proceed to spend a comforting night with the "Golden Girls."

Now, however, the completion of his journalistic assignment loomed, requiring the expenditure of ready money. As has long been apparent, there really are no sacrifices that Glenn isn't willing to make for you, loyal **Quest** readers.

Having just returned from the (just barely) discounted Wasikowska), is about to set off for college. I5-year-old Laser (Josh Hutcherson) is burdened with a friend who is both unlikable and unlikely. Laser is also determined to discover his roots: the man whose youthful donation has helped create both of these two delightful teens. Since Laser is too young, he convinces Joni to get the low down on the anonymous sperm donor they want to call "Dad."

None of their lives, thereafter, will ever be the same once Paul (Mark Ruffalo) enters into this (up till now) reasonably functional family unit.

Nic is a doctor whose income allows them all to live in a comfort that Glenn can only aspire to. Jules has spent too many years as "mom" and now wishes for a career, choos-



Buy it, rent it or forget it...

In preparing for this review, Glenn resolutely refused to be seduced by all the hype generated by yet another big screen LGBT film — think "Brokeback Mountain." Nevertheless "The Kids Are All Right" is a terrific film and is also that very rare cinematic offering: one whose audience should (and does) transcends just a lesbian one. Director Lisa Cholodenko and screenwriting partner Stuart Blumberg have a talent for recreating the sort of delightfully mundane dialog that dominates the dinner table for most families. The early moments had Glenn positively in stitches — albeit sweaty ones.*

Later, look for a moment just before Paul's initial arrival for dinner. There is a brief moment as Jules tries to temper Nic's behavior (read that as her alcohol intake). Here is just one of many examples of how this shrewd film wonderfully captures the small, oh so typically "couple moments" of this Nic and Jules. The cast is uniformly excellent. Still, if Annette Bening doesn't (finally) capture that much deserved Oscar™ for "The Kids Are All Right," someone in Hollywood ought to be drawn-and-quartered.

Just the facts...

"The Kids Are All Right" has a running time of 104 minutes "The Kids Are All Right" is likely to be playing at a multiplex near you. DVD release hasn't been announced. Annette Bening has twice lost to Hilary Swank in the quest for the prized golden statue.

In addition to "A Single Man," Julianne Moore has been in such other LGBT-interest films as Todd Haynes' "Safe." "Far From Heaven" and "The Hours."

Glenn's Rant: What's up with the usually fabulous Landmark Oriental Theatre? Arriving for the (barely discounted) first Saturday showing, Glenn found the theatre ridiculously hot and humid. Oriental staff assured Glenn that he would be perfectly comfortable once the film started. Well, no.

Glenn's suggestion: in hot, humid weather, please turn the air conditioning on BEFORE the arrival of moviegoers.

ing to launch a new landscape design business. Their home is fabulous; Nic loses sleep if the children don't remember to sign and mail the thank you cards she feels that good manners demands be sent. If ever invited over for cocktails, Glenn would be positively petrified with worry about dribbling if Nic, who clearly shares Glenn's own love of the grape, ever offered the erstwhile reviewer a glass.

Paul, however, has no such apprehension when he finds himself invited for a get-acquainted dinner. Paul, bless his heart, is oblivious to any social awkwardness his entry into their lives generates. A forty-something Peter Pan with the heart and soul of a late 60s free spirit, Paul is proud owner of what appears to be a fabulously successful organic farm cum trendy eatery.

What will happen to this cute little alternative family as Paul becomes increasingly involved, indeed in some rather surprising ways?



Top: Jerica & Richard's Benefit Show for Nationals at PJ's Oshkosh Middle: Pride Weekend at Napalese, Green Bay Bottom: Pride Weekend at Shelter, Green Bay



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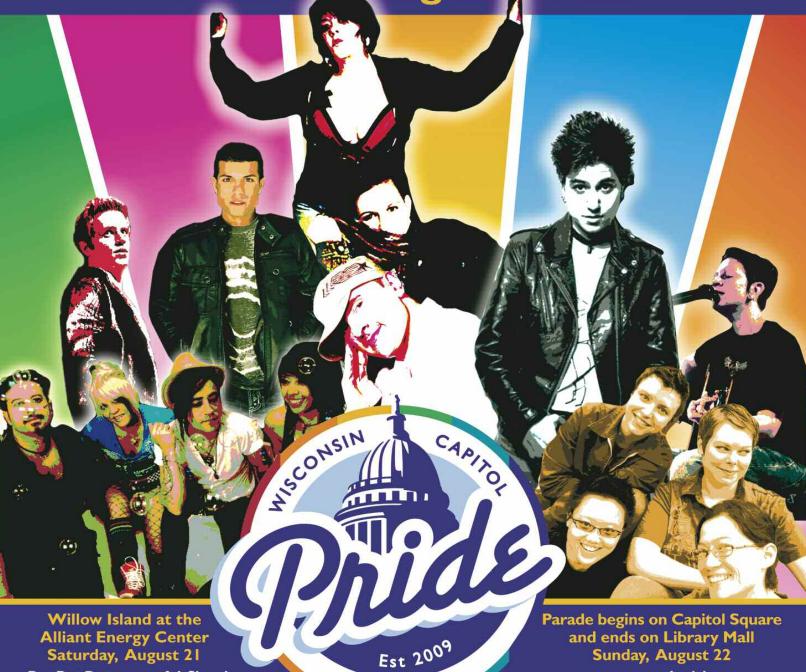
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