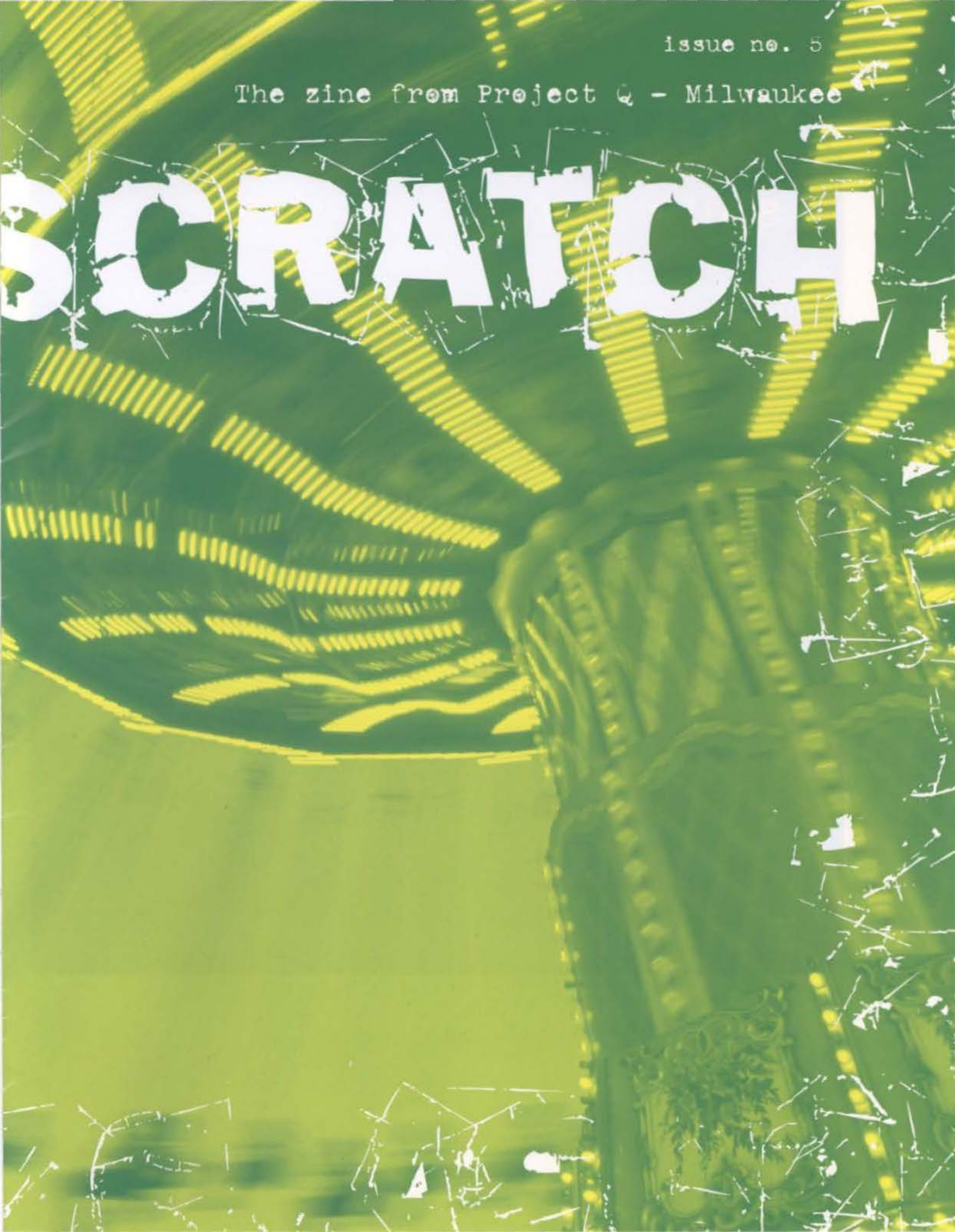


issue no. 5

The zine from Project Q - Milwaukee

SCRATCH



SCRATCH

issue no. 5

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WELCOME TO SCRATCH

Welcome to our fifth issue of Scratch! It's been quite some time since our first issue. We've grown a little bit and have seen a lot more young LGBT folks get involved in the zine. Oh, what is Scratch, you ask? Scratch is a queer youth produced zine from Project Q. Scratch is put together by Project Q's Peer Counselors & Educators (PCE's) and other youth leaders and brought to you free of charge. Scratch was made for and designed by lesbian, gay, bisexual/pansexual, transgender, queer, questioning, unlabelled youth and their straight allies ages 24 & Under. When you read through this issue you will find that we have included lots of fun information for your enjoyment but have also focused on providing information about Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs Prevention. This issue was made possible from a grant by Safe & Sound, Inc. who we are deeply grateful to for their continued support of Project Q.

The purpose of this zine is to educate—body, mind, and spirit. Our focus is Health & Wellness—in a holistic way. The best part: it is written by your peers! Other LGBTQ and allied youth help to compile every issue. We are lucky to have a grant to fund this zine which we can then bring it to you free of charge. That also means that we don't fill the pages full of commercialization that seeks out your pink dollars. We have no idea if we'll continue to receive funds to produce this zine so feel free to make a donation if you really enjoy Scratch and want to see more issues!

Our little disclaimer: We didn't do it! No, honestly, We want to remind you that we are not medical doctors or nurses. Take what you can from the contents of this zine, but if you want concrete medical advice, go to your nearest clinic or to a clinic where you feel most comfortable. Have your questions written out and ask the nurse or doctor.

Scratch is about you! You can enjoy Scratch while in your car—but please don't try to drive and read, in the bathroom, waiting in line or anywhere else you may be at the current moment. If you really enjoy what you find in Scratch—think about submitting some of your own work. You can email your stories, concerns, questions, thoughts or whatever else you might be thinking in your purddy head to Scratch@ProjectQ.org

Enjoy our Pride Issue! We've filled the pages with tons of great information ranging from different Pride Festivals to our very first LGBT Pride Essay Contest. Congratulate the winners and take a moment to send us your thoughts. Use the information below to let us know what YOU think...

You can also contact Scratch via snail mail at:

Scratch zine
c/o Project Q
315 W. Court Street
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made possible by:





Our True Colors

By: Warren Scherer

The Pride Flag has been a symbol of solidarity for the Gay & Lesbian Community since 1978. It is widely accepted that the different colors of the flag represent the tremendous diversity within our community. One man takes credit for the creation of the Pride Flag; he is Gilbert Baker. The original flag was hand made by Baker and was first seen on June 25, 1978 at the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Freedom Day Parade. At that time the flag had 8 stripes and each stripe had a meaning: Hot Pink (sexuality), Red (life), Orange (healing), Yellow (sunlight), Green (nature), Turquoise (magic), Blue (harmony), and Violet (spirit). Though the meaning of some of the stripes may change or be interpreted differently; green as calmness, blue as serenity or art, the idea remains the same!

Demand for the Pride Flag shot through the roof after the assassination of Harvey Milk on November 27, 1978. Milk was the only openly gay City Supervisor and people wanted to show their unity. As more and more people wanted the flag, Baker and the Paramount Flag Company dropped the Hot Pink stripe because they couldn't get a hold of hot pink fabric. The Turquoise stripe was cut out in 1979, in San Francisco, so it would be easier to display the flag along the streets and lamp posts. There in the Gay Neighborhoods of San Francisco, the 6 Stripe Pride Flag we all know today was born. The Rainbow Flag as we know it today did not get a lot of attention until 10 years later in 1989 when a California man sued his landlords for trying to stop him from flying his flag from his balcony. He won his case and the flag became popular across the nation.

After the Pride Flag celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2003, Mr. Baker remade the flag with the original 8 stripes in hopes it would revive it. Unfortunately the 8 Stripe Flag has not caught on in the LGBT community yet. However, even without the Hot Pink & Turquoise stripes, we know our true colors.



PRIDE AND POLITICS: A LESBIAN IN STUDENT CONGRESS

1st Place Winning Essay

By: Eva Lam

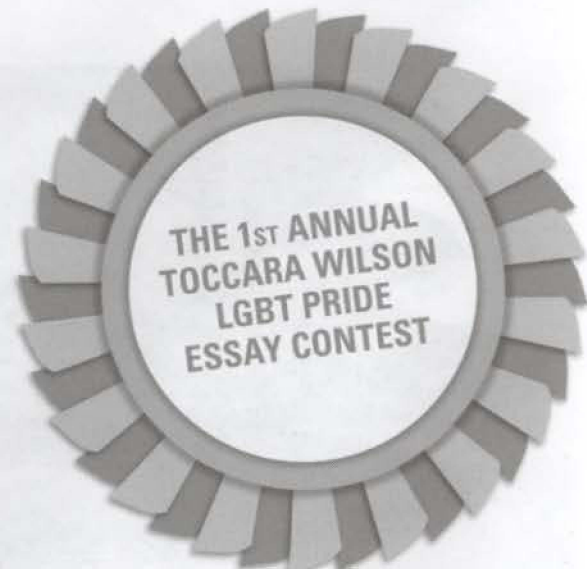
In some ways, it seems as silly for me to be proud of my sexuality as it would for Martin Luther King to be proud of his race: despite what the religious right may believe, I never chose to be a lesbian, and I cannot take pride in something I did not intentionally accomplish. Even coming out was relatively easy for me; I was lucky to have a supportive family and friends, and I faced little harassment even after I came out. But discrimination does not come only in the form of outright physical and verbal threats; it also comes in the subtle marginalization that faces anyone who is visibly different. I have faced that marginalization most noticeably in Student Congress, a simulation of the federal legislature, in which both prejudice and simple ignorance work against the competitive success and social inclusion of women, gays and lesbians, and other minorities. I am proud to be a lesbian not because a mere incident of nature or nurture has forced me to face that discrimination, but rather because I have overcome it, disproving the stereotype that those who are "different" cannot succeed.

Student Congress exemplifies the practice of de facto discrimination because, though there is certainly no rule that puts gays and lesbians at a disadvantage, queer students remain disproportionately marginalized. Final rounds at highly competitive tournaments exhibit a paucity of gays and lesbians; I am often the only LGBT person in a chamber of twenty-four. This imbalance often carries over to the debate. Student Congress chambers frequently debate proposals to ban or legalize gay marriage, and these debates tend to bring out the prejudices in a number of students. In the months before I came out, it was painful to listen to speeches that compared homosexuality to bestiality and polygamy without being able to personally and openly refute those claims. Outside the round, too, many students are simply insensitive, using terms like "gay" and "queer" as insults.

Sadly, the social structure of Student Congress seems to mirror the United States Congress. Of four hundred and thirty-five members of the House of Representatives, only three are openly gay or lesbian; the Senate has no LGBT members. This lack of queer representation translates into a host of anti-gay measures, from the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as between one man and one woman and allowed states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed in another state; to President Clinton's 1994 "don't ask, don't tell" policy concerning gays in the military; to recent proposals for a Federal Marriage Amendment that would ban same-sex marriage, overriding any relevant state laws. The success of these discriminatory laws can be explained by two factors. The most obvious is the presence of outright homophobia in Congress, embodied by people like Senator Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania, who made headlines in 2003 for comments in an interview that equated homosexuality with bestiality and polygamy. But the more subtle factor that contributes to heterosexist policies is the near-total absence of voices

in Congress that advocate unequivocally for LGBT rights. Certainly, not every senator and representative who voted for the Defense of Marriage Act, or against special protections for LGBT victims of hate crimes, was as rabidly bigoted as Rick Santorum; rather, many moderates allowed their prejudices — and their assumption that the American public had an equally limited conception of "family values" — to sway their votes. Just as in Student Congress, the debate in the United States Congress was dominated by members who failed to see their direct interest in promoting equality for gays and lesbians, facilitated by the absence of LGBT members.

Although the incumbency advantage certainly works against the inclusion of minorities in the political elite, it is possible for LGBT people to break the glass ceiling and change opinions. I am proud to have experienced this, on a very small scale, in Student Congress. After I came out, I began achieving a degree of competitive success, making final rounds at major tournaments and winning the national tournament in my junior year. That experience has showed me that other students are much more reluctant to express blatantly homophobic positions when they know that a lesbian is among their competitors. Gaining respect as a competitor has given me a position of moderate influence in the Student Congress community, and I now find myself catching my friends and colleagues taking homophobic positions. Because they respect me as a competitor, they are more likely to respect and accept my sexuality. Today, I am proud not only to be marked as "different" because I am a lesbian; more importantly, I am proud because I have broken barriers in Student Congress that used to face people who wore that label, and I will be even more proud if I can carry that success into the real world of politics.



"... ONLY GAY PEOPLE LIKE GAY PEOPLE."

2nd Place Winning Essay

By: Ivy McKee

"That's so gay." "You're a fag." "I hate gays." "Lesbo." These are words or phrases that any kid hears on a daily basis. I know I do. Whether it's my friends, acquaintances or even kids I don't know walking down the hall, these words are hard for me to hear. Gay bashing hits home with me because my mom is a lesbian. Today, I'm going to tell you my struggle as a sixth grade girl to come out to my school about my mom being a lesbian.

My mom came out to me when I was about 4, but I didn't really comprehend it until I was about 7 (first grade). I remember the first time I got mad when someone said "that's gay." I yelled at him until the teacher took us outside and he explained he meant it as "happy." Now it is 5 years later and my mom is on the diversity committee at school and has given speeches during teacher in-services. I am completely out to everyone about having a lesbian mom and I wear a rainbow button to school that says: "Someone you care about is gay or lesbian."

Now I'm going to backtrack and tell you how I got to this point. My school considers diversity as a very big priority. They have already established tolerance for things like race, religion, social class, economic status, abilities, ethnicity and various cultures in the student handbook. Now it was time to include LGBT in diversity. So my school asked my mom to come and speak at a teacher in-service training. She has spoken at a couple meetings over the past year. She made a continuum of actions our school could take to address LGBT issues, from less risky to more risky. One of the things was for teachers to support students if they wore an LGBT button, which I chose to do right after I saw it on my mom's chart. So the next day I made my button and wore it to school.

I had many reactions such as: "What?!" "No one likes gay people, only gay people like gay people." "Ohhhhhh, you're a lesbian?" "I hate gay people!" And people stepping away from me after reading it. Also, the most common reaction was for people to walk up saying "someone you care about is..." but would never finish the sentence.

Then there were the positives: "I like it." "Duh, doesn't everybody?" And even "Oh, can I have a button?" Some people came out to me about themselves or family members. It was hard for me to argue or defend my point to the negative comments without coming out about my mom (which I wasn't sure I wanted to do yet) or being called lesbian myself. I then decided I would come out about my mom and so now I use that as a part of my defense.

I had already told a few friends about my mom. Some were fine and some weren't, but they kept it a secret. I had worn my button about two weeks and a lot more people than I thought saw it as a positive thing. Then there was something I didn't expect. A lot of people ignored it. If someone wasn't saying anything

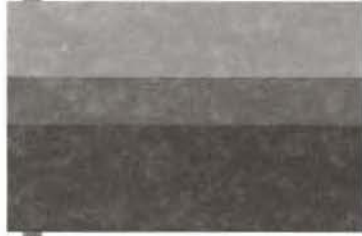
about my button, another kid would ask "so what do you think of her button?" And they would answer, "That one?" pointing at it. "Yes, her gay and lesbian button." They would cringe and say "I don't want to talk about it." The interesting thing to me is these are the people who say hurtful things about the LGBT community the most, yet won't utter the word "gay" once it is used in a positive way. Another thing that happened is kids would tell me not to show my button to the little kids because it was inappropriate. This made no sense to me since my mom came out to me when I was four.

I finally came out about my mom in the middle of science class. The hype about my button had worn down a bit. Then the question I was waiting for finally came, although it wasn't exactly how I planned. The gossip queen, the biggest blabbermouth of our school, was sitting across from me. We were waiting for class to begin and she said, "So, who's the button? Is your sister the button?" I said no. "Is your dad the button?" No. "Is your mom the button?" Yes. "Really? Your mom doesn't look like the button!" She immediately turned to the boy next to her and said, "Her mom's the button!" He answered, "No way!" After he quieted down, I jokingly asked the gossip, "So, who are you going to tell?" She answered by naming almost every single fourth and fifth grader in our school and ended it with "and maybe a few others." I stared at her and said "OK."

The next day I came to school and the questions began: "Does your dad know?" "Does your mom have a girlfriend?" "How long has your mom been a lesbian?" When did she tell you and your sister?" And my favorite: "Then how are you here?" I answered each question that came my way as truthfully as I could and it all worked out. Now I have some closer friends and some people who are just plain scared of my mom.

One more struggle I've had about having a lesbian mom is my best friend. She is Catholic and says the Bible says it's a sin to be LGBT. We've worked out a no ask/no talk basis on this subject since we are both stubborn and our views won't be changed. We both had to accept our differences in order to maintain a healthy friendship.

In conclusion I have learned that a lot more people than I thought were accepting or at least tolerating of my LGBT button and the LGBT community. I think that I wouldn't be as confident if I was not so close to the LGBT community. It has made me have to think of convincing arguments without hurting others, yet still making them look at the LGBT community in a different way. I appreciate my school for trying to incorporate LGBT issues into our diversity statement. I'm proud to say that I've proved some teachers and students wrong: some 6th graders do care.

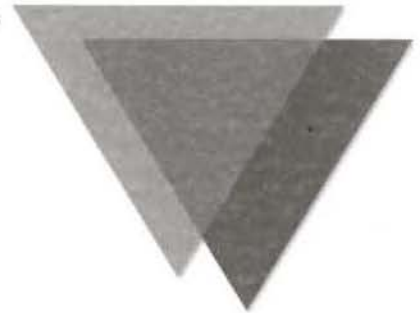


BI THIS FLAG

By: Warren Scherer

The Bi Flag was created by Michael Page to give the Bisexual (Bi) Community a flag or icon that both represents them and increases bisexual visibility.

The tri-colored Bi Flag was first seen on December 5, 1998. The colors of the flag are Pink, Purple, and Blue. They represent the attraction to same sex, the attraction both sexes meaning bisexual, and the attraction to the opposite sex, respectively. The Purple stripe of the Bi Flag is slightly smaller than the other two stripes. Page was inspired by the colors of the "Bi Angles" symbols used to represent Bisexuality (as shown here).



HOMOPHOBIC WATCH



"There is nothing for homosexuals here. They should stay in Europe or the United States. We don't need that social vice, we don't need them. I understand that this country should make a show of taking them all out of here... We cannot allow this place, the historical center of Santo Domingo [in the Dominican Republic], to be taken over by foreign and Dominican degenerates."

– Roman Catholic cardinal Nicolas Lopez Rodriguez,
as quoted in *Listin Diario*, April 7

"The question comes up: Is there a constitutional right to homosexual conduct? Not a hard question for me. It's absolutely clear that nobody ever thought when the Bill of Rights was adopted that it gave a right to homosexual conduct. Homosexual conduct was criminal for 200 years in every state. Easy question."

– Supreme Court justice Antonin Scalia,
speaking to students at the University of Freiburg
in Switzerland, March 8

"Many Americans, especially parents, still have deep concerns about the direction of our culture, and the health of our most basic institutions. They are concerned about unethical conduct by public officials, and discouraged by activist courts that try to redefine marriage... As we look at these challenges, we must never give in to the belief that America is in decline, or that our culture is doomed to unravel."

– President George W. Bush,
connecting same-sex marriage to the downfall
of American culture, in his State of the Union
speech, January 31

Drama, Drama, Drama

By: Maureen White

PROD. The Gays of Our Lives.

SCENE

Glitter emergency at the Tool Shed.

TAKE 69

We all know the infamous reputation of dramatic tendencies that can exist in the LGBT community. There are many reasons for this like the small dating pool, insular community, internalized homophobia, and "He said/She said" gossip among other things. Perhaps someone looked at you wrong in 1985 and that causes you to hate them for the next millennium. I personally do not think that one sector of the LGBT community is more dramatic then the other. Although in the 10 years of living as an out lesbian, I have had my fare share of dyke drama, and would like to share a wee bit of advice for all you budding young lesbians.

- Anyone that you date will more than likely have ex girlfriends or boyfriends. It is best to not compare yourself to them or try to spend your energy blacklisting them in the lesbian community. You may in turn place yourself on that deadly blacklist and will naturally rid yourself of many future dates.
- People are going to date your exes and some of them may be your friends. Just because a past relationship did not work out with you, does not mean that they are destined to live a life of loneliness. Besides, take a look at your past love life. Have you always treated your lovers with 100% respect, 100% of the time? (If you answered yes, you must be a goddess and should discontinue reading this article. I can teach you nothing)
- If you ever echoed the words "I love you" to someone that it is out in the universe you can not take that back. Therefore, do not try to get even or take it back by spreading hate. Doing so is a disservice to the good times of your relationship.
- If someone says the words "Do you know what this person said?" Run in the opposite direction. Most of the time this only leads to more drama and is usually wrong or biased. If you were there, then you would have heard it and would know the context in which it was said.
- Remember that sometimes you will end friendships with people. This does not mean that they are bad people. You may be growing in different directions. Exit friendships gracefully. Life is easier having more friends than enemies. You deserve to have an easy life – not a tougher one by your doing.
- Even your worst enemies can teach you things.
- Everyone else is dealing with homophobia too. If you are not sympathetic, who will be?

The list can go on and on my friends. Just remind yourself of how exhausting drama can be. Do your best to end it. Together we can help start a revolution that can only benefit our community.

Many young people will admit that they have a drink of alcohol from time to time, but many are reluctant to admit that they are a Binge Drinker. A study done by the American Medical Association in 2001 found that 20 percent of 18-30 year olds are binge drinkers, and among those who binge, 19 percent reported that they binge frequently. According to the American Medical Association what will put you in the category of a binge drinker is the consumption of four or more drinks in a row over a 24 hour period. If this sounds like you or someone you know, here are some things that you might want to think about:

- Alcohol is an important factor in up to two-thirds of sexual assaults on students.
- Accidents. Alcohol impairs sensory perceptions, judgment and reaction time. Of young people who drink, 20 percent say they sometimes drive drunk.
- Alcoholism. Some young people who abuse alcohol will become alcoholics. Chronic alcohol use can damage the liver and heart and increase the risk of some types of cancers.

There is also the risk of alcohol poisoning. Alcohol depresses nerves that control involuntary actions such as breathing, heart beat, and the gag reflex (prevents choking). A fatal dose of alcohol will eventually stop these functions. After the victim stops drinking, the heart keeps beating, and alcohol in the stomach continues to enter the bloodstream and circulate throughout the body. As a result the following may occur:

- Victim chokes on own vomit
- Breathing slows, becomes irregular, stops
- Heart beats irregularly or stops
- Hypothermia (low body temperature) leads to cardiac arrest
- Hypoglycemia (too little blood sugar) leads to seizures

Are you a Binge Drinker?

By: Maureen White

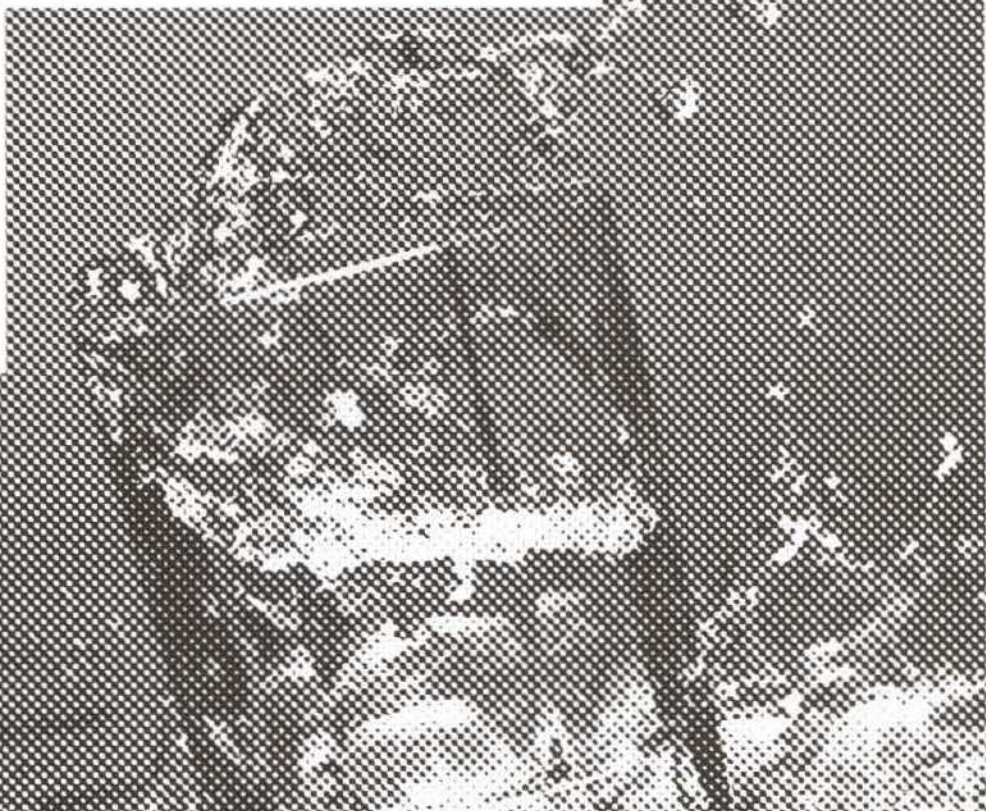
No one can exactly tell how much alcohol it takes to make alcohol poisoning occur. The amount of alcohol it takes to make someone feel drunk is different for everyone and factors like tolerance, and body weight can affect this dramatically. If you are with someone that you suspect may have alcohol poisoning, here are some signs to watch for:

- Mental confusion, stupor, coma, or person cannot be roused
- No response to pinching the skin
- Vomiting while sleeping
- Seizures
- Slow breathing (less than 8 breaths per minute)
- Irregular breathing (10 seconds or more between breaths)
- Hypothermia (low body temperature), bluish skin color, paleness

Some people think that drinking coffee and large amounts of water can help with this. They are wrong. If you think that someone has alcohol poisoning here is Call 911 or the emergency medical number. Stay with the victim. Keep the victim from choking on vomit, they may choke on their own vomit and die.

So... while you are at the many festivals this summer, please keep this information in mind. Remember that there is more to PrideFest than drinking. Take pride in yourself by making sure that if you drink, you do it responsibly.

Information taken from the American Medical Association



PRIDE AROUND THE WORLD

Ever since 1969 when those courageous activists threw the first stones and fought back against police brutality at the Stonewall Inn we have celebrated Pride. Pride festivals—celebrations of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender culture and lives—take place all around the world. Each city has its very own flavor and unique approach to celebrate Pride. June is Pride month so in that honor we'll give you a glimpse at Pride around the world.

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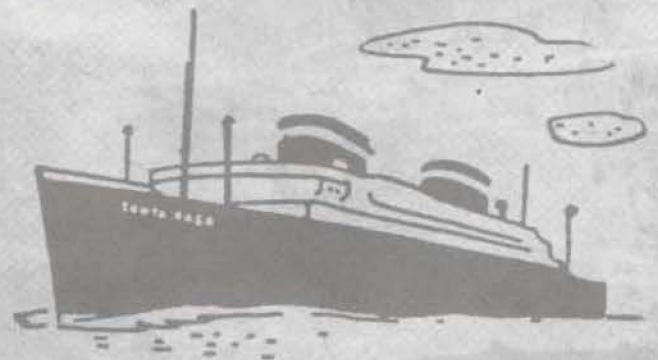
COLOGNE, GERMANY

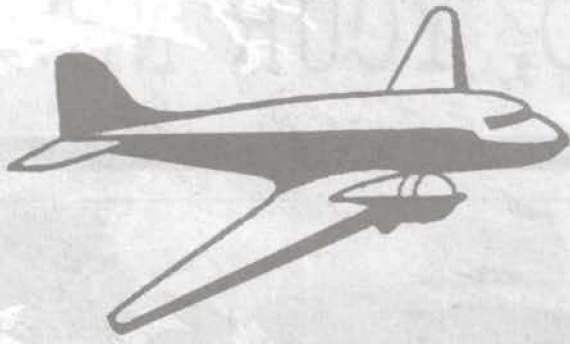
Cologne Gay Pride is also known as Christopher Street Day Cologne which is a reference to Christopher Street in New York City which had been a mecca of gays and lesbians in NYC. This celebration is the largest gay and lesbian event in Germany and in recent years had over 1 million participants. Cologne Gay Pride started in the 1980's in former West Germany where there was a liberal political culture. In 2002 Cologne Pride was jointly hosted with Europride as a joint European event.

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SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

Parada do Orgulho GLBT de Sao Paulo is touted as the largest Gay Pride celebration in the world. The first parade took place in 1997 and drew only 2000 people. In 2005 roughly 1.5 million people marched down the main avenues of Brazil's financial capital. March 30, 2005 marked the 9th Anniversary and a record attendance of 2 million participated in the parade where they demanded legislation for civil unions for gays and lesbians.





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SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is one of the largest events in the world and takes place over a four week period. Despite being called Mardi Gras it doesn't take place on Mardi Gras at all. 2006 marked the 28th Anniversary of the event and saw 450,000 participants. Some events that happen during Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras include Parade, social events, cultural and arts events, activist and social events, and plenty of exotic costumes and dance music. The Mardi Gras organization has experienced financial trouble over the last few years but in 2006 they saw a surplus of \$91,000.

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TAIWAN

This pride festival began in 2003 in Taipei with a parade. Taiwan Pride is unique because unlike many other Pride Parades there is far less commercialization and advertising in their parade. For Taiwan Pride the purpose is still about a social movement. Taiwan Pride must also share the road with vehicles unlike other parades where the street is designated only for the parade which makes it dangerous for parade participants. Though many Taiwanese people wish to remain in the closet more and more participants are becoming involved – even if they wear masks or walk at a distance from the parade.

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Held during the last weekend in June the San Francisco Pride Parade and Celebration is one of the most well-known pride celebrations in the world. The first pride event was held in 1970. Since 1972, the event has been held annually with consistency. The parade is held on Sunday morning during the Festival starting at about 10:30 and lasts all day. The route is usually along San Francisco's Market Street from Beale Street to Hyde Street. Hundreds of contingents from various groups and organizations are represented during the parade. The most well-known contingents are:

- Dykes On Bikes are the first contingent and usually consist of hundreds of women wearing leather and fanciful costumes while some go topless.
- Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) has several hundred marchers who are met with cheers and tears.
- Politicians are visible as a way to show their commitment to the LGBT community.
- Churches from many denominations are present.
- Leather contingent consists of lesbian, gay, pansexual leather and BDSM groups.

Each year has a different theme to unite the community but many aspects such as the parade happen every year with little changes.



AFA Pressures Wal-Mart to drop Brokeback Mountain

The homophobic American Family Association has recently pushed for a boycott of Wal-Mart because the retailer is selling copies of the critically acclaimed "gay cowboy movie", Brokeback Mountain.

Randy Sharp, director of special projects for AFA, recently told The Los Angeles Times why AFA feels Wal-Mart is no longer 'family friendly.' "[Wal-Mart] is trying to help normalize homosexuality in society." "But how many copies are they going to have to sell to recruit the losses

of customers who they've offended and will no longer shop at Wal-Mart?"

At this point Wal-Mart has yet to remove Brokeback Mountain from their shelves. Before you run off to Wal-Mart to buy your copy consider purchasing the video from your local LGBT bookstore. For those of you in the Milwaukee area check out Outwards located at 2710 N. Murray Avenue on Milwaukee's eastside. Or check them out online by visiting www.outwardsbooks.com
- Kurt Dyer



Iraqi police kill 14-year-old boy for sleeping with men for money to help family

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—A 14-year-old Iraqi boy has been killed by Iraqi police for sleeping with men for money to support his impoverished family. According to Baghdad neighbors who witnessed the murder, Ahmed Khalil was shot at point-blank range by men wearing police uniforms, The Independent in London reports.

Neighbors also said that the boy's father was

arrested two days before the execution and questioned about his son's sexual activities. The family has since fled their home in the al-Dura district of Baghdad in fear of more attacks.

"Young Ahmed was a victim of poverty," Ali Hili, the head of a London-based group of gay Iraqi exiles, told The Independent. "He

was summarily executed, apparently by fundamentalist elements in the Iraqi police." Since Iraqi Shia leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani issued a fatwa against gays and lesbians, the country has seen a marked increase in antigay hate crimes.

(Reprinted from The Advocate)

Record Participation for the 10th Anniversary of National Day of Silence

Over 4500 schools participated in the 10th Annual Day of Silence sponsored by GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Educators Network) and USSA (United States Student Association) on April 26, 2006. This year saw the largest participation with students in high schools, middle schools, and colleges all making a vow to be silent for the entire day on April 26 to exemplify the silence that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people must have about their lives in schools and in their lives.

"Student participation in this year's Day of Silence exceeded our expectations," said GLSEN's Founder and Executive Director Kevin Jennings on the GLSEN website. "The continuing growth of this event speaks to the tremendous number of young people nationwide who see anti-LGBT bullying, violence and harassment as a serious problem that demands intervention."

GLSEN also released their 2005 National School Climate Survey which is the only national survey documenting the school-related experiences of LGBT youth. Some findings of the report show that anti-LGBT harassment,

bullying and violence continue to be commonplace in America's schools. Over a third (37.8%) of students experienced physical harassment at school on the basis of sexual orientation and more than a quarter (26.1%) on the basis of their gender expression. To see the report you can visit www.glsen.org


Many communities also held "Breaking The Silence" events at the end of the day to allow students, parents, staff and community members to share their stories and encourage schools to create safer environments free from bullying for all students and staff regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity

fag • toid (fag' toid), n. *a queerly invented fact believed to be true because of its appearance in Scratch; a brief queer, and usually trivial, news item*

1. Kate Bornstein gender activist & performance artist is also the author of *Gender Outlaw* and *My Gender Workbook*. **2.** Stonewall Inn is a gay bar in Greenwich Village, NYC which was the site of the gay bar raid that gave birth to the Stonewall Riots in 1969. The riots were a series of violent conflicts between gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer persons and police officers. It is said the riots were the turning point in the modern "Gay Rights" Movement. **3.** Lesbian Avengers are groups of activists that promote lesbian issues, survival, & visibility. The group advocates for women of all races, classes, orientations, and gender identities to empower themselves toward political rebellion. **4.** Harvey Milk High School is an LGBTQ safe space/school in NYC named after Harvey Milk; the openly gay San Francisco city supervisor who was assassinated in 1978. **5.** Lesbos is a Greek island in the Aegean Sea, it is suggested this is the origin of the term for women who are into women. **6.** Cher has had a hit song or album in every decade since the 60's! **7.** Shades of Yellow (SOY) is a group started by and for Hmong GLBTQA persons. **8.** No one can explain why so many people in the LGBT Community enjoy musicals. **9.** On June 26, 2003 the Supreme Court of the U.S. overturned Sodomy Laws as a result of the *Lawrence v. Texas* case. **10.** Top, Bottom, Butch, Femme? Who knows?!? **11.** Almost everywhere in the world there is a Pride Celebration! **12.** Drag Kings & Queens should be revered not feared! Duh! **13.** Divas such as Madonna, the Divine Miss M, Aretha, Patti, Barbra, Celine, Gloria, Elton have huge gay followings.

Ah, cause
they're GAY!
Duh!

Fahd (fäd), n. *born 1922, king of Saudi Arabia since 1982 (son of Ibn-Saud and brother of Khalid).*

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a large, white, feathery flower against a dark background. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame, with fingers gently gripping the stem of the flower. The flower's petals are long and thin, creating a delicate, lace-like appearance. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the petals and the skin of the hand.

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