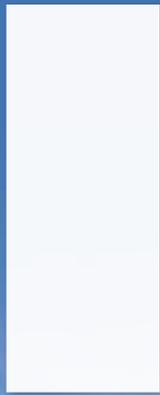


our lives



Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

Inside:

July/August
2011

Identify Your Health Risks

Diverse & Resilient is targeting our health disparities

Nostalgic, Midwestern Cuisine

Foodie Marcelle Richards experiences Quivey's Grove's charm

Our Day in Court: Winning!

Tamara Packard on the Domestic Partnership Registry ruling

A large, multi-story brick building with a modern architectural style, featuring large windows and a prominent entrance. The building is identified as the Dean Health System East Clinic.

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East
Clinic

Craig Samitt, MD, MBA
President & CEO, Dean Health System

His Drive to be Different

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threw in my path and to prove
that my uniqueness made
me stronger, not weaker.*

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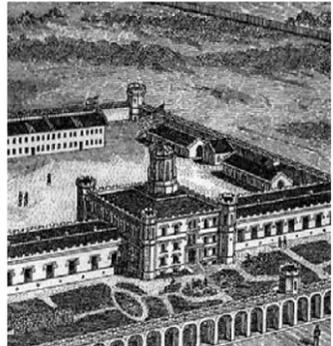
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Covering our past year.



Watching Leaders Rise Since 2007

It's true. Our Lives has turned four years old. In that time, we've gone from a small booklet of a first issue that was printed on paper just a step above newsprint to a glossy full-sized magazine and media company. The magazine now has thousands of subscribers and thousands more who search out their copies in their favorite television businesses across Wisconsin. We've produced a mainstream television show, and our sister radio program launches this month. The idea that gave birth to this publication was my need for role models who could show me how to expect more from life. I didn't know where or how to find them, and it has been profound to watch the caliber of leadership and heroes we've helped to make visible continue to climb. Perhaps no one could live that statement more fully than the subject of this issue's cover, Dr. Craig Samitt. I can boldly say that without Our Lives, I would never have connected to strong leaders like him nor would I have been able to learn and grow from the many who have bravely shared their stories in our pages. Here's to hope, floating up.

Patrick Farabaugh, PUBLISHER

The Ripples Project logo
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Are you going to drink from the well of life—or just gargle and spit? -Patricia Clason
Inaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage. If you want to conquer fear, do not sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy. -Dale Carnegie
Strength is the capacity to break a chocolate bar into four pieces with your bare hands and then eat just one of the pieces. -Judith Viorst
To change one's life: Start immediately. Do it flamboyantly. No exceptions. -William James

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Tamara Packard is a partner in the Madison law firm of Cullen Weston Pines & Bach LLP, where she practices primarily in the areas of employee rights and civil rights. A frequent speaker on legal and gay rights issues, Tamara is also an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she co-teaches the seminar Sexual Orientation and the Law. Tamara is a founding Board member of the Fair Wisconsin Education Fund, and served as President of the Board in 2006–2007.



Melody Harrison Hanson is a writer and photographer living in Madison, WI, with her husband and four children. She loves the mission of *Our Lives* and enjoys photographing the people she meets. As an LGBT ally and a Christ follower, she hopes simply to love others and build goodwill in our community. She blogs at: www.logicandimagination.wordpress.com and posts images at: www.flickr.com/photos/m_e_l_o_d_y/.

David Lacocque's commitment to being an LGBT ally began in graduate school during a year-long therapy practicum at Horizons Community Center (now the Center on Halsted). Since moving from Chicago to Madison nine years ago, David has been a frequent presenter through Outreach's Speakers Bureau, a consultant for Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools, and an annual co-presenter at Madison's LGBT Relationship Forum. David has a private psychotherapy practice in Madison near Hilldale Mall. At UW-Madison, David was a lecturer in psychology for several years and he is currently a senior psychologist at Counseling & Consultation Services. To learn more about David, please visit: www.drlacocque.com.



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farewell

Naomi Joan "Nikki" Baublatt August 26, 1961-May 1, 2011

naomi Joan "Nikki" Baublatt, partner of Cristie Derrick; mother of Anthony "Tony" Derrick (Rachel), Jennifer Olson (Jay), Steven Derrick, and numerous non-biological children of the heart; beloved grandmother of Kyler, Noah, Araya, Jonathan, Kaylie, Wynter, Mike, Nikita, Derek, Ryan, Jayden, Jordan, Celeste, and Julian. Cherished aunt to Eliana Miriam, Benjamin Matthew, Gregory, Kevin, and Tori; daughter of Dr. Michael and Sue Baublatt; sister of Lori and Rabbi James Sagarin; daughter-in-love to Nita Stoltz (Richard); and sister-in-love to Jamie and Robert Yoblin.

Naomi was born August 26, 1961. She died May 1, 2011, at age 49. Nikki was a 1979 graduate of Edgewood High School of the Sacred Heart and a 1984 graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She worked in the Athletic Department of UW-Madison, at "The Progressive Magazine", as the Development Director at Edgewood High School, as store manager of a Citgo Quick Mart, as co-owner of Dalmatian Ink, and as the Community Relations and Development Director of OutReach, Madison's LGBT Community Center.

Nikki was very active in the community. She served as co-president of the Board of Madison Pride, worked on many progressive local and state-wide political campaigns, and volunteered with Wisconsin Community Fund and New Harvest Foundation. She also served as Executive Director of Edgefest-Madison's City Fair, as a board member of Community Shares of Wisconsin, and as Co-Chair of GALVANize. Nikki was honored with the first Linda Sunberg "Civil Rights Defender Award" by Community Shares of Wisconsin and with a Special Recognition Award for "Outstanding Service" by OutReach.

Nikki loved dogs and believed strongly in adopting rescue dogs. They were hers and Cris' 4-footed children. Surviving her are her beagle-basset, Jaxxon, and her Labrador-Shiba mix, Bailey. Nikki lived her life caring and giving, treasuring friendships old and new, and valuing all she connected with; she leaves behind many dear and special friends who added so much to her quality of life.

Harold "Harry" Straetz August 20, 1957-June 8, 2011

harold "Harry" James Straetz, age 53, of Madison passed on to our heavenly Father on June 8, 2011 at HospiceCare, Inc., after a courageous three-and-a-half-year battle with cancer.

He was born on August 20, 1957 in Milwaukee, the son of Thomas and Anna (Beck) Straetz. In 1967 the family moved to Glidden, where Harry lived his early life and finished school. In 1987 he graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Superior with a bachelors degree in political science. In the same year Harry moved to Madison to attend UW-Madison Law School. Due to a brief illness, Harry had to resign from school and then took a career in wait staff and supervisor in various restaurants in Madison, primarily with the Ovens of Brittany Restaurants, Sun Porch, Sun Print, and Monty's Blue Plate Diner. During this time, Harry was extensively involved as a volunteer, board member, and for the past nine years a staff member for LGBT OutReach, Inc., Madison's LGBT Community Center. Harry enjoyed his work, dancing, music, outdoor activities, his wonderful friends and family, and his great zest for life.

He is survived by his sister, Cindy (Aaron) McClaire of Kaukauna; nephews Jake (Pam) McClaire of Kaukauna, Ian (Anna Vandehey) McClaire of Kaukauna, Charles Hauschild of Minneapolis, Tim Hauschild of Seattle, and Ed Hauschild of Park Falls; nieces Susan Hauschild of Minneapolis, Holly Mosley of Iowa, Terry Findley, Tammy Brothers, Kimberly Freeman, Fara Lowry and Christy Botsford, all of Attalla, Ala.; Harry's "Hair-Bear-Care-Team" of Walt Jackson, Robin Gee, Blanka Pinkasova and Josh Bartz; and numerous friends from over the years. Memorials may be made to Gilda's Club of Madison, HospiceCare, Inc., and LGBT OutReach.

The family would like to especially thank the doctors, nurses, and staff at UW Hospital Oncology Unit, HospiceCare, Inc., and Belmont Rehabilitation Center.

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OUR ARTISTS



Pushing the Envelope

Performance artist **Chanel Matsunami Govreau** challenges stereotypes and explores new storylines about gender, race, and sex.

Performance and print artist Chanel Matsunami Govreau's email signature is Audre Lorde's quote, "Without community there is no liberation." Chanel lives these words. Not only is her own future bright; her activism and energy will create brighter futures for all.

After a year in Japan, Chanel moved to Madison to study art, Japanese, and Asian-American Studies. During her sophomore year, she founded Women in REDzine, a multicultural women's literature and arts journal. She spent a year in New York teaching screen print and graphics at Harlem Textile Works while working to organize GrapevineINK, an international women-in-printmaking collective. She returned to finish her degree at UW-Madison this past year and worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant. In May, she received a Year of the Arts Student Award.

For those of you who have not seen Chanel's art, the following excerpts from her writing about her art and health offers insights into this talented emerging artist to watch out for.

From her artist statement:

I create art as a means of survival. I use my body, face, regalia, and word as a site of performance storytelling. I believe that by creating active narratives of transgressing sexuality and self-exposure, I hold the power of transformation. I seek to disrupt patterns of racism, sexism, and homophobia by indulging myself completely.

For the past few years I've been working under the character name 'Queen Gidrea,' a golden, multi-headed femme dragon. Through this persona I create stories inhabited by fabulous character exaggerations and futuristic prophecies based on my experiences as a queer, multiracial, and Asian-American woman. I combine humor and glamour to engage in dialogue about ethnic stereotyping and hypersexualization. This practice provides me with the opportunity to extract and confront my own internalized oppressions.

I often work with dancers and martial artists who wear my costume artifacts. I then direct movement and interaction of the performers while collaborating with photographers and video artists who document our process.

When I asked her about health and fitness and how it relates to her artist practice she had the following words to offer:

Health and well-being, both physical and mental, is an absolute priority in my practice as an artist and performer. I refuse to exhaust and abuse myself in a dark studio. Simply put, when I am not taking care of myself, I make bad art. By respecting my human body, I gain clarity and concentration to make strong work.

However, like everyone, I struggle with the balance of maintaining both my health and commitment to artistry. It was a breakthrough for me when I began integrating movement practices such as Muay Thai kickboxing into my performance pieces. Training was no longer just exercise or an external hobby; it became a place of drive and discipline for my work.

For my mental well-being, I practice co-counseling and often have sessions specifically dedicated to my art. I talk about my goals, ideas, anxieties, and frustrations to give me space to think and move forward.

In addition, as a performance artist you must be strong physically and mentally to be fully present in your work. The body is not a canvas you can walk away from.

I believe as a queer woman of color, maintaining my physical and mental health is an integral part of fighting interlocking oppressions. No more doubting ourselves or taking comfort and refuge in cycles that damage our bodies. Our choices are powerful, and we cannot ignore how racism, sexism, and homophobia seriously affect our personal well-being.

In May 2011, Chanel graduated from UW-Madison with a BFA and a certificate in Asian-American Studies. This summer she is attending the Grinnell Emerging Artist Residency in Iowa. In November she will perform new works at SOMArts in San Francisco as part of the Women's Caucus for Art's "Man as Object: Reversing the Gaze." She is currently working to finance a move to Thailand to pursue Thai language study and work with local organizations to learn more about sex trafficking in Southeast Asia. To learn more, visit www.queengidrea.com. —Karin Wolf



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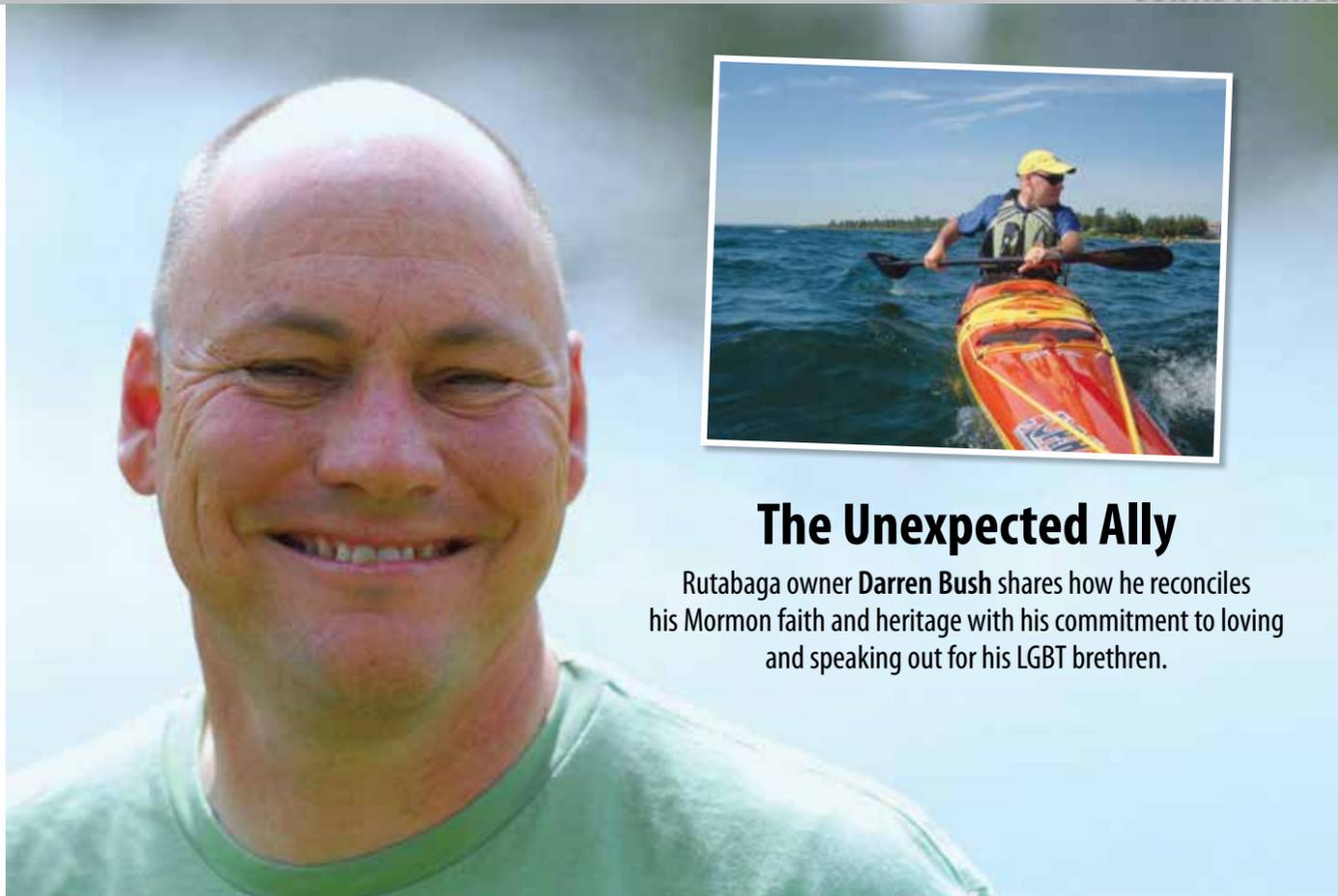
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The Unexpected Ally

Rutabaga owner **Darren Bush** shares how he reconciles his Mormon faith and heritage with his commitment to loving and speaking out for his LGBT brethren.

The price of hating other human beings is to love yourself less.

-Eldridge Cleaver

My life has been a series of unexpected events. I never expected to live in Wisconsin, having grown up in a cookie-cutter Los Angeles County suburb. I never expected to find a woman as amazing as Stephanie. Being brainy, I expected to be an Italian professor, not a small business owner.

I'm supposed to be Republican. I'm supposed to be homophobic. I'm a sixth-generation Mormon. That's a lot of history, having ancestors who walked from Iowa to Utah, leaving many of their



children in unmarked graves in Wyoming. It is my heritage, and it is my faith.

When exposed to things we don't regularly experience or understand, we react in a primal mode of self-preservation: our default is wariness and fear, which is a short step from demonizing and hate. It's far easier to hate than understand, and as a species, we're intellectually lazy. Or as Shaw said, "Hatred is the coward's revenge for being intimidated."

After meeting Stephanie, following her back to Wisconsin was a natural move. I never felt completely comfortable in California. There was a veneer of superficiality that didn't sit well with me, and there was definitely an obsession with material possessions and status. I came here for my wedding reception and moved here two months later. That was 27 years ago.

In 1993 we moved into a tiny house on Gregory Street. Four of us and a dog were all crammed into a little two-bedroom home, but we loved it. We also loved our neighbors, the sweetest and kindest and best men (a couple) you could hope to know. My children grew up to love their uncles next door, as did we. When Whitney ruptured her appendix, they were the first ones to the hospital with a giant card, balloons, and tears of concern for their niece. As I write this, I tear up thinking of the love and compassion they had for our family.

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One afternoon I walked between our houses and they were sitting on their patio. I playfully mocked them ... "There they are ... those homosexuals ... living that homosexual lifestyle ... drinking Diet Cokes ... reading the paper ..."

"... and doing laundry. Disgusting." Dear Don, always ready with a sardonic quip.

I have relatives who think that homosexuality is a lifestyle choice. I always ask them what a heterosexual lifestyle looks like. Then they look at me like I'm smoking crack, but they never have a good answer. They don't have a Don or a Michael. All they know is what someone told them, and that someone learned what they know about homosexuals from Pat Robertson.

Yes, members of my faith can be homophobes, as can anyone. The vast majority of members of my church are sweet and loving people, but by geography or by choice, they're unlikely to knowingly interact with anyone from the LGBT community. So I have made it my job to make introductions, connections, and to speak up when someone says something destructive and ignorant. Because I love them, they listen. That's good.

If I leave my faith, then Glenn Beck wins. Homophobia wins, love loses. Everyone loses.

The false piety and hypocritical rantings of fundamentalists are clear violations of the teachings of Jesus. Their focus on sexuality leaves the weightier matters of charity, love, honesty, integrity, and thankfulness by the wayside. Do they not read their own Bibles? What's the second great commandment? To love each other—period.

It is inconceivable to me for a person who claims to be Christian to also be intolerant and bigoted, to hate people based on a foggy perception of homosexuals as filtered through the likes of supposed moral compasses—those who, while railing against the attack on families, are often attacking their own when they think no one's watching. These "moral compasses" are the likes of Gingrich, Baker, Fallwell, Craig, etc.

I don't argue with my friends at church; I just point out facts. When they talk about the "deviant" behavior at gay pride parades, I usually say, "What about Spring Break? Mardi Gras? Girls Gone Wild?"

I don't argue with my friends at church; I just point out facts. When they talk about the "deviant" behavior at gay pride parades, I usually say, "What about Spring Break? Mardi Gras? Girls Gone Wild?" When they mention the "attack on marriage," I ask them how dedicated, loving people are an attack on anyone, and that straight people are doing a fine job attacking it ourselves. Thanks, Rush. I appreciate the data point.

I tell them that I am pretty much the same as my brothers Don and Michael. We both love our partners dearly, we enjoy our work, our friends, and our lives. Best of all, we love each other, and that is a gift to both of us. Why would anyone deprive themselves of such a gift?

My reason for living is to become more like Christ. "As I have loved you, love one another ... By this shall people know you are my followers." Regardless of what others might do or not do, my choice is to love myself and others around me. It is an active, deliberate, and purposeful decision. That decision makes my life rich beyond measure. ■

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OUR ORGANIZERS

It's a State of Mind

Team Orange's Lora Wilkinson loves to recruit new members.

Where are you from and what do you do? What is Team Orange and how did it come to be? Please tell the story of its origins. Team Orange began in 2000 when I joined a Women's Club hockey team in Madison. It began as something quite silly: two teammates and I had orange practice jerseys, so we called ourselves Team Orange. It was silly and simply fun. We remarked when others had orange on their jersey or socks, and called them Team Orange, too.

As the silly, child-like idea got bigger, it slowly moved away from being about the color and on to being about a state of mind. If folks were encouraging and had a positive attitude, they were on Team Orange. It's a state of mind. It's a way of thinking; perhaps a life motto. It is not flawless by any means; it is a good intent.

One friend designed a logo and another printed stickers and magnets for me. As folks would do something supportive and positive, I started using Team Orange as an adjective, telling them about Team Orange and offering a sticker for their hockey helmet.

But Team Orange really started for me as a child. My mom instilled it in me. Her core beliefs are to be encouraging and helpful and to work together. Her state of mind has greatly influenced that of mine and my siblings.

When you say, "It's a state of mind," what do you mean? Team Orange is a way of thinking, specifically a way of thinking about life as us all being here for a common purpose—to ultimately spread kindness. There is a quote by George Eliot, "What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" Team Orange is based in that.

The state of mind is about being a good team player, having a good attitude, supporting others whether they are "on your team" or not, assuming the best out of folks, being encouraging, positive, and constructive. Being benevolent. It is a good intention, never perfection. It is kindness. Human kindness.

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Who is in or on Team Orange? How does one become a member? Anyone can be on Team Orange. It is self-selection. If you think you belong, you are on Team Orange. (A little secret: Everyone has it in them.) Team Orange began with hockey jerseys and expanded to bike and running jerseys as well.

Team Orange is a way of thinking, specifically a way of thinking about life as us all being here for a common purpose—to ultimately spread kindness.

Does one have to be an athlete to be a part of Team Orange? Team orange isn't about being an athlete. Athletics and team sports have simply been an easy avenue for me to spread the state of mind. Team Orange is about good intention and working together, and looking out for one another—similar to the mindset of team sports.

How can readers learn more about Team Orange? If you see someone sporting Team Orange sticker or gear, ask them about it. Folks can also contact me via teamorangeonline@gmail.com or check out the website at www.itsastateofmind.org



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What Gay Hockey Means to Me

Each year the Madison Gay Hockey Association invites its members to write about the role that the MGHA plays in building their identity. 2011 scholarship winner **Jeff Godsey** shares his essay.



best to hide during gym. In high school, I started playing a little tennis, and it was perfect for me—just a coach, an opponent, and me. The only person counting on me was me, and best of all, there was no yapping.

In college as a theater major, I began taking dance classes and discovered an unexpected facility for it. As I took class after class and began performing in dance concerts, I found that my physical abilities in other areas were improving, too. In fact, I went ice-skating twice during this period and found myself doing crossovers for the very first time. I never thought that this facility would go away, but life took many turns, and at some point, I stopped moving and started sitting.

I came to Madison in 2006 to begin work on a doctorate. I had not thought about ice-skating in almost twenty years. I learned of MGHA pretty soon after arriving, but the thought of joining it did not enter my mind. Then some bad things happened.

In December 2006, I contracted HIV. By July of 2007, it had already progressed to AIDS, defying all medical knowledge. My doctors still tell me, “Jeff, your test results never look like anybody else’s.” In August 2007, I developed lymphoma and was admitted to the hospital in September. Word around the halls of UW Health was that I would not be leaving it alive. But then I started to get better. I was to begin chemotherapy in November, but a CT scan showed that my lymph glands were shrinking. Remember what I said about my test results not looking like anybody else’s?

I was not as happy with the news about my remission as one might think. I had a lifetime’s experience with battling depression, and there was a significant part of me that was a bit relieved by this death sentence. I was actually somewhat deflated when I was told that I would be hanging around for awhile. I fell very deeply into despair, and I spent much of the 2007–09 academic years sleeping and staring, gaining weight, and falling behind in my coursework and research. I wanted to go somewhere, but I did

Maybe I wanted to do something that scared me. Negotiating my days had become scary in a very profound way, and I knew that it would never ever get any less scary. My blood had become toxic. I would never be able to conquer it, but hockey was just this thing outside of me. Hockey was a fight I could pick myself.

not know where. I wanted to do something extraordinary, but I did not know what. I wished a lot of things. I was having a midlife or perhaps an end-of-life crisis. I couldn’t afford a sports car, so what to do?

Sometime in 2009, I became a Facebook friend of Patrick Farabaugh, the founder of the Madison Gay Hockey Association. Let me tell you something about Patrick—if you do not want to play hockey, then you should not come to his attention. He sent me an application, harangued me about it for a few weeks, and for some reason—I still don’t know

why to this day—I filled it out and sent it in.

I think that maybe I wanted to do something that scared me. Negotiating my days had become scary in a very profound way, and I knew that it would never ever get any less scary. My blood had become toxic. I had been rewritten on the cellular level; I wasn’t even me anymore. I would never be able to conquer it, but hockey was just this thing outside of me. Hockey was a fight I could pick myself. Hockey was way outside this Tennessee boy’s comfort zone. Just showing up to play hockey would be a victory, and maybe—just maybe—winning that little victory would begin to make me feel OK again.

It worked.

Not to say that my first year in MGHA was all ticker tape and loving cups. No. Remember, team sports have always been difficult for me. My skating was bad. It was as if the capacity for dance and sports that I had developed in my late teens and early twenties had never happened. Furthermore, I had not left my apartment much for a couple of years, and my always sketchy social skills were not the better for it. I have also had a problem fitting in with other gay people. One on one, I am fine, but I have never been anything but awkward in the midst of gay-bar reindeer games. I go into a gay crowd thinking I have to be something I am not. I become awkward and obviously self-conscious. My darn good sense of humor goes into overdrive, and I become too loud, too excessive. Maybe I even become a parody of myself at times.

But at MGHA I found myself on a team that had to take me, no matter what. Sure, there were people who turned away from me—people are, indeed, people. But there were also people who either got what I was going through or just did not care enough to shun me. Michelle Watkins, MGHA’s 2009–10 president, refused to let me quit. She listened to every confused, painful thought I had to share that first year. Dan Grejczyk drove all the way from Sun Prairie to the west side in the middle of the week and took me to Tenney Pond to stand still and watch me skate for an hour in the cold and helped me fix my stride. Jacob Ela, who has been playing for years and can skate circles around me, purposefully picked me as a partner at practices because he could tell I was struggling and embarrassed. I also met Mark Nessel, who has become my closest friends in Madison, through the MGHA. This season, I talked my other closest friend, Jim Bungert, and his wife Kim Bungert into joining the league, and they are having a great time. Them’s the pearls right there: the people. Goals and assists are awesome, but through this league I have become part of a community for the first time in years. Best of all, I no longer want to rip my skin off every morning when I wake up.

I was shocked and gratified when the Operations Committee for the MGHA asked me to join it after my first year with the league. My primary responsibility in the 2010-11 season was to serve as a liaison between the committee and the new players. It was a privilege to be able to say to some of those new players during the pre-season clinics, “Oh, you can’t quit. Here’s what happened to me. See? You’ll be fine.” That was the best thing about my sophomore season. The second best thing—and it was a distant second—was scoring my first goal.

You will have to drag me kicking and screaming from the MGHA. I’ll be 80, assuming I make it that long, digging my nails into the ice, hanging on for dear life as they try to drag me to the home. That’s because it is dear life. I’m not sure that I would have made it through this dark period without it. This is not hyperbole. The MGHA gave me hope. It gave me a community. It gave me friends—a handful of whom I consider my family. It gave me a new lease on life.

That’s what MGHA means to me: life. I am alive, I am here, and I play hockey. ■

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Mad Love

Tara Ayres interviews the MadKings about theater, gender, and queer community.

The MadKings are Madison's only drag king troupe. Tara spoke with Julian, Max, CC, Jean, Sonic, Angela, and Johnnycakes.

Why drag?

Max: I just need to perform. And drag keeps me talking to and socializing with other queers. It's a subset of the lesbian community in Madison. I like the way that numbers are produced by individuals and by the whole troupe. You have more input; you get more variety. You have to brainstorm and come up with creative ideas.

CC: I started drag because I love gender fucking. I find drag kings really sexy. I wanted an excuse to tart myself up like a drag queen, and make the boys look more manly.

Julian: I didn't know any queer people in Madison when I moved here, so I hit the clubs. I met CC there. I was interested in queer gender performance for people born as women.

Johnnycakes: It's a trip to dress up as a man. There's a sense of power; it's an alter ego. And I like performing.

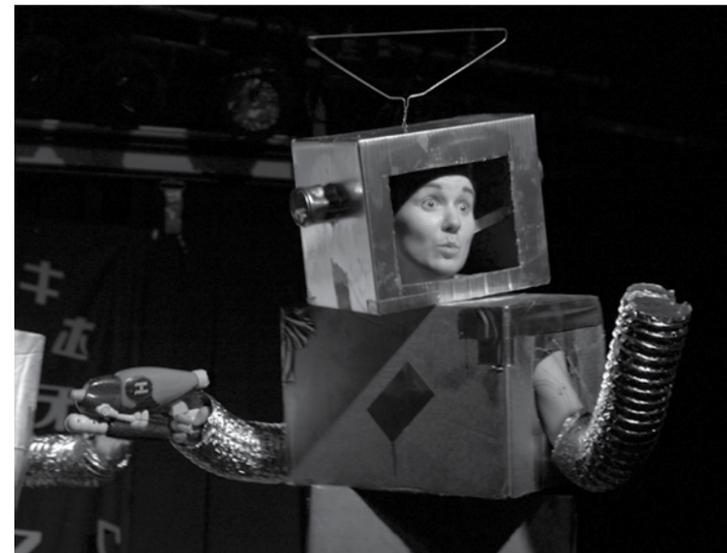
Sonic: I've always liked lip-synching, and I've done theater. I'm naturally introverted, so being a drag king is a chance to show an entirely different side of myself.

It's showing our gender play, and our power in our female bodies and our masculine presentation. Sometimes it's stripping down to femaleness, exposing the binding can be powerful.

Angela: It's like being in a band. We get to have our own personalities and things to contribute.

Jean: Drag personas are alter egos. Some of the identities have been crafted over the years and they're very important to them. One of the former members' drag persona became his identity. You can tell when

OUR STAGES



your persona is there, as opposed to your own way of being or acting. It's a way of exploring other personalities.

Max: I want to have the flexibility to do different characters, like in theater, but that's not Max. It's a character in a character. It's a lot like SNL, people doing one touchstone character and lots of other sketches.

What role(s) and role modeling do you see drag taking on in the LGBTQ community? What are the challenges?

Johnny: Sometimes we do very traditional gender roles—stereotypical presentations. Sometimes we play into traditional roles, but then twist them. We'll do traditional heterosexual or gay male roles.

Max: The drag king community is more queer presentation, more gender play. We play into stereotypes, but we also play around them and undermine them.

Johnny: We talk about it if people are doing things that aren't appropriate or not consistent with our values as a troupe, like something not showing consent or is showing violence. We have discussion around the politics of different acts.

Max: We're all in this together; we perform as a troupe. We have had several talks about cultural appropriation and indigenous culture.

Johnny: In past years, people would do songs with a message. People don't come to see drag to see political messages. That's why I'm more drawn to funny songs. You can run into hard territory when you're trying to do political messages.

CC: Sometimes it's just funny or sexy or romantic. We need to be responsible about what we're portraying, but we need to entertain. There's always something to take away, it's gender fucking, it's complex, it's political. Even if there's no overt message, we're political because we exist.

Sonic: Queer community is so careful and so respectful and worried about offending people. We don't want to step on anyone's toes.

What are your thoughts about burlesque and its increasing inclusion in drag shows?

Max: There was shock value in the strips (by drag kings); it can be gender play. It's showing our gender play, and our power in our female bodies and our masculine presentation. Sometimes it is boiesque, sometimes it's stripping down to femaleness, exposing the binding can be powerful.

CC: A lot of us really like our bodies; we find power in our bodies.

Julian: No one is upset with or ashamed of his or her body. It's trying to reject some of the dysphoria that comes from trying to portray what we're not. If we strip off, we're celebrating who we are. ■

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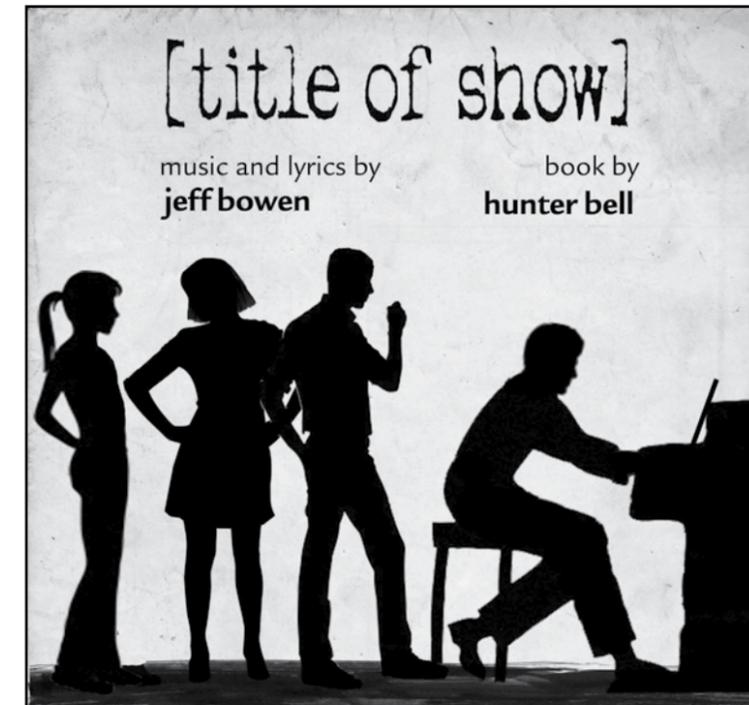
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A Gender-y Sort

2011 Fair Wisconsin Activist Award winner and author of *She's Not the Man I Married*, Helen Boyd, is our definition of what a trans ally and advocate looks like.

I get asked how exactly I came to do trans advocacy and activism as a non-trans person. Aside from the obvious (my wife is trans), there is no avoiding the fact that trans people are my people. I used to flinch a little when someone assumed I was trans because of the work I do, but now, in having been honored to meet and know some truly remarkable people who happen to be trans, I consider it a compliment.

Transgender Lives Class

This is the fourth year and the fourth time I've taught a Transgender Lives course at Lawrence University in Appleton. We always spend a week of the course specifically on violence against trans people—the kind of transphobia and gender panic that cause people to be so brutal.

We tend to think only trans people have a preferred pronoun—but most people get upset when they are misgendered by a stranger. That's one way for all of us, as non-trans people, to see commonalities of experience.

And every year, the week before we start that section, I tell my students that we only have to wait a little while before a new case of trans violence is reported. I can say that on Thursday, and by the time we're beginning the section the following Tuesday, I've been proven right.

There is always one. Last year Chanel Larkin was murdered right here in Milwaukee. I want to see a year where it's not true, and another and another, and hopefully, eventually, I will only teach that section of Trans Lives as history.

Misunderstood

The violence, in some ways, is the least of it: trans people are still misunderstood, considered perverts of one kind or another—you know how it feels to be labeled like that—or are otherwise pathologized for being crazy—you know how that one feels too—and otherwise assumed not to be trying hard enough to live in the gender they were declared at birth and to live within the binary. Depending on the kind of trans person they are—and here I'm using the alliance or umbrella model of trans identities—they may fit into the binary after transition, or not. For me, the really telling point of evidence was meeting trans women who identified as butch post transition, or meeting the many trans men who are gay. The old theories about trans people being some kind of self-hating gays, or the accusations that they transitioned because they couldn't live in the world as non-normatively gendered—implode when you meet the range of trans people out there, especially the ones who held out, who tried everything, who really didn't want to be trans at all. Just as in the rest of the population, some trans people are gay or lesbian in addition to being trans. Their gender identity has little to do with their sexual orientation, but only to the degree that we all define our sexual orientations not just in terms of the gender we're attracted to but in terms of the gender we are ourselves.

O for Other

As a gender-y sort, it's difficult to accept the need to transition. I've never had an easy time with my own gender—both as a feminist and as a person—and for those of us who struggle with our own genders, or who desperately hid the parts of ourselves that made our genders non-normative, trans people can be challenging. There are times I look at my wife happily filling out an F on a form only to think: if only mine were that easy. I'm the one these days who wants the O for Other, who prefers

Believe me it's been one heck of a surprise, and a wake-up call, to find myself the more masculine woman in a same sex relationship after having been the tomboy in a heterosexual one.

to leave a gender blank blank. Believe me it's been one heck of a surprise, and a wake-up call, to find myself the more masculine woman in a same sex relationship after having been the tomboy in a heterosexual one. Allies have no real idea what it's like to live in the world as a same sex couple; so many people see the strides that have been made in terms of all our civil rights and assume it's all good. We know it's not.

What We Share and What We Don't

Often gay and lesbian people think they understand trans genders because they've experienced their own issues with gender and they've experienced discrimination, prejudice, and outright bigotry. But we don't really know what it's like to be trans; I feel safe in saying that I've probably met more trans people than most people, and I still don't truly understand it, but I do know that it's real, and deeply felt, and absolutely vital that trans people get to live in a gender that makes sense to them. We tend to think only trans people have a preferred pronoun—but most people get upset when they are misgendered by a stranger. That's one way for all of us, as non-trans people, to see commonalities of experience.

Other than the idea that we know our allies by who else our enemies hate—the fact of it is that same sex attraction, like trans identities, are about gender: yours and the other person's. There are trans people who are heterosexual after transition, or, like me and my partner, who looked heterosexual before transition. But it is likely that trans people will be judged to be LG or B at some point in their lives, depending on when they transition and who they date before and after the fact. ■



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A Piece from the LGBTQ Narratives Group

lgbtqnarratives.blogspot.com

Since 2003, **Nosila Eyellit** has directed the Wisconsin Book Festival, a five-day annual public literary festival, produced by the Wisconsin Humanities Council. She also has over 10 years of experience as a bookseller, has served as an editorial assistant at the Paris Review, and spent several summers on scholarship at the Penland School of Crafts in papermaking and letterpress printing.



How to Mess Up Your Kids (A Multiple Choice Quiz)

A) Listen closely. Is your daughter walking around talking to herself? Is she using a park bench as a balance beam and repeating "escalator, escalator, escalator" over and over to herself? Is that a problem? WAIT! Now she's saying something different ... "testicle, testicle, testicle." What if someone hears? Quick, run and grab her and shut her up. And make sure her cousin doesn't share that "Where Did I Come From" book with your daughter again!

B) If you are reading a story to your 5-year-old son, and your precocious 7-year-old daughter (who is reading a Judy Blume book to herself) sticks her head in the door and interrupts with a word she can't understand, and that word is "men – uss – tray – shun," gasp. Stare at her in panic. Drain all the color out of your face and snap, "I'll tell you later." At bedtime, avoid eye contact while saying goodnight. Eventually, she will understand that you mean "years later."

C) Years later, when your college age daughter comes out to you, hope that you are driving so you can swerve immediately into a one-way street (in the wrong direction) and say SHIT and she'll never quite be able to say it was your initial reaction. Next time she brings it up, simply call it as you see it: tell her she has no restraint. Say to her, "Anything that occurs to you, you have to try it."

D) None of the above.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Many more years later, when you are driving your own car with your own kids in the back, and one says to the other, "Mommy isn't gay, because Mommy was married to Daddy," look into the rearview mirror and say, "Yes I am."

LGBTQ Narratives is a queer activist-writers' group open to all LGBTQ people interested in creative expression and social justice. To get involved, visit lgbtqnarratives.blogspot.com, write to lgbtqnarratives@gmail.com, or contact OutReach, Madison's LGBT Community Center.



Our Lives is ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS of original, previously unpublished poetry by Madison-area poets. We invite contributions that represent our diversity including: gender and gender identity, sexual preference, racial and ethnic heritage, allies, emerging voices, and poets—young and old. Poems should be no longer than 20 lines. When submitting, please indicate any special group(s) you may represent. This will assist us in selecting works that represent our diverse community.

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Edited by Lázaro Lima and Felice Picano | *Ambientes* is a revolutionary collection of fiction featuring stories by established authors as well as emerging voices that present a collective portrait of Latina and Latino gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender lives in America today. The University of Wisconsin Press.

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DOROTHY ALLEN is a native of North Carolina, whose dogwood trees and red dirt she longs for daily. Since moving to Madison with her girlfriend, she can be found writing poems and essays, stenciling protest propaganda, picking songs on the banjo, and escorting her handsome young dog to the park.



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- Save the Date**
- Community Shares: 40th Anniversary**
September | communityshares.com
 - OPEN Workplace Summit**
September 17 | openmadison.org
 - 19th Annual OutReach Banquet**
September 23 | lgbt Outreach.org
 - GSAFE Walk/Run/Eat**
October | gsaforsafeschools.org
 - Fair Wisconsin Art Auction**
December 1 | fairwisconsin.com
 - OPEN Annual Dinner**
January | openmadison.org
 - Fair Wisconsin Leadership Awards**
March | fairwisconsin.com

Art Fair on the Square, July 9-10, Madison's Capitol Concourse Art Fair on the Square is a summertime destination for fine arts enthusiasts from across the Midwest. Organized by the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, the fair features music, entertainment, and outdoor dining, as well as the work of nearly 500 artists exhibiting works in mixed media, ceramics, drawings, graphics, prints, fiber, leather, furniture, glass, jewelry, metal, paintings, photographs, sculpture, 3D mixed media, and wood. mmoca.org/events/artfair

The Bartell Theatre Awards, July 9, Bartell Theatre, Madison The second annual awards include: Choreography Most Likely to Land Someone in the Hospital, Best Drama, Best Fight and/or Kiss, Best Death Scene, Most Cohesive Season, Best Comedy/Musical, and Most Valuable Volunteer. Funds raised by the Awards will go to the Bartell Theatre Foundation to keep accessible local theater going strong. bartelltheatre.org

Opera in the Park: 10th Anniversary Concert, July 16, Garner Park, Madison's West Side In what has become a much beloved Madison summer tradition, Opera in the Park features familiar opera hits, the best of Broadway, as well as musical highlights from the upcoming Madison Opera mainstage season. Performed by the outstanding talents of the Madison Opera Chorus, the Madison Symphony Orchestra, and some of opera's brightest stars, Opera in the Park is a FREE community event perfect for audiences of ALL ages! madisonopera.org/performances/park2011

The Glass Menagerie, Throughout July and August, Touchstone Theater, APT, Spring Green How do we remember the really hard moments in our lives? How do we think about our most difficult decisions? Why do we feel compelled to talk (or not talk) about choices we have made, actions we regret, pain we have caused? Tennessee Williams asks us to confront, and not avoid, some tough questions in The Glass Menagerie. americanplayers.org

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WISCONSIN CAPITOL PRIDE PHOTO BY JOHN FEITH



PURSUING THE PATH LESS TRAVELED

Dean Health System President & CEO **Dr. Craig Samitt** has spent his life learning how to embrace his own differences and use them to challenge the status quo professionally and personally.

When Patrick Farabaugh asked me to sit down and write the story of my “authentic life” and to describe how I’ve gotten to where I am both professionally and personally, I must admit that I asked myself, “Why me?” When I first reflected on what I could possibly say, my initial thought was that my story was not that magical, not that motivating, and not that inspirational that it would offer guidance to others who would want to pursue a similar path. As I sat down and began to write, however, I realized that my lack of self-awareness regarding my approach to life, my philosophy on leadership, and my drive to succeed were simply due to the fact that I’ve always lived this way, and that I could no longer see that I’ve approached life a bit differently all these years.

Internal Motivations

As I reflected on the drivers of my internal motivation, and what has enabled me to move forward and succeed despite potential adversity, I would have to say that it’s been due to three things:

First, I’ve always worked to embrace and exploit what has made me different and what has made me special, rather than shy away from my uniqueness by trying to blend in with the crowd. Ever since I was a child, I’ve always pursued the figurative “path less traveled,” and have been undeterred by those who would tell me “you can’t,” “you won’t,” or “you’re unqualified.”

Second, I’ve always seemed to challenge convention, to seek out the unseen truth in any story, to challenge authority figures, to be a purpose-

ful devil’s advocate, and to be openly proud of what made me different than everyone. I’ve always been that way and always will. Those who know me well know that I “call it like I see it,” and am sensitive to, but not beaten down by, what other people think. To put it another way, I’ve never let anyone throw obstacles in my way, as I will always find a way to maneuver around the challenges people have thrown in my path.

Third, my life has always been about challenging the status quo, even with myself. Call it lifelong personal improvement, but I’ve never been one to settle for unrefined weaknesses. If I see something I don’t like about my personal life, my career, my health, or my circumstances, I put huge effort into changing it. Not only do I have lists of goals for work, I have lists of personal goals for myself.

A Different Rule Book

Because of my willingness to embrace my uniqueness, to continuously challenge my own personal status quo, and to step around any obstacles in my way, I started playing from a different rule book from very early on in my life. While all of my friends from my New Jersey high school went to Ivy League colleges close by, I went to a non-Ivy League school much farther away. I wanted to be different. While my traditional friends and family would return home for summers or take somewhat traditional jobs in between years of college, I tried to pursue jobs internationally that were designed more for graduate students or physicians. I wanted to be different. When all of my medical school and residency colleagues chose to pursue high-paid medical specialties, I chose to go into primary care and head off to business school because I wanted to “fix healthcare.” I wanted to be different.

Coming Out

And then I hit a bump in the road that, for just a moment, suggested that different may not be that good; I came out to my parents.

While it may be trite to tell my coming out story here, I do think it’s relevant to my message. You should know also that I broke nearly all of the “gay handbook” rules when I came out. I was traveling with my sister and my parents in Arizona where my sister was doing a medical residency rotation. The big event happened when my parents overheard me talking very early on Thanksgiving morning to a friend who I had coincidentally visited many times in recent months and whose name I had mentioned just a few too many times. Something must have clicked for them, and it was instantly clear that it was time for the “conversation,” even though I wasn’t prepared. Our initial discussion went very badly, and it remains a blur, even now, 17 years later. But the major snippets were: “You’re never welcome home again...we won’t support you now that you’ve destroyed your career...we’ll come to your funeral...” My immediate reaction was intense pain; my next reaction was calmness and maturity (I felt that I had become the parent at that moment and they were the children); and my final reaction was resilience. In fact, my overwhelming driving emotion shortly before I left Arizona and returned to business school was, “Oh yeah? I’m going to prove you wrong...” (Things are totally back to normal with my parents, by the way.)

While for some, coming out is a sufficiently traumatic experience that results in a desire to conform to the norm, to hide one’s true self even further, or suppress one’s happiness and lifestyle, my coming out experi-

ence had the exact opposite effect on me. I wanted everyone at home and at work to know everything about me. I wanted my differences to define me, not control or limit me. I wanted to get closer with my friends, colleagues, and direct reports by sharing personal details of my life as a way to strengthen my relationships with people as opposed to constructing walls. I wanted to walk around the obstacles that anyone threw in my path and to prove that my uniqueness made me stronger, not weaker. And I’m so glad I did that—because my honesty, my directness, and my uniqueness made me progressively more successful and more avidly embraced by my friends and my colleagues. And most importantly, it gave me the confidence to “be who I be,” as a close friend of mine puts it, and not to be troubled or restricted by those who would seek to define me.

Embracing Uniqueness

Fast forward to present day, and I continue to live my life this way—perhaps even more so. There’s no better example of my being willing to embrace my uniqueness than my decision to move to Madison. For an avid east-coaster who has never lived anywhere else, being part of a community that is smart, cultural, accomplished, academic, honest, and diverse has been very empowering for me. It’s easy to feel right at home in Madison when you’re an individual who is proud of what makes you different.

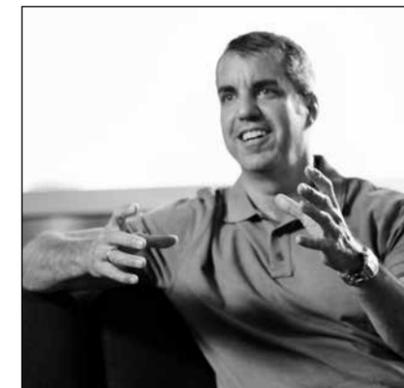
Challenging the Status Quo

One defining present-day example of challenging my own personal status quo dates back about two years ago when I was climbing Camelback Mountain in Phoenix with my partner and some friends. About halfway up the mountain I needed to stop, and I begrudgingly turned back because I could not physically complete the hike. And what was my reaction? “Never again...” I came home to Madison, and on Christmas Eve, I started the P-90X fitness program and completed the intense 90-day course. Today, I double hike (up and over and then up and over a second time) Camelback on a regular basis. My personal motto must definitely be, “Never let anything get in my way, even if it’s a mountain in 100-degree heat.”

Having the opportunity to join Dean has probably been the biggest highlight of all for me. One of the primary reasons why I left clinical medicine

in the first place to pursue the business side of healthcare was because of my belief that healthcare had significant opportunities for improvement, and that there was no reason why the healthcare industry should not be as high-performing as some of the best companies in the world. We know all too well the opportunities that exist to improve the service, quality, access, and cost of the healthcare that we as caregivers provide and that we as patients receive. You won’t be surprised to hear that my passion in healthcare has been to choose “the path less traveled” by truly fixing healthcare and being part of the creation of a healthcare organization that sets a national example for how better care can be delivered at a lower cost. In my view, that organization is Dean, and that is one of the primary reasons why I came to and stay in Madison.

I hear folks whisper about me around the country, and say, “Look at him. He wants to make Dean, an organization in Madison, Wisconsin, the best healthcare organization in the nation—even better than Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, Kaiser or Geisinger. Yeah, right...” And what is my reaction? I turn to them all say, “Oh yeah? I’m going to prove you wrong!” ■



Those who know me well know that I “call it like I see it,” and am sensitive to, but not beaten down by, what other people think.



Diverse and Resilient Executive Director **Gary Hollander** is leading a charge to dismantle Wisconsin's LGBT population's health risks and trying to replace them with a stronger, safer community.

queer folks in Wisconsin use tobacco. A lot. We are more than twice as likely as our heterosexual peers to smoke cigarettes. That translates into 7,000 years of life lost each year to LGBT people in Wisconsin because of tobacco use. This disparity, or difference from the norm, in tobacco use is only one of many highlighted in *Healthiest Wisconsin 2010*, our state public health plan.

While the loss of life from smoking represents a private crisis to the affected person and their family, the \$297 million in medical expenses and lost earnings each year are of concern to policy makers as well. "A lot of LGBT people appear to be annoyed by tobacco use," says Anthony Harris, Prevention Program Coordinator with Diverse and Resilient, "but

relatively few still appear to be poised to take on their friends, calling them out to be healthy."

Many Health Disparities

Besides tobacco use, Wisconsin LGBT people have disparities in community violence, HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, alcohol and other drug abuse, intimate partner violence, and mental health issues—including suicide attempts.

These disparities are at the core of the work of Diverse and Resilient, Inc., a statewide LGBT nonprofit organization whose mission is the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in Wisconsin by creating and sustaining groups and communities

to take action. The organization began in 1995 as a program hosted by Aurora Health Care and the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine Department of Family Practice. In 2002, the organization opted to become an independent agency to better meet community needs and have more discretion in program offerings.

Diverse and Resilient now has a staff of nine and supports programming in Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, and Milwaukee. This work is possible because of the agency's unique service model. Many services are provided through LGBT community centers around the state or through LGBT youth serving organizations like Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin or Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin. This work in alcohol abuse prevention, tobacco cessation, HIV prevention, healthy relationship development, and mental health is also made possible by the 75 peer health promoters who take an active part in the effort.

Qualifying for Diverse and Resilient Services

To be described as a disparity in public health circles—and therefore selected for intervention by Diverse and Resilient—there should be some compelling evidence that the difference is real.

In other words, there should be sound survey data, health records, or local epidemiological studies that support the claim that health differences are real. So while each of us may have experiences with gay men who don't exercise enough, or with LGBT youth who don't eat enough green vegetables, these personal observations of nutritional differences are not sufficiently robust to sound the alarm as health disparities.

Double Minority Status Increases Health Risks

On the other hand, there are some differences that are so obvious that they are readily identified. Take HIV. In Milwaukee, it is estimated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that up to 30% of young African American gay and bisexual men may be HIV+. This figure is about 60 times the rates of their heterosexual peers.

Brenda Coley, Diverse and Resilient Director of Adult Services, notes, "These rates speak to the long term indifference to the health issues and social exclusion of African American gay and bisexual men."

Chris Allen, Diverse and Resilient HIV Program Coordinator, adds, "We are simultaneously treated as invisible and dangerous; we are kept in the background and then decried as being on the 'downlow.'"

Other serious health risks persist for LGBT people in our state, but the

general population shares those high rates so disparities cannot be readily identified. For example, among statewide youth who have had same-sex sexual behaviors, we know that roughly the same percent (45%) have binged on alcohol in the past month, which is the same as their heterosexual peers who are also sexually active. The same is true for the prevalence of general alcohol use. So, while no disparity exists, it is because Wisconsin teens overall show much higher rates of alcohol use and binge drinking than teens elsewhere.

WISCONSIN

Smokers: LGBT residents are more than twice as likely as our heterosexual peers to smoke cigarettes.

LGBT Students: Compared to their heterosexual peers, LGBT teens report higher rates of fighting (45%), getting injured in fights (12%), and getting hit, punched, or kicked while at school (30%).

MILWAUKEE

HIV-positive African Americans: Up to 30% of young African American gay and bisexual men in Milwaukee may be HIV positive. That is 60 times the rate of their heterosexual peers.

Teen Drinkers: LGBT teens in Milwaukee Public Schools are half again as likely to binge drink as their peers.

At-risk Youth

That said, LGBT teens across the state do report a significantly earlier debut into drinking, with more than a third starting before age 13. Further, LGBT teens in Milwaukee Public Schools are half again as likely to binge drink than their peers.

For many, it is hard to pay attention to the details of these data points. But Diverse and Resilient and the public health community find them invaluable. Mark O'Neil, Diverse and Resilient Director of Youth Services, points out, "These show us where to focus our attention and put our community in charge of our own lives. The data can also, at times, point to the source of these disparities."

O'Neil is referring to the alarming numbers of LGBT youth who skip school each month because they feel unsafe there or on their way to school (16%). These same youth report

higher rates of fighting (45%), getting injured in fights (12%), and getting hit, punched, or kicked while at school (30%). It becomes obvious why roughly one in eight report never feeling safe from physical harm while at school.

The stresses that LGBT people in Wisconsin face—their social exclusion and marginalization, their fears and experiences—all contribute to the risks in which they engage.

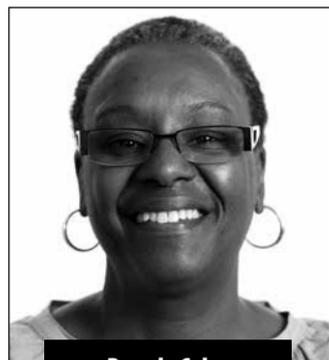
Diverse and Resilient holds to the perspective that LGBT people cannot be blamed for our health risks, but as a community we are accountable for dismantling them. "This work is actually fun," says Kofi Short, Program Specialist. "Every day we get to put together the building blocks of safe, supportive communities where we can all live healthy, satisfying lives." ■

Governor's Commendation

In 2010, Governor Jim Doyle commended Diverse and Resilient on their 15 years of success and their critical contributions to the health and wellbeing of LGBT organizations, citizens, and allies.



Gary Hollander



Brenda Coley



Jacob Dougherty



Kofi Short



Rachel Federlin



Anthony Harris



Mark O'Neil



Chris Allen

Our History by Richard Wagner

Balancing and Bridging

A 1930s study of homosexuals in Wisconsin.



I have earlier written about post-World War II University of Wisconsin professors that examined homosexuality, but there was also an active researcher before the war. This was John Lewis Gillin, a professor of sociology, whose studies included one that touched on homosexuality in the 1930s.

By the time his book *The Wisconsin Prisoner: Studies in Crimogenesis* was published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 1946, Gillin was an emeritus professor. His work shows the tension and transition occurring in viewing homosexuals based on their status or as a class rather than on individuals who are defined by criminal acts. In this regard, Gillin's work was unconsciously a balancing and bridging act.

The origins of the work were clearly in how homosexuality in Wisconsin was treated in the older, criminal context. Gillin's overall study was of 486 inmates of the Waupun State Prison, divided into three broad classifications of almost 100 murderers, about 125 sex offenders, and some 250 criminals with property crimes. The sex offenders included a group of more than 25 inmates with sodomy charges—the overwhelming number of them male-on-male crimes, but a few heterosex-

ual sodomists as well.

Gillin noted, "Sodomy is defined as 'the crime against nature, with mankind or beast' and such crime 'may be committed by the penetration of the mouth of any human being by the organ of any male person as well as by penetration of the rectum.' (*Wisconsin Statutes*, 1935, Section 351.40)" It would appear, then, that this study would treat the criminal acts thusly. Not all the sex acts or offenses had been selected for study but sodomy and rape were.

In recognition of the contemporary context in which sodomy might be viewed, Gillin provided a most interesting section entitled, "Existing Literature on Sex Crimes." It was predominately a scholarly review of writings mainly focused on, as he titled it, "Homosexuality or Sodomy," with some passages also added on incest. Here we see a presumed conflation of a person's status as a homosexual or someone who loved someone of the same sex with actual, defined criminal acts.

Gillin noted in this essay that the "psychology of sex offenders, a field in which Freud was a pioneer, has received more attention than the psychology of murderers." In addition to Freud, he noted Adler, Jung, Rank, and Stekel among the authorities. After discussing that some homosexuals are absolute inverts while others are occasional inverts, he then proceeds to outline, "Freud's theo-

ry of the psychological roots of homosexuality ..."

Gillin surveyed other contemporary writings, including citations for the 1932 *British Journal of Psychoanalysis* and Havelock Ellis's section on "Sexual Inversion" in his 1936 *Studies in the Psychology of Sex*. He also cited Wilhelm Stekel, who published in German *Onanie und Homosexualitat* that was published in English in 1934.

Gillin also discussed Magnus Hirschfeld and his *Jahrbuch fur Sexuelle Zwischenstufen*, citing Hirschfeld as "the author of one of the most important books on the subject," with a belief that heredity predisposes one to homosexuality. According to Gillin, Hirschfeld asserted that, "Nervous or mental anomalies ... are no more frequent among ancestors of homosexuals than among the ancestors of those endowed with normal sexuality." Though Gillin discounted Hirschfeld by stating near the end of the literature review regarding parental history, "The majority holds that pronounced homosexuals have a similar ancestry or at least a history of neurosis."

Gillin did not reference Hirschfeld's pioneering law reform work to decriminalize homosexuality in Germany. Nor did he reference that Hirschfeld's works were among the books burned by the Nazis as they took power.

The most favorable citation came from Iwan Bloch who wrote *The Sexual Life of Our Times in its Relation to Modern Civilization*, published in 1914. Gillin noted that Bloch, while conceding that some homosexuals have a morbid constitution, felt, "The largest section of original homosexuals, are perfectly healthy, physically normal persons."

In the literature review section of the work, Gillin clearly discusses homosexuality as a type or personality trait as the status of a group of individuals. While he notes that both environment

and heredity are thought of as causes for the status, it is as a class that homosexuals may be considered. Additionally, the sample group of prisoners was actually a subset of homosexually active individuals in Wisconsin: those arrested for specific acts, not because of their status.

Gillin, during his analysis of the research, was looking for general statements that can be made about prisoners and the origins of their crimes. How this ties to his literature review on homosexuals in general is most tenuous, although at times he attributes causal relationships to maternal figures as a Freudian-type explanation of the status which brought the individuals to their particular criminal acts.

In his analysis of sex offenders, Gillin compared the criminal male sodomists and rapists in three respects: IQ, favoritism, and occupation. The study's conclusions were that homosexuals had higher IQs, a larger proportion were professional men or unskilled laborers, and they showed more emotional sensitivity to favoritism in the family than the rapists.

Gillin's sample of convicted sodomists included a great diversity across the Wisconsin population. There were both blacks and whites; Catholic, Methodist, and Lutheran religions; and Yankees or native-born, German, French-Canadian, Polish, and Bohemian in ethnic origins. While many were laborers, one was a principal of a grade school in central Wisconsin and another had been a teacher in a Catholic high school and college. Gillin observed, "In most cases the root of the offense lies deeper than intelligence, inasmuch as the sodomists include men of both low and high intelligence."

Another revelation in the case histories provided by the study, though not one highlighted for analysis by Gillin, was the nature of law enforcement activities against homosexuals in the 1930s. Several cases are cited as individuals being known to the police as homosexuals but not arrested until they committed egregious acts such as sex with minors or in public parks. One comment was, "In the community from which he was committed he has a long history of homosexuality but no record of previous arrests."

Gillin's method of research and analysis included interviewing non-criminal siblings of the sex offenders for comparison purposes. Comments about them included "harmonious married life,"

"more normal upbringing," "unlike the prisoner, is strong and physically masculine," and "worked as a farmhand in a wholesome community."

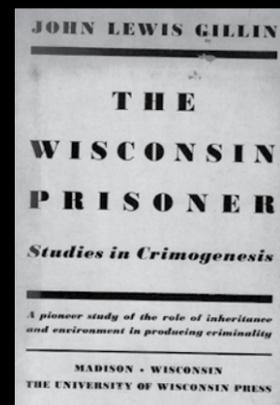
A non-Freudian conclusion put forward by Gillin was that, "In others, homosexuality developed only when the proper stimulus occurred." Among such stimuli cited by Gillin were "demoralized associates" and "social example and incitement to perversion." In one case it was noted, "Among the men who took an interest in him was a minister of homosexual tendencies, who employed him throughout his high school years." Yet another: "Apparently the beginning of the prisoner's overt sexual activities was his seduction by a homosexual while he was in normal school."

Gillin's work was proclaimed, "A pioneer study of the role of inheritance and environment in producing criminality." Yet in a proper sort of academic balancing on causality the statement was made, "These selected case histories show that numerous factors go to produce homosexuality."

Gillin's work may not have provided definitive reasons on the origins or "crimogenesis" for the crime of sodomy, but persons reading Gillin's work could gain insights into the practice of homosexuality during the 1930s in Wisconsin. Among these was that homosexuality was more widespread around the state and in all segments of the population than might otherwise have been expected. Likewise only a small sample of the subset of the active or known homosexuals were actually arrested by law enforcement and incarcerated.

The work showed a limited progress in trying to understand a new basis for viewing homosexuals. Gillin made the positive concluding comment, "Though there is widespread tolerance of extra-legal heterosexual relations, most people are so antagonistic to homosexuality that only the very rationalistic can enjoy such a relationship without a feeling of degradation." Whether this was a problem of society or of the homosexuals was not resolved. Fundamentally, however, Gillin's work still portrayed homosexuality in Wisconsin as part of the traditional criminal context. ■

Dick Wagner (rrdickwagner@gmail.com), openly gay former Dane County Board Chair and co-chair of Governor Earl's Commission on Lesbian and Gay Issues, is now working on gay Wisconsin history and welcomes topics and sources.



The study's conclusions were that homosexuals had higher IQs, a larger proportion were professional men or unskilled laborers, and showed more emotional sensitivity to favoritism in the family.

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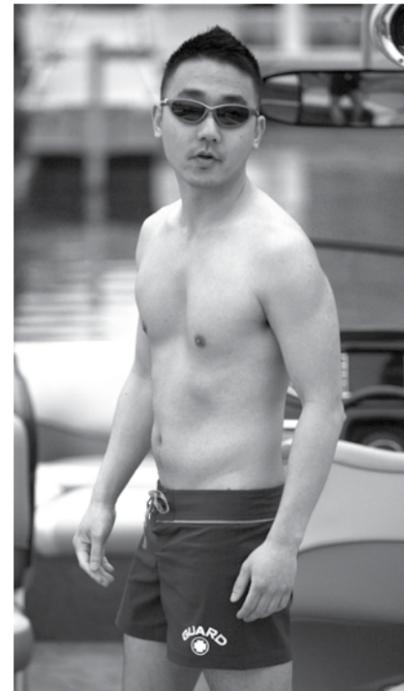
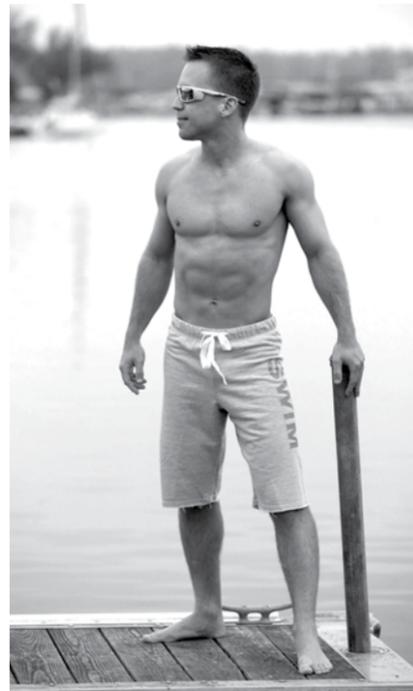
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OUR ELDERS

Aging Matters

Caroline Werner outlines why it is important that service providers are informed on the issues faced by aging LGBT people.

As a social worker doing case management for local seniors in both urban and rural settings, I realized there were holes in the service system. I thought I could identify some seniors in both settings who may be LGBT, but I had no way of letting them know I was friendly. I could not be “out” in my job. Being out might mean that the public might not allow me into seniors’ homes. Social stigma was affecting my job and the service I would like to provide to ALL of my clients.



potential abuse and the resulting depression and/or anxiety symptoms. Transportation to LGBT events could help reduce or alleviate this health-related need. In this way, we’re no different from heterosexual seniors. The government must place constraints on the funding it can allocate for anyone with a disabling condition. It draws the line at what can appear to the general public to be facilitating access to entertainment for entertainment’s sake.

As I age, I wonder what my case management will look like. Will I be able to continue to go to the LGBT educational and social events I currently enjoy as an independently mobile senior? I anticipate being a low-income senior, since I earned women’s wages throughout my life (typically 69% of men’s wages) and was single. Our partnerships or marriages are not recognized legally, so we do not qualify for the 1,000 benefits that heterosexuals receive as they age.

The Wisconsin Women’s Network has data available to show the income disparities between heterosexual and LGBT seniors in Wisconsin (See *The Wisconsin Elder Economic Security Initiative: Challenges Facing Aging Populations: Focus on LGBT Elders*). This information is slightly outdated because their bibliography does not contain the 2010 Services and Advocacy for Gay Elders (SAGE) reports.

SAGE recently released three articles providing data on LGBT aging, with suggestions for advocacy efforts to change laws and/or legislation to improve our situation. *Improving the Lives of LGBT Older Adults* is a snapshot report excerpted from the full report by the same title, available at www.lgbtmap.org or www.sageusa.org.

On page eight of the 14-page document is the statement, “The bulk of this report examines changes needed to help LGBT elders achieve financial security, good health and health care, and social support and community engagement.”

Being one person and a senior at that, I don’t have the energy or financial wherewithal to take all the actions outlined in the “Improving Lives...” document, but (because of my professional background) I can help get the information out to educate our LGBT baby boomers and seniors as well as our youth—so

SAGE recently released three articles providing data on LGBT aging, with suggestions for advocacy efforts to change laws and/or legislation to improve our situation.

we all know how to prepare to age.

I know I’m going to want the best kinds of services available to me when I need them. I know I won’t get them unless I can be instrumental in providing sensitivity training for health care professionals, find ways to create the personal support system I’ll need, and work with advocacy systems to change existing laws and defend my rights.

I don’t want to live in a retirement facility where other seniors refuse to have me sit at their table or ridicule me and others who befriend me. I don’t want my heterosexual friends or acquaintances called “queer” or “faggot” for socializing with me. Residents can be so cruel to each other, even in HUD-subsidized housing, where you cannot be discriminated against to qualify for the housing—but the management is not required to educate their workers or residents about non-discrimination laws and sensitize them to accept other people who are different from themselves. I know. I’ve personally witnessed this form of unregu-

lated housing discrimination.

I want what we do for our seniors to benefit all of us.

Caroline Werner is a retired social worker who provided case management to Dane County seniors. She is also a past OutReach Volunteer of the Year recipient.

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An Internet Self-check

Are you addicted to the internet? Dr. David Lacocque asks some hard questions that may help you identify if you have a problem.

I have mixed feelings about the Internet. With a few taps on my smart phone I can stay up on current events, skip long movie lines, and keep in touch with lots of friends and colleagues. No doubt about it: my connection to the Internet makes my life joyful and efficient. But I'll also own up that occasionally the balance tips and being online veers into something a little too gripping. Did I really just stay glued to that text message instead of looking both ways before crossing the street?! What about that "to-do" list that I seem to be avoiding in favor of this entrancing website? Sound familiar?



How would you describe your own relationship with the Internet? Does your use of the Internet differ somehow because you're LGBT-identified? Research findings on the Internet's role in the LGBT community are often contradictory.

I'm a therapist and also an expert on Internet addiction and the psychology of the Web, so I find it just a little awkward, but also instructive, that this happens in my own life from time to time.

How would you describe your own relationship with the Internet? Does your use of the Internet differ somehow because you're LGBT-identified? Research findings on the Internet's role in the LGBT community are often contradictory. Some results do show that "Internet Addiction" is more common,

while other research affirms the Internet as a vehicle for LGBT growth, connection, and empowerment.

What's clear is that the difference between compulsions and healthy behavior is one's ability to carefully reflect, and then act. But the Internet—like a gambling casino where there are no clocks or windows—can be like a parallel universe that distorts time and distances users from real-life consequences. Studies show that Internet Addiction among adults is at least as common as problems like major depression and alcohol abuse. And since the Internet is so socially accepted, few people recognize Internet-related problems or seek help when they arise.

So, what does this mean for you? Here are two contrasting views about the connection between LGBT lives and the Internet. See if one rings true for you:

The Internet is LGBT-friendly. This side of the debate makes sense when you think about some of cyberspace's basic qualities: identities and social norms are more fluid online, and the way that power operates in web relationships is often more pliable than in face-to-face encounters. It's also easy to appreciate how the Internet's accessibility, reach, and relative safety can be important ingredients in many LGBT lives. Given its unique advantages, the Internet is often a healthy arena for coming out, sexual exploration, accessing health or legal information, promoting activism, and nurturing affirming online communities. I continually hear my friends, colleagues, and clients confirm what a growing body of research is also pointing to: cyberspace offers the LGBT community a tool for empowerment and healthy connection!

The Internet is LGBT-risky. To account for this view, let's consider what psychologists call the "Minority Stress Model." This model holds toxic social forces such as anti-gay legislation accountable for causing chronic stress, which can be a driving factor behind problematic Internet use in the LGBT community. The Internet's addictive "hook" is the stress relief that it offers. Therefore, it follows that anyone who is chronically

Which of your favorite activities has been neglected since you got lost on the Internet? Make a list of five things you haven't done in a while and make plans to do them!

stressed out—and in particular anyone who experiences high sexual orientation- or gender-related stress—should be wary of the Internet's potent reward-delivery system.

I don't see a monolithic truth in either of these views. It would be insulting to say that stressed-out Internet users are no different from Pavlov's dogs, but the view that the Internet is all-good seems a little Pollyanna-ish. What I really hope is that by now you've started developing an informed theory of your own on this topic. Whatever your perspective, here are five tips that might help you to get the best out of your cyber experience:

1) Do an Internet self-check: The "Internet Addiction Test" is a validated measure that you can find under the "Resources" tab at my website. It's a great way to quantify the Internet's impact on your life.

2) Ask someone who cares: Asking for feedback, and accepting it, is a sign of strength. Be brave and just ask that trusted person whether your Internet use seems

like a problem.

3) Change your Internet behaviors: Keep a daily "Internet Log" for one week, identify your "triggers" for unhealthy computer use, use a timer to set daily limits, and aim for abstinence from problematic applications.

4) See what you've been missing: Which of your favorite activities has been neglected since you got lost on the Internet? Make a list of five things you haven't done in a while and make plans to do them!

5) Get to the bottom of it: Changing your behavior alone does not always solve the problem. It may be important to understand the needs that you were trying to meet through your problematic Internet use. Consider working with a therapist if you want some help finding new ways to explore yourself and your relationships when the glowing screen turns off.

David Lacocque, PsyD is an LGBT ally and has a psychotherapy practice in Madison, WI. For more information, visit: www.drlacocque.com.

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DP Registry Stands!

Tamara Packard reports on the ruling that the Domestic Partnership law IS constitutional, and provides background information on the process that lead to the judge's decision.

On June 20, 2011, just days before retiring from over 30 years on the bench, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Daniel R. Moeser declared Wisconsin's Domestic Partnership law to be constitutional. In a 53-page decision, he demonstrated why the law does not violate the 2006 "Marriage Amendment" to Wisconsin's Constitution. Judge Moeser is



We provided the court with an extensive and careful analysis of the law, nearly 70 pages long, demonstrating why domestic partnership is not "substantially similar" to marriage.

well respected in the legal community as a fair, non-partisan referee of legal disputes. Of course, those who brought the suit have already announced plans to appeal, but Judge Moeser's thoughtful, well-reasoned, and clear decision deserves respect from the public and appellate judges alike.

This victory is all the more sweet as it clearly demonstrates the partisan antics of Governor Scott Walker and Attorney General J. B. Van Hollen around the lawsuit. In August 2009, Attorney General Van Hollen performed a very cursory and results-driven analysis of the law (less than three pages in length) and proclaimed that the law violated the Amendment. He therefore declined to defend it, which allowed Governor Doyle to appoint special counsel to do so. Governor Doyle appointed my law partner, Lester

Pines, as special counsel.

Shortly after the November 2010 elections, which put the Governor's office in the hands of Scott Walker, Fair Wisconsin joined the lawsuit to help defend the Domestic Partnership law and the interests of its many same-sex couple members who are currently benefitting from it. We are all very fortunate that Fair Wisconsin is involved, and represented by the excellent attorneys at Lambda Legal, the premiere national legal organization dedicated to achieving civil rights for LGBT people.

In December 2010, before Governor Doyle left office, Lester Pines and I filed a motion on behalf of the state officials who were sued, asking the judge to declare the Domestic Partnership law constitutional and dismiss the challenge. We provided the court with an extensive and careful analysis of the law, nearly 70 pages long, demonstrating why domestic partnership is not "substantially similar" to marriage and therefore does not run afoul of the Marriage Amendment. Fair Wisconsin joined that motion, adopted many of our arguments, and contributed other well-reasoned and persuasive arguments of their own demonstrating why the law is constitutional.

In March, Governor Walker canceled Lester Pines' appointment as special counsel in the case—that is, we were fired—and did not appoint anyone new. Instead, he tried to give up the case, stating that based on Attorney General Van Hollen's three-page 2009 opinion, he felt the law was unconstitutional and it was not in the public interest to defend the law. Fortunately, the judge did not fall for these shenanigans and was not distracted by the political games that all too often have treated our families and our lives as toys. While he allowed the state to sit on the sidelines (there was nothing left to do in the trial court anyway, as all of the issues had been fully briefed), he recognized Fair Wisconsin as the party capable of continuing to defend the law. (Fair Wisconsin will continue to defend the law as the dispute moves to the Supreme Court. With Lambda

Legal representing Fair Wisconsin and its members, the defense of the Domestic Partnership law is in great hands.)

Judge Moeser then went on to decide the legal dispute before him. He said: "First, the Marriage Amendment's plain meaning establishes that a legal status for unmarried individuals is unconstitutional if the sum total of the legal rights, duties, and liabilities of the legal status is identical or so essentially alike that it is virtually identical to the legal rights, duties, and liabilities of the legal status of marriage." Later he observed: "The state does not recognize domestic partnership in a way that even remotely resembles how the state recognizes marriage. Moreover, domestic partners have far fewer legal rights, duties, and liabilities in comparison to the legal rights, duties, and liabilities of spouses." For these reasons, and many others, Judge Moeser ruled the Domestic Partnership law constitutional. While the protections for registered Domestic Partners are, sadly, limited, the ruling preserves the important protections that many of us need in times of crisis.

In closing, we must be cognizant of the power that politicians have over our day to day lives by virtue of the laws they can pass, particularly when the political stars align to allow one party's agenda to be implemented without moderation. This summer, voters in six senate districts have the ability to halt the march of the Republican agenda across the backs of workers, the elderly, the poor, and LGBT families by returning control of the Wisconsin Senate to the Democrats. Courts can only do so much to keep the playing field even. It is up to voters to do the rest. ■

Tamara Packard is a Madison civil rights lawyer, activist and partner in the law firm of Cullen Weston Pines & Bach LLP, www.cwpb.com.

Additional Resources

For an overview of what rights registered domestic partners receive, as well as how domestic partnership differs from marriage, see my column in the **September/October 2009** issue of *Our Lives*.

For a summary of two key arguments that the judge in this case is likely to consider, see my column in the **January/February 2011** issue of *Our Lives*.

For information about Lambda Legal, including links to some filings and more information about this case (Appling v. Doyle), go to www.lambdalegal.org.

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OPEN is proud to have one of our Charter Members on this month's cover of *Our Lives*. Craig Samitt lead our first community visioning retreat to help us create the road map that launched our organization. We are appreciative of what he has done for us and what our organization can provide for him.

"For me OPEN helped open my eyes to a reality which I had always presumed but could not clearly see—which is that Madison has a tremendous array of talented LGBT professionals and executives who play a critical leadership role in our community" —Craig Samitt

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Become a Mentor: How to Find One/Be One

Marty Fox shares ideas for climbing the career ladder openly with the help of others who have gone before.

Are you ...

- ... finding your place in the corporate workplace?
- ... starting your own business?
- ... building a career in the public sector?

Each of these options are wrought with challenges, but trying to build a career while being honest about your sexuality and/or gender identity adds an additional set of hurdles to climb.

Some of our young people have had the opportunity to participate in Gay Straight Alliances (GSAs) in their middle schools or high schools. Many college campuses offer



I know that if I had enjoyed the benefit of an LGBTQ coach, I may have been braver at the right moment or challenged the status quo more effectively. I might have developed my strengths and found my voice with fewer detours.

LGBT Student Centers to provide support and leadership training to students. When young people are fortunate enough to find work in the Madison area, they may find they are now operating without the support of such groups.

Transitions Can Be Challenging

The transition from school to workplace can be a confusing landscape. Many of us have spent decades sorting out how to be ourselves, when to play by corporate rules,

when and how to build ally relationships, and when and how to talk about our families.

Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) may be a helpful venue for working through some of these challenges, but what if there is no ERG available? What if when you get to the ERG it is mostly allies or others who are as lost as you are? This is the point where some of us decide to try to blend in, not make waves, and wait until we know for sure that we are safe. We begin to invest some effort in creating a camouflage persona or we decide we can act straight at work and be ourselves when we are not working. Launching a career or a business should not require the forfeiture of a part of one's identity.

Mentors Can Provide Advice and Support

I believe we can offer young people a better option. I believe those of us who have built our own businesses and have enjoyed successful careers can provide value as mentors to those who are beginning their journey. We can use our experience to pave a smoother path for those who follow. We don't have all the answers, but we are familiar with the questions and we can listen and relate.

Mentors and protégés work together to build a relationship that is meaningful to both parties. A vital, enduring mentor/protégé relationship can frame everyday problems in a long-term, big-picture way. It can provide a dose of encouragement and an occasional nudge in the right direction. Coaching from an effective, long-term mentor is a way to keep growing while building a career that is bigger than a job and a life that is more than a career. Building a relationship with an LGBTQ mentor might go a long way toward building a life that is more than the sum of disjointed parts.

Mentoring Benefits the Mentor, Too

So why might the established professional spend time building a relationship with a protégé? I believe that the mentor has as much or more to gain in this relationship

as the protégé. Spending some quality time with a protégé can connect you to the next generation and expose you to large doses of optimism, energy, and hope, which are highly contagious. You will find yourself thinking about old problems from a new perspective and you will get a chance to practice good listening skills. You are likely to be amazed and encouraged as you become acquainted with your protégé's courage, strength, and creativity.

Coaching from an effective, long-term mentor is a way to keep growing while building a career that is bigger than a job and a life that is more than a career.

Time spent with a protégé is a way to make an impact that may last well beyond the length of your own career. Indeed, it is one of the best ways to leverage the lessons of your own life.

Mentoring Benefits the Community

In addition to the benefits to protégés and mentors, there are also benefits to the community from these relationships as well. I know that if I had enjoyed the benefit of an LGBTQ coach, I may have been braver at the right moment or challenged the status quo more effectively. I might have developed my strengths and found my voice with fewer detours.

The Madison area and its LGBTQ community benefit when the lessons of our history become connected to the challenges of the present to build a future that can move us closer to fairness and wholeness.

If you are looking for a mentor, I encourage you to have a cup of coffee with several people you think might provide you with an honest sounding board. Then be bold enough to ask the question. Dancing around the unasked question is a recipe for missing an opportunity. ■

Marty Fox has over 25 years of experience as an accountant for five different companies. She retired in 2009 as the Executive Director of the Alliant Energy Foundation. She is now a full-time volunteer for her favorite causes. She and her wife, Catherine, have five adult children and a French bulldog named Lily.

OPEN Workplace Summit

Plan to attend the OPEN Workplace Summit the morning of September 17 and sign up for the Mentor Meet-up. For more information go to: www.openmadison.org.

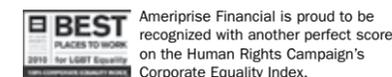
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There's no place like **Quivey's Grove** when it comes
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Some things just shouldn't change. The simple goodness of a pop-over stuffed with chicken and mushrooms snuggled up in a cream wine sauce has been on the menu at Quivey's Grove since day one and their customers wouldn't want it any other way.

"There's still something about certain combinations that absolutely work and they work for a reason because they hit a kind of memory for people," said owner and general manager Craig Kuenning, who has been with Quivey's Grove since its inception.

At Quivey's, customers know they can count on the outdoor lake perch fry in the summer, or the beer festival in October. Year round, a fervent following indulges in the turtle pie and steamed chocolate pudding (from both of Kuenning's grandmothers' recipes).

There's an unabashed abundance of butter, cream, meat and potatoes for a taste of Midwestern home cooking (that's why it tastes so good!) likened to what Kuenning recalls of special Sunday suppers.

We have this core group of people who have been with us so long that it becomes very much of a family. They've kind of taken this personal ownership of the business and I think that more than anything has been responsible for our success.

Outside, the highway is near but forgettable behind the shelter of old soul trees – the black walnuts, maples and elms that inspired the name-sake, Quivey's Grove, and I can't help but imagine the Arabian horses and Afghan hounds that once fit into the landscape, too, at this former stable and kennel. The way to the Stone House is through Grandmother's Garden, which Deirdre Garton is known to tend to. Inside, the late Joe Garton's legacy is in the period art on the walls.

Joe Garton, former President of the WI Arts Board Chairman, opened Quivey's Grove in 1980. Both the Stone House and Stable Grill buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places and were originally owned by John Mann in the 1840's. Garton hired architect Arlan Kay, who specialized in historic restoration, to help appropriate the space for a restaurant. Kuenning's father worked for Kay, and when he heard about this new venture he knew he wanted to be a part of it.

Although Kuenning was originally hired to help with the kitchen floor plans, on opening night, the chef walked out, and Kuenning filled his shoes. A few years later, he became general manager and a few years after that, he joined ownership.

In a restaurant culture in which high turnover is the norm, Quivey's is an exception. Kuenning estimates that the average length of service in his kitchen is 12 years. Former executive chef Paul Hellenbrand stayed on for 30 years before departing last year to pursue a business venture with his son. His successor, Chef Scott Roe, started in 1981 as a dishwasher. Stone House hostess Lynn Larue has been on since opening night and book-keeper Mary Lou Kean has 20 years plus with the business.

"We have this core group of people who have been with us so long that it becomes very much of a family and I, as kind of a leader of this group, have tried to make it work like a family because these people all

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Website: www.quiveysgrove.com

take so much pride in working here. They've kind of taken this personal ownership of the business and I think that more than anything has been responsible for our success," Kuenning said.

Customers, too, have taken ownership of Quivey's as "their restaurant", Kuenning adds, mentioning regulars who have been patroning just as long as some of the staff has been working there.

"When I hear people that tell me, 'Oh, we've been coming to your restaurant since 1981 when we first moved to Madison 30 years ago', 'Oh, we had our rehearsal dinner here 25 years ago'... I think it's a very different relationship with your customers than what's happening in most other places and restaurants," Kuenning said.

Just think, the next best thing might be the same old thing.

—Marcelle Richards

Photographed by Roberto Amezcua

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Strengthening the Chain

Tiffany Loomis of the Madison Cougars football team reflects on what her leadership role has taught her.

I am a six-year veteran of Women's Professional football, currently playing on a newly formed team called the Madison Cougars. Circumstances are such that this year I am leading not only by actions, but by verbal instructions as well. Football is a very grueling sport that requires one's full efforts until the play is done. As an Army veteran, I recognize the fatigue and nervousness on the faces of my teammates. Part of what makes football a great sport, however, is the mental and physical toughness needed in order to meet that challenge. Football is a team-oriented sport allowing no room for individuals to quit without adversely affecting the team. As a team leader, being able to see the excitement and anticipation in our rookies' eyes has constantly renewed my passion for the game.

In the past, I was more of a solid player and silent leader amongst my team. This reinforced my self-confidence and prepared me to step up this year to help teach the game itself. The old adage "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link" has been our team's mantra this year. Leading and teaching these younger players has shown me just how true that statement is, as our team of predominantly rookies has taken the field by storm in procuring a winning record!

As an Army veteran, I have been given the opportunity to attend college. I am currently a full-time student pursuing my Bachelor's Degree in Sports Management. I am a personal trainer for Anytime Fitness in DeForest and

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manage a functional training gym called Phitness Plus. My experience playing and teaching football with the Cougars has allowed me to lead in situations that I may not have otherwise had the experience to do so. The knowledge and confidence that comes with playing on a professional team has proven, and will continue to prove, imperative as I continue my career in Sports Management. Finally, learning how to successfully lead a team—whether it's on the field or in the office—is an invaluable skill.

As the Cougar team continues to grow in number and popularity, I see many young members of the LGBT community becoming involved. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to be both a positive influence and a strong role model for them. In fact, the LGBT community in Madison has been overwhelmingly supportive of our new team. I feel as though this sport, and our endless fundraisers, has drawn us all a little closer together. ■



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