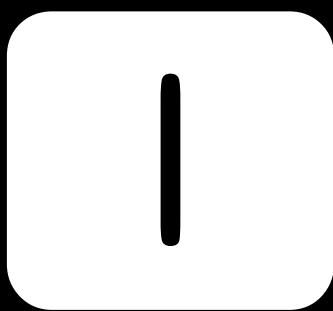


March /April 2008

our lives



free

Madison's LGBTQ Magazine

A Room Of One's Own

A Tribute to a Community Cornerstone

by Gretchen Treu

Wisconsin Film Festival

Richard Ganoung
returns in a restored
Parting Glances

Body Image

Dos and Don'ts
from Dale Decker
for building
confidence

After ENDA

Tamara Packard
looks at our legal
resources

Understanding Gender Identity & Expression

Cass Marie Downing

Hostess of AIDS Network's
Mad Camp Bingo
and Rider for ACT 6:
The Wisconsin AIDS Ride

UW-Madison professor Anne Enke
examines our relationship with gender

Eri Madder on an authentic life

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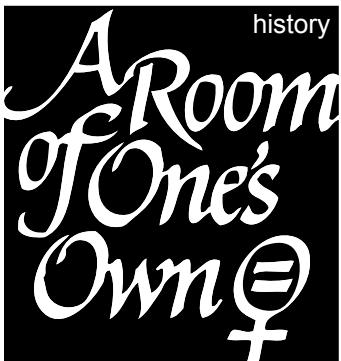
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Cover Photo by **Jessica Horn**

shooterforhire@gmail.com

Styled by **Tim Foster, Savor Hair**

our lives

CRAWLING BACK INTO THE CLOSET

Submitted by **susan**

I have been waffling lately. Altho' my last relationship was very out and lasted 7 years, I find myself "protecting" both myself and my daughter (who is entering teenhood). I left a job because of discrimination—it wasn't blatant enough for me to be a whistleblower—it was all very sneaky. So my new job—well, I am basically in the closet. I feel as though I have one foot out and one foot in—straddling different worlds.

Read the entire thread online | →

Share your story ideas with us. Consider contributing to *Our Lives*. Tell us your interests at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

Made on a Mac

MARCH / APRIL



Madison's LGBTQIA Magazine

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Alta with her parents, Susan & Mary Jane

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editor

Learning to Let Go.

"We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us." —Joseph Campbell



The more I mature as a person, the more I become able to see life as a continually shifting transition. Things constantly happen that cause us to open new chapters and continue to grow. A good example in my own world has been starting this magazine. The amount of my life I've had to let go of to make room for the work needed to make this publication

possible has been tremendous. It's changed me as a person. With each issue of *Our Lives*, it's felt like I've had to spend time walking in the shoes of the theme; trying to understand how the world looks through many different sets of eyes. This issue has been no different.

I'm becoming more cognizant of the influence gender has in how I understand myself. I'm learning how challenging it can be for gender variant people to find and feel the sense of place that Eri refers to in her story, and how for them, embracing truth often involves losing almost everything in their life. Having the courage to follow your heart that far is something I hold with the highest admiration, and personally feel a need to say 'thank you' for the light it has cast in my own life.

With each transition we go through, I believe we take a step closer to becoming ourselves. I also believe it is our relationships, our friends and our community that make that journey something to celebrate.

With love,
Patrick Farabaugh
PUBLISHER / EDITOR

our lives
I
Patrick Farabaugh
ourlivesmadison.com
user Patrick

Governor Lee Dreyfus June 20, 1926 – January 2, 2008

The Red Badge of Courage

Charismatic and colorful in his trademark red vest, Wisconsin's 40th Governor sent a clear message when he signed the nation's first civil rights legislation barring discrimination for gays and lesbians in jobs and housing. Dreyfus signed the bill, saying "there are some questions the government has no business asking." Lovingly known as a "Republicrat," in 1978 he switched parties and was elected to office as a Republican.



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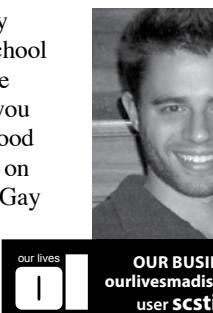
Anne Enke is associate professor of Gender and Women's Studies, History, and LGBT Studies at University of Wisconsin-Madison. She helped design the LGBT Studies program, and enjoys teaching courses such as "Trans/Gender in Historical Perspective," "Gender Outlaws and Sexuality," and a graduate-level "History of Sexuality" course. Currently, she is concerned with the relationships among transgender activism, feminism, and lesbian/gay liberation. Her book, "Finding the Movement: Sexuality, Contested Space, and Feminist Activism" (Duke University Press, 2007) details diverse women's grassroots activism in Detroit, Chicago, and the Twin Cities from 1960-1980.



our lives
I
GENDER FEATURE
ourlivesmadison.com
user Anne

Melody Hanson's love of people and passion for photography developed into Imagine Photography which she opened in 2007. She offers casual portraiture, as well as event and travel photography. Melody lives in Madison with her husband and kids. Born in New Guinea, her love for other cultures developed early. She's traveled through out Europe and the former USSR and dreams of travel to countries like Cuba, Turkey, and Tibet.

A native of Madison, **Sam Stiegler** recently returned home after finishing graduate school at Tufts University in Boston. Still unsure what he wants to be when he grows up, you can currently find Sam slinging French food and homemade chocolates at Cocoliquot on King Street. He also volunteers with the Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools and writes for the Journal of LGBT Youth, an international academic journal on issues facing queer youth.



our lives
I
OUR BUSINESSES
ourlivesmadison.com
user scstiegler

Ward Holz has been an industrial chemist, field biologist, environmental educator, curriculum consultant, theatre manager, carpenter, and teacher. He is currently returning to grad school for more classes in education.

"During my time as a teacher, I've tried to teach my students to be accepting of others, even if you don't agree with them. While

I am not allowed to be out at work, most of my students probably have me pegged and understand what I'm saying. Sadly, I often find that acceptance is lacking in adults, including the gay community. Different factions each try to impose their own agenda on what it means to be gay. To one, if you're not young and fashionable, you're not acceptable. To another, if you're a leatherman or drag queen, you should be hidden to make the community easier for the heterosexual community to accept. It's discouraging."

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OUR PAGES
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INTRODUCING OURSELVES



Cass promoting
January's Mardi
Gras Bingo

our lives
Cass Marie Downing
ourlivesmadison.com
user CassMarie

Where are you from? Well you've probably seen the Geico insurance commercial with the Cabbage Patch Kid by now, right? Let's just say that he and I have a lot in common. Only my patch was right here in Madison.

How did you get involved with the AIDS Network? I got involved in 1995 after I was diagnosed with HIV. I heard they had a great dentist referral and wanted to check him out! And yes, they do!

For my job, I am a certified nursing assistant and feel that helping people is my calling.

And what exactly is Camp Bingo? Camp Bingo is exactly how it is stated—Not your grandmother's bingo. Although, I have seen a few there through the years. Boy you should've seen their faces when they realized what was really up!! You see, we pick themes for each month and then dress accordingly to the theme. Sunday, March 30th, will be "Bingo in Oz." It is a great fundraiser to raise dollars for the

AIDS Network so they are able to continue providing care to people with HIV/AIDS. This year, it's at Madison's very own beautiful Edgewater Hotel. A big thank you to the staff and management of the hotel.

What other things do you enjoy? I have been an entertainer for 16 yrs. I love dancing—it is a great way to help raise money for people in need. Not to mention healthy. I've raised funds for hospice, cancer, AIDS and the Rodney Scheel House. I rode 313 miles on a bicycle last summer for ACT 5, the Wisconsin AIDS Ride. I, myself being in recovery from drugs and alcohol for eight years now, help facilitate a 12-step program for women who are incarcerated. I volunteer for some children who have lost their mother due to domestic violence. For my job, I am a certified nursing assistant and feel that helping people is my calling.

And what has you smiling now? This question. It has me thinking of things like puppies, kittens and babies. Playing with my dog. Remembering when my grandma taught me how to hook a worm. EEEK! Playing at the park and letting my inner child out big time. Having gratitude and knowing that I am ok and very blessed today. ■



Compassionate Camper

Meet Cass Marie Downing hostess of AIDS Network's Mad Camp Bingo

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What Makes a House a Home

Her attention to detail has made realtor Liz Lauer one of the best in Dane County

Liz Lauer is not driven by glitz and glam. She isn't out to sell the biggest house to the richest client. She's in the real estate business because it brings together her two greatest loves: people and houses. She's in it because she genuinely cares about helping people find a house that does more than just provide a roof over their heads. She loves to help people find a place they can make their own, a place they can call home.

A native of St. Paul, Liz grew up in a family well immersed in the real estate world. After high school, she followed her older brother to Wisconsin to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison. While studying Women's Studies and English, she worked for a local developer to earn money. Upon graduating, she was prepared to start a career in social work and began working with women who had been victims of domestic violence, helping them finding housing. Concurrently, she continued in real estate, purchasing rental properties. She slowly began to realize that her passions and her calling lay in connecting people to houses that make them happy.

As the realtor, she sees it as her responsibility to broadcast the textures and layers of a house that make it distinctive.

Over the past ten years, Liz has worked for both First Weber and Restaino-Bunbury, where she not only established herself as one of the top sellers in both those firms, but currently ranks among the top 1% of realtors in the entire county. In 2001, she established her own real estate team, the Liz Lauer Associates. Working in a team allows the flexibility to ensure that Liz's trademark commitment to meeting her client's needs is always present. Currently, the team is comprised of Liz and two other agents, as well as a team coordinator who helps oversee the marketing of the team's listings.

OUR BUSINESSES



Liz Lauer at home with her partner Nina Lebwohl and their son, Levi.

Liz's decade-long career as a real estate agent is marked with her attention to detail and commitment to helping people. When she lists a house, it's posted on MLS, an internet database of houses for sale, complete with details and pictures of the property. Instead of relying on the photographers from MLS to snap photographs of her listings, Liz does the legwork herself. She found that when others took the photos, they never captured the true character of the house. As the realtor, she sees it as her responsibility to broadcast the textures and layers of a house that make it distinctive. She has a keen eye for seeing what she calls "the bones of a home," the parts of the home that aren't necessarily overtly visible but do make the house stand out. It's this skill that's helped her strive as far as she has.

Living in Madison for almost twenty years, she admires the city's intimate cohesiveness. She laughs when people harp on the supposed distinctiveness of the West Side versus the East Side, as she views each section of our compact yet vibrant town as a piece of a whole. She enjoys how the city has afforded the opportunity to follow her passions, achieve success in her career, and be a part of a welcoming and inclusive community. Her partner and fellow Liz Lauer Associate, Nina Lebwohl, celebrated the birth of their son, Levi, this past June. She has gone on to return the favor to her community with her philanthropy to many local LGBT organizations. Another example of how she's committed to making everyone's home that much better. —Sam Stiegler

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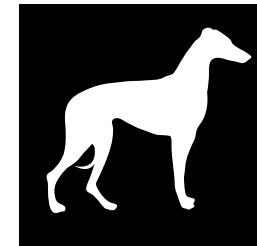
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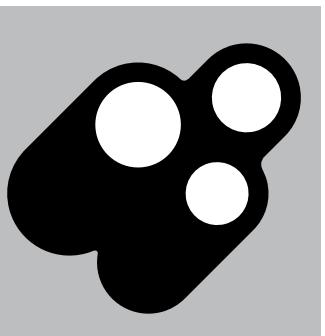
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Red Ribbon Affair

April 4, Monona Terrace

The AIDS Network's annual gala offers a chance to don your finest and rub shoulders with an entire community of leaders—all while enjoying a banquet meal and raising funds for the work and services the Network provides. Support the cause. Bid in the silent auction or on the items they showcase on stage. aidsnetwork.org

Wisconsin Film Fest

April 3-6, Various locations

The four-day festival takes place each spring in ten downtown venues, all within walking distance. The Festival presents new American independent and world cinema, restored classics, and the work of Wisconsin filmmakers. Over 150 films and an attendance getting close to 30,000 make it a lively event that's become a major part of our cultural calendar. wifilmfest.org

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QLaw's Third Annual Gala Reception and Fundraiser

March 8, University Club, 803 State St., Madison QLaw is a student organization dedicated to serving the LGBT community at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Last year, over 150 prospective, admitted, and current law students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni, and community members attended, including the dean of the Law School and some local politicians. qlaw.org

Mark Your Calendar

Get Listed!

To see your event on this page, be sure to post it on our community calendar ourlivesmadison.com

Madison to host ASANA Softball World Series

SSBL-Madison, Madison's LGBT softball league, has been awarded the bid to host the 2009 Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA) Softball World Series! ASANA's membership consists of members of lesbian softball leagues from across North America. In addition, SSBL-Milwaukee was awarded the bid to host the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) Gay Softball World Series for 2009. The World Series administered by NAGAAA is open to men, women, and co-ed teams. Both events will take place during the week before Labor Day in 2009 and bring over 3,000 LGBT visitors to Wisconsin. ssblmadison.org

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A Representative Sampling

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aidsnetwork.org

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Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls

dcandc.org

Dykes on Bikes

dykesonbikesmadison.com

Fair Wisconsin

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firstcongmadison.org

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personalpages.tds.net/~tmclurg

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gsaforsafeschools.org

Gay Softball League

ssblmadison.com

Gay Volleyball League

madisonglbvolleyball.com

Hermanos Latinos

sneal@aidsnetwork.org

LGBT Business Alliance

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Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus

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Proud Theatre

proudtheater.org

Rural Dykes Association

pswfarm@juno.com

StageQ

stageq.com

UW - Madison LGBT Campus Center

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wisc.edu/lgbt

Women Across Wisconsin

womenacrosswisconsin.org

Looking For Normal

Scenes from the StageQ production at the Bartell Theatre

Sarah Whelan
as Ruth

LOWER LEFT :
Douglas Holtz as
Roy, Kathy Lynn
Sliter as Irma

LOWER RIGHT:
Dani Holtz as
Patty Ann,
Kathy Lynn Sliter
as Irma and
Nick Kaprelian
as Wayne

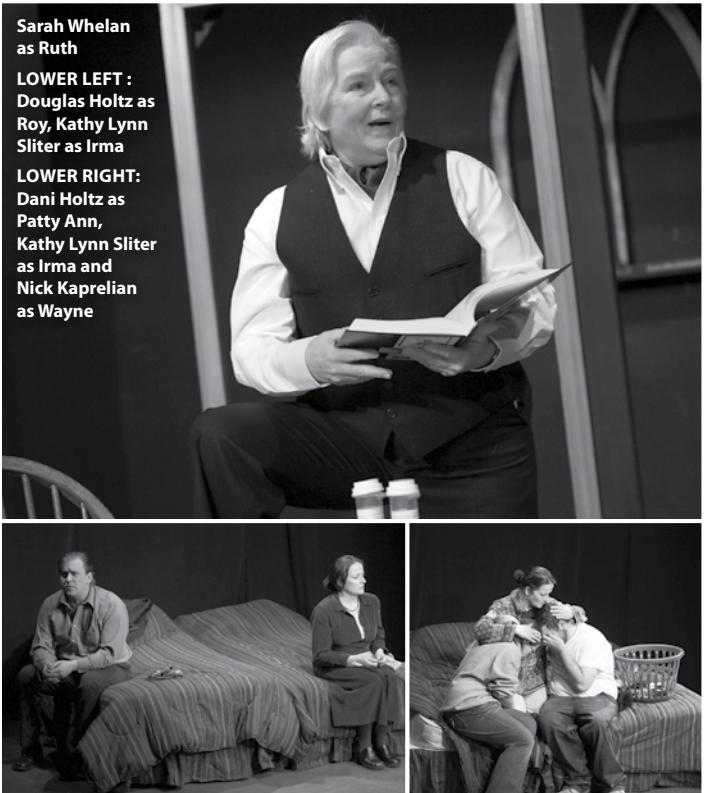


PHOTO BY ALEXZELZ



Community Forum
GAY.COM

Submitted by KevinLpz

The updated gay.com of today is like a fast-food drive-up window, because it's good for whatever you're looking for, and you can make a quick exit at anytime. Does gay.com still host guest chat forums? I remember participating in a guest chat forum with Michael Signorelli back in '97. The site offered a plethora of options for free users back then, unlike today. Nonetheless, gay.com gives us a venue to congregate by its availability, especially for some people who would otherwise be isolated if the site did not exist. Gay.com props aside, the site does not compare to the unexpected wonder of human contact experienced in the real world away from the sterility of the keyboard & computer screen.

I shopped at Sam's Club on a Saturday afternoon, & found myself waiting in line to be checked out. I was in the queue behind a guy who had his shopping cart filled with enough bulk foods to feed a small Third World country. Just as my eyes rolled up to meet the sheet metal ceiling, overhead lights & security cameras thinking of how long my wait was going to be, I heard this guy's voice, "Hey! You can come over here. Go ahead & get ahead of me. You don't have much." Knowing my wait would be shortened big time, I crossed over the concrete floor into the next line with a smile & my 12 pack-box of Pellegrino bottled mineral water (a steal at \$12), boxed cherries, & two DVDs, *The Graduate*, and *Casino*. "You got some good movies there," he said. I told the kind blond stranger that *Casino* was one of my favorite De Niro flicks. Our waiting-in-queue discourse evolved from *Casino*, into a great chat about Joe Pesci movies.

My cool unexpected experience was determined not by gay.com, but by fate.

| Read the entire thread online |

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Spotlight, Playbill and Calendar edited by Callen Harty

SPOTLIGHT

The Return of Richard Ganoung

A restored *Parting Glances* brings Ganoung to the Wisconsin Film Festival

Ten years ago the LGBT community was abuzz about the independent gay romantic comedy *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*, which starred Richard Ganoung, Sean Hayes (who went on to fame as Jack in *Will & Grace*), Brad Rowe, and Meredith Scott Lynn. Ganoung is a Madison-based UW alum who has appeared on television and film and in several theatrical productions in Madison and elsewhere.

But before the splash of *Screen Kiss*, Ganoung starred with Steve Buscemi and John Bolger in the gay film *Parting Glances*, one of the first movies to take on the subject of AIDS. The movie propelled Buscemi's career. More than 20 years later the film has been restored and the restored version was presented in Los Angeles and in New York. While the full schedule has not yet been released, it is also being presented at



this year's Wisconsin Film Festival, with Ganoung participating in the activities.

The restoration was the first project of the Los Angeles-based Outfest Legacy Project for LGBT Film Preservation. According to

a press release from Outfest, *Parting Glances* was one of the first few films identified by the organization as a significant LGBT title that had no viable archive or exhibition prints available.

Other titles that they focused on right away were *Before Stonewall*, a documentary on the fledgling gay rights movement, and *Common Threads*, a documentary on the AIDS quilt.

The full Wisconsin Film Festival schedule with titles, locations, and performance times will be released early this month. ■

PLAYBILL

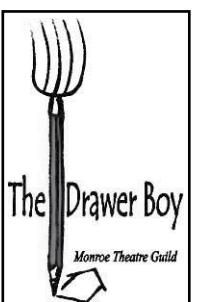
Outside the Dome

Creative, original work from outside of Madison

Just as the politicians sometimes forget that there is an entire state outside of the capital city, the arts community can tend to forget that Wisconsin is a large state with artists settled in every corner, from the artisans of Mineral Point to folk musicians in the north. Theater is also produced in small cities and towns everywhere in our state.

Granted, it sometimes seems that whether you look to Sheboygan or La Crosse, Darlington or Bailey's Harbor, Madison or Milwaukee, you see the same plays produced repeatedly—*You Can't Take It With You*, anything by Neil Simon, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Foreigner*, and others—but if you dig a little there are often gems that can be missed by the ethnocentrism of the larger cities' arts scenes.

Sometimes smaller communities can surprise theatergoers. For example, this spring the Monroe Theatre Guild is producing *The Drawer Boy*. The play premiered in Toronto and examines friendship, memo-



ry, and storytelling in a rural setting, a perfect play for a small city in the southwestern corner of the state.

Attic Theatre in Appleton is premiering an original work called *Hometown*, a play set in Appleton during World War II that was written by retired Lawrence University professor Fred Gaines. According to the Attic Theatre website, the play is not about Appleton, but about family and about war. How often can one see original theater in a city of less than 100,000 people? It runs for only one weekend at the end of March.

The Actor's Factory in Stoughton is premiering two original one-act plays in April. *Fool Me Once* is by Doug Reed, and *The Tank* is by Rob Matsushita, both Madison playwrights. The Actor's Factory is a youth performance group operating out of the Stoughton Opera House.

Though the price of gas seems to keep climbing, there are many small theater groups within a short drive that strive to create unique and interesting theater. They tend to be hard-working actors and crew members who are passionate about theater. Even those that produce the tried and true do it because they love what they are doing. It can often be worth the small price of the trip to check them out. ■

THEATRE CALENDAR

A representative sampling

Drinking Habits

by Tom Smith
Theatre in the Woods
Shell Lake, 3/6-3/16
titw.org

Comedy of Errors

by William Shakespeare
Mitby Theater
Madison, 3/7-16
matcmadison.edu

Pulp

by Patricia Kane
StageQ
Madison, 3/7-3/29
stageq.com

Leprechaun

by Callen Harty
Broom Street Theater
Madison, 3/7-4/14
broomstreet.org

Permanent Collection

by Thomas Gibbons
Madison Repertory Theatre
Madison, 3/7-30
madisonrep.org

The Night Is a Child

by Charles Randolph-Wright
Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Milwaukee, 3/13-4/13
milwaukeerep.com

Dragonwings

by Laurence Yep
University Theater
Madison, 3/29-4/5
utmadison.com

Compleat Female Stage Beauty

by Jeffrey Hatcher
Mercury Players
Madison, 4/11-26
mercuryplayerstheatre.com

The Laramie Project

by Moises Kaufman
Madison Theatre Guild
Madison, 4/11-26
madisontheatreguild.org

Spelling Bee

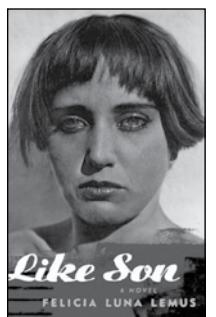
Overture Center
Madison, 4/18-20
overturecenter.com

Greek to Me: A Choral Extravaganza of Mythic Proportions

by Madison Youth Choirs & Patrick Fernan,
Capital Theatre
Madison, 4/27
overturecenter.com

A Journey Through Identity

Like Son by Felicia Luna Lemus



FELICIA LUNA LEMUS'S NOVEL *LIKE SON* IS A revelation in transgender literature, breaking away from nonfiction memoir and diving into the sublimely messy, intensely human life of young Frank Cruz, born Francesca, who carries his family's history with him as he navigates his exasperating and beautiful relationship with his hipster girlfriend Nathalie.

This story brings us into Frank's life to witness his blind father's death from cancer and his disavowal by his mother, who traded her penniless immigrant husband in for a rich white doctor. Frank takes artifacts from his father's life, including the accoutrements of blindness and some old tailored suits. These pieces of his legacy will get him through tough times as he moves to New York and meets the unpredictable Nathalie. Lemus's prose is gorgeously evocative, often humorous, and always ready to point out the beautiful contradictions in every aspect of life. This is a novel about being human, embracing change, and honoring one's past without drowning in nostalgia. It is about a child becoming an adult—a mystery we all must face. —Gretchen Treu

A Lifeline that Understands

Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks, & Other Outlaws by Kate Bornstein

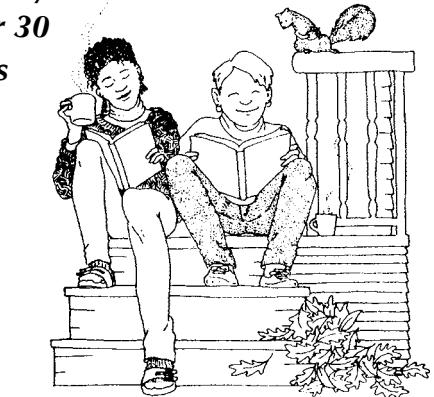
KATE BORNSTEIN WANTS TO KEEP YOU ALIVE for one more minute. For one more hour. For one more day. In *Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks, & Other Outlaws*, her goal is to help the reader realize that there are other means of dealing with pain. She offers instant, temporary distractions intended to help the reader deal with the pain until help can be found. Recommendations include many safe activities such as dancing and making longer range plans. Several, however, are radical, such as #78: Make It Bleed. She's referring to cutting but acknowledges the danger and that it is not an acceptable long-term solution. She has it labeled as "If You Must." While I understand her logic, such possibilities make me squirm.

Bornstein intends this. She's rejected her transgendered status and lives her life beyond sexual labels. In the opening she critiques our need to label people through either/or questions. "They (either/or questions) are designed to make you not want to be the complex person that you are."

I was slightly surprised to find this book in the teen section. The writing is certainly aimed at teens and twenty-somethings. I will add that, even at my advanced age, I both enjoyed and benefited from the challenges it presents. As a teacher, I can't imagine recommending it to a student. As an ersatz uncle, I am going to leave my copy where my 15-year-old niece will find it. I want her to grow beyond the limits placed on her by many of those who surround her. I also think it is the sort of book that will be taken more seriously without the endorsement of an adult. It needs to be a stolen pleasure. It needs to be a quest taken up voluntarily, not only by teens but by us all. —Ward Holz

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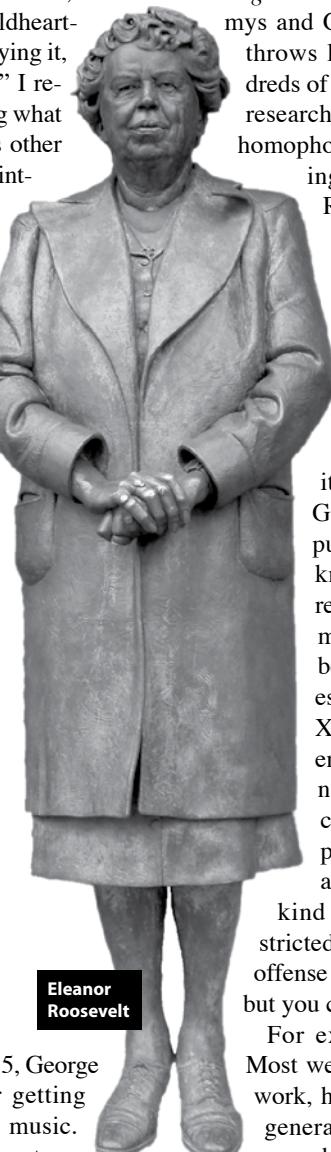
Our Gay Greats

Searching for LGBTQA women and men to model herself after, UW-Madison senior Amanda Hunter finds the importance of visible role models.

the first person I knew to be gay was Matthew Shepard. I was 13. I remember watching a Barbara Walters Special with my grandparents, I remember the images: a photo of Matthew and his assailants at a bar, a wooden cross marking the spot on the deserted Wyoming highway. I remember my grandparents' reaction, horror that a life had been so coldheartedly ended, while almost justifying it, a sort of "that's what you get." I remember vaguely understanding what gay meant, "a man who loves other men," but not how this had painted a bulls-eye on Matthew's forehead, how something as innocuous as a capacity to love could provoke murder, how my pro-life, anti-death penalty grandparents weren't outraged.

This connotation stayed with me; for years, in my mind "gay" equated Matthew Shepard. As I've grown up and become more aware, and as the media pay more attention to all things queer, there hasn't really been a strong positive counterbal-

To anyone born after 1985, George Michael is better known for getting caught in public than for his music



Eleanor Roosevelt

ance. To anyone born after 1985, George Michael is better known for getting caught in public than for his music. After Ellen DeGeneres came out on her sitcom in 1997, I was no longer allowed to watch; ratings dropped and the show was canceled the following year. Rosie O'Donnell came out publicly in order to challenge Florida state law barring gay couples from adopt-

ing. After the media frenzy died down, she lost her daytime talk show, her magazine, and the aforementioned law stands.

The image of gays is changing. Ten years later, Ellen has made a comeback. She hosts an Emmy Award-winning talk show, voiced the unforgettable Dory in Disney/Pixar's *Finding Nemo*, hosted the Oscars, the Emmys and Grammys—twice. Elton John throws lavish parties that raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for AIDS research. Following reports of on-set homophobic remarks by Isaiah Washington, *Grey's Anatomy* star T. R. Knight comes out with the support of castmates, notably best friend Katharine Heigl and Patrick Dempsey, who reportedly stood up to Washington. Ratings continue to soar, and Washington was ultimately fired.

This is all a great start, but it's just that: a start. We need Gay Greats in every arena of public life; their work must be known and respected in their respective fields, whatever they may be, their sexuality should be nothing more than an interesting biographical note—"and X is queer," not "but." At present, we have this level of awareness to a limited degree. You can run a search for "LGBT people" on Wikipedia and find a list of queers of note, but this

kind of information is more restricted on more respected sites. No offense to Wikipedia, I'm a huge fan, but you can't exactly live or die by it.

For example, Eleanor Roosevelt. Most websites devoted to her life and work, her home, her library, or more generally, to First Ladies, will discuss her advocacy, her role as the president's "eyes and ears," even his affair with her secretary, but they ignore her long-term, romantic relationship with female journalist Lorena Hickok. This comes to light only on websites devoted to LGBT history.

Historians argue that such information is not worth mentioning. I disagree, for two reasons: (1) sexuality is an aspect of identity, which in turn influences the decisions one makes, decisions which may be monumental, and (2) we, as a community, and our young and/or newly out members in particular, need positive role models. It's important for the same reason that February is now Black History Month; for the same reason that, in the 1970s, female writers such as Virginia Woolf were added to the English literary canon. We need people to look to as people who have achieved great things, who had an impact in the course of events, and who are like us.

Adlai Stevenson described Eleanor Roosevelt as someone "who would rather light a candle than curse the darkness;" there is wisdom in those words. As a community, we do a lot of cursing the darkness, complaining about various inequities that certainly deserve complaint. We don't, however, light enough candles. We need to advocate for the inclusion of sexuality in biographies, particularly those historical. We need to applaud those in the spotlight who are out, to encourage closeted individuals to come out. We need to become the role models we wish we had, as per the oft-quoted Mahatma Gandhi, "We must be the change we wish to see in the world." ■

our lives
Amanda Hunter
ourlivesmadison.com
user ahunter

"Within the typical secondary school curriculum, homosexuals do not exist. They are 'nonpersons' in the finest Stalinist sense. They have fought no battles, held no offices, explored nowhere, written no literature, built nothing, invented nothing and solved no equations. The lesson to the heterosexual student is abundantly clear: homosexuals do nothing of consequence. To the homosexual student, the message has even greater power: no one who has ever felt as you do has done anything worth mentioning." —Gerald Unks

Known People Who Are/Were Queer

Alexander the Great	Harvey Milk
Tammy Baldwin	Cole Porter
Drew Barrymore	Rodney Schedel
William S Burroughs	Franz Schubert
Margaret Cho	David Sedaris
Ellen DeGeneres	William Shakespeare
Ani DiFranco	Bessie Smith
Sigmund Freud	Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
Greta Garbo	Gianni Versace
Candace Gingrich	Leonardo da Vinci
Rock Hudson	Dan Savage
Langston Hughes	Ian McKellan
Elton John	Oscar Wilde
k.d. Lang	Tennessee Williams
Greg Louganis	Virginia Woolf

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| March 8, 4pm | Café Montmartre |
| March 15, 1pm | Willy Street Co-op |
| March 20, 7pm | First Congregational Church |
| March 30, 2pm | Prairie Athletic Club |
| April 10, 7pm | Madison Central Library |
| April 15, 7pm | Java Cat |
| April 19, 1pm | Nitty Gritty |
| April 27, 1pm | Willy Street Co-op |

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Living with Gender

UW–Madison associate professor of Gender and Women's Studies, Anne Enke examines the roles that gender expression have layered into our society and how they affect our own gendered identities

WE ARE LIVING IN AN ERA IN which there is great interest in the subject of transgender. In part, due to a transgender social movement that has made it possible for an increasing number of people to insist on their right to gender self-determination, to come out as trans, and to do so at an ever younger age. It is perhaps also due to the fact that even people who conform to conventional gender norms may see that in our everyday world, gender is far more varied than those norms would suggest. Dominant convention tells us that people are either male or female, that men have male bodies and exhibit masculinity, and that women have female bodies and exhibit femininity. But in real life, peoples' bodies and sense of self fly in the face of convention; for most, sex/gender-conformity requires some work. And of course transgender people

some trans people, gender identity and expression feels stable and fixed, and may relatively comfortably correspond to male and female. For others, gender may be experienced as fluid, encompassing a changing range of "masculine" and "feminine" expression. Some may want to hormonally and surgically modify their bodies to correspond to their sense of themselves as men or women and/or trans; for others, this may not be important. Ideally, we would build a social world in which all people's gender identity, gender expression, and also our varied ways of understanding gender, are honored.

One of the simplest but most radical requests supporting the goal of gender self-determination is to believe what people say about themselves and treat them accordingly. In everyday situations, people rarely verbally declare their gender identity, so if you're wondering what pronoun to use, trans etiquette is standard etiquette: honor the gender in which people present themselves. This idea of presenting as a gender can be quite tricky however. For everyone, presentation is a combination of how we feel, how we relate ourselves to social expectations of maleness and femaleness, and how others perceive us. Respect requires that we avoid assuming we correctly perceive anyone's gender identity.

Presentation is a combination of how we feel, how we relate ourselves to social expectations, and how others perceive us.

really are everywhere. Despite the interest in transgender, there are a lot of costly misconceptions and prejudices. In this short piece, I write about why gender matters, and about the importance of transgender rights and their relationship to gay/lesbian rights and basic civil rights.

Potentially, there are as many ways of being transgender as there are people. Transgender is not a singular category that describes a fixed set of people or practices; in turn, transgender-identified people have nearly infinite ways of defining the term and relating themselves to it. For

people's perception of me as a boy signaled my failure to appear the way girls were supposed to appear, and it also signaled social failure to understand that girls could and did look, feel, and act exactly the way I did. As an adult, it bothers me little when people read me as man or as not-really-woman; as long as people aren't violent or hostile, the confusion is theirs, not mine—and sometimes confusion can be a useful step toward a more gender-flexible world.

We must take care not to define our movement in ways that exclude part of who we are

It is an entirely different matter at work. There, as on the streets, I wear only "men's" clothes on this androgynously-contoured body. Yet, unlike my experience on the streets, my colleagues see woman even though they may know nothing about the history of my body or personal sense of gender. Probably because I am in a professional context, colleagues read me as a casual-dresser but not as a cross-dresser. (Let me note how different this would be if I were a male-bodied person not passing as woman but dressed in "women's" clothes. Would I have landed this job?) In the absence of self-declarations about my gender identity and physical history, my social gender changes with context, and that has everything to do with social expectations and very little to do with some Truth of Me.

"Ew, that's a girl's pencil!"

BECAUSE GENDER SELLS, EVEN THE most common objects are marketed as having male or female gender. Not only do we think of pieces of stitched-together cloth as being

Transgender 101

Gender Identity: One's sense of self as a gendered person.

Transgender: 1. An identity that some people embrace for themselves. Transgender identity may include a gender identity that differs from sex assigned at birth; a gender expression (presentation) that differs from that conventionally expected of people according to their bodily sex; a desire for alteration of the body's sex/gender characteristics. 2. The name of a social movement that insists on the right of all people to self-determine their own personal and legal gender status; freedom of gender identity and gender expression for all people; and civil and social rights for all people regardless of gender identity, gender expression, and body type. 3. An ever-expanding social category that may, for the purposes of organizing and social service recognition, incorporate transsexuals, transvestites, cross-dressers, female and male impersonators, persons with intersex conditions, butch lesbians, studs, fem queens, drag queens, drag kings, feminine-identified men, masculine-identified women, MTF, FTM, transies, gender variants, genderqueers, boi dykes, trans men, trans guys, trans women, bi-gender, two spirit, etc. People who place themselves in any of the above categories may or may not identify with the collective term "transgender."

Transsexual: Medical and popular term describing persons who wish to (and do, if financially feasible) change bodily sex characteristics and/or achieve sex reassignment through hormonal and surgical means.

MTF (Male to Female): transgender or transsexual experience indicating a change from male (assignment at birth based on perceived physical sex) to female; it includes personal and social recognition of female identity and may or may not include hormonal and/or surgical modifications and/or sex reassignment.

FTM (Female to Male): transgender or transsexual experience indicating a change from female (assignment at birth) to male; it includes personal and social recognition of male identity and may or may not include hormonal and/or surgical modifications and/or sex reassignment.

"T": 1. term referring to exogenous (produced outside the body) testosterone, such as that taken by female-bodied people for its "mascalinizing" effects. 2. a drink with jam and bread.

ze, hir, em: gender-inclusive (or neutral) pronouns. While many trans people identify with conventional pronouns (he-his-him, she-hersher), many also advocate pronouns that do not ascribe a specific sex-gender status.

Sexual Identity and Gender Identity?

Gender identity is not sexual identity; for each person, sexual identity may have nothing or everything to do with gender identity and body type. For example, trans people may consider themselves gay, bi, lesbian, straight, queer, etc. Just as people should have the right to gender self-determination regardless of body type, people should have the right to name their own sexual identity, regardless of their gender status and body type.

"men's" or "women's" depending on color, shape, number of pockets, etc, but even things such as pencils and bikes are coded to affirm girlness or boyness. I recently witnessed a six year-old boy refuse to use a blue pencil with red polka dots because, as he insisted, "that's a girl's pencil!" Had he chosen the polka-dotted object, would that indicate his gender confusion or failure, or even that she thought of herself as a girl? Though few would draw such a conclusion, many believe that some toys naturally are "girl's" regardless of who is playing with them, and that some clothes naturally are "men's" regardless of who is wearing them. For better or for worse, our gendered sense of self stems to some degree from our aesthetic relationship to the objects around us as well as from our physical relation to our environment; that is because we ascribe gender not just to bodies and psyches, but also—sometimes bizarrely—to objects and behaviors.

More consequentially, our social world is ordered around the supposition of a clear and consistent distinction between males and females. Everything that helps us live our human lives: jobs, health care, housing, social services, voting rights, passport issuance, marriage, parenthood, sports teams, the ability to use a public restroom, respect, freedom from violence, even citizenship—requires us to declare as either male or female, and we are required to stay that way. Furthermore, our gender declaration must "match" the legal sex to which someone else assigned us, and that legal status usually demands that our bodies conform to conventional beliefs about maleness and femaleness. All of that, and also the right to be believed, are frequently denied to people who attempt to change gender or live at variance with common sex/gender expectations. No wonder that child was so concerned with choosing the right pencil.

LGBT Coalition & Solidarity

THERE IS A LOT OF TALK ABOUT HOW gender identity is different from sexual identity. And it is. But depending on how that distinction is made, we can have a fragmented LGBT movement in which we clobber each other in competition for external resources, or we can build solidarity around shared efforts toward greater gender and sexual justice. Beginning in the mid-20th century, medical specialists, along with transsexual clients, have insisted that transsexuals are not homosexuals. Also beginning in the mid-20th century, some proponents of gay and lesbian liberation have insisted that gay and lesbian people are not gender-deviant but instead are "just like everyone else." Both groups have made these claims in part in order to gain legitimacy for their own cause, as though they will appear more respectable if they distance them-



A Sense of Place

After years spent searching for somewhere to belong, **Eri Madder** discovers how that quest—and owning an authentic life—leads back to a realization about self-acceptance

Photo by Jessica Horn
shooterforhire@gmail.com

selves from other stigmatized ways of being. The costs are high. Recently, some politicians promoting an employment non-discrimination act (ENDA) opted to write an Act that focused only on sexual orientation; they believed that the Act would not get passed if gender identity and gender expression were included. In an unprecedented outpouring of solidarity, hundreds of LGBT organizations (every major organization in the country except for HRC), and some politi-

I've lived a lot of different lives in a lot of different places. I've had blue-collar, white-collar, military, and academic jobs in both rural and urban settings. I grew up on a ranch and attended college in Asia. I've rented a flat in London and traveled China by bicycle and boat.

Looking back now, it all feels like a dream. It feels like a dream because part of me was never really there.

Trans-life is like that. It's inherently rootless. When you are in the closet, your physical presence might be here, dressed up in the gender marked on your birth certificate, but your soul is somewhere else. As a result, you don't feel any special affinity for your surroundings or the people in them. With every move and every physical change, you lose something: a place, a friend, a family. Over a long enough time you lose everything.

You're a ghost drifting through space.

Only when I began to accept myself as existing somewhere along the trans spectrum did I begin to feel a sense of place. Only when I stopped suppressing every gender variant mannerism did I begin to feel like a whole person.

But it wasn't easy.

In a rush to embrace this trans identity, I threw out parts of my birth gender that I shouldn't have. I also took on some cross-gender characteristics that

felt artificial to me. It's taken a lot of time and reflection to have found a place somewhere in the middle, where I'm truly comfortable in my own skin. It's taken time to recognize that sexuality and gender aren't fixed points on a linear Kinsey Scale, but rather they are like stars, forming human constellations and cultural galaxies. Even with this self-acceptance, and newfound sense of place, the fundamental truth remains that many gender queer people (myself included) arrive at this destination in solitude, and by way of heartbreak. Friendships and family remain elusive. It's becoming less and less acceptable in most places to disparage someone's race or ethnicity. Gay and lesbian people have broader visibility and acceptance than at any point in American history. And yet trans people are still fair game for a lot of public ridicule—sometimes even among other queers. Progressive social change moves at a snail's pace for all of us. Some days I feel like my snail is even slower than the rest.

Advocates tell us our gender diversity is something to celebrate. And it is. The more comfortable I become with my own androgynous version of life, the more acceptance and empathy I feel toward others. Embracing myself has allowed me to see beauty in others regardless of their gender.

And yet queer consciousness is the smallest part of how I define myself. An authentic life requires more than labels like "gay," "straight," or "trans."

In our authentic lives, we keep bees in our backyards. We collect old '70s punk records. We're shy. We cook fantastic meals from the things we grow in our gardens. We're scientists and living room bicycle mechanics and ex-amateur fighters. We've written books. We're loyal to our friends. We speak foreign languages and have climbed mountains. We love wine and cheap beer. We're

cynical but compassionate. We hang out on the front porch talking politics with our neighbors. We throw rocks at freight trains. We like cats, and cuckoo clocks, and Herman Miller furniture, and we're usually late for appointments. We hate consumer culture but still spend too much on clothes. We're fascinated by indie films and photography and graphic design. We tear up our front yards to plant wild flowers and paint our walls crazy colors and have had our hearts broken.

Those are the things that define our authentic lives, not gender or sexual identity. At least those are the things that define me.

The sum of these traits is no more unique than anyone else's. We all live these sorts of multiple lives in a single body. We all have multiple histories in a single existence. We all have our triumphs and failures, our likes and dislikes. We all witness incredible beauty and profound ugliness. We all dream.

And my dreams are the same simple but complex ones all of us seem to have. I dream about a partner I can count on. I dream about being in love with someone who loves me back. And waking up next to that person for the rest of my life. I dream about having someone to cook and laugh and travel with. I dream about arguing, and making up, and going to the cheap movie theater together, and knowing we'll be there for each other until the end.

I dream about having a family with that person. I want kids whom I can watch grow. I want to marvel at their disgusting eating habits as toddlers, walk them to the playground, and tape up their terrible crayon drawings all over the house. I dream about marveling at their teenage attractions to weird clothes and music. I want to see them find their own individual adult passions, and to have dinner with them on holidays.

I dream about having the economic resources to survive—a source of income beyond odd jobs and temp work. I want a lifelong job that I believe in and that believes in me. I want to work for my money, not to worry for it. I dream about a career that respects my personal life and that doesn't require a nametag, a personality inventory, a blood test, a political philosophy, or a haircut. I dream about fair wages and full benefits. I dream about a job that makes the world better not worse—a job with doughnuts in the break room. And I dream about finding the love and acceptance to achieve all of this.

Who knows if I will?

I was reluctant to contribute this essay. Part of me still is. In terms of gender diversity, there are people who have had much greater struggles—struggles that include surgery, poverty, and abuse. A lot of trans people around the world—including here in Madison—lead short, brutal, and lonely lives. Trans-women are viewed as social and sexual novelties who, with few economic prospects, often end up in prostitution. Gender variant people are still routinely beaten and murdered in this country—according to the best estimates, the murder rate of trans people is 17 times the national average. Trans people can be denied medical insurance. Black-market hormones of questionable purity are often the only option for people who want to transition. Gender identity is still not an included category in many antidiscrimination laws. And partners of trans people suffer these same social and political inequities by proxy.

Some days just knowing these facts feels like a constant stream of abuse. Keep that in mind the next time you meet a trans person. I'm lucky. I have a small but amazing network of people who have kept me afloat during my own personal evolution. But even with them I've had some dark days. In the end, it's all supposed to balance out, to be worth it. But sometimes I wonder if it is.

Despite our self-labels, the individual struggles and dreams of all LGBT-XYZ people are not so very different from one another. Loss and rejection are endemic to all queer identities. And without a shared sense of community, we're all rootless, we're all ghosts in space. This might be the "gender identity" issue, but I'll bet that my story is not so different from your own. No matter how you identify, we're all traveling the same road and looking for the same sense of place. Next time you pass by, roll down the window and say hello. ■

A Place for Us

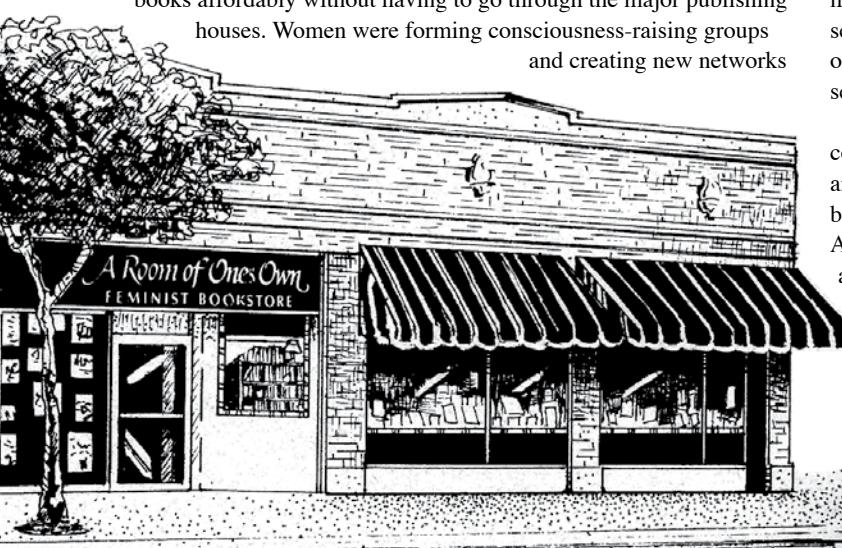
A radical idea with vision opened the doors to A Room of One's Own over 33 years ago. Gretchen Treu chronicles how that vision has persevered, and the sanctuary Room's walls still offer

Anyone who has lived, worked, or shopped in the State Street area of downtown Madison knows that it's a real struggle for businesses to stay afloat there. It seems that every month some small business gets crowded out by skyrocketing rent and low sales to be replaced by a chain restaurant, café, or boutique. There are very few places that have weathered these hardships, and A Room Of One's Own Bookstore is certainly among the most tenacious and successful independent bookstores in Madison—indeed, in the country, having stayed open for 33 years.

It all started in 1975, when an idealistic and passionate quintet of young college feminists decided to open a feminist bookstore. The women were Maureen Doe, Sue Ketchum, Gail Straw, Sally Stevens, and Sandi Torkildson, students who met through an introductory women's studies course offered through the UW Extension and, frustrated by the lack of comfortable spaces for women to congregate, fundraised \$5,000 to open the store at 317 West Johnson St.

According to Torkildson, 1975 was a great year to open a feminist business, particularly a bookstore. Locally, the Women's Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison started up that year, and the women's magazine *Common Woman* and the gay publication *Among Friends* were good omens of the warm welcome Madison gave the feisty new store. Local individuals and businesses donated money, advice, and skills to the new owners, and the local press covered the store's inception with interest and warmth. Nationally, *Ms.* magazine was just taking off, and the number of small independent presses, publishers, and books was booming. Torkildson describes it as "a renaissance—there was an incredible amount of pent-up desire to read gay and lesbian and feminist books." New technologies made it possible for people to purchase printing presses and make their own

books affordably without having to go through the major publishing houses. Women were forming consciousness-raising groups and creating new networks



It is clear if you spend ten minutes in the store that a great deal of love and care has gone into making this a successful business.

for by Sandi, saying "Madison supports its gay and lesbian community!" The store requested donations in return for the signs and donated the proceeds to various lesbian and gay causes in the city, including OutReach's library and the Madison Area School District for its appointment of a full-time staffmember to advocate for gay and lesbian youth in the schools. The yard sign campaign was successful, as the store worked with local churches who support its inclusive message and gaining some positive local news coverage. Sensitive to the evolving activist community, the yard signs were updated to include "bi" and "trans" for the second campaign. The store also maintains a comprehensive inventory of gay and lesbian studies, gay and lesbian fiction and nonfiction, poetry, sexuality, bisexuality, and transgendered titles.

It was a good time to open a feminist bookstore. Torkildson and her co-owners learned all they could about the business of bookselling and avidly soaked up the example and advice of established feminist bookstores, including Sisterhood in L.A., Jane Addams in Chicago, and Amazon in Minneapolis. Of these, Amazon is the only one still open, and it is the only feminist bookstore in the world older than Room.

Torkildson attributes the store's longevity to its adaptability and its commitment to sustainable business practices. According to Sandi, "We have always been able to get the important stuff done," even when things looked grim. Room has always worked hard to

of communication and knowledge-sharing, which at the time was most efficiently done through books. The women's movement was really taking off, having learned the lessons of activist organizing and leadership from the civil rights and antiwar movements of the previous few decades.

The bookstore has always considered itself to be more than just a business; it is also a great community space, from events like big name author events—in recent years, the store has hosted Leslie Feinberg, Alison Bechdel, and Dorothy Allison just to name a few—to local writing groups, book clubs, and knitting circles. It has also been an important community resource, providing information and networking for many local groups and services as well as giving space for political activist groups. The store's bookmarks, provided free of charge, include a lengthy list of contact information for local and national support resources, ranging from healthy sexuality to AIDS testing and support to domestic violence and suicide prevention.

Room has always been a staunch and involved supporter of the LGBT community in Madison. On two occasions, in 1998 in response to anti-gay billboards put up by Monroe Reverend Ralph Ovadal, and again in 2001 in response to protests by virulent anti-gay Kansas bigot Fred Phelps, the bookstore provided yard signs paid



A very young Sandi and Maureen look over handwritten receipts in the early days
BELOW: the five founders toast to the future (from L to R—Maureen, Sandi, Sally, Sue, Gail)

support other local independent businesses, as Sandi was a founder of the Dane County Buy Local Initiative, a coalition of stores working to promote awareness of the importance of sustaining local businesses. According to Torkildson, 73 cents of every dollar you spend locally stays in your community, as opposed to 43 cents of each dollar spent at a national chain like Borders or Wal-Mart.

In the mid-90s, when the opportunity arose, Sandi took a risk and moved the bookstore a few doors down to 307 West Johnson, expanding the inventory to include more general interest stock and opening a coffeeshop. Sandi and her co-owner, Nancy Geary, keep a close watch on the reading interests of the liberal community. They carefully balance the store's core emphasis on feminism, gay and lesbian rights, women's fiction and health with more recently expanding sections like environmentalism and politics. Geary, who sometimes hosts the Her Infinite Variety women's music program on WORT, also works hard to maintain a great selection of independent women's music. When the numbers didn't crunch, the bookstore leased the café to Two Degrees, a cooperative group which ran the coffee end of things until June of this year, when they decided not to renew their lease due to overwhelming coffee competition in the downtown area. Room made the best of this loss by installing a beautiful new checkout counter and increasing their stock of fair trade jewelry and gifts.

It's no surprise to the people who work and shop there that this store has made it through some of the toughest years for bookselling. The staff are friendly and knowledgeable, and love to help customers find that perfect book. It is clear if you spend ten minutes in the store that a great deal of love and care has



The store today



gone into making this a successful business that can change with the times without letting go of any of its ideals. People often come in from out of town, reminiscing about the memories they made in this cozy store and making a point to stop in. In a time when independent bookstores, especially feminist ones, are closing their doors, Torkildson sighs and says, "It's sad to see these unique stores go. It's so important to have these ideals out there. We all struggle to stay alive, it's not easy—we just have to hope that the support still continues." ■

Challenging Sex Stereotypes

With gender identity/expression dropped from ENDA, Tamara Packard helps find the resources that are available to transgendered and gender variant people

Citing a lack of support for an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act ("ENDA"), in November the United States House of Representatives passed a version of ENDA which would extend federal statutory protection from discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation, but would not extend the same protection based on gender identity/expression. Our very own Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin pushed for an ENDA that included gender identity/expression protections too, but in the end the Democratic "leadership" prevented her amendment from even coming to a vote. As of the writing of this column, the Senate had yet to take the bill up.



The law provides protection based on the decisionmaker's perceptions, regardless of whether they are accurate.



Tamara Packard
ourlivesmadison.com
user Tamara

The lack of explicit gender identity/expression protection in the workplace via federal statute is a great disappointment for all of us who stand for fairness. The lack of courage on the part of the Democratic "leadership" to even allow a vote on the Baldwin amendment so we know who our friends are is likewise troublesome. But thanks to the brave efforts of trans activists and allies across the country, there is a growing collection of case law which finds workplace protection for trans-

gendered and gender variant people in existing prohibitions against sex discrimination.

It all started with the United States Supreme Court's 1989 decision in Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins, which held that it is illegal sex discrimination when an employer makes adverse job decisions based on sex stereotyping. In that case, the employer did not promote Hopkins, a female, in part because in the decisionmakers' view that she was "too macho," needed to have her hair styled and makeup done, and should behave more femininely. That is, because Hopkins did not fit the female sex stereotype, she was discriminated against. The United States Supreme Court found this to be sex discrimination made illegal by Title VII of the Federal Civil Rights Act. Since that decision in 1989, numerous courts and state administrative agencies have applied this prohibition on sex stereotyping to protect transgendered and gender variant people against discrimination in the workplace.

Most recently, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia denied the federal government's motion to dismiss a sex discrimination case brought by Diane Schroer. Schroer, a trans woman, applied for a job with the Library of Congress under her previous male name and presented as male at the interview. After receiving and accepting the job offer, she met with the decisonmaker, presented as female, and informed him that she was about to change her name and was beginning to present publicly as female. The job offer was promptly revoked. Schroer's attorneys from the ACLU alleged that the reason was based on sex stereotyping: the decisonmaker felt Schroer did not conform to stereotypes of how women should look, and believed others would feel the same and therefore not view Schroer as credible in her job. On November 28, 2007, the Court found that based on those allegations and the Hopkins decision, Schroer could pursue her case as sex discrimination of the sex stereotyping variety under Title VII.

As of yet, there are no court or administrative decisions from Wisconsin (that I could find) which consider a sex stereotyping sex discrimination case brought by someone transgendered, though there are at least two positive cases coming out of federal courts in

Ohio in the past four years. Cases of sex stereotyping, resulting in the termination or denial of promotion for a transgendered person in Wisconsin, must be out there, though: a 1997 survey by the San Francisco Department of Health of over 500 trans people showed that 46% of male-to-female and 57% of female-to-male transgendereds reported experiencing employment discrimination. Wisconsin's Fair Employment Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and has often been interpreted consistent with Title VII. Given the strong trend in courts and administrative agencies across the country to find illegal sex discrimination when a transgendered or gender variant person loses a job or promotion for not conforming to sex stereotypes, I hope it is only a matter of time before Wisconsin's Fair Employment Act is found to provide this same protection.

The Schroer case, and cases like it, are careful to note that Title VII does not protect transgendered people as transgendered and thus do not provide the breadth of legal protection that an inclusive ENDA could provide. But until our legislative leaders learn how to lead (as Congresswoman Baldwin already has), this line of cases can serve as a stopgap measure. Also, don't overlook other protections that might apply. For instance, Wisconsin law protects against sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace, and often transgendered and gender variant people are initially perceived by employers as gay or lesbian. The law provides protection based on the decisonmaker's perceptions, regardless of whether they are accurate. So if the basis for an adverse employment decision is a perception that you are gay or lesbian, the decision is illegal under Wisconsin law. Also, the Cities of Madison and Milwaukee have ordinances which protect against gender identity/expression discrimination in employment, so if you work within either of these cities, you have the kind of broad explicit protection that we need at the state and national level as well.

For more information about the legal rights of transgendered people, please browse these websites: www.transgenderlaw.org, and www.transgenderlawcenter.org. The National Center for Lesbian Rights, the ACLU, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force also all have excellent resources specific to legal issues faced by transgendered people. ■

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

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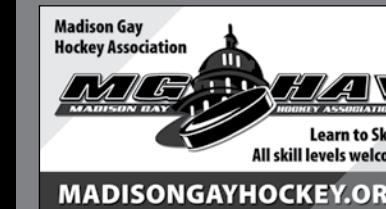
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Building Body Confidence

Learning how to understand and love your body image is often challenging. Dale Decker offers solutions that promote better acceptance.

I'm sure you have the same urge I do when a beautiful person exclaims, "I'm so fat!" Thankfully, my aversion to pain is greater than my instinct to punch. A needling comment must suffice in the interest of law and order. Sigh. Distract yourself with this amusing experiment: watch a group of people greeting each other and count the number of comments on clothing, hair, or even scent. In a small gaggle of gay men, this process can consume the better part of an episode of *Project Runway!* It reminds me of an episode of *What Not to Wear*.



Watch a group of people greeting each other and count the number of comments on clothing, hair, or even scent



What Not to Wear is a reality program that teaches fashion-challenged victims how to dress themselves. At first I scoffed at this premise, but by the end of each program the previously uninterested slob has a self esteem that grew three times that day. The increased confidence and pride is really astounding. I wish I could get the same reaction after a few hours of therapy!

Allow me to take a moment for a disclaimer. Some body image disturbances can be serious problems that require expert help. You should seek counseling if you are experiencing any of the following problems: restriction of food intake, binging, purging,

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Research has shown that transgendered people who transition from one sex to the other have improved mental health and an overall better quality of life.

image of how our body should look. All three of these factors work together to either promote pride or bring us down.

How We Can Help Ourselves

Perception. Sometimes we are unable to correctly perceive how our body looks. Eating disorders in particular often cause people to believe they are overweight despite being emaciated. The person with an eating disorder actually sees a fat body where you and I would see a very thin person. Treatment of this problem focuses on readjusting perception to better reflect reality.

Attitudes. Here's where the majority of us cultivate our craziness; we accurately perceive our body but have a negative attitude toward it. There are lots of theories about why we are so hard on ourselves. Photography, air brushing, fashion models, competitiveness, and plain old sexism top the list. The standard of beauty in America has become unreachable for all but a tiny minority, leaving the rest of us feeling inadequate and underestimating our own beauty.

Internal/external mismatch. A small minority of people have an mental image of their body that is mismatched with their physical body. Transgendered people perceive their body correctly and may even have the attitude that their body is attractive. However, their internal sense of how their body should look is radically different from the body they were born with. Needless to say, this can create an overwhelming amount of stress and pain. Over the past several decades, the preferred treatment for this problem has not been to change the body image, but to change the body itself. Sex reassignment has been very controversial. Research has shown, however, that transgendered people who transition from one sex to the other have improved mental health and an overall better quality of life.

excessive exercise, urges to cut or remove body parts, worry about your appearance that interferes with work or relationships, or suicidal thoughts. Get thee to a doctor or counselor right away if any of these fit you. Thankfully, most of us don't have any of these problems; we just have some poor mental habits that discourage self esteem. Some very simple changes to our daily life can promote a healthy self-image. ■

Dale Decker has been a psychotherapist and substance abuse counselor in our community since 1994. He can be found online at www.daledecker.net

Body Image Dos and Don'ts

- **DON'T** wear clothes that are too small. The constant discomfort of your "skinny jeans" wears down your self esteem.
- **DON'T** wear clothes that are too big. Trying to hide your body sends constant signals to your brain that there is something wrong with you.
- **DON'T** weigh yourself. Weight fluctuates naturally day by day. Gauge your progress by how your clothes fit.
- **DON'T** spend too much time in front of the mirror. Does anyone really need more than 15 minutes a day?
- **DO** remind yourself daily of the things you like about your body. Make a mental list and go through it each morning.
- **DO** exercise moderately. Unless you are a professional athlete, anything more than 1 hour per day is probably too much.
- **DO** wear clothing you like and fits your style. I took a lot of ribbing when I switched to the biker look but now I get my share of compliments.
- **DO** say "Thank you" when someone compliments you, feel the love. Simple thing, powerful technique.



Body Image: Understanding Body Dissatisfaction in Men, Women, and Children (Hardcover)
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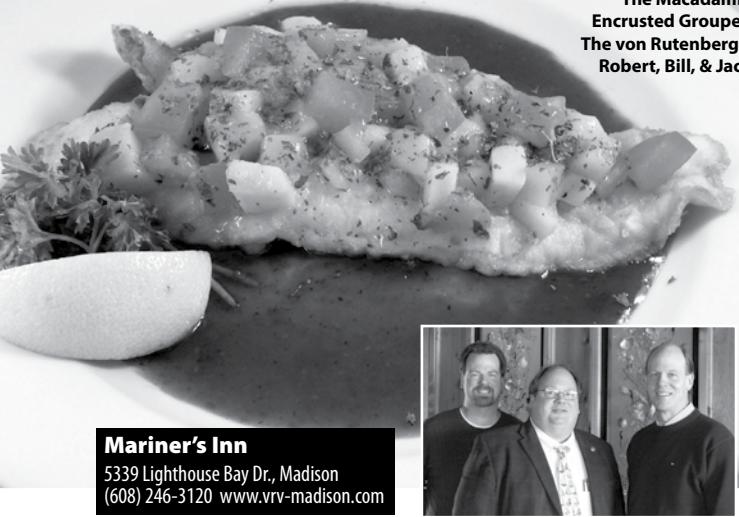
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IF THERE'S ONE THING the von Rutenbergs know, it's destination dining. Owners of Madison's venerable lakefront restaurants Nau-Ti-Gal, Captain Bill's, and The Mariner's Inn, these second-generation restaurateurs (brothers Robert, Bill, and Jack) continue the family tradition by serving up spectacular lakeside views, winning hospitality, and exceptional food.

A warm destination for a "date night," The Mariner's Inn provides an intimate atmosphere overlooking Lake Mendota. Can't decide what to order? Start with an appetizer. Several popular entrées, including the Sesame-Crusted Ahi Tuna and the deep-fried jumbo Mariner's Shrimp are also available in a smaller, first-course size. But don't be fooled: these selections are still large enough to share.

The Tenderloin-Stuffed Portobello is a standout – a large mushroom cap overflowing with tender chunks of steak, topped with a smoky yet creamy whiskey peppercorn sauce and house-made haystack onions. The sizeable pieces of tenderloin are fork-tender.

The Admiral's Tenderloin consists of twin tenderloin filets, aged to perfection and perfectly tender, topped with lump blue crab meat and a Béarnaise sauce. Served alongside are seared scallops, presented on a sprig of rosemary, plus a choice of sides and soup or salad.

For accompaniments, go with the Legendary Hash Browns and the award-winning New England-style Clam Chowder, which features enormous pieces of clam in a wonderfully rich base.

A new offering that's making quite a splash with patrons is the Macadamia-Encrusted Grouper, served on a Chambord Raspberry Sauce. Delicate and crunchy, the fish remains the star of the plate, but the refreshing mango salsa and fruity – but not overly sweet – Chambord sauce elevate the dish to new heights.

For a sweet finish, the house-made Door County Cheery Cheesecake is a delicious slice of history. Lovingly developed more than thirty years ago by the matriarch of the von Rutenberg clan, its dense, moist texture leaves a hint of amaretto on the palate.

With fantastic food, a lakeside view, and an impressive wine selection... forget waiting for a special occasion. This is a date night destination too good to put off visiting. —Amy VanKauwenbergh

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Brocach Irish Pub
7 W. Main St., 255-2015
Irish \$\$ brocach.com

Buraka
543 State St., 255-3646
East African \$ buraka.com

Burrito Drive
310 S. Bearly St., 260-8586
Mexican \$ burritodrive.com

Cafe Continental
108 King St., 251-4880
Continental \$\$

Cafe Costa Rica
141 S. Butler St., 356-9830
Costa Rican \$

Cafe Montmartre
127 E. Mifflin St., 255-5900
French, Tapas \$ themomo.com

Cafe Porta Alba
15 N. Butler St.,
441-0202
Pizza \$\$ cafeportalba.com

Cafe Soleil
25 N. Pinckney St., 251-2700
Bread, Sandwiches/Deli \$ letoile-restaurant.com

Cocoliquot
225 King St., 255-2626
French, Croissants \$\$\$ cocoliquot.com

Crave Restaurant

201 W. Gorham, 268-2728
Seafood, Burgers \$\$\$ cravemadison.com

Dotty Dumpling's Dowry
317 N. Frances St., 259-0000
American, Burgers \$ dottydumplingsdowry.com

Eldorado Grill
744 Williamson St., 280-9378
Tex-Mex \$\$\$ eldoradogrillmadison.com

Fresco
227 State St., 663-7374
American \$\$\$ frescomadison.com

Frida Mexican Grill
117 State St., 256-4000
Mexican, Southwestern \$\$ fridamexicangrill.com

Great Dane
123 E. Doty St., 284-0000
Brewery, Burgers \$\$ greatdanepub.com

Himal Chuli
318 State St., 251-9225
Nepalese, Vegetarian \$

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Pizza \$\$ cafeportalba.com

Cafe Soleil
25 N. Pinckney St., 251-2700
Bread, Sandwiches/Deli \$ letoile-restaurant.com

Cocoliquot
225 King St., 255-2626
French, Croissants \$\$\$ cocoliquot.com

Michael's Frozen Custard

2531 Monroe St., 231-3500
Frozen custard, Burgers \$ glassnickelpizza.com

New Orleans Takeout
1517 Monroe St., 280-8000
New Orleans Cuisine \$ eatmobettah.com

Ocean Grill
117 MLK Jr. Blvd. 285-2582
Seafood \$\$ oceangrillmadison.com

The Old Fashioned
23 N. Pinckney St., 310-4545
Steak, American \$\$ theoldfashioned.com

Opus Lounge
116 King St., 441-6787
Tapas \$\$ opuslounge.com

Parthenon Gyros
316 State St., 251-6311
Greek \$

Restaurant Muramoto
106 King St., 260-2680
Asian Fusion, Vegetarian \$

Roman Candle
1054 Williamson St.,
258-2000
Pizza \$ theromancandle.com

Wonders Pub
1980 Atwood Ave., 244-8563
American, Burgers \$ wonderspub.com

West
517 Williamson St., 441-1600
French \$\$\$ shamrockbar.com

Shamrock Bar
117 W. Main St., 255-5029
Sunday Brunch \$ shamrockbar.com

Sunprint Cafe
1 S. Pinckney St., 268-0114
Sandwiches, Vegetarian \$

Takara
315 State St., 268-0188
Japanese, Sushi \$

Tornado Club
116 S. Hamilton St., 256-3570
Steak \$\$\$ apartmentrenting.com/tornado

Weary Traveler
1201 Williamson St., 442-6207
International \$

Wisconsin Union
800 Langdon St., 265-3000
American, Sandwiches \$ www.union.wisc.edu

L'Etoile
25 N. Pinckney St., 251-0500
French, American \$\$\$ letoile-restaurant.com

Maharani
380 W. Washington Ave.,
251-9999
Indian \$

Marigold Kitchen
118 S. Pinckney St., 661-5559
Sandwiches, Soup \$ marigoldkitchen.com

Maza
558 State St., 256-9330
Afghanistani \$

Fork and Spoon Cafe
1133 E. Wilson St., 257-7216
Italian, Pasta \$ forkandspooncafe.com

Glass Nickel

2916 Atwood Ave., 245-0880
Frozen custard, Burgers \$ glassnickelpizza.com

Harmony Bar & Grill
2201 Atwood Ave., 249-4333
Pizza, Burgers \$

Lao Laan-Xang
2098 Atwood Ave., 819-0140
Laotian, Vegetarian \$\$

Mariner's Inn

5339 Lighthouse Bay Dr.,
246-3120
Seafood \$\$ vrv-madison.com/capbills

Flat Top Grill

538 N. Midvale Blvd.,
236-4008
Asian Fusion \$\$ flattopgrill.com

Monty's Blue Plate

2089 Atwood Ave., 244-8505

American, Pies \$

montysblueplatediner.com

Nau-Ti-Gal

5360 Westport Rd., 246-3130
Seafood \$\$ vrv-madison.com/nautigal

Tex Tubbs Taco Palace

2009 Atwood Ave., 242-1800
Tex-Mex \$ textubbstacos.com

Glass Nickel

5003 University Ave.,
218-9000
Pizza \$ glassnickelpizza.com

Great Dane

357 Price Place, 661-9400

Brewery, Burgers \$\$

www.greatdanepub.com

Mediterranean Hookah Lounge

77 Sirloin Strip, 251-7733
Mediterranean \$\$

Biaggi's

601 Junction Rd., 664-9288
Italian, Pasta \$\$ www.biaggis.com

J.T. Whitney's Brewpub

6745 W. Whitney Way, 274-1776
Brewery, American \$\$

jthewhitneys.com

Captain Bill's

2701 Century Harbor Rd.,
831-7327

Seafood \$\$

vrv-madison.com/capbills

La Hacienda

515 S. Park St., 255-8227

Mexican \$

vrv-madison.com/hacienda

Flat Top Grill

538 N. Midvale Blvd.,
2



our lives
Stephen Calvert
ourlivesmadison.com
user Steve_Calvert

My Outings

Recounting the many different ways we come out over the years, **Stephen Calvert** looks back on his most important two.

I was enjoying dinner recently with a new friend at an elegant Madison restaurant where our handsome waiter was even more pretentious than the wine list.

After an hour of comfortable getting-to-know-you conversation, my friend asked me, "When did you come out?" Without thinking, I gave my stock reply: "Oh, back when Elton John was Reginald Dwight in short pants." He laughed, as hoped for, and our conversation wound its way to a companionable conclusion.

But later that night, I got to thinking about his question, and I realized that I didn't know precisely what he meant by "come out." Did he mean when did I admit to myself that I was gay? When did I come out to my only gay friend? To my closest straight friend? To my parents? The drones at work? Gawkers at the Pride Parade? The list seemed endless.

Space doesn't allow me to describe my half-dozen or more important outings over the years, so I will mention only the first two.

The first – self-identification – was wrung out of me in the autumn of 1959, when Tony and I were sophomore roommates at Oberlin College. He decided that it was imperative for the sake of my mental health that I admit I was gay, and he harangued me for months to 'fess up. Finally, beaten down, I did so, although, interestingly, this never led to our "sharing intimacies" for the next 48 years! That's probably a not uncommon strategy for protecting a valued friendship.

The second outing – the preeminent one for most gays – was admitting (confessing?) gayness to my parents. Only it didn't happen that way. I was outed by a letter describing a dalliance I'd had with

Jean, the head of a French acting company whom I'd met at Oberlin and stayed with in New York City at the tour's end in 1962.

I had written about my NYC adventures – my first live opera; my first visit to an Automat; my unhappy introduction to a popular sexual position – to my closest, then-straight male friend Jim. He and I were both home for Christmas, and he'd brought the letter to me to explain certain intentionally obscure comments. Foolishly, he left the letter in my parents' car, and my mother, uncharacteristically, opened and read it.

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While I sat alone in our living room on Christmas Eve, lit only by tree lights and the bright fresh snow outside, my warm reverie was interrupted by my mother, who slipped into the gloom, sat down, and said, portentously, "You really shouldn't leave your letters lying around."

My shock was palpable. I remember almost nothing of our tense, probing conversation except that at the end she said – I thought very insultingly – that she wouldn't tell my father.

But after I returned to my new home in New York City, I soon received a letter from Papa, which began, "Your mother told me.... At first, I thought you'd done this intentionally. Then I thought maybe it was my fault." He worked through his reasoning and finally achieved some repose, concluding with "If you want to see a psychiatrist, I'll be happy to pay for it."

The solution he offered for my "problem" made me both cringe and smile. Having said all that he had to say and there being yet a half page blank, my frugal father began his final paragraph with "The weather here has turned cold...."

It was then that I relaxed and laughed and knew with certainty that all would be well between us. And it was. For the remainder of their lives, my parents never mentioned the subject again, and they welcomed with open arms their son-in-law, my partner of 23 years. ■



News, Politics, and Social Issues Forum
MERV GRIFFIN

Regarding the death of Merv Griffin, and the Signorile blog entry.... I do hope that people talk about this man, and the fact that he was deeply closeted. Here was a man with immense power and wealth, and his coming out, particularly at the time where AIDS was really impacting the LGBT community, would have been an AMAZING thing. But not only did he NOT come out, but he also went as far as to fire anyone in his company who was openly gay.

The question still remains for celebrities and people in positions of power: Are they honor bound to come out of the closet? Or is it a matter of privacy? Many people, especially in Signorile's blog, are drawing a parallel between Merv Griffin and Anderson Cooper, whose sexuality has long been speculated about.

| Read the entire thread online |

Ask questions, find support and learn more about the coming out process in our forums at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

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