

issue no. 4

# SCRATCH

The zine from Project Q - Milwaukee

# SCRATCH

issue no. 4

business manager

Kurt Dyer

contributing writers

Meighan Bentz

Jay Botsford

Daniel Cunningham

Kurt Dyer

Levon Osuji

Charles Perkins

Warren Scherer

Dante Smith

Ashley Werner

Maureen White

Deon Young

proofreaders

Yasmin Chaudhury

Kurt Dyer

layout

McDill Design

## Scratch

A zine of Project Q

315 West Court Street

Milwaukee, WI 53212

414 223 3220

[www.ProjectQ.org](http://www.ProjectQ.org)

# table of contents

welcome	page 4
are you ready for pride?	page 5
young women's empowerment conference	page 6
poetry	page 8
ask judy	page 10
mommie dearest	page 12
crystal meth & cocaine	page 14
breaking the cycles of violence	page 15
uhaul lesbians	page 16
fagtoid	page 17
transamerica & sexual assault awareness month	page 18



# WELCOME TO SCRATCH

Welcome to our fourth issue of Scratch! What is Scratch, you ask? Scratch is a queer youth produced zine from Project Q. Scratch is put together by Project Q's Peer Counselors & Educators (PCE's) and other youth leaders and brought to you free of charge. Scratch was made for and designed by lesbian, gay, bisexual/pansexual, transgender, queer, questioning, unlabeled youth and their straight allies ages 24 & Under. When you read through this issue you will find that we have included lots of fun information for your enjoyment but have also focused on providing information about Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs Prevention. This issue was made possible from a grant by Safe & Sound, Inc. who we are deeply grateful to for their continued support of Project Q.

The purpose of this zine is to educate—body, mind, and spirit. Our focus is Health & Wellness—in a holistic way. You will find great information ranging from sexuality, sexual health, HIV/AIDS, healthy eating, exercise, movie & music reviews, LGBTQ-friendly therapists and lots of other really great information. The best part: it is written by your peers! Other LGBTQ and allied youth help to compile every issue. We will do our best to keep you free from capitalistic ads like "Get Outta Debt: Ten Easy Steps to A New You" or "Rainbow Wig Mart: Our Hair Can't Be Clocked". (Feel free to make a donation if you really enjoy Scratch and want to see more issues!)

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

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

Spring is coming and soon the air will be filled with the fragrant smells of spring! Stay active and be informed. Our community will be busy battling Wisconsin's constitutional amendment so get ready to take some action.

You can also contact Scratch via snail mail at:

**Scratch zine**  
c/o Project Q  
315 W. Court Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Editor's Correction:  
Oops, even I'm not perfect. In our last issue of Scratch, Issue 3, we forgot to provide the name of the writer of Terms/Definitions and The Transgender Day of Remembrance. Both of these stories were written by Jay Botsford. Sorry, Jay! Please don't hate me.



made possible by:



**SAFE & SOUND**  
REDUCING CRIME, CARING FOR KIDS &  
UPLIFTING NEIGHBORHOODS  
A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR THE NATION

# ARE YOU READY FOR PRIDE ?

PrideFest, Milwaukee's LGBT Pride Festival, is celebrating its 10th year on the Summerfest Grounds in Milwaukee. The 10 year anniversary, which will take place on June 9 -11, will now be a 3-day festival that will be sure to blow you away! We know you had a great time last year with Taylor Dayne, RuPaul, and Sophie B. Hawkins.

PrideFest is going to pull out all of the stops for their anniversary. And so is the Youth Village, last year it was filled to the brim; we had a Fashion Show, the "You Got Served" Dance Competition, the Toms and more! You won't believe what we are doing this year! As if we would give you anything less than an Outrageous Pride Explosion! That's right, Project Q is going to be coordinating the Youth Village at PrideFest 2006, and we wouldn't want to let you down.

Do you want to help make this year a rainbows on the rampage event to remember? All you have to do is contact Warren: (414) 223-3220 x 115 or [Warren@ProjectQ.org](mailto:Warren@ProjectQ.org). Just you wait and see! You won't know what to do when we're done with you!

Are you artistic? Creative? We are looking for youth to create a logo for this year's Youth Pride Village t-shirts. You can submit your designs by email to [Warren@ProjectQ.org](mailto:Warren@ProjectQ.org) or bring them into Project Q. For more information contact Warren Scherer at Project Q!





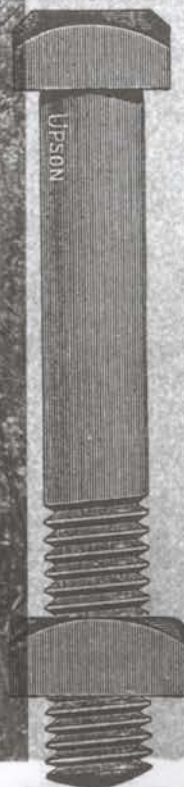
# EMPOWERMENT.



Planning for Project Q's 5th Annual Young Women's Empowerment Conference is already underway. If you haven't heard about this fantastic conference before this conference is a chance for women identified individuals ages 24 and under to come together in a safe environment to meet other young women throughout Wisconsin. The conference has programming that is both educational and empowering along with plenty of fun entertainment to keep you engaged throughout the weekend. This year's conference will be May 5-7, 2006 at Camp Whitcomb-Mason in Hartland, Wisconsin. The cost of the conference is \$25.00 which includes meals and lodging along with all materials for the conference. A very limited amount of scholarships are available upon request.



Spaces for the conference are limited, so please contact Mo at Project Q to reserve your spot. (414) 223-3220 x 114 or [mo@projectq.org](mailto:mo@projectq.org).









## LET ME GO

Ashley Werner

prick  
slice  
blood  
pain  
feelings of ecstasy  
c'mon do it  
once wont hurt  
let the blood flow  
the knife is right there  
do it!  
just one slice in the middle

NO!

FUCK YOU!

I can't go back to you  
not again  
I will chain myself to this chair  
before I reach for you  
once more  
Let me go!  
stop haunting me  
go away  
leave me alone!  
why do you keep coming back?

c'mon I know you want me  
you were addicted once  
you can become addicted again  
just as easily  
I come back  
because I know you want me  
you cant fight forever  
you love the rush  
the pain  
the bleeding  
everything  
YOU CAN'T FIGHT ME!

Watch me!

I will force myself to stay in one place  
away from you  
A monster lurking inside me  
will eventually be destroyed  
I can fight and you will not win  
Love and respect is stronger than  
a past addiction  
People love and care about me  
I won't let them down!

People don't love you  
you're crazy  
you've already let them down  
because you are  
a freak and a failure  
You loved me and you always will  
I'll always be with you  
you will lose one day

Ah yes you are blind  
I am not a freak  
I am a success  
I love myself  
and people love me  
you may always be with me  
but I will NOT  
let you win

BIG AND BEAUTIFUL, YOU SEE.  
WHAT, THAT'S SOMETHING YOU  
CAN'T SEE,  
SOMETHING THAT MAKES ME ME,  
SOMETHING THAT IS ME,  
WHAT GUESS WHAT?  
YOU'LL EVER BE

## SOMETHING TOCCARA HAD TO SAY

Dante Smith

Big and Beautiful you see,  
That's something I once was to be,  
What are you Qualities Misstir Mystery,  
What am I to be,  
Big And Beautiful, you see.  
What, that's something you can't see,  
Something that makes me me,  
Something that is me,  
What guess what?  
I'm at a higher level then you'll ever be,  
Yeah, that's right my bigness is flying with the birds and the bees.

This poem was written in loving memory of Toccara Wilson of the House of Maxxima and her children. This is something she may have said if she was to talk about herself. I have great respect for her and the positiveness she brought to Project Q and Milwaukee!

Toccara was kind and loving to all regardless of race, size, color, shape, or ability to dress. This is how I will always remember her. Thanks a million Toccara! My prayers go out to her family and friends.

c'mon I know you  
you were addicted - on  
you can ~~get~~ become  
addicted again  
just as easily  
I ~~know~~ I  
I come back  
because I know you want me  
you can't fight forever  
you love the rush feeling  
the pain  
the bleeding



## ANIMOSITY

Ashley Werner

You've robbed me of my childhood  
robbed me of my life  
inflicting so much pain  
I want to grab that knife.

You made promises  
held my hopes up high  
then breaking them  
now I wonder why

You dream of all these great things  
to improve life for me  
Now I've opened up my eyes  
knowing this can never be

You act so cool and real around me  
just one face  
the face I never get to see.  
The other makes me cry and delivers so much pain  
You two faced hypocrite  
you're driving me insane

Grandma died, shut yourself away from us  
kicked us out  
because we've had enough.  
Selfishness, insecurities and pain  
I'm gone now and this loneliness  
you will take to your grave

You're different now, so much has changed  
life without you and my father's love  
has driven me deranged

I can't help but love those I hate  
and unfortunately the pain you've caused me  
is a pain I can't escape

I'm sorry it's not different between you and me  
You ruined it.  
I guess that this was never meant to be

You've robbed me of my childhood  
robbed me of my life  
inflicting so much pain  
I want to grab that knife.



# \*Ask Judy

Hello everyone, I am Ms. Judy! I'm here to lend a helping hand, a much needed ear, and some fabulous advice. I am a sassy, sweet-talking Southern Sistah, just so ya'll know! And ya'll can ask me anything: I've already heard it all. And while I am fabulous and real wise, do NOT expect my advice to fix your life.

Dear Judy,  
I came out a while ago and it was hard until I saw this girl online, I thought she was really cool. We talked for a while and we dated; she was my very first girlfriend! We liked the same things and we did everything together. She made me so happy. We were together a month or more then she just broke up with me. She was the very first person I ever had sex with, she said she loved me; How could she just dump me? I heard she was getting back with her ex-girlfriend. I don't understand why she would do this to me! She said she loved me and I'm still in love with her.

Hurt in New Berlin

Dear Hurt,  
Baby, congratulations on Coming Out, it can be hard to do and I applaud you on doing so. Your first girlfriend; awww first relationship!?! I think it is a beautiful thing when youngsters find someone but I think it is a tragedy in the making to move as fast as you two did. It's like you were in NASCAR LOVE! Apply the brakes! Slow down! "Whoa Nelly" and I don't mean a gay boi. You two moved too fast if you were only together for a month and she said she loved

you? It's hard to believe that after only a month she knows you enough and feels so deeply for you to say "I Love You," saying that is powerful. Don't worry yourself looking for answers or reasons why she broke up with you. Trying to figure her out is not going to help you, it is only going to hurt more. Now, Ms. Judy

\*Disclaimer:

understands heartbreak because I've seen enough of it in my life. It is going to take you time to get over her and it will be harder because she was the first person you love(d) & ever had sex with because everyone attaches feelings to sex; strong feelings! It will take time and Ms. Judy doesn't want a sweet baby like you to waste time hoping this girl will come back. If this girl broke up with you and moved on or went back to her ex-girlfriend; do not even think about her. I want you to write me back and let me know how you're doing, ok?



Dear Judy,  
I'm dating an older man, he is 38 and I am 19. Our relationship started off really well, we did all kinds of stuff together: dinner, movies, hung out, he even took me to a couple parties at his friends' houses. I thought we got along well and had similar interests but nowadays he gets annoyed with me when I want to watch TV or play video games and he says things like "grow up" and "you're childish". He makes mean comments about my age and cracks jokes about our age difference; it is too much.

It's not like you magically aged, right? I wouldn't be surprised if he pursued you because of your age. Dating an older person has its pros and cons; unfortunately it sounds like your cons outweigh the pro's. The age difference can cause undue stress for this kind of relationship because the people in the relationship are at different places in life. There is almost a 20 year difference for the two of you! He could be your father!! He is twice your age and he has experienced a lot more in life than you have thus far; as far as you're con-

honest about how you feel or be blunt if you have to be! Tell him you're pissed about his jokes and you want them to stop. If he has a problem with your age then he shouldn't have gotten involved with you. Oh, if he only notices you when he's horny-SOMETHING IS WRONG! He might not respect you, he might only see you as a sexual object and that is why there is tension. In order for the relationship to be healthy there has to be honesty and respect. I hope things work out otherwise show him the curb. Take care of yourself, sweetie.

Disclaimer: The advice and opinions expressed herein are those of "Judy" and not those of a trained Mental Health Professional and should not be taken as such. Project Q and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center are not responsible for the advice given by "Judy".

It pisses me off and I don't know what to do! I tried to tell him it makes me mad when he says stuff like that but he ignores me. It's like I'm not even around sometimes, unless he's horny. How do I get him to listen?

Kid in Waukesha

Dear Kid in 'Kesha,  
Oh, you bright young thing! When I first read your e-mail I was dumbstruck, I really did not know what to say or what to tackle first. Let's start with the obvious; this guy clearly knew how old you were when you started dating so he can't really fuss about it.

cerned he has had two life times. He cannot expect you to "be" anyone other than who you are. All of your interests will not be the same, so what if you like video games. By telling you to grow up or calling you childish he is saying he wants you to act more like an adult, which is crap! Ms. Judy would say he is full of something she can't put on paper. Dating you just might remind him of how old he is and he remembers that he has issues about his own age. If you want him to listen to you, find a creative way to get his attention. Take grabbing his nuts, for example. Be

Got a question for Judy?  
You can Ask Judy by sending your questions to [Scratch@ProjectQ.org](mailto:Scratch@ProjectQ.org) with Ask Judy in the subject line.

# Mommie Dearest!

## A HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14, 2006. This is a time to honor our mom's and the women in our lives that deserve a little bit of our time and affection.

### Mother's Day Proclamation of 1870

The first person to fight for an official Mother's Day celebration in the United States was Julia Ward Howe. You may be more familiar with her name as the writer who wrote the words to the Civil War song, The Battle Hymn of the Republic:

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;  
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;  
His truth is marching on.  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!  
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on."

The modern commercialized celebration of gifts, flowers and candy bears little resemblance to Howe's original idea. Here is the Proclamation that explains, in her own powerful words, the goals of the original Mother's Day in the United States...

Arise then...women of this day!  
Arise, all women who have hearts!  
Whether your baptism be of water or of tears!  
Say firmly:  
"We will not have questions answered by irrelevant agencies,  
Our husbands will not come to us, reeking with carnage,  
For caresses and applause.  
Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn  
All that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.  
We, the women of one country,  
Will be too tender of those of another country  
To allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the voice of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with  
Our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!  
The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."  
Blood does not wipe our dishonor,  
Nor violence indicate possession.  
As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war,  
Let women now leave all that may be left of home  
For a great and earnest day of counsel.  
Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.  
Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means  
Whereby the great human family can live in peace...  
Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar,  
But of God -  
In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask  
That a general congress of women without limit of nationality,  
May be appointed and held at someplace deemed most convenient  
And the earliest period consistent with its objects,  
To promote the alliance of the different nationalities,  
The amicable settlement of international questions,  
The great and general interests of peace.



I still dread going home. I know that I shouldn't, that she is trying in her own way and (maybe) will be able to accept me. Eventually. Until then, I am stuck with the knowledge that when I walk through the door to visit my mother, I will not be myself in her eyes for as long as I stay.

I should say that when I came out, the first time, when I told my mother "I am a lesbian," she simply told me that she wished the path I was on could be easier. The gender of my lovers and partners was a simple thing for her to understand, even when one of them was transgender herself. My own gender was not.

When I came out the second time, I told my mother "I am FTM [Female-to-Male Transsexual]." I wanted to attach an apology and make some amends for the pain that was obvious in her face. I will never forget what she told me in that house where I was never truly myself: "I gave birth to two daughters. If I support you in this, I will no longer be myself." Hatred would be easier to deal with than the dismissal she offered to me. Being disowned and never spoken to or about would be easier because I would not have to hear the strain in her voice, see the pain in her eyes when she notices I use masculine terms to refer to myself and when she notices that I am binding. I wonder what will happen when I start taking T [testosterone].

Being trans isn't an easy road to walk, and I suppose that I had some ideal in my mind of what would happen when I told her that I am transgender. I had hoped she would hug me, tell me it was OK and that she would do whatever she needed to in order to help me. Instead, she denied it, refused even to try and call me by my real name and gender, accused my friends of causing me to "become" trans, and ultimately withheld the support I desperately needed and still need. She told me that she had never seen it in me, so it must not be true. Never mind the reality.

This will be the first Mother's Day since I came out that second time. I still speak with her on a regular basis, but each time I realize how far wide a gap my identity has caused between us. The gap seems to be growing for all her assertion that she is trying. I think eventually there will be no way to cross it. For the simple fact remains: that she does not want the son she did birth and raise, the son who was her daughter and will always be her child.

— Jay Botsford

My mom had me when she was 16. She was still a child. She was in high school and my father stopped driving her, so she dropped out. Yet another child raising a child in America. Coming out to my mom was very awkward. Though we were never a close family I found it very hard to say those words to her. I had been out to my entire school and community for at least a year before I told her but still I couldn't find the words to say it; despite saying them thousands of times before. I had hinted at being gay years before but my mom had been in denial for years. Years later I found out it took her much longer than I thought and she saw a therapist to discuss the situation. My mom changed when I got kicked out of my house by my stepfather. It was at that moment that she took control of her life. My mom and I are now much closer than we have ever been. She is 100% supportive of me and my relationship and pushes forward for LGBT rights. Her new husband is much greater than her ex-husband. My mom raised me as best she could given her circumstances. It may have been a bit rocky but I think I turned out pretty good. To that I'll give my mom a Mother's Day to remember this May 14, 2006!

— Kurt Dyer

When I first came out, my mother cried at the kitchen for what felt like eternity. There was a lot of yelling, tears, and frustration. Six months went by. I sent letters that went unanswered and left messages that went unreturned. My mother thought that I would sooner or later join the rest of the gays in the pits of hell. She would ask me if it was something she did and tell me that I have not found the right man yet. It has now been six years and my mother has a new perspective. She visits my girlfriend and I, takes us to dinner, and tells us to treat each other right. This Christmas, I had tears in my eyes when I opened presents that were marked "To: Janet and Mo-Mo Love, Mom." It has been a long and tiring journey waiting for my mother to come to terms with my sexuality, but I am thankful to have her accept me now as I am and as I have always been, her little girl. This Mother's Day I will hug my mother like I have never done before and whisper in her ear "thanks for loving me unconditionally!" Thanks Mom, I love you.

— Maureen White

To My Mom:

You've Given Up A Lot To Take Care Of Me  
I'm Am Forever In Your Debt  
You've Given A Lot Of Love To Me  
I Will Always Love You Back  
You've Given So Much Support To Me  
I'll Try My Hardest To Give It Back

You Continue To Give Me So Much  
I'm Grateful To Have You As My Mother  
You Mean The World To Me  
Thank You Mom, Thank You...I Love You!

I Ask You This, Forgive Me As I Can't Rhyme So Well

\*Hugs\* \*Kisses\* \*Love\*

— Charles Kerry Perkins



# The way i see it...

Methamphetamine, also known as crystal meth, has many names. It is known as speed, chalk, meth, and Tina. In its smoked form it is also known as ice, crank, crystal, and glass. The drug is white, odorless, bitter-tasting, crystalline powder which is easily dissolved in water or alcohol. This drug was developed early in the century from its parent drug amphetamine and was used originally in nasal decongestants and bronchial inhalers.

Meth comes in many forms and can be smoked, snorted, orally ingested, or injected. When you experiment with this drug you may have a rush or "flash" that only lasts for a few minutes and has been described by some users as extremely pleasurable. Along with increasing alertness and wakefulness, it masks the body's need for food, water, or rest. The major side effects to this drug include inappropriate behavior, heart failure, brain damage, paranoia, hallucinations, and may lead to death. Once the high wears off, mental and physical exhaustion set in often with a deep depression that sometimes includes thoughts of suicide.

In the United States, there have been three distinct methamphetamine epidemics: one in the 1950s, a second in the late 1960s, and the third and current one that began in the mid-1990s. What makes the current epidemic so concerning is its relationship to the HIV epidemic because folks on speed are taking increased risks that they would not ordinarily take.

(Source: [www.tweaker.org](http://www.tweaker.org))

## Lowdown on Crystal Meth

By: Levon Osuji

Finding the Truth Among the Fiction

## What's Real, What Isn't: Cocaine

By: Daniel Cunningham

### What is it?

Cocaine is a colorless substance, obtained from coca leaves, which has a brief but powerful stimulant action. Cocaine is also called coke, snow, flake, blow, cola, rock, crack, rails, nose candy, toot, white, co-co puff, white horse, powder, blasts, soda, fluff, and sniff among other names. Street dealers generally dilute it with such inert substances as cornstarch, talcum powder, and/or sugar, or with such active drugs as procaine (a chemically-related local anesthetic) or with such other stimulants as amphetamines.

Aggressive and violent behavior can be a result of increased cocaine use. Hallucinations, anxiety attacks and agitation, frequent use. Chronic use can lead to paranoia, insomnia and weight loss can also result from depression and suicidal thoughts. Hypertension follows the "high" can be severe, and can lead to fatigue and depression. The "crash" or "low" that follows the short term after-effects of use include with cocaine.

### Myth: Cocaine isn't addictive.

Fact: While not regarded as physically addictive, cocaine can produce severe psychological dependence because of the strong cravings it produces, leading to compulsive patterns of use. As tolerance develops, users take larger and more frequent doses to maintain any high.



# BREAKING THE CYCLES OF VIOLENCE

By: Meighan Bentz

At what age does a child in America know what a gun is? We teach our children that hitting is bad, to treat people with respect, and that guns hurt people, yet children and adults alike are exposed to violence all the time. This exposure might be personal experiences of abuse, violence, or demeaning language. We also experience violence through television and other forms of media. It is disheartening that along with learning about animals, colors, and numbers, children also grow up with knowledge of violence, disapproval, and hatred. So how can we decrease the amount of violence that we are exposed to?

Part of my job as a Victim Outreach/Advocate is to raise awareness and educate our LGBT communities about Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Hate Crimes. My

work also involves defining these issues of power and control, and discussing prevention of violence within and against our communities. As an Advocate, I am here to provide crisis intervention for members of the LGBT community who are victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or other violent crimes. I am also available to serve as a liaison to other service providers and law enforcement. I facilitate linking victims to resources that provide support and LGBT cultural sensitivity.

I believe that to strengthen and create inclusiveness of LGBT dynamics into mainstream society, and to prevent violence and power and control that people use against others, it is necessary to healthfully empower ourselves as individuals and as a whole community. This can occur through small steps such as using honest, open, and caring communication, listening to others, educating ourselves and others, as well as participating in loving and healthy relationships. While it is important to focus on the realities of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Crimes of bias, Verbal, Physical, and Sexual Abuse, it is equally important to focus on the positive strengths of our communities. Through this we gain, as well as the possibilities of gaining a greater understanding of who we are as LGBT people.

Break out of your comfort zone. Talk to someone you do not know or, someone in a different social group, include them in your own group. Be an ally to others. It is important to embrace our identities, but not to the extent that we exclude others. To encourage peace and put an end to violence, it is crucial that we work together. Only then will there be a decrease of violence in and against our LGBT community.

To contact Meighan if you have been a victim of violence (sexual assault, domestic violence, hate crime) you can reach her at (414) 271-2656. She can also be reached by email at [MBentz@mkelgbt.org](mailto:MBentz@mkelgbt.org)



# U-HAUL LESBIANS

What does a lesbian bring to the second date? The answer is a U-haul. This age old stereotype of lesbians can sometimes be true. There is something magical when two women come together in a relationship. The sensitivity and amount of love and caring is amazing. But how much is too much? Should people really be in love and living together after two weeks?!? Take it from a lesbian who has made that mistake over and over again. I am not doubting one's love for their girlfriend, I am just asking you to think before you rent that U-haul.

Are you ready to share your space with your partner? Are you ready to handle what comes with that like money stress, the loss of your own space, and seeing that person every waking moment? I know that many of you are answering YES YES, YES. Many of you will move in too quickly and perhaps curse yourself for not listening to the warnings in this article. Just remember that when the honeymoon phase is over, sometimes all you are left with is a year lease and an apartment filled with painful memories of a failed relationship. Some relationships where the two people move in with each other right away do work out. It is just my experience that more often than not the two individuals do not take enough time to see if moving in together is the right next step. To help you decide, here is a list of questions to ask your partner:

By: Maureen White

- Do you put the toilet roll on facing up or down?
- Does it bother you to have someone drink from the orange juice carton?
- Do you squeeze the toothpaste from the top, or roll it up from the bottom as you go along?
- Does your partner snore? If so, are you a light sleeper?
- Will you allow your partner to go out with their friends without you sometimes?
- Are you a clean freak? If so, how clean is your partner?
- How are you going to split the bills?
- Are you living with just your partner, or will there be a third roommate who may be annoyed by your constant making out in the living room?
- If you were to break up, would you have another place to go?
- Which side of the bed do you like to sleep on?
- Can you sleep with the TV or radio on?
- Does your partner distract you from things you need to do like study, sleep, or go to work?
- How do you work out arguments? If your answer is that you have never had one, you are not ready to move in with each other.
- How do you feel about people using your things?
- Does it annoy you when people leave toothpaste marks in the sink?
  - How are the chores going to be divided up?
  - Can you fart in front of your partner?
  - Are you comfortable going number two with your partner in the other room?
    - Are you out to your family? If not, where are you going to put the "fake" bed?
    - Finally... Can you live without this person?

Be thoughtful about your relationship. If it's meant to last then you can wait a year before you rent the truck. If you have reservations don't make that leap. Many relationships have sunk because both people were over eager to move in too fast. Don't make that mistake.



# U-HAUL



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

1. On December 13, 2002, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) - which represents 38,000 mental health professionals - joined other professional groups in supporting the right of gay & lesbian couples to adopt. 2. Stephen Gately, of the Irish boy band Boyzone, made history on June 15, 1999 by being the first-ever teen heartthrob to sing, "I'm gay!"

3. Daniel Massey played the first gay character on television in *The Roads to Freedom* which aired on PBS in 1971. 4. During the filming of *Brokeback Mountain*, Michelle Williams and Heath Ledger began dating and conceived their first child. 5. Gale Harold, who played the sex symbol Brian Kinney on Showtime's *Queer As Folk*, has a tattoo on the inside of his right, middle finger that reads "Resist". 6. In the early 1990s, Tom Selleck had a press conference to say that he was not gay after a Queer Nation poster allegedly tried to out him. Years later, he played an openly gay character in *In & Out* with Kevin Kline.

7. Nik Pace who was the runner up of the 5th Season of America's Next Top Model was born in Milwaukee, WI on August 24, 1984. She attended Bradley Tech High School and in her Junior Year moved to Atlanta, Georgia.

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



# CRITICS CORNER



## Transamerica

Transamerica follows a brief period in the life of Bri (Felicity Huffman) a pre-operative male-to-female Trans-Woman. Bri is preparing to have Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) when she learns she has a son; a son she conceived when she (Bri) was a he (Stanley). She must come to the rescue of her biological son in New York and return home in time for the surgery in Los Angeles. The story drives them cross-country on a journey filled with many twists, turns and bumps along the way. Felicity, Lynette of "Desperate Housewives" for you DH fans out there, gives a stellar performance in this film, she is absolutely amazing! If you have a chance to see Transamerica; I say GO! You will walk out fascinated and enthralled by this wonderful film; and like me you might say WTF a couple of times during the movie but it is so worth it. B+

## April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

A Brief History: In the late 1980s, the National Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCASA) informally polled state sexual assault coalitions to determine when to have a national Sexual Assault Awareness Week. A week in April was selected. Over time, however, advocates began focusing attention on sexual violence throughout the month of April. In the late 1990s, many advocates began coordinating activities throughout the month of April on a regular basis, promoting an idea for a nationally recognized month for sexual violence awareness activities. Activities such as "Take Back the Night" marches and other events will be planned around Milwaukee and the state during April.



## Across

- 2 Tina: "Ooh, I'm so lovely and you'll really like me even though I tend to make people paranoid."  
 5 You're my dad? — starring a desperate housewife...  
 8 Our annual celebration at the lakefront  
 9 Halsted Street here I come...  
 11 Bisexual home wrecker (2 words)  
 12 Watch Out! She's got a power tool...  
 14 This diva got her start singing in gay men's bath houses. (2 words)  
 16 One of the original colors in the Pride flag that didn't make it...  
 17 A baby furry mammal with their own flag (Chicago has a team of them...)  
 18 Looking Good? Feeling Gorgeous?  
 20 Anyone up for a lesbian cruise?  
 21 Entourage to gay men everywhere... also found in kitchens.  
 23 Lesbian's favorite store. (we're mostly joking!) (2 words)  
 26 Second date accessory for lesbians (we're joking again)

## Down

- 1 Born George O'Dowd... (2 words)  
 3 Sexually transmitted disease without a cure  
 4 A member of San Francisco's Board of Supervisors killed in 1978. (2 words)  
 5 Felicity Huffman and Hillary Swank starred in these roles in separate movies.  
 6 What we want in Wisconsin!... and around the country. (2 words)  
 7 A famous mecca and we're not talking about the dude from Cuba  
 10 Their flag is pink, blue, and lavender.  
 13 If she could turn back time...  
 15 If you're happy... (and you know it)  
 19 Heads Up Girls... the annual event at the Christopher Street piers.  
 21 Once a bundle of sticks used to burn witches.  
 22 A fictitious mountain in Wyoming.  
 24 The national organization of our parents fighting for our queer rights as well...  
 25 Stone [BLANK] Blues

The only "by & for" youth drop-in center in Wisconsin

www.Project8.org

414 233 3330

Milwaukee, WI 53212

319 West Court Street

Project 8

