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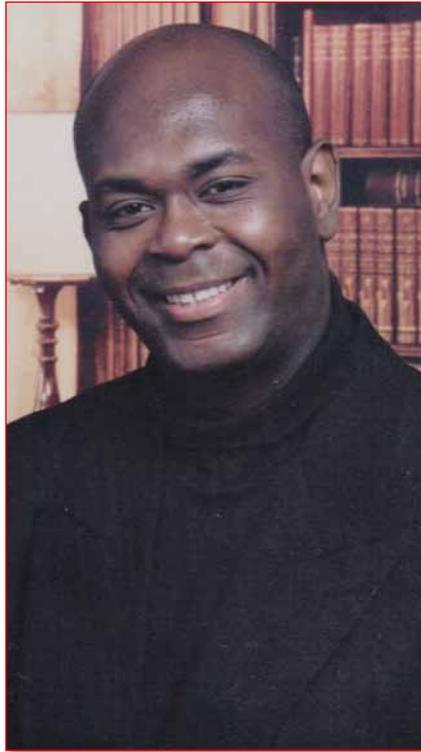
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■ **Editor's Q**

It's been 30 years since I stumbled upon a wonderful book of poetry and illustrations entitled, "Where the Sidewalk Ends," written by Shel Silverstein. It was a whimsical romp into childhood fears, foils and fantastic journey's into the realm of life at the end of the proverbial sidewalk. Since that time, I've personally had many crosswalks moments where I discovered new and exciting challenges as I've meandered to where the various "sidewalks" of life have ended. Consequently leaving me poised for new adventures or perhaps another "step on a crack break you mother's back" lesson learned. Therefore I'm not surprise that I've arrive at the curb of another such point as Editor of Q-Visions, the official media piece of the National Association of Black and White Men Together. Conceived as The Quarterly by founder Michael Smith in 1978, the publication highlighted overviews of organizational activities, meanwhile acting as an outreach tool to those whom shared his SGL interracial concept.

Smith and numerous individuals have taken the helm of this venerable publication as it has persevered through both tragedy and triumphs. Each of those determined gatekeepers created a wide canvass to further the tradition of gathering information pertinent to our statement of purpose as well as our membership. The Quarterly in itself has undoubtedly become a scroll, time capsule and now in it's current inception, a 21st Century beacon signaling it's rising as Q-Visions. The name change resulted from an open solicitation to re brand the newsletter in an effort to attract a wider readership both internally and externally. Coincidentally I participated in that search, only to learn that my suggestion was apart of the winning combination. As destiny would have it, I'm now afforded the chance to not only give this piece it's namesake, but my essence throughout it's pages. I believe that Michael would be proud to know that our time living together in San Francisco has come full circle as I step to the plate to continue his Quarterly legacy. After the re-launch during ConFab 09 in Philadelphia, I realized then that this medium was apart of the "new media." It needed to not only reflect that publishing shift, but needed to evolve as a kinetic user friendly organ embraced by members, affiliates, prospects and allies. I visualized that the "Q" needed to consist of more articles of "connective tissue," allowing the reader one of those light bulb moments that I hear about so often. Furthermore, in this blink society, newsletters are opting for extreme graphics, stimulating photography, and savvy content. Juxtaposed to that frame, also comes the latest bells and whistles emerging from the inkwell of technology such as hyperlinks, pod casting, embedded video and interactive social networking as this forum builds on our newly established electronic versions which debut Summer 2009.

Also in development stages are partnerships with other LGBTQ media outlets, a proposed cadre of contributors serving as additional content providers, and opening our pages to revenue streams with advertising. Exciting as it sounds, none of this is possible without the affirmation and direct support of this organizations brothers and sisters unilaterally. An Editor can't go it alone, it will take you, you and yes you too, my friend. Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Fall issue of Q-Visions. Let's explore the horizons together ensconced in our mutual directive of breaking cultural barriers and realizing human equality. Are you ready? If not, then perhaps you should get ready..

Cornelius Mabin, Jr.
Editor

■ National News and Comments

Got Breaking news or Hot items that need to be seen with a quickness?

Now, you can announce your chapter updates on the National Site! Our partners, at Zebra Designs are willing and ready to keep the world informed on what's happening in your chapter. Don't miss out on this opportunity to staying connected to the network.

To have your **EVENT, JOB LISTING, OR NEWS ARTICLE** posted on the National website simply follow these steps:

1. Email your update to studio@zebradesigns.net <<mailto:studio@zebradesigns.net>>
2. Be sure to include all text and clear instructions. If it is an update, include the department to be updated (ie. news article, job listing or calendar listing).
3. All text for listings should be included in the body of the email or attached as a Word doc. with a .doc extension.
4. Submissions must have appropriate description in the subject line of the email.
5. Be sure to include your phone number and email address incase we need to contact you with any questions.

NOTE: Updates and new listings will be posted within 2 business days.

Any chapter whose site is hosted by NABWMT should contact Zebra at studio@zebradesigns.net if they have any issues with their sites. Log in, etc.



Don't miss our 30th Anniversary Celebration in Ft. Lauderdale July 26 - 31, 2010!

Join old friends and meet new ones at the 30th Anniversary Celebration of NABWMT: A Gay Multiracial Organization for All People.

There will be two "waves" to make you sizzle!

Wave 1 will include "hotel centered" traditional educational, motivational, and political workshops.

Wave 2 will focus on socializing, shopping, recreational opportunities, and parties.

Convention Hotel

Marriott Hotel
6650 North Andrews Avenue, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33309
954-771-0440
www.marriott.com/hotels/hotelinformation/travel/flcc-fortlauderdale-marriott-north/
Mention "Diverse/NABWMT" for Special Rates before June 25th: \$69/night + tax

NABWMT Contact

P.O. Box 241968, Milwaukee, WI 53224

Register before December 31, 2009 for Discounted Rates!

Financial Development Update

By Bruce Menapace

As you may know, during the past year we have undergone three transitions in our contract office managers. As a result, we are catching up on a few things! The first of which is 2008 pledges. Unfortunately, pledge payment reminders were not sent out for 2008 and are being sent out this month. We will also be sending out membership renewal reminders and 2009 pledge reminders. If you were unable to attend our July Convention in Philadelphia (congratulations MACT-Philadelphia!), and haven't made a 2009 contribution to NABWMT, please consider doing so either via PayPal on our website or by sending a check to our new post office box:

NABWMT
P.O. Box 241968
Milwaukee, WI 53224-1968



Many thanks to all of our Q-Vision readers who have already shared financially! If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to call Vivian Nunn, our contract office manager, email D.A. Leonard (NABWMT Treasurer) or myself (Bruce Menapace, Financial Development Chair). Our emails are listed on page 2 of this issue of Q-Visions. Be sure to mention "BWMT or NABWMT" in the subject line. As always, your generous support helps us remain a viable social and educational organization, creating a setting where all people can be themselves and learn from each other and enjoy each other's company. If you've got fundraising ideas, concepts or proposals, let's hear from you!

Resisting Racism Under the Rainbow

Despite the election of the nation's first African American president, the issue of race has ebbed and flowed back into the consciousness of the land. Especially in lieu of the Henry Gates episode in which the noted professor was arrested by officers in a possible "profiling" incidents. Also, the racially charged overtones during the Prop 8 debacle in which some gays showed their true colors reminded the lavender community that race was still an underlying issue. Most recently the uptick in racial verbiage from both fringe groups and established entities have elevated discussion across the board. Enter a National Conversation about Race, Sexuality and Gender in the guise of The Equality Forward essays. These are a collection of stories about race, sexuality and gender from some of today's most distinct voices in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender-rights movement. NABWMT's statement of purpose espouses the values of "supportive environments, cultural barriers and the goals of human equality realized." It is for this reason that this item becomes highlighted in the Q-Focus.

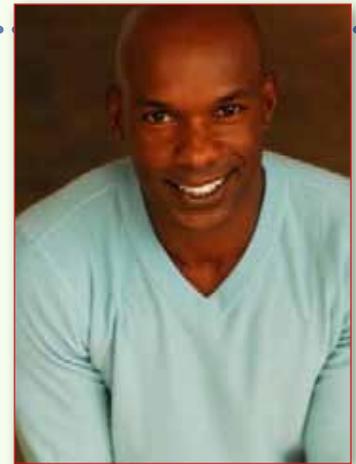
This essay in the series was submitted by Doug Spearman, an actor best known for his role in the series Noah's Arc.. It is unedited and is the opinion of it's composer.

Most people have seen the rainbow flag of the gay community. The multiple stripes that are supposed to symbolize the various differences, in gender, nationality, race, and even proclivity, that make up the vibrancy of the LGBT community. Let me call your attention to something – the lines between the colors are sharp and clearly defined. They do not blend or run into one another. They're still separate.

People tend to believe that racism, on all sides of the color lines, is something that stops at the gates of the LGBT community. As though at the entrance to the various Boys Towns around the country you were required to check your ideas about Blacks, Asians, Jews, Arabs, etc... the way cowboys were required to turn over their guns when they walked into a salon in the Old West. It just doesn't happen that way. In fact, I think it's worse now than it was when I came out in 1980. Back then the bars felt a lot more friendly, prejudice was a dirty word, and the kids of the 1960's and early 70's – those that had created the gay movement – were still on the dance floors of America elbow to elbow with the people who'd marched in Vietnam protests and Black Power parades, and had been active participants in the original Civil Rights Movement. Those were the grown-ups who were standing at the bar when I got there. They welcomed me. But they're gone. That spirit seems to have evaporated. Not everywhere and not for everyone, but enough so that if you're over

the age of thirty-five you would notice.

Now, somehow, we've sunk back into old habits of separating ourselves from each other. People talk about white bars and black bars. We have white prides, black gay prides, and Latina/o gay prides. And they're more than just celebrations of culture and gayness. These prides exist because a great many men and women feel unwelcome in mainstream gay communities.



It's been happening for a while, but now, suddenly, people are talking about it. Our community has finally decided to talk about its dirty laundry. And it's not an easy conversation to have. Race and race relations are a thick thread in the fabric of our country. It was a factor in the last presidential election, and for a while it was the cause of a lot of finger pointing after the Proposition 8 decision here in California. In the early days after the election, a lot of gay activist blamed black voters for not showing support for their plight for marriage equality. First they got the numbers wrong. Black voters, especially in Los Angeles, were not the tipping point. Second, they failed to understand what the issues of civil rights and equality mean to black people in this country. They – meaning well-intentioned gay activists – assumed that since theirs was an issue of equality and civil rights, that they'd have natural allies among a people who'd spent centuries being discriminated against. It's a valid hope. But then again, when did a group of gay activist ever show up to make sure that black and Latino/a neighborhoods had decent schools or safe streets, or march for union job protection? All things being equal, when did that ever happen? How many gay men and women care or are aware that the President of the Southern California branch of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Eric Lee is being pressured to resign for supporting marriage equality? Where are we as a community on his behalf? We are all first Americans, despite our sexual identity. And, as Americans we inherit its issues like racism. It's not possible for us not to, is it?

This inheritance is why I'm surprised when I find out that LGBT people think we, as a community, aren't riddled with racism. Think of it as a scale like anything else – there are people who have none at all and there are people who are riddled with it – gay and straight. If it weren't part of this nation's core then CNN wouldn't keep doing series about it, HRC wouldn't commission studies about it, the fact that the president is black wouldn't be cause for celebration or concern, depending on your point of view.

It's a different world for white Americans than it is for black, brown, and yellow Americans. Especially if you have education, income, and available resources. And we're finally beginning to openly talk about the differences. Until we do, until we acknowledge the realities of all the -isms

■ Q Chapter News



Happy Anniversary!

The 6th Annual Anniversary of the founding of Black and White Men of Souther California will take place on November 14th., 2009 This gala fundraising event will bring together current members of the chapter and past members of chapters in Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Francisco and guests from around the country. After dinner, a silent auction will take place where goods, services, and entertainment are up for bid, including dinner with three members of the chapter. These "Mermen" from the chapter (a name coined at the 2006 NA Convention in Long Beach) will help the chapter provide support for the the Long Beach Aids Food Store." Full details available at <http://bwmtsc.org> or contact kbaron@bwmtsc.org

Q Focus continued...



that exist within the LGBT community, we will never be able to face the discrimination and hatred that is aimed at us. Until we realize that the civil rights inequalities exist within the very worlds we've designed for ourselves

then we've really just recreated the places a lot of us tried to escape from. Until rice queen and snow queen disappear from our own vocabularies, and until I don't have to overhear two white guys describe me as Mandingo (as I did in a club in LA one night) then we're not much better than the people out there who stand on corners with signs that say God Hates Fags. We can do better. We can be better. We're trying. I see that now. And maybe it's time for a new flag.



Doug Spearman was born in Washington, D.C., at the height of the Civil Rights movement. He's currently an actor/writer/producer/activist living in Los Angeles. Spearman is best known for his work on the television show, Noah's Arc which focuses on individuals dealing with the intersection of sexual and racial identities in present-day Los Angeles.

Want to place an ad in Q-Visions?
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Original tee shirt designs for gay men and women. Fresh, Funny, Filthy or Fabulous!
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■ Q Chapter News

● Keeping the Convention Connection Alive at the Midland 2009! *by Scott Duty*



▲ The Director and Producer of the film: "Rivers Wash Over Me", John Young and Dexter Davis.

I was proud to travel to the great state of Wisconsin to join our midwest members, guests, visitors and national board members for the Midland 2009. It was an intense weekend of internal assessments, goal setting, brainstorming and reflection, all on the backdrop of comradery and fellowship that's commonplace within our unique association. For all that didn't get the opportunity to join us, here are few pictures to offer a snapshot of the event as well as encourage you to start planning your 2010 participation at the local, regional or national level!



▲ W. Michael Ross Receiving the National Action Award from the NABWMT Co-Chairs.



▲ NABWMT Scholarship recipient, Don Mannery, Jr., receiving the scholarship check from NABWMT Co-Chairs.

■ From the Co-Chairs



Visions in Brotherhood:

Those of you who were able to attend the convention in Philadelphia learned first-hand the spectacular City of Brotherly Love AND Sisterly Affection! I, for one, had an amazing time in downtown Philly. It was wonderful to see so many friends and meet some new ones. Other than being caught out in the rain one afternoon with the Atlanta Crew, thanks for sharing the umbrella Robert, the weather was great for summertime in the Mid-Atlantic. I would be remiss not to congratulate the entire CPC, led by Tyrone and Aaron, on staging such a great convention. From a new style of Caucus, a great keynote speaker in Michael Hinson to refreshing new evening activities. Their hard work and determination to let Philadelphia shine for 2009 will stay fresh in my memories for years to come!

This convention was remarkable for another reason. For the first time EVER, our membership elected a woman to the Board of Directors. Soda Nobuhle brings an immense amount of passion for our community and will help us live up to our Statement of Purpose. At our recent Board Meeting in Milwaukee, Soda was asked and accepted the mission to lead the BMI Committee and help out with Membership, 2010 Convention and a few others for good measure.

In addition to Soda, we have an impressive slate of new Board Members and a new Recording Secretary in Kirk Gile. Norbert and I are excited about the collective talent and can promise that you will be impressed by the creativity, hard work and dedication of this Board.

We recently held our first Board Meeting for the 2009 – 2010 Board year in Milwaukee, WI. The meeting was very successful in establishing overall Board goals and committee assignments. As a Board we will continue to evolve the new website, reinvigorate the BMI, develop a Business Plan for organizational continuity and stage the 2010 DIVERSE Convention in Fort Lauderdale to name just a few areas of focus. With the collective talent on this Board and the support of membership we are sure to move this organization forward.

Milwaukee was selected as the location of the meeting in order to coincide with the Fall Midland Weekend. Over 50 people attended the weekend and attendees came from as far as California. Congratulations to DA Leonard, Mark Behar and the rest of the planning committee on a fun-filled weekend. For 2010, I believe the Spring Midland will be in Kansas City and the Fall Midland will be in Oklahoma City. Look for more information on the Midland Website. If you have not attended a Midland event before, I highly encourage you to check it out. It is always a fun weekend.

At the Saturday Banquet, Norbert and I were able to present the first NABWMT Scholarship to Don Mannery, Jr. of Chicago, IL. Don was able to attend the dinner and accept the \$250 Scholarship in person. His good fortune continued by winning the 50-50 drawing held at the dinner. Way to go Don!

Also at the reception and dinner were the Director and Executive Producer of the film "Rivers Wash Over Me." They talked about the film and about 20 of us headed over to see it after the dinner. Movies normally aren't my genre of entertainment usually remembering them for about 15 minutes after it's over. But I have to say this movie really made me think and had a huge impact on me. It is tough subject matter with more ism's than I can count on all my fingers and toes - classism, sexism, homophobia, self-loathing denial of sexuality, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and on and on. The movie is a BMI workshop in itself! I encourage all of you to see the movie, just not by yourself and definitely NOT on a first date!

So as you can see your Co-Chairs and Board of Directors are very busy and working hard for the betterment of this amazing organization. It is hard work but very fulfilling.

Wishing you all a Happy Thanksgiving and the Hap-Hap-Happiest of Holiday Seasons!!!

Scott Duty

■ From the Co-Chairs



150,000 in Washington DC say America Doesn't Know What Democracy Looks Like

by Norbert Young

The National March for Equality occurred on October 11, 2009 in Washington DC. The organizers of the newly formed Equality Across America stated they are impatient and discouraged by what they view as a certain detachment by President Obama on GLBT issues. Organizers of the march encountered considerable opposition from within gay political circles and from those who argued that it was hastily planned and would divert resources from campaigns at the state level.

The rally was primarily the undertaking of a new generation of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender advocates who have grown disillusioned with the movement's leadership. Known as Stonewall 2.0 or the Prop. 8 Generation (a reference to the galvanizing effect that the repeal of California's same-sex marriage law had on many young people), these activists, in their 20s and 30s, are at odds with advocates urging patience as Mr. Obama grapples with other pieces of his domestic agenda like the health care overhaul and the economic recovery.

I was apprehensive about attending the march. It had not received much favorable coverage by the mainstream LGBT organizations. However, as the day grew nearer, I felt compelled to attend, both to stand with those in protest and support those marching. My attendance at the march was enlightening and inspirational, and I would like to share my impressions of the march here in Q Visions.

The title of this article refers to a responsive chant I heard on Pennsylvania Avenue. a marcher asked the crowd "what does democracy look like?"...and the crowd's overwhelming response "THIS IS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE!!!!!"....meaning the glorious rainbow of our community.

It was a beautiful, warm, sunny October Sunday. My friends and I decided to drive to suburban DC and take the Metro downtown. The subway was crowded with others who had the same idea, some carrying signs or wearing tee shirts with slogans. One of my friends was wearing a red T-shirt with the word "QUEER" across his chest in bold black letters. We were uncertain which stop to exit the Metro, and were consulting the Metro map when a woman come up to us and said "I know where you're going, we are too, come with me." We later learned she was a straight-identified mother with her teenage daughter who had chosen to come from suburban Baltimore on a Sunday afternoon to show support for her friends who cannot marry the partners of their choice. She warmed our hearts with her support and by telling us she wanted her daughter to come and experience first hand free speech and political activism.

It became clear to me during the day that there is a new movement within our movement. It is not just gay and lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. It is a collaborative voice of youth and it is not only in New York, or Washington or San Francisco; banners were carried down Pennsylvania Avenue that day representing GLBT or GLBT-friendly organizations on college campuses from all over the US, small towns and large metropolitan areas. I saw and spoke with young activists and gay people from all walks of life, marching not because a national organization told them to attend, but because they believe they have waited long enough for equal rights. I was truly surprised that, just like the woman we met on the Metro, many of those marching were straight and supportive, wearing tee shorts saying "ally" or "straight but not narrow." These young people know Canadians gays and lesbians can marry or bring a same sex partner from another county into Canada to be with them. Spain recognizes gay unions. The people at the March were there to express their impatience that their own country, supposedly the cradle of liberty and democracy, remains so intolerant and narrow-minded. One of my favorite slogans was a sign stating "I didn't get to vote on YOUR marriage."

Continued on page 9

■ From the Co-Chairs



Continued from page 8

In contrast, openly gay Congressman Barney Frank (the same man who proposed “don’t ask, don’t tell” to Congress in 1993) called the March “emotional satisfaction” for its organizers and said of their intention to pressure the Obama administration, “The only thing they’re going to put pressure on is the grass.” There were many there that day who would say Barney’s obviously been in Washington too long if he has become that cynical and jaded.

The organizers rated the march a success, stating at least 150,000 people were in attendance, though the authorities gave no official estimate of the crowd size. The marchers to me symbolize what The NABWMT organization has been fighting for since its inception.

As an activist relatively new to the GLBT movement I think this march represents a similar spirit present in NABWMT; that the fight is not won and the struggle for equality and justice is not over.

We all must remember when we see inequalities in our society not to fall into a sense of delusion or complacency.

We must remember the fight is not over. !!!



■ Q-Recipe

Turkey Bacon Frittata

by Cornelius Mabin, Board Member

Staying healthy, wealthy and wise should be apart of your daily mantra. Especially as you discover new entrée alternatives to assist you in keeping both your internal and external machinery in fine form. With that in mind, the following Turkey Bacon Frittata recipe is a great option to get your daily dose of meat, veggies and dairy. This recipe transcends all dayparts from breakfast, brunch to a late supper accompanied by your favorite side car dish. What more could you ask of a one skillet dish?

1 Cup Turkey Bacon, cut into ½ inch length
½ Cup Yellow Squash, diced with skin
½ Zucchini, diced with skin
½ Cup Portabella Mushrooms (or the mushroom of your choice)
½ Cup Diced Hot House Tomatoes (seeded)
5oz Assorted Cheese Mixture (cheddar, asiago, mozzarella)
3 Tbsp Fresh Basil, cut into julienne
6 Large Eggs
4 Tbsp Extra virgin olive oil
Salt & Pepper
Nutmeg

Directions:

1. Crack eggs into a large bowl and beat lightly with a fork. Add salt and pepper, pinch of nutmeg and half of the cheese mixture. Set aside.

2. Warm a 9 inch ovenproof omelet pan over medium fir. Add the olive oil, heat to just under smoking. Add Turkey and saute lightly. Add the yellow squash and zucchini, mushrooms and too simmering for about 2 minutes. Season lightly with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with basil julienne. Turn the heat to medium and pour in the egg mixture. Add diced tomatoes. Continue stirring until the eggs are almost set, center firm. Use a spatula to loosen the bottom/sides of pan. Sprinkle with remainder cheese.

3. Transfer the pan to a broiler placing it about 5 inches from the heat. Broil until the frittata is puffy and firm. Remove, cool in pan for 2 minutes. Place a large flat plat over the pan and invert. Let the frittata come to room temperature for serving. Cut into wedges and feast!

Yield : 4 Servings Yield: 4 people.





Congress finally passed the beleaguered Ryan White and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crime Prevention Act that bounced around Capitol Hill for nearly a decade. It's passage and hopefully timely implementation arrives as violence distinctively spikes in the global SGL community as evidenced by murders in Jamaica, Venezuela and in Iraq where sanctioned militias infiltrate gay chat rooms in search of "hunting their next quarry." Meanwhile, in the U.S. numerous cases involving trans-gender individuals and gay youth are creating stark headlines with tragic results. Throughout 2009 celebrity tongues have been revealing this phenom including an admission from famed film maker Tyler Perry whom recounted both his sexual molestation and abusive childhood. Ultimately it's no secret that the issue of domestic violence could be taking place in the domiciles of partners that may be your neighbor, friend or possibly yourself.

Domestic Violence in Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Relationships

Partner battering and abuse in Queer relationships:

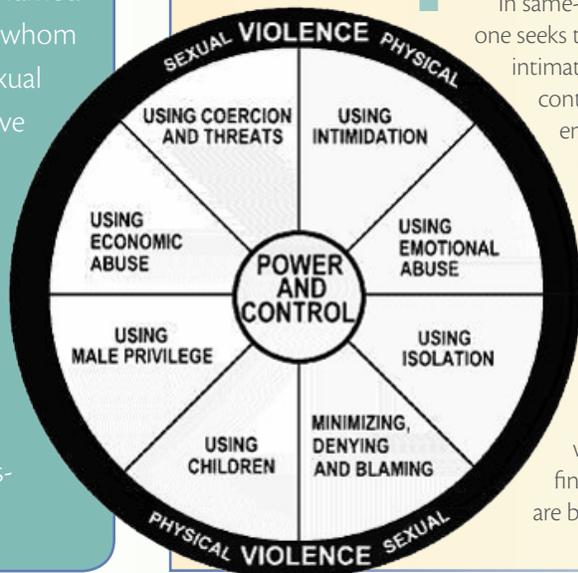
Domestic violence in the GLBT community is a serious issue. The rates of domestic violence in same-gender relationships is roughly the same as domestic violence against heterosexual women (25%). As in opposite-gendered couples, the problem is likely under reported. Facing a system which is often oppressive and hostile towards queers, those involved in same-gender battering frequently report being afraid of revealing their sexual orientation or the nature of their relationship. Others who do not identify as GLBT may not feel that their relationship fits the definition but may still be in an abusive and dangerous relationship.

In many ways, domestic violence in lesbian, bisexual and gay relationships is the same as in opposite-gendered (e.g., heterosexually-paired) relationships:

- No one deserves to be abused.
- Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and involve verbal behavior used to coerce, threaten or humiliate.
- Abuse often occurs in a cyclical fashion.
- The purpose of the abuse is to maintain control and power over one's partner.
- The abused partner feels alone, isolated and afraid, and is usually convinced that the abuse is somehow her or his fault, or could have been avoided if she or he knew what to do.

Several important aspects of lesbian, bisexual, and gay relationships mean domestic violence is often experienced differently:

- In same-sex abuse, a pattern of violence or behaviors exists where one seeks to control the thoughts, beliefs, or conduct of their intimate partner, or to punish their partner for resisting their control. This may be seen as physical or sexual violence, or emotional and verbal abuse. An additional form of emotional abuse for someone who is gay, lesbian, or bisexual may be to "out" them at work or to family or friends. Local resources for domestic violence in the GLBT community are often scarce and many traditional domestic violence services lack the training, sensitivity, and expertise to adequately recognize and address abusive GLBT relationships. A Queer individual who is being battered must overcome homophobia and denial of the issue of battering. Lesbians, bisexuals and gay men who have been abused have much more difficulty in finding sources of support than heterosexual women who are battered by their male partners.





Here are more ways same-gender domestic violence is unique:

- It is frequently incorrectly assumed that lesbian, bi and gay abuse must be “mutual.” It is not often seen as being mutual in heterosexual battering.
- Utilizing existing services (such as a shelter, attending support groups or calling a crisis line) either means lying or hiding the gender of the batterer to be perceived (and thus accepted) as a heterosexual. Or it can mean “coming out”, which is a major life decision. If lesbians, bi’s and gays come out to service providers who are not discreet with this information, it could lead to the victim losing their home, job, custody of children, etc. This may also precipitate local and/or statewide laws to affect some of these changes, depending on the area.
- Telling heterosexuals about battering in a lesbian, bi or gay relationship can reinforce the myth many believe that lesbian, bi and gay relationships are “abnormal.” This can further cause the victim to feel isolated and unsupported.
- The lesbian, bi and gay community is often not supportive of victims of battering because many want to maintain the myth that there are no problems (such as child abuse, alcoholism, domestic violence, etc.) in lesbian, bi and gay relationships.
- Receiving support services to help one escape a battering relationship is more difficult when there are also oppressions faced. Battered lesbians and female bisexuals automatically encounter sexism and

homophobia, and gay and bisexual men encounter homophobia. Lesbian or gay people of color who are battered also face racism. These forms of social oppressions make it more difficult for these groups to get the support needed (legal, financial, social, housing, medical, etc.) to escape and live freely from an abusive relationship.

- Lesbian, bi and gay survivors of battering may not know others who are lesbian, bi or gay, meaning that leaving the abuser could result in total isolation.
- Lesbians, bisexuals and gays are usually not as tied financially to their partner, which can be a benefit if they decide to end the relationship. However, if their lives are financially intertwined, such as each paying a rent or mortgage and having “built a home together”, they have no legal process to assist in making sure assets are evenly divided, a process which exists for their married, heterosexual counterparts.
- The lesbian, bi and gay community within the area may be small, and in all likelihood everyone the survivor knows will soon know of their abuse. Sides will be drawn and support may be difficult to find. Anonymity is not an option, a characteristic many heterosexual survivors can draw upon in “starting a new life” for themselves within the same city.

If you are suffering or know some one who may need intervention, suggest treatment, locate resources, and stay supportive as they transition. Being a friend, doesn't mean being silent when violence is involved.

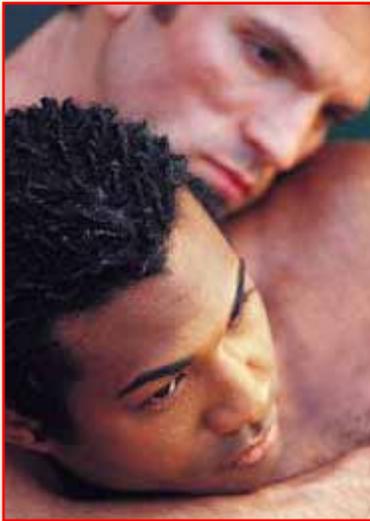


Statement of Purpose

The National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) is a gay, multiracial organization committed to fostering supportive environments wherein racial and cultural barriers can be overcome and the goal of human equality realized. To these ends, we engage in educational, political, cultural and social activities as a means of dealing with the racism, sexism, homophobia, HIV/AIDS discrimination, and other inequities in our communities and in our lives

Q Vision welcomes thoughtful editorial opinion as well as Letters to the Editor. All opinions expressed are those of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the NABWMT, its officers, or its board of directors. The quarterly staff and the officers may request revisions of editorials and letters, or refuse submitted material.

■ Ask Q-Doc Anything



Sex and Intimacy

Dear Q-Doc:

This isn't really about STDs or health, but, let me give it a go anyway! I really enjoy the physical act of sex with men. Fucking, sucking, you name it, if he's hot, so am I. Have absolutely no interest in women—never had, never will (for sex that is). But after the “act,” the experience seems like a like a real let down. What gives? Is this what getting older is all about? I am HIV positive (virus undetectable), in my early 50's, don't need or use cock rings, Viagra, alcohol, or other drugs

-Craig

Hello Craig!

Although you didn't provide a lot of information, you spoke volumes. Although I am not a mental health provider, I will address this from my perspective as a family medicine provider and old gay mare, err, gray mare. For most people, sex is a great way to bond with someone in a meaningful way. The intimacy of flesh-to-flesh contact-- however you enjoy it—is important, but is not the only way to communicate with a willing partner. Communication is a two way street, and in order for it to be EFFECTIVE, all parties involved need to hear, understand, and acknowledge the message as it was intended. Communication is also not just something done by speech and listening, but also by touch and other nonverbal cues.

I suspect that what you are missing from your sexual experiences are the other important things that enhance intimacy with your partner. Mutual speech, touch, cuddling, caressing, kissing, and of course the actual sexual activity. It's also essential to connect these various components to other things in the person's life and personality—like the food you may enjoy together, the hobbies and other recreational activities you experience together, the history and intimacy of both you and the other person's life, family, and connectedness with each other's little corners of reality. This requires some degree of give and take; you and your partner may wish to do things that the other doesn't necessarily enjoy. But it should be about your partner, and how they may enjoy certain things, and enjoying learning about the person in this new way; learning exciting and new things about each other in unpredictable ways. But if you or your partner are not willing to experience all of these things, then each of your sexual experiences may feel less and less satisfying, a so called “let down.”

You didn't mention when you came out and first experienced gay sex. However when I came out, in 1970, what was the then gay activist philosophy of the day was to celebrate sex for the sake of sex! Sort of like going to the movies or a handshake with an acquaintance. It was untethered to the “messiness” of relationships; in fact, the dysfunction of heterosexual marriage and relationships were held up as standards to avoid, doomed to failure. We were of course pioneers in the realm of the new gay sensibility, to fuck like bunnies and create novel relationships without the fear of any more serious a consequence than an occasional “bum fuck”—a case of crabs, the “clap” (gonorrhea), “bad blood” (syphilis), hepatitis B or herpes. Unfortunately, we were in error. A decade later, HIV/AIDS joined the plethora of other STDs in adversely affecting our physical health. But more importantly for the survivors, was the unintended consequences of difficulty in achieving satisfying and meaningful relationships for many of us (gay as well as straight). Not to mention the accompanying designer drugs that became popular in the 1980s and beyond—ecstasy, meth, etc., as well as the old standbys—alcohol and tobacco.

Now, what we frequently do is bury ourselves in things that are familiar, habitual, and predictable: work, traditional family, the home and possessions where we live. Two central American values that we are rooted with are the concepts of individuality/“me-ism” at the expense of collective responsibility/“we-ism,” and that of materialism with its pursuit of individual wealth. These are formidable challenges to the pursuit of meaningful relationships where sex enhances, rather than replaces intimacy. So we pursue sex through “social networking” sites like ManHunt, Adam4Adam, and a bunch of others. The process has been reduced to sex without intimacy, or any of the other fun things that enhance bonding.

So what's a guy to do? Pursue the types of relationships you enjoy but do more than just a quick “wham, bam!” Make sure both you and your partners negotiate sexual contact respectfully—partner should know your HIV and STD status and you his. And do not avoid or fear real intimacy in a relationship with Mr. Right.

Q Doc

Perhaps some of these issues will make you think of additional questions! Bring them on, and address to Q-Visions, or HYPERLINK “mailto:mpbehar@wisc.edu” mpbehar@wisc.edu. All questions will be treated confidentially, and real names will never be used. Please ask if you'd like a private reply.

■ Become A Member

Membership Application

This application is also available as a fillable PDF file on the national web page at www.nabwmt.org and payment can be made there on-line.

Name:

Date:

Address:

City:

State: Zip: Country:

Phone: Fax:

Email:

Local Chapter Affiliation¹:

This Application is: New Renewal

Membership Amount²: \$30 annual renewal
 \$30 new member dues,
if joining between October 1 and March 31
 \$15 new member dues,
if joining between April 1 and September 30

Additional Gift Amount³:

Total Amount Enclosed:

1. If not affiliated with a local chapter, you will be identified as an "at-large" member.
2. Annual memberships are from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.
3. You can enclose an additional amount to support the NABWMT (tax deductible)

Mail forms with check or money order to: NABWMT, P.O. Box 90239, Atlanta, GA 30364

