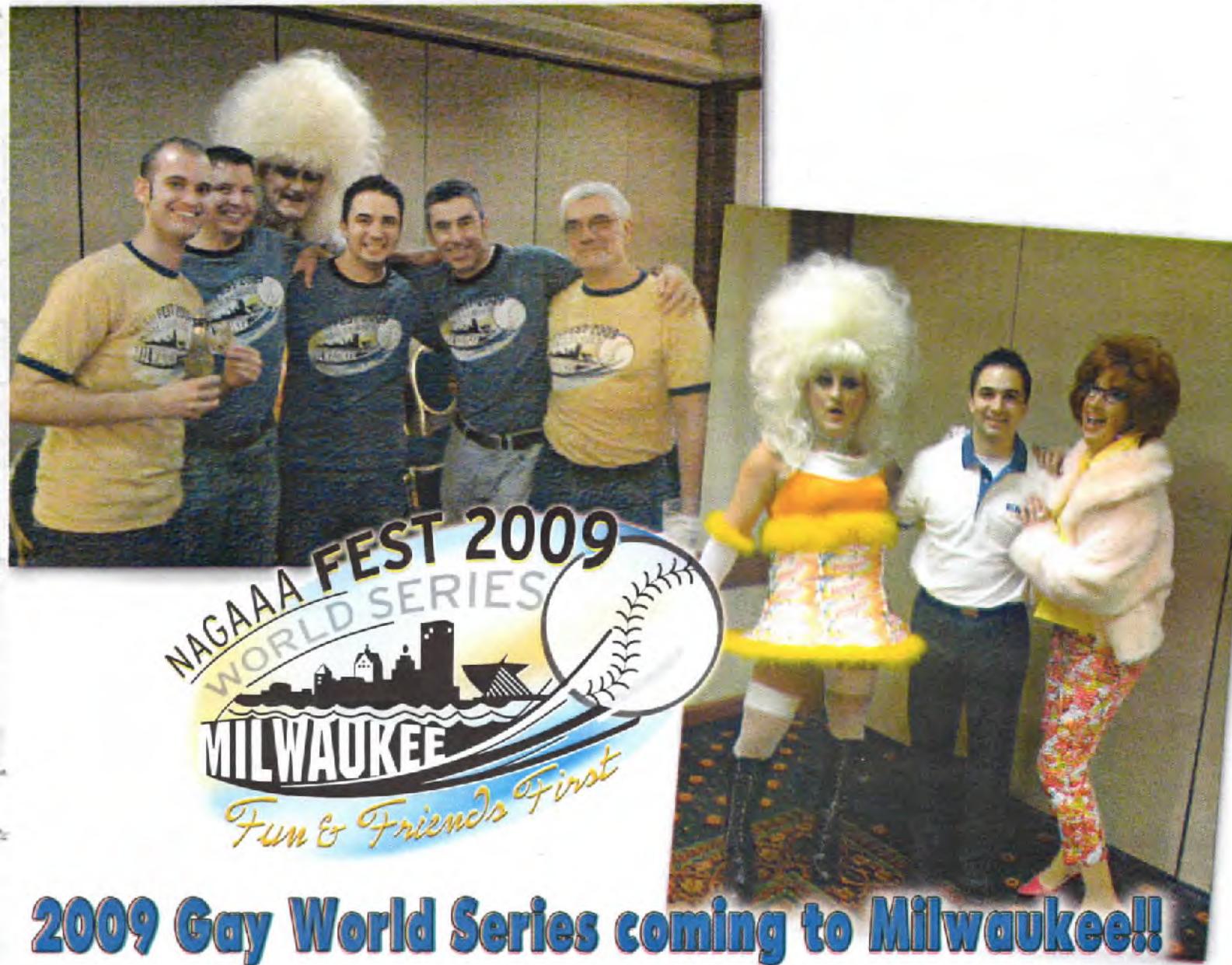


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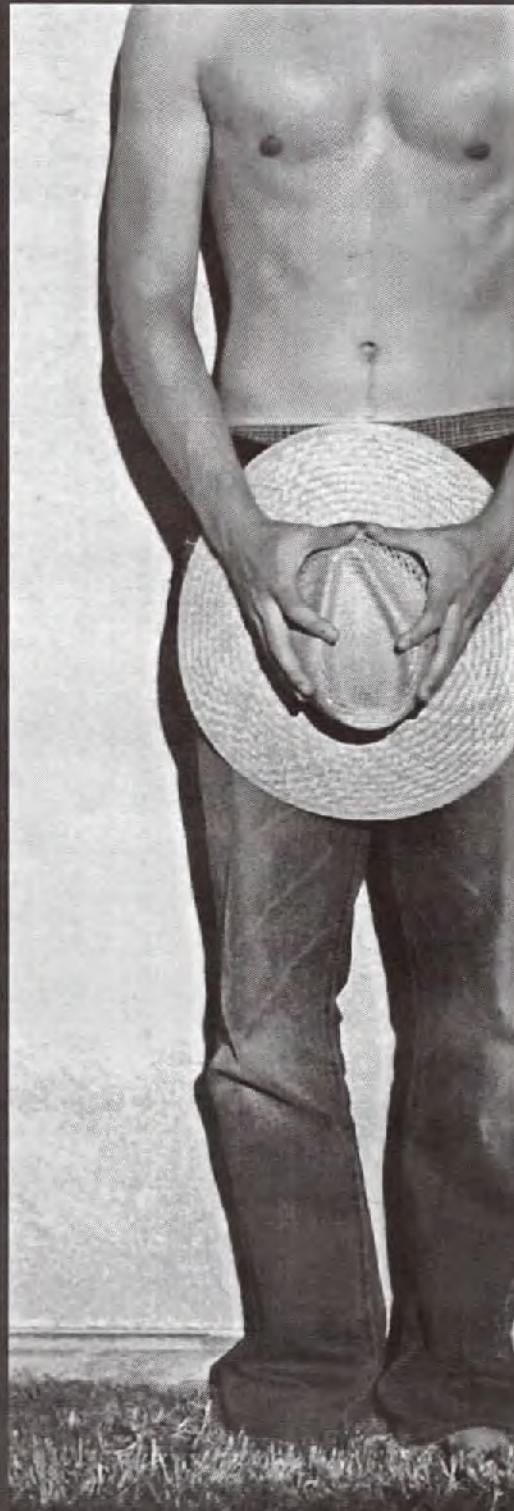
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SSBL MILWAUKEE WINS 2009 WORLD SERIES BID

Affordability, Experience, Mayor Barrett's Support Key In Winning "Fun & Friends First"-Themed Event

By Paul Masterson

Milwaukee - In the predawn hours of February 1, in a driving snow storm, members of Milwaukee's Saturday Softball League (SSBL) Gay Softball World Series Bid Committee made their way to General Mitchell International Airport for a 6:25am flight to Seattle, Washington. Their itinerary: to attend the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association (NAGAAA) World Series Bid Conference. Their mission: to present SSBL's bid and bring the 2009 Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) to Milwaukee.

They accomplished their mission: NAGAAAFest 2009 Gay Softball World Series will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 31 through September 5.

The 2009 GSWS will bring thousands of players, fans and friends to the city. This influx of visitors translates to millions of dollars of economic impact on the local economy and a boon to Milwaukee's reputation as a gay friendly city.

The idea for the 2009 GSWS bid developed in July 2007 when SSBL commissioner Brian Reinkober and Mona Garcia discussed the possibility with VISIT Milwaukee, the city's tourism board. VISIT Milwaukee signed on as a promotional partner. At an August 2007 meeting of SSBL team managers, Reinkober presented the plan to bring the World Series to Milwaukee. The managers agreed to support the bid.

In subsequent public meetings, various team managers and players volunteered to form the bid committee. They discussed and developed details, logistics and a bid presentation concept. It would be a daunting undertaking with only two months time to organize but each individual member brought specific talents and expertise to the table.

The SSBL Gay Softball World Series Committee (GSWSC) consists of co-directors Brian Reinkober and Mona Garcia supported by 14 members divided into nine subcommittees: Kurt Baldwin and Darren Schlenvogt - Opening Ceremony and Closing Celebration; Brian Rochon, Arnie Garcia, Dee Wallace and Peter Nys - Festivities & Special



Events; Jeff Weigand and Eric Van Egeren - Hospitality; Tommy Salzsieder - Finance, Hall of Fame; Geoffrey Bishop - Volunteers; Dean Blaser and Paul Masterson - Communications; Dan Nelson - Fields; and Mike Kuharske - Sponsorships.

Local community softball player Maureen Kane, owner of MMK Design, created the NAGAAAFest 2009 GSWS logo. It is emblazoned with a speeding softball, Milwaukee cityscape and motto "Fun & Friends First."

The GSWSC was quick to find sponsors and supporters. Mayor Tom Barrett filmed a special video segment and State representative Tim Carpenter, a former SSBL softball player, sent a letter of support that was featured in the SSBL bid brochure. Local corporations, businesses and individuals confirmed their sponsorships.

NAGAAA representatives visited Milwaukee in January 2008 to inspect fields and venues and meet with the GSWSC. Despite subzero weather, they enjoyed Milwaukee SSBL hospitality and certified the SSBL bid in accordance with NAGAAA criteria.

But the competition, the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) would be formidable.

The Presentation

The CMSA bid presentation was one and a half years in the making. It was crisp, businesslike and buttressed by an extensive city video with a follow up talk by a city tourism official. Their host hotel, the O'Hare Airport Hyatt, would serve as a hub between

fields and Boystown entertainment, just 13 miles away. Their fields were picture perfect but had the disadvantage of being located in three different western suburbs.

Milwaukee's strength lay in three areas: urban ease, affordability and experience. With three host hotels located within blocks of each other and only two miles from the Walker's Point bar and entertainment district, major GSWS events within easy walking distance and high quality fields a short drive away, the theme of "urban ease" rang true for the delegates.

"Affordability" resonated with the delegates as well. The Milwaukee hotel costs were 33% below Chicago's. Even the prices at field concession stands were calculated into the equation with Brewtown's \$1.50 beer outpricing the Windy's City's \$2.50.

Finally, SSBL played the "experience" card. It cited 30 years of gay softball tournament history including two World Series in 1979 and 1985. More impressively, the Dairyland Classic's recent explosive success expanded the event from 14 participating teams in 2002 to 57 in 2007. That alone proved SSBL had the organizational machine to produce the 2009 Gay Softball World Series.

But, beyond the shock and awe of facts and figures, it was the "human" factor that won the delegates' hearts and minds. To open the presentation, Milwaukee icons Ruthie (Mark Hagen) and Velveeta (Brian Rochon) contrived a tumult at the conference room door. The high haired pair burst in looking for the "Chicago Bears" Knitting Convention." The mood was set.

VISIT Milwaukee representative Vince Pulera, a straight David in a gay lions' den, displayed unabashed comfor while presenting Mayor Tom Barrett's video. The mayor's sincere welcome introduced Brian Reinkober and Mona Garcia who continued the show. They brought up SSBL veterans Ron Burbey, Dan Nelson and Tommy Salzsieder to demonstrate Milwaukee's long tradition and dedication to gay softball as one of

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NAGAAA's original founding cities.

Recent Milwaukee transplant Australian Geoffrey Bishop and Kurt Baldwin continued with a light-hearted repartee, describing the Milwaukee amenities that would await World Series' players and fans. These included proposed opening ceremonies at Henry Maier Festival Park (Summerfest grounds) featuring top national entertainment, closing celebrations at the new Harley Davidson Museum and the traditional GSWS Talent Night at the Pabst Theater as well as many other parties, a "Loser Cruise" (for teams knocked out early in the World Series) and the NAGAAA Hall of Fame Museum housed at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Mike Kuharske then gave a professional run down of the four field complexes. Reinkober wrapped up with a budget review.

Finally, SSBL delivered the coup de grace, a closing video starring Ruthie and Velveeta in a "Lavern & Shirley meets Ab Fab" sequence of skits filmed in Milwaukee bars and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. It brought the house down.

And, if that wasn't enough, SSBL's evening reception convinced the NAGAAA delegates that Milwaukee knows how to throw a party. Although the committee fretted over the Wisconsin cheese curds that failed to arrive in time, party guests seemed oblivious to the omission.

The Vote

Early Sunday afternoon, the hotel conference room was packed with NAGAAA board members, 41 voting delegates, their alternates, the two bid committees and public. Votes were collected and the room hushed to hear the votes counted. A simple majority of 21 was needed to win.

The tension mounted as the first dozen votes sawed between the competitors. More and more Milwaukee votes accrued in succession, then another for Chicago, then several for Milwaukee, edging the total closer to the magic 21.

As Milwaukee's winning 21st vote was called applause broke out and there was a palpable sigh of joy and relief from the SSBL committee. When calm was restored, the vote continued to end 26-13 with two abstentions for Milwaukee.

Co-director Mona Garcia wiped tears from her eyes as committee members basked in their victory. Brian Reinkober said, "we are so proud of the cooperative effort that was put in to creating this bid by the GSWS Bid Committee. The Committee's reward was hearing the words 'The bid goes to Milwaukee.'

Chris Bolten, NAGAAA's Assistant Commissioner, stated he was sure it was in large part Milwaukee's personality and enthusiasm that won the bid.

As an additional bonus, the women's softball organization, the Amateur Softball Alliance of North America (ASANA) awarded Madison the Women's Division World Series 2009. It will take place over the same week as the GSWS. SSBL plans to provide a bus service for friends and fans to shuttle back and forth between the two events.

NAGAAAFest 2009

Now the work begins. Although a year and a half away, the Gay Softball World Series Committee wants to include interested individuals in this venture. For information about how to participate, please contact Mona Garcia via email at monaandtata@aol.com. Watch for the SSBL GSWS website to appear soon.

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MILFORD MURDER LEAVES WALKER'S POINT NEIGHBORHOOD ON EDGE

Milwaukee - The tragic murder of 43 year-old gay Miller Brewing Company executive Lodewikus "Vic" Milford January 27 has left the city's Walker's Point neighborhood unsettled. The killing, which occurred after two members of the Latin Kings street gang allegedly robbed Milford and three female coworkers of their wallets and purses, also has focused attention on what residents and business owners believe is a long-ignored pattern of increased property and personal crime that has been ignored by the city's police department.

Quest's Milwaukee correspondent and photographer Will Sharkey reports the Walker's Point area has seen a large increase in muggings

and car break-ins over the last two and a half years. Sharkey was a close personal friend of Milford's and spoke to local TV crews in the days following the murder "mainly because no one else wanted to do it."

Milford's killing was the third "on the record" violent attack on LGBT community members in the Walker's Point neighborhood. Community members regularly frequent the area to enjoy the city's largest concentration of gay bars and restaurants.

In 2005, David Setzke was attacked in the same parking area where Milford's party was accosted after Setzke left a popular gay nightclub. "They

came at me with a knife to my throat," he told WTMJ-TV reporters Melanie Stout and Katie DeLong. "I ducked down and that's when they got me across the side of my head and forehead. Then the knife broke when they hit me in the forehead with it."

In the early hours of December 30, 2006 three women who had just exited a tavern popular with the lesbian community - Angela Emanuele, Gaby Caraballo and Beth Swenson - were deliberately struck by a driver who was briefly inconvenienced when the trio walked behind his vehicle as he was backing out of a parking space. The driver drove away about a block, made a U-turn and accelerated to strike the women as they crossed the street. The driver was never caught.

Sharkey believes that the media play on the violent attacks focuses attention away from the far more common property crimes such as robberies and break-ins. "Rarely have things escalated to the level of violence experienced by David and Vic," he said.

Sharkey believes that area bar owners such as "Bill Wardlow of Fluid and Betzy of Walker's Pint have much more info on local happenings" that often go underreported because some of the victims are not openly gay.

However Sharkey said some neighborhood residents and city officials don't feel that the crime is focused on gay people. "Instead (it) seems to be focused on the area because of perceived wealth in an 'entertainment district' as the city likes to put it," he said. "You know them fuckers just cannot say gay bar?"

City officials were quick to point out to *Quest* that many venues catering primarily to the straight community are evenly intermixed with the gay night spots and eateries in the Walker's Point district.

Sharkey claimed that Wardlow has had his garage broken into "like 4 times" and he is not alone. "At least four people I know have been mugged at gun point," Sharkey said. "I hear whispers of others."



Quest's Will Sharkey (left) with close friend and murder victim "Vic" Milford

Is the impact of the rumored crime hurting business in Walker's Point? Several bar owners and managers told *Quest* that business for last New Year's was the softest in years. While some pointed out the calendar may have impacted business, Sharkey thinks the recent spate of crimes, often acerbated by rumor, may be hurting business as well. "At the very least there is a poison of fear creeping into the area that will soon effect business and has many on edge," he concluded. "Even walking in pairs or groups doesn't seem to help, they get mugged just the same."

The rapid arrest in the Milford case has calmed the fears of some. The 17 and 21 year old gang members - both of whom were already on probation - came four days after the murder. But law enforcement is aware that the quick turnaround in one case does not resolve the larger issue of community safety. "I believe that we can do more to dispel the fear of crime and the disorder that goes along with gang related crime," Milwaukee Police Department representative Aaron Raap said.

JOINT STATEMENT POINTS OUT "DEVASTATING IMPACT" OF CRIME ON MINORITIES

Seventeen leaders representing over a dozen LGBT organizations active with the city's gay community recently responded with a statement expressing their sorrow and concern over Milford's death and safety in the Walker's Point neighborhood. The statement was issued at the end of the business day January 31, after being revised to reflect the arrest of the two members of the city's Latin Kings gang alleged to have shot Milford.

"As members and allies of Milwaukee's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, we extend our condolences to the partner, family, and friends of Lodewicus "Vic" Milford who was murdered this past weekend in Walker's Point. Milwaukee mourns the loss of his talent and character. Milford was a Miller-Coors executive from South Africa, and he was also a gay man," the statement began.

The statement then noted the impact on vulnerable communities. "Crime of all types hurts a city like ours, but violent crime has a particularly devastating effect on vulnerable populations, including Milwaukee's LGBT community. Murder makes everyone in Milwaukee vulnerable to fear, reduces our sense of safety, and changes our behavior in a variety of ways, ranging from subtle to substantial," the statement said.

The communiqué then noted the history of problems in the area. "Walker's Point, unfortunately, has a history of violence and crime against visitors and residents, many of whom are members of the LGBT community. As the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* article on Tuesday January 29 points out, residents and visitors to the Walker's Point neighborhood report poor lighting, nuisance properties, vehicle break-ins, and slow police response times as problems," the joint press release said.

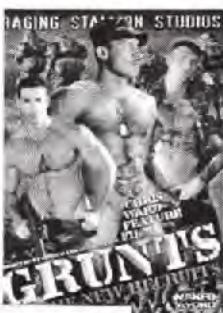
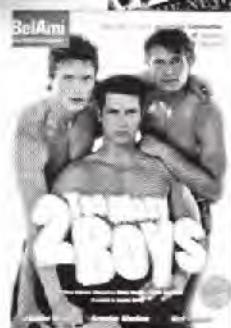
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The statement then pointed out a violent incident which occurred over the New Year's weekend in 2006. "One year ago three women were injured outside a Walker's Point bar (at the same corner of S. 2nd and W. Walker Streets where Milford was murdered) in what appears to be a gay hate related crime. These three women were hit by a car, driven by a man yelling anti-lesbian slurs."

"Crime in Milwaukee represents a private crisis with a steep public cost. It is a crisis for Mr. Milford's family and friends. There is an enormous cost to freedom for us all," the statement continued. A memorial service for Milford was held February 1 at the Italian Community Center. Milford's employer, the Miller Brewing Company, assisted Milford's family, including his life partner of 21 years Chris van der Westhuizen, with arrangements. Milford's body will be returned to South Africa, where the couple made their home, for funeral services and burial.



Vic (right) and his life partner Chris at their 20th Anniversary Party.

The joint statement concluded by recognizing the rapid response of the city's police in capturing the murder suspects. "We thank the Milwaukee Police department for increasing security in Walker's Point and their quick response in bringing suspects into custody. We offer ourselves as resources as we encourage the media to explore the important issues facing Milwaukee's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community."

Cream City Executive Director Maria Cardenas coordinated the joint community response, after being alerted by *Quest* of the LGBT community's connection to the Milford murder. Representatives from the foundation along with those from PrideFest, FORGE, SAGE Milwaukee, PFLAG, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, Fair Wisconsin, the Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and *CitiGal*, *OutBound* and *Quest* magazines signed the statement.

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N. Y. COURT: STATE MUST RECOGNIZE OUT-OF-STATE GAY MARRIAGES

Rochester - A New York appellate court has ruled that valid out-of-state marriages of same-sex couples must be legally recognized in that state, just as the law recognizes similar married heterosexual couples. According to attorneys for both sides, the ruling will apply to all public and private employers in the state.

Though gay marriage is illegal in New York, the appellate court in Rochester held that a gay couple's 2004 marriage in Canada must be respected under the state's marriage recognition rules. The court also found that an employer's subsequent denial of health benefits had discriminated against the couple on the basis of their sexual orientation.

In their unanimous ruling rejecting a lower court's 2006 decision, the appeals court left the door open

for the state's lawmakers to legislatively undo the ruling, however. "The Legislature may decide to prohibit the recognition of same-sex marriages solemnized abroad. Until it does so, however, such marriages are entitled to recognition in New York," the ruling stated.

Historical precedent also impacted the ruling, according to New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) attorney Jeffrey Wicks, who represented the plaintiff, Patricia Martinez, an employee of Rochester's Community College. "There's a long tradition in New York of recognizing marriages that couldn't be performed in New York," he said.

The court's ruling clarifies - for the time being - a grey area in society's ongoing adjustment to legal gay unions. Marriages of thousands of gay couples

entered into outside the state have been recognized in recent years by many New York state and local agencies and by private employers for purposes of allowing health and life insurance coverage, child care and other benefits. But others have resisted doing so voluntarily, pending the outcome of numerous cases in the courts.

Martinez and her partner, Lisa Ann Golden, first formalized their relationship in a civil union ceremony in Vermont in 2001, and later married in Ontario in 2004. Martinez later applied to Monroe Community College for health care benefits for her spouse. The college's human resources director, Sherry Ralston, subsequently denied the application, contending that the state did not recognize the marriage as a matter of law and public policy. In 2006 Martinez sued, claiming that her constitutional and civil rights had been violated. State Supreme Court Justice Harold Galloway dismissed the lawsuit noting that the state did not recognize same-sex marriages.

Ironically Monroe Community College had begun extending health-care benefits to Martinez' partner under a new contract provision. However, the judges held she was entitled to unspecified monetary damages for the period during which the benefits were wrongly denied.

The February 1 ruling was the first by an appellate division court, and would make the recognition of valid out-of-state gay marriages mandatory across New York. Litigants in the case - the college and Monroe County - have not indicated if they would appeal the ruling. Attorneys were reportedly reviewing the ruling.

The NYCLU called the decision "the first known

decision in the country to hold that a valid same-sex marriage must be recognized."

"This is a victory for families, it's a victory for fairness and it's a victory for human rights," NYCLU Executive Director Donna Lieberman said. "Congratulations to all same-sex couples validly married outside of New York State: You are now husband and husband, wife and wife. Now we need to work toward a New York where you don't have to cross state or country lines to get married."

GAY MARRIAGE BAN ON FLORIDA'S NOVEMBER BALLOT

Tallahassee - The gay marriage battle arrived in Florida February 1 when a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage qualified for the November ballot in a last-minute petition tally - a development that could affect this fall's presidential election.

The so-called "marriage protection" amendment has been three years in the making and would define marriage in Florida as exclusively between a man and a woman. Unlike Wisconsin's two-sentence language, currently being challenged by UW-Oshkosh professor William McConkey, gay marriage opponents combined the concepts into a single statement: "Inasmuch as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

Unlike Wisconsin as well, 60% of Florida voters must agree for the amendment to be added to the state Constitution. A similar provision would have nixed the Badger State's adoption of its amend-

ment. Currently, 27 states have passed constitutional bans on gay marriage.

The presence of the proposal has the potential to greatly alter voter turnout in a presidential election year. Evangelicals and social conservatives now have a much higher motivation to go to the polls. But the proposal could also spur interest from the opposition, which reportedly is vast and diverse. An opposition group, the bipartisan Florida Red & Blue Committee, calls the initiative "dangerous and disingenuous."

"Those pushing this amendment have had three years to collect the required number of petitions," Committee chair Jon Kislak said. "That they met that goal literally at the final hour should send a clear message that Floridians feel the state has more important things to do than create another government intrusion into our private lives."

55% DROP: HONEYMOON OVER FOR UK GAY WEDDINGS

London - The number of gay weddings in the United Kingdom has plummeted by 55% overall in the past year, according to a recently published survey. Same-sex civil unions became legal in Great Britain in December 2005, allowing the same of tax and pension rights granted to straight married couples.

Initially, thousands of gay and lesbian couples held ceremonies. Sir Elton John, BBC broadcaster Clare Balding and government ministers Ben Bradshaw and Angela Eagle were among those who have exercised their rights under the Civil Partnership Act.

However, a survey by the Local Government Association found that all the 40 councils across

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England they surveyed had experienced a fall in the number taking place - the figures show an average drop of 55% in 2007 from 2006. The largest fall was 90% in Bracknell, Berkshire, and the smallest was 31% in Barnet, north London.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics confirm the downward trend. They show that while 16,100 couples formed a civil partnership in the UK in 2006, at an average of 4,000 every three months, just 4,060 did so in the first half of 2007. "One reason for the decline may be that some gay people aren't interested in formalizing their relationship," PinkNews website editor Tony Grew said. "Some don't want to have all the formality of a civil partnership because they think it's the death knell of a relationship."

Some highly political British gays, such as activist Peter Tatchell, see civil partnerships as part of a process of "assimilation" or integration into wider society that they reject in favor of a proudly "queer" lifestyle. However, other gay activists pointed out that gay couples entering into civil unions far exceeded government estimates. The Office of National Statistics had predicted that about 11,000 to 22,000 would take place by 2010. As of mid 2007 the Office reported the total number of unions registered had surpassed 22,050.

Also notable was the low rate so far of gay "divorce" - known as "dissolution" of a civil partnership - suggests that gay people are treating their unions with due solemnity and respect. "Generally, they take them more seriously than many people who get married," Ben Summerskill, chief executive of the gay rights lobby group Stonewall said. "The people who go for it are older, have been together longer and have more committed relationships. That's why we won't see the 40% or 50% divorce rates we see in heterosexual marriages."

CALIFORNIA LAWMAKER PROPOSES MAY 22 HARVEY MILK HOLIDAY

San Francisco - A California lawmaker has announced his plans to introduce a bill that would make May 22 an official state holiday, celebrating the birthday of San Francisco's first openly gay politician. Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1977. The following year he was assassinated along with Mayor George Moscone by political foe Dan White.

Assemblyman Mark Leno of San Francisco believes that Milk was an American hero. "He was fighting to bring dignity, respect and validation to all human life," Leno said. "Harvey was not just fighting for the civil rights of LGBT Americans, but for everyone."

If passed, May 22 would become a California state holiday. But because the state is running a deficit, Leno said that he would not ask the government to shut down its offices the way it does to honor other dead leaders. Instead, he hopes the date will motivate people of all genetic sexual predispositions to learn more about Milk and celebrate his legacy.

GAY INTEREST HIGH IN FEBRUARY 19 PRIMARY

Democratic Presidential Race, Gay Council Candidates May Juice LGBT Turnout

Statewide - The February 19 primary is likely to be one of the most largest and most interesting in Wisconsin history. Voters are expected to brave what has been one of the Badger State's fiercest winters in recent years to turn out in numbers not previously seen in the state's early electoral process. Gay voters are also expected to turn out in larger than usual numbers thanks not only to the tight Democratic presidential primary but also the three openly-gay candidates running for election to the Common Council is the city that holds the state's largest LGBT community.

The Democratic stalemate that was Super-Duper Tuesday February 5 will be the leading driver of overall voter turnout statewide, most political analysts suggest. For the state's gay community, the difference between Senator Hillary Clinton and Senator Barack Obama on LGBT issues is a more a matter of nuance than of substance.

Both candidates can claim leading Wisconsin gay community members and allies as key supporters. The Clinton camp boasts Wisconsin's iconic lesbian Congressional Representative Tammy Baldwin, who serves as the nation chair of Hillary's LGBT election committee. Clinton also has staunch gay allies such as Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton, former Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager and former Brown County Executive (and current northeast Wisconsin NEWPride steering committee member) Nancy Nusbaum leading her state campaign committee.

Obama's highest ranking supporter is gay-supportive Governor Jim Doyle, the first sitting state chief executive to seek same-sex domestic partner benefits for state employees in Wisconsin history. Milwaukee's gay friendly Mayor Tom Barrett who just helped the SSBL bring the 2009 Gay World Series also has endorsed On February 8 Doyle was joined by sixteen Wisconsin legislators who endorsed the Illinois Senator, including Madison Representatives Joe Parisi and Spencer Black. Wisconsin Congressman Dave Obey, who had originally backed John Edwards, also has endorsed Obama for president.

Although both candidates final schedules following the February 12's "Capital" Primary (that includes the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia) have yet to be finalized, the Clinton campaign announced the first firm commitments by planning two days of events in the Milwaukee area February 16 and 17. Both campaigns have promised "plenty of opportunities" to meet the candidates between February 13-19.

Because the Wisconsin primary is open, voters of either political party and independents can vote in either the Democratic or Republican race. Some strategists feel now that Senator John McCain is the

presumptive candidate for the GOP, Republican voters may cross over to help pick the Democrat that they'd prefer their standard-bearer to run against which may advantage Clinton. Others point to Wisconsin's huge numbers of independent voters as giving Obama the advantage.

Recent gay voting patterns indicate a similar toss-up. A review of all exit polling identifying LGBT voters nationwide by the Dallas Voice showed gay voters overwhelmingly supported Obama, with the exception of New York and California where gay voters supported Clinton by a 2-1 margin. But the sheer numbers of gay voters in those two states meant that actual voting statistics were far closer than Obama's geographic win might indicate.

Milwaukee Gay Candidate Races Perk Added Interest



Three openly-gay candidates, two of which are in a contested race will also spur gay turnout in Milwaukee on February 19. Sura Faraj and Patrick Flaherty will square off with six other candidates in the city's 3rd District while Michael LaForest will seek one of the two open slots in a three-way race in the 11th District.

Flaherty currently has raised the most campaign dollars in the race. In fact, if one tosses out competitor Nik Kovac's second place tally, the reported Flaherty war chest of \$18,179 nearly outpaces the other six candidates combined. Faraj took the bronze in the dollar Olympics, with \$5,949 in the kitty,

Flaherty also leads in major endorsements, according to his website. Faraj's list of officially endorsed supporters is among the most extensive of the remaining seven hopefuls, however.

Flaherty was the sole winner of a Center Advocates PAC endorsement among the openly-gay candidates. In their late January announcement, the former HRL PAC gave a nod in five Milwaukee Aldermanic races for the 2008 Primary Election. According to the PAC, candidates appearing on the February 19 Primary ballot, endorsed by Center Advocates PAC, have demonstrated a commitment to LGBT equality and the ability to run a comprehensive campaign pertaining to a wide variety of issues concerning City of Milwaukee citizens.

Endorsed alder candidates include the following: Patrick Flaherty - 3rd District, Una Van Duvall - 6th District, JoCasta Zamarripa - 12th District, Chris Kestrel - 13th District, and incumbent Alder Anthony Zielinski - 14th District.

As reported in *Quest's* previous issue, Flaherty,

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who has served as the Director of the Milwaukee LGBT Center's Center Advocates project since its inception, was not in any way involved in the decision making involved in the endorsement process. However, the day after the Center Advocates PAC announcement, Flaherty officially resigned as Director of Public Affairs of the Milwaukee LGBT Center, citing the need to focus full-time on his candidacy as his reason to exit.

The LGBT Center's official press release also stated that Flaherty was on "paid leave" which was confusing to some readers. Though no official clarification was forthcoming, it is possible that Flaherty may have elected to have any remaining personal paid leave received at his normal rate of pay rather than in one lump sum.

In any case, the increased interest in the February 19 primary could mean that there may be many first-time LGBT voters heading to the polls. Wisconsin law permits same-day voter registration provided the registrant can offer proof of identity and that they have lived in their voting district for at least 10 days.

For purposes of voter registration, a form of identification constitutes acceptable proof of residence if it includes a current and complete name, including both the given and family name; and a current and complete residential address, including a numbered street address, if any, and the name of a municipality. Forms of identification which constitute acceptable Proof-of-Residence include the following: a Wisconsin motor vehicle operator's license, a Wisconsin identification card or any other official identification card or license issued by a Wisconsin governmental body or unit or by an employer in the normal course of business, but not including a business card. Poll workers can also accept a credit card or plate, a library card, or a check-cashing or courtesy card issued by a merchant in the normal course of business.

Also acceptable as proof of identification are a real estate tax bill or receipt for the current year or the year preceding the date of the election, and a residential lease which is effective for a period that includes election day.

Students may use a university, college or technical institute identification or fee card as their proof of ID. Also, airplane pilots may show an airplane pilot's license.

Lastly acceptable as proof of identification is a gas, electric or telephone service statement for the period commencing not earlier than 90 days before election day.

CLUB 1226 FIGHTS "SUSPICIOUS" CONDEMNATION ORDER

Oshkosh - The city's only openly-gay nightspot, Christopher Allan's Club 1226, won't be going anywhere in the near future. According to co-owner Christopher Nikolai, motions are expected to be filed February 12 to enjoin the City of Oshkosh from following through on a January 14 condemnation order received by the club on January 22.

Last summer city inspectors found back portions of the popular venue out of compliance with the city's building code. Nikolai and life/business partner Allan Vandervelden made arrangements with a local contractor to correct the problems but were repeatedly refused building permits, according to Nikolai.

"The contractor already had purchased the construction materials," Nikolai told *Quest*, deeming the pattern of citation, repeated permit refusal and subsequent condemnation order "suspicious."

"There certainly no way I could prove it at this point, but it sure seems like the city is picking on us

because of who we cater to."

Quest spoke with other local professionals who reported that the city's planning office was "notoriously difficult to work with," and noting that other local property owners and developers have gone to court to deal with similar condemnation orders.

Nikolai and Vandervelden spoke with attorneys in Milwaukee, Appleton and Madison before deciding to retain the firm that had originally negotiated the tavern's sale three years ago. They also hired a state-certified engineer who confirmed the original inspection report that the building was structurally sound and easily repairable to comply with city building codes.

"Of course nothing is certain until the judge's final ruling," Nikolai added. "But I have high hopes that we're going to win this one. Now if we can just get the rumor mill to stop spinning new stories, we'll be just fine!" *Quest* will follow and report further developments on this story as they arise.

WISCONSIN SUPREMES TO MUNICIPALITIES: "BUTT OUT OF LESBIAN DP LAWSUIT"

Madison - The Wisconsin Supreme Court has decided that a number of municipalities have no right to interfere in a lawsuit brought by lesbian Wisconsin state employees seeking domestic partner health insurance for their partners from their state employers. The six lesbian couples, who have had to go without adequate health insurance for their families while this issue has been litigated, will now have their chance to prove that it is unconstitutional for the state to continue to bar them from receiving the same compensation as their straight colleagues.

"We are relieved that our clients will finally have their opportunity to prove to the courts the unfairness of denying lesbian and gay state employees access to much needed health insurance for their families," Wisconsin ACLU Executive Director Chris Ahmety said. "They work just as hard as their straight colleagues and shouldn't be denied the same pay package."

In a 4 to 3 decision, the Wisconsin Supreme Court rejected the arguments of the municipalities seeking to enter the lawsuit who claimed that they may be affected by the ultimate outcome in the case. The court said: "The municipalities have shown no special, personal, or unique interest in the present case. Were the municipalities granted a right to intervene upon such grounds, virtually any declaratory action for constitutional review of a statute would present a case in which at least some persons or entities may intervene as of right..."

"We are relieved that the court recognized the

judicial system would grind to a halt if everyone who was concerned about an issue had a right to get involved as a party," said Larry Dupuis, the Legal Director of the ACLU of Wisconsin and one of the lawyers for the couples. "The municipalities don't have a direct stake in this case about state benefits, since our clients have never sought any kind of relief from them. As has long been clear, the municipalities can explain their views of the legal issues by filing a brief with the court."

The ACLU filed the lawsuit in April 2005 on behalf of six lesbian state employees and their partners. The lawsuit charges that it is a violation of the state's equal protection guarantees to deny lesbian and gay state employees access to the same health insurance and family leave protections that it provides to straight employees who are able to cover their spouses.

Additional information about the case, including information about the costs of providing domestic partner health insurance, biographical information about the clients who are being denied adequate health insurance, as well as a copy of the decision, are available by clicking www.aclu.org/caseprofiles.

The case is Helgeland v. Department of Employee Trust Funds. The couples are represented by Larry Dupuis of the ACLU of Wisconsin, John Knight and Rose Saxe of the ACLU's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Project, and cooperating attorneys Linda Roberson and Christopher Krimmer of the Madison law firm Balisle & Roberson.

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WISCONSIN OBSERVES NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Milwaukee - HIV remains a serious public health issue in the United States and in Wisconsin. On February 7, 2008, organizations throughout the U.S. highlighted the mission of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day to build the capacity and increase awareness, participation and support for HIV prevention, care and treatment among African Americans.

The primary goals of the annual National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day are to motivate African Americans to get tested and know their HIV status; get educated about the transmission modes of HIV/AIDS; get involved in their local community; and get treated if they are currently living with HIV or are newly diagnosed.

Blacks are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS. While making up only 13% of the U.S. population, they account for more than 49% of AIDS cases. AIDS is now the leading cause of death for Black women ages 25 to 34, and the second leading cause of death for Black men ages 35 to 44.

In Wisconsin, African Americans represent 38% of those believed living with HIV as of the end of 2007, according to figures just released by the AIDS/HIV Program of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.

Charles D Productions, which recently celebrated its 15th anniversary, offered free testing at their offices in the Milwaukee LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St. and 1817 N. Martin Luther King Drive 3rd level on February 7. Confidential and anonymous testing remains available available for those age 12 and up. For more information, call 414-263-9999.

To learn more about HIV, contact the Wisconsin AIDS Line at 1-800-334-2437. The AIDS Line offers statewide information and referral services, prevention education, HIV risk assessments, HIV testing and referrals to HIV testing sites, as well as additional community resources and prevention programs that serve the African American and African-born communities.

CREAM CITY PLANS FASHION SHOW, WINTER GETAWAY

Milwaukee - Looking for ways to escape this exceptionally wild winter? The Cream City Foundation (CCF) has planned two exciting diversions over the next six weeks. Friends. Fashion. Fun! It'll be the perfect evening at Cuvée Monday, February 25. Cuvée, a new hot spot in the 3rd Ward which bubbles with champagne at 177 N. Broadway, will be hosting a fashion show of women's styles from Fran Hill on Downer and men's styles from Aala Reed on Brady. Also featured will be eyewear from Optix on Downer and shoes from Shoo on Broadway.

The night will begin at 5 PM with a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres. The show will begin at 6 PM. Admission is free and 10% of clothing, eyewear or shoe purchases made that evening will be donated to Cream City Foundation.

CCF has also begun preliminary arrangements for its Second Annual Winter-Get-Away. "Get out of the cold, and into the "Blu." Join CCF on March 20 at the William F. Eisner Museum of Advertising & Design, 208 N. Water, St. Entertainment will be provided by Blu Print, an amazing band from Illinois. Invitations will be mailed out shortly.

For more information about both events, contact Maria Cardenas by phone at 414-225-0244 or by email at: director@creamcityfoundation.org. Visit the CCF website at: www.creamcityfoundation.org.

HONORING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER LEADERS

Milwaukee - 2008 marks the second consecutive year that Joseph Pabst, a local philanthropist, and the Cream City Foundation join forces to empower and recognize local leaders of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) communities.

The premise is simple, create a committee of selected leaders, give them access to grant funds, and ask them to fund the most effective way to create an equal Milwaukee. In return, you give each leader a grant to their respective organization in recognition for the work they have already achieved. In total, over \$75,000 would be distributed by the end of 2008 through this partnership.

"I was most honored to be selected to serve this panel," *Outbound* columnist and 2008 CCF committee member Michael Johnston said. "My involvement has renewed my belief in what a great community we have - populated with a diverse, yet cohesive, caring people."

"These individuals have worked hard to create a great space and community for LGBT individuals," Joseph Pabst noted. "We wanted to provide an opportunity that highlighted their contributions and at the same time trusted them to continue to make a difference in a new way."

While the 2007 effort focused on recognizing LGBT organizations, the 2008 committee, or the 41/26 Venture, focused on finding one project that will affect public opinion of LGBT people. "Finding a project that could support the needs of everyone is impossible, at best, but finding a way to support as many people as possible, is what we tried to accomplish," Angie Guerra, Milwaukee LGBT Center Communications Director and 41/26 Venture Committee member said.

This year, the group will distribute over \$26,000 to help create a media campaign around LGBT issues, in particular those represented by the *Shall Not Be Recognized* Exhibit, a photography exhibit featuring thirty same-sex couples. To find out more about the exhibit visit www.shallnotberecognized.org. In addition, another \$23,000 will be distributed to LGBT agencies in honor of the committee members. 41/26 Venture members include Maria Cardenas, Executive Director of the Cream City Foundation; Joseph Brooks formerly with AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin; Patrick Flaherty former Director for Center Advocates; Guerra and Johnston.

Cream City Foundation hosted a community meeting to discuss LGBT issues, its strategic work, and present the checks to the organizations February 5 at the Renaissance Place. Founded in 1982, Cream City Foundation serves as a catalyst for social change on behalf of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities. For more information call 414-221-0244 or visit www.creamcityfoundation.org.

MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY GROUP ANNOUNCE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Milwaukee - The G/L Community Center & the G/L Community Trust Fund have announced their annual membership drive for 2008. Membership in the G/L Community Trust Fund helps the groups and the southeastern coalition of organizations to continue providing services to our community. Yearly the organizations in the coalition provide information, guidance, assistance and social services to the GLBT Community.

In 2007 the Trust Fund was able to give assistance to sixteen groups and programs with grants and gifts totaling over \$11,100.00. Over the years the G/L Community Trust Fund has distributed over \$78,000.00 to the GLBT community.

Following are listed the organizations that have received gifts and grants during 2007. ARCW Food Pantry, Gay Peoples Union, G/L Building Fund, Gay Art's Center, Mil Counseling Center, Metro Community Church, Sage/Milwaukee, WISCRAD, BestD Clinic, Gay Youth Group Mil., G/L Endowment Fund, Men's Voices Milwaukee, Galano Club, Mil. Pride Parade, Queer TV Show, and the Gay Fathers Group.

The G/L Community Trust Fund receives no government support or community grants to help in their work, so they need your support. Memberships are \$20.00 yearly and available to everyone in the community. Membership dues and donations are tax-deductible. Gifts can be mailed to the G/L Community Trust Fund, P.O. Box 1686, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Those interested in learning more about the Community Trust Fund are invited to visit the organizations web site at www.glccommunitytrustfund.com

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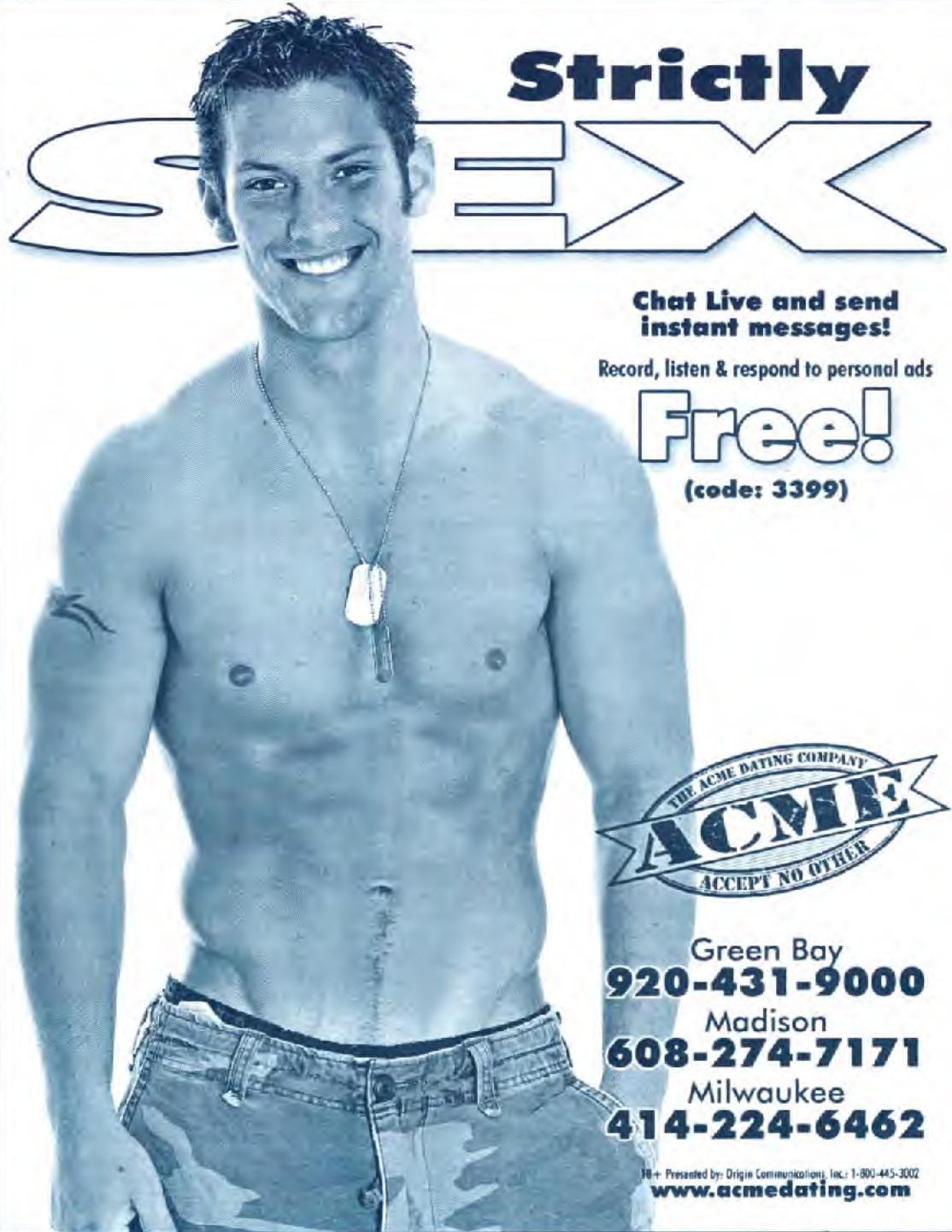
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Upper Peninsula Man 46 looking for friends, who could possibly come visit me in ISHPEMING MI. at my home for fun and good times. I have blue eyes brown hair and a hairy chest. 5'10" about 6" cut Email me if interested miman49841@yahoo.com

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GWM Bear is looking for cut 18 - 45 yo WM guys who love to receive oral satisfaction from 44 yo Central Wis nice guy. Must be neat and clean and no diseases. (715)347-5027 or leave message with stats Will travel. [1]

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GWM 40 blonde hair, blue eyes 200# 7" cut looking for hot bottoms or tops 18 - 40. (Not 43, 53, 67 ...) Slim to bodybuilder type. I'm into boots, feet, jockstraps, jock gear, butt play and lots of kissing. I will lick you from head to toe before I will plow you. Hot sluts are welcome. I

have a fantasy about doing it with lifeguards, military, jocks, Miller/Bud drivers and MD's. Write or call Chirs B. 3319 S 99th Ct. #2 Milwaukee, WI 53227 (414)727-1089 lv message.

Man on Man Fun! 18+ Record & Listen FREE! (920) 431-9000, code 4166

SWM needs oral servicing daily. Young, slender, feminine boytoys wanted. Let's discover each others bodies. Must be discreet, Milw area only call (414)766-0121 [2]

WM 55+ Touch me, strip me. ISO buddy 45+ meet at Bally's south Ridge, St. Francis, go to your place or bath. Love being naked in front of strangers during early AM hours. Fetish for cock rings. Share smiles, finger tips, kisses, hold hands, opening creative expressions, vanilla/kink, let's break the seal on a brown bottle together. D/D free, health aware, discreet, sexually intelligent, bare back cautious. Date me, talk to me, just write me or F-me.

AAH/BA PMB#130, 10238 West National Ave. West Allis, WI 53227 [2]

GWM 152# 49yo looking for M&M toys, water sports, toilet play, sports gear fetish, jocks, cups, boxing gear, swooping dirty underwear & spandex or laying in bed watching porn, body shaved hair, inked would also like to try dirty Bi couple out. (262)719-9439

Slim WM wants to be enthusiastic oral love buddy. Just unzip & pull it out, no questions asked. Steady, patient, reliable sucking from start to finish. Can host. Let's watch adult DVD's & relax. Will do it nice, no strings. www.HeywoodJablome39@yahoo.com Answer is yes! [2]

Milwaukee GWM 63 seeks 45-65 any race, non-smoker for friendship/relationship. I am HIV neg but POZ welcome for safe sex. Retired librarian into academic/cultural pursuits, classical music, history, politics, movies, sports, swim, working out together! guys2mate@gmail.com [2]

GWM, 54, single, seeking a "son" or younger "brother" for sex buddy/companion. Open to LTR. Prefer a nice looking GWM, 26-45, who is emotionally & romantically stable. I am 5' 11", 180#, br/blu, uncut, clean-shaven, healthy, clean, HIV neg, spiritual, professional & kind. I have many interests including film, books, travel, collecting, cuddling and sex. I love holding hands & kissing. I live on Milwaukee's eastside near the lake. I have my own place. We can learn & love from each other. Contact Marc @ 414 225 9683

Upper Peninsula Man 45 looking for frnds, who could possibly come visit me in Marquette MI, at my home for fun and good times. I'm 178' blue eyes brown/blondish hair sometimes I dye it. 5'11" about 7 3/4" cut Email me if interested toddka82000@yahoo.com [2]

Single BI White Male, 36 Yrs Old, 5'6" 200 LBS. Brown Hair, Brown Eyes. Looking for PEN PALS that might want to HELP ME Out Financially & To get to Know Me Better. I want somebody that is TRUSTING - LOVING CARING. I don't want a GAME PLAYERS or LIARS!! I am Currently living in Cincinnati, Ohio in a HALFWAY HOUSE. Send Your LETTERS to: Billy P. Green 115 West McMicken Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 [2]

Fun/funny, creative, hiker, seeks man for cooking together, playing cards,

or talking & laughs! 773-585-6275 Chicago P.O. Box 63, Lawrenceville, IL. Tommy [2]

WM 45, 180# 6" cut, looking for men to orally service, I love to swallow large loads of one or more men. Must be Sunday afternoons only at your place Milwaukee area, I'll make it worth your while. E-mail stats & phone # to moonscape2006@yahoo.com [2]

GWM Bear is Looking For Hot Sessions in The Fond Du Lac, Washington, Dodge, Jefferson Counties. Looking for Some Hot Studs that Can Please My Hot Mouth & Cock. Love to Massage, Suck, Fuck, Rim, & ? Hit Me Up for some Hot M2M Fun, 40's in Shape & CLEAN - UB2. The Hornier the Better. Have Place & Discretion is assured. E-mail with Stats & contact info to: yourmeat2eat@msn.com Stop In & Blow, I mean Go! [2]

Bi looking for MEN & WOMEN Sue "Lonely in Abbotsford" I saw your ad and wanted to call you but lost your phone number. If you'd like to talk to me, give me a call. Mike (715)347-3956 [1]

Attractive very horny white Bi couple from Green Bay M 30's F 40's is seeking a Bi curious M/F couple or single female to have hot sex with, first timers welcomed. Can host. Friendship a+, clean D/D free UB2. Write with contact info Barb & Mike #316 304 N. Adams St, Green Bay WI 54301 [2]

I'm 29, 5'11" 180# masculine, clean bottom looking for tops. If you are a couple M&M M&F or just male, contact me. Email with your info & I will call you soon. Older & younger males a turn on. epmandm@yahoo.com [3]

WM 50+ I enjoy being serviced orally ISO orally talented individuals M/F or anyone in between for discreet encounters. Send phone # & best time to call to PMB#143 1528 S. Koeller, Oshkosh, WI 54902 [3]

Central Wis Bi-curious WM 39yo 6' 215#, I have a 7 1/2 x 2 1/2 cock uncut. Brown hair & eyes, looking for another bi or bi-curious male in Central Wis area. Must be clean, no diseases/drugs also NO GAYS. Looking 4 my 1st time. Must be between 35-45 & discreet, will travel only in Central Wis or NE Wis. Serious guys only email Fireball4you@yahoo.com [3]

Attractive BiWM 53 seeks TV's TS, female or female-female couples for friendship, possible relationship. Into leggings, corsets, light s&M, boots, BiFemales, uncut males and Neopagans especially welcome. Call (414)640-6364 9am-9pm lv message

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QUEST

Celebrates 15 Years Publishing

Join Quest and Outwords Books in a special contest!

Read the Top 15 Movies of the past 15 years by Quest contributor

Glenn Bishop, then choose your own favorite Top 5.

Send us an email with your five picks to:

editor@quest-online.com

or Mail them to Quest, P.O. Box 1961 Green Bay WI 54305

or stop in at Outwords Books for an entry form to fill out.

We will publish some of these entries in a future issue. One lucky winner will be selected in a drawing to win your choice of 5 DVD's from Outwords fine selection of LGBT movies in stock.

All entries must be received by no later than March 20, 2008. Winner will be announced in Volume 15 Issue 4 March 27, 2008. You must be 18 or older to enter this contest.

No purchase necessary. Winner will be selected at random.



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The Milwaukee Pride Parade Board



BOOM

Heart on Party
Sat. Feb. 16th



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Adult Film Star
Jake Dakota

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Anniversary Party
Thurs. Feb. 21st 
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Correction: Milwaukee 11th District Common Council Representative Michael LaForest ran for the office of Secretary of State in 2006, not State Treasurer as the article in our last issue stated.



The Milwaukee Pride Parade board hosted an open house at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Thursday, February 7 to introduce plans for this year's Pride Parade. Guests attending included James N. Wilkowiak the 12th district Alderman for the city of Milwaukee (pictured above) along with various members of the LGBT community and city employees. **Editor's note:** Mark Mariucci, Quest and Outbound publisher is a member of this board.

Diversion of the Day

Quest's Events Calendar

Saturday, February 16

BOOM (Milwaukee) Heart-On Party w/special guest Adult Star, Jake Dakota
 City Lights Chill (Milwaukee) Underwear Party
 Club ICON (Kenosha) Mr & Miss ICON 2008 "Chicago" theme Hosted by Jasmine Roberts. 10:00 pm \$5 Cover DJ & Dancing follow at midnite.
 Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Old School Hip-Hop Valentines GLBT Partnership sponsored event. www.harmonycafe.org Prizes for best attire, dance moves, and freestyle rap \$3 suggested donation
 LaCage (Milwaukee) Valentines Dance
 Madison Gay Video Club "Fluff" (Iron Rod, dir. Gregory Duke, 03, Canada) "Grunts: Brothers In Arms" (Raging Stallion,07) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8675 (evenings)
 (Madison) My Family Playgroup POTLUCK LUNCH, for LGTBQ parents & their children ages 0-10 (older children welcome) to meet other families & make new friends, Goodman-Alwood Community Center (2425 Alwood Ave). Contact Jim Schmid at 669-1657 or jhs1120@yahoo.com or Leslie at 255-8582 for more information. www.myfamilyplaygroup.com
 Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Tim Miller - Glory box 8pm \$20 Seniors \$18 (414)383-3727
 Napalese (Green Bay) Bear Club 4 Men 2nd annual Bear Hug Party 8 pm - ?

Sunday, February 17

Frontiers Gay/Bi Men's Social Group (Madison) Annual Membership Brunch & Meeting West Side Club, 437 County Hwy M, 11:30 AM, www.frontiersmadison.org, 608-244-8675 (evenings)
 TUESDAY, February 19
 FATTER TUESDAY! (Milwaukee) The weather killed the MardiGras celebration so you get a second chance! Come out and earn those beads! Triangle 8-9:30, Switch 9:30-11, Fluid 11:00-12:30 & LaCage 12:30 with finals at 1am sharp. \$500 grand prize.
 Midtowne Spa (Milwaukee) BESTD Clinic Free 30 minute HIV testing 6-9pm

Wednesday, February 20

LaCage (Milwaukee) All new Wed Show begins "Entertainer Spotlight" 11pm

Thursday, February 21

BOOM (Milwaukee) 8 YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY Miller Beer Specials

Friday, February 22

Ballgame (Milwaukee) Customer Appreciation Day

Sunday, February 24

City Lights Chill (Milwaukee) Oscar Party come guess the winners!
 KRUZ (Milwaukee) Holywood Night

Monday, February 25

Cream City Foundation (Milwaukee) Fashion Show - Spring Into a New Wardrobe @ Cuvée, a new hot spot in the 3rd Ward. FREE Admission 10% of clothing, eyewear or shoe purchases that evening donated to Cream City Foundation

Tuesday, February 26

LaCage (Milwaukee) Gender Bender Finals

Friday, February 29

City Lights Chill (Milwaukee) Leap Year Party

Saturday, March 1

Miltown Kings Presents Kingstock Milwaukee's 2nd annual Drag King invitational @ Miramar Theatre 9pm \$10 18+

Friday, Saturday, Sunday March 7-9

JT's, The Main Club & The Flame (Superior) FUR FLEE WEEKEND 2008 NORTH COUNTRY BEARS invade Duluth and Superior. Host hotel: Superno Inn Enjoy beer busts, cocktail specials, DJ, karaoke, sunday Brunch and pool/jacuzzi time see www.ncbears.com fmi

Tuesday, March 11

Midtowne Spa (Milwaukee) BESTD Clinic Free 30 minute HIV testing 6-9pm

Saturday, March 15

Rianbow Club Pot Luck at Charles farm lake 73 to 26 east to Blorgin, right on Fire n7773 (out of Loyal) all welcome call for directions 715 613-3897 or 715 654-5044

Thursday, March 20

Cream City Foundation (Milwaukee) Winter-Get-Away at the Eisner! Entertainment will be provided by BLU PRINT, an amazing band from Illinois!

Tuesday, March 25

Midtowne Spa (Milwaukee) BESTD Clinic Free 30 minute HIV testing 6-9pm

WEEKLY SPECIALS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
ART BAR	FREE POOL \$2 Mystery Beer	2 fer Tuesday 2-4-1 til 12am	DOUBLE IT for a buck	\$5 Martini	\$5 Margaritas	\$2 Shot Special	\$4.40 BLOODY MARY's
BALLGAME	Cocktail Hour 2pm - close	PULL TABS	Shots Doctors \$2 Mugs \$1.75 all nite	PULL TABS	Hors D' Oeuvres	Juice Drinks \$3.25 Mugs \$1.75	Juice Drinks \$3.25 Mugs \$1.75
BOOM	2-4-1 5-8pm 2-4-1 Pitchers Miller Lite	2-4-1 5-8pm KARAOKE with 2-4-1 Leine's	2-4-1 5-8pm Bad Boys night out	2-4-1 5-8pm \$3 Tall Pinnacle flavored Vodka drinks	2-4-1 5-8pm Beer Bust 5-9pm	Open 2 pm with Clint Beer Bust 2-6pm	Open 2 pm with Lance
CITY LIGHTS CHILL...	\$1 Mugs	\$2 Shots	\$4 Mug & Shot	\$2 Domestic Bottle Beer	\$4 Martini & cosmos	12" Pizza & Pitcher for \$12	\$3 Pints Rail Mixers
LA CAGE	Movies n Martinis \$4 Martinis	Hot Male Dancers \$4 Effen Mixers \$6 Effen Martinis	2-4-1 Drinks All Nite	Thermal Thursday \$4 mixers \$6 Martinis DJ Wizz Kid	Trans-formation Female Impersonators		Recovery 2-4-1 Absolute, Grey Goose & Effen drinks
M's		FREE Darts all day Cocktail hour 2-4-1 4-8pm	Melissa entertains 6-8 Cocktail hour 2-4-1 4-8pm	2-4-1 All Night	Cocktail hour 2-4-1 4-8pm Prize nite @9pm	Pull Tabs till 8pm Marvelous Madams Drag Show 9pm	\$3 Bloody Mary's, Screwdrivers, Grey- hounds Pitchers Beer \$8
MONS's			50¢ tips MONA's Brew \$2.50 Bottles Amstel, Mic. Coors, Bud, Miller & RR \$3 Smirnoff Twisted & Mike's \$2 cans Blatz & PBR			50¢ tips MONA's Brew \$2.50 Bottles Amstel, Mic. Coors, Bud, Miller & RR \$3 Smirnoff Twisted & Mike's \$2 cans Blatz & PBR	50¢ tips MONA's Brew \$2.50 Bottles Amstel, Mic. Coors, Bud, Miller & RR \$3 Smirnoff Twisted & Mike's \$2 cans Blatz & PBR
SWITCH			Online Meat n Greet meet your buddy for \$1 off drinks	Karaoke after 9pm	Hot Male Strippers 9pm	Saved @ Switch DJ Doug	Hot Male Strippers 9pm
TRIANGLE	\$2 Absolute Drinks	2-4-1 All Night	\$2 Domestics & Texa Hold 'em	Thursday Nite Shows	Bacardi Fridays \$3 shorts \$5 Talls	Also Friday & Sunday 3rd shift Happy Hour 2-4-1 Taps 6am-noon	Guise n Dolls 10:30pm

QUEST TURNS 15 WITH THIS ISSUE!

A Message from Quest Publisher, Mark Mariucci aka ZA

Quest has come a long way in it's fifteen year journey from a gay "shopper" to what I - and many others now feel - is Wisconsin's leading gay news and entertainment source. When we began, the draw was bar gossip and free personals for a crowd that was still waiting for gay.com and Manhunt to be invented. Over the years we slowly expanded along side Milwaukee's other two papers, In Step and Wisconsin Light. Finally with the demise of In Step it was our turn to step up to the plate and become Wisconsin's primary news and entertainment source.

Today, thousands of regulars check in, many of them each morning, to see what's new on the QNU (*Quest News Update*), LGBT Wisconsin's only daily news briefing. *Quest's* online presence remains Wisconsin's most popular gay website, according to the Alexa and Quantcast web traffic tracking services. Moreover, our expanded magazine size - which I honestly resisted longer than I should have - has given us a visibility and an apparent credibility that the pocket pal version never won.

Quest's staff of writers, columnists, photographers and correspondents span the state from Superior to Milwaukee, from Madison to LaCrosse. *Quest's* stories online regularly get picked up by mainstream national and state sites such as *PageOneQ*, *WisPolitics* and *The Wheeler Report*. As I write this piece, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's* AllPolitics

blog just linked to *Quest's* recent cover profile on Milwaukee's three openly-gay Common Council candidates.

As *Quest's* publisher, I and News Editor Mike Fitzpatrick, continue to be deeply involved working to better our community. We serve on boards and committees for organizations in Madison,

Milwaukee and Green Bay. Mike will begin his 25th year in HIV/AIDS work later this year. We speak regularly with many of the state's LGBT movers and

shakers not to find out what needs to be in the next issue, but because of a long standing commitment to the betterment of our LGBT community. It's a commitment that we try to demonstrate with each issue of *Quest*.

I am personally proud of the fact that for most of the past 14 years, *Quest* has owned and operated its own printing facility. It began in our first year when a local newspaper printer in Ripon informed us they would not continue to print the little *Quest* mainly because of the classified ads and photos showing the gay lifestyle. Never get a queen angry. It motivated me to invest in and learn to operate my own press equipment. While print quality sometimes suffers a little, it is a labor of love. Today we print *Quest* on four small format high speed offset litho presses and the people who help print include my family members as well as personal friends in

the LGBT community.

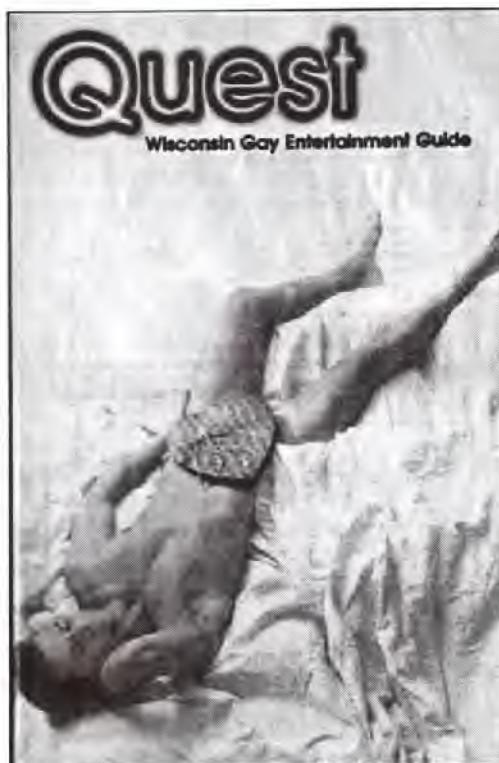
And by LGBT community, *Quest* means ALL of the community. That includes some of the folks that some politically correct types have a hard time recognizing in public: the leather gang, the drag queens and kings, the transgendered, the cross dressers and even the bi-curious and bug chasers.

I know that we all struggle with acceptance, some more than others. As I enter my fifteenth year of publishing *Quest*, I want to pass on one of the secrets of my success. I've learned one of the best ways to accept myself is to not only accept but love and celebrate everyone in our queer community without exception.

Each will get their '15 minutes" in *Quest*. That sometimes results in advertisers shying away from placing an ad with us. Many of these "would-be" advertisers prefer to spend their money, sometimes for much more expensive ads, with other publications that do not share the spotlight with all the fringes of the LGBT community. We are proud to be all-inclusive even if it means we will lose some of those lucrative ad dollars.

It's also one of the reasons we love our advertisers. I encourage each of you as readers to acknowledge their fearless commitment. You can also help us grow by suggesting to your favorite business that they consider advertising in *Quest*. Often your suggestions can make a world of difference in attitudes towards the gay-owned press.

So my philosophy apparently works - sometimes better, sometimes worse - but it works. Otherwise *Quest* wouldn't have made it to a distinction that we pass into this month - 15 years of proudly serving Wisconsin's entire statewide LGBT community.



Our Very First Issue printed on newsprint.



By year five we switched to a slightly larger size book. This is Volume 5 Issue 1



New press equipment allowed us to offer a full bleed image on our covers. Our cover for Volume 10 Issue 1



A wedding wearing our Mario Gantini & Teresa Belmont as they begin the new year and enjoy a picnic wedding!

Special thanks to Milwaukee LGBT History Project, Inc. for archiving our covers! www.mkelgbthist.org

Back in 1996 in our third year, it took 8 hours to print a cover in color. We had to run the paper thru the press 5 times and had a lot of waste.

Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie

Your Intellectual Whore

(An effervescently gay advice columnist)



Disclaimer: Although the author of this syndicated column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Barbie responds to all emails...whether you deserve it or not. Send your questions to Uncle Barbie at: askunclebarbie@aol.com

The Answer is Blowing in the Wind

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I have a female friend in the National Guard who is serving in the Middle East. I am very worried about her. I don't know if I am more worried about her because she is a girl or because she is my friend. I have been friends with her since high school. She is supposed to come back home after doing a tour of duty for a year. But the way things are going, who knows if that promise will be kept? Maybe she will have to stay longer. I email her all the time but have not received any messages back, so I sent her a few postal letters. However, I have not received even one correspondence from her. I want to know just one thing from you. What can I do to stop worrying?

Signed, Peace Maker

Hello Peaceful Person,

There are many, many people in this area (and throughout the country) who feel the same way you do. Perhaps you can take some comfort in knowing that you are not alone. I can't help but wonder if we are making things better or worse. It seems as if we are making enemies faster than we can kill them. On a personal note, I have a brother in the military, as well. Several months, after he was sent over to the Middle East, he emailed me and told me that, for the first time, he took a human life. He didn't give any details, however I could tell that he was quite shaken up by the situation. I know that my brother is a very sensitive person--he has been his whole life. I remember,

even as a child, he would come into the house crying because he found a dying butterfly. I can only imagine how traumatizing it must be for him to have killed another human being.

I am assuming that he was in a situation where he either had to kill the enemy or be killed. None the less, I'm sure it takes its toll on his conscience--trying to rationalize it in his mind. Many years ago, I had accidentally run over a puppy dog with my car. I still can picture it in my mind. The memory replays over and over again. How much more psychological stress would there be if it were a person? I believe all of the soldiers (male or female) need personal therapy to debrief from the war when they get back. War leaves a devastation of psychic rubble in its aftermath. To help you lessen your worries about your friend, try talking with other people who are also worried about their loved ones who are actively serving in the military. We can all lean on each other for emotional support. Worrying is a passive waste of energy. Do something positive with your energy. *Peace Out, Barbie*

Gay Marriages

Dear Barbie,

I read in the papers and hear on TV about all the fears surrounding gay and lesbian marriages. Why is everyone so afraid? Is it something that they grew up fearing, or is it just irrational fear about the unknown? What gives?

Signed, Mr. Fearless

You mean, all his years of education boil down to this?

Hello Mr. Fearless,

Let's start off by looking at exactly what fear is. The vast majority of fears are learned through modeling the behavior of someone else who is acting afraid. However, a few fears are genetically based (like the fear of loud noises and the fear of falling). These instincts are inherent fears that exist in all humans. These are some of the ways that our internal warning mechanisms protect us. There are researchers who state that the unlearned instincts we have (which pertain to survival) may be genetically coded in our DNA. The belief is that certain important experiences are stored in our bodies. Some refer to this as "cell memory." These memories can be inherited by being passed down on a genetic level, therefore becoming instinctual traits. The good news is that instincts can serve you by alerting you to danger.

On the other hand, the bad news is that unrealistic fears do not serve us because they are based on misinformation and ignorance. Since prejudicial fears (like homophobia and racism) are based on hatred and not founded on scientific facts, they are therefore unrealistic. Unrealistic fear is the opposite of love because that type of fear blocks trust; and trust is necessary for pure love to exist. Prejudicial fears stem from a lack of accurate information. Once a person truly understands another person, then prejudice seems to dissipate and new connections of commonality are built in its place. Put another way, if your fears are based on survival instincts, then go with them. If, however, your fears are based on anger and prejudice, then educate them. After all, fear grows out of not knowing. I have learned to trust my inherited instincts, not my unrealistic fears. So the next time you hear someone expressing fear regarding gay/lesbian marriages, just remember, if people can learn prejudice, they can unlearn it, too. *Respect Multiplicity, Barbie*

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS!

Quest has been serving Wisconsin's LGBT community for 15 years. Our advertisers make this possible. Without them, there is no Quest or our coverage of arts and special events in the LGBT community that may not get noticed without the support of LGBT owned news media. Please choose to patronize the advertisers of *Quest, Outbound, Queer Life and Our Lives*. Let them know you saw their ad in the magazine. They care about you and your community!

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TOP 15 LGBT FILMS

SPANNING THE PAST 15 YEARS

To help celebrate **Quest** entering into its 15th fabulous year, Glenn was asked to compile a list of the top LGBT films over that period. What fun, thought Glenn. Who doesn't love "Best of" lists? To begin with, Glenn explored his archive of reviews delighting to find his very first review: **"For a Lost Soldier"** which was written way back in 1993. After further and quite extensive research, Glenn found that there were in fact a surprising number of film titles worthy of consideration.

Even more astonishing was the number of extraordinary LGBT films that came out in the previous 15 years but best to leave that list for another issue.

Queer Cinema is much more available than in 1993 when moviegoers depended upon the most popular films hopefully turning up at the local "art house" cinema. Loyal **Quest** readers could always count on the fabulous Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival. Since 1983, the Fest has been bringing to Milwaukee LGBT moviegoers the very best in Queer Cinema. Finally, one might be lucky enough to find LGBT titles at some of the better video rental places. With the advent of DVDs, Gay cinema became much available to rent and much more affordable for purchase.

And on to Glenn's list...

At number 5 is **"Brokeback Mountain."** Some might be surprised **"Brokeback"** found a place on this list. Glenn himself does, as a matter of fact. What is beyond doubt is that **"Brokeback"** is a historic piece of Queer Cinema. Given the ridiculous media frenzy that surrounded the release of this film, one might have thought that director Ang Lee had created **"The Great Gay Movie."** Yet in order to bestow such an honor, Glenn for one would really have to insist that the film not take quite such delight in its tortured and doomed gay characters. Certainly more of a film to admire rather than love, **"Brokeback"** is nevertheless a revolutionary film, exquisitely crafted and boasting powerful lead performances by Jake Gyllenhaal and the late Heath Ledger.

Glenn's list next makes a total u-turn at the number 4 spot with **"Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert."** What's left to say about this delightful musical guilty pleasure? Guy Pearce's muscular Felicia is drop dead adorable while Hugo Weaving's Mitzi is totally endearing. Then there's Terence Stamp as the tough-as-nails Bernadette, the proverbial transsexual with a heart of pure gold. With such memorable characters, great songs, fabulous costumes all capped off with a heart-warming ending, who could ask for anything more?

Next up at number 3 is one of Glenn's personal favorites: **"Lilies."** Utilizing a play-within-a-play format, Canadian filmmaker John Greyson tells the story of a Catholic Bishop who goes to men's prison; he thinks to hear an inmate's final confession. Once there he finds himself confronted with a past he's long sought to forget. Passionate, marvelously melodramatic and visually stunning, **"Lilies"** is at once a joyous story of first love as well as a daring quest for revenge and finally, justice.

1999 was a terrific year for Queer Cinema and no film touched the hearts of LGBT moviegoers quite like **"Boys Don't Cry"** which is in at the runner's up spot. Director Kimberly Peirce and Hilary Swank (in an extraordinary and Oscar-winning performance) not only managed to vividly bring to mainstream American moviegoers the short, tragic life of transgendered Brandon Teena but also successfully placed his struggle within the greater context of the universal search for love and acceptance.

How can the top spot not go to **"Beautiful Thing,"** the classic gay coming-of-age film? Based upon Jonathan Harvey's highly successful stage play, **"Beautiful Thing"** tells the simple story of two working-class Brit lads, Jamie and Ste. Unlike friends, Jaime (Glen Berry) is the unpopular boy who hates sports and loves Hollywood musicals. Hunky Ste (Scott Neal) is the just opposite, a top athlete and one of the most admired kids in school. After a particularly brutal beating by his drunken father, Ste finds himself bunking in with Jamie and the rest is Queer Cinema history. So popular was **"Beautiful Thing"** when it was released in 1996, the film had a lengthy theatrical run around the country including at Landmark's Oriental Theatre before record sales on VHS.

Best Films — Year By Year:

1993 **"For a Lost Soldier"** 92 min Director: Roeland Kerbosch
Also in 1993: "Wedding Banquet" "Philadelphia"

1994 **"The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert"** 102 min Director: Stephan Elliott
Also in 1994: "Go Fish" "Tales of the City" "Wild Reeds"

1995 **"When Night is Falling"** 94 min Director: Patricia Rozema
Also in 1995: "Priest" "Jeffrey"

1996 **"Beautiful Thing"** 1996, 90 min Director: Hettie MacDonald
Also in 1996: "Lilies" "Celluloid Closet" "Bound"

1997 **"Bent"** 104 min Director: Sean Mathias
Also in 1997: "Love Valor Compassion" "Fire"

1998 **"Head On"** 104 min Director: Ana Kokkinos
Also in 1998: "It's in the Water" "High Art" "Get Real" "Edge of Seventeen"

1999 **"Boys Don't Cry"** 116 min Kimberly Peirce
Also in 1999: "Trick" "Beefcake" "Better Than Chocolate" "Aimee & Jaguar"

2000 **"Big Eden"** 117 min Director: Thomas Bezucha
Also in 2000: "Just a Question of Love" "Burnt Money" "Sordid Lives" "Billy Elliot" "Before Night Falls" "Broken Hearts Club"

2001 **"Hedwig and the Angry Inch"** 95 min Director: John Cameron Mitchell
Also in 2001: "L.I.E." 2001

2002 **"Yossi & Jagger"** 71 min Director: Eytan Fox
Also in 2002: "Tipping the Velvet" "Far From Heaven"

2003 **"Latter Days"** 107 min Director: C. Jay Cox
Also in 2003: "Angels in America" 2003

2004 **"Brother to Brother"** 90 min Director: Rodney Evans
Also in 2004: "Bear Cub" "Mysterious Skin" "Touch of Pink" "Summer Storm"

2005 **"Brokeback Mountain"** 135 min Director: Ang Lee
Also in 2005: "Unveiled" "Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green"

2006 **"Boy Culture"** 90 min Director: Q. Allan Brocka
Also in 2006: "Line of Beauty" "The Bubble" "The Gymnast"

2007 **"Shelter"** 89 min Director: Jonah Markowitz

Thank You Sir:

by Jeff Hicks

When did we start D/s life?

What were the early clues that we should have recognized? Were they classical physical actions or of a subtler nature. How did you react to being in control of your buddies or their controlling of you? Was it all pretend head games or was it outright aggressive physical actions with others of your gender or while alone thinking about those attractive dudes?

Many of us started far earlier than we might really have thought. Those games like cops & robbers or cowboys & Indians, weren't really as neutral as we thought at the time. Cops and robbers can include guilt feelings about something you were feeling but didn't know how [prohibited] it was or how to describe what it was. At least you knew that it was comfortable to be caught and held or restrained by the others. Then there is cowboys & Indians; There you could be a cowboy and catch the other boys and do what you wanted to them and they had to take it. Or you sometime might be the Indian. Then the cowboys would capture you, tie you up and maybe even strip you naked out in the woods or secret place and keep you for a time in their control. Then sometimes there was the "playing Indian". That was easy, all the boys, while playing out in the woods where they were out of sight of all outsiders, would strip and run around naked for as long as they liked. This would often include much whooping and hollering. It could become a celebration of being openly naked with others. For many boys this was the beginning of becoming a grown guy, not afraid of being undressed in the company of other guys. Even being exhilarated during such times. Some boys later found it a lead in to closer contact with their mates. Many Leathermen who got similar outdoor experiences in early life still prefer outdoor scenes to indoor "dungeon" play spaces.

Then, when some of the boys lost interest, we would play naked in locations where we might be discovered and/or caught "with our pants down". This introduced newer elements. Being caught by a friend who they wanted to play naked with; or by an adult who might catch them and be certain that they would receive corporal punishment for their mis-doings. **THAT** introduces the increase of the physical aspect of the scene. Any boy who has been : caught by the cops; captured by the cowboys; and/or, then paddled by the adults; has now entered the arena of the BDSM community. *He will NOT likely real-*

that !! But, where can he go from there? He needs other like minded and contrary guys to play out his needs with. When he doesn't have a regular friend to do this with when the urge arises, he will simulate the actions others might do to him and self apply those. This can also be spurred on by learning the "Guilt" as taught by the local 'organized' churches. Now he knows he is guilty and so Pursues the infliction of painful experiences upon himself imitating what he perceives others might do to him. This can be great food for fantasies that go well beyond reality. Eventually he will meet someone who has realized what and where the scene is. That is when the reality of who and what he is will hit and the real training will start. That for many Leathermen becomes the True COMING OUT of their lives. All those times they had someone tie them up. (or did the tying up on another guy); Being caught naked; or looking to find the naked guy; They are some of the early signs of being "Into the Scene". But until a self realization occurs or someone spurs it on, most people won't admit to themselves that all those 'funny' things they like to do really "All Add Up". It then often becomes the happiest day of their lives when they realize that they can be their True Selves. And enjoy giving and receiving the dominance and/or submissiveness that they really need. Herein lies the true Leather person. May they pursue the true passion of their lives !!

- boy jeff H. Milwaukee, WI.



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www.lagsdc.org/creamcity

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www.harmonycafe.org
www.myspace.com/harmonycafe

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Milwaukee, WI 53212
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www.mvmchorus.org

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club
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Milw, WI 53222 (414) 616-3716
Moenell@MSN.COM
www.milwaukeetennis.com

Miltown Kings
www.myspace.com/miltownkings

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www.ssblmilwaukee.com

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Lesbian Alliance
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lamm@milwpc.com

Log Cabin Republicans
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membership@lcrwi.com

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www.tccmilw.org

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(414) 299-9198
pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com

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pflagkenosha@aol.com

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kurt@projectq.org
www.projectq.org

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queerprgrm@aol.com
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qzap@qzap.org
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bvgpresident@bvgays.com
www.bvgays.com

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washhtsrainbow@aol.com
www.washingtonheightsrainbow.org

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association
(aka Rainbow Fireflies)
(414) 774-9470
tosarainbow@yahoo.com

Wisconsin LGBT Groups and Organizations

LGBT Social Groups

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The Brunch Club jennieragland@wi.rr.com	Castaways PO BOX 1697 Milwaukee, WI 53202	Great Lakes Harley Riders PO BOX 341611 Milwaukee, WI 53234 bootedhog@aol.com	Rainbow Families c/o PFLAG 315 W Cour Street Milwaukee, WI 53212 mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com

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Appleton service at UCC chapel 724 East South River Drive angelsofhopemcc.org aohmcc@netnet.net 920-983-7453	Lake Park Lutheran Church 2647 N Stowell St Milwaukee, WI 53211 (414) 962-9190 office@lakeparklutheran.com www.lakeparklutheran.com	Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church P.O. Box 1421 (1239 W. Mineral St) Milwaukee, WI 53204 (414) 383-1100 info@queerchurch.org pastor@milmcc.org www.queerchurch.org	Underwood Baptist 1916 N Wauwatosa Ave Wauwatosa, WI 53213 (414) 258-4246 office@underwoodchurch.com www.underwoodchurch.com

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