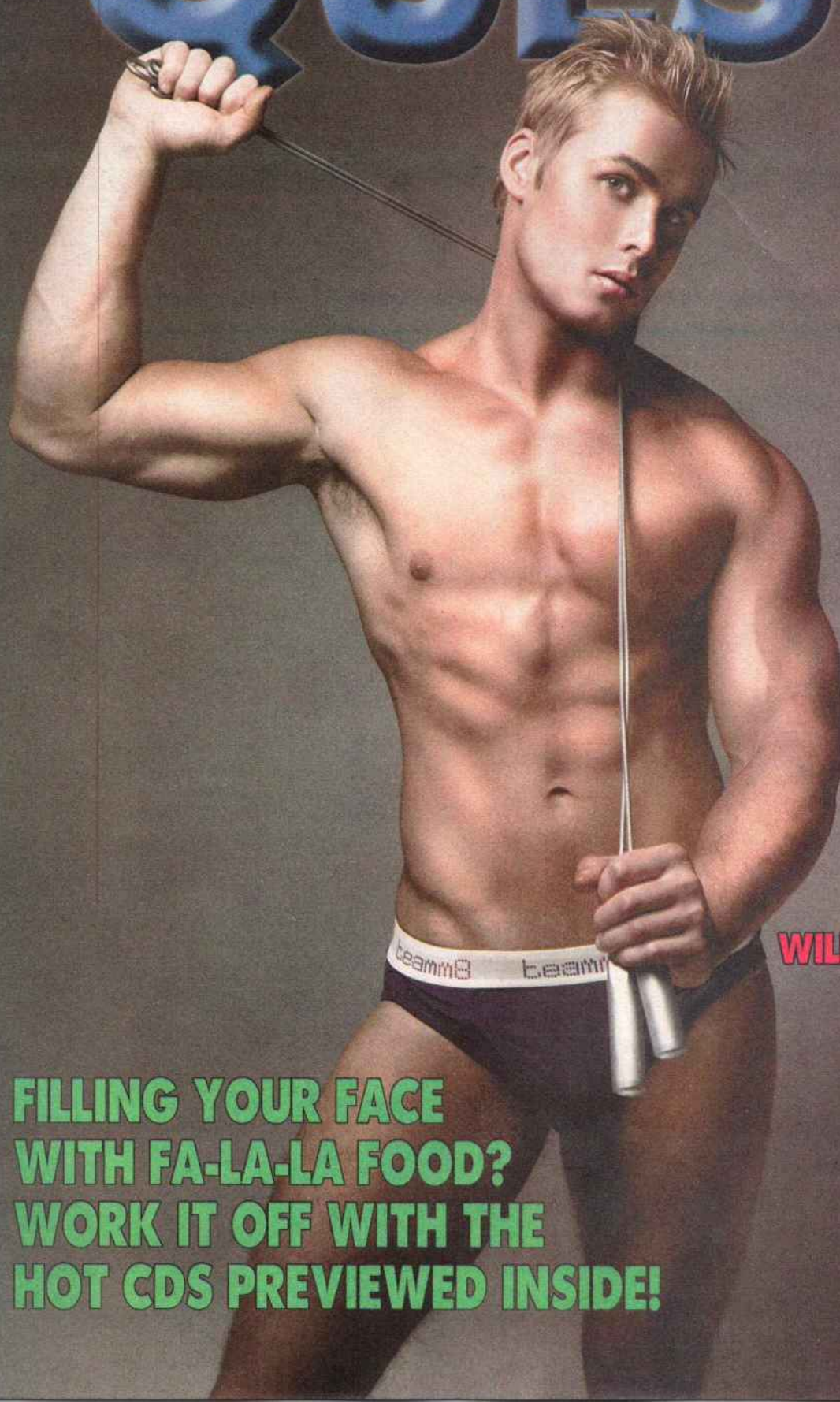


QUEST



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ON THE
COMING GAY
CHALLENGES
WITH HIV/AIDS**

**GLENN CARLSON
ON WISCONSIN'S
GAY ELECTION
VICTORIES**

**WILL MADISON HAVE
TWO GAY PRIDES
IN 2009?**

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POLLS REVEAL: SUPPORT FOR GAY MARRIAGE SOARS

Prop 8 Backers Were Poor And Uneducated

By Mike Fitzpatrick

One month after anti-gay marriage initiatives passed in Arizona, California and Florida and two weeks after over a 100,000 gay couples and allies took to the streets in over 300 U. S. Cities, a funny thing has happened - support for same-sex unions has surged.

A just-released poll by *Newsweek* shows that 55% of respondents favor either marriage or civil unions for same-sex couples. Support for some specific marital rights - family health insurance coverage, Social Security benefits access and hospital visitation among them, now surpass a two-thirds majority.

Americans continue to find civil unions for gay and lesbian couples more acceptable than full-fledged marriage. 55% percent of respondents back legally sanctioned unions or domestic partnerships, while only 39% are okay with marriage. Both figures are notably higher than in 2004, when 40% supported civil unions and 33% were okay with weddings.

Specific legal rights for gay couples revealed even stronger public support. 74% back inheritance rights for gay domestic partners (compared to 60% in 2004), 73% support extending health insurance and other employee benefits (versus 60% in 2004), and 67% favor granting gay couples Social Security benefits (an increase from 55% in 2004). Moreover 86% support hospital visitation rights, a question not asked in earlier *Newsweek* polls.

Public opinion nationally also has shifted against a federal ban on same-sex marriage. In 2004, people were evenly divided on the question, with 47% favoring a constitutional amendment prohibiting gay marriage and 45% opposing one. The current poll shows a scant majority (52%) now oppose a ban and only 43% favor one.

However, people were less inclined to be supportive of marriage in their own back yards. When *Newsweek* asked respondents about their support for a gay marriage ban in their home states, the numbers were closer: 45% said they'd vote in favor of an amendment, while 49% said they'd oppose such a measure.

The *Newsweek* poll found increased support for other gay issue as well. A majority (53%) now favor

gay adoption rights, an 8% in the last four years. Nearly two out of three Americans (66%) also believe that gay men and women should be able to serve openly in the military (6% higher than in 2004).

Age and religion continue to be the driving forces in shaping public opinion on gay issues, the *Newsweek* poll found. Essentially, the younger the respondent, the more likely they were to support same-sex marriage. Just under 50% of those aged 18 to 34 back marriage rights, compared to roughly 40% among those aged 35 to 64 and less than 20% among those 65 and older.

When it came to religion, 62% said doctrinal beliefs shaped their opinions on gay marriage. Two-thirds of those who saw marriage as primarily a legal matter support gay marriage, while two-thirds of those who see marriage as a religious institution opposed gay marriage.

Newsweek also found a gender gap, with women more likely to support gay marriage than men, 44% to 34%. Differences by race were insignificant. 40% of whites approved of gay marriage, compared to 37% of non-whites. (Full poll results are available at newsweek.com)

The minimal difference in views on gay marriage in the *Newsweek* poll results nationally confirmed a post-election poll finding in California: there was little difference in the voting patterns on Proposition 8 among blacks, Latinos and whites. Exit polls on November 4 had suggested African and Hispanic-American voters in California had tipped the close vote there.

According to a voter survey conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) and released December 3, economics and education - not race and ethnicity - were the decisive factors in the Proposition 8 victory.

The key finding in the new survey was that voters' position on Proposition 8 was determined more by their level of education and income than their race or ethnicity, according to PPIC president Mark Baldassare. Among Californians with a high school diploma or less, 69% voted for Proposition 8. Among college

graduates, 57% voted against it.

"Both among whites and non-whites, among college graduates and among upper-income voters, Prop. 8 lost," Baldassare said. "Among both whites and non-whites, among non-college graduates and lower-income voters, Prop 8 won. It seems to me that some of what we attributed to race and ethnic differences really had to do with a socioeconomic divide in regard to same-sex marriage."

Because African-Americans and Latinos tend to have lower incomes and a lower share of college graduates than whites, Baldassare said the racial voting pattern on same-sex marriage was really a reflection of education and income.

Baldassare added it was difficult to say from the polling why people with higher incomes and a college degree tend to support same-sex marriage. "It has to do with exposure to different ideas," Baldassare said. "It's perceptions about lifestyle differences, tolerance for differences, broader view of social trends and issues - all those things tend to come with more education. I didn't really expect to find this (in the survey). I hadn't thought about probing it."

As other polls previously had shown, the PPIC poll also found that Proposition 8 drew overwhelming support from evangelical Christians (85%), robust backing from political conservatives and strong opposition from liberals.

The PPIC survey finding that basically "the poor and the stupid" were the biggest backers of Prop 8 didn't sit well with the measure's supporters. "I think it is true that there is a socioeconomic component to the vote on Prop 8. I also think it's not nearly as clear-cut as perhaps the research is suggesting," Yes On 8 campaign manager Frank Schubert said. Other than an anecdote about a "liberal African American voting for traditional marriage," Schubert offered no statistical support from his group's own polling on the issue to counter the PPIC report.

Portions of interviews with Mark Baldassare and Frank Schubert conducted by Mike Post of the *San Jose Mercury News* were included in this story.

QUEER LIFE CALLS IT QUITS

By Mike Fitzpatrick

Milwaukee - "Thank you Milwaukee, it's been a great 4 Years! We will miss you." With those words in the recently released December issue, the four-year old Milwaukee-based LGBT community monthly *Queer Life* announced its decision to suspend publication indefinitely. Sources close to the paper say lackluster advertising sales and the continuing worsening economic outlook sealed the paper's fate as editor Kate Sherry put the final touches on what became the farewell edition last weekend. *Queer Life's* website had gone dark earlier in November.

"After doing all we could to cut costs, go without, work harder, we just couldn't continue without the funds owed to us by far too many individuals and businesses," Sherry said in a follow-up email sent to contributors, advertisers and community leaders. "We couldn't have lasted this long without the support of those who really do understand the importance of LGBT media in the world. Advertisers, writers, supporters - our gratitude towards them is vast."

Despite the shut down, there already has been some discussion of possibly finding a way to bring the paper back to life in the future - if financial backing could be arranged. "It all boils down to commitment from advertisers," *Queer Life* production coordinator J. Harvey said.

According to Sherry, community response to the shut down and to her efforts has been heart warming. "I've received a tremendous amount of support from the community, so who knows," she told *Quest*. "Maybe this is just a vacation."

Sherry had actually already planned a winter getaway. "I'm off to Mexico this

weekend," she said. "(I'm) going to photograph everything in sight, so I am pretty excited about that. (It) will be good to rejuvenate as well!"

Initially helmed by the flamboyant self-promoter Don Hoffman, *Queer Life* made its colorful splash onto the Wisconsin gay print media scene in December 2004 with a 48-page issue filled with columns and "Q features." A competing second newspaper, *Outbound News*, also made its debut the same week. However, the smaller publication, which had little locally-produced editorial content, folded six months later.

During Hoffman's tenure, the paper's news coverage had a tabloid feel, with stories about bar raids, evictions and the notorious "Naked Boys Singing" imbroglio gracing the paper's covers. Much of *Queer Life's* early design was credited to former Wisconsin *IN Step* publisher William "Bill" Attewell, who later left the publication after a skirmish with Hoffman.

Queer Life suspended publication for several months in 2006 following Hoffman's negotiated resignation. The paper's re-emergence under Kate Sherry revealed a "kinder, gentler" version of the monthly. *Queer Life* continued to offer its rich diversity of feature columns along with insightful cover stories about Milwaukee's gay history, artists and landmarks mixed with issue-oriented pieces on gay runaways and living in the closet.

Queer Life's departure winnows Wisconsin's gay print media imprints down to three: the two year-old Madison-focused glossy *Our Lives*, published every other month; the seven year-old monthly, Milwaukee-centric, gay night life-focused *Outbound*; and the twice-monthly statewide gay news and entertainment news-magazine *Quest*, now in its 15th year of uninterrupted publication - a gay Wisconsin media record. The latter two titles are published by Za's Publications.

World & National News: EPISCOPAL CHURCH SCHISM EXPANDS

North America - Hundreds of conservative Episcopal congregations in North America have formed a breakaway church that threatens to further divide the global Anglican body already torn by the ordination of openly gay bishop Eugene Robinson. Leaders of the churches and splinter groups who claim they represent 100,000 Christians, adopted the provisional constitution December 3 to govern their new province. Anglican Church in North America spokespersons said that they took the extraordinary step to unify congregations and dioceses that had fled the American Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada over issues of Scripture. The 700 renegade churches, located mostly in the southern and west central regions of the United States had already expressed their displeasure by placing themselves under the jurisdiction of Anglican leaders in vast, self-governing foreign provinces.

The dispute, which has prompted numerous lawsuits over church property, focuses on the role of gay and lesbian members in church life. The breakaway churches acted after being urged to do so by mostly third-world conservative Anglican leaders. At an Anglican global conference in Jerusalem last summer, those bishops had called for the creation of a new independent North American province.

To gain official recognition, the new province must still get approval from two-thirds of the 38 provincial leaders who represent 77 million Anglicans worldwide. If approved, it would be the first such province based on theology, not geography, a dramatic departure from Anglican policy.

Leaders of the 2.1-million-member Episcopal Church in North America were uncertain about its effect on existing church bodies. "We will not predict what will or will not come out of this meeting but simply continue to be clear that the Episcopal Church, along with the Anglican Church of Canada and La Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico, comprise the official, recognized presence of the Anglican Communion in North America," Rev. Charles Robertson, advisor to the Episcopal Church's presiding bishop, said in a statement.

Four Episcopal dioceses - in California, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Texas - are spearheading the creation of the province. The dioceses, along with individual churches, had already taken steps to distance themselves from the North American Episcopal Church in recent years. Some parishes declared that they had placed themselves under the jurisdiction of overseas conservative bishops. Others had aligned themselves with the Argentina-based Anglican Church of the Southern Cone of America. That alignment would no longer be necessary if the churches created their own province.

It was unclear whether the Anglican Communion or its leader, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, would agree to such a step.

The conservative move comes five years after the Episcopal Church consecrated New Hampshire's Robinson as its first openly gay bishop. Most involved in the breakaway province cite that event as the catalyst that drove conservatives away.

FLORIDA'S GAY ADOPTION BAN RULES UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Miami - A Florida law that blocks gay people from adopting children is unconstitutional, a Miami judge ruled here November 25, declaring there was no legal or scientific reason for sexual orientation alone to prohibit anyone from adopting.

Circuit Judge Cindy Lederman said the 31-year-old law violates equal protection rights for the children and their prospective gay parents, rejecting the state's arguments that there is "a supposed dark cloud hovering over homes of homosexuals and their children." Lederman noted that gay people are allowed to be foster parents in Florida. "There is no rational basis to prohibit gay parents from adopting," she wrote in a 53-page ruling.

Florida had been the only state with an outright ban on gay adoption. Arkansas voters recently approved a measure similar to a law in Utah that bans any unmarried straight or gay couples from adopting or fostering children. Mississippi bans gay couples, but not single gay men and women, from adopting.

The ruling means that Martin Gill, 47, and his male partner can adopt two brothers, ages 4 and 8, whom he has cared for as foster children since December 2004. "I've never seen myself as less than anybody else," Gill said. "We're very grateful. Today, I've cried the first tears of joy in my life."

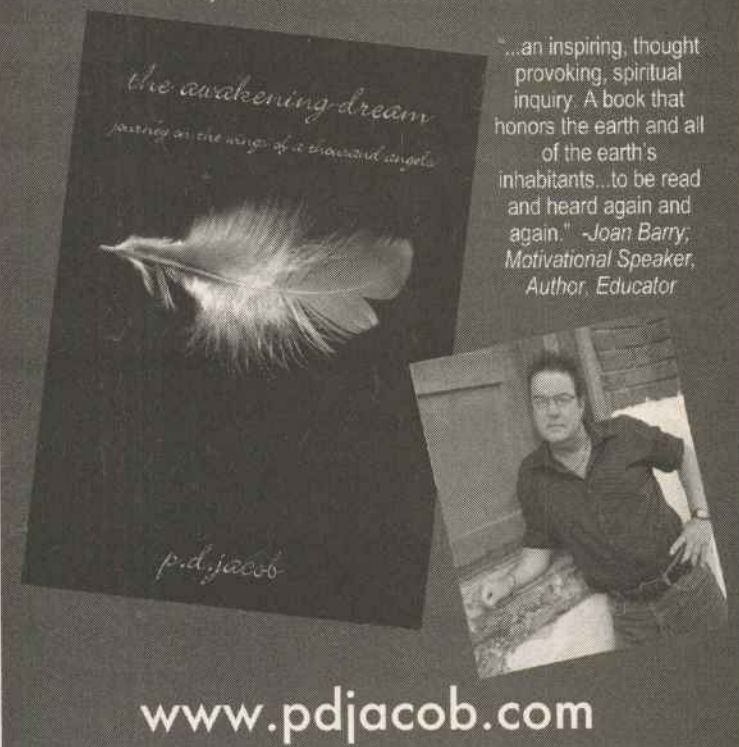
Attorneys for the American Civil Liberties Union, who represented Gill, said the case was the first in the nation in which numerous experts in child psychology, social work and other fields testified that there is no science to justify a gay adoption ban.

The state planned a swift appeal, likely setting up a battle that could reach

Local, gay author book release:

THE AWAKENING DREAM - JOURNEY ON THE WINGS OF A THOUSAND ANGELS

By: Paul "Cricket" Jacob



"...an inspiring, thought provoking, spiritual inquiry. A book that honors the earth and all of the earth's inhabitants...to be read and heard again and again." -Joan Barry, Motivational Speaker, Author, Educator

www.pdjacob.com

the Florida Supreme Court. A judge in gay-friendly Key West also found the law unconstitutional in September, but that ruling has not been appealed and has limited legal reach. The law will remain in effect during the appeal process.

The state claimed there was a higher incidence of drug and alcohol abuse among gay couples, that they were more unstable than heterosexual unions and that the children of gay couples suffer a societal stigma. Organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association and American Psychiatric Association all support permitting same-sex couples to adopt.

Lederman rejected all the state's arguments soundly. "It is clear that sexual orientation is not a predictor of a person's ability to parent," she wrote. "A child in need of love, safety and stability does not first consider the sexual orientation of his parent. The exclusion causes some children to be deprived of a permanent placement with a family that is best suited to their needs."

MOSCOW MAYOR: "GAY PARADES CAUSE AIDS!"

Moscow - Moscow authorities will continue to ban gay parades to prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS, the Russian capital's outspoken mayor said on December 4, according to a report published by the Russian news agency Novosti.

"We have banned and will continue to forbid this propaganda by sexual minorities, as they could turn out to be one of the factors in the spread of HIV infections," Yuri Luzhkov said at an international HIV/AIDS conference. "Certain homegrown democrats believe that sexual minorities can be a primary indicator and symbol of democracy, but we will forbid the dissemination of these opinions in the future as well."

The 72 year-old Luzhkov, who has been Moscow's mayor since 1992, said he was aware that the authorities will be criticized for their stance, but added that "each particular society has its own views."

The Russian mayor also claimed at the conference that condoms were not a reliable means of protection against HIV and AIDS. "Certain manufacturers state that condoms are reliable protection against AIDS, but modern science has proven this is untrue," he said.

Over the past three years, the Moscow city authorities have rejected official applications by organizers seeking permission to hold gay parades, on the grounds that the event would interfere with the rights and everyday lives of ordinary Muscovites.

Luzhkov previously had branded gay parades "Satanic" and vowed that they will never be permitted in the capital.

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE EXEC FACES CHARGES IN GAY SEX STING

Cincinnati - The chief financial officer of Cincinnati Christian University entered a written plea of not guilty December 1 after he was arrested November 29 in Mount Airy Forest and charged with sexual imposition.

52 year-old Robert Williams was arrested and accused of getting into a man's car and touching his genitals. The man was an undercover officer.

The university placed Williams on administrative leave while officials there assess the facts of the case, according to a statement from the university.

"We are shocked and dismayed by the news," Cincinnati Christian University President David Faust said in the statement. "This is a personal tragedy for him and for his family, and we lift them up in our prayers."

WANT TO WIN A GAY OSCAR? DIE HORRIBLY!

Los Angeles - There's good news for Sean Penn fans (or haters, for that matter). At the end of *Milk* you'll get to watch your hero get gruesomely blown away by gunfire.

Sorry, but that seems to be the price Penn must pay if he wants to win another Oscar. That's because the gay roles that win Academy Awards for actors almost always must suffer ghastly deaths. No star has ever won an Oscar for portraying a gay, lesbian or transgender person who lives happily ever after.

The character of Truman Capote (Philip Seymour Hoffman) gets to live, at the end of *Capote*, but then again fans of the author - including many Academy members - also knew that he ended up croaking from booze and pills while stumbling around Joanne Carson's house in Beverly Hills years later.

The five other Oscar-winning gay roles each had horrible ends on screen: Tom Hanks died of AIDS in *Philadelphia*, Hilary Swank got beaten to death in *Boys Don't Cry*, Nicole Kidman committed suicide in *The Hours*, Charlize Theron was executed in *Monster*, and William Hurt got shot - much like Sean Penn - in *Kiss of the Spider Woman*.

If not counting roles that just hint at a character's homosexuality (Paul Newman in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* or Tom Courtenay in *The Dresser*), a total of 28 gay, lesbian and transgender roles have been nominated for Oscars.

Nine got killed. Some snuffed themselves: Kathy Bates used a pistol in *Primary Colors*; Ian McKellen

drowned himself in *Gods and Monsters*; Ed Harris jumped out a window in *The Hours*; and Javier Bardem died of AIDS in *Before Night Falls*.

Of course, the fact that Sean Penn happens to be heterosexual in real life hikes his Oscar hopes significantly. No gay person has ever won an Academy Award for playing gay, and only two openly-gay actors have been nominated for portraying a gay character: James Coco and Ian McKellen. Coco wasn't officially and fully "out" of the closet, but he was candid about his private life to friends and colleagues, and was at times outrageously flamboyant in public.

State News: DOMESTIC PARTNER REGISTRY BEGINS IN DANE COUNTY

Madison - Dane County residents can officially register their domestic partnerships with the county. The new registry became available on December 1.

The domestic-partnership registry was approved when the Dane County Board passed an ordinance establishing the program last September. According to the ordinance, companies working for the county on contracts worth at least \$5,000 must offer health benefits to their employees' domestic partners, whether of they are same or opposite sex couples.

Domestic partners must be in a committed relationship for at least 90 days to qualify for registration, which costs \$35. Partners who register and later break up have to notify the county clerk and all benefits providers that the relationship has ended.

Dane county offers similar domestic partner benefits to its own employees.

SAGE/MILWAUKEE ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON SET

Milwaukee - SAGE will continue its long-standing tradition on Sunday, December 14, by holding its annual Holiday Luncheon. The event will begin at Noon at the Astor Hotel, 924 E Juneau Ave. here.

Tickets for SAGE Members are \$22 each, and \$27 for nonmembers. Menu selections for this year's event include Lemon Breast of Chicken, Roasted Pork Loin, Beef Tenderloin Tips and a vegetarian entree. RSVPs are needed with entrée selection and payment to SAGE/Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220. For more information or low income sponsorship, phone 414-224-0517.

"WARM FOR THE HOLIDAYS" DRIVE BENEFITS PWAS

La Crosse - The LGBT Resource Center for the 7

Rivers Region is currently sponsoring a donation drive to benefit the more than sixty individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS served by the La Crosse office of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. The Center is asking volunteer to donate blankets, cocoa, and coffee. Donors are asked to drop off their donations by December 12 at the Center, 303 Pearl Street. Center staff hope to be able to provide a blanket, cocoa and coffee for each family.

"La Crosse and the surrounding area is full of wonderful people working to make the world a better place, Center Director Roseanne St. Sauver said. "Let's come together and make the holidays warmer and make a donation to this drive. Together we can make the holidays a little more warm and cozy!"

For more information about the drive, contact the Center at 608-784-0452.

MADISON PRIDE EVENT SET FOR AUGUST BUT IS IT ONE OF TWO?

Madison - Wisconsin's gay pride season may seem a world away in the cold and snowy depths of December, but in Madison plans are afoot for what appears to be two competing pride events a month apart.

In an email sent on December 5, Wisconsin Capitol Pride announced the date and location of Pride 2009. The Capitol Pride celebration will be held on Willow Island at the Alliant Energy Center on August 15-16, 2009.

The email also announced a committee meeting for December 10 from 6-8 PM at the Madison Public Library - Hawthorne Branch, 2707 E Washington Avenue. The group also recently announced the debut of its website at: www.wisconsinpride.org and a phone contact number at: 608-224-2328.

Since the announced date was not only a month after Madison's traditional pride weekend but also conflicts with other western Wisconsin pride events, Quest sought information from the website of the group that has put together previous mid-July prides. That website - madisonpride.org - is currently inactive but remains valid and "parked" at the web hosting firm godaddy.com.

However a second site, billing itself as Madison Pride (located at: madisonpride.net), suggests it will be hosting the MAGIC picnic on its traditional mid-July date.

Quest was unable to resolve the Madison Pride puzzle as of this publishing deadline, but will continue to report as the story develops.

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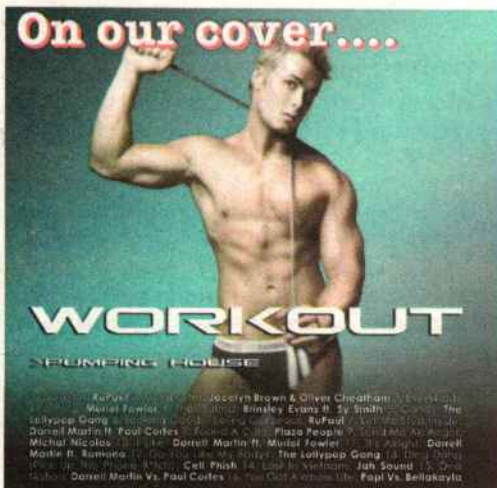
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On our cover....



Personal trainer and model Vinny Gough was chosen for the cover of **WORKOUT: PUMPING HOUSE**, the upcoming house music compilation for New Year's fitness "resolutionistas". The 2-disc set features 16 heart-pumping tracks and includes a 7-day Guest Pass to Bally Total Fitness.

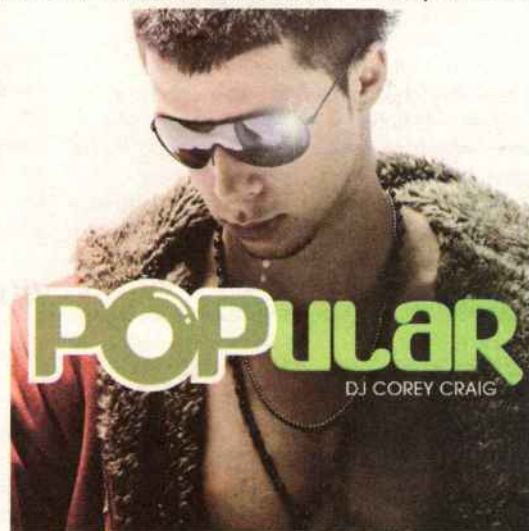
WORKOUT: PUMPING HOUSE includes a new remix of RuPaul's "Looking Good, Feeling Gorgeous"; "Everybody Rise Pt. 2" featuring dance legend, Muriel Fowler; the Michal Nicolas cover of old-school hit "Send Me An Angel", remixed by top DJ/producer Georgie Porgie "Mindbuster" from "The First Lady of House Music," Jocelyn Brown and the title track, "Workout", a remake of the Frankie Knuckles dance classic, with vocals by RuPaul and backup vocals by Chris Willis.

This CD could be that dependable "workout buddy" you've been trying to find. **WORKOUT: PUMPING HOUSE** (Uphonic Records) will be available everywhere January 6th including **OUTWORDS BOOKS** in Milwaukee.

EAR CANDY: "POPULAR" PUMPS PERFECTLY PITCHED POP TUNES

Review by Mike Fitzpatrick

POPular - DJ Corey Craig (Centaur Entertainment/Power Music) When reviewing an earlier Centaur dance disc last August I pointed out that the "sound alike" music phenomenon has been around for decades, dating back to *Your Hit Parade* and 50's budget label compilations. However it truly was most successfully reinvented with the Studio 54 era practice of creating disco remakes of every pop, country and even classical tune known to man.



Over the last 10 years Centaur Music, a gay dance music label, perfected the formula of mixing several doppelgänger ditties with a few genuine club hits into seamless hour-long mixes perfect for personal partying. Now Centaur's new partnership with Power Music has taken the dance remake concept to it's ultimate conclusion - all sound-alikes all the time. If you're a gym bunny, you likely have heard Power Music's nonstop, beat-matched programming as the ambient background at your local workout spot when you've popped your ear plugs long enough to take a break from the Madonna medley on your iPod.

Centaur and Power Music's collaboration will result in a series of discs called **POPular**. Current plans call for six releases to be issued every other month during 2009, featuring gay DJ's from around the country. However, the debut CD has just dropped into stores and iTunes for sale and download and it's a doozy. The mixing is by New York's DJ Corey Craig, already well known for his podcasts on iTunes, his crowded dance floors on Fire Island, his trendy play dates at clubs such as Ono, as well as his gigs overseas on London's dance floors.

WISCONSIN'S ENTERTAINERS GATHER TO TAKE APPLETON BY STORM!!!

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The song stack reads like a recent *Billboard* chart: six reached #1 and four more reached #2 on either the Hot 100 or Dance lists. In fact, four of the songs - Katy Perry's "Hot N Cold," Pink's "So What," "Lady GaGa's "Just Dance" and Britney Spears' "Womanizer" - are currently in this week's Top 10. Not including DJ Corey's signature tune - a thumping remake of Andrew Gold's *Golden Girls* theme "Thank You For Being A Friend" - the oldest song on the disc is Natasha Bedingfield's "Pocketful of Sunshine" which dates from that misty, bygone era of last summer's PrideFest.

Even purists will have a hard time telling *POPular*'s faceless vocalists from the genuine article. Gay satiric sensibility lurks among the monikers assigned to each performer: Pink's imitator is called Party Girl, Madonna's sound-alike is known by her British nickname Madge, and Britney's stand-in is dubbed Miss Mess.

Many of *POPular*'s Hi-NRG arrangements also copy the dance floor versions of the originals, versions that are often unavailable commercially for club goers wanting to make them their own. And with nonstop sequencing, *POPular* is a seventy-plus minute set for their next private party.

Best of all, the price is right to collect so many current song in one place as well, with the download coming in at under ten bucks. So if you're looking for an energizing hour of sing-along hits perfect for your next workout, road trip or private dancing, check out *POPular*, available at Amazon.com iTunes, or directly from DigiComps at: popular.soundpost.com.

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ELECTION 2008: WISCONSIN CHOSE FAIRNESS

First Of A Two-Part Interview With Fair Wisconsin's Glenn Carlson

Interview by Mike Fitzpatrick

For for the casual viewer of gay civil rights issues in Wisconsin, the 2008 election may have seemed to be a repeat of 2006: more Democrats elected but more slaps to the face on same-sex marriage. Those viewers were right, but not for the reasons they may have suspected. The gay ballot measures happened in other states, while the most promising development - something credited to gay community organizing in the mid-term vote two years ago - continued with historic results. Gay activist participation and collaboration - much of it behind the scenes - has helped bring about a political climate change that may result in the melting of barriers to full equality not just in the next two years, but for a decade or more to come.

Quest's news editor Mike Fitzpatrick recently sat down with the head of Wisconsin's statewide LGBT civil rights organization, Fair Wisconsin Executive Director Glenn Carlson, for an interview that will be published in two parts, with the latter half set for the January 22 issue. In part one below, Carlson reflects on the recent election and the role Fair Wisconsin played in the statewide race, something which for strategic reasons has not been publicized - until now.

Quest: While many Americans may see the Barack Obama win last November as a victory for diversity, those in LGBT community also learned that success didn't extend to them with the losses in Arizona, California and Florida. However, that wasn't exactly true in Wisconsin, was it?

Carlson: On November 4th we had great success in Wisconsin in electing pro-fairness candidates. The election gave Wisconsin strong pro-fairness leadership in both the State Senate and the State Assembly. With our strongly pro-fairness Governor, we will have an historic opportunity to move our state forward towards equality for our LGBT citizens. We can finally fight for positive change instead of defending against negative legislation.

Quest: How was Fair Wisconsin involved in the electoral battle? Do you think Fair Wisconsin did a good job in communicating this involvement to its supporters?

Carlson: Fair Wisconsin was heavily involved in this election, in fact, it was our single biggest initiative in 2008. We knew that to have any chance of moving LGBT rights forward in Wisconsin, we needed to have pro-fairness majorities in both houses of the State Legislature. To achieve this, we developed a combination strategy that involved both visible and behind-the-scenes activities.

Fair Wisconsin interviewed over 20 targeted legislative candidates, identified key races, and had paid staff on ten college campuses across the state, defending four

first-term incumbents and supporting nine challengers. Our efforts helped to add five pro-fairness legislators to the State Assembly and protect a pro-fairness majority in the State Senate. Some of these efforts were made public, like our campus organizing efforts, while other work we did remained behind-the-scenes.

Our goal was to maximize our effectiveness by making public endorsements where we felt it was appropriate, like Barack Obama, and by helping state legislative candidates quietly, as we did with the over 20 candidates our PAC privately endorsed.

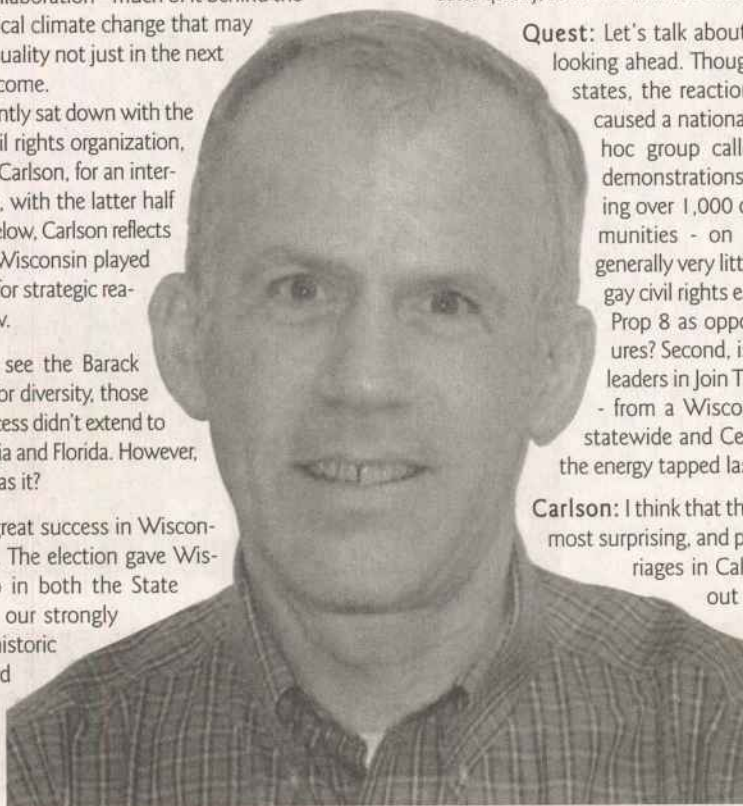
Quest: Let's talk about the gay losses last November before looking ahead. Though gay marriage initiatives lost in three states, the reaction to the California Proposition 8 loss caused a national response, much of it created by an ad hoc group called Join the Impact. Americans saw demonstrations in over 300 cities nationwide - including over 1,000 demonstrating in over Wisconsin communities - on November 15. However, there was generally very little involvement by the national and state gay civil rights establishment. First, why the response to Prop 8 as opposed to the Arizona and Florida measures? Second, is there a message to our gay civil rights leaders in Join The Impact's massive mobilization? Third - from a Wisconsin standpoint - can Fair Wisconsin statewide and Center Advocates regionally benefit from the energy tapped last November 15, and, if so, how?

Carlson: I think that the outcome of California's Prop 8 was the most surprising, and perhaps the toughest blow because marriages in California had been taking place throughout the summer and fall. It was a heartbreaking loss, but what is important to remember is that all these states made tremendous strides in building coalitions and convincing voters of the justice of our cause.

In California alone, a 2000 anti-fairness ballot initiative passed with 22%.

On November 4th, it passed by only 4%. This 18% change in only 8 years means that our efforts ARE working. The outpouring of anti-Prop 8 emotion from across the country was in my mind indicative of how many people are lining up to continue the fight, and Wisconsin will certainly benefit from mobilizing that energy to create real change here at home.

Carlson demurred on getting into specifics for publication in this issue of Quest at this point in the interview. He requested an "appropriate delay" as much of what is to come is still in the nascent stages of development. We agreed. Look for the conclusion of this interview in the January 22 issue.



ROOTIN-TOOTIN' HIGH-FALUTIN' TALENT PARADE RINGS OUT 2008

Milwaukee - A benefit dinner and talent show will help gay Milwaukee close out 2008. The "Rootin-Tootin' High-Falutin' Talent Parade" will be held on Tuesday, December 30, beginning at 5 PM at Plymouth Church, 2717 E Hampshire, on the city's northeast side.

The evening will start with a spaghetti dinner, including salad, garlic bread, and dessert. Wine will also be available for separate purchase. After the meal, the church stage will come alive as local residents "strut their stuff" in acts of all types. While some of last year's acts may be reprised, new acts being considered are those of comedians Laurel and Hardy, musical numbers from "The Sound of Music," vaudeville humor, and Johnny Carson's "Karnac." Proceeds from the evening will benefit SAGE/Milwaukee. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling the SAGE office at 414-224-0517.

CREAM CITY CHORUS WINTER CONCERT DECEMBER 13

Milwaukee - The Cream City Chorus will present its winter concert, "One World: Dare to Dream," on Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W North Ave., in suburban Brookfield.

Under the musical direction of Kristen L. Weber, the chorus musically will celebrate the month of December. No other month evokes more thoughts of unity and peace in the world's dominant religions. Celebrate with us as we sing our hope that we can truly become "One World."

Tickets are \$15 each and available through chorus members or by calling 414-276-8787.

HIV/AIDS: It's Still Our Problem

By Bea Green

Editor's Note: Beatrice C. "Bea" Green, PhD has been involved with HIV/AIDS issues since the beginning of the epidemic. She was a contract administrator with the Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Family Services AIDS/HIV Program and was responsible for distributing all prevention funding to AIDS services organizations such as ARCW, AIDS Network and their predecessors. Green took an early retirement in 1999, subsequently starting a non-profit through which she now focuses on senior LGBT issues. Quest is pleased to add Bea to our expanding list of statewide contributors.

For some time now Doug Nelson, CEO at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, has been saying that the fastest growing need at ARCW's offices is for mental health services. I've wondered why, and why now? The September issue of GMHC's Treatment Issues suggests an answer. The population of people living with HIV is getting older.

Since the introduction of triple combination therapy [HAART] in 1996, HIV has become a manageable although chronic disease for most. We no longer speak of people dying from AIDS but of people living with HIV infection. As medical science continues to prolong life there is more time to consider the quality of that life. Moreover, as the clock ticks, once again HIV+ individuals must cope with questions of death, dying and their own immortality. In a population where only about forty percent practice a religious faith, the demands for psychological support are increasingly being made to mental health practitioners and HIV primary care physicians.

tioners and HIV primary care physicians.

Over the next decade the majority of people living with HIV will be seniors. In June 2007 New York City, the epicenter of the HIV epidemic, allocated a million dollars to HIV education and prevention information for older adults. Already nearly one third of all New Yorkers living with HIV are over 50 and 70 percent are over 40.

Just "reaching" this population presents formidable challenges. It is now necessary to re-construct HIV infection as a chronic disease and overcome the ageist stereotypes that view seniors as harmless celibates. Meanwhile the health care system, social support networks, and our own communities are ill prepared for the increase in demands they are already beginning to experience.

A 2006 study by ACRIA looked at health needs that are associated with advancing age or are exacerbated by age in the context of the complex psychological and social issues that affect LGBT older adults.

The great unknown is with respect to co-morbidity, for example, with adult onset diabetes, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, cancer, dementia and mental illness. How will these illnesses manifest in a HIV positive population? What may be the interactions between/among drug treatment regimens?

With increasing age the immune system's competence naturally declines. People living with HIV are more susceptible to infection and for more serious complications with other disease. For example, research has found that older adults living with HIV

are more prone to depression [52 %], arthritis and hepatitis [31%], neuropathy [30%], hypertension [27%].

The psychosocial implications for an aging gay population are significant too. Informal care giving, that is relying on families, friends and social services is critical at this stage of life. However for LGBT people, social networks may already be fragile and family members may be unwilling to accept responsibility as caregivers. In studies done over the last decade here in Milwaukee, researchers found a recurring pattern. Many respondents reported that they had been or currently were caregivers yet they seriously wondered who would take care of them when they came to need assistance.

Older adults living with HIV are often marginalized by ageism and neglected. Therefore they lack necessary social support. While health care providers may be insensitive to their unique and changing needs.

Men and women living with HIV still experience stigma and shame. They do not readily disclose an HIV diagnosis to family members, 50%, and even fewer, 35%, tell friends or coworkers that they are positive.

AIDS Service Organizations are not going to be able to retool themselves fast enough to meet these challenges. Health care providers need to increase their knowledge of age-related illnesses and be sensitive to potential complications in their treatment of patients with HIV. HIV+ adults must empower themselves and be prepared to engage their health care providers, public health, with their needs and concerns.

They must feel safe to be out to family and friends. More collaboration and mainstreaming is necessary.

ARCW MEDICAL CENTER

Wisconsin's Largest Provider of HIV Health Care

The ARCW Medical Center is at the forefront of HIV health care. Our physicians, dentists and mental health therapists offer the most advanced treatment plans with state-of-the-art technology in a patient-friendly environment. They are dedicated to helping you understand your treatment options so you receive the care that is best for you. Patients may also receive legal services, housing assistance, nutritious food and case management from ARCW's comprehensive social service programs.

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How can we care for each other as we age? How the LGBT community answers that question will ultimately define who we are.

SAGE - AARP Conference On Aging New York, 2008

Below is a summary of the symposia, workshops, and roundtable discussions. Be a part of the opportunity to attend during the recent SAGE-AARP conference.

HIV Positive and Over 50: This demographic makes up 27% of the population of people living with HIV. In this symposium the presenters discussed the differences between LGBTs and heterosexuals with respect to health and co-morbidities, social supports, and spirituality.

HIV and Aging: A roundtable discussion about gender, HIV and aging, physical and psychosocial realities, the need for public health messages to raise awareness. What are the issues for those working with HIV+ individuals? How can research inform our understanding of HIV+ men's lives? What is/should be the role of public health in addressing these issues?

LGBT Older Adults and Substance Abuse Issues: Research on substance abuse has not addressed substance use in older LGBT populations.

Eldersexual! Offered a look at a new HIV Prevention Program at GMHC targets Gay and Bisexual men over 50. This Symposium showcased messages and materials from a social marketing campaign to increase HIV awareness in among older sexually active Gay/Bisexual men.

Caregiving Needs and Practices: This session offered results from an ongoing study in New York.

HIV Awareness for Senior Services Providers: Four programs were discussed by AIDS Community Research Initiative of America [ACRIA], GMHC, and representatives from two Public Health Departments.

Experiences of LGB People: Associations With Health and Well Being research findings on health and mental health. Presenters discussed the methodology, barriers to accessing care, identifying gaps in our knowledge. Suggested how to reduce disparities in health services between LGBT and heterosexual populations.

HIV Services for LGBT Elders: This two-part program offered a look at the HIV Services for people over 50 at SAGE-New York, which included support groups, community partnering, providing technical assistance and training. It also provided an overview of medical concerns of the aging HIV+ client, discussing medical management issues for people over 50, and how living with HIV and HIV treatment may exacerbate other illness.

Sexual Culture of Gay and Bisexual Men: This two part-session looked at "Understanding the Culture and Experiences of Gay and Bisexual Men and Aging as the Foundation for Sexual Health Education and Risk Reduction" with an intent to increase behavioral awareness and promote change. Secondly, "An Identity Crisis: Differentiating the Gay Man's Experience of Proactive Prostate Cancer Treatments" was a workshop about prostate cancer, how treatment interferes with men's sexual arousal, its unique impact on gay men.

Tending to the Needs of Older Adults with HIV/AIDS: The first session addressed support for HIV positive adults in long term care, the challenges and the need for education for primary care physicians. The second session offered "Working Together: A Community Response to Addressing HIV/AIDS in Older Urban Communities," a training initiative with a model of collaborative community partnership.

Gay, Bisexual, and Questioning Men - Midlife and Looking Ahead: How HIV in men over 60 affects their health and outlook on life.

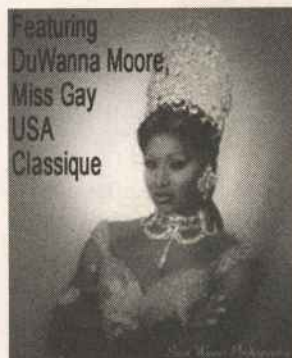
January 17 - 8 p.m.

Miss Gay Wisconsin USA Unlimited

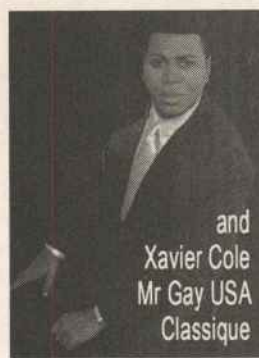
Mr. Gay Wisconsin USA Classique

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and
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Jennifer Alyce, Miss Gay Wisconsin Unlimited '08 &
Jennifer Hollandaise, Miss Gay Wisc Classique '08
Kurtis Ryan, Mr. Gay Wisconsin USA '08

With special guests Ashley Adams, Miss Gay United States & Eric Rainbow, Mr. Gay USA

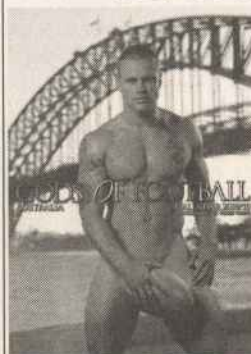
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Brian Reinkober the Commissioner of the Saturday Softball Beer League/Gay World Series 2009 sits down with Michael Johnston for a simple chalk talk. Brian is a jock with a brain, heart, soul – and a keen sense for marketing. Applause to him and his winning Team for putting Milwaukee into our Nation's spotlight. Here now Brian's thoughts on the up coming Social Event of 2009.

Michael Johnston: Congratulations first-off Brian to You, and your hard-working Staff. What can Wisconsin do now to help in this overwhelming undertaking?

Brain Reinkober: Thank you very much Michael. This is a victory not only for the Gay Community but also for the city of Milwaukee. Let me just remind everyone that Madison also won the bid to host the Women's Division at the same time. Now we need to spread the word, to our family and friends that do not live in Milwaukee what this city is going to put on over the week prior to Labor Day 2009. That is an awesome volunteer base. The success of this venture will take the entire Community, not just the Gay Bar Owners, Softball Players and their Fans. The benefit will come back to us ten fold.

M.J.: Besides directly getting involved as a volunteer, what does the calendar look like between now and the Gay World Series? Are there any Special Events coming up that the Community can participate in?

B.R.: NAGAAAFest 2009 will have many Special Events throughout the remainder of 2008 and into 2009. Parties, Promos, and Fundraisers (of course) will be held periodically. We have a great Events Committee that promises to keep us well informed and well entertained over the upcoming months.

M.J.: What has been the biggest challenge for you in this Olympic pursuit?

B.R.: Wow, Olympic pursuit... When you put it in those terms it puts a whole new perspective on this event. This is the largest single Gay Sporting Event that Milwaukee has put on - ever! The biggest challenge is to make sure that this is the best possible event for everyone involved and to make sure that everyone has a fantastic time.

M.J.: Who are the People, and/or Businesses you would like to specifically acknowledge for going beyond the call of duty?

B.R.: Already, there have been so many people that have stepped up to the plate. Without naming anyone or place specifically, let me say that many bars have stepped up to support this

venture. Those owners are committed to making this event larger than life. Obviously, the NAGAAAFest Planning Committee has been working their tails off this past summer creating the framework for NAGAAAFest. Without their commitment, this task would be even more daunting than it already is. Also, SSBL's Miller Park Crew has had an amazing year. Without their very hard work, many of the things that we have in store for Milwaukee and the rest of North America would not be attainable. Lastly, I think we all need to thank Tommy Salzsieder (who by the way was a Miller Park Worker) and his Crew from 1977. He and many others came up with the idea of SSBL. If it were

not for them, we most likely would not be here, so thank you Tommy!

M.J.: How is Milwaukee seen by NAGAA and the World at large? How do they rank/rate us, here in Milwaukee, WI?

B.R.: What a great question. As you may or may not know Milwaukee is an Original Founding Member of NAGAAA. "Little" Milwaukee, Wisconsin was way ahead of its years when it formed NAGAAA along with the other founding members: New York City, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Toronto, Ontario. We hold a special place in NAGAAA, I can tell you that. I am very proud to be the Milwaukee Representative for SSBL at the NAGAAA meetings. We are looked upon (and always have been) as "The little city that could". Many a person has come up to me and our committee members at the NAGAAA meetings and have exclaimed how excited they are for 2009 to come around. The personality of the committee members that participated in the bid in February, and the reputation of the Dairyland Classic, has given those folks solid reason to know they will get quite a show from Milwaukee.

M.J.: In all the World Series you have attended and took part in which was the most memorable, and why?

B.R.: That's an easy question. The most memorable World Series in my brief tenure is the World Series in Phoenix, Arizona in 2007. The

Milwaukee Kosmos took 2nd Place and were in the Championship Game. Hearing everyone cheering for us in the stands against Atlanta was truly a memory that I will hold onto for quite a long time.

M.J.: How did you rally the entire city – including Mayor Tom Barrett and the Convention Bureau to get involved and committed?

B.R.: That was a process. First we had to sell the idea to the Managers of the teams. With their support, we went to Visit Milwaukee and they were 100% in favor of this event happening in Milwaukee. Vince Pulera worked hand-in-hand with us to help us out and to get us in touch with many people whose assistance we needed. Vince even came with us to present our bid to the NAGAAA Delegates in Seattle back in February. Lastly, when we had informed Mayor Barrett of our intention to bring NAGAAAFest to Milwaukee in 2009 he couldn't have been kinder and more generous. He had a group of us come to his office to do a PERSONALIZED video asking the NAGAAA Delegates to vote for Milwaukee. That video was a large part of our formal bid presentation.

M.J.: Now that we have the Gay World Series – do you still have their continued support?

B.R.: 100% support from both the Mayor's Office and Visit Milwaukee.

M.J.: Personally, what has been, so far the most rewarding aspect of spear heading the 2009 Gay World Series?

B.R.: The most rewarding thing so far for me personally is to see the talents of the NAGAAAFest Planning Committee in action and to work with such a great and dedicated group of people.

M.J.: Any advice for other Gay Organizations who are hoping one day do something of this magnitude for the Community?

B.R.: Drink heavily! No, seriously, you can not do something like this without the support of every corner of the Community. Think outside the box. I know that might sound cliché, but it will only make your event the best event that it can possible be. Also surround yourself with a great planning committee. Last but not least, remember, why you are doing this. For me personally, it was for all the people that started SSBL in 1977. There are still many of them around that remember the early years of SSBL. I dedicate my involvement in NAGAAAFest to Tommy Salzsieder and his Cast of Characters. I want to thank them and also all the Gay Bars from Milwaukee's early SSBL years like the Ball Game, the Wreck Room, the M&M Club, Club 219, the Beer Garden, and Y.P./Partners. Those Bars, will always be the backbone of SSBL. Without their support in the early years, we would not be where we are today.



The Dating Diet Anthony Pauli

For Better And Worse

We're plunging like bargain-basement prices in post-election recessionary America. It's Jake and me, and we're spiraling down a dark, air-free tunnel where we feed on the other's edible soft spots, wallowing in what is currently wrong with our relationships. Each of us hasn't had sex in a week – that's the major issue. My boyfriend, he's been on tour with a Grateful Dead spin-off band, and Jake's man dumped him for younger model who squirted perfume on him at a mall kiosk. So far, this is the third major disconnect for Jake this year; his legion of exes, it just keeps expanding, exacerbating his inability to sustain monogamous relationships. You see, Jake wasn't left behind just because his boyfriend found someone better. No! Jake's boyfriend was fed up with the way Jake collects exes like beanie babies, storing them on his mental book shelf, even when he's dating someone.

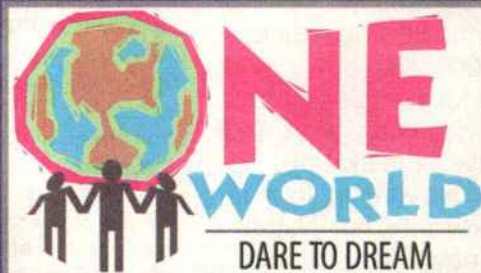
In his defense, Jake says he only keeps his exes on-call for 'pointers'.

The problem is these 'pointers' come with swinging balls attached, leading to a casual fling rather than sound advice. And even though this has taxed each of Jake's relationships, he refuses to let any ex go, stating each holds a piece of what he's looking for in a real man. With each piece in hand, Jake feels he's assembled Mr. Right. "The good thing about ending a relationship is you can keep the good without the bad," he says.

For example, Jake's ex-boyfriend Tim, a raging alcoholic with a wet diaper fetish, is a really sweet movie enthusiast who will cuddle Jake for hours, watching whatever Jake chooses. And now, at the commencement of their movie marathon, Jake can send him home without having to deal with an itchy rash for waking up beside a puddle of pee the next morning.

And his other ex, Harry, the hot surly one with chronic bouts of depression: things are heavenly between him and Jake now that they're over. When Harry's in a manic phase, he spends all types of money on Jake, racking up credit debt on pricy bottles of white wine bearing French names that Jake can't pronounce. And since they've broken up, Jake can have these spontaneous shopping sprees minus

the
Dating Diet
by anthony pauli



December... No other month evokes more thoughts of unity and peace in the world's dominant religions. Celebrate with us as we sing our hope that we can truly become One World.

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008
7:30 p.m.

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the baggage attached. He no longer contends with Harry's mood swings or needs to make sure Harry showers the week it takes him to recover from bottoming out.

"But isn't that part of a relationship? Taking the good *with* the bad?" I ask. We're talking over scorched cups of coffee, and Jake has already found his next ex: the guy he's text-messaging in a caffeine craze as we chat at an indie coffeehouse where they use magazine stacks as chairs.

"Forget the bad," Jake scoffs. "Who needs the drama?"

"True, but relationships can't be perfect *all* the time," I remind him.

"When it's my time, they can," he says, informing how he has a separate ex for each occasion: movies, sex, fine dining, family gatherings, dancing, even going to the Holocaust museum. "They add up

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to a perfect guy with no strings attached and NO drama. I'm sick of dating. I don't need a new boyfriend."

"Really? Then why are you texting this new guy?"

Grimacing, Jakes emits a hushed bark, continuing to check his Blackberry for a new message from his new man. Me, I'm pondering where we went wrong in this love-starved society. Why does each of us feel entitled to the perfect love, the perfect life, even when surrounded by domestic chaos, environmental crises, and financial let-downs? When are we going to teach ourselves that love isn't fair?

Who knows? Maybe we've been spoiled, riding the reality-TV illusion that every person must have the perfect crib, the perfect car, the perfect nose attached to the perfect boyfriend's face, in order to feel happy. The shiny, happy people on TV, they edit out the dismal parts; we're spared the ugly side of beautiful pseudo-celebrities who can't afford rent once their life is canceled due to a ratings slump. We change the channel when we realize the happy newly-weds get divorced.

The truth is we're screwed. The stock market is crashing, house prices are plummeting, and more people are finally getting a grip on the reality that we can't afford to eat out a designer meal every night and we can't afford to buy a designer outfit for every stupid, designer occasion either.

And maybe that's not so bad....

Hard times, they remind us to be humble, grateful for the small things, like that that rushing sensation in your heart from being wakened by a lover's kiss in the morning. Recessions, though tough, implore us to think twice before wasting our lives away with the delusion that a happy ending comes devoid of problems at the beginning. When we take the reality out of the TV, no matter how much we lie to ourselves, nothing is perfect in life and our intimate relations are no exception. Boyfriends come with bags, tempers, flaws, diseases, and foul family members. Still, we can't run after each fight and every tragedy. Like the erratic stock market, relationships contain volatile times, but as Americans, we've come to learn that those who stand strong are the ones who truly endure.

Quest

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DIVERSION OF THE DAY Community Events Calendar

Friday, December 12

The ROOM (Milwaukee) KV's Holiday Show

LaCage (Milwaukee) Customer appreciation party & third anniversary!!!

Napalese (Green Bay) Argonauts Christmas Club Night.. 9 to close Beer Bust and Raffle, Santa gives Christmas Prizes every 15 min.

Saturday, December 13

Cream City Chorus (Milwaukee) One World, Dare to Dream performing at Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Ave Brookfield WI \$15 @7:30pm

Men's Voices Milwaukee Holiday Celebration Helene Zelazo Center, UWMilwaukee 2419 E Kenwood Boulevard \$15 at the door 8pm

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center An evening with Scott Malcom Singer-songwriter, balladeer Scott Malcom returns for an evening of new and old songs! 8pm <http://scottmalcom.com/>

Sunday, December 14

Harbor room (Milwaukee) Christmas Party & Customer Appreciation 3pm - ??

KRUZ (Milwaukee) Castaways Beer Bust 3-7pm visit from Leather Santa

Thursday, December 18

BOOM (Milwaukee) Christmas Party

Friday, December 19

KRUZ (Milwaukee) Christmas Party

LaCage (Milwaukee) Naughty Santa Christmas Party

Iraq Moratorium, 5 to 6 p.m., Water Street and Wisconsin Avenue, to call for an end to the war and occupation of Iraq. Sponsored by Peace Action-Wisconsin and Milwaukee Coalition for a Just Peace. Info: 414-964-5158, www.IraqMoratorium.com

Saturday, December 20

Madison Gay Video Club "Another Gay Sequel: Gays Gone Wild!" (TLA Rel.'08) "Winter Heat" (Falcon Studios.'08) 8PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

XS Nightclub (Green Bay) Turnabout got moved! This is the new date and our first ever Holiday Turnabout! 10:30 but come early for a good seat!

Sunday, December 21

Fluid (Milwaukee) Christmas Bingo

Thursday, December 25 - Christmas Day

Ravens (Appleton) White Raven Party (Got a crappy gift? re-wrap it and reuse it here we wont tell! & Karaoke with Livewire

Saturday, December 27

Christopher Allens Club 1226 (Oshkosh) Holiday Extravaganza Show 10:30

LaCage (Milwaukee) Last Dance Party. Join us on the last Sat nite of 2008

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center THE MAD KINGS~! 8pm Madison's sexiest and most beloved Drag King Troupe visits Milwaukee for an evening of hot songs and laughter. The MADKINGS have been entertaining audiences throughout Wisconsin since 2005. They perform Genres from Rock to Country to Show Tunes and everything in between. Join us for their MGAC return~! Their fabulous stage presence and hot style will leave you panting for more. Make sure to bring your singles! \$6 cover at the door

NEW YEAR'S EVE, Wednesday December 31

Ballgame (Milwaukee) Open round the clock party favors, buffet at 1am

BOOM (Milwaukee) No cover, champagne toast at midnight

Harbor room (Milwaukee) 43 consecutive hours of celebration free buffet at 1am

ICON (Kenosha) Black & White Party. Open bar 9pm-1am Food buffet, champagne toast at midnight party favors and more. Tickets \$50 open 9pm-4am

Jack (Milwaukee) [formerly Club 200 East] Opening party 2 killer DJ's food, champagne party starts 10pm

LaCage (Milwaukee) 2-4-1 Drinks 6-9 in ETC, Free beer or rail mixer in LaCage 10-11, champagne toast and huge balloon drop. Early morning buffet in 2009

Madison Gay Video Club Special All-Night New Year's Eve Party Falcon 35th Anniversary Marathon, 1978-2007 8PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690(evenings)

Midtowne Spa (Milwaukee) Anything Goes into 2009 Party Underwear, fetish, toys, bear, leather, anything!

Napales Lounge (Green Bay) Open round the clock New Years Eve until 2am after New Years Day.

Ravens (Appleton) Come dressed to impress! hors'douvres, party favors and a champagne toast at midnight.

Triangle (Milwaukee) Open 38 hours with 2 buffets

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M's Bar	Now Open Mondays 4pm	Happy Hour Monday - Friday	2-4-1 from 4-8pm	2-4-1 all Night		Drag Show @ 10pm	Showtunes w/Chi Chi
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RAVENS	Buy 1 get 1 Martinis and signature drinks	\$2 Domestic Bottles, Pints and Pint Mixers	Guys Nite \$1 Off everything for guys	Ladies Nite/Livewire Karaoke \$1 off everything 4 girls \$6 Dom pitchers dance bar open	Fri & Sat \$10 All You Can Drink & nightly drink specials DJ Mark 10:30 - close & the valleys hottest new dance music & videos		Alternative Music Night \$6 Pitchers \$4 Jack&Coke various other specials
Walker's Pint	\$1 off bottles, cocktails, shots, taps	\$2 domestic bottles/taps	\$5 pitchers of lite, 64, pabst, schlitz	2-4-1 domestic bottles & rails	rotating specials	rotating specials	\$4 rail bloody's \$1 off bombs all day & night
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The Unholy Trinity Leather, Levi, Bear, Fetish

Hello hello hello again! It's time for another installment of "what the fuck are they talking about" or less bluntly, the leather column. Normally Top writes the introductions to the columns, but for this issue we've decided to do something a little different. This is Swap, and I've kind of shanghaied the opening to do some political grand standing. Totally kidding, but I'm starting off the column this issue due to technical and timing issues.

I figure one fetish/kink/community sect that should be discussed is the world of the furies, mainly because the weekend before Thanksgiving was Midwest Furfest in the north suburbs of Chicago. This is the third largest furry conference in the world. To say the furies are misunderstood is an understatement at least. The reaction of the general public can be summed up pretty simply by a web comic (xkcd.com #471) in which a stick person gasped "Oh god, a furry. Don't let it touch you." Seriously? Yikes. I've met furies. I've talked with furies. I hang out with a few on regular occasions. They're more fun than most of my non-furry friends and they are great to have around at parties. Joking aside, the question that's always asked is "what is furry" or "what is a furry?" I've found answers ranging from it being a culture, to an individual attitude, a way of life, a fetish, a kink, to "a hobby" which I thought was the most interesting of responses. From my encounters with the furry community, it's ranged from some of the most amazing artists I've ever met, to individuals who like to dress up in what can best be described as mascot costumes for sweaty fuzzy fuck fests. For many it's a way of expressing an animalistic side of their personality. To others, it's just a group of people to hang out with, have some fun. Basically the furry culture or being a "fur" is far too extensive to detail in depth here. So if you want to learn more, I'd say check out www.wikifur.com or furfest.org (the ground zero website for Midwest Fur Fest). From a sexual standpoint, much of the culture revolves around dressing up in fur suits depicting your favorite animal in an anthropomorphized (humanized) way. This can range from wearing only parts like paws or a head to a full body suit with very strategically placed zippers and holes. Most outsiders refer to it as mascot sex, because the costumes look very much like sports mascots as they are made in the same fashion. The furry community tends to take a beating on the internet because the culture tends to be so misunderstood.

TOP: Well I have to say that I am at a loss for words. I have never experienced this kink myself and have only spoken to a few people at length regarding this kink. Keeping that in mind I won't

say much about how the kink works as I think Swap has pretty much covered it. I do want to say this though, "Leave the damn furies alone!" In all reality they are just people engaging in their kink and more power to them for doing it and having the courage to do what they love to do. Give them a break, after all remember that there are many people out there who think that Leather is a weird and twisted fetish and all of the people who do it are sick and need help. To sum up I would like to quote something a friend of mine once said, "I live in a glass house, er go I throw no stones."

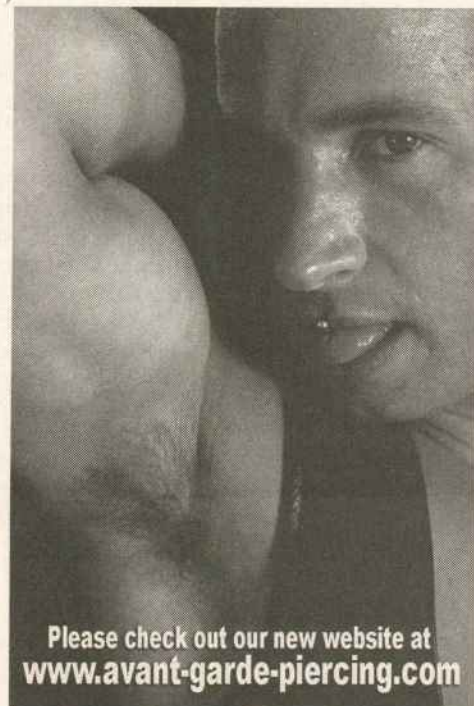
SWAP: This fur suit is kind of itchy. How long do you want me to keep it on? Oh you want to do what to me?! I'll keep it on as long as you want baby. Bedroom fun aside I think the furry scene is actually a pretty fascinating culture. There are many aspects of anonymity that work as an undercurrent in the scene that allow you to be something completely different from who you normally are. The leather scene can play dress up with cowhide and uniforms and no one looks cross-eyed at them. The bear scene relegates attractiveness to how much body hair you have and how closely you resemble truck driver. Why then does the furry community get so much flack for dressing up in fur costumes? My only guess is that people associate it with bestiality, which is definitely IS NOT. Think about all the kinks and perversions many of you regularly and actively participate in? Ever dress up to role-play out a scene? What's so different between that and putting on a lion costume and acting out a scene as an animal? Is the furry scene so different from puppy play? Aficionados of pup play regularly have puppy masks and tails to have their boy in. How is this so different that having someone in a fur suit? Is it because the gear in puppy play is traditionally leather? Does that set it apart? If you answer yes, how far apart does it really set the two? Discuss.

BOTTOM: Finally a topic which I know nothing about. Like almost anything kinky, I do believe I have some leanings in that direction. The idea of being something or someone I am not holds some interest. I would expect it to be very liberating to be in a mascot costume as my favorite animal, probably a bull, and to be with others who held a similar fascination. Sadly I could not make it to Midwest Fur Fest this year so was not yet able to explore this strange new world. Oh well, there is always next year!

Do you have a question for us? Want us to touch on a certain type of kink? Email us your thoughts at unholytrinity08@yahoo.com.

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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

Yule Politics

Dear Uncle Barbie,

How can I be more politically correct this holiday season? My mom is African-American, my sister is vegetarian, I am lesbian, and I suspect my uncle is a chicken molester. --Signed, Ms. Scrooge Ball

Hello Jingle Balls,

It's tough to always be politically correct--having to watch what you say. It is like being on constant alert. This is actually a form of hyper-vigilance. You can be so paranoid about the possibility of offending someone that you end up acting like a stiff robot in need of a little oil on the hinges. Get real! If everyone were completely politically correct over the holidays, we would not really have a holiday--we would have a hollow day, instead. People would not even be able to put up those little blinking lights because they could cause your epileptic cat to have a seizure. (Before you laugh too loudly, let me tell you, this is no joke. My cat actually does have seizures--honest.) Do not worry so much about pleasing everyone. Just relax around your relatives and be your natural, loving self. As a way to help you lighten up, just remember that the true meaning of Christmas is to celebrate the birth of our savior--baby Santa! (Put that in your politically correct pipe and smoke it.) --Your Yule Yokel, Barbie

Two Spirited

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I am an American Indian from a local tribe. I do not want to say which one. I was thinking that I might have an alternative sexuality. I do not want to be different or separate from the others in my group. What should I do?

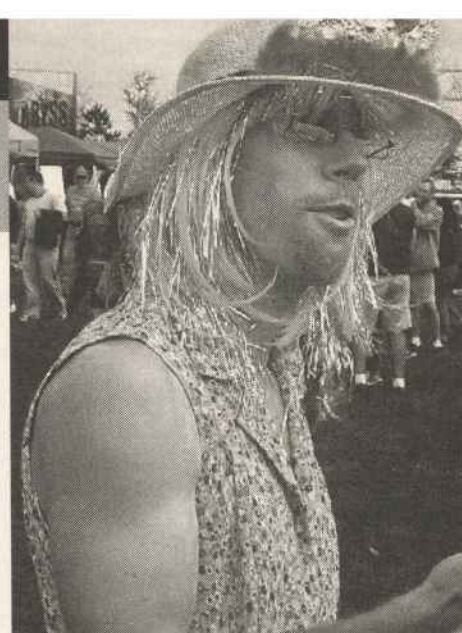
Signed, Trying to Find My Place

Hello Trying Place,

In many ancient cultures (including Eskimo, Native American, and European-Pagan traditions) the people who were transgendered, bisexual, lesbian, and gay were considered spiritually gifted. They would take roles in the tribe such as shamans, medicine people, wise womyn, counselors, and the ones who saw visions or spiritual dreams with messages of guidance for the rest of the community. These sacred people were commonly referred to as being Two Spirited and often held special healing energies. The title comes, in part, from the belief that people with sexual orientations other than heterosexual possessed blessed androgyny. This balance of having both feminine and masculine spirits gave birth to the term, Two Spirited.

Does any of this strike a chord within your spirit? Individuals in the transgendered, bisexual, lesbian, and gay community are inherently spiritual people with special blessings and sacred gifts. However, everyone on Mother Earth is a sacred and spiritual being whether gay or not. This is our birthright! Claim it!

--Be Proud, Barbie



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KISS ME DEADLY

Keane. Jacob Keane. Well, it doesn't quite come trippingly off the tongue as does "Bond, James Bond," if Glenn is going to be perfectly honest – and, really, when isn't he? Still, in Ron Oliver's "Kiss Me Deadly," we get lantern-jawed "QAF" alumnus Robert Gant as Jacob Keane, the first openly gay cinematic spy. Still, maybe not so much James Bond as a gay Jason Bourne.

Or is that redundant?

The film's action-packed opening sequence is set in Berlin, circa 1989. The Cold War. Now those were the days for spies. The Golden Era. Infamous agencies known only by their equally infamous initials: the CIA., the FBI., MI5 and of course, the KGB. The USA and Russia doing their best to duke it out on a global stage.

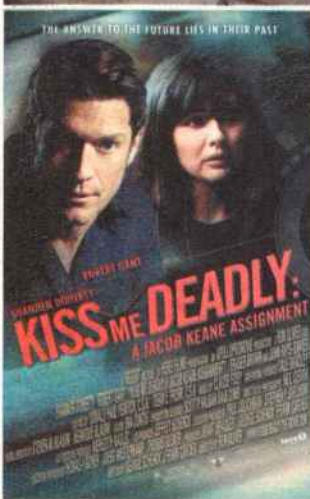
Keane is working undercover with partners Marta (a nearly catatonic Shannen Doherty) and super cute sniper Jared (Fraser Brown). Glenn never did quite catch on to the exact nature of Keane's mission, only that something goes terribly wrong and there's explosion. The film's only explosion. At least now Marta has a reason for looking catatonic but what's up with her truly ghastly wig?

Their debriefing is held in a German Biergarten. As Berliners celebrate the Wall coming down in the background, Yale (John Rhys-Davies) explains that the wonderfully wacky world of international espionage will be now be shifting to the Middle East. Jacob sees the handwriting on the wall, turns in his secret decoder ring and retires. Jump seventeen or so years and Jacob is now living happily-ever-after in Milan as a commercial photographer with an adorable boyfriend and, with the help of one very sexy lesbian, an all too precious little girl as a daughter.

Sounds pretty idyllic, doesn't? Well, it isn't hard for Glenn to guess that it ain't gonna last.

And nor does it. Out of the blue, Keane gets a call from a ghost from his past. Marta. She calls in a favor, demanding Jacob meet her at the train station. The train station? The message she leaves Jacob is surprisingly lucid given the fact that when Marta turns up at the train station, as promised, she's entirely lost her memory.

Nipping at her heels – is there a cliché Glenn won't succumb to – are a pair of assassins including a big, brawny thug played by gay



Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Glenn loves the idea of a gay spy thriller and hunky Robert Gant is a terrific choice to don the mantle of the first gay James Bond. Gant is handsome enough, brawny enough, shirtless enough and no less monosyllabic than Matt Damon, for example. There's even **here!TV**'s obligatory gratuitous flash of full-frontal flesh. Yet as is so often the case, Glenn found wanting to like "Kiss Me Deadly" just not enough. Spy thrillers are a tough genre, requiring far more than merely casting a handsome, suitably butch actor in the lead. The James Bond franchise can continue with innumerable Bonds thanks to a winning formula of exotic locations, an abundance of car crashes, all the very latest electronic toys and most of all, plenty of fast-paced action. All of which "Kiss Me Deadly" sorely lacked. Despite his fine work on Chad Allen's "Strachey" murder mystery series, director Ron Oliver is clearly out of his depth here, burdening the film with lackluster visuals and a pace that in a word is lethally dull. Nor did the film's evident micro-budget help. It is not enough, for instance, to indicate that scenes are set in an exotic location like Milan, when most of the exterior shots looked for all the world as if they had been filmed near Glenn's northern suburban Milwaukee home.

Just the facts...

"Kiss Me Deadly" has a nifty running time of 82 minutes and is in English. "Kiss Me Deadly" is available now on DVD with a SRP of \$24.95. All about "Kiss Me Deadly" at www.kissmedeadly-themovie.com

retired rugby player Ian Roberts. Glenn to Ian Roberts: Don't give up your day job.

So what does our hero do? He's gives the little hubby a kiss, dumps the kid with her mom who just happens to be having a little "between the sheets time" with her girlfriend and off he goes into the night – metaphorically – clueless perhaps but ready for action.

What follows is all rather confusing but somehow over the course of a scant 82 minutes, Keane must help Marta unlock the secrets of her memory so they can get to the assassins before the assassins get to them.



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Mature Irish, 60yr old, new to LaCrosse, seeks apartment for rent. Respectful, friendly & interesting; willing to share with compatible & interested other or others. Reply to : spirit_gaelic@yahoo.co.uk [2]

FOX VALLEY/GREEN BAY

Oshkosh - GWM 54 looking for honest, clean roommate to share his house with. Can be a gay college student looking to live with a nice gay person. Can be a clean, honest person looking to live with the same type. Call Richard Lee 102 W. Bent Ave. Oshkosh WI 54901 (920)426-2683 \$225 /month utilities incl.

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NW Side (Tosa Adjacent) gay man has a room for rent in a 2 bedroom 1 bath duplex. Includes, utilities, internet, cable, washer & dryer. Garage space available. Have 2 cats, \$450.00 reply to maxrasberry@gmail.com or (414)531-0720 [2]

Need roommate to share half of house. Milwaukee. Must Love Animals. On property parking. (414) 305 4875. [2]

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Seeking someone to be my Live-In Helper, 18-35. Apply haskins65@yahoo.com [1]

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PERSONALS

MESSAGES

OVER 50 GAY MEN'S NETWORK information has been moved to the **Wisconsin Groups and Organizations** section of Quest.

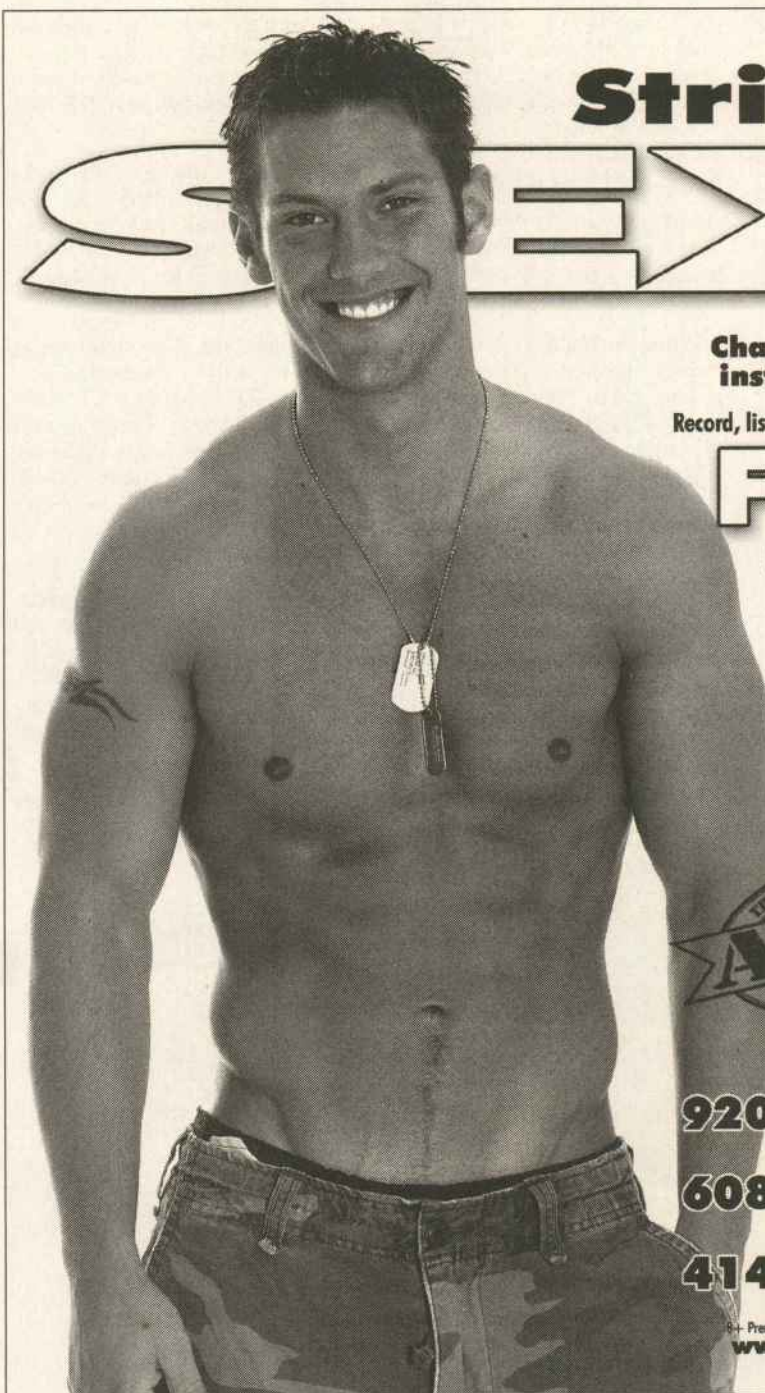
Out on the town? **Please drive responsibly. DO NOT DRINK & DRIVE**, call Yellow Cab, Green Bay 920-435-1111

CROSSDRESSING or Bi looking for MEN & WOMEN

Wanted: bi female! Ever want to do a guy with toys? Male 40yrs looking for fun. T-girl, TV, TS or crossdressers in Racine area. Call Mark (262)902-2792

Hot white male 30's clean, D/D free want the same to suck me off on a reg. Seeking TV's, CD's and passable as females. I can stay hard for as long as I like. Call (414)721-1849 7:30am - 3:30 pm only. Must be discreet! **HWOOD.** Milw area.

59 years old bottom cross dresser, into anyone interested in sex with a cross dresser. I am very oral and love to bottom if that's what you like. Seeking NSA regular meetings. Can host at times. Prefer married bisexual guys D?D free. **SAFE SEX A MUST.** I live in Richland Center. If you live nearby or just passing thru, why not stop for some good sexual fun. I would like to hook up with a local guy or guys for regular get togethers if we hit it off. Open to all **LEGAL** age men with an interest in Bisexual man to (SLUT) action. Me being the slut. I can not believe there is no guys in



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the area who are not interested in NSA pleasure. ANYONE out there.? Let get something going. Contact me at ccupfalsies@yahoo.com [1]

Sexy White Pre-op Transsexual 45 yrs 5'8" tall 145 pounds Long brown hair brown eyes 36c chest. Seeking single white or hispanic man 20-40 yrs. Weight & height proportionate for romantic times. Love kissing sucking and all else. Have a strong fetish for a man wearing sweaty socks. (262)605-9508 Mon-Fri. 6pm-10pm only Sat. & Sun. all day. [1]

POZ + CD seeks POZ TOPS for LTR or other stuff incl. lite bondage and other adult fun. E-mail russell-rose1163@yahoo.com [2]

59 years old bottom cross dresser, into anyone interested in sex with a cross dressing. I am very oral bottom if that's what you like. Seeking NSA regular meetings. Can host at times. Prefer married bisexual guys D?D free. Living in Richland Center. If you live nearby or just passing thru, why not stop for good sexual fun. I would like to hook up with a local guy for regular get togethers if we hit it off. Open to all **LEGAL** age men with an interest in Bisexual man to man (SLUT) action. Me being the slut. I can not believe there is no one in the area who is not interested in NSA pleasure of what fun two guys can have with each other. ANYONE out there.? Let get something going. [2]

Very cute crossdresser for south of Kenosha. Love to fully dress in heels, hose, dress, makeup and be a woman. I'm looking for the same for play & hope fully someone for LTR. I love tgs & shemales. I can host, I am a nice person and caring, please call me (847)309-9125 only locals please, and no men. Call me, thanks Rainylynn.

MEN looking for MEN

58 yo GWM 5'11" 260# seeking same for sex— I love to suck and be sucked. Very discreet. Call me at (715)345-9613 or email knarf103051@g2a.net My name is Frank [1]

Tall lean 48 yo GWM HIVpoz living in New London area seeking tall lean

well hung tops for fun times. Phone (512)791-4006 [1]

Adult or senior walking partner wanted by adult gentleman for exercise & laughs! You chose time & place or when our paths cross! (773)585-6275 Chicago or P.O. Box 63, Lawrenceville, IL. Tommy [1]

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

I'm still looking for eager young bottoms in Central/West Central Wisconsin. Willing to teach first timers and can host or travel. E-mail brownie3@mwt.net or call Steve at 608-427-2269. Thanx! [1]

Older man wants to suck cock. Must be drug and disease free, very hot. (262)639-4171. c ell 262-994-5977 ask for Don in Racine. [1]

Hello guys, this might interest you. I'm Terry with the Rainbow Club looking for new faces to join our club. We're trying new things so we can meet others in Central Wisconsin. It's a club to meet friends, not a sex club. Forget the waysides, talk, have a drink, meet oth-

ers. Bi, Gay, anyone welcome to join. \$12/year membership. We're having a Christmas party Dec. 20 at N16731 Sandhill Ave, Dorchester WI 54425 12noon. (My house) Pot luck lunch and gift x-change. \$10 suggested. Call fmi (715)654-5044 [1]

GWM, 57 yo, 260lb, 5'11" desires same for casual sex. I love to suck & be sucked. Call (715)345-9613, or e-mail knarf103051@g2a.net [1]

Looking for buddy! caring, loyalty, a+! love picnics, beaches, walking, playing games, talking nutrition or travel! (773)569-6333 Tom 3658 E. 79 Pl., Chicago. pen pal wanted too! [1]

All Male Chat! 18+ record & listen FREE! (920)431-9000 code 4120 [P]

Hi, I'm John. I have my own place and I'm looking for hot cute sexy guys, Latino's too with a goatee and big hung dicks to suck on for winter time. I want lots of farmers & contrauction guys hands on my hot sexy body and your body. Wis. Rapids, Loyal, Rosholt, Stevens Point, Wausau, Spencer, Baron, Auburndale, Colby, Neillsville, Vesper. (715)207-0474 ask for John. [2]

69 year old man looking for a companion. I am a stay at home guy. I'm looking for a gentleman 55 or older. Like phone sex call (906)225-1801 after 4 pm. [2]

Lonely SWM 54, 6' 175# seeks Bi/G/TVTS/WHEM/F/Cpls for warmth this winter. Please be discreet, send phone & photo to B. Halmo 1475 W Windlake Ave. Rm3, Milwaukee, WI 53215 [2]

Need your slim, defined, muscular BLACK body massaged? Worshipped? BJ? WM 50's 5'7" 155# mustache, blue eyes, brown hair for your pleasure. No hustlers. Prefer st8, bi steady. Wont respond to "out-of-areas" & "unknowns." Need to see you in gym nude. Be discreet. Call 11a-11p (414)614-0429 [2]

Very fit, bright, reasonable, responsible, attractive SWM, 40's, talented masculine guy with wide range of interests, seeks similar male, ages 18-45, for friendship and intimacy. Milwaukee area. Email blondbluefitwimmer@yahoo.com [2]

GWM, 45, 6', 220#, in search of a gay male for a business and life partner re-

lationship. I would like to purchase a business in hospitality or food service fields somewhere in eastern WI. Any ideas? smilin_dale@yahoo.com [2]

Single Bi-male, 54 5'10" 160# looking for all aged men who like getting BJ's, no recip necessary, just love the taste. I'm 1 hour north of Green Bay, live alone, discreet, safe, and am free Mon- Thursdays. Also do body massages and also like light bondage. if interested give me a call 715-938-1366 or e-mail me at downunder54114@yahoo.com hope to hear from you [2]

49 yo Bi WM available for sucking your cock off. Fox Cities only. 8" plus only. (920)486-7103 Ask for PJ [2]

Chippewa Falls top looking for hot long suck sessions. Looking to relax back and let an oral expert do his thing. 7.5c & thick, 6' 185 fit smooth goatee 53yo. You be hight weight proportional and eager to please. [2]

40ish gay male, travels, often in Milwaukee, looking for dinner companion for intelligent conversation and fun--older or younger, gay or bi. Leave message at georgglavas@yahoo.com."

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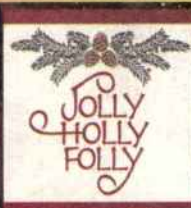
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