

Wisconsin's LGBT News & Entertainment Magazine for 17 Years

QUEST

Volume 17 Issue 2 February 25 - March 10, 2010



INSIDE:
BRUCE VILANCH
CELEBRITY DISH WITH
QUEST/OUTBOUND'S
MICHAEL JOHNSTON

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FORGE TRANSGENDER AGING NETWORK PART OF GROUNDBREAKING FEDERAL CENTER

Milwaukee - The White House announced on February 10 the award of the first-ever, federally funded, national resource center devoted to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues, awarding a 3-year contract to a coalition that includes FORGE's Transgender Aging Network (TAN) in Milwaukee.

TAN is one of ten organizational partners that will assist lead agency Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), the country's oldest and largest agency devoted to serving LGBT elders, in carrying out the duties of the U.S. Administration on Aging's new Technical Assistance Resource Center: Promoting Appropriate Long Term Care Supports for LGBT Elders (Resource Center).

TAN is charged with helping ensure that the diverse needs and viewpoints of transgender elders are reflected in all Resource Center training and technical assistance materials. TAN's founder, Loree Cook-Daniels, will also serve as part of the core training staff that will be deployed throughout the country.

The Resource Center has three mandates:

- Educate mainstream aging services organizations about the existence and special needs of LGBT elders;
- Sensitize LGBT organizations about the existence and special needs of older adults; and
- Educate LGBT individuals about the importance of planning ahead for future long-term care needs.

The Resource Center will achieve these goals by developing: a comprehensive, interactive, web-based

clearinghouse with resources useful to all three audiences; a train-the-trainer curriculum and national LGBT aging training corps; in-person trainings and webinars; best practice publications; consumer educational materials and campaigns; a listserv to provide professionals ongoing technical assistance and support; dedicated phone and email technical assistance portals; and a range of social media vehicles to entice users to remain in contact with the Resource Center and grow along with it. The Resource Center will also devote special outreach and attention to low-income, rural, transgender, limited English-speaking LGBT elders and LGBT elders of color.

In addition to TAN and SAGE, the organizational partners in the new Resource Center are:

- Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging and Longevity at Hunter College of the City University of New York;
- Centerlink, a national association of LGBT community centers;
- Griot Circle, the nation's largest organization serving LGBT elders of color;
- Openhouse, a San Francisco agency with particular expertise in LGBT elder housing;
- PHI, a national organization addressing the needs of direct-care workers;
- The American Society on Aging, a national association of aging professionals;
- The LGBT Aging Project, a Boston-based training agency with a caregiver support specialty;

- The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, representing local government agencies that oversee all programs funded under the Older Americans Act; and
- The National Institute on Senior Centers of the National Council on Aging.

"We are extremely pleased to be included as an equal partner with many of the country's leading organizations addressing aging issues," said FORGE Executive Director Michael Munson. "I think our inclusion is a tribute to how much work TAN has done over the past 11 years to raise awareness of the unique needs of transgender elders. We also want to thank SAGE for recognizing how important it is to include transgender aging experts and so ensure that this exceptionally exciting federal effort meets the needs of all older members of the LGBT community."

This partnership award represents the fourth time in a year that FORGE has been awarded federal funds. In mid-2009, FORGE completed a 6-month Office of Victims of Crime grant to produce a "Guide for Milwaukee LGBT Crime Victims" and train local service providers. In the latter part of 2009, FORGE won two additional, 3-year grants from the Department of Justice to provide direct services to transgender survivors of sexual violence, and training and technical assistance to the professionals who serve them.

PERFECT HARMONY MEN'S CHORUS' TROOP SALUTE

A Cabaret That Is Decidedly "Do Ask, Do Tell"

Madison - Perfect Harmony's own Bob Moore as hosts an evening of pre-1945 favorites in a USO-style show. **TROOP SALUTE** will be performed two nights only - 7 pm on Saturday, March 13, and 7 pm on Sunday, March 14, 2010 at the West Side Club of Madison, 437 County Hwy M in Madison.

These are songs you wouldn't believe were written in an innocent age. Perfect Harmony will feature the first ever SILENT AUCTION at TROOP SALUTE. Items include original oil paintings, prints, crafts, dinners, collectibles, and service type items. Cash or check only. Food will be provided by Queen Anne's Catering, repeatedly voted the Best of Madison award for "Caterer". They will supply an extensive array of hors d'oeuvres

and dessert, as well as complementary champagne.

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus is South-central Wisconsin's gay and gay-friendly men's chorus, now in its thirteenth (13th) season is a member of GALA Choruses, performing before an international audience at GALA Fest 2008.

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"SAPPHO IN LOVE" BRINGS CAMPY COMEDY WITH LESBIAN TWIST FROM STAGEQ



Madison, WI - StageQ, the local queer theater company brings warmth (no, make that heat) to the February chills with the romantic Lesbian romp *Sappho In Love* at the Bartell Theater located at 113 E. Mifflin Street in downtown Madison, WI Friday, February 12, 2010 through Saturday, February 27th.

Sappho In Love, written by the popular Carolyn Gage (Ugly Ducklings, Second Coming of Joan of Arc) and directed by StageQ favorite Katy Conley, is a lesbian midsummer night's dream with the goddesses of celibacy, love, and marriage competing for Sappho's attention amid poetry contests, meteor showers, lessons on lesbian love-making, romantic trysting, mix-ups and disguises. Wet and wild romantic comedy!

Critics claim "Touching, funny, gregarious-well worth the money! For anyone who enjoys the theater, *Sappho in Love* is one of the most side-splitting two hours you can have! Hysterical, sweet and just a little different!"

Sappho In Love stars Molly Vanderlin as Aphrodite, Laura Spring as Hera, Leonie Dolch as Artemis and Boye as Sappho, along with Kristin Forde, Petrovnia McIntosh, Juli Branch, Marian Herzog, Nikki Weinfurter, Christine Esche, Rachel Granda-Gluski, Sabra Katz-Wise, Vanessa Vesperman, Shelly Murray, Luv Seamon, Thia Triggs and Michelle Morency.

Show times are Thursday at 7:30pm Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday, February 21st at 2pm. Tickets are \$15 for the Friday and Saturday shows and \$10 for Thursday evening and Sunday matinee shows. Tickets may be purchased or reserved at www.StageQ.com or by calling 608-661-9696 x3.

HARMONY CAFE'S SPECTRUM GROUP EXPANDS TO GREEN BAY

Green Bay - The highly successful SPECTRUM group, a GLBT-focused program of Harmony Café, is now meeting weekly in Green Bay in addition to its weekly meetings in Appleton. The new SPECTRUM group in Green Bay meets every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at Harmony Café, 1660 W. Mason St. The Appleton meetings are held every Monday from 7 to 9 p.m. at Harmony Café, 233 E. College Ave. in downtown Appleton.

SPECTRUM was formed as a social, educational, community-minded group for GLBT people who out-grew, or who exceed the 18-year-old age limit of the GLBT Partnership, another program of Harmony Café. These meetings provide an opportunity for GLBT

A JIHAD FOR LOVE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL LGBT FILM FEST AT UW-L

LaCrosse - Visiting Scholar and Director Parvez Sharma, will host a lecture, film screening and discussion as part of the UW-L International LGBT Film Festival February 26 and 27. Sponsored by: Provost's Office through the Visiting Scholar/Artist of Color Grant, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the Pride Center, and the Departments of Psychology, Modern Language, English, Sociology/Archaeology. Five other films with LGBT themes will also be screened at the festival in 339 Cartwright Center.

Parvez Sharma is the director and producer of *A Jihad for Love* (www.ajihadforlove.com), which is the world's first feature documentary to explore the complex global intersections between Islam and homosexuality. Crucially, this film speaks with a Muslim voice, unlike other documentaries about sexual politics in Islam made by Western directors. In the hope of opening a dialogue that has been mostly non-existent in Islam's recent history and defining jihad as a "struggle" rather than a "war," the film presents the struggle for love.

A Jihad for Love has been screened at more than 70 other international film festivals and is the winner of several international awards.

The lecture; *Islam and Diversity*, will be held February 25 at 4 pm, Cleary Center. A few of the topics include: Does the 1429 year old religion of Islam have principles that are relevant in the 21st century? What is the sexual psyche of those young men who take on weapons in order to defend Islam and are ready to die for the promised seventy virgins in heaven? What does "jihad" mean in the context of Parvez Sharma's film?

The complete film festival schedule is listed right.

people ages 18 to 98 to socialize and discuss a variety of issues. Please drop in and check it out!

FMI, contact Mark markzirbel@gmail.com or Cricket (920)437-7400 paul.jacob@arcw.org.

Harmony Café is a program of Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin, Inc.

IN THE YEAR OF THE 'DRAG RACE'...THE SHOW MUST DRAG ON! UWM LGBT Resource Center Hosts Annual Drag Show

Milwaukee - The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center is hosting its annual Drag Show on Saturday, February 27, 2010 in the Union Ballroom at 7:30 p.m.

The annual UWM Drag Show is one of the largest in the area. The drag show has attracted



Friday, Feb. 26 7 pm. *A Jihad for Love* (Middle East/South Asia Running time: 81 minutes) followed by a Conversation with Director Parvez Sharma, 339 Cartwright Center.

Sat., Feb. 27: 12pm-10 pm. 339 Cartwright Center

12pm: *The Baby Formula*

(Canada RUNNING TIME: 81 minutes)

2pm: *Diagnosing Difference*

(USA Run time: 60 minutes)

3:30pm: *Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World*

(Egypt, Honduras, Kenya, Thailand 60 minutes)

5:00pm: *XXY*

(Argentina | Spanish w/ English subtitles 91 Min.)

7pm: *Patrik, Age 1,5* (Sweden)

more than 600 attendees with twenty voluntary, drag show performers. This year's performers include local favorites Lady Gia, Leo Long, Ms. B. Haven, Jessica Properties, Madam Sparkkl, DeVry Sha, Pretty Boi and more.

All of the tips that performers receive will benefit Project Q, the youth program of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. They provide a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender who are questioning their straight allies, 24 and under. The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is a community-based organization represented by more than 150 volunteers and over 300 members. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for LGBT people in the metro Milwaukee area.

Please contact Warren Scherer at (414)229-4116 or wscherer@uwm.edu for more information.

OUR COVER FEATURE **By Michael Johnston**

Quest: Bruce, I hear you're coming to Milwaukee for PrideFest, 2010 – will this be your first visit to the Cream City?

Bruce Vilanch: No, I love Milwaukee! Haven't been since working with (Wisconsin native) Amy Pietz of "Caroline in the City" in an Arts Education Benefit a few years ago. But I've done Milwaukee plenty of times, every time with Bette Midler, love staying at the Pfister, and the Safe House, is it still there? (Yes) And for a while I lived in Chicago, so I came up, loved the Brat Stop! I still have a t-shirt from there.

Q.: So you enjoy the Midwest?

B.V.: Currently, I live in Hollywood, but besides Chicago, I lived in Columbus, OH, and graduated from Ohio State University, by way of Patterson, N.J. Spent a lot of time in Lake Geneva at the old Playboy Club – what is it now? (The Abbey Resort and AVANI Spa). We would break in acts at the Club, before taking them onto Vegas. I was there, throughout the years, with Kaye Ballard, Dyan Cannon, Sally Struthers if you can imagine that? It was great it was HUGE! The only other Playboy Club of the same comparison was in Great Gorge, N.J., very close to New York City. What fun!

Q.: Of all the varied success you have earned and enjoyed, as an actor, writer, and comedian what are you most proud of?

B.V.: I've been lucky, working with/for Bette Midler for 40 years, and she is only 32! 21 Academy Awards shows, the "Hollywood Squares" thing. The more obscure things, things that had a personal touch, meant a lot to me, or the effect on the world, or no effect on the world, for that matter. My activism during the AIDS epidemic, no government assistance, we were scared, raised lots of money and awareness, helped people, educated many, some really great fund raisers. We put AIDS on the map, forced society to face it, head on. From there look at all the political movements that have come. Before AIDS we were all scattered – it unified us and look at what we accomplished. Now, we're working on the Right to get married. It isn't going to happen over night, how long did it take people to accept unions of people from different races and religions?

Michael Johnston Talks to Bruce Vilanch



Q.: As a follow up with "Hollywood Squares", isn't that what made you a household name, what was it like being the hippest Square of all time?

B.V.: Well indirectly Whoopi Goldberg was responsible for that. Whoopi is fearless! She is extreme she is who she is! Whoopi had rights to the show, and she wanted me to emcee. But the producers didn't know if the world was quite ready for that, so they put me on as a panelist. I got to sit to the right of her to hopefully rein her in. No one does that!

Q.: You have written for everybody! Who is your favorite personality to bring to life? Is there a "Special Formula" you utilize?

B.V.: No formula, I compare writing an act or monologue to designing a gown. Some are a-line, some are mermaid, purple, ... a custom design. What are they selling? Songs? Music? Who are they? Any characters? Dedicated to who they are. You look at their strengths, weaknesses – and make it happen! If they have no persona, it can be hard. You can be the hottest, hunkiest box office star but if there is no hook... That is why the Oscar's are so challenging – how do you write for a George Clooney or a Johnny Depp? You want to do what the entertainer wants, needs, but also make it entertaining. With the Academy Awards at least you have a crop of new movies to choose from. The Emmy's can be harder because in some cases you have the same shows year after year.

Q.: Bruce you referenced characters in the previous answer. When I think of entertainers with great characters, I think of Lily Tomlin, any insight into her?

By the by, she is amazing on FX's "Damages" airing on Mondays.

B.V.: Lily is brilliant! And fun! There is nothing she can't do! I have DVR'd the show but haven't had time to watch it – busy on this year's Academy Awards show.

Q.: How do you get into the heads of the people you write for?

B.V.: I don't. I do my homework, I watch everything: flicks, talk shows – which really shows more than you even realize, I meet with them, and then I marry them to what they have to do. You got to remember there is a team of people writing, it is global, and it's just not me. Writers assigned to every aspect of the project. Then they pick, edit, hone, and work on it before it is accepted.

Q.: Was your keen wit and sense of humor developing, as you did, growing up? Kind of like a defense mechanism?

B.V.: All kids do – It's a chance to run ahead, a start, disarm them! Especially if you don't have the conventional skills – good at sports, Straight A, beautiful. If you're not one of the boys, or one of the girls for that matter... The comic in you starts to keep you sane, that's why I think a lot of comedians are not happy. I was on "The View" and Joy Behar challenged me on this, so I say most.

Q.: When did you discover you were gay?

B.V.: I kind of always knew I was gay, or at least bisexual. Today, I believe that bisexuals just haven't made the choice. You have to choose. In college I had girlfriends, and relationships with women... You choose where your heart goes. I loved the intimacy of women. But you've got to be true to yourself!

Q.: What about all the rumors in Hollywood, and the entertainment world about so-so being gay or bi?

B.V.: There is the "official version" and then the "truth". Notice how they Out someone if they are attractive, hot, and desirable? It's never the Drew Careys, Jimmy Kimmels, or some fat guy with glasses! People write blogs, people read blogs, catch something on the Internet, but where is the proof?

Q.: I don't know how many of our Readers realize this, but you were responsible for the dance club hit and gay anthem – "Where is my Man". What was it like working with Santa's favorite baby, Miss Eartha Kitt?

B.V.: Quite fabulous! I miss her! She was great! I was working on "Can't Stop the Music" and Jacques Morali had this song that needed words and I wrote the lyrics. ("Where is my Man") Eartha loved it! I did the demo ALA Eartha; after she heard me doing her, she told me she would kill me if I did her act! I got to work with her, personalized the lines, it went from the review "Crazy Horse", all through France, Europe, and finally the U.S. We couldn't get airplay. No radio wanted to play – Eartha! She was yesterday. Well in those days we had 12 inchers and turntables and she

would tour discos and bring the house down! It never fit in as a set in her club act, because of the music itself so her combo(s) couldn't play it. She ended up doing a whole album of disco - "I Love Men", which had a couple of hits. We remained friendly from then on. In fact, when I was in "Hairspray" on Broadway, she would come in from her home in Connecticut to get her hair done by my hairdresser who was doing my wigs, providing us the opportunity catch up.

Q.: Is there any aspect of Show Business you haven't tried, and eager to?

B.V. I was a child actor – all theater and some print ads. Thank God it wasn't TV or the movies or I'd be in rehab! I did "Hairspray" for two years on Broadway and toured with it. The audience embraced Edna, no flack whatsoever. There is nothing like a live audience. Right now the Oasis on the Sea has about 1,400 passengers on this luxury liner and they offer a 90-minute review of "Hairspray" – the same version that plays Las Vegas. The show is open to all on the cruise; recently someone took it in and couldn't understand why a man played Edna, no clue! I love it all and whatever I am doing at that moment.

Q.: When did you know, you made it?

B.V.: I guess when I was writing for Bob Hope. It was back in the 70's, Carter was in office, there was an energy crisis, and talk of rationing gas. Here I am at Bob Hope's house writing material for him! He liked what I came up with and then went to a file and pulled out these old, yellowed, recipe cards. In there were jokes about gas

rationing from World War II. Talk about a ghostwriter competing against writers that were ghost! Working with Debbie Reynolds was great too! Getting to know her, and her daughter Carrie Fisher, who I am a great friend with. One evening Debbie took me to dinner – and I snuck out and called my mother, Hennie, and let her know, whom I was dining with. My mother always makes me laugh, and she is still here, and still so funny.

Q.: With all these great anecdotes and all these wonderful people you've known and worked with – there has to be an autobiography in the making, is there?

B.V.: Yes and no, I am writing a book, it is my life – but kind of like a David Sedaris take on it. Including stories of both fact and fiction.

Q.: What makes Bruce Vilanch laugh?

B.V.: Farts, farting – I know it is low-brow humor but it breaks me up every time. Failed seriousness – and you can't pull it off, think Richard Nixon! Having someone undone – A wealthy society matron walks down the street, slips and falls on a banana peel – hysterical, a golf ball to the nuts, "America's Funniest Videos". There is a line in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" where Jane Russell's character Dorothy confronts the stuffy Lady (Norma Varden) Beekman, over Dorothy's friend Lorelei Lee allegedly stealing the good Lady's tiara -- Lady Beekman "You'll find I mean business!" Dorothy Shaw "Oh really? Then why are you wearing that hat?"

Well dear Readers, my hat is off to Bruce Vilanch make sure to make him welcome as he comes to the 2010 PrideFest celebration Saturday, June 12! I can't wait!

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NEWS FROM AROUND WISCONSIN

ARCW ADVOCATES FOR INCREASING ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR STDs

Increasing Rates, Linkage to HIV Infection Highlight Need for Action

Milwaukee - The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) is lobbying the Wisconsin legislature to adopt important legislation that will help strengthen the fight against AIDS and increase access to treatment of STDs in the state. Assembly Bill 653, introduced by Representative Sandy Pasch (D-Milwaukee) will expand access to antibiotics for the treatment of Chlamydia, gonorrhea and trichomoniasis.

"Thanks to Representative Pasch's strong leadership, the Wisconsin Assembly is engaging in an important conversation on HIV and STD prevention," said Bill Keeton, Director of Government Relations for ARCW. "With close to 400 new cases of HIV and over 30,000 cases of other STDs diagnosed in Wisconsin every year, it is imperative the legislature passes AB 653 to help bolster prevention efforts."

AB 653 would explicitly allow medical providers to write antibiotic prescriptions for or dispense antibiotics to the sexual partners of a patient diagnosed with an STD without a medical evaluation of the partner. This practice, known as expedited partner therapy or EPT, is supported by the CDC, ARCW, Wisconsin Medical Examining Board, American Medical Association and is permitted in 21 other states including Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa.

In testimony during the hearing on January 20 Keeton said, "The treatment of STDs is a vitally important component of HIV prevention because we know that people with STDs are more likely to contract HIV if they are exposed to the virus during sex and that STDs appear to increase the ability of HIV-positive individuals to transmit the virus. EPT will ensure more people with STDs are treated thus preventing them from re-infecting their sexual partner with the STD while also making them less likely to contract or transmit HIV."

The Chair of the Committee, Representative Jon Richards (D-Milwaukee) is expected to schedule a vote on AB 653 soon.

MINNEAPOLIS AUTHOR TO PRESENT BOOK READING AND SIGNING



Eau Claire - The LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley welcomes Minneapolis author C.M. Harris Tuesday, March 9, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center's facility, 510 South Farwell Street in downtown Eau Claire. C.M. Harris was raised in a rural church sect and now lives in Uptown Minneapolis with her partner, their twins, and two miniature pinschers.

Harris's book, *The Children of Mother Glory*, was released in December of 2009 and tells the story of four Midwesterners in the turn-of-the-century: Glory Potter, whose lot in life is to serve her father's ministry. When Glory grows into a dominant matriarchal figure—transcending her father in the creation of the Potterite faith and an industry that supports the town of Gulliver—she finds herself fighting "demons from hell" that irresistibly draw her to the woman she craves with all her being.

For more information please call (715) 552-LGBT or email lgbtcommunitycenter@yahoo.com

CELEBRATE ROMANCE IN DOOR COUNTY THIS WINTER

It's that time of year to celebrate romance...snuggle up by the fire, bundle up for a romantic sleigh ride, savor a special candlelight dinner for two, or just do nothing...together. Whether looking for a winter sports adventure, a dreamy romantic getaway or simply some alone time together to reconnect, wintertime in Door County is the perfect time to experience the "Nature of Romance."

Door County, Wisconsin, the 70-mile long peninsula located just 40 miles northeast of Green Bay, is currently offering nearly two dozen romantic getaway

packages at different accommodations—all inspired by romance. Each Nature of Romance package is unique to the host property and is available now through the end of March 2010. Packages are value-priced for the quiet season on the peninsula.

Packages include two nights' lodging at some of Door County's most charming accommodations—choose from luxurious resorts, idyllic inns or a bevy of bed and breakfast establishments. Enchanting extras might include horse drawn sleigh rides, Door County trolley tours, complimentary champagne, chocolate or gourmet treats, candlelight dinners for two, breakfast in bed, gift certificates or rejuvenating spa treatments.

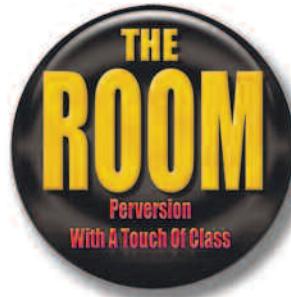
Winter adventures abound in Door County with snowshoeing, hiking, cross country skiing, sledding, tubing, winter horseback riding and more. Those looking for relaxing natural pastimes will find the peninsula's state and county parks are perfect for a winter walk in the woods or a scenic stroll along the icy shore. Marvel at Mother Nature's ice sculptures, winter birdlife or the peace and stillness of a quiet snowy morning. Indoor pursuits include galleries, museums, shops, wineries, markets and much more.

To take advantage of these Door County romance packages, visit DoorCounty.com. It should be noted that although Door County is relatively LGBT friendly, these packages are not necessarily aimed at our community. One bed and breakfast that is especially LGBT friendly is The Chanticleer, owned and operated by life partners Bryon and Darrin. Quest can personally recommend this beautifully cared for guest house with 8 suites and 4 cabins tucked in Door County on 70 acres. Contact Chanticleer at (866)682-0384 and mention you read this in Quest. Ask them what special offers they have this winter and spring.



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ARCW TO HONOR MAYOR TOM BARRETT FOR LEADERSHIP ON AIDS AT ANNUAL GALA

Milwaukee - The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) will present its top Leadership award to Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett at its annual Make A Promise Dinner Gala on April 17, 2010 at the Midwest Airlines Center.

"For 25 years Mayor Barrett has been a steadfast leader in the fight against AIDS," ARCWR President and CEO Doug Nelson said. "In the state Legislature he led efforts to prohibit discrimination against people with HIV, in Congress he was a leading voice to lift the ban on federal funding of needle exchange and as Mayor he has protected HIV funding in the city budget even during the toughest of fiscal times."

Nelson said the recognition for Barrett is long overdue. "No one could ask for a stronger advocate and a more loyal ally in the fight against AIDS than Tom Barrett."

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin is home to the ARCWR Medical Center - Wisconsin's largest and fastest growing provider of HIV health care. Through its integrated medical, dental and mental health clinics more than 1,200 HIV patients gain the health care they need for long term survival with HIV disease.

The Make A Promise Dinner Gala raises funds to support the ARCWR Medical Center and annually draws 1,000 business, health care, philanthropic and political leaders. Other award winners to be recognized at the Gala include:

State Senator Jeff Plale - for leadership in securing \$1.8 million in new state funding for the expansion of the ARCWR Medical Center in Green Bay and Milwaukee.

Froedtert Hospital - for its partnership in providing specialty and inpatient care to ARCWR Medical Center patients and extending its Epic electronic medical record system to the ARCWR Medical Center.

Joseph Pabst - as Philanthropist of the Year for his personal donations and innovative fundraising strategies that have raised more than \$204,000 for ARCWR.

Attorney Michael Stocker, Donald Alvarez and Allen Thornell - for their leadership in bringing a national class action anti-trust lawsuit on HIV drug pricing and winning a settlement of \$10 million that was distributed to support 13 HIV health care centers across the country including \$377,587 for the ARCWR Medical Center.

"All of these leaders have made extraordinary contributions and we are proud to recognize them and call them our partners in the fight against AIDS," Nelson said.

To purchase tickets for the Make A Promise Dinner Gala or to make a donation, please contact Tad Gospodarek, ARCWR Director of Special Events at 414-225-1598.

For more information about the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin or the ARCWR Medical Center, please contact Bill Keeton, ARCWR Director of Communications and Government Relations at 414-225-1572.

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Miss Wisconsin Classique 2008

Miss Midwest Classique 2008

Mr Ohio Unlimited 2009

Also Starring:

Registration at 3 pm

Interview at 4 pm

Pageant starts at 10:30 pm

Registration fee is \$75

for Wisconsin contestants

and \$100 for out of state contestants.

The Shelter
Green Bay, WI

The Shelter

MILMAIDS-MADISON 2010 BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Madison - MILMAIDS is a charitable bowling tournament that was started in 1985 in response to the AIDS crisis. This annual Tournament alternates locations between Madison and Milwaukee with all proceeds going to AIDS Organizations chosen by the host city. This year's beneficiary will be Madison's AIDS Network. This benefit tournament will raise funds to be used exclusively for direct client services.

The event promises to be a great time and you don't have to be a good bowler to partici-

pate. If you'd like to bowl, just contact Bret Dougherty at the number or e-mail listed above and I'll send you a registration form. Or a registration form may be printed from the MILMAIDS website at www.milmaidsbowling.com. The cost of the tournament is \$30 if paid in advance, \$35 if paid after March 26, 2010. The price includes bowling, buffet, prizes and donation. The tournament will be held at Badger Bowl, 506 East Badger Road, Madison WI 53713 (608) 274-6662. There's only space for 300 bowlers so get your registration forms in soon as it fills up quickly. Spectators and bowling enthusiasts are encouraged to attend and show your support for a great cause.

LGBT SPORTS IN SE WISCONSIN

By Paul Masterson

If there's one thing that can be said about LGBT life in southeast Wisconsin, there are lots of gay jocks.

After the Stonewall riots LGBT athletic groups were among the first expressions of community awareness and unity. Southeast Wisconsin exemplified that pioneering spirit. Local gay sports and fitness organizations range from the obligatory bowling teams (many Wisconsinites regardless of sexual orientation had a bowling ball in their high school gym bag), and extend into the more obscure disciplines like hockey and rugby. In the middle are America's national pastime, baseball (in the form of softball) as well as volleyball, tennis and running.

Some groups are highly organized and competitive. Many are members of international or national associations. Others are local, casual and just for the shear lark of it. City businesses and national corporations, both LGBT and non-LGBT, support or sponsor teams.

They also don't expect an exceptional skill level. Softball has competitive and recreational divisions with most teams consisting of a mix of both level players. Other teams and clubs presume a lack of fine-honed ability since sports like hockey and rugby are relatively uncommon. Learning and developing competence is all part of the experience – and the fun.

Social involvement goes beyond diamonds, courts, rinks and pitches. Directly and indirectly, LGBT athletics serve as an important hub joining the diverse groups within our community. It also serves as a bridge to the community at large, transcending politics and stereotypes. Besides it's sports are a healthy alternative to sedentary or otherwise unhealthy lifestyles.

As the Milwaukee Softball World Series' NAGAAFFest motto declared, it's all about "fun and friends first!"

Inclusion and community

That's what LGBT sports are all about – inclusive, friendly competition, exercising and socializing on whatever level. That social connection through athleticism is the reason why many form teams and join them. Inclusion is the rule for most groups. With few exceptions, teams and organizations are open to anyone regardless of gender, age or sexual orientation. In fact, Saturday Softball League's (SSBL) more liberal rule for its gay-to-straight player ratio had to defer to the national organization's more limiting one for the gay softball world series. Madison Gay Hockey Association received an award, in part, for its inclusiveness and community outreach.

Most teams and organizations go a step further. Many are involved in the community beyond the athletic field and bar camaraderie. Whether volunteering at PrideFest or fund raising for HIV/AIDS, team members are ultimately community members. They give hundreds of volunteer hours and thousands of dollars to local LGBT causes. NAGAAFFest's Talent Night at the Pabst Theatre raised over \$14000 for three local charitable organizations.

FrontRunners/Walkers recently gave \$500 to Cream City Foundation.

Milwaukee

Softball & Milwaukee SSBL

Established in 1977, Milwaukee Saturday Softball League (SSBL) was among the five founding cities of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance, aka NAGAAA.

Milwaukee SSBL just hosted the 33rd Gay Softball World Series, dubbed NAGAAFFest, in late summer 2009. It brought 3500 gay athletes to the city for a week of softball.

The incredible success of NAGAAFFest set the bar for future gay softball world series. It also provides Milwaukee-SSBL with major wow-factor to promote the Dairyland Classic, a softball tournament held almost annually for over 30 years. Only in 2008 did Milwaukee not host a Dairyland Classic as SSBL prepared to welcome nearly 130 teams for NAGAAFFest.

This year the Dairyland Classic is back. SSBL expects more teams than ever before will come to Milwaukee. In fact, the league hopes more local teams will be sponsored by organizations such as the LGBT Community Center and PrideFest. Currently, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's *Scream* is the only SSBL team not sponsored by a bar.

Volleyball: GAMMA & MGVA

Formed in 1978, GAMMA, the Gay Athletic Milwaukee Men's Association, became Gay Athletic Milwaukee Metro Association to be more inclusive. It began with touch football games on the lakefront and then formed a competitive volleyball team. The team traveled to tournaments in Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Columbus, Madison and Minneapolis.

Today GAMMA still maintains its volleyball tradition, playing weekly at Beulah Brinton Center in Bay View. In recent years GAMMA has played on the green at PrideFest and plans on having its own team within the recently formed Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association.

Speaking of which, the most recent addition to the Milwaukee gay sports scene is the Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association (MGVA). It formed in late 2009 under the direction of Eric Euting and friends. It began as a result of a Madison player moving to town and deciding to start a league. Expecting 30 or so players, the new MGVA was overwhelmed when over 120 people, including a squad from Kenosha's Club Icon responded.

MGVA plays Sunday evenings at the Beulah Brinton Center in Bay View. Association teams have traveled to Madison to play and MGVA hosted Madison players on Super Bowl Sunday. As its inaugural season came to a close, Euting announced spring and summer seasons and a collaboration with GAMMA at PrideFest.

Bowling

It's Milwaukee after all so it should come as no surprise that there are three LGBT bowling organizations in town.

HIT, the Holiday Invitational Tournament began in 1978. It's an annual bowling tournament held over Thanksgiving weekend. It's the oldest Gay and Lesbian Bowling Tournament throughout North America, New Zealand and Australia.

Monday Night Irregulars, as the name implies, plays Monday nights at the West Allis AMF Lanes. The season begins Labor Day and extends through the winter until the annual banquet in

There's also a Sunday league. Formed in the late 1970's the 9 team strong Bestd Bowling League now bowls every other Sunday at Classic Lanes on West Layton.

WanderWomyn

Created in 2009, a local women's outdoor group, WanderWomyn, now numbers nearly 140 members. Membership is free. They communicate through a Yahoo Group list serve. Activities include weekly summer beach volleyball, kickball, hiking, camping, sledding, skiing, kayaking, ball games, other non-athletic events and even trips overseas. Meeting times and places are advertised through emails sent out by the individual activity sponsors.

Run, Jog or Walk

Milwaukee FrontRunners/Walkers, the city's first walk-run LGBT community, celebrates its 14th anniversary this month. The group is loosely affiliated with International Front Runners. The first FrontRunners set out in February 1996 at 9am from the base of the lakeside Water Tower at North and Terrance Avenues. They've been going ever since. The FrontRunners include many GAMMA members as well.

10-15 people of all abilities, gender and age make the three mile (approximately 35 minute) jaunt along the lakefront or along the lake bluff - some run, some walk and some lead (or follow) their four-legged companions. The exercise ends with breakfast at a nearby restaurant. It's an open community affair and anyone is welcome to join. There are no fees or dues. They recently donated \$500 to Cream City Foundation.

The Courts: Milwaukee Metro Tennis Club

A long-running gay (and gay friendly) tennis league in Milwaukee. The Milwaukee Metro Tennis Club begins play in mid-May. Games continue on Sundays during the summer from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM at Merrill Park in Milwaukee (35th & Michigan Ave). All skill levels are welcome. League play takes place in several divisions.

Madison

Madison SSBL

Founded in 2005, Madison SSBL was originally Madison Gay Softball League. It quickly grew from a single team organized in 2002 and recently joined forces with Milwaukee SSBL sending two teams to NAGAAFFest. It maintains competitive and recreational open (co-ed), women's and men's teams.

Madison was awarded the 2009 Amateur Sports Alliance of North America (ASANA) women's soft-

ball World Series. Before ASANA's formation, the women's division was a part NAGAAA. Its first women's division competition was played in Milwaukee in 1985.

Every September, Madison SSBL hosts the Felicia Melton-Smyth Memorial Softball Tournament to commemorate her dedication to the community. All proceeds from the tournament are donated to the AIDS Network. SSBL-Madison was recognized as Out-Reach's 2009 Organization of the Year.

Volleyball

The Madison Gay Volleyball League started in 2007 and has grown to be the second largest sports organization in Madison. With seasons going on through out the year (indoors in fall/winter/spring and sand courts in summer), the Madison Gay Volleyball League is quickly becoming one of the hottest sports in town. They recently hosted a very successful fundraiser for the AIDS Network's ACT

Hockey

Madison is well known as a hockey town so it's logical that a gay hockey league has sprung up there. In 2006 by Patrick Farabaugh started the Madison Gay Hockey Association (MGHA) to provide Madison's LGBTQQA community an opportunity to learn and play hockey. It now boasts seven teams and is the largest gay hockey organization in the US and second largest worldwide.

With team names like Back in Black, The Blue Bombers, Cardinal Sin, Dirty Laundry, the Flying Monkeys of Doom, The Puffy Clouds and The Short Bus, there's obviously a special spirit on ice in Madison.

Besides weekly games, MGHA hosts other mid-western gay hockey teams, volunteers at Madison Pride and hosts an open skate fundraiser for the AIDS Network.

MGHA won the prestigious Outsports Best Gay Sports Group designation based in part on its community outreach and inclusiveness.

The first annual MGHA Classic LGBT Ice Hockey Tournament takes place April 30 - May 1, 2010. It shouldn't be missed.

Bowling

Bowling Out Loud, Madison's bowling league, is sanctioned by the USBC (United States Bowling Congress) and is a member of the IGBO (International Gay Bowling Organization.) The league plays on Sunday's at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes in Madison. League play begins in mid-September and ends with a banquet in mid-April.

There's nothing like a serum...

The Madison Minotours Rugby Club is Wisconsin's first and only member of the International Gay Rugby Association and Board (IGRAB)

According to its website, "it was March 10, 2007 and the foot and a half of snow that fell earlier that weekend was starting to melt away. It was also the day that the Madison Minotaurs, with the help of a handful of members from the Minneapolis Mayhem and the Chicago Dragons, had their first Rugby 101. Minotaur history was born."

The Madison Minotaurs Rugby Club is an all inclusive team dedicated to providing everyone, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation or national origin, the opportunity to learn and play the great sport of rugby

But, the Minotaurs beginnings were shaky and, in 2008, the club was near collapse. They only managed their first victory in May 2009 over the visiting Nashville Grizzlies. That inspired renewed efforts to continue and with the support of Madison United Rugby and IGRAD the club persevered.

Find your Sport!

Most teams, clubs and organizations have a web presence in the form of a website or on a social networking site like Facebook. These have become ubiquitous and offer members and potential members the opportunity to find information, schedules, team standing and other pertinent information. Some groups only list a phone number, so call for information.

QUEST has listed contact information as found through either community web sites or other resources.

Contacts for Milwaukee

Milwaukee GAMMA, Inc.
www.milwaukeegamma.com

Holiday Invitation Tournament and
Monday Night Irregulars
414-933-3228
www.hitmilwaukee.org/

Bestd Bowling League 414-881-8071

Milwaukee SSBL
www.ssblmilwaukee.com/

Front Runners
www.ullrwolf.com/frontrunnersmke/welcome.html
Milwaukee, John 414-443-0379

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club
moenell@sbcglobal.net
Milwaukee 414-616-3716

WanderWomyn debydoo2@yahoo.com

Contacts for Madison

Madison SSBL
www.ssblmadison.com/index.htm &
www.madwomen.ssblmadison.com/

The Madison Gay Volleyball League
director@madisongayvolleyball.com
Madison Gay Bowling
www.madisongaybowling.com/

Madison Gay Hockey
www.madisongayhockey.org/

Madison Gay Rugby
www.MinotaursRugby.org
playrugby@mac.com

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL DIVER MATTHEW MITCHAM TO ATTEND 2010 GAY GAMES IN COLOGNE

Sydney, Australia – More than 5,000 artists and athletes have already registered to participate at Gay Games VIII Cologne 2010 Sports & Cultural Festival (www.games-cologne.com) and every day the numbers grow. Now, Australian Olympic gold medalist Matthew Mitcham has announced he will travel to Germany to be part of Cologne's edition of the Gay Games.

"I'm excited to be part of something so important for our communities around the globe. This event brings lesbian and gay life out on the court, onto the track, and into the pool," Matthew explains. "Being 'out' for me means being just as I am with nothing to be ashamed about and no reasons to hide. Participating at the Gay Games is a great chance for all gays and lesbians to show that we as a community are not like the stereotypes the straight media loves to portray. I will take time off from training and travel to Cologne, since I strongly feel we have to celebrate our own values and help others to accept that it is ok to be different."

Matthew Mitcham won the gold medal in 10 meter platform diving at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China, winning on a

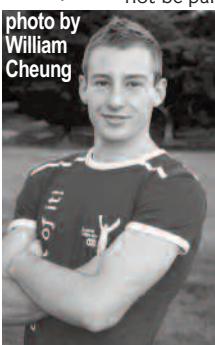


photo by
William
Cheung

final dive that had the highest single-dive score in Olympic history. He was one of 11 openly-gay athletes at the Beijing Olympics.

Matthew will capture his trip to Germany and participation in the Gay Games on his Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Matthew-Mitcham-Olympian/23129711303>), allowing people who can't be there to follow his personal story of being involved in a life-changing event like the Gay Games. Matthew will be making appearances at several events while in Cologne, but will not be participating in the sports program.

Emy Ritt and Kurt Dahl, co-presidents of the Federation of Gay Games, are thrilled to have in Matthew Mitcham another top athlete supporting this year's quadrennial sports and cultural event. "Matthew, one of the most recognised openly gay sports persons of our time at just age 21, is a fantastic role model, especially for younger people. He is focused and successful in his sport and doesn't have to hide being gay. This is something of which Gay Games founder Dr. Tom Waddell would have been so proud. After almost 30 years, the Gay Games continues to make lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender life visible through sports and culture, thus allowing new generations to be accepted just as they are. The wonderful video he recorded for us (viewable at <http://www.gaygames.com>) has already generated significant positive reaction from around the world."



WOOF'S BAR, MADISON



The Blue Lite

Indiana's Sisters of Charity drag troupe invaded the Blue Lite in Sheboygan February 13 for a SRO "Lost Valentine" show that put hilarious spins on tunes from Beyoncé and Annie Lennox to Pasty Cline and Eva Gabor. In the process the Charity cases raised well over \$600 for Rainbow Over Wisconsin's Community Enrichment Fund. In case you missed their over-the-top antics, ROW President Dean Dayton says he's going to try to bring the dolls back for an après meal extravaganza at the 7th Annual ROW dinner this coming November.



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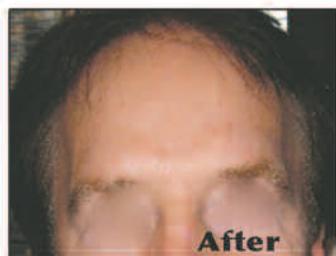
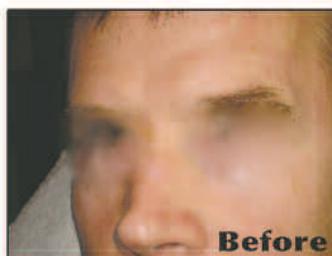
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Bad Romance

Patrick has always been one of my special friends. He's afraid of escalators. He refuses to drive 10 miles away from his house, and lately, he enjoys texting me that he's going to kill himself on a weekly basis. "Well, sorry, but it's the only way to get a response," he argues. "Not that you care, you're sooo busy with your rock-star life, I don't even think my death wouldn't make your Facebook page."

The sad part is he's right. You see, lately, I'm trying to ignore him, refusing to feed his addiction of weekly drama, particularly around February, when he has a tendency to go completely out of whack. But hey, the anticipation of Valentine's Day can get to the best of us, right?

"No! This year, I have it under control," Patrick assures me. An advertising guru, he arrives to our downtown lunch in a black Hugo Boss slim-fit suit and red skinny tie. "I plan to send *myself* flowers to the office. I'm not 19 anymore. I know what I like. I know what sells."

"Dear God, am I going to require a drink for the rest of this conversation?" I moan, as a waitress with an asymmetrical hairdo hands us paper menus.

"I'm serious," he attests, surrounded by sushi scenesters under red lighting in a hip Asian bistro. "Listen, men *want* what they can't have. You know that. You taught me the concept." Gloating, he marks his sushi order with a pencil, his blue eyes sparkling with delight. "And THIS year, I WANT my co-worker Tim. Hence, the flowers. Twelve, red roses. Perfect to make him jealous."

"Tim?" I question, patiently. Though please know the grinding of my teeth is quite audible. "Ugh. Are we doing *this* again?"

"It's ALL good," he says. The perfect pitch-man,

he attempts selling me his confidence with a grin. "What's your problem with Tim?"

Well for starters, Tim *has* a girlfriend, though that hasn't stopped Patrick or Tim from flirting since they started meeting out for happy hour drinks about a year ago. Still, not too big of a deal except for small fact that Tim, the office intern, isn't of legal drinking age. You see, Tim's 19. Patrick's 32.

"But he's mature for his age," Patrick says, defending the situation.

Yes, so mature that, last month, Tim 'accidentally' sent Patrick a picture of his penis on his cell phone, a risky act which *may* have been deemed a legitimate accident if the accident hadn't occurred, hm, sixteen times. "Sorry bro! That was meant for my girlfriend," Tim would usually remark as a follow-up. Then add. "So what do ya think?"

"I think...it's a challenge," Patrick declares, as we wrap up lunch. "So today, I took him up on it."

"You didn't."

"I sent him an underwear shot. Not a big deal. You REALLY have to strain to make out my hard-on. See?" he says. Displaying the photo on his cell, he lights up with excitement, sharing the image of his milky body in black briefs, spread on his bed, where he utilizes a red teddy bear as a pillow. "Oh God, I hope he doesn't think I'm trying to cover up something. You know, like a small dick."

"Well, I'd be more concerned about looking like a pedophile with the *wittle, teddy wetty bear*," I cringe. "Are you insane? I mean, really. You don't shit where you eat. Do you know what's going to happen if this gets out to your boss?"

"Don't worry. It's ALL good," he convinces himself. That is, until later that night when I receive two texts stating 1) he hates himself and 2) he's the ugliest monster in the whole world, all because Tim

blocked his number. "Well...actually his girlfriend blocked it," Patrick admits when I call back. "She found my photo in his phone, and now she thinks I'm a weirdo. I want to die. I mean, seriously. Why should I live?"

A tad dramatic, yes, but don't we all question our existence at one point or another? The trouble with Patrick is he's basing his life's worth on a non-existent romance with some idiot 'straight' guy who's playing mind games with him at the office. But isn't this common? We're all so quick, so ready to jump into disastrous relationships around Valentine's Day just so we can get a card, then we're ready for suicide when the writing hits the wall. Yes, then we're willing to end it all over someone who knows little more about us than what our genitalia looks like when it pops up on their cell phone. I'm confused. What happened to the building of a relationship, to butterflies in your stomach at the beginning of liking someone, to the rush of a brief hello and the possibility of meeting for dinner? Lately, it seems that with all our I-Phone, I-Pods, I-Pads and I-Penises, we no longer know how to say I-Like-You or I-Would-Like-To-Get-To-Know-You. We haven't the patience. Everything has to be now, now, now! Even our friendships have been reduced to the speed of life, where we gladly accept a friend request on Facebook without the consideration of what a friend is. Last I checked, a friend is more than a number, and a lover is more than a name attached to a text. Sadly, it seems Patrick learned this all too late. "You know, I have 500 friends on Facebook," he states, moments before hanging up. "But only three that returned my text tonight. You know what, if I died this Valentine's, I bet not one of them would show up."

"Yeah, you're probably right," I interrupt, in agreement. "But hey, at least, you know you'd be getting flowers."

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DIVERSION OF THE DAY Community Events Calendar

Wednesday, February 24

LaCage (Milw) Entertainer Spotlight Show celebrates 2 Years 2-4-1 all night

Outreach (Madison) Q CINEMA Internl Film Group Beautiful Boxer - Thailand (2004)

Friday, February 26

FLUID (Milw) Black Light Party (Post Office Party) & Puddy's Birthday w/ DJ Kelly 10pm

Ravens (Appleton) Drag Revue featuring Kurtis Ryan

Saturday, February 27

BOOM (Milwaukee) Doctor's Party with Dr. McGillicuddys 10pm

LGBT Center of Chippewa Valley Book Club "Stone Butch Blues", by Leslie Feinberg

Napales (Green Bay) Let's howl! Bear Club 4 Men hosts "Full Moon Madness" Free food, beer bust, raffle to help support ARCW (9pm to closing)

Shelter (Green Bay) Hot Go Go Dancers Tonight!

Stage Q (Madison) Final night for Sappho In Love Bartell Theatre 113 E Mifflin St

UWM (Milwaukee) Annual Drag Show in the Union Ballroom 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 28

Tropical Ultra Lounge (Milw) Mr Gay Latino Competition doors open 4 pm starts 6 pm

Outreach (Madison) OutThere (18-24 social group) "Open Mic Drag Night" 6pm

Walker's Pint & FLUID (Milwaukee) Fluid vs Walker's Pint Chili Cook-off

Saturday, March 6

Blue Light (Sheboygan) Mr. Lakeshore USofA 10 pm

Boot Camp (Milwaukee) Argonauts of Wisconsin Guest Club Night 10-cl Raffle & prizes

Madison Gay Video Club "Little Ashes" (Harel, dir. Paul Morrison, '08) "Action! Parts 1 & 2" (Kirsten Bjorn, 08) 8:00 PM, <http://www.mgvc.org>, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Off The Wagon Bar & Grill (Janesville) Fluid vs

Shelter (Green Bay) Mr & Miss Classique Unlimited 2010 (see ad this issue)

Sunday, March 7

MONA's (Milwaukee) Jessica Daniels Birthday Show 10pm (see ad this issue)

Monday, March 8

Outwards Books (Milw) 7pm Outwards Book Club "The Bothers Boswell" a Georgian literary thriller by Philip E. Baruth. Everyone is welcome.

Tuesday, March 9

LGBT Center of Chippewa Valley Meet the Author: C.M. Harris Book reading & signing. 7pm

Outwards Books (Milw) 7pm Lesbian Reading Group at Outwards Books a debut novelist from Bella Books: Amy Dawson Robertson's "Miles to Go". Everyone welcome.

Friday, March 12

Napales (Green Bay) Argonauts of Wisconsin Club Night \$9 Beer/Soda Bust, Raffle & prizes. St Pats Day comes early!

Saturday, March 13

LGBT Center of Chippewa Valley Pot Luck, Mediterranean style food

Perfect Harmony (Madison) "Troop Salute" concert at West Side Club 437 Cty Hwy M Madison. 7pm tickets \$40 Includes a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, dessert, & champagne.

Sunday, March 14

Kruz (Milw) Castaways Veer/Soda Bust 3-7pm \$7 "Let's Get Lucky!" Prizes too.

Perfect Harmony (Madison) "Troop Salute" concert at West Side Club 437 Cty Hwy M Madison. 7pm tickets \$35 Includes a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres, dessert, & champagne.

Wednesday, March 17 - St Patrick's Day

Ballgame (Milwaukee) HAPPY 40th Anniversary Ballgame!! Party of the decade!

Saturday, March 20

Angels Of Hope MCC (Green Bay) Positive Voice's 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off

LGBT Center of Chippewa Valley Movie Night "Jesus Camp" 7pm

Madison Gay Video Club "Outrage" (Magnolia dir. Kirby Dick, '09) "Pledgemaster: The Hazing" (Falcon '09) 8:00 PM, <http://www.mgvc.org>, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Saturday, March 27

LaCage (Milw) Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA Newcomer Pageant 9pm

LGBT Center of Chippewa Valley Book Club "Whipping girl" 6-9pm Host, Amanda

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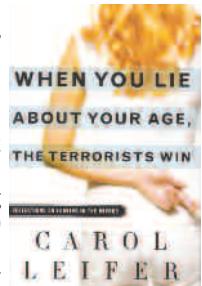
A CELEBRATION OF THE BEST NEW & NOTEWORTHY TITLES FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Non-Fiction:

1. "When You Lie About Your Age, the Terrorists Win."

Carol Leifer

Leifer uses her background in stand-up comedy to good effect in her collection of column-length pieces that range from her finding her lesbian sexual identity at 40 ("If I don't sleep with a woman soon, I think I'll kill myself") to her childhood disappointment at her dad's "bargain" gift of a cheap Babblin' Barbara doll instead of the A-list Chatty Cathy she yearned for.



2. "The Talented Miss Highsmith," Joan Schenkar

Schenkar presents a compelling portrait of a novelist whose own life was often as twisted as that of her anti-hero Tom Ripley. From her early years in Texas through her time soaking up Manhattan's literary life in the '40s to her self-exile in Europe, Highsmith kept diaries in which she meticulously detailed everything from her myriad female lovers to plot ideas, allowing Schenkar to illuminate how her demons played out on the page and in real life.

3. "My Red Blood," Alix Dobkin

For the first time women's music legend Alix Dobkin chronicles her rise to fame as the first artist to record an openly lesbian album in 1973. Growing up in a Communist family, she comes of age under the watchful eye of the FBI. When she arrives on the burgeoning folk music scene of Greenwich Village, she meets the up-and-coming Bob Dylan among many other rising luminaries. Her music takes on overt feminist dimensions when she joins a women's consciousness-raising group

and comes out as a lesbian.

4. "Mean Little deaf Queer: A Memoir," Terry Galloway

When Terry Galloway was born, no one knew that an experimental antibiotic given to her mother had wreaked havoc on her fetal nervous system. Soon, Terry's world would become a deafening, hallucinatory childhood where everything, including her own body, changed for the worse. But those unwelcome changes awoke a dark, defiant humor that has fueled her lifelong obsessions with language, duplicity, and performance.

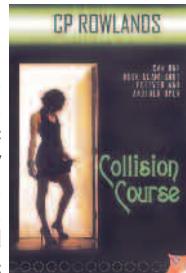
5. "Ties That Bind: Familial Homophobia and Its Consequences," Schulman, Sarah

In this groundbreaking book, playwright and social critic Sarah Schulman explores the family, the first place where all people—straight, gay, and bisexual—learn homophobia. For it is within the family that homophobia begins to control people's lives, whether as perpetrators or recipients.

Fiction:

1. "Collision Course," C.P. Rowlands

The woman Brie O'Malley loved, the future she was planning for, were stolen from her the day she and her lover were shot. Now alone, she is dedicated to her work, volunteering in the community, and researching her next historical novel. Jordan Carter can't believe her bad luck when she collides with beautiful blond Brie. Jordan has also struggled to pull her life together after a tragedy. Do Jordan and Brie have a second chance at love?



2. "The Children of Mother Glory," C.M. Harris

In the turn-of-the-century Midwest, young Glory Potter's lot in life is to serve her father's ministry. When Glory grows into a dominant matriarchal figure—transcending her father in the creation of the Potterite faith and an industry that supports the town of Gulliver—she finds herself fighting "demons from hell" that irresistibly draw her to the woman she craves with all her being.

3. "Precious," Sapphire

Abused by her mother, raped by her father, Claireece Precious Jones grows up poor, angry, illiterate, fat, and unloved. So what better way to learn about her than through her own, halting dialect? "Sometimes I wish I was not alive," Precious says. "But I don't know how to die. Ain' no plug to pull out. 'N no matter how bad I feel my heart don't stop beating and my eyes open in the morning."

4. "Starting From Scratch," Georgia Beers

What happens when your life takes an unexpected turn? What happens when you lose something you never knew you wanted? Lambda-winning author Georgia Beers new novel, "Starting from Scratch," is a story where learning, laughing, loving, and baked goods are just a few of life's basic ingredients and where life is what you make it.

5. "A Field Guide to Deception," Jill Malone

With her aunt's death Claire Bernard loses her best companion, her livelihood, and her son's co-parent. Claire's subsequent journey is the unifying tension in this book of layered and shifting alliances. Malone's smart, intriguing writing beguiles the reader into this taut, compelling story of a makeshift family and the reawakening of a past they'd hoped to outrun.

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(An effervescently gay advice columnist)

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DISPENSING ADVICE LIKE DANDELION SPORES

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I think I need new friends. Every time I try to talk to them about something that is going on in my life, they somehow relate it back to their own lives, and the next thing you know, we're talking about them! I have always been told what a good listener I am, but how do I get others to listen to me?

Signed, Perplexed

Hello Perp,

Well, isn't this peachy? To use colloquial speech, your friends have diarrhea of the mouth. (I have intentionally left off the detailed description of this metaphor for the sake of those readers with tender sensibilities.) You are right; you do need new friends. The impression I get is that when these individuals were children, they did not learn basic social skills. In other words, they never learned how to play well with others. Nobody likes to play with someone who poops in the playpen. And when they don't reciprocate the courtesy of listen-

ing, they are metaphorically pooping in your playpen. Perhaps, they are doing all the talking because they think they know everything. But there in lies the dilemma. You see, no one will care how much your friends know until it is first known how much they care. Get it? They are talking THROUGH you and not TO you. This creates a stumbling block to the forward motion of a positive relationship.

It seems clear to me that you are not going to be able to reform their social skills at this late stage in the game. To use a psychological parlance, by you playing the role of the listener, you have become the bedrock foundation upon which they build their neurotic lives. I don't mean to sound like Dr. Ruthless, but your friends sound very drama-cidal! (Get onboard the insane train; we're pulling out of psychotic station now.) How Gemini is that? They need to learn to live outside their own heads, and be in the real world. Otherwise, they become intellectually barren. (Incidentally, for the curious, this is a

fancy way of saying that they are as dull as a butter knife.) Therefore, if you stop listening to them and insist on being heard, you may find that they get up and walk away from you in mid sentence. Be prepared for this. I am trying to vaccinate you against rejection.

It's like this circle of self-centered friends have created a vacuum vortex that has sucked you in, and now, you are feeling the need to escape. See them for what they really are—the next of kin to chaos. Do not bother trying to change them. You can't endow noble characteristics onto a fraudulent friendship. Sorry to say this, but your friends are not true friends.

Words To Live By, Barbie



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NEW LGBT FILMS ON DVD

by Glenn Bishop

"Little Ashes"

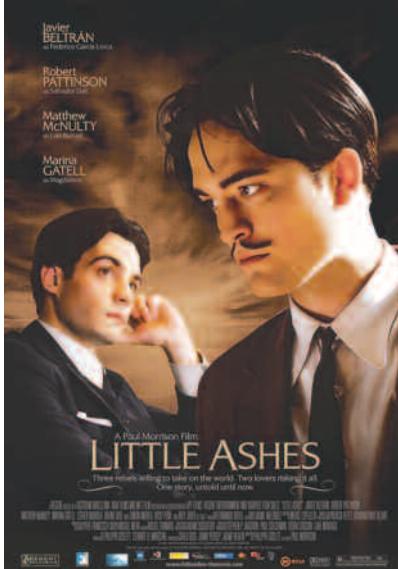
Glenn often wonders, as he watches one Hollywood misadventure after another, how one becomes a casting director. Are there classes; does one major in "Casting" in film school?

Garland as Dorothy, Davis in "All About Eve;" both are shining examples of sheer casting genius. Yet if Hollywood lore is to be believed, Shirley Temple was originally chosen to follow the Yellow Brick Road just as the originally cast Claudette Colbert playing Margo might have allowed the one-time leading lady a reprieve from the obscurity to which big screen historians now relegate her.

All of which leads Glenn to take a moment to contemplate the casting of the exceedingly pretty but awfully strange "Twilight" star Robert Pattinson as Salvador Dali in the misguided biopic, "Little Ashes."

Yes, the same Robert Pattinson who was so memorably zapped by the evil Voldemort in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire." And indeed yes, the Robert Pattinson who reportedly said (to *Details Magazine*), "I really hate vaginas. I'm allergic to vagina."

Unfortunately, Glenn has no word as to whether or not his on- and off-screen



look-a-like) and Buñuel (Matthew McNulty) at university, Madrid 1922. Buñuel and Lorca quickly welcome the eccentric Dali into their literary circle, Lorca rather more insistently so. Pattinson's Dali does clean up rather nicely, once the ruffles and pageboy haircut are mercifully excised following an exceedingly cringe-worthy scene during which the nude Dali examines himself in a mirror and, curiously enough, is not exactly pleased with

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

It must be said; "Little Ashes" left Glenn in something of a muddle. If Glenn were to compare it to such recent straight-to-DVD efforts as the wretched "Wrecked" or the simply ridiculous "Aaron...Albeit a Sex Hero," "Little Ashes" is looks nothing short of brilliant and worthy of pride of place on anyone's stack of Gay DVDs. Javier Beltran's performance in particular as Lorca must be praised, the actor adding much needed weight to even the silliest of scenes, often suggesting depths of character not otherwise present in Goslett's screenplay. Yet, given its potential, the real tragedy of "Little Ashes" is just how director Paul Morrison and screenwriter Philippa Goslett managed to cock things up as badly as they did. "Little Ashes" looks terrific, in a glossy "Masterpiece Theatre" sort of way yet entirely lacks historical context as well as any sense of place, be it the artistic eccentricities of 1920s Paris or of a Spain teetering towards fascism.

The biggest problem, however, is imagining what Beltran's Lorca sees in Pattinson's insipid Dali. Not since Leonardo DiCaprio was cast as the poet Rimbaud has Glenn seen such a travesty of casting. Pattinson's performance neither suggests the talent that would make Dali the face of Surrealism, nor the drive to become the shameless self-promoter later dubbed by colleagues, "Avida Dollars" (eager for dollars). Indeed, Pattinson is further hindered by speaking with a Spanish accent so awful it rivals the ludicrous parody of Cockney that Dick Van Dyke's used in "Mary Poppins." direct

Just the facts...

"Little Ashes" has a running time of 112 minutes "Little Ashes" is available on DVD with an SRP of \$26.99 DVD boasts the usual extra features including interviews with the cast and director plus the featurette: "The Making of Little Ashes"

what he sees. .

Lorca subsequently falls truly, madly deeply in love with Pattinson's Dali. If the multitude of smoldering looks he bestows upon Dali from across the room weren't clue enough, there's an exceptionally silly scene which finds Lorca on his knees praying to be free of his impure thoughts.

Good luck with that, thinks Glenn.

Perhaps sensing the same-sex naughtiness between his friends looming directly ahead, Buñuel flees to Paris to become a filmmaker; his subsequent and now infamous 1929 short "Un Chien Andalou" here revealed as merely a cinematic joke at Lorca's expense.

With Buñuel now conveniently out of the picture, Lorca and Dali are now free for a moonlit, midnight dalliance far too coy and artfully knowing to suit Glenn.

From here, "Little Ashes" meanders along with nary a narrative arc. Possibly daunted by the physicality of Lorca's attachment, Dali flees, to join Buñuel in Paris; Lorca pines for him. Dali marries the icy if gorgeous Gala (Arly Jover); Lorca continues to pine after Dali.

Too late in the proceedings, Goslett's screenplay finally places Lorca within the revolutionary movement, just in time in fact to bestow cinematic sainthood upon a poet and indeed, upon a man who surely deserved better.

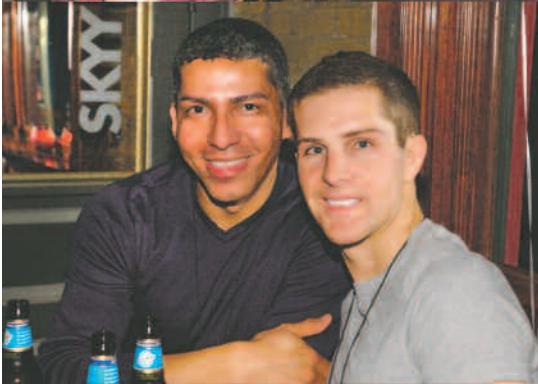


squeeze Kristen Stewart is allergic to the former wizard's magic wand.

A quick synopsis of "Little Ashes" looks promising, beginning with the curious albeit fascinating ménage-a-trios consisting of the poet and playwright Federico Garcia Lorca, legendary surrealist Salvador Dali and experimental filmmaker Luis Buñuel. Together, these three iconic figures of the 20th Century seek

to find their unique artistic expressions within a tumultuous Spain careening towards civil war. Much like a sweet maraschino cherry sitting atop a decadent ice cream sundae; director Paul Morrison and screenwriter Philippa Goslett add into this heady mix a passionate affair between Lorca and Dali.

The film starts with the foppish Dali (Pattinson) joining Lorca (Javier Beltran, a Lorca



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5 ETC (Basement level of LaCage)
801S 2nd, (414)383-8330

6 Fluid 819 South 2nd (414)643-5843

7 Harbor Room 117 E Greenfield (414)672-7988

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