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# QUEST

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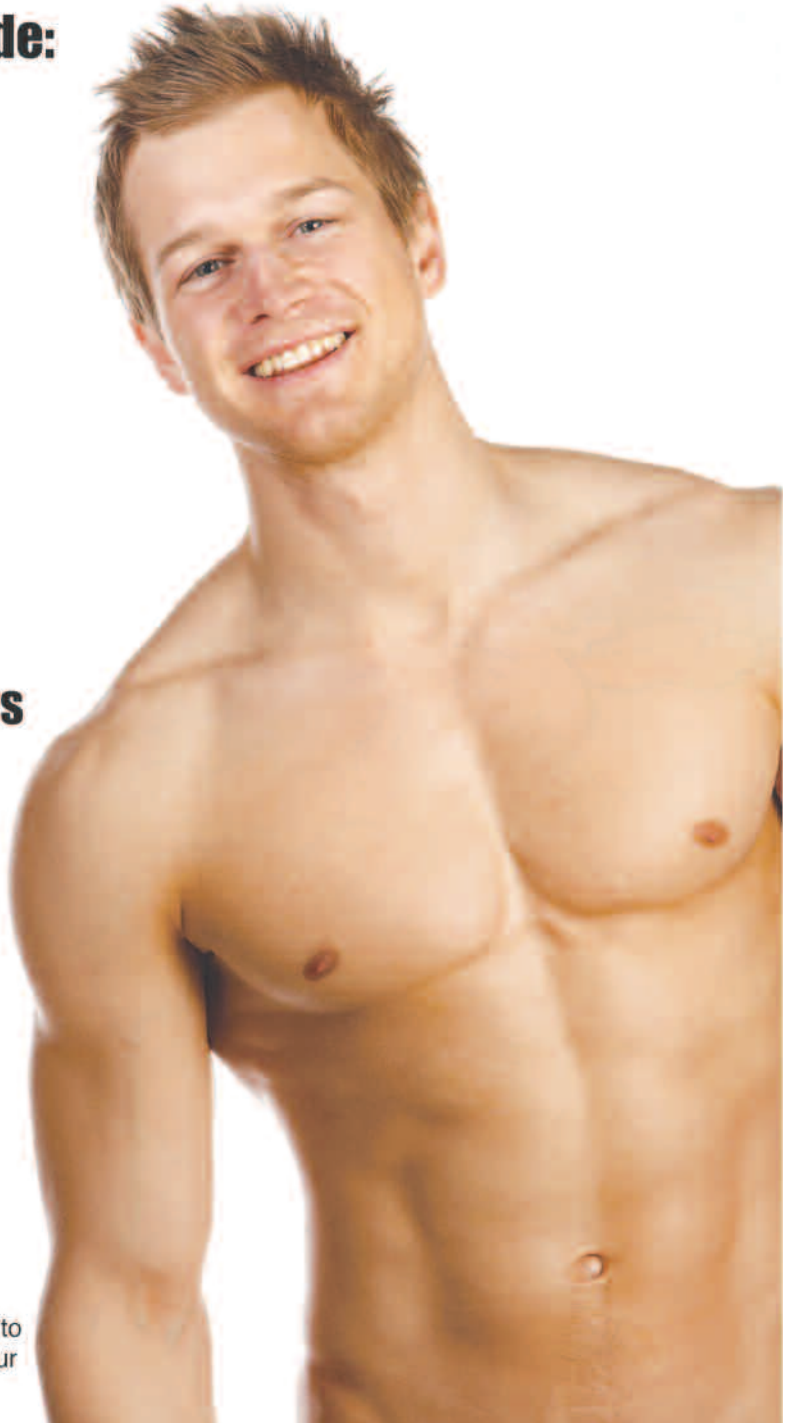
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# SENATORS INTRODUCE REPEAL OF "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"

WASHINGTON, D.C.- A coalition of United States Senators today introduced legislation to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and enhance our country's military effectiveness. *The Military Readiness Enhancement Act of 2010* contains three main provisions: it will repeal the law that prevents gay Americans from openly serving in the military, prohibit discrimination against current and prospective service members on the basis of sexual orientation, and promote the ability of college students who wish to serve our country to join Reserve Officer Training Corps units at universities that currently prevent the establishment of ROTC units on campus.

The bill, cosponsored by Senators Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Carl Levin (D-MI), Mark Udall (D-CO), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Roland Burris (D-IL), Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Arlen Specter (D-PA), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), and Al Franken (D-MN), incorporates the Pentagon Working Group that has been created at the direction of Defense Secretary Robert Gates to conduct a study and propose an implementation plan for the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"The bottom line is that we have a volunteer military," said **Senator Lieberman**. "If Americans want to serve, they ought to have the right to be considered for that service regardless of characteristics such as race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation. Repealing the current policy will allow more patriotic Americans to defend our national security and live up to our nation's founding values of freedom and opportunity."

"I did not find the arguments used to justify 'don't ask, don't tell' convincing when it took effect in 1993, and they are less so now," said **Senator Levin**, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "This legislation will do what other armies have already done – without having an adverse effect on good order and discipline or unit cohesion. Gays are serving successfully in our military right now – this legislation would allow them to serve with integrity."

"You don't have to be straight to shoot straight." Those were the words of Barry Goldwater, a combat veteran and unflinching advocate for national defense. And you certainly don't have to be straight to recognize who the enemy is," said **Senator Udall**. "This is an issue of military effectiveness. I

have soldiers and airmen in my home state of Colorado who are being asked to serve five tours of duty or more. We need all the qualified service members we have to fight – we shouldn't be dismissing them just because they're gay."

"Don't Ask, Don't Tell' is an unjust and discriminatory measure that hampers our national security and violates the civil rights of some of the bravest, most heroic Americans," said **Senator Gillibrand**. "This policy is wrong for our national security and inconsistent with the moral foundation upon which our country was founded. When we repeal this policy – and we will repeal this policy – we will strengthen America – both militarily and morally."

"For too long, gay and lesbian service members have been forced to conceal their sexual orientation in order to dutifully serve their country," said **Senator Burris**. "With this bill, we will end this discriminatory policy that grossly undermines the strength of our fighting men and women at home and abroad. This legislation will ensure that all gay and lesbian soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines can serve their country openly and proudly without the threat of prejudice or discharge."

"The Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy never made sense. In the nearly two decades since it was begun, our military has lost the valuable services of too many patriotic Americans. The time has come to end this broken policy," said **Senator Bingaman**.

"I look forward to ending the discriminatory Don't Ask Don't Tell policy as soon as possible," said **Senator Boxer**. "We cannot afford to lose the service of dedicated and honorable military personnel, which is happening right now."

"Don't Ask Don't Tell was bad for our country and our national security when I voted against it 17 years ago, and I'm glad to be part of the team working to repeal it today," said **Senator Wyden**. "Under this bill, the military can stop discharging qualified servicemembers because of who they love and instead focus its energy where it belongs – on

the nation's defense."

"This will help ensure that we have a defense force that reflects our commitment to the fundamental principles upon which the country was founded," said **Senator Leahy**. "We ask our troops to protect freedom in places around the globe. It is time to protect their basic freedoms and equal rights here at home."

"I am pleased to join my colleagues, the Commander-in-Chief and Pentagon leadership in working to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" said **Senator Specter**. "We must end discrimination against those who choose to proudly serve our country."

"The men and women who honor our nation by serving in the armed forces deserve our utmost respect and support," said **Senator Merkley**. "The very strongest fighting force demands that we recruit and retain those who have the skills and knowledge to fulfill their missions. Their private lives should have no bearing on their willingness or ability to serve. This legislation undoes an injustice that has kept far too many excellent Americans from wearing a military uniform."

"The time has come to repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' It is the right thing to do. Every American should have the opportunity to serve their country, regardless of race, sex, creed, or sexual orientation," said **Senator Feinstein**. "The criteria for serving one's country should be competence, courage and willingness to serve. When we deny people the chance to serve because of their sexual orientation, we deprive them of their rights of citizenship, and we deprive our armed forces the service of willing and capable Americans."

"I've been on 7 USO tours – 4 to Iraq and Afghanistan – and I recently returned from a trip to the Afghanistan-Pakistan region as Senator," said **Senator Franken**. "Over the years I've seen tremendous movement on this issue within the military. They're ready for it and we're ready for it. We need to end a policy that forces patriotic Americans to lie in order to defend their country."

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## MILWAUKEE'S NEWEST GAY BAR OPENS SMOKE-FREE

**Milwaukee-** Hybrid Lounge, a newly opened restaurant and bar located at 707 E Brady Street, (where Brady, Van Buren, Holton, and Water streets intersect) held their grand opening on March 9 just after *Quest* went to press. Hybrid is the first gay bar since *Mama Rue's* to open on Milwaukee's east side. With a state-wide smoking ban taking effect this July, Hybrid Lounge is taking the initiative by opening smoke-free.

This will be the first smoke-free gay bar in the area. Recently *The ROOM* next to *Boom* experimented with the concept, but later switched back due to lack of support for a smoke free venue.

Owners Bill Lison and Nate Fried, Milwaukee natives, are creating a welcoming atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable. Their fresh approach combines a bar and lounge along with a restaurant, opening in April, which serves contemporary American food. This menu will focus on progressive in-

gredients that are health conscious.

The decor incorporates Milwaukee heritage to highlight iconic architecture and brands that have put Milwaukee on the map. From County Stadium, to Schlitz Brewery, each piece showcases Milwaukee pride.

"It just makes sense, it's about time for a gay bar on the East Side. The location makes it a great alternative destination for the gay community. It's where Milwaukee meets," says Lison.

Located at 707 E Brady Street, where Brady, Van Buren, Holton, and Water streets intersect, Hybrid will be open Monday thru Friday 4 p.m. to close, Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to close with happy hour from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Street parking is available and the lounge is conveniently located near the Milwaukee County Transit bus lines 10, 11, and 15. For more information, call 414-272-2218 or visit [www.hybridlounge.net](http://www.hybridlounge.net).

## MILWAUKEE GAMMA CELEBRATES 32 YEARS

**Milwaukee -** Milwaukee GAMMA is proud to announce it is in its 32nd year as a gay social organization. Formed 32 years ago as a sporting group of gay men to play volleyball and softball, the group evolved to include social interactions of its members. As the years went by, the function of the organization has changed. As a nonprofit 501(c)7 organization, GAMMA has become a social organization for the gay community of Metro Milwaukee.

GAMMA's monthly newsletter showcases the diversity of the activities it offers its membership. Activities include monthly parties hosted at members' homes, dining out at local restaurants throughout the Metro Milwaukee area, card game nights (sheepshead, cribbage, bridge), and board game nights. And, there still are running dates, bowling, and, what we are known for – volleyball. In addition, there are camping trips and destination trips pro-

moted through our calendar. Other special events occur as individual members come up with them.

The key to GAMMA's success over the last 32 years is it's completely membership driven. The organizational structure allows individual members to have an impact on the group.

GAMMA's web page and its success as an organization had led to groups from around the country as well as international groups contacting them for information on how they have achieved success.

"As GAMMA goes into the year 2010 we are trying to recognize the needs and wants of the gay community today. As new members come into the organization we look forward to even more activities added to our monthly calendar," states Kip Spiering, GAMMA's marketing director.

For more information about GAMMA, please visit [www.milwaukeegamma.com/](http://www.milwaukeegamma.com/)

## GRINDR CRAZE GROWS AT RAPID PACE iPhone App Changes Landscape of Social Networking

**Los Angeles -** Grindr, the largest all-male mobile location-based networking service reached its landmark 500,000th member and is still growing. Since the inception of the social networking application in early 2009, approximately 1,000 to 2,000 new users have been signing up every day. The Grindr craze has undeniably changed the game of social networking for gay and bisexual men around the world.

Grindr's extraordinary growth is as revolutionary as the app itself and has significantly changed the ways in which guys are choosing to meet up with their friends, make new ones or find a friendly face in locations they are visiting. Whether you just want to know if any of your friends are nearby or are looking to see if there are other gay guys in your neck of the woods, Grindr has become the easiest, quickest and most simple way for guys to meet each other.

The app, which runs on iPhone and iPod touch, uses location-based technology like GPS, cell towers and Wi-Fi to determine the user's location. A quick tap delivers profiles, photos, and information of

nearby guys. A user's profile is available in seconds, as are chat functions and sending additional photos or even a user's map location.

Simkhai adds, "We've been amazed with not only our growth but also by how engaged Grindr users are. A large number of users launch Grindr hourly and daily. Some guys leave it open for several hours a day. And when they change their location they will launch Grindr again to see who's nearby." An unprecedented 30% of users check their Grindr daily, 44% check their accounts weekly. Best of all, the Grindr application is free.

There is now a premium (extra) version for only \$2.99 a month. Grindr X(tra) lets users see up to 200 more guys who are close-by (100 more than the free version allows) and it's ad free. Grindr X(tra) also uses Push Notification, allowing users to receive messages when they are not online. Grindr and Grindr X(tra) work with both the iPhone and iPod Touch but will be available on the BlackBerry and other platforms in the near future. Visit [www.Grindr.com](http://www.Grindr.com) for more information.

## QUEER THE CENSUS AT LGBT CENTER OF SE WI

**Racine -** LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin offers an important and timely program on "Queer the Census," presented by Bob Waldron Thursday, March 11: 7:30-8:30 pm. The audience will learn why your participation (in a variety of ways) is so vitally important in this year's extraordinary census. The LGBT center's website states, "Probably more than any other time in our history, LGBT people must take an active role in our national census. Other communities are gearing up to maximize their allowable count. Can our own LGBT population do the same?"

Find out what makes this year's Census distributed in March so different and how you can get involved. Bob Waldron, a Census Bureau Complete Count Committee member, will discuss the Census from an LGBT perspective. This program is free.

Reflective of a policy change by the Obama Administration, the 2010 Census is the first national effort to acknowledge same-sex couples, providing insight into the size and racial diversity of the LGBT community.

Same-sex couples filling out the Census can indicate their relationship to their married spouse by indicating 'husband' or 'wife,' or same sex couples can select the 'unmarried partner' option to reflect their household status.

The LGBT community is denied a number of federal civil rights associated with military service, social security, immigration, health and marriage benefits. A Census of LGBT couples helps in highlighting the needs of the LGBT community.

More info at [www.queerthecensus.org/](http://www.queerthecensus.org/) and for information about the LGBT Census and resource locations visit [www.ourfamiliescount.org](http://www.ourfamiliescount.org) or call 1-877-352-3676.

## MGAC OPENS AUDITIONS FOR THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

As part of the 2010 V-Day Community Campaign, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is proud to present a benefit production of *The Vagina Monologues* to raise awareness and funds for local organizations working to end violence against women and girls. Performances dates are tentatively scheduled for April 16th, 17th, and 18th, 2010 with an additional performance in early June 2010. Auditions and rehearsals will be held at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center at 703 South 2nd Street, Milwaukee Wisconsin 53204.

### Audition Information

Auditions will be held on Saturday, March 20th and Sunday, March 21st from Noon to 5:00 PM at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, one block North of National Avenue. All levels of experience are encouraged to audition. If you cannot make either of the audition dates, please email [wahla@msoe.edu](mailto:wahla@msoe.edu) to set up an alternate audition.

Participants are not required to prepare anything in advance for this audition; however, present previously prepared monologues of no longer than 1.5 minutes. Cold reading material will be given at check in. You are welcome to bring a resume and headshot, but it is not required. Audition will be in groups of up to 3 people at a time.

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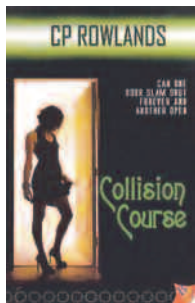
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## OUTWORDS BOOKS HOSTS A PUBLICATION PARTY FOR AUTHOR C.P. ROWLANDS

Outwords Books is hosting a publication party for novelist, C.P. Rowlands, to celebrate the release of her second novel, "Collision Course," a new release from Bold Strokes Books. The event is scheduled for Tuesday, March 30 at 7:00pm

Rowland's first novel, "Lake Effect Snow," also from Bold Strokes Books proved to be Outwords bestselling lesbian fiction title in 2008.

Brie O'Malley, successful author and college professor, isn't sure if she believes in destiny. The life she had, the woman she loved, the future she was planning for, were stolen from her the day she and her lover were shot. The only survivor,



Brie is dedicated to her work, volunteering in the community, and researching her next historical novel. Yet she hasn't laughed since the tragedy. Until the day she meets Jordan. Skateboarding to show her two kids how an expert does it, Jordan Carter can't believe her bad luck when she collides with beautiful blond Brie and meets her later at the hospital. A carpenter and partner in the family business, Jordan has also struggled to pull her life together after a tragedy. Neither woman is looking for or expects a second chance at love but each must make a decision about the past that will open a door to the future.



C.P. Rowlands will read and sign copies of "Collision Course" that Tuesday at Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee, located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. The event is free and all are welcome. For more information, call (414) 963-9089 or visit [www.outwordsbooks.com](http://www.outwordsbooks.com).

## NEW LGBT SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE QUEERBOOK.COM LAUNCHES

**ADDISON, Texas** - Queerbook.com lay dormant from 2003 until the owner of the URL happened to take a look at the Google Analytics showing hundreds of thousands of hits on the direct URL entry alone. After this discovery, the site, which had been going to be a "year book" for local gay and lesbian bars, was launched into GLBT social networking ventures.

"It's a competitive niche; however, we are focusing on non-porn, non-quickie, agenda items. We

want to bring advocacy, education, interaction and fun to our GLBT members. We commissioned a study by Texas Research and Investment which showed both the increasing acceptance of the 'queer' moniker within the community and the ideals of having a site not dedicated to finding the hottest porn and quickest hookup," says Rick Setter of Advocate USA, LLC, the corporation responsible for Queerbook.com.

Queerbook.com offers members chat, groups,

blogs, pictures, videos, and soon, other features including multiple profiles and privacy options. In addition, a speed networking and speed dating feature will be deployed ever two weeks for members. The look and feel is similar to facebook and should appeal to anyone familiar with social networking sites.

"The investment in initial research has allowed us to build a site optimized for desired features. We may be skewed toward the 30 to 40 set because of the values we represent, but advertisers will find a rich market to reach on Queerbook.com," says Setter.

FMI Visit <http://www.queerbook.com>

## STILL MORE CLOSET GAY SCANDALS: IF YOU ENJOY SEEING POLITICIANS DESTROYED BY THEIR OWN HYPOCRISY, IT'S BEEN A VERY, VERY GOOD YEAR.

**Sacramento, CA** - A California state senator who has voted against gay rights measure since he took office eight years ago was charged with driving under the influence on Wednesday, reportedly after leaving a gay nightclub in Sacramento.

Senator Roy Ashburn, a Republican, was spotted driving erratically at about 2 a.m. Wednesday in downtown Sacramento, officials said. He was arrested after taking a sobriety test, and he was taken to Sacramento County Jail, where he was administered a blood-alcohol test prior to being booked and released. He was charged with driving under the influence and driving with a blood alcohol level of .08 percent or higher.

Ashburn, who is a father of four, apologized for his actions.

"I am deeply sorry for my actions and offer no excuse for my poor judgment," he said in a statement. "I accept complete responsibility for my conduct and am prepared to accept the consequences for what I did. I am also truly sorry for the impact this incident will have on those who support and trust me -- my family, my constituents, my friends, and my colleagues in the Senate."

He was arrested after leaving Faces, a gay nightclub in midtown Sacramento, after allegedly attending a drag show. A male passenger, who was not identified as a lawmaker, was also in the car but was not detained.

This past week the scandal has been a frequent topic in the news since Ashburn, who served in the state Assembly from 1996 to 2002 before he

was elected to the Senate, has voted against every gay rights measure since he became a senator, according to Project Vote Smart, a Web site that tracks voting records.

Senator Ashburn is just one of several politicians to recently get caught in embarrassing situations all involving hypocrisy of their actions vs a past voting record. Others include: Mark Foely and his sexual instant messages to teenaged Congressional pages. Ted Haggard, the leader of the National Association of Evangelicals caught paying male prostitutes for sex and snorting crystal meth. Senator Larry Craig who was caught soliciting sex from an undercover cop and Bob Allen, a member of the Florida House of Representatives who offered an undercover officer \$20 in exchange for being allowed to perform oral sex on him.

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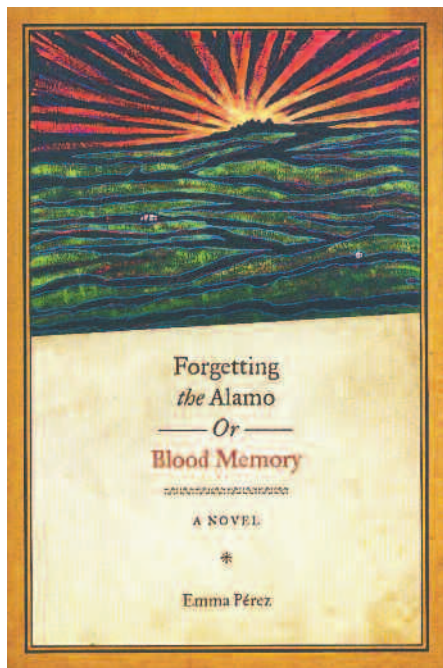
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**“Forgetting the Alamo, or, Blood Memory” by Emma Perez**

c.2009, University of Texas Press

\$24.95 / \$34.95 Canada 206 pages



Your first introduction to hiding was a game called Peek-A-Boo. Then there was Hide & Seek, and after that, you learned to hide milk money from playground bullies and your diary from your mother. Through the years, you covered up your ignorance of school lessons (don't want to seem too smart), your lack of dates on Saturday night (don't want to seem too unpopular), and your growing body (don't want to seem too appealing). But that's small stuff. Hiding can be life-saving necessary. It can be life-or-death. It can be a means to revenge, as you'll see in the new novel **“Forgetting the Alamo, or, Blood Memory”** by Emma Perez.

From the time that she was a very small girl, Michaela Campos knew that she was more like her father than she was like her mother. Because of that, Michaela went everywhere with Agustin - even to Miss Elsie's, where little girls weren't supposed to see what big people were doing.

So it was no surprise that, in the days after the battle at the Alamo, Michaela was with her father when he found her Tio Lorenzo, his brother. In anguish, he buried Lorenzo and in anguish, he rode off for revenge and battle, leaving Michaela to watch over the ranch, her mami and her twin siblings, Rusty and Ifigenia.

Michaela couldn't let her papi fight without her, so she went after him but was too late. Carnage met her at the battle site and she found her papi dead. Grief-stricken, she returned to the ranch, where she found the twins murdered and Mami raped. So Michaela ran.

Wrapping her body tightly and wearing her papi's buckskin coat, carrying his rifle and the knife that killed him, she ran, hiding her femaleness and looking for the men who started it all: a man named

Rove, a Colonel who was no colonel, and her cousin, Jedidiah Jones, who somehow always managed to make Michaela smaller.

She aimed to find them and kill them.

She never aimed to fall in love.

Clara was beautiful, with hair to her waist and a bright smile. Michaela loved her, but couldn't tell her so. Instead, she watched the woman she loved fall for one of the men Michaela chased.

Filled with lush beauty, harshness, and horrifying brutality, **“Forgetting the Alamo, or, Blood Memory”** is one of those books in which you just *know* what's



going to happen at the end.

And you'd be wrong.

Author Emma Perez says in her acknowledgements that she traveled through her settings, letting her imagination go while she did her research. That shows in this story of a young woman who is forced to come of age as

the new state of Texas is born and settled.

Be aware that – though this novel is as chaste as any western – it might not be the kind of material Grandpa would read... and that's too bad. I loved this oater, and when you read **“Forgetting the Alamo, or, Blood Memory”**, you'll have a hard time hiding your appreciation, too.

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## LOVE SLAP Leah Driscoll Tears It Up

By Phil Bessimer

According to club diva Leah Driscoll, there are several stages after a break-up. There's the sad, weepy stage when you re-read every text message and think back on all the good times. There's the self-loathing stage when you blame yourself for the split. Then there's the angry stage when you tear up all the pictures and toss out every remnant of the jerk. Leah calls it the "Angela Bassett in *Waiting to Exhale*" stage, where the jilted lover gets all pyro.

That's what her latest track, "If This Is Love", is about. It's a girl-done-wrong-who-now-seeks-revenge track. Gay men, of course, are eating it up. After all, who's more vengeful than a dumped bitter queen?

It also helps that the track comes from the same artist who lit up dance floors last summer with her celebratory anthem "Pride", a song seemingly made for gay dance floors. The track was so rainbow, it solidified her status as gay clubland's biggest fag hag. It even led some to wonder if Leah Driscoll was in fact a gay man in a hot wig. Or — more likely — if she is a gay man trapped in a woman's body.

**Did you expect "Pride" would make you gay clubland's biggest fag hag?**

(Laughing) I knew the song would touch more gay fans than straight. It's a powerful track and I always get the same reaction: "this is totally a gay club anthem!"

**Have you always has a lot of gay friends?**

I can't answer this with a more emphatic YES! As early as my teens, I always had gay friends. Of course, they were closeted at the time.

**What's drawn you to the queens?**

It's not that I ever intentionally went out looking for gay guys to be my friends, it just somehow always turned out that way. If I walk into a room with 100 people and there's one gay man, he's coming over to talk to me. Even my gay friends joke about it.

**You've said in interviews that you can relate to the gay mans' plight. How so?**

I've always had a huge capacity for empathy, which is good and bad. Sometimes it leads me to get sucked up in other people's drama, especially my gay friends' drama!

**There is no drama like a gay mans' drama!**

But on the good side, it's allowed me to understand how difficult life can be for some people. I've always had a soft spot for anyone who's an "underdog" because I am one too. I guess that's the main connection I feel with gay men. We also seem to cope with life's difficulties in similar ways, like watching *Golden Girls*. There is much to be learned from Sicilian fables and St. Olaf stories.

**Why is a self-described wall flower seeking the spotlight?**

I ask myself that a lot! I love my private time. I love solitude. But I also know that good ideas, good messages, and good music don't mean very much if no one hears them.

**Do you break out of your shell when you perform in front of crowds?**

Oh yeah, for sure. I'm definitely a magnified version of myself on stage. I'm able to get over any shyness because I really feel its part of my purpose to be out in front of people, delivering something meaningful. I feel empowered on stage.

**What's the inspiration behind your new single, *If This Is Love*?**

I think there are different stages of ending a relationship. There's the sad, weepy stage where you re-read every text message and think back on the good times. Then there's the angry stage where you've had enough. I call this the "Angela Bassett in *Waiting to Exhale*" stage, where she gets all pyro. That's what the song is about.

**There's not a woman or a gay man in the world who hasn't felt the need to go pyro.** (laughs) I certainly have!

**What's your take on love?**

I am getting ready to read four different books on love, so I may have a different answer in a few weeks. For now, though, I think love is great as long as it's an unselfish love. The problem is most people can't recognize that what they think is love is not love at all.

**The gays love their kiss-off songs. Is that why you're promoting the song so heavily to gay fans?**

The single is similar to the ultimate gay anthem,



Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive". So yeah, I'm hoping gay fans will embrace it.

**What's something your fans might be surprised to learn about you?**

When I'm feeling stressed out, I like to do my hair. It's the best therapy.

**Many of your gay fans can probably relate to that!**

(Laughs) You're probably right! Another thing that might surprise fans is I once won a geography bee. Also, I like crossword puzzles. I guess I'm a bit of a closet nerd.

**Come out of the closet, girl!**

OK, I'm a nerd!

**What's next for you?**

I used to think about the future a lot. I use to try to plan how everything was going to turn out but you know what? It never turned out that way.

**So are you now living for the day?**

Exactly. My focus right now is on promoting the record and performing. And in between, you can find me watching *Glee* and re-runs of *The Golden Girls*.

**You are a gay man.**

(Laughs) I guess I am.

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Should it be called Drag or Female Impersonation? Personally, I don't care what you call it as long as it's entertaining. For the sake of saving space, I'm going to call it drag. Dressing up in drag appears to have existed through the length of civilization and the breadth of its cultures. As an artform, the theatrical aspects (performance, costuming, glitz and glamour) are what seem to continue through time. While some impersonate celebrities, others create their own persona and you can find a mix of both in just about any show or pageant no matter where your travels may take you.

Some of you may remember "The Pageant" aka Miss Gay Wisconsin. In 1971 it was originally called Miss Gay Milwaukee and Jamie Gays was crowned the winner. Not to leave the boys out, in 1974 they added the Mr. Groovy Guy contest with the top honors the first year going to Jeff Schultz. The same year they also changed the name to Miss Gay Wisconsin. The title, Mr. Groovy Guy, was eventually changed to Mr. Gay Wisconsin and the contests were held on the same night. The Marc Plaza Hotel's Crystal Ballroom was the host venue for a number of years. A grand, black tie affair complete with dinner and cocktails followed by a "sitting on the edge of your seat" competition. It was an event not to be missed!

While many bar titleholders were either expected or encouraged to enter Miss Gay Wisconsin throughout the years, they did allow anyone to enter. Miss Gay Wisconsin's list of titleholders is a who's who of drag history in the state of Wisconsin; Rona, Abbey Rhodes, Tina Capri, BJ Daniels, Miss M, Nichole Saunders, Vanessa Alexandre and Dynasty DuPonte to name only a few.

Many bars have had shows at one time or another throughout the years. The biggest "rivalry" in the late 80's and early 90's was between LaCage and Club 219. I'm not sure if there were any actual issues between the two clubs other than who would have the largest attendance for their shows on Sunday nights. With show directors Holly Brown (LaCage) and Ginger Spice (Club 219) at their respective helms, it was often standing room only and audience members couldn't get enough.

The popularity of drag in Milwaukee caught the interest of bar owners in other cities around the state and they wanted these Milwaukee LGBT celebrities do shows at their clubs. Club 219 cast members BJ Daniels, Tiffany Thomas, Mary Richards and others could occasionally be found entertaining packed houses in Green Bay, Appleton and Madison. Not only did the shows offer these headliners the opportunity to showcase their talents away from their home bar, it was great entertainment and it sparked the "drag bug" in a number of future entertainers and titleholders from around the state.

Drag performers come and go, most just retire from the artform but others can be found from time to time donning their gay apparel for special events or fundraisers. Some can't get enough of the spotlight and the roar of the crowd. Two that immediately come to mind are Mimi Marks, who made a

name for herself in Milwaukee and is still performing regularly at The Baton Show Lounge in Chicago and Lily White who is now the show director at The Townhouse in St. Paul, taking to the stage twice a week in the Pumps & Pearls Revue.

While it had been rumored for more years than most of us care to remember, the top floor of LaCage Niteclub officially opened in November 2009 as Montage Lounge. The current owners, Michael and Kris, had "show lounge" as one of their top priorities after purchasing the club over 4 years ago. Complete renovation was a daunting task but the newest space in the LaCage Entertainment Complex, is now open 7 days a week with regular shows on Wednesdays and Fridays. The new space also allows them to easily host fundraisers, special shows and pageants. The Entertainer's Spotlight mini-show on Wednesdays offers the opportunity for the "newer" girls to rack

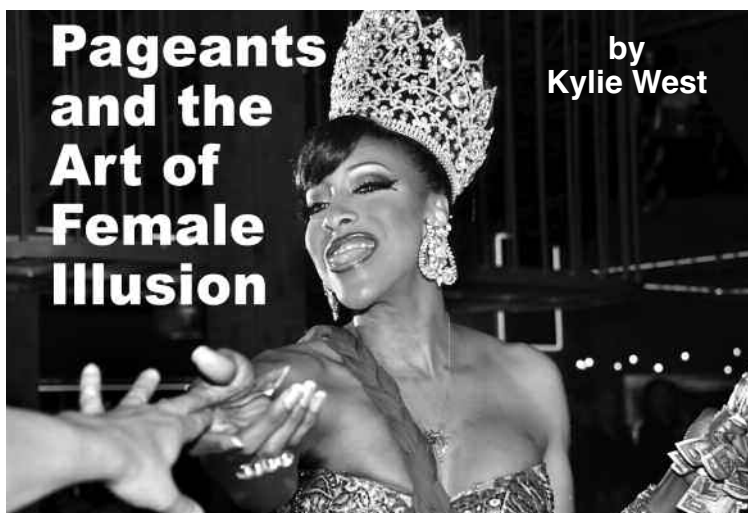
with her 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate, Betty Boop, to compete for the title of Miss Gay USofA 2010 in May. During the 4-day event, 40 to 50 contestants are judged in 3 categories; personal interview, evening gown and talent. The top 12 highest scoring individuals will take to the stage at the Lakewood Theater, a beautifully restored Art-Deco theater with 800 seats on the final night to re-compete in evening gown and talent. A capacity crowd is expected as with their past national contests. The newly crowned diva will be at Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA 2011 when Jackie Roberts steps down and crowns a new Miss Wisconsin USofA this coming fall.

Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA is one of the few USofA contests around the country that has required preliminary pageants, such as Miss City of Festivals, Miss Lakeshore, Miss Bay City, etc. that are held locally. In other words, you must be the Winner or 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate of one of these in order to be eligible to enter the state contest. Think of it as a stepping stone to qualify and prepare for the "big dance" as it is often called. Jackie Roberts, Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA's Symbol of Excellence, will be performing and representing Wisconsin USofA at each preliminary pageant to help groom, encourage and mentor those interested in competing for her title this coming fall.

USofA Pageants, based in Dallas, has gradually introduced a variety of sub-systems over the years for just about every type of potential contestant. Each have various requirements such as the Miss USofA at Large division for those weighing over 225 pounds, Miss USofA Classic for those contestants who have reached the age of 40, Mr. USofA® and Mr. USofA at Large® for the boys and Mister USofA M.I.® (which stands for Male Impersonator) for the drag kings. The most recent addition is Miss Gay USofA Newcomer. The first Wisconsin preliminary for USofA Newcomer will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup> in Montage Lounge.

Everything goes in cycles and the interest and popularity in drag in general is on the upswing again like it was in the early 90's. Is it due to the attendance of a more diverse crowd for shows? Perhaps it's due to the overwhelming popularity of the Logo Network's reality show *RuPaul's Drag Race* in which actor, drag queen, model, singer-songwriter RuPaul plays host, mentor and inspiration for the series to find America's next drag superstar. On the show, top drag queens compete to be selected by RuPaul and a panel of judges as the number one drag performer in the country. Now in it's second season, RuPaul was quoted as saying "You have to remember, we're queens. So, there's gonna be drama. Lots of it!"

There's not always a lot of drama when it comes to drag in Wisconsin. It's generally light-hearted and fun backstage whether it's a weekly show or a pageant, but once a performer steps on stage, the music swells and the spotlight hits them you'll probably see a little attitude, some drama, quite a few flashy costumes and most likely a lot of glamour ... but it's drag, that's how it's supposed to be.



up some stage time to perfect their craft along with some more well-known performers, but the Friday night Transformations show features the regular cast of LaCage along with at least one special guest.

As with just about everything else, there's competition. Not just between the bars that have shows, but the entertainers. Pageants offer the opportunity for those interested, to bring their "A" game and pit themselves against their friends, fellow cast mates and the occasional rivalry for the top honor of wearing the crown and representing the title for a year. It could be as simple as a bar title, but there are a number of franchised pageant systems throughout the country. Wisconsin has been host at one time or another to state contests for the Miss Continental, Miss Gay America, Miss Entertainer of the Year and Miss Gay USofA to name a few. The winners of the state contests usually are required go on to compete at a national level against the representatives from other states and regions.

The national contests for these franchised systems are attended by hundreds and hundreds of fans and supporters from all over the country. Generally, each national title has their "home" city or state. Miss Continental being held in Chicago, Miss Gay America recently being held in Memphis, Miss Entertainer of the Year in Louisville and Miss Gay USofA in Texas.

Out of these nationally franchised systems, Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA has endured the longest in our state, crowning it's 22<sup>nd</sup> titleholder, Jackie Roberts, last October. She will be heading to Dallas

## **PRIDEFEST MILWAUKEE GOES FOR THE FUNNY BONE**

### **GLBT Festival Brings in Two Comedy Giants, and One Stellar Diva**

Thinking outside of the box this year, PrideFest organizers have gone in a different direction when booking their 2010 headliners. The move is guaranteed to fill the Miller Lite Mainstage with laughter, as comedy fills the air both opening and closing nights. Nestled in between the two comedic acts is a stellar diva with a new attitude.

Organizers of PrideFest Milwaukee recently announced that Kathy Griffin, Patti LaBelle and Joan Rivers are all coming to PrideFest June 11, 12 and 13 respectively. For the first time in years, comedy will take the lead in the festival's headline entertainment. No matter what your reaction to the change of routine, it will prove for an interesting and funny weekend.

"For the past few years, we have had musical performers take center stage during our headline shows, with maybe one comedian and two musical acts," said PrideFest President Scott Gunkel. "This year, we have comedians in the majority. Next year it may be a focus on another genre of entertainment. Whichever way, it is always a full schedule, the entire weekend."

For those who have never attended Milwaukee's PrideFest celebration, one thing to understand is that it isn't all about the music, or the dance. Education, advocacy, health awareness, commitment ceremonies, youth support, children's play area, - you name it - all weekend long, when you enter the gates, you walk into an opportunity to learn more about the GLBT community and its history.

While most of the focus undoubtedly swirls around the major headline acts, festival-goers are treated to a weekend jam-packed with musical acts, theatre, dance, and various performances. The Summerfest grounds, where PrideFest has called home for the last 14 years, can certainly accommodate the diverse entertainment. With several permanent stages on the grounds, entertainment director David Charpentier has his hands full. Every year, Charpentier has to comb through tour lists for artists who might be available during PrideFest's weekend to perform on the grounds.

"A lot of things come into play when booking artists," says Charpentier. "Is the artist even available during Pride? Is the

asking price just right? Are they a good fit for PrideFest? Are they supportive of our community? There is a lot to consider." This year's lineup includes artists and bands from all over the world. Some travelling from as far away as Russia, Germany and Australia.

"We've got country artists, punk rock bands, transgender artists, a glee club, spoken word artists, theatre, burlesque...something for everyone!" says Charpentier.



On her website, Kathy Griffin encourages fans to help make this the largest audience she has ever had for her PrideFest appearance.

Opening the 2010 festival weekend will be the hilarious Kathy Griffin. The comedian, who had a huge audience at PrideFest 2007, welcomed the idea of returning. In fact, Griffin's great experience at the festival three years ago motivated her to make PrideFest her exclusive Spring tour stop in the Midwest. The comedian's internationally recognized website and Facebook page even boasted her intention to create the largest audience ever during her upcoming June 11 appearance. The last time she was in the area (October 2009) she sold out a record 4 nights at the Chicago Theatre.

"We couldn't believe it," said Kate Sherry, PrideFest Communications Director. "We were already so excited that she was coming back, and to receive all of this extra attention from her camp is amazing. It couldn't be better."

Saturday's headline entertainment act is the legendary Patti LaBelle. Quest has no doubt that this announcement was followed by at least 90 percent of the GLBT community belting out "Lady Marmalade" across the U.S. LaBelle is bringing her powerful yet angelic voice to the stage along with the countless classics that have become theme-songs for gays and straights alike. Her soulful selections and spirit will be a welcomed addition to PrideFest 2010. With having sold over 50 million records worldwide, LaBelle is one of the largest headliner's in PrideFest's history.

"I still have so much more to do, so many other things to try," LaBelle said. "I have a lot of blessings, a lot to be thankful for...but I'm always excited about what else there is for me to do."

Ensuring PrideFest patrons leave the festival in tears...from LAUGHING, is closing headliner and funny fashionista Joan Rivers. Accolades and roles stretch far beyond comedy from host to writer to designer. But it's her funny commentary on celebrity gossip and dress that patrons can look forward to. Rivers has often said most of her fan support has come from the GLBT community. Back in the earliest years of the AIDS epidemic, Rivers was one of the first major celebrities raising awareness for AIDS research, and to this day, Rivers continues to be outspoken for GLBT rights.

"They were my first audience," Rivers has said about her GLBT fans. "They were the first ones to get it. Whatever 'it' was. And they've still been there for me. They've been there for the ups, there for the downs. They've been there for everything."

PrideFest takes place on the Maier Festival Grounds June 11, 12 and 13. Ticketing, schedules and more will be available online at [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com), as well as in the upcoming festival publication the Pride Guide, published by Quest.

Quest is proud to be chosen for the fourth consecutive year as the official publisher of the Pride Guide. For more information, or to place an ad, please write [editor@quest-online.com](mailto:editor@quest-online.com), or visit [pridefest.com](http://pridefest.com) for a downloadable ad rate/size chart.



**Outreach hosted a Mardi Gras party at Cardinal Bar in Madison on Fat Tuesday. Below, Mr. Lakeshore Pageant held at Blue Life. More of that next page!**



**Left to right: Chris Stone Mr. Wisconsin USofA '09, D'Marco Dupree Mr. Lakeshore USofA 2010, Jackie Roberts, Miss Wisconsin USofA 2009**

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## One, Two, Three Times a Homo

Tonight is supposed to be epic. It's meant to go down in gay history, with all the lights, camera, drama, focused on a fire-breathing drag queen singing bad karaoke at the local gay bar, but a few hours before the event, I arrive to the home of my friend Aaron, only to find my wallet's been stolen again. "You really need to organize better," he informs me, ironing the same polyester shirt for the fifth time. Mind you, he's just taken two showers — one hot, one cold — and he's had to circle, circle, circle the kitchen table three times before spraying on cologne. That way, nothing bad will happen to him tonight. "It's about preparation," he states, in a grave tone. "In order to have a killer night, you have to set yourself up for it."

"How? By circle-jerking into a cup, one, two, maybe three times?" I inquire.

"I know, I know...you think I'm crazy," he huffs, spritzing another one, two, three shots of citrus-scented cologne on the small of his neck. "But seriously, the rituals work." This, Aaron believes because last week he was blessed with meeting a nice, nice fellow named Jack, who *understands* obsessive compulsive behaviors better than anyone he's met. "Jack turns the light on and off *four* times before leaving a room," Aaron boasts, after I tell him the cop on the phone laughed at me when I phoned in a report on my stolen wallet. *Did you say it was black and pink with white polka-dots?* If ever there was a day I felt *ubergay*...

"I'm sorry, I don't feel bad for you," Aaron confesses. "You wouldn't have things stolen from you if you didn't throw everything everywhere."

"I set my wallet on my desk at work for *five* minutes," I reply. "I thought it would be safe."

"That's your problem. *You thought*," he says, Mr. High-and-Mighty.

I don't say a peep. That's because Aaron's surfing the tsunami of new love. Tonight, he's planned to meet Jack at the club. Well, that is, if he can stop ironing, and Jack can leave his light sockets home alone.

"What's the deal? It's 11:06!" Aaron complains, ten minutes after we arrive at the club. In left corner, there's a big, bellied drag-queen in blue sequins calling everyone a faggot, performing an angry Kelly Clarkson song on a stripper pole. It appears we missed the fire-breathing drag queen, only to find her later smoking a clove by the jukebox with rug burns on her knees. "He said he'd be here at 11:00!" Aaron says, over the music. Slamming his slime-green cocktail, I sense his brain's bubbling over with anger. How could this happen? He *ironed* his shirt five times. He used *extra* starch for good luck. *But...maybe he used too much. Maybe that reversed the ritual.* Silent, Aaron's brimming with bad thoughts. That is, until the lights come up over the closing number, and Jack reveals himself, after hours of hiding on the back patio, where he'd been playing kissie-face with the pizza-faced bar owner. "That's him!" Aaron shouts, pointing in his direction. "He's with that other guy. And he's leaving!"

"Hell no, he's not!" I reply. "The lights only came on once. They need to go on three more times before *that* bitch is going anywhere."

"Ugh, I should dump your drink on you!" he exclaims, elbowing me.

"Go ahead, you paid for it," I remind him. I can't help it; I have

no money, no wallet, and contrary to what Aaron thinks, I'm quite prepared. That is, to be a complete bastard.

"This isn't right. I let him rub my back on *that* bar stool last week," he says, pointing to a smokestack, where a raisin-wrinkled guy with a black toupee sits. "I told him everything! I just wanted...someone to take care of me...for once. Is that so bad? I ironed. I showered. Why is this night going so bad?"

"Because *every* night can't be good," I remind him. "And maybe saying bye to a jerk like Jack will lead you to someone better tomorrow, someone you might have missed if you were tangled up in the dark with Mr. Night Light."

"Shit, you really believe that garbage?" he asks, dully.

"Hey, I've been drinking free all night, on your tab. And that wouldn't have happened if I hadn't lost my wallet...so see good things *can* grow from shit."

"Ugh, take me home," Aaron grunts, in a weary tone, exhausted from men who aren't good on their word, men who lie *with* him and then lie *to* him the next week. And only then do I truly understand his need for a ritual, a mathematical formula, to establish a sense of control. Still, driving him home, I start to reassure him that everything's going to be fine, that dating is not hopeless, but for Aaron, I know my words are meaningless. So when he sadly questions why I'm passing his house, I refuse him an answer, talking in silence by coasting one, two, three times around the block.

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**{V DAY} 2010**

Pictured (left to right): Karlie Driscoll, Kate Sherry, Alice Wilson, Mattie Furrow, Kate Cheesman, Photo: Russell Richard



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## DIVERSION OF THE DAY Community Events Calendar

### Friday, March 12

**LaCage (Milw)** FlashBack Party 70's-80's-90's music all night

**Midtowne Spa (Milwaukee)** Lights Out weekend (also Sat & Sun)

**Milwaukee LGBT Community Center** 6pm Lesbian Alliance Game Night & Potluck 414-272-9442

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

### Saturday, March 13

**ICON (Kenosha)** Leather Night & Underwear contest over \$500 CASH & prizes

**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.

**Milwaukee LGBT Community Center** 3-7pm Connexus forum on Black History and current events and how they impact our daily lives.

**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.

**SAGE (Milwaukee)** St Patrick's Day Party 2pm

### Wednesday, March 17 - St Patrick's Day

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

**LaCage (Milw)** Beeds, Beer and Complimentary Irish Whiskey

### Friday, March 19

**ICON (Kenosha)** Three Olives Bubble Party. Shot specials & give-a-ways

**MONA's (Milwaukee)** SAGE meets for a fish fry

### Saturday, March 20

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

**ICON (Kenosha)** Mr & Miss Southeastern WI USofA Pageant

**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)

### Sunday, March 21

**SAGE (Milwaukee)** Sunday Card Party 2pm

**Triangle (Milwaukee)** Dan-E-Dance presents Just Boys. Show@11pm

### Thursday, March 25

**Milwaukee LGBT Community Center** 7pm Lesbian Alliance Annual Meeting

### Friday, March 26

**SAGE (Milwaukee)** Movie Night 6pm

### Saturday, March 27

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

**Fluid (Milwaukee)** Softball Beer Bingo 4pm

**ICON (Kenosha)** Ronnie Nyles live

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

**Napales (Green Bay)** BearClub4Men "Spring Thaw/Toga Party" at 9:00pm. Free food, beer bust, \$1 raffle to support ARCW or get a ticket by donating a nonperishable household item. And you can RENT A TOGA [www.BC4M.com](http://www.BC4M.com)

### Tuesday, March 30

**SAGE (Milwaukee)** Canasta Night

**Outwards Books (Milwaukee)** 7pm Publication Party for author C.P. Rowlands new book, "Collision Course"

### Easter Sunday, April 4

**Ballgame (Milwaukee)** Food & Drink Specials

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**Cream City Squares**  
(414) 445-8080  
djiliges@execpc.com  
www.iagsdc.org/creamcity

**Front Runners** (414)443-0379  
www.ullr.wolf.com/frontrunnersmke/welcome.html

**GAMMA - Milwaukee**  
PO Box 1900, Milw., WI  
53201 (414) 530-1886  
gamma@milwaukeeegamma.com  
www.milwaukeeegamma.com

**Holiday Invitational Tournament**  
PO Box 899, Milw., WI 53201  
(414) 881-8071  
director@hitmilwaukee.org  
www.hitmilwaukee.org

**Harmony Cafe Appleton**  
233 E. College Ave., Appleton  
(920) 734-2233

**Harmony Cafe Green Bay**  
1660 W. Mason Street  
Green Bay (920) 569-1593  
www.harmonycafe.org  
myspace.com/harmonycafe

**Men's Voices Milwaukee** c/o  
U.C.C. 2717 E. Hampshire St.,  
Milw. 53211 (414) 861-5526  
www.mvmchorus.org

**Miltown Kings**  
myspace.com/miltownkings

**Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club**  
3957 No. 81st St. Milw., WI  
53222 (414) 616-3716  
Moennell@msn.com  
www.milwaukeeetennis.com

**Milwaukee Gay Arts Center**  
703 So. 2nd St. Milw., WI  
53204 (414) 383-3727  
milwagac@yahoo.com  
www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org

**Milwaukee Pride Parade**  
PO Box 070177 Milw., WI  
53207 (414) 607-3793  
www.prideparademke.org

**PrideFest**  
PO Box 511763, Milw., 53203  
(414) 272-3378  
www.pridefest.com

**Saturday Softball League**  
2333 N. 56th St., Milw. 53210  
(414) 350-7147  
www.ssbilmilwaukee.com

**Shoreline Country Dancers**  
2809 E. Oklahoma Ave., Milwau-  
kee, 53207  
info@shoreline-milw.org  
www.shoreline-milw.org

**Wisconsin Gay Hockey**  
(414) 202-5874  
wiogayhockey@wi.rr.com  
home.wi.rr.com/wigayhockey

**Women's Voices Milwaukee**  
315 W. Court St., Milw., 53212  
(414) 534-5645

## LGBT Service and Advocacy Organizations

**Center Advocates**  
315 W Court St. Milwaukee,  
WI 53212 (414) 271-2656  
www.centeradvocates.org

**Charles D Productions**  
315 W Court St. Milwaukee,  
WI 53202 (414) 263-9999  
charlesdprodinc1@sbcglobal.net  
www.charlesdprodinc.com

**Connexus** 1240B E. Brady  
St. Milwaukee, WI 53202

**Cream City Foundation**  
759 N. Milwaukee, Suite212  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 225-0244  
director@creamcityfoundation.org

**Diverse And Resilient**  
1240B E. Brady St. Milw.  
WI 53202 (414) 390-0444  
director@diverseandresilient.org  
www.diverseandresilient.org

**Fair Wisconsin** 122 State St.,  
Suite 309 Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 441-0143  
www.fairwisconsin.org

**FORGE**  
PO Box 1272 Milwaukee, WI  
53201(414) 559-2123  
info@forge-forward.org  
www.forge-forward.org

**G/L Community Trust Fund**  
PO Box 1686, Milw., WI  
53201 (414) 643-1652  
glcentemil@aol.com  
www.glcommunitytrustfund.com

**Galano Club** 315 W. Court  
St., Suite 201 Milwaukee, WI  
53212 (414) 276-6936  
mail@galanoclub.org  
www.galanoclub.org

**Gay / Bi Fathers Support Group**  
c/o Outreach, 600 Williamson  
St. Madison, WI 53703  
Serving Dane, Rock, Jefferson  
Counties For location & dates  
e-mail doolguy@charter.net

**Gay Narcotics Anonymous**  
Meets Fridays @ 7 p.m.  
315 W. Court St., 2nd Fl.  
Milw 53212 (414) 276-6936

**Gay Youth Milwaukee**  
PO Box 090441 Milwaukee,  
WI 53209 (414) 265-8500

**Gemini Gender Group**  
PO Box 44211 Milwaukee, WI  
53214 (414) 297-9328

**Human Rights League-Political  
Action Committee (HRL-PAC)**  
PO Box 510407 Milwaukee,  
WI 53203 (414) 319-9863  
www.hri-pac.org

**Lesbian Alliance**  
315 W. Court St. Milwaukee,  
WI 53212 (414) 272-9442  
lamm@milwpc.com

**LGBT Center of SEWisconsin**  
1456 Junction Ave., Racine,  
WI 53403 (262) 664-4100  
info@lgbtsewis.org

**Log Cabin Republicans**  
PO Box 199, Milw., WI 53201  
(414) 755-1954  
membership@lcrwi.com

**Milwaukee LGBT  
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315 W. Court St. Milwaukee,  
WI 53212 (414) 271-2656  
www.mkelgbt.org

**Pathfinders**  
1614 E. Kane Pl. Milwaukee,  
WI 53202 (414) 271-1560  
info@tccmilw.org  
www.tccmilw.org

**PFLAG Milwaukee**  
315 W. Court St. Milwaukee,  
WI 53212 (414) 288-9198  
pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com

**PFLAG Racine/Kenosha**  
PO Box 580058 Pleasant Prairie,  
WI 53158 (262) 694-2729  
pflagkenosha@aol.com

**Positive Direction Milwaukee**  
(414) 461-5894

**Positive Voice**  
PO Box 1381 Green Bay, WI  
54305-1381 (920) 435-4404  
info@pvinc.org www.pvinc.org

**Project Q**  
3215 W. Court St., Milw., WI  
53212 (414) 223-3220  
kurt@projectq.org  
www.projectq.org

**Queer Program**  
PO Box 090441 Milwaukee,  
WI 53209 (414) 265-8500  
queerprgm@aol.com

**Queer Zine Archive Project**  
2935 N. Fratney St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
qzap@qzap.org  
www.qzap.org

**Rainbow Over Wisconsin**  
702 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Appleton, WI 54911  
www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org

**SAGE Milwaukee** 1845 N.  
Farwell - Ste. 220 Milwaukee,  
WI 53202 (414) 224-0517  
email@sagemilwaukee.org

**Transgender Aging Network**  
6990 N. Rockledge Ave. Glendale,  
WI 53209 (414) 540-6456  
loreecd@aol.com

**UWM LGBT Resource Center**  
UWM Union WG89 PO Box  
413 Milwaukee, WI 53201  
(414) 229-4116  
jrmurray@uwm.edu  
www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT

**Wisconsin Rainbow  
Alliance of the Deaf**  
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www.argonautsll.org

**Bear Club 4 Men**  
Box 13463, Green Bay, 54307  
www.bo4m.com

**Black and White Men  
Together** PO Box 80395,  
Milwaukee, WI 53208  
(414) 461-5359  
bwmtmilwaukee@aol.com  
www.bwmtmilwaukee.org

**Brew City Bears**  
PO Box 1035, Milw., WI  
53201 (414) 331-3744  
bcb4men-alan@sbcglobal.net  
www.bcb4men.info

**The Brunch Club**  
jennieragland@wi.rr.com

**Castaways**  
PO 1697 Milwaukee 53202

**Dodge Co. Gay/Bi Men's  
Social Group of Wisconsin**  
dcgmsg@yahoo.com  
groups.yahoo.com/groups/DC  
GMSG/

**Femme Mafia Milwaukee**  
www.myspace.com/fem-  
memafiafanne

**Great Lakes Harley Riders**  
PO Box 341611 Milw. 53234  
bootedhog@aol.com

**Men (MenEnjoyNudism)**  
Box 0631, Milwaukee 53207

**N.E.W. Brotherhood**  
Box 12793, Green Bay, 54307  
www.NEWBrotherhood.org

**Rainbow Families**  
c/o PFLAG 315 W. Court St.,  
Milwaukee, 53212  
nkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com

## LGBT Welcoming Churches

**Angels of Hope MCC**  
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www.angelsophopemcc.org

**Church of Atheism**  
206 Vine St., Eau Claire, WI  
54703 (706) 593-2686  
church\_of\_atheism@yahoo.com  
www.freewebs.com/churchofatheism

**First Unitarian Society of  
Milwaukee** 1342 N. Astor,  
Milw., 53202 (414) 273-5257  
office@uumilwaukee.org  
www.uumilwaukee.org

**Footstep Fellowship** First  
Presbyterian Church Cjapel  
(715) 355-8641 PO Box 171,  
Wausau, WI 54402  
footstepfellowship@yahoo.com  
www.geocities.com/foot-  
stepfellowship

**Fox Valley UU Fellowship**  
2600 E. Phillip Lane Appleton,  
WI 54915 (920) 731-0849  
www.fvuuf.org

**Lake Park Lutheran Church**  
2647 N. Stowell St. Milwau-  
kee, WI 53211 (414) 962-9190  
office@lakeparklutheran.com  
www.lakeparklutheran.com

**Milwaukee Metropolitan  
Community Church** PO Box  
2421 1239 W. Mineral St.  
Milw. WI 53204 (414)383-1100  
info@queerchrh.org  
pastor@milmcc.org  
www.queerchurch.org

**Plymouth Church** 2717 E.  
Hampshire Ave. Milwaukee,  
53211 (414) 964-1513  
plymouthchurch@choiceonemail.com  
www.plymouth-church.org

**Pleble Park Presbyterian  
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(920) 468-7125

**SS Cyril & Methodius United  
Indepenmdent Catholic  
Church** Neenah, WI 54956  
(920) 836-2199  
stcyrilandmethodius@centrytel.net

**Underwood Baptist** 1916 N.  
Wauwatosa Ave. Wauwatosa,  
WI 53213 (414) 258-4246  
office@underwoodchurch.com  
www.underwoodchurch.com

**Union Congregational UCC**  
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Bay 54303 (920) 437-9266  
Fax (930) 437-3765  
unionucc@gbonline.com

**Unity Church of Kenosha,**  
Racine 9220 26th Ave.,  
Kenosha, WI 53143 Rev. Don  
(262) 914-8389  
hellodjd@sbcglobal.net

## Neighborhood Associations

**Bay View GAYS**  
(414) 482-3796  
bvgpresident@bvgays.com  
www.bvgays.com

**Washington Heights Rain-  
bow Association**  
(414) 258-8834  
washhtsrainbow@aol.com  
washingtonheightsrainbow.org

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

## Other Service Agencies with LGBT Programming

**Aids Resource Center of  
Wisconsin**  
820 Plankinton Ave. PO Box  
510498 Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 273-1991  
www.arcw.org

**Brady East STD (BESTD)**  
Clinic 12240 E. Brady St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 272-2144  
bestd@execpc.com  
www.bestd.org

**Children Service Society of  
Wisconsin**  
1212 S. 70th St. Milwaukee,  
WI 53212 (414) 453-1400  
jane.ottow@cssw.org  
www.cssw.org

**The Counseling Center of  
Milwaukee**  
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kee, WI 53202  
(414) 271-2565  
info@tccmilw.org  
www.tccmilw.org

**OutReach**  
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(608) 255-8582  
www.lgbt Outreach.org

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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 questions to askunclebarbie@aol.com

### No Shame In My Game

**Dear Barbie,**

Just for laughs, I showed your picture and column to my grandmother, and she said you should be ashamed of yourself. She is a very proper lady who does not believe that sex should be written about in a paper. She won't even say the word sex. Instead, she calls it "intimate relations." I think it is because of the way she grew up. So, now that you know a bit about her, I'm just wondering, what would you say to her about her reaction to your column?

**Signed, D. K.**

**Hello D. K.,**

Well, bless her little heart. She sounds like a real gem. Tell me, dear, what is her definition of the word "shame?" Individuals from your grandmother's generation tend to think of shame as a tool to keep people in their place. Social roles were much more rigid back then. In my opinion, there is no room in my heart for shame. I have my own sense of morality, and I can as

sure you, it comes from within me; not imposed on me by society.

I do not mindlessly accept pre-subscribed morals of right and wrong. Rather, I form my own sense of what is constructive and what is destructive. Your grandmother needs to understand that I look at things from a psychological perspective. That means that instead of thinking in terms of good and bad, I think in terms of functional and dysfunctional. What's the difference? Well, the prior is a judgment; the latter is not. To say that someone is good or bad labels that person's identity. However, to say that someone is functional or dysfunctional labels that person's behavior. There is no need to shame the person. Dysfunctional behavior can be identified and corrected while at the same time supporting the person's self-worth.

Upon reflection, my guess is that your grandmother was probably reacting to my flamboyant style. I admit, sometimes my advice column is pretty zesty--and a little gassy. (I am nothing if not colorful.) While at other times, it's as abrasive as scrubbing a toilet--only



**As elegant as the restrooms at an all night truck stop.**

not that pleasant. But, let us put the focus back on your sweet old grandmother for a moment. Where is all her scorn coming from? How did she learn to be so judgmental?

Maybe, she had an emotionally manipulative mother. If you have the courage, you might want to ask her if her family used shame and guilt to keep her in line. In any case, I do not believe that I deserve the full brunt of her condemnation. Perhaps, she needs to redirect her anger back to her family where it belongs. To pervert a common expression, "The family that shames together, stays together." (Ooo, shame on me.)

**Unconditionally Shameless, Barbie**

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## NEW LGBT FILMS ON DVD by Glenn Bishop

### Mr. Right and Brotherhood V: Alumni

Loyal *Quest* readers might well remember that Glenn's annual cinematic soirées have rarely met with success. It is easy to see, in retrospect, Glenn's folly. How could Glenn have even thought to host his Faux Drive-In Movie Nites within the cozy confines of his Riverwest bungalow?

If only Glenn had chosen to spend his tax return windfall on a fabulous new flat screen TV. If only Glenn had thought to spike the Royale Crown Cola. If only Glenn had chosen the films more wisely.

If only. . .

There would be no question of canceling this year; Glenn would brook no argument. Forget that old friends never answered his entreaties. Or that phone messages weren't returned. How could it have escaped Glenn's attention that so many friends changed email addresses recently?

Still Glenn persevered and thanks to the modern miracle that is Facebook, a select group – so many delightful new faces – assembled for a night of movie mayhem featuring a fun double feature: **"Mr. Right"** and **"Brotherhood V: Alumni."**

Glenn was ready; success was within his reach. First, there was to be vodka, Milwaukee's own Rehorst Vodka and plenty of it. Forget retro snacks, this time Glenn turned to the delightful Hearty Boys' cookbook and dished up two of their wonderful appetizers: Artichoke Fritters and Mac and Cheese Skewers. Yum!

Nibble food at the ready, Glenn who is quite the mixologist, prepared decadent Chocolate, Pear and Pomegranate Martinis. The lights were dimmed and into the DVD player went **"Mr. Right,"** a new romantic comedy set in London.

It would seem that Louise (Georgia Zaris) has been rather too demanding of her dating service; she expects to be set up with men who aren't gay. Ouch! Her newest squeeze seems to be everything she could possibly want: handsome, sexy and a huge football fan. He's got to be straight, doesn't he? Can this be her Mr. Right? Most importantly, dare Louise allow Paul (Jeremy Edwards) to meet her gay friends?

Louise's best friend is Alex (Luke de Woolfson), your typical struggling actor by day, professional cater/waiter at night. Alex is celebrating his one-year anniversary with Harry (James Lance), a TV producer grown wearied of the crap television he's responsible for – a hilarious of send-up of **"Changing Rooms."**

Harry's oldest friend in the world is Tom (David Morris), an artist of the moment; his oh-so gay canvases are fetching upwards of six figures. Poor Tom is currently being fleeced by his live-in rent boy, the brawny Larrs (Benjamin Hart). Good thing, then, that Tom's such a success.

Completing this small circle of friends is William (the totally adorable Rocky Marshall), an antiques dealer who takes his role as single father very seriously. But will he allow his



demon-seed daughter Georgie (Maddie Planer) to thwart his budding romance with handsome TV actor Lawrence (Leon Ockenden)?

Once the characters are individually introduced, Tom Morris's delicious screenplay brings them all together for one fateful dinner party. It is a dinner party of legend: one moment nightmarishly laced with scathing repartee vicious enough to draw blood, encumbered by long, painfully drawn out silences the next. Hilarious yet often painful to watch, it is all very **"Boys in the Band."**

By the time the dust settles, much has changed. Not only has Alex left Harry, Lawrence has walked out on William. Tom is outraged that Harry could betray their friendship. Having been so worried about meeting Louise's gay friends, Paul deems the evening a great success, enjoying every minute of it.

Clearly, the course of true love never did run smooth!

Harry is truly, madly deeply in love with Alex. It is impossible to imagine a more perfect straight guy than Paul. William can't seem to get Lawrence out of his mind despite the evil child's best efforts.

Who will find Mr. Right?

When it finally came time to screen **"Brotherhood V: Alumni,"** it was clear Glenn couldn't have made a better, less demanding choice. Those familiar with director David DeCoteau's popular **"Brotherhood"** franchise know to expect cute guys, plenty of gratuitous male flesh all set within a safe, plot-free environment.

It is prom night at Sunnysdale High School and the cute but exceedingly unpopular Leslie (Oskar Rodriguez) has been lured to the deserted girl's locker room by the beautiful and popular Betty (Maria Aceves) for an ill-advised rendezvous.

Leslie doesn't find Betty but decides to take a shower while he waits. That's right, he takes

### Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Who hasn't dreamt of finding Mr. Right? Admittedly, on occasion, Glenn has settled for "Mr. Right Now" as well as "Mr. Wrong" once or twice. So be it; that's all part of the oft-times maddening game that is the search for love and which directors Tom and Jacqui Morris capture perfectly in **"Mr. Right."** The attractive, talented cast create a group of characters who are once appealing, flawed and happily defy simple stereotyping. Add to the mix a fab soundtrack and as well as a London perpetually drenched in sunshine and you're sure to find **"Mr. Right,"** the right choice.

On to **"Brotherhood V: Alumni."** Well, the guys are cute and you and your friends should be able to follow along, no matter how many Pear Martinis have been consumed. And who, after all, is counting?

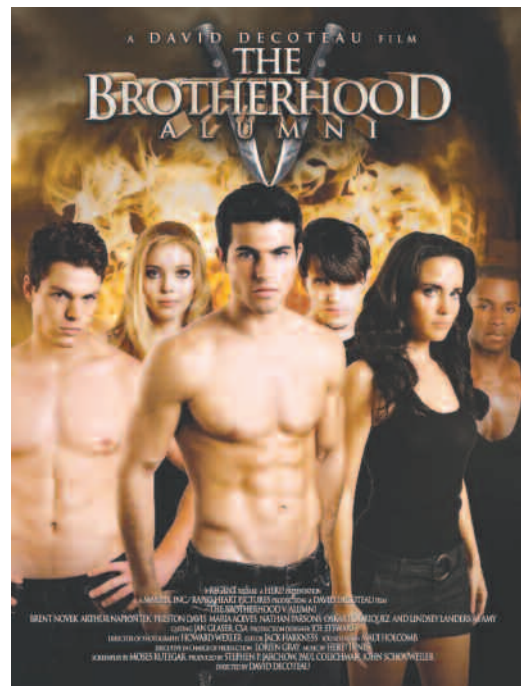
### Just the facts...

**"Mr. Right"** has a running time of 95 minutes and the DVD include a hilarious featurette.

**"Mr. Right"** is available on DVD with an SRP of \$24.95 **"Brotherhood V: Alumni"** has a running time of a scant 86 minutes and is available on DVD with an SRP of \$26.99

a shower. Takes a shower in a dark, deserted locker room; the girl's locker room at that. It is impossible to imagine what he must have been thinking. What follows is all very **"Murder on the Orient Express."** Then, surely playing homage to **"I Know What You Did Last Summer,"** all the usual suspects return to Sunnysdale High exactly one year later. They find the school shuttered, left exactly as it was post-prom, post-murder. Even the creatures in the science lab are still alive. Still alive one year later. They're still alive in a deserted high school; one year later.

Shamelessly, the lads drop trou at the flimsiest pretext; two of the cute boys make out until it turns out one is merely a cocktease. Another is hell bent on revenge. Everyone is guilty and nobody seemed to care, least of all Glenn.



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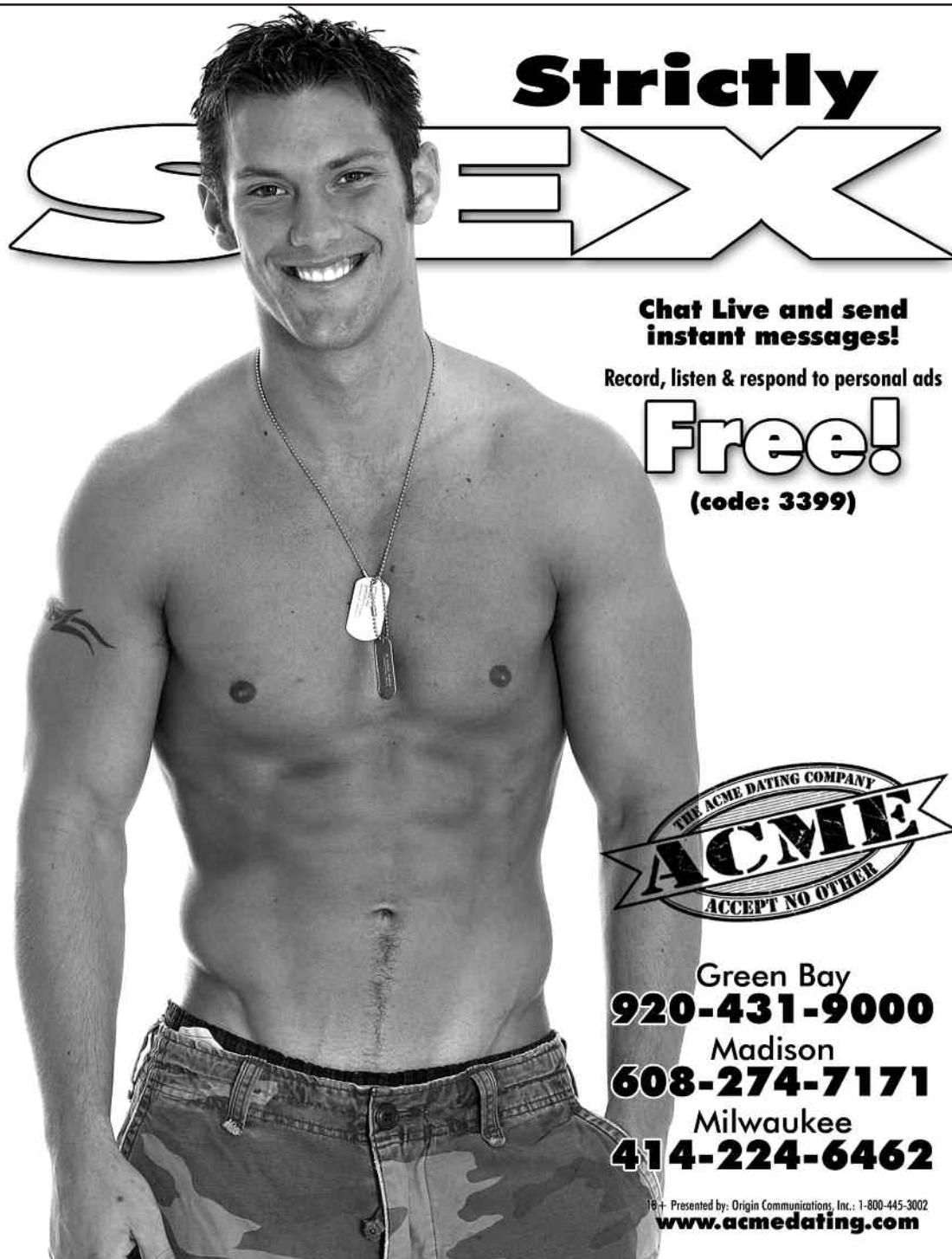
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## Messages

Dodge and Junee County GLBT community. Do you feel a need to have Jesus in your life? Ever thought of attending the MCC in Milwaukee? We are offering rides, carpooling and more information. Please email me at [bearhearted@att.net](mailto:bearhearted@att.net)

Dodge County LGBT SOCIAL Group Of Wisconsin: a "Social group for All LGBT people to enjoy the company of their own community. All races welcome discrimination NOT allowed in this Group. Please join & make a difference. Must be 18 [www.care2.com/c2c/group/DCGLBTSGOW](http://www.care2.com/c2c/group/DCGLBTSGOW)

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3 Boom (& The ROOM) 625 S. 2nd St  
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4 Boot Camp 209 E National (414)643-6900

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5 ETC (Basement level of LaCage)  
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6 Fluid 819 South 2nd (414)643-5843

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

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