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Vol. 2 - No.4
July 2004

Pepper MaShay
a face of Pride

Exclusive Interview Inside!

The
EDGE
Magazine



Saturday, July 3rd
RONNIE NYLES & CHIX MIX - 10pm

Saturday, July 10th
IN OUR SHOW LOUNGE...
CEGE MARTIN & TAJMA HALL
MISS CONTINENTAL ELITE 2003-2004 NIKKI ADAMS,
NATASHA MARQUES & DESIREE MATHEWS
SHOW STARTS AT 11:30pm

Saturday, July 17th
MALE STRIPPERS - 11pm

PRIDEWEEKEND

Friday, July 23rd
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION NIGHT
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Saturday, July 24th
IN OUR SHOW LOUNGE...
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SHANNON DUPREE, REGINA UPRIGHT,
STELLA BI-STARLITE, JODIE SANTANA
RAY MATHEWS - MR. CONTINENTAL 2003-2004
SHOW STARTS AT 11:30 pm

Sunday, July 25th
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THEN...
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Friday, July 30th
CODY DOMINO NATIONAL BENEFIT SHOW
STARTS AT 11pm

Saturday, July 31st
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NELLY O'HARA - MISS ILLINOIS CONTINENTAL 2004 &
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Fluid	819 S. 2 nd St.	414-643-5843
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Ray's Bar & Grill	2526 E. Washington	608-241-9335

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LGBT Business Alliance	P.O. Box 168	lgba@lgballiance.org

The Burbs

Jackhammer	6406 N. Clark St.	773-743-5772
Hunters	1932E. Higgins Rd.	847-439-8840
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Hidaway	7301 Roosevelt Rd.	708-771-4459
Temptations	10235 Grand Ave.	
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Rockford

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Restaurants/Cafes

Curly's	9032 N. 2 nd St.	815-633-1006
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Not Listed In Our Directory?

editor@edgemagazine.com

We'll get you in!

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Large Deadline For
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Monday,
July 19th

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Horoscopes

Monthly gay horoscope for July, 2004
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 ISSN 1499-6537 <http://www.gay-astrology.com>

ARIES • March 21 - April 19

It's about time, don't ya think, about time your smooth pickup lines worked, and they do this month. The only drawback is that just because your slick tongue has worked doesn't necessarily mean there's anything for your slick tongue to do afterwards. Still, it's a great month for chatting up all the unlikely people whom you never would thought would ever talk to you under any circumstances. It's true they might never go back to your place for coffee under any circumstances, but at least you're getting good conversation. Opportunities abound for romance. Just shut up long enough to turn the lights off.

TAURUS • April 20 - May 20

Gee, a month when you can actually talk to your lover. Oh, oh. Existential crises time. Now what are you going to talk about? Maybe you want to give some thought to that. Of course, you've probably been thinking about that for too long and saying nothing. Okay, so like the two of you are lying in bed getting all kissy-poo or whatever it is that the two of you do (please do not email me on this one - I really don't care). Ever thought of some conversation instead of a cigarette? Just might get something happening. . . . ahem . . . like in your relationship, dude.

GEMINI • May 21 - June 20

This has gotta be one of the best months for Gemini. It's hot, it's summer, the entire world is as pointlessly conversational as you are, and what the heck, people might even listen, or at least engage with that delightful wit you so easily toss about. Is there a catch? Of course. Conversation is about all that's going to happen. Likely you may forget that there is a huge difference between talking about a relationship and having a relationship. Um.

yeah, I forgot, for you it's the same thing. Ah, well, plus ca change . . . you could always try picking up twins. You're good at that sort of thing.

CANCER • June 21 - July 22

Outstanding month to sort out your finances, particularly if you do so at the beginning of the month. Warning, the Blue Moon at the end of the month might fuzz things up a bit. Whether or not that actually happens depends on the past couple of months. Words you sent out then come home to roost. Now if you've been a good little Cancer and avoided your usual complaining and were your devastatingly charming self (which you can be when you want to be), fasten your seatbelt for a lovely horny month. However, if you've spent the last couple of months wallowing in your whining, oh heck, we don't want to hear about it, although likely we will anyway.

LEO • July 23 - August 22

The goal of this month is to dodge the karmic bullet. Happily that's easy to do. Call your friends, throw a party. It's summer! Roar, you lion, you. Now that'll get things started well. Go out and enjoy yourself. So what's the karmic bullet, you may ask? Lock your computer away in the darkest corner of your lion's den. Do not, I repeat, do not do unseemly things with your plastic at that XXX website which promises abundant visual presentations of your secret twisted fantasies (you really don't want those twisted fantasies being made public do you?). Stick to your hot friends, and the parties.

VIRGO • August 23 - Sept. 22

Great month for getting your resume out there. Go for it. Oddly enough people are even willing to overlook some of your past transgressions. Well, the fact that you've got those dirty little weekends so carefully hidden away no one could ever find them helps. Just don't make the mistake of bragging about one of them. Oops. The whole idea of a secret get-

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All ads that are of charge must be prepaid and accompanied by a check or money order made payable to the edge magazine. All ads are to be mailed to: **The Edge, P.O. Box 12, Rockford, IL 61105** by deadline date listed in the current issue of the edge magazine. The Edge is not liable for errors made due to questionable ad information and/or legibility of completed ad placement form. All completed ad placement forms will be treated with confidentiality. The edge magazine does not release customer's personal information.

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Free Personals

24, GWM. 6', 140lbs, Brown hair with highlights. Blue eyes, smooth. Looking for GWM 30-35 that is good looking and financially stable. Mail replies to P.O.Box 12, Rockford, IL 61105 - **PER 101.**

Roommate Wanted. in large farmhouse in South Rockford. \$350/month includes everything except long distance phone calls. Shared bath, washer/dryer, large kitchen. call Roger (815) 873-1230.

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Roommate Wanted. to share home in historic Churchill Grove area. (815) 871-1121.

Help Wanted! The Edge Magazine is looking for writers in the Chicago, Milwaukee & Southern Illinois areas. Due to unexpected growth, we are also looking for volunteers to help in the production and packaging of the magazine. For more info. call (815) 378-2215.

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Hot, Male Escort from the Peoria, Illinois area. Will travel, email: alan_mike2002@yahoo.com for more information and scheduling.

Wanted to Buy. Vintage men's clothing from the 70's & 80's (club wear). Do you still have some of the cool clothes you purchased at the now defunct Lakehurst Mall in Waukegan? If so, call Jim at (262) 637-2539. Top Prices Paid!

Massage Therapist, Relaxing & Therapeutic. \$60/hour. In or out calls. Madison, WI. Randy, R.M.T. (608) 559-0322.

Roommate Wanted, to share home in SwedishAmerican Hospital area, Rockford. Call (815) 871-1624.

Uncut GWM, 51, 5'11", 175#, Br/Blu, HIV Neg, N/S Looking for commitment. I enjoy dining out, film, shopping, books, chats over coffee & musical theatre. YOU: GWM 30-49, uncut/cut, HIV Neg, N/S. **NO** Games. I'm 100% genuine. Mark - (414) 225-9683 - Milwaukee.

42, GWM, Irish, 6', smooth body, solid 240# into meeting other males into just having fun. Honest sincere, age unimportant. Also seeks OTK butt paddling daddy type for hand spankings. Mail replies to P.O.Box 12, Rockford, IL 61105 - **PER 110.**

Racine Professional man with a sense of style. Age 50, seeks a partner in the same age group preferred. I am 5'10", 220#, salt & pepper hair and of Middle Eastern ancestry, olive skin, brown eyes. Call Stephen in Racine at (262) 639-3205 after 5:00 pm

Lonely in McHenry. Straight acting SGWM 40's, 6', 170#, hazel eyes, D/D free, who loves foreplay & cock with Mr. Right. Race & Age Open. (815) 404-8412.

away to the thrill of unspeakable pleasure is that no one ever finds out, right? Remember that while every Saint has a past, every Virgo has a future. Got on with it, dearie, just keep your mouth shut about it.

LIBRA • Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

At the beginning of the month you worry too much about home, but by the end of the month you worry too much about the hot little number you just met. Relax. It's summer. Whatever it is you're worried about, trust me, you're the only one who's worried. You could even wear last years beach clothes and no one would care. Hey, trust me. The stars are on your side. Just get out there and cruise, cruise, cruise. Try cruise control. No, better yet, try no control. Uh, no, for you that's probably not such a good idea, either. Let's put it this way, try some good old-fashion gay abandon in the summer.

SCORPIO • Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

How does it feel to be the tall dark handsome stranger for somebody else's fantasy? Go for it. Don't worry if you're only five foot two. The details don't count on this one. Just let the poor schmuck project whatever dreamscape the schmuck wishes upon you. The payoff is in the bedroom. Quick word of advice, though. It'd be a really good idea if you came up with a few words in some exotic foreign language, or could fake a weird foreign accent. Definitely speeds up the process. Haven't got a few words? Oh, heck and darn it! Make up a few, silly. Any gibberish will do nicely. Now get out there and have some fun.

SAGITTARIUS • Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

This could be a really, really interesting month, especially if you get it right and start talking to your lover. Understand, there is no point to the conversation except to have the conversation. Kindly set aside the "who's right - who's wrong" game. Give us all a break. The whole point is that there is no point. Go for a walk, there's no point. Go to a restaurant, there's no point. Go to a film, there's no point. Go to bed, well there is a point there, but actually there's no point in the point. Haven't figured this one out yet? Cash in some airmiles and the two of you can go fly off someplace. There's really no point to that,

either, except the two of you just might have some fun together. And that is the point.

CAPRICORN • Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

You could talk yourself into a raise, or a promotion, or one mighty fine business deal. Yes, you could. But on the other hand you could talk yourself into somebody's bedroom and pants equally as well. Damn, here we go again, Capricorn. The universe shows no mercy. It is out for you again. Which is it going to be? Here's your next Cosmic two-by-four and it's aimed directly at the side of your head. What's your free choice? Sex or money? Get it right, and you have a great month. Get it wrong, and the Cosmic two-by-four whaps you over the head yet again. Does any of this sound familiar?

AQUARIUS • Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

I hate to pour cold water on a very hot summer, but the stars do not lie, ever, my friend. You can have the most delightful month of conversation and socializing, if you wish, and likely you will. But if you're expecting that this fluffy and shallow summer of silliness is going to get you any action, well sorry, it won't. All it's going to get you is a delightful month of chattering away with anyone in sight, but nothing to show for it, but a dynamite party and a long cab-ride home all by yourself. If you want to score, it takes follow-through. No butterfly flitting from blossom to blossom. Nuts, it means you're going to have to decide. Not fair in a heat wave, is it?

PISCES • Feb 19 - March 20

This could be a really fine month of conversation with your lover at home, or perhaps it's the month when you finally learn telepathic communication with your cat, or maybe it's just another month of floating in the ethers wondering which cloud is the path back home. Actually it makes little difference, assuming difference is the correct word to use here. Wake up, go to a huge lake, or better yet the ocean. Go for a swim. Frolic with the dolphins, avoid the sharks, and check out the hot numbers on the beach. Conversation abounds, at least with the hot numbers on the beach, some of whom are dolphins and others who are sharks. Have fun sorting out which is which.

Gay Republicans ask Gard to quit as Assembly speaker

The Associated Press

MADISON — A group of gay Republicans has asked state Rep. John Gard to step down as Assembly speaker because of recent remarks he made about gay marriage. The Log Cabin Republicans sent Gard a letter June 1 asking him to publicly retract a statement he made during a speech at the state Republican Convention in May.

Gard said the group made a "dramatic leap" in interpreting his comments.

According to the group's letter, Gard told the convention how the state Assembly approved a resolution amending the Wisconsin Constitution to define marriage as between a man and a woman.

"At the end of your speech, you called upon the Republican delegates to assist you in making sure this amendment is enacted because, in your words, 'There are a lot of people out there who think that people should be able to marry whoever they want, or whatever they want.'" according to the letter by James McFarland, political director of the Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin.

"Therefore, the only conclusion we can draw is that you were referring to people marrying animals," McFarland wrote Gard. McFarland, a Milwaukee attorney, said Tuesday some gay Republican delegates were offended by Gard's remark.

Gard sent a letter to the group saying he regretted members took offense.

"I am disappointed that upon hearing my remarks in opposition to gay marriage you have immediately made the rather dra-

matic leap of suggesting that I am equating homosexuality with bestiality," Gard wrote.

Gard said he was merely trying to point out that gay marriage would make definition of the institution limitless. But McFarland's group has suggested Gard consider stepping down as Assembly speaker.

"Your statement was not only morally wrong, but also makes you a liability for the Republican Party," McFarland wrote. Gard's spokesman, Steve Baas, said the Assembly elects its speaker, so legislators would have to decide whether to remove Gard. He said Gard would not comment on the issue beyond his letter to the group.

Pat Prudlow, a Milwaukee general contractor and member of the Log Cabin Republicans, said Gard's remarks offended him.

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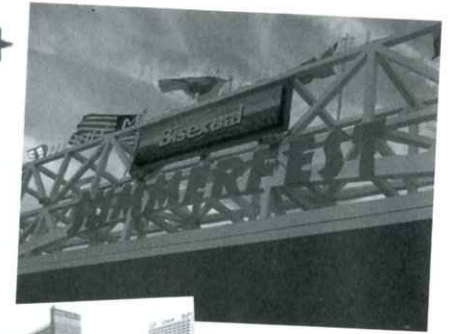
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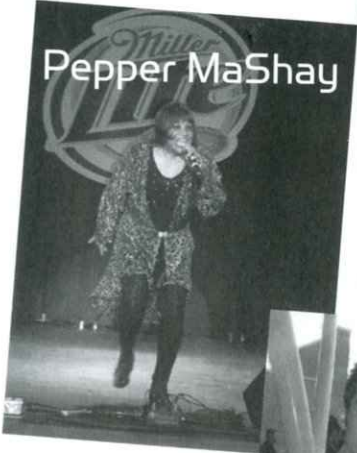
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Pride Fest
Milwaukee, WI

Pepper MaShay



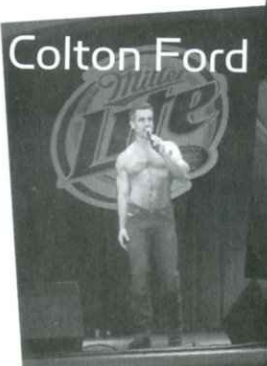
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September Issue:
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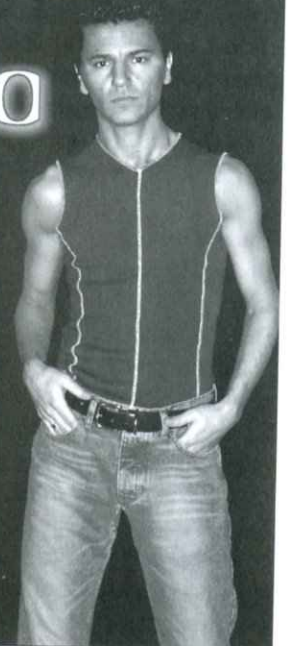
Benefit Shows

July 4th
Club Majestic, Madison

July 15th
Triangle Bar, Milwaukee

July 30th
Office Nitclub, Rockford

WWW.CODYDOMINO.COM





Take My Advice... By Tajma Hall.

Dear Lady Taj,
My boyfriend and I are a perfect match, except one thing. Our sex drives are way off! Mine is always in 5th gear, but I've been noticing that my lover's drive is starting to slow down. We used to have sex 3 or 4 times a week, but now we only have sex once on the weekends. Our age might have something to do with this (I'm 31 and he's 41). He says he's still attracted to me as ever and is still in love with me. I'm starting to get frustrated, and I'm hoping that the medication he takes for his high blood pressure doesn't have anything to do with this. Is there anyway out of this? I would hate to have to masturbate alone!

Yours Truly,
Deeply In Love

Dear Deeply In Love

This is a very common problem in relationships and not a hard thing to fix. It takes compromise from both parties. You both need to sit down and talk about it so you can work it out before it really becomes a problem. If you were happy with sex 3 or 4 times a week then you need to tell your partner that once a weekend is not cutting

it and you need his help increasing the number.

Make sure he knows that you understand and love him and only want to make sure that your relationship grows. Do not make him feel like he is the problem but that he is the solution. He loves you and I am sure he will be more open to your request if you approach it with love. Remember love can get you more sex and being a bitch can leave you without. Trust the Lady Taj and you will be getting it 5 times a week.

Hugs - Lady Taj

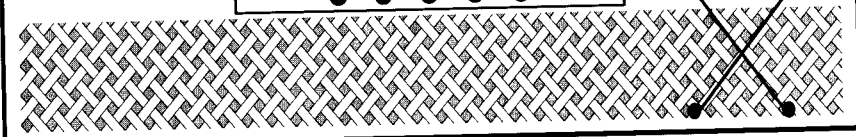
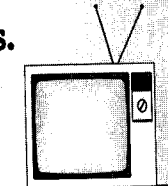
Dear Miss Tajma Hall,
Congratulations on your win in Canada. I heard you rocked the house! With your new title, and your ever growing performing dates. How do you keep your head on straight and not go in a tizzy? With costumes, wigs, make-up, bookings and talent numbers, how do you stay focused? Do you ever feel that you tire of what you do? How do stay pumped up for the "tomorrow's" performance? Everytime I see you, you look beautiful as ever, and I wonder... "How does she do it?"

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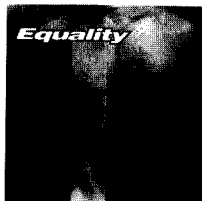
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Music Review



Equality

In celebration of gay pride, the label that brought you *Let's Hear It For The Boy*, *Circuit Boy* and *Trance Heaven*, proudly pre-

sents *Equality*. *Equality's* non-stop mix features the #1 international hits "You Promised Me" by In.Grid, "Gia" by Despina Vandi, "Take Me To The Clouds Above" by LMC vs. U2, plus dance mixes of current gay favorites "Love Profusion," "Toxic," "It's My Life," "Red Blooded Woman", as well as circuit hits from Martin Solveig, Dave Armstrong, Borracha, Tagada and more. Cover artwork features a sexy shirtless model superimposed behind the rainbow colors of the gay flag. If you're looking for a souvenir of the sound of this year's gay pride celebrations, *Equality* is it! It's this year's ultimate gay pride compilation!

1. You Promised Me (Tu Es Foutu) (Original Mix) – In.Grid 2. Gia (Original Mix) – Despina Vandi 3. Superstar (Dance Remix) – Housecream 4. Take Me To The Clouds Above (Extended Mix) – LMC vs. U2 5. Love Profusion (Trance Mix) – In.Deep 6. Red Blooded Woman (Dance Remix) – S.H.E. 7. Toxic (Dance Remix) – Helen 8. It's My Life (Dance Mix) – Heartclub 9. Mad World (Dance Remix) – One Nation 10. Turntable (Original Mix) – 6th Element 11. Rocking Music (Original Mix) – Martin Solveig 12. Make Your Move (Original Mix) – Dave Armstrong 13. Teledisco (Original Mix) – Borracha 14. Get Down (Tribal Mix) – Tagada



JULY 2004

CLUB 5 DJ/VJ - Tim Walters - Top 15

- Christina Milian Dip It Low
- Crystal Waters Destination Unknown
- Anastacia Left Outside Alone
- Benassi Bros F/Sandy Illusion
- Donna Summers I Will Live For Love
- Britney Spears Everytime
- Liquid 360 Chains Of Love
- Christina Aguilera Make Me Over
- Deborah Cox Easy As Life
- Pat Hodges Saving My Love
- Vernessa Michel Took My Life
- Beyonce Naughty Girl
- Static Evenger F/Angelique Everyone
- Madonna Love Profusion
- Kylie Minogue Red Blooded Woman

The Office NiteClub / Club 5

DJ Cody - Top 15
www.djcody.com

- Sarah Connor Bounce
- Crystal Waters Destination Unknown
- Angel City F/ Lara McAllen Love Me Right (Oh Sheila)
- LMC vs. U2 Take Me To The Clouds Above
- JC Chasez All Day Long I Dream About Sex
- Deborah Cox Easy As Life
- Mr. On vs. Jungle Brothers Breathe, Don't Stop
- Jason Walker My Life
- Hilary Duff Come Clean
- Eamon Fuck It
- Christina Milian Dip It Low
- Anastacia Left Outside Alone
- Thalia Don't Look Back
- Kim English Love Thing
- Aubrey Angel

2004 RAMI AWARD WINNER!

Miss Curious George

Thanks for the kind words! It is truly people like you who keep me going. I am a determined entertainer who truly enjoys what she does. It is a lot of work but well worth it. To be successful in this business you must stay focused and keep it real. You must be true to yourself and true to those you entertain. The moment it becomes a problem then you need to stop. The business requires you to be an upbeat person who loves to have fun with those around you. It takes a positive attitude and a support system that reminds you to be positive even when you think you cannot be. This job is as easy or as hard as you make it. There is not one person that can make your job of entertaining a hard one unless you allow it. I always remember the words my

mother tells me constantly.....Love yourself and all that you do because if you do not no one else will either.
Smooches
Lady Taj

Well Well Well...

This has been a busy week for the Lady Taj and she is just loving all the madness going on. I am preparing for a huge birthday bash in July when the Lady Taj turns 35....WOW! And still looking good.....not a day over 25. I am accepting gift certificates, cash and anything else you would like to give to the birthday queen. Be good kiddies and remember who loves you.....

Yep me..... *Lady Taj*

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August 17th, 04

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Jackie Roberts

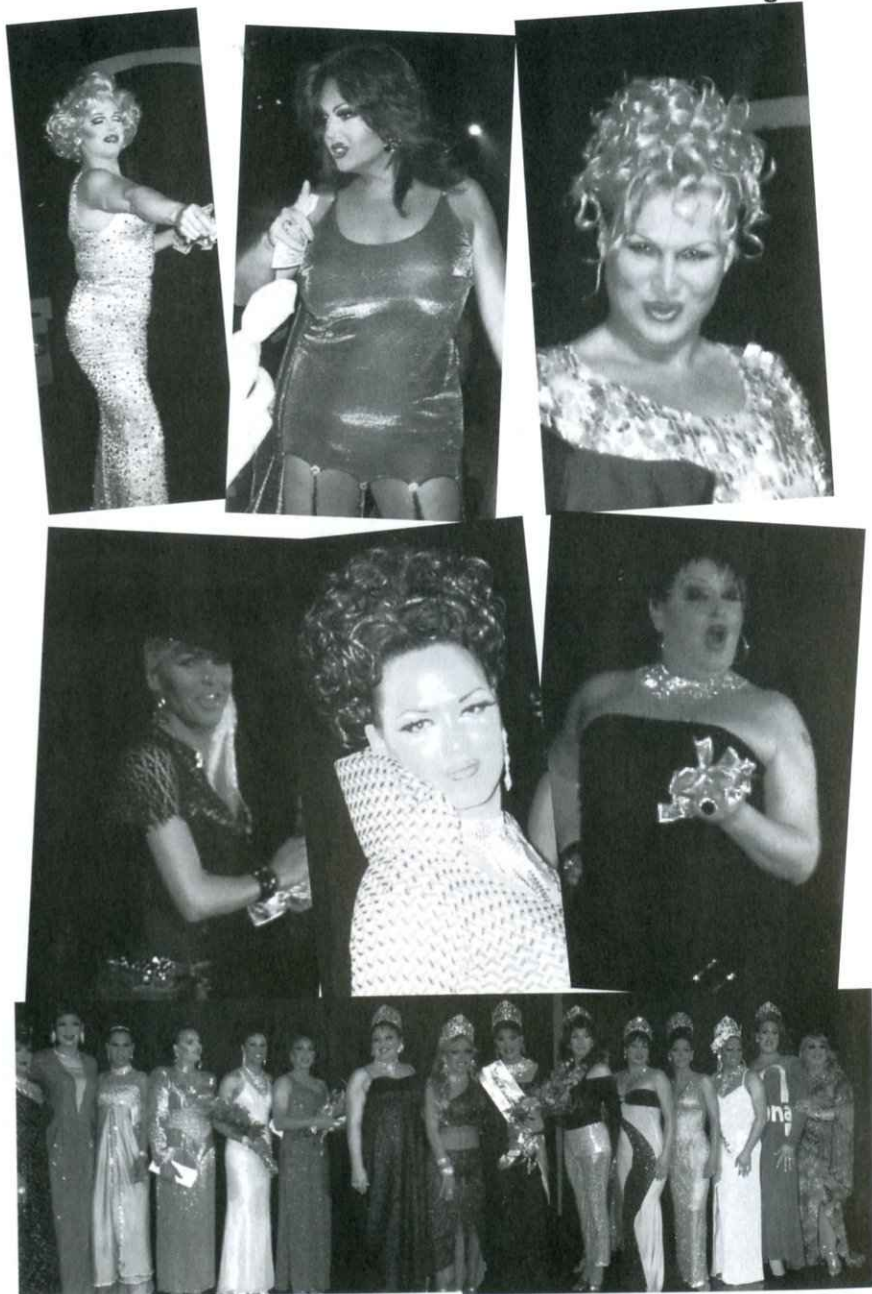


Christina Chase

For more information call 414.687.0535

Miss Wisconsin Continental
Pageant 2004

West Theatre,
Green Bay, WI



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Pepper: At the time, I was kind of ignorant of the fact that I had such a "community". And I realized that I needed to give back to the community that supports you the most. It turned out that my "community" was mostly gay men. After a year, I realized that I can't just jump up here and sing these songs. I have to do something. I have to wake them up and make them realize that there are people out here that respect the gay community, and see equal rights for EVERYBODY.

Edge Mag: So do you believe in Gay Marriage?

Pepper: Yes I do. In fact, two weeks ago I performed in West Hollywood at the Abby, where a hundred couples were married, and I sang "Amazing Grace". And after I was done, Margaret Cho got up on stage and cracked everybody up.

Edge Mag: Haha! Gotta love Margaret Cho, she's crazy!

Pepper: Yes she is.

Edge Mag: Ok, (sigh) how do u feel about George Bush?

Pepper: I don't feel malice towards the man, but I do believe he stole the election. I feel we're in a big mess right now and it's going to take somebody with a big imagination to get us out. We have to vote! We have to participate!

Edge Mag: I'm wondering if I should ask you about Colton Ford & Chi Chi La Rue?

Pepper: Love Colton Ford! Love Chi Chi La Rue! You know Chi Chi did my "I Can't Stop" video?

Edge Mag: Yes, with beautiful boys everywhere!

Pepper: You know they just happened to be in town when we filmed that video. And I hope that Chi Chi will do another video for me when my new album comes out.

Edge Mag: Speaking of your new album, when can we expect that out?

Pepper: I hoping for the first of the quarter, around February or March. It's going to be called "S.O.S." – singer of songs. And, coming out this August or September is my single "Send me an Angel", right now we got the track to Mac Qualye for remixing.

Edge Mag: Love Mac Qualye, his remixes are awesome! So, with all this going on, what is your plan for the future?

Pepper: I'm hoping that this new album will cement me in between Gloria Gaynor, Donna Summer, and my good friend Kristine W. I feel that I'm still in the rookie stages, even after 10 years of doing this, I'm hoping that when this album comes out I will be on the same team as them. It will change my life and I hope that my fans will love it.

Edge Mag: Well, by the time you get to Madison the magazine will be out with you on the cover.

Pepper: Cool baby, don't forget me.

Edge Mag: I won't sweetie, and thank you for taking time to talk to me.

Pepper: Thank you baby.

For booking information contact:

Stephen Ford at: www.peppermashay.com



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Miss Wisconsin Continental Pageant 2004

West Theatre,
Green Bay, WI



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In the Spotlight

Pepper MaShay



Hello Everyone! Welcome to another fine edition of The Edge Magazine. I hope you all are having a fabulous summer so far, as it being the gayest time of the year. And it being Gay Pride last month and this month! With gay pride in mind, Milwaukee had their Pridefest June 5th & 6th on the Summerfest grounds by the lake. I'm not sure what the official count was for attendance, but I'm very sure if was more than last year. And if I'm correct, every year Pridefest has grown enough to beat the past year's attendance. Hopefully this will put Milwaukee on the map for pride events, if it's not already!

On Saturday, June 5th, I went to see the *Pepper MaShay and Kristine W.* show on the Miller stage at Pridefest. Boy, I've got to say that was the best show I've ever seen at Pride. I had the chance to meet Pepper and Kristine backstage also, and they were very personable and were glad to sign a promo picture or two. These are truly exceptional people and I'm glad they are considered "Gay Icons". Later I found out that Pepper was going to be at Club 5 during Madison Pride on July 16th. So I hope you all will come out and see her.

I had the pleasure to talk with Pepper and ask her a few questions. It was quite en-

joyable to hear what she had to say as she answered my questions. Here is what she said:

Edge Mag: How did you become Pepper MaShay?

Pepper: Would you believe that a producer friend of mine by the name of Michael O'hara came to Los Angeles in 1993 to work on a demo project of mine. He and I were in my back yard talking, and he said, "You know, you got freckles on your face, and they look like pepper corns. Have you ever considered calling yourself Pepper?" I said I thought about it because I had some friends named Pepper. And he said well if you do that, call yourself Pepper MaShay, and kind of play off of "paper mashay".

Edge Mag: How did you become involved in the genre of dance music?

Pepper: I was in Sweden doing a gig in a club, and a producer found me and told me "to get a producer or a dj to get a track together, and sing it, and then get a label to put it out". I never knew it was that easy.

Edge Mag: Do you feel dj's have a big influence in the music industry?

Pepper: I think they work long and hard to be in their position. This business has always been focused around Stars/Artists, and I think the way the dj's were being treated in the past, they wanted to live that experience also. And being the kind of artist I am, I can work with anybody.

Edge Mag: How did "Dive in the Pool" come about and how high did it go on the chart?

Pepper: "Dive in the Pool" came about as a favor to me from Barry Harris and Chris Cox. It was recorded in about 2 1/2 hours, and it went all the way to #1 for a few weeks. And was the #2 most played song for the whole year!

Edge Mag: After "Dive in the Pool" came out and you noticed you had a big gay following, how did you feel about that?

Gay Days at Great America - Chicago, IL



Madison Happenings

by Travis Copeland

I've often said that I'm a summer boy, so it should come as no surprise that I am ecstatic summer has finally arrived! Summer seems to be the gayest of the seasons, so I'm sure I'm not the only one that's happy about the weather. No more shivering on your way to the club, or paying coat check fees.

With summer also comes Pride, of course! One of the earliest Pride events in the region is Milwaukee's annual PrideFest, held at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park (a.k.a. the Summerfest grounds) on beautiful (if loaded with raw sewage courtesy of MMSD) Lake Michigan. This year's festival was held June 5 and 6, and featured acts such as Kristine W., Pepper Mashay and Amber. After last year's budget woes it's no secret that many in the GLBT community were wondering what this year's event was going to be like. But let me be the first to say that this year's festival was nothing short of FANTASTIC!

Saturday night's headliners were Colton Ford and Pepper Mashay, followed by Kristine W. The show was nothing short of amazing! And, by the way, for those of you who saw Colton Ford and said, "He looks like a porn star," well, you're RIGHT! A simple Yahoo search will confirm it for you. Pepper Mashay did a fabulous job ("Dive Into The Pool," etc.), but the showstopper of the night was Kristine W. Not only can the bitch sing, but she played the saxophone, drums, guitar, and even scatted (as in the Jazz type, you pigs)! Then she brought Pepper back out for an unbelievably good version of Diana Ross's "I'm Coming Out" (with a great nod to Puffy's "Mo' Money, Mo' Problems," which sampled from "I'm Coming Out" if you don't recall). Simply marvelous!

As always, La Cage was the happening nightclub after the fest closed for the night, and who was down there scarfing up pizza but Kristine W., Pepper Mashay, and Colton Ford! Pretty cool.

The next night's headliners were C&C Music Factory (nothing to write home about) and Amber (who did a great job with her many club hits, such as "This Is Your Night," "Above The Clouds," "Need To Be Naked," and "Sexual (Li Da Di)" (among others). Be sure to look for her new album this fall!

After Amber, I had to scoot my happy ass back to Madison—always a depressing endeavor. Thank you to PrideFest and to Milwaukee for always showing me a great time!

By the time this hits the press, the big prides (Chicago, Minneapolis, etc) will all be over, so the next thing I can direct your attention to is our own pride here in Madison! Our MAGIC Picnic and other pride events will be held July 16-18. They're back at Brittingham Park this year (down West Washington from the Capitol), and will feature entertainment such as the Kinsey Sicks and Ronnie Nyles. For more information, check out: www.madisonpride.org.

What else has summer brought? Well, gay softball is in full swing finally! I do have to give a "shout out" to my team's pitcher, Tammy, who broke her leg in play early in our season. We love ya', Tammy!

And just one more bit of advice: go see the movie "Saved!" It's a hysterical movie satirizing the WWJD ("What would Jesus do?") culture while promoting a message of tolerance. Mandy Moore is a riot, and Macaulay Culkin is adorable!

Well, I'm going to go back to my busy day of hanging out in the park, and then maybe make a trip over to Save-A-Lot (you know, until Madison's Dean & DeLuca opens...)

Until next time!

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Cocktails

By James Beach

You're about to flip on the 5 o'clock news when the doorbell rings. When you answer the door, you see that a large package you were expecting has finally arrived. You also see that the rugged-looking delivery man fills out his uniform in all the right places.

As the delivery man gruffly verifies your name and address, you notice him glance at your crotch. Your loose athletic shorts reveal that your own package is growing with sexual excitement.

You invite the man in for a drink. He looks at his watch and tells you that, although this is his last stop, he needs to return the truck as soon as possible. Yet something in his voice says he's interested.

Thinking quickly, you debate whether the delivery man is a whiskey or a brandy drinker. His solid features and rough, masculine mannerisms tell you that whiskey

is probably his drink. But what kind of whiskey? The man's smoky, steel-grey eyes seem to suggest scotch.

You then offer him a drink he won't be able to refuse—a Perfect Rob Roy. As a smile tugs at his sturdy full lips you realize that your assessment of his preference is correct. Making way for his thick frame, you wonder if his other preferences will be as easy to identify!

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Welcome back to the new and improved Edge. Isn't the new logo snazzy?! It hasn't been too long since the last dish on the Drag Droppings of our neck of the woods – but not to disappoint, there has been more than enough dirt flung, shots downed and drama acted out in some of the oddest places that you certainly won't be bored!

First, a quick re-cap of the biggest pageant of them all – Miss USofA 2004 held in Dallas the end of May. Our representatives from our area included Holly "Hot" Damn (Miss Wisconsin USofA), Miami Richards (1st Alternate for Miss Wisconsin USofA), Taylor Roberts (1st Alternate to Miss Northern Star) and Monique Marquette (1st Alternate for Miss Minnesota USofA). Honestly, the gals were on their best behavior. I certainly can't attest to what went on behind closed hotel room doors and under the covers – but I have heard some rumors. On stage, they did a very good job. Honestly, very few could compete with the power-houses in play at this pageant but they held their own. Taylor did the best – scoring #29 of 41 contestants. Holly came in #34 and Miami & Monique tied with #35. The shocker of the evening was a blind gal, Alexis Nicole Whitney – who made off with #19! So – no excuses. She definitely earned her spot.

Holly made up for good behavior the night before finals with a trip to the Eagle in Dallas. The poor sap who started doing shot-o-rama with her lost horribly and is nursing two broken ribs and a horribly bruised ego from a nasty fall. Speaking of nasty falls – a special "get well" to Chivonne Street, Miss Alabama USofA. She

couldn't finish the pageant due to a freak fall in a café that resulted in a double hip replacement! Can you say lawsuit?? Keep your head up Gal – we want to see you at the top of the heap next year and perhaps we'll all be dining at the soon-to-be renamed Chivonne's Café, too!

Holly let it all fly with her first prelim pageant since returning from Dallas. Miss City of Festivals was held the first week of June. Not only did Holly let it all fly – she let herself fly. From what I hear, she flew right off the side of the stage! Club 219's stage no less! Stories vary to a point – but from what I can decipher, she was fairly well "enhanced" and was planning on getting off the stage during her number anyway. She thought that Mr. Gay Wisconsin USofA At-Large, Jesse, was going to give her a hand. Apparently she didn't convey the need for assistance that well since he made off for a cute boy at the other end of the bar as she was reaching for him. Well, from what I heard – she didn't feel a thing when she hit the floor.

The contestants for Miss City of Festivals included Alexis Winter, Salinas and Krystal Styles. The emcee for the evening was supposed to be Baby Jane Hudson. As Miss Hudson is often known for – she did not show up at the last minute. One would think that people would just STOP ASKING HER! In her place, Lady Gia and the current – now former – Miss City of Festivals, Dixie Diamond filled in. I just find it more than a little odd that Chantal can be escorted off the state stage during the last Miss Wisconsin Pageant since she was banned from the system for a year for not going to nationals.....and here we have an emcee that not only was disqualified from last year's State pageant but can't run again for another two years and she's on the microphone! Add to that other persons in the state who have performed and reaped the considerable benefits of state pageants that have not honored their obligations for State titles (like going to Nationals) and I just think that Chantal is getting the proverbial SHAFT (and not one that she is accustomed to).

In the end, Krystal Styles pulled off the winning slot, followed by Salinas. Both these gals are qualified to compete at Miss Wisconsin USofA later this year and we wish them both the best of luck. As for you, Miss Winter – keep honing that mix. It wouldn't be a State pageant with

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Miss Wisconsin Continental was held the middle of June. Stella pulled out all the stops. Not only was the beautiful Erika Norell on stage, but a host of former title holders from around the country including Maya Douglas, Angel Sheridan and Michelle DuPree. Our own Loretta LaMour showed them what we knew all along – that she is our perpetual Queen of Class in the Dairyland State! I'm not entirely certain – but my guess is that Miss LaMour has never fell off the stage in crown or been caught with her gaff down in the dressing room bathroom. This is what you all want to be when you grow up!

The contestants were unknown until the night of the pageant. Several didn't show for their own reasons and others made last minute decisions to join the party and yet others were unable to join us since they don't have a satellite hook-up from the Milwaukee County Jail. The "Gurls" from Madison – Diamond & Erika, Krystal Styles from Milwaukee, Eileen Dover now from Indiana, Taylor Roberts from Chicago and Jennifer Alyce and Justine D'Zire from Green Bay were the entrants. From the onset, it was the Taylor – Justine show. The former Miss Wisconsin USofA vs. the Current Miss Kentucky USofA at Large. It was heated – but in the end both were happy. Justine proved that she can prove a point AND answer on-stage question all at the same time and Taylor added another crown to her ever-growing collection. Taylor Roberts – your new Miss Wisconsin Continental and your 1st Alternate, Justine D'Zire. Congratulations to both of you!

Call this one, "It Came From The Cellar!" Lana St. James – you should really call in someone to clear all the trash out of your cellar, girl! Sometimes, it creeps up and does numbers during benefit shows. A benefit show was held the end of June for a cyclist riding for an AIDS benefit from Minneapolis to Chicago. In the cast were the always beautiful Jackie Roberts and Christina Chase, Chantal, Kelly and others. Fortunately, I came in near the end. The D'Vine one was booked but was mysteriously absent. I was informed with arched eyebrows and winks that she was "in the basement". Well, someone forgot to lock that damn door since she stumbled over for one of the last numbers. Obviously pol-

luted, she went from supine positions on the floor to a nerve-racking gyration on the bar – hanging onto the ceiling beam for balance. Who knew The Triangle was a strip club? The normally calm bartender Ben was a wreck trying to ensure that she didn't fall giving him one more mess to clean up behind the bar! The audience was stunned and quiet with hands over mouths. One very hot guy from out of town turned to his friend and said, "That's awful....why doesn't someone stop her?!". Someone else replied, "Honey, we've put up with that for years – you can suffer through one number!". Baby Davee – you must be very proud!

And on to Pride Fest! I received quite a few emails about the drag show at Pride Fest. Most were complimentary towards Shannon DuPree, Simone, Jackie Roberts and others – but the tone of them all was that it was 'boring'. No email was quite so picturesque as one from a gal who isn't afraid to put her email out for anyone who wants to take exception to her thoughts. Missgossipqueen@hotmail.com is the address to write to! Most of the comments from others concerned how it was a LaCage Presents show and not a Pride Fest show....and also about Lady Gia coming untucked and spending most of one number trying to put things back in place that should have been kept concealed with DUCT TAPE! Oh well, you know that they were on a budget this year. Keep in mind that I was only there Saturday night and was not in attendance on Sunday – so this is pretty much Miss Gossip Queens take on the matter:

"Can I start off by saying the drag review was more like the dud review at this year's Pridefest. The show opened with Hollywood, which Jackie Roberts was honestly not bad. But when Nova came out as Marilyn Monroe, we knew we were in for a night of bad drag. Christina Chase came out as Joan Crawford, even Joan would've rather hung herself with a wire hanger than come out like that. The number was topped off by the falling of Nova's handmade Hollywood prop. How professional, girl!

Next came Lady Gia from 219 doing a Selena megamix. It was a battle of "can my costume stay together for the entire 15 minute of this song? Shannon DuPree came next doing her ever-popular Patty LaBelle, "We've seen it the past 13 years" mix. Well, I'll say it was a crowd-

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Friday ~ July 21

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Miss StellaProductions 2004

pleaser, the lady in red you get your props! Next up was Reily – a boy performer – the first 2 rows were CAPTIVATED by your spare tire. I would stick to button-up shirts and burn all the muscle shirts at this point. Next came a production number of Copa Cabana. Jackie Roberts took the lead, next came Billy "Pork Chop" Blaze, and Christina (Where am I) Chase, and yellow feather in her hair, Nova (can I do another shot) D'Vine. At this point in the show people were leaving in droves – and terrified at that!

Following up all this was Lady Mia – your side-kicks are as sloppy as your thigh pads. The performance was like seeing the movie, "The Day After Tomorrow" – a DISASTER. The entertainment kept coming. Phil Stevens did his best Usher impression. I'll say one thing – stick to the Backstreet Boys or stop doing poppers before your numbers. Following up was Lady Gia doing her best dance number. We were wowed by her red "I have a wedgie" underwear. It was comedy at its best. With the pommeting ponytail, you just can't keep a good midriff down. It's called Duct Tape – USE IT. Finally was Shannon DuPree with a Missy Elliot megamix. She brought the crowd to their knees – another crowd pleaser – props to Shannon! I guess bigger is better. I give the dud review 2 thumbs down!

In a side-note: Word has it that two dark divas got into it after Miss Kit Kat's rendition of Britney Spear's Toxic was cut. Girl – green is NOT your color. Also, Corona Royale was seen at Pride Fest and is going to take stock in Sarah Lee. Alexis Winter was also on hand, seen in a green sweat-shop dress – girl you looked lovely.

So there you have it. If you want to scream about that – write to her – not to me. Incidentally – I have no idea who this person is but I'm beginning to like her A LOT! My own take on Pride Fest shows is simple – MESSAGE TO ORGANIZERS – THREE WORDS – WHERE'S LILY WHITE? It was always fun, it was always a celebration of STATE wide Pride and not a marketing tool for one cast. What really concerns me is that there was all this talk about having the current reigning title holders on stage for a show and the only one that we had was the phenomenal Shannon DuPree (Miss Wisconsin USofA At Large) and since she's almost part of the cast of LaCage Presents, well there you go. Meanwhile – our

Mr. At Large, Jesse and our newly titled Mr. Gay Wisconsin, Cody are wandering the audience. They weren't even asked. Miss Club 94 North & Miss LaCage? Where were they? I can go see a show at LaCage any Friday or Sunday night (there – you got your plug) – or I can choose not to. I would rather have seen a show celebrating Pride Fest – not a bar.....and THAT'S why I stayed home.

Now – if you want to see a truly fantastic show for a Pride celebration – take off this coming July 17th and 18th to Madison. S. Suzie S. is putting on the shows and the line up is already starting out FIERCE. Dee Dee Winters, Kyllie West, DuWanna Moore and many of your other favorite entertainers from around the state are being recruited. The shows will be hosted by the reigning Miss Madison, S. Suzie S. and will also feature your current reigning Mr. & Miss Madison Pride – Diamond Girl & Steven Vargas. One afternoon – as I understand it – will feature state-wide performers and the other will feature local entertainers. You won't be bored and I doubt I'll get any emails like the one from Missgossipqueen@hotmail.com! This will also be your website for the month; head on over to www.madisonpride.org to check out what will be going on in Mad-Town for Pride Weekend!

But if you want to complain about something just send it my way at:

LottieDodge@sbcglobal.net

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ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP

SATURDAY

IRENE KEENAN — 1 PM - 2PM
DRAG SHOW — 2PM - 3PM
RONNIE NYLES — 3PM - 4PM
KINSEY SICKS — 4PM - 6PM

SUNDAY

IRENE KEENAN — 2PM - 3PM
LISA G. AND ANTHONY CAO — 3PM - 5PM

WWW.MADISONPRIDE.ORG