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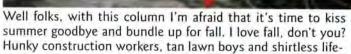
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guards will be calling it quits for the season, and that really saddens me. On the other hand, however, my thighs and stomach rolls take comfort in the idea of being covered by the bulkier items in the Star Jones Collection sold at Wal-Mart and Sam's Club.

It's a beautiful time of year, hey? Nature's finest colors explode. Dusk offers a chilly sensation. And kids who spend every-other weekend with a parent at the Rusty Nail Trailer Park head indoors for homework and acts of light child labor. Ah, autumn!

If you ask me (and you didn't, but I'm gonna tell ya anyhow) nothing welcomes autumn like a blazing campfire, brilliant jack-o'-lanterns and drunked fits brought on by spiced rum. As such, I'm going to forgo my advice column this month and dive right into a few yummy recipes for fall.

I first started baking with rum when I woke up behind the counter of a liquor store one night. I saw the hot pirate on the Captain Morgan bottle and instantly got moist. I figured that if I couldn't get that devilish scoundrel of a man between the sheets of my bedroom, the least I could do was make Captain Morgan Spiced Rum a staple on the shelf of my tiny kitchen.

That said, here are two goodies that involve rum. I truly love these sweets and think you will, too. (And if you're gonna bake something, this is the time of year to do so.) The painting of Captain Morgan still melts my butter, so I enjoy the treats regularly... along with several swigs of rum to keep the baking interesting. Check out that naughty Captain and bake up a storm some chilly weekend. Now, eat good and shut up!

RUTHIE'S BITCHIN' RUM BROWNIES

These are simply the best damn brownies you're ever gonna bake or I'm not a true trailer park princess. Baking things from scratch isn't my idea of a good time, but these brownies are worth the effort. (And they're pretty darn easy to begin with.) The rum adds a hint of flavor that's wonderful with the nut-and-coconut topping. You'll love 'em!

- 1/2 cup quick-cooking oatmeal
- 1/2 cup boiling water
- 2 tablespoons Spiced Rum (and a bit extra for yourself!)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

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MILWAUKEE MAP



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TOPPING:

3 tablespoons butter, melted

1/2 cup brown sugar, packed

2 tablespoons cream or evaporated milk

1/2 cup shredded coconut

1/2 cup chopped pecans

1/4 cup chocolate chips

Combine the oatmeal and boiling water in a small bowl. Stir in the rum, and set the bowl aside for 20 minutes. (Enjoy a rum and coke while you're waiting.) Meanwhile, use a fork to stir the flour, salt, baking soda and cinnamon together in a medium bowl. Set your electric mixer to slow and beat the oatmeal mixture. Slowly add the flour mixture to it. Beat it for 5 minutes. (Get your mind outta the gutter, boys! I'm talking about beating the ingredients! Jeez!) Spoon the batter (it'll be thick) into an 8- or 9-inch square baking pan (that you're greased). Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick comes out of the center of the brownies clean.

Combine the topping ingredients (well) and carefully spoon over the hot brownies. Broil 3 inches from the flame for 3 minutes or until topping is bubbling around the edges.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

- Boil the water in the microwave using a microwave-proof measuring cup.
- · Replace the cream with regular milk or even a flavored coffee creamer.
- Adjust up the topping to fit your taste. Increase the nuts and decrease the coconut or add more chocolate chips.

PUMPKIN PIE TORTE

This recipe comes from a reader named Jeffy. After I tried it, I could see why you wanted to share it, Jeffy. Trust me folks, you'll want to make this easy dessert over and over!

2 teaspoons Spiced Rum Whipped topping (a whole carton)

I can (16 ounces) pumpkin

I can (12 ounces) evaporated milk

3 eggs

1-1/2 cups sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice

2 teaspoons cinnamon

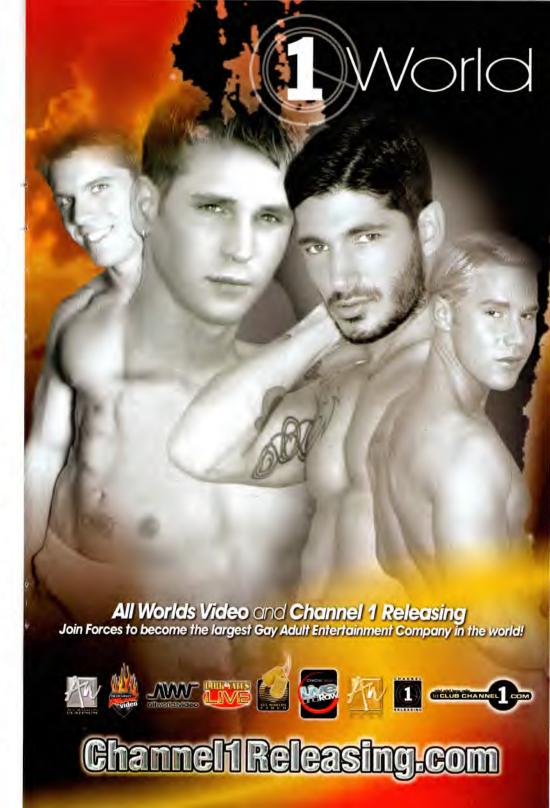
I box (18-1/4 ounces) yellow cake mix

I cup chopped pecans

I cup butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350°. Stir the rum into the whipped topping. Cover and set in refrigerator. Using a mixer, combine the next first seven ingredients. Pour into a greased 13x9x2 inch baking pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix over the mixture. Top with pecans. Drizzle butter over the top. Bake, uncovered, for 50-55 minutes or until golden brown. Cool. Serve with dollops of whipped topping. Refrigerate leftovers.

Now it's your turn to be published! Have a recipe or question for Ruthie? Drop her a line at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com.



tooJ) before you walk in the shop.

So now the part of tattoo's that I know you all Hate and truly care about, the price. Tattoos are obviously priced by size and time invested by the tattoo artist, most shops charge \$90 to \$120 per hour. Now I know you are thinking that we should go to the cheapest but this is not always the way to do things. Always check out your shop and ask questions about training and the like before you sit your ass in that chair! Also almost every shop in the city has some sort of shop minimum, this is the minimum amount they will charge for a tattoo, it is usually around \$40 to \$60. And I will be very honest with you 9 times out of 10 it is a rip off getting just one tattoo at shop minimum, because in reality the piece is typically worth \$15 to \$25, but hey that is the way of the world and their ain't iack squat I can do about it. But there is a way around the shop minimum, instead of just getting the one tattoo and getting ripped of for \$50 try waiting and getting 2 or 3 tattoos at a time. All of the sudden instead of paying \$150 for 3 tattoos you are only paying \$75 to \$95. Now remember I don't tattoo so don't try to hold me to these prices or any other shop for that matter. Remember every shop has their own Pricing. One other thing about pricing, beware of any shop that does NOT have their prices on the pictures you see on the wall. Usually shops that don't show pricing up front will try to rip off the people they don't like and give deals to the people they do like.

Well it seems I have run out of room once again, but we still had fun together right kiddies. Don't forget to send me all your hate mail at Avantgarde@voyager.net. Until next month have a great October. And please remember that if you going shirtless on Halloween at least have the decency to wait for the rest of us to get hammered before you come into the bars. At least when we are hammered you will look pretty!?



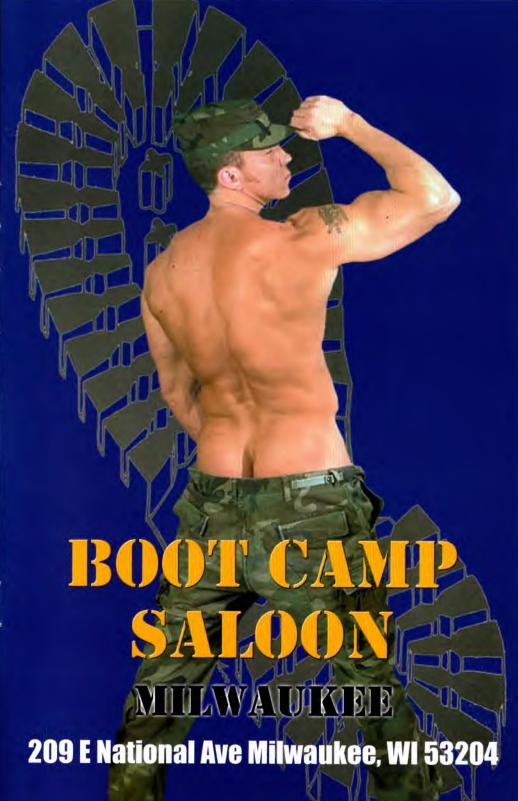


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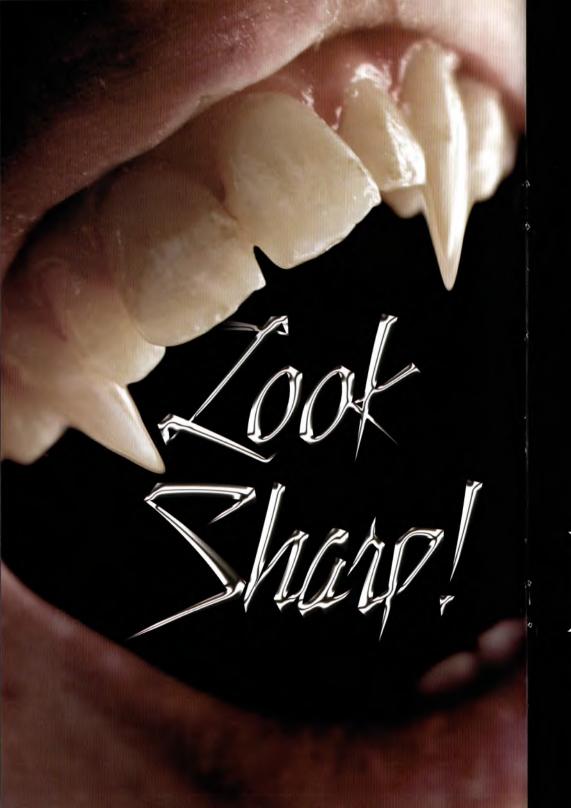
Well here we are again as the wonderful month of October is upon us. I hope you all have your costumes picked out, well with the exception of all you pervs out their, who will try to go in your birthday suit. On to some Skin & Steel news, as most or all of you know the contest in Chicago did not happen. There are numerous reasons for this but the most prevailing one was did we want to put on a show for the sake of putting one on or did we want to put something together that was really special. We decided on the latter. So having said that for the three people who didn't read it last month j/k. Let's get on to the topic of the month, Tattoos!

Tattoos have become increasingly popular over the years and in some respects and stayed more popular than piercings during its mainstream days. And on a side note this is the best time of the year to think and talk about tattoos. The reason is that during the winter the healing skin is less likely to get sunburned, or sand and other debris in it. All of which damage a healing tattoo up to the first 6 months to a year! So if you're thinking about getting on now is the time to start looking. But let's talk about tattoos a little more in detail.

First off a little definition of tattooing. The State of Wisconsin Health code defines tattooing as "A process by which pigment or ink is placed beneath the skin." So that should clear up any misconceptions by those of my readers who are little on the special side. Tattooing has been around for literally thousands of years, and has changed very little in that time. About the only real change in the invention of the tattoo machine in the early 1920's (correct me if I wrong through your hate mail!) But other than that no real changes have been made, with the exception of better materials being used in the inks and pigments. Of course though it can't be too hard to improve on such ingredients as mercury, vodka, and copper.

Next I would like to talk about how to pick out a tattoo and not getting all bent out of shape once you find out how much it will cost. When you first start looking into getting a tattoo it is generally a very good idea to have some sort of idea into what the bloody hell you want to get. I mean there is not a better way to piss off a tattooist than walking in and saying," Well I'd like to get a butterfly thing that looks like a dragon with swords sticking out of it's eyes with flowers mixed in somehow. and oh by the way this is a memorial tat for my dog that I ran over last year." Trust me you never want to do that!!! EVER! So basically the moral of the story is to have a pretty good idea of what you want, but also don't be apprehensive if the tattoo artist changes your design for the better, remember that not all art you see in magazines and on walls makes for great tattoos. A simple thing to remember is that the smaller the tattoo the less detail can go into it, after all haven't you always wondered why the really detailed pieces are always huge! Also please keep in mind that tattoo artists don't like changing something over and over again because your dumbass can't make up your mind. So I guess all I am trying to say is think good and long and hard (GET YOUR MINDS OUT THE GUTTER YOU PERVS! It's okay my mind went there







KRUZ

bidding everyone an adios before heading down Acapulco-way...

Kitty & Dee held court at Fluid with great style, keeping us well refreshed.

Kidd O'Shea of 99 WMYX- The Myx Master himself was so excellent over the Summer covering SummerFest and The Wisconsin State Fair with Television Spots for ISN — one could only hope they swoop him up... who knows there are so many openings at TMJ maybe one day he will be in Mike's shoes?

Theater-wise, Milwaukee's LGBT Film & Video Festival Peck School of the Arts Dept

of Film has taken place.

Off The Wall Productions hit all records with Charles Busch's "Die, Mommy, Die". Our Miss Ruthie won and might I add earned, great acclaim. Director and Mr. "Off The Wall Productions" – himself, Dale Gutzman made a great foil to Ruthie's Ms. Arden. I also enjoyed Jeremy C. Welter as Tony, the lovable gigolo. A true Ross Hunter sudser!

I was all shook up at "All Shook Up!" the Elvis Tribute that started their National tour at The Marcus Center. What a way to launch the Broadway Season! I had the pleasure to be seated in the front row – I went in not an Elvis fan, but left humming the tunes. This vehicle takes all of the King's songs and tells the story of a roustabout. Sounds like one of his movies right? Priscilla Presley endorses this show 100%! Somehow The Marcus even had Elvis' 1956 Harley Davidson motorcycle on display! I was thrilled to meet Joe DiPietro who wrote the book, they are very eager to do a 30 +



city tour, lasting ten months – but premiering here! At the cast party I got to connect with featured star Susan Anton, tall, beautiful and hasn't felt a surgeon's knife, Beth Glover - the Mayor, Dennis the nerd – Dennis Moench and Natasha Yvette Williams as Sylvia were all gracious enough to play with Jody, Bill, Jean, Jay, Bonnie and me.

"Mamma Mia" will rock this town next month - so to heat up your November with

this sensational ABBA-Fest. Get your tix now, they are going tres fast.

Baby Jane Hudson commemorated another Birthday this year The Triangle hosted the Rainbow Review. Happy!

Condolences go out to David Sagura on the loss of his Mother, may your memories comfort – as mine have, for me.

Theater impresario Guy S. Little, Jr. is in works with one of the most exciting projects possible, the Golden Anniversary of The Little Theater On The Square.

(We all know Guy as the guy who put Melody Top on top, back in the 80's.)

Come June of 2007 this auspicious occasion will be heralded.

To honor this monumental milestone a concert version of Stephen Sondheim's master opus "Follies". In negotiations at this point are all former Stars of LTOTS.

Colleen Zenk Pinter, Mark Pinter, Eileen Fulton, Rosemary Prinz of "As The World Turns". Robert Neuman of "Guiding Light", Ann B. Davis from "The Brady Bunch"

and "Bob Cummings Show", the uber Diva Kitty Carlisle Hart as Heidi the Opera Diva, Mimi Hines, Anna McNeely, Bill Hayes & Susan Seaforth Hayes of "Days Of Our Lives", Guys' former Doll and mother of his two children, Jerili and cast of thousands are to be invited, signed and Sullivan-bound. Needless to write as we say good-bye to the Summer of 2006, I eagerly look forward to the Summer of 2007 for a weekend of Stars!

For as you know – it's always the glamour, not the grammar as I remain – "Cordially Yours,".





By Michael Johnston

Change is in the air, the days are shorter, shadows longer Autumn is once again upon us. So before the Social Season gets you wrapped up in costumes and decorating and parties a-go-go, take a moment so I can be "Cordially yours."

As I mentioned in my forward the Social Season is here Holidays, Fundraisers, Parties, Receptions...the first one to kick-off this month, let's start with the Best "Absolutely The Best Party". Friday, October 6th 7:30 PM – Midnite The Pfister Hotel. This benefit is to endow The Wisconsin AIDS Fund. Trust me it's a Gay old time! The theme this time out Vegas – the glitter, the glamour. This is a sure deal, no gamble of having a winning night with this one, so with a toss of the dice and the jackpot going to a most worthy cause, enjoy!

I'm very excited to share that word on street is Broadway Legend Barbara Cook is coming to the Brew City. Seems Jane Krakowski – a Broadway Baby if there ever was one, has had to cancel due to West Coast TV commitments ("30 Rock" on NBC). Ms. Cook will be cooking up her spectacular talents with the MSO Pops October 6-8. Kicking off their Season with the likes of Barbara Cook, one knows the Symphony is in for a great start. To be apart of this historic concert at Uihlein Hall, call 414-291-7605.

The LGBT Community Center will be rolling out their lavender carpet of hospitality on Wednesday, October 11th as "The Onion's" sex guru Dan Savage comes for a visit. A gathering to raise funds and awareness for the Center's Advocates takes place at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$25, to help fund non-Amendment and post-November Equal Rights Organizing by the Center Advocates, the arm of the Center. To meet this savage of a sensational Columnist and help empower the people who are empowering us, please call Patrick Flaherty, Advocates Director at 414-271-2656 # 112.

Thursday, October 12th maybe the night to paint the town Red at Red Light as Babylon celebrates their very First Anniversary upstairs at the Trocadero. A Customer Appreciation Party! The Bistro across the street, Good Life will be the place to visit on Wednesdays starting at 8 PM for a relaxing, more calmer night on the town...

The following Saturday, the 14th The LGBT Community Center has their night in the limelight: "Big Night Out Gala". The scene will be Northern Lights/Potawatomi Bingo Casino. Dear Ruthie will be the Hostess with the Mostess and the Special Guest Star all the way from the Big Apple will be: Ari Gold — Logo Charts Topper. Proceeds to go to the Center. For your place at this important event, call Angie Guerra, Director of Development and Marketing @ 414-271-2656 # 121.

The same night – The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Ltd. will launch into their 20th Season with a big bash at Hot Water. From 4 – 7 P Singsational Productions will karaoke you onto the dance floor, a cash bar and a chance to convey your good wishes to the good Chorus. \$5 at the door and if you're a Subscriber, you can be their guest. For more info please utilize their web page: www.creamcitychorus.org

The next afternoon, Sunday, October 15th Hot Water (located on east National Avenue, as east as you can go) will be the scene for a Fashion Show. Pump! AIDS Walk Team will host a Designer Showcase featuring at deadline, apparel from Fred's, MP2. Aala Reed and Shoo. Starting at the civilized hour of 4 PM. Wonderful wardrobes as well as refreshments with proceeds going to ARCW. Oh and I almost forgot – Karen Valentine will be offering fashion commentary! What will I wear! It seems Hot Water won't be sooo lonely... could a new bar be Cruise – ing in the neighborhood? No it's not a Gargoyle or a Dock – anchors away!

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The Fashion Front" worth reading, enjoying and learning! Hair stylist Tony Flanders was recently profiled as well. I'm hooked!

Look out, our Ms. Rona is taking over daytime with his new position at Shorewest Realtors. Congratulations, you're going to make it after all!

Bill Lison, one of Ro's colleagues at Shorewest is now a part of their Elmbrook/Wauwatosa

Office # 414-476-9070 # 229 - Go West young man!

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David & Thor victoriously hosted their "Fifth & Final Annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin Fundraising Party". Congratulations on always raising fun, awareness and over \$5,000

every year!

How fun was it to have BD (Brad) Wong as our Honorary Chair for the 2006 Walk? "Souls Helping Soles"... Dinner afterwards as always at The Pasta Tree, Steven and Robert always take the ache out of the afternoon. Bon appetite!

If it's possible, I'm madly in love with a restaurant, The Capital Grille 310 West Wisconsin Avenue in the Reuss (Logo) Building right across the street from The Boston Store - Grand Avenue Mall. Impossible to believe in the site that was once a Pill n' Puff, such magic occurs! This place is truly de-vine! Thee place for that special, REAL special occasion! I had the kona crusted dry aged sirloin with caramelized shallot butter — wow! Billy Robinson and Marla Duarte seen to all our needs — short of crowns, we were treated like Kings or a reasonable facsimile. Very expensive, BUT very worth it! Thanks Jerry D. for the five star dinner and service — highly recommended!

With the holidays coming up why not try the Holiday House? 525 East Menomonee Street. Chef/Owner Joe Volpe and Chef de Cuisine Tom Schultz create dinners like a fine production – Act One, Act Two, Act Three every course award-winning!

I adored the autographed photos of the stars that adorn the walls, from the original

Holiday House of the 1950's.

I had a ball at The Dairyland Classic! Congratulations Brian! 45 Teams it was like the Golden Days or would that be years? The M&M Club/Switch came in second in their category, congats! The weather simply awesome. Sarah, Bridget, Dana and their juke box at Dana's Field House made for a sensational Saturday this Summer.

Ray and Chad's Summer Party, was a Summer dream! Catering by The Tazz-Bah was absolutely delicious! A winged Bartender, Jonas, Dan, C.C., Passion Patty, Scott & Joey, Mike, Adan, Greg, Jeff, Dan, Steve, Emily & Adeline, Ken McMonagle, Artistic Director of MVM (Ray's the President) took time away from his Anniversary to put in an appearance and inform me their Holiday Show is in rehearsal — WVM — Women's Voices Milwaukee, will once again appear helping hit those high notes this December.

La Cage was quite the place over Labor Day and No Cover! The Disco was as crowded as in the days of Holly Brown! Following the hot weather and men and women, the ath-

letic motif of the weekend - the Bartenders went topless!!! How fun is that!

In ETC Christian and Dominic kept us thoroughly entranced, Adam/Iwanna Bottom on the main level was so sweet and DJ Tim of "Cher and Cher-A-Like" fame was gracious enough to welcome /introduce me from on high and dedicated "If I Could Turn Back Time" — I wish! To a totally unforgettable night! On the dance floor cha-cha-cha-ing into the night were: Jerry, Jerry, Jeff, Jay, Winnie Walgreen, Ashley, Lee, Tod with one D, Bryanna an exotic import new on the scene, Beto, Jeffrey and our hosts Michael & Kris. Brava! Can't wait for the third floor, partying at the Heaven Level!

Boom/The Room had a Heavenly Holiday cook-out. Tim's brother-in-law's Butcher Shop makes the best Brats ever! Over the weekend cocktailing with Jack Shorewest Smith – thrilled about working with Rona, Bill Tobias, Paul Milakovich, David Sagura, Ricky, a Streaker, Scott Stewart & Michael Walsh, Bill & Gordon, the return of Jackie O'Gasm



Michael Riedel, NV Post





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\$100 Pumpkin Carving Contest Saturday, Oct. 28th 7PM (Pumpkins Provided)



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The same day that I've been tapped to salute the fashion industry – Milwaukee style, HIT will be doing their ever-popular Chicago Bus tour to SideTracks. This year leaving Switch at 12-Noon, Sandwiches and CockTails on board – home by 10 PM. \$35. that will go to the HIT Cause and will include a \$5. Coupon for a before trip or after trip drink at Switch.

Yes, next month is HIT-28! I will have the pleasure once again hostessing "The Welcome Show" at Boom/The Room Thanksgiving night! This years theme a salute, perhaps with violin cases to The Roaring Twenties... hopefully not a St. (Karen) Valentine's Day Massacre!

Friday, October 20th brings The Counseling Center Of Milwaukee, Inc offering an Art Exhibition, presented by their Clients. Art created by Youths, Adolescents and Adults all Survivors of sexual abuse. Yama Yoga Studios 23 I East Buffalo Street held in conjunction with the Fall Gallery Night and Day.

Sweetest Day – the anniversary of my coming out is Saturday, October 21st this year

do something sweet for the Sweetheart(s) in your world.

Boom/The Room has a fun-filled month in store for you... Tony R. will be tinkering on the ivories Friday evenings 6:30 – 8:30 P. Adult film-dom's very own Chad Savage any relation to Dan Savage? Will be making his Boom/Milwaukee debut this month. Tim's B-Day and Halloween are one in the same, and there is a special screening of that cult classic "Rocky Picture Horror Show" on Wednesday, October 18.

"The Halloween Pub Crawl – 2006" will be held on Tuesday, October 31St Halloween Night. The fun begins at The Triangle from 8 – 9:30 PM, then it's to Switch from 9:30 – 11 PM, from there you cross the way to Fluid from 11 – 12:30 AM, finale time as always La Cage 12:30 – Finals at 1 AM. \$1,200. in prizes, top prize of \$500. to the top winner! Nothing to be afraid of here!

In the since last time department...

"The Follies Brassiere Show" at The Room was a smash! It was great fun seeing every one turn out and be sooooo generous to the G/L Community Trust Fund helping Southeastern Wisconsin coalition of organizations. Some of the worthy recipients of this night of charity were: BESTD Clinic, Center Building Fund, GPU Phone line, Gay Father's Group, Gay Youth Milwaukee, G/L Endowment Fund, House Of Infiniti, MVM, Queer TV Program, Milwaukee Metropolitan Church, Pride Parade, Sage ... Our Ms. Rona femceed the evening with a personal salute to Madonna. The star-studded cast was, cross your heart – supportive of all causes being represented. Lending their talents: my sister-in-print Dear Ruthie bringing down the house, the flawless Madison Brooks, the curvaceous Corona Royale, Queen of the high kicks Goldie Adams, newbie – but sure to be a house-hold name Taylor Vaughn, Milwaukee's Queen of Comedy Baby Jane Hudson, Tod with one D – adding testosterone to the program, Tod and Lee on sound, Tim on lights and video camera, David for allowing us the stage oh and yes, my alter ego Karen Valentine. What fun! Thank you Milwaukee!

Jerry S. from Racine had quite the Golden Birthday! How many cakes? Which was your favorite? What a time! Happy Birthday Jerry!

The "Annual August White Party" another G/L Community Trust Fundraiser was held once again at The Boot Camp. Always a fabulous farewell to Summer. Welcome Brent as their new door man.

Moo-Town's favorite Balladeer can be seen and most importantly heard at The Mosaic on the east side and hopefully more often at the Barclay Gardens in the Historic Third Ward.

If you're wondering who that hot new bartender at Switch is — besides Rita of course every Fridays — it would be another M&M Club Alumni, Scott every Thursday with karaoke and Saturdays with You!

Switch has a new selection of Strippers to view on Fridays late-nite, described as hunkier, beefier — could Rita be stripping too? I hear tell, their Packer Game Parties are quite the time too, now all we need is a team!

M Magazine – Milwaukee's LifeStyle periodical has two great localites offering their services: Bjorn Nasset nee B.J. Daniels on Beauty and Michael Haessley's helpful "On



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Tuesday, October 31 Halloween Costume Crawl 2:30 am costume judging Finals at 1am sharp Trick-or-Treat bags for everyone

day Mor Friday, October 27th After 25 years of performing Brittany is retiring! Doors open at 9 pm, Showtime is 930 pm

Milwaukee's Premier Gay Nightclub 4 great bars, 1 huge dance floor the best dance music in town

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Pull-Tab Tuesdays



TEN CENTS Double Vision Wednesdays 2-for-1 Drinks Thirsty Thursdays



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Saturdays

Milwaukee's Hottest Dance Music Happy Hour in ETC 2-for-1 Every Nite from 5pm-8

Join us for delicious appetizers, a complete dinner, Friday Fish Fry, or a late night eye opener. On the run, take it to go!

Sweetest Day Saturday, October 21st

Bring your sweetie to ETC for dinner between 5 pm and 11 pm and receive a complimentary glass of wine or champagne with dinner



Milwaukee's Cosmopolitan Video Bar Join us nightly for dinner served Sun-Thurs 5-10 Serving dinner & breakfast Friday & Saturday 5pm-4am

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