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A photograph of two men sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. The man on the left is wearing a striped shirt and has his arm around the man on the right. The man on the right is wearing a white shirt, glasses, and a beard, and is holding a glass of beer. They are both smiling at the camera.

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**SAGE/Milwaukee Says "Oui" To Gay Paree**





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# MADISON DENIES GREATER BENEFITS FOR GAY EMPLOYEES

## Rejection Comes As Governor Doyle Makes New Push For Same Sex DP Benefits

**Madison** - The city of Madison has rejected a grievance filed by one of its unions seeking greater health insurance benefits for the partners of gay and lesbian employees. The rejection came February 27, just weeks after Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and City Council members made a strong statement for gay rights by pledging to amend their oath of office to protest the state's new ban on gay marriage.

The grievance accused the city of violating its union contracts by failing to offer full health benefits to gay and lesbian employees because its insurer does not cover domestic partners. Those employees only qualify for single, as opposed to family, coverage. However gay workers also are paid about \$600 per month to help their partners purchase coverage on the open market.

The stipend does not cover the full cost of buying insurance, it does not extend through retirement and partners with medical coverage have difficulty qualifying on their own, according to Scott Matthews, a city property appraiser and union leader who filed the grievance.

The same day the city's rejection was announced, Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz received a letter from Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle advocating for the city to explain same-sex partner benefits. Doyle said he supported allowing the city of Madison and other local governments offer health benefits to their employees' gay and lesbian partners through a state plan. In his proposed state budget released in mid-February Doyle also proposed extending health benefits to the domestic partners of all state and University of Wisconsin System employees, regardless of sexual orientation.

Doyle referenced his budget proposal in his February 27 letter to Cieslewicz. "I would also support a change in state law so that the domestic partners of municipal employees who obtain health insurance through their municipal employer through the (state plan) could access

this program," Doyle wrote.

According to Doyle spokesman Matt Canter, the law change would promote fairness for gay and lesbian workers and would help local governments keep good employees. Canter suggested that despite the lack of a current, definitive proposal, municipalities who would participate in the state plan would also most likely have to provide the domestic partner benefit to their employees.

Doyle's letter came in response to an earlier letter from Cieslewicz requesting the expansion of the benefits. Despite the city's reimbursement to gay employees of up to \$7,200 a year for private insurance costs for employees' domestic partners Madison cannot cover employees outright because the state plan used by the city does not offer such coverage.

In his letter Cieslewicz said the change would not only strengthen Madison's current benefit package but could provide a permanent solution to the rejected grievance and allow the city to remain in the state insurance plan.

"I want to thank the governor for his willingness to go to bat for municipal employees as well as state employees," he wrote.

Republican lawmakers and anti-gay activist Julaine Appling have already weighed in on Doyle's DP budget proposal. Senate Minority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) earlier said he opposed Doyle's plan to add domestic partner benefits for state workers because it could add to the state's costs. Reacting to criticism that he had opposed the benefits idea sight unseen, Fitzgerald spokesman Mike Prentiss later said the senator would want to see the actual proposal for municipal employees before he took a final position on it.

However, chief executive of the Family Research Institute of Wisconsin Julaine Appling used a classic conservative "local control" position by noting that the proposal would force some local officials to offer a benefit they

don't support. "He's taking control away from the local units of government," Appling had said of Doyle's idea.

To date about 35 Madison employees have accessed the domestic partner benefit out of a work force of about 2,700. In 2006 the city spent an estimated \$86,000 on the benefits, according to Cieslewicz spokesperson George Twigg, noting that the mayor believed any increased cost to the city from passage of the Doyle proposal would likely be relatively small.

On March 1, the editors of the *Beloit Daily News* directly slammed Doyle's proposal and indirectly referenced Cieslewicz's letter, suggesting the recently adopted constitutional gay marriage ban trumped any domestic partner benefits scheme. "What part of last fall's statewide referendum, resoundingly rejecting full marital and family status for domestic partners, did officials in Madison fail to understand?" the uncredited editorial began.

The paper opined theirs was a "fair question" to both the Doyle Madison letter and his budget plan that would "provide gay partners' health insurance at taxpayer expense."

While exonerating itself because of its earlier editorial opposing the ban, the editors said they believed "the will of the people - the folks who pay for all these benefits - is what really ought to matter to those elected to represent those citizens. And the people's will was made pretty clear, in terms of what they do or do not want as a legal definition of family."

The editorial, however, ignored the repeated claims from Republican leaders in the run-up to the referendum who said that domestic partner benefits would not be impacted by its passage. The editorial also failed to consider that despite the 59-41% majority voting for the amendment only about half of the state's eligible voters had turned out, meaning the "will of the people" was mandated by less than 30% of Wisconsin's actual adult citizens.

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# EPISCOPAL LEADER ASKS FOR ROLL BACK OF GAY ISSUES SUPPORT

## Move Seen As Schism-Avoiding Compromise For Anglican Communion

**New York** - In a live webcast February 28, the Episcopal Church's presiding bishop began the painful task of persuading members to roll back their current support for gays so the denomination can keep its place in the world Anglican fellowship.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts-Schori told a studio audience, callers and those who submitted questions by email that they should make concessions that Anglican leaders are seeking to buy time for reconciliation. "To live together in Christian community means each member takes seriously the concerns and needs of other members," Jefferts-Schori said. "If we can lower the emotional reactivity in the midst of this current controversy, we just might be able to find a way to live together."

Asked whether she was abandoning gay and lesbian Christians, Jefferts-Schori said, "My view hasn't changed, but I'm called to be pastor to the whole church." Jefferts-Schori had openly supported the ordaining of gay men and women in committed long-term unions.

Anglican leaders earlier had emerged from a closed-door meeting in Tanzania with an ultimatum for the U.S. denomination: They gave Episcopalians until September 30 to unequivocally pledge not to consecrate another partnered gay bishop or authorize official prayers blessing same-sex couples. Failure to comply will risk a much-reduced role for the U. S. church in the 77 million-member Anglican Communion.

The Episcopal Church, which represents Anglicanism in the United States, caused the current uproar in 2003 by consecrating its first openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson. The decision put the liberal Christian focus on social justice directly at odds with the traditional biblical view of sexuality.

On February 27, Robinson made his first public comments on Anglican demands, saying the church should reject the ultimatum and instead "get on



with the work of the Gospel" no matter how communion leaders react. Several other Episcopal bishops have issued similar statements.

Most of the calls and questions submitted during the February 28 webcast were filled with emotion and based on personal stories. One woman said her daughter is a lesbian seeking to become an Episcopal priest who was "brokenhearted" by the restrictions on gay church members. Another asked whether Anglican leaders were actually promoting division instead of healing.

Jefferts-Schori responded by saying "an ethic of justice and inclusion would seemingly also urge us to include the dissenter."

The presiding bishop cautioned that a rush to break from other Anglicans would hurt Episcopal humanitarian work, disconnecting the U.S. church from sister churches overseas. She said she understood the fear created by the crisis, but a split would not solve the problem.

"We are being pushed toward a decision by impatient forces within and outside this church who hunger for clarity. That hunger for clarity at all costs is an anxious response to discomfort in the face of change which characterizes all of life," she said. "The impatience we're now experiencing is an idol - a false hope that is unwilling to wait on God for clarity."

The Episcopal House of Bishops will take up the proposal for the first time at a closed-door meeting in March. Jefferts-Schori said she was also trying to find a way that the House of Deputies, which represents clergy and lay people, could weigh in on the decision without calling a special convention, which would be expensive and time-consuming.

Theological conservatives are a minority in the 2.3 million-member U. S. church, but are the majority among Anglicans overseas.

*Christopher Allan's*



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## GAY RIGHTS PIONEER BARBARA GITTINGS DEAD AT 75

**Philadelphia** - Gay rights pioneer Barbara Gittings has died. Gittings lost her battle with breast cancer in here on Sunday, February 18. She was 75.

"Barbara was a real pioneer who fought tirelessly in the name of human decency and human dignity," Pennsylvania Governor Rendell said in a statement noting Gittings' passing.

"She is our Rosa Parks," Malcolm Lazin said of her passing. Lazin is the executive director of the Equality Forum in Philadelphia.

"Barbara gave a face to the gay community when it was deeply in the closet," *Philadelphia Gay News* publisher Mark Segal added. "She had a sense of humor. She had fun winning over hostile audiences."

A half century ago, gay life in the United States was conducted in society's shadows. In 1950's America sodomy was illegal in all fifty states. Police routinely harassed and raided gay bars and other places where "deviant homosexuals" were known to gather, arresting and jailing all who might be present. Barbara Gittings was one of a handful of brave men and women who began the modern gay rights movement, a decade and a half before the Stonewall riots.

In 1956 Gittings was instrumental in the early fight for lesbian rights, founding the New York City chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB) and edited its magazine, *The Ladder*. DOB had started a few months earlier in San Francisco by Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon. DOB was the first lesbian rights organization and an alternative to the bars.

Four years before Stonewall, on July 4, 1965, Ms. Gittings helped organize a march at Philadelphia's Independence Hall to support what gay activists then called "homosexual civil rights."

"It was both scary and exhilarating," Gittings said years later. "We knew we were doing something that hadn't been done before. It was our first in-your-face street picketing."



The demonstrators dressed conservatively. "We were fighting for federal employment," Ms. Gittings' partner Kay Tobin Lahusen told the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. "We wanted to look employable."

Gittings continued to march on July Fourth at Independence Hall for three more years, and in 1972 she helped organize the city's first major gay pride parade. She also was active in the campaign that led the American Psychiatric Association to drop its categorization of homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973, and

received an award from the association in the fall of 2006. Ms. Gittings headed the American Library Association Gay Task Force and edited its gay bibliography. The Free Library of Philadelphia's Gay and Lesbian Collection was later named in her honor.

In a 2001 interview Gittings revealed that as a young woman, she tried to resolve her sexual orientation through books and literature, and could only find homosexuality listed under "sexual perversion." "This was not about me," she said. "There is nothing here about love or happiness." Eventually, she said, "I simply found my own people."

Gittings was born in Vienna, Austria, where her father was serving in the U.S. diplomatic corps. She graduated from Wilmington High School and spent a year at Northwestern University. She worked at office jobs and in a music store in Philadelphia while pursuing her activism. She and Lahusen met in 1961 at a picnic in Rhode Island. They lived in Center City and in University City, and moved to Wilmington in the 1990s to care for Ms. Gittings' mother and aunt. She enjoyed classical music concerts, especially baroque and renaissance music, and sang with the Philadelphia Chamber Chorus for 50 years. In addition to her partner of 46 years, Ms. Gittings is survived by a sister, Eleanor G. Taylor.

Memorial donations in Gittings' name may be made to Lambda Legal Defense Fund, 120 Wall St., Suite 1500, New York, N.Y. 10005-3905.



## POLL: USA OKAY WITH A PRESIDENT WHO'S GAY

**Princeton, N. J.** - A mid-February USA Today/Gallup survey has found that 55% of respondents would vote for their party's gay or lesbian presidential nominee if he or she were "generally well-qualified." Moreover, the hypothetical gay politician polled better than one who had been married three times - which only 54% of respondents found acceptable.

Given the wide range of backgrounds among the current and presumptive 2008 presidential contenders, the poll asked how willing Americans would be to vote for them. 95% of those polled would vote for a Catholic; 94% would vote for an African-American; 88% would vote for a woman and 72% would vote for a Mormon.

Only 42% said they would be "comfortable" voting for someone 72 years old, the age of recently-announced candidate Senator John McCain.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani is Catholic and on his third spouse; Senator Hillary Clinton is female; Senator Barack Obama, black; and former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Mormon.

The only category to poll below 50% was "atheist."

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## JUDGE QUASHES MASSACHUSETTS ANTI-GAY SCHOOL LAWSUIT

**Boston** - A federal judge has thrown out a lawsuit filed by parents who objected to discussions of gay families in their children's classrooms, ruling the parents do not have the right to dictate curriculum in public schools.

U.S. District Judge Mark Wolf ruled on February 23 that federal courts have decided in other cases that the constitutional right of parents to raise their children does not include the right to restrict what a public school may teach them. Those earlier rulings also have held that teachings that contradict a parent's religious beliefs do not violate their First Amendment right to exercise their religion, Wolf said.

"In essence under the Constitution public schools are entitled to teach anything that is reasonably related to the goals of preparing students to become engaged and productive citizens in our democracy," he said in his ruling.

"Diversity is a hallmark of our nation. It is increasingly evident that our diversity includes differences in sexual orientation."

Wolf dismissed both the federal and state claims made in the lawsuit, but said the parents could refile the lawsuit in state court. The case has attracted attention in part because Massachusetts is the only state in the nation that allows same-sex marriage.

Tonia and David Parker of Lexington sued last year after their son brought home a book from kindergarten that depicted different kinds of families, including a gay family. Another Lexington couple, Joseph and Robin Wirthlin, joined the suit after a second-grade teacher read to the class, *King and King*, a fairy tale that tells the story of two princes falling in love.

Both couples claim they have religious beliefs that homosexuality is immoral and that marriage is a holy union between a man and a woman. They argued Lexington school officials violated their parental rights to teach their own morals to their children.

"It boils down to this simple thing: the parents have a fundamental right to be the primary directors of their children's upbringing and moral education," David Parker said in response to the ruling. "At the very least, this translates to monitoring the curriculum and conversations going on in elementary school," he said.

Jeffrey Denner, an attorney for the parents, said they would appeal Wolf's ruling to the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and also refile the claims in state court. Parker said Lexington school administrators violated a state law requiring that parents be given notice and an opportunity to exempt their children from any curriculum that "primarily involves human sexual education or human sexuality."

But John Davis, an attorney for Lexington school officials, said the books cited by the



Parkers and the Wirthlins did not focus on sex education, but depicted various families, including same-sex families. Davis said school officials view the decision as confirmation they can teach diversity to students without violating student or parental rights.

In his ruling, Wolf said parents have a fundamental right to raise their children and are not required to abandon that responsibility to the state. But he said the Parkers and the Wirthlins have alternatives if they do not approve of the curriculum at

public schools, including private schools, home-schooling and working to elect a Lexington school committee that will choose a curriculum more compatible with their beliefs.

"However, the Parkers and Wirthlins have chosen to send their children to the Lexington public schools with its current curriculum. The Constitution does not permit them to prescribe what those children will be taught," Wolf said.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts, which supported Lexington school officials, praised the ruling. "This is not a case about teaching about homosexuality. This is a case where Lexington sought to teach about diversity and about having respect," ACLU staff attorney Sarah Wunsch said. "It's not about sexuality; they were teaching about different kinds of families."

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## METH-SELLING SCHOOL PRINCIPAL BUSTED WHILE WATCHING GAY PORN



**Bethlehem, PA** - Nitschmann Middle School principal John Acerra was at his office on the evening of February 27 when police arrested him on charges of allegedly dealing methamphetamine. Sources said he was naked and watching gay pornography at the time of his arrest.

Acerra also had sex toys, drugs, cash and a pipe in his school office when authorities stormed his office, the sources added. Police said Acerra remains jailed on \$200,000 bail.

After the arrest, one of his neighbors said they still couldn't believe the whole situation. "It's pretty sad if you're supposed to be the principal of children that you're suppose to be molding," the woman, who prefer the remain unnamed, told a reporter for greater Philadelphia's NBC 10. "Maybe not be a hero but someone a child could look up to. To do that, it's pretty disgusting."

School administrators said that facts of the arrest have been hard on the students. Officials said they have counselors on hand to help students cope with what the school district described as a betrayal of trust.

The president of the Bethlehem School District, Dr. Craig Haytmanek, described former principle John Acerra as one of the "rising stars in the district." "Everyone was impressed with Mr. Acerra," said Haytmanek, also also noted that while the school district had some inkling of a problem with Acerra, officials "had no idea it was related to narcotics."

Haytmanek said that Acerra often showed up late for work, but that principals were allowed the keep their own schedules.

## GAY CIVIL UNIONS BEGIN IN NEW JERSEY

**Asbury Park, N. J.** - Gay couples across New Jersey began claiming the same legal rights as married couples early February 22 in ceremonies that formalized their relationships as civil unions. The state law establishing civil unions for same-sex couples took three days earlier. But because there is a 72-hour waiting period after applying for a license, most couples had to wait to hold civil union ceremonies. New Jersey is the third state in the nation to offer civil unions, which offer the protections and benefits of marriage - but not the title. Vermont and Connecticut also offer civil unions, and California offers domestic partnerships with similar benefits. Massachusetts is the only state to allow same-sex marriages.

In Asbury Park, a shore community being revitalized largely by a growing gay population, two couples were joined in ceremonies after midnight at a party sponsored by Garden State Equality, a gay rights advocacy group. The event was part ceremony, part political rally. Two couples were read two sets of vows. The Rev. Bob Krieset asked the couples - Thomas Mannix and Kevin Pilla, and Degr Schubert and Mark Rado - to vow to continue fighting for the right to marry. Then Mayor Kevin Sanders led the exchange of civil union vows.

For Schubert and Rado, such ceremonies are becoming old hat. They have had seven so far, including domestic partnerships and a marriage ceremony, both in San Francisco. The state of California ordered that marriage annulled, however.

The couple wore matching suits for their vows. Rado said the New Jersey recognition was the most important because it comes with the most protections and benefits. "I just feel lucky that we live in New Jersey," he said.

In Lambertville, an arts community 20 miles north of Trenton, Beth Asaro and Joanne Schaeley, who have been together for 20 years, also entered into a civil union shortly after midnight. "It was something we never dreamt could happen," Asaro said of their new benefits.

Last October, the state Supreme Court ordered New Jersey legislators to offer gay couples all the benefits of marriage, but left it up to the lawmakers what to call it. They opted for "civil unions" in part because of opposition from legislators who objected on religious grounds to calling it "marriage."

The civil unions law grants same-sex couples hundreds of benefits, including the right to file state taxes jointly and inheritance and child-custody rights. Also, people in civil unions cannot be forced to testify against their partners in criminal court. The benefits, however, are not recognized by the federal government or in most other states.

Gay rights activists say they'll continue to push for the right to marry in New Jersey. Opponents want to amend the state constitution to specifically ban gay marriage. Forty-five other states have either laws or amendments with such bans.

## HEIRS CHALLENGE LESBIAN'S CLAIM TO IBM FOUNDER'S FORTUNE

**Portland, Maine** - A gay woman who claims she was both the daughter and "wife" of multimillionaire IBM heiress Olive Watson has sued for a stake in the Watson family fortune. Patricia Spado was Watson's domestic partner for more than ten years until 1992, when the couple split up, according to court records. Before the breakup, Watson - the daughter of IBM founder Thomas Watson Jr. - legally adopted Spado in Maine in order to circumvent state laws that forbid them to marry.

At the time, Spado was 44 years old and Olive Watson was 43. Spado contends that the unusual arrangements were intentionally designed to allow her to become Watson's legal heir. Since Spado was legally adopted by Watson, she is technically Thomas Watson Jr.'s granddaughter.

However, the elder Watson's other grandchildren now contest Spado's claim to a share in a family trust reportedly worth millions of dollars. Thomas Watson earmarked the trust specifically for his grandchildren, and it became active when he died in 1993. He did not know about his daughter's arrangement with Spado, according to court records.

Thomas Watson's blood heirs have been arguing in probate courts in Maine and Connecticut that he intended the trust solely for children born to his children, and not their adult partners.

In their 14-year relationship, Patricia Spado and Olive Watson spent only five nights apart. They lived in New York, spent summers in Maine, and shared the more practical pieces of a life together - a home, a joint bank account.

"It shows what people are driven to when they don't have access to marriage and the conventional way of forming a family," gay legal activist Mary Bonauto noted. Bonauto is a lawyer with Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, the Boston-based group that won the legal battle that introduced gay marriage to Massachusetts.

## PROPOSED OREGON BILLS WOULD GIVE COUPLES LEGAL PROTECTIONS Legislation Comes As Neighboring Washington DP Bill Passes Senate

**Portland, Oregon** - Two bills backed by Basic Rights Oregon would ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and authorize civil unions of same-sex couples.

The bill introduced in the Oregon House of Representatives would afford same-sex couples some of the legal protections that marriage offers opposite-sex couples, although civil unions would be distinct from marriage. Couples also would have to be residents of Oregon.



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**Publisher:** Mark Marucci (ZA)

**Contributors:** News editor: Mike Fitzpatrick, Columns: Glen Bishop Jeff Hicks, Uncle Barbie

**Photography:** Mike Fitzpatrick, Milwaukee: William Sharkey Madison: Tony Ritschards, Steve Vargas

**Printing/Bindery:** Greg, Lori, Marti, Shawn, Za

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The bill introduced in the Oregon Senate would bar discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, employment, public accommodations, education and public services. An earlier proposal, known as Senate Bill 500, would also bar gay discrimination, but is limited to the first three categories.

Both bills emerged from the Governor's Task Force on Equality. The Senate passed a combination bill two years ago, and nondiscrimination bills in 1991 and 1993, but none has passed the House.

In neighboring Washington, a domestic partnership bill for gay and lesbian couples appeared headed for state law. On March 1, that state's Senate passed the measure by a 28-19 vote after a heated debate that boiled over when a Republican senator made references to bestiality and necrophilia.

The bill is expected to easily pass the Washington House, though it's not clear when it will come up for a vote. Governor Christine Gregoire has said she supports the measure.

The legislation would give gay and lesbian couples the right to visit a partner in the hospital, inherit the partner's property without a will and make funeral arrangements, among other things. That right also would be extended to unmarried heterosexuals in which at least one partner is 62 or older.

To qualify partners must be part of a same-sex couple, or if in a heterosexual partnership, one person must be at least 62. Additionally they must share a residence, be at least 18, capable of consenting and not be married to another person or in a domestic partnership with anyone else. Blood relation restrictions already in state law would also apply.

Washington DP supporters noted that older heterosexuals were included because they face the possibility of losing pension rights and Social Security benefits if they remarry. The pervasive reality of such senior living arrangements widely have been credited for the failure of Arizona's constitutional marriage ban last November.

Currently, three states, plus the District of Columbia, have domestic partnerships or similar provisions, according to the Human Rights Campaign. One state, Massachusetts, allows same-sex marriage; three others allow civil unions.

## NBA TEAM OWNERS DONATED OVER \$1.1 MILLION TO ANTI-GAY GROUP

**Olympia** - The millionaires recently turned to Washington's legislature to authorize a \$300 million tax subsidy for a new basketball arena also have been playing right-wing politics. Two members of the new Sonics ownership group are heavyweight financiers of a national political group dedicated to banning gay marriage.

Together, co-owners Tom Ward and Aubrey McClendon donated more than \$1.1 million to Americans United to Preserve Marriage (AUPM), a right-wing group that has been one of the leaders in the fight against gay marriage. AUPM group is led by former Republican presidential candidate Gary Bauer, also known for his helming of other anti-gay groups such as the Family Research Council and Focus on the Family.

According to Bauer's group, gay couples allegedly "flout marriage by using it for their own political agenda (and) cheapen the institution."

As Seattle Sonics struggle to persuade the Legislature to support a new \$500 million basketball arena in Renton, the latest revelations are adding static to the already-strained conversations with Democratic leaders who have consistently backed gay rights issues.

They also have come as the National Basketball Association is attempting to define itself as a champion of diversity to counter the public relations fallout from anti-gay statements made by former NBA star Tim Hardaway. After Hardaway said in a radio interview that he hated gay people, NBA Commissioner David Stern banished him from the All-Star weekend in Las Vegas.

Sonics spokesman Jim Kneeland suggested that the co-owners' contributions and political activity do not contradict the NBA's recent condemnation of bigotry.

"First of all, (Clay Bennett), who is the managing partner in this effort, is not involved in anyway," Kneeland said. "That's a key dis-

inction. People are entitled to have their views, they are not views that I happen to agree with ... but they are not trying to impose them on anyone out here."

"I won't argue that some of the owners may have more conservative political views than the norm out here; one of the things that they agreed to when they bought the team is that they would leave their politics at the state line," Kneeland added. "They have done that. They were not involved in the election cycle out here last year and have no intention of doing so."

Ward is the chief executive officer of an oil and natural gas production company. McClendon is chief executive of a natural gas production company. Both companies have headquarters in Oklahoma City. The ownership team of which they are a part also owns the WNBA's Seattle Storm.

Sports radio talk show host New York Vinnie Richichi of KIRO-AM/710 regularly has heard what thousands of wide-ranging sport fans think on his weeknight call-in show. According to Richichi the Hardaway controversy was a hot topic.

But Richichi noted that the fans' overwhelming view about gay players was one of indifference. "Especially the way the Sonics are going, they could have 12 gay guys sitting on the bench, we don't care as long as they win," he said.

Richichi added that stadium opponents could use the issue against the Sonics if the issue ever comes up for a public vote. "And I think you'd have certain people in the community who would look at that and say, 'It would be tough for me to say in good conscience to support (this).' It would be tough for Storm fans who are openly out to support an ownership that would do this," noting that most people who root for sports teams don't know that kinds of political activities the owners engage in.



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## Distributing unwanted opinions to the wretched masses.

**Dear Barbie,**

How do I know if my partner really loves me?

*Signed, Insecure Lover*

**Hello Insecure Lover,**

Here is an ancient love test you can use on your partner. Take a tiny pebble, and put it in your belly button the next time he makes love to you. If he/she can feel the pebble, then he/she is caring and sensitive to you. If, however, he/she does not feel the pebble, then he/she may just be concerned with pleasing him/herself and may not be attentive enough to you. There is a big difference between the art of making love and just having sex.

*Getting Your Rocks Off, Barbie*

**Dear Uncle Barbie,**

As a recently "out" gay man, I find my mother is curious about my love life. What can I do about it? How can I keep my privacy and not offend her? *Signed, Not a Mama's Boy*

**Hello Boy,**

You can achieve the privacy that you want by simply establishing some healthy boundaries with your mother. First of all, let her know that you have a need for privacy. Secondly, try to respect

# Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie

*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. Send your questions to Uncle Barbie: AskUncleBarbie@aol.com. Barbie responds to all emails...whether you deserve it or not.*

her need to be a part of your life. (That is probably why she is asking so many personal questions.) She just wants to understand you and what you are going through. Before you talk to her, it is important that you acknowledge her good intentions when she asks you questions about your love life. Most likely, she means you no harm. Like most mothers, she almost certainly wants what is best for you. Especially during this time of Mother's Day, think about all of the things that she has done for you over the years—and not just her, but other caregivers as well.

Take some time to recognize and honor the womyn who have had a positive influence on your life. This concept goes beyond just respecting your Earthly mothers; it also includes respecting the Mother Earth. After all, the Earth gave birth to all life (including humans) and continues to nurture us. Womyn have a sacred connection with the Goddess of life. The Goddess has three forms: Maiden, Mother and Crone. The Maiden is the virgin. The Mother aspect of the Goddess is what we give homage to on Mother's Day. The Crone is the wise old womyn. Additionally, any female mentor deserves to be treated with reverence, and not just for one day but everyday.

Some spiritualists believe that we all pre-existed in the spirit world before we were born. Therefore, we made a choice to come to this planet to be born as humans for purposes of spiritual growth and to learn. We even chose what bodily limitations or chal-

lenges we would have in this life. Some say that we also chose the family that we were to be born into. Despite all their mistakes, your family is the one you chose for your spiritual development on Earth. If that is the case, then your mother must be the best mother in the world for your soul because out of all the mothers, you picked her. Although your mother is not perfect, be thankful that her spirit agreed to be your Earthly mother. If her spirit declined, any other mother you would have been born through could only have been second best.

Other female mentors, such as teachers, grandmothers, aunts, or other female relatives, can also assist us on our life journey. Take time to honor them for all the love and kindness they have shown you while you were growing up, and for the love they still show you now. It has been said that it takes a community to raise a child. Therefore, you have numerous mothers. Your female mentors have contributed greatly to your upbringing, so acknowledge them as being one of your many mothers. Make a point today to tell them you are grateful.

*Rocking the Cradle, Barbie*

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## DOYLE APPOINTS LAUREN AZAR TO PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Madison** - Governor Jim Doyle has appointed Lauren Azar to the Public Service Commission. Azar is a Madison energy law attorney and the life partner of U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin. Azar's February 20 appointment to the commission that regulates the state's public utilities is effective March 12. She will replace Bert Garvin who is stepping down.



"As both a utility and environmental attorney for over a decade, she is highly qualified to address the complex matters that come before the PSC and evaluate these questions from the perspective of rate payers, the utility industry, and the entire community," Doyle said in the statement appointing Azar.

Azar told the *Wisconsin State Journal* that the PSC should always value reliable utility

service and competitive rates that protect the consumer and the environment. Azar has a master's degree in water resources management from the University of Wisconsin's Gaylord Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies and a master's degree in philosophy from Northwestern University. She lives in Madison with Baldwin.

Reaction to Azar's appointment has been mixed, though mostly favorable. Annita Wozniak of Verona, co-chairwoman of the Coalition for Responsible Energy, said she was concerned that Azar's work for American Transmission might affect her future decisions on Dane County power line cases and other issues affecting the company.

"I feel that's a conflict of interest," said Wozniak, whose group has opposed

American Transmission's plans. "I would find it difficult to believe that she's going to be able to set aside that loyalty to the utilities and look out for us (the general public)."

Azar later announced that she would not vote on the pending Dane County transmission line case because of her history representing the utility.

Steve Hiniker, executive director of the environmental group 1,000 Friends of Wisconsin and an often outspoken critic of the PSC, sees Azar's previous experience as bringing more expertise to the commission than some past appointees. "I think her experience actually makes her potentially one of the best PSC commissioners we've ever had," Hiniker said. "Here you have a woman I know from personal experience who is a phenomenal legal expert and a great mind when it comes to utility matters." The environmentalist has battled on against issues supported by Azar's clients in the past.

Azar's appointment to the six-year term must be confirmed by state Senate. In the interim she can act on matters before the agency, according to PSC spokesperson Linda Barth.

## "A DELICATE BALANCE" AT OFF THE WALL THEATRE



**Milwaukee** - Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize winning play "a Delicate Balance" will be the next offering at Off The Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells St. here. The world famous drama reveals the emotional savagery of suburbia and the psychological terror of empty lives. First produced in 1966, the dark drawing room comedy may be Albee's masterpiece and was as powerful in its 1996 Broadway revival as in its original production.

Off The Wall's production features some of Milwaukee's finest actors in what may prove to be the performances of their careers, according to director-producer Dale Gutzman told *Quest*.

David Flores plays Tobias, the seemingly weak willed head of the house, and Marilyn White plays Agnes, his determined wife, to whom falls the dubious duty of "keeping the balance." This is not always easy, according to Gutzman, since alcoholic sister Claire, played by Tamara Martinsek, often speaks the "truth" about things.

"In most of our lives a happy balance and truth are enemies!"

Claire exclaims during the production.

According to Gutzman, matters are not helped when daughter Julia returns home after leaving her fourth husband. Angela Johnstad plays Julia. Matters are further complicated when neighbors Harry and Edna arrive fleeing from an un-named horror at home. Gutzman added that Lawrence Lukasavage and Mary Henricksen will play these ominous roles.

As "A Delicate Balance," progresses, laughter turns to tears as the masks of civility drop and raw feeling emerge. Filled with brilliant dialogue and layers of meaning, the play becomes a mirror of the best and worst of our lives.

In addition to Gutzman's direction, David Roper has designed the set.

A Delicate Balance will play at Off The Wall Theatre on March 29-31 and April 1, 4-7. Wednesday and Thursday curtains will be at 7:30 PM. Friday and Saturday shows will start at 8 PM. The Sunday matinee will begin at 4:30 PM.

Tickets range from \$20 - 24. Call 414- 327-3552 for more information or reservations. Reservations may also be made online at the Off The Wall website at: [offthewalltheatre.com](http://offthewalltheatre.com).





## FORGE FORWARD FTM ISSUES CONFERENCE SET FOR MARCH 29

**Milwaukee** - Forge Forward 2007, a female-to male (FTM) transgender issues conference will be held March 29 - April 1 at the Four Points Sheraton here. The conference is billing itself also at the first-ever FTM gathering to include significant others, friends, family, and allies.

According to organizers, the conference full embraces diversity and is open to everyone. Organizers are particularly interested in representing and addressing issues of concern to the full range of trans-masculine (from "butch" to "male") and SOFFA identities. They are aware that often in the transgender community, people feel excluded and/or look around and think there's no one "like" them present. Conference staff are working hard to make everyone feel welcome and affirmed.

Keynote speakers for the event include Ben Singer, Hanne Blank, Jay Sennett, Willy Wilkinson, Eli Clare, Susan Stryker and Dean Spade. Singer, a PhD candidate in English at Rutgers University working on an ethnographic dissertation: "On the Medical Margins: Transgender Risk Reduction in Public Health." Since 1993, he has worked as a consultant and trainer in the public health sector, specializing in reducing health disparities through improving access to culturally competent care.

Hanne Blank's work includes such titles as *Virgin: The Untouched History* and *Unruly Appetites*. "Hanne Blank does for sex what feminism does for women: it gives us context, according to *Publishers Weekly* which also lauds Blank as "informative, funny and provocative," with "a pleasing, highly readable style that allows her to convey large amounts of information with wit and agility."

Jay Sennett is a writer, filmmaker and the founder and publisher of Homofactus Press, which takes its name from the Latin version of the Christian Nicene creed. By appropriating and, from one perspective, deliberately misusing this traditional language to describe FTM identities, the publishing house stakes a claim to a new space for the interpretation and criticism of longstanding beliefs about gender, transformation, and the limits of human possibility.

Willy Wilkinson, MPH is a third-gendered writer and public health consultant from Oakland, and the recipient of a 2004 National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association award for outstanding opinion/editorial. Since the early 1980s, he has organized queer and transgender communities of color, and has chronicled API queer movements in various media sources.

Gender queer poet and essayist Eli Clare has a B.A. in Women's Studies, a M.F.A. in Creative Writing, and most importantly a penchant for rabble-raising. Among other things, he has walked across the United States for peace, coordinated a rape prevention program in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and helped organize the first ever Queerness and

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**Kelli Jo Klein**

Disability Conference in 2002.

Susan Stryker is a researcher, writer, queer historian, artist, and a filmmaker. She is the former executive director of the LGBT Historical Society of Northern California, and a former history columnist for Planet Out. She has written and co-authored books like *Gay by the Bay: A History of Queer Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area* and edited the 1998 transgender issue of *The Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*.

Dean Spade is a trans attorney and activist, and founder of the Sylvia Rivera Law Project (SRLP). SRLP is a collective legal organization providing free legal services to low-income people and people of color facing gender identity discrimination, and engaging in public education, policy reform, and community organizing support focused on issues relevant to trans, intersex and gender non-conforming people.

In addition the keynote speakers, organizers have scheduled over 90 workshops, nine day-long

intensive sessions, entertainment performances and other special events for the conference. The online early registration rate of \$140 will end on March 11. Special room rates are available for conference attendees at the host hotel as well.

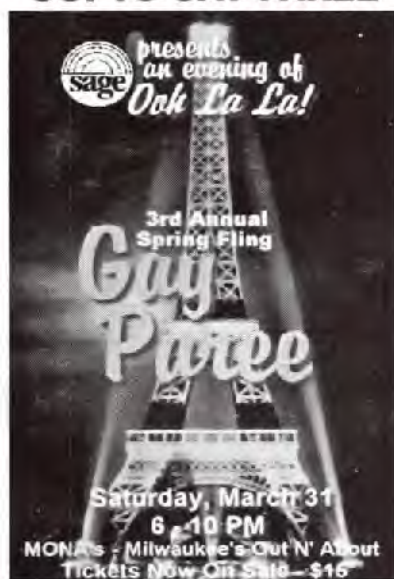
Online registration for the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference and Intensives that is completed Sunday, March 11, can either get the \$140 conference registration rate or \$130 intensive rate. After March 11, rates will go up to \$155 (conference) and \$165 (intensives).

To register online, go to: [www.regonline.com/FORGEConference](http://www.regonline.com/FORGEConference). Extensive information about the conference is available at:

[www.forge-forward.org/conference/index.php](http://www.forge-forward.org/conference/index.php). Conference contact information is: FORGE Conference, P.O. Box 1272, Milwaukee, WI 53201 (mail); 414-559-2123 (phone) and [conference@forge-forward.org](mailto:conference@forge-forward.org) (email).



## SAGE/MILWAUKEE SAYS OUI TO GAY PAREE



**Milwaukee - C'est Magnifique!** has been the initial reaction to the recent announcement of Gay Paree, SAGE/Milwaukee's Parisian-themed Third Annual Spring Fling to be held from 6-10 PM Saturday, March 31 at MONA's - Milwaukee's Out N' About, located at 1407 South First St. here. The SAGE Social Activities Committee encourages everyone to feel free to have fun and dress up French style or - even better - "Gay Paree" style. Or just come as you are!

A highlight of the evening will be the crowning of the King and Queen of "Spring Fling" at 7:30 PM. Nominations made be made now through the event with SAGE. The new queen and king will represent SAGE/Milwaukee in Milwaukee's Pride Parade.

Tickets are \$15 each, available from SAGE social activities members or by calling 414-224-0517. Each ticket includes appetizers and snacks, soda, cake and coffee. Also included are each attendee's corsage or boutonniere. Full cocktail bar service will also be available for cash purchase. Attendees will also be an opportunity to have a photo portrait taken for a donation benefiting SAGE/Milwaukee.

## SOULFORCE SETS EQUALITY RIDE FUNDRAISER

**Madison** - The Wisconsin chapter of Soulforce will hold a fund raiser for the group's national Equality Ride here Saturday, March 10 from 6-9 PM. The event will be held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1609 University Ave.

Guest speakers will include State Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee), Representative Mark Pocan (D-Madison), and *Advocate* magazine's young adult activist of the year Haven Herrin. Entertainment will be provided by Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus; the UW female acapella group Tangled Up In Blue and dance music provided by the deejays of Superior Entertainment DJs.

According to Soulforce, homophobia is globally pervasive, and no community or school escapes its reach. This year, fifty Equality Ride participants will travel on two buses to 32 Christian colleges and universities in creative pursuit of social justice.

Ride organizers claim that these colleges and uni-

versities boast some of the highest LGBT suicide rates in the country. According to Soulforce these schools "create an atmosphere of fear and hatred for LGBT students by telling daily, hourly, constantly, that God hates them or that they will go to hell for pursuing loving committed relationships with people of the same-sex."

The goal of the Soulforce equality ride is to engage students, faculty, and administrators in conversation about the damaging effects of homophobic doctrine, the false notion that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender identities are sick and sinful, and bring a message of grace, love and hope to LGBT and questioning students on these campuses.

For more information about the fund raider, contact Justin Hager at: [jhager@wisc.edu](mailto:jhager@wisc.edu).

## STAGEQ SEEKS DIRECTORS FOR QUEER SHORTS 2

**Madison** - StageQ is looking for directors for *Queer Shorts 2: What's Love Got to Do With It*, the theater company's second annual shorts playfest.

Are you Queer identified or an ally? Do you love

theater? Have you dreamed of directing but been afraid to dive in the deep end with a full length production? Have you dreamed of directing, but just couldn't get that first foot in the door? Or, are you an experienced director who wants to participate in a fun, queer community celebration? StageQ is offering all who might answer "yes" to the above a chance to direct.

Queer Shorts 2 consists of twelve short plays running from two to fifteen minutes long. There may be some opportunities for directing multiple shorts. Auditions will be on April 30 and May 1. Rehearsals for the short plays will run from May 28 through June 27, with the performances of Queer Shorts 2 running June 28 - 30 at the Bartell Theatre.

If interested in directing, please write Stage Q and tell them about directing experience, if any; other theater experience; why you would like the chance to direct, availability and conflicts from May 21 - June 30 and your openness to coaching and mentoring if you are a new director.

If interested, please contact StageQ via email by April 1 at: [stageq@stageq.com](mailto:stageq@stageq.com).

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## POSITIVE VOICE SHUTTERS OFFICE BUT REMAINS ACTIVE

**Green Bay** - Positive Voice, northeast Wisconsin's LGBT social and educational organization may have closed its doors but pledges to remain an active force in the area's gay life. Following the group's final "drop-in" night on February 22, PV members moved office equipment and furniture into storage. The group cited the high cost of rental space as the reason for closing its office, which had been located in a retail strip mall in suburban Allouez.

"For the past 15 years, Positive Voice has been working from the 'inside out' to provide a voice for northeast Wisconsin LGBTs within the larger, 'conservative' communities in which we live," PV President Dennis Krenn wrote in a message to members explaining the decision to close down the office. "While doing so, our primary focus has been to work to empower LGBTs to live with positive expectations."

For the past 3 years, Positive Voice had physical office space in Green Bay with the help of several key supporters. In 2004, the Arketype design firm

acquired several properties in downtown Green Bay, including the historic Grace Presbyterian Church and small, duplex store front. PV and Beacon House, another not-for-profit group, received no-cost usage of the store front space until the building needed to be razed in the process of developing the firm's new office space in the church. PV volunteers came forward to fix-up, decorate and provide donated office furnishings for the space.

Last May, after being informed that the building was slated for demolition, PV decided to work to keep an office presence in Green Bay. The search came about the same time Fair Wisconsin sought office space in Green Bay. Both organizations agreed to share the Allouez space. PV moved in immediately, followed by Fair Wisconsin a few weeks later.

As Fair Wisconsin's work against the Marriage Amendment picked up steam in late summer and fall of 2006, the office became a beehive of activity for the community. PV Board Members poured much of their volunteer energy into the FW effort, as did many in both the LGBT and gay-supportive

community. In the final weeks before the November election, PV ceased its office-based activities to allow Fair Wisconsin staffers and volunteers full time access to the facility and its resources.

Following the vote the Fair Wisconsin staff vacated the premises. The PV board decided that the high cost of the rent as a sole tenant was not in the organization's best interest and voted to close the office. PV meetings and social events will continue to be held at locations as announced via email, in the monthly newsletter and on the group's website.

"As Positive Voice looks to the future, we ask for your help and continued assistance for our efforts in supporting LGBT's in Northeast Wisconsin," Krenn asked members and supporters. "Our collective voice has been heard in multicultural centers, government, chambers of commerce, business development groups, companies and health care institutions serving Northeast Wisconsin."

FMI visit the Positive Voice website at: [www.pvinc.org](http://www.pvinc.org), or write: Positive Voice, Inc. P.O. Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1381.

## ON OUR COVER: GOVERNOR DOYLE AND MAYOR BARRETT HONOR CREAM CITY FOUNDATION



**Milwaukee** - the Cream City Foundation recently received a commendation from Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle and a proclamation from Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett in honor of their 25 years of funding lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender programs in southeastern Wisconsin.

Doyle recognized Cream City Foundation for building a strong foundation and infrastructure in southeastern Wisconsin's LGBT Communities by distributing funds to emerging groups and programs that enhance the quality of life for LGBT people.

Barrett's proclamation made February 22 "Cream City Foundation Day." The event was highlighted by the kickoff of the 25 Year Anniversary during the Winter-Get-



Away event at the Mitchell Park Domes. Hundreds of Cream City Foundation supporters and allies attended the celebration, according to Executive Director Maria Cardenas.

Photos provided by Cream City Foundation





# Diversion of the Day

## Quest's Events Calendar

**Wednesday, March 7**

**BESTD Clinic 30 minute HIV Testing at Midtowne Spa 6-9pm**

**Friday, March 9**

**Club Nite Out (Stevens Point) Mr Central WI USA Pageant plus 18 & Up Night**

**Saturday, March 10**

**OZ (Wausau) Miss Wausau WI USofA Pageant 10:30 pm**

**Switch (Milw) 9 pm Pre-Register party for the Rita Bowl. Variety show follows after 10:30 pm**

**Sunday, March 11**

**KRUZ (Milw) Castaways MC Present "Lil Luck-o-the Irish! Get lucky @ KRUZ. 3pm-7pm Beer/Soda bust \$7 Lots of prizes given away. \$1 donation \$5 crotch to the floor.**

**Fluid (Milw) St Patrick's Drag Queen Bingo Wear Green & get a free shot**

**Monday, March 12**

**Outwards Books (Milw) Outwards Book Club Group will discuss Kevin Jennings' provocative memoir. Everyone welcome.**

**Tuesday, March 13**

**Outwards Books (Milw) The Lesbian Reading Group @ Outwards K.E. Lane's debut novel, *And Playing the Role of Herself* is the book discussed. Come & meet the group and discuss a great book.**

**Friday, March 16**

**Cream city Sqaures & Shoreline present a St Patrick's Day Dance at Hot Water, 818 S. Water St (Milw) Light Supper 6:30 pm Square Dancing 7-8:30 pm Country Western Partner & Line Dancing 8:30 pm to close Lessons provided for those who need it. FMI Laura 414-747-0388**

**18th Annual Rita Bowl, Reg. 7 pm AMF West Allis Bowl see ad this issue**

**Saturday, March 17**

**BallGame (Milw) Ballgame's 37th Anniversary Party & St. Patrick's Day Celebration.**

**Fluid (Milw) St Pat's Day Open @ 2 pm with \$2 Shots Tullamore Dew**

**LaCage (Milw) St Pat's Day Party**

**Madison Gay Video Club Third Man Out dir Ron Oliver 2005 also Lords of the Jungle XXX Adult call 608-244-8675 evenings**

**The Milwaukee Pumphouse (Milw) St Pats party with Irish food, door prizes, \$4 Green Apple Martinis**

**ICON (Kenosha) Everyone is Irish at ICON today! \$3 ShamRocked Aluminum bottles of Bud Lite Door prizes and more.**

**Tuesday, March 20**

**BESTD Clinic 30 minute HIV Testing at Midtowne Spa 6-9pm**

**Wednesday, March 21**

**Triangle (Milw) Kelvin Haydon of Three Strikes Productions Birthday Bash. with Divas from Milwaukee hosted by Kenny Fletcher. 10pm**

**LaCage (Milw) A Spring Fling**

**Thursday, March 22**

**Fluid (Milw) Spring Fever, \$4.75 on all martinis 8-cl**

**Saturday, March 31**

**Club 1226 (Oshkosh) Mr. Club 1226 Contest 10:30 pm no cover**

**Mona's (Milw) Sage/Milwaukee 3rd annual Spring Fling "Gay Paree" 6-10 pm Admission \$15 FMI Raymond 414-617-1152**

**Saturday, April 14**

**Wisconsin Cream city Chorus present "Everything Possible" 7:30 pm Unitarian Universalist Church 1300 W North Ave Celebrating the past & future of the WCCC this 20th Anniversary Concert includes awards, guest appearances & Milw premier of "Song of Wisdom from Old Turtle" a choral setting of Douglas Woods childrens book, *Old Turtle*. Features Guest solist/Narator Joel Kopischke & diverse guest singers from the community.**

**Shelter (Green Bay) Miss EOY 2007 Pageant 10pm**

**Saturday, May 12**

**Club Nite Out (Stevens Point) Miss Central WI USA Pageant plus 21 & Up Night**

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**Neely O'Hara**

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## SATURDAY, MARCH 31

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[www.christopherallans.com](http://www.christopherallans.com)



# NEW ON DVD by Glenn Bishop

## **SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM**

Chad Allen is back and tougher than ever in his second go as the openly gay Albany gumshoe Donald Strachey in the HereTV! original production, **"Shock to the System."**

In **"Third Man Out,"** Allen's first outing as PI Donald Strachey, the case involved death threats to an unpopular gay activist played by the popular former QAF regular Jack Wetherall. Determined to mine all possible marketing opportunities, the casting director went so far as to add porn superstar Matthew Rush into the mix to play – wait for it — a porn star.

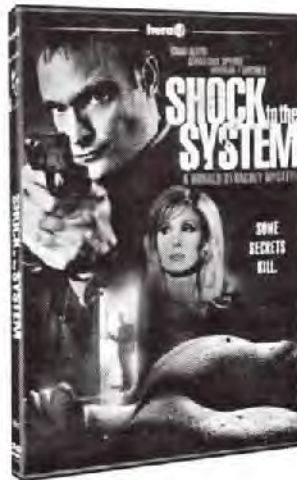
Can you say inspired casting?? Entertaining as **"Third Man Out"** was, thanks in large measure to an extensive and gleefully gratuitous nude scene by the aforementioned Matthew Rush, it definitely proved somewhat lacking as a crime drama.

Not so with **"Shock to the System,"** which takes a decidedly serious turn. Strachey is contacted by a mysterious young client Paul Hale (Jared Keeso) who promptly turns up dead the very next morning, an apparent suicide. Only Strachey is not convinced that it is a suicide and in true gumshoe fashion, is determined to get to the truth.

As Strachey delves further into Hale's life, he learns that young man was seriously involved with the Phoenix Foundation, an ex-gay ministry led by charismatic Dr. Trevor Cornell (Michael Woods) and his long-suffering wife Lynn

(Anne Marie Loder). Except that Hale wasn't merely involved with the Phoenix Foundation, the handsome young man was about to become the poster boy for the origination in a new media campaign.

There's no other choice for Strachey but to go undercover and infiltrate the Phoenix Foundation, allowing screenwriter Ron McGee a surprisingly thoughtful exploration of what motivates some gay men and lesbians to turn to such originations. Case in point is Grey (Stephen Huszar), a handsome hunk of pharmaceutical salesman who has been in and out of treatment. Married with two adorable children, the prerequisite one boy and one girl, Grey loves nothing more than coming home for a family dinner and reading bedtime stories to his kids. Only sometimes Grey finds it hard to resist good looking guys, good looking guys like Donald Strachey.



## **Buy It, Rent It or Forget It**

After a steady diet of micro-budget indie love stories, visually stimulating foreign coming-of-age films plus the occasional mindless foray into the wild and wacky world of **"Guys Gone Wild,"** the well-made and wonderfully grown-up **"Shock to the System"** comes as pure bliss. Bring on the next one in the series!

## **Just the facts...**

**"Shock to the System"** runs approx. 91 minutes and is in English.

**"Shock to the System"** is available now and has a SRP of \$24.95

DVD includes standard extras: Director's Commentary, "Behind the scenes" featurettes, Storyboards, Letterboxed, interactive menus

"The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it... I can resist everything but temptation." Thank you Oscar Wilde.

McGee's screenplay offers perhaps too many red herrings but Strachey nevertheless plods along, determined to press on solve the mystery of Paul Hale's death, as we certainly believe he ultimately will.

Allen is again terrific: strong, tough and yet wonderfully vulnerable. Allen is well supported in this second outing by Sebastian Spence as his partner Tim and a delightful comic turn by Nelson Wong as Kenny, Strachey's new secretary "And I prefer 'Office Manager.'"

What, no porn stars listed amongst the cast? Not to worry, there a yummy locker room scene boasting plenty of gratuitous nudity. Plus there's a campy cameo the never-aging "thanks to the wonders of modern cosmetology" Morgan Fairchild as the dead boy's homophobic mother.

Now, that's entertainment.





# Thank You SIR: by Jeff Hicks

**How are we active in the Leather/Levi Scene? Is it what we wear, what we say, or what we actually DO ?**

A Leather jacket isn't necessary to be *active* in the "Leather" scene. Neither does a leather vest, pants, chaps, or boots. What you wear and how you look does not define you as involved in the Leather scene. If/they can, in certain social circles, connote various images and/or implications. Quite often Details that are added to or worn with, or on, those clothes will show your individual activity of interest. This will most often be seen at gatherings of "Leather People". Many people at such events will be showing off their "Leathers" that are noticeably worn and old and indicate many years of *active* participation.

With that in mind I have had some free time recently to continue the restoration of a 'Leather Motorcycle Jacket', that I received in 1971 from a Couple of Dominant Men in New York City. Their comment when they gave it to me was; "You have earned it". Having started training only 5-1/2 months earlier, that came as a profound compliment. I still wear it as a *symbol* of my involvement in Leather! The *active* part continues to this day.

Even though rebuilding the jacket is '*reminiscent*' of past scenes it can't replace other renewals. The renewal of a branding on my butt last Thursday has reaffirmed my constant involvement in the Leather Scene. Especially since the Person doing the procedure used the occasion for a series of C B T actions. That had the effect of making the evening just that much more enjoyable. Understandable because it means more time is used with additional activities, delaying the intermittent "burns". It keeps a boy wondering which stimulation will be next: an impact, a burn, or perhaps a 'pull and squeeze' !!! The real excitement is the anticipation of the bright sting of the burning, offset by the genital pummeling. When either does start you are sooooo ready for it and your body has already prepared itself by releasing endorphins to handle the vigorous stimulations and make them a wonderful pleasure. As to the brand itself, the *anticipation* is half of the pleasure. You know it is coming and it keeps you hot for several days before the event. Now, It's done. [ Just as long as it is healed before IMrL ], not to mention 'Tall ship' rigging in April. Actually it will be ready in about 3 to 4 weeks. So my *reminiscing* is not only remembrances of past scenes but anticipation of the others that are happening frequently and the ones that are still to come !!

boy jeff H. Milw., WI.

[bdsmboy1971@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:bdsmboy1971@sbcbglobal.net)



## Upcoming Events:

**CASTAWAYS M.C.** March 11 at Kruz 7pm  
beer bust for St Pat's Day.

**Mr. Wisconsin Leather Weekend '07**  
Starts March 23, and the contest is  
March 24, at 10:30 PM.

Any questions; info is at:  
[www.TheShelterClub.com](http://www.TheShelterClub.com)

**Wisconsin Leather/Levi,  
Daddy/Daddy's boy Weekend**  
April 20 & 21!

The event is both days @ Naps—Friday is  
meet and greet & contestant check in. Sat is  
the contest with registration till 7 PM!  
see: <http://argonautsll.org/> for details.  
Let's make this year a record breaking event!

**Leather Leadership Conference:**  
April 19 - 22. Minneapolis Minn.  
more info to follow or check:  
<http://www.leatherleadership.org/>

**International Mr. Leather.**  
Memorial day weekend.  
May 24 - May 28, 2007, Chicago ILL.  
<http://www.imrl.com/>

## MR. NORTHWOODS 2006-2007

Paul Freeman will be attending IMrL29 this May in Chicago as Mr Northwoods 2006-2007 representing the Argonauts of Wisconsin Leather/Levi Club, based in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Paul assumed the Mr Northwoods title when the previous titleholder was not able to fulfill the obligations, due to family illness. Paul received the sash in January, at WinterQuest33, celebrating the Argonauts 33rd Anniversary.

In the past 3 years, Paul has worked with Panther L/L of Atlanta, GA doing different activities to help raise money for various charitable organizations. Since 2003, he has supported the Argonauts of Wisconsin charities including Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW)

Paul's e-mail address is: [bootman69@aol.com](mailto:bootman69@aol.com)

More information about the Argonauts of  
Wisconsin is at: [www.argonautsll.org](http://www.argonautsll.org)

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## PRIDEFEST TOWN HALL MEETING REVEALS 2006 FESTIVAL \$\$\$

Pridefest finally held their town hall meeting on February 15, 2007 in the basement of the Milwaukee GLBT Center. What made this meeting different from any other is that this meeting was the first time the public was told the final numbers for the 2006 festival. In 2006 there were 23,839 people in attendance over the three day event. The festival had an income of \$441,271.00 in income with expenditures climbing to \$439,301.00, this left Pridefest posting a profit of \$1,905.99 for the 2006 fiscal year. Pridefest stressed that these numbers included the final payment, with money pulled from Pridefest reserves, of debt reduction to World Festivals Inc. of \$31,774.00, as well as a \$10,000.00 donation to Fair Wisconsin to help fight the gay marriage amendment in the November election. An independent audit, reported on by the treasurer of Pridefest, reported that the Festival is still a viable corporation capable of making money in the future. When asked what it costs to reserve the grounds for a coming year Pridefest responded that they will need to have at least \$3,000.00 to reserve the ground for the 2007 festival. Having said all of

these numbers this reporter finds it hard to believe when Pridefest reported that it took 4 months to put the fiscal books in order.

Pridefest also took the time at the meeting to relay possible changes for the 2007 festival. One change may be that the Linenkugel stage may be dropped, which would mean finding a new place for the leather show, dance party, and Pride Idol competition. Pridefest did, however, report that the festival will run 3 days in 2007, meaning that Friday is not going away. Adding an event to celebrate the veterans who are fighting past and present, was also discussed through the course of the meeting. One of the major changes for the 2007 is the strong possibility of the Pride Guide being discontinued. The officers of Pridefest cited too much additional work to put this book together for the public of Milwaukee and abroad, also playing a part in this decision is Q-Life, who has expressed to Pridefest that they will not take part in printing or layout. Pridefest also stated that they believed they got a better result from radio advertisements and the website last year than the Pride Guide. Pridefest told the public in attendance at this meet-

ing that they would like to move the festival to a different date during the summer, however due to World Festivals Inc. moving the festival this year or any time in the near future simply would not happen. The final bombshell of this meeting was when Pridefest stated that there would be no Shuttle buses provided by Pridefest, it was stated that if any bar, business, or organization wanted to have a shuttle bus, Pridefest would arrange a place for the bus(s) to load and unload passengers.

Some other topics discussed were the vacancy issue among Pridefest. Pridefest reported having vacancies in at least seven key areas, with many more positions unfilled as well. One of the major positions available is a volunteer coordinator, mentioning volunteers Pridefest noted that volunteers groups could expect to be contacted regarding Pridefest on or around the first of March. Pridefest also noted that they were looking for a better "racial and sexuality" mix, meaning that they are looking for more people to help on the board. The committee asked the public in attendance, "If any of you know of a black or Hispanic person willing to help with Pridefest please let us know. We are also looking to have more lesbians, transgenders, and Bi-sexuals on the board."

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MILWAUKEE GAY ARTS CENTER IN MARCH

**March 10, 7pm** Donation \$10

### **Belly Dance Showcase with Mark Balahadia**

A night of Middle Eastern extravagance featuring belly dancer Mark Balahadia and a host of regional and local professional belly dancers and troupes. A Shaia Fahrid Production~!

<http://www.markbalahadia.com/about.html>

**March 11, 4pm** Donation \$10

### **Hafia Alhambra Belly Dance and Flamenco Extravaganza**

A special matinee of flamenco and belly dance fusion showcasing regional and local professional performers. A Shaia Fahrid Production~!

**March 23, 9pm** Donation \$5

### **Cabaret Night with Eric Himan, singer -acoustic guitar**

Eric released his debut CD and founded his own independent label, Thumberown Records. He quickly gained a "cult" following and broke from the idea of being a small-town act, for his unique sound that transgressed genres as he penned songs that dabbled in Blues, Folk, Pop, Blue Grass, Country, and Rock all served up with a pinch of wit and charm. Eric has shared the stage with Cyndi Lauper, India Arie, Ru Paul, En Vogue, Duncan Sheik, Melissa Ferrick, and many more.

<http://www.erichiman.com/erichiman.php>

**March 24, 6-9pm** Donation \$8

### **TransART Exhibition opening, artist reception and readings by Dylan Scholinski**

Dylan was born Daphne Scholinski. As a young girl growing up in the Chicago suburbs, she played first base in Little League and preferred drawing to playing with dolls. When she was 15 years old she was locked up in a mental hospital, diagnosed as "an inappropriate female", and spent the rest of her high school years undergoing extreme femininity training. At 18, her insurance ran out and she was discharged.

Now 37, Dylan is an accomplished and successful artist and writer. His memoir, *The Last Time I wore a Dress*, has opened the public eye to the world of gender ambiguity and its ramifications.

<http://www.dylanscholinski.com/bio.html>

**March 30, 8pm** Donation \$5

### **Cabaret Night with Coyote Grace, alternative folk rock acoustic musical duo**

COYOTE GRACE is the Seattle-based acoustic duet comprised of Joe Stevens, a transman singer/songwriter from California and graduate of Cornish College of the Arts, backed up by Ingrid Eyen on vocals and upright bass, a sassy femme originally hailing from the hills of Southeastern Ohio. Partners on and off stage, their love of music and for each other permeates every song, conveyed through smooth harmonies, driving roots rhythms, and captivating lyrics of raw life experience.

Read more and hear their music on

<http://www.myspace.com/coyotegrace>

**March 31, 8pm** Donation \$10

### **"As Bees in Honey Drown", a play by Douglas Carter Beane, directed by Lexi Klupchak**

*As Bees in Honey Drown*, a comedy revealing the pitfalls of the unquenchable hunger for fame. Eager "almost-famous" artists and, of course, authors, the occupation of the protagonist, are displayed as easily trapped victims of con artists who promise big, but empty, dreams. Add sex to the equation and there's more dysfunction than even in your own family~!

**April 1, 2pm** Donation \$10

**April 6 & 7, 8pm** Donation \$10

### **"As Bees in Honey Drown",**

A play by Douglas Carter Beane, directed by Lexi Klupchak,

Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm And by appointment  
Classes: Middle Eastern Belly Dance for Men with Shaia Fahrid  
Call 414-383-3727 for Information

*For further information, contact:*

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center  
703 S 2nd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
414-383-3727





**At the Triangle Bar Drag Show**



The midstate gay and lesbian social group Rainbow Coalition of Central Wisconsin recently held a chicken potluck dinner in rural Dorchester. RACW also recently elected Terry Recore is its new president, Brad Wurz as vice-president & Jeff Jelinski as secretary. Fran Cherney was reelected as treasurer. After the meal members headed over to Wausau's Oz bar for a night of drag show delights. (Photo credit: Fran Cherney)



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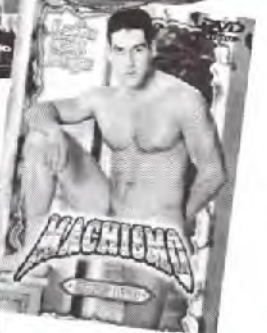


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### **FOR RENT / ROOMMATES**

**Roommate wanted**  
**Northside Racine** Share nice small cottage near north beach. Washer, dryer, everything here. Must be open minded. \$300/month everything incl. Michael (262)902-2792 anytime [2]

**Looking for a roommate:**  
**Pewaukee** two level home includes utilities, cable, roadrunner, bedroom, den, own bath, private entrance, n/sCA \$450.00 p/m \$200.00 security (414)708-8878 [2]

**3 BR Lower Flat on Milwaukee's Eastside** one block from Whole foods, North ave., Alterra coffee, and Lake park Rent is 695/mos. + utilities. All appliances are included + a shared washer and dryer. Available March 1st ask for Ron @414-221-0099 or Leo @414-332-8860 [2]

### **FOR SALE, TRADE or PURCHASE**

For Sale: XXX Rated Videos. VHS, CD's hundreds to choose from very reasonable. Mostly gay, some bi & st8. May view to buy. Call Bob @ (414)727-0536 If not hm lv message

Interested in trading or watching Bel Ami videos? **Wausau Area** (715)845-6467 [2]

### **EMPLOYMENT**

**Outwards Books in Milwaukee is looking to hire.** Please apply in person. 2710 N. Murray, Milwaukee. (414)963-9089

**Looking 4 Male Dancers** for Tuesdays & Fridays. Inquire@ (414)469-7972

Join our team!CA Home of Wisconsin's largest gay dance club, LaCage is currently hiring for following positions: CA Experienced & licensed bartenders, Security, Servers, and Bar Backs.CA You must be at least 21 years old and have availability on weekends after 10 pm.CA If you're interested, please visit us in ETC (lower level of LaCage) anytime after 5 pm daily.CA No phone calls please.

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We are a M&F Bi married couple who would like to blow your 7" cut or better. Plus any thing else. Would love even more if you brought along F's and/or M's friends. Lets make it aCAgrand ole party. Open to the state of Wisconsin! WE are at: [purrat.com@tt.com](mailto:purrat.com@tt.com)

Friend or someone special wanted, pen pal, travel partner, love beaches, camping, vegas, fishing, hiking! 3658 W 79pl., Chicago 773-569-6333 Tom [1]

Hey guys! I live in Dorchester. Have own place. Can be discreet. Looking for friends and/or someone to play with in my area.CA I am 47 years old, black hair and hazel eyes. I am 5'7" and 150#'s.CA I enjoy movies, videos, chats, goingCA out (but not to the bars as much), swimming, amusement parks, festivals, etc. If interested email me at:CA [jtm1958@tds.net](mailto:jtm1958@tds.net). Jim. [1]

My cute thong panty reply if you write. I love girls & guys. Jeffrey Stone 1647 Wilmont Ave. #303 Twin Lakes, WI 53181 (262)949-9798 [1]

GWM 39 Blonde hair blue eyes ave build, 7" cut looking for hot bottoms 18 - 40. Slim to bodybuilder type, jock type, I will lick yo from head to toe before I plow you. Also into boots, feet, jock straps, tact gear. Hot sluts welcome. Call or write Chris B 3319 S.

99th Court #2 Milw WI 53227 (414)727-1089 lv message. [1]

Three-Way Fantasies. White male 37yo 5'6" 145# 29"waist, attractive, in shape looking for 3-way with M/F and F/F couples in Green Bay area. (906)280-7081 18-40 in shape[1]

Up North SGWM 5'11" 190# 46 S/P Beard brown hair blue eyes, clean, live in

the woods & love the outdoors, a homebody. I'm mostly bottom but versatile. ISO friend-lover for fun times LTR possible. If interested send letter & photo to DC W10230 Powerline Road, Phillips, WI 54555 Bears welcome. [1]

BiWM Crossdresser 50's looking for people with same interests. clean, discreet, expect same. Love to meet, date, have fun. Please con-

tact, phone number & best time to call. SM, P.O. Box 44184 West Allis, WI 53214

Attention Bi/Gay: Blue eyes, brown hair, GWM Gary age 49 5'7" 200# Marshfield/Central Wis for BJ (715)387-6433 No collect calls [1]

46 year old GWM 5'10" 200# looking for freindship/relationship. I'm a smoker & social drinker. Have a disability with speech impediment.

Normal straight acting bisexual looking for casual discreet fun, 5'11", 40, 172 pounds, and good looking. E-mail your stats: [mbond\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:mbond_2000@yahoo.com) & what you're interested in.

46 year old Bi-Curious male looking for feminine cder/tvs for fun times.I am d/d/free with great hygeine habits,expect the same.I live in the Fox Valley and I am available M-F before



2pm. If you are a good teacher call 419-3054 ask for Mick.

Would love to have you as a penpal! 7.5" and BJ's a specialty! Phil Grimes, 200 E. Main St., Richmond, IN 47374-4209 [1]

51 year old good-looking male seeks same or younger for exploration of slow, deep enema pleasures. Must enjoy receiving and/or giving. Long J/O session follows with my skilled hands. E-mail me at: quarterguy6@aol.com.

3-some virgin, single 37 yr male, 170lbs, good shape/looking seeking f/f couples or f with select m for sexual exploration, love to 69 and mutual massages, let me make you both moan with pleasure. waukesha area will travel or host. E-mail Nolerocker@sbcglobal.net

Looking to meet some new Friends in the UP. I'm a very easy going guy that likes the outdoors. Love to camp and do some boating. I'm 5' 9" blue eyes, brown hair and have a hairy chest. Email: miman49841@yahoo.com. It's very lonely here in Marquette Michigan. [1]

Seeking someone serious who's into having fun, maybe more. Live in Ohio, (at this time car is broke down.) Must be 18-40 and willing to travel to me until car is fixed. I seriously want to find someone. e-mail me at: artistic07david@yahoo.com if u have photo, send it (nudes are great). [2]

GWM Top, 5'9", 185# in good shape with 44" chest and 35" waist, ISO a GWM bottom 45-65 for LTR. Call Brian (847)672-6016 (be discreet) or write Brian S, 2133 Western, Waukegan, IL 60087 Willing to travel to Milwaukee for the right stud!

I'm in my 40's looking for friends. Just moved back to area. Like to meet other guys in Upper Michigan. I'm 5'9" 200# br hair blue eyes hairy chest. Like camping, boating, movies & good times with



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another guy. Very lonely here in the U.P. If interested email miman49841@yahoo.com

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WWW.racewinc.org live alone on my own hobby fam. I'm 5' 7, 178lb brown hair, green eyes, gotee. Average guy but not into games, dont smoke or do drugs. If intrested e mail rechot@aol.com or call 715 654 5044CATerry [2]

I'm fun, mature, 50, healthy as 19, varied interests, nutrition-walking, nature-travel, seeks buddy, soulmate even better, prefer over 55 or

mature thinker! 773-585-6275 Tommy or lv number!

Me, a mature 100% bottom. You, a mature 100% top with a very private space in the Milwaukee area. FMI contact manuel60@planetout.com

Friend or someone special wanted, pen pal, travel partner, love beaches, camping, vegas, fishing, hiking! 3658 w. 79pl., chicago i'll call you or (773)569-6333 Tom

(or any new or 2nd job wanted / considered!) [2]

3-some virgin, single 37yr Male 165lbs good shape/looking brCAhair/goatee, seeking f & f couples or f with select m for sexual exploration, love to 69 and mutual massages, let me make u both moan with pleasure. CA Waukesha area, will travel or host. E-mailCA [2]



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Rainbow's End 417 Jay St, La Crosse

CLUB Impulse 132 W. Grand Ave.  
Beloit, (608)361-0000

Club 5 Bar/Restaurant 5 Applegate Ct  
Madison, (608)277-9700

Ray's Bar & Grill 2526 E. Washington  
Madison (608)241-9335

Shamrock 117 W Main St.,  
Madison (608)255-5029

Captain Dix (Rainbow Valley Resort)  
4124 River Road WI Dells, WI  
(866) 553-1818

## NORTHERN WISCONSIN (715)

Scooters 411 Galloway Street,  
Eau Claire (715)835-9959

JT's Bar and Grill 1506 N. 3rd  
Superior (715)394-2580

The Main 1217 Tower Ave  
Superior, WI (715)392-1756

OZ 320 Washington St, Wausau  
www.totheo2.com (715)842-3225

Club Night Out 2533 Cty. Rd. M,  
Stevens Point, WI (715)342-5820

## NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN (920)

Crossroads 1042 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Appleton (920)830-1927

Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wis.,  
Appleton (920)954-9262

Brandy's II 1126 Main, Green Bay  
(920)437-3917

Napalese 1351 Cedar Street,  
Green Bay (920)432-9646

SASS 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay  
(920)437-7277

THE SHELTER 730 N. Quincy St. Green Bay  
920-432-2662 • theshelterclub.com

Tipsy's On Broadway 301 S. Broadway,  
Green Bay 920-455-1005

XS Niteclub 1106 Main Street, Green Bay

Christopher Allan's Club 1226  
1226 Oshkosh Ave Oshkosh,  
(920)651-1226

Blue Lite 1029 N 8th, Sheboygan  
(920)457-1636

## SOUTHERN WISCONSIN (262)

Club ICON (Formerly 94 North) 6305 120th  
(Off I-94) Kenosha, (262)857-3240  
www.club-icon.com

JoDee's 2139 Racine St, Racine  
(262)634-9804

## ROCKFORD, IL (815)

The Office 513 East State Rockford, IL  
(815)965-0344

## MILWAUKEE (414)

Art Bar 722 Burleigh,  
(414)372-7880

Ballgame 196 S 2nd  
(414)273-7474

Boom 625 South 2nd St  
(414)277-5040

Boot Camp 209 E National  
(414)643-6900

C'est La Vie 231 S 2nd  
(414)291-9600

City Lights Chill 111 W. Howard Ave  
(414)481-1441

Fluid 819 South 2nd  
(414)643-5843

The Harbor Room 117 E.  
Greenfield Ave. (414)672-7988

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M's 1101 S. 2nd Street (NEW!)  
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Mona's 1407 S. First St Milw  
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(414)647-2673

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(414)220-4340

The Tazzbah Bar & Grille 1712 W  
Pierce St. (414)672-8466  
www.tazzbah.com

This Is It 418 E. Wells Street  
(414)278-9192

Triangle 135 E National,  
(414)383-9412

Viva La Femme 1619 S. 1st St.  
(414)389-9360

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(414)643-7468

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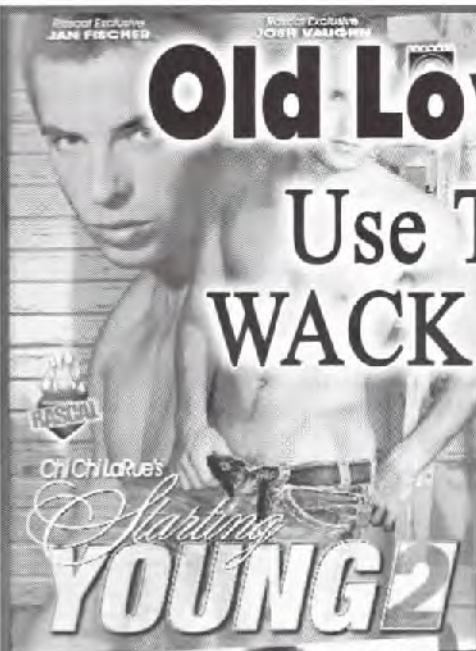
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