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MAGIC
WEEKEND
PREVIEW**

ULTRA NATE

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ASSEMBLY REPUBLICANS BEGIN BUDGET BATTLE: "NO NEW TAXES" CLAIM LIKELY SPELLS TROUBLE FOR DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

Madison - Following a mid-morning caucus Assembly Republicans took up the 2007-9 state budget here July 10. The decision was announced as *Quest* went to press following an earlier caucus held late into the evening last Thursday. A July 6 email announced the GOP-led Assembly's schedule.

The Assembly version of the state's biennial budget as previewed has several stark contrasts to the \$58 million version passed by the Democrat-controlled Senate on June 26. Likely gone are the new universal health care plan, domestic partner benefits for state workers and construction project funding at the University of Wisconsin added by Senate but passed on a straight party line vote. Also included in the Senate version were a cigarette tax increase, a tax on hospitals, a tax on oil companies, all of which have been decried by Republican legislators. Assembly GOP leaders have promised to pass a budget with "no new taxes" or an expansion of taxpayer burden through the extension of a variety of benefits, among which are BadgerCare and the Senate's DP proposal.

The Democrat-backed domestic partner benefit proposal - the item of greatest interest for same-sex couples - expanded Governor Doyle's original budget proposal of such benefits for the University of Wisconsin system to include all state employees.

Within hours of the Senate passage UW-

Madison Chancellor John D. Wiley congratulated the move. "I want to express appreciation to members of the State Senate, who on Tuesday passed a budget plan that helps address many of the critical issues for higher education in Wisconsin and UW-Madison in particular," Wiley wrote.

"The Senate's support of recruitment and retention funding is an important and welcome step in addressing one of the most serious threats to the quality of our campuses," Wiley continued. "The funding, along with a competitive pay plan, will particularly assist UW-Madison's strategic efforts to keep our very best and most productive faculty from being hired away by out-of-state institutions."

Wiley may have been indirectly referring to the late 2006 departure of research "superstar" Rob Carpick. The UW-Madison nanotechnology researcher left for the University of Pennsylvania, telling the Associated Press last August that he was departing because "it's problematic to work in an environment where you are not treated equally." Carpick had brought UW \$3.4 million in grants prior to his departure.

The reaction from the state's gay activists also was predictably jubilant. The June 28 Fair Wisconsin press release said "thank you to the 18 senators who stood up for countless LGBT families in Wisconsin," while bragging of near-

ly 11,000 messages generated by the group and it's Milwaukee partner Center Advocates.

However both LGBT activist groups were silent about the health care coverage proposals - either the Senate's universal health care coverage plan or Doyle's proposed expansion of Medical Assistance programs to include low-income unmarried adults - both of which would positively impact the larger LGBT community in far greater numbers than the DP benefits plan. Other progressive activist groups such as the Wisconsin Council On Children and Families have repeatedly encouraged their supporters to endorse the Doyle initiative in particular since it was proposed last Spring.

Though the final version of the Assembly budget bill remained un-introduced at *Quest*'s deadline, it likely will not include any of the Senate benefit proposals. Pundits and party strategists on both sides have characterized the health care and DP benefits items as likely "bargaining chips" in the budget reconciliation process in the Joint Finance Committee that will follow GOP-driven passage of the Assembly version. Given that Doyle's original DP benefit proposal was one of the first items both Democrats and Republicans agreed to remove from the Executive budget proposal last April, bodes poorly for their retention in the final budget bill to be hammered out during the dog days of summer.

POLL: MAJORITY BELIEVE GAY PEOPLE'S ORIENTATION CANNOT CHANGE

Atlanta - A majority of Americans believe that gays and lesbians could not change their sexual orientation even if they wanted to, according to results of a CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll released June 27. It's the first time in a CNN poll the majority has held that belief regarding homosexuality.

56% of about 515 poll respondents said they do not believe sexual orientation can be changed. In 2001, 45% of those responding to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll held that belief. In 1998, according to a CNN/Time poll, the number was 36%.

In addition, 42% of respondents to the current poll said they believe homosexuality results from upbringing and environment, while 39% said they believe it is something a person is born with - a close division that reflects the national debate over the issue. However, those numbers are greatly changed from the 1970s and '80s, in which fewer than 20% of

Americans said a person is born gay. In a 1977 poll, the number was 13%.

Ten percent in the latest poll said they believe both factors play a role in someone's homosexuality. Three percent said neither, and 6% had no opinion. The sampling error for the results is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

In a poll conducted May 4-6 that dealt with other issues regarding homosexuality, participants were asked whether openly gay people should be allowed to serve in the U.S. military, which currently has a "don't ask-don't tell" policy on homosexuality. 79% of poll respondents said openly gay people should be allowed to serve in the military. 18% said they should not.

On the question of gay marriage, 43% of respondents said they would not support same-sex marriage or civil unions, which provide many, if not most, of the same legal protections as marriage. 24% said they supported same-sex marriage, while 27% opted for civil unions. But a majority of poll respondents - 57% - said gay and lesbian couples should have the legal right to adopt children. 40% said they should not. The sampling error for the May poll was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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quest news update

QNU Quickies: Recent Stories Of Note

Here in no particular order is Quest's take on stories of gay interest since the last issue. A friendly reminder that breaking news is updated daily on the QNU: Quest News Update site online. Visit us at: www.quest-online.com.

Pew Poll Says What? The old saying that there are "lies, damned lies and statistics" was proved true once again with the recently published findings by the Pew Research Center of public attitudes toward gay marriage and adoption. Mainstream press coverage pointed out the three decade rise in acceptance by the general public on the subject. However "Christian" press stories preferred to view only the last three years of the Pew stats as proof that public rejection of same sex marriage and adoption were at an all time high. Isn't that "cut and paste" method the same one that Christians used on the Bible to make homos an abomination, but not shrimp cocktails?

Top Ex-Gays: "We Lied And We're Sorry!" Three former leaders of Exodus, the nation's top "ex-gay ministry" came out again (at least one for the umpteenth time) on June 28 - as ex-ex-gays. "God's love and forgiveness does indeed change people," Ex-Exodus prez Gary Bussee said, joining Jeremy Marks and Darlene Bogle at the podium. Bussee failed to elaborate on what that love changes people into however. However, the three did apologize for their misspent years in telling fellow gays they're not okay.

Who's Your Daddy, PlanetOut? The beleaguered gay media conglomerate PlanetOut, Inc. (Gay.com, The Advocate, Out, RSVP Cruises, etc.) was bailed out July 3 by none other than Microsoft's Bill Gates, after a quick review of the SEC filing on the \$26.2 million dollar deal. Part of the plan appears to be PlanetOut's future selling off of some of it's X-rated media projects.

Booting the leather boots hopefully will reboot the gay omnimedia group's bottom line.

Hairspray Hilarity On Set And Off The musical remake of John Water's camp classic Hairspray is set for the big screen at the end of July with the already-oversized John Travolta donning a fat suit to fit into the role made famous by the late Divine. Long rumored to be one of our tribe (including front-page photos of a same sex smooch in the *National Enquirer* last year), Travolta reportedly camped around the set encouraging the crew to grope him at will and in any place they liked. "You should have seen everyone on the set. Every woman and every man was feeling my breasts and squeezing my ass," the Scientology-following former Sweathog said. "I was just a slut..." Such humor did not warm up *Washington Blade* critic Kevin Naff, who wants a gay boycott of the movie because "Travolta, a prominent Scientologist, has no business reprising an iconic gay role." Travolta's retort? "There is nothing gay in this movie!" Except you, ya big ol' closet queen.

Hot Horny Guy - Can Host - Pvt Me Messages like that in American gay chatrooms sometimes lead to a heavy session of head. But in their Iraqi counterparts, the session may end in heavy beheading. Members of the violently homophobic Islamist sect the Mahdi Army are using gay chatrooms there to seek out, torture and kill their queer countrymen. Two men who escaped the death squads recently described the entrapment tactic of such online exchanges.

PORN FLICK TO LAMPOON AIR FORCE "GAY BOMB" PROJECT

Jersey City - A New York area gay porn production company has announced plans to film "Gay Bomb," an X-rated parody of the recently revived story about the Pentagon's secret plans to develop a chemical weapon that would arouse enemy combatants to engage in same-sex behavior.

Last month a blogger at the liberal Huffington Post re-discovered the strange story of the defunct Sunshine Project's ten-year-old research into the so-called "gay bomb," originally covered by the gay media (including *Quest*) in late 2004. Mainstream media picked up on the story, as well

as the interest of Dark Alley Media - fresh off the success of its "Gaytonamo," another political porn parody.

Dark Alley, best known for its fisting and pig play titles, plans a November 2007 shoot - so to speak - for "Gay Bomb." According to the Dark Alley press release, the film "will take us into the future and the year 2012. George the Second has refused to step down as leader of the "free world," and the nations of Europe have banded together to fight the new American military dictatorship."

"Desperate to fend off its attackers, the US launches the experimental 'gay bomb,' designed to make the enemy forces drop their guns and turn fag. But the winds of fate blow in a different direction, and soon America is brought to its knees."

Given the "wham-bam-thank-you-man" nature of porn production, "Gay Bomb" likely will be available for 2007 holiday stocking stuffing.

MADISON PRIDE UPDATE: DIVA! OUT, CAMP BINGO'S DOMINO IN

Madison - There have been some unexpected but thrilling changes to Madison's Pride celebration, the MAGIC Weekend.

Madison drag legend Cass Marie Domino of AIDS Network's Camp Bingo fame will reprise her role as hostess for Pride Weekend. Lexi Ravyn Productions and Brewcity Bruisers' Drag diva Alexis M. Rouge will serve as co-hostess.

Due to a family emergency, DIVA! will not be performing at Pride as previously announced. Madison Pride wishes her and her family well and hopes for the best. Pulsation will instead open Pride weekend on Saturday, July 21. the Chicago-based group will also perform after the rally on Sunday.

The Youth and Families stage line up has also been set. The Saturday stage program will feature Milwaukee's Shoreline Dancers and Pulsation's protégé, Sammy, a gifted musician at just 11 years old. Sunday's lineup will include the Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls and the magic act of Scott Mickelson and his troupe.

Sunday will also play host to the Teens Like us Youth Area from 2 - 6 PM.. Teens Like Us is a Madison group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and gay-friendly youth. They provide a safe place to meet and discuss issues

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that affect teens and provide several events during the year. Their section of Pride will include activities, games, prizes, barbeque for teens (twens and young adults as well) and their families who come. You do not need to be a member of Teens Like Us to participate, just within your tween to teen years and their families.

Throughout the weekend there will be activities for families as well as entertainment on the Youth and Families stage. Madison Gay Rugby will also be on hand to provide demonstrations, recruitment, and activities in their own area of the Madison Pride grounds.

DJ Ravyn of Lexi Ravyn Productions will be providing music throughout the weekend. The Lexi Ravyn Dragshow and Cabaret has also been expanded and will include LGBT nightlife entertainers from all over Wisconsin such as: Alexis M. Rouge, Cass Marie Domino, Shannon Dupree, Bryanna Banxs, Janice Colby, Kurtis Ryan, Lulu and Kiki Rodriguez, Christina Chase, Lady Gia, the Eau Claire drag king troupe Kings Corner, Tammy Whynott, Topher Chase, and Desiree Mathews. Each performer will perform only once as they showcase their talents to the Madison crowd.

The Rally speakers will be announced on the Madison Pride website and Myspace immediately prior to the Pride weekend. Additional updates on Pride happenings at the park and events around town during the weekend will be announced daily on the Madison Pride Myspace page (www.myspace.com/madisonpride) and weekly on the main website at: www.madisonpride.org.

LGBTQ EQUALITY CHAMPION P. B. POORMAN KILLED IN HIGHWAY ACCIDENT

19-Year Old "Public Menace" Charged With Vehicular Homicide

Madison - Wisconsin's gay community is mourning the sudden tragic loss of Paula (P. B.) Poorman, who was killed June 27 in an accident on Interstate Highway 90 near Edgerton. Poorman died after her vehicle was rear-ended by a 19-year old Mt. Horeb woman and rolled over. Samantha J. Young was charged in Dane County court June 29 with 1st degree reckless homicide and homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle. Police allege that Young was drunk, high on cocaine, and driving at about 120 mph when she hit Poorman's car. Poorman was pronounced dead at the scene.

In requesting a \$20,000 cash bond, Assistant District Attorney Mike Verveer noted this was Young's third case pending with the court. "This is an outrageous set of facts that you see in the criminal complaint. The defendant is clearly a tremendous threat to our community. She's in fact a public menace at the age of only 19 years old," Verveer said.

A *Quest* review of Young's criminal record revealed eighteen charges in the last three years, including the use of false identification and a history of transience in addition to multiple charges of speeding, driving after suspension and other traffic-related charges.

"Her driving record is absolutely atrocious as

well," Verveer added. "It shows four previous accidents including one with an injury."

At the time of her death the 56 year-old Poorman was a faculty member in the psychology department at UW-Whitewater and had just recently received full professorship. She began her tenure on campus in 1996, teaching classes on the psychology of women, abnormal psychology and field training in psychology. Poorman was considered an expert on same-sex domestic violence and had written several pieces on the issue.

"This is a huge loss to our campus family. Dr. Poorman was a leader not only in her department, but also on campus and in the region," Interim Chancellor Richard Telfer said in a press release. "In addition to being a caring and effective teacher, P.B. served as a mentor for many undergraduate researchers and coordinated the analysis of the 2005 Campus Climate Study. We send our sympathy to her family and friends. Her colleagues, students and friends on campus will miss her greatly."

Mary Pinkerton, dean of the College of Letters and Sciences, added, "P.B. Poorman was a dynamic and original faculty member with a great sense of humor, a deep commitment to diversity and a student-centered approach. Recently promoted to the rank of Professor, P.B. was an active advisor, a supporter of undergraduate research, and a productive scholar. Her scholarly work focuses on underserved populations and issues of powerlessness and power and has resulted in a textbook, numerous conference presentations, and articles on domestic abuse and oppression.



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On campus and within the UW System, she has been deeply involved in the University Task Force on LGBTQ Issues and the statewide Inclusivity Initiative. She has been a powerful presence in the College of Letters and Sciences and in the department of psychology; her loss will be deeply felt by both colleagues and students."

In sharing the news of Poorman's passing with the online gay community, Eric W. Trekel of the UW-Madison LGBT Campus Center noted that Poorman was "not only a well-loved psychology professor at the UW-Whitewater, but also a highly-regarded member of the UW System Inclusivity Initiative for LGBTQ People and a community activist. As one of the founding members of the Inclusivity Initiative, P. B. became one of the most thoughtful, articulate and assertive advocates for our rights within the UW System. Those of us who have had the privilege of working with P. B. will certainly miss her..."

Poorman earned her bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University, her master's degree from Mankato State University and her Ph.D. from Colorado State University.

She is survived by her partner of 19 years, Susan Simmons, both sets of the couple's parents and numerous siblings, nieces and nephews. Services for Poorman were held July 1 at Cress Funeral Home in Madison. A scholarship has been established in Poorman's honor. Memorials can be sent to the Poorman fund at the UW-Whitewater Foundation at: UW-Whitewater Foundation, Poorman Scholarship Fund, 800 W. Main St., Whitewater, WI 53190.

OUTREACH ANNOUNCES AWARD WINNERS

Madison - OutReach has announced that David Clarenbach will be honored with OutReach's Courage Award for his work on his historic legislation that made Wisconsin the nation's first "Gay Rights" state. Clarenbach will be joined by the group's Man of the Year, Brian Juchems, Program Director of GSA for Safe Schools and Woman of the Year Petrovnia Charles for her outstanding work with OutReach and the Rape Crisis Center. Leanna Ware will receive the Ally of the Year Award for her work as Civil Rights Bureau Chief, the Madison Gay Hockey Association will be honored as the Organization of the Year and Mark Steward will receive the OutReach Volunteer of the Year award.

Formal presentation of the awards will be at OutReach's 15th Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, July 20 in the Grand Ballroom of Monona Terrace. State Senator Lena Taylor will be the keynote speaker and Susan Siman of WISC-TV will emcee the event.

Clarenbach's award reiterates the night's theme, "25 Years of Gay Rights in Wisconsin: Past, Present and Future." The OutReach banquet also falls on the 10th anniversary of Monona Terrace. Attendees will have the opportunity to wrap-up their evening on the Rooftop Garden of the facility for a fireworks display.

Tickets are still available at OutReach. Call 608-

255-8582, or stop at the office 600 Williamson St. to purchase. Tickets cost \$60 per person or \$110 per pair. OutReach will once again offer a sliding scale as well as a \$25 rate for students and limited income.

Meal selections are available for viewing online at the organization's website at: www.outreach-inc.com. No tickets will be sold at the door. Reservation deadline is July 13.

MAKING "SWEET CHARITY" SWEETER - ARCW BENEFITS FROM TICKET SALES

Milwaukee - With new HIV cases up 9%, The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts has decided to take action. The Marcus Center is proud to present Sweet Charity, starring Paige Davis, July

17 - 22. Every time a ticket for this show is purchased using the promo code "ARCW," the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin will receive \$10. Proceeds from the ticket promotion will help fund ARCW's strategic, statewide prevention initiatives designed to reach 150,000 people at risk for HIV.

The offer is good for any show at any ticket level during Sweet Charity's six-day run in Milwaukee. Tickets qualifying for the ARCW promo code donation may be obtained by calling the Marcus Center Box Office toll-free at 888-612-3500 or locally at 414-273-7206.

Tickets may be ordered securely online by accessing the Ticketmaster link on the ARCW website at: www.arcw.org. Enter "ARCW" in the box requesting "special offer code or password."

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CENTRAL WISCONSIN PRIDE DRAWS 600

Stevens Point - Central Wisconsin Pride Committee hosted its third annual community-wide celebration June 16 at Pfiffner Park here. Organizers estimate between 500 to 600 attended the event throughout its ten hour run, a drop in overall numbers from previous years.

According to organizers, the LGBT community makes up a significant part of the larger geographic community and includes business owners, educators, professionals and students. "Central Wisconsin Pride 2007 was not only a celebration of who we are, but also a celebration of the community and its welcoming and progressive attitudes," organizers said "The struggle for acceptance for LGBT members, their family and friends has made tremendous strides in central Wisconsin."

Performers appearing at the Pfiffner Park band shell included the Story Time Jazz Quartet, acoustic favorites Frogwater and singer/songwriter Leah Jee. Food, beverages, pride T-shirts and other "official" event gear was available throughout the day.

Missing from the entertainment line-up this year was a drag show. Organizers told *Quest* that the city of Stevens Point issued this year's park permit with that restriction due to the performers' refusal to abide by the language restrictions required of all Pfiffner Park users. The park is surrounded by a densely-populated residential neighborhood and amplified sound carries for blocks. The impersonators had been advised of the restriction prior to their performances over the last two years but chose to ignore the policy. The pride committee was cited for violating the language ordinance following the 2006 drag show.

Organizers noted that despite the loss of the audience for the drag show, the pride event was as financially successful as last year. A raffle with hourly drawings that featured two airline tickets as a grand prize helped augment food and beverage sales. Winners had to be present to win the grand prize and all smaller prize winners' tickets were returned to the container for the final drawing.

The day long festival also provided a venue where non-profit organizations such as ARCW, PFLAG and Fair Wisconsin to offer outreach programs to educate and create awareness throughout central Wisconsin LGBT community.



GREATER MILWAUKEE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$25,000 IN LGBT GRANTS

Milwaukee - The Board of Directors of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation has approved \$25,000 in grants to six local nonprofit organizations that serve the city's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities. The grants were awarded through the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership, a collaborative fund created by the Cream City Foundation, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and National Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues to help encourage giving to LGBT communities in the area.

"On behalf of the community, the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership was pleased to be able to grant \$25,000 as part of our approach of strengthening and supporting valuable programs affecting LGBT individuals," Jim Marks, Vice President of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, said in announcing the grants.

Six local nonprofit organizations received grants, including Children's Service Society of Wisconsin (\$5,000); Cream City Foundation (\$4,000); Diverse and Resilient (\$5,000); FORGE (\$3,000); and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center (\$5,000).

"The Fund was honored to make grants to nonprofits that provide critical and necessary services to Milwaukee's LGBT community," Grants Committee member Len Iaquinata noted. "With the help of our donors, we are able to support a wide range of programs impacting LGBT seniors, LGBT youth in foster care, and transgender communities with a unique LGBT focus."

"The Fund's grant committee conducted a thorough evaluation of the proposals, before recommending organizations that are receiving funding," Executive Director of the Cream City



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Foundation Executive Director Maria Cadenas added. "Our goal was to support a variety of organizations throughout our community, including collaborative efforts between LGBT and non-LGBT organizations."

The Grants Committee was composed of: Neil Albrecht, Maria Cadenas, Chris Doerfler, Jennifer Gryniwicz, Len Jaquinta, Jim Marks, Sernorma Mitchell, Joseph Pabst, and Melissa Nimke. Funds for the Partnership have been received from several individuals within the Founder's Circle, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Brico

Fund, and the National Lesbian and Gay Community Funding Partnership.

The mission of the Milwaukee LGBT Funding Partnership is to expand funding of non-AIDS related programs that respond to the needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in Southeastern Wisconsin. The partnership addresses community diversity, health, civil rights protection and the special needs of LGBT youth and older adults. It also increases service collaboration between LGBT groups and traditional community organizations.

FRIENDS MAKING FRIENDS TO HOLD BLACK TIE BALL

Milwaukee - The recently-founded Friends Making Friends Productions (FMFP) will host a black-tie ball for individuals 25 and older from the LGBT community and their allies on Saturday, July 28 from 6 PM to 1 AM at the Holiday Inn ballroom located at 611 W. Wisconsin Avenue. The event will include dinner, silent auction,

and live entertainment.

Tickets are \$30 for singles and \$50 for couples. Tickets may be purchased lists locations where tickets can be purchased for the event. For more information contact Gerry Howze of FMFP at 414-520-7664.

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CREAM CITY CHORUS HONORS KRISTEN L WEBER WITH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Milwaukee -On Saturday, June 23 Kristen L. Weber, Artistic Director for the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, was presented with the organization's highest honor, the Emory Churness Leadership Award. The award was given at the Off-Broadway Theater at the conclusion of the chorus' final event of the season.

In her presentation announcement, outgoing President Hilary Giffen credited Weber with most of the vision and a great deal of the drive that led to the chorus memorable and well-received 20th Anniversary Season. "Last spring, a proposal from the Interim Artistic Director was presented at a board meeting. It was for an anniversary concert season of a scale that I had never seen and... has been presented to you this year in all its grand splendor," Giffen told the audience.

"The season's overall vision never wavered," Giffen continued. "Alumni and members of the community were invited to

sing with us, and they came. Chorus members past and present were asked to write songs, and they did. People were asked to share in our 20th year celebration, and they embraced us. The one person who is responsible for it all is tonight's playwright, Kristen L. Weber."

Weber's award announcement brought a standing ovation. The "In Our Own Words" concert that preceded it was comprised entirely of songs by WCCC members past and present, woven into a single show by Weber herself to tell the story of the group's rich 20-year history. A cast recording of the concert will go on sale early this fall.

The Emory Churness Leadership Award itself was created by the WCCC Executive Board in 2005 and awarded to its namesake at the end of his second consecutive term as President. More information about the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus is available online at: www.creamcitychorus.org

Letter To The Editor: PrideFest Rekindled Pride

Dear Editor,

I was so moved by this year's Pride Weekend, I felt compelled to write in and tell someone about it. Just a little history... I have not been involved in the Gay community for 25 years. I lost too many good friends to AIDS and did not like the direction the community was heading. We can be terrible to each other at times and quite frankly I got disgusted.

A friend of mine talked me into going to Pridefest and the Parade on Sunday. Against my better judgement I went. I am glad I did... The parade felt like the old days when there was a common bond between Gay men and lesbian women. After the AIDS scare things got ugly and I have seen a split

in the community. The Parade was wonderful and Pridefest was great too. I re-discovered what Gay Pride is and I feel the LGBT community is finally heading in the right direction.

The parade brought a tear to my eyes as I watched the parade go by. The long pride banner that took up the rear was especially tear jerking. I was so proud. I will be getting more involved in the future. The only thing I would like to see is a contingent in the parade that displays all the Milwaukee victims of AIDS names - kinda like the quilt, but maybe a banner with all their names on it. Anyway I am so proud of the LGBT community in Milwaukee.

Thanks Jason Witt, Milwaukee

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Madison Pride Preview:

Ultra Naté I predict will take Madison Pride by storm and leave a lasting positive image in the hearts and souls of all of the celebrants. Recently, I had the pleasure to meet with her and get to the pulse of this uber Dance Music Diva.

Quest: Ultra, Madison Pride is eagerly looking forward to your concert. Will this be your first visit to the Dairyland?

Ultra Naté: First time to Madison - or Wisconsin, however not my first time to the Midwest!

Quest: Have you been playing a lot of Pride Events, and why?

Ultra Naté: Yes, I have a long relationship with the LGBT Community. I love connecting with my fans. The LGBT audiences really know how to show their appreciation. Besides Madison Pride in Wisconsin, I'm either doing or have done five or six other Pride Celebrations this summer. I've been weaving back and fourth to Indianapolis, Detroit, New York and International destinations.

Quest: How have the audiences been?

Ultra Naté: The audiences have been great! They give back- feeling their energy and presence keeps you going. It's a give and take.

Quest: The difference, if one could be detected, between a general audience and a primarily Gay audience?

Ultra Naté: A different vibe, with a Gay Pride event it's usually daytime, outside, airy, fun, you guys are up for a live performance. A straight audience is receptive, yet calmer. With Pride - more costumes or not dressed at all! A carnival - a celebration of life, love, liberty!

Quest: To familiarize our readers with your style of music, it's been described as deep house, that dabbles in cross-over pop. Do you feel this is an accurate description? How do you describe your song style?

Ultra Naté: My music is derived from deep-

ULTRA NATÉ - DANCE DIVA DOES DAIRYLAND

Interview by Michael Johnston

house, over the years evolved R & B, pop, neo-soul, experimental - encompassing the genre of dance. Freedom, energy, flexibility to grow. With such a diverse fan base and being at it since 1989 - continued learning and growing - that's my style!

circumstances such as major shifts in music, making for not the best time to release it. I was busy formulating a new record label. Busy being a singer, a song writer, micro-managing my career. My family - and a 20 month old son, Izaya. Motherhood is awesome! Gratifying! "Falling"

from my current album is written for him. One day he was sitting on my lap - the words just came to me. This experience (motherhood) is beautiful, the creation, the love keeps growing and evolving. It's what being a human being is all about. A purpose.

Quest: What kind of music do you listen to? Who are some of your favorite artists?

Ultra Naté: I listen to everything! Old-school, 70's - 80's - is the best written music, hip hop, rock. I listen to it all! Food for creativity. In my car, I have everything from Justin Timberlake to Pink Floyd!

Quest: Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Ultra Naté: Independent - busy with my record label Sugar Music Recording -U.K., fostering and helping new and other performer's careers. Busy being an artist, touring when I want to, singing, song

writing, making art! D.J.-ing, club promoting in Baltimore. Sugarparty.org When you are in Baltimore, come party with me on Fridays!

Quest: Is there anything you would like to share with our readers, with regards to your upcoming appearance?

Ultra Naté: For Madison, old stuff for my long-standing fans, new stuff that hopefully people will be familiar with from my new album that is out now. "Free", "Find a Cure", "If I Could Read your Mind". Re-worked, updated favorites. Come out and dance!

Quest: We look forward to you gracing the cover of Quest Magazine and making our Madison Pride - just that.

Ultra Naté: Thank you, until then! Naté



Quest: It seems you have taken the east coast by storm, the toast of the Big Apple via Baltimore. Do you have any tours in the making or plans to conquer the west coast?

Ultra Naté: Currently working on the west coast come this fall. San Francisco, where I have friends in radio, L.A., Phoenix, Santa Fe. That's the future, right now concentrating on East Coast and Abroad.

Quest: In researching Ultra Naté, I read your fifth album "Grime, Silk & Thunder" has recently been released. It's amazing that it took five years in the making! Are you a perfectionist? Is it the record company? Is five years the norm to complete an album?

Ultra Naté: The album took average time, cir-

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FOR RENT ROOMMATES

For Rent-2 bedroom in Riverwest 2625 N. Fratney St. One garaged parking space, laundry, appliances. \$700 plus security. (414) 550-4426 [1]

I am moving to Appleton for a job, need Roommate. I will be willing to clean or any service needed for reduced rent until I get my own place. I am 46 y.o. look 36 clean, fun, goodlooking, adventurous, openminded to anything. I'm a bottom very talented at what I do & will do anything you need done. Please call 608-206-7347, Dan dlawrence362@yahoo.com.

Neenah Apartment for Rent. Quiet 2 bedroom apartment on southeast side of Neenah. appliances included, onsite laundry, off road parking. \$425 /month plus security. 920-725-2531 or 920-379-1167 [2]

1614 W. Becker St., Milw. 1st floor of beautiful half-timber tudor house for rent. Hardwood laminate floors, updated kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Full Bathroom, - in excellent shape! Off-street parking. New boiler, heat efficient windows. \$550/mo + utilities. Contact Joe at 414-241-9480.

FOR SALE, TRADE or PURCHASE

Wanted lovers of fetish, B&D, electric toys, leather, furniture, rubber, crossdress clothing, corsets, boots, erotic movies... add more to my collection & enjoyment. Let's talk. Can trade or buy. (414)321-8005 7am-10pm Lyle, Milw [2]

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EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED: GWM 53 seeking GWM, nice looking, 26-40 for "houseboy" position which includes minimal apt. cleaning and chores. Perfect for student type who doesn't need a lot of "stuff". No Rent, modest payment for services, N/S. I am shy but curious, quiet, enjoy movies, eating out, reading & conver-

sation. Large book collection for your use. Reliable references required. Comfortable Milwaukee east side apartment close to bus, schools, theatres & restaurants. All the comforts of home. hummelcreche@netzero.net

BARTENDERS WANTED: City Lights Chill is seeking fresh, energetic faces! Part time days, nights, weekends and holidays. Applicants must be EXPERIENCED and LICENSED by the City of Milwaukee. Laid-back, no-drama attitude is a plus. Please apply in person during our hours of operation. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. 111 W Howard Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53207.

Homeowner's Helper! GWM does windows, ceiling fans, interior design, yard work, interior/exterior painting, cleanout of garage/attic, minor electric work, home repairs... any odd job. Reasonable rates, references, dependable. Great attention to detail. Jay (414)769-0601 Milw & surrounding area [2]

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

HELP WANTED at Milwaukee's Midtowne Spa, 315 So. Water St. Now accepting applications. (414) 278-8989

SENSUAL MASSAGE

Massage by Doug. Cool Down this Summer with a hot massage by a muscular guy. Call Doug! (414)410-7881 [7/25]

Looking for a nice Swedish Massage for YOUR Pleasure? Call Tim @ (414)899-4247 - In or Out. \$55 (in) \$65 (out) Very Well Trained, you want be disappointed! [7/25]

Full Body Massage, an exhilarating experience. \$55/hr. \$75 for 90 min. (414)378-9838 SW side Milwaukee [7/25]

BODYBUILDER certified masseur w/ table. 34, 5'9", 50" chest, 30" waist, 220 lbs. German/Italian. Very good looking, huge and ripped. Nude/erotic. Milwaukee/Bayview area. In/Out. Jeff (414) 690-9706 [7/11]

Treat yourself to a very relaxing full body massage. Ladies welcome, too! Green Bay/Fox Valley area. Page me (920) 613-3835 [6/20]

Massage and More! by a cute, smooth stud. (414)614-8883 Outcalls Only. [8/8]

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PERSONALS

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Slim, slender, PHYSICALLY FIT crossdresser LOVES to dress up VERY SEXY & SLUTTY, VERY SHORT SKIRTS, stockings, sexy/slutty high heels. ISO other PHY FIT CD's. OR..DOM PHY FIT BLACK MALES must send stats and a pic...100% SINCERE. DISCRETE. contact rswhite@wi.rr.com [1]

GWM, 35, 170#, 6' cut, looking for men to orally service, like to do multiples and bakake, I love cum. I'm available on Sunday afternoons, your place. Milw area. Send response and stats to moonscape2006@yahoo.com. Really enjoy men in their 20's.

All Male Chat! 18+ record & listen FREE! (920)431-9000 code 4120 [P]

Gay WM looking for young men 18-25 only from Oshkosh to come over and serve my oscar meyer. Call 920-426-2683 Ask for Rich

High moraled, unique personality, not superficial man, seeks fun, non sex addicted, friendship oriented man, for walking or dancing or conversation or laughs! start talking from your heart or I'll hang up immediately! 773-585-6275 Tommy [1]

GWM 5'11" 180# short hair smooth chest hazel eyes 8" thick tool top looking for thin in-shapebottom. Call Daryl 815-962-4221 [1]

Looking for skinny/slim male dates under 130#, ages 18-25 who wear a smile. Lv message after hearing that you won a brand new car by naming the 50 states 262-654-6208 [1]

GWM 60 5'9" 182# a top in good shape average looking ISO bottom who is looking for a LTR & intelligent conversation. He'd be 45-68 and likes to cuddle after sex. Call Brian 224-321-9809 Waukegan IL (please no inmates or fatties!) [1]

Dom master with sexy sub blonde, Bj Female slave seeking other subs to serve with her. Females, couples, select males. Dom W/E males who'd like to use her also welcome. Respond with pics Boxholder 1528 S. Koeller Road PMB 340 Oshkosh WI 54902 [1]

GWM Oshkosh looking for others to start a GWM Club. If you want to gettogether, talk, hangout once a week or month even if you want to come out of the closet, Bi or Gay, lets meet. 920-385-0123

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56yo single WM 6'1" 200# br hair bl eyes ISO 45-60yo st8 acting man free of any addictions. Should have a very hairy chest & hairy back & likes the outdoors life. I live 50 miles north of **Green Bay** Call Ron 920-897-2468

BiWM 56 sweet and loving, firm and fit. Good at sex & sexy too. would like someone to share good feelings with, who likes to travel and have adventures. Someone who likes me while I like

back. Longterm
dziredit@yahoo.com [1]

Man on Man Fun! 18+ Record & Listen **FREE!** (920) 431-9000, code 4166 [

Friendly "normal" guy looking to meet same for golfing this summer in the Green Bay area. Call Kevin @ 920-328-3805 after 5 pm

Wanted younger gay male who is not happy with where he is living and trying to live

the life style he wants--then maybe you would be happy living with a middle-aged couple that understands you. We live in the Fox Valley area. We would like a non-smoker, clean, honest man free of diseases. Call 920-738-0112 [2]

GWM, Looking for same, 49 Handsome, no one niters want LTR, 5' 8" Email smith-michaelalan@yahoo.com in **Beaver Dam, WI., area.**

Can't seem to find any good bottoms around West-Central WI to pleasure my 7 1/2" ALWAYS hard bone. Young men preferred but not necessary. Luv to Bareback ! Call me 608-427-2269 or e-mail brownie3@mwt.net [2]

GHM, 18, good looking, straight-tacting, Is looking for penpals or cyberfriends. Has many interests & would like to share good times w/ decent persons. Email

Kim_harvey69@yahoo.com or snail mail him at John Harvey lee A. Bequin, BSE-II PE, c/o Philippine Normal University Agusan Campus, Prosperidad Agusan Del Sur, Philippines [2]

Male 5'10" 180 white brown hair hazel eyes clean discreet and clean shaven down below 7inch cut and thick I'm 34 lkg for crossdressers tv's & it's only all must be possible this is a must anyone looking I live in St Francis please call 1-262-8801198 or email kmz@wi.rr.com name is Keith thanks [2]

Ladies, I am a WM 37 5'6" 145# 29 waist dark hair hazel eyes, in shape and attractive. Looking for in-shape women 18-30 for mutually nude massages. Earn \$50 No experience necessary. Green Bay/Appleton 906-280-7081 any race [2]

I'm fun, mature, healthy, varied interests, seeks buddy or soulmate prefer over 55 or mature thinker! 773-585-6275 Tommy [2]

Fifty-three year old slave seeking Dominant Master to use me and abuse me. I am seeking someone who believes in strict discipline and strict control. I will live as your slave, serving you as you see fit. This slave enjoys bondage, discipline, heavy humiliation, water sports, slapping, being locked away when not in use and any other things that Master wishes. Looking for LTR with the right person Contact slave at 414-527-1613. Leave a message if I don't answer. Can't host but can travel for right Master [2]

BiWM, 50+, 170 #, D/D free, good health. ISO of Bi or GWM 50+ looking for oral discreet, occasional fun and more. SE Wis. dtleemilw@aol.com [2]

GWM 39 blonde hair blue eyes, ave build 6' tall 7" cut looking for hot bottoms 18-40 please - slim to jock to bodybuilder type. I will lick you from head to toe before I will plow you, also into feet,

jock straps, jock gear, boots and leather. Tops are welcome, hot sluts welcome. I have always had a fantasy about doing it with a life-guard, military, jocks, Miller/bud drivers. Let's do it! Write or call Chris B. 3319 S. 99th Ct #2 Milwaukee, WI 53227 414-727-1089 lv message [2]

S.E. Wisconsin SWM 52 clean cut, D/D free ISO: Uncut WM/CD/Cpls for hot oral and other adult pleasures. Age and weight open. Can entertain some or travel. Please respond with hot letter to Boxholder P.O. Box 44166 West Allis, WI 53214 [2]

Married Bi/WM 6'1" 185 Young looking 50 y.o. business exec average build D/D free HIV- Non smoker seeking similar guy for daytime mutual pleasures at your place or as arranged. Discretion assured! Send contact info & pics/details to Mark Richards P.O. Box 456 Grafton, WI 53024 Tell me what you like. [2]

Madison WM, 55, athletic and articulate, seeks similar person for dining, dating and conversation. Relaxed spontaneity a plus with gradual goal of partnership if mutual attraction exists. I prefer to give oral but also open to receiving. Open minded. Respond to soundbrian@yahoo.com

ISO someone who is very oral plus likes to dress up, take toy rides, etc. (some entertainment between BJ's) Me 5'9" 220 50+ very discreet. No computer access. write PMb#143 1528 S. Koeller, Oshkosh, WI 54902

GWM mid 20's thin glasses submissive loyal bottom AB/DL seeks trusting mature dominant (Loving) PT Daddy, age unimportant, exp a plus, must like cartoons, movies, bondage, oral, etc. St. Francis. Email: cobaltfox-cub@yahoo.com [2]

DAD NEEDS SON: 64, 6'2 215 masculine business man, ex military, handsome, athletic/stocky/muscular, domi-



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nant, affectionate, disease free, strong and fit. Nice man in area on occasion for work. Please be 18-28, either work out, play sports or keep fit in job and masculine. Blue collar +, Want occasional, ongoing, discreet in a trusting situation. email benchpressdad@hotmail.com [2]

SWM in Central Wisconsin north of Marshfield. 179 lb brown

hair blue eyes lookin for gwm 45/ 65 no games like guy with briefs, please no over weight guys I'm single looking 4 guys to have fun with I like travel & some one to go along like just a ordinary guy to spend time with and go places I'm an older guy but love one on one fun times together and hot sex love traveling if intrested call me I'm Wayne 715-659-5311 after 8pm [3]

GBF, 38 seeks other GF's & GM's to go out with now and then, I'm looking for friends; Carol, wisconsinfest_1@yahoo.com

GWM loookin in Central Wisconsin 45 miles west of Wausau I'm Terry looking for nice guy & have a home to share or can have your own. 5' 7" 178 lb gotee live on a hobby farm & hate being alone. I like to meet others no games lifes to short

for that I'm a non smoker dont do drugs just want to have a sex buddy or more. I'm more of a top like hugin kissing 69 if intrested can call 715-654-5044 [3]

I am a sexy, slutty bottom T.G. 5'8" 150# Auburn hair, blue eyes very oral and love to swallow. Live 1 hour north of Madison and can travel. Email MT3onden@yahoo.com. add to yahoo messenger Eileen [3]

51 GWM 5'9" 200# Brown hair & eyes, bottom. I like to wear bras and panties, play with toys. Have my own place. Non-smoker, don't do drugs. 920-553-1914 [3]

58 year old Bisexual Transvestite. Very oral bottom. D/D free. Service for anyone interested. My Fantasy is to be with a couple with Bi male or another CD. Richland Center area. Will travel some. E-Mail pantygybj4u@yahoo.com

Dodge, Ford Du Lac, Washington, Jefferson, Waukesha, Dane, Columbia Co.'s Are you all Tensed Up, Are you Aching For Relief? let this Mid 40's Guy Take The Load Off of You. All I as is that You Be Clean. Not way over Weight, and be Under 55 Y.O. This Man will Relieve all your Tensions, form Mild - Wild., E-mail Me with your Stats, and Come to Me for **R E L I E F** yourmeat2eat@msn.com Start Your Day With a SMILE... [3]

Hi guys my name is **John**. looking for guys in **Central Wisc area**. Like guys in military and mexican young white guy ages 18 to 50 like young guy I like sucking your hot dick. I'll take it all and swallow it all. Like gotees and short hair guys like with caps I'm 182 lb 5' 9" short hair brown eyes hazel goatee. If intrested call me any time or leave massage 715-207 0474 for good time [3]

Milw Oral throat bottom looking for a regular oral top bud, masculine, mature 45+, H/W proportionate, single, DD/Free. I am SWGM, late 50's decent shape, 5'9", 175#, medium length grey hair, glasses, moustache. Let's share the rising temperatures. Play_47@yahoo.com [3]

Chub (fat guy) seeks chaser. I live Madison. I'm seeking a chaser who enjoys being with a chubby guy. I'm 6'4", professional and weight 390 lbs. Please email me at sean-npaul@yahoo.com [3]

SWF lookin for guys or girl to meet i live alone in Abbotsford (Central WI) have my own home. Lonely, like to meet others and find a friend or more I'm 5' 200+ brown hair green eyes iam lookin for a sincere person no



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Diversion of the Day

Quest's Events Calendar

Friday July 13

Outwards Books (Milwaukee) 14 Year Celebration now thru Sunday July 15

Saturday, July 14

Club 1226 (Oshkosh) The Return of the legendary Miss Gay Fox Valley USofA pageant. An official prelim to Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA 2008

ICON (Kenosha) Meet the men of COLT! Leather & Lace Theme party welcoming "Riders of Hope" Starts 10pm \$5 cover

KRUZ (Milwaukee) Castaways MC Leather Picnic 3pm-7pm \$7 Beer & Soda Bust Food \$5 Donation

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center LAMM Concert Series 8pm

Triangle (Milwaukee) Fabulous Larry Presents FUSION DJ starts 10pm

Sunday, July 15

La Cage (Milwaukee) Miss Club Wisconsin 2007 Pageant 9pm \$5 cover

Wednesday, July 18

MONA's (Milwaukee) Three Strikes Presents Anastasia Devereaux & Friends

Thursday, July 19

Off The Wall Theatre (Milwaukee) *The Lady In Question* plays thru July 29

Friday, July 20

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Belly Dance Drop In with Shaia Fahrid 7-10pm Professional or amateur dancers welcomed to bring their fav CD and dance.

Saturday, July 21

BOOM (Milwaukee) Adult film star Tyler Riggs

Madison Magic Weekend 2007 12pm - 6pm \$5 Admission See back cover ad.

Sunday, July 22

Madison Magic Weekend 2007 Pride March kicks off at 12 pm, Rally follows at 1 pm after parade at Brittingham park 12-6 pm No Cover Sunday

Thursday, July 26

The ROOM (Milwaukee) 3 Year Anniversary Party Food & Drink Specials

Friday, July 27

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Gallery Night 6-9pm featuring "points of (dis)location" works by Carrie Hoelzer and Susan Retzer. A collaboration of musings and aphorism in space.

Saturday, July 28

ICON (Kenosha) Mr ICON 2007 pageant

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center 9pm MADKINGS Madison's sexiest and beloved Drag King troupe visits Milwaukee for an evening of hot songs & laughter. \$6

SWITCH (Milwaukee) Foam Party also Hot Male Dancers

Saturday, August 11

La Cage (Milwaukee) Miss Cream City USofA 2007 Pageant

Shelter (Green Bay) Annual Sage La Rue Memorial Show 10:30pm

Wednesday, August 15

MONA's (Milwaukee) Three Strikes Presents Lady Symone Rahsee & Friends

Wednesday, September 19

MONA's (Milwaukee) Three Strikes Presents Dominique Mahon & Friends

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Madison Pride Preview:

TONYA WATTS: SEXY, SPARKLIN' COUNTRY SPITFIRE SETTIN' HOMO HEARTS ABLAZE

Interview by Mike Fitzpatrick

She's a dead ringer for *Baywatch's* Pam Anderson. She recently rocked out in a July 4 concert in her native Alabama with Pam's ex Kid Rock. She's played Dolly Parton in a TV movie. Her gritty, no-holds-barred country rock harks back to her idol Dolly, Loretta Lynn and Hank Williams.

You'd think the last place Tonya Watts might show up would be a gay pride event. And you'd be dead wrong. Watts is set to perform at Madison Pride's MAGIC Weekend on Sunday, June 22.

What's more, she can't wait.

Quest's Mike Fitzpatrick spoke with Watts in late June about what appeared to be "quite a jump," making that his first question to her.

"Oh man, you know what? I'm probably just as excited about Madison Pride as I am opening for Kid Rock!" the short, sassy Watts exclaimed enthusiastically.

Speaking of Kid Rock, Fitzpatrick wanted to know if the singer/actor knew Watts was Anderson's doppelgänger, having actually doubled for her professionally in films. "He may know now because I have a girlfriend from Los Angeles that knows him," Watts noted. "She sent him an email so he may know now but who knows? He may not know. I think it's really cool. I'm like his Pam Anderson opening act!"

That act will be ready for prime time at MAGIC weekend and will include several new songs recently cut by Watts. "'Go Go,' 'Cumberland Angels,' and 'Whore' are three new songs that I just cut like two weeks ago with my band," Watts said noting that the songs were actually written several years ago but ones she has not had the courage to perform until now. With an EP already available, Watts hopes to independently produce a full album beginning with an additional recording session at the end of July.

"I'm finally coming out and being myself," she noted. "'Go Go' and the 'Whore' song -

there's not a label in Nashville that would record songs like that. Country music today is Christian pop! I'm not trying to be spiteful, but it really is! That's not the country music I grew up on.

Country music then spoke the truth"

Madison Pride will be Tonya's first gay-oriented gig. "(Madison Pride) is my first, but I wish that I was doing all of them," she said. "I'm hoping that next year that's my summer!"

Asked what was the motivation for reaching out to a gay and lesbian audience, Watts admitted that "there's so many layers behind it."

"First of all I love gay men and I have to have them in my life," Watts said. "Second of all I'm for gay rights 100%! I'm really open and passionate about it!"

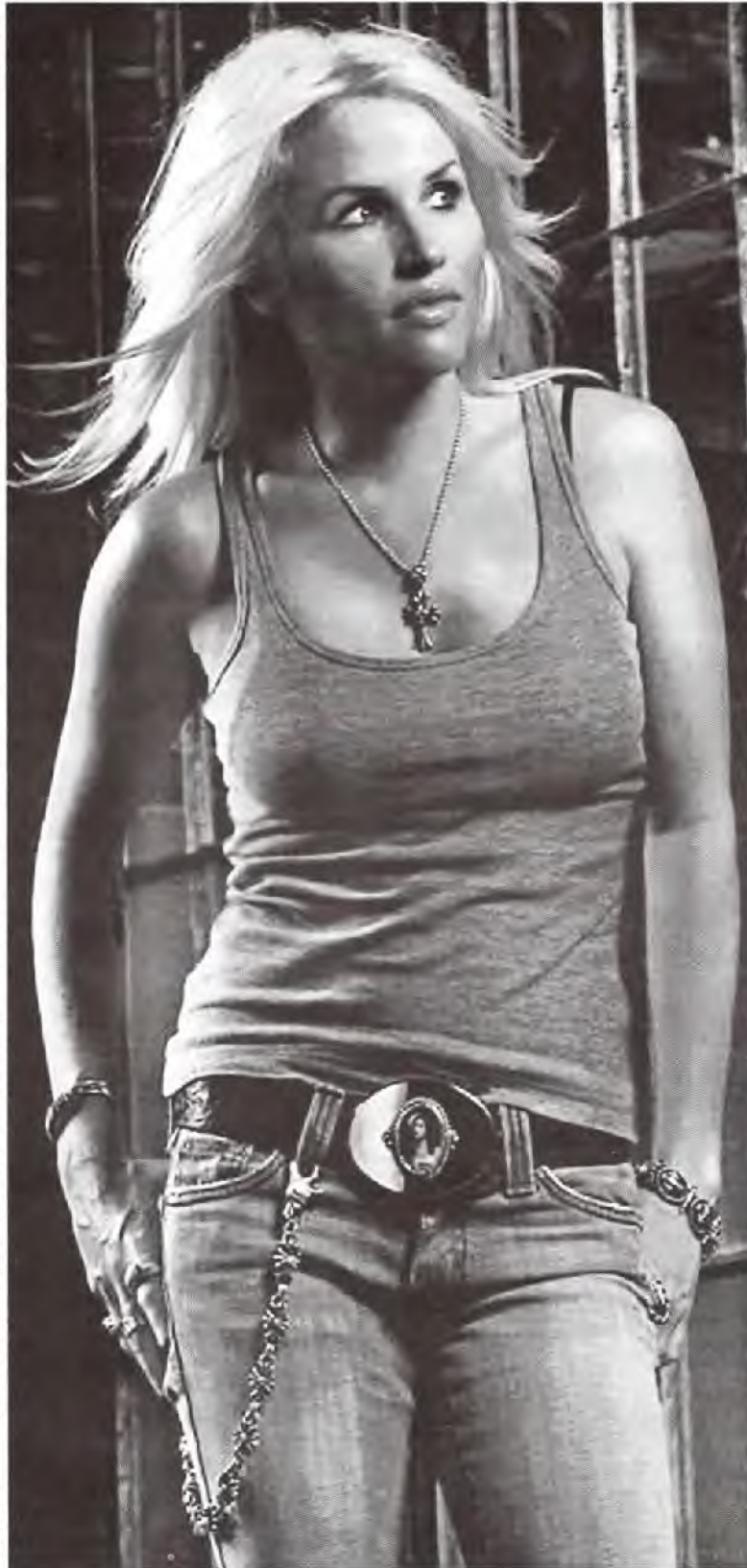
Watts has high hopes for her MAGIC Weekend gig. "I hope that it goes over really well with the crowd and hope they have me back next year," Watts said. "And as I said I hope next year I can do a whole summer tour of the pride shows."

Watts' plans for the rest of this summer have been to ready her new album. "My focus for the summer is to get my record done, because without a really solid record - well, you just gotta have that first!"

The logistics of being a "first-time mom" with soap opera ("The Guiding Light") actor-husband Brian Gaskill and cutting the CD is a challenge. "I'm in Alabama, Brian's mostly in New York and my band is in Nashville so it gets pretty complicated," Watts admitted. "But I'm open and ready to go!"

Shortly after Madison Pride offered her the July 21 gig, the July 4th Kid Rock show was booked. Responding to the suggestion that the Kid Rock gig might add a little sparkle to her Madison show, Watts shouted "Woo-Hoo! I LOVE sparkle!"

Given the amount of sparkle in her *Quest* interview, her anticipation for her July 22 appearance ("You just cannot imagine just how excited I am to do this show!"), her sexy good looks, and her wicked, good time country licks, I suspect Tonya Watts is ready to take the Madison Pride audience by storm.





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NEW ON DVD by Glenn Bishop

When Darkness Falls

Gay cinema has begun to embrace the horror film genre, from David DeCoteau's joyfully homoerotic "Brotherhood" series to more overtly gay offerings like HereTV's "Dante's Cove" and "The Lair" as well as the mad slashing "Hell Bent." Yet too many of these films seem only concerned with getting their hot male co-stars naked than actually providing the moviegoer with any real scares.

Not so Jeff London's recent release: "When Darkness Falls." Promotional materials promise equal parts "Twilight Zone," "Tales From the Crypt" and "Night Gallery." Okay, sure. But happily filled with handsome, clean-cut All-American gay boys.

"When Darkness Falls" is the title of the first (and best) of London's two cinematic stories. Kevin (Mike Dolan), at once something of a loveable scamp yet quite the gay Lothario, has invited Danny (Matt Austin), a potential new boyfriend up to his parent's mountain-side residence for the weekend. The setting is quiet, isolated and in a word, idyllic. A perfect retreat to which to take a hot young man for a romantic weekend, evidently long a practice of Kevin's.

While sex is definitely on Kevin's mind — and let's face it, Danny is H-O-T HOT — Kevin can't help himself from spinning one scary story after another. Isn't that a cemetery just over there? What about that old folk tale, you know, the one about zombies? Eventually all of Kevin's creepy stories start to give Danny the willies.

Let's face it, the way into a man's pants is not by scaring him sh*tless, so says Glenn.

Buy It, Rent It or Forget It

An aficionado of horror films harkening back to the halcyon days of the classic daytime soap, "Dark Shadows," Glenn eagerly welcomes a good horror flick and found "When Darkness Falls" surprisingly effective and entertaining. Despite his apparent low budget, London has a sure hand with building suspense with music and sound effects while eliciting decent performances from his genuinely appealing cast. Although someone surely could have suggested to Matt Austin, a very attractive, masculine young man, that one can "act" scared without becoming a total sissy.

Just the facts...

"When Darkness Falls" has a running time of 92 minutes (combined) and is in English. "When Darkness Falls" is available now on DVD with a SRP of \$22.95.

All about "When Darkness Falls" at www.guardianpictures.com

Jeff London has directed such other popular gay films as "Regarding Billy," "The Last Year" and "And Then Came Summer." Matt Austin plays a hot hustler in "Cowboy Junction"

Darkness falls and all of the noises one might expect to hear amidst the utter stillness of a mountain getaway begin to take on a sinister tone. Despite Kevin's determined efforts, Danny is soon too frightened to pay the least bit of attention to his romantic overtures. Even when Kevin begins to insist that he's made all of the stories up, it is too little, too late. Then the phone rings.

At this point Glenn started screaming at the TV, to the completely oblivious characters. "The call is coming from inside the house! The call is coming from inside the house!!" But do you think they paid Glenn even a bit of attention. Nope.



The second, much shorter film is called "Best of Care" and finds Mike Dolan's earnest Billy caring for obnoxious invalid Donny (Ron Petronicolos.). Poor Billy cooks (clearly very badly) and cleans (ditto) and is thoroughly abused by Donny who evidently controls the purse-strings. Donny refuses even to give Billy money for a Christmas tree. Heartless bastard. Then, one dark and stormy night, Billy has had enough. But can he suffer the consequences?

BTW: Here's Glenn vote for the "alternate ending," included as one of the DVD's extras, as much, much more effective than London's ultimate choice..

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Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie

Your Intellectual Whore

(An effervescently gay advice columnist)

Disclaimer: Although the author of this syndicated column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Send your questions to Uncle Barbie: AskUncleBarbie@aol.com. Barbie responds to all emails... whether you deserve it or not.

Kiss Your P-ass-t Goodbye

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I have a friend who is driving me crazy! She is one of those people whose life reads like a woefully bad novel. She claims that she has been depressed her whole life. It's not that her life is really all that bad; it's more that she interprets every event in her life as a negative, and she is not shy about sharing her misery. She keeps rehashing the past, and her stories never change. For instance, she forever tells me that she could have been a famous ballet dancer if her parents would have only bought her ballet slippers when she was a child. I've spent the past 30 years listening to her whine about her life, and frankly, I've reached the end of my patience with her. I have tried to help, but she just never DOES anything to change. In fact, I think she prefers whining to changing her life. She doesn't ask how I am or what I am doing. Instead, she only talks about her problems. I'm ready to chuck our friendship, but worry that I will feel guilty for doing so. HELP!

Signed, Tired of Whiney Friend

Hello Whiner,

Isn't it interesting that you are whining about someone else's whining. Perhaps you have more in common with your friend than you realize. Let's start off examining your role in this scenario, and then we will take a look at your friend. The codependent relationship that you have with your friend is one that reeks of self-deception. You are playing the role of the enabler by allowing her to continue being dependent on you. I strongly agree with you that it is time to cut the apron strings, and let her be a little more self-reliant. It is fine to be a caregiver to people who are not able to care for themselves. However, you sound like a martyr who has depleted her energies and sacrificed herself in the line of duty. (A duty that is so strong that you fear you will feel guilty if you stop playing that role.) Do you have a savior complex or something? I admit that it can feel good to be the rescuer because it makes a person feel important—just don't go overboard.

Okay, now let's tackle this pathetic friend of yours. What a drama queen. Her life is like reality TV without the set. I find it disappointing that she only wants you to listen to her problems, and is unwilling to reciprocate by listening to your problems. The best advice I can give her (or anyone else who wants to alleviate his/her depression) is to help someone else. Whenever I get depressed (as we all sometimes do), I will do an act of kindness for a fellow human being. This does not have to be a huge display of generosity. All you really need to do is something simple like hold the door open for someone, or give a pleasant smile to the cashier who is serving you. Change the way you view the situation. It's not a problem; it's a challenge. It's not a permanent crisis; it's a temporary setback. It's not a personal flaw of character; it's an area for improvement. Go out and volunteer somewhere. Giving of yourself does not have to be a big deal. It can be as simple as donating some of your used household items to Goodwill, caring for a pet, showing respect for Mother Nature by recycling, etc.

People who are depressed need to resist the temptation to withdraw from social interaction. It will only cause them to go deeper into despair to stay in bed feeling sorry for themselves and avoiding their problems. Depression can be a very self-centered experience because people in this state of mind focus on their problems and their misery. They seldom think of how they can help others. For many years as a therapist, I have counseled people with depression, and I have heard all the excuses and justifications for why they don't follow my suggestions. "I don't have the time. I don't have the energy. I can't...I can't—bitch, bitch, bitch." For all their pissing and moaning, it gets them no where. If they would only take the energy that

they use fighting my help and instead apply that same level of energy toward their treatment, they would be well on their way to a happier life. But unfortunately, they keep track of all their hurts and injuries like trophies. As they would impart their painful stories to me, I was struck by how these depressed individuals would use their emotional injuries like a calendar to mark the milestones in their lives. Remembering their wounds was literally how they recorded the passage of time.

Whenever you are dealing with someone (like your friend) who resists getting better, you need to address the motivation behind the resistance. Consider the possibility of secondary gains. By this, I mean that maybe the troubled person is receiving some kind of emotional reward for being in her current situation. For example, it is conceivable that the feel-good sympathy that she is receiving from friends and family is reinforcing her passive behavior to stay sick. Now, this brings us back to the topics of codependency and enabling behavior. (I believe we discussed your codependent behavior earlier in this article.) Looks like we have come full circle. Perhaps this would be a good place to stop.

--Festively Disturbing, Barbie

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PRIDEMARCH:

March from W. Washington
to Brittingham Park, Sun.

12pm

RALLY:

Brittingham Park, Sun.
1pm, after Parade!

SATURDAY HEADLINER

**ULTRA
NATÉ**

SUNDAY HEADLINER

**TONYA
WATTS**



**LEXI RAVYN
PRODUCTIONS**

ALSO FEATURING:



RONNIE NYLES

ALSO FEATURING:



PULSATION

SPONSORED BY:



PULSATION PROTÉGÉ:
SAMMY

**MAGICAL ACT OF
SCOTT MICKELSON**

*HOSTED BY CASS MARIE
DOMINO & ALEXIS M. ROUGE

*MADISON GAY RUGBY *MUSIC BY DJ RAVYN

*TEENS LIKE US
YOUTH AREA (SUN)

*TWO STAGES *ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES



FOR MORE INFO:

www.madisonpride.org

www.myspace.com/madisonpride