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THE QUEER END OF YEAR SPECIAL: THE QUEST "HOT 25"

2007's Top 10 Wisconsin & Top 10 National LGBT Stories Plus The Top Five Predictions for 2008

Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

Two steps forward, one step back: The ancient Chinese proverb that speaks to the need for persistence in order to advance certainly characterized the top state and national stories involving LGBT community in 2007. There certainly were some bright moments in the past year, but they were tempered by a number of very visible losses, especially among our gay patriarchs. 2007 will be remembered as a year of notable legislative and presidential campaign firsts, wide stances, and a record-setting PrideFest where the onstage fireworks made up for the missing bursts over the Lakefront.

Top 10 Wisconsin LGBT Stories:

1. Domestic Partner Benefits Fail To Survive The Protracted Budget Battle

Governor Jim's Doyle's February 13 offer to extend group health insurance benefits to domestic partners of all state employees as part of his state budget proposal was a historic first. Then the on-again, off-again journey the DP initiative took as part of another precedent - the most protracted budget battle in Wisconsin history - ultimately left same-sex partners empty handed ten months later. First the Joint Finance Committee pulled Doyle's DP proposal, then the Democrat-controlled State Senate slipped them back into their version, while the GOP-led Assembly's version did not. An October 9 Doyle "compromise" proposal offered to break the impasse failed to include "all the non-fiscal policy items" not included in both the Senate and Assembly versions and spelled the end of the line for DP benefits.

On the plus side, however, the City of LaCrosse and the Milwaukee Area Technical College did extend DP benefits to their employees, while a proposal to allow similar benefits to a limited number of Milwaukee Public School employees (and thus open the door for full-fledged benefits bargaining by teacher and other unions) remained tabled at year's end. On the negative side, the city of Madison rejected a grievance filed by one of its unions seeking greater health insurance benefits for the partners of gay and lesbian employees on February 27, effectively denying an expansion of DP benefits there.

2. Death Claims LGBT Leaders Statewide

2007 was a particularly somber year for

Wisconsin's, and especially Milwaukee's LGBT community. Most notable was the passing of venerable 77 year-old Eldon Murray into the state and the nation's gay civil rights history. After founding the first LGBT community center, the first LGBT hotline, and the first gay health clinic anywhere in the

and neither had the opportunity to avoid the wrecks that claimed their lives.

The unexpected passing of STD Specialties Clinic Director and CEO Fred "Casey" Reilly, 49, from a massive heart attack on November 15 capped an already sad year.



3. ARCW Expands As A Major HIV Medical Center

The December 7 announcement that the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin had spent over a million dollars to treat more than 800 HIV+ patients and had expanded by 36% overall in 2007 may have surprised some but certainly not the nearly 3000 clients who seek case management, housing, legal, nutritional, physical and mental health services in the 59 counties the agency serves statewide.

Still the numbers were impressive: ARCW provided \$1.059 million in uncompensated health care through the ARCW Medical Center. This year ARCW became both the largest and most rapidly growing provider of outpatient HIV medical care in the state.

ARCW's second dental clinic opened for business in Green Bay on April 24, and by World AIDS Day had tripled initial projections of patients served by seeing 150 greater Wisconsin clients. Renovations to the agency's Milwaukee dental and medical clinics began last summer with official openings due in early 2008. A second mental health office at ARCW's Green Bay site is also expected to open next year.

But building capacity was only part of the picture. ARCW Chief Operating Officer Michael J. Gifford was a leading figure among those who sought and obtained bipartisan support for the largest increase in spending for HIV/AIDS care in the state's history. The \$1.4 million budget package will underwrite health care costs over the next two years for those living with HIV who are uninsured and ineligible for other state medical assistance benefits.

The medical expansion has been matched by the agency's food pantries as well. In 2007 ARCW opened pantries in Eau Claire and LaCrosse and construction continues on a new pantry in Wausau.

ARCW's rapid expansion came at a time where the state saw a 9% increase in new reported HIV infections. A significant portion of the new cases also occurred in people under the age of 25. The state report showed 11% of the 2006 cases in Wisconsin were diagnosed in adults between the

country, editing the nationally-distributed *GPU News*, co-founding SAGE Milwaukee and more. Murray was inducted in 1998 along with 30 other LGBT activists (including Barbara Gittings who also passed away February 18 to much greater national mourning) into the National Gay and Lesbian Hall fame as a "pioneer of the movement" by the One Institute and International Gay and Lesbian Archives.

Murray's death followed just a month after both *Wisconsin Light* publisher Terry Boughner, 66, and Milwaukee AIDS Project (the precursor to ARCW) co-founder Tom Boll, 59, died within days of each other. Both tragic and senseless were the sudden deaths of UW-Whitewater professor and LGBT advocate P.B. Poormann, 56, on June 27 and Central Wisconsin Pride President Charles Olszewski, 24, on September 18. Both were killed by drunk drivers with multiple traffic convictions

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ages of 20-24. That figure may underreport the number of young adults being infected during those four years. The largest age demographic for new diagnoses - 71% of all cases - begins at age 25.

4. PrideFest Turns 20 And A Record Number Celebrate

If you're going to going to throw a 20th anniversary party, you send out the invites and hope everyone will come - and that the weather will cooperate. The stars aligned the weekend of June 8-10 as more than 30,000 gay men and women and their allies came out to celebrate the biggest Gay Pride celebration in Milwaukee history.

The stars shined both onstage and off at the Henry B. Maier Festival grounds as 27,467 passed through the PrideFest turnstiles over the weekend, a 15% increase over 2006's previous record attendance of 23,839 attendees. Both Friday's 8,389 and Saturday's 13,300 attendance figures were record single-day totals. Combined with the estimated 2,500-2,700 participants and parade watchers out for Sunday's nearly two-hour long Pride parade, it was a weekend for the record books.

The PrideFest grounds filled up quickly Friday afternoon with thousands anticipating headliner Kathy Griffin's performance. Griffin herself, fresh from co-hosting ABC's "The View" earlier that morning, announced the attendance increase following her show and stated that it was both the largest audience and "the best experience" in her career. Her over the top D-list dish was certainly a peak experience for many of her rabid twenty and thirtysomething fans in attendance.

Saturday night belonged to the triumphant performance offered up the legendary Chaka Khan. In offering up her all-time top seller "I Feel For You" as the kick-off number, Chaka signaled that that was not going to be an evening of nostalgia; she was back and offered up fresh evidence that she is a 21st Century funk icon.

Khan shared two numbers from her new CD "Funk This." Both the affecting ballad "Angel" and especially the sassy funk concoction "Will You Love Me" were warmly received by the diverse crowd that ranged from twentysomethings to seasoned Chakaholics.

The finale of Khan's ninety-plus minute show provided the audience with the fireworks that went missing on the Lakefront. Chaka and her twelve-member entourage launched into her first solo hit "I'm Every Woman." By the end of the number, Chaka had not only reclaimed her song from pallid Whitney Houston remake, she was ready to remain center stage for some time to come.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett's presence at the 2007 LGBT Pride Parade Sunday afternoon certainly stole the show at what has become the most elaborate public show of the state's gay pride statewide. Barrett and State Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) followed just behind this year's Grand Marshall County Supervisor Peggy West. The official 39 units in this year's parade belied the sometimes extravagant number of individual elements that made up each unit in the one hour and forty-five minute march.

Lots of everyday people who love rock & roll or just wanted to be in touch with their fellow com-

munity members filled the Summerfest grounds later that day for PrideFest's festival finale. Many came to party hearty with Joan Jett and The Blackhearts and relive their two decades of chart-toppers, plus get a taste of the quartet's hook-laden latest album "Sinner." The 49-year old Jett, looking and acting half her age, did not disappoint the nearly two thousand who stuck around to the final licks Sunday night.

PrideFest's 2007 musical line-up outclassed major pride events in Los Angeles and New York City. In fact, this year's entertainment lineup was the biggest LGBT Pride entertainment lineup in the nation, something again missed by the bi-coastal event driven "major" LGBT media.

5. FORGE Conference Sets Records, Draws Raves

Nearly 500 people from around the country converged in Milwaukee March 29 - April 1 for "FORGE Forward 2007," Wisconsin's largest-ever gathering of transgender and SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies) people, and the first national FTM (female-to-male)/SOFFA conference held anywhere outside of the east or west coast.

FORGE Forward 2007 included nine full-day "Intensives," more than 2-1/2 days' worth of plenary keynote speeches and entertainment, a film festival, authors' readings, a vendor hall, a dance, and nearly 90 planned and "propose-it-on-the-spot" workshops and caucuses.

The conference provided participants with in-depth training on issues ranging from gender identity formation to HIV and safer sex practices among transpeople to working with trans survivors of violence. Keynote speakers articulated connections between gender identity and race, disability, male privilege, sexuality, and other issues, urging attendees to listen and learn from the community's own diversity. Many attendees took the advice to heart: "Great conversations about difficult topics" was one of the best aspects of the conference, one attendee said.

6. Madison Oath Protest Draws National Attention

In what is believed be the first protest of its kind in the United States, the Madison City Council voted 13-4 January 16 to give city leaders the option to denounce the state's constitutional ban on gay marriage when they take their oath of office. The resolution allowed hundreds of elected and appointed officials to add a statement saying they are taking the oath under protest because the amendment "besmirches our constitution." The approved statement also included a promise to work to overturn the gay marriage ban and prevent discrimination resulting from its passage.

Supporters on the council and Mayor Dave Cieslewicz say the protest will allow city leaders to take the oath of office - a pledge to uphold the state and U.S. constitutions - with a clear conscience. Gays and lesbians also might be more likely to serve in public office, they said.

City officials developed the plan after long-time gay activist Dan Ross resigned from the city's Equal Opportunity Commission rather than swear to uphold the state constitution. Bert Zipperer, president of the city's Equal Opportunities

Commission, brought the proposal to the council.

The city council's move drew the ire of "social conservatives" nationwide, among them Fox News flamethrower Bill O'Reilly who excoriated the city on his evening screamefest. Perhaps the heat kept other municipal and government bodies from following the Capitol city's lead.

The Dane County Board of Supervisors on April 19 briefly considered then balked at creating an optional protest statement against the recently passed gay marriage and civil union amendment that could have been read while taking oath of office.

Supervisors appeared to be uneasy in their desire to show support for gay peoples' civil rights while still pledging to uphold the state constitution. The board voted to send the oath of office protest resolution back to committee, a move that effectively killed the initiative.

7. Soulforce Riders Arrested At Wisconsin Lutheran College

Eight gay activists involved with a local demonstration by the national Soulforce Equality Ride initially faced charges for trespassing at Wisconsin Lutheran College on March 13. The protesters had gone on campus after administrators had told them to stay away a day earlier. The protesters spent about three hours locked up at the Milwaukee Police Department's District 3 headquarters before they were allowed to post bail.

A campus security guard initially had warned the activists to stay off the private college's property. Six Soulforce protesters and two local activists were taken away in handcuffs by Milwaukee police for trying to set up outreach tables there.

Wisconsin Lutheran College administrators turned down Soulforce requests to speak on campus on March 12. That day Soulforce members stood in silent, non-violent protest on a sidewalk near the college's main entrance, some singing hymns.

The Wisconsin arrests came in the second year of Soulforce's Equality Ride. Volunteer riders have travelled around the country to Christian campuses by bus to promote gay and lesbian acceptance.

Prior to the Wisconsin arrests, Equality Riders were harassed and their bus was defaced with spray-painted gay slurs at another Christian school. Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa. Three carloads of students reportedly circled the motel where the riders were staying in the early hours of March 7. Dordt College officials later publicly apologized for the anti-gay conduct of its student body.

8. Both Sides Re-Group After Marriage Ban Battle

What do you do for a follow-up when you've been involved in the most extensive and expensive ballot measure battle in Wisconsin history? For starters, you change your name. Both the former Action Wisconsin and Family Research Institute of Wisconsin changed their monikers in 2007, to the Wisconsin Family Council and Fair Wisconsin respectively.

Julaine Appling continued her leadership of the WFC and launched - with the help of a deep-pocketed Green Bay group - an initiative called "Think Marriage" that used brochures and billboards to dispel myths about heterosexual marriage. Getting hitched to suppress your genetically-driven same

sex attractions wasn't one of them. The life-long bachelorette also took a bit of heat for her on-the-record feelings about public breast feeding.

Fair Wisconsin went through four Executive Directors, three interim and one hired. The ink was barely dry on *Quest's* cover story interviewing newly-hired Eve Shiffrin when she decided that she wanted to return to her first love: direct legal advocacy for social justice. Fair Wisconsin and the Fair Wisconsin Education Fund announced November 1 that Shiffrin had left the organization for a position at Disability Rights Wisconsin, effective October 31. At year's end, latest interim Exec Glenn Carlson had overseen the statewide LGBT advocacy group's return to full financial balance and the development of soon-to-be-revealed 2008 political strategies.

9. OutReach and Cream City Foundation Celebrate Silver Anniversaries

Some turn 25 and celebrate, others mark historical events. Both Madison's OutReach and Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation celebrated silver anniversaries in 2007.

OutReach celebrated the 25th anniversary of the passage of Wisconsin's first-in-the-nation Equal Rights legislation April 13 with several of those who help get Assembly Bill 70 passed in 1982 present, most notably co-sponsor David Clarenbach. AB70, the nation's first successfully enacted gay civil rights legislation, was introduced before the Wisconsin legislature in 1981 by representatives Clarenbach, Leopold, Coggs, Ulichny and Becker, and signed in March, 1982 by the Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus. The bill added sexual orientation

to a list of characteristics - such as race, age, gender, and ethnicity - that may not be used to discriminate in employment, housing or other public accommodation. Thirteen other states have followed Wisconsin's lead in the last quarter century.

In Milwaukee, the Cream City Foundation marked its 25th year of charitable giving by holding a series of special events over the course of 2007. To kickoff its yearlong celebration Cream City Foundation hosted a Winter-Get-Away celebration at the Milwaukee Domes on February 22 and ended up with a cocktail party in the rotunda at City Hall last Fall.

As part of its 25 Year Celebration, Cream City Foundation and Joseph Pabst, local philanthropist, joined forces to create the Lesbian and Bisexual Women 25/25 Venture, which distributed \$25,000 to recognize current and future LGBT programs.

Founded in 1982, Cream City Foundation originally spun-off from the former Cream City Business Association, an association of LGBT business owners formed to promote LGBT entrepreneurship and business support for LGBT communities. Initially begun with \$500 in seed money, it has grown to provide over \$500,000 in grant dollars to organizations and projects working to improve the quality of life for the state's LGBT people.

10. Madison Minotaurs Hit The Rugby Pitch

First it was bowling, then it was softball and hockey. Now rugby has gotten an official gay Wisconsin twist. Last August 11, Madison Minotaurs competed in the Stuart Daily 10's tournament held here with three games played that day. The Wisconsin Rugby Club acknowledged the Minotaurs' effort at the end

of the tournament by honoring the Minotaurs with the receipt of the special the Kim Pederson award, for exemplifying the true spirit of Rugby on and off the playing field, known as the pitch.

The following day the Madison Minotaurs were admitted into the Wisconsin Rugby Union. "We are the first ever gay-identified team to be inducted into the Wisconsin Rugby Union," Minotaur organizer Shawn Neal said, while thanking other teams for their support. The Minotaurs became officially part of the International Gay Rugby Association and Board (IGRAB) on August 25th when they played their first 15's match against the Minneapolis Mayhem.

At year's end soccer also was getting the gay redo as Milwaukee began organizing its first-ever Gay Soccer League, set to debut in 2008.

Top 10 World & National Stories:

1. Presidential Politics Goes Gay

In 2004 Karl Rove may have used gays as a wedge issue to re-install George Bush in the White House, but the 2008 Presidential campaign went gay in a completely different way in 2007.

Billed as the "Visible Vote '08," the Human Rights Campaign and LOGO cable channel offered up a "gay presidential debate" August 9. From a political standpoint it was ground-breaking: all of the top contenders for the Democratic Party's candidate for President in 2008 were present. After making a lot of noise so were several of the lesser lights. Though offered their own fifteen minutes of gay fame none of the Republican presidential candidates took the bait - not surprising since several believe gay people (not to mention evolution) don't actually exist.



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That doesn't mean gay issues didn't crop up in the GOP debates. The dark horse GOP presidential candidacy of former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson received one of several fatal blows following a May 4 flip-flop that likely soured his standing with both moderate independent voters and his own party's religious extremist base. Thompson was asked during the first GOP presidential candidate's debate in California May 4 if it would be acceptable for a private employer who finds homosexuality immoral to fire a gay worker. Thompson concluded by saying "yes" to a confirmatory question fielded by John Harris, editor in chief of politico.com, one of the event's co-sponsors.

When the story broke big in the Badger State the next morning the Thompson campaign arranged a hasty telephone interview with CNN. "I made a mistake, I misinterpreted the question," Thompson told CNN's John Roberts. "I didn't hear the question properly and I apologize. That is not my position. There should be no discrimination in the workplace."

Thompson also claimed that he supported Wisconsin's gay rights bill 25 years ago, but was caught in a lie when OutReach Director Steven Starkey pointed out he had voted against AB70 in 1982. Thompson ended up being the first GOP hopeful to drop out of the Republican race.

Flips flops on gay issues also have haunted top-tier GOP candidates Rudy Giuliani and Mitt Romney as well. Meanwhile former Baptist minister Mike Huckabee's presidential standing soared among the party faithful after he defended his 1992 suggestion to quarantine AIDS patients.

2. Gay Civil Unions Move Forward

Gay civil unions moved forward in several states in 2007. New Hampshire became the fourth state to legalize civil unions May 31 when Governor John Lynch signed legislation into law saying it was in keeping with the state's anti-discrimination tradition.

The bill went to the governor after the New Hampshire House voted 243-129 in support and the Senate passed the bill 14-10 in April. Same-sex couples plan to celebrate New Hampshire's new civil unions law by holding a group ceremony the minute the law takes effect January 1, 2008.

Oregon also passed civil unions legislation with a 2008 start date.

In Washington state, a raucous cheer went up from a crowd of gay and lesbian couples in Olympia as the doors were opened July 23 for domestic partnership. Within an hour of opening, the secretary of state's office had registered about 85 same-sex couples. Registered Washington couples will get more rights as domestic partners, including hospital visitation, the ability to authorize autopsies and organ donations and to inherit without a will.

New Jersey's civil unions also went into effect and New York State agreed to recognize out of state civil unions by couples who later relocate to the Empire state.

Gay marriage has some small victories as well. Massachusetts legislators turned back a ballot measure that could have undone the only legal gay marriages in the country. In Iowa gay marriage was



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legal for one day following a court ruling that was stayed by an appellate court 24 hours later.

At year's end, however, Florida residents learned they would likely have a gay marriage ban measure on their November, 2008 ballots - conveniently coinciding with the Presidential election.

3. Oregon Passes Gay Equal Rights Law

Oregon's Gay and lesbian residents won a victory more than three decades in the making April 19 when the state's Legislature passed a law protecting them from discrimination in housing, work and public places. Governor Ted Kulongoski signed it into law May 9.

Oregon is now the 18th state to adopt a law protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination. According to National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Matt Foreman, equal rights

protection for gay and lesbian people now covers more than half the U. S. Population.

The neighboring state of California has a similar anti-discrimination law. Washington's went into effect last year. The passage also comes just weeks after Wisconsin - the first state in the country to pass such legislation - quietly celebrated the 25th anniversary of its equal rights law.

4. ENDA Splits The Gay Community

The House passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) November 7 with a 235-184 vote. The historic first, however, came at a cost - a split amongst the nation's LGBT activists. The reason? ENDA passed without protections for the transgendered community.

Leading the fight for a trans-inclusive ENDA was Wisconsin's own Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison).

She was joined by nearly 300 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activist groups and allies that included state organizations Fair Wisconsin, Milwaukee's Center Advocates, Madison's OutReach and the Wisconsin chapter of American Civil Liberties Union.

"This is the first time in the history of the civil rights movement that a bill that does not have the support of a single constituent organization is being moved to the House floor," NGLTF Executive director Matt Foreman said in response to the October 18 committee vote to recommend the trans-free bill for a House vote. However Foreman missed one group - the nation's largest. The Human Rights Campaign worked with Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) to move the revised ENDA bill to a vote.

Despite passage in the House, ENDA likely will fail to become law. The White House has promised a veto.

5. Larry Craig, Bob Allen And Others Tumble Out Of The GOP Closet

Any claim that the Republican Party might have had to moral leadership was clearly undone nearly weekly revelations of closet case GOP shenanigans in public bathrooms and other places throughout the summer and fall of 2007. The list seems almost endless: Florida representative Bob Allen finally resigned after he was found guilty of offering \$20 blow jobs to black undercover officers. Idaho Senator Larry Craig's airport bathroom toe-tapping and wide stance both entered the nation's lexicon. Craig plead guilty, then appealed, promised to resign then took it back, pleaded his case in a low-rated interview with hunky Tom Brokaw, and ended up a yuletide novelty gift in the form of a talking doll.

Others in the Republican homofest? Louisiana Senate candidate Joey DiFatta, Washington State Representative Richard Curtis, Brown County GOP Chair Donald Fleischman, former Daytona city commissioner Mike Shallow, Secretary of State Condoolezza Rice, South Carolina Senator Lindsay Graham and national Young Republican Federation president Glenn Murphy, Jr. to name a few.

Of course Democrats were also caught up in the homosexual hue and cry as well. Presidential contender Hillary Clinton denied lesbian rumors on record to *The Advocate* and openly-gay Wisconsin 2nd District Democratic Party Chair Randy Udell was caught in a Rock County public bathroom sex sting.

6. Hate Crimes Bill Passes, Then Dies

Federal Hate Crimes legislation that would have added gender, sexual orientation and gender identity and disability to the Federal Hate Crimes Act died after achieving a historic first by passing both houses of Congress. The Matthew Shepard Act, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, first passed the House of Representatives. However, when the Senate took up the measure, with was attached as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, a Department of Defense spending bill. The White House promised to veto the defense bill because of the hate crimes amendment. Senate leaders believed it would not pass and okayed its being stripped from the final bill approved by both houses.

7. Westboro Wackos Get A \$10.9 Million Wake-Up Call

Members of the fundamentalist Kansas Westboro Baptist Church were ordered to pay nearly \$11 million in damages to a grieving father October 31. Albert Snyder sued the anti-gay church after a protest last year at the funeral of his son, Marine Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder, who was killed in Iraq. He claimed the protests intruded upon what should have been a private ceremony and sullied his memory of the event.

However, they vowed that the verdict would not deter them from protesting at military funerals. "Absolutely, don't you understand this was an act in futility?" said Shirley Phelps-Roper, whose father founded the tiny church.

Members of the church announced on November 2 that they would resume their pickets of military funerals with placards bearing such slogans as "Thank God for dead soldiers" and "God hates fags."

The group claims that U.S. deaths in the Iraq war are punishment for the nation's tolerance of homosexuality. They also claim that they are entitled to protest at funerals under the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech and religion. The group first rose to national prominence during the funeral of Matthew Shepard.

8. "Don't Ask Don't Tell" Comes Under Fire

Joint Chiefs Chairman General Peter Pace started off 2007 by supporting the military gay ban calling homosexuality immoral. That didn't sit well with Petty Officer 3rd Class Jason Knight who came forward to expose the hypocrisy of the military's adherence to DADT in wartime. He was called back to active duty in the Navy, with a promotion to Petty Officer Second Class and served in Kuwait as an openly gay sailor. His revelations eventually got him kicked out.

Later in the year retired military leaders came forward to oppose the fourteen year old policy. At year's end CBS newsmagazine offered fresh evidence of openly gay personnel serving in war zones. Most of the Democrats seeking their party's presidential nod have also come out in sunseting the gay ban.

9. Episcopal-Anglican Gay Row Deepens

The Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams sought to assert his authority in the long-running row over homosexuality in December warning that Anglicanism would not be dictated to by one church.

In his pre-Christmas letter to heads of member churches around the world, Williams recognized that the US Episcopal Church's ordination of gay bishops and blessing of same-sex unions threatened to split the Church.

The past year has seen Anglican leaders snubbing U. S. prelates at international conferences, South Africa's Archbishop Desmond Tutu chided fellow bishops for being "obsessed with gay sex," and an Episcopal diocese in Central California vote to secede from the national church.

10. Survey Says: Americans, Japanese Get Laid The Least

Are Americans possibly more violent because they get laid less often? Did the Japanese develop ritual suicide and Harikari fighter pilots due to a lack of nookie? That might be one way to explain the results of a 2007 study that looked at how frequently the world's citizens get their freak on.

Condom maker Durex recently released its 2007 Sexual Wellbeing Global Survey. Among the many conclusions they drew from the 26,000+ respondents was which country has the most frequent sex. Olives and feta cheese appear to be aphrodisiacs, as the Greeks came out on top with 87% of that country's respondents reporting that they had sex on at least a weekly basis.

Rounding out the top three were Brazil (82%) and Russia (80%). The world's most populous nation came in with 78% reporting weekly sex. Other countries in the 70 percentage range included Poland, Italy, Malaysia, Spain, Switzerland, Mexico, South Africa, Austria and France.

The USA limped in at 19th place with only 53% respondents claiming weekly satisfaction, just a squirt ahead of the always reserved British (55%). Japan make make the world's cars but little goes on in all those back seats: The Land of the Rising Sun was eclipsed by all others in the sex department, with only 34% of its respondents reporting a weekly romp in the futon.



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Contributors: News Editor: Mike Fitzpatrick

Columns: Glen Bishop, Jeff Hicks, Uncle Barbie

Printing/Bindery: Marti, Shawn, Howd, Za

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Top 5 Predictions For 2008:

Before looking at our new predictions let's see how we did in 2007. Here were the five forecasts:

The UW System Will Get Some Form of Domestic Partner Benefits. *Nope*, but not for trying. The political winds blew for months in Wisconsin's protracted budget battle, but not hard enough to overcome GOP opposition. However, as predicted, WFC's Julaine Applying waved the 59-41 marriage ban win in the Assembly's face. Then again, my dear Julaine might counter, some things are just too predictable to really be considered true forecasts.

California's Supreme Court Will Set Up The Federal Test On Gay Marriage. *A pass.* Due to the record number "friend of the court" briefs filed on the gay nups case, the Golden State's Supremes spent all their time reading and not scheduling a 2007 date to hear arguments and make a decision. No decision, no-set-up. 2008? Perhaps, but an election year decision could turn the Presidential race into a re-run of 2004 without Karl Rove to add the spin.

Jim Doyle Will Make At Least One Notable Openly-Gay Appointment. *Yes.* Doyle's appointment of Tammy Baldwin's spouse Lauren Azar to the state's visible but lower profile Public Service Commission made that prediction a bullseye.

The Episcopal Church Will Teeter But Not Fall Into Schism. *Yes.* The year's end defection of an entire California diocese was a certainly troubling teeter, but not a full break by the Anglican Communion with U.S. Episcopalians over gay issues.

There Will Be Little Progress In Undoing The Wisconsin Marriage Ban. *Yes.* Even the promised rhetoric on the issue was minimal. The one mild surprise - a *pro se* lawsuit by Oshkosh prof William McConkey - got a tiny go-ahead at year's end when Dane County Judge Rick Niess gave McConkey standing as a possibly-harmed voter.

Three and a half for five wasn't so bad, compared to my dear departed prognosticating idol Jeanne Dixon. Once again dabbling on a bit of her brilliant red lip polish, here are my predictions for 2008:

1. Milwaukee Will Elect Its First Openly-Gay Alder. With three candidates already declared - Patrick Flaherty and Sura Faraj in the 3rd and Victor Ray in the 12th (we won't know who actually is running until the filing deadline passes January 2) - the odds look better than they have in a decade. Flaherty has already announced that he has filed, and Ray has been highly visible for almost a year. Both districts have significant numbers of LGBT residents, though the February 4 primary could elevate turnout that may also impact local run-off races also to be decided that day. My confidence in this prediction is 70%.

2. The Marriage Ban Ballot Lawsuit Will Falter. Several other states - most notably Georgia and Kentucky - have looked at complaints similar to McConkey's do-it-yourself lawsuit and decided their marriage ballots' look-alike phrasing was okay. Even if it gets to Wisconsin's Supremes, the balance there tips conservative. It's one of the reasons bigger names like Fair Wisconsin and the ACLU didn't try something similar sooner. While you gotta admire McConkey's pluck, the case is going to end up being a feel-good footnote in the slow march to marriage equality. My confidence here is 70%.

3. The Wisconsin State Legislature Will Remain Houses Divided. While Wisconsin Democrats certainly have the most decent shot at taking the Assembly they've had in a decade, the current anti-incumbent mood of the populace statewide spells ill for both political parties. With Governor Doyle mulling a third term and quietly building a campaign war chest, the Republican loving "north of

Highway 29" folks likely will return GOP candidates to office and perhaps even take out some the freshman Dems elected in 2006 upsets. Net effect: even more closely divided Assembly and Senate splits with neither house changing party leadership. My confidence here is 60%.

4. Democrats Retain Congressional Control. Though the polls currently may say that more folks want Democrats than Republicans in Congress, the U. S. House of Representatives and the Senate numbers will look pretty much the same after the dust settles in the 2008 election. The number of competitive seats in both houses remain minimal, and a number of freshman Dems may lose their re-election bids in closely fought races. Confounding pundits across the board, President Bush's "surge" actually seems to have worked, the economy - while soft - won't slip into full recession and 2007's GOP sex scandals will be really old news next November. My confidence here is 60%.

5. President Obama. For the first time since 1952 there is no incumbent president or vice-president running for the nation's top two offices. Both the Democratic and Republican presidential races currently are wide open. The possibility of Michael Bloomberg running as an independent third-party candidate remains genuine. Whether this prediction is a just a guess or unconscious wish fulfillment I honestly cannot say, but I think people may finally be willing to want to change from politics as usual. That gives Obama the edge. With so many wild cards yet to be played, my confidence is 30%, but that's still better than the current 20% I feel for Clinton and McCain, or the 10% I've got in the gut for Edwards, Romney, and Giuliani. However, I do know that I'll vomit 100% if the Holier Than Thou crowd currently fueling the Huckaboom actually prevails next November.

Quest Magazine thanks you for another wonderful year!
We look forward to serving you again in 2008

Our gay and proud contributors: Za, Mike Fitzpatrick, Uncle Barbie, Glenn, boy jeff, Sharkey, Tony Ritschard, Steve Vargas

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A December 8th Show in Beloit @ Club Impulse



Left: Harbor Room Christmas Party for Staff & Customers

Below: Club 5's Simply Divine Xmas show



Diversion of the Day

Quest's Events Calendar

Saturday, December 29

Switch (Milwaukee) SAVED with DJ Doug

LaCage (Milwaukee) Last dance Party (of 2007) 10pm

Saturday, December 29

SAGE (Milwaukee) Rootin' tootin' High Falutin' Talent Parade-Music, comedy & Spaghetti Dinner 5pm Plymouth Church See ad in this issue of Quest.

Monday, December 31

Art Bar (Milwaukee) New Years Eve Bash 2008 with a FREE Breakfast buffet at 2am

Ballgame (Milwaukee) New Year's Buffet 1am Open around the clock. Food favors fun.

Blue Lite (Sheboygan) Party runs 9:30pm til dawn. Midnite champagne toast & buffet.

CITY LIGHTS (Milw) Rocky Horror New Year's Eve. Midnight Toast Pajama party 2 am

CLUB ICON (Kenosha) New Years VIP Black & White Party Tickets: \$50 limited qty avail. Open bar 9-1am, food buffet, DJ, performances by Club ICON royalty, give-a-ways all night grand prize at 2am Champagne toast at midnight Party favors.

BOOM (Milwaukee) FREE champagne toast at midnite.

Fluid (Milwaukee) New Years Eve open 5pm for 33 hours catered buffet at 11pm

LaCage (Milwaukee) open 9pm Buffet 10:30pm Champagne toast & balloon drop early morning buffet in 2008.

M's (Milwaukee) Champagne Toast, Food & a midnight surprise! **Switch (Milwaukee)** Sing in the New Year with Karaoke 9pm-3am Open til sunrise.

Madison Gay Video Club Special New Year's Eve Party Falcon 35th Anniversary Marathon - 35 best scenes 8:00 PM - 5:00 AM, <http://www.mgvc.org>, 244-8675 (evenings)

Triangle (Milwaukee) Open all nite Free Champagne & food New Year's Day recovery party at noon.

MONA's (Milwaukee) The Party Starts Early & Does Not Stop!!! \$10 Incl Champagne, DJ, & Party Favors

Tuesday, January 1, 2008

Boot Camp (Milwaukee) Superbowl Sweepstakes enter every day in January. Win trip to San Francisco or Vegas Drwaing Super bowl Sunday, Feb 3 2008.

Wednesday, January 2

MONA's (Milwaukee) Country Western night first Hump day each month. Featuring CW videos, and a contest this time for a chance to win \$25 for hottest boots worn.

Friday, January 4

MONA's (Milwaukee) Costume Contest: "Football Favor" theme Cash prizes & bar tabs

Saturday, January 5

Madison Gay Video Club "Amnesia: James Brighton Enigma" (TLA Rel., dir. Dennis Langlois, 2005) "Endless Crush" (Falcon) 8:00 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8675 (evenings)

Tuesday, January 15

Midtowne Spa (Milwaukee) BESTD Clinic free HIV screening from 6pm-9pm

Friday, January 18

LaCage (Milwaukee) Legends show featuring performers remembering Cher, Madonna & others. 11pm

Saturday, January 19

Madison Gay Video Club "Colma: The Musical" (Lions Gate, dir. Richard Wong, 2006)

"Grunts: The New Recruits" (Raging Stallion) 8:00 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8675 (evenings)

Milwaukee Pumphouse Ron & Kimmy celebrate 35 years together with a party 6-8pm

MONA's (Milwaukee) Speed Dating

RAINBOW CLUB Pot luck dinner at my house 5pm till ? & card party all welcome Not far from Dorchester WI off hwy 13 & 29 call Terry 715 654-5044 always looking for new members any one welcome. No drinking & no sex! Just meet others & have fun- join us

Switch (Milwaukee) Muscle Beach! \$100 prize for best muscles. 11pm DJ Doug

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

LaCage (Milwaukee) Beja's Gender Bender Contest in ETC

Friday, January 25

LaCage (Milwaukee) WHITE PARTY 10pm

Saturday, January 26

MONA's (Milwaukee) Old Timers Party

WEEKLY SPECIALS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
ART BAR	FREE POOL \$2 Mystery Beer	2 fer Tuesday 2-4-1 til 12am	DOUBLE IT for a buck	\$5 Martini	\$5 Margaritas	\$2 Shot Special	\$4.40 BLOODY MARY's
BALLGAME	Cocktail Hour 2pm - close	PULL TABS	Shots Doctors \$2 Mugs \$1.75 all nite	PULL TABS	Hors D' Oeuvres	Juice Drinks \$3.25 Mugs \$1.75	Juice Drinks \$3.25 Mugs \$1.75
BOOM	2-4-1 5-8pm 2-4-1 Pitchers Miller Lite	2-4-1 5-8pm KARAOKE with 2-4-1 Leine's	2-4-1 5-8pm Bad Boys night out	2-4-1 5-8pm \$3 Tall Pinnacle flavored Vodka drinks	2-4-1 5-8pm Beer Bust 5-9pm	Open 2 pm with Clint Beer Bust 2-6pm	Open 2 pm with Lance
CITY LIGHTS CHILL...	\$1 Mugs	\$2 Shots	\$4 Mug & Shot	\$2 Domestic Bottle Beer	\$4 Martini & cosmos	12" Pizza & Pitcher for \$12	\$3 Pints Rail Mixers
LA CAGE	Movies n Martinis \$4 Martinis	Hot Male Dancers \$4 Effen Mixers \$6 Effen Martinis	Buttons or Boylesque Absolute Mixers \$4 Absolute Martini \$6	Thirsty Thursday 2-4-1 til 11pm	Trans-formation Female Impersonators		Recovery 2-4-1 Absolute & Effen drinks
M's		FREE Darts all day Cocktail hour 2-4-1 4-8pm	Melissa entertains 6-8 Cocktail hour 2-4-1 4-8pm	2-4-1 All Night	Cocktail hour 2-4-1 4-8pm Prize nite @9pm	Pull Tabs till 8pm Marvelous Madams Drag Show 9pm	\$3 Bloody Mary's, Screwdrivers, Grey- hounds Pitchers Beer \$8
MONS's			50c taps MONA's Brew \$2.50 Bottles Amstel, Mic, Coors, Bud, Miller & RR \$3 Smooff Twisted & Mike's \$2 cans Blatz & PBR			50c taps MONA's Brew \$2.50 Bottles Amstel, Mic, Coors, Bud, Miller & RR \$3 Smooff Twisted & Mike's \$2 cans Blatz & PBR	50c taps MONA's Brew \$2.50 Bottles Amstel, Mic, Coors, Bud, Miller & RR \$3 Smooff Twisted & Mike's \$2 cans Blatz & PBR
SWITCH			Online Meet n Greet meet your buddy for \$1 off drinks	Karaoke after 9pm	Hot Male Strippers 9pm	Saved @ Switch DJ Doug	Hot Male Strippers 9pm
TRIANGLE	\$2 Absolute Drinks	2-4-1 All Night	\$2 Domestic & Texa Hold 'em	Free Beer Parties Sign up to win	Bacardi Fridays \$3 shorts \$5 Talls	Also Friday & Sunday 3rd shift Happy Hour 2 4 1 Taps 6am-noon	Guise n Dolls 10:30pm

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Quest Classified ads have been a **FREE** service to the **LGBT Community for 12 Years!** Advertise a room for rent, sell items you no longer need or take advantage of the **BEST** classified personals in the State. Please note...if you charge for a service (massage/escort, remodeling, cleaning, etc.), we consider these as business classifieds for which there is a \$10 charge per issue for each. You must be at least 18 years old to run a classified ad; we require your signature stating you are at least 18 along with a phone number to contact you if necessary. Emailed classies may use our email address in lieu of a signature. **LIMIT COPY to 40 WORDS or less. (NO classified ads over the phone or from incarcerated folks)** Each classified ad will run a minimum of two times unless you request a single run. If you wish to run ads longer, you must submit a new request after each ad has run twice.

FOR RENT / ROOMMATES

FOX VALLEY/GREEN BAY
ROOMMATE WANTED: 3 bedroom home in south Appleton, rent starting at 400/mo incl. all utilities. FMI Email Dreamer24ks@aol.com

538 Broad St., Menasha: 1 BR plus Den w/views of Lake Winnebago - Remodeled charming brick building includes central Air Conditioning with parking areas and large yard. Convenient Location. A must see at \$400! 414-331-0964

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Gay Owner Occupied Duplex: Lower 2 bed, 1 bath, LR w/ fireplace, DR w/built-in buffet, Hardwood flrs, Re-modeled Bathroom w/ tile shower and Eat-in Kit w/new fridge & stove. Freshly painted. Off street parking, **SMALL PETS ALLOWED**, Storage and W/D available. \$600 3027 N 45th St. Glenn 414-915-8595 [1]

For Rent/Roommate Milwaukee, 26th and National. One large furnished room for rent in a 3 bed apt. Shared bath, Kitchen and living room with other 2 GWMs. \$375 a month includes utilities and Cable TV. Call (414) 545-6539 [1]

FOR RENT OR ROOMMATE
Burlington area Upper 1 Bedroom Large 1 TV Room own bathroom shared kitchen & laundry. No utilities. 45 yo in good shape would like to share my space. \$350/month ask for Gary 262-749-9811

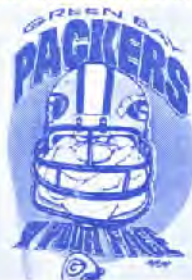
Need room or roommate ASAP! No sexual relation. Transfer to UWM from UWGB. myspace.com/x2zvoice personal info & contact ZIRBST03@uwgb.edu

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS duplex 2 bedroom lower \$750 Beautiful kitchen, appliance incl. Built in buffet in DR fresh neutral paint, hardwood floors. New bathroom, shared washer/dryer. Off street parking spot. **NO PETS**, cozy back yard. 1621 N 50th St. Ann (414)526-3419 [2]

WASHINGTON HEIGHTS
2nd/3rd floor upper 2 bedroom \$850 Two bedrooms plus small office/den. MUST see apartment to appreciate great layout! Large dining room, built in buffet, hardwood floors. One off street parking spot, cozy back yard **NO PETS**. Ann (414)526-3419 [2]

TAKE A QUANTUM LEAP and move to the upper East Side! (University Ave) Make a change in your future. Our home is quiet and peaceful. We decorate for the holidays. Non-smoker. Rent \$400 plus security. Call Tom for more info (414)963-1315 Leave message. [P]

4 SALE, TRADE, PURCHASE
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- Long sleeved - Large size only!! White shirt with green and gold artwork. \$20.00 or best offer - Plus shipping & handling. **NO PERSONAL CHECKS OR CREDIT CARDS!!** Cash, money orders & cashiers checks accepted only!! Send me an E-mail to get my address to send the money: Russack2@yahoo.com or Russack@hotmail.com [1]

Interested in trading or watching Bel Ami videos? **Madison** (608)236-4502

MAKES A PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT!
Original **Dreamgirls** poster framed \$60, also Original **Star Wars** & sequels posters, **Marilyn Monroe**, **I Love Lucy** and other movie posters framed and unframed for sale. 414-384-0660 please leave message with name & phone# & I will return your call. [3]

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Fit, athletic, certified personal trainer will get you started on a workout program. Starting out and looking for a client base. No charge to start up. Gay, Bi and str8 guys. Serious only. Email jonmilw@aol.com [1]

Midwest Adult Entertainment Company hiring men and women 18+ of all shapes and sizes for various upcoming events and projects including but not limited to webcam, film, print/model, escort, dancers, and more. Pay starts at \$50 per hour plus depending on position. No exp required, must have good attitude. Please write to Gotsoulentertainment@yahoo.com with your name, age, location, contact info, 2 recent pics, and a brief self description for serious consideration. Thanks, hope to hear from you soon!!

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50 year old CERTIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST in Appleton offering Swedish relaxation, sports massage and deep tissue massage in my private studio by appointment only. Please call (920)915-4318 Serious inquiries only please. [1/9]

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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 [3/12]

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50 year old certified massage therapist in Appleton offering Sweedish relaxation, sports massage and deep tissue massage in my private studio by appointment only. Please call (920) 915-4318 Serious inquiries only please. [1/9]

PERSONALS

MESSAGES

Out on the town this holiday Season? **Please drive responsibly. DO NOT DRINK & DRIVE**, call Yellow Cab, Green Bay 920-435-1111

Over 50's Men's Group Here's a chance to meet guys our own age on a different level than the bar scene or an in-out hookup. It's an attempt to provide an opportunity for socializing and establishing relationships on whatever level you feel comfortable. (No married bi's please) (920) 495-9714 (best 9-10pm)

David from Madison met you at Captian Dix in the Dells at Logan's going away party. Would like to get together again. Call Keith (715) 423-6742 [2]

CROSSDRESSING

Madison, WI T girl 45 year old white male cd in silky lingerie very good looking seeks part time possible long term part time boyfriend of any race in Madison area who can host at his place. Body contact, hugging, kissing and making love in many different positions including giving oral. to

full. Email me girlfrommadison@yahoo.com girl from madison [2]

Male in Milwaukee 5'10 195# looking for possible crossdressers and transgender tv's or t's for some romantic company I like passible ladies only I like kissing cuddling and whatever eles goes with that. Please call me 262-8801198 or email packyspub@yahoo.com let's have some fun and play

39 yr old seeking passable crossdresser for possible long term relationship prefer Green Bay area unless you are willing to relocate email weekz@net-zero.net [2]

Submissive Crossdresser slender, shaven smooth physically fit 7 1/2 clut/cock ISO phy fit attractive dominant female or lipstick lesbians who'd like to vent on a submissive male. (No fees!) or females pissed off at boyfriend/husband who'd like to vent, humiliate, ridicule, verbally abuse me when I'm dressed up. No sex required, mutual masturbation possible or I can masturbate for you. Others with similar interest write. Send Ideas, info, pics (if possible) RW P.O. Box 541 Kenoash, WI 53141-0541 [2]

Wanted: Lovers of erotic lifestyles. all genders, ages, fetishes, role playing, cross-dressing, corsets, boots, leather, B&D, also want to add more items to my collection. 414-788-4908 7am-10pm Lyle Milw. [2]

MEN looking for MEN

DEAR SANTA, I've been good all year so I hope you will give me a SGWM 45-55 height/weight proportionate D/D free N/S so I can unwrap him on Christmas day. I'm SWGM 56, 5'10" 170# brown/blue D/D free N/S st8 acting. P.S. Santa, I'm only naughty if ake! Freindship, maybe more, possible LTR call Ken 630-217-0158 (Antioch IL) [1]

GWM 45, 185# Brown hair Blue eyes bottom, Lake Geneva/Burlington area. Tan all over likes to be naked, good looking, also likes to kiss, loves to cuddle after sex, non-smoker. Ask for Gary 262-749-9811 [1]

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

Milwaukee area GWM new to scene seeks LTR with right guy after 30yrs hetero relationships, any color, 40-55, d/d-free; singer who wants to make beautiful music with man of my dreams; 6-2, 180, youthful mid-50s, Irish good looks, "class act;" educated & well put together; good conversationalist & listener; sense of humor, passionate & compassionate; many interests, incl. fine arts, good food/drink, spectator sports, progressive politics. Serious replies only; will answer all. htp32851@yahoo.com [1]

Do you need your cock sucked to completion on a regular basis service call? Satisfaction guaranteed. E-mail frank.nitty11@gmail.com

Wisconsin Gay Men! Meet other gay, bi or curious men in your area for FREE! No Games, No Gimmicks, just a quick and easy way to meet hot men in your area. Call 712-930-CHAT (2428) NOW for hot talk and hot action! [P]

53 year old slave seeking controlling and abusive Master who is ready to take full and total control. Master will be denied nothing while slave works and provides for Master. slave wishes to be used and abused, smacked, spit on, beaten and controlled all for Master's pleasure. Bondage, water sports, toilet sports, beatings and giving up all control to Master. If interested call slave at 414-527-1613 [1]

BiWM looking for tops that want to use a submissive fit male for bondage, blindfolds, oral to completion, cock-rings, c*m eating, sho**ers, toys, and you make up the rest. 5'9", 155#, swimmers build, crewcut, goatee, 414-305-0970 Call 7am-5pm only

Fun, funny, creative, hiker, seeks partner for cooking, playing cards, or talking & laughs! 773-585-6275 **Chicago** or P.O.Box 63, Lawrenceville, IL Tommy [1]

Appleton is looking for a person to have a good time with. Please call Ken



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Special Souvenirs 9284 Skyline Drive Allenton, WI 53002 920-488-2704 Open 24hrs.	Select Video 16475 W. Russell Road Zion, IL 60099 847-395-6142 Open Noon-Midnight, Mon-Sat	Sheridan News & Video 12212 S. Sheridan Road Pleasant Prairie, WI 53140 262-694-6769 Open 9am-Midnight
Success Video 1819 Douglas Ave. Racine, WI 53402 262-638-2435 Open 9am-Midnight	Super Video III N6441 5th Ave. Plainfield, WI 54966 715-335-8277 Open 8am-midnight	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">With this coupon receive 15% off any store purchase Offer expires 1/9/08 Not valid with any other offer.</p> </div>

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(920)730-9316 or (920)202-2285 [2]

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

GWM Bear is Looking For Hot Sessions in The Fond Du Lac, Washington, Dodge, Jefferson Countys. Looking for Some Hot Studs that Can Please My Hot Mouth & Cock. Love to Massage Suck, Fuck, Rim, & ? Hit Me Up for some Hot M2M Fun . 40's in Shape & CLEAN - U B 2 . The Hornier the Better. Have Place & Discretion is

assured. E-mail with Stats & contact info to: yourmeat2eat@msn.com Stop In & Blow , I mean Go!

Milwaukee area. GWM new to scene looking for mentor/tutor after 30yrs hetero relationships; 6'2", 180, youthful mid-50s, br/bl, Irish good looks, upbeat, class act, str8 acting; retired human services pro, good conversationalist/sense of humor, not materialistic/consumeristic, politically progressive, many interests; seeks similar male, any color, 40-55, d/d-free. Contact: 32851@yahoo.com

Single GBM 45yo 167# 5'8" hoping to meet a GWM top single man for freindship & dating. I am not into bars much. Some of my interests are movies, jazz, reading history novels & much more. call (414)578-1657 [2]

Looking for buddy! caring, loyalty, a+! I'm decent, not superficial, sex addicted, selfish, love Vegas, beaches, walking, playing games, talking nutrition, travel! 773-569-6333 Tom 3658 W. 79pl., Chicago. pen pal wanted too! [2]

If you are in Green Bay, need orally serviced & have hosting ability I am willing to help you unload. Public places are not totally ruled out either depends on where. I am 40, 5' 10" 250# blond & moderately hairy. I enjoy orally servicing & reciprocation is not mandatory but optional. Married guys are fine as also married so discretion assured. I am not into countless emails so send me your age, stats & phone # to reach you. Pictures are optional & I won't send any due to discretion so please don't ask for one. It would be

awesome to find at least one guy, more would be better, who wants the same. Friends with benefits are better yet. Lets talk! gb_cub@yahoo.com

Bi-M stop in, I'll suck your dick and you'll be on your way. Let's get a nudie group going, suck & fuck all day. Love Latino dicks. Your pleasure is mine. LR Stevens Point-Plover 715-498-0121 [3]

Do you like doing it outdoors? Fisher Creek is open all year. Let's make some heat. peterbiltbig08@yahoo.com [3]

52 yo Bi WM looking for a well hung friend. I'm into oral, anal & spankings. Prefer Waukesha county contacts. 414-617-2283 ask for Frank.

GWM 45, 185# brown hair blue eyes bottom. Lake Geneva/Burlington Racine/Kenosha area. Tan all over, likes to be naked, good looking, also likes to kiss loves to cuddle after sex. Nn smoker. Ask for Gary 262-749-9811 [3]

57 yo SWM 6' 200# ISO 45 to 60 yo. Should have a very hairy chest & hairy back. Call Ron 920-847-2468

Gay 53 yo single male looking for a partner in life. If possible someone in Fox Valley area. So if person was not able to be transit to area because

of job situation a Fox Valley person would be great. Send or call Richard A Lee 102 West Bent Ave Oshkosh, WI 54901 or 920-426-2683 [3]

GWM 58yo 6' 210# like to suck cocks, swallow cum. I would love to learn to be bottom. Looking for Top to train me. Will try anything incl toys. Central Wisc Marshfield area. 715-387-2534 after 6 pm [3]

Dadio is looking for cute 18-30 y/o to liven up your boring weekends with fun and excitement by browsing the malls, sexploring Boystown in Chicago, getting a short one hour nap, I seldom say no to your wishes! Don't you feel great being the millionth caller winning a brand new car, as long as you tell me your phone number, email address and naming the 50 states? 262-654-6208 Call Dadio on CH19 CB radio. [3]

Bi looking for MEN & WOMEN Looking for friends. I'm in 40's, a little over weight, looking for a nice guy or girl to do things with. I have brown hair 5' 5" very lonely, don't like being used, not into games. I like movies, hugging, kissing, dinning. I live alone in Abbotsford WI. If you're lonely as well & like to meet me, please be truthfull & honest. I don't like being used or hurt. Sue 715-223-2639 [1]

Bi-male 45yo 5' 10" 195# looking for Bi-males, couples 25-60 for oral pleasures at your place. MUST be discreet, clean disease free. Oshkosh area 920-251-2343 [1]

African American Couple w/bi female, in early 30's, looking for a bisexual femme to join us for extracircular activities every now and then. Must be disease free, mature, open minded, trustworthy, discreet, and intelligent. A professional person would be ideal. We are located about an hour south of Milwaukee but would be willing to travel or pay for your travel if an ideal match. Serious inquiries only please. Send name, location, age, contact info, pic, and description to wetty2havefunwit3@yahoo.com [1]

Looking for Nude fun in Green Bay. 47yo BiMale 5'10" 185# with 7.5" looking for Men, Women, Couples & Groups for nude fun. (920)339-0006 [2]

Male, 5'9" 175# clean shaven, 6" cut, looking for in shape men or women who have their own place and would love to be orally serviced. Must be disease free. I love to suck multiple cocks and swallow every drop. Respond with stats to ; moon-scape2006@yahoo.com Sunday afternoons work best. Milwaukee area. [3]

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Flaherty Makes It Official Center Advocates Head Submits Nomination Papers for 3rd District Aldermanic Bid

Milwaukee - Patrick Flaherty submitted nomination papers required to put his name on the ballot in his effort to win the 3rd district aldermanic seat here December 21. Flaherty submitted 400 signatures, twice the number required to be placed on the ballot and the maximum accepted by the Election Commission under the law.

"Since I decided to run for this seat, I have been overwhelmed by the show of support I have received," Flaherty said. "The 3rd District needs strong leadership to see us through the challenges we face. My background in non-profit management has prepared me well to be the strategic, results-oriented representative we need at City Hall."

Flaherty touted 14 years non-profit management and networking experience in a press release announcing his formal bid for office. Flaherty has been involved in shepherding community initiatives through the legislative process that resulted in the establishment of a domestic partnership registry for Milwaukee city residents in same-sex relationships, the expansion of protections for transgendered city employees and other programs or funding benefiting the LGBT community.

"In my experience working in non-profit settings and as a community leader, I have seen how effective government can be when it works," Flaherty said. "Unfortunately, too many people feel that government is not working for them. We need a leader who not only understands the legislative process, but who can unite seemingly disparate interests and steer Riverwest and the East Side through the next phase of growth."

Flaherty's platform includes commitments to develop a strategic framework for economic development in Riverwest and the East Side, based on strong resident participation; to preserve and enhance the district's abundant green resources, including the proposed Central park overlay district; and to work to restore public safety.

OutReach Directory Delayed

Madison - OutReach has announced that the 2007-08 edition of the agency's annual directory of LGBT organizations, programs and services has been delayed until early next year.

"Our original publication date of late October, 2007, has been pushed back to January, 2008," Development Director Nikki Baumblatt said in a December 21 press release. "The reason for the delay is the reformatting of this edition from a horizontal to a vertical format."

According to Baumblatt, the format switch made it necessary to tweak virtually every ad in order for it to fit the new format. "In the previous three years what took 15 minutes to layout a page has expanded to almost an hour per page," she said.

"We are working tirelessly to finish up The Directory and will let everyone know as soon as it is ready for distribution," Baumblatt adding, noting the agency is appreciative of the community's support of the guide and its patience with the delay. The OutReach Directory is considered by many to be a definitive source of information about the LGBT community in the Madison area.

Seven Rivers LGBT Center Unveils Rainbow Boutique

LaCrosse - Looking for reasonably priced gay and lesbian items? The 7 Rivers LGBT Center recently opened a new boutique featuring a selection of rainbow-themed bracelets, stickers, ornaments and more with holiday gift giving in mind. Boutique items range from \$2-12 in price. The boutique is located at the center, 303 Pearl Street, and is open Mondays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 5 PM and Saturdays from Noon to 5 PM. For more information, contact the center at 608-784-0452.

Guerra, Price Named To New Positions At Milwaukee LGBT Center

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will reorganize its Development & Marketing functions into two positions effective in January, 2008. The new positions will be Director of Philanthropy and Director of Communications, which will both report directly to the agency's Executive Director.

Angie Guerra will move into the Director of Communications role as an Interim Director. Based on her experience, contacts in the community and her interests, Guerra will work with Director Maggie Cage PhD to develop a strategy for communicating to the community and donors about the wonderful work of the Center and our plans for the future. In addition, Special Events will move under the new Communications position.

"As we move forward toward expanded programming for foster parents, developing more adult activities and planning for a new Community Center space, our communications with the community will be critical to our success," Dr Cage said.

Patrick Price will assume the role of Director of Philanthropy at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Price will expand the agency's current financial development initiatives to

include planned giving, increased major donor cultivation and possibly the establishment of a capitol campaign and endowment fund.

Price is currently the Director of Philanthropy Services for the Midwest Palliative & Hospice Care Center in Glenview, Illinois. In that role he supervised annual and memorial fundraising activities, grants management and prospect research, corporate and foundation relations, and endowments and estate gifts.

Price also has worked as office manager of the Milwaukee dental clinic of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. Price has a B.A. in linguistics from Marian College in Indianapolis, and is currently pursuing an executive education certification from the Center of Nonprofit Management at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Price also is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement and serves as a board member for the Chicago Council on Planned Giving.

Price has been a volunteer for the American Crafts Exposition sponsored annually by The Auxiliary of Evanston Northwestern Healthcare. Patrick is French and Ojibwa Indian, and lives with his partner Daniel Hartmann who is a project manager for an architectural firm.

According to Cage, change is inevitable as the Community Center grows and expands. "I believe the changes over the last year have been very beneficial to the Center and the people we serve. Dr. Cage said. "I expect this new change to better position the Center for the future and our goals for expansion."

Cream City, Local TV Stations Partner On Free To Be Me Campaign

Milwaukee - Cream City Foundation and Milwaukee Channels 18 & 24 (WCGV and WVTM) are working together to create a *Free to Be Me* campaign to help bring awareness of LGBT issues and promotion of LGBT friendly businesses.

The promotional campaign will be a year-round effort with special focus during July for pride month and October for "Coming Out" month. The campaign will feature local LGBT leaders.

"We are very excited about the increased LGBT visibility this partnership will create," Tim Clark, President of the Cream City Foundation, said in a December 21 press release. "Our hope is to have business leaders take this opportunity to promote their services and show their support for an equal Milwaukee - regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

Cream City Foundation will also receive 10% of the total funds raised through advertising related to the campaign to continue its strategic grant making programs.

"The possibility of raising philanthropic funds while promoting and increasing LGBT visibility is of great value to all our grantees and community members," Cream City Executive Director Maria Cardenas told *Quest*.

To learn more about the *Free to Be Me* campaign please contact Maria Cardenas at 414.225.0244 or Lynn Richter at 414-874-1815.

Established in 1982, the Cream City Foundation provides charitable grants to programs and projects that improve the quality of life for LGBT communities in Southeastern Wisconsin. For more information visit www.creamcityfoundation.org.

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Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie

Your Intellectual Whore

(An effervescently gay advice columnist)

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



Uncle Barbie uses his sexuality the way some folks wave a flyswatter.

What Devil?

Dear Uncle Barbie,

All my life I have been told that sinful thoughts and actions came from the Devil. Later, as a teenager, a Catholic priest told me that homosexual desires were from the Devil. Every once in a while, I get the feeling that the Devil has caused a lot of the problems in my life. For example, I have had trouble at work because I sneak food from the kitchen when I am not supposed to. I also feel the temptation to lie a lot, even when I do not have to. I just do. Don't know why. Anyway, I am sure that I am a good person, so it MUST be the Devil who is tempting me. What do you think?

Signed, Time Warrior

Hello Time Warrior,

As I read your question, the thought struck me that you are trying to avoid personal responsibility for your own behavior by putting the blame on this character you call the Devil. This gives evidence of your lack of emotional maturation. Let me be blunt about this: the only devils are the ones of your own creation. It is clear to me that you do not want to face your own dark side, so you choose to believe in some kind of evil crea-

ture that makes you do things that are viewed as bad. No doubt, your parents and religious leaders reinforce this belief system within your mind. It is time to face the fact that your gay feelings are stemming from you. I hate to be the one to tell you this, but your gay desires are a reflection of you—not the Devil. The more you believe in the Devil the more power you give to him or her. So stop feeding him or her your energy and own your own shadow.

I think that Satan, and other demonic creatures, were created in history by the need to externalize the human dark side or shadow-self. People sometimes want someone else or something else to place blame upon for all the destructive events that are otherwise unexplainable (like natural disasters). Of course, those same people would never consider the possibility that God caused the destruction. Consequently, the Devil became a convenient scapegoat. (By the way, this is precisely what you are doing when you blame the Devil for your unethical behavior at work and your compulsive lying.) You also have what we call in psychology a blind spot. Meaning that you are unaware of the fact that you refuse to look at your shadow-self, and instead excuse the negative behaviors that are incongruent with your

idealized-self. It is obvious why people do this: because the incongruent behaviors create a feeling of anxiety, which people attempt to escape from by externalizing the anxiety-producing behavior onto something outside of themselves. This type of blind spot is evident in your question when you wrote, "Anyway, I am sure that I am a good person, so it MUST be the Devil who is tempting me."

So how did all of these misunderstandings come about? Well, historically, it was believed that everything had to have an opposite (black or white thinking). In order for one thing to be holy, something else had to be unholy. All things deemed "good" were thought of as being from God. And anything deemed as "bad" was thought of as "evil" and the direct result of the Devil. The unfortunate outcome of this type of dual thinking is that by believing in a purely divine God, devils are also created as opposites. Worse yet, some members of fundamentalist religious groups make the mistaken assumption that homosexual behavior is a sin, so therefore people who are gay and lesbian must be evil as well. Tragically, by demonizing gay people it makes it easier for the fundamentalists to dehumanize us, which in turn justifies their acts of discrimination, mistreatment, and hatred. Satan was conceived out of human fears and exists only in the minds of those who choose to believe in him or her. You can remedy this dysfunctional belief system by changing your thoughts and attitude. Acknowledge the old beliefs for what they are—historical myths that thrive off of our society's collective belief in them. If you want your demons dead, stop believing in them, and for goodness' sake, take responsibility for your own behaviors.

Happy Transformation, Barbie

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arts & entertainment



AVENUE Q TO MAKE A FEBRUARY CREAM CITY DEBUT



Milwaukee - The three-time Tony Award winning *Avenue Q* will make its Milwaukee debut at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts here February 26 thru March 2, 2008. The smash-hit Broadway musical about real life in New York City is told by a cast of people and puppets through a hilariously irreverent book and score.

Avenue Q tells the story of Princeton, a bright-eyed college grad who moves to NYC with big dreams and a tiny bank account. The only apartment he can afford is way out on Avenue Q, where everyone's looking for the same things he is: a decent job, a stable relationship, and a "purpose." Eventually, Princeton learns to embrace the ups and

downs of city life and realizes that "the real world" isn't so bad, after all.

The *New York Times* hailed *Avenue Q* as "a breakthrough musical of a very different stripe. Savvy, sassy and delicious!" and *Entertainment Weekly* claimed it was "one of the funniest shows you're ever likely to see!"

Avenue Q features music and lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, book by Jeff Whitty, based on an original concept by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx; and is directed by Jason Moore; puppet design by Rick Lyon, musical supervision by Stephen Oremus, choreography by Ken Roberson, scenic design by Anna Louizos, costume design by Mirena Rada, lighting design by Howell Binkley, and sound design by Acme Sound Partners.

Avenue Q is produced by Kevin McCollum, Robyn Goodman, Jeffrey Seller, Vineyard Theatre and The New Group.

Performance dates for *Avenue Q* are Tuesday, February 26 through Sunday, March 2 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 North Water Street, Milwaukee. Show times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 PM; Friday at 8 PM; Saturday at 2 PM and 8 PM; and Sunday at 1 PM and 6:30 PM.

Tickets for *Avenue Q* are now on sale and range in price from \$20 - \$62 depending upon performance time and seating preference. All prices include applicable facility fees, however, additional charges may apply. Tickets may be purchased at the Marcus Center Box Office at 414-273-7206 or through Ticketmaster at 414-276-4545 or by logging onto www.ticketmaster.com.

Groups of 15 or more should call 414-273-7121, Ext. 210 for information and reservations. Due to adult situations (like full-puppet nudity), *Avenue Q* may be inappropriate for kids under 13.

CREAM CITY CHORUS BRINGS CHORAL THEATRE TO MILWAUKEE

Milwaukee - Imagine a choral concert that includes actors, staging, costuming, sets, spoken word, musicians and more: that's choral theatre. A cutting-edge trend still rare on this continent, choral theatre draws on a much wider sampling of the performing arts to enhance a standard choral concert, creating a more engaging - and certainly memorable - experience for the audience.

Although this may be a unique concept among the choruses of Milwaukee, it is nothing new for the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus (WCCC). The group's Artistic Director, Kristen L. Weber, explained that, "Over the last 20 years, the WCCC has added these elements to many of our concerts, one or two at a time."

According to Weber, the group is anxious to take it to the next level. "For our first full-scale endeavor - our April concert - we'll be adding a dozen or more actors and singers, plus making use of staging, costumes and a few well-placed solos," he said.

Weber expects this to "bring to life a world of characters and ideas created through our music." In keeping with its mission to celebrate the diversity of our community through quality choral music, the WCCC's April 12 concert will explore social issues related to compassion.

"Milwaukee has a rich tradition for choral music," Weber said. "It supports more choruses than any other city its size. In addition, Milwaukee's community theatre is bubbling over with incredible talent - talent worthy of professional stages in most communities."

The chorus has sent out the call for actor-singers, ASL interpreters, ASL actors and musicians interested in participating in making choral theatre a part of Milwaukee's performance community. Auditions for actor-singers and other performance roles will be held on January 30 & 31 at 7 PM, and will consist

of readings, sight-singing and movement. Resumes are requested. The group is also seeking a stage manager and stage hands for the event. Additional information can be found at www.creamcitychorus.org/auditions.asp.

The concert, entitled "Safe Harbor: Signs of Compassion," will be held on Saturday, April 12 at UUCW, 13001 W. North Avenue in Brookfield. Tickets are available: \$15 for adult; child rates also available.

More information about the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, the concert, and ticket availability is available online at www.creamcitychorus.org. The group can also be contacted at 414-276-8787, or 315 W. Court Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

THE GODFATHER OF DISCO DANCES HEAVENWARD

Melvin Cheren (Jan. 21, 1933 - Dec. 7, 2007)

Affectionately known as "The Godfather of Disco" for his championing of DJ's, dance music and club culture from the early days of the Disco Movement, Mel began his five decade career in the music business at ABC/Paramount, where he eventually became Head of Production. He held the same position when he moved to Scepter Records. During his tenure at Scepter he was responsible for many innovations such as the first 12 inch record for DJ's and the first instrumental mix on the B-side, earning Scepter the "Trendsetter of the Year" Award from Billboard in 1974. With a former Scepter colleague he formed his own company, West End Records in 1976, which has been associated for over 30 years



with enduring dance classics like "Hot Shot" and "Heartbeat." In recent years West End released popular compilation CD's of remixes and live performances by legendary Paradise Garage DJ Larry Levan.

Mel was the financial backer of the landmark club created by his former life-partner Michael Brody. This history is well documented in Cheren's autobiography, *MY LIFE AND THE PARADISE GARAGE: KEEP ON DANCIN'* published in 2000 and in a recent documentary, *THE GODFATHER OF DISCO*. In 2005 Mel was inducted into the Dance Music Hall of Fame with their Lifetime Achievement Award, an honor which meant a great deal to him. For all of his accomplishments in the music industry, Mel was most proud of his work in support of various causes and

charities and in particular his efforts in support of the LGBT Community and the fight against AIDS. He was part of the vanguard of gay men who first responded to the AIDS crisis in New York in the early Eighties and gave GMHC their first home in his Chelsea brownstone which he later operated for over 20 years as a successful bed-and-breakfast, the Colonial House Inn. He was the founder of 24 Hours For Life, an AIDS charity that was the fiscal sponsor for LIFEbeat, on whose Board he served as a Charter Director. Mel was also quietly a friend to many friends and strangers in need as well as an accomplished painter. A large number of Mel's works of art memorialize friends lost to AIDS.

It is a sad irony that he is a fatality of the same health crisis that he fought so long to eradicate. Even in his last days he took a stand for AIDS pre-

vention in a cautionary interview aired on the LOGO channel throughout the week of World AIDS Day. Mel Cheren is survived and will be greatly missed by many family members, prominent among them being Illya Dehtykar, Mark Cheren and Barry Cheren, as well as a large extended family of close friends, colleagues and fellow activists. An announcement will soon be made about a memorial service/celebration and various memorial benefit parties taking place over the third weekend in January which would have marked his 75th birthday. Donations in Mel's honor can be made to GMHC, 119 West 24th Street, New York, New York 10011; The LGBT Community Center at 208 West 13th Street, New York, New York 10011; or LIFEbeat, 630 9th Avenue Suite 1010 New York, New York 10036.

A FINE FRENZY'S ALISON SUDOL TALKS ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF LIFE, TOURING WITH RUFUS WAINWRIGHT, AND HER HAUNTING DEBUT "ONE CELL IN THE SEA"

Alison Sudol inhabits a vivid imaginary world populated by siren songs and sailors, sightless creatures and fragile fallen eagles, a place where almost lovers and hopeless dreams are bid a melancholy musical farewell. And on *One Cell in the Sea*, Sudol allows the listener inside that often-fantastical world, revealing her inner life via songs *Harp* magazine praised as "fraught, haunted and beautiful." Listen closely, and you will hear echoes of some of Sudol's eclectic array of influences, artists and writers like Elton John, Jane Austen, Radiohead, Lewis Carroll, Philip Glass, Ella Fitzgerald, and Shakespeare (the source for the album's title, a quote from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*).

One Cell in the Sea is the 14-song debut from *A Fine Frenzy*, the lineup fronted by 22-year-old singer/pianist Sudol. The album debuted at #3 on *Billboard's* Heatseekers chart earlier this year and has scanned over 110,000 units thus far. The band, which was the first in 2007 to cross over from the new artist chart to *Billboard's* Top 100, has performed on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and "Last Call with Carson Daly."

"The melodies on this debut are breathless...imbued with piano swells," said *Entertainment Weekly* about *One Cell in the Sea*. "Such attention to the dramatic works wonders on stripped-down tunes like 'Almost Lover,' which lets Sudol's delicate voice take center stage."

In September, Sudol made her acting debut on the season opener of *CSI: NY*. Sudol performed two songs: "Almost Lover," the first single from *One Cell in the Sea*, and "Last of Days," another track from the album. Sudol has been featured in *Vogue*, *Keyboard*, *Rise*, and *A Fine Frenzy* recorded a searing version of "Fever" (the Peggy Lee classic) for the *Dan In Real Life* soundtrack.

Here, Sudol talks about her fervent and fertile imagination, her poetic take on the origin of life, and the strength she derives from her gay fans.

Q: Your lyrics conjure up so many different worlds. Even your love songs seem to exist in another time and place. But the emotional worlds you inhabit are never so surreal that they're frightening. Your imagination seems to give you a lot of comfort.



Alison Sudol: Well, I'm not the greatest at functioning in the world sometimes. I get affected by a lot of things. I'm probably more sensitive than it's smart to be. When I sit down at the piano, it's the safest place in the world to me. I'm able to express myself, and in the process, make some sense out of life. I'm always picking at things, trying to get to the truth. Finding the truth is very important to me.

Q: What does finding the truth mean to you?

AS: People need truth to make sense of things, to be happy, to survive. When I see a movie, and it doesn't ring true, it's very frustrating for me. When I'm writing, I can tell when I'm not duplicating the truth of what I'm feeling. If I can't be honest with myself, then I'm not doing my job.

Q: Many of your songs convey the fragility of life. Hope is an important and regenerative force, but it's not always enough to ward off the mortality inherent in nature. But in your song "The Minnow and the Trout," you question whether it's always necessary for the strong to devour the weak. It's almost written like a fable. Does the song in any way relate to what's going on in the world today?

AS: Yes, definitely. Traveling around the world, I've seen the physical differences that set us all apart—different faces, eye shapes, skin colors. It may sound corny, but people all feel. We're all going for the same things in life.

Q: You sing that we all started from "one cell in the sea," a view that strikes me as both scientific and romantic.

AS: Well, looking at it from a distance, I wonder: do we have to fight with each other? People could live more harmoniously if we remembered that we all came from the same place. If it wasn't one cell in the sea, it was definitely *somewhere*. Whatever your views about the origin of life, you have to believe that all of humanity came from the same place.

Q: An awkward segue perhaps, but I think most gay people have wondered why the world has to be so exclusionary—and even hateful—to them. I definitely saw a lot of gay fans at your show in New York. Guys with guys, girls with girls, intertwined with each other and singing every word. Are you aware of having a gay fan base?

AS: Yes, I'm definitely aware of my gay fans. And I've been on tour with artists who have large gay followings. They're such a strong group—it feels like a real community.

Q: I know you toured with Rufus Wainwright. How was that?

AS: Rufus is awesome—I was so star struck. He is such an incredible performer, and so brave. He's completely himself in every way. He's a wild, funny, cool human being. My hat is off to him.

Q: It's an amazing thing to be able to remain who you are amidst the inevitable process of trying to hit different niches and demographics.

AS: Well, I've been amazed to see all different kinds of people come to my shows this year—grandparents, little kids, gay couples, young hipsters, metal heads, big trucker-looking guys. I always wanted to create music that anybody could relate to. I don't make references to "him" or "her" in my songs on purpose. I wanted guys to listen and be able to think about another guy, girls to think about girls, girls to think about guys. I mean, no matter who you are, we're all just trying to connect, aren't we?

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

NEW ON DVD by Glenn Bishop

Rock Haven

Few gay flicks offer a "first-love" gay love story as sweetly or as simply as does **"Rock Haven,"** a film which adds into the mix the often difficult process of reconciling Christian beliefs with alternative sexuality.

Written and directed by David Lewis, **"Rock Haven"** immediately transports viewers to the scenic seascape of Northern California with a dazzling succession of panoramic shots of waves crashing upon the shore off the small town of Rock Haven. Indeed, there are so many languid shots of waves crashing upon the shore, Glenn pondered if this was meant as some sort of a watery homage to Ang Lee's **"Brokeback Mountain."** Fortunately for most moviegoers, **"Rock Haven"** reaches its heartfelt conclusion in a scant 78 minutes.

Brady (Sean Hoagland) and his mom have just moved to the small but picturesque town of Rock Haven. Devout Christians both, Brady's mom is set to open a Christian school in the fall. Whilst reading his Bible on the oceanfront one sunny afternoon, Brady spies a hot neighbor boy, Clifford (Owen Alabado). Glenn wasn't even a bit surprised that all thoughts of the Bible were quickly forgotten once the new boy has shed his shirt for a bit of sunbathing.

Surely the two boys will meet, eventually, and become friends. Perhaps more?

Brady and Clifford are a study in contrasts. Although the two lads are about the same age, Alabado's Clifford is soon revealed as the more mature. He's a confident young man who has accepted his sexuality, as has his super cool, super wacky mom. After the torment of homophobic classmates, he is drawn to Brady, sensing in Brady something quite unique. So taken is Clifford that even as Brady spouts Bible scriptures at him, he becomes increasingly attracted to the nerdy new boy in town.

Brady, his Bible never far from reach, is due to go to Bible College in the fall. In his eyes, Clifford is too a challenge, someone who has lost faith. Hoagland beautifully captures in Brady an innocence that is at once so naively earnest that in the hands of many young actors, this role would undoubtedly elicit giggles.

Slowly, steadily the two boys do become friends and somewhat more. Unfortunately Lewis's screenplay too often chronicles Brady's tenuous journey in such a simplistic, steadfast manner that Glenn felt as he was watching one of those classic **"ABC Afternoon Specials"** of Glenn's youth. Take, for instance, a scene early in the film and early in their boys' friendship: Clifford decides to offer Brady some tips in seducing a girl – stay with Glenn here – which involves Brady donning a



Buy it, rent it or forget it

Despite their evident similarities, those hoping that **"Rock Haven"** will scale the heights of a knockout film like **"Latter Days"** are apt to be somewhat disappointed here. Both of the leads are cute and their much anticipated coupling even offering a rather surprising full-frontal. Still, no one is likely to confuse these wonderfully ordinary lads with the two hotties from **"Latter Days."** So sweetly done is **"Rock Haven,"** Glenn imagines that if John-Boy ever come out on **"The Waltons,"** his story would have greatly resembled Brady's.

Just the facts...

"Rock Haven" runs approx. 78 minutes and is in English. **"Rock Haven"** is available now with a SRP of \$25.95

All about **"Rock Haven"** at <http://www.rockhavenmovie.com>

DVD extras consist of deleted scenes, behind-the-scenes gallery and original trailer.

brassiere and Clifford fumbling first with the other lad's shirt and eventually his nipples. When Clifford's hands stray down south of the border, Brady's reaction is both immediate and all too predictable: Brady freaks. Perhaps his excessive reaction is due to Clifford's boldness but more likely due to his own arousal. In any case, Brady dashes to church for some serious prayer and once the soul's been cleansed, it is off to a scalding, purifying shower.

Will Brady and Clifford ever manage to get it on? How will Brady's uber-devout Christian mother handle her son's burgeoning homosexuality? Can these two charming young men live happily ever-after in small town Rock Haven?

Shame on Glenn if he were to give away the ending of this charming coming-of-age film.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

by Marilyn Campbell and Curt Columbus
Based on the novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
February 14 – March 9, 2008
Studio Theatre – Broadway Theatre Center

Milwaukee, WI...Milwaukee Chamber Theatre continues its 33rd season with the Milwaukee premiere of a 90-minute adaptation of Dostoyevsky's **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT** by Marilyn Campbell and Curt Columbus, February 14 – March 9, 2008. An off-Broadway production of **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT** just completed a sold-out run.

Raskolnikov, a troubled and poverty-stricken writer, is being interrogated by Porfiry, a policeman investigating the brutal axe-murder of two women. Suspense builds as Raskolnikov unmasks his warped and obsessive philosophy that a crime, however violent, is justified when committed by an "extraordinary" person.



Playwrights Marilyn Campbell and Curt Columbus have condensed Dostoyevsky's lengthy novel into a three-character, 90-minute stage piece. This thrilling deconstruction is an absorbing exploration of murder, motive and the darkest aspects of a human psyche.

The recent New York production received rave reviews and played to sold-out audiences. The New York Times review stated, **"CRIME AND PUNISHMENT**, in a feat that rivals the construction of the Hoover Dam, has been distilled in to a taut 90-minute play." **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT** premiered at the Writer's Theatre in Chicago in 2003 where it won the Joseph Jefferson Award for Best Adaptation.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents a new production of **CRIME AND PUNISHMENT** featuring three talented Milwaukee actors, Drew Brhel, Leah Dutchin and Mic Matarrese. Patrick Holland returns to MCT after directing the blockbuster production of **TAKE ME OUT** in 2006.

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Thank You Sir:

by Jeff Hicks



What's your Fetish?

You may have seen my recent quotation of the Definition of Fetish. With that in mind I will press on with another fetish not far removed from the last column. This one is 'personal clothing' items. We have within modern society / Internet access to sites such as : Undergear; UnderArmour; International Jock, Jockey, etc. There are many on-line places to buy that special garment that will be worn next to your flesh and often in very private areas. For many of us a fascination for these items started when in our early years we saw someone that we thought was a special turn-on with just a bit of, or all of their skivies visible. It may have been while reaching for something overhead, or just stretching. It often did happen when in Gym class or another similar activity when we were all changing clothes and were stripped down to our "undies", or less. We may have been fascinated by briefs, boxer-briefs, jocks, or even boxers all of which could reveal intimate details of your favorite person of interest. It could be the shape of the 'endowment' in the close fitting tighties, or the free movement in loose boxers. Whichever it is it could now have become a bit of a fetish for you. It seems that if you see anyone of appropriate gender in the "right" unders, you find yourself intrigued and starting to be aroused. Within the parameters of our early years of erotic experiences we might now have a casual interest in; or, a massive fetish for 'unders'!

For most it is the Briefs; also known as "tighty-whites". For many reasons these seem to be the most fetish oriented. I could be because of their detail revealing shape, or that they tuck around the male genitalia and therefore gain the most skin contact and with that, the most revealing without actually showing the naked genitals. Also they are available in just about any fabric that you can imagine.

Some people will focus in on the Jockstrap. It must have the 'ribbing' in just the right pattern or no ribbing at all and be a smooth pouch. Whichever your fancy, could have started from who you first saw wearing one. It could be a narrow waist band swimmer style or standard 2 inch wide. It is sometimes a "jock-brief", with a full seat instead of straps. Maybe you might just like a Thong. For others it is the boxers. Plaid / white / colors; or soft knit or broadcloth. Just as long as the guy's package moves when he does and you can see it do so. Then there is the combo: The boxer-brief. snug, close fitting, revealing, not quite the full tuck under & around the genitals but enough to make them quite evident. Beyond that, recent years have brought us many various options in this field. Check any underwear site online and you will find an infinite number of options with some of the varieties that I have mentioned. Many people have a "good time" just looking at the 'online catalogs'. One can also find online sites dedicated to the collecting of catalogs and/or advertising's of contemporary or even "vintage Skivies". Yes, there is an email group dedicated to "vintage Skivies". Most of those are pre-1960.

Then we also have the common T-shirt; or the "wife-beater" AKA - Athletic shirt; And the sleeveless "muscle" shirt. All of these and the many variations from partially torn sleeveless to long sleeve insulated. All have their fascination for the right persons. Even full length Union suits and or long bottoms.

Take all of that and add the Dom/sub or Leather options. Very often if a SIR knows that a sub that he is playing with has an under fetish it can be fueled by using freshly worn unders as the principle object of a gag. This will give the sub the fresh aroma / taste / of SIR! It can be waved near the subs face or teased at his mouth and nose. It is as close to orally serving that a sub can get without quite getting there. To a willing sub this can cause substantial arousal. The withholding of the real thing with this tease can drive a sub to intense reactions. When a guy does not use deodorants but just cleans himself well, and regularly, these carry the delightful aroma of a hot SIR. A persons fresh body aroma can be a true delight. There are many more intense variations of this proclivity but that is not the intent of the moment.

What do you think? E-mail me at bdsmboy1971@sbcbglobal.net

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