

QUEST

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rain on our
Parade!**



**INSIDE: The Full Scoop On Milwaukee's
Pride Weekend In Word & Picture**

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WILD WEATHER WREAKS HAVOC ON PRIDE WEEKEND

Milwaukee - About 90 minutes before the gates opened for PrideFest 2008 on June 6 workers putting the final touches on the 21st annual festival at the Henry B. Maier Summerfest grounds scurried for cover in response to an ear-deafening tornado siren located just a few yards from the Miller Stage. It was an omen that ended up characterizing the weekend.

Record-breaking weather generated by three successive days of multiple storms battered southern Wisconsin June 6-8, caused widespread flash flooding, popped manhole covers throughout downtown Milwaukee, collapsed two buildings four blocks from the city's gay district and stranded hundreds of motorists across the metro area.

Sanitary district officials reported that the city's water mains handled 2 1/2 times the amount of water brought on by a similar series of major storms in 1993. Those storms led to a cryptosporidium outbreak that ended up causing the deaths of 100 residents, many of them HIV+. On June 12, ARCW issued an advisory to their clients to boil city water after local officials said they could not guarantee city water would be crypto free despite the \$93 million treatment process added following the 90's outbreak.

Statewide, the same storms caused rivers to spill over their boundaries, dams to burst and homes to be destroyed when Lake Delton emptied into the Wisconsin River.

Governor Jim Doyle declared 30 counties as disaster areas on June 10. A portion of Interstate 94 near Milwaukee remained closed as late as mid-week due to flood threats.

Only one of PrideFest's three headline shows went off without a weather-related hitch. Though storms and tornado warnings that did erupt Friday afternoon likely depressed early festival-goers, by evening the weather had turned blissfully balmy, a rumored early protest by a neo-Nazi group failed to occur and the only gales were of laughter at the rants of headliner Wanda Sykes "coming out black," emcee Miss Foozie and a host of other comedians.

Sykes performed in front of what appeared to be a crowd on par with last year's record-setting opening night audience. As of issue deadline, *Quest* had not received any official tallies for the weekend from PrideFest but organizers admitted the turnout

Miss Foozie



Headliner Wanda Sykes



was below the record-setting 8,389 attendees who enjoyed *D-List* comic Kathy Griffin in 2007.

Public Relations Director Paul Williams characterized Friday's figures as "good but down" from last year's statistics. "The tornado warnings on Friday came just when many folks were probably making up their mind as to whether or not to take in Wanda Sykes' show," Williams said.

Prior to Sykes' performance, festival organizers kicked off the weekend on a celebratory but serious note. Wisconsin and Milwaukee County dignitaries, including representatives from the office of Mayor Tom Barrett and County Executive Scott

Walker, attended the official opening ceremonies, as well as representatives of fellow ethnic festivals African World Festival, Arab World Festival, Polish Fest, and Festa Italiana and representatives from Summerfest.

During the kickoff PrideFest also thanked its growing number of sponsors. Special recognition was given to Potawatomi Bingo Casino, Joseph Pabst, and Volunteer of the Year Eloisa Valdez for their years of service and support to the LGBT community. PrideFest also received a gift of a woven LGBT pride flag in honor of the 30th anniversary of the rainbow flag's original creation.

PrideFest also acknowledged the tragedy of Miller Brewing Executive Victor Milford's death and the victory of entertainer and hate crime survivor Kevin Aviance.

"When people get away with crime, then other criminals think they can get away with it," Milford's gay partner Chris Van Der Westhuizen told the crowd. "If you allow it in Milwaukee, you will never take your city back. It has to stop and it has to stop now. Not tomorrow, now!"

"We have to protect each other," internationally renowned underground club music artist Aviance said during his remarks. The singer, songwriter and performer was attacked and brutally beaten in New York City in 2006 in a hate crime that garnered national attention. "I am blessed and so grateful to stand here today, because I'm standing here for those who have no voice."

The festival was not so lucky the following day. Though Natasha Bedingfield may claim she has a "Pocketful Of Sunshine" in her current Billboard chart-topper, PrideFest organizers probably wished the sexy Brit diva had emptied her pockets prior to her rain-drenched performance to only about a thousand wildly enthusiastic fans Saturday.

A tsunami-like, super soaker series of storms - the worst single weather event in the festival's 21 year history and one which caused two buildings to col-

Performer Kevin Aviance



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lapse just four blocks from the city's gay bar district - all but emptied the open areas of the Summerfest grounds just hours before Bedingfield took to the stage. A tornado-producing cell passed directly over the PrideFest grounds at 5:20 PM and over the next 7 hours hardy festival goers endured an officially recorded 4-6" of sometimes torrential rain. However, *Quest* later learned that unofficial rain gauges just blocks south of the festival topped 7".



Despite the horrendous conditions, between two to three thousand stayed on the grounds. *Quest* correspondent Steve Vargas estimated about 1,500 sought refuge in the dance pavilion. Hundreds more filled the park's bathrooms or huddled under beer kiosks and vendor awnings.

Prior to the storm, PrideFest had looked to be on course to set attendance records. The mid-afternoon crowds that had mobbed the festival appeared to be some of the largest ever according to veteran attendees.

Numbers from ARCW's food pantry drive conducted at the beginning of the day Saturday also appear to confirm solid early attendance figures. On June 11 pantry director Randy Bash announced about 10,000 food items were donated at this year's PrideFest, similar to the amount gathered in 2006, but about 3,500 below 2007's record-setting drive.

Though the rain dampened their numbers, those who stayed saw their party spirit soar. Some broke into a Capella sing-a-longs to entertain themselves while the official entertainment was suspended. Others resorted to streaking. Some of the leather/Levi men who had been readying for the canceled 8th Annual Leather Show on the Rainbow Stage put their rubber fetish gear to practical use to stay dry.

Others on the grounds left after the repeated heavy downpours wore them out. "After an hour and a half of staying in a crowded bathroom I took my daughter and went back home during one of the breaks (in the storms)," one lesbian mom offered. "Being stuck with a crowd of women might sound like a lot of fun - trust me, it was not!"

Once festival activities resumed around 7 PM, those who had stuck around made the most of it. "The dance area went wild," Vargas said. "People were text messaging their friends telling them to come back and join the fun."

Those who did return were not disappointed by the headline show, emceed by quirkily comic Feast of Fools podcasters Mac Felion and Fausto Fernós. The duo kicked off the evening by bringing out a last-minute addition to the evening's show, gay New York song parodist Ben Lerman

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whose "Unshaven," which lampoons Beginfield's signature "Unwritten" drew laughs and applause.

Drag diva Britney Houston's outrageous parodies the pop-art tunes "Lipgloss" and "Umbrella" then brought more howls of laughter from the crowd, many of whom were huddled under their personal bumbershoots. The crowd also chanted and responded to the hook-driven beats of newcomer Hilary McCrae as if they'd each had owned her new Starbucks CD for years.

And when Natasha



Headliner Natasha Bedingfield

Bedingfield took to the stage, the roar from the crowd sounded as if the entire Miller stage area had been filled to capacity plus. The forty-minute lovefest that followed demonstrated why Bedingfield may end up being considered the crown jewel in this year's PrideFest tiara of stars. Alternating between simmeringly sassy and achingly heartbreaking, Natasha's show will go down as one of the most moving in PrideFest history. It was hard to tell the raindrops from the teardrops on festival goers' faces as she delivered an

electrifying performance of "Unwritten."

The festival did catch one break on Saturday, however. The irresistible forces of Mother Nature and the Bedingfield show effectively turned what some had worried would be of the more negative moments in recent years into an asterisk in PrideFest history: the widely promulgated protest by members of the neo-Nazi National Socialist Movement (NSM).

The barricades were there. The police were there. The TV news crews were there. However it was hard to tell the neo-Nazis were there. About a dozen were standing behind a cordon of police for their own protection. The neo-Nazis also decided to hold their protest without uniforms - "in the closet" so to speak.

In effect, the NSM adherents were all but indistinguishable from several religious groups who counter-protested and the Bash Back Milwaukee group. The neo-Nazis were also outnumbered by active counter-protesters by three to one.

The Bash Back group certainly won the war of words with colorful banners such as "These Faggots Kill Fascists" and "Militant Queers Out Of The Closet." The NSM's "Homosexuality Is An Unnatural Perversion" anal-retentively stenciled on a plain-white placard was typical of that group's message.

The fear violence came not from the neo-Nazis, but from the Bash Back militants. Three were arrested for disorderly conduct. A half hour later it was over, before most of Saturday's festival attendees had even approached the grounds.

"As (local TV station) WTMJ put it, we had a little more 'diversity' than we anticipated," PrideFest public relations director Paul Williams told *Quest*. "PrideFest is a celebration of diversity, even if we don't agree with some of those diverse opinions."

Quest estimated that PrideFest's storm-stymied Saturday overall figures likely were only a quarter to a third of the 13,300 who passed through the turnstiles to see Chaka Khan in 2007. *Quest* correspondents estimated that by the time Natasha Bedingfield went on stage June 7 less than 2,000 people were still on the festival grounds. The crowds were split fairly evenly, with half enduring the ongoing rain in the main stage area and the rest enjoying the somewhat drier environs and bigger beats of DJ Tony Moran in the dance pavilion.

Though the severe weather was an unexpected setback, PrideFest continued Sunday as scheduled with one addition: the fireworks show, drowned out by Saturday's downpour were rescheduled for Sunday evening at 9:30 PM, following the Indigo Girls headline show.

"The show will always go on here, and we're proud that our volunteers, our performers and especially our patrons do not let the rain stop the celebration," PrideFest President Scott Gunkel said in a Sunday morning press release.

PrideFest's Sunday session started and ended stormy. Between those blustery bookends, however, were about seven hours of picture perfect weather that swelled numbers for the 2008 festival's final day, though likely not enough to make up for weather-deflated turnouts on Friday and Saturday.

Skies cleared just in time for the city's annual Pride Parade, the only other event not directly impacted by

the storms. Though four of the 48 official entries were no-shows due to late morning rains, the march still ran over an hour and was enjoyed by 5000 according to the Milwaukee Police Dept., a record turnout for the renewed event.

Still the weather did cause some early concern, according to Parade Coordinator Brett H. "This year the Parade had to deal with a problem which never had to be dealt with, torrential rain," he said. "The decision of the President and Parade Coordinator was that the parade would go on regardless of weather, barring of course weather-related safety concerns. The Parade staff caught a break when the weather cleared just in time around 12:30 PM from there on out the parade went off without a hitch."

"The Milwaukee Pride Parade grew this year to 48 units." Brett added, "including units like Milwaukee Fire Chief Doug Holton, Chicago's own Windy City Cowboys, and the Pioneer Drum and Bugle Corps and Color Guard which is based out of Milwaukee."

The bad was the highly-advertised "surprise ending" for the march. "It was the first time a 'professional' marching band has ever been in a LGBT pride event," Brett said. "The parade lasted a total of 1 hour and 40 minutes, with no incidents or setbacks."



Award winners for the parade were as follows: For Best Float Milwaukee's BOOM took first place, Oshkosh's Club 1226 scored second and Kenosha's Club ICON placed third.

Wisconsin's Rainbow Families won the Best Marching Unit, followed by Milwaukee Triangle's giant rainbow flag in second. The "Keeping Vic's Smile Alive" unit took third.

Top prize for Best Decorated Car went to Milwaukee's City Light Chill, with second going to Za's Publications (*Quest/Outbound*) and third place to Milwaukee entry Rocky Horror Picture Show/Sensual Day Dreams.

Parade units were judged by three honorary judges from around the state. They included Andrew Debaker from northeast Wisconsin's Pride Alive festival, Mark Steward from Madison Pride, and radio personality Marilyn Mee from 96.5-FM WKLH in Milwaukee.

PrideFest's overall Sunday attendance figures may have been similar or even slightly better than 2007's tally of 5778, especially given that the Milwaukee Police Dept. estimated about 5000 attended this year's Pride Parade. However, the

evening thunderstorm that began about a half hour before the Indigo Girls went on stage meant that many made it an early evening, depressing critical beverage sales.

Williams was hopeful about a possible up tick in the festival's final day figures. "A lot of people missed their party on Saturday and seem to be making up for it today," Williams told *Quest* Sunday afternoon.

Main stage show times were set back due to the need to complete the Pride Idol competition, with the semifinals and finals running back to back. That delay resulted in the headlining Indigo Girls starting their set near the height of Sunday evening's thunderstorm. But the duo's hard-core fans were ready with ponchos and umbrellas, and after a false start due to a feedback problem, the 20-year veteran musicians conducted what is best described as a 90-minute group sing with the wildly appreciative crowd. As the Girls nicked off hit after hit - from "Closer To You" and "Shame On You" to "Galileo" - the crowd provided an almost Mormon Tabernacle Choir-like back-up. "This is the most fun pride event we've ever done," Amy Ray and Emily Sanders later told PrideFest staff.

The rescheduled fireworks show followed the Indigo Girls concert, with many attendees huddling to watch the pyrotechnics under the now-empty canopies set up for nonprofit groups. Ironically, less than five minutes after the fireworks ended, so did the rain.

Kevin Aviance's festival closing set was all "snaps and attitude," though he began by dedicating his show to "Chad," who was attacked by a group of men who threw a brick at the Milwaukee youth while walking home from the festival Friday evening. Aviance reiterated his festival-opening anti-violence and self-empowerment message then launched into a sassy, strutting hour-plus long track show that offered up his decade of dance music hits.

Despite the glittering array of musical talent amassed by festival organizers and the powerful performances witnessed by all too few, 2008 PrideFest will probably will be best remembered by state's gay community more for its spectacular meteorology and camaraderie than for its well-received music. Also festival-goers tongues wagged about the possibility of a financial loss, similar to 2003's rain-soaked event before the final note in the Aviance concert was played.

Organizers suggested as much in their only official post-mortem issued thus far. PrideFest President Scott Gunkel issued a statement in part to respond to the rumors about the festival's future following this year's weather plagued event. "Many people have expressed concern for PrideFest due to the unprecedented challenges the festival and its patrons faced over the weekend," Gunkel wrote in his June 10 press release. "Both the weather and a small protest drew attention away from the purpose of this event: to celebrate our lives and our community. However, I want to assure you that neither weather nor protesters can or will stop PrideFest and its merry people from celebrating life, love and the history of the LGBT community."

Gunkel's statement characterized the festival a success. "While weather and protesters can have an impact on the final results of success, our event is still a success nonetheless," he wrote.

While not releasing official attendance figures as had been issued in recent years within 24-48 hours, Gunkel acknowledged the lower turnout. "Our crowds were smaller this year than in previous years, but they were a celebratory, hearty bunch," Gunkel wrote. "Few people left during Saturday's and Sunday's storms; instead, they stayed together and enjoyed what they could and created an atmosphere of community towards each other by sharing a common experience."

Multiple eyewitness accounts from *Quest* correspondents and others present at the main gate would appear to contradict Gunkel's claim that "few people left," especially on Saturday. Though between two to three thousand sought shelter on the grounds during the worst storms on Saturday afternoon, at least an equal number left the Summerfest grounds to seek shelter in their vehicles and other areas outside the festival gates. Most did not return.

With lower turnout came lower revenue Gunkel noted. "PrideFest's revenues will be down this year from previous years," Gunkel continued, "but because of past successes and sound management, PrideFest will not fall. The strong involvement of the festival's many volunteers, who have worked diligently throughout the year to build financial and operational support, has made PrideFest strong enough to weather the storms."

Gunkel went on to honor the hard work of festival organizers and volunteers. "I must acknowledge all those of the Production Team and Board who work all year long; all those volunteer groups and individuals that came together throughout the weekend; and all the sponsors that came forth and supported PrideFest," he wrote. "You have the thanks of PrideFest, the LGBT community and myself for all you have done to create and maintain this strong and wonderful organization known as PrideFest."

Williams echoed Gunkel's cautiously-optimistic assessment of PrideFest finances. "We have a pretty decent cushion built up over the last few years, Williams told *Quest*. "Not spectacular, but it was comfortable. We really can't say how big the loss will be - if there even is one - until all the bills come in over the next 4-6 weeks."

Williams also offered a "rough guess" of 19-20000 attendees, which would be a drop of 29-30% over 2007's record setting event. "We still are missing numbers from several of the gates so the official total is still a day or two away," he told *Quest*. "I know we did do better on Sunday than we did last year."

In all, Milwaukee's Pride Weekend was successful, though storm-subdued. Two of the four major events - PrideFest's Friday evening and Sunday's pride parade - came off without major problems, and PrideFest's Sunday appeared to be winning but wet. Even Saturday afternoon started well on the Summerfest grounds. And for those who directly experienced those final seven hours on Saturday, it will be a memory that will be shared for years, probably even decades to come. Isn't that what celebrations are really all about?

JUNE 17 SEES CALIFORNIA'S FIRST GAY MARRIAGES

San Francisco - California held its first gay marriages on June 17, two weeks after the state Supreme Court quashed a ban on gay marriage in a historic ruling. Prior to the first nuptials, state officials outliend procedures for all new state-officiated ceremonies. The terms husband and wife have been replaced by "party A" and "party B." The new unions are exactly the same in every aspect as typical civilian marriages officiated by state authorities prior to the xcourt ruling.

In an opinion that could have nationwide implications, the California Supreme Court on May 15 voted 4-3 in favor of plaintiffs who argued that restricting marriage to men and women was discriminatory. The ruling added that all California couples had a "basic civil right" to marry "without regard to their sexual orientation."

California is now only the second US state after Massachusetts to legalize unions between persons of the same gender. In the state Supreme Court rulings usually go into effect thirty days after publication. However, state authorities set June 17 as the date for the first marriages to be officiated, since the ruling could be appealed up to June 16. All appeals were denied.

The ruling on gay marriage followed eight years of legal battles that erupted in 2000 when California voters approved a law declaring that only marriages between men and women could be legally recognized. In February 2004, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom defied state law by issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, arguing that existing laws were illegal because they violated equal rights legislation.

A court later halted the issuance of licenses and declared that same-sex marriages that took place during this period were void, but civil rights activists argued that limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples was unconstitutional. In 2005 the San Francisco Superior Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, finding that there was no justification for refusing to allow marriages. But the decision was overturned in 2006 by the California Court of Appeal, which ruled in a 2-1 decision that the state's desire to "carry out the expressed wishes of a majority" was sufficient to preserve the existing law.

California lawmakers have also voted twice in favor of gay marriage but the bills were vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, who urged court decisions in the issue in his veto messages. Schwarzenegger later announced the he would respect the Supreme Court's decision.

After the ruling, a coalition of so-called "religious and social conservative" groups vowed to add a vote calling for a ban on same-sex marriage when California goes to the polls in November's election. In early June state election officials have ruled the sponsors of the vote had gathered enough signatures to force the issue onto the ballot and scheduled the vote. Schwarzenegger has said he would not support the measure.

The most recent polls suggest that Californians in favor of gay marriage outnumbering those against by a 52-41% margin, in stark contrast with the 59-28% advantage gay marriage opposers had in the first survey the group took on the issue in 1977.

NEW YORK VOTERS SUPPORT GOVERNOR'S DECISION TO REGOGNIZE GAY MARRIAGES

Albany - So-called "social conservative" types often seek popular support for their anti-gay stances by using the time-worn phrase "let the people decide." If a recent poll is accurate, the people have decided: to support New York Governor David Patterson's recent decision for the state to recognize gay marriages performed out- of-state.

A Quinipiac University poll released June 12 showed that voters supported Patterson by a 53'40% margain, though they would have preferred the state legislature to review the issue as well. When asked about their support for gay marriage and civil unions in general poll'takers found voters supported some type og legal recognition by a 73 to 21% margin, with 42% supporting full marriage equality and 31% supporting civil unions.

Paterson had told state agencies to recognize same-sex marriages performed in states and countries where they are legal made public May 28 by gubernatorial spokesperson Erin Duggan.

The governor's legal counsel told state agencies in a May 14 memo to revise policies and regulations to recognize same-sex marriages performed in California and Massachusetts as well as Canada and other countries that allow gays and lesbians to marry. The memo also informed state agencies that failing to recognize gay marriages would violate the New York's human rights law, according to Duggan.

The directive came in response to a February ruling from a New York state appeals court that said legal same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions are entitled to recognition in New York. "This was in direct response to a court ruling," Duggan told cable news service CNN. "Just to make sure all the state agencies are on the same

page." Duggan added that the court's decision was consistent with the findings of several lower courts in New York State.

The governor's legal counsel had sent the memo one day before the California Supreme Court struck down a ban on gay marriage in that state. Court officials in California counties began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples on June 17.

Patterson's decision caught everyone by surprise, then set of a storm of protest from Republicans, out of state "Christian" legal and other "family" front groups of the so-called "Regligious Right." GOP New York Senate Joseph L. Bruno consulted with lawyers about the constitutional questions raised by the decision. The James Dobson-founded and Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund filed suit in conjunction with five Republican lawmakers on June 4 to halt implementation of Patterson's directive.

Patterson's decision also put New York in a unique position among the 50 states: it is the only state to recognize out-of-state unions while prohibiting gay marriage and civil unions within its borders. Neighboring Canada, which shares the popular wedding destination Niagara Falls with the Empire State, Massachusetts and California permit same-sex marriage, though Massachusetts largely prohibits out of state residents to wed there.

New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey and Connecticut permit civil unions which also appear to be covered by the Patterson memo. More than a dozen other states give same-sex couples some legal rights but not full legal status of the relationship. Those do not appear to be covered in Patterson's decision.

SCOUTS LAUIT: "OUR BIGOTRY SHOULD BE RENT-FREE"

Philadelphia - A Boy Scouts chapter engaged in a long fight over gay rights has sued the city of Philadelphia to try to avoid paying \$200,000 a year in rent to stay in the city-owned space that has been its headquarters for eighty years.

The Cradle of Liberty Council historically had essentially operated rent-free, paying a token \$1 annually for the space, but the city has given it until May 31 to open their membership to gay scouts or start being charged the fair-market rent. The federal suit filed May 30 accused the city of censorship for targeting the Scouts but maintaining free or nominal leases with other groups that limit membership, such as Baptist and Roman Catholic church groups and The Colonial Dames of America.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2000 that the Boy Scouts, as a private group, have a First Amendment right to bar gays. But the policy has had consequences, with municipalities, charities and donors withholding support. "We will not allow discrimination in providing services on city property," Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter said following the Scouting council's action.

A quarter-century old Philadelphia city ordinance enacted in 192 bans discrimination based on sexual orientation and other grounds. "We're not punishing them for not admitting homosexuals," City Solicitor Shelley Smith explained. "But they can't get free rent and violate our policy."

Smith said the city was unaware of any discrimination by other groups with city-subsidized space, but that it would investigate any complaints.

The Cradle of Liberty Council oversees about 300 troops in Philadelphia and two suburban counties. The suit claims the council serves about 70,000 children, including 50,000 in the city. The Scouts also allege that the higher rent would force them to cut programs.

"They're providing a tremendous public benefit. They're giving back a whole lot more than what they get from the city," the lawyer representing the Cradle of Liberty Council claimed.

Ironically, the Cradle of Liberty Council had adopted an explicit nondiscrimination policy in 2003 after negotiations with the city. But it was forced to rescind it when the Boy Scouts of America said Philadelphia Scout officials could not deviate from national rules barring participation by anyone who is openly gay.

The Cradle of Liberty Council then negotiated compromise language that barred "unlawful discrimination," but also continued to follow the Mormon-driven national organization's rules.

The city owns the Beaux Arts headquarters constructed in 1928 and the land beneath it. The Scouts claim to have spent about \$60,000 a year to maintain the building, and another \$1.5 million for renovations in 1994, according to the lawsuit.

The building would be far from the first loss associated with the Boy Scouts' anti-gay policy. Film director Steven Spielberg resigned from the national group's advisory board. The city of Berkeley, Calif., stopped lending its marina for free to the Berkeley Sea Scouts. United Way chapters stopped funding programs, and the Defense Department stopped sponsoring troops.

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TOE-TAPPER TO PEN TOILET TELL-ALL TALE

Boise - Disgraced Idaho Senator Larry Craig claims the new book he is writing will focus on energy policy, but also spend some additional energy detailing the turmoil that trailed his notorious 2007 arrest as part of a Twin Cities airport sex sting. The 62 year-old Republican conservative finally announced his retirement after flip-flopping several times on the issue. Craig will leave the Senate in January 2009 after serving three terms.

In a recent TV interview Craig claimed his book will cover energy issues, but also reflect on his political career. He says the book will also examine his spin on the events unfolded last year after he was arrested by an undercover officer in a men's room in the Minneapolis airport. Craig also added that the tome could hit the book stalls sometime next year.

FASHION GREAT YVES SAINT LAURENT DEAD AT 71

Paris - Yves Saint Laurent, considered by many to be one of the greatest fashion designers in *haute couture* history, succumbed following a long illness here June 1. The openly-gay designer's three-letter monogram became synonymous with style, contributing to numerous fashion movements from 1950 to 2000.

When Saint Laurent famously bid *adieu* to his art at a Paris press conference in January 2002, he read a statement from behind his trademark thick, dark-rimmed glasses. "I tell myself that I created the wardrobe of the contemporary woman, that I participated in the transformation of my times," he said.

"For a long time now, I have believed that fashion was not only supposed to make women beautiful, but to reassure them, to give them confidence, to allow them to come to terms with themselves."

Saint Laurent is also credited with coining one of fashion's industry's most oft-repeated mantras: "Fashions fade, style is eternal."

Wisconsin News & Events

Milwaukee - Milwaukee's Saturday Softball League (SSBL), NAGAAAFest 2009 Gay Softball World Series (GSWS) host, has launched its new tournament website at: www.nagaaafest.com. At its world series bid conference in Seattle last February, the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) awarded the 33rd annual Gay Softball World Series in 2009 to Milwaukee's SSBL. Since then, SSBL-GSWS committees have been hard at work preparing for the greatest gay world series ever held.

"NAGAAAFest 2009 promises to put world class into the Gay Softball World Series. August 28 to September 7, 2009 will be eleven days Milwaukee, the LGBT community and NAGAAA's 37 leagues will never forget," SSBL Commissioner Brian Reinkober told *Quest*.

GSWS mascots Ms. Ruthie and Veltetta are the site's featured guides. They will post a series of video vignettes in addition to the ones already ready to view.

The duo's zany Milwaukee adventures will lead visitors through the site.

SSBL LAUNCHES 2009 GAY SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES WEBSITE

The site features complete GSWS coverage with dedicated Tournament, Party - Events and Visit Milwaukee sections. Each section features instant access to details about all GSWS aspects including sponsorship, parties, city



amenities, volunteering or donating opportunities and media coverage.

An extensive World Series section provides complete tournament information with maps and directions to fields, game schedule, host hotel descrip-

tions and links for making reservations. A special Hall of Fame page honors NAGAAA's veteran softball heroes and will post NAGAAAFest Hall of Fame event news.

Clicking the "Party" button will bring web surfers to the Opening Ceremony at the lake front's Henry Maier Festival Park that will feature national name entertainment, the NAGAAAFest Idol - a talent show to be held at the Pabst Theater - as well as all the other parties, the street bash and closing celebrations.

Users can also register for GSWS email updates. These will be issued throughout the year leading up to the 2009 NAGAAAFest to provide teams, player, fans and friends with the latest GSWS news and information.

By clicking a special Volunteer button the site will offer visitors the opportunity to complete volunteer information and a registration sheet.

Go to www.nagaaafest.com & sign up now!

HIRING FREEZE ANNOUNCED AT MILWAUKEE LGBT CENTER

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee LGBT Center has announced a hiring freeze due to concerns about future fundraising and development due to the current downturn in the state and national economy.

The immediate impact of the hiring freeze will result the Center not filling the Director of Communications and Director of Public Affairs positions at this time. Paul Williams, who the Center announced in mid-May as the for Director of Communications, will remain at his current position in the private sector.

This appears to be the second staffing setback for the LGBT Center in the last 18 months. A 2007 staff restructuring resulted in the loss of 1.3 full-time equivalency positions. The restructuring eliminated the position of Project Q founder Kurt Dyer, who later accepted a position as Associate Director Of Prevention at ARCW.

"We want to continue to be good stewards of the charitable contributions and grants provided to the Center in support of its existing and developing programs and services," Center Executive Director Maggi Cage, Ph.D explained in an official press release. "To do so requires that we move judiciously in our financial decision-making for the next several months."

MILWAUKEE CHALLENGE PARTY RAISES \$50,000+

Milwaukee - The Challenge Party, considered by many to be Milwaukee's toniest gay fundraiser, was held at the home of philanthropist Joseph Pabst here June 13. In all over \$50,000 was raised to benefit the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee LGBT Center and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

Over the years the invitation-only event has raised over a half-million for Milwaukee LGBT not-for-profits.

PRIDE ALIVE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS, SETS FUNDRAISER

Green Bay, Appleton - Pride Alive announced at a June 10 town hall meeting that it will need to fill "between 100 to 150 volunteer hours" in order for the event to function smoothly. Festival organizers detailed the full schedule for the day-long July 12 event to be held at Joannes Park here at the meeting. Pride Alive co-chair and volunteer coordinator Andrea Schultz detailed the multiple job tasks needed to be filled in the event's nine areas, from ticket sellers to beverage servers. To volunteer at the event, Andrea offered her phone (920-562-3830) and her email (info@newpride.org).

In addition to five entertainment acts including the popular Green Bay rock outfit Annex as the festival headliner, Pride Alive co-chair announced that over 30 food, retail and non-profit vendors will be present at the festival, along with a number of educational and cultural presentations.

DeBaker also announced the colorful re-design of the group's website and new viral video on the festival's MySpace page, which is linked to the main website at: www.newpride.org. He also displayed the official festival poster which is in the process of being distributed at gay-owned and LGBT-supportive sites from Marinette to Sheboygan, and including the entire Fox Valley to Fond Du Lac.

Schultz and DeBaker also promoted the upcoming Pride Alive fundraiser. Pride Alive in conjunction with the Harmony Café and Angels of Hope MCC will host a fundraising barbecue and beer bust Sunday, June 22 from 2-7 PM at Rascals Bar & Grill, 702 E. Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton. Cost for the beer bust will be \$9. The barbecue dinner will run from 4-6 PM at a cost of \$5 per person. Attendees must be 21 year of age or older to participate.

The event will underwrite the copyright fees for the planned July 11 showings of the film "For the Bible Tells Me So" at the Harmony Café, 124 N. Oneida St. Show times will be 7 and 9 PM and admission is free. The film portrays in a "Dateline

NBC" style several stories of how people of different religious beliefs react and interact when they find out they have children who are lesbian or gay.

The film will be the kick-off event for Pride Alive, the northeast Wisconsin festival celebrating the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community, their friends and allies. The day-long music and cultural festival will run from 11 AM - 9 PM at Joannes Park in Green Bay on July 12.

CREAM CITY FOUNDATION OFFERS SUMMER FUN

Milwaukee - Over the next three months, the Cream City Foundation will offer a series of festive summer engagements. Up first will be the Stepping Out Fashion Show at Cuvee, 181 N. Broadway, on June 23 beginning at 7 PM. Doors at 5:30 and the event is free and open to the public. The fashion show will feature presentations by Fred, Exclusiva Salon, Stephanie Horne, Bronze Optical, Shoo, Ma Jolie, Aala Reed, Florentine Opera, and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

On July 10 the Center will offer the summer party everyone waits for, "My Best Friend is Straight!" the event will begin at 5:30 PM at the beautiful home of Andy Nunemaker. Tickets range from \$25 to \$250. Last year's party sold out, so buy tickets early at www.creamcityfoundation.org.

The 'My Best Friend is Straight!' party is sponsored by Ernst & Young, *Citigal* Magazine, Eat Cake, Terri Coughlin, Laura Emir, Linda Honold, Robin Jens, Mary Louise Mussoline, Joseph Pabst, Ralph Resenhoeft & Louis Horvath, Kurt Schummer of Prudential Financial Services, Richard Steele & Robert Parish, and Sara Stum.

Cream City's annual day on the links has been set for August 2nd 11 AM. Golf FORE Equality! will feature singer-songwriter Tret Fure as the celebrity golfer. Attendees may bid online between June 20 to 30 for a chance to be in Tret's foursome. Tickets include 18 holes of golf at Silver Spring Country Club, dinner, and entertainment by Tanya Atkinson and Yolanda Roth. Visit www.GolfForeEquality.org for tickets and more info. Presented by Prudential Financial Services.

RAINBOW OVER WISCONSIN AWARDS ARCW \$5000 PREVENTION GRANT

Green Bay - At a time of a resurgence in new HIV/AIDS cases being reported in the state's gay male community, Rainbow Over Wisconsin has awarded \$5,000 to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin to continue its prevention outreach among men who have sex with men in central, northeast and eastern Wisconsin.

The grant will fund distribution of condoms and other safer sex items in gay bars and other LGBT friendly venues in ROW's service area. Funds will also be spent of internet educational outreach through the I'mSexED chat room outreach project. The grant will also help underwrite rapid testing and outreach efforts by ARCW's Bag Boyz at gay events in northeast Wisconsin, including the Pride Alive festival being held in Appleton and Green Bay on July 11 and 12 respectively. ROW is also the lead sponsor for the Pride Alive event, serving both as the festival's fiscal agent and it's largest funding source.

Founded following 1995's "Alive With Pride" picnic, Rainbow Over Wisconsin has, as of 2007, distributed over \$100,000 in grants for over 60 projects to over two dozen LGBT member and LGBT supportive organizations throughout the state of Wisconsin through its Community Enrichment Fund (CEF). Additionally ROW's assumption of the Guernsey Gala project in 2003 has allowed the state's longest-running gay bar community fundraising event for people living with HIV/AIDS to surpass \$153,000 in the gala's lifetime. Details for a re-imagined version of the 17th annual Guernsey event with participating gay venues from four cities will be announced shortly.

For more information about Rainbow Over Wisconsin, visit the ROW website at: www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org.

POPULAR NOVELIST NICK POFF TO APPEAR AT OUTWORDS BOOKS

Milwaukee - Nick Poff, author of the popular *Handyman* series is a novelist on the rise and the Outwords Books Gifts & Coffee is pleased to welcome him here Tuesday, June 24 at 7 PM.

Just published is "The Handyman's Promise" (Authorhouse paperback \$15.95), the third book to feature handyman Ed Stephens and his dream man Rick Benton. The first book in the series, "The Handyman's Dream" was published in 2005. The follow-up, "The Handyman's Reality," was published in 2007, and is currently a finalist for Foreword Magazine's Book of the Year in the category of gay/lesbian fiction.

"The Handyman's Dream," a humorous, heart-warming love story of two "average Joes" set in small town America, is just the sort of story which has been practically unheard of in Gay Men's literature. Setting the series in the early 1980s offered Poff the opportunity to recreate a portrait of gay life before AIDS, complete with references to all of the popular songs and important world events.

"For many years I felt there was room in the gay fic-

tion world for some tender, romantic, optimistic stories about average guys in the Midwest," Poff said. "The *Handyman* series was born of that belief."

Nick Poff is an Indiana native, currently living in Fort Wayne. He began a long career in the radio business at the tender age of 16. He cheerfully admits that was back in the days when disc jockeys actually spun records. He had always harbored a desire to write stories, and has taken a break from full-time radio work to pursue that goal.

Poff has been gratified at the



enthusiastic response to Ed and Rick - the heroes of the *Handyman* series - and believes readers will be equally responsive to "The Handyman's Promise." "Faithful fans will be pleased to find answers to some lingering questions in this latest book," Poff said.

Nick Poff will read from "Handyman's Promise" beginning at 7 PM on Tuesday, June 24 at Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee. This is a free event and all are welcome. Outwords Books is located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. For further information, please call 414-963-9089.

Mr. & Miss Bay City USofA

Preliminaries to Mr. & Miss Wisconsin USofA

Saturday
July 26th, 2008

The Shelter
Green Bay, WI

Registration 7pm Interview 8pm
Contest 10:30pm \$35 Entry Fee



Christina Chase, Miss WI USofA 2008

Tophar Chase, Mr. WI USofA 2008



Miss Categories:
Interview, Evening Gown, Talent

Mr. Categories:
Interview, Club Wear, Talent

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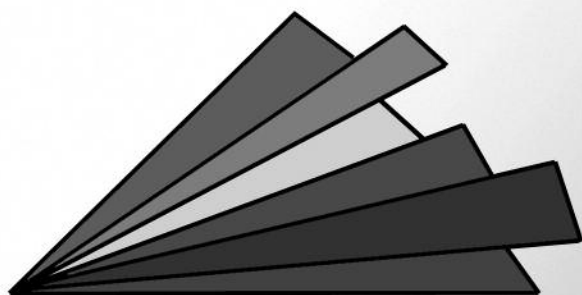
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www.WI-USofA.com





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- **Double D Entertainment DJ/Karaoke.**
- **Head Liner – Leah Jee and the Boys from Milwaukee.**
- **Ladder Balls (Testicle Toss) Tournament - \$100 Cash Prize.**

www.centralwisconsinpride.com

Diversion of the Day

Quest's Events Calendar

Saturday, June 21

Club 1226 (Oshkosh) Miss Gay Fox Valley USofA See *ad this issue*

Madison Gay Video Club *Shelter* (Genius Ent., dir. Jonah Markowitz, '07) *Jock Itch* (Raging Stallion, dir. Jake Deckerd, 08) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (eve)

Shelter Club (Green Bay) Josi Lynn and friends show 10:30 pm

Sunday, June 22

Fluid (Milwaukee) AIDS WALK Bingo! 4 pm \$20 donation for a chance to win one of many prizes worth hundresof \$\$\$ Silent auction & raffle too.

Tuesday, June 24

Midtowne Spa (Milwaukee) BESTD Clinic Free 30 minute HIV testing 6pm - 8:30pm

Outwords Books (Milw) Author! Author!! Nick Poff Popular novelist Nick Poff will read and sign copies of his new novel, *Handyman's Promise*. 7pm

Thursday, June 26

Shelter Club (Green Bay) Free HIV testing 7:30-9:30pm provided by ARCW

Friday, June 27

Club 1226 (Oshkosh) Free HIV testing 9pm - 11pm

Saturday, June 28

Club 1226 (Oshkosh) AIDS Walk Kickoff fundraiser

Shelter Club (Green Bay) Annual Hoedown Party 10pm

Sunday, June 29

Fluid (Milwaukee) Drag queen Bingo! 4pm

MONA's (Milwaukee) Miss Brew city USofA See *ad this issue*

Thursday, July 3

La Cage (Milwaukee) Fireworks After Party 10pm No cover

Friday, July 4

La Cage (Milwaukee) Special 4th of July Transformations show 11pm

Shelter Club (Green Bay) Sparkler Spectacular Show 11pm after Green Bay's Fireworks

Sunday, July 6

Shelter Club (Green Bay) Phoebe Sparkles Pool Party noon-6pm

Wednesday, July 9

MONA's (Milwaukee) Three Strikes Productions Variety Show Talent Contest - Cash Prize & More Hosted By : Dominique Mahon Sign Up Before 9:30pm Showtime @ 10pm - \$3 Cover

Thursday, July 10

5:30pm - *My Best Friend is Straight!* The summer party everyone waits for! Find out what all the talk is about! Hosted at the beautiful home of Andy Nunemaker. Last year we sold out, so buy your ticket early at www.creamcityfoundation.org.

Friday, July 11

Club 1226 (Oshkosh) Amature Night

Saturday, July 12

Pride Alive! Joannes Park - Green Bay 11am-9pm

Sunday, July 13

Club 5 (Madison) Miss Isthmus USofA Pageant a new prelim for Miss Gay WI USofA

Monday, July 14

Outwords Book Club 7pm Discussed Timothy Conigrave's poignant memoir, *Holding the Man*

Tuesday, July 15

The Lesbian Reading Group @ Outwords 7pm The book to be discussed is JLee Meyer's *Hotel Liaison* All interested readers are always welcome to join in.

Wednesday, July 16

MONA's (Milwaukee) Three Strikes Productions Diva Revue Female Impersonators & More Showtime @ 10pm - \$3 Cover

Saturday, July 19

KRUZ (Milwaukee) CastawaysMC Beer/Soda Bust/Leather Picnic 3-7pm Theme "PIGS in a Blanket" prizes will be given away Donation \$1.00 a ticket or \$5.00 crotch to floor

Tuesday, July 22

Midtowne Spa (Milwaukee) BESTD Clinic Free 30 minute HIV testing 6pm - 8:30pm

Saturday, July 26

Shelter Club (Green Bay) Mr. and Miss Bay City USofA Pageant 10:30pm

Saturday, August 2

11am - Golf FORE Equality! Featuring Tret Fure as the celebrity golfer! Bid online between June 20th and June 30th for a chance to be in Tret's foursome! Tickets include 18 holes of golf at Silver Spring Country Club, dinner, and entertainment by Tanya Atkinson and Yolanda Roth. Visit www.GolfForeEquality.org for tickets and more info. Presented by Prudential.

Tuesday, August 19

Midtowne Spa (Milwaukee) BESTD Clinic Free 30 minute HIV testing 6pm - 8:30pm

email your event to be listed to editor@quest-online.com

Weekly Bar Specials	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Art Bar	Free Pool \$2 Mystery Beer	2fer Tuesday 2-4-1 til 12am	Double It for a Buck!	\$5 Martini	\$5 Margaritas	\$2 Shot Special	\$4.40 Bloody Marys
Ballgame	2-4-1 Rail Day	\$3 Jagermeister Bombs	Tuesday & Thursday 9pm Pull tabs	Drinks as low as 25¢	May Drink Special: \$2 Shots of Doctors	Check out the new music system!	
BOOM	2-4-1 Pitchers Miller Lite	Karaoke w/ 2-4-1 Leine's	Bad Boys Nite Out	\$3 Tall Pinnacle Flavored Vodka	Beer Bust 5-9 pm	Beer Bust 2-6 pm	Open 2 pm
City Lights Chill	\$1 Mugs	\$2 Shots	\$4 Mug and a Shot	\$2 Domestic Bottle Beer	\$4 Martini & Cosmo	12" Pizza & Pitcher for \$12	\$3 Pints Rail Mixers
FLUID	2-4-1 All Day & Nite	\$3 Jagermeister & Bacardi O Bombs	\$1 off Miller Bottles	\$3.50 Cosmos	Tue-Fri Happy Hour 5-8pm	\$4 Long Islands/Long Beach	\$3 Rail Bloody Mary, Screws & Greyhounds
LaCage	Movies 'n \$4 Martinis	Male Dancers \$4 Effen Mixers \$6 Effen Martinis	2-4-1 Drinks all nite	\$4 Mixers \$6 Martinis DJ Wizz Kid	Trans-Fromation Female Impersonators	2-4-1 Absolute, Grey Goose & Effen Drinks	
MONA's	2-4-1 Beer wine rails call	Happy Hour 3-7 Free Pool	Happy Hour 3-7 Chicken sandwich & wraps 2-4-1	Happy Hour 3-7 \$3 cosmos & pull tabs	Happy Hour 3-7 \$6 Long Island 9-cl	50¢ Taps \$2.50 bottles (ask) \$3 Smirnoff Twisted & Mike's \$2 cans Blatz & PBR	Beer bust 6-10 \$2.50 Bottle Beer (ask) \$3 Smirnoff etc
SWITCH				Karaoke after 8pm	Male Strippers 10:30pm	Saved@Switch DJ Doug	Male Strippers 10:30pm
TRIANGLE	\$2 Absolute Drinks	2-4-1 All Night	\$2 domestics & Texas Hold'em	Thursday Nite Show	Bacardi Fridays \$3 shorts \$5 Talls	2-4-1 Taps 6am-Noon Friday, Saturday, Sunday 3rd shift Happy Hour	Guise n Dolls 10:30pm

This handy guide is available Free to any Wisconsin LGBT Bar that is a regular advertiser in Quest or Outbound

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



Surviving a Chaotic Childhood

My Dearest Uncle Barbie,

I am a near forty something woman who was taken away from my parents as a small child and given to my aunt. My other six siblings were sent to foster homes. My mother was a raging alcoholic, and my father was present but not present. Anyway, due to health issues, no foster home would take me (thankfully things have changed a bit since then...). Growing up, I always wanted to be a part of a family. My aunt would always introduce her two biological daughters, and then introduce me as "my brother's girl." After a decade and a half of this, you kind of get the idea that "YOU ARE AN OUTSIDER!" Thankfully, my cousins have always treated me as a sister, for better or for worse.

Now comes the fun part! My biological siblings and I have always held each other at arm's length. I have watched them drink themselves into oblivion, beat their children, go in and out of jail, and use every person they have come into contact with. When I left my aunt's house and got out on my own, I allowed myself to be pulled into only one situation where my oldest brother tried to use me to get drugs and booze, and I said, "Forget it."

I felt the only way to keep out of all of their drama was to just remove myself from the situation. So I got a job on the other side of the world, met my husband, moved back to the states, and now live here in Minnesota, far removed from their craziness.

As I am getting older, I think I'm emotionally mature enough to try to bridge the gap with my biological family. I talk to my mom by email (she is no longer drinking and has been dry for years). I have tried to reach one of my brothers and his new wife, but he won't answer any of my emails. Now, a different brother is in the last stages of his battle with AIDS, and my mom has told me that he doesn't have long to live. This brother is an interesting fellow; he insisted he got the disease through IV drug use and told me many years ago that he hated having the disease because every-one thought he was a "fag." I told him at that time that I didn't care how he got it. The cause was irrelevant to me. Well, as the years passed, it came out (or should I say, he came out?) and told us he was bisexual. He is divorced from his wife, but they still live together. Apparently, my wonderful biological siblings set upon him like a pack of wolves when they heard this news, and he has withdrawn from the family (much like I did). My

mom tells me that he is now withdrawing from her, as well. She has been trying to bring him back into the family for years.

So, after all that, my question is this: How can I reconnect with my brother? I have a feeling that he will take my attempts to contact him as pity and will get annoyed. I don't want to get him worked up. I just want to let him know that I'm sorry we haven't been closer. I don't want my brother to die feeling like his family doesn't love him. Soooo. Any thoughts?

Signed, Confused in the City

Hello Confused City Girl,

Thank you for having the courage to open up your heart and share your personal story with me. It takes a special person to have that kind of strength. One of the nice things about being an advice columnist is that I have the privilege of being able to read the deeply touching narratives from readers. If the people from your childhood did not appreciate you, that's their problem--not yours. Based on your description, your siblings are a bunch of sociopathic users who treat others as objects to be exploited. (Yeah, chemical dependency and narcissism make for an ugly mix.) If some of your brothers don't return your emails and refuse to reconnect with you, then accept that. You have done your part in the communication process by letting them know that you would like to re-establish contact. The rest is up to them. If they do not respond, don't push it--it will only drive them further away.

I am proud of you for showing support to your brother who is dying of AIDS. I have seen many cases where families have turned their backs on their own kin because of HIV and AIDS. When I was finishing my doctoral dissertation on hypnotic pain management, I did a year of volunteer work serving people living with AIDS. It was especially heartbreaking during the holiday season because most of them would not even get so much as a card or a phone call from their parents. I truly do not understand how a mother or father can abandon their own child just because that child is dying from a disease (like AIDS) that carries a negative social stigma. It's NOT shameful to have a family member with HIV/AIDS; it IS shameful to have so much prejudice and condemnation for a loved one that you turn away when that person needs you the most. Regardless of what religion you subscribe to, every major religion in the world teaches that we should all love one another. Maybe AIDS is not so much a curse as it is a test of our love.

You asked how you can reconnect with your brother. There is no magical formula. Just send him a letter expressing your compassion and your love for him. If he writes you back, great! If he does not, there is really not much else you can do. Be at peace knowing that you have told him how you feel. Once again, congratulations for having survived such a crazy childhood. You are a beautiful soul. **Compassion with Pride, Barbie**



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BIG BOW WOW

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Much like most loyal *Quest* readers, Glenn spent much of last weekend dodging monsoons at PrideFest – but wasn't it just too, too much fun hanging out in the Dance Pavilion watching all those hot-bodied bois shaking their groove things whilst thunder and lightning, rumbled and blazed just outside?!

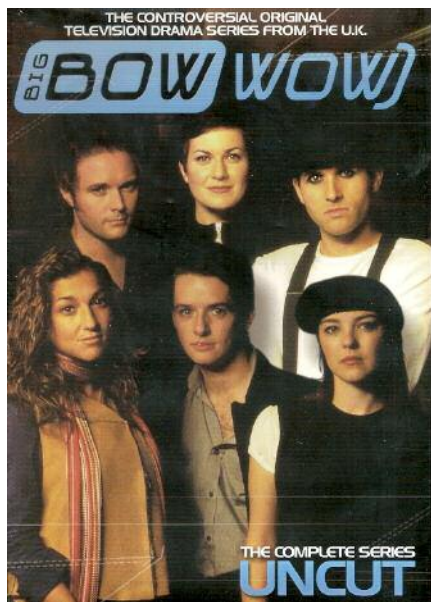
So it was, after a quick blow dry, that Glenn looked forward to nothing more than popping into the DVD player the latest season of *Dante's Cove*. Sadly, this was not to be. There's no rest for the weary or for the wicked and following a quick call from *Quest* headquarters, Glenn found himself once again on assignment.

Still armed with a giant bowl of popcorn and a biggie Diet Pepsi™, Glenn instead began watching something called **Big Bow Wow**.

Never heard of it? Nor had Glenn.

New on DVD, **Big Bow Wow** is a 6-episode Irish television series combining the best (and worst) elements of *Tales of the City* with the British series of *Queer as Folk*.

In the first, often rather confusing episode, Glenn was forced into corralling his exhausted brain cells into sorting out who's who in the extensive cast of Irish twentysomethings who all seem to live in the same apartment building (*Tales of the City*) and who, after a hard day, all meet up



and knock back a cocktail or three at the Bow Wow, a popular watering hole – think Babylon in QAF.

Much like *Tales of the City*, **Big Bow Wow** begins with an arrival: Leah (Melanie Clark Pullen). New to Dublin, Leah moves in with Karen (Emily Nagle), who owns an upscale noodle bar, and Jamilla (Sara James), a brilliant if not always an especially motivated student. Unlike sweet, naïve Mary Ann who so beautifully anchored

that wonderful, earlier series, Leah is made of much sterner stuff. A free-lance security consultant, Leah has just been hired to investigate clandestine doings at a large bank. There, she meets Frank (Michael Legge) is a sweet kid, something of a computer wiz. Rounding out the core group of friends is Peter (Ben Palmer), owner of a successful construction company and finally his roommate Eric (Chris McQuarry). Eric is the gay one. Cute, English, and deliciously sassy, Eric owns a record (vinyl) shop and DJs at the Bow Wow.

Over the course of the six episodes, each character will find themselves up in an astonishing maelstrom of melodramatic subplots of varying degrees of interest. Jamilla tries to win a major academic prize and in the process falls truly, madly, deeply in love with her Professor. Frank finds himself burdened with a new, unwelcome roommate – his Dad – who keeps finding reasons not to venture

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Although Glenn has only mentioned a handful of folks, **Big Bow Wow** actually possesses a dizzying array of characters of varying interest and appeal and as with *Tales of the City*, gay characters are actually quite few in number. Glenn suspects, however, that thanks to genuinely appealing cast, plenty of sexy story lines plus a lively soundtrack, most viewers will compulsively keep watching until the end. A word of warning, several story lines are left dangling, presumably in anticipation of a second series which never materialized.

Just the facts...

Big Bow Wow: Complete Series Uncut consists of six 50-minute episodes with an overall total running time of approx. 300 minutes. The series is in English. No closed captioning.

Big Bow Wow: Complete Series Uncut is available now on DVD with a SRP of \$29.95. Loyal *Quest* readers might recognize Michael Legge, who plays Frank, from another gay flick, *Angels & Cowboys*.

home to his long suffering wife. Frank is also pinning, unrequitedly, for Leah. Peter is quite content with his love life, which consists of an never-ending series of one-night stands, until the lovely but deeply psychotic Orla (Lisa Dwan) sets her claws into him.

Glenn was immediately captivated by Chris McQuarry's seriously adorable Eric, who also just happens to get the most exciting subplot. It seems that there's a gang shaking down small businesses for "protection money" and hot cop Detective Liam McDonagh (Patrick Moy) and his partner pay Eric a visit, seeking to enlist help. Eric is immediately attracted to Liam, going so far as to put in a false report just in the hope of seeing the hot cop again. Eventually the bad guys do turn up and a sting is arranged. Will Eric and his hunky cop be able to help make the mean streets of Dublin safe for small business owners? More importantly, can Eric and Liam set aside their radically different lifestyles and find true love?

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The Unholy Trinity

Leather, Levi, Bear, Fetish

As I am sure you have guessed Jeff Hicks is no longer writing the leather column. He has taken a leave of absence to explore a few of his own passions over the summer and we, *The Unholy Trinity*, would like to wish him only the best. He may return to writing upon his return this coming fall, but for now we are all you have!

So let's get to explaining the way that things are going to be written from here on out. As we are sure you have noticed, the title for the column has changed to "The Unholy Trinity". This is dreadfully accurate as there will no longer be just one person writing this column but three! The goal of this group is to examine a fetish each issue and give you, the reader, three different aspects. These aspects are the most common in the leather scene and are the following: Top, Bottom, and Swap. Now most of you think of a Top as someone who is doing the f*cking, the Bottom is the one receiving the f*cking and the Swap will take which ever role is available! For the sake of this column it isn't! The Top will examine the fetish from the Dominant, or Sir/Master side. The Bottom will examine the fetish from the Submissive, or boy/slave side, and the Swap will fill in the gray area and how these roles mix and change during the selected fetish.

Now that we have explained the roles and the way in which they will all work together to give you a better picture of the BDSM and fetish world, let us introduce ourselves.

Top: I have been a Sir within the leather community of Milwaukee, Chicago, and Green Bay for the better part of a decade. I was trained by a Master in Milwaukee over a four year period and from that have taken a deep respect for the old guard ways. However, in recent years I have found myself feeling the need for change, as well as the feeling that not all of the old guard ways need to be around. Certain aspects are appreciated but the elitist attitude needs to go out the win

dow. I am also a big believer in the fact that humor belongs in the dungeon.

Bottom: While I have had the inclination toward being a slave my entire life, I was trained as a slave about seven years ago by a Master in Idaho, now deceased. He opened me up to that part of me I had repressed for so long and for that I am extremely grateful. Like the top in this article he believed in humor in the dungeon and felt there were good and bad aspects to the old guard ways. More recently I had another Master in a true 24x7 relationship which lasted about a year. It was a wonderful opportunity for self-discovery for both of us but due to events beyond our control this relationship had to come to a close. I have a great love of sensations and can be both masochist and sadist. If I discover something new that I want to try I am the type of person to seek it out. I believe the person with the most fetishes wins, and I'm taking that competition seriously. Add to that the fact that I am just generally perverted, my experience is broad and far-ranging.

Swap: I've been in the scene for over a decade. Trained as a top, trained as a bottom. I agree with some aspects of old guard leather, and I think other aspects have seen their day. My primary fetish is hedonism, and I'm out to have fun. I have experience in almost every fetish imaginable, and if I haven't done it, I know people on a first-hand basis who have.

With having introduced ourselves we have run out of space But we would like to say we are happy to be here and we hope to hear from you all soon!

Do you have a Kinky Side? Would you like one? Send your questions and comments to the unholy trinity at Unholytrinity08@yahoo.com and let them know what you think they should talk about!

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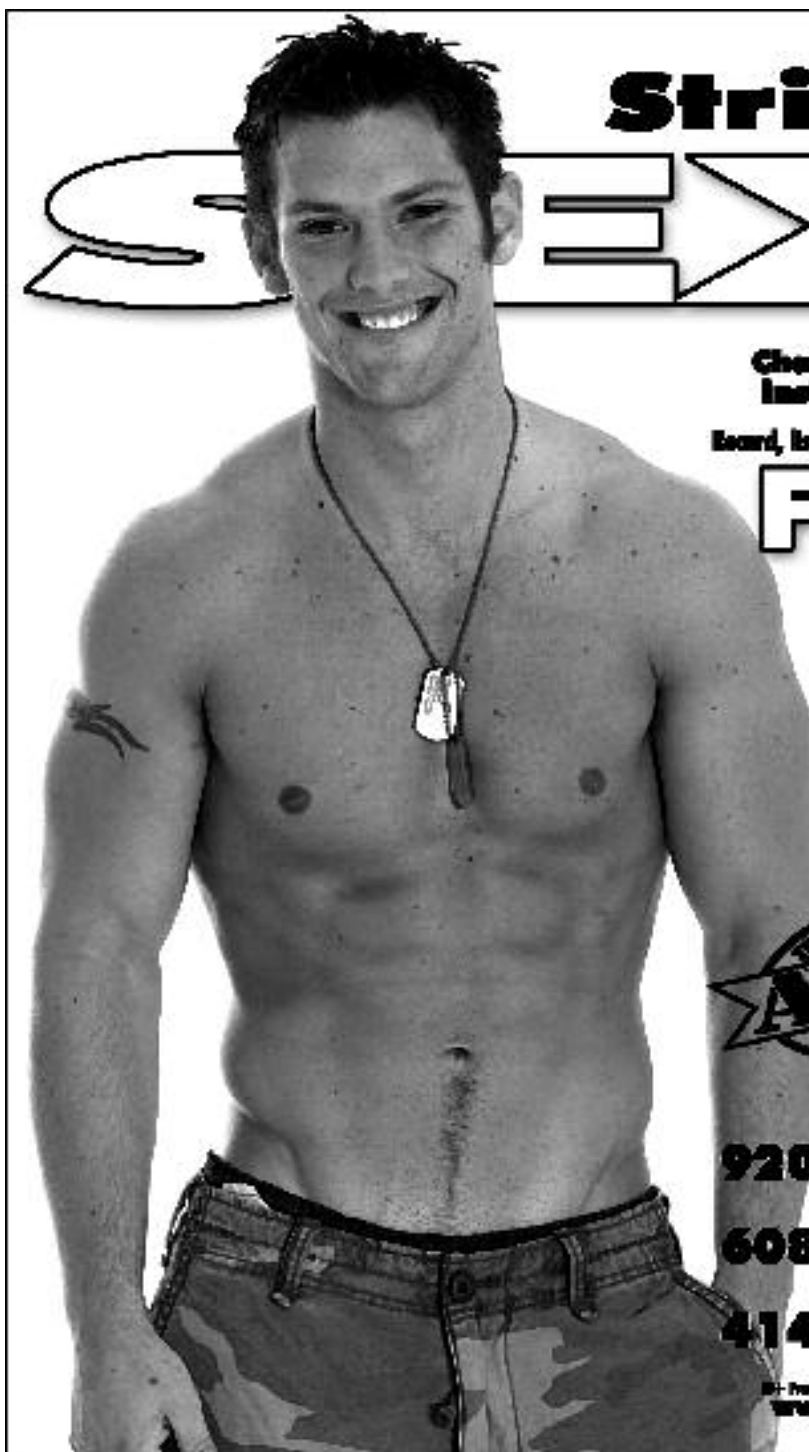
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Black Daddy-Master wanted: Slender smooth, phy fit submissive WM crossdresser ISO Dom Phy Fit hung creative black male. Will wear naughty school girl outfit, dog collar & leash for you. Serious, discreet, anxious. Rachell P.O. Box 541 Kenosha, WI 53141 or (262)496-0364 Best 12:30-1pm [2]

Hi am a cute crossdresser, but part time. I live south of Kenosha & looking for another CD friend or lover to meet & have fun with. Also looking

for a CD for a photo shout. I am only looking for other CDs or TGs. who want to meet. I'm single and fun, call me (847)309-9125 Rainlyynn

Tony from Milwaukee: We talked, loved it, want to talk more - meet?- Serious, anxious! Rachel (262)496-0364

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LSWF 39 5' 180# Brown hair, blue eyes searching for LSWF 39-50 who likes to drive, is honest, caring, fun and a loving woman. I love to go for long rides, movies, walks, rock concerts and a quiet snuggling time. I was raised you get what you recieve, so please no games. Send answers to N4371 weeks Rd. Chilton, WI 53014 willing to move if you're the right one. [2]

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46 yo GWM 5'10 br/br looking for friendship/ relationship to share my life with. I'm a smoker & social drinker handicapped with speech impediment but mobile and willing to relocate. Good looking. (262)644-8305 [1]

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

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Looking for 18 to 35 near Marshfield for mornning fun. I'm in Aulburndale, call (715)897-1715 [1]

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al sex perversions. I want you to make me do what ever you want. I like to be forced by strange men into pleasing them. Make me take your whole cock or lay me down and force yourself on me. Call after 2pm ask for Dan unexpected people may answer the phone, so please be discreet! Do not call at bar time UNLESS YOU WANT TO COME OVER THEN. No really fat people that smell or people who look like they just came in from the barn and no-one with weird things on their bodies. (920)783-6021 [1]

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62 yo GWM 5'10 175# seeking a relationship with another gay man around my own age that could possibly turn into a LTR. I'm affectionate, well educated, a positive attitude, and energetic. I am looking for someone who is single, clean and well groomed, H/W proportionate, not effeminate and within a 50 mile radius of Green Bay. (920)495-9714 [1]

GWM 54 5'11.5" 6" cut, nice landscaper body waiting for the right fish in the sea to come into town and have a romantic eveing and maybe like it so much we could be lovers. Call (920)426-2683 or stop in at 102 W. Bent Ave. Oshkosh WI 54901 Ask for Rich [1]

I'm looking for a nice masculine handsome hairy chested man! Told I'm also. Me: 52 6' 175# nice package. Hot sex is nice top or bottom but I want more. A relationship would be great. Not into games so please don't waste my time, life is just too short. Let's enjoy it together. Bob (262)353-5292 [2]

SGWM 5'9" 150# G/Brown strong build, good looking, funny, spontaneous, looking 4 similar men. Friendship or more. Call (920)713-8943 or acna20082000@yahoo.com your pic gets mine. Just ask for AJ I'll be waiting for you. **Looking for M/18/40** near Marshfield. 4 am play on week days. call (715)897-1715 or cavedog22001@yahoo.com.

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I'm looking for men in the Janesville WI area for some fun call (608)359-3194 ask for Jeff B discreet [2]

Want a male 18 to 40 for fun. Must be near Marshfield. and up for am week day play. (715)897-1715 [2]

Want under 50s for fun near Marshfield. Call (715)897-1715 [2]

GWM 44 5'7" 170# with dark hair/eyes. Looking for LTR with down to earth guy 30-40 Not into bars, D&D free living in LaCrosse. Into photography and 80's music. Email sglewin@yahoo.com

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