

QUEST

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**MOVE OVER
RUFUS WAINWRIGHT
COVER CUTIE
MATT ALBER
INTENDS TO
"HIDE NOTHING"
HIS ALBUM DEBUT**

**ALSO:
MICHAEL
JOHNSTON
INTERVIEWS
CREAM CITY
FOUNDATION
PRESIDENT
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**INSIDE: ELECTION DAY BRINGS
MORE OF THE SAME FOR GAY COUPLES
RM2BREATHE HOPES TO CHOKE OFF
WISCONSIN'S GAY SMOKERS**



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ELECTION DAY BRINGS MORE OF THE SAME FOR GAY COUPLES

Anti-Gay Marriage Ballot Measures Win in Arizona, California And Florida

November 4 was ballyhooed as an historic election, marking a seed change in civil rights history in the United States. The electoral landslide election of African-American candidate

Barack Obama to the nation's highest office brought tears of joy and dancing in the streets that Tuesday night to millions of Americans of all ages, races, ethnicities, creeds, genders and even sexual orientations.

But by dawn on Wednesday, November 5, the cold light of day brought news of stunning losses in three states for gay and lesbian couples. Voters in Arizona, California and Florida added amendments prohibiting gay marriages to their state constitutions. For the LGBT community it was just more of the same.

There are now 29 states with explicit constitutional bans on gay marriage, most passed within the past four years. They include Wisconsin, North Dakota and South Dakota. Fifteen more states, among them Minnesota and Iowa, have laws restricting marriage to one man and one woman.

Two states - Massachusetts and Connecticut - permit same sex marriages, with latter state's weddings now set to start November 12. Gay and lesbian civil unions are legally recognized in New Hampshire, New Jersey and Vermont, while Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, the District of Columbia and Maine have domestic-partnership laws granting gay couples varying degrees of spousal rights.

If there was a glimmer of hope for gay couples, the expansion of Democrat majorities in both houses of Congress plus the nation's economic meltdown probably mean any attempts by Republican lawmakers to resurrect the Federal Marriage Amendment will be DOA.

For the LGBT community in Arizona, the ballot measure had been expected. Senior citizens, who scuttled the anti-gay marriage and domestic partner benefit amendment there in 2006, had no problems with the twenty words of Proposition 102 that restricted recognizing only marriages between "one man and one woman."



Gay Floridians had been a bit more hopeful since their Proposition 2 would need 60% of the electorate to vote "yes." On November 4, 62.1% did. The Florida amendment had broad-based language similar to Wisconsin's, though squeezed into one sentence to avoid "two question" lawsuits similar to those filed here and in Georgia: "Inasmuch as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

The real shock, however, was the success of California's Proposition 8. After looking like a sure loser in late summer, the gay marriage ban that overturned last May's state Supreme Court ruling in favor of such unions passed by 52-48%, though at *Quest's* deadline about 2.7 million ballots - many in those in San Francisco - had yet to be counted. However, the odds aren't in favor of beating out the gay marriage ban's lead of more than half a million votes.

Over \$74 million, including \$20 million from the Mormon supporters, had been poured into the ballot fight. In the end, the same surge in minority voters that helped elect Obama denied the LGBT minority their right to marriage equality. Seven in 10 African Americans who went to the polls voted yes on Proposition 8, while 53% of Latinos voted similarly. Those votes overwhelmed California white voters who voted "no" by only a bare majority.

Protests against the Proposition 8 victory started in San Francisco and Los Angeles late on November 5 and continued up to *Quest's* deadline all over California, with events in San Francisco, Mission Viejo, Palm Springs, Long Beach, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Salt Lake City, Laguna Beach, Sacramento, San Jose, and Los Angeles. Protesters numbered from the hundreds

to the thousands, in some cases blocking traffic in several cities. Many of the marches were ad hoc events, not organized by any of the "No on 8" groups, but generated through mobile phone text messages and social

networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter.

Anger over Proposition 8's victory spilled over the California border into Utah as well. On November 7 opponents took their outrage to the spiritual hub of Mormonism. More than 3,000 people swarmed downtown Salt Lake City to march past the LDS temple and church headquarters, protesting Mormon involvement in the Prop 8 campaign.

Former Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson and three openly gay Utah state legislators spoke out in support. At one point, the crowd took up the mantra made famous by the country's new president-elect: "Yes, we can!"

In addition to taking to the streets, gay marriage supporters also have gone to court. On November 5, gay rights supporters filed three lawsuits asking the California Supreme Court to overturn Proposition 8. The first action was filed by the ACLU, the National Center for Lesbian Rights and Lambda Legal. Santa Clara County and the cities of San Francisco and Los Angeles also sued, and Los Angeles lawyer Gloria Allred filed a third suit on behalf of a married lesbian couple.

Lawyers for same-sex couples argued that the anti-gay-marriage measure was an illegal constitutional revision - not a more limited amendment, as backers maintained - because it fundamentally altered the guarantee of equal protection. A constitutional revision, unlike an amendment, must be approved by the Legislature before going to voters.

All the lawsuits cited the constitutional revision argument, and two of them asked the court to block Proposition 8 from taking effect while the legal cases were pending. A California Supreme Court spokesperson said the court would act "as quickly as possible" on the challenges.

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National News:

GAY CANDIDATES ELECTED ACROSS USA

Washington, D.C. - Dozens of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender candidates - including three openly gay Congressional Representatives - won election to public offices across the U.S. on November 4, according to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. The group, which endorsed a record-breaking 111 candidates in 2008, reported more than 70% of its endorsed candidates had won their races.

Most prominent among the 2008 winners was Jared Polis of Colorado who became the first openly gay man elected to the U.S. Congress as a non-incumbent. He joins Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), both reelected Tuesday night, as the three openly LGBT Members of Congress.

In Oregon, openly bisexual Kate Brown became the first openly LGBT Secretary of State in the U.S., and the second-highest ranking elected official in that state. Sam Adams was elected mayor of Portland earlier in the year. He will become the first openly gay mayor of one of the 30 largest cities in the country when he's sworn in next year.

In Connecticut, Jason Bartlett, who came out as gay in his current term, was reelected to the State House. He is only the second openly gay African-American state legislator in the nation.

In Texas, Lupe Valdez was reelected to a second term as sheriff of Dallas County. First elected in 2004, Valdez was the first woman, the first Latina and the first out lesbian ever to win the post.

In Florida, Kevin Beckner won a seat on the Hillsborough County Commission unseating an anti-gay incumbent. Beckner is the first openly LGBT candidate elected in the county. In California, Rebecca Kaplan will be the first out lesbian to serve on the Oakland City Council after winning her race.

"This was a watershed election. Our government became more representative and our democracy became stronger. As we near the 30th anniversary of the death of Harvey Milk, it's enormously gratifying to see his dream realized in so many brave men and women heeding the call to run for office, and doing so openly, honestly and unafraid," Victory Fund President and CEO Chuck Wolfe said.

Milk, a San Francisco Supervisor who was one of the first openly gay elected officials in the U.S., was shot to death in San Francisco City Hall in November 1978. Milk urged his contemporaries to embrace the power of electoral politics as a path to change.

Despite the successes, running as openly LGBT continued to have its risks. In the closing days of the election season Victory Fund candidates in Oklahoma, Michigan, South Carolina and elsewhere were subject to gay-baiting political attacks.

In Oklahoma, Corporation Commissioner Jim Roth was narrowly defeated in a statewide race after last-minute attack ads and mailers suggested he would push a "homosexual agenda" in his role as a regulator of the state's energy industry. While in Michigan, Garnet Lewis, lost her race for a seat in the State House after suffering an onslaught of anti-gay attacks in print and radio media outlets during the final week of her campaign.

Wolfe used the context of the first African-American elected the nation's highest office to put Victory Fund's work in perspective. "This election was an affirmation of the African-American civil rights movement that is more than a century old. The LGBT movement is much younger, and it's clear we still have much work to do to win true equality," he said.

Wolfe cited the passage of Constitutional bans on gay marriage in Arizona, California and Florida as evidence. "The politics of fear and bigotry are not yet behind us, and we saw some heartbreaking examples of that in this election. On a day that demonstrated Americans' commitment to inclusivity and equality, the sabotage of several openly LGBT candidates and the devastating outcomes of three statewide marriage bans were disappointingly inconsistent. I am confident that history will give us an opportunity to right those wrongs as we continue the journey toward full equality for all Americans," he said.


Full election results are available at www.victoryfund.org. Visit www.GayPolitics.com for information gathered from campaigns throughout the election season.

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund works to grow the number of openly lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-


Jared Polis



gender elected officials at all levels of government. At its founding in 1991, just 49 openly LGBT elected officials served in the U.S. Today, that number has grown more than 420.



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State News:

RM2BREATHE HOPES TO CHOKe OFF WISCONSIN'S GAY SMOKERS

Statewide - Since the early 1970's the Great American Smokeout has occurred on the third Tuesday in November, when about 46% of all U. S. smokers try their best to give up the dirty weed for at least a day. This year's Smokeout will be held on November 20 and partners in a new program in Wisconsin targeting queer nicotine fiends is using the date to advance their efforts. Rm2Breathe is a state wide anti-tobacco program for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transsexual people in Wisconsin. This program is funded by The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's Wisconsin Partnership Program and implemented by the Milwaukee-based Diverse & Resilient LGBT health program.

Partners in Rm2Breathe are the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine & Public Health, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, the LGBT Resource Center of the 7 Rivers Region, OutReach, the Chippewa Falls LGBT Community Center, SAGE-Milwaukee, Positive Voice, the Wisconsin State Department of Health and Family Services, the University of Wisconsin Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention, the American Lung Association of Wisconsin, the LaCrosse County Health Department and the Milwaukee City Health Department.

The facts about smoking in the Badger State's gay community will take your breath away, even if you aren't reading this story with a cigarette in your hand. The likelihood is that you might well be, however. Current estimates suggest that 44% of the Wisconsin LGBT population smokes, nearly double the national average.

It's a trend that is not declining either. In a recent national study on adolescent health, 45% of females and 35% of males who reported same-sex attraction or behavior smoked; compared to only 29% for the rest of the youth.

If you are taking a puff between paragraphs, the consequences likely will kill you. The American Cancer Society estimates that over 30,000 LGBT people die each year of tobacco related diseases. In Wisconsin that works

out to 6,960 years of LGBT life lost due to premature death annually, with a negative economic impact of \$297,632,000 to our community.

Rm2Breathe plans to start offering Stop Smoking Seminars by the end of 2008. The seminars will provide a safe space to learn how to be successful stopping smoking for Wisconsin Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults. It also assists people to set up a personal program to stop smoking and get the support the person needs to stop successfully. The seminars will be offered in 3 sites around Wisconsin: at the Milwaukee LGBT Center and Madison's OutReach, starting at the end of 2008 and the LGBT Resource Center of the 7 Rivers Region in LaCrosse, beginning in the summer of 2009.

On November 20, the Milwaukee LGBT Center will hold a "Smoke Free" town hall meeting from 6-8 PM at the Center, 315 Court St. In addition to enjoying light refreshments, attendees will network with like-minded individuals, learn about the impact of second hand smoke, and find out ways to address the gay smoking issue such as contacting legislators or writing letters to the editor. RSVPs are requested. For reservations or more information about the Milwaukee event, contact Dave Martin by Tuesday, November 18 by phone at: 414-271-2656 or by email at: dmartin@mkelglt.org.

Two other Rm2Breathe programs will seek to assist gay smokers in choking off their tobacco habits. Already under way is the Health Promoters program. Health Promoters are community leaders who will be having face-to-face conversations with people in their own communities about the harms of using tobacco products and where to get help stopping tobacco use. They will be able to answer basic questions about tobacco use risk, methods to stop using tobacco and where people can find resources to stop smoking as well as connecting people to the services their agencies offer.

Six sites around Wisconsin are offering the Health Promoters program. In addition to the three community centers listed above, SAGE-Milwaukee, the Chippewa Valley LGBT Community Center in Eau Claire and Positive Voice at sites in the Harmony Cafés in Green Bay and Appleton are involved in the program.

The Quit Buddies program will provide coaching services to those people who have decided to stop smoking and are looking for assistance setting up and maintaining a personal stop program. This program will start at the end of 2008 and it will be offered by the same partners as the Health Promoters program.

On November 20, the Chippewa Valley LGBT Community Center, 510 S. Farwell St. in Eau Claire will host an Open House to describe the Rm2Breathe programs. The Open House will start at 7 PM with an introduction to the resources available to help LGBT people in the Chippewa Valley, followed by a 7:30 viewing of the 45-minute long movie "Queer Lives Up in Smoke." The evening will end with questions and answers and more details about the Community Center's work in this statewide coalition. For more information, contact the Center at 715-552-5428.

OutReach in Madison is now seeking a volunteer Health Promoter. Individuals with a well developed social network of people they can approach are strongly urged to apply. Health Promoters will par-

ticipate in a structured training designed to increase their knowledge of tobacco use disparities within the Wisconsin LGBT community, the biology of smoking, local smoking cessation resources, motivational interviewing, and effective outreach strategies.

Volunteers receive a \$40 per month stipend in consideration of services rendered and incidental expenses. If you identify as LGBT or queer, are a non-tobacco user or former tobacco user and are interested in serving as a Health Promoter, please contact Harry at OutReach by phone at: 608-255-8582 or e-mail at: harrys@lgbt Outreach.org.

OutReach is also looking for two Quit Buddies. Quit Buddies will coach and motivate on a one-to-one basis individuals who have decided to stop smoking so they remain smoke free. They also provide information about resources for individuals quitting or who want to quit. The agency is looking for folks who are personable and caring. Those interested should contact Harry at the above phone number or email address.

The LGBT Resource Center of the 7 Rivers Region in LaCrosse is continuing to seek Health Promoter and Quit Buddies volunteers, a task they began last August at the LaCrosse Pride event. The job descriptions are the same as those offered above by OutReach. Those interested are asked to contact Rosanne St. Sauver at the Center by phone at: 608-784-0452 or by email at: r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org.

\$400,000 LEGACY SUPPORTS MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY

Milwaukee - The Cream City Foundation (CCF) has announced the receipt of a \$400,000 legacy gift from the estate of Clarence Germershausen, also known as one-time Cest La Vie owner John Clayton. The bequest to southeastern Wisconsin's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community is the largest gift to the CCF in its 26 year history.

Germershausen's gift will be invested in Cream City Foundation's Mission Fund where only the interest growth from the fund will be available for efforts to create a more respectful and fair community, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The structure of the gift ensures a permanent financial source for LGBT funding.

"Mr. Germershausen was one of Cream City Foundation's first supporters," CCF President Tim Clark said in a prepared statement. "We are honored to receive the generous and thoughtful bequest from Clarence. His gift makes it possible for us to strengthen our Mission Fund and future grant making efforts that advance LGBT equality."

Prior to his death, Germershausen made sure that the work he cared about in his life would continue. He subsequently left the majority of his estate to Cream City Foundation, a LGBT community foundation.

"We are all thankful for his commitment and initiative in creating a legacy that will benefit LGBT individuals well into the future," CCF Executive Director Maria Cadenas said. "His legacy lives on through the work of Cream City Foundation and the charitable organizations it supports."

Germershausen first connected to CCF by providing office space during the early years of the organi-

zation. He passed away in August 2005, after a brief but serious illness.

The Cream City Foundation serves as the leader in mobilizing philanthropic resources, fostering strategic collaboration, effecting positive change and the advancement of the quality, dignity, and health of LGBT people in Southeastern Wisconsin. Founded in 1982, CCF has funded over \$600,000 in organizational grants and projects. To learn more about Cream City Foundation visit "www.creamcityfoundation.org."

LGBT COMMUNITY BREAKFAST & GIFT EXCHANGE NOVEMBER 15

Milwaukee - A Community Breakfast will be held Saturday, November 15, beginning at 9:30 AM at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W Court St. Attendees will be offered a continental breakfast style menu of juices, harvest breads, and coffee.

During the meal a panel presentation will focus on the upcoming holidays, giving and gifting. The presenters, who are currently conducting the Spiritual Wellness Program at the Community Center, hope to offer several techniques and approaches from various traditions to reinterpret the spirit of the season for members of the gay community.

Presenters will share a Gifting Blanket from the Native American tradition that teaches about the interdependent web of all things. Attendees are asked to bring a small gift for exchange of personal significance, perhaps something you already own. The gift should be wrapped in brown paper or newsprint with their name included inside. For more information about the breakfast and gift exchange, call 414-271-2656.

CHIPPEWA VALLEY LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER OBSERVES TRANSGENDER AWARENESS MONTH

Eau Claire - The Chippewa Valley LGBT Community Center will observe Transgender Awareness Month by holding two events at the agency, located at 510 South Farwell St. here.

On Thursday, November 13, the center's monthly discussion group will focus on "The Transgender Experience in Relationships and Life," with a panel featuring local transgender woman Ann Marie Hoepfner and counselor/researcher Erica Idso. The group will run from 7 - 9 PM.

On Saturday, November 15, the Center's Saturday Night at the Movies will feature the Emmy and Golden Globe nominated film "Normal." The 2003 drama stars Jessica Lange and Tom Wilkinson.

After being married to Irma for 25 years, Roy decides the stress of being a woman in a man's body has grown intolerable. He unburdens himself to Irma and their pastor, shocking them both. Roy's decision to pursue a sex-change operation is greeted with intolerance and disgust by some of his co-workers and members of his church. Irma eventually comes to some understanding, and supports Roy through his journey to becoming "Ruth."

Doors open at 7:45 PM and the movie rolls at 8. Admission and popcorn are free. Beverages and movie snacks are also available for purchase.

For more info about these and other regularly scheduled events, contact the Center at 715-552-5428.

I first had the opportunity to sample Matt Alber's music on the "Noah's Arc" movie soundtrack that I reviewed in the last issue of *Quest*. Stuck in the middle of that musical mélange, I pegged his "End of The World" as "overwrought."

However, dozens of listens later, I find that Alber's song still sticks out from the rest of the pack because of its sheer intensity. It's the ultimate break-up song. The singer is a wreck. If you only have a single, honest, emotionally resonant bone left in your bitter and jaded body, you will be overwhelmed by the song's plaintive power.

You may also imagine my surprise to be offered the very first full album of Alber's work less than two weeks after the last issue hit the stands. The extreme close-up of the emerald-eyed singer's five-o'clock shadowed face on "Hide Nothing" is a kind of "truth in advertising" for what lies embedded on the disk within: ten very up-close and personal songs - nine of them original - whose lyrics peer deeply into the gay soul. Alber's renditions of the material take on an almost spiritual quality as well - pop hymns to the gay male experience.

Then there was an added bonus: the opportunity for Matt to share his thoughts and feelings about the songs on the album. I'll get to that in a bit and mix in his musings with mine.

Kansas born and bred Matt Alber is an openly-gay 33 year-old singer/songwriter now living in Los Angeles. He shares two Grammys with Chanticleer, garnered during his five year stint with the three decades old San Francisco-based classical male ensemble known best for its interpretations of Renaissance music. Alber has made a YouTube video of his soprano solo of "But He Who May Abide" from Handel's "Messiah" avail-

able for his fans who are also classical music buffs. If you like to go for Baroque, it's yummy.

(For those of you who may be interested, Matt's been single for a year and a half. "I've been lucky in love before" he admitted. "Definitely up for meeting the right guy, but it takes quite a bit of energy and time just doing what I'm doing." As a fellow lifelong workaholic, that sounds sadly familiar, darlin'.)

on the cover... Ear Candy: Hymns To Him: Matt Alber's "Hide Nothing"

Feature Review By Mike Fitzpatrick



Matt Alber • Photo: Paul Nocini

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Also available online at YouTube and LOGO.com is a video of "Hide Nothing's" lead-off track and single "Monarch." Matt's inspiration for the song was a field trip with his friend Peter Elliot to see the namesake butterflies nesting among the redwoods in Monterey.

"It really is quite a sight to see them all clinging together, weighing down the branches of those ancient

trees," Alber said. "We took some photos and wandered beneath them for quite a while and marveled at them. I learned later that Monarch butterflies have rather miraculous little lives. They migrate each year between Monterey, CA and Alaska. It takes four generations of Monarchs to make the journey north. The 5th generation, however makes the entire flight back to Monterey in one lifetime. Though they make the

trip alone on simultaneous solo journeys, they arrive at the same grove of trees, the same specific trees and the same places on the trees where their great great grandparents started. It makes me wonder which lifetime I'm living in."

Musically "Monarch" matches the butterflies' journey. From its electronic opening to its fading echo, the song is at once soaring, solitary and transcendent - almost other worldly. It is also the perfect introduction to the deeply personal, autobiographical tracks that follow.

"Field-Trip Buddy," the wistfully-delivered third song on the album, is not about Elliot but a school boy crush: that first, innocent yet life-changing attraction to one of our own gender that just about every one of us born-gay folks has somewhere between kindergarten and puberty. The song's lyrics share the unintentional circumstances that gestate the experience and the owner's secret that must ultimately be closely kept.

Alber wrote the song from real-life. "My first crush was on my buddy Zach in 3rd grade," he revealed. "We were on the same soccer team. My dad was the coach. Awkward! In 5th grade, it was John Gisi I was completely in love with. He was so tall and was great at math, like me. David Clark was my church youth group crush. He was a tall redheaded violinist who



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loved basketball. Just getting to sit next to these guys was enough to give me the goose bumps. Those moments when you're wondering if their elbow is lingering on the armrest against yours just by accident, or if they are getting goose bumps too. Well, that is what the song is really trying to capture. 'Field Trip Buddy' is for anyone who's had a crush on a friend and had the guts to tell them about it."

Alber added a personal message for one of those crushes: "David Clark, if you ever read this, thanks for being cool when I told you about mine," he said.

Midway through the album, you'll find "End Of The World," the heart-breaking tune I mentioned at the beginning of this article. On "Hide Nothing" however, the song's setting is much more appropriate in the song stack, not unlike a diamond on a ring.

"Hide Nothing's" sole cover tune is of Imogen Heap's "Hide And Seek." Anyone who has watched TV in the last three years likely has encountered Heap's arresting digitized a capella original. It's been used in episodes of *The O.C.*, *The L Word*, *Heroes*, *CSI: Miami* and *Lost* to name some of the more than a dozen exposures the song has had. "Hide And Seek" fans have also added multiple online viral videos

of the "Saturday Night Live" digital short using a portion of the song.

Alber freely admitted his adoration of both the singer and people's response to his take the song's technique made "Hide And Seek" an appropriate add to "Hide Nothing."

"I'm not hiding it – I think Imogen is the bee's knees," he said. "She offered up a sound no one had ever heard before with this song, and I've been singing it in my head (and in the shower) ever since. I worked up an arrangement of it on a nylon (acoustic) guitar and tried it live here in LA. People really dug it so we decided to include it on the album rather late in the game."

Alber's melancholy take on "Hide And Seek" gives the song a gritty yet gentle humanity that compliments shimmering, icy sadness of the original. It's not unlike like lighting a candle in a cold room. You long for the warmth the candle light suggests, but will settle for cool promise the glow actually provides.

However, Alber has a different, more violent take on the song's oblique lyrics, possibly influenced by the SNL video, something I've only read about rather than seen. "Her imagery seems purposely vague, like there is a hidden

message in it," Abler thinks.

"Whenever I sing it I picture people jumping from the burning World Trade Towers, a coliseum full of families displaced by a hurricane, an Iraqi family being murdered in their own home, and I wonder, 'Where are we? What the hell is going on?'"

"Song Of Stars" is the penultimate "big production" piece on this otherwise very intimate album. Starting with tentative strings, then growing bolder with a swelling, György Ligeti-like female chorus, Alber's voice enters the scene distant but triumphant. "We are the stars we sing. We sing with the light," Alber intones. The song continues to grow, with full orchestra, overlapping lead lines and call-and-response with the chorus be-

fore diminishing to Alber solo once again affirming "We are the stars," followed by the sound effect of waves reaching which signals the album's final track "Rivers And Tides," a gentle, folk song that brings the listener full circle to the interdependent but solitary journey of life first alluded to in "Monarch."

Alber described the gestation of that final song. "About 10 years ago a good friend introduced me to the poetry of Hafiz, a mystic poet from Persia (Iran) whose poems are to this day are the best-selling printed books in circulation," he said. "Unfortunately it is quite rare for Americans to know about Hafiz. I'm hoping to change that. Hafiz, a contemporary of Geoffrey Chaucer, is known to blur the lines between himself, ourselves and God. 'Rivers & Tides' is the description of a vision I had after reading some of Hafiz' poems in the collection translated by Daniel Ladinsky called *The Gift*."

Matt Alber's "Hide Nothing" is a must-have album for lovers of pop, acoustic music. His pure vocals and intelligent, introspective lyrics may be reminiscent of Rufus Wainwright, but Alber's artistry is one-of-a-kind. Preview it at www.mattalber.com, then go out and buy it!



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MIDWEST TRANS YOUTH CONFERENCE 2008 SET

Hartland - The 2nd Annual Midwest Trans Youth Conference, a weekend event for transgender youth will be held November 14-16 at Camp Whitcomb-Mason. The conference is open to transgender, transsexual, gender queer, gender diverse, gender nonconforming, gender fabulous, questioning and SOFFA (significant other, family, friends and allies) youth, ages 13-24.

Want to spark personal change? Change in your community? Join other youth leaders and activists to focus on the issues that are important to you. Attendees will build skills and knowledge through engaging workshops and caucuses.

Camp Whitcomb-Mason is a year round facility located near Hartland, approximately 35 miles northwest of Milwaukee, on Lake Keesus. Situated on 306 acres of hills, fields, wetlands, and forests, the facility provides campers with a variety of natural experiences.

For more information or to register visit the conference site online at: www.mtyc.org or contact Jay Botsford by email at: jbotsford@mkelgbt.org or by phone at: 414-292-3068.

TEN PERCENT SOCIETY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE NOV. 15

Madison - Madi-Scene and the Ten Percent Society (TPS) at UW-Madison have joined forces for the first ever off-campus Ten Percent Dance. The event will celebrate the Ten Percent Society 25th Anniversary Coming Out (to dance) Party on Saturday November, 15 at the Orpheum Theatre on State Street.

DJ Chen Cheng will be rocking the night. Doors will open at 10 PM. Tickets are \$5 each. You must be 18

or over with proof of identification to attend.

TPS was founded in 1983 upon passage of Wisconsin's gay rights legislation. As a University of Wisconsin registered student organization, TPS provides educational, social and cultural opportunities for students, faculty and staff, guard against university-sponsored discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and work toward creating a campus free of homophobia. TPS holds five dances per year, additionally we participate in two annual LGBT awareness series: Coming Out Week in the fall and Out and About Week in the spring.

TPS has also supported and donated to organizations such as WI AIDS Network, Queer People Of Color, Student Global AIDS Campaign, and others.

Fmi visit Madi-Scene.com. To learn more about TPS, please contact Co-President Kia Block at UW Madison Ten Percent Society by email at: tenpercentsociety@gmail.com or visit the TPS website at: tps.rso.wisc.edu.

5TH ANNUAL ROW DINNER SET FOR NOVEMBER 22

Green Bay - Tickets for the 5th Annual "An Evening With Rainbow Over Wisconsin" will be on sale throughout northeast Wisconsin until November 18. The November 22 event will be held at the Liberty Hall Banquet and Convention Center in Kimberly, with cocktails and silent auction opening at 6 PM.

Nearly a dozen entertainers will perform at the event. The lilting sounds of harpist Cheryl Murphy will serenade both dinner attendees during the meal and those bidding on the silent auction. Entertainers performing before and after the dinner in the lounge area include a number of current and former state title holders such as Josie Lynn, Kurtis Ryan and Bryanna Banx, and vocalist

Jeff Jennings, who will be making his first appearance in front of a gay audience in five years.

Menu items for this year's dinner include Chicken Marsala, Medallions Of Roasted Tenderloin, Parmesan Potatoes, Fettuccine with Garlic, Olive Oil Sauce, Stir-Fried Vegetables, Baby Green Salad, Cole Slaw, Tropical Fresh Fruit, croissants, Southern Pecan Pie, and Double Chocolate Brownie Pie. The meal will served family style, allowing those wishing to enjoy only vegetarian items the opportunity to do so.

The annual ROW dinner is the foundation's signature fund-raising event Dayton noted. "It's an opportunity for old friends to make new friends at a fun event that also advances the northeast Wisconsin community's 'gay agenda' by donating to Rainbow's Community Enrichment Fund," he said.

Tickets for the "An Evening With Rainbow Over Wisconsin" are available from ROW members and businesses, or can be ordered by calling 920-437-0994. Tickets may also be ordered by emailing ROW at: rainbowoverwi@aol.com.

IN-SERVICE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES PLANNED

Madison - Meg Worthley the Crisis Response Coordinator for Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) will present an in-service at Outreach, 600 Williamson St., on Saturday, November 22, from Noon to 2 PM. The in-service will cover DAIS services, domestic violence in general, domestic violence in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. An open discussion with Q&A will follow. Those interested in attending, are asked to RSVP with Harry at OutReach by phone at: 608-255-8582 or by email at: harrys@lgbtoutreach.org as space is limited.

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COMEDienne KAREN WILLIAMS TO HEADLINE NEW HARVEST DINNER DANCE

Madison - Nationally known comedian Karen Williams will bring her special brand of humor to the February 28 New Harvest Foundation Dinner Dance. Williams has twenty-five years in stand up, having played nearly every major comedy venue in the country. She's often compared to Lenny Bruce for her irreverent brand of humor.

Karen has been popping up all over gay TV. Karen's hilarious solo show, "I Need a Snack," recently was a hit on LOGO. Also shown regularly on here! and LOGO is the Williams-starring feature "Laughing Matters." A film festival audience favorite, the comedy-documentary showcases Karen's star quality while intriguing interviews highlight her social activism. Karen is also a featured comic in "We're Funny That Way," shown regularly on HBO.

As a solo entertainer, Karen Williams delights SRO audiences from San Francisco to South Beach to Sydney, and is a comic favorite on the Olivia Cruises. Williams was a former television host of the syndicated PBS program "In The Life." Williams' humor

writings appear in numerous print anthologies, including Joke Stew, Revolutionary Laughter, Out in All Directions, and Out Loud & Laughing.

Williams has also turned her comedy to the task of trying to heal individuals, communities, and the world. As founder and CEO of the HaHa Institute, she leads workshops and classes around the country. The mission of HaHa Institute is to encourage the fullest and highest activation of human potential for compassion, wisdom, and life force through the daily use of humor. For more information, check out www.hahainstitute.com.

Tickets for the dinner will go on sale in December. For more information go to the foundation's website at: www.newharvestfoundation.org. Ticket information is also available by phone at: 608-256-4204 or by email at: nhf@chorus.net

The New Harvest Foundation is the only foundation in Dane County that channels charitable contributions exclusively to organizations working to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights, services, culture and community development. It pools contributions of hundreds of donors each year to provide grant money to LGBT causes.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK SET

Milwaukee - The Cream City's annual LGBT Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner will be held Saturday, November 29 at Plymouth Church, 2717 East Hampshire on city's East Side. The holiday tradition cosponsored by Black & White Men Together, the Brew City Bears, the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, Project Q, PFLAG, and SAGE/Milwaukee. Doors will open at 4:30 PM, and with dinner following at 5:30.

Attendees are asked to bring dishes based on where their last name falls in the alphabet. This year, if your last name begins with A-E, please bring a dessert. Those whose names start with F-K are asked to bring an appetizer. Last names with L-S should provide a side dish and the T-Zs are asked to toss up a salad. Dishes should serve 6 to 8 people.

RSVPs are also requested. Call the SAGE/Milwaukee office at 414-224-0517 by November 26 to confirm. Volunteers for set up and clean up will be both much appreciated and welcomed.

Lucky us, we've moved so quickly from Generation X to Generation Y that we haven't realized we've returned to the onset of the alphabet with Generation B. Yes, many of us, programmed from birth, are so in tune with the fact that life isn't fair - passing our days whistling to Rolling Stones' theory of *you can't always get what you want* - that we can't help but ensure we have something to fall back on should our lives crumble when we least expect it. Hence, we develop a back-up plan. And not just in one miniscule aspect of our tumultuous lives, but in many. For instance, in grade school, we're taught not one, but two sports or instruments before deciding which one sticks. Then in college, many of us choose to double-major, backing a risk-taking theater degree with education or psychology just in case our dreams never come to fruition. And finally, when settling on a career choice, even one we're truly passionate about, we're smart enough to keep a well-diversified resume, balancing our talents should we opt (or be forced) to take an exciting, new direction.

Oh, how we have become a Generation of Plan B. And what's wrong with that? After all, we know that nothing is *truly* forever in life. We've seen families melt and form into new wax statues before our eyes. We've suffered the crippling effects of divorce, either firsthand or by association. We hear the pop divas on the radio, the subdued cracks in their sweet candy corn voices, singing to reach out to their estranged fathers. We empathize.

Then we cover our bases to make sure the same thing will never happen to us, especially in our romantic relationships. The problem is: all of this calculating, all of this preparation, is great when your partner, your boyfriend, your girlfriend, deems you as plan A, but what happens when you realize you're Plan B?

Meet Marshall: he's a sweet, sweet friend, who recently told me his secret: the man he thought was his boyfriend, the man who ignites his child-bearing hips, has another boyfriend. But wait! That's not the bad part....

The bad part is the other boyfriend is Plan A. So what does that entail, you ask? Well, Plan A gets escorted to five-star restaurants and resorts while Plan B is happy at home with a Happy Meal. Plan A is taken on plane trips to exotic islands named after cruise ships in the Caribbean, while Plan B (AKA Marshall) only gets a trip to the club, where sometimes he has to pitch in for gas.

And to think, Marshall thought his boyfriend cherished him. "He tended to be so thoughtful," Marshall explained to me at the same club where he discovered the truth. "He always remembered the type of Happy Meal I like: chicken nuggets with apple dippers on the side."

"Yeah, but sweetie, the problem is the apples and you weren't the only ones being *dipped*," I reminded him.

"Right," he said, lost in thought, before slugging his Corona Light. Then he told me how he met Plan A two weeks ago. His boyfriend had been so busy doing community service (or servicing the community) that he wanted to make it up to Marshall by buying him dinner at the club. Unfortunately, Plan A was their server. It seems Plan A had forgotten to inform anyone about his fab new job.

SURPRISE!

It didn't take long before eyebrows were raised, tweezed, and the sad truth came out. Luckily, Marshall was civil and bolted out the door, relying on Plan C-U Later rather than crying out his eyes. He saved that for me, mewling something to the effect that he had a mouth like Texas and legs like



My Life on the B-List

Anthony Paull

Gandhi. "So why isn't that enough?"

"For some guy, it will be," I promised him.

Still, I had my doubts. In these fear-ridden times, we're constantly bombarded by paranoia on the news. Don't go near your mail; there might be Anthrax in it. Don't go near your boyfriend; there might be an STD in him. The terrorists have taught their camels how to swim, and they're on their way! We've become a race terrified of being alone. We need to be surrounded by super-sized fries and double-double cheese burgers. Remember: comfort lies in numbers. So why have one boyfriend when you can have two? Do you want to loan your entire heart out to someone who might die or leave you tomorrow? Why can't you share your heart? You have enough love to go around. The ubiquitous thought of being single leaves the weaker of the human species wary, contemplating the benefits of super-sizing each of their intimate relationships.

So how can you tell if you're Plan B? It's simple: Ask your boyfriend where all of his time and money goes if none of it's spent on or with you. And if he hasn't got an answer, "B" smart enough to inform him that you've devised your own new plan: one where you lose his two-timing ass with the knowledge that you deserve a man who puts you first.

Michael Johnston Interviews Cream City Foundation President Tim Clark

Tim Clark is the President of the Board of Directors of the Cream City Foundation. The CCF is the second oldest foundation of this nature. CCF is a most successful, long-running (26 years) LGBT Foundation, endowing the state of Wisconsin with much needed monies to LGBT People/Projects/Organizations. Who is the Man behind CCF? Please read on... On a beautiful autumn evening in Milwaukee, after a scrumptious dinner at the Wisconsin Club, I had the chance to ask Mr. Clark the questions hopefully you all would like to. Props to our Server, Brandon, and Carolyn on Piano who enhanced the interview ten fold.

Michael Johnston: What does the Cream City Foundation mean to you?

Tim Clark: The Cream City Foundation and my role means giving help. To help make other people breathe easier. To help them out. Our paths may never cross – but we helped, helped change a situation. Noblesse oblige. You are given, give back. To know that one life has breathed easier – because you lived. To lead a worthy life, is my motto.

MJ: What are your goals/visions for CCF in 2009?

TC: I really want to see the work of the community to help the young, homeless out there. That's where I am focused. On health issues in general in the LGBT Community. The aging of the Baby Boomers. Partner Benefits in the work force for all. These are the issues of concern to me.

MJ: What is your role as President of the Board of CCF? What does a Board President do?

TC: Motivate, I guess. Work within the Community, display good leadership and diplomacy. A good leader, also knows when to move on, move to the side. Do your share, then move to the side. Not an Emperor.

MJ: Why does CCF mean so much to you?

TC: It is diverse. It is proven. It represents broad civic change. Every aspect of the LGBT Community is included. Our latest campaign – gayneighbor.org, with funding from Joseph R. Pabst, we were able to empower a committee and look at the results. The message – we are all more alike, than different. Trying to take away the fear, the ignorance, hopefully the hatred. The impact! We are getting hits all over the globe! This has made a difference. A donor can empower the community!

MJ: What is the most challenging part of being in charge of CCF?

TC: Always looking for sources of funding, to help along society change. So many causes, so few dollars – in this tight time economically speaking.

MJ: Have you dealt with any repercussions professionally or personally being so closely connected with an LGBT cause?



TC: No – none whatsoever. I have only had positive responses both in Corporate America and in my personal life.

MJ: In this time of an exciting election, which happens to be on everyone's mind and tongue, would you have any political aspirations?

TC: No, it would take a whole lot of convincing for that. My Dad was a State Senator, and was tapped for the U.S. Senate. The whole world of politics can be unpleasant – nationally speaking. My Dad didn't pursue that course for that reason. Locally, we are very fortunate. I love the local politicians here.

MJ: Who are you? How do you describe you, Tim Clark?

TC: I am very private, really not comfortable talking about myself.

MJ: Where do you see yourself, in ten years?

TC: Hopefully still involved in the Community. Still out there. Out of a job with the Foundation, because there wouldn't be any need, any more. Society would be set, that Foundations of the CCF kind and others wouldn't need to exist, that all needs were seen to by our society.

MJ: What would you like to share with our readers? A message on your behalf, or on behalf of the Cream City Foundation?

TC: It is very important to me to spend some time getting some young people involved in our Community. To get the younger set interested in all the organizations out there, instead of recycling the same core group of devoted community volunteers. To focus on developing leadership – to make sure there is someone to carry us forward.

5th Annual An Evening With Rainbow Over Wisconsin"

(Kimberly)



Saturday Nov. 22

6PM Cocktails, Silent Auction, Cameo performances in the lounge before and after dinner by Jeff Jennings, Kurtis Ryan, Josie Lynn, Cody Domino, Bryanna Banx and others;
7:30 PM Dinner with music by harpist Cheryl Murphy followed by awards and live auction; 9 PM Dance and entertainment.

Tickets \$40 each,
Tables of 10 available.
Tickets available from
ROW members
and businesses

or

920-437-0994

FMI:

rainbowoverwisconsin.org



Highlights from Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA Pageant 2009
See more at dairylanddrag.net



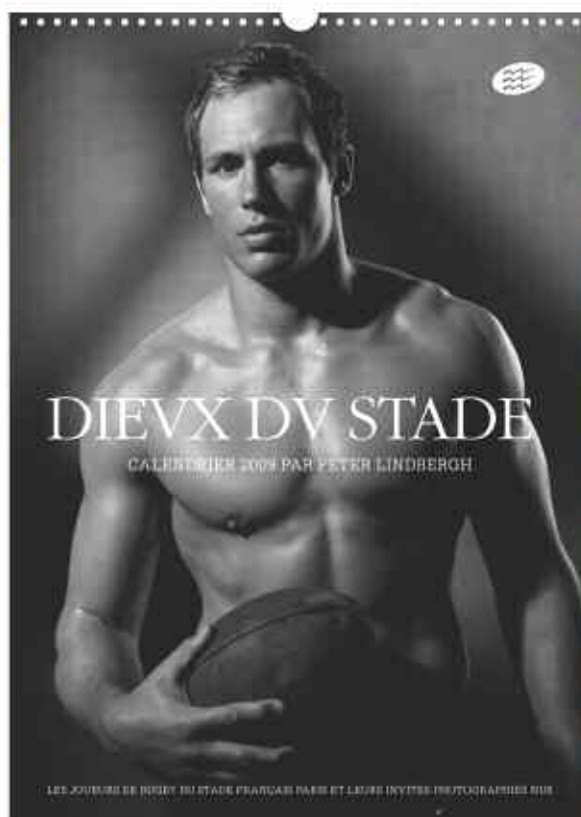


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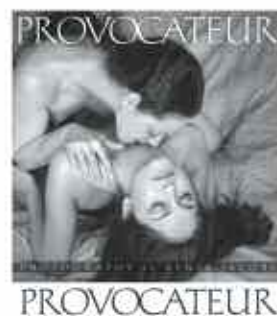
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2009 Calendars

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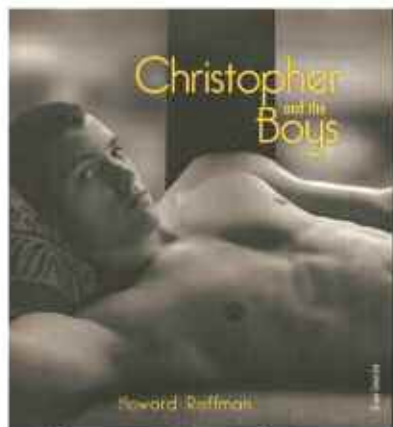
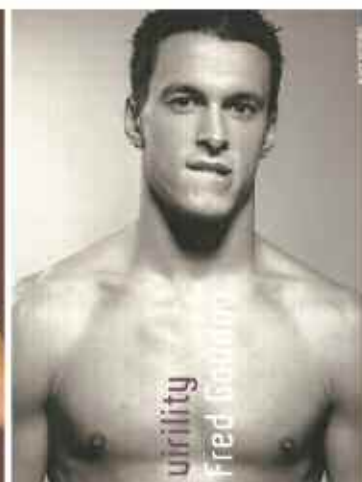
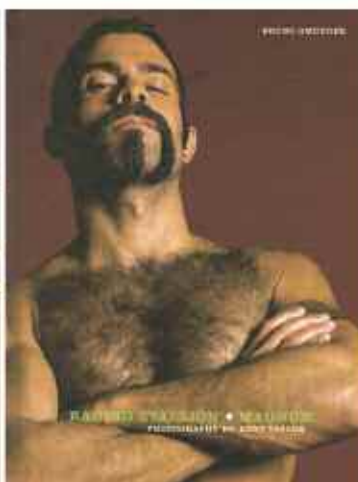
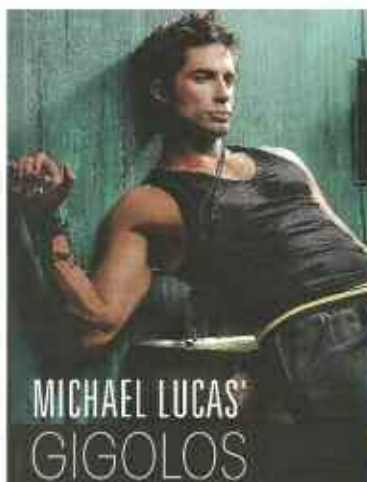
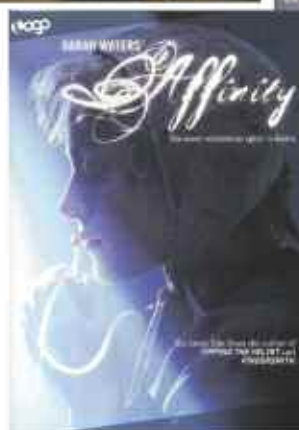
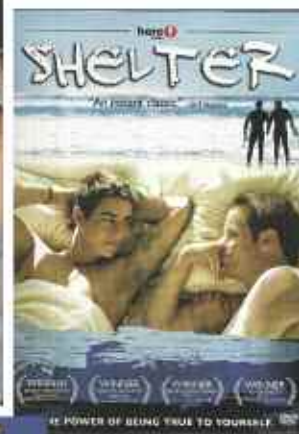
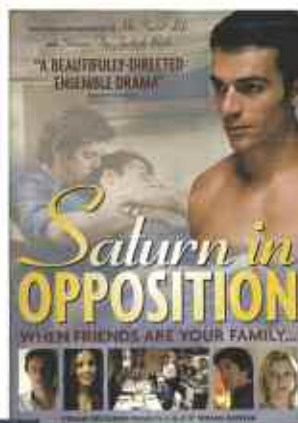


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Diversion of the Day

Quest's Events Calendar

Friday, November 14

ART Bar (Milwaukee) the Final Studio 54 Party benefits Milw Gay Arts Center 9pm

LaCage (Milwaukee) Blacklight Night! Lights out party

Saturday, November 15

City Lights Chill (Milwaukee) Underwear Party

ICON (Kenosha) Mr ICON Benefit Show

Madison Gay Video Club Boystown [Spanish w/subtitles] & Skin Deep (XXX) 8:00 PM, <http://www.mgvc.org>, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Midtowne spa (Milwaukee) squirt.org party with prizes all day & night

Sunday, November 16

Fluid (Milwaukee) Binglow "Bingo in the Dark" 8pm

MONA's (Milwaukee) Kenny Fletcher's Birthday Beer Bust w/Divas Of Wisconsin

Saturday, November 22

BOOM (Milwaukee) Adult film star Jake Dakota

LaCage (Milwaukee) Mr Cream City USofA Pageant 8:30

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Monkey Love Songs (Brave Records artists, Ryan Mintz & Keith Hampton) 8pm \$10 www.braverecords.com

Midtowne spa (Milwaukee) Pride Studios Inc party promo all day & night

5th Annual "An Evening With Rainbow Over Wisconsin" (Kimberly) Tickets available from ROW members and businesses or 920-437-0994. FML: www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org

XS Nightclub (Green Bay) Turnabout Show see ad back cover

Wednesday, November 26

ART Bar (Milwaukee) Holiday Kick-Off Party 9pm Live music by the Squeezettes

ICON (Kenosha) Pre-Thanksgiving Dance Party featuring DJ6'8"

LaCage (Milwaukee) Turkey Bowling

THANKSGIVING Thursday, November 27

LaCage (Milwaukee) H.I.T. Bowling Opening Party 9pm Show @ 9:30 hosted by Karen Valentine

Friday, November 28

LaCage (Milwaukee) Calling all GI Joes & Janes, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell Party come in military attire & get a free drink before 11pm Special Trans-Formations show at 11pm

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Saturday, November 29

Christopher Allens Club 1226 (Oshkosh) Bring On The Turkeys!
A Night of Illusion, Comedy and Fantasy showtime 10:30 pm

ICON (Kenosha) Ronnie Nyles live on stage 8pm

Sunday, November 30

Fluid & Walker's Pint (Milw) Chili cook-Off enter at either bar. Prizes for best chili!

MONA's (Milwaukee) three Strikes Productions annual toy Drive & Show

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	Mon-Fri 2-4-1 2pm-8pm	Tuesday & Thursday @ 9pm Pull tabs	Drinks as low as 25¢				Packer Touchdown Shots
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	ECONOMY BUSTER!!!!	2-4-1 ALL DAY, ALL NIGHT	SUNDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS		\$4 Martini & Cosmo	12" Pizza & Pitcher for \$12	Economy Buster 2-4-1
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
HARBOR ROOM	MON-THUR Happy Hour 3-8pm	2-4-1 Beer Bust 8-Midnight: \$7	Shirtless Men Drink Half Price Rail/Domestic 7-11	Same as Thursday no Beer Bust	Shirtless Men Drink Half Price Rail/Domestic 7-11	Sat/Sun Sun Beer Bust 8-Midnight \$7	
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-Formation Female Impersonators		2-4-1 Absolute Grey Goose & Effen Drinks
M's Bar	Now Open Mondays 4pm	Happy Hour Monday - Friday	2-4-1 from 4-8pm	2-4-1 all Night		Drag Show @ 10pm	Showtunes w/Chi Chi
MONA's	2-4-1 Beer wine rails call	Happy Hour 3-7 Free Pool	Chicken sandwich & wraps 2-4-1	Happy Hour 3-7 \$3 cosmos & pull tabs	Happy Hour 3-7 \$6 Long Island 9-11	\$04 Taps \$2.50 bottles (ask) \$3 Smirnoff Twisted's & Mike's \$2 cans Blatz & PBR	Beer bust 6-10 \$2.50 Bottle Beer (ask) \$3 Smirnoff etc
RAVENS	Buy 1 get 1 Martinis and signature drinks	\$2 Domestic Bottles: Pints and Pint Mixers	Guy's Nite \$1 Off everything for guys	Ladies Nite/Livewire Karaoke: \$1 off everything 4 girls \$6 Dom pitchers dance Bar open	Fri & Sat \$10 All You Can Drink & nightly drink specials DJ Mark 10:30 - close & the valleys hottest new dance music & videos		Alternative Music Night \$6 Pitchers \$4 Jack&Coke various other specials
Walker's Pint	\$1 off bottles, cocktails, shots, taps	\$2 domestic bottles/taps	\$5 pitchers of lite, 64, pabst, schlitz	2-4-1 domestic bottles & rails	rotating specials	rotating specials	\$4 rail bloody's \$1 off bombs all day & night
WOOF's	Monday's \$1 OFF ALL DRINKS if wearing WOOF'S T-Shirt or Hat!	Pool Tournament Double Dim Cash Prizes \$1 off all Jack Daniel's Drinks 8PM-Midnight	Hump Day Half-Price Drinks \$2.00 Drafts (Miller Lite) 8PM-Midnight	Get Bombed \$1.00 off all Bomb Drinks 8PM-Midnight	Tail Waggin' Shot Specials \$1 off Shots 8-Midnight Live DJ 10PM-Close	Live DJ 10PM-Close	Bloody Mary Bar/Mimosas 12-4 Bear-Beer-Bash \$2 Drafts (Miller Lite) & Free Pizza (Glass Nickel) 5-8PM

CHUECATOWN (BOYSTOWN)

All too often in the past, Glenn has been deceived, misled, even outright hoodwinked by downright awful films whose DVD cover art seductively featured gorgeous, invariably shirtless, male actors. Take a quick glance at Glenn's recent collection of reviews. You cannot help but be absolutely overwhelmed by some exceedingly dubious choices – films whose packaging simply proved too beguiling for Glenn to muster up sufficient strength to resist.

Who doesn't remember the screamingly unfunny **"A Four Letter Word?"** Even worse was **"Darker Secrets: Sideline Secrets 2"** which had so much nudity and sleazy sex, you'd have thought **OutBound** should have reviewed it.

Although perhaps even Glenn can be forgiven for choosing the irresistibly cheesy **"Dante's Cove: Season 3?"**

Okay, Glenn can't promise never to be similarly seduced in the future. Really, that would surely be a Herculean undertaking. But for this week at least, Glenn carefully read the routinely ignored promotional materials, passed over one DVD boasting the intriguing tag line, "What would you do with a naked alien?" and selected a Spanish comedy, **"Chuecatown."**

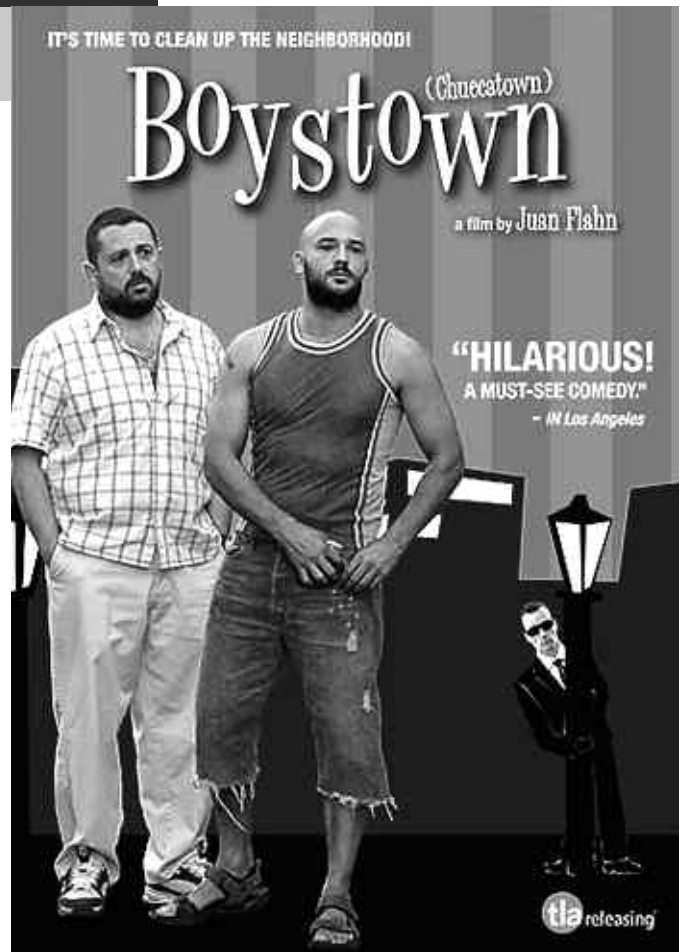
For the record, the cover art of **"Chuecatown"** features two adorable (fully clothed) if not actually gorgeous Spanish bears who have somehow managed to find themselves caught up in a wacky murder mystery.

Cover bears Leo (Pepon Nieto) and Rey (Carlos Fuentes) live in Chuecatown, an upwardly mobile, increasingly gentrified district in Madrid. Handsome, obscenely hunky gay realtor Victor (Pablo Puyol) is determined to make Chuecatown "the ideal neighborhood of our dreams." Indeed, Victor is so determined that there's really no limit to what he will do to achieve his goal. So what if there are a few, pesky old ladies standing in the way of his dream. No problem. He'll just take care of them in the best possible Hitchcockian fashion.

After one of the sweet Spanish grandmothers leaves her flat to sweet, simple Rey, he and Leo immediately become suspects.

Here is where screenwriter/director Juan Flahn turns from Hitchcock to another fabled director for inspiration: Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar, known for his wild and wacky style in such wonderful films as **"Law of Desire"** and **"Bad Education."**

Flahn gets the wacky part down pat. First he burdens Rey and Leo with Rey's mother Antonia (Concha Velasco), a harridan who, inexplicably, is not murdered during the course of the film. Then clearly warming to the prospect of another mother-son dynamic, inserts the unlikely detective duo of Mila (Rosa Maria Sarda), a cranky, clueless veteran blessed on one hand with an



endlessly tedious catalog of phobias as well as her rather cute son, Luis (Eduard Soto) who is desperately trying to get Mom to take some sick leave all the while inching his way out of the closet.

How many of the little old ladies of Chuecatown will Victor murder in the name of good taste and ideal beauty? Will Mila and Luis ever manage to get on the right trail? Can Rey ever cut the apron-strings that bind him to his gorgon-like mother?

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Juan Flahn's debut effort is bursting with endearing characters, clever plot twists and some very funny moments. So why doesn't **"Chuecatown"** work? Lacking the cinematic deftness of Almodóvar, Flahn's attempt at a screwball murder/comedy is all too often undermined by sluggish pacing, off-putting moments of graphic violence and by the increasingly unpleasant verbal abuse spewed relentlessly by Rey's mother Antonia (Concha Velasco). Nor did Glenn appreciate the frequent, decidedly inappropriate use of words like "queer" and "fag" used by several different characters in reference to Leo and Rey. Glenn was not amused.

Just the facts...

"Chuecatown" has a running time of approx. 93 minutes. The film is in Spanish with English subtitles..

"Chuecatown" is available now on DVD with a SRP of \$19.99. See even more of studly actor Pablo Puyol in another gay flick, **"20 Centimeters"**

Pepon Nieto was in Eloy de la Iglesia's excellent **"Bulgarian Lovers."** Concha Velasco and Carlos Fuentes were in the delightfully wacky **"KM.0"**

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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

Quick Advice for Sinners on the Go

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I read your column on a regular basis, and I respect your opinions. You seem very educated; however, it is possible to educate God right out of your life. I wonder about your religious beliefs. Have you found religion? I like the advice you give, but you always give clinical answers to the questions people ask. God is the only answer anyone needs, not science. I am living proof of that. If it weren't for my faith, life would not make any sense. I have dedicated my life to the Lord. I live to serve God and so should you. The Bible tells us that everyone has to be born again in order to be saved. That means you, too, Mr. Clinical! The scriptures say, "Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord." So no matter how much you try to fight it, eventually, when you die and stand before God, you will be forced to your knees and have to acknowledge that Jesus is Lord! Your scientific reasoning will not save you then.

We do not need psychology. Everything people need to know about human behavior and the mind can be found in the Holy Bible. A true Christian does not need science to understand our planet. You may have a doctorate in clinical psychology, but I have a doctorate in life!!! These egghead scientists believe that they evolved from monkeys. When I look at them, I can see the resemblance. I, however, am more enlightened than they are. I am born again! I was created in the image of God almighty. My philosophy is, "God said it; I believe it; that settles it!" Don't try to confuse me with your scientific facts. Without God, life has no meaning!!! ---Signed, David B.

Hello Davie-Baby,

Ah, yes, the delightful experience of listening to the moralistic spewing of an evangelist (reminiscent of fingernails slowly scratching down a chalkboard, but not as amusing). You start off your letter by saying a few kind words about my advice column, but then the mood turned nasty by the end of your correspondence. Your impotent understanding of the Bible is as misguided as a TV evangelist. I am not surprised to hear you say that your life wouldn't make any sense without your faith and that you live to serve your God. (Here is my "clinical" assessment of your condition.) Religious fanatics live on the emotional "ether" of their faith. Similar to huffing fumes, they are addicted to their religious beliefs. Yet, ironically, it is the intoxicating "fix" that they get from their faith that sustains them. (Hope that wasn't too scientific for you.) Your situation is, of course, not without its drawbacks. One of the dilemmas with taking religious explanations at face value is that to bow to such assumptions cuts you off from any possible scientific explanation for understanding phenomena.

Your faith seems to be fear-based. You attempt to persuade others into adopting your beliefs with the implementation of scare tactics. Why do you feel the need to underscore your convictions with a threat of my salvation? (Or perhaps you were trying to be supportive when you said, "Your scientific reasoning will not save you...") It is interesting that you tried to recruit me into your faith using

Scattering kernels of truth to the nonbelievers.

intimidation methods. (No doubt you picked up that endearing quality from your church.) I have been intrigued, for several years, with the way religious fanatics seem to have an incessant need to get others to join them. (I guess religious junkies don't want to get emotionally "high" alone.) The simple fact is, however, I do not need to be born again; I got it right the first time. I can understand why the thought of being born again is so appealing. I'm sure it's much easier to be born again than to have to grow up!

You expressed an interest in finding out more about my religious beliefs. Well basically, my religion is to simply be a kind person; I'm just not a practicing member right now. (I had to turn in my kindness card when I started writing this advice column.) Your seemingly innocent query about my spirituality appears, on the surface, to be a legitimate bid for information. However, when your true intentions are revealed, it would seem that you are merely trying to bait me into revealing my beliefs so you could find something on which to condemn me. Tell me; is deception part of your religion? (That question should provide you with an interesting topic of discussion for your next Bible study group.) Your little verbal ambush has its groundings in self-righteousness. Put simply, you think that your beliefs are right and mine are wrong. (Gee, it must give you great satisfaction to believe that, someday, everyone will have to kneel down and admit that you were right, all along.) This is not the first time an evangelical Christian has endeavored to ensnare me with one of their vernacular surprise attacks. I'm getting used to it.

Your insulting comments about how "egghead scientists" resemble primates are not exactly expressions of Christian love. You resort to sarcasm because you feel intimidated by any opposing point of view. Why is it that you perceive differing opinions as a threat to your beliefs? Is your faith so weak that it can not withstand debate? Instead of closing your "enlightened" mind to scientific facts, try being more objective to new information. (To put it bluntly, your metaphysical anus is too tight.) Have the courage to define your own existence rather than surrendering your free will to the preconceived notions of a dogmatic religion. You seem to be coughing out vile words as if you were exhaling air-borne germs into the community. It would be tragic if others were infected with your "bigotry bacteria." By the way, to answer your question...yes. I have found religion! I found it to be very controlling and manipulative. Nonetheless, people can't say I'm not religious...not with all the time I spend on my knees!

---A Friend to the Karmically Challenged, Barbie



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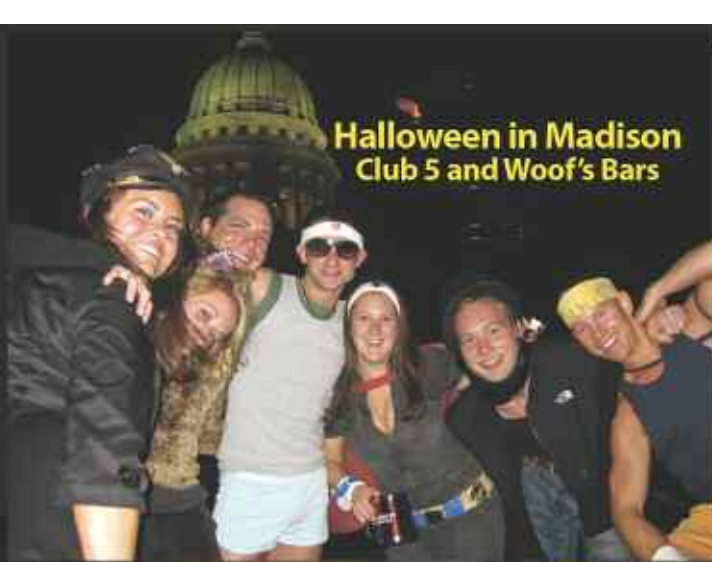
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OVER 50 GAY MEN'S NETWORK (67 members at present) A chance to meet guys our own age. Must be at least 50. Must be gay, not bi. Must be free to receive and return phone calls. 920-495-9714 or e-mail: giannicontra@att.net [1]

Hi guys, we're having our 4th elephant action in Straford Nov 22 at the town hall. fmi call terry (715)654-5044 Pot luck lunch starts 1pm. Hope to see you there. Need new people to join, all welcome.

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

CROSSDRESSING or Bi looking for MEN & WOMEN

Sexy, baby smooth, submissive, very physically fit CD, LOVE to dress up sexy & slutty.. ISO other physically fit, passable CD's, BLACK T- GURL's, or PHY FIT DOM HUNG BLACK MALES. Send stats, info, desires, pic's to cdrachelsweetie@yahoo.com.sincere & discrete


Male in Milw. near airport looking for passible CD's or TV's for some tender loving care. I'm 5'10" 22# 7cut thick. I like kissing & playing with whatever you have between them legs. Please be passible & lets make romantic music together under the sheets. Please email kmz@wi.rr.com or call (262)880-1198. I just love a man in a sexy bra and panties, lipstick, wigsm ny-lons & heels!!! Passible only please. [1]

Attractive BMW 50+ HIV- seeks attractive TV, TS or female for friendship, possible relationship. Age, race open. Into oral, fancy leggings, mild S&M. Call (414)640-6364 9am-9pm Leave message

MEN looking for MEN

49 yo Bi WM available for sucking your cock off. Fox Cities only. 8" plus only. (920)486-7103 Ask for PJ [1]

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(773)569-6333 Tom 3658 E. 79 Pl., Chicago. pen pal wanted too! [1]

GWM 5' 9 170 LB seeking someone that would be kind, honest & respectful. George Haskins 1631 Sampson St, Wis Rapids, WI 54494 [1]

ORAL EXPERT!!!! Bi/leaning Gay, 40ish, visiting Milwaukee Dec 4-7, visit my hotel room near airpor. Bi, straight, gay welcome. Not to hairy/shaved/hunks/balding a plus. Cum before work, or cum after, but cum! Leave phone #/name!!!! Steve (312) 388-5219 [1]

Adult or senior walking partner wanted by fun gentleman! you say when, where, or we can walk & laugh when our paths cross! (773)585-6275

Chicago or P.O. Box 63, Lawrenceville, IL. Tommy [1]

GWM party boy seeks lovers, playguys, mentors. Handsome, middle-aged, naked, hot. UP will travel. Call Noel (906)265-3253 [1]

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

SGWM 57, 5'10" 168# in good shape. Bi/Br D/D free N/S str8 acting 6" cut ISO SGWM for friendship, maybe sex?, possible LTR relationship? Let's talk and see what happens. You H/W proportionate 45-60 N/S D/D free. Please, no Bi's!! Serious only. Call Ken (847)838-2391 evenings 6-9 Antioch, IL. [1]

BiWM single Appleton-Green Bay. 46, 5'11" 185# black hair, hazel looking for other males ages 20-45 for some hot sex. Love to suck cock, rim, top and body contact. Very clean and discreet here. I can host or travel days or evenings. If your looking for some very hot occasional sexual relief, give me a call. (920)858-0952 [1]

GWM 48yo 6'1" 190# black hair, blue eyes, beard, mustache, hairy body, 7.5-8" cut looking for a quiet romantic night at home. I like to suck, fuck, and swallow all of your cum that you shoot in my mouth. I like to be fucked, sucked & looking for 3 somes and an orgy group. Interested? write Alan P7348 S. Hwy 45 Oshkosh, WI 54902 Send pics of your-

self and I will send one back of me naked. Open to any race, ages 21-60 [1]

GWM 62yo 5'11" blue eyes facial hair, living in the woods. Looking for LTR with GWM age race not important. CD's also welcome Call (715)324-5439 or write Roy P.O. Box 211 Pembine, WI 54156 [1]

Wanted: Lovers of fetish, B&D & furniture, leather, rubber, crossdressing clothing, corsets, boots, erotic movies-add to my collection & enjoyment. Let's talk, trade or buy? (414)321-8005 7am-10pm Lyle [1]

I'm so thrilled! This tall, slender, cute submissive friendly guy will be featured in the Jan/Feb 09 "Show Us Your Playgirl" section of Playgirl magazine on sale Nov 18. Stop by, I'll autograph your copy while I'm naked on my hands and knees. I prefer quick visits under a half hour, lights dimmed, no questions asked. Your privacy assured. Girlfriends welcomed, condoms provided, so safe, so simple! Fri nights 9-11pm only. Text, cell photos welcomed, respect my "visiting hours" and I promise you will leave happy. Buzz me and mention Quest. (262)949-9798 1647 Wilmont Ave #303 Twin Lakes, WI 53181 [1]

SE Wisconsin Looking for romantic males over 18 who like to relax, have a meal and stay over night on weekends. Must be non-alcoholic, non-smoker, drug free. We may see a movie, go for a walk, tour

the hot spots in town & get better acquainted at a restaurant. rjdtmz@yahoo.com I love cute smiling faces. [1]

Slave seeks master for sessions, live-in or semi-live-in. Safe word and sanity a must. Bondage & disciplin, sexuality, limits respected and expanded. Serious proposals only. I am handsome, middle-aged, naked, hot. Write SMBD P.O. Box 107 Iron river, MI 49935 [1]

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

BiWM 60's Nudist, looking for interesting people, Gay-Bi to mingle at nude house parties. "Cock"tail social affairs, share your fantasies with us. Everything goes, your pleasure is mine. A hike in the woods and suck you off or my pad. Stevens Point-Plover 24/7 (715)498-0121 [2]

Mature WM 50s comfortable, orally talented FR-A/P, GR-P enjoys C/D, non passable & more. ISO another single or married male, Bi or gay mature who may or may not enjoy C/D for get-togethers for mutual enjoyment possible long term friendship. Answer all sincere replies only with phone number and best time to call. PS: non CD fine also G Allyn P.O. Box 085583 Racine, WI 53408 [2]

Seeking Men over age 45 with BIG BALLS!!! to get -off with no reciprocation. Those with pics answered first! No pic?-let me take some of

you! Smile!! imn2seniors@yahoo.com [2]

You don't need viagra. I will suck cocks hard or soft, bring a friend. Very private, same day service. Must be d/d free. (262)639-4171 cell(262)994-5977. Don in Racine. [2]

Looking for hairy, steady sub BiMale GreenBay I'm a BiMale 52yo 5' 8" 165# email old-gold2@webtv.net [2]

Hot sexy swinger! Looking for other swingers in the Racine area and localities. No Late Night Calls Please! Discretion is a must!! Would like to experience a three-way or... Write or call Mark 1210 Erie St. Apt#3 Racine, WI 53403 (262)902-2792 Please send photo if available, sincere only. [2]

Single BiWM looking to meet a married Bi Male to give and receive oral pleasure. Please call and leave a message for Frank (414)617-2283 [2]

I'm still looking for eager young bottoms in Central/West Central Wisconsin. Willing to teach first timers and can host or travel. E-mail brownie3@mwt.net or call Steve at (608)427-2269. Thanx! [2]

55 year old slave seeks abusive Master for total and absolute control and slavery. slave will serve Master as he sees fit without question. Master will control every aspect of slaves life and will make slave his own private property. slave



will do all that Master requires no matter what it is. Take control, use and abuse this slave as you desire. Use me as your private toilet, domestic with strict and abusive discipline. Call slave at (414)527-1613 [2]

HELP! I'm a BiWM 60 5'9" 195# I have a cottage in Northwestern Vilas County. I spend Oct.-Nov.-Dec. up there. ISO inof on orally talented locals or visitors to that area M/F all ok. Send contact info & phone to PMB#143 1528 S. Koeller Oshkosh, WI 54902 [3]

Looking for buddy! caring, loyalty, a+! love trains, beaches, walking, games, talking nutrition or travel! (773)569-6333 Tom 3658 W. 79 Pl., Chicago. pen pal wanted too! [3]

Looking for someone to share my life with. 52 yo living in Marshfield area all my life. Own my own home for the last 30 years and am looking for anyone who may be availableand interested in wanting a LTR or would rather write or call. If so, you can write Roy, 504 S Ash, marshfield, WI 54449 or call (715)387-0659 Please be honest. [3]

Looking for off the wall bizarre males into warp, off-the-wall play, not showering for days on end, mud play, w/s. This is just the tip of it. Read through the lines if you are into wierd warp play and disease free. Call me, if no answer leave message. (262)719-9439 [3]




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(414)643-6900

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(414)481-1441

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XS Turnabout 2008

Saturday, November 22nd



It's that special time of year again when the XS employees kickoff the holiday season with another amazing Turnabout Show



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