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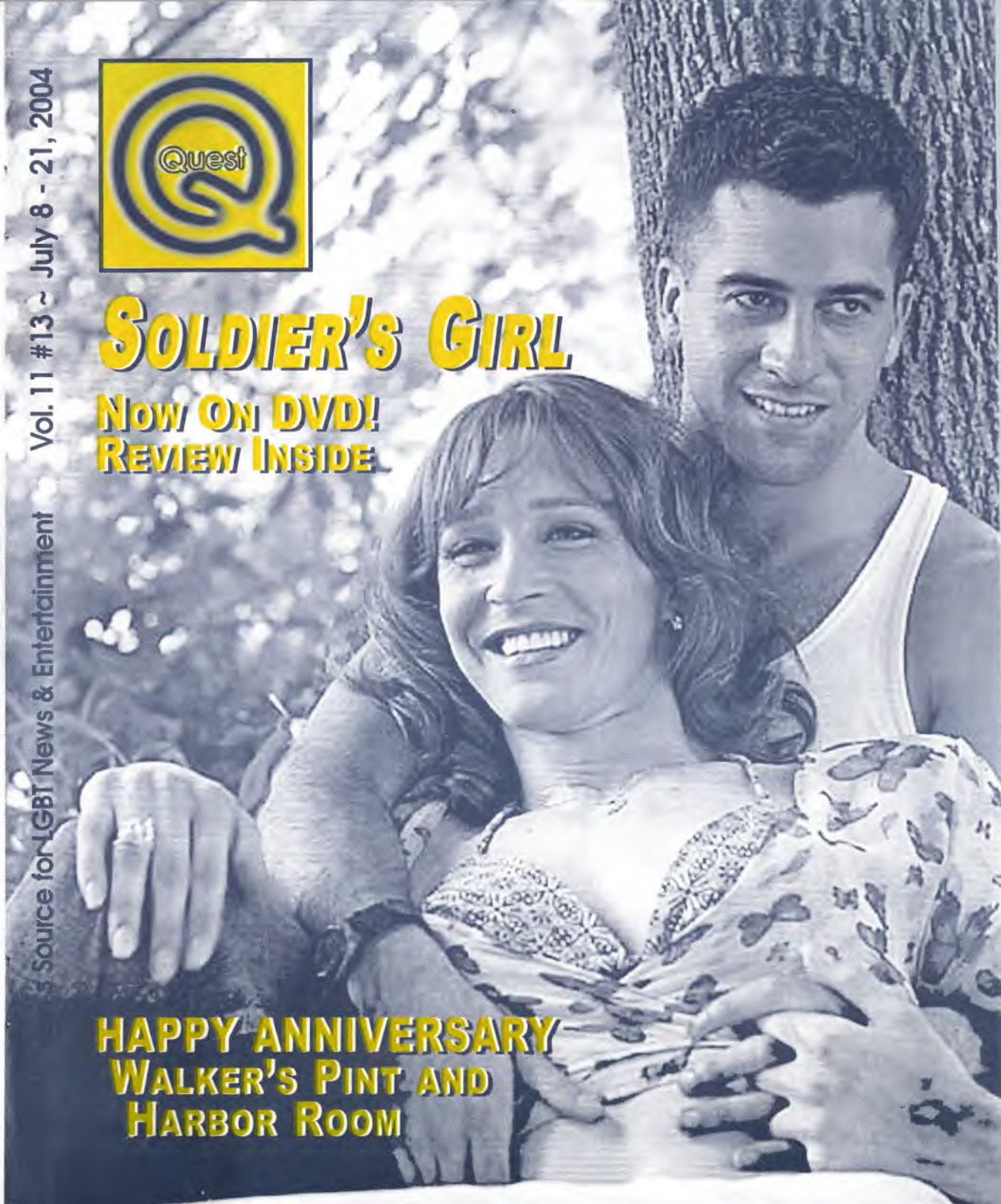


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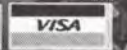
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GWM, 27, ISO HIV neg. GWMs 25-30 for friendship, possible relationship. Enjoy watch-

ing XXX movies (& others), listening to music, etc., br/br. Ron Hoffman, 111 S. Buchanan St., Appleton, WI 54913 [2]

GWM, dark hair, hazel eyes, 180, 5'2", 28 y.o., average looking, a little shy at first, ISO LTR w/ straight acting 30-45 y.o. man....caring honest, enjoys a good tyime. Your pic gets mine. Todd, 1817 104th St. (lot #48), Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158 (Kenosha area) [2]

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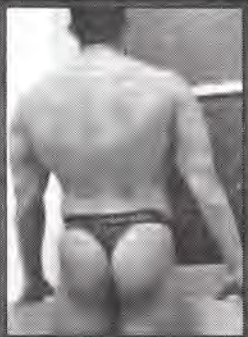


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E-Mail Address:  
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Web Site:  
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Publisher: Mark Mariucci  
Contributors: News Bureau: Mike Fitzpatrick,  
Columns: Michael Sapp, Safonda  
Production: Katie / Za  
Photography: Katie Photography  
& Chris Hammarbeck & others  
Advertising: Teddy, Katie, David  
Printing, Bindery, Delivery  
Marti, Greg, Lori, Carl, Andy, Za

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## CELEBRATING PRIDE NATIONALLY & STATEWIDE 400,000 PARADE WATCHERS IN CHICAGO, NEWLYWEDS IN SAN FRANCISCO & MANURE IN ARKANSAS

The furor over same-sex marriage appears to have energized gay pride events around the country this summer. Last weekend, the 35th anniversary of the Stonewall riots saw over a million people turn out nationally for major pride parades from coast to coast.

Chicago's 35th annual gay and lesbian Pride parade broke a record with between 350,000 to 400,000 spectators according to various reports. Over 200 units with floats from major corporations and Chicago media outlets vied for attention along with the traditional leather men and drag queens.

Politically, the parade was surprisingly bipartisan. Joining the usual bevy of Democratic elected officials, election hopefuls, and a float hanging George W. Bush in effigy, was Illinois state Republican chair-

a gay bar on Halsted Street. "That's what it's like to be a Republican. We don't march in lockstep. I'm a firm believer that all citizens in the state of Illinois deserve the same rights. No more, no less. People are people: You pinch them, they cry; you tickle them, they giggle."

Her Republican philosophy had few visible takers in the crowd, however. Rainbow-colored stickers boosting John Kerry's candidacy for president appeared by the hundreds,

**Top Stories**

Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

June 27th's gay-pride parade featured marchers even more radical - married same-sex couples. Gay and lesbian newlyweds hoisting poster-size reproductions of their marriage

licenses had a starring role at San Francisco's 34th annual parade. They were joined by Mayor Gavin Newsom and others who helped promote

same-sex unions in the history-making wedding march at City Hall earlier this year.

Newsom, who helped push the marriage debate onto the nation's agenda shortly after taking office, received the kind of reception usually reserved for rock stars and matinee idols, with shouts of "We love you, Gavin" and "Ga-vin, Ga-vin, Ga-vin" rising from the crowd as he passed. When

sands of people typically attend what organizers dub California's largest public event.

Other cities holding crowd-drawing parades June 27 included Atlanta, Seattle and New York, where gay pride parade-goers danced down Fifth Avenue and waved rainbow flags in celebration for an estimated 300,000 people. Actor Harvey Fierstein, who recently completed a Broadway run in "Hairspray," drew cheers and cries of "We love you Harvey!" Also featured this year were the police officers who were first to respond to the Stonewall Riot 35 years ago in Greenwich Village.

In tiny Conway, Arkansas, antigay pranksters thought they would foul up that city's gay pride parade. Gay pride parade officials there awoke to find the parade route covered in cow manure. Police said the dump truck load was spread at about 6.30 AM. Authorities allegedly are investigating, they said, and criminal mischief and littering charges could be filed. City workers scooped and rinsed the



A Chicago pride parade float hung President Bush in effigy for his electioneering at the expense of the LGBT community.

woman and Illinois Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka. Topinka rode a float labeled "Celebrate with Pride." Topinka said she supports a state gay rights bill and voted for similar measures when she was in the state Senate.

"One thing about Republicans: They come in all shapes, sizes, religions, genders, stripes. And that's the glory of being Republican," Topinka said at a pre-parade political reception at Sidetrack,

cy group, organized the reception that hosted Topinka and several other elected officials. "In the last 35 years this community has made great gains, but—and that's a huge 'but'—discrimination based on sexual orientation is still legal in the state of Illinois," Rick Garcia, the group's political director said.

Meanwhile, in San Francisco, the pride party still had its traditional leather-clad legions and dramatic drag queens, but

Equality Illinois, a gay-rights advocacy group, organized the reception that hosted Topinka and several other elected officials. "In the last 35 years this community has made great gains, but—and that's a huge 'but'—discrimination based on sexual orientation is still legal in the state of Illinois," Rick Garcia, the group's political director said.

"Today we're celebrating what makes San Francisco right, which is the diversity. It's a very empowering experience," Newsom said during his official welcome. An official crowd estimate was unavailable, but tens of thou-



Illinois Republican state party secretary Judy Baar Topinka rides in a Chicago Pride parade float June 27.

manure from the route prior to step-off. The parade attracted about 275 marchers in the town of 26,000 north of Little Rock. It also attracted protesters, many from local churches.

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39 y.o. GWM, 185 lbs. 5'4", drk brn hair & eyes, single, HIV + Looking to meet guys for friends / relationship/ sex / pen pals No Inmates!! [Russack1@yahoo.com](mailto:Russack1@yahoo.com) or Louis Russack, 82 Green Vista Drive, Enon, Ohio 45323 [1]

**Milwaukee** area: ISO bi-curious 1st timer, like myself. Friendly, good physical shape, 25-45, attractive member, round rear preferred for discreet 1-to-1 mutual pleasure and exploration. D free & prefer same. E-mail [JLarue699@hotmail.com](mailto:JLarue699@hotmail.com) [1]

GBM seeking chubby GWM to meet for fun to go out hopping for LTM; me over 50, you 45-50, 5'5" to 5'9". I don't smoke or drink. Have

my own home in **Milwaukee**, would like to meet someone like [wisctonsynstud](mailto:wisctonsynstud). Write Quest #276, PO Box 1961, Green Bay, WI 54305 [1]

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GWM, 50, 5'11", 190 lbs., swimmers build,

charming, easy going personality, looking for a lover 18-30. Prefer a foreigner, Asian smooth body. (920) 426-2683 or Richard Lee, 102 W. Bent Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54901 [1]

37 y.o. GWM, 5'6", 185, br/hz in **Kenosha** seeking friends and possible LTR. Seeking someone under 45 who's caring, romantic and has a sense of humor like myself. E-mail me at [saj367@yahoo.com](mailto:saj367@yahoo.com) [1]

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## WISCONSIN CELEBRATES PRIDE! July 10 in Hilbert, July 16-18 in Madison and July 30-August 1 In LaCrosse

In Wisconsin, Stonewall no doubt will be remembered at least in passing in a number of pride events happening throughout July. However, state pride themes this summer range from unity to the 25th anniversary of the Rainbow Flag.

First up on July 10, the Argonauts of Wisconsin are sponsoring a picnic on the Al Kamke farm in rural Hilbert. Billed as the "North East Wisconsin Pride Fest 2004," the day-long event will run from Noon to 9 PM and feature food, beverages, entertainment, DJ, dancing, games, and vendors. Admission will be \$2 with proceeds benefiting Argonauts Charities. The Argonauts' theme for this year's picnic is "On The Road To Unity... Together We Stand: Divided We Fall." For more information about the event, contact Leon at 920-435-6630.

Madison Pride will run the following weekend, July 17-18. The traditional "MAGIC" picnic will be held from Noon-7 PM in Brittingham Park. Live entertainment will include the Kinsey Sicks, Ronnie Nyles and Irene Keenan, Jr. The Kinsey Sicks, America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet, have served up a feast of music and comedy to audiences across the United States by combining award winning a cappella singing, sharp satire and over-the-top drag. Wisconsin's WAMI 2004 Female Vocalist of the Year Ronnie Nyles and popular Madison singer/songwriter Irene Keenan, Jr. also have strong followings.

Madison's traditional Pride Rally on the Capitol steps and Pride March will begin at 1 PM on Sunday, July 18. Brittingham Park will again serve as the post parade gathering spot with entertainment scheduled throughout the afternoon. Madison Pride's theme for 2004 is the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Pride Flag.

LaCrosse' annual pride weekend "Pride Along the Mississippi" will be held July 30-August 1, with many of the major events happening on the city's Southside Fest Grounds. Pride Along the Mississippi and the 7 Rivers GLBT Resource Center will sponsor a "Meet & Greet LaCrosse" dance at the Concordia Ballroom, 1129 La Crosse Street, beginning at 7:30 PM on

Friday, July 30 to kick off the weekend festival. There will be a DJ, cash bar, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction.

On July 31, the Annual Peg Heinz Golf Tournament will be held to benefit for breast cancer research. Tee-off time is 9:30 AM at Walsh's Golf Course and is limited to a maximum of 40 participants. The Pride Along the Mississippi festival will open at 12:30 PM. Admission is \$8, with a dollar off when making a food pantry donation. Entertainment will feature singers Ann Reed, Kelly Brightwell, Ellis, Me & Rosie B and the Miss LaCrosse Pride pageant.

LaCrosse pride events conclude with the annual "Sunday Picnic in the Park" beginning at Noon Noon, Sunday, August 1 at Rowe Park, #1 Shelter at 710 Hilltopper Place in Onalaska. Cost for the picnic is \$6. For more information about the artists, Pride Along the Mississippi events and golf tournament, go to [www.lacrossepride.com](http://www.lacrossepride.com).

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2 BR upper flat (Milwaukee) near St. Luke's/Alverno. Off street parking, appliances, A/C. No pets, no smoking. \$600 mo. (414) 647-2620 [1]

**West Allis - GWM** seeks male roommate to share 2 bedroom lower (very nice area); prefer someone over 30 y.o., no drugs, non-smoker or trying to quit. \$300 mo. includes utilities, washer/dryer. (414) 545-6539 [1]

4 BR 2 share w/ (male) roommates. 2 story, clean, quiet, M/U area. Smokers welcome, rec room w/ fireplace, \$450 a mo., all utilities included. John (414) 933-7855. Milwaukee [1]

**Roommate** wanted to share 4 b.r. furnished two story w/ 3 other male roommates - clean, quiet, good Milwaukee neighborhood in M/U area. Smokers OK. Rec room w/ pool table & fireplace. \$450 mo., all utilities incl. Call John (414) 933-7855 [2]

**Roommate in Milwaukee!** Share furnished NW side 3-bedrm home w/ GWM, \$320 mo. Washer, dryer, cable & garage, non-smoker preferred. (414) 354-3879 [2]

**Upper flat in West Allis:** 1 bedrm, w/ sunroom, appl., off street parking, use of washer/dryer, stove, fridge, cable, heat & elec. incl. Sec. dep. Bob (414) 454-0621 [2]

Responsible caring roommate wanted: 1123 Bond St., Green Bay - very clean, spacious, 2 bedrm apt., garage, basement,

washer/dryer, many X-tras incl. Must see. Available now. Please leave message for bi-sexual John (920) 490-0371 [2]

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Your signature, address and phone w/ area code are required on classified ads so we can contact you if there's a problem. E-mail classes return address OK. (Business related classifieds are \$10 per issue; include payment with ad copy) **STATE YOU ARE OVER 18! Please LIMIT COPY TO 30-40 WORDS!** (We can not accept classified ads from incarcerated folks.) Please be considerate of others; we have limited space....please do not submit additional ads until several months have passed. Quest reserves the right to edit for brevity.

**Bodybuilder/Certified Masseur w/ table.** Very good looking, 32, 5'9", 220 lbs., 50" chest, 30" waist, German/Italian. Outcalls only. Milwaukee/Chicago areas. (414) 412-5071. Jeff (x7/21)

**Certified massage therapist** in the Milwaukee area. Professional sport, Swedish & Reflexology therapy. Sunday appointments only 10am-8pm; 1 hr., \$60 / 1.5 hrs., \$85. Please call Bruce (414) 379-5552 (x10/26)

**Full body massage** by 23-year-old Jonathan, new to Milwaukee! (Look for Jonathan's photos in an upcoming issue of *Freshmen*; photo session was mid-April) - (414) 687-3869 or IRubItGood@yahoo.com. Two person massage available on request. Escort services, too. (p)

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**Massage!** All American 24-year-old, 6'5", great with hands. \$60 per 1/2 hr. Prompt, reliable, comfortable! Call Jason (414) 517-7065

Middle-aged Appleton-Oshkosh area gentleman offers massage services for men only. 1-hr. full body massage, \$50. Available 24/7 by appointment. Page (920) 616-2535.

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# Tuesday, July 13

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# Wednesday July 21st

**PINT STAFF AUCTION - Breast Cancer Fundraiser**  
Buy your favorite Pint Staffers to raise \$\$\$\$\$ for the Susan G Komen Foundation  
And get a night out on the town at one of the following places: BBC, Fluid, Fritz's, Rain, Treats, Vitucci's, Whiskey Waters, Y-Not 3, or win a boat ride with Bet-z's parents. Awesome Raffles prizes to be won

**KARAOKE STARTS AT 9PM (AUCTION TO FOLLOW SHORTLY AFTER)**

**www.walkerspintmilwaukee.com**



**Massachusetts: Bid to Stop Gay Marriages Rejected** - A Boston federal appeals court June 29 rejected an attempt by conservative groups and state lawmakers to stop gay marriage here. The Florida-based Liberty Counsel, which launched the lawsuit, said it would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The plaintiffs had argued that Massachusetts' high court usurped the power of the Legislature - and thereby violated the U.S. Constitution - when it ruled last year that gay couples are entitled to wed. The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed and said the appropriate way to contest the state court ruling is by amending the Massachusetts Constitution - a long process already under way. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of Robert Largess, the vice president of the Catholic Action League, and 11 state lawmakers.

The federal appeals court had rejected an earlier request by the groups to stop the first marriage licenses from being issued to gay couples in May. The ruling was the latest in a series of defeats for conservative groups in both state and federal courts.

The appeals court said the November 2003 gay-marriage ruling by Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court did not violate a clause in the U.S. Constitution that calls for a republican form of government in each state. The only way a state could run afoul of the clause would be to establish a monarchy or take other action that clearly deviated from the republican form of government, the appeals court said.

### Virginia: Hundreds Rally to Protest Virginia Antigay Law

Hundreds of people in cities across the state rallied June 30 to protest the passage of an anti-gay law that critics say could interfere with legal contracts between same-sex couples. The state law, which went into effect July 1, prohibits civil unions, partnership contracts or other arrangements "purporting to bestow the privileges or obligations of marriage." Some legal scholars and gay activists say it could be interpreted to nullify medical directives, wills, joint bank accounts and other partnership

agreements between same-sex couples. "(The law) clearly states that gay and lesbian people in this state should not feel welcome," Dyana Mason, executive director of Equality Virginia, the state's largest gay rights organization, said at the Richmond rally. "It seeks to strip the only tool that gay and lesbian couples have to protect their families." The rally drew a lively crowd of more than 400 gay activists and their supporters to the Capitol grounds. Some peddled T-shirts reading "Virginia is for Lovers." Some



restrictions apply," while others held signs denouncing the bill's sponsor, Republican Robert Marshall.

Simultaneous rallies were held in Norfolk, Charlottesville, Fredericksburg, Fairfax, Staunton and Roanoke - the major metropolitan areas in the state. Governor Mark R. Warner issued a statement condemning the law, which he unsuccessfully attempted to amend during the legislative session to make less restrictive, then refused to sign.

"This law raises serious constitutional issues and it places Virginia outside the mainstream of other states when it comes to respecting individual liberty," he said in a statement that was read by Commerce and Trade Secretary Michael Schewel.

Kent Willis, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, said his group was working with others to legally challenge the law, which he said is so vaguely worded, it could be used against heterosexuals of

the same sex who enter into legal agreements with each other.

But Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore has said that the law provides a needed safeguard for the institution of marriage and does not deprive anyone of individual rights. Kilgore has vowed to defend the law if challenged.

### Washington, DC: Marriage Amendment Vote Set For July 12

With an expected Senate vote on the Federal Marriage Amendment less than two weeks away, lawmakers continue to take testimony on the proposal to ban gay marriage in the U.S. Constitution, while feeling heat from lobbyists on both sides of the issue. GOP leaders in Congress have indicated they will schedule a vote on the FMA sometime during the week of July 12.

Last week, the House Subcommittee on the Constitution heard from two social conservatives who have long opposed gay rights. Phyllis Schlafly, president of the Eagle Forum, testified in support of the FMA along with former Rep. Bill Dannemeyer (R-CA). Schlafly, whose son was outed in the early 1990s, said it is "imperative that Congress stop federal judges from asserting judicial supremacy over our rights of self-government."

The Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay rights group, noted that Schlafly once said gay people should not work in the food-handling business and that Dannemeyer once compared the gay rights movement to Nazi Germany. "Featuring testimony by two long-time opponents of equality proves the argument that this is about discrimination," Human Rights Campaign president Cheryl Jacques said.

African-American advocacy groups also hosted dueling news conferences on the FMA last week. The National Coalition of African-American Ministers held a news conference on Capitol Hill to voice its support for the measure, another news conference, sponsored by HRC and the National Black Justice Coalition, was also held on Capitol Hill and featured black clergy supportive of gay and lesbian equality.

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Club 5 Bar & Restaurant 5 Applegate Court  
Madison, (608)277-9700

CLUB Majestic 115 King Street  
Madison, (608)251-CLUB

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

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Stevens Point, WI (715)342-5820

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Green Bay (920) 435-1057

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Green Bay (920)432-9646

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

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Milwaukee (414)273-7474

Boot Camp 209 E National  
Milwaukee (414)643-6900

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

Club 219 219 S 2nd,  
Milwaukee (414)276-2711

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

Emeralds 801 E Hadley St,  
Milwaukee (414) 265-7325

Fluid (The Wet Spot) 819 South 2nd  
Milwaukee (414) 643-5843

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

LaCage 8015 2nd,  
Milwaukee (414)383-8330

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124 N Water,  
Milwaukee (414)347-1962

Nut Hut 1500 W Scott  
Milwaukee (414)647-2673

Off The Tracks 1534 W. Grant  
Milwaukee (414)384-5980

SWITCH 124 W National  
Milwaukee (414)220-4340

This Is It 418 E Wells,  
Milwaukee (414)278-9192

Triangle 135 E National,  
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Walker's Pint 818 S. 2nd St  
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Woody's 1579 S. 2nd,  
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JoDee's 2139 Racine St, Racine  
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## BEST KEPT SECRETS



By Jonathan Caudill

Welcome back, everyone! I know I've not been in *Quest* for a couple of weeks, and I dare say I'm very sorry. I have not been feeling all that well of late, but am now back up and running.

Let's talk about how to make an entrance when you show up at the place everyone who is anyone is in attendance. Two weeks ago, I'd arranged for a car, and, at the last second, they showed up in this nasty 1975 two-tone Caddy with rust holes. Being the stuck up b\_\_\_ that I am, I turned up my nose and marched back into the house before anyone had seen me close to such a travesty.

I ran upstairs in a panic, raced into my office and grabbed the latest issue of *Quest*...saw their ad and called Fox Valley Limousine. (My roommate, Jason, and I could not drive ourselves; that would simply be irresponsible.) You know we were about to be messed up by the time that party was over, and we headed for PrideFest, too...and we certainly needed to be seen by the who's who of the gay world!

My friends are all str8 and not really caring who did not like them at PrideFest, but we all loved it when every-

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one stopped and looked.

My call to **Fox Valley Limo** was quickly returned by owner Jeff Connor, asking what he could do to help. Within fifteen minutes, and admittedly with a bit of 'near our location' luck, limo driver Thom was at my door. Thom joined us for some home made tea as I hurriedly finished getting ready.

I was nearly breathless after a few minutes in Thom's presence, and, would you believe, Thom was none other than Miss Tammy Faye. Yes, we were headed for the party of all parties and our limo driver knew everyone in sight!!! If it's a spot to get drunk and have cute boys fall all over themselves at you; Tammy knows at least half the bartending staff and can most likely get you in free.

We arrived at PrideFest and watched my girl Lady Gia tear it up (you work, bitch, much love to you, girl, you always pull it off no matter who thinks you can't do it...now that's the making of a real diva.) Then it was off to six house parties and off to Club Three, the hotties bar in town. We were, of course, met with much fanfare as always.

After all of this, we were off to cruise around the city, and before we knew it, we were leading a ten-car 'parade' heading back to the hotel near the airport where we throw poolside raves.

*The night was a complete A-plus, thanks to Fox Valley Limo!*

Miss Jonathan here is not just talking good because Jeff is the owner of **Fox Valley Limo**, a *Quest* staff writer and married to Miss CC Domino, the reigning *Miss Entertainer of the Year*, former Miss Gay Wisconsin and, yes, they do deserve props for being a couple for eight years! You go bois. We love you!

Changing gears a bit, Jeff has been in the limo business for the past seventeen years, and purchased **Fox Valley Limo** five years ago.

Did you know **Fox Valley Limo** is the exclusive limo company of the Green Bay Packers?! And, it's the most used limo service by Wisconsin's corporate world (which is about 80% of their business).

When you call Fox Valley for a limo, you can be absolutely certain the drivers know the hottest places to go, to be polite and professional.

Fox has served some of America's biggest stars - Reba McEntyre, Trisha Yearwood, WWF stars, Rod Stewart and many more. You can be certain they'll be taking good care of Tanya Tucker when she performs in Brew City this fall. (Frankly, I know this will be the case, having served for four years as M Fox Valley is the limo service you should call when there's Tanya Tucker's personal assistant. She will be *pampered* by the boys from Fox Valley!)

Yes, a wedding or other important occasion....or any other event, give **Fox Family Limo** a ring! (1-800-403-4626)

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Woody's • Wednesday, July 28  
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## Community Calendar

**Saturday, July 10**  
**Fundraising Auction & Show, Club Night Out**, 2533 Cty. M, Stevens Point, 9 pm; fmo (715) 342-5820  
Metropolitan Community Church - Mary & Diane Social & Campout in Menomonee

**Monday, July 12**  
**SAGE (Milw.) - Politics as Unusual** - discussion group, 5 pm, at SAGE offices. Just show up!

**Tuesday, July 13**  
**Outwords (Milw.) The Lesbian Reading Group** at Outwords meets to discuss discuss Nina Revoyr's Lambda Award-Winning novel, *Southland*. New members always welcome!

**Wednesday, July 14**  
**SAGE/Milw. Brown Bag Lunch** groups meets at noon at the SAGE offices (bring your own lunch). Alice Kowalski will be on hand to discuss the services available from the Milwaukee Co. Dep't. on Aging.  
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing. **94 North (Kenosha)**, 10pm-1am

**Thursday, July 15**  
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, **Boom**

**Friday, July 16**  
**SAGE/Milwaukee Dining Out Group** heads for Cafe' LuLu, 2266 S. Howell Ave. for cocktails at 6 pm, dinner at 6:30. Reserve your spot (414) 224-0517. (Future dinner meetings include Aug. 22 for brunch at the Astor St. Restaurant, and Sept. 15 for dinner at Potawatomi Bingo Casino.)  
**Madison's MAGIC WEEK-END - July 16-17-18**  
**Sat., July 17 - MAGIC Picnic**, 1-6 p.m. @ Brittingham Park; Entertainment - The Kinsey Sicks, Irene Keenan, Jr., Ronnie Niles  
**Sun., July 18, Pride March**, 1-6 pm; State Capitol to Brittingham Park

**Saturday, July 17**  
Madison Gay Video Club, 8 pm: *Queer As Folk* (episode 404), *Jack and Hog: Leather File*; fmo [www.mgvc.org](http://www.mgvc.org) or (608) 244-8675

**Wednesday, July 21**  
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, **Fluid**

**Saturday, July 24**  
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, **Club 219**

**Sunday, July 25**  
**Rockford Pride Picnic - Fuller Park**  
**SAGE/Milwaukee's Annual Garden Party** at members Bill Edwards & Randy Barr's home (2761 S. Fulton St.) for a potluck (grilled chicken provided). Call to reserve (414) 224-0517

**Wednesday, July 28**  
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am @ **Woody's**

**Saturday, July 31**  
**SAGE/Milwaukee Sat. Baseball League Potluck Picnic**, 11 am - ??? at Mitchell Park softball area just east of the 27th St. Domes on Pierce. Plan to attend? Call (414) 224-0517

**Wednesday, August 4**  
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, @ **Harbor Room**

**Saturday, August 7**  
**Central Pride Day Out - Pride Picnic**, 12 noon : Club Night Out, 2533 Cty. M, Stevens Point, \$7 at gate. fmo (715) 212-3068  
**Metropolitan Community Church (Green Bay & Appleton) Church picnic today in Wrightstown**  
**XS Night Club (Green Bay) 4th Annual Sage LaRue Memorial Show - champagne reception at 9, show at 10 pm. Special Guest Erica Andrews, Miss Gay USofA '99.**  
**Napalese Lounge (Green Bay)** Superstar Productions presents **Miss Rainbow Over Wisconsin USofA**, 10:30 pm; \$3 cover. FMO (920) 217-2199 or [superstar\\_productions2003@yahoo.com](mailto:superstar_productions2003@yahoo.com)

**Sunday, August 15**  
**SAGE/Milwaukee Boot Camp Patio Party**, 3 pm - ?? A buffet will be served, cash bar

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## Music Reviews

### AMICI "FOREVER"



The Opera Band

Amici Forever is a British classical crossover group made up of five classically trained singers from around the globe (Britain, South Africa, and New Zealand). The two sopranos, two tenors and bass baritone blend together beautifully on the twelve tracks, which feature a blend of classical (Zadok the Priest, Whisper of Angels), opera (Nessun Dorma, Au fond du temple saint), pop (Unchained Melody, Canto Alla Vita), and soundtrack selections (the requiem from "Band of Brothers").

The music shifts between delicate orchestral backing (Nessun Dorma, Au fond du temple saint from Delibes' The Pearl Fishers) and dance/electronic elements (Prayer in the Night, based on Handel's Sarabande, with an insistent bass line and dance beats underscoring the melody). The orchestration is brilliant, always supporting the voices but never overpowering. The songs are most often in Italian, although Latin and French make brief appearances as well.

Kudos to Amici Forever for choosing lesser-recorded songs (Zadok the Priest, Au fond du temple saint, Handel's Sarabande) in addition to the heavies like Nessun Dorma and Fauré's Pavane, and for experimenting with newer material with classical potential (Band of Brothers, Canto Alla Vita, Unchained Melody). The excellent production values and vocal purity brings to mind

British soprano Izzy's American debut A New Dawn.

Nothing could improve upon the tranquil beauty and sheer aural delight of Amici Forever. This album is perfect for daydreaming and relaxing to at the end of a stressful day.

**LABEL: RCA • NOW AVAILABLE**

### THE DRESDEN DOLLS

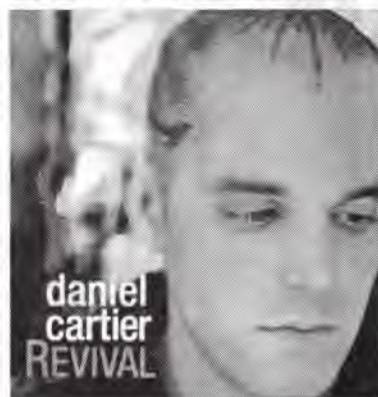
The Dresden Dolls have somehow created an entirely new sound by incorporating german cabaret music, metronome-caliber drumming, confes-



sional lyrics, and amazing vocals that range from riot-grrl shriek to heartfelt whisper. It's hard to believe that this duo hails from none other than Boston, Mass.(and not post WWI Berlin). "Coin-operated Boy" and "Missed Me" wouldn't seem out of place on the Cabaret soundtrack, while the absolute rockingness of "Girl Anachronism" practically begs to be a Sleater-Kinney song. With only two members, she on the electric piano & mike, he on the drums, they pounded through all the hits with a fascinating alacrity. Who knew such a rich, full sound could emanate from just two instruments. In concert they have covered both a Fugazi song and an 18th century sailing song(which is quite a feat to attempt to pull off, and another entirely to pull off successfully). The crowd was extraordinarily diverse as well, with everything from clad-all-in-black goth kids to middle-aged couples to college-aged indie rock snobs.

**LABEL: 8FT RECORDS • NOW AVAILABLE**

### DANIEL CARTIER "REVIVAL"



Daniel Cartier is an unflinchingly original (and, as he likes to joke in his shows, "wicked-gay") singer-songwriter whose intimate, personal songs often cut straight to the heart of the matter. With a voice that at times sounds as if he trained under the vocal tutelage of Alison Moyet, Cartier's expressive, emotive vocals wrap themselves around his complex, insightful lyrics and impressive melodies, drawing the listener in to his aurally exciting world. In a recent concert at Los Angeles' Cavern Club Theatre, Cartier joked that attending his shows is like "hanging out in my kitchen while I sing a couple ditties." His albums are a bit more grand-scale, with impeccable production values and musically expansive arrangements that showcase his infectiously hummable pop-folk tunes. Once signed to Elton John's Rocket Records, the indie artist (who got his start performing on the subway platforms of New York City) was out of a deal when the PolyGram-owned label was taken over in a corporate merger. Unstoppable, Cartier learned how to engineer and produce his own albums. His latest, REVIVAL, is an excellent vehicle for his singular style. Highlights include the album's powerful opening track, "Lay It On," the upbeat and wistful "Beautiful," the slightly disco-fied "Everybody Wants to Be Loved by Somebody," the lovely "Under the Willow Tree," the fun and funky "Supafly," the hopeful "Life Could Be," and the somber "What's It Gonna Be?," a track written to honor the memory of Matthew Shepard.

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# QUEST DEADLINES

**Vol. 11 Issue 14**

Deadline

**Tuesday, July 13**

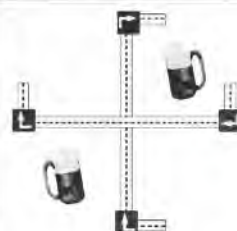
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### UPCOMING EVENTS

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**Green Bay: Guernsey Gala Kicks Off July 10** - The 15th Annual Guernsey Gala to benefit people living with HIV/AIDS in northeastern Wisconsin will begin July 10 with a Kick Off party at Napalese Lounge, winner of last year's competition. During the three week competition which will follow each of the participating establishment sponsoring a Guernsey "Queen" candidate will attempt to raise the most dollar "votes" for their candidate. Money historically has been raised through various dinners, car washes, wet T-shirt contests, rummage sales, "cow egg" sales, brat fries, raffles, and other special events or fee-for-service schemes.

The annual Guernsey softball tournament will be held the following day, July 11 at Murphy Park, Military and Dousman, starting at 11AM. The July 31 grand finale will be held at a location to be determined by lottery at the Kick Off Event. The Guernsey Gala is a community enrichment project sponsored and facilitated by Rainbow Over Wisconsin. For more information about the competition, contact Marilyn at 920-436-9072.

**LaCrosse: Gay Community Center To Open** - LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region has become a reality. The center is located at 115 E. 5th Street, Suite 408, in downtown La Crosse in the Scenic Center building and will open for business shortly. The community center's bylaws have been submitted and approved by the state of Wisconsin, and the center is networking toward getting a tax-exempt status with the IRS.

The center will host a Meet and Greet event on Friday, July 30, beginning at 7:30 PM at the Concordia Ballroom in La Crosse to both get the word out about the center and to begin recruiting members. The event will feature DJ Libby from the Chameleon Club who will be teaching line dances as well as providing

music. Sloppy joes, chips, salad and cookies are being provided free by the center, and beer/beverages will be available for purchase. The event will also have a "Buy A Day" table at which people can buy a day to help the center financially.



**Madison: 12th Annual Outreach Award Winners Named** - Five outstanding individuals and an exceptional organization will be honored by OutReach's Annual Awards Dinner on Friday, July 16 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. "Courage, compassion and perseverance are among the traits epitomized by this year's awards winners," OutReach Executive Director John Quinlan said in the formal announcement press release.

Former Governor Anthony Earl will receive OutReach's "Political Courage Award" for his administration's groundbreaking advocacy in the mid-1980s on behalf of LGBT rights.

In a year when the headlines are filled with the debate over same sex marriage, the statewide political group Action Wisconsin has taken the lead it is OutReach's Organization of the Year.

Man of the Year Tim O'Brien is Action

Wisconsin's current board president, and has been an LGBT community leader for more than two decades, including spearheading a history-making 8,000 person LGBT rights march in 1989.

Woman of the Year and another longtime community activist, Patti Thompson, was a founding board member of Rainbow Families Wisconsin, and coordinated the group's state conference in Madison this spring.

Volunteer of the Year Brian Ponce has worked tirelessly for OutReach in many different realms, including services as a peer counselor, Speaker's Bureau panelist, graphic designer, and co-convenor of the LGBT people of color social/support group.

Ally of the Year Joe Parisi, who currently serves as Dane County Clerk. Parisi is a public official whose vocal support for legal recognition of LGBT families has been a model for other straight allies who currently enjoy the privileges of marriage.

The Director's Special Recognition Award is being presented for the first time this year to the Madison Area Transgender Association, a group doing groundbreaking work in advancing understandings about transgender people locally.

OutReach's 12th annual awards dinner will have an "Oscar Night" feel to it this year, according to Community Relations and Development Coordinator Nikki Baumbach. The July 16 event will begin with a 6 PM reception and silent auction, followed by the dinner and program at 7:30 PM. In addition to keynote speeches by former Governor Anthony Earl and State Rep Tammy Baldwin, the youth of Proud Theater will perform. Tickets are \$50, with proceeds going to support the important work of OutReach. For more information and tickets, call (608) 255-8582 or write to commrel@outreachinc.com. Reservation deadline is July 9.

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# Safonda Says All

GREETINGS ALL, Time for a little bit of fun, again because of the summer months, there just is not to much going on.

So again, this is all I have. First, Napalese Lounge had their annual Country Ho down show. As always, our own Miss Wisconsin Classic, Miss Elsie Bovine, is resident show director at the bar. She sure knows how to put a great line up together. Names, names, names. Loretta Lamoure, Mark Madison, Elsie herself, Mercedes Andrews our current reigning Miss Teen going on like six years now, Miss N.E.W. Lucinda Andrews and Alexis St. James just to name a few. They also had some down home live country singers. The show was really a great time except for one little detail. It was more like a tribute to Shania Twain. Girls, compare your songs! The show had plenty of performers, over twenty numbers I believe, however the hostess with the lightning fast tongue, ( in more ways than one I hear) Katrina K. Kept the show moving right along.

Next show I attended was the Entertainers Against Aids benefit put on by Nicholas James at The Historic West Theater. Also a really great show with tons of numbers. Miss Kelli Jo Klein Emceed and did her best to keep the show moving along with a few laughs. Again it was the who's who of entertainers gracing the stage. A mix of drag, boy numbers half naked and live singing proved to be a great night of entertainment. Miss Alexis St. James and Nicholas did a duet as a closing number for the show, having some skipping problems with the CD kinda of turned it into a comical final rap number. I suppose that since Alexis just skips around stage any way, it all looked fine. My other question, where were all the members of E.A.A.? Except for the people who performed, and one other member in the audience, I really did not see anyone from this fine organization. Also seen at the show was none other than our current Miss Wisconsin Holly Hot Damn in a hot red jump suit toasting her birthday. All I can say is, it is the first time I have ever seen a person drink beer and shots of Hot Damn out of wine glasses. How classy! Love ya girl!

I want to take a moment to thank all of you who sent me your comments on the drag show at Pridefest this year. It really lets me know I am doing my job when I get comments agreeing with me from others who saw the so called entertainment. Do not get me wrong from what I hear there was one or two people who put on a good number. I did receive a note from someone



who completely disagreed with me. Kinda tore me a new one. Turns out it was one of the performers that did not come out of the article looking to good. Some people just can not understand they are not as good as they think they are. You would think never winning a pageant would be a clue, or running for one in your hometown and the crowd not even liking you and still losing. Hopefully enough said.

On to the rumors, I am starting to hear that there just might be some surprise entries in this years state competition. Apparently some of the upper crust entertainers may be coming out of hiding to make a go at getting the crown. Regardless, and I have said this so many times, you all know what it takes to win this thing so please, for my sanity, be sure you bring the best you got! I do not enjoy sitting at my table thinking to myself " Oh no she didn't". This is not a prelim people! If you have not gotten over half your stuff ready, you best get a steppin!

And now for an award! I have decided to call this one, 'The talking out of you ass'

award. I have been hearing for months from many many people that the Historic West Theater is closing end of June. Now I realize there are some people out there that do not care much for the West or it's owner, but why spread nasty rumors about it's demise? Is that not sinking lower than low? The reason I must write about this is, I have spent many of hours sitting at various watering holes listening to people going on and on about this very topic. Where are the shows going to be held? There is no other place that can accommodate putting on a big show. What is going to happen? On and on. I am not biased to any particular place. If it has booze, my friends, a show or a good time to be had, that is where I will be. So, my question is this, what are they going to be saying now that everything they have been mouthing off about is all shit? I personally have been invited to shows and events in different capacities reaching into the end of this year. It just goes to show you that you can not believe everything you hear. I am not one to make anyone feel like a dumb shit, but I sure hope these people that bent my ear for hours at a time when I could have been talking about real gossip can explain to me where they got their information from or was it just wishful thinking?

Well, that is pretty much it for now.

Be sure to watch Quest for up coming events. I am hearing that Miss Rainbow over Wisconsin is coming up at Napalese. From what I hear it is going to be quite the prelim being put on. Also, Miss Wisconsin Classic is coming up at The West, from what I am hearing the bar is being transformed by the promoters to the point it will almost be unrecognizable inside. And from the talent being brought in, this is the pageant not to miss this year.

*Til next time • See ya at the shows!*

*Safonda*

*Safondaboys@aol.com*

**Any and all comments, opinions and gossip are welcome. Send them to SaFonda or directly to Quest at editor@quest-online.com**



Pictures from Corky's Birthday show at the Triangle in Milwaukee. Our new Miss Wisconsin Continental and New Milwaukee Resident – Taylor Roberts – really knows how to pose against aluminum. Also on hand were Christina Chase, Alexis Winter, Billie Blaze, and Jackie Roberts.

## Miss Capital City Pride USofA

**Sunday, July 18 (after Madison Pride)**

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*Miss Gay Wi USofA*

*with guests:*

*Cass Marie Domino*

*Lucinda Adrews,  
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*Registration: 9 pm • Interview 9:30 pm • Pageant 10:30 pm*

*For more info contact: Kelli Jo 920-737-9697*



**Madison: Men's Coming Out Group to Start at OutReach** - A men's coming-out support group is forming and will begin meeting during the mid-summer at OutReach. The purpose of the group is to offer support to men who are dealing with the realization that they are not heterosexual and how that affects their everyday lives and to support those people previously or currently in same sex relationships. The men's coming out support group will identify and discuss the stages of coming out and explore topics such as how to deal with family members, physical and sexual safety, legal rights and discrimination, and spirituality, among others. The group will run for ten weeks. Two trained volunteers will facilitate each meeting. People who are interested in attending the meetings should leave a message for Jim with contact information by Friday, July 9.

**Madison: Partners of Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse Peer Support Group Starts** - A partners of survivors of childhood sexual abuse peer support group is set to start on Wednesdays from 12-1 PM at Outreach, Madison's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center 600 Williamson Street. The group will meet for 8 weeks beginning July 28 through September 15.

The format of the group will be very loosely structured around several extremely helpful books and the wisdom that comes from each person in the group. While supporting the survivors is important in a loving and committed relationship, the focus of this group is on supporting ourselves as partners. This is a place to speak your truth without having to tone it down, to air all your frustrations, anger, loneliness and any other feelings that come along. It's also a place

where we will learn how to find ways to get our needs met that aren't being met in the relationship and to develop a support system of our own as partners of survivors. If you are a survivor as well as a partner of a survivor, you are equally welcomed, but the group will stay focused on your experience and needs as a partner. All genders and sexual orientations are welcomed to this group.

The group will be facilitated by Sabrina Santa Clara. Sabrina is a massage/somatic therapist and the owner of The Healing Journey ~ Yoga, Massage & Somatic Therapy. Sabrina is soon to be entering her Masters program in Somatic Psychology. She is a survivor and has been a partner of a survivor of Childhood Sexual Abuse. For more information and to sign-up for the group, please contact Sabrina at 608.576.8863 or [sabrina@hitherapy.com](mailto:sabrina@hitherapy.com).

**Milwaukee: Community Block Party Set** - The 2nd Annual Community Center Tenant & Community Block Party will be held on Saturday, July 17, from Noon-5 PM outside the LGBT Community Center Between MLK Drive & 4th Street. Join The Community Center for a day of family fun and more. Food and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. For more information call 414-271-2656.

**Milwaukee: Family Picnic Planned** - The Rainbow Family Picnic will be held Saturday, July 17, from 3-6 PM at Doctor's Park, Picnic Area 2. (Doctor's Park is just south of Brown Deer Road on Lakeshore Drive). Picnic Area 2 is near a playground area there are also large open fields for running, kicking balls, blowing bubbles and playing frisbee. "Main dish", paper products, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass. RSVP by July 12 at [lysni-iz@earthlink.net](mailto:lysni-iz@earthlink.net).

**Milwaukee: FORGE Social Support Meeting Announced** - FORGE will meet on Saturday, July 17, from 7-10 PM. This meeting will provide a space for stimulating dialogue where participants can share their experiences and ideas in a loosely facilitated environment. Vote for the topic you are most interested in by going to [www.forge-forward.org/socialsupport/summersurvey.php](http://www.forge-forward.org/socialsupport/summersurvey.php). FORGE is a social support group open to all people interested in Female to Male+ (FTM+) and Significant Others, Family, Friends, and Allies (SOFFA's) issues. For more information contact [info@forge-forward.org](mailto:info@forge-forward.org).

**Milwaukee: SAGE Pot Luck Picnic Planned** - The SAGE Saturday Baseball League will sponsor a Pot Luck Picnic Saturday, July 31, beginning at 11 AM at the Mitchell Park softball area just east of the Domes (27th Street) on Pierce. Bring a dish to pass and your own brat, Burger, or steak to grill. Soft drinks provided by SAGE. Please RSVP by calling the SAGE offices at 414-224-0517.

**Waukesha: Annual PFLAG Picnic Set** - The annual PFLAG Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 18, beginning at 2:30 PM at Georgia Henry's Home, W233 S5251 Cottontail Trail, Waukesha. Bring a dish to pass and a lawn chair. Brigitte Wojcik (262-253-6514) is coordinating pot luck dishes so that there is no duplication. A free will donation will be taken to support ongoing PFLAG Education, Support, and Advocacy. For more information about this event or about PFLAG please call 414-299-9198.

## MOVIE REVIEW

### "SOLDIER'S GIRL"

What with "Will & Grace" long a part of NBC's "must see Thursday," the Fab Five giving makeover tips to hapless straight guys on Bravo every Tuesday night not to mention such premium cable favorites like "Six Feet Under," "Queer as Folk" and "The L-Word," there is clearly an increasing diversity to be found on our televisions. Still, it would be wrong to assume that all of America has reached a level of sophistication matching that of loyal *Quest* readers.

Nowhere had it become as apparent to Glenn as when watching the recently released on DVD, "Soldier's Girl."

Originally a Showtime™ made-for-cable movie, "Soldier's Girl" explores the tragic relationship between pre-operative transgender showgirl, Calpernia Addams and Pfc. Barry Winchell. Winchell has become something of a gay martyr following his savage murder at the hands of two fellow soldiers at

Kentucky's Fort Campbell in 1999.

In Ron Nyswaner's screenplay, Winchell (Troy Garity), along with a few other soldiers, find their way to Visions, a Tennessee gay bar featuring drag revues. Once the show is over, his drunken friend Fisher (Shawn Hatosy) sends Winchell to find out if Calpernia Addams is really a boy or a girl. Whether or not he gets his answer is left to speculation. That Winchell has become positively smitten with stunning Calpernia (Lee Pace) is abundantly clear. Shy and rather awkward, Winchell slowly musters up enough courage to ask Calpernia out. For her part, Calpernia is initially doubtful. For too long has she had to pretend to be as tough as her press-on nails to even allow the hope of the sort of relationship Winchell appears to be offering.

Watching "Soldier's Girl," Glenn couldn't help but wonder - as will most LGBT audiences - how Winchell didn't immediately realize that he and his buddies had wandered into a drag revue. How could he not??

Nevertheless, Winchell knows to keep his relationship with Calpernia under wraps from his barrack buddies, especially the emotionally volatile Fisher, whose obsessive relationship with Winchell is portrayed in definite homoerotic overtones.

The narrative progresses, as we know it must, to its unavoidable conclusion.

Although mired a bit in its unfortunate "disaster-of-the-week" formula, "Soldier's Girl" proves to be pow-

erful, compelling viewing. Director Frank Pierson refuses to succumb to simple explanations or easy finger pointing. Curiously, the army does not emerge, as one might expect, as the root of all evil and the cause of this tragedy - with only one secondary character set on his own witch-hunt amidst a sea of general apathy.

A trio of sensational performances elevates "Soldier's Girl" well beyond the majority of made-for-cable offerings. Shawn Hatosy's Fisher is under-medicated, short-fused, and homophobic yet all too believable and sad. Lee Pace is extraordinarily convincing as the pre-operative transsexual, Calpernia. Yet the shadowy character of Barry Winchell, a simple, good man, in Troy Garity's thoughtful performance inevitably anchors "Soldier's Girl."

### BUY IT, RENT IT, FORGET IT...

"Soldier's Girl" is a terrific film with the DVD loaded with plenty of fascinating extras - definitely, rent it and once you do, you'll likely want it for your LGBT film collection!

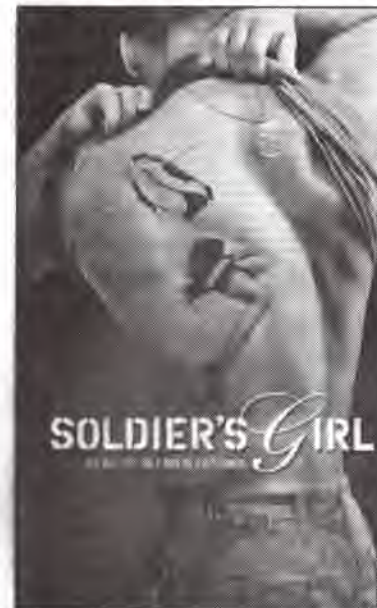
### JUST THE FACTS...

Hunky Troy Garity is the son of film star Jane Fonda and former California state legislator Tom Hayden.

For more about the fascinating real story behind "Soldier's Girl," check out Calpernia Addams' home page at [www.calpernia.com](http://www.calpernia.com).

"Soldier's Girl" on DVD offers Director's Commentary, Cast Interviews, plus a feature on Lee Pace's extraordinary transformation for the role of Calpernia Addams.

DVD available: \$26.95



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## Please Sir, May I Have Another?

### Leather Integrity, Leather Pride

They say this year we'll see a lot of mosquitoes. That's BAD news for the Wisconsin leather crowd, with two major outdoor events planned this summer at the farm in rural Hilbert. (NOTE: That would be the N.E. Wisconsin Pridefest Picnic on Saturday, July 10, and the Argonauts/Castaways Joint Run August 20-22)

Back to the mosquitoes— So, I'm spending a lot of time strolling around the farm property with bottle after bottle of repellent. I figure we bomb them early, hit them hard, knock the wind out of their sails- a "Shock and Awe" kind of approach; and then after the picnic, just when they think it's safe to climb out of their grubby little holes, BOOM! We strike again!

Anyway, as I said, I'm spending a lot of time strolling around the property spraying, and that gives one a lot of time to think.

I've been thinking about integrity and pride.

One of my friends has recently found himself holding the short end of the stick in a nasty financial situation. Someone is dragging his ass about repaying a debt. It's not pretty, and I won't mention names. It certainly wouldn't help the situation, and would most likely make it worse.

I'll just say two things, after I change repellent bottles.

First, I'm very proud to be a member of a community where integrity still counts for something. For me, and for most of the leather tribe I know, a person's character is far more important than his or her looks, or possessions. I've heard some really narrow-minded comments about the company I prefer to keep- like, "Why do you hang out with those guys? They're fat and ugly." Or- "All those leather guys are SO old!"

Whoa! Let me explain something to ye defamers of my brethren! (Spritz in the face!) To

me, these leather guys that you think are fat, old, and/or ugly are mature men who have enough life under their belts to make them wiser than you, and probably a lot more fun. I find their experience and wisdom damned attractive. You don't like them? Good. Wrap them up. I'll take them all. Out of a hundred of them, any one probably has more character than you. (Swat!)

I'm not saying that everyone into leather is filled with scruples, or that all of them are stalwarts of character and integrity.

What I am saying is this- When I run across the myriad of weasels, wimps, and whiners in the gay community at large and wonder why there seems to be so many, I usually conclude that it's because they are just immature. They lack character. They lack integrity.

Proportionately, integrity runs higher in the leather community.

Would you untangle that hose for me?

Second, since we are still in the season of "Pride," I wanted to pose a question: What are you proud of?

Sure, the general idea is to be proud of your "gay-ness" during Pride season, or even more generally, "Be proud of who you are." I would suggest that, before you can be proud of who you are, you have to figure out who that is, and once you figure it out, you might not be so freaking proud.

Some exceptions notwithstanding, most members of the leather tribe KNOW who we are. We KNOW what we like. We

KNOW what our limits are. We KNOW where we've been and what we've been through. We KNOW who our friends are. Plus, we KNOW a flake when they see one, and it could be that we're looking at you.

JESUS CHRIST, frapping bloodsucker!

Hey, don't get me wrong. I'm not putting down the gay community at large. I'm part of that family too. I'm just particularly

proud of the leather boys and girls. We are strong in our unity. We are generous to a fault sometimes. But it's our integrity that will always be the basis for our reputation- good or bad; and overall, I'd say that reputation is pretty damned good. I'm proud of that.

Don't be afraid to join us, or at least to party with us. We can be decent folk. We only bite if you want us to. And with all of this spraying I've been doing, you won't find too many pests among us.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**July 10-** N. E. Wisconsin Pridefest Picnic; Al Kamke farm; Hilbert, Wisconsin

**July 18 -** From Papa Joe: The Madison Chapter of Dykes on Bikes invites all bikers to ride in the Madison Pride Parade. According to Ruthie aka Toby, President of Dykes on Bikes Wisconsin, bikers are to assemble at State Street and the capitol at 10:00 a.m. All riders will sign a waiver and pay a \$5.00 registration fee. Toby can be reached via email at hawkbldr@chorus.net.

Jimmy (rdbearbalz@aol.com) and Curt (hot88vette@wi.rr.com), with Great Lakes Harley Riders and Great Lakes Bikers are coordinating a ride from Milwaukee to join the parade. They will gather before and leave at 8:00 a.m. from the Water Town Plank Road Park and Ride located on Water Town Plank Road just west of Hwy 45 on the West side of Milwaukee. There is no need to sign up in advance, just be there and ready to go. More info relating to Madison Pride can be found at <http://www.madisonpride.org>. **July 24-** 11:00 p.m. Mr. Harbor Room Contest; The Harbor Room; 117 E. Greenfield Ave.; Milwaukee, WI



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

My partner and I recently decided to take a cruise to Mexico to celebrate our 20th anniversary. We chose not to look for a gay cruise for our trip because the ads for these cruises always present it as a floating gay bar or circuit party, something we were just not interested in. After weeks of anticipation we were finally on board the beautiful Carnival Pride.

Of course we went in knowing we would be in the minority. We were greeted by wonderful crew members who made us feel at home. We got to our room and were thrilled with the stateroom and huge balcony. Everything was just as we had hoped it would be. We were elated!

This came to a crashing halt later that evening. We decided to go to the main showroom for a game of bingo to be followed by a comic magician. After bingo and before the magician a big band began to play on stage. They played a couple of tunes before the cruise director came on stage. They had a pre planned gag to get the band off stage.....It started when the cruise director began to tell a joke....."Two Italian guys..." a few of the band members got up out of their seats and jokingly expressed their disgust that he was telling a joke about Italians and they walked off the stage, acting flustered the cruise director began to tell the same joke but started it as..."2 Irishmen....a few more band members got up and walked off the stage.....acting even more flustered by this the cruise director began again...this time he started the same joke..."2Gay guys...." The balance of the band stood up, and instead of just walking off stage, as the Irish and Italian guys did, They started lisping and flouncing and acting out every negative stereotype for gay men....of course the straight audience went wild with unkind laughter. We were horrified!

After living in Los Angeles for 2 years we had forgotten how unkind people can be towards gay people. In that one moment our cruise experience was defined. We felt, that as a representative for Carnival Cruise line that cruise director had given the straight people on that cruise license to ridicule us. We complained to the pursers office about the incident and received a form letter apology. The same letter I'm sure would have received if we complained about our room not being cleaned or something. It was more insulting than the joke itself. We paid the same for our cruise as everyone on that ship. We deserved more respect than that company seems to want to give to gay people. We then decided we were going to make the most of it and not let all this ruin the trip.

Puerta Vallarta was Beautiful with warm, friendly people. We spent the whole day there shopping and sight seeing. Several of the locals inquired if we were a couple and were so accepting of us. The only negative thing about PVJ was saddened to see a Walmart and Sams club by the port. The next day was Mazatlan and later Cabo San Lucas.

On the last day we decided we would checkout what the carnival club was, they had been pushing this during the entire cruise. We went to the bar where the presentation was being given. We sat through a 20 minute presentation about the carnival vacation club....basically you pay them so you don't have to wait in line. Anyway there were 2 straight couples and the two of us at this presentation. After the 20 minute presentation the man presenting said we are going to play a game to see who was listening...He proceeded to ask questions about the video we had just seen. One of the straight couples knew the answer to the first question and received a prize of a bottle of wine. The presenter then asked the second question... I raised my hand I had the answer; he ignored me.

Several seconds went by, the other straight couple raised their hands answered the question and received a bottle of wine. We were deliberately ignored!

Well the short of it is I think going on a straight cruise is just fine however use one of the cruise lines that the gay companies use for their tours... I haven't seen any gay tour operators using Carnival I guess perhaps I know why.

- WSD -

## Speaking of Travel...

If you don't have the \$\$\$ to take a steamship cruise, perhaps staying closer to home may fit the bill. Wisconsin has plenty of resorts and camping vacation spots to choose from.

If you're like me, camping on the ground is not exactly what I enjoy, so a Bed and Breakfast may suit you. I personally recommend The Chanticleer up in beautiful Door County. Brian and Darrin, who run this rustic B&B are constantly adding on to

the place. Last time I was there they added 2 cabins with two more under construction. There is also the Guest Barn and Guest House, plus a great pool all beautifully landscaped. Don't forget to check out the hiking trails. Reservations: (920) 746-0334.

Captain Dix Resort just outside Wisconsin Dells is another great choice. Not only can you enjoy the scenic view the Dells has to offer, but you can escape the straight tourist trap and enjoy Captain Dix the rest of the stay. There are 24 acres, whirlpool cabins private and public bathing areas and they have a great summer special running Sunday to Thursday. Captain Dix has a full restaurant and bar with dancefloor for fun at night. While not exactly Douglas Dunes, you are sure to enjoy your stay and although the Dells are breathtaking, the city is a tourist trap. Captain Dix is your escape from it. Check out their ad in this issue for specials!



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