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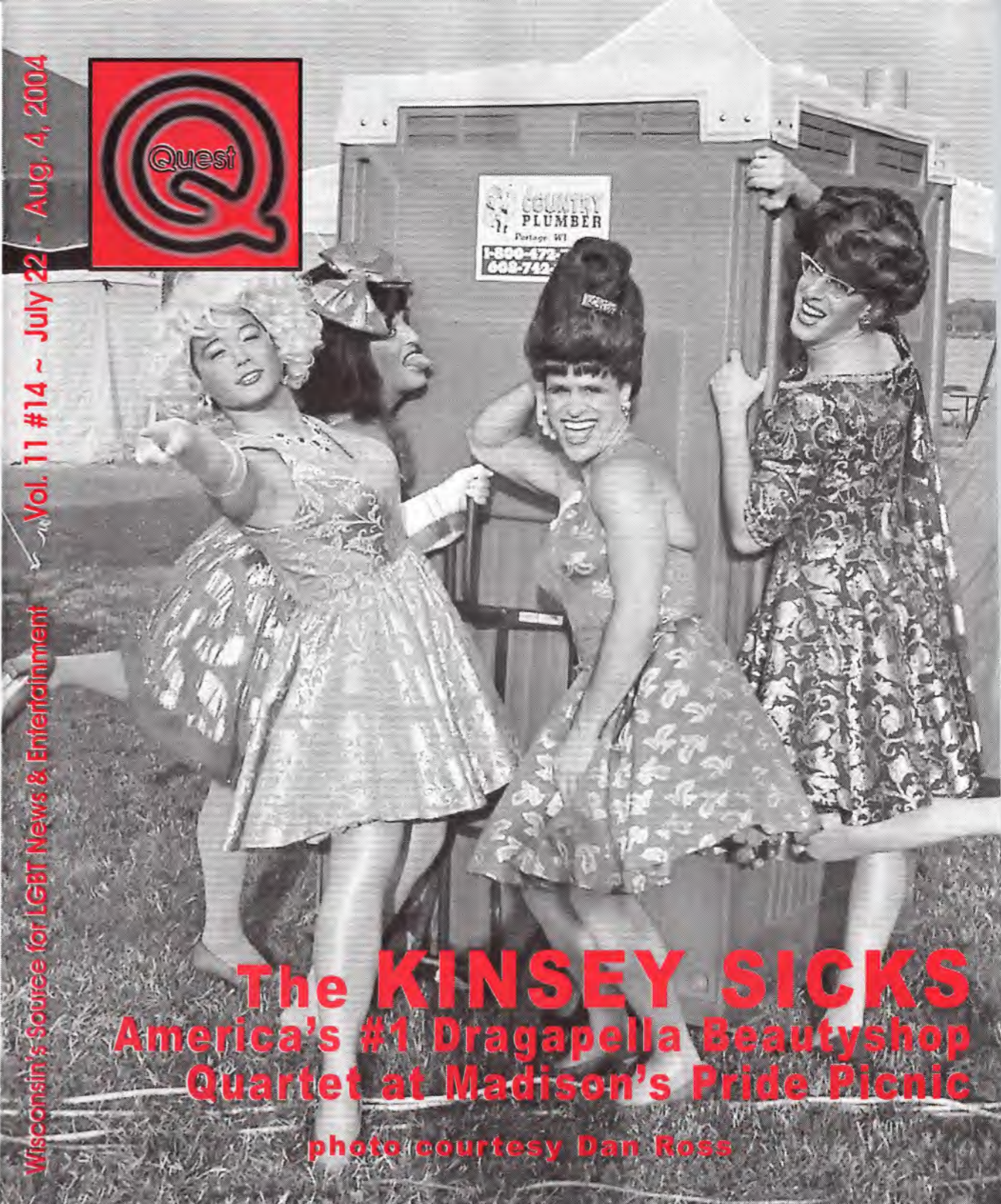
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Vol. 11 #14 ~ July 22 - Aug. 4, 2004



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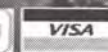
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39 y.o. GWM, 185 lbs. 5'4", drk brn hair & eyes, single, HIV + Looking to meet guys for friends / relationship/ sex / pen pals No Inmates!! Russack1@yahoo.com or Louis Russack, 82 Green Vista Drive, **Enon, Ohio** 45323 [2]

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 [2]

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 wiscotnsynstud. Write Quest #276, PO Box 1961, Green Bay, WI 54305 [2]

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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 [2]

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Web Site:
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Publisher: Mark Mariucci
Contributors: News Bureau: Mike Fitzpatrick,
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Photography: Katie Photography
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Advertising: Teddy, Katie, David
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FEDERAL MARRIAGE AMENDMENT FALTERS FOLLOWING GOP, RELIGIOUS RIGHT CAMPAIGN

Senate Humiliation Bruises Wisconsin Amendment Battle

Washington, DC - Despite a carefully orchestrated multi-week campaign that included campaign harangues, right-wing talk radio diatribes, a national phone call, letter and email campaign, thousands of anti-gay evangelical sermons during July 11's so-called "Protect Marriage Sunday" and a nationally broadcast address by the President of the United States, the Republican-led juggernaut to push a roll call vote on the Federal Marriage Amendment (FMA) sputtered to an embarrassing halt July 14 when seven GOP senators joined the majority to essentially defeat the bill a procedural vote 50-48.

The loss was particularly stinging for so-called "social conservatives" such as Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and especially James Dobson whose Focus On The Family organization spent millions to promote its "Protect Marriage Sunday." In the week immediately prior to the vote religious right activist Paul Weyrich, chairman and CEO of the far-right Free Congress Foundation, lamented that "too few calls, too few letters and too few faxes are coming into the offices of members of the United States Senate urging them to stand firm in defense of marriage between a man and a woman. That's why too many of the senators who should now be strong supporters of the Federal Marriage Amendment are still in the 'uncommitted' column."

"It's a net loss for Republicans politically," one prominent White House insider told the *New York Times* following the vote. "It does nothing for our base, because they're grumpy about not having it, and it energized a significant portion of (the Democrats') base. I guarantee you that the gay community will give twice as much money and work harder for Kerry now, not so much because they care about marriage per se, but because this effort plays to their fears that we're homophobic."

Despite the GOP and allied groups' full frontal assault on the issue, polling has generally found that while most Americans are opposed to gay marriage, few people see the issue or the proposal for a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as being only between a man and a woman as being a national priority. Polls and focus groups have repeatedly found that the subject barely registers with voters, if it registers at all, at a time when most people are primarily concerned with deteriorating situation in Iraq, the ongoing threats of terrorism and the weakly rebounding economy following the net loss of 1.8 million jobs since 2000.

The Human Rights Campaign's Cheryl Jacques was jubilant over the FMA's defeat. "This was an attempt to divide Americans that backfired and divided Republicans" Jacques said. "Faced with an embarrassing defeat, the Senate leadership rejected an up or down vote on the Federal Marriage Amendment. This debate has always been about politics and undermining the Constitution is their tool."

Action Wisconsin's Executive Director Chris Ott echoed Jacques' sentiments. "Republican leaders in the Senate insisted on devoting time to this amendment, despite knowing that they didn't have the support to move it forward. Yet again these leaders chose the agenda of the far right over the interests of a majority of American people. Most Americans simply don't want discrimination written into our constitution and don't believe this amendment is a priority." Wisconsin Senators Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl both voted with the majority to oppose moving the amendment forward.

Despite the defeat, a defiant President Bush won the evening's biggest

round of applause at a political rally in suburban Green Bay July 14 when he alluded to the FMA vote. "I believe that a traditional marriage - marriage between a man and woman - is an important part of stable families," Bush said.

Wisconsin activists on both sides of the gay marriage issue framed the federal FMA loss in the context of the ongoing campaign to amend the state's constitution. Action Wisconsin's press release tied the FMA vote to the proposed state constitutional amendment to ban civil unions and marriage in Wisconsin. "From Washington to Wisconsin, there is an agenda to demonize gay families in a cynical effort to divide Americans during an election year. It couldn't be more transparent," AW's Ott said. "Not all Americans are comfortable with marriage for gay couples, but at the same time most Americans do not support enshrining discrimination against these families in the state and federal constitutions."

The Wisconsin Legislature's approval last March of a bill to amend the state constitution to ban marriage and any legal status that is "substantially similar" to marriage still needs a second vote before it can go to a voter referendum, possibly as soon as Spring 2005. *Quest* has learned that preliminary results from national poll on constitutional marriage amendments that used Milwaukee area polling for a control database suggest that Wisconsin's amendment may be in serious trouble if it passes again in its current form. Action Wisconsin reportedly plans to conduct a poll using similar questions statewide in the next few months.

The Family Research Institute of Wisconsin predictably was disappointed by the US Senate vote but saw the loss as reinforcing the need to preserve in efforts to secure a state amendment. "The vote in the US Senate highlights the necessity of Wisconsin enacting a state constitutional amendment on this issue as soon as possible. It will be a number of years before the Federal Marriage Amendment becomes a reality. In the meantime, we need to protect Wisconsin from becoming another Massachusetts or Oregon, where the courts and rogue government officials have forced a redefinition of marriage on the people of those states. We've known from the beginning that this is a marathon, not a sprint. (The July 14) vote was just the first stage of the race. We're pressing forward, confident that ultimately traditional one-man/one-woman marriage will be preserved because the citizens of this state and nation will speak on this critical cultural issue," FRI-WI's Julaine Appling concluded.

While unable to move a ban on gay marriage in the Senate, congressional Republicans are now working to contain it by advancing legislation in the House to make sure federal courts don't order states to recognize same-sex unions sanctioned outside their borders. "When federal judges step out of line, Congress has the responsibility to drop the red flag," Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas) said July 14 as the court-stripping measure cleared the House Judiciary Committee on a near party-line vote of 21-13.

Democrats objected, some strenuously. California's Rep. Maxine Waters called the bill "a political exercise," and Wisconsin's openly lesbian Rep. Tammy Baldwin criticized it as "unnecessary, unconstitutional and unwise." GOP officials said the measure likely would be on the House floor the week of July 19-23, and they expressed confidence it would pass.



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54 y.o. SWM 6'1" 200 lbs br hair bl eyes ISO 45 - 60 y.o. st8 acting man addiction free. Should have a very hairy chest & back & likes the outdoors life. I live 50 miles North of Green Bay. Call Ron 920-897-2468

For B/J info in **Marshfield/central WI** area, (715) 387-6433. [1]

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GWM, bl/bl, 5'6", 37 y.o., 220, looking for LTR w/ relationship-minded man...for camping, hiking, long nature walks, star gazing,

storm chasing, trips, sex...interested in exploring control/dominance scenes, CB torture, etc. PO Box 28845, **Greenfield**, WI 53228-8845

Looking for a hot, horny guy in the **Rhineland** or surrounding area for a good time! Will be there the week of Aug. 14-21. I'm 6', 152 lbs., shaved head, goatee, pierced & inked.

E-mail flyerman219461966@hotmail.com Must leave phone no. as I have only limited access to a computer. [1]

Lonely incarcerated GWM, athletic build, br/hz, great health, single, sincere, sensitive, romantic, attentive, pampering (but not smothering) seeking caring, stable professional someone who believes in sharing, communication & romance. I need a chance for a new life for a lifetime. Race unimportant. Write Jeremy, c/o Quest (#277), PO Box 1961, Green Bay, WI 54305 [1]

53 y.o. GWM (but don't look or act it), down-to-earth, sincere, seeking LTR. Enjoy the outdoors, camping, fishing, boating, quiet eves, etc. D/D free seeking same. Am very romantic & seeking monogamous relationship. (715) 355-0780 5:00-10pm [1]

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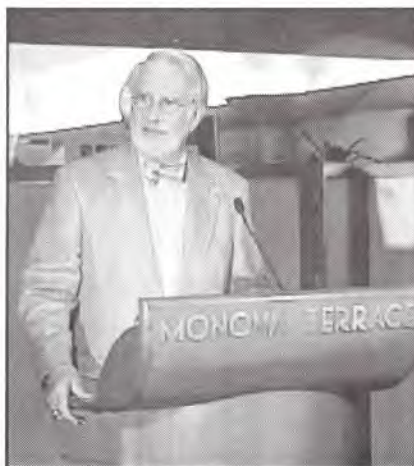
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Below Left: Former Wisconsin Governor Tony Earl addresses attendees at the OutReach annual awards dinner in Madison July 16 after receiving the center's **Political Courage Award**. Earl created the **Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues** in the early 1980's, an advisory group subsequently disbanded by Governor Tommy Thompson. Below: Trampolina of the Kinsey Sicks, America's #1 Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet regales Madison Pride attendees with a song from their "Republican Fundraiser" revue.

Photos courtesy Dan Ross



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Roommate wanted Fox Valley area: 2 BR, 2 bath, fireplace, W/D, access to whirlpool & swimming pool. Very clean quiet area, \$325 mo. + negotiated security. Avail. 9/1. (920) 422-0395 after 4:30 pm. Ask for DJ [1]

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Roommate in Milwaukee! Share furnished NW side 3-bedrm home

w/ GWM, \$320 mo. Washer, dryer, cable & garage, non-smoker preferred. (414) 354-3879 [1]

Large efficiency to share with one male in **West Allis**, \$250 per mo. + electric deposit. Great view, retro kitchen, air conditioned, great area near hwy. 100 & Oklahoma. (414) 543-5453. Best time to call 7:30pm-12:30am, or leave message. [1]

South Milwaukee: 2 bedrm duplex in historic Victorian, kitchen w/apps, dining & living room. Off street parking. \$625 mo. Jeff (414) 708-7616 [2]

Roommate wanted: Looking for GWM, clean, quiet, non-smoker, to share our large home on **Milwaukee's** upper east side. Close to bus lines, shopping, laundromat and UW-M. Very nice neighborhood. \$375 mo. + sec. deposit, includes utilities (except phone, private line avail.) Tom (414) 963-1315 7:00-9 pm or leave message. [2]

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Taylor Roberts - Miss WI Continental

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Connecticut: Lesbian Couple Seeks to Have Marriage Recognized -

Among the first things Katy Gossman and Kristin Marshall did following their May wedding in Massachusetts was change Marshall's last name to Gossman. But they are still waiting for her new driver's license to make it official because when the lesbian couple made the trek to the Connecticut Motor Vehicle Department in Meriden, the clerk was at a loss for what to do.

"He started to punch it into the computer, and then he looked at the marriage license again. He looked at us, he looked at the license," Katy said. "He said he didn't know what to do with us. They weren't saying no, but they weren't saying yes." The Gossmans were married in Worcester, MA, on May 20, three days after gay marriage became legal in the state. Now they are one of eight couples who have filed a lawsuit challenging a 1913 Massachusetts law that has been used to block out-of-state couples from marrying there. The Gossmans want to keep their marriage from being declared invalid. But even more so, they want to use that marriage license to try to secure in their home state of Connecticut all the legal and health benefits that come with being married.

Katy, an FBI agent, said she has already used her marriage license to obtain medical benefits for Kristin under her health plan at work. With the dangerous nature of her work, Katy, 40, also rushed to have Kristin, 38, listed as her beneficiary on her life insurance and pension. In the lawsuit filed last June, the Gossmans and others are contesting a law that bars couples who live outside Massachusetts from exchanging vows there if their marriages would be illegal in their home states. Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney has said that any gay marriages involving out-of-state couples would be declared void.

Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal has said that Connecticut law does not allow for same-sex marriage, but he declined to say whether the state will recognize marriage licenses issued to gay couples in Massachusetts. In a letter to

Romney, Blumenthal said that any marriages performed in Massachusetts would not be automatically void in Connecticut.

"It was very important for us to hear him say that," Kristin said. With that in mind, the couple jumped in their car and were married by a justice of the peace, who they say was well aware of their Connecticut residency. The ceremony was small, with only Kristin's parents attending, and informal. Katy and Kristin, a full-time student who is studying to be a medical technician, have been together ever since they



met while warming up during a softball tournament in Houston in 1999. They later moved to Connecticut, where Kristin was raised, and have lived together in a blue colonial-style home in Meriden since October.

Before their marriage in Massachusetts, Katy and Kristin had a commitment ceremony in 2000 in a church in Fort Worth, TX. They were escorted down the aisle by their parents and exchanged vows at the altar. Still, the couple were reluctant to say they were married. "Someone would say, 'Oh are you married?' and I would wonder if I should say yes because I am not legally married, but I have someone in my life who I consider to be my spouse," Katy said. "But now we can say, 'Yes, we're married.' No questions asked, no explanations necessary."

The couple plan to head back to the DMV with their marriage license in hand. And Kristin is trying to get pregnant by way of a sperm donor. "We want to be able to tell our child that we're married. We want to be 'Mom' and 'Mom.' We want to be a family," Katy said.

London: Gay Persecution Rising in USA, Worldwide -

Gay Pride marches are mainstream in some countries and gay politicians, actors and pop stars are out and proud - but homophobia is growing across the world with increasing numbers of countries making it punishable by death. A new book published by human rights group Amnesty International says despite widespread acceptance of gays and lesbians in some countries, violent persecution of homosexuals is on the rise and has reached "epidemic" levels in others.

"Lesbian and gay people who form or join organizations, be they political or social, are being violently persecuted in many parts of the world where before they might have been unnoticed," British author Vanessa Baird writes in the just released *Sex, Love and Homophobia*. The book offers an overview of the experiences of gay, lesbian and transgender people around the world and gives a snapshot of their status in various societies in 2004.

Baird singles out Uganda, Zimbabwe, Jamaica, El Salvador and Latin America in particular, where she claims "the targeting and killing of transgender people has become an epidemic on streets."

One British gay man interviewed describes how he was subjected to "aversion therapy" as a teenager in the 1960s because his mother could not accept her son was gay. "I was locked up alone in a mental institution for 72 hours with supposedly gay pornography and given drugs to make me vomit and become incontinent," he said. "They said the next part of the treatment was to apply electrodes to my genitals. After three days I begged to be let out."

In the United States, Baird notes an increasing polarization of attitudes. "While San Francisco boasts the largest openly gay community of any city in the world, anti-homosexual movements in Kansas, Ohio and Colorado advocate as a 'Christian duty' the rejection, and in some cases even killing, of gay people. And this is not all just a small group of nutters in the mid-West," Baird told Reuters reporter Kate Kelland. "This kind of evangelism is growing, and unfortunately a substantial part of it is homophobic and says homosexuality is a sin or a disease."

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Dan from DragDepot.com also sent these pics from the Magic Picnic. Hopefully parade pics will arrive for the next issue...



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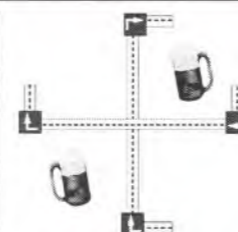
DEADLINES

Vol. 11 Issue 15

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Baird's book also focuses on countries where homosexuality is punishable by death - Iran, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Mauritania, Sudan, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and northern provinces of Nigeria. Baird quotes Iran's 1991 Islamic penal law, which states "sodomy is a crime" and "punishment is death if the participants are adults, of sound mind and consenting."

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu uses a foreword to the book to condemn homophobia as "every bit as unjust as that crime against humanity, apartheid." "I could not have fought against the discrimination of apartheid and not also fight against the discrimination homosexuals endure," Tutu wrote. Tutu's native South Africa became the first country in the world in 1996 to include a clause in its constitution to guarantee freedom from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Maryland: ACLU Sues for Right of Gay Couples to Marry -

The American Civil Liberties Union sued the city of Baltimore and four Maryland counties for the right of same-sex couples to marry July 7. The lawsuit was filed in Baltimore Circuit Court on behalf of nine couples and a man whose partner recently died. The couples had sought marriage licenses and were denied, said Ken Choe of the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, based in New York. Maryland law specifically defines marriage as between a man and a woman. In February, Attorney General Joseph Curran sent a memo to state legislators and the 24 clerks of the court reminding them that clerks are not authorized to issue licenses to gay couples.

Curran issued a statement July 7 saying the law "unambiguously defines marriage in a way that excludes same-sex couples." But, he said, "it seems appropriate that the issue, which has been framed as a matter of civil rights, be decided by the courts."

"Personally, I have no problem at all issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples if I could," Baltimore City Circuit Court Clerk Frank Conaway said. Clerks from three counties named in the lawsuit did not comment; a fourth clerk said he had

not received any applications from gay couples. The ACLU has pending legal challenges in Massachusetts, Oregon, New York, Washington state, California and Nebraska. Other groups have filed lawsuits in New Jersey and Florida to legalize gay marriage.

Michigan: Gay Marriage Opponents Eye Ballot -

Supporters of a ban on gay marriage submitted nearly 500,000 signatures July 5 in an effort to get a proposed constitutional amendment on the November ballot. If adopted, the amendment would define marriage as a union between one man and one woman. Gay marriage is banned in Michigan, but opponents want stronger language to protect against potential future judicial decisions or legislative initiatives. The group, Citizens for the Protection of Marriage, had submitted more than 475,000 signatures to state election officials. If 317,757 of the signatures are valid, the issue could be on the November 2 ballot.

"The people responded," CPM president Marlene Elwell claimed. "They're tired of politicians and activist judges making changes without having a voice. This gives them a voice." Representatives of a group opposed to the initiative, Coalition for a Fair Michigan, said they would consider legal action to try and keep the proposal off the ballot. Opponents said the measure would end domestic partner benefits at public institutions such as the city of Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University.

Montana: Fall Ballot To Decide Gay Marriage -

A proposal to amend the Montana Constitution to ban gay marriage will appear on the fall ballot after supporters collected more than 46,000 signatures, officials announced July 15. To qualify for the November 2 ballot, the measure needed a minimum of 41,020 signatures, the secretary of state's office said. Montana law already prohibits same-sex marriages, but the initiative would make the ban more difficult to overturn by embedding it in the constitution.

Republican state representative Jeff

Laszloffy proposed the amendment as president of the Montana Family Foundation. "It's too bad that we need to restate the obvious - that marriage is between a man and a woman - but if the obvious needs to be restated, I believe voters will do it by an overwhelming majority in November," he said.

Karl Olson, executive director of PRIDE, a Helena-based gay-rights organization, countered that even if the measure passes, gay marriage will eventually become a reality. "History is on our side, and the constitution isn't going to contain discrimination for long," Olson said.

New Mexico: Court Says "No Gay More Marriage Licenses" -

The New Mexico Supreme Court threw out a county clerk's request July 7 to issue more marriage licenses to gay couples. The court, in a one-page order without comment, unanimously denied Victoria Dunlap's request to lift a temporary restraining order that blocks her from handing out same-sex marriage licenses. Dunlap, a clerk in Sandoval County, issued more than 60 same-sex marriage licenses in February - soon after San Francisco began marrying hundreds of gay couples. California's Supreme Court halted the weddings in March. Dunlap stopped issuing the licenses when New Mexico's Attorney General Patricia Madrid declared gay marriages were not legal under state law. But, Dunlap contends New Mexico's marriage law is not gender-specific. Dunlap's lawyer did not immediately return a call seeking comment. Dunlap also was unavailable for comment, according to a deputy county clerk.

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At the end of the day, as the air grew a little cooler, and the first colors of the setting sun began to fill the western sky, my good friend Mark from Milwaukee "liberated" one of the gigantic multi-colored balloon clusters that had floated over the wheat field all day. A small group of us stood out in front of the barn and watched as the balloons slowly drifted higher and higher. A few even waved, and someone said "Good-by, Dorothy. Good-by," as if acknowledging the ending to something that had been very special, and it had been a special day.

I felt, and hoped, that instead of marking an "ending," we were sending out a message with those balloons: We are here, and we are united, in all of our different shades and colors.

I hope you'll join me and a host of titleholders, celebrities, and hot

contestants Saturday, July 24, as we converge on the Harbor Room in Milwaukee (117 E. Greenfield) for the bar's anniversary celebration. Early in the day, you can meet San Francisco author and leatherman extraordinaire Bob Davolt. He will be on hand to sign copies of his new book Painfully Obvious- An Irreverent & Unauthorized Manual for Leather/SM. Later in the evening, Bob will serve as one of the judges for this year's Mr. Harbor Room contest.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 20-22

Argonauts/Castaways Joint Run at the Al Kamke farm. As the Argonauts celebrate their 30th anniversary and the Castaways celebrate their 25th anniversary, the two clubs will be joined by literally hundreds of leather men and women from all over the country.

This year, the clubs will also be hosting the fall meeting of the Mid-America Conference of Clubs. The clubs are expecting a huge turn-out. You don't want to miss the fun and excitement. Pick up your run application form at various local bars or register online at the Argonauts web site: <http://www.argonautsLL.org>

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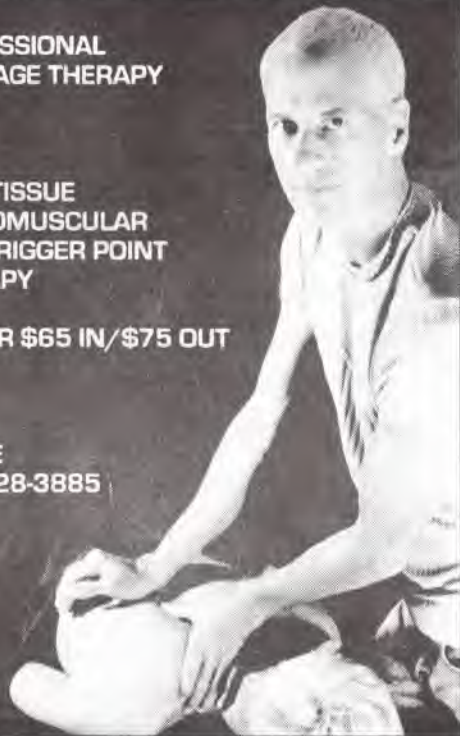
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Community Calendar

**Fri., Sat. & Sun.,
July 23 - 25**

Harbor Room (Milwaukee) Four Year Anniversary Weekend - Fri., Sat., Sun., July 23-24-25; Fri., 6:30-10 pm, meet & greet Mr. Harbor Room contestants // Sat, 11 pm regional and national judging panel w/ special entertainment + book signing of *Painfully Obvious* with world renowned author Robert Davolt // Sun., 3 pm-???, beer bust, cookout, patio party with Mr. Harbor Room 2004 & our seamen softball team Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Pita & Friends - open jam session, 5 pm

Saturday, July 24

Club 94 North (Kenosha) Mr. 94 North Contest, show time 10:30 pm, \$4 cover (presented by 94 North Productions) 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

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Presentation by Kevin Keune (Organic Farm & CSA): Wheatgrass Juice: Superfood for the 21st Century. Pre-registration recommended; www.growgreens.com

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

Friday, July 30

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Ticket 251 - 6 piece classic jazz band

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

Monday, August 9

Mens Voices Auditions! For the fall season by appointment only (Also, Aug. 10, 16 & 17) at LGBT Center, 6-9 pm. (414) 765-9198 or mvmchous@tds.net

Wednesday, August 11

STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, 94 North (Kenosha)

Sunday, August 15

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

Wednesday, August 18

STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Fluid

Thursday, August 19

STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Club Boom

Saturday, August 28

2004 Cream City Foundation's 2nd Annual Women's Only Night Golf Outing! @ Noyes Golf Course. \$35. FMO (414) 466-7693



Though it was the most lightly attended pride event in the Green Bay/Fox Cities area in the last decade, gorgeous weather, great food and cold drinks awaited the 150 or so attendees who traveled down to the Al Kamke farm in Hilbert for Northeast Pride 2004 on July 10.

photos by
Mike Fitzpatrick



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Please Sir, May I Have Another?

Community & Leather Pride

Isn't it great to be part of a strong, viable community? That sense of belonging, that sense of unity, that sense of "family" is awesome, isn't it?

That's what I was feeling at the Northeast Wisconsin Pridefest Picnic on Saturday July 10, and I'm sure the Madison crowd was filled with that same feeling during their Pride weekend. Although the Pridefest Picnic was hosted by the Argonauts of Wisconsin, it was not exclusively a "leather" event. In light of ROW's unfortunate need to cancel their picnic again this year, the Argonauts decided to step up to the plate and give everyone a chance to come together and to celebrate who we are. As always, the family came out in support.

"On the Road to Unity: Together We Stand, Divided We Fall."

Those who attended were not supporting the Argonauts so much as they were supporting themselves! Just like the Cream City Foundation in Milwaukee refused to let that great city go without a Pride festival, so the Northeast Wisconsin crowd came together and pulled off a low-key, relaxing day of hard work, fun, and community pride at the Al

Kamke farm- a social event enabling everyone to celebrate their diversity and unity.

Kudos to Al Kamke for opening his property- his very home- for this great event! It's no wonder Al was named the Gay Community Choice Award recipient in 2003 and received the Argonauts President's Award earlier that same year. You will meet few people in our "family" who are as community-minded as Al.

I've always found it interesting how the leather tribe integrates itself into the larger gay community, when sometimes we are perceived as being sub-divided within our own ranks.

In the leather community, you'll hear a lot of talk about "old guard" and "new guard," referring to a perceived cultural change in the tribe over the past 25 years or so. "Old guard" refers to those who are sometimes perceived as more

regimented, more sensitive to the differences in our dom/sub statuses, more attuned to the tried and true values of club affiliations, and correct protocols. "New guard" refers to those who are perhaps less regimented, more sensitive to gay cultural diversity, more open to those who not attuned to the

leather/levi culture, and those who place less stock in the value or need



for protocols.

There is no doubt that I am "new guard," but I have the deepest respect for those in the tribe who relate more to the "Old Guard" school of thought, and try to pay due respects when it is appropriate. I honor their contributions to the community, and acknowl-

edge that without them, there would BE no L/L community.

But I also sense the growth of a new movement within the tribe. It is a movement based, not on the dualism of an "Old Guard" versus "New Guard," but on the recognition that we all have to function beyond that dualism, for the sake of the life of our family. I have never sensed a rift within the L/L community based on the dualism of "Old Guard" and "New Guard." What I have witnessed has been the effort by both groups to build our community, and to reach beyond ourselves to educate, support, and to protect.

I believe we are witnessing a new evolution within the tribe, away from the "old guard" versus "new guard" dichotomy. After all, what do we need to "guard" other than those things within our community that are desired by everyone- whether they are into the leather/levi scene or not- the right to be who we are, the right to enjoy basic human freedoms, the right to live without fear? We are evolving into engineers. We are building bridges. We are reinforcing and protecting our own rights and freedoms, but by doing so we obtain the same rights and freedoms for the larger community. When you build a bridge, people will cross it.

Quest has learned that Day and Groeschl tried to escape the fight several times but were prevented from doing so because one of the assailants had locked the main exit. Despite the uneven 5-2 match-up, Day and Groeschl were able to defend themselves and actually gained the upper hand in the brawl. The gay men were then able to unlock the door and escape the fray.

Sturgeon Bay: Bar Brawl Brings Gay Hate Crime Charge

Door County authorities have brought charges against five men for misdemeanor and felony hate crimes following the group's gang-like assault on two gay men in a rural West Jacksonport tavern last month. The incident took place June 6 at Bley's Tavern and left at least seven people injured. Sheriff reports indicate the two victims had swollen eyes and bloody clothes. The victims also reported cuts, bruises, a sprained thumb and back, a black eye and a bloody nose.

The July 16 criminal complaint painted an initial scene of pure terror for openly gay victims Darrin Day and Bryon Groeschl, owners of the popular Chanticleer Bed & Breakfast resort. Sources reported that fight allegedly was provoked when one of the accused men unplugged the tavern's juke box because he didn't like a song the gay couple had selected. The same assailant then reportedly kicked one of the victim's pool cues. After the victims asked what the problem was, the assault began. Throughout the brawl, the five alleged assailants made repeated taunts about their victims' sexual orientation.

Quest has learned that Day and Groeschl tried to escape the fight several times but were prevented from doing so because one of the assailants had locked the main exit. Despite the uneven 5-2 match-up, Day and Groeschl were able to defend themselves and actually gained the upper hand in the brawl. The gay men were then able to unlock the door and escape the fray.

Several of their attackers ended up needing medical attention for their wounds. Police reports indicated the floor was spotted with blood and that the pool table had been pushed to one side. Bystanders who witnessed the fight consistently reported to police that the victims acted in self-defense. However, Quest has also learned that several of the five

charged men have been engaging in an ongoing rumor campaign over the past four weeks to pin the blame for the brawl's start on Day and Groeschl.



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

Joshua Sawyer, 21, of Egg Harbor; Mark Sawyer, 47, of Egg Harbor; Robert Wagner, 42, of Egg Harbor; Andrew Ostrand, 42, of Egg Harbor; and Adam Bley, 23, of Sturgeon Bay each face three charges: misdemeanor disorderly conduct, misdemeanor battery and substantial battery with a hate-crime enhancer. The hate crime enhancer can add additional jail time and fines. If convicted of all offenses, each defendant could face up to \$30,000 in fines and 11 years in jail.

Bar owner Ruth Anschutz claimed she was sleeping upstairs when the fight broke out, so she can't say who started it. "Nobody likes them (Day and Groeschl), but when you're in business, you have to put up with all kinds of people," Anschutz told *Green Bay Press Gazette* reporter Paul Brinkmann. "To me it's just a barroom brawl, and they should just forget about it."

Door County Positive Voice and PFLAG member John Olksi told Quest that believes that the incident and subsequent charges are a

side effect of the escalating tensions over gay civil rights issues. "When federal and state political leaders from (President) Bush to (Wisconsin Assembly Representative Mark) Gundrum can make outrageous claims about gay people and state them as uncontested facts, it creates a climate where similar minded folks under the influence of alcohol feel they have the right to just lash out," Olksi said.

Jason Pierceson of Action Wisconsin, after telling Quest that he and his partner recently had been on the receiving end of disparaging comments about gay people at a Green Bay neighborhood tavern, echoed Olksi's sentiments. "The rhetoric of our opponents dehumanizes gay people," Pierceson said. "When political leaders (Senator) Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania) and (Wisconsin Assembly Leader) John Gard can get applause for equating the long-term commitments of same sex partners to marrying dogs, can you expect their supporters to act more reasonably when they encounter a gay person in their everyday lives - especially after a few beers?"

Door County's last hate crime was prosecuted two years ago when a rural Egg Harbor man was convicted for trying to run down an African American bicyclist on a country road.

Appleton: Harmony House Sets July Events

Harmony House Cafe and Coffeehouse has announced its schedule of events for the second half of July. On Wednesday, July 21 there will be a Poetry night that will showcase volunteer writers reading own poetry. On Friday, July 23 Pita from the reggae band Unity & friends will host an open jam session beginning at 5 PM.

Wednesday, July 28 will feature a presentation by Kevin Keune from the Keune Organic Farm & CSA entitled "Wheatgrass Juice: Superfood for the 21st Century." Pre-registration is recommended since samples are

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being served. On Friday, July 30 will feature a concert by Ticket 251, a 6-piece classic jazz band. All activities except as noted above will begin at 7 PM. For more information call Harmony House at 920-734-CAFE or online at www.harmonycafe.org. The Harmony Cafe, a peaceful place to celebrate diversity of people, ideas and activities is located at 124 North Oneida Street and is a program of Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin, Inc.

Green Bay: Guernsey Gala Kicks Off Amid Controversy

The 14th Annual Guernsey Gala competition to benefit people living with HIV/AIDS served by ARCW's Green Bay office kicked off to a near capacity audience July 10, despite a last minute pull out by three of the local taverns scheduled to participate. Four contestants - Terry representing AJ's, Nicholas representing Cricket's Fox River Lounge, Joe representing the Historic West Theatre and Carol representing Napalese Lounge - showed off their "mooning" and milking skills during the hour-long event which also featured cameos by veteran Guernsey promoter Wayne Thiele in his "Elsie Bovine" alter ego and other area female illusionists and titleholders.

The evening's success was somewhat dampened by the last-minute withdrawal of three area taverns - Brandy's II, Club XS and Sass.

According to Rodney Schroeder, who has business interests in two of the venues, managers of the three bars met on July 9 and decided to conduct separate, concurrent fundraising events for ARCW outside of the Guernsey competition.



2004 Guernsey candidates (L-R) Joe of Historic West Theatre, Terry of AJ's, Nicholas of Cricket's Fox River Lounge, and Carol of Napalese Lounge bust a "mooonie" at the Guernsey Gala Kick Off July 10
Photo Credit: Mike Fitzpatrick

Schroeder estimated the tally from the three bars could be several thousand dollars and that the funds raised would be presented to ARCW in early August.

Brandy's II owner Daniel Sutrick said the decision was made "to avoid the politics that surrounds the Guernsey pageant." In 2002, after years of dealing with the stress of administering the competition and in part because of his long professional association with perennial Guernsey winner Napalese Lounge, Thiele asked area foundation Rainbow Over Wisconsin to take over the running of the pageant. This is the second year ROW has run the pageant.

2004 Guernsey director Marilyn Schroeder said that despite the pull out, the four remaining Guernsey candidates are actively raising funds as the pageant's tradition dictates. Schroeder also reported the Guernsey's annual softball tournament on July 11 was well attended.

The Guernsey Gala will conclude on Saturday, July 31 with a 10:30 PM show at AJ's. In the last 13 years the Guernsey competition has raised over \$100,000 to benefit the Emergency Assistance Fund for clients and others living with HIV/AIDS through ARCW's Green Bay office. Originally modeled after the now-defunct Possum Queen contest in Milwaukee, the Guernsey Gala remains the only LGBT com-

munity-wide event benefiting people living with HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin. The Possum Queen contest collapsed in 2001 following a series of pull outs by participating taverns.

Madison: Partners of Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse Peer Support Group Starts

A partners of survivors of childhood sexual abuse peer support group will start on Wednesdays from 12-1 PM at Outreach, Madison's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center located at 600 Williamson Street here. This 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 will be 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. She 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@hjtherapy.com.

Menominee: Gay Straight Alliance Provokes Debate

By a 5-4 vote, the Menomonie School Board approved on July 12 the sponsorship of a Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Club at the high school. The vote came after emotion pleas, from both sides of the aisle, during the Community Communications portion of the agenda and a spirited debate by Board members. The issue had previously been discussed by the Programs Committee at its June 29 meeting. At the time, there was a majority vote to accept sponsorship and bring it to the full school board.

Before a full house at the Administrative Service Center, speakers from the community were about evenly divided on the issue. Board member Margaret Breisch noted that it "would have been nice to have a community discussion on the issue before it made its way to the full board."

Mary Thatcher, one of the committee members, spoke strongly in her opposition at the Board meeting. Thatcher said she has "concerns about this club and it should not be approved." Among her concerns were that a GSA suggests affiliation with other clubs, that a public high school is not the place for a club dealing with sexual orientation, and that the educational process would be compromised by the GSA - especially during the annual National Day of Silence. Thatcher also claimed that the stated purpose of the GSA is "to create a safe haven for homosexual students."

"I can't imagine how teachers will prevent students from discussing sexual information. Why do we need a club that deals with sexual orientation?" Thatcher asked.

The safe haven issue referred to a history of reported bullying of LGBT students at the high school. Board member Bill Rieger said "it boils my blood that teachers condone bullying."

MOVIE REVIEW

"Fake ID"

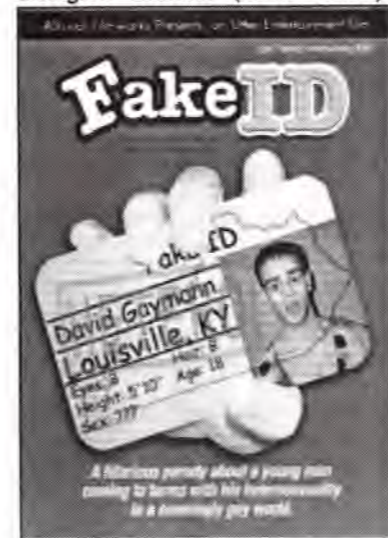
Like a lost, mischievous puppy, "Fake ID" somehow found its way to the top of Glenn's stack of new DVD releases to review for this issue of Quest. After such low-budget clinkers like "Ben & Arthur" and "Issues 101," Glenn must admit to a certain amount of apprehension as he gently inserted "Fake ID" into the DVD player.

With tongue firmed in cheek, "Fake ID" proclaims to be a hilarious parody of a young man's sexual awakening to his heterosexuality - yup, you read it correctly, heterosexuality.

Eric (Brian Gligor) and David (Stuart Perelmutter) are best friends and wannabe actors. In the summer following high school, they are still hoping to get auditions for college. Meanwhile, they work for David's absent Aunt by day, by night they are rehearsing roles in the world premiere production, "The Importance of Singing Earnest."

And yes, it is just as gay as it sounds.

Hosting their first cast party, Eric and David soon realize that virtually all of their new friends are gay. Relishing his new found freedom, Eric not only feels comfortable enough to come out but quickly lands hunky Costume Designer Brenton (Mark Fisher).



David is decidedly less comfortable within his new crowd. He's attracted to the company's spunky Stage Manager Lauren (Nina Burns) but begins to feel pressure to conform to the extraordinary level of gayness that surrounds him.

Mistakenly believing that Lauren wants him to "come out," David takes matters into his own hands. First, he begins by clearing his bedroom of every last vestige of heterosexuality. Then, clearly swept up by this burgeoning gay frenzy, he (horribly) redecorates the whole house before finally landing on the doorstep of friends Mikey (Michael Cyril Creighton) and Max (Jason C. Decker), begging them to teach him how to become fabulous.

As if it can be taught!

Can David's friends straighten him out before it is too late???

"Fake ID" is an endearing little film, with its heart definitely in the right place. What Perelmutter and friend-from-high school (Glenn ponders whether Ben Affleck and Matt Damon started out like this...) Gil Reyes might lack in filmmaking experience and financial resources, they more than make up in earnestness and determination.

BUY IT, RENT IT OR FORGET IT...

Like many cinematic debuts, "Fake ID" suffers from the usual editing glitches and some suspect talent in front of the camera. Still, this is a sweetly, entertaining film definitely worth a rental. Glenn gives "Fake ID" a thumbs-up!

JUST THE FACTS...

"Fake ID" is in English and is a zippy 86 minutes.

For more about "Fake ID," check out www.FakeIDMovie.com!

Coverboy cutie Stuart Perelmutter was required to shave his furry chest for his many shirtless scenes.

Amongst the added feature to this DVD is a "Director's Commentary" only going to prove that not all directors have anything even remotely interesting to say.

AVAILABLE: NOW • SRP: \$29.95

BOOK REVIEW

KINGS & QUEENS: QUEERS AT THE PROM



Like so many closeted gay teenagers who faced this high school rite of passage, David Boyer asked a girl to his senior prom. More than a dozen years later, now openly gay Boyer began collecting stories of this enduring ritual from queers who survived it. These stories form the basis of Kings and Queens: Queers at the Dance. The book is divided into two major sections: Before Stonewall begins around the time of the Depression and ends at the 1969 uprising.

These stories suggest what it was like to come of age before the gay rights movement really began, before the word gay assumed its current meaning. After Stonewall charts queers' progression from closet to mainstream. Not intended as a definitive retelling of gay history, Kings and Queens illustrates how growing up gay has - and has not - changed over the years. It is a bumpy but irresistible ride through a history that has been unspoken for too long.

PUBLISHER: SOFT SKULL PRESS, NYC
IN STORES: NOW

Milwaukee: CCF Announces Women's Only Night Golf Outing

The Cream City Foundation will sponsor its 2nd Annual Women's Only Night Golf Outing on Saturday August 28 at the Noyes Golf Course. "\$35 is the cost for a fantastic social outing with this city's finest girlz, a free golf lesson, unlimited soda pop, beer & munchies and 9-holes of golf in complete darkness with glow-in-the dark equipment," CCF Executive Director Jennifer Gryniwicz said. "Don't Golf? Who cares? This is all in fun, and best yet, no one can see!"

\$20 of the \$35 fee is tax-deductible, and supports the Cream City Foundation's mission to build a strong foundation and infrastructure in the Milwaukee LGBT community by distributing funds to programs that enhance the quality of life for LGBT people. For more information or to register call Jennifer at call at 414-466-7693. Register online at: <http://www.kintera.org/autogen/home/default.asp?ievent=61310>.

Green Bay: Rainbow Over Wisconsin To Sponsor Benefit Dinner

Rainbow Over Wisconsin has begun formal planning for its first ever benefit dinner, dance and auction. "An Evening With Rainbow Over Wisconsin" will be held Saturday, October 9 at the Swan Club in DePere. Tickets for the family-style dinner, silent and live auction and entertainment including dancing to music provided by a live deejay

will go on sale in August. Cost will be \$25 each or \$250 for tables of ten. ROW is currently seeking table hosts or the event, which will benefit the charitable foundation's Community Enrichment Fund. Since 1996, Rainbow Over Wisconsin has granted over \$60,000 to fully or partially fund over 45 projects benefitting the LGBT community in central, northeast and eastern Wisconsin conducted by over two local, regional and statewide dozen groups.

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Board member Irv Peterson also spoke strongly against the GSA proposal. He implored GSA not to use the term homophobic because it is "designed to silence people."

"This name is used in hundreds of schools and is affiliated with other clubs that ignore the health risks of this risky behavior," Peterson claimed. "There is no question that through reading or the Internet that this club will discuss a variety of sexual matters, with no intent to discuss straight issues."

Board member George Smeaton countered that the school board "took an oath supporting the U.S. and state constitutions."

"If a group peacefully assembles, and if the speech doesn't meet the obscenity requirements, then we need to approve it," Smeaton said. "If we take one side and not allow the club at MHS, whose values do we put in front of others? Being gay doesn't necessarily mean one is sexually active. The board's mission statement uses words such as 'caring,' 'lifelong learners,' 'responsible citizens' and 'respecting the rights of others.' It seems to me we have two choices. We can either have the students meet with three professional supervisors or we can have them meet with no supervisors."

Board member Dick Best said he was troubled about assertions being made about the club. "We have three very courageous staff members and students who have come forward with an explicit set of principles. I'm troubled that motives are attached by those who don't hold those motives. It's clear from the testimony we've heard that such a group is sorely needed at MHS," Best said. "If the group follows the policies of the district and is in full compliance with the laws, I see no reason the board would vote against it," he concluded.

Many of those speaking in opposition to the GSA proposal were reportedly organized by a local evangelical congregation and cited "facts" and "statistics" available on anti-GLSEN websites run by far-right groups. The opponets were best countered by Toby Ellison, a local chaplain. "I am a Lutheran clergy person and a hospital chaplain. My daughter, Mary, graduated from MHS in 1985. When she was in MHS, she qualified for National Honor Society, but was not admitted. Her senior year, when we discovered she was a lesbian, we were sure she was discriminated against because of her sexual preference. Even our youngest daughter, who is straight, was discriminated against. The suicide rate and emotional distress of these young people is well-documented. They need our support, care and understanding. Clergy can give Christian scripture admonitions against homosexuality, and I can give many scripture passages that counter those."

Milwaukee: Phantom to Haunt the Off The Wall Theatre

- Beautiful music, thrills, chills, horror, romance and action. When all of these combine, it can only mean one thing: the classic "beauty and the beast" story *The Phantom Of The Opera*. Gaston Leroux's world famous story of the hideously disfigured madman and the opera singer he loves has inspired over a dozen films, countless stage adaptations, and two blockbuster musicals.

Off the Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells is proud to present Maury Yeston's sweeping musical version of this tale of intrigue and mystery. This is the version that ran for over a year in Chicago and won awards world wide, and only Off The Wall Theatre can present it to you in an environment that will surround and overwhelm your senses. Director Dale Gutzman, musical director Ernest Brusubardis Jr. and set designer David Roper are renovating the intimate playing space so music and scenery work together to bring the audience into this powerful stage spectacle.

How will the small one hundred seat Off the Wall Space accommodate the special effects needed for this extravaganza: A falling chandelier, an underground boat which sails the sewers, backstage at the

opera itself, a breathtaking duel in the catwalks above the audience and more? Gutzman insists you will have to see it to believe it. Nothing about this production will be ordinary or as expected, and a thrilling theatre going experience is promised.

Gutzman has assembled a top notch cast for this, the most ambitious local venture he has ever undertaken. Christine, the innocent young soprano will be played by Karla Hughes. Karla has sung leads with the Light Opera of Oklahoma and the Ohio Light Opera as well as Opera Kansas and the Michigan Opera Theatre.

The phantom will be played by Kedrick Parham, who recently starred in Gutzman's *The Wild Party* and has appeared in *Hair*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Godspell*. He has worked with Stage Two Theatre in Chicago and for the Racine Theatre Guild among other companies.

Carlotta, the arrogant opera diva, will be played by Milwaukee theatre legend, Marilyn White, who has performed in over twenty of Gutzman's production over the years including *Kiss Of The Spider Woman*, and *Into The Woods*. Robert Hirschi, a well known, gifted performer who has appeared with most of Milwaukee's theatre companies, will play the former manager of the opera house. The handsome Count De Chandon who attempts to save Christine from the phantom's clutches will be played by Chase Stoeger, a resident performer with the Skylight Theatre next season.

The Phantom will be presented for eight performances July 28-31 and August 1, 4, 5-7, and 8. Tickets are \$20 and may be reserved by calling 414-327-3552. This is the perfect summer show for the entire family, a true classic of musical theatre brought to you in an innovative and exciting way. Don't miss *The Phantom*.

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top left - Taylor & Bill Wardlow of Fluid
top right - Kelly & Bob
left - Krystal Styles & Taylor Roberts

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