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Vol. 11 #15 ~ August 5 - 18, 2004

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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 chas-

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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 [2]

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 [2]

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MISSOURI'S AUGUST 3 VOTE BEGINS A CASCADE OF ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE BALLOTS

With the formal presidential election season now officially under way, same-sex marriage opponents and proponents have readied for serious battle. Voters in as many 13 states may weigh constitutional amendments in the next 12 months. The first state to vote on a marriage ballot will be Missouri on August 3. Louisiana will follow in September. The bulk of states will decide November 2, the same day as the Kerry-Bush duel will be resolved.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, other states where voters will decide whether to include a gay marriage ban in their constitutions are Arkansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon and Utah. Ballot measures are also likely in Michigan and Ohio, though petition drives are still under review by state officials. A petition drive to put a marriage ban on the ballot in North Dakota is due August 3. States that may consider gay marriage measures in 2005 include Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Massachusetts.

Those supporting the Missouri constitutional amendment claim their state may start a significant trend across the nation should voters approve the ban August 3. Missouri already has a law banning same-sex marriages, but sup-

positive statement from America's heartland that we value traditional marriage and we don't want to see it thrown in the trash heap of history," former Republican state representative and spokesperson for the state's Coalition to Protect Marriage Vicky Hartzler said in an interview with the LGBT magazine Southern Voice. "We need to do everything we can to shore up our constitution."

Recent polls by the *Kansas City Star* and *St. Louis-Post Dispatch* show a significant majority in favor of Missouri's proposed gay marriage ban. "We are very encouraged with our progress so far, but we are not taking victory for granted," Hartzler said.

Ballot opponents do not see Missouri as a bellwether. "We think that the tone of the presidential race will affect other states far more than what happens in Missouri," deputy executive director of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Rea Carey said.

the presidency."

But gay civil rights supporters in Missouri clearly understand all eyes will be on them August 3. "We're kind of the pioneers," St. Louis' Constitution Defense League spokesperson Barbara Woodruff said. The organization conducted a massive get-out-the-vote drive July 31.

However, longtime same-sex

marriage activist Evan Wolfson holds that though no one state can truly be a barometer for what will happen in the others, there will be collateral dam-

age. "The one definite outcome is that gay men and lesbians will face losses at the polls," Wolfson, author of *Why Marriage Matters: America, Equality and Gay People's Right to Marry*, said. "Clearly, we will take some hits."

"This is all very terrible, very painful for the families involved, but those states are not alone — they are all part of a national dialogue," Wolfson noted. "It is shameful our opponents are so reckless with the constitution and so hostile to committed couples and loved ones." Wolfson also serves as executive director of Freedom to Marry, a national organization working to secure equal marriage rights for gay couples.

The Human Rights Campaign has paid for four organizers to be on the ground in Missouri and contributed close to \$100,000 to defeat the amendment according to HRC national field Seth Kilbourn.

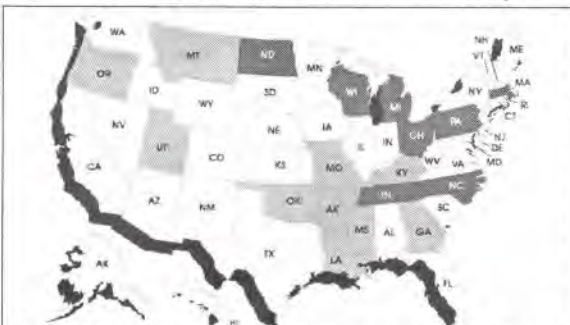
The state ballot initiatives begin just after the Federal Marriage Amendment — a proposed change to the U.S. Constitution defining marriage as only between a man and a woman — lost on a procedural vote in the Senate. LGBT civil rights activists throughout the coun-

try see the proposed constitutional amendment initiatives as a way to motivate gay citizens to organize and become more involved in the political process — win or lose.

"The most important thing we must do is tell our story, get the facts out and do our best to persuade people they should not cement discrimination into the constitutions" former executive director of Georgia Equality Allen Thomell said.

In addition to Missouri's August decision, constitutional amendments that voters will decide this year are as follows: Louisiana has a September 18 ballot initiative on an amendment would ban gay marriage. November 2 ballots include Arkansas, where citizen petition was initiated to amend the state constitution to ban gay marriage; Georgia, where an amendment would prohibit the recognition of marriages and other forms of relationship recognition for same-sex couples; Kentucky where the proposed amendment would ban gay marriage and prevent the state from giving legal recognition to civil unions; Mississippi, where the amendment would ban gay marriages and marriages between same-sex couples from other jurisdictions; Oklahoma, where the amendment on the ballot would ban gay marriage and note that no provision of the law shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried groups or couples; and Utah where the proposed amendment would ban gay marriage and prohibit the recognition of any such union between two people that is the "substantially legal equivalent" of marriage.

Several other states are close to completing petition drives to put a constitutional amendment up to a vote on November 2 as well. In Michigan, the Citizens for the Protection of Marriage has submitted more than 475,000 signatures of the statutory 317,757 needed in order to get a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage on the ballot. The



States in GREY have legislatures have approved a constitutional ban on gay marriage and sent it to voters to approve. States in BLACK are where petition drives are underway to force a vote on a constitutional ban on gay marriage or state legislatures in the process of approving a constitutional ban on gay marriage. States in WHITE are where efforts to ban gay marriage in their constitution have failed, been stalled, or are not being considered.

Graphic by Southern Voice

porters allege a constitutional amendment is needed to prevent so-called "judicial attacks."

"We're trying very hard to make a

"While Missouri is first out of the box, each state is different. It is no coincidence that the ballot initiatives are in battleground states for

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GWM, 44, 5'10", 170, looking to meet top men for sex & fun. Ask for **Brad. Green Bay** (920) 433-0896

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Coalition for a Fair Michigan has said they would consider legal action to prevent the proposal from reaching voters this fall. Further west, the Montana Family Foundation claims it has collected over 70,000 signatures to place on the November ballot a constitutional initiative to ban gay marriage in Montana. They only needed 41,020, including 10 percent of registered voters in 28 out of 56 counties.

In North Dakota, supporters of a constitutional amendment in North Dakota are expected to easily gather the 25,000 signatures they need to put it on the November ballot. Signatures are due August 3. In Ohio, supporters of the constitutional amendment have until early August to turn in 325,000 signatures. If supporters don't turn in enough signatures in August, they could try to gather more and put it on the March 2005 ballot. In Oregon, supporters of a constitutional ban on gay marriage have gathered 244,587 signatures to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot. The Secretary of State must certify only 100,840 signatures.

Of states with ballot measures under way, only North Carolina likely will avoid a showdown on November 2. An amendment to the state constitution defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman has been introduced in the state legislature. But Senate Republicans announced in mid-July that they are two signatures short of forcing a vote on whether to send the amendment to the Senate floor for a vote. The amendment, which is currently bottled up in a committee, needs thirty signatures to force a majority-rules vote. Twenty-three signatures are from Republicans and five are Democrats.

The ballot proposals will continue in 2005 and beyond as well. In Massachusetts, a constitutional amendment to prohibit marriage and establish civil unions for same-sex couples passed the constitutional convention on March 29, 2004. It must pass the 2005-2006 legislative session and, if passed, would appear on the ballot in November 2006. Pennsylvania potentially will see a ballot initiative in 2005, after a legislative vote on a constitutional amendment on marriage was postponed

until November 8. In Tennessee, a constitutional amendment on marriage passed the House on May 6 and the Senate on May 19. The amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the next legislature to appear on the ballot in 2006. In Wisconsin, the Constitutional amendment passed Assembly March 5 and passed the Senate on March 11. The amendment must be approved again in the 2005 legislative session in order to then appear on the next statewide ballot. The amendment prohibits marriage and "legal status identical or substantially similar" for same-sex couples. The earliest the amendment could appear on the state ballot is April, 2005.

GUNDRUM'S "SCALES OF JUSTICE" AWARD RAISES GAY EYEBROWS

The decision by the Madison-based State Bar of Wisconsin to honor Assembly Representative Mark Gundrum with the organization's annual "Scales of Justice Award" has drawn criticism from many of the state's gay activists. Gundrum (R-New Berlin) was honored July 23 for "his extraordinary leadership on the Avery Task Force." Gundrum was presented the award before the State Bar's Board of Governors at their summer meeting.

"The State Bar of Wisconsin applauds Representative Gundrum's groundbreaking efforts in facilitating a meeting of the minds amongst Wisconsin's foremost criminal justice experts to avoid the tragedy of wrongful convictions," President Michelle Behnke said. Gundrum formed the Avery Task Force in December, 2003 to reform



Mark Gundrum

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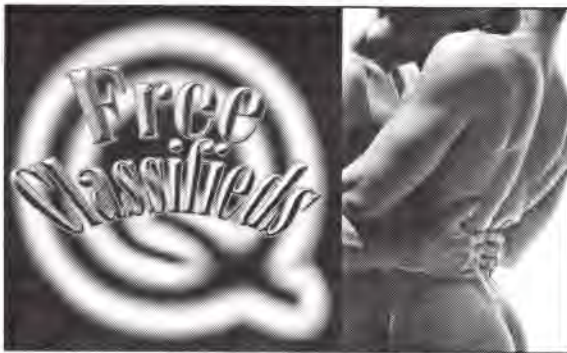
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For Rent - Holy Hill area, Town of Richfield/Hartford: Split level 2 BR home on the Kettle Moraine, secluded wooded 4 acre parcel. Appliances, wall-to-wall carpet, cable ready, jacks, 20 x 27 liv. rm, 20 x 24 wood deck, 10 x 12 walk-in closet, formal dining room. Yard care, snow removal included in \$750 mo. rent. (262) 628-0618 or (414) 258-1414 [1]

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the criminal justice system in an effort to avoid wrongful convictions. The Task Force was named in honor of Steven Avery, a Wisconsin man who served 17 years in prison for a sexual assault he did not commit. The group includes a strong balance of experts, including legislators, prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, judges and law enforcement officials. The Avery Task Force is expected to recommend significant change in areas such as eye-witness identification procedures and the use of recording devices during suspect interviews. Also receiving the Scales of Justice Award was Representative Terry McCormick (R-Appleton).

However the State Bar failed to note Gundrum's active role in tipping the scales of justice against the states LGBT community as a long-time sponsor of anti-same sex marriage bills, including the recently passed state constitutional amendment bill. McCormick also voted to support the legislation as well.

"This is no time to honor lawmakers like Reps. Mark Gundrum and Terri McCormick. Gundrum in particular is leading the charge to write discrimination into our state constitution, in the form of a ban on marriage and civil unions for same-sex couples. The harm that this measure would do casts a shadow on whatever good these lawmakers may do in other areas," Action Wisconsin Executive

Director Christopher Ott told *Quest*.

Quest has also obtained a February, 2001 letter to Scott Suder, the then-chair of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice, complaining about discriminatory remarks Gundrum made February 7 during a hearing on AB 4, legislation that would have permitted an educational agency to refuse to employ or to terminate from employment an unpardoned felon. The bill failed to pass later that year.

The letter complained that "While questioning a speaker, Representative Gundrum made an aside that the only unprotected class was 'straight white males.'" The writer further noted that "this comment seems somewhat ironic given the composition of the State Assembly: over 70% straight white males, based on an informal and biased reading of the State Blue Book. Furthermore, the topic of discussion at the hearing was Wisconsin's Fair Employment Act. The categories currently present in state employment law do include straight white males: sex in practice includes male; race in practice includes white; and sexual orientation by statutory definition includes heterosexuality. I have even heard of a successful complaint filed in the last category."

The writer noted a second discriminatory comment made the recent "Scales of Justice" award winner. "Representative Gundrum made another comment to the effect that 'perhaps smokers

should be protected were it not politically incorrect.'" The writer then noted that "state employment law includes a category for employees who use (or do not use) 'lawful products outside the workplace,' and (the writer's) understanding, albeit that of a simple public citizen, is that that category does protect smokers regarding employment discrimination."

Quest also spoke with Wisconsin attorney Tamara Packard who paraphrased comments Gundrum made at the recent State Bar convention as a member of a panel on equal justice issues about his legal and legislative philosophies. "We [in the legislature] tend to go with a 'jam it through' philosophy: does it look good in the newspaper, will it play well in the election. But we don't think enough about criminal and civil justice issues," Gundrum was reported as saying. Gundrum then said that "it would be good to have more attorneys who are Republicans in the legislature."

Michelle Behnke of the State Bar defended the organization's honoring of Gundrum. "While I appreciate the criticism, we did specify the legislative work for which we were giving the award. For Representative Gundrum it was his work on the Avery Task Force and ensuring that our criminal justice system does not wrongfully convict people," Behnke said. "The awards were not a blanket approval of all that (Gundrum) has done."



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stage presence and a level of comfort that comes only with experience and self-assurance.

I don't know what the exact scores were, and I don't care. Each of the contestants can be proud of himself.

Gregg can be proud, too. As I mentioned on stage Saturday night, who would have thought, five years ago, that Milwaukee would have such a great bar as the Harbor Room- and now they have celebrated four super years. As Gregg himself said, the Harbor Room has become more than a business. It's a family. Sure, Milwaukee has plenty of great bars, but in my book NOTHING compares with the Harbor Room- and I'm going to tell you what Gregg's secret is. He didn't tell me this- I figured it out myself.

It's the same thing that Ann and Nancy at the Napalese Lounge seem to know up in Green Bay (and I'm sure some other bar owners know it too). Our community doesn't "owe" these businesses anything. But when a bar owner sincerely loves and is personally engaged with the community he or she serves, then their business begins to feel more like a "home."

Sorry, Gregg. Your secret is as "out" as you are now: sincerity, love, community engagement, and community service.

Sunday brunch was across the street from the Harbor Room- at Out 'N About, a great little party spot with live jazz (at least on Sunday) and very good food. Ok, I know this is not the restaurant critic's column, but what can a Southern boy do other than rave about biscuits and gravy. I was surprised to see that ONA is advertising an upcoming

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ing Fetish Party. Hmm, again. I'll need to be reminded of the date and see if I can make it.

It was great fun to sit in their quiet outdoor dining area and chat a while with Argonauts club members Gina and Jerry, Mr. Northwoods John Weiler, former Mr. Harbor Room, Wisconsin L/L Daddy, Wisconsin Leather Sir Steve Seepheldt and his partner Danny before heading back to the HR for afternoon cocktails and more anniversary celebrating.

The entire thing was over too soon, and by 6:00 p.m. it was time to hit the road and head north. In a way, I felt like I was leaving home. That's just the way things are at the Harbor Room.

Congratulations again, especially to the new Mr. Harbor Room Steve Rose, and to Gregg, Eddie, and the entire staff- for such a memorable and successful weekend anniversary party! Thanks for letting me be part of the celebration!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 20-22: Argonauts/Castaways Joint Run; Al Kamke Farm, Hilbert, Wisconsin. For more details, visit the Argonauts web site at <http://www.argonautsLL.org>.

August 27-29: Great Lakes Leather Alliance Weekend; Indianapolis, Indiana. For more information, visit the GLLA web site at <http://www.greatlakesleather.org>.

November 5-7: Leather Sweat Ball Weekend; Green Bay; Details TBA



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Survey Shows Voters Reject Bush Anti-Gay Stance

Florida: A new survey of Florida voters shows that voters are not rallying to the President's anti-gay campaign. Only 2% of likely Florida voters named same-sex marriage as an important issue in the election, according to a July 25 poll for the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* and *Florida Times-Union*. The survey suggests that Bush, who has attempted to make a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage a major campaign issue, appears to be losing many of the state's moderate, independent voters.

When asked to name the most important issue determining their vote for president, 26% named jobs and the economy, 16% named Iraq. The survey was conducted by independent polling firm Research 2000 of 600 likely Florida voters. Same-sex marriage was named least among all issues.

The poll also showed that John Kerry has taken a slight lead in the state. Survey results found Kerry leading Bush 49% to 44% in a two-way matchup. When independent candidate Ralph Nader was added, Kerry led 47% to 44%. 3% backed Nader and 6% remain undecided. A February *Sun-Sentinel* poll showed Bush ahead of Kerry by 47% to 42%.

In an analysis of the poll and interviews with voters, the *Sun-Sentinel* and *Florida Times-Union* said that some voters have lost faith in Bush's handling of intelligence matters, the U.S. mission in Iraq and the economy which all contributing to a significant shift of independent voters to the Democrat camp. Florida is the largest of 17 battleground states in the 2004 campaign and has voted Republican in every presidential campaign since 1976, except for Bill Clinton's 1996 re-election.

CDC Says MDs Need to Counsel HIV Patients Better

Georgia: Doctors in major U.S. cities aren't doing enough counseling of HIV patients to prevent the spread of the virus, researchers reported July 27 in a government-funded study. Doctors in Atlanta, Baltimore, Los Angeles and Miami were more likely to provide HIV risk-reduction counseling to those newly diagnosed with the virus that causes AIDS than to existing HIV patients,

according to the study, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 60% of the 317 doctors surveyed said they regularly provided counseling - which health officials believe is critical to curbing the spread of the infectious disease - to their new HIV patients. However, only 14% of the doctors said they routinely counseled those patients who have had the virus.

Not counseling HIV patients is "a missed opportunity for delivery of prevention messages," study authors said in this month's issue of the *American Journal of Public*



Health. Recent outbreaks of sexually transmitted diseases, particularly syphilis, among gay and bisexual men in major U.S. cities - including Atlanta - have caused health officials to be concerned that the groups are abandoning safe sex practices and HIV rates could rise.

"We're not used to counseling patients with HIV," said Dr. Carlos del Rio, an Emory University professor of medicine who was one of the study authors. The problem was that in the past, HIV counseling focused on having sick patients learn how to prepare wills and for the end of their lives. But thanks to modern drug treatments, HIV is no longer a death sentence. "Now patients are having normal lives - and having sex is a part of having a normal life," del Rio said. "The counseling we have to do is how to live healthy with HIV to prevent others from getting HIV and how to prevent yourself from getting another STD."

The study notes that doctors who specialize in treating HIV patients are likely an underused resource in health officials' strategy of curbing HIV and AIDS cases. "Medical evidence shows having doctors talk to HIV patients about the disease can

be effective in preventing the spread of it," del Rio said. The study "suggests that more education is needed to incorporate HIV prevention to medical care settings," del Rio added.

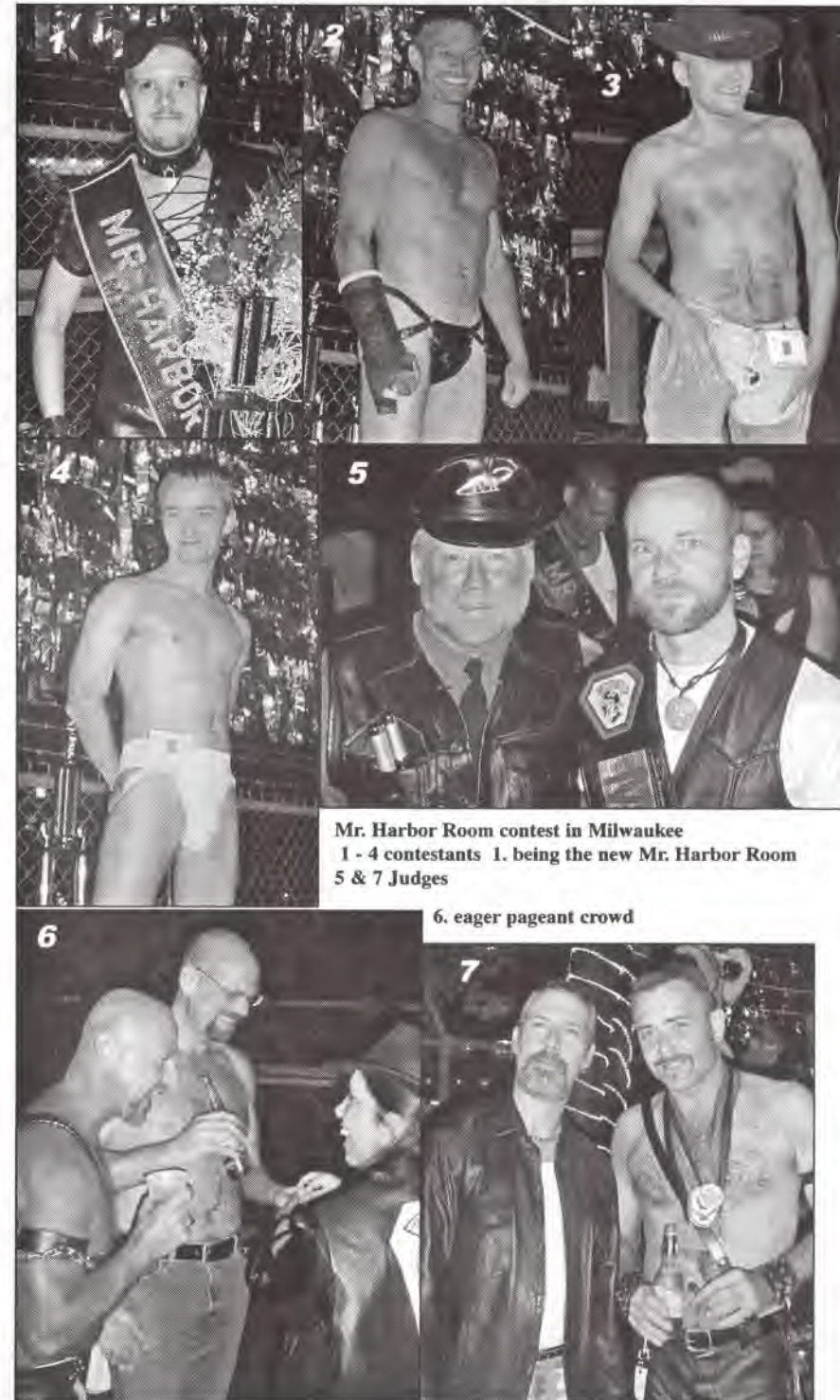
Having enough time to talk to patients was a factor in the study. Those who had a small patient load (1 to 18 patients a month) were nearly three times more likely as doctors with high patient loads (more than 100 patients a month) to counsel new HIV patients. Even doctors with medium patient loads (19 to 100 patients a month) were nearly twice as likely to talk to HIV patients than doctors with more patients.

Another problem, according to the study, may be that doctors spend too much time emphasizing the need to adhere to HIV-fighting drugs, leaving little other time to discuss how to prevent infecting others. Federal agencies need to reimburse doctors for counseling, which will happen more frequently when doctors "get time to do it," del Rio said.

Psychologists Group Backs Gay Marriage

Hawaii: The nation's largest association of psychologists is backing same-sex marriage. The American Psychological Association's Council of Representatives made its support official on July 28, the first day of the group's annual convention in Waikiki. The council also expressed opposition to discrimination against lesbian and gay parents. It also found same-sex and heterosexual couples remarkably similar, and parenting effectiveness and children's psychological well-being unrelated to parental sexual orientation. The positions, drawn up by the APA Working Group on Same-Sex Families and Relationships, are meant to guide psychologists in the public debate over civil marriage for same-sex couples.

"In the context of the huge social and political debate that is currently going on, APA and psychologists had to grapple with the issue of what psychology believes is in the public interest in this controversy," Chicago psychologist and committee chair Armand R. Cerbone said. The seven-member working group based its recommendations on research into same-sex relationships and families. The Washington-based APA has more than 150,000 members, including researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants and students.



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Please Sir, May I Have Another?

The Harbor Room's Secret

The Harbor Room in Milwaukee is always a hopping place on the weekends, but the weekend of July 23-25 was especially crazy, as the bar celebrated its fourth anniversary. Gregg really knocked himself out this year, with a virtual (and literal) smorgasbord of food, fun, and frolic- and, of course, the annual Mr. Harbor Room contest.

I wasn't able to get to town until Saturday, so I missed the "Meet & Greet" on Friday night. From what I've heard, it was a fantastic night, and a great kickoff for the weekend. All four of the contestants for Mr. Harbor Room were on hand as well as most if not all of the judges.

The first two people I saw when I walked in Saturday evening were Mr. Northwoods, John Weiler, and former Drummer magazine publisher Rob Davolt, who was there most of the weekend- autographing copies of his new book "Painfully Obvious," judging the contest, and joining in the revelry. Rob's book-signing table was set up right beside the front door of the bar, which made it easy for him to collect the \$10 cover charge as well (I'm KIDDING! There was NO cover charge, right, Rob?).

It was great to finally meet Rob, and to find out that he is

originally from Madison, a former member of the Unicorns, a former Wisconsin L/L Daddy, and friends with many of the "old-time" Argonauts and Castaways. Rob kept looking under barstools and doormats for remnants of Bob Pfeiffer, Papa Joe Mallien, and Al Kamke. Later, during the contest, Rob made a special presentation to Gregg,

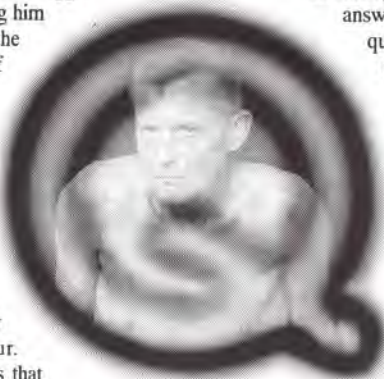
inducting him into the Order of t h e

Leather Dinosaur. Hmm. Is that an honor?

The contest itself was fantastic, and I'm not saying that just because I emceed it. The contestants made it a good show, a great contest, and a real challenge for the judges. This year's judges panel consisted of head judge Andy Schaidler, Mr. Harbor Room 2003/2004 Ross Katzman, Mr. Northwoods 2003/2004 John Weiler, former

titleholders Steven Seepheldt and Wayne Peterson, ARCW's Paul Milakovich, and as previously mentioned, Rob Davolt.

Each of the four contestants made three judged appearances on stage. The first was a general introduction featuring casual leather wear. In the second appearance each contestant wore a jockstrap or underwear, and had the opportunity to answer a "fun" question. In their final judged appearance, the



contestants wore formal leather wear, and told the audience why they wanted to be Mr. Harbor Room.

All of the contestants were local men and each did a great job, all seemed to have a lot of fun, and all seemed very sincere in their desire to win. But there can only be one Mr. Harbor Room, and after the votes were

tallied, the winner was announced: Mr. Steven Rose. First runner up was Gary Jones, and second runner up was Richard Schneider. It was a shame that the fourth contestant could not receive some kind of trophy as well, because he was clearly one of the crowd favorites, and he did a great job onstage. Rest assured Gregg took really good care of all the contestants with bar tabs and consolation prizes.

A couple of people in the audience spoke with me after the contest and expressed surprise about the outcome. These individuals had only seen the stage portion of the show. What they did not see was the mingling and informal interviewing that took place on Friday evening, and the same process that continued Saturday night before the contest. Judges' scores reflect this off-stage portion of the contest as well, whether they intend for it to or not. And when the scoring is close, one or two points by one or two judges can make all the difference.

There will always be someone who is surprised or disappointed with the outcome of a contest, but I will just say this:

The best man won. The winner, I know, will do a fantastic job with the title and will be a great representative for the Harbor Room.

Steve Rose clearly carried the evening, showing a very strong

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Married Gay Man Has Passport Trouble

Massachusetts: A man who married his partner of 23 years after gay marriage was legalized in Massachusetts now is having trouble getting a new passport. Donald Henneberger, formerly Donald Smith, recently received a letter from the National Passport Center in Portsmouth, NH, denying his request for a name change on his passport. The center said it would not recognize a marriage license for a same-sex couple as proof of a name change. The center addressed the letter to "Mr. Henneberger."

Henneberger married his partner Arthur Henneberger in May, when same-sex marriages became legal in the Bay State. On the marriage license, the couple checked a box that automatically changes the last names of the partners to whatever they request. The letter from the National Passport Center cites the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which states a marriage can only be between a man and a woman, and a spouse can only refer to a person of the opposite sex. Donald Henneberger said he had no trouble with the Social

Security Administration, another federal agency, when he requested a card in his new name.

He and his partner now have gone to Probate Court to get further proof of Henneberger's name change. "The woman at Probate Court said, 'What do you want to do - change your name to Henneberger?' It's already Henneberger," Donald Henneberger said. Rep. Richard Neal's office advised the Hennebergers to return to court, and this time the court would initiate the name change. The couple had sought the Democratic congressman's help.

"You have to publicize your intent, demonstrate that you are not changing your name for fraudulent purposes and then you have to appear before a judge," said Jennifer Levi, a professor at Western New England School of Law. She said the Probate Court name-change process is cumbersome.

Henneberger balks at spending \$180 in court fees and waiting for the eight-week process to run its course. "It's discriminatory," he said. A message left July 27 with the federal Office of Passport Policy, Planning and Advisory Services was not immediately returned.

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other magazines about my company and my significant other. The article explained how I was able to help out a "family" member in need at the last minute. It is a weekly article that lets other people know about great things to experience around Wisconsin. The article was written as a thank you for what we did. It was well deserved for what we had done. There was mention of my wife being Miss EOY, well she has given up that title and it was handed to someone else. The person writing the article did not realize this and so it was a little incorrect. I had discussed this with one of the owners of EOY and what was a mistake in the article, and they said "who the fuck cares!"

My decision to back away from this all for a while is based on things I have heard and seen lately. I realize that there had been rumors about my company closing because of a huge change in the company that took place a few months ago, along with the fact we changed locations. Both of these decisions were based on moving the company forward. In fact

the reason I missed the last article was because I was in Florida looking at and buying new cars to add to the fleet.

So, to those of you as in the case of the rumors about the West and now my company who have no idea what the fuck you are talking about, including one fat fuck drag queen named Trinity from Madison that e-mailed editors saying things bad about EOY and myself and my company along with the person who wrote that article. Get a life, get a title, get a hobby! If this is all you have in your life is to rip on others, I feel sorry for you.

I always thought as a minority group we should be helping and supporting each other. Is that not what our community is in need of? Is there not enough groups out there against our way of life? We have to fight everyday to be recognized and fight for our rights to be who we are! It is hard for me to understand why friends and people I do not even know would turn their backs or even turn against people like myself that have always given to others to be the targets of such disdain and hatred. Do we not have

enough people against us without being against ourselves? Personally, I think this to be a great tragedy of our time.

This was not an easy decision to make considering I was looking forward to writing articles on the last few prelims and the Miss Classic coming up along with the Guernsey closing and of course the state pageant. I have been able to help different groups raise more money being Safonda and giving others in need of exposure for their causes including upcoming events and shows. I also realize there are so many people out there that specifically read the Quest just for my article. Maybe in time things will change. But for now, this will be my last installment.

Of course, keep reading all the publications out there that announce upcoming events and things going on. Please let us try to be kinder to one another, we need a strong community not a divided one!

Safonda

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Captain Dix Christmas in July party

photos by Chris Hammerbeck



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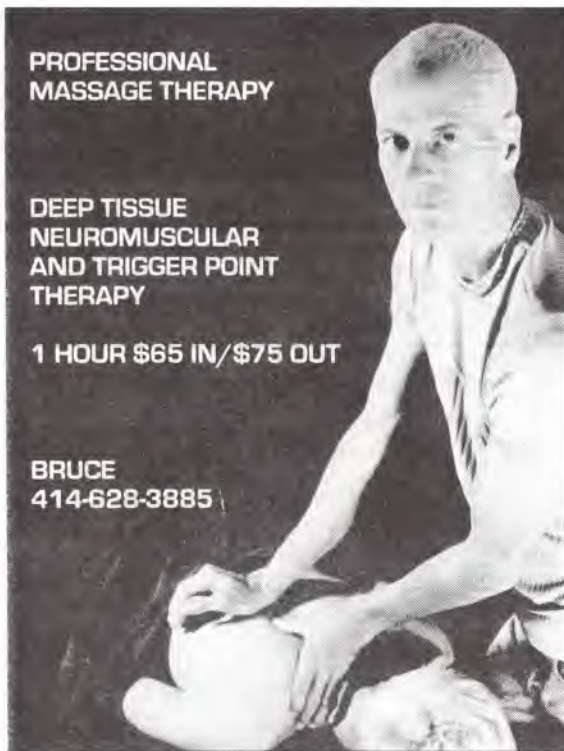
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Aug. 21 Benefit Show Jennifer Alyce
Aug. 28 Benefit for Humane Society
Shows Starting @ 10:30

Community Calendar

Friday, August 6

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Drum
Circle & Board Games, 7 pm;
Mike Casey, originals & covers,
8:30

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 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

Harmony Cafe (Appleton)
Karaoke, hosted by David Schultz,
7 pm
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

Outwards Book Club (Milw.)
meets 7:30 pm to discuss Michael
Cunningham's acclaimed novel, *A
Home at the End of the World*.
Free. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday, August 11

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Katie
Llanas is back in town along w/ Joe
Manuse to speak about
Diamondway Buddhism at 6:30 &
to lead an 8 pm meditation.

Lesbian Book Club (Milw.) meets
at Outwards, 7 pm, to discuss Lisa
Stocker's frothy, romantic comedy,
P-Town Summer. Event is free,
new members always welcome.
STD Specialties free HIV &

syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, 94
North (Kenosha)

Thursday, August 12

SAGE/Milw - SAGE Brown Bag
Book Club meets at 11:30 am at
SAGE offices to discuss *Wild
Heart* (the life of Natalie Clifford
Barney) by Suzanne Rodriquez.
Bring your lunch and join in! FMI
(414) 224-0517

Friday, August 13

Harmony Cafe (Appleton)
Variety show at 7 pm; show off
your talent for prizes
ZA's Historic West Theatre
(Green Bay) Taylor Roberts -
Miss WI Continental - Benefit
Show....an 18+ event. Show 10:30,
dancing starts midnight. \$3 cover

Sunday, August 15

L.D. Crossroads (Appleton)
Starting today, open 7 days a
week @ 4 pm
SAGE/Milwaukee Boot Camp
Patio Party, 3 pm - ?? A free buf-
fet will be served, cash bar

Monday, August 16

SAGE/Milw. - Politics as
Unusual, political discussion
group meets 5 pm at the SAGE
offices. Just show up!

Tuesday, August 17

Harmony Cafe (Appleton)
Senior Shakedown: Harvey
Cander will share slides from his
European travels, 2 pm
Outwards (Milw.) Mystery writ-
ers Michael Craft (*Büch Slap*) and
Mark Zubo (*File Under Dead*) will
join us at 7 pm. Welcome!

LaCage (Milw.) Miss Cream
City Wisconsin USofA 2004 -
starring Kyllie West, Jackie
Roberts, Christina Chase +++

Wednesday, August 18

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

Thursday, August 19

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Open

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Safonda Says All

HELLO EVERYONE, Sorry I missed the last issue, but I will get to that a little later.

Just a few things to mention, first is the opening of the Guernsey Gala for 2004. There are only four bars participating this year. I personally do not understand why, this is such a good cause with all monies going directly to help our community here in Northeast Wisconsin. I ran this competition last year and it seems in the past there was a lot more excitement about this yearly fund raiser. The only bars competing this year are: Napalese Lounge, Crickets, A.J.'s and The West. Hopefully we will still beat last years total.

One of the first events outside of the bars was the softball tournament. It started out ok, but seemed to fall apart as the minutes ticked away. I arrived about an hour late as usual, setting myself up under a maple tree with a cocktail and large umbrella to sit under, at my age sun is your enemy. All seemed to be having a good time. I was feeling a little peckish, I wandered over to the official Guernsey food area only to find they were out of everything but potato salad. Thank you to the other vendors for having food so I would not pass out in the heat. Next I noticed that many of the people there had brought coolers full of booze, dumb shits! It is a fund raiser! They were selling booze for less than what you probably paid for yours. The money you would have saved buying theirs you could have donated to them instead of screwing them over entirely. Now for the game. Like I said it started ok, but soon turned out to be very confusing. Nobody was really calling balls and strikes. This caused some confusion for both teams. Only to be out done by nobody keeping track of the outs. Who knew when an inning ended? After realizing this the entire crowd started to yell each out to keep track. Even the playing teams. Then, to make matters worse, because of those of you who brought your own booze in and drinking right out of the bottle, how tragic, some are now to drunk to see a ball coming straight at your

face. Witnessed was a person taking a swing, going in a circle and falling flat on their face. I understand we all want to have a good time but come on. A little decorum. Finally, one team had to forfeit because they had team members so drunk they could play no more. Then the final two teams played for the trophy. When all was said and done, a winner was declared. But it was not over yet.



An uproar ensued because certain teams never played each other. I think some one should have been keeping track of this also. Enough said.

Now I must speak from my heart. I have been doing a lot of soul searching lately with all that has been going on that some may not know about. This may well be my final article. I started doing this on a whim because there was no one else who wanted to do it. I thought it might be fun so with no experience I took on the challenge. I did not realize what a challenge I was over taking.

It started out to be fun reporting on all that was going on around our state. Of course there had to be some digs here and there to keep the readers interested. It was all in good fun. Now it has turned ugly, it is no longer fun anymore to write.

It started a few months ago with the rumors of the West closing end of June. I knew what was going on so I kept quiet

until I could take it no more. So I spoke out in one of my last articles about those who were spreading rumors that were untrue. Now it seems everyone is turning on me.

Most of you know who I really am in real life and what I do for a living. I have always excepted the light hearted e mails and comments some even being a little mean towards Safonda. It all comes with the territory. However, now it is starting to effect my personal and professional life. I will be taking a break for a while to step back and take stock in what is important. I do not now if I will be back or not.

I have always been a very giving person, sometime giving more than I should have at times. Between helping people, friends and queens I thought I was doing good deeds. I have, from my business driven queens and friends all over this state and beyond for years. I have had cars going to national pageants. I drove head liners at Pride Fest for years. I did this to help out all who have asked. I helped them out because I could save them money. I realize how much time and money it takes to perform and compete all over. Usually in return asking for nothing. I even was presented with the Jimmy King Award at a State pageant because of the kindness and giving person that I am and all the help I have given to so many people. Outside of all that, the help and support I have given to other friends over all the years. I am also a member of Rainbow Over Wisconsin and ran Guernsey for a while. In the midst of all that taking on this article. I really thought that what I was doing was being appreciated. Spreading myself very thin to help others I cared about and our community.

Now, it seems there are those turning on me. I can handle gossip about Safonda and the article and the ribbing I get for just being me. But as of late it has gone to far. It seems there are those who are out to do everything they can to put me down. Once it turned into personally attacking me and my business both of which have given so much to the community, I must step back and take care of those who really matter and prove to be good friends.

An article was written in one of the

mic jam hosted by Pita, from the reggae band Unity, 7-9 pm
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Club Boom

Friday, August 20
Harmony Cafe (Appleton)
Galyne Goodwill, a soulful voice & melodic guitar, 7 pm

Saturday, August 21
SAGE/Milw. - Theater Outing at
Chamber theater, 158 N. Broadway. Specially priced SAGE tickets are only \$25 for Hedwig & the Angry Inch. Reservations due by Aug. 16 - (414) 224-0517

Sunday, August 22
SAGE/Milw. Dining Out Group
having brunch at the Astor Street Hotel, 920 E. Juneau Ave. Bloody Marys at 11:30 am, noon brunch. \$6.95 to \$8.95 + drinks & beverage. (Sept. 15 evening dining outing will be at Potawatomi Bingo Casino. Reserve now 414/224-0517

Wednesday, August 25
Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Art

Circle, jewelry making w/ Jen Allyn, 7 pm
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Woody's

Friday, August 27
Harmony Cafe (Appleton) Dave Tisdale & his band, live music, 7 pm

Saturday, August 28
2004 Cream City Foundation's 2nd Annual Women's Only Night Golf Outing! @ Noyes Golf Course, \$35. FMO (414) 466-7693
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Club 219

Wednesday, Sept. 1
STD Specialties free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, Harbor Room

Saturday, Sept. 11
Club Night Out (Stevens Point)
Entertainers Against AIDS perform tonite
Angels of Hope MCC (Green Bay/Appleton) Fall hike/picnic at Bairs Creek Parkway, Green Bay

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To contact the Social Worker select voice mailbox One

LGBT CENTER ANNOUNCES AUGUST EQUALITY KNOCKS EVENTS

Milwaukee: The Milwaukee LGBT Center has announced a series of political advocacy events to be held during August.

The Center Advocates political action group will hold a phone banking event on Wednesday, August 11, from 5-8 PM. Center Advocates will help call voters in swing State Senator's district and find new supporters of LGBT equality in the ongoing fight against the antigay Wisconsin Marriage Amendment. Spend a few hours with the Equality Knocks campaign and other committed volunteers making a difference. For more information or to register call Pabitra, the Community Organizer at 414-271-2656 x119.

Center Advocates will also conduct an Equality Knocks canvas in Riverwest on Saturday, August 21, from 9 AM to 1 PM. Meet at the LGBT Community Center. Center Advocates brings the Equality Knocks campaign back to the uber-progressive Riverwest to find new allies of LGBT equality and to work to defeat the antigay constitutional amendment. One hour training, two hours talking to voters in pairs, and one hour pizza party! You'll feel great helping your community and fighting bigotry. Call Pabitra, Community Organizer, 414-271-2656 x119 for more information.



CENTRAL PRIDE DAY OUT

Stevens Point: Central Wisconsin's 5th annual pride picnic will be held on Saturday, August 7 on the grounds of Club Night Out. The all-day event will begin at noon, and focus on the LGBT communities in the Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, Marshfield, and Wausau areas. Activities offered will include games and activities, vendors, organizational booths, and entertainment. There will be a \$7 admission charge, with separate tickets sold for food and beverages throughout the afternoon. A dinner will be served at 6 PM meal. Cost will be \$7 also. Entertainment will follow at 8 PM. Several fundraising events were held to support this year's pride picnic, including a charity auction and show at Club Night Out, a turnabout show at Wausau's Oz and a Rainbow Alliance of Central Wisconsin rummage sale in Wisconsin Rapids. Call 715-212-3068 for more information about the event.

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COMMUNITY CENTER WEBSITE NOW RUNNING

LaCrosse: Mary O'Sullivan of the city's 7 Rivers Region LGBT Resource Center has announced the opening of the organization's new website. Those wishing to visit the site should point their browsers to: www.7riverslgbt.org. The site was up in time to announce the community center's first event, a "meet and greet" fundraiser held in downtown LaCrosse July 30 as part of the Pride Along The Mississippi LGBT pride weekend.

LGBT CENTER PLANS A BIG NIGHT OUT

Milwaukee: Are you ready for the Big Night Out? This 2nd annual gala fundraiser for the LGBT Center will be held on Saturday, September 25. Tables forming now for an event that promises to be another outstanding success, bringing together Milwaukee's vibrant and growing LGBT community. The Big Night Out will feature a silent auction, live entertainment, awards presentations, and a sumptuous dinner at the Potawatomi Northern Lights Theater. To donate silent auction items, become a table captain (and be listed in the invite), or just reserve your spot at the party, call Angie Guerra, Center Director of Development, at 414-271-2656 x121.

The Galano Club

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MOVIE REVIEW

"Son Frère" (His Brother)

by Glenn Bishop

Patrice Chereau's "Son Frère" is an extraordinary little film about some pretty big themes: life, death and family. Thomas (Bruno Todeschini) has a rare, debilitating blood disease. As the film begins, he is facing yet another hospital stay and asks his younger brother Luc (Eric Caravaca) to accompany him. Not that this is a simple request. The two brothers have not seen each other for some time — years actually. Some little matter about Thomas not accepting his younger brother's homosexuality.

Now, "disease-of-the-week" sagas are still relatively commonplace on the Lifetime™ cable network. There was even a time when Hollywood used to make melodramas like "Son Frère." Glenn immediately recalls Bette Davis' classic performance in "Dark Victory." Bette, even as the mysterious disease claimed her heroic Judith, remained radiant. Back in Hollywood's glorious era which peaked in 1939, the year "Dark Victory" was released, it seems even a dying woman could still be superbly lighting and beautifully made-up and wearing fabulous Orry-Kelly gowns.

Has death even looked quite so magnificent?

Chereau's film offers no such paradox. Although bodily fluids are happily kept to a minimum, "Son Frère" is all about illuminating the messiness of both dying and living. His protagonists look ordinary taken to an extreme; unshaven and seeming to bathe only occasionally. Nor are either man especially likable much less heroic. Todeschini's Thomas is a somber, rather cowardly man not someone who is bravely battling the disease that is ravishing his gaunt body. Luc, still possessing the sort of festering wound caused from the betrayal of the person closest to you, only reluctantly acquiesces to Thomas' wish.

In the film's most painful moment to watch, Luc stumbles across another of the hospital patients walking the hall, a young man dragging along his IV drip. Thinking that Luc is another patient and thus sympathetic, he wearily exposes a huge, raw abdominal scar — a sight which leaves Luc (and presumably many moviegoers) stunned.

Although the film is ostensibly about Thomas, more intriguing is Luc's journey. Despite the years of estrangement, the two brothers are similarly tentative with each other and curiously alike. Neither it seems is able to make a real commitment. Thomas treats live-in girlfriend Clare with a chilly casualness while Luc insists that his live-in boyfriend Vincent is

not his "partner." Over the course of the film, the two men do manage to chip away at the emotional barriers that continue to separate them yet seem to do so far more effectively in their many lapses of companionable silences than in actual conversations.

Can Luc emerge a whole person during the film's final reel?

BUY IT, RENT IT OR FORGET IT...

"Son Frère" is a superb film, beautifully acted yet extremely disturbing to watch. Worth a rental? Definitely. Probably worth an inclusion in an extensive LGBT film collection yet hardly the sort of film that you'll want to bring out too often for friends and family.

JUST THE FACTS...

Patrice Chereau is the director of the classic 1983 gay film, "L'Homme blessé"

"Son Frère" is a very long 95 minutes and is in French with English subtitles.

Marianne Faithfull's haunting rendition of "Sleep" highlights the film's suitably bleak soundtrack.

STRAND RELEASING DVD:
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