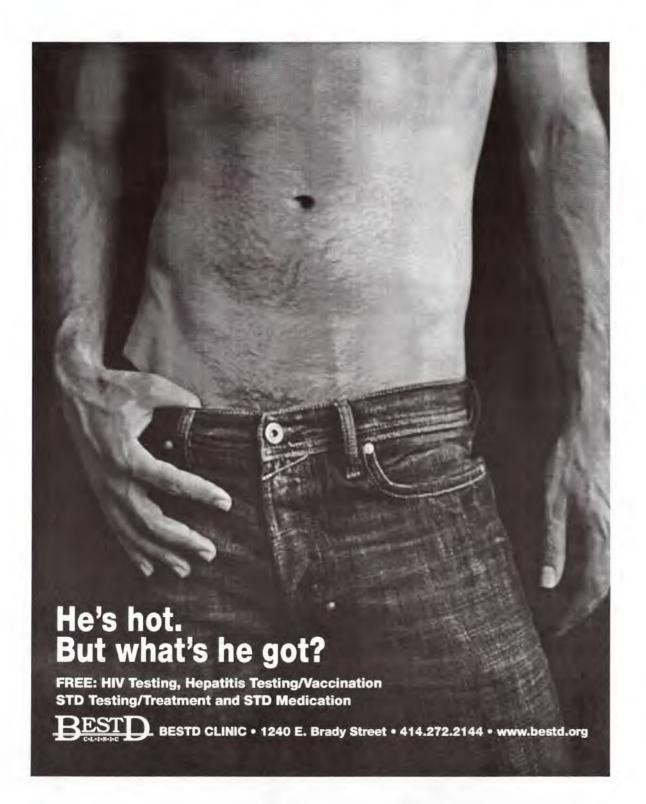


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# FAIR WISCONSIN CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO **DEFEAT CIVIL UNIONS & MARRIAGE BAN**

**WEEK-LONG "ROAD TRIP" TRAVELS TO SEVEN CITIES** 

Madison - Following the February 28 Assembly passage of the constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage, Action Wisconsin and Milwaukee Center Advocates have launched Fair Wisconsin, the new statewide campaign to defeat the civil unions & marriage ban at the ballot box in November.

The state Assembly's 62-31 vote has put the amendment on the November 7 state ballot. A majority vote would add 43 words to the constitution declaring the state recognizes only marriage between one man and one woman and does not grant a similar legal status to unmarried individuals, such as civil unions.

In a sign of growing momentum, supporters of fairness picked up eight votes in the Assembly. Four representatives switched to



"No" votes, and four additional "No" votes came from new representatives.

One Republican, Rep. Gregg Underheim (R-Oshkosh), spoke out strongly against the ban. "What in fact it is s, anti-constitution-

al," Underheim said. "because what we're doing today, will change the nature of the constitution we have written."

"In virtually no other area do constitutions prohibit private individuals from engaging in any activity. We are taking a document which has protected people from their government and saving, 'We're changing the character of that document," "Underheim added.

Just hours after the passage, the Fair Wisconsin campaign launched, announcing a kick-off Madison press conference. "For the past 600 days, we've been having conversations with tens of thousands of Wisconsin voters about the civil unions and marriage ban,"Fair Wisconsin campaign manager Mike Tate said in announcing the statewide kick-off. "We have already ramped up our efforts and will continue to do so every single day for the next 252 days."

"Today we gained eight votes in the Assembly, and tomorrow we'll gain 100



and the next day 500 votes in Appleton," Tate said. "Every day we talk about the ban to the fairminded and inde- on the amendment pendent voters of March 9, saving Wisconsin, we gain his political oppovotes. We will be nents were playing the first state in the games by putting a nation to defeat constitutional one of these bans."

votes in Eau Claire,

In the last ten days, Fair Wisconsin held campaign kick-off trainings in every region civil unions on the of the state to introduce the campaign. The November ballot. Doyle met with the events were open to local media and high-



lighted plans for the coming months, the ongoing work of the Fair Wisconsin Action Networks, and diverse local people who oppose the ban, including business leaders, independents, Republicans, and clergy. The events were held in Madison on March 1;

Milwaukee, March 2; Appleton, March 6; Wausau, March 7; La Crosse, March 8; Eau Claire, March 9; and Superior, March 10.

Over a thousand people collectively attended the "road trip" styled events, held in libraries, churches, and - in Eau Claire a cathedral. In some cases, crowds attending the events overflowed the pre-arranged spaces. In Appleton, partitions were removed to expand the multi-use conference area where the event was held. Advisories about each event had been sent to local media and generated dozens of positive print and broadcast stories and editorials about the Fair Wisconsin efforts.

#### Governor Paints Amendment As Political "Game"

Governor Doyle also sounded off amendment to ban gay marriage and



editors and publisher of the Portage Daily Register and the Baraboo News Republic to discuss a variety of topics before attending an afternoon event that was part of the "Capital for the Day" festivities.

Dovle said current law was "as clear as it could be" - marriage is between a husband and a wife. "When I was attorney general I interpreted it to mean like most people interpret, that means a man and a woman," he said. "This isn't about gay marriage, which is already prohibited." Doyle characterized the amendment as a political ploy. "Everybody knows that's the purpose of it. If they (the GOP-controlled Assembly) had passed it in January, it would have been on the April ballot. That's fine. That's the game they're playing," he said,

Doyle also noted that part of the referendum concerned him because it would prevent both same-sex and opposite-sex couples from having a legally recognized union other than marriage. The amendment would prevent people from having a longtime partner make medical decisions for them or leaving the partner money in a way a spouse would receive it.

Dovle also noted the marriage equality ban issue was out of step with most Wisconsin voters. "When I get around the state, they're not talking to me about gay marriage," he said. "They're talking to me about jobs and the educational system and how to make health care more affordable."

#### Yikes! Sykes Writes Against The Amendment



Amendment supporters also likely were stunned when a leading Milwaukee conservative talk show host wrote he was "undecided" about the marriage and civil union ban. WTMJ's

Charlie Sykes, in a piece published March 9 in the alternative Madison weekly Isthmus wrote "There's a reason this November's vote on a constitutional amendment to ban gav marriage may be defeated: Conservatives who, like me, are undecided."

"Thoughtful conservatives reply: 'Say what?'," Sykes continued, noting UW Law professor Ann Althouse's observa- However, it was tion that amendment's second sentence public mainline "goes beyond what is needed to satisfy tra- church opposiditionalists and takes a gratuitous swipe at tion to the marbenefits currently enjoyed by real families riage equality here in the state."

Sykes noted the irony that amendment that gave Family supporters, who claim the primary reason Research they pushed for the amendment was judi- Institute cial activism, also claim they are comfort- Wisconsin able letting the same courts decide the Executive impact of the amendment's vague second Director Julaine half. "...that is precisely the strongest Appling a self-described "reality check." argument for the amendment: marriage Just days after gloating to the state's mainwill be redefined one way or another: stream press that all of the opposition to either by black-robed activists or by the amendment was "Madison-based," public. So it's a problem if the public is Appling attended an event at the University unclear what the definition actually of Wisconsin in Marshfield that featured means and if it gets thrown back to the nationally-syndicated lesbian columnist courts anyway," Sykes wrote.

misgivings about the amendment, overwhelmingly expressed their opposition "Conservatives also believe that, as a rule, to the amendment. constitutions should limit the powers of

oppose?," he argued.

ment's most outspoken supporters. willing to speak up and to work hard to well to take some of their wingnuts to the bally adding that she needed to make a side. And leave them there. This includes, mental note to "find pastors and churches anti-gay mouth-frothers like the Rev. Ralph anywhere who will speak up on this issue." Ovadal, the sponsor of conferences on what have it in for the pope," Sykes noted.

churches. So it cuts both ways."

# FRI's Appling Gets A Reality Check

ban on March 4



Deb Price. There she encountered a capac-Sykes also echoed Rep. Underheim's ity crowd of mostly non-gay attendees that

In her weekly "Wisconsin Family government, not of individuals," he wrote. Connection" broadcast on March 6 Appling Sykes also addressed the basic questions described her epiphany. "...Reality struck of marriage equality in his piece. "Exactly when a Presbyterian pastor disclosed himhow does allowing gays to enter into legal, self and his position on homosexuals - for monogamous relationships undermine the and aftirming of - and the amendment institution of marriage? Isn't in society's 100% against. This pastor mentioned there interest to foster and recognize such stable were several members of the area clergy at relationships? And why would that be the program who agreed with him. Ah, yes, something that conservatives would reality; people who are against the marriage amendment and are openly affirming and

Sykes also took a shot at one of the amend- accepting of homosexuality are more than "Supporters of the amendment would do defeat the amendment," Appling said, ver-

Appling was also dumfounded by the he calls 'Homo-Fascism.' Ovadal and his early strength of the opposition to the supporters not only oppose gays, they also amendment. "100 people on a small UW-System campus in a key Central Wisconsin Sykes also cautioned amendment oppo- city on a Saturday night in early March was nents about their own preconceptions and really a pretty impressive crowd. It was rhetoric. "A bigger problem for the sup- apparent from the comments and questions porters of gay marriage is their own temp- during Ms. Price's talk and by the general tation to assume that all their opponents are tenor after the program that these were peowingnuts like Ovadal," he wrote. "But call- ple who were energized and ready to do ing your opponents bigots or assuming that what was necessary to defeat the amendsupporters of the amendment 'hate' gays ment," Appling said, again adding she will not win any converts. Nor will attack- needed to "keep persevering in amassing an ing the traditional teachings of mainline army to win at the ballot box in November."

> Military tactics involving Christian soldiers notwithstanding, Appling wrapped up her "reality check" message by sharing that she knew "know our omnipresent, omniscient God is greater than any campaign against His plan for marriage and family."

> "...My head-on reality-check Saturday night is a good reminder for all of us that when it comes to preserving God's plan for marriage and family in Wisconsin, we can't take anything for granted," Appling concluded. "Those who want to redefine marriage will be out walking, talking, advertising and rallying."

> Appling's words may have warmed the spirit of her listeners on the state's Christian radio stations, but similar rhetoric found on FRI's highly-touted DVD on the amendment turned off other people of faith. Dozens of pastors who received the sixminute DVD, found its message so offensive they have joined the Fair Wisconsin

> At a speaker's training held at Preble Park Presbyterian Church March 8 in Green Bay, both the host pastor and a minister from an Oconto Quaker congregation cited the DVD as a key reason why they were moved to actively oppose the ban. "That Family Research DVD exhorted me to take action." one of the pastors said. "That's why I'm here: to learn how to talk more effectively against this referendum."

> If the first two weeks of the battle are a harbinger of its coming campaign, Fair Wisconsin's voice will be both loud and nearly omnipresent.



tos of my work available. [3/29]

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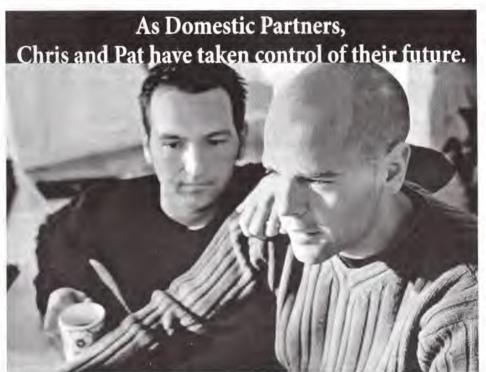
who has a heart & is down-to-earth, mature. Things of interest are road trips, shopping, just relaxing, getting to know people who are not pretenders, in shape & enjoy getting out and doing things, not a deadbeat. Is this you? Email w/ state & contact info sweetome4u@vahoo.com [1]

Male in Milwaukee, 5'10", 195, brown/hazel, 7" cut thick, looking for passable t-girls, cds & ts; would love to meet some nice people for fun and adventure: hope to hear from some hot ladies out there....please, passable only. Email packyspub@yahoo.com or (262) 880-1198. Keith [1]

MWM, 35, 6'2", 215 lbs., w/ very muscular build, 7"+, and really good looking, seeks cute cd or tv. Also interested in meeting a couple w/ a bi male. I'm STD free & expect same. I have a pic, but only for serious replies. E-mail albertseries@vahoo.com [1]

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# SUPREME COURT UPHOLD MILITARY **CAMPUS RECRUITING, 8-0**

law schools nationwide, the Supreme Court of San Francisco, joined a lawsuit to chal-Pentagon's policy of excluding openly gay relied in part on a 2000 Supreme Court rulmen and women from its ranks. The jus- ing that was seen as a major setback for by several law schools and professors who in a 5-4 decision, said the Boy Scouts of employer who practices job discrimination openly gay scout master because his presbased on sexual orientation.

In his first major opinion for the court as "morally straight" behavior. Chief Justice, John G. Roberts Jr. characupheld the Solomon Amendment, in which mandated that colleges and universities that Pentagon to recruit on campus.

"The Solomon Amendment regulates con- tolerance and nondiscrimination. duct, not speech," Roberts said. "It affects access to military recruiters - not what they them to say anything."

ly symbolic protest against the Pentagon's and the Supreme Court had no trouble revers- Legal, said refusal to change its policy against gays. Since the 1960's, the Association of American Law Schools has had a policy of refusing to aid recruiting by employers who had discriminatory hiring practices, including sexual orientation since 1990.

To enforce the policy, some law schools refused to post information on military recruiters who planned to visit and would not make rooms available where recruiters could meet with people interested in becoming military lawyers. "No one was denving them access. We just withheld affirmative support," said Stanford Law Dean Larry Kramer, who was a New York University law professor when the case began.

But Congressional Republicans objected to what they claimed was second-class treatment for military recruiters. In one of the first pieces of legislation enacted after the GOP takeover in 1995, they adopted an amendment that would cut off federal funds - currently \$35 billion a year - to a college or university that prevented the armed forces from recruiting effectively on campus. Congress subsequently strengthened the amendment to say the military must be given equal treatment when its recruiters visit a campus.

Law faculties at several dozen schools,

right to recruit on college campuses and at University, Georgetown and the University unanimously ruled March 6, despite the lenge the measure as unconstitutional. They tices rejected a free-speech claim brought equal civil rights for gay people. The court, said they should not be forced to aid an America had a free-speech right to expel an ence conflicted with their message of

The challengers to the Solomon terized the case as "a stretch." The decision Amendment said the same logic should work in reverse. They said they had a freespeech right to exclude anti-gay employers, take federal money must permit the including the Pentagon, because their presence would conflict with their message of Samuel A. Alito Jr., who did not participate.

The U.S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia what law schools must do - afford equal agreed and said the Solomon Amendment was unconstitutional because it "compels law may or may not say.... [It] neither limits schools to propagate the military's message." what the law schools may say nor requires including its bias against gays. The Bush administration appealed that ruling on behalf Several law schools have carried on a most- of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

ing the ruling in Rumsfeld vs. FAIR.

The chief justice said the law posed no free-speech problems. First, the law Washington, DC - The military has a among which were Stanford, New York schools and the faculty are not required to speak in favor of the military. Second, they may speak openly against the military without losing federal money. And third, he said that he believed students will not be fooled into thinking the law school agrees with the Pentagon simply because it has permitted the Pentagon to recruit on campus.

> "We have held that high school students can appreciate the difference between speech a school sponsors and speech the school permits," Roberts wrote, referring to a decision that allowed a Bible study group to meet on campus at a high school. "Surely students have not lost that ability by the time they get to law school." All the justices signed the opinion except for Justice

> Gay rights advocates said they hoped school officials would make use of their free-speech rights. The court's opinion "leaves room for students and universities themselves to speak out ... and show their abhorrence of the military's policy that discriminates against gay and lesbian people," Jon Davidson, legal director of Lambda

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# Diversion of the Day Community Calendar

Friday, March 17 (St. Patrick's Day) Club Night Out (Stevens Point) Green Beer & Reubens.... Shelter (Green Bay) St. Patty's Day Party, starts 10 pm; \$1 lime green jell-o shots, \$2 lime vodka, \$2 domestic bottles, \$9 fallout drink bust 9pm-1am. FREE T-shirft 1st 100 people SOS Club (Kenosha) Amateur Talent Contest & St. Pats Day Party

Saturday, March 18 Angels of Hope MCC (Green Bay) a "St. Patrick's Day" dinner.

6-9 pm. Serving traditional menu (suggested donation \$10). Tickets? Contact Larry Krueger by e-mail: mycountrylyn@vahoo.com Club Night Out (Stevens Point) Mr. Central Contest!

Crossroads (Appleton) Miss Appleton Continental Pageant, a prelim for Miss Wisconsin Continental 2006

Jo'Dee's (Racine) Miss Belle City USofA pageant; a prelim to Miss Gay WI 2007. More info - Tracy Michaels (262) 389-1988 Madison Gay Video Club: Dorian Blues and Arabesque, 8 pm.

FMO (608) 244-8675 evenings or www.mgvc.org

Sunday, March 19

Club 5 (Madison) Miss Madison Continental Pageant Movie Collectible Spring Show (West Allis, @ Burnham Bowl Hall, 6016 W. Burnham, 10am-4pm, \$2. A fabulous collection of Movie Memorabilia FMO (414) 466-1877

Tuesday, March 21

Outwords (Milw.) A publication party for former Milwaukeean Maytee Aspuroy Gonzalez. We'll celebrate the release of her debul novel, Hesed, a timely and insightful exploration of the tension between contemporary religious institutions and people with lesbian and gay identities. A FREE event; Welcome!!!

Wednesday, March 22

Club Belize (788 N. Jackson, Milwaukee) Every Wed. is Rainbow Nite; movie starts 10 pm

Saturday, March 25

UWM student poroduction - The Vagina Monologues - \$10, at Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 So. 2nd St.

Friday, March 31

Jack Heifner's Seduction opens this evening (runs thru April 9) at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 So. 2nd St. Featuring the 'shamelessboyz' London cast. All performances 7:30 pm. Tickets (\$20) on line: uncommontheatre.net or (414) 383-3727.

Players (La Crosse) Mr. Mississippi Valley Pageant Fri.-Sat., March 31-April 1

Day of Self Discovery 06, sponsored by St. Norbert College Rainbow Alliance in partnership with Positive Voice. Theme-Building a Bridge Between Communities. F.K. Bemis Conference Center on the DePere campus, www.PVinc.org

Saturday, April 1

Scooters (Eau Claire) Mr. Chippewa Valley Pageant Triangle (Milw.) Miss Milwaukee Continental Pageant, a prelim to Miss Wisconsin Continental 2006

Monday, April 3

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## **US SENATE CANDIDATE WANTS DEATH PENALTY FOR GAYS**

Toledo - Merrill Keiser, Jr., may be a trucker by trade, but he's hoping his next journey will take him all the way to Washington. His goal is a seat in the US Senate, but first he has to make it through the primary that will determine which Ohio Democrat will be the November 2006 ballot.

Keiser recently caused controversy because he publically stated homosexuality should be a felony, punishable by death. "Just like we have laws against murder, we have laws against stealing, we have laws against taking drugs - we should have laws against immoral conduct," Keiser told WTOL-TV March 10.

Keiser has no political background and is running as a Democrat is because that's how he was registered the last time he voted. Keiser will face Democrat Sherrod Brown in the May primary.

# FDA RECONSIDERS GAY BLOOD DONOR BAN

Washington, DC - The U.S. Food & Drug Administration was scheduled to meet March 9, as Quest went to press, to hear arguments from organizations that want the government to revise guidelines on a 23-year-old policy prohibiting gay men from donating blood.

In 1983, the FDA enacted a policy prohibiting any man who had sex with another man even once since 1977 from being a blood donor. The FDA conference on "Behavior-Based Blood Donor Deferrals in the Era of Nucleic Acid Testing" was set to take place in Bethesda, Md. Officials with the American Red Cross, American Association of Blood Banks and

America's Blood Centers confirmed that the three organizations She offers as one explanation that would release a joint policy statement at the conference addressing gay men are sex objects for men. the donor ban. They declined to discuss their recommendation before the official announcement, but the alignment of the three despite the derogatory remarks. groups suggested the Red Cross may be throwing its support gay and straight men differ little behind a push to revise the nationwide ban.

In 2000 the Red Cross opposed efforts by blood banks to change attitudes are converging regarding donor eligibility for gay men to one year since their last sexual contact. At that time the FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee considered a five-year ban, but then sided with the Red Cross and voted 8-7 to continue the lifetime ban.

An FDA spokesperson said March 7 the agency appreciates the desire of all individuals to donate blood, but the safety of the blood supply is a result of multiple layers of protection, including donor screening. According to the FDA's Stephen King, the risk of contracting HIV from a unit of blood has been reduced to about one per two million units - almost exclusively through donations during the window period after infection with HIV but before the presence of antibodies detected by less-sensitive tests.

"Congress and the public have made it clear they expect the FDA to ensure the lowest risk feasible concerning transmission of serious infectious diseases by donated blood and blood components," King said. However, the scientific data about new testing is being ignored, a ccording to Jason Schneider, president of the Atlanta chapter of the Gay & Lesbian Medical Association. "With new testing the window is as small as two weeks," Schneider said. "And even with

a one-year ban on gay men donating blood makes no sense." Schneider added the best possible way to ensure a safe blood supply is to remove sexual orientation from the equation. "Ask about drug use, unprotected sex and the status of partners," he said. "It's the least discriminatory way of determining someone who is at risk."

# STUDY: WHEN IT COMES TO GAY MALE SELF-ESTEEM, SIZE REALLY DOES MATTER

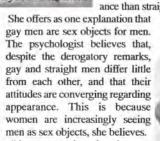
Amsterdam - The length of his penis is key to a homosexual man's self esteem and how he sees his body in general, according to a recent Dutch study undertaken at Utrecht University.

The majority of gay men regard a large sexual organ as ideal, and having one is linked to self-esteem, Liesbeth Woertman, a senior lecturer in clinical psychology, has found. Woertman, a psychologist and sexologist, surveyed 251 gay men with an average age of 29 together with a colleague specializing in social and organizational psychology.

"Our study reveals that how gay men see their penis has consid-

erable influence on how they value themselves in general," Woertman said. "It is not known whether if there is a similar link in heterosexual men, but there are various reasons for assuming that the self-image of heterosexual men is linked to how they evaluate the most characteristically masculine part of their body," she added.

The men surveyed said their penises were the most attractive parts of their body, followed by their stomachs and their skin. Woertman has previously confirmed that gay men spend ance than straight men.



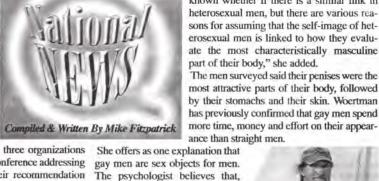
"Appearance has thus become more important for the straight man," she said, calling for more research into how heterosexual

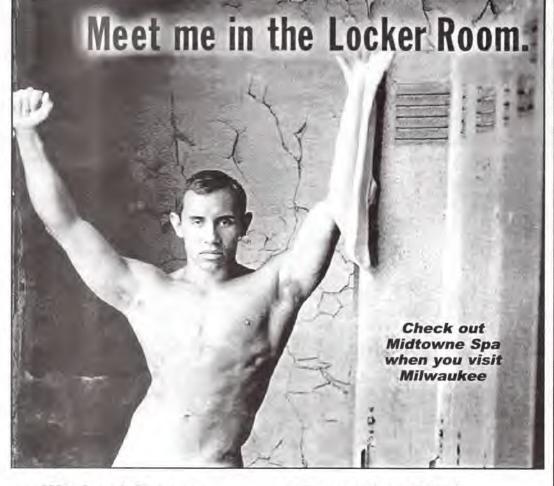
men see their bodies. She suspects that contemporary men are less satisfied with their appearance than earlier generations.

# GALLUP TEEN POLL: "BEING GAY IS NOT GENETIC"

Princeton, NJ - A March 9 Gallup Youth Survey claims that over half of America's teenagers believe being gay comes from a person's environment and upbringing, not from genetic factors a person is born with.

The poll sought responses from 546 teenagers, ages 13-17. When asked if being gay is due to genetic or outside factors, such as up bringing and environment, 59% said sexual orientation comes from outside factors, while 41% percent felt people are standard testing, the results are known within three months. Even born gay. Girls scored slightly higher than boys.





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However, the teen survey also showed teens were more accepting of gay marriage and same-sex unions, with 51% supporting marriage and 55% approving of civil unions. Again, girls were more in favor than boys.

A 2005 Gallup poll of adults revealed a majority believed genetics was a factor in same-sex orientation. 38% said it was present at birth, and 18% responded it was a mix of both genetics and upbringing. Only 44% believed sexual orientation was due solely to outside factors,

The Gallup Organization claims the Youth Survey is considered accurate to within ±4 percentage points, 95% of the time.

# **MADONNA'S DAUGHTER:** "MOMMY, ARE YOU GAY?"

New York - Madonna says she had some Lourdes, asked about that kiss with Britney Spears at the 2003 MTV Video Music ing her to pass my energy on to her." Awards

magazine's April issue. "And she even awards ceremony. asked, 'Mom, you know they say that you



And she says, 'Because you kissed Britney Spears."

"And I said, 'No, it just means I kissed explaining to do when her daughter, Britney Spears. I am the mommy pop star and she is the baby pop star. And I am kiss-

Madonna, 47, famously locked lips with "(Lourdes) is really obsessed with who is Spears, 24, while performing her songs gay," Madonna said in an interview in Out "Like a Virgin" and "Hollywood" at the

The pop diva and gay icon told the magaare gav?' And I'm, 'Oh, do they? Why?' zine her 9-year-old daughter likes to guess Vilanch, told Out magazine that he was

who is gay: "Oh, and the other thing she likes to do when we go out, she says. 'Mom, do you want me to point out who the gay men are?' And I say, 'Okay, but I think I already know.""

Lourdes is Madonna's daughter with actor/fitness instructor Carlos Leon. She has a 5-year-old son, Rocco, with husband of five years, filmmaker Guy Ritchie.

Madonna also talked about her feud with Elton John, who in 2004 accused her of lipsynching. "He seems to be angry." she said. "I seem to have become a target. It's not very gentlemanly or gracious. But he did send me a letter apologizing for his last outburst, right before his wedding."

Sir Elton and filmmaker David Furnish took civil-union vows last December.

#### FRIENDS CLAIM THE LATE **LUTHER VANDROSS WAS GAY**

New York - A gay magazine has revealed that the artist, who died last summer, was secretly gay and was extremely careful not to let the public know.

One friend, Hollywood writer and VH-1 fat camp reality show contestant Bruce

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aware of the star's sexuality from the beginning of his career, he said: ""He was way 'in' (the closet). He said to me, 'No one knows I'm in the life."

Vilanch said he knew of at least one gay romance between the singer and another man. "He had very few sexual contacts," he said.

Gay journalist Michael Musto also claimed the singer was desperate to find a boyfriend before he passed away. "A famously open gay singer/songwriter (told me) Luther was dying to have a boyfriend," Musto said. "It was an inside show business open secret."

Fans of the Grammy award winner have expressed disapproval at efforts to out Vandross less than a year after his death, group People of Colour in Crisis, praised the Out article. "Clearly, a lot of black gay performers feel they can't come out, vet it would be important, particularly to black gay young people, to see black gay role models," he said.

Vandross, whose hits included "Dance With My Father" and "Here and Now," died in July, 2005 after never fully recovering from an earlier stroke.

# **GAY PENGUIN BOOK FROZEN OUT OF KID'S LIBRARY**



MO - A children's book about a penguin family headed by two males has created a flap in Missouri. A small group of parents complained to librar-

Savannah.

ians in southwest Missouri that the book "And Tango Makes Three" had gay undertones. The illustrated tale is based on the but Michael Roberson, director of gay true story of two male penguins who adopted an abandoned egg at New York City's Central Park Zoo a few years ago.

> A Savannah library official told the Associated Press that she consulted with zoo experts in several states, and found that such adoptions aren't unusual in the penguin world. The library, however, decided to move the books from the children's section to non-fiction shelves in response to the complaints.

#### ANG LEE STUNG BY OSCAR'S 'BROKEBACK' BACKLASH

Los Angeles - Ang Lee said he never intended "Brokeback Mountain" to be a social statement about homosexuals, amid speculation the gay cowboy romance lost the Oscar best picture race because of its subject matter.

The movie won best director for Lee making him the first Asian winner of the prize - as well as best musical score and best adapted screenplay Sunday at the Oscar ceremony, but it lost the best-picture award to "Crash," despite having racked up several other major film awards. The upset prompted speculation that the U.S. Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences wasn't prepared to hand its top prize to a movie about gays.

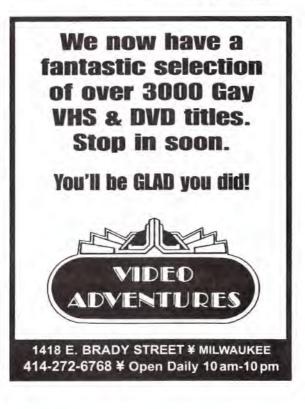
But the Taiwanese director said he never approached the love story between two ranch hands set in conservative Wyoming social commentary. "For me, 'Brokeback' isn't rebellious at all. It's a very ordinary movie. People call it groundbreaking or what not. It puts a lot of pres-



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# New on DVD by Glenn Bishop "Loggerheads"

A young gay drifter has come to a small town on the North Carolina coast to protect loggerhead turtles' nests. After a suicide attempt, a woman begins a search for the son she had given up for adoption. A minister's wife, grown weary of her barren existence, is forced to reexamine what her life might have been if her son hadn't run away.

Ordinary people living ordinary lives inhabit Tim Kirkman's poignant drama, "Loggerheads."

In "Loggerheads," Kirkman skillfully weaves together three interconnected stories, each one concerned with homosexuality and the curious notion of "family values."

Kure Beach, North Carolina is, quite literally, the end of the road for Mark (Kip Pardue). Mark has been drifting, probably has been ever since leaving home at the age of 17, when his mother caught him kissing his best friend and his conservative pastor father sentenced him to a life of hell fire and eternal damnation. At 26 and HIV-positive, Mark possesses little more than a change of clothes and a nifty pair of night vision goggles he's "bartered for," i.e. received in exchange for sex.

In Kure Beach, Mark meets George (Michael Kelly), owner of a run-down motel who offers Mark a room. Mark assumes that this is another "barter" situation but while he is clearly attracted to Mark - and who wouldn't be, muses Glenn - George genuinely wants to help Mark, who he sees as a rather lost and damaged soul.

The second narrative sequence follows Grace (Bonnie Hunt), who after a suicide

infant son for adoption. Now, she has spent years looking into the faces of young men hoping to see some spark of recognition. Eventually she makes the difficult decision to search for narrative threads together. the son she wishes she never gave up.

# Buy it, Rent it or Forget it...

With all of the hype generated by the upcoming DVD release of 'Brokeback Mountain" & "Queer as Folk: Season 5," "Loggerheads" is ikely to get lost in the shuffle and that's too bad. Tim Kirkman has crafted a wonderful, thought-provoking film and one filled with fine performances from everyone in the large, ensemble cast, particularly Bonnie Hunt's Grace and Kip Pardue's lost, troubled Mark. "Loggerheads" is definitely a keeper!

# Just the facts...

"Loggerheads" runs approx. 95 minutes and due out on DVD on March 21 with an SRP: \$24.95

"Loggerheads" was one election at last year's Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival. It just completed a short run in Madison at the Orpheum theatre. "Loggerheads" was featured as a Quest cover in Vol. 12 #17

All about "Loggerheads" at www.loggerheadsmovie.com

Director Tim Kirkman's debut film was the charming documentary,

DVD extras include: Director's commentary, deleted scenes and photo gallery Curiously, 91% of Loggerhead nests are to be found in Florida and only 1% in North Carolina.

> minister's wife who has spent too long filling empty days baking pies and secretly smoking the joints she hides in her flour canister. Too long ago, her 17 year-old son Mark left home. Seeing that her new neighbors are an alternative family - two men and a cute, little boy - Elizabeth finds herself thinking more and more about her long, lost son. Eventually she turns to her eccentric neighbor Ruth (Ann Pierce) for help. Ruth who had befriended Mark, urges Elizabeth to go see him.

At first glance "Loggerheads" looks like it has just escaped from Lifetime™, the cable network for women

attempt, has come home to live with her mother (Michael and gay men. And certainly Lifetime™ has had its share of mother/gay son "Mother Walton" Learned). At 17, Grace had given up her stories and even more of the wife/evil gav husband variety. What separates "Loggerheads" is director Kirkman's refusal to rely on either blatant sentimentality or settle for a neat and tidy happy ending in bringing the three

Eventually each of the characters find closure. While happiness might still The final story focuses on Elizabeth (Tess Harper), a prove elusive, none of the characters will face a future still haunted with regret.



# SPRING THAW PARTY!

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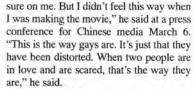
Northeast Wisconsin WWW.BC4M.COM



Above and Right: Eddie's Birthday at Harbor Room

Below: Cass Marie's Farewell Show at Club 5, Madison





Lee expressed disappointment about the movie's Oscar best-picture loss, especially after it won four Golden Globes, including best picture, the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival and four British Academy Film Awards. "We've won every award since September, but missed out on the last one, the biggest one," Lee said.

Lee said the process of marketing "Brokeback Mountain" was tough." My work was really hard. I had to fight many battles. Personally, I don't like doing



press, but once a film is on the Oscar track, for half a year you're fighting the same battle," he said.

"Brokeback Mountain" has received mixed responses in Asia. Its distributor in mostly Muslim Malaysia decided not to release the movie. The movie was welcomed in Hong Kong and Lee's native Taiwan, but banned in mainland China. While Chinese society generally does not actively persecute gays, the topic remains taboo.

Lee said earlier he believes that Asians are more tolerant of gay subject matter than Americans. One of Lee's first films, "The Wedding Banquet" was about a gay Chinese man who fakes a marriage to please his traditional parents. It won five Golden Horse Awards - the Chinese-language equivalent of the Oscars.

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# WOMEN'S HIV MEDICAL CLINIC OPENS IN MILWAUKEE TO ADDRESS UNIQUE HIV HEALTH PROBLEMS FOR WOMEN

medical clinic for women opened its doors serious financial problems." in Milwaukee March 10 providing special with HIV and AIDS. The new Women's HIV Practitioners, Winsome Panton and Sharon Center of Wisconsin Medical Center which HIV care and treatment experience, invited over 125 of its female patients to an open house to learn about the comprehensive services that the new clinic offers.

The open house and the opening of the new Women's HIV Medical Clinic coincided with the first National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day being celebrated across the country March 10.

"Women with HIV have unique and challenging health complications from this disease," said Iram Nadeem, MD, Medical Director for the AIDS Resource Center and Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. "We have developed medical and support protocols that are at the forefront of the best care for women with HIV and enable us to address their health care needs with expertise and sensitivity."

often experience more rapid decline in their treatments. Studies show that women with than men with HIV.

matory disease than women who don't pregnancy; and nutritional counseling. have HIV disease," Dr. Nadeem said. "All accessing medical care due to childcare work, housing and legal services.

Milwaukee - Wisconsin's first HIV responsibilities, lack of transportation and

Dr. Nadeem is joined in the ARCW care and treatment for women diagnosed Women's HIV Medical Clinic by two Nurse Medical Clinic is part of the AIDS Resource O'Dwyer, who together have 16 years of

The Women's HIV Medical Clinic is



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

designed to address all of these unique problems in a sensitive way according to Dr. Nadeem said that women with HIV Cindee Shapiro, Vice President of Health Services at the AIDS Resource Center. The immune systems earlier in their infection clinic will provide intensive and frequent inflammatory disease and other gynecolog-HIV are twice as likely to suffer from heart ical health issues; increased monitoring of failure, renal failure, anemia and diabetes the immune system and medication side effects; increased assessment and treatment "Women are five times more likely to be of their medical problems including anediagnosed with cervical cancer and have mia, diabetes and heart and renal failure; laws. She also said she believed that the protestsignificantly higher rates of pelvic inflam- regular counseling on contraception and

of these medical problems are compounded ing ARCW's on-site HIV specialty denby the difficulty women with HIV have in tal care, mental health therapy, social

"We will offer on-site child care and transportation assistance to break down the barriers that have often prevented women with HIV from accessing the medical care they need," Shapiro said. "Support groups and education sessions on women's health issues will be a regular part of the clinic."

The new Women's HIV Medical Clinic will begin providing care to 125 women with HIV and AIDS and is Wisconsin's largest provider of HIV medical care for women. The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Medical Center is the largest outpatient HIV/AIDS medical facility in Milwaukee with 488 active patients.

"Our Women's HIV Medical Clinic will provide women with comprehensive care that is truly at the forefront of HIV health care for women," Shapiro stressed. "All women are welcome here regardless of economic status and their ability to pay."

#### **WESTBORO WACKOS OBEY** WISCONSIN'S FUNERAL **PROTEST LAW**

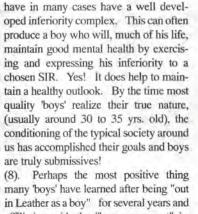
Tulsa - An attorney for a Kansas church that spreads its anti-gay message by picketing at soldiers' funerals announced members would obey Wisconsin's new state law passed to prohibit the protests. The Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka dropped plans to demonstrate at a soldiers' and greater side effects from some drug screening for cervical cancer, pelvic funeral in Superior last week. They also cancelled protests in Oklahoma, Indiana, and Missouri. All four states have new laws limiting such protests.

Shirley Phelps-Roper claimed church members are considering a legal challenge to the new ers had been successful in drawing attention to the church and its anti-gay message.

Women will also benefit from access- At least 17 states have considered legislation this year restricting protest activities around funerals. Wisconsin's law was the first in the nation to pass.



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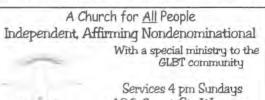
affiliating with the "boy movement" is; That while feeling their shortcomings, often can and do realize their worth and the value of the gift of themselves that they give to SIR. This does not usually change their focus as a submissive. Also the inner nature of a boy seldom changes with the realization of that worth. Although if it did, then they were not as dedicated as they thought.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

April 21 & 22 Green Bay WI. 2006 Daddy / Daddy's boy contest! See Argonauts ad in this issue. www.argonautsll.org/

May 25 - 29, 2006 Chicago, Illinois IML - International Mr Leather

August 18-19-20, 2006 Argonauts and Castaways Joint Run (At the Hilbert Farm)



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# Thank You SIR: by Jeff Hicks

# What is a 'Leather' boy?

This term can mean many things. I will cover those points i can understand.

#### A LEATHER BOY IS:

- passive
- submissive
- 3. serving
- 4. dutiful
- 5. non aggressive
- 6. slavish, but not a true slave
- 7. accepting of a superior
- 8. A boy's worth & sacrifice or offering of self.

Note: a boy will have the chance in the scene or relationship, to choose a SIR.

In this article i will address the chosen, "SIR/s", with the single title of "SIR"!

Webster" (a.) Passive: "influenced or acted upon without exerting influence or acting in return; (b), inactive but acted upon" (c), offering no opposition or resistance.

- (1. a.) a boy is very often influenced by SIR. It is frequently found in the nature of a boy, that such a personality has a tendency to be rather impressionable. That is to say they will unwittingly take on styles, actions, and mannerisms of their Sir. Even when they are alone they will emulate SIR. A Leather boy will always be acted upon by Sir. This will always be expected in the play space / dungeon. A boy will not attempt to exert an influence in return to Sirs actions or decisions during those times, (unless there is risk of harm). A boy always has the right to set parameters before play/scene, on what will not happen. Unless he has discussed it with Sir, an action may take place or a limit exceeded without prior warning. A boy does not enter into a play event or scene, without prior negotiation. To do so risks his well being.
- (1b). Being inactive is relevant as far as not initiating significant activities. Being "acted upon" usually is expected in the day to day domestic, work, and social times as well.
- (1c). Not opposing or resisting Sir in his decisions and actions is expected behavior.
- (2). Submissive: having or showing a tendency to submit without resistance; docile;

yielding. That is a trait found in almost every boy of quality! (3). Serving: This is not

always a part of every boy but does find its' way into the lives of many.

For some boys it is a primary focus in their relationship with SIR. This can apply to day to day chores, domestic responsibilities, Taking on part of SIRs' work load, seeing to the personal needs of SIR in the home, bedroom, bath, as well as the dungeon/play-space. (4). Dutiful: having a proper sense of duty; obedient; (syn.); devoted, respectful,

Being dutiful in the domestic affairs of the home gets into the grev area where some boys in taking responsibility for all/most domestic affairs will tend to treat the SIR as a person who needs to follow the boy's directions. This is a very delicate balance that a skilled boy can control in himself and not aggravate, annoy, or use to manipulate SIR. When this is done in a respectful manner, SIR will likely appreciate the efforts of the boy being capable of making Him comfortable. And ves, a boy needs to also be obedient. This needs constant refinement because of the limits of both persons and the rights that a boy would have verses those of a slave.

- (5). A boy by nature would be always nonaggressive. To be otherwise would contradict the nature of such a personality!
- (6). slavish: A slave will act absolutely & totally according to "ORDERS" !!

A slavish boy will often obey wishes and/or requests of SIR with an attitude of total compliance. This attitude is out of devotion or dedication to SIR, and a desire to please and not a fear of physical or emotional reper-

(7). Accepting of a superior: This is something that i have a personal opinion about. Many 'boys' have grown up being conditioned by family and/or society to believe, for some reason or another, they are not adequate and

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#### 2006 MILMAIDS TOURNAMENT SET

Madison - The 21st annual MILMAIDS bowling tournament has been scheduled for April 22 at the Bowl-A-Vard Lanes, 2121 East Springs Drive here. MILMAIDS is a charitable bowling tournament that was started in 1985 in response to the AIDS crisis. The tournament alternates locations between Madison and Milwaukee with all proceeds going to AIDS Organizations chosen by the host city. This year's beneficiary will be Madison's AIDS Network. The benefit tournament will raise funds to be used exclusively for direct client services.

The event promises to be a great time and attendees don't have to be a good bowlers to participate. To register for the tournament, contact the AIDS Network at 608-252-6540. Registration forms are also available by contacting Bret Dougherty by phone at: 608-223-0488 or by e-mail at: bddougherty@sbcglobal.net.

The cost of the tournament is \$25 if paid by April 3, \$30 if paid there after. The price includes bowling, buffet, prizes and donation. Space is limited to 400 bowlers and registration is encouraged. Spectators and bowling enthusiasts also are encouraged to attend and show support for a great cause.

# **BOULEVARD THEATRE'S "MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"** BENEFITS FAIR WISCONSIN

formance of the Shakespearean comedy "A its Twentieth Anniversary Season of criti-Midsummer Night's Dream" will benefit cally acclaimed theatre in its intimate 50-

the the campaign to defeat the proposed Wisconsin ban on civil unions and marriage. The special performance will be held on Tuesday, March 14 at the Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.

This classic William Shakespeare play has been updated to a Texas diner, where lovers' lives are complicated by city law, feuding faerie royalty, and - of course - love. The Boulevard production is directed by Mark Bucher.

aged to arrive by 7:15 as the intimate stage ate neighborhood and greater Milwaukee setting prohibits seating for late arrivals.

Tickets are \$20 and will benefit Fair 414-271-2656, Ext.112.

The Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, a groups.

Milwaukee - A special preview per- Milwaukee arts organization, is celebrating

seat black box studio theatre. The Boulevard is an affordable, culturally diverse theatre that enlarges the performance experience for audience and artist alike by presenting modern, classical, and neglected scripts. Our space's intense physical proximity provides both emotional directness and cultural familiarity between patron and

Yet, our ability to think large artistically, but remain fiscally prudent, continues to connect us artistically. Show time is 7:30 PM. Patrons are encour- socially and economically to our immedicommunity.

For our Twentieth Season we are expand-Wisconsin. To reserve seats either visit the ing our outreach to targeted communities Fair Wisconsin website at: www.fairwis- with growth opportunities for young artists consin.com, or contact Patrick Flaherty at to become Associates and intensive targeted marketing to traditionally excluded

## COMEDIAN VICKIE SHAW TO PERFORM IN MADISON

Madison - The Madison Pride Committee is pleased to announce that nationally known comedian Vickie Shaw will be coming to perform a benefit concert on Saturday, March 18. Shaw will perform at the Inn on the Park, 22 S. Carroll St., with proceeds benefiting Madison Pride. "We are very pleased to have a comedian of Vickie's caliber coming to Madison," Pride Co-President Nikki Baumblatt told Ouest. "She is so funny that you actually laugh out loud."

According to the comedian's website."Vickie Shaw looks like the stand-up comic and came out as a lesbian at Madison, WI 53701-1403. FMI please call woman next door ... All-American with blond hair, lipstick and polished nails. Once she opens her mouth, you'll know she was born and raised in Texas and you'll never ter. I don't look the part. I blow away all their at: www.madisonpride.org and clicking on stop laughing. After eighteen years of marriage and three kids, something was missing in Vickie's life... 'People were always soned comedian, Vickie Shaw hilariously OutReach offices. For more information coming up to me and saying, 'You should do stand-up comedy. Vickie did become a woman, a mother and gay in America.



the same time."

Madison Pride will host an elegant dinner at the Top of the Park overlooking beautiful downtown Madison prior to Vickie's performance. Tickets for the dinner are \$50 per person and include admission to Ms. Shaw's performance. General admission tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 the day of show. Space for the dinner is limited. Cocktail hour begins at 6:30 PM, with dinner being served at 7:30. The show itself is slated for 9:00 PM.

To obtain dinner reservations, make checks for the dinner payable to "Madison Pride" and mail to: Madison Pride, P.O. Box 1403, Nikki at: 608-221-8049.

Shaw now performs in both straight and gay General admission tickets for Vickie can venues opening audience's minds with laughstereotypes. I'm the woman next door-except the link for tickets. Tickets are also avail-I just happen to be gay'," Shaw said. As a sea- able at A Room of One's Own or the addresses the triumphs and trials of being a about Vickie, visit her website at: http://www.vickieshaw.com

#### COMMUNITY SHARES SHARE-A-MEAL SET

Milwaukee, Madison - LGBT organizations in two Wisconsin Community Shares. On Tuesday, March 14, restaurants in Milwaukee will participate in the 2nd Annual Share a Meal with to build social and economic equity and a healthy environment. Among the benefitting agencies is the Milwaukee LGBT Center. Participating restaurants in Milwaukee are the African Hut, 1107 N. Old World 3rd St.; Cempazuchi, 1205 E. Brady St. and Pedrano's, 600 S. 6th St.

Honorary Chair Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, on Tuesday, March 28 for the 1st Annual Community Shares Share-A- WITH COMMUNITY SHARES



Meal. Five favorite restaurants in Madison are partnering with Community Shares of Wisconsin to raise funds for 57 member agencies working to build social and economic equity and a healthy environment. Participating restaurants include Dardanelles, Harvest, Quivey's Grove, Tornado Club & Weary Traveler. Each will be donating a percentage of the day's proceeds. Attendees can help by enjoying ly Edy will emcee the event. The fundraiser, will be set in cabaret a wonderful meal with family, friends or co-workers at one of the participating restaurants. In return, restaurants will donate a portion of the proceeds to Community Shares of Wisconsin and member organizations such as Madison Outreach. Diners can designate a portion of their bill to one of the many benefiting charities.

So pull up a chair and join Community Shares Share-A-Meal. Have a great meal and give back to the community all in one sitting. Combine the delight of eating out with the joy of giving into one funfilled event. For more information, go online to: www.share-ameal.org. For mor information or to make a reservation in Milwaukee, call 414-342-0883. In Matlison, call 608-256-1066.

## PERFECT HARMONY CHORUS PRODUCES CABARET SHOW

Madison - "Life is a Cabaret, Old Friend! So. Come to the cities will benefit for a new dining out program sponsored by Cabaret!" Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus proudly presents their 2nd annual fundraiser, so come taste the wine and come hear the song. Madison's West Side Club, will play host to this event and Community Shares to raise funds for 37 member agencies working audiences can enjoy two performances on Saturday, March 11 and Sunday, March 12. Doors will open at 6:30 pm, and the show will begin at 7PM.

> Event goers will be delighted with up-close performances from chorus members with songs such as "Moon River,"

"Popular" from the broadway hit Wicked, "The Song That Goes Like This" from the musical Spamalot. Other hit songs from Chess, Oh Kay! and Leave It To Me are among some of the performances that will also be seen.

The 30 member choir will also perform "Cabaret" from the self titled musical, "Chapel Of Love," and "Get Me To The Church On Time," from the musical My Fair Lady. Perfect Harmony's own Bob Moore, Mark Hintze and Edward Anderson as the lovefashion with hors d'oeuvres by Queen Anne's catering, and a cash bar will also be available.

Seating is limited and tickets are \$35 per person. Reservations are required to guarantee seats and walk-ins are welcome. Tickets can be ordered online at perfectharmonychours.org or through the Cabaret Hotline at 608-445-6767.

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus (PHMC) is Madison's gay and gay-friendly men's chorus in its ninth season. Ken Forney and Ian W. Riddell are the current co-directors of PHMC, sharing the position of artistic director since spring 2002.

In addition to its Cabaret show fundraiser, the chorus presents two

major concerts per season; a holiday/winter concert in December and a spring concert in late spring/early summer. PHMC also performs at special events throughout Madison. The chorus has performed at political rallies, such as the rally against a proposed anti same-sex marriage bill brought before the state legislature, benefit events for various community groups such as PFLAG and New Harvest, memorial services, award ceremonies and church worship services. The men of Perfect Harmony are proud to serve in this capacity, bringing a strong positive gay voice and witness to the Madison community.

Perfect Harmony is a non-profit organization consisting entirely of volunteer staff and musicians. PHMC is also a member of GALA, an organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender choruses around the world. More information on Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus can be found on the internet at: www.perfectharmonychorus.org or via email at: info@perfectharmonychorus.org. Information may also be requested in writing. Mail inquiries to: P.O. Box 14706, Madison, WI 53708.

#### TRANSGENDER IN-SERVICE AT OUTREACH

Madison - OutReach will sponsor an inservice on transgender issues on April 1, 2006, from 12:30-2:30 PM. The in-service is free and open to the general public, but registration is requested. To register, please contact Harry at: programs@outreachinc.com no later than March 29. OutReach is a non-smoking and fully accessible facility located at 600 Williamson Street in the Gateway Mall. For more information about the in-service, please call 608-255-8582.

# OPEN LETTER: BREW CITY BEARS, PRIDEFEST AT ODDS

Milwaukee - Quest has received the following open letter to the Wisconsin LGBT community: "It will be deeply appreciated if you will post this letter to the community in your next edition.

"It is with deep regret that negotiations between the Brew City Bears and PrideFest appear to have fallen through. After protracted negotiations our counter offer appears to have been rejected. If current negotiations persist, we may not be allowed to staff the dance pavilion beer pod.

"We will keep you posted as more information

"Regretfully submitted, Gary Hawkins, Secretary, Brew City Bears Inc., P. O. Box 1035, Milwaukee, WI. 53201."

# Miss Mississippi Valley W1 US&A

April 15th • 10:30 pm

@ Players 227 Main St La Crosse WI



Emcee - Kyllie West



Also Featuring

- ·Deja Vue,
- · Beja,
- · Tammy WhyNott
- · Special Farewell Song for Tammy Performed by Scotty



Contestant Info: Tammy WhyNott (Reegan) 608-386-0125

Registration is 8:00 Sharp \$25. (Late entrys will lose Administrative points!) Interview 9 pm

At 10 pm there will be a "Pre Pageant" Entertainment Section. With performances by the former Miss Gay Mississippi Valley Title Holders

Don't Forget! The Very First Miss Belle City WI-USofA Sat., March 18 @ JoDee's International, Racine

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