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**QUEST**

Vol. 13 #5 ~ March 30 - April 12, 2006

Keeping Wisconsin's LGBT Community Informed for 13 Years



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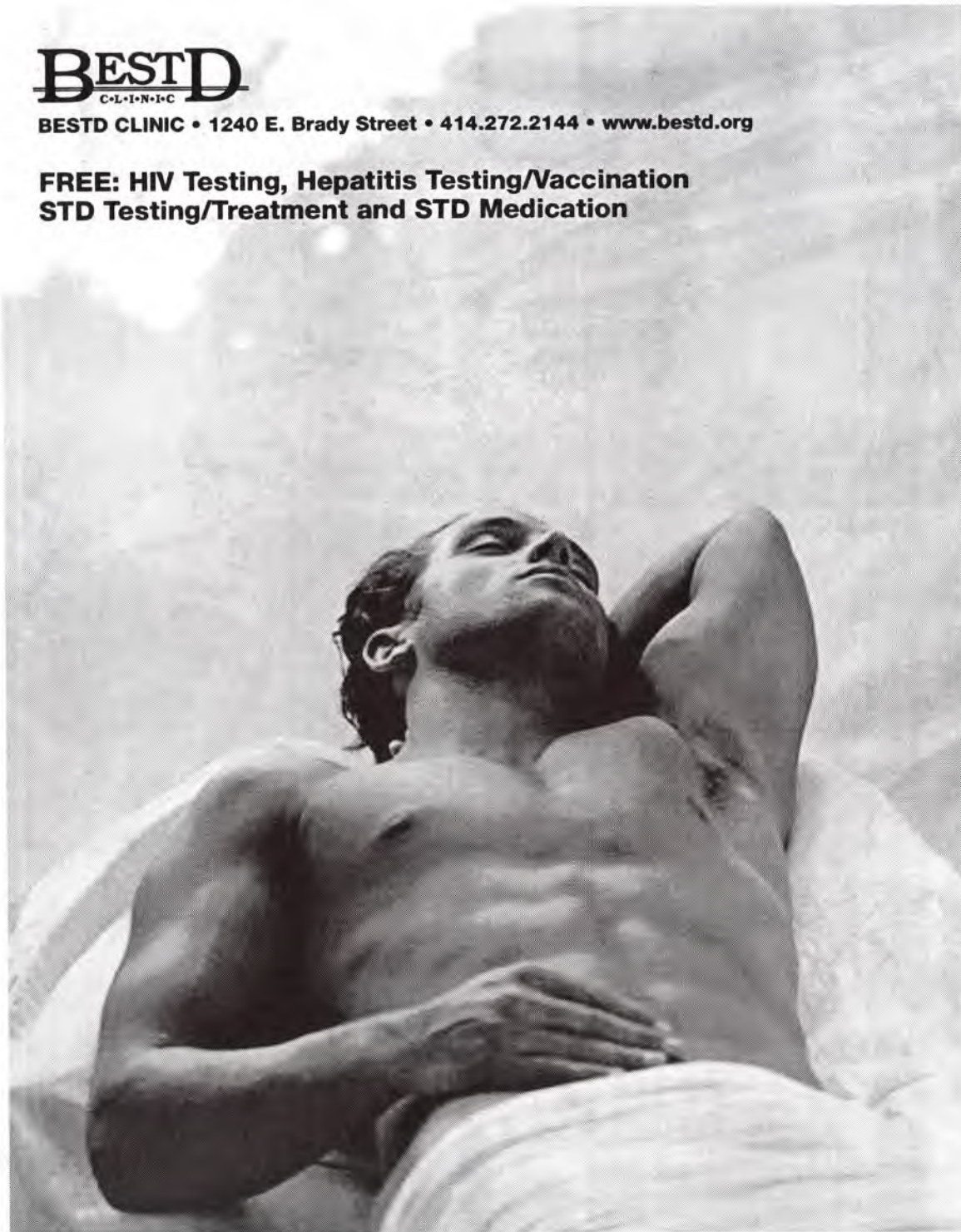
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What About Me? 600 6th St Racine (262)632-0171

The Office 513 East State Rockford, IL (815)965-0344

Oh Zone 1014 Charles St Rockford, IL (815)964-9663



GWM, late 40s, located in **SE Wisconsin**, looking for a social activity partner, someone 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? E-mail w/ state & contact info [sweetome4u@yahoo.com](mailto:sweetome4u@yahoo.com) [2]

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. E-mail [packyspub@yahoo.com](mailto:packyspub@yahoo.com) or (262) 880-1198. Keith

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@yahoo.com](mailto:albertseries@yahoo.com) [2]

Sexy pre-op transsexual: white, 47 years, 5'8", 145 lbs., long br hair, br eyes, 36C chest, sensual and attractive...seeking white or Hispanic male 21-40 for discreet fun. Have strong fetish for man's feet, love giving erotic foot massage, especially to a man wearing a pair of sweaty sox. Love all things sensual. Let's meet for discreet fun. Contact Cathy (262) 605-9508 M-F 5-10 pm or all day weekends. **Kenosha** [2]

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

Seeking single gay men under 50 w/ foreskin intact for mutual pleasure. I have 1/2" overhang & stretch my foreskin daily. Clean, HIV neg & healthy. Have my own place. NO GAMES. Call, let's chat. Details: Mark (414) 225-9683 [2]

**Milwaukee (Wauwatosa):** GWM, 60, 5'7", 160, 6", oral top man, d/d free, clean, discreet, looking for one-time & short-term encounters with in-shape men 25-40. Men of non-white ethnicity welcome. Smooth, boyish, and/or bottom men are nice. (414) 771-9688 2-11:00 pm only. [2]

GWM, 50, **Eau Claire** area, looking to service gay, straight & bi guys, nothing asked in return. 18-55, hairy & hung a +, no fats or fems, into everything but pain & blood. (715) 834-3638 or [hairyriider@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hairyriider@sbcglobal.net); lay back & let me do the work. Bring a friend. [2]

**Wausau** area GWM farm "boy" - 35 y.o., 5'9", 187 lbs., looking for "company." Leave message (715) 486-5365. [3]

28 y.o. bi male seeking CDs/transsexuals for fun discreet meetings with a man who loves to lick and swallow. E-mail [retrogamer414@yahoo.com](mailto:retrogamer414@yahoo.com) [3]

**Fond du Lac** Bi WM, 5'7", 150 lbs., extremely oral, kinky, submissive. Like to meet clean men or ladies for regular pleasurable & satisfying get togethers at my place; satisfaction guaranteed. E-mail [suckscum54979@yahoo.com](mailto:suckscum54979@yahoo.com). Sheboygan Joe, contact John & Sam [3]

Attention, **Jefferson Co.** couple! I'd very much like to join your lifestyle; I'm 50+ WBIM & very discreet. Reply w/ telephone # or address for contact to: Len, PMB #143, 1528 So. Koeller, **Oshkosh**, WI 54902 [3]

Recline, relax, release, relief. Expert methodical service for hung. Safe for hwy. 94 N/S travelers. Private, discreet, comfortable. E-mail [jefflakecountyil@yahoo.com](mailto:jefflakecountyil@yahoo.com). Pix get first reply. Men only, no disappointments. [3]

GWM, 51, 5'10", 220 lbs., wishes to meet other men for socializing, companionship & good times. Call Stephen (262) 944-7023. **Mt. Pleasant (so. end of Racine)** [3]

46 y.o. GWM, 195 lbs., looking for friendship/relationship. I'm a smoker/social drinker, handicapped w/ speech impediment, but mobile...and willing to relocate. (262) 335-4214 or Mark Schicker, 2235 Sylvan Way, **West Bend**, WI 53095. NO GAMES! [3]

Romantic GWM, NW Wisc., chemical free, 65, 155 lbs., brown, 5'9", good shape & size,

ISO responsible single d/d free GM for LTR...small statured a +, age/race open. **Polk, Burnett, Barron Co.** area. Gary. (715) 653-2632. Leave message. [3]

Wanted - a manly man. Must be tall, slim and handsome. I'm tired of the bar scene, liars & users. Must be honest & open-minded and looking for LTR (age 30-50). Me: GWM, 6', 175 lbs., versatile, age 45, totally open to almost everything. I will treat Mr. Right w/ TLC. Social drink & smoke OK. Opposite race/color a +. Leave message. I have secure voice mail. (715) 823-5491, Tim [3]

Wanted lovers of fetish, B&D, electric toys, leather, furniture, rubber, cross dress clothing, corsets, boots, erotic movies...add to my collection & enjoyment. Let's talk. Can trade or buy. (414) 321-8005 7am-10pm. **Lyle Milwaukee** [3]

Affectionate, nice-looking, intelligent, educated, middle-aged (but youthful) GWM seeks partners/friends on a regular basis. No games...but pleasure. Write L.E. Ward, Esq., PO Box 107, **Iron River, Mich.** 49935 or phone (906) 265-3253 [3]

Pulled to my knees: ISO well hung senior, special discreet friend, will try LTR, spiritual tantric sex buddy. Me: Nice cock, 69, sub. need to be penetrated by dom. Coffee most time of day or night. Good conversation, like sharing experiences; will meet at baths or your place (just remembering the black light in the orgy room makes me wet). Shannon, PMB#130, 10238 W. National Ave., **West Allis**, WI 53227 [3]

## LEGAL THREATS FROM OUT OF STATE CHRISTIAN GROUP KO ANOTHER VIROQUA H.S. DIVERSITY DAY

**Viroqua** - Viroqua High School has cancelled a Diversity Day for a second time in two years after an out-of-state Christian legal group threatened action over the inclusion of gay speakers. The day, held biennially for juniors and seniors, would have been held on March 23 as a opportunity to promote diversity in the community. Speakers were to have included representatives of the African American, Latino, Jewish, Muslim, native American and gay communities.

In 2004, about 400 people signed a petition asking that speakers on gay, lesbian and transgender issues not be included in the school's Diversity Day. The school board cancelled the event, but it was reinstated after spring elections changed the board's makeup.

While pressure in 2004 came largely from within the community, this time, much of the challenge was from outside, according to Gregg Attleson, a Spanish teacher at the school who was on the Diversity Day planning committee.

In a fax sent to the school on March 8, Liberty Counsel, a Florida-based Christian public interest law firm that regularly fights LGBT civil rights issues, warned that if Diversity Day went on the school could face legal action. "By excluding the Christian and ex-gay viewpoints, the District violates the Establishment Clause and the Fourteenth Amendment guarantee of equal protection," the fax claimed. The fax also noted

that a federal court in Michigan had ruled unconstitutional a similar exclusion at Ann Arbor Public Schools event.

The fax said that the group represented Pastor Don Greven of Bad Axe Lutheran Church and Charles Lind, grandfather of a Viroqua High senior who were concerned that representatives of the so-called ex-gay movement or other Christians opposed to homosexuality were not invited to speak.

The committee then decided the best course of action was to cancel the whole day.

According to Attleson, the committee had received requests to include the "ex-gay" viewpoint. They contacted the gay couple who would be speaking. The coun-



ple refused to participate alongside the ex-gay speaker, Attleson said, saying they would be uncomfortable.

Attleson said the Diversity Day pro-

gram included two keynote speakers, a movie and and small group discussions with three of 10 speakers in sessions scheduled throughout the day. Students could choose which small groups they wanted to attend, and wouldn't have to participate if their parents contacted the school in advance.

"Our students are not going to be living their lives out in Viroqua," Attleson told the *LaCrosse Tribune* which broke the story after obtaining a copy of the Liberty Counsel fax. "They'll be out and about in the world - in jobs, in the military, in the university - and they're going to come into contact with people of different backgrounds. And we feel it would be real helpful for them in a nice safe place, like a high school, to have contact and be able to dispel some of the stereotypes."

The Diversity Day's cancellation prompted Wisconsin State Journal columnist Susan Lampert Smith to comment "Wisconsin's heart of whiteness is intact." Smith noted that students in the district, nearly 99% of them white, would not be able to hear from "an American Indian speaker, a person with disabilities or anyone who doesn't look like them."

"For this, we can thank the Liberty Counsel, the same group that kept Ridgeway schoolchildren safe from hearing a kid dressed like a Christmas tree sing non-approved lyrics to the tune of 'Silent Night,'" Lampert added.

## PEW POLL FINDS U.S. WARMING TO GAY MARRIAGE

**Washington, DC** - Opposition to same-sex marriage dropped sharply across the country during the past two years, though just over half of Americans still oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry, according to a poll by the Pew Research Center released March 22. The poll also showed increased support for allowing same-sex couples to adopt children, and substantial backing for the rights of gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military.


The Pew center's national poll of 1,405 adults, conducted from March 8-12, found that 51% opposed same-sex marriage and 39% supported it. In February 2004, as same-sex couples were marrying in San Francisco, a Pew poll found 63% of Americans opposed the right of gays and lesbians to marry and

30% in favor. The margin of error in the latest survey was plus or minus 3 or 4 percentage points, depending on the question.

"In 2004, (same-sex marriage) was an emotional issue that struck a very deeply rooted chord in a lot of people," Michael Dimock, associate director of the Pew Research Center for People and the Press said. "It is still an issue - a lot of people who opposed it then still oppose it now. But a lot of people who opposed it then were in an intense environment and either feel less strongly or feel that people can do what they want to do."

Support for same-sex marriage has grown steadily over the past decade, according to the Pew center, which is an independent research organization. In 1996, 65% of Americans opposed same-sex marriage and 27% supported it.

The poll also found the country nearly evenly split on allowing gay and lesbian couples to adopt children with 46% in favor, and 48% opposed. In 1999, 38% of Americans support-



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ed adoptions by same-sex couples, while 57% opposed them.

Sixty percent of those polled in the most recent survey supported allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, while 32% opposed the idea. "It indicates people are changing," Dimock said. "They're becoming more open and tolerant, and we also have a shift in generations, which has a big impact."

The poll noted a distinct change in the number of respondents who said they "strongly oppose" same-sex marriage. In February 2004, 42% were in that category. That dropped to 28% this year, with the biggest decreases being among people over 65, Republicans and those who described themselves as religious moderates.

Gay rights advocates said Americans have had plenty of opportunity in the past two years to hear the stories of gay couples and same-sex parents, which has increased tolerance for gay and lesbian rights. "I think people have thought more about gay families in the last two years than in the previous 30," Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force said. Representatives from Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council declined to comment on the poll.

Any shift toward support for same-sex marriage has yet to show up at the polls, however, Since 2004, voters in 13 states have passed constitutional bans on same-sex marriage. At least seven states including Wisconsin will vote on similar measures in November.

The survey was released just a day after a poll of California residents indicated increasing support for gay rights in the state, including for same-sex marriages. The nonpartisan Field Poll found that support for same-sex marriage in the state had risen from 38% in 1997 to 43% today.

## Miss Mississippi Valley W US<sup>4</sup>A

April 15th • 10:30 pm

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Emcee  
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Tammy WhyNott



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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

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in person after 3 pm at 111 W. Howard Ave., Milwaukee. Competitive wages. [2]

**PAINTER WANTED!** An experienced painter is wanted to paint inside ceilings; there are 5 rooms to be done. Will take all reasonable quotes / Dodge Co. area. Will accommodate. E-mail [iw28inu@yahoo.com](mailto:iw28inu@yahoo.com) [2]

**Home help** offered by young GWM - painting, wallpaper borders, cleaning, minor home repairs, odd jobs. Reasonable rates. References. Dependable. Great attention to detail. Jay. (414) 769-0601. Any time, Milwaukee & surrounding area. Sample photos of my work available. [4/12]

**Landon!** 28 y.o. GWM, 5'8", 185 lbs., nice build, smooth/clean with 7.5" cut thick tool, wants to help you reduce stress and relieve muscle tension. South side Milwaukee home. 24/7. In/out calls. Every session is custom designed to fit your goal. \$75 & up. (414) 573-5339. (Also, Puerto Ricans a + w/ discount) [4/12]

**My hands, your pleasure.** Massage for men in Madison. Sensual therapeutic, full body massage by mature, masculine, in shape pro. Clean east side home studio. Professional & discreet. Day and eve appointments Mon.-Sat. \$45/60 min., \$55/90 min. Bruce (608) 217-2597 or e-mail [silverfoxmadison@aol.com](mailto:silverfoxmadison@aol.com) [5/24]

30 y.o. handsome nicely built dude is back from California offering full body massage service in the Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha area. \$60. Will work nude (8" cut) if you'd prefer. (414) 588-4973 [4/12]

**Bodybuilder** certified masseur w/ table. 34, 5'9", 50" chest, 30" waist, 220 lbs. German/Italian. Very good looking, huge and ripped. Nude/erotic. Milwaukee/Bayview area. In/Out. Jeff (414) 690-9706 [5/24]

**Massage!!** 50 y.o. certified massage therapist offering relaxation, deep tissue, sports massage and hot stone therapy in my private Appleton office...by appointment only. (920) 915-4318. Serious inquiries only. [4/26]

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Treat yourself to a very relaxing **full body massage**. Ladies welcome, too! Green Bay/Fox Valley area. Page me (920) 613-3835 [4/26]

**Full body massage** for men in the Green Bay/Fox Valley area. Best time to call is 2-10 pm week days only. (920) 707-6467 [4/12]

W/M 50+, very discreet, ISO orally talented individual for frequent servicing. Send phone # & best time to call to Len, Box 143, 1528 Koeller, Oshkosh, WI 54902 [1]

Wanted:dom-physical top male(s) by sub biWM bottom (34 y.o., 186 lbs., 6'2", gold eyes) to Xdress as your fantasy desires! Bad girl to hotel slut, force it all on me. All desires answered. Discreet, d/d free. Just looking for hard back action in a skirt (+). PO Box 1282, Brookfield, WI 53188 or (262) 271-2439. B&D & S&M ok. Will travel. [1]

Beautiful, kinky, bi blond mistress, w/ hung bi slave, seeks other fit, well hung stud slaves for my stable...to please me. Also want bi female sluts and feminine passable TSs. Send letter, photos, SASE to NJS, 1528 S. Koeller Rd. - PMB 340, Oshkosh, WI 54902 [1]

GWM, 60s, 5'6", 150 lbs., NW Waukesha Co., seeks top man to fill my bottom at my place. Karl, PO Box 144, Nashotah, WI 53058, (262) 719-1815, after 3:30 wkdays or any time wkends. [1]

BiWM, 50, looking for a partner. I'm into oral, anal and spankings. (414) 617-2283. Leave message for Frank. Prefer Waukesha area. [1]

GWM, 5'9", 1675 lbs., looking to orally service men at their place Sundays. Must be drug/disease free & under 180 lbs. in the Milw. area. [moonscape2006@yahoo.com](mailto:moonscape2006@yahoo.com) [1]

ISO short skinny guys 18-22 to get acquainted with and make short/long term friends: Asians, Hindu, Europeans, Spanish, Americans. Write Popeye the Sailor Man, PO Box 886116, Great Lakes, IL 60088-6116

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I need my cut 7" tool serviced by experts in the Milwaukee area. Send your phone number and/or address to: KV, PO Box 371042, Milwaukee, WI 53237-2142 [1]

46 y.o. bi-curious WM in the Fox Valley looking to meet feminine CD/TV for new encounters. I am d/d free, expect the same. Call M-F 8am-2pm (920) 419-3054. Ask for Mick. [1]

Experienced mature Hispanic, 100% bottom, 5'6", 158 lbs., br/br looking exclusively for an experienced mature 100% top, w/ his own private den in the Milwaukee area. Contact [manuel160@planetout.com](mailto:manuel160@planetout.com) [1]

**Waukesha County** area, will travel. Looking to meet up with m/f couples, f/f couples for mutual sexual satisfaction. Must be clean and free of any social diseases. I'm 160 lbs., 5'9", V-shape, good looking bi white male. [No2erocker@sbglobalnet](mailto:No2erocker@sbglobalnet) for anything sexual. Will answer all interested. [1]

I'm fun, funny, loving, loyal, manly, love beaches, camping, vegas, fishing, hiking! Chicago. [manbeach@msn.com](mailto:manbeach@msn.com) (773)569-6333

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GM. bl/br. 49. Marshfield/Central Wis. area. For BJ info (715) 387-6433 [2]

GWM, 5'9", great body, well built, gives great head & more! Staying at a hotel/motel in the Fox Valley and want some company?! (920) 229-6524 [2]

Interested in trading or watch Bel Ami videos? Wausau (715) 845-6467 [2]

GWM seeking friendship and eventual LTR. Blonde shaved head, goatee, blue eyes. Average build. Stable professional, 42 y.o., seeking stable loving humorous man. Must love to dance, have fun & be somewhat adventurous. Dark haired, goatee, hairy & some leather a big plus; however, not cut in stone. E-mail [jimoclay@sbglobal.net](mailto:jimoclay@sbglobal.net) or (414) 765-9594. [2]

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### djcarl Top 15 Shelter Bar / XS Niteclub

- |                     |                            |
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| 4. Ooh La La        | Goldfrapp                  |
| 5. Crash            | Gwen Stefani               |
| 6. Controll Myself  | LL Cool J & Jennifer Lopez |
| 7. muscle car       | Mylo                       |
| 8. Stupid Girls     | Pink                       |
| 9. Unwritten        | Natasha Bedingfield        |
| 10. Say Something   | Mariah Carey               |
| 11. Pump It         | Black eyed peas            |
| 12. Sorry           | Madonna                    |
| 13. Talk            | Coldplay                   |
| 14. Bucky Done Gone | MIA                        |
| 15. Rapture Riders  | Blondie vs The Doors       |

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|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Let's Talk                  | Coldplay (Junkie XL Remix)  |
| 2. Fire                        | Ferry Corsten feat. Simon Le Bon (Gloatus's Flashover Reconstruction Remix) |
| 3. Number 1                    | Goldfrapp (DJ Tonya's Turtle-Wax Remix)                                     |
| 4. Girl Next Door              | Saving Jane (Josh Harris Club Mix)  |
| 5. Celebration !               | The Sweet inspirations (Roland Belmares Remix)                              |
| 6. Boyfriend                   | Ashlee Simpson (Eddie's Mix Show Edit)                                      |
| 7. Unwritten                   | Natasha Beddingfield (Johnny Vicious Club Mix)                              |
| 8. Let Me Be                   | Ozzie (Driven Club Mix)   |
| 9. Just Like That              | Amber (Belmares And Perve Club Mix)   |
| 10. Work That Body             | Friscia & Lamboy Pres. Anthony Lamont (Friscia & Lamboy Tribal Mix)         |
| 11. Guilt Is A Useless Emotion | New Order (Bill Hamel Vocal Mix)  |
| 12. Why Should I Believe You   | Jenna Drey  |
| 13. I'll Be Your Light         | Kristine W. (Wayne G Remix)   |
| 14. Spellbound                 | Sherrie Lee (22 Green Club)   |
| 15. Be Without You             | Mary J. Blige (Moto Blanco Vocal Mix)                                       |

March 21 the GLBT-oriented New York City-based Silver Label digitally released "Lick It," the currently unsigned hit by lesbian hip hop duo God-des and She. Their "Love You Better" video is currently the #1 video on LOGO's "The Click List." LOGO viewers may recognize the duo from their debut on the LOGO documentary, "Hip Hop Homos" [www.logoonline.com/shows/dyn/hip\\_hop\\_homos/series.html](http://www.logoonline.com/shows/dyn/hip_hop_homos/series.html)

March 26, fans of "The L Word" watched the duo perform "live" on the show's season finale. Says Lopez, "Until now, GOD-DES and SHE had no luck convincing legal download sites to distribute their songs, so I agreed to distribute the song to all digital sites via the sites Silver Label has deals with. The song is live and available for download on iTunes, Rhapsody, Napster, Musicnet, Yahoo, Virgin, and soon after on e-music, Beatport, OD2/Loudeye."



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Web Site:  
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Publisher:  
Mark Mariucci (ZA)  
Contributors: News: Mike Fitzpatrick, Dan Russ, Jamie Stechelberg & Steve Vargas  
Columns: Glen Bishop (aka) Jeff Hicks, Uncle Barbie  
Photography: Steve Vargas, Mike Fitzpatrick, Za, Tony Rischards  
Advertising: Milw: Teddy Statewide: Mark (ZA)  
Printing: Jeremy, Andy, Greg, Lori, Marti, Za

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## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: WIDESPREAD POLICE ABUSE OF LGBT COMMUNITY IN THE USA

**Washington, DC** - Thousands of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people across the USA are victims of a system that fuels discrimination and facilitates torture, ill-treatment and impunity, said Amnesty International today as it launched a report on police abuses against people on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

The report "Stonewalled - Still demanding respect" is based on interviews conducted by Amnesty International (AI) between 2003 and 2005 with members of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community, victims of gender-based violence, survivors of police abuse, activists, lawyers and law enforcement officials across the US.

"The interviews reveal a very clear and worrying pattern. Cases of beatings, sexual violence, verbal abuse, harassment and humiliation by law enforcement officials against LGBT people take place on any given day in detention centers, prisons, in the home, and on the street," said Amnesty International.

In 2004 a woman from Athens, Georgia, said she was forced into her apartment at gunpoint by a former County Deputy and raped because she is a lesbian. She said the officer vowed to "teach her a lesson".

Within the LGBT community in the USA, transgender people, members of ethnic or racial minorities, young people and immigrants are particular targets of police abuse.

A Native American transgender woman told AI that in October 2003 she was stopped in Los Angeles by two police officers as she was walking along the street in the early hours of the morning. According to her testimony, the officers handcuffed her and drove her in the police car to an alley off Hollywood Boulevard where she was beaten, verbally abused and raped. After her ordeal she was thrown to the ground and told "that's what you deserve."

Despite the significant progress over recent decades in the recognition of LGBT rights in the USA, persistent discriminatory attitudes have created a situation in which abuse of LGBT people is frequently dismissed as "normal".

Victims often do not report police brutality and other crimes against them because they fear hostile or abusive response from the police and because, as they know, many reported abuses are not properly and impartially investigated.

"There are still some discriminatory laws; but the bigger problem is the discriminatory way in which many laws are applied, which often results in the arrest and detention of individuals just because of their sexual orientation or gender identity," said Amnesty International.

In December 2003, a young African-American gay activist was waiting at a bus stop when Chicago police officers arrested him allegedly for loitering with intent to solicit. Despite providing identification and corroborating information from the organization he represents, he was detained for two days.

"Effective reform requires the backing of the highest ranks. There needs to be a fundamental understanding of the right to freely express one's sexual orientation or gender identity," said Amnesty International.

Amnesty International is calling on US federal and state authorities to take action to prevent discriminatory application of the law, to investigate all allegations of sexual, physical and verbal abuse against LGBT people by their officials and to bring those responsible to justice.

Amnesty International's report is part of a campaign on the issue of police abuse against LGBT people in the USA launched in September '05. Amnesty International will also be presenting its range of concerns about the situation of human rights in the USA to the UN Committee Against Torture and the UN Human Rights Committee during 2006.

For a copy of the report "Stonewalled - Still demanding respect: Police abuse and misconduct against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the USA," visit the Amnesty International website at: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engamr510012006>.

## DUELING FAITH-BASED RALLIES HEAT UP MINNESOTA AMENDMENT FIGHT



**St. Paul** - Two rallies held two days apart at the Minnesota State Capitol by supporters and opponents of a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage focused on religion and faith to support their messages.

Turning up the temperature on arguments about faith and its place in a debate about who can marry whom, opponents of a proposed state constitutional ban on same-sex marriage rallied in the Capitol rotunda March 23.

Participants gathered two days after a rally by ban supporters outside the Capitol that featured similar proclamations of faith.

The March 23 "People of Faith" rally pulled an estimated 1800 participants and was designed to focus on religion and its role in the debate. More than 160 faith leaders from 14 denominations have signed a resolution opposing the constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

Banners from such places as St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, St. Paul Reformation Lutheran Church, and the Mayflower Community Congregational Church lined the second floor of the rotunda. Rally participants crowded into the three floors of the rotunda and spilled three-deep into the halls.

Though same-sex marriage is prohibited under Minnesota law, a proposal being considered would give it the weight of the state Constitution. The Republican-majority Minnesota House has passed a bill that would put the proposed ban on the ballot in November. Leaders of the DFL-majority Senate have pledged to



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hold a hearing on a similar measure in committee, but supporters unemployment, homelessness, poor access to health care," she said. of the ban have urged a floor vote.

Rabbi Aaron Brusso, of the Adath Jeshurun Congregation and co-chair of the Minnesota Rabbinical Association, said one's fate in this country should not be tied to one's birth. People do not choose their gender, color or sexual orientation, he said.

"It does not matter if you are born a slave; a human being should be free. It does not matter if you are a woman; a human being should vote. It does not matter if you are black; a human being should be a citizen. By what right does it say that if you are born a gay or lesbian, you are not a human being?" he asked.

The Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church said same-sex marriage is not one of the threats to traditional marriage in our society. "The time and energy spent wasted pushing this amendment forward would be better spent addressing the issues that are genuine threats to families in our society and our state:



The anti-amendment event came two days after about 1,000 supporters of the measure gathered outside the Capitol for a rally that also focused on religious issues related to marriage. Chuck Darrell of Minnesota for Marriage, which is lobbying for the amendment, said it's good that faith groups are entering the debate over marriage. But Darrell claimed the March 23 rally focused only on "love" and ignored "truth." "What is loving about putting children in an environment where they're missing either a mother or father?" Darrell said.

Jacob and Kate Lundquist of rural Roseau drove down to St. Paul so that they could be at the anti-amendment rally. The Lundquists said they were compelled to make the trip after their pastor encouraged congregants to support the amendment. They disagree. "I think it's important for people to realize that all people of faith are not for this amendment," Kate Lundquist said.

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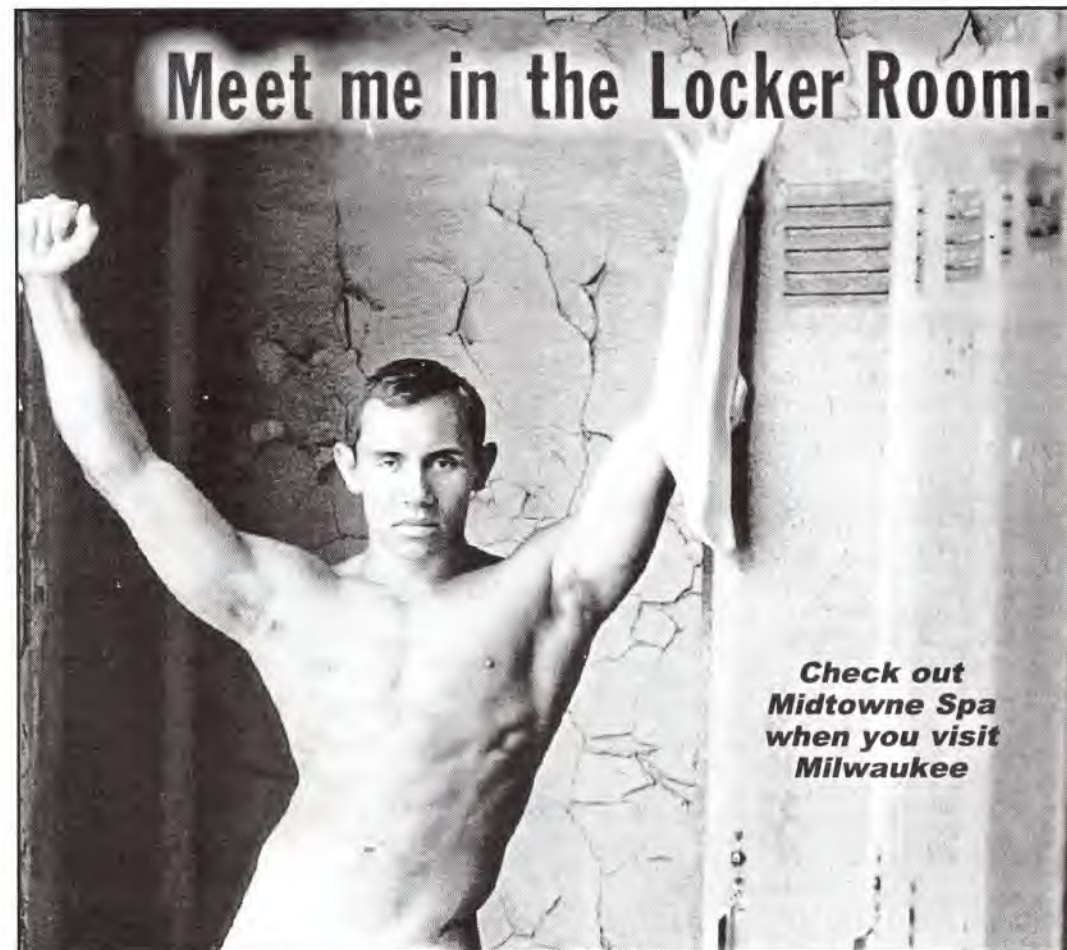


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## New on DVD by Glenn Bishop *Boys Life 5*

The boy shorts programs at Milwaukee's fabulous LGBT Film Festival are inevitably the best attended not to mention amongst the most fun. It's easy to see why. The best short films leave Glenn wanting more while it is definitely rather comforting to know that those less successful offerings won't last too long.

*Boys Life 5* is the latest in a popular series of compilation DVDs which continues to offer the best gay short films from LGBT film festivals around the country.

When you slip *Boys Life 5* into your DVD player, you'll find a charming if unexpected tale of high school love (*Dare*), a haunting cinematic memory poem (*Late Summer*), an off-beat story of a boy and his best fowl friend (*Fishbelly White*) and finally an exploration of an uneasy relationship between two Israeli soldiers from acclaimed director Eytan Fox (*Time Off*).

Beginning the program and the firm favorite amongst Glenn's informal focus group was Adam Salky's *Dare*. High school angst and infatuation has rarely been so beautifully or so poignantly captured as in this story of Ben (Adam Fleming), dubbed "Light boy" by Johnny, the handsome hunk cast as the lead in their school's production of *Streetcar Named Desire*. When Johnny unexpectedly accepts his offer of a ride home and help with his lines, the normally shy Ben realizes that his chance for a first kiss... and maybe more... might well be at hand.

Next up is a decided change of pace, Michael Burke's *Fishbelly White*. The inspiration for Burke's first full-length feature, *Mudge Boy*, *Fishbelly White* is as quirky as its protagonist, Duncan (Mickey Smith), a lonely lad whose only friend is a chicken. While happiest with his feathered friend's head in his mouth, Duncan still longs to fit in. Much like Ben in the previous short, Duncan here makes his first tentative step of sexual exploration

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

Like others in this extremely successful series, *Boys Life 5* offers some of the best gay shorts to be found anywhere and often shows new and upcoming filmmakers to watch out for. Glenn was particularly glad to see that films were (only) chosen for their beefcake factor. Still, those responsible for *Boys Life 5* might have better placed Eytan Fox's thoughtful, leisurely paced "Time Off" earlier in the program.

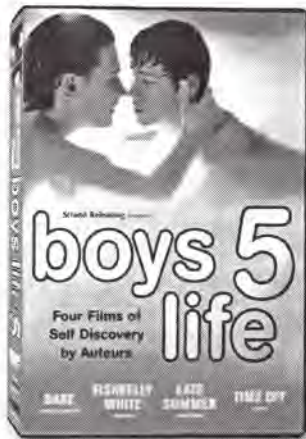
## Just the facts...

*Boys Life 5* combined running time is approximately 110 minutes. All of the shorts are in English except for *Time Off* which is in Hebrew with English subtitles. The SRP is \$24.95 and is available now. DVD extras: Original theatrical trailers from the "Boys Life" series.

with the hunky neighbor kid (Jason Hayes) before learning the lesson that fitting in often comes at a terrible price.

Glenn's personal favorite offering in *Boys Life 5* is David Ottenhouse's haunting *Late Summer*. A photographer, Adam, admires his best photograph at a gallery showing, that of a youth with a dazzling smile and looking for all the world as if in flight. In the course of the film, we learn that the boy in the photo is his cousin Josh (Chris Nee), whom he came to live with as a boy of 12 after his father died. Josh is the sort of boy that one once regularly found in the All-American families depicted in the sit-coms that dominated Glenn's youth - handsome, confidant and generous enough to take time to befriend the much younger Adam. The love of photography is just one of many things that Josh will teach Adam.

Wrapping up *Boys Life 5* is an early film from acclaimed director Eytan Fox, *Time Off*. Much like the wonderful *Yossi & Jagger*, Fox explores in *Time Off* sexual desire in the Israeli armed forces. Yonatan is a likeable young soldier who wonders why the handsome, hunky lieutenant hates him. On the eve of being dispatched to Lebanon, the soldiers get a free day in Jerusalem. Yonatan finds his way to a cruises park where he spies the lieutenant disappear into a public convenience.



Chris Nee in "Late Summer" (2000), part of Boys Life 5, a collection of short films

## JUSTICE GINSBURG SAYS REPUBLICAN RHETORIC SPARKED DEATH THREATS

Washington, DC - Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said she and former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor have been the targets of death threats from the "irrational fringe" of society, people apparently spurred by Republican criticism of the high court.

Ginsburg revealed in a speech in South Africa last month that she and O'Connor were threatened a year ago by someone who called on the Internet for the immediate "patriotic" killing of the justices. Security concerns among judges have been growing.

Conservative commentator Ann Coulter joked this year that Justice John Paul Stevens should be poisoned. Over the past few months O'Connor has complained that criticism, mainly by Republicans, has threatened judicial independence to deal with difficult issues like gay marriage.

Ginsburg said the web threat was apparently prompted by proposals in Congress, filed by Republicans, that tell judges to stop relying on foreign laws or court decisions.

"It is disquieting that they have attracted



sizable support. And one not-so-small concern - they fuel the irrational fringe," she said in a speech the court posted online this month and first reported March 15 by LegalTimes.com.

## FDA WILL RECONSIDER GAY BLOOD BAN

Washington, DC - The Food and Drug Administration will reconsider current policy that bars as a blood donor any man who has had sex with another man since 1977, officials said March 17. Changing the policy has been recommended by the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks and America's Blood Centers, which collect virtually all the blood used for transfusions nationwide.

The three groups had requested the change at a March 8 workshop the FDA convened to review the latest scientific information about the safety of the blood supply, arguing that current tests and screening methods have improved enough to protect transfusion recipients without the lifetime ban.

Instead, the panel recommended a one year ban for men reporting having sex with another man, thus treating them the same as other groups at increased risk for spreading sexually transmitted virus through donated blood. "We strongly support the use of rational, scientifically based deferral policies, and we want them to be applied fairly and consistently," Red Cross spokesperson Ryland Dodge said.

The FDA implemented the lifetime ban in

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the mid-1980s when concerns about the spread of the HIV were running high and many questions remained about the ease with which people could spread the virus and the reliability of screening methods. Since then, the accuracy of testing has improved substantially, as have questionnaires that all donors answer to identify those posing the greatest risk, Dodge said.

"All these things come together to make us much more confident that our layers of safety have improved to the point where they should review the policy," Dodge said.

FDA spokesman Stephen King said the agency would convene a meeting of its Blood Products Advisory Committee to formally reconsider revising the policy, probably later this year. Agency officials are "definitely interested in hearing all the science, and if there's hard evidence in place that changing the policy would not endanger the blood supply they're definitely open to it," King said.

The current policy has long been a sore point for gay civil rights groups. "The blood deferral policy that exists is not based on science. It's based on inertia and in many cases stereotypes," Lambda Legal's Jon Givner said. "The FDA should revisit the issue and adopt a deferral policy that is based on actual risk rather than sexual orientation."

## LEADING ADOPTION INSTITUTE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS GAY ADOPTIONS

**New York** - The Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute released a new report March 23 that finds there is no child-centered reason to prevent gays and lesbians from becoming adoptive parents, and recommends that they be utilized more extensively to provide permanent, loving homes for children living in state care across the country.

"Based on both the available research and growing experience," the report concluded, "adoption by gays and lesbians holds promise as an avenue for achieving permanency for many of the waiting children in foster care."

The Institute report - which is part of a larger, more extensive year-long project that will be completed and released in several months - is intended to provide a research-based context for the ongoing debate in the United States over the adoption of children by gays and lesbians. Most important, the Institute seeks to develop information to help shape best practices that focus on providing boys and girls in the child welfare system with safe, committed and enduring families.

The principal findings of the report, which

is entitled "Expanding Resources for Children," are:

\* Against a backdrop of increasing public acceptance, social science research concludes that children reared by gay and lesbian parents fare comparably to those of children raised by heterosexuals on a range of measures of social and psychological adjustment.

\* Studies are growing in number and rigor, but the body of research on gay/lesbian parenting is relatively small and has methodological limitations. Still, virtually every valid study reaches the same conclusion: The children of gays and lesbians adjust positively and their families function well. The limited research on gay/lesbian adoption points in the same direction.

\* Though few states have laws or policies explicitly barring homosexuals from adopting, some individual agencies and workers outside those states discriminate against gay and lesbian applicants based on their own biases or on mistaken beliefs that such prohibitions exist.

\* Laws and policies that preclude adoption

## Diversion of the Day Community Calendar

**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 Shelter (Green Bay) Kaythryn York performs, 11 pm;** show also features Lusinda Andrews, Dee Dee Winters, Chantal, Alexis Winter, Nova Divine and Jackie Roberts

**Fri.-Sat., March 31-April 1**

**Day of Self Discovery 2006**, sponsored by the 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](http://www.PVinc.org)

**Saturday, April 1**

**FORGE** (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression) meeting at LGBT Center (315 Court St., Milwaukee) 6:00-6:45, new members & open discussion / 7:00-9:30, discussion of this evening's topic...*What your father never taught you*

**Madison Gay Video Club, 8 pm: Capote & Cirque Noir.** FMO [www.mgvc.org](http://www.mgvc.org) or (608) 244-8675 (evenings)

**Scooters (Eau Claire) Mr. Chippewa Valley Pageant**

**Shelter (Green Bay) Underwear party, 10 pm / \$2 rail drinks, \$2 domestic bottles & \$2 UV vodka drinks featured this evening**

**Triangle (Milw.) Miss Milwaukee Continental Pageant**, a prelim to Miss Wisconsin Continental 2006

**Monday, April 3**

**BESTD FREE HIV 30-min. result testing at Midtowne Spa 6-9 pm**

**Tuesday, April 4**

**ATTENTION, SENIORS PARTICULARLY! SAGE** exec. dir. Bill Serpe recommends checking out *Almost Home* at 10 this evening on PBS. Check local listings. Says Bill, "wonderful!"

**Friday, April 7**

**Overture Center (Madison) Lily Tomlin** performs this evening

**Monday, April 10**

**Outwards Book Club (Milw.)** Come join the discussion of Bart Yates' acclaimed *The Brothers Bishop*. Everyone welcome to come and join the discussion.

**Tuesday, April 11**

**Lesbian Reading Group @ Outwards:** Lee Lynch's new novel *Sweet Creek* is the book to be discussed. Everyone welcome!

**Saturday, April 15**

**Madison Gay Video Club, 8 pm: Brokeback Mountain & Lukas In Love.** FMO [www.mgvc.org](http://www.mgvc.org) or (608) 244-8675 (evenings)

**Players (La Crosse) Miss Mississippi Valley WI USofA pageant, 10:30 pm**

**Friday, April 21**

**Milwaukee Chamber Theatre: Take Me Out** opens this evening, runs thru May 7...at Cabot Theatre, 158 N. Broadway. Tickets: (414) 291-7800

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to the drug abuse and often-futile search for love that he said can mark the scene.

In Miami Beach, though, the beach party wound down a five-day winter festival which this year drew 10,000 guests - at least 6,000 from snow socked northern cities and other points out of town.

Begun in 1994 to raise cash to defeat anti-gay state legislation, the Winter Party is now run by the National Gay and Lesbian Task

also families with children, poor people and people of color." He also added, "I don't see any tension between serious work and good parties, but we're going to keep on broadening the festival."

This year, then, the five-day bash spilled beyond house-heavy circuit parties to include golf, museums, wine-tasting and beachfront films, a family picnic and fashion show - in part reflecting the evolution of

munity, family and pride.

Later as dark fell, so did the bass - from soaring, lyric-filled anthems to deep tribal house. Meanwhile, in speedos and cargo shorts, golden-backed boys twirled fluorescent scarves like trippy windmill waves, a move called "flagging." Otherwise, there was no voguing, no posing, just dancing - for itself, for the way it looks, for the way it feels.

"It's more about a free spirit, to do your



Force, a non-profit advocacy group working to build grassroots support for gay rights.

Amid the South Beach soiree, the group has retained its political mission, kicking two-thirds of the festival's estimated \$300,000 in profits back to local gay groups.

"People want to stereotype gay people into being white, handsome and dancing - and that is definitely a part of our community that we're intensely proud of," Matt Foreman, executive director of the national Task Force said. "But our community is

an aging gay rights movement that now reaches out to baby boomers, too, said festival spokeswoman Sharon Kersten.

But beneath the bamboo scaffold and billowing white banners on the beach, dancing was still the main point. "It makes you feel so happy and independent," Connecticut financial consultant Emre Algan said. "It makes me feel creative, like I can be myself."

The crowd at the Beach Party was ruled cute, not hard, by a soft-spoken spectator from Atlanta, standing along the seaside fence.

The sun-splashed vibe was all about com-

own thing, to set trends," pharmacist Richard Long said before heading to the risers for a view of the sun-kissed crowd.

Standing there, it just seemed possible that dancers might be "the athletes of God" or at least that's what Albert Einstein once said, according to *Circuit Noize* magazine, handed out at the party. And as diva Kim English took the stage at sunset, belting out her anthem "Unspeakable Joy," it was so: Crowds rose in a cheer between the sand dunes and sea and lost themselves in the swirl.

by gay or lesbian parents disadvantage the tens of thousands of children mired in the foster care system who need permanent, loving homes.

"The bottom line for those of us who advocate for children is clear," Adam Pertman, the Executive Director of the Adoption Institute said. "There's simply no credible research to indicate that children are harmed in any way when they're adopted by gay and lesbian parents, but there's lots of evidence to indicate that they do well in those homes. So, if we as a society believe that kids should be our primary concern, we have to put aside our prejudices and preconceived notions, and do the best we can for them."

The Institute's research examined the relevant issues, laws and practices relating to gay and lesbian adoption and parenting, and the available studies spanning the last several decades. It represents one of the broadest and most thorough reviews and analyses to date on the questions involved.

If the pool of available parents for waiting children is to be expanded to include gays and lesbians, the report recommends that child advocates and policy-makers take steps including:

- \* Move to end legal and de facto restrictions on adoption by gays and lesbians. This includes working to expand co-parent and second parent adoption, as well as revising agency policies and practices that may impede their consideration as an adoptive resource.

- \* Develop clear statements in support of such adoptions, recognizing a "don't ask, don't tell" approach disadvantages parents and, ultimately, their children. And develop contacts with the gay/lesbian community in order to engage in genuine, informed outreach.

- \* Help workers, supervisors, and agency leaders examine their attitudes and beliefs about gay and lesbian parenting, while affirming the value of these families by including them in outreach, training materials, and parent panels.

- \* Conduct research to inform the development of resources, training, and support to improve post-adoption success. And work to include and educate children in the process, recognizing that they may encounter prejudice if adopted by gay parents.

The Adoption Institute is the pre-eminent research, policy and education organization in its field. Its mission is to provide leadership that improves laws, policies and practices - through sound research, education and advocacy - in order to better the lives of everyone touched by adoption. Because it is independent of any interest group or cause, the Institute has long been a source of accurate, unbiased information for journalists, researchers and policy makers.

The Institute's current initiatives include ones on identity formation in adoption, ethics in adoption, siblings in adoption, improving policies for international adoptions, and establishing best practices for birth parents. The Institute's website at: [www.adoptioninstitute.org](http://www.adoptioninstitute.org), contains extensive information on a wide array of adoption-related issues.

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## U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT LISTS THE WORLD'S WORST PLACES TO LIVE FOR GAY PEOPLE

**Washington, DC** - Gay globe trotters may want to consider adding another guide to their piles of travel brochures, Damron and Fodor tip books: the recently released State Department human rights report.

The State Department annually issues a human rights report noting abuse committed by foreign governments. One category is abuse motivated by victims' sexual orientation and gender identity.

Gay rights advocates applauded the 2005 report, released March 15, for its detailing of anti-gay abuses committed in a range of countries, including Iran, Poland, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates.

"I was glad to see (the report) talked about issues of discrimination," Scott Long, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Rights program at Human Rights Watch, told *Southern Voice*. Past reports, he said, "were willing to address egregious persecution but not everyday life."

The violations outlined in the report range from criminalizing homosexuality in Nigeria to banning gay rights parades in Warsaw, Poland, to the murders of gay

rights and AIDS activists in Jamaica. The report also criticized Nigeria for health care and employment discrimination against HIV-positive people. The public, the report stated, believes HIV is "a result of immoral behavior."

The United Arab Emirates, the country recently making headlines in Dubai Ports World controversy, criminalizes homosexuality. The UAE was cited in the State Department report for arresting 26 gay men and reportedly giving them hormone treatments to change their sexual orientation.

While homosexuality is not illegal in Nepal, the report stated, police still harass and abuse gays. It is unclear what criterion is used to define abuse, as some human rights violations - like criminalizing sodomy - were the law of the land in a dozen U.S. states until a Supreme Court decision in 2003.

The report's inclusiveness of gay-related abuse can help asylum seekers who must prove persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity in their home country, Chris Nugent, a D.C. attorney who spe-

cializes in gay asylum cases said. "It is a vital source of information concerning treatment. It's relied on by immigration adjudicators as evidence of human rights conditions abroad."

While the report may help asylum seekers, it is less clear what it will mean for U.S. domestic policy and relationships with other countries. The State Department is required by law to issue the reports, which are supposed to help determine funding granted to foreign countries, according to Elisa Massimino, D.C. director of Human Rights First, a human rights advocacy group.

There also is the problem of credibility because of the United States' own human rights record, which is absent from the report.

In the past year there has been international outcry over U.S. policies to torture and indefinitely detain suspects, as well as the policy of "rendition," or sending a foreign suspect to a third country for interrogation. Critics have alleged that some terrorism suspects are sent abroad to be tortured. These charges are missing from the country reports, even for those countries where suspects were sent, according to Massimino.

1.) Uganda: Last July, the government of Uganda approved a constitutional amendment banning equal marriage rights for gays. Consensual homosexual sex can be punished by life in prison.

2.) Iran: People with HIV face discrimination in employment and at school. Intercourse between two men is punishable by death and homosexual acts that do not involve intercourse are punishable by 100 lashes. Two young men, at least one a minor, were executed in Mashad in July, some claim, for being gay. Two more men were executed for being gay last November.

3.) Egypt: While Egyptian officials claim that homosexuality is not illegal, Human Rights Watch says that it is. Egyptian law prohibits *fujur*, which courts have interpreted to mean "homosexual relations between men." Rights groups have documented hundreds

of cases in which gay men were arrested and tortured. Men are subjected to abusive anal examinations.

4.) Saudi Arabia: Some gays who are convicted of homosexuality are flogged with 2,000 lashings, according to Ariel Herrera of Amnesty International's OUTFront program. Gay men have been beheaded in public squares for the crime of consensual homosexual sex.

5.) Nigeria: Homosexuality is outlawed in the Nigerian penal code and Muslim law. However, in northern states under Muslim law the punishment can be death; in the civil penal code homosexuality can carry up to a 14-year prison sentence. The numbers of people arrested and sentenced for sodomy are unknown. A new law forbids same-sex marriage and prohibits gays from assembling

and petitioning the government. It also allows prosecution of newspapers that publish information about same-sex relationships and religious groups that allow same-sex unions. Those who violate the law can be sentenced to five years in prison.

6.) United Arab Emirates: Civil and Muslim law criminalize homosexuality in the UAE. Last November, 26 gay men were arrested and reportedly given hormone treatments and therapy.

7.) Cameroon: Last May, 17 men were arrested for homosexuality. Twelve were charged and detained. The suspects were given a "medical examination" to find evidence of homosexual conduct, the State Department reported, citing IGLHRC as the source of the information.

8.) Poland: "Right wing groups attempted on several occasions to disrupt Gay Pride marches," states the report. In 2005 Warsaw Mayor Lech Kaczynski, who is now Poland's president, denied Gay Pride groups the right to march because he "would not allow the promotion of gay culture," the report states. However the marchers assembled anyway and spoke about discrimination they faced.

9.) Nepal: While homosexuality is not criminalized, government authorities harass and abuse gays and transgender people. In April, police attacked 18 transgender women who were on their way to a festival.

10.) India: Violation of India's sodomy law is punishable by up to 10 years in prison. The sodomy law is often used to harass and detain AIDS prevention workers and gays.

## THE TOP 10 MOST ANTI-GAY NATIONS

Sources: Human Rights Watch, 2005 State Dept. Report

Claudia Allen is a Midwest playwright whose previously play "Hannah Free" played to big audiences last year at the Bartell. "Dutch Love" features Pam Adams, Christopher Babiarz, Kelly Kiorpes, Tim Spires, and Katy Conley as Dutch.

"Dutch Love" runs Thursdays at 7:30 PM, Fridays and Saturdays at 8. A Sunday matinee is set for April 23 at 2 PM. Tickets are \$10 for Thursday and Sunday shows and \$15 for Friday and Saturday. Tickets can be purchased online at: [www.StageQ.com](http://www.StageQ.com). Reservations also can be made by calling 608-661-9696, Ext. 3.

## TRANNNY ROADSHOW COMES TO MILWAUKEE

**Milwaukee** - The multimedia extravaganza Tranny Roadshow, featuring transgender poets, rappers, filmmakers, storytellers, breakdancers, rock bands, comedians, actors, folk singers, photographers, zinesters, and more, is making a one-night stop in Milwaukee at 10:00 PM on Thursday, April 6, at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South Second Street.

Seven regular and guest artist members of the Tranny Roadshow will be featured on April 6: AJ Bryce, Dylan Scholinski, Jamez Terry, Kelly Shortandqueer, Tona Brown, Seeley Quest, and Imani Henry. Although all are self-identified as transgender, they promise a "raucous evening of entertainment, open and accessible to people of all backgrounds."

Tickets are \$10 and may be ordered online at [www.uncommontheatre.net](http://www.uncommontheatre.net) or calling the ticket order line at 800-595-4849. A small additional online fee applies. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Tranny Roadshow is being co-sponsored by the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and Forge, a 12-year-old trans-masculine/SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies) educational, advocacy and support organization based in Milwaukee. For more information about Forge, call 414-559-2123, or visit the group's website at: [www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org).



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## COVER FEATURE: TASK FORCE'S WINTER PARTY WARMS \$300K TO GAY GROUPS

Cover Story by Steve Vargas and Nathan Mathis

**Miami Beach** - Backs and bodies - smooth, freckled, tattooed, tan and mostly all ripped - pulsed in the salt breeze on South Beach at the dance party finale at the Winter Party, held March 5 and yearly to raise money for local and national gay rights groups.

As the sun set, house anthems spread a bittersweet euphoria across the crowd of 5,000 partygoers, mostly men. "It's a male-bonding, sensual, tribal-type of connection, being able to touch and be physical with other guys and express what you never got as a kid," Mark Heiner, a bartender in town from New York told us.

The bash unofficially kicked off what is known as "circuit party" season, attendees said - for the next six months, some will travel a world-circuit in search of the best party around.

"It looks pretty, but there's a dark side that can happen," Heiner said, nodding

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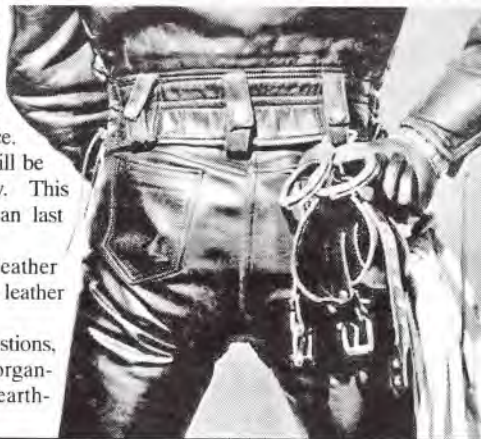
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## CALLING ALL LEATHERMEN & WOMEN!

Pridefest is just around the corner and preparations are underway for the sixth annual Leather show to be held on Sunday, June 11. An organizational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 23 at 3:00 p.m. at Tazzbah, 1712 W. Pierce. At the meeting the rehearsal schedule will be outlined and plans for this year's show. This year's show is shaping up to be better than last year's!

Please spread the word around the leather community to be a part of this exciting leather show!

If you are unable to attend or have questions, please contact Craig, assistant show organizer at 414-460-3253 or [timeman@earthlink.net](mailto:timeman@earthlink.net).



## WISCONSIN STATE AFL-CIO OPPOSES CIVIL UNIONS & MARRIAGE BAN

**Milwaukee** - The Wisconsin AFL-CIO has announced its opposition to the proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage. The Wisconsin Legislature recently approved the measure and placed it on the November statewide ballot.

"The mission of the AFL-CIO is to improve the lives of working families - to bring economic justice to the workplace and social justice to our communities," David Newby, President of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO said in a March 22 press release. "Discrimination against persons because of their sexual orientation not only violates the basic concept of human rights, but it also translates into economic discrimination."

The Wisconsin AFL-CIO also cited the far-reaching consequences of the proposed ban. In states that have passed similar bans, domestic partner benefits negotiated by labor unions are being challenged in court. The Michigan Attorney General issued a memo calling on local government employers not to renew existing domestic partner benefits.

"Legal opinions indicate that this constitutional amendment will adversely affect domestic partner benefits and probably make them illegal. Unions have negotiated domestic partner benefits for employees they represent," said Newby. "Domestic partner status provides employees crucial access to health care, family and medical leave, bereavement leave and other benefits. This applies to partner families that are heterosexual as well as committed gay and lesbian families. If unions and employers negotiate partners' benefits, why should state government interfere?"

The State AFL-CIO is committed to educating

its members about the harms of the civil unions and marriage ban and urging them to vote against it in November.

As the statewide coordinating council for all AFL-CIO unions in Wisconsin, the State AFL-CIO determines union policy on state issues, speaks for labor and indirectly for all working people on matters of public concern, provides services to local unions, and coordinates political and legislative action with its 1,000 affiliated unions which represent 250,000 members in the state.

## STAGE Q'S "DUTCH LOVE" MARKS DEBUT OF NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Madison** - StageQ, Inc. has announced its production of the comedy play "Dutch Love" by Claudia Allen. The show opens Friday, April 7 and runs through Saturday, April 29 at the Bartlett Theatre on 113 E. Mifflin Street in Madison.

"Dutch Love" is the story of a man and woman married for over 20 years and their college age daughter. What seems to be an average American family is shattered by the announcement that mom is in love with a woman named Dutch. And while this is stressful enough for dad, his past boyfriend shows up for Easter dinner with Dutch who is eyeing up their daughter. Laughs and comedy of errors and manners ensure an entertaining night of theater.

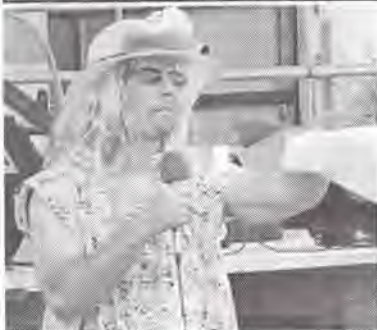
"HBO's 'Big Love' and 'The Sopranos' are wholesome family entertainment compared to this family," StageQ's new Artistic Director Tara Ayres told *Quest*. The play marks her first production for the local not-for-profit theater group.





## Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie (An effervescently gay advice columnist.)

Disclaimer: Although the author of this syndicated column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Send your questions to Uncle Barbie: AskUncleBarbie@msn.com.



### Dear Barbie,

I have a wife and three children. I also have two boyfriends, one of whom has another lover who I got together with just to talk, and we ended up having sex. Am I a whore?

Signed, I think so

### Hello Hussy,

No, you're not a whore. Whores get paid—you're just a slut! It all depends upon how you think of yourself. The way you view yourself influences the way you conduct your life. Are you happy being a tramp? If so, then enjoy yourself (just make sure no one gets used or hurt, and always use condoms!). However, if you do not want to be known as "the little gay trollop of the Northland," then perhaps you need to turn over a new leaf—instead of turning another trick. If you start viewing yourself the way you want to become, your behavior will act according to your new self-image. Here are some questions to ask yourself: Are you doing what is best for your family? Do you view gay men as sex objects, or do you respect them? Remember, the way you view others influences the way you treat them.

Welcoming transformation, Barbie

### Dear Uncle Barbie,

Why do so many women differ in pain levels when they menstruate? Why do we have this pain?

Signed, Perplexed

### Hello Perplexed,

The first thing I need to convey to you is that if you are experiencing severe pain or

unusual symptoms associated with your menstruation, then you really need to see your gynecologist. She can serve you better in this area than I can.

Actually, I'm a little bowled over that you would ask me such a personal question as this. In the olden days, you would have just asked your mother. Who, in turn, probably would have drawn you a picture of a bird's nest with two eggs cracking open to hatch. Now-a-days, womyn send in these type of private questions to an anonymous advice columnist and then wait at least a week to get a response. My, how times have changed.

Well, let me see how I can best handle this situation delicately. The last time I menstruated was in a past life, so I'm at a bit of a disadvantage here. For that reason, I consulted some people who are specialist in this area. Based on the information available to me, I learned that part of the menstruation process involves the shedding of the lining of the uterus. This is what causes most of the pain. Since all womyn are different, they all have varying

degrees of pain tolerance when they menstruate. This may be one of the reasons why some womyn can withstand greater pain than others. That's about all the information I could gather. If you want more detailed information than what I have provided, please call a physician or nurse.

Going with the flow, Barbie

### Dear Uncle Barbie,

I am a female who works for the same company in a different state. I had this person ask this question.... If the two are not doing anything to provoke attention, why can't people leave them alone? Why? Is this a case of Romeo and Juliet?

Unsigned

### Hello Unsigned,

Please excuse me—I don't mean to be rude. It's just that I don't know what the Hell you are talking about! Your question does not even make any sense to me. This is too weird for me. My only advice to you is that you should write to a mental health professional who is use to dealing with strange questions.

Passing the buck, Barbie

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improve the school's climate and to raise awareness and acceptance for LGBT students and staff.

Nominations should be no longer than two typed pages. Nominators should include their name and contact information, including phone and email, if applicable. Deadline for nominations is April 5. Nomination materials can be downloaded from the GLSEN-SCW website at: [www.glsenscw.org](http://www.glsenscw.org) and should be printed and mailed to: GLSEN-SCW, Attn: Awards Committee, 1202 Williamson Street, Madison, WI 53703.

In addition to these awards, GLSEN-SCW will present \$500 scholarships to four graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting respect for all, especially in a school setting, with an emphasis on LGBT issues.

GLSEN South Central Wisconsin is an education organization creating safe schools for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students. GLSEN envisions a future in which every child learns to respect and accept all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression.

## FEINGOLD AT AIDS NETWORK'S RED RIBBON AFFAIR

Madison - AIDS Network will welcome U. S. Senator Russ Feingold to its annual Red Ribbon Affair to be held at the Monona Terrace Saturday, March 31. The annual fundraising dinner and silent auction will also welcome special guests U. S. Representative Tammy Baldwin, Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, State Assembly Representative Mark Pocan and other prominent LGBT and gay-friendly individuals.

Doors will open for the silent auction at 6 PM and dinner will begin at 7:30. Attendees may choose from a variety of menu selections including Chicken Picatta, Green Peppercorn Encrusted Sirloin of Beef, Moroccan Salmon, or a vegetarian Caribbean Polenta. Entertainment throughout the evening will be offered by the Rob Dz Experience, the Fountain of Life Worship Team, the Perfect Harmony Men's

Chorus and Mifasol.

Tickets are \$75 each and may be obtained by calling Dan Curd at the AIDS Network at 608-252-6559, Ext. 21, by email at:

[dcurd@aidsnetwork.org](mailto:dcurd@aidsnetwork.org) or by registering online at:

[www.aidsnetwork.org](http://www.aidsnetwork.org). Key sponsor for this year's event is the Dean Health System. Leadership sponsors include Abbott Laboratories, AnchorBank and GlaxoSmithKline. Other corporate sponsors include American Family Insurance, Cullen, Weston, Pines & Bach

LLP and UW Health.

Proceeds from the Red Ribbon Affair will benefit AIDS Network. Since 1985, the AIDS Network (formerly the Madison AIDS Support Network) has provided critical AIDS care and prevention services to south central Wisconsin. The agency is sustained in these efforts by the resources, expertise and passion of hundreds of volunteers and donors. Working together they strive to meet the increasing needs that HIV disease and AIDS place before us.

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**UW Safer Spaces Initiative Launched**  
**Madison** - The UW-Madison LGBT Campus Center (LGBT CC), in cooperation with the Office of the Provost and the Dean of Students, has announced the UW Safer Spaces Initiative.

According to Eric W. Trekell, Director of the LGBT CC, recent events have shown that no place - Madison included - is truly "safe" for LGBT individuals. "The initial goal of the UW Safer Spaces Initiative is to raise awareness of, and provide education around, issues of assault, violence, harassment and discrimination," Trekell said. "The long-term goal of the Initiative is to develop a series of strategic alliances among social justice-focused organizations on campus and in the downtown Madison community to develop a more comprehensive and inclusive anti-hate initiative."

The Initiative will begin with three major components: an advertising campaign in the UW-Madison student newspapers, a "gay? fine by me." t-shirt campaign culminating in a National Day of Silence "Breaking The Silence" rally at the State Capitol on April 26th, and; a series of programs.

The Initiative's first advertisement ran in the March 24 edition of the Badger Herald. Additional ads will run in the Badger Herald and the Daily Cardinal on alternate weeks.

The first program was held March 27. "Licensed To Kill," a 70 minute video by filmmaker Arthur Dong interviewing inmates serving on death row or life imprisonment for murdering gay men was followed by a panel discussion that included Dr. Joe Elder, UW Sociology and Det. Carol Ann Glassmaker & Sgt. Jerome Vannatta, of the UW Police Dept.

A second video and discussion program is set for Tuesday, April 4 at 7:30 PM in

Room 1651 Humanities and will feature "Tongues Untied," a documentary by Marlin Riggs that exposes the homophobia and racism that confront gay black men in the United States, using poetry, music, and oral history. LGBT CC staff will facilitate discussion after the showing.

On Monday, April 10 a third program featuring the showing of the film "Family Fundamentals" will be held at 7 PM in Room 111 of the Humanities building.



*Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick*

Filmmaker Arthur Dong interviews three evangelical families who have to deal with gay children in the documentary. Other highlights include a Christian conference advocating reparative therapy to cure homosexuality, Congressional and television debates, and several heart rending stories.

On Tuesday, April 18 Star Trek's Mr. Sulu George Takei will deliver the lecture "Equality - The Final Frontier" in Room 3650 Humanities at 7 PM. Takei, who recently made headlines by coming out and who regularly appears on the Howard Stern program, will talk about living in a WWII Japanese-American internment camp, his recent coming out, and the need for equality.

On Wednesday, April 26 the National Day of Silence March and Rally will be start at 4:30 PM from the Library Mall and conclude at the Capitol. UW Allies and LGBT community will march up State Street to support a rally of regional high school Gay Straight Alliances.

Co-sponsors of various events include the UW-Madison All Greek Council, the UW Allies, the UW Students for Equality, the UW Student Leadership Program's Leadership and Social Justice Committee, The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of South-Central Wisconsin, and the Human Rights Campaign.

For more information on the UW Safer Spaces Initiative, contact: Eric W. Trekell, Director of the LGBT Campus Center by phone at: 608- 265-2480 or visit the center's website at: [lgbtcc.studentorg.wisc.edu](http://lgbtcc.studentorg.wisc.edu).

#### GLSEN Seeks Award Nominations

**Madison** - The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network of South Central Wisconsin (GLSEN-SCW) is accepting award nominations for educators and community activists who have made a positive impact on the climate for lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people in Wisconsin schools. GLSEN-SCW will recognize one educator and one community activist for their work at the 10th Annual Celebration of Leadership at the Monona Terrace in downtown Madison on Saturday, May 20.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to nominate educators, community members, and students who they feel are deserving of such an award. Letters of nomination should include the following information: the name of nominee and their role with school; the nominator's relationship to nominee, including length of relationship; and the steps the nominee has taken to help



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 Oak Creek, WI 53154  
 (414) 764-3892**



# grand opening

Saturday, April 8th, 2006

7pm-10pm attendance by invitation only  
10pm-2:30am open to the general public  
(cover charge starts at 10pm)

**GAMMPS NRG**

performs from 8pm-midnight

Free food will be provided  
starting at 8pm

Raffles and Prizes throughout  
the evening

All donations from the evening will go to  
**STD Specialties Clinic, Inc. in Milwaukee**

Rooms are being held for reservations at the  
Baymont Inn & Suites  
Pleasant Prairie/Kenosha  
7540 118th Avenue  
Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158  
Ph. 262.857.7911  
Fax. 262.857.2370

**94North**  
DANCE CLUB

6305 120th Avenue • Kenosha, WI 53104 • 262.857.3240

Rain Night Club and La Cage Present...

## Club Carnivale SUNDAYS

**Dj Tonya**



INFO: 414-649-9999

906 S. BARCLAY MILWAUKEE, WI 53204

RAIN NIGHT CLUB AND LA CAGE  
PRESENT

**April 16th 2006**

**Nuts & Bolts**

RAIN NIGHT CLUB AND LA CAGE  
PRESENT

**APRIL 2ND 2006**

2 for 1 Drink specials from 9 pm to 11 pm

Everyone at the door will receive  
one nut or one bolt, find the matching  
set and receive complimentary  
cocktail on the house.

**A Rain of Diva's Review**

*Hosted By Billy Blaze*

INFO: 414-649-9999

WWW.CLUBRAINMILWAUKEE.COM

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