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Vol. 13 #6 ~ April 13 - 26, 2006

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TAKE ME OUT

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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 [3]

Male in **Milwaukee**, 5'10", 195, brown/hazel, 7" cut thick, looking for passable t-girls, eds & 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 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 [3]

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on the cover... John McGivern, Hasani Issa and Take Me Out

by Glenn Bishop

There is no more anticipated theatrical event this spring than the Chamber Theatre's Milwaukee premiere of Richard Greenberg's acclaimed, "**Take Me Out**" which opens Friday, April 21 at the Broadway Theatre Center. Daring to explore the uneasy relationship of gender and sexuality in the world of professional sports, "**Take Me Out**" took Broadway by storm, winning a cluster of awards, including the Tony award for Best New Play and the Pulitzer.

Notorious for its adult content, explicit dialogue and locker room nudity, "**Take Me Out**" features Milwaukee favorite, John McGivern and New York actor Hasani Issa, who is making his Milwaukee Chamber Theatre debut, as Darren Lemming, the star centerfielder who underestimates the impact his coming out will have on himself and professional baseball.

Both performers generously took time away from their busy rehearsal schedule to talk to *Quest*.

Quest: Hasani, what is your background?

Hasani Issa: I'm originally from Washington, D.C. of a white mother and a black father. I went to Howard University n D.C., graduated in '99. Spent a year out in California at the American Conservatory Theatre. Left there after a year and went to New York, where I've been ever since.

Quest: Can you take a moment to give some background on "**Take Me Out**"?

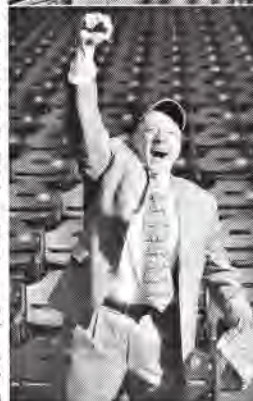
Hasani Issa: Sure. It's written by Richard Greenberg. It's about a bi-racial baseball player who comes out and announces that's gay. The play then becomes a hurricane that surrounds him and the announcement and how it affects the rest of the season and how it affects Darren, who is kind of a golden boy to his teammates and everyone around him.

John McGivern: It is a show that on the outside looks like just a show about baseball when in fact it is a show about relationships and families in a broader sense. It is all around the subject of baseball.

Quest: Have you seen a previous production?

Hasani Issa: I saw it when it was here in New York, the original production.

John McGivern: I haven't. In fact, it was playing in Chicago and I knew that it was down there. I got a call



from the guy who cast me who asked if I wanted to come down and I said, "Not really. I'd really rather not."

Quest: John, what role are you playing?

John McGivern: I play Mason Marzac who is an accountant who happens to be handed the account of Darren who is the star player. Mason is a gay man as well and is handed this account because his boss is retiring. He ends up having a meeting with Darren and Darren says, "What do you know about baseball?" And I'm like, "I know nothing about baseball." He says, "Well, I think that it is important that you find out what I do." He takes my character on this journey where he knew nothing and was intimidated and in the course of this journey, comes to love baseball. There are these two nine-page speeches that he gives right to the audience about what baseball means to not only him but to society. And it is this beautiful, beautiful metaphor about how baseball can be related to all of our lives. It is great writing and I'm thrilled to be able to do it.

Quest: Did you ever play baseball? Are you baseball fans?

Hasani Issa: Only recently. I grew up in D.C. and we didn't have a baseball team so it wasn't really a sport that I became attached to. We just got a team a couple of years ago and since then I've quite an avid fan of the Nationals, even though they were in last place.

John McGivern: No. I've a brother a year older than me and a brother 2 years older than me and both of them - we went to a Catholic school here in Milwaukee and there was a Catholic Little League where they had teams like the "Popes" the "Bishops" and the "Cardinals" and both of my brothers played. I was the boy in the family who couldn't throw a ball. I was always, "Please don't make me do this." But I spent a lot of time in the summer up in Lincoln Park where all the teams played, so I spent some time around it.

Quest: Has the play renewed your enthusiasm for baseball?

John McGivern: It has. That's kinda why I went last year, I knew I was going to do this. And it seemed so far away but I thought that we might as well go. Then I went on my own. Which is remarkable.

Quest: You're sound very much like the character you play...

John McGivern: (laughs) I know, it's true.



P.O. Box 1961
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E-Mail for News, releases,
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editor@quest-
online.com

Web Site:
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Publisher:

Mark Mariucci (ZA)

Contributors: News: Mike
Fitzpatrick, Dan Ross, Jamie
Steckelberg & Steve Vargas
Columns: Glen Bishop (tal)
Jeff Hicks, Uncle Barbie

Photography: Steve Vargas,
Mike Fitzpatrick, Za,
Tony Ritschards

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Support PrideFest, Wisconsin's largest LGBT celebration. Join the 2006 Proud Crowd today at www.pridefest.com.Quest: What do you feel is the greatest appeal of "Take Me Out?"

Hasani Issa: I think that it is a very timely topic, especially with all of the furor over gay marriage and the place of gay marriage in American society, so that it is very provocative in that way. It challenges people to think about things that they may or may not feel comfortable thinking about. It takes a topic which is very controversial and provocative and puts it with the most non-controversial activity in America, which is baseball, which makes for a very interesting combination

John McGivern: History speaks that what they will take away is the fact that no matter what our stories are that there is a similarity and a real humanity in all of us that is relatable. That we are so much more alike than we are different, in truth. And that whatever our lifestyle is, whatever troubles that we go through, we've all gone through stuff that is incredibly similar. It speaks to a spirit that's kind and I think that it makes people think about how they treat people.

Quest: Part of the appeal of "Take Me Out" for audiences is the promise of male nudity.

Hasani Issa: I don't see anything wrong with going to a play for a little bit of titillation. But with particular play, I think even the nudity acts as kind of a statement, a symbol of male sexuality, as a line between male heterosexuality and male homosexuality and where is that line and what does it mean. So, even in the nudity, I think the play is trying to make a statement and challenge assumptions.

Quest: John, as one of the actors who doesn't get naked, how do you feel about it?

John McGivern: Very disappointed. (laughs) But everyone has their crosses to bear. I'm disappointed. No one has ever asked me to take my clothes off. But it's okay.

Quest: I suppose that you could always do that as part of the Opening Night curtain call?

John McGivern: Don't you think? I'll tell them that you told me to. People will say, "Oh, no John!" (laughs) "We didn't mean it."

"Take Me Out" opens Friday, April 21 and runs through May 7 at the Cabot Theatre in Milwaukee's Broadway Theatre Center. For tickets, call (414) 291-7800.

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46 y.o. GWM, 195 lbs., looking for friendship/relationship. I'm a smoker/social drinker, handicapped with speech impediment, but mobile...and willing to relocate. (262) 335-4214 or Mark Schicker, 2235 Sylvan Way, **West Bend, WI** 53095. NO GAMES! [1]

I am a mistress looking for obedient submissives. Just discipline, no sex. Please e-mail for further details: mistressulilly@yahoo.com [1]

Middle aged guy in the **Green Bay** area looking for light body shaving and trimming on a

regular basis. Reply to Quest (#312), PO Box 1961, **Green Bay, WI** 54305 [1]

Wanted lovers of fetish, B&D & furniture, leather, rubber, cross dress clothing, silicone breasts, corsets, boots, erotic movies...add to my collection & enjoyment. Let's talk, can trade or buy. (414) 321-8005 7am-10pm. Lyle. **Milwaukee** [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 manuel60@planetout.com [1]

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FEINGOLD OPPOSES WISCONSIN'S PROPOSED MARRIAGE, CIVIL UNIONS BAN Wisconsin Senator Joins AFL-CIO, League Of Women Voters Against Amendment

Madison - U.S. Senator Russ Feingold has come out strongly opposing the constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage and "substantially similar" relationships from being recognized in Wisconsin. In a statement issued April 4, Feingold called the amendment a "mean-spirited attempt to divide" the state and discriminate against gays and lesbians. He said it should be defeated in the upcoming November referendum, when voters also will cast ballots for posts including governor, attorney general and the Legislature.

The statement noted that Feingold first publically announced his opposition while responding to a question posed at a Kenosha County listening session during the previous weekend. Feingold said he strongly opposed the proposed civil unions and marriage ban facing Wisconsin voters this November. He also expressed his support for the right of gays and lesbians to marry.

"The proposed ban on civil unions and marriage is a mean-spirited attempt to divide Wisconsin and I indicated that it should be defeated," Feingold said. "It discriminates against thousands of people in our communities - our co-workers, our neighbors, our friends, and our family members. It would single out members of a particular group and forever deny them rights and protections granted to all other Wisconsin citizens. It would also outlaw civil unions and jeopardize many legal protections for all unmarried couples, whether of the same or the opposite sex. We shouldn't enshrine this prejudice in our state's Constitution."

At the listening session, held at the Village Hall in Paddock Lake, Feingold also expressed his support for the right of gays and lesbians to marry. "As I said at the Kenosha County listening session, gay and lesbian couples should be able to marry and have access to the same rights, privileges and benefits that straight couples currently enjoy," Feingold added. "Denying people this basic American right is the kind of discrimination that has no place in our laws, especially in a progressive state like Wisconsin. The time has come to end this discrimination and the politics of divisiveness that has become part of this issue."

Feingold noted that removing the prohibition against gay marriage would not impose any obligation on religious groups. He indicated that no religious faith should ever be forced to conduct or recognize any marriage,



but that civil laws on marriage should reflect the principle of equal rights under the law.

State Senator and lead amendment sponsor Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) issued a response claiming Feingold's position is too extreme and out of touch with Wisconsin voters. "His statement today puts him far outside of the mainstream, both here in Wisconsin and across the nation," Fitzgerald said.

Feingold's statement was the latest in a series of public stances taken around the state against the amendment. On March 22 the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO announced its opposition to the proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage. A week later a Janesville labor leader spoke of his union's plans to oppose the amendment.

On April 5 the Dane County chapter of the League of Women Voters addressed the issue at their monthly meeting, following an anti-ban opinion piece published in *The Capital Times* two days earlier by two of the group's members stating the organiza-

tion's official opposition.

The AFL-CIO statement viewed the amendment as anti-family. "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," said David Newby, President of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO. "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 statement said.

"The Wisconsin AFL-CIO is also concerned about the far-reaching consequences of the ban, including the potential impact on domestic partner policies," the statement added.

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 union members on matters of public concern, provides services to local unions, and coordinates political and legislative action with its 1,000 affiliated unions representing 250,000 members in the state.

A week later, United Auto Workers Local 95 president Mike Sheridan told the *Janseville Gazette* in a story published April 1 that union will "absolutely try to bring voters out against the ban." He predicted the union would side with the state AFL-CIO by weighing in against the ban within weeks. "We will be taking a position against it," Sheridan said.

Sheridan, a Democrat who also serves in the Wisconsin Assembly as the 44th District representative, also told the paper the amendment was politically motivated. "This is another Karl Rove Republican strategy," Sheridan said.

The League of Women Voters anti-amendment editorial was penned by Rose Sime and longtime PFLAG member Joann Elder. "This amendment is about injustice and inequality, not about gay marriage," they wrote. "Never before has there been a proposed amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution to circumscribe and exclude any group, not African-Americans, not American Indians, not Hispanics, not the poor."

"Passage of an amendment of this nature will hurt every one of us," Sime and Elder warned. "If you diminish the freedom of one, you diminish the freedom of all. Moreover, this is a violation of the equal protection clause of the state constitution."

"The League of Women Voters holds poli-

cies in the areas of equal rights, education, marital property reform, meeting basic human needs, health care and domestic violence," the editorial continued. "All unmarried couples are affected in all these areas by the proposed amendment. Based on our anti-discrimination policy and our concern for equal rights for all citizens and all families, the League of Women Voters urges you to vote against this amendment."

Supporters of the ban had two opinion pieces published in last two weeks in the *Sheboygan Press* and the *Milwaukee*

Journal Sentinel. However, neither writer appeared to represent any position other than their own. Both viewed the amendment as a means to stop so-called "activist judges" from imposing same-sex marriage on the public, a move that would destroy the thousands of years of "traditional marriage."

However, after her self-described "reality check" in early March, the state's leading spokesperson supporting the amendment - Julaine Appling of the Family Research Institute of Wisconsin - apparently regained her more fantasy-rooted senses. In a March

20 "Wisconsin Family Connection" broadcast, Appling claimed amendment opponents were largely gay activists. "Opponents of Wisconsin's constitutional amendment resolution to preserve traditional marriage are primarily homosexual activists who are trying very hard to portray the amendment as a homosexual-bashing, hate-filled effort that seeks to deprive them of their 'rights' as 'loving and committed couples,'" Appling said before trying to equate same-sex marriage with polygamy.

RESIDENTS ONLY: MASSACHUSETTS SUPREMES LIMIT GAY MARRIAGE

Boston - In a disappointment for the gay civil rights movement, Massachusetts' highest court ruled March 30 that same-sex couples from states where gay marriage is prohibited cannot tie the knot in the Bay State.

The Supreme Judicial Court upheld a 1913 state law that forbids nonresidents to marry in Massachusetts if their marriage would not be recognized in their home state. If the court had struck down the law, Massachusetts would have been open to marriages by gay couples from across the country. Then they could have returned to their home states to fight for legal recognition for those marriages. The ruling leaves in legal limbo an undetermined number of out-

of-state gay couples who got married in 2004 in Massachusetts when it became the first state to recognize gay weddings. Arline Isaacson of the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus called the decision "a painful reminder that we remain second-class citizens."

Republican Governor Mitt Romney, who is angling for a 2008 presidential run, welcomed the decision, saying he did not want Massachusetts to become "the Las Vegas of same-sex marriage."

"It's important that other states have the right to make their own determination of marriage," Romney said.

More than 6,000 gay couples have married in Massachusetts since the state's high court ruled in 2003 that the state Constitution gives same-sex couples the same right to marry as heterosexual ones. Romney continues to oppose the ruling.



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OHIO APPEALS COURT: STATE'S MARRIAGE AMENDMENT EXCLUDES UNMARRIED FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAWS

Dayton - County prosecutors cannot charge some unmarried people under Ohio's domestic violence law because it conflicts with the state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, this area's state appeals court ruled March 31.

The Second District Court of Appeals is the first of the state's 12 appellate courts to rule that the domestic violence law runs afoul of the Defense of Marriage amendment, passed by voters in 2004, and does not apply to "a person living as a spouse." The appeals court upheld dismissal of a domestic violence charge against Karen S. Ward of Fairborn, charged with assaulting her "live-in boyfriend" in Greene County.

The ruling affects domestic violence cases in Champaign, Clark, Darke, Miami and Montgomery counties as well, Greene County First Assistant Prosecutor Suzanne Schmidt said.

There are conflicting decisions around the state on this issue: the Fifth, Seventh, Ninth and Twelfth District appellate courts have ruled that the amendment does not render the domestic violence law unconstitutional for unmarried people.

Schmidt said her office will appeal the Second District Court's decision to the Ohio Supreme Court within thirty days. According to Schmidt, until the high court decides, unmarried defendants, who would have faced felony domestic violence charges, will be charged with misdemeanor assault charges in Greene County. "It's not protecting anyone," she said.

Ward was indicted in April, the second time Ward had been charged with domestic violence. Her attorney, Ellen Weprin, sought dismissal in May, arguing the state's domestic violence law, established in 1979, conflicted with the new constitutional amendment. The amendment says the state cannot "create or recognize a legal status for relationships of unmarried individuals that intends to approximate the ... effect of marriage."

But the appellate court said the state's domestic violence law, which includes protection for "a person living as a spouse," conflicts with the amendment. "The state or any subdivision shall not recognize these unions," said Greene County Common Pleas Judge Stephen Wolaver, the trial judge who dismissed the charges against Ward.

Montgomery County assistant public defender Michael R. Pentecost predicted April 1 that the appeal's court decision also will limit the ability of unmarried people to get domestic violence protection orders and state lawmakers may have to amend the amendment. "The people who backed this amendment were not thinking about these types of unintended consequences," Pentecost said. "They got so overzealous."

Judge Mike Fain wrote the majority opinion, in which Judge James A. Brogan concurred. Judge Mary Donovan dissented. "The Defense of Marriage amendment is a part of the fundamental, organic law of Ohio," Fain wrote.

"We make no observations concerning the wisdom of the electorate in having adopted the amendment."

Fain suggested that if the domestic violence law applied "to all persons sharing residential quarters, that would present no constitutional problem."

REVEALED: FREED IRAQ CHRISTIAN HOSTAGE IS GAY

Toronto - The co-director of the Christian Peacemaker Teams has revealed the family of freed peace activist James Loney kept his sexual orientation quiet out of fear for his safety. Doug Pritchard said in a press conference March 27 that the family feared Loney might come to harm at the hands of his Iraqi captors had they known he was gay.

British and US special forces released A British and two Canadian activists without firing a shot March 23, ending a four-month ordeal dur-



ing which hopes for their freedom rose, and then faded when a fellow hostage, American Tom Fox, was murdered. The three Christian campaigners were freed in a raid on a house in western Baghdad. Their captors had already fled.

British pacifist Norman Kember, 74, Canadians Loney, 41, and Harmmeet Singh Sooden, 32, and Fox, 54, were kidnapped in a lawless district of west Baghdad on November 26. All four were volunteers with the Chicago-based group.

Pritchard says it likely wouldn't have helped if Loney's partner, Dan Hunt, had come forward with public pleas for his release. Hunt made his first public appearance since Loney's ordeal began when he greeted his partner March 26 at the airport.

In 2001, Amnesty International reported that Iraq's constitution was amended to make homosexuality a crime punishable by death.

TV NETWORKS REJECT PRO-GAY CHURCH AD

New York - The nation's major television networks have rejected an ad that shows a gay couple and others being banished from a church, saying it violates their rules against controversial or religious advertising. The 30-second commercial for the United Church of Christ will begin airing on cable networks and Spanish-language stations in late March.

The ad, called "Ejector," shows a gay couple, a single mother, a disabled man and others flying out of their pews as a wrinkled hand pushes a red button. Text on the screen reads, "God doesn't reject people. Neither do we," and a voiceover says, "The United Church of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here."

The church tried to run a similar ad in December 2004 in which bouncers outside a church stopped gay couples, racial minorities and others from entering. The networks also rejected that ad.

The decision by CBS, NBC, ABC and Fox to decline the latest advertisement shows the networks have a narrow view of acceptable images of gays and lesbians, according to church leader Ron Buford. "They are saying, 'You can entertain on 'Will & Grace' and 'Queer Eye for the Straight Guy,' but when it comes to showing you as whole people with the church, that

is going to far," Buford said April 3.

CBS spokeswoman Shannon Jacobs said the network has "a long-standing and well-documented policy of not accepting advocacy advertising."

Kathy Kelly-Brown, a spokeswoman for NBC, said the ad "violates our long-standing policy against airing commercials that deal with issues of public controversy."

Representatives for ABC and Fox were not available for comment, but Buford said both networks had told the church they have policies barring religious advertising. Buford said CBS executives had told him the subject would be considered advocacy advertising until the inclusion of gays and lesbians is common at churches in the United States.

The ad will run for three weeks on CNN, USA, TNT, BET and eight other cable networks, along with three Spanish-language stations. The church spent \$1.5 million on the ads, which will run through the Easter season.

The church filed a complaint against CBS and NBC affiliates in Miami after the networks rejected the first ad in 2004. That complaint is still pending.

HIGH SCHOOL COACH BANNED FOR APPEARING IN GAY PORN

Breese, IL - A tumbling coach who worked with cheerleaders at Mater Dei Catholic High School here has been banned from the campus because principal Dennis Litteken learned the 22-year-old gymnast had starred in gay porn videos. Coach Josh Weast was not a school employee, but for the past three years he had been allowed to use the Mater Dei gym to coach about forty girls and boys.

Weast said that he regretted making the videos, but he said he made them about a year ago at a time when he needed the money badly. Still, he said his private life should have no effect on his coaching activities.

In commenting on the case, Rick Garcia, executive director of Equality Illinois noted private religious schools have a legal right to enforce their own values as long as federal anti-discrimination laws are not violated.

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Diversion of the Day Community Calendar

Thursday, April 13

Angels of Hope MCC (Green Bay, 3706 Libal St.) Holy Thursday Seder Meal, 7 pm

April 14 - Good Friday

Angels of HBope MCC (Appleton, 815 N. Richmond St.) Good Friday worship service, 6 pm

Saturday, April 15

Angels of Hope MCC (Green Bay) Holy Saturday Contemporary Service, 4 pm

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

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

Sunday, April 16 - Easter Sunday!

Angels of Hope MCC (Green Bay) Worship Service, 11 am
Angels of Hope MCC (Appleton) Evening Worship, 6 pm

Club Rain (Milw., 906 S. Barclay - 414/649-9999) Nuts & Bolts, a Rain of Diva's Revue, hosted by Billy Blaze. (At the door, you'll receive one nut or one bolt; find the match to the set & receive a complimentary cocktail.)

Fluid (Milw.) Open at 3 today. Easter Egg Hunt today2 eggs include 'drink free all day' tickets!

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

Shelter (Green Bay) Opening of Daddy Daddy's Boy Weekend meet & greet contestants this evening, 9 pm; a fundraiser for Mr. Northwoods

Saturday, April 22

Napalese Lounge (Green Bay) Granddaddy contest at 7 pm; Daddy Daddy's Boy Contest is at 9 pm. (\$1 cover)

Sunday, April 23

SAGE/Milw. Annual meeting & silent auction; Astor Hotel

Wednesday, April 26

Fluid (Milw.) Customer Appreciation Night; win a trip to Vegas, Reno or Lake Tahoe! FREE food & darts

Thursday, April 27

La Cage (Milwaukee) It's a Double Crowning - Miss Cosmopolitan WI USofA & Miss Cream City WI USofA, 10 pm; emcee is Kyllie West

Saturday, April 29

Tazzbah (Milw.) Brokeback Night; grub being served from our chuck wagon 6-10; cowboy wrangling to follow! (Western wear requested)

Sunday, April 30

Club 5 (Madison) Mr. Wisconsin USA Pageant.

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SENATE COMMITTEE KILLS MINNESOTA ANTI-GAY AMENDMENT

Polling Showed Minnesota Voters Opposed Marriage Amendment 54-40%

St Paul - Amid tears and passionate rhetoric witnesses made their cases, but few votes were changed in a Minnesota Senate hearing about a constitutional amendment to define marriage. The Senate Judiciary Committee failed to pass the amendment, which would prohibit same sex marriage and civil unions, for further consideration by the entire state Senate April 4 here.

For most issues at the Capitol such failure would mean the end. But for amendment advocates it simply means they will have to find another way to fight. "We haven't heard the end of this issue," GOP Senator Michele Bachmann and chief amendment backer said.

Both supporters and opponents anticipated the vote would come out as it did. Two years ago, the last time a Senate committee voted on the amendment, it also failed.

Despite the near-certain outcome, both sides brought their fiercest arguments before the committee. Both were allotted 45 minutes of testimony and 50 tickets to distribute to observers.

The Democratic majority on the Senate committee likely were buoyed by a recent statewide poll released March 26 that

revealed a majority of Minnesota voters opposed the constitutional amendment. The survey found 54% of registered voters were against the proposed amendment, while 40% supported it. Moreover, if the amendment also made same-sex civil unions or domestic partnerships illegal, support for it dropped from 40% to 28%.

The poll was released as the Minnesota Legislature considered a constitutional amendment that says marriage and "its legal equivalent" can only be between one man and one woman. Most opponents and proponents of the amendment have agreed that the "legal equivalent" language would ban civil unions or other same-sex partnerships that would grant gay couples the same rights and responsibilities as marriage.

Decision Resources Ltd., a Minneapolis polling firm, conducted the poll of 625 registered voters in mid-January. It has a margin of error of four percentage points and was commissioned by Equality Minnesota, a nonprofit organization supporting the rights of same-sex couples.

Although an advocacy group sponsored the poll, a national polling expert said it appeared

to be impartial. "My impression is it's a very carefully done survey. In terms of question wording, it is not misleading or biasing," Cliff Zukin, a professor of public policy at Rutgers University and president of the American Association for Public Opinion Research told the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.

The Equality Minnesota poll suggested a significant change of heart on the issue by the state's voters. Last year, a poll conducted for Marriage for Minnesota, an organization that supports a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, found that 61% of Minnesota residents would vote for the amendment. Nationally, 51% of Americans oppose legalizing gay marriage, according to a poll released March 22 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. But that number has "declined significantly from 63% in February 2004, when opposition spiked following the Massachusetts Supreme Court decision allowing gay marriage and remained high throughout the 2004 election season," according to the Pew poll.

But since then, the Pew report said, "opposition to gay marriage has fallen across the board, with substantial declines even among Republicans."

In the Equality Minnesota poll, Democrats opposed the marriage amendment by a 26-

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to-1 ratio, while Republicans support it by a 2-to-1 ratio. Independents also oppose the amendment but by a narrower 3-to-2 ratio.

However, the poll results also indicated that while most Minnesotans disagree with the proposed constitutional amendment, they also opposed gay marriage. 75% supported the current state law that defines marriage as between a man and a woman, while 19% opposed to it. 48% held the belief that permitting same-sex marriage would somehow damage traditional marriage.

Most polls on gay marriage ask only a few questions about the issue. The Equality Minnesota survey asked more than a hundred questions on that and related issues. "The group wanted not only to know where voters are on that issue but how they see gay and lesbian rights in totality," Bill Morris, president of Decision Resources said.

The results suggested Minnesotans have reservations about the proposed amendment. By a 61% to 29% margin, they agreed with the statement: "Minnesota already has a law banning same-sex marriage; we don't need a constitutional amendment."

Moreover, 77% said an anti-gay-marriage amendment "could be a distraction from other important issues facing Minnesota." And 60% believed such an amendment "could divide us, and we need to work together for the good of Minnesota."

By more than a 3-to-1 ratio, the respondents said gays and lesbians "should have the same rights and responsibilities as everyone else." An even larger proportion said government shouldn't treat people differently because of sexual orientation.

By a margin of 48% to 38%, poll respondents said it would be all right for government to "allow something like civil unions," but not same-sex marriages. The poll showed that 40% of Minnesota voters have a close friend or relative who is gay and 52% know or work with gay people.

CALIFORNIA MAYOR: "YEP, I'M GAY!"

West Sacramento - Mayor Christopher Cabaldon has broken his silence on his sexual orientation. At the annual State of the City dinner at West Sacramento City Hall on March 29, Cabaldon declared he's gay.

"The pressure and the stigma and sometimes the all too casual bigotry in this town made it painfully clear when I first ran for office that I could either serve this community or I could be a gay man. But I could not be both," Cabaldon said.

His disclosure, which had been planned well in advance, concluded a speech focusing on levees, "walkable" communities and schools. After celebrating the accomplishments of the city and discussing the future, he disclosed that he was gay. Cabaldon said he decided to disclose he's gay to make it easier for other gays and lesbians wrestling with making their sexual orientation public.

His heartfelt disclosure brought the crowd of 150 developers, business and political leaders to a standing ovation, some with tears in their eyes. "We couldn't be more proud of our mayor," developer Bryan Taylor said.

In an interview with the *Sacramento Bee*, Cabaldon said when he began his political career, he thought he couldn't disclose the matter. So rather than lead a double life or a secret life, Cabaldon said he decided he couldn't have a personal life. "Nobody could really out me before because I wasn't dating," said Cabaldon. "I'm still not dating or anything like that."

The 41-year-old mayor's unusual "coming out" will be carried in documentary form on LOGO, an MTV Networks cable channel featuring gay-themed programming. A crew working for the channel had been shadowing Cabaldon for the better part of a week. The program is expected to air in July.



While the number of openly gay elected officials has increased in recent years, both nationally and within California, most of California's gay politicians represent solidly liberal coastal towns. Most, however, have made their orientation known before they run for office. Cabaldon becomes the state's fourth elected openly gay mayor currently in office, according to Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund in Washington, D.C.

Six members of the California Legislature also have disclosed they are gay: Assemblymen Mark Leno of San Francisco and John Laird of Santa Cruz; Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg of Los Angeles; and state Senators Christine Kehoe of San Diego, Sheila Kuehl of Santa Monica and Carole Migden of San Francisco.

Cabaldon said he told his father he was gay two years ago. Cabaldon said he was inspired by seeing the mayor of Providence, R.I., attend public events with his partner.

Seth Kilbourn, political director of Equality California, said Cabaldon's decision will have a positive effect. "Having more openly gay elected officials helps others come out," Kilbourn said. "People come out for a lot of reasons, but living openly and honestly is a basic human desire. People come out so they can lead their lives in a way that is not hiding a part of who they are."

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For more information about the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference, contact Michael Munson by phone at: 414-559-2123 or by email at: conference@forge-forward.org.

UNIVERSITY LGBTQ SPRING CONFERENCE SET FOR APRIL 22

Black River Falls - The UW System Inclusivity Initiative will sponsor the first UW System LGBTQ Spring Conference on Saturday afternoon, April 22nd, at the Best Western Arrowhead Lodge and Suites here. This conference is in collaboration with and supported by the Women's Studies Consortium. Registration forms for the LGBTQ Conference and the Women's Studies Conference are included in the same registration materials.

Participants will be able to attend all of both the conferences for one registration fee, or attend both Saturday events for one registration fee. The two conferences will share a mid-day plenary discussing the

strengths and issues surrounding collaboration across categories of identity such as race and ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and disability.

For more info about the conference and to obtain reservation forms, go to the Inclusivity Initiative website at: www.uwsa.edu/acadaff/inclusivity/calendar.htm.

SAGE ANNUAL MEETING & SILENT AUCTION SET

Milwaukee - SAGE/Milwaukee will hold their Annual Meeting and Silent Auction on Sunday, April 23 at the Astor Street Restaurant in the Astor Hotel, 924 East Juneau Ave. here. The reception and silent auction will begin at 12:00 Noon, with the luncheon being served at 1:30 PM.

Attendees will have their choice of Lemon Breast of Chicken, Beef Tenderloin Tips, Rosemary Roasted Pork Loin or a vegetarian entree.

Tickets for SAGE Members are \$23 each. Non-Members are welcome to attend for a \$28 ticket price. Please RSVP before April 13 if possible with your entrée selection

and payment to: SAGE/Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite. 220, Milwaukee, WI 53202. For more information or low income sponsorship, contact Bill Serpe by phone at 414-224-0517.

OPEN HOUSE PARTY TO BENEFIT ACTION WISCONSIN

Tomah - A group of local activists are inviting southwestern Wisconsin LGBTQ community members to a House Party for Action Wisconsin April 29 from 7 - 9 PM at 1101A Grandview Avenue here. The event, also billed as a Wisconsin wine and Wisconsin cheese tasting with non-alcoholic beverages also available, will give area gay people the opportunity to meet and network with other community leaders and learn about the proposed constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage and why this amendment goes too far and will hurt real Wisconsin families.

Please RSVP at 608-387-0978 by no later than April 26. Donations for Action Wisconsin will be accepted, but are not necessary.

DEFECTED In the House Miami:06

London-based Defected Records' triple-disc Defected in the House: Miami 2006 collection serves as a perfect introduction for American ears to the world's top dance label.

The compilation's arrival in US shops on March 13 coincided with the Winter Music Conference in Miami Beach, the 20-years-strong annual dance music summit where each year's hottest new club anthems make their debut. This first offering from the label will not disappoint either. The three CD's are programmed non-stop but each has a distinctive sound as they were programmed for different parts of the evening. Disc One (Sunset) will fill you with soulful grooves that took me back to the 70's early dance sounds of Philly. It has a nice mellow feel throughout. Disc Two (Sundown) picks up the pace for a set of smoking hot house tracks including major artists like Barbara Tucker. I expected Disc Three to mellow out again, but the trax stayed hot even if a little more ambient. Hi NRG Queens will love the second disk, but give all three a few listens and you'll be hooked too!



Also in too late for us to review this issue...

South Beach Sounds from Immergent Records was released March 21. This "Dual Disc" is a CD and DVD on two sides of the disc. The DVD attempts to recapture some of the energy of the now past Winter Music Conference from 2005. The notes sent with the disc tell us the video DVD portion was all shot in HD, but remember your DVD will not be in HD at least for now. The DVD also includes a peak into some of South Beach's Top Hot spots including Cro-Bar, The Mansion, Nikki Beach and others.

There are 9 tracks on the music CD side of the disc. I was only able to give a quick listen to all the tracks before we went to press, but expect a disc full of electronica tracks and definitely not Pop Disco. The push here seems to be more the DVD which I will take the time to review in an upcoming issue. Stay Tuned...



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DANE COUNTY DA DROPS FELONY CHARGE AGAINST UW STUDENTS IN HATE CRIME INCIDENT

Madison - Felony charges have been dropped against the two University of Wisconsin students involved in December campus incident that resulted in hate crime charges. Dane County Assistant District Attorney Gretchen Hayward dropped the felony charge against UW freshman Michael Riha during a preliminary hearing April 4. Riha still faces a charge of misdemeanor disorderly conduct for his role in the Ogg Hall incident.

Ben Chamberlain, the other UW student involved in the incident, had the felony charges against him dismissed March 22. However, Chamberlain also had pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of disorderly conduct that same day.

"The state is moving to dismiss the criminal damage charge," Hayward said. Hayward would not comment further on

the issue, as the case that was still open.

Riha's defense attorney William Ginsberg appeared pleased that Hayward dismissed the felony criminal damage to property charge. "Our whole defense related to Mike is, he wasn't present - he wasn't there when the more serious offenses occurred," Ginsberg said.

According to the criminal complaint, Chamberlain and Riha were involved in an incident last December. The two UW students, along with two students from out-of-state universities, were accused of vandalizing the door of the Ogg Hall's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender liaison. The group was also accused of yelling derogatory names and writing anti-gay comments on the liaison's bulletin board. The four students were later charged with several crimes, including felony hate crime charges.

OUTREACH SETS IN-SERVICE ON RESOURCES FOR GAY SENIORS

Madison - OutReach has scheduled an in-service on resources and services available for LGBT adults over 60 and their caregivers on Thursday, April 27 from 4-5:30 PM. The event will be held at the OutReach offices, 600 Williamson St. Case managers from the West Madison Senior Coalition and the North East Senior Coalition will talk about what the coalitions offer seniors and answer questions. Among the topics likely to be covered are transportation barriers, assistance with activities of daily living and financial assistance for caregivers and to maintain households.

Because space is limited, those interested in attending are asked to RSVP with Harry Straetz, Program Coordinator by phone at 608-255-8582 or by e-mail at: programs@outreachinc.com.

WOMEN'S COMING OUT GROUP FORMING AT OUTREACH

Madison - A women's coming out support group is forming in Madison in late April. The group will meet at OutReach Inc, Madison and south-central Wisconsin's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community center, located at 600 Williamson Street. The purpose of the group is to offer support women who are dealing with the realization that they are not heterosexual and how that affects their everyday lives.

The support group will identify and discuss the stages of coming out and explore topics such as how to deal with family members, physical and sexual safety, legal rights and discrimination, and spirituality, among others.

Two trained volunteers will facilitate each meeting. The group is scheduled to meet Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM for nine consecutive weeks.

Women who are interested in attending the meetings should call 608-255-8582 and leave a message for Andrea to schedule an interview for the group. Women may also e-mail her at: programs@outreachinc.com by Monday, April 10.

WINE TASTING TO BENEFIT LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

Milwaukee - "Spring Splash," a Wine Tasting benefit will be held Wednesday, April 26, from 6-8 PM at Lovely, a Bayview Salon, 2165 S Kinnickinnic Ave. Enjoy Aveda relaxation services from the professionals while sipping the best wines from around the world, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are \$20 for pre-registered attendees, or \$25 at the door.

Proceeds from the event will benefit the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. For more information or to pre-register call Angie Guerra at 414-271-2656, Ext. 121.

MISSOURI GOURD FARMER WINS FORGE LOGO CONTEST

Milwaukee - The FORGE Forward 2007 Conference committee is pleased to announce the winner of its logo contest, Wolfgang Beilschmidt.

The winning logo, featured on every page of the newly-launched conference website at www.forge-forward.org, is a graphic embodiment of the conference theme, "Honoring Our Complexities." A rainbow spiral - an ancient symbol of journey, change, or transition - is a very fitting image for the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference. The groundbreaking four-day Conference will be the first female-to-male (FTM+) spectrum and Significant Others, Friends, Family and Allies (SOFFA) conference to be held in Wisconsin. The Conference and two pre-Conference days of Intensives will take place on March 29 - April 1, 2007.

Wolfgang is a 36 year-old FTM writer, artist, and gourd farmer from Missouri. He is currently writing his first novel, a sci-fi-fantasy adventure. He grooms dogs at a local veterinary clinic for a living and describes himself as "kind of a country guy with a big city philosophy."

Wolfgang said of his design, "For me, [the logo symbolizes] a journey outward to find a new center. I also wanted to depict the gender continuum; we all start out the same in the womb."

A panel of seven judges, several of who are professional graphic designers, awarded the prize from among six entries. The top three winning designs are featured on the FORGE website.

Beilschmidt won two free registrations to the conference, plus two free t-shirts featuring his logo. Second and their place winners Jacob Anderson-Minshall and Rion (Amy) Chesbro also received lesser prizes.

The FORGE Forward 2007 Conference's philosophy is inclusion-focused. FORGE values individuality, diversity, and com-



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GAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LAUNCHES WOMEN'S BUSINESS INITIATIVE

Washington, DC - The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) will be celebrating women's history month by launching the Women's Business Initiative (WBI). The WBI will serve as a clearinghouse for networking, mentoring and best practices for the lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LBT) community. Kate Karasmeighan, Manager of the Women's Business Initiative said "The LGBT community is unique in that its diversity reflects that of general society. As such, the NGLCC appreciates the difficulties faced by women in the LGBT business community, and seeks to provide the tools needed by women to make their business and professional lives more successful and rewarding."

As a benefit for women who are National members of the NGLCC, the WBI will provide opportunities for business women, professionals and students of business to network and share ideas in a variety of online and face-to-face forums. One significant resource offered by the WBI is a series of tele-learning sessions covering topics such as, Breaking the Lavender Glass: Being an Out LBT Woman in Corporate America, Hot Topics in Employment, and Balancing Work and Family.

Eileen Kessler, Founder and President of Omni Studio, a marketing communications firm in Washington, DC responded to the WBI launch; "I'm pleased to know that the NGLCC has created a place for the women's business community to meet and share resources. When we work together there is a natural camaraderie based on our experiences as LGBT professionals. I hope women will take advantage of the opportunities the WBI offers."

Leading the Women's Business Initiative is the Executive Circle, a group of women with a broad range of talents and skill sets, regions, and business and corporate backgrounds. Michelle Phillips, Partner in the White Plains office of Jackson Lewis, a preeminent labor and employment firm, and member of the WBI Executive Circle shared her enthusiasm; "The WBI is an invaluable resource for LBT women business owners and professionals to congregate, share ideas and network together."

The National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce is the largest LGBT business development and economic advocacy organization in the world. The NGLCC represents the interests of more than 800,000 LGBT businesses and entrepreneurs is committed to forming a broad-based coalition, of LGBT owned and friendly businesses, professionals, and students of business for the purpose of promoting economic growth and prosperity of its members.

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coalition on the case. Dean claims that under the requirements of the program, an organization that supports abortion rights or protecting the environment may limit employment, membership on a board or volunteer opportunities to those who share its views. The problem is that to be eligible, a faith-based organization cannot be built on shared views if those views happen to be religious, he said.

"Regardless of its intent, it's discriminatory because it allows every other organization to retain its integrity," Dean told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

The lawsuit names state Department of Administration Secretary Stephen Bablitch and the members of the committee that determines eligibility for the campaign as defendants.

Sean Dilweg, executive assistant at the Department of Administration, said on April 4 that the department had not yet been officially served with the lawsuit, but would

take the concerns of the faith-based groups seriously. Marc Marotta was the department secretary in early 2005, when the decisions on eligibility for 2005 were made.

The lawsuit says the Christian Legal Society was denied permission to be included in the 2005 campaign. In its application, the group announced that it didn't comply with the non-discrimination statement. It included a letter that said the group does require certain religious beliefs for employees but doesn't consider that to be discriminatory, and its application was ultimately rejected.

The lawsuit also notes a 2002 decision to exempt the Boy Scouts of America from the requirement of non-discrimination; the group restricts membership and volunteers based on sexual orientation.

The lawsuit challenges the procedures for determining which organizations are eligible to receive contributions through the Wisconsin State Employees Combined

Campaign. The campaign, which has been run annually since 1973, allows state and University of Wisconsin employees to have charitable contributions deducted from their paychecks during a month-long window. About 10,000 state employees participated in 2005, donating \$2.8 million.

Over four hundred groups met the required standards, which include having non-discrimination policies regarding race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation and religious affiliation. Among the groups that were allowed to participate in 2005 were the National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund, the Action Wisconsin Education Fund, the American Civil Liberties Union and Greenpeace. Twenty-five organizations classified as "faith-based" also qualified for the program, including Catholic Charities, Jewish Social Services, Lutheran World Relief and the Salvation Army.

UW CAMPUS PAPER DEFENDS REPRINTING ANTI-LESBIAN CARTOON

Madison - The editor of one of the two dailies operating on the UW-Madison campus has defended the paper's decision to reprint a cartoon labeled as anti-feminist and anti-lesbian. The cartoon was reprinted in March 24 edition of the *Badger Herald* under the heading "Classic Comics: Wacky Fun - Whitey by Benjamin Schwartz."

"It was a classic *Badger Herald* cartoon that we had run in the past and we decided to re-run as part of our desire to give a variety of perspectives to our readership," Editor Mac Verstandig said. "The *Badger Herald* doesn't necessarily endorse the point of view of the cartoon, but we believe it is our journalistic responsibility to print it."

The cartoon at issue shows a figure, apparently intended to represent a male, with his fists striking at the air says, "Destroy Militant Lesbians!" In the second panel the male hits someone representing a militant lesbian; the male then says, "Eat Man!" to which the lesbian figure responds, "My Pride!" In the third panel the male figure kicks the lesbian in the face as he says, "Your message of sexual freedom is no match for my hurricane kick!" In the final frame the male figure wipes his hands off as he says, "I've at last settled my grudge against women--and without hurting my odds of getting a date!" A different male-appearing figure says, "And remember kids--Don't Drink and Drive!"

According to OutReach's Nikki Baumbblatt, many in the local les-

bian, gay, bisexual, transgender and women's community were appalled by the lack of sensitivity of the editorial decision. "Not only does it show that LGBT people are the last acceptable targets of discrimination in our society, but that it was a poor decision in light of the recent hate crimes at Ogg Hall and with Sexual Assault Awareness Month upon us," Baumbblatt told *Quest*.

OutReach Board President Bill Turner asked as to why are lesbians still such an easy target. "Would it be acceptable for the *Badger Herald* to run a cartoon saying 'Destroy militant black people,'" he wondered.

"Do they have a journalistic responsibility to perpetuate racism," Turner continued. "If not, then why do they have a journalistic responsibility to perpetuate lesbophobia? At a time when the state legislature is declaring open season on lesbians and gay men, I think we can expect better from persons who fancy themselves defenders of any form of

responsibility."

Kelly Anderson, Director of the Rape Crisis Center in Dane County, called reprinting the cartoon "just old-fashioned misogyny."

"With all we know about the prevalence of violence against women, who still thinks that it's funny to show a man punching and kicking a woman victim," Anderson asked. "The threat of physical or sexual assault is one tool used to keep women 'in their place' - and this cartoon just reinforces that threat."

PRIDEFEST RETURNS TO FRIDAY BERLIN, MARTHA WASH AND BOW WOW WOW HEADLINE SATURDAY

MILWAUKEE, WI – Fast becoming one of Wisconsin's major music festivals, **PrideFest** will feature three nights of national entertainment. **PrideFest** organizers have announced that Saturday's lineup will feature hitmakers Berlin, Martha Wash and Bow Wow Wow singing all of their biggest songs. Entertainment lineups for Friday and Sunday will be announced soon.

PrideFest will also feature many indie favorites during the day, including Jill Sobule, Jinx Titanic, Tret Fure, MorrisonPoe, and comedian Bruce Daniels.

New this year, **PrideFest** will return to Friday night with a community rally followed by the headlining performance. The rally will feature community leaders, elected officials and special guests.

"In this year when Wisconsin is considering a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, it's especially important that our community and our allies have an opportunity to come together and stand united," said Paul Williams, a **PrideFest** Task Force Member.

Berlin is the American progenitor of electro-pop and sexy provocation fronted by the enigmatic Terri Nunn. While many bands that had tremendous success in the Eighties are the recipients of tributes today, few have had as far-reaching an impact or grooves nearly as timeless as those of Berlin. Their successes include edgy tunes like *No More Words*, *The Metro*, *Sex (I'm A...)*, *Now It's My Turn* and *Take My Breath Away*, the smoldering love song that propelled the sales of millions of copies of the *Top Gun* soundtrack. *Take My Breath Away* also spawned an inter-



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

national number-one single, a Golden Globe Award and an Academy Award.

Martha Wash is the heart and soul of dance music. Nearly every person in the industrialized world has heard her powerful voice. In addition to her work with countless superstars and her projects with Black Box and C&C Music Factory, she was half of the magnificent duo Two Tons Of Fun, which evolved into the Weather Girls with the release of *It's Raining Men*. A cult pop classic, *It's Raining Men* is still heard everywhere... the radio, movies, commercials, TV. *Sweat (Everybody Dance Now)* was the highlight of C&C Music Factory's career, and sold over 6 million copies worldwide. Black Box's *Dreamland* featured four #1 Billboard Dance singles and three Top 40 hits including *Strike It Up*, a single that continues to receive massive airplay and is still heard at every NFL and

NBA game. All of these songs have achieved major success and all have one common denominator - Martha Wash.

Best known for their iconic super hit, *I Want Candy*, Bow Wow Wow presents a musical experience that is part high camp and high concept, with a huge dose of sex and innocence.

For the most recent news about **PrideFest**, visit www.pridefest.com.

Hours for **PrideFest 2006** are as follows:
Friday, June 9th: 6:00 pm - Midnight
Saturday, June 10th: 11:00 am - Midnight
Sunday, June 11th: 11:00 am - 10:00 pm

EVANGELICAL GROUPS SUE STATE OVER CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS EXCLUSION

Madison - An out-of-state coalition of mostly evangelical Christian groups has filed a lawsuit claiming that their First Amendment rights to freedom of religion and expression have been violated because some were not allowed to participate as potential recipients in a program through which state employees can earmark charitable donations through payroll deductions. The federal lawsuit by the Springfield, VA-based Association of Faith-Based Organizations said a state committee has rejected applications from organizations that are led by people who share a religious faith.

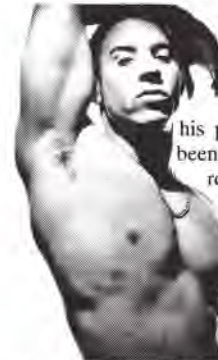
Michael Dean, the Waukesha attorney who attempted to insert his one-man First Freedom Foundation along with eight city and town governments into the ACLU domestic-partner lawsuit against the state last year, is serving as local counsel for the

GEORGE MICHAEL GETS JUDICIAL BITCH SLAP FOR DRUG USE AT GAY CRUISING SITE



London - Gay singer George Michael has been given a police warning for drugs possession after he was found slumped at the wheel of his car in Hyde Park here last month. The former Wham! member was taken into custody at the end of February when police arrested him on suspicion of possessing class C drugs and being unfit to drive.

Michael received a warning for marijuana, but charges of being unfit to drive were dropped after medical examinations. Michael admitted the incident was his "own stupid fault," he said: "I was in possession of class C drugs, which is an offense, and I have no complaints about the police, who were professional throughout."



VIN DIESEL SLAMS GAY RUMORS

Los Angeles - Hollywood action star Vin Diesel has slammed rumors he is gay and remains defiant about keeping his personal life private. The XXX star has been notoriously guarded when it comes to his romantic relationships.

"I'm not gonna put it out there on a magazine cover like some other actors," Diesel said. "I come from the Harrison Ford, Marlon Brando, Robert De Niro, Al Pacino code of silence."

Diesel claims he prefers to date in Europe, where he's not as easily recognized and thinks celebrities dating other celebrities are just asking

for trouble. The actor also doesn't want people going through his garbage, taking his photo at Starbucks or making his name into a punch line.

FORMER VILLAGE PEOPLE "COP" FACES PRISON ON COCAINE BUST

San Francisco - The original lead singer of gay icons The Village People, is facing five years in prison over cocaine and gun charges. Victor Willis appeared on stage as the cop between 1977 and 1980 along with a sailor, a cowboy, an Indian, a leather enthusiast and a construction worker, but now he has found himself on the wrong side of the law after being arrested here when cocaine was found in his car.

Assistant district attorney Morley Pitt said that "It's sad his life has spiralled down to the point where in all likelihood he's going to prison." Police had previously caught him with drugs and a loaded pistol in his car last year.

Willis, who helped write hits such as "YMCA" and "In The Navy," and who is married, has claimed he asked to leave the band when the other members were identified as gay.



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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 Uncle Barbie,

I read your column and you seem pretty level headed so maybe you can help me out here. I am a 30 year old bisexual woman who is currently in a LTR with a man whom I love a ton and don't want to lose. He knows of my inclinations and it doesn't bother him. I have felt this way my whole life but never dated a woman mostly because I have always been involved with a man. The problem is, I am at the point where my urges are getting the best of me and I really want to investigate this side of me. Is it a horrible thing to want to "hook up" with a like-minded female discreetly as long as she knows it's just for fun?

Signed, Stuck on the other side

Hello Other side,

It can be a wonderful thing to hook up with a like-minded female. I'm just wondering what has taken you so long to explore this side of yourself. You say that you have felt this way your whole life, and yet you have never dated a womyn, only men. What has been keeping you back? Was it fear of family disapproval, societal disapproval, or perhaps your own disapproval of your sexuality?

Before we address the issue of bisexual dating in a polygamist relationship, I think we need to first deal with the issue of self-esteem. How do you really feel about yourself? What's your opinion of your bisexuality? How do you feel when you think about your sexual identity? Are you confident in your bisexuality? If the answer is yes, then where did that confidence come from? After all, you have never acted on your bisexual desires. So far, they are only feel-

ings with no action taken, yet.

I suspect that, like so many other people with bisexual feeling, you have struggled with shame issues. I say this because you stated in your question that you wanted to find a discreet relationship with another womyn. Why did you use the word discreet? Were you discreet in your relationships with men? Did you keep it a secret from the world that you dated men? If you are going to date a womyn, be bold and confident! Why all this tip toeing around? I sense a lot of discomfort here.

This type of sexual shame usually develops at a very young age. And it typically can be traced back to the family of origin in which we were raised. Parents sometimes, with good intentions, teach their children to feel embarrassed about nudity and sexuality. For instance, a child may be rebuked for asking a question about sex. Consequently, the child develops feelings of shame in association to topics dealing with sex. You can imagine how these feelings of shame are magnified when the sexual topic in question is about bisexuality or lesbianism.

Keep in mind that your sexuality is only one part of your overall identity as a person. Therefore, what I recommend to you is to first accept yourself for who you are as a whole person. Then embrace your sexual identity and celebrate it in your heart. Once you have done this, you will be emotionally ready to begin a sexual relationship with a member of the same sex. Start off slowly.

Make sure the womyn that you choose to date is good for you. Perhaps you could explore your bisexual side with a like-minded friend whom you already know and trust. When you have found a deeper respect for yourself, you will naturally pick relationships that are constructive and reject those relationships that are destructive.

You wrote in your question that you wanted your female dating companions to be just for fun. It sounds like you are already limiting the possibilities of any future lesbian relationship. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with having a bedroom buddy, but nonetheless, I suggest you keep an open mind. Open yourself up to the possibilities. After all, you may develop deep feelings for this womyn. You may start caring for her. You may even fall in love! Does that make you anxious? Would a long-term relationship with another womyn put a damper on your parent's dreams for your future as a housewife with a husband and kids?

Hey, what about YOUR dreams? What is your ideal relationship(s) like? Picture it in your mind. Do you want to have the best of both worlds—a man and a womyn? Maybe your current boyfriend would like to join you for a little horizontal refreshment. It could be fun with the three of you, as long as you always practice safer sex. The two most important questions for you to ponder are, who are you inside, and what are you really looking for in a relationship?

Dare to dream, Uncle Barbie

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No further comment.

Beige: Rimming: Left: Kiss it dude! Right: may i kiss your ass SIR?

Yes it is degrading but it often crops up in our community. Whether demanding that someone submit to you or offering yourself to someone, it satisfies a needed urge.

Orange: Anything: Left: Any where, NOW!; Right: NOT now, no way.

This can be a wide open field or an empty vacuum of dead space.

Mustard: 8" or more: Left: Has that. Right: wants that or more.

While it might be great to have a big one, some times it is just SSOOO big that all you can do is kiss it and cry/drool/cuddle/worship it!

Yellow: Urine: Left: Pisser, Right: Pisse.

When a bottom has been totally degraded, the final act is to just take your after sexual activity piss and let it fly all over the sub who has just given up all of himself to you. It actually will, in many cases, turn him on just enough for him to achieve his climax while you do it.

Light Pink: Dildos: Left: user; Right: Receiver.

Yet one more way to stimulate, or be stimulated by, the person you are with, **Red:** Fisting: Left: you do it to others / Right: You receive it!

That is it, other than "Dark RED" = Multiple fists/objects. [ouch]!!

Dirty jockstrap: Left: is wearing one; Right: Will orally clean one!

Talk about enjoying Real Manhood. This will give you The REAL taste of it!! **Mosquito netting:** Outdoor; Left Dom. Right: Passive.

This is a favorite of many. It is so enjoyable to be naked in the peace and gentleness of the outdoors, with the breeze caress-

ing your body along with your partner. It brings to you such a feeling of freedom and openness that adds an extra exhilaration to your person to person contact. Naked outdoors just is so natural!

And then there is BLACK!

Black is the Color of [Heavy B.D.S.M.] On the Left is: The Top / Dominant / Master / SIR! On the Right is: the bottom / submissive / slave / boy!

This is most often the ultimate goal of the Leather Dominant / Submissive activities.

There are 22 more colors but they are obscure fetishes that could take another whole page. If you are curious, just write to me and i will answer.

HATS: An officer type Leather hat is most often a sign of a Dominant. A leather baseball cap is often assumed to be a 'boy' cap.

Keys & Belt or Epaulet attachments: Left: Dominant. Right: Passive.

These may include, but are not limited to: Keys / Floggers / Slappers / Ball-Busters / Paddles / whips / electro remote controls / cockrings / horse bits / cock-rings / and any other fetish objects one may desire.

COLLARS: This is a subject of a past article. When a; Passive / Boy / Slave / servant / Bottom, is wearing a collar (Leather strap/chain/etc), He/she is the property or chosen /boy/girl/etc., of a specific Dominant/Daddy/Master/top. If you wish to interact with such collared person, you approach the observable dominant and request permission to spend time with said submissive.

With all of this said, all we need to do is admit to who and what we are and what we like to do. As I learned during my intro to Leather, If we like to do it, there are probably others out there doing it and meeting regularly for that purpose.

As we play out our roles in the Leather scene many of us realize that this if often our true nature in life as well as our scene playtime role. So now: Go out, be safe, and remember, It is always fun to experiment and explore new directions.

to each his own. Whatever trips your trigger / floats your boat / or Works for you. It is just fine.

boy jeff H.

bdsmbuy1971@sbcglobal.net

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 21 & 22 .

'06 Daddy / Daddy's boy contest! Green Bay @ Shelter & Napalese
www.argonautsll.org/

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IML - International Mr Leather - Chicago, Illinois

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Thank You SIR: by Jeff Hicks

Hanky Code & other clues for Leather men in Black & White.(Plus colors & shades of gray.)

This is according to "Stockroom.com".

White: hand job; Left: do me / Right: i want to do us both.

This can be loads of fun. Just imagine how many ways you can use your hands to touch, stimulate, eroticize, explore, and be safe, all at the same time.

Gray: Bondage; Left i will tie you / Right Tie me down !!

This can be simple tying of hands, all the way to the complexities of oriental Shibari, with extensive use of ropes and knots to not only render the bottom helpless, but have them attractively bundled. Also the use of one or two pairs of cuffs all the way to complete bondage suits or suspending harnesses.

Purple: Piercing; Right: have Sterile needles / Left: Poke holes in me SIR !

This can be for temporary fun or permanent jewelry. Yes, there are those who just like the feeling of a needle slowly passing through their flesh; and those who enjoy watching the reaction of those who are receiving the needles. Permanent jewelry placement however is just a Quick, Short And sweet; a pin-prick and insertion.

Magenta: choose up sides and smell armpits; Right Sniffee / Left: Sniffer

Many a guy wants to be reminded in an intimate situation that he is nose to pit with a REAL man; No Deodorant/antiperspirant/etc. This can be enjoyed as either sniffer or the sniffee or back and forth.

Mauve: Navels; Left, tickle mine / Right i want to tickle yours.

Many people find the navel quite erotic. It is fun to get someone aroused while tickling their navel by hand or tongue.

Navy Blue: Anal intercourse;

What can be said; You like it-you do it! Remember; please just be safe .

Medium Blue: cops / law enforcement;

Many are turned on by being taken into custody be a uniformed MAN. Others just like the formal look of it and or wearing it to arouse those who need to be incarcerated.

Robin egg blue: 69; Right and left doesn't really matter.

This can be mutually satisfying and at the same time mutually distracting. i.e.; how do you focus on how to best gratify your partner when you are being so well gratified?

Light Blue: Fellatio;

On the Left you want it / on the right you are an

Expert in giving it.

Teal blue:

Genital Torture;

Left: I have a bludgeon / Right:

get'em SIR !

Some like to see a submissive Writhe in agony until their endorphins kick in, then writhe in Ecstasy. Others embrace the chance to give their Manhood to SIR !

Fuschia: Spanking; Left: Spanker / Right: Spankee

This can be a great deal of fun, you can do it in public or private. And to whatever degree you two, or 3 or --- want to.

Hunter Green: Daddy/boy; Left is Dad, Right is boy.

This is usually a dominant/submissive life role where the dynamics are always open for negotiation. As the roles mature they will constantly adjust to each others needs.

Olive Drab. Military; Left; Military dom / Right: Military sub.

Similar to cops / Law enforcement.

Kelly Green: Hustler; Left: for sale; Right: buyer.

Lime green: Food; Eat off my body; Right: I will eat food placed on you.

This can be anything from a full dinner to a bit of P B J or just whipped cream; all over the body or just in 'special' places.

Lavender: Drag; Left: Likes Drag / Right: Is a Drag.

Rust: Cowboys; Left: Cowboy; Right: his horse.

Yes, I have known such people. The Dom. likes to ride his pony/boy like a real horse, and the sub loves to be bridled/saddled/ridden just like a horse/pony. Some subs also like to have intimate contact with a 'real' Horse. Others are only in 'Animae', the role playing as animals to achieve satisfaction.

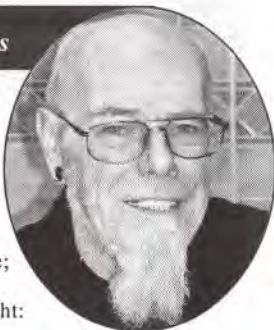
Chamois: Motorcycles; Left: has one; Right: wants a biker.

Some guys just get off on motorcyclists. what else can you say.

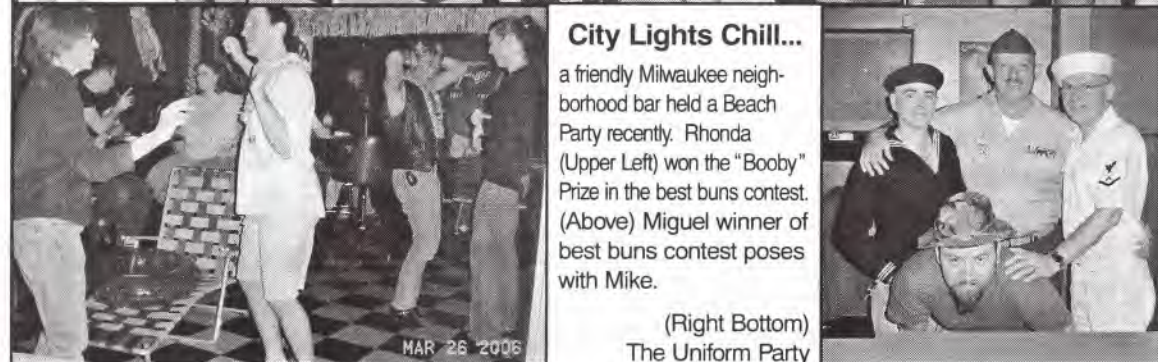
Brown lace/satin: lace = uncut / satin = cut. Left you are / Right you want it.

We all have our preferences. why? Who knows. Just enjoy what works.

Brown: Scat, dirt, feces. Left: you give it / Right: you want to get it.



Tammy Baldwin & friends at the Red Ribbon Affair, Monona Terrace in Madison on March 31, 2006.



City Lights Chill...

a friendly Milwaukee neighborhood bar held a Beach Party recently. Rhonda (Upper Left) won the "Booby" Prize in the best buns contest. (Above) Miguel winner of best buns contest poses with Mike.

(Right Bottom)
The Uniform Party

The Shelter's Presents:

Glow!

Free
Glow Sticks

Party Time 10pm

April 28, 2006

\$2 Shelter Bazooka Shots

\$2 Domestic Bottles

\$2 Captain & Cokes

**\$9 Fallout Drink Bust
9pm-1am**

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Green Bay, WI

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\$200 IN CASH & PRIZES

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TUE. - \$1 CANS OF PABST

WED. - BAD BOYS NIGHT OUT

THUR. - \$3 TALL SMIRNOFF FLAVORED COCKTAILS

FRI. - \$5 BEER BUST 5-9PM

SAT. - DJ EDDIE

SUN. - OPEN 1 PM WITH 2-4-1 ALL DAY & NIGHT

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