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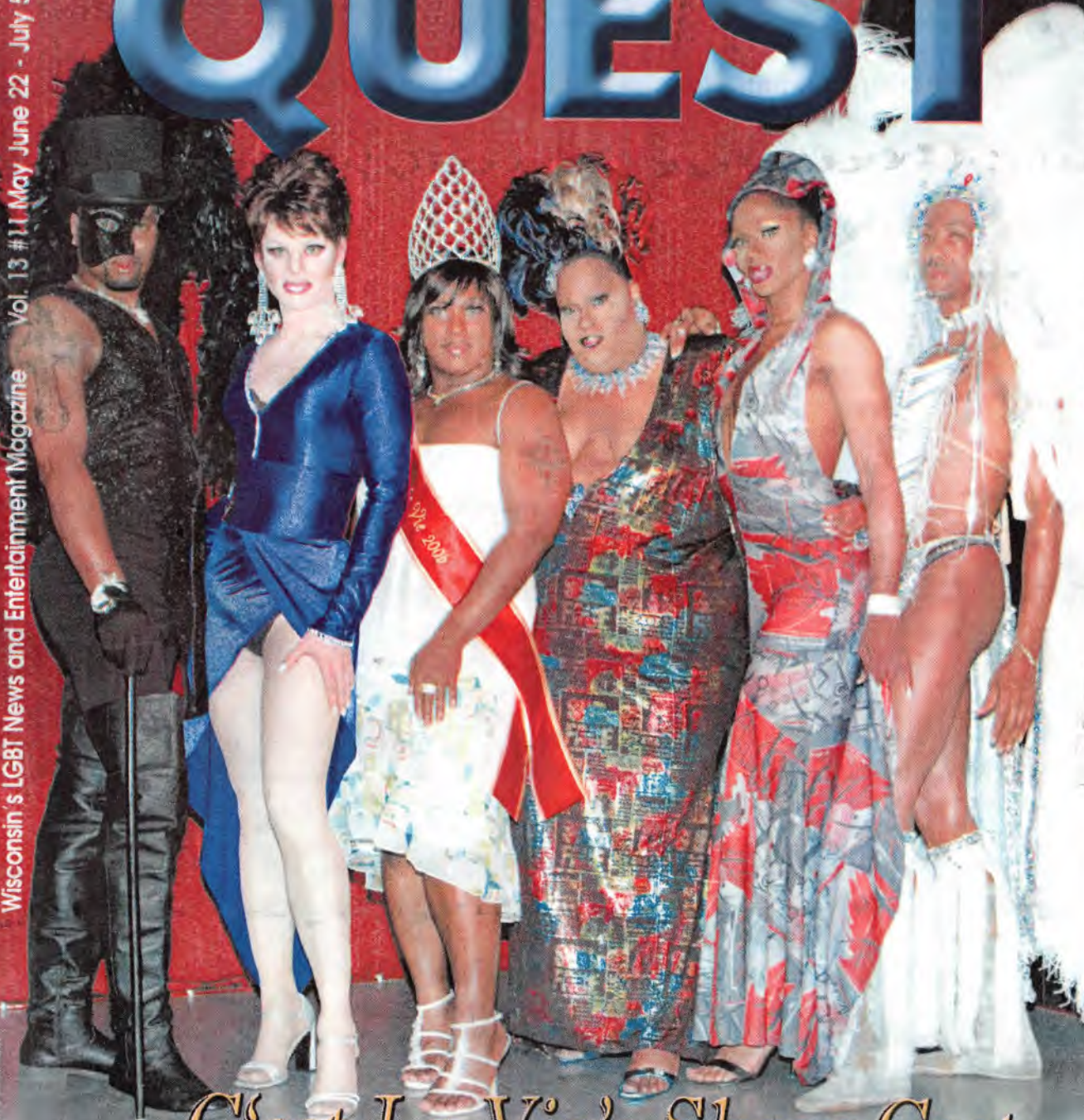
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older men out there? DTleemilw@aol.com

I seek TSs, TVs + she-males in the **Milwaukee** area for kinky fun. Write to: KV, PO Box 371042, Milwaukee, WI 53237-2142

BiWM, 52, cute body, penchant for wearing panties while giving/receiving oral pleasure. Private, submissive, exhibitionist, loyal, fun at parties, passionate in bed. Seeking LTR w/ somewhat dominant WM who'd like frequent sensual attentiveness. www.BJ4U2NJOY@yahoo.com

Milwaukee-Racine-Kenosha guys wanted to model nude, alone or with other males. Nice pay for students! (414)989-3012 after 8pm.

Male in **Milwaukee**, 5'10", 195, br/hazel, 7" cut thick looking for passable TV, TS or CD for who knows what else. (262) 880-1198 or e-mail packyspub@yahoo.com. Hope to meet someone soon. Keith. [2]

Dominant female w/ attractive fit 40s hung submissive bi male slave. Seek kinky, dominant males, females who'd like to borrow him for oral servitude, domination, discipline, slave training. All interested write Boxholder, 1528 S. Koeller Rd. (PMB 340), **Oshkosh**, WI 54902 [2]

Mature Hispanic male, 100% bottom, 5'6", 158 lbs., br/br, 6.5" endowment, hot rear, looks for mature 100% top w. his very private space in the **Milwaukee** area. For details manuel60@planetout.com [2]

Crossdresser in mid 50s looking to service women 40-50s. Let me give you some of the oral fun you've been missing. Open-minded looking for same. E-mail Dianne572006@yahoo.com [2]

Where are you? GWM, 42, slim, drug free, HIV+, work ethic, clean, carefree. If life is valued, it can be shared. Once farm boy, city now (small town). If you're slim, drug free, 25-50 (race not an issue), contact (651) 335-

5179, 42 miles to Milwaukee. [2]

Bi WM ISO discreet relationship - male or female - in the **Kenosha** area. I'm 40, 6'2", 175 lbs., athletic Italian male, good looking, straight acting. Magiccapet16@yahoo.com

Stevens Point, 45, 5'9", BiWM seeks similar (BiM, M/F) to meet occasionally for oral exchange. Your place, discretion, no games, short and sweet. Very simple. You know the point. E-mail oukster8@yahoo.com or TS, PO Box 632, Plover, WI 544657 [2]

Mature leather guy, 6', 200 lbs., versatile, looking for regular partner/boyfriend for safe imaginative play, manly physical affection and friendship. Should be 30-50, gay, single, decent build, D/D free, own place, serious. **Milwaukee** area. (262) 253-0267 evenings.

White mature couple (F & M) searching for bi female, can be curious, single, married, discretion assured. Female is handicapped, male can join if wished ... or whatever? We are open-minded, safe, sane, drug & disease free, open to all ages, race & love sensuous erotic times. **Milwaukee**. (414) 788-4908 9am-9pm [2]

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** [2]

Older Master seeking GWM 18 or 19 to be stripped naked for pleasure. If older, do not call. No pain, just pleasure. Be no taller than 5'8", no heavier than 140 lbs, must be disease free with a clean clear body. No fatties, heavy drinkers, smokers or dopers. **Kenosha/Racine/Milwaukee** area. Sailors welcome. (262) 658-8567 any time. Ask for Luke. [2]

Fun kind-hearted loyal professional 52 y.o. GWM desires friends/partner to share life

with. Likes snowmobiling, 4-wheeling, boating, motorecycling, fishing, hunting, playing cards & watching movies at home. Prefer young bottoms. **Tomah area w/ place in Rhinelander** also. (608) 427-2269 or brownie3@mwml.net [2]

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

Naked in your presence! Versatile, but submissive, seeks 1-on-1 or penpals for d/s encounters. Me: 55+, tall, thick c---, obedient, healthy, educated, discreet, need place to play. Touch me, s--- me, kiss me, spank me, make me surrender. You are over 60, strong, conservative; endowment makes me drop to my knees, build relationship. Shannon, PMB#130, 10238 W. National Ave., **West Allis**, WI 53227 [3]

Seeking friends for friendship & more. I do rubdowns and more. Best time call is 1-10 pm weekdays only, no weekends or late nights. (920) 707-6467 [3]

GWM., 50 yrs. young, wishes to meet others 40-60. I like to s--- and get f---, am hairy, 180 lbs., 7" thick, a multiple cummer. Have place for the weekend. GWM bikers need a place for your fall ride....stay with me! Send pics & phone # to: Jim, 216 1/2 Wisconsin Ave. (Apt. 1), **Tomahawk**, WI 54487. (715) 453-4519 after 3 pm. [3]

MWM cd, early 40s, interested in being someone's girl for intimate pleasure. Full time or occasionally. I enjoy all sexual positions and giving lots of pleasure and love to give head. Will answer all replies. E-mail girlfrommadison@yahoo.com

Slender bi male in 50s, lives near **Stevens Point**; will give or receive. Love hot oral sex with slender men, age & race open. E-mail mt3order@yahoo.com ; can meet weekend, late evening or morning, including Mon.

EXPANDED PRIDEFEST, PRIDE PARADE BREAK ATTENDANCE RECORDS 23,000 Estimated Attendees At PrideFest, Over 2,000 For 75-Minute Long Parade

Milwaukee - The good news is the 2006 edition of PrideFest was the most attended in the festival's history. The not-so-good news is Wisconsin's largest LGBT festival needed three days to break the 2005 record, set in just two. Certainly cool, rainy evenings the first two nights had a lot to do with suppressing the weekend's potential numbers, but some are pointing to the failure to distribute the festival's promotional Pride Guides outside of the Milwaukee area as another cause.

Cho, Fair Wisconsin Charge Record Friday Night

Chilly temperatures and light rain did not deter 6,171 patrons and volunteers from attending PrideFest's return to Friday nights at the Henry B. Maier "Summerfest" grounds. PrideFest officials initially estimated a lower number.

"The official tally through the gate was 4,313 paid admissions, although we rounded it up to at least 4,500 because we had early trouble with the scanners processing the admission tickets," PrideFest co-chair Scott Gunkel told *Quest* on June 9. "But with volunteers and other non-paid admissions, the final total of people on the grounds was well over 5,000." "We will have to check the books, but it may be an all time high," Gunkel added.

Early Saturday afternoon, PrideFest announced officially that 6,171 had passed through the gates Friday night, which included paid and volunteer admissions, plus re-admissions to the grounds. That is a festival record.

The attendance was a 60% increase over the Friday attendance in 2003, the most recent year that a Friday night was included in PrideFest's schedule. The previous high attendance was in 2001 with 4,762.

The festival's main stage line-up featuring comedienne and gay icon Margaret Cho, cross-dressing comic and Wigstock founder Lady Bunny, gay rapper LISP and a Fair Wisconsin presentation on the pending gay union ban referendum generated block-long lines of customers at the festival's 6 PM start. The huge early turnout caught PrideFest officials by surprise.

"We have the volunteers to staff the booths, we just didn't schedule enough of them early enough," PrideFest Communications Director Paul Williams told *Quest*. With a bit of juggling, the issue was resolved quickly however.

Once inside patrons were able to explore the newly-redesigned Miller Area of the

Summerfest grounds. Traffic flow through the area has been improved. PrideFest is the first festival to use the new space.

Most of the vendors were open for business, though many of the not-for-profit groups' spaces remained empty. The new PUMP! dance area throbbed with a thousand dancers and their admirers. Despite the cool weather the beer kiosks, wine cooler stands and the new martini bar appeared to be doing brisk business.

The evening's main stage events kicked off with the PrideFest Awards ceremony. Festival awards were presented to Carmen Murguia, a Latina poet and activist who has been active in the LGBT community for many years, and the Cream City



Foundation, which has provided critical start up and support funding to many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organizations, including PrideFest. Murguia received the Stonewall Award and the Cream City Foundation received the Community Service Award.

Following a set by Milwaukee favorites Pulsation, the Voices From Fair Wisconsin community meeting began. The highlight of the nearly two-hour long presentation was a talk by Ray Vahey, who with his partner of 49 years Richard Taylor officially "came out" at last year's PrideFest. Taylor, who recently underwent chemotherapy, was unable to be present.

Vahey, 68, explained how the 80 year old Taylor's recent health problems prompted the couple to hold an advance commitment ceremony at his bedside, despite their already-announced plans for a formal union event in October. "It was preview of the wonderful moment to come, to which I am inviting everyone who donates to Fair Wisconsin," Vahey said. "I'm not kidding - if you donate, we'll mail you announcement!"

Vahey explained that he suspected the couple has fewer years ahead of them than behind them, but that he and Taylor would like to live the time they have left "as full and equal citizens of Wisconsin and the United States."

Following the community rally, the night's fireworks signaled the start of the entertainment portion of the main stage show. "For the first time, they actually got the rainbow colors exactly right," delighted PrideFest attendee Patrick Prudlow of Milwaukee said.

The fireworks then moved to the stage where Lady Bunny fired up the crowd with a medley of classic and contemporary pop songs, raunchily re-worked lyrically. "Don't you wish your boyfriend was hung like me?" Bunny lip-synced to her own track, sending up the Pussycat Dolls chart topper - one of the more printable lyrics. The statuesque drag queen archived near-basketball player height with a nearly three-foot high blonde wig.

Rapper LISP followed doing two numbers, including his niche hit "Sexual Homo." The audience listened politely but were clearly waiting for the night's headliner, Margaret Cho and erupted wildly with a raucous standing ovation as the gay rapper announced her entrance.

Despite showers that seemed to grow heavier as her hour-long set progressed, Cho held the crowd completely, first getting political about the coming November Wisconsin civil union ban referendum, then attacking President Bush's support of the federal marriage ban. "What we need is a Constitutional ban protecting us from him!" Cho spat to roars from the appreciative crowd. Cho kept the audience enraptured with a mix of material from her new "Assassin" tour and classic bits, such as her imitation of her mother's reaction to the gay porno book *Ass Master*. Cho continued with a long phone message from her mother: "If you don't pick up now, Margaret, it proves you are gay!"

Cho also assisted with the final highlight of the evening, the presentation of an oversized \$9,000 check to Fair Wisconsin given by Gunkel and accepted for the "No on the Amendment" coalition by Paul Williams, who accepted for campaign director Mike Tate, who at the last minute accepted an invitation to speak to the Wisconsin Democratic Party convention in LaCrosse, which also began last night.

Along with the revised attendance figures released Saturday, PrideFest also upped the Fair Wisconsin donation to \$10,000.

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PRIDEFEST 2006

Photos by Mike Fitzpatrick



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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 [7/19]

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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

GWM in **Waukegan, IL**, 59, 5'9", br/bl, 186 lbs., ISO GWM 40-65, preferably a bottom, for LTR. (847) 672-6016, or write Brian S., 2133 Western, Waukegan, IL 600876 [1]

Friend or someone special wanted, or pen pal, travel partner! Love beaches, camping, picnics, fishing, shopping - 3658 W. 79th Pl., **Chicago**. I'll call u or (773) 569-6333. Tom. OR any new or 2nd job wanted/considered.

Male couples, I am a 37 y.o. attractive male, 5'6", 145 lbs., 29" waist, smooth, dark hair, hazel eyes, looking for a 3-way w/ attractive in shape males 18 to 37. **Green Bay** area. (906) 280-7081. Pre-op trans. welcome. [1] June/Sept. Romance (**Milwaukee**): GWM, 52, ready to experience a Daddy/mentor/boy or son relationship with a 24-34 y.o. reliable, honest, gay white, hispanic or asian male. Age somewhat flexible. I am single, clean, healthy, have my own place close to the lake and am seeking another guy to experience this wonderful, trusting lifestyle. Sexual and social relationship. Mutual respect. I can give you experience, knowledge and be there when you need a Daddy or mentor. Potential LTR. 50 is the new 30. Let's satisfy each other physically, emotionally & spiritually. Hummelcreche@netzero.net

M.W.Bi.M. 48 y.o., 6'6", 250 lbs., live in **Racine**. Looking for help with cross dressing & panties. I'm also into deep anal prostate massage. Anyone who can help me, please e-mail rightleft8719@yahoo.com [1]

Man on Man Fun! 18+ Record & Listen FREE! (920) 431-9000, code 4166 [P]

62 y.o. ISO Bi/G/CD 55+ for occasional adult pleasure. Must be D/D free, & discreet meetings. Your place a must. Leave physical description, size & fantasy. Are there any older men out there? DTleemilw@aol.com

50s gentlemanm, **Appleton** area, is looking for a good friend to hang out with. Dining,

movies, etc. You name the diversion that friends can get involved in and contact me at celestialnavigator@lycos.com. Let's spend a fun summer together. [1]

BiWM, 52, seeks attractive white CD, T/S or female for long term relationship. Age, weight open. Not into pain, bondage, scat. Into oral (give/receive), fancy lingerie, make-up, scary movies, chess. Must be at least 18. (414) 763-0886 9am-9pm any day. Leave message. [1]

56 y.o. BiWM, 160 lbs., 5'11", 33" waist, 7" cut, ISO F F/F M/F bi or straight couples. Open to all ages, races, weight for sexual pleasure. Send replies to Roy, PO Box 142, **West Bend, WI** 53095 [1]

SWM, 5'10", 138 lbs., 50 y.o. looking for CD TS or TV. Love oral (giving/receiving). Well hung. Have house to meat in. Meet daytime afternoon & late night. Phone 660-9187. [1]

Mature WM, 50+, ISO orally talented individuals to service me regularly. Discretion a MUST! Respond with phone # & best time to call to PMB#143, 1528 S. Koeller, **Oshkosh, WI** 54902. [1]

SE Wisc. married bi male, 60, 5'10", 190, well endowed (thick uncut 7.5") ISO others for clean, safe, discreet adult activities. Will exchange photos. John, PO Box 391, **West Bend, WI** 53095. [1]

18/28 female and male couple looking to share some fun in the bedroom with up to 2 other girls, just straight up sex, no mess. Interested, please email us at Shadowangel045@mail.com (will email pics); hope to hear from you soon! [1]

62 y.o. ISO Bi/G/CD for occasional adult pleasure, must be D/D free. Discreet meetings. Your place a must. Leave physical description, size and fantasy. Are there any

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FOR RENT / ROOMMATES Room to Rent in Green Bay, near stadium (west side). Large bedroom in duplex w/ laundry & full basement. No drugs, no smoking in duplex. Cable & utilities included. \$350 mo. No security if reliable. (920) 544-5670. Leave message, references checked. [1]

Green Bay Room for Rent! One of our roomies is transferring to UW-La Crosse; we have a rare opening. Comfy, no hassel, nice guys. \$205 mo., furnished. No security deposit required if you are reliable. Dsl & satellite already in room. (920) 329-0648

For Rent - Neenah: 2 BR apt., appliances included w/ on site laundry. \$425 mo. + utilities. Pets considered. 1/2 off first month rent with one year lease. (920) 379-1167 [2]

Roommate wanted! 2 BR country home, central Wis. area: \$300 mo. includes everything. Room to run. Extra also call for more info, use of everything for the right person. (715) 281-2529 after 1 pm or leave message for return call. [2]

1 BR upper part of 2 family house for rent on west side of **Green Bay**, 10 min. from UWGB via I-43, 3 min. from downtown. Enclosed upper porch, bathroom, bedroom, newly remodeled living room & kitchen, use of large deck on privately fenced lot. \$440, all utilities incl. Roger (920) 655-7588 [2]

Spacious 3 BR lower duplex apt. in **So. Milw.** HW floors, central heat, yard adjacent, W/D hook-up, nice neighborhood, about 20 min. from downtown. \$675 a mo. + utilities. Non-smokers preferred. (414) 587-9439 [2]

Gay male relocating from Madison to **Milwaukee** seeking housing/roommate, June or July. Serious only. Paul (608) 242-1975 [2]

26 M, has a furnished room for rent in **Howard/Suamico** area. New 3 BR 2 bath house. Cable/internet. \$400 mo., utilities incl. Non-smoking preferred, no pets. (920) 227-7134 leave message or Travi@newrr.com [2]

EMPLOYMENT!

26 y.o. GM, recent graduate from the Office Technology Assistant Program at MATC seeks office/clerical employment. Looking for flexible, full-time hours while I continue my education at MATC/UWM. Resume available on request. gary.c.cooper@gmail.com [2]

HELP WANTED at **Milwaukee's Midtowne Spa**, 315 So. Water St. Now accepting applications. (414) 278-8989

Seeking reliable gay male to do minimal cleaning of 1 BR apt. every 3 wks. for partially disabled gay male grad student. Good pocket money especially for student. References a must. Let's chat. Mark (414) 225-9683 [1]

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. [7/4]

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Sun Shines On PrideFest's Saturday Session

Mild temperatures and bright sunshine greeted attendees at PrideFest's biggest day June 10. Overall attendance appeared on par with previous PrideFest Saturdays. However, the evening's chilly, blustery weather sank the numbers of fans willing to brave 40's wind chill to watch the electrifying final show of the night by 80's electropop rockers Berlin.

As might be expected the "gayest" events run throughout the day attracted the largest crowds. The expanded Rainbow Stage with the Pride Idol semi-finals and Wisconsin rocker Ronnie Nyles outdrew Main Stage attractions. The Dance Pavilion replaced a day-long disco beat with a number of well received acts, especially the hilarious reworking of *The Wizard Of Oz* as a combination drag show and cheerleader dance routine by the Minneapolis troupe Cheer! Dorothy Cheer!

Also attracting an overflow crowd was the sassy youth competition "So You Think You Can Prance?" a mix of dance competition and drag ball scene. The emcee and judging kept the audience in stitches

throughout the preliminary event, which concluded Sunday afternoon.

One area which suffered from success was the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Cafe & Wine Garden. Several scheduled acts such as Women's Voices Milwaukee and the Shaia Fahrid Belly Dance troupe drew such large numbers it prevented festival goers from accessing the Milwaukee LGBT History Project exhibits.

One dubious PrideFest tradition also saw an unusual twist this year. The ritual anti-gay "Christian" protesters demonstrating at the main gate were joined by a PFLAG mom carrying the simple message "God Blessed Me With A Gay Son, Amen." The colorful, handmade sign quietly but effectively drowned out the verbose bile being spouted by the bull horn carrying "men of God." Festival goers entering and exiting the grounds often stopped to give the woman a hug or a kiss.

Blustery winds increased as the afternoon drew to a close and after the sun set, the festival grounds grew less hospitable. The evening's headliners show initially appeared to draw only about two thirds of number at Friday's appearance by Margaret

Cho. Bow Wow Wow's perky Annabella Lwin charged up the crowd with renditions of the group's sole U. S. hit "I Want Candy" and a jungle beat driven version of "These Boots Are Made For Walking."

"Would you buy that if we release it as a single?" Lwin asked the gyrating crowd, who roared back in the affirmative. "Well then, I'm holding each and every one of you to that promise!"

Following the British rockers was New York drag icon Princess Diananda's impersonation of Diana Ross' Vegas act with an extra surprise tossed in. The impersonator took a tumble over a stray microphone cord midway through her act, though she recovered nicely, not missing a lip-sync.

The night's true show stopper came next. Martha Wash, of Weather Girls fame, came on in full diva mode and reworked her song line-up on the fly throughout her half-hour performance. Her performance of her signature "It's Raining Men" likely will be considered the night's festival highlight.

Following Wash's standing, screaming ovation-garnering set, Saturday's fireworks - actually sponsored by another lakefront event - seemed anticlimactic. The twenty

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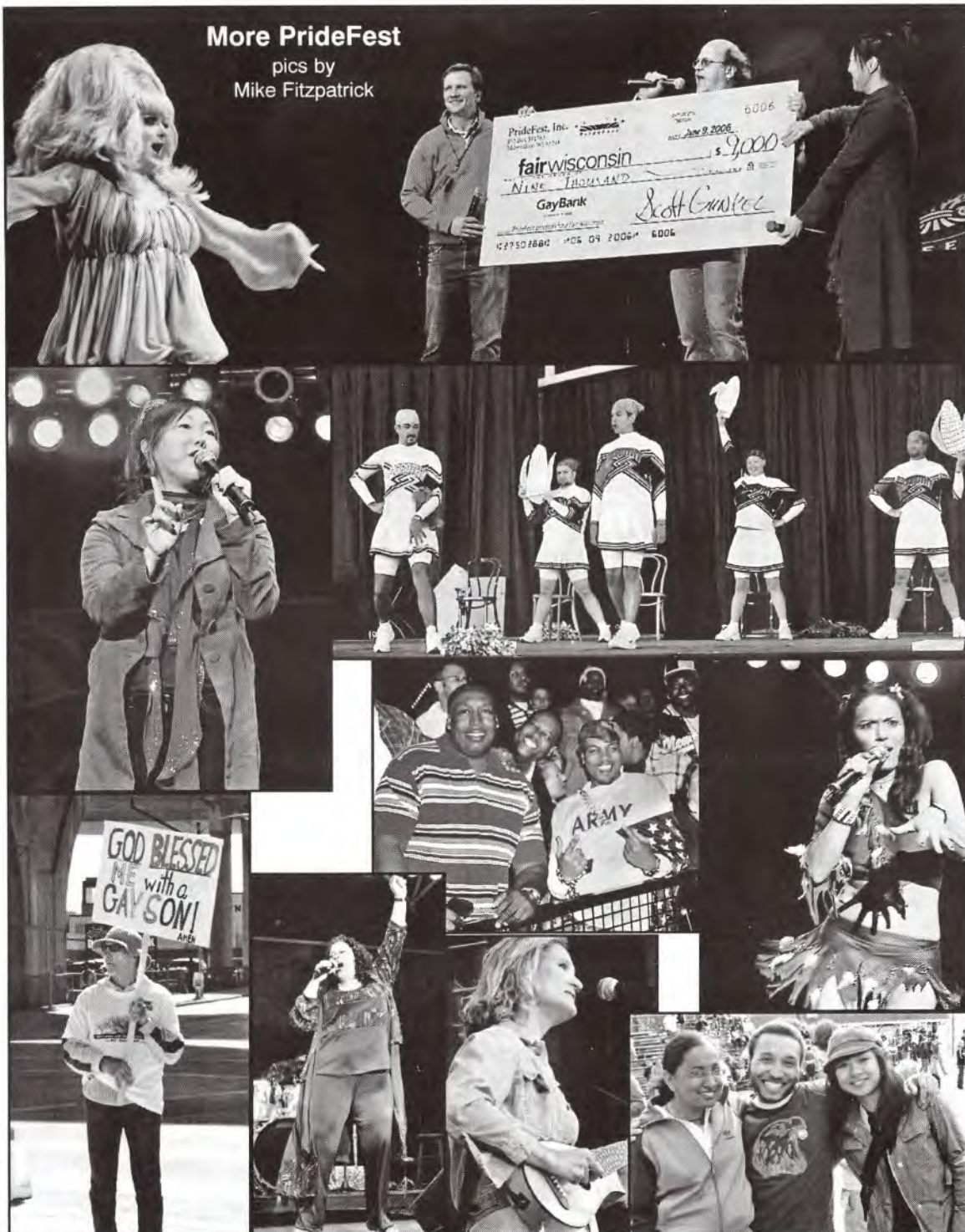
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minutes of down time to re-work the stage and the estimated forty-something degree wind chill combined the shrink Main Stage audience to about 800 for the final act of the night: Berlin.

Berlin suffered a further injustice: lead singer Terri Nunn's microphone volume was AWOL for the first two numbers. The crowd was screaming, but not for the band. They wanted the technical staff to fix the problem. The light finally dawned on the diminutive diva and the band subsequently redid the numbers. Nunn also scored points with her hardcore fans by reaching out to touch members of the crowd as she rode on the shoulders of a clearly nervous but plucky PrideFest security staffer. The band later invited about fifty fans onstage for their final number.

**Sunday's Milwaukee Pride
Parade Wows Thousands**

For the revitalized Milwaukee Pride Parade, the second time's the charm. With dozens of marching units from three states and the unfurling of a block-long rainbow flag, the parade's 2006 edition wowed an estimated 2,000 watchers on Sunday.

Entries from Chicago, Minneapolis, Appleton, Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison, Milwaukee and other cities strutted their stuff before the cheering bystanders, some waving rainbow flags and others holding professionally printed placards stating "Gay Marriage Doesn't Scare Me - Not Having Healthcare Does!" The latter were distributed by the unions representing the teaching assistants in the University of Wisconsin.

Stepping off about five minutes late with the Great Lakes Harley Riders leading the march, the entire review passed smoothly, taking about 75 minutes in all. A coterie of fundamentalist protesters attempted to lead off the parade but were literally forced to the sidewalks by mounted police. A police horse immediately adjacent to the protesters relieved itself shortly after the group had set up its banners, making an unintentional but humorous editorial on the message being spouted by the "Christians."

The parade was organized in sub-groups, with the political and not-for-profit groups following the bikers. Senator Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) offered bystanders miniature American flags.

Freshly out of the closet, Milwaukee School Board member Liz Morales made her pride parade debut atop a lavender convertible.

PrideFest tie-ins were scattered throughout the parade. The Minneapolis gay pep squad Cheer! Dorothy Cheer! reprised portions of their wildly funny take on The Wizard Of Oz to the delight of the crowd. Hunky Dante's Cove hero Charlie David melted many hearts atop the Here! network convertible.

Among other parade highlights, Chicago's R.O.T.C. (Righteously Outrageous Twirling Corps) wowed parade spectators with their gun-twirl and toss routines, the Milwaukee Bruisers - the city's new professional women's rollerskating team and their cheer leading squad demonstrated their prowess, and the Starbucks parade unit tossed sample bags of the company's signature roast to delighted coffee addicts on the sidewalks.

Several of the Milwaukee bars outdid themselves with some of the biggest, most elaborate floats and parade entires in the history of Milwaukee Pride, regardless of sponsor. The Club M & M "Last Call's



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Over But The Memories Linger" float brought both cheers and tears from the crowd. Triangle's parade-ending unfurling of a block-long rainbow flag brought a fitting close to the cavalcade.

Many of the parade watchers then headed over to the nearly deserted PrideFest grounds for the festival's final day of events. There they enjoyed the 6th annual Leather Review, the Pride Idol finals and an open air version of the drag ball scene made famous in the documentary *Is Paris Burning?*

Warmer weather and an earlier start time brought out a bigger audience for the festival's final headliner show. Both Belgium's DHT Featuring Edmee and EnVogue brought screams of delight from fans.

DHT's energetic male lead, 29 year-old Da Rick (Flor Theeuwes), ping-ponged on and off the Miller Stage, hi-fiving the crowd and passing out autographed photos of the duo. Lead singer Edmee showed she was more than a dance artist with her poignant re-working of Paul Davis' 1970's chart topper "I Go Crazy." Of all the acts appearing over the weekend, DHT was the group that most consistently kept the crowd at near frenzy.

Between the star attractions, emcee Jackie Beat and New York-based comic Michele Balan - recently seen on NBC's "Last Comic Standing" - kept the crowd in good humor. In a mockery of the Holier Than Thou crowd, Miss Beat reasoned that the best way to prevent homosexuality was to eliminate drama clubs from high schools across America. She then launched into a song parody outlining her plan. Balan reprised her act performed earlier to a smaller crowd in the dance pavilion. Her set-concluding review of the latest sex toys had the audience in tears.

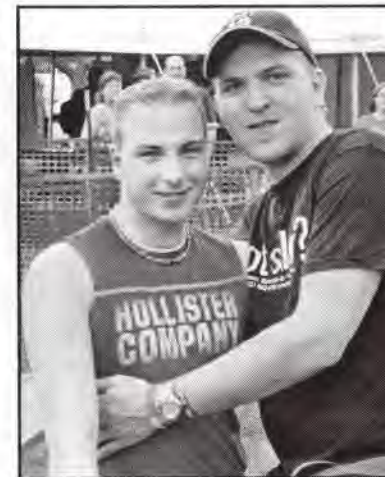
Alternately hot, cool but always sexy, EnVogue brought a fitting close to this year's PrideFest Main Stage shows. Now a trio with a tribute album to girl group legends soon to be released, Cindy, Maxine and Terry mixed sassy with sultry throughout their hour-long set, heavy with 90's classics such as "Never Gonna Get It" and "Whatta Man." EnVogue was the perfect throw down to an exciting weekend of community building, music and celebration.

Though final attendance figures have yet to be released officially, PrideFest 2006 appears to have had record-breaking year. After touting an all-time best 6,171 figure

for Friday attendance, festival officials were officially mum about Saturday's total. Quest was told the figures for Saturday were "between nine and ten thousand," which would be a 23% drop from 2005's record of 12,984 attendees when using the higher figure.

Though Quest estimated that Sunday's PrideFest attendance was between three and four thousand, based on head count approximations combining simultaneous attendance at both the Dance Pavilion and the Main Stage headliner show, the turnstile count appeared to have been higher. Late Sunday evening the PrideFest website unofficially announced over 23,000 had been on the festival grounds throughout the weekend. Official attendance and sales figures are expected later this summer.

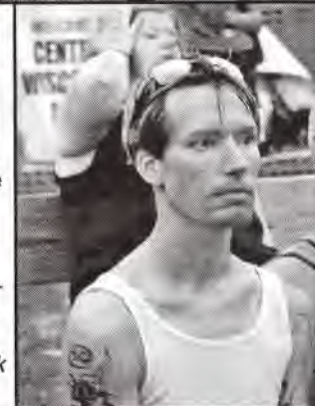
One official figure had been announced, however. According to ARCW Food Pantry Manager Randy Bash, slightly over 10,000 lbs. of canned and packaged food items were donated by PrideFest attendees over the weekend, a new record for the annual drive. PrideFest offered free admission for early festival goers who donated at least a minimum specified number of shelf-stable food items.



CENTRAL WISCONSIN PRIDE: HOT TIMES IN PFIFFNER PARK

Stevens Point - Central Wisconsin Pride's second annual outing was a hot time for the estimated one thousand people who took part in the city's Pfiffner Pioneer Park June 17. Hot, muggy weather, hot bluegrass music from Chicago's Commeal, the hot button marriage ban issue and a hot and sassy drag show made for a successful day according to lead organizer Larry Steltenpohl. "We've already exceeded last year's sales and we still have an hour to go," Steltenpohl told Quest at day's end.

Photo & story Mike Fitzpatrick



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New on DVD by Glenn Bishop **Beverly Kills**



With DVD box cover art that looks for all the world like a supermarket tabloid, **"Beverly Kills"** isn't likely to be a movie anyone, least of all Glenn, is going to take seriously.

Written, directed and produced by Damion "Fag Hag" Dietz, **"Beverly Kills"** centers around the fictional Pride Playhouse and the opening a fabulous new musical, **"Balls Out."** Any resemblance to the phenomenally successful **"Naked Boys Singing"** must surely be intentional.

Our hero is Shane (Rick Sparks), a cute but down-on-his-luck gay boy. Like so many lads to who seek fame and fortune in Hollywood, Shane is still waiting for that big break. During the day he hires celebrity impersonators; by night he sleeps at the Pride Playhouse. To make matters even worse, as the film starts, his white-hot boyfriend dumps him but not before offering some hot "break-up" sex. Sadly, this isn't one of those films...

Enter Beverly Jackson (Gary Kelly), a muscular but decidedly whacked-out drag queen wanting to audition for **"Balls Out."** Poor Beverly is obviously clueless. The producers are looking to fill their show with cute young twinks, boys happy to sing and dance but most of all, look terrific naked. Beverly, who seems to be doing a Bette Davis as Baby Jane imitation, couldn't be more wrong for the show. Next! When rejected, Beverly promptly leaves in a huff, promising revenge.

When next we see Beverly, she is collecting more lost souls for her revenge cult. Their code phrase: "Watch out for the Rhino." They even recruit **"Balls Out"** Ben (Keith Bearden), the cute lead of the show. Seeing how susceptible he is, Ben tries to recruit young Shane for the cult. And Shane is certainly ripe for the plucking and is all too easily convinced to go to one of their meetings. On this way, Shane encounters one of the cult members making a desperate attempt at escape. "Watch out for the Rhino," he pleads to Shane before vanishing. Shane, not surprisingly, is somewhat freaked by this strange encounter and returns back to the Playhouse and into the welcoming embrace of Ray (Matthew Hermann), the cute young light board operator.

Ah, here's the love story at last...

Buy it, Rent it or Forget it...

The box for **"Beverly Kills"** promises: "Sexy! Shocking! Senseless!" Well, okay. Normally Glenn would say such a film as this merits only a rental but **"Beverly Kills"** is great fun, perfect as a "date flick" but even better to watch with a group of friends. Senseless? Absolutely. And damned silly but Rick Sparks and Matthew Hermann as the happily-ever-after couple are just too adorable for words. A definite guilty pleasure!

Just the facts...

"Beverly Kills" zips along at 80 minutes and is in English. **"Beverly Kills"** is available with a SRP of \$19.95. Standard extras include a trailer and a few deleted scenes. Beverly.jpg

With Pride Season just around the corner, Glenn could think of no better flick to review than Everett Lewis' latest film,



"Beverly Kills" meanders happily along. Beverly ineptly plotting the destruction of Hollywood while Shane and Ray struggle with their building their relationship. With a nod to Charles Busch and a wink towards John Waters, writer/director Damion Dietz keeps the pace brisk, alternating the cute love story with zany comic riffs from the bizarre cult members. Best of all, there's plenty of male nudity, often during the rehearsals of the hilariously cheesy musical numbers from the fictitious **"Balls Out."**



CHEER! DOROTHY CHEER! SPINS THE WIZARD OVER A NEW RAINBOW

Milwaukee - By the time they had finished their fifty-minute take on *The Wizard Of Oz* at PrideFest June 10, the gay, acrobatic, pom pom-toting Minneapolis-based troupe Cheer! Dorothy Cheer! had taken nearly 900 festival attendees on a comic cruise to Kansas and Oz with several new twists: the new itinerary had made many additional stops, among them the Oval Office and Prohibition Era Chicago.

The antic sextet reprised bits of their current routine the following day to the delight of thousands and a third place prize in the Milwaukee Pride Parade. In the process the four year old group won legions on new fans to what best can be described by the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* as "a cross between a Britney Spears video and a collegiate cheerleading championship."

Quest's Mike Fitzpatrick followed up with the Dorothys - as they informally refer to themselves - to find out their origins and their current and future plans. He spoke with Dorothy! member, public relations manager and scheduler Shayne Woosley.

Quest: How would you describe Cheer! Dorothy Cheer! to someone who has never encountered the group before?

Woosley: Anytime I've ever said what is it we do, people look at me like I'm a cross-eyed cow! In a nutshell, we took a lot of the gay loves - cheerleading, Judy Garland, *The Wizard Of Oz*, upbeat pop music - put it all in a blender and came up with our show. A lot of us have a lot of acting background and we wanted to incorporate that as well. We've included dialogue snippets from a lot of popular, gay iconic films.

"But we appeal to a general population. Everyone can relate to *The Wizard of Oz*. Everyone has seen it. Everyone knows the movie closely. And cheerleading is loved by gay men, lesbians, soccer moms, children, teenagers - well, everybody.

Quest: Has the routine stayed the same from year to year? Or do you freshen it?

Woosley: Every year we've added something. The organization Cheer! Dorothy Cheer! has been around for four years. The



first year there were only three squad members and they only did a fifteen minute set - four dance routines and that was it. They were playing every little character, doing every little dance and after fifteen minutes of show they were worn out.

Every year we've gained another member and added a different character. This year is our biggest improvement. We went from a thirty minute show to a fifty minute show. We added a lot of dialogue, put a lot of acting into it so we could stay true to the continuity and actually tell a story. It was more like a play than a cabaret number that we could put in the middle of a drag show.

Quest: How many members are in the Dorothys?

Woosley: We have six dance members. We have two road crew. We have a legal liaison and a chef.

Quest: A chef?

Woosley: Of course, it's a gay group darlin'!

Quest: And now you have every color of the gay rainbow.

Woosley: Yes, we have every color in the gay flag. Our new uniforms are based on that color scheme. (Cheerleading outfitter) Varsity Spirit was very willing to work with us. Normally you have to buy uniforms like in ten or more. They worked wonderfully with us and sold us one in each color.

Quest: Now that you've conquered PrideFest and the Pride Parade, where are you setting your sights next?

Woosley: Well, we always aim high. I'm the booking manager and next February I'll

start booking our 2007 season. Once we get our show resume together, there's no telling where we can go. We've already played at the Mall of America, we've done fashion shows for Macy's department stores, and more. This show fits everywhere. Everyone either loves the cheerleading aspect or the storyline or just the fact that we're gay and beautiful!

Quest: And the twisted humor certainly helped. At PrideFest

the audience just grew and grew as your act progressed. It was like salty peanuts. You sampled one and you had to finish the whole bowl!

Woosley: We get that at a lot of our venues. At the Minnesota AIDS Walk, they actually had to get extra police at our rest stop to keep the crowd moving and to get them off the walking route because we had accumulated so many watchers to our area!

Quest: And I also see that you are also a not-for-profit group.

Woosley: Yes, we are a not-for-profit organization. We cover our basic expenses and everything else we donate to our charities. A promotional videographer who saw us at an event has volunteered his time and services. Next year he'll be putting together a brief DVD so people can see where we've been and what we do. So now when we say, "Sure, we played the Xcel Center (the premiere concert venue in St. Paul)" we'll actually have proof!

Quest: Well, people at PrideFest and the Pride Parade certainly love you. What was your take on PrideFest?

Woosley: Ever since I attended PrideFest a couple of years ago, I have said "This is how Pride should be done!" We really had a wonderful time. Everybody we came in contact with was so nice, friendly, supportive and professional. They were just wonderful! We just loved it. I just hope we get to come back to the Milwaukee area sometime soon! Book us now before we have our own sitcom! Please visit www.cheerdorothycheer.com!

ANTI-GAY MARRIAGE AMENDMENT FAILS IN SENATE

Washington, DC - Senate Republicans overwhelmingly failed on June 7 in their effort to amend the Constitution to ban gay marriage and force all states to recognize the institution solely as the union between a man and a woman.

The vote was the first in a series of issues designed to fire up the party's conservative base in advance of the November congressional elections. Senators immediately turned to a debate over eliminating the estate tax and plan to move shortly after that to a proposed constitutional amendment prohibiting flag burning.

But some conservatives questioned whether the trifecta of hot-button issues would impress voters when senators could muster just 49 votes to ban gay marriage. They needed 60 votes to clear the procedural hurdle and 67 votes to actually approve the amendment.

Democrats appeared to feel no fear in opposing the measure as they strenuously complained that Republicans were wasting the Senate's time and ignoring far more pressing issues, such as rising gas prices, unaffordable health care costs and the war in Iraq.

According to Paul Weyrich, chairman of the conservative think tank Free Congress Foundation, conservatives were unimpressed by the failed marriage amendment and unlikely to be inspired by the flag issue. "Flag burning is not something that is of great interest among the values voters, the crowd that really pushed Bush over the top in 2004," told the *Chicago Tribune's* Jill Zuckman. "It's not that they're against it, it's just not something that they're going to jump up and down and say, 'Oh, wow, they passed it.'"

Weyrich believes conservatives are more concerned about immigration and angry at the lack of progress to secure U.S. borders. "They don't have warm feelings toward Republicans," he said.

Democratic Leadership Council scholar Marshall Wittmann felt the anti-gay legislation would do little to assuage conservatives who feel neglected and upset about runaway federal spending and immigration. "There's too much damage to the relationship for it to matter much now," Wittmann said. "It's sort of like a marriage that's been on the ropes and the husband suddenly comes home with some flowers and the wife says you could have done this a

few years ago."

Predictably, President Bush expressed disappointment with the marriage vote, which effectively kills the matter for this year, though the House plans to debate the issue in July. It takes a two-thirds vote in both chambers of Congress before a constitutional amendment can be sent to the states for ratification.

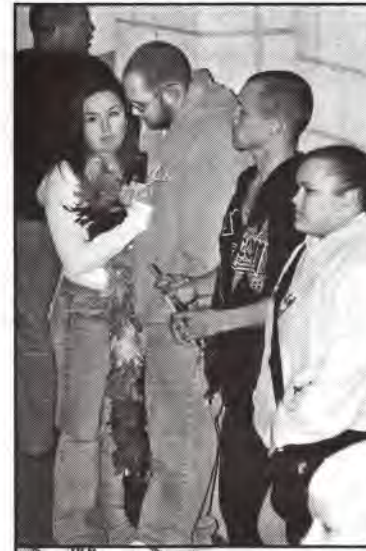
Bush admitted that was a difficult hurdle. "Our nation's founders set a high bar for amending our Constitution and history has shown us that it can take several tries before an amendment builds the two-thirds support it needs in both houses of Congress," Bush said. "My position on this issue is clear: Marriage is the most fundamental institution of our society and it should not be redefined by activist judges."

Every Democrat Senator but two - Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Robert Byrd of West Virginia - opposed The June 7 motion to proceed with the marriage debate. While Nelson supported the amendment, Byrd said he opposed it.

Democrats also felt little compunction about mocking the Republican majority for bringing the amendment to the floor. "This is not about the preservation of marriage. This debate is about the preservation of a [Republican] majority" in Congress," assistant Democratic leader Senator Dick Durban of Illinois said. "Wouldn't this have been a perfect week for us to debate health care - affordable, accessible health care for every single American?" Wouldn't this have been a perfect week for us to decide what in the 21st Century we need to do to make sure that our schools prepare our citizens to continue to lead in this world? Wouldn't this have been an important week for us to come together and have a meaningful debate on the war in Iraq that has claimed 2,476 of our best and bravest young men and women?"

Democrats also pointed out that Congress has already passed the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman, and President Bill Clinton signed it into law in 1996. And they noted that a recent Gallup poll showed the gay marriage ban tied for 33rd place on a list ranking the most important issues facing the nation.

Lead sponsor Senator Allard of Colorado and his backers attempted to declare victory despite the resounding defeat, noting that they had scored one more vote than when the issue came up in 2004. And they said they would have had a second, additional



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**PrideFest 2006
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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 have herpes, mostly dormant. I ran a personal ad in the paper and mentioned my malady in my ad, thinking it was the right thing to do. Apparently my honesty backfired, for it attracted someone carrying genital warts who wasn't so honest about it and gave it to me (how I don't know; we used condoms.

Later the doctor told me they don't always work). Now, how am I supposed to find a partner? And what's the proper etiquette about disclosing such things?

Screwed in More Ways than One

Hello Screwed,

Let me take one thing at a time, here. I think honesty is the best policy. Having said that—it is good to keep in mind that you can be honest in a diplomatic way, too. There are more subtle ways than mentioning your herpes in the personal ads. If I were you, I would mention it after I got to know the other person—and before any sexual contact has occurred, of course. This is really an issue of personal boundaries and disclosure. You don't have to have sex on the first date—I don't. I wait until I know the person a little better. And even then, I wait until I am sure that this person is someone that I want to be intimate with. If they do not want to see you again because you don't "put out" on the first date, then let them go, and be glad that you found out early how shallow they are. You don't need to waste your time with someone who is a user. I don't think it was your honesty that backfired on you. Rather, I think it was your tactics that fell short. Let's address that issue, now, shall we?

Before I make a decision (even about dating), I ask myself three very important questions: 1) What am I really seeking? 2) Why do I want this? 3) What do I need to do to get it? For example, if you desire a date because you want companionship, then you will be taking much different steps to achieve that goal than you would if you desire a date because you want fast sex. I am not here to judge you. I am simply asking you to be clear about what you truly want. Based on your question, I am guessing that you are looking for someone who is as honest as you are. That's fine. Just take it slowly. Find out what that other person is really like, first. After you feel comfortable with him or her, you will be in a better position to assess if that person is honest. Go with your gut instincts on this one. If he or she is right for you, you'll feel it in your soul—not just in your shorts. Continue to be honest; just be a little more tactful about disclosing personal information too soon in the relationship. Showing in the newspaper that you have herpes (before you even meet anyone) is too soon. Slow down, relax, and take a deep breath. There is someone out there for you. I suggest that you start off building friendships, and go from there.

P.S. Regarding the use of condoms—keep using them every time you have sex! Although you have contracted herpes and genital warts, at least you did not contract anything worse! Who knows what might have happened if you didn't use any protection at all. Be thankful!

Respect Yourself, Barbie

Dear Barbie,

I'm a middle-age man who is just coming to grips with my "gayness." I'm in the process of divorcing my wife. So how does a 50-year-old man come out of the closet after so many years have gone by?

Signed, Lost

Hello Lost,

Have hope. You are going through a different stage of life with your own personal circumstances, but the coming out process is basically the same regardless of age. Sure everyone faces unique challenges as they come out, however, the feelings and the emotional process are very similar. I suggest talking to other middle-age men who have already gone through what you are experiencing. The gay community has plenty of divorced men of your age who you could talk to. (I suggest you avoid the "bar scene"—you're not likely to find the positive support you need in an environment that is both physically toxic as well as emotionally unhealthy.) A good place to meet other men is through the local community center. As you look through the various newspapers, you can see a number of social activities and groups that you could join. I highly recommend P-FLAG (for all ages), the discussion groups held at the community centers (for both men and women), and also cafes are a good place to meet new people. Check it out. You are never alone. The gay community can be your new family.

We are Family, Barbie

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vote of support if GOP Senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska had been present.

But they also lost the votes of two Republican Senators who had supported them previously: Judd Gregg of New Hampshire and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

The bill's backers claimed they would continue fighting for the amendment long after the midterm elections come to a close. "The forces that drive this debate precede this election cycle and will continue after this election cycle," Matt Daniels said. Daniels is president of the Alliance for Marriage, a so-called "family values" political advocacy group.

POLL: ILLINOIS VOTERS OPPOSE GAY MARRIAGE BAN

Chicago - Illinois voters don't want the state or U.S. constitutions rewritten to ban gay marriage, according to a new poll released here June 14.

While a slight 51% majority of Illinois voters said they oppose gay marriage, only 40% support asking state lawmakers for a constitutional amendment to ban it, according to a poll by the Chicago-based Glengariff Group. Fifty percent were opposed and 10% were undecided. There is even less support for amending the U.S. Constitution with 62% opposed, the poll showed.

Gay marriage opponents have hoped to get a measure on the Illinois ballot this November that would ask voters if the state should amend its constitution. Backers of a federal amendment to the U.S. Constitution plan to bring one before the House next month although the Senate already has rejected it.

"Illinoisans may not support recognition of same-sex marriages but they don't want to be mean about it," Rick Garcia, political director for the gay rights group Equality Illinois said.

An Illinois referendum has support in southern Illinois and in the west and northwest parts of the state, but it's unpopular in central Illinois, Chicago and the areas around Chicago, the poll showed.

More than 40 states have taken steps to define marriage so as to ban same-sex marriage either through constitutional amendments or with statutes. A 1996 Illinois law already prohibits same-sex marriage, but opponents fear that law could be overturned by the courts unless the Illinois Constitution is changed.

The telephone poll of 600 registered Illinois voters was not commissioned by any group although the company did a similar one for Garcia's organization last year and used it to compare the most

recent results, according to Glengariff president Richard Czuba, who also has worked in Republican politics. Czuba's most recent poll was conducted June 1-3 and has a margin of error of 4 percentage points.

Peter LaBarbera, executive director of a conservative group pushing to get a gay marriage advisory referendum on the Illinois ballot, said he's confident of the measure's success. "Absolutely, I think it'll pass," LaBarbera said.

Gay marriage opponents need 283,111 valid signatures to get the measure on the ballot, and they have submitted more than 345,000 signatures. Opponents of the measure are checking the petitions in an effort to keep it off.

But the actual amending of the Illinois constitution is a much more lengthy process. The most common approach would be for both chambers of the Legislature to vote by three-fifths majority to put an amendment on the ballot, where it would have to be approved by three-fifths of voters.

Democratic Governor Rod Blagojevich and his Republican opponent in November, state Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka, both say a constitutional amendment is unnecessary because of the 1996 Illinois law.

The poll of Illinois voters seems in line with a recent national poll by ABC News. More than half of Americans thought same-sex marriage should be illegal, but only four in 10 supported amending the Constitution to ban them, according to the June 5 poll.

The Illinois poll also tested voters' appetite on other gay rights issues, including civil unions. Fifty percent of people supported such unions that would give gay couples the legal benefits of marriage without calling it marriage. There was 50% or more support on other issues, including adoption, inheritance rights and health benefits.

The Illinois poll is the second to show statewide opposition to a constitutional gay civil union and marriage ban in a state bordering Wisconsin. In April a Minnesota poll showed that state's voters opposed a similar constitutional band by a 54-46 margin.

CHRISTIAN BUSINESSMAN ORDERED TO DUPLICATE GAY VIDEO SUES

Arlington, VA - A Christian businessman here has sued officials who ordered him to reproduce gay-themed videos or pay someone else to do it.

Tim Bono, owner of Bono Film and Video has a company policy: he won't duplicate material that's obscene or violates his Christian and ethical values. So he turned down a woman who wanted him to duplicate films titled "Gay and Proud" and

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She complained to Arlington County's Human Rights Commission, which told him that his refusal violated the county's ban on discrimination based on sexual orientation. Bono's lawsuit says his constitutional rights are being violated, and that state law doesn't permit counties to add sexual orientation to anti-discrimination statutes.

LOGO GAY CABLE TURNS TO GAY GHOSTS, SOLDIERS

Los Angeles - Logo, the cable network catering to gay and lesbian viewers, unveiled June 14 a series development slate that includes a sitcom featuring a gay ghost and a drama about gay men and women serving in the military. Also on tap are a comedy prequel to the play and 2000 cult film "Sordid Lives" and a reality show that gives LGBT participants an opportunity to confront friends and loved ones who have disowned them because of their sexuality.

"We're excited to be in business with such amazing storytellers and artists and share their enthusiasm for telling gay stories authentically," Brian Graden, president of parent company MTV Networks Music Group Entertainment told reporters.

Logo executive Eileen Opatut added that the projects "represent Logo's commitment to investing in high-quality series."

In addition, each production will include content for online, wireless video and portable media players, Logo said. The series projects in development include: "The Service," a one-hour drama that looks at the lives of enlisted LGBT men and women at a military base, where they covertly combat rising persecution under new commanders; "Sordid Lives: The Series," a half-hour comedy that follows an eccentric Texas family whose intertwining off-kilter lives ultimately lead to the death of the family matriarch; and "That Gay Ghost," a half-hour sitcom pilot that centers on the members of a conservative family whose lives are changed when they discover that a gay ghost named Cosmo is living in the closet of their new home.

Logo, which launched a year ago, reaches about 20 million U.S. subscribers.



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NEW GOOGLE TRENDS SITE REVEALS SAUDIS, FILIPINOS CAN'T GET ENOUGH GAY SEX

Mountain View, CA - Google lifted the veil recently on one of its best-kept secrets: which nations search for what.

Who looks up democracy most avidly? Who seeks out Allah or Christ most faithfully? Who types in "drugs" or "sex" most frequently? No country's secrets are spared, even the gay ones.

For example, though homosexuality is punishable by death in Saudi Arabia, the kingdom ranks No. 2 for searches for "gay

sex," behind the Philippines.

For sex in general, while Pakistanis may look up "Danish cartoons" more avidly than anyone, they also lead the rankings for "sex" - with their neighbor and nuclear rival India seldom far behind, according to Google.

"In Pakistani society, sex is a taboo," said Fatima Idrees, a project manager at the Pakistani affiliate of the Gallup International polling agency, adding that

Diversion of the Day Community Calendar

Friday, June 23

Boom (Milw.) We're celebrating the release of *Loose*, the hot new album from Nelly Furtado!

Saturday, June 24

Boom (Milw.) Adult film star Tyler Riggz is back!

Club 1226 (Oshkosh) Our First Drag Show, 10:30 'til midnight.

Tazzbvah (Milw.) Our Summer Picnic, 3 pm

Saturday, July 1

Madison Gay Video Club: *Gay Sex in the 70s & Fall Ballers*, 8 p.m. FMO (608) 244-8675 evenings. mgvc.org

Sunday, July 2

Club ICON (Kenosha) "American Hunks"

Male Revue 10 pm Cover Applies

SWITCH (Milw.) Foam Party after 9pm

Monday, July 3

Club ICON (Kenosha) Open with DJ & Dancing for the Fourth of July extended weekend.

Wednesday, July 5

Bear Club 4 Men - regular first Wed. of the month meeting at *Napalese (Green Bay)*, 7 p.m. (Meeting again Aug. 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6 etc. Mark your calendar!)

Friday, July 7

Club 5 (Madison) AMBER performs live as we kick off Madison's Pride Weekend!

Fri.-Sat.-Sun., July 7-8-9 Pride Weekend in Madison

Tuesday, July 11

BESTD Clinic offering FREE 30-min. HIV testing at Milwaukee's Midtowne Spa, 6-9 pm

FORGE meeting (Milw.) *What Providers Do (and Don't) Need to Know & Transgender Sexual Violence: Unique Concerns and Issues*, 9am-Noon, at the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St.

Saturday, July 15

Madison Gayt Video Club: *Garcon Stupide* (French) and *Lockdown*, 8 pm. FMO (608) 244-8675 evenings or mgvc.org

Wednesday, July 26

BESTD Clinic offering FREE 30-min. HIV testing at Milwaukee's Midtowne Spa, 6-9 pm

Saturday, July 29

SWITCH (Milw.) Shower contest on the patio eve



NORTHEAST WISCONSIN PRIDE EVENT CANCELED

Hilbert - The Green Bay/Fox Cities area's regional pride event, held in recent years on a gay-owned farm here has been called off for 2006. The Argonauts of Wisconsin, who have sponsored the event for the last three years, failed to obtain needed beer and vendor licenses for the Northeast Wisconsin PrideFest originally scheduled for July 8, according to committee member Tom DeGraves.

"The member assigned to obtain the licenses failed to appear at the monthly council meeting," DeGraves told *Quest*. "their next meeting isn't until after our scheduled date."

DeGraves dismissed the decision of the Madison Pride Committee earlier this year to move the MAGIC Picnic and Parade to the same weekend as the Hilbert event as a motivation for the decision. "The northeast pride has been mostly a locally-attended event," he said. "Over the last few years we've only maybe only one or two people come up from Madison."

DeGraves noted that recent turnovers in membership in the thirty year old leather/Levi social group have not helped with organizing this year's pride event. "We're going through a tough period right now," he said.

Rumors of a July gay pride event supposedly to be held at the new Leicht Park festival grounds in downtown Green Bay circulated through the area's gay community in early May. A *Quest* check for local permit requests or an organizing committee turned up nothing.

DEMOCRATS RALLY AGAINST GAY UNIONS AMENDMENT

LaCrosse - Delegates to the state's Democratic convention on June 10 railed against a proposed amendment to the state constitution banning gay marriage and civil unions.

Mike Tate of Fair Wisconsin, the lead statewide organization campaigning against the amendment, implored the crowd to join the group and work to defeat the amendment. He called the amendment a quote "cynical ploy" to drive up Republican turnout at the polls in November. Delegates gave Tate one of the loudest standing ovations of any speaker at the weekend conclave.

A message left by The Associated Press at the offices of the state Republican Party was not returned. In the history of the statewide ballot measures around the country over the last two years, the Wisconsin Democratic Party was the first statewide Democrat organization to come out officially against such bans.

The Wisconsin Democrats were joined a day later when the Minnesota Democrat Farmer Labor Party (DFL) meeting in Rochester added its official opposition to a similar constitutional amendment proposed in that state. The DFL-controlled State Senate rejected Republican attempts to pass the proposal earlier this year.

Quest

JUDGE: "MINISTER'S MURDER WAS HATE CRIME"

Milwaukee - The 2005 shotgun slaying of a Milwaukee minister by two men, allegedly justified because the minister had made sexual advances toward one of them, qualified as a hate crime, though none was charged, a judge said June 16.

"I can come to no other conclusion. Mr. Ward's suspicion or belief that Mr. Jemison was gay was a factor in the commission of the crime," Judge Charles F. Kahn said while sentencing Marcus Christopher Ward II and Marchand L. Grady respectively to life and 22 years in prison. Both originally had been charged with first degree intentional homicide.

The 21 year old Ward, who had been taken in by the minister and lived in the his basement, pleaded guilty to first-degree reckless homicide in the killing of Allen K. Jemison. At trial, Ward had testified that he had convinced Grady to actually shoot the 46 year old man. Grady was convicted of first-degree intentional homicide last March after a jury trial.

Ward, who had changed his story to police several times about his relationship with Jemison, moved into Jemison's home in 2003. According to the criminal complaint, Jemison was killed in his bed by two blasts from a sawed-off shotgun in May 2005. The slaying was discovered when Jemison's body was found by his father.

Ward apologized to Jemison's family at the sentencing, admitting that it was his decision to kill Jemison by getting Grady's help.

However, Grady again claimed innocence during the sentencing hearing. "What did I ever do to Marcus to make him put me into a situation like this?" Grady said.

Kahn sentenced Grady, a previously convicted felon, to life in prison for the first-degree intentional homicide conviction, with eligibility for parole when he is 72. As a felon, Grady will also concurrently serve time for the felonies of possession of both a firearm and a short-barreled shotgun.

Ward, who had no previous criminal convictions, was sentenced to 40 years, including 22 years in prison his first-degree reckless homicide conviction. Ward also received an additional four years' probation for convictions of misdemeanor theft and felony possession of a short-barreled shotgun.



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"curiosity and availability of the Internet may cause such behavior."

The Google Trends site was introduced in late May. It measures how often particular phrases are searched for from computers in individual countries and cities. It short-lists the places with the highest absolute number of searches for, say, "cat food." Then it picks the top 10 or so based on which places look up "cat food" much more than they do other things - for instance, "dog food."

The Google Trends site is likely to generate a mix of consternation, embarrassment and laughter around the world. While Google emphasizes that its efforts to protect individuals' privacy, the new site does nothing to protect the collective privacy of nations, if such a thing exists - the right of the British to conceal that they look up "handcuffs" most often, or the right of China's leaders to hide that Mandarin ranks second only to English as the language used to look up "democracy," or the right of other officials to hide that Arabic-speaking users rarely look up "democracy."

"This is a fascinating project, effortlessly offering a glimpse into regional and cultural habits and differences that is otherwise nearly impossible to reproduce," Oxford University Professor Jonathan Zittrain and Internet expert said. "This sort of feature reminds us that the Internet is global, yet not one undifferentiated mass," he added. "Such measurement may help us understand the origin and movement of ideas as they sweep regions and the world."

In the world of politics, President George W. Bush commands at least seven times as many searches in Russia as its own leader, Vladimir Putin. Among the French, Bush generates about 50% more look-ups than Chirac; among Iranians, Bush is searched twice as often as the Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

The Google system can also be queried one country at a time, to determine, for example, how frequently people in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia are looking up "democracy." The Bush administration is unlikely to be pleased by Google's reply for each of those countries: "Your terms - democracy - do not have enough search volume to show graphs."

Not everything on the site is a surprise. People in Boston and Minneapolis and in Halifax, Nova Scotia, lead the search for "mittens." Dubliners top the list in "Guinness" searches. When it comes to looking up "dowry," surfers in Pakistan and India are clear leaders.

Other findings are quirkier, and at times to difficult to explain. And consider the list of cities that most frequently look up "amour," the French word for love. Paris, allegedly a romantic haven, is absent from the top 10. The top three berths went to Rabat (in Morocco), Algiers and Tunis.

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OPPOSES WISCONSIN'S CIVIL UNION BAN

Green Lake - Delegates from United Church of Christ congregations around Wisconsin have gone on record against the proposed state constitutional amendment defining marriage that will be on the ballot in November. The vote came after a year of discussion in many of the 231 UCC congregations in the state and an hour of debate on the floor of the denomination's annual meeting held at the Green Lake Conference Center.

The final vote was by a show of voting cards. Out of 443 delegates, only about twenty cards were raised in opposition to the denomination taking a stand against the amendment, and another dozen or so abstained from voting.

In opening the debate on the resolution, the Rev. Curt Anderson, senior pastor at First Congregational UCC in Madison, said same-sex marriage is already illegal in Wisconsin, so the amendment will have no effect on the legality of marriage. But it will prohibit civil unions for same-sex couples and may affect domestic partner insurance benefits for unmarried heterosexual couples.

"The only effect of this proposed constitutional amendment is to hurt gay and lesbian people," Anderson said. "This amendment is unjust." Anderson also is a leader in the statewide faith group opposing the ban, Christians For Equality In Wisconsin.

Few voices were raised in opposition to the denomination taking a stand against the proposed constitutional amendment. Two delegates noted that their congregations had taken positions supporting the amendment that defines marriage as between a man and a woman and prohibits a legal status "identical or substantially similar to that of marriage."

The Rev. David Denoon, pastor of



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

Plymouth Congregational UCC in Burlington, pleaded for people to "enthusiastically abstain" from voting on the church resolution since "both sides continue to polarize and put this in a win-lose situation."

In the end, though, the sentiment was clearly to go on record against the proposed constitutional amendment. The Rev. David Moyer, the conference minister who leads the UCC in Wisconsin, praised the delegates for showing "that in a polarized and highly divided culture, we can be involved in a conversation in a respectful way."

The UCC joins the Wisconsin United Methodist Conference and the Wisconsin Jewish Conference in going on record against

the amendment. Regional ecclesiastical bodies of the Presbyterian Church USA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have gone on record against the amendment, as have a number of individual congregations and other church-related groups.

MILWAUKEE POLICE BUILD BRIDGES AT PRIDEFEST

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee Police Department made a two-pronged effort to improve relations with the city's LGBT community at the annual PrideFest celebration here June 10 and 11. A four member panel on police-community relations and active recruitment for open positions on the city's police and fire squads drew interest from dozens of festival attendees.

Milwaukee police are listening to residents' concerns, the panel told members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender community at PrideFest on June 10 during a forum on police relations with the community. "I think it helps us service the community better. When we know what their issues are and what their concerns are, it allows us to take that back to the street officers and say, 'These are some of the concerns, this is where we can be doing better,'" Captain Mary Hoerig told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* after the forum.

Hoerig sat on the panel with Assistant Police Chief Joseph Whiten, Executive Director for the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission David Heard and Commissioner Leonard Sobczak, also from the Fire and Police Commission.

Besides holding forums, officers try to improve community relations by participating in "cultural competency" training, Hoerig said. "It's dealing with trying to educate officers about different types of cultures and bringing the individual culture's expectations

and needs to the officers. It's not about changing attitudes; it's about helping behavior," Hoerig said of the program.

Police also told the ten attendees at the forum that officers look to reach out to residents to help curb violence. Panelists also addressed questions regarding hate crimes, Hoerig said. "I know that they're interested in having some dialogue about the hate-crime statute enhancer, and I'm willing to help out in any way I can in evaluating that," Hoerig said.

On June 10 and 11 recruiters also talked to several dozen interested PrideFest attendees at a booth set up in the festival's vendor area.

According to Margi Cargile, who works for the city's Fire and Police Commission as a human resources specialist, this was the second time in three years the city has recruited for open police, fire and other positions with the city of Milwaukee.

"We have collected a lot of names over the years here," Cargile told *Quest*, admitting that it would be hard to pin any particular hire to PrideFest, "though my guess is 'Yes.'"

Cargile felt the active recruiting send a positive message to the LGBT community. "Our being here simply says to the community that we are a desirable place to work, you can change an organization from the inside out," she said. "If you join an organization like the city of Milwaukee (as an employee), you can make a difference. We are welcoming and a great place to work!"

Cargile also noted that several of the open positions with the city currently offer domestic partner benefits. Domestic partner benefits have been negotiated as part of over a dozen union contracts according to Cargile.

NEW GAY FUND WORTH OVER \$100,000

Milwaukee - Robert Starshak and Ross Draegert have established the Birch Lodge Fund worth over \$100,000 with the Cream City Foundation as part of their support of the new Donor Advised Fund Initiative to encourage gifts of \$10,000 or more for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities.

"We are fortunate to have individuals in southeastern Wisconsin committed to the success of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities," Maria Cadenas, Executive Director of the Cream City Foundation said. "Partnerships and contributions like this go a long way toward achieving quality programs and to ensure the success for sustainable LGBT funding."

"The Birch Lodge Fund is vital to the continued growth and prosperity of Wisconsin," Kevin Loos, President of the Cream City Foundation added. "Not only does the fund show the benefit of having a philanthropic tool, such as the Cream City Foundation, but it creates a known source of income for top programs working for meaningful change benefiting all LGBT people in Wisconsin. We are proud to be a vehicle for Robert and Ross's philanthropic spirit and commitment to equality."

Starshak, Vice-President of the Cream City Foundation, and Draegert will use the fund to make a historic contribution to Action Wisconsin Education Fund, an organization aiming to provide educational resources on legal matters and other issues for Wisconsin's LGBT citizens and their

families, and to educate the general Wisconsin public about the consequences of anti-LGBT prejudice.

"It is important for each of us to stand up for a community that is fair, just, and equal to all its citizens, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people," Starshak said. "The current political climate and legislative measures such as the proposed ban on civil unions and gay marriage make it even more important for us to contribute and support LGBT organizations and programs."

"We are committed to funding LGBT needs through Cream City Foundation because we believe strongly in the benefit of combined economic power to make a difference," Draegert noted. "The Cream City Foundation has been there to help move LGBT programs and organizations forward, and we are excited to help its mission through our own fund."

Cream City Foundation launched its Donor Advised Fund Program in early 2006 with the creation of the Joseph R Pabst Community Infrastructure Fund, which is currently funding a partnership between the Nonprofit Center and the Cream City Foundation to provide organization and leadership development workshops for LGBT leaders.

The Cream City Foundation was established in 1982 to provide charitable grants to programs and projects that improve the quality of life for LGBT communities in Southeastern Wisconsin. The Foundation funds grants and initiatives that would work to establish real social change in the treatment and quality of life for LGBT individuals.

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