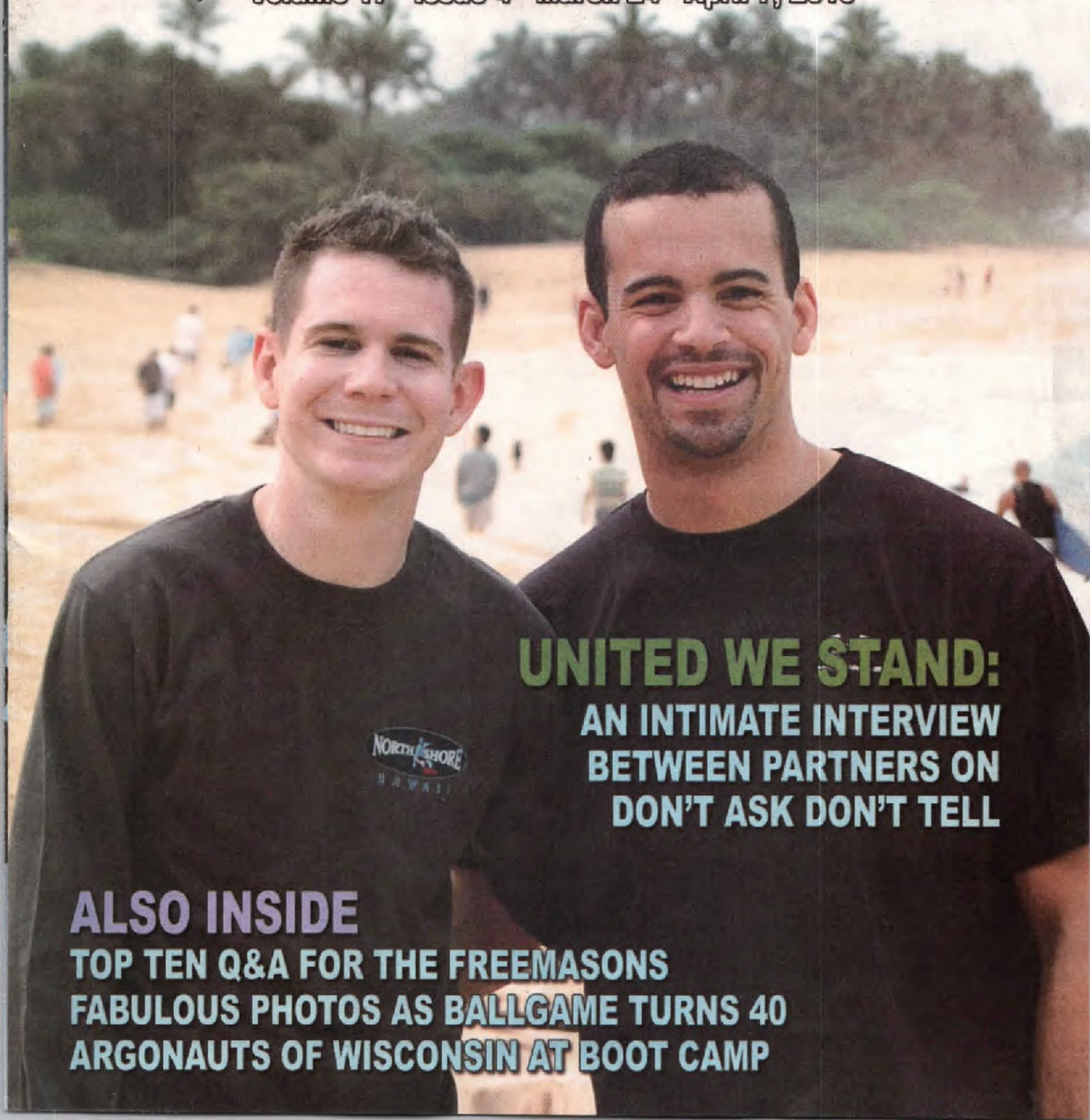


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# QUEST

Volume 17 Issue 4 March 24 - April 7, 2010



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## PRO-GAY PROVISIONS STRIPPED FROM HEALTH BILL, PRESSURE GROWS FOR VOTES ON ENDA, DADT

Washington DC - Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisc., has acknowledged the pro-gay provisions she sought in the health care reform legislation have not survived. Baldwin also said, during an interview in Boston, she believes the votes are there for passage in the House on two major pro-gay pieces of legislation. Baldwin believes the votes are in place in the House to pass ENDA and a DADT repeal bill.

San Diego Gay and Lesbian News reports Baldwin saying "As someone who has actually counted the votes, I believe that there are. That's one of the things the LGBT Equality Caucus does is to [focus] attention to making sure we can tell [House] leadership, with accuracy, what the vote would be if they bring the measures up to the floor."

Baldwin and Rep. Barney Frank established the LGBT Equality Caucus which includes nearly 90 members of Congress.

Baldwin had sought four pro-gay provisions in the original House version of health care reform, including a prohibition on discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in health care. Neither the Senate bill nor President Obama's proposal has included those provisions. Baldwin hoped at least two of the provisions might get added back under whatever legislative package the House and Senate would eventually vote on.

The version of health care reform legislation being considered now by Congress does include some relief for people with HIV on Medicare who must purchase expensive AIDS-related medications but does not include the anti-discrimination provision, the "Early Treatment for HIV Act, the Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act or a provision to collect data toward ending disparities in health care for LGBT people.

Baldwin has acknowledged health care reform has essentially held up all legislation in Congress in recent weeks, including the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, a bill that seeks to provide equal pay for equal work in the federal workplace by granting to the domestic partners/spouses of gay federal workers the same health and life insurance, and other



employment related benefits spouses of straight federal employees who are married are provided.

The bill - with words of support from President Obama - passed a House committee in November and a Senate committee in December. Neither House Speaker Nancy Pelosi nor Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has moved it to the floor.

"Certainly there are members of Congress who are nervous because of the economy, the rate of joblessness," Baldwin said. "Across the country, people are agitated. On the other hand, my constituents want

to see bolder and quicker change, and so I actually see positive signs to follow through [on DADT and ENDA]."

Pressure has swelled recently for action on LGBT-related issues in Congress, especially for ENDA and DADT. On March 18 gay civil rights activists, frustrated that Congress has yet to take a vote on ENDA or repealing DADT, staged peaceful acts of civil disobedience at both the Capitol and the White House. Lt. Dan Choi, who is being discharged from the Army because he identified himself as gay, and former Capt. James Pietrangolo II handcuffed themselves to the wrought iron fence surrounding the White House. Meanwhile comedian Kathy Griffin was attending a rally on Don't Ask Don't Tell. Metroweeky quotes the comedian who tweeted "It was my honor 2 share [the] podium w Lt. Dan Choi today. I understand he's been arrested in front of the White House. I dig that dude! Balls!"

The event appeared to be a joint venture between the Human Rights Campaign and Bravo! TV.

That Thursday afternoon, other activists staged sit-ins in both the San Francisco and Washington, D.C., offices of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Capitol police arrested four of the protestors at Pelosi's Congressional office. San Francisco police arrested six people. The activists were organized by GetEqual.org.

## HUD LAUNCHES WEBSITE, GATHERS PUBLIC COMMENT ON FIRST-EVER LGBT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION STUDY

Online 'suggestion box' seeks to inform HUD on design of historic research

Washington DC - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has launched a new website to allow citizens to offer comment on the design of an unprecedented national study that will examine housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. While there have been no national assessments of housing discrimination targeting the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) community, there is a body of evidence suggesting this sort of bias exists.

HUD recently hosted town hall meetings in Chicago, San Francisco and New York City to solicit feedback on how it might approach such groundbreaking research. This 'online suggestion box' is intended to offer the public throughout the U.S. an opportunity to comment on HUD's study. "It is critical that as we embark on this historic discrimination study, that we hear from those who may have been denied housing based on their sexual orientation or gender identity," said Dr. Raphael Bostic, HUD's Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research. "The comments we received in our town hall meetings, and those we will gather from this new website, will help inform how we might test for housing discrimination in the sale or rental of housing based on LGBT status."

While there are no national assessments of LGBT housing discrimination, there are state and local studies that have shown this sort of bias. For example, Michigan's Fair Housing Centers found that nearly 30 percent of same-sex couples were treated differently when attempting to buy or rent a home.

HUD's new LGBT website will seek suggestions on how best to execute the study. For example, how would a "tester" signal in a conversation with a landlord that an individual or couple was LGBT? The website is not designed for users to lodge complaints about a particular incident. However, if you believe you have been a victim of housing discrimination, you may file an online complaint, or call HUD's Housing Discrimination Hotline at 1-800-669-9777.

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## LT. GOVENER LAWTON ATTENDS CONFERENCE ON WISCONSIN LGBT YOUTH

Oshkosh - An event at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, "Engaged and Empowered: The Lieutenant Governor's Conference on LGBT Youth" was held Friday, March 5 co-hosted by the Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools and Diverse and Resilient. The all day event with 340 people reported attending was aimed at providing tools for LGBT youth to have the ability to thrive in their schools and communities.



The Badger Herald reports Cindy Crane, executive director for GSA for Safe Schools, said the conference opened with Lawton speaking about the importance of LGBT is-

suess, safe schools, communities and policy.

A panel comprised of middle and high school students and members Diverse and Resilient, discussed the health disparities and safety issues LGBT youth experience in schools.

The conference included workshops on bullying, health disparities, building safe and inclusive classrooms, counseling and advocacy.

Lawton who was excited about the event said "This is an issue that is essential to guaranteeing civil and human rights for young people; it helps them know their rights and that the people around them treat them fairly."

## COMMUNITY THEATER TRAINING OFFERED THROUGH STAGEQ

Madison - Free workshops on stage managing and one on providing hands-on introduction in to how to produce theatrical productions and how to be a good stage manager are being offered through StageQ of Madison on Sunday, March 14 from 10 am - 1 pm at the StageQ Rehearsal Space, 148 E Wilson Street, first floor, Madison

This workshop will focus on how StageQ produces shows. The information in the workshop is applicable to any community theater production (or concert production, for that matter.) It is suggested you bring a bag lunch. The free class will be taught by StageQ Artistic Director Tara Ayres and is limited to 20. Pre-registration is required. You can sign up

on-line at: <http://www1.mysignup.com/cgi-bin/view.cgi?datafile=productionworkshop> or by emailing [producer@stageq.com](mailto:producer@stageq.com).

STAGE MANAGING 101: StageQ is looking for a few assistant stage managers to work on Queer Shorts 5, with the intention of training them to become stage managers. That will entail a combination of hands-on and classroom training, in one half-day session. Queer Shorts 5 auditions are April 12 and 13, with rehearsals beginning at the end of April. Performance dates are June 11 - 19.

If you are interested in being considered for stage manager training, please contact [stagemanager@stageq.com](mailto:stagemanager@stageq.com).

## DAVID BOHNETT CYBERCENTER GRAND OPENING AT OUTREACH APRIL 15TH FROM 5-7PM

Madison - OutReach LGBT Community Center is the recipient of a \$11,845 technology grant which has been used to open a David Bohnett CyberCenter. The new CyberCenter will be showcased at a grand-opening celebration on Thursday, April 15 from 5-7 pm. at 600 Williamson St., Suite P-1 in Madison and will feature a brief program with food and beverages served. The public is invited to attend this free event.

The CyberCenter at OutReach includes three cutting edge Lenovo ThinkCentre computers, a Ricoh color laser printer and a Xerox scanner, and new furniture. The new technology resources will allow our clients to better access online resources and state of the art software. OutReach is one of over 60 LGBT community centers in the US that has a David Bohnett CyberCenter. Steve Starkey, Executive Director of OutReach, comments "We are very grateful to the David Bohnett Foundation for this generous grant to upgrade our current cyber-center equipment, which is ten years old. The David Bohnett CyberCenter at OutReach will feature state-of-the-art, high end technology, and will greatly im-

prove the quality of the work clients of OutReach can produce while they visit our center. We plan to offer computer classes because we now have modern equipment to use."

The Los Angeles-based David Bohnett Foundation is a foundation with a substantial endowment dedicated to improving society through social activism. Michael Fleming, executive director of the foundation said, "Our goal is to provide funding, state-of-the-art technology and technical support to innovative organizations and institutions." In 1994 David Bohnett founded GeoCities, an Internet-based media and e-commerce company acquired by Yahoo! in 1999. In the course of his career, Bohnett became keenly aware of what the Internet can contribute toward facilitating change. He has made it the mission of the foundation established in his name to ensure that the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities are well positioned to leverage the transformative power of the Web.

FMI on the grand opening event and the new David Bohnett CyberCenter at OutReach, call (608) 255-8582 or e-mail [info@lgbt Outreach.org](mailto:info@lgbt Outreach.org).

## GAMMA & MILWAUKEE GAY ARTS CENTER HOST POT LUCK & OPEN MIC

Milwaukee - Milwaukee GAMMA, a social organization for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered communities of southeastern Wisconsin is sponsoring an evening of fun at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. A potluck dinner will be featured, along with an open mic event on Saturday, April 10, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. An evening of great food and fun and hopefully entertaining performances at Open Mic Night are planned. Special entertainment will be provided by local artist Brian Firkus who will be performing selections from his new album along with his partner Matt Walton.

Admission is free, but it is suggested you bring a dish to add to our potluck dinner, and an excitement to perform. Those not inclined to use the mic may just listen and enjoy the performance.

Milwaukee GAMMA hopes to introduce the general gay community to the organization with this event. For more information, call 414-530-1886 or visit [www.milwaukeegamma.com](http://www.milwaukeegamma.com).

## THE WISCONSIN CREAM CITY CHORUS PREMIERS A SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AT SPRING CONCERT

Milwaukee - The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus will present its spring concert "Water For Life: Play, Sustain, Grow!" Saturday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Avenue in Brookfield.

The evening's music explores the many facets of water, including its amazing power to both create and destroy life, its necessity to sustain life, and its many uses for fun. The show will feature a variety of pieces, from choral works and show tunes to familiar pop standards.

One of the evening's highlights will be the premier live performance of "The Earth's Hymn," written by singer, dancer and Broadway performer Dodie Pettit. Although the piece was recorded for a CD entitled Voices of Broadway, this choral setting of "The Earth's Hymn" was specifically arranged for the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus by Ms. Pettit. Ms. Pettit, claims the piece has never been performed live. Wisconsin Cream City Chorus will have that honor.

Tickets for the concert are \$15 for adult, \$12 for youth (ages 11-18) and seniors (ages 60 and up), kids 10 and under are free. Tickets are available through chorus members and the chorus office email [info@creamcitychorus.org](mailto:info@creamcitychorus.org) or call 414-276-8787.

## ARGONAUTS OF WISCONSIN BEGIN ANNUAL EASTER EGG FUNDRAISER

Green Bay - Leavi-Leather social group Argonauts of Wisconsin will again this year host an annual Easter Egg fundraiser for their charities. The weeklong event held at Napalese bar in Green Bay will begin on Friday, March 26 with a show at 10:30 pm. The contest will conclude Saturday, April 3 with a grand prize drawing at midnight.

According to the organization, proceeds from the easter egg sales have been used to assist those living with HIV.

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**AMANDA LEPORE CLOSING ACT AT PRIDEFEST DANCE PAVILLION**  
**Self-Proclaimed "Number One Transsexual in the World"**  
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MILWAUKEE — PrideFest now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year has announced American model, fashion icon, nightlife hostess, performer and transsexual icon Amanda Lepore making her first appearance at PrideFest in the Dance Pavilion on Sunday, June 13. Ms. Lepore is one of the final acts of this year's festival which features top name entertainers from both music and comedy genre's and cements PrideFest's claim as the Midwest's top Pride Festival for live performance.

Over the years Amanda Lepore has not only received attention for entertainment and business skills, but has been the advertising face for Heatherette, M.A.C. (cosmetics), Mego Jeans, Swatch, CAMP Cosmetics and more.

Since the early 1990's, Lepore has been New York City's "IT" girl. She became a fashion icon and ap-

peared on the pages of major magazines all over the world. Amanda would later go on to become muse and model for photographer David LaChapelle appearing in his books, television commercials and other international photo shoots. She is a regular subject in much of LaChapelle's work, and participated in his *Artists and Prostitutes* (1985-2005 exhibit) in New York where she "lived" in a voyeuristic life-sized set.

Her debut singles "Champagne" and "My Hair Looks Fierce" produced by Fatal Art Syndicate with lyrics written by Cazwell are available on her current remix album "Fierce Pussy".

During mid-2007, Lepore was a part of the multi-artist True Colors Tour, hosted by comedian Margaret Cho and headlined by Cyndi Lauper.



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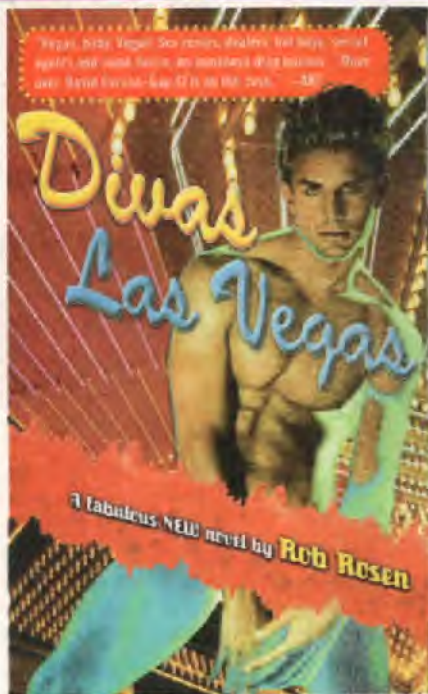


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**"Divas Las Vegas" by Rob Rosen**  
c.2009, Cleis Press  
\$14.95 / \$18.95 Canada  
287 pages

You would have never believed it if you hadn't seen it for yourself.

Mere steps into the terminal at McCarran Airport in Las Vegas, there were, indeed, slot machines: rows and rows of them in all their light-flashing, cha-chinging, whooping glory. Just off the plane, you were overjoyed. You were excited. You couldn't dig quarters out of your pocket fast enough.

And, of course, that was just the beginning because there's lots to do in Sin City; even more, if you're looking for a lost antique. But in the book "Divas Las Vegas" by Rob Rosen, an old relic could mean trouble anew.

When Bill Miller (known to his friends as "Em") lost his job through the sale of his beloved bookstore, he was sad... for about ten minutes. His share of the sale amounted to \$30,000, which was just the balm Em's newly-unemployed soul needed. The other soothing thing was that it was Las Vegas night on *Antiques Roadshow*, and Em loooved *Antiques Roadshow*.

But what he saw astonished him.

Years ago, Em's mother inherited a vase that had been a sore point in her childhood. As a kid, she was never allowed to go near it and she always hated the thing. Once it was hers, she sold it at a garage sale for two dollars, then regretted her rashness soon after.

The vase was featured on the show.

It was appraised at \$25,000.

Instantly, Em knew that he had to find that vase. Accompanied by his BFF, Justin (who had scads of money and didn't need a job), and a suitcase filled with two fabulously-sequined chorus-girl costumes, Em flew to Vegas to make his mother happy.

But while Las Vegas is filled with beautiful boys and kitschy shows, it's also filled with danger and intrigue. First, the newest owner of the vase turned up dead, then two strangers were murdered in the hotel in which Em and Justin were staying. Adorable men flashed in and out of the picture like faulty Vegas light bulbs, and old flames flared up. But when one of their new boy-toys got in trouble and vanished, Em and Justin realized that it wasn't about the vase any more.

Take two men with a flair for fashion. Add a beautiful bisexual woman, a handful of Middle Eastern hotties, and a chain-smoking cabbie. Mix in several murders and a hopelessly horrid vase, put them in

Sin City and shake gently. Open, and serve on a beach because "Divas Las Vegas" is the perfect escape read.

Author Rob Rosen created a campy, rompish, slightly naughty semi-mystery novel that is hilariously fun, fun, fun. I loved Em so much (and maybe Justin a little more) that I couldn't wait to see what they'd come up with next. This story is so enjoyable, in fact, that you'll almost wish you'd been there.

If you're looking for something light as a head-dress feather but as addicting as a one-armed bandit, "Divas Las Vegas" is for you. To miss this good-time novel would be a Sin.

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Through the years I've had the pleasure of interviewing an array of pop and gay culture's most intriguing personalities.

I remember distinctly the scheduled 20-minute conversation with rocker-turned-actor Henry Rollins that extended into an hour's worth of entertaining chat; exchanging e-mails on multiple occasions with superstar Cyndi Lauper to discuss her inspiring True Colors Tour; the verifiable laugh-fest with comedienne Margaret Cho whenever she had a new show to promote; and the no-holds-barred Q&A with Billy Bean, a former Major League Baseball player and still one of few athletes from the four main American sports to ever publicly come out.

Yes, I've interviewed some of the most interesting people alive – but none of them compare to this interview with my own fiancé.

Lt. Everett Earl Morrow and I met in 2006. He was visiting Baltimore, my home at the time, on weekend leave from the Navy.

Our romance was a whirlwind. What I meant to finish the first night it started – because of my own insecurities about long-distance dating – has turned into a three-and-a-half year love affair with no end in sight.

But just because we're still together, well, that doesn't mean our relationship hasn't experienced its fair share of ups and downs.

One of the most outstanding and complicating issues of our life together is that I lead a rather public life. I'm a writer, a social networker and sometimes socialite who likes to see and be seen. Lt. Morrow, on the other hand, is quiet, reserved and generally uninterested in rocking the proverbial boat.

Until now.

Refusing to rest on his laurels regarding the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, Lt. Morrow has made the brave choice to speak out and share his story – despite the consequences.

In this intimate, revealing interview between partners – one a journalist, the other a Naval officer – Lt. Morrow discusses his days as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, juggling his sexuality with his commitment to our country, making the tough decision to choose personal fulfillment over professional gain, and the discriminating DADT policy that ultimately ended his military career.

**Mikey Rox:** When you were accepted into the Naval Academy as a teenager, were you afraid that your sexuality would be problematic?

**Lt. Everett Earl Morrow:** No more than growing up in a small suburban town. I wasn't openly gay to my family and friends when I entered the Naval Academy, and being aware of DADT at the time I didn't have any plans for that to change. Ultimately, I was afraid of what "coming out" would mean for my education, career and future. I wanted nothing more than to be honest with everyone, but at 17



## **United We Stand: An Intimate Interview Between Partners on Don't Ask Don't Tell**

years old I just didn't know how to reconcile the two lifestyles and therefore stayed in the closet. I did this despite the personal toll that is was taking and would continue to take.

**MR:** How did you handle your sexuality during that time and throughout your military career? Did you pursue your interest in guys and in what capacity?

**Lt. EEM:** I handled it like many others did; I didn't say or do anything that would call into question my sexuality. Even though I had no doubt that I was gay, I couldn't risk raising the doubt in others that I

was. At first, out of fear, I didn't pursue any homosexual interests. The risk was just too big to chance it. I lived in the dormitory while at the Naval Academy, which afforded little privacy – plus, I didn't have a car for two years and otherwise was just afraid of being caught. This is part of that personal toll that I paid as result of DADT. I would have liked nothing more than to have both a professional and personal life during those four years. It wasn't until I reported to my first command almost two years after graduation that I even thought of doing anything. Even then I made sure I was on liberty or leave and far out of town.

**MR:** Did you come out to any of your class- or shipmates while you were an active duty officer?

**Lt. EEM:** No, not while I was on active duty. Finishing my active-duty obligation

was too important to take the risk on what someone else might do. I felt like my service was not only important to the mission at hand but as much to my future. It was a professional milestone that I began and had to finish. So the tradeoff was to make a personal sacrifice to accommodate DADT, which, looking back, I shouldn't have had to do. I've since come out to some of my fellow shipmates, none of which have responded negatively.

**MR:** Were you ever suspected to be gay by your shipmates? Did you experience or witness any outward homophobia?

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Lt. EEM: There were never any suspicions outside of jest. I was fiercely defensive of my personal life while at work so any suspicions would have only been based on a lack of knowledge to what I did with my time outside of work and why I never had a girlfriend. Essentially I had isolated myself in that sense, which didn't help to make me a fully integrated member of the team like others were.

MR: When we first started dating, you knew that I was a journalist who published articles — including some rather controversial opinion pieces on gay issues, including the “don't ask, don't tell” policy — in LGBT and mainstream publications across the country. Were you ever worried that your romantic involvement with me would somehow be discovered because of my work within the press?

Lt. EEM: At first, but only because I hadn't built the trust and confidence in you and your profession that I needed to be completely comfortable with our relationship as it related to being in the military. However, it didn't take long for me to realize that the articles you write and the way in which you do write them are of the highest integrity. I came to trust that you would never divulge my identity unless I said it was OK.

MR: How did you reconcile the potential outcome?

Lt. EEM: Given the nature of our relationship, in that we were dating long distance at first, I just didn't think it was likely that I'd be caught. Had we lived closer or together I'm sure it would have been harder, which would have played a big part in my decision to leave active duty.

MR: Just before you chose to end active-duty service in the Navy, your superiors offered you a salary increase and a new assignment in Annapolis. That presented a problem because, at the time, I was living in Baltimore, which meant that we would be closer together, setting up a new set of obstacles. Why did you decline that position?

Lt. EEM: I would have loved to accept that position, but I realized that I loved you more and it just wouldn't have worked for us to be that close together, especially because I expected that we'd move in together. This is exactly the inherent flaw in DADT, which is that it forces gays and lesbians in the military to choose between their professional and personal lives. As a result, many of us choose the latter, realizing that we can be just as successful and have a positive influence in the civilian world without having to put up with such a policy. Looking back, even though I would have loved the job and been great at it, I don't regret my decision at all as I'm confident that I'm better off for it and that it's the Navy's loss.

MR: You recently participated in an off-camera interview for the upcoming documentary film “Out of Annapolis.” What did you discuss in the interview, and why did you choose to do it off-camera?

Lt. EEM: I discussed with the director, Steve Clark Hall, what it was like for me as gay man aboard a



submarine. I shared with him that I don't think our sailors would have the problem with openly homosexual crew members as some would lead you to believe. The reason I did the interview off-camera is primarily because that's what the director required for those of us that wanted to participate but are still in either the regular or reserve Navy.

MR: Are you afraid of the consequences of DADT now that you've publicly taken a stand against the policy?

Lt. EEM: Not anymore. I used to be, but in light of recent events I just can't stand by and not do whatever I can to help all gays and lesbians gain the right to be able to serve openly, which is something that I would have liked for myself.

MR: As someone who entered military service knowing the consequences, do you think it's fair for the institution to discharge you based on the provisions of DADT?

Lt. EEM: I don't think that it's fair at all for the military to discharge anyone based on their sexual orientation. The measure of a sailor, soldier, Marine, etc., should be based on the quality of their performance.

not their sexuality. I, like many others, were deemed more than competent and proved to be real assets to our units. I just can't understand why we have a policy that forces us out involuntarily or to make the decision to leave, like I did.

MR: Do you think a repeal will happen? What political and social obstacles do you think a bill to repeal the policy will encounter?

Lt. EEM: I'm confident that Congress will ultimately do the right thing. I see the major obstacles as all political. Unfortunately, there are still several of our legislators that just don't get it. They refuse to recognize the reality of the fact that this won't have the impact they fear. I've heard comments of the repeal having an effect on unit cohesion and military readiness. I think that couldn't be farther from the truth as the current policy is what breaks these things down. Socially, I agree with Adm. Mullen's comment “that the great young men and women of our military can and would accommodate such a change.”

MR: How do you feel when members of Congress and other leaders of this country speak out against allowing gays and lesbians to serve their country openly? Do you ever feel that your commitment to the United States — and your protection of its freedom — is undermined and unappreciated?

Lt. EEM: I feel both undermined and unappreciated in the sense that it's only good enough for them that I serve as long as I keep quiet about my sexuality. If they truly understood or cared, they would appreciate me for more than just my service, like who I am as a person. It's even more distressing for me when individuals like Sen. John McCain, who served so valiantly, say these things.

MR: How do you think a repeal of the policy will be handled by the rank-and-file? Do you foresee increased instances of hate crimes and homophobia, or will the transition be made without incident?

Lt. EEM: I think that many people are underestimating our rank-and-file. Part of being in the military is being flexible and accommodating. All of us do this every day and I don't think a repeal of DADT would be any different.

MR: If DADT is repealed, would you consider a return to active-duty service?

Lt. EEM: No. The Navy lost out on me two years ago when my military career was irreconcilable with my personal life because of this discriminatory policy. At that point I pursued other civilian opportunities and have found everything I was looking for. I've developed a new loyalty to my profession that balances with my love for you. No one I work with now would ever question that. That's all any of us want, and even with a repeal of DADT I'm past going back. I love my country, value my service and would do it again if time were rolled back; however, I've moved on.

*Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and the principal of Paper Rox Scissors, a media and marketing company in New York City. For more information, visit [www.paperroxscissors.com](http://www.paperroxscissors.com).*



White Party Palm Springs is just around the corner and I've got some GREAT news for you! UK's most successful (Grammy Nominated) Remixers, **The Freemasons** are spinning April 10<sup>th</sup> @ The Main Event Saturday Night! The Freemasons consists of producers Russell Small and James Wiltshire and have remixed songs for the biggest names in music! "The Freemasons have such a broad, worldwide following and this is something I have always wanted to have happen," says White Party Founder/Producer Jeffrey Sanker, "I'm thrilled that finally the 'stars were all in alignment' and it worked out with everyone's schedule. It will be a night to remember!" For up to date information on White Party Palm Springs visit [www.jeffreysanker.com](http://www.jeffreysanker.com)



**You're finally spinning in the U.S!** What took you so long? We didn't want to do it by halves... we wanted everything set up right and to find the right people and parties to play for... The US is not the easiest country to get into these days so we also wanted all the immigration paperwork set up perfectly so we'd never have any problems coming across the pond and we're really glad we did it this was as now we're flying... Also the US DJ's play for a lot longer than in Europe so we had to go on some self-made Extensive DJ training courses. Russell's wrist was going limp after 2.5 hours, but now he can keep it up for about 3 weeks

**Your upcoming White Party Palm Springs will be your first Southern California appearance. What can they expect when they hear you spin live?** Its always going to be uplifting, vocals are very important to us not just from a DJ perspective, but personally and we've been lucky enough to work on some awesome songs and we buck against the trend of monophonic dance music and play a lot of music. For parties like this we always prepare something special for the crowd, something unique and this will be no exception - Hopefully we'll have something new from us to drop. Our first trip to that part of California, perfect!!

**How do you both manage juggling DJ gigs world-wide and growing demand for your remix work? Do you multi-task while on the road?** We do multitask, technology means that almost anything can be made portable, and it's quiet exciting getting inspired at a gig then knocking ideas up on laptops the day after. We also have started splitting the work quite a bit for European gigs. I (James) do the studio end of things whilst Russell gigs at the weekends. In 2008 we were losing Friday and Monday from the studio and Tuesday was quite frankly questionable at times, but now both ends of the work gets covered... We both always try and play together if possible in the US though - It's just a fantastic new experience for us.

**How did you guys meet?** Through a mutual friend, Jason who was the other half of Russell's precious dance act, "Phats + Small" When I moved to Brighton from London (via Sydney) Russ and I started working on dance stuff almost immediately whilst Jason went off and did his own thing.

## The Top Ten Q&A: The Freemasons

By: Joshua Miller

**You have mixed countless of remixes for high profile names like Whitney Houston, Kylie Minogue and Beyonce. What track was the most fun to remix? Why?** The most fun was probably Whitney Houston's "Million Dollar Bill" we have a very good friend called Scott who reckons he is the UK's biggest Whitney fan, so the whole atmosphere within our group of chums was excellent during those few weeks of work. Historically I think "Ring the Alarm" by Beyonce was the best to work on - we had the ideas in there very early on and knew they would work, so everyday was not at all stressful, just fun getting the vision finished.

**Rumor has is that Techincs will soon discontinue the 1200s. Any thoughts on that?** It's a shame as NOTHING sounds like Vinyl but they have to do it for practical reasons... when they are now only selling a fraction of the units they used to, we just can't expect them to keep the production line open for sentimental reasons... Also the vinyl cutting lathes are an endangered species and in the UK the pressing plants are nearly all gone - you can't have a record deck with no fresh vinyl to feed it.

**You spin all over the world for both gay and straight crowds. Have you noticed any difference between the two crowds? Do you tailor your sets differently when spinning for gay boys as opposed to more mainstream crowds?** We can get away with so much more at a gay club in terms of musicality and vocals that we recently realized we are always really excited when playing gay venues, and normally apprehensive when playing straight venues. The one-note underground styles of dance music that come around every few years are here again in Europe and we're never sure how any straight venues are positioned until we get there - we are booked at some of these places because we sell records and can draw a crowd even though we might have to radically alter sets to suit the crowd and hardly play any of our own stuff.

In Gay clubs we are quite simply in our element as the records we make or remix are known and really appreciated and it's a joy to play the things you have worked so hard to get right in the studio to an Audience waving their arms around, also we can play our own stuff back to back in gay clubs and it just feels right. I have never seen a fight in any gay club - I wish the same could be said about the straight boys.

**Have you noticed any difference between U.S. vs European or Australian crowds? Apart from the accent?** he he... to be honest, not massively whilst playing. You guys and the Aussies have much better tans and better teeth.

**Tell us about your process for when you remix a song. How do you approach it musically to give it your distinctive Freemasons sound?** It actually changes every single time as we always try to work whatever we do around the vocal and song.

For example, all our Beyonce mixes are drastically different from a music perspective, but being the same people working on them, they do have a flavor - I guess different dishes in the same restaurant would be a good analogy. We are also always taking some inspiration from the more underground end of music, be it the drums or production techniques, but most of all, we always try to make sure that chord progressions and basic sound of the mix compliment the original song - that's what takes the time, but is also the most rewarding part.

**What's next for Freemasons?** We're just about to start working on our own new album - we got carried away working with other people last year so it's a long overdue start. We are hoping to link up with some great singers, including the amazing Wynter Gordon from NYC who we met last year and really connected with. Studio has just been updated and we're all set. We're really excited this year, 2010 rocks already!

**For more on The Freemasons visit:** <http://www.freemasonsmusic.net/>

**White Party Palm Springs Tickets Available at** [www.jeffreysanker.com](http://www.jeffreysanker.com)

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## Elmer Gantry at the Florentine Or Religion, Business as Usual

In Florentine Opera tradition, two familiar and one new work are performed each season. Last year, the Florentine staged Handel's *Semele*, the first baroque opera ever performed in the company's 75-year history.

This year, Florentine Opera went to the other end of the musical time line and produced *Elmer Gantry*, a new American opera by Robert Aldridge and Herschel Garfein. It was the work's Midwest premiere after its successful opening at the Nashville Opera in 2007.

Based Sinclair Lewis' novel, the plot tells the tale of a womanizing Bible college jock in small town Missouri, Elmer Gantry (Keith Phares, in his Florentine debut). Elmer exploits his popularity and takes up evangelism as a tool of seduction and business opportunity. Along the way, Elmer finds Sharon Falconer (Patricia Risley, in her Florentine debut), an itinerant tent evangelist (based on the famous Aimee Semple McPherson). He abandons Lulu (Heather Buck), his secret affair, to pursue Sharon, the better business bet. Elmer manages Sharon's revivals and campaign to build a tabernacle church. He plays on her loneliness and she accepts his marriage proposal.

Elmer's business acumen employs the use of new fangled technology – in this case, the simple light bulb – to impress the masses as part of the tabernacle's grand opening show. But that becomes his undoing when the electrical circuitry is overloaded and a conflagration immolates Sharon and the congregation. Elmer escapes. He's momentarily haunted by Sharon's memory, but then moves on to pursue

business as usual with the "New Thought" religious movement.

Sound familiar? Lewis' novel's scandalous social statement nearly a century ago is muted in light of today's daily parade of fallen preachers and family-value politicians. But, the opera certainly serves up a reminder that old time religion flim-flam scams haven't changed at all. It was as much a part of the American experience then as it is now.

The American take on religion is perfect subject matter for an opera. But, there may be more of a message for the LGBT community as well. It's how the new target in the strategy of selling God to the masses.

The opera is set early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Kris Stone's scenery design used massive photo images to create effects and moods. A big sky recalls rural America and an image of huge roses becomes wallpaper for a city hotel room as well as a symbol of Sharon's developing love for Elmer. A massive marquee-like cross sets the tabernacle scene.

Costumes were 1910-ish standard fare. Sharon first appears as the tent evangelist in an angelic white dress with wing-like sleeves. Later, swept into Elmer's mega-church commercialism, she wears an extravagant golden cope, the white still underneath. Her purity remains but she has been corrupted.

There's a hint of Copland in the music's grandeur. There were beautiful duets between Elmer and



Sharon. Each of the leads sang strong arias but Patricia Risley especially impressed with her sincerity and dramatic power. Scott Steward's chorus members delivered tight gospel choral work and though that broadened the musical dimension, their uneven hand clapping to some of the hymns compromised both rhythm and their energy.

Still, it's a new work. Milwaukee opera lovers may not have been entirely comfortable with its unfamiliarity and difficult melodic lines. Although the most of audience eventually stood at the closing ovation, there were skeptics.

*Elmer Gantry* is a unique, rare, socially critical and contemporary American opera. For that reason, the audience was noticeably younger and diverse – an optimistic sign that a new American repertory may, in fact, attract a new demographic to fill the house.

The Florentine Opera has made a major stride in daring to present something fresh, compelling and political. The message was certainly there.

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## DIVERSION OF THE DAY Community Events Calendar

### Thursday, March 25

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center 7pm Lesbian Alliance Annual Meeting

### Friday, March 26

LaCage (Milw) Goo Goo For GaGa Transformations cast celebrates Lady GaGa's birthday with a show dedicated to the new queen of divas!

Napalese (Green Bay) Arognauts of Wisconsin start the annual Easter egg fundraiser off with a show tonight at 10:30 pm

SAGE (Milwaukee) Movie Night 6pm

### Saturday, March 27

LaCage (Milw) Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA Newcomer Pageant 9pm

Fluid (Milwaukee) Softball Beer Bingo 4pm

ICON (Kenosha) Ronnie Nyles live

LGBT Center of Chippewa Valley Book Club "Whipping girl" 6-9pm Host, Amanda

Napales (Green Bay) BearClub4Men "Spring Thaw/Toga Party" at 9:00pm. Free food, beer bust, \$1 raffle to support ARCW or get a ticket by donating a nonperishable household item. And you can RENT A TOGA [www.BC4M.com](http://www.BC4M.com)

### Tuesday, March 30

SAGE (Milwaukee) Canasta Night

Outwords Books (Milwaukee) 7pm Publication Party for author C.P. Rowlands new book, "Collision Course"

### Saturday, April 3

Madison Gay Video Club "Mr. Right" (Wolfe Rel., dir. David & Jacqui Morris, 2009) "Pizza Boy Gangbang" (Jet Set Men) 8 PM, [www.mgvc.org](http://www.mgvc.org), 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Napales (Green Bay) Argonauts of Wisconsin Easter Egg fundraiser ends with grand prize drawing at midnite tonight.

### Easter Sunday, April 4

Ballgame (Milwaukee) Food & Drink Specials

### Friday April 9

Napalese (Green Bay) Arognauts Club night Beer Bust, raffle & prizes Best buns contest.

### Sunday, April 11

Kruz (Milw) Castaways Beer Bust 3-7 pm "Spring Fling"

### Friday, April 16

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center The Vagina Monologues 7:30 pm tickets \$15 general, \$10 students

Napalese (Green Bay) Arognauts Club night Beer Bust, raffle & prizes. Meet the judges for the Daddy/Boy/Grand-daddy contest.

### Saturday, April 17

Cream City Chorus (Unitarian Universalist Church West 13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield. Spring Concert: "Water for Life: Play, Sustain, Grow!" 7:30pm Tickets: \$15 Adult, \$13 Senior or Youth, children 10 and under free.

Madison Gay Video Club "The Big Gay Musical" (Breaking Glass, dir. Andreas & Caruso, 2009) "Morning Wood" (Falcon Studios) 8 PM, <http://www.mgvc.org>, 608-244-8690 (eve)

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center The Vagina Monologues 7:30 pm tickets \$15 general, \$10 students

Mirammar Theatre (Milwaukee) Miltown Kings' Beautiful Freak Show. Come dressed as your inner freak cover is only 5\$. Doors open at 9pm. This is an 18+ show.

Napalese (Green Bay) Arognauts of Wisconsin annual Daddy/Boy/Grand-daddy Contest 10pm. 50/50 raffle and silent auction with many items.

### Sunday, April 18

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center The Vagina Monologues 2 pm tickets \$15 general, \$10 students

Napalese (Green Bay) Arognauts of Wisconsin Fundraising Auction with "lots of neat stuff" Cash, VISA & Mastercard accepted.

### Wednesday, April 21

Milwaukee LGBT Center MOVIE NIGHT Mysterious Skin 6PM FMI 414-292-3072

### Sunday, April 25

LaCage (Milw) Mr & Miss LaCage Contest.

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**G/L Community Trust Fund**  
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www.glcommunitytrustfund.com

**Galano Club** 315 W. Court St., Suite 201 Milwaukee, WI 53212 (414) 276-6936  
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www.galanoclub.org

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**Transgender Aging Network**  
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loreed@aol.com

**UWM LBGT Resource Center**  
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jrmurray@uwm.edu  
www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LBGT

**Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf**  
Box 353, Hartland, WI 53029  
www.wiscrad.org

## LGBT Social Groups

**Argonauts of Wisconsin**  
Box 22096, Green Bay, WI 54305  
argonews@sboglobal.net  
www.argonautsll.org

**Bear Club 4 Men**  
Box 13463, Green Bay, 54307  
www.bo4m.com

**Black and White Men Together** PO Box 80395, Milwaukee, WI 53208 (414) 461-5359  
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**Dodge Co. Gay/Bi Men's Social Group of Wisconsin**  
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**Footstep Fellowship First Presbyterian Church Cjapel** (715) 355-8641 PO Box 171, Wausau, WI 54402  
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## Neighborhood Associations

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www.bvgays.com

**Washington Heights Rainbow Association**  
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washingtonheightsrainbow.org

**Wauwatosa Rainbow Association (aka Rainbow Fireflies)**  
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**Children Service Society of Wisconsin**  
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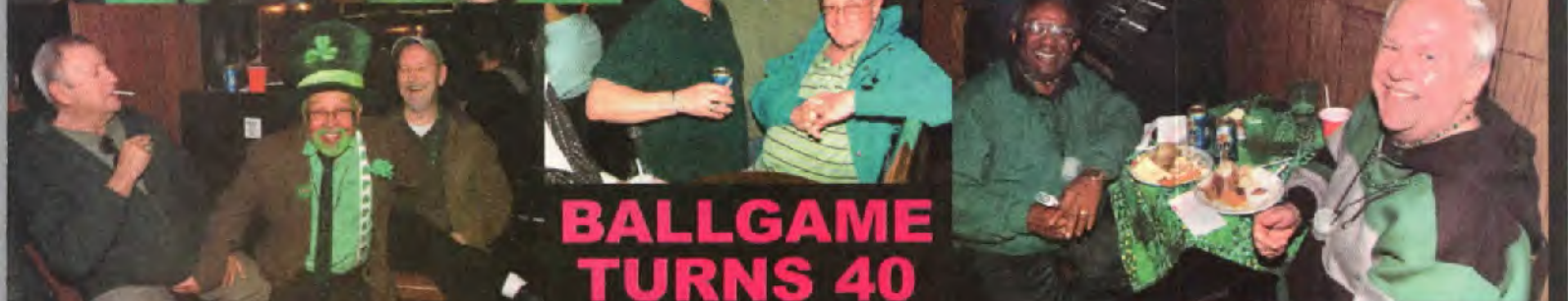
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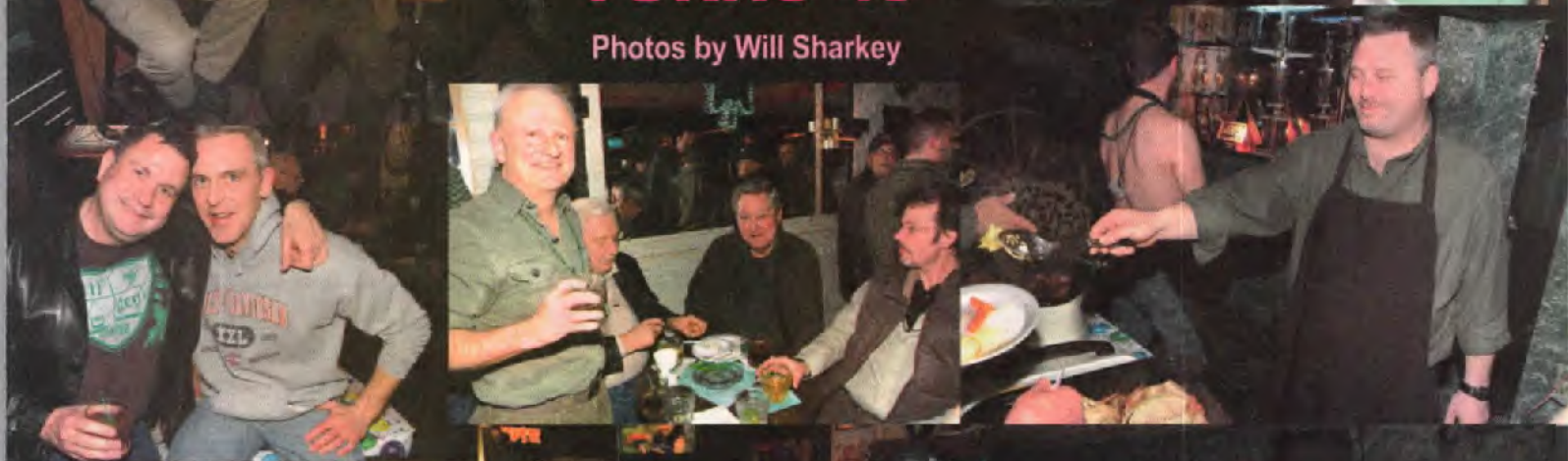
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## BALLGAME TURNS 40

Photos by Will Sharkey





(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. Barbie responds to all emails...whether you deserve it or not. Send questions to askunclebarbie@aol.com

## SCREAM DREAM

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I have a reoccurring nightmare that I just can't seem to get rid of. I don't know if this is the sort of think that you deal with or not, but I thought I would write you and give it a shot. I'll tell you what the dream is about. I keep dreaming that I am having a sexual relationship with my husband's best friend. I am terrified of getting caught, but that doesn't seem to stop me.

Then, all of a sudden, my husband walks into the room and starts shouting at us. I scream and run out of the room, but I am not able to run. It is as if my legs were made of lead. I become so frightened I wake up with a scream. It is so loud that I wake up my husband. He asks me what my nightmare was about, but I lie and tell him I don't remember. I have been having this dream for over a year now, off and on.

What do I have to do to get rid of it? There has to be something I can do. I have tried drinking a glass of warm glass of milk before I go to bed, but it did not stop the nightmares. Should I get a new mattress or what? **Signed, J.M.**

Hello J.M.,

Drinking warm milk and sleeping on a different mattress is not likely to take away your nightmares because they are not rooted in your physical comfort. I actually lecture on sleep disorder in my college classes. To best answer your question, let me share with you some of the most recent research done on this subject. When you are dreaming, you are in a state known as rapid eye movement (REM) sleep.

What most people do not know is that when a person is dreaming, the motor skills in the brain are temporarily inactive,

possibly to prevent harm to yourself and others by thrashing about while sleeping. This phenomena is referred to as REM paralysis. That may explain why you were not able to move your legs and run in your nightmares. (By the way, when people are sleepwalking, they are not dreaming. They are in non-REM sleep.)

You might be surprised to know that nightmares are actually considered a type of sleep disorder called parasomnias which are characterized by abnormal behavior during sleep, such as nightmares and sleepwalking. Nightmare disorder occurs during REM sleep and is so distressful that it interferes with daily life functioning and interrupts sleep by awakening the sleeper. It seems that this is what is happening with you.

Nightmare disorder is more common in children; however, in adults, it involves 5 to 10% of the population. One way to minimize reoccurring nightmares is to keep a detailed journal of your nightmares. Research shows that transferring the thoughts of your nightmare from your dreams to a written form brings the issue from your subconscious to your conscious where you can deal with it in a logical manner.

Additionally, you can interrupt and wake yourself from a nightmare by training yourself to look up at the sky while in the nightmare. Doing this will cause your eyes, in real life, to brake the normal pattern of rapid eye movement and should cause your eyelids to open, thus waking you. (To test this, try closing your eyelids now. Then, quickly role your eyes upwards as if you were trying to look at your eyebrows. If you are like most people, your eyelids will naturally fly open on their own. The same thing should happen



## A psychological festival of fun!

when you suddenly look up at the sky in the middle of a nightmare.)

Taking conscious control of your dreams is called, lucid dreaming. You can literally train your mind to be in command of your dreams by learning to program your mind before you sleep. How? Try giving yourself a visual signal to use in your dreams to remind you that you are dreaming. Some examples are: make a fist; stomp your foot; bite your lip; etc.

One other suggestion I have for preparing your mind to do lucid dreaming is to stimulate your vestibular system. (No, it's not what you think.) Researchers have discovered that when the this system is activated, it increases lucid dreaming. A person can trigger their vestibular system by simply sleeping while in a rocking motion, like in a hammock, porch swing, houseboat, waterbed, etc. So, with a little bit of training and personal journaling, you can gain more control over your dreams, and your nightmares should naturally dissipate.

**Pleasant Screams, Barbie**

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**"Watercolors"**

Taking time to peruse his extensive collection of Gay DVDs, Glenn seemed to encounter one coming-of-age film after another. Surely Glenn is safe in saying *"Beautiful Thing"* can be dubbed the fairy godfather of a genre which includes such noteworthy titles as *"Get Real," "Edge of Seventeen," "Dorian Blues," "For a Lost Soldier," "Prom Queen,"* and *"Wild Reeds."*

The list can and does go on. Yet to include the ghastly *"Another Gay Movie"* within the genre, as does the fabulously inveterate Wikipedia seems wrong; very wrong indeed.

Nevertheless, the transcendent appeal of the coming-of-age film genre has often eluded Glenn. Not so Glenn's small circle of acquaintances. For many, life either began or ended with high school. In some cases, both. Many a time Glenn's eyes literally glazed over as one friend or another waxed on rhapsodically about the "best years of their lives." Yawn.

Well anyway, let Glenn add another to the list; or rather to the shelf: *"Watercolors"*

Danny (Ian Rhodes) should be happy. He is an artist in the midst of his first New York exhibition, a show dominated by images of homoerotic male images and which is by all accounts proving exceedingly successful. Instead, his attractive, increasingly irritating boyfriend plies him with liquor, telling him to lighten up.

From here David Oliveras' screenplay jumps back in time, to the solitary figure of a sleek male swimmer gliding effortlessly in an atmospherically lit pool. Yes, yes, it is all very *"A Single Man."* Except here, the scene which follows offers the young man now slumped against the wall of a large shower room, the camera lingering lovingly as the water cascades down his lithe, dramatically lit nude torso.

The swimmer is Carter Melman (Kyle Clare), a troubled lad from a broken home. Carter has recently been suspended from school for executing a foolish prank. His single, barely-on-the-wagon dad decides to get even by making Carter stay a few days with his AA pal, Miriam (Casey Kramer) while he goes off on a business trip.

There Carter will meet a younger Danny (Tye Olsen), Miriam's son and a classmate. Opposites perhaps, but both Carter and Danny have similarly found themselves outcasts at school. Handsome and a star swimmer to boot, Carter has been shuffled from one school to the next; his prank — here's Glenn, ever the coffee house psychologist — undoubtedly an attempt to appear cool in the hopes of winning over his teammates. Becoming friends with Danny, long the subject of typical schoolyard homophobia probably isn't going to do the trick.

Yet a friendship blossoms between Carter and Danny; a friendship and something rather more. There's a lovely scene early where Carter (again nude) teaches the terrified Danny to swim. For a kiss on the cheek, Danny will write an English essay for Carter. Oliveras' screenplay remains firmly on solid ground as their relationship develops.

Yet, as is so often the case in stories such as this, life intervenes. Determined to fit in what-



ever the cost, Carter insists they must remain indifferent to each other in school and in the process nearly breaks Danny's heart. Truly, madly, deeply in love, Danny can merely acquiesce.

Then the Shakespeare essay Danny is to write for Carter comes due; an essay on *"Romeo & Juliet."* How's that for a bit of symbolism even the usually oblivious Glenn can't miss.

When a teammate of Carter's spies the two together, a rumor begins circulating that they are "a couple of faggots." Carter's locker is vandalized, later Danny is badly beaten as the boys' lives (not to mention Oliveras' screenplay) begins spiraling out of control.

With the humblest of apologies to *The Captain & Tennille*: will love keep them together?

**Buy it, rent it or forget it...**

There is so much right about *"Watercolors"* that Glenn feels a bit churlish to find fault with David Oliveras' poignant, debut effort. Certainly Glenn wishes that Oliveras would have jettisoned the misguided framing device. Perhaps, too, Oliveras' screenplay might have spent more time developing the boys' respective family life. Glenn loved Danny's unconditionally supportive mom Miriam, yet she is really far too perfect in the manner of the typical 1960's sitcom mom. That Kyle's dad is battling his own demons should have added resonance to the story but Jeffrey Lee Woods' one-note performance made Glenn wish he'd have stuck to his usual role behind the camera. In supporting roles Karen Black is deliciously celestial as Danny's art teacher while Olympic legend Greg Louganis, always a joy to see, is perhaps too cuddly to be entirely convincing as hard-nosed Coach Brown.

Best of all are Tye Olsen and newcomer Kyle Clare as the star-crossed lovers, their performances exuding youth and earnest vulnerability. Rarely has Glenn seen young love so perfected rendered.

**Just the facts...**

*"Watercolors"* has a running time of 114 minutes. *"Watercolors"* will be available on DVD on May 18<sup>th</sup> with an SRP of \$24.98. Tye Olsen, who plays Danny, is also in two other LGBT friendly films: *"Tru Loved"* and *"Out at the Wedding"*





Still trying to lose those extra pounds you gained over the holidays? Two new dance artists are encouraging fans to shake 'em by shaking it. We spoke with diva Kimberly Davis and divo Ron Perkov – about their new dance tracks and the importance of moving what your mama gave you in the new year.

#### RON PERKOV

"I Get Off" has taken off on dance floors. Do you really get off every time you hear your man's voice?

I'm lucky to have a smart, wonderful, level headed guy in my life that keeps me happy, grounded and protected. So yes, I do.

The album version is slow and seductive. How are you tailoring it for the dancefloor?

I leave that to talented remixers like Tony Moran, Warren Rigg, and Twisted Dee. I'm always in awe of how they turn a sultry song into a hands-in-the-air circuit track.

Do you have a favorite mix?

Not really. They are all amazing interpretations of the original and special in their own right.

## GET UP & GET OFF

### Club Divo & Diva inspire Gays to Get Movin'

By Tim Blankenship



Why is it important for guys to keep movin' in 2010?

The world is changing constantly. We all have to continue reinventing ourselves to keep up with the times. The ones that think things will go back to the way they were are the ones that will suffer.

What do you have planned for the year?

I just started recording a new sexy chill-out album. Wait 'til you hear the chill version of the

dance track I made with Tony Moran, "Miss You". It's drips sex.

#### KIMBERLY DAVIS

"Get Up" is explosive. Are you always so energetic? I make myself tired with all the energy I have. But as an artist, I have to be. Who wants to watch a diva standing in one spot on stage?



What do you say to guys who want to sit down and watch life from the sidelines?

Those are the men I feel sorry for. Life's too precious to let pass by. I sure believe life is about getting it done.

Do you have a favorite dance mix?

I lean towards the Oxford Hustlers Arena Anthem Remix because it reminds me of old school club music where the music drops out, the vocals pump and then the music gradually comes back in until it explodes. The crowd goes wild everytime!

Why is it important for everyone to keep movin' in 2010?

I've learned that even if you stand still, the earth keeps moving so you better catch up and make your presence known.

What do you have planned for the year?

I'm in the studio working on new dance tracks that will keep the boys moving through spring, summer, winter and fall!

Ron Perkov's "I Get Off" and Kimberly Davis' "Get Up" are available on iTunes.

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