

Wisconsin's LGBT News & Entertainment Magazine for 17 Years

QUEST

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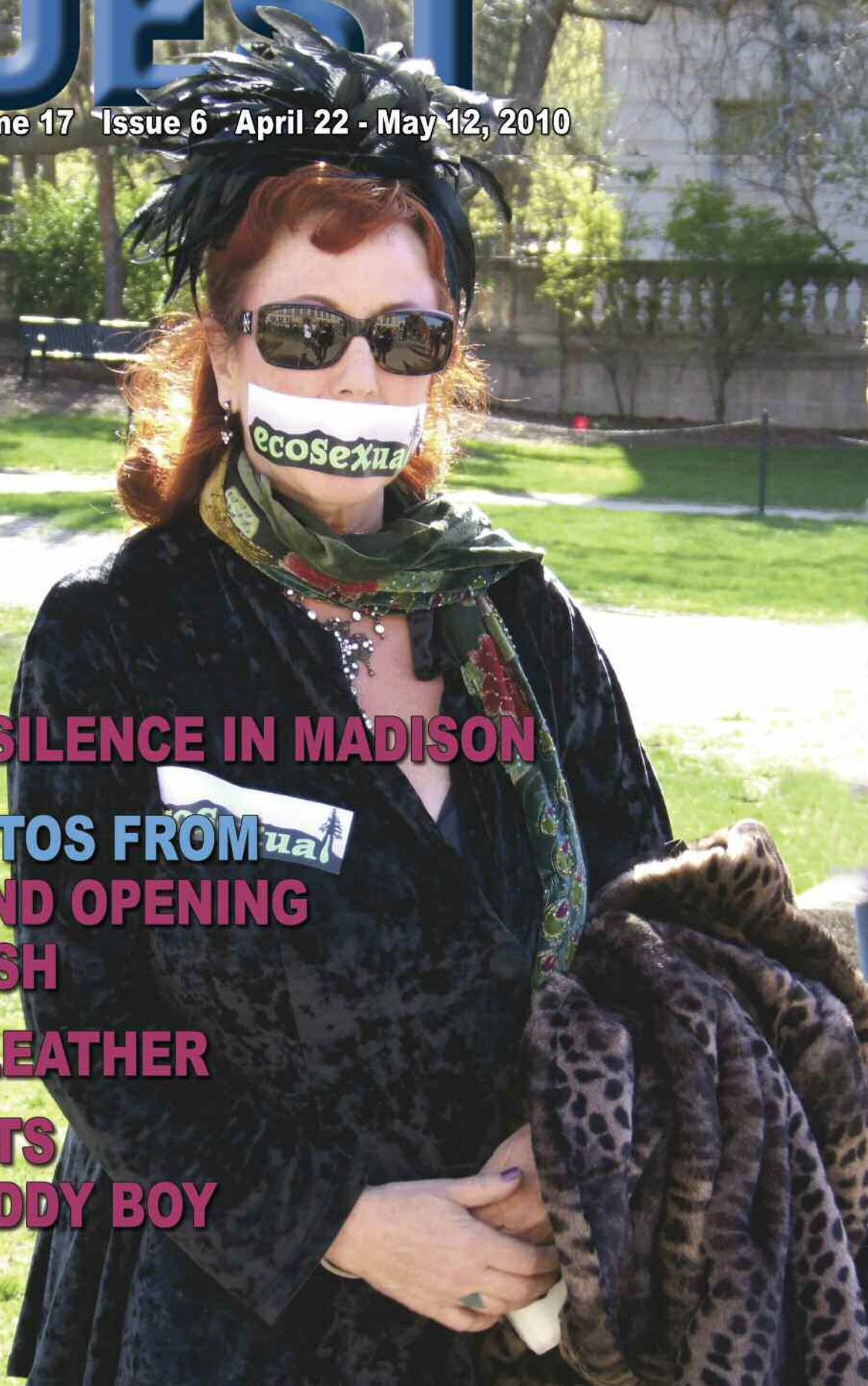
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A DAY OF SILENCE IN MADISON

**ALSO PHOTOS FROM
PJ'S GRAND OPENING
IN OSHKOSH**

MR ICON LEATHER

**ARGONAUTS
DADDY/DADDY BOY
CONTEST**



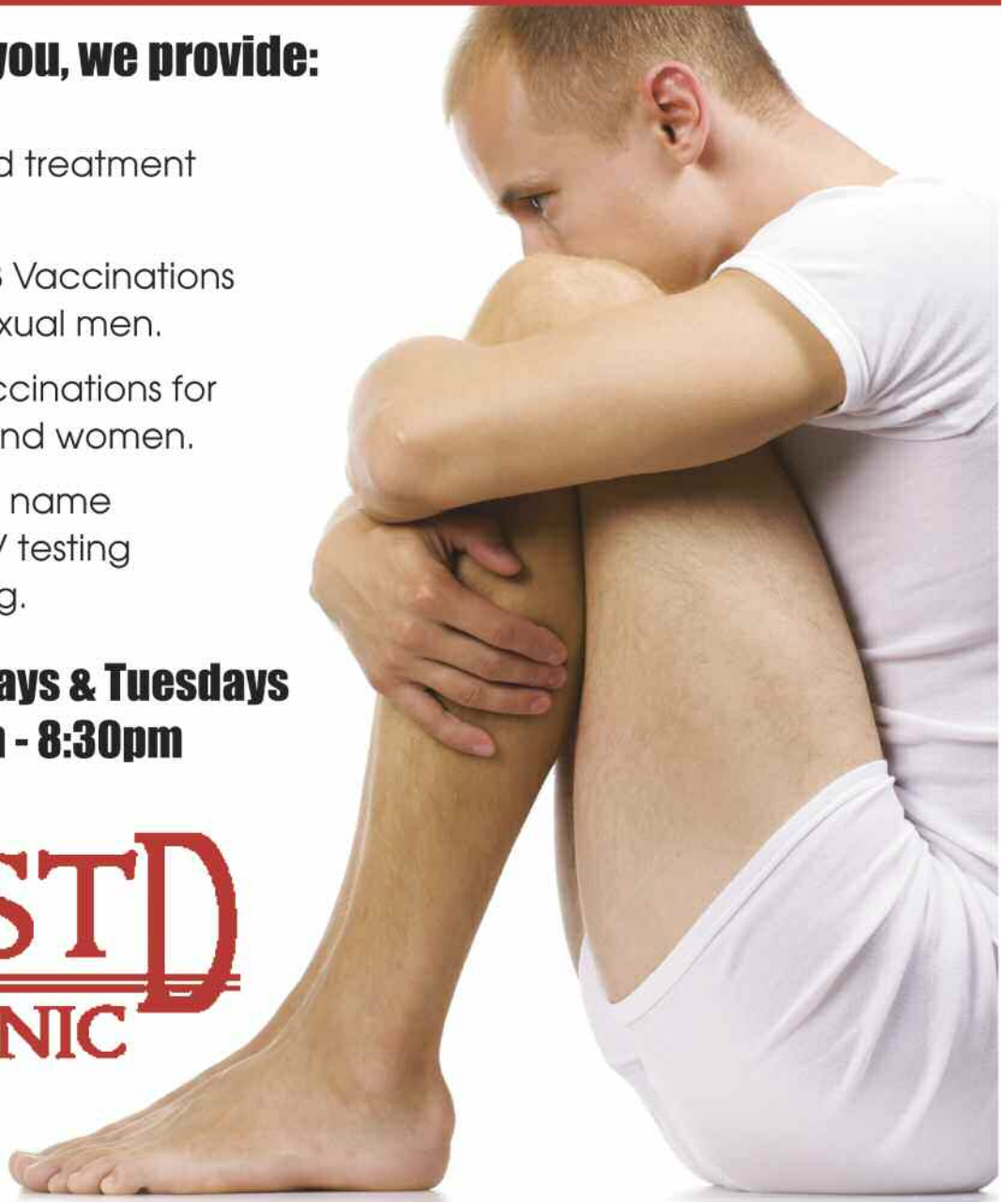
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PRESIDENT OBAMA ORDERS NEW MEDICAL RIGHTS FOR GAY PARTNERS

Washington DC - While last minute tax filers rushed to the Post Office, equality for LGBT people in the US took an important step forward on Thursday, April 15, 2010 as President Obama ordered his health secretary to issue new rules aimed at granting hospital visiting rights to same-sex partners. The White House announced the rule changes in a memorandum, which will also make it easier for gay men and lesbians to make medical decisions on behalf of their partners.

Obama instructed his Health and Human Services secretary to draft new rules that required hospitals receiving Medicare and Medicaid payments to grant patients the right to designate the person(s) who can visit and consult with them at crucial moments.

The rules would treat designated visitors, including those legally designated (such as durable powers of attorney and health care proxies) privileges the same as those immediate family members enjoy.

"There are few moments in our lives that call for greater compassion and companionship than when a loved one is admitted to the hospital," writes President Obama in the memorandum. "Yet every day, all across America, patients are denied the kindnesses and caring of a loved one at their sides -- whether in a sudden medical emergency or a prolonged hospital

stay. Also uniquely affected are gay and lesbian Americans who are often barred from the bedsides of the partners with whom they may have spent decades of their lives -- unable to be there for the person they love, and unable to act as a legal surrogate if their partner is incapacitated," said Mr Obama.

"Richard Socarides, who advised President Bill Clinton on gay rights issues, said that while the memorandum on its own did not grant any new rights, it did "draw attention to the very real and tragic situations many gays and lesbians face when a partner is hospitalized," wrote Sheryl Stolberg in the New York Times.

Ordering the Department of Health and Human Services to find a better way, was a hope of many of us in the LGBT community when Mr. Obama was inaugurated. Although Mr. Obama's order has no immediate effect, gay rights groups called it a major advance for the families of LGBT individuals.

"It's a huge deal," said David Smith, vice president of policy for the Human Rights Campaign, which worked with the White House to develop the memorandum," quoted the New York Times.

"Nearly every hospital in the country will now be required to provide hospital visitation rights to LGBT families," continues Mr Smith.



"President Obama's decision to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to take steps to ensure that hospitals participating in Medicare or Medicaid respect the rights of patients to receive visitors and designate others to make decisions about medical care in the case of an emergency is the right one. It follows the lead of many states and makes a strong statement about who we are as a nation and what we value," writes Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin in a prepared statement. "President Obama's action tonight puts us another step closer toward our goal of equal rights for all Americans and I applaud his decision," says Baldwin.

GLADD & DIGNITY USA URGE MEDIA TO USE CAUTION IN REPORTING VATICAN STATEMENTS

New York - GLAAD joined with DignityUSA in expressing concern about how media are covering recent comments about the Catholic Church sex abuse scandal by two Vatican officials: Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone and Rev. Federico Lombardi.

While traveling in Chile this week, the Vatican's second highest-ranking authority told reporters: "Many psychologists and psychiatrists have demonstrated that there is no relation between celibacy and pedophilia. But many others have demonstrated, I have been told recently, that there is a relation between homosexuality and pedophilia. That is true," said Bertone. "That is the problem."

Vatican spokesman Rev. Federico Lombardi elaborated on Bertone's comments, telling reporters: "Church authorities do not have the competency to make general statements about medical or psychological issues, which we, of course, refer to specialists. [Cardinal Bertone] was evidently speaking about

abuse on the part of priests and not in the general population."

"These are just the latest, desperate attempts from the Vatican to change the subject, said Marianne Duddy-Burke, Executive Director of Dignity USA. "It's time for our church leaders to stop looking for someone else to blame, and to confront the abuse of power and the cover-ups that are the real root of this scandal."

GLAAD urged the media to carefully examine the timing and apparent motives behind the comments.

"There's a clear pattern here," said Rashad Robinson, Senior Director of Media Programs at GLAAD. "Every day we seem to be seeing a new attempt by some church leaders to distract people from the real issues at the heart of the abuse crisis. And as the desperation increases, the ugliness of the attacks seems to be worsening."

GLAAD is encouraging journalists to talk with groups like the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP), Call to Action, Voice of the Faithful, and other organizations that are giving voice to the victims of clergy abuse and calling for accountability by the church.

The most recent scandal concerning Priest sexual abuse stems from European investigations into alleged misconduct in Italy and included information relating to the current Pope, then Cardinal Ratzinger, and other top Vatican officials who had decided not to defrock a Milwaukee Priest, Father Lawrence Murphy who molested as many as 200 deaf boys despite pleas from Wisconsin clergy to remove him. The case in Italy is similar where 67 deaf men and women accused two dozen priests of raping and molesting children for years.

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POSTER BOY FOR WORD OF FAITH MOVEMENT TO SPEAK IN MARSHFIELD AND JANESVILLE SPARKING CONTROVERSY

Marshfield, WI- Michael Williams, once the 'poster boy' for the Word of Faith movement in America is the guest speaker of a three day conference April 29 through May 1. The 2010 Upper Midwest Gospel Revolution Conference at the Senior Center next to the Marshfield Public Library begins at 7 pm Thursday April 29. A 6:00 pm meeting on Friday April 30 and Saturday morning May 1 at 9:30am follow. Finally Mr. Williams will appear as the guest speaker at the Red Door Ministry that meets at the Willowdale Saloon in Janesville on Sunday, May 2. Those services are 10:30 am and 2 pm.

In a press release sent to Quest, Jeff Robertson says Mike Williams, a gay preacher and the guest speaker of the three-day conference, has shared the same platform with popular evangelical Christians such as Joel Osteen of Lakeland Church in Houston, TX and Pat Robertson of the 700 Club television broadcast, but you won't find his message in much agreement with either Osteen or Robertson. Williams sums up evangelical Christianity to be based on a requirement to believe in Jesus Christ or suffer punishment in hell, "which is absolutely counter to the Gospel of peace and grace," says Williams. According to Williams, Christianity



preaches grace on the one hand and then binds it with a moral code and a future threat of judgment and punishment. "To know yourself truly and to set your own moral compass, it must be in the absence of the threat of punishment. Setting boundaries to God's grace does not control the morality of man" says Williams.

Williams gained notoriety being one of the first high profile 'Ex- gays' to openly acknowledge years later that he was in fact still gay. Williams decided to keep teaching spirituality despite those calling him no longer qualified.

The controversy of Williams' teachings have some in the Christian community upset calling Williams' message "unscriptural" and "sick" James Washburn, the organizer of the conference, says "Williams strictly teaches from the Bible putting verses in the context of chapters and chapters in the context of entire books of the Bible." According to Williams, people like to base an entire doctrine or belief on a verse or two, to which he replies, "I see your verse and raise you a chapter."

Persons interested in attending may go to Williams website www.gospelrevolution.com or Mr. Washburn at (715)389-2155 in Marshfield or Kathy Price (608)728-3284 in Janesville.

UNITED STATES ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL THOMAS E. PEREZ TO SPEAK AT THE MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

Milwaukee, WI- Mr. Thomas E. Perez, the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice will speak in the community room of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center on Friday, April 23, 2010 at 10:45am. The event is hosted by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.



The U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division is the institution within the federal government responsible for enforcing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, disability, religion, and national origin. The Division was established on December 9, 1957.

"The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is delighted to have the esteemed honor and pleasure of hosting Assistant Attorney General Perez as he visits Milwaukee. I am confident that we will gain invaluable knowledge and insight regarding hate crimes and other civil rights issues affecting our community from Attorney General Perez as a result of his highly anticipated visit," said, Dr. Maggi Cage, Executive Director of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Mr. Perez has spent his entire career in public service. From 2002 until 2006, he was a member of the Montgomery County Council. He was the first Latino ever elected to the Council, and

served as Council President in 2005. Earlier in his career, he spent 12 years in federal public service, most of them as a career attorney with the Civil Rights Division. As a federal prosecutor for the Division, he prosecuted and supervised the prosecution of some of the Department's most high profile civil rights cases, including a hate

crimes case in Texas involving a group of white supremacists who went on a deadly, racially motivated crime spree. Mr. Perez later served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under Attorney General Janet Reno. Among other responsibilities, he chaired the interagency Worker Exploitation Task Force, which oversaw a variety of initiatives designed to protect vulnerable workers. He also served as Special Counsel to the late Senator Edward Kennedy, and was Senator Kennedy's principal adviser on civil rights, criminal justice and constitutional issues. For the final two years of the Clinton administration, Mr. Perez served as the Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Mr. Perez was a law professor for six years at University of Maryland School of Law and was a part-time professor at the George Washington School of Public Health.

MADKINGS PRESENT KINGSTOCK IV

Madison, WI - Madison's premiere drag king troupe, The MadKings, will present Kingstock IV at the Barrymore Theatre on April 24. Billed as the Midwest's biggest night of drag and gender performance, it began four years ago by the Milwaukee Kings in Milwaukee.

"Kingstock is coming to Madison for the first time ever this spring to knock your socks, and maybe a few preconceived notions, right off," states Danielle Semtry, PR for the MadKings.

The show features an impressive array of artists from the Midwest and all across the country, including individuals and troupes from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ohio, Texas, Georgia, New Mexico, and Maryland.

Hosted by Emily Mills (of Mad Huge), Sexual Chocolate (of the MadKings), and Kitty LaRue (of Foxy Veronica's Peach Pies), doors open 8:00 pm at the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood Ave, in Madison. Showtime is 9:00 pm. Tickets are \$12 in advance (\$15 day of show) for a mature audience only however there is no age restriction.

FMI at www.themadkings.com tickets available at www.barrymorelive.com or (608)214-8633.

QUEER SHORTS 5 AUDITIONS ANNOUNCED

Madison, WI - StageQ announces auditions for QUEER SHORTS 5, thier fifth annual shorts playfest, running June 11 - 19 at the Bartell Theater in Madison. Auditions are at 7:00 pm on Monday and Tuesday, April 12 and 13 at 148 E Wilson Street, 1st floor, in Madison.

This playfest is a unique opportunity, bringing together experienced directors, actors and stage hands with folks who haven't been on stage (ever or in years) to learn the ropes, have fun and create a couple of weekends of great theater." states Tara Ayres, StageQ Artistic Director.

What you need to know:

We have 12 short plays running from 2 to 10 minutes long. Auditions will be on April 12 and 13 at 7 pm. Rehearsals will run from April 24 through June 10. Queer Shorts performances are June 11 through June 19 at the Bartell Theatre. Auditions will consist of reading from the scripts. We have a lot of parts, for men and women of all ages. Some actors may be cast in more than one short..

OUTREACH BOOK SALE APRIL 24-25

Madison, WI - OutReach, Madison & south-central Wisconsin's LGBT Community Center (600 Williamson St, Madison) has consolidated their Earl Greely Memorial Library removing duplicate books. The result is a book sale on Saturday, April 24th & Sunday, April 25th from 10am-6pm each day.

Over 1,000 good quality LGBT themed books are available. Titles include fiction and non-fiction: history, culture, mysteries, romance, erotica and more. Hard cover books are \$2, soft cover books, \$1, with discounts on Sunday. Outreach warns to come early for the best selections.



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NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE 2010 IN MADISON

Madison, WI - Students in Madison and other cities in Wisconsin joined the thousands of students nationwide in participating in a Day of Silence Friday, April 16 to bring attention to name-calling, bullying and harassment that many youth encounter daily based on their actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender expression/identity.

Founded in 1996, the Day of Silence has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. From the first-ever Day of Silence at the University of Virginia in 1996, to the organizing efforts in over 8,000 middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities across the country today, its textured history reflects its diversity in both numbers and reach.

Students organized the first Day of Silence, its original name, at the University of Virginia. With over 150 students participating, those involved felt it was a great success.

Rea Carey, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force sent in a prepared statement, "The Task Force salutes each and every student keeping silent today to advocate for schools that are free of bullying and harassment. We know that young people risk their safety every day in order to attend schools that provide cover to and ignore the bullies who can make their lives living hell while adults look the other way. Adults must act to stop the epidemic of school harassment that diminishes the safety of all, but particularly leaves young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people isolated, afraid and desperate.

The recent suicide of 15-year-old Phoebe Prince in South Hadley, Mass., underscores in the most stark way the need for adults to intervene when they witness bullying of students. We've also heard the recent stories of two students who survived bullying at Itawamba Agricultural High School in Fulton, Miss. Constance McMillen was the victim of a mean trick by her fellow students and their parents when she was invited to a sparsely attended 'prom' while most of her other classmates partied at a different event. Meanwhile, Juin Baize was driven out of Fulton for wearing clothing the principal deemed 'a distraction.' He sought refuge and a better high school environment in Florida."

Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) both urged participation in the event.

Rep. Engel introduced H.Con.Res 92 in 2009, with 40 co-sponsors, to support the goals and ideals of the National Day of Silence. Rep. Baldwin is one of the original co-sponsors. According to GLSEN's 2007 National School Climate Survey, nearly nine out of ten LGBT students report verbal, sexual or physical harassment at school and more than 30 percent report missing at least one day of school for fear of their personal safety.

"Sadly, violence and discrimination against LGBT youth is all-too-common in American schools. It is a national disgrace that students feel threatened in school simply because of their sexual orientation," said Rep. Engel.

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students

continue to face pervasive harassment and victimization in schools. As students use their silence to demand safe schools, we in Congress must use our voices to support them," said Congresswoman Baldwin, co-chair of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus.

GLSEN provides these statistics:

- More than 85 percent of LGBT students have been verbally harassed;
- Nearly 20 percent of LGBT students were physically assaulted by their peers at school;
- Almost 40 percent of LGBT students reported that faculty and staff never intervene when homophobic language is used in their presence.

GLSEN Executive Director Eliza Byard said, "These students are coming together to raise awareness

about the pervasive problem of anti-LGBT bullying in schools. That so many young people care about making their schools safer makes us hopeful that we can work together to make our schools welcome environments for everyone."

"The National Day of Silence brings an important focus to the bullying and name-calling that many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students have to endure while trying to attend school" said Joe Solmonese, President of the Human Rights Campaign. "All students, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity, should be able to receive an education in a safe and supportive environment.

Quest contributing photographer Steve Vargas provided the photography of Madison's Day of Silence presented on the following page and online at www.quest-online.com (qnu page)

SATURDAY MAY 1st



SPRING FLING • 2010

Los Angeles singer Gennine Jackson sets the tone for a night of dancing, amazing food and unique giveaways with dance instruction from the TC Dance Club International staff. Champagne Reception at 6:30PM. Authentic Italian Cuisine from Angelina Restaurant of Green Bay at 7PM. Open bar throughout the evening.

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Milwaukee's humorist and storyteller John McGivern debuts at Renaissance Theaterworks on April 23 in *American Fiesta* by Steven Tomlinson, directed by Jenny Wanasek. It's about more than crockery.

QUEST: Paul Masterson recently spoke to McGivern about his latest performance.

QUEST: Tell us how the production came about.

John McGivern: *American Fiesta* was staged in New York City with great success. Renaissance contacted me about doing it a few years ago. Then the rights were released. But I still had to read in front the women at Renaissance.

QUEST: And, you got the part...

JMcG: Yes, I think I was the only one who auditioned.

QUEST: It's obviously about a collector's obsession with that all-American icon of pottery, Fiestaaware. I sense a metaphor.

JMcG: It's one big metaphor about the hunt. Steven, the gay boy from Oklahoma lives with his Mexican-American partner, Leon. They go to Canada to get married. Then it's back to Oklahoma and the odyssey begins. His mother rejects the notion of her son in a gay relationship. She says, "why do you come home and talk about things we try to forget?" As they leave town, they discover a size 7 Fiesta bowl for \$500. The dealer refuses to sell it to them and gives them a Bible instead.

QUEST: Then the hunt for Fiesta continues...

JMcG: of course... but, Steven only looks for red or blue pieces. Now the metaphor refers to the red and blue states. The play is about Steven and Leon's experiences in those states and the people they meet as the journey progresses. The whole process is that journey from discovery to recognition.

QUEST: For the collector, the psychology varies. The obsession is in the hunt to find every piece of a set or every pattern. *American Fiesta* is about that purpose, isn't it?

***American Fiesta* It's About More Than Crockery A Conversation with John McGivern**



JMcG: Some collectors, like Steven, pursue perfection while others find solace in damaged goods. There's a scene in which he gets a piece from eBay. He finds a flaw and rejects it completely.

His partner, Leon, says "I'm glad we didn't meet on eBay." It's heart

wrenching. Another character is a blind woman who takes

damaged pieces and repairs them. Ultimately, it's all about our relationships and memories.

QUEST: You're a storyteller. How does

the show fit your performance style?

JMcG: *American Fiesta* is exactly that – a story worth telling. It's a good theatrical piece because it takes different perspectives. The play is a solo show; I play around 20 characters – some are women, like Steven's mother. The piece is sweet... lovely... speaking to so much. It's much more than a simple story.

QUEST: Gay marriage is a hot political issue – espe-

cially given the circumstances here in Wisconsin. It sounds like *American Fiesta* avoids confrontation in deference to being sweet and lovely.

JMcG: Not at all! Yes, it's political. It's incredibly political. It's about the right to marry but not as a constitutional issue. Steven spells it out when he says exactly that: "everyone deserves the right to marry. How else can you get your mom to release you?" People will walk out of the show with a clearer sense that it's not solely about blue and red politics but an inalienable human right... an inherent rite of passage for everyone.

QUEST: This is a very relevant gay play but some in the LGBT community criticize you for not being more of an activist. They would say you have the ear of an essentially non-LGBT audience but haven't used it to advance LGBT rights.

JMcG: My career started with gay shows in 1994 at the Bailiwick Theater in Chicago, Comedy Central in '95 then I did a Toronto gay and lesbian festival, "We're funny that way."

Now, the majority of my audience is straight – and older. There are always lots of lesbians. The gay men you can count on one hand. Some say I'm not part of the community because I don't do a specifically "gay" show. But, my stories have to be "gay" because I am. I mention my partner and the stories are from a gay perspective and sensibility.

QUEST: So, your message is delivered quietly.

JM: I like that. Yes, it's delivered "quietly." I do think I do a service. People come out of my show thinking... and recognizing our community. They're being changed "quietly." It's like the guerilla gay bar movement. I went to a guerilla gay bar night. People were like "look at all the handsome men. My god, they're all gay!"

QUEST: Back to *American Fiesta*... is there a happy ending?

JMcG: HELLO!

American Fiesta opens April 23 at the Renaissance Theaterworks Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Third Ward.

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JERRY GRILLO'S BAND KICKS OFF LIVE MUSIC THURSDAYS AT HARBOR ROOM

Milwaukee - The Historical Mystery Band with Jerry Grillo, will be appearing Thursday April 29th, May 13th and May 27 at The Harbor Room in Milwaukee. They are the first live band to play at the club located at 117 East Greenfield Avenue. Their first appearance there was very well received. No cover is charged at the door.



Harbor Room which is presently undergoing a remodel project intends to offer live music on a regular basis on Thursdays expanding to other nights if there is support from the community.

Jerry Grillo, the leader and vocalist, is very well-known to Milwaukee audiences for his numerous performances over the years, as well as his extensive recording career. His band has done numerous fund raisers for gay-related organizations as well.

The band is also beginning the taping of a film documentary which will include a performance at The Harbor Room in the future.

There is a special performance at Harbor Room featuring the full band scheduled for Friday July 23 during Harbor Room's 10th anniversary. For more information go to www.harbor-room.com or www.jerrygrillo.com. For more photos in color from the first performance, go to www.quest-online.com and check out Quest Photo Galleries by and click the photo gallery links on the main page.



Pride Alive

EVENT

5k RUN/WALK through Green Bay's East River Neighborhoods.

EVENT SITE

Green Bay's Joannes Park. Registration and check-in will be at the centrally located park pavilion.

ADDITIONAL INFO

All participants receive the 2nd annual Pride Alive Five T-shirt (guaranteed to pre-registered participants only) along with goodie bag, bottled water, bagels, and other refreshments following the race.

RUN/WALK participants are invited to attend the free Pride Alive festival immediately following the awards ceremony. Restrooms will be available on-site.

NOTE: No showers will be available on-site. Please plan accordingly.



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REGISTRATION FORM

Everybody has an opinion.

Half the country votes one way, the other half votes differently. Issues are favored in that corner and vilified in this one. You might love doing something that would horrify someone else, so you keep your opinions to yourself.

And then there are those who march to a different drummer, seemingly unaware or uncaring about what others think – which describes the life of Vincente Minnelli in many ways. In the new book **"A Hundred or More Hidden Things"** by Mark Griffin, you'll read about the life, work, and eccentricities of this enigmatic man.

Lester Anthony Minnelli was born in 1903, the sixth child of Italian-American parents. Baby Lester was practically born on the stage; his father and uncle owned the Minnelli Brothers Mighty Dramatic Company Under Canvas, and his mother was a performer with the troupe.

As soon as he was old enough, Lester left his family in Ohio and moved to Chicago. Extremely creative (he loved to draw and design), the job he landed as window dresser for a major department store was perfect for him. It was also a perfect time to design a new life for himself.

Lester Minnelli changed his name to "Vincente" and shaved four years off his age. He also changed his background: for the rest of his life, he denied that he had an older brother who was developmentally disabled. Transformation complete, Minnelli emerged a new man and moved to New

York. Broadway was the obvious place for someone with such creativity, and Minnelli flourished. Though he was happy in New York, he tried Hollywood but didn't like it and returned to the Big Apple. When a friend convinced Minnelli to try film-making again, it was a turning point in his career, and personally.

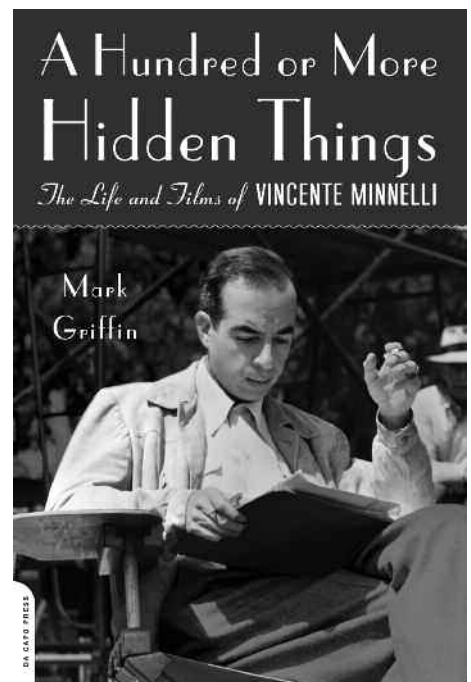
Throughout his life, friends and colleagues knew Minnelli as a quiet, reserved man who, though obviously brilliant behind the camera, seemed reluctant to give directions to performers. Many noticed his fondness for wearing women's make-up, which led to rumors of homosexuality. Others denied those rumors, pointing to Minnelli's four wives as proof otherwise.

When Vincente Minnelli died in July, 1986, the truth died with him.

Author Mark Griffin says that he became fascinated with Vincente Minnelli films one summer when he was struggling with typical adolescent issues. His friends hassled him about his obsession, but that focus served him well: he used it to create a well-written biography.

"A Hundred or More Hidden Things" includes an exhaustive list of Broadway stars and shows in which Minnelli worked, as well as a filmography. What fans are going to want out of this book, though, is more of Minnelli's personal story and an answer to the was-he-or-wasn't-he gay question. Though Griffin wasn't able to nail down anything definitive, judging by this book, he sure tried.

If you're a theatre fanatic, old-movie buff, or if you want a fascinating biography that accurately



depicts a time long gone, look for this one. In my opinion, "A Hundred or More Hidden Things" is a pretty good book.

"A Hundred or More Hidden Things"
by Mark Griffin c.2010, Da Capo Press
\$15.95 / \$20.00 Canada
347 pages, includes index

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It's Your Mother at the Boulevard

A mother is a universal truth. We all have one. A mother represents that common bond and common bane of all humanity.

The Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre closes its 24th season with the regional premiere of a new work by Patricia Durante and Betsy Tuxhill's, *It's Your Mother*, directed by artistic director, Mark Bucher. It's a tribute to, a plaint about mothers. It presents sundry true confessions, anecdotes and those ubiquitous guilt-tinged phone messages all wrapped into a reality based play – in this case, specifically, the mother-daughter dynamic.

But, in a conversation with Durante, she explained that the roles could be altered to suit. Although written by two women from the perspective of daughters, scenes can be cast according to preference. For example, the married couple can be same-sex of any gender.

The 75 minutes play is a sequence of vignettes and scenes of maternal moments punctuated by 21 quintessential motherly messages on the answering machine. There's a lot the audience can relate to.

The meager set is typical barebones Boulevard. A few chairs, a table and an old couch become a car, assorted living rooms and offices. The back wall is full of framed photos of the cast's mothers. It's basic and works but it puts extraordinary demands on the cast's ability to focus the audience and convince it to see beyond the barren stage.

Opening with a cacophonous Bucherian overture of voices, the stage is set for the exploration of all



things maternal. Then, two vignettes introduce the theme of adult children dealing with mothers. The first depicts sisters on a car ride to that obligatory family Thanksgiving at mom's house. They review the childhood roles they'll recreate in deference to those traditional delegations of duties from cleaning to table setting. For the sake of common sanity, they list topics of conversation to be avoided (such as tattoos and failed marriages). The next scene is a daughter's first visit home after leaving for college. The daughter's nose piercing and boyfriends preoccupy the mother's interrogation.

It's a slow start. Enacting the ride on a couple of chairs makes the extended dialogue seem a bit long-winded. The first mother-daughter scene begins with the mother's admonishments and ends with well-tempered dialogue. It seemed a tentative.

From there, the energy picked up. The intermit-

tent but persistent phone messages and scenes bring the play through the arc that defines the often exasperating disconnects as well as the underlying ultimate connection of the mother-child relationship. There's humor, sentiment and emotion.

In one scene entitled "Is she the man?", mother (Amanda Schlueter) and daughter (Melissa Keith) watch TV soaps while they discuss gay and lesbian relationships. The mother insists on applying hetero-normative gender role expectations. If a gay man is masculine or a lesbian doesn't wear panty hose, they must be "the man." The traditional stereotypes reign despite the daughters attempt to bridge the generational gap.

A delightful wedding planning session with Christine Horgen, as the overbearing mother who has obviously already decided on every detail, and resigned daughter Nicole Gorski reminds us never to declare a war of wills against mom. She's already won before the first shot is fired.

The cast of 15 women and one man manages to move through their monologues and scenes with a momentum. Brooke Wegner, as only-child in therapy, delivers a moving performance as she describes her relationship with her mother. Her introspective silences are as well delivered as her lines.

All in all, *It's Your Mother* succeeds in what it sets out to do – it lets the audience laugh and cry, recalling their individual stories that are probably not so different, if not completely identical to those recounted in the play.

It's Your Mother runs thru May 9 at the Boulevard Theatre, 2252 South Kinnickinnic Avenue in Milwaukee's Bay View. Ticket info: 414-744-5757

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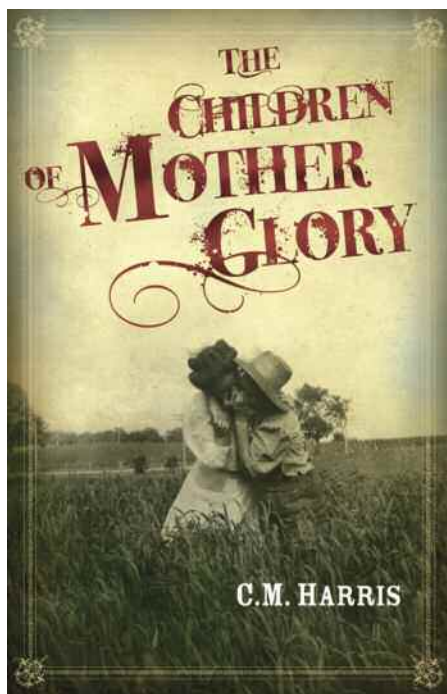
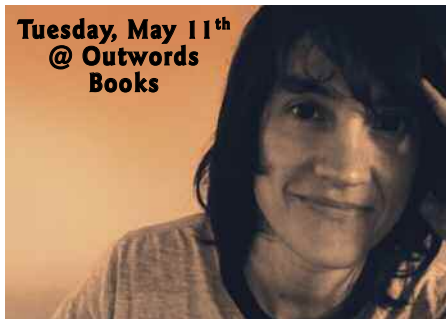
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AUTHOR APPEARANCE

Minneapolis Author Pens
Book on Religion,
Homosexuality and War:
C. M. Harris,
"The Children of Mother Glory"

Tuesday, May 11th
@ Outwords
Books



The Lesbian Reading Group at Outwords Books is delighted to welcome acclaimed author C. M. Harris to the May 11 discussion of her novel, "The Children of Mother Glory."

Where religion meets sexuality, sparks are bound to fly. C.M. Harris's debut historical saga "The Children of Mother Glory" illuminates the honest struggles of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and, yes, straight people throughout the past century without relying on dichotomy of villain and victim.

At the heart of the novel stands Glory Potter, a pacifist minister who comes to power during World War I. The choices the enigmatic matriarch makes, both for herself and her church, become inextricable from her repressed lesbian nature. The novel tracks her life and closeted

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love affair as well as the embattled history of conscientious objectors during the most popular war in American history. It also presents the lives of Glory's "children," three parishioners indelibly shaped by the Potterite church and who go on to make their own harrowing choices in sexuality and belief.

LGBT periodical, Lavender Magazine, has called "The Children of Mother Glory," "deft and riveting" while Katherine Forrest calls it "'Extraordinary and gorgeous. A profoundly good novel. Wise, deeply intelligent, beautiful in the concept and exceptional in the writing."

C.M. Harris was raised in a pacifist

church sect and set out to pursue a career in music and design. She attended The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and The Loft Literary Center of Minneapolis. C.M. Harris currently lives in Minneapolis and is creative director for marketing and advertising agency Carbon Creative. For more information visit: www.flammablewords.com

She will be reading from the work and signing copies at Outwords Books in Milwaukee at 7:00pm on May 11 at 7:00pm.

This is a free event and everyone is welcome. For further information, please call or visit www.outwordsbooks.com or (414) 963-9089.

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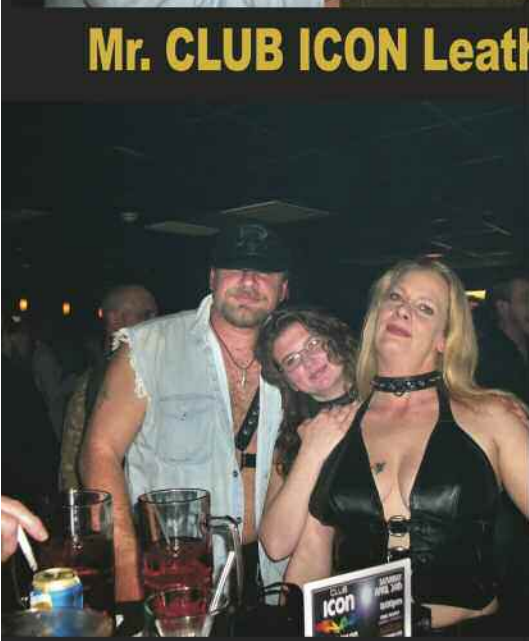
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DIVERSION OF THE DAY Community Events Calendar

Wednesday, April 21

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

Friday, April 23

UW L (LaCrosse) Drag in the City of Vegas, Showtime 7 pm Students \$5 Adults \$10 get tickets at info desk at Cartwright Center on campus

Saturday, April 24

BOOM (Milwaukee) Men Magazine's Man of the Year & Adult Star Samuel Colt in person

ICON (Kenosha) 4th Anniversary Celebration 8pm Free Buffet 8-10 Gammis NRG Live 8-midnight and DJ Midnite to close. Over \$1000 in door prizes and give-a-ways!

La Cage (Milwaukee) 26th Anniversary Party special show w/performers from yesterday & today

Sunday, April 25

LaCage (Milw) Mr & Miss LaCage Contest.

Tropical (Milwaukee) Latinos Got Talent Contest

Monday, April 26

LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region (LaCrosse) Candelight Vigil to kick off Sexual Assault Awareness Month. 5-6pm

Thursday, April 29

Harbor Room (Milwaukee) The Historical Mystery Band with Jerry Grillo. (also May 13) Kicking off Thursday nights featuring live music at Harbor Room.

Tropical (Milwaukee) Xtravaganza Talent Contest

Wisconsin Network for Peace & Justice reception to mark start of 20th year. 5-7 p.m., Mitchell Park Pavilion, 2200 W. Pierce. Social hour, refreshments, program 6 pm with Matt Rothschild of The Progressive and Kathy Kelly of Voices for Creative Non-Violence.

Friday, April 30

BOOM (Milwaukee) Pride Parade Party Featuring Two Adult Stars Chad Brock & Clay Towers

Ravens (Appleton) Ravyn Entertainment 5 Year Anniversary Kick Off Show! (This is not the bar anniversary, but the anniversary of Madison based Ravyn Entertainment.) 10:30 pm

Saturday, May 1

Madosn Gay Video Club "Boycrazy: Six Great Gay Short Films" (Wolfe Rel., multiple directors, 2010) "Loading Zone" (Hot House, '09) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (eve)

TC Dance Club International (Appleton) Pride Alive Spring Fling Gala 6:30 pm-2am

Wednesday, May 5

Tropical (Milwaukee) 5 de mayo Show

Monday, May 10

Outwords Books (Milwaukee) Outwords Men's Book Club. The group will discuss "Sugarless," the acclaimed debut novel by James Magruder. All are welcome. 7pm

Tuesday, May 11

Outwords Books (Milwaukee) Lesbian Reading Group @ Outwords Books 7pm The Lesbian Reading Group is pleased to announce that in May novelist C.M. Harris will join the discussion of her debut novel, "The Children of Mother Glory."

Saturday, May 15

Madosn Gay Video Club "End of Love (Cantonese w/subtitles)" (China, Breaking Glass, dir. Simon Chung, '09) "Distraction" (Titanmen, 2010) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (eve)

Sunday, May 16

Kruz (Milwaukee) Castaways Beer Bust 3-7 pm "Boots & Boxers" \$7

Tuesday, May 18

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (Milwaukee) Share-A-Bration an open house to share all the good going on around town. Meet new people, network! 7-9 pm

Thursday, May 20

Tropical (Milwaukee) "Cabaret Nights"

Saturday, May 22

Perfect Harmony (Madison) Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus Presents BROADWAY, OUR WAY, 7 pm, Mills Hall, 455 North Park Street in Madison, WI.

Thursday, May 27

Tropical (Milwaukee) "Mr Gay Latino 2010 Birthday Party"

Sunday, May 30

Tropical (Milwaukee) "The Circus Party"

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The DATING DIET by Anthony Paull

Stranger in My House

Lesbians don't date – they U-Haul, and gays don't date – they haul ass.

Well, that is except for my friend Nathan. He's not living up to the stereotype, and I'm really disappointed. I mean, it's only been two weeks since he met his new boyfriend, Seth, and they're already in the process of moving in together. According to Nathan, it's a *super* idea because it'll save him money on rent, and well, Seth has a *really* big dick.

"Yeah, well, so does Lady Gaga," I state. "But you don't see me shacking up with her for it."

Anxiety-ridden, Nathan instructs me to quit joking around and come over. "I need help decorating," he says. "Seth unpacked all of his things, and some of it's really icky."

For once, Nathan isn't being dramatic. Upon my arrival, I find his word to be true. Dollar Store knickknacks and a large collection of Disney snow globes adorn the kitchen windowsill and the antique coffee table. Plus, Seth has a thing for Wonder Woman comic books, which are to remain in gold frames on the plaid couch until Seth has time to figure out the 'wall plan'.

"My God, what am I going to do?" Nathan asks.

"Burn the shit."

"Stop it. I love him!"

"Hey, it's your apartment, your rules. He's just a guest until he comes up with his half of the rent, which I'm assuming he hasn't paid yet."

"He's looking for a job. He had some...medical issues. He'll pay next month."

"Medical issues?" I inquire.

"Don't ask me," Nathan returns, trying to smother the comic books with a pillow. "He hasn't

said what kind." His green eyes go alligator wide, like the suspense is thrilling. "But I found a bunch of pill bottles in the bathroom. He's smart, pulled off the labels."

"Um, Nate?" I begin, patiently.

"That's not good. That's bad."

"Whatever," he sighs. Fluffing this and organizing that, he flutters around, setting the snow globes in different locations, as if *that* will help. "He's just being mysterious, no big deal. No one said relationships are easy." In return, that's the exact line I cough up when he phones the next night in tears. "Stop it, I'm really scared," Nathan says. "You need to come over and spend the night."

"And squeeze in between you, him, and the Minnie Mouse snow globes? Hell to the no."

Taking a breath, Nathan begins mewling. "Please. He just woke up in the middle of a dead sleep and asked me who I was. Can you believe it? He looked so scared. He couldn't remember my name. He sounded like a freaking hoot-owl. Who are you? Who are you? What's wrong with him?"

"Tell him you're his landlord and the rent is due. That'll snap him out of it."

"Damn it! I'm such an idiot!" he hollers before playing suck-and-blow a cigarette. In-and-out, in-and-out, he struggles for air. "Why would he say that? Who are you? Who are you?"



And me, I have to chomp on my tongue from asking Nathan the very same thing. Just two weeks ago, he was single, smart, daring, and going on a casual date. And now, he's knee-deep in despair, ball and chained at the hip. Me, I wonder, how did this happen and why does it happen to so many of us? Why can't we wait on moving in until after the honeymoon? Sure, it's easy to fall for his 'best', but why not wait to see him at his worst? What we fail to think about during the fever of a new relationship is making a fast choice not only affects us, but those that surround us as well. With the advent of Facebook and MySpace, I have a profile page full of boyfriends of friends of ex-boyfriends all in their finest, fair-weather poses, and I have no idea who half of these people are. If you move a new mate into your house – your life – without doing the math, you're stuck with him, but everyone in your life is stuck with him too. Soon, he'll friend request all your friends, and we'll feel bad for de-friending him when he 'forgets' who you are. When Nathan had Seth 'removed' from his home for going off his meds, the rest of us cyber-saw the entire act through Facebook, where Seth posted 'gee, look at me' pictures of the moving van as if it were all foggy dream. "Wonder when I'll find Mr. Wonder Woman-ful," Seth wrote.

And only then did I hear from Nathan, who happily phoned saying he's moving on. "I found another guy!" he sang. "You're going to love him!"

"Already?"

"No, you'd be so proud of me. I told him, I said you're not moving into my house, no how, no way. I learned my lesson."

"Good."

"Yeah, so instead, we're thinking about moving into *his* place."



PJ's Bar Opens in Oshkosh!

NEW LGBT FILMS ON DVD by Glenn Bishop

The Big Gay Musical

Despite Glenn's advancing years, loyal *Quest* readers might be surprised to learn that his was not a childhood spent watching as Mickey (Rooney) and Judy (Garland) found a convenient barn and then put on a show. The soundtracks to "South Pacific" and "The Sound of Music" were not to be found spinning away on Glenn's treasured Close 'N Play. Nor will you ever hear the distant echo of youthful theatrical fantasias in Glenn's old family room.

A deprived childhood, some have called it.

All was not lost, however; salvation was near at hand. Barely past his Wonder Bread years, Glenn happened upon, one rainy afternoon, Busby Berkeley and his fabulous 1930s Warner Brothers musical extravaganzas. Here was pixyish Ruby Keeler tap-dancing her way to 42nd Street; there's the ever wise-cracking Joan Blondell soulfully warbling to her "forgotten man" in "The Gold Diggers of 1933."

'Twas surely, a life transformed.

Amidst such fabulousness, young Glenn could only ponder why Mr. Berkeley never thought to create his movie magic with gorgeous, scantily clad chorus boys. Not a mistake that co-directors Casper Andreas and Fred M. Caruso would make in the deliciously camp "The Big Gay Musical."

Glenn was positively giddy with excitement at the prospect of reviewing "The Big Gay Musical," even if that giddiness was tempered with the hard and bitter knowledge that a screener was not to be had, not even for ready money. Surely by now Casper Andreas would have forgiven Glenn for spelling out his "A Four Letter Word" as "l-i-m-p?"

Happily, Glenn's favorite LGBT Bookstore was delighted to reserve him a copy.

Much like Berkeley's cinematic extravaganzas, "The Big Gay Musical" offers a show within a show. "Adam and Steve: Just the Way God Made 'Em," is an Off-Broadway musical that has just begun its preview phase. In this "camp-as-knickers" biblical revision, God (Steve Hayes) created a second "Adam" after the infamous, oh-so naughty apple-munching incident. Only this Adam (Daniel Robinson) was not to be tempted by any womanly treachery. Oh, no. As companion for this Adam, God created Steve (Joey Dudding).



Adam and Steve are blissfully happy living in The Garden. Adam crafts beautiful hand-blown glassware for the nectar Steve creates from his potato; Steve learns how much better it is to pull back the skin from Adam's banana. Yet all this happiness does not at all sit well with Eve. Forsaken and forced to live in a tent in the desert, she begins work on what would become that surefire bestseller: "The Breeders' Informational Book of Living Examples," perhaps rather better known by its acronym, **The Bible**.

Unlike their onstage counterparts, Paul and Eddie are not quite so blissfully happy. Off-stage Paul (Robinson) has yet to find his true love, his "Steve." "I've tried to look for a healthy, monogamous relationship, for someone to share my life with. I always end up being fucked, not in a good way." When his boyfriend Sebastian (Joshua Cruz) disappears amidst rumors that Paul is HIV-positive, he decides that maybe it's time to try being a slut.

Alternately, Eddie (Dudding) is a virtual cinematic gay cliché; he's a virgin and he has yet to come out to the fundamentalist Christian parents; yes, the very same parents who are about to surprise him by coming to see his first Off-Broadway show. And while he might not actually be a Mormon, which really would have been the icing on the cake, he does find a cute, clos-

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Glenn is happy to report that Casper Andreas has finally fulfilled some of the early promise shown in his micro-budget debut, "Slutty Summer" but sorely lacking either in "A Four Letter Word" or the woefully misguided "Between Love and Goodbye." Here is a fresh and sassy gay backstage musical and if the songs by writer-director Caruso and Rick Crom aren't exactly Sondheim, they are fun, often quite clever and delivered with loads of attitude. How could Glenn not love the seriously fierce tap-dancing angels in the opening number or the wickedly funny "Straight to Heaven" sung at the Foundation Against Gayness Society Retreat. Joey Dudding is an adorable Eddie/Steve, a "best little boy in the world" who melted Glenn's icy heart whilst singing "I Will Change" and who just happens to look absolutely sinful in just a fig leaf. Daniel Robinson, another fresh-faced lad, is equally appealing as Paul/Adam; Glenn would let him be a slut anytime. And finally, there's another cameo from Brent Corrigan who plays a hustler with a heart of gold. God bless him.

All in all, "The Big Gay Musical" is the most entertaining gay movie Glenn has seen in ages.

Just the facts...

"The Big Gay Musical" has a running time of 88 minutes available on DVD with an SRP of \$24.99 Michael Musto has a wicked cameo in the film's opening moments while director Casper Andreas does a Hitchcock albeit much a much thinner one, appearing briefly as an usher. DVD extras include an interview with Casper Andreas, a behind-the-scenes featurette plus the full "Adam and Steve: Just the Way God Made 'Em" sans interruptions.



eted Mormon lad of his very own.

Is "Adam and Steve: Just the Way God Made 'Em" destined to be the next off-Broadway sensation? Will Eddie's parents recover from the shock of their son's entrance wearing nothing but a fig leave and a smile? Have Paul's days as a slut finally come to an end?

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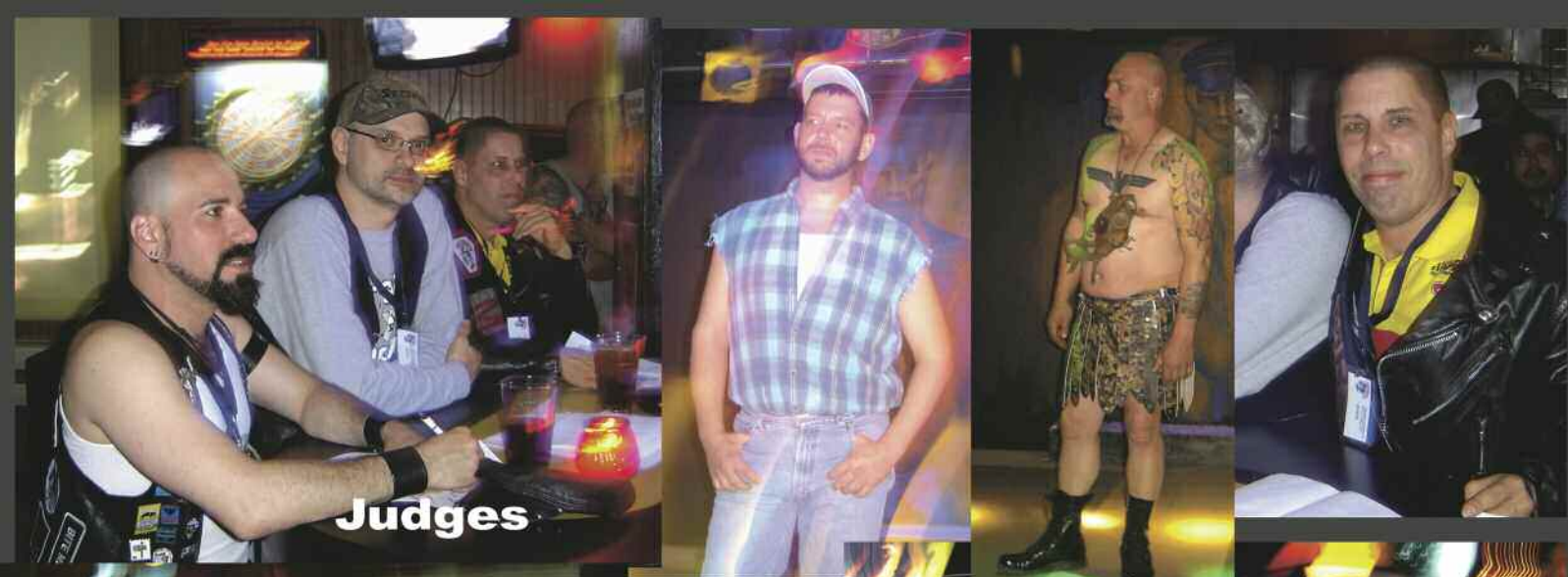
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