

Wisconsin's LGBT News & Entertainment Magazine for 17 Years

# QUEST

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**MICHAEL  
JOHNSTON  
INTERVIEWS  
COMIC/SINGER  
JULIE BROWN**



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## **CREAM CITY FOUNDATION'S MARIA CADENAS TO RECEIVE YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD FROM BELOIT COLLEGE**

**Milwaukee** - Maria Cadenas, Executive Director of Cream City Foundation, is being honored by Beloit College with the Young Alumni Award. The sixth person to receive this award, Cadenas was chosen by Beloit College's Alumni Association Board of Directors and will be presented the award during her 10th year Homecoming/Reunion weekend in late September.

The Young Alumni Award is given to young Beloit College alumni on the basis of overall achievements, personal growth in career, and outstanding civic, cultural, and professional / business service in such ways as to reflect credit on the College.

Maria Cadenas has worked for over nine years with social change legal, advocacy and community organizations to create respectful and fair communities in southeastern Wisconsin. A Progressive Women's Voices alumna, she sits on the board of Funders for LGBTQ Issues, a national affinity group working on behalf of gay and transgender philanthropy and has also served as the Associate Director for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Wisconsin.

"I'm humbled and honored to receive this recognition," said Maria Cadenas. "Beloit College changed my life. My work with Cream City Foundation and other social change organizations is a reflection of the values and convictions I learned at Beloit."

Part of Cadenas' work has included creating a Cream City Scholar program to provide a space for college students to learn about organizational management and build their resumes before graduation.

"During my time at Beloit, I benefited from the Kemper Scholar Program, and I wanted to create an opportunity that provided similar experiences to young LGBT and allied students in the Milwaukee area," said Cadenas.

"Cream City Foundation is proud to have Maria at the helm," said Stacey Herzing, President of Cream City Foundation. "Maria's commitment to a strong community for all helps set the stage for a stronger Wisconsin."

## **FAIR WISCONSIN PAC & HUMAN RIGHTS LEAGUE PAC ISSUE SECOND ROUND OF PRO-FAIRNESS ENDORSEMENTS**

**LGBT groups expand pro-fairness endorsements in state and local races**

**Madison** - Fair Wisconsin PAC and Human Rights League PAC have announced the next endorsements in the 2010 fall elections. Both groups have a history of trying to positively influence elections through educational efforts and grass roots support. "Fair Wisconsin PAC and Human Rights League PAC (HRL-PAC) are committed to advancing and achieving equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Wisconsinites through strategic electoral activity," states a press release sent to the Quest offices.

"The sheer number of candidates who are willing to stand with the LGBT community this election season has been inspiring and signals an important increase in support for equality across our state," said Katie Belanger, Fair Wisconsin Executive Director. "We are proud to add these newly endorsed candidates to the growing list of pro-fairness candidates running for elected office this fall."

Dennis Kohler and Laurie Guilbault, co-chairs of HRL-PAC, agree that the growing number of pro-fairness candidates reflect the depth of support the LGBT community now has across Wisconsin, which will allow us to continue taking important steps towards equality.

Below is the list of newly endorsed candidates:

**WISCONSIN STATE SENATE** - SD 7 - Sen. Jeff Plale

**WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY**

AD 8 - JoCasta Zamarripa

AD 73 - Rep. Nick Milroy

AD 91 - Rep. Chris Danou

**DANE COUNTY SHERIFF** - Sheriff David Mahoney

For a complete list of Fair Wisconsin PAC and HRL-PAC endorsed candidates, please visit <http://fairwisconsin.com/endorsements2010>.

## **GREEN BAY CITY EMPLOYEE WANTS GAY PARTNER HEALTH BENEFITS**

**Green Bay** - A city employee for Green Bay Wisconsin has requested health insurance benefits for his domestic partner reported the Green Bay Press Gazette. If approved by the Green Bay City Council, this would most likely require a policy change making Green Bay the first municipality in Northeastern Wisconsin to provide those benefits for same sex partners. Presently De Pere's school district is the only other non-private employer to offer these benefits.

David Fowles, a long-time employee who drives a truck for the city's Public Works Department had previously registered with his partner as a couple in the states domestic partner registry. This provides only 43 rights, most of which center around estate planning and hospital visitation issues. Health insurance plans are not part of those rights. Dissatisfied with being denied what Mr. Fowles feels is a "basic right", he felt requesting the coverage was his next move forward. Green Bay already has a policy against discrimination based on sexual orientation. Other Wisconsin cities including Madison and Milwaukee offer their gay employees access to equal benefits.

Wisconsin is the first state that has a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage but now recognizes the unions of gay and lesbian couples with a domestic partnership registry. This registry backed by Governor Jim Doyle is being challenged by the anti-gay rights group Wisconsin Family Action headed up by executive director Julaine Apple. WFA feels the registry is too close to traditional marriage and is banned by the constitutional amendment passed in 2006.

Mr. Fowles has contacted Quest over the Labor Day weekend to arrange for an interview which we hope to publish in the next issue.

## **Audition Notice:**

**Milwaukee** - THEATRICAL TENDENCIES. Thirteen men between the ages of 18 and 70 are needed for Terrence McNally's highly controversial "Corpus Christi". Open call auditions will be held on Sunday, September 26 at 1:00 pm and Monday, September 27 at 6:30 pm at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd Street in Milwaukee. Prepare a one to two minute monologue of your choice and be prepared to read from the script. FMI at [www.theatricaltendencies.com](http://www.theatricaltendencies.com). Theatrical Tendencies is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit professional theatre company. All roles are non-equity. A stipend will be paid. Performance dates are in March, 2011.

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## MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER CELEBRATES CENTER AWARENESS DAY

**Milwaukee** - The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is joining with CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers to celebrate the annual LGBT Center Awareness Day. Wednesday, September 15, 2010.

"Every year we think it's vital that people recognize the pivotal role LGBT centers play in our community," said Terry Stone, CenterLink's Executive Director. "Estimates of over 40,000 people visit centers each week and access programs and services that literally build community from the center. We have seen the affects on communities served by LGBT centers, including financial, health, wellness, and community organizing impacts, and we are excited to highlight that work through Center Awareness Day."

The theme of this year's LGBT Center Awareness Day is "Building Our Community From The Center," showcasing the integral role that community centers play in the development, unification, and empowerment of all LGBT communities.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is preparing to move to our new location at 252 E. Highland St. and in celebration of Center Awareness

Day we are inviting volunteers to join us on Wednesday, September 15 at 5pm for a moving party, at 315 W. Court St. in Milwaukee. We will have pizza and beverages for volunteers helping us pack up our lending library.

Details about LGBT Center Awareness Day are available at <http://www.mycenterlink.org/> and more information about The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center at [www.mkelgbt.org](http://www.mkelgbt.org).

## SKYLIGHT OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS DAMES AT SEA

**Milwaukee** - Dames at Sea, a musical parody of the grand and glorious Busby Berkeley movie musicals of the 1930s will be performed September 17- October 3, 2010- Cabot Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center. The performances are the first of Skylight's 51st season.

Calamity strikes when a group of performers, preparing for their upcoming show, needs to find a new venue because their theater is demolished. The show's songwriter, Dick, happens to be a sailor who offers up his boat after being persuaded by leading lady and diva, Mona. Ruby, a sweet small-town girl with plans to make it big on Broadway, is the chorus girl who saves the day. Dames at Sea charms and delights with

comedy, love songs and rollicking tap numbers.

"I first saw Dames at Sea several years ago when Pam Kriger directed it in Madison and loved it. It is a very funny and lighthearted piece filled with great songs and no shortage of dancing. I can't wait to see what hilarity will ensue with Pam and Bill teaming up to direct this delightful show." -Amy Jensen, Managing Director. Pam Kriger (Stage Director/Choreographer) returns to Skylight after serving as Stage Director for last season's A Day in Hollywood/Night in Ukraine.

"I thought it would be nice to begin this season with a musical that was charming, funny and tuneful....just a purely joyous way to kick off the 2010/2011 season. And I think that Dames at Sea is the perfect fit for the Cabot Theatre....." - Bill Theisen, Artistic Director who has directed over 100 productions for the theatre and opera companies from coast to coast. He made his professional theatre debut as a performer at Skylight Opera Theatre in 1981 and began his tenure as Artistic Director in 2004.

Ticket Prices range from \$22.50 to \$65.00 and are available for purchase online at [www.skylightopera.com](http://www.skylightopera.com), 24 hours a day/7 days a week or call (414) 291-7800 Monday through Saturday, noon to 6:00 p.m. and two hours prior to all performances.

## EDITOR'S OPINION: Targeting TARGET

by Quest Publisher Mark Mariucci (Za)

Boycotts by the LGBT community are nothing new. The first such I remember was for Coors Beer. Recently Target Corporation and curiously to a lesser degree, Best Buy made national headlines when it was discovered both corporations had given money to a Minnesota political group Minnesota Forward that was supporting anti-gay Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer. A Boycott started by Move-On and promoted heavily on the social network Facebook followed.

Target's CEO Gregg Steinhafel repeatedly stated the reason for the donations had nothing to do with the anti-gay rhetoric of Emmer, and was motivated by the politician's pro-business attitude. Best Buy mirrored those claims.

Not as well known is that one candidate that is likely to run against Emmer in the elections is pro-gay former U.S. senator Mark Dayton. Mr. Dayton is an heir to Dayton-Hudson Corp. fortune and is the great-grandson of George Dayton, who started the Dayton's department store chain and later Target.

The Advocate. quotes Katharine Tinucci, deputy campaign manager for Mark Dayton as saying Dayton's connection to Target is "mostly a historical one." Still the campaign feels Target's support is a sign they worry about Mark Dayton's promise to increase taxes for the

richest Minnesotans could have a negative impact on jobs and their bottom line in general.

As the boycott continued to pick up steam, an embarrassed HRC tried to distance itself from negative press over having scored Best Buy and Target at the top of the list for LGBT friendly businesses in the HRC Corporate Equality Index. (from which the buyer's guide is derived) In a press release HRC vice president of communications Fred Sainz said the national organization "will not encourage people to shop at either store and believes that consumers should make their own decisions after careful consideration of all of the information available to them. "Because we understand the impact of leaving Target and Best Buy on the various products associated with the buyer's guide, both companies will soon be removed from it," Sainz added.

HRC will now delay the 2011 Equality Index as it considers the methodology used to compile the report.

Institutional shareholders have begun asking for an accounting of all donations made by Target over the past several years. Three management firms filed a proposal asking Target's independent board members to undertake a "comprehensive review of Target's political contributions and spending processes including the criteria used for such contributions." A

similar request has been made for Best Buy.

This move is probably wise as it was recently uncovered Target has not been nearly as gay friendly as they would ask you to believe. Information on past donations has now emerged, including those from colleagues overwhelmingly in support of California's anti-gay-marriage Prop 8. At least two key executives there have a long paper trail of donations to right wing candidates while at the same time giving only token donations to LGBT groups.

Target has long been the darling of LGBT people for it's policies on hiring and treatment of employees, but the past history of giving to pro-women's rights causes and the LGBT community may have ended when control of Target left the hands of the Dayton family. Apparently we have all been fooled.

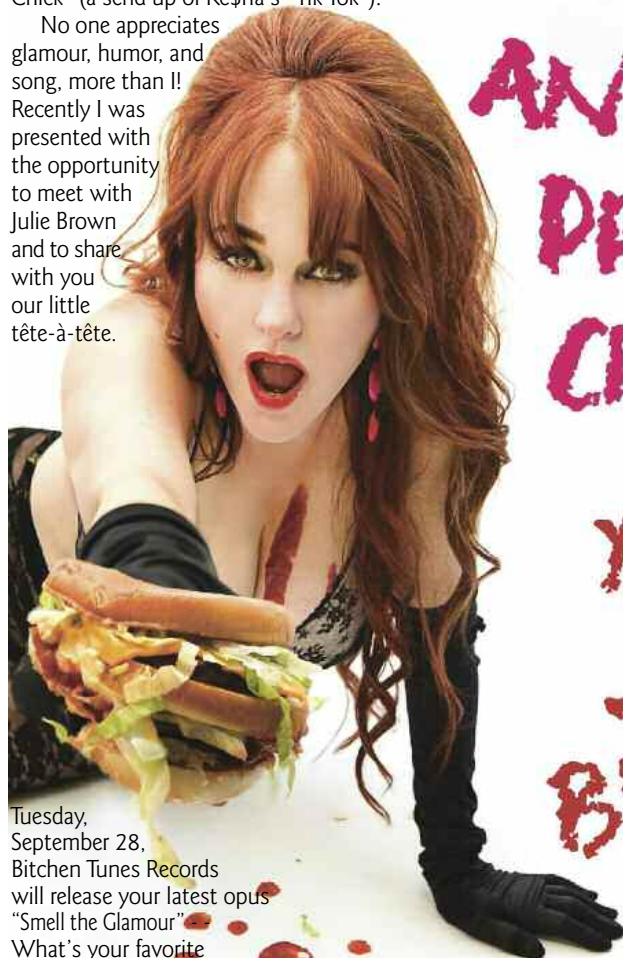
Quest has a long tradition of talking about supporting those who support you with your buying dollars. Today more than ever, we have found our voices trampled by the sheer amount of money raised for the political election campaigns. The recent Supreme Court rulings allowing corporations to give as much as they like has made the matter worse. Your power to persuade rests mainly with your pocket book. Perhaps now is the time to switch to Wisconsin based Kohls and Shopko when spending your hard earned dollars.

## Just Say Julie Brown

When it comes to musical parody and novelty numbers who could possibly forget such memorable tunes as: "The Homecoming Queen has got a Gun" or "I like 'em Big and Stupid!" ???

The wit and the wisdom behind these ditties is back and better than ever! The return of Julie Brown – with "Smell the Glamour" including such future hits as: "Big Clown Pants" (a parody of Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance") and "Another Drunk Chick" (a send up of Ke\$ha's "Tik Tok").

No one appreciates glamour, humor, and song, more than I! Recently I was presented with the opportunity to meet with Julie Brown and to share with you our little tête-à-tête.



Tuesday, September 28, Bitchen Tunes Records will release your latest opus "Smell the Glamour". What's your favorite piece on this new album?

**I love it all!**

What inspires you to create these send-ups?

Music is a fun way to comedy! I use to do stand up, sketches, bits like that. But music adds energy - it energizes everything. It heightens it! Pop Stars inspire me! I still love Madonna! It's a combination of all these things. I've never met Madonna, but we have mutual friends and acquaintances. Her Choreographer even brought me a warm, half full, bottle of "used" Champagne, from Madonna. She likes my work, or some of it... She was not too happy with the bit I did about firing dancers, but it did happen! The cemetery thing was not liked either, where I visited my dog, like she visited her mother... keep in mind she did have a camera crew with her in the graveyard.

When coming up with a song what comes first music or lyrics?

**The idea comes first, lyrics, then set to music – to make it musically work. Kind of like a musical joke.**

We miss You, what have you been up to lately?

**I had a baby! A son named Kylen – an Irish name, he is now in High School, and he's going on 17! Seeing as he's grown, almost – I can perform now, and tour again. I have been writing and working behind the scenes. I did the Jonas Brothers movie,**

**there first one ("Camp Rock") and was even in it! Not the second Jonas movie. I realize my fan base and theirs don't really mix! LOL I did "Strip Mall" for Comedy Central, lots of projects for Disney writing, performing, acting – again not my usual work... But it pays the bills. Also these days I'm punching up the writing for ABC Family's "Melissa & Joey" starring Melissa Joan Hart and Joey Lawrence. It just started, getting good reviews, too! I like the work, get up, go in, and be funny, be creative.**

Can you believe the change in MTV? It used to be so creative and innovative, employing artist such as you – what went wrong with them?

**The stuff on MTV today is cheaper to produce. It's all budget, they kind of sold – out. They don't do music – would rather**

**do "Jersey Shores". Big deal! Not really all that interesting.**

You made such fun and timeless videos to accompany your songs; can we look forward to coordinating videos of "Smell the Glamour"?

**As a matter of fact, this coming weekend and next, we'll be shooting the video(s). Just trying to fit everything in, never enough time!**

Will you be going on tour with "Smell the Glamour"?

**"Smell the Glamour Tour" – yeah, I would love that, and I said my son is grown so there isn't any conflict or pull to keep me home. They (kids) are little for such a short period of time. But I have a new team, and I'm looking into bookings again. Home and out, quick weekend type gigs. I would love to do some Prides next summer!**

Is Wisconsin on your tour?

**Why not, you do a good job of promoting Wisconsin! I'd love to do your Pride; it sounds like great fun – Kathy Griffin, Patti LaBelle, Joan Rivers... Wow!**

Have you ever played Milwaukee?

**Sorry, not that I remember... I played where Prince is originally from (Minneapolis). So many dates, places... but I'd love to come to Wisconsin!**

With every thing going on out in the real world today I think we need a good dose of Julie Brown! Welcome back, are You ready?

**I'm on U-Tube with my Sarah Palin piece, I just love U-Tube! I did "Ex-Beauty Queen Has Gotta Gun!" I'm working on a Sarah Palin and Congresswoman Michele Bachmann (Republican, Minnesota) piece, and now with Dr. Laura – but again, theres just so many hours in a day.**

At present, whom do you listen to, as far as music?

**I love Lady Gaga – she is great, outrageous, smart, fresh, so talented! I still love Madonna – always will! ABBA is so fun. The 80's stuff, or even 80's re-do, remixes. I really think there was some great stuff during that time - and I still enjoy it.**

In closing Julie, anything you would like to share or say to our Readers?

**Thank You! Thanks Midwest! I must thank the Gays! You have sustained me! Gays never forget! I was at the mall the other day and this guy recognized me and he told me how much he loved my work. It's incredible!**

Wishing this glamorous Homecoming Queen continued success and appreciating all the laughs on the way... Thank You, Julie Brown and Smell the Glamour available Tuesday, September 28, 2010.



# SCISSOR SISTERS PLAYS THE RAVE

By Mike Fitzpatrick

It was promoted as the perfect GaGa after-party, happening just days after the Lady's sold-out concert at the Bradley Center. During the show co-lead Ana Matronic exhorted the cheering masses to make the event "the kick off to a life changing weekend." Riding on the crest of their current #1 *Billboard* club hit "Fire With Fire," New York's electro-rockin' Scissor Sisters rolled in to Milwaukee for an energy-charged hundred minute concert at the Rave September 3. It may not have been life changing but it sure was amazing fun!

The Sisters' Rave gig was the latest stop on their "Fairy Tale Tour" to promote the critically-acclaimed third album "Night Work." The nineteen songs the Scissor Sisters offered up (sixteen non-stop followed by a three-song encore) included all but one from the new CD, with the hits from earlier albums sprinkled throughout the evening to keep attendees pitched at fever level.

With its Robert Mapplethorpe cover and production collaboration with Stuart Price (who's also worked with Madonna, New Order, Pet Shop Boys and Kylie Minogue) "Night Work" has been billed the Scissor Sisters' "gayest" album yet. The band's Rave crowd certainly pushed the Mo Meter slightly past 50%.

The Rave is now smoke free, so part of the Euphoria in the air was Calvin Klein's, as it battled with Eternity, and other fragrances from Ed Hardy, Armani, Marc Ekco and so on. The crowd ranged from spiked and Jell-O haired twentysomething club kids to a number of silver-crested Crunchy Granola types and even a few bear daddies. Men outnumbered the gals 60-40.

After a brief warm-up courtesy of tour DJ Sammy Jo, the lights dimmed and for a few minutes. As the electronic opening chords of "Night Work" focused the crowd's attention forward, the Scissors Sister took the stage all donned in black until - as the downbeat kicked in - Jake Shears exploded onstage wearing a read leather jacket and skin tight ripped denim pants. If he had put a credit card in those pants the front row fans could have been charged with identity theft.

Cheers erupted and hands went into the air

amongst the near capacity crowd. A lot of those hands were snapping cell phone shots or capturing video clips of the excitement. Once the dance beats were unleashed they essentially did not stop for the next eighty minutes. The versatile light show behind the band offered up hues that captured the energy of numbers like "Any Which Way," "Any Which Way" and "Running Out" from the new album, alternating with earlier hits like "She's My Man," "Take



Your Mama Out" and "Laura."

The sexually-charged lyrics of the Sisters' song list were matched by Shear's gyrations and slow-strip tease on stage as the evening progressed. The red leather jacket was history by the end of "Something Like This" and he was fully bare chested by mid-show. He repeated the strip down with a different, stringed "see through" outfit during the encore set as well. At one point Ana Matronic matched Shears' dry humping of the mic stand with a little oral eroticism on her hand held mic. The rest of the band - Babydaddy, Del Marquis, Randy Real and uncredited back-up singers - performed dutifully and essentially kept out of Jake and Ana's way.

Banter between songs was at a minimum. Ana offered up that "my dad was born in Two Rivers which gives me a little Wisconsin rootage," and Jake made a pitch for the crowd to get tested for HIV, announcing he recently had done the same. The music was non-stop and beat heavy. If there was any quib-

ble with the show it was that the bass was so thick that at times the vocals were lost under the sub-woofers.

It was clear that most of the crowd were already serious fans of the band as they shouted or mouthed the lyrics to nearly every song. The strongest response was not to the currently chart-topping "Fire With Fire," but to what comes the closest to a pop radio hit in the Midwest, the Bee Gee-esque "I Don't Feel Like Dancin'" from "Ta Dah."

From nearly the moment the band left the stage after a jubilant rendition of "Night Life," the crowd's screams for more were clearly going to be honored as techies tweaked the instruments for what was to come. After about four minutes of non-stop hooting and clapping, Scissor Sisters re-emerged for what can only be called an elegiac encore. The band led off with their hit remake of Pink Floyd's "Comfortably Numb" and then went into the most complex and critically evaluated song from "Night Work."

"Invisible Light" featured a drum solo that on one hand reminded the 60's survivors in the audience of Iron Butterfly's "In A Gadda Da Vida" as it mixed tribal rhythms out of darkest Africa with the other. The finale of the number included Sir Ian McKellen in a pre-recorded speech about Babylon. His narration tickled memories of Vincent Price on "Thriller" mixed with a Rod Serling "Twilight Zone" episode intro. The show ended with an explosive performance of "Filthy/Gorgeous" enhanced with confetti cannons that also spewed the Scissor Sisters' own \$3 dollar bills carrying the message "Make Some Cash - Fuck The Rich." Can you get any more queer?

In one of her final monologues Ana reminded the crowd that this is live music and to put down their cell phones and mini-cams. "Stop trying to capture the moment and just experience the moment." For those who chose to do so from the very first note at this Scissor Sisters concert - such as myself - this was one wonderful night that will replay between the ears for months, if not years, to come far better than any snippet uploaded onto YouTube. The pixels simply cannot compare to the sheer joy of being there.

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# RUTHIE SHINES AS THE SUN OF A PSYCHO BEACH

By Paul Masterson

Off the Wall Theatre's (OTW) current production of gay author Charles Busch's *Psycho Beach Party* offers an evening of silly but sizzling beach-side antics. Directed by Jeremy Welter (who also designed the set), the show's an antidote for that end of summer ennui.

*Psycho Beach Party*'s a take on all things 60's - from those teen beach blanket movies with ex-mouseketeer Annette Funicello and Frankie Avalon to thriller-psycho dramas like Hitchcock's *Marnie*. OTW's production underpins it all with an underscore of, appropriately enough, a Beach Boys surf soundtrack. It's about coming of age, gender role defiance and boys kissing boys.

Heroine and teen wanna-be maitresse de surf, Florence "Chicklet" Forrest (Liz Mistele) inexplicably pops from one odd personality to another. Aside from her own ditzzy exuberance as the petite pubescent beach chick - hence "Chicklet", she changes her multi-personalities including Ann, "dominatrix empress of the planet Earth," a snarly urban cashier and assorted others with a sudden

swooping bow. Mistele masters the myriad personae with well-timed delivery and charm.

Chicklet's best friend, Berdine, played in drag by Kurtis Witzsteiner, is sincerely shrill. Witzstienr's

give a goofy California character to their roles. Jocelyn Ridgeley as Bettina Barnes and Kaytlyn Schwartz as marvel Ann complete the cast.

But, it's Dear Ruthie's portrayal of Chicklet's mother, Mrs. Forest, that steals the show. Ruthie conjures a spot-on Joan Crawford with more than a dollop of the drag John Travolta as *Hairspray*'s Edna Turnblad. She's petulant, extravagant and, even, at times, poignant. This is a role made for Dear Ruthie.

The set is typically basic for OTW's 50+ set black box with walls painted in stripes of sand tan, sea aqua and sky azure. A painted matching tapestry is pulled back to switch to Chicklet's bedroom.

It's fun way to cope with the advent of fallishly cool nights. The only thing missing

is the fragrance of Coppertone wafting through the air and the roar of waves. It definitely puts the "off the wall" in Off the Wall.

*Psycho Beach Party* runs through September 12. It's 90 minute show with one intermission. Ticket information: 414-327-3552



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## Words with Friends

Anthony Paull

There's one cool thing about accepting friend requests from random people you don't know – when you meet them, you already know if they're crazy. And if they're not – why waste time with them?

Seriously, don't you have enough lame-brained friends running boring-ass circles around your social life? Wouldn't you rather spice things up with a spit-fire for a change – someone who can suck the life force out of the biggest cock on the block?

I would, and I've met my match in the form of a gay boy named Gabe. A few days ago, Gabe asked to be my Facebook friend, and I accepted the request, only because he shot me a message first, raving about my column. And who doesn't like a little sunshine shot up their ass? God knows, it's been awhile since anything else has shot up there! So now, we're fast friends, spending oodles of time together. Gabe says he'd like to spend more, but he's too busy with life's mundane tasks – you know, like taking out the trash and making sure his boyfriend isn't nailing the Eurotrash neighbor.

"Apparently, I'm not entertaining enough," Gabe declares, after buzzing me into his pricy, stone-block condo, where I have to ask permission from the doorman to ride the elevator. On the way up, I meet a pug and his elderly, gay master. The pug's jeweled collar is worth more than my car, I think, but Gabe lives that kind of lifestyle. Everything is amazing. Everything is beautiful. BUT if anything is more beautiful than Gabe, we have issues. BIG issues. Whoppers! "I usually date *down*," he says, combing his gold locks with his fingers. "But now, I'm living with a guy hotter than me. And last night, I find out he's playing games with some guy in the unit across the hall."



riously, that neighbor guy just arrived from France last month. He doesn't even know how to properly shower, but he sure knows how to Facebook!"

"Maybe it's just a game."

"Oh, please. And maybe my ass is just for exits. C'mon, Anthony. Would you have a problem with your boyfriend playing cyber Scrabble with some random queer?"

"Depends on what words they're using."

Not finding me amusing, Gabe demands that I slam my martini before seeing me to the door. That way, he can exfoliate, take a disco nap, and decide how to handle this unpleasant matter. Later, he calls me with his plan. Basically, he wants in on the game, and tonight, he plans to help his boyfriend come up with new, fascinating words. "If you can't beat them, join them," he informs me. Yet later that night, the plan isn't working. "Can you believe it? They've been playing for weeks. Weeks! That's what my boyfriend said. And that Frenchman isn't even cute! I mean, hello, look at me! I'm a god! Would you cheat on me?"

I can't help but laugh. "Gabe, there's more to life than being beautiful." "Bullshit," he remarks.

"I'm being serious. You're beautiful. Fine! I get it! But what else do you have to bring to the game table? You know, maybe if you had a game going with your boyfriend, he might not have time to

"Games? What kind of games?" I ask, as he mixes me a cappuccino martini.

"Stupid Facebook games. Scrabble over an I-Phone. He calls it words with friends. Why does my boyfriend need to play games with our neighbor? Ser-

play with others."

"You're right. I hate this," he says, breaking down. "It used to be easy. Being sexy was enough. Now, my boyfriend actually expects me to do things with him."

True, but doesn't spending time with someone you like, such as a boyfriend, help you know if 'like' can turn to love? Isn't that how it works? Isn't there more to love than 'face value'? Now, I can't speak for others, but initially, I'm never attracted to the men I inevitably adore. Hence, why I fight off the keepers, and I'm alone, I suppose. But when a guy catches me with more than looks – with either his wit or his charm – I'm often hooked for the long haul, and I find just having a conversation with him is enough to get me off. The problem is: like Gabe, people say I'm too 'put together' – that's why I barely get approached. But the truth is I'm looking to connect with a guy who may *not* have the perfect puzzle parts – just an average guy who'd much rather compete for my attention than compete over word games with 'friends' on the Internet.

"I have an idea. Maybe you and your man can join a sport together," I suggest to Gabe. "What do you guys like to do for fun?"

"Fuck," he states. And that's exactly what they do – rather loud – later that night, when Gabe 'accidentally' leaves the front door ajar for the Frenchman to hear.

"Ugh," I moan "That wasn't what I meant when I suggested spending more time together."

"Yeah, but I screamed *really* loud. Like I was giving birth," he declares. "That way the Frenchman thinks we're in love. Wouldn't you think that if you heard me screaming?"

"Maybe," I admit, reflecting a bit. "But I'd probably think you were more secure in your relationship if I heard you two *talking* instead."

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# THE FACTS OF LIFE IN THE FAB LANE

by Anthony Paul

Infamous for her role as Natalie Green, the fresh-faced teen of the 80's sitcom *The Facts of Life*, Mindy Cohn is best known as the bubbly Tootie-sidesick, generally pleasing television audiences with a G-rated joke on her tongue. Now, she's returning to the Hollywood game with a bit more kick and lot more pizzazz, portraying the feisty lead role in *Violet Tendencies*, a Casper Andreas-directed film screening at The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sarasota Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

Penned by Jesse Archer, *Tendencies* follows the life of a 40 yr. old fruit fly named Violet (Cohn) who devotes her nights to queer men, but ultimately flounders when it comes to finding a man of her own. Taking a friend's advice, Violet abandons her gay family on a spiritual quest to find true love, sparking hilarity, romance, and mayhem as she attempts to change the woman she is to find the man she wants.

Recently, Cohn sat with us to discuss her career and share further insight into the film.

Hey Mindy! Thanks for taking time to chat. Tell us, career-wise, what have you been up to since leaving the show?

Cohn: Gratefully, for the last 25 years, I've been able to find work to support myself in a lifestyle to which I've become accustomed. I have to say, it's been an amazing ride.

Yes, and a full one as well. I hear you graduated from Loyola Marymount University with a degree in anthropology.

Cohn: Yes, but since that time, I've also received a masters in education, so there's been a ton of other stuff too.

Before *Tendencies*, your role as Natalie on *The Facts of Life* granted you a legion of fans and followers. Plus, you've been nominated for an Emmy on your voice work as Thelma on *What's New Scooby-Doo*. What type of acting work do you prefer, television or film, and why?

Cohn: Well, I like to take the work I am given. It really doesn't matter what medium. I just came off a four-month run of a Toronto play. Mostly, I've been working in independent film, and it's been good to me. While you can't make the most amazing living at it, I've worked with some of the most incredible people, especially in the last five years.

Are you still in contact with your *Facts of Life* family? Which cast member are you closest with?

Cohn: I'm close to all of them. We live in different cities so we don't see each other all the time, but we're still in contact.

On to your new film. Initially, what attracted you to the lead role in *Tendencies*?

Cohn: The script by Jesse Archer. It won me over.

After talking with him, I just really wanted to work with him.

As a single middle-aged woman, Violet goes through a slew of romantic mishaps on her search for Mr. Right. What is your advice for gay men or women seeking the same fate?

Cohn: Oh gosh. I don't know if I'm the best person to be giving advice in that department. Just get out there and do what feels right for you. It's different for every-

taken over by singers. Now, it's fag hag. I think I'm in incredibly good company with the history of that name. At the same time, I hope that because you're a fag hag, it doesn't mean you don't have straight friends or that you want to have sex with gay men and/or live like a gay man. I think that's the most amazing thing with Violet. Finally, a fag hag is not some stereotype or ancillary character in a film. She's very three-dimensional, and I appreciate that.

Why do you think certain women find gay men so appealing?



body. (Chuckles) I'm really not an advice person.

On her quest for romance, Violet tries to change herself to fit the needs of her love interests. As an actress, what have you been asked to change anything about yourself to win over audiences?

Cohn: Well gratefully, not much. As an actor, I try to bring myself to each character, and lose myself as well. Hopefully, I've done a good job. It seems that I play likeable characters. It makes me happy to hear that I'm well-liked. I must be doing something right.

What part of Violet do you see most in yourself?

Cohn: Well, just the fact that she's created this family of friends. I'm blessed to have come from a very close family. I have an amazing model of a family with a mom, dad, and sister with whom I've very tight. I've re-created that in my friend circle. Whether they be male, female, gay, straight, I have a close family of friends, and I really identify with Violet in the fact that 'you are who you love'. Friends are the most important people. They define you.

In the film, Violet is labeled a 'fag hag' for her close friendships with gay men. It is a term that some LGBT community members find cruel and offensive. What are your thoughts?

Cohn: For me, probably due to my age and upbringing in the 80's, I feel I've earned that name! I'm proud to be a card-carrying fag hag! I don't find it derogatory. Actually, I find fruit-fly a little more cheeky. They used to call us divas, but that was

Cohn: Actually, I think it's mutual. I always say if I like who I am around you, you're in. Gay men and straight women, if paired correctly, can really be a tremendous source of fun, comfort, and intimacy for each other, like no other relationship.

On several occasions, *Tendencies* raises the question of the social stigma attached to HIV. Do you feel we've advanced as a society in regard to our views of the virus? How so?

Cohn: The good news is people have gone from dying of AIDS to living with AIDS. It's good and bad, actually. I think it's good that the stigma, while still alive and kicking, is not as prevalent. But in turn, the focus to finding a cure has been taken away because so many people have been living and thriving with meds and treatment. It's a double-edged sword.

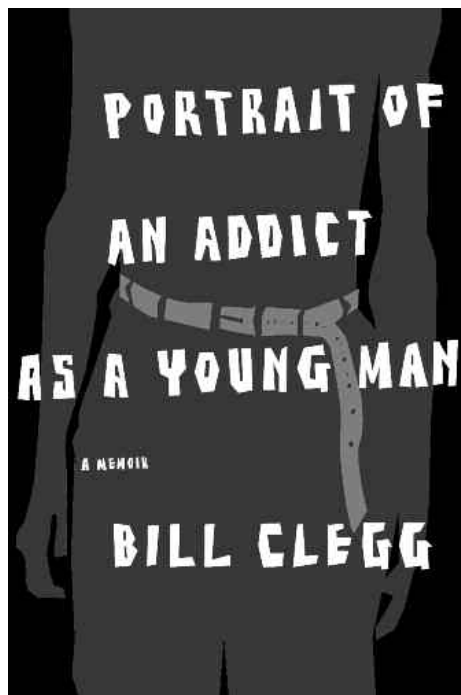
Garnering praise for your performance in *Tendencies*, you seem to be poised for an eventful year. What type of projects do you expect to working on in the near future?

Cohn: I wouldn't know what's next if it bit me in the butt. That's the most exciting part of being an actor. You don't know what's coming down the pike. The only thing you can do is be ready, and I'm just really grateful that the parts that I've been waiting for have been finally coming to me, which is fantastic.

***Violet Tendencies* is currently screening at various film festivals across the United States.**

**"Portrait of an Addict as a Young Man"**  
by Bill Clegg

c.2010, Little, Brown \$23.99 / \$28.99 Canada  
240 pages



It seems so benign.

Seriously, what's the harm in a bite of chocolate? A grande latte? One more can of cola, yes to the caffeine? A bakery donut with sprinkles?

None, that's how much. Life goes on if you partake. The world won't come to a complete standstill if you indulge in that seductive, legal-but-forbidden treat. You know it. Everybody knows it. We all have our addictions – some, more innocuous than others.

In the new book **"Portrait of an Addict as a Young Man"** by Bill Clegg, Clegg's addiction was far from harmless. In the end, in fact, it almost killed him.

And it all started out so innocently.

Like many college students, Bill Clegg and his roommates enjoyed a good time. They smoked a little pot, drank and serial-dated women, pulled pranks, did cocaine, and got high again. Yes, it got them into trouble – they were kicked out of college – and Clegg was sometimes too wasted or hungover to function, but it was fun.

His introduction to smoking crack came from the first man he ever had more-than-fleeting sex with. A hometown lawyer, a man Clegg had known forever, invited Clegg to his apartment for a drink. They talked about the man's kids and his wife, made out a little, then the man disappeared into the bedroom. He came back with "milk-colored crystals" and a clear glass tube.

After his first gulp of crack, Clegg says of himself, "He misses the feeling even before it's left him and not only does he want more, he needs it."

And from then on, he needed it all the time.

But that – the night of firsts – that was all before Clegg repeatedly lied to his friends and family. It was before he left his boyfriend, Noah, at an important film festival in order to fly home to get high. It was before he slept with other men in seedy hotels, wore the same sweater to filthy tatters, and didn't bathe for weeks. His first hit from the clear vial was before his business partner changed the locks, and before Noah did the same on their shared apartment.

And it was before Clegg nearly died from the drug that had ruined his life.

Reading "Portrait of an Addict as a Young Man" is definitely a different kind of experience. This book makes you squirm, and you'll want to try to get through each page as quickly as possible, not because the story is good (which it is), but because reading about what author Bill Clegg lived is hard to endure.

Starting with a major binge, then moving back and forth between childhood memories and fuzzy recollections of being high, Clegg walks a tightrope between wry humor and wrung-out horror. Early memories are written in third-person, giving them a remote feeling and adding more tenseness to this already-raw memoir.

If you relish a tough-to-read story with edge, you'll want this one. Like any craving, "Portrait of an Addict as a Young Man" will be impossible to let go of.

**"The Bucolic Plague: How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers"** by Josh Kilmer-Purcell

c.2010, Harper \$24.99  
/ \$26.99 Canada 305 pages

For most of your life, you've had a dream.

Maybe it's something you've reached for since you were born, something you've always felt you were meant to do. Or maybe it's just a passing what-if, a dream of the "day" type that might actually come true someday.

Maybe you don't know what your true dream is yet – but the day will come when it'll hit you. Case in point: **Josh Kilmer-Purcell** always thought he belonged in Manhattan, but his Wisconsin roots instantly, surprisingly called to him from a crumbling mansion. In the new book **"The Bucolic Plague: How Two Manhattanites Became Gentlemen Farmers"**, he tells more.

Most people chafe at getting lost, but in October, 2006, Josh Kilmer-Purcell and his partner, Brent, didn't mind. Their annual apple-buying trip was over and neither was in any hurry to get home. A few more minutes on the road from upstate New York only meant a delay in returning to Manhattan, and long work weeks. Kilmer-Purcell was an ad man whose job was to make you want things. Brent worked for Martha Stewart.

And then they saw the mansion.

The Beekman mansion was over 200 years old. Sitting on 60 acres, it came with a barn and a guest house, and it was on the historic registry. And it was

for sale.

Kilmer-Purcell grew up in rural Wisconsin, and he thought he'd escaped that life. He thought Manhattan was the world, until he saw the mansion. It immediately became clear that owning a farm – this farm – was what he wanted more than almost anything. They made a lowball offer, which was accepted.

They put off the closing until spring, dreaming of holidays by fireplace, and gardens. A local man asked if he could keep goats in the barn, and he knew a few things about raising vegetables. Locals embraced the couple, happy that the Beekman would once again be occupied. Kilmer-Purcell began to dream again; this time, about leaving his job to start a business.

"This," says Kilmer-Purcell about his happiness at the Beekman, "was more than a boy from Wisconsin was ever supposed to have."

But he didn't have it for long. A golden opportunity from Martha Stewart started a slippery slide on goat soap, which led to longer hours and shorter fuses. Wasn't Living a Dream supposed to be a good thing?

Charmed, that's me. Just plain charmed after reading this book.

Author, TV personality, and former drag-queen Josh Kilmer-Purcell makes readers flock to his corner with gently sarcastic, Midwest-cum-New-York humor, and it's hard not to cheer for his triumphs and feel genuinely sad at his discouragements. Kilmer-Purcell isn't afraid to show his dream with warts, and he wears his emotions on his sleeve – both the good and the bad – which only adds to the appeal of his book.

If you're looking for one last reading hurrah on the deck or hammock before summer slams shut, here's an excellent choice. For every farmer, cowpoke, goat-herder, wanna-be, or dreamer, "The Bucolic Plague" is acres of delight.







## DAIRYLAND CLASSIC

Photos by Mike Hiller

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**Dairyland Classic Weekend**  
Photos by Kate Sherry





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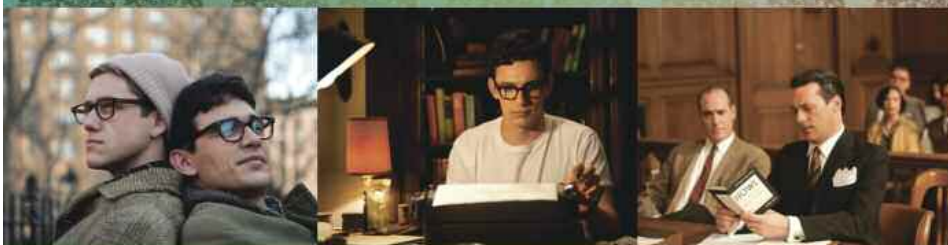
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# MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL PRESENTS!



## A special advance screening of *Howl* September 15 at 7pm, UWM Union Theatre

Don't miss this startling new film about the life of Allen Ginsberg and the impact of his epic poem *Howl*!

Tickets on sale now at the Peck School of the Arts Box Office. \$9 General Admission/\$7 for students and seniors. More info at [arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm](http://arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm)

Co-sponsored by the UWM Union Theatre and Equality Wisconsin. Co-presented by Milwaukee Film, Woodland Pattern Book Center, the Milwaukee Public Library, UWM Libraries, and the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation in recognition of Banned Book Week.



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## DIVERSION OF THE DAY Community Events Calendar

### Friday, September 10

**Montage (Milwaukee)** "These Boots Are Made For Walkin'" Country Legends tribute 11pm

**SAGE (Milwaukee)** Annual Rummage Sale Repeats Sat. Sept 11.

### Saturday, September 11

**Rainbow Club (Northern Wisconsin)** Cherokee County Park - Hwy N - 5 miles E of Colby, off of Hwy 29. or take Cty F south 3 miles, you will hit Cty. N and take a right after the bridge. The Park is on the right. Please bring a dish to pass, Terry will supply the meat & soda. Also, there will be a White Elephant Auction. 12 Noon - ? For questions, call Terry at (715) 654-5044. Leave a message if not at home. All are welcome.

### Sunday, September 12

**Boom (Milw)** Packer Party Free Beer Bust if you are on the Boom Email List Food & Shots

**Kruz (Milwaukee)** Castaway M. C. Leather Club "THE PACK IS BACK" BEER/SODA BUST 3-7 pm Prizes/Raffles - Game Time 3:15 P.M.

**La Cage (Milwaukee)** Michael's Birthday Party! special show at 10pm stop & say happy bday!

**La Perla Tequila Bar (Milw)** "Baby Jane" Henry's 4th Annual 49th Birthday Bash 5pm-??? SPECIAL "STAR" SHOW 8 p.m. Food • Drink Specials • Fun

### Monday, September 13

**Outwords Books (Milw)** Outwords Men's Book Club The group will discuss Two People, the classic love story by David Windham. 7 pm Everyone is welcome to join in.

### Tuesday, September 14

**Outwords Books (Milw)** The Lesbian Reading Group @ Outwords Books The book for discussion is Club 1049 by Kim Pritekel 7pm Everyone is welcome to attend

### Wednesday, September 15

**UWM Union Theatre (Milw)** Milwaukee LGBT film & Video Festival Presents a special advance screening of Howl at 7 pm. \$9 adults \$7 Students

### Thursday, September 16

**Boom (Milwaukee)** The ROOM's 6 Year Anniversary Party - No fold or contruction is going to hold this one back!!! Food from Miss Laties Diner Pinacle Drink Specials

### Friday, September 17

**Montage (Milwaukee)** Theme of tonight's show is The Return of Glee

### Saturday, September 18

**Kruz (Milwaukee)** M.A.U.L. Bear Night. 9-close

**Madison Gay video Club** "Dream Boy" (Here!, dir. James Bolton, 2008) "Taboo: The Peter Twins" (Bel Ami, dir. Lukas Ridgeton, 2009) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

**Miramar theatre (Milw) Books** Miltown Kings present their season opener- "Miltown Kings Between the Sheets". Door opens at 9pm and the cover is only 5\$. We wanna see you in your nighties! This is an 18+ show.

**Napalese (Green Bay)** Old Napalese Reunion - Broadway Style! 6 pm Join the gang from the original location with a show and remembering the good old days. See ad this issue.

**PJ's (Oshkosh)** Patricia John's 50th Birthday Party 8pm

**Tempt (Milwaukee)** Hottest Lap Dance Competition

### Sunday, September 19 - AIDS WALK WISCONSIN

**Fluid (Milwaukee)** BINGO 4 pm

### Friday, September 24

**Montage (Milwaukee)** Tonight's show is Girls Gone Wild! Duets & production numbers

**Monona Terrace (Madison)** OUTREACH ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

### Saturday, September 25

**Boom (Milwaukee)** Adult Film Star Gavin Waters

**ICON (Kenosha)** 5th Annual Turnabout Show benefits ARCW & STD Specialties Clinic 10pm

**LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (Racine)** Life's a Beach! @ North Beach, Racine 2-5pm Join us north of the Oasis. (Look for the Rainbow Flag) for a relaxing day at the beach, where music, games and some snacks will be provided. Bring your towel and beach chair.

**PJ's (Oshkosh)** PJ's Pajama Party brought to you by the Bear Club 4 Men Northeastern WI 9 pm with a raffle and beer bust.

### Thursday, September 30

**Boom (Milw)** Grindr Party! Discounted drinks when you show the bartender you're on Grindr.

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### **Cream City Squares**

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djdilges@execpc.com  
www.iagsdc.org/creamcity

**Front Runners** (414) 443-0379  
www.ulrlwolf.com/frontrun-  
nersmke/welcome.html

### **GAMMA - Milwaukee**

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### **Harmony Cafe Appleton**

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(920) 734-2233

### **Harmony Cafe Green Bay**

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### **Men's Voices Milwaukee c/o**

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### **Miltown Kings**

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### **Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club**

3957 No. 81st St. Milw., WI  
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Moenell@msn.com  
www.milwaukeeetennis.com

### **Milwaukee Gay Arts Center**

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53204 (414) 383-3727  
milwgac@yahoo.com  
www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org

### **Milw Gay Volleyball Assoc.**

www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com  
director@milwaukeegayvolleyball.com

### **Milwaukee Pride Parade**

PO Box 070177 Milw., WI  
53207 (414) 607-3793  
www.prideparademke.org

### **PrideFest** (414) 272-3378

PO Box 511763, Milw., 53203  
www.pridefest.com

### **Saturday Softball League**

2333 N. 56th St., Milw. 53210  
(414) 350-7147  
www.ssbilmilwaukee.com

### **Shoreline Country Dancers**

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### **Theatrical Tendencies**

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### **Wisconsin Gay Hockey**

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home.wi.rr.com/wigayhockey

### **Women's Voices Milwaukee**

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## LGBT Service and Advocacy Organizations

### **Center Advocates**

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www.centeradvocates.org

### **Charles D Productions**

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### **Fair Wisconsin** 122 State St.,

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www.fairwisconsin.org

### **FORGE** PO Box 1272 Milw,

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info@forge-forward.org  
www.forge-forward.org

### **G/L Community Trust Fund**

PO Box 1686, Milw., WI  
53201 (414) 643-1652  
glcentennial@aol.com  
www.glcommunitytrustfund.com

### **Galano Club** 315 W. Court

St., Suite 201 Milwaukee, WI  
53212 (414) 276-6936  
mail@galanoclub.org  
www.galanoclub.org

### **Gay / Bi Fathers Support Group**

c/o Outreach, 600 Williamson  
St. Madison, WI 53703  
Serving Dane, Rock, Jefferson  
Counties For location & dates  
e-mail doolguy@charter.net

### **Gay Narcotics Anonymous**

Meets Fridays @ 7 p.m.  
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### **Gay Youth Milwaukee**

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### **Gemini Gender Group**

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53214 (414) 297-9328

### **Human Rights League-Political**

**Action Committee (HRL-PAC)**  
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www.hrl-pac.org  
hrpac@yahoo.com

### **Lesbian Alliance**

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lamm@milwpc.com

### **LBGT Center of SE Wisconsin**

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WI 53403 (262) 664-4100  
info@lgbtsewis.org

## LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region

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## LGBT Social Groups

### **Argonauts of Wisconsin**

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bearclub4men@gmail.com

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jane.ottow@cssw.org  
www.cssw.org

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www.tccmilw.org

### **OutReach**

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The "Hot & Cold Cook-Off" at the Blue Lite in Sheboygan September 5 raised more than \$800 for Rainbow Over Wisconsin foundation's Community Enrichment Fund.



## Mr & Miss Napalese Pageant





## ASK THE IRREVERENT UNCLE BARBIE Your Intellectual Whore

(An effervescently gay advice columnist) Disclaimer: Although the author of this 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

### A GOOD ENEMY IS HARD TO FIND

**Dear Uncle Barbie,**

Hi. How are you? Me? I am not doing that good. My co-worker hates me and is trying to make my life miserable. He is nothing but an antagonist. It seems that there is always some work-jerk at every job I have ever had. Why do these things always happen to me? --**Signed, Sue**

**Hello Sue,**

In the forest, the squirrels loudly scold the appearance of the predatory wolf by chattering angrily in disapproval. The crows caw in protest to the presence of any bird of prey. You said that your co-worker is an antagonist. Antagonists serve a purpose, and they exist in the natural world, too. They locate and warn of potentially dangerous situations. Likewise, there are benefits to having antagonists in our community. They make us aware of problems. Within an efficient system, a helpful antagonist is necessary to keep things in check--that is, as long as the antagonist is a good enemy.

A good enemy provides constructive criticism that can be advantageous by pointing out our faults and weaknesses. Better yet, they teach us about ourselves. A bad enemy, on the other hand, engages in destructive criticism (like name calling) that offers no useful feedback to the recipient. A heckling teenager who screams obscenities as he/she drives past you on the street is an example of a bad antagonist. There is nothing to be learned from such hateful feedback.

Although many of us, including myself, are irritated by peo-

ple with toxic personalities, perhaps there is something we can learn from them. It is possible that some enemies could actually benefit us if they show us our mistakes or provide us with constructive criticism. Unfortunately, the rhetoric of most hate groups offer very little productive feedback. However, let me share with you an example of a time when I definitely benefited from the condemnation of a self-righteous critic.

A well-known TV evangelist stated that what a homosexual really wants is acceptance by society. His brisk assessment of gay social needs may not apply to you; however, it struck a cord with me. I asked myself if I was really seeking acceptance from heterosexuals? After much contemplation, I realized that there may be some truth to what he was saying. I did, indeed, desire acceptance. However, more importantly, I had a much greater need for equality. It was then that I made a personal decision to emphasize equality more than societal acceptance in my life. The way I look at it, if I have equal rights, I am not really concerned with whether or not society likes me. (Thanks, Rev. Homophobe, for helping me become a better adjusted and happier homo.) Get my point? We can all learn from a good enemy. --**Your Critic, Barbie**



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## "Dorian Gray"

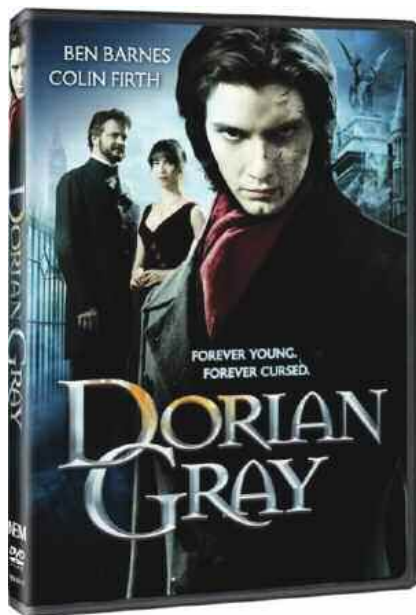
There is a wonderful moment during "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home" when, as Capt. Kirk tries to acquaint the all-too logical Mr. Spock with the vernacular of the day, references "The complete works of Jacqueline Susann; the novels of Harold Robbins." Spock's response? "Ah... the giants!"

There were -many a hot, summer afternoon young Glenn spent with these two literary legends. Frank and Joe Hardy quickly faded from memory once Glenn dipped into "The Carpetbaggers." How could they not? Who, for example, doesn't remember buying, on the sly of course, "Valley of the Dolls?" Or better yet, on the late, late show watching as Neely O'Hara (poor, horribly miscast Patty Duke) bleating out: "I have to get up at five o'clock in the morning and SPARKLE, Neely, SPARKLE!"

Yes, here truly is the final piece of puzzle.

Well, as it turns out, before Harold Robbins and Jacqueline Susann, there was Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray." Really? Well, at least that's how one of Glenn rather more savvy Lit teachers pitched this dusty old classic to Glenn's Freshman English class so many years ago.

Even without necessarily having read it, who doesn't know the story of handsome young Englishman Dorian Gray and his mystical doppelganger in oils? Much like the prototypical Robbins or Susann protagonist, Dorian is that perfect combination of beauty, wealth and absolute idleness.



Simply put, Dorian Gray is fabulous.

Who doesn't love to read about fabulous characters? Glenn certainly does. What sheer joy it is to escape Glenn's otherwise dreary, mundane existence for a few hours with the beautiful and the fabulously fabulous. In the end, however, youth and beauty and wealth prove a slippery slope. "The Picture of Dorian Gray" is nothing if not a cautionary tale.

Director Oliver Parker is no stranger to the works of Wilde, having previously adapted "An Ideal Husband" and "The Importance of Being Earnest" for the big screen. Here handsome Ben Barnes (Prince Caspian, "The Chronicles of Narnia") takes on the role of the wide-eyed innocent, newly arrived in gloriously gas-lit London.



## Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Ben Barnes makes for a very pretty Dorian Gray who, in early scenes, is actually quite charming. Nor is Glenn complaining that director Parker cranks up the film's homoeroticism by directing the lean young actor out of his perfectly tailored shirt at the flimsiest of pretenses. Barnes is decidedly less persuasive a cold-eyed seducer, pederast and murderer as Toby Finlay's screenplay careens out of control. This isn't to say that Glenn didn't find the scene in which Dorian seduces poor Basil (an appealing Ben Chaplin) positively riveting.

Still, if ever a role cried out for the young Rupert Everett...

Then imagine, if you will, the possibilities had the current vintage Everett been cast as Lord Henry Wotton; how effortlessly Everett's Wotton would have led Barnes' Dorian deep into temptation. Everett has, after all, certainly proved a past master of Wildean aphorisms.\*\* Still, it is difficult to imagine Everett's Wotton's convincingly plumbing the depths of moral outrage Firth so effortlessly achieves as the credits are about to roll.

After previous Wildean success, most notably the superlative "An Ideal Husband," Parker here is on less certain ground. The film looks stunning, there are gorgeous costumes aplenty and Roger Pratt's cinematography is suitably lush. Thanks to excellent special effects, "the picture," ingloriously eradicated from the film's title, absolutely comes alive on the screen. Yet "Dorian Gray" all too often emerges an uneasy cinematic confection that is one part Masterpiece Theatre, one part teen-slasher flick with some eyebrow-raising (same-sex) sexual antics plus the odd Wilde aphorism thrown in for good measure; a deliciously entertaining if ultimately less than satisfying reworking of a gay classic.

\* Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray" actually pre-dates George du Maurier's 1894 novel "Trilby" which introduced the character of the evil hypnotist.

\*\* Director Oliver Parker previously cast Rupert Everett in both "An Ideal Husband" and "The Importance of Being Earnest."

## Just the facts...

"Dorian Gray" has a running time of 112 minutes  
"Dorian Gray" is available on DVD with a SRP of \$25.99

As is often the case with mainstream DVD releases, "Dorian Gray" offers a wealth of extras from deleted scenes and bloopers to interviews and commentaries.

Enter Colin Firth, fresh from his success in "A Single Man." His Lord Henry Wotton proves to be something of a hedonistic Svengali\*, dragging the initially dubious Dorian on a quest of the seedy underbelly of Victorian London, from gin mill to brothel and finally to the worst of the opium dens.

Ah, yes, and somewhere along the way Basil Hallward (Ben Chaplin) paints the infamous "picture." And, too, young Dorian finds love with the beautiful actress Sibyl Vane (Rachel Hurd-Wood) before heartlessly abandoning her.





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Appleton (920)954-9262  
Ravens (NEW) 215 E. College Ave  
Appleton (920)364-9599  
Napalese 1351 Cedar Street,  
Green Bay (920)432-9646  
SASS 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay (920)437-7277  
THE SHELTER 730 N. Quincy St. Green Bay  
920-432-2662 • theshelterclub.com  
XS Niteclub 1106 Main Street, Green Bay  
Debs Spare Time 1303 Harrison St  
Oshkosh (920)235-6577  
PJ's 1601 Oregon St. Oshkosh  
(920)385-0442  
Blue Lite 1029 N 8th, Sheboygan  
(920)457-1636

## SOUTHERN WISCONSIN (262)

Club ICON 6305 120th (Off I-94) Kenosha,  
(262)857-3240 www.club-icon.com  
JoDee's 2139 Racine St Racine (262)634-9804

## MILWAUKEE (414)

- \* Art Bar 722 Burleigh, (414)372-7880
  - 1 Ballgame 196 S 2nd (414)273-7474
  - 2 Boom (& The ROOM) 625 S. 2nd St  
(414)277-5040
  - 3 Boot Camp 209 E National (414)643-6900
  - 4 DIX 739 S 1st Street
  - 5 ETC (Basement level of LaCage)  
801S 2nd, (414)383-8330
  - 6 Fluid 819 South 2nd (414)643-5843
  - 7 Harbor Room 117 E Greenfield (414)672-7988
  - \* Hybrid 707 E Brady St (414)810-1809
  - 8 KRUIZ 354 E. National (414)272-KRUIZ
  - 5 LaCage 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330
  - 9 Midtowne Spa (*this is not a bar*)  
315 S Water (414)278-8989
  - 10 Mona's 1407 S. First St (414)643-0377
  - 5 Montage (Upper level of LaCage)  
801S 2nd, (414)383-8330
  - 11 Nut Hut 1500 W Scott (414)647-2673
  - \* PUMP @ Decibel (Sundays only)  
1905 E North Ave 414-272-3337
  - \* PURR 3945 N. 35TH Milwaukee
  - 12 This Is It 418 E Wells (414)278-9192
  - 13 Triangle 135 E National (414)383-9412
  - 14 TEMPT 324 E Mason (414)221-0228
  - 15 Tropical Niteclub 626 S5th (414)460-6277
  - \* Two 718 E. Burleigh St.
  - 16 Walker's Pint 818 S 2nd St (414)643-7468
  - 18 Woody's 1579 S 2nd (414) 672-0806
- \* means not on Milwaukee map



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