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# QUEST

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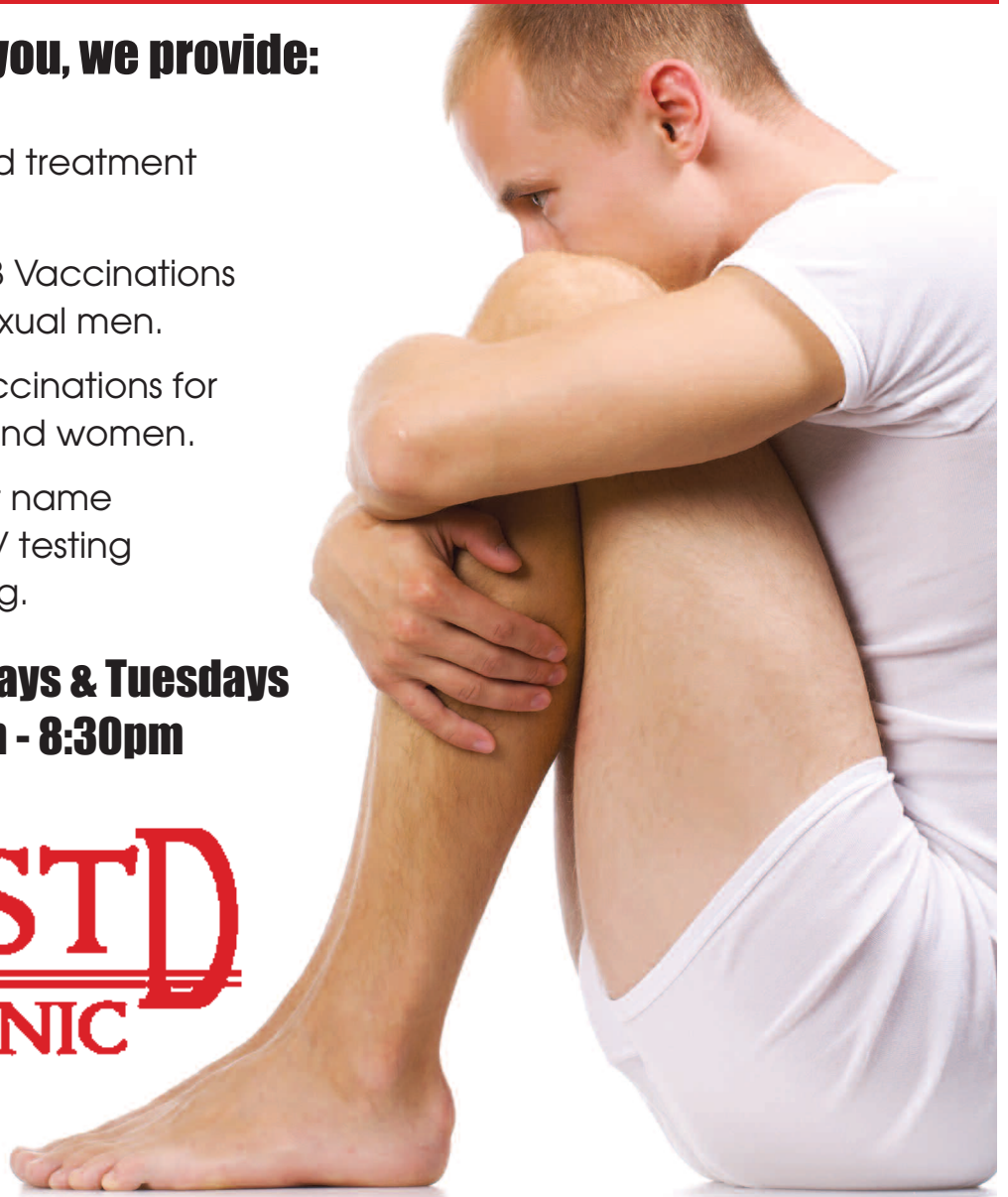
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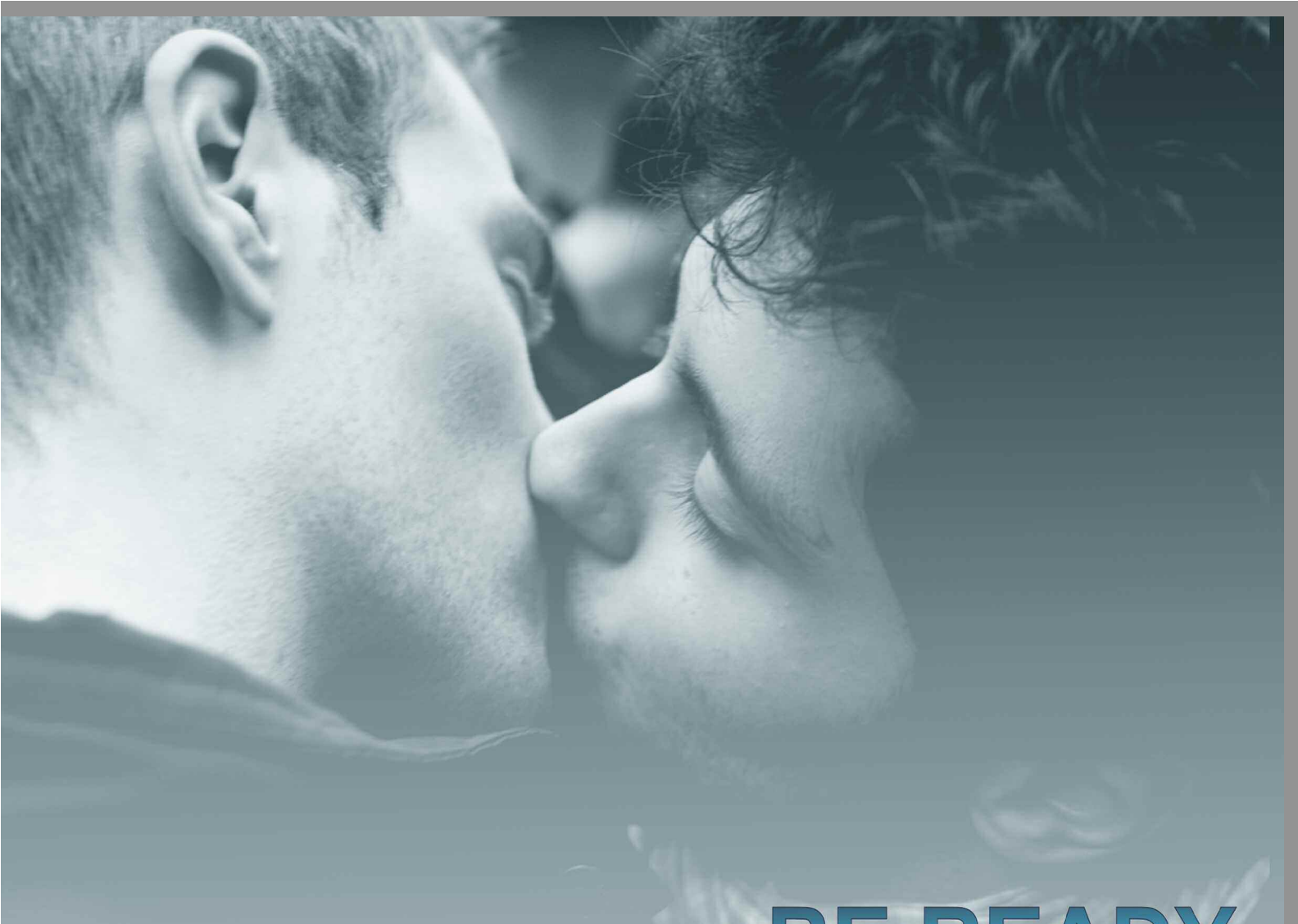
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# THE END OF DON'T ASK DON'T TELL

By Paul Masterson

"This is done." With those words, President Barack Obama signed the repeal of the US military's Don't Ask Don't Tell policy that federally mandated discrimination against LGBT people in the armed service.

According to the New York Times, over the course of its 17-year history, the US military discharged nearly 17,000 US service personnel at a taxpayer cost of 100's of millions of dollars. Not only did it ruin lives of patriotic servicemen and women but also deprived the armed forces of highly qualified and desperately needed troops.

The December 22 signing ceremony culminated a difficult battle to end Don't Ask Don't Tell. President Obama promised its repeal during his 2008 campaign and many LGBT supporters expressed frustration when, two years into his term, the President hadn't yet managed it. Many saw it as a priority and naively anticipated a quick and easy repeal. With the Republican take over of the House of Representatives in last November's election, it seemed that hope was lost. Despite the military leadership's support of the ending the policy and a Defense Department survey that concluded there would be no negative impact if DADT were repealed, some Republicans, like Senator John McCain of Arizona, still played politics to pander to Christian extremists. In the end, however, justice prevailed.

At the signing President Obama stated, "no longer will our country be denied the service of thousands of patriotic Americans who were forced to leave the military — regardless of their skills, no matter their bravery or their zeal, no matter their years of exemplary performance — because they happen to be gay. No longer will tens of thousands of Americans in uniform be asked to live a lie, or look over their shoulder, in



**President Barack Obama makes Congressional calls from the Oval Office before the final Senate vote repealing the ban on gay men and women serving openly in the military, Saturday, Dec. 18, 2010.**

*(Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)*

order to serve the country that they love."

With that the President fulfilled his promise to the LGBT people who put their faith in him. The repeal of the anti-gay ban marked a major victory for equality of LGBT people. It portends greater strides in the struggle for equal rights.

The repeal's implementation will still take some time. Various issues still need to be addressed. But, the military seems to be prepared to accept the repeal without much resistance. Reflecting previous integrations of African Americans and women into the ranks, a military study concluded, "the general lessons we take from these transformational experiences in history is

that in matters of personnel change within the military, predictions and surveys tend to overestimate negative consequences and underestimate the U.S. military's ability to adapt and incorporate within its ranks the diversity that is reflective of American society at large." Once these hurdles are cleared, implementation will take place within 60 days.

Robert Gates has warned that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" remains in effect. "In order to prevent any confusion, I want to be perfectly clear: at this time, there are no new changes to any existing Department of Service policies," Gates sent as a memo to troops.

## **Statement of Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin On the Senate Vote to Repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"**

"The Senate vote today finally marks the end of a sad chapter in American history. Since its inception, the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy has been an un-American assault on our most fundamental tenet — that 'all men are created equal.' The policy discriminates against gays and lesbians who currently serve or wish to serve in the military, including those previously discharged who wish to rejoin.

The 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy is a threat to our national security. Since 1994, more than 13,000 highly trained service members have been discharged as a result of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' In the last five years, while our

country has been engaged in two wars, the military has discharged more than 800 mission-critical troops under this policy, including more than 50 Arabic linguists.

Integrity is a hallmark of military service. Yet, for 17 years, we have had a statutory policy that requires some in our military to conceal, deceive, and lie. This is an inexcusable affront to all who wear the uniform.

The repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' is long overdue, but no less welcome.

I look forward to the expeditious implementation of all policies necessary to end discrimination against gays and lesbians who currently serve or wish to serve in the military. I will continue to work for full equality for LGBT Americans. In the United States of America, there is no place for irrational and insidious discrimination in any sector of society."

## A Statement by Rea Carey, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

"We celebrate this historic day, when our country has honored the principles of fairness and justice it holds so dearly. This is a tremendous victory. We thank all those who fought for and supported an end to the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy — they truly are on the right side of history. Seventeen years of witch hunts under this policy have cost thousands of exemplary service members their careers, once again proving there are very personal and costly consequences of discrimination. This cannot end fast enough. Our entire country benefits when fairness prevails, when qualified and patriotic service members no longer have to fear being targeted by their own government, when courageous men and women are able to serve openly and honestly. We thank President Obama for signing this critical legislation and now call upon him as commander in chief, and his top military leaders, to swiftly lead us through to full implementation

## DON'T ASK DON'T TELL REPEALED - BUT THE STIGMA TO LIVE ON FOR YEARS

by Ellen Kozel

*Ellen Kozel, president of Veteran's Do Ask Do Tell, a Milwaukee based organization dedicated to the rights of LGBT military veterans, issued a response to the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. Her statement is a sobering one that reveals the complicated nature of being LGBT in the US Military, even now that the discriminatory policy has officially been ended.*

One battle is won. As we applaud the congressional vote that repealed Don't Ask Don't Tell (DADT), we recognize the damage of that inequitable policy will not go away with the stroke of a pen. Trust now has to be built between the military and the LGBT soldiers and sailors. Another battle will continue on the home front and in the service for years to come.

Although DADT is repealed, our work as an organization has just begun. The mission of Vets Do Ask Do Tell, Inc. is to educate LGBT veterans about any and all VA programs targeted to the LGBT community. This is done as information becomes available to Vets Do Ask Do Tell, Inc. Our work includes educating LGBT veterans about the VA system and removing the DADT stigma.

Oppression has a strange effect on the human mind. It lingers for years as we've seen in other civil rights movements. Through our efforts, Veteran's Administration (VA) has taken great strides to relieve this stigma. This includes setting up diversity teams within their facilities, educating doctors and staff and, in some instances, marking doors in their facilities "LGBT friendly."

Still, at home, LGBT vets feel they may be singled out if they apply for

benefits. The VA has programs in place for families of returning vets to help them recognize what their loved ones are going through and how to cope. They need to contact their local VA and learn about these programs.

Within the military, the trust must be established that it will fairly handle trauma cases due to sexual harassment in men and women. Also, Intimate Partner Violence among women veterans must be addressed. Female warrior suicides as a result of multiple deployments exceed those of their male counterparts. We as family, friends and comrades must be more observant of the signs and need to learn more.

We urge the military to provide a forum where LGBT veterans can openly discuss issues that are related to their service, benefits, and social aspects. It also needs to promoting and support change within the VA system to give awareness to the specific needs of LGBT veterans. Finally, it must encourage and develop Vets Do Ask Do Tell, Inc. and thereby establish and support programs in direct response to the needs of LGBT veterans.

## FAIR WISCONSIN TO INTERVENE IN LEGAL CHALLENGE TO DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP

**Madison** - Dane County Circuit Court has granted Fair Wisconsin along with 5 representative couples represented by Lambda Legal a motion to intervene in the legal challenge that Julaine Appling and Wisconsin Family Action are bringing against the state's Domestic Partnership Registry.

Fair Wisconsin is now directly defending the Domestic Partnership Registry and the caring and committed same-sex couples it protects.

Appling and other right wing zealots opposed this involvement. "They want to take down a domestic partnership law and don't feel that the people who's rights they are trying to take away belong in the case," states a press release from Fair Wisconsin sent to Quest.

In their decision, the court concluded Fair Wisconsin along with the 5 representative couples can provide information and perspective that may very well not be provided by Governor-elect Scott Walker's administration once he takes office next month.

Fair Wisconsin worked to pass this landmark legislation in 2009 with support from the Wisconsin LGBT community. "With your continued support we will be able to keep defending LGBT Wisconsinites and working together to build a fair Wisconsin!" states the organization.

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# DOLYE FILES LEGAL PAPERS IN DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP REGISTRY LAWSUIT

by Bruce McKay

**Madison -** In one of his last acts as Wisconsin Governor, Jim Doyle filed legal papers which he hopes will get a lawsuit against him and the state's Domestic Partnership Registry tossed out of court. Doyle argued that DP's can't be considered married because, unlike married couples, they have neither an obligation to support one another or sleep in the same bed.

The registry, which has attracted more than 1,300 same-gender couples since it was set up in June of 2009, provoked a lawsuit by 'family values' activist Julaine Appling. Appling spearheaded Wisconsin's so-called Marriage Amendment that restricts marriage to male-female couples only and bans a 'substantially similar' legal status for couples of the same sex.

In his brief to dismiss the suit, Doyle points out that marriage in Wisconsin is a civil contract governed by state law. The law, statute 765.01, requires married couples to provide the money and chores necessary for the support of each other and their kids. They are equal owners of the

property they buy and are equally responsible for marital debts. Registered DP's, Doyle wrote, have no similar obligation even if they volunteer to share their resources and live that way.

The Governor also pointed out that, quite unlike Wisconsinites who marry, DP's have no legal obligation to be monogamous with their partners. Wisconsin's primary sex law, statute 944.16, makes it a felony for married persons to have intercourse with anyone besides their marriage partner. This frequently ignored law, Doyle pointed out, applies to no other non-related adults including registered DP's.

Domestic partnerships are also unlike marriage, Doyle said, because the state requires a wedding ceremony and exchange of vows. In fact, he argued, marriages in Wisconsin don't technically require a marriage license—just a minister and witnesses. To the contrary, the only way DP's can be registered is by signing forms at a county clerk's office.

The Governor also said that when the legislature approved the Marriage Amendment for the ballot, lawmakers said publicly that it would not

prohibit a future law to allow some marriage rights in domestic partnerships.

Appling claimed in her lawsuit that the Domestic Partners Registry would injure her as a taxpayer because it creates costs for the state. On that basis alone, Doyle wrote, her lawsuit should be tossed because taxpayers have no skin in the game. The registry, Doyle argued, is fully funded by the fees paid at the time of signup. There has never been any money in the state budget for the registry, Doyle said. And, Doyle argued, registrants get no tax advantages and no right to state benefits based on that registry.

Doyle's brief was filed by Madison attorney Lester Pines, whom Milwaukee Magazine listed in 2009 as one of the best in the state. The Governor was forced to hire outside counsel to answer Appling's lawsuit because Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen, a Republican conservative, refused to defend the DP registry.

Doyle's brief will be reviewed by Dane County Circuit Judge Daniel Moeser, who is expected to issue a decision by spring or early summer.



## Employment Opportunity HIV Prevention Research

The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin announces openings for two positions in a new National Institutes of Health-funded research project that will develop, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of community HIV prevention programs for African American men who have sex with men (MSM). The project's objective is to determine if friend-to-friend HIV prevention approaches that work through natural social networks of African American MSM in the community can reduce sexual risk behavior, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV infection. Both Research Associate positions require extensive experience, knowledge, and understanding of Milwaukee's African American MSM community including settings, ways, and places where African American MSM at high risk for HIV can be reached. For both positions, relevant community experience and involvement with organizations that serve African American MSM are more essential than prior formal research experience. Positions will require frequent field work on evenings, nights, weekends, and during nontraditional hours.

Research Associates will perform activities related to the identification of community settings in Milwaukee for reaching African American MSM and for carrying out community outreach to recruit, interview, and conduct HIV prevention activities with social networks of Black gay or bisexual men. The Research Associates will also be responsible for outreach-based recruitment of friendship groups of African American MSM in community settings, for interviewing participants, and for seeking to engage friends of already recruited men to also enroll in the research. Strong interpersonal communication skills and comfort in community settings where the target population meet are important position requirements. Relevant community experience may substitute for some educational requirements.

Both positions offer competitive salaries and excellent fringe benefits. In addition to a resume or completed job application, we welcome applicants to provide an accompanying letter that describes any additional formal or informal community experience, volunteer work, or involvement with community organizations that serve the targeted population if those experiences are relevant to these positions.

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# On second thought....

In my QUEST interview with David Ward, co-curator of *Hide/Seek*, the LGBT art show currently at the Smithsonian Museum's National Portrait Gallery (NPG), he mentioned there hadn't been any political pushback from the right...yet.

It was only a matter of time. Now, anti-gay, right wing Christian zealots and conservative Republican have targeted the art exhibit. A 4-minute video, *A Fire in My Belly* (1987) by AIDS victim David Wojnarowicz, included 11 seconds of footage showing a crucifix overrun with ants. That mere fraction of a minute raised the ire of Republican Representative John Boehner of Ohio, among others, and the radical Catholic League. They complained, calling the image "hate speech."

In a classic act of homophobic bullying, Boehner threatened to review the museum's public funding (the exhibit itself is mostly privately funded – and, for that matter, LGBT people pay taxes, too). The Smithsonian leadership kowtowed. Its secretary, G. Wayne Clough, pulled the work on November 30 without consulting the curators.

In protest, gay art activists attempted to reinstate the work themselves. Museum security guards promptly detained them. One is banned for life from the Smithsonian. Alternative showings of the video popped up in various venues and galleries across the country. One projected the film on the National Portrait Gallery's façade. There's even a request for artists to submit their own interpretive works to [DrawJesusDay@hyperallergic.com](mailto:DrawJesusDay@hyperallergic.com).

Quoted on the hyperallergic website, co-curator David Ward stated, "...there has been a knee-jerk anti-modernism, anti-intellectualism, anti-aesthetic response from some people. I find that the people who have engaged with the show personally have enjoyed it. This show brought together work that the museum has never exhibited before." Ward's co-curator Jonathan Katz went so far as to appropriately identify the "American Taliban" mentality be-

hind the scandal.

The ensuing tug of culture war has led to the protest resignation of National Portrait Gallery commissioner James Bartlett. The Andy Warhol Foundation demanded the Smithsonian return Wojnarowicz's video to the exhibit under threat of ending future funding (the Warhol Foundation contributed \$350,000 in the past including \$100,000 for *Hide/Seek*) – to no avail.

Canadian artist AA Bronson then asked the NPG to remove his AIDS related photograph of his dead lover, *Felix*, from the exhibit. He

## Free Speech? Sure... unless you're gay Smithsonian gay art show update

By Paul Masterson



has encouraged other artists to do the same.

That led to another tug of war. The NPG has refused to return the work. According to Ward, although the artist's fit of pique is understandable, the work's removal would further erode the purpose of the exhibition. On December 20, Ward stated his case at a panel discussion "hide/SPEAK: An Evening with David C. Ward of the National Portrait Gallery" saying "elements of sexuality, same-sex desire, homosexuality, and lesbianism are silenced in the museum world. We need to remember that there is a larger existential threat, not just to the exhibition, but to the people represented within the exhibition."

Meanwhile, the barrage of negative press is unrelenting. Editorials in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times and Washington Post have

decried the blatant act of censorship. Protests, admonishments and condemnation by individuals and art institutions as well as a movement to force Smithsonian secretary Clough to resign have mushroomed.

Rep. James P. Moran, chairman of the congressional subcommittee that provides funding for the country's major art institutions, responded to the Wojnarowicz controversy saying, "the whole point is that we should not be censoring we should be discussing."

The censorship debate aside, the episode sadly proves the NPG blithely failed its very mission. It states "(the NPG) is committed to the struggle for justice so that people and groups can claim their full inheritance in the American promise of equality, inclusion and social dignity."

Still, any press is good press, as they say. The furor has upped *Hide/Seek*'s attendance and brought international attention to what may otherwise have been a quiet show with limited profile beyond the art world. Of course, the video is available on YouTube where, in various postings, it registered 125,000 views as of deadline. Ironically, Boehner and Co. have inadvertently generated the dialogue art intends to create.

And, speaking of anti-modernism, anti-intellectualism and anti-aestheticism, it also reiterates the overt and covert bigotry

LGBT people face every day.

Heady as we may be over the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell, apparently we still can't express ourselves publically. Perhaps someday, along with the ability to honorably preserve and protect our constitutional right to free speech, we'll be able to freely exercise it as well.



# Boxx-ing Match: An interview with Pandora

by Mikey Rox

As Pandora Boxx, Michael Steck stole the show on season two of “RuPaul’s Drag Race” – even if he didn’t take home the title of America’s Next Drag Superstar.

In a recent interview, the daring diva dishes about losing the catty reality competition, why second place is sometimes better than first, his stint as a “drag professor” on “RuPaul’s Drag U,” how to handle gay bullies, and falling in love with a man who loves him for who he is – Texas-sized wigs and all.

**MIKEY ROX:** Before certain interviews, I ask my Facebook friends if there’s anything they want to know about that person. It helps me gauge what the general public wants to read. The first question I got was about your name. So, let’s start there – why Pandora Boxx?

**PANDORA BOXX:** According to Greek mythology, Pandora was the first woman ever created and she opened the forbidden box and let out all the evil unto the world, leaving only man’s hope inside. I thought the name conjured up so many images right away. You would never know what to expect with a name like that. I am also a huge Madonna fan, so Pandora and Madonna seemed similar to me.

**MR:** When you were eliminated from “RuPaul’s Drag Race,” *Entertainment Weekly* named you their pick for America’s Next Drag Superstar. Did that endorsement lift your spirits?

**PB:** It definitely did! We were shooting “RuPaul’s Drag U” while “Drag Race” was playing. That helped me be a little less upset too, because I was on another show.

**MR:** Why do you think they picked you for “Drag U”?

**PB:** I actually laughed at them when they called me and told me they wanted me to help come and style women. I said, “You want the one who

got her style ripped to shreds to come and help style women now?” I found great humor in that. I think they picked me because of my sense of humor and that I was the nice one on “Drag Race,” and “Drag U” needed some nice queens who also realized they were making a television show.

**MR:** Had you won “Drag Race,” what do you think would have happened? And in your opinion, does finishing first give the winner a better shot at stardom than the runners-up? Look at “America’s Next Top Model,” for instance. Can anybody name a single winner from that show? I can’t. And from “American Idol,” several second-placers have bigger careers than those who took home the title. No offense to Tyra Sanchez, of course, but she won your season of “Drag Race” and I’ve never heard of her.

**PB:** I think that, like you said, all you have to do is look at other reality competition shows to know it’s not always the winner that gets the most attention. Now I think that getting kicked off may have actually been better for me. Although, winning that prize money would have been lovely.

**MR:** There’s a show on the Logo network that you’re probably familiar with, called “The A-List.” Recently, one of the characters, Derek, hosted a drag party and Reichen Lehmkuhl showed up looking, well, let’s just say, rather interesting. What advice would you give to those queens out there who end up looking less feminine and more Frankenstein when they dress in drag?

**PB:** I say fly your freak flag! If you can’t be a beauty queen, don’t even try. Drag is just about putting on something different than what you normally would wear. Campy drag is such fun. I love campy queens. I consider myself a campy queen, even if I go for a girlier look. For me, I just love beautiful woman who can be total goofballs too, like Goldie Hawn.

**MR:** You’re from Rochester, N.Y., and despite your national fame within the gay community, you still live there. Why haven’t you moved to Los Angeles or New York like the rest of the world’s homos?



Photo by Beatrice Neumann



PB: [Laughs] I've actually been traveling so much I haven't had time to sit down and map out my move. I do plan to move but haven't decided on whether it's going to be L.A. or NYC. I'm kind of seeing where my life will take me next. But I'm not waiting around for something to happen. If you do that, well, you will end up waiting forever. You have to make it happen, girl.

**MR: This past spring you wrote and starred in a play called "The Lipstick Massacre," a sort of drag whodunit murder mystery. I was surprised to learn that you're so multitalented. What else have you got up your sleeve that might shock people?**

PB: I'm not too shabby at video games. [Laughs] Geek! But seriously, I've always written. It's definitely something I love to do. I wrote my first play in the fifth grade and we put it on for my whole school. I also draw and paint, though I don't do that as often anymore.

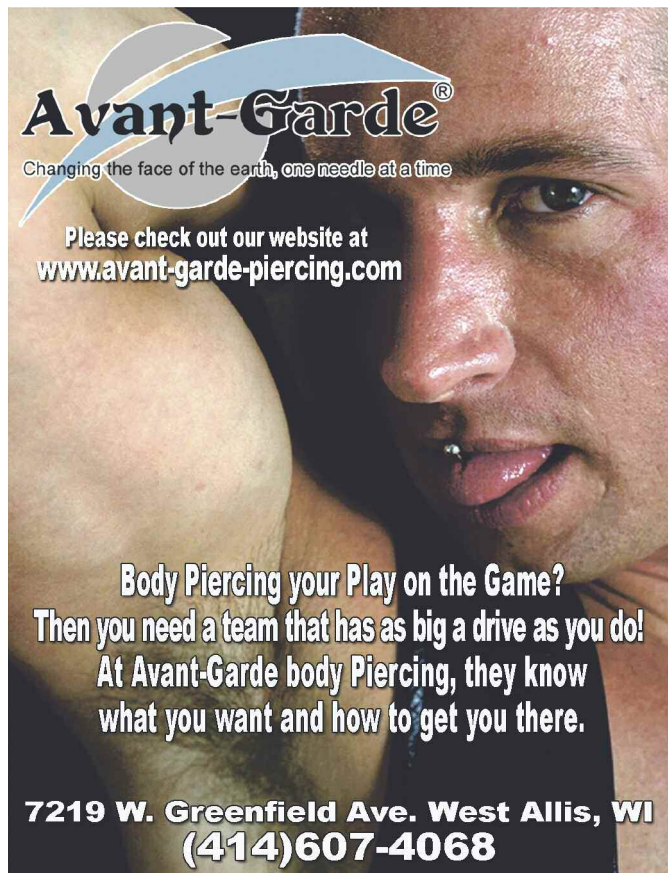
**MR: I don't want to bring down the mood, but with all the recent news of gay bullying associated with teen suicide, I think it's important that we talk about these issues. As a drag performer, you've undoubtedly been the target of abuse – verbal or otherwise. Can you tell me about a hurtful experience and how you handled it?**

PB: I certainly was a victim of bullying in school, almost every day. It's tough. My heart goes out to anyone who is bullied. But it's not just gay students. It's fat students, it's minority students, it's anyone who doesn't fit the "norm." You just have to develop a tough skin and not let anyone bring you down. It's tough to do and I don't know if you can make it so the cruelty won't hurt at all. It's human to be hurt. No one said life would be easy, and it's not. You just have to consider the source. Anyone who bullies and harasses is just an ignorant person. They are either ignorant because they don't know any better

or they are ignorant because they are scared of what they don't understand or what they, in fact, are. You just have to think of that and rise above it. It's not easy, but it can be done.

**MR: I remember when Kevin Aviance was severely beaten a few years ago after leaving a nightclub in Manhattan – the last place you'd think something like that would happen. Are you ever afraid for your safety when you're dressed in drag? Has that fear heightened now that more people recognize you?**

PB: I always have been. I mean, I'm dressed up to look like a woman and women are victimized all the time. I'm usually very cautious and careful whenever I'm out. I keep my eyes open. I also try to have someone with me. It can be scary to think of what people can do to other people solely based on hatred or fear.

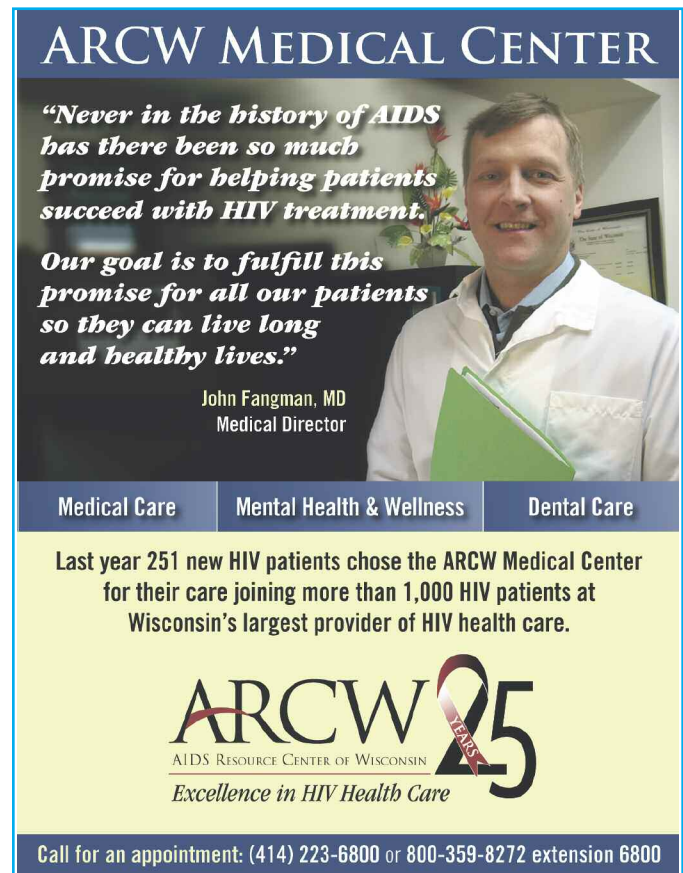


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**MR: What about your love life and dating? Has anyone ever reacted negatively after finding out that you're a drag queen? I suspect that it's a hard pill to swallow for even some of the most "open-minded, liberal" gays. Do you tell guys immediately if you meet them out of character?**

**PB:** Drag queens are like car accidents – every wants to see one, but no one wants to be involved with one. It's hard because people can't see behind the drag image. Or they have a certain image of what a drag queen is. I know that people haven't wanted to be involved with me because of drag. It is a lot to deal with sometimes. It's a lot for me to deal with sometimes. Fortunately, I have been with my boyfriend for four and half years. The drag doesn't bother him at all, and he's also not into drag either. He's always saying the people think he's a "tranny chaser" or "drag sniffer." He's totally not. He's not dating Pandora; he's dating Michael.

**MR: What's your mission as a performer? Why Pandora instead of Michael?**

**PB:** It was never really intended that way. I wanted to be an actor since I was five. I still consider myself more of an actor than a drag queen. Pandora just sort of happened and I went with it. I'd love to do



Kevin Thomas Garcia Photography

more things as myself but right now she's at the forefront and that's cool.

**MR: Where do you go from here?**

**PB:** I've learned a lot these past few years and realized that you can be the master of your own destiny. You can really make things happen if you want them to. I really hope to continue to be able to share my talents with people and keep them entertained.

I truly love making people laugh and would love to be able to keep being an entertainer for the rest of my life.

***Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer and journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at [www.paperroxscissors.com](http://www.paperroxscissors.com).***

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## MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS BECOMES SELF-PERPETUATING BOARD

*Reprinted from the Milwaukee LGBT Center's December 2010 "Center Connection" Newsletter.*

**Milwaukee** - December 6, 2010-At its recent Membership Meeting of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, the members voted (by nearly a 75% majority) to make the Board of Directors a self-perpetuating board with the ability to amend its bylaws. In the arena of community-based nonprofit organizations, self-perpetuating Boards have been established as a best practice. The vast majority of LGBT organizations throughout the country, including the ones closest to us in Chicago and Madison, and the recently formed Center in Racine, are governed by self-perpetuating Boards.

The rationale for the bylaw changes were reviewed extensively in various letters, meetings, and discussions over the past several months. Here are several of these rationale: The primary duty of nonprofits is "to serve society" as a whole, and self-perpetuating Boards tend to enhance volunteer engagement. Through the creation and nurturing of "career ladders" for volunteers from helping on events, to volunteering at the Center, to serving on a Committee of the Board, to serving as a Director on the Board, more people tend to participate in the organization. Effective Boards are proactive bodies that focus on strategic impact and generative thinking. The Governance Committee is commissioned by the Board to ensure that all Board seats are filled by active, committed, and resourceful Directors who bring the skills and expertise necessary to govern the organization effectively. These skills and areas of expertise change as organizations grow and mature. Best practice demonstrates that the responsibility for ensuring an effective Board is best fulfilled when the Board is self-perpetuating. Our Center continues to grow dramatically, and this growth requires a different set of skills and expertise among its Board Directors than it did in the past. What may be new information for some on the oversight of nonprofit boards is the level of scrutiny of board finances and activities. Changes in legislation over the years have made reporting more in-depth and expansive regarding finances and bylaw changes. The Internal Rev-

enue Service (IRS) now requires detailed information on internal controls, policies and practices. Auditors review and evaluate this information during the annual audit required of every 501C (3) organization.

Over the years, nonprofit organizations and consultants have identified several potential issues with membership-elected Boards. One potential issue with membership-elected Boards is that this duty to "serve society"(grounded in nonprofit law) is often obscured by a member's possible tendency "to serve his or her own constituency," e.g., members or a segment of the LGBT community exclusively. Membership-elected Boards tend to be more reactive – focusing on issues that are impacting a constituent group at a given moment. A membership-elected model for Board Directorship can serve as an "excuse" for lack of active engagement with the Center: many current members come to the annual meeting to elect the Board Directors and then are not seen again until the next annual meeting. Their current knowledge of the organization and its governance needs are therefore very limited – and may be often grounded in the past. Membership-elected boards can lead to the consolidation of power in a small number of members who may not be representative of the full membership. These rationale have been reviewed in several venues with members.

We appreciate the passion many members of the Center and members of the community have for the work of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, and the pride taken in its creation since 1998 and in its continuing success, growth, and impact. The Board has developed ways for members to be more fully engaged with the Center's mission and informed of developments. We have already made progress in improving broad communications, and will continue these efforts. We are looking for Leadership Volunteers who will take increased ownership for volunteer recruitment, engagement, and support. We believe that active engagement in the Center's mission and programs will result in a much more meaningful voice for our participants, volunteers and members and success for the Center's programs.

## MILWAUKEE LGBT CENTER HOSTS A FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

**Milwaukee** - The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will be launching its new financial literacy program in partnership with MetLife on Thursday, January 6, 2011 from 6-7:30 pm in the community room of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. This is your chance to learn about the Center's new financial literacy program for individuals and couples. Beginning January 10, MetLife will be providing one-on-one financial counseling about such issues as financial goals and objectives, developing a household budget, wills and estate planning, reducing debt, etc. Come and learn about this exciting new program being provided free of charge by MetLife and the Milwaukee LGBT community Center. MetLife will be providing refreshments and raffle prizes for the January 6 program launch event.

MetLife is proud to support the LGBT Community Center's Financial Literacy Program. MetLife Representatives Andrei Junge, Richard Sindic and Jim Fischer will provide free, one-on-one, private financial strategy consultations for members of the LGBT Community Center on a weekly basis beginning in January 2011.

Richard, Jim and Andrei have more than 40 years of collective experience working in the LGBT community. When it comes to planning in today's financial world, there are many ifs in life—uncertainties that can derail your best-laid plans and opportunities that can lead to realizing your biggest goals. MetLife recognizes that as a member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community, you face unique circumstances when it comes to planning for your financial future. That's why it's especially important to learn the facts and take proactive steps now to help protect against many of the uncertainties you face—so you can look to the years ahead with the confidence that comes with working toward being financially protected.

Whether you are single, in a committed relationship or are a parent, MetLife's goal is to help you plan and prepare with confidence and pride for the ifs in your life.

**Wisconsin's #1 LGBT Website is  
[www.quest-online.com](http://www.quest-online.com)**

## CALL FOR AREA RESIDENTS TO APPEAR IN ANTI-BULLYING VIDEO

**Green Bay** — For the past six Januarys, Arketype employees have visited area elementary schools on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day to present scenarios and engage second-graders in messages of respect, tolerance, diversity, and anti-bullying.

For MLK Day 2011, Arketype is partnering with Green Bay-native Joey Taylor and Quest Magazine publisher Mark Mariucci to produce an anti-bullying video as a response to the recent national news stories of teen suicide after being bullied. Taylor, who was bullied as a student, envisions a message that gives hope to those affected by the hurtful words and actions of others.

"I want the young people that feel bullied today to know that it gets better. Tomorrow is a new day and that there are many community resources to lend support. We just need to speak up. No one has to feel alone," says Joey Taylor.

"When Joey contacted me, it was a natural way for many community partners to come together and lend their voice to such an important initiative against bullying," stated Jim Rivett, Arketype president and creative director. "It is especially inspiring for Harmony Café (a program of Goodwill NCW) and Union Congregational Church UCC to step up so willingly."

The video will send a message of support and

solidarity to end bullying through education and understanding. A one-day video shoot will take place on Monday, January 17, 2011, at the Weidner Center, Green Bay, WI. Everyone is welcome and people are encouraged to volunteer their business services or sign up to appear on camera in either speaking or non-speaking roles. Although the shoot will be held in Green Bay, the reach will be for all of Wisconsin and beyond and people can get involved from anywhere in Wisconsin. To volunteer, contact Bobbie Fredericks at 920-437-3700 or [bobbie@arketypeinc.com](mailto:bobbie@arketypeinc.com) before January 7.

All Arketype services are offered in-kind as in previous years, however donations are being accepted to cover some costs associated with production and distribution. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to the Greater Green Bay Community Foundation, Attn: Anti-Bullying Video, 310 W. Walnut St., Ste 350, Green Bay, WI 54304.

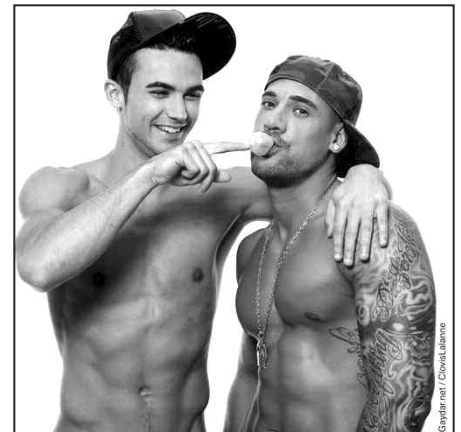
Arketype is an award-winning creative agency in Green Bay, Wis., delivering high-concept advertising and design solutions via video, animation, online and print. Arketype is a 2009 recipient of a BCA TEN Award as one of the nation's top-10 companies in support of the arts in America. To learn more, visit [www.arketypeinc.com](http://www.arketypeinc.com).

## GRINDR GETS COMPETITION IN NEW GAYDAR APP

**New York** - "The First Major Gay Dating Site To Offer Fully Integrated App from iPad To Your Pad, Competition Flaccid by Comparison," quips a press release on the app that has been previously available in a beta test.

Available now via the iTunes App Store, is a brand spankin' new Gaydar App, putting six million men in the pockets of lucky iPhone users around the world. Gaydar.net is the first major gay dating website to offer a fully integrated app, allowing app and web users the exact same access to its profiles and services.

<http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/gaydar-millions-gay-bi-curious/id371711798?mt=8>



## STAGE Q AUDITION NOTICE: MAKE ME A SONG

**Madison** - StageQ announces auditions for the musical review, MAKE ME A SONG, by William Finn (FALSETTOS, 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE,) directed by Tara Ayres. Auditions will be held at 148 E Wilson Street, first floor, at 7:00 pm on Monday and Tuesday, January 3 and 4th, with callbacks, if needed, on Wednesday, January 5. MAKE ME A SONG runs March 11-26 at the Bartell Theatre.

There are roles for two men and two women. All roles require strong singing and acting abilities..

Please prepare a song for the audition. Musical theater pieces (Finn, Porter, Sondheim) strongly encouraged. If you'd like to be accompanied, bring sheet music in the correct key. Wear clothes that you can move easily in.

Contact [song@stageq.com](mailto:song@stageq.com) with questions.

## 2011 WISCONSIN CAPITOL PRIDE DATE ANNOUNCED

**Madison** - Wisconsin Capitol Pride Secretary Jason Towler informs Quest plans for the 2011 Capitol Pride Event are moving forward.

This year's Pride Weekend will be held August 20- 21st in Downtown Madison, WI. The event will be located on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd just 1 block from the state capitol building. The Parade will be held on Sunday August 21st. More details are expected to follow in the next few months.

Wisconsin Capitol Pride is one of four pride festivals held around the state during the warm summer months. The season starts with PrideFest in Milwaukee followed by NEW Pride in Green Bay early July. Madison's event is in August and finally one held in Duluth/Superior around Labor Day.

For more information contact: [jtowler@wisconsincapitolpride.org](mailto:jtowler@wisconsincapitolpride.org)

## PLEASE TELL US HOW WE ARE DOING!

**Green Bay** - Quest is asking our readers to give us some feedback. Want more national news on these pages instead of having to read them online? Crave more photos from nights out on the town? Or perhaps you think we are doing just fine. Please let us know.

Tell us who you think we should interview next, or what interests you that we should cover more often.

Beginning this February Quest will start our 18th year of continuously publishing this magazine. We started out simple in B/W and newsprint, but later we installed our own presses and printed on better heavier paper. Today we are professionally printed using a mix of glossy covers and newsprint inside with more full color pages. We have made our type larger so it is easier to read too.

Send us an email: [editor@quest-online.com](mailto:editor@quest-online.com) or mail your comments to P.O. Box 1961 Green Bay, WI 54305.



# OUTWORDS BOOKS PRESENTS: BEST BOOKS FOR 2010!

## For the Boys

### 1. "Secret Historian," Justin Spring

Life in the closet proves boisterous in this biography of Steward, an English professor, a novelist who wrote both well-received literary fiction and gay porn, a confidant of Gertrude Stein and Thornton Wilder. His violent sado-masochism endeared him to sex researcher Alfred Kinsey; later in life, he became Phil Sparrow, official tattoo artist of the Hell's Angels. Spring fleshes out this colorful story by quoting Steward's Stud File which contained entries on trysts with everyone from Rudolph Valentino to Rock Hudson.

### 2. "Mary Ann in Love," Armistead Maupin

It's been 20 years since series anchor Mary Ann Singleton left her family and headed to New York. Maupin's San Francisco is comforting in its familiarity, and the gang is (mostly) all here, older, wiser, and settled in: Michael

"Mouse" Tolliver is married to Ben; Shawna, Mary Ann's estranged daughter, is a popular sex blogger and grand dame Anna Madrigal, once landlady to Michael and Mary Ann, is still kicking in her late 80s. Now, nearing 60, Mary Ann's back with news she can't bear to tell anyone but Michael. From the haven of his tiny garden cottage, Mary Ann regroups and confronts some uncomfortable chapters in her past.

### 3. "Union Atlantic," Adam Haslett

In Haslett's excellent first novel, a titan of the banking industry does battle with a surprisingly formidable opponent: a retired history teacher. Doug Fanning has built Union Atlantic from a mid-size Boston bank to an international powerhouse and rewards himself by building a rural palace in Finden, Mass. The land his house is built on, however, had been donated to Finden for preservation by Charlotte Graves's grandfather, and Charlotte believes she now has a claim on the lot. Meanwhile, high school

senior Nate Fuller, who visits Charlotte for tutoring and Doug for awkward and lopsided sexual encounters, finds himself with the power to upset the legal and cultural war game.

### 4. "My Queer War," James Lord

In 1942, a timid, inexperienced twenty-one-year-old Lord reports to Atlantic City, N.J., to enlist in the U.S. Army. His career in the armed forces takes him to Nevada and California, to Boston, to England, and eventually to France and Germany, where he witnesses firsthand the ravages of total war on Europe's land and on its people. Along the way he comes to terms with his own sexuality, experiences the thrill of first love and the chill of disillusionment with his fellow man.

### 5. "The Score," John Gress

"Sport is the new sex!"—that's at least what you'll think when you take a look at the photos in Chicago photographer John Gress' coffee



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**Sun. Beer Bust 2-6pm**



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**M O N A S**



table book **"The Score"**. Gress follows his fit and incredibly sexy models on to the field, where they can get rough. Masterfully he captures the sporty virility of these guys. Sometimes naughty, sometimes playful, but most often masculine and full of testosterone, **"The Score"** is a complete knockout!

## For the Girls:

1. **"Collision Course"** C.P. Rowlands  
For Brie O'Malley, the life she had, the woman she loved and the future she was planning for were all stolen from her the day she and her lover were shot. As the only survivor, she is now dedicated to her work. Then she meets Jordan. Jordan Carter can't believe her bad luck when she collides with beautiful blond Brie whilst skateboarding; showing her two kids how an expert does it. A carpenter, Jordan has also struggled to pull her life together after a tragedy. Both women must make a decision about the past that will open a door to the future.

2. **"Storm Surge,"** Melissa Good.  
Picking up where **"Tropical Convergence"** left off is "Storm Surge," the 8<sup>th</sup> "Kerry & Dar" adventure from Melissa Good. Dar and Kerry are traveling - Dar overseas to clinch a deal with their new ship owner partners in England, and Kerry on a reluctant visit home for her high school reunion. In the midst of corporate deals and personal conflict, their world goes unexpectedly out of control when an early morning spurt of unusual alarms turns out to be the beginning of a shocking nightmare neither expected.

3. **"Unbearable Lightness: A Story of Loss and Gain,"** Portia de Rossi  
"Anorexia was my first love," de Rossi declares in her memoir of her early Hollywood career and the eating disorders that went along with it. Never comfortable in her own skin, a by-product of her status as a closeted lesbian, de Rossi was sure if she ever gained weight (or came out as being gay), the shooting star she'd been cultivating would turn to lead. Weight loss was the key that allowed de Rossi to feel powerful and in control, until dieting became a sickness. Although more development of de Rossi's

happy ending (her eventual complete recovery, self-acceptance, coming-out, and marriage to Ellen DeGeneres) would be welcome, the book succeeds as a cautionary tale.

## 4. **"Inseparable: Desire Between Women in Literature,"** Emma Donoghue

Emma Donoghue brings to bear all her knowledge to examine how desire between women in English literature has been portrayed, from schoolgirls and vampires to runaway wives, from cross-dressing knights to contemporary murder stories. Donoghue looks at the work of those writers who have addressed the "unspeakable subject," examining whether such desire between women is freakish or omnipresent, holy or evil, heartwarming or ridiculous as she excavates a long-observed tradition of (inseparable) friendship between women, one that is surprisingly central to

our cultural history.

5. **"Cruel Ever After,"** Ellen Hart  
After their divorce, Chester took off with his inheritance, leaving Jane with enough seed money to open her first restaurant. Now he's back and "between fortunes," working a new angle by selling a priceless artifact recently looted from the Baghdad Museum. It all falls through when he wakes up next to the dead body of his buyer with no memory of what happened. Panicked, Chester flees the scene, eventually returning to cover his tracks only to find that someone has already taken care of that for him, but at what price?

All of the above books and many more are available at **Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee** located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53211 (414) 963-9089 [www.outwardsbooks.com](http://www.outwardsbooks.com)



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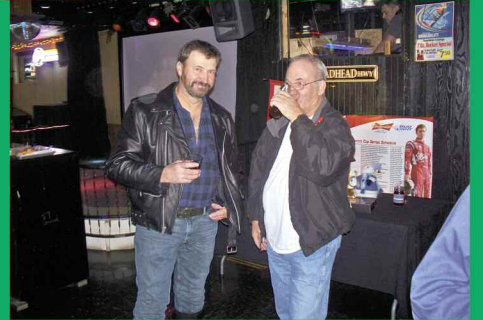
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# Christmas Parties



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# ANOTHER VERY GAY YEAR IN MILWAUKEE COMES TO AN END

As the year draws to a close, it's always appropriate to look back. The following review of just a few of Milwaukee's 2010 LGBT highlights should serve to remind us of the strides and the tribulations our community has experienced in 2010.

## Athletics

### Saturday Softball League

After hosting a bombastically successful NA-GAAAFest in 2009, SSBL brought back the Dairyland Classic over Labor Day Weekend. It also moved league play to Wilson Park.

And elsewhere in sports, enthusiasts establish a new bowling league, **Brew City Strikers**.

To organize the various LGBT athletic groups, the **Milwaukee Gay Sports Network** announces its formation. Milwaukee Gay Sports Network is a coalition of the LGBT oriented sports leagues in the Milwaukee area. Currently, it represents darts, softball, soccer, tennis, volleyball and running. Its founders are busy developing a dedicated website [www.milwaukeegayssportsnetwork.org](http://www.milwaukeegayssportsnetwork.org) and a facebook presence. Interested individuals and organizations should sign up on both for updates.

## Arts & Entertainment

### Milwaukee Gay Arts Center

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center received major funding to produce play it commissioned, Neil Haven's *Pink Champagne*. The Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund, the Milwaukee Arts Board (its first grant to an LGBT entity) and PrideFest, Inc. contribute to the project's funding.

After five years, with ACLU support, MGAC settles its lawsuit against the City of Milwaukee for its closure of the 2005 production of *Naked Boys Singing*.

The new LGBT dedicated theatre company, *Theatrical Tendencies*, makes its home at MGAC.

Vandals break a plate glass window at MGAC.

### Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival

LGBT Film/Video Festival opens with its usual fanfare at the Oriental Theatre. However, this year's festival introduces a new format. The festival is reduced to an opening 4-day weekend and continues with monthly Thursday night at the movies. Public response seems to be positive.

### PrideFest

Once again, PrideFest Milwaukee 2010 breaks attendance records. The three-day festival showcases Kathy Griffen, Patti LaBelle & Joan Rivers as headliner entertainment. The prestigious PrideFest Medal is bestowed on ARCW, Bestd Clinic for their extraordinary achievement in community health. Mark Mariucci, QUEST editor, receives the award for his years of community service.

## LGBT Center

A Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Community Center's (LGBT CC) display at the US Post Office is removed shortly after its installation. The ensuing community reaction leads to the creation of a special PrideFest stamp cancellation.

The center moves to a new downtown location. After two failed attempts, the third times a charm as membership votes to change the organization's bylaws and exclude itself from governance and place that responsibility "squarely on the shoulders" of its now self-perpetuating board. (See the full press release from the Milwaukee LGBT Center in a previous article in this issue.)

## Services

### Cream City Foundation

A CCF report identifies a crisis among homeless LGBT youth in Milwaukee. Pathfinders

### FORGE

Through a FORGE initiative, the murder of a transgender sex worker in Milwaukee's inner-city results in the creation of a police liaison. LGBT CC board member and MPD official Mary Hoerig is named to the post.

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**Friday, December 31 New Year's Eve**

All your favorite bars will be hosting specials on this night. Of special note is Boom which will have no less than four adult film stars dancing. Of course LaCage in Milwaukee, Club 5 in Madison ICON in Kenosha Ravens, Appleton and XS in Green Bay which will be packed to the rafters with young gay boys eager to dance the night away.

Madison Gay Video Club Special New Year's Eve Party "Dante's Cove" Marathon (Here! TV, dir. Sam Irvin, 2005-2007) 2010 Best Picture: "Focus/ReFocus" (Raging Stallion, dir. Ben Leon, Chris Ward, Tony DiMarco, 2009) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

**Saturday, January 1**

Outwards Books (Milwaukee) Holiday Open House 11am - 5 pm

**Monday January 3**

Stage Q (Madison) AUDITION NOTICE: for the musical review, MAKE ME A SONG, by William Finn (FALSETTOS, 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE,) directed by Tara Ayres. Auditions will be held at 148 E Wilson Street, first floor, at 7:00 pm on Monday and Tuesday, January 3 and 4th, with call-backs, if needed, on Wednesday, January 5. MAKE ME A SONG runs March 11-26 at the Bartell Theatre.

**Wednesday, January 5**

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (Racine) "When Crickets Cry" Book Club 7 pm

**Sunday, January 9**

Kruz (Milwaukee) The Castaway's M. C. Leather Club's 3rd Annual Long John Party - KRUIZ 354 E. National Ave - Sunday Jan. 9th - 3:00 - 7:00 P.M. \$7.00 Beer/Soda Bust - Prizes/FUN!

**Monday, January 10**

Outwards Books (Milwaukee) Outwards Men's Book Club The group will discuss Gay Bar: The Fabulous, True Story of a Daring Woman and Her Boys in the 1950s, the acclaimed new book by Will Fellows. Starts at 7pm. (See the book review on the next page.)

**Tuesday, January 11**

Outwards Books (Milwaukee) The Lesbian Reading @ Outwards Books 7:00pm As the first book of the New Year, the group will discuss Tracey Richardson's Blind Bet.

**Friday, January 14**

Boom (Milwaukee) Lance's Bon Voyage Party

**Saturday, January 15**

Madison Gay Video Club "Howl (Allen Ginsberg)" (Oscilloscope Pictures, dir. Rob Epstein & Jeffrey Friedman, 2010) "Manifest" (TitanMen) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

**Friday, January 21**

Boom (Milw) Free Beer 10pm-1am for those on our email list. sign up at Boommk.com

**Sunday, January 23**

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (Racine) 5:00 PM PFLAG of Kenosha-Racine

**Friday, January 28**

The ROOM (Milw) Show it Off Friday Jan. 28th 10pm in The ROOM If you have a talent show it off. Dance - Strip - Drag - Magician - Comedian - Or? See Lance or David for Details 1st place \$100 2nd place \$75 3rd place \$50

**Saturday, January 29**

Boom (Milw) Fleshjack Party 10pm Your chance to win 1 of 5 Fleshjacks. Demo by Brad

Get us your events listing for our calendar by January 11 to be included in our next issue.

**editor@quest-online.com**

or you can mail to:

**Quest Magazine Att: Calendar  
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# bookworm sez

**"Gay Bar: The Fabulous, True Story of a Daring Woman and Her Boys in the 1950s"**

**By Will Fellows and Helen P. Branson**

**c.1957, 2010, University of Wisconsin Press \$26.95 / \$27.25  
Canada 166 pages**

TGIF.

Four little letters that, alone, have different meanings. One is a drink. One, a gentle expletive. One is a pronoun, and the last is... well, it's a letter.

Add them together, though, and they bring smiles to the faces of weary workers who've done their time for the week. Thank God It's Friday.

But what if your options for Friday Night Revelry were limited? What if you couldn't go out because you couldn't come out? In the new book **"Gay Bar" by Will Fellows and Helen P. Branson**, you'll read about a woman who solved that problem back when it was bold to do so.

For most of her adult life, Helen Pyle Branson was interested in the occult and what we would now call New Age subjects. Straight, married, and a mother, Helen was also a "woman ahead of her time": she was extremely interested in friendships, specifically with gay men.

Back in the 1950s, homosexuality was considered an illness that could be "cured" with intensive therapy and classes. Gays and lesbians were "degenerates" then, and "normal" people shunned them with horror. To be gay was to be an outcast, often unemployed, sometimes homeless. Some even considered gayness to be a threat similar to Communism.

Helen didn't care.



selves. She fed them, gave them a safe place to congregate, and became a surrogate mother to them. She studied them, and encouraged their families to love them, too.

Author Will Fellows had seen the book that Helen Branson wrote in the mid-50s, and he thought the memoir / social commentary might make a good play. Fascinated, he began to dig into the life and thoughts of this progressive straight woman who embraced gay men...

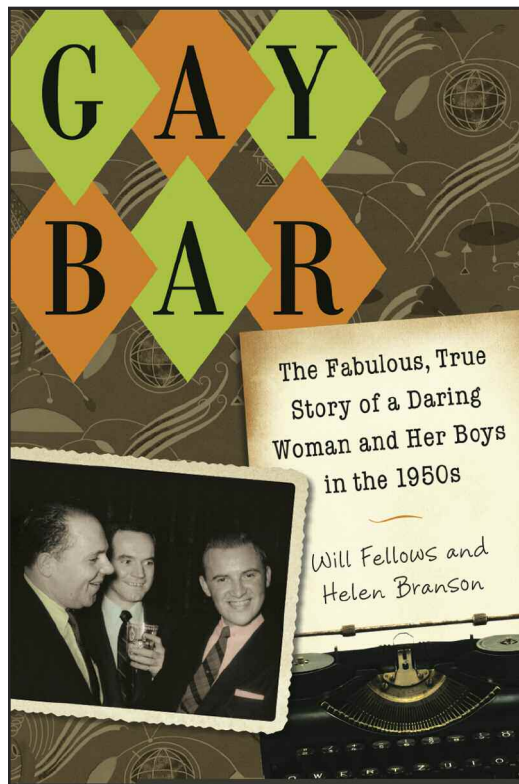
And if Fellows had just left well-enough alone, if he had just let *that* book stand on its own merits, *this* book might have been better.

"Gay Bar" – the original version – had its charms. It offered a unique and honest vintage-1950s look at gay men's lives from the perspective of a woman who genuinely loved them for who they were and who hated their persecution. Author Helen P. Branson had her (very un-PC) theories on gayness, and she was obviously willing to discuss things with anyone who would listen, as evidenced by her friendship and correspondence with a sympathetic psychiatrist who also studied homosexuality.

Her "boys" were welcome in her establishment, as long as they behaved – and she wasn't afraid to oust anyone who didn't. She protected her boys from the police, roughnecks, haters, scammers, and them-

But then Fellows steps in and puts Branson's words into today's perspective. I thought his ideas were intelligent and well-considered (a definite good thing), but – against Branson's bygone-era charm – they muddy the appeal of the original (a not-so-good thing).

Can I recommend this book? Only barely, and only if you remember that this is more a gay history book than it is pleasure reading. Truly, if you're looking for something fun and nowhere near academic, find another book and leave "Gay Bar" for another day.



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## 2010: The Year in Review in LGBT Cinema by Glenn Bishop

Once again, it is that time of year. Once again, Glenn finds himself dazed and confused, perhaps even more than usual, in preparing his annual "Year in Review in LGBT Cinema."

There are near gale winds howling outside; the storm windows in Glenn's humble little second floor duplex rattling away. Baby, it's cold outside! Inside, there's a roaring blaze in the fireplace. Before anyone even thinks to ask: no, not one of those silly "Fireplace" DVDs playing on the television. Although one very special, loyal **Quest** reader in particular, you know who you are, sent Glenn the most extraordinary DVD: "**Jingle Boys – The Sexist Fireplace Ever!**"

In a word, too, too fabulous!

Inasmuch as the sexy "Jingle Boys" would surely prove distracting, Glenn settled in before a real log fire in the fireplace, heated up the hot cocoa and set his still holiday-added brain to contemplating the state of LGBT cinema, 2010.

With the third Millennium's first decade on the wane, could there be a better time to take a moment to reflect upon the past ten years? No matter that 2001 seems like such a very long time ago; long before such celebrated mainstream releases as **Brokeback Mountain**, and **Milk** as well as **The Kids Are All Right**, **A Single Man** and if it ever actually makes it to a cinema near you: **I Love You Phillip Morris**. Oh, one more, that film with the cute Mormon boy finding true love in the mean streets of WeHo. Inexplicably, the title of this romantic favorite seems to have escaped Glenn, just for the moment.

And what of the previous decade? A brief glance at the cinematic highlights of the 90s offered such "classic" titles as **Philadelphia**, **Trick**, **Big Eden**, **Lilies**, **Adventures of Priscilla**, **Queen of the Desert**, **Wedding Banquet**, **Edge of Seventeen**, **Jeffrey** and **My Own Private Idaho**. And, alas, **The Birdcage**.

The comparison of titles between this decade and the last has certainly provided Glenn with food for thought... And without further ado, "**It was the best of times; it was the worst of times**"

**"It was the best of times..."**

Following a rather dismal 2009 at the multiplex, some very real progress was surely made in 2010. Mainstream cinemas as far as the eye can see offered such titles as **A Single Man** (technically from late 2009 but a bit tardy to arrive in Milwaukee), **The Kids Are All Right** plus the James Franco-charged **Howl** which seems to have screened in rather more hip locales than Milwaukee.

Additionally, 2010 proved a rather stronger year in LGBT DVD releases than in recent memory. This was particularly true with regard to Les-

bian cinema which found such acclaimed titles brought to DVD as Sharon Gless' **Hannah Free**, **And Then Came Lola**, **I Can't Think Straight**, **The World Unseen**, **Precious** and the sensational documentary from last year's Milwaukee LGBT Film Fest: **Edie and Thea**. For gay men, Glenn can report some delightful romantic comedies including the absolutely fabulous **Big Gay Musical**, **Mr. Right**, **BearCity**, **Is It Just Me?** and **The Art of Being Straight**.

Dedicated as ever, Glenn still continued to stalk motion picture palaces in such faraway destinations as Beloit, Madison and even Chicago as well as watching countless DVD screeners including virtually everything from this year's Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival. Bleary-eyed perhaps, older without being any wiser, Glenn has emerged from the dark with his singular, uniquely hand-picked selection of his five best LGBT cinematic experiences of 2010.

### Number 5: **is it just me?**

After the dubious charms of such sex comedies as **Another Gay Sequel** and **Four Letter Word**, Glenn found the warmth and overall gentle humor of **Is it Just Me?** refreshing and decidedly welcome. Nicholas Downs' Blaine is a genuinely likeable guy if perhaps a bit too cute and cuddly to be entirely believable as a lovelorn schmuck. Still, Glenn found it impossible not to get totally caught in his romantic quest. J.C. Calciano's screenplay occasionally boards on the predictable, yet **Is it Just Me?** boasts some splendid performances, especially from its appealing supporting cast. Michelle Laurent's BFF is a nice mix of concern and exasperation. Eschewing the stock role of "old queen" who always seem to lurking somewhere in gay comedies, Bruce Gray's Ernie offers a nice counterpoint; his wistful remembrances of the boy who got away adding resonance to the central story of Blaine and Xander. Even Adam Huss's sexually generous roommate Cameron is blessedly free of the usual smarminess characteristic of "slutty" characters.



**Is it Just Me?** might not be a great gay love story but it is great fun. Available on DVD with a SRP: \$19.99

### Number 4: **The Kids Are All Right**



Refusing at every turn to be seduced by all the hype generated by yet another big screen LGBT film – think **Brokeback Mountain** – Glenn nonetheless found **The Kids Are All Right** a terrific film; one which is also that very rare cinematic offering: whose audience should (and does) transcend just a lesbian one. Director Lisa Cholodenko and screenwriting partner Stuart Blumberg evidently have an adroit ear for the sort of delightfully mundane dialog that dominates the dinner table for most families. Look for a moment just before Paul's initial arrival for dinner. There is a brief moment as Jules tries to temper Nic's behavior (read that as her alcohol intake). This scene is just one of many examples of how this shrewd film wonderfully captures the small, oh so typical "couple moments." And by the way, if Annette Bening doesn't (finally) capture that much deserved Oscar™ for **The Kids Are All Right**, someone in Hollywood ought to be drawn-and-quartered Available on DVD with a SRP: \$29.98

### Number 3: **Big Gay Musical**



Glenn is happy to report that director Casper Andreas has finally fulfilled some of the early promise shown in his delightful micro-budget debut, **Slutty Summer** but



sorely lacking either in **A Four Letter Word** or the woefully misguided **Between Love and Good-bye**. Here is a fresh and sassy gay backstage musical and if the songs by writer-director Fred M. 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." He also 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 has his "hustler with a heart of gold" shtick down pat, God bless him. Available on DVD with a SRP: \$24.99

an absolute unmissable delight! And for the record – there really isn't all that much yodeling. DVD release: TBA

## Honorable Mention:

Number 10: The DVD release of two LGBT classics documentaries: **Word is Out** (\$29.95) and **Before & After Stonewall** (\$39.95)

Number 9: **Dorian Gray**, director: Oliver Parker (Available on DVD, SRP: \$24.95)

Number 8: **Riot Acts: Flaunting Gender Deviance in Musical Performance**, directors: Madsen Minax and Simon Strikeback (Screened @ the 2010 Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival)

Number 7: **Watercolors**, director: David Oliveras (Available on DVD, SRP: \$24.98)

Number 6: **Undertow**, director: Javier Fuentes-Leon (Screened @ the 2010 Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival)

## Number 2: A Single Man



Visually, **A Single Man** is never less than sumptuous yet perhaps director Tom Ford too often burdens this simple story with the high gloss rather more characteristic of popular fashion magazines. Still, Colin Firth effortlessly emanates a sense of loss; excellent too are Matthew Goode as the beloved boyfriend and Nicholas Hoult is suitably adorable in a role calling for little else. As for Julianne Moore's boozy-turn, it is unlikely she'll count **A Single Man** amongst her successes but if any poor soul is contemplating a remake **Valley of the Dolls**, she's your gal. Isherwood's place amongst the canon of Gay lit is beyond question; no one book pony he. Yet as beautifully as Firth's George suffers, Glenn longed for more flashback scenes with his longtime partner. Their story, their love story, written and published in the closeted world of the 1960s is truly what makes **A Single Man** today so remarkable. That may not be story Tom Ford sought to bring to the cinema but it is the story Glenn kept hoping to see. Available on DVD, SRP: \$29.95

## Number 1: Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls

What is perhaps most innovative about **Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls** is just how entertaining it is. Not that there's anything particularly new or innovative about director Leanne Pooley's approach to bringing to big screen the life and times of the twin lesbian yodelers from New Zealand.

Deftly combining interviews with the Topps, a generous helping of live performance clips as well as the surely unavoidable talking heads (all providing the Twins with their personal kudos), director Leanne Pooley crafts a cinematic biography that bring Linda and Jools vividly to life. In amongst a film festival schedule severely lacking in any sense of fun, **Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls** proved

## "It was the worst of times..."

For many aficionados of LGBT cinema, of which Glenn certainly numbers himself, the Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival seemed to have lost steam in 2010. The festival's one and only weekend came and went with many in Glenn's acquaintance missing it all together. Following the inspired (and inspiring) opening night selection, **The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls**, little else on the schedule offered festivalgoers anything to counter wrist-slittingly depressing **Eyes Wide Open** or the similarly tragic ending of far too many of the feature film offerings. Hollywood has long capitalized on the 'tortured homosexual dying at the end' narrative (think **Brokeback Mountains**, **Milk** and **A Single Man** to name a few prominent recent offerings), surely an LGBT Film Festival such as ours might be able to find a happily ever-after ending or two.

## Topp Twins



## 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

### THE TWELVE GAYS OF CHRISTMAS (A twelve item wish list from local yokels)

**Dear Uncle Barbie,**

What do you suppose the local gay & lesbian community wants from Santa this year?  
Signed, Larry

**Hello Local Larry,**

I thought it would be fun for this holiday season to do something a little different in my column. So to answer your question, I decided to ask local gays and lesbians what they wanted Santa to bring them. Here is their wish list:

1) On the first day of Christmas, Linda Lu asked for "many hugs and kisses from other girls;"

2) On the second day of Christmas, a non-Christian Human wants "to be able to go to a store without hearing x-mas music playing all the time;"

3) On the third day of Christmas, Ed asked for "open minded and loving Christians who live the commandment, 'love thy neighbor;'"

4) On the fourth day of Christmas, Doug asked for "some new board members for the Gay Men's Center;"

5) On the fifth day of Christmas, David asked for "a boyfriend under me;"

6) On the sixth day of Christmas, Susy asked for "breast implants;"

7) On the seventh day of Christmas, Carolyn asked for "everyone to love and be compassionate towards everyone in the world, and countries who want to work together for the betterment of their countries' populations so that no one knows what war is anymore!!;"

8) On the eighth day of Christmas, Aurora asked for "a new computer and software;"

9) On the ninth day of Christmas, Susan said, "I want all my friends and relatives to smell good for Christmas;"

10) On the tenth day of Christmas, Peter asked for "a boyfriend under my tree;"

11) On the eleventh day of Christmas, Tina asked for "the ability to communicate clearly to our friends & family;"

12) On the twelfth day of Christmas, Blanch asked for "clear agendas from all;"



**An immaculate example of blasphemy.**

Well, there you have it, folks. That's what some of the local yokels are asking from Santa this Yule. I hope they remember that good ol' Mr. Kringle knows who has been naughty and nice. Just remember what my parents told me when I was a kid--"Santa knows when you touch yourself!"

**Definitely Naughty, Barbie**

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414-755-2700

**Wisconsin Gay Hockey**  
(414) 202-5874  
wiogayhockey@wi.rr.com  
home.wi.rr.com/wigayhockey

**Women's Voices Milwaukee**  
252 E Highland Ave. Milw,  
53202 (630) 890-5984

**LGBT Social Groups**  
**Argonauts of Wisconsin**  
Box 22096, Green Bay, 54305  
argonews@sbcglobal.net  
www.argonautsll.org

**Bear Club 4 Men**  
Box 13463, Green Bay, 54307  
www.bc4m.com  
bearclub4men@gmail.com

**Black & White Men Together**  
PO Box 80395, Milw 53208  
(414) 461-5359  
bwmtmilwaukee@aol.com  
www.bwmtmilwaukee.org

**Brew City Bears**  
PO Box 1035, Milw., WI  
53201 (414) 331-3744  
bc4menalan@sbcglobal.net  
www.bc4men.info

**Brew City Soul Brothers**  
Brewcitybrothers@yahoo.com

**The Brunch Club**  
jennieragland@wi.rr.com

**Castaways**  
PO 1697 Milwaukee 53202

**Dodge Co. LGBT  
Social Group of Wisconsin**  
mellow14u@care2.com  
care2.com/c2c/group/DCGLBTS-  
GOW

**Femme Mafia Milwaukee**  
myspace.com/femmefafi-  
amke

**GAMMA - Milwaukee**  
PO Box 1900, Milw., WI  
53201 (414) 530-1886  
gamma@milwaukeekeegamma.com  
www.milwaukeekeegamma.com

**Great Lakes Harley Riders**  
PO Box 341611 Milw, 53234  
bootedhog@aol.com

**Men (MenEnjoyNudism)**  
Box 0631, Milwaukee 53207

**N.E.W. Brotherhood**  
Box 12793, Green Bay,  
54307  
www.NEWBrotherhood.org

**Rainbow Families c/o PFLAG**  
252 E Highland Ave. Milw,  
53202  
mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com

## LGBT Welcoming Churches

**Angels of Hope MCC**  
3607 Libal St., Green Bay,  
WI (920) 983-7453  
Appleton at UCC Chapel,  
724 E. South River Dr.  
aohmcc@netnet.net  
www.angelsofhopemcc.org

**Church of Atheism**  
206 Vine St., Eau Claire, WI  
54703 (706) 593-2686  
church\_of\_atheism@yahoo.com  
freewebs.com/churchofatheism

**First Unitarian Society of  
Milwaukee** 1342 N. Astor,  
Milw., 53202 (414) 273-5257  
office@uwmilwaukee.org  
www.uwmilwaukee.org

**Footstep Fellowship** First  
Presbyterian Church Cjapel  
(715) 355-8641 PO Box 171,  
Wausau, WI 54402  
footstepfellowship@yahoo.com  
geocities.com/footstepfellowship

**Fox Valley UU Fellowship**  
2600 E Phillip Lane Appleton  
WI 54915 (920) 731-0849  
www.fvuuf.org

**Lake Park Lutheran Church**  
2647 N. Stowell St. Milwaukee,  
WI 53211 (414) 962-9190  
office@lakeparklutheran.com  
www.lakeparklutheran.com

**Love of God Cathedral  
Universal Anglican Church**  
9633 W Greenfield Ave  
West Allis, WI 53214  
www.L-O-G.org  
RevJ@MilwaukeeMinistry.org

**Milwaukee Metropolitan  
Community Church** PO Box  
2421 1239 W. Mineral St.  
Milw. WI 53204 (414)383-1100  
info@queerchur h.org  
pastor@milmmcc.org  
www.queerchurch.org

**Plymouth Church** 2717 E.  
Hampshire Ave. Milwaukee,  
53211 (414) 964-1513  
plymouthchurch@choiceonemail.com  
www.plymouth-church.org

**Preble Park Presbyterian  
Church** 607 Ravenswood  
Dr. Green Bay, WI 54302  
(920) 468-7125

**SS Cyril & Methodius United  
Indepndent Catholic Church**  
Neenah 54956 (920)750-4465  
stcyrilandmethodius@centrytel.net  
www.uicchurch.homestead.com

**Underwood Baptist** 1916 N.  
Wauwatosa Ave. Wauwatosa,  
WI 53213 (414) 258-4246  
office@underwoodchurch.com  
www.underwoodchurch.com

**Union Congregational UCC**  
716 So. Madison St., Green  
Bay 54303 (920) 437-9266  
Fax (930) 437-3765  
unionucc@gbonline.com

**Unity Church of Kenosha,**  
Racine 9220 26th Ave.,  
Kenosha, WI 53143 Rev.  
Don (262) 914-8389  
hellodjd@sbcglobal.net

## Neighborhood Associations

**Bay View GAYS**  
(414) 482-3796  
bvgpresident@bvgays.com  
www.bvgays.com

**Washington Heights  
Rainbow Association**  
(414) 258-8834  
washtsrainbow@aol.com  
washingtonheightsrainbow.org

**Wauwatosa Rainbow Association**  
tosarainbow@yahoo.com

## Other Service Agencies with LGBT Programming

**Aids Resource Center of  
Wisconsin**  
820 Plankinton Ave. PO Box  
510498 Milwaukee, WI  
53202 (414) 273-1991  
www.arcw.org

**Brady East STD (BESTD)**  
Clinic 12240 E. Brady St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 272-2144  
bestd@execpc.com  
www.bestd.org

**Children Service Society of  
Wisconsin**  
1212 S. 70th St. Milwaukee,  
WI 53212 (414) 453-1400  
jane.ottow@cssw.org  
www.cssw.org

**The Counseling Center of  
Milwaukee**  
2038 N. Bartlett Ave. Milw,  
WI 53202  
(414) 271-2565  
info@tccmilw.org  
www.tccmilw.org

**OutReach**  
600 Williamson St. (Ste. P1)  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 255-8582  
www.lgbtoutreach.org

**STD Specialties Inc.**  
32351 N. Holton St. Milwau-  
kee, WI 53212  
(414) 264-8800  
www.STDSpecialties.org

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# WISCONSIN LGBT BAR GUIDE

## LACROSSE/MADISON (608)

Impulse 132 W. Grand Ave Beloit, (608)361-0000  
My Place 3201 South Ave LaCrosse (608)788-9073  
Players 300 4th St, La Crosse (608)784-4200  
Chances R 417 Jay St, La Crosse (608)782-5105  
Club 5 Bar/Restaurant 5 Applegate Ct Madison, (608)277-9700

Plan B 924 William Street, Madison  
Shamrock 117 W Main Madison (608)255-5029  
WOOF'S 114 King Street, Madison (608)204-6222 www.woofsmadison.com

Captain Dix (Rainbow Valley Resort)  
4124 River Road WI Dells, WI (866) 553-1818

## NORTHERN WISCONSIN (715)

Scooters 411 Galloway Eau Claire (715)835-9959

JT's Bar and Grill 1506 N. 3rd Superior (715)-394-2580

The Flame 1612 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715)395-0101

The Main 1217 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715)392-1756

OZ 320 Washington St, Wausau www.totheoz.com (715)842-3225

## NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN (920)

Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton (920)954-9262

Ravens 215 E. College Ave Appleton (920)364-9599

Napalese 1351 Cedar 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

\* 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

\* 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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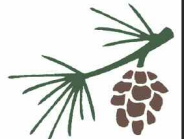


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It seems everyone needs a little  
"Santa time" at the KRUZ Xmas Party





# MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL



presents

## *Heartbeats* *(Les Amours Imaginaires)* Thursday, February 3, 7pm, \$5

Francis and Marie are close friends. But, one day, they both meet Nicolas, a young man fresh from the country, and soon, Francis and Marie are both sliding deeper and deeper into obsessive fantasies around this new object of desire. The new candy-colored film, asworn with movie love, from Xavier Dolan, the director and star of the 2010 Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival favorite *I KILLED MY MOTHER*

**UWM Union Theatre**  
[arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm](http://arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm)

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