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QUEST

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QUEST TALKS WITH MAGGI CAGE

An Interview with the Executive Director for the Milwaukee LGBT Center, Dr. Maggi Cage

By Quest Publisher Mark Mariucci

The term LGBT community center (or pride center) refers to both buildings which host services for non-heterosexual youth, seniors, adult men and women, and trans individuals, as well as the organizations which own and maintain such buildings on a non-profit, non-political basis. At least that's how it is described on Wikipedia.

From humble beginnings in 1998, Milwaukee's LGBT Center has been in several locations over it's short life and has the purpose of providing culturally sensitive and competent educational, social, and health and wellness services that meet the needs of LGBT youth, adults and their allies. Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

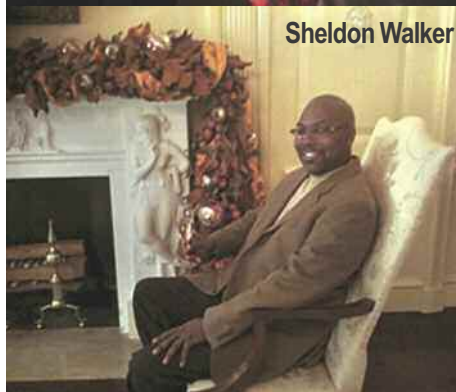
Recently they moved into a new location in Downtown Milwaukee. Quest and Dr. Cage thought it was about time we got together and discussed what all the excitement is about.

Mark: Congratulations on your move to the Blatz Building downtown Milwaukee. I have read about this move and even enjoyed a Dear Ruthie "youtube" video promoting it and today it is a reality. What do you feel is the most exciting opportunity the new digs provide people who use the center.

Maggi: While the new Center is located in a 104 year old building, it is very modern space. I have given many tours of the building and everyone has the same response "Wow!". The Center is 22,000 square feet over four floors, right in the center of downtown. I like the fact that metaphorically, the LGBT community has arrived at the center of the community. The new space features a large community room (1500 square feet) with an adjacent kitchen, which can be used for meetings, concerts, art exhibits, and one day for same sex wedding ceremonies. Every floor has bathrooms and a kitchen, and the building is accessible by elevator to all four floors. Our Cyber Center, located on the first floor, has expanded and features all new computers, a scan-



Dr. Cage at the White House



Sheldon Walker

ner and new printer. Project Q, our youth program, has expanded from 525 square feet to over 2,000 square feet and houses four computer stations, an area for art projects, couches and large screen TV, library, and an office for Project Q staff

and interns. Our tenants include FORGE, Lesbian Alliance, PFLAG, Vets Do Ask Do Tell, Pride-Fest, Wisconsin Voices, Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf, and Wisconsin Cream City Chorus. The expanded space has allowed us to build an LGBT Mental Health Clinic, which is in development. We anticipate the clinic will offer support groups and a full compliment of mental health services for adults and youth. We have added conference rooms to expand meeting space for the volunteer groups that meet at the Center, such as Gemini Gender, Black & White Men Together, and Out To Brunch, which is now meeting at the Center every month.

Mark: The center offers not only space to organizations, but also many programs for the community. I am told there is a new grant from the Johnson Family foundation to help establish a mental health clinic at the center. Can you give us more information about that?

Maggi: The Johnson Family Foundation makes grants available for LGBT Mental Health Clinics across the country. Each recipient must be a member of CenterLink, our national association of LGBT Community Centers, and the grant provides funding for development and technical assistance over a three year period. We are one of six community centers to receive the grant and we are very excited about the clinic. We are partnering with Jewish Family Services to establish the clinic because JFS has an excellent mental health program and a commitment to LGBT mental health services. We anticipate our first services will be support groups. When the Counseling Center of Milwaukee was operating, many LGBT related support groups were provided. We want to bring back those support groups and the facilitators. Currently, we are developing a timeline for expanding mental health services over the next year and we estimate taking therapy appointments by spring. This project is also supported by a New York based Lead Trust and we are exploring local funding to support the project.





Mark: Please tell us about your recent holiday reception at the White House. Did you make any new important contacts at the gala?

Maggi: I was invited to a Holiday Party at the White House on December 15, 2010. I took Sheldon Walker, Board Co-Chair, with me. The event was held in the East Wing of the White House, which was beautifully decorated. The reception was to honor community leaders from around the country. Needless to say the food was spectacular and I could see the influence of the First Lady. Selections included fresh carrots and hummus, and many other healthy choices. The most important contact I made was with a woman who works at the Boston Science Museum. She is working with a science museum in London to develop information about LGBT scientists that can be included in their museums. When I was working at the Medical College of Wisconsin I was the Director of the Center for Science Education, a program for elementary and high school students, so this contact was exciting and I plan to follow up with a trip to Boston in the spring or summer.

Mark: I read in the official newsletter for the Milwaukee LGBT Center you have been elected treasurer for Centerlink which I understand to be an organization made up of people representing other LGBT centers around the country with a goal of helping LGBT centers nationwide stay strong and grow. During your four years working on Centerlink's board you have a unique insight into the working of many other centers around the country. How do you think Milwaukee LGBT Center compares with centers in larger cities such as nearby Chicago or New York?

Maggi: The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is considered one of the leaders in the LGBT Community Center movement. We are hosting the 2011 CenterLink Executive Directors Summit here in Milwaukee, which brings Executive Directors and their Board Members together each year. I have served on the CenterLink Board of Directors for 4 years providing leadership on the Finance Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and 2010 Executive Director Summit planning. The large Centers like New York and LA are in a class of their own, however I think the Milwaukee Center is on par with Chicago, Portland, Philadelphia and others.

Mark: I have a long personal history with the gay community as a former bar owner. From my perspective it seems there are two worlds out there in the LGBT community. One is focused on going out having fun, drinking, etc, another is more political, educational and social, but outside the gay bar scene. Sadly there seems to be very little each has to do with the other. How do you think the center can reach out to this part of the community, and conversely how can bar owners and their customers engage with the center more in the future?

Maggi: The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has reached out to area bar owners and patrons regarding our quit smoking project. We have offered help to bar owners who are interested in helping patrons to quit, now that Wisconsin is a smoke free state. We have volunteer health promoters who have gone to the bars and conducted outreach activities. On an annual basis, Stephanie Hume and I bring together bar owners and area police to discuss concerns and to strategize how owners and the police can best work together. Generally, we have convened this group just before PrideFest each year. The feedback I have received from area bar owners has been positive, and we will continue to convene this group. I like your question about how can the Center and bar owners engage more effectively. Perhaps area owners will contact me with their ideas, which I am open to hearing.

Mark: any parting thoughts for our Quest readers?

Maggi: I hope everyone will join us on March 12 for our gala – Welcome to Your New Home! Visit our website for details at www.mkelgbt.org.

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LOCAL DOCUMENTARY ILLUMINATES ISSUES FOR MILWAUKEE'S GAY YOUTH

Milwaukee - In effort to increase awareness and resources on behalf of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) homeless youth, Tess Gallun of Reel Life Films is releasing **Out of Respect: A Story of Five**. The feature-length documentary follows five homeless LGBTQ young adults in their search for jobs, shelter and support on the streets of Milwaukee. First person video diaries and emotional setbacks reveal the courage and humor it takes to overcome abandonment by family, the system and society. The premiere will take place at 6 p.m., Feb. 24, 2011 in the Lubar Auditorium at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Coast restaurant will host a VIP reception at 4:30 p.m. prior to the screening.

Out of Respect provides an intimate, first person perspective to the "State of Youth Homeless-

ness" study, released by Cream City Foundation in 2010. The report revealed that displaced LGBTQ youth have less housing options, and are more susceptible to substance abuse, mental illness, and sexual exploitation. Gallun recognized an urgency to bring these stories to the screen after spending a year watching five such individuals struggle to survive. She explains, "The statistics illustrate sexual discrimination at home, in schools and the child welfare system jeopardizes the chances for LGBTQ young people to lead productive lives. If society continues to remain unaware or silent, hatred and fear will destroy one of our most precious resources - the next generation."

Cream City Foundation is the legal fiscal sponsor of **Out of Respect**. Production support provided by UW-Milwaukee's Journalism & Mass Communica-

tion Department, J-Doc students and DocUWM. Funding support provided by Cream City Foundation (J.G. & Linda Clark Family Fund, Joseph R. Pabst LGBT Infrastructure Fund, William J. Radler Fund), UWM-Cultures & Communities Program, Sheryl Kiser, Ray Vahey, UWM- LGBT Studies, Bronze Optical, and Cindy Fletcher. For more information on **Out of Respect** or the premiere, go to www.outofrespect.org, or contact Gallun at 414-899-4355.

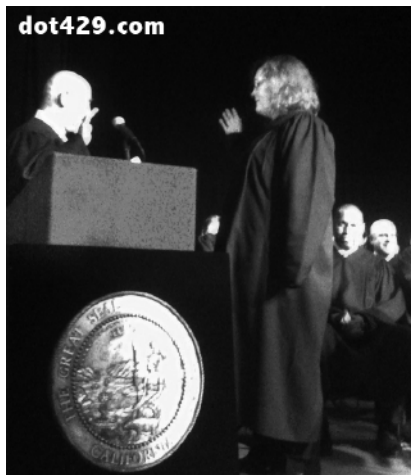
Tess Gallun is an award-winning documentary producer who owns Reel Life Films. She also teaches documentary film in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. As film director and college instructor, Gallun strives to create relevant stories and collaborations that inspire social awareness and action.

TRANSGENDER TRIAL JUDGE MAKES HISTORY

syndicated from dot429.com

On January 4, 2011, moments before making history at a special en banc session of the Superior Court of California by taking an oath of office to be the first openly transgender trial judge in the country, Victoria Kolakowski (who underwent gender reassignment surgery in 1991) spoke exclusively with dot429 in her dressing room at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center. Kolakowski expressed her excitement and humility: "It's been very hard as a transgender person. We're a community that's chronically under- and unemployed and I've encountered that sort of discrimination in the past, but we're making so much more progress now. In terms of my career, I think part of it is hard work and perseverance, and part of it is good luck."

Kolakowski's parents and wife Cynthia Laird were her primary guests of honor at the ceremony. California State Senator Ellen Corbett introduced Victoria as "a friend, a colleague, a trailblazer," commenting on the social impact of her enrobe-



ment, "as we celebrate this new decade we mark our own start and our own first....We all know the tremendous hurdles that [Victoria] and the transgender community have overcome."

Equality California's Geoff Kors' remarks com-

pared Kolakowski's running and winning to Harvey Milk's 1977 victory when he ran for the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco. "It's that shattering of the glass ceiling...I think about Harvey Milk and the things he really stood for—those are qualities that are so evident in Vicky."

While Kolakowski's primary purpose is to serve the County of Alameda as a trial judge, she made a point to acknowledge the history she is creating and even expressed that tonight served as her version of "It Gets Better." Underneath her newly acquired judge's robe, Kolakowski wore a butterfly pin that was given to her by Sylvia Guerrero, mother of transgender teen Gwen Araujo murdered in Alameda County eight years ago.

On November 2, Kolakowski beat out prosecutor John Creighton 51 to 48, making her the first openly transgender trial judge in the United States. "I ran a campaign based on my qualifications and experience. The people elected me. It's an extraordinary moment for the transgender and LGBT community."

MIDWEST LAGS BEHIND REST OF THE COUNTRY IN GAY GRANT DOLLARS

Milwaukee - In the past 5 years, the Midwest has been the least funded of the four regions in the United States for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) work. According to a report issued by Funders for LGBTQ Issues, in 2009 alone the Midwest received only 9% of available LGBT foundation dollars for the United States.

"Unfortunately, it takes money to create a respectful community," said Maria Cadenas, executive director of Cream City Foundation. "With the majority of LGBT grant dollars going to national organizations and to the coasts, our local and regional efforts to fund equality are more important than ever before."

Nine out of the top ten LGBTQ Grantmakers, are all east- or west-coast based, with Denver being the one exception. In fact, 67% of all U.S. grant dollars went to the West and Northeast Regions, with another 24% going to the South.

"Our local efforts are the bedrock of a movement," said Cadenas. "Not only is the Midwest underfunded, but the economy has also deeply impact the overall philanthropic sector. Investing in LGBT work has never been so important."

"It is local work and leaders that change the hearts and minds of our neighbors, expand the definition of family, and create the workplaces and neighborhoods we all want," said Stacey

Herzing, president of the Board of Cream City Foundation. "What Cream City Foundation does is promote, encourage, and provide philanthropy that leverages money already on the table to ensure it has its greatest impact."

Cream City Foundation is the country's second oldest LGBT community foundation and the largest in Wisconsin. In 2009, CCF granted \$150,000 dollars with 27 grants. Among the organizations receiving funding were Pathfinders Q-Blok program, the LGBT Film/Video Festival at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the LGBT Center of Southeastern Wisconsin, and PrideFest.

Quest Arts and Entertainment

Vagina Monologues @ MGAC

By Paul Masterson

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center continues its tradition of presenting Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* with a new 2011 production. It opens Friday, February 11 at 7:30pm. Additional performances take place Saturday, February 12 at 7:30pm and on Sunday, February 13 at 2pm.

First performed in 1998 Off Broadway, *The Vagina Monologues* has become an international clarion for women's empowerment. It has also become a vehicle to raise funds for the cause of anti-violence – specifically to create awareness and to fight violence against women. The project has raised over \$75 million through local performances throughout the world.

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center's annual production of Ensler's work first took place in spring 2008. It has all the makings of an annual tradition for this non-profit arts organization. Now preparing its third production, MGAC strives to make the presentation fresh with each new staging. Traditionally, *Vagina Monologues* is a simple rendering of the series of monologues read or recited by cast members. MGAC's versions have relied more on acting than readings as a means to engage the audience. Each year, a new concept evolves that reflects the nuances brought to it by the current cast.

This year's production also features a new director, Casey Harding. Harding is a Marquette University theatre arts graduate. Her directing background includes work with Renaissance Theatreworks where she participated in a young directors program. She is currently an education assistant with the Florentine Opera.

This year's cast consists of twelve performers. Its diversity spans an age range from 19 to 50. There's a broad spectrum of ethnicities including African-American, Asian and South Asian, Caucasian and Hispanic. Cast members' sexual identity is equally mixed. "Whether lesbian, straight or transgender, or Pakistani, American or of any hue, each individual actor puts a universal reality into each monologue. At the same time, the reality is very personal. This staging creates an ensemble feel that delivers Ensler's message in an accessible way. The cast represents a community that addresses the issue through mutual support, much like a family," Harding said.

Logically enough, the monologues all focus on the vagina. They traverse the touchy terrain from the sublimely funny "The Woman Who Loved to

Make Vaginas Happy" to the seditious "Reclaiming Cunt." For the most part they delve into the subject with a certain sense of humor. But they also confront and despite the awkwardness of true confessions, *The Vagina Monologues* take the audience out of the silent confines of otherwise rarely spoken truths.

Performances take place Friday and Saturday, February 11 and 12 at 7:30 pm. A Sunday matinee

is scheduled on February 13 at 2pm. An opening night party takes place at Walker's Pint following the performance. It will include refreshments and fund raising raffle.

Tickets are \$15 general admission and \$10 for seniors and students. Funds raised will benefit the International V-Day Campaign and Milwaukee's Sojourner Family Peace Center. They may be purchased at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street, in Milwaukee's Historic Walker's Point. Call 414-383-3727 for more information.

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, aswoon with movie love, from Xavier Dolan, the director and star of the 2010 Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival favorite *I KILLED MY MOTHER*

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arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm

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Art @ MGAC

The Milwaukee Gay Art Center's exhibit, Ron Kosek – Bridging the Gap (realism to abstraction) closes on Gallery Night & Day Friday, January 21, 6-9pm and Saturday, January 22, 12-4pm.

Kosek's work uses depth, overlapping, transparency, plus the push/pull of warm and cool colors, to allow the viewer new vistas and worlds and bring them to rest in a new place.

Canadian art critic Adrian Gollner describes Kosek's works on paper "like a calendar, a seemingly daily ritual of reflection and investigation. Individually, some pieces are hard fought battles in which the formal elements have come to a temporary truce. Others appear to have been resolved more quickly and occur to the viewer firstly as landscapes or cityscapes."

Urban Fairy Tales

This isn't the Grimm you grew up with...



MGAC's next show *Urban Fairy Tales – interpretive views of the Classics* by Liz Shipe, in collaboration with Perry Heideman Pear Photography, opens with an artists' reception Friday, January 28 at 7:30. *The Urban Fairy Tale Gallery* presents a trippy, Cocteau-esque excursion down the memory lane of classic fairy tales.

Shipe's reset versions of Alice in Wonderland, Little Red Riding Hood, and other familiar fables put contemporary faces on those dusty childhood im-



ages. Shipe casts herself and her friends from the Milwaukee theatre scene in the roles of such characters as the Mad Hatter and Cinderella. Heideman's



photography masters a surreal storybook effect with an almost 3-D depth, a touch of erotic sensuality, and a mischievous glow to the work.

An opening reception for the *Urban Fairy Tale Gallery* show takes place on Friday, January 28th at 7:30pm. The reception, which is free and open to the general public, continues until 10:30pm. Attendees are encouraged to come dressed as a fairy tale character.

The show runs through March 5. For more information go to www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org or visit <http://reconstructinggrimm.blogspot.com/>



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FIRST US GLBT HISTORY MUSEUM OPENS IN SAN FRANCISCO

syndicated from dot429.com

Internationally renowned as a center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender culture, San Francisco soon will welcome yet another groundbreaking queer institution: The GLBT History Museum. A project of the GLBT Historical Society, an archives and research center established in 1985, the new museum will be the first of its kind in the United States—and only the second in the world. The grand opening is set for the evening of Jan. 13, 2011.

"The GLBT History Museum is in the heart of the Castro, a neighborhood visited not only by locals, but also by tens of thousands of tourists every year who come in search of queer culture," said Paul Boneberg, executive director of the Historical Society. "At our museum, they'll discover treasures from our archives that reflect fascinating stories spanning nearly a century of GLBT life. We have gone all out to create a museum as rich, diverse and surprising as the GLBT community itself."

Located at 4127 18th St., just a few doors from Castro Street, the space includes two galleries, a reception area and a museum store. With assistance from Bevan Duffy, who was then the member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for the district, the Historical Society negotiated an agreement under which the master tenant for the storefront, Walgreen Company, constructed the 1,600-square-foot space to the society's specifications. Funding from Levi's, the City of San Francisco, Castro district merchants, and numerous other sponsors and donors covered the cost of custom fixtures and display cases, lighting and multimedia installations.

According to, Scott Wiener, the newly elected supervisor for the district once represented by Harvey Milk, "The opening of the GLBT History Museum marks a milestone for the Castro, for the city of San Francisco and for the country as a whole. This innovative new institution will bring the history of LGBT people alive in the very neighborhood where so much of that history has happened.... I'm

proud to welcome this vital addition to the neighborhood and look forward to helping ensure its ongoing success."

The museum will offer two debut exhibitions. In the smaller front gallery, "Great Collections of the GLBT Historical Society Archives" provides an overview of the range and depth of collections the society has gathered during its 25-year history. The sections focus on periodicals, ephemera, photographs, tex-



tiles, film and video, oral histories and other types of material in the collection, with each represented by a few examples. The show gives visitors a snapshot of how the archives work, why they're important for GLBT people and what's distinctive about the Historical Society. Exhibitions in this gallery will change approximately once a quarter.

In the main gallery, "Our Vast Queer Past: Celebrating GLBT History" traces nearly a century of San Francisco GLBT life through more than 20 key themes. The show brings together some 450 objects, photographs and documents, along with historic film and video shown on vintage television sets and a large overhead screen. All of the materials come from the collections of the Historical Society—and most have never before been displayed publicly.

I served as one of the lead curators for the exhibition, along with Don Romesburg, who is an assistant professor of women's and gender studies at Sonoma State University, Sonoma, Calif., and Amy Sueyoshi,

an associate professor of race and resistance studies and sexuality studies at San Francisco State University. Seven associate curators provided crucial assistance in researching the themes and identifying the objects we included in the show.

As we note in the introduction posted at the gallery entrance, we set out to honor the GLBT Historical Society's 25th anniversary by burrowing "into every corner of the society's extraordinary archives. To spark the topics for the show, we picked an inspirational object from virtually every year the society has been acquiring collections. Our objectives: raising new questions about familiar gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender stories and evoking largely untold stories that speak eloquently about our diversity."

Curator Amy Sueyoshi adds that visitors to the exhibition "will witness how the most private parts of our lives can create public change. Items preserved and collected from the GLBT community tell a vibrant story of struggle, strength and self-determination in our new museum. 'Our Vast Queer Past' inspires hope for a world free of judgment and persecution for all." The show will remain on display through 2011.

The GLBT History Museum joins the Schwules Museum, the queer museum founded 25 years ago in Berlin, as one of only two stand-alone, full-scale museums devoted to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history. A number of other LGBT archives and libraries also offer periodic exhibitions in the same location as their research collections or in space borrowed from other organizations.

The grand opening of the GLBT History Museum on Jan. 13, 2011, will include a preview for sponsors, donors and special guests, followed by a ribbon-cutting and free reception open to the public from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Regular hours for the museum will be Wednesday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.00; free for members.

For more information go to www.glbthistory.org/

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Buns, Babes and Balls...

Milwaukee Gay Sports Network launches February 4

By Paul Masterson

Milwaukee's LGBT community boasts a full range of athletic leagues, clubs and groups. Some, like the Saturday Softball League (SSBL) have been around for decades. Others, like the Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association and the Brew City Strikers bowling league, are brand new. What they all have in common is a desire to get out and have fun playing a sport. What they didn't have was a centralized umbrella organization to promote LGBT sports and inform the greater community about their athletic options. Now they do.

The city's new organization, The Milwaukee Gay Sports Network (MGSN), provides a platform to share information, coordinate resources and impact the development of LGBT athletics. It will celebrate its official launch with a sports expo at Woody's on February 4 from 7-9pm.

Conceived by Eric Euting, president of the Milwaukee Volley Ball Association, MGSN's formation came as a result of a conversation. Having established the volleyball league, Euting encountered the problems of any start-up organization. These ranged from outreach to finding funds. Euting approached Cream City Foundation's executive director Maria Cadenas.

In the discussion that followed, it became clear that it would be easier to get funding for an organization representing Milwaukee sports than

for an individual team or league. The idea was to develop an organization to cross promote athletics, support existing groups and jump start new ones. The combined effort would reduce



administrative costs and offer experienced help to assist sponsoring and equipping fledgling groups, especially to those not able to access resources.

"We wanted to fill a void in the LGBT community. There was no means to communicate between the various sports organizations or share information. Anyone interested in forming a league, finding a team to join or even to figure out if a team existed for a particular sport was basically left to his own devices," Euting said.

On Cadenas' advice, Euting approached representatives of local LGBT sports groups. They immediately embraced the idea and met to sort out the details. SSBL's Brian Reinkober Peter Nys along with Jason Adams, Eric Van Egeren, Maurice Perry and Jerry Gratz from

other sports associations and GAMMA formed the Milwaukee Gay Sports Network as a coalition of the LGBT oriented sports leagues in the Milwaukee area. Meanwhile, Cream City Foundation established a special fund to support local LGBT sports.

Currently, MGSN represents bowling, darts, running, soccer, softball, tennis and volleyball. A basketball, kick ball and swimming club (in the manner of Atlanta's Rainbow Trouts) may be in the offing as well. Meanwhile, MGSN founders designed a logo, developed a dedicated website www.milwaukeeegaysportsnetwork.org and a facebook presence. Interested individuals and organizations should sign up on both for updates.

The website allows people to register and indicate their interest areas. In the future, the website will provide game and event schedules, contact information and updates on the participating teams and associations. It will provide a true sports community center.

Buns, Babes and Balls!

The MGSN official, *Buns, Babes and Balls* – Come meet your Milwaukee Gay Sports Network! kick-off expo takes place February 4 at Woody's, 1579 South 2nd Street from 7-9pm. The launch comes at a timely moment. Milwaukee's LGBT community needs a viable center for healthy social interaction. The event scheduled at Woody's offers a sports expo for interested individuals and groups to learn about the Milwaukee varied athletic opportunities. Players, their fans, friends and families are invited and encouraged to attend.

THE LGBT RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE 7 RIVER REGION HOSTS FIRST RAISE DANCE

La Crosse - The LGBT Resource Center for the & River Region, GALAXY, UW-L Pride Center, and Rainbow Unity are hosting the first RAISE dance on Saturday, January 29th, 7-11 p.m. at Valhalla, UW-L Cartwright Center. The purpose is to celebrate the diversity within our community and strive to RAISE awareness and celebrate diversity for all members of the LGBT community by providing an accessible, welcoming, and fun environment for LGBT folk and allies of all abilities.

"This event is the result of an ongoing, unmet need in our community and we decided to do something to help change that. It is our hope to set the stage for an annual event that will help build community, recognize and honor the unique challenges and triumphs of LGBT folk of all abilities, and help eliminate feelings of isolation by providing a safe space where all people can fully participate," states information in the center's

newsletter.

The event serves as the Out & About for January. Other regular events at the center include:

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

GALAXY, a group for youth ages 13-20 every Tuesday 4-6 p.m. and every Saturday 2-4 p.m. at 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

Drop-in Group Every Thursday 6-8 p.m. at the center (see above).

BI-WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

GLENDAA/AA Group First and third Friday at 7 p.m. at the center (see above). Just as Glenda was Dorothy's support in OZ this group is the equivalent for LGBT people struggling with drug & alcohol addictions and issues. If you are looking for support and a safe place to be yourself as you deal with your drug & alcohol issues- please join us. FMI contact Aaron at (608) 788-1508.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

PGLAG FMI call 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center (608) 784-0452, or Lori at (608) 790-5052.

**Naked yoga for men
group meeting
weekly in
Milwaukee.
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for information
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The DATING DIET

by Anthony Paull

U and Ur Hand

I really need...sex. Yes, I've been trying this celibacy bit for the last nine months, but I'm going to be the first to admit – it sucks, and not in a good way. It sucks to the point where I can't get the word 'sex' out of my head. Literally. I turn everything into a sexual innuendo, to the point where last week, when a friend said his Christmas tree was dying and 'sucks', I suggested he drill a hole in the bark and take full advantage of it.

Yes, I'm *that* guy. I don't feel cleansed. In fact, I feel dirtier than ever. And that's not a good place to be when you have to go to work and be professional. So daily, I sit in front of a computer, typing this and that while thinking about love in the key of getting on my knees.

To add insult to injury, I'm dating my ex-partner, and it's going really well, except I told him I don't want to have sex, because I don't want to rush and complicate things. I want him to put up a fight. Yes, I really, really, really want him to tease me, because I'm pursuing *him* this time. Therefore, when he pulls away, I have to pretend I'm ok with it. I have to smile pretty for the camera, even though I'm suffering from hot flashes of anger, resulting in two bar fights in the last month. Yes, two weeks ago, I was literally carried out of a nightclub by the neck for telling off some Jersey Shore asshole. And before that, I made a drag queen cry, telling him I was going to rip his face off for calling my friend a

whore. But honestly, I'm usually a sweet guy. What's wrong with me?

"Your body is detoxing. You just need to breeeeeeaaaathe," my friend Jon tells me.

"But I'm horny!" I cry. "What am I going to do?"

"Are you masturbating?"

"Um, yeah, readily."

"But are you doing it *right*?"

"Is there a *wrong* way?"

Apparently so. It seems I had been misled. Jon tells me that masturbating should be more like a cleansing of the soul and that I have to make it more of an 'experience'. I mean, burying my face in my boyfriend's dirty briefs and jacking off – that's so primitive. According to Rob, I'm supposed to light tea candles, gather herbs, set the night to music, touch my dick (just a smidge), and then turn myself down.

"Huh?"

"You know, tease yourself. Don't give in. That's your problem. You're making it too easy."

"Wait. Let me get this right. I'm supposed to cock-block *myself*?"

"Exactly," Jon says, becoming my confidante regarding the fine art of abstinence. And I find his stance a nice change, when most of my other friends feel I need to shut up and 'fuck my way to happy'. And oh, how they love to rub the wound, texting me about their awesome sex lives on a daily basis. *Oh, I got nailed.*

Oh, he was so big. Oh, my butt hurts. Oh, I got it several times today. Who needs toilet paper when you have a penis to clean you out? Wink. Wink. Wink.

Thank god Jon is able to ground me, helping me understand there's more to life than sex, that we're spiritual beings having a human experience. Well, until the holidays hit.

"You'd be so proud of me. I haven't spanked all week," I inform him.

"God, I wish I had your willpower," he replies.

"What? You gave in?"

"Yeah, I had a moment of weakness."

It appears, while home for New Year's Eve, he found an intriguing Bear-4-Bear porn site and got naked at the stroke of midnight on his mom's computer. Initially, he thought the entire affair would remain a secret, except his mom had spyware installed on the computer, which transmits all of the Internet data to her pastor, who serving as her marriage counselor, over-see all web activity because her boyfriend has a cyber porn problem. Hence now, the pastor thinks her boyfriend is gay, which might be the root of their problem altogether.

"My mom's livid!" Jon exclaims.

"Why? Because her pastor has an issue with her boyfriend being queer? Big deal. Aren't most pastors gay anyway?"

"NO. That's *priests*!" he snaps. And



now, he's back to college, and I'm back to the drawing board, getting a hard-on every time my boyfriend comes within 5 feet of me.

It's pathetic, really. I can't touch myself. I can't touch him. Who am I supposed to touch?

"What's the matter? You're acting crazy," my boyfriend exclaims, later that night when I freak out over the fact he's not reciprocating my advances.

"I need passion!" I say, gathering my keys and heading out the door. "I can't wait anymore. I don't want us to become one of those sexless couples who beat off on the Internet."

"Huh? Why would we become that?" he asks. Meanwhile, I'm jogging down the driveway, rattling my keys. "Hold on," he calls. "I don't get it. One minute you want sex. The next minute you don't. What do you WANT?"

And breathless, I turn and stare at him silently, unsure of what to say. There are so many things I want, really. To feel safe, to feel beautiful, to feel loved, and I'm placing all that on him, because as my boyfriend, he's the one who's supposed to provide me that. I don't look for it from outside forces, and it's hard to find it inside myself when I'm consumed with making *him* happy. So to answer his question, plain and simple, I tell him, honestly, that I want to stop thinking about having sex with him so I can focus on loving myself.

NEW SOCIAL NETWORK FOR GAY MEN IS 'FAB'

Site Includes Largest Global Directory of Gay-Centric Places & Events

New York - There is no shortage of social networking on the web. But what if you could combine Facebook, TripAdvisor, Yelp, Eventful and Foursquare then tailor it to the gay community? What do you get? Fab.com, a new social network designed to help gay men discover people, places and activities wherever they live or travel anywhere on the globe.

Launched as Fabulis.com seven months ago, the re-named and newly expanded Fab.com:

- **Now has more than 110,000 members** with 40% logging in at least 10 times per month, 25% visiting more than 50 times per month, and upwards of 5,000 new users joining on a weekly basis.

- **Just introduced the largest worldwide directory of gay-friendly places** with accompanying rankings, reviews, tips and photo uploads, complementing the site's interactive profiles and extensive database of gay-relevant events.

- **Offers a full-featured iPhone app** including the ability to check in, identify your current location, name the people you're with, upload images, rate places, provide tips, and perform all other functions available.

- **Just closed the first \$1.75 million Series A financing** with investors including First Round Capital,



The Washington Post Company, Baroda Ventures, and Zeltova Ventures.

"Before Fab.com, people thought of gay social networks as dating sites. Fab has a completely different mission," said founder and CEO Jason Goldberg. "We help gay men meet new friends anywhere in the world, find places to go and things to do that suit gay tastes, share their experiences through reviews and rankings, and in general expand their social circle in a way that fits the gay social graph."

Goldberg, a serial entrepreneur who previously founded the social news site Socialmedian that was sold to XING AG in 2009 as well as the employment website Jobster, was inspired to create Fab after encountering difficulty in finding gay-centric online recommendations while working in Europe. He set out to fill the void with a new platform that would serve as a central clearinghouse of gay-oriented activities and destinations as well as providing a safe forum for gay conversation removed from Facebook communications with family and co-workers.

In a unique approach to promoting member interaction, Fab builds user profiles by adding content based on the member's check-ins and answers to questions posed by other users – whether they know each other or not. The site currently handles more than 15,000

user-answers to questions every day, essentially hosting dozens of freeform conversations that help "Fabbits" get to know each other as well as exchange advice on navigating the gay environment.

Users can check in directly on Fab or import their Facebook check-ins, search for gay-oriented events by city and date, filter those searches by Fab followers if desired, and view lists of top-ranked Fab people, cities and tags (e.g. writer, activist, gamer, foodie, musician, blogger, etc.) to quickly zero in on people with common interests.

With the new Fab Places feature, members can also browse a database of more than 50,000 gay-rated locations in categories ranging from travel, food, nightlife and bed and breakfasts to arts, shopping, buildings and outdoors – complete with comments that meet gay needs in a way that reviews like those on TripAdvisor and Yelp cannot.

"If you're going to Boston next week and you post that on your Facebook wall, it's not going to help you when you get there. With Fab, you can find out what events are going on in Boston, who's going to be there, arrange to meet, and research gay-friendly hotels and restaurants – all in one place," said Bradford Shellhammer, co-founder and chief creative officer. "Facebook still helps you communicate with your current friends, but Fab gives you a whole new channel for expanding your horizons and connecting with the gay community wherever you go."

What could be more fab than that?

'Shake, Rattle & 'Role/Play

by Mikey Rox

Filmmakers are notorious for using movies as vehicles to comment on current affairs.

Writer-director Rob Williams, whose latest movie "Role/Play" releases on DVD Feb. 8, is no exception.

In a recent interview, Williams – along with the film's lead actors, Matthew Montgomery and Steve Callahan – talks about the importance of openly gay actors playing gay roles; why gay media needs to get off its high horse; the under-rated Jim J. Bullock, who has a cameo in the film; our society's addiction to desperate fame seeking; and why gratuitous nudity on set made for a seriously sexy shoot. — Score!

MIKEY ROX: Why did you choose to cast Steve and Matthew? I've seen Steve in at least one of your other films – "Make the Yuletide Gay," which I love by the way! – so I know there's some history there, but more specifically, why choose leads who are a couple in real life?

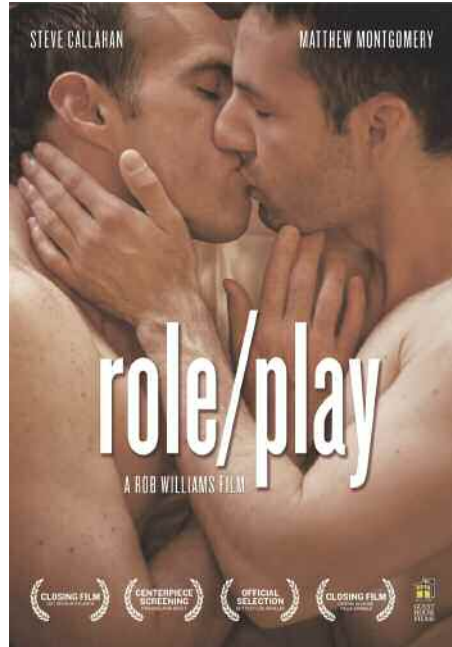
ROB WILLIAMS: I have wanted to work more with Steve Callahan for years – he's a terrific actor and a great person. When I started writing "Role/Play," he seemed like the perfect choice to play a soap opera actor, so there was no question that I wanted him for the role. As the script progressed, it seemed natural to have Matthew play the other lead. Not only have I worked with Matthew before and know his talents, I knew that casting Matthew and Steve together would be fantastic, and I knew that they would work well together. While it's not always the case with real-life couples playing opposite each other, Matthew and Steve really have great chemistry on-screen, and their comfort level with each other let us make the intimate scenes in the movie feel very real.

MATTHEW MONTGOMERY: Rob just cast me cause he wanted to see me naked. Again.

MR: Is it important for you to cast openly gay actors? You have a pretty good track record for doing so.

MM: It's because Rob is heterophobic.

RW: I always try to find the best actor for each part, but I think that casting openly gay actors helps bring a level of authenticity to the roles that you don't always get with straight actors, so that's a huge benefit for the film. And I



do think it's important for those of us in the film-making community to support actors who are out and living their lives openly and honestly. It's similar to what one of the characters says in the movie – it's important for us to support our own, because no one else will.

MR: In the movie, there are a few thinly veiled digs at people like Perez Hilton and Chad Allen, but there's a generous amount of time spent laying



into gay media, especially the blogs, in one scene. Tell me how you really feel – and do you think perhaps you're biting the hand that feeds you?

MM: Oh, boy – here we go. We'll be here for hours.

RW: I think the movie pretty much sums up how I really feel. Everything is exaggerated to make it "bigger" for the characters, but I stand behind what the movie says. There are so many blogs that exist solely to tear people down or to bitch about what's wrong with the world. On the gay blogs, it's extremely common to criticize films, TV shows and books for not depicting the gay community in a certain way, or to criticize gay celebrities in every aspect of their lives, without ever praising the people and the entertainment that does work to present positive or at least varied portrayals of our community. And I especially agree with the lines about how gay media supports straight, "gay-friendly" celebrities much more than they support actual gay celebrities, because having a straight diva on the cover of a magazine will sell more copies than a cover of an openly gay artist. I have much more respect for a small, local gay magazine that features openly gay people from their area – even if they're not "famous" – than I do for national gay magazines that contain almost no actual gay content. The movie will probably strike a nerve with a lot of gay bloggers and gay media because it hits close to home, but these are the same people who are already critical of indie gay movies because they're made for a modest budget or because they don't tackle "big issues" like "Milk." But when the film has played at film festivals around the country, it has been received very positively and people have been very supportive of the messages in the film. That's ultimately what means the most to me.

MR: Jim J. Bullock is in this movie! I totally remember my parents watching "Too Close for Comfort" when I was a kid. Loved that show – especially his character. Anyway, I have to ask this with all due respect: Was he meant to have on all that make-up? I couldn't tell if that was a character decision or if he got a make-up artist with a vendetta. I know the viewers will wonder the same thing.

RW: Jim showed up to film his scenes and had a great idea for his character – to show him as a vain Hollywood agent who is fighting the aging process at every turn. The overdone look was completely intentional, to show his character as

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For the Boys



David's Birthday



David's Birthday

While vacationing in an Italian summer home, happily married Matteo is surprised to find himself attracted to his best friend's underwear-model son, David. But the plot thickens when David appears to share Matteo's lust. Soon Matteo's wife senses something has happened to their relationship.



PLAN B



Plan B

Bruno has decided to get his girlfriend back and behind a calm, indifferent expression, his mind plans a cold, sweet vengeance. He befriends her new boyfriend Pablo, with the idea of eroding the couple by seducing him himself. Thus emerges **Plan B**, a perilous romantic journey that calls his own sexuality into question.



WolfeVideo.com

For the Girls

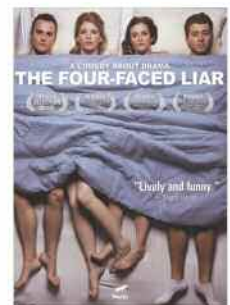


Elena Undone

Elegant and refined Elena is a devoted to her traditional Indian family. For so many years she has been living her life on autopilot. Grief-stricken lesbian writer Peyton is struggling to move on from recent hardship. When the two meet they form an immeasurable bond that shakes the foundation of their sheltered worlds.

The Four-Faced Liar

Bridget is a hip, womanizing lesbian who loves Emily Bronte, and who lives with her guy pal Trip. One night, they meet straight-laced New York newbies Greg and Molly at their favorite hangout. The Four-Faced Liar. Molly is a bit appalled by free spirited Bridget – but she's also attracted to her, and in time, the friends' lives are hilariously complicated when the two women fall in love.



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someone who tans excessively, whitens his teeth excessively, wears a hairpiece, and always tries and fails to make himself look younger. The look was definitely done on purpose to get a laugh, but it's a very real reflection on how a lot of people in Hollywood treat themselves.

MR: This film is about a closeted soap actor who's outed in a sex tape and a marriage equality activist who's getting a divorce. A lot of your characters' circumstances are a result of desperate fame seeking. Do you think that's a real problem in our community?

MM: Yes. And I blame it entirely on "Survivor." I also blame reality television in general for fame, war and disease.

STEVE CALLAHAN: I don't think it's something unique to the gay community. We are living in an era of instant fame, with everyday people suddenly catapulted into the spotlight with reality television. People are becoming famous for having appeared in sex tapes. It's absurd. I recently read that teenagers are trying to get pregnant to get on the MTV show "16 and Pregnant." It's sick what people are doing for fame.

MR: When I watched the film, I couldn't help but think of Dan Choi, whose "activism" seemed rather selfish leading up to the repeal of DADT. Every was a stunt to "advance the cause." Matthew, your character in the film is familiar with that. Do you think these stunts ultimately help or hurt our progress on issues?

MM: Change doesn't happen like the turn of a page. I applaud anyone who has the courage to stand up and say something against lack of ethics that we are currently surrounded by. Stunt or not, I believe it takes a strong and selfless individual to go against the grain of the status quo in order to promote awareness.

MR: Steve, I don't want to give away the entire plot, but your character is in his particular predicament because of his fear of coming out of the closet. There's accuracy in that situation. That is to say, people have done similar things in real life. So why do you think there's still so much homophobia in an entertainment industry that prides itself on being so liberal?

SC: Fear. People are afraid of how actors' coming out will affect the box office. It's called show business for a reason – it's a business. Studios are reluctant to do anything that could potentially, adversely affect a film's bottom line. Thankfully, this attitude is really beginning to change. In the last few years we have had some big actors finally stepping out of the closet.

MR: You guys do a lot of gay films, so I've got to ask, do you pursue mainstream projects? Is it worth your time? Have you been turned down because of your openness with your sexuality?

MM: I pursue any work that comes my way that I feel I'm right for. The truth is that my playing mostly gay characters is rather secondary and where I may have found my niche through previous films I've made, and that's OK with me. I have not, to my knowledge, at least, been turned down for a part because I like dudes. That seems rather silly, although I'm sure it happens on a regular basis. However, I have been turned down from representation before for being an openly gay actor, and interestingly enough, it's usually from agents and managers who are gay themselves. From my experience, the heterosexual representation that I've encountered couldn't care less.

SC: I just want to work. I pursue all sorts of projects. Right now the gay independent film world is being really good to me. It's an exciting time for gay films. We have so many different stories to tell.

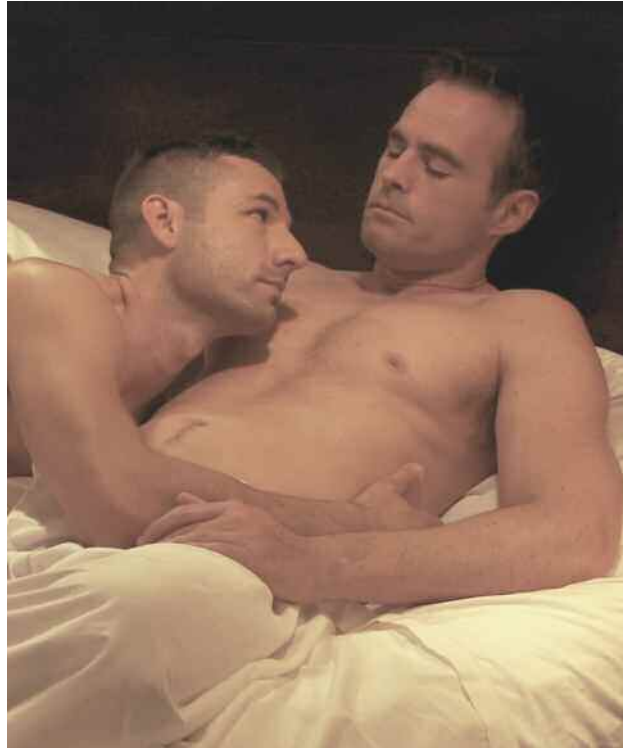
MR: Part of the plot of "Role/Play" is based on Steve's character as a soap star and how everyone around him warns him not to come out of the

closet. As an ex-soap actor, Steve, how much of that did you actually experience in real life? Did that happen to you? Do you know of soap actors who are confronted with that crossroads?

SC: I'm definitely not an ex-soap actor. You probably saw "Days of Our Lives" on my IMDB profile. I only did two episodes of that show, but I know soap opera actors who are afraid to come out. I'm also good friends with Thom Bierdz of "The Young and the Restless" who is on that show as an openly gay actor, so times are changing.

MR: You two are a couple in real life, so of course there's a certain comfort level you have with each other when filming the many nude scenes in "Role/Play," but how did spending all that time together affect your sex life? I mean, you were naked all day. I'm sure the last thing you wanted to do after work was jump right back into bed.

MM: Um, yeah... that was a huge problem. Getting into bed with Steve Callahan after a daylong shoot of lying in bed with Steve Callahan. Yup. Booooring.



SC: Have you seen my boyfriend? Lack of desire to be naked in bed with him has never been a problem.

MR: You must love working with one another. Steve, you were just cast in a film that Matthew wrote, title "Sticke Figures," which starts shooting next year. How do you two make it work?

SC: Matthew is, hands down, the best actor that I have ever worked with. So from an actor's standpoint, working with him is amazing. "Sticke Figures" is such a wonderful script, and I've watched Matthew create it, so to see it come to life will be thrilling. I love Matthew. He's also my best friend so adding the work element to our lives has been the natural next step.

MM: Lots of "coffee."

Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer/journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting & creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at mikey@paperroxcissors.com.

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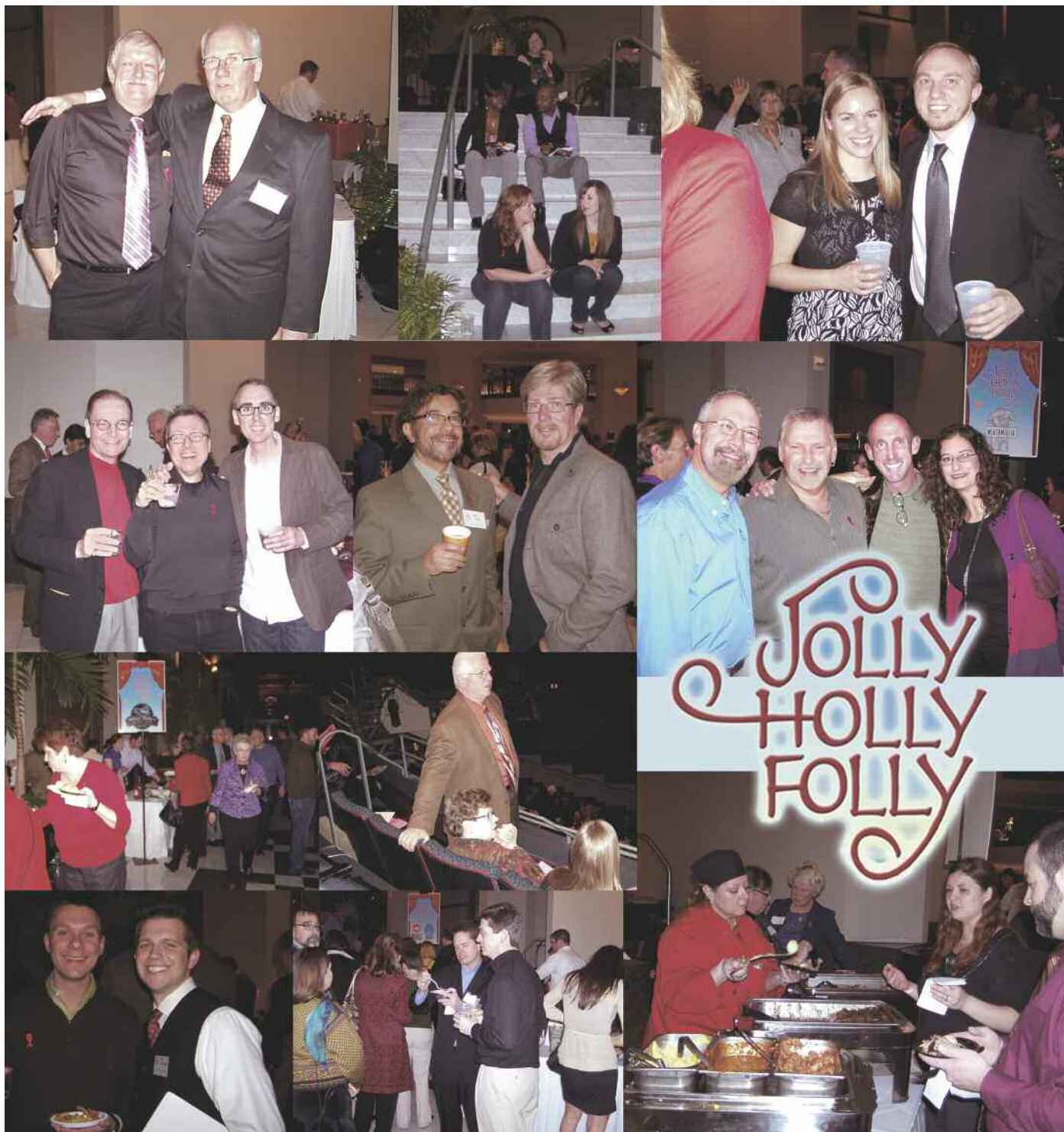
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JOLLY HOLLY FOLLY

JOLLY HOLLY FOLLY OFFERS POST-HOLIDAY CHEER

Milwaukee - Hundreds of food and theater lovers filled the rotunda of the Milwaukee Center for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's 15th Annual Jolly Holly Folly Sunday, January 9. Attendees enjoyed samples of signature dishes from nearly 30 of the Cream City area's top restaurants plus a choice of wine, beer and cocktails. They also got an advance private performance of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's production of "The 39 Steps," a hilarious two-act take-off on the classic Alfred Hitchcock thriller. The show, which runs through February 13 at the Rep brought a standing ovation from the Jolly Holly Folly crowd. Proceeds from the evening benefited ARCW's Medical Center which operates clinics in Milwaukee, Kenosha and Green Bay.



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DIVERSION OF THE DAY Community Events Calendar

Friday, January 21

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

Miss Katie's Diner (Milwaukee) Christmas Party with Jerry Grillo Band 5pm to 8pm Every-one Welcome---Complimentary Food

ICON (Kenosha) ICON welcomes Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association

Saturday, January 22

ICON (Kenosha) Mr Wisconsin Club North America Competition 10 pm

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (Racine) - 10AM The DVD "Growing Up Gay and Lesbian" featuring a wonderful presentation by Brian McNaught on what it is like to grow up gay.

Montage (Milwaukee) The music of Legends throughout time with TransFormations Cast.

Sunday, January 23

ICON (Kenosha) Amateur Stripper Contest 10pm

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

Tuesday, January 25

Outreach (Madison) SalonQ Adult Discussion Group January Schedule at 7pm

Wednesday, January 26

Outreach (Madison) Q Cinema - *Innocent* (2005) A gay Chinese teenager is uprooted from his home and thrust into a vastly different life in Canada. As his family struggles to survive and adapt, Eric explores his sexual identity and searches for love. 6:30 pm

Friday, January 28

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (Racine) - Movie Night - "Milk" 7pm

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

Sunday, January 30

Fluid (Milwaukee) Bingo 4 pm

Hybrid (Milwaukee) Join us for the Pro Bowl

Thursday, February 3

PJ's (Oshkosh) Free and confidential HIV testing from 7-9pm.

Saturday, February 5

Madison Gay Video Club "Strapped" (TLA Rel., dir. Joseph Graham, 2010) "Brutal 1 and 2" (Raging Stallion, dir. Tony DiMarco, 2010) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Homeless Veterans Benefit, 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 5, Linneman's Riverwest Inn. Music by Jason Moon (singer songwriter), Little Mischief (classic acoustic rock), and the Mambo Surfers (world music). Proceeds to the Homeless Veterans Initiative, a project of Milwaukee Veterans for Peace. Doors open at 7:30; cover charge \$5. Door prizes.

Jason Moon, Iraq War Veteran and a WNPJ 2009 Peace Maker of The Year recipient has released a new CD entitled "Trying to Find My Way Home." The CD chronicles the journey of a soldier struggling to return to civilian life after returning from war. A portion of the sale of the CD goes to veterans charities. More info: www.neverhomeless.org

Saturday, February 19

Madison Gay Video Club "The String (Arabic w/subtitles)" (TLA Rel., dir. Mehdi Ben Attia, 2009) "More Than You Can Handle" (Bel Ami, dir. Marty Stevens, 2010) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (evenings)

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January 11 to be included in our next issue.

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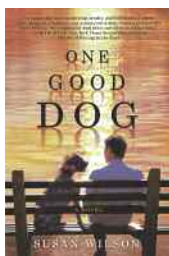
Editor's Note: We are breaking from tradition a little here by offering a list of books that are not necessarily LGBT in focus. However, they should make great reading for anyone. Please support your local bookstore (Outdoors in Milwaukee) before shopping online at big stores like Amazon.com.



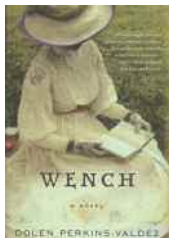
Doesn't it seem like everybody in the world is weighing in with their Official Best of the Year list? Well, here's mine. My Top Picks, Can't Miss 'Em, Go Back & Find Them Books for 2010....

Fiction:

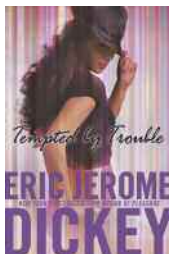
"One Good Dog" by Susan Wilson – I read about 320 books a year, and I've done that for the last decade or so. This book makes my Top Ten List EVER. "One Good Dog" is the story of a man who has everything and loses it, a dog who has nothing and loses it, and how these two souls come together. If you only read one book this winter, make it this one.



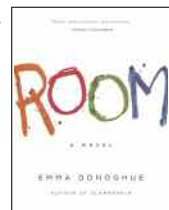
"Wench" by Dolen Perkins-Valdez – Set in the mid-1800s, this is the heartbreaking story of four Black women who are mistresses to their Masters. When they travel to what is technically a free state, they must decide to escape or stay. This is one of those books that hurts to read, but it hurts good.



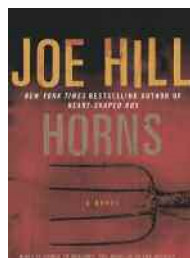
"Tempted by Trouble" by Eric Jerome Dickey – I'm normally not a big fan of Eric Jerome Dickey, but this book blew me away. "Tempted by Trouble" is the story of a man who's down on his luck due to the economy. When his wife finds him a job, it's not exactly the kind that's legal. This book is fast-paced, violent, harsh, and I loved every page of it. Be aware that you may have to read the ending twice to "get it", but when you do....



"Room" by Emma Donoghue – What would you think if you were suddenly thrust in a world you'd only known through what you saw on TV? That's the premise of this book with shades of newsy headlines. "Room" takes a little getting used to at first – the language is different enough to make you wonder what you got yourself into - but stick with it. You won't be sorry.



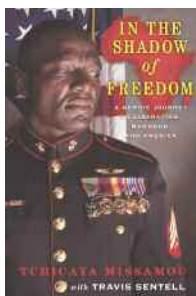
"Horns" by Joe Hill – Pretty much everybody knows by now that Joe Hill is Stephen King's son. The good



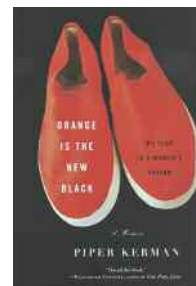
news is that he's a chip off the old block, but better. "Horns" is the story of a man who wakes up with fresh protuberances on his noggin. Surprised and a little dismayed, he decides to go ahead and use them. This book is funny, in a dark kind of way, and creepy times ten.

Non-Fiction:

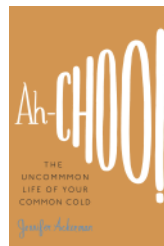
"In the Shadow of Freedom" by Tchicaya Mossamou – This true story of a man who escaped being killed as a child soldier, escaped Civil War in his African homeland, came to America – knowing no English – and became a decorated soldier is one that will make you gasp and cheer. It's a page-turner, and you'll swell with incredible pride... but it's not for the faint of heart.



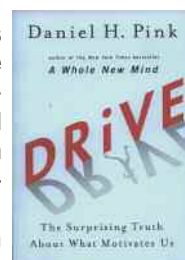
"Orange is the New Black" by Piper Kerman – When Kerman was nailed for a crime she committed years before, she spent another six years awaiting sentencing. This is the story of an upper-class woman and the youthful mistake she made, her time in prison, and how she coped. It's an educated peek at something most of us are curious about but will never get to see, thankfully.



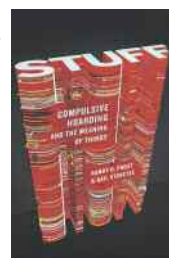
"Ah-Choo" by Jennifer Ackerman – Maybe it's because of the season. Maybe it's just because I love this kind of reading material. But this not-at-all-stuffy look at the common cold just tickled me.



"Drive" by Daniel Pink – What makes you do what you do? This fun business book explains why we perform tasks that have no intrinsic value other than because they're enjoyable. Read it, pass it along to the boss, then see if you can try the business-forward methods Pink explains. You'll never hate getting up in the morning again.

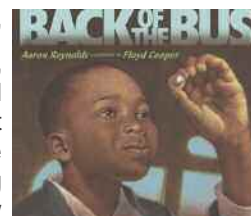


"Stuff: Compulsive Hoarding and the Meaning of Things" by Randy O. Frost and Gail Steketee – I'm a big fan of "Hoarders", so I was pretty excited to read this book – and for good reason: "Stuff" is like the TV show on paper, but with a psychologist's running commentary. I loved this look inside the homes and heads of hoarders, and I loved that this book was written with the layperson in mind, which means it's easy to understand.

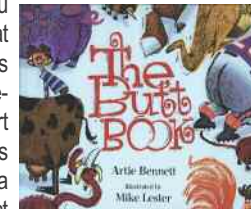


Children's

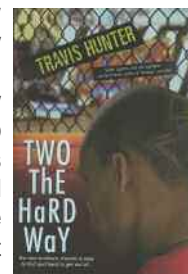
"Back of the Bus" by Aaron Reynolds, illustrated by Floyd Cooper – Kids that are caught in the midst of something monumental rarely understand the significance of what they're living. This book tells the story of a young boy who witnesses the birth of the Civil Rights Movement, but he's more focused on his favorite toy... or is he? Your kids will love the illustrations. You'll love the story.



"The Butt Book" by Artie Bennett, illustrated by Mike Lester – If you didn't have a butt, what would happen? This poetic paean to a little-appreciated body part explains the various benefits of having a behind, and I predict that it will be a big hit in your house. The pictures are guaranteed giggle-worthy, and the poem itself will make your kids want to hear it again and again.



"Two the Hard Way" by Travis Hunter – It's not easy staying out of trouble, if trouble seems to find you easy enough. This story of two brothers living in Atlanta's inner city is filled with grit and grace, and the characters are real: they cry, they'll admit they're afraid, and they own up to their mistakes. Meant for teens – specifically boys - adults will enjoy this book just as much.



And there you are: thirteen very excellent reasons to get to the bookstore to use that gift certificate you got as a gift, or to spend your Christmas money. --Happy Reading!

Now that all of the Christmas decorations have been carefully boxed up and put in storage for another year; even the bubbly leftover from New Year's is sadly bereft of its bubbles. And baby, its cold outside!

Rather than sink into the depression of freezing weather, too little sunshine and massive amounts of spirit-crushing credit card debt, Glenn has decided to the embrace with total abandon the forthcoming Oscar Night, the gayest night of the year! There is a rare magic to Oscar Night, a magic all its own.

When this year's Oscar nominees are announced on Tuesday, January 25, 2011, expect Colin Firth, so cruelled robbed last year, to be nominated for **The King's Speech**. Both Annette Bening and Julianne Moore have been nominated for Golden Globes for their performances in **The Kids Are All Right**. One, perhaps both might well receive Oscar nods.

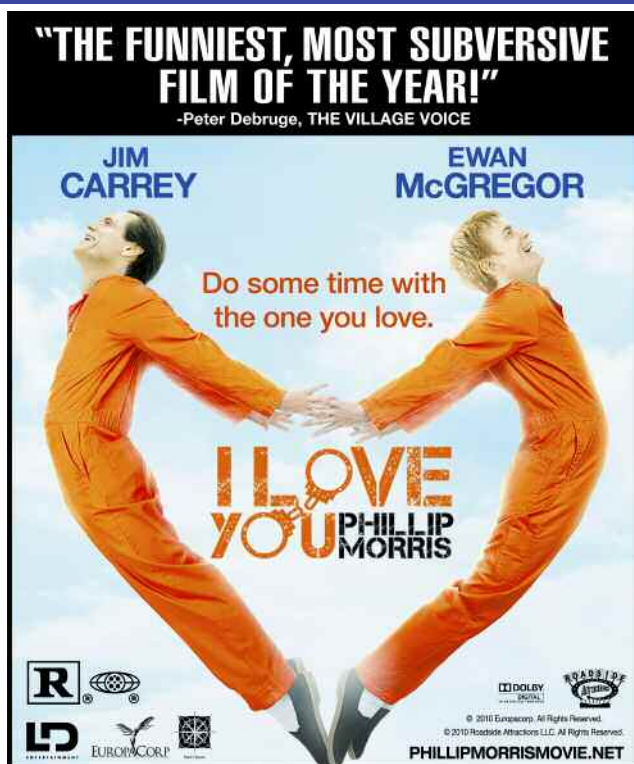
But what of **I Love You Phillip Morris**?

It has been suggested to Glenn that **I Love You Phillip Morris** just might be the next **Brokeback Mountain**. While Glenn might question why we need another **Brokeback Mountain**, the point is nevertheless both valid and fascinating.

The cinematic wattage generated by actors Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor should have both assured a timely national release of **Phillip Morris** as well as some serious Oscar consideration. After all, the Academy loves to honor heterosexuals who play homos. So how did a film, the darling of the 2009 Sundance Festival as well as boasting two such iconic actors as Carrey and McGregor (so memorable **Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace** and **Moulin Rouge**, so often naked in **The Pillow Book**) manage to find itself for nearly a year with an empty dance card with regard to finding a US distributor?

Current spin on the cyber grapevine is that **I Love You Phillip Morris** is simply too gay. One might say, after seeing the film, that it is too "gay, gay, gay, gay, gay!"

It is not particularly surprising when a film with



an LGBT theme disappears into the black hole that is Hollywood. Better films than **I Love You Phillip Morris** have oft times been proudly hyped in the likes of **Out Magazine** or **Gay.com** only to disappear before our very eyes. Yet even Cher's misconceived **Burlesque** was bravely allowed the opportunity to succeed, if only to ultimately crash and burn.

Why not **I Love You Phillip Morris**?

I Love You Phillip Morris is based upon a strange but true story. A husband, a Christian and a father, Steven Russell (Carrey) was a church organist, prosperous businessman, and onetime Boca Raton cop before turning to his life of crime. He might have spied erect male members amongst the clouds as a little boy but it takes a near fatal car crash for middle-aged Russell to experience the needed epiphany to decide to become "a big fag." Says Russell, whilst flashing a big Cheshire grin: "Did I forget to mention that I'm gay? Gay, gay, gay, gay, gay!"

The fabulous gay lifestyle to which he believes himself entitled costs big bucks and thus Russell begins his career as a con artist. Along the way he deserts his sweet, simple but extremely loyal wife Debbie (Leslie Mann), moves in with his first boyfriend Jimmy (Rodrigo Santoro) and after his various scams finally catch up with him, Russell ends up in prison where he falls truly,

Full Price, Matinee or wait 'til the Budgets

On paper looks **I Love You Phillip Morris** looks absolutely fascinating. Steven Russell, the real life inspiration for **Phillip Morris**, is an American original; a man who stole from the rich to give to his boyfriend. His exploits, chronicled in Steve McVickers' biography, are indeed stranger than fiction. So much so, in fact, they don't need Carrey's incessant mugging and gleefully executed pratfalls which co-directors and screenwriters Glenn Ficarra and John Requa (**Bad Santa**) are unable (or unwilling) to reign in. Nor do Ficarra and Requa ever decide if Russell's story is meant to be a dark, slapstick farce or rather less likely, a believable gay love story.

You'll never convince Glenn that the Hollywood "dream machine" is no less a proficient huckster than con man Steven Russell. Even with his career on the wane, Jim Carrey's name above the title, aided and abetted with a trailer chock full of standard issue Jim Carrey comic schtick should have been sufficient fodder to be exploited by a clever distributor. Properly hyped, Jim Carrey's legion of fans alone would have produced at minimum a modest opening weekend box office total.

So, what happened?

In the end perhaps the many of the powers that be in Hollywood, as Glenn did himself, simply found **I Love You Phillip Morris** to be the biggest traveling minstrel show of mincing gay stereotypes since **In & Out** and even recalling that cinematic horror from 1969, **Staircase**.

Just the facts...

"**I Love You Phillip Morris**" clocks in at a nifty 100 minutes

"**I Love You Phillip Morris**" already left Madison's Sundance Cinema's but continues at Milwaukee's Landmark Oriental Theatre as well as a few, select cinemas across the country.

"**I Love You Phillip Morris**" reunites Leslie Mann will **The Cable Guy**" star Jim Carrey.

madly deeply in love with innocent, timid Phillip Morris (McGregor).

Russell devotes himself to Phillip. In prison he's even able to work the system well enough for the two of them to become cellmates. Later he impersonates a lawyer and manages to spring his boyfriend early. Perhaps they are destined to live happily-ever-after? Or perhaps not. The fabulous gay lifestyle to which he continues to believe himself entitled continues to costs big bucks and like the chameleon he is, Russell the con artist returns.

Will Steven Russell and Phillip Morris be able to ride off together into the sunset, when the final credits are ready to roll?



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email: editor@quest-online.com

www.quest-online.com

Publisher: Mark Mariucci (ZA)

Contributors:

Paul Masterson,
Glenn Bishop,
Uncle Barbie,
Anthony Paul,
Terri Schlichenmeyer,
Mike Fitzpatrick,
Michael Johnston,

Printing/Bindery:

Journal Community Publishers

Photography:

Milwaukee: William Sharkey

Madison: Tony Ritschards, Steve Vargas

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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

PURITAN PRICKS

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I have got a real problem. I have to make up my mind whether I want to go home and visit my family. The trouble is that I no longer belong to the same church as my family, but they still do. It is a local church here in town, so I am not going to mention the name because I do not want to get sued.

The minister is a real fanatic, and so is the congregation. They think that anyone who does not believe exactly as they do is wrong and will not go to heaven. They preach fear. All they do is talk about how we are living in the end times and how judgment day is upon us. Then, they use every little problem in society to back up their beliefs that the world is coming to an end soon. My dad even called me to say that the economic problems our country is having is a sign that the end is near. When I was a kid, he would not let us do anything fun, no movies, dances, or popular music.

They think that I am a heathen because I do not go to their church anymore. My mother refers to me as a lost spirit. They have made it their mission in life to convert me and bring me back into the fold. They say it is God's will that I belong to their church. Whenever they want someone else to do something, they always say that it is God's will. It is how they control people. But, how do I protect myself so that they do not control me? I still love them. I just do not want to be under their thumb. -- **Signed G.K.,**

Hello Free Spirit,

So, they say you are a heathen and lost spirit, huh? It warms the cockles

of my heart to know that I am not the only blasphemer in town dancing a happy step in the parade procession to Hell. (Don't forget to pack your picnic basket.)

So, tell me, is your dad the mayor of prude town or what? I totally understand why you do not feel comfortable being around them. How could you possibly feel safe around people who are constantly trying to emotionally manipulate you. My parents used to try to make me feel guilty too when I was a child. During the holidays, they used to tell me not to masturbate because Santa Claus was watching. You know, like that well known holiday song, "He knows when you are sleeping. He knows when you masturbate."

Remember, you do not have to allow yourself to be in the presence of people who try to make you feel bad--even if those people are members of a respected church. It seems that there are always churches like this in every city--waiting for the right political environment in which to flourish. They cast their seeds of mistrust onto the soil of a discontented society and fertilize it with fear. This is how it always starts--legitimate suspicion that turns to paranoia and eventually hysteria.

"It's God's will." Unfortunately, this statement has become the age old cry of the oppressors. And it is a statement I have heard many times--usually by people who are desperately trying to win a religious argument. It is the trump card that they play when they feel they are losing their self-righteous footing. This is one of the ways in which they try to lure you into their maze of philosophical loops because



A crack in the dam of morality.

who can argue with God's will?

It is a very awkward feeling when you are surrounded by people who think they need to convert you by constantly playing mind games. Perhaps, you could limit the time you spend with them. Make sure you arrive in your own vehicle so you can leave whenever you feel you have had enough of their preaching. Personally, I look forward to hearing the blathering of religious rhetoric about as much as I look forward to the gleeful experience of an anal probe onboard a spaceship after being abducted by aliens.

But, let's focus on the positive, shall we? We are all one people, and we need to have a love for humanity. As the Buddhist say, "The light in me honors the light in you." Now is the time to set aside religious differences and spread love. In that spirit, here is your assignment: do an act of kindness for the members of your family. See how it improves your mood. After all, Christianity is about the life of Jesus, and Jesus was all about love. So, love each other--for Christ sake!

Your Love Child, Barbie

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(414) 445-8080
djdilges@execpc.com
www.iagsdc.org/creamcity

Front Runners (414)443-0379
ullwolf.com/frontrunnersmke/
welcome.html

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

Holiday Invitational Tournament
PO Box 899, Milw., WI 53201
(414) 881-8071
director@hitmilwaukee.org
www.hitmilwaukee.org

Harmony Cafe Appleton
233 E. College Ave., Appleton
(920) 734-2233

Harmony Cafe Green Bay
1660 W Mason (920) 569-1593
www.harmonycave.org

Men's Voices Milwaukee
c/o U.C.C. 2717 E. Hampshire
Milw. 53211 (414) 861-5526
www.mvmchorus.org

Miltown Kings
myspace.com/miltownkings

**Metro Milwaukee Tennis
Club** 3957 No. 81st St. Milw.,
WI 53222 (414) 616-3716
Moenell@msn.com
www.milwaukeeetennis.com

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
703 So. 2nd St. Milw., WI
53204 (414) 383-3727
milwgac@yahoo.com
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.ssbmilwaukee.com

Shoreline Country Dancers
2809 E Oklahoma Milw, 53207
info@shoreline-milw.org
www.shoreline-milw.org

Theatrical Tendencies
6650 W State St. #120
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
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**
420 S. Hubbard Street, Horicon,
WI 53032 (920)319-1090
mellow14u@care2.com
care2.com/c2c/group/dcglbtsgov

Femme Mafia Milwaukee
myspace.com/femmefam-
amke

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

FIERTE 5722 3rd Ave Kenosha (262)857-3240

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 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 KRUZ 354 E. National (414)272-KRUZ

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 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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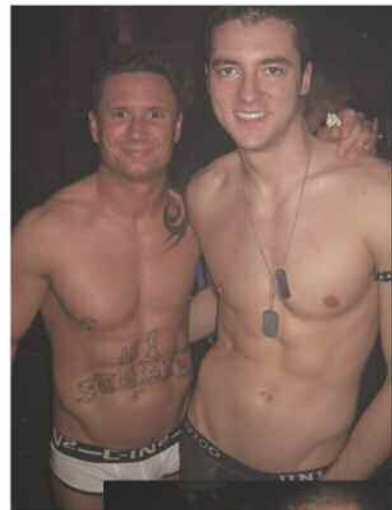
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Below: Club 5



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