Also inside: Interview with musician Jordan Baas

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At age 22 Jordin Baas has almost 8 years of experience as a musician, singer and songwriter. Her career began almost as soon as she first owned an instrument. Now she plays gigs in the Oshkosh area but has already played in Milwaukee for the QUEST re-launch party in January and, most recently, at Turner Hall as part of PrideFest's talent search. She'll be appearing on the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center stage at PrideFest in June.

QUEST spoke with Jordin Baas about her music and her career.

QUEST: When did you begin to write?

Jordin Baas: I started when I was 14. I ordered a guitar on line and began teaching myself. I wrote my first song before I really knew how to play. My first public performance was just a year later when I was 15. I played at an Open Mic.

QUEST: And how has your career progressed?

JB: I'm now playing with a drummer, Joseph Bauer. We want to move to Milwaukee to pursue music but meanwhile, we play here in the Oshkosh area. We play at colleges and random bars like Waverly Beach in Menasha and do gigs at the New Moon. It's a local coffee shop that has a lot of musicians performing there. Everyone is really supportive of each other. We're all friends and play together. We've done the shows in Milwaukee and are trying to go further there. But doing the local scene has been good. All of a sud-

den we'll get a request to do a gig. Social media helps, too.

QUEST: Are you on youtube?

JB: Yes, I posted a version of *Twist and Shout* on youtube a year ago and it got 25000 hits. (ed. 31,571 at this writing) People watch it then go to my others. I have around 50 videos of my own songs on youtube now.

QUEST: Do you have any recordings available?

JB: I'm working on an unofficial album in studio now with Andy Victor in Fond du Lac. It should be out by the time this interview is printed. I have songs on iTunes as well.

QUEST: So what about your career goals?

JB: I'd definitely like to do something with my music. It's going well at the moment and people like my sound.

QUEST: Can you describe it?

JB: That's tough. It's acoustic punk, rockish alternative pop but it's not what you'd expect. People hear "acoustic" and think it's going to be quiet and intimate. But I'm upbeat and high energy. It gets the crowd involved. The drums add to that. It's hard to compare with someone else who's out there.

QUEST: Influences?

JB: I'd say Avril Lavigne, Nirvana, and the girl band, The Donnas...

QUEST: And who's your audience?

JB: Everyone. I do have a lot of LGBT followers.

They relate to the fact that I'm a lesbian. I write music that's about civil rights and the drama of women's relationships – like the ridiculous things girls do...I write about that a lot.

QUEST: What's the lesbian music scene like?

JB: There are a couple of lesbian bands that have that as their focus. I'd like to target the lesbian audience because there aren't that many out there. I don't care about the intolerance that sometimes comes of being myself. I'd like to be an example. QUEST: What kind of intolerance have you encountered?

JB: A lot of people have been really rude. It sucks when people call you names. On youtube there are comments asking why I look like I do. I get called "boy." With live audiences there are always some intoxicated guys who ask if I'm a boy or a girl.

QUEST: How do you respond?

JB: Sometimes I just tell them I'm a girl. And that's the end of it. I don't want to fight over it so I really don't respond beyond that. They just want to be insulting – pick on an easy target and start something. But it's gotten better. The scene is generally accepting.

QUEST readers can find Jordin Baas on youtube by searching her name or jkjordinkid. Also check out her website: www.jordinbaas.com



DINING OUT WITH SHELLY It's not Just Hamburgers, Mary's!

We give Hamburger Mary's - Milwaukee A First Taste

Review by Roechelle Herrmann Photography by reDDer art studios www.redderredder.com

Milwaukee - What can we say about Hamburger Mary's? If you are looking for a fun atmosphere, good food and great service this is definitely worth checking out! The exterior is incredibly purple, so you'd be hard pressed to not spot this place on any corner, I'll say that. Step inside, and you are met with a campy, kitschy ambiance filled with upbeat music and a pretty energetic staff. With its stage, multiple televisions and walls decorated in entertainment memorabilia, it's like Broadway hangout meets sports bar, but in a good way.

You have to love a place that greets you with a smile, and right away, they gave us two. A nice greeting is hard to come by these days! One of the best ways to get a feel for a place happens within the first few moments of stepping in the door. Big plus here.

When you are at a place with "hamburger" as part of its name, a burger is a must have. But, with so many great sounding options, we couldn't decide. So, we took advantage of the Mini Classic's appetizer. There are four options of burgers to choose from, and you can order as many sliders as you want at \$2.75 a pop. We tried all four versions. Sure did. The Susie Q BBQ Bacon, dripping with tangy bbq sauce, the Little Boy Bleu with blackened seasonings, bacon and bleu cheese, the Lil Princess with melted cheddar/ jack cheeses over grilled onions and last but not least, the Lil Spicy - which has just the right amount of heat. A full size 1/2lb burger will run you around \$10 and up with choice of side. The great thing is, you can wrap it in lettuce if you're



watching the carbs, and you can have your non beef eating pals revel in the merry at Mary's with a black bean patty, at no extra charge. You may walk out of there about \$30 lighter just for lunch for two – a tad pricey, but hefty portions make up for it, and doggie bags are awesome the next day.

We wanted to try out a salad and a dinner, so we settled on the **Crispy Caramel Chicken** salad, (\$10) a delightful surprise I might add. I am not one to eat a salad but this good size salad won me over with the sweet caramel drizzled over the crispy chicken, served atop a bed of crisp mixed greens, shredded cheese, tomatoes and bacon all tossed together with ranch dressing. I ate the whole thing! Definitely worth the money! I can't tell you enough how much I enjoyed it. It was a Friday, and what else does any red blooded Milwaukeean eat on a Friday? **Fish-N-Chips!** We went for the platter, (\$12 or so) which was three huge pieces of fish served over a bed of French fries. It was big and crunchy but wasn't particularly memorable. And we realized half way

through that the coleslaw and malt vinegar were not on the table. Live and learn.

Overall the portions were nicely sized; you definitely get what you paid for and then some. The staff was friendly and offered great suggestions. The best part, though, when your bill comes, it's in a high heel shoe!! Oh and by the way if you want to split anything, there is no extra charge. Our total bill was \$39.60.

The only thing that we had an issue with is the seating area. It seems a bit cramped and the lighting was a little

dim for my taste. When I'm eating, I really don't mind being able to see what is on my plate. And making our way to the table and back out again would have been easier had the tables on the main floor not be so pushed together. However, with the "MaryOke" Karaoke nights (Fridays 9:30) HamBingo Marys (Thursdays 8PM), and Drag Revue (Saturdays 9PM), I imagine they know how to handle the space when full. Reservations are recommended for these shows, and all BINGO proceeds benefit a different local charity each week.

If you haven't already stopped in, we say definitely check out Bay View's lavender gem. And stay for the show.

2130 S Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee. (414)988-9324 Open daily for Lunch, Dinner & Cocktails 11am-10pm Late-Nite menu 10pm-Mid Thur-Sat Brunch served Sat & Sun10am-3pm



ABSTRACTS & ANCESTORS Paintings by Carolyn Snow @ MGAC

Individual paintings by Milwaukee artist Carolyn Snow have appeared at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center as part of past group shows. Now in her first MGAC solo exhibition, she displays over two dozen of her works. They include her most recent pieces as well as a broad spectrum of earlier acrylics and oil paintings. Her subject matter ranges from landscapes and portraits representing a theme of *Abstracts & Ancestors*.

Snow abstracts colors and shapes. They encompass human figures, animals and objects. In Snow's vision all are living elements in our world. In this show, the simple ladder is a focus point. "The ladders become animate people. They climb and move. They are ancestors. They represent a magic carpet taking you to a place you cannot see."

Snow is self-taught. Her influences include indigenous art, Impressionism, Fauvism, German Expressionism and Abstract Expressionism. But although there are hints of these various past artistic movements in her works, Snow takes a fresh and very personal direction that is purely her own, notably though her use of textures. These are more than just concentrated areas of paint. Combining various materials using paint as a binder creates the texture giving the traditional act of painting a sculptural quality.

"My texture recipes use acrylic or oil paint as the basis for the medium. The added materials are things from nature like sand or marble dust or bee's wax. Because of the density of



the resulting mixture, I use tools other than brushes to make my images." Snow said.

Abstracts & Ancestors, paintings by Carolyn Snow runs March 30 through May 11 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street, in Milwaukee's Historic Walker's Point

Carolyn Snow will offer a two-hour texture demonstration at Utrecht Art Supply Store, 143 North Broadway (Catalano Square) in the Third Ward, on Saturday, April 28, 1-3pm.

Photo attribution: Masterson



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Quest Volume 19 Issue #3 March 2012

PO Box 1961 Green Bay, 54305 800-578-3785

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Printing/Bindery: Journal Community Publishers

Photography: Mark Mariucci, Will Sharkey, Paul Masterson, John Kaspar, Tony Ritschards, Troy & guest contributors

Quest/Outbound is published monthly and is distributed free throughout Wisconsin in area bars & businesses that cater to the LGBT community. Quest® 2012 All rights are reserved. Publication of the name or photograph of any person or business in this magazine does not reflect upon one's sexual orientation. All copy, text, photographs and illustrations in advertisements are published with the understanding the advertisers have secured the proper consent for use, and Quest may lawfully publish & cause such publication to be made & save blameless Quest from any & all liability, loss and expense of any nature arising from publication.





ISAAC JULIEN: TRUE NORTH AT MAM By Paul Masterson

Currents:34 Isaac Julien's "Expeditions" is another first for the Milwaukee Art Museum. It is the first complete presentation of gay artist Isaac Julien's trilogy of expedition themed films. *True North* (2004), *Fantome Afrique* (2005), and *Western Union*: Small Boats (2007) explore themes of exploration, disenfranchisement, and migration.

Western Union: Small Boats is particularly significant. It has been acquired by the Milwaukee Art Museum as part of its permanent collection. The acquisition of Western Union: Small Boats was funded by the Contemporary Art Society (CAS), the Ralph and Cora Oberndorfer Family Trust, and by exchange. CAS member Joe Pabst, whose Great Milwaukee Foundation Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity contributed to the acquisition and Isaac Julien programming, spoke of the importance of the work to the LGBT community. "I think this acquisition is extremely important for our cultural awareness. The idea of migration is part of who we are. For LGBT people in particular, the evolution of our community has been the result of moving away from discrimination in the search for our identity and equality. It's often traumatic. Sometimes it means separation from families, friends and the familiar things in our lives. But it's also what forms us into a community." Pabst said.

The first film, *True North*, opened March 24 and runs through May 9. On its surface, *True North* is a memory piece, documenting the 1909 expedition to find the North Pole by explorers Matthew Henson, an African American seaman, and Admiral Robert Peary. Although Henson apparently reached the North Pole first, Peary took credit for the discovery and thus diminished Henson's role in the expedition. Decades later Henson belatedly received the recognition he was due.

"I took the Henson-Peary story as an alibi for something I wanted to do for a long time...to make a film using the metaphor of the black African experience within the extreme setting of ice and white snow." Julien said. But bevond that expression of movement and cultural clashes. True North is a visual and auditory experience of so many layers it is difficult to focus on particulars. It can be seen as an allegory of black and white identities. Julien's earlier films investigate this very subject from the point of view of the gay black man. In True North, Henson is quoted, telling how he hid the bullets of their gun out of fear of Peary's rage when Henson reported having found the North Pole before he did. However, a larger, broader statement immerges that makes an ecological statement as part of the discussion of cultural movement. Greater still is the conclusion that we are all have our own perpetual expeditions and are who we are as a result of the expeditions that have preceded us.

The installation of *True North*, and the other films of the trilogy, consists of a trio of independent screens with synchronized projected films. They combine images of snow and ice extending into the horizon. The film's cast of Inuit guides and actress Vanesse Myrie as Henson's witness move through the treacherous and inhospitable land-scape, a blank slate of unknowns that lead to man's discoveries. To enhance this document of our need to migrate, the film's sound design laces rushing glacial waterfalls with Inuit songs and quotations from Henson's account of the expedition.

The second of the trilogy, Fantôme Afrique, will be presented May 10–June 17, 2012. Set in the West African nation of Burkina Faso, it too presents the migration theme but in reverse. In it, rather than the north to south movement outwards, the film addresses a cultural exchange bringing Europeans southwards to Africa, specifically to

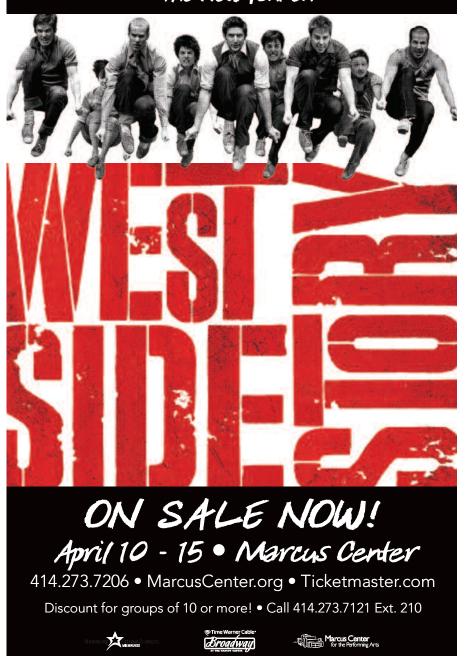
Ougadougou, the nation's capitol and site of African's largest film festival. Again, Myrie acts as the expedition witness, exploring the country's urban and rural realms as archeological and historical documents of the encounter of global cultures.

The third film, *Westem Union*: Small Boats, plays from June 28, 2012–February 17, 2013. As the concluding part of the work its significance is in addressing the on-going economic migration of African refugees to Italy. Their precarious journey in small boats often ends in tragedy. Here Julien delves into the contrasts of the impoverished travelers and the riches of their destination.

Programming for this exhibition is generously sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund, the Contemporary Art Society, and the African American Art Alliance.



"BOLD, FRESH AND TRANSCENDENT." - THE NEW YORKER



DEAR RUTHIE SELECTED AS GRAND MARSHAL 2012 LGBT PRIDE PARADE

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee Pride Parade has chosen "Dear Ruthie" as the 2012 Grand Marshal due to her numerous contributions to the LGBT community of South East Wisconsin and the State of Wisconsin as a whole. "First and foremost we would like to tell you that Dear Ruthie is thrilled to be named the Grand Marshall for Milwaukee's 2012 Pride Parade," states a prepared press release from the parade committee.

"Dear Ruthie" a humor laced advice collumn first appeared in the "Wisconsin Light" newspaper in 1997. Ruthie began making public appearances across the state shortly thereafter. The column has since run in "InStep" newspaper and "Outbound" magazine. In it's current form advice is mixed with clever recipies and appears in "Quest" magazine under the title "Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen."

Ruthie has stood shoulder to shoulder with the likes of Candace Gingrich Jones, Congress Woman Tammy Baldwin, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and former Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle, speaking on equal

rights and Milwaukee's LGBT Community. In addition to countless appearances benefiting statewide HIV/AIDS-related agencies, Ruthie has volunteered her time and talent to organizations such as Gilda's Club of Southeastern Wisconsin, BESTD Clinic, COA Youth & Family Center, Camp Heartland and many others.

Through a series of viral videos and presentations, Ruthie helped bring the Gay Softball World Series (NAGAAA-Fest) to Milwaukee in 2009. She was later honored with a Volunteer of the Year award by the Saturday Softball League (SSBL), and in 2010 she was inducted into the organization's Hall of Fame. Similarly, Ruthie appeared in a series of viral videos to promote services offered by Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center. She continues to help SSBL and Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center with fundraising efforts.

Dear Ruthie made her theatrical debut in 1999 and continues working with professional theater companies throughout the city. She has starred in several comedies including "Auntie Mame," "Die, Mommy

Die," "Psycho Beach Party," "The Women" and "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane." Ruthie was Milwaukee's first female impersonator to regularly appear on a weekly, network affiliated TV program, "The Don and Bo Show," featuring former Summerfest Executive Director, Elizabeth "Bo" Black. As a field editor, Ruthie relied on her sense of humor week after week on the CBS-58 show. For her efforts, Ruthie became an honorary member of the Milwaukee Press Club. Her framed autograph continues to hang in downtown Milwaukee's Newsroom Pub.

Ruthie has appeared in nearly every Milwaukee Pride Parade since 1993. The Parade will be held on Sunday June 10th, 2012 on South 2nd street in Milwaukee. Step off will take place at 2 pm sharp.

The Milwaukee Pride Parade is always looking for volunteers to help. Want to get involved? Email: volunteercoordinator@prideparademke.org. Ruthie may be contacted at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com.

OLD ISSUES OF IN STEP & OTHER PUBS NEEDED FOR WILGET HISTORY PROJECT

Milwaukee - The Wisconsin LGBT History Project is looking for copies of the most recent issues of the "Wisconsin In Step" newspaper. The LGBT paper started as a small "bar rag" in 1984, converted to a news magazine format from 1994 to mid-1997, then went to a larger newspaper style format until it ceased publication. The Wisconsin LGBT History Project runs the annual History display at PrideFest) and maintains archives and a website preserving Wisconsin's gay history for future generations.

The History Project is trying to locate any copies of later issues of "IN Step", including a few missing issues from 1998 through 2000 (volumes 15 thru 17), and is missing most issues from 2001 to 2003 (volumes 18 thru 20), when the paper ceased publication. They are also searching for issues of the following other LGBT related publications:

All issues of "Amazon", a feminist journal/ magazine, which printed from 1972 to at least 1984. Many issues of "Milwaukee Calendar", a Milwaukee LGBT bar magazine which printed from 1978 to 1980. Most issues of "Escape", an LGBT bar magazine then newspaper in 1982 and 1983. Many issues of "RAGG", a Milwaukee LGBT bar magazine which printed during much of 1983-1984. All issues of "Hag Rag", a Wisconsin lesbian-feminist newspaper from the mid-1980's. Most issues of "Out!", an LGBT newspaper from 1982-1987. All issues of "Among Friends", an "upper midwest" magazine published in Wisconsin from early 1986 until at least late 1988. Most issues of "g-Street", an Eau Claire based LGBT bar magazine which printed from mid-2000 until sometime in 2001.

If you have any copies of issues of LGBT publications we are searching for, please contact the History Project. For those issues we are missing, we are willing to scan and return the papers to you, or we can accept them for permanent preservation in the UWM Library Special Collections. Please contact the History project at: webmaster@mkeLGBThist.org.

AUTHOR ROSENBERG'S 40 CITY BOOK TOUR NEARLY TO A CLOSE WITH AP-PEARANCE IN MADISON & MILWAUKEE

Author Mark Brennan Rosenberg in an unprecedented forty-city book tour for his critically acclaimed book of essays "Blackouts and Breakdowns" (Time Out NY's critic's pick for the week of December 19, 2011) appeared in Madison at Outreach on April 4 (too late to be announced here in advance, and will appear at Outwords Books on April 7 for one day only.

The author has been doing readings from his book in bars, local bookstores, galleries, community centers and speaking at college campuses all across the country ending in New York with the release of his second book "Eating My Feelings" on April 19, 2012. Because "Blackouts and Breakdowns" is unlike any other book, this book tour will be unlike any other. Instead of hosting readings at chain bookstores, Rosenberg is targeting hotspots in each town he goes to in order to get the entire community involved and give back in each city he goes to. Rosenberg is currently one of the only first-time LGBT authors to do a book tour of this size.

"Blackouts and Breakdowns" is a no holds barred look into the life of a twenty something very gay, very fabulous, very alcoholic young man. Mark tells his hysterical tale by giving the reader eleven short stories ranging from teenagers stealing nativity scenes off of stranger's lawns to attempting to pick up a deaf guy in a bar by pretending to know sign language. Brutally honest and funny, "Blackouts and Breakdowns" sends a message of hope for young people battling addiction.

FMI on the time of the appearance at Outwords, please call (414) 963-9089.

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The day was bound to come. Eventually. No longer could Glenn ignore the harsh truth. You see, size does matter. Glenn's nearest and dearest insisted, in no uncertain terms, that a new, large screen TV was needed if Glenn was to continue hosting Cinema nights.

Time, then, to bid adieu to Glenn's treasured if improbably named 1968 Zenith console, Space command "600" — the television set of Glenn's youth, more friend, really, than simply a fabulous piece of vintage furniture. Huddled around those 26 inches of the best color television that the 1960s had to offer, memories of those first movie nights back in 1981 and those splendid Sundays evenings awash with the romance that was **Brideshead Revisited** came flooding back. - No matter.

With Glenn's hard earned tax refund check burning a hole in his wallet, the time had arrived to bring Glenn's living room into this current millennium. But what to buy? A trip to a nearby appliance superstore left Glenn seriously overwhelmed.

And all for a Guilty Pleasures night double feature: **Eating Out: The Open Weekend** and **What Happens Next**.

The release of another entry in the popular "Eating Out" franchise has long been synonymous with one of Glenn's cinematic soirees. **The Open Weekend** has arrived nipping at the heels of last fall's **Drama Camp**. In fact, the two movies were filmed simultaneously.

Glenn chose to pair **The Open Weekend** with another popular new gay rom-com, **What Happens Next** which stars daytime soap star Jon Lindstrom and Wendie Malick, whose many sit-com credits include **Just Shoot Me** and **Hot in Cleveland**.

Thinking **The Open Weekend** would be best enjoyed after a suitable number of cocktails; the evening began with **What Happens Next**.

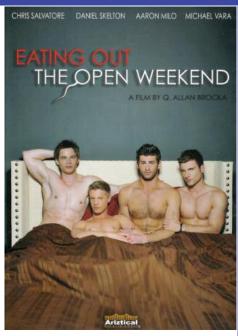
Billionaire/socialite Paul Greco (Jon Lindstrom) finds himself an unemployed CEO after he has been unceremoniously retired from his own corporation. Having led a rather sterile life in a rather sterile condo, Paul is at a loss as to what happens next. His fabulous sister Elise (Malick), a woman forever on the verge of a nervous breakdown, decides a dog is just what Paul needs.

And in fact, she proves right.

After dubbing his new four-legged friend 'Mrs. Greco,' Paul carries the cute pooch out to the adjacent park. By chance, he happens upon a cute baseball cap-wearing lad named Andy Chance (Chris Murrah) with whom he strikes up a conversation.

Thus, Paul begins a new routine: he and Andy meet at the same time and the same park bench the next day. And the day after that. And so on. Each day Andy dons a different cap each day; Paul begins, if only infinitesimally, to loosen up.

Accompanied by an overpowering musical score, the two chat, become friends. Then they start



to sit a bit closer. Could something more be going be going on?

Who knows what might happen next?

When we last saw Zack, Casey, Penny and the rest of the **Eating Out** gang, Dick Dickey's Drama Camp had mercifully come to an end; the gang having climbed back into the silver SUV and headed home. Far from riding off together into the cinematic sunset, Zack (Chris Salvatore) and Casey (Daniel Skelton) have found that breaking up isn't really all that hard to do. Zack has fallen truly, madly, deeply in love with the criminally cute Benji (Aaron Milo). Or has he?

In Q. Allan Brocka's fifth (dare one hope final?) offering, **The Open Weekend**, the gang, sans Ronnie Kroell's hunky Beau and Garikayi Mutambirwa's Jason, are on the road and off to Palm Springs for a fabulous free weekend at a fabulous gay resort. Despite being dazzled by the bright sunshine and multitude of hot young guys, neither Zack nor Casey would seem to be having all that much fun. Zack has only reluctantly agreed to a trial "open weekend" with Benji. For his part, Casey isn't at all happy to spend a Palm Springs weekend watching his ex, the ex he continues to pine for, having fun (and more?!) in the sun with the hot new boyfriend.

And so the romantic shenanigans begin. Casey convinces Peter (Michael Vara), once an overweight classmate now turned hunky serial slut, to masquerade as his new boyfriend; Zack pretends to be thrilled with exploring his "open" options. Meanwhile, in another part of the gay resort, Penny (Lilach Mendelovich) and Lilly (Harmony Santana) battle for the affections of straight bartender Luis (Alvaro Orlando), a hottie who is harboring a secret of his own.

The stakes are high; the shirts are off. Who will be truly, madly, deeply in love as the credits roll in **Eating Out: The Open Weekend**?

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

The double feature of **What Happens Next** and **Eating Out: The Open Weekend** proved a big hit. How much of the evening success came down to the fabulous (and plentiful) cocktails, the new 46" flat screen television or the choice of films is anyone's guess.

No surprises then at the success of **What Happens Next**. In as much as the assembled group consisted of, for the most part, single gay gentlemen of a certain age, the love story of 50-something Paul and cute twenty-something Andy possessed an appealing storyline. Chris Murrah's Andy offered a nice boy-next-door quality and Glenn liked the plot twist with Paul's nephew Brian (Ariel Shafir). The film's leisurely pacing definitely bothered Glenn more than most and worse, too many of the minor characters prove to be one-dimensional stereotypes — particularly Matthew Tweardy's excruciating Jasper.

Q. Allan Brocka's "Eating Out" series continues to defy time and logical. Glenn always thinks that each subsequent entry to sure to provide more: more fun, more comedy and certainly more nudity. Nonetheless, **The Open Weekend** finds Brocka's on firmer ground, more akin with early films than last year's awful **Drama Camp**.

Just the facts...

Eating Out: The Open Weekend clocks in at a swift 80 minutes available on DVD with an SRP of \$24.95 All about sexy Chris Salvatore @ http://www.chris-salvatore.com

Blink and you'll miss cameos by Mink Stole and Rebekah Kochan

What Happens Next has a running time of 100 minutes and also has an SRP of \$24.95 Neither release boasts much in the way of DVD extras.











Dear LGBT Friends,

As I depart the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin for retirement after 24 years as President & CEO, I am compelled to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for the historic contribution you have made to the fight against AIDS and the wonderful support you have given to ARCW.

From the very beginning of AIDS the LGBT community came together as a powerful force to fight back against AIDS stigma, homophobia, terrifying illnesses and ultimately the loss of our loved ones. Your donations, your participation in AIDS Walk Wisconsin and Make A Promise, your volunteerism and your unwavering moral support were the reasons we endured the worst of times of the AIDS epidemic.

Your continuing strong support over so many years has enabled ARCW to build the ARCW Medical Center providing medical, dental and mental health care, the ARCW Pharmacy assuring access to the most advanced HIV medications and a comprehensive system of social support services. Nowhere in America can HIV patients

access as many health and social services in one place than at ARCW.

The new CEO at ARCW will be Mike Gifford who has served as ARCW Chief Operating Officer for many years and is a great ally of the LGBT community. I encourage your support of Mike as he is an outstanding leader who will make sure that ARCW thrives in the years ahead with the highest quality HIV prevention, care and treatment services.

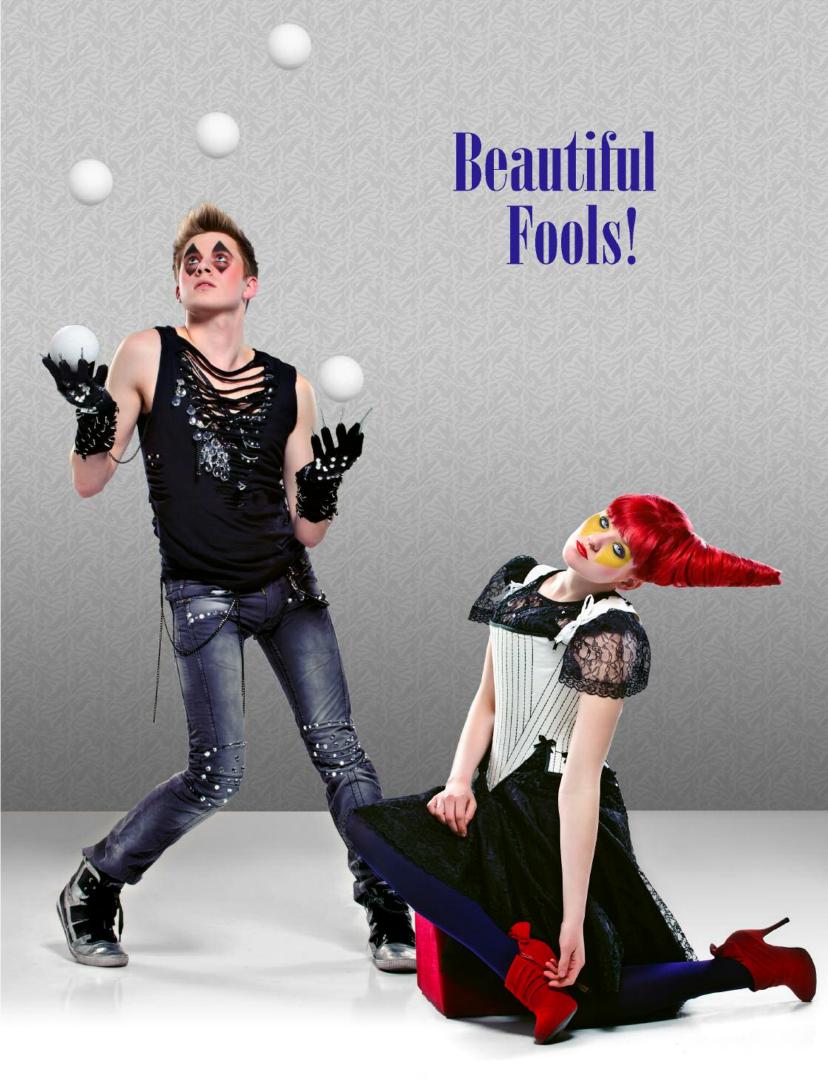
From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your passion, commitment and steadfast support.

Sincerely,

Doug Nelson
President & CEO

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin















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Too many good byes – it seems every column includes an ending of some description or another... This time out, The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Ltd. bids a fond adieu. As a founding member, it saddens me to see this organization silenced... however 25 years is a great run! No other Gay musical group in this area has lasted as long.

If you would like to hear them, one last time, Sunday, April 1 – April Fool's Day, the actual day the Chorus was formed is their finale – no fooling. "We Are One: Celebrating Diversity" 3 PM Unitarian Universalist Church West 13001 West North Avenue, Brookfield. info@creamcitychorus.org

CCC has recorded a commemorative CD of their most-popular tunes if you would like to preserve and enjoy their vocalizing for the future here's your chance.

Through this Gay musical movement in Milwaukee is where I blossomed and met such dear, life-long friends as Rona, Legs, Jerry Gin&Tonic, Jay Reinke, Scott Stewart, Scott Sowlles, Joey Appleman, Ebbie Duggins, Patty Micale, Michael Bord, and most of my personal phone book, so, so many others, great people. I got invited to do shows at The M&M Club, HIT Show – A Delago Production at the old Marc Plaza – for you younger readers – The Hilton, I've traveled to Seattle, Denver, Montreal, and sang with Barry Manilow three times! All because of this Gay chorale movement here, forgive me my indulgence – it's like writing an obituary to a dear friend – let their voices rise one last time in celebration – then fade to black.

So happy to report that The Triangle is still open for business and providing the wonderful service to the community it is known for. I guess I can't believe everything that is shared with me. I was informed there was a closing party – last call, & final show... but like a mighty Phoenix, The Triangle has risen and during this month of religious connotations I'm not going to question! Catch the always entertaining Baby Jane Hudson at The Triangle as their mid-day bartender, Sun – Fri, 1 – 5pm. Oldies, But Goodies Revue alternating Saturdays 10:30 pm, next show April 14 Starring: Baby Jane, Karisma, Dixie Kupp, & Dan E. Dance (Mr. LaCage).

Tuesday, April 10 – Sunday, April 15 "West Side Story" rumbles into Milwaukee's east side as spring invigorates us all to return to the theater. Uihlien Hall at The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts brings the fascinating opus of Bernstein, Laurents, Sondheim, and their collective genius to the stage in this ageless salute to teenage angst.

Even after more than 50 years the sound is sweeter than ever. Come hear such classics as: "Something's Coming", "Tonight", "America", "I Feel Pretty", and "Somewhere" - - The Sharks and the Jets are waiting for you!

William Inge's masterpiece "Bus Stop" has a layover at The Milwaukee Chamber Theatre Thursday, April 12 – Sunday, April 29. Come see Cherie sing that "Old Black Magic" all the way into your hearts - - Marilyn Monroe made this one of her signature pieces. The play still holds up, the deep character study is Inge at his very best. The Broadway Theatre Center's Cabot Theatre 158 North Broadway.

"The Wisdom of Eve" a drama by Mary Orr is being brought to the boards by The Bay Players and Raymond Bradford. Fasten your seat belts and call 414-299-9040, Margo and Eve eagerly await your "Applause" – Sat/Sun, April 13 & 14.

Mil-M-AIDS in Madison, 2012 takes place on Saturday, April 14 9am. Village Lanes 208 Owen Road Monona (608)222-7361. Cost per Bowler - \$30/\$35 day of Tournament, includes: Bowling, Buffet, Prizes, and Donation. For Registration and/or questions: Keith Lupien 608-242-9121 wsportster@yahoo.com or Patrick Hoeth 608-358-6016 patiofur@aol.com - Locally, Debi Vance or Cindy O can help you out.

Off Broadway at The Marcus Center – Vogel Hall offers up "You Say Tomato, I Say Shut Up" Thursday, April 26 – Sunday, April 29 – come for amusement and pronunciation practice!

Thursday, April 26 "Dancing With The Stars" Diva, Ms. Gladys Knight will grace The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino 8 PM, then she can catch that "Midnight Train to Georgia" -- all aboard for a magical evening! Pips optional.

The Make A Promise Dinner & Gala is Saturday, April 28 – "Going GaGa At Make A Promise" as inspired by that infamous Lady "On The Edge of Glory". *My butcher is currently designing my evening ware!* Let's all turn out and salute retiring Executive Director, Doug Nelson, for 24 years of sterling service. The evening starts with a Premiere Silent Auction & Cocktail Reception with Complementary Miller Coors Products at 5:30pm GaGaLicious Dinner is served at 7:30pm, 8:30pm the Live Auction and Award Ceremony, Dance Party to follow.

Leadership Award – Andy Petroll, MD, MS Philanthropy Awards – Dean & Anne Fitzgerald Courage Award – Melody Rose

Please call Karen Wollenberg 800-359-9272 x 1570 Levels are: Paparazzi Table - \$85/\$850 Table of 10 Glitterati Table - \$125/\$1,250 Table of 10 Glamourati Table - \$200/\$2,000 Table of 10.

Make a gift, have a night on the town, and Make a Promise!

The following day (Sunday, April 29), is the final showing of Cleopatra at The Milwaukee Public Museum. What better way to fete a Queen as she sails up the Nile than a farewell visit?

After over a year of national searching, Paul

Fairchild has been engaged as Executive Director of The Cream City Foundation (CCF). We are most fortunate to have a gentleman of Paul's credentials assume this position. He has made quite a career/reputation for himself in Chicago – I can't wait to see where he can take the Foundation. Paul is definitely someone who is dedicated to the world around him. CCF's Art/Philanthropy evening at The Next Act Theater was a most rewarding night and great opportunity for Paul Fairchild to make a debut. Brava and bye-bye to Griselda Aldrete, she did a phenomenal job as Interim Executive Director for CCF. Keep an eye out for this woman she will be doing even greater things in our community, definitely a born leader!

Fluid recently hosted a grand Fundraising Tribute, to a grand lady - Janet Strange, she was remembered with an afternoon of illusion, song, and much fun! Lizzie Bordeaux, Viki Liberty, Goldie Adams, Bambi, the most welcome return of, Wilma Finger-Do, Janet's beloved offspring and star in his own right, Miss Maple Veneer, Uncle John's Live Band, and Cordially Yours kept the joint jumping all day long! Be it the Silent Auction, The Show, The Concert, the Patrons – who most generously contributed over \$2,000 for cancer research, a most marvelous outpour of love and thoughtfulness to a most marvelous Mother, Brava!!! Pardon me if I forgot a Performer - the Stage was in the Bar, and the Dressing Room was next door, so there was a lot of shuffling on South Second Street! Kitty and Nicky kept us well lubricated and a fabu time was had by one and all. Great seeing in the audience: Jackie O'Gasm, Germaine, Andy & Brian, Tim, Matt, James, Ricky, Joshua, Carl, Dale Gutzman, Marilyn White, Joe Kender, Heather & Phil, and Legs – check her awesome photography work on display and for sale at Fluid!

Boom and The Argonauts hosted quite a successful "Light's Out Party!" I had so much fun, I would like to share with you, but because the lights were out, I couldn't take any notes... Therefore You'll just have to come to the next one and experience it for yourself! Rumor has it there may be one this summer... I hope!

Good Friday, April 6 10:30 PM Karen Valentine will be hostess-ing an Easter Bonnet/Easter Basket Contest at Boom. So come on down and flaunt your wares! You could be a fashion Star. It's time to strut your stuff on Milwaukee's very own Project Runway, head ware and baskets – oh my!

Saturday, April 7 – Easter Eve, "Hop into Spring" with a Show at D.I.X. 10 PM. This is D.I.X.'s first show, featuring Goldie Adams, Baby Jane Hudson, and many surprise "Bunnies" and "Chickadees".

Boom and The Midtowne Spa begin their search for their new Hostess, earning the title "The Mistress of Boom -Towne" !!! The hunt for this darling Diva begins on Friday, April 27 10:30 PM with an Amateur Drag Contest. Will it take only one contest

to find the "Crowned One"? Only talent and appeal will be the reveal! Come and sign up at Boom or The Midtowne Spa by Wednesday, April 25.

You never performed before? You want to take to the stage? Wear that Halloween costume – just one more time? Come on down and make your Debut! A Star may be Born, and it could be You! Please come stage-ready with a CD, cued to do your number.

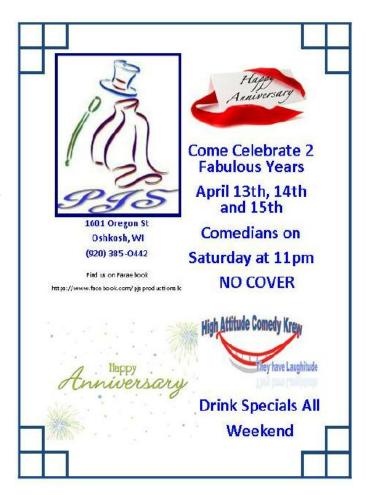
Happy Number Two for the Hybrid Lounge! With the marching in of the month of March brings the Second Anniversary for Bill and Nate and their hard working Crew, including: Patrick, Ben – my Wilhelmina model, Matt – the Birthday Boy, and the rest, dedicated to making Hybrid a favorite for all! They certainly have a busy corner bar – that it is and soooo much more!

The Ball Game, Milwaukee's legendary South Second Street emporium of fun celebrated Birthday # 43 on St. Patrick's Day — as they always do! Talk about March Madness, what fun! Rick has added to his roster, perennial favorite M&M Club bartender and columnist ChiChi! Have Hump Day with the Chi every Wednesday $2-8\,\mathrm{PM}$.

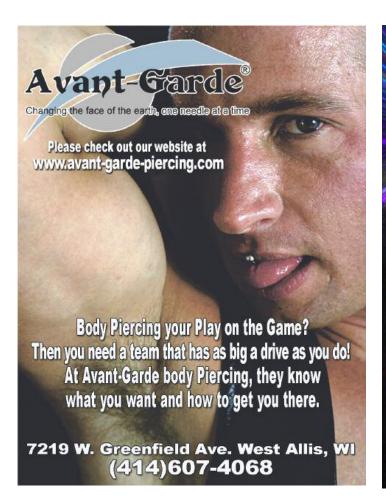
Food time, I always share at this time where to go to enjoy a meal -- how about having the Chef come to you? Sheldon Walker – no relation to our present Governor, is Chef Shel, a personal chef service – Haute Dish "Great meals, ready when you are". Personal Chef Cooking for You, in your home, and so much more 414-943-DISH (3474) Bon Appetite!

For you traditionalist who desire a change of venue - - how about Café Perrin – Breakfast, Brunch, Lunch, Dinner, Desert, Catering 5901 West Vliet Street Milwaukee 53208. They do it all – cocktails, corporate events, private parties, hors d oeuvres, fresh daily bakery, Friday fish fry, appetizers, salads, sandwiches, wraps, melts, omelets, and the list does go on... This eatery offers it all – in fact, it's a problem figuring out which way to go – all too tempting!

Remember it's the glamour, not the grammar! Bask in the spring sun, while I go tip toe through the tulips, in wooden shoes, fighting windmills — but even from Amsterdam, I will still be Cordially yours,.







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Hey kids! I'm back, damn it! I had to close my Bitchin' Kitchen a few months ago (okay, okay...I missed my friggin' deadline), and then I had the honor of publishing an interview I conducted with Jonny McGovern and Julie Goldman from the Logo Network's "Big Gay Sketch Show," so the kitchen hasn't been open in a while.

Since we last spoke, spring has sprung! And with all of the damn food I ate this winter, so has my girdle. Thank God Mother Nature decided to turn down the bitch dial and give us some sunshine early this year.

Did you have a good St. Patrick's Day? Good. Now shut the hell up and let me tell you about some stuff going on around this great state of ours!

A fan-friggin-tastic event you won't want to miss takes place this month. The competition for Mr. Gay Wisconsin North America Int'l Club is being held on April 21st at Club Icon in Kenosha. Contestants have all won a title already, so you know the night is going to full of incredible entertainment. Regret-

fully, I had to bow out of judging the event, but the fun will continue without me at Club Icon at 9 p.m. that night. Don't miss it!

Rumor has it, there is actually going to be a Pride Run this year! That's right, a 5K run is being planned to benefit ARCW and Pridefest so get out your sneakers, boys, and stretch those calves. The buzz is that the run will occur the fist weekend in June. Of course, my idea of a good workout is bar hopping or trying to outrun my parole officer, but I do plan to volunteer the day of the run, so keep an eye out for me.

Speaking of Pridefest, don't forget to check out www.pridefest.com. That's where you'll find all the info and volunteer opportunities you need to enjoy the best damn pride celebration in the country.

And last, but by no means least, I'm so proud (and surprised) to have been given the extreme honor of being named the Grand Marshal for the Milwaukee 2012 Pride Parade. I humbly accept this incredible distinction and promise not to make the parade too tacky! I hope you'll all join me on Sun-

day, June 10 for the big event. The parade steps off at 2:00 pm. To learn more, register a spot in the parade or sign up to help out, visit www.prideparademke.org.

I think that covers it for now. Next week, I'll be back with some emails from the lovelorn, horny guys looking for advice and more so be sure to keep picking up your free issue of "Quest" magazine each and every month. For now, however, let's step back into the Bitchin' Kitchen.

Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen

This month, I thought I'd toss out a few more comforting favorites you've just got to try to believe. Yes, yes...summer is almost here and you're all trying to shed a few pounds. I get it. That said, try these nofuss sensations first, then fill your tummy with greens and veggies. Until then, eat good and shut up!

JALAPENO POPPER SPREAD

I just had to publish this recipe because I know how you boys like your poppers. No! Not the kind you sniff...the kind you eat! I was at my friend Jeff's house in Jackson when he served this incredible, thick, cheesy appetizer. He was happy to share the recipe with all of the Ruthie Rooters out there. Thanks Jeff!



2 packages (8 oz each) cream cheese, softened 1 cup mayonnaise

1 can (4 oz) chopped green chilies, drained 1 can (2 oz) diced jalapeno peppers, drained

1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

In a large bowl, combine the cream cheese and mayonnaise until smooth. Stir in the green chilies and jalapeno peppers. Pour mixture into a microwave-safe serving dish, and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Microwave on High until hot, about 3 minutes.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Jeff suggests using 3 fresh jalapeno peppers instead of the canned variety if you'd like. He also says you can bake the appetizer instead of nuking it. Simply bake the spread at 375 degrees for 30 minutes or until cheese begins to brown.

JAZZED-UP SLOPPY JOES

Put that can of high-sodium Manwhich crap-ola back on the shelf! Yes, yes... I served it at my third wedding, but this recipe is better tasting and better for you, damn it! Daniel from Oak Creek shares this lip-smacker that relies on brown sugar, chili powder and an extra-secret ingredient for loose-meat sandwiches with a twist. Thanks Daniel. A free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt is on its way to you!

1 pound ground beef 1/2 cup diced onion

1 garlic clove, minced

1 cup canned pumpkin

1 can (8 oz.) tomato sauce

2 Tablespoons brown sugar

2 Tablespoons prepared mustard

2 teaspoons chili powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

Sandwich buns

In a large skillet, brown ground beef over medium heat until no longer pink. Drain fat. Add onion and garlic; cook until tender. Stir in the pumpkin, tomato sauce, brown sugar, mustard, chili powder and salt. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 10 minutes or until heated through. Serve on buns.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

You can store the remaining canned pumpkin in your freezer. In most recipes, prepared mustard refers the sort of mustard you squirt on a hot dog. Ground mustard is a yellow powder-like spice you find in the spice section of your grocery store. Take things a step further by using brown mustard (prepared) in this recipe.

GRILLED BLUE CHEESE SANDWICHES

Here's a little creation of my own. I'm going to be very vague with the ingredient amounts as these tasty sandwiches really rely on making them to taste. Blue-cheese lovers will adore them! 2 tablespoons fig jam 4 slices sour dough bread or bread of your choice Slices of red onion Butter, softened Slices of blue cheese

Spread the jam over two slices of bread. Top each with onion and blue cheese to taste. Spread butter over the top of two remaining pieces of bread. Set slices, butter side down on top of blue cheese. Butter the tops of each sandwich.

Set the sandwiches, butter side down, in a large non-stick frying pan or griddle over medium heat. Butter tops of sandwiches. Grill sandwiches until bottom is golden brown. Flip sandwiches and grill until golden brown.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

I like to sauté the onions in butter before assembling the sandwiches. If you know how to caramelize onions, do it first! It really enhances the flavor of these buttery treats. Look for fig jam in the gourmet cheese area of your grocery store.

Got a recipe for Ruthie? Have a problem and need her advice? Email her at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com

and don't forget to visit her Facebook page at Ruthie DearRuthie! If she publishes your recipe, you'll get a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt!





And now for another installment of Ruthie's bitchin' kitchen.....APRIL FOOLS! Yea okay so it wasn't really a good one. But speaking of my fellow columnist, did you hear that our very own irreverent Dear Ruthie has been selected to be the Grand Marshal of the 2012 Pride Parade? Check out all the hype about it on the Milwaukee Pride Parade's Website at www.prideparademke.org. Also on the topic of pride, how about that Pridefest. I know they haven't released a lot of information on the 2012 25th anniversary event yet. But I'm sure it will be a blast. Check out their site for more info at www.pridefest.com. Don't forget that both of these great organizations are on Facebook as well @Milwaukee Pride Parade and @Pridefest Milwaukee respectively. Also as a side note both of these organizations really do need your help every year! So get out there and volunteer!

Well seeing as I have gobbled up enough of my space on promotions for the community, so let's get to it. As I sat at a local watering hole last night destroying my liver an old friend talked to me about his piercing, and he had a

question about his piercings. The question was about a common problem but is almost never asked in my professional time in the shop, "Why do my Piercings smell? I have had them for years!"

There is actually a simpler reason for the smell, cleanliness. The smell is actually caused by dead skin. Your body sheds skin all the time and normally this dead skin just falls away and creates the dust the we all love so much. Well, when this happens in a piercing the dead skin cells cannot fall away and get trapped between the jewelry and your skin. The trapped skin then begins to do what all biological materials do when they die, they rot. The smell you are smelling is actually rotting flesh. It's perfectly normal and is nothing to be worried about. Additionally, the larger the piercing is, the faster (and more pungent) the smell will be.

To keep this smell at bay all you really need to do keep cleaning your piercings even after they are healed. At least once to twice a week, or anytime you take a shower, take the jewelry out of your piercing and dismantle it totally if possible. Then give it a really good scrub

with the soap of your choosing (although be careful of soaps on Bone, Wood, Ivory, Plastic, glass as some soaps can damage your jewelry, talk to your piercer for more details on this) and then rinse thoroughly. After doing this your piercing will remain stink free for a few days before you need to repeat the process.

One trick to keep the smell away for even longer is after you take a shower leave the jewelry out for about 15-30 minutes this will allow the skin inside the piercing to dry out and not stay soaking wet for a long period of time thus causing even more skin loss and increasing the stink factor by a bunch!

Any who lets get to some reader mail.

My BF has a piercing down below and I want to know if he can get more, I really like the one he has and would like him to get more! - Thanks, Jo

Well Jo, your question is a little vague. What piercing does he have? Where is it placed? You see Jo these are the things I need to know as I have no idea what the hell your Boyfriend's penis looks like! You may carry around a mental picture of it everywhere you go but I don't so I need a little clarification on this! But I guess I could take a stab at answering this question. It really depends on what piercing he has, if it is a P.A., ampallang or apadravya, then odds are there will not be enough room to do a second one, although I have seen it done and done it to people myself. Most of the other piercings you can get more of by just moving the placement somewhere else. If you want to know more Jo, then contact your friendly neighborhood piercer.

Well it seems I have run out of space again. Don't forget about the Milwaukee Pride Parade at www.prideparademke.org and Pridefest at www.pridefest.com, or their respective Facebook pages for updates on all the wonderful stuff going on for Pride Month. Until next time have a great month of April and have some fun this April fools!



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The online version of Quest has more photos including out-takes from this month's features.

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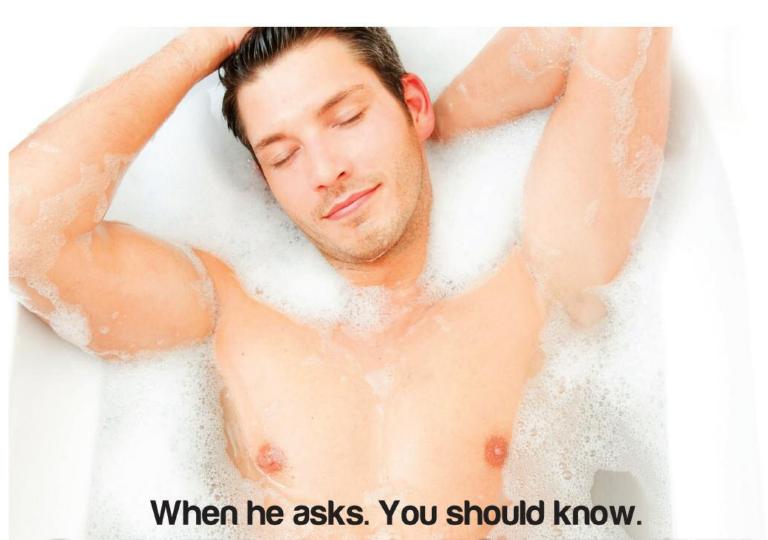
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