

MAY 2012

QUEST



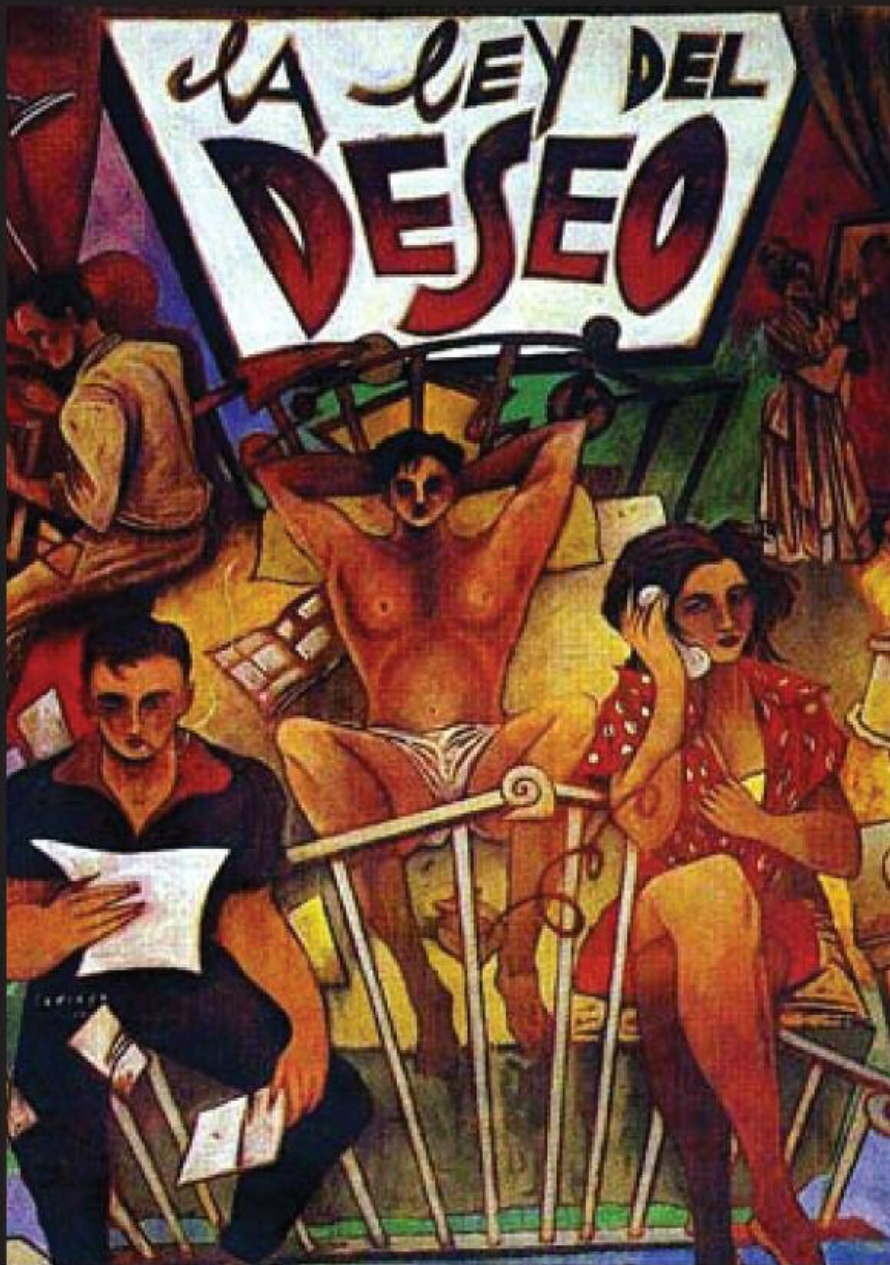
**QUEST PAYS A SPECIAL TRIBUTE
TO THE MOMS OF GAY SONS AND
DAUGHTERS FOR MOTHER'S DAY**

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LGBT FILM/VIDEO
FESTIVAL



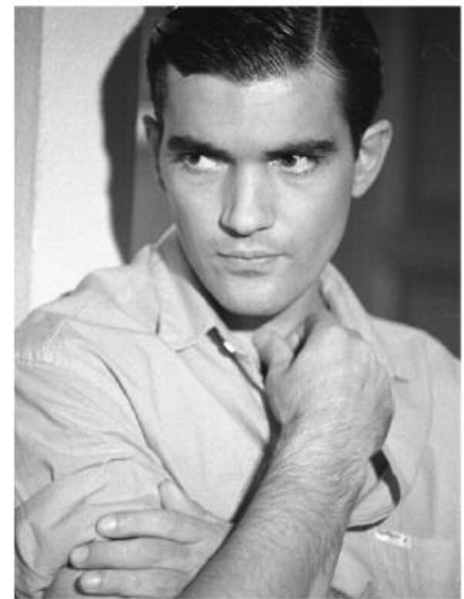
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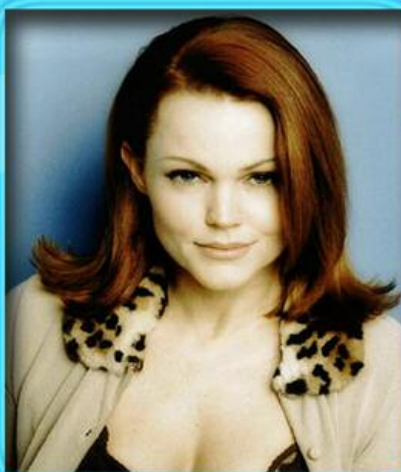
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BINGO • CASINO

MILWAUKEE LGBT CENTER HAS A NEW LEASE AND LOOKS BACK TO ITS ROOTS FOR A NEW BEGINNING

by Quest Publisher, Mark Mariucci

It's no secret the LGBT Center in Milwaukee is going through tough times. After making a successful move to new larger facilities in 2010, it seemed the future would be bright but there were already some hard feelings growing in the community. Those hard feelings coupled with a long-term sour economy to create a situation where the Center began running in red ink. Donations from just about all sources were smaller or non-existent. Loss of donation is a fact that many non-profit organizations have been facing across the country. The situation turned even worse as Director Maggie Cage first stepped down as director and shortly after left the Center completely. The finger pointing and blame game escalated as members of the board began to resign.

Fast forward to today. There is a new board, an interim director, Karen Gotzler, and the Center has negotiated with the landlord a new lower cost lease using less space. Instead of a community completely turning their back on a dire situation, people have stepped forward and are making an effort to put the Center on stable ground. A recent town hall meeting was attended by more than 200 people from the Milwaukee area. Comments and concerns were voiced, but most seemed to understand that the LGBT Center is too important to the community in Milwaukee to allow it to become a distant memory.

Most importantly there was a sense of great energy with lots of people coming to the table and offering ideas and help.

I spent a little time on the phone with my friend Paul Williams, newly-elected Co-President with Jennifer Morales at the Center. I have worked with Paul in the past producing the PrideFest Pride Guide. Hearing good news for a change, I wanted to find out how the changes are impacting the Center and where they are going from here.

The phone conversation was a conference call and included both Paul and Jennifer. Short-term goals are centering on growing a group of people who could be ready to serve on the board as well as proposals to change the by-laws in a manner that will encourage growth of membership and with it, support of the Center. They want members to feel welcome and be encouraged to participate.

"The Center leadership now has 13 board directors with representatives from every year of the Center's existence. We have several directors who helped start the Center, and this



is providing us with a great depth of experience and historical perspective to work from," said Williams.

We are reviewing the by-laws for changes in response to concerns in the community. These changes will include the self-sustaining board membership rule and the process for changing the by-laws," continued Morales. "We will present the changes to the community within the next month."

The Center has sent out a press release for the next town hall meeting that is planned for May 17 at 6:30 pm in the second floor community room. "We invite our members and allies to learn about the reorganization, right-sizing, fundraising, and membership campaign for the Center," said Morales. "We need community support and input in this time of strategic visioning to ensure the Center's long-term sustainability."

"As the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is in a time of change and re-organization, we will have many topics we want to discuss with our community at this meeting and over the next few months. We are working hard on bylaw changes,

lease and location issues, reviewing every contract, assessing community needs and building support for new growth while we reorganize and right-size the Center. To that end, we want to reach out to you, our community, for guidance and help," continues Williams in the prepared press release.

In the recent past the Center has been using more of a social services model. The Center had been successful for some time and perhaps people in the community became less engaged with the Center partly because of this success and perhaps because with a social services model over a social/entertainment model, there are less opportunities to gather for fellowship and fun. I would contrast this with a very active LGBT Center of Southeastern Wisconsin (Racine) that hosts many events in the community and has great attendance at the events they hold.

"The changes to the by-laws are necessary, but they are worthwhile only if the community engages with the Center through membership, volunteering and financial support," said Williams. "That's the necessary deal...the Center will be strengthened to better represent the community, but the community must take ownership through participation."

"We are seeing a resurgence of grassroots community support with many people stepping forward to offer their particular skills to help the Center," said Morales.

I was disappointed when the decision was made to delay an annual fundraiser, "Celebration Under the Stars," that included entertainers, including recording artists such as Johnny McGovern. The Center made a wise decision to get affairs in order first. They are now testing the waters so to speak with smaller events like the AbbaMania event, which went very well. (pictures included on this page). Don't fret about the big gala though, it is only delayed until a little later but is sure to be a fun success.

If you feel as strongly about a solid community-minded LGBT Center for Milwaukee, I urge you to attend the town hall meeting. Help them decide what the community wants in services from the center and what the role the Center will be in the community for the future.



See more photos from AbbaMania on our website: www.quest-online.com

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SSBL OPENS 2012 SOFTBALL SEASON MAY 3RD, ANNOUNCES DAIRYLAND CLASSIC 2012



Photos and story by Paul Masterson

Suddenly appear Softball bats, balls, brats and beer Just like the crocus

Now that Milwaukee's March summer has faded into spring, Milwaukee's Saturday Softball League (SSBL) is looking forward to another season of play. The league opens its 35th season on Saturday, May 5. Games begin at 10am and take place at Milwaukee's Wilson Park on the city's south side at West Howard Avenue and South 20th Street. The complex of three fields includes a stadium with a concession.

This year's team roster consists of 16 teams, a new record for SSBL. They are divided into competitive C and recreational D divisions. What's the difference? "There are criteria to establish C or D level. C players have more advanced skills and experience. They play a more competitive game. D players may have less experience but enjoy playing for the recreation. Both levels are intended to promote sportsmanship and athleticism as well as just have fun," SSBL commissioner Brian Reinkober said.

As always, SSBL promotes a policy of inclusion for all interested players. Teams are composed of a diverse mix of men and women. Non-LGBT players are always welcome. SSBL allows a 50/50 LGBT to non-LGBT player ratio to encourage diversity.

As one of the five founding cities of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), and among Milwaukee's first established LGBT organizations, SSBL boasts a long history of gay softball in Milwaukee. It all started in 1977 when a small number of teams played against each other with the losing team providing a keg of beer for the after-game party. SSBL has grown ever since. The Gay Softball Worlds Series (GSWS) took place here in 1979, 1985 and 2009.

This year SSBL welcomes two new team sponsors. Amelia's, the popular south side eatery and bar, will have its own team and Hamburger Mary's will sponsor the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Scream. Both businesses believe in supporting the LGBT community through sports. Hamburger Mary's manager Gary Olson explained its mission saying, "by supporting athleticism we hope to

strengthen our community. It builds cohesion. It's healthy and it's fun. It's just one of the ways Hamburger Mary's contributes to Milwaukee."

Besides its regular season, SSBL intends to send at least two teams to the NAGAAA Gay Softball World Series, August 13-18. "This year, the world series is in Minneapolis so we hope other SSBL teams will go as well," assistant commissioner Peter Nys said.

Additionally, the league's annual Dairyland Classic Tournament takes place over Labor Day weekend. After the games, a closing party takes place on September 2 in the historic Pritzlaff Building at Plankinton and East Saint Paul Avenues. A Madonna tribute singer, Chris America, will perform with her back-up dancers. The event will include award presentation, bars and food vendors. The public is invited.

Players may join teams at any time. Anyone interested, regardless of playing skill, should contact the team of their choice, or SSBL through Facebook, for more information. Player's fee for the season is \$40.



MILWAUKEE PRIDEFEST OPEN GRASS VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT JUNE 9 AND 10, 2012 • MILWAUKEE SUMMERFEST GROUNDS

Milwaukee - The PrideFest Open Grass PrideFest Volleyball Tournament is set to take place Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10, 2012 at the Milwaukee Summerfest grounds. The Tournament will include competition both inside and on the outside lawns of the PrideFest festival grounds at Henry Maier Festival Park (200 N. Harbor Dr.).

The tournament is open to the public with two divisions, Recreational and Competitive. The registration fee is \$210 per team of six players. Up to two additional players can be added to a team for

\$35 per player. The registration fee includes tournament fees, a weekend (Friday through Sunday) pass to PrideFest Milwaukee, a welcome bag of goodies, tournament T-shirt, a kickoff event on Friday evening and trophies for winning teams. Players and fans are encouraged to come out and play against (or just watch) some of the most talented players from the gay leagues in the Midwest.

With PrideFest Milwaukee celebrating its 25th year, the PrideFest Open Grass Volleyball Tournament will grow to accommodate 200 players on

six grass courts. Teams have typically come from throughout Wisconsin and Illinois. Last year 16 teams participated.

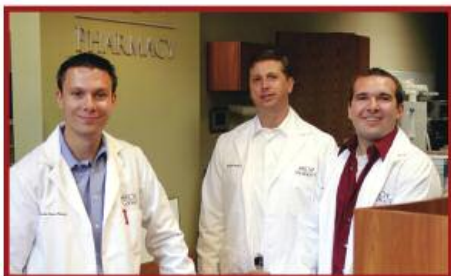
Please register your team before May 30. For more information visit www.milwaukee-gayvolleyball.com or call Jim Lautenbach at (414) 248-0969.

The PrideFest Open Grass Volleyball Tournament is coordinated by the Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association and Milwaukee GAMMA.

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THE THIRD AVENUE PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS BENEFIT STAGED READING FOR ARCW GREEN BAY

Sturgeon Bay - Third Avenue Playhouse regularly schedules monthly events with a non-profit organization as the beneficiary. This month the playhouse will present a reading of Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart" at 7:30 pm on Saturday, May 12. Tickets are \$15 for general admission with a student discount at \$10.

"THE NORMAL HEART is an indictment of a world unwilling to confront the epidemic that would come to be known as AIDS - blasts you like an open, overstoked furnace. Your eyes are pretty much guaranteed to start stinging before the first act is over, and

by the play's end even people who think they have no patience for polemical theater may find their resistance has melted into tears. No, make that sobs." Ben Brantley, The New York Times

ON the occasion of the Broadway revival of "The Normal Heart", Larry Kramer stood outside the theatre passing out flyers and talking to anyone who would listen. the following is an excerpt from that flyer:

Please know that everything in The Normal Heart happened. These were and are real people who lived and spoke and died, and are presented

here as best I could.

Please know that AIDS is a worldwide plague.

Please know that there is no cure.

Please know that after all this time the amount of money being spent to find a cure is still miniscule, still almost invisible, still impossible to locate in any national health budget, and still totally uncoordinated.

Please know that here in America case numbers continue to rise in every category. In much of the rest of the world - Russia, India, Southeast Asia, Africa - the numbers of the infected and the dying are so grotesquely high they are rarely acknowledged.

Please know that all efforts at prevention and educations continue their unending record of abject failure.

Please know that there is no one in charge of this plague. This is a war for which there is no general and for which there has never been a general. How can you win a war with no one in charge?

Please know that most medications for HIV/AIDS are inhumanly expensive and that government funding for the poor to obtain them is dwindling and often unavailable.

Please know that the world has suffered at the very least some 75 million infections and 35 million deaths. When the action of the play that you have just seen begins, there were 41.

I have never seen such wrongs as this plague, in all its guises, represents, and continues to say about us all. - Larry Kramer

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

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THE QUEER PROGRAM BEGINS ANNUAL PRIDEFEST TICKETS GIVEAWAY ON IT'S WEEKLY LIVE PUBLIC ACCESS CABLE TV

Milwaukee - Tune in to The Queer Program on Milwaukee's Cable TV system every Monday until PrideFest for a chance to win tickets to the 25th anniversary of the festival.

Just call in and correctly answer the trivia question to win a pair of one-day PrideFest tickets.

Now in its 10th year, The Queer Program broadcasts live on Mondays on Milwaukee's Time Warner Cable public access channel 96 & ATT Uverse channel 99 from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Replays Saturdays midnite & 10 pm.

For more information or to contact the program
Send an email to:

Michael Lisowski, producer
Queerprgrm@aol.com

OUTWORDS BOOKS "TOP-5 PICKS FOR MAY"

Recommended Reading for LGBT Parents & Families:

1. **Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell It Like It Is**, Abigail Garner

Drawing on a decade of community organizing, and interviews with more than fifty grown sons and daughters of LGBT parents, Garner addresses such topics as coming out to children, facing homophobia at school, co-parenting with ex-partners, the impact of AIDS, and the children's own sexuality. Both practical and deeply personal, Garner provides an invaluable insider's perspective for LGBT parents, their families, and their allies.

2. **Gay & Lesbian Parenting Choices**, Brette McWhorter Sember

Finally, a complete explanation of the many ways gay and lesbian couples can create a family and the legal hoops they must jump through. Written by an attorney in an easy-to-understand style, this guide provides a comprehensive look at the options available to gay couples and offers advice and information on how best to proceed.

3. **Gay Parenting: Complete Guide for Same-Sex Families**, Shana Priwer

This insightful guide offers sage advice for same-sex families in every stage, from making the decision to have children to dealing with embarrassed teenagers. Discover the ways same sex parents should accent family pride to deal with being more visibly out. Explore the options for bringing children into your lives, including adoption, fostering, surrogacy, and donor insemination.

4. **Complete Lesbian and Gay Parenting Guide**, Arlene Istar Lev

Gay/Lesbian parenting can be a positive decision, but author and lesbian mother Arlene Lev admits it isn't always an easy one. With practical wisdom and advice, and personal real-life stories, Lev prepares LGBT parents for this endeavor with everything they need to know and can expect while making their own significant and challenging mark on family life in the 21st century.

5. **Let's Get This Straight**, Tina Fakhrid-Deen

The full title to this exceptional guide is **Let's Get This Straight: The Ultimate Handbook for Youth with LGBTQ Parents**. Fakhrid-Deen seeks to reach out to young people with one or more LGBT parents to provide them with the tools to combat homophobia, take pride in their alternative family structures, and speak out against injustice as well as reflective journal sections for youth to share their feelings and experiences about having a gay parent.

Books for LGBT Teens, their Families and Allies.

1. **GLBTQ: The Survival Guide for LGBT and Questioning Teens**, Kelly Huegel

This fully revised and updated guide retains all of the practical advice of the original edition while providing a contemporary look at society and its growing acceptance of people who are GLBTQ. Included are updates on efforts to promote equality, gay marriage, workplace equality, transgender expression, getting support, staying safe, making healthy choices, and thriving in school. This frank, sensitive book is perfect for young people who are beginning to question their sexual or gender identity.

2. **It Gets Better**, Dan Savage and Terry Miller

After a number of tragic suicides by LGBT students who were bullied in school, syndicated columnist and author Dan Savage uploaded a video to YouTube with his partner Terry Miller to inspire hope for LGBT youth facing harassment. Speaking openly about the bullying they suffered as teenagers, and how they both went on to lead rewarding adult lives, their video launched the *It Gets Better Project* YouTube channel and initiated a worldwide phenomenon.

3. **Am I Blue?: Coming Out from the Silence**, Marion Dane Bauer

This classic, critically acclaimed, first-ever collection of original stories devoted to the topic of growing up gay or

lesbian, or with gay or lesbian parents or friends, features works by Marion Dane Bauer, Lois Lowry, Francesca Lia Block, Bruce Coville, James Cross Giblin, M.E. Kerr, William Sleaton, and Jane Yolen.

4. **Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens**, Kathy Belge & Marke Bieschke

Queer is a humorous, engaging, and honest guide that helps LGBT teens come out to friends and family, navigate their new LGBT social life, figure out if a crush is also queer, and rise up against bigotry and homophobia. **Queer** also includes personal stories from the authors and sidebars on queer history. It's a must-read for any teen who thinks they might be queer—or knows someone who is.

5. **Always My Child**, Kevin Jennings

The first book to focus on the day-to-day experiences of adolescents dealing with sexual identity issues, Kevin Jennings offers insights and practical strategies for parents whose children are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or who are going through a "questioning phase." Additionally, Jennings helps guide parents through the world their child inhabits including what they are likely to encounter — teasing and harassment — as well as offering solutions for parents who want to better understand their LGBTQ children.

All of the above books and many more are available at **Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee** located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53211 (414) 963-9089 www.outwordsbooks.com

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Photo by Robin Wong

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James Franco's **The Broken Tower** and Joshua Lim's **The Seminarian** might have more in common than a quick perusal of the films' respective synopses would suggest.

That's Glenn's rationale at least for hosting another cinema evening. And he's sticking to it!

Let's start with **The Broken Tower**, the extraordinarily personal biopic of gay American poet Hart Crane from a true Hollywood renegade, James Franco. It is easy to understand the appeal for the popular actor, recently seen as another maverick gay poet: Allen Ginsburg in Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's acclaimed **Howl**. Crane, who at the age of 32 leapt to his death from a steamship in the Gulf of Mexico, has long fascinated Franco. After initially finding Crane's poetry impenetrable, he subsequently turned to Paul L. Mariani's biography of Crane, the similarly titled **The Broken Tower**.

Eventually Franco decided to take on the project of bringing Crane's life to the big screen, assuming all the key roles including that of screenwriter, director, producer and last but not certainly not least, star.

As most moviegoers might expect from a literary biography, Franco chose to render Hart Crane's life in highly expressionistic notes; mostly in black & white and more often than not produced by a hand-held camera. Franco divides Crane's life into 12 chapters or "voyages" as they are referenced here, each coupled with handy Cliff's Notes-like summaries. The first voyage, which features Franco's younger brother David as the adolescent Crane, promises a suicide attempt as well as the would-be poet's decision to change his first name (from Harold) to Hart.

The remaining eleven voyages unfold as Crane bounces between his dysfunctional family in Cleveland to New York City and back. Later there's a trip to Paris. Poems are created; many poems are read. Franco gleefully highlights Crane's vociferous sexual appetites with a few frank sexual encounters.

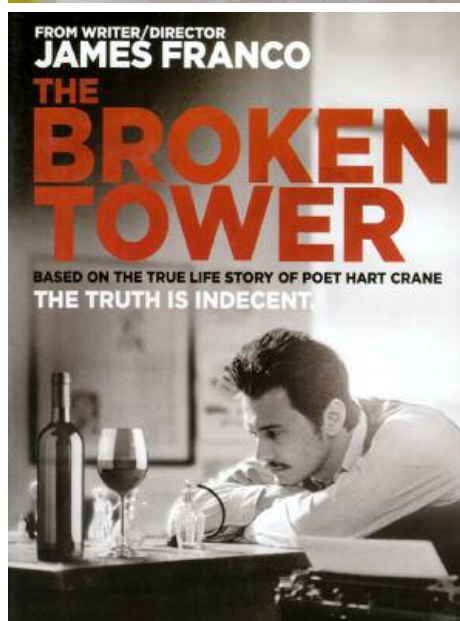
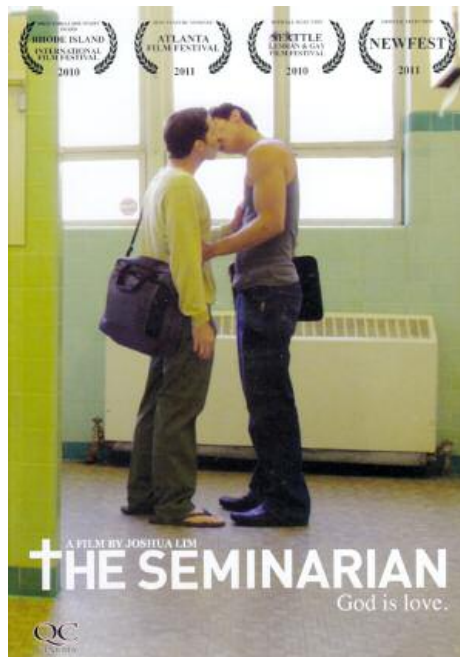
All eyes, indeed, were on Franco's enthusiastic efforts with what is surely a prosthetic penis.

Joshua Lim's new film, **The Seminarian**, is no less personal an effort than is Franco's.

The seminarian of the title is Ryan (Mark Cirillo), an engaging but deeply closeted gay young man who (Glenn guesses) emerges as a cinematic stand-in for writer/director Lim.

With an eye towards an Ivy League doctoral program, Ryan is having an increasingly tough time balancing his faith with his forbidden desires. And this conflict is readily evident when Ryan presents to his rightfully dubious adviser the subject of his thesis, "The Divine Gift of Love."

Ryan's internal debate is made flesh one afternoon when a dark and sultry hunk lures the innocent seminarian into a pristine clean and



happily empty restroom.

They kiss in a moment captured forever on the DVD box cover, and Ryan is faced with an all too familiar decision: should he choose to wait for Mr. Right or settle, just for one night, for Mr. Right Away?

Although it didn't look to Glenn as if this was Ryan's first time at the proverbial rodeo, Ryan decides that he is unwilling to settle for merely a hook-up, "I need to be in a relationship to feel love."

Still the encounter proves to be something of a conduit for Ryan who is motivated to throw caution to the wind and to say to hell, or rather to heck, with the time and distance between Ryan and his online chat-mate Bradley (Eric Parker Bingham). Wearing his heart firmly on his sleeve, Ryan hops into his car and drives and

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Joshua Lim's heartfelt cinematic sermon found a ready audience amongst those attending Glenn's latest movie night; many having been seminarians in a previous life. And perhaps that background allowed them to respond positively to Mark Cirillo's earnest if rather self-absorbed Ryan.

Too often Lim's thoughtful mediation on love, theology and (homo)sexual desire came at the expense of the narrative; the confining of Ryan and Bradley's relationship to online texting and cell phone conversation particularly unsatisfying.

Still, there are copious amounts of male flesh on display and more often than not are ridiculously gratuitous which both surprised Glenn yet delighted his guests. A scene in which Ryan answers his dorm room door naked and in a state of tumescence definitely raised a few eyebrows.

Despite high expectations, Franco's **The Broken Tower** had most of Glenn's guests claiming excessive exhaustion, early morning meetings and a variety of even less believable explanations for fleeing before Franco's renegade poet took his final leap into the Gulf of Mexico.

Thanks to Christina Voros' sumptuous black & white cinematography, **The Broken Tower** might best be viewed as something of a cinematic poem onto which Franco layers on great swatches of Crane's challenging poems; Franco proving unwilling to leave out any favorite passage. Indeed, in Franco's hands the film is clearly far more concerned with bringing Crane's poetry to life than in bringing to life the poet, despite an often compelling performance from Franco.

Franco well might be thoroughly intoxicated with the life and work of Hart Crane but sadly, **The Broken Tower** is unlikely to bring many moviegoers into the fold.

Just the facts...

The Broken Tower clocks in at a swift 90 minutes and available on DVD with a \$24.99 SRP. **The Seminarian** has a running time of 101 minutes and has an SRP of \$19.99.

The Seminarian boasts an interview with Mark Cirillo plus audio commentary with casts & crew.

drives and drives all in the hopes that he and Bradley might take their relationship out of cyberspace once and for all.

And so they do; Ryan is truly, madly, deeply smitten.

Ironically, after this first blessed coupling, Bradley is relegated in Lim's screenplay to merely a disembodied voice at the end of the cell phone with which Ryan has a deeply disturbing, perpetually annoying symbiotic relationship.

Despite fevered claims of undying affection, Bradley keeps putting off a return visit from Ryan. Valentine's Day comes and goes. Ryan's heart is breaking, so he turns to the happy band of equally closeted seminarians he's friends with and proceeds to bore them senseless until one poor fellow, the foolish besotted Gerald (Matthew Hannon) professes his (sadly unrequited) love for Ryan.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY FOR LGBT FESTIVAL

PrideFest Milwaukee hits 25-Year Milestone; Announces Headliners



Milwaukee, WI - Organizers of this year's PrideFest say planning is now in its final stages as the 25th Anniversary of this nationally recognized LGBT Festival is just weeks away. Permits are signed, the grounds are secure and sponsor donations are beginning to arrive in support of the June 8-10 PrideFest Milwaukee celebration on the Summerfest grounds.

Headliners include a trailblazer for all-female bands and a perfect example of how to get it "right" when going solo – Belinda Carlisle opens the festival on Friday, June 8th. Carlisle saw a string of tops hits with "Mad about You," "I get Weak," and "Heaven is a Place on Earth." Saturday June 9th, the electrifying Taylor Dayne takes the Miller Stage for the second time in PrideFest history. Dayne raced up the pop charts with top-pers such as "Tell it to My Heart," "Love Will Lead you Back", and "I'll Always Love You." Capping off what is sure to be a memorable weekend is another

PrideFest alum of the Miller stage - New Wave American band, Berlin. They struck gold with hits like "No more Words" and the iconic, Academy Award Winning, "Take my Breath Away" from the Motion Picture, "Top Gun."

"Taylor Dayne, and Berlin, these are some of the amazing artists who helped us reach this milestone," said PrideFest President Scott Gunkel. "We've tried to get Belinda in the past, and are thrilled that this is finally the year. We have been very fortunate."

The summer's hottest dance party takes place in the Pump! Dance Pavilion once again, and this year promises to be a showstopper. Choreographed dances will enhance this year's "Steampunk" inspired theme, and among the guest DJs, is International superstar DJ Dave Audé returning to spin on Saturday, June 9.

The price of the ticket includes all PrideFest entertainment. In honor of its 25th anniversary, the PrideFest team has also announced lower admission prices at the gate, (from \$18 in 2011 to \$15 this year) including a special "25" dollar weekend pass. Online tickets range from \$12 for single day gate admission, to \$250 for larger special VIP



weekend tickets.

They have also announced there will be no increase in drink prices (beer, soda, wine, water) despite the festival taking on an increase in supply costs.

"These price cuts and freezes are designed to make PrideFest accessible and affordable to the

largest possible audience," says Gunkel. "It really says something when an LGBT festival such as this ours can hit such a milestone," Said Gunkel, of the 25th anniversary. "That's no small feat. It shows we have a very welcoming and supportive community. This is everyone's anniversary, not just ours. We can all be proud."

To donate, or sponsor the 25th Anniversary PrideFest, or to become a vendor, or volunteer, please visit www.pridefest.com for all forms/applications. Tickets to this year's festival will be on sale in May.



OUR COVER FEATURE THIS MONTH CELEBRATES MOTHER'S DAY

See if you can guess which person owns **Walker's Pint**, who is the Publisher of this magazine, who co-founded the **Gay Wisconsin** facebook group and who is behind the Emmy nominated and Addy Award winning **Ouch Bullying Hurts** project.

Along side a gay son or daughter there is often the parent(s) there to love and offer support. Today we celebrate MOM!

Persons who were photographed for the cover and the following 5 pages of photos are:

Meighan Bentz
Bet-z Boenning
Pat Boenning
Kathleen Haanen
Kelton Hatton
Pat Hidson
Bradley Lambie
Evelyn Lambie
Alma Mariucci
Mark Mariucci
Barb Murray
Jen Murray
Jasper Murray-Bentz
Kristin Pena

Bea Pena
Jaci Penning
Josh Penning
Joseph Taylor
Judy VanDerSteen
Mari Young
Sho Young

Hair and Make-up
Kelton Hatton
Lauran Hiatt
Photography, editing and layout
Amanda Schlicher,
tangerine-studio.com





Bet-z says: "My mom is a beautiful soul. She's smart, kind to everyone, and enjoys life every day no matter how much or how little she has."

Pat says: "I am so proud of her success in life, not just in her business but in the way she treats others. She is a most generous, kind, loving and funny woman. I am so thankful that God gave her to me."

Judy says: "I'm proud of the fact that Kelton is driven and passionate about what he does. Any time I can spend with my son is enjoyable."

Kelton says: "My mom likes shiny things, animals, road trips, card games, cartoons, and most of all, she likes to have her family close to her."



Barb, Jen, Jasper, Meighan, and Pat —↘



Sho says: "I love that she knows me better than I know myself. She's able to see the best in any situation. Optimism is the key to longevity. That's why she looks like she's 25. She's adventurous and willing to try anything. She left home for the other side of the earth and raised three kids. How many moms have done that?"



Joey says: "One thing I love about my mother, Kathleen, is how she looks at the world. She has always taught me and my brothers the importance of the human spirit. We may be different, but in the innermost part we are all the same. Every night before I would go to bed, my mother would say, 'I love you as big as the sky.' I have and will always know this to be true."

Kristin says: "She is her own person, unique and fun. Always interesting! Even as a toddler she had her freaky hats and different style."

Bea says: "The best thing about my mom is she is my friend and we are always able to chill."



Evelyn says: "I'm so proud of my spiritual, caring, musically gifted, artistic, inquisitive, and brave son, Brad. I love how Brad cares for other people. For example, he started a Facebook Group called GAY WISCONSIN to reach out to people who need help and advice on life. Bradley has such a positive approach to everything."



Josh says: "My mom, Jaci, is open to trying new things. Her heart is big even though it hurts at times, and she is strong willed."

Mark says: "My mom is an amazing woman who gives her heart and help to all who need it. She is non-judgmental and very patient."

Alma says: "Mark and I have always been close. He has been true to himself and worked hard to follow his dreams. I am proud to be his mother."



KELTON & crew

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Miss City Of Festivals USofA Pageant at Montage

Photos by Will Sharkey





Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

It's the very merry month of May! And look at what's up and coming your way ...

The Marcus Center and Broadway Across America have announced their 2012 – 2013 Season. I believe everything is rather new, with the return of a contemporary favorite. "Rock Of Ages" Tuesday, November 13 – Sunday, November 18. A Party Musical, featuring 28 popular rock songs from the '80's. This show may have played Milwaukee before, but not The Marcus Center.

"Memphis" Tuesday, January 8 – Sunday, January 13, 2013 A.D.J. takes a chance and unleashes onto the airwaves and to a fresh, young generation a new sound that rock-ed the world!

"Sister Act" Tuesday, February 19 – Sunday, February 24, 2013 Rejoice! A truly new spin on Mother Superior, Deloris and her Sisters as they rid the world of crime and rediscover their own voices in the meanwhile.

"Catch Me If You Can" Tuesday, April 23 – Sunday, April 28, 2013 Will the real Frank W. Abagnale, Jr. please stand up? Based on the DreamWorks film – this man will lead you on an adventure as a pilot, doctor, and a lawyer and where he ends up? You'll have to catch the show.

"Wicked" Wednesday, June 12 – Sunday, July 7, 2013 By popular demand, defying gravity this luster-filled fantasy of a big Broadway show clicks its collective heels and lands not on your sister's house but Uihlein Hall for an extended visit. An exceptional way for a family to spend a summer's evening.

The above is what we have to look forward to – and for what's happening now:

The Milwaukee Ballet has "Peter Pan" winging in to Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Thursday, May 10 - Sunday, May 13. This is Michael Pink's most recent acclaimed work that took five years to create and bring to the stage.

The Grammy Award Winning Florentine Opera Company closes out this season with: "Idomeneo" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Friday, May 18 – Sunday, May 20 Uihlein Hall, this was Mozart's very first opera. Sung in Italian, English translations projected above the stage. Please don't forget the Opera Social held at Boom, the Sunday prior to the opening (Sunday, May 13).

Next Act Theater has an absolutely striking

new venue, with a parking lot, at 255 South Water Street. It's a perfect place to take in first-rate theater, and the People of Next Act share their facility with the Community. I had the pleasure of visiting recently for the Cream City Foundation's fund raiser for their very worthwhile Arts & Philanthropy Fund. Next Act offers Milwaukee's Crowned King of Comedy, John McGivern in "Special Presentation: Summer Stories with John McGivern, By John McGivern, Starring the Emmy Award Winning John McGivern, Wednesday, May 2 – Sunday, May 27.

The Skylight Music Theatre, nee Skylight Opera Theatre Company brings the sensational sounds of Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday in the Park with George"

In full bloom Friday, May 18 – Sunday, June 10 158 North Broadway. Applied Arts brought to life by the Performing Arts – sounds like a brilliant marriage! For tix, please call: 414-291-7811.

Congratulations and an "att-a-girl" to Dear Ruthie being honored as this year's Grand Marshall of The Gay Pride Parade! We have a lot to be proud of having Dear Ruthie in our Community. All the good will and charitable deeds Ruthie has contributed throughout the years, making for a most well-deserved fete! Brava!

Looking for a fun neighborhood bar to practice your singing at? There is always The New Yorker Karaoke Bar 645 North Lovell (7th & Wisconsin Avenue). 414-272-9444. Courtney holds court every Tuesday – Saturday 9 PM – Close.

You'll hear everything from "Smoke on the Water" to "New York, New York"! Sing out Louise!

Lizzie Bordeaux has brought to my attention a fab new spot to dine. Tapas Espana House 3rd & Wells Street – formerly The Clock Steakhouse. If you're looking for a taste of Spain and you're off to a night of splendid theater at Dale Gutzman's "Off the Wall", The Rep, or The Pabst – this is a great way to begin an evening on the town! Ask for Jon – for perfect service!

As summer will soon be upon us, how about curling up with a good read and enjoying the summer wind... We have no control over the weather but the read and so much more can be found at Afterwords Bookstore & Espresso Bar 2710 North Murray Avenue 414-963-9089

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Other milestones to share, the Community mourns the loss of John L. Scaduto, DDS, "Scoots" was an M&M Club fixture, an accomplished painter, a jazz fan and performer – who sang with the original Fest City Singers as well as professionally at The Packing House. A Dentist by career – his practice on Broadway is now known as Dr. David Paris' office. Sympathies to his life partner Tim Hourigan.

Congratulations to David L. Marsteller, Jr. who recently was elected to the Board of Equality Wisconsin. Welcome Equality's new Executive Director, Jason Burns.

This month marks my sixth year of service at Boom, as a Friday night cocktail hour bartender! Cheers to all of you, who drop in, catch up, enjoy the show tunes, created by Baby Jane Hudson, and partake in a sip or two...

Once again, it's Food Time – and once again, we return to The Capital Grille 310 West Wisconsin Avenue Suite 100 414-223-0600.

I attended ARCW's Jolly, Holly, Folly last December and won a Raffle – Dinner at The Capital Grille! Lauren Ashley Glatz was our star server and due to her and her colleagues, a five star dinner was enjoyed by one and all! Compliments to Chef Mike (Moose) Meinzer for a most regal repast! Appetizers: Wagyu Beef Carpaccio, Arugula Salad, Lemon Vinaigrette and Pan-fried Calamari, with hot cherry peppers. The Soup and Salad Course: Clam Chowder and the "Wedge" with bleu cheese and applewood smoked bacon. Entrée: Porcini rubbed Delmonico (Rib-eye) with 12 years aged Balsamic. Accompaniments: Roasted Cremini, Portabella, Shiitake, Oyster Mushrooms Fresh Asparagus with Hollandaise Sauce, Sam's Mashed Potatoes, Lobster Mac "N' Cheese, and Seasonal Fresh Vegetables. Dessert: The Capital Grille Dessert Platter – of course! Starring a coconut cream pie to die for!

Each course was paired with a perfect wine selection, that enhanced and complimented our flawless feast. Paul Hawkins, Makisha Porter, and Staff provided a most memorable meal.

When planning that special rendezvous with special ones, take them some place special. You won't be disappointed at The Capital Grille.

From the Run for the Roses to I.M.L. in Chicago over Memorial Day Weekend – Make this month of May a most marvelous one -- after all it is the glamor, not the grammar – as I remain Still Cordially yours,.




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Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen



Hello my little Ruthie Rooters! Welcome back to the Bitchin' Kitchen. It's been a while since we grabbed a hot cup of joe...or a cold glass of beer...and read some reader letters together. I just so happened to have a few sitting in my inbox thingy, so I thought we'd read one now. How's that?

Dear Ruthie,

I've been living in a Milwaukee suburb for 7 months. (I don't wish to disclose where I moved from but it was outside Wisconsin, and I came here for a job.) I can't say that I love the city yet, but it's growing on me. People keep telling me I'll love it here once summer rolls around.

That's all good and fine, but I think I'd enjoy myself more if I had a boyfriend. I'm a nice, professional, good-looking guy. People tell me I am, anyway. I've never really had much trouble meeting men, but I can't seem to meet a quality

guy here...other than an occasional hookup.

Someone told me you're Milwaukee's advice maven, so why don't you send some wisdom my way?

Thanks! Lonely Joe

Dear Joe,

Welcome to Milwaukee! We'll turn you into a beer-drinkin' cheese-lovin' Packer Backer yet! But for now, let's zoom in on your love life.

You may be having a hard time meeting guys because you don't have as many friends as you did in your old city...thus fewer connections via friends. Maybe I'm wrong, but that's a theory.

I'm going to tell you what I tell every other lovelorn person that shoots me an email about meeting Mr. Right...get your keester out there and volunteer someplace! You'll meet people with the same interests, and you'll become a part of an

organization sure to open you up to new people.

Now is a great time to volunteer. Pridefest is just around the corner, so visit www.pridefest.com for volunteering opportunities. Milwaukee's Pride Parade can always use a hand or two as well. Check them out at www.prideparademke.org. (I heard they have a gorgeous Grand Marshal this year, btw.)

Not your cup of tea? See www.mkel-gbt.org to learn about the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. There are lots of ways to lend hand with that group, as is the case with AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (www.arcw.org).

Look into these wonderful charities, or any charity that might interest you, and you're sure to meet some fantastic guys. Thanks for writing Joe! Now let's whip up some grub in the Bitchin' Kitchen!

In case you haven't noticed, it's May, folks...and that means Cinco de Mayo...and that means margaritas...and that means tequila...and that means waking up beneath a guy named Juan...and that means the guy's real name is probably David or Chuck or some crap but in my drunken stupor I've

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decided to call him Juan because it's Cinco de Mayo, damn it!

Whether you only enjoy margaritas on May 5, you toss 'em back with your gal pals every Friday night or you wash your hair with Chi-Chi's strawberry margarita mix, we all enjoy munching on savory Southwestern snacks while sipping the tequila treats.

That said, we're having a fiesta in the Bitchin' Kitchen, featuring some spectacular appetizers from my amiga Mona of SSBL fame (Saturday Softball League).

Mona was kind enough to have me over for a little party recently, but most important, the Latin spitfire shared a few of her recipes. Thanks Mona! Your free Bitchin-Kitchen T-shirt is on the way! As for the rest of you, eat good and shut up! Adios.

HEARTY CHORIZO SPREAD

When Mona of Milwaukee served this at a party, I wasn't sure what to expect. The spread is so thick and meaty, I thought it was filling for tacos. She served it with corn chips, however, and it was friggin' delicious!

10 to 12 ounces pork chorizo
1 small onion, finely chopped
1 fresh jalapeno or Serrano chili pepper, sliced (optional)
1 cup mayonnaise
1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese
1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

Sour cream (optional)
1/4 cup chopped cilantro (optional)
Corn chips or tortilla chips

Coat a large skillet with nonstick cooking spray. Remove chorizo from casing, crumbling sausage into pan. Stir over medium-hot heat. Add minced onion and pepper if desired. Cook for about 6 to 8 minutes or until chorizo is no longer pink and onion is soft. Drain.

In the same skillet, add mayonnaise, cream cheese and Parmesan to meat mixture. Continue cooking and stirring, over low-medium heat, until cheese is melted and mixture is well combined. Remove from heat and spoon into serving bowl. Top with a dollop of sour cream and chopped cilantro if desired. Serve with chips of your choice.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Mona often uses a pound of chorizo for this recipe. Lean chorizo links may need you to add a tablespoon or two of oil to the pan while cooking. Because this spread is so meaty and thick, you may want to try it as a filling for tacos or burritos.

SWEET & SAVORY BAGEL BITES

The warm appetizers were the hit of Mona's party because they're the perfect combo of sweet and savory...brown sugar and bacon!

I'm not going to give you specific measurements to make things even easier. This recipe yields about 32 appetizers.

4 plain bagels, split horizontally
16 slices of bacon
32 wooden toothpicks
Brown sugar

Preheat oven to 425°. Separate each bagel half. Cut all of the bagel tops and bottoms into quarters. (You should now have 32 bagel pieces.)

Cut each slice of bacon in half. Wrap each bagel piece with a piece of bacon and secure with a toothpick. Set on baking sheets.

Generously sprinkle wrapped bagels with brown sugar. Bake at 425° for 20 minutes or until bacon is crisp.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Mona recommends sugar alternative Splenda brown sugar when making this recipe. She also mounds the sugar on each appetizer before securing everything with a toothpick. If you're having a smaller gathering, simply cut the ingredients in half.

Got a recipe for Ruthie? Have a problem only she can solve? Contact her at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com or see her Facebook page Ruthie DearRuthie. If she publishes your recipe, you'll receive a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt!



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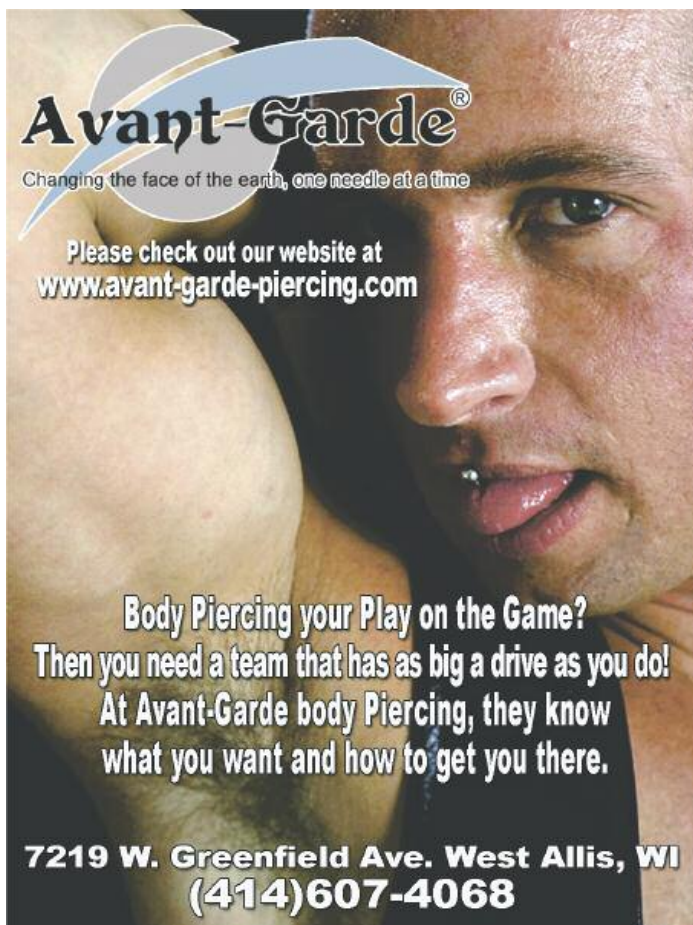
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Well as I sit here staring out of my office window I can't help but think, and hope that winter is now behind us and summer is here to stay. With those summer hopes and dreams I want to, once again, remind you that Pridefest and the Pride Parade Are fast approaching. Just a little over one month and they will both be here! Pridefest will happen once again at Milwaukee's lakefront at Henry Maier Festival park (Summerfest grounds) June 8-10, for more info visit their website at www.pridefest.com. The parade is also coming! It will take place on Sunday June 10th at 2:00pm; the route is still from Greenfield Ave to Seeboth Ave along 2nd street. For more info check out their website at www.pridepardemke.org.

Alright now that that's done let's get on with it shall we? This month with summer fast approaching I thought it would be good to talk about tattoos.

While avid readers of my column will recall that I am a strong believer in getting tattooed and pierced in the winter most people don't

listen and will get their work done in the summer. With the summer coming a few precautions and things to know about will help you in the care of your new tattoo in the harsh days of summer.

First off, let's review how to heal your tattoo. Wait a min, we did this before and if I remember correctly that took a whole damn column to explain!! So, let's just go over a quick review. 1. Don't ever pick the scabs!! (Pick your nose and not your tattoo okay!) 2. Keep the tattoo out of water, with exception to when you wash it every day with mild antibacterial soap. 3. Moisturize your skin according to what your tattooist recommends. If they don't recommend it then don't do it. 4. Listen to your tattooist!! (The most important thing I think) Well that about wraps up how to take care of them, I wonder why the last time we did this it took a column? (That's right it's called "fill" in the industry)

Second of all, you absolutely need to make sure to protect your tattoo from the sun. This means using clothing to cover it or using sun

block, not sun screen, on your tattoo. The sun destroys your skin cells (which is what makes you tan along with a bunch of medical stuff that will put anyone to sleep) which allows the ink form the tattoo to spread out in your skin. Overtime this will make your tattoo look fuzzy and almost out of focus. The only cure for this is to have the tattoo redone, a very costly position as you are now paying for the same tattoo twice! This is even more important if your tattoo is fresh as the skin has yet to heal from the initial injury, by putting it in the sun you are just hurting it more.

Lastly, make sure you protect your tattoo while you are out enjoying that wonderful weather. By this type of protection I of course mean against physical damage. (i.e. dirt, concrete, your drunk friend hitting it) A fresh tattoo is very sensitive and delicate, even a small cut or scrap on the tattoo could cause major damage to the artwork below. So be wary of this fact when getting your tattoo if you are going to be doing anything at the beach or participating in a sporting event, as both of those things can easily damage a tattoo beyond repair in some cases.

And this all I have to say about that. This month the mail bag was kind of dry and about all that was in there was a couple pieces of hair, two letters from my personal stalker, and a small box from my editor that is ticking. (I think I'll just leave that in the bag for right now and open that one later)

Well I am all done for this month. I guess I'll go see what the guy in the mailbag wants . . . or hasJ! Until next time have a great May and enjoy the great weather (hopefully) and show off your tattoos and piercings at Pride in June!

If you have a question, or would like a topic covered, email Brent at avantgarde@voyager.net.

KRUZ



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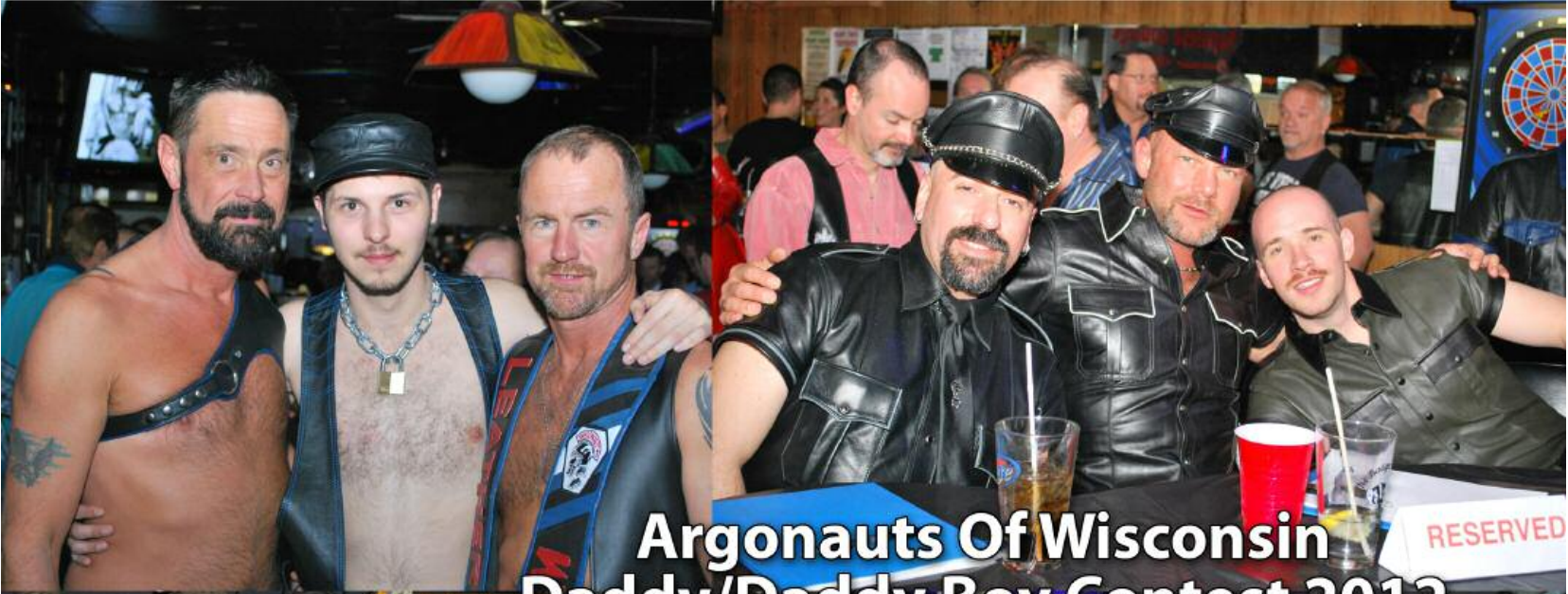
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Madison, WI 53713
608-271-3381
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N6441 5th Ave.
Plainfield, WI 54966
715-335-8277
Open 8am-Midnight

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16475 W. Russell Road
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MUST BE 18 TO ENTER. VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE OR STATE-ISSUED ID REQUIRED.

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

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1 Ballgame 196 S 2nd (414)273-7474

2 Boom 625 S. 2nd St (414)277-5040

5 DIX 739 S 1st Street

6 ETC 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330

7 Fluid 819 South 2nd (414)643-5843

8 Harbor Room 117 E Greenfield (414)672-7988

* Hybrid 707 E Brady St (414)810-1809

9 KRUIZ 354 E. National (414)272-KRUIZ

6 LaCage 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330

11 Mona's 1407 S. First St (414)643-0377

6 Montage 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330

12 Nut Hut 1500 W Scott (414)647-2673

* PURR 3945 N. 35TH Milwaukee

13 This Is It 418 E Wells (414)278-9192

14 Triangle 135 E National (414)383-9412

* Two 718 E. Burleigh St.

15 Walker's Pint 818 S 2nd St (414)643-7468

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Sunday

Smirnoff
mixers
Long Islands
Mimosas &
Bloodys
Just

\$4.50

Monday

MANIC
MONDAYS
2 FOR 1
DOMESTIC
BEER & RAIL



Tuesday

4PM - 8PM

\$2 Miller Bottles
\$1 off Everything

9PM - CLOSE

\$1.50 MILLER
LITE TAPPERS

\$3 Schlitz
Tall Boys

\$2 PBRs

AND
KARAOKE!



Wednesday

4PM - 8PM

\$2 Miller
Lite Bottles

\$1 off
everything

9PM - CLOSE

\$2 off
All Whiskey
& Wine

\$2 off
All Whiskey
& Wine

\$2 off
All Whiskey
& Wine

\$2 off
All Whiskey
& Wine

Thursday

COLLEGE
NIGHT

9PM - CLOSE

\$2 PBRs

\$3 Schlitz
Tall Boys

\$4 Long
Islands

\$4 Long
Islands

\$4 Long
Islands

Friday

4PM - 8PM

2-4-1
on all
Beer & Rail



FRIDAY NITE
DJ SHAWNA
& DANCERS!

Saturday

10AM - 4PM

\$4.50 Bloodys
Mosas &
Long Islands

4PM - 8PM

Beer Bust

\$8 domestic

\$12 import
& craft

12AM - 1AM

2-4-1
Beer & Rail

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Show us your ID for a free birthday drink.



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Milwaukee Pride Parade

SUNDAY, JUNE 10 - 2 PM

www.prideparademke.org



LaCAGE NITECLUB

Friday May 4th

Latin theme show
2-4-1 Corona till 11:30 pm

Saturday May 5th

Cinco de Mayo celebration
Guest DJ: DJ Kelly



Miss WI USofA send off show @11
Join us as we wish MiAmi and
Jaida. Good luck!

Sunday May 6th

Mr & Miss La Cage pageant
Doors open 9:30pm, starts 10pm

Saturday May 12th

La Cage softball team
fundraiser 4pm

Mr & Miss Pride Fest pageant
Doors open 8:30pm, starts 9pm

DJ Will Calder from NYC visits!!
Beginning 10pm

Friday May 25th

90's rewind show at 11pm

Sunday May 27th

Memorial Day Party
With REDSTAR Male Revue Show
Show starts 10:30pm
Off on Monday? Join us as the guys
take it off for you tonight!!!-

Pride Fest is June 8,9 and 10



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Sunday's

\$4 Beer & \$4 Mixers from 6pm to close

Monday's

TGIM- Happy Hour Open to Close

Tuesday's

"Take if Off Tuesdays!"

Take \$2 off all Mixers and Domestic Beers
Hot Dancers and Hot Bartender!
Get your bucks out!

REDSTAR



Wednesday's Entertainer Spotlight show

Your Host Windy Breeze with cast member
Kilia Deverreux
with special guest. Show starts 11pm

2-4-1 on beer, Rail & Call Drinks all Night Long



Thursday's

"Thirsty Thursdays!"

Liquor Bust & Hot Dancers
Bust & Lust with Brian and Chad!

REDSTAR

MONTAGE LOUNGE

Friday's Transformations show

Your Host Bryanna Banx\$ with cast members Windy
Breeze, Harmony Breeze, Devry Sha and Betty Boop
Show starts 11pm



Saturday's

VANITY AFFAIR SHOW

Your Host Anastasia Deverreux with cast members
Jaida Dumar-Hall, Tempest Heat & Redashia Valentino
Show starts 11pm

