

QUEST

JUNE 2012

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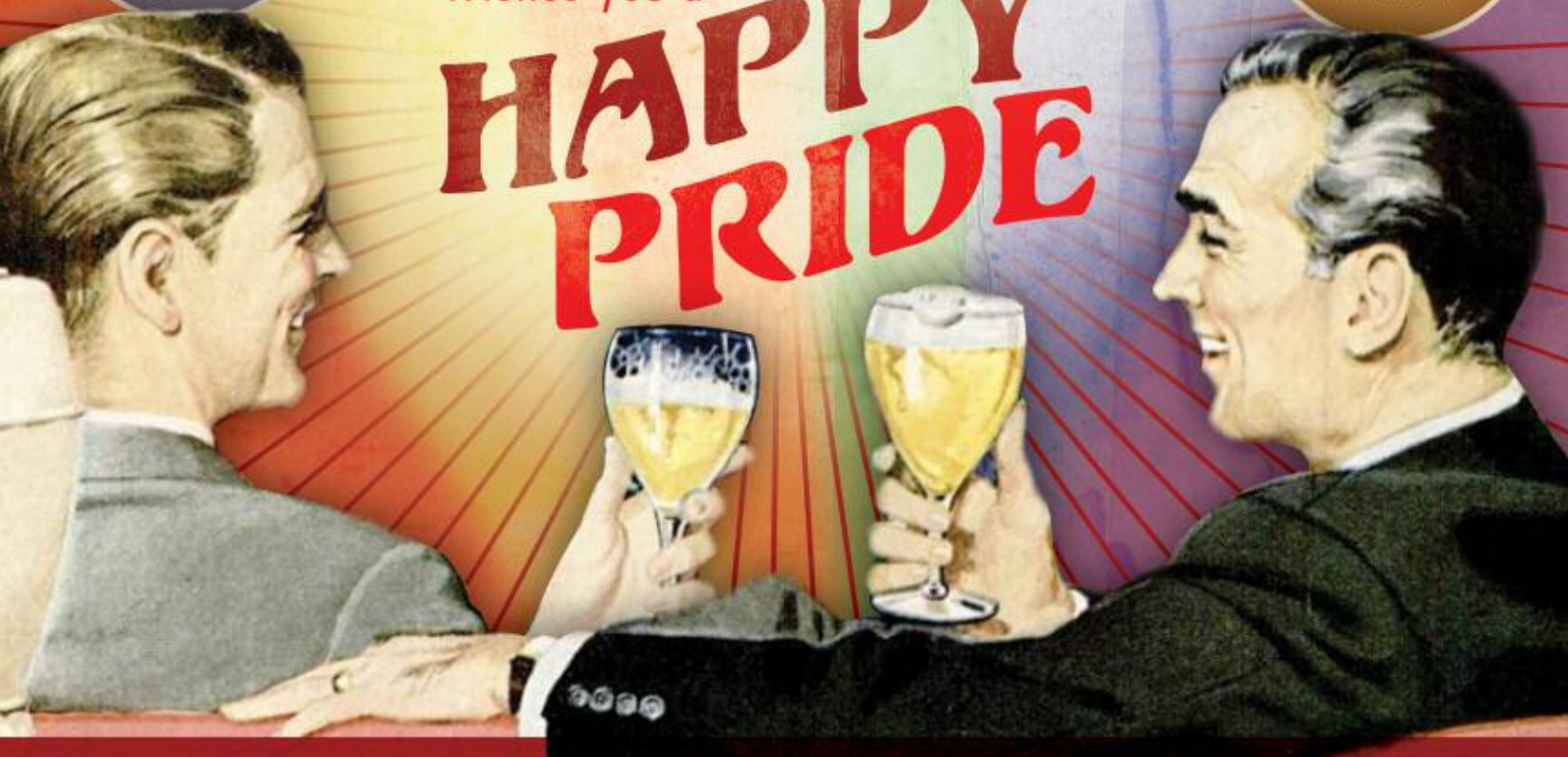
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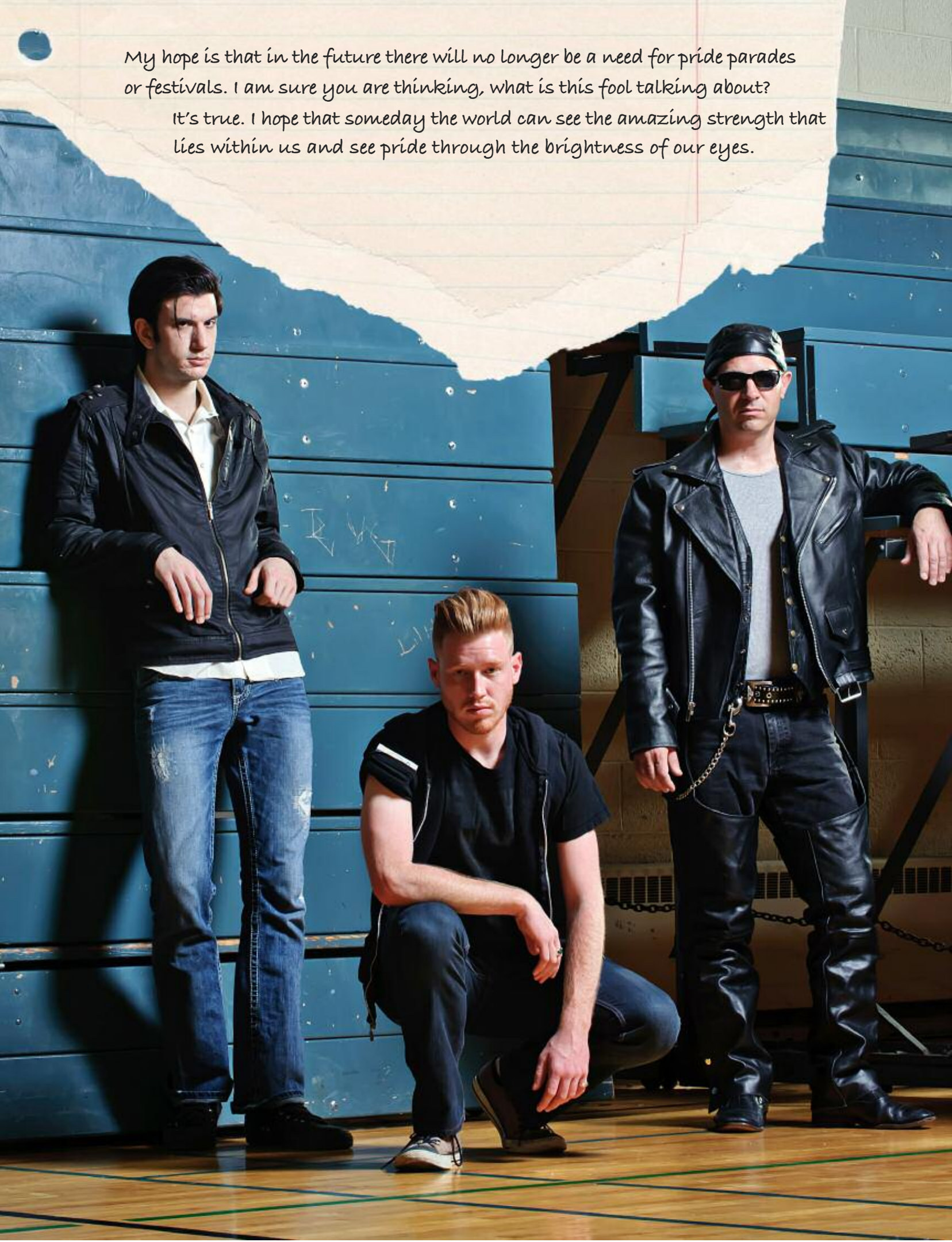
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My hope is that in the future there will no longer be a need for pride parades or festivals. I am sure you are thinking, what is this fool talking about?

It's true. I hope that someday the world can see the amazing strength that lies within us and see pride through the brightness of our eyes.





For those of you struggling with bullying in schools, discrimination in the work place, stereotypes from friends or family, I beg of you to hang in there. In some unexplainable way, one day you will wake up and it will be better. However, if at times it is too unbearable (and trust me I know), reach out and tell someone. There are so many resources out there. You are not alone. The most important thing to remember is that somewhere in this crazy world there is a place for you. The world needs your smile, your laughter, your experience, your strength and your hope. Do not give up, and I promise I will not either. For now, we do have pride festivals and parades. Our flag, like the colors that represent the diversity of our community will fly for the world to see what strength can accomplish. A strength that shows me everyday life is worth living. I am so proud to be me. I am so proud of you.

—Joey Taylor

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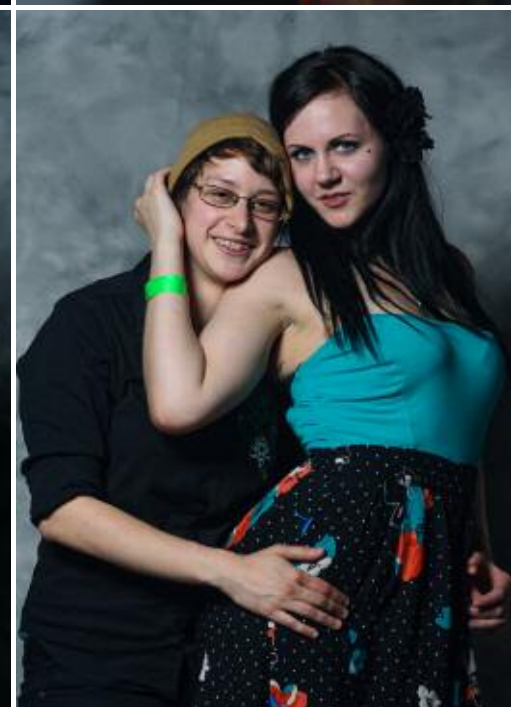
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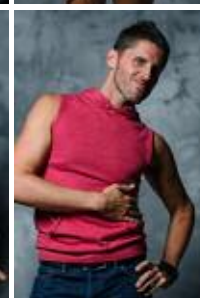
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This project is supported by Dane Arts with additional funds from the Madison Gas & Electric Foundation, Dan Erdman, Electronic Theatre Controls and CUNA Mutual Group.





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STRONG AND PROUD
CLASS OF 2012**
Photographer: Mike Hiller
Art Direction: Kelton Hatton
assisted by Tyler Olson
Graphic Design: Paul Siebers



LOCAL WISCONSIN NEWS by Quest Publisher, Mark Mariucci

NOMADICLIMBS PERFORMS PRIDEFEST

Milwaukee - NomadicLIMBS, a Summer Dance Company is a group of talented dancers and artists from across the country led by Artistic Director Thom Dancy, a midwestern choreographer affiliated with Milwaukee Ballet and the San Diego Ballet.

The idea for the company is to combine local talent from multiple dance companies, as well as talent from across the nation in a summer troupe that promotes cutting-edge, exciting contemporary dance. From April to August, professional dancers are 'off-season,' giving NomadicLIMBS the chance to bring in first rate talent to perform in Milwaukee. This summer, on top of having dancers from Milwaukee Ballet and UWM, they have dancers from Tulsa Ballet, San Diego Ballet, a Choreographer from Kansas, and a Video Artist working with us out of Chicago.

If you missed the show at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center on June 2nd, you can catch them at PrideFest performing at the Wom!ns Spot Lounge and Cafe and there are two performances at the end of June at The Carte Blanche Studio Theatre; June 29 @ 7:30pm and June 30 @ both 3 and 7:30pm.



LACAGE CLOSING? WELL NOT REALLY!

Milwaukee - An article in the Milwaukee Journal this past Thursday had the facebook rumor mill ablaze when it was revealed there were foreclosure proceedings on Milwaukee's largest and long running dance bar, LaCage (ETC & Montage).

After speaking with co-owner Michael (who is also an advertiser in this magazine) we can confirm the bar is not closing and most or all of the issues that caused a foreclosure to begin have been resolved.

The bank holding the mortgage may have jumped the gun when they learned that property taxes remained unpaid as a result of an honest mistake. It takes time to sort out these issues but the foreclosure has stopped and the property taxes are up to date.

Michael expressed frustration over learning of the news story and claims the Milwaukee Journal made no attempt to reach him before verifying the information which they can get online as part of a public record once a foreclosure is begun. The Journal article says they tried to contact the owners with no results.

"If anything, this makes me even more determined to continue with LaCage," stated Michel in his telephone conversation with Quest.

A sour economy and changing LGBT population have put stress on much of our community. We have seen recent financial problems with the Milwaukee LGBT Center and lost several bars in recent years, Triangle being the most recent. It is important that we remember to patronize the remaining LGBT businesses if we want them to continue.

WISCONSIN CREAM CITY CHORUS CONCERT ENDS 25-YEAR RUN

Milwaukee - The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus (WCCC) will hold its final concert, "Schlemiel, Schlimazel! Celebrating the Cream City and the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus," on Saturday, June 16. The concert, originally planned as a celebration of the Milwaukee itself, will instead focus more on the WCCC and its life in the Cream City over the last 25 years. "Once we knew that this concert would be the finale of our as a voice in the LGBT community, the concept evolved," said Kristen L. Weber, the group's Managing Artistic Director. "Milwaukee took a bit of a back seat — which isn't to say that this concert is about the chorus itself; it's not. It reflects our message over the last quarter century."

According to Weber, the show's two performances (5 & 7:30 PM) will feature several medleys and other numbers focusing on various subjects near and dear to the chorus: "...the struggle against homophobia and the hope of building a better community, the fear and loss caused by AIDS, songs of love, folks songs, spirituals, and of course a healthy mix of show tunes." In addition, the second performance will include a bonus medley of some of the raunchier songs performed at the group's early cabaret concerts. Both performances include a silent auction.

A special highlight for many of the WCCC's earliest fans will be a reunion appearance by eight of the original "Creamettes," a sub-group of the chorus in the early years. The group, joined by their accompanist, will share three numbers near and dear to the

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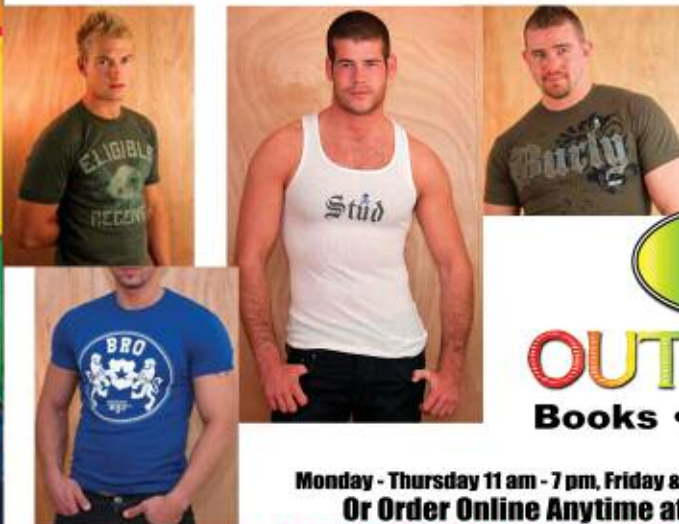
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group's audiences in the late 1980s.

Tickets for the performance are \$12 in advance through brownpapertickets.org and chorus members. At-the-door tickets will be \$15 (\$13 senior/student; youth free). A \$30 package price for one ticket plus the WCCC's final CD, "This Is Our Legacy," is also available. The CD includes audience favorites and other numbers significant to the group and its history. The CD can be purchased separately for \$20 at tuneswoon.com, search: Cream City.

PERFECT HARMONY'S WORLD PREMIER OF "HEARTLANDS"

Madison - Madison has unique qualities that make it one of the best places to live in the United States.

Chief among those are the commitment to supporting local community members, farmers, chefs, artists, small businesses or non-profits. We love learning about our history and the amazing people that have called Wisconsin home.

Local non-profit, Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus, has found a way to merge quite a few of those local options. Local composer Arthur Durkee combined written histories of the local LGBT community with an original score to create "Heartlands" which will have its world premiere on June 16th at the Madison Masonic Center.

This commissioned work was three years in the making and was sparked by interviews, poems and life-stories of members of the chorus, past and pres-

ent. There are few artists up to the task and Mr. Durkee has clearly delivered a powerful choral work with an even more powerful message for all of us. The message: hate and prejudice do exist, yet as long as we use our voices and remain visible, hate and prejudice will not win.

Perfect Harmony is part of the international organization GALA Chorus. Perfect Harmony is one of the smallest markets with a gay chorus and very few larger choruses would attempt such a Herculean task. That being said, "Heartlands" will be part of the quadrennial GALA Chorus Festival and an international group of peers will now have access to this incredible song cycle. For tickets, go to:

www.perfectharmonychorus.org.

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HAPPY 15TH ANNIVERSARY: GLBT PARTNERSHIP of APPLETON

by Paul "Cricket" Jacob

President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden recently recharged the batteries of LGBT advocates and activists by publicly acknowledging their support for same-sex marriage. The president has described his views as "evolving". Some see the evolution of Obama's views as reflective of an acceptance which seems to be growing across the nation and in other parts of the world: Several states have recently opted to provide comparable marriage rights to gay persons. Many churches are now subscribing to an 'open and affirming' attitude toward their LGBT members, including the sanctification of unions. And more and more agencies, schools and

workplaces are initiating policies designed to recognize, respect and protect LGBT persons.

Here in Wisconsin we have much to be proud of regarding efforts to provide LGBT persons with equitable civil and constitutional rights. In 1982 Wisconsin became the first state in the U.S.A. to pass anti-discrimination laws specifically protecting LGBT persons. Twenty other states have since followed Wisconsin's lead.

Beyond the legislative arena, dozens of high schools, universities and communities throughout Wisconsin embrace LGBT organizations. These multifunctional groups provide support, social opportunities, advocacy, and often work to educate the



uninformed and misinformed about LGBT issues.

The 'evolution of attitudes' is arguably the result of education, and familiarity, as folks are interacting more and more with responsible, respectable, "out" LGBT persons. These unavoidable role models are on our televisions, in our politics, in the news and next door. But the challenge to attain acceptance and self esteem, as a group and on a personal level, has not and does not come without effort. Herein lies an appropriate segue to a model group that has been doing remarkable things in Wisconsin's Fox River Valley: The GLBT PARTNERSHIP.

In a world where groups and organizations come and go as quickly as spare change, the GLBT Partnership has not only survived, but has thrived for 15 years! The group has been meeting in Appleton every Tuesday since 1997, and has welcomed more than 2,000 youth during that time. But this is more than just an opportunity to sit and chat with like-minded individuals. In fact, the weekly meetings are chock-full of valuable educational opportunities and trainings. Plus, a variety of special events are organized each year (Night of Noise, Pride Prom, GSA Conference and World AIDS Day) which provide comradery and leadership development, preparing youth for their futures.

The GLBT Partnership of Appleton has offered hundreds of community presentations & trainings to area businesses, non-profits, schools, government groups, and community organizations. It has also birthed new groups that have spread its influence across larger age demographics and geographical areas: the GLBT Partnership of Green Bay, Spectrum groups in Green Bay and Appleton, and the S.A.F.E. group at Neenah's YOUTH GO organization. Youth in the Fox Valley now have 3 weekly options (Green Bay on Mondays, Appleton on Tuesdays and Neenah on Wednesdays) and adults have 2 weekly options (Appleton on Mondays and Green Bay on Tuesdays), as well as a monthly P-FLAG group that is meeting at the Appleton Harmony Café.

The model of Harmony Café has been called the "LGBT Center for the 21st Century" as it combines the programs and services of a typical LGBT Center, with a dynamic array of artistic and leadership endeavors, and offers safe space seven days a week. But the LGBT community is only one of many populations served by this remarkable entity. Harmony Café (with locations in Appleton and Green Bay) houses many programs and groups of all sorts, serving different needs and populations. "Being 'one of several' groups that meet here, the LGBT community enjoys integration with the greater community," says Deanna Tappy, Program Coordinator for Harmony Café, Green Bay. "And that has been one of the greatest strengths leading to the group's long-term success." Indeed, many would argue that acceptance and integration has been the dream of LGBTs all along.

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Photo by Robin Wong

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The Harmony Café team is recognized, and has won frequent awards across the State for having the expertise, cultural competency and vision to be a statewide leader in justice for people of all gender identities and sexual orientations. This, combined with the mountains of anecdotal evidence validating betterment and success, make participants and supporters extremely proud of this precious jewel in Northeast Wisconsin.

The GLBT Partnership and Harmony Café have surpassed all expectations since their inceptions. In 15 years they have changed thousands of minds and lives, creating a more compassionate community, and placing LGBT youth on a more positive trajectory. These opportunities were not available to past generations, and we cannot take the progress that has been made for granted. This is TOO IMPORTANT to not take advantage of the momentum! Please recognize and support these great assets in whatever way you can so the next 15 years are as gainful as the past 15.

IT'S A PARTY:

"A September 18 celebration will serve as a launching point for our next 15 years," says Shannon Kenevan of Harmony Café. "We'll bring together past Partnership alumni (some of whom are now 33 years old!), current youth group members, our community partners and allies, as well as adults from the broader LGBT community to celebrate our amazing 15 year history, and also to unveil and launch our new 15 year vision." The event will be a fun, beach-themed party at Waverly Beach in Menasha, with entertainment, non-alcoholic tropical drinks, and more than 400 friends and allies. "We're encouraging anyone and everyone to attend. We need your support," says Jesse Heffernan, Program Coordinator for Harmony Café Appleton. "Have lots of fun and learn about all the great things we're doing for the LGBT community!"

Your help with the September 18 celebration would be greatly appreciated. Please join the 15 Year Event planning team, help spread the word among friends, alumni and community groups, become an event sponsor, donate a silent auction item or become a Table Captain. Your support of Harmony Café and its programs will help insure continued opportunities for LGBT youth and many other groups.

- Follow Harmony Café on Facebook
- Dine at, and attend events at Harmony Café
- Join one of the many groups meeting regularly at Harmony Café
- Tell your friends about, or better yet, take them to Harmony Café
- Keep working to make the Fox River Valley a more welcoming and inclusive place for ALL people.

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BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA MILWAUKEE

An interview with Craig Bodoh, Time Coach

by Paul Masterson

Tempus fugit, time flies is an ancient Roman adage one often hears. Time also flies when you're having fun they say. For some time is money.

For Craig Bodoh, a personal effectiveness consultant, time is his business. He knows time. One might say he's obsessed by time. Bodoh has coached individuals, companies, and even Milwaukee city employees how to productively use time. His frustration is the amount of time people waste. His mission is to train individuals into new time conscious habits.

Pursuing a career as specialized consultant, Bodoh falls into a specific category known as life coaches. The coach concept has become a market trend. Like personal trainers at the local gym focus on improving physical prowess, life coaches encourage people to alter negative behaviors. Others coach their clients through divesting of clutter, organizing sock drawers, parenting and dating.

Coaches have also become part of the LGBT lifestyle. Recently, the Gay Coaches Alliance (GCA), an organization founded in 2003 to organize a network of gay men's coaches, held its first international conference in upstate New York. Craig Bodoh attended as a guest speaker.

QUEST spoke with Craig Bodoh about coaching, its specific relevance to gay lifestyle, and the conference.

QUEST: Let's first talk about the coach scene. We see ads, yours included, for all sorts of self-improvement coaches. How does one know one even needs a coach and what does one look for in a coach?

Craig Bodoh: Clients are usually dissatisfied with something in their life and wants to change. They might be stressed out or disorganized. For gay men, GCA website offers a starting point. You look at the coach's background. Some have degrees or certifications. If that's important, that's fine. A local coach might be preferred but Skyping or email coaching might work for some.

QUEST: Coaching requires command of a specific talent. Personal trainers study kinesiology, kitchen coaches have culinary training. How did you become a time management coach.

CB: My degree is in education. I went through a career transition. As part of that training, I did a time management workshop decide to pursue it myself. I did group training sessions. People asked if I did 1 on 1 consulting and I fell into personal consulting from there.

QUEST: How long have you been practicing?

CB: I began my business, Personal Effectiveness Plus in 1990. Now I have a website at <http://www.gainingtime.com/>

QUEST: Why do we waste time?

CB: Well, modern life has so many distractions and demands it's becoming increasingly challenging to

make appropriate choices. Most people are in a reactive mode versus proactive mode. That means they focus on the urgent things in their lives rather than on the most important things.

QUEST: Like the urgency of social media?

CB: Technology is a huge distraction in general...phone, computer, social media...are all part of the distraction from our priorities.

QUEST: What about down time. Is that wasting time or is it an effective and necessary use of time?

CB: Down time within reason is a necessary thing but not when it becomes an escape. Escapism can be part of a balance but for some it allows them to avoid responsibility.

QUEST: How does a client address avoidance.

CB: A client needs to get a hold of all the demands on personal and professional time. I help assist that and compile data. I assess that information with the client and ask if that's how he wants to use their time.

QUEST: What about avoidance as a symptom of a deeper psychological problem?

CB: We're not trained psychologists but if there's an apparent problem beyond just a need to prioritize the use of time. A good coach will advise a referral. Conversely, if a psychologist sees the need he or she might refer a patient to a life coach. Some have



works of coaches they work with. It's a reciprocal arrangement.

QUEST: How compliant is an average client and what's the measure of success??

CB: Some are not aware of where their time goes. It's a wake up call for some to understand how they spend their time. If the client wants to change, they do. Most are. That's why they've come to me in the first place. Depending on the client's goals, that outcome is a personal measure of change.

QUEST: How long do you usually work with a client.

CB: There's no set average. It may be several visits over a period of time. Three or four initially. Some feel a need for more support and accountability. Then there may be reinforcement sessions.

QUEST: What's the role of accountability?

CB: The client is the coachee. The coach holds the client accountable. It could be a phone or email conversation. The deadlines are negotiated and built into the process. Maintaining that is the reason for success or failure.

QUEST: Why gay coaching?

CB: Because there's a comfort level knowing a coach has the same perspective or life history. If a gay man is interested in making change, having a gay coach is extremely important. The openness in a coaching relationship is necessary for honesty. Coaching can only be successful if the client is honest with his coach. If the client needs to go back into the closet to find a coach, the whole exercise would be compromised. I think it's important for gay men to know that there are coaches out there to assist in a transformation to more positive. To my knowledge, I'm the only one in Milwaukee.

QUEST: How long has the gay coaching field existed?

CB: The GCA was founded almost a decade ago. Based on the obvious need in the community, various coaches founded the organization. There are now 30 listed on the GCA website.

QUEST: Still, people might be skeptical because there isn't a professional degree required as a credential. Anyone can call himself a coach. Is a crystal shaman a viable coach? Are there coaching degrees?

CB: There may be coaching degrees offered in the future but there are training institutes that offer certification. GCA is a membership organization. There's a review process and if approved, the coach's profile is added to the website. Someone who does therapy with crystals could be a coach. Even a closet organizer coach can be legitimate and very valuable. An unorganized closet could be a symptom of avoiding decisions. But in the phase of finding a coach, the client can interview the coach and find out about the philosophy and methods used by the coach to see if there's a match. Most coaches offer a free session to see if there's compatibility.

QUEST: What is the usual cost?

CB: The cost is all over the map. Depending on experience and scope of services, some coaches have a fee and a retainer. Others are just fee based. The range is \$75-200/hr. It's not typically covered by insurance.

QUEST: What was the GCA conference about?

CB: It was the first ever. Topics were around assessments, building businesses. I was invited as a presenter, coaching coaches in time management. The participants represented the spectrum of coaches. It included executive coaches, business coaches, massage therapy, a couple of psychotherapists and myself, of course.

More information about the GCA may be found at <http://www.thegaycoaches.com/>

NEW ON DVD Private Romeo & Romeos Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Even those with even a nodding acquaintance with Shakespeare know that in Elizabethan times only men were allowed to tread the boards, something Gwyneth Paltrow's Viola rails against in the Oscar-acclaimed 1998 film, **Shakespeare in Love**, "Stage love will never be true love while the law of the land has our heroines being played by pip squeaked boys in petticoats."

Guilty pleasure confession: Glenn has long been truly, madly, deeply in love with the film, **Shakespeare in Love**. What's not to love? As soon as Joseph Fiennes' doe-eyed William Shakespeare appeared, Glenn was smitten. There was much to enjoy even during Fiennes' few off-screen moments, from Judi Dench's fabulous, Oscar-winning turn as Liz the First to Tom Stoppard's equally praiseworthy screenplay.

And unlike Shakespeare's original tale of star-crossed lovers, the film's final scenes are not unnecessarily littered with dead bodies.

This brings Glenn to Alan Brown's **Private Romeo**, a hot new DVD released just in time for Pride season, where as Hamlet was once wont to exclaim, "the play's the thing."

Inspired by Joe Calarco's acclaimed stage production, **Shakespeare's R&J**, **Private Romeo** sets its scene at a nearly deserted military academy. A surprisingly youthful instructor is leading his class of cadets in a play reading of **Romeo and Juliet**.

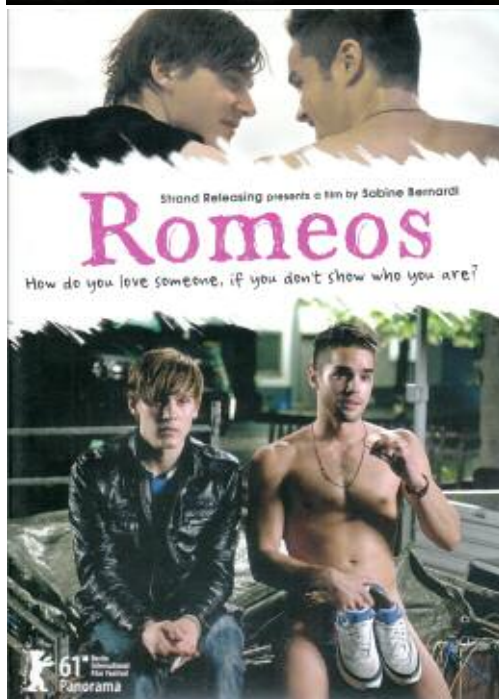
The play, however, doesn't take a curtain call when the bell tolls the end of class. From the classroom to the basketball court to the weight room and on to even the shower room, Shakespeare's tale unfolds.

The conceit in choosing to adapt **Romeo and Juliet** with a cast of male students is fraught with misadventure; many might dismiss **Private Romeo** as devised simply and quite shamelessly to cater to a gay male audience. Yet director Alan Brown and his strong, engaging cast are likely to bring a fascinating twist on this familiar love story to all moviegoers.

Taking lead roles are two promising Broadway actors; Seth Numrich takes on Romeo whilst Matt Doyle is his Juliet. Both young actors instill in their characters a marvelous freshness and innocence. Notably, they even manage Shakespeare's iambic pentameter with aplomb.

Indeed, Glenn is enthusiastic about the performances of all of the key players. In addition to Numrich and Doyle, special mention must also be given to Hale Appleman's dangerously sexy Mercutio and Chris Bresky's delightfully original Nurse.

As a double feature, Glenn thought it absolute genius to pair **Private Romeo** with **Romeos**,



an intriguing German film released early this year.

Romeos, too, is love story, focusing on the relationship between Lukas (Rick Okon), a young, transitioning FTM with Fabio (Maximilian Befort), a sexy, fit and dangerous young man who encompasses for Lukas everything he hopes to become. Although not actually based upon Shakespeare, **Romeos** finds its star-crossed lovers with rather more than simply a family feud to overcome.

Over the course of **Romeos**, the film follows Lukas' transformation, physically as well as so-

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Ever the romantic, Glenn is delighted to offer praise for both **Private Romeo** and **Romeos**, two films which prove "Love looks not with the eyes but with the mind."

As Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers, Seth Numrich and Matt Doyle are nothing short of beguiling. Thanks to director's Alan Brown's fluid, intimate filming, it is impossible not to feel how alive in the moment they are; their sense of urgency.

Brown's choice of setting, however, reaps no benefit. Reveille played on a boom box? Dorm rooms barren of all but the meagerest of personal possessions? Budgetary constraints surely proved the deciding factor. Still Glenn couldn't help but imagine the school's caretaker "tsk-tsking" whenever one of the cast or crew hung even a poster.

A deserted high school is clearly not the cinematic equivalent of a bare stage upon which Shakespeare's plays are often performed.

Romeos is compelling in large part, due to Rick Okon's mesmerizing, fearless performance as Lukas. His is a story too rarely told. While Lukas can be frustratingly self-absorbed, his personal journey proves nothing short of compelling.

Just the facts...

Private Romeo clocks in at a swift 98 minutes

Private Romeo is available on DVD with an SRP of \$24.95

DVD extras include deleted scenes, trailer, behind the scenes footage plus audio commentary.

Look for Hale Appleman in **Pedro**, the bio pic of one-time **Real World** participant, Pedro Zamora

All about **Private Romeo** @ www.privateromeothemovie.com

Romeos has a running time of 93 minutes and is in German with English subtitles.

Romeos original German title, "Anders als du Denkst!" can be roughly translated to "Different than you Think"

Romeos has an SRP of \$24.99.

cially. Spending hour after hour alone in his room with free weights, Lukas can see satisfying, measurable changes. Adapting socially is another matter, one not made any easier with the close interaction of his former girlfriend who can't exactly accept the change she sees taking place in Lukas, her one-time girlfriend.

When Lukas meets Fabio, there is an immediate spark. And a danger. He might well be Lukas' ideal, a dead sexy, quintessential alpha male but how will Fabio react if their relationship is to be taken to a sexual level?



Photography: Amand
Art Direction: Kelton
Performers/Models: Te



a Schlicher for Tangerine Studio
Hatton

mpet Heat, RJ, Betty Boop, Dmarco Dupree, Jay R Heat, Anastasia Deverreux, Milano Breeze, Harmony Breeze, Karizma Mirage, Eddie Valentin



Michael Johnston's trip to Amsterdam
Will the Red Light District ever be the same?



Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

Its Pride month and we all have so much to be Proud of! PrideFest is Friday, June 8 – Sunday, June 10 and has among many others, the dazzling talents of Belinda Carlisle, I loved the banner headline – “Carlisle Opens PrideFest” and Taylor Dayne is on Saturday night – live, and closing out our Silver Anniversary PrideFest on Sunday is Berlin – the group that “took our breath away!” The Milwaukee Lakefront will be rocking with the scintillating sounds of the 80’s! Please don’t forget The Leather Fashion Show Saturday the Cock-tail Hour– The Dance Tent with John Weiler, Maple Veneer, and God only knows who else!

The Pride Parade is once again on South Second Street, the Sunday of Pride – June 10 at 2:00 PM. I’ll be “perched” once again at Boom! And just in time to commemorate Pride in the U.S.A. our President has come out in support of same-sex marriage! Well, if they can have a man on the Moon...

As many of you know, recently I had the pleasure of visiting Amsterdam. What a great way to usher in the spring. Roger RamJet and I saw everything four eyes could see in eleven days! Our host hotel, The Dikker & Thijs Hotel, made for a great home away from home base, The Van Gogh Museum, the works of Rembrandt, galleries, museums – even if you can believe it a Purse Museum, AKA Museum of Bags and Purses, we paid homage at the Homo Monument – a display of three triangles, cathedrals, churches, botanical gardens, floral villages- Keukenhof, boutiques, cobble-stoned walks, canals, bakeries, and flower markets on every street corner, where you could purchase 50 tulips for five Euro! Not everything we did was so parochial, when in Amsterdam a tour of The Red Light District is a must! Very funny traipsing through the “questionable” part of town with tourists who looked like they came from a Red Bus! And like everywhere else they have a zoo, but their zoo however displayed animals in a more realistic fashion. Can you imagine birds flying around freely and a sense you were a part of their habitat? While the food could be classified as interesting and Olde World – the split pea soup a specialty there was might tasty, French fries were everywhere!

How better a way to end my European Holiday, than an evening with Miss Joan Collins? The ageless (79) vixen filled two hours with an oral autobiography. Of course the highlight was the “Dynasty” years. If she makes it to Brew City take her in, certainly the end of an era, for that kind of a dame! The program did offer a Q&A, and since I thought being an American, my question had a chance, I penned one. I asked the sensational siren her definition of glamor and who were her glamor icons? The first words out of her mouth were “Why are you here, all the way from the States”? Followed by “you must be clean!” I thought it hilarious, seeing as we’re in Europe and deodorant is not employed by everyone, or maybe not enough dry cleaners? She quickly followed with – mystique, being chic, having a “look”. Joan’s glamor icons are the leading ladies of Hollywood in the 1930’s and ‘40’s – Vivien Leigh, Ava Gardner, and of course Karen Valentine. Collins still looks, sounds, and moves in four inch heels, amazingly! After all the galleries and museums we purveyed, if a portrait ALA Dorian Gray of Joan exist, it isn’t in the Netherlands.

Warm, wonderful people like: Barry & Daniel, Fred, and another Daniel, Ershel, Ivan, Orlando, and beauti-

ful entertainers like, Jennifer Hopelezz and Axa Rod, as well as so many more Amsterdammers who really enhanced our trek by embracing us and making us no longer feel like strangers in Paradise.

The language and money difference, the ambiance, and architecture – dating way back to the 1500s, for the first time in my life I felt I was in another world... truly an optical orgasm.

This month there is another reason for visiting the Lakefront, besides PrideFest and our special 25th An-

niversary – The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) rolls out a European treat – “Posters of Paris: Toulouse Lautrec and his Contemporaries” Friday, June 1 – Sunday, September 9 – a summer on the Seine. Come see the bawdy, bold, beautiful, profane works of the 1890’s, enjoy not only Henri Toulouse Lautrec, but also Pierre Bonnard, Edouard Vuillard, and Jules Che’ret, among others.

Downtown Dining Week – in Downtown Milwaukee runs Thursday, June 7 – Thursday, June 14 \$10 Lunch, \$20 - \$30 Dinner in over 40 restaurants. This is the 7th Annual celebration of fine food in our fair city. Some of my all-time favorite eateries are participating in this event: Craig’s & Dawn’s Club Charlies, The Capital Grille, Sabor, Bartolotta’s Rumpus Room, The Metro, Kil-O-Wat, Jonathan’s Knick, and 34 more palate

WALKER'S PINT PRIDE WEEKEND GUIDE:

(No cover & PATIO OPEN all weekend)



Friday June 8th Open @ 4:30

kick-off party with \$3 bottles/cans of Miller Lite
DJ Nikki Bomb 10pm

Saturday June 9th Open @ Noon

1-6pm = M's Salon Pride Primp - Puuurty it up for the party
(3+ stylists - FREE ear/neck touch ups,
product application & styling etc)
FREE SHUTTLE to and from Pridefest grounds 5-10pm
DJ Shawna 10pm

Sunday June 10th Open @ Noon

Betsy Ade & Alyssa 12:30-2pm
Parade goes right past PINT at 2pm
Blue Sky Hour following the parade
DJ Shawna 10pm

pleasers! Bon appetite!

After a great meal-deal, maybe some theater, The Marcus Center's Off Broadway Series continues with "Packer Fans from Outer Space" in Vogel Hall. Thursday, June 7 - Sunday, July 22. Milwaukee's A-Team of Thespians bring this production alive! Bill Theisen and Norman Moses Star and are directed by: Jenny Wanasek. Talk about a Super Bowl of talent.

Saturday, June 16 brings the curtain down on 25 years of The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, Ltd. Their final concert is "Schlemeil, Schlitz! Celebrating the Cream City and The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus." There will be two performances, one at 5 p.m. and the other at 7:30 p.m. The very popular subgroup of the Chorus - The Creamettes will open the farewell extravaganza. The Unitarian Universalist Church - West 13001 West North Avenue is the locale, to get tickets - brownpapertickets.com, key word - WCCC. Break a leg!

Broadway's Idina Menzel the Star of "Wicked", "Rent" and television's "Glee" will grace The Marcus Center, one night only - Wednesday, June 20. For this special night, with this special Diva call 414-273-7121 and reserve your accommodations now! You too can defy gravity!

Captain Dix and Hit (the Holiday Invitational Tournament) will provide a weekend of fun! Friday, June 22 - Sunday, June 24, come up to the Dells for a weekend romp in the country. Enjoy communing with nature, the pool, and all the comforts of home - in the woods! Jerry Gin&Tonic is pulling together this getaway you will not want to miss! Saturday night will be a "Special HIT Show" starring various HIT Board Members, and Miss Maple Veneer! I've been asked to MC - see you all there!

Sunday afternoon, June 24 the Family and Friends of Sandy Kleba will gather at Taylor's on Jefferson & Wells to remember and salute the great energy that

was the Team Captain of many an AIDS Walk. ARCW will also commemorate Sandy's devotion and drive to the Community. May she rest in eternal peace.

Another milestone that will be observed that very afternoon is the 40th Anniversary of continuing bliss for Hot Fudge and his very own "wWhipped Cream" - Dr. Ron. Major kudos, can you imagine maintaining not only a same-sex, but an interracial romance for 40 years in the Midwest? Their special celebration will be at Fluid, serving lots of fluid! The same Sunday marks one of the groom's 69th Birthday! Hint - it's Dr. Ron. Talk about a bonanza!

A standing ovation to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) going GaGa at Make a Promise - way beyond the edge of glory! So sad saying good bye to Doug Nelson, but an opportunity to say hello to the wonderful Mike Gifford, and a new era in the fight against AIDS! I had a grand time of it sitting at Tom Reed's & Jon Martin's table they are the quintessential hosts! Also adding to the flavor of the night - David & Laura Koziol, TeeGee's pride and joy Josh Levy and his lovely wife Traci, Tony Rhodes, and Joe Kender all together to celebrate ARCW and all their good works!

Thanks to Boom and the MidTown Spa for having me host their joint effort in finding a young, nubile newbie to host future functions. Three delicious little flowers made their debut - Dora Diamond, Sunny Burelle, and Shavon'e Rozay. All were attractive, talented, and worthy of the win - I'm sure you'll be seeing more of these flawless fillies in the future. Dora Diamond got the nod from the Judges, including Dear Ruthie. Please stay tuned for details of the next leg of this Talent Hunt.

D.I.X. hosted a grand "Spring Fling Show" hosted by Baby Jane Hudson, starring Goldie Adams, Chastity Belt, Lauren Philips, Sunny Burelle, Dixie Kuppe, Vinyl Griz and Cordially Yours - what fun we and the audi-

ence all had! Thanks for having us Elizabeth!

The United States of America is fortunate to have a brand spanking new citizen via Canada - we all know and love him - Serge from Kruz! Welcome home! You make the U.S.A. that much better and just in time for the Fourth of July, talk about fireworks - bang, bang, bang!

Happy Anniversary to not one, but three sterling emporiums of pleasure - La Cage - so much fun was had there with Jerry Gin&Tonic, Switch's Craig and our host Michael, and Staff Jim, Dan, and Mike, and it's here that I rediscovered dear friend, Kevin Lynch - who use to head The BESTD Clinic - he left for Seattle a few years ago, and was under my radar - I never realized he had returned to The Cream City - and yes, he still is quite the head turner!

Fluid also adds so much life to South Second Street, they had quite the bash, in honor of Birthday # 14! Bill and new beau John-Mark - what a hunk, had a SRO crowd with the legendary Legs, Collin & Matt, Guppy, Tim/Bianca, Janet Gurwitz, Tall Keith, D.J. Kelly, Baby Davey, Brian/Kitty, Nick/Nadia, Patrick, Lizzie on mic, Ricky, John Allbanger, Jerry & Serge and The Men of Kruz, Elizabeth and her Posse from D.I.X., Hot Fudge & Dr. Ron and many more revelers making more memories!

And Taylor's in East Town racked up another birthday as well, while grant it - Taylor's isn't a Gay Bar, they are an extremely Gay friendly. Dan and Staff always roll out the red carpet. In the same neighborhood, kudos to George Schneider on his recent promotion of status at This Is It to Partner-hood. Proof positive that Joe Brehm is looking forward to the future and keeping his Mother's dream alive and growing and there will be more of This Is It - for all of us.

It's great to be back, to celebrate Pride with all of You - and as always it's the glamor, not the grammar, as I remain, Still Cordially yours.

HAMBURGER MARY'S
HamBingo! Thursday, June 14th at 8 pm

Join H.I.T. for HamBingo at Hamburger Mary's, KK & Bay St. Get ready for 4th of July with our Patriotic prizes, also, it's Flag Day. We will also have a 50/50 cash raffle & will be raffling off two Brewer tickets to the July 18th game against St. Louis, \$84 dollar value. Proceeds to benefit STD Specialties Clinic and H.I.T. 2012



CAPTAIN DIX
Join H.I.T. Christmas in June at Captain Dix Campground
June 22, 23 and 24th.
Mention H.I.T. when you make your reservation.
Show Saturday night with Drink Specials and Raffles.
Proceeds to benefit H.I.T. 2012

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Above: Fluid celebrates an anniversary
 Right middle: A night out at LaCage
 Below: ICON celebrates an anniversary

See more of these in our photo gallery
 at www.quest-online.com



Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen



It's the most wonderful time of the year...yep! It's Pride Month in Wisconsin! Celebrate at the Milwaukee Pride Parade! Visit the Milwaukee Gay Art Center, swing by Outwords Books or check out all of the fun at Pridefest. Whether you whoop it up at the Summerfest grounds or simply celebrate with a few friends, make this Pride Month count!

Reconnect with folks you haven't seen for a bit, or reach out to make a new friend or two. Watch the movie "Milk," and learn all you can about the struggles of those who fought for our rights decades ago. Host a party asking friends to help you raise money for your favorite LGBT charity. Whatever you do, spend some time thinking about the progress we've made as a community and what you can do to help secure our rights in the future.

And then celebrate! Celebrate who you are. Celebrate the fact that you live in a country where it's okay to be Gay. Celebrate the fact that we as a community are making leaps and bound each day where equal rights are concerned (although it may not feel like it as often as we wish). Celebrate you!

Speaking of celebrating, there'll be a celebration

of life on June 24 to honor the late Sandy Kleba. Sandy was a regular on the social scene around Milwaukee, but she's known for raising more than \$100,000 for ARCW over the last 20 years. Sandy, her husband Tommy and the "We R the Strongest Link" AIDS Walk team worked tirelessly to raise money for the cause. Sandy's incredible dedication to the Milwaukee LGBT Community, ARCW and her family and friends is to be admired. Come celebrate her life at Taylor's Bar (795 N. Jefferson, Milwaukee), on June 24, 2:00 to 5:00. See you all there, to raise a glass to Sandy and give her your brightest send off.

RUTHIE'S BITCHIN' KITCHEN

There are two things Milwaukee knows how to do two right: We know how to throw one helluva party, and we know how to enjoy beer. That's why I thought we'd mix things up a bit and try some beverage recipes that feature the golden beverage that made Milwaukee famous.

Here, you'll find recipes that easily and quickly jazz up a can or bottle of beer and turn it into something to celebrate! So grab your favorite brew-ski, pull up

your best lawn chair and let's welcome summer in style! Cheers! Now, eat good and shut up!

Hair of the Dog Beer

Take Bloody Marys to a new level with this easy beverage that is sure to help get you over any hangover!

Salt, if desired

1 can beer

¼ cup prepared Bloody Mary mix, chilled

1 ounce vodka

Dash of hot sauce

Bloody Mary garnishes, if desired

Salt the rim of a large glass if desired. Fill glass with beer, Bloody Mary mix, vodka and hot sauce. Garnish with celery stick, beef stick or whatever the hell you drunks like in your Bloody Marys!

Corona Margaritas

Spice up the summer with this fun take on a warm-weather favorite. Grab your blender, boys and girls, and let's mix up some fun!

Ice

**6 ounces frozen limeade concentrate
(from a 12 ounce container)**

6 ounces tequila

½ bottle of Corona beer

Happy Pride Month!

The LGBT community has so much to be proud of this year! Celebrate!

'First, they ignore you. Then they laugh at you. Then they fight you. Then, You win.'

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Pridefest Weekend @ Club ICON

**Friday 6/8
Open @ 5pm
10pm Dance Party**

**Saturday 6/9
Open @ 7pm
10pm Dance Party
NO COVER!**

**Sunday 6/10
Open @ 8pm
Watch for the ICON float in this years parade!**

**CLUB
ICON**

ICON All Male Revue

**Saturday June 16th
10:00 pm**



**For details on all our events
visit us @ www.club-icon.com**

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Fill a blender with ice. Add the remaining ingredients and blend to desired consistency.

Berry-Good Beer

Tired of vodka lemonade? Jazz it up a little bit with your favorite light beer!

2 quarts pink lemonade, prepared
1 cup vodka
2 cans light beer
Ice

Combine the first three ingredients. Serve over ice!

Amaretto Shooters

Okay, okay...this may be a stretch for a recipe, but it tastes good and that's all that counts, 'eh? Enjoy these shooters with friends after a barbecue on a fun summer night.

1 cup beer
1 shot amaretto
1/4 ounce rum

Pour beer into a glass. Pour the amaretto into a shot glass and carefully top with rum. Carefully drop shot glass into beer and slam, baby, slam!

Got a recipe for Ruthie? Send it to her, and you'll get a free T-shirt if she publishes it. Send your favorite dish to her at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE PLANNED TO HONOR SANDRA KLEBA

Milwaukee's LGBT Community lost one of its most dedicated allies late last year. After a heroic fight with cancer, Sandra (Sandy) Kleba passed away on November 11, her birthday, in her winter home of Tempe, Arizona.

Although she was a 12-year resident of Tempe, Sandy lived in Milwaukee for more than 65 years. She was active in many charities, but spent most of her free time raising money for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). Sandy was captain of the "We 'R' the Strongest Link" team for the ARCW AIDS Walk for several years. A tireless fighter when it came to raising money for this cause, Sandy and her husband, Tommy, helped raised more than \$100,000 for ARCW over the last 20 years.

Sandy was born in Milwaukee in 1934, and she proudly served in the US Marine Corps from 1955 to 1958 at Camp Pendleton, California. She was a licensed beautician for more than 40 years, and taught at numerous beauty schools before she retired.

Sandy's contagious laughter, positive energy and dedication to fighting AIDS will be missed by all whose life she touched. And while Sandy is no longer with us in body, her enduring spirit lives on. As such, Sandy's husband, family and friends invite everyone to a celebration of her life on Sunday, June 24 at Taylor's (795 N. Jefferson, Milwaukee) from 2:00 to 5:00. Representatives from ARCW will present a special tribute to Sandy at 3:00.

If you cannot attend Sandy's memorial, contributions may be made to Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower St., Phoenix, AZ 85014-5656.



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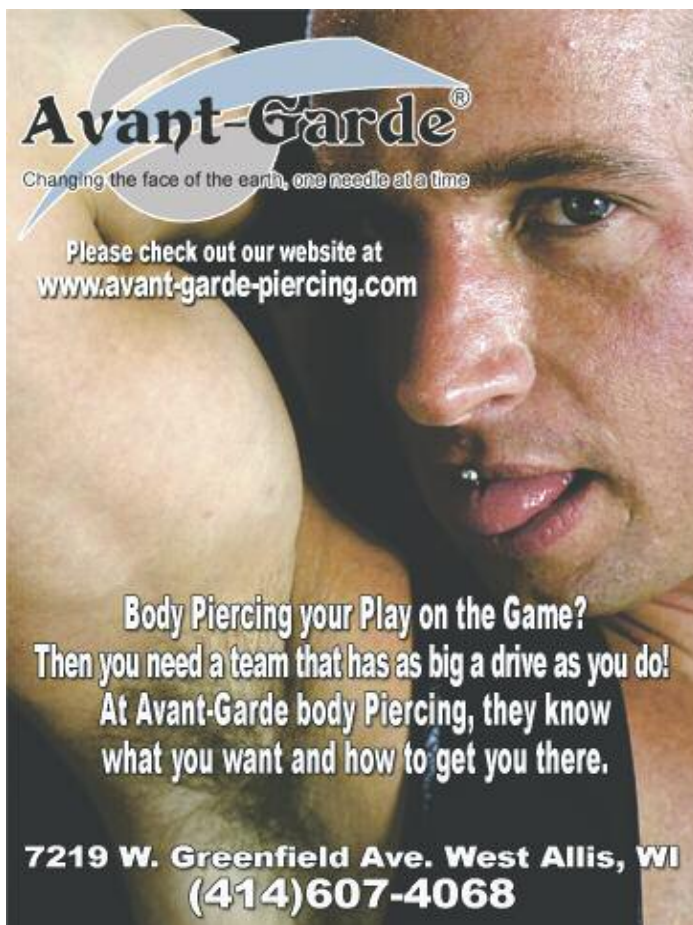
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TRANS



Well, it's finally here, that gay Mecca, that day of days, PRIDEFEST! Just in case you didn't know, live under a rock, or keep your brain so pickled that it can't comprehend the pluses and minuses of trying to make sweet love to the honey badger. I will give you the down-low on the happening(s). Pridefest is slated for 3 days once again this year and will be held on the Summerfest ground from Friday June 8th through Sunday Jun 10th. Check out their website www.pridefest.com for more information

The Milwaukee Pride Parade is also coming up on the same weekend and will take place on Sunday June 10th with staging opening at 12:00pm and Step-off happening at 2:00pm sharp! The parade route runs north along 2nd street from Greenfield avenue to Seeboth avenue. You learn more about the parade by checking out their website located at www.prideparademke.org. Don't forget you can also check both of these great things out on facebook at Pridefest Milwaukee and Milwaukee Pride Parade respectively.

Alright it looks like all the big plugs out of the way. And as I look out my hotel room window

(yes I'm on vacation, lord knows I need to get away from all your freaks once in a while :P) one would think I would become inspired by all the tall building which look like big coc-Uhmm I mean piercing needles yea, that's totally where I was going with that. But getting back on topic I'm not that inspired by the tall buildings and trying to relate them to piercings and tattoos. Actually speaking of un-inspired I think I got inspired.

So this month I figured why not talk about choosing a piercing/tattoo that works for you and your body. When choosing a piercing or tattoo one of the first things you should think about is your career field. You would be surprised how many people never think about this, your piercing or tattoo may have a huge negative impact on your career choices. I mean think about it, when was the last time you saw the president of a fortune 500 company with a giant tribal tattoo on his face? You just can't have those sorts of things in certain career fields. This is of course something I hate but I can't change it and neither can you so think carefully before choosing something.

Something else to consider is your overall sense of yourself. I realize this is pretty vague but it's meant to be. Many piercings and tattoo project an image of strength, beauty, shyness, etc. And you should ask yourself is this something that I want to "throw out there" for the world to see.

Something you should more think about with tattoos is what the physical design is, what's the statement you're trying to make with it? For instance say you're a big burly Leatherman/woman. You decide to get a tattoo on your shoulder to reflect this in a bound submissive being tortured in all manner of ways. Think about what this tattoo will say to people about you the next time you go to the beach, or the gym, or even to a picnic with children etc. I'm not saying you shouldn't get it but just think about the situations you may come across where you may need to remove yourself from some activities due to the nature of your tattoo.

To wrap it up I think everyone should get what they want to get, but unfortunately I am not the world. And the world can be a cruel bitch at times. And because of 1 simple thing peoples impressions of you can change dramatically. So think ahead and truly believe in what you're getting, because in the end that's all that really matters.

Holy crap, I think this is the first time I actually had a meaningful message in my column. Damn I knew I should not have written this thing sober. Well, with what little space my editor has told me I get (he beats me if I go over word counts, on the funnier side he uses a boa that he borrowed from KV to do the beating so it's laughable :P) I should probably wrap up my column here, but I won't. Let's dig through the reader mail and see what we can find.

Brent,

My boyfriend wants to get matching tattoos to "symbolize" our love for each other. We have been together for a year and I do love him but this is a bit much. I don't have any tattoos and nei-

KRUIZ

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SATURDAY JUNE 16, 2012

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ther does he, should I get it? -Craig

First off thanks for writing in Craig. Secondly, this is a really deep and meaningful thing to get matching tattoos. I think the best thing for you to do would be to A) search within yourself and find out if you truly want a 100% permanent design on your body to constantly remind you of your BF and, B) are tattoos your "thing"?

If you're not into tattoos you may want to look into other avenues which can publicly display your love for each other. If you answer yes to both of those questions then I think you will have your answer. J

Alright, I see my editor grabbing the pink boa which must be the sign for me to wrap this up. Until next month have a great June and Pride Month and don't

forget about the Pride Parade (June 10th @ 2pm on 2nd Street) and Pridefest (June 8-10 @ Summerfest grounds) And if you see a volunteer for either of these organizations make sure to say thank you to them, because after all without their hard work throughout the year there would be none of these great celebrations of LGBT Pride. Until, next month, See ya!



Mr. Northern Plains Leather at Kruz
Photos by Will Sharkey

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Milwaukee Pride Parade



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LaCAGE NITECLUB

HAPPY PRIDE MILWAUKEE!

Friday June 8th

Pride Kick Off Party in LaCage! 10pm
Guest DJ Tim Walters of Madison

Pride Kick Off Show in Montage Lounge
Wisconsin's Premier Show Bar features
a Special Pride Show with the cast of

Transformations show starts 11pm

Come for the show -Stay for the Dancing



etc open daily 6pm

Sunday's

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

Monday's

TGIM- Happy Hour Open to Close

Tuesday's

"Take IT Off Tuesday's!"

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

MISS RED

Saturday June 9th

Pride Ball starts @10pm
Guest DJ Will Calder of NYC

You won't want to miss the Saturday night
show at 10:30pm It's a **VANITY AFFAIR**



Wednesday's Entertainer Spotlight show

with cast member
Kilia Devereaux as your 2012 Miss PrideFest
with special guests. 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!

Sunday June 10th Noon to 2am No Cover

Pride Parade and Tribal Tea Dance Party @1pm
plus special guest dancers from Chicago
Front Row Parade Seats Outside!

Guest DJ Cody Domino of Chicago



Enjoy Specialty Bloody Mary's made
with infused EFFEN Vodka all day Sunday
You won't believe the Flavor!

Pride Closing Celebration Dance Party
Resident VJ Jamey

LaCage is open NOON to 2am- no Cover Charge



Friday June 22nd

Summer Kick Off Party 10pm
Don't miss Transformations Kick Off to Summer Theme Show! 11pm

Plan your "4th of July" week with us!

Tuesday July 3rd

Fireworks After Party in LaCage!
10pm RedStar Dancers

Wednesday July 4th

10pm 2-4-1 and Entertainer Spotlight Show

Thursday July 5th

Bust and Lust! Liquor Bust and Hot male Dancers

Friday July 6th & Saturday July 7th

IndepDance Party! Special "IndepDance" Show 11pm Both nights!



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