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MILWAUKEE'S MGVA OPENS SUMMER SEASON

By Paul Masterson

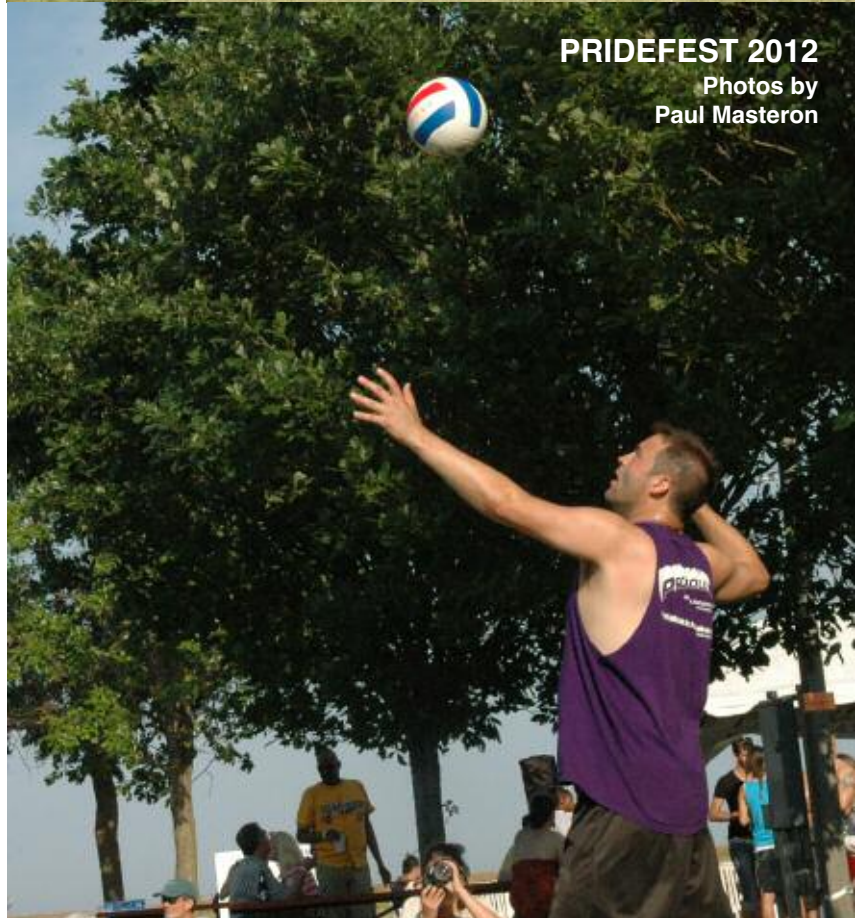
A shrill whistle blast, the slap of the serve and the rally begins. Team members “talk,” calling to pass the ball, set and spike. That particular *thunk* punctuates each hit of the ball. It’s a typical Sunday night of gay volleyball at the Beulah Brinton Community Center in Bay View, home of the Milwaukee Gay Volleyball Association (MGVA).

Now in its third year, the MGVA’s 10-week summer season, played on sand courts, begins July 8. The association’s founder and current director Eric Euting talked about the league’s formation. “After the 2009 NAGAAAFest (the gay softball world series), talk was of national tournaments. Madison had a volleyball league so I decided to start one here. I created the board from friends. MGVA was formed in a month. Then it just ballooned. We expected 30 people and got an overwhelming response. 120 people registered online,” Euting said. The incredible response went far beyond expectations. People came from Kenosha and Oshkosh as well as the greater Milwaukee area. The players represent a diverse mix of students, professionals and representatives from community organizations. The year is divided into three seasons. Winter and spring scheduled games take place indoors and the summer season is played outside.

Now, almost three years later, MGVA continues to grow ever larger. It debuted at PrideFest 2011 when 16 teams participated in a tournament with GAMMA volleyball players. From there its membership increased to several dozen teams. They represent local bars, businesses and groups. Due to the number of teams that sent over 200 players to this year’s PrideFest 2012 Open Grass Volleyball Tournament, the event had to be held off site. With its expanded size, the two-day tournament included both recreational and competitive divisions. The finals were held on the PrideFest grounds Sunday afternoon.

Games are held Sundays at the Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S Bay Street in Milwaukee’s Bay View. After the games, players, friends and fans socialize at a “volley-bar” selected from among the bar sponsors.

For MGVA information please go to <http://milwaukeegayvolleyball.com>. Players and fans can also get MGVA updates on Facebook and twitter.



PRIDEFEST 2012

Photos by
Paul Masterson



Photography:

Group photo: Amanda Schlicher Tangerine Studio

Head shots: Michael Hiller

Art Direction: Kelton Hatton assisted by Tyler Olson

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editor@quest-online.com www.quest-online.com

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Contributors: Paul Masterson, Glenn Bishop, Dear Ruthie,
Michael Johnston, Brent H

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DAVID
LUTTON

A GREAT YEAR FOR MILWAUKEE'S PRIDE PARADE

by Mark Mariucci

Editor's Note:

Through acquisition of Outbound Magazine several years ago, Quest & Outbound publisher Mark Mariucci, became a board member for the Milwaukee LGBT Pride Parade.

Pridefest 2012 enjoyed a record breaking year with attendance numbers during their 25th anniversary. A similar comment can be made for the annual Milwaukee LGBT Pride Parade held yearly over Wisconsin's pride weekend celebration.

2012 was a major growth year for the Milwaukee Pride Parade as they saw the line-up grow to 56 units. This included 16 Brand new organizations/businesses even while a number of units from previous years did not participate in this years parade. For a complete listing of the line-up of the 2012 Parade please visit <http://prideparademke.org/Line-up/lineup.htm>.

A special thank you goes out to PrideFest for allowing the parade to present the awards on the Miller Stage of Pridefest, Congratulations are also in order for all of the award winners of the 2012 Pride Parade.

JUDGES AND AWARDS

Best Marching Unit

2nd Runner up – G.L.A.S.S.

1st Runner up – Planned Parenthood

Winner – Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence

Abbey of the Brew city Sisters

Best Decorated Vehicle

2nd Runner up – Espana Tapas House

1st Runner up – Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

Winner – Argonauts of Wisconsin

Best Float

2nd Runner up – Napalese Lounge

1st Runner up – Botanas Restaurant

Winner – Club ICON

Spirit award

Winner – Milwaukee Area Ursine League (M.A.U.L.)

The Milwaukee Pride Parade was judged by:

· Micheal Goertz - Michael was the Parade coordinator from 2000 to 2003 when the Parade was still directly part of Pridefest. Since then he's answered questions and assisted groups entering the parade. Additionally, he's acted as a mentor and resource for many

community groups and organizations with issues ranging from event planning to grant writing.

· Tony Brown - Tony has been a steady fixture in the Gay Community for years, He currently works in the telecommunications industry and spends much of his free time devoted to charitable goals. He has been the Registration coordinator for IML (International Mr. Leather) for the past 11 years and volunteered with the organization for 5 years prior to that. Tony also spends time working with Drum & Bugle Corps from across the Midwest orchestrating much of their front of house services including ticket sales and customer relations

· Michele Kremski - Michele is the owner of M Salon along S. 2nd street and also works with the Walker's Point Association, which works to better the Walker's Point area.

UNIT COUNT

The 56 units actually pay to be in the parade each year and in 2012 the parade did not raise its entry fee. This marks the third straight year they have not needed to increase unit costs to cover the costs of the parade.

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The parade began a non-profit outreach program to help small non-profits get exposure in the parade by granting free entry to any 501(c) organization. In the 2012 parade we had 22 entries which took advantage of our non-profit outreach program. Using only the discounted early entry fee of \$40.00 as a measure, the parade saved local non-profit organizations \$880.00 in entry fees! "We are happy to pass these savings along to those who work to better the community through non-profit work," stated board member, Brent.

FISCAL 2012 (The financials)

The Milwaukee Pride parade had an operating expense of \$20,955.97 and an income of \$8,510.00 for the fiscal year of 2012. While this does show a difference of -\$12,445.97 the parade had numerous expenses in 2012 which are single purchase items. In 2012 the Milwaukee Pride Parade tripled the amount of pride flags to be displayed along the parade route to 61 poles. This increase in number caused the permit for the banners to be placed to increase from previous years to a total of \$915.00, combined with the permit of the parade itself (\$2,753.00) the annual cost of the parade is \$3,668.00. Also with increasing the amount of banners along the route the Board of Directors needed to pur-

chase additional flags (\$3,600.00) to fill the route and have all of the flags professionally installed (\$3,739.20 annual expense).

Announced in late 2011/early 2012, the Milwaukee Pride Parade had begun reorganizing fiscally to better suit the economy and ensure that the organization be around for years to come. These brought their own expenses in filling fees (\$850.00), Accountant costs (\$675.00), and legal fees (\$2,991.08).

Changes were made to the Judges station which included renting a trailer to elevate our judges for a better view of the parade and to better "quarter off" their area. Trailer expenses included the rental (\$41.13) itself plus purchasing of "jack stands" (\$183.15) to make it safe for people to stand in it.

This past year the community saw the passing of a Milwaukee Icon (James Marr) who had placed an absolutely huge pride flag in the Milwaukee Pride Parade for the last 5 years. Unfortunately with his passing the parade was unable to secure the flag to be placed in future parade and thus had to purchase a new pride flag. While not as large as the original the 20' x 40' Pride Flag was still an inspiration to many along the parade which made its purchase cost of \$950.40 a no brainer.

Keep an eye out for press releases in the future announcing some great fundraising efforts teaming up with some great businesses around Milwaukee.

The parade did find new support in the community from new donors to the parade who have never donated before. This helped to offset these additional costs, but what truly keeps the parade in good fiscal shape was the planning and saving which began 5 years ago in creating and maintaining reserve funds. These reserve funds have allowed the parade to weather this fiscal storm and still have the funds left over to put on the 2013 parade complete with pride banners along the route next year.

Combined with the new found support from donations from the community and the knowledge that many of the Milwaukee Pride Parade's large expenses for 2012 are "one time" purchases (Total "one time" purchase items \$8574.63). The Milwaukee Pride Parade is fiscally sound in 2012 and has the steps in place to remain that way for many years to come.

For More information on Fiscal 2012 please contact Treasurer@prideparademke.org.

For questions not addressed here contact Brent H. Milwaukee Pride Parade Coordinator Paradecoordinator@prideparademke.org

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if it's
art?

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paid?

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now

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PRIDEFEST LAUNCHES FESTIVAL SEASON WITH 10% INCREASE

Community spirit soars at 25th anniversary celebration

Milwaukee, WI - As the opening act for Milwaukee's summer festival season, PrideFest Milwaukee drew 28,137 guests to Henry W. Maier Festival Park, an increase of nearly 10% over last year's attendance of 26,112. Overcoming tremendous financial challenges, including losses incurred by the 2011 festival, organizers mobilized the community, produced an exceptional experience, and guaranteed PrideFest's return for a 26th year in 2013.

"For PrideFest to survive another year, we really needed to meet attendance and revenue targets this year," said Scott Gunkel, PrideFest president. "I am proud to say that we, as a community, exceeded both goals. We actually generated more revenue than any other PrideFest in our 25-year history."

"We cannot say enough about the special people who reached a little deeper into their pockets and gave more of themselves this year to make sure PrideFest happened," said Gunkel. Because of the organization's non-profit status, final financial results will be released following confirmation by a fiscal agent.

Community spirit was also reflected in record-breaking volunteerism this year. Over 400 individuals donated the gift of time to ensure a safe, meaningful and memorable experience for festival attendees. "Our volunteers work diligently all year round. We are one of the largest LGBT pride festivals in the nation with not a single paid employee. The devotion of our volunteers and support organizations is the life force of PrideFest," said Gunkel.

Following the breakout success of the 25th anniversary weekend, PrideFest now directs its focus to strategic planning for 2013. Interested in becoming a sponsor of next year's festival? Please contact Scott Gunkel at 1-414-272-3378 or info@pridefest.com.

For up-to-the-minute PrideFest news throughout the year, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, or visit the PrideFest Milwaukee website.

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QUEST BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 11 #6 July 2012



Photos by
Mark Mariucci
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our HUGE gallery of
pride pics online
quest-online.com





Photos by
Will Sharkey





Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

Lady Liberty sends her best regards for our country's 236th Birthday and what a great month of Pride we all just celebrated! Wisconsin You did us all Proud!

Milwaukee Brewer Star, Ryan Braun lucky # 8, will be this year's Honorary Chair of AIDS Walk Wisconsin taking place at the Lakefront on Saturday, October 6. Besides the honor of being this Year's Chair -- Braun is a four-time All-Star, Silver Slugger Award Winner and reigning National League Most Valuable Player and has two great eateries one in The Historic Third Ward, Ryan Braun's Graffito, An Italian Restaurant and in Lake Geneva, Ryan Braun's Tavern & Grill.

For more details on the Walk or to sign up, please call (800) 348-WALK(9255) or www.aidswalkwis.org

The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) provides shelter from the summer sizzle with: "Posters of Paris: Toulouse-Lautrec and his Contemporaries" now through Sunday, September 9 -- sizzling of another nature! Yet another excellent way to enjoy the scenic view of our flawless lakefront and all it has to offer.

Continuing with the French flair, Bastille Days once again storms Cathedral Square Park and the area surrounding -- Thur., July 12 -- Sun., July 15.

This is summer and we're all at play -- Summerfest with Neil Diamond, the Fourth of July, and all the fabulous fireworks and ballet! Ballet? Yes, "Billy Elliot, The Musical" pirouettes into Brew City Tuesday, July 18 -- Sunday, July 23 The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. This is a joyous celebration of a young boy's journey in making his dreams come true via the stage! No, it's not my autobiography, but it is a message I'm sure we can all relate to. The music for this Broadway favorite is penned by Sir Elton John! The New York Post calls this "Elton's Best Score yet". A big musical with an even bigger heart, "Billy Elliot" will enchant the dreamer in all of us!

While walking my "Art Beat", you all have to visit The Tory Follard Gallery this month to be enriched by Patrick Farrell's One-Man Show. His breathtaking creations will be on display in conjunction with the summer Gallery Night, Friday, July 27 from 5:00 -- 9:00 PM. No one captures on canvas quite like Patrick, if you're unfamiliar with his works, do yourself the favor of taking in this exhibit -- Milwaukee's very own Young Master.

The weekend of July 20 is The Harbor Room's 12th Anniversary! As in previous years it will be a weekend long party -- Saturday, July 21 will be the sashing of Mr. Harbor Room 2012 -- 13. Once again Gregg & Eddie have invited John Weiler and me to co-host the festivities. I always have a ball at The Harbor Room, I always have a ball with John Weiler, and I look forward to having a ball with all of you!

I'm thrilled to share with you that Dale Gutzman,

the man behind the Wall, of Off The Wall Theatre has asked me to be in his summer spectacular -- Terrence McNally's award-winning comedy, "The Ritz". No not the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, sorry mama, The Ritz Bath House in NYC! It's a scream in the steam! A delightful farce, of catch me if you can, misunderstandings, wild chases, secret meetings, song, dance, comedy, a riotous romp -- a night at the Off The Wall Theatre! You won't want to miss this one, so don't drop the soap and come see through a fine veil of mist the charms of: Lawrence Lukasavage, Karl Miller, Jeremy C. Welter, Kristen Pagenkopff, Kurtis Witzsteiner, Barbara Weber, Zay Turner, Luke Walazek, James Feeley, Miss Maple Veneer, and Cordially yours as we are all assembled, as the great lion tamer, Dale Gutzman, whips out this season's hottest production -- "The Ritz" July 26, 27, 28, 29 -- (Thu -- Sun) and August 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (Wed -- Sun) For tix please call (414) 327-3552 Off The Wall Theatre 127 East Wells Street

www.offthewalltheatre.com

Thursday, July 26 "My Best Friend Is Straight" the Cream City Foundation (CCF) splendid summer soiree takes place from 5:30 -- 9:30 PM Lake Park, at the Light House. Hat's off to the Sponsors: Jody Armatta, Bronze Optical, Louisella & William Frank, Jose Milan, Southwest Airlines, and The Wisconsin Gazette. This very special summer night will salute, the Guest of Honor, Joe Pabst. Dear Joe has done so much for our community, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Midwest, etc... his thoughtfulness, commitment, and cultivating is, as extraordinary, as this event. To make a reservation and take part in this party of the season, please call Chuck at (414) 225-0244 or go on-line www.creamcityfoundation.org Paul Fairchild, the President of CCF is guaranteeing a night to remember -- food, drink, silent auction, friends, gay, straight, and all of the above gathering to celebrate one another! Cheers!

Brady Street Festival is Saturday, July 28 11am -- 11pm -- always a super day of people watching, free entertainment, and getting familiar with all Brady Street has to offer -- talk about local flavor!

PrideFest, 2012 what fun, what great weather, a Silver Anniversary that truly shined! Congrats to: Scott Gunkel, Kate Sherry, George Schneider, Tall Tony, Gregg Hutterer, and all you wonderful PrideFest Volunteers! I had a blast working with John Weiler, Maple Veneer, and Jimmy Strange with "The Leather/Fetish Fashion Show". D. J. Kelly spinning the sounds, Craig Bodoh, Chip Wagner, Bill Hoffmann, Eddie -- Mr. Harbor Room, and all the stunning leather models! The flawless fireworks -- wow!!!

On Sunday was the Pride Parade, thank you American-United Taxi-Cab Company for letting me do a live remote from your property. If you remember, last year -- religious zealots were

washed away, from that very spot! Very grateful to my celebrity chauffer Bobby Patrick, the President of the Doris Day Fan Club -- he recently had a health set-back, but as you can see, up and at it once again! Special thanks to hosts Mike & Kyle, The Cream City Foundation -- Paul Fairchild and Chuck Grosz, ARCW's Mary Hartwig, Joe Kender, Roger RamJet, Mohawk Jeff -- Sound/Stage, Burt Gross, Andy Cicero & Jason, Dan Musha -- Music, Dan Petry, Brian Buchberger & Andy Schaidler, Tom Reed & Jon Martin, Goldie Adams, Nails By Debra -- Jungle Red -- of course! The enthusiasm, fun, positive energy, and good will was in the air! My favorite Holiday Weekend -- Pride -- the bars were alive! Boom/The Room -- David, Lance, Brad, Burt, Jeff -- a nu-Hottie, the return of Olivia -- Dan, Jason, Shawn, all providing a great time and a DJ providing dazzling dance party music! Fluid -- Bill, John-Mark, Kitty, Damian, Lizzie Bordeaux, Puddy, and Patrick, had a huge Proud Crowd enjoying the celebration. La Cage had Kris & Michael ushering patrons all the way around the block! Proof positive this place can't close! It's still Milwaukee's Premiere Dance Club.

The rumors of their demise have been grossly overrated and corrected, so no fear of doing the "Last Dance" too soon. However, like any business to keep it up and running -- Please patronize!!! Velveeta, Dale, Dan, Chi-Chi, the DJs, the chic Show Girls all make the La Cage experience what we know and so enjoy!

The Ball Game with Drew, David -- who is new to The Ball Game, every Saturday night 8 -- Close, he certainly isn't new to bartending and quite familiar with having a large piece of wood in front of him, ChiChi, Debi, Max, Myrna, and Crew always makes you feel at home. This establishment has also been the subject of premature rumors of closing -- as of this writing, it is business as usual. So don't cross this spot off your list.

Club Charlie's Craig & Dawn, Liz, Collin, Michael, Gunnar, Eric, and Staff are all embracing even Lady Liberty figures! While Straight, definitely not narrow!

This Is It's Jerry Gin&Tonic, Eric, Jake, George, Joe, and the rest were all showing their Pride and then some! You gotta love those impromptu sing-a-longs when the feeling hits you! What fun we had with Napalese Lounge of Green Bay when they stopped in for chilled refreshments.

The Hybrid Lounge is where you'll find Bill and Nate, as well as Patrick and Matt among others -- always happy to fill you up again and have you enjoy the Brady Street neighborhood fun.

Woody's is the place to make a pit stop during Pride -- this is also Pride Parade Central. Brent, Jeff, and others are scurrying around giving out numbers, line-ups, time checks, etc.... Inside at Woody's Toby & Kurt have everything running like clockwork with their dedicated team of Michael in his adorable red undies, Wes, Jeff, Doug, BJ, and the rest providing the best for you.

Pride Weekend is a reunion of sorts, seeing people you haven't partied with in a while...

catching up on news like –

Congratulations Jimmy Balistreri's Steve on Graduating, now Degreed! Bill Eddy, Joe Carpenter AKA Madison Brooks, David Rogers Kotke, Rochelle, Janet Gurwitz, Dr. Lance & Amy, Jack Balzer & Greg Gowdy sharing marvelous tales of their winter home in Palm Springs and their cherished friendships with Carol Channing – thee Carol Channing, Cloris Leachman, Nita Soref, and Robert Parrish & Richard Steele, who we still miss here, but glad to hear they're blossoming like hydrangeas in the Springs! Roy, Alan, Nic & Tom, Philip – looking ever so svelte, Bjorn, Kevin Lynch, Craig from Switch, Jonas, Tommy & Christopher, Lauren, R.N. – whose brother bartends at Walker's Pint, Dear Ruthie, our Grand Marshall, who in the pink was most radiant, fab photo in the Journal/Sentinel, the handsome Sir Todd Richards her escort, Sir Steve Seefelt, Dr. Beto, Jody, Mary-Pat Wulf, Baby Jane Hudson, BooBoo, Ross and his exquisite Excalibur, Tall Keith, Gregg & Eddie, Todd & Roger, the wild Rickshaw Cabs, Corey and Elizabeth, Sy, WMYX morning man Kidd O'Shea mixed it up a bit on air, by coming Out! To the best of my knowledge the first Out broadcaster in Milwaukee since Dear Ruthie worked with Don Hoffman and Summerfest's Bo Black. Wake up with him every morning on 99.1 5 – 10 AM, and on

Saturday's he appears on WISN TV Wake-Up News at 8:00 AM, and you can see the handsomeness behind the hot voice. SSBL'S Mr. Softball, himself, Brian Reinkober shared with me that this Labor Day's Dairyland Classic will have the sounds of Madonna! International entertainer; extraordinaire, Chris America will bring Madonna to Milwaukee! that should make John Allbanger a most happy fellow!

In closing, I must share the loss of Wayne Benning AKA Vanessa Alexander. Always a Party wait-



ing to happen! Miss Gay Wisconsin 1990, a starring cast member of the Holly Brown Revue at La Cage, a fabulous Cher imitator, if only he could turn back time... You touched our lives, and your memory will live on! Sweet dreams!

As always it's the glamor, not the grammar, as I remain Still Cordially yours, Enjoy the fireworks, and make some of your own!


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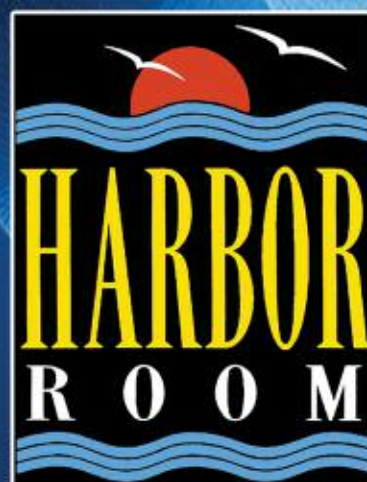
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Deep breaths...deep breaths.... It's okay, everyone! Just take deep breaths!

If you're anything like me (and let's face it, there's a little "southsider" in all of us), then you're likely still recovering from all the fun the last few months had to offer. That's okay, Sugar Booger, I'm still on the mend, too, damn it!

I mean, there was Pridefest in Milwaukee and the incredible Milwaukee Pride Parade. Plus we had Fruit Fest in Madison, HIT fundraisers, Pride-fest fundraisers and more pageants than you could shake a stick at. Don't even get me started on IML in Chicago or the Chicago Pride festivities! Jeez! I'm pooped out just friggin' talking about it all!

We also had the excitement (stress?) of one Wisconsin's most-talked about elections in recent history. I don't want to get into all of that crapola here, but let me just say that no matter what side you're on, no matter who you voted for, the good thing is that you did something! Whether you canvased your neighborhood, made a donation to a candidate (in time or money) or you simply got your keester off the couch and voted. You did something!

Maybe the majority of us didn't get the results

we wanted from the recall election. But we let our voices be heard...loudly! We took our message onto the streets, and we shouted it from the rooftops. Many people worked long and hard to do what they thought was right. I hope that if we learned one thing from the election, it came from the words of Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, "never stop doing what you think is right."

That's correct, Wisconsin! Never stop demanding your equal rights. Never stop addressing homophobia and the issues surrounding bullying. Never stop treating one another with compassion and understanding. Never stop making improvements to your neighborhood. Never stop helping your community grow and prosper. Never stop doing what you think is right!

Remember silence equals acceptance. When it comes to your rights...when it comes to your happiness...when it comes to your future...speak out, speak loud and speak proud! You don't need an election, a festival, a parade or a block party to do this. Do it all year long. Make it a part of who you are and what you do. Do so, and you'll feel pride in yourself everyday of the year.

Alright, alright...I'll climb off my soapbox, but only long enough to remind you that there is still plenty of warm-weather fun to be had in Wisconsin.

For instance, you won't want to miss the July 21 fundraiser at Hamburger Mary's in Bayview for Saturday Softball League (SSBL). The softball players, coaches, managers and others will join me on the restaurant's fabulous Lanai as we enjoy a helluva beer bust from 4:00 to 6:00, followed by even more fun inside the joint...all to benefit SSBL!

In fact, you can catch me every Thursday at Hamburger Mary's calling bingo for a different local charity. Swing by, have a few beers, win great prizes and enjoy some of the best burgers Milwaukee has to offer! The fun starts each Thursday promptly at 8:00 pm. See you all there, and have a fantastic summer, everyone!

RUTHIE'S BITCHIN KITCHEN

I'm happy to say that all my little Ruthie Rooters are sharing their recipes with me, and my inbox is filling up fast. (That sounded dirty.) We've got some great dishes to share this month...from no-fuss entrees to tasty summer treats, so let's have a look shall we? Yes? Great! Now eat good and shut up!

continues...



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NO-FUSS CRAB CAKES

I was so happy to receive a few recipes from JP of Green Bay! This yummy entrée is a fast and easy way to prepare crab cakes which always hit the spot on warm summer evenings,

1-1/8 cups crushed saltine crackers
1 cup mayonnaise
1 teaspoon prepared brown mustard
1/4 cup chopped onion
1 stalk celery, chopped
1 teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning
1 pound crabmeat or imitation crab, slightly shredded

Spritz a baking sheet with no-stick cooking spray. In a medium bowl, mix together the first six ingredients. Gently stir in the crabmeat. Shape mixture into six patties. Place on baking sheet. Broil crab cakes 6-8 inches from oven broiler for 8 to 10 minutes on each side, or until golden brown and cooked through.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Don't want to buy a package of celery for one little stalk? Hit the salad bar at your supermarket. One scoop of chopped celery should be enough for this recipe. If you've never shredded crabmeat before, simply use two forks to pull the meat in opposite directions. Look for Old Bay (seafood) Seasoning in the spice aisle.

DAD'S SOUR CREAM POUND CAKE

"This is a recipe my dad used to make," shares JP from his home in Green Bay. I'm glad you shared it with us, honey! In fact, your Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt is on the way!

3/4 cup butter, softened
2-1/2 cups powdered sugar
3 large eggs
1-1/2 cups flour
1/2 cup sour cream
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla or almond extract

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spritz a loaf pan with no-stick cooking spray. Meanwhile, blend Butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until well combined.

In a large bowl, combine the flour and baking powder. On a low speed, beat the flour mixture into the egg mixture, alternating with the sour cream. Stir in the extract.

Pour batter into loaf pan; Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until a tooth pick inserted in the center of the loaf comes out clean.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Go ahead and soften the butter in the microwave, but do not let it melt! Using melted butter for the batter could cause an odd texture in the end result. Baking powder lasts for about 6 months. To test if it's still good, simply stir a teaspoon of it into 1/3 cup of hot water. If things start to bubble up, it's good to use. If not, replace it!

BLUBARB PIE

Here's a great summer dessert from Dan of Madison. Dan is a regular contributor to "Madison Magazine" and a bit of food blogger so I'm excited to share this recipe he sent! Thanks Dan!

Pie Pastry for a double crust, 9-inch pie
1-1/3 cup + 1 tablespoon sugar, divided
3 tablespoons instant tapioca
1 tablespoon flour
1/2 teaspoon grated orange peel
2 cups, fresh rhubarb, cut into 1/2-pieces
2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries, thawed
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into small bits
1 egg beaten with 1/4 teaspoon salt

Set bottom pastry into a 9-inch pie pan as directed on package. Meanwhile, combine 1-1/3 cups sugar, tapioca, flour and orange peel in food processor and process until the tapioca is ground fine. Turn rhubarb into pastry-lined pie pan; sprinkle with half of the sugar mixture. Repeat with blueberries and the remaining sugar mixture. Dot the surface with butter. Cut slits into top crust, and set top crust over berries. Press or flute edges together. Chill the pie for 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Brush top of pie with beaten egg mixture and sprinkle with 1 tablespoon sugar. Bake for 25 minutes then reduce oven to 350 degrees and bake an additional 30 to 40 minutes more until golden brown and juices begins to bubble through slits in crust. Serve warm.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

To flute the edges, gently push the dough between the thumb and forefinger of one hand and the thumb of your other hand. If the edges of the crust begin to brown too quickly, cover the edges with foil and continue baking. Dan suggests serving warm slices with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

Got a question or recipe for Ruthie? Email her at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com. If she publishes your recipe, you'll receive a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt. Check her out on Facebook at Ruthie DearRuthie.

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Ok, now that I got that out of my system. (Sorry for the rant and rave there, I think I had too much coffee this morning!) And don't forget that if I didn't answer something that you want to know or you have a suggestion let me know via email at avant-garde@voyager.net.

Seems I have some room left for some reader's mail.

Dear Brent,

I got pierced, not by you, about 4 months ago in my nipple and I think the shop really screwed it up! The piercing is way below my nipple and everyday it oozes and a lot of blood comes out. Is this a problem and if so what should I do?! — Ricardo

Well I guess I couldn't have asked for a better question this month. First Ricardo, thanks for writing in now let's get to the advice. I don't want to sound mean but read this column right now Ricardo, and on that note why the hell did it take you 4 f*ckin months to think this is a problem? Sorry about that, think I had a mental break down there.

After you are done with that I want you to go to your doctor and have him take a look at it. Odds are that if they went that deep then they probably hit some bodily structures that aren't necessarily vital but they aren't good to mess with either way. And with it being an open wound for this long, odds are you have a pretty nasty infection, so your doctor should be able to clear that up.

Once you are done doing all of these things Ricardo I want you to call a lawyer and suit the shit out of the piercer who did this to you. Anyone who screws a piercing up as bad as this deserves to get sued.

I think that we have had enough emails for one day. I think my eyes are going to pop out of my head from staring at them. That's it next month I need to clear this mail box out! Next month is going to be all about the reader mail! So send in your questions and help me have a mental break down! Send your hate mail, love mail, stalker mail, and regular emails to avant-garde@voyager.net.

Well, Pride has come and gone. And what a great weekend it was. Record attendances at Pridefest and at the Pride Parade, beautiful weather, what more could you ask for? Let's make sure all of the volunteers and staff of both of these events know how much we appreciate them. Reach Milwaukee Pride Parade at www.prideparademke.org and Pridefest at www.pridefest.com.

This month it was kind of hard to figure out what to talk about so here we go, this month we will talk about how to pick your piercer. After all you really should know, and trust, your piercer so let's get to it!

When you are looking for a piercer, first above all else, look for someone stable! Odds are if they are jumping around from shop to shop there is probably a good reason for it. (Usually the reason is that they SUCK!) If you go to a shop and the people keep changing that is never a good thing so before you decide to have this person pierce you ask him/her how long they have been at this particular shop.

Secondly, you should always ask about

experience, meaning how long have they been piercing. After all do you really want some kid who has only been piercing a few months putting a hole in your dick! I know I don't! When talking to someone about how long they have been piercing also ask them who taught them, and how long their teacher was piercing before he/she taught them. Let's admit here that someone with no experience or knowledge can't really teach someone else anything good!

Third thing to ask your piercer before settling on them to do your piercing is to find and inspect the work area that he/she works in. Remember that if they keep their work area sloppy odds are that they are sloppy piercer.

I guess what it really comes down to is this. ASK QUESTIONS! The more questions and the nosier you get, the more informed you will be to make an intelligent choice. For most people I use the word "intelligent" as an empty compliment only because so many people never research a damn thing! DO NOT go to some piercer

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NEW ON DVD **Going Down in La-La Land** Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn is not entirely sure how an intimate pre-PrideFest screening of Casper Andreas' **Going Down in La-La Land**, based upon Adam Zeffer's popular novel, led to a discussion of the film **Big Eden**, a discussion which lasted long into the night.

Released back in 2000, **Big Eden** is just the sort of gay love story which acclaimed 1940s film director Frank Capra might have made; might have made if Frank Capra was gay, that is, and living in the late 1990s. The storyline of **Big Eden** is delightfully simple. Henry Hart, a successful New York artist returns to home and hearth to care for his sweet, ailing grandfather. Once back, Henry re-connects with Dean Stewart, the object of Henry's unrequited youthful affection. **Big Eden's** wonderfully gay-positive town folk have a different idea as a suitable partner for Henry, however, namely Pike Dexter, the shy, unassuming Native

American owner of the town's general store.

A firm favorite amongst Glenn's acquaintances, **Big Eden** is a sweet, simple love story proudly wearing its heart squarely on its rainbow sleeve.

What's not to love? What indeed?

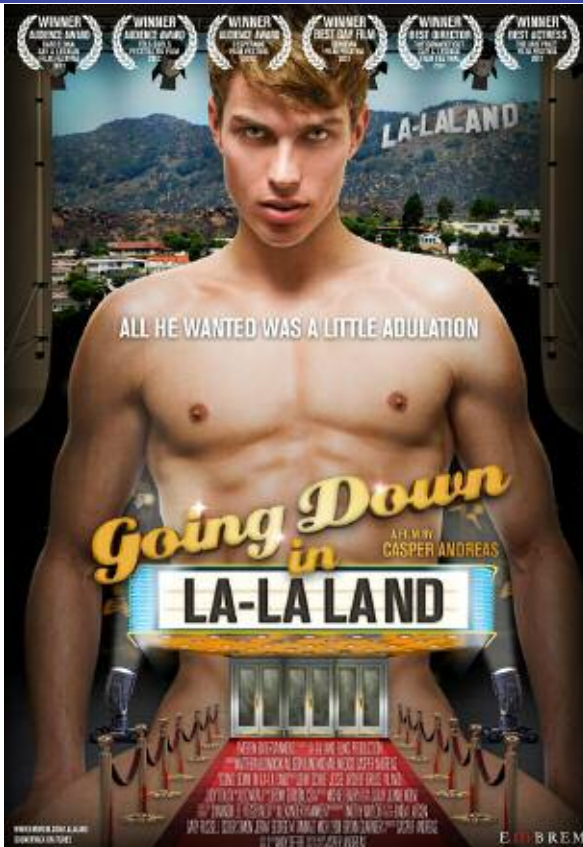
If **Big Eden** is typical of its time, so too is Casper Andreas' latest film, **Going Down in La-La Land**.

While the boys in **The Big Gay Musical** (another film by the prolific Casper Andreas) want to make it big on the Great White Way, **La-la Land's** Adam (the drop-dead adorable Matthew Ludwinski) is an aspiring actor heading towards Hollywood, his perfectly gym-toned body totally ready for his close-up!

It ain't gonna be easy. As his BFF Candy (Alison Lane) has already learned, Hollywood is filled with hot young guys with 6-pack abs and a great ass.

Adam gamely begins the search, as if looking for his own stool at this millennium's equivalent to Schwab's Drug Store (or perhaps the Top Hat Café as Wikipedia insists) in which to sip his Coke, get discovered and become a star.

Once the parking tickets begin piling up and his credit cards are maxing out, Adam reluctantly turns pragmatic and takes a job as receptionist at a gay porn company – which allows **La-La Land** to become one extended commercial for Jet Set Men.



Life as a porn company receptionist proves a slippery slope; the possibility of making a quick buck in the sex industry always tempting. And indeed Adam quickly goes from slipping a hot new DVD into a padded envelope and slapping on a stamp to performing in front of the camera and becoming Jet Set's newest star.

When this hunky Cinderella does make it to the ball, here a pre-Oscar party complete with golden slave boys, it is hardly the sort of an affair at which Adam is likely to find Prince Charming.

Adam's descent is final when he becomes a high-price call boy for Hollywood's rich and closeted.

Adam refuses to give up, determined that if there's a Prince Charming to be found in WeHo, Adam's going to find him and indeed, find him he does! After having kissed (and worse) a whole bunch of frogs, Adam's latest client turns out to be a sweet closeted sit-com star named John (Michael Medico) who falls truly, madly, deeply in love with Adam at first sight.

As Blanche Devereaux was wont to say, "Oh, honey, you've been hit by the thunderbolt."

It should come as a surprise to no one when, in his role as the proverbial (gay) whore with a heart of gold, Adam falls truly, madly, deeply in love with John just as quickly.

Yet unlike **Big Eden** which boasts a town full meddling well-wishers, **Going Down in La-La Land** is set in cynical WeHo and surely it won't

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

As enjoyable as is Casper's Andreas' **Going Down in La-La Land**, there is something deeply calculated about the film as well. Much like the popular **Eating Out** series, **Another Gay Movie (Sequel)** and pretty much anything starring Charlie David, Andreas has made certain to check off all the necessary boxes.

Is there a hot young WeHo guy looking for love in the wrong dating sites? You bet! How about a slutty blond BFF? Well, at least it isn't the wretched Rebekah Kochan. Surely there are a few D-list gay celebrities on hand? Enter Judy Tenuta, Alec Mapa, Perez Hilton, the ubiquitous Bruce Vilanch plus longtime Andreas sidekick Jesse Archer who all turn up as if on cue.

Given the lurid DVD box cover art, one might guess **Going Down in La-La Land** to be verging on soft-porn. It's not. There are, however, plenty of gorgeous people on hand to say and do the vilest of things, Alec Mapa's bitchy cameo perfectly setting the film's tone.

On the plus side, there's a wonderful "awe-shucks" quality to Matthew Ludwinski's appealing Adam, blissfully going from actor wannabe to porn star sensation and worse with his naiveté and innocence intact. A totally ripped Jimmy Stewart, perhaps?

Yet Andreas' screenplay (perhaps Andy Zeffer's novel as well) seems uncertain as to whether to make **Going Down in La-La Land** a cautionary tale (lacking of the bite of Jason Bushman's **Hollywood Je t'aime**, for example) or instead a simple Cinderella-story with the requisite fairytale ending. Still, as the final credits begin to roll, even the most cynical of Glenn's acquaintances couldn't help but wish the best for this unlikely star struck couple.

Just the facts...

Going Down in La-La Land clocks in at a swift 107 minutes

Going Down in La-La Land will be released on DVD on July 3, 2012 with an SRP of \$28.99 DVD extras include close captioning, outtakes, behind-the-scenes footage plus audio commentary.

All about **Going Down in La-La Land** @ <http://www.embrem.com/lalaland/> Find Matthew Ludwinski baring it all for the camera in photographer Dylan Rosser's book, **X-posed**.

be long before the paparazzi catch John and his new Personal Assistant with the dodgy porn star background in a compromising situation.

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