

QUEST

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On our cover
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**Quest talks to Community Activists Mike Fitzpatrick Paul (Cricket) Jacobs
& PFLAG's Georgia Henry about their committment to the LGBT Community.**

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In Search of Avery Willard



**I Remember:
A Film about Joe Brainard**

Cary Kehayan's documentary re-introduces this underground queer art movement pioneer. Willard was a Broadway photographer, physique artist, gay activist, experimental filmmaker, drag historian, leatherman, and pornographer, whose racy and arty work documented New York gay life from the 1940s through the 1990s.

Matt Wolf's archival montage is a witty and affectionate recounting of the life and energies of poet, artist, collagist Joe Brainard, commemorated here mostly for his singular memoir *I Remember*, a beloved memory-album and personal litany of sentences christened with the words "I remember..." The film features audio recordings of Brainard reading from *I Remember*, in dialogue with an interview with his lifelong friend and collaborator, poet Ron Padgett.

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SHAKING IT UP WITH MIKE FITZPATRICK

By Mike Fitzpatrick & Mark Mariucci

Over the last three decades F. M. "Mike" Fitzpatrick has been one of Wisconsin's "shake and bake" activists, helping get several LGBT institutions up and running. In the 80's he helped co-found what is now the Wausau office of the AIDS Resource Center (ARCW). In the 1990's he helped co-found the statewide gay civil rights group Action - now Fair - Wisconsin, where he served as president in the late 1990's.

In the 2000's he helped develop Rainbow Over Wisconsin (ROW) in to one of the state's three LGBT-focused foundations. Last November 17 Fitzpatrick received the organization's President's Award for his years of service to the northeast Wisconsin LGBT community.

Mike also has been a columnist and reporter for the LGBT press since 1997 with the *Wisconsin Light*, *Wisconsin IN Step* and *Quest*. From 2003 - 2010 he served as both News Editor and webmaster for *Quest* magazine. Every morning for years Mike provided LGBT Wisconsin with its only complete news update on the website's *QNU: Quest Breaking News* page.

Quest publisher Mark Mariucci recently had dinner with Fitzpatrick and talked with Mike about his years of dedication to gay equality.

Quest: You told me that you call yourself a "shake and bake" activist. What does that mean?

Fitzpatrick: I like to get things started. Shake things up when I saw a need, help get it started and then let others really run with it. Once something's "baked," so to speak, I'd rather play a small part than be the spokesperson.

Quest: What originally prompted you to get involved with gay activism?

Fitzpatrick: It was pretty evolutionary in retrospect. In 1981 I started a "Nu Musik" night on Mondays at The Flame, the bar I owned in Stevens Point. The night featured new wave music and as it became more popular, a lot of gay men and lesbians began to patronize it. Because the bar was one of the busiest in town on Mondays, it also attracted other locals, many of whom came to be entertained by the crowd rather than the music. I had to break up a couple of altercations between what were known as "townies" and the new wavers.

I later met with some of the gay customers and together we figured out a way to keep things safer. They started the "Monday Night Dance Club (MNDC)." It was early 1982 and no one wanted to use words like "gay" or "lesbian" openly in central Wisconsin. People paid a small fee for a membership card and that money was used to fund other things like picnics and toboggan parties.

It was what today might be considered a gay-straight alliance. Mondays at the bar got gayer, the music became more high energy and the new wave night eventually moved to Sundays. "Card night" - as my straight customers called it - became the gay night and drew people from all over the state at its height.

The great irony was that I wasn't out myself at that time. Though I knew I was "different" as a kid and had figured it out through secret research in the library by the time I got to college, I tried very hard to

live the "straight life" for church, family, co-workers and the general community. I didn't really begin to come out until 1986.

Quest: But you also got involved with AIDS work early on.

Fitzpatrick: I have always said that AIDS chose me. One of my Monday night gay bar backs also worked at my retail store when he wasn't working full time at a local paper mill. He told me at an after-bar party in 1982 that he had a cold that he couldn't shake. He had recently gotten back from a week in Florida. He had shared stories of the escapades he and his house share had in the gay bath houses in Fort Lauderdale and Miami. I remember saying something to him like "you know there's that gay pneumonia that I read about that can be fatal if you don't see a doctor."

Two weeks later he told me everything was fine. And two years later, on Easter Tuesday 1984, he came to me and told me he had AIDS. This was before any AIDS organization existed in Wisconsin. Over the next two years I learned a lot about AIDS and helped him as best I could.

After he died in the Fall of 1986, a bunch of us got together and formed CWASG - the Central Wisconsin AIDS Support Group, Inc. - with help from Bob Enghagen of the Madison AIDS Support Network in the Spring of 1987. We set up an ESV (Emotional Support Volunteer) or "buddy" program and raised money to help with the many needs people living with AIDS had back then. We also got anonymous testing events going at the gay bars in Wausau and Stevens Point.

In 1988, the Central Wisconsin AIDS Network (CWAN) came into existence at the behest of the state to deal with community testing and educational outreach. I also served concurrently with that group as a charter board member and a co-chair of the Community Review Board also known as the "(Jesse) Helms Committee" which was required to make certain that information about AIDS didn't "promote homosexuality." Both CWAN and CWASG co-existed collaboratively until early 1994.

I was just one of many really great people who helped get things off the ground in central Wisconsin back in the 80's. But for me personally, the mission of helping those with HIV/AIDS truly became my life's work. I'm in my 20th year with ARCW and found out not too long ago that I'm the longest serving case manager in the state AIDS/HIV program.

Quest: You also have helped cover the history of Wisconsin's gay community as a writer for three of the state's papers.

Fitzpatrick: That was a bit of an evolution as well. I started sending press releases about MNDC picnics and CWASG activities in the 80's to Ron Geiman when he was the publisher of *IN Step*. I got to work with him for real when he became the final Editor in Chief for the *Wisconsin Light* during its second incarnation, though it was Bill Meunier who brought me on board there. I also worked concurrently with Bill Attewell on *IN Step* where I not only wrote stories but penned the "Reality Check" column. And as you well know, Mark - we worked together on *Quest* for a good chunk of the 2000's. In each

case I started helping out a little and got more deeply involved as the months went on.

Quest: And you've been involved with Wisconsin's gay civil rights movement as well.

Fitzpatrick: Well I was recruited into that fight in early 1994 by the brightest political star gay Wisconsin has ever produced to date - Tammy Baldwin. It was an open invitation she put out at a gay issues conference held in Green Bay that winter. I didn't know about the first organizational meeting in Madison in October 1993, but I got to every meeting after that and was a founding member of Action Wisconsin in 1994. I'm still on the 501(c)3 arm of the three parts of what is now Fair Wisconsin, Inc. I chair the Governance committee which is a policy wonk's dream job.

I don't know how much the average gay man or woman knows about the truly proud part Wisconsin has played in the LGBT equality movement. Wisconsin may have become the first "gay rights" state in the nation in 1982, but we've done so much more. Action/Fair Wisconsin was a key factor in stalling "traditional marriage" laws for years in the late 90's and early 2000's.

Even after we lost the Constitutional amendment battle Wisconsin became the only state to establish same-sex domestic partner registration with such an amendment (banning same-sex marriage and civil unions) in place. Fair Wisconsin has gotten us a permanent seat at the statewide progressive movement table. Today our community and its lead organization are now seen as an essential part of that movement.

Fair Wisconsin has delivered electorally as well as politically too: Wisconsin is now the only state in the U.S. to send two openly gay legislators to Congress. And the biggest news was that the road to Tammy's historic win was not littered with gay innuendo. That's what real equality looks like - when being gay is the same as being blue eyed or left-handed. I'd like to think that I played at least a teeny portion of what has happened since Fair Wisconsin was organized back in '94.

Quest: Are you slowing down as the years add up?

Fitzpatrick: As you well know, I stepped back from regular writing and web site work for *Quest* back in 2010. This past January I also retired from the board of Rainbow Over Wisconsin, the northeast LGBT-missioned charitable organization. I plan to stay active with Fair until my current term expires. But that won't be in the near future because I was just re-elected to the FWEF (Fair Wisconsin Educational Fund) board last summer. And, health permitting, I'd like to continue my work with ARCW. It really is what gets me going in the morning.

Although I'm not a believer in fortune-telling, a gay Native American mystic told me a quarter century ago that I would never have one great love in my life, something that I found pretty disturbing having just really come out openly as a gay man at that time. But then he told me that instead I would know have level of non-sexual intimacy with many people that would be greater and actually surpass that which might be found in a traditional love story. I didn't understand him at the time. However, after doing 30 years of AIDS work I now know that he was right.



Mike Fitzpatrick photographed for Quest by
Mark Mariucci MariucciPhoto.com

LGBT ACTIVIST PAUL (CRICKET) JACOB

By Paul Jacob & Mark Mariucci

Paul Jacob's work as a LGBT activist began rather suddenly, and after a very difficult period in his life. In 1978 the naive, Catholic-raised college student struggled to reconcile his sexual orientation with all other aspects of life and family. "The mental anguish was tormenting. I felt very alone and suicidal despite the fact that I had several good friends. I'm sure many readers can relate," says Mr. Jacob known by most by the nickname Cricket.

He transferred from Finlandia University (then Suomi College) in Hancock, MI to UW Oshkosh because he learned you could see a psychiatrist free of charge as a UWO student. It was required that students be referred from the counseling center in order to see the University psychiatrist, so he struggled for months with an incredibly unqualified counselor who nearly pushed him over the edge. "In fact, I cut my wrists during this time, something very few people are aware of – until now. Eventually I earned my big day with the shrink, and it turned out to be the most important half-hour of my life," states Paul.

He walked into the huge room, with natural wood walls, a huge oak table, floor-to-ceiling book shelves, and a bearded man sitting in a huge, rocking, desk chair – pretty much just as he had pictured a psychiatrist's office to look like. The shrink said; "How can I help you?" And Paul replied; "I'm gay and I don't want to be!" "Whenever I hear the argument that 'homosexuality is a choice' I'm reminded of my reply to this psychiatrist; 'I'm gay and I don't want to be.' True, I could choose to not 'act in accordance' with my sexual orientation, but nobody will ever convince me that I 'chose' my orientation."

The next words that came from John, the psychiatrist, were; "I think you've come to the right place." As coincidence or fate would have it, John was one of a handful of psychiatrists appointed by the American Psychiatric Association (APA) in the 1970s to study homosexuality. The notable outcome of the study was that in 1973 the APA removed homosexuality from its official "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders". Prior to this, homosexuality was classified as a disorder. This was a gigantic step forward for LGBTs.

John went on to say; "I can't tell you IF you're gay or not, but I CAN tell you that if you're gay, you're probably not going to change, so you might as well work on accepting it." John described sexual orientation by comparing it to studies done on baby geese (goslings). Apparently there is a crucial period of time, when a gosling is just a few hours old, where you can replace its mother with any other animal or object, and that gosling will forevermore think of this object as its natural mother. You could stick a beach ball, a human or an elephant in front of that gosling and it will be 'imprinted' in the gosling's brain as its mother. John admitted all is not known about what determines sexual orientation, but said evidence suggests, similar to the gosling analogy, that there is a crucial time period in a child's early life when sexual orientation is imprinted. Paul left the shrink's office feeling 100 pounds lighter, no longer believing he was an immoral, defective, unworthy human being.

Paul then joined the relatively new 'Gay Student Association' on the UWO campus. This was a rare

predecessor to the GSAs which are common in colleges and high schools today. Back then, two or three people at a meeting was typical. Four or five was an earth-shaking event! "Incidentally, I had an opportunity to return to UWO's GSA group recently, to conduct HIV testing for them. They were meeting in the exact same room I had met in three decades ago! Deja vu." Paul recalls.

While in college he began tending bar at Appleton's first official gay bar which operated under a then new name; Lambda Lounge from 1978 until 1982. "I was young, cute and incredibly promiscuous, as was the norm before HIV reared its ugly head in the years to follow," he relates. During the next few years he worked as a bartender, a cook, continued his education, and wholeheartedly explored this new gay life.

I met "Cricket" after he moved to Green Bay in 1981 to cook at a gay owned and operated, pricey supper club called "The Algonquin". "I became a regular at the gay bars, and hobnobbed with the likes of "Za" and others who would become strong LGBT advocates as the local movement intensified," he continues.

For the next two decades Paul would work part-time and full-time jobs in area gay bars. He then opened and managed the Pivot Club in Appleton (Menasha) in 1986. "It was the largest, gay dance club in Wisconsin, and we packed 'em in on weekends," he reminds me.

He also managed Napalese Lounge for a short time, and more recently operated his own bar, Cricket's Fox River Lounge, from 2002 - 2005.

But back to the 80s: In the early to mid 1980s, HIV/AIDS began sweeping into the gay community. There was much fear and anxiety, amplified by the fact that scientists were unclear about how the disease was spread. Many of us spent the next decade attending way too many funerals - and always wondering 'Who's next?'. AIDS became 'the prominent topic of discussion' in gay circles and bars. "I remember sitting with friends making (long) lists of everyone we knew who had died during the previous few years. Many considered AIDS to be 'the gay plague'." Paul remembers.

It was a few regulars who hung out at Napalese Lounge on Broadway Street in Green Bay who decided they needed to take action. After about a year of planning, one of the earliest AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs) in the country began providing HIV testing and education services in 1985. The ASO was called C.E.N.T.E.R. Project (Community Endeavor for Needs in Testing, Education and Referral). This and other ASOs around the state have since merged to form the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

Of his life with ARCW Paul recounts, "I began volunteering for Center Project, Inc. (CPI) in 1986, and in 1988 I was hired part-time as assistant bookkeeper. The agency grew rapidly and I became the Accounts Manager, a position I would hold until CPI merged with ARCW in 1997. Since ARCW's corporate headquarters are in Milwaukee, I moved from the finance department to prevention/education, where I remain today. I'm proud to say I have served CPI/ARCW for more than 26 years."

LGBT individuals and organizations have provided invaluable support for ARCW and other ASOs throughout the country. "This has provided me with the privilege

of working closely with many groups and agencies. My 20+ years in the bar biz have also helped to establish relationships with shakers and movers. I strive to use these connections toward the betterment of the community," he continues.

It's difficult to create a timeline reflecting Paul's LGBT activism because so much of what he has done through the years overlaps, has been sporadic, or has occurred in a supportive role. Paul tells me, "There are some things I am particularly proud of: Being a liaison between ARCW and the community ARCW serves has to be near the top of the list. I'm fortunate that most of the bar owners in NE Wisconsin have allowed me to set up HIV testing gigs and to peddle my safer goods to their customers. See mom! Being a bar fly actually has some important social value!"

As a cofounder of Entertainers Against AIDS (EAA) Paul had fond memories working with lots of fun and talented folks. EAA produced some extravagantly impressive AIDS awareness shows at dozens of locations throughout northeast Wisconsin, including the prestigious Weidner Center for the Performing Arts and the Meyer Theater, both in Green Bay. EAA also published the Urinal Gazette and Tinkle Tribune, posting public service announcements 'on a restroom wall near you'.

Paul is a staunch supporter of Harmony Café, where he has sat on the steering committees for the youth and adult LGBT programs, and where he co-facilitates the weekly Conversation Café group. He has had a regular column in Quest magazine and Probe magazine where he featured valuable allies, and health-related topics pertinent to LGBTs. He even helped compile and publish the first area LGBT Resource Directory, and the first directory of area Faith-based Organizations for LGBTs. And it was an interesting trip down memory lane when Rainbow Over Wisconsin asked Paul and his friend, Lloyd, to take the lead on the LGBT History Project, which boasts a display each year at Pride Alive.

"My LGBT activism is important to me because I don't want today's youth to go through what I, and others of my generation, had to endure," Paul states. Paul also recognizes community needs beyond the scope of sexual orientation. He was an active member of the Tank Neighborhood Association, and across town an organizer of the Green Bay Sk8Park Project, which built the impressive skatepark at Joannes Park. He is a current member of United Way's Community Impact Council which assesses area funding needs. "On a more personal note, last year I became a licensed Treatment Foster Care provider, and am a very proud, new father to my 12yo son, Patrick," he continues.

"What do I do in my spare time, you ask? Ha. I have published three books with the intent of sending my readers on spiritual journeys, expanding their perspectives on life and human interactions," he mockingly says.

His third book, *The Freethinking Humanist*, may be of particular interest to those who feel abandoned or unappreciated by traditional religious teachings. All are available at lulu.com, and make terrific holiday gifts! "Being single most of my adult life has afforded me an opportunity to become quite involved in a variety of worthy causes. However, I intend to start accepting applications for a husband in 2013."



Paul Jacob photographed for Quest by
Mark Mariucci MariucciPhotography.com



A conversation with PFLAG President Georgia Henry

by Paul Masterson for QUEST

Holidays are traditionally family time. LGBT families celebrate as well. But for years, the idea of the LGBT family implied a loose confederation of friends brought together by their mutual exclusion from their biological relations. Then, in 1973 a Queens, New York schoolteacher, Jeanne Manford, tired of the persecution of children for simply being who they were, founded PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gay). Her mission was to maintain those family ties to LGBT people and maintain the system of support enjoyed by straight kids. Twenty people attended its first meeting. Her grassroots movement quickly grew into a national organization. Now, 40 years later, the organization is represented nationwide with 350 urban and rural chapters.

Milwaukee's PFLAG chapter was founded 1989. Its 25th anniversary is coming up soon. For nearly a decade, Georgia Henry has been its president. Many in the community might not know her – although they may have noticed her with her husband and son Nathan on one of Cream City Foundation's Gay Neighbor Campaign billboards a few years ago. She goes about her volunteer work quietly and with little or no fanfare presiding over monthly PFLAG meetings and working behind the scenes with schools and organizations that seek out her advice on related LGBT issues. Beyond PFLAG she also volunteers at numerous LGBT events, like Cream City Foundation's *My Best Friend is Straight* and, of course, at PrideFest where she has volunteered there since 2000).

QUEST: When did you begin volunteering for PFLAG?

Georgia Henry: I joined in 1999. My son Nathan was 17. He came out in February of that year. That was after Dalmer and Shepherd. He went to (UW) White-water and received death threats. So I had all that going through my head and worried what he would be going through. I didn't know anyone else with gay children. My husband and I knew we would always love and accept Nathan but we wanted to find out more. Today things are different but then I was afraid he'd be beat up or worse. We met lunch with our pastor who was very accepting and found out about PFLAG. I went to my first meeting in October. There were probably 20-25 people at that meeting and I was a blubbering idiot and couldn't even say my name. But I found out I wasn't alone and not the only parent of a gay child.

QUEST: How was PFLAG helpful?

GH: In this situation a parent doesn't know how to react. Every parent has dreams for their children. They assume children will be straight in my day that was the assumption. Nathan's being gay was a game changer, or at least I thought it was at the time. Just meeting so many caring people I knew it was a good organization to be part of. At first I thought I'd never be a grandmother. but I realized I can be. Nathan mentions a family with children...but he needs a boyfriend first.

QUEST: And then?

GH: Things improved. Another member and I real-

ized there was a need in Waukesha. Susan Silar - she's the one with the big sign at PrideFest - helped me so much and I wanted to help others in the same boat. So we co-founded a Waukesha branch in 2001. From there we set up meetings to help others. Most who attended meetings for the first time were like me...blubbering idiots.

QUEST: When did you become president?

GH: I have to think about when I became president. It's not something I've been keeping track of. I just do it. I believe it was in 2004. When the president at the time stepped down, I asked myself if I was qualified. I stepped up. I've been doing it ever since. I hope I'm doing a good job.

QUEST: How many members are in the local PFLAG?

GH: Right now the membership base is small, about 15. Many come and don't join. We support P with dues so it's great if they join. We operate on a very small budget.

QUEST: Have local schools, like the Milwaukee Public School (MPS) system reached out to PFLAG for advice on LGBT issues or in forming Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)?

GH: Yes, they have. We go to the Alliance School for MPS conferences. When we can, we advise schools trying to start a GSA. The problem with the GSA system is the turn-over of students. Members graduate and the group has to start all over with new kids.

QUEST: Has there been resistance to PFLAG?

GH: At meetings or at PrideFest we've had people confront us with their Bibles under their arms. I won't argue the Bible. Personally I don't believe the Bible says what they say it does. We've had people who have been through reparative therapy. Some say it works. It's obvious it hasn't because they are still unhappy with themselves.

QUEST: After all the years of struggle for equality and the ever growing accessibility of LGBT resources, families seem to be more accepting. Given these positive changes, has PFLAG's role evolved over the years?

GH: Our role is actually expanding. The mission is to support, educate and advocate. That hasn't really changed. There are still families who have a difficult time with gay issues. We still need to support the parents. Sometimes the children come alone because the parents are not accepting. Some ask how to come out to their parents. We offer advice but the choice how and when they come out is theirs. Even if they get a bad reaction they still feel so much better because it's off their shoulders. Bullying is still a major issue. Today, adults come as well...some in their 60's or 70s who may have been in the closet all their lives.

QUEST: Most people probably think of PFLAG as just for parents and their children. You've just mentioned older LGBT people. Who else comes to you for support?

GH: We deal with a whole realm of people with ex-

periences that can be shared with new people who are suddenly facing unfamiliar issues. Now we are getting straight spouses whose partners have come out. The gay partners are like kids coming out. Most of them don't know what to do. They love their spouse but can't live like that any more. We offer support for both so they can thrive and grow despite the change in their relationship. More straight spouses are supportive of their LGB or T spouse.

QUEST: How does PFLAG work with groups like Project Q or other LGBT family groups?

GH: We support Rainbow Families and there's reciprocity but the demographics are different. We help Project-Q, the UWM LGBT Resource Center, and the Rainbow Potluck Committee. We rent an office at the LGBT Community Center and we support it. We refer a lot of people to the center because we don't have the resources to cover all the needs. We also promote FORGE and other groups. We've done lots of collaborations like the UWM drag show and bus trips to Chicago to march in the parade.

QUEST: And PrideFest? You're a very familiar face there.

GH: Our PrideFest presence began as a counter-protest against the anti-LGBT elements outside the main gate. PFLAG wants respect for all. At first our signs were about tolerance and acceptance. Now they are simply welcome signs. So we're an unofficial welcoming committee. People coming to the festival always thank us. We give them a sense of security.

QUEST: Sometimes the anti-LGBT demonstrators can be rather intimidating.

GH: When the Nazis or, like in 2008, the radical queer group Bash Back! demonstrate, people ask if we're afraid but we not. Besides, we have back-up including the Milwaukee Police Department, PrideFest security and even the FBI. Plus today we are getting more and more help. Different churches and people unaffiliated with PFLAG ask if they can come and join us.

QUEST: Do have any particular anecdotes or stories you'd like to share about your PFLAG history?

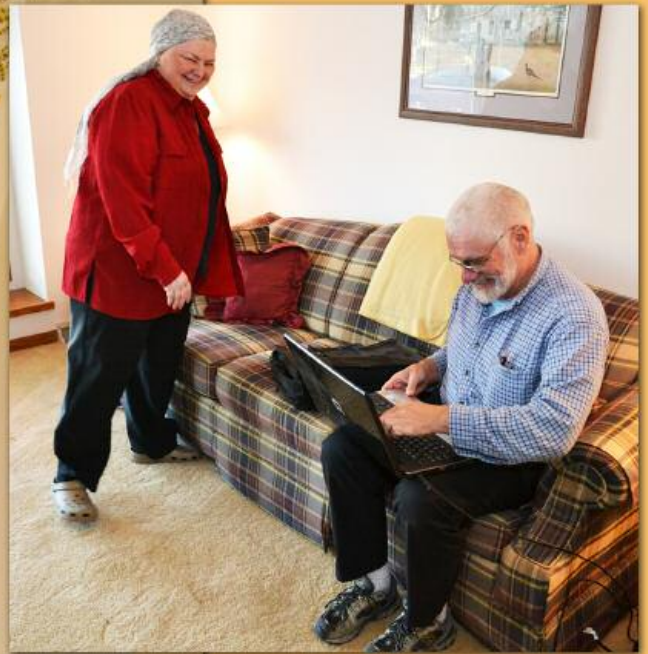
GH: There are lots of stories I could tell about kids and adults who come back to PFLAG and tell us about their successes and thank us for helping them become who they are. There are just so many. One, though is personal, and it shows just how being honest and open can be so easy.

When Nathan came out his younger brother didn't know yet. Nathan got a huge bouquet from a boyfriend. His brother asked about the flowers. When Nathan explained that they had come from a man he was dating, his brother only reacted with "well, you don't hear that every day."

PFLAG Milwaukee meets monthly meetings on the 3rd Sunday, at Martin Luther Lutheran Church just east of the Milwaukee Zoo, 5pm. Everyone is welcome. For more information go to www.pflag-milwaukee.org



Georgia Henry



Georgia Henry Photographed by
Kate Sherry
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DEFINITELY IN THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

2012 Wisconsin Levi/Leather Daddy and Argonauts' President Dan Harris has a combination birthday party and ARCW food drive on November 17 at Napalese Lounge - He raised almost \$700 in food plus donated items, then brought a huge donation Tuesday, November 20 including fresh eggs, butter, cheese, green peppers plus lots of shelf stable items to be distributed by the Green bay pantry.

Argonauts in the picture are Rick Jenz (lower left), Brad Borreson (lower right with the Trix), and Terry Payette (immediately left of Dan)

Also in the picture are three of the four soon-to-be new owners of the bar: Stacy De Sotel, Mark Stanislawski (aka Mark Madison immediate right and back of Dan) and Butch Pendergast (between & in front of Mark and Stacy). Stacy is also Mr. Northwoods. Missing is John Mencheski (aka Loretta LaMour)

THE YEAR IN QUEER

By Jimmy Newsum

2012 was a rollercoaster year, with terrific highs like gay marriage passing in Maryland and Maine, the first gay Senator (Tammy Baldwin) being elected, and of course, Obama winning a second term. Also, another delightful gay show joined prime time television - three cheers for The New Normal!

But there were deep lows too including the devastation of storm Sandy and the continued rise of hate crimes against gay and transgender people. We polled some of our favorite bold-faced names on how they will remember the past year in queer.

Besides Obama winning the election, what was the gay highlight of 2012?

AIDEN LESLIE: Obama announcing he was pro Gay Marriage!

MARTI CUMMINGS: All the great exposure and characters of LGBT folks on television.

RAPH SOLO: California banning reparative therapy.

FRENCHIE DAVIS: That's a hard one. Oh honey, there are gay highlights everyday. Just ask my hairstylist.

KRISTINE W: We pushed gay bullying even farther into the spotlight this year.

PAM ANN: My appearance as bar bitch on Andy Cohen's show with Cyndi Lauper and Sherri Shepherd, of course.

What was the gay lowlight of 2012?

RAPH SOLO: Jack Reese, the gay Utah teen, committing suicide after being subjected to bullying in school.

PAM ANN: Hurricane Sandy's devastating effects on my darling East Coast gays.

MARTI CUMMINGS: Mitt Romney and Paul Ryan.

AIDEN LESLIE: Mitt Romney.

KRISTINE W: Straight actors portraying gays as cartoons on TV and movies. I find it demeaning to my peeps.

What is the biggest issue facing the gay community today?

FRENCHIE DAVIS: The fights against homophobia in the straight community and bi-phobia in the gay community.

KRISTINE W: We need to teach safe sex to the youth and educate them on the high cost of AIDS. People can't survive the disease if they can't afford the medication.

RAPH SOLO: In a lot of countries, it is still illegal to be gay. Ignorance breeds a lack of tolerance. We need to stand up and educate people about who we are.

MARTI CUMMINGS: What happened to the days of taking to the street and demanding to be heard in a peaceful protest the way Dr. King led his revolution to freedom? We need to take a page from the civil rights movement of the 20th century and form our fight based on those values.

Who was the biggest out star of 2012?

MARTI CUMMINGS: Lindsay Lohan, but maybe not for the best reason.

AIDEN LESLIE: Ellen Degeneres.

RAPH SOLO: I have a lot of respect for Neil Patrick Harris and his continued outreach to gay youth.

KRISTINE W: Jane Lynch. She is amazing!

PAM ANN: Joan Rivers... she's gay, right?

Who do you hope will disappear into the gay abyss in 2013?

MARTI CUMMINGS: Bristol Palin and The Kardashians. Bye-bye!

AIDEN LESLIE: Mitt Romney.

FRENCHIE DAVIS: Michelle Bachman and her little husband. I'm sure he is secretly in the mirror somewhere with a hairbrush, lip-syncing to Dream-girls.

KRISTINE W: Honey Boo Boo. That poor kid. I hope a fabulous gay uncle appears and sends her to boarding school in Europe. Now that would be a reality show worth watching.

PAM ANN: One Direction could disappear in one direction outta here.

How will you ring in 2013?

AIDEN LESLIE: Performing my new single, *Diamond Dreams*, live on stage.

MARTI CUMMINGS: In sequins with gratitude and surrounded by twinks.

RAPH SOLO: With the biggest smile I have ever had, because, finally, I am here, queer and very comfortable with it!

FRENCHIE DAVIS: Probably singing somewhere followed by lots of wine.

KRISTINE W: I hope to ring in the New Year singing, hugging my fans and working "Everything That I Got".

PAM ANN: I will be at home, in the arms of someone special - a girl can hope!



Aiden Leslie:
Out musician



Frenchie Davis:
Out Diva



Kristine W:
Dancefloor Legend



Marti Cummings:
Gender Bender



Pam Ann:
Comedian



Raph Solo:
Out musician

MIKEY ROX'S ULTIMATE GUIDE TO GAY GIFT GIVING

by Mikey Rox

Sony Action Cam

Anyone who's ever ruined a smartphone trying to document their extreme adventures will covet the Sony Action Cam, a tiny, lightweight video camera to capture all those freefalls, high climbs, and daring underwater dives. The Action Cam features Sony's signature SteadyShot image stabilization technology, Exmor R CMOS image sensor, and an ultra-wide angle Carl Zeiss Tessar lens. The AS15 model (about \$70 more than the base AS10 model) even offers Wi-Fi connectivity so you can upload and share your videos on the Web – right after you catch your breath. (\$199; store.sony.com)



Keelan Rouge



Treat your beau to handcrafted accessories from Keelan Rouge – the eponymous label of an up-and-coming 26-year-old gay designer from Chicago – which features upcycled men's and women's wallets, cardholders, and flasks decked out with whimsical fabrics from vintage neckties, scarves, skirts, and other dapper designs. (\$26-\$58; keelanrouge.com)

Skora Running Shoes



Stay stylish while you sweat out your frustrations with Skora, the ultimate multipurpose running shoe. Two styles are available – FORM and BASE – with the latter featuring a stretch-mesh sockfit with an innovative adjustable X-strap system, elastic heel strap, reflective details and stitch-down construction with an Ortholite sockliner. Skora's are super lightweight – you won't even know you have them on – to encourage natural movement and performance. On the road, that is. You'll have to find another way to step up your game in boudoir. (\$110-\$185; skorarunning.com)

GrubKit

Veteran chefs and kitchen newbies alike will enjoy GrubKit, gourmet food kits that contain the precise amount of premeasured ingredients and an accompanying recipe to create not-so-common culinary delights any night of the week. Most of the current kits have an Asian flair (Mongolian Beef and Cashew Chicken, for instance) and you'll need to provide a few fresh items (eggs don't fare so well in the mail, it seems). There are also sweet kits for your friends who like to save room for dessert, which include a healthy banana muffin kit and a holiday cookie box with recipes for confections from around the world. (\$19-\$29; grubkit.com)



Snuza Trio

As more and more of our LGBT friends bring babies



home, we're left scrambling to find the perfect present for the adorable new parents. Bear in mind that the practical route is always the way to go in these situations – they do not need another fruit basket – which makes the Snuza Trio mobile baby monitor system the ideal gift for gay moms and dads. Snuza Trio includes the cordless Snuza Hero Mobile Baby Movement Monitor that clips directly to baby's diaper and activates an alarm if anything goes awry in the middle of the night; a night-vision camera that can be aimed into the crib and a built-in microphone to record sounds; and a lightweight, portable audio-video monitor with a 2.4-inch LCD screen that functions to a range of 450 feet from the camera and crib. The system also includes three lullaby tunes to help everyone in the family catch a few Zs before the 3 a.m. screaming begins... again. (\$299; snuza.info)

Moscot Eyewear

You'll need a pair of stylish shades to shield your eyes



from snow blindness when you hit the slopes this winter, and Moscot is where it's at. Based on designs from the manufacturer's archives, the Originals Collection features a variety of vintage-inspired frames constructed of real glass lenses and traditional hardware, and come in an array of colors that hark back to decades past. The aviator-style Sechel, available in Straw with G-15 lenses, are fashion forward yet functional to protect your pupils from the harmful UV rays above and below. (\$225-\$255; moscot.com)

Gillette Fusion ProGlide Styler

Transform your moisturized mug into a well-groomed



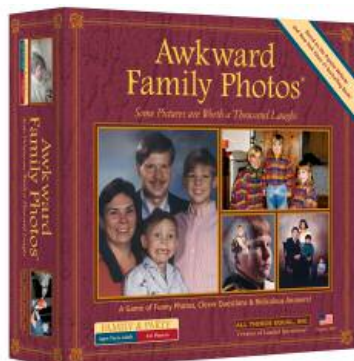
work of art with the Gillette Fusion ProGlide Styler, a three-in-one tool designed for men with a penchant for stylish facial hair. Whether you prefer a thin chinstrap, bushy muttons, or a simple goatee, the ProGlide Styler helps scruffy men master their put-together look with effortless maneuverability in and out of the shower. This gift-ready set includes the Power Trimmer fitted with Fusion ProGlide Power Blades, charging base, Microcomb, and a Precision Edging Blade. It's perfectly safe for staying svelte below the belt, too. (\$19.99; www.gillette.com)

PlayStation Vita



Avid gamers never have to stop playing their favorite titles thanks to the cross-platform Wi-Fi/3G connectivity of PlayStation Vita, the latest handheld innovation from Sony. What you start playing on your home-based PS3 console you can resume on Vita while you're out and about with this palm-sized device that fits perfectly in a jacket pocket or backpack. Vita supports a wide variety of games, including "Madden" and "Uncharted: Golden Abyss," and games available on both PS3 and Vita only need to be purchased once to be played on both devices. Vita also offers GPS, video and music playback, and is compatible with apps from Netflix, Skype, Facebook, Twitter, and more. (\$240-\$299; us.playstation.com/psvita)

Awkward Family Photos



Based on the cringe-worthy-but-totally-relatable website of the same name, the Awkward Family Photos board game combines classic and never-before-seen photos with probing, make-you-squirm questions for a game night full of laughter and creative discussion. Definitely a better alternative than mom passing around those embarrassing, bare-ass baby pictures during dessert. (\$24.99; familyandpartygames.com)

Brookstone HDMI Pocket Projector



Turn any blank wall into an impromptu movie screening with the HDMI Pocket Projector from Brookstone. With more than two hours of battery life and built-in audio, mobile cinephiles can transform their Apple, Android, and Windows smartphones and tablets into a crisp, high-definition viewing experience that rivals that of your local multiplex. This micro Pocket Projector includes a three-foot HDMI cable, a Micro HDMI adapter and a Mini HDMI adapter, and projects an image with a 16:9 aspect ratio – which will make that annual viewing of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" bigger and better than ever before. (\$299; brookstone.com)



Mango
Passport

For those on your list planning a big trip abroad or who simply want to expand their horizons at home, Mango Passport makes it easy to learn a foreign language on multiple platforms, including a computer, MP3 player, and smartphone. Available in 16 languages and 12 ESLs, each Mango lesson incorporates interactive tools and rich imagery that eliminates boredom and keeps users engaged. Building a solid foundation on more than monotonous vocabulary memorization, Mango Passport – which includes three 'Journeys' for each language – teaches practical speaking skills and cultural insights while gradually instilling the confidence to start great conversations. Like with the pool boy. (\$176; mango-languages.com)

Cuisinart Smart Stick



Preserve precious countertop real estate with the Cuisinart Smart Stick, the versatile hand blender that goes from pot to pitcher, bowl to beaker with ease. A powerful 200-watt motor spins into action with a simple one-touch control so home cooks can blend drinks, emulsify dressings, puree soups, and froth up festive hot chocolate without dirtying up many-piece bigger blenders that require more work than their worth. (\$40; buydig.com)

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Carb lovers will jump for joy every few weeks with Pain D'Avignon's Bread of the Month Club, which includes monthly deliveries of seasonally thoughtful baked goods and accompaniments, like white French boules and garlic-herb croutons in January and hot dog buns and house-made potato chips in July. Three- to 12-month subscriptions from the celebrated Massachusetts-based bakery are available. (\$150-\$500; paindavignon.com/botm)

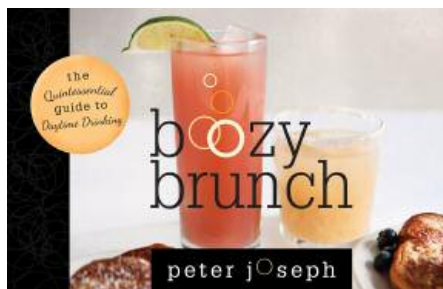


**HOLIDAY
SPIRITS**

**flipflop
Rum**

Give yourself a temporary reprieve from the winter weather with flipflop, a quadruple-distilled Caribbean rum made from high-quality sugar cane. To sweeten the season even more, flipflop will donate a portion of the proceeds from each bottle purchased to Soles4Souls, a charitable organization that provides shoes to barefoot, orphaned children around the world. (\$14; flipflopum.com)

Boozy Brunch: The Quintessential Guide to Daytime Drinking



Invite the oohs and aahs of your overnight guests as you test your culinary skills with more than one hundred drink recipes and 25 food pairings in Peter Joseph's "Boozy Brunch: The Quintessential Guide to Daytime Drinking." This picture-heavy entertaining guide features a slew of mouthwatering brunch-inspired alternatives and jazzy variations to champagne-based, coffee-based, or fruit or vegetable juice-based cocktails. (\$16.95; rowman.com)

Tequila Partida

Make your rendition of "Feliz Navidad" more authentic with Tequila Partida, the 100% blue agave spirit better for sipping than shots. Available in four marques – Blanco, Reposado, Añejo, and Elegante – Partida's hand-harvested, clean taste is recognized the world over. (\$50-\$350; partidatequila.com)



Absolut Tune

Add a splash of panache to your holiday breakfast with Absolut Tune, Absolut Vodka's newest fusion of sparkling white wine and premium vodka. Wrapped in festive packaging and corked for added sophistication, Absolut Tune works just as well washing down pumpkin French toast as it does as a host/hostess gift with a kick. (\$31.99; absolut.com)



Rabbit Wine Chilling Carafe

Big, bulky chillers are no match for the ingenious and space-friendly Rabbit Wine Chilling Carafe, an aesthetically pleasing glass bottle that holds an entire regular-size bottle of vino kept cold by a chemical-free stainless-steel ice chamber. (\$49.95; kitchencouture.com)



Mumm Napa 2007 Blanc de Blanc



This sparkling wine made of 90% Chardonnay grapes and a touch of Pinot Gris hails from Napa Valley, which since the 1960s has rivaled the viticulture regions of France, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. Thanks in part to its complexity, the Mumm Napa 2007 Blanc de Blanc recently received a 91-point rating from *Wine Spectator*. (\$38; mummnapa.com)

Patron XO Café Dark Cocoa

Trade your Irish coffee in for a Mexican version with Patron XO Café Dark Cocoa, a combination of Patron Silver tequila and light essences of fresh-roasted java and premium chocolate. Decidedly dry – not sweet like many other coffee liqueurs – Patron XO Café Dark Cocoa is distilled at 60 proof, which you'll appreciate when the in-laws blow in with the blizzard. (\$24.99; patrongift.com)



Vinamor

Fans of ABC's hit show "Shark Tank" may recognize the Vinamor, a unique glass wine aerator that brings out the best of your bottle in an instant. In addition to softening tannins and allowing flavors to flourish, Vinamor also assists in measuring the perfect wine pour, helping to deter overpouring... or underpouring for all you lushes out there. The Vinamor can also conveniently move from one wine glass to another, aerating several glasses of wine per table. Need another incentive to buy a Vinamor? Inventor Gary DeJohn has pledged to donate \$7 from the sale of each device sold to The Trevor Project when you use code LGBT at checkout. (\$39.95; vinamor.com)



Effen Vodka

What's in a name? For super-premium vodka Effen, which means smooth, even, and balanced in Dutch, it's the commitment to a clean, crisp taste delivered in a smartly designed package. Available in regular, cucumber, and black cherry flavors, this 100% premium wheat, 80-proof vodka is a surefire way to get your party guests rockin' around the Christmas tree. (\$29.99; effenvodka.com)



Pisco Portón

It takes 18 pounds of grapes to make one bottle of Pisco Portón, the quintessential South American spirit that contains notes of cinnamon, orange blossom, and citrus. Sourced from vineyards irrigated by glacial river from the Andes Mountains, Pisco is at its best when served neat and paired with a piece of dark chocolate. (\$40; www.piscoporton.com)

Bytox

Get into the holiday spirits without suffering a splitting headache this New Year's Eve. Bytox – specially formulated for hangover prevention – is a 100% all-natural adhesive patch that pumps the vitamins and nutrients you lose from drinking back into your body. Ideally, the patch should be applied at least 45 minutes before alcohol consumption begins and removed no less than eight hours after last call. Although there's still no cure for whiskey dick, this is a decent compromise. (\$14.99/5-pack; bytox.com)



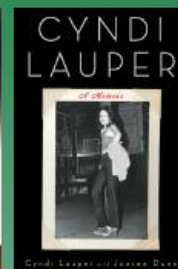
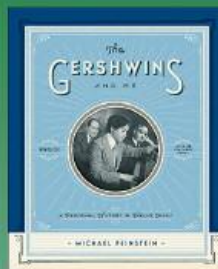
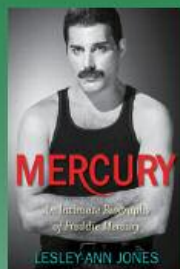
Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist and blogger who lives in New York City with his husband and their two dogs. Follow him on Twitter @mikeyrox.

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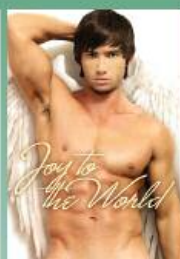
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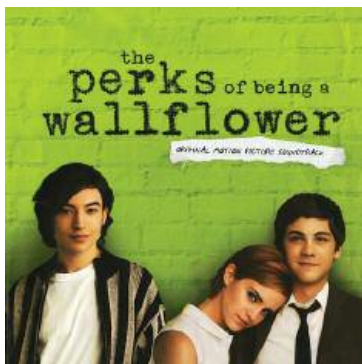
The Perks of Being a Wallflower took Glenn completely by surprise. And it has been some time since a film took Glenn completely by surprise. After all, did Glenn really need yet another coming-of-age film? Does anyone?

To read a nation's worth of post baby boomer-aged film critics surely fevered with nostalgia, we did. Still, when an cinema outing was being organized, Glenn lobbied hard for **Skyfall**, the latest Bond flick and one in which Judi Dench's iconic M reportedly steps away from her desk and right into the line of fire. But the group, many who had seen Ezra Miller's chilling performance in **We Need to Talk About Kevin**, demanded instead **The Perks of Being a Wallflower**. Miller having outed himself as "queer" in a recent Out Magazine interview, a deftly deceptive admission at that sealed the deal.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower also touts Emma Watson's first film role since her graduation from Hogwarts. Whilst Watson's co-star Daniel Radcliffe was seen earlier this year playing a widower and father of an adorable little boy in the Victorian ghost story, **The Woman in Black**, Watson seems to have been held back, sent back for another year of high school.

At the center of **The Perks of Being a Wallflower**, which Glenn is going to abbreviate to the much simpler **Perks**, is Charlie (Logan Lerman), a new freshman at a suburban Pittsburgh high school. The time is vaguely 1980s or early 90s. The kicking soundtrack studded with such gems as **Come on Eileen** by Dexy's Midnight Runners and The Smith's **Asleep**, suggests the former.

Most of Glenn's friends couldn't wait to start high school but Charlie, after a bout "in the hospital" following the suicide of his best friend the previous spring, isn't quite so keen. His plan is to envision the day of his graduation, a daunting 1385 days away. Charlie might receive some status as the younger brother of a football star



Full Price, Matinee or wait 'til the Budgets...

The Perks of a Wallflower has effectively seduced so many critics, Glenn included, precisely because Stephen Chbosky understands adolescence is a universal series of daily joys, accomplishments and tragedies, small victories, skirmishes with both popularity and loneliness and all on the treacherous road to adulthood. Neither the time period or the details matter as long as they are played as they are here with merciless accuracy.

Surely some moviegoers will take in **Perks** simply to see how Emma Watson does shedding her Hogwarts persona. For the most part she does just fine, her American accent (??) wobbly but in place, Some of Glenn's party thought her perhaps too glamorous and self-assured to be entirely believable as grade-point challenged senior who inexplicably keeps dating losers.

Much better is Ezra Miller's Patrick, taking the archetypal role of gay best friend in refreshingly original directions. From the very first scene, in shop class, during which he gains the affectionate nickname "Nothing," Patrick proves both funny and fearless.

At the heart of this poignant film is Logan Lerman's wistful, sharply observant Charlie, who also acts as also narrator. Whilst all new freshmen must suffer anxiety at settling in during their first day in high school, how difficult for shy, introverted Charlie who is still haunted by his best friend's suicide. And without a friendly face to find during the nightmare that is the high school cafeteria. Yet Lerman's Charlie bravely soldiers on, naively believing that all will be well if only he can make friends and when it happens, Patrick and Sam take Charlie on for a ride he'll never forget!

The Perks of a Wallflower is definitely worth a **Full Price**.

Just the facts...

The Perks of a Wallflower runs 103 minutes and is in English. As of this writing, **The Perks of a Wall Flower** is currently in theatrical release. **The Perks of a Wallflower** has a DVD release of February 12, 2013 with a MSRP of \$29.98. Paul Rudd, who plays sympathetic English teacher Mr. Anderson, appeared in 1998's delightful **The Object of My Affection**.

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now playing for Penn State. Failing that, his older sister and her football player boyfriend could take poor Charlie under their collective wings.

But screenwriter/director Stephen Chbosky, adapting his own acclaimed Young Adult novel, is determined to keep it real. Cue Charlie sitting alone at a table come lunchtime.

Wonderfully earnest, Lerman's Charlie is determined to at the very least go through the motions. He gains an ally in his Advanced English teacher Mr. Anderson (Paul Rudd), yet remains determined not to add "teacher's pet" to the lengthy list of ammunition his classmates already possess.

Charlie might be willing to play the role of wallflower but give him credit for showing some serious

gumption at the Friday night football game when his spies Patrick (Ezra Miller), a senior who is in Charlie's freshman shop class. Patrick possesses all of the fabulousness of Sebastian Flyte (yes, yes, yet another **Bridesehead Revisited** reference) sans any self-loathing. Not terribly surprising then that Charlie recognizes Patrick as another outsider on the fringe of the slippery slope that is high school social hierarchy. Big Gulp in hand, Charlie bucks up courage, backs away from the wall (metaphorically at least) and joins Patrick in the stands.

With the kind of speed that perhaps only occurs in high school and then never again, Charlie becomes fast friends with Patrick, his half-sister Sam (Emma Watson), Mary Elizabeth (Mae Whitman)

who is a Buddhist and Alice (Erin Wilhelmi), a rich kid who steals jeans.

Thereafter, Chbosky's screenplay follows the typical trials and tribulation of high school circa late 1980s in suitable chronological fashion. Charlie develops a huge crush on Sam. Charlie goes to Homecoming Dance. Patrick is secretly (shhhhh!) dating Brad (Johnny Simmons), the quarterback on the football team. Charlie's first experimenting with alcohol and drugs. There's plenty of Rocky Horror Picture Show, then Christmas. And so on.

Yet always lurking right below the surface are the demons that continue to haunt Charlie. In fact, after a particularly unfortunate turn at "truth or dare," Charlie suddenly finds himself set adrift from the Island of

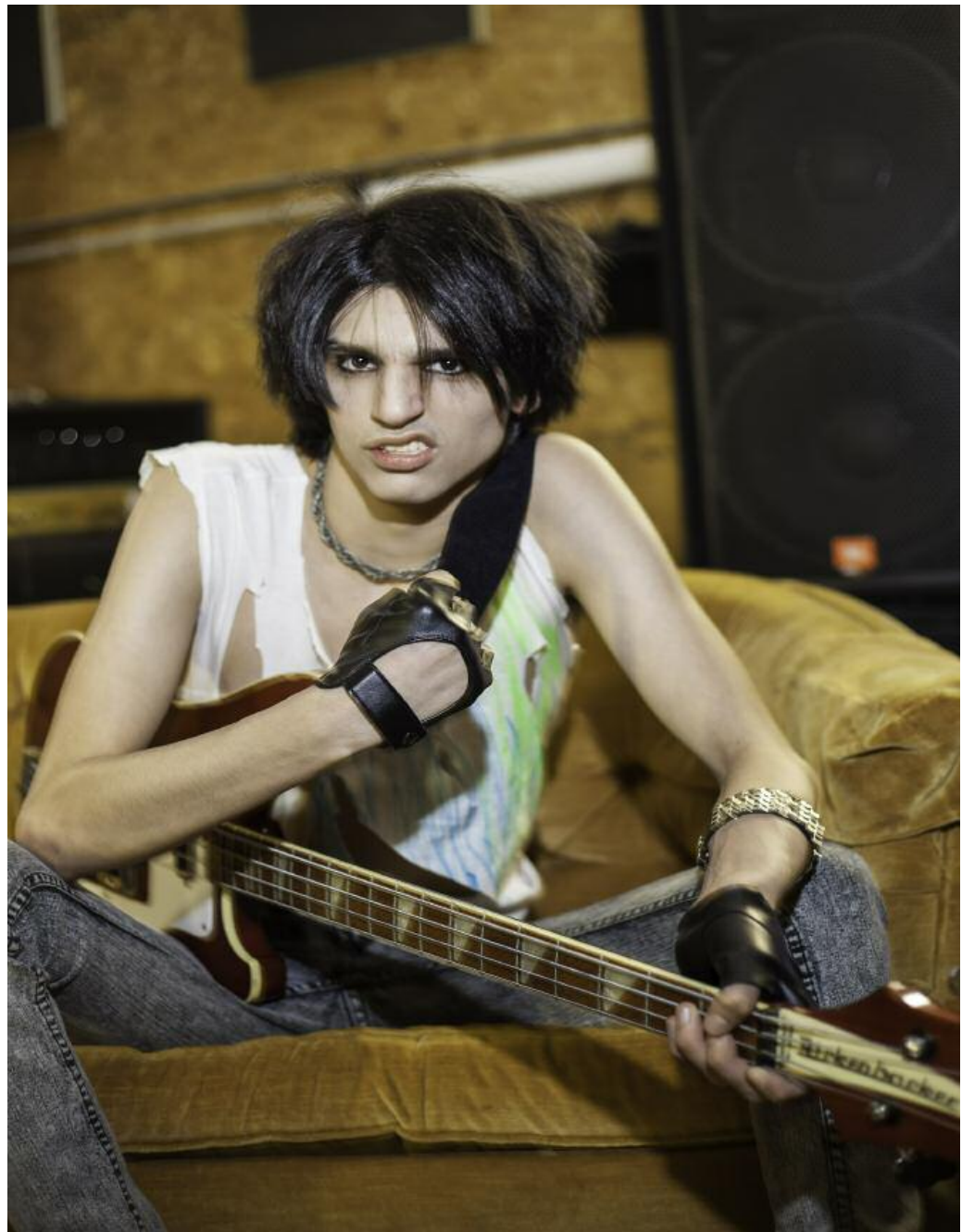
ON OUR COVER

19 year old Lucas Baron studies at Rochester Institute of Technology / NTID (National Technical Institute for the Deaf) He is taking photography and in his spare time has also been a model for many photographers in the Green Bay area. His facebook profile states "Hi My name is Lucas Baron "FULL DEAF" I wear 2 hearing aids and I still call myself Hard of Hearing. Lucas is gay and although he he considers himself a photographer and model, he would really love to be an actor.

Photographer -
On our Cover and to the right:
Che Correa Photography

Che graduated with a certificate in digital photography from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) and is currently working on her Advanced Digital Photography Certificate and an Associate's Degree in Graphic Design also at NWTC with an estimated completion date of "whenever I get done"; lol. Che is a free spirit and has a great portfolio of images that span several genre's including her homage to Sid and Nancy (used for our cover) as well as some great 50's / 60's period pieces.

Check out her website for more at www.checorreaphotography.com
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BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 11 #12 December 2012



Above: World AIDS Day Remembered at Milwaukee Art Museum
Below: the GAMMA Holiday Party at Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
photos by Paul Masteron



Left: Taken at
BOOM, Milwaukee
photos by Will Sharkey

scan the Q-code to the
right to go to Quest
Website and view
all our photo
galleries
including this issue
and Halloween
and so much more!





Above:
A show at Hamburger Mary's

Below:
Chantall Going Away Party at ICON

photos by Will Sharkey





Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

It's the most wonderful time of the year – to quote the late, great Andy Williams. Welcome once again to my annual Holiday card of celebrating Wisconsin, Our Community, and You! May all your dreams be fulfilled during this magical time of year, and may 2013 be the most lucky number for us all!

Saturday, December 1 was World AIDS Day a day of compassion and commemoration. I know we've all got a soft spot in our hearts for those we said good bye to too soon. We also continue the fight in their honor, for those dealing with HIV/AIDS today. Maybe a contribution to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) or the BESTD Clinic or the Holton Street Clinic for those whose Holidays could be brightened while continuing to live with and strive to get ahead in spite of this hideous virus?

"HIV in 2012: Hidden and Unfamiliar" took place at the Milwaukee Art Museum 2 P.M. Taryn Simon's photograph, Live HIV was unveiled. Ronald S. Johnson, VP of Policy and Advocacy, AIDS United and Mike Gifford, President and CEO of ARCW were on hand. Later that day the gift of music took over as The City of Festivals Men's Chorus (Milwaukee's premiere Gay Male Chorus) performed their Holiday Concert "Caroling, Caroling" at Plymouth Church.

Following the Concert Fluid launched their monthly Show! Lizzie Bordeaux extended an invitation to Goldie Adams and Cordially Yours to appear and help kick this Saturday tradition into place. Every **first** Saturday of the month at 10:00 pm Fluid will be the place to be!

Music Under Glass presented by Potawatomi Bingo Casino is up and running. Every Thursday 6:30 – 9:30 pm The Mitchell Park Domes. This month: Southern Tradition December 6, Tweed Funk December 13, The Booze Brothers Show Band & Revue December 20, Marcell & Peter Dueling Pianos December 27. Please pencil in The Jerry Grillo Orchestra for next month, January 24! Enjoy the fine food and cocktails provided by Zilli Hospitality Group. Steph and Staff never disappoint. If you notice a skilled eye and hand doing the displays at the Domes for the past year or so, it is the extraordinary craftsmanship of Burt Gross. Burt's work is so amazing – you must see with your very own eyes what I'm talking about! You all know and love Burt as that hottie bartender in The Room of Boom Fridays and Saturdays 8 – Close, see another side of this Renaissance man and his vision on South 27th Street.

Women's Voices Milwaukee (Milwaukee's premiere Lesbian Chorus) will present their Holiday

present to the Community with "All I Want for Christmas" Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8 7:30 pm The Washington Park Senior Center 4420 West Vliet Street, just a few blocks west of where the legendary Beer Garden was located. The same weekend, if you feel like a ride to our State's Capitol of Madison you can enjoy Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus and their Holiday revue "Warm Wishes from Wisconsin" The Madison Masonic Center 301 Wisconsin Avenue.

The 17th Annual Jolly, Holly, Folly is back in December and on a Wednesday, the 12th! You don't want to miss ARCW's big Holiday treat, friends, food, fun, drink, and a performance from The Milwaukee Rep of Jane Austen's "Sense and Sensibility". The InterContinental Hotel Downtown 139 East Kilbourn Avenue just like last year. If this doesn't get you into the mood and mode of the Season – nothing will. The Event begins with Cocktails at 5 PM, Samplings from 30 premiere restaurants in the southeastern portion of our state, including: Bosley's on Brady, Cempazuchi, COA, Firefly, La Perla, Mason Street Grill, Maxie's Southern Comfort, and Rumpus Room among others. Curtain is at 7:30 PM.

The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino has booked some fine Holiday fare to get you into the mood -- Thursday, December 13 "John Tesh Big Band Christmas" at 8:00 p.m. invigorating you to get up and start ho-ho-ho-ing! You remember John from Entertainment Tonight, a few seasons ago.

And if Big Band doesn't get your toe tapping how about that American Idol – almost, "Clay Aiken, and his Joyful Noise Tour" 8 bells on Sunday, December 16. Great news for you who enjoyed the phenomenal cuisine of Good Earth at the Casino, they've reopened! Congratulations Veta!

What a great seasonal gift Off The Wall Theatre's "Gigi" will be! Who doesn't want to "Remember it Well" and "Thank Heaven for little Girls" and celebrate "The Night They Invented Champagne"! For a little bit of Gay Paree and the lovely Lerner and Loewe score it's Dale Gutzman's Off The Wall Theatre 127 East Wells Street "Gigi" December 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, and the 31, New Year's Eve, what a great way to toast in the New!

Boom/The Room's Holiday Drag-Extravaganza is slated for Friday, December 14 10:30 PM Come on down and tell Mrs. Claus what you want her husband to bring you...

Please don't forget the Great Masters at the great Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) Now through Sunday, January 13, 2013 – Rembrandt,

Van Dyck, Gainesborough and The Treasure of Kenwood House, London. See the Art Museum over the Holidays, for a different view of our Great Lake and the surrounding area. Bravo Dr. William Keyse Rudolph for making this all happen!

If you're looking to get into the feeling of the Season – try a visit to Captain Frederick Pabst's Mansion on Wisconsin Avenue. I was invited to a marvelous fund raiser on the eve, of their eve, of opening the manor for the Holidays. Imagine a formal, sit down dinner for 60, catered deliciously by Saz's. Diane "Legs" Gregory was my celebrity server! You go girl! The house really is a large home – very warm, inviting, and stunningly appointed for the Season. John Eastberg, Historian and Keeper of the Flame at The Pabst provided wonderful background on the illustrious Pabst family and the great charitable works they continue to do to this very day! We missed You, Joe – Thanks for making this all happen! Wishing You a speedy recovery!

"Divorce Party The Musical" has custody of Vogel Hall at The Marcus Center – Thursday, January 3 – Sunday, January 27, 2013. You'll love the latest from the Producers who brought you "Menopause the Musical"! It's the ultimate Girl's Night Out, but not for Girls only! To be a witness to all the zaniness please call 414-273-7206 or go online www.marcuscenter.org

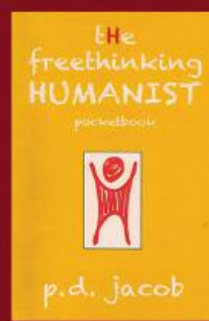
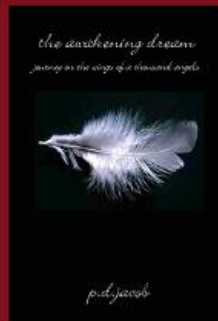
"Memphis" will heat up your New Year like nothing else starting on Tuesday, January 8 – Sunday, January 13. This musical tale of a D.J. that broke the Color barrier of the recording industry in the 1950's, offering air time to the real artist. Come hear the music that got the kids up and moving like never before or since!

In place of my restaurant suggestions this time around kudos to two of my favorite eateries that received the Popular Vote of the People! Shepherd Express held their yearly vote in on almost everything and the best restaurant in Milwaukee by their Readership is Sanford now in their 23rd year located at 1547 North Jackson. Sandy D'Amato has a lot to be proud of! Always a gourmet feast for the gourmand in all of us!

The other fine food fixture of the French variety that never disappoints is Chez Jacques. This quit, unassuming bistro can be found at 1022 South First Street and it continues to grow and evolve and please! Jacques has so much to celebrate and his Staff led by John is always right on mark.

Remember it's the glamor, not the grammar! So ends another column and another year of keeping you all cordially close. I wish you the brightest and happiest of Holidays this Season – so special in fact it, it keeps you smiling through the year ahead -- to a cool Yule and a groovy New Year as I remain
Still Cordially Yours.

Wisconsin Gay Author/Activist Publishes Third Book



Green Bay author and LGBT activist, Paul "Cricket" Jacob, has released his third book. **THE FREETHINKING HUMANIST** chronicles the key events and the individuals responsible for the 'free thought' and 'humanist' movements.

While respecting religious diversity and the positive messages delivered through a variety of theologies, many, like Jacob, cannot overlook the oppressive, judgmental and divisive nature of competing faith-based religions. Jacob explores the early Church's refusal to let scientific discoveries interfere with its teachings, and how the Church-sanctioned Inquisitions punished those who thought 'outside the bible'. *"The luckier of history's greatest thinkers faced imprisonment, while many of the less fortunate were burned at the stake."* The book is a wonderful reference tool which includes: The Humanist Manifestos I, II & III; Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and 16 Traits of Self-Actualizers, Ted Turner's Ten Voluntary Initiatives, a listing of the Greek Gods, the history of the Christmas and Easter holidays, pages of incisive quotes from history's greatest thinkers, and a listing of freethinking and humanist organizations in the United States and around the world. Jacob was a guest author at the 2009 Fox Cities Book Festival and is a familiar presenter at LGBT-related and sexual health-related functions throughout northeast Wisconsin. This book release follows **THE AWAKENING DREAM – Journey On The Wings Of A Thousand Angels** (publ. 2008) and **HOW WE SHOULD THINK- The Intersections Of Philosophical Thought** (2010). All three books are available via the author's website: www.pdjacob.com or the publisher: www.lulu.com.

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Welcome to Ruthie's **Bitchin' Kitchen**



MERRY CHRISTMAS, folks! 'Tis the season of good cheer and warm spirits and all that jazz. You know the routine: Peace on earth, good will toward man, let's have a kiki...blah, blah, blah. Been there, done that. I've decked the halls; I've rocked around the Christmas tree; I've woken up underneath a department store elf. Needless to say, the magic of the holidays has lost it's novelty over the years. In fact, there are several things about this season that get me crazy. That said, let's close the Bitchin' Kitchen for a bit, and let's take a look at all of those things that drive me nuts about the holidays.

Things Ruthie Hates About Christmas!

Skinny Girls. You know the types — the girls who prance around in their Christmas finery, insisting they can't have a sugar cookie due to the calories. These are the skinny-ass women who look great in tiny plaid skirts and tight cashmere sweaters but whose fingers smell like vomit. These are the dames who ask, "Does this maxi pad make me look fat?" Yes, bitch, it does! Now go home and choke down some eggnog.

Christmas Letters: Newsflash! Unless you're a grandparent, no one (and I mean no one) gives a hell about your crappy Christmas letter. No one wants to read these letters, and the majority of people who do read them, do so only to make fun of you and to check your lousy spelling and grammar. Unless your daughter got a job at the Bunny Ranch or you're coming clean about your husband's extra testicle, it's time to admit your life isn't that interesting. Perhaps you're thinking, "Gee, Ruthie, everyone loves MY Christmas letter." I'm here to tell you that you're insane. Wake up and smell the yellow snow, Rudolph! People are lying to you. And while you're at it, stop wasting money including photos of your

ugly kids in your Christmas cards...unless you're sending them to a grandmother. They eat that shit up.

Mulled Wine: What the hell? Wine is wine. It's not supposed to have cloves, dried fruits and all sorts of other crap in it. It's wine! What's next? Barbecued lemonade? Pickled chocolate cake? Enough! Open the damn bottle and drink it, for crying out loud!

Department Store Santas. You know we're going to see half of these guys on "To Catch a Predator" sooner or later.

Crafty People. I'm not against people who craft. It's the people who have a hot toddy during the holidays and suddenly think they're Martha Stewart who really chap my hide. Painting snow flakes on an empty egg carton does not make you a crafter. It makes you an idiot. And don't even think of giving me that piece of crap for Christmas. Gifts come from the store. Period.

Homemade Gifts: See "Crafty People."

Tree-Trimming Parties: Too lazy to decorate your own Christmas tree? Too cheap to buy your own ornaments? Host a tree-trimming party! These are the same jags who eagerly host "painting parties" and "pool-opening parties." You a-holes aren't fooling anyone.

Christmas Music: Don't get me wrong. I can handle Christmas carols...on Christmas, not before Halloween. And can't we get some Los Angeles hotshots to write some new Christmas music? Truly, people! I'm sorry Taylor Swift, but we really don't need ANOTHER version of "Silent Night." I don't want to hear the prepubescent boy band of the day singing about how they caught mommy kissing Santa Claus, and I'm certainly not interested in Christina Aguilera moaning and groaning her way through a 25-minute rendition of "The

Twelve Days of Christmas." We can address male impotence with a little blue pill, but we can't come up with a new holiday song that sticks? C'mon, people!

Glitter: Self explanatory.

Mistletoe: I have nothing against the plant itself, and I think the custom of kissing under the mistletoe can be somewhat charming. You know what I hate, though? It's those dinks who show up at office parties and whatnot with a sprig of mistletoe hanging from their belt buckle. Hilarious? Original? Not! Ever notice these guys never bring a date to the party?

The "Real Housewives of Miami": This has nothing to do with Christmas, but I hate these broads...particularly the mother-daughter duo with the screwed up faces.

Christmas Caroling: I went Christmas caroling once...by myself...at 3:00 a.m. Needless to say, alcohol was involved (probably mulled wine), and the event concluded with a trip to the police station. Enough said.

Old People: Do us all a favor, Grandpa. Keep your 1903 Christmas memories to yourself this year, okay? We're all tired of hearing you bitch and moan about how "good the kids have it these days," and we're sick of your childhood stories about being happy with a turnip on St Nick's Day. We don't want to hear you spout off about other races, politicians or the bank teller who is trying to cheat you. Let's save it for Easter this year, okay old man?

That said, I think I'll step off my glitter covered soapbox for now. Oh, sure! There's plenty more I could bitch about...people who bring Pillsbury slice-and-bake cookies to cookie exchanges, grade school Christmas concerts, fruitcake, "The Shaws of Sunset," the list could go on and on. But I want to leave room to TRULY wish you all a wonderful holiday, free of any stress or troubles or worry. Celebrate the season with those you hold dear and usher in the New Year with the people, places and things that make your heart sing. Thank you for spending the year with me and for making 2012 so incredible. I love you guys!

Have a question for Ruthie? Want to share a recipe with her? Email her at deamruthie@yahoo.com or find her on Facebook via Ruthie Dear Ruthie.

Dear QUEST Readers and beyond:

You are cordially invited to the PositiveVOICE Annual Holiday Party!

PositiveVOICE, one of Northeast Wisconsin's longest running LGBTQIA organizations is hosting a holiday party and white elephant gift exchange on Saturday 12/8/12, from 6-9pm.

We will be served a family-style dinner with

- Broasted Chicken and Roast Beef
- Assorted Side Dishes
- Soup and Salad Bar
- Assorted Desserts
- Cash Bar



There will also be an auction of tasty homemade baked goods and a hilarious White Elephant gift exchange. Be creative and please bring a gift for exchange. All gifts and folks are welcome!

Please bring a non-perishable food item to the party. The proceeds will go to ARCW's Food Pantry.

All of this fun and gaiety will be held at:

Main Event Steakhouse 1727 Freedom Rd. Little Chute, WI 54140

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Payments can be made to: Positive Voice, Inc., PO Box 1381, Green Bay, WI 54305-1381



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OUTSIDE-THE-BOX PRIESTS CONFESS THEIR DEEPEST SECRETS IN A DIFFERENT KIND OF RELIGIOUS CALENDAR.

It is a time when the Orthodox Church is embroiled in corruption scandals, artist repression, gay sex cover-ups, outrageous behavior and homophobia. Yet some of their members have agreed to strike a pose and openly stand for who they are underneath the priest's clothing they wear: regular people with passions, preferences, interests and desires.

The homoerotic calendar features shots mingling the edgy with the HOT. This first 2013 edition tells the individual story of 12 intensely masculine young men and their guests representing different parts of eastern Europe. All are open-minded and believe that besides their passionate devotion to the Orthodox Church, it is important to be perceived as individuals committed to diversity and acceptance. And this is what brings them closer to the rest of us.

Anyone can discover the 12 seductive artistic pictures of Orthodox priests and their guests by simply ordering on-line.

Find out more: www.orthodox-calendar.com

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This product is not intended to be used for religious purposes. It is a work of artistic expression promoting the modernity and dynamism of persons involved in the Orthodox Church.





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Well we are back; I hope that you all remember New Year's Eve! But of course then again I am talking about my readers so I really can't hope for much. There is one thing I could do though! Knowing what kind of people who read this and actually think I know what I am talking about I can say this. Rather than hope you remember what happened new year's eve, I just hope you remembered to grab all of your clothes before you left whoever's house it was you went home with on new year's day. And of course I hope you at the very least kept it wrapped up, and for those women out there I hope you either protected that cucumber or at least threw it away. Lord knows I refuse to eat a salad made by any of my friends!

Well I think I have bored you enough this month lets get on with it. Last month I was talking with a friend and he wanted to know why people get pierced. So I figured any idea was a good idea for this column so I ran with it, so here we go.

People get pierced for tons of different

reasons! Some people like them just for the look of it, wanting to separate themselves from the rest of our modern world. They just want to stand out, so they die their hair and get pierced so all the little ladies at Pick'n Save freak out as soon as they walk into the dairy section.

Yet other people get pierced because of the social groups that they hang around with. For instance in the Leather/Kink community it has always been expected of the bottoms to get their nipples and genitalia pierced. (Gee, no wonder I like the leather community!)

Some of the people who get pierced do it for a deeper and more sentimental or emotional reason. Therefore are some people who obtain piercings and tattoos do so mainly because they feel some sort of a connection to the roots of tattooing and piercing. These people will usually get tribal piercings and/or tattoos, and usually there will be a deep spiritual meaning for these people with regard to their piercings and tattoos.

So in conclusion it really does depend on each individual person to find out the reason people get pierced or tattooed. So in my opinion if you want to know why people do it, then ask them! Don't sit there and assume that you can figure it out, because odds are that you will never hit upon the right reason. And you will end up buying a drink some night at a bar for someone you didn't even know existed until the exact moment you walked into the door! (Sorry, had a little flash back there, I'll try to keep them under control for you in the future!)

Well now that I have answered that let us see what we have in the old email bag shall we?

Brent,

I was talking with a friend of mine the other day, and he asked me about my nipple piercings. He asked if they hurt and all the normal question but then he said something I had never heard of. He told me that nipple piercings reject out of the body in 5 years and they leave you with a split nipple. I have had my piercings for 4 years now tell me that he is wrong! - Becky

Well Becky, first off thanks for writing in. And secondly, your friend is full of horse shit. Piercings do not just reject at a certain time frame. Most piercings migrate out due to people not taking care of them properly. Any form of irritation, such as sleeping on them without the piercing being protected or playing with them can cause the body to give up on healing them and then it just pushes the piercing straight out the human body. So in a nut shell you have nothing to worry about in the coming year, provided you don't irritate your piercing.

Well it seems I have run out of space all over again so until next time have a great January and I will talk to you all again in February, the month of love! Well kind of the month for love. Either way you have to spend money on crap and we will talk about the best thing to buy your special someone. . . PIERCINGS!

Do you have questions? Do you want a piercing? You know you do! Email Brent at avantgarde@voyager.net.

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 The Main 1217 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715)392-1756
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 DIX 739 S 1st Street
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 Fluid 819 South 2nd (414)643-5843
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 Hybrid 707 E Brady St (414)810-1809
 KRUZ 354 E. National (414)272-KRUZ
 LaCage 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330
 Montage 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330
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 Studio 200 200 E Washington St
 This Is It 418 E Wells (414)278-9192
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 Walker's Pint 818 S 2nd St (414)643-7468
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New Year's Eve Open until 4am
New Year's Day Open at 10am

- TWO Great DJs
- Prizes & Giveaways
- Midnight Toast
- Food

CHRISTMAS at Hybrid

Thursday Dec 20th 7pm-close

- Naughty Santa
- Prizes & Giveaways
- Food
- Great DJ

SUNDAY

\$5

SMIRNOFF
MIXERS
LONG ISLANDS
MIMOSAS
BLOODYS

MONDAY

TEAM
TRIVIA
STARTING AT 8PM

\$1 OFF

ANYTHING
ALL DAY & NIGHT
50¢ WINGS

TUESDAY

4pm-8pm

\$2 MILLER BOTTLES
\$1 OFF EVERYTHING

9pm-Close

KARAOKE

\$2 MILLER
LIGHT TAPPERS
\$3 SCHLITZ
TALL BOYS
\$2 PBR

WEDNESDAY

4pm-8pm

\$2 MILLER BOTTLES
\$1 OFF EVERYTHING

9pm-Close

\$4

BACARDI
& BACARDI
FLAVORS

THURSDAY

9pm-Close

COLLEGE
NIGHT

\$2 PBR

\$3 SCHLITZ
TALL BOYS

\$4 LONG
ISLANDS

FRIDAY

4pm-8pm

2 FOR 1

TAP BEER

\$1 OFF

ANYTHING
AJ DUBBZ
SPINNING THE JAMZ

SATURDAY

10am-4pm

\$5 BLOODYS
MOSAS AND
LONG ISLANDS

10am-8pm

\$4 SMIRNOFF
FLAVOR MIXERS

4pm-8pm

BEER BUST
\$10 DOMESTIC
\$14 CRAFT IMPORTS

GREAT DJ
SPINNING THE JAMZ

OPEN MON - FRI AT 4PM, SAT & SUN AT 10AM

HAPPY HOUR
EVERY DAY
4-8pm