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Wildness

(WU TSANG, IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES, 73MIN., 2011)

A documentary portrait of the Silver Platter, a historic Los Angeles bar for Latino LGBT immigrant communities since 1963, and a chronicle of what happens when a group of young artists stage a weekly performance/dance party there. A movie (and a manifesto) about the struggles of making a space queer and of claiming a space you can understand as safe.

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ON THE COVER: MR & MISS GAY WI USOFA

Photography by Mark Mariucci, Quest Cover design by Mark Sokolowski, Story by Paul Masterson



QUEST's second issue cover in 1994 featured Miss Gay Great Lakes, a regional drag pageant winner. So it is both timely & fitting to dedicate this 20th annivesrsary edition to the current Mister and Miss Gay Wisconsin Pageant title holders, Easton Boyd and Betty Boop. They

represent a long tradition. Shows and pageants have been the stuff of LGBT life as long as anyone can remember. The royal pair spoke with QUEST about their mutual aspirations and pageant histories along with advice for future aspirants.

In the grander scheme of things, the drag scene been a very visible and dynamic part of LGBT life. It was, after all, a drag queen uprising that sparked the Stonewall Rebellion. That famous stiletto heel heard 'round the world ultimately brought about the gay rights movement. Locally, drag queens have always been a particularly glittering part of Wisconsin's rainbow fabric and pageantry has always been an integral to drag culture. And, although the epicenter of drag pageantry, the urban bar scene, continues to shrink, modern media keeps the pageant circuit alive and well with dozens of dedicated websites.

As drag is the steeped in the ancient art of impersonation, drag pageants mirror the classic beauty contests, like Miss America. They also consist of three competitive categories: Interview, Gown and Talent (with the 1980 addition of the "Mister" competitive class, the "Gown" is replaced with "Club Wear"). There is a series preliminary contests, *pre-lims* for short, as the contestants climb (and claw) their way to the top.

Current Miss Gay Wisconsin Betty Boop started drag at 219, a Milwaukee dance bar once located at 219 South 2nd Street. Her first pageant was Miss Gay Latina in the mid '80s. She got hooked and went on to compete in Miss City of Festivals in 2008. Miss Gay Wisconsin (MGW) would be her next goal. But, in her first try for MGW, she

came in 6th. Undaunted she persevered in subsequent competitions, coming in twice as 1st Alternate. Then after taking a year off, she returned with a vengeance, first winning the pre-lim, Miss Gay Wausau, at the city's only gay bar, Club Oz. She then returned to the State pageant and finally achieved her dream, Miss Gay Wisconsin 2013.

Asked about the categories, Betty Boop went through the process. "The interview includes basic

information. In seven minutes you tell the judges why you want the title and how you will make the most of the year of your reign. That means your community involvement and recruiting new talent for the future. Gown..."I always win this part," she confesses. "You have to look simply gorgeous. Talent? Anything goes in this category — it's seven minutes of singing, lipsync, or musical performance. "It's what you can do to transform the stage."

"It's marvelous. If you have a love for it, it never goes away. It's in your head...seeing the faces of the public...if they're enjoying it, it's so rewarding. Once I hit the stage I have to be perfect. I have to be on point." Betty Boop explains. "I'm getting ready for the national title, Miss Gay USA in Dallas."

Easton Boyd's career began in 2006 at C'est La Vie, another Milwaukee bar that has since closed. He performed as an "entertainer." "I never thought of



competing until a friend suggested I get into *real* entertaining. Being on stage gives you a natural high," Easton said. "The transition was natural. Both involve costumes, themes, and, above all, a performance. I discovered my Talent was dance. I'm known for splits and jumps." As for the Club Dress category, "it's high fashion...what you would wear out to stand out," Easton explains.

Easton's first competition was Mr. Lakeshore. He

placed as 1st Alternative. Then on to State in Green Bay where he won 2nd Alternative out of nine contestants. Having accomplished all this in his first year, Easton "got hungry" to become Mr. Wisconsin. His second attempt placed him as 2nd Alternative again. In September 2012 he ran for Mr. Capitol City and began working with Betty Boop. "She helped me put my dream on stage" Easton tells. He won the contest and focused on his real dream, Mr. Gay Wisconsin.

Again, Betty Boop and a "dream team" of friends put together Easton's *Aladdin* talent... a performance based on the Disney Aladdin character. It paid off. Easton finally won the Mr. Gay Wisconsin contest. "For me it was a dream come true! There's so much investment of time, money and resources music, choreography. With his crowning achievement attained, Easton went to the nationals and placed in the top 12. "I was overcome with joy. The recognition

is moving. You've accumulated all the experience. You get to grow as an entertainer. Now I get to grow the system. I have to reach out as Mr. Gay Wisconsin. Most places don't have a "Mr." title yet. My mission is to have one in every region of the state. I feel male entertainment is important. It's sexy and a break from the female. My goal is to mobilize and inspire more boys to perform as a males."

Like all drag pageant participants, both have a back story. There's more to the scene than the contestant's stage appearance. It's a close-knit community and, though highly competitive, there's also a deep, family-like relationship among the various participants. "When other do a contest, I'm behind the scenes supporting them. For example, I help dress a lot of people." Betty says.

Speaking of support, for both Betty Boop and Easton Boyd, their families have been critical to their careers. For Betty it began when her parents came to her second competition for State. "If it wasn't for my mom and dad I wouldn't be doing drag. It happened the first time they saw me. They were like 'this is what you do when you're telling us you compete? 'They were shocked" But, the "shock" wasn't the fact that she was a drag performer, it was their amazement at all the competition entails - from the production

to choreography, the lights, set and costumes. "My dad was floored." Easton also cites his mother's support as key to his success.

For upcoming competitors Betty Boops advice is simple: "the idea is to have fun...and don't be afraid of make...pi"

Easton sums it up. "It's about perseverance. If you're scared, just jump in head first. I did over a dozen contests before I won. Your turn will come."

KILLIAN KILLIN' IT

By Jeremy Lyon



Killian Wells' STRFKR is an ode to social climbers who canoodle with celebrities and then use them for their own advantage. The electro pop track is the latest in Well's growing catalog of colorful songs that explore Gen Y themes like obsessive love and VIP-partying.

But make no mistake. Wells is not the all-night-long partying type he portrays in his songs. He's an artist and an entrepreneur. In addition to owning his own music label, Inferno Records, he heads New Faction, the marketing and branding company that secured all the product placements in the STRFKR video. There were a lot of them. Astroglide Lubricant, Obviously Underwear, Manhunt.net, and Channel 1 Releasing all paid undisclosed fees to have their products or logos appear in the video.

New Factions biggest accomplishment, however, was landing one of the biggest gay stars to strut his stuff alongside Killian in the video. Yes, the STRFKR in the skimpy red briefs is the one and only Brent Everett.

Isn't everyone a strfkr these days? I mean, its dog eat dog out there. Everyone is using someone to get ahead.

Killian Wells: Sure, we all use each other to get ahead but that's called networking. Strfkrs are leeches that just want fame by association.

Have you ever used sex to get ahead? C'mon, be honest.

I've had plenty of opportunities and with some very powerful people but I passed because of personal integrity. (*Laughing*) I'd probably be further along with my career now if I hadn't turned them down.

As a label head, do you get offers from people who are willing to bed to get ahead?

I've had offers but no, I won't accept them. Even if I was sexually interested in a talented artist, that's not the way to start a business relationship.

But casting couches have been around since the start of the motion picture.

I think the idea is degrading for both parties. I'm not against dating someone I work with but I certainly would never expect sexual favors in exchange for giving someone work.

You've become linked with Tommy Defendi. Do you have any concerns he may be using you to get ahead?

Tommy is already wildly successful on his own. He

doesn't need my help. I joke with him that I'm the strfkr when we're together.

How do you feel about his past?

I don't judge him for anything. Tommy's a total sweetheart.

What's up with pop stars and porn stars? Why are so many hooking up?

Pop stars are the porn stars of the music industry. We're all selling something. I have many friends in the adult industry and I can honestly say that they are some of the most genuine people I've ever met. Far less superficial than a majority of the music biz types I encounter on a daily basis.

Do the pop and porn worlds intermingle in Hollywood?

Definitely. A lot of it is under the radar though because many pop stars and their camps are overly protective of their images. I don't have an issue being associated with porn. I'm not making music for a Disney audience so I have nothing to hide.

Is Brent Everett a pal?

We're friends now but I didn't know Brent before the video. I thought he'd be a diva on set. I mean, he is one of the biggest adult stars out there right now. But I couldn't have been more wrong. I had a great time working with him.

How did you get him to be in the video?

I reached out to Brent directly through my marketing com-

pany. He immediately got the concept and loved the idea of mixing porn with mainstream pop.

What's your advice to people on how they can succeed without strfking?

In any career, you just have to make a conscious decision to not be a strfker. It's definitely difficult because the alternative seems so much easier. I personally sleep better at night knowing I'm not screwing my way to the top and am getting by on my own merits.

Are there any strfkers you respect?

Well, Madonna comes to mind. I can't say anything bad about the queen of pop.

Visit KillianWells.com



"It's not the first stiff I've had sex with," joked Brent Everett after taping his scene in the Strfkr music video. "The mannequin has more personality than a lot of the guys I've been with."







NEW ON DUD The Skinny

Glenn remembers much excitement when Warner Cable announced, some years back, that they were finally adding the sure to be fabulous Logo cable network to its roster of entertainment options. Dutifully Glenn upgraded his plan with the cable colossus which required the sort of commitment Glenn doesn't make easily as well as needing additional Warner Cable equipment.

Logo would surely be worth it!

Very nearly lost amongst Logo's lineup of (heavily edited) **QAF** episodes, a regularly rotated schedule of familiar gay films plus the odd reality show, there was Patrik-lan Polk's **Noah's Arc**. Chronicling the lives and loves of Noah (Darryl Stephens) and his friends, **Noah's Arc** proved to be something of an African-American twist on both **QAF** and **Sex in the City**.

Yet, despite being Logo's highest rated program, **Noah's Arc** was nonetheless axed shortly after the season-two cliffhanger finale aired. After suitable outrage was expressed, the announcement came that there would be one last hurrah, **Jumping the Broom**, ostensibly to placate fans who desired some closure for Noah and company.

Anyway, Patrik-lan Polk is back with **The Skinny**, which premiered on Logo last summer and is finally now available on DVD.

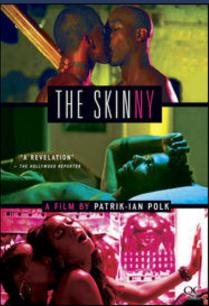
As with Polk's previous cinematic ventures, **The Skinny** follows the lives and loves of group of friends, here all Brown University alumni who are reuniting for NYC's fabulous Gay Pride weekend. Playing host for the weekend is Magnus (Jussie Smollett).

As excited as Magnus is to spend time with his friends, he seems even more excited at the prospect of spending some serious between-the-sheets time with his boyfriend Ryan (Dustin Ross). Yet Ryan is insistent they wait one more month, "No sex for six months, remember." When prompted for further explanation Ryan continues, "Because we respect each other enough to know to wait until we know each other better and our feelings are deeper and we really care about each other."

Glenn could sense that Magnus felt Ryan's rather too-pat justification dubious and couldn't help but agree.

After a brief interlude of sightseeing – the gang briefly heads out on a pilgrimage to the East Harlem brownstone that was home to renowned poet Langston Hughes – Langston ((Shanika Warren-Markland), Joey (Jeffrey Bowyer-Chapman) and Kyle (Anthony Burrell) then descent upon a gay club, duly deserted as one would expect mid-afternoon.

Here Patrik-lan Polk's screenplay deftly shorthands these characters, largely based on their level of promiscuity. Kyle is immediately shown with his tongue down the throat of his latest "pull" before grabbing a condom and taking it to the next level in the restroom. Kyle is the slut of the group. Reviewed by Glenn Bishop



Over cocktails, Langston and Joey commiserate about not getting laid. Joey has decided that all guys are either "full of it or not really into me." Sexy lesbian bartender Samantha (Jennia Fredrique) calls out Langston to get out there and try to loosen up a bit. "A pretty girl like you having trouble getting laid – that's all on you."

Meanwhile Sebastian (Blake Young-Fountain) has accompanied Magnus to work (note the GMHC poster in the background). There they have a chance to catch up and Sebastian is full to bursting to tell Magnus that he is planning on giving Kyle, who he has pined for since freshman year, his special gift. Sebastian is the virgin in the group.

Although there is an easy chemistry amongst the group of friends, they do little other than talk about sex, talk about how to have sex, and even spend whatever free time looking up sex-oriented website on the computer.

Indeed, whilst cruising a sex website, the gang spies a profile for Magnus' boyfriend Ryan which boasts his tagline, "Nasty Boi Thug Here". Sebastian is given the unenviable task of telling-all to Magnus. There is of course the expected denial on Magnus' part; Magnus suggests that someone else could be using Ryan's picture, albeit rather feebly. When Ryan invites Kyle to a sex party he's hosting, the gang (not to mention the narrative) springs into action.

In a jiffy, they are decked out in their "going to a sex party" outfits, conflicting degrees of excitement and dread can be seen playing on their faces. Joey, ever the jokester tries to keep things light; Kyle is naturally the one in the group expected to enter this den of iniquity to check to see if Ryan is to be had.

From here it is clear that this fabulous New York City Gay Pride weekend is about sex. How will Magnus react if Ryan is found at the sex party working the room? Can Langston finally make a

Buy it, rent it, or forget it...

As a group of attractive young characters heeded to New York City for one of the largest Pride Festivals in the world, it is not surprising that sex is a focus. What is surprising is how entirely **The Skinny** is about sex.

Most maddening is just how ambivalence Patriklan Polk, in his role as both screenwriter and director, is on the subject.

At times **The Skinny** veers dangerously into the realm of soft-core. Within moments of his friends' arrival, Magnus is after some serious face time and rather more with Ryan. Kyle takes his time scouting out the sex party before reporting back; Patrik-lan Polk then double dips by sending Magnus in to see for himself Ryan's shenanigans. So many characters retire to the club's restroom for sex that Glenn expected to see an attendant offering clean towels (condoms?) and taking reservations.

Then again, there are various points during **The Skinny** where the film becomes something of a safe-sex PSA. Everyone's best friend Magnus makes sure Sebastian is informed on STDs before he can mak his maiden cock-riding voyage; indeed there is also a comprehensive, eye-brow raising lecture on anal hygiene given before Sebastian can get his "cakes pounded."

Gay Men's Health Crisis gets a big shout out as both as where Magnus works and later, as Magnus and Sebastian shaking their groove thing on GMHC's Pride Parade float.

There is something decidedly less satisfying about **The Skinny**, especially in contrast to Polk's earlier efforts. Still, Polk's bright, attractive cast offer engaging performances, particularly Jussie Smollett's Magnus, who holds the occasionally disjointed narrative together.

Definitely worth a rental, **The Skinny** is definitely one for Glenn's collection.

Just the facts...

The Skinny clocks in at 103 minutes and is in English.

The Skinny is available on DVD with an SRP of \$24.95

Look out for notable cameos from **Noah's Arc**'s Noah (Darryl Stephens) and Dr. Junito Vargas (Wilson Cruz) Jeffrey Bowyer-Chapman (Joey) can be seen in the cult classic **Dear Mr. Gacy**, playing a male hustler.

connection with sexy Samantha? Will sweet, innocent Sebastian get the opportunity to offer up to Kyle his special gift? Is Joey going to allow the sexy go-go boy at the club to talk out of his hiding place underneath the table?

As Emory (**Boys in the Band**) was wont to say in situations such as this, "Oh Mary, don't ask."

On Second Thought...

by Paul Masterson

It was a pretty gay presidential inauguration. Barack Obama equated Stonewall with Selma, and, beyond the alliteration, this reference raised the historical significance of that event to other salient moments in the American civil rights narrative. The mere mention of "gay" in the president's address was historic. Then gay Cuban-American poet Richard Blanco recited his optimistic ode to American oneness. Finally, the closing prayer by Rev. Luis Leon mentioned gay and lesbian rights. There was a LGBT marching band in the inauguration parade. The only gay thing lacking was a presidential waltz with a male US Marine at the Inaugural Ball.

The reelection of Barack Obama sealed, at least for the coming four years, the continued advancement of LGBT equality. It's been in the offing of inevitability for some time now, of course. Despite political defeats along the way, the murders of martyrs punctuating the path, we can finally look forward to better times. It won't be entirely smooth sailing. The Republicans promised to reinstate Don't Ask Don't Tell, have allocated millions of dollars to defend the Defense of Marriage Act, and those states with constitutional amendments banning LGBT marriage (including Wisconsin) continue to chip away at the progress made with an intent to write a federal amendment to that end.

Still, although 25% of LGBT people voted for Mitt Romney (he ran against Obama in case you've already forgotten), the future looks rosy pink, in fact. Our relationships can now be blessed in the National Cathedral. We all know couples adopting or baring biological children. Same sex couples refer to each other equally as wives or husbands (or husbears depending on hwp) when they attain that emotional commitment – or, in ever more States, a legal one. The fey boys and butch girls once decried as stereotypes, along with gay jocks (everybody is a gay jock these days), are now celebrated and showcased as average, normal(ish) neighbors on TV sitcoms, cop shows and, in ever more places, everyday life. Admittedly, they usually have a better sense of décor, wardrobe, wine pairings and culinary skills. Fag haggery and staggery is more de regieur than ever. Even the Boy Scouts of America seems to be on the verge of revising its anti-gay policy.

But in its concerted effort striving towards acceptance by *them* and equality with *them*, the LGBT community becomes more and more like *them*. And there's the rub. The gay Republican enigma and the repugnance of the likes of Ann Coulter as a member of the GOProud advisory board exposes the slippery slope side of acceptance and assimilation. As our rights become established, another closet door opens.

Recently, my fitness club was taken over by another gym. An acquaintance emailed his discomfort: "Have you noticed more black people at the gym? Especially behind the check-in counter? Do you think the new owners have a new focus? I'm not comfortable with it," he wrote. During the last election campaign, a Facebook "friend" - one of those strangers added simply because he's the friend of a friend of a friend - posted a picture of a Romney rally he had attended. Someone commented about the lack of minorities in the image. "No Jews allowed:")" he guipped. Others rant

about illegal immigrants (sometimes while dating one), or spew enough anti-Lesbian misogyny or anti-gay male misandry that would make the Limbaughs, Sykes and Santorums blanche or blush accordingly. The pecking order of trans-people includes its own more-trans-than-thou hierarchy.

Of course, it's human nature, especially of an oppressed people, to pick on the next available minority. It's always been there. It's easy and affords, in the face of hate (or self-hate), a certain sense of superiority. In part, it's environmental and a psychological response like Stockholm Syndrome where, as a means to survive, a kidnap victim identifies with his or her kidnap-

per. LGBT people are no exception. But, in the name of strength-in-numbers and political clout, an "LGBT" alliance formed. At least for that moment, we put away our private prejudices to achieve our mutual political goal. That may fade away as the necessity of our strange bedfellows arrangement recedes. Still, if we achieve rights based on the equality argument's moral and constitutional high ground, the LGBT community must step back and reassess its motives. Our Pride must not go before our moral fall. We must maintain our identity. Even if, in terms of rights, we become equals with them, we must be careful in our new found freedom, not to become them.



QUEST TURNS 20, A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBIT @ MGAC

by Paul Masterson

The Milwaukee Gay Art Center's current exhibition, *QUEST Tums 20*, presents the magazine's covers through two decades. They feature the hundreds of models, community leaders, activists, drag queens, entertainers, jocks and other sundry characters who have made up the rainbow tapestry that is Wisconsin's LGBT community.

For Wisconsin's LGBT media, QUEST Magazine stands out as the longest continuously published entertainment magazine. It first hit the stands in January 1994. The inaugural cover featured Andy, a model who would periodically reappear half a dozen times over the next two decades. He also appears on the January 2013 edition.

In Janauary 1994 owner-editor Mark Mariucci published his QUEST first edition. He focused on the state's bar life beat. For all intents and purposes, those bars represented LGBT life. Despite the exis-

tence of dozens of social organizations like GAMMA, Black and White Men Together, Saturday Softball Beer League and. others there were few alternatives for LGBT people to congregate regularly and in relative safety. There were other LGBT publications like Wisconsin Light to cover the political fray and In Step kept up with the burgeoning community. But, as with previous publications, they came and went.

QUEST carried on regardless. As the years passed it went through its own continuous metamorphosis, transforming from a traditional bar rag to community newspaper. Along the way, it was at one time the only LGBT print media to cover LGBT relevant mainstream news for the entire state.

Outbound Magazine which competed directly with Quest for bar advertisements became available for sale and was purchased by Mr. Mariucci to serve as the traditional bar rag while QUEST maintained its

identity as an entertainment and news magazine.

Today Quest and Outbound have merged into one lifestyle magazine published monthly that serves as part of Wiconsin's LGBT media which also includes Wisconsin Gazette (Milwaukee) & Our Lives (Madison).

The exhibition reflects the various stages of QUEST. The multi-media display includes original vintage magazines, a display of covers and a cover slide show. Most focus on local personalities from drag pageant winners and beefcake to political activists and community leaders. Others document important events like PrideFest, the LGBT Film/Video Festival, sports and bar life. In the late 1990's QUEST partnered with ARCW (Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin) to run covers with safe sex messages.

The exhibit runs through February. It will be also shown at PrideFest 2013 and other venues throughout the state.





Michael from the Queer Program which is also celebrating 20 years generously provided these snaps from the show opening.

(Unfortunately *none* of the staff photographers from Quest sent in theirs in time for press. LOL)





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Outwords Books Top Picks: February, 2013

In honor of Black History Month, in February **Outwords Books Top Picks** will feature **New & Noteworthy** titles illuminating the African-American LGBT experience.

Please note: the titles listed below are just a sampling of titles on display throughout the month of February.

For the Guys:

1. For Colored Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Still Not Enough. Keith Boykin

In his new book, **For Colored Boys**, Keith Boykin addresses longstanding issues of sexual abuse, suicide, HIV/AIDS, racism, and homophobia in the African American and Latino communities, and more specifically among young gay men of color. The book tells stories of real people coming of age, coming out, dealing with religion and spirituality, seeking love and relationships, and finding their own identity in or out of the LGBT community.

2. No One in the World, E. Lynn Harris & RM Johnson

E. Lynn Harris and RM Johnson unite with an insightful and emotional project that tackles themes of family, loyalty and identity. Cobi Winslow, a handsome district attorney learns that in order to inherit the wealth of his father's estate and save the struggling family business, he must marry a woman before he turns thirty-five. The task becomes more convoluted when Cobi's sister proposes to pay Austen Greer, a once-successful businesswoman, to be Cobi's wife. As the clock runs down, Cobi's attempts to save the family company through rash moves require life-altering sacrifices.

3. Harlem Renaissance: Five Novels of the 1920s, ed. Rafia Zafar

In little more than a decade during the 1920s and 30s, a new generation of African American writers, artists, musicians, & intellectuals based mostly in upper Manhattan burst through aesthetic conventions with unprecedented openness and daring. Perhaps no one was more central to the creative upheaval that became known as the Harlem Renaissance than a group of novelists who were determined to describe their own lives and their own world frankly and without compromise.

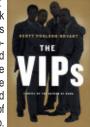
4. Mogul, Terrence Dean

After the sudden death of his father, Aaron clings to

music as an escape. His love for music lands him at the estate of Larry "Pop" Singleton, a Hip Hop music mogul. With the help of Pop and "the family," Aaron finds success and starts his own music label. He's signed and worked with some of the biggest Hip Hop artists in the country. One of them is Brooklyn native lyricist, "Tickman." Together they are making sweet music together. However, at the pinnacle of his career, compromising photos of Aaron land on the desk of a national news program and for the first time he is at a crossroad in his career: come out publicly with his secret or watch his music empire crumble.

5. The VIPs, Scott Poulson-Bryant

On a steamy June day in New York City, mega-star rapper TNT gathers a group of four successful men together, childhood friends who called themselves "the VIPs," signaling the big dreams they all once had. These four men have a history and bond that could be tom apart by a night of passion one of them had long ago.



The VIPs, who haven't seen one another in years, are greeted at the Hotel Gansevoort by an openly hostile TNT, who asks them the bombshell question: "Which one of you bastards is my father?".

For the Gals:

Heat Wave: The Life & Career of Ethel Waters, Donald Bogle

Bogle traces Waters' life from her poverty-stricken childhood to her triumphant rise in show business, detailing her successes with recordings like "Stormy Weather" and "Am I Blue?"; her notorious feuds with stars like Josephine Baker, Billie Holiday, and Lena Horne; her professional relation-



ships with Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, and other entertainment legends; and her various, tempestuous love affairs. In addition, Bogle explores the significance her highly publicized life had upon audiences unaccustomed to the travails of a larger-than-life African American woman.

2. Nightshade, Fiona Zedde

Bronwynne St. Just has a knack for finding trouble, usu-

ally in the form of a beautiful woman. After fulfilling a haunting contract on her sister's childhood friend and former employee, she takes off for the Caribbean and business as usual; but danger waits for her in the most unexpected places. With an endless appetite for luscious variety, Wynne courts danger and pleasure from all corners of the globe. But she must wrestle with her own demons as she trades kisses and blows with some of the deadliest women in the business.

3. Crossroads, Skyy

Skyy takes readers on another wild ride with former college friends Denise, Lena, and Cooley. These women still have the heart and the drama, but now they are all grown up. Denise, the sexy, soon-to-be pro basketball player can only hope that her emotional scars heal as fast as her physical injuries from the end of the school year. Lena finally knows who she wants. Cooley is finally far away from Memphis and all its heartache. Denise, Lena, and Cooley have come to the Crossroads. Where will they lead?

4. She Wants Her, Tasha C. Miller

Getting women into her bed is easy. Getting them out is hard. Women love Cleopatra Giovanni and she loves them back – in ways they'll never forget. The masculine but very pretty butch radiates charisma and a magnetism that attracts flocks of women. Cleopatra enjoys their bodies, all the while hoping that the one who will make her believe in forever will come along. Jacqueline, a naïve but determined closeted lesbian, has been watching Cleopatra for some time, and goes above and beyond to possess her in a way no one ever has. Ultimately – Jacqueline wants her. The question is – how far will she go?

5. Taking a Chance at Love, Kesha Pride

Hospital policy clearly states that physicians cannot become involved with trainees. Thus the newest addition to the hospital, Dr. Tori Becker, and trainee, Dr. Kenya Jackson, are forced to ignore their mutual attraction. But that's not the only obstacle keeping them from one another. Old relationships, past flings all begin to surface. The two women must decide what lengths they are willing to go to for their chance at love.

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

David Westover 1975 - 2013

On January 16th, 2013 the Wisconsin LGBT community lost a great ally, David Westover. He was killed by a car accident at the age of 38. David was a founding member of the Abbey of the Brew City Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a LGBT Group that started in Wisconsin in 2008 on a mission to bring comfort to the disturbed and disturb the comfort of others, to bring equal rights and a public awareness to Wisconsin. While David did not identify as LGBT he was a great ally as Sister Freeta Ride or Guard Faux Mo. Two events that he organized annually were the Riders for Hope motorcycle ride which benefited Aids and Breast Cancer research, and Toys 4 Tots at Club Icon to benefit needy children during the holiday season. He was always willing to minister to the community how ever needed whether it was for safe sex awareness, anti-bullying, or just an ear to listen to. He would give you the shirt off of his back if you needed it. David will be greatly missed in our community.



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I know it's only February, but I'm hoping Jack Frost decides to take his keester south for the winter and give us kids in the Midwest a break. Spring simply can't get here early enough if you ask me! I'm going bananas here at the Rusty Nail Trailer Park. I just want to put on my halter top and show the Sun my cleavage. (And by "Sun" I'm referring to Sun Ding Li...the hottie who works the counter at my dry cleaner.)

So, what's a girl to do to pass the winter away? Let's read an email and then cook up some comforting slow cooked dishes, okay? The following email came in the other day, and I thought this would be a great time to share it with you.

Dear Ruthie,

I started dating a great guy three weeks ago. Only recently did I find it odd that he never wanted me anywhere near his home. After some pressuring, he agreed to "show" me his "living situation." This concerned me because it was a weird thing to say. Anyway, I went over on a Saturday morning to pick him up for brunch. He knew I was coming and was nervous. He let me inside. Let me tell you, gurl, I just about crapped my pants. He's a total hoarder. I'm not talking about extra stuff here and there. I'm talking about like put him on that TV show.

There were rooms we couldn't even step into. Crap to the ceiling. Seriously. There was one path that sort of that took us from the front door to the kitchen to the bathroom and then to a room where the guy sleeps. I can't even call it bedroom. (Surprisingly, the bathroom was sort of clean, but I think he may have cleaned it up because I was coming over.) Anyway, it was crazy. I can't believe he or anyone could live there.

I really was having feelings for this guy, but now I don't know what to do. My opinion of him has changed but I sort of still have feelings for him. What would you do? (Signed) Mixed Up Mike

Dear Mike,

Hmmmm....a good man with a house and lots of possessions? Send him my way, sugar! No, no, no.

enough crap in my own trailer.

I can understand your predicament, Mike. If you like this man and think there may be a future with him I'd suggest you continue seeing him. Set a date (in your mind) in which you'll give him a shot at making a mark on your heart. If you just can't get passed his hoarding nature, then move on, but at least give him a shot

If you decide to pursue a long-term relationship with him, be honest about your worries and share the concerns you have for his well-being. Then, set some short-term goals for cleanup and see if he reaches those goals. If he wants to change, he'll make an attempt to change. Do your research, and try to help him find counseling if he's up for it. Be supportive of his attempt to change. If he's not willing to change, however, and you just can't deal with the hoard, then I'm afraid you'll have to move on to truly be happy.

Looking to spend some quality time with a hottie? Hosting a party this winter? Here are a few slow cooker recipes sent in by readers. They're true comfort food, and both come together easily! Whip them up this month...then eat good and shut up!

CHILI CON RUTHIE

Here's a no-fuss appetizer that's perfect for chilly nights and red-hot parties. Best of all, the damn stuff simmers up in the slow cooker without any hassle on your part! No measuring, no stovetop, no nada! The recipe comes from Bill of Bay View. Thanks Bill!

1 can (25 oz) chili

1 can (15.5 oz) black beans, rinsed and drained 1 can (4.5 oz) chopped jalapeno peppers, drained 1 can (10 oz) diced tomatoes & green chilies, drained 1 box (16 ounces) Velveeta process cheese, cubed Miscellaneous corn or taco chips

In a large bowl, combine the first five ingredients. Spritz a 2- to 3-quart slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. Transfer chili mixture to slow cooker. Cover slow cooker and set to high for 4 hours, stirring once.

Serve with chips. Refrigerate leftover dip.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

got

Like beans? Buy chili with beans. Don't like beans? Leave 'em out completely. Feel free to add chopped onion, minced garlic or even last night's leftover cooked taco meat. Toss in a handful of frozen corn kernels for fun. I serve this dip with Fritos Scoop chips. This dip freezes well, so save the leftovers for a future party.

BOW TIES WITH CREAMY MUSHROOM SAUCE

I love this hearty pasta sauce shared by Sue of West Bend. Loaded with mushrooms, ham and Parmesan flavor, it's a no-brainer when you need a simple dinner. "This recipe makes a lot," writes Sue, "so it's great for company." Thanks Sue...your Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt is on the way!

1 can (10-3/4 oz) cream of mushroom soup

1 can (10-3/4 oz) cream of onion soup

1 package (16 oz) sliced mushrooms

1 package (16 ounces) cubed ham

1 can (12 oz) evaporated milk 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

1/2 cup frozen peas

1 tub (8 oz) chive and onion-flavored cream cheese

1 box (12 ounces) bow tie pasta

Combine the first seven ingredients in a large bowl. Spritz a slow cooker with nonstick cooking spray. Add the mixture to the slow cooker. Stir half the cream cheese into the slow cooker. (Refrigerate remaining cream cheese for another use.) Cover slow cooker and set on low for four hours.

Meanwhile, prepare pasta according to the directions on the box. Serve hot pasta with the creamy mushroom sauce.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

I know a lot of you skinny-minnies are trying to loose weight. If so, replace the ham with cubed turkey or add some leftover cooked chicken. Feel free to make this a meatless dish and toss in whatever veggies you have on hand. Serve with extra Parmesan cheese if you'd like.

Have a question or recipe you'd like to share with Ruthie? Email it to her at dearmsruthie@yahoo.com. If she publishes your dish, you'll receive a FREE Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt. And be sure to friend Ruthie on Facebook at Ruthie DearRuthie, too!

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So how is 2013 treating you? Happy February, the month of Love!

Music Under Glass continues at The Domes this month with a Mardi Gras Celebration, Thursday, February 7 6:30 PM - \$100 Prize for the Best Mardi Gras Costume. Time to bead and dazzle them! Paul Cebar and Tomorrow Sound will serenade you. Valentine, Thursday, February 14 "Sweetheart Night" the sounds of Streetlife with Warren Wiegratz guaranteed to get you in the mood! Thursday, February 21 is "The Night of The King, Elvis Tribute Night" starring Tony Rocker & The Comeback Special - \$100 Prize for the best dressed Elvis in the crowd. Mt. Olive is slated for Thursday, February 28 - \$4 College Night, discounted with a valid Student I.D. Card.

Sunday, February 10 is Chinese New Year, the Year of the Snake! You can celebrate at The Domes Friday, February 1 and/or Saturday, February 2, as The Domes take you to the Far East, as only they can.

Mardi Gras 2013 is Tuesday, February 12 celebrate with all the indulgences of Fat Tuesday in Walker's Point or maybe a fantastic feast at Maxie's Southern Comfort, only if Maurice (nee Steve Miller) is my Server or Crawdaddy's where you can make the South rise again, and then repent!

Off The Wall Theatre 127 East Wells Street offers up "Closer" by Patrick Marber. A fascinating study of relationships formed via the Internet in this complicated world in which we live. February 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17 – it is the month of Love.

The Milwaukee Rep has "Clybourn Park" playing now through Sunday, February 24 Quadracci Powerhouse. 2011 Pulitzer Prize Winner and London's Olivier Award for Best Play, Variety touts it as a masterpiece of danger, provocative and pulverizing fun! "Raisin in the Sun" is scheduled for next month – talk about a sensational segue its all real estate – location, location, location.

"Sister Act" a religious experience makes a pilgrimage here on Tuesday, February 19 through Sunday, February 24 The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Rejoice! Dubbed ridiculous fun this show will put a smile on everyone's face. Time to get in the Habit and enjoy a Nun's invasion of Broadway!

The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) offers "Rendezvous: Valentine's Dinner" at Café Calatrava at MAM Thursday, February 14 and Saturday, February 16 seatings at 5:30 P.M. and 7:30 P.M. A three course delectable feast, preview the enticing menu at mam.org To all you lovers out there, young and not so young... bon appetite.

Villa Terrace is another marvelous Milwaukee

landmark museum worthy of a visit. 2220 North Terrace Avenue – you must see the works of Cyril Colnik, Master Iron Work Artist on permanent display on the second floor of the mansion.

Down the street is the Charles Allis Art Museum 1801 North Prospect Avenue. Wonderful to see these two terrific manors built by Brew Town Titans as private abodes and since their demise a generous gift to our community for all of us to enjoy and if desired entertain in – yes, both do rent out for your private and public affairs. www.CharlesAllis.org & www.VillaTerraceMuseum.org

With all that museum visiting and culture perhaps a way to cut the dust is with a jaunt to Cuvee 177 North Broadway, Third Floor, in the Heart of The Historic Third Ward 414-225-9800. Cara Hodgson, Events Manager can provide assistance in any occasion you may want to hold at Cuvee. Chris is a great host and you'll enjoy the bubbly in the sky! Recently I popped in and Josh poured an extraordinary sparkling wine as I caught up with former Cuvee bartender, now fixture, Dominic, nee Cuvee, Club Charlies, and Bi The Way (B.T.W.). He is as sassy as ever and enjoying life with his love Shawn and at Cuvee, who wouldn't?

Potawatomi Bingo Casino is another suggestion as a site for any function you may be planning in 2013 for a party of ten up to 3,000! They are set for you and as a special perk – no sales tax! Please contacts Del at 414-847-8101 tell her I sent You! The Casino has lots of Members of the LGBT Community in employment and is most eager to include Our Galas in their state of the art emporium of entertainment.

In these days of LGBT Bars closing, I'm thrilled to report one opening -- Candelas Hall 2537 West National Avenue in "Silver City" 414-305-1271. This bar has a definite Latin flavor, owned and operated by members of the Hispanic community and bilingual. It was like being in Acapulco once again.

During the Holidays I toured the Bars to take in all the seasonal decorations. Boom/The Room had the ever popular Polish Christmas Tree suspended from the ceiling. Everyone loves this – very popular pub and its look. Welcome new bartender Brian.

Fluid continued their 50's – 60's look with a cool citrus flora motif, smashing, kudos Lizzie and Jon Mark. John of The Boot Camp Saloon fame is now pouring fluids at Fluid.

Woody's had a mainly manly, rustic take with branches and an up north feeling - - think Ralph Lauren – Toby was sooooo proud!

The Harbor Room where Tony was running things had bright, flashing lights and Country Christmas carols playing for In-Step Legend, Jamie Taylor, Miller

Bill and the many revelers to escape to.

Shawn at Dix provided Christmas cheer in decorations and in a glass!

Shout out to Lucas!

This Is It! was festooned with "Christmas Carols" of the visual persuasion. Posters of Carols: Burnett, Channing, Lewis, Lynley, Meekins, O'Connor... By George, what fun!

The Hybrid Lounge sported sporty, brief, contemporary ornaments dangling suggestively from the ceiling. So glad to see Matt back, with a new "do" and a healing limb!

Club Charlies was its usual hustle bustle due to the Season, from their windows you had the incredible view of Catalano Square and the Third Ward's official Christmas Tree to gaze upon.

La Cage had Danny and the Strippers, why look for Holiday trimmings? Talk about a wonderment to your eyes...

I even took a pit stop at Lucky Joe's Tiki Room, fondly remembered as The Ball Game. Lots of exotic choices there - - I felt like I was in hut from "Gilligan's Island". Not sure of the decorations here, the place was very familiar looking – just set up for a production of "South Pacific" which is their intent. The Staff was friendly and welcoming.

The Holidays also brought some palatial parties! I couldn't make Larry's & John's – but the reports are still coming in about the good times had by all.

I made a special point to attend the Bar parties I was invited to – Boom/The Room, Fluid, and Kruz all out did themselves giving back to their Patrons with food, fun, song, and hot men – to paraphrase Julie Andrews these are a few of my favorite things.

But my hat, if I wore one, would have to go off to The Reed Martin Celebration. While it was a Christmas/Holiday Party – it was also a Welcome Home Party to two Treasures of our Community Tom Reed and Jon Martin. Over 85 lucky guests gathered to ring in the season with the reason and ooh did we keep Isaac busy!

New Year's Eve was more laid back with a dinner party at a dear friend's condo, a quick toast at This Is It!, and onto Dr. Beto & D.J. Tim's for the first sip of the New Year! And views of the city like none other! Simply Heavenly!

Happy Birthday and New Decade Dr. Robert Starshak, and many, many more!

Kudos to Jerry Janis on being appointed to the Board of ARCW (AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin) a perfect fit for both! Recently Jerry hosted a most informative chat – or as it was referred to in the days of yore a "salon" where his cousin Sara Nics from NPR's "Whad'Ya Know?" moderated a talk with Mike Gifford, Executive Director of ARCW. I think

there were about 50 of us who were rattled by the dismal news that HIV/AIDS is once again on the rise in our community. Our teens, children of color and seniors who are starting a new, or were in relationships back during the "plague" of the 1980's are all at risk. The key is education and awareness – we must get the word out. So disturbing that school boards are uncomfortable to tackle this delicate issue, it is a matter of life and death!

Through ARCW, Jerry, and his guest list which reads like a virtual who's who: Joe Pabst, Jody Armata, Andy Nunemaker, B.J. Gruling & Rick Clark, Dr. Robert Starshak & Ross Draegert, CCF's Paul Fairchild, Dr. Michael Goss, Stuart Wogsland, Nicholas Lemus, Geoffrey Bishop, Jim Tucker, Meg Kasch, Cathy Harrison, Pat Desmond, Don Schmitt, Steve Biondi, Chris Hansen, Michael & Julie Schinzer, Wayne Klebe, Kay Swanson, Pierre Colorado, Kevin Flaherty, Warren Scherer, George Marek, Tim Murphy, Bill Radler, Dan Sawall, Miki Herman, many high profiled Executives and Physicians from Aurora Health Care where Jerry is employed were present, as well as ARCW's Dan Mueller, Kathy Fargo, Bill Keeton, Mary Hartwig, and Jenny Weber all on hand for one-on-ones in bringing us up to speed of the need for HIV/AIDS Warriors to continue this battle to rid the world of this pox.

Congratulations to this very periodical on the event of its 20th Anniversary in print! In the times we're living where the printed word may become extinct or exclusively on-line (Newsweek) this is quite an accomplishment. Especially seeing as it is Free! Mark Mariucci (ZA) started his own publication to cover the news and happenings in his part of the state (Green Bay). He owned a popular night spot, was a maker & shaker in his community, seen a need was not met and launch Quest. And over the course of its life has grown considerably, from a local Northern bar guide to a respected magazine covering the interest of the LGBT Community statewide and throughout the Midwest.

A party to celebrate two decades of Quest and ZA took place at The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and in spite of cold winter weather and a Green Bay Packer play-off game a terrific time was had by one and all. Dear Ruthie shined as the magazine's matriarch, Paul Masterson – curator of The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center and contributor to Quest, Skin & Steel's Brent (& Jim), Will Sharkey (& Jake) Photographer, as well as Douglas Rickert (& Todd), Daniel Suttrick state wide photographers, and Cordially Yours were on hand to thank all our Readers, Advertisers, and our supportive Community - - Among the Local-ites in attendance: Si Smits, Fluid's Bill Wardlow & John Mark, Pat Prudlow, Chuck Grosz of The Cream City Foundation (CCF), former Quest Journalist Mike Fitzpatrick, Craig Bodoh, Clint, Queer TV's Mike Lisowski, and the newest addition to Quest, Pride-Fest's very own Kate Sherry (& Shelley Herrmann) — to give a female spin to the mag.

Thank You to the supporters who provided that special something to help raise \$1000 for Milw Gay Arts Center: Avant Garde, Boom/The Room, Club ICON (Kenosha), Fluid, Hybrid Lounge, and Marcia's Second Time Around.

That flawless Southern Belle, Dixie Kuppe has a new venture under way – "The Tupperware Party Plan with Miss Dixie Kuppe" https://www.facebook.com/dixie.kuppe 414-882-7651

e-mail: <u>DixieKuppeTupperware@GMail.com</u> Talk about a tight seal!

Oniomania – is an addiction to shopping, and also a boutique you must put on your seeing is believing list. Located in a historic building at 6430 West National Avenue, West Allis a little shop the size of your living room or smaller, Andrea packs this spot floor to ceiling with things you won't find anywhere else. What fun! Oniomaniawi.com

Food time – by popular request it is back – this time out Rodizio Grill – The Brazilian Steakhouse, one major yum! Formerly known as Sabor at 777 North Water Street, the place looks the same, but has many minor changes, offering major differences. The Salad Bar – yes this restaurant has one, has doubled and now offers homemade soup. The meat selection has gone from eight to sixteen; eight is nothing to complain about – but now more! The Hours – open seven days a week, lunch and dinner – definitely something to keep in mind for Valentine's Day.

And so concludes yet another rendezvous, remember it's the glamor, not the grammar as I remain, in this month of Valentine, Still Cordially Yours,





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It's February and that means the month of LOVE! And for those of readers who will be celebrating Valentine's Day alone this year remember that KY makes a full line of products to help you get through your loneliness. This month I figured maybe we should talk about jewelry a little bit, so with out any further crap, let's get on with it.

The most common material used in jewelry is surgical steel. It's the same stuff that a hospital would use if they had to put screws or metal in your body. It is very safe when made correctly. There in lies the problem, a lot of jewelry is made overseas and does not meet United States Health code. So legally they can call it surgical steel as long as they place on the package where it came from. Remember this next time you go looking for jewelry, if the package doesn't say, "Made in USA" then don't buy the jewelry. I know some of

you are saying, "What about those stores that won't tell you where the jewelry comes from?" Well there is an easy answer for this, look at the shine of the steel when it is in a bright light and this will tell you the quality of the metal. Meaning that high quality jewelry will have a brighter polish and luster than lower quality metals. This is what I tell people, if you can't brush your teeth in the metal than it is bad jewelry. Basically make sure the thing shines like a diamond if the jewelry does that you will be ok.

Another frequently used metal is Titanium, (yes that is the stuff from the space shuttle). It is used because there is no way to have an allergy to the metal, it is completely inert. This metal is also very desirable as it can be colored almost any color you can think of, it can even be made with multiple colors on it! But there is one draw back to this metal, it is very

expensive, sometimes as much as 10 times the cost of Surgical steel. For example a piece of jewelry made out of surgical steel say costs \$10.00, where as the same piece made out of titanium will cost around \$40.00. So if you have the cash why not go with titanium, and if you have that much cash give me a call cause I think you and me need to get to know each other a little more! J/k

A metal that everyone wants to use is Gold. Gold can be used in piercings as long as you don't put them in the piercing too early. Gold reacts with body and if you place in the jewelry in the piercing too soon after piercing the gold will actually discolor and turn to almost a rust color. So it is safe although not as safe as surgical steel or titanium.

That is about it when it comes to jewelry, there are numerous other material used but unfortunately I really only have enough room to do a couple of them. If you would like specific information on a certain type of jewelry please email me at Avantgarde@voyager.net remember to put skin and steel in the subject line.

Seeing as I was asked nicely by my editor to make this one a shorty, we will have to forgo the standard reader mail and end our time together here. Until next time, Have a Great Month of February and If there is something you would like to see me write about email me today!





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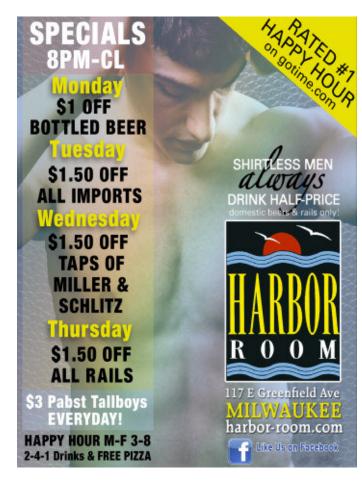
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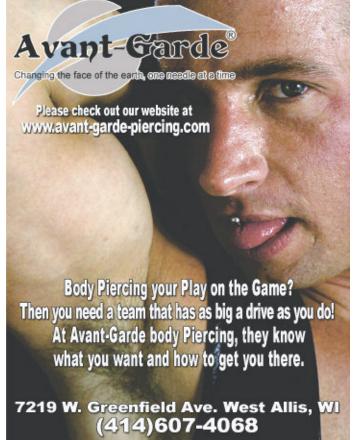
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lounge

RED PARTY

Sat., Feb 9 **Wear Red**



COME WATCH OUR MENU GROW!

SUNDAY BRUNCH FRIDAY FISH FRY

FAT TUESDAY

Feb., 12 Special Menu/Drinks

OSCARS PARTY

Sun., Feb 24 A Champagne Red Carpet Event

SUNDAY

SMIRNOFF MIXERS LONG ISLANDS MIMOSAS **BLOODYS**

MONDAY



STARTING AT 8PM OFF ANYTHING ALL DAY & NIGHT

50¢ WINGS

TUESDAY

4pm-8pm \$2 MILLER BOTTLES \$1 OFF EVERYTHING 9pm-Close

\$2 MILLER LIGHT TAPPERS

\$3 SCHLITZ TALL BOYS \$2 PBR

WEDNESDAY



\$2 MILLER BOTTLES \$1 OFF EVERYTHING

9pm-Close

BACARDI & BACARDI FLAVORS

THURSDAY





\$2 PBR

\$3 SCHLITZ TALL BOYS

\$4 LONG ISLANDS

FRIDAY

4pm-8pm FOR

TAP BEER 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

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT



MADD CITY SISTERS
MR. NORTHWOODS LEATHER

\$1 JELLO SHOTS 50/50 RAFFLE PRIZES

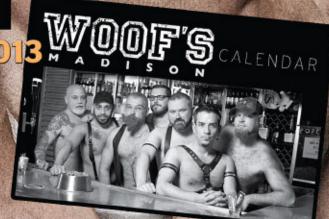
RATION

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH

STRANGE LIVE ACTS

FREE MEN OF WOOF'S 2013 CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST 100 GUESTS





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