

The Office
Nite Club
Rockford, IL

Wednesday, Dec
New Year

Show Lounge

Presents

Friday, January 9th

**TAJMA HALL'S ILLINOIS CONTINENTAL BENEFIT SHOW
SUPPORT TAJ & HER SPECIAL GUESTS!
SHOW STARTS AT 11pm**

Saturday, January 10th

**ROCKFORD IDOL 2 FINALS NITE
CHECK IT OUT TO SEE WHO WILL BE THE NEXT ROCKFORD IDOL
COMPETITION STARTS AT 10pm**

Saturday, January 17th

**PERFORMING ON STAGE IN OUR SHOW LOUNGE...
CECE MARTIN, REGINA UPRIGHT, JODIE SANTANA & MsSHALAY
SHOW STARTS AT 11pm**

Saturday, January 24th

**MALE STRIPPERS
LIVE ON STAGE & DANCE FLOOR
SHOW STARTS AT 11pm**

Saturday, January 31st

**MISS ILLINOIS CONTINENTAL PLUS 2004 STATE PAGEANT
JOIN US FOR THE CROWNING OF 2004 MISS ILLINOIS CONTINENTAL PLUS
HORS D'OEUVRES AT 9pm
COMPETITION STARTS AT 10pm**

**Starting
The New Year
In Style...
With Scott Z.**



THE
EDGE
Magazine

Vol. 1 Number 10
January 2004

JANUARY AT:

The Office
Nite Club
Rockford, IL

Saturday, January 10th

ROCKFORD IDOL 2 FINALS NITE

CHECK IT OUT TO SEE WHO WILL BE THE NEXT ROCKFORD IDOL
COMPETITION STARTS AT 10pm

Sunday, January 18th

DJ CODY SPINS WHAT ROCKFORD DANCES TO
\$1.50 DOMESTICS & BLOODY MARY'S
OPEN TILL 2AM

Saturday, January 24th

MALE STRIPPERS
LIVE ON STAGE & DANCE FLOOR
SHOW STARTS AT 11pm

Friday, January 30th

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with music by

DJ KEN-E

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HUNTERS
n i g h t c l u b

CLASSIFIED POLICIES & PRICING:

All classified ads are placed and/or quoted for ads up to 45 words in length. Classified ads will be categorized as follows:

Category #1

This is an individual category that is free of charge. Classified ads that fall under this category are personals, housing/roommate, items for sale and for rent.

Category #2

This is a commercial category that is quoted at a price of \$10 per ad, per issue. Classified ads that fall under this category are business, employment, masseurs and escorts.

GENERAL POLICY:

All ads that are of charge must be prepaid and accompanied by a check or money order made payable to the edge magazine. All ads are to be mailed to: **The Edge, P.O. Box 12, Rockford, IL 61105** by deadline date listed in the current issue of the edge magazine. The Edge is not liable for errors made due to questionable ad information and/or legibility of completed ad placement form. All completed ad placement forms will be treated with confidentiality. The edge magazine does not release customer's personal information.



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please include payment of \$10 X number of months with category #2 ads.

Personal information:

Name

Address

City state Zip

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DOB / / signature

Signature is required for **all** ads to verify certification of lawful placement and legal age. All ads submitted must have all information completed with a verifiable address and phone number. Mail completed form to following address:

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January, 31st, 2004
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at:

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Night Club
Rockford, IL

513 E. State St. • Rockford, IL 61104
(815) 965-0344

\$1,300 Prize Package!

THE EDGE

P.O. Box 12
Rockford, IL 61105
Printed in the U.S.
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Columnist: Tajma Hall, Lottie Dodge,
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Thursday's - Youth Drop-In Hours - Providing a safe place for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender youth ages 13-20 - 4-9 p.m. Diversity Resource Center

Friday's - Gay Men's Discussion Group - 7 - 8 p.m.

Transgender Group - Meets the second Sunday of the month at 3 p.m. Diversity Resource Center.

PFLAG Parents, Families, Friends of Lesbians and Gays - Meets at 7 p.m. on the second Sunday of every month at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4848 Turner Road, Rockford, IL.

For more information, call 964-2639 or visit our Web site at www.diversityofrockford.org

Diversity of Rockford Resource Center 117 South 3rd Street, Rockford IL 964-2639

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Help Wanted The Edge Magazine is looking for writers in the Chicago, Milwaukee & Southern Illinois areas. Due to unexpected growth, we are also looking for volunteers to help in the production and packaging of the magazine. For more info, call (815) 378-2215.

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**Edge Deadline For
Vol. 1 - No.11
Monday, January 26, 2004**

**February Issue Available
February 4th, 2004**



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Take My Advice... By Tajma Hall.

Dear Taj, I am a 28-year-old man, and I've been living with my boyfriend for a little over a year now. He is 24. Our (or maybe my) problem is I strongly believe that when you are a couple you should not be going out to the bars alone, even with your friends. He disagrees, and this causes friction when the situation arises.

Could this just be an age thing or that I'm more settled in what I want and need? I do believe that you need personal time away with friends, but not in a bar setting. I know I have trust issues due to things that he has done in the past. Even if I fully trusted him, I still believe I would feel the same. I would like to know if this seems to be an issue for other people in serious relationships, or am I just wacked? I would appreciate any advice you could give. Yours Truly, Wacked in the Midwest

Dear Wacked in the Midwest. This is an issue that comes up in many couples and one that bothers me a lot. When two people become a couple there are some things that must be realized. You are bringing two different personalities and styles of life together and must learn the art of compromise. It is something that must be learned and discussed in the formation of the relationship. If you do not then it becomes a bit late to try to change either person. I think you both need to sit down and

get this all out before it destroys your relationship. You have been together for a little over a year now so you must enjoy something about each other. This all can be easily solved but you have to communicate. I understand your trust issues with him but this is something you definitely need to get over. You must believe that a person can change! If you are having doubts about your trust concerning him then you need to get out of this relationship now. There is no reason for you to be miserable your entire life with someone whom you cannot or refuse to trust. You have to let all of that go and move on. You both need to air your feelings and figure out how to work through your concerns if you wish to stay together. Love can be a beautiful thing when both parties agree to work on the problems and not reflect on the past. Do not let what he has done in the past destroy what can be in the future! I also believe your boyfriend may be a bit of a drama queen and enjoys doing things that he knows drives you crazy. Relax, play devil's advocate for a while. Make him think that you don't mind and encourage him to go out and party with his friends. This will do one of two things...it will make him see that it does not bother you and he will not see the need to go to bars or it will make him go out more to the bars and you will see that this is not going to work anyway. Try this out because right now you are making yourself miserable and you are too

young for that. Have fun in life and let the stress go. Let me hear from you again!

Dear Taj, I just made the biggest mistake of my life. My boyfriend and I have been together for a year and a half. It has been a very unusual relationship, which progressed very fast. Let's just say he was living here by the second or third week. By the fourth we went into business together, which we both still run. He was very, very closeted and extremely uncomfortable with his sexuality. None of his friends and family knew that he was gay.

Now, here is the problem: I had a very bad drinking problem. I was losing all control of myself when I drank and refused to get help. He has left me before for things I have done when I was drunk, but we were so in love with each other that he always came back.

This time topped it all. I started yet another fight when I was drunk on our year-and-a-half anniversary. It got out of control: I spit at him, he hit me once, and I was so angry I called his mother up and told her that we were together. (Remember how closeted he is.)

He immediately broke up with me, and I fell into a bad depression. A few days later he came back. He stayed here for a month while I finally got help with my drinking problem and went to a psychologist (who put me on an antidepressant). After a month, a friend of mine called and said my boyfriend had just put up a personal ad online saying he was single. I immediately confronted him. He admitted it and

told me he'd only stayed with me until I helped myself because he loved me and cared about me. Then he left.

All of his family accepts his being gay except his father, who will not talk to him. I've given countless apologies, begging for his forgiveness and for him to come back, but he refuses to forgive me. He says I have no respect for him — but it was only when I drank. Now I am clean and he knows that, but he still won't forgive me. I cry to him all the time at work and he will not forgive me. What can I do? Is it possible to move on after something like this?

Please help!

Oh dear...I would like to first congratulate you on being clean and

sober and hope you will work very hard to stay that way. As you see alcohol is not your friend or anyone else's when you abuse it. You should count yourself lucky that you have any friends at all. I am one of those individuals who refuse to put up with drunks and their abusive behavior. You had a man who put up with it for a very long time and for that you should forever thank him. I think there may be some hope for you but you have a lot to make up to him. It is not your place nor anyone else's place to out someone and I hope you never forget that. You could have completely destroyed his life but luckily it seems he will make it. It is ashamed that his father still is not speaking to him but for your sake I hope his father comes around. I want you to sit and reflect on what you have done. Stop calling him at work and crying for him to come

back to you. You need to first worry about seeking his forgiveness. He was good to you and stood by you so that you would get help and now you need to respect him for that. Stop pushing him to have a relationship and push him to just be your friend again. You are going to have to earn back his respect and show him that you have really changed. Get yourself together and concentrate on bringing happiness back into your life. Please keep in touch and let me know what happens!

Ok guys and gals...Lady T is a bit under the weather and going back to bed. Have a good one and let me hear from all of you....Kisses!

Lady Taj

The Station House, Springfield, IL



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The Down State Illinois' Mag



The WI/IL State Line Mag

On our cover...



Name: Scott Z.

Age: 21

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 130lbs

Hair: Medium Brown

Eyes: Light Blue



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Horoscopes

Monthly gay horoscope for January, 2004 (c)Copyright 2003 by Richard Brown. all rights reserved ISSN 1499-6537 <http://www.gay-astrology.com>

ARIES March 21 - April 19

You didn't really believe you'd stick to that New Year's resolution about getting your career in place, did you? Well, maybe you fooled yourself for the first couple of weeks, getting your resume updated, phoning around, and blah, blah, blah. Yeah, right. Watch out for the second half of the month. Every twisted, kinky little fantasy you've ever had comes home to roost. (Maybe it was that past life as a dungeon master.) Anyway, when some heavy number in the most awesome leather in the world starts talking about his rack, he ain't chatting you up for a pool game, m'friend, he's taking his cue from your deep hidden desires for a dark and weirded out night. Heck of it is, you'll probably enjoy it. So down on your knees and kiss my boots, scum.

TAURUS April 20 - May 20

By mid-month all your foreign investments will be back under control, well sort of, providing you had the good sense not to invest in that Tasmanian gold mine your New Year's Eve trick recommended. Look, there was no gold in that hole, but I guess you learned what was really in it by sunrise New Year's Day. Second half of the month, it's back to your really off-the-wall friends. One of them, the weirdest of the bunch quite likely, has the hots for you (again). But this is only one night stand material. But what a one night! You may never get a night like this again, but you may never want a night like this again. Be prepared to have your limits tested. Oh yeah, make sure there's no webcams in the room. Ahem.....

GEMINI May 21 - June 20

What a delightful month for a Gemini. Well, the hangover from New Year's Eve won't be especially nice, and even if you don't really remember what it was that you did or with whom, but the depths of the soreness in your backside should serve as a reminder for a few days that you did indeed enjoy ringing in the New Year. Friendships abound this month, your lover finally gets over it, or at least makes peace with it (and we're not saying what "it" is, except that several XXX websites have images in the pay-only section), but look, this bears repeating: those exciting new tricks you

keep meeting in the bars, remember them? Yeah, well just so you know, they're even stranger than you are this month. Hard to believe, I know, but belief isn't the only thing that's hard for you this month.

CANCER June 21 - July 22

Your career will blossom if you put some energy in it, your mother will get over the miscommunication (you really should have sent flowers), and your lover, oh darn, well it's all your lover's fault in any event, isn't it? Always has been. Now that the basics are settled, let's get on with your month. Dust off your tall, dark, handsome stranger fantasy. Yeah, that old chestnut is back (again). But this time with a twist. In fact, quite a twist, so twisted that your teddy bear is going to need a leather outfit to handle this one. Look admit it, you've always wanted a walk on the wild side with someone who has an undefinable accent from some exotic foreign land and whose sexual tastes are just well.....unspeakable. Kind of sends a shiver up your spine doesn't it? Go for it. But it's one night only.

LEO July 23 - August 22

We're still working on our karma here, aren't we? Be patient. (I know saying patient to a Leo is like asking water to flow uphill.) Be prudent with your finances, not that you'll have a lot of choice given what you did to your credit cards last month. Listen carefully, because if you don't, I'm claiming "I-told-you-so" rights. Some of the most intense, cosmic, earth shattering, thundering orgasms to blast from The Cosmos into the material plane are waiting for your throbbing crotch. So here's the catch: if you think it's going to last more than six hours, you're dreaming in Technicolor, it's not relationship material, in fact it's not at all what you think, and you really should have listened to your room mate who told you to leave your wallet at home.

VIRGO August 23 - Sept. 22

Ok, so we failed our Sainthood Exam in 2003, and if New Year's Eve didn't prove that, I don't want to hear what did. So it's a new year with new opportunities to plunge ahead with your wanton desires. Ever think of applying for the position of Saint Excess of the Orgy? Actually you have to be able to do several positions for that one, so maybe you better practice up a bit first. And this is just the month for it. A bit of a slow start until you figure out which lube is

Music Review



American Life by Madonna

A music fan from Los Angeles, CA United States

Well, I've read some of the reviews for this EP by other people, and it's so common and so original to listen to people bash Madonna, as it's been happening since she came onto the scene back in 1983, when it was said she was a flash in the pan and would disappear quickly. I'm not going to bash her here, she's a phenomenal artist, and each piece of work she does is it's own entity and shouldn't be compared to her past works. It's easier to criticize than to praise it seems, I've listened to this disc a couple times to get a vibe and here it is. "Nothing Fails" and "Love Profusion" are by far two of the best tracks Madonna has recorded, and I wish they were the first choices to release off of "American Life". On this EP, they're both mixed impeccably, awesome! If there's any reason you should buy this, it's for the rockin', jamm'n' mixes of these two songs. "Nobody Knows Me" is my least favorite track on "American Life", but on this EP-wow! What did she do? It's got a very early 80's club feeling rhythm, this version should be on "American Life". With the mix of "American Life", she gets rock n' roll on us, hard gritty guitar, just the kind of music I love and she finally does it! Yes! The "Like A Virgin/Hollywood" Mtv award track and the mix of "Into the Hollywood Groove" are both good novelty listening...it's all good fun. Finally, "Your Honesty", R&B/Soul/Dance oriented is lushly beautiful, and the only complaint about the EP is I just wish more B-side/hard to find tracks from past albums were added on here.

DJ'S TOP CLUB HITS

JANUARY 2004

CLUB 5 DJ/VJ - Tim Walters - Top 15

1. Britney featuring Madonna Me Against The Music
2. Madonna Nothing Fails
3. Pink God Is A DJ
4. Nelly Furtado Powerless
5. Whitney Houston You'll Never Stand Alone
6. Kristine W Fly Again
7. Seal Waiting For You
8. Kelis Milkshake
9. Industry Release Me
10. Kylie Minogue Slow
11. Missy Elliott Pass The Dutch
12. Christina Aguilera The Voice Within
13. Beyonce Me Myself And I
14. Widelife All Things
15. Thalia Baby I'm In Love

The Office NiteClub - DJ Cody - Top 15

1. Kelis Milkshake
2. Britney & Madonna Me against The Music
3. Janet Jackson Megamix 2004
4. Missy Elliott Pass the Dutch
5. Michelle Branch Breathe
6. Crystal Waters My Time
7. Madonna Love Profusion
8. Nelly Furtado Powerless
9. Kylie Minogue Slow
10. Christina Aguilera The voice within
11. Liberty X Jumpin'
12. Keyin Aviance Give it up
13. Enrique Iglesias Addicted
14. Tomcraft Loneliness
15. Thalia Baby, I'm In Love


DJ Cody's Top 15 of 2003

1. Britney featuring Madonna Me against the Music
2. Kelis Milkshake
3. Kevin Aviance Give it up
4. Kristine W Some Lovin'
5. Monica Get it Off
6. Play I must not chase the Boys
7. Vicki Shepard I got a Feeling
8. Who da funk Shiny Disco Balls
9. Oscar G Dark Beat
10. Anastacia Love is a Crime
11. Leann Rimes Tie Toe
12. Benny Benassit Satisfaction
13. Beyonce Crazy in Love
14. Stacie Orrico Stuck
15. Christina Aguilera Beautiful

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excessive enough for this project, and then, surprise! You take a big fall. As in falling in love: Great, right? Wrong. Very wrong. How in the world can you be Saint Slut of Alleys when you've just fallen in love? Not to worry. The Cosmos will look after you. You'll be ditched so fast, you won't have time to get the licence number of the truck that dumped you. Happy New Year.

LIBRA Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

It's the perfect month to tidy up at home, have tea with your lover, and be just so totally domestic you could ring up the Home and Garden magazine for a photo shoot. Forget it. After you and your lover get done every night in the bedroom, it will look like a war zone, although the fun will be well worth the damage. But don't file an insurance claim. These silly companies will want to know what happened, and do you have any idea how upright they are when they hear someone is actually having fun in their home? Yikes, you could get a rate increase. One last thing, fun is where you find it, so dream a weird little dream and it might just come true, and be weirder than you could ever imagine.

SCORPIO Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Take a cold shower the first two weeks of the month. A good time for reconnecting with your friends (above the waist, m'dear) early on, but by mid-month onward, it's back to the driving mindless surges in your life, in other words, your crotch rules again. But it's strictly short term stuff, and it's a bit weird. How weird? Imagine yourself chatting somebody up before you head off to some dark, unspeakable place to do dark unspeakable things. You, the charter box? And logical conversation to boot? What is this world coming to? Rather, what are you coming to? Not to worry, dear Scorpio, it's temporary, just like all the tricks. You'll be back to your quiet slinky self by month's end, and the denizens of darkness will breath easier or perhaps harder.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

What a bummer of a month! All the action is at home. Oh, fudge and darn it. No travelling about, no wild flings in exotic foreign lands, no expounding on The Truth for the masses. Just knock down, drag out, get laid, indulge your wildest fantasies.....(can you guess what's next?).....with your lover. Geesh. Sometimes the stars do conspire. I have to admit. Blame it on the stars. After all, you've got to blame it on someone, don't you? But it could be worse. You could sort out your finances, update your resume and go for that new job, all of which the stars indicate for you this month, but the reality is, you'll likely come dashing home for whatever dashing kinky adventure lies within your bedroom.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Finally, your month has arrived, Capricorn! And you're probably complaining about it already. By the second week of the month your brain cells will have sufficiently detoxified from New Year's Eve that you'll realize there's some opportunity here. Yes, but not the opportunity you're thinking about. You're thinking about money. Hah! The Cosmos has other things in mind for you. How about some fast dreamy conversation which leads to an amazing one night fantasy off somewhere on a candle-lit cloud? Never heard of such nonsense, have you? Heh, heh. The Cosmos has a wicked sense of humour, my friend. When your heart falls in love more intensely than your crotch, you're hooked. And just about the time you've figured that out, your carriage turns into a pumpkin, and your pumpkin turns into a turnip, and you wake up to reality.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

As always, you'll probably think you can talk your way through this one. And as always, that's exactly what you'll start out to do. Until, that is, it dawns on you that no one has any idea what it is that your saying, which shouldn't surprise you because you have no idea either. So fair is fair. Meanwhile, while you're trying to sort out this little mess, please take the time to pay attention to the sweet fair-haired little number with dreamy eyes gazing wistfully up at you saying nothing. Uh-huh. Guess who's got the Mother of All Crushes on you. Look you could read out the recipe for your grandmother's apple sauce and this one would follow you to bed. So stop tossing around the obscure musings of 19th Century European philosophers. Get your priorities together. Yeah, I know that's asking a lot.

PISCES Feb 19 - March 20

Good thing you already know this planet is too weird for words. Now brace yourself. This planet is also to intense for words, and will be for the next few years. So here's how you handle it, assuming you're motivated to handle anything in the material plane. By mid-month, a wild, hot, sex-starved hunk sweeps down the mountain on a white charger, scoops you up and takes you off to a castle of worldly delights where the two of you make mad soul shattering love until The Cosmos opens to choirs of angels singing on sixteen layers of tiered clouds. Yeah, I believe in fairy tales, too. So why not? You've tried everything else on this planet and it hasn't worked. Why not go for broke!

A'Lotta Grease

.....is the WORD!



Greetings to my fellow gossipers:

Well, this month was just full of grease to tell! So on to the drama and gossip... The Office NiteClub had their usual great shows in December with bringing special guests Vickie Valentino and Kitty Litter from St. Louis, Stella Bi Starlite from Chicago and Lady Gia from Milwaukee. The December 6th show had a delayed start because Vickie and Kitty were late arrivals, plus word has it Vickie wasn't prepared and had to send one of her boys back to the motel to get her music. However, once the show started, those St. Louis girls entertained the crowd! The December 20th's show was Lady Gia's first time on stage in Rockford. She did a great job, but gurr! you need to remember you are under a spot light on this stage and you need to paint accordingly. The show on January 3rd was a hit with Shannon Dupree from Milwaukee and Maya Divine from Chicago as their special guests. Miss Divine however seemed to have a problem in her third number and walked off stage right in the middle of her song. Her boyfriend was missing out of the audience, could this be the reason for attitude??? I don't think we will be seeing Miss Maya anytime soon on stage again in Rockford.

Also in December The Office NiteClub had a new kind of preliminary on their stage. The Rockford Idol 2 Preliminaries. Out of 15 contestants they narrowed it down to 5 finalist that will come back this month and compete for \$250 in cash! Rumor has it there is a little surprise that is happening that night as well. You'll have to join me there to find out what it is.

Now on to who's missing in Rockford... we seem to have lost 2 of the regular faces we see in Rockford. Kenny Baker and Sabrina DeLite. Rumor has it that Kenny just up and left town one morning due to bad breakup with his lover and that he has set up house in NC. Good luck Kenny! As far as Sabrina DeLite, word has it she left town to visit a queen in TN and her car was hit by a semi. We keep hearing that she says she's coming back, but she never seems to make it. Gina Delicious dedicated to Sabrina her own rendition of "Sabrina got run over by a reindeer..." on her way back from Tennessee!

to the Oh Zone crowd. The laughter could be heard all the way down at The Office NiteClub! So hurry up and get back here gurl, we wanna know if all the rumors from down south are true.

JesOne and his guest DJ's pounded the dance the last Friday of December at The Office NiteClub. All kinds of cute boys walking around. DJ Cody can agree with this since rumor has it that he had quite the interesting encounter with one of these cute boys in the rest room. Word has it he's got pictures and all.

Now...on to the biggest night of the year. New Years Eve. Both the Oh Zone and The Office NiteClub had a spectacular night planned for their customers, but they turned out to be more spectacular planned. The Office NiteClub had Ronnie Nyles and Chix Mix performing on stage in the show lounge. The place was packed all night. Downstairs on the dance floor they had DJ Cody and DJ Chris spinning which kept a full dance floor most of the night. The Oh Zone had DJ Lady Bug spinning for their New Years Eve party. As the clock approached midnight, both parties took a turn. The Oh Zone's sound system took a dive and went out for the rest of the night. Down at The Office NiteClub, as the clock ticked just past midnight, one of the owners of The Office was attacked by an ex-employee. The fight was stopped as fast as it started and no one was hurt, but I'm sure you could imagine, if you weren't there, the surprised look on everyone's faces.

In closing I wanted to say good bye and best wishes to a few that New Years Eve was their last night working in our local scene. Dirk, Marge and Bill from The Office and DJ Lady Bug from The Oh Zone. I wish Dirk and Rachel well in what the future has in store for them. As far as Marge and Bill, they are off to sunny Florida for a few months. Marge says they'll be back in March.

That concludes this months gossip and drama, hope you've enjoyed. Love and grease be flowing and remember... always be good to each other and yourself, but not to good that I can't gossip. If you don't have anything nice to say then email it to me at greas@edgemagonline.com

Your Loyal Gossip Queen,

Miss A'Lotta Grease

NJ Passes Partner Rights Bill



(Trenton, New Jersey) The New Jersey Senate voted 23-9 Thursday to approve a bill extending many of the state benefits of marriage to gay and lesbian couples.

Under the legislation, same-sex couples would be granted the right to collect the public pensions of deceased partners, guaranteed hospital visitation during illnesses, and qualify to receive health benefits in a partner's name.

It would not, however, make gay couples eligible for any of the federal benefits of marriage, nor would it give partners the same property rights as married spouses or many child custody rights and obligations heterosexual couples have.

The legislation passed the House last month (story) and Gov. James E. McGreevey has announced he will sign it. It makes New Jersey the fifth state to recognize domestic partners. "It's a matter of basic fairness. And it's a matter of basic dignity for loved ones to be able to be in a hospital or be part of medical decisions," said Micah Rasmussen, a McGreevey

spokesperson. "To deny them any of those rights is an injustice."

LGBT groups said they are generally pleased with the legislation but that it does not go far enough.

"Anytime a law is passed in any state it provides important rights and responsibility to gay and lesbian families. Important work is being done," said Sheryl Jacques, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign. Jacques called the bill one step on the road to full marriage rights.

The Roman Catholic Church mounted an 11th hour campaign to oppose the bill.

"The prime movers behind this legislation are homosexual persons who seek legal affirmation that their cohabitation is equal in every way to marriage," the Catholic Conference of New Jersey said in a statement released Wednesday.

"The wholesale acceptance of domestic partnerships discounts the fact that throughout history marriage — the union of one man and one woman — has offered societal stability by forming the physical, economic and cultural base for the orderly procreation, nurture and education of the next generation."

Even with the new domestic partner rights, a lawsuit challenging the state's refusal to grant marriage licenses to same-couples is working its way to the state Supreme Court. In November a superior court judge dismissed the suit saying there was nothing in the New Jersey constitution requiring the recognition of gay marriage.

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Hello, loyal readers! Happy Holiday Season and hope that your New Year is getting off to a wonderful start. What a year it's been! So much drama! Southeast Wisconsin is always ripe for a scandal or two and as we gear up for a brand new year of scandals and such, let's not forget the most notables of 2003! I've consulted with some of the best gossip-mongers and through veiled inebriation, we've come up our top 10! Sit back with a Cosmo from Fluid or a high-ball from Boom and let's go to work!

#10) Good Bye. Hello & Hello, Again. It was with sadness that we lost two of our haunts in Milwaukee: Docks & Orbit closed their doors for good. On a brighter note, we can welcome Oscar's (Kenosha) & Out-N-About to our list of gay bars in Southeast Wisconsin. On a really bright note, Bill from Fluid re-opened this past summer and seems to be doing better than ever!

#9) Large & In Charge! For the first time in a while, Milwaukee can boast not only one - but TWO - state title holders. Jesse Rivera is our new Mr. Gay Wisconsin-At-Large and Shannon DuPree is keeping 'em in check as Miss Gay Wisconsin-At-Large! Good Luck at nationals, Jesse!

#8) Change your diaper - it stinks! Word has it that our Miss Teen Club 5 is really making a name for herself - BEFORE she can legally go to the bars. Petulant attitude and numbers that included smashing her crown on the

floor and tearing down fixed attachments to the stage. Not classy. At this rate we can't WAIT to see what she has up her skirt in the coming years.

#7) To The Pasture With You! I think NOT. The USofA recently added the Miss "Classic" pageant where two of Milwaukee legends strutted their stuff. Tina Renee and Brittany Morgan went back into competition and showed them all that it's not just the young ones that have all the talent. Good Luck Tina in St. Louis when you go for the national crown. We'll all be watching you.

#6) Politics As Usual! To keep us from worrying about real political problems, the Republican Legislature tried to pass yet another "Defense of Marriage Act." Never mind, that one of the most vocal supporters of the Bill from our Senate is working on his third marriage. Fortunately, we made the right choice this past November and our new Governor vetoed this. Maybe now they can start working on some of the real problems in our State. Don't hold your breath.

#5) Scandalous Police Reports! The Milwaukee & Racine police departments worked overtime keeping track of our gals this year! Whew. Theft, assault, missing driver's licenses, various unpaid fines, jumping bail, identity theft and impersonating a peace officer. If it wasn't all so true it would make a GREAT Country & Western song. Just remember, institution-orange is not a good color on anyone. It leaches the color right out of your face.

#4) Chantal - Where Are You? After a rocky relationship with Club 94 North, the mouth-of-the-south parted company. This on the heels of being banned from USofA pageants for not attending the national pageant as 1st Alternate to Miss Northern Star. There have been plenty of negative comments hurled her way but always the

survivor, she's now putting on shows at Oscar's. 2004 should be her year and it's about time!

#3) Cher has LEFT the Building! With much fanfare & rumors galore, Nova Divine and most of her cast traipsed out of Club 219 and sauntered down the road a bit to put on shows at LaCage. Letters were written and tempers flared. DJs stomped around carrying on with unbridled hysteria - it was one of our finest dramatic hours!

#2) Kylie West has left the Building, too! Not quite a year into a request to fill those size 12's of Miss Divine, Kylie West clogged out of Club 219, too. This time, DJ's wandered around flaunting resignation letters as if it were a tattered ho! Two show directors and various performers walk - must be some drama somewhere 'round that place!

#1) That must have been SOME Party! Pridefest in financial straits. This year tops them all. Despite the rain & soggy drag queens, increases in entertainment and various other expenses put the yearly event in jeopardy! Ah...remember the Pridefest of years gone by when Lily White put on a show for free and the whole community was in front of that stage?

There you have it. Of course, there is plenty of time in 2004 to put all of these to shame - so start drinking! Don't forget to keep you eyes on what's happening over at the Triangle. The first couple of events of the year will be two benefit shows to send our Milwaukee Guy & Gal to nationals. Jesse & Tina Renee are having benefit shows in the works and if you've never been to a soiree at Triangle you don't know what you're missing. You may not remember it but you'll definitely enjoy it.

Keep Safe this year and keep the comments coming to:
Lottiedodge@sbcglobal.net.

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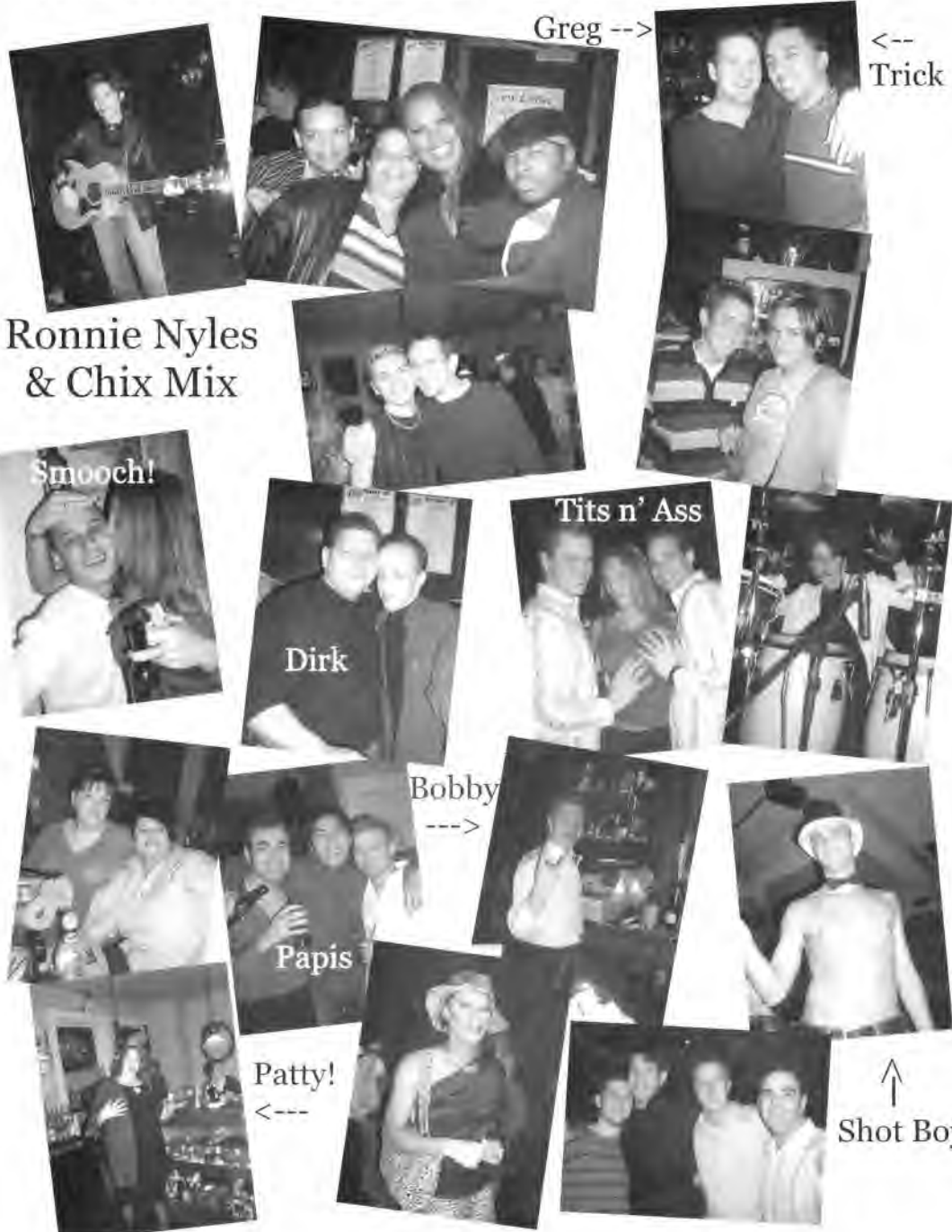


Pictures by Patty



Thanks Patty, you're the greatest!

The Office NiteClub New Years Bash



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The Miss Wisconsin Continental Plus Pageant

February 7th at Historic West Theatre in Madison; Cover \$15 at door.
Registration 12:00 pm – Interview 3:00 pm (Baymont Inn) – Pageant 8:00 pm

Categories are: White Presentation, Swimsuit, Talent, Evening Gown

Top 4 finalists: On-stage Question-and-Answer. Entry Fee \$125

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