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Introducing Wisconsin's Premiere LGBT News Leader

VOL 1, ISSUE 1 | DECEMBER 15 2004

# A Nationwide Assault on State Constitutions Is Wisconsin Next?

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR  
by Don Hoffman

## Hello and welcome to Q Life!

I would like to be able to give you a formal invitation to meet my newborn child – but like all forming beings, this paper is ever-changing. So to fall right into the holiday spirit and take a trick from the big guy in red, I'll give just a wink and a nod and leave our firm handshake to a few months from now.

That being said, what I can tell you immediately is that I hope you spend a few minutes looking over our premiere edition and find what I think is clearly here – a heck of a lot of different topics covered by folks with completely different voices. Go through and count for yourself. There are 19 writers in all, each one with his or her own opinion and writing style. I have done my best to make sure their stories are straightforward and clear, but have made a conscious decision not to alter or change greatly what these writers bring to Q Life. I truly believe that this will be one of the greatest strengths of our paper – diversity in all aspects.

As you read through the following pages, you might ask yourself why are there are so many different topics? That answer is an easy one because – like the rest of the world – the LGBT community is made up of smart people looking for information they can use and will find interesting. While I agree these types of columns are not traditionally found in most gay newspapers, it is high time we change that. You will also

*continued on page 11*

by Sura Faraj

**G**ay Marriage. Recently, these two words have been used to draw bloody battle lines between two increasingly vocal groups – radical fundamentalists and those who favor civil rights for all people.

This fight has already been waged at the ballot box in more than 11 states. The proposed amendment to Wisconsin's constitution, which would ban marriage between same-sex partners and most likely outlaw civil unions and domestic partnerships, is likely on the horizon.

To add fuel to the fire, State Representative Mark Pocan (D-Madison) questions the motives of a third group – legislators who are using the amendment as a political maneuvering tool to secure more votes in critical elections.

In Wisconsin, the proposed amendment has already passed through both houses of the legislature one of the required two times. Should it pass the second time, the amendment could go before Wisconsin voters as early as April 2005. Yet, Pocan points out, some Republicans are pushing for the amendment to be scheduled for November 2006, when Governor Doyle and other key Democrats are up for re-election.

Pocan draws similarities between this and Karl Rove's strategy on a nationwide level to use gay marriage as a voter turnout tool. Rove was the mastermind and strategist behind President Bush's recent re-election campaign. "Is this really about people who think marriage needs to be protected or is it about people who see this as a great tool to bring out certain types of voters?" asks Pocan.

## Appealing to Bigotry

Chris Ott, the Executive Director of Action Wisconsin, a statewide LGBT

civil rights organization, believes that at its most basic this amendment is about hostility to LGBT people.

"The backers of the amendment want people to believe that their intent is to preserve or protect marriage. But what they're really doing is singling out a category of people to write us out of the constitution and deny us some very basic protections for our relationships and families," Ott told Q Life.

Ott believes the legislature is out of step with public opinion and points out that at the federal level there are over a thousand protections, rights and responsibilities associated with marriage.

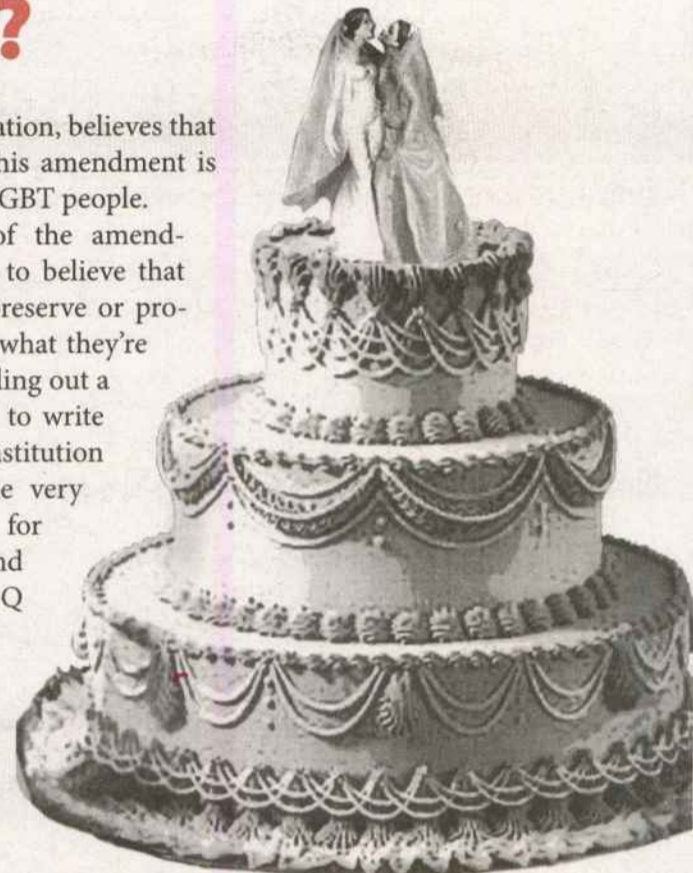
**"Is this really about people who think marriage needs to be protected or is it about people who see this as a great tool to bring out certain types of voters?" asks Pocan.**

Though all of these are already denied to LGBT couples, this proposed amendment would take away even the hope for change. These benefits include the ability to make emergency medical decisions for a partner, bereavement leave, property inheritance, social security survivor benefits and the protections offered through immigration law.

"They're playing politics with people's lives," Ott asserts.

## Is This Just Politics or Is Religion Involved?

It is no secret that in the past, fundamentalists denounced homosexuality based on myths of promiscuity and inability to form committed relationships. Now, in an apparent flip-flop, some of today's rightwing religious leaders condemn couples in the LGBT community for wanting partnership stability.



## Wisconsin's anti-gay marriage amendment may have far-reaching consequences.

Below is the actual text.

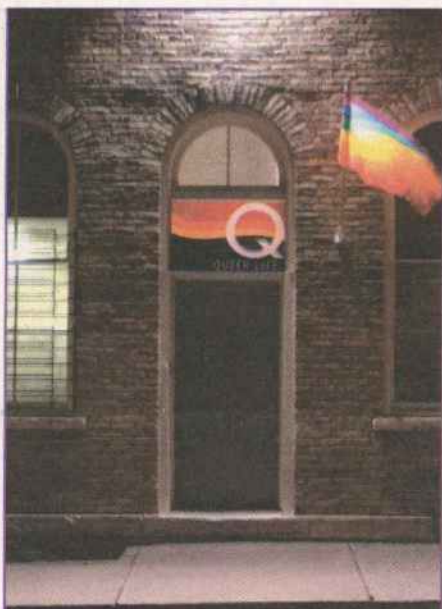
*"Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state."*

There's some debate about who will be affected if this amendment were to pass. Mike Prentiss, a spokesperson for Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) says, "Our interpretation of the wording is that it does not prohibit future legislatures, if they decide to try to pass something like civil unions, from doing so."

However, that interpretation couldn't be further from the truth according to Patrick Flaherty, of the LGBT Center Advocates. Flaherty says it will ban not only

*continued on page 5*

*continued on page 5*







Queer local, state, national and global news...

HAPPENINGS



## HRC Ousts Cheryl Jacques Then Names Straight Man to Co-Chair Their Board

Washington – Cheryl Jacques has abruptly left her post as president of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest U.S. LGBT political group, over differences with the group's board, but some sources claim she was fired.

HRC's spokespeople didn't comment on reports of Jacques' firing on Nov. 30, but they did not deny that she had been let go. HRC put out a press release saying the board and Jacques made a joint decision, based on a "difference in management philosophy."

The board chose Hillary Rosen and HRC Board of Directors Co-Chair Michael Berman to lead the search for a replacement, the HRC press release confirmed. Rosen is the partner of Elizabeth Birch, Jacques' predecessor, who was HRC's execu-

tive director for eight years before stepping down.

Jacques held the job for nearly one year.

Three days after Jacques' departure, HRC announced it was appointing a heterosexual man as co-chair of its board of directors.

Michael Berman will serve with lesbian Gwen Baba in leading the HRC.

Berman is president and one of the founders of The Duberstein Group, a government affairs consulting group. Prior to that he served as counselor and deputy chief of staff to Vice President Walter Mondale.

"This choice sends a strong message that the fight for equality can unite all fair-minded Americans," said Baba.

## World AIDS Day Marked Statewide 5,200 Living with HIV/AIDS in Wisconsin

Milwaukee – As Wisconsin and the nation marked World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, state health care leaders warned HIV/AIDS continues to be a major problem in the state. Wisconsin currently has a record-high number of approximately 5,200 people known to be living with HIV or AIDS.

This year's World AIDS Day focus was on a woman's risk from HIV.

"In Wisconsin and across the nation, we are seeing a disturbing rise in the percentage of new infections among women," said AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's president and chief executive officer, Doug Nelson.

Nelson said his organization is concerned that there is apparently no parallel reduction in the rates of infections among women as in men.

"We have focused our efforts at particularly high-risk women so we can start to bring down the rates of infection," said Nelson.

Nationwide, the number of newly diagnosed HIV infections in gay and bisexual men has risen in many U.S. states, according to a federal study released on Dec. 1. The report stoked concerns AIDS may be poised for resurgence in the country.

The new study of HIV/AIDS data from 32 states, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 11 percent more infections were diagnosed from 2000 through 2003 among men who have sex with men.

Gay and bisexual males accounted for 44 percent of the 125,800 diagnoses reported by these states during the period, the agency said.

"This is not a trend we want to ignore," said Dr. Ronald Valdiserri, deputy director of the CDC's HIV/AIDS prevention program. "We need to make sure the leadership in the gay community understands the importance of tracking this very carefully."

**"In Wisconsin and across the nation, we are seeing a disturbing rise in the percentage of new infections among women"**

## Madison's New Year's Eve "Pink Party" Set for Overture Center

Madison — The Tenth Annual Pink Party is slated for New Year's Eve 2004 at the newly-completed Overture Center in downtown Madison.

In an attempt to reflect the diversity of the Madison LGBT community, this year's entertainment is unquestionably eclectic. The Main Lobby will host Comedy Club circuit veteran Christine O'Leary. O'Leary is "honest, crass, witty, silly, endearingly cute and above all, a riot."

Jazz/soul/RB performer Lisa G and Montage will follow with special guest Clyde Stubblefield. Stubblefield has played all over the world and recorded with some of the greatest funk, soul and R&B performers including James Brown, Otis Redding and Clayton Fillyau.

The Rotunda Stage will be the home of the T&A Productions Drag Show, followed by D.J. Sandy Seuser playing club music in the Rotunda Stage and Rotunda Studio. Seuser is best known for her work with the

Sprawl and 10% Society dances.

In addition, the Wisconsin Room will feature the Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys welcoming in the New Year with country line dancing. Everyone is invited to participate.

The Pink Party runs from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. A sliding scale for tickets is also available at the door. Charge by phone at (608) 255-8582. Ticket outlets in Madison include OutReach, A Room of One's Own, Borders (east and west), Bongo Video (Williamson St. and Atwood Ave.), Four Star Video and The Frugal Muse, and in Milwaukee at OutWords Bookstore.

Proceeds from the 2004 Pink Party will help fund the services of OutReach, Inc., Madison's LGBT community center. For more information, contact Nikki Baumbblatt at OutReach (608) 255-8582 or e-mail at: commrel@outreachinc.com.

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# PrideFest Announces 2005 Dates, Holds Town Hall Meeting

Milwaukee – PrideFest, Wisconsin's largest pride event, has announced the annual event will take place on the weekend of June 10-12, 2005, at Milwaukee's Summerfest grounds. Organizers have not determined whether the festival will be held over two days or three days. Festival leaders also have yet to decide the future of the traditional pride parade.

In 2003, PrideFest had incurred a debt of nearly \$150,000. An independent audit of the 2004 festival confirmed a \$209,000 turnaround from the 2003 event. The festival was reduced to two days in 2004, but had attendance of 15,807 – an increase of nearly 200 over the three-day festival in 2003.

PrideFest organizers attributed the dramatic turn around to strong financial support from community members, an aggressive expense-cutting effort by festival planners, and strong festival attendance.

Despite the strong financial showing in 2004, PrideFest still must deal with the large debt leftover from the 2003 festival. The majority of that debt is owed to World Festivals, Inc. for rental of the Summerfest grounds in 2003.

"PrideFest still has a debt of approximately \$56,000," Jennifer Gryniewicz, executive director of Cream City Foundation (CCF), told Q Life. "But that has been negotiated with favorable terms to allow us to plan for coming years."

Festival organizers are positive about the outcome of the 2004 festival, but acknowledge big challenges are still ahead for the organization.

"While we had great success [in 2004], the long-term goal is to stabilize the festival by establishing an accountable, community-based organizational structure," said Denise Wise,

president of Cream City Foundation (CCF), "We need community input to make sure PrideFest continues to have success for years to come."

CCF oversaw fiscal planning for the 2004 festival and is likely to continue to act as fiscal agent for the festival until the festival is on firm financial and organizational footing.

At a town hall meeting on Nov. 11 at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, festival leaders announced that PrideFest Legacy Angels raised \$59,445 to help reduce PrideFest's debt. Festival organizers plan to implement a major donor campaign based on the success of the Legacy Angels' effort.

Several attendees at the town hall meeting indicated the event was "positive," but was lightly attended with an estimated crowd of 60 persons (half of whom were PrideFest volunteers) according to sources.

PrideFest also announced plans to create a community give-back program with some of the PrideFest income and to facilitate extensive dialogue and input with PrideFest supporters to help develop a 3-5 year plan.

At the town hall, PrideFest leaders outlined a strategy to ensure the future of the festival. PrideFest is currently re-organized under the umbrella of the Cream City Foundation. However, not all community members saw the reorganization by CCF of PrideFest as positive.

Local business owner and community activist Si Smits criticized the festival organization shortly after the PrideFest town hall in a commentary on his Web site [www.bootcampsaloon.com](http://www.bootcampsaloon.com).

"It is my observation that the Milwaukee community was lead [sic] to believe last year, that a new Board of Directors would be formed by community leaders and a new operating committee to run the festival would

be formed," wrote Smits. "While everyone was in agreement that the Cream City Foundation could handle the financial aspect of clearing up the debt, it appears that they over took the festival."

PrideFest is also in the early stages of determining the best organizational and legal structure to support the growth and development of PrideFest for

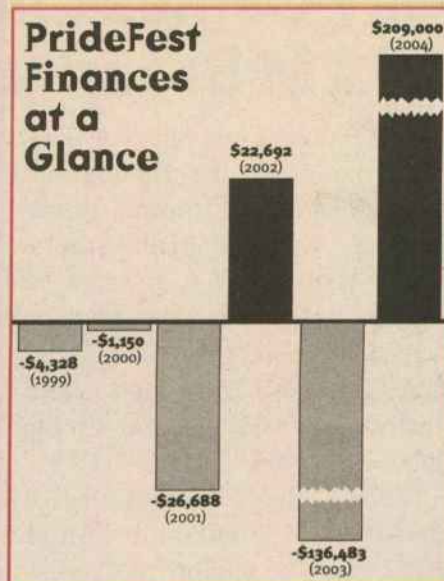
the next five years.

PrideFest is working with consultant Karen Gotzler of Urban Strategies to help develop a strategic, long-term plan for the organization.

Gotzler is also engaged in a community dialogue with PrideFest supporters and others to assist with the strategic plan for the festival. Gotzler is utilizing web-polling data along with interviews with community leaders and focus groups as factors in the PrideFest planning. She is also using data from the New York City, Atlanta and Las Vegas pride festivals.

**PrideFest organizers attributed the dramatic turn around to strong financial support from community members, an aggressive expense-cutting effort by festival planners, and strong festival attendance.**

## PrideFest Finances at a Glance



At the town hall, Gotzler indicated that PrideFest has had over 200 responses to an on-line survey which ran until Nov. 30. Gotzler indicated she has also conducted numerous listening sessions and interviews with various LGBT community leaders.

Gotzler's early recommendations for the festival include that PrideFest would become or merge into part of a nonprofit group with tax exempt status (IRS Code 501c3) and stay on the Summerfest grounds. The festival would also expand the educational and cultural activities at PrideFest and the festival would increase their marketing and promotional efforts.

The task force also announced an effort to seek community input about the festival through listening sessions with community members. Festival planners say they need community feedback to help shape the future structure of the festival, as well as entertainment and activity ideas for the 2005 festival. For more information about participating in focus groups, contact Urban Strategies at (414) 221-9500.

The PrideFest production team is also seeking volunteers for several open positions, including several director-level positions. For more information about volunteering, call PrideFest at (414) 272-3378.

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## Gay Games Chicago Signs \$3.2M Broadcast Deal

Chicago – Organizers of Gay Games VII announced the signing of a contract with the California-based Q Television Network, granting the new gay network television, radio and Internet broadcast rights in a deal valued at more than \$3.2 million. Gay Games VII Sports and Cultural Festival will take place in Chicago, July 15-22, 2006.

The Q Television/Gay Games VII deal is for \$1.7 million in cash plus more than \$1.5 million in advertising and programming benefits, making the partnership worth more than \$3.2 million, the largest-ever sponsorship of an event for the LGBT community. The contract, signed Dec. 3, 2004, grants Q Television Internet, radio and television broadcast rights and provides for joint development of Gay Games-related programming, broadcast advertising of the Gay Games from now through 2006, and live and taped coverage of the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago.

As part of the deal, Q Television, a paid cable network, will unscramble its signal during the week of the Gay Games, ensuring broad-based access

to the pageantry of the ceremonies, exciting sporting competitions, and inspiring cultural and arts offerings.

Q Television will also serve as the agent for the worldwide redistribution of television, radio and Internet broadcast rights, allowing for access beyond Q Television's cable footprint, especially in international markets. The media rights sold do not prohibit standard news coverage.

"The Q Television Network is proud to now be the broadcast home of the Gay Games," said Frank Olsen, president of Q Television Network. "The Gay Games in Chicago will be a monumental event for the worldwide gay and lesbian community, and we are thrilled to be the only television network to have an exclusive contract. We look forward to telling the stories of these amazing athletes and artists to our viewers."

Q Television can be found on the cable network RCN in New York, Boston and San Francisco with distribution following in additional cities across the USA. For further information, visit [www.qtelevision.com](http://www.qtelevision.com).

## Robertson: Gays and Lesbians are "Self-Absorbed Hedonists"

Virginia Beach – On Nov. 30, Rev. Pat Robertson described gays and lesbians as "self-absorbed hedonists... that want to impose their particular sexuality on the rest of America."

Later in the same edition of the Christian Broadcasting Network's "The 700 Club," Robertson, host and Christian Coalition of America founder, remarked that it's "just

absurd" that the current U.S. Supreme Court "ruled that homosexuality is a constitutionally protected right."

Robertson was referring to a June 26, 2003, 6-3 ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* that the Texas statute "making it a crime for two persons of the same sex to engage in certain intimate sexual conduct" is unconstitutional.



If there's news going on where you live that affects the LGBT community, let us know about it. email: [qhappenings@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qhappenings@queerlifeneews.com)

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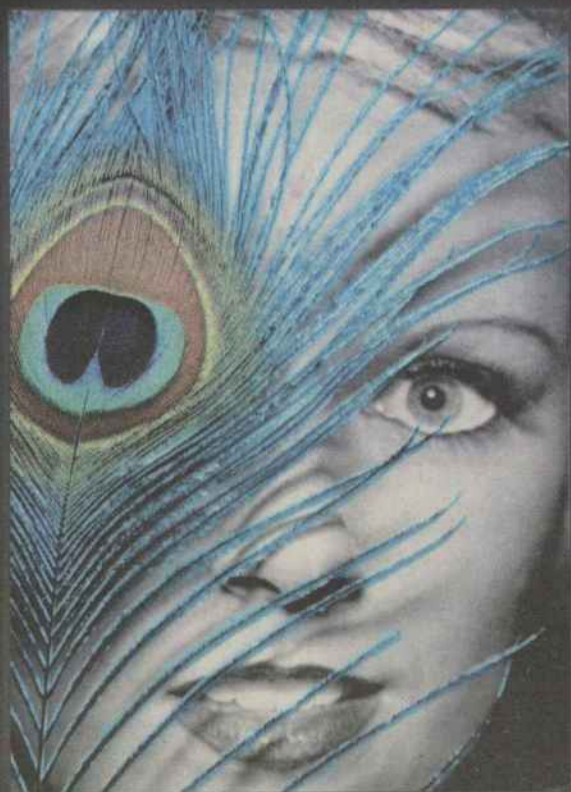
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MARRIAGE *continued from page 1*

Julaine Appling, Executive Director of Family Research Institute of Wisconsin (FRI), the leading state organization working for the passage of the anti-gay amendment, defines marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

"Marriage is the means by which we ensure the next generation," Appling says.

Appling cites studies that allegedly show children do better in homes with both a mother and a father. She believes that homes with same-gender parents would not be good for children.

"If we're truly a compassionate and caring society we would come to the aid of motherless or fatherless homes. We wouldn't intentionally create them."

She did not refer directly to any specific study nor did she say that any study included gay parents in the data collection.

"Once you open the door to changing the definition of marriage to be anything other than one man and one woman where do you draw the line?" says Appling. "There will be no logical stopping point."

### There Are Two Sides to This Religious Argument

In Wisconsin, like Oregon, which also passed an anti-gay marriage amendment in the November 2004 elections, there are differing beliefs. Faith also plays a part in actively *rejecting* bigotry.

Rebekah Kassell of Basic Rights Oregon (BRO) makes that point, "We

had far more denominations working on the 'No' side [against the amendment] than on the 'Yes' side. But they aren't evangelical churches so they aren't as boisterous about their positions," says Kassell.

Kassell proposed that because of the work of BRO and many religious people, Oregon voters came closest, out of the eleven states with

ballot measures, to rejecting the amendment by 56%-44%.

On a national level, even some traditional Christians are arguing against a ban on gay marriage, referencing Prohibition, another Constitutional amendment with "morally inspired" intentions that ended in disaster.

Back home in Wisconsin, Pocan weighed in on how faith should not be hijacked by one group's beliefs.

"There are a lot of communities of faith that are opposed to the amendment. Moral values can't be code words for bigotry."

### Strategies and Tactics for Beating the Ban in Wisconsin

Civil rights activists will need to be strategic to keep the amendment from passing in the Legislature. Along the way, organizers must convince enough voters that it's not worth amending the state constitution to ban something already against Wisconsin law.

Pabitra Benjamin, an organizer with the LGBT Center Advocates in Milwaukee, whose mission includes identifying voters, lobbying legislators and running media campaigns, knows the importance of face-to-face contact with voters. She says that while some people may be against the idea of same-sex marriage, very few want to deny gay couples the benefits that many heterosexual couples take for granted. These rights include the ability to visit a sick partner in the hospital or to make end-of-life decisions for a long-term partner. Benjamin has learned this lesson firsthand.

"When you start talking about real life outcomes, people change their minds," Benjamin told Q Life.

While the LGBT Center Advocates concentrates its efforts in the Metro Milwaukee area, Action Wisconsin is thinking statewide. Their approach is to try to stop this amendment in the Senate, where the vote last session was 20-13. They are working on informing key senators of the hardships same-sex couples currently face. They are also putting together an advisory council which includes non-LGBT representation.

### What Can We Learn from Other States?

Kassell shared lessons that Oregon activists learned, "The best thing that organizations can do from now until a potential election date is to educate communities about the importance of marriage itself and what's at stake for same-sex couples and their families. Doing that in a really grassroots way, in community groups, in churches, and families, to start really having those conversations now, rather than waiting for a campaign, is the key to victory."

Kassell also urged Wisconsin to clarify which way to vote. One problem they recognized too late in Oregon was that some pro-gay voters were confused and mistakenly voted "yes" which actually favored the ban on gay marriages.

### The Good Fight

If the amendment battle in Wisconsin is similar to the one in other states, our fight here will change to encompass other issues. Asked what was next on FRI's agenda if the amendment should pass, Appling proposed two things. One, "We still have to get the federal constitutional ban on marriage passed." Two (as if this goal isn't worrisome enough), FRI may turn their forces on heterosexual couples as well.

"The accusation has been that if we really care about marriage we would be outlawing divorce. One of the things I want to work on is I'd like to see us change the no-fault divorce law here in Wisconsin," Appling says.

### The Good News

Even though the overall picture may seem bleak, there is some good news. Ott reminds us that in Massachusetts there are legally married lesbian and gay couples. He makes a distinction between Wisconsin and Bible Belt states. "Culturally we are much closer to states like Michigan and Oregon that came close to stopping the amendments," says Ott.

MARRIAGE SIDE BAR *cont'd from page 1*

gay marriages, but also any kind of compromise, including domestic partnerships and civil unions. He points to a memo from Don Dyke, the Chief of Legal Services for the Wisconsin Legislative Council. According to Flaherty, the memo says it is reasonable to conclude that if this amendment were to pass

- containing the exact text above
- civil unions could not be created either by the legislature or by the courts.

Julaine Appling of Family Research Institute - a leading state organization working for the ban on gay marriages here in Wisconsin, agrees that "Vermont style" civil unions would not be valid if this amendment passes. "If you open it up for those kinds of relationships and you give them everything that has historically been reserved for marriage, then what you have is marriage by a different name."

Ott also observed that in Wisconsin there is a history of against-the-odds firsts - such as the historic 1982 lesbian and gay civil rights law. Wisconsin was the first state in the nation to pass a law protecting the rights of gays and lesbians. Wisconsin was also the first state to send an open lesbian, Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) to the U.S. Congress in 1998.

"We have a history of being able to win fights similar to this one and we'll just have to do it again," says Ott.

To find out more information about Wisconsin's gay marriage amendment in the Metro Milwaukee area, contact Pabitra Benjamin at Center Advocates (414) 271-2656. In other areas of the state, contact Saad Akbar Khan at Action Wisconsin (608) 441-0143 or toll-free (866) 441-0143.

*Editor's Note - The following Wisconsin State legislators were contacted several times and did not return phone calls to Q Life: Rep. Mark Gundrum (R-New Berlin), Rep. John Gard (R-Peshtigo), Sen. Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center), Sen. Tom Reynolds (R-West Allis). Please let each of these legislators know how you feel about their disturbing silence.*



Sura Faraj (sfaraj@queerlifeneews.com) is a writer, organizer, activist, poet and flag dancer. She calls Riverwest home and headquarters for action.

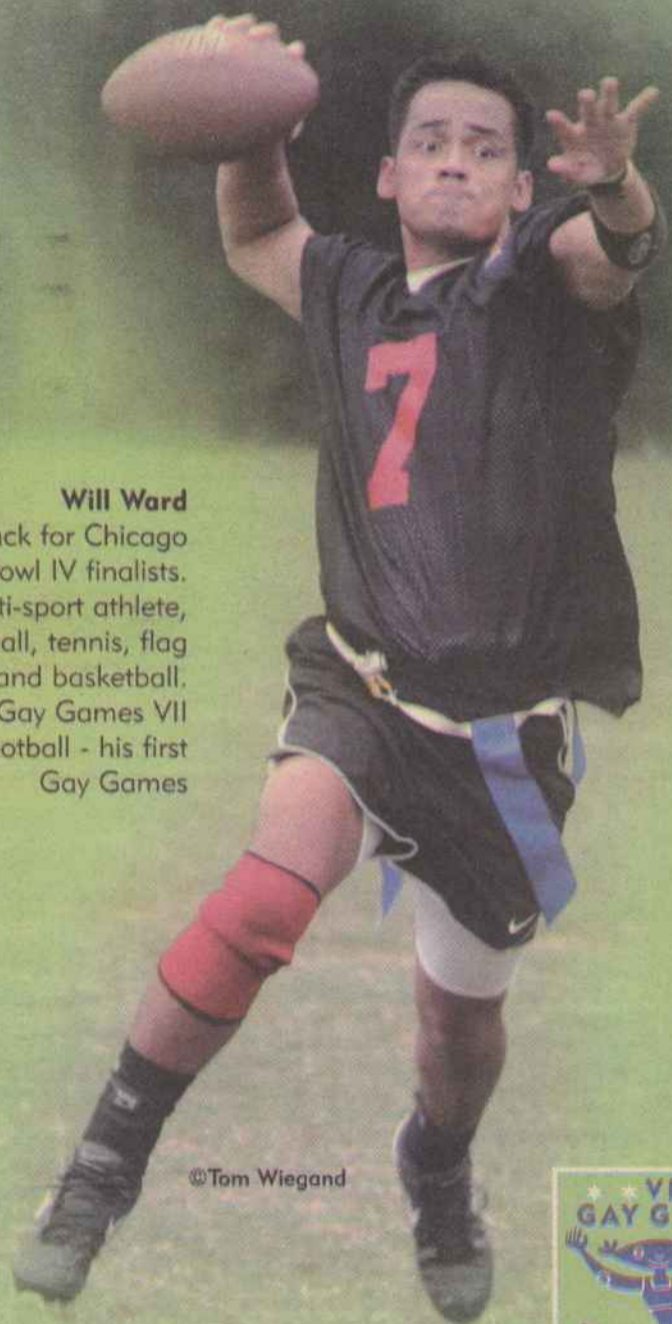




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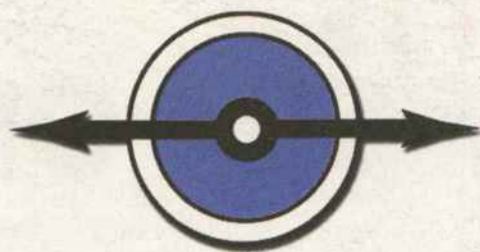
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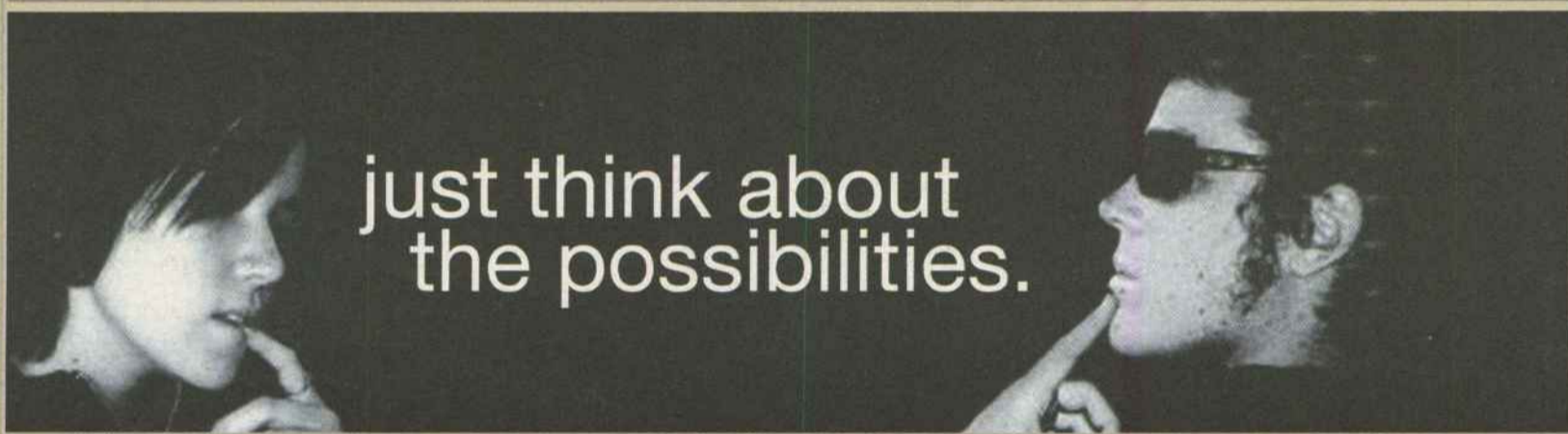
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Q Life is a monthly publication which highlights Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. Each issue contains insightful articles penned by local personalities who are in the know. Available throughout Wisconsin, Q Life fills a necessary information void involving the LGBT community. As Wisconsin's Premier LGBT News Leader, Q Life serves an important buying audience ready to embrace companies friendly to the gay community.

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It would be easy for Q Life to go to press without bringing up the racial slur uttered by one of Milwaukee's loudest radio talk show hosts in November. We could just say it was old news and not write a word.

### But doing that would be wrong.

Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, I think we need to put a couple of facts on the table. It is hard to believe there is anyone who hasn't heard about this, but just in case – a quick update. On October 27, 2004, just a few days before the general election, Mark Belling, during his top-rated call-in radio program said, "You watch the voter turnout on the near south side, heavily Hispanic, and compare it to voter turnout in any other election, and you're going to see every wetback and every other non-citizen out there voting." Note the term "wetback" – a derogatory slur used to describe illegal Mexican immigrants. In the days that followed, Belling made this situation even worse by making embarrassing attempts to say that he was sorry. The problem – he really did not mean it and that became ever more apparent by his silly antics, which included making a mockery out of what he originally said. Latino American leaders and other allies were outraged and systematically organized several demonstrations. Belling then issued a written formal apology, but by that time it was too late. His bosses at WISN frowned on the demonstrations held outside of Belling's studio. After being pressured, they met with those upset. As a result, Belling was taken off the air for a period of seven days.

His television show was also affected. CBS 58 (WDJT-TV) made the smart decision to put his show "Belling and Company" on hiatus for one week.

Belling is now back on the air on both radio and TV. Also in full disclosure, our editor, Don Hoffman, was Belling's TV producer when he was a reporter at CBS 58. However, Hoffman was no more than a "tape jockey" for Belling. Belling made all of his own decisions on content then and most likely does the same now.

### Now back to the issue of the racial slur.

Why do we find it necessary to bring up this unfortunate situation? After all it wasn't a slur against the LGBT community. Certainly that point could be argued, but not very effectively, in our opinion.

The hatred spewed in Belling's slur is a direct attack on all people. It also brings up other serious questions like: when is a slur damning enough to gain attention and warrant real repercussions?

### Let's look at this practically.

What if Belling had used the "N" word – would he have been suspended for a much longer time? Certainly he would have been sent packing for more than one week. If he had said something bad about Jews, what would have happened? How about Native Americans, Arabs, Asian Americans, Muslims, Women or Gays? The jury is out on how Belling would have been made to pay for his mistakes.

That is exactly what went wrong with the way the Belling situation was handled. We find ourselves in a country that says it protects and stands up for everyone who believes in the Red, White, and Blue. But it appears now it has become okay to be "a little bit racist," as long as you say things about those who do not fight back or those who are not looked upon favorably by a majority of the population. We must not allow any racist attack to become PC. Also, we must not have a caste system when deciding on how to respond to racism. When we fight racism, we must fight it together and have one measured response. We must not allow ourselves to be swayed or divided by how we personally feel about whom a racist action affects the most.

The bottom line is that Mark Belling is on the air, and stays on the air, because people agree with his conservative agenda. But being a conservative does not translate into being a racist. Deep down inside, Belling tried to make this whole thing go away with his jokes and sharp wit. But even some of those who support him the most, his own advertisers that help foot the bill, pulled the plug because they knew the difference between right and wrong. Open-mindedness vs. racism.

Who knows? Maybe out of this unfortunate incident something positive will happen. Maybe all of us – Conservatives and Liberals, Democrats, Independents, Greens and yes, even Republicans, will realize what is right and what is wrong. And maybe, even if we don't see eye to eye on many issues, we will be united in this one – Racism is Racism.

A racial slur of any kind is about each and every one of us. Let's use this incident as a learning tool and remember in order for us to be one strong America, we must embrace the words and sentiments in our pledge of allegiance:

"One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all!"

Have something to say? Tell it like it is: [qopinions@queerlifefews.com](mailto:qopinions@queerlifefews.com)



FRIENDS



featuring...  
Mayor Tom Barrett

## Message to Q Life Readers from Mayor Tom Barrett:

As Mayor of the City of Milwaukee, I am pleased to be a friend and supporter of Q Life Newspaper and its readers. Milwaukee is one of the most diverse areas in the state of Wisconsin. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual people are an important part of this diversity. And, while there are a couple of outlets that hear and voice the concerns of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual community, Q Life is another medium in which to promote your accomplishments and goals as well as express your concerns and needs.

As Mayor, I am a strong supporter of the domestic partner registry for Milwaukee citizens and

domestic partner benefits for City workers. My City budget for 2005 includes \$250,000 in Community Development Block Grant entitlement funding for the Health Department to provide to Community Based Organizations and educational institutions that support the prevention of AIDS and HIV. The City anticipates making five awards up to \$50,000 per organization.

My support for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual community dates back to when I served in Congress. My record includes getting funding for HIV/AIDS victims in the Midwest by restructuring the

continued on page 10





POLITICS



Patrick Flaherty

## Did Gay Marriage Sink the Democrats?

Media commentators have a long history of telling us complex historical events based on trite incidents: Richard Nixon lost to John F. Kennedy because he looked sweaty and haggard in a televised debate; George H. W. Bush lost to Bill Clinton because he glanced at his watch too much.

By now, the concrete is setting on another glib pronouncement of the commentariat: moral values and, more specifically, "gay marriage" sunk John Kerry and the Democrats. They point to record Republican turnout in the crucial state of Ohio, the 22% of voters nationwide who told exit pollsters that "moral values" decided their vote, and the large margins that voters gave to discriminatory, constitutional amendments banning marriage and even lesser legal rights for gay and lesbian couples in eleven states, most of which went decidedly to Bush. In Wisconsin, some Assembly Democrats are seizing on the gay marriage issue as a way of explaining to donors and supporters why – af-

ter pre-election boasts of an expected gain of three to six seats – the Assembly Dems actually *lost* a seat, hitting a new contemporary low.

It's not just columnists that are hanging this one around our necks. After spending hundreds of millions of dollars and setting contemporary records for volunteers and votes, there are some among the Democrats and allied organizations who would love to find some easily understandable reason why they weren't able to win. After all, this was a president who had an approval rating under 50% (a standard predictor of big doo-doo trouble for the incumbent), with most voters failing him on his handling of the economy and the Iraq war.

Never mind that eight of the eleven states with marriage amendments were solid Bush states anyway, and that in at least one of these, Utah, more people voted against the gay marriage ban than voted for John Kerry (thank you, Mormons!). Erase from your mind the fact that two of the three swing states

with amendments – Oregon and Michigan – went to Kerry. Forget that Ohio, the one swing state with an amendment that went to Bush, saw John Kerry come much closer than Al Gore's losing performance in 2000, or that 100,000 more Ohioans voted for president rather than the marriage/civil unions amendment (showing that it was the presidential contest driving voters to the polls, not some primal urge to protect traditional weddings). If you've just spent months working eighty-hour plus work weeks, and emptied your organization's bank account, it sure would be nice to think that walking away from gay marriage is all that's needed to win next time.

You could think that. But you'd be wrong. First of all, we've tried it before. In 1996, Bill Clinton moved quickly to take the marriage issue off the table by supporting the Federal Defense of Marriage Act, denying federal recognition to same-sex marriages and letting states get around that obnoxious little paragraph in the Constitution known as

**After all, this was a president who had an approval rating under 50% (a standard predictor of big doo-doo trouble for the incumbent), with most voters failing him on his handling of the economy and the Iraq war.**

the "Full Faith and Credit" clause. Huge majorities, including Democrats (John Kerry was a notable exception), voted for the federal DOMA. In Wisconsin, around the same time, a majority of Assembly Democrats voted for a Wisconsin version of the same law, and that hasn't stopped their long slide. To their credit, Wisconsin Democrats, from the Legislature to the governor, have shown considerable backbone on this issue, with people like former Senate Democratic Majority Leader Chuck Chvala keeping local DOMAs bottled up in committee in the past, and Governor Doyle consistently and publicly speaking out against a state DOMA and the proposed constitutional

*continued on page 15*



DIVERSITY



Deon Q. Young  
([dyoung@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:dyoung@queerlifeneews.com)) is a field specialist at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. He lives in Riverwest.

## Where is our LGBT Community?

Like many urban cities, Milwaukee is racially separated by a massive freeway and a river. In the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community we are divided even further by cultural issues. Many people are feeling left out.

We have an LGBT community, a Black LGBT community, a Latino LGBT community and an Asian Pacific Islander (API) LGBT Community. Must I say LGBT again?

Within the LGBT community (yes, I said LGBT again), we are even separated by the letters making up the acronym. We have lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgender individuals.

In fact, the transgender community has been oppressed by the majority of our own community – by both lesbians and gay men – for many years.

After attending sessions presented by leaders in the transgender community, I have learned of negative backlash from many gays and lesbians in addition to homophobia from the non-gay majority. Our history shows that members of the transgender community have truly been leaders in the fight for equal treatment and opportunities for all of us. Where has the rest of the community been in the fight for equality for transgender individuals?

The bisexual community has faced struggles advocating for the validity of their sexuality within the LGBT community. There has been much debate on what is gay and what is straight, and is there really anything in between? Where does the B fit in?

I hope that we can answer these questions for ourselves. I hope that we can create a strong community in which the leaders of oppression will think twice before messing with us ... a strong, diverse community where its members come from different backgrounds and struggles and don't oppress each other.

Earlier I mentioned our black LGBT community. I see them and allies fighting for HIV prevention and treatment. I see a community standing up for equal opportunities and raising families.

**We have an LGBT community, a Black LGBT community, a Latino LGBT community and an Asian Pacific Islander (API) LGBT Community. Must I say LGBT again?**

But what has the LGBT community as a whole done to include our black LGBT friends?

In working to build a strong black community, we need to stop fighting one another and "reading," as we call it. We need to start fighting those who are truly against us. Our community has been oppressed for so long and we even oppress one another. This is true for our Latino community as well.

We have separated ourselves, been excluded by the majority and have been left out of vital decision-making for the entire LGBT community. As the minority, we have not raised our voices about our needs.

Maybe the LGBT community as a whole has not reached out and asked us what we need. Maybe as the minority in the LGBT community, we have not worked out a plan to achieve our goals on our own. We as the minority community need to assess our own needs and work out a plan to achieve these needs with the support of our community leaders.

We also need to reach out to educate our young people of color and express that they need to step up and make a voice for themselves.

It is time to stop the bickering, stop the "reading" and stop the drama. We need to come together to prove that there is a community. We all have our own culture and we all have our own backgrounds. I am not saying that we need to lose our culture and be like the majority of our community. I am definitely not saying that the larger LGBT community should cater to the needs of the minority community.

What I am saying is that it takes a lot of effort to show the oppressing majority (that has oppressed much of minority communities as a whole for decades, not to mention centuries) that we have a strong community and that they cannot separate us. We cannot do that if we separate each other.

Now my final question, what do you plan to do for the LGBT community?

Have something to say? Tell it like it is:  
[qopinions@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qopinions@queerlifeneews.com)





# Season's Beatings

In this time of "fa-la-las" and "ring-a-lings," I send out my warmest holiday wishes to all the lesbian Republicans out there. Lesbian and Republican should never be side by side in a sentence or even in the same room, but I digress. I hope you prance out of the closet wearing your favorite Christmas sweater and have fun at your family gatherings minus your girlfriend this holiday season. Oh, come on, you know you haven't come out yet and are afraid to bring her home. While spreading the cheer, please make a special point to thank your parents for instilling in you such a solid and moral upbringing and give yourself a little toast of bubbly, knowing that I think you are one of the bravest people in the world.

I mean...

"Gee, you're brave for voting Republican - tossing your civil rights as a lesbian back to the dark ages."

"Gee, you're brave for voting Republican - handing over all your tax dollars to big corporations."

**Lesbian and Republican should never be side-by-side in a sentence or even in the same room**

"Gee, you're brave for voting Republican - since we've supposedly killed 100,000 non-combatant Iraqis, it's understandable why you say every

life is precious."

"Gee, you're brave for voting Republican - sacrificing lower medicine costs for yourself to help the stock market."

"Gee, you're brave for voting Republican - ensuring Mary Cheney gets a huge expensive Christmas present from her father, Dick, and his Halliburton cro-

nies from all the money they've made and will make."

"Gee you're brave for voting Republican - allowing churches who don't pay any taxes at all to tell everyone else how their tax money should be spent."

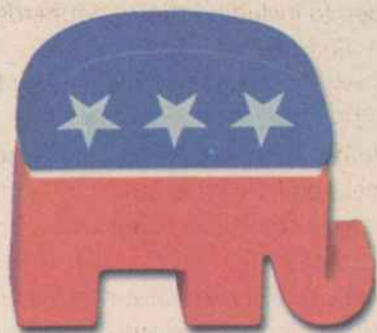
"Gee, you're brave for voting Republican - approving a \$380 billion deficit."

"Gee, you're brave for voting Republican - letting the big oil companies drill for oil wherever they want and spoil some of the world's most pristine wild-life refuges."

"Gee, you're brave for voting Republican - since 30 percent of baby boomers are projected to have Alzheimer's over the next 20 years and we won't be doing any stem cell research, I guess you'll just be able to forget that you ever voted Republican."

Thanks for being so brave and making my holidays for the next four years so bright, cheery and hopeful. Season's Greetings.

Holly Grey (hgrey@queerlifeneews.com) is the general manager and co-editor of *Boxx*, a Milwaukee-based newspaper that promotes women's visibility and educates on women's issues (www.boxxnews.com). Holly is also co-founder and vice president of an Internet risk management company located in Milwaukee.



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## FRIENDS *continued from page 8*

Ryan White Care Act and co-sponsoring the Employment Non-Discrimination Act which provides federal protections against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. I also voted NO on banning gay adoptions in the District of Columbia.

Members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and transsexual community and their supporters have come a long way, but more work needs to be done. As Mayor of this great city, I will work hard to fight for you and your rights. Thank you to Q Life for making me a Q Friend.

Yours Truly,  
Mayor Tom Barrett

*Straight, but not narrow? Tell us why the LGBT community is important to you. Email us at qfriends@queerlifeneews.com*

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## RELIGION



Rev. Andrew Warner ([awarner@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:awarner@queerlifeneews.com)) is a pastor at Plymouth Church UCC on the East Side. He lives with his partner Jay and their two children in Whitefish Bay. Your questions about LGBT spirituality are welcome.

## Family may exclude you; God won't

Mary and Joseph went home, but they ended up sleeping in a barn. We so often hear this story that we may miss the central drama of it. If they were going to Joseph's hometown, why didn't they stay with relatives? Forget the inn; why was there no room with "Aunt Jolene" or "Grandpa Fred" or any of Joseph's other relatives?

Were they rejected because they were having a baby out-of-wedlock? Or was it because the relatives didn't approve of Mary? We may never know why Mary and Joseph couldn't stay with family, but many of us in the LGBT community do know what it is like for family to say there isn't room for us.

Too often only part of us is welcomed in our hometowns: we can come if we don't talk about being gay; we can come if

we don't bring our lesbian lover. Or, like all too many transgender folks, we can come back home only if we are masked in a gender our family wants to see us as, not the person we feel we truly are.

If you are told there is no room for your queer self this holiday season, then remember where God was born. God was born in a barn, with the much-rejected Mary and Joseph. God was not among Joseph's family, nor among privilege when born into human form.

This can be great comfort to us: if we are shut out by family, the spirit of God is still dwelling with us. Always remember that God chose to be with Joseph and Mary when their relatives didn't approve of them. Though family may exclude you, God will always welcome you and come to your table to celebrate with you.

Mary and Joseph, faced with rejection by his family, decided they'd rather live in the barn than put up with judgmental relatives. In the barn they were joined by scruffy shepherds and resplendent kings. I love the image of Mary and Joseph forming their own family celebration for Jesus with the real people who shared their joy.

Mary and Joseph were forming a new kind of family. Their new family was more than the expected roles of mother-father-child. Instead, theirs was an open family, one that took in the poor shepherds and the wealthy kings. Even though they themselves were outcasts, they welcomed these other people who had nowhere else to go.

This is really what makes them a holy family in my mind. Their holiness was more than the presence of Jesus. Mary and Joseph and Jesus were the holy family because their family was open to including those shepherds and those kings who needed a welcoming home.

Not every family will exclude LGBT folks: many LGBT people have parents and brothers and sisters who open their hearts and couldn't care less if Uncle Mike comes dressed as Aunt Michele. My partner and I are blessed with this kind of family; and this year we'll be celebrating Christmas with our parents and my grandmother.

If your family is like mine then it is important to remember what made the holy family holy. It was because Mary and Joseph welcomed the shepherds and the kings into the barn. This inclusion is the real way this family became holy. Our holiday celebration will not be complete without a similar open door: one open to scruffy shepherds and well-dressed kings, and of course the queens.

This holiday may you discover that God is with you and those that make up your family – no matter who they are. May your very unique family unit be a holy family.



**If you are told there is no room for your queer self this holiday season, then remember where God was born. God was born in a barn, with the much-rejected Mary and Joseph. God was not among Joseph's family, nor among privilege...**

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### WELCOME *continued from page 1*

notice that most of our articles are short, running between only 600-800 words. We have done this on purpose. We know your time is very valuable, so we want to titillate you with the meat of our stories. Certainly, if you like what you see, you can go ahead and contact the writers directly; they can share a lot more of their story with you. Because of space constraints, many of their most pithy words ended up on the office floor.

As far as what to expect from month to month, I'm still working on that. I'll give you some insight though based on why I decided to help form this paper and why I agreed to become editor in chief. My actions are quite simple – they're based on common sense. Last month's general election scared the hell out of me. Not just because overt gay bashing was used nationally to win a presidential election, but also because it became apparent that right here in Milwaukee, our community was not taken seriously by several people running for political office. I believe there were many reasons for this, but one of the obstacles we faced was getting our issues as a community respected enough to be addressed. We didn't have the media's ear or the ability to be the media. We were paperless!!

Now let me be clear – I certainly don't think this paper (Q Life) will

represent the feelings of everyone in the LGBT community. No paper can. In fact I look forward to vigorous debate among us. However, without the ability to let others know how we feel, and keep in line those who find it necessary at every avenue to beat the hell out of us, we are nothing more than doormats ready to be walked on, time after time.

Q Life will take important steps to make sure we call to task leaders and others both inside and outside our community who make decisions for us. We must not become afraid to raise important issues, which from time to time might ruffle some feathers. But along the way, we must always be fair and make sure our newspaper is also an outlet for those who might not want to get involved in politics and fights at all. That is why our ongoing features each month will receive as much of my attention as the front page story and the opinion page.

So sit back, take a few moments and read Q Life from cover to cover. I hope you like what you see, and if you don't, let me know. I want you to feel like this newspaper is your own.

I know that means I'm going to have to open myself up for suggestions and attacks, and I'm up to the challenge.

Our community deserves it!  
Don Hoffman





## HEALTH



Gary Hollander, Ph. D. (ghollander@queerlifeneews.com) is President and Executive Director of Diverse and Resilient, a non-profit committed to the healthy development of LGBT people in Wisconsin (www.diverseandresilient.org). He is also owner and principle consultant of Gary Hollander Enterprises, a firm that assists organizations with their development, emphasizing change management, team development, and cultural competency.

## Shoulders back, chest out, chin high!

We're good. Good, good, good, good.

### We're good!

This is the type of reminder you are likely to get in this column in upcoming months. As a health care professional and a guy committed to health promotion, I plan to devote this column to our pressing and ongoing issues related to physical, emotional and spiritual health. There will be pointers in each column about how each of us can take charge of our health and the stressors that have an impact on it.

In the months leading up to the recent election season – and especially in the weeks following the election – the fact of our inherent human goodness as lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people has been hard to hold on to. A group who failed to make their case to American voters is blaming us, confusing our civil rights as a liability to progressive politics. The ongoing harangues of the absolutist, regressive Right seek to cripple us and kill our spirits.

Still, their confusion about us and their tactics of targeting us for their shortcomings can't negate the truth: we are good people. Our accomplishments over the past 50 years are nothing short of legendary. We have reclaimed cities from decay and neglect, protected reproductive rights, and moved federal bureaucracies. We have successfully protected our young, assisted our aging and healed our sick.

Our transgender sisters and brothers have freed the minds of millions from the suicidal gender traps that confuse us. Our lesbian and bisexual sisters have opened new professions and occupations for us all. They have nursed our sick and brought hope in the face of plague. Our gay and bisexual brothers have been fierce in the face of war and annihilation and racism.

And though there is much more that we can and must do, the fact remains that each of us is good, good, good – even if we do nothing at all. We are fine neighbors, co-workers, friends, family members and allies.

### We're just good folks.

As we move past the fall elections and face a likely future struggle to constitutionally limit our rights to pursue happiness, three tactics will likely serve us well. First, we should remain aware of how we are doing personally and as a community. Second, we have to remain mindful of what is true about us, even if the majority of the population is incredibly confused. And third, we must move closer to the opposition so that they can recognize our goodness close at hand.

How are we doing? In the past year, many of us have gone numb. We can barely process the blatant hate language, let alone the subtle innuendos about us from elected officials and televangelists. Some of us are even becoming physically ill from this assault. We fear others

and are increasing our isolation. We're becoming somewhat vigilant, even jumpy when we don't know the politics of our colleagues and family members. We're avoiding some tough conversations because we don't want to feel again the disappointment of rejection or disregard. For many of us, Canada has become very attractive. Seceding from the Union has a vague attraction.

### And we're really, really angry.

As we're learning to check out how we're doing on a regular and ongoing basis, we can also pay attention to what is true about us as a group and as individuals. For starters, we can notice how deeply connected we are to one another and to our allies. Even when we're hunkered down, we remain personally, humanly, socially, spiritually, politically and economically related to dozens, hundreds, thousands, even millions of others. The misinformation about how fragile our relationships are with each other and in the wider world is a lie.

We are also fun, creative, flexible people. We are generous with our time, talents and treasures. We are generous in our willingness to forgive, get up, dust ourselves off and move forward. During this period of political bad news and season of family stressors, we get to be proud. We get to move toward what appears to be opposition, showing them our inherent human goodness by just being ourselves.

Shoulders back, chest out, chin high!

**During this period of political bad news and season of family stressors, we get to be proud.**

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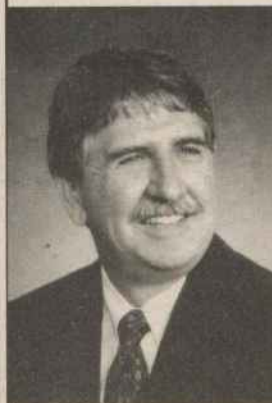
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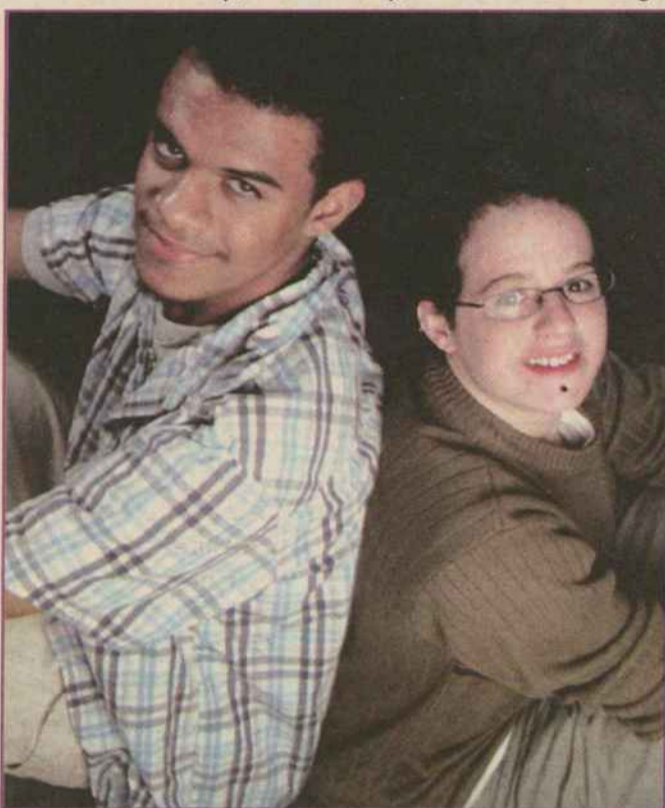
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## Q

## YOUTH

Christopher Allen and Colin Kaehler are both teens and attend high school in Milwaukee. They are members of their school GSA and are involved with *Diverse and Resilient*, a social service organization whose mission is to ensure the healthy development of LGBTQ community.



Some may think our voices are weak, our opinions are callow, and our worries don't even break the surface of this chaos we call life. However, we seek to prove that being a youth today has its importance. Together, we can be more than just "that group" of people who only happen to be a few steps away from adulthood. We can stand strong, and we can demand to be heard. By not containing ourselves in one category, we can relate to a myriad of issues; everything that happens in this world indirectly, if not directly, affects us.

Today's youth need a voice, and we hope to serve as that voice.

What's great about being a young person in today's society is that we are obtaining more of a voice. What's exciting about this is that the voice we give and the voice the world hears is actually impressive. We've proven that we're not as shallow as the world would like us to be.

In addition to being youth of today, we are also a part of the LGBT community. We strive to bring awareness to our peers and the rest of society. We want the world to know who we are, what we like, and that we, as LGBT youth, aren't much different from straight youth.

LGBT youth have made progress in increasing the awareness others have about us. By ourselves, we've come up with ideas and ways to get the word out: at school, through the formation of school GSAs, the planning of school events—such as the Day of Silence and Transgender Day of Remembrance, and by simply standing up for what we believe in. We're making ourselves noticed. We have many of the same concerns and are affected equally by decisions made by others. We

**We struggle to find ourselves like almost every other person has done, at least once or twice in their lives.**

struggle to find ourselves like almost every other person has done, at least once or twice in their lives.

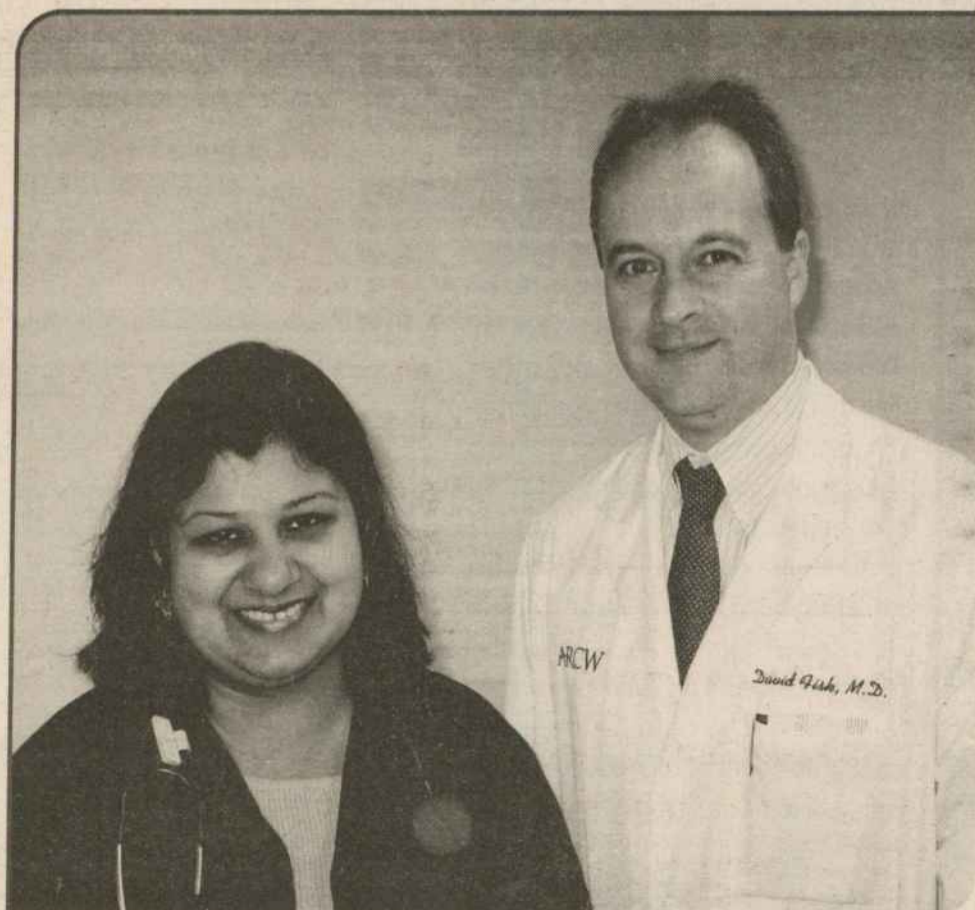
While we know we have the opportunity to change the world one person at a time, a lot of youth don't know the power of their voices. Many of us believe that we have to accept what is given to us and only ask questions when we're old enough. We're told to leave well enough alone.

During the recent election, some youth that I know chose to pass up their chance at being heard, and made the decision to leave all the political choices to the "ones who know best." Instead of educating themselves, unfortunately, many chose to ignore the election and not vote or become involved in issues important to us. This may have a huge impact on our future.

We, the writers of this column, seek to show people what we can accomplish as youth. Youth are given opportunities, which once passed, can never be reclaimed. We can accomplish much more than some may think, and we seek to do so.

In writing this column, we want to show that as youth we can relate

*continued on page 14*



**Dr. Iram Nadeem, ARCW Physician, Infectious Disease & Internal Medicine Specialist**

**Dr. David Fisk, ARCW Physician, Infectious Disease & Internal Medicine Specialist, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Medical College of Wisconsin**

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Megan Krick ([mkrick@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:mkrick@queerlifeneews.com)) is an active member of Rainbow Families Milwaukee and designed the web site: [www.rainbow-families-milwaukee.org](http://www.rainbow-families-milwaukee.org)

## Where to spend the holidays? YIKES!! Should we just stay home???

Each month I hope to bring you a little insight on how to best deal with your kids and your family. I don't pretend to be an expert and I certainly don't play one on TV. However, I do live the part every day and have a lot of life experience to share. So, with Christmas right around the corner, I will start out bold and try to tackle one of the most stressful issues facing every parent – gay or straight – right around the time Santa is scheduled to fly down the chimney: Where the heck are we going to go to haul out the holly?

**Here's a good test – when you leave and head toward your destination, do you have a sinking feeling in the bottom of your stomach? If that's the case, you might want to re-think if you're making the right choice on where to best spend your time away.**

The holidays present challenges to every parent. Nagging questions like: are my kids happy? Do they understand the meaning of the holidays? Can I get them a present that they want? Each of these issues haunts us. But as many of you already know, being a LGBT parent adds additional stresses to the already hectic holiday times.

Unlike the traditional family, the LGBT parent may also have to deal with disapproval and condemnation by some members of their own family. Because of this fact of life, the ultimate decision on where to spend the holidays difficult. Don't get me wrong – it doesn't matter if it is a LGBT family or a 'traditional' family.

Often, there is pull to go to one family over another to cel-

brate the holiday. But still more questions swirl around our minds – do you go to your parent's or sibling's house or how about the in-law's? It seems the questions never really stop! Finally, even one more question – can time be split between different houses or should you stay and celebrate at home?

The bottom line is that each family has their own criteria as to how to decide what to do and where to go.

Depending on your own situation, going to one parent's house or an in-law's for the holidays can either be a great experience or a nightmare. Before making this important decision, look at several factors – such as distance, time and who will be there.

If you have to travel a great distance and don't have a lot of time off from work, it can be almost impossible to get together with any members of your family. When you do live close to several of your family members, there is also the choice of whether to split time between the different families or to have the family gathering at your home.

Family gatherings can be a stressful situation if there are members of the family who are not accepting of you, your partner and kids. A friend, who is also a gay parent, says that her siblings tend to make holiday gatherings uncomfortable for her because they do not accept her for who she is.

Their family gatherings often have moments of uncomfortable silences when it comes to what is going on in her life – while the other siblings talk freely about their families. This tension bothers her mother because *continued on page 16*

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### YOUTH *continued from page 13*

to the many problems that other youth have, whether they are gay or straight. We as young adults have a unique opportunity to open the minds of those that have come before us, and while doing so we pave the path for those that come after us. While being taught many important lessons of life, we can also teach. Not to say that certain views are outdated, but sometimes we can show that things change as the world does, and that by being so solid in one's views – you might miss out on knowing a lot of great people.

Adults are constantly telling us that we're too young. However true that may be, it doesn't mean that we aren't capable of understanding. While we seek to be understood, we also seek to understand. The youth of this world have the potential to be great, but we can't do so without the help of others, and especially without the help of our peers.

Don't count us out just because our age happens to still be in the teens. We may not have the experience, but we do have the knowledge, learned from those who came before us.

Why make your own mistakes when you can learn from the mistakes made by those who led our way? We must be

willing to accept advice, willing to listen to our elders, and hope that they're willing to listen to us.

Your comments and encouragement are welcome at: [qyouth@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qyouth@queerlifeneews.com)

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## COUPLES

*Debbie Knepe is 39 years old and is a project manager at a marketing firm in Pewaukee. She moved to Wisconsin from Colorado in 1994.*

*Candice Hackbarth is 34 years old and works in Quality Control at large printing company in Sussex. She was born and raised in Wisconsin.*

*Debbie and Candice live in Washington Heights with their daughter, Sienna Kay Hackbarth. She is the light of their lives.*

*Do you and your partner want to be role models or grab your 15 minutes of fame? Email qcouples@queerlifeneews.com*

### Q- Describe your relationship

A- We are in love. I would say our relationship is ever evolving. Every relationship has highs and lows and I think our seven-year itch is actually for each other. We are very happy with each other and with what we have. Our dream was to "play house" with each other and now we have it all; love for each other, a baby, a house, good jobs, reliable cars and the ability to give to charities that are important to us. We work well as a team. Deb does a lot of volunteering for different organizations and is highly involved in our two neighborhood associations, so on those nights I willingly go solo with the baby. On the flip side, Deb takes care of the house and baby when I need to take care of my grandmother. It is a wonderful partnership that can be a lot of work but worth every minute of it. Often times we get busy with life and forget to spend alone time together. I think that is a common problem for most couples with children – we need to make time for us. We feel very lucky to have found each other. We are very compatible and even share the same dreams. Within 6 weeks of meeting, we ended up taking a trip to Colorado to meet Deb's friends and family over the Christmas and New Year holidays. We both knew that 13 days in a car together would either make us or break us. Obviously it worked because here we are seven years later. An adventure like this we would highly recommend to others. Go ahead and take a trip by car early in the relationship – you really learn a lot about one another. (Candy)

### Q-How did you meet?

A- Deb asked me to dance at the club, Dish, in 1997. Neither of us were in the market for a girlfriend but we have been together ever since. This past November 15th we celebrated our seven-year anniversary. Love always happens when you are not looking for it. (Candy)

### Q- What attracted you to each other?

A- Honestly, it was appearance. We were both attracted to how the other one looked, but what really sealed the deal was after we kissed. We both agree that how you kiss is so important and we knew then, we were made for each other. (Deb)

### Q- What are the best and most difficult traits of your partner?

A- Best - Deb always has a positive outlook on everything in life. Most difficult – She does not always pay attention to the details. (Candy)

Best - Candy loves to help others.

Most difficult - She thinks she is right about everything. (Deb)

### Q- Tell us some of your hopes and dreams for the future.

A- Lots of things: to legally marry, for Deb to adopt our daughter, to have more children, and most importantly to continue being happy and in love with each other in a world where tolerance is important to everyone. (Candy)



## SINK *continued from page 9*

amendment. John Kerry, who joined Bush in opposing marriage for gay couples, hardly made his opposition to a federal constitutional amendment a cornerstone of his message. Indeed, in the last weeks of the campaign, when Bush was forced to give a qualified endorsement of civil unions to make sure suburban swing voters weren't turned off by what was starting to look like a modern-day Republican pogrom against gay people, the two presidential candidates' positions had started to converge, at least on paper.

If cutting and running doesn't work, what will? Well, how about standing and fighting on the core issues that most Americans – the 78% of the electorate that didn't indicate "moral values" as their most important issue – care about. Things like better jobs to improve their families' lives, more affordable health care, cheaper college and technical schools, a more peaceful world. And yes, equal opportunity for all, including LGBT people. If dividing Americans on the issue of marriage for lesbian and gay couples seemed to give a temporary advantage to Republicans this time around, their gains were by no

means universal. Here in Wisconsin, Republican incumbent Becky Weber made her opposition to gay marriage an important part of her campaign to fend off Democratic opponent Tom Nelson in their Green Bay Assembly contest. Weber was

the only Republican to lose her seat. Democratic Sen. Bob Wirth of Kenosha, attacked by well-funded opponents for his courageous vote against Wisconsin's constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage, retained his seat. In Milwaukee, Lena Taylor and Gwen Moore, publicly attacked by some ministers for opposing the discriminatory amendment, went on to become State Senator and US Congresswoman, respectively.

In the Minnesota House of Representatives, Republicans with a similar obsession with LGBT people lost more than 25 seats because, at least according to an observer in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, they had such a singular

## In Milwaukee, Lena Taylor and Gwen Moore, publicly attacked by some ministers for opposing the discriminatory amendment, went on to become State Senator and U.S. Congresswoman, respectively.

keep her seat.

Republicans became the majority party of this country not only by running on the issues that give them temporary advantage for the next election, but by executing a carefully conceived plan that sought to reframe the very terms of public conversation over decades. Democrats could learn from this lesson. After all, while bashing gay marriage may be politically expedient now, exit polling revealed that a new generation of younger voters supports marriage equality, while other polls reveal that most Americans, including equal marriage opponents, accept that gay marriage will happen in their lifetime.

focus on social issues. In Colorado, headquarters of many of this country's most radical anti-gay organizations, Democrats retook both houses in the state legislature for the first time in decades, and even U.S. Rep. Marilyn Musgrove, lead sponsor of the anti-gay Federal Marriage Amendment, had to fight hard to

Today's advantage may very well become tomorrow's liability for anti-gay Republicans. Democrats may even be able to take a cue from a Republican who veered from the long-view and paid the price. In the early 1990s, California Republican Governor Pete Wilson tried to maximize the anxiety his white conservative base was feeling over his state's increasing Latino population; by anti-Hispanic immigrant-bashing, Wilson rode temporary advantage to victory, oblivious to the changing demographics of the his state's electorate. Twelve years later, Republicans are almost an asterisk in California, without a single statewide office-holder. That is, until the recent election of a former body-building Austrian, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, a long-view Republican who supports gay rights and may even be willing to sign the nation's first equal marriage law to come out of the legislature, not the courts.

*Patrick Flaherty (pflaherty@queerlifeneews.com) is a longtime activist for LGBT equality. He works at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and lives with his partner in Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood. pflaherty@queerlifeneews.com*



Ellen Clark is the Operations Director for the Wisconsin Humane Society. Her partner, Janie Goodall, is the Clinical and Quality Assurance Manager for Justice 2000. Their cat Baxter, a domestic short hair, and Oliver, a Siberian Husky, are both alumni of the Wisconsin Humane Society.



PETS

Ellen Clark & Janie Goodall

Is your pet queer? Or are you queer? If so, we'd like to hear about your best friend. Email us at [qpets@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qpets@queerlifeneews.com)



When it comes to pets, there are basically two kinds of people in this world. You have your dog people and you have your cat people.

Obviously no theory is perfect. There are those rare switch-hitters who, shall we say, bat for both teams. There are also those kinky folks that go for the exotic like snakes, iguanas or rodents.

At my home, pet lovers tend to fall into one of the two main camps. I'm a dog person and have two exceptional animals, Gracie, a golden retriever, and Oliver, a Siberian husky. My partner says that I spoil the girls shamelessly and refuse to acknowledge their misdeeds.

What misdeeds?

Doesn't everyone spend a measurable percentage of their income on toys and treats for their dog? And, of course, I would accept responsibility for any doggy wrongdoing when (and if) such behavior would occur.

For example, when Gracie chewed a hole in the rug that my partner Janie and I just carted back from Guatemala, I told her it was an honest mistake. When Oliver ate the seatbelt in Janie's brand new SUV, I explained that it was an accident.

Janie is a cat person. When she moved into my life and my house, she came with a small but cantankerous black cat named Baxter. I affectionately refer to Baxter as the evil step-child. I do not use the term evil lightly.

The first spring that Janie and I were together, I decided to plant our first garden together. It was going to be perfect.

I had lovingly planted 27 tomato plants, 13 basil plants, and a variety of flowers – all from seed. Oh, the excitement

that day when the little green shoots started coming up in those Dixie cups – it was contagious! Days before I was about to take the plunge and plant the little darlings in the ground, it happened. The carnage was immediately evident. Baxter had leveled them all. Unlike the little mistakes made by the dogs, this was malicious!

While I have managed to navigate most of the pitfalls of a modern-blended cat-dog family, I do have one lingering question: When a dog person falls in love with a cat person and they decide to live together, why do the dogs have to suffer?

Seriously.

The cat can sleep on the table and walk on the counter, but the dogs? Unthinkable! The cat sleeps comfortably on the bed at night while the dogs are relegated to the floor like second-class citizens.

I believe the time is right to put an end to discrimination that denies equality to certain members of a community for simply being who they are.

## PARENTING *continued from page 14*

she senses the rift and wants everyone to be happy. All this upheaval has not affected her son, at least she doesn't think so – but she fears it might in subsequent years. Though she is torn, she still goes to her family gatherings with her son and partner, because she says it is still important to see her family no matter how hard it might be.

On the other side of the coin is a family who is completely accepting of the LGBT family. I am lucky enough to have a great mom and dad who look past my sexual orientation. They welcome my partner and me with open arms. My family is completely accepting of my life style and has accepted the child I have been raising as their own. The holidays for families like mine have a lot less tension and conflict. Not that there is no conflict at all, but it is not based on the fact that someone is gay.

Now that we've looked at different situations, and some different solutions – which best fits you? Only you and your family know. You might want to sit each of your family members down and get a read on how they feel when they visit different family members.

Even if you think your child is too young to form their own opinion, you still might want to ask them in a simple way they can understand. No matter how young someone is, they are usually able to express how they feel. Also, don't forget your partner's feelings. They may be afraid to say what they really feel at first, or they might come straight out and tell you how they feel. You must not discount their opinion.

Listen carefully to what each of them says and look at what went on each of the previous times you headed home for the holidays. Here's a good test – when you leave and head toward your destination, do you have a sinking feeling in the bottom of your stomach? If that's the case, you might want to re-think if you're making the right choice on where to best spend your time away. If not, no matter how bad things might seem to you or your immediate family, for some reason you're all still going back. Trust your guts on this one.

No matter what type of family you have, it is important to celebrate the holidays with the ones you love. Weigh all the factors – do and go where you think is best. The holidays are a time for happiness and love...and you know what the old adage says, "happiness begins at home."

Now it's your job to figure out which home that is.

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Brian Reinkober ([breinkober@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:breinkober@queerlifeneews.com)) is the commissioner of SSBL (Saturday Softball League) for three years running. He is also involved in the bowling league and the tennis league.

Hey sports fans, it's about time again to get some information about gay sports in Milwaukee. Don't you think? There has been a definite void in for this, and I hope that you will enjoy reading this column on a regular basis.

So what's been going on besides football you ask? PLENTY on the gay sports scene.

#### BOWLING

The biggest event of the year for bowling in Milwaukee happened over Thanksgiving weekend. Players from all over the U.S. descended upon Milwaukee during this time to compete in the 26th Holiday Invitation Tournament (H.I.T.) at the Bowlero Lanes in Wauwatosa off of Burleigh Street. Bowling began with team competition on Thanksgiving Day with singles, doubles and more team events Friday and Saturday. Look for results in the January issue.

The H.I.T. tournament is just a prelude to the biggest event that the Milwaukee gay sports scene has seen since the 1980s, when the gay softball world series was here in 1985. Get ready for IGBO 2005 (International Gay Bowling Organization). This is the gay world championship of bowling. Teams from all over the world are preparing to throw their balls down the lanes over Memorial Day Weekend 2005.

The executive committee is hard at work raising funds to ensure a successful event. Please check them out at [www.hitmilwaukee.org](http://www.hitmilwaukee.org).

#### TENNIS

There is exciting news coming out of the Milwaukee Metro Tennis Club (MMTC). Nine members traveled to Houston, Texas, to compete in Houtex 24. Milwaukee had the second highest player count after Houston's team. Eric Van Egeren and Mizam Sudin came back with a second place trophy in doubles competition in the "C" Division. Going into the tournament unseeded, they first beat another unseeded team from Houston, 7-5, 6-3. Next, they beat the #2 seed from Austin, Texas, 6-3, 6-3. For their third match, they had to play another team from Austin and won in a hard fought match, 7-5, 2-6, 6-4. That put them into the semi-finals where they beat the #4 seed from New Orleans, Louisiana, 6-3, 6-1. In the championship match, they played against the #1 seed from Houston and Palo Alto, California. Van Egeren and Sudin were finally ousted 5-7, 2-6.

Other notables at Houtex 24 were Bill Wardlow, who made it to the quarterfinals in the "B" Singles Division; Mark Horan; Steve G; Maurice Perry; Joe Wisowski; Kevin Trinh and Jerry Kerkman. Congratulations to all of them for giving Milwaukee tennis a name down South!

Congratulations also go out to the new officers of the MMTC. The new officers are: Peter Nys, director; Brian Williams, assistant director; Eric Van Egeren, social director; Maurice Perry, secretary; and Doug Sleeper, treasurer. You can check out more information from the tennis league at [www.milwaukeeetennis.com](http://www.milwaukeeetennis.com).

#### SOFTBALL

There's also exciting news from Saturday Softball League. The Milwaukee Kosmos, which is the traveling team of SSBL and open to all, flew to Memphis, Tennessee, over Columbus Day weekend, along with the Madison Rough Riders. The Rough Riders competed in "C" competitive, while the Kosmos competed in the "D" Division. Both came home wet and soggy, which lately has

**SSBL is undertaking a toy drive for underprivileged children from the Sojourner Truth House located in the Walker's Point area. Most gay establishments will have a wrapped box in which toy donations will be accepted.**

been a common occurrence in any city they compete in, but they were wet and soggy champions of their respective divisions. The Milwaukee Kosmos are planning their next out-of-town tournament in Orlando, Florida in January. If you are interested in playing, please visit [www.ssblmilwaukee.com](http://www.ssblmilwaukee.com).

Also, SSBL is undertaking a toy drive for underprivileged children from the Sojourner Truth House located in the Walker's Point area. Most gay establishments will have a wrapped box in which toy donations will be accepted. Our goal is 100 toys. Please let us all get into the holiday spirit and show the outside world what we already know in our community - that we care!

That's it for now, but next time look for results from HIT, updates from the dart league and bowling league, and also a preview of the 2006 Gay Olympics in Chicago, Illinois.

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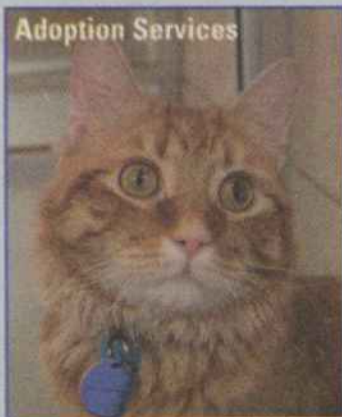
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Steve Ahl



Steve Ahl (sahl@queerlifeneews.com) resides in the Third Ward with his partner Don and their cat Shirley. He is employed as a chemist for a company located in the surrounding Milwaukee area.

**Instead of leaving Santa the traditional cookies and milk, I thought we should jazz it up a bit.**

## Holiday Cheer

One of my fondest holiday memories was heading to Ponderosa for dinner on Christmas Eve. My parents would pack all the kids – 6 of us – into our family station wagon.

As the youngest, I always had to sit way in the back – with no seatbelt of course, not that anyone was using them in those days. Invariably, my mother would forget something ... her gloves or a scarf! She would go back into the house and to our chagrin she'd take what felt like an eternity to retrieve whatever she had gone to look for.

Amazingly, when we returned from Christmas Eve Dinner, Santa had been to our house! We beamed with excitement when we discovered Santa had adorned the tree with wrapped presents and ate all the cookies and milk we left for him. Still to this day I don't know how they did it!

The best thing about the holidays is all the wonderful food found in every kitchen. From cookies and candies to fruitcake and cheese balls. There is usually so much food around that lots of us feel compelled to leave a tasty little dish for St. Nick on Christmas Eve.

Instead of leaving Santa the traditional cookies and milk, I thought we should jazz it up a little bit. Below you will find recipes for Peanut Squares, Fairy Food, Gingersnaps, Minty Sugar Cookies, and Irish Cream. You will find I covered the basic three C's of Christmas cooking: Cookies, Candy, and Cake.

So roll up those sleeves, open that refrigerator, and let's cook it up for "Santa."

### Peanut Squares

These squares are quite tedious to make, but they are well worth it. This has been a family favorite for many years.

|                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 2 ½ cups flour      | 1 tsp lemon extract      |
| 1 2/3 cup sugar     | 4 ½ oz warm water        |
| 4 tsp baking powder | 2 tbl corn syrup         |
| 1 tsp salt          | 6 cup powdered sugar     |
| ½ cup shortening    | ½ tsp vanilla            |
| 1 ¼ cup milk        | ½ tsp almond extract     |
| 5 egg yolks         | 1 pound Virginia peanuts |
| 1 tsp vanilla       | Graham crackers          |

Mix flour, sugar, baking powder and salt into bowl. Add shortening and milk. Beat well. Add egg yolks, vanilla and lemon. Put mixture into greased and floured 9x9 pan. Bake at 350°F for 20 to 30 minutes. Cut cake into squares (freezing cake squares will make for easier handling later).

Mix together water, syrup, sugar, vanilla and almond and keep warm over hot water. Do not boil. De-crumbs cake. Grind the peanuts with a few graham crackers. Take cake square and place in syrup mixture making sure to coat all sides. Promptly roll the coated square in the peanut mixture and then place on waxed paper.

### Irish Cream

This homemade Irish Cream is so delicious that rarely is any left by the time Santa arrives. FYI – don't make it too far in advance.

- 1 cup half & half
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup whiskey
- 2 tbl chocolate syrup
- ½ tsp coconut extract

Place all ingredients in blender and mix. Keeps for 6 weeks in refrigerator. Serve over ice.

### Fairy Food

This is also known as Angel Food – how appropriate!

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup dark syrup
- 2 pkgs chocolate chips
- 1 tbl vinegar
- 1 tbl baking soda

Combine sugar, vinegar, and syrup in a saucepan and cook over medium heat to 300°F using a candy thermometer. Stir all the time so not to burn. Remove from heat, add the baking soda. Stir well and pour into well buttered 9x9x2 inch pan. When cool break into chunks and dip into melted chocolate.

### Gingersnaps

These aren't your ordinary gingersnap. We dress it up by coating half of it in white chocolate.

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 ½ cups vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup molasses
- 4 cups flour
- 4 tsp baking soda
- 1 tbl ginger
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- sugar for rolling
- 2 pkgs (12oz) vanilla baking chips
- ¼ cup shortening

Combine sugar and oil and mix well. Add eggs and beat. Stir in molasses. Combine flour through salt in separate container. Gradually add the flour mixture to the cream mixture. Shape ¾-inch balls and roll in sugar. Place on ungreased pan approximately 2 inches apart. Bake in 350°F oven for 10-12 minutes. Cool on rack.

Melt chips with shortening over low heat. Dip cookies halfway and place on waxed paper. Makes about 6 dozen.

### Minty Sugar Cookies

Say you're having company over and the house has an "interesting" odor. Just whip up a batch of these cookies. Not only will you have something yummy to feed your guests, but the house will smell wonderful also!

- 1/3 cup butter
- 1/3 cup shortening
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 egg
- 1 ½ tsp peppermint extract
- 2 cups flour
- red and green food coloring

Beat butter and shortening. Add sugar, baking powder, and salt. Beat until combined. Beat in egg and peppermint. Stir in flour. Divide dough in half. Add green food coloring to one half and red to the other. Cover and refrigerate dough for 2 to 4 hours. On a lightly floured surface, roll half at a time to approximately 1/8-in thick. Using cookie cutters, cut into desired shapes. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake in 375°F oven for 10 minutes. Cool on rack. Makes about 3 dozen.





## Lighting for the Holidays

As daylight shrinks and darkness lengthens, we put our gardens to sleep and await the snow. But the onset of winter also brings the holiday season, when we all instinctively look for the light.

The importance of light and its accompanying warmth is as old as the sun and man's discovery of fire and, not surprisingly, plays a starring role in our pagan, spiritual or religious lives. No matter what our personal beliefs, we all love to decorate our spaces by bringing in the light, color and warmth that cheers our hearts and souls.

The Jewish holiday, Chanukah, means the Feast of Lights. It is an eight-day celebration that has become akin to Christmas. Traditionally marked by the lighting of candles on the holiday menorah, this ritual has been embellished with decorations, food, games and gifts. Blue and white, the colors of the Israeli flag, are the classic colors used in the commemoration, but more recently all color combinations are being used. The traditional candle holder, the menorah, has evolved from a simple, historically representative candelabrum to take on many shapes, themes and colors.

Christmas, which combines pagan and religious customs, has become an over-the-top season of decoration. Light plays the lead

role – inside and outside – outlining houses and trees, illuminating yards and doorways and filling homes with candlelit windows, mantles, dining room tables and Christmas trees. Color comes next with all variations of the traditional red and green from the classic primaries to chartreuse and hot pink. It comes in every hue and tone imaginable: blue and white, metallic copper, gold and silver, pastel, earth tones, majestic purple and plums, the jewel tones of ruby, sapphire and pearl. Anything goes!

Many of our homes incorporate the use of favorite collections in our festivities: a display of dolls, teddy bears, trains, teacups or pitchers may adorn a mantel or be showcased under the tree or in a special corner.

Themes, such as edibles featuring popcorn strings, gingerbread houses, cookies and candy canes are popular, fun, inexpensive and easy to make. In some families, the Swedish feast of St. Lucia or the German St. Nicholas Eve is observed, and decorations in those homes take on their ethnic flavors.

One of my favorites, adapted from our Mexican neighbors, is the use of luminaries (or "luminaria" in Spanish) to line the walks of our houses to welcome our guests and light the way for the Christ child. Plain or colored paper bags weighted with sand with candles

**No matter what our personal beliefs, we all love to decorate our spaces by bringing in the light, color and warmth that cheers our hearts and souls.**

stuck in them can be used. Another wonderful effect can be achieved by using tin cans (#10 or larger) with designs punched in their sides – very silvery, glittery and shiny.

Kwanzaa, one of our newest holidays, is primarily celebrated by African-Americans from December 26 to January 1, as a confirmation of family, community and culture. Candle holders with seven candles symbolize the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

Colors used in marking this holiday are black, red and green – black for the people, red for their struggle and green for the future. Decorations include the seven symbols, which are crops, mat, candleholder, corn, seven candles, cup and gifts. Augmenting the traditional symbols are other African artifacts, such as native fabrics, baskets and carvings.

So in all our winter celebrations – no matter what we believe – let there be light!



Mary Stearns (mstearns@queerlifeneews.com) is the owner of Orientations, Ltd., which she co-founded in 1977. Originally, the business imported Korean chests and other Asian antiques. Orientations now offers a full range of interior design services. Mary is an allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers.

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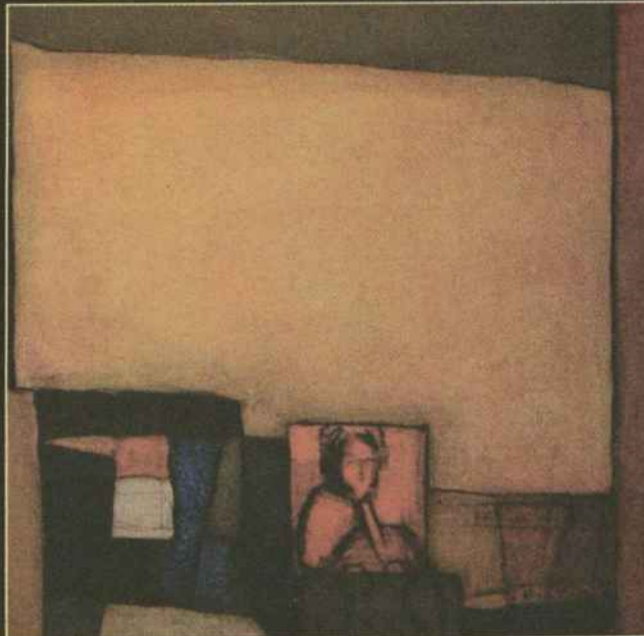
565 West Lincoln (Corner of 5th & Lincoln) in Milwaukee



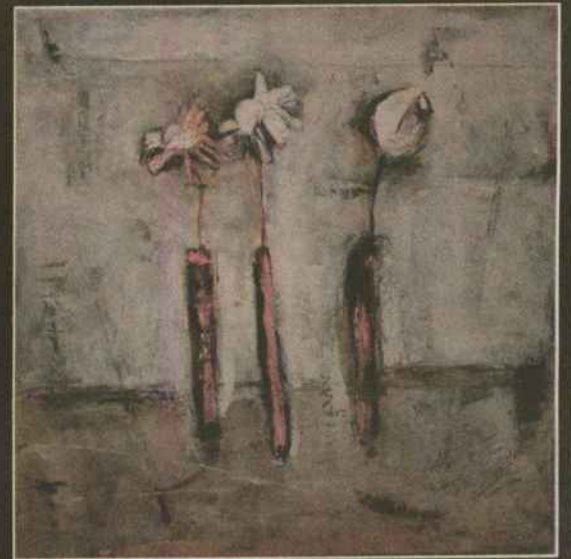
# Original Works of Art



Downe Burns, \$2,200, 40 x 30



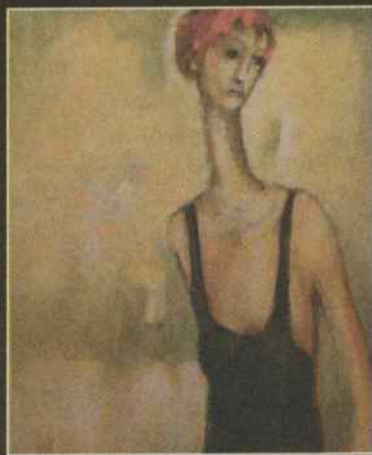
Rez Raven, \$1,600 24 x 24



Darina Marko, \$1,900, 30 x 30



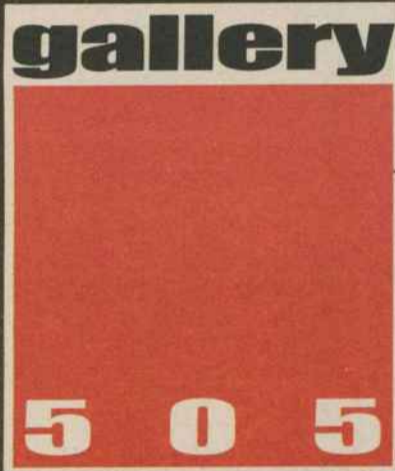
Maya Eventov, \$2,400, 40 x 30



Vladan Ignatovic, \$2,600, 24 x 30



Danielle O'Conner Akiyana, \$4,300, 60 x 48



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# Lots of Great Holiday Shows to Ring in the Season

Milwaukee has one of the finest theater scenes in the country. There are many quality theater productions and loads of variety for every lifestyle.

I am thrilled to bring a bit of Broadway to you each month. I will discuss upcoming events and share stories of my career working with stars like Mickey Rooney, Lana Turner, and "Our Miss Brooks" Eve Arden.

For those of you who don't know me, I am "Mr. Show-Biz." I have been called that since I was a child — and I have never really grown up! Call me Peter Pan because I do believe in fairies, I do believe in fairies. If I could fly, it sure would save me a lot on airfare.

I grew up in the business. My father managed movie theaters in Chicago (my hometown); and I spent many a summer on a Hollywood set. And just like Hollywood, Milwaukee has its share of gossip (scandals and divas).

Each month I will share some interesting gossip — I will be kind.

## MOVIES...MOVIES...MOVIES

For you movie buffs, there are a lot of new holiday flicks this season.

**Johnny Depp** has a film coming out about the life of James Barrie, the author of "Peter Pan."

Our own **Miss Barbra Streisand** will be back on the big screen.

The Oriental and Downer theaters on the East Side are great venues for alternative films...one has a giant organ (pipe). Or don't forget! You can take in a film at the AMC theaters after an exhausting day of shopping at Mayfair.

## BUT, TRY LIVE THEATER!

Many people just don't support the performing arts. Case in point, **Theatre X** just announced it will close after 35 seasons.

Still, there are lots of great holiday shows to ring in the season.

In fact, there are several productions of "A Christmas Carol," The **Milwaukee Rep's** version being the most famous. **Ryan Schaback** from "Jeffrey" appears in the show. **Archangel Productions** and **Falls Patio players** have also scheduled productions. That old bachelor Uncle Scrooge reminds me of a strange uncle I had.

The **Skylight** brings you "Cabaret," starring **Molly Rhode**. The decadent M.C. will welcome you! The **Sunset Playhouse**, **Off The Wall**, and **The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts** have all mounted exciting productions of this must-see cult hit recently. It's popular.

Look for **Kay Stiefel** in "Tom Foolery." Stiefel has a sparkle on stage that you can't take your eyes off of!

The wildly amusing "Cudahy Caroler Christmas" is returning to **In-Tandem**. **Paul Helm** is at the keyboard.

**John McGivern** as an elf? Funny! Take in "Santaland Diaries" at **Vogel Hall**.

**Off The Wall** welcomes the holidays with the amusing annual satire "Holiday Punch."

**Sunset Playhouse** presents "A Tuna Christmas."

After the show, stop in at **M&M's** or **Switch**, well known after-theater bars. I also frequent the **Harbor Room** and enjoy their fantastic bar staff. The **R.S.V.P. Productions** and **Off The Wall** stars always stop at **Tula's** on Wells St. So bring along your autograph book.

For the artsy-fartsy, take in "Twelfth Night" at **Boulevard Ensemble**.

## SOME THEATER TRIVIA:

What former "Hairspray" star is getting out of drag

to play Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof" on Broadway? I'll tell you next month.

## FINAL DRAG POINT...

"Hairspray" is coming to the **Marcus Center** soon! Put on your best dress, and stand in line for tickets!

## GOSSIP...GOSSIP...GOSSIP

A well-known **K.K. theater director** is pumping iron and looking super! WOW!

After "Holiday" a well-known director heads for Thailand to relax. Sure!

Someone is **selling her condo** in Florida to move back to Milwaukee to direct. Welcome back!

What great set designer **will soon become a major director**?

**R.S.V.P. Productions** got the rights to "Twilight of the Golds" for this summer.

Did you happen to catch the talented Henry Higgins in "My Fair Lady" at **Shorewood Players**?

Next month I will tell you more about what is happening in the arts...plus more gossip and more trivia!

My Aunt Blanche and I might even catch a few shows and give our opinions.

We need a little Christmas right this very minute! Have a super holiday season!



*Raymond Bradford (rbradford@queerlifeneews.com) is a freelance director, choreographer and actor. Ray lives on the East Side and is the artistic director of Bay Players and R.S.V.P. Productions. Ray also teaches acting.*

# Happy Holidays from 3's Company



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# Three Great Flavors



# Q Arts Calendar



## Out Now

### "Do You See What I See"

Senior Thesis Exhibition  
Alverno College Art & Cultures Gallery  
3401 S. 39th Street  
414.382.6149  
Through December 18

### Miracle on 34th Street

Waukesha Civic Theatre  
Margaret Brate Bryant Civic Theatre  
264 W. Main St., Waukesha  
262.547.0708  
Through December 19

### Cabaret

Skylight Opera  
Cabot Theatre  
158 N. Broadway  
414.291.7800  
Through December 19

### A Fireside Christmas

The Fireside Dinner Theatre  
Bus. Hwy. 26 South, Fort Atkinson  
800.477.9505  
Through December 23

### Christmas Kohler

A nostalgic collection of Yuletide delights, including holiday baking, shopping, carolers, more.  
444 Highland Drive, Kohler  
800.344.2838  
Through December 23

### A Christmas Carol

Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
Pabst Theater  
144 E. Wells Street  
414.224.9490  
Through December 26

### A Christmas Story

First Stage Children's Theater  
Todd Wehr Theater  
929 N. Water Street  
414.273.7206  
Through December 26

### The Nutcracker

Milwaukee  
Marcus Center for the Performing Arts  
929 N. Water Street  
414.273.7206  
Through December 26

### Dream Sequence Show

Featuring "Cozmik Portal Series"  
Art Bar  
722 E. Burleigh Street  
414.372.7880  
Through December 28

### A Cudahy Caroler Christmas

In Tandem Theatre  
Walker's Point Center for the Arts  
911 W. National Ave.  
414.444.2316  
Through December 31

### A Tuna Christmas

Sunset Playhouse  
800 Elm Grove Road  
8pm  
Through December 31

### The Santaland Diaries by David Sedaris

Starring John McGivern  
Vogel Hall  
929 N. Water Street  
414.273.7206  
Through January 2, 2005

### You Can't Take It With You

Milwaukee Repertory Theater  
Quadracci Powerhouse Theater  
108 E. Wells Street  
414.224.9490  
Through January 9, 2005

### A Victorian Christmas at the Pabst

Annual Victorian celebration features the lavish decoration of the Pabst Mansion.  
414.931.0802  
Through January 9, 2005

### Colored Threads/Art to Wear XIV

Katie Gingrass Gallery  
241 N. Broadway  
414.298.0855  
Through Jan 14, 2005

### I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Broadway Baby Dinner Theatre  
5132 W. Mill Rd.  
414.358.2020  
Through April 4, 2005

## Wednesday, December 15

### Keyboard Conversations with

Jeffery Siegel  
"The Passion and Poetry of Chopin"  
Wisconsin Lutheran College  
414.443.8802

### Holiday Punch 2004

Off the Wall Theatre  
127 E. Wells Street  
Through December 31

## Thursday, December 16

### Maura O'Connell

Celtic Music  
Shank Hall  
414.276.7288

### The Detroit Cobras with The Probers

BBC, corner of Farwell and North  
9pm

## Friday, December 17

### Mistletoe Jam

The Violent Femmes along with The Donnas  
The Rave  
2401 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
414.342.7283

### It's a Wonderful Life

Frank Capra's classic Christmas tale  
Times Cinema  
5906 W. Vliet Street  
414.453.2436  
Through December 23

### A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

St. Paul's Church  
914 E. Knapp Street  
414.276.6277  
Repeats December 19

## Saturday, December 18

### Holiday Pops

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra  
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center  
262.781.9520

### Master Singers of Milwaukee

Christmas Concert  
St. Mary's Parish  
1260 Church Street, Elm Grove  
St. Sebastian  
5400 W. Washington Blvd. Milwaukee  
262.821-1229  
Repeats December 19

## Sunday, December 19

### Milwaukee Symphony Pops

LeAnn Rimes  
The Milwaukee Theater  
500 W. Kilbourn Ave.  
414.291.7605

### Handel's Messiah

Lakeshore Chorale and Manitowoc Symphony  
St. Peter Claver Church 2 pm  
1444 S. 11th Street, Sheboygan  
920.457.9408

### Creative Young Spirits

### Holiday Concert

Kettle Moraine Children's Choir  
Kettle Moraine Youth Strings Orchestra  
Schauer Arts & Activities Center  
Hartford  
262.670.0560

### Cashel Dennehy Irish Dancers

"A Celtic Christmas"  
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center  
262.781.9520

## Wednesday, December 22

### Film version opens nationwide

Andrew Lloyd Weber's The Phantom of the Opera

## Sunday, December 26

### Acoustic Christmas

Shank Hall  
1434 N Farwell Ave  
414.276.7288

## Friday, December 31

### New Year's Eve 9pm

Hosted by John McGivern  
Featuring BoDeans and Dave Alvin  
Knife throwers, mind readers, jugglers, more  
Pabst Theater  
144 E. Wells Street  
414.286.3663

## Sunday, January 2

### Gavin DeGraw

Pabst Theater  
414.286.3663

## Tuesday, January 4

### Les Miserables

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts  
929 N. Water Street  
414.273.7206  
Through January 9

## Coming Soon

January 27: Vicki Lawrence and Mama, Northern Lights Theater

February 10: Peking Acrobats, Pabst Theater

April 20: David Sedaris, Pabst Theater

*We love the arts! Don't let us miss your show or event. Send us more at:*  
[qartscalendar@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qartscalendar@queerlifeneews.com)



FILMS, BOOKS and MUSIC



# Seriously Funny

## Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim

David Sedaris  
Little, Brown



Roxanne Kupfer (rkupfer@queerlifeneews.com) has a life long love for movies and books which started in Paris decades ago. The mother of two creative children, she lives in Milwaukee and Cape Cod.

The latest work by David Sedaris, perhaps the most original contemporary American humorist (he now lives in France with his longtime companion to whom he dedicates the book) is moving, irreverent and hilarious. In twenty-two tightly structured essays, Sedaris crafts a tapestry of unforgettable, frequently out-of-kilter characters: his maladjusted parents (Lou, a stern IBM engineer who cannot accept his son's homosexuality and Sharon who locks her children out of the house in the winter while she watches TV and drinks but is devastated by Lou's decision to kick his gay son out of the house), numerous idiosyncratic siblings and Madelyn, the sole Sedaris grandchild whose life is micromanaged by everyone.

And there are more: a self-professed Dutch expert on Christmas customs who claims that St. Nick had been a bishop in Turkey, cur-

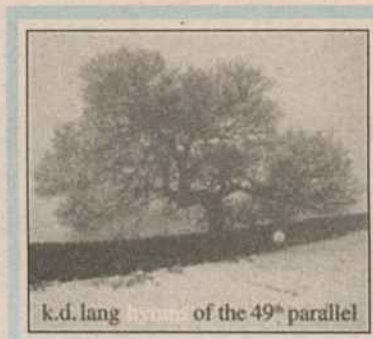


rently resides in Spain and has replaced the elves with a group of men; a very odd man whose house the author cleans; and a parrot who imitates the gurgling of the cappuccino milk steamer and is the recipient of Sedaris' apology for sharing with millions of strangers the private lives of his family members.

Like his earlier works, the book contains a lot of suffering – death, separation, illness, poverty, even the Holocaust; there is both lightness about the writing and joy in the human condition.

In the next few months, Milwaukee fans will have two opportunities to experience "up close and personal" the goofiness and human nature mastery of David Sedaris. First, THE SANTALAND DIARIES at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts through January 2, 2005, with comedian John McGovern re-creating the mayhem author Sedaris gets into as Macy's holiday elf. Then on April 20, 2005, Sedaris will be making a personal appearance at the Pabst Theater and, undoubtedly will, regale his audience with a cavalcade of personal tales.

Milwaukee fans will have two opportunities to experience "up close and personal" the goofiness and human nature mastery of David Sedaris.



### Going Home for the Holidays... hymns of the 49th parallel

k.d. lang

Having traveled the path from country (SHADOWLAND) to torch (DRAG) and pop (INGENUITY), it was the natural next step for the now expatriate living in California to pay tribute to her Canadian roots. Her newest CD features compositions from a number of fellow countrymen including Leonard Cohen and Joni Mitchell.

Interviewed in *The Rocky Mountain News*, lang said she discovered "...the thread that runs through Canadian songwriting that is ...the understanding and incorporation of nature and the elements to express emotions, both spiritual and human."

A more mature lang showing a special strength that comes from having both the traditional grounding and the fearless embrace of the wider world, **hymns of the 49th parallel** is a great musical companion for the holidays.

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### TIPPING THE VELVET

DVD/BBC Television

One might call this a "Christmas Carol" with a twist. Charles Dickens fans, I hope you do not take offense at my suggestion that TIPPING draws much of its interest from the masterful character and background development inspired by the famous Victorian writer.

Building on Dickens, adding the flamboyance of Oscar Wilde and a touch of Federico Fellini, the three episodes in the series take viewers on a surprising journey through the lesbian underworld at the turn of the century. Based on the first novel by accomplished lesbian and mainstream writer Sara Waters (who also holds a Ph.D. in English literature) and adapted for the screen by Andrew Davies (BRIDGET JONES DIARY, PRIDE AND PREJUDICE), TIPPING is sexy, sometimes racy but never raunchy (producers of the recent risqué football and Janet Jackson spots may wish to study their British colleagues a little closer).

TIPPING is the tale of Nancy Astley (played by The Avengers' Dame Diana Rigg's talented Rachel Stirling), a young woman from a provincial seaside resort whose world, confined to her parents' oyster restaurant, explodes when she encounters the excitement of the music hall and its star, beautiful male impersonator Kitty Butler. The two women go on to find fame on the London stage

and happiness in each other's arms, until Kitty opts for a more conventional life. Devastated, the heroine abandons the stage and begins a descent into personal abyss – with stints as rent-a-boy to elder gentlemen and the love-slave of a cruel aristocratic woman. Ever resilient, Nancy does eventually find true love and much-yearned-for family ties. Like in the Dickens novels, goodness and love prevail.

With great attention to historical accuracy and solid acting, the production links together multiple "communities" through which Nancy grows and defines herself: her nuclear family from which she feels estranged, the stage community that enables her to leave the stifling hometown as well as channel her thespian talents, the lesbian community with distinct "Upstairs, Downstairs" class distinctions and the political/activist community to which she contributes her talent, energy and charm.

Here is a story at once universal and uniquely lesbian that will entertain and endure.

Devastated, the heroine abandons the stage and begins a descent into personal abyss



# Extremely gay-friendly city, Milwaukee has come a long way

It's Friday and you might wonder what the night has in store. In my case: people, clubs and drinks are what run through my head. What better place to be than in Milwaukee, a city notorious for all three? The people are pleasant, the clubs are copious and the drinks flow like water, even if they happen to actually be water.

As a native of Milwaukee, a service industry employee and a 24-year-old guy in my prime club going years, I am well aware of what an enjoyable evening on the town requires. Milwaukee's potential to become even more entertaining for not only gays, but everyone, is reaching a high.

An extremely gay-friendly city, Milwaukee has come a long way in the last five years as far as tolerance within the nightclub scene. There are a lot of friendly clubs and bars in the Milwaukee area. I am not talking about only gay bars, but nightclubs and bars that don't label themselves in a manner which identifies the sexuality of the establishment.

I personally believe a club is a club and a place where people gather to simply enjoy themselves; not necessarily somewhere you merely go to intermingle with individuals of the same orientation.

Some are better than others, but overall they all are meant to satisfy and entertain their patrons, whether or not their clientele intend to fulfill the previously mentioned desire.

I feel there is no concern for gays in Milwaukee as far as safety goes when out on the town; other than the same security worries anyone else would have like discrimination, service denial or even harsh treatment.

**Cage**, arguably the most popular "gay" club in Milwaukee, has recently dropped the "La" from its original name. By doing so, it expected to draw a more diverse crowd. The truth is it already had. I have partied at this club with my straight friends, and even my parents have been there. The pounding music and daily drink specials draw all types of people, although it seems to be a younger club scene than an older sip-a-martini crowd. Many people come from outside the Milwaukee area to simply dance the night away listening to Cage's popularly diverse dance beats.

Crowded on the weekends and steady during the week, this stylish nightclub has two floors. The top floor, encased with accessible separate bars, has a large dance floor. The lower level of the club, called **ETC**, was recently renovated. It houses a pool table and flat-screen monitors, where you can indulge in video trivia and a great cocktail hour from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday through Saturday, with 2-4-1 rail drinks and domestic tap beer in addition to \$1.25 off all other drinks.

Unlike any of the other "gay" clubs, Cage offers an all-ages, alcohol-free night on Wednesdays, giving outlet to people 17 and up who want to be involved in the nightlife. That is a good idea in my opinion. Cage is in the heart of one of Wisconsin's most gay-friendly neighborhoods - Walker's Point. It's located on the southwest corner of 2nd Street and National Avenue, at 801 S. 2nd Street, and is accessible, friendly and extremely fun any night of the week.

Recently new bars have been opening in this vicinity. None specifically labeled "gay" bars, though it is clear the customers couldn't care less about sexual orientation. The **Moct Bar** housing **Café Fabrika** (a Serbian cuisine restaurant) turns into what I believe to be the hottest bar in town when dinner is through and their late night menu goes into effect.

Its modern meets fashionable interior houses a large bar, ample seating and reasonably priced, great drinks. Built inside an old garage, the high ceilings and original factory-like beams and hardware hanging from the ceiling give it a New York feel, a sense of airiness and *au courant*. A must when visiting Milwaukee, a place where everyone is welcome, the Moct Bar at 240 E. Pittsburgh Avenue, over the Water Street Bridge, is simply wonderful. Quite honestly, it's a breath of fresh air bringing classiness to a once-quiet-dull area.

# Q

CLUBBING



Chris Schmidt

*Christopher Schmidt (cschmidt@queerlifeneews.com) frequents many area clubs. He is always on the lookout for the newest hotspots. Stay tuned for more on Milwaukee's wonderful array of nightlife opportunities.*

**An extremely gay-friendly city, Milwaukee has come a long way in the last five years as far as tolerance within the nightclub scene. There are a lot of friendly clubs and bars in the Milwaukee area. I am not talking about only gay bars, but nightclubs and bars that don't label themselves in a manner which identifies the sexuality of the establishment.**





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# Q CALENDAR

## Center Advocates Phone bank

Thursday, December 16, 5:30-8:30pm. Help find opponents of Wisconsin's anti-gay constitutional ban on marriage and civil unions for gay couples. Call Pabitra at (414) 271-2656 x119 or e-mail PBenjamin@mkelgbt.org.

## WE CARE, Pick' N Save Community Dollar Program

With holiday grocery shopping just around the corner, don't forget another opportunity to help the Center. Join Pick' n Saves' WE CARE Community Dollar Program. A percentage of your grocery bill goes to support the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Add the Center to your existing Advantage PLUS Savers Club cards, or specify us when you get a new one. The Center's account code: 51165

## COMMUNITY GROUP EVENTS

*\*Events located at the LGBT Community Center (315 W Court Street, Milwaukee) unless otherwise noted.\**

### Open Space for Lesbians Holiday Gala

Sunday, December 19, 6-8pm. The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. Open Space, formerly Silver Space, is celebrating its first year of success as a long-standing group with a new name, welcoming members of all ages from the lesbian community. Join us in singing holiday favorites LESBIAN STYLE! Enjoy pizza and luscious desserts. Be present to win exciting door prizes. RSVP to Cheryl Orgas, 414-271-2565 by December 15th.

### Holiday Movie Night Presented by SAGE

Thursday, December 23, 6:30pm. SAGE Offices: 1845 N. Farwell, Suite 220.

Enjoy "Christmas Eve," a holiday movie starring Loretta Young and Trevor Howard. In this feature, made when Miss Young was an older woman, her character reaches out to the homeless in a humorous and pleasant way. Bring a hot or cold hors d'oeuvre to pass. For more information call 414-224-0517.

### Christmas Day Open 12 Step Meeting

Saturday, December 25, 11am. Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. Open to anyone in recovery regardless of the program you are in. For more information or questions call Mark S. at 414-489-1333. For more information about Galano Club call 414-276-6936.

### LGBTQI - Sexual Violence Support Group

Monday, December 27, 7pm. Friends Meeting House, 3224 N. Gordon Place. All meetings are open to direct survivors and secondary victims (partner, friend, family).

### New Year's Eve Party with Galano

Friday, December 31, 10pm to 1am. 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. Bring in the New Year at the Galano Club. Partake in fun, music and loads of food. Admission \$5 for Galano members, \$7 for non-members. For more information contact John S. at 414-294-3108 or Mark S. at 414-489-1333

### Help Plan Pridefest's Future!

Give your feedback and suggestions via an online survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=30892657011>. The survey will close on December 30, 2004 and the results will be compiled, analyzed and shared.

### Focused Sexual Violence Project Undertaken by FORGE

FORGE has undertaken a focused sexual violence project that includes, among other things, a survey of trans/SOFFA survivors and secondary survivors (loved ones of a sexual assault victim). Accepting responses to the survey, available online at <http://www.forge-forward.org/transviolence/survey.php>, until December 15. In the meantime, go online to see a preliminary analysis of FORGE's approach: <http://www.forge-forward.org/transviolence/earlydata.php>

### Oral History Project Needs Volunteers!

The Milwaukee LGBT History Project is recruiting individuals with good listening skills to record the life histories of LGBT individuals in southeastern Wisconsin. Although no specific education or background is required, you should be inquisitive and empathetic, have excellent listening skills, and be willing to follow established guidelines. We will provide training. Ideally, each volunteer is asked to record one life history every two months. The first training session is scheduled for **Saturday, January 22, 2005**. To register, or for more information, please call Cheryl Kader at 414-961-0775.

### Group Meetings at The Center & Around Town

*\*Events located at the LGBT Community Center (315 W Court Street, Milwaukee) unless otherwise noted.\**

### BiDefinition

A social and discussion group for bisexuals and those questioning or supporting. Visit [www.mkelgbt.org/community/bidefinition.asp](http://www.mkelgbt.org/community/bidefinition.asp) or [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/bi\\_definition](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/bi_definition) for more information.

BWMT (Black and White Men Together)  
6pm to 8:30pm, third Saturday each month.

### Cream City Squares

Square dance Sundays, "friendship set to music." Casual attire. Singles, couples, and families are all invited. Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Street. Lessons are 1-3pm, club dances are 3-4:30pm. Meets every Sunday. For more information visit <http://iagsdc.org/creamcity> or e-mail [djilges@execpc.com](mailto:djilges@execpc.com)

### FORGE

(For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression)

A social support group open to all people interested in Female to Male+ (FTM+) and Significant Others, Family, Friends, and Allies (SOFFA's) issues. Meets first Saturday of the month at 7pm.

### Gemini Gender Group

Support and social group for cross-dressers and transsexuals, 6pm to 9:30pm, second Saturday each month.

### Lake Park Lutheran Church

A "Reconciling in Christ" congregation (LGBT welcome), Sunday mornings, 2647 N. Stowell St. 8am worship in chapel, 9am education hour for all ages, 10am worship in sanctuary, fellowship hour following the service. For more information call 414-962-9190 or visit [www.lakeparklutheran.com](http://www.lakeparklutheran.com)

### Men's Voices Milwaukee

A men's choral group. Rehearsals every Monday, 7:30-9:30pm for its two seasons, August to December and January to May. Auditions two weeks before and after start of rehearsal season. For more information write [mvmchorus@hotmail.com](mailto:mvmchorus@hotmail.com)

### Metropolitan Community Church

We exist to magnify God's love, minister God's will, celebrate God's creation, and cherish God's people. Sunday mornings, 1239 W. Mineral St. 10am Christian education and 11am worship service. For more information visit [www.queerchurch.org](http://www.queerchurch.org) or e-mail [revlew2004@yahoo.com](mailto:revlew2004@yahoo.com)

### Open Space

Support group that strives to create a welcoming, safe and supportive space for lesbians of all ages. Meets third Sunday each month, 6-8pm at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. \$5 fee paid as you are able. For more information call Cheryl at 414-271-2565.

### OutCare Sexual Health Center

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 5-9pm. Walk-in health center that is tailored to meet the needs of the LGBT community. For more

information or to check the current clinic hours call 414-277-9370. A service of Planned Parenthood.

### Out to Brunch

Monthly lesbian brunch meets on the first Sunday of the month at 11am, call for location. It's a potluck with juice and coffee provided. For more information or to be added to the monthly newsletter call Deb or Donna at 414-276-5070 or write [deblang@ameritech.net](mailto:deblang@ameritech.net)

### Pilgrim Christian Church

815 Northview, Waukesha. An Open and Affirming Congregation, gladly welcoming and affirming all people. LGBT members participate fully, holding office, teaching children and sharing their faith journeys. Worship at 10am Sundays, call 414-443-0976 for more information.

### Positive Direction Milwaukee

Every Wednesday, 7-8:30pm. A social support group for HIV-positive gay men from Milwaukee and the surrounding areas. We provide a confidential, welcoming environment where we can seek sound social support, freely air our emotions and suggestions, and find new social opportunities with each other. Also, hosts various events, including get-togethers and social outings. For more information, call John at 414-461-5894.

### Project Q Drop-in

For LGBTQ youth ages 14-24. Every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. Call 223-3220 or visit our website [www.projectq.org](http://www.projectq.org) for more information.

### The Queer Program

Live weekly call-in show by, for, and about the Queer community. Live! Mondays at 6:30pm on TW Cable Channel 96, Milwaukee Community Media. Hosted by Michael Lisowski and Charles Daniels. Replays on Saturdays at Midnight and 10pm.

### SAGE Milwaukee

(Senior Action in a Gay Environment)  
Various events. Visit [www.mkelgbt.org/community/sage.asp](http://www.mkelgbt.org/community/sage.asp) or call 414-224-0517 for more information and SAGE events listings.

### Stitch 'N Bitch

Every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7-9pm. OutPost Natural Foods, 100 E. Capitol Dr. Into needle crafts like crocheting, knitting, or counted cross stitch? Join us and work on your projects, chat, and enjoy the company of other LGBT people. Contact [dawns@uwalumni.com](mailto:dawns@uwalumni.com) for more information.

### Unitarian Universalist Church West (UUCW)

Two worship services concurrent with children's religious education classes at 8:45 & 11AM Sundays, 13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield. For more information call 262-782-3535.

### WI Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf

Meeting every fourth Saturday, 6:30-10pm. Contact Suzette at [sgaray@uwm.edu](mailto:sgaray@uwm.edu) or Jake at [jakestercool@2way.net](mailto:jakestercool@2way.net) for more information.

*These Q Life calendar listings were provided by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. For more information and more listings about Milwaukee LGBT community events see: [www.mkelgbt.org](http://www.mkelgbt.org)*

**Know an event that will interest the LGBT community? Email us at [qcalendar@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qcalendar@queerlifeneews.com)**





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| HAPPY HOURS - TUES-FRI 4:30 - 7:30 |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
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| Wednesday                          | WILD WEDNESDAYS - \$4 Pitchers of Miller Lite, \$4 Long Islands  |
| Thursday                           | IMPORT NIGHT - All import bottles ONLY @2.50   |
| Friday/Sat.                        | ROTATING SPECIALS  |
| Sunday                             | GAME DAY play your favorite board games all night<br>\$8 Pitchers of Lite and a Hydrant Pizza,<br>\$4 Rail Bloody 'Merrys' - Build your own open - 6 |

specials subject to change without notice.

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[WWW.WALKERSPINTMILWAUKEE.COM](http://WWW.WALKERSPINTMILWAUKEE.COM)

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\$15 cover includes:

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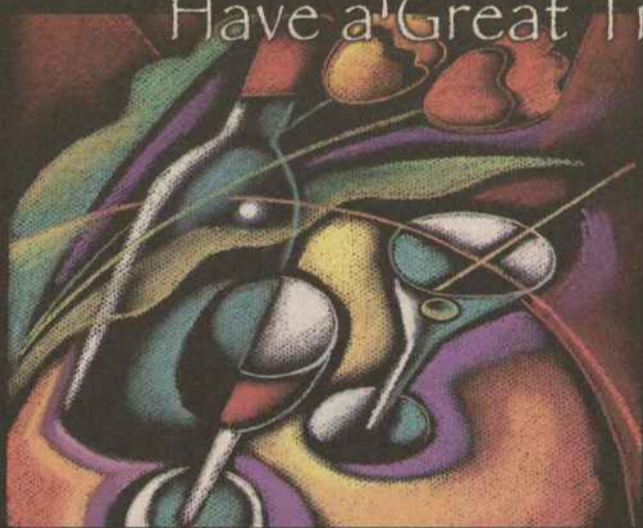
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Voice Mail: 414/224-1452  
E-mail: [jhsmith@shorewest.com](mailto:jhsmith@shorewest.com)

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OUR EVER-CHANGING TAPAS MENU OFFERS TEMPTING TAPAS TO SHARE AND SAVOUR

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FEATURING ALASKAN KING CRAB LEG SPECIAL  
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# ORGANIZATIONS

## Statewide:

### Action Wisconsin

1202 Williamson St., Madison 53703  
(608) 441-0143

### AIDS Action Wisconsin

820 Plankinton Ave.  
Milwaukee 53202  
(800) 359-9272

### AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin

(800) 359-9272  
820 Plankinton Ave.  
Milwaukee 53202  
(414) 273-1991

### BiNet USA

(National bisexual political organization)  
(202) 882-4384

### Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline

(Fri/Sat Eves 7pm-11pm)  
(414) 272-TEEN

### Log Cabin Republicans-Wisconsin

P.O. Box 199  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
E-Mail: LCCWI@aol.com  
(414) 299-9443

### New Beginnings PENPALS

(Monthly newsletter)  
Box 25, Westby, WI 54667

### Outbound

(LGBT Nightlife Publication)  
P.O. Box 1461, Brookfield 53008  
(414) 915-3806

### Pride in Wisconsin Government

c/o OutReach, P.O. Box 310,  
Madison, WI 53701  
(608) 255-8582

### Quest

(LGBT Nightlife Publication)  
P.O. Box 1961, Green Bay, WI 54301  
(414) 433-9821

### Rainbow Families Wisconsin

(LGBT-Family Support)  
600 Williamson St., # 1P,  
Madison 53703-3588  
(608) 270-1024

### Wisconsin AIDS Library

(414) 225-1539  
e-mail: arcwlib@execpc.com  
(800) 359-9272

### Wisconsin AIDSline

(free/anonymous)  
(800) 334-AIDS

### Wisconsin DHFS HIV/AIDS Program

P.O. Box 2659, Madison 53701-2659  
(800) 991-5532

### WI. Legislative Hotline

(800) 362-WISC

## Milwaukee:

### Alcoholics Anonymous

(Request gay meetings)  
(414) 771-9119

### Bi Definition

(Bisexual community events)  
315 W. Court St., Suite 101  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 299-9612

### Brew City Bears

P.O. Box 1035  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
(414) 299-0401

### BWMT-Milwaukee

P.O. Box 091475  
Milwaukee, WI 53209  
E-mail: bwmtmilwaukee@aol.com  
(414) 540-9437, ext 3

### Castaways M.C.

(Levi/Leather club)  
P.O. Box 1697  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

### Counseling Center

(LGBT support & discussion groups)  
2038 N. Bartlett Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 271-2565

### Cream City Chorus

315 W. Court Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 276-8787

### Cream City Foundation

(CCF)  
315 W. Court Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 225-0244

### Cream City Squares

(G/L Square Dancing Club)  
(414) 445-8080

### Fest City Singers

(Gay choral group)  
P.O. Box 11428  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 961-0713

### Firebirds

(L/L group),  
P.O. Box 159, 53201-0159

### Front Runners

(running group)  
(414) 332-1527

### Galano Club

(chemical free recovery club)  
315 W. Court St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 276-6936

### Milwaukee GAMMA

(sports/outdoors/recreation/social)  
P.O. Box 1900  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
(414) 365-3453  
Membership Info: (414) 358-2111

### Gay Lesbian Education Employees of Metro Milw.

(414) 462-8404

### Gay/Lesbian Studies UWM

(414) 229-6402

### Gay Youth Milwaukee

(peer group meetings)  
P.O. Box 090441  
Milwaukee, WI 53209  
(414) 265-8500

### Gay Straight Alliance

(Waukesha County Technical College)  
GSA c/o Student Life  
C121, 800 Main St., Waukesha  
(262) 691-5388

### Gemini Gender Group

(TV/TS/TG support/social)  
P.O. Box 44211, Milwaukee 53214  
(414) 297-9328

### Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee

P.O. Box 862  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

### GLEAM/SPECTRUM

(GLBT Employees of Ameritech)  
P.O. Box 254  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
(414) 482-4310

### G/L Community Trust Fund

P.O. Box 1686, Milwaukee 53201  
(414) 643-1652

### Great Lakes Harley Riders

P.O. Box 341611  
Milwaukee, WI 53234-1611

### HRL-Pac

(Political Action Committee)  
P.O. Box 510407  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-0074  
(414) 319-9863

### Holiday Invitational Tournament

(G/L bowling event)  
P.O. Box 899  
Milwaukee, WI 53201

### Keep Hope Alive

(HIV Holistic Support)  
P.O. Box 27041, West Allis 53227  
(414) 548-4344

### LAMM

(Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee)  
315 W. Court St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 272-9442

### MGALA

(Marquette U. GL Alumni)  
P.O. Box 92722  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

### Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance

Campus Ministry, 617 N 14th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(414) 288-6873

### Men's Voices Milwaukee

315 W. Court St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 765-9198

### Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club

(Brian)  
(414) 704-1688

### Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

315 W. Court Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 271-2656

### Milwaukee Symphony Chorus

Auditions/Info  
(414) 559-9330

### Narcotics Anonymous

(request gay mtgs.)  
(800) 711-6375  
(414) 276-8546

### Outdoors Cooperative Sports Group

(414) 963-9833

### PFLAG

(Parents, Friends of Lesbians & Gays)  
315 W. Court St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 299-9198

### Pathfinders

(Youth counseling, shelter)  
1614 E. Kane Place  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 271-1560

### PrideFest

(Annual Pride festival)  
315 W. Court St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 645-FEST

### Project Q

(Youth Program of the Milwaukee LGBT Center)  
315 W. Court  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 223-3220

### The Queer Program

(cable TV show)  
P.O. Box 090441  
Milwaukee, WI 53209  
(414) 265-8500

### Rainbow Alliance at UWM

Box 122, 2200 E. Kenwood Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 229-6555

### Riverwest Rainbow Association

P.O. Box 12888, Milwaukee 53212  
riverwestrainbow@hotmail.com

### SAGE Milwaukee

(for older LGBTs)  
P.O. Box 510492  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-0091  
(414) 224-0517

### Saturday Softball League

(SSBL)  
P.O. Box 92605  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-0091  
(414) 454-9204

### Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA)

(414) 299-0755

### Shoreline

(country dancing, instruction)  
P.O. Box 510283  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-0051  
(414) 747-0388

### Silver Space

(for older lesbians)  
c/o Counseling Center  
2038 N. Bartlett Ave.  
Milwaukee  
(414) 271-2565

### Two Spirit Society

(Indigenous LGBT People of America)  
315 W. Court St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 985-5151

### Wisconsin Haverim

(GLBT Jewish Group)  
Zohar Harari: zoharwi@yahoo.com  
(414) 202-8074  
Mark Behar: mpbehar@wisc.edu  
(414) 277-7671

### Wisconsin Outdoor Women

(outdoor sporting events)  
P.O. Box 94, Hales Corners, WI 53130  
(414) 427-2082

*Feel left out? Q Life's goal is to include all organizations that serve the LGBT Community. If we've missed you or it's time to update your organization's information, please email: [qorganizations@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qorganizations@queerlifeneews.com)*

The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus offers its

# Congratulations & welcome to Queer Life.

Glad to have you in the community!

For information about

The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus and our 2004-2005 season, call (414) 276-8787 or visit us online at [creamcitychorus.org](http://creamcitychorus.org).



Diverse & Resilient



**Committed to the healthy development of all LGBT people**

**REALIZE YOUR BIG LIFE WITH PRIDE!**

**Diverse & Resilient**

is a nonprofit organization whose mission is the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in Wisconsin through the development of groups and communities to take action. The organization's name is intended to serve as reminder that LGBT people are everywhere, engage in interesting and meaningful lives, and contribute to the welfare of each other and the broader community.

**Diverse & Resilient**

**[www.diverseandresilient.org](http://www.diverseandresilient.org)**

315 W. Court St., Suite 101 | Milwaukee, WI 53212

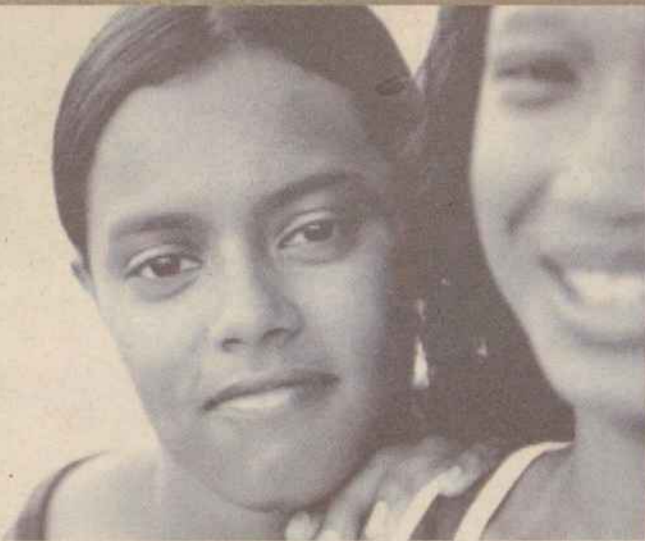
**414.390.0444**





# OUR DEFINING MOMENTS

EACH DAY  
the  
Milwaukee  
LGBT  
Community  
Center's  
programs  
and services  
improve the lives of LGBT people.



- Project Q youth services and safe-space
- Equality Knocks anti-discrimination initiative
- Circle of Friends HIV/AIDS prevention
- Therapy Assistance Program
- The David Bohnett Computer Resource Center
- The LGBT Anti-Violence Project
- OutVote voter mobilization
- Resource referral phone line
- Home to 12 LGBT organizations
- Meeting space for community groups
- Volunteer opportunities

Call the Center for year-round LGBT-friendly referrals

- therapists, counselors, and mental health professionals
- physicians
- attorneys
- domestic abuse and sexual assault treatment providers
- LGBT organizations and social groups
- faith communities
- substance abuse assistance

(414) 271-2656



## MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

**HOURS** 315 West Court Street  
**MON-FRI:** Suite 101  
 10AM-10PM Milwaukee, WI 53212  
 & **SATURDAY:** 414.271.2656 tel  
 6PM-10PM 414.271.2161 fax  
 www.mkelgbt.org

EACH DAY is a DEFINING MOMENT



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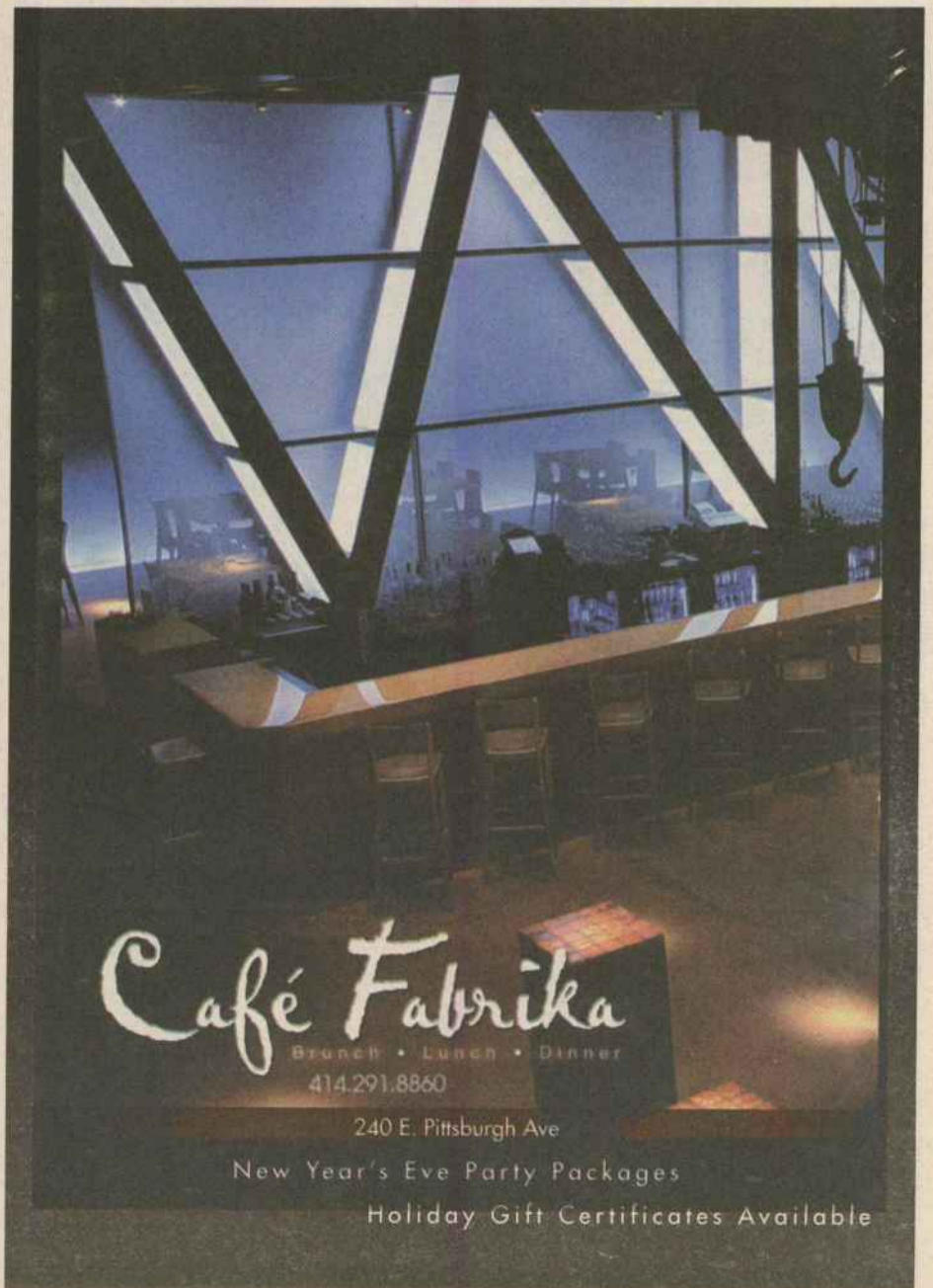
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Don Hoffman, Editor-in-Chief  
Phone: 414-383-8200  
E-mail: dhoffman@queerlifeneews.com

*You can also send a resume to our office:*

**Queer Life News**  
703 South 2nd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204



240 E. Pittsburgh Ave

New Year's Eve Party Packages

Holiday Gift Certificates Available





# BARS & RESTAURANTS

## Milwaukee

**ArtBar**  
722 E. Burleigh St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
(414) 372-7880

**Ballgame**  
196 S. 2nd St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 273-7474

**Boom**  
625 S. 2nd St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 277-5040

**Boot Camp**  
209 E. National Ave.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 643-6900

**Cage**  
801 S. 2nd St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 383-8330

**Café Fabrika**  
240 E. Pittsburgh Ave.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 291-8860

**C'est La Vie**  
231 S. 2nd St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 291-9600

**Chip & Py's**  
1340 West Town Square Rd.,  
Mequon, Wisconsin  
(262) 241-9589

**Club 219**  
219 S. 2nd St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 271-3732

**Fluid**  
819 S. 2nd St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 645-8330

**Harbor Room**  
117 E. Greenfield Ave.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 672-7988

**Harry's Bar & Grill**  
3549 N. Oakland Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 964-6800

**The Knick**  
1028 E. Juneau Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 272-0011

**Lazaro's Cuban Cuisine**  
565 W. Lincoln Ave,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 645-2822

**M&M Club**  
124 N. Water St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 347-1962

**The Mosaic**  
2624 N. Downer Ave,  
Milwaukee, WI  
(414) 961-9560

**North Shore Bistro**  
8649 N Port Washington Rd  
Milwaukee, WI 53217  
(414) 351-6100

**Nut Hut**  
1500 W. Scott St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
(414) 647-2673

**Out 'N About**  
1407 S. First St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53201  
414.643-0377

**Passion**  
200 E. Washington St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 649-9003

**Switch**  
124 W. National Ave.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 220-4340

**This Is It**  
418 E. Wells St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
(414) 278-9192

**Triangle**  
135 E. National Ave.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 383-9412

**Woody's**  
1579 S. 2nd St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 672-0806

**Walker's Pint**  
818 S. 2nd St.,  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
(414) 643-7468

*Did we miss your bar or restaurant? We want to include hotspots that cater to the LGBT community. Email: [qbarandrestaurant@queerlifeneeds.com](mailto:qbarandrestaurant@queerlifeneeds.com)*

**Racine/Kenosha**  
**94 North Dancebar**  
6305 120th, Kenosha, WI  
(262) 857-3240

**JoDee's**  
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Racine, WI  
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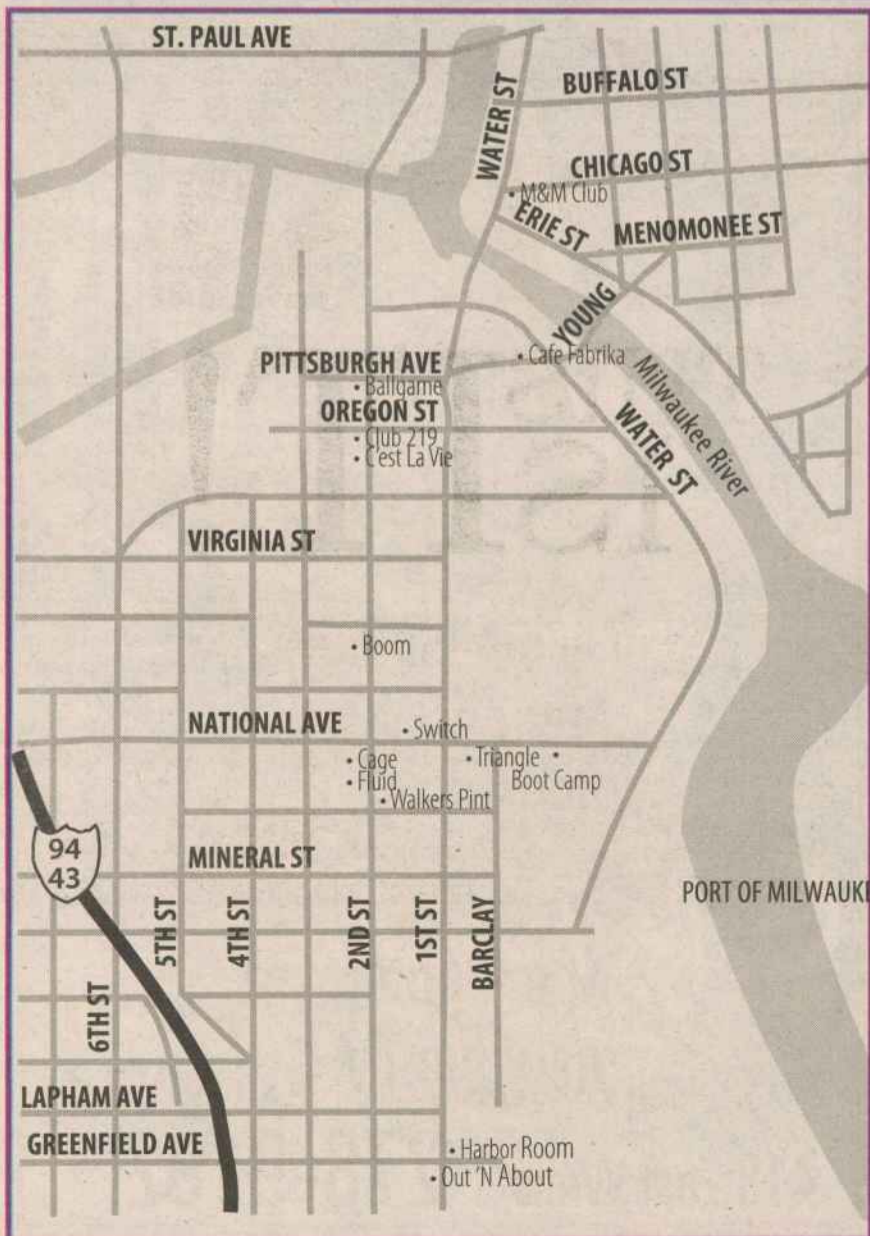
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Milwaukee Scenes



Photography: Colleen Swartz

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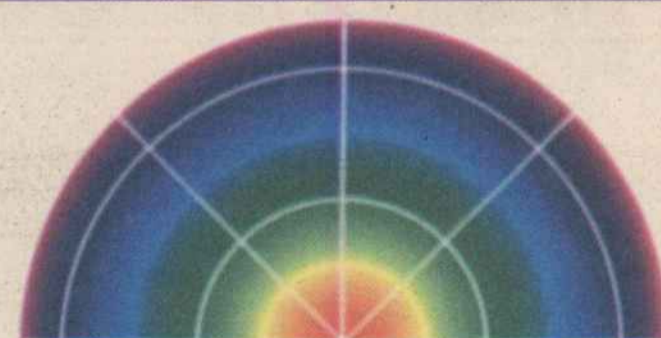


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# CONVERSATIONS

## 2004 Holiday Season Calendar of Events

- Dec. 1 – Toys for Tots Drive begins**
- Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Mistletoe Party**
- Dec. 31 – “White Heat” Party-Open 24 hours**
- Coming Soon – Super Bowl Bash**

Sundays – Old School, 5 – 10 pm • WNOV, D.J. Clark Kent

Mondays – Karaoke Night with Tim Cole

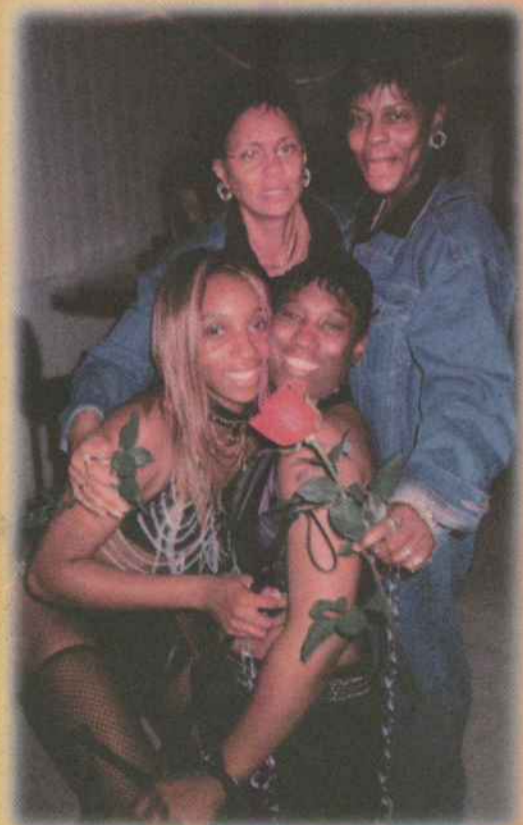
Tuesdays – Tequila Tuesday/\$2 Tuesday

Wednesdays – Queens’ Night Out-\$1/\$3 martinis

Thursdays – Ladies’ Night (free until midnight)

Fridays – Teen Night with D.J. Will

Saturdays – Dance Night with D.J. Six (9 pm to close)

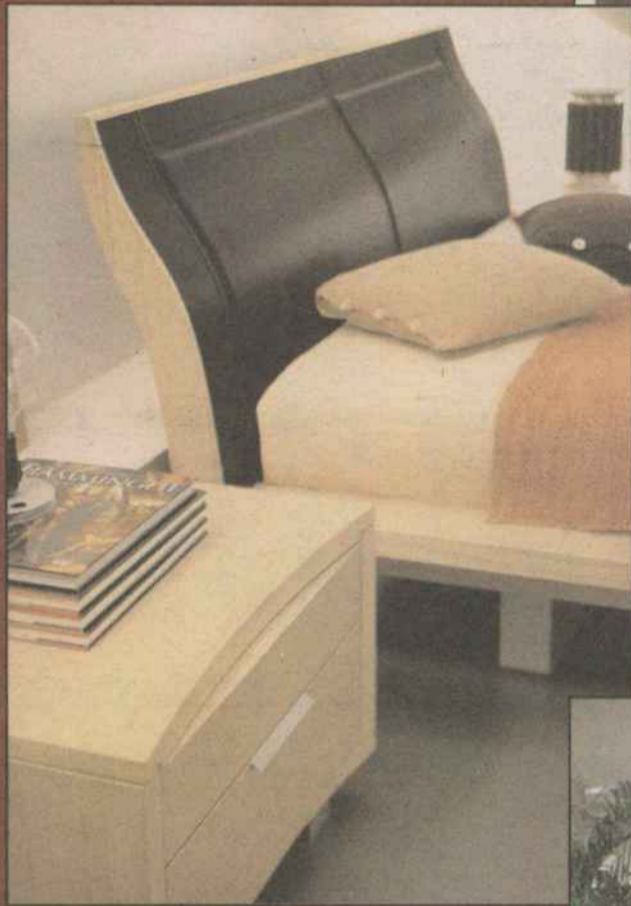


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# Q

ADVICE

*Dear Sparky,*  
 My partner Dan and I are suddenly involved in some weird contest with our neighbors: Who can make the strangest noises during sex? We just saw our two openly lesbian neighbors in the elevator this morning and one of them gave us a little snicker while the other politely informed us they received a chastising letter from our landlord! I don't think any of the four of us are embarrassed, but Dan finds this all a lot more amusing than I do. We really can't afford to lose our place. What do you suppose is the likelihood that he and I will see the same letter?  
 Mike in Milwaukee

*Dear Mike,*  
 Physical intimacy brings out the primate in even the most civilized people. It's perfectly natural to emit a "squeak" (or even the occasional "moo" for that matter). However, when these vocal yips and yaps become a four-way fetishistic fantasy, your behavior could make a few more waves than one might expect – for all involved.

If your landlord asks about the noise, I recommend owning up to it as maturely as you are able. If anything, he or she will respect your humility and integrity. As for the goofy noises, you have several options: 1) a career in cinema as a sound effects technician; 2) find a remote (perhaps woodsy) setting where you and Dan can match the mating calls of the birds around you; 3) agree on an "erotic whisper" you two can share that will be mutually exciting without escalating like a rumbling tympani; or 4) select an area of your home to "get busy" in, that is sonically the least likely to cause trouble. This is often a shower. If all options fail, you may have to resort to two tennis balls and some duct tape. Good luck to you both.

*Dear Sparky,*  
 I'm a lesbian and not yet "out" at work. The guy who I share a cubicle with continues to make moves on me. I've told him, "I'm taken," yet he doesn't seem to let up! I know that he doesn't respect relationships since he is married himself. What should I do?  
 Sheri

*Dear Sheri,*  
 You do not deserve this at all! I recommend: 1) escalating this matter to a supervisor or 2) if you are acquainted with his spouse, discuss this behavior with her.

This man clearly needs to face the consequences of his actions. No matter how well you get along at the office, you have rights. Your worst case scenario is to wait until you're alone together – then give him a good kick in the jimmy. It'll leave him with quite the headache.

*Dear Sparky,*  
 My partner and I recently split up. All went fine when dividing our things – the only problem, our dog Bailey.

He gave me Bailey as our first anniversary gift; however, he and the dog have bonded, and in all truth have a better relationship. Also, he is moving to a big house with a yard and I'm staying in our small apartment. He wants Bailey and I want him too! I know maybe I should overlook how I feel and do what's best for the dog, but I think I'll be heartbroken without him. What should I do?  
 Justin

*Dear Justin,*  
 Breakups present quite a challenge for the two lovers, children, pets and their friends.

You are absolutely right in considering this pet's needs. Just think about how many pets out there are unloved or unwanted. I hope this will inspire you when you seek a new pet. You'll feel much better knowing you made that sort of difference in your new pet's life. By the way, who got custody of the chew toys? Please don't tell me they're involved too!

*Need advice or a friendly pat on the head? Ask Sparky: [qadvice@queerlifeneews.com](mailto:qadvice@queerlifeneews.com)*

# Q

TOONS

Julian Lake

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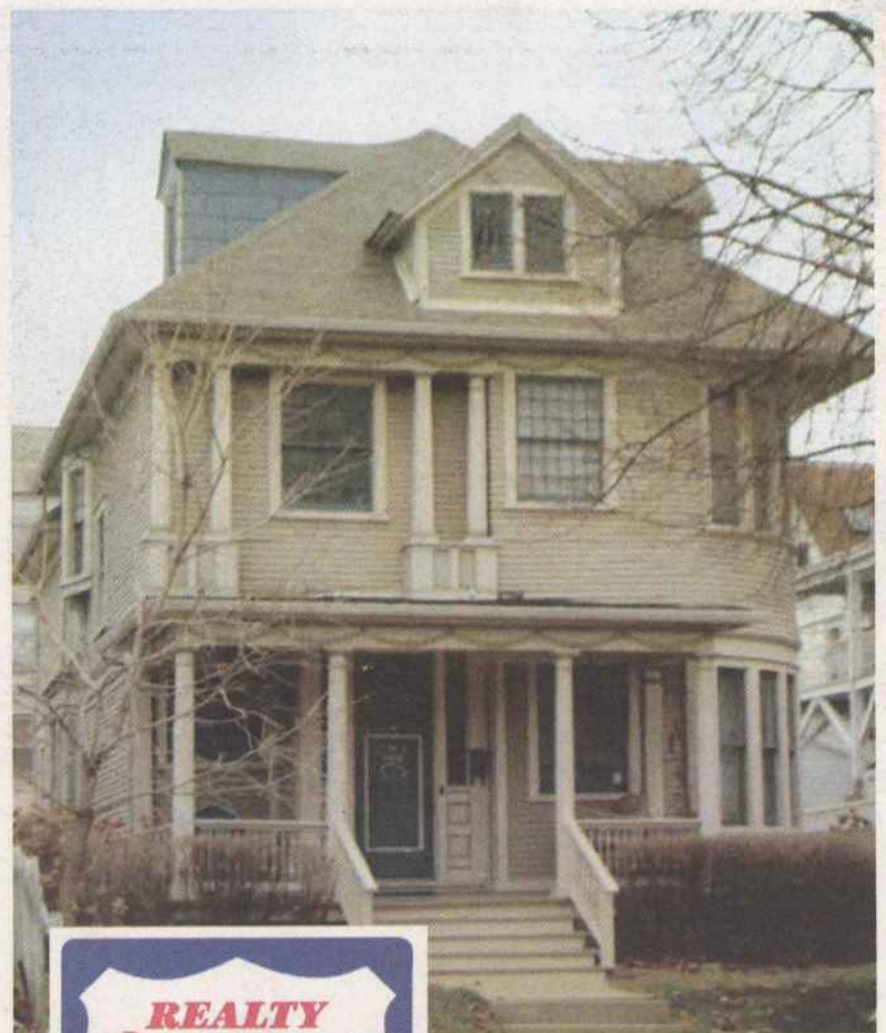
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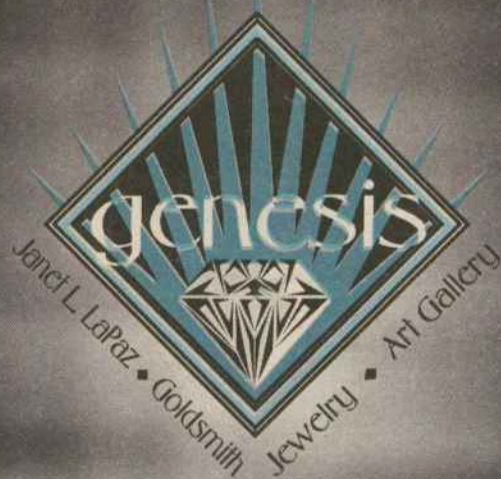
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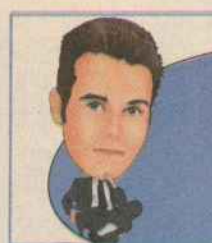
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Philip Garcia

Philip Garcia lives in the UK and is an internationally syndicated horoscope writer. He can be reached for free horoscope text messages at: [www.philipgarcia.com](http://www.philipgarcia.com)

December 2004

**Aries (Mar21-Apr20)** Although investment or property matters may not be running as smoothly as you would like, don't let this get you down. You might be making plans to visit friends you haven't seen for a while or you could be pleasantly surprised to hear from someone you'd almost forgotten about. A Christmas away from home could be planned and although you may have had your doubts about enjoying this, trends indicate that this is a decision you will not regret.

**Taurus (Apr21-May21)** The middle of December could bring a few fragile moments when a large financial interest could swing either way, with either a huge profit, or similar loss. Trust your own judgment in such concerns. Otherwise careless advice from a loved one or close friend may cause more harm than good. Things could get very intense between you and someone you've just met, between now and Christmas. Continue to keep a watchful eye on expenditures.

**Gemini (May22-June21)** December might seem a trying month with regard to close relationships. Someone might let you down at the last minute over an important arrangement and you will probably need the traditional break towards the end of the month in which to relax, after a frustrating and bothersome few weeks! The good news is: relationships improve dramatically around the 20th, just in time for Christmas! In fact, there is a wonderful accent on togetherness at this festive time.

**Cancer (June22-July23)** You might want to clear up a few problem areas in your career affairs but don't get so involved in your work that you forget how to enjoy yourself. Get important business over with a.s.a.p., then the way should be clear to indulge yourself in a few social and pleasurable activities throughout the remainder of December. Set a limit before you go out Christmas shopping or your spending could get out of hand. Enjoy a very Merry Christmas!

**Leo (July24-Aug23)** Diplomacy in a romantic relationship will be called for between the 13th and 19th when your partner might seem a little on edge or uneasy. There has been an air of tension between you for some time; however, the 20th onwards will see a marked improvement in your relationships and the general atmosphere around you. You will find it easier to express your feelings toward the end of the year, and socially, this Christmas is a time when you will shine!

**Virgo (Aug24-Sept23)** Work could be a main concern this month, when either a co-worker or some unforeseen occurrence places extra demands on you. Your working hours tend to merge into what would normally be your free time. Thumbing through holiday brochures and considering the possibility of taking a holiday abroad will help you and your partner feel more optimistic. Even if the odds seem against such far-reaching aspirations, there's always the chance that your luck will turn. Wait and see.

**Libra (Sept24-Oct23)** Mixed trends are indicated. Quiet times on your own will be needed but you don't want to miss out on any of the celebratory events organised throughout this season either. Christmas provides the opportunity to contact friends and associates you may have lost touch with, if only to send the customary season's greetings. In so doing, the renewing of an old friendship could be of benefit to you in the coming year.

**Scorpio (Oct24-Nov22)** An accent on finances this December demands caution on your part to avoid careless expenditures. At work, the small matter of 'earnings' may crop up in conversation, with a degree of hesitation on your part. Nonetheless, confidence in your worth could bring you the small increase in your income you are hoping for. Christmas celebrations are likely to be brightened by your lively ideas which will be fully appreciated by all who are around you.

**Sagittarius (Nov23-Dec21)** December brings benefits your way through your strong leadership qualities which presently impress those of importance. A new position will bring greater optimism and a feeling of good will and self-confidence in which to begin the new year. Lively discussions and sharing ideas with close friends will keep you mentally alert during this festive time. This might also lead to you beginning an exciting new project towards the end of the year.

**Capricorn (Dec22-Jan20)** Some private affairs may meet with unexpected and frustrating hitches over the days ahead. A slight accident involving someone in your working environment may also bring extra responsibilities your way. This could result in an inevitable rush of Christmas preparations at the last possible minute. The festive season sees you more reflective than usual as you find yourself contemplating the true meaning of Christmas. Look forward to a peaceful and harmonious time. Some great fun is on the horizon for you.

**Aquarius (Jan21-Feb19)** Friendship and group activities are highlighted although you should take care, between the 13th and 19th, not to upset someone who has an incredibly sensitive nature. You might get a lot of pleasure, at this time, through your active participation in either a social event relating to a group interest, or through your taking up a light sporting or exercise pursuit, which is guaranteed to improve your physical condition ... eventually!

**Pisces (Feb20-Mar20)** During working hours, life is likely to be quite hectic this December. However, at the end of each working day, an equally as hectic social agenda will soon have you forgetting your career problems. Christmas celebrations may include friends made through your professional interests. If anything, the most difficult period will be between the 13th and 19th and these frustrations could involve professional affairs or current aims. Other than this, December has a generally promising outlook.



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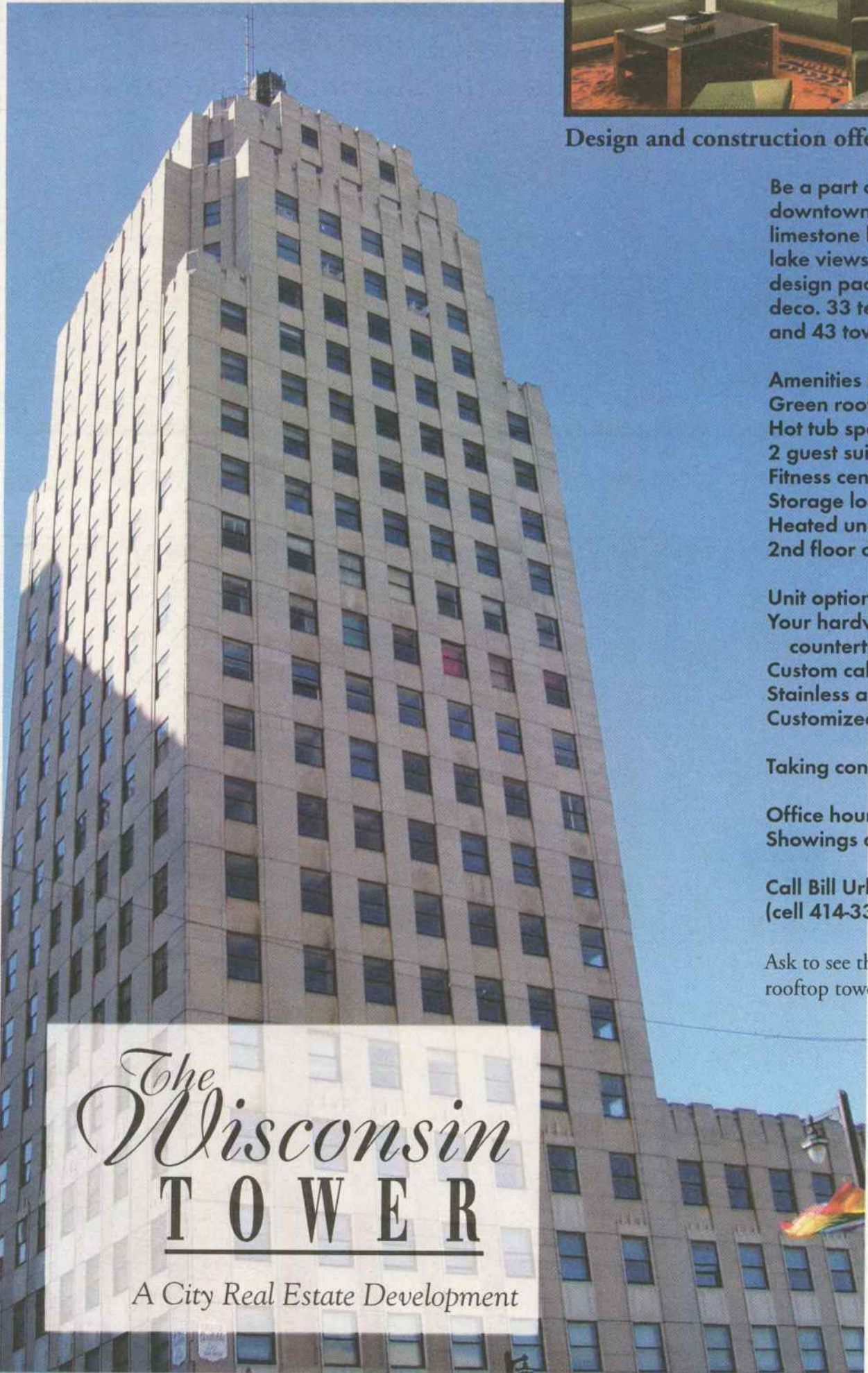
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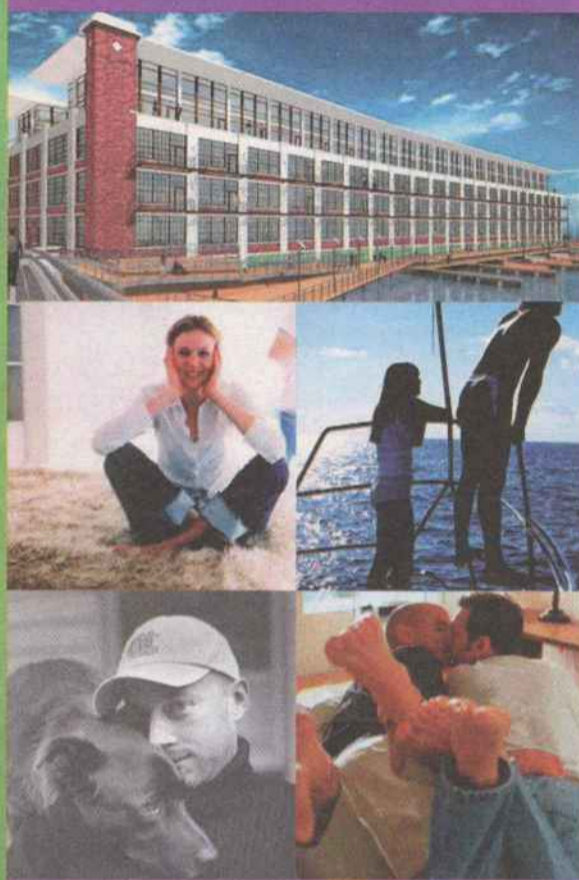
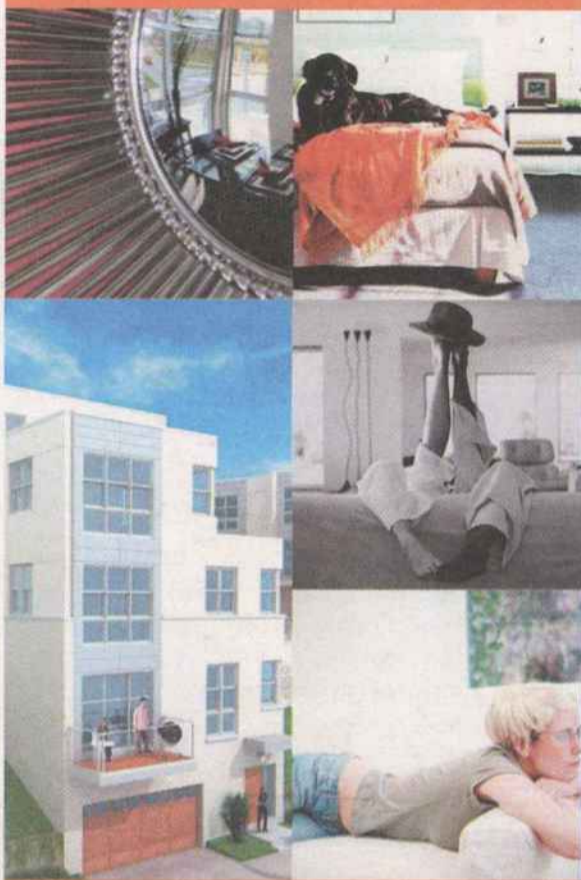
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