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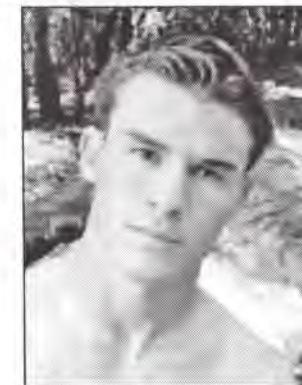
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Vol. 11	# 4	February 24	March 4 - 17
Vol. 11	# 5	March 9	March 18 - 31

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# Q National News

## New Jersey To Become Fifth State Granting Same-Sex Couple's Benefits

On January 8, the New Jersey Senate voted 23-9 to approve a bill extending many of the state benefits of marriage to gay and lesbian couples. The legislation passed the House last month and Gov. James E. McGreevey has announced he will sign it, making New Jersey the fifth state to recognize domestic partners.

The legislation would give domestic partners access to medical benefits, insurance, and other legal rights, and New Jersey would recognize partnerships from other states. The legislation does not change the state's marriage law, which specifies that unions must be between a man and a woman. To obtain domestic-partner status, a couple would have to share a residence and show proof of joint financial status or property ownership or designation of the partner as the beneficiary in a retirement plan or will. The bill also would allow a surviving partner to gain property rights and other survivors' benefits.

"It's a matter of basic fairness. And it's a matter of basic dignity for loved ones to be able to be in a hospital or be part of medical decisions," said Micah Rasmussen, a McGreevey spokesperson. "To deny them any of those rights is an injustice."

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

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

Conservative groups are vowing to fight the measure in court, while a lawsuit challenging the state's refusal to grant marriage licenses to same-couples is working its way to the state Supreme Court. In November a superior court judge dis-

missed the suit saying there was nothing in the New Jersey constitution requiring the recognition of gay marriage.

## Court Rules Against Hewlett Packard Employee's Bigotry

A three-judge panel of the ninth U.S. circuit court of appeals has ruled against a former Hewlett Packard employee who sued the company contesting his termination for displaying anti-gay scripture.

Richard D. Peterson, a 21-year veteran of the company, objected on religious grounds to diversity posters the company put up calling for tolerance of gay employees. As a devout Christian, he said he had a duty "to expose evil when confronted with it" and he did that by posting selected Bible verses where other employees could see them. Among those verses was a highly controversial passage from Leviticus: "If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination; they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them." His supervisor removed the verses because of their potentially offensive nature, prompting a series of meetings between managers and Peterson. A resolution of the dispute could not be worked out, and Peterson informed company officials that as long as they condoned homosexuality through their diversity campaign, he would oppose it. He was given some time off with pay to consider his position, but when he returned to work he again posted the verses in his cubicle. Following additional meetings with managers, he was fired for insubordination.

The ruling noted that while the company objected to the biblical verses being posted in the workplace, it made no attempt to force Peterson to change his beliefs. Nor did it object to an anti-gay letter to the editor Peterson had printed in The Idaho Statesman criticizing the diversity campaign or deny Peterson a space in the employee parking lot because his car bore

the bumper sticker, "Sodomy is Not a Family Values."

In the opinion for the unanimous panel, Judge Stephen Reinhardt wrote, "Hewlett-Packard's efforts to eradicate discrimination against homosexuals in its workplace were entirely consistent with the goals and objectives of our civil rights statutes generally." Peterson's lawyer, Christ Troupis, said he will seek a U.S. Supreme Court review.

## Wisconsin's Feingold to "Lead the Charge" Against Anti-Gay Amendment

In a recent interview with Madison's Capital Times, U.S. Senator Russ Feingold said that he will "lead the charge" in Congress against any move to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriage. "It is unbelievable to me that we would use our Constitution to deal with an issue like that," the Wisconsin Democrat said.

The proposed amendment, written by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) and cosponsored by more than 100 other members of the House says: "Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this constitution or the constitution of any state, nor state or federal law, shall be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups."

Feingold, who serves as the ranking Democrat on the Constitution Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the committee held hearings on the subject this past summer. "I think we did very well in pointing out how inappropriate it is for the federal government to have a constitutional amendment to take the decision away from the states," he told the Times' editorial board. "I think it's really an abuse of the Constitution."

A recent poll showed that nearly two thirds of Americans would support a constitutional amendment forbidding gay marriage. But that same poll showed the public is more closely split over allowing same-sex civil unions, which would grant couples most of the same legal rights. "I don't think the thing's completely jelled yet," Feingold said. "My position is that we don't use the U.S. Constitution to deal with it." A number of other Congress members,



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**Milwaukee** hairy bear, 5'10", 49, br/gn, 6x5.5 front, tight/hot/juicy "pussy" rear. Vers. ISO HIV-neg., d/d free playmates. E-mail for pix to nuukid@yahoo.com. Will bottom for hung studs. PIX: [www.powow.com/mypic/](http://www.powow.com/mypic/) (414) 278-9198 [2]

GWM crossdresser looking for a sugar daddy to have fun with & be friends. I'm 5'10", 140 lbs., sexy ass & legs, bl/gn. Cory, W4386 Krueger Rd., **Appleton**, WI 54913 [2]

GWM bottom, 43, wants to meet clean discreet tops. Any time after 3 pm weekdays. Brad (920) 433-0896, **Green Bay** [2]

Very cute 33 y.o. submissive bottom ISO 18-35 y.o. Master, prefer he be black and must want a slave of his own in the bedroom. Have some desirable fetishes, ISO long term Master. Reply to Jaw; e-mail jlwint@wfic.net [2]

GWM, 150 lbs., 5'9", wants to service men any way they want. Will do anything, any race is open, even groups of men. George, PO Box 64, **Stoughton**, WI 53589. (608) 205-9892 or (920) 316-0161 [2]

**Milwaukee** area. GWM, 43, non-smoker w/ varied interests, looking to meet GWM for dating & friendship...someone masculine and single who's serious about meeting someone for a relationship. I enjoy country music & jazz. Leave message for Jim (414) 362-0169

Wanted lovers of leather, B & D toys & furniture, crossdress clothing, corsets, etc., erotic movies, leather boots. Let's talk, can trade or buy. (414) 321-8005 7am-10pm. Lyle. [2]

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Dominant, white, bi, Mistress, w/ 2 bi male slaves & a bi female slave, ISO select, kinky, dominant Masters or Mistresses (ANY RACE) who'd like assisting me with dominating, training, using my slaves. Send letter, photos, SASE to N.J.S., 1528 S. Koeller Rd. (P.M.B. 340), **Oshkosh**, WI 54902 [2]

**Milwaukee/Tosa** GWM, 57, 5'7", 155, average looking, healthy, oral top, uncut, seeks safe encounters with inshape partners 25-45; bi, married & non-white men welcome. Robert, 2-11 pm (414) 771-9688 [2]

Hot white wiener looking for some hot lips to encounter it. Dick (920) 426-2683, NE side of **Oshkosh**. [2]

BiWM, 34, seeking central Wisc. men for hot, anything goes fun. I am a submissive bottom, into almost everything - **Stevens Point-Wis. Rapids-Marshfield** areas and beyond. E-mail: cris\_wi2003@yahoo.com [2]

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CD/TV seeking people with fetish for feet, painted toe nails, sexy legs, pantyhose, high heels, boots, leather, pvc, panties etc. who want to lick, s--- or j/o on mine & more. Your appearance/looks unimportant; make me walk around squishing in my heels. E-mail [sexmyfeet@hotmail.com](mailto:sexmyfeet@hotmail.com) [2]

**Milwaukee** area single GWM, 41 (looks younger), 6', 180, br/haz, masculine, 8", 42" chest, 32" waist, d/d free, light drinker, non

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some of them highly conservative, have also publicly vowed to fight against the amendment, arguing that the gay marriage issue should be left to the states.

#### IN OTHER NEWS:

**Massachusetts: Anti-Gay Marriage Coalition Formed** - An alliance of conservative political and religious groups that oppose same-sex marriage has formed the "Coalition for Marriage" aiming to "generate outrage among Massachusetts voters" that they have been denied a chance to weigh in on the gay marriage issue and hoping to persuade lawmakers to vote in favor of a proposed state constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage at a constitutional convention February 11. A "Coalition" sponsored protest drew 200 people, while a counter demonstration by supporters of same-sex marriage yesterday at the State House saw more than a thousand protestors.

**New Mexico: Gay Retirement Village Planned** - A suburban Santa Fe subdivision that would cater to retirement-age gays and lesbians is moving forward, along with a condominium project for LGBT seniors what will have assisted living facilities. The New Mexico Supreme Court refused recently to hear an appeal from neighbors who claimed the project was exclusionary and illegal under the state human rights law. "It's a good feeling," said Bonnie McGowan, the founder of the Birds of a Feather Resort Community in Pecos, N.M. "My generation struggled when we were younger to come out of the closet, and we don't want to go back in the closet in retirement."

**California: San Diego Settles Boy Scouts Suit** - Earlier this month, the city of San Diego settled a lawsuit with the ACLU in federal court by agreeing to cancel a controversial lease on city parklands with the Boy Scouts of America, and to pay almost \$1 million in legal fees. The lawsuit said the city showed favoritism toward a religious organization by leasing the Scouts land in Balboa Park for \$1 a year. The settlement, approved by a majority of the City Council, also stipulates that the city will no longer defend the Boy Scouts' use of city lands. The Scouts, however, have vowed to continue fighting for their right to receive city subsidies for the parklands they use.

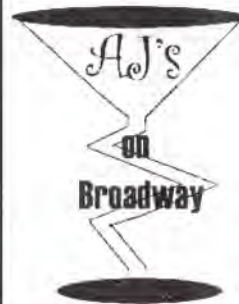
**Tennessee: Court Tells Dad "Don't Be Gay"** - A gay father has been ordered by the Tennessee Court of Appeals to ensure that his son is not "subjected to the gay lifestyle" but ruled that it was wrong for a lower court to send him to jail for telling the boy he is gay. As part of a divorce hearing, Joseph Randolph Hogue was barred from "exposing the child to his gay lovers and/or his gay lifestyle." When he told his son that he was old enough to understand and that his boyfriend was in love with him, Hogue was sentenced to two days in Williamson County Jail in September 2002 for breaking the restraining order. The appeals court says it found nothing wrong with the lower court shielding the child from the gay influences, but the court did agree with Hogue that the order didn't specifically bar the father from telling his son about his sexual orientation.

**Florida: Tampa's Gay Murder Mystery Deepens** - A body found wrapped in a sheet and lying inside a vehicle at the side of road has been identified as one of two gay men who disappeared recently in Tampa. Michael Wachholtz and Jason Galehouse were last seen

December 20. Both were 26, frequented the same Tampa clubs and were members of the same internet chat and dating site. Police, however, say there is nothing to link the two cases. The disappearances, and two others that remain unsolved, have shocked the Tampa gay community. Some members of the community accuse law enforcement officers of not doing enough to solve crimes against gays, a charge the Sheriff's office disputes.

**New York: Firefighters' Gay New Year's Brawl** - Four New York Fire Department officers and two firefighters are under investigation in the vicious beating of a fireman at a Staten Island firehouse. Witnesses have given conflicting statements about how the New Year's Eve attack began, but reports indicate it started when firefighter Michael Silvestri yelled a gay epithet at fellow firefighter Robert Walsh. Walsh is said to have then yelled something back at Silvestri who has subjected Walsh to anti-gay verbal abuse in the past. Silvestri, according to several firefighters then picked up a metal chair and beat Walsh senseless. Walsh's sustained numerous injuries and is in critical

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stripped naked for pleasure, no pain involved. Must be disease free, no fatties, dopers, heavy smokers or drinkers. **Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha or near Ill.-Wis. border.** (262) 658-8567. Ask for Mr. Luke, any time. [1]

44 y.o. GWM outdoors type into hiking, biking, quiet romantic nights at home. Like 3somes, would like to try a group orgy. ISO same. Me: 6'1", 185, hairy chest/body, bl/blk, beard, mustache. Call after 5 pm. (920) 420-4058. Alan. E-mail [bigprep@hotmail.com](mailto:bigprep@hotmail.com) [1]

35 y.o. gay female looking for feminine gay female, 21-45 for friendship/more. Preferably n/s. (715) 355-5173. Kriss K, or write 1527 Volkman St., **Schofield, WI 54476** [1]

**Check out our new Leather/Fetish web pages!** Quest has an expanded area for clubs and links galore! Just go to: <http://www.quest-online.com>; then select *midwest leather*. [P]

GWC (one 57, other 42) ISO friends. Live in **northern Marinette Co.,** love the outdoors, hunting, fishing, gardening. 57 y.o. is pastor of a gay friendly church, 41 y.o. a student at bay college. E-mail [northempineschurch@hotmail.com](mailto:northempineschurch@hotmail.com) or (715) 324-5673. Leonard or Brian. [1]

GWM, 37, 5'9", 180, seeking other GWM 25-45 for fun, friendship LTR. **Lakeshore/Green Bay/Sheboygan.** E-mail [manty37@netzero.com](mailto:manty37@netzero.com) or (920) 683-9549 [1]

Attention! GWM 40+ interested in watching?! Kick back & enjoy a private strip/JO show. Strictly safe. Evenings best. **Wausau** area (715) 845-6467 [1]

**All Male Chat!** 18+ record & listen FREE! (920) 431-9000 code 4120 [P]

**Milwaukee ESide,** we want Greek tops ONLY for 3way @ 2pm weekdays: Rusty, 36, 6'2", 175, 7" cut / AI, 49, 5'10", 220. Both vers, hung, tight-rear. HIV neg, d/d free only. (414) 278-9198 [1]

**Man on Man Fun!** 18+ Record & Listen FREE! (920) 431-9000, code 4166 [P]

Handsome, bi-curious, late 40s, ISO young, attractive, curious type w/ round rear & attractive member for discreet encounters. Seeking mutual physical pleasure. No strings. No drugs or diseases. E-mail [JLarue699@hotmail.com](mailto:JLarue699@hotmail.com)

Bi, 21, 5'6", 125, seeking late 20-30s who'll have discreet fun with crossdressing, fetish & leather. Person should be gentle and fit. **Milwaukee** area, please. BTW, I'm new at this. [younggrasshopper1@lycos.com](mailto:younggrasshopper1@lycos.com) [1]

Tall handsome very fit GWM seeks very well hung black stud for fun evenings of sexual pleasure. Leave message; I'll return your call. (920) 907-1844. Older black stallions welcome also. [1]

Hot **Milwaukee** adult boy, WM, 50+, long legs, nice hot butt. Order me to strip and kneel naked. Seeking senior 60-75 for encounters on the kinky side. Let's meet and build trust & share experiences thru letters as penpals first. Masssge - golden showers w/ well hung daddy. A.A.H.B.A., 10238 W. National Ave. (PMB #130), **West Allis, WI 53227** [1]

I'm looking for someone special with great hands to give me that great massage & more that I need. (920) 707-0355 [1]

If you're looking for great oral pleasure, let this cleancut **Milwaukee** GWM bottom, 43, 5'11", 155, mustache, bl/blu, perform for you. Seeking in shape men who appreciate good service. R.J. (414) 489-9702. If no answer, leave message [1]

50s GWM looking for more than a one night stand. Smoker and social drinker. **Green Bay** (920) 497-1377. No late calls, please. [1]

Gay couple just moved to **Eau Claire,** 30 & 37, ISO friends to get to know in this area. We love to cook, do movies & play cards. Travel,

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condition. Silvestri has been charged with assault. A multi-agency investigation is underway into an alleged cover-up of the assault. Six firefighters have been placed on desk duty, including a captain suspected of telling doctors that Walsh fell down stairs. Police were not notified until nine hours after the attack.

**California: Bullied Gay Students Win \$1 Million** - California school district that six students said was rife for years with homophobic bullying and harassment has agreed to end a five year legal dispute. The Morgan Hill Unified School District agreed Tuesday to a wide-ranging staff and student training program and policy protections in addition to paying the students \$1.1 million to settle the suit brought on their behalf by the ACLU and the National Center for Lesbian Rights. The students, five girls and one boy, were repeatedly mistreated both physically and verbally, including death threats and assaults, while being dismissed by administrators who told one of the girls that complained, "Don't bring me this trash anymore. This is disgusting."

**Washington DC: Transgender Lobby Days Set** - The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) has announced the dates of its Congressional Lobby Days. The lobbying effort will take place in Washington, DC from April 29 through April 30, 2004, beginning with a plenary training session on April 28. Transgender activists and supporters are asked to mark the dates on their calendars and make plans to join NTAC in educating Congress on the continuing need for nondiscrimination and hate crimes legislation protecting transgender and intersex citizens. Plans for training, scheduling of congressional office visits, and hotel accommodations are under development and will be announced on the NTAC website: [www.ntac.org](http://www.ntac.org).

**Washington DC: Gay Former Wisconsin Congressman "Reassessed Domestic AIDS Strategy"** - In latter half of 2003 Secretary and former Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson hired openly gay former Rep. Steve Gunderson (R-WI) to "reassess domestic AIDS strategy and do a little burned-bridge repair," according to the January 2004 issue of magazine. After a "string of Republican AIDS bungles," including the administration's plans to close the , multiple audits of the San Francisco-based and the potential "censorship" of prevention programs and federally funded research, Thompson "much less publicly" brought in Gunderson, who left Congress in 1996 after 16 years in office, POZ claims. According to POZ, Gunderson held meetings between HHS staff members and AIDS advocates. The meetings "culminated in a high-powered, closed-door" meeting in early September, during which leaders of a dozen large AIDS organizations voiced their concerns about the 's new HIV/AIDS prevention initiative with several government leaders, including Thompson, Director Anthony Fauci and CDC Director Julie Gerberding. In April 2003, the CDC had announced a new HIV/AIDS prevention strategy that would shift funding distribution away from community groups that provide education aimed at reducing unsafe sexual and drug-use behaviors in people who have not contracted HIV. According to the strategy, the government would invest most heavily in initiatives that focused on identifying HIV-positive people who were unaware of their status. The policy change could jeopardize approximately \$90 million in annual federal funding for community groups.

## ARCW TOUCHES DOWN AT HISTORIC LAMBEAU FIELD

ARCW's annual Have a Heart Dinner and Auction will raise funds for the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin this February 7, 2004 at the Lambeau Field Atrium. Proceeds from Have A Heart will support the health and social services, housing program, legal assistance and AIDS prevention programs that are provided by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin in northeastern Wisconsin.

**Saturday, February 7, 2004**

VIP Cocktail Reception 5:30pm • Dinner and Silent Auction 7:00pm • Program 8:00pm

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Lambeau Field Atrium  
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To order tickets online, click on the Have A Heart link: [www.arcw.org](http://www.arcw.org) or contact Chris Allen by phone (800) 359-9272, ext. 1570 or [Chris.Allen@arcw.org](mailto:Chris.Allen@arcw.org). Standard tickets are \$50 and VIP tickets are \$75 (including the VIP cocktail reception in the Luxury Suite overlooking Lambeau Field).

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# Quest's free classifieds

## FOR RENT!

GWM, 42, Cudahy, ISO roommate to share a 2 bedrm apt. by lake. Prefer southside (Cudahy) or Bay View. Tom (414) 762-7236 [1]

Share my newly remodeled Cedarburg home on the creek & next to a park. Smoking in basement rec room only. Prefer 25-40 y.o. No drunks. Includes utilities, DSL, digital cable, use of hot tub, use of entire home, your own room. Off street parking. \$500 per mo. Steve (262) 375-8341 [1]

Share home in Racine - great for student. All furniture & appliances, basement bar/party room, convenient area near the lake. \$350 mo. Utilities incl., own bedroom. Some meals (262) 637-1232 [1]

Milwaukee Water St. loft for sale by estate of original owner: 1 bedrm, 1 bath, first floor (east exposure to Milwaukee River).

Bought Feb., 2003, paid \$210K. Heated underground parking. Contact Bruce Eliot (817) 514-7995 [orterryandeliot@yahoo.com](mailto:orterryandeliot@yahoo.com)

For Rent: Beautiful 2 bedrm (Bay View Milwaukee): Near the lake, 2 car garage, large yard & deck. In house laundry. No smokers, please. Too good to miss! Joanne (414) 225-5492 or Chris (773) 262-0218. \$700 per mo. + heat & electricity. Avail. March 1 or sooner. [2]

Roommate to share house in Racine. Share living room, dining room, garage, patio, own bedroom. \$500 mo., utilities incl. + sec. dep. (262) 552-8954. Glenn.

2 bedrm lower in Riverwest (Milwaukee) area. Hardwood floors, storage, A/C (no extra charge), laundry & appliances incl., St. parking. \$700 mo. + sec. Utilities not incl. Avail. now. No dogs, cats negotiable. Grad students welcome. Thom, daytime

(414) 456-7716, eves (414) 507-0545. [2]

## FOR SALE!

Male gay videos, \$10 ea. or for trade, call in Appeton area (920) 739-9315 before 10 pm [2]

## EMPLOYMENT

Looking for a secure future, top wages and company-paid benefits? A grand, new, renovated & enlarged Liberty Hall Conference Center will open in the Fox Cities in March. Now interviewing for assistant kitchen manager, ass't. beverage mgr., bartenders and waitstaff. Call Steve or Mike to set up an appointment to discuss the possibilities. (920) 731-0164 [1]

HELP WANTED at Milwaukee's Midtowne Spa, 315 So. Water St. (414) 278-8989

Erotic art photographer ISO male models 18-35 to pose for erotic art project. Must be slender to well built. Offering T.F.P. &/or up to

\$20 per hr. for modeling. (608) 635-8479 or e-mail [liam-scott@charter.net](mailto:liam-scott@charter.net) [1]

## PERSONALS

Your signature, address and phone w/ area code are required on classified ads so we can contact you if there's a problem. E-mail classies return address OK. (Business related classifieds are \$10 per issue; include payment with ad copy) STATE YOU ARE OVER 18! Please LIMIT COPY TO 30-40 WORDS! (We can not accept classified ads from incarcerated folks.) Please be considerate of others; we have limited space...please do not submit additional ads until several months have passed. Quest reserves the right to edit for brevity.

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# Quest State News

Compiled and written by Andy Sampson

## CENTRAL WISCONSIN

**Stevens Point: MTV's Danny Roberts On Campus** - The Gay/Straight Alliance on the campus of UW-Stevens Point will host an appearance by Danny Roberts, an openly gay former cast member of the MTV show "Real World - New Orleans" on Thursday, February 26 from 8-9:30 PM in the student union. Danny brought to light the problems with the US military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy by dating a serviceman while starring in the show. Since the end of the show, Danny and his partner Paul have starred in "Out in the Real World", an MTV News special highlighting the hardships faced by the couple in their relationship while Danny was in the public eye. Contact the UWSP Gay/Straight Alliance at or via telephone at (715) 346-4366 for more information.

**Stevens Point: New Night Club Opens** - The Stevens Point area has seen its first queer night club since the closing of the Platwood Club with the recent opening of Club Night Out, located at 2533 Cty Rd M, about four miles west of the city. Previously operated as the wedding hall and "polka palace" Club L & A, the bar is planning its grand opening in February. For more information on the club, visit their website at <http://www.club-nightout.com>.

## CHIPPEWA VALLEY

**Eau Claire: New Look or LGBT Center** - The LGBT Center of Chippewa Valley has started the new year off right! With a fresh, new look, the center is working to have more involvement from LGBT residents of the Chippewa Valley. The center

recently redecorated its offices and meeting areas and is beginning to take an interest survey of its members and other interested community members. To participate in the survey, contact the center at 715-552-LGBT or stop by to check out the new look at the center's second floor space at 510 S. Farwell St.

## GREEN BAY & FOX CITIES

**Green Bay: Wes Clark, Jr. and Barbara Lawton To Open Clark Campaign Office January 22** - Wes Clark, Jr., son of retired general and Democratic Presidential candidate Wesley Clark Will formally open the Green Bay Clark '04 campaign office here Thursday, January 22. Clark supporters and those interested in learning more about the candidate's views are invited to the opening reception, beginning at 7 PM at 333 North Broadway. The opening event will feature hot beverages, desserts, and the showing of American Son, the 17-minute documentary about Wesley Clark. Lt. Governor Barbara Lawton is expected to attend along with several LGBT community members who are supporting Clark for President. For additional information, visit .

**Appleton: Toy Drive Warms Hearts** - The patrons of Rascal's here made the lives of children living with or affected by HIV/AIDS a lot more merrier over the recent holiday season by donating over \$5000 worth of toys and gifts during their second annual toy drive. Bar owner Todd West coordinated the solicitation, purchase, wrapping and delivery of the toys and games with ARCW's northeastern region Social Services Department. Caseworkers then distributed the gifts to several dozen families in the 17 counties served by ARCW's Appleton and Green Bay offices who benefited from the project.

**Green Bay: Legal Issues Workshop Set** - Action Wisconsin will sponsor

"Safeguarding Our Lives Together," a legal issues workshop for same-sex and other nontraditional couples on Sunday, February 8 from 6:30 - 10 PM at the Angels of Hope MCC, 3607 Libal St. Madison attorneys Scott Mickelson and Tamara Packard and AW board member Mike Fitzpatrick will present an overview of the numerous legal documents unmarried couples need to protect their relationships. Couples will have the option to execute financial and/or health care powers of attorney and complete living wills at the end of the workshop. There is no cost for the event but advance registration is needed. To register or for more information on the workshop, contact Mike Fitzpatrick at 437-7400 Ext. 115 or Action Wisconsin at or at 866-441-0143.

## MADISON & SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

**Janesville: Marriage Equality Forum On Campus** - The UW-Rock County LGBTQ Student Alliance will host an Action Wisconsin Marriage Equality Forum on the campus, located at 2909 Kellogg Ave. here February 3 at 7 PM. This forum will feature a discussion on the current fight against a state and federal constitutional amendment as well as other information on the progress of civil marriage equality. For more information, contact Action Wisconsin at or by calling their office at 866-441-0143.

**Madison: Four New Support Groups Begin** - Outreach, Inc. Has announced the establishment of four new support groups for 2004. A men's coming-out support group is forming and will begin meeting in mid to late February. The purpose of the group is to offer support to men who are dealing with the realization that they are not heterosexual and how that affects their everyday lives and to support those people previously or currently in same sex relationships.

A second men's group, Gay Circles, is an eight-week program beginning February 10 that will bring men together to explore the unique challenges of being gay and cover such topics as growing up, coming out, sexuality, AIDS, homophobia and love and relationships. For more information about the men's groups call Jim at 608-255-8582.

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## Miss Wisconsin Continental Plus



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**SUNDANCE CHANNEL PREMIERES  
"THE GIFT" ON FEBRUARY 2ND**

Los Angeles, January 14, 2004 - The Gift, a groundbreaking, award-winning and controversial AIDS documentary, will have its world broadcast premiere on the Sundance Channel Monday, February 2, at 11 pm. Directed by Louise Hogarth, this keenly observed documentary looks at a disturbing new trend in the AIDS crisis: the glamorization of unprotected sex and the decision by a largely post-AIDS generation of gay men to deliberately court HIV infection.

Through the prism of two young men's stories, Hogarth profiles and describes the paths that led each to seek "the gift" of AIDS; their stories are juxtaposed with those of four men in an HIV support group in Los Angeles. Also featured is Walt Odets, AIDS activist, author and psychologist, who discusses the failings of AIDS prevention efforts in the gay community and the trends that have fueled the recent increase in HIV infection rates.

The Gift was winner of the Best Documentary Award at the 2003 NewFest/New York Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and the Santa Barbara Lesbian & Gay Film Festival and the Audience Award at Q! Film Festival in Jakarta (Indonesia). The film was selected as the "Critics Choice" in the New York Times and touted by Chicago Sun Times' Richard Roper as the movie that "people need to see."

The film is currently being used in curriculum and as a teaching tool by educators at institutions and AIDS organizations worldwide, including Johns Hopkins University.

"The film allows people to discuss behavior they would normally deny or at best sheepishly admit," said Steven Tierney, director of HIV Prevention for the City and County of San Francisco.

The Gift will be presented on the Sundance Channel as part of an evening of documentary programming KNOW HIV/AIDS that seeks to eradicate ignorance about HIV/AIDS. Sundance will show the film three more times in February on the 7th at 3:00am, the 12th at 3:05am and the 22nd at 12:30am. After its one-month sneak preview on Sundance, the film will roll out in theaters in selected cities and screen for public forums nationwide. For more information, go to [www.thegiftdocumentary.org](http://www.thegiftdocumentary.org).

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Lesbians are invited to enjoy an evening of board games and trivia with the start of the "Winter Boardom" group Friday, January 30, at 7:30 p.m., at the OutReach offices, 600 Williamson St. For more information, please contact Nikki at 608-345-5790 or via email at [imalablover@tds.net](mailto:imalablover@tds.net).

OutReach, Inc. is also collaborating with Hospice Care Inc. to offer a free, seven-week grief support group specifically for those who identify with the LGBT community. Although there is no charge to attend, preregistration is required.

Jennifer Nehls of HospiceCare, and Kathy Ziegart of OutReach will join bereavement counselor Chris Rode as co-facilitators. The seven-week series will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 - 8 PM February 3 through March 16, at the OutReach offices. For more information or to register, please call Chris Rode at 608-327-7149 or by e-mail at .

**Madison: Civil Marriage Equality Town Hall Meeting Planned** - Action Wisconsin, in collaboration with many national, state and local Wisconsin LGBT organizations, will hold a town hall meeting on civil marriage equality, Thursday, February 12 from 7-9 PM here at the Orpheum Theatre as part of national Freedom to Marry Week. National cosponsors include the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Lambda Legal, and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Throughout the state and the country the LGBT community is facing a fierce backlash against the civil rights progress seen in 2003. On a national level, members of Congress are organizing to ban civil marriage and other forms of same-sex relationship recognition. In Wisconsin, an attempt to override Governor Doyle's veto of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, failed by one vote in November, 2003.

"This meeting will bring together the LGBT community and allies in a way that hasn't been seen in the state", AW Executive Director Chris Ott said. "We hope to ignite people in a grassroots effort to fight for civil marriage equality in the state."

The event will feature updates on the national and state fights against anti-LGBT constitutional amendments, personal stories from same-sex couples about the effects of marriage discrimination, and time for questions and comments. For more information, contact Action Wisconsin at or 866-441-0143.


**Madison: Pocan Endorses Dean** - State Representative Mark

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Pocan (D-Madison) has endorsed Governor Howard Dean, MD, for President, citing Dean as the best opportunity to elect a progressive to the White House. Pocan is also small business owner, union member and environmentalist. As a leader in Wisconsin's LGBT community, he has worked for years to protect the rights and freedoms of all Wisconsinites, regardless of their sexual orientation.

"Mark Pocan is one of the true progressive leaders in the Assembly caucus, and we're proud to have him supporting our grassroots campaign. He has shown the way on issues as diverse as civil rights to the environment to small businesses, and this important experience will be an important asset to our effort in Wisconsin," Dean's Wisconsin State Director Mike Tate said.

**MILWAUKEE**

**Milwaukee: "Take Back Our Nation" Event Planned** - Equality Knocks, a project of the Center Advocates, whose mission promotes LGBT equality and identifies mainstream allies, will sponsor "Take Back Our Nation" January 31, from 6:30-8:00 PM at Out N>About, 1st & Greenfield Ave. here. The event that will feature appearances by Tammy Baldwin and the Bag Boyz, cameo performances from The Vagina Monologues and updates from Equality Knocks coordinator, Saad Akbar Khan. Appetizers will be provided and a cash bar will be available. Admission is free for those who register to vote. Guests must be 21 to enter.



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## GREEN BAY COMMUNITY THEATER PRESENTS BAD SEED MAXWELL ANDERSON THRILLER TO BE PERFORMED FEBRUARY 11 - 21

Green Bay Community Theater, in association with Arktype, will present BAD SEED by Maxwell Anderson, February 11 - 21, 2004. Performances are Tuesday - Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm with Saturday and Sunday matinees at 4:00 pm at Green Bay Community Theater, 122 North Chestnut Avenue, Green Bay. Tickets are \$14 and can be purchased by calling the box office at 920.435.6300.

A special performance on February 17th is a fundraiser for Action Wisconsin, the advocacy and educational organization for the GLBT community. \$5.00 of every ticket sold for the 2/17/04 performance will go to Action Wisconsin to continue their mission.

BAD SEED is a dramatization of William March's novel about a girl who knows what she wants and when someone gets in her way, she takes care of them. Permanently. Little Rhoda Penmark (Ellen Steinbrink, Green Bay) is the perfect eight-year-old; she is intelligent, well mannered and polite to her elders. She is the darling of her father (Brian Wulff, Green Bay), and the neighbors (Matt Maloney, Green Bay and Lucille Bresky, DePere). When one of her schoolmates dies mysteriously on a class picnic, her school teacher (Mary Reynolds, Green Bay) and the dead boy's parents (Allison Blackburn, Two Rivers and Jason Laluzerne, Green Bay) implicate Rhoda in the death. A flash fire kills the super of her apartment building (Jim Edwards, Green Bay) after he becomes suspicious of Rhoda's involvement.

Meanwhile Rhoda's mother, Christine (Irene Kokkinos, Green Bay), begins to suspect there is a dark family secret that connects her to these mysterious deaths. Her father (Brian Sorensen, Appleton) tries to assure her, perhaps a little too strenuously, that her suspicions are groundless and that children are incapable of committing evil. The play is a chilling psychological thriller seen through the eyes of the mother who discovers, along with the audience, Rhoda's murderous ways, while the rest of the community is blinded by the little girl's charm. The play is an edge-of-your-seat suspenseful evening of wicked fun. Thom Yamal, Executive Director of GBCT is directing. Production design is by Willie Sabel and Travis Lindbergh is the costumer. L. Douglas Pire is stage-managing with the assistance of Jacob Bressers. Opening night patrons are invited to a free reception hosted by Titledown Brewery and Fox 11 after the performance on February 11, 2004.

GBCT will partner with Wisconsin Public Radio for a special fundraising performance on February 15 at 4:00 PM. \$5.00 of every ticket sold at that performance will go to Wisconsin Public Radio.

## Top 15 Playlists

Club 5--Madison, WI - DJ/VJ Tim Walters

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

### IN OTHER NEWS:

**Green Bay: Rainbow Over Wisconsin Seeks Cosponsors for Pride Picnic** - At its Annual Meeting January 12, Rainbow Over Wisconsin, Inc. announced the organization is seeking cosponsors to produce, promote and staff annual summer pride event. Community organizations from throughout northeastern and east central Wisconsin will be invited to attend an open meeting on March 8, according to ROW President Mark Mariucci. The picnic will be held Saturday, July 10 at Green Isle Park in suburban Allouez.

The board also voted to accept Action Wisconsin's invitation to cosponsor its February 12 statewide Town Hall Meeting on civil marriage equality at the Orpheum Theatre in Madison. By accepting the invitation, ROW joined numerous other national and state nonprofit groups cosponsoring the educational event.

ROW also elected new officers and board members at the meeting. Mariucci, Dean Dayton and Mark Lemmert were reelected as the charitable group's President, Vice President and Treasurer respectively. Mike Fitzpatrick was elected as ROW's

Secretary. Donovan Weiss and Todd West were also elected to the board.

**Milwaukee: ARCW Granted \$1.3 Million To Tackle Chronic Homelessness** - ARCW has been awarded a new 3-year, \$1.3 million grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

ARCW's program, Stopping Cyclical Homelessness among Infected Persons (SCHIP), will provide intensified housing assistance and support services to 100 people with HIV/AIDS each year for the next three years. In particular, this program will focus on serving people with HIV/AIDS who have been recently released from correctional institutions. The grant will allow ARCW to hire four new housing staff to support people with HIV/AIDS who are chronically homeless to overcome their barriers to accessing and maintaining housing. Services funded by the grant will include housing counseling and case management, rent assistance, residential housing through the Wisconsin House, medical care, dental care, mental health therapy, and food and nutritional services. The program will be available to

people with HIV/AIDS throughout Wisconsin.

This new grant is part of HUD's Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA) program and has been designated a Special Project of National Significance. ARCW's new SCHIP program joins the agency's HaRTSS intensified housing case management program, as the organization's second Special Project of National Significance. In a review of HUD records, it appears that ARCW is the only community-based organization in the United States with two Special Project of National Significance grants. According to Associate Director Mike Gifford, ARCW's ability to win this award is a testament to the outstanding work of the agency's housing staff and the efforts of all of the client and patient services staff statewide. "The professionalism of our staff, the compassion of our assistance and the outcomes of our work on behalf of people with HIV/AIDS come through strongly in our grant applications and make us a natural and effective choice to do the hard work of AIDS housing," Gifford said.



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Reynolds reportedly became aware of the published story and Capitol staffers noted an apparent deletion of information from the Senator's official calendar for the date of his conference attendance, a possible violation of Senate ethics rules. Following an investigation of the facts, Action Wisconsin issued a press release in December demanding Senate majority leader Mary Panzer investigate the incident, and offered a series of violent and virulently anti-gay comments made at the conference obtained from a compact audio disc sold to the organization by Ovadal.

Media scrutiny followed until Reynolds finally admitted being present "for about a half an hour" to Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel political writers Gary Spivak and Dan Bice, according to their January 14 column. Reynolds also claimed he "didn't know much about Wisconsin Christians United" but could not explain how that was possible when his printing business publishes WCU's anti-gay pamphlets. IN Step staffers' reports about the length of the senator's conference attendance also sharply disagreed with Reynolds' admission to the mainstream press.

Action Wisconsin's Chris Ott also begged to differ. "Today's revelation brings the Wisconsin Republican Party's turn to the hard right into crystal clear focus. We have long maintained that initiatives like the soon-to-be introduced anti-gay state constitutional amendment are rooted in ugly prejudices and unfounded fears about lesbian and gay people. Reynolds' affiliation with this conference raises serious questions about the real nature of this harsh agenda." Ott said in a January 14 press release.

However some of the more devout on Ott's "hard right" appear



to have trouble with Reynolds as well. In another Spivak & Bice column earlier this month, Reynolds reportedly had trouble explaining why he had decided to send out Christmas cards featuring a manger scene that replaced Mary, Joseph, shepherds, Magi and angels with pictures of the senator, his wife and children. The bizarre holiday greeting was accompanied by a letter suggesting recipients play a game of "Where's Waldo" with the card.

Spivak and Bice also wrote that Reynolds had to look up the word "sacrilegious" in the dictionary before answering their question about the possible offensiveness of the card to devout Christians who consider both the Christmas holiday and the story of the birth of Jesus two of the most sacred tenets of their faith. "I don't think I'm disrespectful toward anything religious or pious," Reynolds said after reading the definition.

## ON OUR COVER: T-PRO & ANGEL C TRIBAL PLEASURES

Kick off the new year with Tribal Pleasures, a sweatbomb of a mix CD by New York tribal masters T-Pro and Angel C. Serving their unique brand of Afro-Latin house tracks, the two DJs bring home the fever and flavor of legendary gay Latino parties like New York's Milk and Cuchifrito and L.A.'s Circus and Arena.

**T-Pro** - Nuyorican T-Pro is best known for starting the New York City tribalism scene. Mixing Afro, Latin, and house beats together, he gained a loyal following at his now-legendary party Milk (celebrating its tenth anniversary this winter). The Milk crowd followed him to his current venture, Cuchifrito at SBNY (Splash Bar New York). T-Pro has also DJed at Exit, The World, Sound Factory, Krash, Limelight, Tunnel, Café Con Leche, VIBE magazine's Hotboyz Pride parties (with Li'l Kim and Mary J. Blige), and various spots around the world. He is also a respected studio producer, having done tribal house remixes for dance artists Todd Terry, Mike Cruz, Norty Cotto, Ultra Naté, and Johanna; and hip-hop remixes for the likes of Eric B and KRS-One. More: <http://www.tpartygroup.com/>

**Angel C** - Mexi-Rican DJ Angel C created a name for himself in Los Angeles, where for over ten years he brought his own flavor of heavily percussive Latin house and hip-hop beats to major Latin clubs like Circus and Arena, as well as Rage,

Michelle's XXX, The Factory (with Manny Lehman), Temple (with Eddie X), and The Palace. He also deejayed hot parties for Madonna, Easy E., Dennis Rodman and Carmen Electra, the creators of "South Park," and, for the last six years, L.A.'s Gay Pride events in both Long Beach and West Hollywood. After an unplanned move to New York during Gay Pride 2002, he landed his first Manhattan DJ gig, spinning for Junior Vasquez' massive Gay Pride party at Exit. Angel went on to open Junior's biggest parties, including Halloween, Thanksgiving, and La Vasquez' birthday. When not deejaying for thousands, Angel can be found behind his desk at Jellybean Recordings, where he is the Director of 12" Sales.

<b>Artist:</b>	Various / T-Pro & Angel C
<b>Album Title:</b>	Tribal Pleasures
	(Mixed by NYC Tribal Masters T-Pro & Angel C)
<b>Genre:</b>	Dance/Tribal House
<b>Label:</b>	Jellybean/Sony Discos
<b>Streetdate:</b>	January 13, 2004

Tribal Pleasures is a double-CD set; one disc mixed, one unmixed making this a great set for dancers and DJs (bedroom or big room) alike. Both discs also contain unreleased tracks by Marco Polo Cecere, Marcelo Castelli, Blaze, and Mike Macaluso, as well as a handful of T-Pro and Angel's own "TAngle" remixes and edits, done expressly for this album.

## CD REVIEWS • CD REVIEWS • CD REVIEWS • CD REVIEWS • CD REVIEWS

### Ari Gold • Space Under Sun GOLD 18 RECORDS INC.

Reminiscent of Pink's debut album, over techno with nothing but bitter lyrics. Unlike Pink there is no feeling behind Gold's lyrics. Gold has a great voice much like the suave crooner of old. Now if Gold could get ride of the over bearing beats and techno effects I would be happy.



If the whole album was like track # 7 proves that Gold does have the ability of a great singer with out all the technical hype.

*He's on My Team* is going to be the next great drag queen performance number, *Do You Want To Hurt* is a good remix as far as remixes go. I foresee Gold doing well in the club with good vid is.

### Ami Defranco • Educated Guess RIGHTEOUS BABE MUSIC

Raw, clean & ever refreshing. Tired of all the dance music that sounds the same with over bearing base lines? Try Ami Defranco's Educated Guess. This is not a CD you throw in the player because it is to quite. This is one that you put on the headphones laydown, close our eyes and think.

Defranco did it all this time around. She wrote the music, sang lead and backup vocals, recorded it herself and produced it.

I hate to compare but if you like the Indigo Girls and Melissa Etheridge Defranco will blow you away. The intermittent poetry through out the cd is a refreshing treat.



### Missy Elliott • This is Not A Test ELEKTRA MUSIC

Well what is there really to say... Elliot looks marvelous and is sounding even better. With her poignant themes and edgy top-ics (my favorite being toyz).

The list of guest on this album is the who's who of the hip hop world and only Elliot could pull in that many favors. An unusually long cd this one will not disappoint anyone let alone fans. Buy it cherish it and get funky to it.

I could do without the language, it is not nessecary to the album or any of the songs. We all know that Elliot is not a gangster trash artist so the language is fooling no one.



# Valentines Show

Saturday, February 14th @ 11pm

## NO COVER!

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## Wisconsin IN Step to Publish Final Issue January 30

**Milwaukee** - Wisconsin IN Step, the state's longest-running LGBT newspaper, will cease publication following a farewell issue January 30, according to publisher Bill Attewell. The final issue will also mark the paper's 20th anniversary, and will feature a retrospective of the state's gay community over the last two decades.

"Personal burnout, not finances" is the primary reason for the paper's closure, according to Attewell. "I literally could not bring myself to go into the office to finish it," Attewell said, referring to the December 3 issue that never hit the stands and started rumors about the paper's future statewide.

While the paper is up for sale, Attewell doubted a serious offer will emerge in the near future. "Publishing the paper is a tremendous amount of work for MacDonald's wages," Attewell added, citing recent LGBT press startups such as Probe/Angel and G-Street that lasted less than a year.

Founded in 1984 by Ron Geiman as a bar and entertainment guide, Wisconsin IN Step quickly began adding editorial content in its coverage of the emerging AIDS epidemic in the state's gay male communities. Attewell bought the paper in the early 90's and jointly published IN Step and the lifestyle magazine Q-Voice until combining the two publications in 1998.

In recent years, Wisconsin IN Step became regarded as the state's gay "paper of record" by many around the state. In addition to its many interviews with national political and entertainment figures, IN Step scooped the gay media nationwide by

scoring the first interview with Madison's Scott Evertz shortly after he was appointed "AIDS czar" by Bush administration.

The paper also had exclusive interviews with all major candidates in 2002 gubernatorial election, with the exception of the incumbent. The paper's recent coverage of the 2003 DOMA debate forced the right-wing Family Research Center of Wisconsin (FRI) to substantially revise their anti-gay "talking points" on the issue after a column exposed numerous mischaracterizations and falsehoods in the FRI's rhetoric.

### Stupid Senator Tricks: Anti-Gay Reynolds Outrages With "Homo Fascist" Conference Involvement and Holiday Greeting Card

**West Allis** - First-term Republican State Senator Tom Reynolds has spent his inaugural year in office offending not only many in the LGBT community but many in his Christian Right constituency as well.

Not satisfied after being thwarted by his party's leadership from introducing an anti-gay DOMA bill as his very first piece of legislation during the middle of the state's budget crisis last Spring, Reynolds decided to attend Wisconsin Christian United (WCU) "Pastor" Ralph Ovadal's "First International Conference on Homo-Fascism" reportedly held at an undisclosed evangelical church in Milwaukee last October. After Ovadal bragged about snagging "a state senator" for his poorly-attended, secret conference on the WCU website, one of the extremist group's insiders allegedly tipped staffers at Wisconsin IN Step. The paper subsequently printed that the notable attendee was Reynolds.

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**Friday, Feb. 13**

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) **Gary Hill Show**  
(Elvis impersonator), 7:30 pm

**Saturday, Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day**

Za's Historic West Theater (Green Bay)  
**Valentine Show**, 11 pm (NO COVER) featuring Alexis St. James, Emur Illuzion, C.C. Domino, Dee Dee Winters, Holly Hot Damm, Tammy Fae, Kelli Jo Klein, Brandon, Katrina Kaye, CoCo Channel (TC Hammond) + Special Appearances

**Wednesday, Feb. 18**

STD Specialists free syphilis & HIV testing,  
Fluid, 10pm-1am

**Thursday, Feb. 19**

**Boulevard Theatre (Milw)** *Waiting for Godot* opens this evening and runs thru March 7. FMI (414) 744-5757

**Saturday, Feb. 21**

Club Majestic (Madison) In conjunction with Scrawl, the Lesbian Health Talk Force, and Club Majestic, stage a Drag King Show (see news story this issue of *Quest*)  
STD Specialists free syphilis & HIV testing,

Club 219, 10pm-1am

**Wednesday, Feb. 25**

STD Specialists free syphilis & HIV testing,  
Woody's, 10pm-1am

## Madison's OutReach New Men's Coming-Out Group

A men's coming-out support group is forming under the auspices of Madison's OutReach; it will begin meeting in mid to late February.

The purpose of the group is to offer support to men who are dealing with the realization that they are not heterosexual and how that affects their everyday lives and to support those people previously or currently in same sex relationships.

The group will identify and discuss the stages of coming out and explore topics such as how to deal with family members, physical and sexual safety, legal rights and discrimination, and spirituality, among others.

The group will run for ten weeks, with two trained volunteers facilitating each meeting.

Interested? Leave a message for Jim (608) 255-8582 with contact info.

## LGBT Grief Support Group to Start at OutReach

HospiceCare, Inc. and OutReach, Inc. are collaborating to offer a free, seven-week grief support group specifically for those who identify with the LGBTI (the "I" is for Intersex) community. Pre-registration is required.

Chris Rode of HospiceCare will co-facilitate the group with Jennifer Nehls and Kathy Ziegart.

"We will all experience the death of someone close to us," explains Rode. "Grief is a natural and normal response to loss. It lasts longer than most people expect, and we need support, often support which is different from what family or friends can provide. This group offers a safe and supportive environment to talk about grief-related issues with individuals who have similar lifestyles and/or experiences."

The seven-week series will be held on Tuesday evenings (6-8 pm), Feb. 3 thru March 16, at Madison's OutReach offices, located in the Gateway Mall, 600 Williamson St.

FMI or to register, contact Chris at (608) 327-7149 or by e-mail at [chris.rode@hospicecareinc.com](mailto:chris.rode@hospicecareinc.com).

# SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

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## Rainbow Families Wisconsin Plans April 2-4 Spring Conference

Rainbow Families Wisconsin's spring conference, to be held the weekend of April 2-4, will be staged on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus (JF Friedrich Center).

Its purpose is to gather for education, advocacy, support and entertainment in a conference geared specifically toward the GLBT-led family and prospective parents. Educators and allies are also invited to discover how you can best support parents and kids with this unique family setting.

Workshops will include prospective families, child development, family support, political and advocacy. Check this website for more info: <http://www.geocities.com/rainbowfamilieswisconsin>.

Lesbian-headed household Nina Beck and Stacy Jolles with son, Seth (from Vermont) will keynote, among other speakers not yet confirmed. They were involved in the lawsuit that resulted in civil unions in Vermont.

Childcare and teen programs are also in the mix.

Hotel reservations: JF Friedrich Center (608) 231-1341 or online reservations <http://jffirm.uwex.edu/irm/AccessType.ASP>. Group code is RFW. A block of rooms will be saved until March 4; so, it's 'make reservations' time! Registrations for the conference are due by March 25; registration forms can be found on the website.

Plans are also in the making for a summer fun time (dates to be determined) at Moon Beach Camp, St. Germaine, WI. FMO (715) 479-8255.

## Players Bar (La Crosse) to Host Coulee Region Humane Society Benefit

Players Bar, 214 Main St., La Crosse, will host what's billed as a *live auction* on Sunday, Feb. 29 (3 pm/doors open at 1:00) to be followed by a dinner donated by the 'whitetails' immediately following the auction.

Auctioneers will be WIZM/93's Sam Strong and Harold Geary.

Last year's event raised \$5,200; the goal is to trump last year's money.

Donation of items or gift certificates are being solicited. Contributions are tax deductible. Contact Judi Alf / Volunteer, 6006 Rivercrest Dr. So., La Crosse (608) 788-9411 or the Coulee Region Human Society, 911 Critter Ct., Onalaska (608) 781-4014.

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# State News

Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

## Introduction of Anti-Gay Constitutional Amendment Expected By End of January Madison

Legislation that would codify the second-class citizenship of Wisconsin's gay and lesbian citizens in the state's founding document can be expected by month's end, according to a front page story in January 11 edition of the Wisconsin State Journal here. Sen. Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) and Rep. Mark Gundrum (R-New Berlin), lead sponsors of 2003's so-called "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA) had earlier indicated their plans to introduce the Wisconsin Marriage Amendment, following the failure of the Assembly by a single vote to override Governor Doyle's veto of the DOMA bill last November. The bill would define civil marriage as a heterosexual-only institution.



In the Journal story, Fitzgerald hinted that the legislation would be introduced following passage of the job creation bill currently under consideration in a special session of the legislature. The Assembly passed that bill January 13. According to the Senate calendar, the joint judiciary committee has reserved January 30



meeting date, that would permit fast-tracking of the constitutional amendment bill.

Fitzgerald resurrected his "activist judges" rhetoric to justify the bill. The Journal article also quoted Rep. Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem) who claimed state constitutional amendment was necessary to prevent judges from "legislating from the bench." Huebsch, who is best known in the LGBT community for calling openly-gay Sen. Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) "the queer from the 5th" in a widely-distributed memo several years ago, also predicted the



amendment would pass two consecutive Legislatures if introduced.

To become an amendment to the State Constitution, the legislation must pass two successive sessions of the legislature and then by voters in a statewide referendum. A late December Badger Poll showed nearly three-quarters of the state's residents would vote for such an amendment. The amendment could be part of the Wisconsin Constitution is as little as 18 months, and could set the stage for a Supreme Court review similar to Colorado's Amendment 2 decision in 1996.

## SPEAKER'S BUREAU TRAINING AT OUTREACH INC.

A fundamental part of the mission of OutReach, Madison & SW Wisconsin's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center is public education on and advocacy for those communities. The OutReach Speaker's Bureau has historically served as the vehicle to do that by expending the general public understanding of our lives and the issues of concern to us in the pursuit of equal protection of the laws.

Keeping that tradition in mind, OutReach is offering a volunteer speaker's bureau training on the morning of February 7th from 9-12am at OutReach (500 Williamson St.). Whether you have specific expertise you would like to share for formalized lectures, or would just like to be available to share your personal story in an informal classroom, give and take, this training will provide you with a solid foundation in the basics by one of our most experienced volunteer speakers.

Please RSVP by Friday, January 30th with Harry at 255-8582 or at [programs@outreach-inc.com](mailto:programs@outreach-inc.com). Morning pastries and coffee will be provided.