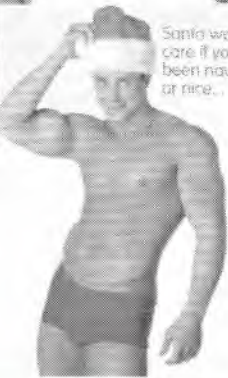
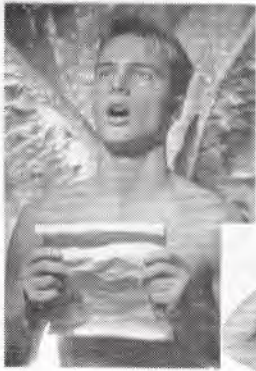


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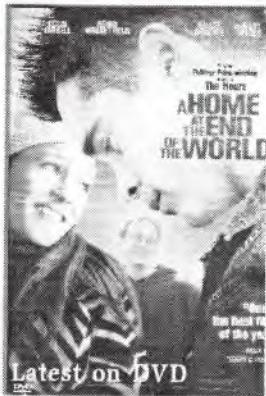
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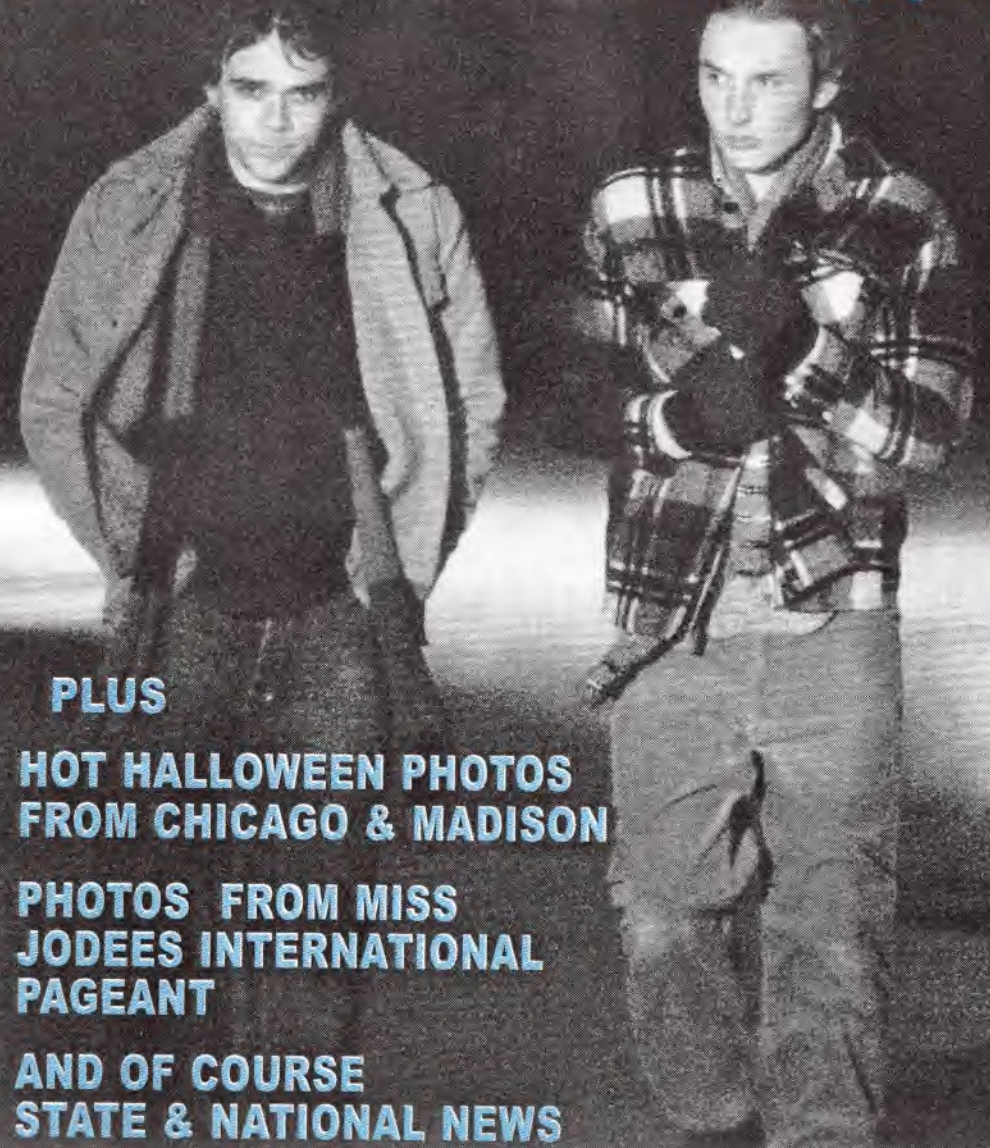
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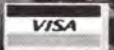
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Middle aged GWM, good body, love giving h—. Also seeking a bottom. Bob (920) 730-9316 [2]

If you're a hairy man 25-48 & having questions about the gay life, I'm the man you want to speak with. Live in Appleton area & promise you discretion. I'm 40, 5'10", 210, and all man. You must have facial hair or at least a very hairy chest! I hunt & fish; don't be queeny. (920) 759-0217 [2]

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50 y.o. totally submissive bottom seeks a strict dominant man who believes in control, total absolute control, strict punishment & not afraid to demand more & more of me. Bondage, discipline, raunch, humiliation are all things I need. (414) 527-1613, ask for boi. Any age, race or body size. [2]

Green Bay 31 y.o. dom male w/ 22 y.o. male, in an open LTR, seeking young submissive boys 18-29 interested in leather action, chat & discreet meetings, part time; also looking for young house boy w/ same interest part to full time available, safe same, d/d free; please have pics. E-mail master_sea10169@yahoo.com No dreamers, please. [2]

GWM masochist seeks SADIST, likes long & heavy duty playtime. Live in La Crosse area, but can travel. Have had a few years experience. Am 56, 5'9", 200, br/gr, cut, tats, clean shaven, hairy chest, d/d free. Looking to have my limits established & expanded. Open to all scenes (BME esp) but scat. e-mail: masoguy@webtv.net [3]

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GWM, 44, 6', 165, 32" waist, enjoys camping, nude beaches, cuddling, cooking, quiet evenings, football, etc. Have a beautiful home in the country to share with a very special man 18-45, height & weight proportional. All I want is true respect & = love. Versatile. HIV neg. a must. (715) 823-2623. Will return all messages. [3]

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Attention! Bi/Gay. GWM br/br, 48, Marshfield area. For BJ info (715) 387-6433 [3]

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GWM, 57, 5'8", 190, in excellent shape - 44" chest, 36" waist, ISO bottom GWM 35-65 for friendship &/or LTR (no inmates) in the Waukegan/Kenosha area. Write

Brian S., 2133 Western, Waukegan, IL60087 [3]

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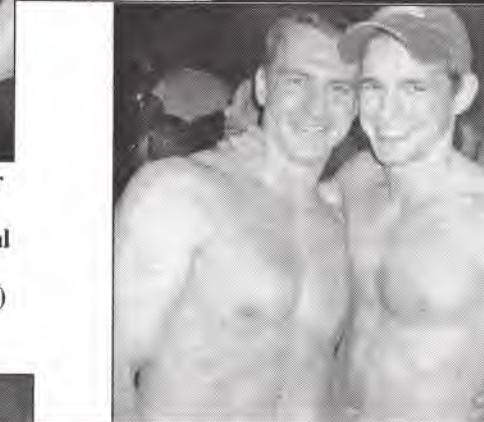


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Pics courtesy Tony Ritschards



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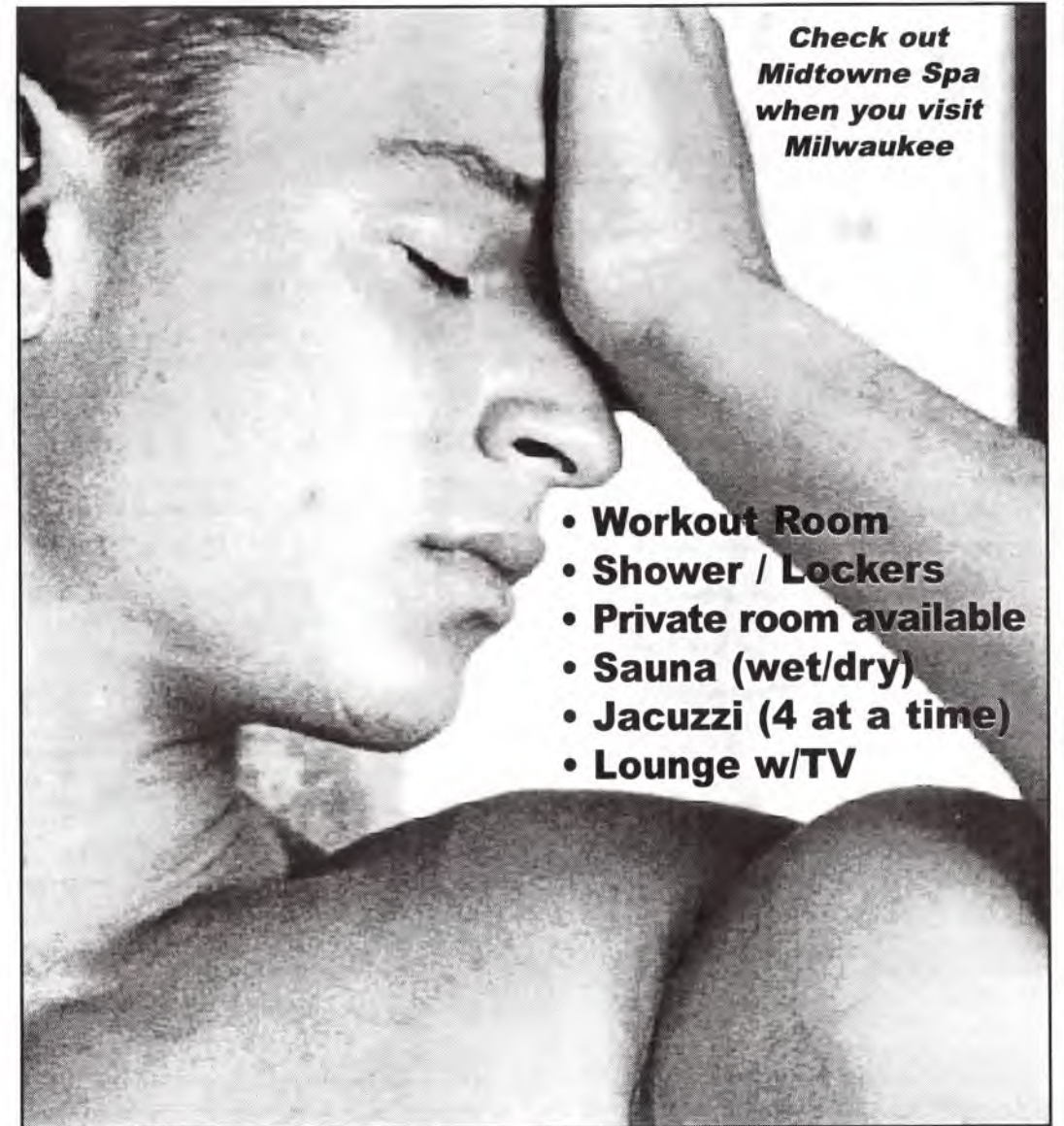
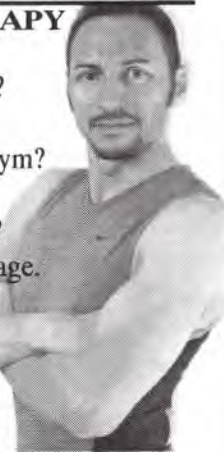
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Man on Man Fun! 18+ Record & Listen FREE! (920) 431-9000, code 4166 [P]

Single bi female or bi couple (m) wanted to enjoy swinging lifestyle with bi white male, 52, 6' tall, 210, uninhibited, open-minded, affectionate, very oral, love to please,

seek like-minded people to play with. Age & race open. Must be sincere & disease free and ready to share intimate pleasures. (414) 940-1423 [1]

Two Rivers GWM, 36, 5'3", 130, looking to meet other guys 28-40 in the area for friendship, fun, or possible LTR. Enjoy walks, quiet nights, movies & going out. Want to know more? E-mail Jeff_3216@msn.com [1]

Tom from **Appleton** is looking for a friend and that *special someone* to share good times. Relationship possible. (920) 730-9316. [2]

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GWM - good looking, fun, single, sexually charged guy seeks new friends for good times, my place or yours. I'm 6', 175, 7 uncut, 50s, a good guy near **Fond du Lac**. If you're in shape, single, 40-60 & into passion & great sex, e-mail me at taurus574007@yahoo.com

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flyerman219461966@hotmail.com OR GWM, 5'10", 245, shaved head, goatee, pierced & tattooed, bearcamper43@yahoo.com.

Contact either or both. Leave name, phone no. & short message. Your pic will get ours. [2]

Attention GMS 40+ interested in watching!? Kick back and enjoy a private strip show. Evenings best. **Wausau** area. (715) 845-6467 [2]

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GWM, bottom, 43, 5'11", 155, mustache, bl/bl, seeking in shape men who appreciate good service. R.J. (414) 489-9702. If no answer, leave message. [2]

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27 y.o. SWM, 155, 5'9", looking

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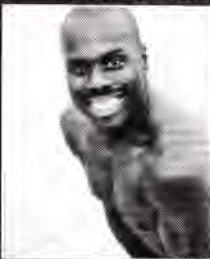
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GEORGIA: CDC REPORTS RARE INFECTION A RISK TO GAY, BISEXUAL MEN IN US

A rare sexually transmitted disease currently spreading among gay and bisexual men in Europe could be poised to surface in the United States, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported October 28. The CDC urged doctors and clinics across the nation to be prepared to diagnose and treat gay and bisexual men infected with Lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV).

The advisory was issued after the agency received reports of recent outbreaks in the Netherlands. That country has uncovered 92 cases of LGV dating back to 2003. It typically sees fewer than five cases per year. The infection is caused by specific strains of chlamydia, a sexually transmitted disease, and usually marked by genital ulcers, swollen lymph glands and flu-like symptoms. However most of the men recently infected in the Netherlands developed gastrointestinal bleeding, inflammation of the rectum and colon and other problems not often associated with the infection or other sexually transmitted diseases.

Belgium, France, Sweden and Britain also have reported increased rates of infections. It is not known whether America is seeing a similar surge because U.S. doctors are not required to report the infections to local health departments.

"We expect it's a question of time before we see cases appearing here," Chief of the epidemiology and surveillance branch in the CDC's division of STD prevention Dr. Stuart Berman said. "This is an early warning."

Although LGV can be cured by a three-week course of antibiotics, US. health officials could be hard pressed to keep a lid on the spread of the infection because it is uncommon in industrialized nations and easily misdiagnosed.

Efforts to combat the disease also are complicated by the tendency of some gay and bisexual men to engage in high-risk sexual behavior. Dutch authorities found that a large number of the men recently infected with LGV had participated in sex parties and unprotected anal intercourse in the year before getting sick. Many also were HIV+.

MISSOURI: ACLU SCOLDS HIGH SCHOOL FOR CENSORING GAY STUDENT

The American Civil Liberties Union has come to the defense of a high school junior who was sent home twice from school for wearing t-shirts bearing gay pride messages. The principal cited concerns that other students may be offended by the shirts worn by Brad Mathewson.

"This school allows its students to freely express their views on gay and lesbian rights - but only if they're on the anti-gay side of the issue," said Jolie Justus, a member of the legal panel for the ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri, noting that bumper stickers in favor of Missouri's recently-passed anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment are ubiquitous in the school's hallways and parking lot. She added, "This is a classic case of censorship. Brad Mathewson has the same Constitutional right to political speech and expression that the Supreme Court says all students have."



Mathewson was sent to the principal's office by his homeroom teacher on October 20 after she spotted his t-shirt. The shirt bears the name of the GSA at his old high school in Fayetteville, Arkansas (FHS Gay-Straight Alliance), a pink triangle, and the words, "Make a Difference!" When an assistant principal saw it, he told Mathewson to go home and change shirts because someone might be offended by it. Although Mathewson pointed out the anti-gay marriage stickers seen throughout the school, his concerns were ignored. Mathewson was again disciplined when he came to school on October

27 wearing a t-shirt featuring a rainbow and the phrase, "I'm gay and I'm proud."

"Even though nobody complained about my t-shirts my school told me I couldn't wear them just because someone might get offended," said Mathewson, a junior at Webb City High School. "But every day I see students at my school with anti-gay stickers on their notebooks and sometimes on their shirts, and I find that offensive. I understand that they have a right to express what they think, but I have a right to do the same thing."

Mathewson and his mother met with school officials yesterday morning to express their concerns about the censorship. In the meeting, two assistant principals and the principal told Mathewson that they wouldn't allow him to wear shirts bearing gay pride messages because they feared it would cause controversy.

In a letter sent October 28 to school, the ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri pointed to the school's dress code policy, which only states that students' clothing must be "free of obscene or suggestive markings, advertisements of tobacco, alcoholic beverages, drugs, and/or other products deemed inappropriate by school officials." The ACLU goes on to demand that officials remove any mention of the incident from Mathewson's records and allow him to wear the shirts without fear of punishment.

"You can't trample someone's First Amendment rights just because someone might take offense at what that person has to say," said Dick Kurtenbach, Executive Director of the ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri. "Schools that unlawfully censor students' views should be given an F in civics."

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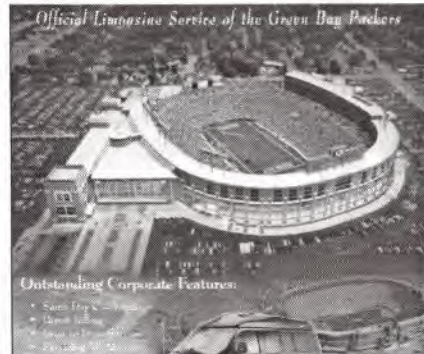
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The recently formed LGBT Task Force of the ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri is working with the national ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project in handling Mathewson's complaint. The school's dress code policy can be found online at: www.wccards.k12.mo.us/high-school/studenthandbook/highschool-handbook.

Ohio: CINCINNATI VOTERS REPEAL BAN ON GAY RIGHTS LAWS

Eleven years after Cincinnati became the nation's only city to have a ban on gay-rights laws, voters repealed it. Gay civil rights activists and business leaders worked together to persuade voters to rescind a charter amendment that forbid the city to enact or enforce laws based on sexual orientation. Unofficial returns from the voting November 4 showed the repeal winning 54% to 46% with 65,082 votes in favor and 55,934 against.

"We're naturally very very happy to have won this election," Gary Wright, chairman of Citizens to Restore Fairness, the organization that urged voters to repeal the ban, said after the results were known.

Wright said he was pleased with the support of the voters and of hundreds of volunteers who worked for the repeal campaign. "It was almost two years in the making," Wright said. "I think that kind of dedication really pays off in the end."

The November 4 election election in the historically conservative city was the first time voters were asked to reconsider the ban. Opponents said the ban had given Cincinnati a reputation of intolerance, cost the city business and made it harder for corporations to attract new employees.

The ban's supporters said there was no evidence either of harm to the economy or of changing attitudes since 62% of voters approved the restriction in 1993. A coalition named Equal Rights, No Special Rights contended that repealing the amendment would amount to giving "special rights" to gays and lesbians.

The activists persuaded voters in 1993 to approve the amendment. The movement's leaders said that changing the charter - on which a city's laws are based - would make it more difficult to undo the prohibition because a public vote was needed.

Cincinnati has established itself over the years as a conservative city. Larry Flynt was prosecuted in 1977 for selling his *Hustler* magazine and in 1999 for sale of what authorities said were sexually explicit videos from a Cincinnati store. In 1990, a Cincinnati art gallery was prosecuted for displaying homoerotic photographs by the late Robert Mapplethorpe.

Washington, DC: 65,000 LESBIAN & GAY AMERICANS SERVING IN ARMED FORCES

A new report from the Urban Institute estimates that, by even conservative counts, 65,000 lesbian and gay Americans are serving in the United

States Armed Forces, on active duty, in the reserves and the National Guard. The report, *Gay Men and Lesbians in the U.S. Military: Estimates from Census 2000* finds that the length of service for gay men is equal to their heterosexual colleagues, while lesbians typically serve longer than their straight counterparts. The Urban Institute's estimates are based on an analysis of year 2000 census data. The data is subjected to a rigorous review by the Institute, a non-partisan economic and social policy research organization.

"The positive contributions of 65,000 gay and lesbian Americans to our armed services and our national security cannot be ignored," C. Dixon Osburn, Executive Director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN), said. "The number of lesbians and gays in service today is equal to half the total force strength currently serving in Iraq and is more than twice the 30,000 additional troops the Army Chief of Staff says he needs to fight the war on terrorism. There is no



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doubt that America needs her lesbian and gay patriots fighting on the front lines."

According to the Urban Institute, conservative estimates suggest 36,000 gay men and lesbians are serving on active duty. When the National Guard and reserve are included, the number grows to 65,000. According to the report, lesbians comprise 5% of all female military personnel, while gay men account for 2% of all male military members. The total number of lesbians and gays serving represents 2.8% of the nation's military forces. The report also finds that lesbians and gays have served in all military eras in the latter part of the 20th century.

The report finds that lesbians have a long history of service in the armed forces. The Urban Institute reports that nearly one in ten coupled lesbians aged 63-67 report they served in the Korean War, compared to less than one in 100 of other women. And, even in the ten years from 1990 to 2000, service rates among coupled lesbians aged 18-27 are more than three times higher than rates among other women. Lesbians also tend to serve longer than other women, the report says, noting that nearly 82 % of coupled lesbians report serving more than two years, compared with 74 % of other women.

In 2003, the Institute also reported that approximately 1 million lesbian and gay veterans are living in the United States. The 2004 report, initially released October 20, shows a concentration of those veterans in specific areas. The three states with the largest population of gay and lesbian veterans, according to the report, are California (137,000), Florida (67,000) and Texas (66,000). Among metropolitan areas, Los Angeles (26,599), Washington DC

(25,399), San Diego (21,465), Chicago (18,246) and New York (17,057) have the highest populations of gay and lesbian veterans.

The District of Columbia leads all states with a rate of just over ten lesbian or gay veterans per one thousand adults, more than double the national average, the report finds. Per capita rates are also high in Vermont (7.2), Hawaii (6.9), Maine (6.7), and Washington (6.5). Santa Rosa (14.2), Pensacola (12.2), San Francisco (11.3), San Diego (10.3), and Norfolk (8.6) are among the metropolitan areas with the highest per capita rates of gay and lesbian veterans.

"Lesbian and gay Americans have always served, are serving today and should be able to do so openly," Osburn said. "The 65,000 brave men and women serving today could staff the entire crew and aircrews of a dozen aircraft carriers. The one million before them have made unmistakable and historic differences in the course of our national defense. There is no more appropriate thanks for their service than the repeal of the military's gay ban."

Approximately 10,000 service members have been discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" since its passage in 1993. The law prohibits lesbian, gay and bisexual service members from serving openly in the armed forces.

"The question is not, as opponents to gays serving openly suggest, whether there should be a ban," said Osburn. "The question is how should America support all of our troops with equal dignity, respect, and honor? We cannot continue to treat men and women who have sacrificed for our nation as second class citizens."

Copies of the Urban Institute report are available online at www.sldn.org.



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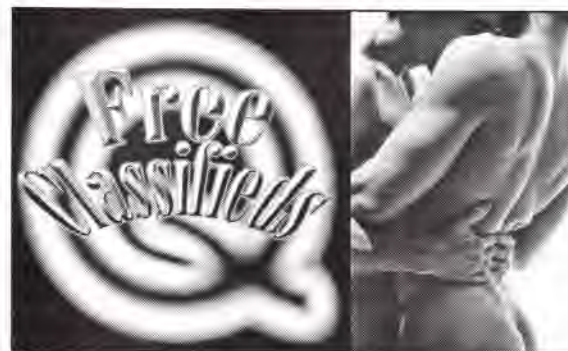
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SUNDAY WORSHIP Pianist Needed! We need a volunteer pianist for Sunday worship. We are a small group, 50% gay; can lead to you being ordained. Contact Rev. Leonard Newlin, Northern Pines Community Church, W7997 Boone Ln., Beecher (Pembine), WI 54156. (715) 324-5673. northmpineschurch@hotmail.com

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Harbor Room • Wednesday, December 1

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Tina Roberts passed away October 23 after a long illness. Attached is a picture that Brittney Morgan provided. Tina was a regular performer of Milwaukee's longest running show - C'est La Vie and the Saturday Night Sirens.

A Memorial service complete with sit down service and buffet style hors d'ouvres was held at M&M Banquet Hall on Saturday, November 6th, from 5pm to 8pm.

Quest learned of this on October 26 after we had already printed issue 21, so we were not able to alert friends of the memorial service, however we still wanted to inform others who may not be aware of Tina's passing.



HO HO HOpe to see you there!

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Appleton: ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER PLANNED

Angles of Hope MCC will offer its second annual Thanksgiving dinner and social Thursday, November 25 at the church, 815 Richmond St. here. The church will be providing turkey and ham, with attendees bringing the trimmings, breads, desserts, salads in potluck fashion. The event, which will begin at 1 PM, will also offer boards games and televised football. Church members, friends and LGBT community members are welcome to take part. For more info, contact Rev. Elaine Thomas at 920-991-0128 or in Green Bay at 920-983-7453

GREEN BAY: HOLIDAY BOWLING TOURNAMENT SET

Rainbow Over Wisconsin will hold its annual Holiday Bowling Tournament Saturday, November 27 at the Riviera Lanes, 2450 University Ave. here. The 9-pin tap tournament is open to four-person teams and individuals registrants who will be partnered. Registration will be at 1:30 PM, with bowling to follow immediately, at approximately 1:45 PM. Registration is \$25 per person and will include games, shoe rental, prize money and awards luncheon. Proceeds from the event will benefit ROW's Community Enrichment Fund. For more information and registration forms, visit the ROW website at: www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org or call Nancy at 920-432-9646.

GREEN BAY: RAINBOW GATHERING YOUTH GROUP LEARNS, PLAYS

Angles of Hope MCC's vibrant youth group The Rainbow Gathering has mixed fun and serious subjects in its weekly programming this Fall. In October the teens heard how they could "Clear The Air" during a multimedia smoking cessation program presented by Nicci Misoni Recla of the Brown County Dept. of Health. The group also got to celebrate Halloween with a movie party featuring Tim Burton's "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and a special Halloween

Dance and Masquerade Haunt.

In November, Dr. Charles Kucera will discuss with the group the facts gay youth need to know about STDs and how they can prevent them during the group's November 15 meeting. Meetings are held on the first, third and fourth Mondays of the month and begin at 7 PM. Meeting are held at the suburban Green Bay site of the Angels of Hope Metropolitan Community Church, 3607 Libal Street in Allouez.

The Rainbow Gathering is not a religious organization - just a place for kids to be themselves, according to MCC pastor Rev. Elaine Thomas. The Rainbow Gathering Youth Group is a member the statewide Rainbow Alliance for Youth (RAY) of Wisconsin. To confidentially contact the leaders of the group please e-mail RainbowGathering1@yahoo.com. Gay youth are encouraged to check out the group's website: www.geocities.com/rainbowgathering1.

MILWAUKEE: ARCW AWARDED \$1.3 MILLION HOUSING GRANT

ARCW has just been awarded a 3 year, \$1,364,000 grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development. This grant continues the agency's very successful HaRTSS program.

Initiated in 1999 HaRTSS (Harm Reduction Through Stable Shelter) is an intensive housing counseling and long term rent assistance program for people with HIV/AIDS who also have chronic mental illness and/or drug addiction. According to ARCW's Vice-President Mike Gifford, these clients frequently struggle greatly with securing and maintaining housing.

Since the beginning of the program, ARCW has assisted 311 clients most of whom have overcome their barriers to housing and are now in stable, long-term housing. In the coming 3 years ARCW projects that another 215 clients will be served.

In addition to the excellent outcomes related to achieving stable housing for clients the HaRTSS program has also



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Community Calendar

Thursday, Nov. 11

BESTD Clinic free anonymous HIV testing, 9-mid., at **Art Bar** (Milw.)

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) **Galynne Goodwill** hosts another open mic jam session, 7 pm

Friday, Nov. 12

Cricket's Fox River Lounge (Green Bay) FEAR FACTOR returns with host Barbarella, 9 pm. No cover

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) **Tree of Woe**, acoustic rockers from Stevens Point, blend keyboards & violins w/ their unique sound, 7 pm

Saturday, Nov. 13

Office (Rockford) **Miss Illinois Continental Plus**. FMO JCFord@aol.com or (815) 378-7808

Out 'N About (Milwaukee) Leather/Fetish event tonite R.S.V.P. Productions (Milwaukee) presents *The Tale of the Allergist's Wife* (by Charles Busch); opens this evening at **Off the Wall Theatre**, 127 E. Wells St., Milwaukee, and runs thru Nov. 28. Tickets (414) 327-3552

Wednesday, Nov. 17

BESTD Clinic free anonymous HIV testing: **Cage (Dry Nite)**, 10pm-1am

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) **Youth Advisors Night** plan this night's events, 7 pm

SAGE/Milw. member Greg Konz-Krzynski makes a presentation - *Food Handling & Safety* - at the SAGE offices, 6 pm.

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

Thursday, Nov. 18

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) **Pita** (from the reggae band Unity) hosts another open mic jam session, 7 pm

STD Specialists free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, at **Boom**

Friday, Nov. 19

Cricket's Fox River Lounge (Green Bay) GLAMARAMA entertains the turkeys, 9 pm. No cover

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) **"A Look into Latin America:"** a UW Fox Valley culture & business class hosts this special night. Latin American food & drink sampling, music, dancing w/ instruction, cultural displays and a pinata, 6-9 pm

Outwards (2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee) Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Sale...Terrific Savings on Great Gifts (Fri., Sat. & Sun., Nov. 19-20-21)

Fri. & Sat., Nov. 19 & 20

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Saturday, Nov. 20

STD Specialists free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am at **Club 219**

Sunday, Nov. 21

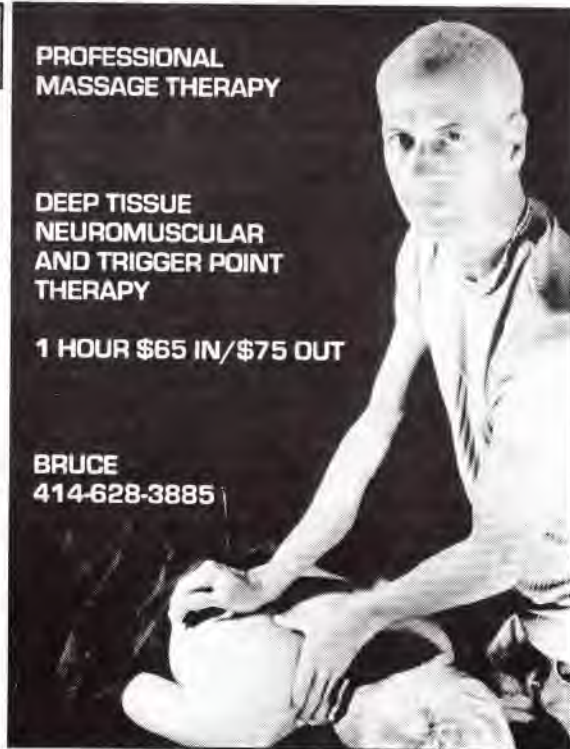
Angels of Hope MCC - Annual Congregation meeting, at Green Bay MCC, 3607 Libal St., immediately following morning worship. Potluck lunch follows meeting

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Monday, Nov. 22

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) **Senior Shakedown - Uncle Giles is back** - singer, guitarist, storyteller sharing classic, sing-along favorites, 7 pm

Tuesday, Nov. 23

BESTD Clinic free anonymous HIV testing at **Midtowne Spa**, 7-10 pm

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

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) **Comedy Duo of Kyle Keehan & Phil Zimmerman** return by popular demand! Skits, stand-up and improv, 7 pm

Friday, Nov. 26

Cricket's Fox River Lounge (Green Bay) KITTY sings standards, 9 pm. No cover

Saturday, Nov. 27

SAGE/Milw. 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner, 5-7 pm, at the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Reservations by Nov. 22, 224-0517.

Monday, Nov. 29

Harmony Cafe (Appleton) **Book Club: The Pleasure of My Own Company**, Steve Martin, 7 pm

STD Specialists free HIV & syphilis testing, 10pm-1am, at **Harbor Room**

Thursday, Dec. 2

BESTD Clinic free anonymous HIV testing, 10pm-1am, at **ETC**

achieved the following outcomes: increased client income, increased access to other HIV services, reduced criminal behavior, and increased adherence to health care regimens.

Twice named Special Projects of National Significance by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, ARCW's housing programs help people overcome the root causes of homelessness through housing counseling, mental health therapy, drug treatment and long-term rent assistance.

The HaRTSS program is available to qualifying HIV+ individuals and families statewide. For more information about the HaRTSS program contact any of ARCW's or AIDS Network's offices. More information about ARCW's housing programs can be found at the agency's website at: www.arcw.org.

Milwaukee: **CAMPY** **CHARLES BUSCH COMEDY** **DEBUTS NOVEMBER 13**

R.S.V.P. Productions continues to bring contemporary and intelligent theatre to Milwaukee as it opens its latest season with *"The Tale of the Allergist's Wife"* here November 13. An uproariously witty piece of social satire is written by award-winning playwright Charles Busch (*"Vampire Lesbians of Sodom," "Psycho Beach Party"*).

What happens when the snobbishly self-absorbed wife of an Upper West Side doctor finds her comfortably posh daily regimen of modern art and fine music shattered? Will an unexpected visit from an old friend destroy her safe and cozy little world, or transform it into something that she

could never have imagined?

Funny, biting, and irrefutably modern, *"The Tale of the Allergist's Wife"* is brought to life by an impressive array of familiar local talent, recognizable for their work not only in previous R.S.V.P. shows, but also from appearances in productions by Acacia Theatre, the Boulevard Ensemble and Skylight Opera Theatre. Kathryn Ambler, Jack Haar, William Harlow, Colleen Hart and Cynthia Paplaczky comprise the first-rate cast, brought together under the direction of R.S.V.P. Artistic Director Raymond Bradford.

The Tale of the Allergist's Wife will run from November 13 through November 28 at the Off the Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells St. in downtown Milwaukee. Call 414-327-3552 to reserve your seat. Charges are accepted.

Milwaukee: **LGBT CENTER** **ANNOUNCES NOVEMBER EVENTS**

The Milwaukee LGBT Center has announced a busy schedule of pre-holiday events for the month of November. All events will be held at the center, located at 315 W. Court St, Suite 101.

The center's monthly Legal Night will be held Thursday, November 11, from 6-8 PM and offers free legal consultation with LGBT-friendly attorneys on a first come, first served basis.

A Rainbow U lecture is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, from 7-8:30 PM. This month's topic will be

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"LGBT in the New Left: Recalling the Experiences of Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual People in the Radical Movements of the 60's and 70's." The panel discussion will be facilitated by Patrick Flaherty.

Equality Knocks will hold a Thanksgiving Canvass to seek opponents to the proposed Wisconsin Marriage Amendment on Sunday, November 21, from 2-6 PM. Center Advocates volunteers will canvass in a LGBT-supportive area and educate voters as to how the amendment could permanently deny the hundreds of rights committed but unmarried couples of all sexual orientations need to protect their families. To volunteer, contact Pabitra or Deon at 414-271-2656 or email Pabitra at: Pbenjamin@mkelgbt.org.

Finally, the center will hold its Third Annual LGBTQ Intergenerational Potluck on Saturday, November 27. The event will begin at 4:30 PM, with dinner starting between 5:15 and 5:30 PM. Get together with other members of the LGBTQ Community to celebrate Thanksgiving. Turkey, & Ham to be provided. Please bring a dish to pass: Last Names A-N: side dishes, veggies, rolls, O-Z: desserts. the meal is co-sponsored by Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, PFLAG, LAMM, BWMT, & SAGE.

More information about any of the above programs can be obtained by contacting the LGBT Community Center at 414-271-2656. the center is open daily from 10 AM to 10 PM and on Saturdays from 6-10 PM.

Wauwatosa: Statewide Religious Conference on Same-Sex Marriage Set -

Christians for Equality in Wisconsin has announced a Statewide Conference on Same Gender Marriage will be held Saturday, December 4 at Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church, 2366 N. 80th Street, here.

The conference keynote speakers are Rev. Dr. Herbert Chilstrom, retired presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Professor Mary Ann Tolbert, PhD, George H. Atkinson Professor of Biblical Studies & Executive Director, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, Pacific School of Religion.

Workshops planned at the conference include lesbian and gay couples telling their personal stories, question and answer sessions with the two keynote speakers, legal and legislative aspects of the possible Wisconsin marriage amendment, strategies for opposing such an amendment, and a panel of clergy speaking about holy union ceremonies.

The sponsors are a group of individuals from various denominations who have issued a position statement in opposition to the possible state constitutional amendment defining marriage. This statement can be found at www.marriage-equality-wi.org.

All people of faith, whether LGBT or not, are encouraged to participate. Registration form for the conference, to be held from 9:30 AM to 3 PM with a fee of \$10, can be found at the abovementioned website. More information can also be obtained by contacting Rich Fluechtling at 608-347-5178 or Rev. Curt Anderson at 608-233-9751.



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On Our Cover

by Glenn Bishop

"Twist"

When the movie musical "Oliver!" aired on TCM a weeks back, Glenn thought it a perfect opportunity to finally catch up this Oscar™ winning screen classic. Well, perfect timing, since Jacob Tierney's "Twist," a contemporary update of Charles Dickens' immortal novel, "Oliver Twist" had just reached the top of Glenn's stack of new gay DVD releases.

Taking director Gus van Sant's early classic, "Mala Noche" as his inspiration, Tierney replaces Dickens' Victorian London slums with a gritty look at young male prostitutes working the mean streets of Toronto. Unlike most renditions of Dickens' oft-told saga, Tierney focuses on the Artful Dodger character, abbreviated here to simply, Dodge (Nick Stahl), just one of Fagin's boys. Having escaped from a broken home — where we learn later his father routinely abused him sexually — Dodge possesses a keen sense in recruiting other wayward lads. Well, who better than the angelic, blond Oliver (Joshua Close) he spies in a dingy coffee shop. It turns out that Oliver has just run away from yet another foster home and willingly goes home with Dodge, ostensibly for a bed for the night but really to meet Fagin (Gary Farmer). And indeed, Oliver proves a willing hustling newbie although clearly he seems most concerned with staying near the handsome, enigmatic Dodge.

Fagin leaves it up to Dodge to show Oliver the ropes. When not actually working the streets, the lads hang out at the picaresquely named, "The Three Cripples," a run-down diner where the lovely Nancy (Michele-Barbara Pelletier) hands out strong tea (or coffee) and sympathy as well as occasionally something a wee bit stronger — heroin — here euphemistically known as "take-out." Like her literary predecessor, Nancy lives with the menacing (yet never seen) Bill.

It isn't long before Oliver meet one of the regular johns whom the boys have affectionately nick-named "The Senator" (Stephen McHattie), who takes an immediate paternal interest in the lad. Sadly this Oliver isn't the cute-as-a-button Mark

Lester and McHattie's dour "Senator" is anything but the kindly grandfather as portrayed by Joseph O'Connor in "Oliver!" Chances for a happily-ever-after ending do seem rather slight.

In this debut effort as director and screenwriter, Tierney has a keen cinematic eye but is less sure of himself in bringing life to his characters and narrative. While Dickens could be certain that his adorable little Oliver would generate plenty of readers' interest and sympathy, Close's Oliver fares less well, his character given precious little screen time; his relationship to Dodge, a subplot rich in potential is never really established. So concerned seems Tierney in shadowing Dickens' original, that he has assembled a



collection of wonderfully drawn but yet deeply disenfranchised characters who give moviegoers too little reason to become emotionally involved.

BUY IT, RENT IT OR FORGET IT

"Twist" is an intriguing if unrelentlessly bleak film. Despite its shoe-string budget, the film looks terrific, with plenty of stark images of a rather desolate urban landscape. Tierney has elicited fine performances from his youthful ensemble, particularly Nick Stahl who is mesmerizing as the haunted, vulnerable Dodge. Definitely worth a rental, "Twist" compares favorably to most of the gay indie efforts discovering new life on DVD.

JUST THE FACTS...

97 minutes. DVD extras include Director's Commentary and original Theatrical Trailer. Available: Now DVD SRP: \$24.95

Curiously, "Twist" isn't even the first adaptation of "Oliver Twist" with a contemporary gay underworld slant as many Quest readers may remember "Twisted," a perfectly dreadful film released presumably direct-to-video back in 1996 and surely languishing the shelves of video rental stores ever since.



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