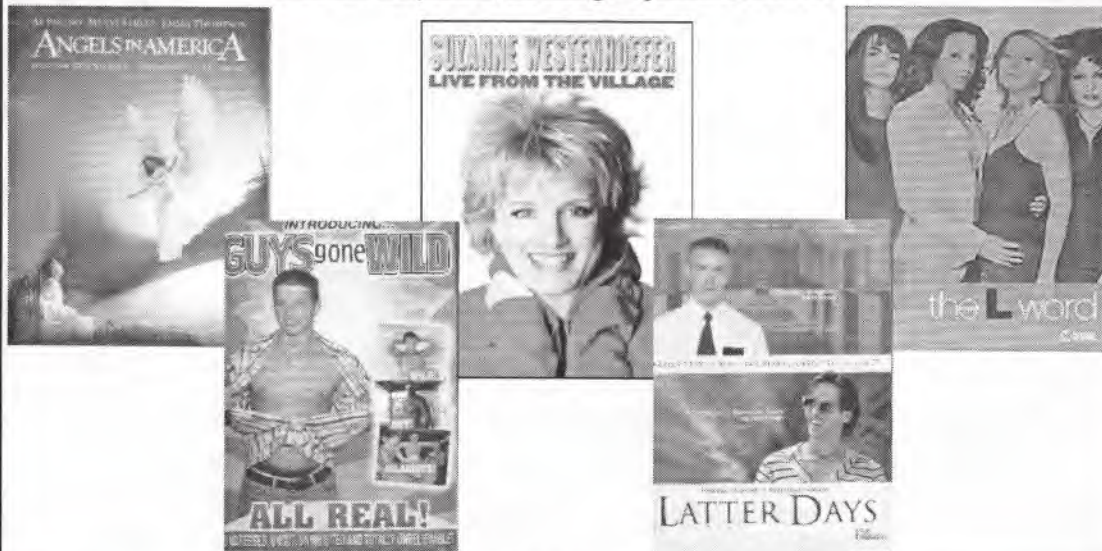
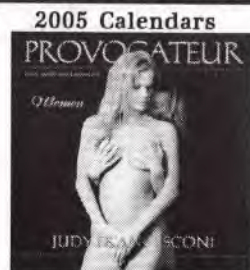


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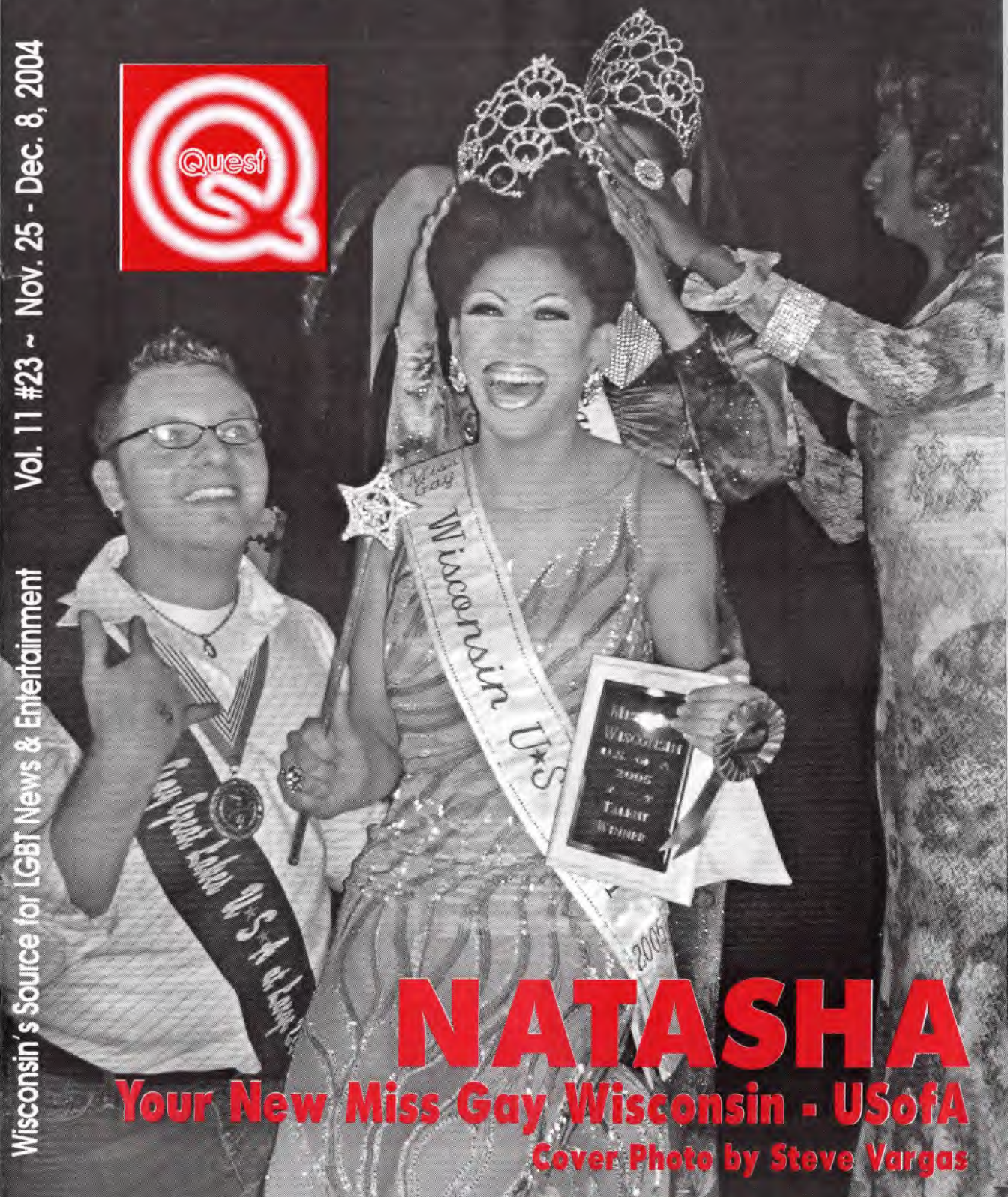
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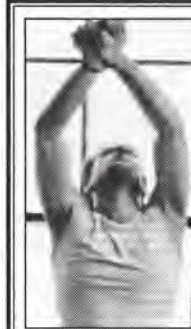
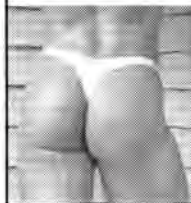
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Publisher's Note: Quest Top Story Bushwhacked By Computer Glitch

Many in the LGBT community were upset by the results of the recent election. None more so than the production staff at *Quest*, especially when it was discovered that a software crash had eliminated last issue's Top Story: "Gay Community Bushwhacked On Election Day," an extensive report on the national, regional and statewide election results. Unfortunately, the error was not discovered until after the paper went to press. We have posted the story in full online on the front page at the *Quest* website: www.quest-online.com. It may not be as timely two weeks later, but its thorough review of the election from a gay Wisconsin point of view.

Pentagon Cuts Off Boy Scouts From Bases

Chicago - The Pentagon has agreed to warn military bases worldwide not to directly sponsor Boy Scout troops, partially resolving claims that the government has engaged in religious discrimination by supporting a group that requires members to believe in God. The settlement announced November 15 is part of a series of legal challenges in recent years over how closely the government should be aligned with the Boy Scouts of America, a venerable organization that boasts a membership of more than 3.2 million members.

Civil liberties advocates have set their sights on the organization's policies because the group bans openly gay scout leaders and compels members to swear an oath of duty to God. The ACLU believes that direct government sponsorship of such a program amounts to discrimination.

"If our Constitution's promise of religious liberty is to be a reality, the government

should not be administering religious oaths or discriminating based on religious beliefs," ACLU attorney Adam Schwartz said.

The Pentagon said it has long had a rule against sponsorship of non-federal organizations and denied the rule had been violated. But it agreed to send a message to posts worldwide warning them not to sponsor Boy Scout troops or other such groups. The rule does not prevent service members from leading Scout troops unofficially on their own time, and Scouts will still be able to hold meetings on areas of military bases where civilian organizations are allowed to hold events.

The settlement does not resolve other ACLU claims involving government spending that benefits the Boy Scouts, such as money used to prepare a Virginia military

Department spokesman Charles Miller said the message that will be sent to bases represents "a clarification of an existing rule that DOD personnel cannot be involved in an official capacity."

The original ACLU lawsuit named as defendants the Department of Defense, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Chicago Board of Education. The schools settled, agreeing not to engage in official sponsorship of scouting activities.

Anti-Gay Marriage Wisconsin Coalition Debuts Traditional Marriage Group's Poll Directly Contradicts Others Recently Conducted Statewide

Madison - Claiming its mission is to give people the chance to vote on same-sex marriage next April, a new anti-gay group calling itself the Wisconsin Coalition for Traditional Marriage surfaced November 18 in a press conference here.

"We are from different parts of the state, we have different philosophical points of view, and this is one issue that unites us all," Pastor James Carrington said. The newly-formed group also claims its priority is protecting children.

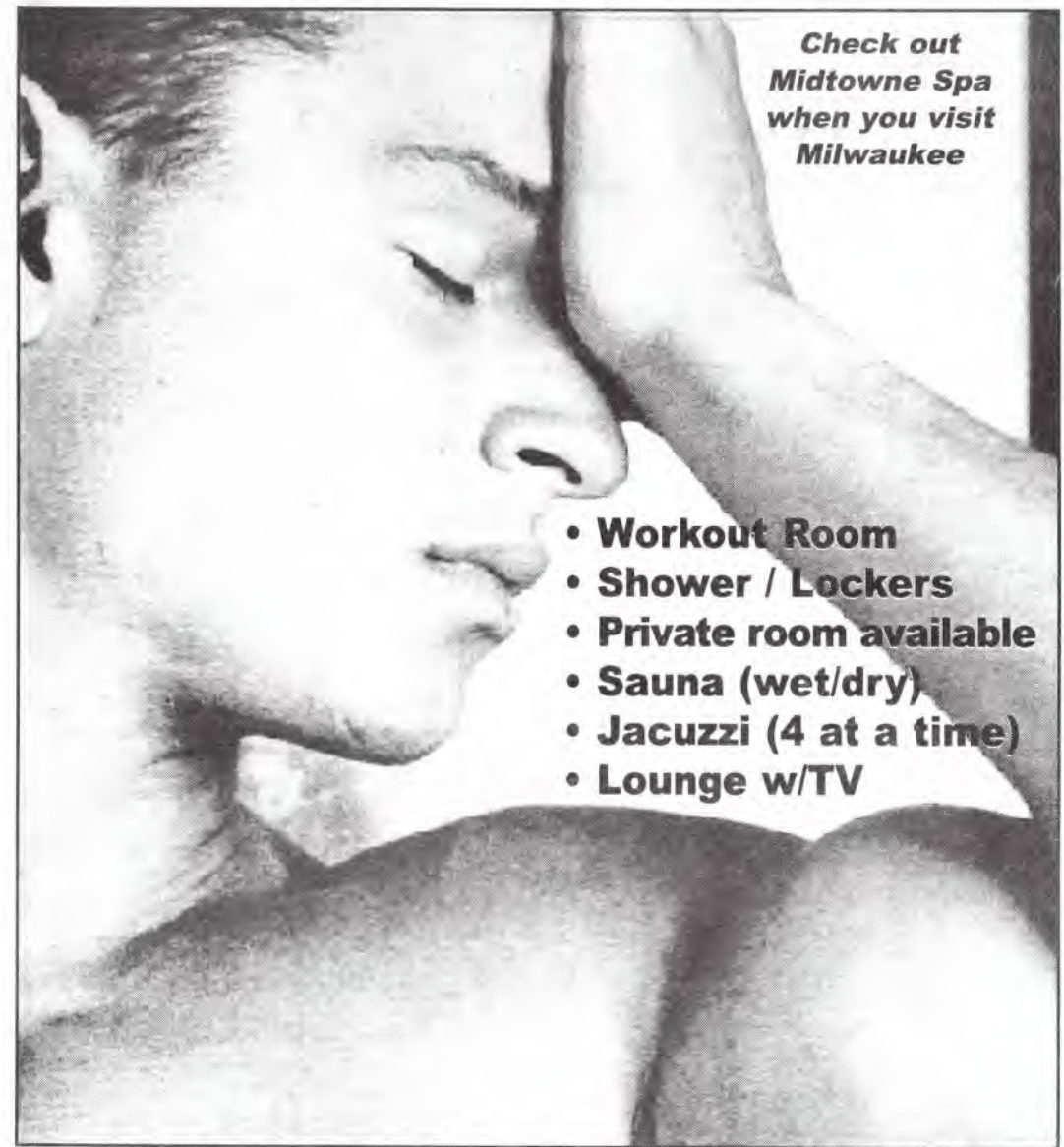
At the news conference the coalition released a poll that said 62% of likely voters support the constitutional amendment as it's currently written. The poll reportedly was conducted by speaking with about 500 likely Wisconsin voters November 8 and 9. The poll was conducted by the Tarrance Group, a Virginia firm best known for working for religious right clients. Respondents were read the text of the amendment being considered in Wisconsin.

The polling is at direct odds with polling conducted last Fall by the Human Rights Campaign and released to *Quest* in early



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Milwaukee guy looking for men and women who are involved with **Excel Corp.** or **Pre-Paid Legal**. If you have the membership or are doing the business or both, please give me a call. (414) 319-5810. Thanks. [2]

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

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November. HRC polling showed 61% of Wisconsinites favored either civil marriage or civil unions for same-sex couples.

Action Wisconsin was quick to respond to the new coalition's assertions. AW's Joshua Freker said the poll released from the Coalition for Traditional Marriage distorts the proposed state constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage.

"The Coalition backs a state constitutional amendment that would not just 'define marriage' but would also deny gay couples legal rights and responsibilities that are 'substantially similar' to marriage-meaning no civil unions or domestic partnership," Freker said. "Most polls show majority support for giving gay couples the rights of marriage under civil unions, and our opponents know that. That's why they are concealing the true scope of the amendment."

"Furthermore, there is no empirical evidence supporting the claim that committed lesbian and gay couples are a threat to marriage," Freker continued. "In fact, every peer-reviewed social science study that has compared non-gay families and gay families has found that children with gay parents are just as healthy and happy as those raised by non-gay parents. It's wrong to portray loving, committed gay couples as bogeymen that will harm other people's marriages."

"Today, lesbian and gay couples and their families are denied basic legal protections, including medical decision-making rights, hospital visitation rights, and the right to share health and pension benefits with a partner. Instead of addressing this problem, the amendment goes in exactly the opposite direction and aims to write inequality into our constitution," Freker concluded.

Freker also offered several independent scientific studies that

directly counter the anti-gay marriage coalition's claims, noting all were available at the LGBT civil rights advocacy group's website at: www.actionwisconsin.org.

THREE MORE WISCONSIN LGBT NEWS VENUES TO DEBUT.

Website & Two Newspapers On Tap For Mid-December Milwaukee

A year after the sudden demise of *Wisconsin IN Step*, the state's LGBT community will see three news ventures debut in the next three weeks. An Internet website and two Milwaukee-based newspapers all plan to provide the state's gay community with coverage.

The website, Wisconsin Gay News, is already running in a beta version on the former *IN Step* site at www.instepnews.com, and is run by ex-publisher William Attewell. The site primarily features a series of links to state and national stories of gay interest, gay writers such as Michelangelo Signorile and Andrew Sullivan, and currently a small amount of original reportage. Some in the community have characterized the site as "the gay Wisconsin version of the Drudge Report."

Attewell told *Quest* that he decided to develop the site after looking at his old site's counter statistics. "The old *IN Step* site was getting up to ten thousand hits a month," Attewell said. "People out there obviously were looking for information they couldn't easily get elsewhere."

Attewell does not plan to resume a newsprint version of his website however. "My forte is web design," he told *Quest*. "I just have to find a way to make money from the site."

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Newsprint may not be in short supply, if the two recently-announced new Milwaukee-based gay papers succeed in finding the audience, and more importantly the funding to serve same. Both gay monthly newspapers *Outbound News* and *Q Life* are set to debut on December 15.

Q Life is being published by former Milwaukee Public Schools spokesman and gay cable personality Don Hoffman. *Quest* has learned the paper's debut issue will feature a summary of the Wisconsin Marriage Amendment issue to date, including interviews with Action Wisconsin's Chris Ott and Center Advocates' Patrick Flaherty. Flaherty, along with veteran HIV/AIDS researcher Dr. Gary Hollander, are reported as two of several Milwaukee area activists tapped to pen opinion columns for the paper.

Q Life will be distributed in the Milwaukee area only. *Quest* has also learned that Attewell has landed a lucrative short-term consultancy to assist the paper's start-up.

Outbound News also will reportedly debut statewide the same day. The paper is an off-shoot of *Outbound*, one of the state's gay "lifestyle" glossies, which recently ceased distribution to most non-Milwaukee gay venues allegedly due to lack of outstate advertiser support. *Outbound* publisher James Kuchta will edit the newspaper, that will feature a detailed report on November 11's lightly-attended PrideFest town hall meeting as its lead story.

Both papers are set to be printed by New Berlin-based Lake Country Printing, the division of the Journal Community Publishing Group that at one time provided printing and distribution services for *Wisconsin IN Step* and the Greg Quindel-published version of *The Wisconsin Light*.

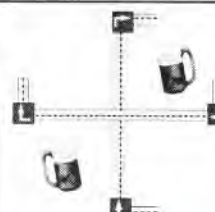
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California: Showtime Tackles "Same Sex America" In First of Three Social Justice Documentaries

Some of the most controversial civil rights clashes and social justice issues of our time are broached in a trio of new Showtime documentaries airing under the *SHO Exposure* banner. The films explore our basic freedoms and how we fight back when our rights are threatened or denied.

In the first of these films, Showtime takes a hard look at the conflict over same-sex marriage and the backlash from the White House in *Same Sex America*. When the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriages earlier this year, it created a wave of unsanctioned marriages across the country. A powerful backlash from conservatives followed, reaching all the way to the White House. President George Bush proposed a constitutional ban on same-sex marriages that catapulted the issue to the forefront of the 2004 Presidential race.

For many couples, the road to marriage can be a difficult one - riddled with doubt and anxiety - for same-sex couples that is compounded by external pressure and often condemnation. *Same Sex America* follows several gay and lesbian couples, who have a personal stake in this civil rights clash, as they face their own issues as well as society's prejudices.

The film also examines both sides of the political debate and a family's right to define itself without interference from the state. Featured are religious leaders who feel the marriages are a violation of God's word, politicians who are conflicted between civil rights and their own beliefs, and a chorus of everyday people whose feelings on the issue have become a do-or-die situation. The film is directed by Henry Corra (*Umbrellas, George*) of Corra Films, Inc. and produced by Alex R. Johnson.

The two other *SHO Exposure* documentaries depict the difficulties faced by five exonerated men attempting to rebuild their lives after years of unjust, brutal prison life with *After Innocence*, and teens at Rikers prison struggling against poverty and violence in *Rikers High*. The films are slated to air in 2005. Showtime Networks Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Viacom Inc.

Maryland: Veteran Researcher Claims "No Cure For AIDS"

In a wide-ranging interview with the *Baltimore Sun* November 12, the scientist credited as the co-discoverer of HIV claimed there is no cure for the disease anywhere on the horizon. "That gets into the extraordinary molecular biology (of HIV infection). You've got to sense out every cell that harbors silent genes of the virus. There are many cells, though their percentages are small, that harbor these genes in a silent form. Having drugs that can find the genes and kill these cells is out of our reach in the foreseeable future," Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda told *Sun* reporter Jonathan Bor.

Gallo admitted that he did not expect the problem of HIV to remain unsolved two decades after its discovery. "I thought I'd be back full time with cancer research, Gallo said. "But also, I certainly thought

that this was a virus that wouldn't go away. To make an analogy, what's worse - the plague or this? It depends on how you look at the world. The plague really rushes through like a tornado, killing things in its path, but then rather quickly disappears. But we knew the nature of retroviruses (the class of viruses that includes HIV and hepatitis B and C) - they don't go away."

"So I knew that if we didn't do anything about it that this wasn't going to go away," Gallo continued. "But I expected that medical science would solve it with a preventive vaccine by now. I didn't expect any cure therapeutically. Remember, (at first) we didn't have any chemical therapy against any other viruses except very toxic drugs that weren't very effective."

Despite his grim assessment of future cures, Gallo remained confident about further breakthroughs in AIDS research. Gallo is particularly excited about a new class of experimental drugs, called entry inhibitors, that block the virus from getting inside cells of the immune system. "They are a wonderful new class," Gallo said. "Remember, we have increasing resistance to the currently used drugs. Until 'pharma' comes up with more and more drugs, resistance is going to be a problem."

Massachusetts: IGLSS Report Tackles Impact of Anti-Gay Campaigns

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and their heterosexual allies can take concrete steps to resist feelings of isolation, stress, and sadness in the face of anti-gay campaigns, according to a new publication by the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS). Communities in eleven states enacted divisive anti-gay referenda in this month's election. In the course of these campaigns to limit the rights of gay people, well-publicized stereotypes and hostility became dominant themes that challenged the psychological well-being of LGBT people.

"I've heard many stories about fear, sadness, and a sense of loss from people all over the country," noted Dr. Glenda Russell, author of the report. "Putting the civil rights of one group to a vote takes an enormous psychological toll on members of that group, as well as on communities and on families."

After Michigan voters amended the state constitution to ban same-sex marriages, Greg Varnum saw this impact first-hand at Eastern Michigan University. He described the aftermath of the vote: "In my role as student coordinator of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Resource Center, I have seen people dealing with surprise, anger, and sadness, with a sense of powerlessness and a desire to want to know what to do next."

The report - *Surviving and Thriving in the Midst of Anti-Gay Politics* - presents three primary strategies: analysis, action, and allies. LGBT people should analyze the homophobia present in the campaign, take action to resist anti-gay efforts, and draw on the support of heterosexual allies. Russell noted that heterosexual allies play a particularly important role in reducing feelings of isolation in addition to the value of their political support.

"The research on how people get through the tough political times



More Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA Photos...
these pics courtesy of Kylie West (Drag Depot)



New on Stage

by Glenn Bishop

"Tale of the Allergist's Wife"

by Charles Busch

There is perhaps no greater proponent of playwright Charles Busch than RSVP Production's Raymond Bradford. In the past few years he's offered Milwaukee audiences Busch's classic "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom" and then presented "Times Square Angel" last Christmas as alternative holiday entertainment. The Milwaukee premiere of "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife," a Tony Award nominee back in 2001, is RSVP's latest foray.

The time is the present, the place a comfortable New York City condo which is home to Ira (Jack Haar), a prominent Manhattan allergist and his wife Marjorie (Colleen Hart). As this "Tale" opens, Marjorie is in the midst of a personal breakdown. While her husband has selflessly given himself to the sniffing homeless and the throngs of students who, we are told, idolize him, poor Marjorie is facing a rather brutal mid-life crisis. With her children having flown the coop, this empty-nester has turned to her therapist for support. Heaven forbid what will happen to poor Marjorie is anything should happen to her

emotional crutch.

Well, after the therapist's funeral, Marjorie goes loony-tunes at, aptly enough, a Disney store. Like sands in an hour glass, expensive porcelain figures of beloved Disney characters slip through her fingers in double-quick fashion before anyone can stop her.

Clearly this is a final, desperate cry for help. Could the answer to Marjorie's woes be the unexpected appearance of Lee Green (Kathryn Ambler), a former childhood friend whose life seems filled to the brim with just the sort of exotic life experiences Marjorie longs for?

Although Ira and Marjorie's domineering mother Frieda (Cynthia L. Paplaczyk) initially doubt Lee's very existence, both soon become as spellbound with Lee as is Marjorie.

Is the mysterious Lee the savior this little dysfunctional family so badly needs? All too soon Lee begins to wear out her adopted family's welcome; her motives become closely scrutinized. Is she a harmless name-dropped or a craftily disguised terrorist?

Busch writes that the role of Marjorie was written for actress Linda Lavin as something of a comic, female "Lear." In Colleen Hart's

capable hands, Marjorie is a genuinely appealing woman whose philosophical pretensions inadequately mask the emptiness of her existence. Jack Haar's Ira is sweetly insufferable man, hopelessly oblivious to his own culpability in his wife's despair. Cynthia L. Paplaczyk's Frieda is the sort of caricature of a shrewish harpy that even the most kindhearted offspring would gladly dump at the nearest nursing home without ever experiencing even a twinge of remorse.

FULL-PRICE, HALF-PRICE OR WORTH A SKIP...

After such light-hearted romps like "Psycho Beach Party" and "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom," "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" would appear to usher in a new, more mature chapter in Busch's playwrighting career. Chock full of obscure literary references, "Tale" is always entertaining, surprisingly timely in its phobia of terrorism and yet in the end, curiously unsatisfying.

JUST THE FACTS...

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shows that these strategies work," according to author Glenda Russell, a psychologist and IGLSS senior research associate. "Although you can't shut out the negative messages about gay people that blanket a community during a campaign, we can respond to them in constructive ways."

The new report outlines strategies for individuals and for organizations. Community organizations of all kinds can provide important outlets for individuals to work through their feelings productively. Dr. Russell also leads workshops on strategies for surviving anti-gay politics. She recently led participants at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change conference in a discussion of these strategies.

"The federal marriage debate is likely to pick up again," predicted Lee Badgett, IGLSS research director. "This new report should be essential reading for activists everywhere."

The Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies is a nonprofit, independent think tank based in Amherst, Massachusetts. IGLSS provides policy-oriented research on issues of importance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. All IGLSS publications are available at www.igls.org.

Virginia: Study Says Teens Adjust Well With Gay Parents

Teenagers raised by two moms develop as well as teens raised by opposite-sex parents, according to a groundbreaking new study published in the journal *Child Development*. Researchers drew from a large U.S. sample of 12 to 18-year-olds, looking at measures of psychosocial well-being, romantic relationships and behavior in school. There were no significant differences between the two groups of teens in terms of depression, anxiety, sexual activity, self-esteem and school grades.

"This is the first study that has looked at adolescents with same-sex parents in a national sample, and it shows clearly across a wide range of variables that they're doing pretty well," said Charlotte J. Patterson, a psychology professor at the University of Virginia and co-author of the study.

The research was based on adolescents from 88 families, half of which were headed by lesbian couples. Russell told the professional journal *New Scientist* that the research shows that what is most important in a teen's

development is the quality of relationship with his or her parents, regardless of their gender. The authors said the results "provide no justification for limitations on child custody or visitation by lesbian mothers" and "do not support the idea that lesbian and gay adults are less likely than others to provide good adoptive or foster homes."

Washington, DC - HRC Marks Transgender Day of Remembrance

Human Rights Campaign President Cheryl Jacques was one of many LGBT activists nationally to mark the sixth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20.

"Too many families and friends have mourned a loved one's brutal and senseless murder this past year. As we reflect on the lost lives of transgender brothers and sisters, we must remain resolute and steadfast in our fight to ensure this violence ends," Jacques said in a prepared statement. "The murders of Brandon Teena and Bella Martinez left deep scars not only on their loved ones but on

everyone who saw in them something of themselves. Living with the fear of attack takes the deepest toll one can imagine.

"It's appalling that anybody can feel motivated to harm someone just because of who they are," Jacques added. Until those that wrong is righted, America's promises will remain unfulfilled. As GLBT Americans and our allies across the nation mark the sixth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, we must commit to do everything within our power to continue educating America about gender identity and expression. We must act as one community in fighting the scourge of hate crimes and reaching out to engage more allies in the fight against them. Our work will not be done and our efforts will not cease until transgender Americans are free from the fear of discrimination and hate violence."

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender political organization with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that LGBT Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

CD Reviews

With all the space in Quest devoted to the election in recent issues, we got a wee bit behind with music CD reviews, so now it is catch-up time.

First off I want to give a mention to a worthwhile project for LIFEbeat called Keep Hope Alive. This CD is chock full of gorgeous deep house featuring a roster of all-stars. The album benefits LIFEbeat. All tracks are produced by Blaze and feature Ultra Nate, Joi Cardwell, Barbara Tucker, Byron Stingily, Kenny Bobien, and Arnold Jarvis. Unless you have been living under a rock most of these names should be familiar to anyone who loves dance music.

All involved donated their time, fees, even songwriting/publishing royalties to this project so that as much money as possible could go to LIFEbeat. That said, this is also a great listen, so give it a try, you'll be impressed.

The album has been on the street for over a month now, but little or no press in the mainstream gay media. We hope you will support this heartfelt CD. Its as much about the music and its message as it is about raising money so LIFEbeat can carry on with AIDS prevention via education.

"Welcome to a fantastic world where pink is the new black. This is Made 4 U and I'm your DJ Jackie Christie. Enjoy your trip!"

And boy did I. This mixed compilation came out end of October, but this one is different for several reasons. First it features a female. Second, unlike so many other compilations of mixed music, this one didn't bore me to tears. DJ Jackie Christie hails from New York and specifically hot mega-clubs including Roxy, Limelight, Tunnel, Shelter, Life and Studio 54. She is also famous for remixing Madonna and Yoko Ono or for spinning fashionista parties for Donatella Versace and Marc Bouwer.

The music is burning hot and will keep your feet happy from start to finish. This is definitely an album for gays into house, but is very accessible to even the die-hard disco dolly (such as myself). Lady Bunny, the legend of a Drag Queen (Wigstock) is featured vocalist on cut 10 "It's Tonight" I saw her live in Madison years ago at Manouvers (Pre Club 5) and I never knew she could sing!

The blends between songs are minimal but the mood never

breaks. This is a medium/high energy party record that will get played over and over at your upcoming chistmas house parties. 2Radikal Records RAD 90079-2 www.djjackiechristie.com

Mellow and more soulful is Exodus by Utada on the Island/Def Jam label. There is at least one established club hit on this CD, but the mellow soul will soothe you from start to finish. You may be surprised to see from the lush photos of the artist on the jacket booklet that Utada is asian. As I was listening, I kept thinking Mowtown, hmmm. Utada has three multimillion selling albums in Japan since 1999 and she is only 21! Island (Def Jam) Records www.islandrecords.com or www.utada.com

Next I want to mention two CD's that will bring back memories. First is "Let The Music Play" The Best Of Shannon. Shannon was famous for that song and "Give Me Tonight" among others in the 1980's. I got an advanced release from Shoutfactory.com and it should be available now.

The second item is Swing Out Sister with a new CD called "Where our Love Grows" It is their first effort in 7 years. Their signature Pop-jazz style has been preserved, but it is questionable if there is a hit here. Still if you love Swing Out Sister as I do, it won't matter, you will

want this one too! The CD opens well with "Love Wont Let You Down" and in my view is probably the best one here, but I also loved "Let the Stars Shine" Shanachie Records www.Shanachie.com

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"This prelim must have been first rate because Lou Haskell said it was one of the best prelims he has ever attended. High praise in deed from Lou!" Jerry Bird

Quote pulled from the Miss Gay USofA Website from Pageant owner Jerry Bird and talking about Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA 2005 held last weekend at Za's Historic West Theatre.

"It is quite apparent that Miss Wisconsin USofA is a real team effort, and it was truly a pleasure to come back all these years later and see what has transpired. It was really wonderful to witness and I enjoyed the contest immensely!!! Thanks for everything Warmest Regards, Lou"

Everyone has worked so hard on the Miss Wisconsin USofA Pageant, I just couldn't resist sharing these comments from Jerry Bird, the owner of Miss Gay USofA and Lou Haskell, President of the same company.



pics by Kylie West (Drag Depot)

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Madison: Action Wisconsin Rips New Anti-Gay Comments by Speaker Gard -

Action Wisconsin criticized Assembly Speaker John Gard's (R-Peshigo) November 6 comments that fair compensation for lesbian and gay state workers would be a "free benefit." Gard made his comment in response to a decision by University of Wisconsin Regents to include domestic partner health insurance coverage in their new budget. Student groups like United Council have made statements in support of partner benefits.

Surveys of employers with equal benefits show that the cost increase is negligible. Human resource directors at the nine Big Ten schools currently offering equal benefits have found that less than one percent of employees enroll in the plans. In most cases, enrollment is less than a half percent.

"Lesbian and gay staff and faculty have been denied approximately \$5,000 a year that their married counterparts receive in the form of family health insurance," said Janice Czynscon, a member of the academic staff at UW-Madison who has been advocating for equal benefits for over 10 years. "It's not a free benefit; it's one we earn."

Currently, an employee who got married last week can get health coverage for his wife, but a lesbian employee who has been with her partner for decades cannot.

"The State of Wisconsin is behind the curve on this issue, but John Gard wants to hold us back with his preference for ideology over reason," Action Wisconsin executive director Christopher Ott said. "Gard and his allies will do everything in their power to block the extension of even this one single right for gay couples, which is already offered by many other private and public employers."

Ott pointed out that the University of Wisconsin will soon be the only Big 10 school not to offer domestic partner benefits. In early November, Penn State University—the only other holdout—announced that they will soon extend equal benefits. In October Kimberly-Clark in Neenah became the latest Wisconsin employer to extend equal benefits. Kimberly-Clark joins over 100 Wisconsin employers, including Miller Brewing, General Motors, Gannett Newspapers and Lands End in offering domestic partner benefits.

Nationally over 7500 employers, including 226 of the Fortune 500 companies offer same-sex domestic partner benefits.

Madison: Phelps Visit Prompts Fundraising Counter Protest

Madison activists organized an "Every Minute Counts" counter-protest to anti-gay protester Fred Phelps demonstration at the Madison East High School's performance of the *The Laramie Project* here November 20. Phelps' anti-gay bigotry is graphically portrayed in the "The Laramie Project," which also deals with the town's reaction after the murder of Matthew Shepard. The play ran November 18-20.

Every Minute Counts was a proactive counter protest first done in Ann Arbor, Michigan when Fred Phelps protested a local performance

of *The Laramie Project* there. The premise behind Every Minute Counts is that individuals in the community pledge a certain dollar amount for every minute that Phelps is protesting. Madison's Every Minute Counts event raised money for a scholarship for LGBT students in South Central Wisconsin funded by the Madison chapter of GLSEN.

Madison: Perfect Harmony Holiday Concert Set

Perfect Harmony will present its 7th annual holiday concert "Ceremony of Carols" on Sunday, December 5 at 7 PM at First Congregational Church here. This year the concert will feature Karen Beth Atz, harpist of the Madison Symphony Orchestra, who will accompany the chorus in Benjamin Britten's famous work "A Ceremony of Carols." The concert includes other works for chorus and harp including Jason Berkey's "Still, Still Night" and the Finnish carol "Vintern var hard". Also included in the evening's exciting line-up is Scott Henderson's "A Fight Before Christmas".

General admission for this concert will be \$10. Discounted tickets for seniors and students are \$8. Tickets are available from chorus members or at the door. For more information, please visit www.perfectharmonychorus.org or email the chorus at info@perfectharmonychorus.org.

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Milwaukee: PrideFest Seeks Input At Town Hall Meeting, Announces 2005 Dates

The PrideFest Task Force hosted a town hall meeting Thursday, November 11, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, to present audited results of the 2004 festival and seek input for the 2005 event.

The independent audit confirmed a \$209,000 turnaround from the 2003 festival, which had incurred a debt of nearly \$150,000. The dramatic results were attributed to strong financial support from community members, an aggressive expense-cutting effort by festival planners, and strong festival attendance. Copies of the audit are available by request.

The Task Force also announced an effort to seek community input about the festival through listening sessions and a survey, which can be accessed online at www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=30892657011. Festival planners need community feedback to shape the future structure of the festival, as well as entertainment and activity ideas for the 2005 festival. For more information about participating in a focus group or receiving a hard copy of the survey, contact Urban Strategies at 414-221-9500.

"While we had great success this year, the long term goal is to stabilize the festival by establishing an accountable, community-based organizational structure. We need community input to make sure PrideFest continues to have success for years to come," said Denise Wise, President of Cream City Foundation (CCF), the organization



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Community Calendar

Friday, Nov. 26

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

Saturday, Nov. 27

Office (Rockford, IL) CC Rae Show, 11 p.m. *Quest* says "Outstanding!...do not miss!"

SAGE/Milw. 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner, 5-7 pm, at the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. **TRANSPORTATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!** (414) 224-0517

Sunday, Nov. 28

Madison - LGBT Student Men's Support Group, 7 pm, at LGBT Campus Center. This group meets every Sun. at 7:00. (Next meeting Dec. 5) **The Transsexual Support Group** meets same place 4th Sun. of each mo. at 11 a.m. (next meeting Dec. 26)

The Student Coming Out Support Group meets every Sun., same place, at 5:30 pm

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**

Tuesday, Nov. 30

Madison - Student Girls Who Like Girls Support Group, 7 pm, at the LGBT Campus Center. (Group meets every Tues.; next meeting Dec. 7)

Wednesday, Dec. 1

Madison - Bi the Way Student Bisexual Support Group, 5 pm, at LGBT Campus Center. Group meets 1st & 3rd Wed. of each mo.; next meeting Dec. 15)

Thursday, Dec. 2

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

Madison - UW Transgender Support Group, 7 pm, at the LGBT Campus Center. This group meets the 1st & 3rd Thurs. of each month. (Next meeting Jan. 7)

Saturday, Dec. 4

Angels of Hope (Green Bay) It's an early movie & then to catch the Christmas lights at the GB Botanical Garden

Christians for Equality in Wisconsin - a Statewide Conference on Same Gender Marriage - Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church, 2366 N. 80th St., 9:30am-3pm, \$10. Check website: www.marriage-equality-wi.org

Sunday, Dec. 5

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee) Annual Holiday Charity Party; cocktails 5:00, dinner 6:00. Tickets info., etc. (414) 643-6900 or Bootcamopsaloon.com

Club Majestic (Madison) Mr. Wisconsin at Large Contest, starring Jesse, Mr. Gay WI at Large '04 + Mr. Gay USA at Large '04 Michael Rey

SAGE/Milw. - Celebrate St. Nick's Night at SAGE offices; serving cider & holiday cookies & popcorn + the holiday classic movie, *National Lampoon's Christmas*. Come at 2, movie at 3:00!

Tuesday, Dec. 7

Outwards (Milw.) Discussion group meets 7 pm to screen *Gay Issues in the Workplace*, Brian McNaught's video. Additionally, Michael Wiggins will present materials from the recent Creating Change conference held in St. Louis. Free! Everyone is welcome!

Thursday, Dec. 9

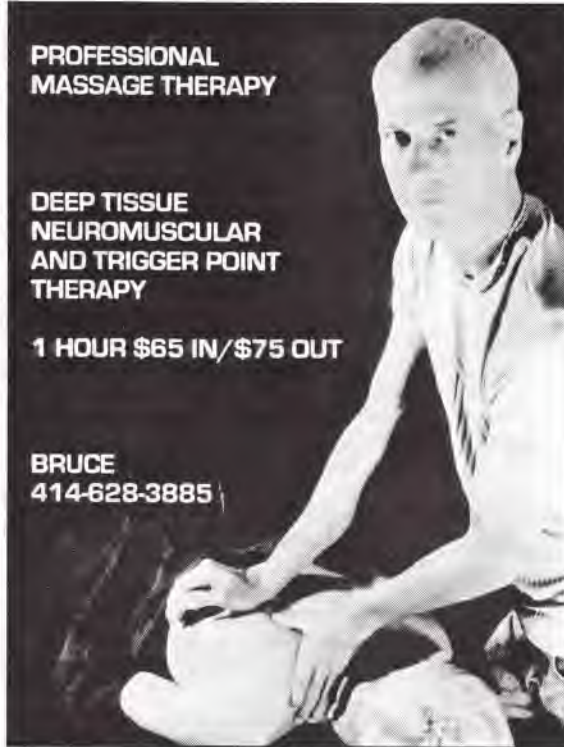
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Friday, Dec. 10

BESTD Clinic free anonymous HIV testing, 9-mid. at **Boom**

Sunday, Dec. 12

SAGE/Milw. Annual Holiday Luncheon, Astor Hotel, 11:30 am reception, lunch at 12:30. RSVP by Dec. 8 w/ entree selection & payment.

Monday, Dec. 13

Outwards (Milw.) Outwards Book Club meets 7:30 pm to discuss Augusten Burrough's New York Times bestselling *Magical Thinking*, his 3rd book of off-beat essays. Welcome!

Tuesday, Dec. 14

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

Wednesday, Dec. 15

BESTD Clinic free anonymous HIV testing, 10pm-1am at **Cage (Dry Night)** **Outwards (Milw.) Lesbian Reading Group** will discuss Marianne K. Martin's new romance *Under the Witness Tree*. New readers always welcome! 7 pm

Thursday, Dec. 16

Boulevard Theatre (Milw.) Shakespeare's Romantic Adventure *Twelfth Night* opens this evening and runs thru Jan. 8

Saturday, Dec. 18

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

Monday, Dec. 20

Madison - Cross Dresser Support Group, 7 pm, at LGBT Campus Center. Group meets 3rd Mon. of each mo.; next meeting Jan. 18)

Thursday, Dec. 23

SAGE/Milw. - Come to SAGE offices at 6:30 to enjoy *Christmas Eve*, a holiday movie starring Loretta Young.

that oversaw fiscal planning for the 2004 festival. "PrideFest still has a debt of approximately \$56,000, but that has been negotiated with favorable terms to allow us to plan for coming years," said Jennifer Gryniewicz, CCF Executive Director.

Among this year's production successes, the Task Force highlighted the festival's commitment to increasing accessibility, increasing partnerships with community groups and businesses, and retaining key sponsors. The festival was reduced to two days, but had attendance of 15,800, an increase of 200 over the three-day festival in 2003.

PrideFest 2005 will be held during the weekend of June 10-12. No decision has been as to whether the festival will be held over two days or three days. The PrideFest production team is seeking volunteers for several open positions, including several Director-level positions. For more information about volunteering, call PrideFest at 414-272-3378.

Milwaukee: LGBT Center Welcomes New Executive Director

The Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community Center welcomed James Pennington as its new Executive

Director November 15. Pennington has a diverse history of non-profit management and programming experience, including most recently tenure as Director of Services for The AIDS Network in Madison. Prior to that, Pennington served as Program Director for Pathfinders, a youth runaway program of The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, and as a Manager of Prevention Services at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

"We are pleased to bring Mr. Pennington onto our team," said Deb Lang, Co-President of the Board of Directors. "He brings a strong commitment to building healthy communities and has over 20 years of programming, management, and development experience. The Center has experienced amazing growth in its first six years, and we look forward to Mr. Pennington's leadership as we move into the next stage of development."

According to Lang, Pennington brings a strong record of serving diverse populations, strategic planning, non-profit management, grant-writing, staff development, and community collaboration building. In addition to his work in Wisconsin, he has worked in Haiti, Mexico, the Appalachian region of Tennessee, border communities of Texas, the Navajo Nation in Arizona, and Siberia, Russia. Throughout his work, he has sought to create positive environments for the growth and development of all persons.

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Milwaukee: Lindo Selected For Juana Vega Scholarship Award

The 2004 Juana Gloria Vega Scholarship Award Recipient is Jacqueline Griselle Lindo an Art Therapy Graduate Studies major at Mount Mary College here. Jacqueline is of Cuban, Jewish and Panamanian descent. She's an active volunteer at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and has worked on numerous other causes.

Lindo was honored at a dinner held Thursday, November 11 at the Gaucho Grill in the Esperanza Unida International Building. The Juana Gloria Vega Scholarship for Lesbian & Bisexual Latina Students was named after the visionary Mexican-American, openly lesbian and native of Milwaukee, who was brutally murdered on November 11, 2001 by her former girlfriend's brother. Although the hate crime penalty enhancer was not added to Pablo Parilla's sentence, in Judge Donald's closing remarks he stated, "I am appalled that this was not tried as a hate crime based on the evidence, the horrific nature and the sheer hatred Parilla had for this victim." Parilla is serving 65 years to life.

Green Bay: Holiday Bowling Tournament

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: Fifth Annual World AIDS Day Show Set

Entertainers Against AIDS will present its fifth annual World AIDS Day Celebration of Remembrance and Hope on Wednesday, December 1 and Thursday, December 2 at 7:30 PM at the Green Bay Community Theater, 122 N. Chestnut St.. The variety show will include performances by the *Broadwaymania* cabaret cast, the *Quilters* show cast, the acoustic duo *Past Due*, and the Ogunkoya Drummers. Also performing will be EAA show veterans the Legends, Glamarama, Sasha Giulaini, Clint Wiater, Seth Kutzleb, Randy Bouche, Nicholas James, Kitty Rosman, and Steven Lloyd.

Also scheduled to appear are appearances by Green Bay Mayor James Schmitt and Brown County Executive Carol Kelso. WFRV TV-5's Erin Davison and Chelly Boutott will join Entertainers Against AIDS emcee Duane Kuntz to celebrate the lives of those who have lost their battle with AIDS, and as we join others around the world who raise awareness on this very important annual occasion.

Seating is limited and tickets can be obtained by calling the GBCT ticket office at 920-435-6300. This year's show will cost \$2 for general admission and \$5 for preferred seating. For more information please contact Entertainers Against AIDS co-founder Paul Jacob at 920-437-7400.

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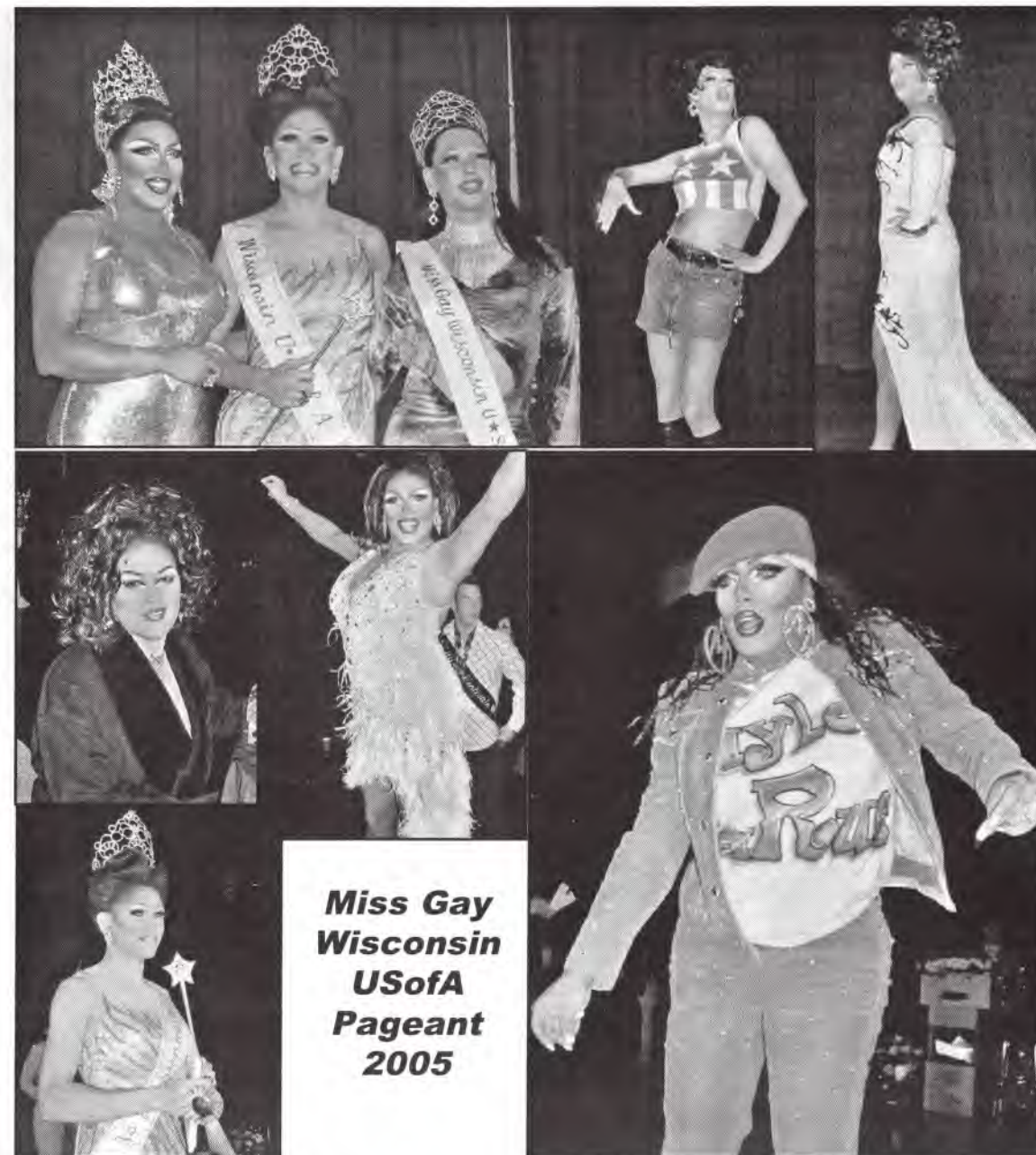
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**Miss Gay
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For most of the past 16 years, Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA Pageant has been held in the Green Bay/Fox Valley area. Natasha from Milwaukee won the coveted title this year which will hopefully dispel the myth that you had to live near Green Bay in order to be a winner. Quest would like to give special thanks to Pixi, Jerry and all the pageant promoters who have worked tirelessly this year to put on yet another outstanding pageant. Your hard work was recognized as this year we again had a record crowd in attendance on finals night. Natasha will now begin preparations to compete at the national level in Dallas Texas May 2005. Also competing in Dallas as our First Alternate is Deja Voo. Congratulations go out to both girls. More pictures later on in this magazine! Photos by Steve Vargas

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