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49 y.o. GWM, 5'10", hairy chest, goatee, salt & pepper hair, 180 lbs., looking to hook up w/ others in the **Eau Claire** area. Lay back & let me do the work, get a load off. No fats or fems. Open to about anything. hairyrider@peoplepc.com. hairy & hung a +! (715) 834-3638 [2]

Mature man seeking someone who needs a friend/companion. Must be discreet, honest, monogamous & in good health. Age no problem. Need a helping hand, I'm your man. Write Ken (#279), c/o Quest, PO Box 1961, Green Bay, WI 54305 [2]

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Your pic will get ours. [2] Mischievous fairy! Mature GWM N/S, N/D, NW Wisc. ISO elf to show up under by Christmas tree. With magic, we can share Christmas and love in fairyland. A little troll can go a long way (715) 653-2632 [3]

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Matthew Shepard's Killers Claim: "It Wasn't A Hate Crime" LGBT Community Doesn't Buy Drug Money Tale As Reason For Brutal Crucifixion-Style Beating

Cheyenne, WY - In their first public interview since attacking gay college student Matthew Shepard, his killers claim they were motivated not by homophobia,



Matthew Shepard

but the prospect of robbery to fuel a methamphetamine binge.

"He was pretty well-dressed, had a wallet full of money," Aaron McKinney said of meeting Shepard at a Laramie bar in October 1998. "All I wanted to do was beat him up and rob him. Seemed like a good idea at the time."

The interviews aired November 26 on ABC's 20/20. The robbery got out of hand, said McKinney and his buddy, Russell Henderson, and Shepard was beaten into a coma while tied to a fence outside the small college town. The 21-year-old died five days later. The crime drew condemnation from President Clinton, Congress and the international community, and spurred debate on the effectiveness of hate crime laws. McKinney and Henderson, both 27, are serving life sentences for murder.

McKinney claimed he killed Shepard because he was strung out on drugs, not because Shepard was gay. Henderson agreed, saying "it's not because me and Aaron had anything against gays or any of that."

Henderson said that McKinney, who now claim that they had been binging on meth for days, set out that night to rob a dealer of \$10,000 worth of the drug. Henderson thought if he could keep McKinney drinking, his friend would forget the plan.

McKinney said Shepard was sitting at the bar when he and Henderson arrived, and at one point McKinney asked Shepard for a cigarette. "He said he was too drunk to go home and then he asked me if I'd give him a ride," McKinney said.

In the truck, McKinney claimed, the two learned Shepard wanted sex in return for giving them drugs, but McKinney decided to rob Shepard instead. According to McKinney, Shepard grabbed his leg and he struck Shepard with his gun and demanded money. Although Shepard handed over his wallet, the beating continued. They decided to dump Shepard in a secluded spot, and when they came upon a rustic fence blocking the road, McKinney decided to tie him to it.

In response to the interviews, representatives of the National Coalition of Anti-

in fact offered a homosexual panic defense," said Jeff Montgomery, NCAVP's Board Co-Chair.

"That drugs may have played a role in a violent crime and in this murder is not



shepards-killers
Russell Henderson (L)
and Aaron McKinney

news," said Patton. He continued, "Everyone knows that drugs and alcohol often play a part in hate crimes and bias-related incidents, as they do with most forms of violent crime - from domestic violence to rape and sexual assault to murder. Drug and alcohol use by perpetrators can fuel the intensity of the violence in an any one incident, increase the willingness of perpetrators to act out hateful impulses, or be used as a intentional motivator to carry out a planned attack."

"However, such brutal and severe violence and leaving someone to die tied to a fence is not a marker of drug-fueled violence; it is a marker of hate violence," added Montgomery.

"Had 20/20 actually wanted to do a fair and balanced story on this or any other anti-gay hate murder, they would have reached out to experts on anti-gay hate violence - they didn't; had they wanted to examine the impact or prevalence of drug use in violent crime or hate crimes, they would have reached out to criminal justice officials or hate violence victim advocates with expertise in those areas - they didn't; and those are only two among many factors in determining that the real goal of this story wasn't to unearth new information or even report additional context, but to malign the victim, mortify his family and inflict pain on the larger LGBT community that came to identify with Matthew, his life, and the fear that we all live with as a community under attack," concluded Patton.

Matthew Shepard's family and friends also protested the 20/20 story. "I'm really

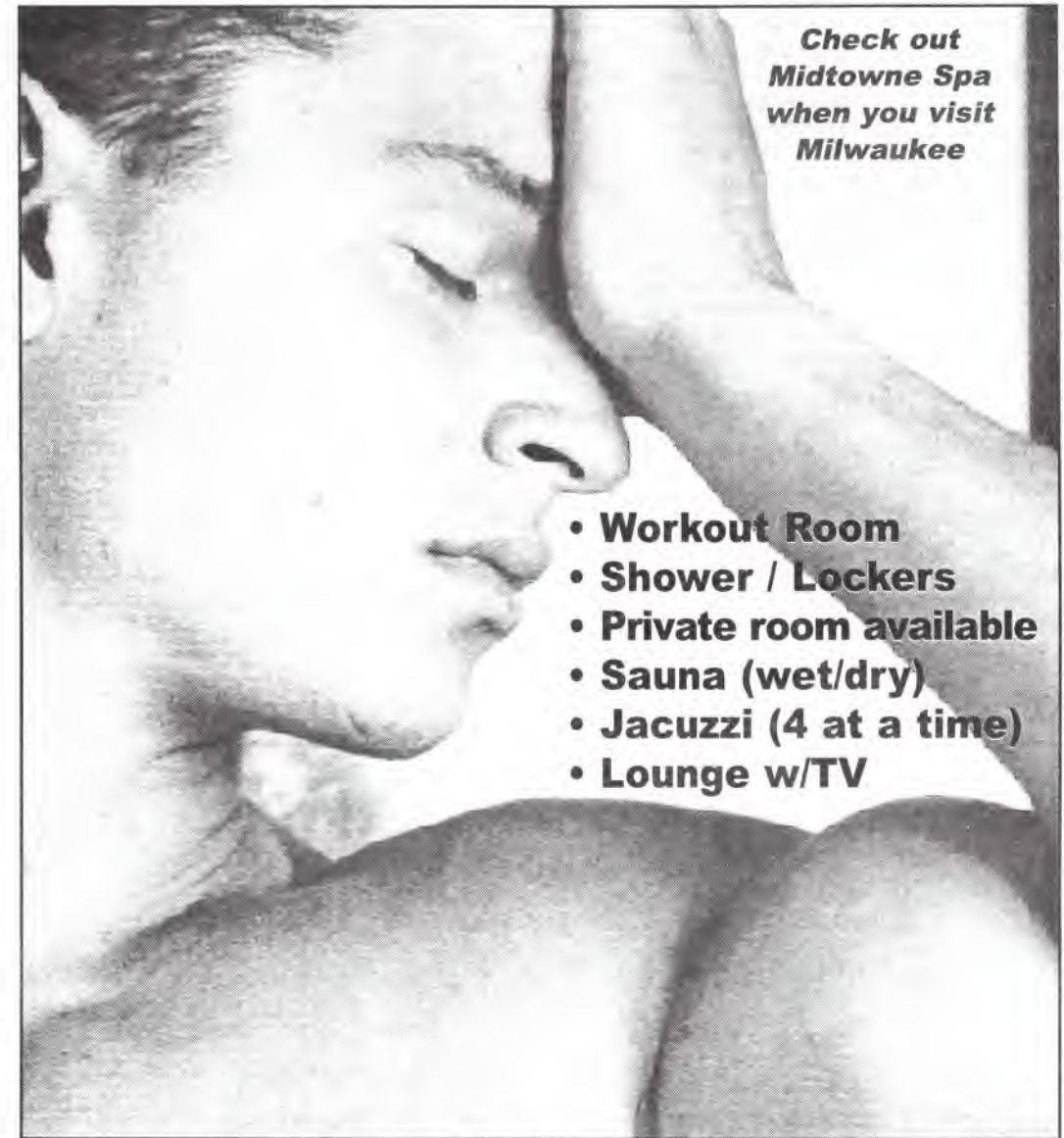


Violence Programs (NCAVP) called the segment irresponsible, biased, shameful, and destructive.

"The fact is that there is nothing significant in the 20/20 program that wasn't raised during the trial," said Clarence Patton, NCAVP's Acting Executive Director. "One has to question the motivation of the show's producers in not only attempting to engage in revisionist history, but in doing so at this point in time, as our nation's lesbian and gay community is fighting for its life to an extent not seen in years."

According to data gathered by NCAVP, anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender violence increased 26% nationally at the end of 2003, and has continued to rise throughout 2004.

"I was in Laramie after Matthew's murder, and at the trial his murderers acknowledged that they killed him because of his sexual orientation, and they



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sad and disappointed," said Romaine Patterson, a close friend of Shepard's, who staged an "angels" demonstration outside the Albany County Courthouse as a counterpoint to an anti-gay protest during a hearing for Shepard's killers. "I thought we wouldn't hear from Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson again."

Shepard's parents, Judy and Dennis, said they'd sought unsuccessfully to view a tape of the hourlong 20/20 episode, but were allowed only to read the news release, which they described as "sensationalistic in nature . . . its implications have caused many of us to be concerned." The couple are in Saudi Arabia, where Dennis Shepard works. Their message is on the Matthew Shepard Foundation website at: www.matthewshepard.org.

Methodist Church Defrocks Lesbian Minister Decision Reverses Recent Trend in Moderate, Mainstream Denomination

Pughtown, PA - The United Methodist Church has defrocked a lesbian minister who lives with her partner Thursday for violating the denomination's ban on actively gay clergy - the first such decision by the church in 17 years. A 13-member jury made up of Methodist clergy convicted the Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud on the second day of her church trial. Methodist law bars "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" from ministry. Nine votes were necessary for a conviction and the jury voted 12-1 to find Stroud guilty.

It then voted 7-6 to defrock Stroud, the bare majority necessary

in the penalty phase of the trial, though her supportive congregation in Philadelphia has said Stroud can continue performing most of her duties.



The Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud (L)
and partner Chris Paige

"I did not go into this trial expecting to win," Stroud said. "I went into it knowing it would be a painful moment in the life of the United Methodist Church." Stroud hasn't decide whether to appeal the verdict, which she can do at any point in the next 30 days.

The last time the 8.3 million-member denomination convicted an openly gay cleric was in 1987, when a New Hampshire

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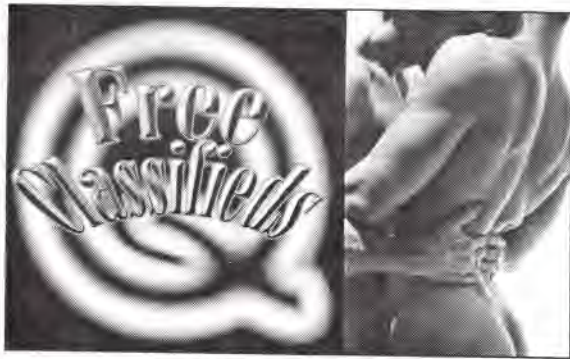
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church court defrocked the Rev. Rose Mary Denman. Last March, a Methodist court in Washington state acquitted the Rev. Karen Dammann, who lives with a same-sex partner, citing an ambiguity in church law that the Methodist supreme court has since eliminated.

The Methodists are just one of several mainline Protestant denominations in the United States - including the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches - which are undergoing turmoil over the role of gays and lesbians in the church, particularly gay clergy. The Stroud case will likely make the debate over the issue among Methodists that much more intense.

Stroud said she was saddened by the verdict, but also saw it as a teaching moment that showed how divided her denomination is over homosexuality. Stroud, 34, an associate pastor at Philadelphia's First United Methodist Church of Germantown, set the case in motion last year when she announced to her bishop and congregation that she was living in a committed relationship with her partner, Chris Paige.

At her trial, Stroud's defense was dealt a blow when the presiding judge Joseph Yeakel, the retired bishop of Washington, D.C., excluded expert testimony from six defense witnesses who believe the church's gay clergy ban violates its own legal principles. The senior pastor of Stroud's church, the Rev. Alfred Day III, attempted to raise a similar issue when he took the stand, saying "I believe that even the testimony of Scripture is far from clear on this subject. We have more muddle than clarity."

But the Rev. Thomas Hall of Exton, Pa., the prosecutor, asked Yeakel to strike Day's statement and the judge instructed the jury

that "constitutional issues are not before this court."

Stroud's defense counsel, the Rev. J. Dennis Williams, said in closing arguments that "the heart of the issue is whether all United Methodists, regardless of status, are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities. I only wish you could hear the full testimony we wished to present."

The basic facts in the case were never in dispute, since Stroud had declared she was gay. The only two defense witnesses to be called were Day and the senior pastor who supervised her in West Chester, Pa. Both lavishly praised her performance in preaching, teaching and pastoral work. Hall agreed with that assessment. Stroud's Philadelphia congregation has already agreed that she can continue doing her work as a lay employee without clergy status. However, she will be unable to celebrate baptism or Communion.

CDC: HIV Infection Rate Holds Steady 11% Rate Increase Among Gay, Bisexual Men Suggests Current Safe Sex Messages Not Working

Atlanta - Despite the government's promise to "break the back" of the AIDS epidemic by 2005, about 40,000 Americans test positive for the HIV infection every year - the same number as a decade ago. The figure is double the annual goal of 20,000 new HIV cases laid out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention nearly four years ago. Nearly a million people in the United States now have the AIDS virus.

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Community Calendar

Thursday, Dec. 9

BESTD Clinic free anonymous HIV testing, 10pm-1am, at **Fluid Cricket's Fox River Lounge (Green Bay)** Zoomie's annual **Holiday Show, 9 pm.** No cover

Friday, Dec. 10

Angels of Hope MCC - Touring of the Green Bay Botanical Gardens Christmas Light Show, 7 pm (meet inside the main building at the gardens)

BESTD Clinic free anonymous HIV testing, 9-mid at **Boom Cricket's Fox River Lounge (Green Bay)** Fear Factor w/ host **Barbarella, 9 pm.** No cover

Sunday, Dec. 12

SAGE/Milw. Annual Holiday Luncheon, Astor Hotel, 11:30 am reception, lunch at 12:30

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, following the wildly popular *Running With Scissors* and *Dry*. Welcome!

SAGE/Milw. - Politics as Unusual group discussion about how gay marriage rights may or may not affect the senior LGBT community. 5 pm at SAGE offices

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

SAGE/Milw. - Humana Medicare Advantage...Dwight Pillow from Humana Health Care will present info on this insurance program, 2 pm, at SAGE offices

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

Thursday, Dec. 16

SAGE/Milw. - Drop-in Center 1-5 pm today at SAGE offices: visit, play cards, board games, etc.

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

Friday, Dec. 17

Cricket's Fox River Lounge (Green Bay) The Glamarama Christmas Show, 9pm. No cover

Saturday, Dec. 18

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

Madison Gay Video Club: *Queer As Folk* (episode 412), *You'll Get Over It* & *Bad Boys Club*. 8 pm. Confidential location (608) 244-8675 (eves)

OZ (Wausau) Christmas Show (see ad in this issue of *Quest*)

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

Monday, Dec. 20

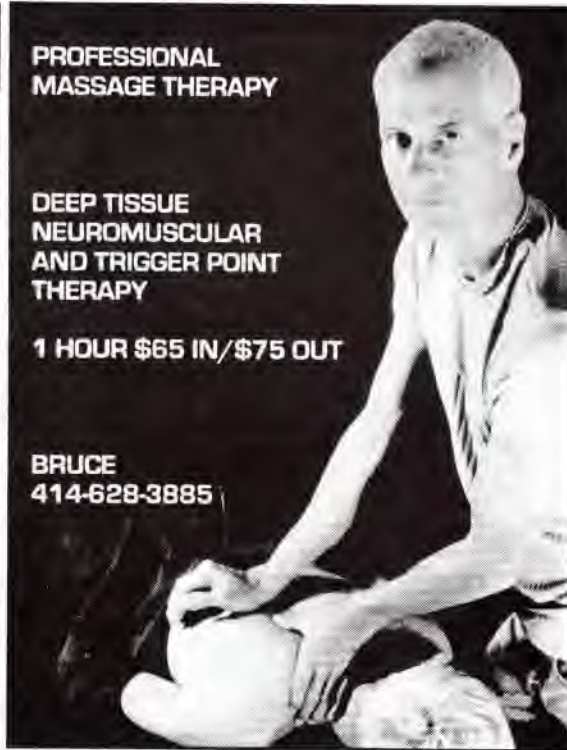
Madison - Cross Dresser Support Group, 7 pm, at LGBT Campus Center. Group meets 3rd Mon. of each mo.; next meeting Jan. 18)

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Wednesday, Dec. 22

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

Thursday, Dec. 23

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

Friday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Angels of Hope MCC - Christmas Eve service in Appleton at 6 p.m., in Green Bay at 9 p.m. Welcome!

Thursday, Dec. 30

SAGE/Milw. - End of the Year Get Together at SAGE offices: visit, play cards, board games, etc. 1-5 pm

Friday, Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

Tenth Annual Pink Party (Madison) at the newly completed Overture Center in downtown. Tickets (608) 255-8582

OZ (Wausau) New Year's Eve Party & Show

Wednesday, Jan. 5

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

Sunday, Jan. 9

SAGE/Milw. Sun. afternoon movie, "Holiday Heart". dooors open 1:30, movie at 2. Call 224-0517 to reserve your place.

Sunday, Jan. 30

SAGE/Milw. - Social Outreach Committee Meeting - potluck brunch, open to all members & friends. Bring a dish to pass, share your ideas about events you'd like to see SAGE present. At SAGE offices; call 224-0517 to advise you will be in attendance.

new infections by half in the United States," said Dr. Ronald Valdiserri, who heads the CDC's HIV and AIDS prevention program. Still, Valdiserri described the infection rate as "relatively stable." CDC released the new data December 1 as part of the agency's commemoration of World AIDS Day.

"Clearly we want to continue, and are continuing, to fund programs to reach out to people who are high-risk and are not infected," he added.

In 2001, the CDC's campaign focused on outwardly healthy people who did not realize they had HIV - about a fourth of those infected. Officials then said targeting them was key, because if they knew they were infected, they would be more likely to take steps not to spread the virus. Such an effort "could possibly break the back of the epidemic in the United States," the CDC's Dr. Robert Janssen said then.

But the agency found that just targeting people who didn't know they had the AIDS virus was not enough. So last year, the CDC shifted gears, focusing on counseling those who knew they had HIV in an attempt to get them not to spread the virus. Some advocacy groups say that effort fails to focus on drug users, or very sexually active young men.

"It just doesn't seem like much is really happening," said Terje Anderson, executive director of the Washington-based National Association of People Living With AIDS. "There just is a lack of imagination or spark in terms of the kinds of programs they support. I think they are politically afraid."

Valdiserri said the CDC is working on how to accurately determine how many people are infected each year but the system is still under development. Despite that, more attention needs to be paid to AIDS, Curran said. "What has concerned many of us in the United States is the lack of attention to the domestic AIDS problem and complacency on behalf of high-risk groups," Curran said, adding that more counseling, testing and education is needed.

The CDC believes up to 950,000 people in the United States

are infected and up to 280,000 of them don't know it, Valdiserri said. The rate of HIV diagnoses in the United States increased slightly - by 1% - between 2000 and 2003, from 19.5 people per 100,000 population to 19.7 per 100,000 in the 32 states surveyed by the CDC.

But the increase in diagnoses was substantially greater for gay and bisexual men - a 11 percent rise between 2000 and 2003. The increase in HIV diagnoses, along with recent outbreaks of syphilis among that group in major U.S. cities, has concerned health officials, who fear that gay and bisexual men may be growing weary of sexually transmitted disease prevention messages and are abandoning safe sex practices.

When the AIDS epidemic began to unfold in the 1980s, U.S. HIV infections grew quickly. Although infections peaked after 1984, they have remained level since the early 1990s. Drug therapies have enabled many infected with HIV to live relatively normal lives, but more than 18,000 Americans died of AIDS in 2003, according to the latest data available.

As part of its observance of World AIDS Day the Human Rights Campaign released its first-ever "report card" on the US response to HIV/AIDS. The HRC's first annual report card rates the U.S. government's response to the HIV/AIDS crisis in four key areas: research (a "C"); care and treatment ("D"); global AIDS ("C"); and prevention ("F").

"We need to aggressively pursue a coordinated and comprehensive approach to stop this pandemic," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "We must harness all possible resources to prevent new infections, provide meaningful access to quality care and treatment, boost research to find a cure, and address the global crisis. It is important to note that there are many leaders who have courageously and diligently championed HIV/AIDS issues. This report card does nothing to take away from the good work that they have done. Rather, this assessment shows that much critical work remains ahead for all of us."

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Governor Jennifer Granholm will remove same-sex partner benefits from contracts negotiated with state workers, said an aide, citing a voter-approved amendment to the Michigan Constitution that bans gay marriage "and similar unions." Michigan voters approved the anti-gay amendment November 2.

"We're about following the law and honoring the intent of the voters," Fink said. However, he also noted that the benefits could be restored before the contracts take effect in October 2005, if the courts have resolved the issue by then.

Republican legislators have been pressing the Democratic governor to strip the same-sex benefits from the contracts, which cover about 30,000 employees, or most of the state's union work force.

UAW lobbyist Alan Kilar said earlier this week that the union reached an agreement with the state in good faith and expected the state to stick with it. "They agreed to this," Kilar said. "It's a contract and an agreement is an agreement."

The Human Rights Campaign quickly denounced the decision to strip the domestic partner benefits. "The people of Michigan did not vote to take health care away from their neighbors," HRC National Field Director Seth Kilbourn said. "We're deeply disappointed about this decision. This is a dangerous move for thousands of families who are working just as hard as their co-workers but receiving no health insurance for their families. Michiganders support protections for their neighbors, including same-sex couples. We urge the governor's office to reconsider."

stone turned in their hunt for hidden "homosexual messages" in pop culture. Ever since Jerry Falwell outed the purple Teletubby, lesser Religious Right minions have been eager to uncover the next nefarious plot out of Hollywood to corrupt America's children.

Thankfully, the American Family Association is on the case. Recently the Tupelo-based group headed by the Rev. Donald Wildmon issued an alert warning parents about Dreamworks Studios' release "Shark Tale." Many view the animated film as just innocuous entertainment for children, an attempt to play off the success of "Finding Nemo," an undersea adventure that raked in big bucks for Hollywood.

But the AFA is sure "Shark Tale" is really homosexual propaganda designed to brainwash children into believing that it's OK to be gay. As evidence, the groups notes that the plot centers around Oscar, an outcast fish in the

urban metropolis of the reef, and Lenny, a shark who doesn't quite fit in with his family of mafia-style hoodlums.

"It is when *Shark Tale* turns its attention to Lenny that it veers toward an undercurrent of approval for homosexuality," warns Ed Vitagliano, news editor of the AFA Journal. "While it is difficult to prove intent when a film does not explicitly make a character 'gay,' the story and dialogue demonstrate an implicit approval of homosexuality."

Lenny's mannerisms and voice, it seems, tend towards the effeminate but "that's not the worst of it." Masculinity in this shark cul-

ture depends on meat-eating, and Vitagliano notes that Lenny is a vegetarian - an obvious allegorical stand-in for homosexuality. Make no mistake. This is not a joke or a parody. The AFA is serious. From

the perspective of the Religious Right, a movie about fitting in and finding your place in society, common enough themes in children's literature and movies, must be a gay plot.

The AFA's attack on "Shark Tale" follows a bulletin issued earlier this year by the Traditional Values Coalition, which saw a gay plot in "Shrek 2." The film, TVC soberly warned parents, was rife with cross-dressing. The group warned

of a "she-male" bartender voiced by talk show host Larry King, noted Pinocchio's habit of wearing women's underwear, and pointed out that the film contains a wolf dressed in grandma's clothing. The TVC was appalled that instead of condemning this deviant behavior, Shrek and his talking donkey sidekick casually associated with these seedy characters.

Oddly enough, the Religious Right has yet to expose the obvious homosexual indoctrination running rampant through one of the most currently popular children's films in the country: Pixar's "The Incredibles" features an entire family that wears spandex and masks. Dressed in these costumes, they run around town showing themselves off. Paging Jerry Falwell?

Liberties Union on Tuesday sued a southwest Missouri school district for prohibiting a high school student from wearing gay pride-themed T-shirts. The district has said the T-shirts were disruptive and therefore a violation of school dress code. The lawsuit filed in federal court also names Webb City High School Principal Stephen P. Gollhofer.

"Because I'm gay, my school is trying to take away my constitutional right as an American to express myself," WCHS student Brad Mathewson declared in a prepared statement. "The school lets other students wear anti-gay T-shirts, and I understand that they have a right to do that. I just want the same right."

The 16-year-old junior started attending the high school this year. On October 20, he came to class wearing a shirt from the Gay-Straight Alliance at his former high school in Fayetteville, AK. Mathewson was told either to turn the shirt inside out or to go home and change. Instead, Mathewson traded shirts with a friend, who wore the shirt without incident the rest of the day.



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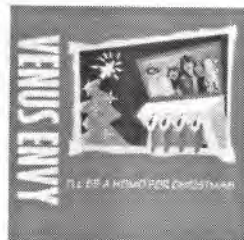
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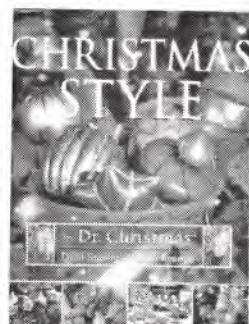
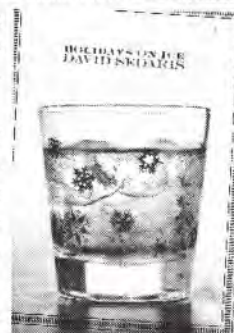


BOOKS: EVERYTHING CHRISTMAS BETWEEN TWO COVERS!

Is there a funnier, more enjoyable humorist than David Sedaris? Certainly not in Glenn's opinion! Featuring David's hilarious "Santaland Diaries," "Holidays on Ice" (\$14.95) is sure to bring a smile to even to those with a terrible case of the "Bah Humbugs." Wonderful to read, "Holidays on Ice" is

even better as an audio book with Sedaris fully bringing to life his wacky stories!

Lavishly illustrated — one might even say blindingly so — is "Christmas Style" by Dr.



Christmas™ (\$29.95). Ostensibly a manual for turning kitschy Christmas decorating into something fabulous,

"Christmas Style" is definitely geared for those in a higher income bracket than Glenn's. Still, the extraordinary "12 Dames of Christmas," featuring trees dedicated to Judy, Cher and Marilyn is more than worth the price of the book.

At the opposite end of the style spectrum is "Move Over, Santa — Ruby's Doin' Christmas!" (\$12.95) by Ruby Ann Boxcar. Celebrate the twelve days of Christmas — trailer park style — as this trailer park diva extraordinaire offers tips on decorating, entertaining, menu planning and much, much more! Who know Spam and Velveeta were such essential ingredients for a happy holiday season?

Just in time for Christmas and really quite perfect stocking stuffers are "Is Your Cat Gay" and its canine friend, "Is Your Dog Gay" (\$11.95). If your friends have ever wondered about their pets' sexual orientation, these charmingly illustrated little books will be a perfect gift this holiday season.

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*Thank you to all who made the Leather/Levi Night a success.
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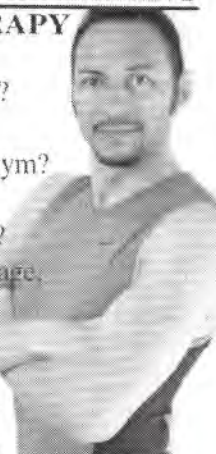
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On October 27, Mathewson wore a T-shirt bearing the phrase, "I'm gay and I'm proud." He left school after refusing Gollhofer's request to turn the shirt inside out, and was briefly suspended. He returned to school November 2 after promising not to wear gay-themed T-shirts until the issue could be resolved.

Ron Lankford, superintendent of the Webb City R-7 school district, said November 23 that while he had not seen a copy of the lawsuit, the district plans to contest it. "I suppose this is why you have a court proceeding," Lankford said. "One side of the story has already been told, and this will be an opportunity to present the side that hasn't been told." He declined to be more specific.

The ACLU is basing its case on a 1969 Supreme Court ruling that said schools cannot force students to give up their right to freedom of expression.

New York: GQ Poll Says 1 in 4 Single Men Have Had Gay Sex

In its December 2004 "Men of the Year" issue, *GQ* magazine has measured the "State of the American Man" in a comprehensive poll of men aged between 25 and 55 on sex, relationships, work, and other issues. Among its surprising findings on the topic of same-sex behavior, the poll showed that 2% of men acknowledge being gay, but 23% of single men say they've had a gay encounter, a total of one quarter of the bachelors interviewed in the poll. About one in eight of the entire one thousand men polled admitted to having had a gay encounter and one in 12 have also fantasized about a gay encounter - fully one fifth of all respondents.

22% also admitted that they would be flattered if they were hit on by a gay man. 27% admitted to have friends who are gay. The poll was conducted by the Benenson Strategy Group.

The *GQ* poll suggested similar amounts of same-sex behavior but less openly admitted same sex orientation than the classic finds by Alfred Kinsey, also again in the news with the recent release of the Oscar contender *Kinsey* from Fox Searchlight Pictures. The Kinsey report found that 37% of men experience at least one same-sex experience to orgasm. The 1946 report also found that 10% of males in the sample were predominantly homosexual between the ages of 16 and 55, 8% of males were exclusively homosexual for at least three years

between the ages of 16 and 55, and 4% of white males had been exclusively homosexual after the onset of adolescence up to the time of their interviews. A number of gay pundits have pointed out had the Benenson Group measured the sex lives of the magazine's readership the number likely would have exceeded even Kinsey's findings.

Other findings in the *GQ* poll showed that 72% of men say their sex lives are either meeting (54%) or exceeding (18%) expectations, while nearly one in four complained that they're not living up to their personal erotic expectations. One in five of those polled say they have turned down sex to watch sports on TV, while more than a quarter (26%) of those polled say they have gone a year or more without sex. Overall, 42% of men say they have sex two to three times a week; 28% say once a week, 15% say four or more times a week, while 10% say they have sex less than once a week.

Ohio: Major Networks Balk At Pro-Gay Church Ad

- CBS and NBC have refused to run television commercials for the United Church of Christ calling the ads "too controversial."

The 30 second commercials are aimed at attracting gays and others who feel alienated by other denominations.

The 30-second commercial features two muscle-bound "bouncers" standing guard outside a picturesque church and selecting which persons are permitted to attend Sunday services. Written text interrupts the scene, announcing, "Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we." A narrator then proclaims the United Church of Christ's commitment that: "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

UCC reported that on November 30, CBS, NBC told the Church that the ads, which say "like Jesus - the United Church of Christ (UCC) seeks to welcome all people, regardless of ability, age, race, economic circumstance or sexual orientation," imply the acceptance of gay and lesbian couples and therefore violate network standards.

"Because this commercial touches on the exclusion of gay couples and other minority groups by other individuals and organizations," reads an explanation from CBS, "and the fact the Executive Branch has recently proposed a Constitutional Amendment to define marriage as a union

LAST-MINUTE GIFT IDEAS

by Glenn Bishop

Thanksgiving is past and there's snow in the forecast. It must be getting to be that special time of the year. Popular holiday carols suggest that we've entered a time of good cheer, where Judy warbles to "Have yourself and Merry Little Christmas," Nat King Cole regales us with images of "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire" and of course Bing exalts upon the joys of a "White Christmas."

While we all may dream of a Christmas, "just like the ones we used to know," the reality is often quite different. Sure, the Lifetime™ might spend the month air cheesy holiday films chock full of washed up movie stars learning the real meaning of Christmas but most of us just don't have the time to even tune in.

Christmas nowadays is a ridiculously hectic time filled with shopping, decorating, baking, shopping, writing dozens of Christmas cards, shopping, work parties, shopping, family gatherings, shopping, shopping and finally, even more shopping!

The lovely folks at Quest have asked Glenn to put together a last-minute shopping guide for some unique - and for the most part - inexpensive gifts for everyone in your extended LGBT family!

is probably the most satisfying cinematic gay love story since "Beautiful Thing."

Nearly as popular is the "Guys Gone Wild" (\$19.95) series of DVDs. Following the success of the phenomenally popular "Girls Gone Wild," in which the hottest real college girls are filmed doing things they never taught you in school - here are some of the country's hottest "straight" college boys proving that they are not at all bashful in showing off their often considerable assets!

Late last year HBO produced a filmed version of Tony Kushner's award-winning "Angels in America." Perhaps the most highly acclaimed made-for-cable movie ever made, "Angels" boasts an

extraordinary cast featuring Al Pacino, Meryl Streep, Emma Thompson and Mary-Louise Parker. Simply a must for all LGBT cinema collections!

You've seen her many times in Milwaukee, including at PrideFest a few years back: Suzanne Westenhoefer. She's blond! She's brash! She's outrageous! She's the star of her own DVD, just out in time for Christmas, "Suzanne Westenhoefer: Live at the Village."

Stockings will surely be well-stuffed with "Home at the End of the World," the sizzling lesbian title, "Inescapable" as well as complete first season of "The L Word" just out on DVD.

MUSIC: PLAY IT AGAIN, RuPAUL!

Looking for one CD guaranteed to set any dance floor ablaze? Well, look no further than "RuPaul Red Hot" RuPaul is back and sassier than ever in this new CD. Featuring 16 amazing tracks including the soulful "Coming Out of Hiding" which beautifully expresses the feeling of triumph over fear and adversity, "Red Hot" is one of the best dance CDs of 2004!

Fans of RuPaul will not want to miss "Ho Ho Ho," a wonderful holiday CD in which the extraordinary diva makes her own a collection of familiar Christmas classics.

Those looking for a truly unique holiday CD need look no further than to "A



John Waters Christmas." (\$17.98) Hand picking such favorites as "Sleigh Ride" by Alvin and the Chipmunks and Tiny Tim's "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," Waters is wishing us all a "merry, rotten, scary, sex...happy little Christmas."

How about something a wee bit more traditional in holiday music but yet still with an LGBT feel? Be sure to check out the classic "I'll be a Homo for Christmas" (\$15.98) by Venus Envy. Warm up any holiday party with songs like "The Twelve Gays of Xmas," "Rhonda the Lesbo Reindeer" and Glenn's favorite, "Silent Dyke."

Also new this year is "The Holly and the Holy," a wonderful holiday compilation CD by the incomparable Turtle Creek Chorale. This two disc set, featur-



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MOVIES, MOVIES AND MORE MOVIES...

Who doesn't collect DVDs? Quite possibly the best gay flick to arrive on DVD in years is "Latter Days" (\$24.95). Adorable Mormon Aaron (Steve

Sandvoss) comes to West Hollywood to convert some lost souls and loses his heart to hunky party boy Christian (Wesley A. Ramsey). "Latter Days"



ON OUR COVER New on DVD by Glenn Bishop

"SUGAR"

In the wonderfully wacky world of LGBT cinema, two themes seem to dominate: coming-of-age films and movies about male prostitutes. Based on "JD," a series of short stories by filmmaker Bruce LaBruce, John Palmer's "Sugar" combines the two plot lines in a dark and disturbing film just out on DVD.

Cliff (Andre Noble) is a typically restless suburban teen whose life changes on his 18th birthday. Armed with the new skateboard he received from his mother as well as the vodka, joint and subway token he received from his younger sister Cookie, Cliff decides to "open a new window," metaphorically speaking, and hits the mean, dark streets of an unnamed Canadian city. As only those who are pure at heart – or at least a character in a film such as this – Cliff manages to find out where the male prostitutes hang out.

Sad to say, this has never been a talent Glenn has ever managed to possess.

Cliff immediately becomes captivated with the cutest prostitute on the block, the ironically named Butch ("Rosewell's Brendan Fehr).

Clearly Cliff is looking for love in all the wrong places and few could be worse than the hunky but emotionally vacant Butch who can act out a variety of roles for his favorite customers but seems clueless what to do with Cliff's obvious puppy-



love. Still, as unlikely as it might seem, these two lost boys begin to forge a very real relationship.

Fehr's Butch is an intriguing combination of innocence and wickedness with a health share of the pragmatic thrown in; proving to be as irresistible to Cliff as it is likely to prove to most moviegoers. At one moment Butch gleefully expounds upon his love for Corn Flakes – a scene in which the prototypical breakfast staple has never before seemed so erotically charged – while at the next moment he ruthlessly does all that he believes necessary to please a particularly creepy john (Michael Riley), regardless of the consequences.

As one might expect from a gritty urban drama such as "Sugar," a happily-ever-after ending for the two lads is at best improbable.

In addition to Fehr's charismatic portrayal, "Sugar" boasts a fine ensemble with memorable performances from Haylee Wanstall as Cliff's Ritalin-popping, worldly-beyond-her-years little sister Cookie and Maury Chaykin as the lovable masochist, Stanley.

BUY IT, RENT IT OR FORGET IT...

Originating in the dark crevasses of Bruce LaBruce's warped psyche, "Sugar" is a compelling if decidedly bleak vision of youth, sex and drugs. Not truly a traditional narrative, "Sugar" is a loosely arranged series of vignettes which manages to hold together until that last few scenes in which Todd Klimck's screenplay unfortunately spirals out of control.

www.sugarthemovie.com.

Lead Andre Noble died this past summer,

JUST THE FACTS...

"Sugar" is in English and is clocked at 78 minutes

All about "Sugar" at after coming into contact with a poisonous but common plant in his home province of Newfoundland.

The unrated version of "Sugar" features scenes of nudity and graphic sexual situations

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between a man and a woman, this spot is unacceptable for broadcast on the [CBS and UPN] networks." Similarly, a rejection by NBC declared the spot "too controversial."

"It's ironic that after a political season awash in commercials based on fear and deception by both parties seen on all the major networks, an ad with a message of welcome and inclusion would be deemed too controversial," said the Rev. John H. Thomas, the UCC's general minister and president.

The ad has been accepted and will air on a number of networks, including ABC Family, AMC, BET, Discovery, Fox, Hallmark, History, Nick@Nite, TBS, TNT, Travel and TV Land, among others.

"We find it disturbing that the networks in question seem to have no problem exploiting gay persons through mindless comedies or titillating dramas, but when it comes to a church's loving welcome of committed gay couples, that's where they draw the line," Rev. Robert Chase, director of the UCC's communication ministry, said.

CBS and NBC's refusal to air the ad "recalls the censorship of the 1950s and 1960s, when television station WLBT in Jackson, Miss., refused to show people of color on TV," claimed Ron Buford, coordinator for the United Church of Christ identity campaign. Buford, of African-American heritage, says, "In the 1960s, the issue was the mixing of the races. Today, the issue appears to be sexual orientation. In both cases, it's about exclusion."

The UCC has a long reputation for welcoming gays and lesbians. Although its individual churches are mostly autonomous, many offer blessing services for same-sex couples. In 1972 it became the first mainstream denomination to ordain an openly gay man. The ad can be viewed online at www.stillspeaking.com

Vermont: ASO Refuses Federal AIDS Money

Vermont's largest AIDS service organization declined to apply for nearly \$100,000 in federal money awarded this week, concerned that new rules will hinder the goal of preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS. Vermont CARES said seeking and accepting the money from the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) would put it in the position of endorsing policies that it believes will prove to be counterproductive.

Vermont CARES was particularly opposed to new surveys that its leaders fear will make it easier to identify people seeking CARES' services. "In essence a lot of the mandates revolved around what we perceived as a threat to anonymity for people receiving prevention services," said Peter Jacobsen, prevention director at Vermont CARES.

After several years where the regulations seemed to be getting more and more stringent, Vermont CARES' board decided against seeking a three-year grant that likely would have funneled \$100,000 annually into its coffers, according to Kendall Farrell, the ASO's executive director. "The message that we want to put out there is that CARES is taking a stand based on our principles, based on our mission, that we don't want to compromise our mission," Farrell said.

Instead, the agency is trying to raise the money on its own through fund-raising appeals and by applying for more foundation grants. The state Health Department, which administers the

federal program and distributes the money, is trying not to pass judgment on CARES' decision. "Nonprofits have to make those decisions for themselves," said Kurt Kleier, chief of the HIV-AIDS section at the Vermont Health Department.

But, clearly, the state worries about the possibility that some people will not be able to get prevention services if CARES is not able to raise the money on its own. Vermont CARES provides HIV-AIDS services in 10 of the state's 14 counties and targets all the populations at risk of contracting the virus, including men who have sex with men, intravenous drug users and people who work in the sex industry. Other AIDS service organizations around the state, including the AIDS Project of Southern Vermont, did apply for the CDC money.

Washington DC: Abstinence Programs Criticized By Lawmaker

A report released December 2 by Rep. Waxman (D-California) shows that many federally funded abstinence-only education programs use curricula that distort information about the effectiveness of contraceptives, misrepresent the risks of abortion, blur religion and science, treat stereotypes about girls and boys as scientific fact, and contain basic scientific errors.

The report finds that over two thirds of the federally funded abstinence programs rely on misleading information. In numerous instances, the abstinence-only curricula teach erroneous scientific information. One curriculum incorrectly lists exposure to sweat and tears as risk factors for HIV transmission.

Many of the curricula misrepresent the effectiveness of condoms in preventing sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancy. One curriculum says that "the popular claim that 'condoms help prevent the spread of STDs,' is not supported by the data"; another states that "in heterosexual sex, condoms fail to prevent HIV approximately 31% of the time"; and another teaches that a pregnancy occurs one out of every seven times that couples use condoms. These erroneous statements are presented as proven scientific facts.

The curriculum states, "Sterility: Studies show that five to ten percent of women will never again be pregnant after having a legal abortion." In fact, obstetrics textbooks teach that "fertility is not altered by an elective abortion."

"Under the Bush Administration, federal support for abstinence-only education has risen dramatically. This report finds that over two-thirds of abstinence-only education programs funded by the

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views and scoring. I have seen a lot of the judges sheets from state and I can not tell you how confused I was from the comments. For example, one of the girls that had props for her talent, had the word "coffee cup" with a question mark behind it. I talked to the contestant and there was no coffee cup in the talent nor was there a mention of one throughout the talent. But the poor thing was clocked on it. You can not in no way get a true reading on what these judges were thinking by only a few words per category on a sheet of paper. It is of utmost importance to have that opportunity to sit with each judge and go over all the details, not just have the girls left confused and bewildered. Shame! That chance was taken away from you.

In closing, it was a great time. Holly had a great year and gave up her title with style. Lala, who I had the pleasure of taking care of for the weekend, spent some quality time with her carting her ass around in limousines and taking her out to dinners was on of the most gracious girls to be in Wisconsin in a long time.

That is all for now, there will be more about this pageant in the next column. Let us call it a two parter. More to come!!

See Ya At The Shows

Safonda

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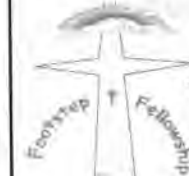
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Safonda Says All

Well, another state pageant has come and gone. If any of you out there missed it, I hope your excuse was a death in the family or you were incarcerated. Wait a minute, some of you were.

Sorry it has been so long since you have heard from me, but with scheduling conflicts and deadlines happening at the worst times for me, it just has not been possible.

Anyway, there has been a few shows out there going on, but for this issue it is all about the state pageant. So here goes.

Twenty one girls headed to the Historic West Theater to battle it out for the state crown. Some should have watched from a far. You all know that I have written about what it takes to win this thing, but all I can guess is some of you just can not read. Maybe you are a glutton for punishment or maybe you want to be remembered as the "drag jester". Every pageant has to have some comic relief.

First night to me was the better night to see. As in years past, it has always been final night. From my opinion and the opinion of others in the crowd it just was not up to snuff. Do not get me wrong, this year was one of the best pageants I have seen in years, but some girls changed things for final night that were not the best choices.

One of the girls that sang live first night did some gospel number that made no sense second night. Another girl who did very well first night changed her talent to a Whitney number that just seemed to go on and on even after she left the stage. The crowd, the audience and the emcee's were all waiting for her to return. She never did. The backstage people had to hunt the girl down to get the mic back. Both girls were doing very well until the second night. I think Shannon, even though she had a great gown for finals her talent was better first night.

One of the best changes was the judges panel. Za went all out to find judges that have no history of the Wisconsin area. Only one had lived here but that was long ago. The other that lived here never goes out nor follows the pageant system.

YOUR TOP TEN:

Shannon Dupree, Kimberly Micheals, Nova D'vine, Gina D'licious, Chantal, Janice Colby, Monique Green, Lucinda Andrews, Natasha Marques and Deja Voo.

After the announcement of top ten, by the way I was right in picking my top ten except for Mahalia White. Personally, one of the Milwaukee girls I felt



should not have made it but I was not a judge.

I think that there was a few girls that should not even have shown up for the top ten read off, but like I said "when you set yourself up for embarrassment".

Like I said, final night was a little boring for me as if the talents were not the same they were worse. Some changed gowns for the last push of the scores. In the end, your new winner is Natasha Marque from Milwaukee. First runner up is: Deja Voo.

You have no idea how happy I am that a Milwaukee girl finally won. It is very tiring each and every year having all the Milwaukee girls thinking that if you did not live in Green Bay, there was no chance of winning state. And then me having to defend the girls who won. It is about time Milwaukee finally found a girl that could win this thing. It is hard to watch the same girls year after year trying to no avail.

Congratulations to Natasha, I had the pleasure of judging her at one of the pre-

lims and new she was going to be someone to watch out for.

Now, let's talk about the bad things. There are rumors of a new drag dropping, trying to be somebody, wearing the same gown final night as one of the contestants. Now she did not do it to cause problems, being the first year at one of these things was just trying to fit in to the glamour. The poor thing just turned 21 not to long ago and even tho she has a ways to go to look good, at least she his trying. I know a lot of drag queens out there that started out looking like something that fell out line at the Macy's day parade clown revue. I mean come on, think back to your first time, how good did you really look? Anyway, the poor thing went to some close out sale at a bridal shop. Found this dress on the clearance rack for \$80.00. There was no way she new that the winner of the pageant was going to be wearing the same thing. Plus even if she did, she had spent all her dimes and nickels just to buy the dress. What I think was tacky, was people involved in the pageant asking her to leave. She paid her way in, she had every right to be there. Maybe politely asking to step out of the way. Plus, if you are comfortable in your gown, it should not matter if everyone is wearing the same thing. If you look good you look good. Not to mention that Natasha did win gown, so what is the big fucking deal?

Enough of that. To me the worst part of the whole pageant was timing. I feel the pageant ran way to long. Someone should have been watching the time!! As it happened, as the were announcing the winners a call for bar close was called. This gave no time for the people and the awards ceremony to have all those who deserved at least a little applause miss their moment. The final number was rushed, pictures were rushed. It was like, here is your winner now get the hell out!! To me the absolute worst part of it ending after bar close was this. These contestants put a lot of time and money into this once a year chance to advance as one of our elite performers. The only way these girls are going to learn how to improve themselves is to have adequate time to sit with the judges and have them explain there

largest federal abstinence initiative are using curricula with multiple scientific and medical inaccuracies. These curricula contain misinformation about condoms, abortion, and basic scientific facts. They also blur religion and science and present gender stereotypes as fact," concluded Waxman.

The full report is available at: www.democrats.reform.house.gov.

Washington, DC: HRC's Jacques Resigns Under Fire

Cheryl Jacques, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay political group, resigned November 30 following weeks of behind-the-scenes e-mail and telephone deliberations by the HRC board over concerns about her leadership style, according to two sources familiar with the organization. The sources told the *Washington Blade* that the board named Hilary Rosen, a seasoned Washington lobbyist, Democratic Party activist and the domestic partner of former HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Birch, as HRC's interim president.

Rosen became a well-known and highly regarded Washington insider to both Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill during her tenure as executive director of the Recording Industry Association of America, which represents the popular music recording industry as well as recording artists. She drew praise from the music industry and some famous singers and condemnation from youthful Internet enthusiasts by leading efforts for a crackdown against online swapping of CD recordings through such Internet sites as Napster.

Mark Shields, an HRC spokesperson, declined to comment on reports of Jacques' forced resignation and Rosen's selection as her

replacement. HRC later released a statement about Jacques' resignation.

One of the sources, who has close ties to HRC staff members, told the *Blade* that the HRC board began a review of Jacques' job performance earlier this year when it learned that a number of key staffers had resigned. The resignations - and threats of additional resignations - were triggered over what the staffers claimed were strong disagreements over Jacques' leadership style and her alleged "lack of direction" for the organization. Another source familiar with HRC told the DC gay paper that one of the group's largest donors threatened to cut off all contributions to HRC unless the board dismissed her.

Concerns over the HRC's public positioning in the recent presidential campaign also allegedly sank Jacques. Although the HRC sources said the group's board made the decision to back Kerry, some board members expressed concern that HRC, which bills itself as a bipartisan organization, went too far in attacking President Bush and devoted too much of its resources to the issue of same-sex marriage at the expense of other issues, such as advancing gay civil rights and hate crimes legislation. One slogan HRC used during the campaign was "George W. Bush, you're fired."

Jacques was hired in November 2003 after a long search and began her tenure as the HRC president in January of this year. She replaced Birch, who had led the organization for eight years. Prior to joining HRC, Jacques, an attorney, served as a six-term member of the Massachusetts State Senate, where she was among only five openly gay state senators in the nation. She represented a district in a suburban area southeast of Boston.



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Rainbow Over Wisconsin's Nine Pin Bowling Tournament brought in over \$500 which will help rebuild a dwindling account that is used to provide funding for area LGBT Organizations in Northeastern Wisconsin.

DECEMBER GROUP MEETINGS AT THE LGBT CENTER & AROUND TOWN

These Events are located at the LGBT Community Center unless otherwise noted.

BiDefinition

A social and discussion group for bisexuals and those questioning or supporting. Visit www.mkelgbt.org/community/bidefinition.asp or www.groups.yahoo.com/group/bi_definition for more information.

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

CREAM CITY SQUARES

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

FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression)

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

Gemini Gender Group

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

Lake Park Lutheran Church

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

Men's Voices Milwaukee

A men's choral group. Rehearsals every

Monday, 7:30-9:30pm for its two seasons, August to December and January to May. Auditions 2 weeks before and after start of rehearsal season. For more information write mvmchorus@hotmail.com.

Metropolitan Community Church

A gay group here in Milwaukee. We exist to magnify God's love, minister God's will, celebrate God's creation, and cherish God's people. Sunday mornings, 1239 W. Mineral St. 10am Christian Education and 11am worship service. For more information visit www.queer-church.org or e-mail review2004@yahoo.com.

Open Space

Support group that strives to create a welcoming, safe, and supportive space for lesbians of all ages. Meets 3rd Sunday each month, 6-8pm at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. \$5 fee paid as you are able. For more information call Cheryl at 414-271-2565.

OutCare Sexual Health Center

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 5-9pm. Walk-in health center that is tailored to meet the needs of the LGBT community. For more information or to check the current clinic hours call 414-277-9370. A service of Planned Parenthood.

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

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

Positive Direction Milwaukee

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

Project Q Drop-in

For LGBTQ youth ages 14-24. Every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday. Call 223-3220 or visit our website www.project-q.org for more information.

The Queer Program

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

SAGE Milwaukee (Senior Action in a Gay Environment)

Various events. Visit www.mkelgbt.org/community/sage.asp or call 414-224-0517 for more information and SAGE events listings.

Stitch 'N Bitch

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

Unitarian Universalist Church West (UUCW)

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

WI Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf Meeting

Every 4th Saturday, 6:30-10pm. Contact Suzette at sgaray@uwm.edu or Jake at jakestercool@2way.net for more information.

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Milwaukee: Pridefest Seeks Online Input - Milwaukee's PrideFest is making a transition this year to ensure that it is an ongoing, long-term event. After a difficult financial year in 2003, PrideFest 2004 was made possible by the generosity of many individuals and organizations who donated time and money.

In order to keep PrideFest going in the right direction, the committee needs ideas and suggestions from those who care about LGBT issues/events and who may or may not be regular attendees of PrideFest. The committee would appreciate your response in the form of an online survey.


Please click on <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=30892657011> to share your thoughts. If the link doesn't work, please copy it and paste it into your browser. The committee will be com-

piling the results and making them available to anyone that provides their e-mail address to us. Please respond by December 31, 2004 in order for your responses to be included.

PrideFest has partnered the Cream City Foundation (CCF), a community-based philanthropic foundation that provides charitable grants to programs and projects that improve the quality of life for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) communities in Southeastern Wisconsin. Cream City Foundation and the PrideFest Task Force have been working diligently to keep PrideFest moving into the future. They have partnered with Urban Strategies to find unique ways to improve the quality and organization of PrideFest.





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LaCrosse: Action Wisconsin To Hold Town Hall Meeting On Anti-Gay Amendment

Action Wisconsin will sponsor "La Crosse Town Hall: Stopping the Constitutional Ban on Civil Unions & Marriage," Thursday, December 9 from 7-8:30 PM at UW-La Crosse. The event will be held in Valhalla Hall on the first floor of the university's Cartwright Center. A pre-event reception will be hosted by the LaCrosse chapter of PFLAG beginning at 6:15 PM.

Chris Ott from Action Wisconsin will offer updates on the campaign against the proposed Wisconsin constitutional amendment, and Phil Duran from OutFront Minnesota will discuss what's unfolding across the border. Local clergy and LGBT allies will discuss this issue from their perspective and two same-sex couples from the La Crosse area will share their personal stories about the impact of discrimination. There will also be time for questions and comments.

The Seven Rivers LGBT Resource Center has led the way in providing local coordination of this event with Action Wisconsin. Other cosponsors include GALAXY; Multicultural Advocates, Inc. ACCEPT Program; OutFront Minnesota; PFLAG La Crosse; Rainbow Families of Minnesota; Rainbow Families Wisconsin; and the UWL Eagle Equity Committee.

For more background on the constitutional amendment in Wisconsin, visit: www.actionwisconsin.org.

Madison: New Year's Eve "Pink Party" To Play At Overture Center

Outreach has announced that the Tenth Annual Pink Party is slated for New Year's Eve 2004 at the newly completed Overture Center in downtown Madison. The capital city's LGBT center reports that it is very pleased to have the premier venue in the Madison for the organization's 10th anniversary celebration.

According to the Outreach press release, in an attempt to reflect the diversity of the Madison LGBT community, this year's entertainment is unquestionably eclectic. The Main Lobby will host Comedy Club circuit veteran Christine O'Leary. Christine is "honest, crass, witty, silly, endearingly cute and above all, a riot." Jazz/Soul/RB performer Lisa G and Montage will follow O'Leary to the stage, along with special guest Clyde Stubblefield.

Clyde has played all over the world and recorded with some of the greatest funk, soul and R&B performers including James Brown, Otis Redding, and Clayton Fillyau.

The Rotunda Stage will be the home of the T & A Productions Drag Show, followed by D.J. Sandy Seuser playing club music in the Rotunda Stage and Rotunda Studio. Sandy is best known for her work with the Sprawl and 10% Society dances.

In addition, the Wisconsin Room will feature the Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys welcoming in the New Year with country line dancing. Whether attendees are experienced country line dancers or just want to give it a try, all are invited to participate.

The party runs from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance

and \$25 at the door. A sliding scale for tickets is also available at the door. Tickets can be charged by phone at 608-255-8582. Ticket outlets in Madison include OutReach, A Room of One's Own, Borders (east and west), Bongo Video (Williamson St. and Atwood Ave.), Four Star Video and The Frugal Muse. Tickets are also available at OutWords Bookstore Espresso in Milwaukee.

Proceeds from the 2005 Pink Party will help fund the services of OutReach, Inc., Madison's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community center. The agency started in 1973, providing counseling, advocacy and referral to the Madison LGBT community, in addition to a lending library and conference space. For more information, contact Nikki Baumbblatt at OutReach (608) 255-8582 or e-mail at: commrel@outreachinc.com



Milwaukee: Center Advocates Dial-A-Thon Set

Center Advocates will sponsor two evening phone banks on Wednesday, December 8 and Thursday, December 16. Both phone-a-thons will run from 5:30-8:30 PM. Volunteer callers are needed to help find opponents of Wisconsin's constitutional ban on marriage and civil unions for gay couples. For more

information or to volunteer, please call Pabitra Benjamin at 414-271-2656 x119 or e-mail her at: PBjennifer@mkelgbt.org.

Milwaukee: LGBT Center To Hold Legal Night

The LGBT Center has announced that it will hold its monthly Legal Night on Thursday, December 9, from 6-8 PM. Free legal consultation with LGBT-friendly attorneys will be available on a first come, first served basis. For more information, contact the center at 414-271-2656.

Milwaukee: SAGE to Host Holiday Gala Lunch

The Milwaukee chapter of Seniors in A Gay Environment (SAGE) will hold a holiday luncheon at the Astor Street Restaurant in the Astor Hotel, 924 E. Juneau Ave. on Sunday, December 12. A reception will preface the event at 11:30 AM. Lunch will begin at 12:30 PM. Entree selections will include lemon breast of chicken, beef tenderloin tips, roasted pork loin, and a vegetarian dish. Tickets are \$20 for Sage members and \$25 for non-members. Please RSVP before December 8 with your entree selection and payment to SAGE/Milwaukee 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Ste 220, Milwaukee, WI 53202. For more information or for low income sponsorship, call 414-224-0517.

Milwaukee: SAGE Sets Holiday Film Screening

SAGE will sponsor a Holiday Movie Night on Thursday, December 23, beginning 6:30 PM at the SAGE Offices, 1845 N. Farwell, Suite 220. Enjoy *Christmas Eve*, a holiday movie starring Loretta Young and Trevor Howard. In this feature, made when Miss Young was an older woman, her character reaches out to the homeless in a humorous and pleasant way. Bring a hot or cold Hors d'oeuvre to pass. For more information call 414-224-0517.

finale'

all good things come to an end

**It has been our pleasure to be an important part
of the gay community for the past 16 years.**

Please join us for one last big party on

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Doors open 9 pm - Drinking and Dancing 9 - ???

Music by DJ Carl

Portfolio Men on the GoGo Boxes

21+ Only - \$3.00 Cover

Lots of Drink Specials All Night

This will be our final night of business.

Bartender Greg has a brand new day job. DJ Carl can be found spinning at XS and Shelter weekly.

Special thanks for the years and years of service to Greg, Carl, David Shore, Holly Hot Damn (Jimmy), Tony, Joe, Marti, Aaron, Adam, DJ Adam, DJ Mark L, Katie, Aaron the doorman, also our new staff including Josh, Tina, Cory, our Sunday Hip Hop Night Staff and lots of people who have worked for us over the years.

ZA's

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