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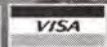
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Horny GWM, 5'11", 170 lbs., br/bl, 45 y.o., HIV neg., east central Wis., into barebacking, want to be your sex slave! Fill me. Looks, age or size not important, will take all cummers! (715) 584-1215. [2]

Lkg 4 men into C&A, farm/zoo, WS, scat, dildoes, rank, oil/grease, public play, mud, CBT or anything twisted or nasty. Open to any race or age. GWM, 6', 155, shaved head, goatee, heavily pierced & tattooed, flyerman219461966@hotmail.com OR GWM, 5'10", 245, shaved head, goatee, pierced & tattooed, bearcamper43@yahoo.com. Contact either or both. Leave name, phone no. & short message. Your pic will get ours. [3]

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

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Happy New Year

Letter from the editor

Considering the rumors flying around lately I thought it might be a good idea to check in with our readers. You may be aware there are now five publications competing for your attention and advertising dollars in Wisconsin's gay community. Let me first take a moment to welcome the new Outbound News, a sister publication to Outbound Midwest and also newcomer Q Life. Both publications had the first issues come out mid December as was reported last issue in Quest. What wasn't expected was the flurry of email and attacks that surrounded the debut of the papers. Quest news editor Mike Fitzpatrick takes a critical look at the two papers and highlights the rumors and attacks being spread around town in an article in State News in this issue. While fierce competition should be expected, I hope the publications can learn to work with each other to benefit our readers in Wisconsin. Outbound has already made such an overture towards Quest after both publications recieved an email concerning a marketing study on the gay press being done by UWM Students. One of the issues raised by readers was a desire the publications work together more.

A web-only news publication is also up and running run by former In Step publisher Bill Attewell. For now you can find it at www.instepnews.com I must admit Bill is a much better web designer than I could hope to be and I am just a bit jealous. The website not only has news from around Wisconsin, it is chock full of links to other sites including most of the local Wisconsin LGBT Press. Unlike Quest-online.com, this site is updated frequently. (I better get busy!)

Quest starts a 12th year of publishing February 2005. Each year we look at where we have been and where we want to be. Last year we switched format in January and filled the gap in news reporting left with the exit of In Step. We have been working this past year to improve our connections for news reporting statewide and small improvements to our companion website. You may be aware I also own a bar in Green Bay called Historic West Theatre. I announced recently the theatre will close soon. Some also wonder what is happening to Quest. Let me assure you Quest will continue for years to come. I will finally have time to devote to the website development and more hands on design with the magazine after I shed the constant workload the theatre created for me. While I am personally sad I will be out of the bar business for the time being, I am eager to spend much needed time to fully develop Quest Magazine.

Quest was desinged to be a low cost publication, small in size. Research and comments from our readers confirm the smaller size is important. Quest is easy to pick up and take with you, don't let the small size fool you. Quest is designed to make maximum use of the pages and is packed with a ton of information. In this uncertain economy we have to make choices. Quest deliberately stayed a black and white publication to keep advertising costs affordable. Color is very desirable for some advertisers, but the higher cost is still out of reach for many small businesses. Our readership and low ad cost make Quest one of the best advertising bargains around. We are moving to a full color cover soon and will have full color advertising available to those who desire it.

We are proud to boast Quest is distributed statewide. We have been this way from day one and continue this today. I personally get tired of comments from a few in Milwaukee who think because I choose to live in Green Bay, somehow Quest is really not a viable Milwaukee paper. In one sense they are right! We always considered the entire state our market. We also try to give coverage to even the smallest gay market. A few may remember I actually started Quest to give a voice outside of Milwaukee. It is also true that Milwaukee is the largest gay market in Wisconsin and the majority of our readers and advertisers are from Milwaukee.

You can look forward to Quest continuing to be a small, modest paper; one of the voices for the gay community of Wisconsin. Any changes we make will be slow and designed to help us keep financially sound so we may continue to publish for many years to come. We look forward to working alongside Outbound, Q Life and Edge.



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Poll: Opposition To Gay Marriage, Civil Unions Increases Nationwide

Washington, DC - America appears to be moving further right, specifically on gay marriage and on LGBT equality issues generally. A new poll reveals that Americans overwhelmingly reject both same-sex marriage and benefits for gay couples. The national poll by Quinnipiac University in Camden, CT, shows that nearly two thirds of those surveyed oppose same-sex marriage. When asked if they would support civil unions 51% said no, while 45% support them.

However, when it came to amending the U.S. Constitution to ban same sex marriage 53% said it was not necessary. The Quinnipiac poll contradicts several polls prior to the election that showed that the divide over gay marriage was much narrower and that there was general support for providing at least some benefits to same-sex couples. The University, which regularly conducts surveys on national issues, took the poll December 6-10 and questioned 1,529 registered voters nationwide.

The poll also asked about abortion and the death penalty. On the issue of abortion, 50% of respondents said that if President Bush were to nominate a Supreme Court justice that person should uphold the Roe v. Wade. A majority of those questioned also said that any nominee to the high court should publicly state his or her position on abortion. 34% of respondents said Roe v. Wade should be overturned. Two thirds of voters said they support the death penalty, with only 20% opposed.

DAPY Drugs May Herald Major HIV Treatment Breakthrough

Piscataway, NJ - Researchers from Rutgers University have expressed optimism over a trio of HIV drugs they have developed that could possibly destroy the AIDS-causing virus. According to a prepublished report in the electronic edition of the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, the drugs,

known as TMC-120 (dapivirine), TMC-125 (etravirine) and R278474 (ripilvirine), have the potential to interfere in a new way with an enzyme that HIV needs to copy and insert itself into human cells. Collectively they are known as DAPY drugs, because they have dihydropyrimidine at their core.

Internal tests show the drugs can be taken in the form of one pill that is easily absorbed with minimal side effects. "We're on to something very, very special," chemist Eddy Arnold said. Arnold has led the research team in a nearly 20 year quest for an improved version of a reverse transcriptase inhibitor. The research team, which is partnered with Johnson & Johnson subsidiary companies, has

strands of RT prior to HIV's entry into a T-4 cell. But unlike nonnucleoside RT inhibitors such as Sustiva



Rutgers University chemist Eddy Arnold may have discovered a major treatment breakthrough in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

(efavirenz) and Viramune (nevirapine), DAPY drugs possess "torsional flexibility," literally the ability to wiggle and jiggle into HIV's RT no matter how the retrovirus mutates. The effect has been likened by Arnold to "squeezing a firecracker into the middle" of an RT strand.

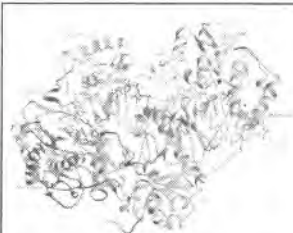
"If you can really inhibit reverse transcriptase, you can stop AIDS," said Dr. Stephen Smith, the head of the department of infectious diseases at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark. The full research will be published in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* in early 2005. Phase III clinical trials of TMC-120, the first DAPY drug, are expected to begin in mid-2005. If the trials are successful the drug may be available by prescription as soon as 2007. R278474, the most promising of the class, has just begun Phase I trials.

If the easily and inexpensively synthesized DAPY drugs live up to their full promise, HIV antiretroviral therapy could become a single, one-a-day pill for the 42 million people currently living with the disease worldwide. Moreover, the DAPY drugs' apparent ability to adjust to all viral mutations studied thus far may suggest further research and refinement might bring the revival of a word that has been rarely heard in the HIV/AIDS field in recent years: cure.

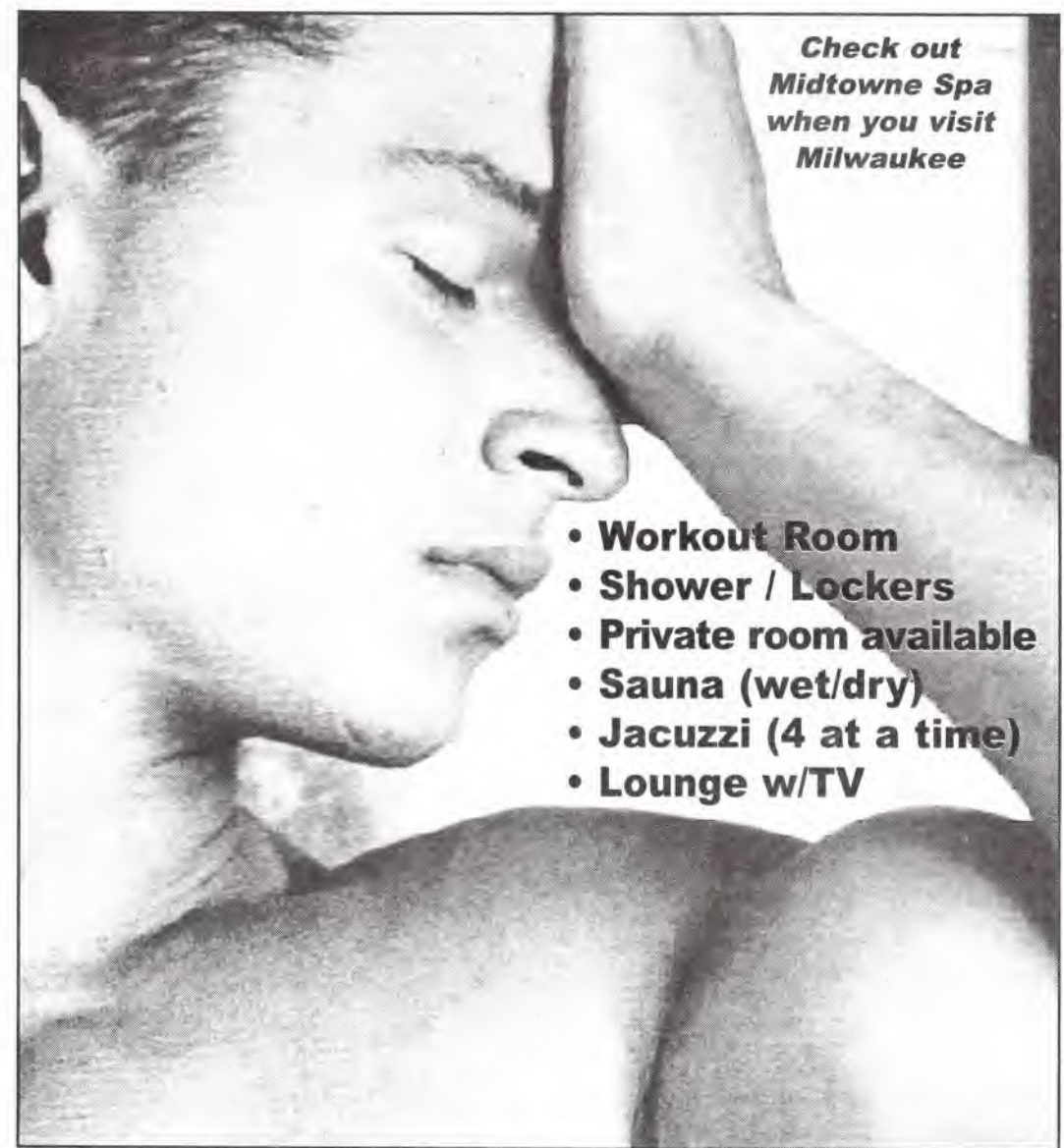


targeted reverse transcriptase (RT), the submicroscopic protein that the Rutgers researchers have called the "beating heart" of HIV.

Unlike the first generation nucleoside RT inhibitors such as Retrovir (AZT) and Epivir (3TC), the DAPY drugs insert themselves into the genetic



Using a variety of ribbons Rutgers scientist Eddy Arnold constructed the design of HIV's reverse transcriptase protein structure to illustrate how the new class of DAPY drugs will work.



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Attention! Bi/Gay: GWM bl/br, 48, 200 lbs., **Marshfield/Central Wis.** For BJ info (715) 387-6433 [2]

GWM seeks same 21-55 for LTR. Someone honest, sincere, & down to earth. D/D free, who enjoys camping, travel, boating, fishing & quiet eves, cuddling up in front of the fireplace. Am very romantic, want lifetime partner. (715) 355-0780 [2]

35 y.o. SWM, 160, 5'9", in shape stud, looking for non-serious relationships with similar minded individuals, couples, women and bi men. (262) 783-4766 or e-mail deckmndr2004@yahoo.com. Ask for Rick with 6 1/2", no heavyweights. [1]

I'm a GWM transvestite/crossdresser, seeking men only for hot encounters. I'm 49, tall, slender & passable for my age. Very talented at giving oral, a hot bottom. Write T.L., PO Box 311, **Appleton, WI** 54912 [1]

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Masculine handsome dad businessman often in the area. 61, 6'2", 205, muscular/stocky/athletic build, disease free, ex military, dominant. Looking for a discreet ongoing occasional relationship with one young masculine male (18-27) who either works out, plays sports or keeps fit in his job. Blue collar +, tattoo +. Good guy looking for the same. Please respond to bench-pressedad@hotmail.com [1]

Hi, guys! If you live nearby, or in the **Milwaukee** area and are tired of the bar scene, internet scene, cruising etc., look me up! I'd like to find someone new to the scene/or curious, bi or gay. I'm looking for someone 18-35 to be a mentor to, as you're making your way into the scene (no femmes or chubs). I'm a young looking more mature guy who will be totally private, and you can feel confident with me. R.B. (414) 272-5694; raydirector@talkamerica.net [1]

Milwaukee guy looking for men and women who are involved with either Excel Comm or Pre-Paid Legal. If you have the membership or are doing the business or both, please give

me a call (414) 319-5810. [1]

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54 y.o. SWM, 6'1", 200 lbs., br/bl, ISO 45-60 y.o. straight acting man free of addictions. Should have a hairy chest & back, and enjoy outdoor life. I live **50 mi. no. of Green Bay**. Ron (920) 897-2468 [1]

Older Master seeking young GWS 18-22 willing to be stripped naked for pleasure (no pain). Must be disease free, clean body, no dopers, drinkers, smokers or fatties. 1-262-658-8567. Ask for Mr. Luke. Sailors welcome! **Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, IL-WI border.** Does a trip around the world interest you?! [1]

40s GWM interested in meeting others AB/DL into fun times, parties, also like bondage & seeking daddy type who knows to paddle a boy's butt the old fashioned way DTK, by hand on briefs & isn't ashamed of him being an adult toddler baby. Can travel.

Write PO Box 1615, **Rockford, IL** 61110-1615 [2]

BiWM into crossdressing seeks others for same. Must also be into submission or domination, enjoy S&M, B&D, nipple clamps, golden showers, hot candle wax & oral. P. Alexander, PO Box 268. **Milwaukee, WI** 53201-0268 [2]

Wanted! Friend or LTR, one to go places with. etrinx@web.tv (not to learn, laugh) or pen pal or travel partner! I'm not superficial, sex addicted, self centered or childish. 3658 W. 79th Pl., **Chicago** (773) 585-6275 (everything decent). Tom [2]

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. hairyriders@peoplepc.com. hairy & hung a +! (715) 834-3638 [3]

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 [3]

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Action Wisconsin Sets January 27 Lobby Day

Madison - Action Wisconsin, the state's LGBT civil rights organization, has announced a "Lobby Day to Stop the Constitutional Ban on Civil Unions and Marriage" for Thursday, January 27, 2005 from 10AM - 4PM at the State Capitol here.

AW is asking the now more than 20,000 names on its mailing list to register and join with hundreds of people in the state Capitol to urge legislators to vote "no" on the constitutional amendment that would ban civil unions, domestic partnerships, and marriage for same-sex couples.

The lobby day event will be held at a number of sites in Madison. The event will include training sessions on the basics of the legislative process and how to talk to legislators about the amendment. AW's goal is to bring people from across the state to meet in constituent groups with each and every State Senator and Assembly Representative.

The tentative schedule for the Lobby Day event was announced on December 14 and will include a 9:45 AM check-in, followed by trainings beginning at 10:30. Following a lunch break, citizen lobbyists will hold constituent meetings with Assembly Representatives in the Capitol building at 1:30 PM, followed by similar meetings with State Senators at 2:30. The event will conclude with a 3:30 PM rally at the Capitol. An optional informal celebration will begin about 4:30 PM. Specific sites for the check-in, trainings, rally and post-lobby day social will be

announced closer to January 27.

According to AW Executive Director Christ Ott, the lobby day could be "our last chance to stop the amendment in the state Legislature." The amendment was already passed once in March, 2004, and it will probably return for a second vote in the Legislature as soon as February 2005 Ott believes. If passed again, it would go to a statewide referendum vote, perhaps as soon as April 2005.

"Our goal is to reach legislators in person with a diverse cross-section of gay and non-gay Wisconsinites before they take up this issue again," Ott told *Quest*.

Those interested in registering should send their name, address, and phone number to: Lindsey.Saunders@action-wisconsin.org, or call Lindsey Saunders at 608-441-0143 Ext. 311. Online registration at www.actionwisconsin.org will soon be available.

AW is also seeking volunteers to consider signing up to be a District Point Person. Point persons help coordinate participation in their legislative districts. Point persons also assist in setting up meetings with their legislators, organizing and signing-up participants, and helping coordinate transportation. Assistance with transportation and accommodations in Madison may be available.

AW is also seeking organizations that would like to co-sponsor Lobby Day. Groups should also contact Saunders as noted above. For more inform and details on the amendment and the legislative process, visit <http://www.action-wisconsin.org/amendment>.

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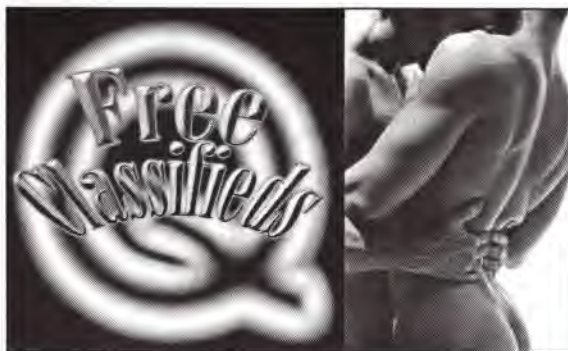
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Massage! 50 y.o. male massage therapist in **Appleton** offers Swedish, neuro muscular, sports & now hot stone massage in my private office by appointment only to men & women. No erotic massage. Serious only. (920) 915-4318 [1/5]

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ment. Page (920) 616-2535

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FRIDAY DECEMBER 31ST, 2004

Andy Bell, the gay half of Erasure, has announced he is living with HIV. "I found out I was HIV+ in June 1998 when I had a bout of pneumonia in Mallorca, since then I have been taking combination therapy & I am feeling fine in fact I have never felt better," Bell wrote December 14 in an announcement on the band's website.

Bell made the announcement in advance of a book by his long time partner Paul which details Andy's discovery he was positive. The couple felt that the subject should not remain a secret. The book is due out next year.



December 11 to the grave site of Martin Luther King Jr. also drew a few dozen protesters who claimed organizers were hijacking the slain civil rights leader's legacy to promote an anti-gay marriage agenda. The march's organizer, Bishop Eddie Long, said his followers "did not come in a march of hatred."

The march began after King's daughter, Bernice, lit a torch at her father's grave and passed it on to Long, who carried it on the two-mile march through the city. Bernice King is an elder in Long's predominantly black 25,000-member New Birth Missionary Baptist Church outside Atlanta. Police did not provide a crowd estimate, but a New Birth publicist claimed 15,000 people attended the march.

carrying signs that read "Don't Hijack Dr. King's Dream" and "All Forms of Bigotry are Equally Wrong."

to hear a challenge to Kentucky's constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage has been asked to step down after it was disclosed he had given a contribution to the group fighting the measure. Franklin Circuit Judge William Graham told lawyers in

Alliance argue that the measure that passed by a 3-to-1 margin was flawed because it dealt with two separate issues - the first part pertained to marriage, the rest civil unions. John Davis, interim executive director of the Alliance said that having two issues on one ballot question violates the Kentucky Constitutional as to how amendments are to be put on the ballot.

sex couples began to tie the knot legally in Massachusetts, the state is seeing its first gay divorces. Newlyweds seeking to renounce the vows they so recently took have been trickling into probate courts across the state, filling out obsolete forms that still read "husband and wife."

Exactly how many same-sex couples are seeking divorces is not clear - nor is it clear whether any gay divorces have become final - because not all counties keep track of which divorce filings are from gays. The first gay divorce case in Suffolk County, which includes Boston, was filed Wednesday by a male couple who exchanged vows on May 22, five days after same-sex marriage was legalized.



Compiled & Written By Mike Fitzpatrick

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then, the couple said in their divorce filing, "our interests have grown in different directions." Each man signed a settlement attesting that the marriage had "irretrievably broken down."

The most difficult part of the settlement appeared to be custody of their three cats, who will live exclusively with the professor. But "in recognition of the emotional hardship of such relinquishment," the settlement reads, the professor agreed to provide his ex "with periodic updates, photographs, and any health-related information pertaining" to the cats.

According to the state Registry of Vital Records, at least 4,266 gay marriage certificates have since been issued, although there is a lag time in the records and hundreds more may have wed this year. Hampshire County reporting a divorce filing within about two months of the first gay weddings. Middlesex County, which is the state's largest and includes Cambridge, Lowell and other outlying communities, received its first gay divorce case in December.

Opponents of gay marriage said the divorces, occurring so soon after the weddings, confirm that gay couples are not equipped for marriage. "We're not surprised," Kris Mineau of the Massachusetts Family Institute said. "Particularly among male homosexuals, the promiscuity is just phenomenal."

"That's a cheap shot," Mary Bonauto said. Bonauto represented the seven gay couples in the landmark marriage lawsuit.

North Dakota: Did Diet Pills Make You Gay?

Women who take slimming and thyroid pills during pregnancy are substantially more likely to have gay children, according to recent research. A study of thousands of mothers and their adult children has revealed that Thyroxine – used to treat thyroid deficiency – and amphetamine-based diet pills appear to influence sexual orientation. Both were identified as being strongly linked to a higher rate of homosexuality among female offspring.

The mothers of gay men and lesbians were found to be up to eight times more likely to have taken such drugs, with the effect being strongest with daughters whose mothers took the drugs during the first three months of pregnancy. The discovery, to be published by researchers shortly, backs claims that human sexuality is determined by genetic and biochemical factors at work during early pregnancy.

Prof Lee Ellis and colleagues at Minot State University, North Dakota, traced the mothers of more than 5,000 American and Canadian students and members of gay and lesbian support groups, looking for links between prescription drugs taken during pregnancy and the sexual orientation of their children.

The researchers found that the mothers of lesbians were at least five times more likely to have taken synthetic thyroid medications during pregnancy than mothers of hetero-

sexual women, and eight times more likely to have used amphetamine-based diet pills such as Dexedrine and diethylpropion.

They also found evidence that some drugs have the opposite effect during pregnancy, reducing the probability of homosexual offspring. Mothers of heterosexual males were 70 per cent more likely to have taken drugs to combat nausea than those of gay men.

The results suggest that the effect of the drugs is strongest with female babies and when taken during the first three months of pregnancy, which accords with previous studies showing that sexual orientation is decided during this period. The results will appear in the journal *Personality and Individual Differences*.



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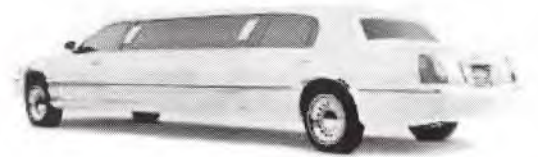
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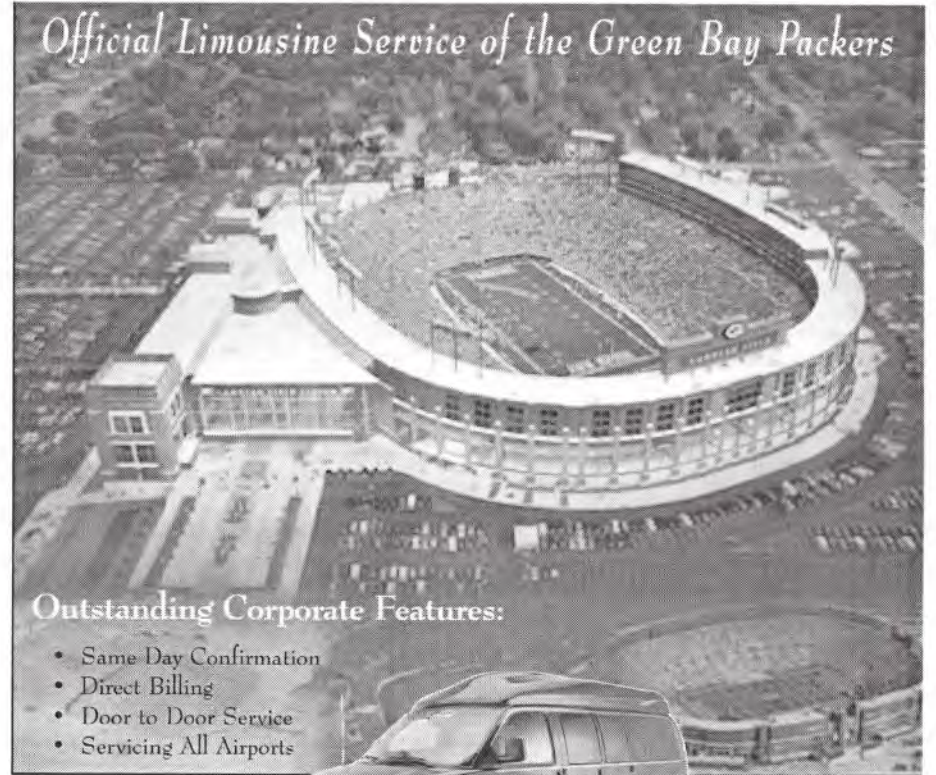
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Appleton: Lil Rascals Project Makes Christmas Bright For AIDS Families

Nearly three dozen children from families financially challenged by the medical costs associated with living with HIV/AIDS will find well over a hundred gifts under their trees this Christmas thanks to the generous patrons of Rascal's Bar & Grill here. This year's donations to the "Lil Rascals" gift project are the largest in the program's three year history, according to owner Todd West.

In coordination with the case managers in ARCW's northeast region, West fine tuned gift lists to guarantee the neediest families would receive top priority and that gifting would be equitable within family units. To protect client confidentiality Rascals' volunteer "Santas" learned only children's first names or nicknames, ages and wish lists. Though West does not track the exact amount of money spent on the gifts, he guessed the total has to be "in the thousands."

The Lil Rascals project has been a key factor in the holiday gift program for all families living with HIV/AIDS in ARCW's 17-county northeast region. The gifts supplement the agency's statewide



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

family gift program and a number of smaller gift programs operated by several churches and other charitable organizations in the area. The agency was able to provide gift assistance for all of the nearly sixty children for which requests were made. Well over one-third of the region's 200 clients also requested and received holiday food baskets.



ARCW case manager Sheila Johnson surveys some of the more than 100 gifts donated by the Lil Rascals gift project run annually by Rascals Bar & Grill.

Green Bay: State Senator Skips Out On Meeting With Anti-Gay Amendment Opponents

A constituent meeting with recently re-elected State Senator Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) was suddenly cancelled less than 72 hours before its scheduled start and apparently within hours of the senator's staff realizing the topic of the meeting would be opposition to the so-called Wisconsin Marriage Amendment to the state's constitution. Hansen voted in favor of the bill last March, breaking ranks with his fellow Democrats.

According to Saad Akbar-Khan, volunteer coordinator for Action Wisconsin, Hansen's staff called him shortly after he sent an email reminding the senator of the date and site of the constituent meeting. "The senator just realized he has a thing con-

flicting with the meeting" Khan reported the staffer as saying. When pressed as to the exact conflict Khan reports the staffer again said "you know, its a thing, just a thing." Saad attempted to reschedule the meeting at a later date, but the staffer told him that "the senator would too busy with the start of the new (legislative) session and all."

Most of the constituents who had planned to meet with Hansen are involved with the recently formed Green Bay Action Network (GBAN) that opposes the amendment which would prohibit any kind of legal recognition for same sex couples. Among those who had planned to meet with Hansen were non-gay area businessmen, local church leaders, members of Hansen's campaign staff and a number of Hansen's major donors. Several area gay community leaders, including a couple in a decades long committed relationship also planned to sit in on the meeting.

Following Hansen's vote for the anti-gay amendment bill last Spring, the senator's supporters circulated a story about the senator allegedly "throwing up" either before or after the key vote because he was so upset by the issue. The story was repeated often last all during the Hansen's campaign outreach to the LGBT community members residing in his district. "If I heard that story once I heard it at least dozen times" one disgruntled GBAN member said. "Now I wonder what really makes him sick - the amendment or gay people."

Khan noted that Hansen's cancellation was not surprising, given the difficulty Action Wisconsin is having in engaging the state's legislators on the amendment issue. "No one really wants to talk about it right now," Khan said.

GBAN continues to seek additional members to oppose the Wisconsin Marriage Amendment. The group's next meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, January 4 at 445 S. Broadway in Green Bay. All LGBT-supportive community members are invited to get involved.

Green Bay: Rainbow Over Wisconsin Sets Annual Meeting

Rainbow Over Wisconsin, Inc. will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, January 10 at 7 PM at the Historic West Theatre here. The meeting will announce the charitable foundation's officers for 2005, and report on its activities in the last calendar year. The prospectus and applications for the 2005 grant year of ROW's Community Enrichment Fund will also be distributed to eligible organizational representatives attending the meeting.

Invitations to the more than two dozen organizations and groups that have benefitted from ROW underwriting and funding will be sent shortly after Christmas. ROW's annual meeting will also provide invited groups to update their fellow organizations on current and upcoming projects and programs.

The meeting will be open to the public without charge. Refreshments will be served. The ROW board will meet an hour

Diversion of the Day Community Calendar

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!

Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church (1239 W. Mineral St.) Christmas Eve Service 7 p.m. (Christmas Day Service 10 a.m.)

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

ZA's (Green Bay) After 16 years, tonight's New Year's Eve Party will be the final event at ZA's. Doors open at 9, Portfolio Men on the go go boxes, \$3 cover (drink specials all night)

Saturday, Jan. 1 - New Year's Day

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) - 715 / 342-5820; www.club-nightout.com First show of the new year this evening

Wednesday, Jan. 5

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

Saturday, Jan. 8

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) - Ladies Nite! Drink specials for the ladies

Sunday, Jan. 9

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

Saturday, Jan. 15

Argonauts of Wisconsin WinterQuest 31: Installation of new officers, presentation of appreciation awards, etc. Reserv. deadline-Jan. 6
Club Night Out (Stevens Point) Beach Party 7-2:30

Saturday, Jan. 22

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) Fetish Nite

Friday, Jan. 28

Club Night Out (Stevens Point) 18 Plus Nite

Sunday, Jan. 30

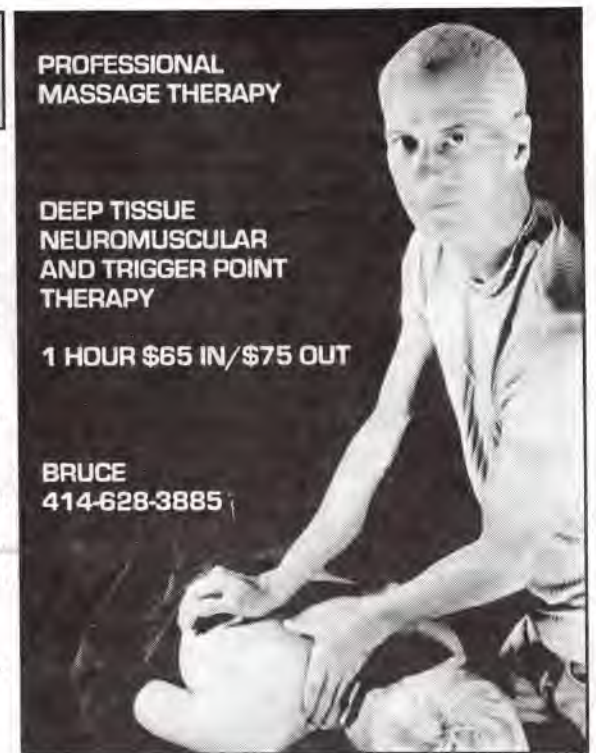
SAGE/Milw. - Social Outreach Committee Meeting - potluck brunch, open to all members & friends. Bring a dish to pass, share your ideas about events you'd like to see SAGE present. At SAGE offices; call 224-0517 to advise you will be in attendance.

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Thank You SIR:

by Jeff Hicks

Thank you SIR: May i have another SIR . Well maybe, or maybe not. It is very hard to say at this point just what direction this Leather column should take. Should we be only an announcement of events? Or contests? And their outcomes? We could let everyone know when Leather gatherings are going to happen. Or What is happening in the Leather scene, locally or Nationwide. For me; these are of some significance. But i hope we can go beyond that and explore what it is to: be in / live in / play in / explore in / relate to our total world from IN /, the Leather lifestyle.

For some of us it is more than going to our club meetings, or the Farm Run, or Nimbus run, or MAL, or IMrL. It is something that is a part of our everyday life, our Real life. For those able to have a career in the lifestyle, it can be a daily boost to our feeling good about the Leather Scene. For a small number of people we can be 'out' and even to a smaller degree, 'out in Leather', in the World at Large. For most of us, just being out is risky enough. At least in some careers it is allowed. I have experienced being 'out at work and almost all co-workers know that i enjoy some "unusual practices". They deal with that only to the degree that I have a Very Masculine approach to my private Leather life. The call steward asked me for a "Complete Hanky Code". So i got one for him. Yes !! they have seen me leaving work at 10:30 at night, flagging 'colors' and in, "full cow". That is: Denims, 'Spit-shined' boots, leather chaps, Plain white, 'boy' t-shirt, chrome collar, (from SIR), leather vest, and THE Leather Jacket, and Leatherboy cap ! Many of us cannot outwardly express ourselves 24/7. But that is just how it is. Besides, much of the world isn't quite ready for us anyway. WE are, for now, and always will be, our own Family !!

So, for now i will start with events that i know of coming up and let everyone know as much as possible.

Dec. 19 Bondage play party, WCBC, Touche, 8:45 P.M. Chi., IL
Dec. 28-30 Mr. Chicago Leather Weekend; @ Touche

Jan. 14-16, Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend, Centaur MC, Washington D.C.

Jan. 15, "Winterquest", Argonauts Anniversary dinner, 6:30 P.M. Check with any member for details

April 8-9, Argonauts, Daddy / Daddy's boy contest, with special guest Mrs Kendra; Head of GLLA.

This years contests will include expanded competitive aspects. More to follow.

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A banquet will be held at Napalese Lounge, 1351 Cedar St. in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Cocktails will begin at 6:00 PM followed by a buffet **Banquet at 7:30PM.**

The cost for this evening of fun is \$25.00 per person.

The deadline for reservations is January 6th.

Please send a \$10.00 deposit along with each reservation.

Seating is limited to the first 50 paid reservations.

For more information, Contact Chuck Hubbard E-mail chubbard@new.rr.com Phone (920) 433-0968

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Jan 8:

Ladies Night • Sorry boys drag dont count. Drink speciels for the ladies.

Jan 15:

Beach Party • 7pm till 2:30 (come in beach wear)

Jan 22:

Fetish Night Rubber, Leather, Fur Lace Ect Ect....

Friday, Jan. 28:

18 Plus Night (every one welcome)

AN THEN IN FEBUARY WE HAVE:

Feb 5th • Ladies Night

Feb. 12:

Lovers Day • Happy Valentines Bring your lover or just be lovly. Food will be served.

Feb. 19:

Dans Drunkin Chickin Night 21 to 28 speciel drink prices and drinks.

Feb. 25:

18 plus Night (every one welcome)

Feb. 26:

BOXERS AND BOOTS night.

PLEASE SEE WEB SITE FOR MORE INFO OR CALL CLUB NIGHT OUT

WWW.CLUB-NIGHTOUT.COM or 715 -342- 5820

prior to the Annual Meeting for board and officer elections.

LaCrosse: LGBT Center Seeks Board Members

- Paid members of the LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Area, Inc. are being asked to consider becoming a board member for the center. Three board seats need to be filled. Board members will be elected at the center's first ever Annual Meeting and celebration on Saturday, January 29, 2005.

"Here's an opportunity for you to become engaged with a wonderful group of people that is committed to connecting area LGBT folk with others so we can have a real sense of community," board recruiter Cindy Killion told *Quest*. "Board members also are committed to creating a visible LGBT presence in the community. We've come a long way since that first meeting in September of 2003, but we have more to do and (paid members) can be part of it!"

Those interested in becoming a board member are asked to send a brief biography and a letter expressing interest to the LGBT Resource Center, P.O. Box 3313, La Crosse, WI 54602-3313. Applications may also be emailed to Killion at: ckillion@winona.edu. Applications must arrive prior to January 4.

Madison: Stage Q To Present "Hannah Free"

- Stage Q will present "Hannah Free" by Chicago playwright Claudia Allen January 7-22, 2005. All performances will be at the Bartell Theater, 113 East Mifflin Street, here.

The *Arizona Daily Star* calls Hannah Free "a tender exploration of a lifelong relationship between two remarkable women." The paper adds, "the richly layered story is told with brutal honesty and great reserves of unexpected humor - a beautifully written play which will stir your compassion and strengthen your laugh reflex."

The play features old women reflecting with wit and insight on the glories and trials of their younger days as women in love with other women. The playwright uses a keen sense of humor to explore the serious topics of aging and healthcare issues in the gay and lesbian community. The characters help us rediscover what "family" means.

Claudia Allen is Playwright-in-Residence at Victory Gardens Theater in Chicago. She has won two Jefferson awards - Chicago theater's Oscar - and written many plays, including "The Long Awaited," "Still Waters," and "The Gays of Our Lives." According to the Stage Q press release, "Claudia specializes in strong, compassionate women - in her life and in her plays."

The Stage Q production of "Hannah Free" is directed by Roseann Sheridan. Performance dates and times are: Thursdays, January 13 and 20, at 7:30 PM, Fridays, January 7, 14, and 21 at 8:00 PM. Saturdays, January 8, 14, and 22, at 8:00 PM and Sunday, January 16, at 2:00 PM.

Tickets are \$12 (Thursdays and Sunday) and \$16 (Fridays and Saturdays) per person and may be purchased online at www.StageQ.com. Reservations may be made online or through the Stage Q information and reservation line at 608-661-9696. VISA and MasterCard are now accepted at the box office.

Madison: Registrations Still Accepted For January LGBT Leadership Institute -

The LGBT Campus Center and the University of Wisconsin continues to accept registrations for its scheduled January 24-26 off-campus conference here. The goal of the Institute is to develop future leaders for campus organizations by orienting them to campus processes, developing a sense of collegiality among future leaders, and introducing them to basic leadership skills.

Though anyone can apply for the training freshman and sophomore applicants with no previous leader experience are particularly encouraged to register. Those with previous experience from high school are also welcome however. Even experienced leaders, if new to the UW campus, have to learn campus policies and procedures. Organizers believe that the weekend leadership institute will be strengthened by having participants of all leadership levels.

Applications can be obtained online at: lgbtcc.studentorg.wisc.edu. They may also be picked up at the LGBT Campus Center on the second floor of the UW Memorial Union. For more information email the LGBT Campus Center at: lgbtcc@rso.wisc.edu or call 608-265-3344.

Milwaukee: Monthly LGBT Papers' Dueling Debuts Sparks Rumors, Third Competitor

- The Cream City's LGBT community saw the twin debuts of *Outbound News* and *Queer Life (QLife)* December 15, amid rumors about the long-term future of both publications and the entry of yet another "lifestyle" competitor

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1-3AM : ALL UV DOUBLES \$3

3-?? : SCREWDRIVERS & BLOODY MARYS \$3

Sawyer, 22, the alleged ringleader was charged with the hate crime penalty enhancer at the 2 PM hearing.

Hate crime charges against Sawyer's father Mark, 48 and Robert Wagner, 42, were dropped after Circuit Court Judge Peter Diltz determined the two older men joined in the fray motivated by by kinship and friendship, rather than because victims Darrin Day and Bryon Groeschl were gay. "I believe there were some strong inferences that (the elder Sawyer and Wagner) saw their son and friend engaged in a fight and they jumped in," Diltz told the court. However, the two older men will still stand trial for felony battery charges and could face up to 4 1/2 years in jail and fines of up to \$21,000 if convicted.

Diltz has taken over the case from Door County Circuit Judge Todd Ehlers, who in October had bound over all five alleged attackers on charges including the hate crime-enhancer.

The younger Sawyer will face 11 years in prison and up to \$35,000 in fines if convicted of all charges including the hate crime penalty enhancer. Adam Bley, 24, the fourth alleged assailant faces lesser charges of disorderly conduct with the hate crime penalty enhancer and will go to trial on January 10. The fifth alleged attacker, Andrew Ostrand, 42, will enter his plea at a December 20 hearing.

The formal arraignment drew a smaller crowd to the tiny Door County courthouse and Judge Diltz announced a day prior to the hearing that seating would be on a "first come, first served basis," apparently in response to numerous complaints by supporters of Day and Groeschl who were prohibited from being seated at an October hearing because they were not "blood rela-

tions" of the victims.

However Diltz also announced that he would limit seating during the trial phase of the criminal proceedings to 10 attendees each for those supporting the defendants and those supporting the victims. Media reporters will take up the balance of the seating.

Media attention continues to grow in the case and the arraignment hearing drew at least one national cable news team. A closed circuit camera may be installed for the trial phase for the expected overflow crowd. Oral arguments in the case will be heard on March 11, 2005. A pre-trial conference also is set for April 4 and the jury trial is scheduled to begin on April 26.

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duction deadline suggests a number of Kutchka's long time advertisers may be aligning themselves with *QLife*. Another claimed that *Outbound News* last minute shift to another printer was due to a past due bill at Lake Country Publishing.

The most surprising rumor offered since *QLife's* debut is the reported decision by publisher Hoffman to actively seek the directorship of PrideFest. However, sources close to the Cream City Foundation and the PrideFest governing board confirmed to *Quest* that Hoffman was "hot" to land the position. Given the time demands of running Wisconsin's largest and most costly LGBT pride celebration, will Hoffman be able to provide the additional time needed to refine and further develop his fledgling publication?

Quest also received phone and email reports questioning Hoffman's track record at the Milwaukee Public School System (MPS) and penchant for self-promotion, claiming that "it was highly publicized in the local Milwaukee news and newspapers." A *Quest* check of the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* online archive turned up a September, 20, 2003 Spivak & Bice column detailing a less than savory book deal "author" Hoffman apparently had talked the MPS into during his somewhat brief tenure as system's spokesperson. According to the political columnists the already financially troubled school system was "stuck with dozens of boxes stuffed with some 3,200 copies of two kiddie books written by Hoffman and a failed program to get books in the hands of children."

Hoffman's debut performance on the short-lived Don & Bo

Show on local channels 41 & 58 also was tabbed "one of the most unpleasant moments on Milwaukee TV in a long, long time" by *Journal-Sentinel* critic Tim Cuprisin in his April 11, 2004 review. Cuprisin was apparently revolted when Hoffman "peeled back a toupee to uncover the sparse patch of hair" in the opening moments of the show.

And finally, will the Milwaukee publications new and old be able to stand yet even more competition? At production deadline, *Quest* also learned that the currently Rockford, IL-based *Edge* magazine is in final negotiations to rent the old Second Street offices that once held Ron Geiman's *IN Step* and later the *Wisconsin Light*. A monthly "lifestyle" publication, *Edge* is heavy with drag gossip and bar columns, and would appear to be taking direct aim at the beleaguered Kutchka's premiere publication *Outbound*, which recently added "Midwest" to its title in a reported plan to expand into the highly competitive Chicago LGBT media market.

How the media cream will rise or fall in the Cream City in the coming months is anyone's guess. One thing is likely to be certain: readers will be able to find out here in *Quest*, which is about to begin its twelfth uninterrupted year of publication - something most gay Milwaukee publications have yet to accomplish.

Sturgeon Bay: Hate-Crime Charges Dropped For Two Alleged Gay Bashers - December 9 saw the formal arraignment for three of the five men accused of attacking a Door County gay couple in a rural Jacksonport tavern last June. However, only Joshua

into what may suddenly be an over saturated metro gay media market.

Outbound News actually beat competitor *QLife* to the streets with a sneak peek at the M & M Club on December 13. The debut issue reminded some of a combination of the Terry Boughner/Jerry Johnson and Greg Quindell versions of the former *Wisconsin Light*. Amidst a mix of wire service LGBT news stories were popular columns by Michael "Cordially Yours" Johnston and Dear Ruthie. Though promoted as a statewide publication, a quick survey of outstate LGBT venues at *Quest's* production deadline revealed no copies of the new paper were available outside of Milwaukee outlets.

However *QLife*, originally promoted as a Milwaukee-only publication, made its colorful debut statewide as scheduled on December 15. The paper, filled with lots of locally-produced commentary on everything from decorating to pets, and a welcome from Milwaukee mayor Tom Barrett. Most refreshing was the large number of columnists and writers from the city's women's community.

In his maiden publisher's statement, Don Hoffman trotted out the tired canard that somehow the Milwaukee LGBT community had no "voice" because it lacked a locally produced newspaper. The fact that both *Quest* and the Milwaukee-based *Outbound* have consistently served the community and covered events with the assistance of many local collaborators apparently escaped his view.

News - referred to in the paper as Q Happenings - was dated and in short supply, however. A feature story on the anti-gay Wisconsin Marriage Amendment provided a basic summary of the issue to date, but no new insights or, surprisingly, any mention of Action Wisconsin's January lobby day that has been in the planning stages since last Fall. The other major stories had been published in *Quest* weeks earlier, including an in-depth interview with the LGBT Center's Pabrita Benjamin at the height of her get-out-the vote efforts.

The real promise of *QLife's* long-term success were the large number of advertisers - many with full-color spreads - in the debut issue. *Outbound News's* adver-

tiser support appeared thinner. Also impressive was the timely debut of the paper's lively and easy-to-navigate website, developed by *QLife* consultant and *Wisconsin Gay News* webmaster William Attewell. The *Outbound News* website was not up at *Quest's* production deadline.

The dueling debuts of the two papers have fueled a war of words, live, online, in print and via email, from supporters for both publications. *Quest's* phone lines and email boxes have been filled with anonymous and on-the-record reports from Cream City queers ready to dish the dirt, much of it in response to postings on a state LGBT news website.

Kutchka's publishing ventures have been the subject of a recent series of articles on the *Wisconsin Gay News* website operated by former *Wisconsin IN Step* publisher William Attewell. In his ongoing investigation of *Outbound* and *Outbound News*, Attewell uncovered Kutchka representing himself as Kevin Anderson, the fictional "publisher" of allegedly forthcoming *Outbound Atlanta*. Attewell uncovered yet another

pending version of *Outbound* at the website www.outboundindy.com.

Outbound News columnist Dear Ruthie responded to Attewell's investigation with a sharply worded, largely *ad hominem* attack on the former *IN Step* publisher. Attewell can now add Ruthie's "Jackhole" trophy to the LGBT Center's Lifetime Achievement award on his mantle.

Several of *Quest's* Milwaukee contacts also volunteered that Kutchka was the source of recent rumors that *Quest* would cease distributing in Milwaukee, a continuation of his reported pattern of alleged verbal, but "unpublished" bashing of the 11-year old news and entertainment guide. However, the rumors may also have been sparked by the widely published and broadcast announcement of the closing of the Historic West Theatre, also owned by *Quest* publisher Mark Mariucci, in Green Bay at the end of the year. Mariucci has said he will continue to distribute *Quest* statewide as he has for the last decade.

An anonymous and now partially confirmed email received by *Quest* at pro-



Rascals bar in Appleton really knows how to get in the Christmas spirit! This gingerbread house was made of the real stuff and stands about 5 feet high. (Large enough for Za to live in...)

The Annual Christmas Dinner Party for Rainbow Over Wisconsin is a chance for the members to get together and have a little fun once a year. The rest of the year is spent fundraising for Northeast Wisconsin LGBT organizations. (ROW money is not used for the party.)



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In our previous ad we omitted bartender Andy. Sorry! DJ Carl is now spinning at XS and Shelter weekly. Special thanks for the years and years of service to Greg, Carl, Holly Hot Damn (Jimmy), Andy, Tony, Joe, Marti, Aron, Adam, DJ Adam, DJ Mark L, Katie, Aaron the doorman, David Shore and Sean. Plus new staff including Josh, Tina, Cory, the Sunday Hip Hop Night Staff and lots of people who have worked for us over the years.

ZA's

Historic West Theatre