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QUEST



Keeping Wisconsin's LGBT Community Informed for 12 Years Vol. 12 #23 ~ Dec. 8 - 21, 2005 6000 copies

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Diversion of the Day Community Calendar

Saturday, December 10

Jo'Dee's Intl. (Racine) 34th Anniversary Christmas Show - *The True Illusion Revue* - 10:30 pm, featuring Tracy Michaels, Beja, Brittany Morgan, Ben, Ashley Michaels & Dan E. Dance Men's Voices Milwaukee Holiday Concert, *Frostiana - A Winter Night's Journey* - 8 pm, at the UW-M Zelazo Center, 2419 E. Kenwood. Tickets: \$15 advance, \$20 at door. Order tickets (414) 229-4308

Harbor Room (Milw.) Christmas w/ Santa & Customer Appreciation party, starts 3 pm

Monday, December 12

Outwards Book Club, 7:30 p.m. Christmas romance is in the area.. Kevin Scott's *The Boys in the Brownstone*. New members welcome!

Tuesday, December 13

Lesbian Reading Group @ Outwards, 7 p.m. Group will discuss Stacey D'Erasmio's acclaimed novel, *A Seahorse Year*.

Thursday, December 15

Boulevard Ensemble Studio Studio; *Hilarious Broadway Smash 'Rounding Third'* (a Milwaukee premiere) opens this evening, runs thru Jan.14. FMO (414) 744-5757 or www.boulevardtheatre.com

Saturday, December 17

**Madison Gay Video Club: 8 pm *Queer As Folk - Saying Goodbye*, *Regarding Billy & French Connection*. (608) 244-8675 (eve) or www.mgvc.org
Milwown Kings perform this evening at the Miramar Theater, Milw: *Very Dirty Christmas Show*. Doors open 9 pm, \$6 cover. 18 & up**

Wednesday, December 21

BESTD HIV testing @ Midtone Spa, Milw., 7-10 pm

Saturday, December 24

Harbor Room (Milw.) regular hours today (Christmas eve buffet); open Christmas day at 2 p.m.

Sunday, December 25 - Merry Christmas!

Thursday, December 29

***A Talent to Amuse*, with Gary Briggie as Noel Coward (Jamie Johns on piano) opens this evening at the Skylight Opera Theatre (Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee) and runs thru Jan. 8. Tickets etc.: (414) 291-7800 or www.skylightopera.com**

Saturday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

Harbor Room (Milw.) Open 43 consecutive hours till 2am on Jan. 2! Positive Voice New Year's Eve Gala: Liberty Hall Banquet & Conference Center, Kimberly. FMO & ticket details (920) 435-4404

Wednesday, January 4

Harbor Room (Milw.) STD testing 9pm-1am

Tuesday, January 10

BESTD HIV testing @ Midtowne Spa, Milw., 6-9 pm

Monday, January 23

BESTD HIV testing @ Midtowne Spa, Milw., 7-10 pm

Friday, January 27

Skylight Opera Theatre (Milw., 158 N. Broadway / Cabot Theatre) *The Tragedy of Carmen* opens today & runs thru Feb. 12; tickets - (414) 291-7800 or www.skylightopera.com

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Holiday Punch 2005 is Habit Forming!

Be careful! The 27th edition of Dale Gutzman's Holiday Punch is coming to Off The Wall Theatre, and word is it's habit forming. This fast paced, infamous holiday concoction of comedy and music which started at the Skylight Theatre twenty-eight years ago, is one of Milwaukee's oldest Christmas traditions. Gutzman and company satirically visit the events of the past year, the hype and hypertension of the season, and have fun with film and television parodies. This year's show is no exception.



The 40th anniversary of "The Sound of Music" and the release of a new dvd, inspires an off the wall sketch of "deleted scenes" from this famous musical. The completion of the Stars Wars saga is the basis for a rendition of "Send in the Clones." Gutzman and gang explore some new and far out Christmas gifts, show us bizarre Christmas customs in Norway and Mexico, and do their take on the hit tv show Crocodile Hunter. The entire audience gets in on the act when the song "Home" is performed with sound effects and a wealth of unusual props. And the Holiday Punch gang do their own version of the hit show "Grease" called "Lard!"

Musical moments in this 2005 edition will include; Celebration, Sleigh Ride, I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, two original Christmas tunes penned just for the show, and much more.

The cast for this year's comedy and music insanity consists of Mary Henricksen, Karl Miller, Sharon Rise, Lawrence Luksasavage, Kristen Pagenkopf, Jeremy Welter, Heidi Woelck, Samantha, as well as technical director David Roper and Gutzman himself. The music director will be Chris Wezalek.

Holiday punch entrenches itself at the Off The Wall Theatre for performances on Dec. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 29, 30, and Two shows on New Years Eve.

Shows Wed. and Thurs. at 7:30 Fri. and Sat. at 8:00 and Sun. at 4:30

(New Years Eve shows at 8:00 and 10:30) tickets: \$22-\$26. New Years Show \$30



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THE AMENDMENT BATTLE BEGINS ANEW

Nearly Seven Hundred Pack Sole Public Hearing November 29

Madison - If the Republican strategists spearheading the so-called "Wisconsin Marriage Amendment" thought they might slip the required second passage of the bill under the holiday radar, they likely were surprised by the overwhelming turnout for the legislation's sole public hearing November 29 here.

Hundreds of people jammed into the joint Judiciary Committee hearing at the Capitol to argue over whether the Wisconsin Constitution should be amended to ban all legal recognition of unmarried couples regardless of sexual orientation. A total of 678 people either registered their opinion or spoke about the amendment during the seven hour marathon session.

Tension at the hearing was evident even before testimony began. At the close of the Pledge of Allegiance, which ends with the line "with liberty and justice for all," amendment opponents shouted the last two words.

Rhetoric from the amendment's supporters certainly did nothing to ease such feelings. Long-term committed gay couples were characterized as "sexual terrorists" by one supporter, while another claimed same sex marriage would lead to bestiality.

One comment by an expert witness supporting the amendment took nearly everyone, even backers, by surprise. Marquette Law School professor Christopher Wolf stated "It's absurd to say everybody should be treated equally," which prompted strong follow-ups by Senate committee members Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) and Fred Risser (D-Madison).

The centerpiece testimony for amendments supporters came from Family Research Institute of Wisconsin Executive Director Julaine Appling, who piled a three foot high stack of petitions to her side as she began her comments. The pile contained 56,000 signatures of citizens supporting the amendment according to Appling. However, the number was also about two-thirds of 75,000 supporters had touted they had obtained in numerous press releases and interviews in the last several months.

One interesting no-show on the supporters' side at the hearing was long-time anti-gay activist Ralph Ovadal. Apparently Ovadal's name had been submitted as a pro-amendment speaker but he failed to respond when he was repeatedly called to

testify by the committee.

Amendment opponents, however, far outnumbered supporters. At 4:47 PM committee co-chair Dave Zein (R-Eau Claire) said there were no pro-amendment speakers left to testify. Though two or three added their names to the list after the announcement, the committee heard only opinions against the amendment for the final two hours.



The highlight of the opposition to the amendment came in the testimony of Richard Taylor and Ray Vahey. Taylor and Vahey are a Milwaukee couple who are in a 49-year committed relationship and were closeted about their union until earlier this year.

Vahey told the committee the impact of the pair's inability to have their relationship legally recognized: "Our taxes have been higher for 49 years, because we cannot file

jointly," he said. "Richard couldn't get medical, dental, long term care or pension option from my last job. The survivor of us has no right to the other's Social Security. We are beneficiaries of our IRAs, but we cannot own them. Our estates will be taxed at higher rates."

Vahey also noted that his partner was a World War II veteran who fought in the battle of Okinawa. "He needs no lecture on patriotism or values - family or otherwise."

"Others in our community face attempts to deprive them of their jobs, their homes and even their children, or to prevent them from adoption," Vahey continued. "In thousands of ways our dignity is attacked, and our very humanity and right to exist are questioned. As the old song goes, 'They curse us just for being what we are.'"

One of the most chilling moments of the day came when Michael Thomas, a Manitowoc County Health and Family Services administrator, choked back tears as he recounted what happened after his late partner was shot in front of him because he was gay. Thomas testified that he was not allowed to be at his partner's side as he died in the hospital. "He died alone in a room with me peering through the glass because they wouldn't let me be with him," Thomas said. "After 20 years with my current partner, I don't want the same thing to happen again."

Reverend Kurt Anderson of Christians For Equality told the committee the amend-



Family Research Institute of Wisconsin Executive Director Julaine Appling. Photo credit: Steve Vargas

New on DVD by Glenn Bishop

"Almost Normal"



One of Glenn's all-time favorite films is Francis Ford Coppola's "Peggy Sue Got Married," which starred Kathleen Turner as the forty-something title character who collapses at her 25th high school reunion and when she comes to, finds herself decades younger, once again a high school senior and possessing a steely determination not to make the same mistakes.

As if tearing a page from Coppola's script, first-time director Mark Moody had crafted his own time travel fantasy in "Almost Normal."

Brad Jenkins, a 40-year-old gay man, might be an outwardly successful professor, still looking ever-so youthful and happily blessed with a loving family. Yet Brad remains single, decidedly unfulfilled and totally depressed after one of his students tries to set Brad up with his Dad. Following one of those nightmarish family get-togethers, Brad drunkenly takes off in his father's recently restored vintage car and promptly crashes into a tree. Much like Turner's "Peggy Sue," Brad (J. Andrew Keitch) wakes up in the past, his past in fact, yet a past with one very big difference: homosexuality is the norm and

"breeders" must hide their love.

An interesting premise, thinks Glenn and so too does Brad who is initially delighted to now be part of the majority.

Moody, who doubles as screenwriter, has some fun moments early on offering humorous snapshots of this altered reality. Here is Brad deeply confused over his parents and their same-sex partners. There is Brad dazzled to see boy couples and girl couples making out on the high school lawn. And how heart-warming is it to see Roland (Tim Hammer), the boy Brad had lusted after for so very long, now become his boyfriend.

At this point, "Almost Normal" seemed, to Glenn anyway, almost perfect. Then writer/director Moody throws Brad - not to mention the rest of us romantic moviegoers -- one giant curve ball: Brad becomes straight. Yup, straight. Well, that's something of a head scratcher.

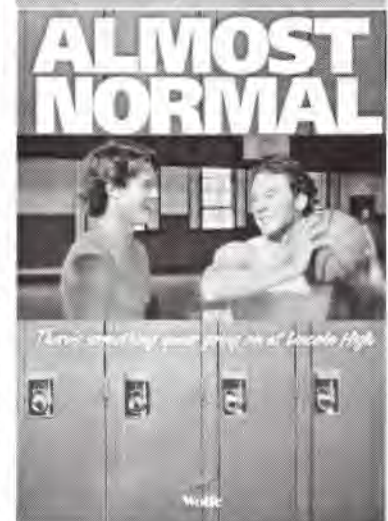
Brad falls truly, madly, deeply in love with Julie (Joan Laukner), his high school best friend and suddenly Brad is once again living life in the shadows, sneaking off to a breeder bar to make out with his girlfriend.

Buy it, rent it or forget it...

Moody's debut film might have a serious message at heart but the director wisely keeps the tone light and comic. J. Andrew Keitch in his film debut has his work cut out for him in the pivotal role of Brad. Although his Brad is initially likeable enough, he simply can't make his conversion to breeder status quite believable. One also wishes that Moody was somewhat more adept at dialogue - all too often teachers and students sound exactly alike. Nevertheless, "Almost Normal" is almost certainly worthwhile viewing this holiday season.

Just the facts...

"Almost Perfect" has a running time of just over 90 minutes and is in English. DVD is available with an SRP: \$24.95. DVD extras include deleted scenes, cast interviews, outtakes and a somewhat disappointing photo gallery that is devoid of any shirtless boy photos.



Except that in the opposite world, shouldn't the formerly straight Julie - who in the future married Brad's brother - have turned into a lesbian? Just asking?

Ultimately Brad must somehow go "back to the future" and Moody cleverly comes up trumps with an ending that will likely make most moviegoers forget some of the film's more bizarre anomalies.

piece of Milwaukee's downtown theater district, a magnificent example of architecture of another time and era that serves performers and audiences of the 21st century as it did at the turn of the 20th century. The Pabst Theater, a National Historic Landmark, stands on the northwest corner of Wells and Water streets in downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The cost of the tour will be \$4 per person. To participate either call Raymond Konz- Krzyminski at 414-617 1152 or join the group by 10:45 a.m. on the day of the tour.

MILWAUKEE WAVE HOSTS LGBT NIGHT DECEMBER 9

Milwaukee - The city's world champion professional indoor soccer team the Milwaukee Wave will hold a LGBT night Friday, December 9 at the U.S. Cellular Arena here. The evening will begin with the Wave's hosting the Philadelphia Kixx.

Following the match, there will be a free one hour concert featuring humorist and musician Pat McCurdy. McCurdy, who has recorded seven albums, performs with such energy and charisma that he can be compared to the cast of "Who's Line is it Anyway" wrapped up in one crazy man. McCurdy's infectious and danceable songs range over such off-kilter themes as driving in reverse or the relationship between sex and beer.

Wave tickets typically range from \$12-20 each. Individuals calling 414-224-9283 and asking for the "LGBT (and Straight Ally) Special" will receive \$16 seats for \$10.

RECORD-BREAKING HOLLY JOLLY FOLLY NETS \$80,000 FOR ARCW

Milwaukee - ARCW's 10th annual Jolly Holly Folly held Tuesday, November 29 at the Milwaukee Center Arboretum saw record attendance and a special donation that netted the agency about \$80,000, according to unofficial estimates provided to *Quest*. Over 700 attendees sampled signature dishes from 23 of Milwaukee's finest restaurants and enjoyed the final dress rehearsal performance of the comic farce "Laughing Stock" by the Milwaukee Repertory.

Immediately prior to the start of the show, ARCW's Doug Nelson accepted at check for \$50,000 from the Potawatomi Nation Foundation earmarked for housing in the Milwaukee area. "This generous donation will help ARCW in its goal of assuring no one living with AIDS will have to endure being homeless," Nelson said.

"Our donors look forward to this event each year," ARCW Vice President of Development Dan Mueller noted. "It's a wonderful night out on the town."

Restaurants included Cubanitas, La Perla, Ristorante Bartolotta and The Knick. The play, written by Charles Morey, is a hilarious backstage look into the world of the theatre.

Pictures from the Folly are below.



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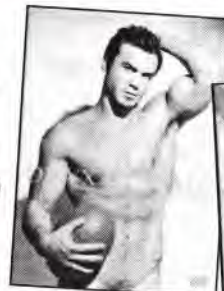
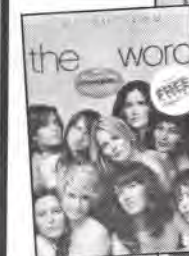
Christmas Songs: Diana Krall \$18.98
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Almost Normal DVD \$24.95
Sale \$20.95 (17.5% off)

Hot & Flashy Energy Supply Kit \$21.95
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Wanted : Girlfriend T-Shirt \$18.95
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ment legislation effectively contradicts the First amendment of the U.S. Constitution. "For churches that have raised the bar from tolerance to acceptance, and encourage same-sex marriage, deserve to practice their religion equally and without government interference," Anderson said. "It is for this Legislature to preserve the separation of church and state for which our forefathers and foremothers fought with such courage."

Prior to the committee hearing Action Wisconsin and Center Advocates jointly held a news conference that offered comments by Anderson, Taylor and Vahey. Statements were also made by Patrick Flaherty of Center Advocates, Janie Ocejio representing the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Rev. David Dragseth of Milwaukee's Lake Park Lutheran Church and Madison couple Bill Briggs & Al Poliarco with their three children.

Later in the day amendment opponents held an interfaith vigil in the Capitol rotunda, where workers were decorating the centerpiece two-story tall holiday tree. Both amendment supporters and opponents took breaks from the hearing to watch the progress on the decorations which were barely started at the



Taylor/Vahey testify. Photo credit: Steve Vargas

beginning of the day but nearly complete by the hearings 7 PM closing.

The amendment legislation - known as AJR-67 in the Assembly and SJR-53 in the Senate - will first see a Senate vote that may occur as early as December 6. Strategists reportedly are seeking a quick vote in the upper body as there have been numerous hints of wavering support among Republican moderates, according to

Capitol insiders. The Assembly vote is now not expected until 2006, possibly as late as February or March. Republicans there hold an overwhelming majority.

If passed by both houses, the amendment will be on the November 2006 ballot, along with a gubernatorial vote, the re-election bid of U. S. Senator Herb Kohl and all the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Triangle would like to thank all of the entertainers in our Wisconsin Royalty Show

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Josie Lynn • Mark Madison • Natasha Marques • Sasha Mitchell
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and a great sendoff for Natasha Marques!*



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A nearly packed house and a smooth pageant marks the 17th annual Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA Pageant run by this magazine (Quest). This year the pageant was produced by Kylie and Dan from Drag Depot.com and returned to Milwaukee where it started for the first time in 15 years. The winner pictured on our cover is Deja Vu and your First Alternate is Shannon Dupree. As usual it was a close pageant. Both will now compete this May in Dallas Texas at the national pageant. Prelim dates for next year are already being scheduled.

Left: Neely Ohara brings home a national crown with the Miss United States title. She will be traveling country-wide performing at state prelims all year.

form his edgy, clever, insightful political folk originals at the cafe beginning at 7 PM.

According to Weber's official biography, Barry fell in love with traditional folk music "in between drinking binges, rum orgies and frat orientations gone horribly awry." He became the folk music coordinator of his college radio station, and worked as an intern for Smithsonian Folkways Recordings in 2002.

Using the college radio studio, Weber recorded two CDs: *Glorified Demos* in 2001 and *"The Bush Song" ... And Other Songs I Shouldn't Sing* in 2003. Throughout 2002 and 2003, Barry was a dedicated rally performer at several peace movements throughout Wisconsin, leading crowds through self-penned folk rewrites as well as many songs of his own. His two most popular originals, "The Bush Song" and "Talking Post-9/11 Blues" peaked at #1 and #14 on the local CMJ radio charts, respectively.

Barry relocated to Asheville, NC in 2003. He was the 1st place winner of the Fony Acoustic Music Alliance (FAMA) Songwriting Contest in 2004. Earlier this year, he released his first new CD in two years: *We'll All Get To Heaven If We Get God Drunk*. Weber's website www.barryweber.net offers downloads of some of his most popular

songs, including two versions of "The Bush Song" and "The Lord Loves A Faggot."

Seating for the Weber concert will be open. For more information about Weber's appearance, contact the Harmony Cafe at 920-734-2233 or online at: www.harmonycafe.org.

MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER LAUNCHES VICTIM OUTREACH/ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Milwaukee - The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Anti-Violence Project expands its ability to support LGBT victims of crime with the hiring on a Victim Outreach/Advocate. The Advocate will be responsible for educating LGBT people about violent crimes such as domestic abuse and sexual assault through community outreach efforts. In addition, the Advocate will work directly with victims of crime by providing telephone and in-person crisis intervention; accompanying victims to the hospital and other appointments; serving as a liaison with service providers and offering information about resources. For more information about the Victim Outreach/Advocacy Program, contact Kathy Herbst at 414-271-2656 or via email at: kherbst@mklgbt.org.

SAGE TO TOUR HISTORIC PABST THEATER

Milwaukee - SAGE/Milwaukee members and friends will have the opportunity to walk a one-hour tour of the city's historic Pabst Theater Tuesday, December 13. The tour will begin at 11 AM at the Pabst Theater box office located in the Milwaukee Center and will include the fascinating sets of the current production, "A Christmas Carol."

The Pabst Theatre was built in 1895 by brewing magnate Captain Frederick Pabst, and designed by architect Otto Strack in the tradition of the great European opera houses. Its opulent baroque interior includes an Austrian crystal chandelier, a staircase crafted from white Italian Carrara marble, and a proscenium arch, highlighted in gold leaf, framing the stage.

The Pabst Theater rose from the ashes of a theater known as Das Neue Deutsche Stadt-Theater (The New German City Theater), which had been built by Pabst in 1890. When informed of the fire while on vacation in Europe in 1895, Pabst reportedly cabled his staff to "rebuild at once!" In just eleven months, the theater was rebuilt.

Today, The Pabst Theater is the center-

SOUTH AFRICAN SUPREME COURT BACKS GAY MARRIAGE

Johannesburg - On a continent where politicians, church leaders and traditional figures often harshly condemn homosexuality, a South African lesbian couple who wanted to wed won the case for same-sex marriage in their nation's Constitutional Court here December 1. However gay activists who hoped for immediate weddings will have to wait. Instead of immediately legalizing same-sex marriages, the court gave Parliament a year to bring the country's marriage laws in line with its constitution.

South Africa will now become only the fifth country to permit same-sex marriage.

The landmark ruling ordered the Government to stop delaying legislation that would allow two Pretoria-based white Afrikaner lesbians, Marie Fourie and Cecelia Bonthuis, to marry.

"The common-law definition of marriage is declared to be inconsistent with the constitution and invalid to the extent that it does not permit same-sex couples to enjoy the status and the benefits coupled with responsibilities it accords heterosexual couples," judge Albie Sachs said.

The Netherlands, Spain, Belgium and Canada are the only other countries to have legalized same-sex marriage.

In Britain, civil partnerships for same-sex couples will become legal on December 21.

The Constitutional Court decision will require the definition of marriage to be changed from a union between a man and a woman to a union between two persons. Last year, the Supreme Court of Appeal ruled in favor of the couple, declaring that the current law was discriminatory. But they discovered that they were still unable to register for a church wedding and petitioned the Constitutional Court.

The judges of the Johannesburg-based court ordered the Government, by 10 votes to one, to amend the country's marriage laws within the next 12 months. The dissenting judge had wanted the decision to be implemented immediately.

The court said that if parliament did not act, the legal definition of marriage would be automatically changed to include same-sex unions.

The decision breaks an important taboo in Africa, where homosexuality is widely condemned and even outlawed in some countries.

Two Nigerians are facing the death penalty if convicted of sodomy. In neighboring Zimbabwe, President Robert Mugabe frequently attacks homosexuals and lesbians as worse than dogs and pigs.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has outlawed gay sex, declaring it to be against the order of nature. He recently ordered detectives to find gays and lock them up and charge them.

South Africa's current constitution is among the most liberal in the world. It was the first country to outlaw discrimination against gays and lesbians.

While the decision was welcomed by the nation's gay community yesterday, some groups questioned the need to delay its implementation.

"Why wait 12 months?" asked Thuli Madi, from the lesbian and gay rights group Behind the Mask. "If parliament does not do anything in 12 months, we can marry anyway, so why not make it effective now?"

In the wider South African community, however, the ruling has caused some disquiet. Leading churches, in what is still a deeply conservative country, have called for a referendum on the issue. The African Christian Democratic Party called for an amendment to the constitution that would nullify the ruling.

Same sex relations were decriminalized in South Africa only seven years ago and prejudice against gays is rife. This year, a minister from the Dutch Reformed Church was defrocked because of his homosexuality.



CALIFORNIA COURT RULES HIGH SCHOOLS CANNOT "OUT" GAY STUDENTS

Los Angeles - A federal judge here ruled December 1 that a high school does not have the right to reveal a student's sexual orientation without his or her permission.

The American Civil Liberties Union brought the lawsuit on behalf of Charlene Nguon, a senior in Orange County's Garden Grove Unified School District, who claimed the principal violated her privacy rights by telling her parents she was a lesbian after he disciplined her for being affectionate with her girlfriend. The school sought to have the lawsuit dismissed, but Judge James Selna of the U.S. District Court in the

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Central District of California allowed the suit to move forward.

"We are pleased that the court recognized that the school does not have the automatic right to disclose a student's sexual orientation just because that student is out of the closet to his or her friends at school," said Christine P. Sun, a staff attorney for the ACLU. "Coming out is a very serious decision that should not be taken away from anyone, especially from students who may be put in peril if they live in an unsupportive home."

Nguon was repeatedly disciplined during the 2004-05 school year by Santiago High School Principal Ben Wolf for displaying affection for her girlfriend. The straight-A student was even suspended for a week and eventually asked to leave the school, which she did halfway through the spring semester of her junior year. Last summer, she was allowed to return to Santiago, but her disciplinary record has not yet been cleared.

POPE'S ANTI-GAY AIDS DAY MESSAGE FOLLOWS "NO GAY PRIEST" DECREE

Rome - Pope Benedict XVI's World AIDS Day message- released through Vatican officials - opposed the use of condoms, blamed gays for the spread of the disease, and praised the Catholic Church's efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. The anti-gay messages follows less than a week after the release of a "no gay priest" edict that has many Catholics around the United States in an uproar.

Reminding Catholic's that the Church opposes the use of condoms, the Pope's World AIDS Day message said that only by restricting sex to within marriage can the disease be prevented. He also blamed gays, who he called a "pansexual culture that devalues sexuality" for the spread of HIV/AIDS.

However in a personal weekly address earlier, the Pope said he was encouraged by the Church's efforts to combat the disease, adding "I feel close to those sick from AIDS and their families, and I invoke for them the help and comfort of the Lord."

Earlier this week the Vatican officially released heavily leaked decree on gay priests. The long awaited document banning gay men and those who "support gay culture" has sparked outrage and disgust from victim advocates, clergy and gay and lesbian rights groups.

For months snippets of the documents have been leaked to the press, causing speculation as to how sweeping the ban will be and if it would officially have the pope's support. However, the document released left little room to wonder about any nuances.

The statement claims that gay men and lesbians are "objectively disordered" and the Church "cannot admit to the seminary or to holy orders those who practice homosexuality, present deep-seated homosexual tendencies, or support the so-called 'gay culture.'"

The bishops, Episcopal Conferences and Superior Generals are charged with enforcing this ban. Spiritual directors, who have a sacrosanct relationship with their seminari-

the devastating effects it would have on families. Instead, they have chosen to play politics with the lives of real Wisconsinites by unveiling this mean-spirited, holiday season 'gift'. This amendment would be the first in the history of Wisconsin to restrict, rather than protect, individual rights. Using the state constitution to single out a group of people for discrimination undermines respect for the constitution, laws and citizens of this state."

Another danger the group outlined for the legislature is that the amendment's broad language - to ban any legal arrangement that is "substantially similar" to marriage - could result in numerous lawsuits as the state's courts struggle to determine what the amendment means. The language of the proposed Wisconsin amendment is similar to the language of constitutional amendments passed in Nebraska and Michigan. The Nebraska amendment was struck down as unconstitutional in federal court; the Michigan amendment spurred controversy and ongoing litigation over whether health insurance benefits already offered to domestic partners violated that amendment.

"The legislature has been warned, both by LATA and by its own Legislative Council, that this amendment, if it passes, will go far beyond restricting marriage. It will threaten the ability of gay citizens to provide for their families, as well as impede the ability of the legislature and others to grant rights and benefits to domestic partners in the future," said Packard, referring in part to a 2004 Legislative Council memo concluding that litigation ultimately may be necessary to determine the amendment's impact on domestic partner benefits. "Despite these warnings, the sponsors continue to minimize the impact this amendment could have on Wisconsin families and on Wisconsin's legal system. The truth is that the language is so broad and overreaching that it can be used to hurt families and children. By claiming otherwise, the amendment's supporters are throwing sand in the eyes of Wisconsin voters."

COMIC SINGER/SONGWRITER BARRY WEBER IN CONCERT AT HARMONY CAFE



Appleton - He's been dubbed "the Phil Ochs of the new millennium." The *Fox Valley Scene* identifies him as "that rare performer who can make audiences laugh while he educates them about the state of the world." The *Des Moines Cityview* concurs: "His tongue is sharp and lyrics clever...if he weren't singing, Weber would probably be writing for *The Onion*." And singer/songwriter Barry Weber will perform one night only - Monday, December 19 - at the Harmony Cafe, 124 North Oneida Street here.

The 24 year old Weber, a former Wauwatosa resident and a graduate of UW-Oshkosh who now lives in North Carolina, will per-



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MIKE TATE NAMED "NO ON AMENDMENT" CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Action WI, Center Advocates Hire Veteran Wisconsin Grassroots Organizer

Madison - A day after over 700 people packed a hearing on the constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage, Action Wisconsin and Center Advocates announced the hiring of an experienced, full-time campaign manager. Effective December 1, Mike Tate will lead the effort to defeat the amendment at the ballot box in November 2006.

"Mike Tate has a high level of experience, a strong background in Wisconsin politics, and fresh ideas. By hiring him, we are taking a major step forward in defeating the amendment in 2006," AW board president Tony Sheehan said. "He will build a tremendous campaign that mobilizes a majority of Wisconsin voters to oppose this harmful, far-reaching amendment."

Tate has an extensive political resume in Wisconsin. In 2004, he oversaw one of the largest grassroots voter mobilization efforts in Wisconsin political history as the deputy director of America Coming Together. Tate was also the state director for Governor Howard Dean's presidential campaign. In 2002, he worked as the state field director for Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk's gubernatorial bid and as a regional political organizer for AFSCME council 40 in the general election. Tate has worked for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin and is a former national vice-president of the College Democrats of America.

"Wisconsin will be the first state in the nation to defeat a constitutional ban on civil unions and marriage, and I'm excited to lead the effort," Tate told *Quest*. "This effort is critical for families in Wisconsin,

families across the nation, and everyone who is tired of the way these amendments are being used to divide our country. Wisconsinites will draw a line in the sand next November and send a powerful message that they stand squarely for fairness and equality for all our citizens."



Compiled and written by Mike Fitzpatrick

The proposed ban on civil unions and marriage must still clear the required second vote in the state Legislature. Although Action Wisconsin and the Milwaukee-based Center Advocates have been working hard for over a year to pressure key lawmakers, it seems likely the amendment will pass the Legislature and be sent to a statewide vote.

Action Wisconsin is the statewide advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their families. The group has built a partnership for the campaign with Center Advocates, the equal rights group based in the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

WISCONSIN LAWYERS OPPOSE ANTI-MARRIAGE AMENDMENT

Group Cites Court Rulings Overturning Similar "Flawed Language" In Other States

Madison - Lawyers Against the Amendment (LATA), a group of attorneys and legal scholars across Wisconsin, responded with concern for Wisconsin families when a committee of the state legislature announced over the holiday weekend that it will hold hearings tomorrow on a proposed state constitutional amendment that would prohibit domestic partnerships and civil unions for all Wisconsin citizens, and would ban marriage for same-sex couples.

"Wisconsin statutes already limit marriages to opposite-sex couples," explained Tamara Packard, civil rights attorney and co-founder of LATA. Earlier this year, LATA sent letters signed by over 345 lawyers and scholars statewide to members of the legislature cautioning that the proposed amendment goes well beyond limiting marriage to heterosexual couples, and endangers Wisconsin families by jeopardizing existing legal protections in the areas of estate planning, family, criminal and constitutional law. LATA warned that the proposed amendment could threaten the well being of a large number of children with same-sex parents in Wisconsin because it would render uncertain the legal arrangements their parents make to ensure that both parents will be responsible for raising the children, to dispose of property, and to make health care decisions within the families.

"It was our hope," said Packard, "that the legislature would take seriously its role in safeguarding the rights of all hard-working, tax-paying Wisconsin families, and drop the proposed amendment once they understood

ans, according to theologian Mary Hunt, are ordered to discourage gays from seeking ordination.

Seminary visits, which began in September, give the church a means of enforcing the ban. It is clear that the ban applies to gay men but it is more confusing as to what supporters of "gay culture" may mean, Emory University religion professor Mark Jordan said.

"It's an attempt at mind control," claimed Harry Knox, director of the religion and faith programs at the Human Rights Campaign foundation. "It's an attempt to cut off debate about the issue. It seeks to silence seminarians and priests who are coming to understand that gay people should be fully included in the lives of the church. It could apply to straight priests as well."

GAY REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN WILL NOT SEEK RE-ELECTION



Phoenix - Arizona Republican Congressman Jim Kolbe, 63, is calling it quits after 11 terms in the House. Kolbe made headlines in 1996 as the first member of his party's delegation in Congress to acknowledge being gay. In announcing his decision not to run, Kolbe said that he was confident that he could have won re-election, but that it was time that he and his district "walk down different paths."

Kolbe was given a speaking slot at the 2000 Republican National Convention in Philadelphia. Even though he was addressing trade issues, not LGBT concerns, the spotlight on him infuriated the religious right in the party. Fundamentalists members of the Texas delegation stood and turned their back on Kolbe as he spoke.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, praised Kolbe's public service, saying that with Democratic Representatives Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin and Barney Frank of Massachusetts, "he sends a message of hope to LGBT young people that any American can achieve their dreams regardless of sexual orientation." He said Kolbe was "instrumental in overturning the ban on domestic partner benefits for District of Columbia government employees."

Patrick Guerriero, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, said Kolbe "never wavered in making a conservative case that all Americans should be treated equally regardless of sexual orientation," and cited his opposition to the federal anti-gay marriage amendment and his contributions to fighting the global AIDS pandemic. Kolbe was chair of the House Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, controlling US foreign aid. He has not announced future plans.

LAST FRENCH "PINK TRIANGLE" HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR DIES

Paris - Pierre Seel, the last known surviving French gay victim of the Nazi concentration camps, died at the age of 82 in Paris November 25. Seel's story was featured in the award-winning documentary about the Pink Triangles, the homosexual victims of Nazi repression, "Paragraph 175." In the film Seel recounted his arrest and torture for being gay which included his multiple rapes, and being sodomized with a wooden stake. Seel also described how the Nazis fed his lover to be eaten by dogs before his eyes.

According to blogger Doug Ireland, when Alsace-Lorraine was annexed by the Germans in 1940, the Nazis systematically began

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to weed out "anti-social" elements. They directed the French police to establish the notorious "Pink Lists" to keep track of homosexuals, a task the French carried out with enthusiasm. One of their targets was Seel, an Alsatian, who was arrested at the age of 17 by Vichy France's police for being homosexual.

Seel was turned over to the Nazis, and subsequently sent to the concentration camp of Struthof, the only German concentration camp on French soil during World War II. While in the camp, he discovered that his 18-year-old lover had also been arrested. Seel related that discovery, and the horror



Pierre Seel

that followed it, in his 1994 autobiography, "Moi, Pierre Seel, déporté homosexuel." Seel wrote (as translated by Ireland): "All the inmates were summoned to stand at attention in the camp's assembly ground. The camp commandant and all his troops were there. Into the center of the square we were ordered to form, two SS men dragged a young man. With stupefaction I recognized my beloved, Jo - he and I hadn't seen each other since a few days before my arrest.... The loudspeakers played noisy military music as the SS men stripped him naked, and violently jammed a metal bucket over his head. They unleashed on Jo the

camp's ferocious guard-dogs, German Shepherds, who began to rip at his flesh - first his genitals, and his thighs, and then they devoured Jo before our eyes. His screams of pain were amplified and distorted by the bucket over his head. Frozen in place and trembling, wide-eyed at seeing so much horror, I had tears running down my cheeks. I prayed that he would rapidly lose consciousness...."

After his memoir was published, and following a TV appearance with other deportees, Seel - a small, frail man then in his 70s - was assaulted and beaten in the streets by a group of young people shouting "dirty faggot."

Seel was buried November 28 in the cemetery of Brames, in the Lot-et-Garonne department of France.

HRC ISSUES LGBT-FRIENDLY HOLIDAY BUYER'S GUIDE

Washington, DC - Fair-minded consumers have a powerful new tool for advancing workplace fairness with the November 30 release of the Human Rights Campaign's buyer's guide. The publication - "Buying For Equality" - highlights corporate policies on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality and empowers consumers to make purchasing decisions based on a company's score on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's nationally respected Corporate Equality Index.

"LGBT Americans are changing the policies of corporate America at the check-out line," HRC President Joe Solmonese said. "With an estimated \$610 billion worth of buying power, this guide empowers our community to easily support companies that take a stand for fairness."

Hundreds of popular American brands are listed in the publication, drawing simple distinctions between products, services and retail outlets that consumers use on a daily basis. For electronics purchases, the guide illustrates Best Buy's 100% score over

Circuit City's 43%. For pet food, Iams' 86% tops Alpo's 29. Other comparisons include: Aquafina over Poland Spring, Shell over Exxon-Mobil, and Balance Bar over Powerbar.

Seventy percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are very or extremely likely to consider a brand that is known to provide equal workplace benefits for gay and lesbian employees, according to research by Witeck-Combs Communications and Harris Interactive.

The buyers guide harnesses the power of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Corporate Equality Index - a nationally recognized scorecard of corporate policies affecting their LGBT employees including domestic partner benefits and non-discrimination policies. This year, a record 101 companies scored a perfect 100% on the index - more than seven times the number of 100% scores when the index was introduced in 2002.

"Ensuring equality for all employees on the job is good for the bottom line and corporate America is responding in historic numbers," Solmonese added. "We are using our collective purchasing power to continue to influence change."

The guide is available online at www.hrc.org/BuyersGuide.

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Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA Pageant 2005 @ La Cage

Thank You SIR: by Jeff Hicks

THE LEATHER SCENE - OLD AND NEW.

Terminology & Labels:
Dominant / submissive

S & M; Sadist & Masochist (common)
Slave & Master (occasional)
B & D; Bondage & Discipline (common)
Boy & Daddy (rare)
Top & bottom; *Modern*
Top: Penetrator / Dominant ?
Bottom: Penetratee / Submissive ?

Old guard
Top: Aggressive / Dominant
Bottom: passive / submissive

Which are you? What do you identify as? Why do we need to label ourselves? and/or others? Many of us use labels to identify not only what we think we are but to clue others into what we might be interested in, [or think we are ready to do].

Sadist: One who gets pleasure from inflicting intense stimulation or pain to another for personal or sexual gratification.

Masochist: One who get pleasure from receiving intense stimulation or pain from another for personal or sexual gratification.

Slave: A person who has given all control and freedom of their self to another.

Master: A person who has taken on a slave. A person who has been recognized by members of their own community as possessing skills of significant magnitude to warrant such a title.

Bondage: The restraint of a person with equipment or materials that restrict or control their movement or possible escape.

Discipline: The use of verbal correction or corporal punishment to address an infraction.

Boy: Term used for an adult person who identifies as a boy to other scene participants.

Daddy: Term used for a person controlling or caring for an adult 'boy'.

Top & Bottom-Modern: They are obvious as written.

Top & Bottom -Old guard: The top

would usually initiate ALL contact, conversation, decisions, and most negotiations.

The bottom would usually wait for introduction to Top/s and speak when allowed and negotiate only to the degree of yes we will have a scene or decline totally and depart.

Yes, In major cities the Old Guard was Very tough. If you weren't up to it, You stayed away and/or, out of the scene !

By using some sort of label, we are telling people that we meet that there are some special activities that we want to engage in/or have done, and want to do more and/or take things just a little further. Often we try to be a little more subtle by choosing a handle/nickname or email address that gives clues to who and/or what we are. These can include titles; i.e. Sir/Ma'am, boy/girl, Dom/sub, Daddy/mama, etc. A handle such as CSngdude, or FF, or bdsmguy, definitely gives us clues. We can also include dates/years. These often refer to birth years, but can also mean coming out year, or beginning of fetish lifestyle.

So which are you? How are you going to express that? How blatant, or subtle do you want to be about it? Some like to be totally "Out & Outrageous", (moi?). Others prefer to express as little as possible. I prefer to show and say as much as possible within the bounds of proper behavior for the time and place. Others want to maintain a mystery or secretiveness to allow for surprises or experimentation into new fields

And what do you identify yourself as? Is it a specific role position; top or bottom?, or scene; B&D?, Vanilla?, or a specific fetish? Whatever it is, you can show it openly or keep it to yourself. It is governed only by what works for you.

Why do we sometimes feel that we 'need' to label ourselves or others? It does give us a feeling of belonging to a particular group where we are like the others and belong. This can give us a more comfortable position from which to

view ourselves as well as those around us. So from that position we can use our labels or those shown by others to mingle socially where there is a good chance we will meet like minded people, and not be misunderstood or put down for being who and what we really are. This is often needed to maintain a healthy sense of self worth. Then we might find that one person with whom we are ready and willing to go further with than ever before, and see if we really want to do that much.

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Tall, slender, former jock, semi-retired, n/s, GWM, financially secure, affectionate, passionate, seeks young GWMs 18-25 (slim and smooth a +) for erotic afternoon encounter. No questions, no strings. Please call before noon (414) 327-2731 [3]

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45 y.o. single GWM, 6', 190, dark hair w/ beard would like to be videotaped or photographed performing from the bottom. Likes leather, poppers & pnp. E-mail for more info: phil_432004@yahoo.com [3]

50 y.o. submissive seeks a strict disciplinarian Master who is a take-charge type of man who knows what he wants and isn't afraid to demand it. Slave is very submissive, willing to do whatever Master desires. Slave needs CBT, bondage, lots of discipline, humiliation and forced servitude. (414) 527-1613 anytime day or night. [3]

Attractive GBF w/ light skin completion, 36, seeks GFs 36-55 for friends and possible LTR. Race open. E-mail wisconsins-finest_1@yahoo.com [3]

Seeking 18-21 y.o. men who like sensual massages and BJs. I'm a mature WM, mid 50s, good shape, like to play w/ young men and make them feel sensual. You'll want to cum again and again. No married or fats. Appleton, Green Bay Fox Valley. E-mail bjxs99@yahoo.com [3]

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 gets ours. [3]

Milwaukee guy seeks long term or ??? HIV+GWM who loves all races, 6', 160 lbs., early 40s, 31" waist, 7.5-8" cut, smokes, dark brown hair, gray/bl eyes. E-mail canolli@myway.com [3]

Inexperienced MWM, 47, hot to learn, seeks older 60+ patient & giving instructor to turn me on to gay pleasures. Must be discreet and disease free, with his own place. **Milwaukee;** hot2tryit@hotmail.com [3]

37 y.o. gay female in **Central Wisc.** looking for another woman (preferably a non-smoker) with an open mind....fun & wild! Write Miss K, 413 Division St., **Wausau**, WI 54403

WM, 43, 5'9", 165 lbs., 6" cut, looking for D/D free, H/W similar to s--- c--- & drink c--- at your place Sunday afternoon. blackpercula1962@yahoo.com [3]

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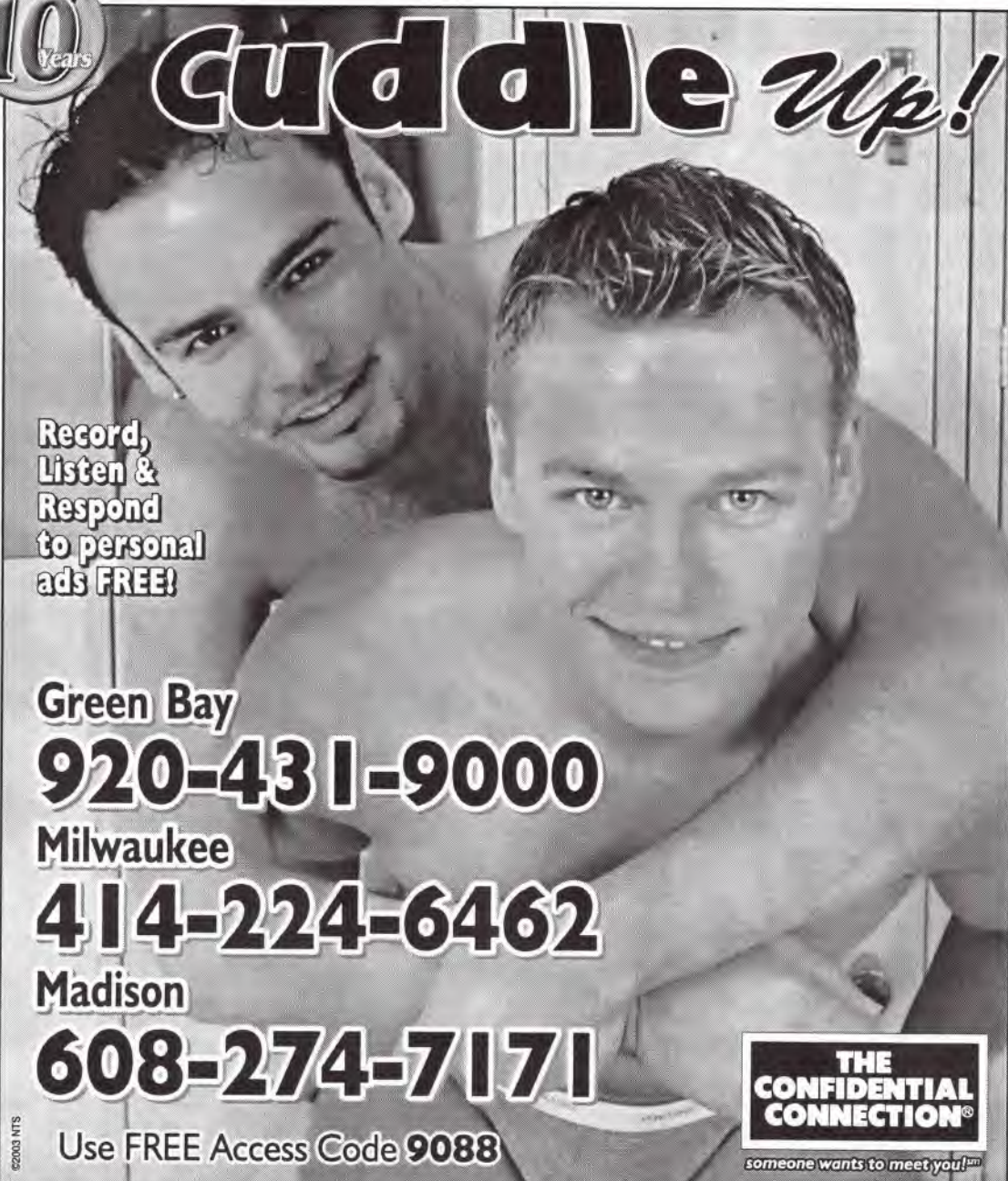


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Attention GMs! Interested in watching? Kick back and enjoy a private strip show. Evenings best. **Wausau** area. (715) 845-6467 [1]

54 y.o. GWM seeking d/d free guy for LTR. Am very down to earth, enjoy quiet eves, boating, fishing, camping. Am very romantic seeking that *special* guy. Someone able to relocate. (715) 355-0780 [1]

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pointed. jduchow@charter.net [1] Lakeshore GWM, 37, 5'3", 130, short brown hair, bl. eyes, seeking friendship & possible LTR or fun w/ guys 30-42. Enjoy hiking, biking, long walks, movies & cuddling. Want to know more? Ring me, Jeff - (920) 242-7182 [2]

LESBIAN Love Letters, 30 SWF Central Wisconsin Femme seeking butch. Send Lesbian Letter to Kris, 1421 1/2 E. Main St., **Merrill, WI 54452 (near Wausau)**. Seeking gentle hugs, gentle kisses & lesbian love letters. [2]

Wanted! Friend or LTR, one to go places with, etrinx@webtv.net (Tom) or pen pal, weekend trips or travel partner. I'm not superficial sex addicted, self-centered or childish. 3658 W. 79th Pl., Chicago. (773) 585-6275. Call midnight. [2]

Looking for boys who need to please a dad; live in possible.

(608) 427-2269 or e-mail brown-ic3@mwt.net [2]

SWM 50s seeking friendships - age 30+. Single, honest, men, women for hanging out, and fun. **Milwaukee**. Sincere replies only. (414) 535-1441 [2]

Attention, ladies 18-35 (no heavies) to sexually pleasure me (monthly) w/ your hand, my toys, more (no actual sex). WMBi young looking 55, blond, w/ a tan, 5'11", 185 lbs., good looking, clean, disease free. Appleton. Will pay a reasonable fee. **Fox Cities** area only. (920) 707-4337

Wanted lovers of fetish, B&D, electric toys, leather, furniture - rubber, cross dress clothing, corsets, boots, erotic movies...add to my collection and enjoyment. Let's talk. Can trade or buy. (414) 321-8005 7am-10pm. Lyle (**Milwaukee**)

Silky Panty 3way: 42 y.o. construction worker seeks vers. hung

anal crossdresser; 49 y.o. will play or watch. Both hung & vers. for HIV neg. totally healthy only...late afternoons or Sun. morning. Call for future date (414) 278-9198. East side **Milwaukee** [2]

Fox Valley area 40 y.o. GWM versatile bottom; anything goes 3somes, guys with big c-ks welcome. Willing to try anything twisted or nasty - dildoes, clamps, farm/zoo...older men a +. Your place a must. (920) 379-2431. Leave name & number, will return all calls. [2]

GWM, 5'8", 140, lt. br. hair, gr. eyes, slim/trim, looking for tops in the **Green Bay** area, ages 25-40, in shape, well hung a +. Avail. evenings after 5:00 (920) 494-1687. Must be safe, luv 2 bare-back. [2]

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

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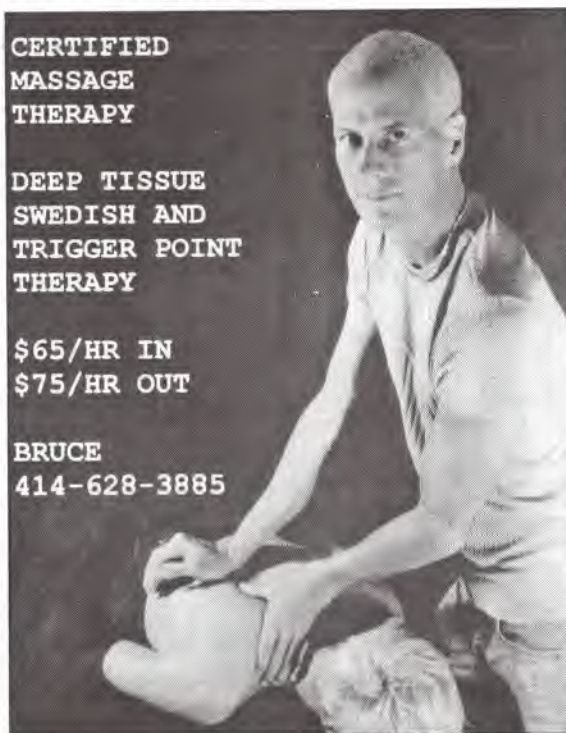


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