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FUROR LEFT & RIGHT OVER MARY CHENEY'S PREGNANCY



Washington, DC - In highly predictable fashion the Religious Right last week voiced dismay at news that Mary Cheney, the lesbian daughter of Dick Cheney, is pregnant, while a gay-rights group said the vice president faces "a lifetime of sleepless nights" for serving in an administration that has opposed recognition of same-sex couples.

Mary Cheney, 37, and her partner of 15 years, Heather Poe, 45, are expecting a baby in late spring, said Lea Anne McBride, a spokeswoman for the vice president. "The vice president and Mrs. Cheney are looking forward with eager anticipation" to the arrival of their sixth grandchild, McBride said.

Mary Cheney was an aide to her father during the 2004 campaign, and now is vice president for consumer advocacy at AOL. She and Poe moved from Colorado to Virginia a year ago to

be closer to the Cheney family.

Family Pride, which advocates on behalf of gay and lesbian families, noted that Virginia last month became one of 27 states with a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. "Unless they move to a handful of less restrictive states, Heather will never be able to have a legal relationship with her child," Family Pride executive director Jennifer Chrisler said.

The couple "will quickly face the reality that no matter how loved their child will be. . . he or she will never have the same protections that other children born to heterosexual couples enjoy," Chrisler added. "Grandfather Cheney will no doubt face a lifetime of sleepless nights as he reflects on the irreparable harm he and his administration have done to the millions of American gay and lesbian parents and their children."

For years, Mary Cheney's openness about her sexual orientation had posed a dilemma for right wing activists who admire Dick Cheney's stance on many issues but consider homosexuality a sin.

Janice Crouse of Concerned Women for America described the pregnancy as "unconscionable." "It's very disappointing that a celebrity couple like this would deliberately bring into the world a child that will never have a father," said Crouse, a senior fellow at the group's think

tank. "They are encouraging people who don't have the advantages they have."

Crouse claimed that there was no doubt that the news would, in conservatives' eyes, be damaging to the Bush administration, which already has been chided by some leaders on the right for what they felt was halfhearted commitment to anti-abortion and anti-gay-rights causes in this year's general election. Ironically, Concerned Women's founder Phyllis Schaffley also has a gay son.

Carrie Gordon Earll, a policy analyst for the James Dobson's Focus on the Family, expressed empathy for the Cheney family but depicted the newly announced pregnancy as unwise. "Just because you can conceive a child outside a one-woman, one-man marriage doesn't mean it's a good idea," said. "Love can't replace a mother and a father."

The vice president's office declined to elaborate on the circumstances of Mary Cheney's pregnancy.

The news was welcomed by Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign. "Mary and Heather's decision to have a child is an example that families in America come in all different shapes and sizes," he said. "The bottom line is that a family is made up of love and commitment."

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HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE ON FOLEY: "NO FOUL FOR GOP"



Washington, DC - The House Ethics Committee investigation on former Rep. Mark Foley's sexual advances to former teenage pages has concluded no Republican elected official currently in office acted improperly in their conduct of the probe of Foley's sexual come-ons to former male pages. The disgraced Florida Republican, who one witness characterized as a "ticking time bomb," would have been disciplined but his resignation in late September took him out of the House's jurisdiction, the committee decided.

However, the report released December 8 did say that Republican lawmakers and aides for over ten years failed to protect the teenagers vulnerable to Foley's advances and remained "willfully ignorant" of the consequences. "At its core, such conduct is an abuse of power and an abuse of trust of the pages, their parents or guardians and the Congress itself," the report said. "Behavior of this kind cannot be excused or tolerated, as it undermines the integrity of the House."

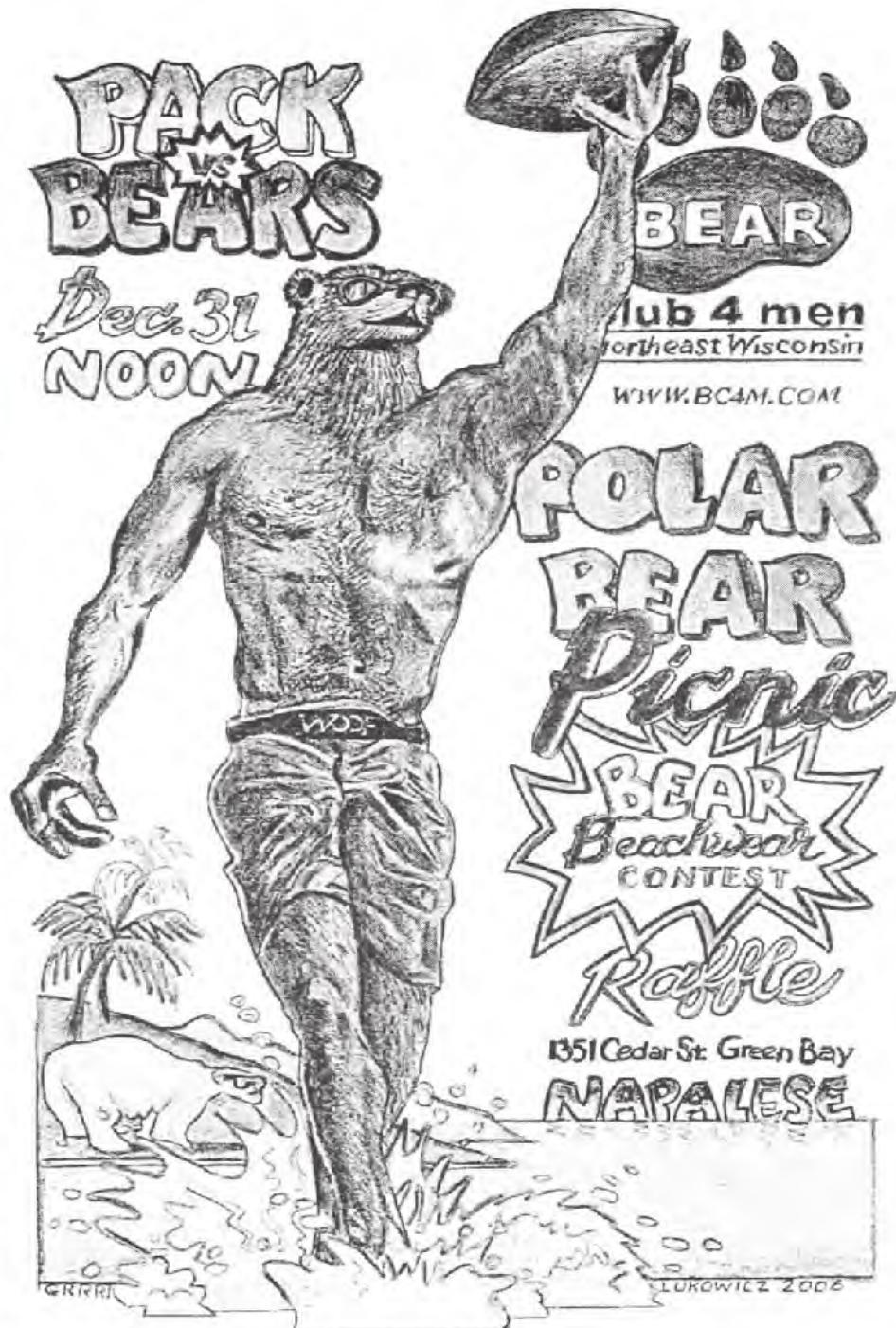
Overall, according to the report, the evidence showed that "concerns began to arise about Rep. Foley's interactions with pages or other young male staff members" shortly after he took office in 1995, according to the committee report. Although the committee recommended no punishments, it said the evidence would have subjected Foley to discipline if he had not resigned.

The committee also criticized Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Illinois), reporting that the evidence showed he was told of the problem months before he acknowledged learning of Foley's questionable e-mails to a former Louisiana page. The report rejected Hastert's contention that he couldn't recall separate warnings from two House Republican leaders.

Hastert responded to the report by saying he was pleased the committee found "there was no violation of any House rules by any member or staff." He repeated the claim that no evidence was uncovered that salacious instant messages from Foley were known to any House member or employee before that time.

Copies of the emails and instant messages flooded news coverage as the scandal and its scope widened daily last September. The Ethics Committee report included 26 pages of the messages, redacted to protect the screen names of minors involved.

The committee concluded that Hastert's chief of staff, Scott Palmer, was told about Foley's conduct in 2002 or 2003, a finding based on testimony from



Foley's former chief of staff, Kirk Fordham. Palmer claimed he didn't recall the warning.

The committee issued Foley a subpoena, but his lawyer notified the committee the former lawmaker would invoke his Fifth Amendment rights if compelled to testify. The committee dropped the matter to avoid delays.

The committee said one witness, former House chief clerk Jeff Trandahl, testified he warned the head of the supervisory page board, Rep. John Shimkus (R-Illinois), that Foley was a "ticking time bomb" who had been confronted repeatedly. The warning came in November 2005. Shimkus confronted Foley and told him to stop sending e-mails to the former Louisiana page.

Polls showed the Foley issue was a factor in

Republicans losing their House majority in the November elections and in Hastert being driven from his speaker's post after eight years. The Foley scandal also impacted Wisconsin's elections - particularly the so-called "Marriage Protection" amendment ballot - according to internal polling conducted by both gubernatorial campaigns.

Florida and federal authorities are investigating whether Foley broke any criminal laws related to his communications with the teens.

The investigation was overseen by Representatives Doc Hastings (R-Washington), Judy Biggert (R-Illinois), Howard Berman (D-California) and Stephanie Tubbs-Jones (D-Ohio).

UW BOARD OF REGENTS ASKS FOR DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

Madison - The University of Wisconsin Board of Regents has voted to ask the Wisconsin Legislature for domestic partner benefits for university faculty members. The regents included the request as part of their 2007-2009 unclassified pay plan unanimously approved here December 7. The plan also asked for a 5.23% employee salary increase each year over the next biennia, with a total cost of \$96 million.

UW System President Kevin Reilly publicly pleaded with the governor and state Legislature to amend state statutes to provide for domestic partner benefits, calling it "an issue of basic human fairness and the ability to stay globally effective."

In also supporting the DP benefit request, Regent Chuck Pruitt equated the quality of a UW education with the quality of its employees. "The evidence is clear that our best and brightest are targets of other universities - private and public - in other states," Pruitt told the regents. "Often when they leave, they leave behind not only disappointed students and colleagues, but they also take with them hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars in outside grants. The best way to retain faculty is to prevent them from wanting to leave," he said.

UW-Madison librarian Louise Robbins told the regents the number of individuals applying to her department has dropped due to of the lack of domestic partner benefits and lower pay in comparison to other institutions. "Over time, UW-Madison has become less and less competitive in the market for excellent faculty members," Robbins said.

The regents briefly addressed concerns about the passage of state's gay-marriage amendment, which may impact the domestic partner benefit request. Ban sponsors, however, claimed consistently prior to that the amendment would not preclude such benefits.

NEW JERSEY LAWMAKERS INTRODUCE GAY CIVIL UNIONS BILL

Trenton - A panel of New Jersey lawmakers approved a bill December 7 that would create civil unions giving equal rights to gay and lesbian couple, shunning a push to call those partnerships "marriage." The State Assembly's judiciary committee voted 4-2 for the bill, which would provide those unions with the legal rights of married couples.

The measure follows an October 25 state Supreme Court ruling that ordered the legislature to give gay couples the same rights and benefits as heterosexual couples, but left it to lawmakers to decide whether to call it "marriage." Massachusetts became the first and only state to legalize gay marriage in 2004. Vermont and Connecticut have civil union or domestic partnership laws.

The New Jersey panel heard sometimes emotional testimony from campaigners on both sides in a four hourlong hearing.

Steve McIntyre said he has been with his partner for 20 years, and they want to be legally married. "He's not my roommate, he's not my partner, he's my husband," McIntyre told the panel.

Karen Nicholson-McFadden, a partner in one of the seven same-sex couples who brought the Supreme Court case against the state, urged lawmakers to vote against the civil unions bill because she said it would continue discrimination against gay and lesbian couples by preventing them from marrying. "The government thinks it's OK to treat us differently because we are gay," she said. "I will never be allowed to marry the only person I would ever want to marry if you pass this bill."

Among witnesses opposing gay marriage, the Rev. Peter West presented a letter from seven Catholic bishops urging lawmakers to affirm that marriage is "between one man and one woman."

A poll by the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute in Hamden, Connecticut, showed on Thursday that 60 percent of New Jersey voters supported a law allowing civil unions, but half were opposed to gay marriage. The bill was expected to be approved in both houses of the legislature by the end of the year.

CONSERVATIVE JEWS: "GAY RABBIS CAN BE KOSHER"

New York - A panel of rabbis gave permission December 6 for same-sex commitment ceremonies and ordination of gays within Conservative Judaism, a wrenching change for a movement that occupies the middle ground between orthodoxy and liberalism in Judaism. The complicated decision by the Conservative Movement's Committee on Jewish Law and Standards leaves it up to individual seminaries whether to ordain gay rabbis and gives individual rabbis the option of sanctioning same-sex unions.

Like many Protestant denominations, Conservative Jews are divided over homosexuality: torn between the Hebrew scriptures' condemnation of it as an "abomination" and a desire to encourage same-sex couples to form long-lasting, monogamous relationships.

Reform Judaism, the largest branch of the faith in the U.S., has ordained gay men and lesbians since 1990 and has allowed rabbis to perform same-sex commitment ceremonies since 2000. Orthodox Judaism does not countenance same-sex unions or the ordination of gays.

After years of discussion and two days of intense debate behind closed doors at a synagogue on Park Avenue, the law committee accepted three teshuvot, or answers, to the question of whether Jewish law allows homosexual sex. Two answers uphold the status quo, forbidding homosexuality. But a third allows same-sex ceremonies and ordination of gay men and lesbians, while maintaining a ban on anal sex. Four of the law committee's 25 members resigned in protest of the decision.

It takes the votes of six panel members to declare an answer to be valid. Thirteen members voted in favor of allowing gay ordination and same-sex ceremonies, and 13 voted against - meaning that at least one rabbi voted for both positions.

Rabbi Joel Meyers, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly, a group of 1,600 Conservative rabbis, predicted some rabbis will choose not to preside at same-sex ceremonies, and he said none would be required to perform them. The issue has been particularly difficult for the Conservative movement, which claims about 2 million members worldwide. Conservative Jews generally keep the kosher dietary rules and observe the Sabbath, though perhaps not as strictly as Orthodox Jews do.

Rabbi Joel Roth, a professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary who was among those who resigned, said he considers the change to be "outside the pale of acceptable" Jewish law.

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HRC'S WORLD AIDS DAY REPORT CARD: USA GETS AN "F"

Washington, DC - The Human Rights Campaign released its third annual World AIDS Day report card today highlighting yet another year of failed policies to combat the HIV/AIDS global pandemic. The report card, for the last three years, has rated the U.S. Congress' and the Bush administration's response to the HIV/AIDS crisis in four key areas: prevention, care and treatment, research and global AIDS. This year, in honor of the 25th anniversary of the first reported case of AIDS, the report card includes a new category evaluating our nation's leaders on efforts to combat AIDS-related discrimination.

"We are hopeful that with a new congressional leadership the failed policies of the past will not continue to be repeated," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "Since we began this report card three years ago, the Bush administration and congressional leadership's response to this global pandemic has been grossly inadequate. The American people sent a message in these midterm elections that they want to see real actions on issues affecting people's lives, and we are optimistic that their voices will be heard in relation to the efforts to combat this disease."

Since the Human Rights Campaign issued its first World AIDS Day report card in 2004, the grades have continued to fall well below passing. The 2004 grades were: Prevention (F); Care and Treatment (D); Research (C); and Global AIDS (C). The 2005 grades were: Prevention (F); Care and Treatment (F); Research (D); and Global AIDS (C).

"As in years past, this report card does not take

away from the extraordinary work that has been done by many outspoken champions fighting to put real policies in place to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS," said Solmonese. "Unfortunately, too often in the past their courageous work has been overshadowed by a government leadership that was more focused on allowing ideology to drive our response to HIV and AIDS. As the new members of Congress are sworn in, we look forward to working with a leadership that will seek real, scientific solutions to protect the well-being of all Americans."

The 2006 report card is as follows:

Prevention: F The Bush administration and the Republican congressional leadership continued to pursue policies that undermine effective prevention strategies on HIV/AIDS. The only federal funding stream for sex education in our schools remains limited to unproven and medically inaccurate abstinence-only-until-marriage programs that fail to teach youth how to protect themselves from HIV. This year, congressional leaders jettisoned language unanimously passed by the Senate mandating that these programs be medically accurate.

Furthermore, the Bush administration added additional restrictions to these federally funded abstinence-only programs mandating that "the term 'marriage' must be defined as 'only a legal union between one man and one woman as a husband and wife,' and the word 'spouse' refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife." This new anti-gay restriction illustrates that these programs are not driven by public health con-

cerns, but rather by narrow right-wing ideology.

Care and Treatment: D Years of inadequate funding levels for the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act turned this year's reauthorization of this crucial program into a zero-sum game pitting states with newer and emerging HIV/AIDS epidemics against those that have been the traditional epicenters of the disease. States with newer and emerging epidemics have traditionally been short-changed by the Ryan White CARE Act and are in desperate need of more funding to provide life-saving treatment and care. However, since Congress has effectively flat-funded the program for six years, new formulas that would give these states critically needed funds would inevitably result in deep and possibly destabilizing cuts for the communities with the plurality of current cases. The Ryan White CARE Act, the payer of last resort, is a crucial part of our nation's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and it is extremely disappointing that the program's reauthorization deteriorated into a formula fight, pitting low-income Americans with HIV/AIDS against each other depending on where they live.

Research: F Last December, Congress approved a Labor-Health and Human Services appropriations bill that gave less than a 1 percent funding increase to the National Institute of Health, the smallest percentage increase since 1970. In February of this year, the president released his fiscal year 2007 budget which proposed flat-funding NIH, specifically cutting \$15 million for AIDS research. Meanwhile, Congress plans on passing a

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continuing resolution instead of passing a Labor-HHS appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007, which means cuts for NIH. Furthermore, the House of Representatives passed a bill to reauthorize NIH that capped funding increases at 5 percent each year, which is barely enough to keep up with the inflation index for biomedical research and development.

As people living with HIV/AIDS around the world hope for the development of microbicides and other crucial preventative and treatment options - and one day a cure - cuts to AIDS research and to NIH mean that new funding for this crucial research will be extremely limited.

Global AIDS: C The Bush administration and Congress have made significant steps in raising awareness and dedicating funding to fight the global AIDS pandemic. Unfortunately, many of these important initiatives have come with ideological strings attached.

In April, the U.S. Government Accountability Office released a report reviewing the expenditure of HIV prevention funds through the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief. Current law mandates that 33 percent of PEPFAR prevention

funds must be dedicated to abstinence-until-marriage programs. The GAO found that the abstinence-only restriction hindered the ability of HIV/AIDS organizations respond to local prevention needs. The earmark forced many programs to cut spending for mother-to-child transmission prevention, contributed to a lack of understanding of cultural norms and reduced the ability to appropriately target vulnerable populations. Instead of outsourcing our failed prevention policies overseas, U.S. global AIDS policy should allow local organizations flexibility to provide the most effective HIV prevention possible.

Ending AIDS-Related Stigma/Discrimination: F The 2006 UNAIDS Report on the Global Epidemic asserts that understanding that homophobia is one of the key "drivers of the epidemic" is "absolutely fundamental to the long-term response to AIDS." According to these experts, ending the AIDS pandemic "will depend largely on changing the social norms, attitudes and behaviors that contribute to its expansion" through the enactment of "laws and policies that directly challenge gender inequality and bias against ... men who have sex with men." This year, we add a new

category to HRC's World AIDS Day report card dedicated to evaluating the government's performance in this realm.

In June of this year, on the 25th anniversary of the day that the first AIDS case was reported by the Centers for Disease Control, President Bush held a press conference to call on Congress to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would permanently ban same-sex couples from enjoying equal rights and protections of marriage. The president, surrounded by some of the most virulent anti-gay and homophobic voices in the nation, told the amendment's proponents, "I'm proud to stand with you."

And last spring, Congress stripped out of a child safety bill a provision passed by the House of Representatives by a wide, bipartisan margin to give law enforcement tools to confront hate violence against LGBT Americans, calling it "a poison pill." When our nation's leaders use same-sex couples as political scare tactics and deny law enforcement resources to confront violence driven by anti-gay violence, it is clear that they do not understand the implications that fueling homophobia has on creating a culture that is up to the task of ending HIV/AIDS.

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GAY DIVORCE CASE GOES TO RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

Providence - The Rhode Island Supreme Court has been asked to answer a question that illustrates the complex nature of the current state of legal recognition of same sex couples: "Can a couple obtain a divorce if, in the eyes of the state, they were never married?"

That is the issue sent December 6 to that state's Supreme Court, in the case of two Rhode Island women who traveled to Massachusetts to marry in May 2004 during a brief period when out-of-state, same-sex couples could wed there. Shortly afterward, Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney invoked an obscure 1913 statute to prevent same-sex couples from other states from marrying in his state, the only one to permit such unions.

But the marriage of Margaret Chambers, now 70, and Cassandra Ornston, 59, broke up. Citing irreconcilable differences, the couple filed for divorce here in October. They have no children, and neither of them is contesting the breakup.

The legal issue is whether a same-sex couple can obtain a divorce in a state that is silent on same-sex marriages. On Wednesday, the chief judge of Rhode Island's Family Court chose not to rule on the issue, referring it instead to the Supreme Court. "There's no indication that we can either hear same-sex marriages or same-sex divorces," Judge Jeremiah S. Jeremiah Jr. said during the brief initial hearing.

Chambers did not attend the proceeding. Ornston said she was uncomfortable with the attention their separation has received. "Divorce is hard enough without the added burden of being a test case," she said. "We have a right to fail like everybody else."

More than 8,000 same-sex couples have married in Massachusetts. No records are kept on same-sex divorces, but attorneys who represent gay and lesbian couples say that, at the least, dozens of same-sex marriages have been dissolved since they became legal. Some civil unions in Vermont also have been legally reversed.

But Rhode Island law makes no mention of same-sex unions. State Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch has said the courts and Legislature must decide whether same-sex marriages will be recognized in Rhode Island.

Ornston's attorney, Nancy Palmisciano, noted that other than the fact that both parties are female, the case was "a very, very typical divorce in every respect. The issues are no weightier than in any other case."

Palmisciano added that her client's marriage is no less valid than those of other clients who were married in Nevada, Florida, California or even other countries. "They were heterosexuals, and there were never questions over whether they had a right to a divorce. What's the difference?" she asked.

"We are not asking the state of Rhode Island to recognize same-sex marriage," Palmisciano said. "We are asking the state to recognize same-sex divorce. I'm not asking you to issue a marriage license here. We passed that when my client and her spouse received a valid license, according to

the laws of the state of Massachusetts."

But Louis Pulner, Chambers' lawyer, worried that the couple's divorce might become invalid if the state Supreme Court ruled in the future that the Family Court did not have jurisdiction. Pulner filed the motion that Jeremiah accepted December 6, sending the case to the state's high court. "While this is obviously a unique situation," Pulner said in court, "nothing is as obvious as having some finality for my client, Ms. Chambers."

Michele Granda, a staff attorney in Boston with Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, said that she could see no legal reason for Rhode Island to refuse the couple's petition for divorce. "Married same-sex couples deserve the same rights and protections that married different-sex couples have, including the right to separate," Granda said. "Rhode Island has a long history of recognizing marriages that are entered outside of Rhode Island, and there is no reason to impose a gay exception."

OUTGAMES FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

Montreal - The Montreal Outgames has filed for protection from its creditors while seeking a way out of debt to its suppliers.

"We didn't want to go into bankruptcy," Outgames co-chairperson Marielle Dupere said. "We want to pay our suppliers." Dupere added a future press release would explain the organizers' reasoning for the filing.

Filing for protection under the federal Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act temporarily protects the Outgames from being forced into bankruptcy or sued for payment. A provincial government audit has reported the Outgames recorded a deficit of \$5.3 million, of which \$2.2 million was owed to suppliers. The rest of the deficit was mainly unpaid government loans.

One of the suppliers who is still owed \$5,845.64, four months after the international sports and cul-

tural event, said he is running out of patience. "If we don't get paid, we'll have to sue them," Matthew Robert told the *Montreal Gazette*. Robert is the co-owner of 22Dragons, a company that ran a dragon boat event at the Outgames in August and claims he was taken in by the hoopla surrounding the event and by organizers' promises.

More than 10,000 people took part in the Outgames, established for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered athletes.

TEXAS RIGHT-WING NATIVITY SCENE SPORTS GAY COUPLE

Austin - An unusual Nativity scene recently drew curious looks from passers by on the University of Texas campus here. The scene featured a gay couple, "Gary and Joseph," instead of Mary and Joseph, a terrorist as an angel and Lenin, Stalin and Marx as the three wise men.

The scene was built by the Young Conservatives of Texas, who say what they're called an "ACLU nativity scene" that allegedly included positions taken by the American Civil Liberties Union. "The idea is to bring attention to the ACLU and also to bring attention to the issue of taking down nativity scenes during the Christmas season or trying to silence you know, the word Christ and the word Christmas," Tony McDonald of the Young Conservatives of Texas told KVUE-TV.

The ACLU disputed the accuracy of the display, but said the conservatives had a First Amendment right to express their opinions any way they chose. "I think it's fairly festive," ACLU executive director Will Harrell told the station. "We want to make sure they have a right to freely exercise their First Amendment right. But keep in mind, nothing in the First Amendment requires that you be accurate about the information. The First Amendment protects parody as well."

The display was taken down by the group on December 12.

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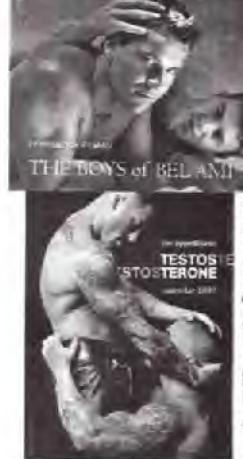
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LANCE & REICHEN CALL IT QUIT - FOR NOW

New York - Lance Bass and Reichen Lehmkuhl are calling it quits - for a little while at least. The pair are attempting to work out their relationship, according to a statement they offered exclusively to *People* magazine recently.

"We remain the best of friends," the pair insisted. "Please respect our privacy as we try to work things out during this difficult time."

Bass's spokesperson confirmed December 4 that they had ended their relationship. Speculation spawned by Hollywood gay gossip Perez Hilton that the pair had broken up began after Bass was spotted without Lehmkuhl at a party at Pure Nightclub in Las Vegas spread over the Internet the weekend prior to the announcement.

In a *People* cover story last July former 'N Sync heartthrob Bass, first revealed his relationship with Lehmkuhl, 32, when he also admitted he was gay. "I'm more liberated and happy than I've been my whole life," Bass claimed at the time. "I'm just happy."

Bass said that he and Lehmkuhl had been dating for a few months, and that the two were friends first. "Actually, it's funny, he was my real estate agent," Bass told the magazine.

Lehmkuhl, a model-actor-*Amazing Race* winner, had been equally enthusiastic and supportive of Bass's decision to come out. According to the article Reichen shared that he was "just really proud of Lance and the decision he made."

He did it all on his own and I just stood by and



supported him," Lehmkuhl said. "It's just been great."

During their relationship, the two made many public appearances together, including red-carpet events and Lehmkuhl's book release party for his memoir *Here's What We'll Say: Growing Up, Coming Out, and the U.S. Air Force Academy*.

Bass currently is developing an *Odd Couple*-inspired sitcom pilot with former 'N Sync'er Joey Fatone in which his character will be gay. Bass also has a role in the upcoming comedy *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*.

EMBATTLED ALDER MCGEE SIGNED PETITION TO RECALL HIM

December Signature Check Will Determine Possible Spring Election

Milwaukee - In what must be considered an unusual turn of events, controversial city alderman Mike McGee signed the petition to recall him from office. McGee signed the petition on November 7, reportedly after casting his ballot in the general election.

2300 recall petition signatures were turned in November 29 by recall organizer ViAnna Jordan, who plans to run against McGee in the recall election if 1623 of the signatures are determined valid in the next month. The ballot would be held in either February or April. McGee has 10 days to file a challenge to any of the signatures on the 318 pages of the petition, including his own.

McGee's disparaging remarks against the gay community during the Frank Jude beating case and on a bus trip to the second Million Man March in Washington DC were one of the 10 reasons recall organizers cited in their petition drive. Organizers called themselves the Friends to Recall Ald. Michael McGee Jr./Jackson, referencing the earlier surprise that McGee's legal name was actually Jackson, although he had been known as McGee his whole life.

According to the recall website, the list included allegations that McGee "had become an embarrassment to his community," had "perjured him-

self in court about an illicit affair with mother of his child," and was "arrested on charges of resisting arrest, disorderly conduct and threatening to kill a woman." Character allegations noted that McGee "used slurs and epithets against LGBT community; unbecoming of a role model," that he has "shamefully earned the public reputation of a scoundrel" after a police incident in Wauwatosa, and that he "lacks the rapport and leadership skills to be an effective leader."

Conduct concerns included claims that McGee "refers constituents to disreputable cronies in a conspiratorial hoax/scam," fraudulently used "alias names to avoid responsibility for accident damages," and "used constituent organizations to rally to the defense of a shameful act." Organizers also claimed a McGee aide was "arrested for possession of guns, drugs, and open alcohol."

Jordan posted a photo of McGee's signature on her campaign website. McGee has declined to speak to the media since the petitions were turned in, tied with a red bow, representing a "gift" to the citizens of Milwaukee according to Jordan.

According to a subsequent report on WisPolitics, McGee appeared to have knowingly signed the petition, reportedly saying to Jordan's brother Brandon, who was collecting petitions at the polling place "I might as well sign. You want me out of here."

McGee also had made news last Fall when he was one of several Milwaukee African American leaders who signed a formal statement opposing the recently passed constitutional amendment to ban legal recognition of all unmarried couples including gay and lesbian partnerships.

Several leaders in the Milwaukee African American community have come forward to support in his effort to defeat the recall move. State Senator Lena Taylor, former alderman Fred Gordon, *Milwaukee Community Journal* editor Mikel Holt, and *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* columnist Eugene Kane have come forward to cite McGee's community involvement as outweighing Jordan's claims.

qnu
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FEDERAL COURT TO RANTIN' RALPH: "YOUR HATE SIGN IS A HAZARD"

Madison - A federal appeals court has ruled that Madison police did not violate the civil rights of anti-gay "Pastor" Ralph Ovadal when they told him to take his anti-gay banners off highway overpasses in 2003. The November 20 ruling by a three-judge panel of the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Chicago, upheld a December 2005 ruling by U.S. District Judge John Shabaz.

That court said it was the spectacle and the traffic hazard the protest caused, rather than the message, that prompted Madison police to remove Ovadal and his Wisconsin Christians United group. Ovadal now serves as now self-ordained "pastor" of the Pilgrims Covenant Church in Monroe.

The banners stating "Homosexuality is sin" and "Christ can set you free" were unfurled on overpasses in September and October 2003. The demonstrations affected traffic below both times.

The ruling in Ovadal vs. City of Madison was the second by the appeals court in the case. In July 2005, it sent the case back to Shabaz, who had dismissed the case without a trial. The appeals court said then that it needed the benefit of a trial to determine whether the city violated Ovadal's free-speech rights by ordering him to get off the overpasses.

7th Circuit Judge Michael Kanne had written at that time that police should have instead dealt with reckless drivers who caused the traffic hazards and that there was no "heckler's veto" of free speech.

Kanne wrote in this week's decision that, after the district court trial, the appeals court had enough evidence to find that police were responding to traffic hazards caused by reactions to Ovadal's banners and not to his message. The city of Madison has since banned carrying any signs on bridges that pass over high-speed roads.

Nate Kellum, a Memphis attorney who represented Ovadal for the James Dobson-founded Alliance Defense Fund, said the ordinance hurt free speech not only for Ovadal but for others.

"It's a shame and a sad state of affairs that the city would go to such lengths to shut down free speech," Kellum said.

WESTBY DAD FLUMMOXED OVER GAY PENGUIN BOOK

Westby - Peter Rau apparently thinks it's okay for penguins to march, sing and tap dance across movie screens, but don't keep a children's book based on real life penguin story in his kid's school library. That's what Rau asked the Westby Public Library to do at a recent library board meeting.

Rau claimed he was reading "And Tango Makes Three" to his son, after the boy checked the book out of the library. Midway through the read Rau discovered the story book by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, was based on a true story of a pair of male penguins in New York City's Central Park Zoo that adopted a fertilized egg and reared the baby.

"I have to admit I was taken back and stopped short of finishing the book, which my son checked out of the library and I was reading to him," Rau told the board of the Bekkum Memorial Library.

Rau asked the board to label the book as controversial or remove it, saying it has subtle "homosexual undertones." "I personally don't want this lifestyle taught to my child without my knowledge," Rau said, later contradicting himself by adding "I'm not requesting a book burning or even censorship."

Rau claimed he had "research" that showed children raised in a homosexual environment during their impressionable years can show detrimental effects, contracting years of studies and endorsements by mainstream psychological, social work and parenting organizations.

Librarian Cindy Brown-Lucus had a different opinion. "Every child's lifestyle deserves to be reflected in a picture book. The way you view the undertones of this book might be totally opposite of another readers' viewpoint," Brown-Lucus told Rau. "This book has received many respected reviews. It shows that daddies know what to do in any given situation."

The board voted to keep the book available without label or restrictions.

"And Milo Makes Three" has brought similar complaints from evangelicals through out the country in the last year.

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SECOND GAY MARRIAGE BAN PROTEST HELD AT CAPITOL

Madison - About thirty people, mostly UW students, marched in protest of the recently passed Constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions here December 7, the second such rally in the last month.

Protesters made their way from the Library Mall on the UW campus to the Capitol behind a hand-printed banner reading "Gay marriage is a civil right." It was the same large banner carried at the first rally November 19, according to Matt Nichter, who actively participated in both protests. "We're protesting against the ban on same-sex marriages because we feel it is unjust even though it's become law," Nichter told the campus paper the *Badger Herald*. "We refuse to accept it; we plan to protest against it until justice is ... served."

Family Research Institute of Wisconsin spokesperson Rocco DeFilippis characterized the protest as "a little overblown." "People are throwing out labels like bigotry, and I don't think people like to be labeled like that," DeFilippis said. "The people of Wisconsin voted to uphold traditional values."

Read all the news stories found here at
www.quest-online.com

LACROSSE YOUTH GROUP NAMES NEW LEADER

LaCrosse - Stacy Paul has been named the new director of the YWCA's Gay Alliance of La Crosse Area Youth program (GALAXY). Paul had been serving as GALAXY's youth coordinator, and will replace Jamie Yuenger, who left in August to attend school in California.

Though born in Brooklyn, Paul was raised in La Crosse, graduating from Logan High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in 2005 with a major in psychology and minor in women's studies from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. She earned the Marilyn Ondell Achievement Scholarship and honors in women's studies.

Paul has more than 15 years of experience in the mental health field. Prior to her GALAXY position she worked at the Salvation Army, New Horizons Shelter and Women's Center, Chileda and Bethany St. Joseph's Care Center.

Paul told the *LaCrosse Tribune* that she hopes to engage youth in GALAXY programs and nurture relationships with past and present donors. "Overall, I would like to keep the program as close to its origins as possible because it's a good program," she said. "My plan is to strengthen it by working with donors and finding grant writers."

The GALAXY program recently began its second decade of service and outreach to the area's LGBT youth and their allies.

OFF THE WALL BEGINS SERVING "HOLIDAY PUNCH" DECEMBER 14

Milwaukee - "Holiday Punch!" Milwaukee's original satirical Christmas comedy and music revue will begin here December 14 at the Off The Wall Theatre.

Off The Wall director Dale Gutzman claims the Milwaukee version of annual holiday satire compares not none. "Others may have since copied our formula and style, but none pack our Punch!" Gutzman said.

Originated for the Skylight Theatre almost thirty years ago, Holiday Punch still skewers the hype and hypertension of the Christmas season with Gutzman's particular brand of 'hometown Milwaukee' humor. This year's edition of the show playing at Off the Wall Theatre is no exception. Highlight sketches include "Snakes in the Play," "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Larry's," "Milwaukee's Got Talent," "Oprah-Homo: The Musical," "Santa at the Dentist," "A Sopranos' Christmas," "Trials of a Senate Page" & much more.

Among the musical treats will be "Count Your Blessing," "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Decorate Your Heart for Christmas," "Tap Your Troubles Away," "I've Been to a Marvelous Party," and many more.

This years Holiday Punch cast includes - in addition to Dale Gutzman - Jeremy Welter, Sharon Rise, Lawrence Lukasavage, Kristin Pagenkopf, Heather Reynolds, David Roper, Mary Henricksen, David Kaye, Natasha Mortazavi, and special guest stars.

Special treats for the gay community include having fun with Clay Aiken, Lance Bass, a drag nightclub lounge singer, and more in a show that has always been the most gay-friendly yuletide extravaganza in town.

Holiday Punch will served at Off the Wall Theatre, 127 E. Wells. Show dates are December 14, 15, 16, 17, 27, 28, 29, 30 and two shows on New Years Eve. Tickets vary from \$20 - 25. For more information or to purchase tickets call 414-327-3552 or visit the theatre's website at: www.offthewalltheatre.com

Feature: **HUMAN RIGHTS DAY REMINDS US OF GLOBAL PERSECUTION OF GAYS**

By Paula L. Etelbrick

As we commemorate International Human Rights Day this December 10, more work must be done to ensure the dignity and equality of all human beings, including sexual minorities.

This week at the United Nations in New York, more than four dozen U.N. member states will vote on whether three lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) groups from Europe will be granted official status to represent this community within the United Nations.

In the 58th year of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, there ought to be a place on the international stage where the voices of LGBT people will be heard.

Around the world, the lives of LGBT people are at risk. Dozens of countries criminalize gay sexuality, often resulting in arbitrary round-ups of gay

men and lesbians. Many people are prosecuted for nothing more than simply being gay.

One infamous example is the "Cairo 52," a group of 52 gay men who were dancing at a disco in Cairo, Egypt, until the police raided it and dragged them all off to jail in May 2001. Two trials and almost two years later, 21 of the men received three-year prison sentences and the other 21 were acquitted.

Gay organizations in Turkey and Honduras have had to fight regular battles for the right to exist.

Governments in Poland and Russia have consistently turned away requests from people who have attempted to organize gay pride activities. Some have faced angry and violent crowds that the police have barely controlled.

In Chile, the country's Supreme Court denied a lesbian judge custody of her three children.

A gay journalist in Uzbekistan was imprisoned for challenging his government's repression.

In Iran, several young men who were accused of sex-related crimes were publicly hanged.

In Nepal, the government rounded up and jailed 39 members of the only gay group for no apparent reason and then released them only after a global outcry.

It is the job of the United Nations to record, and respond to, human rights violations. And it is the international body's job to monitor how well countries are fulfilling their legal obligation to protect these rights for all people within their borders.

At the moment, there is no functioning group representing the voices and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people at the United Nations.

In fact, the United States has lobbied against LGBT folks for more than a decade. Just a year ago, the United States joined China, Cuba and Iran in voting against inclusion of LGBT voices at the United Nations, only to turn around after international activists and organizations expressed outrage at the overt discrimination committed by our own democracy.

But there is hope. On Dec. 1, the United States signed on with 53 other governments at the United Nations to a simple proclamation calling for more discussion and attention to the human rights conditions faced by LGBT people around the world.

Now, as the United Nations meets in New York, the United States must stand up for justice not only by voting to welcome in gay groups, but also by advocating on their behalf with other voting members of the committee.

It is long past time to acknowledge LGBT people as human beings whose dignity and equality should be respected.

The international process must start by including all of us in the most robust human rights body in the world — the United Nations.

Paula L. Etelbrick is executive director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, a U.S.-based global organization that engages in, and supports, global sexual and gender rights advocacy. She is also adjunct professor of law at New York University Law School, and can be reached at pmproj@progressive.org. This open editorial was released December 6 and printed in the December issue of The Progressive (progressive.org)

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written by Don Schwamb For the past several years, a relatively new organization, the Milwaukee LGBT History Project, has been working to gather historical materials relevant to the development of a gay-lesbian community in that city. The primary components of that effort include: Oral histories (interviewing key people involved in the early development of the community, and transcribing those interviews); collecting Archival materials for permanent preservation; development of an annual "History Display" at the PrideFest festival; and development of a web site to pull together all the pieces and attempt to weave a tapestry that more broadly documents the gay and lesbian movement. Most of these efforts are primarily focused on Milwaukee, but the web site, acknowledging the interaction that forms the full tapestry, is more broadly defined to include all of Wisconsin.

In this issue, we begin an effort to reach out to the full state to inform and solicit contributions to the site. Our goal is no less than to document (to even a small extent) every gay and lesbian bar, and other business, every organization, significant event, and defining person, that helped the LGBT community in Wisconsin evolve to its present form. Obviously this is a huge effort: some of the information we need to make that happen is documented in past publications (such as old issues of *In Step* (which published from 1984 to 2003), *Wisconsin Light* (1987 to 2002), or *Quest* (now in its 13th year). But much of the history is not documented there, and for that we

Wisconsin's Gay and Lesbian History

need community support.

Let's start with the most obvious: bars. Cities in Wisconsin have had their share of notable bars in the past 30 years: Green Bay had the Body Shop, the Loft, Gail's Bar; Appleton had the 1101 West and the Pivot; Madison had the Back Door, Rod's, and New Bar; Kenosha had The Shack and the original Club 94- and that's just the short list. We have been able to document some of these past bars and other businesses, with fragments of information available. But we are lacking photographs of the exteriors and interiors of most of them as they existed in their heydays, as well as most names of people associated with them.

We have even a worse dilemma with organizations: unlike businesses, organizations didn't advertise and were often not listed in media of the time: so we don't have information on what gay or lesbian organizations existed when or where, much less information on the type of organization they were, how many members they had, how often they met, or major initiatives, events or achievements. Again, in a few cases, articles in printed media can shed some small light on one organization or another, but the information is sketchy at best.

This is where we need your help to start. We welcome ANY correspondence with names and locations of bars or other businesses you were involved with or frequented, or organizations you belonged to

or know of. For example, if your favorite hangout was Cheri's Back East in Madison, and you have ANY photographs of you or friends in or outside the club, WE WANT TO SEE THEM! This is true of EVERY bar and even of current bars (for example, we welcome photos of the original Brandy's as well as Brandy's II in Green Bay). If you have any memorabilia from any past bar or business, we'd like to see it: either a photograph or scan of newsletters, flyers, souvenirs from New Years Eve parties, etc.

It's the same for organizations: if you have newsletters, minutes from meetings, etc., all are welcome. We will preserve anonymity of people if desired, but wherever possible we do want to acknowledge the contribution of individuals who helped develop our community. So we also welcome information on individual people who were instrumental in forming an organization or business, or generally improving the LGBT community.

Especially lacking is information on the venerable pageant and drag scene and its major performers from the past, as well as the leather scene. We'll explore those areas more in future articles.

Visit us at www.WisconsinGayHistory.org. We always welcome input if you have more information on any of the above subjects, or anything about Wisconsin's gay and lesbian history. We hope to hear from you- and look for future articles in *Quest* highlighting Wisconsin's gay and lesbian history!

After several years attempting to win the crown, Shannon Dupree wowed the audience and the judging panel at LaCage this past weekend walking away this year's winner!

Shannon has the distinction of owning both Miss Wisconsin USofA 2007 as well as a previous title, Miss Wisconsin USofA At Large.

Shannon and First Alternate Jackie Roberts will both compete next in Dallas Texas at nationals.



Diversion of the Day

Quest's Events Calendar

Thursday, December 14

Boom (Milw) Christmas Party

C'est La Vie (Milw) Show Stoppers! All Male Show 11pm

Friday, December 15

C'est La Vie (Milw) Fantasy boys revue 11pm

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (Milw) "You're So Crazy - Girl!" Poetry by Carmen Alicia Murguia & DJ Flavors. Tickets \$15 Students \$10 414-383-3727

The ROOM (Milw) Holiday Show w/ special guests Rhythm & Torch 9-midnite

La Cage (Milw) First Year Anniversary - Customer Appreciation Party 10pm - 11:30 pm Free Beer & Food & NO COVER Special show with Transformations cast & guests. Prizes!

Midtowne Spa (Milw) Christmas Party Raffles, food, dancing, music & Santa.

Switch (Milw) Christmas Party 6pm-cl Strippers, Santa, Food, Prizes

Saturday, December 16

C'est La Vie (Milw) Female Impersonator Revue 11pm

City Lights Chill (Milw) Underwear Party

Club ICON (Kenosha) Recording artist Sean Ensign performs 11 pm \$7 Cover

CrossRoads (Appleton) Karaoke Christmas Celebrations with Tina & Live Wire

Harbor Room (Milw) Mr Harbor Room Fundraiser & BESTD Clinic FREE testing

Shelter (Green Bay) Naughty or Nice, REd & White Party!

Tazzbah (Milw) Christmas Party 11 pm

Sunday, December 17

SAGE (Milw) Annual Holiday Luncheon @Astor Street Restaurant 924 E Juneau Registration Noon, Lunch 1pm Memebers \$22 Non-mem. \$27 RSVP by Dec 13

Triangle (Milw) Every Sunday, Guise & Dolls special guests this month

DuWanna Moore and Kitty Litter 10pm

Wednesday, December 20

C'est La Vie (Milw) Double bubble on Call, Rail, Bottle Beer & tap

Friday, December 22

Art Bar (Milw) X-mas Party (Our best party of the year!) 9pm

La Cage (Milw) Holiday & Christmas Party! Santas visits with bags of treats Drink tickets, prizes and cash. Transformations Christmas Show. Drink specials & snacks.

Saturday, December 23

City Lights Chill (Milw) Christmas Baby Birthday Bash celebrate with bartender dominic

Monday, December 25

Ballgame (Milw) Christmas Buffet in the afternoon.

Friday, December 29

KRUZ (Milw) Jerry & Serge Annual Christmas Party. Invitation Not Required

Saturday, December 30

Club 1226 (Oshkosh) Holiday Show 10:30pm No Cover, Drink Specials

La Cage (Milw) Let's Dance Party! The last Saturday night dance party of 2006 & pre-lude to New Year's Eve. 2-4-1 Drinks in LaCage Half Price Cover 10-11:30

Sunday, December 31

Art Bar (Milw) New Year's Eve Bash 2007 Live music w/ Hannah Wolff Band 11pm Free breakfast buffet 2 am

Ballgame (Milw) Open round the clock Buffet at 1 am

BOOM & The Room (Milw) New Year's Eve Extravaganza with Adult Film Star Cole Ryder. Free Champagne Toast at Midnite, No cover

City Lights Chill (Milw) Open 40 hours! Pajama Party 2am - 8am Games, snacks, appetizers & Hoopla

Club 5 (Madison) Champagne toast & Balloon drop at Midnight, Best of 2006 Countdown with DJ Tony Ritschard

FLUID (Milw) Open 11am for Packer game Free Champagne at Midnight, No Cover Midnight Buffet Open 39 hours!

Harbor Room (Milw) 43 Hours consecutive New Years Eve Celebration. Free favors, free champagne, free buffet, no cover.

La Cage (Milw) 2 Catered Buffets through the evening, Doors open 9pm Champagne toast & huge balloon drop at midnight.

Milwaukee Pumphouse(Milw) Grand Opening Celebration!

Madison Gay Video Club New Year's Eve Party - Boys Life Marathon-20 short films, "Nominees for Best DVD's of 2006-GayVN Awards" 8pm (608)244-8675 evenings or www.mgvc.org

Switch (Milw) New Year's Eve Karaoke 8pm - 3am

Saturday, January 6

Madison Gay Video Club A Love to Hide (France) and La Dolce Vita 8pm (608)244-8675 evenings or www.mgvc.org

Wednesday, January 10

BESDT Clinic Testing at Midtowne Spa (Milw) 6 - 9 pm

Saturday, January 20

Madison Gay Video Club First Out: Collection of Award Winning Shorts also Caged Men (Hungary) 8pm (608)244-8675 evenings or www.mgvc.org

Tuesday, January 23

BESDT Clinic Testing at Midtowne Spa (Milw) 6 - 9 pm

Below and Right: Club 5 has their Annual Turkey Throw! Hmmmm are they gonna eat that thing too?



The First Miss Club 1226 Pageant in Oshkosh played to a packed house at Club 1226.



Thank You SIR:

by Jeff Hicks

Old Guard & New Guard

What was the Old Guard?

Many things; but not as much as some would make it out to have been. Having 'come out' in that 'Old time', I must start out with explaining control.

In the early years there was the constant reminder and Total acceptance of the FACT that the DOM was always totally and completely in control !! If you wanted to be a submissive You HAD to accept / understand / and function with that concept ! This was to be understood whether you were with or in the presence of a known DOM no matter where you both were! It could have been in public, at a play session, a private party, at His home or yours, in a private 1 on 1 scene, or even in a totally straight, very public, fully formal occasion, with well known attendees. This could and often did happen in NYC. Especially when your trainer was the U.S. representative of an international publishing company for several foreign countries. Keeping this in mind you knew that you must be ready to accept any actions on his part without ever exhibiting any remote hint of non-acceptance of what was being done. You Never questioned SIRs' decisions, statements, or Actions. Whatever, whenever, or with whomever He chose to engage with. You, as a sub, had one of two choices: Accept totally; or, Leave immediately and never return ! The latter would carry with it the word spreading in

the community that you could not make a commitment and were not worth the bother of any qualified DOM in that locality. The only players left for you to approach were the ones who would use a sub in every manner conceivable to the complete detriment of the subs' body, mind, and possibly life. This kept almost all subs very much in line and available to those DOMs who knew how to take care of their toys and sustain complete control! In the NYC leather community in the early '70's it was common for a DOM to expect, on the first meeting wherever it occurred, for the sub to resist and try to take control and then, be taken in hand to the point of reaching a breaking point and yielding. This could be done verbally, or on many occasions if at a bar or play party it would be a physical overpowering with substantial pain on the part of the new sub. If the sub was known to have a weak point it would be rapidly exploited to his immediate detriment. Only the very serious subs played. And if not strong of heart and body, They didn't last very long. What today might be called a pig boy with few or no

limits is what was demanded of a sub 30 to 45 years ago. If you went to play with a DOM, you didn't get to chose if he wanted to do water sports, nipple play, genital flogging, or single-tail whipping. Whatever He felt like at the time was done. You could be at the local bathhouse and a sir could grab your collar pull you to your knees, straddle his wrist and hold you face in his butt until he tired of it. You had no 'right' to object. Many other actions were expected to occur. A sub was allowed no opportunity to disagree with the DOMs' choice of activities for the event.

Well, for now, I was going to do a comparison of Old and New. but this seems to be enough to digest at one time. will write the comparison in a couple of Weeks.

Jeff H.

upcoming events:

Argonauts of Wis. Green Bay
WINTERQUEST 33

January 20, 2007 Cocktails at 6:30,
Dinner at 8:00, Napalese Lounge,
1351 Cedar St. Green Bay
Reservations by Jan. 12.

IF YOU KNOW OF AN EVENT YOU
WANT LISTED, JUST LET ME KNOW
or have any questions.

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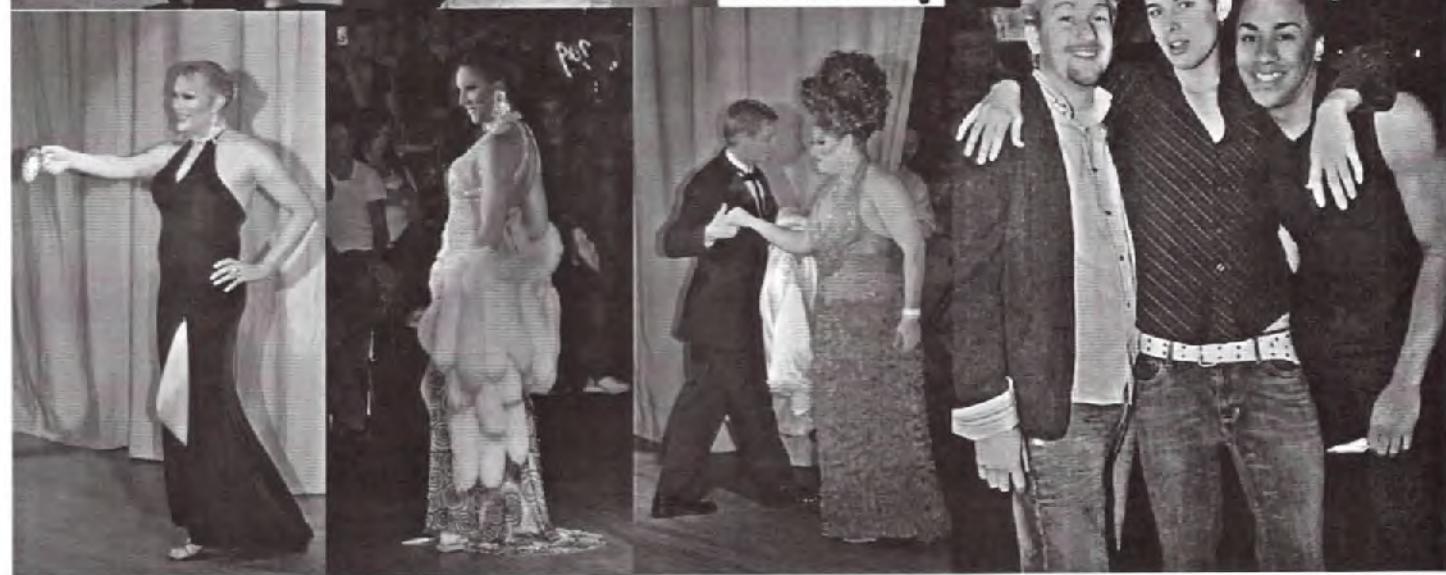
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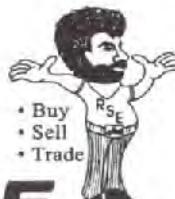
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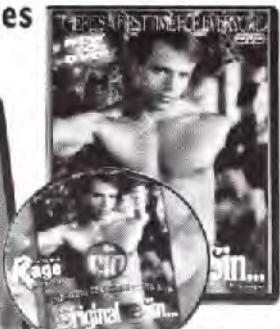
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Ask the Irreverent, Uncle Barbie



Dear Uncle Barbie,

This time of the year, I get very depressed. I don't know if it is because of the cold winter weather, or the lack of sunlight in the shorter days, or just the holidays in general that got me down. Why is that? Maybe I get depressed because I really don't get into Christmas because I'm not that religious. Whatever. I just want to know why I get depressed during the dark Wintertime.

Signed, Cheryl H.

Hello Cheryl,

This December 21st is the Winter Solstice (Wiccan Yule), and it marks the time of the year when our nights are the longest and our days are the shortest. People give meaning to this event in many different ways. Some view the Winter Solstice as a sorrowful time in which they mourn the absence of the Sun. Others choose to look at it as a sign of hope because the longest night is over and the days will slowly start getting longer now with more and more daylight. Still other souls appreciate both the moonlight

and sunlight equally—showing respect for both the Moon Goddess & Sun God.

Although there are countless ways of viewing the Winter Solstice & Yule season, I tend to think of it as an opportunity for caring and reaching out to other people. Since the darkness is the strongest at this time of the year, perhaps we can turn to each other for "light." In the days of old, people would share the light and warmth of their fire with those in need. The light and warmth that shines from your heart can be particularly bright, if you let it. Share this light with others. After all, every single thing you do has some level of effect on others—to varying degrees. The more kindness you show others over time, the more likely it is that kindness will be shown to you.

Throughout the world, various religions speak of this type of reciprocal energy. Buddhists believe that what affects one part of life will affect the whole; Native Americans express that all life needs to be respected; Christians profess that you reap what you sow. Pagans and Wiccans believe that whatever energy you give off will come back to you multiplied times three, etc. Other religions have similar philosophies, but no matter how they say it, it all comes down to the same basic message, "What goes around comes around." As we enter into this Yule holiday season, let's remember to smile more and to look for opportunities to serve others.

Let's also remember our beloved ancestors. Traditionally, in the time before Jesus walked the Earth, households with "family values" would honor their relatives who had passed on by setting out a

Disclaimer: Although the author of this syndicated column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Send your questions to: AskUncleBarbie@msn.com

plate of holiday food called a spirit offering plate. It is important that families today remember the ancestors and respect our common ancient heritage. Christians and Pagans are not necessarily adversarial communities. Many traditions, such as our holiday tree and Yule logs, are shared between the Christian Christmas and the Wiccan Yule holiday. Did you realize that the angel on your holiday tree originated from the Pagan's traditional use of fairies on their trees? Wiccans use cinnamon sticks, apples, grapes and oranges as ornaments on the Yule trees. These were used in ancient times and are still used today among Wiccan communities throughout our country.

These traditions are real "family values" and practicing this tradition teaches young people to honor our shared heritage as humans. If children don't respect the ancestors, they won't respect you, either. Traditionally, the Christian Christmas is the celebration of the birth of their Christ. For women and men who practice Wicca, Yule is the Winter Solstice celebrating the night and the Moon Goddess. I believe it is beneficial for people to focus on our similarities instead of our differences. This holiday season, let's celebrate the parts of our traditions that we all share together. Since you feel so depressed at this time of the year, Cheryl, I recommend that you do a random act of kindness today in the holiday spirit. Brightening someone else's day can cheer you up as well.

Happy Winter Solstice, Barbie



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PERSONALS
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Friend or someone special wanted, pen pal, travel partner, love Vegas, beaches, camping, fishing, hiking! 3658 W. 79th, Chicago. I'll call u or 773-569-6333 Tom. or any new or 2nd job wanted / considered! [1]

Bi WM 57yo 5'11", 160#, 33" w 7'cut ISO F/F/F, M/F couples and full figured ladies Bi or St8 for sexual pleasure. Reply to RJ, P.O. Box 142 West Bend, WI 53095 [1]

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GWM, 6'4, 230lbs, hazel eyes, short brown hair. Looking for Mr. Right, who enjoys quiet nights at home, who enjoys watching TV, spending time together, who is honest, loving, caring, enjoys each others company. Looking for a long-term relationship, tired of short ones. Also enjoys out-door activate, going places and meeting new people, and dancing and going to nightclubs. [1]

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Hi guys, I want kinky e-mails. I'm 42, in good shape. I love older, younger and middle aged men. E-mail me and lets see what POPS-UP 8675309@charter.net [1]

Looking for chubs-big bears in N.E.W./Greenbay. I'm 56 yrs. 230 lbs. 5'10" blue eyes enjoy music,outdoors. looking for someone between 40-65.dave 920-680-2041 [1]

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56 yo single WM 6'1" 200# br hair bl eyes ISO 45-60 yo

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[P]

CLOSETED, WM, Spice up LTR overly vanilla relationship. ISO age difference 60+, good conversation before/after flaming sex. Fetishes/cockrings, endowed men. Me: adult son, 6'2", 250#, masculine, nice package, bottom S/F-buddy, meet at Ballys-Hawley Rd., Milw. bath/your place. spyc-dude@aol.com [2]

BiWM58 5'11.180# I'm a Crossdressers Bi/Br I'm looking for some new friends that are into oral? Like giving oral to a lesbian parter, but also open to a male. Would also get together with married couples. I can travel Dianne572006@yahoo.com

Chub seeks chaser in Madison. 39 yr old, six-foot three-400 lbs, professional please mail- seanmpaul@yahoo.com [2]

I'm fun, mature, healthy as 19, varied interests, sitting-active, nature-travel seeks buddy, soul mate even better, prefer over 55 or anyone mature thinking! Illinois 773-585-6275 tommy or lv number. I'll also consider holding companion position! [2]

Milwaukee area, DWM, 6-2, 180, mid-50s, br/bl, Libra, retired human services professional, solid values, good conversationalist, politically progressive, healthy lifestyle, straight-acting, sense of humor, into arts and travel; ISO similar male, preferably of color (especially African American), 40-60, d/d-free. bayview-boy1009@yahoo.com [2]

WM, 37, 5'9", 170#, 6" cut: Looking for in shape men to give head to (I swallow), up to four men. Must be disease free, your place on Sundays, Milwaukee-Waukesha area. E-mail moonscape2006@yahoo.com

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35yr 5'11" 185, clean cut, hazel eyes, digs cats out of Rockford seeks traveling bottom, Call Del "Cool Cat, (815)962-4221 [2]

Looking for George Haskins. If George is out there, would you please notify my address. If you need to call me use (715)389-8082 Other guys are welcome. [3]

Attention Bi/Gay: Blue eyes, Brown hair GWM Gary age 49 5'7" 200# Marshfield/ Central Wisconsin for BJ (715)387-6433 No collect calls. [3]

BiWM 44yo 5'10" 190# attractive, fit, discreet, disease free, looking for same 35-55 for oral pleasures. Call Saturdays 9am-12pm Oshkosh (920)251-2343 [3]

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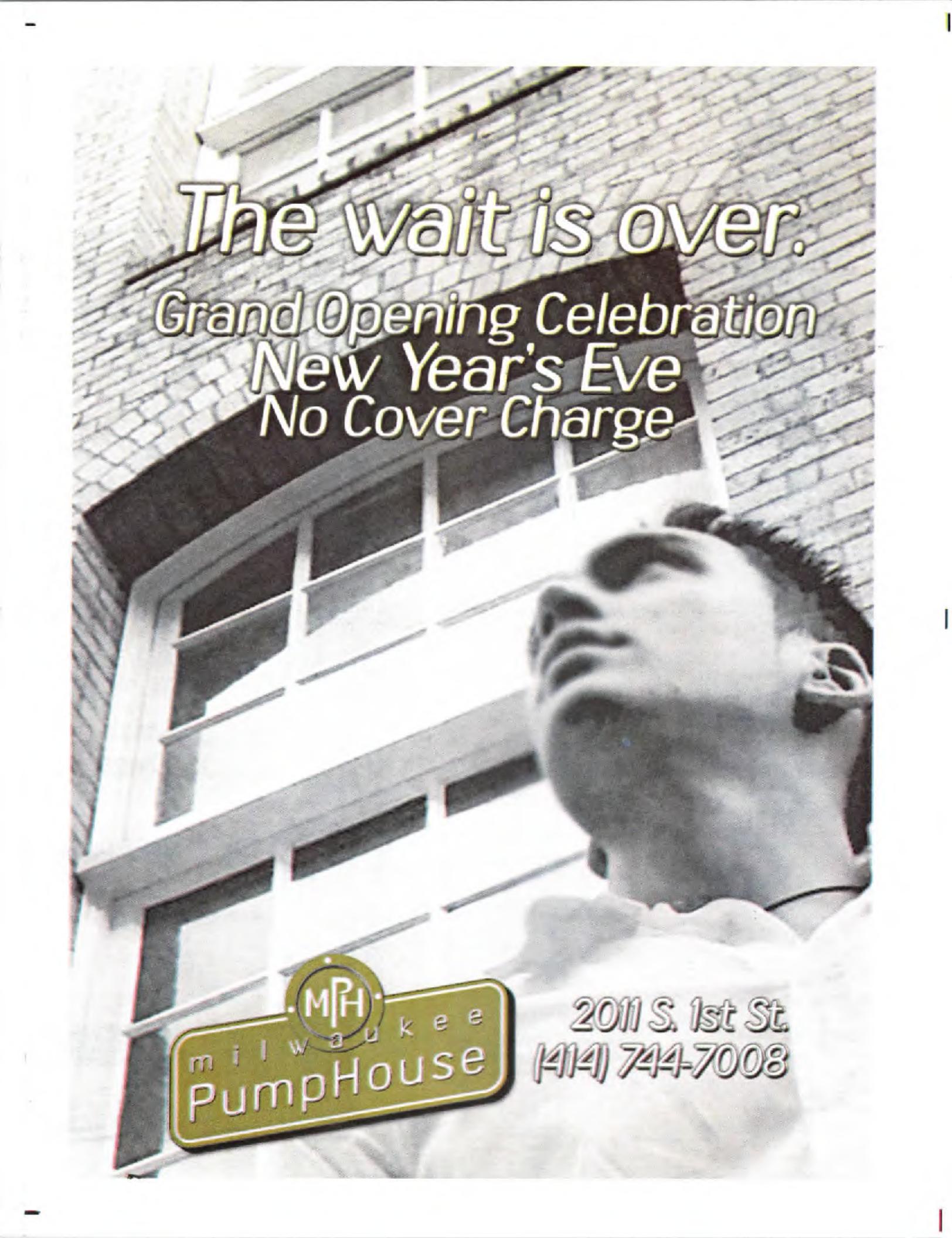
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