

Step



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National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Foundation

14th Creating Change

**Hyatt Regency
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Milwaukee, WI**

November 7-11, 2001

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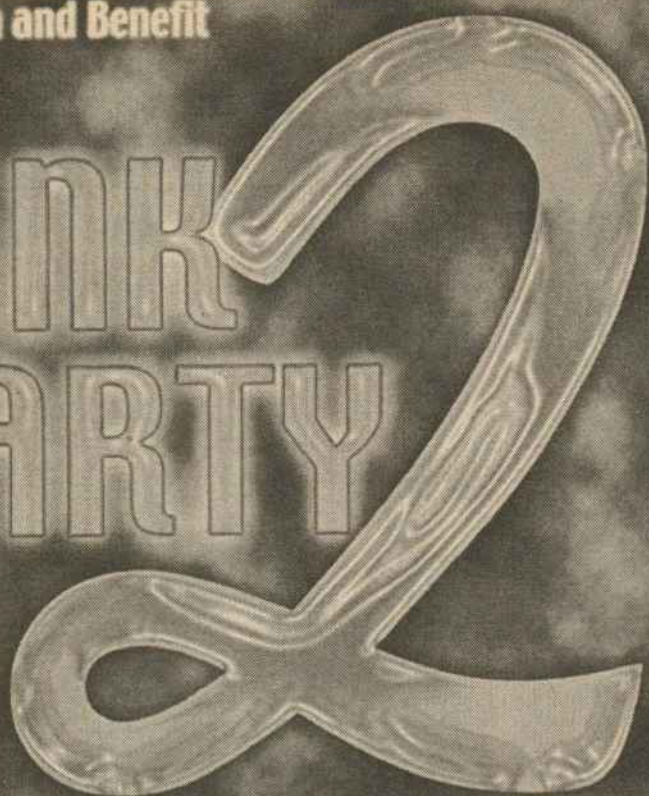
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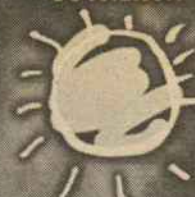
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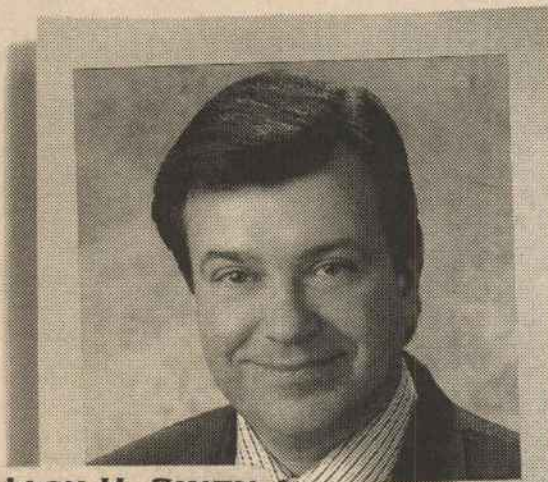
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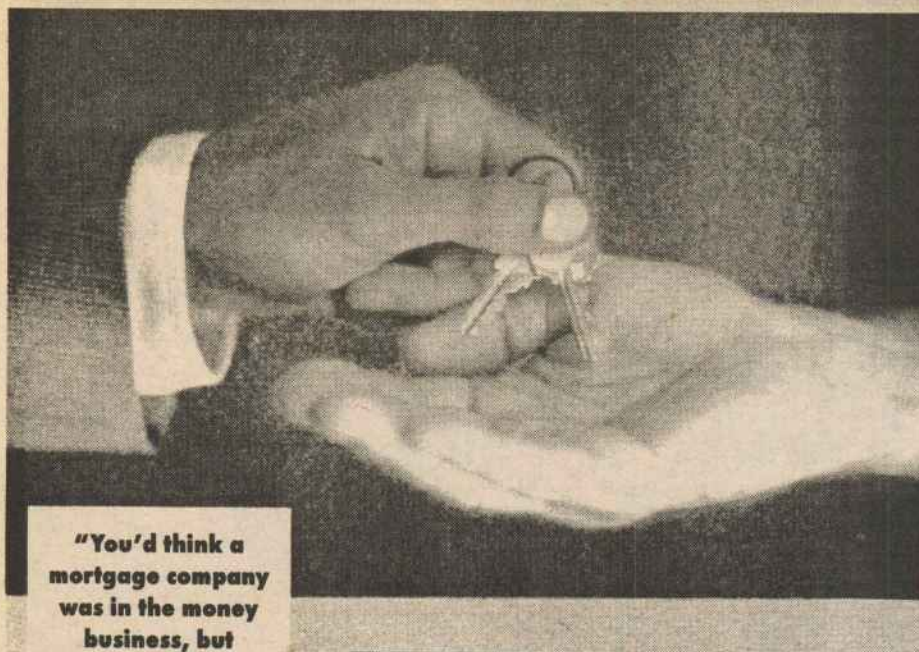


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Wisconsin IN Step

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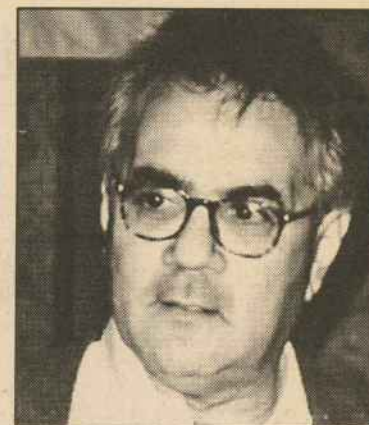
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By Rex Wockner



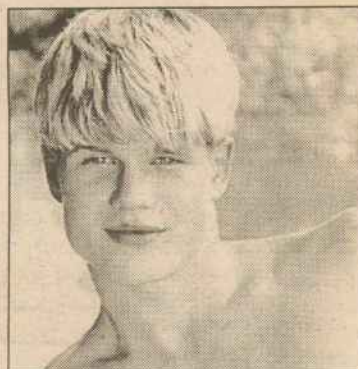
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HOLIDAY ISSUE:

DEADLINE: Friday, Dec. 7 at 5 p.m.

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Wisconsin's ONLY LGBT Community Newspaper. Founded in 1984.

Editorial

When is a Hate Crime Not a Hate Crime?

The brutal murder of Milwaukee lesbian Juana Vega by her ex-lover's brother on Nov. 11 has again raised difficult questions about the gay community's relationship with the local criminal justice system.

Family and friends of Juana Vega say that the alleged killer, Pablo Parrilla, often expressed hatred toward Juana because of her sexual orientation and the fact that she



Juana Vega

had supposedly gotten his sister, Melodia, involved in a lesbian relationship. On several occasions, they say, Parrilla actually threatened to kill Juana.

In addition to the terrible personal loss to Juana's family and to her extended family in Milwaukee's gay and lesbian community, actions by the Milwaukee Police Department and the District Attorney's Office have compounded their grief.

It was once again nearly impossible for anyone — family members or media outlets — to obtain any information about the murder from the Milwaukee Police Department. Then, on Nov. 14, the District Attorney charged Parrilla with first degree homicide while armed but failed to add the hate crime penalty enhancer.

Wisconsin's 1988 hate crimes law was upheld unanimously by the U.S. Supreme Court and has become a model for the nation, but to our knowledge, Milwaukee D.A. E. Michael McCann has never once invoked it for any crime motivated by hatred toward a victim's sexual orientation. In Parrilla's case, the rationale is that he is already being charged with the most serious offense. This is a misleading excuse, as the attorneys on both sides are likely to arrange a plea agreement for a lesser charge. Two years ago, in the case of a blatant homophobic assault against gay men, Assistant D.A. Carol White denied that her office had any policy against using the hate crime law and claimed the evidence simply did not support the charge. There is always an excuse.

Wisconsin In Step has since learned that Parrilla, the accused, had an outstanding arrest warrant against him at the time of Juana's murder. He had previously been convicted of battery, served short time in the House of Correction, and was released on parole. When he violated conditions of his parole, it was revoked and an arrest warrant was issued. Had Parrilla been apprehended earlier by the police, Juana might still be alive.

Carmen Murguia, Juana's best friend, has organized a press conference, media appearances and a candlelight vigil (Thursday, Nov. 29, 8 p.m., at the LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St.) for Juana and to protest the "justice" system's handling of this case. As tragic and unnecessary as it was, Juana Vega's death is spurring new efforts at reform.

The Milwaukee LGBT community needs to push allies like Mayor John Norquist, County Executive Tom Ament, Police Chief Art Jones and Fire and Police Commission member Leonard Sobczak, among others, to take a stand on the troubling issues exposed by Juana Vega's death. And this time, we shouldn't let go until a real measure of justice is achieved.

Support Sought for State Domestic-Partnership Bills

By Chris Ott

Madison — A Nov. 19 meeting at the state capitol sought support for legislation that would protect same-sex couples in Wisconsin. Two dozen people attended, including private citizens as well as representatives of organizations including Pride in Wisconsin Government and groups at the University of Wisconsin.

Conducted by state Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Madison), the meeting focused on bills that would help Wisconsin catch up to the wide variety of government and private employers that already recognize the domestic partners of their employees and offer health coverage. "This is about equal pay for equal work," Pocan said.

The meeting focused on two bills that are being reintroduced in the state legislature this session.

One would create a domestic-partner registry in Wisconsin for same-sex couples, and would apply existing marriage statutes to these partnerships. Unmarried opposite-sex couples could qualify as well.

The second bill would open the state insurance pool for domestic-partner coverage. It would make it possible for entities like local governments and school districts to offer domestic-partner coverage to their employees through the state group insurance plan.

Pocan says the bills face an uphill battle. "Very bluntly, neither one will pass this session," he said. He added, however, that it's important to introduce the legislation

anyway, in order to "get the groundwork in place" for its eventual passage. Few of the more than one thousand bills introduced in the legislature each year actually pass, but consistent efforts can pay off.

Both domestic-partner bills debuted in 1999, but neither ever got a public hearing. Last time around, the domestic-partner registry bill was co-sponsored by nine members of the 99-member state assembly. The insurance bill had 13 assembly co-sponsors, and both bills were also sponsored by Sen. Fred Risser (D-Madison).

Pocan says he hopes the bills will get wider support this time, and he particularly stressed the need for bipartisan leadership. Pocan said he would be glad to have a Republican sponsor for the bills, and he stressed that "not all Democrats are going to be good on this. We're going to need some Republicans to support it." Republicans control the state Assembly, and Democrats control the Senate.

Pocan also stressed the importance of getting more widespread support from individuals and organizations as well. "If we can come out of this session with 30 diverse groups supporting it, that would be very helpful," he said. Supporters are seeking additional backing from other groups, such as labor organizations and religious denominations.

"The more non-LGBT groups that support this, the stronger it is," Pocan said. "We should contact everyone we possibly can." He urged those with ties to other

groups that might lend their support to contact his office at (608) 266-8570, or by email at Rep.Pocan@legis.state.wi.us.

Others in attendance stressed that anti-gay groups are already contacting legislators asking them to oppose the bills. They also reported that many legislators who might be convinced to support them simply know very little about the issue.

There is, however, significant support for the measures in Wisconsin. Last February, a statewide poll found that 58.5 percent of Wisconsinites believe that gays and lesbians should be allowed to have health insurance coverage that includes their partners, and 45.8 percent believe that same-sex couples should be able to form a domestic partnership or civil union that has the same rights, benefits and responsibilities as marriage.

Vermont is currently the only U.S. state that provides a legal equivalent of marriage for same-sex couples, though hundreds of employers nationwide provide domestic-partner health coverage. Employers headquartered in Wisconsin that offer such coverage include Alliant Energy, Johnson Wax and Oscar Mayer. Employers with domestic-partner coverage doing business in Wisconsin include Ameritech, General Motors and Northwest Airlines. Universities that offer domestic-partner coverage include the University of Iowa, the University of Michigan, the University of Minnesota and the University of Chicago. The University of Wisconsin does not.

Outside the United States, a growing number of countries — including Canada, Germany, France and the Netherlands — also offer same-sex couples the option to marry, or they provide a close legal equivalent.

An Argument With Barney Frank

Post 9-11 Gay Activism, Republicans Who Gay-Bash Less, and Homosexuality as a Non-Issue

By Rex Wockner

In the midst of his 21st year in Congress, openly gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., sat down with Rex Wockner recently to assess the state of the gay union.

I understand surviving same-sex partners of Sept. 11th victims might get some compensation from the feds.

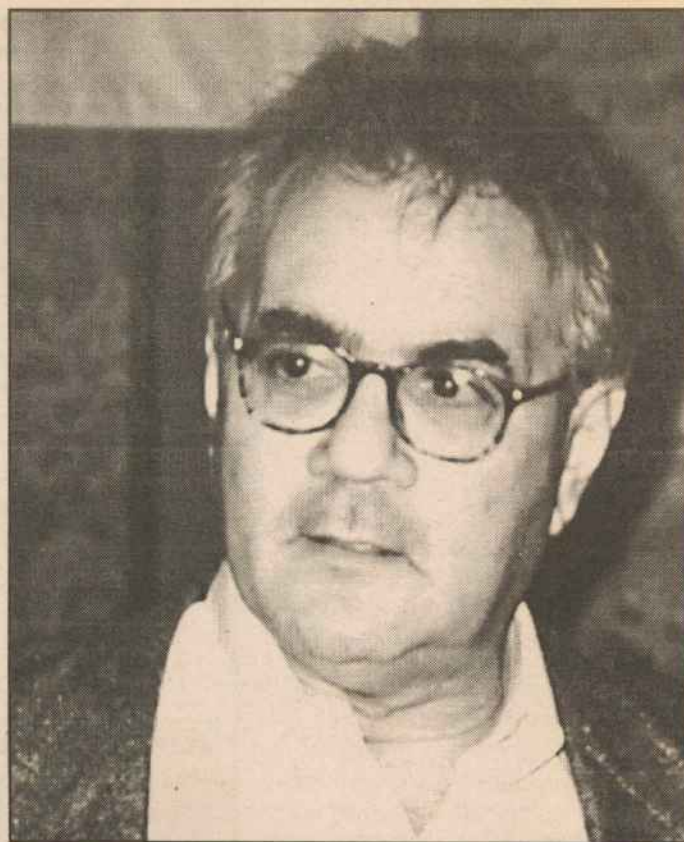
Barney Frank: The legislation that was passed leaves open the definition of "survivor" and there's room to define this broadly and we have been working to try to make sure the administration defines it broadly enough to include domestic partners ... including any people who shared expenses. We've gotten some good indications from some Republicans that they're ready to support this. I'm reasonably optimistic.

What would the benefits be?

Tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars per survivor. It's part of the airline bailout bill. Congress voted compensation for victims. It's meant to be an alternative to lawsuits. People will have to pick. They could still have a lawsuit if they wanted to.

Did the recent Congressional vote that finally allowed the District of Columbia to give benefits to domestic partners of its employees create momentum for this?

Yes. It was very helpful. In both causes, these are indications that we are making progress. The country as a whole is getting better and better on the issue. As more and more people come out to their friends and relatives and customers and teammates and bosses and subordinates, the average American has discovered that it's OK not to be homophobic. Most people weren't homophobic but they had always thought they were supposed to be. Now they've learned that you don't have to be. We're gaining. There's a drag on that, in that the right wing has taken over the Republican Party.



U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass

Thirty-five years ago, both parties were awful. The Democrats have gotten better and better and better, and the Republicans haven't. They're not much better now than they were 20 years ago because there are countervailing forces in the Republican party. The country is going in one direction but their base pulls them in the other. On that D.C. domestic-partner vote, we got 91 percent of the Democrats and 19 percent of the Republicans. What is interesting is that it was the Republicans who were unhappy at their leadership for bringing it up. The House Republicans said to their leadership: "What the hell is the matter

EVERTZ IS A THROW-AWAY. HE'S LOW-LEVEL. ... I DOUBT BUSH HAS MET HIM MORE THAN ONCE.**THERE'S NO SIGN HE HAS ANY INFLUENCE ABOUT ANYTHING.**

with you? Why are you making us vote on this?" That's very interesting. Ten years ago, if we'd had a vote on that issue, it would have been the Democratic members complaining that they hate to have to vote on this. Until fairly recently, the Democrats thought they were caught between the anti-gay feelings of the general public and the pro-gay activism within the Democratic party. Now the Republicans feel torn. People don't like gay-bashing. ...

Many Republican politicians now very much don't want to be seen as gay-bashers. I don't think it's right to say they're no better than they were 20 years ago. They're certainly better than they were 10 years ago.

I wish there were pressures in the Republican party to make them better. There are not. There are pressures in the general electorate.

How about [Republican gay-rights activist and party advisor] Mary Matalin?

She advocates the position but she's not in a position to pressure them. Mary's not going to turn against someone because he or she didn't vote right. ... She's very supportive. She can help. ... When I say the Republicans are no better than they were 20 years ago, that's based on the roll call. You're right, though. The Republicans got much worse, then they got better again. I agree with that. That's fair. They're better than they were 10 years ago, not so much in the number of votes we get, but in the diminution of gay-bashing.

The things they won't say.

They learned from Pat Buchanan in 1992. And from the fact that the passage of DOMA [the Defense of Marriage Act] did not bring them any political benefits. ... People don't want to hear Jesse Helms calling their gay kids names, so the Republicans have got it on

not much but it's progress.

There's no question. The country as a whole is getting better. But the Republicans are still lagging behind the country as a whole.

Is TV helpful in making the nation more gay-friendly?

Not much. I think it's personal coming out. I don't think watching Will and Jack makes people more supportive. I think it's the other way around. That's an indication of our progress, not the cause of it. Maybe "Ellen" had some effect. Why if you watch "Will & Grace" would you be any more pro-gay then you were before?

Familiarity. Even if you don't know anyone gay, there's 20-some network TV gay characters beaming into your living room.

Many of them aren't the kind of people who make you want to be like them, or like them. They're not admirable. Overwhelmingly, our progress is the result of person-to-person coming out. Television may make a minor contribution.

Do gay activists and lobbyists work in a different environment since September 11th?

There's an attention issue but, actually, I think it's marginally better now. ... The post-September 11th rhetoric is, "Hate is bad." Religious fundamentalism has been somewhat discredited. We are able to argue, "Let's all be together, united we stand." That's helped us.

What are the top three gay issues you're personally concerned about right now?

Getting high schools into the business of protecting gay kids. ... Domestic partner-

been supportive?

I guess it's just that they were so much less mean.

That's like you send your dog to obedience school and he comes back and he shits all over the house and you complain and the trainer says, "Well, at least he didn't bite you." ... What have they done affirmative?

The crazy fundamentalist Christians are all upset that Bush is too pro-gay. They have a list of eight or nine things.

Scott Evertz. The ambassador.

Mary Matalin. This new D.C. unity group of gay and straight Republicans working together.

Which is a group that tells gay people to vote Republican even though the Republicans don't do anything for them. ...

Bush's meeting with gays during the campaign.

Jesus. What's the matter with you? Isn't that nice that he petted us on that?

Putting an openly gay Congressman on stage at the Republican Convention to talk about trade issues. There's a list of things they're pissed off about.

What's the matter with you? Just because really crazy, vicious people — I mean, you're validating the right wing with this. You're letting the crazies move the goal post.

Under Reagan, the crazies had nothing to bitch about. Now they do. It's gotta mean there's been progress.

Yes, the country as a whole has gotten better, so they've mostly stopped gay-bashing. You haven't mentioned a single public policy that deals with the problems of mistreatment of gay and lesbian people. They're against a gay-inclusive hate-crimes bill. They're against ENDA. They have decided not to be uncivil now. They'll allow gay people who are willing to support them despite the anti-gay agenda, to do so. That's what it amounts to. It's leading you to infer there's some real stuff there. And there isn't.

If they can't say anti-gay things as freely as they used to —

That's better than if they did. But they're still against ENDA. And George Bush won't sign it. It's a mistake to give them credit for meeting with people.

I have a gut feeling that we're getting to them. They can't say the things they said before.

Because they understand it will hurt them politically. That doesn't lead them to do anything good.

But it will.

When?

This new, less-nasty Republican environment vis-a-vis gay people is only two or three years old. Give it two or three more years.

Are they going to start voting differently?

Some of them. Or something is going to come up and the right wing is going to want them to take an anti-gay position, and they're simply not going to do it.

You have no basis for that.

Even saying, "We welcome gay people into the Republican party**if they agree with our ideas and principles —"**

Your self-esteem must be your toes. If we are prepared to swallow hard and support them even though they have all these anti-gay positions, they'll let us do that. Oh, lucky us! ... You see this as evolution, I see it as politicians being smart enough to know what not to say, and what they have to say. ...

I think you have a stake in being careful that all of those gay white men out there with Republican leanings who nonetheless don't vote Republican because they are gay and they don't want to be discriminated against by Republicans -- you don't want to say anything, and you don't want me to write anything, that encourages those gay white men with Republican leanings to go ahead and vote Republican.

Not if they care about gay rights. If gay rights is not your issue, if you're an economic conservative, then go ahead and vote Republican. I don't want them to vote Republican on the grounds that this is a good way to advance gay rights. If you say, "Look, I'm fine, and I'm not being discriminated against, and my lover and I both have our health benefits," then that's a rational vote — if you care more about taxes, or you think the Democrats are whacked out on the environment. ... We've made real progress. In your day-to-day life, are you discriminated against as a gay man?

No. Never.

Fine. Unlike 30 years ago when almost everybody was. ... In many metropolitan areas today, you can live as a gay man or lesbian without anybody impinging on your life. Therefore, not everybody votes for the cause. They vote for things that affect their life. In a purely self-interest sense, that's rational [for a gay person to vote Republican].

I don't vote Republican. ... You know, it's not only that I never get discriminated against in any way, and that my gayness doesn't have any impact on my daily existence any more. I think I sometimes get special treatment because it's cool or hip to be gay now.

No question. That's absolutely right. I certainly get it.

I get mainstream journalistic assignments because I'm gay.

I know that's right. ... Once it became clear my boyfriend and I were together and it got in the papers — he works at World Bank — we started getting invitations from straight colleagues of his to go to boring parties, because it was cool to have a gay couple.

That's the environment now in urban areas of all First World countries.

Yes. Which is why, then, you get white gay men who are making good incomes — if they weren't gay, they'd be voting 70 percent Republican, not 70 percent Democratic. That's the explanation. It's not a surprise that there are gay people who don't feel the negative. If you're purely self-interested, it's rational to vote Republican, as long as you don't tell me that's a way to help gay rights.

Agreed. Thanks, Barney. ▽

YOUR SELF-ESTEEM MUST BE YOUR TOES. IF WE ARE PREPARED TO SWALLOW HARD AND SUPPORT THEM EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE ALL THESE ANTI-GAY POSITIONS, THEY'LL LET US DO THAT.

gay-bashing. Ten years ago they were actively trying to roll back pro-gay things when they happened; now they don't want to do that.

They just wish the topic wouldn't come up.

When I first came to Congress, gay rights was for a lot of Democrats a "no way" issue. After AIDS, gay rights went from a "no way" issue to an "oh, shit" issue. "Oh, shit, I've got to vote on this." Now, for the Democrats, it's an easy vote and for the Republicans it's become an "oh, shit" issue. But they still vote wrong. ... They're in this transition phase where they can't do anything right but they don't want to do anything wrong.

How about [Bush's gay AIDS adviser] Scott Evertz and the new openly gay U.S. ambassador to Romania?

Evertz is a throw-away. He's low-level. ... I doubt Bush has met him more than once. There's no sign he has any influence about anything. The ambassador appointment was a very useful thing ... but Bush didn't go out of his way to appoint this guy. He was a career foreign-service guy who had reached a point where he was due for an ambassadorship. To have refused him would have been gay-bashing. He was entitled to it.

It's still progress that they let these things happen even though they know they'll get crap from the right-wing of the party. It's

ship, especially health benefits. The absence of universal health care is one of the worst things about America. On the federal level, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act [ENDA] will help, and also, repealing the really obnoxious part of DOMA that says even if a state recognizes a same-sex marriage, the federal government won't. Third, immigration rights for gay and lesbian people who have non-American lovers. These are areas where people are really hurting. With ENDA, we're at the point now where if the Democrats take control of the House, Congress will pass it. Bush wouldn't sign it.

Are you sure?

Yeah. You have this faith in them that's based on nothing.

I went to the Republican Convention as a reporter and hung out there all week.

And got bullshitted.

At past Republican conventions, all there was for me to cover for the gay press was Young Americans for Freedom walking around in surgical masks carrying "AIDS Patrol" signs, and ACT UP getting beat to death by the cops. This time there were numerous stories from inside the convention hall. ...

But what have they done? Where have they

Leonard Sobczak

A Friendly Voice on Milwaukee's Fire and Police Commission

By William Attewell

Businessman Leonard Sobczak was appointed by Mayor John Norquist to the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission in August 2000. He is the first openly gay member of that citizen-run commission, which oversees policies in the police and fire departments and hears complaints against both departments.

Sobczak's appointment was considered a measure of progress by gay community leaders. For decades, Milwaukee gays and lesbians protested raids on gay bathhouses and bars and police harassment of patrons arriving and departing from establishments in the gay bar district. Despite the fact that gay community representatives have participated in police recruit training sessions over the past decade, incidents of harassment have still occurred. On a broader level, Police Chief Art Jones is under attack by the police officers' union and some neighborhood groups for how he is currently running the department.

Wisconsin IN Step sat down with Sobczak to get his perspective on his job and these current issues.

Is your job on the commission what you expected?

I didn't know much what to expect, but it's been a lot more interesting than I thought it would be — getting right in the midst of some real important topics for the city around the police and fire departments, the relationship to citizens and all that.

The Common Council recently voted not to fund the public information officer position at the police department. When *IN Step* has attempted to contact that office, we've never gotten any information, even simple information, from them. For example, over the "Creating Change" conference weekend, I called to find out how many protesters had been arrested and never even got a call back. It's been an ongoing problem with us trying to get any information from the Police Department. Have you heard similar problems about that public information officer?

I haven't heard specific problems with that particular position. I know it's part of the chief's ongoing relationship with the press that's been up in the air.

Chief Jones has been in the news recently. He transferred a large number of officers around and also received his review from the commission. Commission chairman Woody Welch has been outspoken in his criticism of Jones. How do you respond to that?

My first thought is that it's really unfortunate that so much conflict exists because it really doesn't serve the city well. I just wish it could be different, but the position of the chief has always been controversial. We all just make the best decisions we can as we go along, based on our best thinking. Woody Welch is an outspoken member of the Commission in regard to Chief Jones,

and I'd just like to emphasize that those are his opinions alone and they don't necessarily reflect the views of the whole commission. The chief is a good man. Because of his experience and his long-term residence in Milwaukee, he has a lot of compassion for the citizens and he really loves Milwaukee.

Have you been surprised at the amount of politics and the factionalism? Is there a lot of pressure on you?

I don't feel a lot of pressure. I love it. I love being in the midst of it. I love the challenge of bringing my best thinking to the situation, and just being an agent of change and input as much as I can to try to help the whole city move forward and try to manage the relationship between the chief and the press and the city. It's really interesting.

Did you find when you talked to the chief, did you find there was a lot of education you had to do to bring him up to speed on the gay community?

Not really. He's met with members of the gay community around some of the bar issues, and I don't even know that there are any specific bar issues floating around right now.

There had been problems in the past, and we had that supposed search for "fruit flies" in the bars a few years ago. The only thing I've heard lately is the arrests of men for sex in the parks, and that's not specifically a gay issue because often it's married people, so it sort of comes and goes. The charges have increased though. It used to be disorderly conduct, then it was lewd and lascivious behavior, and now I think it's even being charged as fourth degree sexual assault. In some cities there have been programs to try to educate the force and people in the parks to work on that issue.

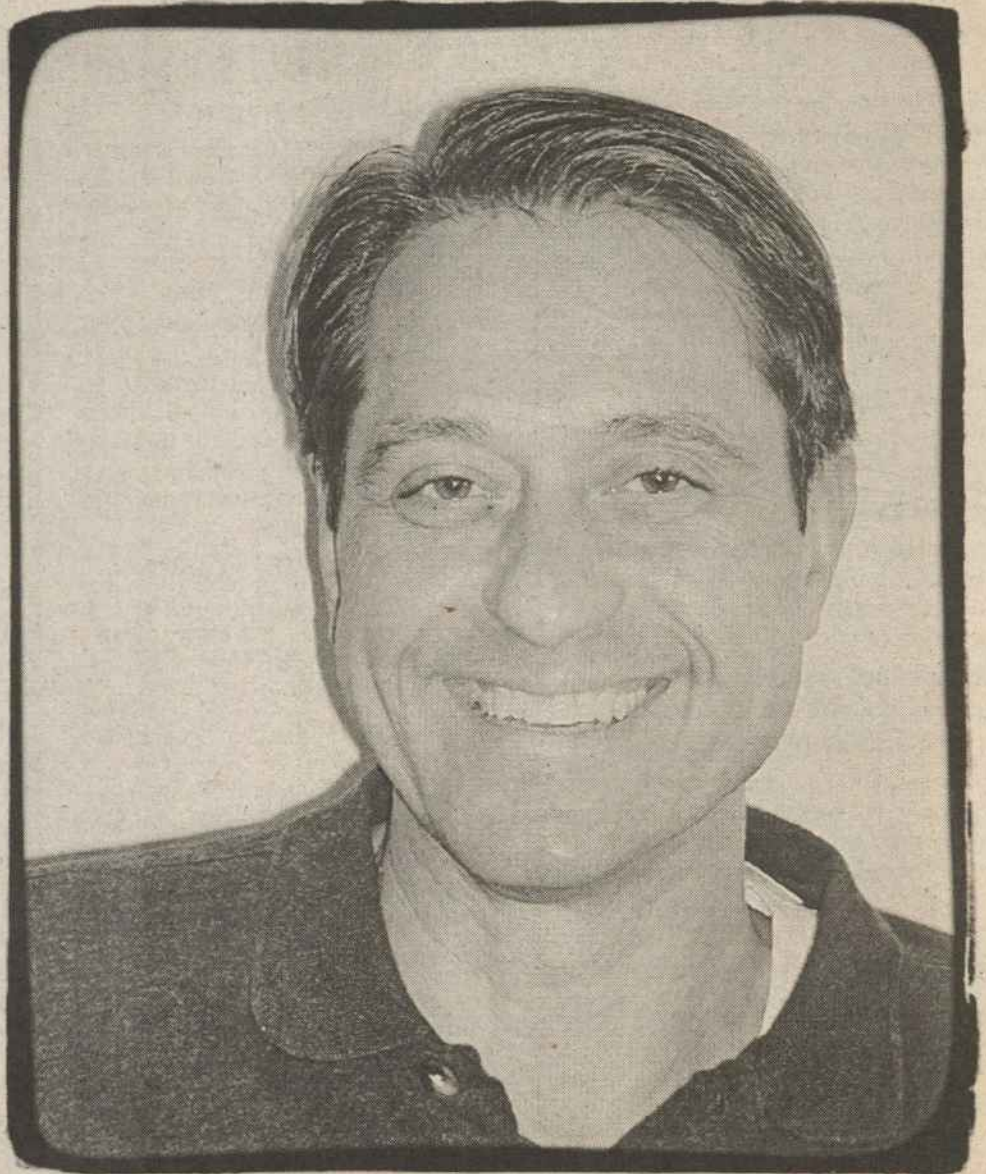
It's kind of a tough situation because, as you say, it's not so much that they're gay, it's the targeting of the behavior. In my opinion, it's more of an issue of that, because there's really not a lot of other issues specifically targeting gays. I think that the police department probably views it in the same way. Even though that's not to say at the top of the organizational chart there can be one philosophy, but there's a whole different question about the rank and file.

I interviewed Chief Jones a few years ago and he said he planned to fill out his term and then retire. Do you think he will be able to fill out his term with everything that's swirling around him?

I don't want to comment on that. That's a real hot issue.

Are there any specific ideas you are bringing to the Commission?

The whole issue around the chief — here's how I look at it, Conflicts aside and specific instances aside, when people think about the chief they should stand in his shoes and try to view the world as he sees it. He was given his job to run the department as it suits his vision. People don't always agree with it, and like all of us, he doesn't always make the best decisions all the time. I've also seen his brilliance, where he's acted like a good leader. But standing in his shoes and viewing the world as he



Leonard Sobczak

sees it and from where he's come from, I think we would move a long way toward some understanding. Just as he has a lot of people who don't agree with him, there are a lot of people who support him. The African American community, in general, is real supportive of him. So, looking at the world the way he sees the world, you have to understand that he's not the only one who sees the world the way that he does.

Chief Jones comes from a history of 30+ years on the force, most under the regime of Harold Breier, and a lot of experience has been through that type of regime. It's kind of like the current situation after the 9/11 attacks, and people are wondering, "What's up with the Arabs? Why do they hate us so much?" I think after people get past their anger and their flag-waving, if they would stand in the shoes of the Arabs and try to understand their viewpoint on the world, there's a lot of potential growth and understanding.

I've talked to officers on the force, and I hear often police resources are dedicated to high crime areas of the city and that others areas of the city feel they get short shrift in terms of police protection. Do you think all areas are getting an equal police presence?

I've heard the complaint. I've talked to Ald. Jim Bohl who feels strongly about it. I haven't specifically analyzed it to see where the resources are being put. All I know is the chief allocates his resources where he feels there's the most need. Unfortunately, right now, he's operating short of about 200 officers, and the whole force feels that. It's budgeted, so he has the money for the personnel. A lot of officers have retired due to the global settlement, so it's a younger force. Actually, one of the main jobs of the Fire and Police Commission is to recruit new officers. That's one of our chief administrative functions: recruiting, testing,

doing background checks, and choosing a field of candidates that we turn over to the academy for training as officers. We've normally had two classes every year. This year, we just added a third class to the academy to make up for the shortage and get officers out there in the field.

You are the first openly gay person on the Fire and Police Commission. Do you feel you have a special responsibility or focus because of that?

First of all, my experience with being on the commission as an openly gay man has been fantastic. The gay community has, in all the members of the commission, allies. I see that in the entire staff as well. They are allied with the gay community. Even the chief — I have lunch with him every month or two — I talk about my experience as a gay man, and it's just a non-issue. He feels he's been a friend of the gay community over the years. It's kind of like the way the whole city has been evolving around gay people in that it's becoming just more and more a non-issue.

Some people feel the police have been targeting men having sex with men in the parks, but non-gay couples don't receive the same level of attention. There is the escalation of the charges. Do you have input on how the police enforce the law in that regard?

As a commission, we do set policy, and we can make orders on policy but we don't really like to get involved in the day-to-day operation of the department. We leave it up to the chief to run the department as the professional police officer. I would be happy to hear about instances like that. If there is a specific problem, or a specific problem with selective enforcement, we can look at that as a diversity issue.

people who've been arrested. Some feel that it is selective enforcement, that police target specific gay activity, and the increasing charges has a devastating effect on these people.

I would be happy to try to understand the issue more — talk to people or representatives of that interest and find out about it and find out what the actual policy is on it, and talk to the chief about it. There may be a selective issue to look at, and I would be happy to look at that. One thing I really encourage the members of the gay community to do is develop a relationship with the police department.

How can that be done?

Talk to the captains at the district stations. That's the first place to start. Sit down, talk to them. Tell them your views. They are happy to communicate with members of the community. Each district has a community liaison officer. Develop a working relationship with them. A lot of other groups do that. To the extent that members of the gay community can have a person-to-person relationship where the liaison officer and the captain can put a face behind a concern — and vice versa — then I think you can have a lot better relationship back and forth if there is a problem.

There is sensitivity session at the training academy around gay issues for the recruits. Does Stephanie Hume still run that?

I believe so. I talked with her about a month ago. I think it was Stephanie who said that the nature of the new recruits has evolved. When they started a long time ago, there was a lot of squirming and discomfort around the issue. That's not so pronounced any more. People are a lot more comfortable with it. They're familiar with it just because of the evolving relationship of the gay community with the city of Milwaukee as well.

In some cities, they're are groups for gay and lesbian officers. Do have a special interest in gay and lesbian officers that may be on the force?

I'm glad you brought that up because that's the one piece that has been missing from my job as a commissioner so far: I really know nothing about the gay and lesbian officers. I'd really like to invite gay and lesbian members of the force to contact me because I really would like to understand what it's like for them: what their experience is, what their feelings are. From a Commission viewpoint, to look at that rank and file issue. I've been particularly interested in understanding the rank and file. I do a fair amount of ride-alongs. I'd like to do more but for me it's really important to understand what it's like to be an officer, what they go through, what their relationship is to the citizenry, to the other officers and to their superiors. I'm particularly interested in gay and lesbian members of the force.

Have you had any contact with gay and lesbian officers?

No. None.

Do you know why that might be? Are they unaware that you are on the Commission or are they possibly afraid to come forward?

I think an important thing for me is to issue the invitation. They've been silent. I'm relatively new on the Commission, so they may not be aware that there's an openly gay man on the Commission who's interested in their interests. So that's one reason

I wanted to have this interview, to issue an invitation.

What do you hope will come of that?

Get an understanding, find out what their concerns are, especially in light of this diversity issue that I'm about to look into. How are they treated? What is the overall attitude that they run up against toward gay and lesbian members in the community?

When you go out among rank and file members, when you go on the ride-alongs, do you find there's a lot of frustration?

The morale that I'm finding is not the greatest. I think there's confusion. There could be better communication. But I don't have enough of a handle on the rank and file to understand the extent of the morale issue or how widespread it is.

What kinds of concerns are you hearing from the officers?

They've got more overtime than they'd like due to a shortage of officers — it puts a lot of stress on all of the officers. Other concerns are about the perception of micro-managing ... too many rules and procedures.

As a commissioner, that must be a tough situation. You want to see the morale improve. Can you have an effect on that?

Not overnight. I think an important thing for me to hear as a commissioner is their concerns and to let the rank and file know that they are heard, that I understand what their issues are, that I can bring to my overall thinking and decisions around my job.

We've talked a lot about the police department, what can you tell us about the fire department that we should know?

The fire department takes probably 20% of our time and the police department about 80%. Part of it is the nature of the job. Firefighters are there to put out fires and deal with search and rescue and those concerns. The police department's job is to maintain order; they carry guns. The very nature of the jobs requires the police department to take a lot more attention. What I have met in the firefighters is people who are mission-driven. Their mission in life is to save lives. I've toured a number of the fire houses. They were really anxious to have a commissioner visit their firehouse and to show me how they operate, what their equipment is, show me around their house. Their dedication is incredible. There's a certain budget for them to take courses in furthering their education on rescue techniques, and they pay out of their pocket when their individual budget is exhausted — very dedicated people.

You'd extend the invitation to gay and lesbian police officers to firefighters as well?

Definitely. I really would like to understand what it's like to be a gay or lesbian firefighter.

Tell me a little about yourself.

I was born and raised in Milwaukee on the east side. I went to Sts. Peter and Paul Grade School, Marquette High School, and UW-Madison, where I majored in business. I have a real estate business. I'm pretty entrenched in the community. Milwaukee is great. I feel like I'm well-connected. I've got a great community of soul-mates and it's a great place to be.

How old are you?

49. It's great. So far, I'm enjoying

observing my aging process ^ with little bits of gray hair coming out. [laughs]

How do you assess the state of the gay and lesbian community here in Milwaukee. Have we made progress in the last few years?

Oh, yeah, big time. The Domestic Partnership Registry and the benefits for city employees are landmarks ^ benchmarks that are indicators of the progress that we've made over the years. The increased visibility of the community. I'm really proud of PrideFest. You know, to see the rainbow flags flying along Water St. with all the other ethnic festival flags really makes me proud. I was at PrideFest once, and one of my former tenants is in the management of the Summerfest organization. He was partly responsible for bringing PrideFest to the Summerfest grounds. When I saw him, he talked about what a victory that was, and he's heterosexual. His caring for the gay community and what a big deal it was to have PrideFest at the Summerfest grounds was just great. We have so many people in this community who wish the best for us. I really feel that way. It's like the issue I was talking about with standing in the shoes of the chief and seeing what the world looks like from his viewpoint. I think that's a lesson for the gay community to look at also. We've all run across the neighbor who's anti-gay or who mistrusts us. It's been shown that the most progress is made when people come out, and those that have known them before find out they're gay have a great learning opportunity.

One of major experience I had in my life around that issue was in April of 1993. I went to the gay march on Washington. They had a sunrise meditation on the Saturday of that weekend. I was sitting

there in lotus position, meditating, and I heard a camera click. Next morning I heard that my photo was distributed by Associated Press all over the U.S., including to the Milwaukee Journal. So all of a sudden, all my neighbors knew I was gay, my grandma knew I was gay, aunts and uncles, my colleagues in my Rotary group, the guys I work out with at my club. It was just like ^ there. It was such a gift because I didn't have to worry about coming out to anybody any more. From that point on, I could assume that everybody knew I was gay. It took the fear out of the issue.

From that time on, my experience changed, and as a result, in October of 1994 I organized a group coming out. The Milwaukee Journal ran a big group photo with everyone's names. I came up with the idea and organized through the Human Rights League. I knew there was some snickering behind my back. It's always painful when you hear that someone's doing that, but I also heard stories about people who defended me, and said: "Do you know what you're saying? Do you know who you're talking about?" So I had a lot of defenders, and I also had to remember the many people who love me as I am. When I could use that as a reference, the power of that other stuff just drops away.

Anything else you'd like to add?

As an openly gay man, I'm grateful to the mayor for asking me to serve, and I would really like to put myself at the disposal of the gay community to represent their views. I'm in the phone book, so give me a call. I'd also be happy to meet with them. If any officers would like to meet with me, I will guarantee their anonymity because a lot of gay and lesbian members of the forces are afraid of coming out.

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State Briefs

Chippewa Valley LGBT Center Hosts Events

Eau Claire — The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center of the Chippewa Valley is hosting a variety of events in December.

On Saturday, Dec. 1, a class called "Introduction to Yoga" is open to members and non-members alike. This introductory class will be taught by Stacey Lee, a certified yoga instructor, who regularly teaches beginners. Yoga is adaptable for all ages and abilities, you do not need to be flexible or athletic. You only need to be willing to learn and try new things. This 90-minute class will begin at 1 p.m. and is only available to people on the LGBT Community Center mailing list. Space is limited, and will go to the first 10 people to reserve their spot. The fee is \$5 for Center members and \$8 for non-members. It will be held at the Yoga Center of Eau Claire, 4121/2 Water St. For more information, call the Center at (715) 559-5751, or visit the Yoga Center's website at www.infinitejoy.com/yoga.

Also on Saturday, Dec. 1, there will be a World AIDS Day Service and Reception, with music, readings, and meditation in observance of World AIDS Day. The event will begin at 7 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 310 Broadway St. in Eau Claire. The reception will begin at 8 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St. in Eau Claire.

On Wednesday, Dec. 5, look for the Community Center's "Pampered Chef Party" at the Community Center beginning at 7 p.m. when we'll learn how to cook

great new foods, see new kitchen gadgets, eat some fun food, and have a great time with friends. Any orders will come back in time to give as holiday presents. For a catalog ahead of time, call the Center at (715) 559-5751 or email us at gaycenter@hotmail.com. A percentage of sales will benefit the Center, which has received a challenge from Holly Bushbeck, our Kitchen Consultant: if sales total \$1,000 or more, she will donate half of her party earnings back to the Center.

On Wednesday, Dec. 12, the Center will hold its Board Meeting and Public Forum. The Board Meeting is from 7-8 p.m., with the Public Forum from 8-8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to listen in at any Board Meeting and then offer up suggestions or ideas during our Public Forum.

The Center's Program Committee has created a monthly Speakers Forum, and the first, about relationships, will be held Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. at 510 S. Farwell St. in Eau Claire. David Rumsey, a Center member, will host this Forum. It will be filled with true life stories, learning, and interaction from the group.

Meanwhile, the Center's current open hours are Tuesday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. On You can meet with President Chris Iannone for Center tours, with organizational questions or concerns, purchase a membership, pick up Building reservation forms, or to return library materials. Thursday Library Hours are from 5-7 p.m. Come read, check out, or return library materials on a new extra day. The Center is open for Drop-In Night every Friday from 7-10 p.m. with no organized activities. Come check out things from the library, play board games, watch a movie, hang out with friends, or make new ones.

Beginning in January the Center will have expanded hours including some daytime availability. Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. The Center is starting a Coming Out group. If you'd like more information about it, contact the Center at (715) 559-5751 or by email at gaycenter@hotmail.com. There are also a few members interested in starting a Couples group. If you'd like to meet with other couples for socialization, including potlucks, small activity trips, and a support network, call the Center. The group is open and welcoming of all genders and all relationship "anniversary" lengths.

For further information on any of these events, call (715) 559-5751, or visit the Center's Web site at www.geocities.com/glbtccommunitycenter/.

Rainbow Families Hosts Winter Weekend Fun

Madison — The Rainbow Families Wisconsin first annual Winter Recreation Weekend, will take place January 19-21, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Weekend, at Camp Helen Brachman in Almond, Wisconsin — just south of Stevens Point.

This central location is perfect for families to drive in from all over the state. Rainbow Families has reserved two buildings, and there will be plenty of space and snow, sunshine, and warm food — all for families to relax and enjoy. Families of all sizes and styles are invited to partake in this weekend dedicated to enjoying nature, our children and each other.

The weekend will feature six hot meals, campfires and songs, skiing, skating, sledding, fire-building class, arts and crafts, adult time, and plenty of opportunities to chill and chat with folks. Accommodations

include rooms of four beds each, perfect for a family of four. Larger families can be accommodated just as easily. Bring sleeping bags and pillows.

Price for the weekend covers the cost of the building, meals, and camp staff programs.

A registration form can be found at our web site: www.rainbowfamilieswisconsin.org. If you have questions, feel free to call Patti at (608) 263-5055 (day), (608) 244-5258 (eve.).

Briarpatch Gets \$150,000 Grant

Madison — Briarpatch, south central Wisconsin's social service agency for teens, recently received a \$150,000 Department of Health and Human Services Grant to fund its Scattered Sites Transitional Living Program.

Designed to help older runaway, homeless and throwaway teens, the Transitional Living Program helps youth secure permanent housing, find stable employment, complete their education, develop life skills, and encourage healthy decision-making. Briarpatch has always been supportive of LGBT youth.

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, who helped secure the funding increase, noted: "Since 1972, Briarpatch has been providing a safe haven for teens in south central Wisconsin. The assistance they provide teens who are unable to live at home is so important. These federal funds will help Briarpatch continue its great work, expand its programs, and assist more teens in need."

A 50% increase over last year's funding levels, the renewed grants will allow the program to take on additional teens and provide better service to those already enrolled. The grant has allowed Briarpatch to hire a second Transitional Living Program case worker, Melody Ray. In addition, the funding will defray costs associated with client services and program expenses.

"The Transitional Living Program is a unique community resource that helps teens in very dire situations work with landlords, employers, schools and their families to make a successful transition into adulthood," said Juan José Lopez, Briarpatch Executive Director.

Founded in 1972, Briarpatch is the only agency in Dane, Dodge and Jefferson counties specializing in services to runaway and homeless teens and their families. The agency provides 24-hour crisis counseling, emergency shelter and transitional living for teens, street outreach, support and education groups for youth, and in-home family counseling.

For more information on Briarpatch and its programs, call (608) 251-6211.

Red Ribbon Donates Funds for AIDS Care

La Crosse — In honor of World AIDS Awareness Day on Dec. 1, the Red Ribbon Family Fund (RRFF) for AIDS charities distributed funds it has raised in the past year. The checks were presented on Nov. 28 to the Franciscan Skemp Medical Foundation, Inc. and to the Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation and will be disbursed by them to clients who need funds that are otherwise unavailable.

The RRFF is the only source for these funds and remains the largest contributor to HIV/AIDS charities in the La Crosse area. Although the RRFF has been able to increase the amount of funds it raises each year, it falls short of the amount needed annually. This year, the RRFF is donated more than \$14,000.

It is also the mission of the RRFF, a non-profit, volunteer-run organization, to fight the growing complacency around the AIDS epidemic. Throughout the country, cases of

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HIV/AIDS are steadily rising, especially among women and young people.

As part of World AIDS Day, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin will be conducting free and anonymous HIV testing on Nov. 29 and 30th from 7-9 p.m. at the ARCW office at 1707 Main St., Suite 420, in La Crosse.

For more information on AIDS prevention or testing, call the Wisconsin AIDSline at (800) 334-AIDS. For more information, or to make a donation to the Red Ribbon Family Fund, call Judi at (608) 788-9411.

SAGE Reschedules Workshop for Dec. 7

Milwaukee — SAGE/Milwaukee (Senior Action in a Gay Environment) announces that its half-day training session for professionals working with the elderly originally scheduled for September 21, but cancelled because the presenter could not come in from New York because of the September 11 events, has been rescheduled.

Titled "Working with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transsexual Seniors," the session is partially funded by The Milwaukee County Department on Aging. It will be held on Friday, December 7, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 West Court Street, Milwaukee.

John Genke, MSW, CSW, Senior Social Worker at SAGE/New York, will conduct the training session. Genke was born and raised in Milwaukee, where he attended Pius XI High School and graduated cum

laude from Marquette University. While at Marquette he was an active member of the Marquette Players during the tenure of Father John J. Walsh. He received his MSW from Hunter College School of Social Work of the City University of New York.

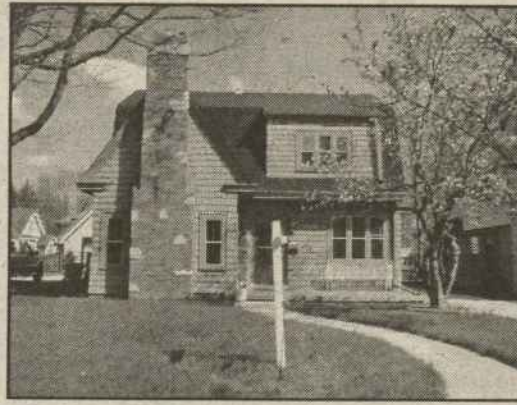
Among his duties at SAGE in New York, Genke provides case management and individual and group counseling; he supervises social work interns in the masters degree program; and he coordinates services for SAGE Positive, which assists HIV+ individuals age 50 and above. He is a member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and the New York Association for HIV Over Fifty (NYAHOF).

This training session is by reservation only, fee \$10 (to partially cover costs, materials, and light refreshments). Reserve by telephoning (414) 271-0378 by December 5.

Movie Night at the LGBT Center

Milwaukee — If you like to watch movies in the company of friends, the Community Center is the place to be on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month.

December's movie schedule offers comedy, music and light-hearted fun. "Mrs. Doubtfire" will be shown on December 8. December 22 is double feature night with "Mary Poppins" beginning the evening and a Laurel and Hardy film rounding out the bill. The lights go down and the camera rolls at 7 p.m.



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Coalition for an Inclusive United Way of Dane County Launched

Madison — A broad-based community effort is being developed to call attention to the likelihood that the United Way of Dane County (UWDC) will decide in March, 2002 to fund organizations that discriminate based on sexual orientation. This coalition is formed to help move UWDC to stop funding such discriminatory organizations.

In January of this year, UWDC approved a policy of non-discrimination by United Way participating agencies. This policy called on all agencies funded by the UWDC to review their policies to ensure services are available to all individuals regardless of age, race, ethnicity, religion, color, gender, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, natural origin, cultural differences, ancestry, physical appearance, arrest or conviction record, military record, source of income, or political beliefs.

The UWDC has given participating agencies several months to bring their policies into compliance. This process is expected to be completed by February, 2002. However, the UWDC has already indicated that it is highly likely that the Four Lakes Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the area boy scout council, will receive funding in 2002.

The United Way Board is expected to formally approve Four Lakes Council funding in March 2002, despite the fact that the Council excludes persons based on sexual orientation. The UWDC has said that the Four Lakes Council has made enough progress towards inclusiveness based on sexual orientation. In reality, the Council is still not allowing gays and lesbians to fully participate in their scouting programs. In addition, there is no reason to expect that the Council will soon end their discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In the last year, scores of religious organizations, corporations, schools and others across the county have stopped sponsoring, funding, and giving special treatment to the Boy Scouts of America (BSA); many more have publicly called on the BSA to end its discriminatory practices. Over forty United Way of America chapters have now either reduced or stopped funding the BSA.

The Coalition for an Inclusive United Way is calling upon the United Way of Dane County to reflect the values of Dane County residents by no longer funding organizations that discriminate — like the Four Lakes Council.

To find out more about the coalition and how you can join the effort, contact Deb Weill at OutReach at (608) 255-8582 or at outreach@outreachinc.com.

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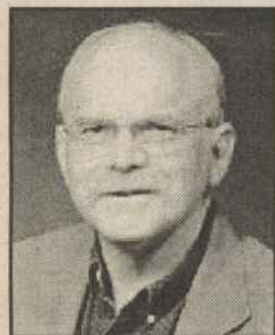
Keys, LGBT Ally on Madison School Board, Targeted for Recall

By Mike Leon

Madison — "Treasonous, anti-American, queer lover, fascist, traitor, disloyal, coward, terrorist, non-Christian, jerk."

Those are some of the typical words Bill Keys has had directed at him this fall in e-mails and phone calls.

A citizens' group, with backing from the local right wing, filed a petition on November 12 to recall the controversial



Bill Keys

Madison School Board member for what Keys says is protecting the rights of minorities, and what his opponents call a history of "social engineering."

Garnering national attention, Keys drafted a controversial policy in October he contends protects students with minority religious and political views. The policy Keys drafted, and which the Madison School Board adopted in early October, would have instituted compliance with a new state-mandated patriotism law requiring all public schools to lead students in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance or the National Anthem.

Keys offered a measure that instructed Madison schools to play an instrumental version of the national anthem, so that

those students holding religious and political views to which the pledge and anthem are objectionable would not have a state-orthodox view foisted upon them.

In an interview with *Wisconsin IN Step*, Keys says much of the vociferous attacks on him for his proposal on the new patriotism policy are part of an old line of hate against civil rights. Keys has been widely acknowledged as a LGBT civil rights champion on the board.

"Obsession and hatred of sexual identity rights are a large part of what's behind this. The critics frequently cite Madison's protection of LGBT rights in comments to me. Religion and our work on rights usually come up. This is about civil rights, and some people's unwillingness to accept minority rights," said Keys. "Madison has long been riding point on major social issues and there are those who are angry at this. These are intemperate, rush-to-judgment times. And this is also about a right-wing, cynical movement to regrab the power they lost the last few years on the Madison School Board."

A retired teacher and past president of the Madison teachers' union, Keys is a long-time LGBT civil rights champion.

He was instrumental in securing domestic partnership benefits for Madison teachers, hiring a special LGBT counselor for Madison schools, and establishing the "cultural competence" element of the district's human resource department that made valuing LGBT diversity a prerequisite for employment as a teacher, among other work.

"Bill Keys has been a strong ally and

supporter of the LGBT community in Madison. He's been an outspoken advocate for inclusion of all families in the school district," said State Rep. Mark Pocan (D-Madison). "And he's been there every time I've needed him to testify before state committees on behalf of domestic partner benefits. I can think of no greater friend of the LGBT community and of kids than Keys."

Not only Keys, but also the entire Madison School Board has become the bane of the right wing for its insistence that school district policy respect LGBT rights. Its official positions such as objecting to the Boy Scout's of America's discrimination against LGBT people, including domestic partner benefits in contracts, among other initiatives continue to inspire hostility.

At a special meeting on Oct. 15th the Board passed a new measure 6-to-1, with Keys as the lone dissenter, that reinstated the old policy on patriotism—leaving the compliance to state law up to individual schools in the district.

Pickers outside the meeting, which attracted over 1,200 people, identified themselves as "pro-life" to a questioner and held placards asserting that the Board is "perverted." The Progressive magazine's editor, Matthew Rothschild, called the display a "lynch mob" in an online column.

Members of a citizens' group, the Madison School Board Recall Committee, say they will try to force the recall election of Keys by their statutory deadline, December 12th. Keys is up for reelection in April 2003.

The recall group's website, (www.madisonrecall.com), reads that the Madison School Board generally has become arrogant and out-of-touch with its constituents.

The site reads "the pledge...vote exemplifies the arrogance, lack of judgment and failure to represent the majority that has characterized the Board over the past few years. While they reversed their (pledge) decision a week later, we say, 'enough.' It is time to take back our schools from those with an agenda that places their interest in social engineering above the education of our children."

The recall Committee is composed mostly of local Republicans such as former Congressman Scott Klug, Rick Berg, speechwriter for Gov. Scott McCallum, and other successful Republican political oper-

atives who say they are sticking up for the majority of Madison citizens.

The recall committee disputes that it is partisan, releasing a statement in mid-October reading: "To the charges that this is a partisan political effort, we must once again remind the community that the recall committee does not and cannot endorse candidates to replace existing board members."

Keys sees the recall effort as political ploy, and says critics misunderstands the issue. "Madisonians know what this is about. My favorite line was from an e-mail. It reads: 'What message are you sending to our children—the right to dissent is more important than the fundamental principle of freedom?' I mean some of these people just have no conception. This is about increasing the options for all students, for all students."

Keys links LGBT civil rights and a culture that respects diversity to this issue. He said he takes motivation from his past relationships with LGBT students to his work on the Board.

"I had a bisexual student once who wanted a letter of recommendation. She said 'you are the only one who understands my gender issues and appreciates my intellectual capabilities.' That sticks in my mind. This is all about civil liberties and inclusion, and the right of every child, every child, to feel safe, valued and cherished, and not to be coerced into pledging allegiance to something that he or she may not believe in. I have heard from some educators that they feel intimidated. They don't want this policy of enforced display of patriotism, but they are intimidated. If adults feel that way, what about the kids holding minority views?"

Keys said the policy he authored prevents the administration or teachers from leading a group recitation, and expands the options for all students, including those with minority viewpoints.

But the recall group asks citizens to "join your fellow Madison residents in ending the insanity that is the Madison Metropolitan School District Board."

Asked if the national publicity and criticism has made Keys gun-shy, Keys said, "There's pressure. But this is the same as fighting for all students, of all sexual orientations. I have been called a coward for this, and I have been called courageous. But it takes no guts to do what you have to do to live with yourself."

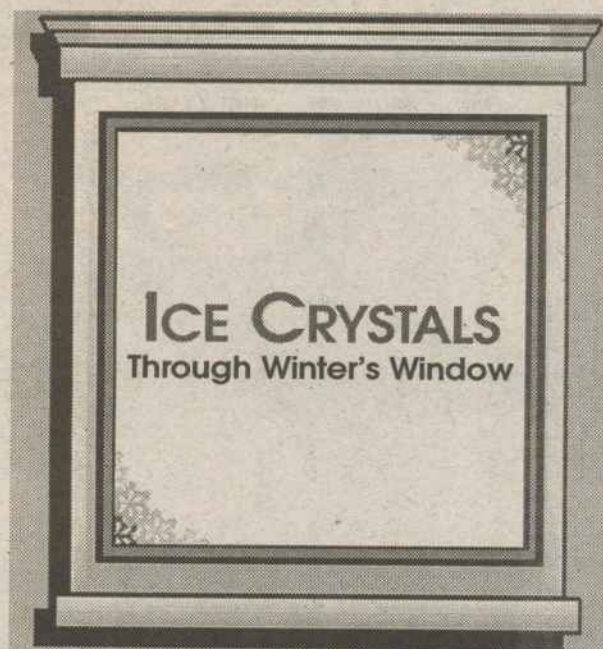
By statute, the recall group has to acquire 31,903 signatures of Madison residents to trigger a recall election. The number required represents 25 per cent of the voters in the last presidential election.

Progressive political operatives both laugh at and condemn the recall effort.

"The recall group is not likely to gather the required signatures. There's no question that a small group of hate mongers, and a smaller group of conservative operatives are behind this. What they'll do is use the signatures they do get for a get-out-the-vote effort in the spring elections," said legislative aide and civil rights supporter Andy Janssen.

Other supporters have pointed out that the word "equality" was left out of the original draft of the Pledge in the early 20th century because women were not then allowed to vote and African-Americans were widely prevented from voting.

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Health

Lesbian Filmmaker's "My Left Breast" Screens Dec. 6

By Jamakaya

Anyone who has seen Gerry Rogers' riveting documentary "My Left Breast," about her treatment for breast cancer, has a heck of a challenge convincing others they should see the film. Most folks figure a movie about cancer is going to be a downer.

But those of us who were lucky enough to see it at Milwaukee's LGBT Film Fest a few months back have become true believ-

looking for films that would help me connect with other women who've been there," she told Wisconsin IN Step. "I wanted to know what it was really going to be like, and I couldn't find what I was looking for. After being diagnosed, everything was so new to me, I kept thinking, 'I have to film this. I have to tell this story.' So I just felt totally compelled to do it."

Rogers had previously produced or directed documentaries on battered women, on violations of women's rights around the world, and on the massacre of women engineering students in Montreal by a misogynist man. "I get to do all the fun stuff," she said, wryly.

"Most of my work has been about making films that say, 'You're not crazy, you're not alone.' So this was a natural for me, I guess. Cancer is the antithesis of life, so to be able to do something creative with cancer is such a privilege. It's sort of like flying in the face of cancer. It also

made me feel in some ways that I had some control over my life."

"It was also something Peg and I could do together," she added, referring to her partner, Peggy Norman, who, in addition to providing vital physical and emotional support to Rogers throughout her treatment, also served as chief camera person.

In "My Left Breast," the camera unflinchingly records visits to the hospital during which Rogers is injected with toxic chemotherapy drugs (dubbed the "red devil") and blasted with high doses of radiation. It captures her discomfort and despair as the chemo takes its toll, as she loses her hair and fights nausea. And it includes a shocking image of the burns left by the radiation.

"It's so very personal, and we go to places that most films haven't gone before," Rogers commented. "I was worried about whether it might make other women who have to go through it afraid, whether it might frighten them. But I've had so many women contact me who saw it before going into chemo or just after being diagnosed and they said, 'Thank you. The unknown is so scary, but seeing it is less scary, especially

when you can see someone come out the other end.' Or, I hear from other women who have been there and they say, 'You've spoken what so many of us couldn't say or what so many of us try to hide.' It was a relief to get that positive feedback."

"But the other thing is to be able to sing and dance and laugh. There are a lot of surprises – the level of joy and zaniness – in the film."

Indeed, what makes "My Left Breast" exhilarating rather than depressing is the simple joy of living that is also captured by the camera: warm, happy gatherings of friends and family; a boisterous romp in the snow at Christmastime; the presence and companionship of pets; walks along the beautiful coast of Newfoundland. My favorite scene is a fanciful one in which the balding Rogers poses with her equally bald infant nephew and playfully asks who has more hair or more eyebrows.

Another amusing theme in the film is Rogers' solicitation of locks of hair from friends to form what she calls a "potluck healing wig."

"Oh my God, I had so much hair!" she cried in amazement. "It just kept coming and coming! People are still sending me hair!"

The video has been broadcast on Canadian TV three times, and Rogers said that after each broadcast she receives hundreds of e-mails to her web site, www.myleftbreast.com. In addition to breast cancer awareness, the film has exposed millions of viewers to the loving relationship between a lesbian couple.

"It's mostly straight people who are very touched and moved by the film but also by Peggy's and my relationship. My mother is very religious, and she's got all these friends in their 70s and 80s and they go to prayer groups together, and they've seen the film and they love it. So here are these very religious little old ladies who

somehow get beyond the fact that we're dykes. I think, ooh, that's really good."

"My Left Breast" has won two Gemini Awards, the Canadian version of the American Emmys for TV. It won as Best Documentary and for Best Direction of a Documentary. The following week, "My Left Breast" won three awards at the Gay and Lesbian Film Fest in Dallas.

"You know, I'm used to working with a big professional crew, with Betacam or on film, and this was a total departure for me. Peggy and I shot most of it ourselves on a tiny little digital camera. The technical quality isn't always that great, yet it's a film that seems to have really, really touched people. And it's winning awards all over the place."

Asked what she learned from her experience with cancer, Rogers told about how, after having her mastectomy, a nurse encouraged her to look at herself closely – insisted on it, in fact, by taking the bandages and dressings off. "Peggy looked down and said, 'My God, Gerry, I can see your heart beating!' I said, 'Well, I guess my heart is closer to the surface now.'"

"And I think that's what I've learned; I've learned about living with my heart closer to the surface. And my family and friends and all those who supported me, I think we all sort of lived with our hearts closer to the surface at that time. I've been struck by how kind people are, that people are truly kind – they want to be kind. It's evident too in all the Sept. 11 stuff. I think it's in our natures to be generous. And when we live with our hearts closer to the surface, it calls forth that in other people as well."

"I hope I don't sound sappy, but that's really what I've come away with from this. I think I learned a lot about love during all this. Love and generosity and caring and sharing."



Gerry Rogers

ers. Inspired by its wonderful mix of humor and wisdom and emotion, we are anxious to get others to see it, to learn from it and, yes, to enjoy it.

"My Left Breast" will be shown again on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m. at Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Everyone is welcome to this free screening, sponsored by the Lesbian Community Health Project. The video is about one hour long, so there will be time for discussion afterwards.

Rogers, a Canadian filmmaker who is also lesbian, learned that she had breast cancer in 1999 and underwent a mastectomy – surgical removal of her left breast. After the surgery, she faced chemo and radiation therapy. Faced with this daunting challenge, she decided that filming her experience might help her to deal with it better and might also help other women facing a breast cancer diagnosis in the future.

Happily, two and half years after her diagnosis, Rogers is doing well, so she can provide her own perspective.

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Opinions

Are Gay Leaders Sabotaging Bush to Help Gore in 2004?

By Gary D. Bastian

After a series of gay-friendly actions by President George W. Bush, you would think that gay leaders would be happy and appreciative of the progress that has been made. After all, Bush has named an openly gay man to head the White House Office of AIDS Policy, he refused to support an effort by conservatives in Congress to fight domestic partnership benefits for gay employees in the District of Columbia and he decided to retain an Executive Order to ensure equal treatment for gays in the federal work force.

Unfortunately for gay Americans, many of our national gay organizations are exhibiting questionable judgment or suspicious behavior when it comes to failing to credit President Bush and the Republican Party for actions and policies that are gay-friendly. Over and over again, gay leaders treat gay-friendly actions by Republicans in one of two ways; they either whisper lukewarm acknowledgment or they say nothing at all. If gay leaders are intentionally denying giving Bush credit for pro-gay actions, it is a deliberate attempt to sabotage his presidency in the eyes of millions of gays and lesbians.

If not deliberate, the reaction of many gay officials has been downright bizarre. They are acting like nothing good has hap-

pened since the new administration took office. Most gay officials have had little to say on the subject thereby avoiding giving credit to Bush. Those who have commented have been less than generous with their statements. An official at the Human Rights Campaign, (a group still known in some political circles as the Hate Republicans Committee), said that she

wants further action from the White House. A representative from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force acknowledged small progress but added an unnecessary political potshot "... Bush is beholden to the right wing in the GOP..."

Of course we want further action on gay issues and yes the right wing is a part of the Republican party just as the left wing is part of the Democratic party. Nevertheless, it is puzzling why gay leaders are acting ungracious, ungrateful and negative. This type of attitude is counterproductive and weakens a movement's ability in the future to attain the very goals they seek. If gay leaders are silent or complain and moan about the progress, why should any administration do more? Gay leaders, seem to have an almost knee-jerk reaction to say something negative about a Republican even if they should be positive. There is almost-a Pavlovian response in the gay community, to say something nasty about Republicans.

Many gay voters, probably including the 25% of the gays who voted for the Bush-Cheney ticket, might even wonder aloud whether gay leaders are minimizing Bush's progress on gay issues to help Al Gore in 2004. Think about it, if Bush lost the one million gay votes he won last year, Gore might not need to count, and re-count, and re-count, all the dimpled, pregnant and hanging chads in Florida next time around.

Take the issue of presidential diplomatic appointments by Clinton and Bush. When Bill Clinton appointed openly gay James Hormel as Ambassador to

Luxemburg, the gay community went orgasmic with praise. There were endless press releases, stories and editorials in the gay press. When Bush appointed an openly gay man, Michael Guest, as Ambassador to Romania, many in the gay community were silent or snidely complained that more gay Ambassadors were needed. No one bitched to Clinton about having only one gay Ambassador, why is there a double standard?

The Republican Party does have a long way to go on gay issues. However, we should acknowledge the progress that has been made. Since last summer, an openly gay man spoke at their parties national convention, a first for the Republicans. Openly gay men have been appointed to prominent federal positions, including the AIDS Office and the National Fine Arts Commission, a first for Republicans. More Republicans in Congress are supporting ENDA, the proposed legislation to protect gays in the workplace. New York's Republican Governor George Pataki says that partners of gays killed in the World Trade Center attack will qualify for state assistance.

Maybe the Republican's progress is slow and small, but Bush and the GOP are beginning to respond to the needs and rights of gay Americans so why on earth are gay leaders trying to hide or obscure this progress? Are they being politically incompetent or are they minimizing Bush's accomplishments in order to help Al Gore win more gay votes in the next election?

The Election of 2000 is behind us, the question is, are our gay leaders more interested in making progress for our cause today or creating issues for Al Gore tomorrow?

Bastian served four terms as a city councilman in upstate New York. He and his partner Mark now reside in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.



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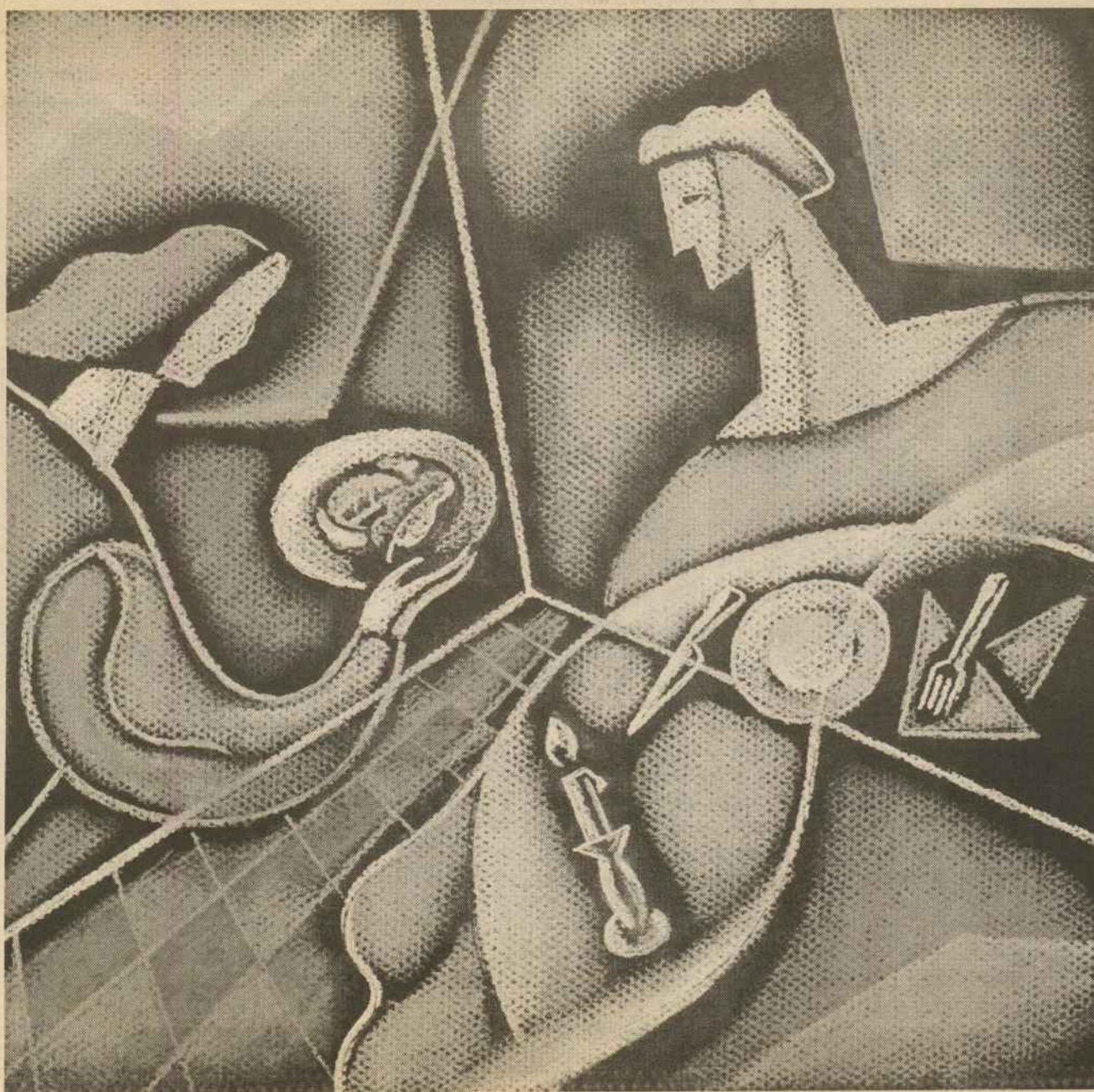
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"Fosse" to Play Milwaukee in January

Milwaukee — The national touring company of "Fosse," the Tony Award-winning Broadway show based on the work of legendary Broadway director and choreographer Bob Fosse, will perform at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in Milwaukee, 929 N. Water St., from Jan. 8-13.

"Fosse" includes rarely seen dance and musical numbers from the choreographer's earliest works, as well as many numbers from films and television shows that have never been seen on stage before. The production also showcases classic Fosse dance numbers like "Steam Heat," "Big Spender," "Bye Bye Blackbird," "Rich Man's Frug," "Dancin' Man" and "Sing, Sing, Sing." The production was directed by Richard Maltby Jr. and Ann Reinking.

In 1973, Bob Fosse became the first director in history to win the Oscar, Tony and Emmy awards in a single year for the film version of "Cabaret," the Broadway musical "Pippin" and the TV special "Liza with a Z." His work on Broadway, for which he won nine Tony awards, includes "The Pajama Game," "Little Me," "Sweet Charity," "Chicago," "Damn Yankees," "Dancin'," and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Tickets for "Fosse" go on sale Dec. 2. Visit the Marcus Center box office, or call (414) 273-7206.

Milwaukee Choristers Holiday Concert Dec. 7-8

Milwaukee — "Shout the Glad Tidings!" is the theme of this year's Christmas Concert by the Milwaukee Choristers. The

80-voice chorus will present the concert on Friday Dec. 7, and Saturday, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. at St. Monica Church, 5601 N. Santa Monica Blvd. in Whitefish Bay.

Dr. James B. Kinchen Jr. of Sturtevant, a member of the music faculty at UW-Parkside and the Choristers' conductor since 1993, has programmed a wide variety of musical styles for the concert. The main feature will be a group of familiar carols arranged by organists of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Kinchen has also included "Regina Coeli," an extended motet by Mozart; British composer William Mathias's "Hodie Christus Natus Est"; and "An Irving Berlin Christmas." The Choristers will sing 18 selections in all, with audience members invited to join in three additional numbers. A free reception for concertgoers will follow the show.

Advance tickets are \$10 and can be obtained by calling (414) 355-8030. Tickets at the door will cost \$12.

The Choristers will hold auditions for new members on Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. at Wauwatosa Ave. United Methodist Church, 1529 Wauwatosa Ave. Dr. Kinchen will conduct private auditions. No prepared material is necessary and no appointment is required. Potential members must be at least 18 years old. For more information on the concert or auditions, call (414) 355-8030.

Madison Rep Presents "Guys on Ice"

Madison — The Madison Repertory Theatre is presenting the musical comedy "Guys on Ice" from Nov. 30 through Dec. 23 at Mitchell Theatre in Vilas Hall on the UW campus, 821 University Ave. in Madison.

"Guys on Ice," with music by James

Kaplan, tells the story of two ice fishing buddies from Northern Wisconsin who talk and sing about life, love and the one that got away. The rep's production is a newly expanded version that adds three new songs and a 'half-time show' to the hilarious original.

From their ice fishing shanty, long-time pals Lloyd (Michael Flanigan) and Marvin (Doug Mancheski) keep warm with mutual appreciation for good bait, cold beer and the Green Bay Packers. As Marvin awaits his opportunity to appear on a cable TV fishing show to share secrets of his life on da lake, Lloyd ponders a recent squabble with his wife concerning plans to spend their anniversary at Lambeau Field. Both pals scramble to protect their cold ones from fellow angler, Ernie the Moocher (Jack Forbes Wilson).

With numbers like "De Wishing Hole," "Ode to a Snowmobile Suit" and "Fish is de Miracle Food," "Guys on Ice" is always an audience favorite. "It's Wisconsin," said the Green Bay Press gazette, "It's also surprisingly touching." The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel opined: "Guys on Ice" is simple, straightforward, and possesses a sweet charm."

For tickets and show times, call (608) 266-9055.

"Gloria!" Baroque Concert Dec. 15-16

Milwaukee — "Gloria! Glorious Music of the Baroque" will be presented by Milwaukee Baroque, the Midwest Ensemble for Early Music, to celebrate the holiday season. The holiday concerts take place at All Saints Cathedral, 818 E. Juneau Ave., Saturday, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. Each show features a complimentary German Coffeehouse reception an hour prior to the performance, with cof-

fee, tea, sherry and a delicious assortment of German cakes and pastries.

"Gloria!" will showcase the following repertoire: "Gloria" from "Wachet Auf" by J.C.F. Bach, "Uns ist ein Kind geboren" by J.L. Bach, and "Ciaccona" for unaccompanied violin by J.S. Bach (featuring Patricia Ahern on violin); Concerto 6 for recorder, bassoon, strings and continuo by G.P. Telemann (featuring Clea Galhano on recorder and Joseph Urbinato on bassoon); and "Magnificat" for soprano and strings (with Dina Kaye and Catherine Yost, sopranos) by G.P. Telemann.

Featured on the program with Milwaukee Baroque's ensemble of original instruments led by violinist Patricia Ahern is the Bach Collegium Choir, led by Choirmaster Rick Kieffer.

The mission of Milwaukee Baroque is to foster appreciation for early music (1580-1850) through performance on original instruments, educational programming and community outreach with specific emphasis on the art of Johann Sebastian Bach and his world.

For tickets and more information, call (414) 226-BACH.

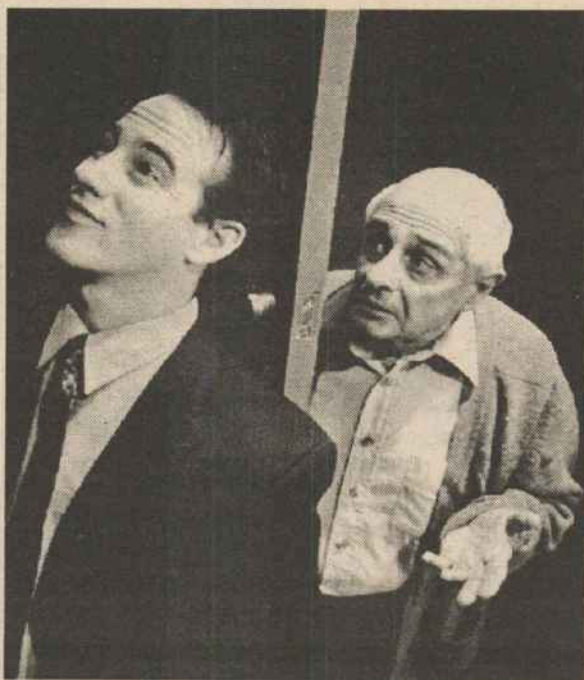
"Visiting Mr. Green" Looks at Acceptance

By Dan Erker

Milwaukee — It's hard to think of a worse way to begin a friendship. Ross Gardiner, in many ways the picture of young, ambitious, and productive corporate America, has been ordered to serve six months of community service for reckless driving. Mr. Green, 86 and a retired dry-cleaner, is the man Ross almost killed with his car. And when the two learn that Ross's service work will consist of spending each Thursday evening at Mr. Green's apartment, neither, not surprisingly, is very pleased.

Yet, as one watches the collection of short scenes that make up Next Act Theatre's production of Jeff Baron's 1997 play "Visiting Mr. Green," it becomes clear that the initial hostility between the two men slowly fades and an understated affection emerges to replace it. What one also sees is that Ross and Green, while so seemingly foreign to each other in place and time, are more alike than they or the audience may have guessed. For both Ross and Green know what it means to be profoundly lonely.

Through his weekly meetings with the obstinately humorous, old, Jewish man, Ross learns that Green's disheveled apartment and empty refrigerator are not the result of a lifestyle choice. Rather, Green has been going hungry and living in clutter since the day he became a widower. Completely dependent upon Yetta, his



Gerard Neugent and Robert Spencer in "Visiting Mr. Green."

recently deceased wife of nearly 60 years, Green now sits alone, devastated, and starving in his apartment in Manhattan's upper west side.

It is over the much appreciated meals that Ross brings Green that we learn more about this young, marathon-runner climbing the corporate ladder at Amercian Express. Specifically, that beneath his genuinely confident, task-driven exterior lies a sad, physically and emotionally disengaged, gay man struggling mightily with personal and parental acceptance.

In discussing his current role, charismatic Mil-

waukee actor Gerard Neugent remarked that playing Ross has satisfied his theatrical hunger for, "something intimate, subtle, and driving." 28 years old and originally from Des Moines, Iowa, Neugent has worked extensively with the show's director Michael Wright and feels that the two of them and accomplished national actor Robert Spencer (Green) have through an honest and sincere rehearsal process created the shared sense of trust that a show like "Visiting Mr. Green" demands. When asked how he, married and father of a six month old son, approached playing a gay man, Neugent responded that both his intense conviction not to betray the integrity of the show and his discussions with and guidance from Spencer and Wright, both gay men, have facilitated his character discovery.

Ultimately, this is not an issue-driven show. It makes its case simply by inviting its audience in to listen to a very unique, funny, and personals set of conversations. What makes it work, and what will make it an enjoyable production to experience is that Baron's script rests upon tightly crafted parallel situations and not tedious sermonizing to make one very clear point: When our parents don't love us for who we are it hurts. Through a play that is touching without being sappy and enlightening without feeling didactic or moralistic, Wright, Spencer, and Neugent succeed both in defending the legitimacy and beauty of homosexual love and in tackling the complexities of being the child or parent we want to be.

"Visiting Mr. Green" opens November 29 at the Off-Broadway Theatre and runs until December 30.

For ticket info and reservations call the box office at (414) 278-0765.

THEATRE/MUSIC:

"Almost a Man (It's a Little Hard)" (Madison): Broom Street Theater is at it again in Joel Gersmann's original play about impotence, Fris.-Suns. thru Dec. 16, Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson St. FMI: (414) 224-8338.

"Ancestral Voices" (Milw.): Chamber Theatre presents A.R. Gurney's poetic play about a family in wartime New York in the 1940s, thru Dec. 16, Studio Theatre in the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. FMI: (414) 291-7800.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" (Milw.): Milwaukee Rep production of Joseph Kesselring's macabre and madcap comedy about eccentric old ladies who dispatch their guests, runs thru Dec. 30, Quadracci Powerhouse Theatre, 108 E. Wells St. FMI: (414) 224-9490.

Bel Canto Chorus (Mequon & Brookfield): The Bel Canto Chorus presents its annual holiday concert, "A Glorious Christmas," Dec. 8, 8 p.m., at Crossroads Presbyterian Church, Highland & Green Bay Rds. in Mequon, and Dec. 9, 4 p.m., Elmbrook Church, 777 S. Barker Rd. in Brookfield. FMI: (414) 481-8801.

"A Christmas Carol" (Milw.): The Milwaukee Rep's annual production of Charles Dickens' holiday classic, runs thru Dec. 30, Pabst Theatre, 144 E. Wells St. FMI: (414) 224-9490.

Christmas with Judy Collins (Madison): The acclaimed folk/pop artist in a concert of holiday favorites, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Theatre of the Madison Civic Center, 211 State St. FMI: (608) 266-9055.

City Ballet Theatre (Milw.): Silent Auction Buffet and Gala Performance to open its 16th season, Dec. 1, 5 p.m., \$50, (performance only at 7:30 p.m., \$15), Alverno College Pitman Theatre, S. 39th and W. Morgan Ave. FMI: (414) 445-3006.

"Guys on Ice" (Madison): Madison Rep production of comedy about ice fishing buddies in Northern Wisconsin, Nov. 30 thru Dec. 23, Mitchell Theatre in Vilas Hall, 821 University Ave. FMI: (608) 266-9055.

"Hello Dolly!" (Milw.): "Put on Your Sunday Clothes" to see the Skylight Opera's fresh production of Jerry Herman's beloved musical, thru Dec. 23, Cabot Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. FMI: (414) 291-7800.

"Holiday Hell" (Milw.): In Tandem presents annual holiday spoofs, including a take-off of you-know-what called "It's a Life," Nov. 30-Dec. 23, Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave. FMI: (414) 444-2316.

Holiday Spectacular (Madison): Soprano Jan Grissom, baritone Frank Hernandez, the Madison Symphony Chorus and the Madison Children's Choir join the Madison Symphony for an evening of holiday classics, Dec. 1-2, Madison Civic Center, 211 State St. FMI: (608) 266-9055.

Jingle Bell Doc (Milw.): The Milwaukee Symphony's annual Pops Holiday Concert, conducted by Doc Severinsen, Dec. 7-9, Uihlein Hall of the Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St. FMI: (414) 273-7206.

Milwaukee Choristers (Milw.): "Shout the Glad Tidings!" the annual Christmas concert by the 80-voice chorus takes place Dec. 7-8 at 8 p.m., St. Monica Church, 5601 N. Santa Monica Blvd. FMI: (414) 355-8030.

"My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra" (Milw.): Musical revue featuring the songs that made the Chairman of the Board the Chairman of the Board, thru Jan. 6, Stackner Cabaret, 108 E. Wells St. FMI: (414) 224-9490.

"Nunsense A-men!" (Milw.): A new, even goofier, all-drag version of the irreverent convent comedy, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at 8 p.m., Circle Stage Theatre, 127 E. Wells St. FMI: (414) 327-3552.

Orquesta Aragon (Milw.): The famed Cuban band brings its charanga sounds, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m., Alverno College Pitman Theatre, S. 39th and W. Morgan Ave. FMI: (414) 382-6044.

"Phaedra" (Milw.): The Professional Theatre Training Program at UWM presents Jean Racine's tragedy, Nov. 29-Dec. 15, Peck School of the Arts Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. FMI: (414) 229-4308.

Sweet Honey in the Rock (Madison): The acclaimed African American cappella group performs political and inspirational songs, in reggae, gospel, blues and pop modes, 7:30 p.m., Madison Civic center, 211 State St. FMI: (608) 266-9055.

"Triple Espresso: A Highly Caffeinated Comedy" (Milw.): Three show biz vets barred from their profession talk and kvetch over old times, extended thru Jan. 6, Vogel Hall, Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St. FMI: (414) 273-7206.

"Visiting Mr. Green" (Milw.): Jeff Baron's gay-friendly play about an old man's relationship with a younger man forced into performing community service, Nov. 29-Dec. 30, Off-Broadway Theatre, 342 N. Water St. FMI: (414) 278-0765.

Winter Solstice Concert (Madison): Featuring Windham Hill recording artists Will Ackerman, Liz Story, and Ugandan singer and multi-instrumentalist Samite, Nov. 30, 8 p.m., Oscar Mayer Theatre of the Madison Civic Center, 211 State St. FMI: (608) 266-9055.

BOOKS:

Thursday, November 29

Sparrow Patterson Reading (Madison): Author of "Synthetic Bi-Products" at 6:30 p.m., A Room of One's Own, 317 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Saturday, December 1

Tara Ayres Performance (Madison): The Madison area jazz stylist, formerly a member of DykeAppella, performs at 8:15 p.m., A Room of One's Own, 317 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Monday, December 3

Peace & Justice Book Circle (Madison): Feminist group reads women's studies, cultural criticism, politics and history, 6 p.m., A Room of One's Own, 317 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Tuesday, December 4

John Nichols Talk (Milw.): Author of "Jews for Buchanan," a biting critique of the 2000 Presidential election, and writer for the Capital Times in Madison talks at 7 p.m. at the Schwartz Bookshop, 2559 N. Downer Ave. FMI: (414) 332-1181.

Wednesday, December 5

Feminist Study Group (Madison): Modeled after Kay Leigh Hagan groups, 8-9:30 p.m., OutReach, 600 Williamson St. FMI: (608) 244-5084

Friday, December 7

Harvey Taylor Reading (Shorewood): Milwaukee poet and author of "Welcome to My Dream" reads at 8 p.m. at the Schwartz Bookshop, 4093 N. Oakland Ave. FMI: (414) 963-3111.

Barbara Joosse Reading (Madison): Author of children's book "Houseful of Christmas," reads at 6:30 p.m., A Room of One's Own, 317 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Saturday, December 8

Shauna Wells Performance (Madison): The Madison area singer performs her original tunes at 8:15 p.m., A Room of One's Own, 317 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Monday, December 10

Peace & Justice Book Circle (Madison): Feminist group reads women's studies, cultural criticism, politics and history, 6 p.m., A Room of One's Own, 317 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

FILM, TV & RADIO:

Thursday, November 29

"Anatomy of a Scene: Hedwig and the Angry Inch" (Sundance Channel): Takes you on the set of John Cameron Mitchell's queer musical epic as it was being filmed, check local listings for times.

Friday, November 30

"Juliet of the Spirits" (Milw.): A color restoration of Fellini's film, starring Giulietta Masina, thru Dec. 6, Times Cinema, 5906 W. Vliet St. FMI: (414) 453-2436.

"The Hart of London" (Milw.): 1970 film by Jack Chambers, considered one of cinema's "strangest masterpieces" (Chicago Reader), 7 p.m., \$2, Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St. FMI: (414) 263-5001.

Saturday, December 1

Gay Video Club (Madison): Showing "Queer as Folk - Behind the Scenes #1" (Showtime), "I Think I Do" and "Bear Naked," 8 p.m. Call for location: (608) 244-8675 eves.

"Rocky Horror Picture Show" (Madison & Milwaukee): Midnight screenings with all the queer fun! In Madison at the Majestic, 115 King St. In Milwaukee, at the Oriental, 2230 N. Farwell Ave.

Sun., Dec. 2 and Every Sun.

"Her Turn," Womyn's Radio (Madison): WORT Radio 89.9 FM - A weekly show featuring news and informa-

tion by and about women, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Followed by "Her Infinite Variety" - Women in music - all genres and styles - interviews, live guests and announcements for the women's community, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. FMI: (608) 256-2001.

"Better Living Through Show Tunes" (Madison): WORT Radio 89.9 FM. Host Bruce Wheeler, 2-3 p.m. (608) 256-2001 or bwheeler@cuna.com.

Women's Music Radio (Milw.): WMSE-91.7FM. 10:30 p.m. to Midnight. Variety of women's music genres and announcements of events in Milwaukee's women's community. Request Line: (414) 799-1917.

Tues., Dec. 4 & Every Tues.

"The Queer Program" (Milw.): Live weekly telecast on MATA public access cable channel 47 (96 in some areas) at 7 p.m. Hosts: Michael Lisowski and Charles Daniels. Re-broadcast Saturday at 12:30 a.m. and Sundays at 10 p.m. FMI: (414) 265-8500.

Wed., Dec. 5 & Every Wed.

"Queery" (Madison): WORT, 89.9 FM - Madison's GLBTQ radio show, 7 p.m., followed by "This Way Out," the international news magazine, from 7:30-8 p.m. FMI: (608) 256-2001.

Wednesday, December 5

"Some Like It Hot" (Milw.): Billy Wilder's classic drag farce with Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon and Marilyn Monroe on a double bill with Preston Sturges' hilarious "The Palm Beach Story," 7 p.m. (also Dec. 6), Union Theatre, 2nd floor, UWM Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. FMI: (414) 229-4070.

Friday, December 7

"Out of the Past" (Milw.): The classic 1947 film noir, starring Robert Mitchum and Kirk Douglas, thru Dec. 13, Times Cinema, 5906 W. Vliet St. FMI: (414) 453-2436.

Saturday, December 8

"Rocky Horror Picture Show" (Madison & Milw.): Midnight screenings with all the queer fun! In Madison at the Majestic, 115 King St. In Milwaukee, at the Oriental, 2230 N. Farwell Ave.

Arts Guide

Wednesday, December 12

"Manhattan" (Milw.): Woody Allen's 1979 classic about life and love in the big city, with Allen, Meryl Streep, Diane Keaton and Mariel Hemingway on the big screen in glorious B/W! 8 p.m. (Also Dec. 13) Union Theatre, 2nd floor, UWM Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. FMI: (414) 229-4070.

MUSEUMS:

America's Black Holocaust Museum (Milw.): African Heritage exhibits. 2233 N. 4th St. FMI: (414) 264-2500.

Cedarburg Cultural Center (Cedarburg): Annual Fall Show of the Cedarburg Artists Guild. W62 N546 Washington Ave. FMI: (262) 375-3676.

Charles Allis Art Museum (Milw.): Tudor style mansion with original furnishings and art collection. 1801 N. Prospect Ave. FMI: (414) 278-8295.

Eisner Museum (Milw.): "The New Woman," thru Jan. 27; "The Power of Advertising: Corporate Identities," thru May. 208 N. Water St. FMI: (414) 276-7889.

Elvehjem Museum (Madison): Indian miniature paintings, thru Jan. 6. 800 University Ave. FMI: (608) 263-2246.

Haggerty Museum of Art (Milw.): "William Wegman: Early Works," thru Dec. 30. Marquette University, N. 13th and Clybourn Sts. FMI: (414) 288-1669.

John Michael Kohler Arts Center (Sheboygan): "Teresa Serano: Dissolving the Memory of Home," thru Jan. 6; and "Hmong Art: Selections from the Collection." Exhibits, performing arts, classes and lectures. 608 New York Ave. FMI: (920) 458-6144.

Madison Arts Center (Madison): Highlights from the Permanent Collection. Opening Dec. 2: "ExtraOrdinary: American Place in Recent Photography." 211 State Street. FMI: (608) 257-0158.

Milwaukee Art Museum (Milw.): Milton Avery: The Late Paintings, opens Nov. 30, runs thru Jan. 17. 700 N. Art Museum Dr. FMI: (866) 626-1323.

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Gotcha!

By Billy Masters

Recently, I had a touching experience with a former consort. Glancing at my date book, I realized that it was six years to the day that I met Michael, a man I like to refer to as my "Dallas ex" (I've got 'em all over the country). I hadn't spoken to Michael for several years and decided to call him out of the blue. We had a great reunion and caught up (ironically, we'd both recently ended unhappy relationships, so it was good to commiserate). What I most cherish about Michael is something that happened the first night we met. After spending most of the evening together, that awkward moment arrived for him to invite me to spend the night. He got serious and told me that he was HIV positive. He felt that I should know this information up front so that I could decide if I wanted to sleep with him or not. Since I am a firm advocate of safe sex, his disclosure didn't deter me. It showed me the type of person he was, and I instantly knew that he was someone I wanted in my life. Happy Anniversary, Michael!

Oh, we're getting mushy! Well, it's Thanksgiving, and I'm thankful that this will be an "all sex" column, starting off with some Filth2Go news. Over the past year, we've been stockpiling an impressive collection of naked pics of celebrated males, and it's time to unveil them to the world. No longer can I keep the dazzling nudes of David Chokachi or **Hardy** from "Big Brother" to myself — Fans of Filth can find them on our Web site of www.filth2go.com in the newly revamped Scrapbook area. Since there are some interesting stories behind many of these photos, we'll spotlight the private parts of several men over the next few weeks to whet your appetite.

Bob Crane — many of us swooned over the devilishly handsome "Colonel Hogan" of "Hogan's Heroes" (in reruns, obviously — we're FAR too young to remember first run). While **Klemperer** went on to a career in classical music and **Dawson** kissed the ladies on "Family Feud," Crane had a more seedy post-television career. You may have heard stories of Bobby's sexual orgies, kinky practices, and unseemly death. But how many of you have seen pictures of him in the midst of a sexual act or with his erect penis waiting to be serviced? Head to www.filth2go.com, and you can see all — and then some!

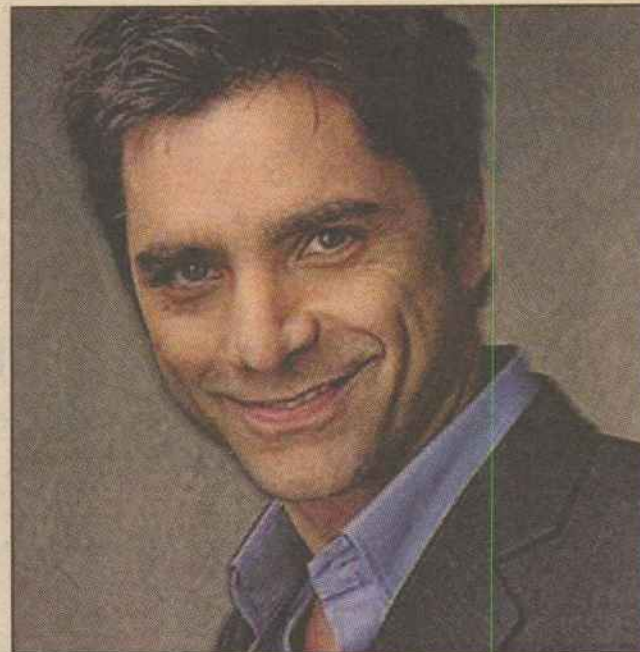
Boys (and girls) across the country are hooked on 1, the hunky star of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit." Cable subscribers have enjoyed Chris as the often-nude star of HBO's prison drama "Oz." Fans scouring the web might have even seen pics of Chris' penis floating around out there. But have you seen a clear shot of him in all of his full-frontal naked splendor? You will at our aforementioned website. From the looks of it, Meloni has the gift that keeps on giving — perfect for the holiday season! We also have Chris' "Oz" co-stars **Luke Perry** and the luscious **Brian Bloom**, but we hate to brag!

I recently attended the Ovation Awards with the oh-so-lovely **Matt Sizemore** (who has some nudes on filth2go.com and on his own website at www.mattsizemore.com). This annual ceremony honors Los Angeles theatre, much as the Tonys focus on Broadway. The show took place at the brand-spanking-new Kodak Theatre (the new home of the Academy Awards) and got off to a bad start. Actually, the start was more than an hour delayed with a box office snafu that made the lifeboat situation on the Titanic

look like a spirited game of mahjongg. Once we made it into the theatre, we were in the capable hands of the bodacious **Bruce Vilanch** and **Lea Salonga**. Since this was a show about LA theatre, it made total sense that a lifetime achievement award was given to that great thespian, **Cathy Rigby**! One of the many career highlights listed during the presentation was that Cathy got her gymnastic start as a member of the Southern California Athletic Team — otherwise known as SCAT! Ah, from those humble beginnings....

Back on the East Coast, rumors have been flying regarding a sexual liaison between **Howard Stern** and **John Stamos**. To be fair, the boys' respective ladies were also involved, but the thought of John playing with any male still brings a bit of tightness to my pants, if you know what I mean, Cal. John and Howard discussed the evening in question at length on Stern's radio program. Apparently, they had dinner in Howard's apartment, got a bit inebriated, and danced in their underwear! Howard added that Mrs. Romijn-Stamos was topless, but who cares! Was John bottomless? That's the question.

Could it be that one of our very own has sired a child? So say reports that place him at the scene of impregnation of that oft-sudsy actress. The news of him becoming an unwed father hasn't stopped the lanky one from reverting to his bag of tricks in the gay sex department. He may be a nice guy, but he rarely sleeps alone, if you catch my drift. In fact, I hear that you can still catch him



John Stamos

hiring the occasional hooker/porn star. I guess that it's not such a leap of faith to consider him bisexual, since we hear that he still likes the beaver. For the record, I think that his former costar was better off with her last boyfriend — the one who likes to show off.

Could it be that an oh-so-popular father-son team hasn't let a little thing like death stop their relationship? That's the word from my pals on location, who find it odd that the recently deceased actor has hung around (quite well hung, thank you very much). Producers had hoped that a professional setback would send this personal assignation to the waste bin. No such luck. It just means that Dad has all the more time to devote to his boy — roles they have costumes for, if anyone's interested.

When I can maintain an "all sex" theme and still somehow tie in an item about Cathy Rigby, then we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. Speaking of Michael (the Dallas ex), I have another ex — the BIG ex — and our ten-year anniversary is coming up next week. Do I telephone him or not? I guess that the bigger questions are, what is the statute of limitations on harassment, and does phoning infringe on a standing restraining order? While I consult an attorney on those and other "hypothetical" questions, you should be checking out those penises on www.filth2go.com. Perhaps you have some advice to give me? Or maybe you'd like to be in the running for the next Mrs. Billy Masters (I'm just about due to ruin yet another life). Then drop a note to my e-mail address of Billy@filth2go.com and I promise to get back to you if checking e-mail is allowed in lieu of that one phone call! So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

Happy Holidays!

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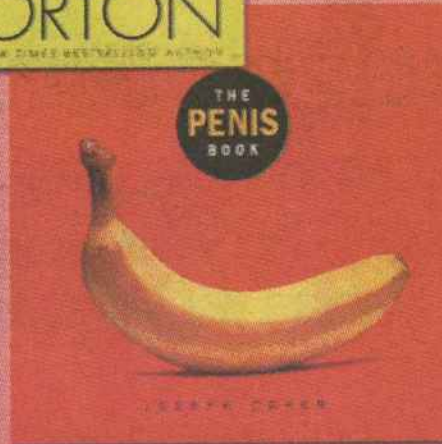
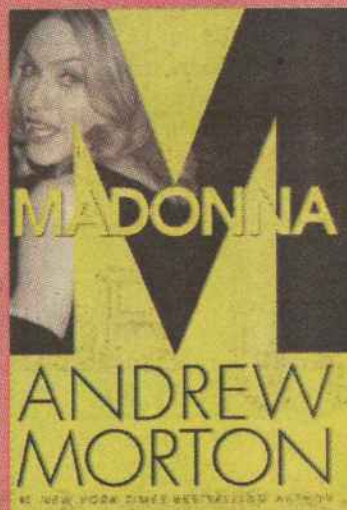
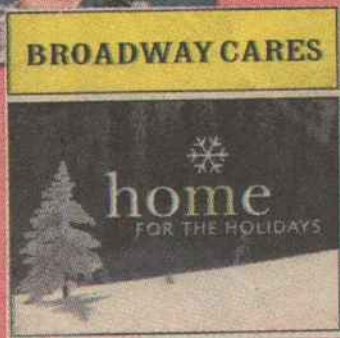
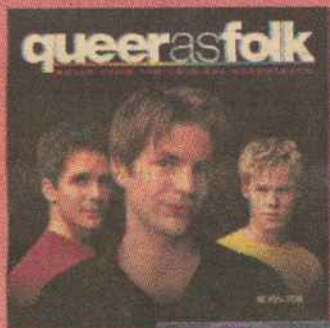
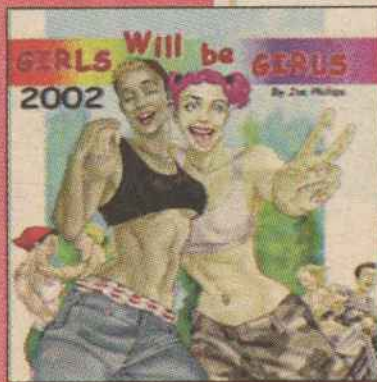
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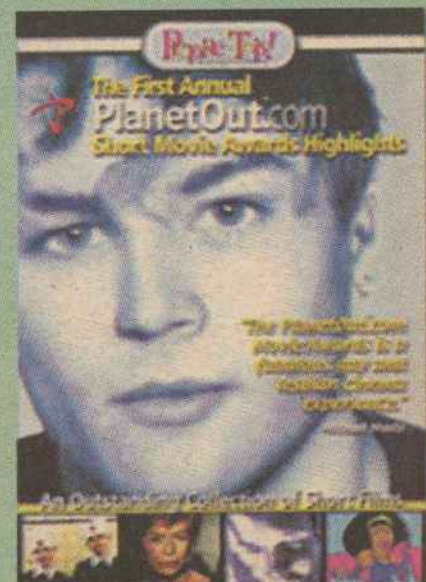
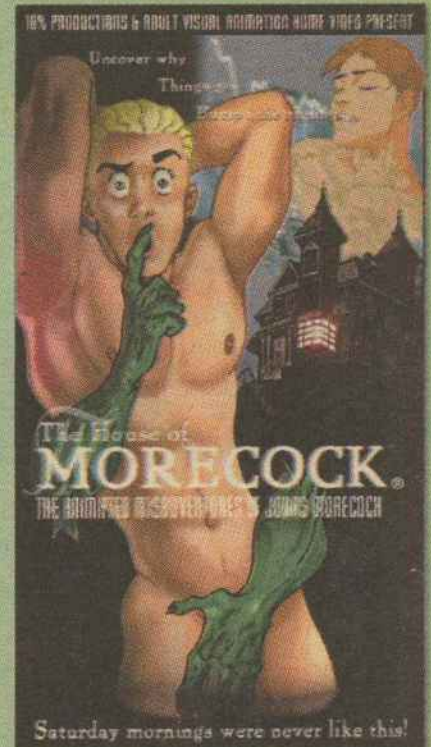
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Men's Voices Set to Launch with Premiere Holiday Show

By William Attewell

Milwaukee — Men's Voices Milwaukee is definitely about music. The premiere concert for Milwaukee's fledgling all men, gay choral group is slated for Dec. 1 at Milwaukee's Centennial Hall.

Men's Voices Milwaukee is different in style than what's been done before. There will be 30 men on stage for their first show "Peace on Earth." The show will feature a very traditional program of holiday music, very much geared toward the entire community.

"We welcome everyone to come and see our shows. Bring your parents, bring your children. These shows are for everyone," says Bill Schumacher, executive director of Men's Voices Milwaukee.

"We want our programming to be accessible and available to everyone," explains Schumacher. "The mission of this organization, simply put, is musical excellence, plain and simple. And programming that is accessible to everyone in the community, and therefore a positive reflection on the LGBT community."

Originally from the Milwaukee area, Schumacher spent 6 year stint in Tampa and St. Petersburg where he was the executive director of the Tampa Bay gay men's chorus.

On a visit to Milwaukee, he was approached by Ron Thate who was working with others to launch a gay men's chorus in Milwaukee.

"Men's Voices differs from other [gay] choruses in Milwaukee — it's all men, first of all," explains Schumacher. "Most of the other choruses have been mixed."

Schumacher also says the structure of Men's Voices is quite a bit different. Their board is a community-based board of directors as opposed to a board that's all chorus members.

"There's input from the community as well as the ability to tap into the community. Probably the second thing that differentiates us from what's been done before is professional management," explains Schumacher. "There's someone there doing the work of marketing and development and administrative tasks, right now on about a half-time basis."

According to Schumacher, ticket sales are going well, and the contacts that the group has made with other community organizations has been very positive.

The Men's Voices board and the artistic staff made a decision to have a conservative

first season. The group will also focus on building the musical organization and the administrative structure.

The premiere season will feature two concerts, the December 1 holiday show, and in June "Men on Broadway." The June concert will feature, Ann Morrison, who originated the female lead in Sondheim's "Merrily We Roll Along" on Broadway.

"We're just delighted to have her coming to Milwaukee," said Schumacher.

Men's Voices hopes to have a full-time executive director in place by June 2002. That person will be responsible for a certain amount of fund-raising which involves grants and awards, seeking out those funding sources as well as marketing and other administrative duties.

Ken McMonagle is the artistic director of the chorus. He is responsible for the artistic product. McMonagle has over 20 years in the education field and choral directing fields.

"He's just a brilliant, brilliant choral conductor and educator and we're extremely lucky to have him," says Schumacher.

Men's Voices will hold auditions again in January.

"Peace on Earth" will be held on Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. at Centennial Hall — Milwaukee Public Library at 733 N. 8th St. Tickets at \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. You can purchase your tickets through chorus members or by calling the Men's Voices office at (414) 765-9188.

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Cream City Chorus Presents "Ice Crystals — Through Winter's Window"

Milwaukee — The first performance of the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus' 15th Anniversary season, "Ice Crystals - Through Winter's Window" is just around the corner.

The concert features a few favorites from the chorus' first 14 years, plus some brand new gems as well. "Our diverse musical selection reflects where the WCCC has come from, while remaining fresh in its presentation," commented Artistic Director, Kristen L. Weber, who will be directing half of the concert. Weber, who spent quite some time researching the organization's musical history, further explained that none of the songs chosen for this year have been performed more than twice in the chorus' 15 year history. Directing the other half of the afternoon's performance will be Associate Conductor Chuck Ellingson.

"Ice Crystals - Through Winter's Window" will be presented at 3 p.m., Sunday, December 16, at Plymouth Church, UCC, 2717 E. Hampshire, on Milwaukee's east side. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, and are available at OutWords Books, through chorus members, and by mail or phone order through the chorus office.

For more information about concert tickets, season tickets or the chorus itself, visit our ever-expanding website at www.creamcitychorus.org, write to the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus at 315 W. Court Street, Suite 101, Milwaukee 53212, or call us at (414) 276-8787.

Books for Giving & Getting

By Ed Grover

The holidays are upon us and it's time to consider a book or two for yourself or your favorite readers. Here are some of the diverse choices available that cover everything from gay short stories to a queer biography with a switch (a ménage à trois in writing) and one that's full of Hollywood gossip.

The Marble Quilt

By DAVID LEAVITT

In this book of nine stories, the author takes a look at the relationships in gay families from the turn of last century to the present. The first tale, "Crossing the St. Gothard," is a remembered tale by a gay tutor of two wealthy boys; he is traveling with them and their mother through Europe. They spend what seems to be an eternity passing through the longest tunnel in the world on their way to Italy from Switzerland. From the mother's point of view, it totaled up to "never again." For the tutor it is a revelation as he comes to realize that one of his young charges is gay.

Other tales include "The List," an e-mail exchange that goes sour, and "The Marble Quilt," the tale of a love affair as told to the Italian police by the younger partner of a murdered older man. In "The Infection Zone," the author compares the sexual carryings-on of Lord Alfred "Bosie" Douglas (Oscar Wilde's lover) to that of a young gay man in San Francisco who is

determined to be infected with AIDS by his lover so he can die with him. The writing in the other five stories is spare and elegant and very worth reading. (Houghton Mifflin, ISBN: 0-395-90244-4, Hardcover, \$24).

Behind The Screen: How Gays and Lesbians Shaped Hollywood 1910-1969

By WILLIAM J. MANN

William J. Mann is also recapping his Hollywood book "Wisecracker," which covered the life of William Haynes, one of Lotus Land's first openly gay stars. With historical accuracy, the author takes a look at gay men and lesbians in all areas of the studio system. Here we find not only the stars, but costume and set designers like Adrian, Travis Benton, Orry-Kelly and George James Hopkins, but gay directors and producers like George Cukor, James Whale, Dorothy Arzner and Ross Hunter.

The reader gets a look at some of the top gay and lesbian screenwriters, cinematographers, choreographers and composers who, with the help of the costume and set designers, created the very look of the Hollywood we knew and loved. Is it any wonder that any queer youngster with an iota of talent... be they male or female and whether they knew it or not... loved all the images that were put out there by the gay men and lesbians who shaped what we saw on the silver screen? I certainly did!

Mann also delves into the social lives of the screen colony and we benefit from hundreds of interviews that recall that gay men and women were traditionally among the top hosts who offered the most sought after invitations. We take a journey from the free-loving Roaring Twenties through

the cautious years of the Depression to the innovative years following World War II and the backlash of the McCarthy era. This is another great read that looks at fifty years of hidden Hollywood history. (Viking Press, ISBN: 0-670-03017-1, Hardcover, \$29.95).

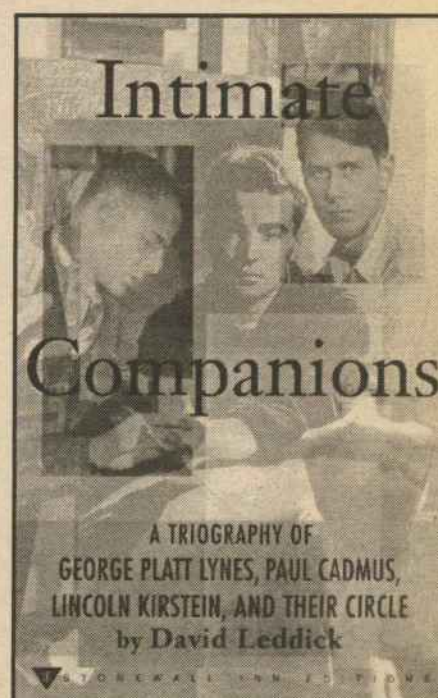
Intimate Companions: George Platt Lynes, Paul Cadmus & Lincoln Kirstein

By DAVID LEDDICK

I reviewed Leddick's book "Naked Men" in this space a few years ago. That book contained photographs, drawings and paintings of beautiful young men. These men were from the arts, theater and ballet, and not all of them were gay. Many of the photos were by George Platt Lynes, who paved the way for professional photographers like Herb Ritts, Robert Mapplethorpe and those wonderful nude calendars we all adore. Paul Cadmus was a fine artist whose Magic Realism paintings are much coveted by their owners today, and Lincoln Kirstein helped promote the arts and formed the American Ballet Company.

This book covers the lives and times of these same gay men, their relationships with one another and everyone else who was remotely important in their lives in an amusing and very readable tell-all format. There's a foreword by artist Bernard Palin, who had affairs with some of these men, and there's an introduction by the author who also had affairs with many of them and writes a thoroughly enjoyable personal recollection to each of the five sections of

Ink



the book. Leddick says that including the "sexual shenanigans" of these men is part of who and what they were. They were pioneers in the expression of emotion for the decades that followed the 1930's, 40's and 50's. This is a great read. (St. Martin's Press, ISBN-312-27127-1, paperback, \$14.95).

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Upcoming Events at the Milwaukee LGBT Center

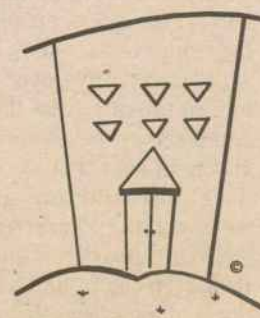
"My Left Breast"

Thurs., December 6, 6:30 p.m.

Don't miss the 2nd Milwaukee screening of this extraordinary film about one woman's journey with cancer. Free and open to the public.

**Women-Only Packer Party**
Sunday, December 9 @ Noon

Benefit for the Center's Young Women's Empowerment Conference. Free beer, chili and raffle prizes. Special half-time entertainment. \$15 donation.



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**Ho-Ho-Homo!****FLUID HOLIDAY
PARTY!****Tues., Dec. 11**

Starting @ 7pm with gifts, fun & holiday cheer

fluid

Community Calendar

November 29 – December 12, 2001

Please send your calendar listings to calendar@instepnews.com, or fax your listing to (414) 278-5868. Calendar listings will not be accepted via phone.

ACTIVITIES:

Thursday, November 29

Vigil for Juana Vega (Milw.): Candlelight vigil for Milwaukee lesbian murdered in hate crime, bring a candle, 8 p.m., LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 220-4215.

Lesbian Support (Rockford, IL): Lesbian Support and Discussion Group, 7-8pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4848 Turner Rd., Rockford, IL. FMI: (815) 636-7298.

Friday, November 30

Sex Addicts Anonymous (Madison): Open Step Meeting - LGBT-Friendly, 6:30pm, Lower Lounge, St. Francis House, 1001 University Ave. FMI: sterzing@mac.com.

Saturday, December 1

Frontrunners Run/Walk (Milw.): GAMMA-sponsored run/walk, starts at 9 a.m. at the Watertower at the east end of North Ave. FMI: (414) 365-3453.

Gemini Gender Group (Brookfield): Support for transsexuals & friends, support group at 5 p.m., general meeting 6:30 p.m., Unitarian Universalist Church, 13001 W. North Ave. FMI: (414) 297-9328.

Men's Voices Milwaukee (Milw.): Premiere concert of Milwaukee's new all-male chorus, "Peace on Earth," with holiday selections, 8 p.m., Centennial Hall, Milwaukee Public Library, 733 N. 8th St. S20 at the door. FMI: (414) 765-9198.

Sunday, December 2

Perfect Harmony (Madison): Chorus rehearsal, 7 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church, 116 W. Washington Ave. FMI: (608) 251-1893

Monday, December 3

Madcap Squares (Madison): New Square dance group welcomes all! 6:30 to 8 p.m., Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1021 Spaight St. First three classes free. FMI: (608) 347-7974.

Pioneers, SW Wisconsin (Richland Center): Regular meeting of the rural Southwest Wisconsin Gay & Lesbian Alliance, 7 p.m., Richland County Community Programs, 1000 U.S. Hwy. 14 West. FMI: (800) 484-8131 code 4419, or PioneersWI@aol.com.

Living As A Gay Man (Madison): Drop-in discussion group for gay men, 5:30 p.m., OutReach, 600 Williamson St. FMI: (608) 255-8582.

Tuesday, December 4

Teens Like Us (Madison): GLBTQ Teen support group, ages 14-18, 6-8 p.m., call for location: (608) 251-6211.

Womansong (Madison): Weekly rehearsal of women's chorus, 7 p.m., Beth Israel Center. FMI: (608) 222-2987.

Wednesday, December 5

Dairyland Cowgirls & Cowboys (Madison): Beginning and advanced lessons taught, 7 p.m., line dance; 8 p.m. review; 9 p.m., open dance. Sapphire Ballroom, 4802 E. Washington Ave. \$3 donation, cash bar. FMI: (608) 255-9131.

NOW Party (Milw.): Party to raise funds for Milwaukee N.O.W., featuring singer Vicki Guzman and the three-woman rock band, Alpha Dog, 55, 8 p.m., Walker's Pint, 818 S. Second St. FMI: (414) 272-3112.



Smoooooch! Photo by Jamie @ Walker's Pint

Thursday, December 6

Briarpatch (Madison): Group for middle school LGBT kids, middle school kids of LGBT families, and friends, 6 p.m., 512 E. Washington Ave. FMI: (608) 251-6211

"My Left Breast" (Milw.): Free screening of lesbian Gerry Rogers' heart-felt film about surviving breast cancer, discussion afterward, 6:30 p.m., LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

Commonbond (Milw.): Ashley Miller and Mary Beth de Pompa play their blues-tinged folk-rock, 7:30 p.m., The Mug at Alverno College, 3400 S. 43rd St. FMI: (414) 382-6869.

Friday, December 7

"Working with GLBT Seniors" (Milw.): Training for professionals who work with LGBT elderly, sponsored by SAGE & Milw. County Dept. on Aging, 1:30-4:30 p.m., LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 271-0378.

Polyamory Group (Madison): Discussion group on polyamory or responsible non-monogamy. This month: "When Relationship Boundaries Grow Into Each Other: How to Prevent Territory Conflict," 7 p.m., OutReach, 600 Williamson St. FMI: (608) 260-8667.

Saturday, December 8

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers (Madison): 3K to 10K run or walk, 9 a.m., Lake Wingra Park, Knickerbocker and Arbor Dr. FMI: (608) 663-6463.

SCRAWL Workshop (Madison): "Performing Your Poetry in Public," a SCRAWL all-girl workshop, bring original poetry to practice with, free, 6 p.m., Java EsCafe, 14 West Mifflin St. FMI: (608) 251-1861, scrawl-girl@yahoo.com.

"Mrs. Doubtfire" (Milw.): Movie Night at the Center! Come watch this Robin Williams favorite with your community! 7 p.m., LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

Sunday, December 9

Women's Packer Party (Milw.): Fundraiser for 2002 Young Women's Conference, \$15, free beer and chili, raffle, unique half-time show, kick-off at Noon, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

Bette Davis Bowling League (Madison): 5-person team format, 3 p.m. at Bowl-a-vard Lanes, 2121 E. Spring Dr. FMI: (608) 273-8275.

Monday, December 10

MATC Pride Alliance (Madison): Meeting at 2 p.m. in Room 137A, Madison Area Technical College. FMI: (608) 276-9209 x246, or pridealliance@madison.tec.wi.us.

Tuesday, December 11



Sisters! Photo by Jamie @ Walker's Pint



Celebutants @ Men's Voices Fund-raiser.

Teens Like Us (Madison): GLBTQ support group for teens, 14-18, 6-8 p.m. Call for location: (608) 251-6211.

Wednesday, December 12

Cream City Chorus (Milw.): Weekly rehearsal, 7 p.m., LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 276-8787.

BAR SPECIALS:

Sundays:

Ball Game (Milw.): Join us for the Packers! Bloody Marys, Screw Drivers, Grey Hounds \$2.90 - 'til 6 p.m.

Barracks (Madison): Beer Bash, 4-8 p.m., \$6. 50¢ off all rails, taps and bottles, 4-8 p.m.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milw.): Sunday afternoon bottle beer special from 3 to 7 p.m.

C'est La Vie (Milw.): Tacos & Beer with Alvin!

Club Boom (Milw.): "Queer as Folk" at 9 p.m. Previous episode at 8.

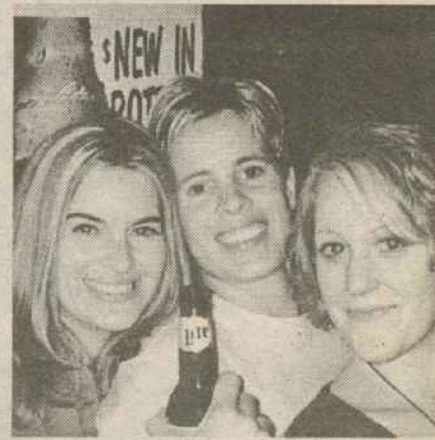
The Club/Fannies (Milw.): Closed

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): Beer Bash 3 to 8 p.m. \$6. 50¢ off all rails, taps and bottles, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Shots of Mudslides, Hot Sex, Pucker, \$2 open-close.

Club 219 (Milw.): \$1 tappers, \$2 rail drinks, \$2 bottled beer. Two shows: 8:30 p.m. - no cover - and 11:30 p.m.

Fluid (Milw.): \$6 Beer Bust, taps of Gen. Draft or Miller Lite, 5 to 9 p.m.

The Harbor Room (Milw.): Happy Hour 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Pints of Bloody Marys, Screwdrivers & Greyhounds - \$2.50! Shirtless men half price anytime.



Beautiful Women. Photo by Jamie @ Walker's Pint



Party time. Photo by Jamie @ Walker's Pint



Life is a cabaret. Photo by Jamie @ Walker's Pint

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milw.): Noon to 4 p.m. Bloody Marys & Screw Drivers - \$2 a mug.

M&M Club (Milw.): Brunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Midtowne Spa (Milw.): Bar-B-Q, 1-4 p.m.

Napalese Lounge (Green Bay): \$6 Beer Bust from 3 to 6 p.m.

The Office (Rockford, IL): Game Show Mania every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. \$1 Bloody Marys!

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): \$1.50 Bloody Marys hosted by the Gay Voice.

Rainbow Room (Madison): Beer Bash, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel





Triplets. Photo by Jamie @ Walker's Pint



Stud. Photo by Jamie @ 1100 Club



Waiting for Mr. Right. Photo by Jamie @ 1100 Club

Roy's Bar & Grill (Madison): Patio bar open at 2 p.m. Beer Bash from 2 to 8 p.m. Open volleyball. Food available from 2 to 6 p.m. 2/4/1 10 p.m. to close.

South Water St. Docks (Milw.): Open at 3 p.m. Beer Bust, \$5 from 9-midnight.

Switch (Milw.): Back the Pack! Packer parties featuring 75¢ pints of beer, free food, free shot for every Packer TD, half-time contests for prize \$, open half-hour before game. SUNDAYS AFTER SUNSET, from 8-close/\$1 off all drinks and bottle beer to men who "dare to bore" their chests, or "UNDERWEAR!"

Walker's Pint (Milw.): \$8 domestic pitcher & pizza, \$3.50 Bloody Marys, both from open-close.

Woody's (Milw.): Packer Backer Day! Beer Bust, \$5 from 2-6 p.m.

Mondays:

Ball Game (Milw.): Cocktail Hour, All day & Night! Domestic Beer: \$1.75.

Barracks (Madison): 2-4-1 on all drinks up to \$3.75, open-close. \$9: Shots of Lava of Revelstoke, \$1. Shots of Mudslides, Hot Sex, Pucker, \$2, open-close.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milw.): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 drink special. Bud Nite! All Buds, \$1.

Cell Block (Chicago): WWF/WCW Wrestling. \$2 specials on microbrews.

C'est La Vie (Milw.): Pizza & Beer Bust, only \$4, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.!

Club Boom (Milw.): Closed.

The Club/Fannies (Milw.): Closed.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): 2-4-1 on all drinks up to \$3.50 all night long!

Fluid (Milw.): \$3.50 Absolut Mixers, 8 p.m. to close.

The Harbor Room (Milw.): Happy Hour 8 a.m.-Noon, Bloody Marys, 3-6 p.m., 2-4-1 drinks and free pizza! Shirtless men half price anytime. Bartenders, waiters, owners \$1 off drinks 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milw.): 4 to 6 p.m. Pull tabs!

LaCage (Milw.): "Shake-a-Drink" all nite - no cover.

M&M Club (Milw.): Mountain of BBQ Rib Special!

Napalese Lounge (Green Bay): Pull tabs from 3 to 7 p.m. (Drinks as low as 25¢). There is a \$6 Beer Bust from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The Office (Rockford, IL): Miller products - \$1.50.

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): Melrose Mondays. Free pizza & shot specials.



Wake me up before I go-go. Photo by Jamie @ 1100 Club



Cuties of the Week. Photo by Jamie @ Walker's Pint

Rainbow Room (Madison): Rolling Rock, \$1.50.

Roy's Bar & Grill (Madison): 2-4-1 Happy Hour 4 to 7 p.m. \$3.50 and under drinks over \$3.50 get \$1 off.

Scooter's (Eau Claire): \$3 pitchers - 9 p.m. to close.

South Water St. Docks (Milw.): Open at 5 p.m. Happy Hour, 5-8 p.m.

Switch (Milw.): ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS "MARTINI-MANIA" FROM 8-close! Watch "absolutely fabulous" from 8-10pm, and enjoy \$2 off martinis all night!!

Triangle (Milw.): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! 9 p.m. - Absolut and anything, \$2.

Walker's Pint (Milw.): All night, mix and match. \$1 off pitchers of Miller products.

Woody's (Milw.): Cocktail Hour 4 to 9 p.m. Tappers \$7.5, rail drinks, \$1.50.

Tuesdays:

Ball Game (Milw.): Cocktail Hour, 2-9 p.m. with snacks served! Cocktail Hour rail drinks or NEW! Pull tabs - try your luck! 9 p.m. to close.

Barracks (Madison): 50¢ off all drinks. Revelstoke spiced whiskey, \$1. Corona 12 oz. bottles, \$2.50. Shots of Mudslides, Hot Sex, Pucker, \$2, open-close.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milw.): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 drink special. Vodka Nite! All vodka drinks, \$1.50 and Call Brands, \$2.50 with free, hot Klement's pizza!

Cell Block (Chicago): SMUT Tuesdays! XXX Videos. Cheap Drinks. Free Games.

C'est La Vie (Milw.): Shirts Off! Show us what you've got!

Chicago Eagle (Chicago): Leather/Levy Night. Well-drinks & draft beer \$1. Dress Code Enforced. Pit open.

Club Boom (Milw.): 2-4-1 from 8-10 p.m. rail and tap beer.

The Club/Fannies (Milw.): Shoreline Dancers Practice, 6 p.m. to ?

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): Happy Hour, 4-8 p.m. 2-4-1 on all drinks up to \$3.75, \$1 off all other drinks. Corona 24 oz. bottles \$3.50. Shots of Mudslides, Hot Sex and Pucker, \$2, open-close.

Club 219 (Milw.): Amateur Strip Nite! No cover. \$1 tap beer, \$2 rails and bottled beer.

Fluid (Milw.): \$2 Cold Shots, 8 p.m. to close.

The Harbor Room (Milw.): Happy Hour, 8 a.m.-Noon, Bloody Marys, 3-6 p.m., 2-4-1 drinks and free pizza! Nipple ring nite - gentle tug on yours, 2nd drink free! Shirtless men half price anytime.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milw.): Mexican Night! 4 p.m. to ? Tacos \$1.75 to 10 p.m. 2-4-1 Tequila 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Corona \$1.75.

LaCage (Milw.): "Prize Nite" - no cover.

M&M Club (Milw.): Double Bubble with complimentary Hors D'oeuvres 5 to 7 p.m.

Midtowne Spa (Milw.): Half price locker.

Napalese Lounge (Green Bay): Shake a Drink! Aces free and sixes half-price - 3 to 7 p.m.

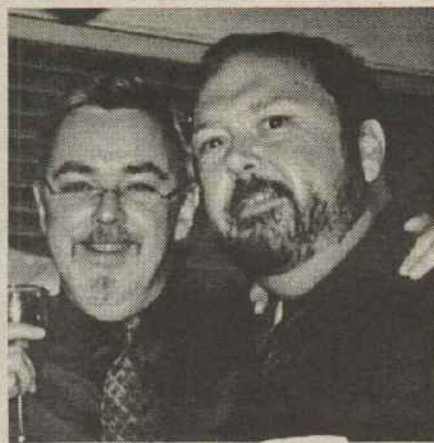
The Office (Rockford, IL): Bud Products \$1.50. The Trading Company (Eau Claire): 2 for \$2. Domestic bottles and rail mixes all night.

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): All coffee drinks - \$2.

Rainbow Room (Madison): \$1 off rail and domestic.

Roy's Bar & Grill (Madison): Grill open! 2-4-1 Happy Hour runs from 4 to 7 p.m. Free pool with drink purchase from 9 p.m. to close.

South Water St. Docks (Milw.): Open at 5 p.m. Happy Hour, 5-8 p.m.



Celebutants @ Men's Voices Fund-raiser.

Switch (Milw.): "SHOWTUNES", along with "TEA FOR TUESDAYS" ... 1/2 PRICE longisland iceteas from 8-11!

Triangle (Milw.): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks!

Walker's Pint (Milw.): Double trouble, 6-10 p.m. Same rail prices = twice the liquor.

Woody's (Milw.): Cocktail Hour 4 to 9 p.m. Free bountiful buffet.

Wednesdays:

Ball Game (Milw.): Cocktail Hour, 2-9 p.m. with snacks served! Special Export \$5 pitchers and \$1.10 mugs from 9 p.m. - close.

Barracks (Madison): 50¢ off all taps and rails. Shots of Lava of Revelstoke, \$1. Corona 12 oz., \$2.50. Shots of Mudslides, Hot Sex, Pucker, \$2, open-close.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milw.): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 drink specials. It's Leather & Western Night! Prizes & drink specials throughout the night.

Cell Block (Chicago): Open Shawn's Treasure Chest for Great Prizes! Check your planner for more. \$2 Lite/MGD longnecks.

C'est La Vie (Milw.): Rail drinks only \$1.

Chicago Eagle (Chicago): Free pool.

Club Boom (Milw.): 2-4-1 from 8-10 p.m. rail and tap beer.

The Club/Fannies (Milw.): Open at 6 p.m.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): Happy Hour, 4-8 p.m. 2-4-1 on all drinks up to \$3.75, \$1 off all other drinks. Shots of Lava of Revelstoke, \$1. Half price appetizers, 5-8 p.m. (bar only). Karaoke from 8-10:30 p.m.

Club 219 (Milw.): Open at 5 p.m. Cocktails are price from 5 to 8 p.m.

Fluid (Milw.): Rotating Martini Special, 8 p.m. to close.

The Harbor Room (Milw.): Happy Hour, 8 a.m.-Noon, Bloody Marys, 3-6 p.m., 2-4-1 drinks and free pizza! Leather Nite! Men in leather, 2-4-1 drinks, 7 p.m.-close. Shirtless men half price anytime.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milw.): Hump Day! Everything's a buck. Open to close.

LaCage (Milw.): 2-4-1 all night!

M&M Club (Milw.): Double Bubble with complimentary Hors D'oeuvres 5 to 7 p.m.

Man's Country (Chicago): 7-5-7. Special: Rooms and Lockers \$7 for 5 hours.

Midtowne Spa (Milw.): Half price rooms.

Napalese Lounge (Green Bay): Rail drinks \$1.50, Soda & juice are 50¢ from 3 to 7 p.m. \$6 Beer Bust from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

The Office (Rockford, IL): \$2.50 pitchers/\$50¢ drafts. Retro party with DJ Cris.

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): Karaoke! \$1.50 MGD and Michelob Goldens.

Orbit (Milw.): Happy Hour 5-8 p.m., 2-4-1 drinks.

Rainbow Room (Madison): Shots of Doctors - \$2.

Roy's Bar & Grill (Madison): Grill open! 2-4-1 Happy Hour from 4 to 7 p.m. \$1.50 Dr. or Schnapps with drink 9 p.m. to close.

Scooter's (Eau Claire): 2 for \$2 domestic bottles and rail mixers. 9 p.m. to closing.

South Water St. Docks (Milw.): Open at 5 p.m. Happy Hour, 5-8 p.m. 2-4-1 cocktails all day.

Switch (Milw.): BALLOON BUST! starts at 8pm... throw darts to "pop" balloons and win cash and prizes!

Triangle (Milw.): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! 9 p.m. Super Beer Bust - All U Can Drink! \$5 domestic, \$7 premium.

Walker's Pint (Milw.): Flavored Long Islands, \$5 a pint or \$8 a pitcher.

Woody's (Milw.): Dart league Night! Happy Hour, 4-9 p.m.

Thursdays:

Ball Game (Milw.): Cocktail Hour, 2-9 p.m. with snacks served! Cocktail Hour rail drinks or NEW! Pull tabs - try your luck from 9 p.m. to close.

Barracks (Madison): 5 for \$10 on any Miller product. Pitchers of Bud Lite and Miller Lite, \$6.50. Shots of Lava of Revelstoke, \$1.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milw.): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 drink specials.

C'est La Vie (Milw.): Karaoke Night, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Club Boom (Milw.): 2-4-1 all night long.

The Club/Fannies (Milw.): Starting Aug. 31 - Open at 6 p.m.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): Happy Hour, 4-8 p.m. 2-4-1 on all drinks up to \$3.75, \$1 off all other drinks. Frozen cocktails, \$3. Pitchers of Bud Lite and Miller Lite, \$6.50.

Club 219 (Milw.): Open at 5 p.m. Cocktails are price from 5 to 8 p.m.

Dish (Milw.): 2-4-1 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Groove with Amy! Amy entertains!

Fluid (Milw.): \$3 Cosmos, 8 p.m. to close.

The Harbor Room (Milw.): Happy Hour, 8 a.m.-Noon, Bloody Marys, 3-6 p.m., 2-4-1 drinks and free pizza! Shirtless men half price anytime. 10oz. Cosmopolitans \$4.50, 6-11 p.m.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milw.): Slammers! \$1 - 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.

LaCage (Milw.): "Super Bust" - no cover for card holders.

M&M Club (Milw.): Happy Hour from 5 p.m. to close!

Midtowne Spa (Milw.): Crazy 8 rooms and lockers. \$1 locker with college ID.

Napalese Lounge (Green Bay): Pull tabs! drinks as low as 25¢ 3 to 7 p.m.

The Office (Rockford, IL): Beer \$1 Well drinks \$1.50.

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): \$1 bottle beer. 50¢ drafts.

Rainbow Room (Madison): Corona - \$2.

Roy's Bar & Grill (Madison): Grill open! 2-4-1 Happy Hour from 4 to 7 p.m.

Scooter's (Eau Claire): Free Pool & Darts. 2-4-1 tap beer 9 p.m. to close.

South Water St. Docks (Milw.): Open at 5 p.m. Happy Hour, 5-8 p.m.

Switch (Milw.): \$1 off drinks during Happy Hour, 5-8 p.m. Karaoke Night! 8 p.m. to close.

Triangle (Milw.): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! 9 p.m. \$6 Rail Bust!

Walker's Pint (Milw.): Import Night, 6-10 p.m. \$1 off imports.

Woody's (Milw.): Double Bubble all day, all night.

Fridays:

Ball Game (Milw.): Cocktail Hour, 2-9 p.m. with snacks served!

Boot Camp Saloon (Milw.): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 drink special.

C'est La Vie (Milw.): Strippers! Enjoy local boyz! 11:30 p.m. No cover.

The Club/Fannies (Milw.): Open at 5 p.m. Double Bubble until 7 p.m. DJ starts at 10 p.m.

Club Boom (Milw.): 2-4-1 from 8-10 p.m. rail and tap beer. Country music with DJ Dan, 9 p.m.-Midnight.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): Happy Hour, 4-8 p.m. 2-4-1 on all drinks up to \$3.75, \$1 off all other drinks.

Club 219 (Milw.): Open at 5 p.m. Cocktails are price from 5 to 8 p.m.

Dish (Milw.): The new night spot for women! Happy Hour 2-4-1 5 to 7 p.m. Join DJ Amber for dancin' & romancin'.

Fluid (Milw.): Happy Hour, 5-8 p.m. 2-4-1, martinis included!

The Harbor Room (Milw.): Happy Hour, 8 a.m.-Noon, Bloody Marys, 3-6 p.m., 2-4-1 drinks and free pizza! Shirtless men half price anytime. 10oz. call Martinis \$5, 6-11 p.m.

Jo'Dees International (Racine): Bring on the Bears and Bikers! \$1.25 Tap MGD & Miller Lite, \$1.75 Pints of Lemie's Red, \$2.50 Pints of Hacker-Pschorr Weisse.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milw.): Pull tabs! 5 to 7 p.m.

LaCage (Milw.): LaCage Showcase.

M&M Club (Milw.): All you can eat Fish Fry and other great specials.

Midtowne Spa (Milw.): Party night!

The Office (Rockford, IL): Best Dance Party! DJ Cris.

South Water St. Docks (Milw.): Open at 5 p.m. Happy Hour, 5-8 p.m.

Switch (Milw.): Cocktail Hour, 5-9 p.m., FLASHBACK fridays (9-1), featuring 80's and 90's dj spin!

The Trading Company (Eau Claire): All chilled shots \$1.50 - 9 to 11 p.m.

Triangle (Milw.): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! \$3 Margaritas from open to close.

Walker's Pint (Milw.): Domestic tap beer bust, 6-8 p.m., \$2 cold shots, 8-10 p.m.

Woody's (Milw.): Cocktail Hour 4 to 9 p.m. Tappers \$7.5, rail drinks, \$1.50.

Saturdays:

Ball Game (Milw.): Bloody Marys, Screw Drivers, Grey Hounds \$2.75, and \$1.10 mugs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Barracks (Madison): Levi/Leather/Uniform Night! 50¢ off all drinks if dressed in L/L/U. Bartender's discretion.

C'est la Vie (Milw.): Female Impersonators with Big Mama at 11:30 p.m. No cover.

Club Boom (Milw.): Video Dance! 2-4-1 from 8-10 p.m. rail and tap beer.

The Club/Fannies (Milw.): Open at 6 p.m. DJ starts at 10 p.m.

The Harbor Room (Milw.): Happy Hour, 8 a.m.-Noon, Bloody Marys! Shirtless men half price anytime. Pitchers of beer, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., \$4.50 domestic & \$6.50 Harbor Room's own brew!

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milw.): Short beers 2 for \$1.50.

LaCage (Milw.): Where Milwaukee Dances!

Man's Country (Chicago): Male Strippers and Porn Stars. Show at Mid-nite. Free Continental Breakfast Sunday Morning.

Midtowne Spa (Milw.): Bar-B-Q, 1-4 p.m.

The Office (Rockford, IL): Rockford's Best Dance Party! DJ's Jerry & Jess One.

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison): Live DJ 9 p.m. to close. Men's Room (Levi/Leather) 7 p.m. to close. 50¢ off all drinks with card. Progressive Happy Hour from 7 to 10 p.m.

Switch (Milw.): open at 6pm Saturdays/ featuring current dance music - dj spin.

Walker's Pint (Milw.): Bring in 2 non-perishable food items and get \$1 off your first drink. All proceeds go to Second Harvest of Milwaukee.

Woody's (Milw.): Bucky Badger Day!

BAR EVENTS:

Thursday, November 29

Fluid (Milw.): HIV testing, 9 p.m. to Midnite, 819 S. 2nd St. FMI: (414) 272-2144.

Fri & Sat, Nov. 30 & Dec. 1

Chip and Py's (Mequon): Live Jazz Fridays and Saturdays, 7-11 p.m. Reservations suggested. 1340 W. Towne Square Rd. (I-43 at Mequon Rd.) Call (414) 241-9589.

Wednesday, December 5

Fluid (Milwaukee): "Shaken & Stirred" with DJ John Murgas. Jimmy & Will shake up a special Cranberry Apple Pie Martini while DJ Murgas stirs up Milwaukee's most progressive dance grooves, 9 p.m.-close, 819 S. 2nd St. FMI: (414) 645-8330.

Club 5 (Madison): Karaoke from 8-11 p.m. Male dancers at 11 p.m. No cover. 5 Applegate Court. FMI: (608) 277-9700.

Chip and Py's (Mequon): Live Jazz Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. Reservations. 1340 W. Towne Square Rd. (I-43 at Mequon Rd.) Call (414) 241-9589.

Thursday, December 6

Club 5 (Madison): Gay TV Night with "Will & Grace" and "Queer as Folk." 5 Applegate Court. FMI: (608) 277-9700.

La Cage (Milw.): HIV testing, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m., 801 S. Second St. FMI: (414) 272-2144.

Friday, December 7

Shamrock Bar (Madison): Frontiers Gay/Bi Men's Group Happy Hour. The group meets at 6 p.m. for cocktails every Friday. Decides where to dine at 7 p.m. 117 W. Main St. FMI: (608) 274-5959.

C'est La Vie (Milw.): Strippers - Enjoy Local Boys! 11:30 p.m. No cover. 231 S. Second St. FMI: (414) 291-9600.

Saturday, December 8

C'est La Vie (Milw.): Female Impersonators with Big Mama! 11:30 p.m. No cover. 231 S. Second St. FMI: (414) 291-9600.

M&M Club (Milw.): Singational's annual carol-fest! 8 p.m. 124 N. Water St. FMI: (414) 347-1962.

Wednesday, December 12

Club 5 (Madison): Karaoke from 8-11 p.m. Male dancers at 11 p.m. No cover. 5 Applegate Court. FMI: (608) 277-9700.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

(Please read carefully. Some meetings occur the same day weekly, others the same day bi-weekly or monthly.)

THURSDAYS:

AIDS Network (Madison): Meditation and Wellness, 6-7:30 p.m., 300 Williamson St. FMI: (608) 252-6540, ext. 26.

Disabilities Support Group (Milw.): Support group for LGBTs with disabilities meets final Thursday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. in Room 201, Independence First, 600 W. Virginia St. Contact is Leslie Myers. FMI: V/TTY (414) 291-7520, ext. 325.

Diversity G/L Resource Center (Rockford, IL): Located at 610 E State St.

Open from 4 to 9 p.m. Teen Drop-in Hours. FMI call (815) 964-2639.

Gay AA - "Living Sober" (Milw.): Meets every Thursday at 7 p.m., Galano Club, 2408 N. Farwell Ave. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Gay AA - Open Meetings (Appleton & Green Bay): There are five open AA Meetings for the gay and lesbian community each week in Appleton and Green Bay. FMI & Locations call (920) 336-2868 or (920) 954-9169.

Gay AA/Gay Al-Anon - 12-Step Meetings (Kenosha): These recovery groups meet every Thursday at St. Mary's Lutheran Church, 2001 80th Ave., at 7:30 p.m. FMI call Bill or Art at (414) 694-0115.

Gay/Lesbian AA Closed Meeting (Madison): Meets weekly at 8 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 1609 University Ave. FMI call (608) 222-8989.

HIV/AIDS Support Group & Hotline (Upper Peninsula, MI): These projects serve Dickinson, Iron, & Menominee Counties. For information on the support group in Iron Mountain, Michigan on the first Thursday of each month, call the HIV/AIDS Hotline at (906) 779-2904.

HIV Self-Help Group - Monthly meeting (Baraboo): This group sponsored by persons living with HIV, Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital & the AIDS Network meets every 3rd Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. in Baraboo. Refreshments are served, transportation assistance is available. FMI: (608) 643-7241 or (608) 643-7583.

Lavender Salon (Fox Valley): Reading and discussion group for gays and lesbians in the Fox Valley area, meets 3rd Thursday of each month, locations vary between Appleton, Green Bay and Oshkosh. Call for details. FMI: (920) 738-0497.

LGBT Community Center - Lesbian Singles Discussion Group (Milw.): Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Ongoing discussion about unique challenges and rewards of being single, open to all lesbians. The group picks a different topic each month. FMI call (414) 271-2656.

LGBT Community Center - Rainbow U Lecture Series (Milw.): Every 3rd Thursday of the month, 7 p.m. Series encourages awareness, discussion of issues important to the LGBT Community. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

LGBT Campus Center - Boy-Oh-Boy Gay/Bi Men's Group (Madison): This weekly group provides outlet for gay/bi students at UWM. Social outings, great discussion. Hosted by University Health Services and Sex-Out-Loud, Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m., LGBT Campus Center, second floor, UW-Madison Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St.

OUTCARE Sexual-Health Clinic (satellite clinic of Planned Parenthood) inside the LGBT Community Center, 170 South 2nd Street, Milwaukee. Walk-ins Thursday and Tuesday nights from 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. FREE services for teens. (414) 277-9370.

Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital (Baraboo): HIV/AIDS support group meets third Thursdays in Baraboo area. FMI (toll-free): (877) 744-0677.

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (Milw.): Closed meeting every Thursday at 7 p.m., Galano Club, 2408 N. Farwell Ave. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

South Madison Health & Family Center (Madison): Free, anonymous walk-in HIV testing from 5 to 7:45 p.m. at 2202 South Park St. FMI call (608) 261-9270.

Triangle Coalition - LGB Support Group (Rockford, IL): Meet to establish and explore friendships & relationships. Discuss a variety of topics every Thursdays at 8 p.m. FMI call (319) 583-1834.

Wisconsin Gender Organization (statewide): A support, education, and activism network whose primary function is to help Transsexual individuals to succeed and grow before, during, and after their gender transition. Meets the fourth Saturday of each month. For location and more information: www.wisgen.org.

Women's Consciousness Raising Group (Madison): Meets weekly at 5:30 p.m. at 122 State St. Suite 403. FMI call (608) 250-6775.

Unitarian Universalist Church - Lesbian Support/Discussion Group (Rockford, IL): The group meets weekly from 7-8 p.m. at 4848 Turner Rd. FMI call (815) 636-7298.

FRIDAYS:

Frontiers Dining Out (Madison): Madison-area Gay/Bi men meet at the Shamrock Bar around 6 p.m. Decide where to go to eat. FMI: (608) 274-5821.

Gay AA - (Milw.): Sixty Minutes Group, topic meeting. Meets every Friday at 5:30 p.m., Galano Club, 2408 N. Farwell Ave. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

LGBT Community Center - Project Q Youth Drop-In Night (Milw.): The group meets Fridays from 5 to 10 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. Drop-in nights provide a variety of youth activities in a space that is welcoming, safe and accessible to LGBTQ (questioning) youth. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

LGBT Youth Group - Meeting (Kenosha): This group meets the first & third Fridays of the month from 7 to 10 p.m. at the ARCW Offices, 1212 - 57th St. FMI call 800-924-6601.

MGLLO & MGLPO - Red Light Night (Marshfield): Every Friday night from 10:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m., 130 S. Central Ave., above the Thimbleberry Bookstore. Meet local LGBT people, enjoy Videos and Dancing. Everyone is welcome. FMI: Jim (715) 384-6731 or Vic (715) 387-2068.

Northland Gay Men's Center - Weekly HIV/AIDS Social Group (Duluth, MN): The group meets from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Center, 8 N. 2nd Ave. East, Temple opera Block, Suite 309. An opportunity for men with HIV/AIDS to socialize and find support. FMI: (218) 722-8585.

Madison Transgender Group - Support Group (Madison): A support and advocacy group for Transsexuals (M-F and F-M), Cross-dressers and their friends, families and significant others. It meets the third Friday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at the Outreach offices, 600 Williamson St. FMI: (608) 255-8582.

SAGE, Senior Action in a Gay Environment (Milw.): For older gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals. Offers alternating game nights, movie nights, guest speakers and discussions every Friday, 6:30 p.m., LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 271-0378.

SATURDAYS:

AIDS Network - HIV/AIDS Support Group (Madison): Meets from 10 a.m. to noon at UW Hospital, 600 Highland Ave. in K6/Rm. 280, 2nd floor. FMI: (608) 252-6540 or 1-800-486-6276.

BESTO Clinic - Positively Social (Milw.): Drop-in HIV+ men's gathering: no structure! No preaching! Videos and music, refreshments but no alcohol please. 8 p.m. to midnite, last Saturdays of the month, 1240 E. Brady

St. FMI: (414) 272-2144.

Black & White Men Together (Milw.): Meetings are the third Saturday of the month, 7-9 p.m., at the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: Milw4BWMT@aol.com.

Gay AA (Milw.): Group 1094, topic meeting. Meets every Saturday at 8 p.m., Galano Club, 2408 N. Farwell Ave. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

GLB AA - Open Meeting (Madison): Every Saturday at 6 p.m. at Outreach, 14 W. Mifflin, Suite 103. FMI call (608) 255-8582.

Northland Gay Men's Center - Social Night (Duluth, MN): Meets every Saturday. Activities include games, videos and other social events from 6 -9 p.m. at the Center, 8 N. 2nd Ave. East, Temple Opera Block, Suite 309. FMI: (218) 722-8585.

Potluck/Social Gathering (Sheboygan): For gays and lesbians in the Sheboygan area, second Saturday of the month. Call for location and more information: (920) 208-8695.

SUNDAYS:

AA Rainbow Group (Kenosha): Meets at 7 p.m. every Sunday at St. Mary's Lutheran Church, 2001 80th St. (west entrance). FMI: (262) 694-8951.

AA for GLBTs (Fond du Lac): 6:30 p.m., Fond du Lac County Health Care Center, 459 E. 1st St. FMI: Gay AA Hotline at (888) 492-3439.

Angels of Hope MCC - Religious Services (Allouez and Appleton): Services are held every Sunday at 11 a.m. at 3607 Libal St. in Allouez, and 5 p.m. at 815 N. Richmond St. in Appleton. FMI: (920) 991-0128.

Gay AA (Milw.): Group 394, step/topic meeting. Meets every Sunday at 10:30 a.m., Galano Club, 2408 N. Farwell Ave. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Gay AA (Milw.): Group 1394, Big Book meeting. Meets every Sunday at 8 p.m., Galano Club, 2408 N. Farwell Ave. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Gay Al-Anon (Milw.): Papillon group, topic meeting. Meets every Sunday at 10:30 a.m., Galano Club, 2408 N. Farwell Ave. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Gay Men's Discussion Group - Monthly Meeting (Milw.): The group meets at the Counseling Center of Milw., 2038 N. Bartlett Ave., every second Sunday of the month from 6-8 p.m. Topics range from relationships, dating and HIV/AIDS to spirituality and mental health. FMI: Bill Hanel at (414) 271-2565.


James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church - Worship Service (Madison): Services at 9 and 11 a.m. at 2146 E. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 242-8887.

LGBT Catholics (Milw.): Monthly discussion group for LGBT Catholics meets from 10:30 a.m. to Noon at Holy Trinity/Guadalupe School, 613 S. 4th St. FMI: (414) 481-8543.

Seeking Sobriety - Non-Religious Recovery Group (Milw.): This recovery group meets at 6 p.m. every Sunday.

Milwaukee Dart League Standings

	WEEK 8 (11/07/01)	YTD
1	219 CHEAP THRILLS	85
2	BALL GAME SCAM	84
3	WDYS BAD BOYS	68
4	1100 GOLD NUGGETS	68
5	TRIANGLE TRIX	63
6	BODILY FLUIDS	62
7	DOCKS SEMINOLES	59
8	WOODY'S PECKERS	49
9	SWITCH BACKS	44
10	SWITCH 1	41
11	BALL GME UP&CMNG	30
12	TRIANGLE 2	28
13	219 EXP TRICKS	25
14	FLUID 2	23
15	DOCKS SEA MEN	21
16	WDYS MARY'S BOYS	18



Holiday & Anniversary Celebration!

Thurs., Dec. 13th

**Buffet Dinner, Male Dancers
2-4-1 Drink Specials All Night
and drawings for Fabulous Prizes
All Evening!**

"Simply Divine" Christmas Show

Sunday, Dec. 16th

**to benefit Transitional Housing, Inc.
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THURSDAY

KARAOKE NIGHT
Sing us a song • 8pm-1am

FRIDAY

STRIPPERS

Enjoy local boyz • 11:30pm • No Cover

SATURDAY

FEMALE IMPERSONATORS
with Britney • 11:30pm • No Cover

SUNDAY

TACO'S & BEER WITH ALVIN

**Female Impersonators and
Male Strippers Wanted!**

Make a Date: Calendars 2002

By Carl M Szatmary

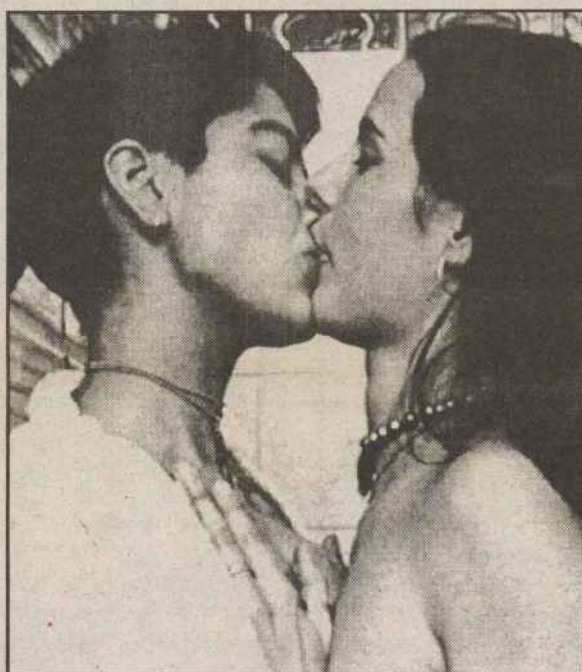
The arrival of November cold and all of the holiday decorations signals that special time of year — "calendar season." Calendars are both fun and functional. They are inexpensive, make great gifts and come in all shapes and sizes featuring common place as well as extraordinary subjects. And, much like their purchasers, are occasionally quite naughty while others are nice. Some, happily, are both.

For the Boys...

As always, the boys have an embarrassment of riches, dozens of calendars that delight in the glorification of the male form.

An increasingly popular focus are calendars that feature the men from the videos that fuel so many erotic fantasies. The men from "Titan" and the hunks of Falcon and Colt studios are available in full color calendars as are the boys of Bel Ami.

Colt calendars have always been something special and the 2002 crop is no exception. Popular favorites



Rocio and Melanie steam up the month of April in the *On Our Backs 2002* calendar.

"Colt Leather", "Hairy Chested Men" and "Butt Beautiful" are back plus one new title that's a tad bit more discreet, "Hunks Without Shirts 2002."

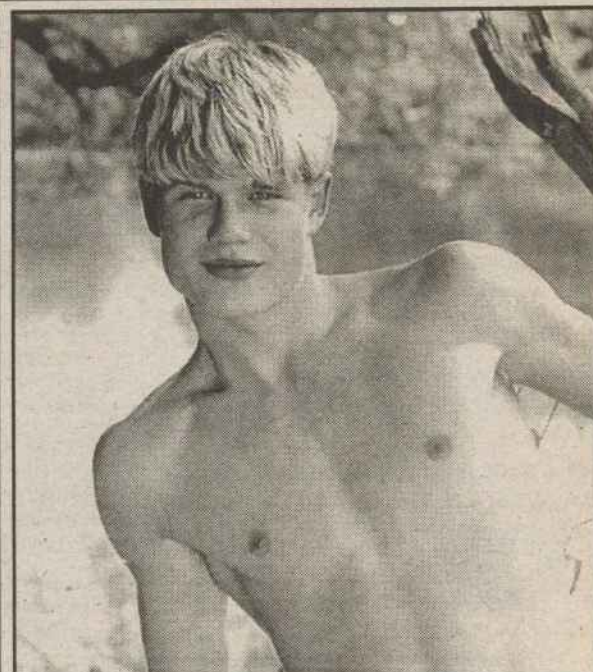
There may not be a flag emblazoning the cover but "Falcon All American 2002" is simply bursting with patriotic spirit, featuring some of Falcon's hottest new studs including their reigning king, Matthew Rush. Not to be out-done, there are two, that's right, two different calendars for 2002 from legendary director Kristen Bjorn, "Latin Heat 2002" and "Body Heat 2002."

The exquisite "Bel Ami 2002" calendar is filled with young men of stunning beauty and perfection. Thirteen very hot, erotic moments are captured on film by Bel Ami. These Czech and Eastern European boys are simply splendid - if you love the Bel Ami twinks, look no further for your 2002 calendar.

What? Johan missing from "Bel Ami 2002" calendar? Fans of the ubiquitous Bel Ami model need not worry. Thanks to photographer Howard Roffman, Johan is there every month of 2002 in his very own calendar, titled appropriately enough, "Johan Paulik 2002" calendar.

Want a calendar that doesn't have to come down when the family's over for a visit? No need to worry. One of the most beautiful calendars available for 2002 is from openly gay Canadian painter Steve Walker, "The Spirit of Man 2002." Most of the images in the 2002 calendars are new, seeking to capture a small part of the spirit that lives in everyone.

Popular photographer David Morgan has selected twelve gorgeous black & white images from his best-selling book, "Beaches" for "Beaches 2002." Photographers Steven Underhill and Adam Raphael have sought fresh-



Happy New Year! Tim Hamilton is Mr. January in Bruno Gmünder's *Bel Ami 2002* calendar.

faced youths for their calendar offerings. Underhill's "The Boy Next Door 2002," features a dozen of those boys who cut the neighbor's lawn shirtless, the boys who lay on the couch in their Calvin's. I don't know what neighborhood these boys are from, but I'll bet you'd like to move there pronto.

Those looking for a bit of ethnic diversity will find calendars for 2002 featuring Asian men (Thai Tai's "Asian Boys 2002"), African-American men and Latin men. Especially appealing are two calendars from photographer Lorenzo Gomez, drawn from his book, "Dios Latino."

Perhaps the most popular calendar title for 2002 comes from cartoonist Joe Phillips, "Boys Will Be Boys 2002." Joe Phillips has put his talents on paper again to create this humorous cartoon view of gay life for his 2002 calendar. His all color cartoon drawings once again feature Phillips' usual collection of hot cartoon boys

For the Girls...

Unlike the past several years, 2002 will come without calendars from Judy Francesconi, the premiere lesbian photographer. Judy sought to strike out on her own this year with her newly formed Shake-it-Up Productions and produce two calendars but was plagued with a variety of production problems.

From the folks at 10% Productions come three excellent lesbian calendar possibilities. Their best-selling title comes from popular lesbian photographer Sunny Bak, "Romance 2002." This sixteen-month calendar is full of beautiful young women in a variety of settings and locations engaged in a variety of everyday activities. Photographs are black and white, with color added to some images.

Like its twin brother mentioned above, Joe Phillips' "Girls Will Be Girls 2002" offers a very playful yet erotic look at lesbian life, featuring Phillips' usual collection of ethnic diverse cartoon characters.

Looking for something a little more daring? Look no further than to Rhonda Miller's "Female Form 2002."



Paintings by Susan Seddon Boulet highlight the *Goddess* calendar.



I think I spotted one. From the Original Pink Flamingos calendar.

This scrumptious sixteen-month calendar is a study of the female form of women couples who don't fall into the category of "gym bunny" type, but rather of a more mature type of female.

An even more risqué calendar comes from the always naughty folks at "On Our Backs" magazine. The editors of the pre-eminent lesbian erotic magazine "On Our Backs" have gathered 12 of their hottest, steamiest images to create an edgy, exciting calendar perfect for today's libidinous lesbian.

Calendars for Everyone

With over 20 million pairs sold, pink flamingos are truly a part of the American suburban landscape. Still, what could be gayer than a pink flamingo? Now, these delightful little guys can grace your wall throughout 2002 with Don Featherstone's original, "Pink Plastic Lawn Flamingo

2002" calendar.

Equally unique are the creations of Edward Gorey. Most recognizable from the opening credits of PBS's popular series, "Mystery," Gorey's drawings have always been a bit odd. For 2002 comes "The Deranged Cousins 2002" calendar. Based on one of Gorey's most popular stories, "The Deranged Cousins 2002" offers a deliciously morbid tale in twelve darkly comic episodes. Gorey calendars have long been a particular Outwards favorite.

The art of Georgia O'Keeffe and Susan Seddon Boulet have long held special appeal for lesbians and calendars featuring their work are always popular. 2002 should be no exception. "Goddesses 2002" offers Boulet's uniquely powerful images of ancient goddesses, whether famous or obscure.

Cinema calendars abound. "Cinemania 2002" offers classic images of stars and films from a bygone era including Audrey Hepburn, Charlie Chaplin and Marlon Brando. Classic movie posters from Hollywood's Golden era are featured on "International Movie Posters 2002."

No one is more of a Hollywood icon than Marilyn Monroe. For 2002 comes the beautiful "Marilyn 2002" calendar which features 12 never-before-published photographs from Marilyn's 1954 U.S.O. Tour of Korea. These candid black & white images offer a young and sensual Marilyn happily away from Hollywood.

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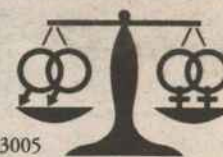
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Stage



Scene from the Skylight's production of "Hello Dolly"

"Hello Dolly"

By Carl M. Szatmary

Although there is nary a holiday decoration in sight - unlike for instance his "Mame" - it is difficult to envision a brighter, happier Skylight holiday show than Jerry Herman's classic, "Hello Dolly," now playing at the Broadway Theatre Center's Cabot Theatre through December 23.

While originally conceived for legendary Broadway diva Ethel Merman, the role of Dolly Gallagher Levi, an irrepressible, irresistible turn-of-the-century matchmaker not to mention entrepreneur extraordinaire has forever become synonymous with the irrepressible, irresistible Carol Channing. If la Merman seems an unlikely Dolly, well, no more so than Barbara Streisand who took on Dolly in the 1969 film version.

On Broadway, a bevy of musical stars would take their turn in the role, from Martha Raye and Phyllis Diller to Pearl Bailey and Merman herself, late in the run with a couple of songs Herman had written for her added back into the show. In any case, "Hello Dolly" is a "star turn" and any truly triumphant production needs a larger than life Dolly.

Although the Skylight's "Hello Dolly" is charming and most entertaining, Chicago actress Paula Scrofano might be a pleasant Dolly but never successfully manages to translate her character's larger-than-life persona across the footlights.

Part of the problem, perhaps, is that Scrofano, much like Streisand in the film, seems too young to be believable as a widow who has been languishing on life's sidelines, someone who has been content to watch "the parade passing by." Ultimately, Scrofano's attractive, gregarious Dolly Gallagher seems too good to settle for John Reeger's crotchety Horace Vandergelder even if he is that famous "half-a-millionaire" - although a quick glance at the show's program informs us that they are, in real life, a well suited couple.

Another challenge facing the Skylight's production team was to find a way to bring Herman's exuberant show to the intimate confines of the Cabot Theatre. After all, big Broadway musicals often require the big Broadway stages. R. Eric Stone's stage designs are attractive if perhaps dull, a few of the scene changes seemed awkward. Particularly disconcerting was watching Ms. Duchak and Ms. Rhode struggling with set pieces as they began the scene in

Mrs. Malloy's hat shop. Also lacking was the show's big production number, "Hello Dolly" although the small ensemble worked very hard indeed.

If Scrofano's Dolly proves a bit lacking, that's definitely not the case with the fine supporting cast Chicago director Marc Robin has assembled. John Reeger's Vandergelder is wonderful, a cuddly old meany who simply needs a Dolly Gallagher to take him by the hand. Molly Rhode has been making it a habit to steal scenes in all of the shows she's in and her Minnie Fay here is no exception. Likewise, Brett Ryback is an especially charming Barnaby and Dina Carl is deliciously ribald as the raucous Ernestina.

Best of all is Tony Clements' engaging Cornelius Hackl. With his ready smile and deft comic touch, Clements' Cornelius really comes alive, his quietly reflective "It Only Takes a Moment" literally stealing the show.

In the Skylight's capable hands, "Hello Dolly" remains a terrific evening at the theatre. This classic musical from Broadway's golden era offers sensational songs, great comic lines and a happily-ever-after ending that seems so reassuring as the holidays approach.

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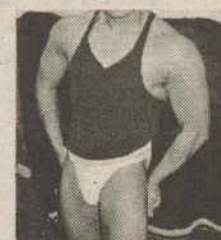
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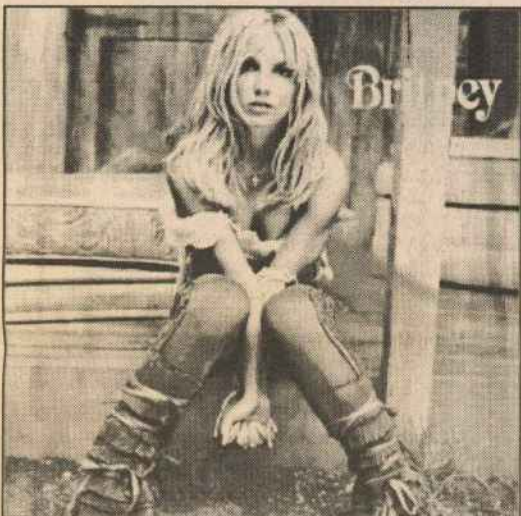
Music

Music's New Slate Spins Mixed Results

By J.C. Michalek

What is it about Tuesday that brings out the best and worst in and of our society. Public officials are elected on Tuesday, the publishing industry debut their latest tomes on Tuesday, the music industry releases their new CD's on Tuesday, and then there is the Tuesday that will forever be etched in our minds, Tuesday, September 11, 2001, a.k.a. 9/11.

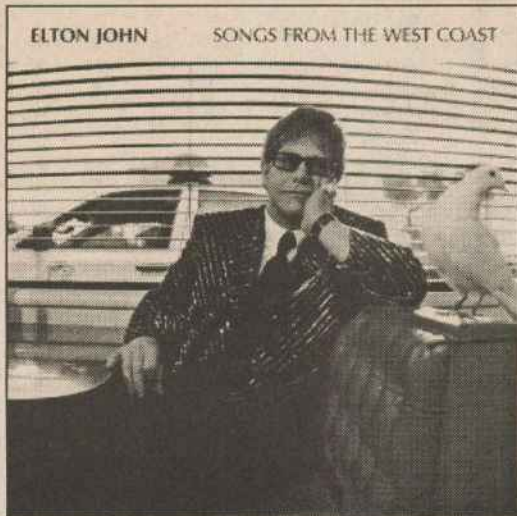
It is the latter that has the music industry anxious about its current slate of new material that culminated last week with the arrival of Super Tuesday, the day in which they inundate the market with the biggest



names on their roster in the hopes that consumers will make this a joyous Season to behold.

Indeed, laden with the knowledge that consumers are teetering precariously on matters related to spending, the industry is awaiting the results, or lack thereof, of their collective efforts.

Super Tuesday proffered new releases by Madonna, Garth Brooks, Paul McCartney, and Britney Spears to name a few. As a precursor to the main event, studios debuted a barrage of new releases in the weeks leading up to Super Tuesday by the likes of Michael Jackson, Incubus, Bob Dylan, Billy Joel, Tori



Amos, and Elton John.

As of press time, the results have been mixed. Several of these new releases have been highly touted in commercials, not a good sign. When the likes of Paul McCartney and Billy Joel, two of history's best selling artists, have to hawk their latest CD in a commercial with all the trappings of an infomercial, it does not bode well.

Critically, Incubus, Bob Dylan, and Elton John are the creme de la creme of this year's eclectic body of work. All three albums rank among the best of the artists' respective repertoires. In the interest of brevity and space constraints, SoundCheck offers the following critical synopsis of three of the aforementioned new arrivals — one good, one mediocre, and one real 'bad.' The nearly horrific "Invincible," by the in-famous gloved one does everything but rock your world on this lame disc. Listening to Michael Jackson's CD on a road trip from Denver to Milwaukee, drove this critic to "Scream" for silence.

The entire CD laboriously strives to the excruciating point of banality, to be perfect. It is far from it. Jackson's label should have titled this album Invisible. If this CD is the best that millions of dollars can produce with the added help of many talented musicians, the industry is in dire straits.

"You Rock My World," the CD's first single, is the only tolerable song on the CD. Despite considerable MTV airplay for the video, the song barely cracked the top ten. Do yourself a favor, dust off your copy of "Thriller" and re-experience a true masterpiece.

Mediocrity is not necessarily a bad thing if you're Britney Spears. In fact, it's an improvement. "Britney," the diva in waitings third solo disc is by far her best to

date. Spears sets out to prove she is "not a girl, not yet a woman," on one of the album's best cuts.

Spears is that rare artist that really is not all that talented, yet blessed with an aura that is indomitable. Think Cher or Madonna. Neither are great singers, yet they endure because they are great entertainers. Indeed, the influence these Divas have had on Spears is quite evident in her music and stage persona.

Spears' new set is more mature than previous efforts. It does not however set any bars. Current single "I'm a slave 4 u" is tasty enough, but not very satisfying. "Overprotected" is the most scrumptuous morsel belted out by the confectionary artist. Other cuts such as "Cinderella," "Let Me Be" and "Lonely" are simply jejune.

Spears surprisingly offers a refreshing change on Joan Jett's classic anthem, "I Love Rock 'n' Roll." Another fine cut is "anticipating," a rousing number that demonstrates her lyrical prowess as a songwriter.

Last but certainly not least is the best CD of the fall, if not the year. "Songs From the West Coast" is Elton John's finest work in decades. Reuniting for the first time in as many years with Bernie Taupin, this record reminds you of why he is so revered by fans and industry insiders alike.

With the exception of "The Emperor's New Clothes," the entire disc is a masterpiece. It is difficult to single out the best tracks among such a sample of work. "Dark Diamond," captures the jazz elements that John has so often regarded as an influence in his work. John remarkably combines his inimitable skills as pianist while Stevie Wonder demonstrates his talents on the Clavinet and Harmonica.

"American Tragedy," written and composed about the Matthew Shepard tragedy is as riveting as a song can possibly get. Taupin's lyrics take on a genuine resonance when John belts out: "God hates fags where we come from. Western skies don't make it right. Home of the brave don't make no sense. I've seen a scare crow wrapped in wire. Left to die on a high ridge fence. It's a cold, cold wind. It's a cold wind blowing, Wyoming." This song should be required listening in every school in America.

Other notable highlights include "Original Sin," an ode to anyone who has found their soulmate, "The Wasteland," a raucous ditty in the vein of John's earlier classics, "Look Ma, No Hands" and current single "I Want Love," whose infectious melody lingers.

Clearly the most introspective song on the CD is "Ballad of the Boy in the Red Shoes." Here, John and Taupin, set out to make a statement, however subtle it may be. The song about a man dying of AIDS reminiscing of the days when he was a consummate ballet dancer never mentions the word AIDS or the man it lambasts (Ronald Reagan) as ignorant. With the lyrical depth this song incorporates, explanation is not required.

"They searched for an answer. But that old man wouldn't listen. Back then I was handsome. Back then he was ignorant," belts John, who poignantly finishes the refrain: "And save off the years now. It's all inside my head. The boy in the red shoes is dancing by my bed. Put them in a box somewhere. Put them in a drawer. Take my red shoes, I can't wear them anymore."

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P.O. Box 14706, 53714-4706

Rainbow Community Collective (L/G/B/T Social Org)
Wil-Mar Neighborhood Ctr. 2nd & 4th Thursdays
953 Jennifer Street (Lira) 608/238-9150

Rural Dykes Association (social) 767-3150

SAGE/Madison-Dane 255-8582

Scrawl (Women's Open Mic, Music) 245-9681
..... <http://www.checkpages.com/brainiacs/allgirlsrawl>

Shake It Up! (L/G/B/T Social Org) 240-0504
<http://www.aplaceforus.org/shakeitup.htm>

Stage Q (Theater Group) 663-6463
..... <http://www.stageq.com>

10% Society (student organization)
<http://tps.storg.wisc.edu>, e-mail: execs@tps.storg.wisc.edu
P.O. Box 260394, 53726 262-7365

Unicorns of Madison (L/L club)
PO Box 536, 53701
UW LesBiGay Alumni Council 262-2551

Womansong (Woman's Choral Group) 246-2681

RELIGIOUS

Affirmation (L/G United Methodists)
University Church, 1127 Univ. Ave., 53705 256-2353

Church of the Holy Spirit (Inclusive)
2144 E. Johnson St., (meeting at James Reeb) 661-4462

Coming Out, Coming Together (Interfaith) 249-1537
E-mail: cwolve@mailbag.com

First Congregational UCC Church 233-9751
1609 University Ave., 53705
..... www.firstcongrmadison.org

Integrity/Dignity
Box 730, 53701 836-8886

James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church
2146 E Johnson, 53704 242-8887

SERVICES

Victoria Hewelt Cazel (Attorney)
6701 Seybold Rd., Suite 103 270-1709

KMA Systems of Madison (Computer Consultants)
4702 Dutch Mill Road #14 222-9128

RETAIL

Border's Books
3416 University Ave., 53705 232-2600

Rubin's
317 E. Wilson St. 53704 255-8998

MILWAUKEE (414)

ORGANIZATIONS

Aeon Group (Interactive Fiction Gaming)
P.O. Box 93953, 53203-0953 291-0530

Alcoholics Anonymous
(Request gay meetings) 771-9119

Beer Town Badgers, P.O. Box 840, 53201

Bi Definition (Bisexual community events)
315 W. Court St., Suite 101 299-9612
E-mail: bidef@hotmail.com

Brew City Bears 299-0401
P.O. Box 1035, 53201
E-mail: brewcitybears@aol.com, www.brewcitybears.org

BWMT-Milwaukee 461-4586, ext. 3
P.O. Box 100608, Milwaukee, 53210

Castaways M.C. (Levi/Leather club), P.O. Box 1697, 53202

Counseling Center (LGB support & discussion groups)
2038 N. Bartlett, 53202 271-2565

Cream City Chorus
315 W. Court, 53212 276-8787

Cream City Foundation (CCF)
315 W. Court, 53212 225-0244

Cream City Squares
(G/L Square Dancing Club) 445-8080

DAMES (Dykes Against Minority Erotic Suppression)
P.O. Box 1272, Milwaukee, 53201 278-0323

Fest City Singers (gay choral group)
P.O. Box 11428, 53211 961-0713

Firebirds (L/L group), P.O. Box 159, 53201-0159

Front Runners (running group) 332-1527

Galano Club (chemical free recovery club)
2408 N. Farwell Ave., 53211 276-6936

GAMMA (sports/outdoors/recreation/social)
E-mail: mkegamma@execpc.com
Web: www.execpc.com/~mkegamma
P.O. Box 1900, 53201 365-3453
Membership Info 358-2111

Gay Father's Group
1240 E. Brady St., 53202 372-8008

Gay Lesbian Education Employees of Metro Milw.
(GLEEMM), Larry 462-8404

Gay/Lesbian Studies UWM 229-6402

Gay & Lesbian Tavern Guild
209 E. National Ave., 53204

Gay People's Union
P.O. Box 208, 53201 645-0585

Gay Youth Milwaukee (peer group meetings)
P.O. Box 090441, 53209 265-8500

Gay Men's Discussion/Support Group
(Bill) 276-7626

Gemini Gender Group (TV/TS/TG support/social)
P.O. Box 44211, 53214 297-9328

Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee
P.O. Box 862, 53201-0862

GLEAM/SPECTRUM (GLBT Employees of Ameritech)
P.O. Box 254, 53201 482-4310

G/L Community Center Trust Fund
P.O. Box 168

Dignity (G/L Catholic Church)	
P.O. Box 597, 53201	873-9591
First Unitarian Society (Unitarian Universalist)	
1342 N. Astor St., 53202	273-5257
Lake Park Lutheran Church	
2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211	962-9190
Lutherans Concerned	
P.O. Box 1676, 53201	372-9663
Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church (U/MCC)	
1239 W. Mineral St., 53204	
Adm. Office: 170 S. 2nd St., 53204	383-1100
Pentecost Lutheran Church (Reconciled in Christ)	
5226 W. Burleigh St., 53210	445-2696
Plymouth Church-UCC (Open & Affirming)	
2717 E. Hampshire St., 53211	964-1513
The Sanctuary (Ecumenical, nondenominational)	
1636 W. National Ave., 53204	672-4434
St. Ann's Church	
5933 W. National Ave., 53214	259-1229
St. James Episcopal Church	
833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233	271-1340
Village Church (Reconciled in Christ)	
130 E. Juneau Ave., 53202	273-7617

MEDICAL

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (www.arcw.org)	
820 Plankinton Ave., 53203	273-1991
	(800) 359-9272
Mark Behar, PA-C (Family/Primary Care)	
Family Care Center, 1834 W. WI, 53233	933-3600
BESTD (Brady Center STD Clinic) (STD/HIV diagnosis/treatment)	
www.bestd.org; bestd@execpc.org	
1240 E. Brady St., 53202	272-2144
Health Options (Holistic Health Services)	
823 N. 2nd Street, #811, 53202	225-9303
Dennis C. Hill Outreach Center (HIV testing, condoms)	
4311 W. Vliet, 53208	342-4333
Positive Health Clinic	
Medical Center Specialties Clinic	
945 N. 12, 53233	219-7908
STD Specialties Clinic	
3251 N. Holton, 53212	264-8800

BARS

1 Ballgame (Mw, V, D, F)	
196 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-7474
2 Boot Camp (M, L/L)	
209 E. National Ave., 53204	643-6900
3 C'est La Vie (Mw, D)	
231 S. 2nd St., 53204	291-9600
4 Club Boom (Mw, D, V)	
625 S. 2nd St., 53204	277-5040
3 Club 219 (Mw, DJ, V)	
219 S. 2nd St., 53204	271-3732
3 Dish (Wm, DJ)	
235 S. 2nd St., 53204	273-DISH
Emeralds	
801 E. Hadley, 53206	265-7325
17 1100 Club (Mw, L/L, DJ, F)	
1100 S. 1st St., 53204	647-9950
5 Fannie's (Wm, D, F)	
200 E. Washington St., 53204	649-9003
6 Fluid (Mw)	
819 S. 2nd St., 53204	645-8330
6 Harbor Room (L/L, Mw)	

117 E. Greenfield Ave., 53204	672-7988
22 Kathy's Nut Hut (Wm, G/S, F, D)	
1500 W. Scott 53201	647-2673
7 La Cage (Mw, DJ, V)	
801 S. 2nd St., 53204	383-8330
10 M&M Club (Mw, F)	
124 N. Water 53202	347-1962
13 South Water Street Docks	
354 E. National Ave., 53204	225-9676
20 Off The Tracks (Wm, D)	
1534 W. Grant 53215	384-5680
14 Switch (Mw)	
124 W. National Ave., 53204	220-4340
15 This Is It (M)	
418 E. Wells 53202	278-9192
16 Triangle (M, V)	
135 E. National 53204	383-9412
31 Woody's (Mw, D)	
1579 S. 2nd St., 53204	672-0806
32 Walker's Pint (Wm)	
818 S. 2nd St., 53204	643-7468

COFFEE HOUSES and RESTAURANTS

Azteca	
816 South 5th St., 53204	383-8816
Bella's Cafe (Coffee House)	
189 N. Milwaukee St., 53204	273-5620
Big Mamma's Cafe (10am-after hours)	
1106 S. 1st St. 53204	831-0186
Cafe Knickerbocker	
1030 East Juneau, 53202	272-0011
Cempazuchi	
1205 E. Brady St., 53202	291-5233
Chip and Pys	
1340 W. Towne Square Rd., Mequon	241-9589
Cielito Lindo	
733 South 2nd St., 53204	649-0401
Harry's Bar and Grill	
3539 N. Oakland Ave., 53211	694-6800
10 M&M/Glass Menagerie (lunch, dinner, Sunday brunch)	
124 N. Water 53202	347-1962
North Shore Bistro	
Riverpoint Village, I-43 & Brown Deer	351-6100
Silver Dollar Cafe	
831 South 16th Street, 53204	645-8860

HELP LINES

The Force	
(referrals to GBLT counselors)	276-8487
Gay People's Union	645-0585
Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline (Fri/Sat Eves 7pm-11pm)	
	(866) GAY-YOUTH
Milwaukee Metro	(414) 272-TEEN
Helpline (Crisis Counseling)	271-3123
Pathfinders (24-hour youth counseling)	271-1560
Wisconsin AIDSline (free/anonymous)	(414) 273-AIDS
	(800) 334-AIDS

SERVICES

Able Amazon (Home Repair)	447-0251
Affiliated Mortgage	453-6700
1233 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, 53218	
AEJ Promotions (Promotional Products)	
aandjpromotions@aol.com	
Bay Tax Service, Paul Rathjen	332-9584

Frank J. Berger, (Real Estate)	(414) 213-5842
B&G Construction	405-7843
Sean Buckley (Individual Psychotherapy)	562-2403
Bill Buresh (Real Estate)	529-0500
Calyx Counseling Center (Kate Weishaar, Ph.D.)	
1840 N. Farwell Ave. Ave.	276-4664
Carnival Travel, 611 E. Wells St.	276-3388
Clarity (Writing and Research)	276-6935
Creative Home Concepts (Home/Remodel)	766-1066
Downtown Autobody (Car Repair)	
3425 N. Holton Ave.	964-7170
Roland E. Daneau, CPA (Accountant)	962-1400
Discovery & Recovery Clinic (Counseling)	
6510 W. Layton Ave., 53215	282-6160
Dykeman Family Heating (heating/cooling)	
1023 E. Brady St., 53202	273-7500
Theodore I. Friedman, PhD (Psychotherapist)	
2266 N. Prospect, Suite 206 53202	272-2427
Full Moon Productions (Women's Music Promoters)	
N235 Co Hwy W, Campbellsport, 53010	
The Garden Room (Garden Design)	
Michael Davis	963-1657
GLINN Network One (Internet Access, www.gn1.net)	
1618 N. Jackson, 53202	289-8640
Hairys Hair Bar	
2385 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.	486-9299
Horizon Travel (Member IGTA)	
N81 W15028 Appleton, Men. Falls 53051	255-0704
Hume, Attorney Kathleen	
5665 S. 108th, Hales Corners, 53130	529-2129
Bill Hanel, msw (Counseling, Psychotherapy)	276-7626
Denis Jackson, PhD. (Relational training, hypnosis, HIV & Vocational Counseling)	276-8669
Klaus & Meyers (attorneys)	
5665 S. 108th, Hales Corners 53130	529-2800
C.A. Klein (Accounting Services)	384-1640
Landmark Plumbing	224-8008
Linda Jo Martin (Psychotherapist)	276-8676
Randy Mickelson, (Ernie Von Schledorn, auto sales)	
Saukville/Port Washington	800-648-6789
Scott Perkins (Realtor)	476-9070, ext. 461
	cell: 801-1356
Red Tail Painting & Restoration	607-1180
e-mail: redtail@execpc.com	
Reiki Master/Wm Jacobs	
(energy balancing)	668-8860
Side by Side (performers)	961-2135
Diane Bloom/Sandy Lewis	
Jeanie Simpkins, (MS), (counseling)	282-6160
Jack Smith (Realtor)	962-4413
home/voice mail	224-1452
Special Touch Massage	536-8232
Streff Advertising/Sandy Lewis	771-8300
7600 Harwood Ave., Wauwatosa, 53213	
The Right Angle (carpentry)	390-0909
Third Coast Courier (delivery)	562-0935
Travel Directions (Travel Agency)	
515 Glenview, Wauwatosa, 53213	774-2174
Travel Experience (Travel Agency)	744-6020
Wauker Photography (Portraits, Commitments)	
by appointment only	383-0740
Wells Ink, Advertising & Design (Advertising, PR)	
1661 N. Water St., Suite 411, 53202	272-2116

RETAIL

2Burn (Ventless Fireplaces, Gifts)	
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11708 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa	607-7000
Absolute Furniture	
5520 W. North Ave.	875-8326
Adambomb Gallerie (tattoos, jewelry)	
524 S. 2nd St., 53204	276-BOMB
Avante Garde (Body Piercing, Tattoos)	
7219 W. Greenfield, Ave.	607-4068
Body Ritual (Body Piercing, Jewelry, Gifts)	
2010 N. Farwell Ave., 53202	273-3777
Clinton Street Antiques	
1110 South First Street	647-1773
Changin' Times	
932 E. Brady St., 53202	281-7473
Constant Reader Bookshop	
1627 E. Irving Pl., 53202	291-0452
Eclectic i (art/gifts)	
411 E. Silver Spring, Whitefish Bay, 53217	906-0665
Forever Yours (flowers, fresh cut, dried)	
2201 E. Capitol Dr., 53211	963-1006
Genesis (custom jeweler, goldsmith)	
6011 W. Layton Ave.	281-1022
Frank Gentile (Auto Dealer)	
Hwy 20, Racine	886-5111
Grava Gallery (framing)	
1209 E. Brady St., 53202	277-8228
Mega Discount Nursery	
1901 E. Rawson Ave., Oak Creek 53154	571-6565
Miss Groove (gifts)	
1225 E. Brady St., 53202	298-9185
Out of Solitude Jewelry	
918 E. Brady St., 53202	223-3101
Outpost Natural Foods	
100 E. Capitol Dr., 53212	964-7789
exchange@execpc.com	
Outwards (LGBT Books and espresso bar)	
2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211	963-9089
exchange@execpc.com	
Popular News (adult books, videos)	
225 N. Water St., 53202	278-0636
Rosebud Cinema and Drafthouse	
6833 W. North Ave.	607-9672
Rubin's	
224 E. Chicago St. 53202	278-8100
Sportland 2 (motorcycles)	
7221 S. 13th St.	764-2800
Video Adventures (video/dvd sales/rentals)	
1418 E. Brady St., 53202	272-6768
Wishful Things (Antiques)	
207 E. Buffalo, 53202	964-9799

Spa/Health Clubs

Midtowne Spa (Gay Health and Recreational Facility)	
315 S. Water St., 53204	278-8989

CENTRAL (715)

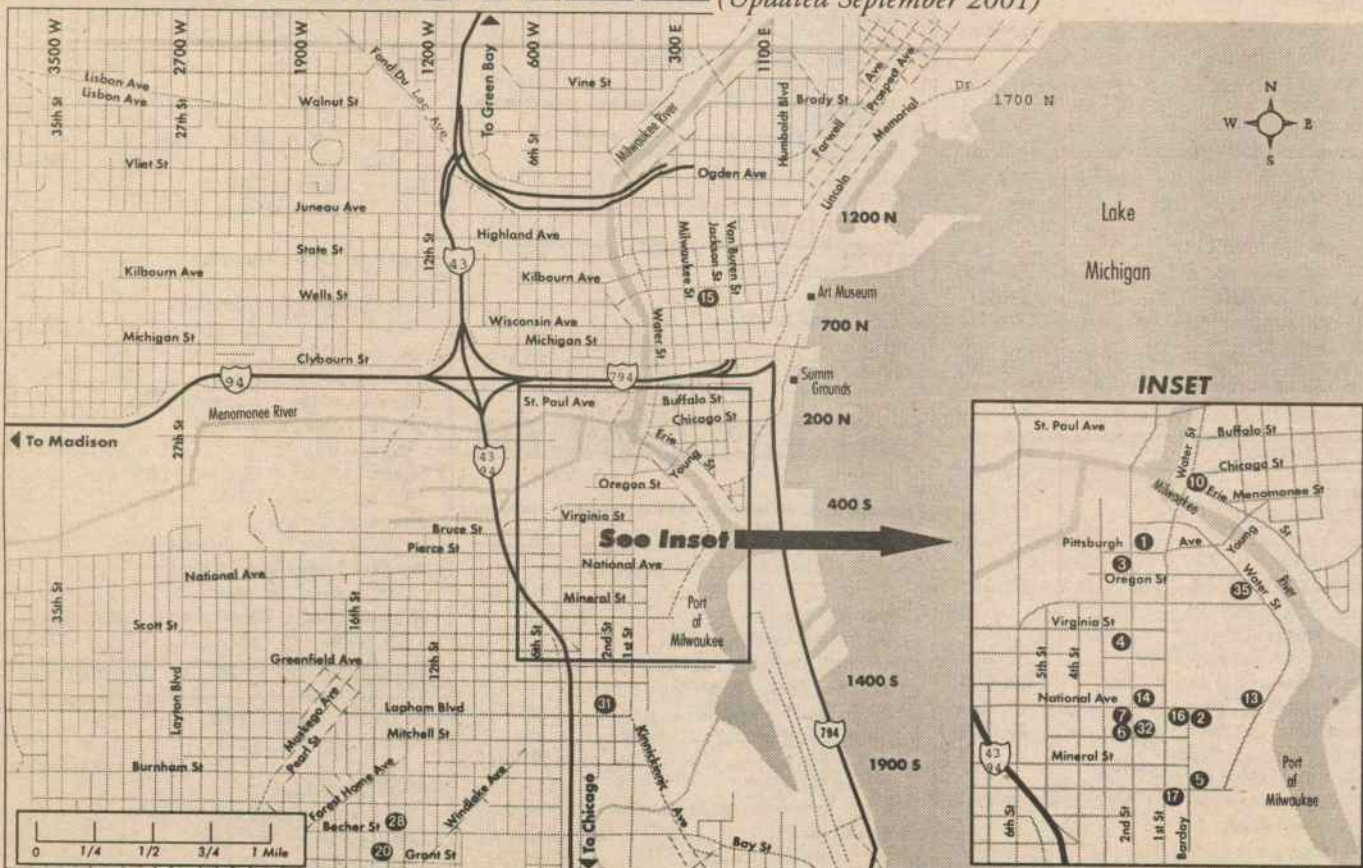
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin	
1105 Grand Ave., #3, Schollfield, 54476	(800) 551-3311
Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance	
P.O. Box 390, Stevens Point, 54481	
	(715) 592-6245, ext. 5920200
Joseph T. Chojnacki, PH.D. (Psychologist)	
Marshallfield Clinic, Marshallfield, 54449	387-5442
The Edgewater Inn & Resort	
Engle River, 54521	1-888-334-3987
http://www.edgewinn.com	
G&L Society/Wausau	848-0608
UWSP 10% Society	
Campus Activities Complex, Box 68	
UWSP, Stevens, Point, 54481	346-4366
LDS Brotherhood (Gay Mormons)	
PO Box 152, Wausau, 54402	848-0343
Oz (Mw, DJ, V)	
320 Washington, Wausau 54401	842-3225
HIV/AIDS Spiritual Support & Education	
2108 4th Ave., Stevens Point 54481	345-6500
Marshallfield Gay Lesbian Organ. (MGLO)	
c/o 130 S. Central Ave., #3 Marshallfield, 54449	
Vic: (715) 387-2068 Jim	(715) 384-6731
Prince Edward B&B	
203 W. 5th, Shawano 54166	526-2805
Wausau Narcotics Anonymous	
(ask for Gay meetings)	536-LIFE
Women's Resource Center UWSP	
336 Nelson Hall, Stevens Pt. 54481	346-4851

NORTH CENT. (715)

Gay/Lesbian Support Group	
Box 247A, 1411 Ellis Ave. Ashland 54806	
Northern WI Lambda Society	
PO Box 802, Rhinelander 54501	362-4242
SHEM (Support, Heal, Educate) for Parents, Family, Friends of Gays/Lesbians/Bi's	359-7432
Out Up North (G/L Social/Info/Network)	
PO Box 695, Washburn, 54891	682-2890

SHEBOYGAN (920)

Blue Lite (Mw) 1029 N. 8th, 53081	457-1636
Parents & Friends of Gays & Lesbians	
Shirley: 458-2506Carolyn: 467-0422	
Sheboygan Antiques	
336 Superior Avenue 53081	452-6757
Wesley United Methodist Church (Reconciling Congregation)	
823 Union Avenue, Sheboygan	458-4889

RACINE/KENOSHA**MILWAUKEE** (Updated September 2001)

Cordially Yours

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
1212 57th St., Kenosha, 53140 657-6644
(800) 924-6601

Club 94 (MW, DJ)
9001 120th Ave (Hwy 8 & I-94)
Kenosha 53140 857-9958

Doggie Style (Pet Grooming)
6828 Shendon Road, Kenosha 53143 657-5667

Frank Gentile (Auto Dealer)
Hwy 20 Racine 53403 886-5111

JoDee's (MW, DJ)
2139 Racine St (Hwy 32) Racine 53403 634-9804

What About Me? (WM)
600 6th St. Racine 53403 632-0171

Gay AA (Group 294 Meeting)
Gay/Lesbian Union of Racine 554-6611

625 College, Racine 53403 634-0659

UW-Parkside G/L Organization
900 Wood Rd., Box 200, Kenosha 53141 595-2244

PFLAG Kenosha/Racine (c/o St. Mary's Lutheran Church)
2001 80th St., Kenosha 53143 658-3555

UW-Whitewater G/L Student Union
309 McCutchen Hall, Whitewater 53190 472-5738

Diamond Hill Inn B&B
W1375 Hwy 11, Spring Prairie 63-4421

Wychwalde (Jewelry & Gifts)
8321 Antioch Rd (Hwy 83), Salem 53168 843-4209

SOUTH CENT. (715)

AIDS Network Satellite Office (AIDS Info)
P.O. Box 8486, Jonesville 53545 756-2550

Chase on the Hill (Bed and Breakfast)
11624 St. Rd 26, Milton, 53563 868-6646

Cathren House (B&B)
Mineral Point 987-2612

NORTHWEST (715)

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin—Eau Claire (www.arcw.org)
505 Dewey Street S., Suite 107 Eau Claire 54701 836-7710
(800) 750-2437

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin—Superior (www.arcw.org)
1507 Tower Ave., Suite 230, Superior 54880 394-4009
(877) 242-0282

Backwoods Bears (For Bear Men)
PO Box 264, Superior 54880

Different Strokes BBS (Computer Bulletin Board)
PO Box 152, Wausau 54402 842-1377

Do-Ri-Chi (Bed & Breakfast)
33 E. Spruce St., Chippewa Falls 723-0943

Eagle Cove B&B (eaglecove@comcast.net)
W4387 120th Avenue, Maiden Rock, 54750 448-4302

GLOBE (Campus Lesbians & Gays group)
105 Garfield, 132 Davies Ctr, Eau Claire 54701

JP Creations (WEB Design) 477-8802

LGBT Community Center of Chippewa Valley (gaycenter@hotmail.com)
www.geocities.com/glbtcmmunitycenter/
PO Box 383, Eau Claire, 54702 (715) 559-5751

The Trading Company (MW, DJ)
304 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire 54701 838-9494

The Main Club (MW, DJ)
1217 Tower Ave., Superior 54880 392-1756

Northland Gay Men's Center
8 N. 2nd Ave. E., Ste. 309 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 722-8585

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
Greater Chippewa Valley
PO Box 11, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0011

Q2 (social/support for LGBT youth)
P.O. Box 11, Eau Claire, WI 54702 836-7710

Scooter's (MW)
411 Galloway St., Eau Claire, 54703 835-9959

Trio (Wm)
820 Tower, Superior, 54880 392-5373

Twin Ports Pride
P.O. Box 3198, Duluth, MN 55803 (218) 728-5825

UW Stout 10% Society
c/o 153 C Harvey Hall, UW-S
Menomonie, 54751 UW Eau Claire

Variations on Spring (Gifts, Collectibles)
22 West Spring Chippewa Falls 54729 723-8490

S. WEST & CENTRAL

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (www.arcw.org)
Grandview Center, 1707 Main St., #420 (608) 785-9866
La Crosse, WI 54601 (800) 947-3353

The Alliance (LesBisGay Social Group)
PO Box 131, Platteville 53818 348-5596
e-mail: ALLIANCE@uwplatt.edu

Cavalier Lounge (MW, D)
114 N. 5th St., LaCrosse 54601 782-9061

Chela and Rose's B&B and Forest Retreat 735-4829

GALAXY (Gay Alliance of La Crosse Area Youth)
3219 Commerce St., La Crosse, 54603 781-2783

Gay & Lesbian Alliance
Box 131, Platteville, 53818

My Place (MW J)
3201 South Ave., LaCrosse 54601 788-9073

LaCrosse L/G Support Group
c/o Campus Ministry Center 784-7600

Leaping La Crosse News
Box 932, LaCrosse 54602

LaCrosse Parents & Friends of Gays 782-6082

Rainbow's End (G/S, WM), 417 Jay St., La Crosse 54601 782-9802

Under the Rainbow (Alternative Books)
122 5th Ave S, LaCrosse 54601 786-0383

Rainbow Ridge Farms Bed & Breakfast 783-8181

Pioneers (Southwest WI Rural G/L Alliance)
Code 4419, e-mail to pioneerswi@aol.com
PO Box 53, Richland Center, 53581

Players (MW DJ)

By Michael Johnston

As of this typing I'm still enjoying the afterglow of Thanksgiving – or too much turkey – I don't know which! But, here goes – this is by far more fun than shopping!

With all that's been happening as of late, I might as well start with Thanksgiving and retract. After a day of family and food, not necessarily in that order – it was off to **Club 219** and **"The HIT Welcome Show."** I've had the pleasure of hosting this event for the past 6 years or so and truly my Holiday wouldn't be complete without it... **Chuck** is always so kind and welcoming, not only letting us do the show there, but rehearse, rehearse and rehearse...

A visit to 219 isn't complete without connecting with **Kimberly Ann**, "The Goddess of the sound system." It's a shame he's hidden away, upstairs in his hallowed DJ booth, because of his sleeker, new millennium look – definitely blonder and better! The book that he could publish on this town would rock our world into the next millennium! Keep an eye out on Monday, Dec. 10: Kim is taking to the stage in a performance you will not want to miss!

Speaking of stages, the show was chock-full of entertainment gay-lore! The return of "Sonny & Cher," "The Chordettes," and a salute to "Moulin Rouge" featuring: Miss Candy Stick and Miss Sandy Shore, Imelda and Mesa, Wilma Finger-Do – "the first Lady" of Fluid – and Miss Nova DeVine – Club 219 Headliner, showing us all how to do it!

Backstage was a hoot too. Besides the legendary **Kimberly Ann**, **Candy Stratton** a gal who knows her way around the 219 stage, was performing incredible transformations, as glam as ever. The lovely **Lily White**, star of Club 219 for the past 7 years, put her considerable talents to use on my mug, making me camera ready. I am most grateful! Not an easy task... A little beef cake to go with your cheese cake was provided by Sugar Shayne, so sweet, and J.J. Armani, so continental, actually taking a bath on set – talk about good clean fun! **Mark Groth**, the HIT Director, was gallant enough to introduce and escort me out. All in all, a night that shall never be forgotten. I can't wait to see the video! Great working once again with: Jeff, Billy, **Mesa, Candy, Sandy, David, Mark(s), BoBo, Doug** and the rest – you're all Survivors in my book! P.S.: thanks for the pics, Wilma.

On Saturday, Nov. 10, **Paul Milakovich** hosted a kick-off party for **Mens Voices of Milwaukee (MVM)**. What a marvy mixture of the musical variety. On hand for the fashionable festivities were: **Patrick Farrell, James, Michael Jonas, Charlotte Lorraine, Rona, Ken McMonagle** – the Chorus maestro, **Bill Schumacher**, its G.M., **Mark P., David Sagura** and MVM members. **Peter** of The **M&M Club** did a bombastic job of bartending. **Berniece's Catering** was simply sensational, and a good time was had by one and all.

Now I can attest to the fact that they certainly know how to party. To see them do their "thing," one and all are welcome to their debut concert on Saturday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. at Centennial Hall of the Milwaukee Public Library. A Silent Auction will be held before the show and during the intermission, along with refreshments furnished by the Miller Brewing Company.

The **Wisconsin Cream City Chorus** celebrates the Season in Song Sunday, Dec. 16 at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire St. Their 15th annual holiday songfest, "The Best of the Best," will feature a number from every year.

Earlier, you can start your day out at the unveiling of **"The Faces of AIDS: A Photo Documentary from the Heartland."** It's in the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts Atrium from 4-5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, which is World AIDS Day. This reception of recognition and awareness is brought to us by The Wisconsin AIDS Board and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW).

The next night Sunday, Dec. 2, the staff of **The Boot Camp Saloon** will be hosting their annual "Holiday Dinner Party and Silent Auction" at **The M&M Club** at 5:30 p.m. Cocktails and Dinner follow at 7 p.m. Proceeds from this celebration will benefit the G/L Community Trust Fund.

Cocktail Chatter Catch-up: I swear I just report something to you and it changes. The only thing constant in this world seems to be change! **Lee** has returned to **Club Boom** after a brief sabbatical. You can catch his smiling face and eyes, among other things every Thursday, every other Saturday, and starting the first of the year, every Sunday, with the new season of "Queer As Folk."

David E. is still tuning up the tunes at **Fannies** every Friday and Saturday. He announced he'll be spinning us into 2002 on New Years Eve. I wonder if he'll have a ball or two to drop at the bewitching hour? By the by, had a fabu time at your "Tiki After Bar Party." You're an outstanding host-ess! Loved the grass skirts – careful of those garden snakes...

For the Karaoke queens out there (and you all know who you are): **Singsational Productions** are still entertaining capacity crowds at **The M&M Club** every second Saturday of the month. I was there for the November show and **Jon aka Lizzie Borduex** and **Corliss** were there giving their considerable all, with help from **Passion Patty, Ebbie** looking better than ever, and **Shirl**. Looking forward to their Seasonal Carol-Fest Saturday, Dec. 8. 'Tis the season, you know...

After giving them a listen, head over to **South Water Street Docks** as they mark their 7th Anniversary! Yes, the seven year itch, indeed! There will be a complimentary Christmas Buffet, Drink Specials and a night to remember!

Walker's Pint, the newest bar in the Walker's Point area offers Karaoke with Tempting Tim, every other Wednesday.

Switch offers Karaoke every Thursday. De-Lite-Ful De handles it the first week of every month, followed by **Jazzin' Jeffrey T.**, and on the third week it's **Joshing Josh's** turn to get you up and

out of your seats. To round out the month out J.J.T. (Jazzin' Jeffrey T.) returns. And yes Honey, with this figure I remember "Breakfast At Tiffany's" – too many donuts ...

Billy and Jimmy invite you all to **Fluid's Festive Gala**, Tuesday, Dec. 11.. You must catch **David Howser** (Milwaukee's answer to Dame Edna Everidge, formerly known as Miss Diana Ross). Rumor has it his holiday decorations will be picture perfect!

For you football nuts out there **Woody's** is always a great place to watch the Packers!

I had the incredible opportunity to enjoy the opening of The Florentine Opera's 69th Season with Puccini's "Tosca." It was such a beautiful evening, it was unfortunate it wasn't outdoors. Naturally, I saw a lot of familiar faces and may I say how smashing you all looked! **Johnny & Matt, Jerry, Corey & Ting** and **Miss Rona & Holly** – they truly are turning into my favorite "supercouple" of this century. Who needs Liz & Dick?

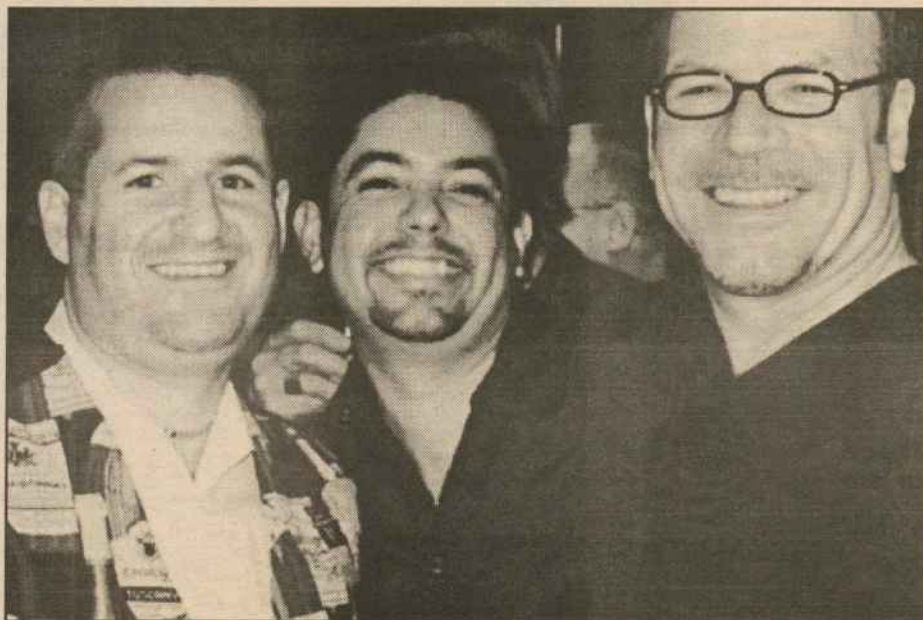
Bialystock & Bloom continues to astound me with their thought-provoking, insightful productions. This time out, we saw Wendy MacLeod's "The House Of Yes," a very timely play, revolving around a family gathering for Thanksgiving. It gave a totally different view to the old adage: Incest is best, put your sister to the test! No topic is too taboo...

Dinner started the evening off at **Celia's** at **The Pfister**. The difference between Celia's and The English Room (as it was formerly known) is literally night and day! Perhaps, just a bit too bright for me – a dimmer switch would help. When you turn a certain age and all, you seek a little subtlety. The food, however, as well as the presentation was perfection! A very vivacious server named **Trish** was on hand, and speaking of her hand, she had just become engaged and I don't know which blinded me more, her radiant smile or her ring – who knows? Or was that Husar's?

On another food note, I was invited to **Cafe LuLu's** "Grand Opening." It was so fun, so fresh, so friendly it was like a family reunion! You simply have to try this simply de-vine eatery on the other fashionable east side. **Sarah** and **Cammy** rolled out the red carpet of hospitality and it was like Thanksgiving! So thankful...

I visited Santa's workshop – oops – no it was **Tod and Lee's** Holiday Party. What a time... lights, trees, elves, ooh my!

Remember, it's the glamour, not the grammar. Yet, I shall remain ... "Cordially Yours,"



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