

Words & Pics



Photos by Erin Criss

Wreck Room Classic umpires enjoy a brief respite at Shadows prior to a long Saturday afternoon of softball games. More photos on Page 26.

a pure hustle.

Shadows in Milwaukee is just right: the atmosphere is open and loosely gay; the food is warm, American, and excellent in every detail, and the prices are a bargain for everybody.

Frank follows the tradition of Milwaukee bar owners: they live with their customers, they don't exploit them. In Milwaukee you have to stay friendly to stay in business: there are not that many tourists to rip off.

Shadows is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, 7 days a week, 11 to 11, and the bar stays open til 2.

Ricky, the Milwaukee Mick Jagger, and **Joe**, the Milwaukee Clark Kent, are sweetheart bartenders. They are great guys to wait around with until there is a table for dinner, and great guys to have after-dinner drinks with.

Dale is a courteous waiter. And **Mark** and **Jack** are real down home cooks: you won't get better cooked eggs and hunks of ham, pork chops,

and steaks, and broccoli in any restaurant.

That's the point. Shadows is a first rate restaurant first, and a first rate place for gays.

Guys come in business suits for a working lunch, or in softball uniforms and cleats for breakfast before the games and lunch and drinks after.

Breakfasts and lunches run around \$3; dinners between \$5 and \$9.

Frank realized that a lot of gays live semi-transient lives and he wants them to have a well-balanced meal they can afford.

He is generous with his blue cheese dressing and sour cream.

His desserts of hot apple pie or cheese cake will make you forget your last trick.

And if you go to Milwaukee as a visitor, you will probably find that Shadows will be your home base there too.

— JON-HENRI DAMSKI
— ERIN CRISS