

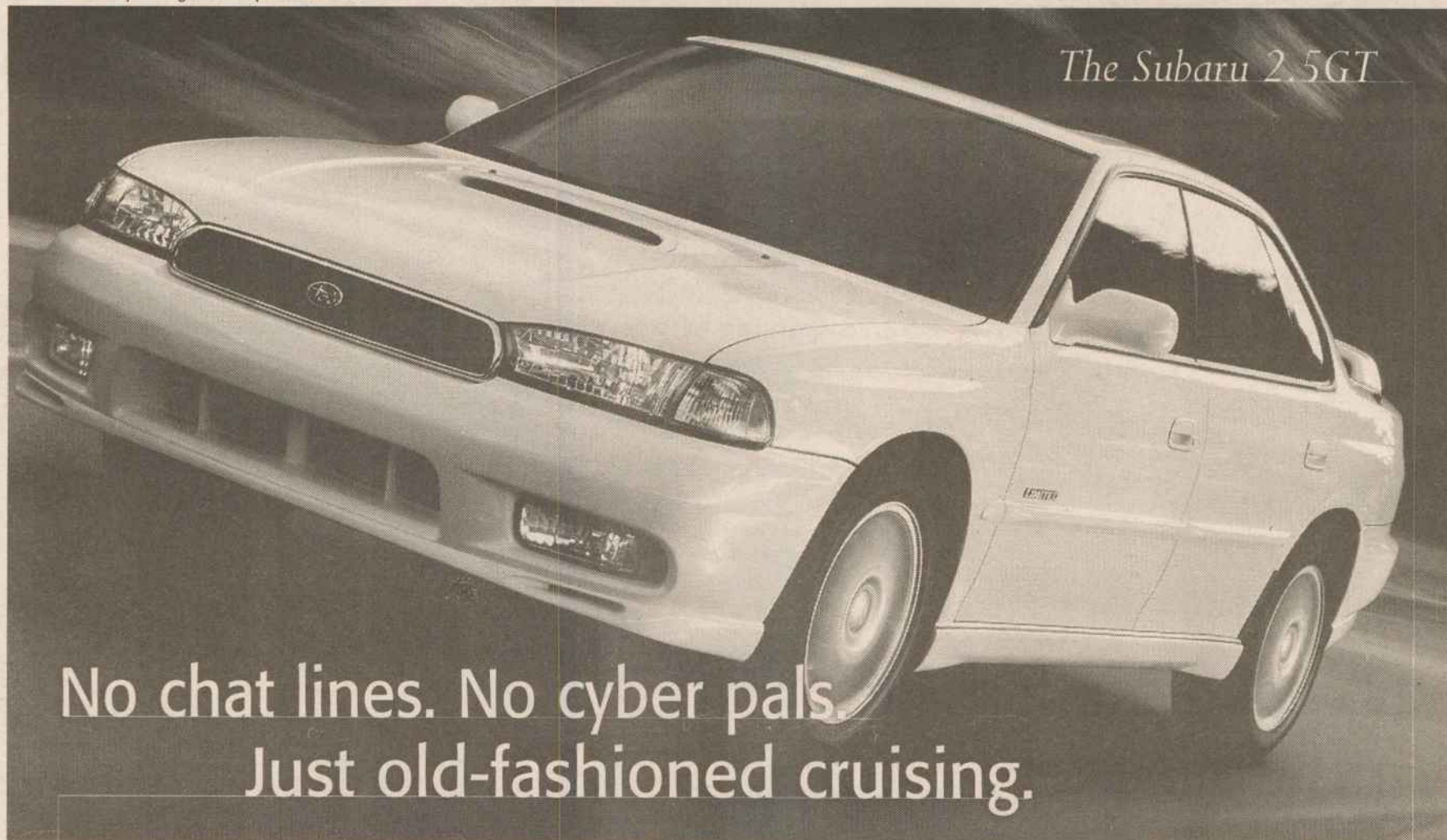
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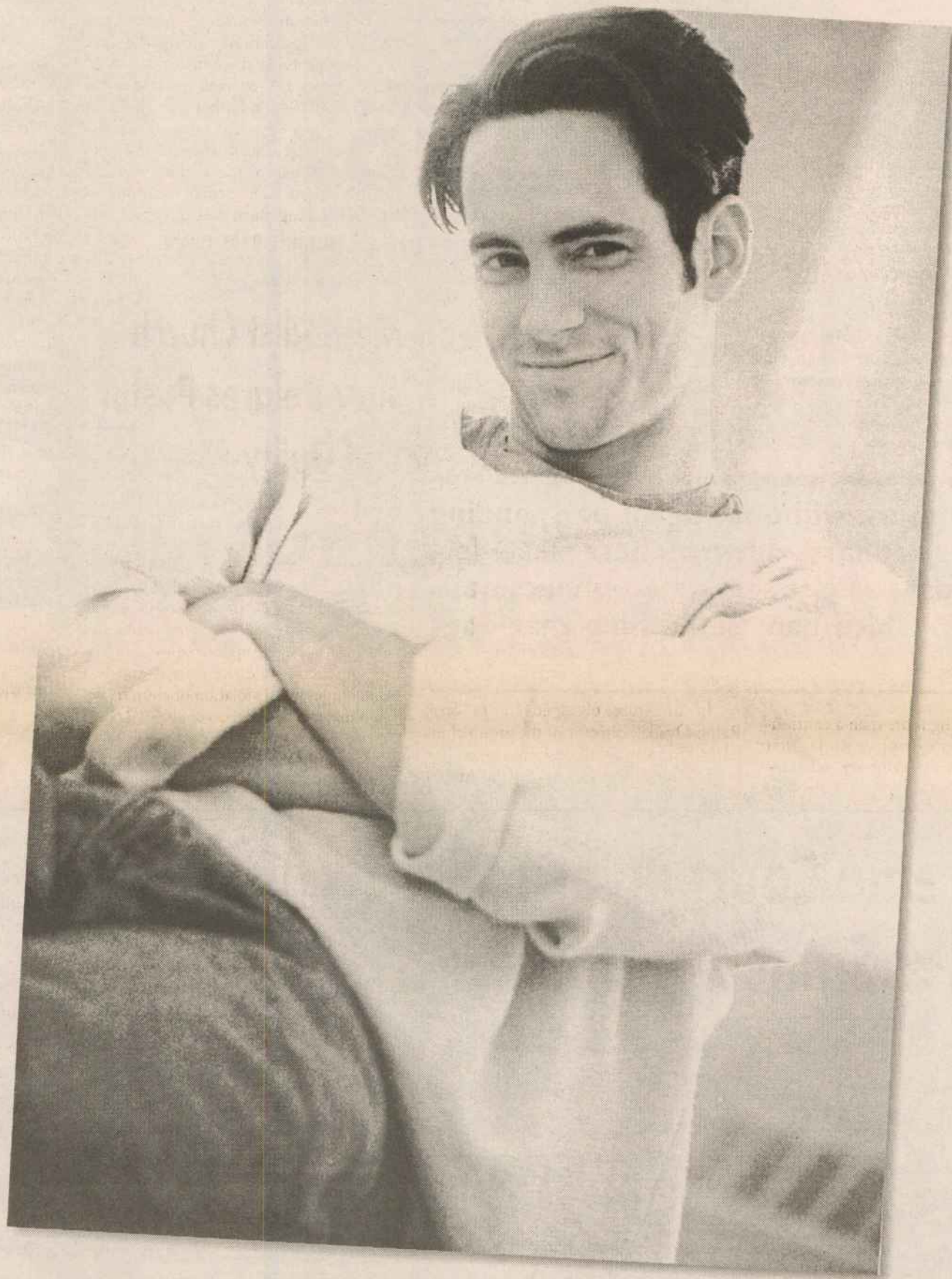
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news

Lobbying Efforts Force Senate Hearing on Wisconsin Anti-Gay Marriage Bill

by William Attewell
of the In Step Staff

Madison — A bill that would ban gay marriages in the State of Wisconsin has been scheduled for a public hearing on March 18th before the Senate Judiciary Committee with a chance the full Senate could vote on the bill by the end of the Legislative session this spring.

The bill, AB104, introduced by Rep. Lorraine Serrati (R-Spread Eagle) passed the Wisconsin State Assembly on May 13, 1997 by a vote of 78 to 20.

"The Legislature will once again be spending taxpayers dollars during these last few 'crunch' days of the session on unnecessary legislation which bans something that does not exist," points out Walt Jackson, President of Action Wisconsin, a LGBT civil rights organization.

ships and create an unsafe living environment for lesbians and gays," adds Jackson.

In addition to AB104, the committee will hear testimony on other controversial bills, including a proposed ban on partial-birth abortions.

"It remains unclear which bills may advance through the Senate. But, people concerned about AB104 must definitely remain vigilant," State Representative Tammy Baldwin told *In Step*.

"My guess is that the bill that up for hearing this week, were all scheduled because of the pressure placed on the Senate for action, as well as the fact that we are nearing the end of the 1997-98 legislative session," added Baldwin.

In recent weeks, Wisconsin Christians United, a religious right-wing group in support of the bill mounted an intense lobbying effort to bring AB104 to a vote.

onto the Senate floor for a vote."

The fate of AB104 may ride on a special election, to be held on April 7, to fill the Senate seat vacated by State Sen. Lynn Adelman. The election will decide which party controls the Senate, and thus the future of the bill.

According to sources, it is expected that if the Republicans secure the seat [and a majority in the Senate] that they would call for a three week special session at which AB104, and other bills could be voted on.

Action Wisconsin is encouraging concerned persons to focus their written remarks, phone calls or email to committee members asking them not to report out the bill for a vote in the Senate.

In Step will continue to follow this story as it develops.

Methodist Church Jury Delares Pastor Not Guilty

by Keith Clark
of the In Step Staff

Kearney, NE — An ecclesiastical jury of the United Methodist Church has concluded that the Rev. Jimmy Creech did in fact conduct a same-sex union ceremony but failed — by a single vote — to agree that conducting the rite for gay and lesbian couples was a violation of church law. The jury of ministers voted 11-2 that Creech had in fact conducted a homosexual union ceremony and then voted 8-5

that he had not violated church law in doing so. Nine votes would have been needed for the jury to find him guilty on the charge.

Nebraska Methodist Bishop Joel Martinez, who earlier this year suspended Creech for conducting a union for two women and referred the matter to a church trial, said after the 13-member court decision, "The church has spoken. We trust and honor the process."

Bishop Martinez ordered Creech reinstated as the senior pastor at the First United Methodist Church of Omaha, the church's flagship church in that city. "Rev. Creech is an elder in good standing with the United Methodist Church," the bishop said, "His appointment is to First United Methodist Church in Omaha. His suspension is lifted."

In a statement following the trial, the jurors — all of whom were Methodist ministers like Creech himself — said in a statement that they "agonized" over their verdict. "We gathered in prayer, in silence, and in respectful dialogue," the statement said. "Our vote reflects the difficulty the General Conference has experienced with this issue."

The 53-year-old Creech himself told reporters later he was surprised by the decision. "Frankly, I wasn't prepared for the verdict to be innocent," he said. "I'm in shock, and I'm very pleased."

Creech himself said later that he would continue to perform same-sex unions if asked to by gays and lesbians wanting to formalize their relationships with the blessings of the church.

The Legislature will once again be spending taxpayers dollars during these last few 'crunch' days of the session on unnecessary legislation which bans something that does not exist."

"This is nothing more than a continuation of the right-wing agenda that attempts to discredit same-sex relation-

In literature obtained by *In Step*, Ralph Ovadal, director of the group chided to group to "find and encourage one honorable state senator to ... bring AB104

Supreme Court Rules Federal Law Covers Same-Sex Job Harassment

by Keith Clark
of the In Step Staff

Washington, D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court has unanimously ruled that the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits sexual harassment at the workplace, even when the individuals involved are of the same gender.

The ruling came in a closely watched case initiated by Joseph Oncale, a Louisiana man who charged in a lawsuit that he was sexually harassed and menaced by a male supervisor and two other male co-workers during his employment on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico.

Attorneys for Sundowner Offshore Services, operators of the oil rig and Oncale's employer at the time, argued that the behavior was just male "locker-room horseplay" and that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 didn't cover such behavior involving members of the same sex.

A federal appeals court in New Orleans had dismissed Oncale's lawsuit, saying that the 1964 act prohibited sexual harassment on the job only when it involved members of the opposite sex, not members of the same sex.

But the Supreme Court justices agreed in its fairly short seven-page ruling that the act also applies in cases where the harasser and victim are the same gender. The ruling reinstates Oncale's suit and orders a rehearing of the case.

In writing the court's opinion, however, Justice Antonin Scalia said that the federal sexual harassment restrictions should be applied only if the conduct that's alleged is serious enough to cause an abusive or hostile environment in the workplace. The ruling says that to

establish a legal case the harassment or discrimination has to be shown to be clearly based on gender, "not merely tinged with offensive sexual connotations."

Justice Scalia wrote that the 1964 act "does not reach genuine but innocuous differences in the ways men and women routinely interact with members of the same sex and of the opposite sex. The prohibition of harassment on the basis of sex ... forbids only behavior

so objectively offensive as to alter the conditions of the victim's employment."

The opinion addressed the objections raised by Sundowner Offshore Services, saying the 1964 act "does not prohibit all verbal or physical harassment in the workplace; it is directly only at discrimination because of sex. We have always regarded that requirement as crucial, and as sufficient to ensure that courts and juries do not mistake ordinary socializing in the workplace — such as male-on-male horseplay or intersexual flirtation — for discriminatory conditions of employment."

Among other things, Justice Scalia said the "context" of such charges of same-gender harassment should

be taken into consideration.

"A professional football player's working environment is not severely or pervasively abusive, for example, if the coach smacks him on the buttocks as he heads onto the field — even if the same behavior would reasonably be experienced as abusive by the coach's secretary [male or female] back at the office."

In the past few years, several state and federal courts have reached widely differing conclusions about same-gender workplace harassment. Some state courts have recognized their state laws as prohibiting on-the-job same-sex harassment, while federal courts have reached differing conclusions.

In his original lawsuit, Oncale claimed that during his four months working as an oil rig laborer in 1991, he was sexually assaulted, battered, touched and threatened with rape by his immediate supervisor, John Lyons, and another supervisor, Danny Phippen. A co-

"This lays down a standard for every employer so that he or she understands that sexual harassment of any kind cannot be tolerated in the workplace and will not be tolerated by a court."

workers, Brandon Johnson, was charged in the suit with helping in one of the alleged incidents.

Oncale says in the suit that he reported the charges to the oil rig's site manager twice, but nothing was done to stop the alleged abuses. Finally, Oncale says, he quit because of concerns he would in fact be raped by the men.

The Supreme Court ruling carefully avoids any reference to sexual orientation, but gay rights advocates nevertheless hailed the decision.

Kerry Lobell of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said, "This lays down a standard for every employer so that he or she understands that sexual harassment of any kind cannot be tolerated in the workplace and will not be tolerated by a court."

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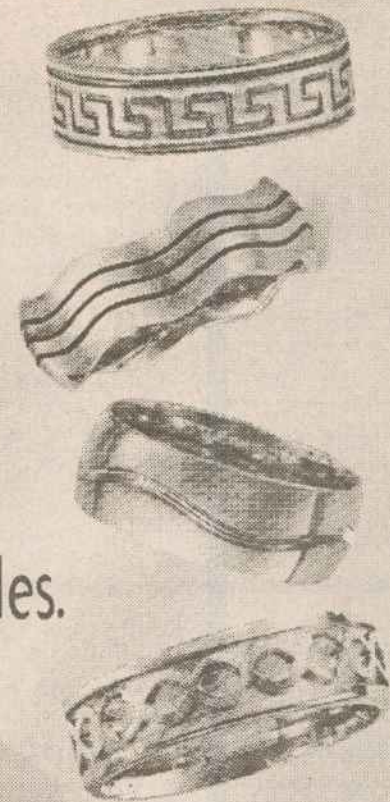


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Quick Changes in Boy Scouts

by Keith Clark
of the In Step Staff

Trenton, NJ — Just being gay isn't sufficient reason for the Boy Scouts of America to exclude homosexuals from the youth organization and is a violation of state anti-bias laws, a three-judge panel of the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court ruled in overturning a lower court decision.

The appeals court ruling comes amid reports that the national Scouting organization has already changed its policies against gays in one smaller program the youth group runs around the country.

The New Jersey court said in its ruling that the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and its affiliated local councils are "places of accommodation" that "emphasize open membership" which makes them subject to the state's anti-bias laws that in 1992 were broadened to bar discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The court ruled that the Scouts are similar to other groups, such as Little League baseball or student dining clubs at Princeton University, that must adhere to state anti-discrimination laws even if they are "private associations."

The appeals court decision, the first of its kind in the U.S., overturns a lower court ruling that sided with the Boy Scouts in a lawsuit filed by James Dale, who was expelled as an assistant scoutmaster by the organization in 1990 after it learned he was an officer in the Rutgers University Lesbian/Gay Alliance.

The court decision comes on the heels of reports that the national Boy Scout leadership has in fact already changed its policies of a division of its Explorer scouting programs so they will actually be open to gays, girls and those who don't believe in god.

The *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* reported that the BSA's national executive board in February made the changes in the "Venturing division" of Explorer Scout units. The newspaper reported that Gregg Shields of the national group had confirmed the executive board had eliminated the requirement that boys in the Venturing division of the Explorer Scouts would not require a pledge of religious belief in god and would have no restrictions against gays or girls.

The Venturing program is aimed mainly at urban youth between the ages of 14 to 20 years and focuses mainly on career choices instead of traditional camping and outdoor activities most people associate with scouting.

Federal courts have consistently ruled in favor of the Boy Scouts' right to exclude atheists and agnostics who refuse to pledge their belief in god and its right to exclude girls.

State courts around the country have handed down mixed rulings, and the California state supreme court is currently reviewing conflicting lower state court rulings on the Scouts' policies regarding gays, girls and the non-religious.

But in February, Chicago authorities officially severed city sponsorship of Scouting programs in that city until the organization drops its ban against gays and stops requiring a religious oath. San Francisco made a similar move a few years ago and dropped its support for the youth groups in the city because of the Scouts' anti-gay restrictions.

And at the beginning of the year, Scouting leaders in Milwaukee beat the national executive board to the punch in its own Explorer programs, a move that in fact may have been instrumental in con-

vincing the national executive board that such a "two-standards" policy could work.

The shift, however, raises legal questions for others about whether the organization has effectively created a kind of "separate but equal" policy within the Boy Scouts — and whether the non-discrimination policies will in fact be applied or instead will be only a "paper policy."

Jon Davidson of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund, however, said he considers the change in policy "a partial victory" in the sense that it at least offers "a way that people who want to participate in scouting can."

In a larger sense, Davidson speculated that the Boy Scouts are "recognizing that discrimination is legally problematic for them and is creating a public relations and community problem" that they are trying to find a way out of. "They can't run a discriminatory program and at the same time have it supported by arms of government, like the police and fire departments," he said.

Mounting Woes May Mean the End for 'Ellen'

Los Angeles — "Ellen" is coming under attack again — just as ABC prepares to decide the fate of the controversial show. In a major blow to the already-struggling series, ABC affiliate WSYX in Columbus, Ohio, is considering a plan



to yank "Ellen" from its lineup — and replace the lesbian-themed comedy with syndicated repeats of "Seinfeld."

Indeed, DeGeneres is already planning for the end of her show. Sources say "Ellen's" writers and producers have written a one-hour, star-studded series finale which would be broadcast in May.

Among the big names scheduled to appear in what ABC is officially calling a "special" episode: Helen Hunt, Tim Conway, Kathy Najimy, Julianna Margulies, Jada Pinkett Smith, Woody Harrelson, Cindy Crawford, Ted Danson and Mary Steenburgen. The plot of the episode details how each of the show's regular characters met one another, sources say.

Viewers in Columbus might not get a chance to see the episode, however. The station last week informed ABC that it probably won't air "Ellen" when the show returns from its hiatus next month according to a report in *Variety*.

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Researchers: Physiological Differences Between Lesbians and Non-Gay Women

by Keith Clark
of the In Step Staff

Austin, TX — Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin report in the journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, what they say is the first evidence of a physiological basis for differences in sexual orientation between non-gay women and lesbians.

According to the scientists, lesbians hear very soft noises different from non-gay women. It is already known that women in general hear such noises different from men, but the Texas researchers say their study shows that lesbians also hear such sounds, on average, differently from non-gay women.

Ed Pasanen of the experimental psychology department at the University of Texas, who co-wrote the research report, said the study will have to be replicated by other scientists, but that he is convinced their findings will be confirmed.

The idea for the study arose from earlier research which noted that there were differences in the inner ear structures of women who had twin brothers and women who did not.

Among other things, the inner ear produces minute echoes in response to weak clicking sounds — a fact that doctors have used for some time to diagnose possible hearing difficulties in babies. But in females, these imperceptible echoes are generally slightly louder than in males for reasons scientists don't yet understand.

Prof. Dennis McFadden, an experimental psychologist at the University of Texas who headed the study, used this difference in weak echoes to mea-

“The interpretation is that the auditory system has been masculinized along with whatever brain sites are controlling sexual preference.”

sure the tiny clicking echoes in 237 male and female students and volunteers.

Prof. McFadden and his associates found that overall, the echoes measured among the 61 lesbian and bisexual women were noticeably weaker than those of the 57 heterosexual women in the study. The imperceptible sounds of both the lesbians and straight women were, however, still stronger than the 119 men involved in the study, and the researchers said they found no measurable differences between lesbians and bisexual women, not between gay and straight men.

Prof. McFadden said, “The interpretation is

that the auditory system has been masculinized along with whatever brain sites are controlling sexual preference.”

The researchers suggested that low levels of male hormones circulating in all the bodies of all pregnant women might be “masculinizing” unborn girls in their mothers’ wombs, possibly affecting their anatomy.

Other studies have indicated genetic differences and distinctions in parts of the brain between gay and straight males, but similar physiological research into differences between lesbians and heterosexual women has not been done until this study, the scientists say.

‘Seinfeld’ Menu Seems Tasteless

Los Angeles — You might want to think twice before ordering at the “Seinfeld” diner. It appears it may have tasteless fare.

The menu board at Monk’s, the make-believe hangout for Jerry and the gang, tends toward unappetizing and even profane items in a photograph printed in the April issue of *Swing* magazine.

Besides a grilled burger “on Lice,” the menu includes a “Double Chili Butt Burger” and “2 Large Fresh Homos.” It’s enough to drive a hungry customer into the arms of the Soup Nazi.

The picture was shot on the “Seinfeld” set in early December as part of a profile of producers Jeff Schaffer and Alec Berg, *Swing* spokeswoman Tory Johnson said.

It was unclear if the menu board, tucked into a corner of the set, has ever made it into an episode of the show with off-color listings intact. According to *Swing*’s photo caption, Schaffer and Berg devised the menu.

A call for comment from the pair and from series producer Castle Rock Entertainment was not immediately returned Tuesday. NBC declined comment. Whether intended as an in-house gag or not, the display’s reference to homosexuals tasted sour to some.

“It sounds fairly anti-gay to me and certainly not in keeping with the show’s progressive outlook on life,” said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest gay and lesbian political organization.

“At the same time, in the context of that entire menu, it sounds ridiculously juvenile,” he said.

“Seinfeld,” the No. 1 comedy on television, is wrapping up its nine-season run this May.

“I doubt very seriously there will be protests outside of the ‘Seinfeld’ set for anti-gay bias,” Smith said. “However, it’s clearly offensive and juvenile and should be taken down.”

NEWS WIRE

Aussie Golfer Says Half LPGA Are Lesbians

SYDNEY — Australian golfer Nicole Lowien says in an opinion piece in the magazine “Golf Australian” that half of the plays in the Ladies Professional Golf Association are lesbians.

“I’ve got no problem with what I said, none at all,” Lowien said later. “I think it needed to be said. I just wanted to give the players’ point of view. I don’t regret writing it at all.”

Lowien described herself as “fully heterosexual” but said, “I think the more open you can be on the subject the better.”

Gay Legislator Wants to Repeal Missouri Anti-Sex Law

JEFFERSON, MO — Acknowledging that its a futile effort, Missouri state Rep. Tim Van Zandt (D-Kansas City), the state’s first openly gay lawmaker, has nevertheless introduced a measure that would make homosexual sex legal in private in the state.

Missouri, along with Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas and Maryland, is one of the states with laws prohibiting same-sex sodomy, and Van Zandt says that outlawing gay sex is simply wrong and discriminatory.

Van Zandt admitted, however, that the chances of the legislature repealing the state’s anti-gay-sex law is negligible but said that the issue needed to be debated to illustrate “government being in places it shouldn’t be.”

Glaxo-Wellcome to Cut AZT Prices in Developing Countries

WASHINGTON, D.C. — British drug manufacturer Glaxo-Wellcome says it will cut the price of the AIDS drug AZT for pregnant women in poor countries in a move it says should help minimize the spread of HIV from mothers to their newborn infants.

Researchers say giving AZT to pregnant women infected with HIV can sharply reduce the risk the infection will be passed on to their babies. But the drug is often not affordable in many developing countries, which account from some 90 percent of the world’s AIDS cases.

An AZT treatment for pregnant women, which usually lasts several months, can cost as much as a thousand dollars, health care specialists say. But Glaxo-Wellcome now says the cost will be cut up to 75 percent in developing nations, and that a shorter course of treatment, to be administered only for several weeks before birth, could be as low as just \$50 instead.

Earlier this year, researchers in Thailand reported that a short, 3-week course of treatment with AZT given to pregnant women daily, cut transmission rates by half.

6th Colo. City OKs Gay Rights Measure; Foes Vow Repeal

FT. COLLINS, CO — Ft. Collins became the sixth city in Colorado to pass an anti-bias ordinance when the city council unanimously voted on March 3 to enact the legislation.

But opponents of the new measure, which is slated to take effect March 13, immediately announced they would begin a petition drive to reverse the council’s actions and repeal the ordinance.

“We do not need the ordinance for a lifestyle which I believe is a chosen lifestyle,” said Ken Stephens, pastor of the Front Range Baptist Church and a staunch foe of the new measure.

Opponents would have to collect only 1,783 valid signatures of registered voters in the city to force a referendum vote on the measure. Denver, Boulder, Aspen, Telluride and Crested Butte all have similar anti-discrimination protections.

Man Found Guilty in Stalking Steven Spielberg

LOS ANGELES — A jury found ex-convict Jonathan Norman guilty of stalking film producer/director Steven Spielberg. Because Norman has two previous felony convictions, he faces a mandatory sentence under the state’s “three strikes” law of 25 years to life in prison.

Norman was charged after he made two attempts to break into Spielberg’s home last year and police said he had

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Schools and Universities to Observe National Day of Silence

Charlottesville, VA — The National Day of Silence, the largest national (US) lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (lgbt) awareness event run by and for youth, will take place on April 8, 1998. Already more than 100 high schools, colleges and universities have signed on to participate.

The first Day of Silence was held at the University of Virginia in April 1996 and has since spread nationwide.

On the National Day of Silence, supporters of lgbt rights take a nine-hour vow of silence (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.) to draw attention to the silence that homophobia causes.

Instead of speaking, participants hand out cards that read: "Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I support lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights. People who are silent today believe that laws and attitudes should be inclusive of people of all sexual orientations. The Day of Silence is to draw attention to those who have been silenced by hatred, oppression, and prejudice. Think about the voices you are not hearing. What can you do to end the silence?"

After the silence hours, organizers hold events to further educate people about homophobia and other LGBT issues.

The National Day of Silence is organized by a volunteer staff of full time students. Jessie Gilliam and Maria Pulzetti, co-chairs of the event, are featured in the "Profile in Courage" in the March issue of Oasis Magazine (www.oasismag.com). They have also been invited to appear as keynote speakers at Youth Pride Day in Washington, D.C. on April 18.

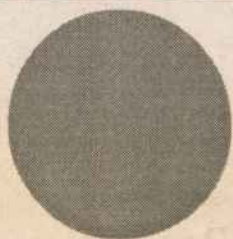
National Day of Silence Co-chair Maria Pulzetti comments, "I have watched this event grow from a first-time event at a conservative university to a national and even international movement of youth working to end homophobia. The strength of this event lies in the fact that it

fills a real need for solidarity among youth concerned about lgbt rights. The National Day of Silence is the only national event created and organized by youth. The collective statement we make is staggering."

The National Day of Silence has received organizational endorsements from the Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network (GLSEN), Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), Advocates for Youth, !OutProud!, And Justice for All, and Youth Guardian Services.

If you or someone you know attends a school, college, or youth group and would like to participate in the National Day of Silence, please contact your regional coordinator (see web page, <http://www.youth-guard.org/ndos>) or send e-mail inquiries to mkp6n@unix.mail.virginia.edu

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Presbyterians Again Trying to Decide on Gay Clergy

by Keith Clark
of the In Step Staff

Louisville, KY — The Presbyterian Church (USA) is once again in the midst of what to many seems like an endless debate over whether or not gays and lesbians can assume leadership roles in the 3.7-million member denomination while remaining sexually active.

Sometime in March, a majority of the denomination's 172 regional bodies or presbyteries will probably have voted to uphold a year-old amendment to the church's governing laws that affirms, once again, the church's refusal to accept non-celibate homosexual clergy and officers.

It is the second time in as many years that the country's largest Presbyterian denomination has debated a 1978 policy, that largely went unenforced. The current issue, however, would add the unwritten policy to the denomination's "Book of Order" and thereby make it an unavoidable obstacle for gays and lesbians in the church.

An amendment, initially approved last year, requires "fidelity within the covenant of marriage of a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness" among ordained ministers, elders and deacons. Since gays and lesbians cannot legally marry in the U.S. now, the amendment effectively amounted to a ban on homosexuals serving as clergy or holding office in the denomination.

The church's presbyteries approved those standards a year ago by a vote of 97-74. But, reflecting the divisive nature of the issue, the actual total votes cast within all the presbyteries were almost evenly divided for and against.

Then, proving that a vote actually settled nothing, the church's governing general assembly in June proposed the softer approach of what is known as Amendment A.

The slight but significant change in the current proposed Amendment A would soften the earlier rule to require instead "fidelity and integrity in marriage or singleness, and in all relationships of life."

The United Church of Christ is the only major Protestant denomination that encourages its 6,100 member churches to be "open and affirming" toward gay clergy and congregants, although only about 220 of its congregations have actually passed affirming declarations to that effect.

But for most denominations, the question is far from settled. The 5.2-million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for instance, has taken up the debate several times in recent years, yet it remains an ongoing issue of contention within the denomination. A Lutheran clergyman in Iowa had his ordination revoked in February because he believes gays and lesbians should be given a church blessing of their unions. In San

Francisco, two ELCA congregations have been expelled for refusing to adhere to the ban on non-celibate gay clergy.

Supporters of the proposed "softer" Presbyterian amendment argue it would allow the denomination to continue examining of the role of gays and lesbians and increase the possibility of reaching a true consensus on what has been a deeply divisive issue.

"It gives our dear church the room and space we need to continue the conversation," argues the Rev. Ted Wardlaw, pastor of Atlanta's Central Presbyterian Church.

But opponents of the softer amendment charge that the change would undermine biblical teachings about sexuality and leave the Presbyterians more or less where they were 20 years ago on the issue — and no closer to consensus.

Theological differences over how literally the Bible should be interpreted is at the heart of much of the debate. But the Rev. Jerry Van Marter, director of the Louisville-based Presbyterian News Service, also sees other forces at work.

"The question is, to what extent does the church become captive to the culture?" said Van Marter. "We're engaged in the same kind of ambivalent struggle over homosexuality as American society at large."

And there's no question that the struggle is keenly watched. The results of the individual presbytery votes are revised almost daily on the church's Internet site.

In early March, Van Marter put the unofficial tally at 83-40 in favor of retaining the stricter "fidelity and chastity" amendment - just four votes

"The question is, to what extent does the church become captive to the culture? We're engaged in the same kind of ambivalent struggle over homosexuality as American society at large."

away from the 87 needed for a simple majority. The latest official count stands at 61-30.

Scott Anderson, who is co-moderator of Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns and executive director of the California Council of Churches, attributes the likely imminent defeat to "amendment fatigue."

A decade or two ago, those who favored the ordination of non-celibate gay clergy would have been lucky to garner 15 percent of the vote, he believes. That 43 percent of the presbyteries came to their support in 1997 is proof that sentiments have changed, says Anderson, who refuses to be deterred by this year's setback.

"It took the Presbyterian Church 41 years to decide to ordain women," he says, referring to the church's final vote in 1954 on the issue. "We're about 25 years into this discussion. It's going to take a lifetime."

a "rape kit" that authorities say he intended to use to sexually assault the filmmaker, while forcing Spielberg's actress wife Kate Capshaw to watch the sexual assault.

Village People Concert Opposed

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Church leaders are opposing a planned concert by the Village People, saying they shouldn't be allowed to play on Jamaica because they're popular among gays.

Gay sex is illegal in Jamaica, and debate over gay rights has flared recently because of a decision by the government of the nearby Cayman Islands to ban a cruise ship carrying homosexuals from entering its ports.

Jamaica Council of Churches leader Stanley Clarke said the concert at the Negril Music Festival will be an insult to Jamaicans.

"To promote a music festival of that nature which is going to highlight a behavior repugnant to the majority of people in this country is disrespectful," Clarke said.

Ronnie Nasralla, an organizer of the Negril show, said the church group was overreacting.

"(Band members) have never said they are gay," he said. "The Village People capitalized on their popularity in the gay community, that's all."

Texas Agency to Continue Placing Foster Kids with Gays

ARLINGTON, TX — The child protective services in Texas, the state agency responsible for overseeing placement of children in foster care homes, says it plans to keep placing kids in gay and lesbian homes as long as the individuals are qualified.

"If the legislature takes up the issue, we will follow that direction," said Marleigh Meisner, of agency's regional office, where the question of homosexual foster parents became controversial last year. Otherwise, she said, "We are under no pressure to change our policy."

The statements were made at a news conference where Meisner released the results of an internal investigation into charges that some CPS officials were giving preferential treatment to homosexual foster parents to further a "gay social agenda."

In screening prospective foster parents, Meisner said, caseworkers do not "address sexual orientation," even though the agency prohibits unmarried heterosexual couples from adopting children.

There has been speculation that legislators might attempt to deal with the issue next year.

Teacher Who Described Gay Sex Ordered Reinstated

PIERRE, SD — The South Dakota state supreme court has ruled that Richard Collins must be reinstated as a teacher because the Faith School Board offered no evidence he was incompetent.

Collins, who has been a teach for 29 years in the district, was fired by the school board after he answered a student's question about homosexuality. He said he had been asked by community health nurse who showed a sex education film to answer questions by male students because she believed the boys would be more at least asking a male teacher than a female nurse.

When asked, Collins described male homosexual intercourse frankly. The school trustees heard about his discussion fired Collins, insisting his effectiveness as a teacher had been impaired by the frank talk.

The state's high court, however, disagreed and order Collins reinstated.

British MP Wants Condom Machines In Parliament

London — A Liberal-Democrat MP has called for condom machines to be installed in the "social" areas of Britain's parliament. Evan Harris, a former hospital doctor and his party's spokesman on HIV and health education, noted there were no machines on the premises.

"New, younger MPs of both sexes have, probably, brought more sex to parliament. But there is still no condom machine" he told the HIV Alliance's magazine. He said he did not want people to think there was a "whole lot of promiscuity going on ... And I don't want to imply it is happening in Parliament itself ... I just don't think all MPs are celibate. I can't believe it."

"It's surprising that in a place like Westminster where thousands of people socialise, not just MPs but staff as well, that the facility doesn't exist."

He said he thought there was probably a demand. "They wouldn't remain unused."

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Milmaids Bowling Tournament to Benefit AIDS Support Network

Madison — The Madison area will host a 9-Pin Bowling Tournament on Saturday, April 25 at Bowl-A-Vard Lanes, 2121 E Springs Drive in Madison. Registration starts at 9 a.m. for the first round for bowling at 10 a.m. and at 12 p.m. for the second shift, with bowling at 1 p.m. All monies collected for registration will be donated to the AIDS Support Network of Madison. An Awards Banquet/Buffer will immediately follow the end of the tournament. Guests or Significant Others may attend the banquet/buffer for a \$10 donation.

MilMaids is a charitable benefit bowling tournament that started in 1985 in response to the AIDS crisis. This annual tournament alternates locations between Milwaukee and Madison. This year's beneficiary will be the AIDS Support Network (ASN). MilMaids was designed to raise funds for, and create a greater awareness of, AIDS services and support in the state.

The cost is \$25, prepaid or \$28 on the day of the tournament. Make checks

payable to: Milmaids-Madison and send entry forms to Ron Selkow, 2732 Milwaukee St., Madison, WI 53704. For more information and entry forms, call Ron at (608) 244-1484.

Madison's GLESN To Host "A Prom of Our Own"

Madison — On Saturday, April 18, The Gay, Lesbian, Straight Teachers Network (GLESN) of Wisconsin will host "A Prom of Our Own - Some Enchanted Evening" at the Madison Civic Center Starlight Room from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The Prom is a LGBT adult (21 and older) benefit to help create safe school climates for ALL students and staff through the educational efforts of GLESN. There will be a DJ, dancing, door prizes and a cash bar.

Advance tickets are \$20. They will be \$25 at the door on the night of the event. Tickets are available at Etes-Vous Prets? Coffee Co.; A Room of One's Own Bookstore; and Will Street Coop until April 17. They may also be ordered by mail through March 30 by sending checks made payable to GLESN-WI to: GLESN-WI, PO Box 25902, Madison, WI 53725-9502.

Chicago's 29th Annual Pride Celebration Set

Chicago, IL — Registration packets for Chicago's 29th Annual Pride Celebration were mailed out in early March to businesses, organizations and individuals. The packet includes forms for parade registration, advertising in the Pride Program Booklet, rally table registration, portable restroom sponsorship, and listing an event in the Pride Month Calendar. Last year's calendar contained over 70 different events sponsored by various community organizations and individuals.

Plans are already being made by community groups for various Pride Month Activities. A few events already scheduled include choral concerts, plays, dances, the annual "Proud to Run" race, and the 29th Annual Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28, 1998. If there is an event not currently on the Pride Month Calendar that any group wants to add, then all the group has to do is organize it. The Calendar is included in the Pride Program Booklet and is sent to PRIDEChicago's mailing list. It is also made available to community publications.

In relation to the parade, many businesses and organizations are already planning their entries. Floats, decorated vehicles, cars, marching units and individual marchers are all welcome in the parade procession.

The international theme for this year's celebration is "Unity Through Diversity." Each year, parade entries (or groups sponsoring calendar events) have the option of using the theme or making use of a theme or slogan of their own choice. To add your organization or business to the mailing list, or for more information call PRIDEChicago at (773) 348-8243.

Saturday Softball League Teams Now Forming

Milwaukee — A simple phone call to (414) 454-9240, SSBL's 24-hour Hotline, can put any person interested in summer softball in touch with a team that is looking for players. Any team interested in joining the League can also call the same number and a League Official will fill in the Team Manager with all the pertinent details.

SSBL is getting ready for its 21st consecutive season and hopes to add at least two new teams and 50+ new players between now and the start of the season in May, 1998. By calling now, interested players can get on a team and practice with them to shake off the rust and be in

top form for opening day.

SSBL was one of the first G/L leagues to form in the United States. Each year the League invites 25 out-of-town teams to Milwaukee for the Annual Memorial Day Classic tournament. In addition, most teams travel to one or more tournaments throughout the country. SSBL also sends teams to the National World Series, which will be held in Atlanta this summer.

"We have teams at all skill levels and will play a 2-division schedule this summer," said Bob Melig, Assistant Commissioner. "Teams will be grouped by skill level and compete for two separate sets of trophies. Every team will have an equal chance in this format and divisional races will go down to the wire. Even if a person hasn't played in years, there is a team for them."

ARCW to Praise Possum Queen Campaign at Make A Promise


Milwaukee — The outrageous, fun, and important fundraising efforts of the Possum Queen Campaign will be honored on March 21, as the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) presents it with a Red Rose Award at the Make A Promise Dinner and Auction.

The Red Rose Award is given to recognize outstanding community service in the fight against AIDS and the support of people living with HIV and AIDS. The Possum Queen Campaign was chosen for the award for its fundraising commitment to AIDS service organizations throughout the Milwaukee area. Over the past seven years the Possum Queen Campaign and its supporters have continuously worked to generate money through a series of fundraisers, often sponsored by community bars and restaurants. The Possum Queen Steering Team, the participants and donors have raised over \$87,000 for AIDS care and services since the campaign began in 1991.

The Possum Queen Campaign was chosen by the ARCW Make A Promise Community Service Award Committee from many worthy nominees. "The Possum Queen Campaign effort has enriched the lives of people living with AIDS as well as raised awareness and involvement in the community," said Doug Nelson, ARCW executive director. "ARCW is pleased to honor the caring work of everyone in the community who has ever helped or donated to Possum Queen. We value this involvement immensely."

According to Max Barnett, of the Possum Queen Steering Team, the emphasis is on fun and fundraising, not competition or winning. Each Possum Queen raises money in creative ways during the six-week campaign. The number of "votes" each Possum

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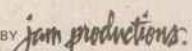
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Queen gets is equal to the dollars they collect. The participant who raises the most money becomes that year's Possum Queen and is crowned at a final show.

Past Possum Queen's are Jack E. O'gasm, 1997, from the M&M; Dinah Thirst, 1996, of the Ballgame; Althea Later, 1995, representing the Triangle; Wednesday Adams, 1994, sponsored by Club 219; DeeDee, 1993, from the Ballgame; and Victoria Maxwell, 1992, from Triangle bar. Charlotte Lorraine representing M&M Club was the very first Possum Queen in 1991.

"It started as a spontaneous effort in the bars. It's fun and people look forward to it," said Barnett. "Bars are the perfect place to reach out to the community and involve people who don't necessarily fill out a donation envelope but want to donate. We reach the real night owls."

The Possum Queen campaign sprang from a late night discussion in 1991, at the M&M Club, between Charlotte Lorraine and Lizzie Bordeaux. Remembering the "Possum Queen Celebration" featured on The Beverly Hillbillies, Lorraine and Bordeaux thought it would be fun to have a "mock" campaign with candidates parading around in ridiculous costumes to draw attention to their antics. The two organizers also saw it as a great opportunity to involve lots of people in raising money to support services for people with AIDS.

Nelson said that Charlotte Lorraine and Lizzie Bordeaux were brilliant in originating the idea for the Possum Queen Campaign. "Great ideas always succeed and with the help of hundreds of supporters this one exceeded everyone's expectations."

"There are so many funny stories," said Barnett. "People have done their fundraising in wild ways. Possum Queen Campaign brings out the creative side of our community." Some of the more cre-

ative fundraisers have included mud wrestling outside in the cold and rain, wiener dog races complete with dachshunds wearing race numbers, a chili competition and car washes.

"The Dykes on Bikes Auction where people bid for motorcycle rides and Chicken Bingo were two very popular events," according to Barnett. "For Chicken Bingo a parking lot was turned into a huge grid of squares and people bet on where the chickens would poop. It was outrageous and the Campaign brought in lots of money."

In past years, Possum Queen fundraising has begun on April Fool's Day and run for six weeks. Last year, for the first time the final show was held at Pridefest. For the past several years there has been a Possum Queen float in the Pridefest parade. Barnett and other organizers are looking at the possibility of taking the effort statewide, involving bars in Madison, Green Bay or other communities where volunteers would be enthusiastic. They emphasize that all the money raised goes to AIDS serving organizations and could be designated locally. In Milwaukee money has been contributed to ARCW's housing program, dental clinic and food pantry, as well as to the Brady Clinic, St. Camillus' AIDS services and even the Cream City Foundation's grants to AIDS services.

"It doesn't matter if a candidate raises \$10 or \$1,000, what matters is that they care and they have fun," said Barnett. "In 1997 one person raised over \$10,000 and loved every minute of it." The average Possum Queen Candidate raises between \$500 and \$1,000.

The effort has also had its poignant moments. Tommy Polubinski, who as Wednesday Adams was the 1994 Possum Queen, died of AIDS in 1996. His family created the Tommy Polubinski

ARCW Initiative to Focus on "HIV and Renewed Health"

Milwaukee — The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) is presenting "HIV & Renewed Health," a series of free, community educational forums for people living with HIV and AIDS who are currently on disability and feeling better because of new HIV drug treatments. The six forums are being held at ARCW's Milwaukee office located at 820 N. Plankinton Avenue from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and will address the pros and cons of re-entering the work force either full or part time as well as other practical and emotional concerns that ironically come from renewed health.

"For clients experiencing long-term improvements in health due to new drug therapies or other factors, the concept of returning to work is both appealing and concerning," said Neil Albrecht, ARCW southeastern regional director. "We want to make sure people with HIV feeling a renewed health have all the information necessary to make an informed decision, particularly as decisions relate to financial benefits, insurance coverage, debt management, Medicare and vocational rehabilitation."

Albrecht added, "Actually, this series will be beneficial to anyone living with HIV and AIDS who is looking for help with rebuilding their finances, their career and their emotional well being."

"Common Concerns, Questions & Issues" kicked-off the six-part series on Wednesday, March 18.

Albrecht said, "A panel of experts presented and responded to attendees' medical, financial and emotional concerns and dilemmas surrounding issues they've encountered after experiencing better health from the HIV drug treatments."

The second forum on Wednesday, March 25, "Long-term Effects of Drug Therapies" will help attendees understand the biological mechanisms of HIV and AIDS, how the new drug therapies, particularly the protease inhibitors, work to fight HIV, and the real hope behind the myths and hype of protease inhibitors.

Throughout the six-week series, speakers will include ARCW's Medical Director, Dr. Brian Buggy; Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Representatives; Social Security representatives; ARCW staff attorneys; area clinicians; and other local experts.

The four other scheduled forums include: "The Psychology of Feeling Better" on April 1; "Impact to T19, Social Security, Long-term Disability & Other Benefits," April 8; "Addressing Long-term Money Management," April 15; and concluding the series on April 22, "Final Decision: Should I Return to Work?"

After completing the "HIV & Renewed Health" series, individuals who have made the decision to return to work are then paired with a case manager for continuous assistance.

ARCW was selected by AID Atlanta as one of ten locations nationwide to implement its pilot program "Reconstruction." All "Reconstruction" based programs are funded by Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., in cooperation with the National AIDS Fund.

Prior to each session there will be a reception at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (414) 225-1523. Advanced registration not required.

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Memorial Possum Queen Award that is given to an individual, not necessarily a candidate, who really steps forward and helps make the campaign grow. "The award is given to a person who cuts through any politics and puts their heart and soul into success," said Barnett. In 1996, Jack E. O'gasm was given the first award and in 1997, Kathy Kau, owner of Kathy's Nut Hut received the honor. The plaque was made by Polubinski's brother.

Bill Godsell, an ARCW board member will present the Red Rose Award to the Possum Queen Campaign at the Make A Promise Dinner and Auction. Tickets to attend Make A Promise can be purchased by calling David at 414/225-1517. Max Barnett will accept the award on behalf of the hundreds of people who have made the Possum Queen Campaign a wonderful and meaningful fundraising campaign through the years.

Madison Thrift Store Receives Block Grant

Madison — Madison's new Community Thrift Store was awarded a \$15,000 community development block grant by the city of Madison. The grant will allow the nonprofit resale store to hire a full-time manager.

The store will open April 1, at 1814 S. Park Street. Earnings from the store will benefit participating non-profit organizations including the AIDS Network, Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center and The United among many others. A total of 45 non-profit organizations have signed on as partners in the community-based venture.

The Community Thrift Store will be the only independent, non-profit, multi-agency store of its kind in Madison.

"The concept has been an unqualified success in San Francisco where the store has thrived from the day it opened," said David Smith, president of the Community Thrift Store board.

When donors contribute goods to the Community Thrift Store, they can decide which non-profit partner(s) will receive the proceeds from the sale of their items. To maximize the financial benefit to the non-profit partners, the store will be operated by volunteers with only one paid employee — a full time manager.

"We believe a Madison store is essential at a time when non-profits are under increasing pressure to find

new sources of income as government support decreases," said Smith.

The Community Thrift Store is now accepting donations at its Park Streek location. Smith stated that donations of store fixture are also being accepted. Please call (608) 222-2981.

College of Lake County Announces Pride Week

Grayslake, IL — Spectrum a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and friends organization, has announced its second annual Pride Week activities.

Coming Out Stores will kick off the week on Monday, April 13 at 7 p.m. in room C-003 at the Grayslake campus. Come and listen to community members share how they came out to family and friends. The event is free and refreshments will be served.

On Tuesday, April 14, PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will hold their monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. in room A-217. Everyone is welcome and the event is free.

The annual open forum will be held on Thursday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. A panel of community members will answer question about being gay. Aslo, a member of the Lake County Health Department and a representative from the religious community will be on hand to answer questions as well.

Culture Night will be held on Friday, April 17 at 7:00 p.m. in room B-153. Featured will be the movies, "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love," a lesbian love story. Games will also be played. The event is free and refreshments will be served.

For more information, Call the Spectrum hotline at (847) 223-6601.

Northland Gay Men's Center Discussion Group

Duluth, MN — The Northland Gay Men's Center will feature a discussion group every Tuesday night during the month of March from 7 to 9 p.m. The discussion group for gay men focuses on coming out issues, support

from the gay community, difficulties related to gay issues, and information on sources of support and social activity.

The Northland Gay Men's Center was established in 1992 as a supportive and social organization for gay men. The Center is located at 8 North 2nd Avenue East, Temple Opera Block, Suite 309, in Duluth For further information and support call Peter at the Men's Center. Please leave a message or call during their business hours (5 to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday). The phone number is: (218) 722-8585.

Green Bay Man Selected for UN AIDS Post

Green Bay — Dr. Peter Perot, Executive Director the United Nations Global AIDS Task Force, appointed Dan McDonough to the 45 member Task Force. The United Nations has funded the \$3 billion Task to initiate HIV/AIDS care service programs in developing nations over the next four years.

McDonough was placed on the Task Force's Asian Committee. Each committee is responsible for administering funded projects. McDonough, living with HIV for over three years, is a client and volunteer for ARCW in Green Bay.

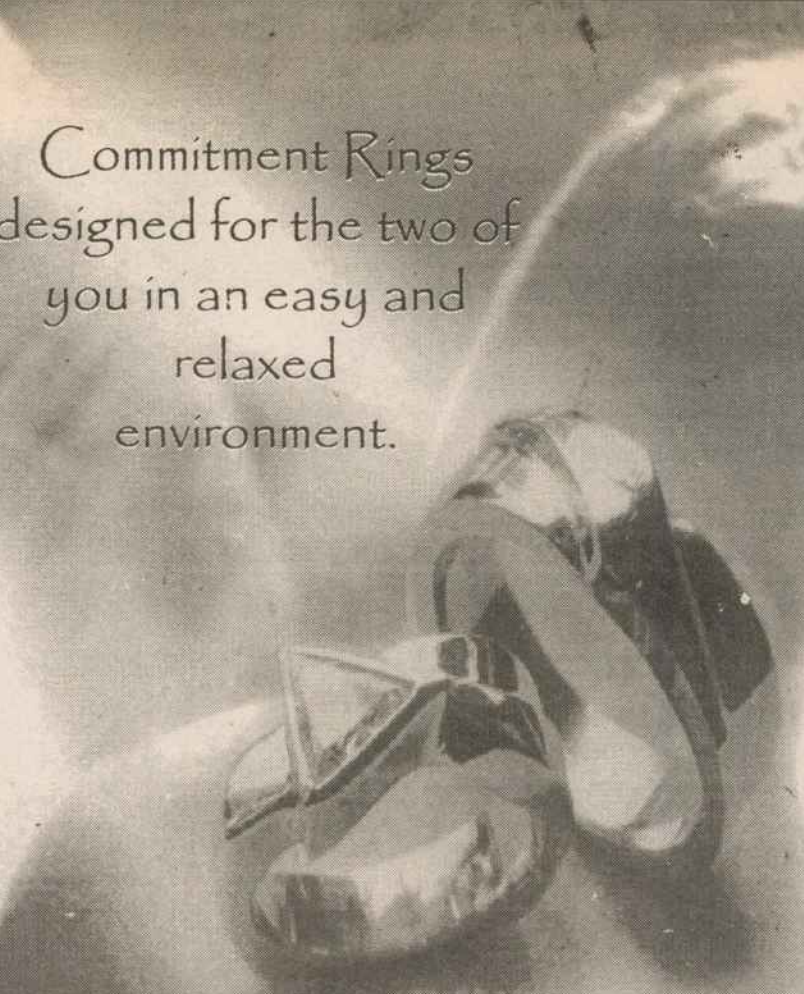
LAMM Holds Annual Meeting

Milwaukee — The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) held its annual meeting on February 19, at the Miller Inn. At the meeting, LAMM/LAMM-EF financial information and the accomplishments of 1997 were reviewed. Members also had the opportunity to express their gratitude to outgoing Chair Jo Bruns and others on the board for their efforts on behalf of LAMM.


At the meeting, Laurie Fountain was elected as new Board Chair and Sharon Dreckman as Treasurer.

For more information about LAMM activities call the LAMM office at (414) 264-2600.

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Commentary

Is 'Ellen' Show 'Too Gay' ... or Just Not Funny?

by Keith Clark

It wasn't particularly surprising when the American Family Association criticized the TV sitcom "Ellen" for being preoccupied with gay issues and that things would have been better "if she'd just had her little coming-out party and then gone back to being a TV show." But it caught everyone a bit offguard when Chastity Bono, the entertainment media director for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), was quoted in *Variety* as saying that the program was "too gay" for TV.

"The show is so gay it's excluding a large part of our society. A lot of the stuff on it is somewhat of an inside joke," *Variety* quoted Bono as saying. "It's one thing to have a gay lead character, but it's another when every episode deals with pretty specific gay issues."

The *Variety* article, of course, immediately became the center of controversy over who said exactly what — and what they meant.

GLAAD issued a press release that tepidly said Bono's remarks represented her own views and not those of the organization and that her comments "were taken out of context."

Bono herself tried to clear things up by saying, "The show is not too gay for me. But we have to be realistic. This is network primetime. When a show treats gay issues over and over again, it becomes 'a gay show,' and the average viewer says,

"The show is so gay it's excluding a large part of our society. A lot of the stuff on it is somewhat of an inside joke."

—CHASTITY BONO

"Hey, I'm not gay - I'm not going to watch it."

And on and on that particular she-said/she-said flap continued.

Ellen DeGeneres, the comic who plays the lead character in the show, may be wondering what's gone wrong.

Less than a year ago, 36 million Americans tuned in to watch what was probably the most spectacular coming-out since Cinderella showed up at the ball. The event was so hyper-hyped that it landed DeGeneres on the cover of *Time* magazine.

Since those heady days, however, ABC-TV has moved "Ellen" to a later time slot so fewer children would likely see the program. Then the network began prefacing episodes with TV warning notices, advising viewers they might be disturbed by the content - the sort of thing that usually is reserved for violent cops-and-robbers shows or programs about IV drug abuse in preschools.

Now, the show's ratings have plunged to around 10 million viewers and the star openly talks about the program being canceled by nervous executives at ABC-TV who've never been comfortable with a "gay show." And while the official word at the network is that no decision has yet been made about the future of "Ellen," unofficially the program is dead and buried. DeGeneres herself has all but read the show's last rites.

At a recent Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center banquet at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, DeGeneres said, "They may have won because we're not coming back and they have the power to cancel us."

Ironically, DeGeneres herself has said almost the same thing that Bono said about the program's problems. Before the *Variety* interview stirred up such a flap, DeGeneres said, "I'm gay, the character's gay, and that's the problem everyone has with the show — it's just too controversial."

What DeGeneres and others are discovering is that coming out may be a whole lot easier than staying out — and staying on TV.

Although the vast majority of people in this country now doubtless believe that "Ellen" marks the first openly gay lead in a television series, that distinction probably belongs to Tony Randall's lead character in "Love, Sidney," the 1981-83 NBC show. But "Love, Sidney" was up to its eyeballs in coyness and was mercifully yanked after its second season proved even more demure than its first.

But there may be another explanation. As a comedy, "Ellen" just isn't very funny and it never was.

The party line that a lot of people have been trying to promote is that if ABC cancels the program it will be the network's homophobia pure and simple in killing a "hit" comedy. The problem is the show's ratings were in serious trouble before the character Ellen Morgan came out. Before the "Puppy Episode" when all was revealed, "Ellen" was in 35th place in the TV ratings and was sinking - not because of homophobia, but simply because it wasn't a very funny show.

The 36 million people who tuned in for the coming out "Puppy Episode" wasn't the audience "Ellen" normally drew in and was about double the usual number of viewers following months of ultra-hype about the program. ABC was quick to catch on to the value of the wink-wink/nudge-nudge promotion and, even though regular advertisers like Chrysler, General Motors and Windy's canceled their spots that night, the network was busy selling ads for the episode at double its usual rate.

But as one perceptive critic asked before the much-hyped April 1997 episode, "Will coming out make her funny?"

Apparently not. Some 5 million fewer people now watch "Ellen" than watch the "Drew Carey Show," which precedes it on ABC. The show's ratings have quickly sunk back into yawnsville and Matt Roush, a critic with *TV Guide*, speaking of "Ellen" recently said, "I was hoping that maybe after she came out, she'd move to San Francisco and find funnier friends."



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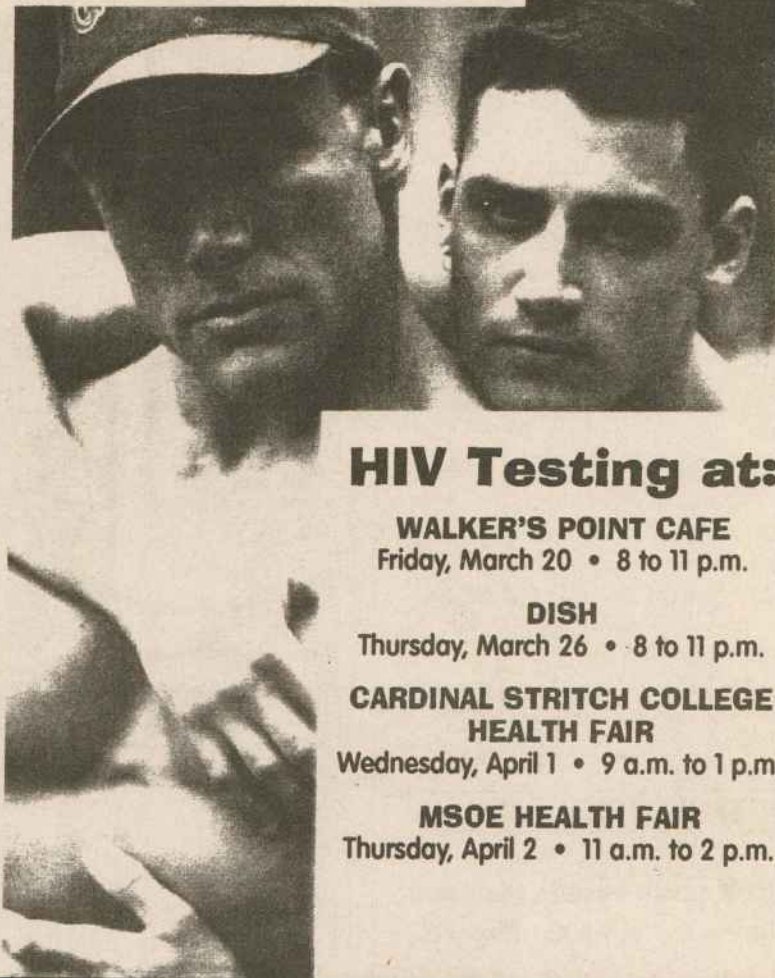
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TRIBAL TALK

by Ron Geiman

I'm having trauma in my life with my computer. Yeah, everyone complains about their systems, but I've got this public forum to share my pain with you. I went out last week and bought a delightful new color printer, with a 5 mouse rating in *MacWorld*, and a scanner with a 4-1/2 mouse rating. Now, I find I can't install some of the software that came with either piece because my computer is too obsolete. Now, I have to go out and invest about \$700 to upgrade to a low end PowerMac.

The 90% of you who own PC's (I have a feeling a higher percentage of our Tribal members use Mac's but have no proof) are probably saying to yourself, "That's what he gets for having an Apple product..." Well, I used to run *In Step* with all PC clones on Microsoft Windows systems, and I can't begin to tell you how much more I prefer the Mac environment. It is so much more user friendly, and much less "buggy" than PC's. I've had this Mac for less than two months, and I already feel more comfortable and capable with it, than I ever did after years working in a Windows environment.

I read somewhere that Mac's operating systems appeals towards more visually oriented people, and Windows to those who are more analytical. I do think Apple has outpriced themselves, and especially in the last year, has lost a lot more ground to the constantly dropping prices of PC's.

I've watched prices continue to drop for very fast, powerful PC's and have hesitated over whether I should, for economic reasons, have bought one of those zippy new PC's instead. But, Mac has made me a convert, so I'll invest in the upgrade, so I can fully enjoy the software that came with my new peripherals.

Then again, I've been reading about the new operating system Apple is working on called 'Rhapsody', which will operate on any kind of computer: Mac, Intel PC, or Network. Now that, would really be awesome... a Mac environment on a zippy cheap un-bugged PC.

(Any of you who are also Mac users, and can give me tips on good local sources for re-conditioned equipment, or know of a gay Mac group, please e-mail me at trbltk@AOL.com.)

There's been talk of a *Millennium March on Washington* in the year 2,000 circulating for months in the world of national LesBiGayTrans politicians, but when the Human Rights Campaign and Metropolitan Community Church made an announcement about it, they were castigated by many of the other groups for "jumping the gun".

Complaining of lack of community input some disgruntled groups didn't like the idea of calling it the March for Human Rights. What did they want to call it?... The "Millennium March on the future state of Columbia for Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Color, Youth, Aged, HIV Positive, Breast Cancer Survivors, Oppressed Hair Dressers, and Overworked Womyn Truckers, Rights and on and on and on. Ad nauseam?"

Has our community gotten to the point where so many different sub-groups want "inclusion" as to be ridiculous and to the Politically Correct extreme? Possibly. After all, once we separate ourselves into so many different little segments, we can't call ourselves a community.

In all honesty, I had trouble accepting Bi when it was added to Gay and Lesbian, and even more of a problem with attaching

Trans, so Human Rights sounds fine to me. As HRC spokesman David Smith said, "We have every intention of moving forward" with the march.

Which brings me to my second March subject, the proposed *March on State Capitals 1999*, another idea being bandied about in the stratosphere of the elusive Gay Agenda. The general concept is a march for "Human Rights" on every state capital in that revered end of the century year.

Methinks the year 1999 would be symbolic of the end of the way things are for our people. It would give us a chance to reflect back on the way the world has treated our Tribe, and how we've come of age in these last forty years of this century. It would also stand as a marker for what the future should hold for us, and what we have to fight for in 2000 and beyond. Domestic Partnership, Marriage, the right to have and raise kids, elimination of all government bias, an AIDS vaccine, and total acceptance of right to live as we are. Our Tribe can lead the World into a new humanness in the new Millennium.

I haven't heard of any 1999 effort afoot as of yet here in Wisconsin, but I'm sure the Madison crowd will pick up this ball and run with it. The rest of us in the state will have to do our part to assure the biggest march ever on Madison... maybe even Governor Tommy will speak to *that* many assembled voters!

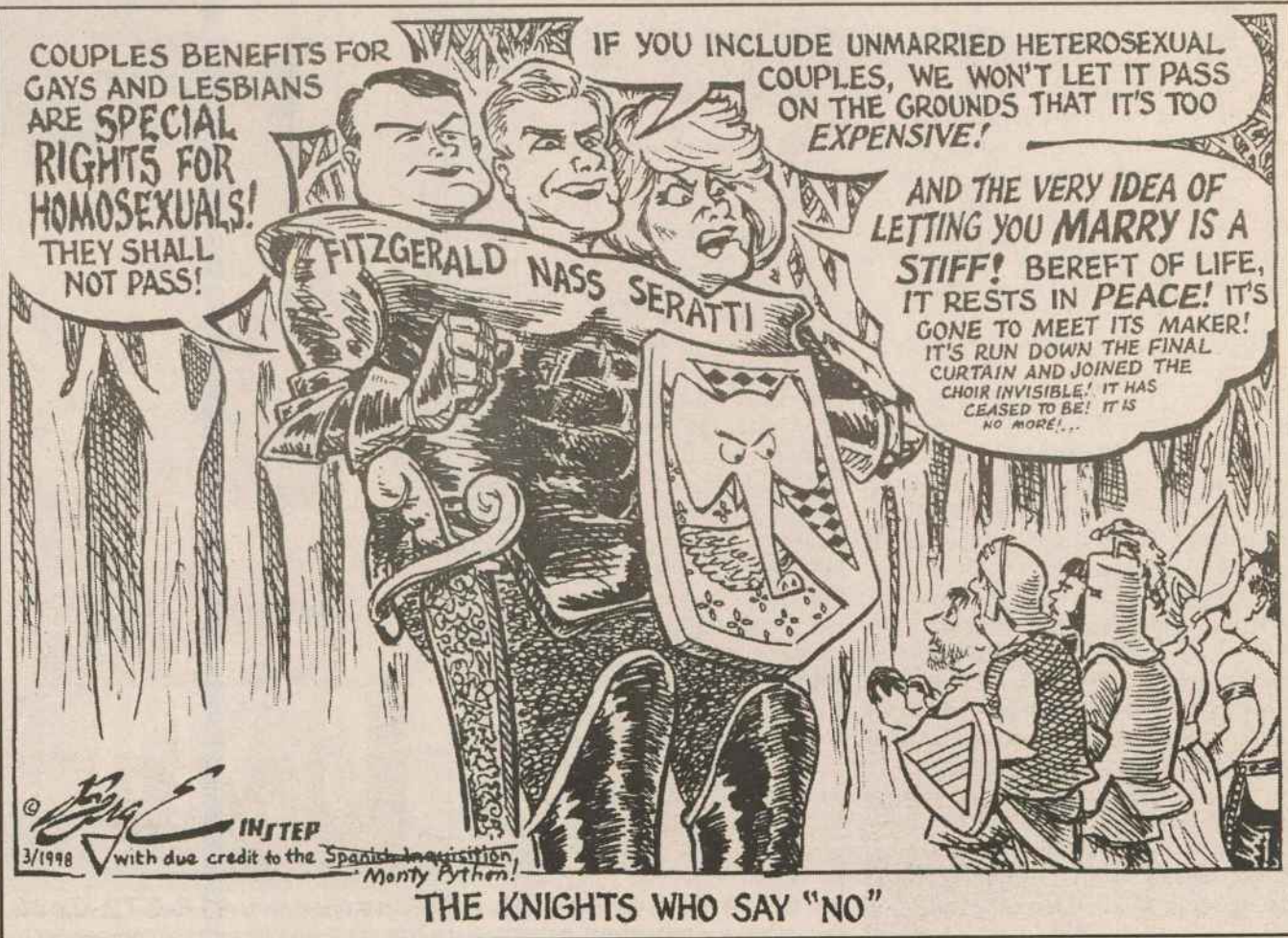
The Boy Scouts, will they never learn? There always have been, and always will be, gays in scouting. I've got a picture of me in my Cub Scout uniform in the front entry way of my house to prove it!

And yes, my first same sex sexual experiences also occurred while I was in the scouts, but that didn't happen until I hit the Weblows level (I think we even joked about that — We-Blows) which is like a Jr. Boy Scout. We even had a geeky Scout Master who tried to put the move on a couple of us during a camping trip, but we got rid of him *real* quick... we much preferred the other guys our same age. Out of our troop, there were at least four of us on camping trips who argued who got to sleep in the same 4-man tent... and we didn't do much sleeping. The other Scouts didn't have a clue what was going on, and some of the boys who participated outgrew the sex play, but there are still at least two of us, I know, who grew up to be gay adults.

I won't go so far as to urge the Scouts to offer a merit badge in circle jerks, but it was the place I learned one useful skill... I discovered 'Gaydar'. Thanks BSA, I have fond memories.

By the way, here's a health update... My counts as of 2/24: 119 CD4's, 19,429 viral load, 99 NK (Killer cells). My bone marrow biopsy showed no signs of the Leukemia (yeahhh! 15 months in remission since my final chemo). I'm still on my failing drug regimen, because one of the new expanded access drugs I want to switch to isn't available until your viral load reaches 30,000... so my doctor and I have to wait it out. On top of that, I can't start the second new drug until I can also get the first one and start them at the same time. *Damn bureaucrats!*

As usual, your snail mail and e-mail (trbltk@AOL.com) are encouraged. Until next time, remember to pay attention to what your brain is telling you and not what your genitals are urging you... and Play Safe!



Letters

Domestic Bliss

Dear Editor:

Milwaukee's attempt to give domestic partner benefits to City employees was shot down because it was originally based on sexual orientation, and that was very rightly deemed discriminatory. The predicted high cost of allowing unmarried heterosexual couples into the program gave politicians a chance to kill it without seeming anti-gay.

Now, Ross Perot is thinking of killing a domestic partner benefits program at his company because it is "unfair" to heterosexual unmarried couples. In California, the City of Oakland is litigating a number of complaints because its domestic partners benefit program excludes heterosexual couples.

Those advocating domestic partner benefit programs should not be trying to limit them to same sex couples. The argument usually offered for doing so is that heterosexual couples have the right to marry, and therefore don't need domestic partner benefits.

If the root problem is that gays can't marry, then let all these domestic partner programs be reformatted to address the root problem: the inability to marry. Remove all language regarding sexual orientation from domestic partner programs, and instead require that those applying for benefits must have been denied a marriage license.

Anyone claiming domestic partner benefits should be willing to marry his or her partner in order to receive those benefits. Those not willing to marry shouldn't be claiming benefits, which should be restricted to those willing but not allowed to marry.

All who do the same work should be entitled to the same compensation for their work. Unmarried employees should

be entitled to receive the same benefits as their fellow employees. It's simple: if they do the same work, they should receive the same pay, including benefits.

Those who are discriminated against and denied a license to marry should be entitled to benefits for their partners, just as those legally married receive benefits for their partners. Making domestic partner benefits contingent on denial of the right to marry is the way to provide them without discriminating against anyone.

Al Geiersbach
Milwaukee

Gov. Thompson Supports State AIDS Efforts

Dear Editor:

In the last issue of In Step (Vol. 15, #5) your story on the upcoming Make a Promise Dinner and Auction was an excellent overview of this gala event. This year, Governor Tommy Thompson will be in attendance to receive the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's top leadership award. As ARCW's Director of Public Policy, I want to share with the community the important reasons for this award to the Governor.

Over the past 20 years, the Governor has always supported comprehensive AIDS programs and more importantly has committed state funds that are essential to

make them happen. Wisconsin is far ahead of most states with more than \$4 million of annual state funds for AIDS due to the Governor's historic commitment.

In 1989, he supported a state funded Life Care Services program for HIV case management, food, transportation and support services at AIDS agencies throughout the state.

In 1993, he initiated a statewide HIV early Intervention Health Services program in the state budget to enhance the Life Care Services program.

He has supported and funded a comprehensive Street Outreach HIV Prevention program reaching injection drug users, their spouses, the homeless and others at high risk for HIV.

He encouraged start-up funding in his budget to create community-based AIDS research on emerging new drug therapies, thus bringing state-of-the-art drugs to Wisconsin residents with HIV and AIDS.

In the most recent state budget, Governor Thompson supported a 15% increase in state AIDS funding maintaining his strong commitment to statewide AIDS services. The Governor knows that AIDS is far from over, and at a time when many states are cutting back or doing nothing, Governor Thompson continues to be a strong partner in the fight against AIDS. For his good work on AIDS over 10 years, ARCW is proud to present the Governor with its top leadership award.

Mike Gifford
ARCW Director of Public Policy

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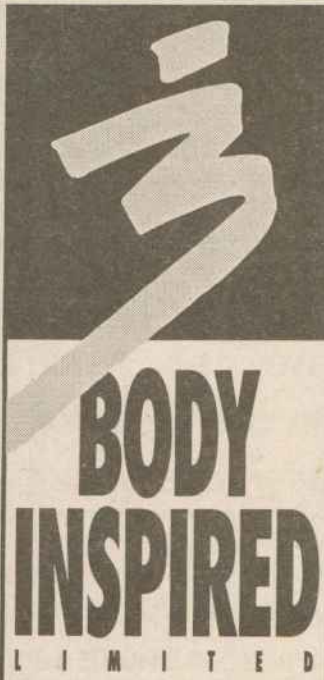
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Ex-Gay Ministries

Behind the Claims of Cures

by Keith Clark
of the In Step Staff

Their claims of "curing" homosexuals raise hackles among civil rights activists and mental health professionals alike, but the once-quiet "ex-gay" ministries say they're now on a roll and growing by leaps and bounds at churches around the country as the national battle over lesbian and gay rights spreads throughout the country and grows more intense.

Just over two decades old, the loose network of ex-gay ministries that was

"All I've seen of ex-gay ministries is disappointment, suicide, tragedy. I know of no one who has been changed. No one is ever cured."

aligned with the non-profit Exodus International claimed to have 62 affiliates in 1990. Today, evangelicals claim there are "hundreds" of ex-gay groups in the U.S., many of them unconnected with Exodus or any other groups, dragging lesbians and gay men from their "disordered life-style" into the pure light of heterosexual living by the tens of thousands.

The problem, most activists and social scientists agree, is that groups like Exodus and the other "ex-gay" ministries offer little or nothing to back up any of their

assertions of such large numbers or evidence of therapeutic successes. In fact, the American Psychological Association, in a survey of the "reparative therapies" touted by the ex-gay ministries, concludes: "No scientific evidence exists to support the effectiveness of any of the conversion therapies that try to change sexual orientation."

Underscoring the APA's scientific assessment are some high-profile cases of individuals who have been involved in the ex-gay movement and proved to be stunning failures at being "cured" — including the two men who started Exodus, Gary Busse and Michael Cooper.

After working closely together to promulgate the dubious gospel of Exodus for a few years, spread in pamphlets with titles like "Unhappy and gay? Join the Exodus," Busse and Cooper finally admitted to each other and to themselves that they had fallen in love, renounced the movement, and started preaching tolerance and self-acceptance instead. Busse and Cooper, whose story served as the core of the 1993 film "One Nation Under God" about various attempts by the religious right and the heterosexual medical establishment to "cure" homosexuality, became in fact the best-known "former ex-gays" and a major embarrassment of the movement spearheaded by Exodus.

In talking about Exodus, Busse and Cooper said such "ex-gay" organizations have done little except appropriate the psychobabble terminology of other fashionable therapies — calling themselves a "recovery movement," for example — while actually doing little more than peddling Victorian values and the most restrictive and authoritarian kinds of gender stereotyping. At their most absurd, the two men said, these groups suggest that what gay men really ought need to do is play football and that a good manicure and some makeup will set lesbians "straight."

It would, Busse, Cooper and others agree, all be hysterically funny if it weren't so destructive. "These groups prey on people who are unhappy," Cooper said. "What they can't see or won't admit is that the groups are themselves the source of this very unhappiness they claim to be treating."

They're not alone in this assessment. Bryant Welch, director for professional practice at the American Psychological Association, says of the "ex-gay" ministries, "Efforts to 'repair' homosexuals are nothing more than social prejudice garbed in psychological accouterments. [It] can do more damage to a person's psyche than good.

Exodus claims — but again refuses to allow any professional review of its records — that 70 percent of the lesbians and gay men who complete its year-long program are either celibate or living as heterosexuals

They do a lot of confrontational shouting, saying the person will go to hell. It can cause future need for psychiatric help."

It is, activists and mental health professionals warn, this kind of guilt-based approach that caused Jack McIntyre, who had enrolled in Love in Action, an Exodus program in Northern California, to commit suicide. "No matter how much I prayed and tried to avoid the temptation, I continually failed," McIntyre wrote only days before he took his own life. "It is this constant failure that has made me make the decision to terminate my life."

But John Evans, one of the founders of Love in Action who now repudiates the organization, says it wasn't McIntyre's failure that was the problem but the ministry itself.

McIntyre "wanted desperately to reconcile his spiritual side with his sexual side," Evans says. "I spent the last day of his life with him. He said he tried, but he couldn't. He would be alive today if he realized that God loved him as he was. All I've seen of ex-gay ministries is disappointment, suicide, tragedy. I know of no one who has been changed. No one is ever cured."

Officials with Exodus ministries flatly reject any responsibility in such cases.

Bob Davies, executive director of Exodus, said McIntyre "had left the ministry

and went back into the lifestyle — so what is that our fault? People come to us of their own free will."

Davies, in fact, claims Exodus is a tremendous success — sort of — although the organization refuses to allow any independent confirmation of its data and even though some of the group's claims don't seem to add up.

According to Davies, Exodus in 1990 had counseled more than 100,000 people nationally, for example. With 62 ministries then in the U.S. for the past 20 years, that means each ex-gay ministry would have had to counsel an average of at least 80 people a year. Yet Davies also says that just 41 people completed the ex-gay program during the five-year period from 1982 to 1987 at the organization's Northern California ministry — one of its largest — where he is based.

Equally problematic is any attempt to evaluate the success of ex-gay ministries since "success" is variously defined as changing homosexuals into heterosexuals or as simply eliminating any sexual behavior at all.

Exodus claims — but again refuses to allow any professional review of its records — that 70 percent of the lesbians and gay men who complete its year-long program are either celibate or living as heterosexuals. Its only long-term figures, however, are less impressive and indicate that less than 30 percent have stopped all homosexual behavior five years after completing the program. Seven years after entering the program, Exodus figures indicate that just 3 percent are "successful heterosexuals" — an unimpressive result by any therapeutic standard.

For those who have to help the 70 percent to 97 percent who fail to achieve the "American heterosexual dream," the ex-gay ministries that are hell-bent on changing homosexuals are more like a nightmare.

The Rev. John Barbone of the Metropolitan Community Church in Kansas City says the people he has counseled after going through an ex-gay ministry are worse off because of the programs rather than better, including individuals who have become so desperate they've ended up verging on suicide.

"The [ex-gays] that I've worked with are dealing with tremendous guilt," Bar-

bone said. "They're left with this residue of self-hatred that is just tremendously confusing to them."

Jack Pantaleo, the founder of Evangelicals Concerned, shares that assessment of the ex-gay programs. "What Exodus does is offer false hope that you can change," he says. "It's a very cruel, very vicious experience. Most of the people in these ex-gay groups are holding on with white knuckles, trying not to be tempted. It's all about trying to be something that they're not. Many try to hard to change. And when they don't make it, the ministry condemns them."

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UW Press Tells Frontiers About New Gay Biography Series

Madison — A soon-to-be-published series of books dealing with the life stories of gay men and women will be discussed by the series editor at the Saturday, March 28 meeting of Frontiers. Raphael Kadushin, editor for the University of Wisconsin Press, will tell how he originated this unique publishing concept, *Living Out*, devoted exclusively to autobiographies of gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

The first title in the series, *Wide Screen Dreams*, is due for release in early fall. In it, author Patrick Hogan relates how he grew up gay under the beguiling influence of Hollywood movies.

The best seller, *Farm Boys*, recently published by UW Press, was reviewed by author Will Fellows at a well-attended 1996 Frontiers meeting. Frontiers, a social club for gay and bisexual men, extends an invitation to all, whether members or not, to hear more about the *Living Out* series, as well as the fascinating world of books and authors.

Editor Kadushin is known locally as a columnist with the weekly newspaper *Isthmus* and as a writer with *Bon Appetit* magazine. His work as editor with the University's Press gives him unusual insights into today's rapidly changing book publishing business.

The event will take place at the Inn on the Park Hotel (Assembly Room), 22

South Carroll (on Capitol Square at Main St.), at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (608) 274-5959.

Early Music Now Wraps Up Season

Milwaukee — In the final concert of a stunning 1997/1998 season, Early Music Now is delighted to present the world acclaimed Baroque orchestra from Utrecht, *Musica ad Rhenum*, in "Bach and the Dresden Virtuosi" at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 27 at Grace Lutheran Church, 1209 N. Broadway.

Founded in 1992 and known for its dedication to the expressiveness and virtuosity of Baroque music, *Musica ad Rhenum* bases its playing style on extensive research into 17th and 18th century performance practices. The ensembles exciting performances give testament to its conviction that music of the past must be interpreted in a vibrant and creative way to best represent the intentions of the composer.

The concert will include the works of J.S. Bach, Tommaso Albinoni, Antonio Vivaldi and other composers of the 17th

and 18th centuries. *Musica ad Rhenum* has toured and performed at festivals in the United States, Great Britain, Germany, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Austria, South America and Iceland. Tickets for the performance are \$22.50, and may be reserved by calling (414) 225-3113.

UWM Chamber Orchestra to Feature Mozart

Milwaukee — The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Fine Arts presents the UWM Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Margery Deutsch, in concert Sunday, March 22. The concert will be held in the Fine Arts Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. at 3 p.m. Guest artists for this performance include members of the Woodwind Arts Quintet.

The Woodwinds Quintet has been in residence at UWM since its founding in 1967. Current members include Milwaukee Symphony Principal Horn, William Barnewitz; UWM Professor of Flute, Robert Goodberg; Milwaukee Symphony Clarinetist, William Helmers; UWM Professor of Bassoon, Robert Thompson; and Milwaukee Symphony Oboist, Martin Woltman.

The program features two works, Mozart's *Sinfonia Concertante for Winds K-297*, and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 4* opus 60 9n B flat Major. Tickets are \$8 adults, \$5 students, and may be purchased at the UWM Fine Arts Box Office, or by calling (414) 229-4308.

Artists in The Square Scheduled for April 25 & 26

Milwaukee — The Riverwest Artists Association/Riverwest Art Center invite everyone to attend the eighth biannual "Artists in the Square" Art Festival, which will take place on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the East Towne Square Shopping Center, 1515 E. Mequon Road (2 blocks west of I-43 on Mequon Road). East Towne Square is a unique indoor shopping mall with an European feel, and is a wonderful place to spend the day and enjoy the arts.

"Artists in the Square" is a fund-raising event sponsored by East Towne Square for the Riverwest Artists Association, a non-profit organization run by member artists. There will be a variety of art for sale by individual artists, including paintings, photography, jewelry, sculpture, textiles and much more. There is no admission fee. For more information call (414) 481-1136.

WCM Announces Scholarship Deadline

Milwaukee — The Wisconsin Conservatory of Music (WCM) is currently accepting applications for its annual schol-

arship competition. Scholarships are based on merit and are awarded to new and continuing students of all ages who show talent, potential and achievement. This year, they helped 52 promising students by providing a portion of the cost of classes, private lessons or Certificate/Diploma programs.

The timetable of events is as follows: Wednesday, March 25, Scholarship applications due; Saturday, April 25, Auditions for piano, guitar, woodwinds, brass, percussion and jazz; Sunday, April 26, Auditions for voice and strings; Sunday, May 17, Honors recital and reception at 3 p.m.

Scholarship audition applications are available in the registration office or at the reception desk of the conservatory, located at 1584 N. Prospect Ave. Interested students can also call the Conservatory at (414) 276-5760.


Woodland Pattern Features Spoken Word and Sound Art Performances

Milwaukee — Woodland Pattern is pleased to announce a performance of the Spoken Word, by legendary artist Jayne Cortez on Saturday, March 21 at 8 p.m. Jayne Cortez is one of the most original and influential poets in contemporary literature. Her words and music combine and create sound-image dramas of a new order, beyond song, beyond oratory and almost operatic in completeness.

Cortez is a significant part of the revolutionary consciousness of the rap generation and the increasingly renewed interest in poetry--and--jazz. A resolutely political poet whose work is not for the faint of heart, Cortez tends to grapple with racism, sex and sexism, the desecration of the environment, and the threat of nuclear disaster. On a more optimistic note, her songs of praise for the artists, writers and musicians whose work inspires and sustains her, reveals her longstanding Afrocentrism. Tickets for the Jayne Cortez Spoken Word performance are \$6 general, \$5 advance and members.

On Sunday, March 22 at 7 p.m., Woodland Pattern will host Alternating Currents Live: Lou Mallozzi and Jack the Dog, in an evening of sound art performance. Lou Mallozzi has created studio art works for radio and live performance. For this performance Mallozzi will present his composition *Usi scrulati* (Scrutinized uses) which are a series of short (one-to-six-minute) sound-based performances. Jack the Dog is a duo of experimental music founded by Jeff Kowalkowski (piano, percussion, voice, electronics) and Carrie Biolo (Percussion, Voice) in 1994.

In this concert Jack the Dog and Lou Mallozzi will alternate their works in one continuous sound art performance to be recorded by WMSE-FM (91.7) for rebroadcast on "Alternating Currents" hosted by Hal Rammel the following Sunday evening (March 29) at 6 p.m. Tickets for Mallozzi/Jack the Dog performance are \$6 general, \$5 advance and members. For more information about either event, call (414) 263-5001.



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UWM Features Word War I Posters

Milwaukee — *The Great War in Posters* is an exhibition of World War I posters that will be featured at the UWM from Friday, March 20 through April 3 at Gallery II of the Institute of Visual Arts (inova). The gallery is located at 3203 N. Downer Ave, Room 154 of Mitchell Hall.

The exhibition opens with a lecture from 6 to 8 p.m. titled "The Homefront and the First World War: London, Paris, Petrograd and Milwaukee" by Gary Shellman, assistant director of the UWM institute of World Affairs. "The Great War in Posters" is a master's thesis exhibition by Whitefish Bay resident Jan Stewart.

The posters, which cover the period from 1914-1918, represent Great Britain, France, Germany and U.S. sources for the posters, according to Stewart, were in the collections of the Milwaukee Public Library and the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Stewart found it interesting that although the posters originated in four different countries, they all conveyed basically the same message. "These posters promoted war, depicting it as a great adventure and something that the public should support," says Stewart.

The hours for Gallery II are noon to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, phone (414) 229-5070.

McGivern Returns for Milwaukee Performances



Milwaukee — *John McGivern — Back Home Again*, returns to Milwaukee's Stiemke Theater for a five show run. The one-man show chronicles the true-life comic stories of growing up in Milwaukee in the early 60's, the son of a bricklayer, the third in a litter of Irish Catholic kids, and the one who couldn't throw a ball!

McGivern's theatrical stories are snapshots that are immediately recognizable. The universal and often hilarious fears of children and adolescents everywhere, the agony and absurdity of choices made — and not made — the achingly funny memories of where we've come

from that brings us to where we are today.

McGivern is the author and star of three critically acclaimed one-man shows, *MidWestSide Story*, *More MidWestSide Stories* and *John McGivern Live*. He appeared on Comedy Central's *Out There II*. He can also be seen on HBO in the documentary, *We're Funny That Way*.

John McGivern — Back Home Again will be performed March 26 and 27 at 8 p.m., March 28 at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., March 29 at 7 p.m. at the Stiemke Theater 108 East Wells Street. For Tickets call the Box Office at (414) 224-9490.

Classic Gay Love Story Returns to Chicago's Baliwick

Chicago, IL — Ten years ago this spring, Robert Chesley's classic gay love story *Jerker* opened in a late night production at Baliwick Repertory — then in the Jane Addams Theater. As the first show in Baliwick's "Gay and Lesbian Series", *Jerker* became an instant sensation, introducing Chicago audiences to a new talent from Indiana — Darren Stephens — and changing the nature of Baliwick's programming, and that of Chicago theater goes for the next decade.

While many gay plays had been produced in Chicago prior to *Jerker*, Baliwick's effort to create an ongoing series of new works that presented the broad diversity of the gay and lesbian community met with tremendous community and press support, along with some criticism and concern.

Over the next 10 years, Baliwick has remained dedicated to developing dramatic work — especially new work — for this community, making Chicago's gay theater scene the most prolific in the nation. When *Pride Series '98* opens on April 17 with Landon Coleman's beautiful work *In Harmes' Way*, the ten year tradition

continues to grow.

Jerker, meanwhile, has achieved classic status in gay literature. A sensual love story between two men who communicate only through phone calls, *Jerker* remains today a vivid experience — both a perfect picture of life in San Francisco, 1985, and an still relevant portrait of a culture shocked by sexual drive, society disapproval, and suffocating grief. In turns funny, erotic, and full of humanity, *Jerker* is a love story that supersedes time, place, and name.

Darren Stephens again plays the role of Bert in this 10th Anniversary production, with Canadian Actor Steve Leonetti making his American debut as J.R. David Poile is also featured, in this production directed by David Zak.

Regular performance times are Friday at 10:30 and Saturday and Sunday at 5:30 to April 11. All tickets are \$15. For further information or reservations, call Baliwick Repertory, 1229 W Belmont.



MOVIE REVIEW

by William Attewell

The Man in the Iron Mask

Legend has it that King Louis XIV of France kept a prisoner hidden in the Bastille, his face enshrouded in iron. No one really knew who the poor guy was, but Alexandre Dumas turned that story into the classic adventure yarn *The Man in the Iron Mask*.

Now comes Hollywood's latest entry in the iron mask sweepstakes, with all eyes on teen-throb Leonardo DiCaprio (in a dual role as the evil King Louis and his twin

Philippe. Unfortunately, time which could have been better spent exploring how the Man in Iron Mask was able to emotionally survive his six year prison ordeal, is spent instead on stock, period-piece flourishes.

We are treated to several pointless shots of Musketeers racing on horseback through Paris' cobblestone back alleys. We see dark, dank palace basements and dungeons looking as though the set designer used EuroDisney's "Pirates of the Caribbean" for



L to R, Athos (John Malkovich), Porthos (Gerard Depardieu), d'Artagnan (Gabriel Byrne) and Aramis (Jeremy Irons)

brother Philippe) in the first post-*Titanic* test of his box office muscle.

The movie opens in 1660. Louis XIII has died and his merciless son sits on the throne in frivolous splendor while his people starve. The Three Musketeers who once loyally served his father are now collecting on their 501(k) plans, with the exception of d'Artagnan (Byrne), who serves as captain of the King's Musketeers. He stays at Louis' side, protecting him from assassins. He still has the grand swordsmanship of a great Musketeer, and even quells a Paris riot by dramatically shiskabobbing a rotten tomato thrown by starving French citizens.

Athos (John Malkovich) lives the simple life, raising his son Raoul, Porthos (Gérard Depardieu), rounded at the middle, still eats lustily of life, though he misses the great battles of the past, and Aramis (Jeremy Irons) has followed his faith and become a priest.

Only Depardieu is semi-delightful as the aging clown Porthos, who treats us to a pointless suicidal nude scene. The remaining Musketeers are stiff and dull. An over-serious Malkovich fails to crack a smile or even a wink, and Jeremy Irons masterminds a paint-by-numbers plot to overthrow the evil King Louis, but more on that later.

Louis is a king of one night stands, who callously discards women once he's bedded them. On the palace grounds during an afternoon pig chase (that's right ... a pig chase), he spies young woman Christine, and moves her to the top of his "must boink" list. In an amazing coincidence, she turns out to be the fiancée of Athos' son, Raoul (Peter Sarsgaard), a young soldier. The king promptly dispatches Raoul to the front to fight the Dutch and meet certain death. Boy, is Malkovich pissed.

Clearly, the King's tyranny must be stopped and France saved. The solution is hidden in the Bastille, in an iron mask. Athos, Aramis and Porthos (Depardieu) hatch a plan to replace the evil king with his twin brother. Standing in their way is d'Artagnan, who has a more personal agenda.

Leonardo DiCaprio is clearly miscast as the evil young King Louis, a role that could have just as easily been executed by Jaye Davison (*The Crying Game*). DiCaprio drowns in gold trimmed, velvet costumes, and comes off as petty and spoiled, rather than truly pernicious or evil. I won't even go into the Marsha Brady hair-do or his Paula Cole impression.

DiCaprio is better as the "good" twin,

inspiration, and we are shown palace secret passages and sliding bookcases direct from *Young Frankenstein*.

The plot lumbers along with predicament, stiff twists and turns and even stiffer dialog. The Grand Masked Ball — at which Prince Philippe makes his palace debut — should have been the emotional, and cinematic climax of the film, and instead turns out to be a lightly attended



Leonardo DiCaprio as King Louis.

affair with rental costumes and only minor suspense and intrigue. After that, the film manages to limp along for another 20 minutes to an implausible finalé.

Randall Wallace, who wrote the screenplay for *Braveheart*, makes his directorial debut with *The Man in the Iron Mask*, which he also scripted. His work here, makes me appreciate — even more — the finely honed directorial genius of Mel Gibson.

According to the latest Hollywood gossip, Leo[nardo] will boycott next week's Oscar Awards in response to being snubbed by the Academy for his performance in *Titanic*. I suggest he's thinking of staying away to avoid the embarrassment of *The Man in the Iron Mask*.

the calendar

March 18 through April 1, 1998

Activities:

Friday, March 20

10% Society - Spring Dance (Madison): This event is for LGBT people & friends and starts at 8 p.m. and runs until 12:45 a.m. in the Great Hall of the Memorial Student Union. There is a \$3 admission and there will be a DJ and a cash bar.

Tuesday, March 24

SAGE/Milwaukee - Women's Bowling (Milwaukee): SAGE women and women friends of SAGE will be bowling at Landmark Lanes, 2220 North Farwell Ave. at 2 p.m. \$2 per game includes tax and shoes. Call Barb at (414) 264-5020 to sign up.

Bar Specials:

Sundays:

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

Cell Block (Chicago): Beer Busts hosted each week by various groups. Check your monthly planner. \$3.75 pitchers all night! Holding Cell opens at 6 p.m. Dominic DJ.

Chicago Eagle (Chicago): Pizza Night!

Club 94 (Kenosha): 3-7 P.M. \$1.25 Bloody Marys, 50¢ Tappers. \$5.50 Beer Bust. 9 p.m. to close. Free Hot Dogs & Nachos served all day!

Club 219 (Milwaukee): 219 Girls! Don't miss Wisconsin's Premier Drag Show.

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Cosmo Sundays! Cosmopolitans, Martinis & Lounge Drinks!

Diversions (Neenah): Open ant 11 a.m. Bloody Marys \$1.50 Old Fashioned & Screw Drivers.

Emerald's (Milwaukee): Men's Night! Call drinks \$2.

Emerald City (Antioch, IL): Bloody Marys \$1.50. Open 3 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Just Us (Milwaukee): 5 P.M. - close. Women's Night 2-4-1 Taps, Miller bottle, and Rail.

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

La Cage (Milwaukee): Customer Appreciation Night. LaCage Showcase, Super Bust, DJ & Dance. No cover.

Mad Bar (Madison): Any domestic bottled beer \$2. Any shot \$3 or less is \$2.

Mama Roux (Milwaukee): \$5 Beer Bust from 3 to 8 p.m. Bloody Marys are \$2 all night.

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

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

Scooter's (Eau Claire): Beer Bust (tap beer \$6) 3 to 8 p.m. \$8 rail mixers, \$10 call mixers, \$2 dbl. Bloody Marys & Screw Drivers all night.

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee): 9 p.m. to close. Half off rail drinks and domestic beer when you @Take It Off@ for Spike (shirts only, guys!).

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Bloody Marys \$2. Open at 3 p.m.

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): Bloodys, Screws, Greyhounds - \$2.25, tap beer 80¢ (until 6 p.m.) \$1.75 rail drinks - 9 p.m. to close.

The Office (Rockford, IL): \$1 Bloody Marys!

Triangle (Milwaukee): Liquid Brunch Sundays. Bloody Mary garnished with a celery stalk and pickle spear. Chase it all with a 6 oz beer. Only \$2.50.

Woody's (Milwaukee): Steve's Mini-Dart Playoffs - 4 to 9 p.m.

Za's (Green Bay): Dry Dance Night! (16 & up in Za's). Alcohol served to over 21 in Java's.

Mondays:

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m.

Cell Block (Chicago): Beer appreciation Club. Monday Night Football. \$2 specials on microbrews.

Club 94 (Kenosha): Closed.

Club 219 (Milwaukee): Absolut Night! \$1.25.

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Happy Hour 2-4-1, 5 to 7 p.m. Pool & Dart Leagues sign up now.

Emeralds (Milwaukee): Margarita Mondays! \$2 - 8 p.m. to midnight.

Emerald City (Antioch, IL): Watch @Melrose Place@ from 7 to 8 p.m. Original Vodka \$2.75. Come play Twister. Open 5 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Just Us (Milwaukee): Closed.

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

La Cage (Milwaukee): Shake a Drink!

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

Mad Bar (Madison): All rails and domestic bottles of beer \$2.

Mama Roux (Milwaukee): 2/4/1 drinks 5 to 7 p.m. Grill hours 4 to 10 p.m.

Manoeuvres (Madison): Happy Hour 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., 2-4-1's and the Manoeuvres Wheel from 8 p.m. to close. Rails, Taps of Lite & Domestic Bottles of Beer \$1.75, Shorties of Lite, \$1, Shots of HOT Sex \$1.50. DJ & Dancing @ 10 p.m.

Man's Country (Chicago): Half-Price Night. Rooms \$10, Lockers \$7.

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

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

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

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 cocktails - 3 to 7 p.m.

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): Domestic beer \$1.25, rail drinks \$1.75. 9 p.m. to close.

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

Triangle (Milwaukee): Melrose Place Monday. \$4 pitcher of Miller products.

Woody's (Milwaukee): \$1 off drinks - 4 to 9 p.m.

Za's (Green Bay): Free Pool & Darts. \$6 Super Bust at Java's.

Tuesdays:

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m.

Cell Block (Chicago): XXX Tuesdays! DV8. \$2 Stolichnaya, pints of Goose Island. Free pool & darts.

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

Club 94 (Kenosha): \$1.25 rail drinks 7 to close. \$5.50 Beer Bust!

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Happy Hour 2-4-1, 5 to 7 p.m. Tattoo Tuesdays! A free drink w/ every tattoo.

Diversions (Neenah): Open at 7 p.m. Rail & domestics \$1.75.

Emeralds (Milwaukee): \$5 Beer Bust - 8 to midnight!

Emerald City (Antioch, IL): Competitive Karaoke. Compete for a trip to Mexico from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Free & anonymous HIV testing 8 to 10 p.m. \$2 well drinks. No cover.

Just Us (Milwaukee): Pull-tabs on all drinks. Full-price/half-price/25 cents.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milwaukee): Mexican Night! 4 p.m. to ? Tacos \$1 7 to 10 p.m. 2-4-1 Tequila 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. Corona \$1.75.

Kirby's Klub (Madison): Every Tuesday is Fetish Night! Shaved, Leather, Wet N' Wild, Flesh, Latex, Master & Servant. \$50 for best Fetish Outfit. If you wear a fetish outfit prices are \$2 rails, \$1.50 taps.

La Cage (Milwaukee): Draw for a Dream Trip! 8 winners nightly. Grand Prize: drawing every 90 days. Next drawing: Trip for 2 to San Francisco.

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

Mad Bar (Madison): Bottles of Miller Lite \$2. Any shot that's \$3 or less is \$2.

Mama Roux (Milwaukee): Taco Tuesday! 2/4/1 drinks 5 to 7 p.m. Grill open from 4 to 10 p.m.

Manoeuvres (Madison): Happy Hour 4 to 8 p.m. Customers can spin the Manoeuvres wheel to win free drinks, shots, pizza and more. DJ & Dancing 10 p.m.

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

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

Scooter's (Eau Claire): Progressive Night! Starts 9 p.m. to close. \$1 rail mixers, 50¢ mugs of beer. Price goes up 25¢ every half hour to closing.

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 cocktails 3 to 7 p.m.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Closed!

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): \$2.50 top-shelf, \$1.75 rail drinks.

The Office (Rockford, IL): Bud Products \$1.50.

The Trading Company (Eau Claire): 2 for \$2. Domestic bottles and rail mixes all night.

Triangle (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 Tuesdays.

Woody's (Milwaukee): Snack Night! \$1 off drinks from 4 to 9 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m. It's Leather Night! Prizes throughout the night.

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

Chicago Eagle (Chicago): Free pool.

Club 94 (Kenosha): Karaoke Night 9 p.m. to close. 2-4-1 rail drinks, 50¢ Tappers 7 to 11 p.m. \$2.50 pitchers all night.

Club 219 (Milwaukee): Strippers! Always the HOTTEST Men for your enjoyment.

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Happy Hour 2-4-1 5 to 7 p.m. Watch Ellen & Zena with us.

Diversions (Neenah): Open at 7 p.m. \$6 Beer Bust!

Emeralds (Milwaukee): Lady's Night! Call drinks \$2.

Emerald City (Antioch, IL): "Ellen@ 8:30 p.m. MGD Lite bottle \$1.50.

Just Us (Milwaukee): Import Night. Half-price on import bottles of beer.

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

La Cage (Milwaukee): Super Bust!

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

Mad Bar (Madison): All rail drinks \$2. Shots of Jack Daniel's \$2.

Mama Roux (Milwaukee): 2/4/1 drinks from 3 p.m. until closing. Grill hours are 4 to 10 p.m.

Manoeuvres (Madison): Happy Hour 4 to 8 p.m. with the Manouvers Wheel. Shorties of Lite \$1. All rail drinks \$2. Shots of Jack Daniels \$2. DJ & Dancing at 10 p.m.

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

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

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

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

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee): Double Bubble all day. 2-4-1 cocktails open to close.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 6 to 8 p.m. Mini Pitchers after 8 p.m.

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Beer Bust \$4, or 80¢ glasses of beer.

The Office (Rockford, IL): \$2.50 pitchers/50¢ drafts.

Triangle (Milwaukee): Super Bust! All you can drink Miller Lite, High Life and Genuine Draft Light. Only \$5!

Woody's (Milwaukee): Happy-Happy Hour 4 to 5 p.m. (50¢ off tappers & \$1 off rail drinks). \$1 off drinks from 5 to 9 p.m.

Za's (Green Bay): \$6 Super Bust. Sean spins requests.

Thursdays:

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m.

Cell Block (Chicago): \$2 well, wine, domestic beer. Music videos from the 70s, 80s & 90s. Holding Cell opens at 10 p.m. T.L. Noble, DJ/VJ.

Chicago Eagle (Chicago): Pain & Pleasure in the Pit. \$1.50 longnecks. Pit open.

Club 94 (Kenosha): Beer Bust 7 p.m. to close. HIV testing 8 to 10 p.m. CHECK THIS ONE!!!

Club 219 (Milwaukee) Wisconsin's #1 Show Bar! Talent Night. Variety Night.

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Happy Hour 2-4-1 5 to 7 p.m. Amy entertains!

Diversions (Neenah): Open at 7 p.m. \$8 Rail Bust!

Emeralds (Milwaukee): Tea Thursday! Ice Tea \$2.50.

Emerald City (Antioch, IL): Come play free pool! \$2 well drinks. No cover. Open at 5 p.m.

Just Us (Milwaukee): Men's Night. 2-4-1 all taps, Miller bottles and rail. Restaurant open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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

Kirby's Klub Madison: Every Thursday Night is 20's Night! Party to the hottest rock all night. \$1 rail, \$1 shots, 50¢ taps. Listen to our new DJs Todd & Shawn.

LaCage (Milwaukee): Super Bust. DJ & dancing 7 nights a week.

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

Mama Roux (Milwaukee): 2/4/1 drinks 5 to 7 p.m. Special appetizers by Stan.

Mad Bar (Madison): Ex & Ex Lite \$2. Shots of Cuervo \$2.

Manoeuvres (Madison): Happy Hour 4 to 8 p.m. with the Manouvers Wheel. 8 p.m. to close Jim Beam drinks \$2, Ex & Ex Lite \$2, Shorties of Lite \$1, Shots of Cuervo or Doctors \$2. DJ at 10 p.m.

Man's Country (Chicago): Half-Price Night. Rooms \$10, Lockers \$7.

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

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

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 cocktails 3 to 8 p.m. 75¢ taps from 9 p.m. to close.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 6 to 8 p.m. After 8 p.m. 7 Crown \$2, Captains \$2.

The Ballgame (Milwaukee): \$1.75 rail drinks 9 p.m. to close.

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

Triangle (Milwaukee): Thirsty Thursdays. \$1 Rail 9pm to close. Comedy, showtunes and more from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. followed by hot music at 9 p.m.

Woody's (Milwaukee): Happy-Happy Hour 4 to 5 p.m. (50¢ off tappers & \$1 off rail drinks). \$1 off drinks from 5 to 9 p.m.

Za's (Green Bay): \$6 Super Bust. DJ Mark spins.

Fridays:

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 8 p.m.

Cell Block (Chicago): Fetish Night! Check your Monthly Planner. \$100 drawings. Holding Cell opens at 10 p.m.

Chicago Eagle (Chicago): Club Night. Chicago's Leather and S&M Clubs welcome. Pit open.

Club 94 (Kenosha): DJ Jeff's party. 10 p.m. to close.

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

Diversions (Neenah): Open at 7 p.m. Dance Party! DJ requests.

Emeralds (Milwaukee): After Work Cool Down! Mondays through Fridays 5 to 7 p.m. \$1.25 rail drinks.

Emerald City (Antioch, IL): Friday Night Dance Party. Live DJ. Shot specials.

Just Us - Just Us Bust (Milwaukee): Beer \$7, rail drinks \$10, call drinks \$15. DJ Doug plays your requests all night! Fish Fry. 5-10 p.m.

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

La Cage (Milwaukee): LaCage Showcase. Show starts at 11 p.m.

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

Mad Bar (Madison): Rail whiskey drinks \$2. Shots of Jack Daniel's \$2. Mama Roux (Milwaukee): Fish Fry 4 to 10 p.m. Open menu specials.

Manoeuvres (Madison): Happy Hour 4 to 8 p.m. with the Manouvers Wheel. From 8 p.m. to close Rail Whiskey drinks \$2, Shots of Pucker, \$2, DJ & Dancing @ 10 p.m.

Man's Country (Chicago): Male Strippers and Porn Stars. Show at Mid-night.

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): \$1.50 shot specials & import beer specials. DJ/Dancing.

Scooter's (Eau Claire): \$1 domestic bottles 9 p.m. to close.

South Water Street Docks (Milwaukee): 2-4-1 cocktails 3 to 7 p.m.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): \$1 glass of tap beer. Dr.'s \$1.50 all night.

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

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

Woody's (Milwaukee): Happy-Happy Hour 4 to 5 p.m. (50¢ off tappers & \$1 off rail drinks). \$1 off drinks from 5 to 9 p.m.

Saturdays:

Cell Block (Chicago): Open at 2 p.m. Saturday Nigh Riot 'til 3 a.m. Blackout in Holding Cell & Yard.

Chicago Eagle (Chicago): Drawings for Eagle Leather all night. Pit open.

Club 94 (Kenosha): DJ Jim's party 9 p.m. to close.

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Join DJ Amber for dancin' & romancin'.

Diversions (Neenah): Open at 7 p.m. Dance Party!

Emerald City (Antioch, IL): Super Saturday Night Dance Party. No cover before 9 p.m. Shot specials DJ Bange. Open to 3 a.m.

Just Us (Milwaukee): Country Dance! Free dance lessons 7 p.m. to midnight with the Shoreline Dancers. Restaurant open from 6 to 10 p.m. DJ 'hill close.

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

Mad Bar (Madison): Bottles of Rolling Rock \$2. Shots of Jagermeister \$2. Levi/leather uniform night! 50¢ discount for those dressed in levee leather or uniforms.

Mama Roux (Milwaukee): Bar opens at 3 p.m. Early Bird Specials 3 to 6 p.m. Grill hours from 4 to 10 p.m.

Manoeuvres (Madison): Happy Hour 4 to 8 p.m. 2-4-1 on any drink up to \$3.50. All other drinks \$1 off. Buckets of Miller Lite shorties 6 for \$5. 8 p.m. to close bottles of Rolling Rock \$2. DJ & dancing at 10 p.m.

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

OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): \$1.50 shot specials. DJ/Dancing.

Life's a Drag

©by Bob Arnold



"Her book was so awful she needs to put her quill back in the goose..."



BOOK REVIEW

by Ed Grover

The Venice Adriana

by Ethan Mordden

If you love Venice, opera, and Maria Callas (not necessarily in that order), you'll love this new novel by Ethan Mordden. "The Venice Adriana marks yet another high point in Mordden's long and distinguished writing career." You may remember Mordden as a respected and expert commentator on opera and musical theater, or many of you may remember him as the creator of the popular "Buddies" series of gay fiction (*Some Men Are Lookers* was reviewed in In Step, June/July '97).

With this novel, Mordden combines his knowledge of both opera and gay life to create the fascinating story of Adriana Grafanas, "in whose character some might find a slight resemblance to real-life opera legend Maria Callas." This is the story of a young writer from New



—Ethan Mordden

York who is sent to Venice to (ghost) write the life of a Greek-American opera singer. The time is 1962, and Mark Trigger is out, but not in the way we are today. He struggles with being accepted for what he is — a human being who happens to be attracted to men. We're still struggling with that one!

Adriana Granfanas is "the superstar of her generation, her concerts are sold out for months in advance, her affairs are the stuff of headlines, her temper tantrums and cancellations are legendary." Trigger worships and adores this opera star and she, in her way, loves and trusts him with her life story ... sort of. But much remains hidden; it is Trigger's job to sort through the legends, find out who the real Adriana Granfanas is, and to write the book.

Mark Trigger stays at Adriana's Venice home while he gathers material for the proposed book, and busies himself with organizing her press clippings. There are also some other people in residence, including Adriana's current lover, a hunky Greek film star named Nik Acropoli (Nik is sure he's Hollywood bound). There's a rather repulsive character referred to as the "Gossip," who decamps and moves on to a Princess). And, finally there is Adriana's devoted housekeeper Deodota, who will give out no information on Granfanas—at all.

In the buildings surrounding the "giardano segreto" live Siora Varin, her aged, toothless mother, and Il Professore, who has the most "implausibly handsome chap" named Vieri living with him. Il Professore passes Vieri off as his nephew, but Mark knows better and is instantly smitten with him. He is given

the job of teaching Vieri English in his spare time; things eventually heat up between the two of them.

Granfanas' voice is failing, her reviews are horrible. She is sure everyone hates her—and a lot of people—do including the press. To rectify this, she has decided to make a movie, "The House of Atreus," with Giampalo Ercolani, an avant-garde filmmaker famous for "his bits of rough, his rent boys". There's lots of fun here, especially during the filming of the movie, and later at a party when an American journalist gets nasty with Adriana and she decks him while the TV cameras are rolling.

Ercolani is accompanied by a sidekick referred to only as "lo Scenarista." He's a really ostentatious queen who wouldn't say shit if he had a mouthful. There is also a muscled American cowboy actor, of the Steve Reeves ilk, named Dave Ryatt, who gets into some interesting positions — I think he calls it double-dipping — with lo Scenarista. That whole chapter is a romp in the hay.

In the course of his search for the truth about Granfanas, Mark interviews lots of people and gets lots of conflicting stories. He meets and has a continuing affair with Hugh Drummond, the English representative from Adriana's record company. Mark goes to Greece and spends an afternoon with Adriana's psychoanalyst brother. Later he meets her voice teacher, Gilda da Conservo, who is very old and addled. She is attended by her maid who keeps slipping her spoonfuls of medications which she calls elixirs.

The book's title comes from an elusive bootleg recording of Granfanas singing the title role in Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur* which was made in Venice in 1949. Mark goes to see a music collector in Rome, who turns out to be an American from Brooklyn; he's 50ish, has pee-stained trousers and smells bad. The tape he ends up getting in trade is a fake. Finding this tape recording becomes an obsession for Trigger, and eventually it literally falls into his hands.

This book fascinated me with its full-blown characters and wonderful descriptions. We get to visit different parts of Venice, ride the vaporetto, and later, visit Rome, Pisa and Greece. There's lots of opera, names of opera divas, and references to who's who and who's not in that musical community. "With a plot that twists, turns and wraps around itself, Mordden brings the word *Diva* fully to life in this seductive story of the woman who defined opera for the world." It's great fun. I loved it. (St. Martin's Press, ISBN:0-312-18202-3, \$23.95).

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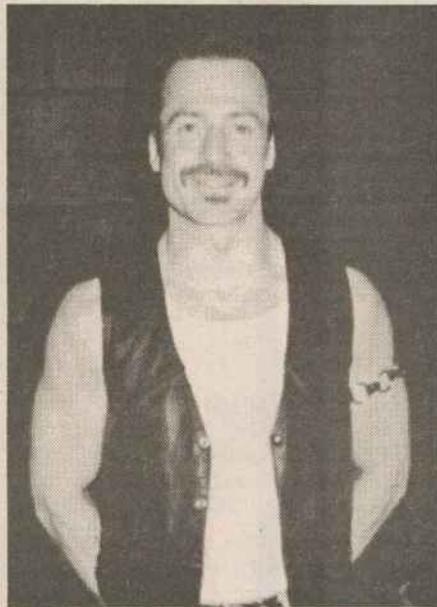
Located just south of National Ave.



Some of Austin's Finest. Photo by Jamie in Texas



Snuggle Bunnies. Photo by Jamie @ Dish.



Stud Muffin. Photo by Jamie @ Milwaukee Eagle.



Love Monkeys. Photo by Jamie @ Dish.

Scooter's (Eau Claire): All chilled shots only \$1.50 - 9 to 11 p.m. DJ & dancing starting at 11 p.m.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Hot Sex \$1 a shot.

The Ball Game (Milwaukee): 80¢ top beers, \$2 Bloody Marys, Screws, Greyhounds. All until 6 p.m.

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

Bar Events:

Saturday, March 21

Dish - PrideFest Benefit (Milwaukee): 9:30 p.m. to close - \$1 donation at the door goes to benefit PrideFest '98. Located at 235 S 2nd St.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milwaukee): Wisconsin Leather Men's Club Night & Party.



My new duds. Photo by Jamie @ Milwaukee Eagle

Manoeuvres (Madison): HIV testing by the Madison Health Dept. from 10 p.m. to Midnight.

Sunday, March 22

Manoeuvres (Madison): TSC Productions presents a Sunday Evening Drag Show. Showtime: 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25

Dish - HIV Testing (Milwaukee): The BESTD Traveling HIV Clinic will be there from 8 until 11 p.m. FMI call (414) 272-2144.

Thursday, March 26

LAMM - Spring Fling (Milwaukee): It's happening at Just Us from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person and should be ordered from the LAMM offices. Appetizers & music will be provided. Beverages are on your own. FMI call (414) 264-2600.

Sunday, March 29

Miss Gay Madison America Pageant (Madison): at Manoeuvres with host Miss Vicki C. Showtime @ 10 p.m.

Book Readings, Classes, Clubs & Events:

Thursday, March 19

Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop - Theater Discussion (Downer Ave.): The Milwaukee Chamber Theater Director James Tasse, will discuss Athol Fugard's "Valley Song" at 7 p.m. FMI call (414) 332-1181.

Saturday, March 21

Woodland Pattern Book Center - Spoken Word Performance (Milwaukee): Jayne Cortez uses words and music to create sound-image dramas of a new order at 8 p.m. \$6 general, \$5 advance tickets and members. FMI call (414) 263-5001.

Sunday, March 22

A Room Of One's Own Bookstore & Coffee House - Music (Madison): The wind quintet, El Cing, will perform in the coffee house at 1 p.m. Free and open to the public. FMI call (608) 257-7888.

Woodland Pattern Book Center - Alternating Currents Live (Milwaukee): Lou Malozzi and Jack the Dog in an evening of sound art performance at 7 p.m. Admission is \$6 general admission and \$5 advance tickets and members. FMI call (414) 263-5001.

Monday, March 23

A Room Of One's Own Bookstore & Coffee House - Author Appearance (Madison): Martha Shelly will read from the new "Haggadah" from Aunt Lute Press at 6:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. FMI call (608) 257-7888.

Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop - Mystery Group (Oakland Ave.): The group will discuss "She Walks These Hills" by Sharyn McCrumb at 7 p.m. FMI call (414) 963-3111.

Saturday, March 28

Frontiers Gay/Bi Men's Club - Presentation (Madison): A New Gay Biographies Series, "Living Out, & will be presented by Raphael Knudson, Editor of UW-Wisconsin Press. The event is open to all and will be held at the Inn on the Park, 22 South Carroll (on the Capital Square at Main St.) in the Assembly Room at 7:30 p.m. FMI call (608) 274-5959.

Woodland Pattern - Create a Book (Milwaukee): In a two-day class, taught by Caren Heft, the group will create the Milwaukee Trash Book. Bring 8 to 10 trash object (please, no cigars, road kill or reeking garbage) gathered from Milwaukee streets. \$75 general public, \$70 members, plus a \$15 materials fee. Each participant receives a copy. FMI call (414) 263-5001.

Sunday, March 29

A Room Of One's Own Bookstore & Coffee House - Author Appearance (Madison): Carolyn Lei-Lanilau will read from "Ono Ono Girl's Hula" at 2 p.m. Free and open to the public. FMI call (608) 257-7888.

Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops - Author Appearance (Downer Ave.): Rosario Ferre, a Puerto Rican novelist, will read from her new novel "Eccentric Neighborhoods" at 3 p.m. FMI call (414) 332-1181.

Community Meetings & Events:

Thursday, March 19

CAIR Intervention Research Conference (Milwaukee): "HIV Risk Reduction in People With Serious Mental Illness: Outcome of a Cognitive-Behavioral Skills-Building Intervention" will be presented from 3 to 4:15 p.m. at 1249 N. Franklin. FMI call (414) 456-7731.

Gay AA/Gay Al-anon - 12-Step Meetings (Kenosha): These recovery groups meet every Thursday at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5810 8th Ave. at 7:30 p.m. FMI call Bill or Art at (414) 694-0115.

LAMM - Monthly Meeting (Milwaukee): The lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee will meet every third Thursday from March through November at the M&M Club (upstairs) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. FMI call the LAMM Office at (414) 264-2600.

SAGE/Milwaukee - Senior Law (Milwaukee): Kara Morgan, attorney with Legal Action of Wisconsin will speak about Senior Law and its free (for persons over 60) benefit specialists at 6:30 p.m. at the Eastside Library, 1910 E. North Ave.

Friday, March 20

G/L/B/T 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.

Walker's Point Cafe - HIV Testing (Milwaukee): The BESTD Traveling HIV Clinic will be there from 8 until 11 p.m. FMI call (414) 272-2144.

Saturday, March 21

4th Annual School Board Candidates Forum (Madison): The Forum is held at James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 2146 E. Johnson St. at 1 p.m. Issues covered will be in-service training, staff & administration, harassment etc.

Margie Adam - Benefit Concert (Madison): It all happens in the Sapphire Ballroom of the Northgate Mall, 1133 N. Sherman Ave. The 7:30 p.m. concert benefits A Room of One's Own Bookstore & Coffee

House. Tickets are available at the store. \$15 general admission, \$17 the day of the show. \$25 preferred seating includes a reception after the show. FMI call (608) 257-7888.

Sunday, March 22

Country Dykes - A Day in the Country (Cottage Grove): Join them for some fun and some work (if you want to), followed by a vegetarian pot luck at Eta & Carol's house. There will be a prairie burning & seed exchange. Bring your garden & flower seeds. Call (608) 838-3094 for directions.

Gay Men's Discussion Group (Milwaukee): Focus: Gay Spirituality at the BESTD Clinic 1240 East Brady. \$3 donation suggested.

Integrity/Dignity - Religious (Madison): Eucharist and social hour at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis House, 1001 University Ave. FMI call (608) 836-8886.

Perfect Harmony Chorus - Rehearsal (Madison): Meet at Grace Episcopal Church on Capital Square from 7 to 9 p.m. FMI call (608) 232-0528.

SAGE/Milwaukee - Annual Meeting & Luncheon (Milwaukee): It all takes place at the private Rathskeller at John Ernst Restaurant, 600 E. Ogden Ave. at 1 p.m. Reservations were due by 3/16. Jerry Grillo & Jack Grassel provide the entertainment.

Monday, March 23

Gay AA/Gay Al-anon - 12-Step Meetings (Racine): These recovery groups meet every Monday at 625 College Ave. at 8 p.m. FMI call Art at (414) 694-0115.

Tuesday, March 24

Boyz Nite - ARCW - (Milwaukee): The group meets every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Assemble Safer Sex kits and other prevention materials. It's a place to hang out with other gay men and just dish. All ages welcome. FMI call Chris (414) 225-1556 or Andy (414) 225-1502.

Northland Gay Men's Center - Discussion Group (Duluth, MN): This group will meet every Tuesday evening for the month of March from 7 to 9 p.m. at 8 North 2nd Avenue East, Temple opera Block, Suite 309. FMI call (218) 722-8585.

Wednesday, March 25

DanceWorks - Dreamtime Workshop (Milwaukee): Signs of Growth: Unearthing Seeds & Weeds. Artmaking with seedlings and found objects from 6 to 9 p.m. No experience or materials required. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Taught by Janet Lew Carr. Also on 3/26. FMI call (414) 481-2010.

SAGE/Dane - Women's Chat (Madison): Meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 10 a.m. at A Room of One's Own Coffee Shop. FMI call (608) 835-8971.

Thursday, March 26

GLBT Community Meeting (Madison): Should the United and the Madison G/L Resource Center merge? Your input is needed. Meeting is at the Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, 953 Jennifer St. from 7 to 9 p.m.

Friday, March 27

SAGE/Dane - Men's Group (Madison): Meets every Friday at 3:30 p.m. for High Tea & Talk at Monty's Blue Plate Diner on Atwood Ave.

SAGE/Milwaukee - Men's Discussion Group (Milwaukee): A new men's discussion group for mature men will start meeting weekly from 6 to 8 p.m. Tonight's topic: Relationships. Space is limited. FMI and to register call (414) 271-0378.

Wednesday, April 1

Cardinal Stritch Health Fair - HIV Testing (Milwaukee): The BESTD Traveling HIV Clinic will be there from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. FMI call (414) 272-2144.



Ballgame stop on the SSBL Poker Run. Photo by courtesy of SSBL



We can't afford t-shirts. Photo by Jamie @ Milwaukee Eagle

Film, TV, Video & Radio:

Monday, March 23

Dyke TV - Cable 4, WYOU (Madison): A 30-minute show produced in New York airs every Monday at 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25

Nothing To Hide - Cable 4, WYOU (Madison): Local political races: Midge Miller interviews candidates for the School Board (Elder & Claire) and the County Board (Donovan & Vedder) from 9 to 11 p.m. Also on 4/1: Miller interviews candidates for County Board (Donovan & Vedder) and Lt. Governor (Barbara Lawton).

QUEERY - WORT 89.9 FM (Madison): Your Queer FM radio station for news and information for South-central Wisconsin plays every Wednesday from 7 to 7:30 p.m. To volunteer call Margo Robb at (608) 256-2001. Followed by "This Way Out" a nationally produced show for GLBT folks at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 27

Live Bait Theatrical Milwaukee - Dear Camera: Diary Film & Video Festival (Milwaukee): At the Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 907 W. National Ave. A screening of "Lost, Lost, Lost" a film by Jonas Mekas. Showing starts at 8 p.m. FMI call (414) 964-2327.

Saturday, March 28

Live Bait Theatrical Milwaukee - Dear Camera: Diary Film & Video Festival (Milwaukee): At the Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 907 W. National Ave. A screening of "Weather Diaries 4 & 5" and other works by George Kuchar. Showing starts at 8 p.m. FMI call (414) 964-2327.

Sunday, March 29

Frontiers Gay/Bi Men's Club - Film Circle (Madison): A screening of "La Cage Aux Folles" at 7:30 p.m. FMI call David at (608) 274-5959.

Monday, March 30

SAGE/Milwaukee - Film (Milwaukee): A 7 p.m. screening of "Total

Eclipse" (the story of gay poets Rimbaud & Verlaine), starring Leonard DiCaprio, will be shown in the SAGE Room of Lake Park Lutheran Church.

Wednesday, April 1

UWM Union Theater - Latin American Film (Milwaukee): An advanced screening of Moebius will be shown at 7 p.m. The 20th Annual Latin American Film Festival runs 4/17 through 4/24. FMI & prices, call (414) 229-4070.

Museums & Galleries

Friday, March 20

Madison Art Center - Gallery Talk (Madison): Sculptor Martha Glowacki, will speak on the works of Ursula von Rydingsvard at 5:30 p.m. FMI call (608) 257-0158.

Milwaukee Art Museum - It's Only Rock & Roll (Milwaukee): This is the first art exhibition to examine and celebrate the impact of Rock & Roll on contemporary art. The exhibit is in the Journal/Lubar Galleries and runs through May 24. FMI call (414) 224-3200

UWM Fine Arts - WWI Posters (Milwaukee): "The Great War in Posters" will be featured at Gallery II of inova at UWM. The gallery is located at 3203 N. Downer Ave., Room 154, Mitchell Hall and will be up through 4/3. FMI call (414) 229-5070.

Theater, Music & Dance:

Thursday, March 19

The Rave - Concert (Milwaukee): 10,000 Maniacs with The Neals. At the Milwaukee Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave. FMI & tickets (\$11) call (414) 342-RAVE.

Friday, March 20

Alverno College Presents - One-Time Only Performance (Milwaukee): Global Divas featuring singer/musicians Susana Boca, Stella Chiswehe & Tish Hinojosa at 8 p.m. in the Pitman Theater. FMI call (414) 382-6044.

Danceworks Performance Co. - Dance (Sheboygan): The company will perform "Milwaukee 90210" by Ed Burgess, of the UWM faculty, on his program at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, 608 New York Ave. FMI call (920) 458-6144

Saturday, March 21

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra - Classical Music (Milwaukee): World renowned violinist Pinchas Zukerman will perform and conduct Elgar, Shubert and Bach at 7:30 p.m. Also on 3/21 at 8 p.m. and 3/22 at 7:30 p.m. FMI & tickets call (414) 273-7206.

Pabst Theater - Jazz (Milwaukee): Paquito D'Rivera and The United Nation Orchestra will present "A Tribute To Dizzy" at 8 p.m. FMI & tickets call (414) 286-8777.

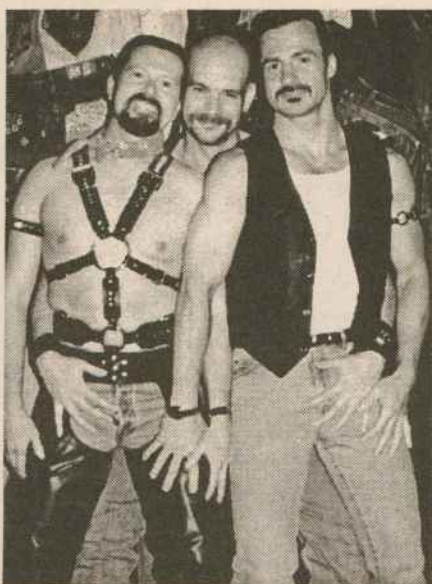
The Rave - Concert (Milwaukee): The H.O.R.D.E. Band to Band Combat: The Probers, Ditch Pig, True Heart Susie, Fresh Water Collins. At the Milwaukee Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave. Tickets on sale for \$5 at the door. You must be over 21 years old for this one. FMI call (414) 342-RAVE.

Sunday, March 22

UWM Fine Arts - Chamber Music (Milwaukee): The UWM Chamber Orchestra will perform Mozart & Beethoven at 3 p.m. in the Fine Arts Recital Hall. FMI call (414) 229-4308.

Wednesday, March 25

The Rave - Concert (Milwaukee): Third Eye Blind & Smashmouth with Fat. At the Milwaukee Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave. FMI & tickets (\$16.50) call (414) 342-RAVE.



Three Musketeers. Photo by Jamie @ Milwaukee Eagle.

Friday, March 27

Early Music Now - Final Concert (Milwaukee): The world acclaimed Baroque orchestra, Musica ad Rhenum, will perform 17th & 18th century music at Grace Lutheran Church, 1209 N. Broadway at 7:30 p.m. FMI and tickets call (414) 225-3113.

Kohler Arts Center - Comedy (Sheboygan, WI): Lisa Kron, a founding member of The Five Lesbian Brothers will present her new work, "2.5 Minute Ride," the story of her Midwestern family, at 7:30 p.m. There will also be a Family Information chat, featuring excerpts from Kron's repertoire, on 3/25 at 7:30 p.m. FMI & tickets call (920) 458-6144.

Miller Cabaret - Music (Milwaukee): Romantic Mishaps: Songs of Love Gone Awry, a revue featuring show tune, pop and country songs from the 50s and 60s will be presented every Friday and Saturday at 10:30 p.m. at the Broadway Theater Center. This event is free and open to the public. FMI call (414) 291-7800.

Skylight Opera Theater - Opera (Milwaukee): The 39th season continues with a Midwest premiere of "A Chekhov Trilogy," a trio of one-act operas based on short stories by Anton Chekhov. All performances will be in the Cabot Theater at the Broadway Theater Center. FMI & tickets call (414) 291-7800.

The Rave - Concert (Milwaukee): Plaid Rose with Falling Wallendas & Ye Gods. At the Milwaukee Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave. FMI & tickets (\$6) call (414) 342-RAVE.

Saturday, March 28

The Rave - Concert (Milwaukee): Little Blue Crunchy Things. At the Milwaukee Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave. FMI & tickets call (414) 342-RAVE.

Sunday, March 29 The Rave - Concert (Milwaukee): JGB. At the Milwaukee Eagles Club, 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave. FMI & tickets (\$17.50) call (414) 342-RAVE.

Wednesday, April 1

UWM Concert Chorale - Music (Milwaukee): The Chorale will perform at 12:30 p.m. on the UWM Concourse, 2200 E Kenwood Blvd. FMI call (414) 229-4452.



But I have to go REAL BAD! Photo by Jamie @ Club 219



Just hold it till the end of my number sister! Photo by Jamie @ Club 219



I'm simply appalled by this whole conversation. Photo by Jamie @ Club 219



Some of Austin's Glitter Girls. Photo by Jamie in Texas



We just swapped underpants. Photo by Jamie @ Triangle

OUT OF THE STARS

ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

You are in a very practical frame of mind and unusually sharp in all your money matters. In your can-do-anything mood, no matter how busy, you will be more than able to take care of everything. Speak softly and avoid disagreements with a loved one.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)

Family is highlighted for now. Heart-to-heart talks with children will prove advantageous. The financial goals you've had in mind are going to be realized in the very near future. Strive for fairness in all your decision-making.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)

Any problems in family or home life will finally be resolved. Keep your cool in the workplace, co-workers may be overly sensitive. There are changes, from a distance, which will stir things up at work for the next few weeks. Unreasonable demands may be made.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)

You'll start the week in a dream world of your own. It may be best to take time alone and treat yourself better. A short trip may be the ticket to fun and adventure. Work runs smoothly for a change, but there are tensions in the home. Remember your mate.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23)

Listen to a friend's advice regarding financial planning. Once you have your plan in order, take time to discuss it with your beneficiary. Others may accuse you of living with unrealistic expectations — don't let it bother you, your best ideas come to you this way.

VIRGO: (August 24 - September 23)

This week will bring passion and intimacy with your love. Business and household projects are favored, and you'll be surprised at how much you get done. There may be a bonus for your recent efforts. Take time for laughter, and make plans to further your education.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)

The more you depend on your inner reserves, the stronger you are. Your actions inspire family members to strive for their best. There are some self doubts you have been wrestling with which only you can work through. Self-improvement efforts will succeed.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22)

Spend time with close friends and have some fun. Both your friendships and love relationships are very fulfilling. Keep your cool; someone is trying to undermine your position with flattery or outright bribery. There is a lucrative job possibility in the future.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21)

It's a pretty effortless and pleasurable week. You have the power to make changes for the better. Personal achievements and romance will be highlighted for the next few months. You need to resolve an old misunderstanding with an estranged friend.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)

Wherever you are, you are surrounded by luck and friendship. Unexpected money is most likely to come your way. Your work and family responsibilities are heavy, you have people relying on you from all sides, take things one at a time.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)

There are many things that need your attention right now. Try to prioritize, and do the most important things first. Verbal clashes are unavoidable — both your kids and co-workers will challenge your authority. Check out any opportunities to increase your income.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)

Spend some time with your mate and family. You are both assertive and charming. It feels good to succeed at work and know your family's happy too. The week will be full of heavy mental stimulation and many challenges. Innovative and unconventional approaches may work well.



KEEPIN' IN STEP

by Jamie

Just after I ended the last column, I had to pack, clean the house and get a good nights rest for my 2nd trip to Austin. I woke up at 4:00 a.m., packed the personal care products into an overnight bag, hopped in my car to drop off the column and pick up Chris. As I was making the turn onto the street where Bill and Jorge (*In Step*, *Q•Voice*) live, I noticed my directional wasn't working. Now, being somewhat of a gear-head, I knew that once again (3rd time in as many months) I was having alternator trouble (The alternator supplies power and charges the battery of your car). Having just replaced the alternator AGAIN just weeks before I was to say the least a bit upset. I got to Chris's (thank god he was standing outside waiting) and at that point we decided it would be best just to get my car home and take his "hooptie" to the airport. Once again, his "hooptie" saved our butts!

Anyway, after a few hours on an airplane we were once again standing on Texas soil. It was at that point that I decided NOT to think about the continuous problems I have with my car (by the way, it's a "92" Pontiac Grand Prix SE, don't by one!) Nope, I was in Austin and we were gonna have fun. My Uncle Rick and Aunt Cheryl were there at the airport with open arms and big smiles. After lots of hugs and smooches we picked up the rental car and followed them out to their beautiful home in Canyon Creek, just outside of Austin. After a great meal at a really great restaurant that overlooks Travis Lake, we opted for a disco nap so we would have enough energy to take in the fabulous night life Austin has to offer.

Our first stop was Charlie's. Charlie's

is a smaller version of Club 219, that has friendly bartenders, strippers and of course, drag shows. Our bartender David, looked up as we walked in and smiled. Sure enough, he remembered us from our last trip. He made sure we felt welcome, even buying us a few cocktails and taking us out on the town the following night.

After Charlie's we stopped at Austin's best all around dance club, Oil Can Harry's (also known as Trash Can Mary's). This place has the best music, the hottest dancers and the best lookin' boys north of the border! I'm tellin' ya, I'm like a kid in a candy store at that club. As you probably already know, I prefer non-Caucasian guys, and Oil Can is the place to find some of the hottest Latino boys that aren't stuck on themselves. Only one guy gave me attitude, and I wasn't in the mood for that... so I walked 15 feet to another guy, grabbed his arm and dragged him to the dance floor. We danced through 4 or 5 songs, and by that time it was time to call it a night. Chris wound up talking to Mr. Attitude, apparently the guy felt a bit bad for giving me shade. (No, it wasn't Aaron Jones, he wouldn't have felt bad about giving attitude.)

The other clubs worth mentioning (although not our favorites) were The Chain Drive which has 70 cent shots on Thursday nights and The Forum that is a dance club with one of it's bars overlooking the Austin skyline.

The weather in Austin was not quite 70 degrees but we did make it to Hippo Hollow (also known as Hippo Hollow) for a couple of days basking in the warmth of the sunshine. Unlike last time, the water was a bit too chilly for me but Chris

thought it would be a great idea for him to jump in. I'm sure that after he came out of the water, it took quite awhile for the "shrinkage" to go away.

We also experienced one of the best thunderstorms I've seen in a long time. We had gone to dinner with Rick and Cheryl as this monster rolled in. Even the



Cutie of the Week... Rolando. Photo by Jamie.

staff at the restaurant was amazed at the furor of the storm. Fortunately, Rick has one of those big Mercury land-cruiser type vehicles, so it was no problem getting back home. Did that storm keep me and Chris from going out that night? Hell no, we were in Austin and we were gonna make the best of it.

On a different night we went to a restaurant for dinner and ran into the group of people Chris and I had partied with the night before. I walked up to the table and said hi with Cheryl right behind we wanting to meet our new friends. After running into the group later that night, all of them made it a point to tell me how cool my Aunt is, after all, she wanted to make sure that if any of us found a "date" we had enough "Trojans".

All-in-all, our trip back to Austin was a blast. As you have read in past columns, my Uncle Rick and Aunt Cheryl are the best! I look forward to visiting them again over the Easter Holiday.

After we got back here to Milwaukee, I fixed my car again so I could get back to covering the events here, starting with a night out at *Dish*. It had been awhile since I had visited my lesbian friends so I grabbed the camera and stopped in. As usual the music was some of Milwaukee's best and there were lots of sexy girls out on the dance floor.

It hasn't been carved in stone yet, so I

can't give you names but *Triangle* is working on getting a couple of new bartenders to add to the already great staff. These 2 people are well known and should be a hoot serving up cocktails and keeping the crowd entertained. As I learn more, I will keep you posted.

Over at *Club 219* the *Miss Continental Plus Pageant* was held March 3rd. The show was hosted by *Lena Chevez* and included talent by *Dena Cass* and *Joey Black*. Taking home the title was *Della Cotessant*.

I Remember You Ginger Spice Benefit at Club 219 was not quite the show everyone had anticipated. As it came closer and closer to show time, it became apparent that the big names out of Chicago were going to be a no show. Nonetheless, the show went on with our own Milwaukee based talent including *Mary Richards*. Poo-poo to the Chicago no-shows.

The 9th annual *Rita Bowl* hit *Red Carpet Lanes* again March 13th. This event is a fund-raiser for the *Holiday Invitational Tournament* and from what I hear is a total blast.

Speaking of Rita, this past Sunday the place where *In Step* gets it's film processed was having difficulty with their processor so I had to wait 3 hours for processing. I decided to stop at *M&M* to kill time. We walked in and the place was packed with a bus load of people from Chicago. These people were defiantly on a party, dancing and hollerin' all over the place! Next stop for the crawl was the *Ball Game* were it was so crowded you would have thought the Packers were playing the Bears.

Now that the *Shaft* is open at the *Milwaukee Eagle* I decided to stop in to see what all the talk was about. It's true, the *Shaft* is a pretty cool place to hang out if your into the levi/leather scene. I shot lots of photographs so check 'em out.

There has been a lot of work being done over at *La Cage* but most of it was hard to see up until this past couple of weeks. As you walk in the door you will notice a new bar on the south wall where the phone booth used to be. Can't wait to see the place when it's completed.

The bar once known as *Zippers* will reopen under a new management, a new attitude and a new name, *Fluid*. It's scheduled to open around the end of the month by popular bartenders *Jimmy Balesteri* and *Bill Wardlow*. Watch for their Grand Opening!

That's about it for now, I would like to bid farewell to *Corey* (Phone Spice) as he heads down to Phoenix for new job opportunities. With a big tear, I wish you the best and hope you don't forget about your friends freezing our tushes off hear in Milwaukee. Until next issue, think spring and as always, slower traffic keep right.

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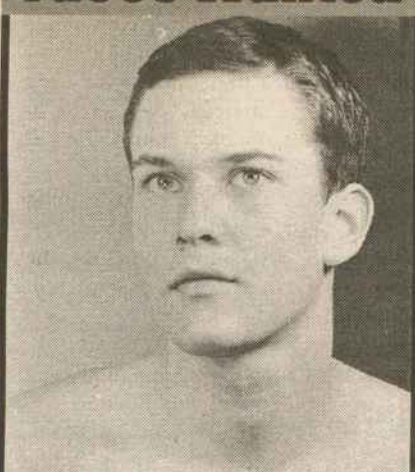
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Special Events Assistant: The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) is seeking a Special Events Assistant. Primary responsibilities are to organize and maintain data base information coordinate community-produced fund raisers for ARCW, supervise volunteers, and handle bulk mailings and retail sales. Ideal candidate will have strong computer organizational and communication skills, ability to work independently, and volunteer and/or special events fund raising experience. If you are go-getter, eager to learn and committed to the fight against AIDS, send your resume with a cover letter including salary requirements by March 23rd to: ARCW, HR Coordinator, P.O. Box 92487, Milwaukee, WI 53202-0487. E.O.E.

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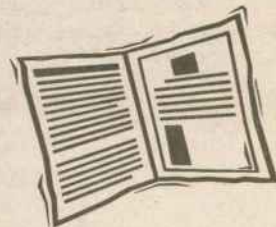
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Central Wisconsin — Brandon! Hey guys want a relaxing body rub from a young cute guy? I'm a 22 year old college guy, blond, blue eyes with a swimmers build, 5' 10", 135 lbs. Specializing in first time rubs. Description accurate or no charge. (715) 261-4720 (out).

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Statewide

Action Wisconsin (Congress for Human Rights)
PO Box 342, Madison 53701 . (608) 283-3251
E-mail: dross@execpc.com

Web page: <http://www.execpc.com/~dross/aw/>

AIDS Action Wisconsin
820 Plankinton Ave., Milwaukee 53202 . (414) 225-1597
markslo@execpc.com . (800) 359-9272

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
820 Plankinton Ave., Milwaukee 53202 . (414) 273-1991
www.arcw.org . (800) 359-9272

American Pride Associates
(Fund-raising, Education for Non Profit groups)
PO Box 93421, Milw., 53203 . (414) 342-3834

BiNet USA (Bisexual political activism)
PO Box 07541, Milwaukee, WI 53207 . (414) 483-5046

Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline
Fri/Sat Eves 7pm-11pm . (888) GAYTEEN
Milwaukee Metro . (414) 272-TEEN

Great Lakes Harley Riders
(International confidential contact for gay and bi Harley men)
PO Box 341611, Milw, 53234-1611
<http://homepage.interaccess.com/~hridrider/home.sht>

Int'l. Assoc. of L/G Pride Coordinators-Midwest Rep
American Pride Associates
PO Box 92322, 53203 . (414) 342-3834

In Step Newsmagazine (Wisconsin's LGBT Newspaper)
1661 N. Water St., Milwaukee, 53202 . (414) 278-7840
FAX Only (414) 278-5868. E-Mail instepnews@aol.com

Lag Cabin Republicans/Wisconsin . (414) 276-5428
P.O. Box 199, Milwaukee, 53201

New Beginnings PENPALS (Mo. newsletter)
Box 25, Westby 54667

Pride in Wisconsin Government (LGBT public employees)
c/o The United, P.O. Box 310
Madison, WI 53701 . (608) 255-8582

Prince Edward B&B
203 West 5th Street, Shawano 54166 . (715) 526-2805

Quest (bi-weekly G/L Bar/Entertainment publication)
PO Box 1961, Green Bay, 54301 . (414) 433-9821

Q-Voice Magazine (Wisconsin's LGBT Lifestyle Magazine)
PO Box 92385, Milwaukee, 53202 . (414) 278-7524
<http://www.qvoice.com>, qvoice@aol.com

TAG Team Productions
(WI-USofA Pageants) . (414) 432-2517

Top HAT Productions
(Continental System) . (414) 671-6711

Wisconsin AIDS Library . (414) 225-1539
arcwlib@execpc.com . (800) 359-9272

Wisconsin AIDSline (free/anonymous) . (414) 273-AIDS
(800) 334-AIDS

WI Conference of Churches
(AIDS Caring Community) . (608) 244-0894

Wisconsin Boot Men (A contact service for men into boots)
P.O. Box 94, Francis Creek, 54214
E mail: Boat4Sale@aol.com

Wisconsin Light (bi-weekly G/L newsletter)
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WI. Legislative Hotline . (800) 362-WISC

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Appleton Area (920)

BARS

Divisions (MW, F)
1413 Green Valley Road, Neenah, 54911 . 725-3374

Rascals Bar & Grill (MW, F)
702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton 54911 . 954-9262

ORGANIZATIONS

AA Hotline (for gay meeting referrals) . 731-4331

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
120 N Morrison, #201, Appleton 54911 . 733-2068
(800) 773-2068

Angel of Hope (MCC Church)
110 S. Locust Street, 54914 . 991-0128

Men's HIV+ Support Group Appleton . 733-2068

Family HIV Support Group Appleton . 733-2068

PFLAG Fox Cities
Box 75, Little Chute, 54140 . 749-1629

Fond Du Lac Friends United (Bi/Gay/Lesbian Support-Social)
Bill . 924-9106

G.L.E.E.D.A.
P.O. Box 102 Appleton, WI 54912-0102 . 830-2065

Green Bay Area (920)

BARS

3 Brandys II (Mw, L/L)
1126 Main Street 54301 1-800-311-3197

1 Napolese Lounge (MW, DJ)
515 S. Broadway 54303 . 432-9646

2 Javaz (MW, V)
1106 Main 54301 . 435-5476

2 Zas (MW, DJ, V)
1106 Main 54301 . 435-5476

4 Sass (WM)
840 S. Broadway 54304 . 437-7277

ORGANIZATIONS

AA Hotline (for gay meeting referrals) . 731-4331

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
824 S. Broadway, Green Bay 54304 . 920-437-7400
800-675-9400

Angel of Hope (MCC Church)
3607 Libal Street, 54301 . 432-0830

Argonauts of Wisconsin (L/L Social Club)
PO Box 22096, Green Bay 54305

Bay City Chorus
PO Box 1901, Green Bay 54305 . 497-8882

Fond Du Lac Bi/Gay/Lesbian Support & Social
Bill . 924-9106

Stacey . 923-3403

Gay/Lesbian Support at UW-GB . 465-2343

G/L Guide to N.E. Wisconsin
P.O. Box 1381, Green Bay 54305

Men's HIV+ Support . 437-7400

Women's HIV+ Support . 437-7400

Northern Womyn, Inc. (Lesbian Support/Social Group)
Box 10102, Green Bay 54307-0102

Parents & Friends of G/L Green Bay . 499-7080

Positive Voice (Gay and Lesbian Support)
P. O. Box 1381, Green Bay 54305 . 499-5533

Mens HIV Support Group
Sturgeon Bay . 733-2068

ACCOMMODATIONS

Chanticleer Guest House
4072 Cherry Rd Sturgeon Bay, 54234 . 746-0334

BlackSmith Inn (Bed & Breakfast)
Box 220, Baileys Harbor, 54202 . 839-9222

Madison (608)

ACCOMMODATIONS

Prairie Garden B&B
W13172 Hwy 188, Lodi, 53555 . 800/380-8427

MEDICAL

AIDS Network
HIV/AIDS Service Organization
600 Williamson St, 53701 . 252-6540

FAX . 252-6559

Blue Bus STD Clinic (Monday, Thursday)
1552 University Avenue 53705 . 262-7330

BARS

2 Manoeuvres (MW)
150 S. Blair, 53703 . 258-9918

3 Shamrock (GS, MW, F, D)
117 W. Main St. 53703 . 255-5029

5 Geraldines/The Men's Room (MW, DJ)
3052 E Washington, 53704 . 241-9335

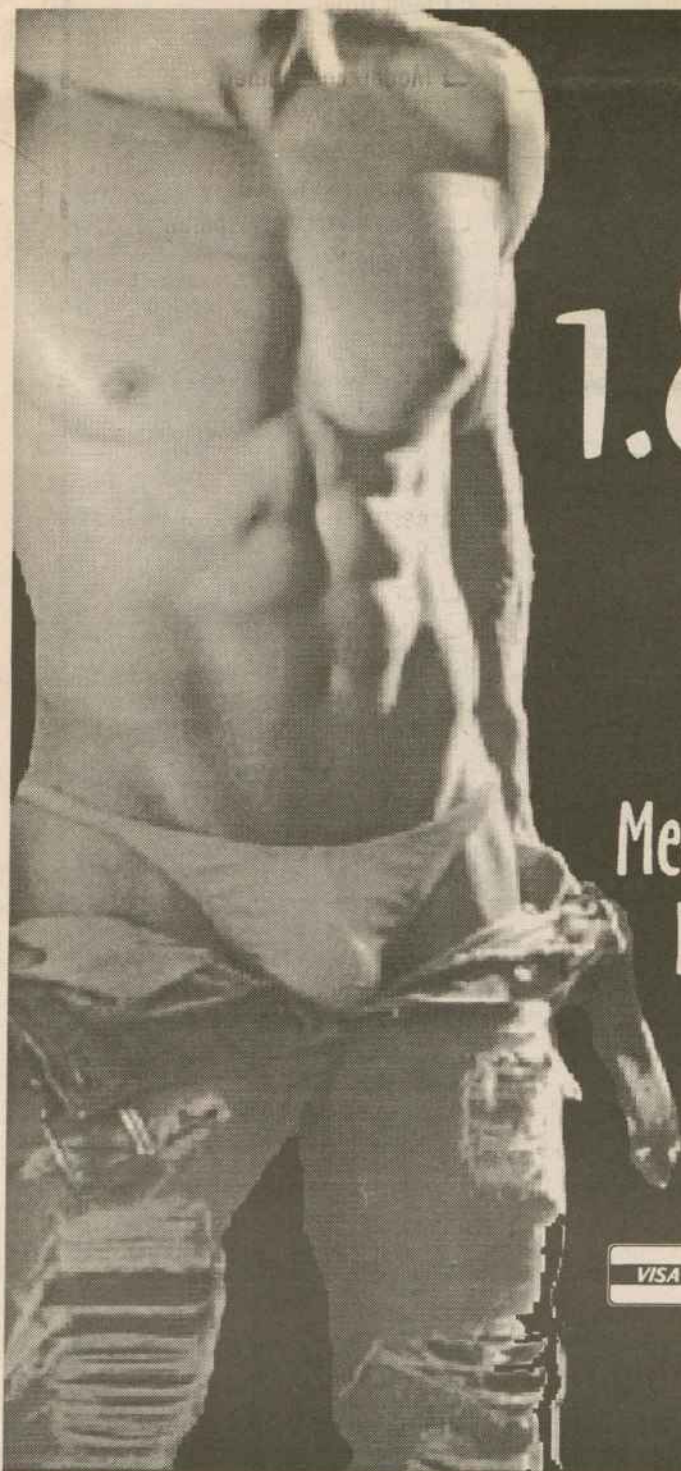
Greenbush (G/S, M/W, F)
914 Regent, 53715 . 257-BUSH

3 Kirby's Klub (MW)
121 West Main St., 53703 . 251-1030

ORGANIZATIONS

AASPIN Foundation (Goal or Wish Assistance for PWA's)
2828 Marshall Ct, Ste 210, 53705 . 273-4501

Apple Island (Womens Cultural Center/Hall Rental)
849 E Washington . 258-9777



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SMOOTH AND SEXY This very sexy, well hung, smooth bodied, Gay, Black male, 5'9, 150lbs, wants to meet another hot guy for good fun. (Milwaukee) #14354

TO THE POINT This slave boy needs dominant men to control and humiliate me. (Milwaukee) #15105

PARENTAL UNIT WANTED I'm an attractive, clean shaven, submissive, 24 year old, White male, 6'3, 190lbs, with Blond hair and Green eyes. I love older men. I need a father figure who can help me when I've been bad and show me what to do. I'll bet you know all the right ways to punish me. (Milwaukee) #8423

KNEEPADS ARE WORN Submissive, White male, in my forties, seeks a dominant, White male, preferably over 40, for humiliation, foot worship, and oral servitude. Heavy or chubby guys are welcome. I'm eager to serve and am waiting on my knees. (Milwaukee) #14170

THE HANDY MAN Friendly, personable, educated, healthy, Bi, White male, senior, working in advertising and public relations, seeks a casual and safe JO buddy, for hot fun. Age and race are not important. (Rockford) #11411

PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION I'm new to this area and want to meet guys to hang out with. I'm an attractive, White male, 26, with Blond hair and Blue eyes. I like men around my age with Brown hair. We can work out together, listen to music, go out dancing, and enjoy each other's company at home. (Marshfield) #10849

EARLY RISER This 38-year-old Bi Male bottom is looking for top action, preferably in the mornings. I need something big to fill me up. #14813

GOODBYE GREEN BAY Good looking, rugged, White male, 34, 6'2, 168lbs, into snowskiing, water-skiing, motorcycles, and other fun stuff, seeks a guy to enjoy life with. I'm moving to Texas in a few months. (Green Bay) #14092

RIDING THE TRAILS Fun loving, White male, 5'11, 220lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, wants to meet someone to spend time with. I like camping, long walks, mountain biking, and hanging out at home. (Appleton) #11582

A NEW BEGINNING This 30 year old, White male, just coming out of a rocky relationship, seeks new friends to pal around with. I live about 30 miles out of Appleton. (Appleton) #11492

COME HERE LITTLE PUPPIES I'm a good looking, well built, well endowed, White male, 40, 5'9, 160lbs, with Brown hair and Hazel eyes, seeking very oral, playful bottoms, in the area, to have fun with. (Spring Valley) #13414

GOOD AT WHAT I DO Clean shaven, well built, Gay, White male, 32, wants to meet some new guys to have fun with. (McHenry) #13018

GOOD OL' COLLEGE TRY This good looking, horny, college student, 23, seeks someone into a little bit of kink. I'm submissive and will try anything. (Madison) #10844

AT MY EXPENSE This good looking, fun loving, passive male, seeks a dominant, aggressive top, who likes to enjoy himself at the expense of another person. I'm into leather, bondage, and slavery. I'm all yours. (Milwaukee) #8045

NATURAL WONDER Nice looking, stable, Gay, White male, 5'7, with Brown hair, Green eyes, and a trimmed beard and mustache, seeks a romantic guy, 21 to 50, who knows what he wants out of life. I enjoy fishing, camping, nature walks, star gazing, movies, travel, quiet evenings in front of the fire, and more. #12562

OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS I'm a Bi Guy, 29, 6'5", 250 lbs., hairy, with long, dark hair, and a mustache and beard. I'm looking for Guys my age or younger who are into oral and group scenes. I'm very open. #5511

QUIET AND KIND I'm an attractive, healthy Gay White Male, 61, 6', 185 lbs., with short hair and a beard. I'm quiet and affectionate, a non-smoker, and am seeking a long-term relationship. My interests include gardening, cats, vitamins and herbs, fine dining, and good wine. Let's talk. (Chicago) #8595

HOW BI AM I? I'm a Married White Male, very, very, very Bi, looking for a Guy to get together with on a regular basis. I'm 48, 5'9", 180 lbs., with a good build. I enjoy the outdoors and watching videos, and thong underwear really turns me on. Let's meet. #25097

TO KNOW ONESELF I have friends but enjoy taking the time to get to know myself. I'm an attractive, professional, African American male, 6ft, 195lbs. I hope to meet a guy who believes in honesty and sincerity, and who hopes to find a monogamous relationship. I enjoy long walks, sports, movies, and the theater. (Chicago) #4042

LOOK INTO MY EYES This Single Male with dark blonde hair and hazel eyes finds black-haired Males with green, blue, or grey eyes attractive. I have a variety of interests and don't like gay bars. #15057

AWAY FOR THE WEEKEND This attractive, 20 year old, White male, 5'8, 165lbs, with Blond hair and Brown eyes, into alternative and techno music, seeks a companion to have fun with. I love dancing, weekend getaways, and the casinos. I also play guitar. #13899

THE SEEDS OF LOVE We're both fit, trim, and masculine. You have a passion for goals and are emotionally secure, HIV-, 31-38, 5'8"-6', non-smoking, and a light drinker only. I'm an attractive Gay White Male, 33, 6'1", honest, mellow, communicative, funny, independent, and thoughtful. We both want a long-term relationship. Gardening is my passion, what's yours? (Madison) #15057

MARRIED MASSEUR I'm a Bi, Married, White male, in central Wisconsin, into the beach, videos, massage, and the outdoors. I'm seeking similar guys who want to hang out and have good times. #12899

COVERED WITH HAIR This very hairy, well built, Bi, White male, 48, 180lbs, seeks other hot, Bi and Gay guys, White or Black, for fun. I like the outdoors, the beach, videos, magazines, massage, underwear, and lots more. (Madison) #13243

SOCIAL SCENE I'm searching for friendship and fun times with other men in the area. I'm a Gay, White male, in my 50's, 5'8, 165lbs, who enjoys talking, socializing, movies, dinners, and more. (Columbia County) #12674

GOT TO GET YOU INTO MY LIFE Good looking, slim, 27 year old, Gay, White male, with dark hair, seeks a very masculine, well built, Gay, White male, 30 to 40, who's interested in a special relationship. (Eau Claire) #12236

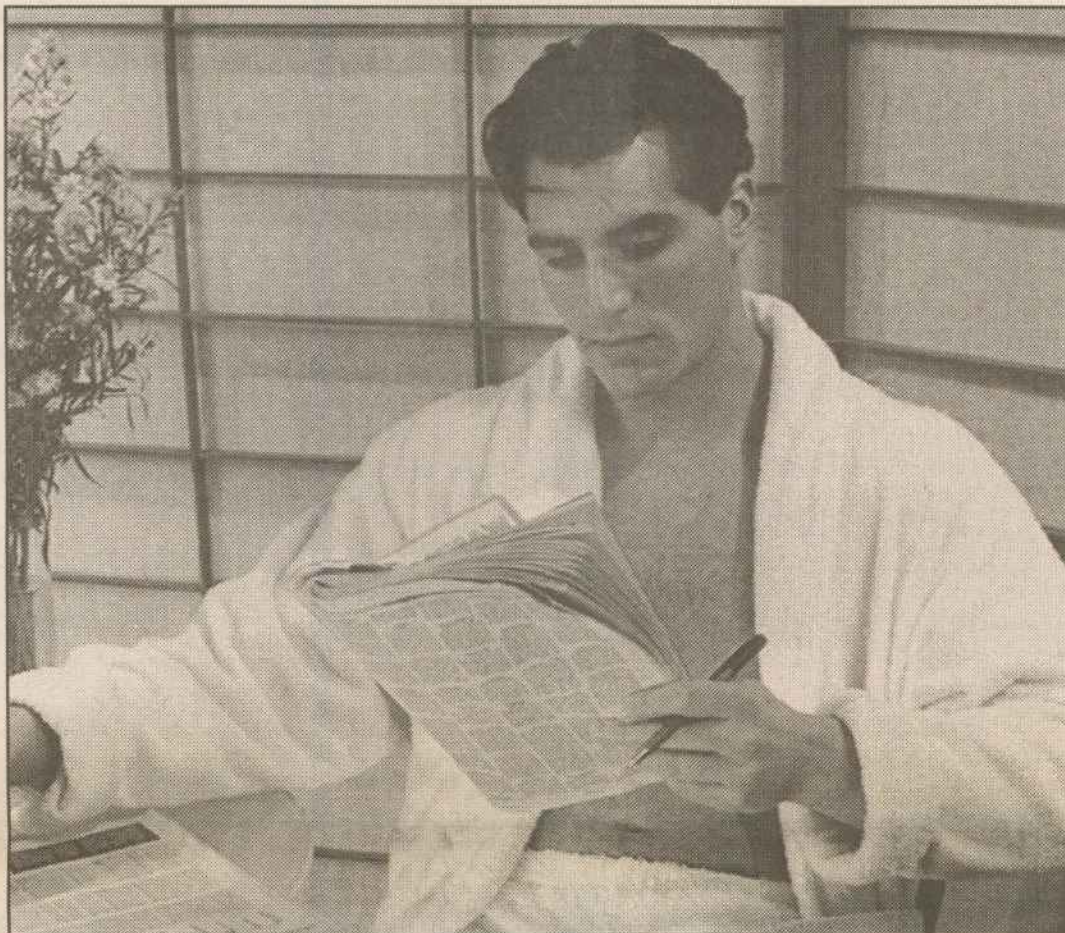
ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP Hot, built, Black college jock, 18, 5'8, 155lbs, with a worked out body, seeks other good looking studs, under 25, for discreet times. (Madison) #10470

ATTENTION SENIORS! This nice looking, fit, Bi, White male, 26, gets into giving oral pleasure, and erotic, full body massages, to well endowed, senior males, in their 60's, 70's, and 80's. If you're interested in a discreet get together with a clean, safe, horny guy, who wants to give you pleasure, give me a call. I can travel throughout south central Wisconsin. (Janesville) #9607

FIRST TOUCH I'm a very horny, Bi curious, White male, 40, seeking another Gay, White male who's willing to help me with my first time. I want you to everything to me, then I want to do everything to you. #14008

WAYWARD IN HAYWARD I'm a nice looking, romantic, White male, 22, 5'9, 180lbs, with short, light Brown hair and glasses. I hope to meet some other guys, around my age, with interests similar to mine. I enjoy horseback riding, moonlit walks, hiking, camping, fishing, road trips, and lots of other fun. I'm a submissive bottom, especially interested in hot tops. (Hayward) #44165

PAUL BUNYAN This sexy, masculine, long-haired, Bi guy, 29, 6'5, 280lbs, with long, Black hair, mustache and beard, hairy body, and uncut piece, gets into other uninhibited dudes who like to kick back, party and play. I'm especially into oral scenes. I like guys of all shapes and sizes but get hardest for other big, hairy guys. Another plus is guys under 25. (Chicago) #5511



THE LITTLE WOMAN I'm an attractive, African American, Transsexual, 5'7, and I've been dressing like a woman all my life. I'm ready to meet a gentle, Black male, who's a real man, to share my life with. I'm financially secure and stable. I just need some romance to make my life complete. If you need companionship too, we might be fated for each other. (Rockford) #11405

ALL THE WAY Slim, attractive, 32 year old, White male, seeks another man, 22 to 40, for mocho, mutual pleasure. I'll travel, even to Chicago, for the right guy. (McHenry) #10898

I LOOK LIKE A BOY This very young looking, 21 year old, Bi, White male, wants to meet men, of any age and race, who will treat me like the submissive I am. I'm willing to travel and do anything for you. This is all pretty new to me and I can't wait to get started. (Eau Claire) #14380

LOVE IS A BLESSING This Black Professional Gay Male, a young 50, attractive, seeks an honest, sincere, attractive, masculine Male with a good attitude, who believes a love relationship is a blessing, not a burden. I'm not into the bars, but I enjoy movies, eating out, sporting events, jazz, and blues music. I enjoy life and hope you do the same. Let's spend some quality time together. (Chicago) #4042

HAIRY, BLOND SOUP Sexy, hairy, Blond bottom, 38, 190lbs, in southwestern Wisconsin, seeks other hot guys for fun times. #6299

EXPANDING MY CIRCLE You can't have too many friends, right? This Gay White Male, 33, 6'1", 180 lbs., with dark blonde hair and hazel eyes would like to locate new friends, Gay, Bi, or Straight, in the Madison area. My interests include gardening, biking, golf, UW sports, movies, art, dining out, and just talking. I have an overall great personality, according to my friends. You be the judge. (Madison) #15064

HUGS AND KISSES Attractive, healthy, very young looking, 61 year old, Gay, White male, 6ft, 185lbs, with Blond hair and a beard, is the sincere, affectionate, laid back, stay at home type. I enjoy gardening, animals, vitamins and herbs, fine dining, wine, and my bible. I love to kiss and hug, and seek a similar guy for a long term relationship. (Chicago) #8595

HOT HOMBRE Calling other hot, Hispanics and Latinos. If you'd like to get with a sexy, uncut, very well hung man, 6'3, with Black hair and Blue eyes, you'd better call me now. I prefer being a top but can be versatile. Puerto Ricans, Dominicans and Cubans especially welcome. (Chicago) #12076

MADISON MEETING Horny, Gay, White male, 19, wants to meet guys, 18 to 24, for hot fun. I won't tell anybody. (Madison) #10079

HANKY BROWNIE I'm looking for hot, White males, who know what a brown hanky means. I'm good looking, sexy, 6'5, 190lbs, and am an expert in this unique scene, as a top or bottom. (Milwaukee) #7412

ROOKIE WRANGLER This good looking, 20 year old, cowboy, in central Wisconsin, seeks another man, 18 to 25, who's just starting out. #10728

KINKY POP This good looking, 42 year old, loving daddy, 5'10, 220lbs, with beard, mustache, and hair all over, seeks guys, under 40, who want a willing daddy to fulfill all of their kinkiest needs and desires. I'm into rimming, spanking, foot and underwear fetishes, watersports, and more. (Chicago) #13794

WINTER SPORTSMAN Very well built, good looking, masculine, White male, 28, 5'8, 170lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, seeks buddies for good times. I like working out, the outdoors, 4-wheeling, jetskiing, snowmobiling, hiking, and many sports. (Ironwood) #9488

OUT IN THE CROWD Masculine, 20 year old guy, with Brown hair and eyes, loves being outdoors and wherever the people are. (Chicago) #10780

SEX AND SOCIALIZING Good looking, athletic, masculine, White male, 30, 160lbs, with a nice build, seeks discreet sex and good company. I like music, auto racing, and lots more. (De Kalb) #12789

I'M CUMIN TO TOWN Good looking, versatile, Black male, 26, 6'3, 210lbs, seeks other masculine, versatile guys, 25 to 45, over 6ft, for good times. I live in Chicago but visit Milwaukee frequently. (Milwaukee) #8511

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YOUR BODY OBSESSER I'd like to meet a bodybuilder who likes having his body worshipped and serviced, by a smooth, in shape, good looking, White male, 5'9. I'm very versatile and can be submissive or dominant. (Milwaukee) #9635

FATHER, MAY I? Seeking a father/son relationship. As your father, I'm nurturing, gentle, generous, respectful, affectionate, and open minded. As son, you're respectful, obedient, drug and alcohol free, full of love and patience, well mannered, clean shaven, smooth, thin, and 140 to 150lbs. You're able to think and act like a good boy. (Milwaukee) #11321

TIED UP TRYST My partner and I are into group scenes and light bondage. We're both good looking and fit. I'm 33, 5'6, 145lbs, with dark hair and Brown eyes. He's 6'6, 200lbs, with Reddish Brown hair and Brown eyes. (Milwaukee) #2788

OIL IT UP This well built, White male, 5'9, 167lbs, with a nice chest and arms, and great legs and butt, seeks muscled, gym studs, who like to oil up, pose, and show off their bodies. I'll worship every inch. (Milwaukee) #10632

NEED A GENTLE TOUCH This attractive, shy, Bi curious, White male, 20, 5'9, 165lbs, seeks another White male, 18 to 30, to help me change the fact of my total inexperience. If you're honest and understanding, patient and gentle, you may be able to teach me all I need to know. If you're the man, I hope you'll call soon. (Milwaukee) #10543

MASTER OF THE GAME Master seeks slave. Slave should be 18 to 25, under 5'9, alcohol, drug, and disease free, and willing to submit to master at all times. He should be smooth or willing to be shaved, and accept all forms of discipline and training. Master is a strict, demanding, teacher who must be satisfied at all times, but who can be nurturing and generous. (Milwaukee) #10733

HALLEY'S COMET This masculine, total top, White male, in my 40's, 5'7, 160lbs, with Blond hair, Blue Green eyes, and various interests, seeks a spirited, Black male, for a sensual journey, and maybe more. (Milwaukee) #10756

WHAT'S BREWING? This good natured, White male, enjoys movies, tennis, walking, biking, and lots of other good times. I'd like to make some new connections. (Milwaukee) #10432

TASTE THE DIFFERENCE This attractive, 35 year old, White male, has an interest in hanging out with educated, well traveled, older men, who have what they consider to be exotic tastes. (Milwaukee) #10447

BEAR IN CHARGE I'm a firm, stem, but fair and loving bear, 35, of medium size. I'm strong with dark, Blond hair and Blue eyes. I need bare bottomed, clean shaven, boy toys, 18 to 25, who desire to play sex games and be dominated and punished by a stronger, older, wiser man, such as myself. Come on boy, let me show you what a man really is. (Milwaukee) #9837

OUTGOING HOMEBODY I'm looking for a sensitive someone who likes to explore sexually. I hope you're an outgoing person who's also a bit of a homebody and who enjoys entertaining friends. (Milwaukee) #8391

PAPA BEAR IS TOO HOT! This 30 year old, White male, is looking for a dominant, aggressive, intelligent, papa bear, over 45, who's bigger than me. I'm 5'10, 170lbs, with light, Brown hair and Blue eyes. I'm looking forward to discussing interests with you, but I'll tell you now that mine include light S&M and B&D. (Milwaukee) #9837

PAPA INTO SIZE This macho, papa bear, seeks Married, Bi, or Gay guys, 20 to 50, who are versatile and experienced. Your inches are more important than your pounds or years. Get with me. (Milwaukee) #12906

INEXPERIENCED SLAVE Slave to be, looking for an older master. I'm a 32 year old, White, professional, Bi male, eager but inexperienced. I want to be a good slave. Show me how. (Milwaukee) #8966

FOREVER YOUNG I'm a very young looking, 25 year old, White male, 5'11, 145lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and good looks. I wanna meet other guys, 18 to 27, for fun. (Milwaukee) #8835

GREEN BAY BOY I'm hot to meet someone for good times. Let's get together and make our fantasies come true. (Green Bay) #12744

KNOT'S LANDING This good looking, 37 year old, White male, 5'8, 160lbs, wants to get into the bondage scene. I've been longing to be tied up but I don't have any experience. I hope you'll call if you can show me what it's all about. Use a tight knot. (Milwaukee) #9928

HEAVY METAL MEN Bi, White male, 40, and a Bi, White male, 22, seek other Bi and Gay males, under 26, for fun times. We like heavy metal music and concerts, not bars. We're social drinkers but we prefer to do it at my home. (Kenosha) #11979

PLEASURE WITH YOU This very versatile Black Male, 38, 5'7", 190 lbs., dark complected, with a shaved head, beard, and mustache, seeks a well-endowed Man of any race, preferably a top, for mutual pleasure. I'm stocky and very talented orally, and I'm waiting to meet you. (Milwaukee) #15624

FEELS GOOD ALL UNDER This attractive, Gay, Black male, 28, 5'11, 163lbs, with curly, Black hair, light, Brown eyes, a medium build and a goatee, seeks another masculine, Gay, Black males, over 30, for fun times and bodily pleasure. (Milwaukee) #13663

NO VANILLA HERE This White Male, 32, 6'2", 175 lbs., blonde, smooth, seeks a master who's into serious bondage/discipline, humiliation, light S/M, and cross-dressing. I'm also into nude beaches, nature, walks, music, and dancing. This is my first ad, so please call. #15525

YOU ONLY I'm a very versatile Bi Male, 38, 5'7", 192 lbs., stocky and orally talented, with a beard, mustache, and a shaved head. I'm looking for you only. Race doesn't matter. #15525

FRIENDS FIRST This good-looking professional Hispanic Male, 23, would like to make new friends, ages 20-30, with the possibility of a relationship later on. (Milwaukee) #15240

LIFT A LOAD This good looking, pretty well built, White male, college student and weightlifter, 23, 5'11, 235lbs, seeks other guys, around my age, to have fun with. (Oshkosh) #13457

THIRD SHIFTER Attractive, White male, in my mid forties, 5'7, 170lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes, seeks other guys to get together with in the mornings. I work third shift and have mornings to spare. Maybe we can have some coffee and if we hit it off, some good times. I'm a smoker. (Milwaukee) #14470

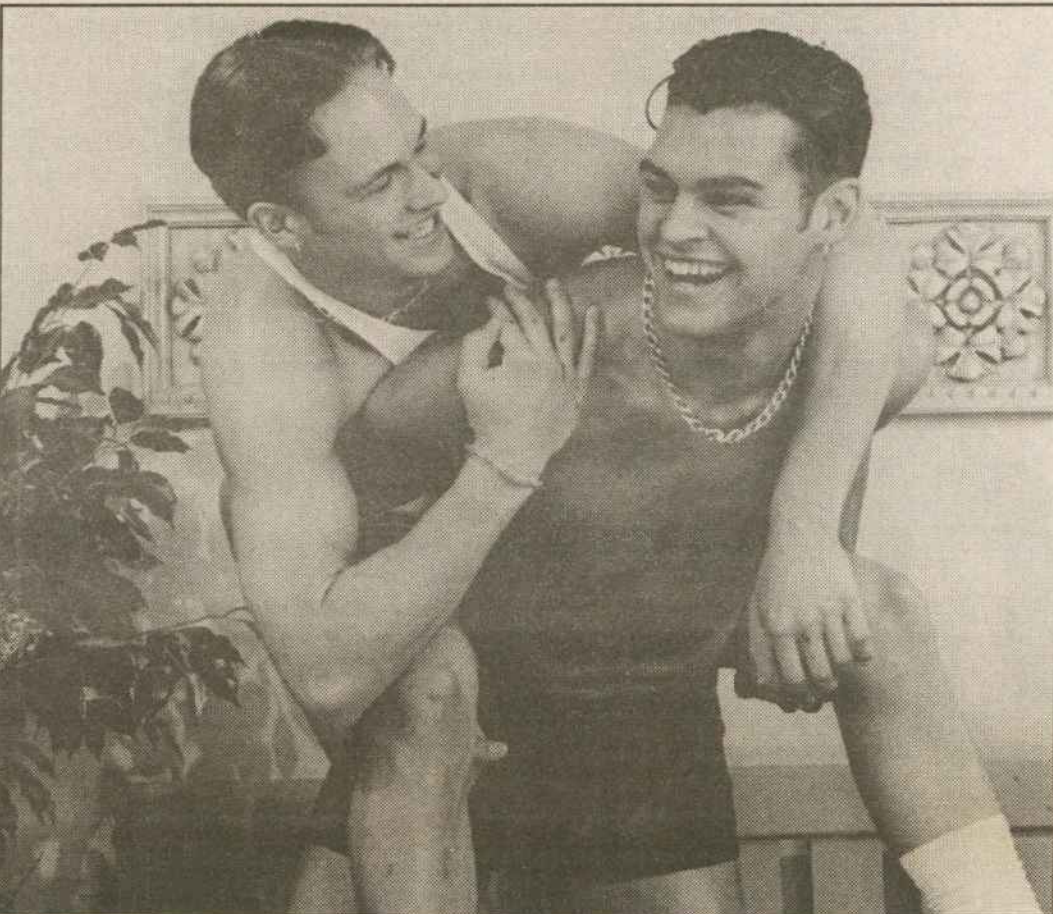
QUEEN OF THE NIGHT This tall, White, queen of the night, 37, is hot and very passable. I'd like to meet older, well groomed gentlemen, 35 to 55, who can appreciate my gifts. I'm very smooth, have a great figure, and dress to please. (Milwaukee) #14278

WAITING ON MY KNEES This masculine, but very submissive, White male, in my mid forties, seeks a dominant master into foot worship, humiliation, verbal abuse, and being orally serviced. I'm very obedient but need a master to train me. Chubby guys are a big plus. (Milwaukee) #13175

PRO STYLE OR FANTASY I'm looking for guys between 20 and 40 years old, that are smooth, muscular, White, and good looking, into pro style wrestling. I'm 5'9, White, 180lbs, very discreet, good looking, with a good body and want to get together for hot wrestling. (Milwaukee) #13476

SERVITUDE SLUT This handsome, very submissive, White male, 42, seeks a dominant master, preferably White, to use me. Overweight or chubby guys turn me on. I'm into foot worship, humiliation, and oral servitude. I'm very eager to serve. (Milwaukee) #13468

I DO ALL THE WORK This talented, White male, 55, 5'10, 165lbs, wants to orally please you, with no reciprocation. I prefer guys who don't sleep around very much. Call and let me know how you like it. (Milwaukee) #12740



SOMETHING'S GROWING This Gay couple wants to meet, and get together, with other couples and singles for friendship, fun, and more. We like gardening, walks, cooking, football games, and quiet times in front of the fire. I'm 6'2, 170lbs, and a former marathon runner. He's 5'10, 165lbs, with a hairy chest. Let's talk. (Milwaukee) #12243

CAN'T GET ENOUGH I'm looking for some interesting and sexy people to meet. I like anything hot and intense. This 19 year old, White male, 5'10, 180lbs of muscle, has Blond hair and Green eyes. I can't wait to get it on. (Milwaukee) #9332

FOOT PATROL This masculine, White male, has a strong, pronounced foot fetish. I love servicing and being serviced by other men who share this interest. I'm also into footgear, especially boots. (Milwaukee) #9501

SECRET CIRCLE This Married, Bi, White male, 50, with a husky build, seeks other Bi, Gay, Married, or otherwise available men, for pleasurable, passionate fun. I'm seeking ongoing friendships with other clean, healthy guys. I can get away whenever I want and I need some companions. Age, race, and size aren't important. (Milwaukee) #9450

BACK TO THE BOYS Newly Divorced, White male, 5'11, 240lbs and losing weight, seeks guys to have fun with. I smoke, am a social drinker, and can't wait to catch up on what I've been missing. (Milwaukee) #8973

THE LOOK OF LOVE I'm looking for a tall, masculine guy, over 6ft, either Black or White, who has varied interests. I'm a 46 year old, White male, who's kind, loving, and enjoys nice people and good sex. I'm the type who prefers a quiet night at home. I'm very oral and into kissing, hugging, and making love, not just having sex. (Milwaukee) #8741

MASTER ME This good looking, masculine, well endowed, White male, 31, 6'2, 185lbs, with Blond hair, seeks a master into serious bondage and discipline, light S&M, creative humiliation, and occasional crossdressing action. I'm also into nature, nudism, movies, and more. I'm sweet, sincere, honest, loyal, and can't wait to meet you. (Milwaukee) #8395

ARE YOU BEING SERVED? This submissive Male, 40's, seeks an overweight White Male master into foot worship, humiliation, and oral servitude. Make me a slave. #15306

HOUSEKEEPING! This Single White Male, 30, extremely submissive and petite, seeks a dominant master. I want you to humiliate me, totally control me, and make me serve you. I'll be your French maid, strip for you, or do whatever you want me to. (Milwaukee) #15914

BOY NEEDS DADDY I'm 18 years old and I'm looking for someone 30 or older, in my area. I want to service a hairy, daddy type, and let them have me anyway that they want. (Oshkosh) #13708

LEAVE IT TO THE PROFESSIONAL I'm a 22-year-old Hispanic Male, professional, looking to meet another guy for good times. #14973

SMALL BUT EFFECTIVE Submissive, petite, 30 year old, Single, White male, 5ft, 105lbs, likes dining out, music, and trying new things. I hope to meet a dominant guy with a taste for adventure. (Milwaukee) #13043

THRILL SEEKER This attractive, masculine, well built, White male, 27, 6ft, 180lbs, with light, Brown hair and Blue eyes, is looking for friendship and hot fun, with other good looking, muscular guys, 21 to 35, who, like me, are well educated and adventurous. I enjoy working out, the outdoors, dining out, dancing, the beach, and road trips to Chicago, among many other things. (Milwaukee) #13032

START OF SOMETHING GOOD I'm a good looking, 18 year old, White male, 6'4, with Brown hair and eyes. I'd like a relationship with someone, 21 to 27, who will love me. I'm a unique, caring, humorous guy, with lots of good qualities. I have good self esteem and feel that I'm a pretty nice catch. I hope you'll agree. (Milwaukee) #11895

I LIKE YOUR IMAGE This retired civil engineer and historian, 50, would like to meet some younger Guys, 20's to early 40's, who are beefy and well-muscled to photograph for my own personal collection. I'm not looking for any kind of relationship really, just the opportunity to appreciate young Male bodies. I'll treat you kindly. (Milwaukee) #15719

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Brew City Bears	
P.O. Box 8815, 53708-8815	(414) 299-0401
e-mail	bcbears@aol.com
Campus Womens Center	
710 University Ave, #202, 53715	262-8093
Dairyland Rainbow Squares	
PO Box 1363, 53701-1363	246-9669
Delta Lambda Phi (Gay Frat)	
Box 513, Mem. Union, 800 Langdon, Madison 53706	
Different Spokes G/L/B Bicycling Club	241-8184
18-21 Yr Old Social Group	256-2667
Frontiers (Gay/Bi Mens Activities Organ.)	
14 W Mifflin, Ste 103, 53703	274-5959
Gay/Lesbian Information Recording	
(ask for tape #3333)	263-3100
Gay/Lesbian Resource Center	
PO Box 1722, 5370	
Gay Fathers c/o United	255-8582
Gay Mens Video Club	
PO Box 8234, 53708	244-8675
GALVANize (Madison LesBiGay Pride)	
PO Box 1403, 53701	256-4289
GLBT Phone Line (United's Out-line)	255-4297
Kissing Girls Productions (Lesbian Cultural Events)	
PO Box 6091, 53716	
Lavender (Lesbian Domestic Violence	
Support Group)	255-7447
LesBiGay Issues Committee (UW Advisory Comm.)	
Dean of Students Office,	
75 Bascom Hall, Madison 53706	263-5700
LesBiGay Campus Center (Office, Lounge,	
Resource Center) UW Union	265-3344
LesBiGay Teen Support Group	251-1126
(Briarpatch & Picada) or	246-7606
Lesbian, Gay and Bi Law Student Union	
UW Law School, Bascom Mall, Madison 53706	
Lesbian Parents Network	
PO Box 572, 53701	255-8582
Madison Volleyball Group (Jeff)	251-8716
Madison Wrestling Club	
PO Box 8234, 53708	244-8675

MAGIC Picnic Committee	
c/o The United	255-8582
Mens Alanon	255-8582
New Harvest Foundation (G/L Foundation)	
PO Box 1786, 53701	
Nothing to Hide (gay cable)	241-2500
Parents & Friends of Gays & Lesbians	
PO Box 1722, 53701	
Rainbow Community Collective (L/G/B/T Social Org)	
Wil-Mar Neighborhood Ctr. 2nd & 4th Thursdays	
953 Jenifer Street (Lira)	608/238-9150
Shake It Up! (L/G/B/T Social Org)	
http://www.mailbag.com/users/dkr/shake.html	
4701 Judy Lane, 53704-1723	241-2500
10% Society (student organization)	
Box 614, UW Mem. Union,	
800 Langdon, 53706	262-7365
Unicorns of Madison (L/L club)	
PO Box 536, 53701	
The United (Education, Counseling, Advocacy)	
14 W. Mifflin St., Ste 103, 53703	255-8582
UW LesBiGay Alumni Council (Russell Betts)	262-2551
Womansong (Woman's Choral Group)	246-2681

RELIGIOUS

Integrity/Dignity	
Box 730, 53701	836-8886
Affirmation (L/G United Methodists)	
University Church, 1127 Univ. Ave, 53705	256-2353
James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church	
2146 E Johnson, 53704	242-8887

SERVICES

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

RETAIL

Pride Gallery and Gifts	
229 North Street, 53704	245-9229
We Are Family (LGBT Gift, Bookstore, Espresso Bar)	
524 E. Wilson St., 53703	258-9006

Milwaukee (414)

ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Awareness Group	
(Sue Hall, Carroll College)	524-7764
Alcoholics Anonymous	
(regular. Gay meetings)	771-9119
Beer Town Badgers	
PO Box 840, 53201	
Bi Definition (Bisexual Community Events)	
PO Box 07541, 53207	
Carol	562-4058
Steve	483-5046
BiNet USA (Bisexual Political Activism) Steve	483-5046
or PO Box 07541, 53207 Carol	562-4058
Black Gay Consciousness Raising	933-2136
Castaways M.C. (Levi/Leather club)	
PO Box 1697, 53202-1697	
Community Elections Coalition	
P.O. Box 92722, 53202	
Counseling Center (LesBiGay support & discussion Groups)	
2038 N. Bartlett, 53202	271-2565
Cream City Chorus	
P. O. Box 1488, 53201	344-9222
Cream City Foundation (CCF)	
2821 N. 4th St. #210, or,	
Box 204, 53201	265-0880
Cream City Squares	
(G/L Square Dancing Club)	445-8080
DAMES (Dykes Against Minority Erotic Suppression)	
PO Box 1272, Milwaukee, 53201	
Delta Lambda Phi (Gay Frat)	
PO Box 413, Union Box 51, 53201	229-4054
Different Drummer Theatre Alliance (G/L Theatre Co)	
PO Box 92756, 53202	347-0673
Fest City Singers (Gay choral group)	
PO Box 11428, 53211	263-SING
Firebirds (L/L group)	
P.O. Box 159, 53201-0159	53202
Front Runners (Running Group)	332-1527
http://execpc.com/~blackjon/fronrun.html	

Galena Club (chemical free recovery club)	
2408 N. Farwell	276-6936
GAMMA (sports/outdoors/recreation/social)	
P.O. Box 1900, 53201	365-3453
Membership Information	264-9180
http://www.execpc.com/~milnic/gamma	
Gay Father's Group	
1240 E. Brady St., 53204	372-8008
Gay/Lesbian/Bi Community at UWM	
Box 251, 2200 E. Kenwood 53201	229-6555
Gay Lesbian Education Employees of Metro Milw.	
(GLEEMM), Larry	462-8404
Gay/Lesbian Studies UWM	229-6402
Gay & Lesbian Tavern Guild	
209 East National, 53204	
Gay People's Union	
PO Box 208, 53201	562-7010
Gay Youth Milwaukee (regular peer group meetings)	
PO Box 09441, 53209	265-8500
Gay Men's Discussion/Support Group (Bill)	276-7626
Gemini Gender Group (TV/TS/TG Support/Social)	
PO Box 44211, 53214 voice mail	297-9328
Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee	
P. O. Box 862, 53201-0862	
G/L Community Center Trust Fund	
P. O. Box 1686, 53201	643-1652
Great Lakes Harley Riders	
PO Box 341611, 53234-1611	
Human Rights League (HRL)	
PO Box 92674, 53202	228-1921
Holiday Invitational Tournament (G/L bowling event)	
PO Box 899, 53201	831-4038
Insight (young women 17-21) support	271-2565
Imani (Support/Social Group for Black Lesbians)	
PO Box 92146, 53202	521-4565
Keep Hope Alive (HIV Holistic Support)	
PO Box 27041, West Allis, 53227	548-4344
LAMM (Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee)	
PO Box 93323, 53203	264-2600
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Awareness Alliance (LGBAA)	
Stephanie King, Carroll College	524-6966
LOC/Women of Color	
PO Box 93594, 53203454-9300	
Log Cabin Republicans (Gay Republicans)	
PO Box 199, 53201	299-9443
MGALA (MU Graduates)	
PO Box 92722, 53202	
Marquette LesBiGay Student Group	
Campus Ministry, 617 N 14th St, 53233	288-6873
Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club (Scott)	962-6124
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center	
P.O. Box 92722, 53202	483-4710
Narcotics Anonymous (request Gay mtgs.)	543-4850
Oberons (Levi/Leather club)	
Box 07423, 53207	
Orgullo Latino/a Latin Pride	
1532 N. Astor (c/o Murguio)	
Outdoors Cooperative Sports Group	963-9833
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)	
PO Box 21853, 53221	299-9198
Pathfinders (Youth counseling, shelter)	
1614 East Kane Place, 53202	271-1560
PrideFest (Pride Committee)	
PO Box 93852, 53203	272-FEST
The Queer Program (Cable TV Show)	
PO Box 09441, 53209	265-8500
Riverwest Rainbow Association	
1001 E. Keefe Ave., 53212	225-1645
SAGE Milwaukee (For older LesBiGays)	
PO Box 92482, 53202 after 4pm	271-0378
Saturday Softball League (SSBL)	
PO Box 92605, 53202	454-9204
Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA)	299-0755
Sherman Park Rainbow Assoc.	
PO Box 76115, 53216	777-3986
Sister Acts (Lesbian Social Group)	
Contact Annie	375-8656
Shoreline Country Dancers	
PO Box 92273, 53202-0273	
Silver Space (Group for Older Lesbians)	
c/o Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett	271-2565
S.O.S. (Alcohol/Addiction Recovery)	442-1132
UJIMA, Inc. (African Am. Support/Social)	
1442 N Farwell, #602	272-3009
WI. Leather Mens Assoc. Inc.	
PO Box 897, 53201-0897	

RELIGIOUS

Cross Lutheran Church (Reconciled in Christ)	
1821 N. 16th St.	344-1746
Dignity (G/L Catholic Church)	
PO Box 597, 53201	444-7177
Integrity Metro Milw (Open & Affirming)	
914 E Knaop, 53211	276-6277
Lutherans Concerned	
PO Box 1676, 53201	372-9663
ARCW Spiritual Care	
PO Box 92487, 53202	225-1565
Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church	
(UFMCC) PO Box 1421, 53201-1421	332-9995
Pentecost Lutheran Church (Reconciled in Christ)	
5226 W. Burleigh St.	445-2696
Plymouth Church-UCC (Open & Affirming)	
2717 E. Hampshire	964-1513
The Sanctuary (Ecumenical, nondenominational)	
1636 W. National	647-9199
St. Camillus (Interfaith AIDS Ministry)	
10101 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53226	259-4664
St. James Episcopal Church	
833 W. Wisconsin Ave.	271-1340
First Unitarian Society (Unitarian Universalist Church)	
1342 N Astor 273-5257	
Village Church (Reconciled in Christ)	
130 E. Juneau Ave.	273-7617

MEDICAL

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin	
820 Plankinton Ave.,	273-1991
www.arcw.org	(800) 359-9272
Mark Behar, PA-C (Family/ Primary Care)	
Family Care Center, 1834 W WI, 53233	933-3600
BESTD (Brady East STD) Clinic (STD diagnosis and	
treatment; HIV tests) 1240 E Brady 53202	272-2144

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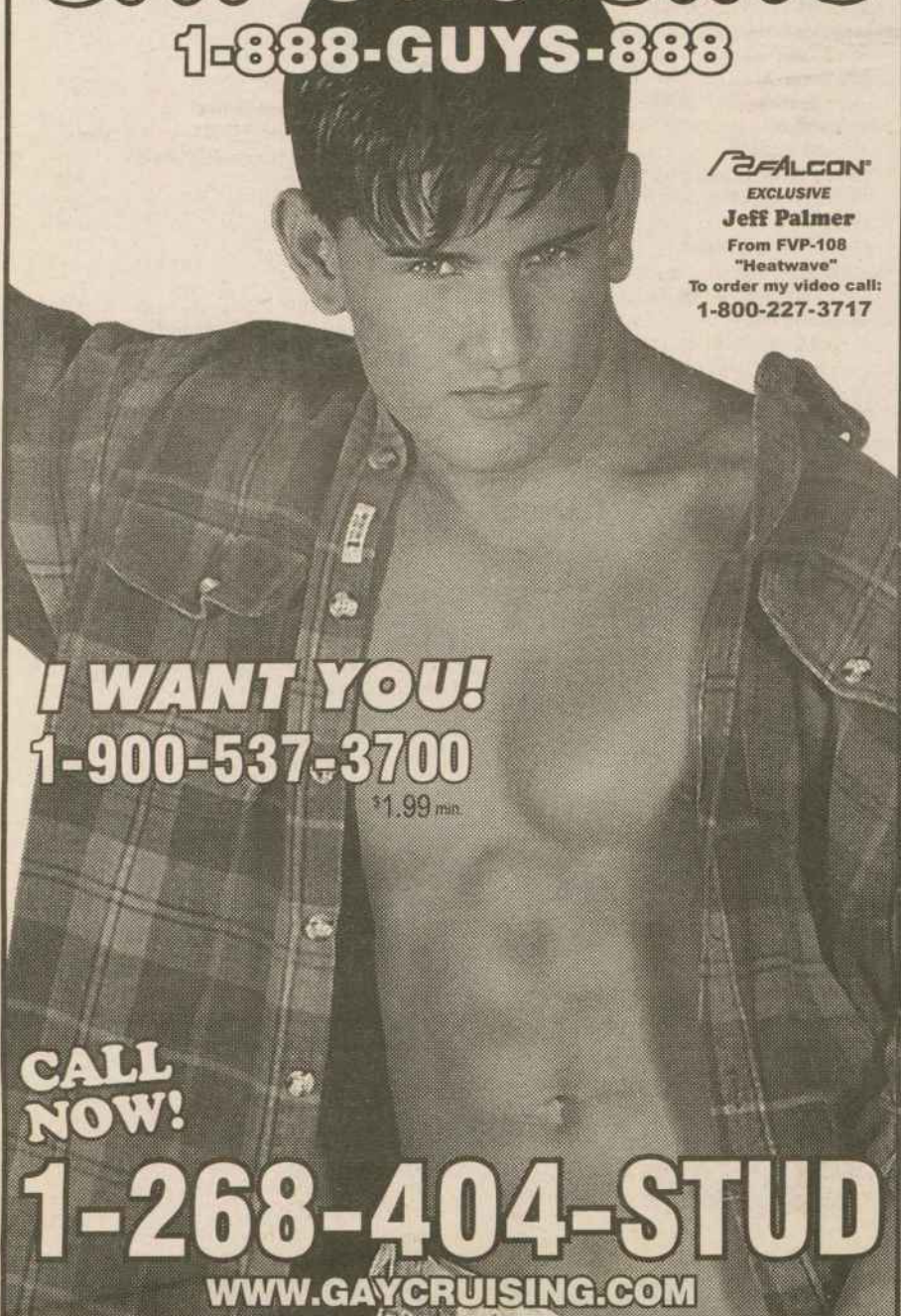
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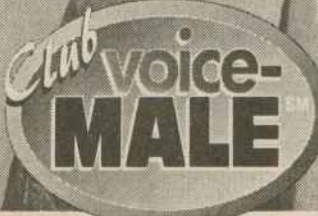
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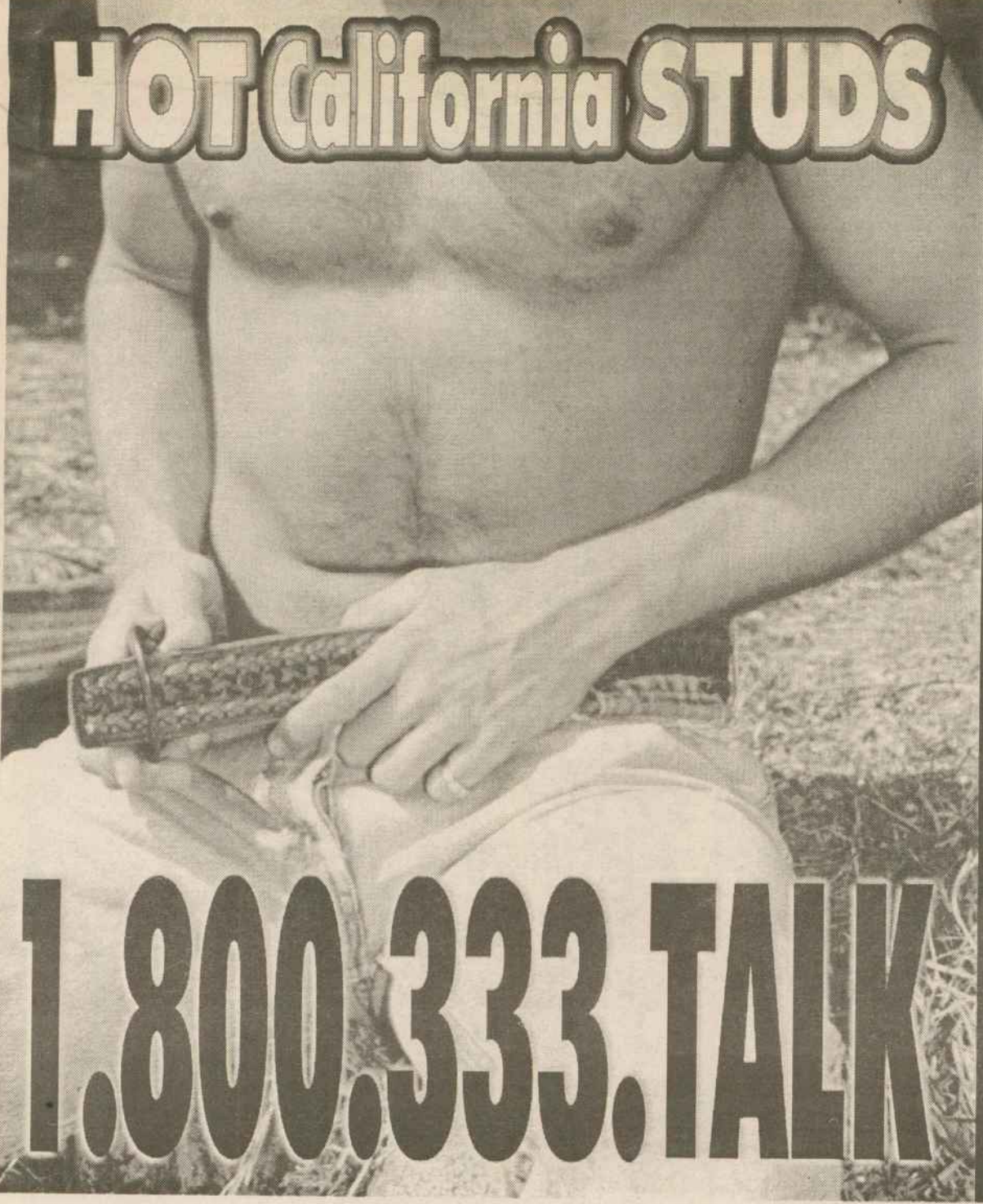
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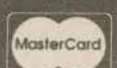
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Dennis C. Hill Outreach Center (HIV testing, condoms) 4311 W. Vliet, 53208	342-4333
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St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry (Nursing Care) 10101 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53226	259-4664
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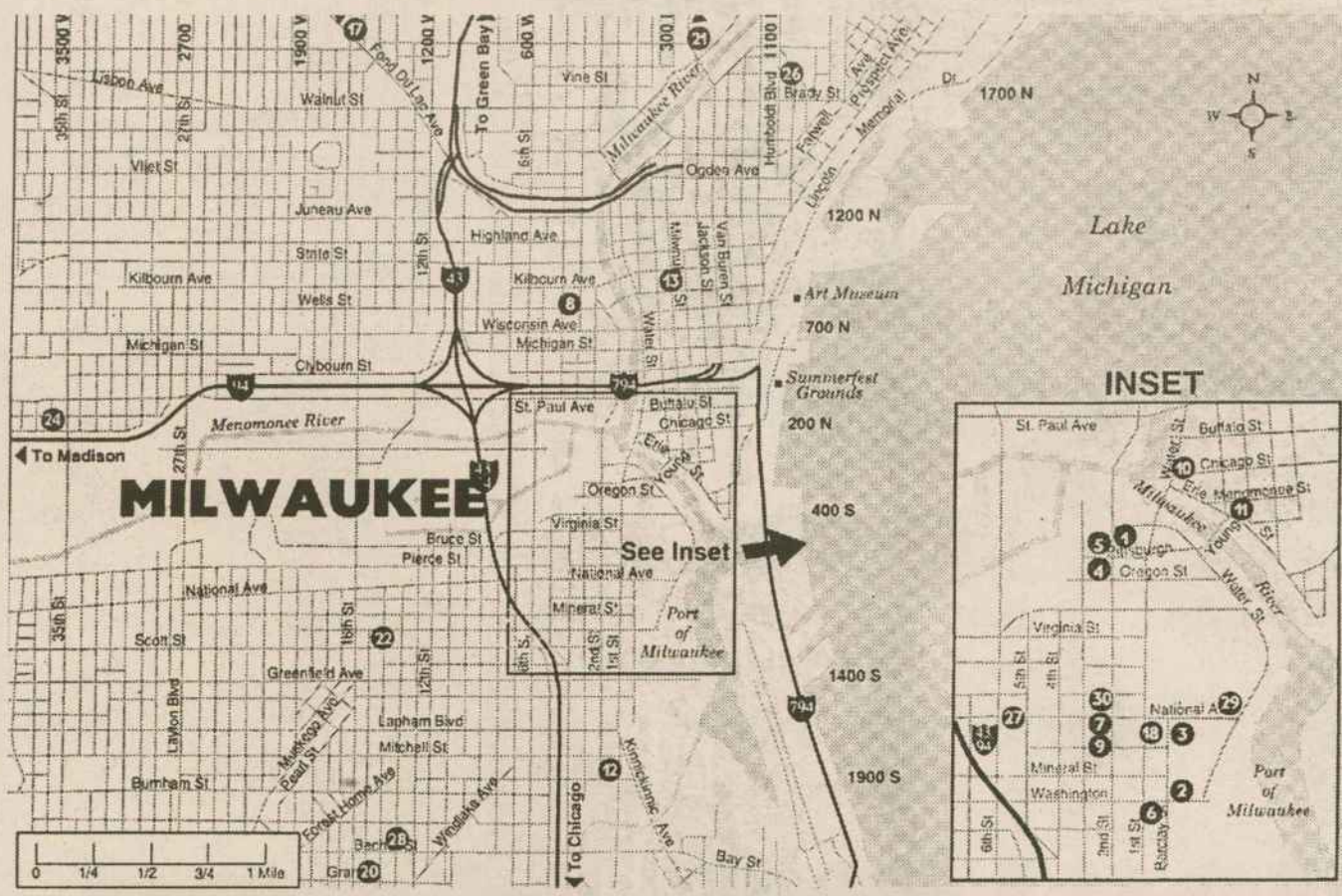
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 FAX (715) 355-7684
Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance
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 (715) 592-6245; extension 5920200
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AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
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Northern WI Lambda Society
 PO Box 802, Rhinelander 54501 362-4242
SHEM (Support, Heal, Educate) for Parents, Family, Friends of
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Gay/Lesbian Union of Racine
 625 College, Racine 53403 634-0659
Gay Lesbian Union of Kenosha
 c/o Unitarian Universalist
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 11624 St. Rd 26, Milton, 53563 868-6646
Cathran House (B&B)
 Mineral Point 987-2612
Crossroads Bar (G/S/M/W)
 W6642 Hwy 8, Lake Mills 53551 648-8457

Northwest (715)

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
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 (800) 750-2437
Backwoods Bears (For Bear Men)
 PO Box 264, Superior 54880

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Do-Ri-Chi (Bed & Breakfast)
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GLDBE (Campus LesBiGay group)
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The Trading Company (MW, DJ)
 304 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire 54701 838-9494
The Main Club (MW, DJ)
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Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) Greater Chippewa Valley
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Rainbow Club (social/support for LGBT youth)
 P.O. Box 11, Eau Claire, WI 54702 836-7710
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 La Crosse, WI 54601, FAX (608) 784-6661
The Alliance (LesBiGay Social Group)
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 e-mail: ALLIANCE@uvplatt.edu
Cavalier Lounge (MW, D)
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Chela and Rose's B&B and Forest Retreat 735-4829
GALAXY (Gay Alliance of La Crosse Area Youth)
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Gay & Lesbian Alliance
 Box 131, Platteville, 53818
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 Joy St., La Crosse 54601
Rainbow Revolution (Alternative Books)
 122 5th Ave S, LaCrosse 54601 796-0383
Pioneers (Southwest WI Rural G/L Alliance) 800-484-8131
 Code 4419, e-mail to pioneersw@vnet.com
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CDC National AIDS Hotline (800) 342-2437
Gay & Lesbian Americans
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Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) (202) 628-4160
National G&L Task Force (NGLTF) (202) 332-6483
Crossroads (LesBiGay Real Estate National Referral)
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Douglas Dunes Resort, Blue Star Hwy, Douglas, MI 49406
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Club Xpress (MW, DJ), 904 Ludington, Escanaba, MI 49829
 (906) 789-0140
Emerald City (MW, DJ) (847) 838-1888
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Lambda Car Club Int'l, PO Box 268534, Chicago, IL 60626
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Male Hide Leathers (Leather Shop),
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The Office (Mw, D, L/L), 513 E State, Rockford, IL 61104
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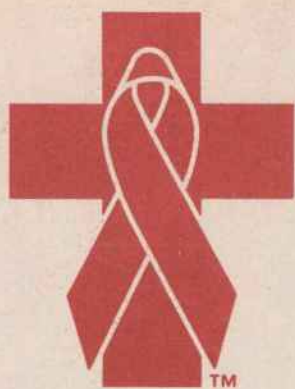
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