

IN STEP

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SECTION ONE:

NEWS: Complete Election Coverage Begins on page 3

Health: St. Camillus Opens Sensitive Care Unit

PLUS: The Latest Dish • Qups & Quotes • Straight Answers and Much More!

SECTION Q:

INTERVIEW: Wilson Cruz

Travel: A Gay Adventure • **PLUS:** More Than Skin Deep

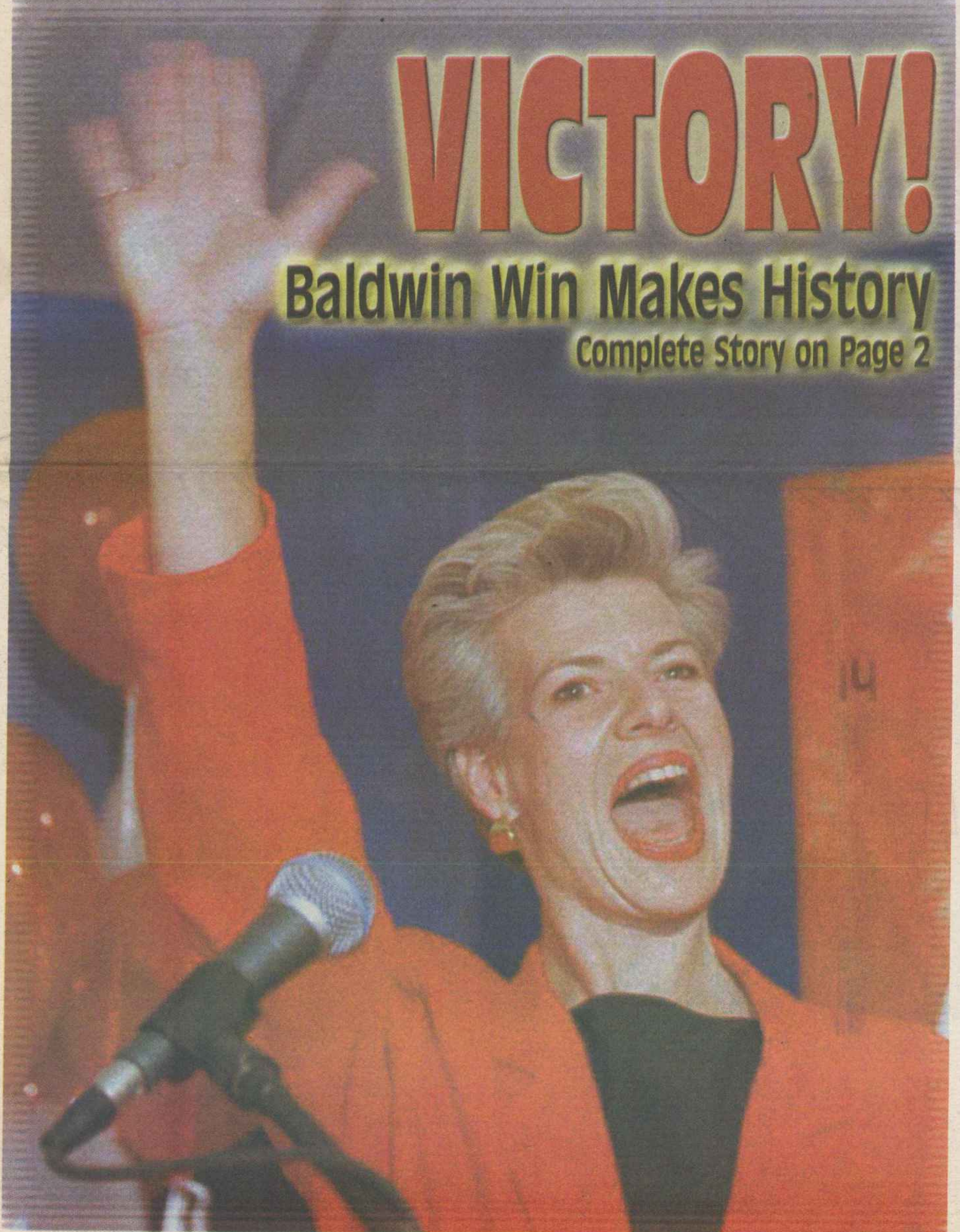
MOVIE REVIEW: The Velvet Goldmine • **Q-INK:** Jocks

The Classics • Ethan Green • The Casual Observer • Keepin' IN Step with Jamie • The Guide

VICTORY!

Baldwin Win Makes History

Complete Story on Page 2



Baldwin Wins Historic Election

Wisconsin Sends First Open Lesbian to Congress

by Christopher Ott
of the IN Step Staff

Madison — The day after the election, the receptionist at Tammy Baldwin's campaign headquarters in Madison still didn't sound like he had gotten used to the new official greeting. Instead of "Tammy



Congresswoman-elect Tammy Baldwin. Photo: Jorge Cabal

Baldwin for Congress" when answering the phone, it was "Congresswoman-elect Baldwin's office."

That change was just the most basic sign of what happened on an extraordinary election day. Tammy Baldwin is going to Congress as the first woman to represent Wisconsin, as the first open lesbian, and as the first openly gay nonincumbent ever elected. Her campaign drew on the support of an estimated 3,000 volunteers and saw unexpectedly high voter turnouts in the 2nd District, resulting in ballot shortages at polling places. Baldwin won 53% of the vote over Republican opponent Jo Musser.

For all the firsts that Baldwin's election to Congress has achieved, however, she has made a point throughout her campaign to emphasize her intention to represent everyone. The day after the election, a beaming Baldwin held a news conference at the state Capitol and expressed thanks and enthusiasm for having "the opportunity to represent all the constituents of the second district." Baldwin, 36, used her first news conference as Congresswoman-elect to reemphasize one of the main themes of her campaign: renewing the push for health-care reform, eventually leading to universal coverage.

"I am excited for the opportunity to bring health-care reform back into focus in the Congress," Baldwin said, citing the estimate that 43 million Americans lack health insurance and that others struggle to pay for or are in danger of losing their coverage. "I think it's time this issue became front-burner again. What this campaign showed is that people want us to address this issue."

In a nod to concerns over the costs of offering universal coverage, Baldwin stressed the need to "balance our commitment to taxpayers and health care." She said that the savings achieved by measures such as reducing the administrative costs duplicated by each insurance company will result in "more of our resources going to health care — imagine that!"

Baldwin's campaign has also emphasized efforts such as supporting education and protecting Social Security, but in a post-election interview, Baldwin also told *IN Step* what she would like to do in Congress that will be of particular interest to gays and lesbians. She hopes to work on legislation to help prevent anti-gay discrimination and hate crimes, and to work to protect the measures that are already in place to ensure equal treatment for lesbians and gays.

Baldwin said she would like to see the United States "follow in the footsteps of Wisconsin" by passing the Employment Nondiscrimination Act, or ENDA, which would ban employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

"I feel like I can play a very important role in promoting that because I come from a state that 16 years ago successfully passed such legislation, and because as an attorney in private practice I've used those nondiscrimination laws on behalf of clients and can speak first-hand about how important they are," Baldwin said. "I will be very anxious to be a co-sponsor" of ENDA, she said.

Baldwin supports laws against hate crimes committed because of sexual orientation. "I want to fight for passage of the federal hate crimes legislation that will expand upon the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act and put real penalties into law for hate crimes perpetrated against individuals on the basis of sexual orientation or race or religion," she said.

Baldwin said that it is also important to prevent "interference in local policy-making" by Congress, such as congressional interference in the District of Columbia's attempts to pass domestic-partner legislation, and interference in the city of San Francisco's requirement that companies doing business with the city include sexual orientation in their nondiscrimination policies and extend domestic-partner benefits to their employees.

"We've certainly seen over the past several years at the state level and federal level that legislation is frequently introduced to further discriminate against gay and lesbian people," Baldwin said.

Speaking about the significance of being the first openly gay nonincumbent elected to Congress (Baldwin's gay colleagues in Congress will include Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., and Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., but both men came out while in office), Baldwin said, "It provides a real opportunity to challenge stereotypes held by citizens in the United States. I've frequently said on the campaign trail that perhaps the most significant thing I can do in Congress to change minds and attitudes toward gay and lesbian people is to be a member of Congress who successfully fights health-care-reform battles and helps to secure and protect Social Security." Baldwin said she hoped that constituents will recognize her work and say, "Yeah, she did this for us, and she happens to be a lesbian."

Baldwin credits other gay members of Congress, such as Barney Frank and former Congressman Steve Gunderson, from Wisconsin's 3rd District, for helping to make her victory possible. "They were the pioneers who shattered the glass ceilings," she said, adding that she had received advice from both men during the campaign. "I feel fortunate that they were able to provide counsel to me," she said.

Baldwin said that her own election shows that it is possible for lesbian and gay

candidates to be open about their sexual orientation without having it cost them the election.

"Certainly for those cynics out there who say it can't be done, they can't say that anymore." Baldwin said her victory "sends a message that voters cast their votes based on a leader's ability to connect with issues

Tammy takes to the floor to speak out on an issue, she will be a target," Bond said. "They attack Barney Frank constantly."

Bond added that he thinks Baldwin is prepared for this kind of criticism from the far right. "My guess is that Tammy will do an excellent job as a legislator and... they're going to look fairly foolish when all

"Certainly for those cynics out there who say it can't be done, they can't say that anymore."

that affect their daily lives and that that's what's important."

Nationwide this year, openly gay and lesbian candidates ran for Congress in California, Washington and Oklahoma, but only Baldwin was elected.

Baldwin expects to be scrutinized and criticized as a natural part of being in office, but expressed hope that she will not be singled because she is a lesbian.

"I don't underestimate the strategic skills of the far right, but they've got to focus their attention and resources on congressional seats that they have a chance to pick up or secure in two more years. My guess is that a far right-wing candidate could not win this seat, and so it very well may be that they ignore me."

Brian Bond, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, said that Baldwin probably will be in for special scrutiny and criticism because of her sexual orientation.

Bond said that anti-gay conservatives are currently "too busy licking their wounds" after an election that has widely been interpreted as a defeat for the Republican party, but that they will eventually "double their efforts."

"I can almost guarantee you the day

they can attack her on is the fact that she's a lesbian when she's talking about issues that affect people."

Bond said the Victory Fund has helped Baldwin since her first campaign for the state assembly, where she served for six years. In this year's campaign, the Victory Fund raised more than \$100,000 for Baldwin's campaign, and made a direct contribution of \$10,000 itself, in addition to providing advice and other assistance.

Even though Baldwin was the only openly gay nonincumbent to win a Congressional seat this year, Bond expressed optimism that sexual orientation will be less and less of an issue. He argued that Margarethe Cammermeyer, the retired Army colonel who ran for Congress but lost in Washington state, won a significant victory because she "went from 'I think that's the lesbian' to getting 46% of the vote." Bond takes a far-reaching view and said that the Victory Fund's help to gay and gay-friendly candidates is a "long-term investment."

When asked about the significance of Baldwin's victory, however, Bond did not hesitate. "This is historic. There's no other word for it."

Pocan Cruises to Victory

by Mike Leon
of the IN Step Staff

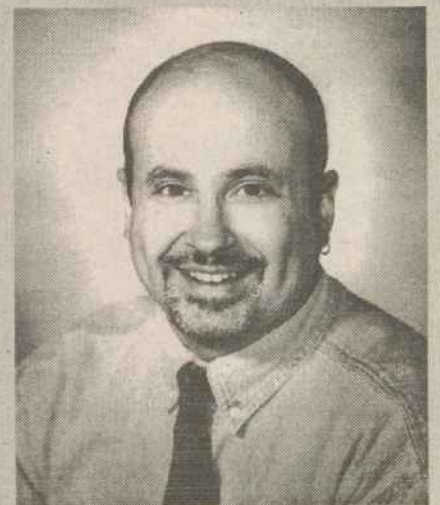
Madison — In his bid to succeed Congresswoman-elect Tammy Baldwin in the 78th state assembly seat, Mark Pocan actually won the race last September when he emerged victorious in the Democratic primary.

The 78th is the most liberal assembly district in the state. The Republicans did not field a nominee and Pocan faced only an obscure independent candidate who believes that the Free Masons are engaged in a massive conspiracy.

Pocan, the only open LGBT representative in the state legislature, didn't campaign much for himself after the primary and won with 93 percent of the vote.

"I used my time after the primary to help elect progressives to the legislature. We won't let the Republicans and Tommy Thompson get away with their war on all types of working families no matter how much corporate money they have," said Pocan.

In the brisk election day weather with a wind chill of 20 degrees, a ruddy-faced Pocan handed out Tammy Baldwin flyers to dormitory students outside Gordon Commons on the UW-Madi-



Mark Pocan

son campus. He reflected on the campaign season.

"We'll win. Progressive politics will win. The last year with the high visibility things that have happened to our community — Ralph Ovdal hate signs, Mark Neumann and the religious right spewing out their hate, the killing of Matthew Shepard; I felt sure that something positive would come out of it all. There's been a uniting of a lot of wonderful, caring people here in Wisconsin. You see it with Tammy's volunteers, with Russ Feingold's volunteers, in all the student groups around the state fighting against hate. I'm honored to represent a lot of these people in the legislature," said Pocan.

Feingold Beats Back Neumann

by Mike Leon
of the IN Step Staff

Madison — In one of the most closely contested senate race in the nation, first-term incumbent U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold withstood the combined efforts of the national Republican political attack machine, millions of dollars in special interest money and negative ads, and narrowly defeated Rep. Mark Neumann (R-Janesville).

Declaring a mandate to replace the influence of money in politics with people, Feingold declared on election night: "Out of the Upper Midwest will come political reform, will come political change, will come the principle of one person, one vote, once again."

The final vote tally had Feingold winning 50 to 48 percent by some 35,000 votes.

"This is a corrupt system of legalized bribery. My thought was that if I limited spending, (people) would take control and you did," Feingold told cheering supporters on election night. "Now, we have the chance, 100 years after the great 'Fighting' Bob La Follette, to send a message to Washington."

Feingold attracted national attention to the race by his refusal to accept soft money help from the national Democratic party and his discouraging of special interest groups running issue ads in his favor. He stuck to his promise not to spend more than \$3.8 million on his campaign. Feingold estimated that his side was outspent \$12 million to \$5 million.

"Everybody knows that if I had spent \$12 million ... it would not have been that close," said Feingold.

In his election-night speech Feingold addressed Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), the Chair of the national Republican Senatorial Committee who earlier this year successfully directed the filibuster killing the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill and who funneled some \$2 million into a massive attack campaign against Feingold.

"I am coming your way, Senator McConnell," Feingold said.

Feingold's campaign and the Democratic party conducted a massive get-out-the-vote effort that, combined with Tammy Baldwin's independent effort, pushed voter turnout in Dane County, Feingold's home turf, to 53 percent versus an estimated 38 percent nationwide, and 44 percent statewide. The city of Madison turnout was 61 percent.

Ward 30 in Madison was representative of Feingold's success in Dane County. Comprised mainly of three huge, traditionally politically apathetic UW-Madison student dormitories housing freshmen and sophomores, the ward turned out in record numbers handing Feingold a 654-vote margin over Neumann, with 72 percent for Feingold, and 24 percent for Neumann.

Feingold's margin of victory in that ward exceeded even Tammy Baldwin's with her campaign's massive volunteer organization.

Feingold won Dane County with 70 percent of the vote garnering a 65,000-vote margin. The city of Madison voted for Feingold 77 percent to 22 percent, and gave Feingold a 45,000-vote margin. Milwaukee county gave Feingold a 67,000-vote margin.

"Dane County elected Russ Feingold," complained Neumann in his concession speech. Neumann later added, "With our loss by only 29,000 votes, one county determined the outcome of this election."

Neumann was roundly criticized for his posture in defeat.

"Neumann apparently believes that the counties he lost don't count, that places in Dane County like Fitchburg, Sun Prairie and Verona where he lost don't count. The fact is he is an extreme, disingenuous, right-wing ideologue who failed to win armed with lots of money and lots of lies. And now he whines," said Andy Janssen, a democratic political operative. "Neumann's whining is typical Neumann. Dane County had the highest turnout, and Neumann doesn't like the way they voted, so he criticizes this as though there is something wrong with people turning out and voting. In terms of character I have never seen more polar opposites in a race."

The campaign also featured Neumann as the most anti-LGBT statewide candidate Wisconsin has seen this election season. His negative position on civil rights issues affecting the LGBT community and his allegiance to the religious right agenda were not widely discussed outside the LGBT press, but were covered heavily there.

"The LGBT press really shined the light on Neumann's extremism. My speculation is that the community responded at the polls. Feingold for his part has always fought for civil rights and equality for all, and his support was well known," said Janssen.

Both senators Feingold and McCain, the coauthors of campaign finance reform, won their bids for reelection. Both have said they plan to reintroduce campaign finance reform in the next congress. Prospects for passage are up in the air, observers and analysts say.

Partisans are more optimistic. "The conception of government as bought and sold have kept many people from the polls. But the maverick character image that both Neumann and Feingold nurtured helped to bring voters back. As a specific articulated issue, though, campaign finance reform had not obviously played until election day, but it did then. Russ Feingold's victory is a catalyst, and I think people will finally demand reform," said Rex Loehle, a Democratic legislative aide.

a bad precedent affecting students nationwide.

Interviews with several of the protesters, however, appeared to reveal an ignorance of what is being argued in the case.

The ACLU of Wisconsin, which filed as an Amicus party to the Court and Assistant Attorney General Susan Ullman of the Wisconsin Department of Justice, representing the UW, both argued against the Evangelical plaintiffs in the Seventh Circuit. Both argued that the current fee system which encourages the formation of diverse groups such as LGBT support organizations is a non-spatial public forum that is germane to the educational mission of the UW—thus adopting the legal reasoning, "public forum analysis".

Student leaders had expressed outrage at the Southworth decision.

But, when asked to comment on the substance of the UW brief and reply brief before the Seventh Circuit and the public forum reasoning, six different student protesters, including Eric Brakken, chair of the Associated Students of Madison, admitted to ignorance of the legal reasoning of the briefs.

After the decision to appeal was announced, the group was clearly disappointed. The protesters then gathered in the hallway outside the Regents' meeting room. A discussion ensued that included mention of how the group would appear in media reports. Afterward, the same students who hours earlier protested that the Regents should not appeal the case, claimed to support the Regents in the appeal.

Individual Regents expressed disappointment in the protesting students' apparently confused reasoning.

News Wire

Student 'Wish' to Kill Gays Rocks Utah School

Provo, Utah — It's supposed to be a Centennial Middle School ceremony where young students express their hopes and aspirations for the future. Instead, the words of a 13-year-old boy saying gays and lesbians should be killed left teachers, students and parents stunned.

"Gay men should be crucified on Main Street and lesbians be burned at the stake," said the boy at the annual "wish ceremony" at the school.

What is perhaps even more disturbing about the incident is that the students expressing their wishes are part of a "character-building" program operated at the school and groups of 20 students select one student to express their collective wish.

Centennial officials are still trying to figure out how to explain the incident and what to do about it. In addition to the collective wish the student apparently expressed for his group, a teacher who was present at the ceremony and knew what the boy was planning to say simply asked him not to say it, but did nothing else to stop him. Several students at the ceremony also cheered in support.

The outburst of anti-gay sentiment came just two days before Matthew Shepard, a gay 21-year-old University of Wyoming student who was brutally killed, was to be buried.

Administrators at the school pulled the boy into the main office and handed him a three-day suspension for his comments - but again, only after one of the students had complained to her parents and they had called the school about the incident.

Americans Aware of Anti-Gay Violence as Serious Problem

New York — A Time/CNN poll, conducted in the wake of reports of the brutal slaying of Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, found that most Americans (68 percent) believe the same kind of murder could happen in their own communities as well.

A substantial margin (75 percent) also said they think anti-gay violence in America is a "serious" or "very serious" problem.

While nearly half those polled (48 percent) said they think homosexuality is "morally wrong," the overwhelming majority (82 percent) said they think gays and heterosexuals should be treated equally.

A slim majority (51 percent) said they think homosexuals can change their sexual orientation if they want to, while 39 percent said they didn't think that was possible. The remaining 10 percent said they were unsure or didn't know.

Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman Win Libel Suit

London — With their attorney insisting it was "highly offensive," Hollywood actor Tom Cruise and his wife Nicole Kidman have won a libel suit against the British tabloid *Express* for an article which alleged that their marriage was a sham, designed to cover up his being gay and her being a lesbian.

The article also said the Church of Scientology, which both Cruise and Kidman belong to, had arranged for the marriage as a coverup and that the couple had adopted two children because Cruise was impotent and Kidman was sterile.

Cruise, 36, was present in court for the final part of the decision in the case, which is rumored to have involved a substantial penalty to be paid by the paper.

The newspaper also publicly retracted the article and apologized to the two actors.

Internet Activists Call for 'March on Congress'

Washington — In a move that's bound to be controversial, activists on the Internet have called for a "March on Congress" next year in a effort to lobbying lawmakers to pass a federal hate-crimes measure that includes sexual orientation.

The march — which organizers say won't actually involve a march as such — is being called for Jan. 6, 1999, as Congress convenes in the nation's capital. Organizers said they want to bring enough people to "surround the Capitol in a sea of humanity" in support of the hate crimes measure, which they also say should be named in honor of

Religious Right Versus Progressive Students Versus UW System

by Mike Leon
of the IN Step Staff

Madison — The UW System Board of Regents announced November 6 that it will petition the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the Southworth v. Grebe case threatening the funding of student groups.

In a decision that would affect all 26 UW System campuses, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit ruled on Aug. 10 that students' mandatory activities fees may not be used to fund student groups. A UW petition for a hearing before the full circuit was denied in late October.

Five Evangelical Christian current and former UW-Madison students are plaintiffs in the case. They argue that mandatory funding of student groups they disapprove of — for instance, the LGBT Campus Center — violates their First Amendment rights.

The plaintiffs argue that their First Amendment right to free speech and freedom of association is being violated because part of their tuition is allocated to a money pool from which student groups are funded.

About 100 students representing student groups disputing the Evangelical plaintiffs' legal position protested just before the Regents' announcement. They urged the Regents not to appeal the case and let the plaintiffs' legal victory stand.

Several protesters interviewed said they disagreed with the decision, said it is factually flawed, and feared an adverse decision by the Supreme Court would set

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Good News, Bad News: Election Returns Mixed

by Keith Clark
of the IN Step staff

Washington — While Democrats were celebrating unexpectedly favorable mid-term election returns, rights activists found themselves confronted with decidedly mixed results in several important races.

Certainly the biggest advance for gay rights advocates was the election of Tammy Baldwin to Congress in Wisconsin's 2nd Congressional District in what amounts to a series of firsts for the state lawmaker. Baldwin becomes the first woman Wisconsin voters have sent to Congress; she is the first openly gay first-time candidate to win a congressional seat; and she is the first open lesbian to be elected to the U.S. Congress.

Baldwin will, however, be the only first-time gay candidate going to Congress when the legislators convene in January. Although Reps. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) and Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) both won reelection, neither race was considered very doubtful — Frank, for example, ran unopposed and Kolbe's overwhelmingly Republican district has continued to like its gay congressman.

But two other lesbians and one gay man seeking House seats were all defeated in the Nov. 3 election.



Grethe Cammermeyer.

Paul Barby, an openly gay man made perhaps the most unlikely congressional bid, running against incumbent Rep. Frank Lucas in a very conservative Oklahoma district. In Washington state, Grethe Cammermeyer, a retired army colonel who successfully challenged her discharge in court, lost her election bid by a fairly wide margin. In Southern California, Christine Kehoe, a lesbian who serves on the San Diego city council, lost to Republican incumbent Rep. Brian Bilbray by less than 2,000 votes out of 150,000 votes cast in that race.

But even this string of congressional losses couldn't change the fact that Baldwin had broken through a gay rights barrier with her win.

Democratic party leaders had considered the Wisconsin congressional race one of a handful of important elections this year, and Baldwin got endorsements from not only the Democratic National Committee chairmen, but also personal appearance during her campaign by such political heavyweights as Donna Shalala, Secretary of Health and Human Services, former Texas Gov. Anne Richards, and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The campaign strategy paid off not only for Baldwin but also for Democrats, who blunted Republican hopes of making gains in the Senate and led to at least for — and possibly five — extra seats for the Democrats in the House.

Hawaii and Alaska Marriage Set-Backs

The election's major setback, of course, came in Hawaii and Alaska where voters approved ballot measures effectively barring same-sex marriages by whopping 2-to-1 margins. Courts in both states had earlier ruled that gays and lesbians could not be prevented under their respective state constitutions from legally marrying. Those rulings led to moves in dozens of states around the country — and in Congress — to ban recognition of same-sex marriages even if performed legally elsewhere. In Hawaii and Alaska, the court rulings led to legislative attempts to overturn the court rulings, and finally to ballot measures to change the two states' constitutions to restrict legal marriages to oppose-sex couples.

In Fort Collins, Colo., a ballot measure barring discrimination based on sexual ori-

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Results of Races with Openly Gay Candidates

Following is a list of openly Gay, bisexual, and transgender candidates who were on ballots around the country on Nov. 3. Those names preceded by a ▼ means the candidate won the race.

OPENLY GAY INCUMBENTS:

Candidates for federal office
▼Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.)
▼Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.)

Candidates for statewide office:
▼Ed Flanagan (D-Vt.)

Candidates for state office:
▼Ken Chevron (D-Ariz.)
▼Karen Clark (D-Minn.)
▼Deborah Glick (D-N.Y.)
▼Sheila Kuehl (D-Calif.)
▼Bill Lippert (D-Vt.)
▼Liz Malia (D-Mass.)
▼Evelyn Mantilla (D-Conn.)
▼Glenn Maxey (D-Texas)
▼Larry McKeon (D-Ill.)
▼Carol Migden (D-Calif.)
▼Ed Murray (D-Wash.)
▼David Parks (D-Nev.)
▼Michael Pisaturo (D-R.I.)
▼Michael Quint (D-Maine)
▼Tim Van Zandt (D-Mo.)

Candidates for local office:
▼Tom Ammiano
(San Francisco Board of Supervisors)
▼David Catania
(Washington, D.C. Council)
▼Mark Leno
(San Francisco Board of Supervisors)
▼Kriss Worthington
(Berkeley City Council)

OPENLY GAY CHALLENGERS:

Candidates for federal office (4):
▼Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.)
Paul Barby (D-Okla.)
Margarethe Cammermeyer (D-Wash.)
Christine Kehoe (D-Calif.)

Candidates for statewide office:
Michael Duffy (R-Mass.)

Candidates for state office:
▼Jarrett Barrios (D-Mass.)
▼Jackie Biskupski (D-Utah)
Randy Bernard (R-Calif.)
▼Tom Duane (D-N.Y.)
Fred Ebner (R-Texas)
Judith Green (D-N.Y.)
▼Mary Ann Guggenheim (D-Mont.)
James Harrison (R-Md.)
Dana Hilliard (D-Mass.)
Steve Howard (D-Vt.)
Curtis Lamon (R-Wis.)
▼Steve May (R-Ariz.)
B. Nolan McCoy (D-Maine)
Tim Palmer (D-Vt.)
Craig Peterson (D-Wash.)
▼Mark Pocan (D-Wis.)
John Wade (D-Maine)

Candidates for local office:
George Beier (Berkeley City Council)
Lucretia Bermudez
(San Francisco Board of Supervisors)
Denise DiAnne
(San Francisco Board of Supervisors)
▼Jim Graham
(D-Washington, D.C., Council)
Victor Marquez
(San Francisco Board of Supervisors)

entation was soundly rejected by more than 7,000 votes out of 29,000 cast. The measure had been unanimously approved by the city council, but were put before the voters to decide after conservatives threatened a repeal move.

Two elections that drew enormous interest among gays and lesbians late in the campaign were the U.S. Senate races in New York and California — both also considered crucial to both political parties.

In New York, Rep. Charles Schumer (D) handily won over three-term incumbent Alfonse D'Amato (R), in one of the Democrats' most stunning races. The election drew a great deal of attention — and some activists think may even have led to gays and lesbians in the state voting in record numbers for Schumer — after the Human Rights Campaign endorsed D'Amato.

New York state activists were outraged over the endorsement, and at least one HRC board member resigned because of it. Even HRC acknowledged that Schumer had a better voting record on gay rights as a member of the House than D'Amato did in the Senate, but the lobbying group also said D'Amato had "improved his record ... and as a Republican in a Republican-controlled Congress he has taken personally and politically unpopular stands" on gay rights. But the HRC endorsement apparently didn't convince many gay and lesbian voters in New York who rallied around Schumer and helped sweep him into office.

In California, Sen. Barbara Boxer (D) was being challenged by Republican Matt Fong, the state's treasurer. Polls indicated Boxer, who has family ties to President Clinton and is considered one of the most liberal members of the House, was vulnerable and might lose the race.

Then, with just days before the actual election, news surfaced that Fong had donated \$50,000 to the far-right, anti-gay Traditional Values Coalition, which, among other things, has advocated isolating people with HIV/AIDS — or those simply at risk for the disease — in "cities of refuge" as a way to stop the epidemic.

Although California voters say they're not entirely comfortable with Boxer's far-left politics, they apparently were even more uneasy about Fong's links to the extremist far-right organization.

Kerry Lobel of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force summed up how many felt about the election results this year. "We have lived through one of the most vitriolic and hostile years in recent memory for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people," Lobel added, "It's clear that we're moving forward, even in a time of great backlash from the right wing."

Exit Polls

National exit polls in this year's mid-term elections found that at least 4 percent of the voters identified themselves as gay or lesbian. The Voter News Service exit polling reported the data along with other demographic and characteristics of this year's electorate.

Nationally, voter turnout was somewhat higher than had been expected, but exit polls suggested that voters were a fairly moderate reflection of mainstream Americans. While there was no noticeable "gender gap" vote in the election, African-Americans turned out in greater than

usual numbers and were crucial in several key races by Democratic Party efforts to get out the vote.

Voters were mostly moderates, were more concerned about the country's public schools than they were about public policy questions like abortion or gay rights. Most thought the Republican congressional leadership wasn't doing a very good job, felt they should drop the impeachment inquiry that has dominated news headlines and congressional attention much of the year, and basically felt President Clinton was doing a fairly good job.

Reversal on Book Ban Sought

Barron, Wis. (AP) — A Barron School District committee will consider a request to return four banned books to its school's library shelves. Pat Solheid, a member of a school board/citizen committee that reviews complaints about specific books, is asking the board's Policy and Personnel Committee to recommend the full board reverse its earlier decision to ban the books.

The board voted in September to remove "Baby Be-Bop" by Francesca Lia Block, "When Someone You Know is Gay" by Susan and Daniel Cohen, "Two Teenagers in Twenty" by Ann Heron, and "The Drowning of Stephan Jones" by Bette Greene.

District resident Karen Williams requested the books be removed because she objected to their themes, which deal with homosexuality, and their language.

The board voted to remove the four books despite a recommendation from a committee that all four books stay on the shelves. Superintendent Vita Sherry recommended two of the books be removed.

The American Civil Liberties Union is investigating whether the district has violated students' rights to read as established by the First Amendment and whether the district is discriminating against gay and lesbian students, which would be a violation of state law.

The ACLU also has asked the school district to reconsider its decision to remove the books.

Any recommendation by the Policy and Personnel Committee would be forwarded to the full board for action. Members of the committee are school board President Bruce Ostenson and board members Marcia Link and Terri Mueller. Williams also has requested four additional books be removed, including John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men."

Matthew Shepard, the University of Wyoming student who was brutally killed in October.

Other activists on the Internet, however, have criticized the call for a number of reasons, saying that two months isn't enough time for people even to plan a significant undertaking like this; that with a National March on Washington already well in the planning stages for the year 2000 another march so close is unrealistic; and even noting that the capital in January can be so bitterly cold that few people could be convinced to travel there for a single day of lobbying.

Undaunted, organizers quickly set up a temporary web site at: <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/2047> for information, and said they will soon have a permanent site at: www.marchoncongress.org.

Methodist Bishop Says He Performed Same-Sex Unions

Chicago — One of the ironies of the ongoing controversy over same-sex marriages is that Bishop Joseph Sprague, head of the United Methodist Church in the Chicago area, who has filed a complaint against a minister for performing such unions, himself performed the same ceremonies when he was a pastor in Columbus, Ohio.

Sprague told reporters he had performed same-sex unions for a male couple and for a female couple about four years ago in Ohio.

The bishop said he didn't use the church's traditional ceremony for the union, but prepared one himself.

Sprague has filed a complaint against the Rev. Gregory Dell of the Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago for performing a same-sex union in September of this year.

Dell will now face a church trial that could cost him his ordination.

Sprague said he decided to file the complaint himself to avoid someone else filing one with "inflammatory language." Sprague also said he doesn't believe homosexual relationships are sinful and thinks the Methodist Church "is not behaving very hospitably."

Anonymous HIV Testing Shows Important Benefits

Chicago — Researchers at the University of California at San Francisco say their study shows that anonymous HIV testing programs encourage people to get tested earlier and begin treatment sooner than they otherwise would.

Dr. Andrew Bindman, professor of medicine at the university and the study's lead author, says researchers compared those who came in to be tested anonymously with those who were tested confidentially — that is, the testers' names were noted instead of protecting their anonymity through coded IDs.

"We essentially found that those who were testing anonymous were coming in at an earlier time period in the disease course, and that they were using that information to access medical care at an earlier point in the disease," Bindman said.

Bindman said the finding is extremely important because the anonymous testers were able to benefit from medical care with new drug therapies that have proven so effective for many patients more than a year sooner than those who were testing confidentially.

The results of the study, the first major comparison of the two testing methods, were published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

The study comes in the midst of a national debate about whether publicly funded HIV testing should use names or remain anonymous.

White House Considers Options in Blocked Ambassadorial Nomination

Washington — President Clinton is weighing his options after the Senate effectively killed his nomination of James Hormel to be ambassador to Luxembourg. The Senate ended its session for the year without voting on Hormel's nomination. The heir to the meat-packing fortune would be the nation's first openly gay ambassador.

Democratic aides say Clinton's options included renominating Hormel once the new Congress is seated in January, or finding another post for him. Clinton could also simply name Hormel as a recess appointment to the post, but it would still require Senate confirmation when Congress reconvenes.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott has refused to let the nomination come to a vote, even though it was approved by the Foreign Relations committee.

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Texas Men Arrested for Sodomy in Own Bedroom

Houston (AP) — In an unusual prosecution, two Houston men are facing charges of violating the Texas sodomy law for engaging in consensual "homosexual conduct" in a private residence.

Harris County officials are pressing the case against the two men, ages 31 and 35, because the conduct is unlawful under the state's 119-year-old law and two deputies actually witnessed the sex act.

Two sheriff's deputies were responding on Sept. 17 to a false report of an armed man at an apartment when they found the two men engaged in what they termed "homosexual conduct."

The defendants are free on bond but face an arraignment before a justice of the peace Nov. 20.

The state's sodomy law makes homosexual oral and anal sex a class C misdemeanor, which carries a fine of up to \$500. Mitchell Katine, an attorney for one of the men, called the arrests "unbelievable." He says, "All those people who have said over the years that this statute is never enforced need to realize that that's not true."

Legal experts say the prosecutions are rare in Texas, in part because police officers rarely witness a violation and there are no complaints.

District Attorney John B. Holmes Jr. says only two or three sodomy cases have been prosecuted over the last 30 years in Harris County, and he says those involved homosexual contact witnessed by others in a public jail.

Gay activists have tried to overturn the sodomy law, arguing that it is often used to justify anti-gay discrimination in such areas as hiring. But while gay rights advocates have condemned the Houston prosecution, they say it may be the opening they need to finally get the law overturned.

Clarence Bagby, president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, says,

"We'd love to see it move all the way up the ladder and be declared unconstitutional. We need to get this off the books."

N.J. Court Rules for Joint Custody in Child Dispute

Newark, N.J. — New Jersey Superior Court Judge Vincent Grasso has ruled that two women who have ended their relationship should share custody of their infant son.

Judge Grasso declared that "REM," the ex-partner who is not the 2-year-old boy's birth mother, "stands in the shoes of a parent to the child and should be accorded the status of parent" equally with "SLV," the boy's biological mother.

Kate Kendell of the National Center for Lesbian Rights called the ruling an "enormous victory" because "it recognizes that biology is not the sole determining factor" in parenthood.

Another state court, however, earlier this year ruled exactly opposite of Judge Grasso and activists say the issue is doubtless headed to the New Jersey Supreme Court for eventual resolution.

Methodist Council Says Anti-Marriage Ban is Valid

Hershey, Penn. — The United Methodist Church's highest religious court says its order that prohibits ministers from performing homosexual unions is valid.

The Methodists voted at its 1996 national convention to bar denomination ministers from performing same-sex unions. Since then, the Rev. Jimmy Creech faced a church trial for marrying a lesbian couple, but he narrowly avoided being found guilty by arguing that the 1996 ban was advisory and not binding on clergy.

But the judicial council ruling now effectively settles the issue in the UMC unless a future church convention lifts the ban.

Fauci: 4-drug Combo Clears HIV

New Delhi, India (AP) — A new drug combination can clear out the AIDS virus from the blood completely and promises a potential cure for the deadly disease, a top global AIDS expert said.

Anthony Fauci from the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the United States told a conference on immunology in New Delhi that the drug combination removes the virus from human CD-4 cells, where it hides.

"Adding interleukins, a class of proteins secreted by immune cells, to the existing three-drug combination to treat AIDS patients totally eliminates the HIV virus from CD-4 cells that circulate in the blood," Fauci was quoted as saying by the *Press Trust of India*.

Scientists are now studying "whether this new combination clears out the virus from lymph tissues and other potential reservoirs of the resting virus," he said.

"The findings will be published once the lymph tissue studies are completed. If this happens, then researchers have on hand a potential cure for AIDS," Fauci said his team studied 14 patients put on a combination of the three drugs and interleukins, which was given intermittently five times a week for at least eight weeks.

"Then the team selected six patients and painstakingly studied 10 million cells taken from each. There were no detectable levels of virus in these patients."

He said investigations on a further 300 million cells taken from each of the six patients produced the same negative result.

"For the first time, the virus has been cleared from infected resting cells. The good news is that we can't find the virus. The sobering news is that we have not looked everywhere," Fauci said.

More than 40 million people are expected to be infected with HIV by 2000.



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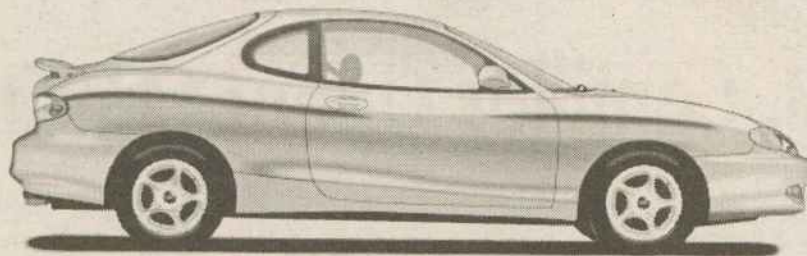


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St. Camillus Opens Sensitive Care Wing

by Dorothy Austin
of the IN Step staff

Milwaukee — Now HIV+ patients on the St. Camillus campus have a home of their own, open to anyone, regardless of race, gender, religion or socioeconomic class.

Even the destitute may come. It is a ministry, and it is largely one man's vision realized, another's mission ongoing, but more of that later.

The HIV/AIDS Ministry, with compassionate care for patients at every stage of the illness, including end-of-life care, has existed on the campus since 1993, but now the setting is homelike, the facilities are state-of-the-art, and the treatment is individualized and patient-driven.

What has made the difference, at least in part, is a \$500,000 grant from the Pettit Foundation, plus other funding from the Bradley Foundation and the Milwaukee Archdiocesan Supporting Fund.

In the early days, HIV+ patients were cared for in the same areas as geriatric patients, and there was a considerable generation gap.

The oldsters needed soft foods, for example, and the HIV+ patients hungered, when they hungered at all, for pizza or brats. And some of the elders might have held the prejudices not uncommon to their generations. So the two groups looked at each other from a distance.

Since then, however, several medical and social miracles seem to have occurred. Recently, some of the young HIV patients are visiting with the elders, and the elders are glad to see them.

Now, it seems that there is enough hope and loving kindness to go around.

With new hope, plus treatment by a skilled staff and support from other

patients, some HIV+ patients who came to die have somehow changed, and are learning to live again. They are managing with expert help their chronic and still at — times fatal disease.

One patient, for example, was unable to walk when she initially came in. First, she was in a wheelchair. Then, after a time she began to use a walker. Now she walks unassisted but, often accompanied by another patient or friend, has also begun to do some volunteer visiting with patients in other areas.

The question is, how do we account for this kind of change, which does not appear to be based on medication?

"Part of it is that they have a reason to get up every day, which gives them some meaning outside themselves," said Father Braddock, director of the St. Camillus HIV/AIDS ministry. He and Scott Evertz, director of the St. Camillus Foundation, took this *In Step* reporter on a tour of the new facilities for HIV+ patients.

Another partial explanation is that the HIV+ patients have achieved a sense of community here, and that sense is both comforting and strengthening.

"They have a commitment and love, and they try to help each other. They are like an intentional family," Braddock said.

"This does not mean that they do not bicker occasionally, and fail to get along together, but that is human," Evertz conceded.

In the completely renovated \$1.2 million HIV+ Sensitive Care Wing, on the first floor of St. Camillus Court East, Evertz pointed out special equipment for the comfort of the patients.

A robot-like machine can gently pick up a patient, carry him down the corridor to a bath, and deposit him carefully in the tub.

"This is a \$40,000 piece of equipment, and is safe and easy for patients who may be painfully thin. One nurse can handle it, whereas it might take two or three nurses to lift a patient," Evertz said.

Other improvements include beds designed so that they continuously adjust to pressure by moving air and water. The patient is at all times comfortably supported and is not apt to develop bed sores.

There are two negative air flow rooms for HIV+ patients who might have developed tuberculosis, or another infectious disease. The rooms have an air flow system which is vented outdoors. These rooms enable patients to remain in the wing instead of being sent to the hospital.

True, there are deaths. But, when they come, the little community pulls together. Patients comfort each other. They grieve, perhaps they grow.

Nearby is Raphael House, a building which was once a residence for brothers and priests. Now it provides a supportive living environment for HIV+ patients who with some assistance can live on their own. The nine-bedroom house is handsomely designed, with generous rooms, a bank of green plants against one wall, and at the back of the house a solarium with big windows looking out on trees and garden pathways.

Some of the patients here might have been homeless because their parents threw them out, or because they have no families, or because their living arrangements were chaotic, and a perceptive social worker has seen that they need a stable environment and a supportive atmosphere.

In addition to the renovated unit and Raphael House, with its homelike ambience, the Camillians also have an apartment building for the working poor in the

27th Street and Capitol Drive area. Some of the residents may be HIV+.

Support groups for women and some for men who are infected or affected by HIV meet regularly on the St. Camillus campus, and any who may wish to join may call (414) 259-4664 for information.

Braddock's background helps explain his commitment to the sick and the poor. He is keeping a promise.

He was a successful young businessman in New York, with an office at Rockefeller



Fr. Stephen Braddock

Center and another in Westchester County, when he was stricken with bacterial spinal meningitis. He was desperately ill.

And so he made a deal with God. "If I survive," he pledged, "I will spend the rest of my life in service to the sick and the poor."

He survived. He read the lives of the saints. He picked out St. Camillus because Camillus founded in Europe, four centuries ago, an order dedicated to serving the sick and the poor.

Braddock sold off his holdings and joined the order. He's been keeping the promise ever since. Two years ago he

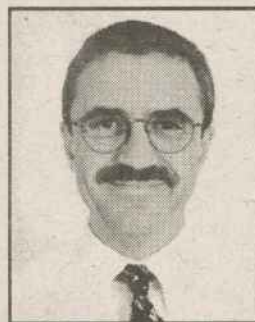
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recruited Scott Evertz as a fund-raiser for a project. Evertz joined the staff, and now heads all fund raising for the order, which has branches or installations in many countries on five continents.

"We have two similar models, similar to the one here, on the East and West coasts," Evertz said.

Since the order's mission is to accept the poor, and the HIV scene is continually changing and the demands are growing, fund raising is an ongoing effort. If patients have an income, half the income is requested for total care. But, if there is no income and it may take six months or so to establish a disability, the costs are paid by the order and by private donations.

The promise is kept; the mission shared.

ARCW Expanding Investment in African American Community

Milwaukee — The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) praised the Clinton administration for recognizing its role in addressing the AIDS epidemic in the African American community last week as it provided \$156 million for 1999 to improve care and treatment and help stop the spread of HIV among African Americans.

The Congressional Black Caucus recently declared a national AIDS "State of Emergency" in the African American community. Locally, HIV continues to spread at an alarming rate. Five percent of the state's population is African American, but 31 percent of HIV infections are among African Americans.

"In Milwaukee, ARCW has long been fighting hard to deliver aggressive HIV prevention services and care and treatment to the African American community," said Doug Nelson, ARCW executive director. "We are dedicated to preventing HIV in the African American community and are ready to meet the AIDS epidemic head on. In 1999, we will expand HIV prevention programs in the community and invest a minimum of \$100,000 with area minority community-based organizations to rally in the fight against AIDS in Milwaukee."

Nelson added, ARCW is Milwaukee's largest AIDS service provider to the African American community, and currently subcontracts to the Latino Health Organization, Rainbow Community Health Centers and the United Community Center.

"Currently, African Americans comprise over 50 percent of our client base, accessing important HIV care and treatment services such as ARCW's food pantry, financial and legal assistance, housing, health care and case management resources," said Nelson.

Several ARCW prevention programs that provide outreach to the African American community are expected to grow in 1999. ARCW operates the successful Lifepoint clean needle exchange program, which exchanges used needles for clean ones. Sharing dirty needles is one of the fastest growing modes of HIV transmission in the country. Lifepoint exchange workers also work with drug

users to educate them about HIV risk behavior; provide HIV counseling and testing; and refer them into drug treatment.

ARCW's Dennis Hill Center, located at 4311 W. Vliet Street, is a drug treatment facility that provides a "Harm Reduction" model of AODA treatment. ARCW's program has admitted over 150 people since its licensure in 1997, with a 50 percent success rate in treatment to date.

Another ARCW prevention program, Soul 2 Soul, is a social and community building program that provides HIV prevention services and information to Milwaukee's African American lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. This unique network creates safe spaces for discussion groups and networking opportunities for the African American community, which will continue to grow in 1999.

In Wisconsin, Milwaukee has the highest rates of HIV infection and AIDS cases. Since the epidemic started, 1,978 African American people have tested HIV positive. In addition, ARCW projects there are as many 8,000 Milwaukee-area individuals unaware they are living with HIV. For more information, contact ARCW at (414) 273-1991.

CAIR Receives Grant To Expand Networking With AIDS Organizations

Milwaukee — The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) at the Medical College of Wisconsin has received a \$100,000 grant to expand its effort to assist front-line AIDS service organizations in offering community-level HIV prevention programs that were first developed by CAIR.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant will allow CAIR to develop partnerships with up to five community-based organizations to conduct the HIV interventions with gay men in their respective communities. In addition, CAIR researchers will study the process of how best to transfer HIV prevention programs from the scientific arena to community agencies. CAIR's partners in the project have not yet been identified.


"This grant gives us the opportunity to share our research directly with organizations who can use it to meet immediate prevention needs," said Jeffrey A. Kelly, Ph.D., director of CAIR, professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, and principal investigator of the project.

The HIV prevention programs will replicate a CAIR-designed prevention model that focuses on reducing HIV risk behavior throughout a community by recruiting key popular individuals to endorse risk reduction to their friends and acquaintances.

The grant will extend a CAIR study that was started in 1996 after the CDC identified the CAIR intervention as a program that should be made readily available to organizations because of the extensive scientific support for the program's effectiveness.

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Among School Children

by Paul Varnell

People who want to prevent anti-gay harassment and assault would be wise to direct their attention from laws that enhance penalties once the crimes have been committed to preventing the development of the hostility that prompted the crimes in the first place.

Once anti-gay attitudes and beliefs have been learned and internalized by young people, a penalty enhancement law can do little to deter anti-gay abuse or crime.

Advocates of penalty enhancement laws often say that nevertheless they want to "send a message." But it is simply too late: a different message has long before been sent and become absorbed as part of many young people's basic psychological structure, and is therefore deeply resistant to change.

So we need to attack the problem by preventing the development of anti-gay attitudes at a much earlier stage. That means we have to identify the chief institutions which foster and transmit anti-gay attitudes to young people. These are the churches and the public schools. By all the means available we must prevail on these institutions to teach and speak out against hostility to gays.

No one can possibly doubt that schools are festering sores of homophobia. Anti-gay slurs are among the most common form of insult and the ones most dreaded by young people. Surveys have found that many school children would rather be hit than called "gay."

A survey conducted by Britain's Education institute found that 80 percent of schools reported incidents of anti-gay bullying and harassment, but only 6 percent had policies to deal with the problem. The same is undoubtedly true in the culturally similar United States.

A survey of junior college students in the San Francisco area found that nearly 20 percent of the males had engaged in anti-gay threats or physical violence, and nearly a third had engaged in anti-gay name-calling.

"Indeed, assaults on gay men and lesbians were so socially acceptable that respondents often advocated or defended such behaviors out loud in the classrooms, while I was administering my survey," said researcher Karen Franklin, who conducted the survey.

"Typically," explains Franklin, "verbal taunts by groups of boys escalate over time to more and more severe abuse, culminating in physical beatings."

In mid-October a 13-year-old schoolboy in Provo, Utah, deep in Mormon country, drew cheers from some of his classmates when he announced to a student assembly that his wish for the future was that "gay men would be crucified on Main Street and lesbians be burned at the stake."

Clearly this must not continue. What can be done? Psychologist Franklin offers some suggestions and I offer others.

First and foremost, teachers must act promptly to stop anti-gay comments at their first appearance, explaining to children why they are wrong, and that there is nothing wrong with being gay. Students who persevere need to be disciplined or suspended to show children and their parents that the schools are serious.

Franklin observes, "The majority of young people who harass, bully and assault [gays] do not see anything wrong with their behavior. And the reason they do not see anything wrong is simple — no one is telling them that it is wrong."

No one is telling them that it is wrong.

Particularly, male gym and physical education teachers need to be told to avoid anti-gay slurs and to discipline students using them. Gym class is often the last redoubt of anti-gay abuse, where physical prowess is, by default, associated with heterosexuality.

Students who are repeatedly homophobic also need to be mandated to counseling to discover why berating others is so important to them and help them discover positive, productive alternatives. Helping children understand their own psychology is only sometimes useful, but letting them know that other people know why they are doing something — what felt inadequacy they are compensating for and therefore revealing — can be extremely effective.

Anti-bias programs must be required as early as kindergarten and continue on through high school. Starting such programs early is important. As Franklin notes, "Hate crimes" are expressions of cultural norms that are entrenched even among preadolescent children."

Gay History Month (each October) must be revived and fostered, particularly in schools, so that young students learn good associations with gays and lesbians and learn how much that is valuable in the world they owe to gays.

Gay teachers must be encouraged to

come out to colleagues and students, not only to provide positive examples of mature gays, but to encourage gay-supportive postures by their colleagues.

Police and other authority figures must speak to student groups about respect for fellow citizens, specifically including gays (otherwise students will factor them out), explain why harassment and assault are wrong, and note that gay officers serve on the police force.

Among older students, the fledgling gay/straight alliances begun in Massachusetts must be encouraged in schools elsewhere, not only so gay students have a peer support structure but so that non-gay students will learn first-hand about gays as their peers instead of a far-off joke or threat.

Gay voters must pressure school board members and candidates to address these issues and pledge to initiate appropriate programs.

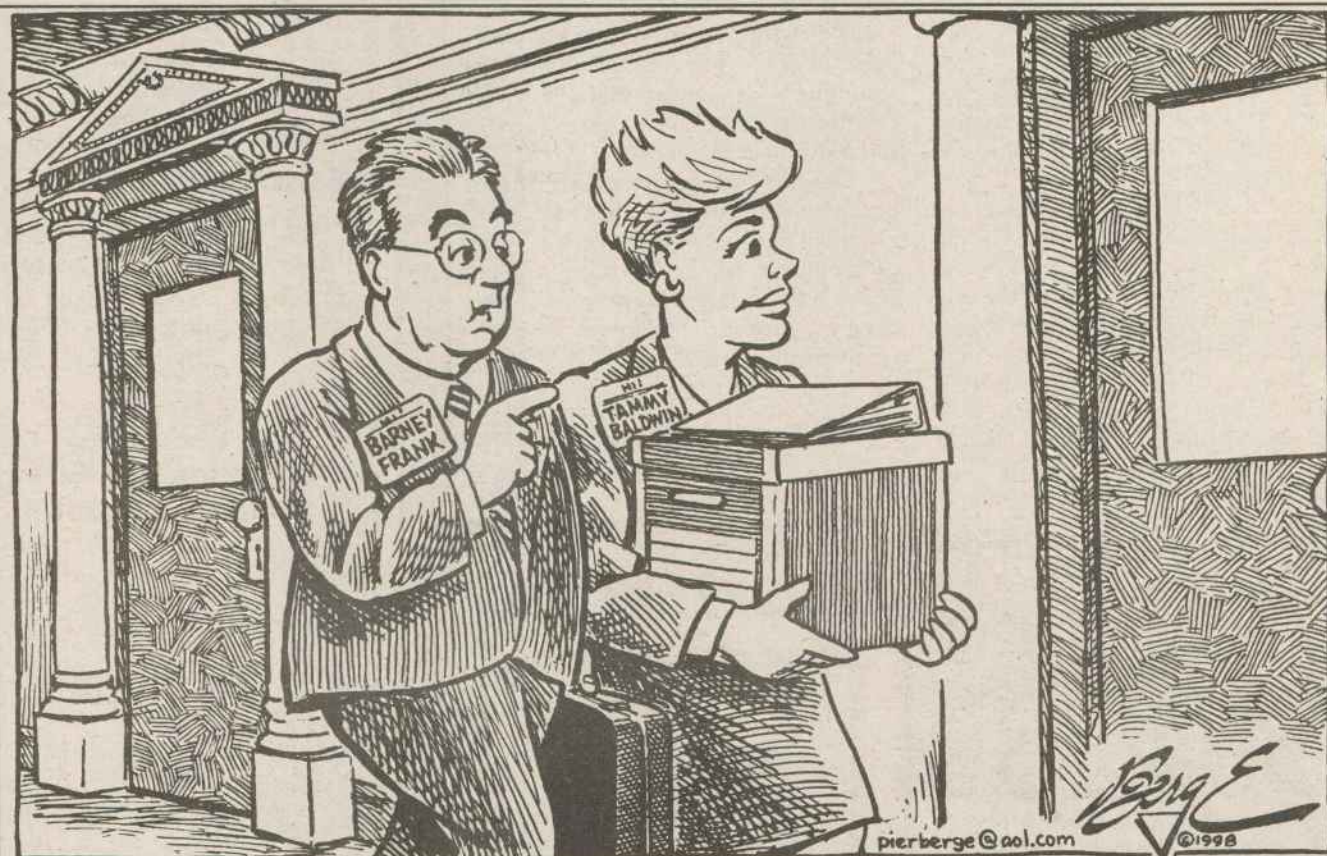
If you cannot do anything else, at least send a substantial check to GLSEN — the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network — in New York. It is the only organization dealing with these issues and has an impact far greater than its small size suggests. It deserves massive support from the gay community and gay philanthropists.

If you think that because you do not have children the schools are not important to you, think again. These are government schools: You pay for them whether you want to or not.

There is a repellent irony in the fact that gays are taxed, without any benefit, to support an institution which is a chief breeding ground for anti-gay hostility and violence to themselves.

"In the long run," says Franklin, "effective prevention must focus on promoting tolerance and an appreciation of diversity among schoolchildren. As long as the schools are breeding grounds for intolerance and abuse, hate crimes will continue."

And there is this: The children who learn anti-gay attitudes today will grow up to be the Trent Lotts and Dick ("Barney Fag") Armeys and Sam Nunns and Jesse Helmses of tomorrow. The children who learn acceptance and appreciation of gays ... won't.



"AND THAT'S DICK ARMEY'S OFFICE. SPEAK CLEARLY WHEN YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO HIM. HE'S BEEN KNOWN TO HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING NAMES."



Letters

No, Thank You!

Dear Editor—

I wanted to take a moment to thank the voters of the 2nd Congressional District for placing their confidence in me and granting me the privilege to serve them as the first woman elected to Congress from Wisconsin. This campaign proved that the people of our community are yearning for bold leadership, and that, in politics, it is perfectly okay to dream about the future we want to create.

I want to especially thank the roughly 3,000 volunteers who made this victory possible in ways large and small; the hundreds of UW students who brought their amazing energy and enthusiasm to the campaign; the thousands who generously contributed financially; the many activist, labor and teacher organizations that endorsed me, send helpers, and provided training and mentorship; the dozens of advisors who taught me about the issues I will face in Congress; and the countless people who traveled to all corners of the district to deliver our call for health-care for all citizens, a quality public education for our children, and the restoration and pro-

tection of the Social Security Trust Fund.

I look forward to working with and serving you as we prepare for the exciting road that lies ahead. I am proud and honored that the people of this district have chosen me to lead them into the next millennium. Together, we will *will* make the difference!

Tammy Baldwin
Congresswoman-Elect

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OUT Right

Musser Blunders Contribute to Baldwin Success

Opinion by Scott Evertz

The Wednesday morning quarterbacking has begun and friends of mine from around Wisconsin, and in fact the entire country, are calling to analyze and spin what happened in the host of political races decided last Tuesday. Of particular interest to my gay and lesbian friends was the 2nd District Congressional race between openly lesbian Democrat Tammy Baldwin and Republican Jo Musser. The question most are asking is, "How did Tammy do it?" The answer is simple.

Tammy Baldwin motivated and broadened her base of support. Jo Musser pissed hers off. It really is as simple as that. Congresswoman-elect Baldwin deserves a tremendous amount of credit for running a highly effective campaign which resulted in her not only getting most of the Democratic base vote (which in itself assure a victory in the 2nd District) but for motivating and mobilizing citizens who may not typically get involved in a campaign or even vote (like students). Again, she held onto her support base while her opponent drove hers away.

As I stated in an earlier column, the race was Tammy's to lose. She entered the

general election with some distinct advantages: 1). The 2nd District is a Democratic district, 2). The Republican candidate was very liberal on social issues so serious social conservatives could not vote for either candidate, and 3). Tammy's personality is very endearing. To stand any chance of winning, Musser needed, among some other things, to convince most of the Republican base to hold their noses and vote for her despite their differences on a number of issues.

There were, in fact, a fair number of Republican leaders, including the candidate, who became quite indignant on this issue. Things were said like, "you have a duty as a Republican to support Musser," and "You must overlook the fact that Musser and Baldwin have exactly the same position on a partial-birth abortion ban (they both oppose a ban) and support your party." Indeed, it appeared that this argument was contributing to some momentum in the Musser camp, but just as the proverbial campaign train was gaining some steam, Musser the conductor derailed her own train.

In an interview with *The Capitol Times* editorial board, Musser indicated that she wasn't sure that she could support Republican U.S. Senate candidate Mark Neumann because of some of his positions on the issues. So the candidate who was insisting that Republicans had a duty to vote for her despite their differences on a host of issues, was now saying that she did not feel equally duty-bound to support the Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate.

In addition to appearing rather arro-

gant and exposing herself as a believer in a double standard (you have to vote for me because I'm a Republican but I don't have to do similarly), she reminded the Republicans holding their noses of all the issues on which they disagree. Perhaps these Republicans should have been holding their ears and not their noses and they would not have heard her indicate that she opposes a partial-birth abortion ban and a balanced-budget amendment and would not pledge to raise taxes.

In addition to clearly upsetting conservative Republicans, it is clear that Musser was not able to endear herself to enough moderate Democrats who should have been more concerned about Baldwin's very liberal voting record and positions she had taken on fiscal issues. Consequently, she lost and Wisconsin maintains its distinctive title of being the "Gay Rights State." Wisconsin was the first state to provide civil rights protections to its lesbian and gay citizens. It was the first state to re-elect an openly gay Republican congressman. And it is now the first state in the nation to elect an open lesbian to Congress who ran as such during her first race.

Lest I get accused of being too soft on Baldwin and run the risk of being kicked out of the Log Cabin Republicans, I must share with those reading this column something which I found quite interesting. As I watched the final returns on television with a very good friend, the television station went live to the Baldwin victory party and Tammy's victory speech. At one point in her speech, Baldwin said, "... and we made a little history as well..." to which my friend responded, "Oh, she can finally say that now." He accurately perceived that Baldwin was referring to the "lesbian thing" and was, in those few words, cynically concluding now that she was elected she wouldn't have to steer clear of the "lesbian thing."

To tell you the truth, I kind of had the same reaction. I was on the Baldwin campaign mailing list and I saw a number of her ads and not once do I recall her

announcing that she would be a co-sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), that she would support federal hate-crimes legislation, that

Clearly, the Baldwin campaign did not want the average voter to hear much about the "lesbian thing..."

she would fight efforts to cut federal funding for HIV and AIDS, or that she would introduce federal legislation, which would expand the rights of lesbian and gay citizens. Admittedly, I did not attend "gay safe" events, such as the Barney Frank fund raiser, or the one with national NOW President Patricia Ireland, so I really was just the average 2nd District voter as far as the campaign was concerned. Clearly, the Baldwin campaign did not want the average voter to hear much about the "lesbian thing," and that, perhaps was also a key to her victory.

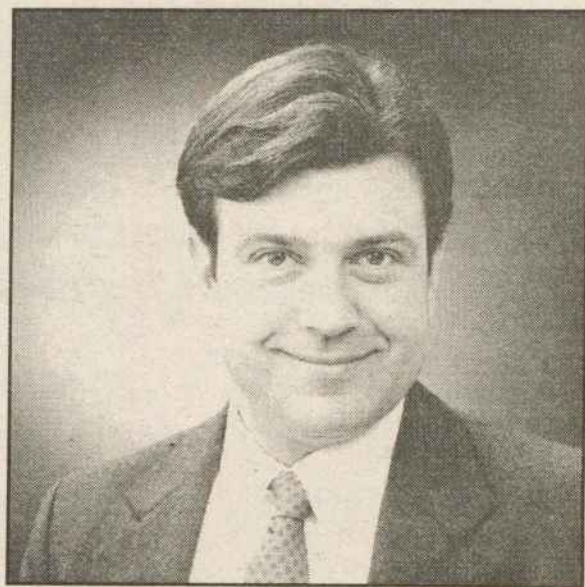
It is my strong hope that she will not conclude that she has to play down the "lesbian thing" because she is a freshman congresswoman or because she is in the minority party in the House of Representatives. If I have one criticism of her career in the Wisconsin state Assembly, it's that it appears there were always reasons or excuses for why she was not more proactive on issues of concerns to LGBT citizens. I am hopeful this will not be the case and that she hits the halls of Congress running. If she does, she will have a real fan in this Log Cabin Republican.

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What the Election Meant to Me

Commentary by Keith Clark
of the IN Step staff

For a couple days after the Nov. 3 election results, Washington news conferences and television's talk shows were jumping with so many spin doctors that one would have thought the Body Politic had been in an auto accident and was holding on for dear life in some partisan emergency room.

There was an analysis for any particular political point of view you might happen to have — some of them pretty incredible.

For two days Republican congressional leaders, who only days earlier had been saying they would pick up one or two new Senate seats and possibly as many as 10 to 20 new House seats, tried to explain the election returns, in which they gained no new Senate seats and lost five House races, by saying it was just a "vote for the status quo."

Far-right fundamentalist conservatives said the poor showing by the GOP wasn't their fault because the candidates they backed won. But in fact, candidates that the religious right was backing lost Senate races in New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Wisconsin and Washington state. They also lost governor's races in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and Iowa. And of 13 key House races, the fundamentalist-backed candidates lost nine and won only four.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Log Cabin Republicans all but blamed the religious right for all the GOP's election woes this year and suggested that the party should break the religious right's stranglehold on the GOP or face worse losses in 2000. The gay Republicans even noted that exit polls showed that about a million gays and lesbians voted for Republicans this year — apparently holding out the inducement of even more gay and lesbian votes if the party weren't quite so homophobic.

Democrats, on the other hand, didn't seem to be able

to find any actual spin to put on the returns, although there were enough Democrats spinning with ecstasy — not to mention stunned surprise — to make up a decent troupe of Dervishes. Democrats could perhaps be forgiven for not having a decent explanation for their impressive showings in races around the nation — after all, not even they expected it.

Despite some important election gains by lesbian and gay candidates around the country, the Human Rights Campaign remained largely silent about the results — perhaps because of the political egg on its face after endorsing Sen. Alfonse D'Amato over Democratic challenger Charles Schumer, who ended up winning the race handily. But in the process, HRC set off a firestorm of outrage with its endorsement that caused one board member to resign and led scores of HRC members in New York state to threaten to drop out of the rights organization as well.

By and large, the 1998 mid-term elections didn't have any particular thrust or issue. Americans weren't much interested in the Monica Lewinsky scandal, thought the Republicans in Congress were mishandling the whole impeachment question for partisan purposes, were generally happy with the economy, thought President Clinton was doing an OK job, were solidly in the center and didn't much like mean-spirited politicians. If there was a single issue that most voters seemed concerned about, it wasn't the stock market or politicians' peccadilloes or crime in the street. Education and the declining state of the nation's schools was cited by more voters around the country as the No. 1 issue on their minds this year.

One thing that hasn't gotten sufficient attention in the race, however, is that Democrats won and Republicans largely lost because African-Americans in many key campaigns turned out in record numbers. In a number of populous states — California, Texas, Florida and New York — Hispanics also turned out in very large numbers. In California, for example, the number of Hispanics voting this year was nearly double what it was just two years ago. And they voted overwhelmingly for Democrats, just like Black voters generally did.

For gays and lesbians, the elections appeared to be a mixed bag — at least on the surface.

Same-sex marriage was soundly rejected by voters in Hawaii and Alaska. Yet Tammy Baldwin broke two barriers, winning a seat in Congress representing the 2nd Congressional District in Wisconsin. Her election reflects the first time an out lesbian candidate won a seat in the House, and the first time a non-incumbent gay or lesbian candidate made it past that particular glass ceiling.

Yet two other lesbians running for congressional seats — Grethe Cammermeyer in Washington state and Christine Kehoe in California — failed to win their races. Both, however, were running against incumbents, which Baldwin was not. While Cammermeyer ran something of a lackluster campaign, Kehoe ran a tough race and lost by less than 2,000 votes out of 150,000 cast.

And while most ballot measures — from the anti-marriage initiatives in Hawaii and Alaska, to anti-bias protections in Colorado and Arkansas — failed by significant margins, gays and lesbians from California to Connecticut won elected office of every stripe, from local councils to state senates.

If there was any "message" for gays and lesbians in this year's elections it had to be a fairly simple one: Civil rights questions, when put to the voters, are probably not going to succeed, but individual gay and lesbian candidates have reasonably good chances of winning election.

Less clear, though, is the role and relevance in election campaigns of larger national organizations like Log Cabin and Human Rights Campaign.

Log Cabin initially endorsed Republican Matt Fong in his attempt to unseat Sen. Barbara Boxer in California. Then when news of his \$50,000 contribution to the far-right, anti-gay Traditional Values Coalition surfaced, Log Cabin officers in California threatened to yank their endorsement. But instead the national Log Cabin organization maintained its endorsement, saying it was satisfied with Fong signing a pledge to support certain gay rights and AIDS issues in Congress.

But Fong had already made those pledges to Log Cabin, so they got little or nothing from him for their continued support after the revelation of his hefty financial gift to one of the most virulently anti-gay groups in America.

The problem, of course, is that Log Cabin keeps insisting that the GOP has to distance itself from the reli-



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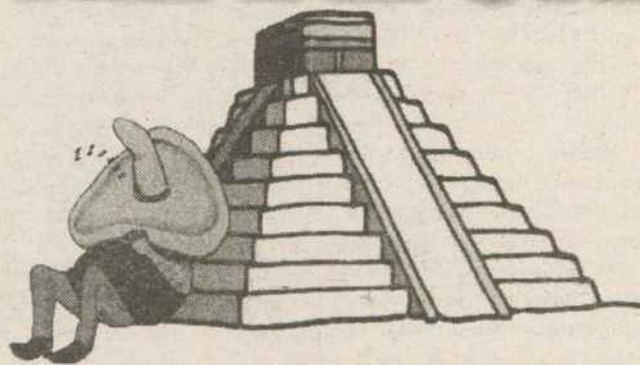
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gious right if it intends to win the votes of gays and lesbians, yet when their endorsed candidate turns up with very deep pockets for one of those far-right extremist groups, the gay Republicans still can't follow their own prescription.

It's highly doubtful that the Log Cabin endorsement — or re-endorsement — of Fong changed the votes of very many Californians in that election. But with the president of the California Log Cabin Republicans already saying that he wouldn't be voting for Fong, it raises serious questions about the national group's credibility, both among gay and lesbian voters and doubtless among GOP stalwarts as well.

The Human Rights Campaign stepped onto a different sort of landmine when it endorsed Sen. D'Amato in New York's U.S. Senate race. For many activists around the country, HRC is already seen as too locked into the Washington Beltway mentality and not involved in local grassroots political efforts around the country to begin with. When the D'Amato endorsement exploded on HRC, it only lent greater credibility to that view of a capital-based organization preoccupied with congressional politics and out of touch with its constituency.

Although it got little attention at the time, HRC also drew fire in October when it ran newspaper and television ads in Hawaii that said the American Associ-

ation of Retired Persons (AARP), endorsed efforts to defeat the same-sex marriage ban in Hawaii.

AARP, one of the largest lobbying organizations in the country with some 32 million members, didn't know anything about it and issued an official statement that the organization was "neutral" on the proposed constitutional issue. HRC, without explanation, simply stopped running the ads.

A growing number of gays and lesbians around the country have also begun questioning the wisdom of spending such enormous sums of money on political skirmishes we're unlikely to win, especially in states where there isn't already a politically active and well-organized infrastructure. Opponents of the anti-marriage measure in Hawaii raised some \$1.15 million to fight the initiative, with much of the money coming from HRC. Yet polls in the state never indicated we were likely to succeed in defeating the measure.

What, a growing number of activists around the country are beginning to ask, is the point of spending such enormous sums in battles we probably can't win in the first place?

These sorts of issues aren't easily resolved. But this year's campaigns certainly present the contemporary gay rights movement with some intriguing questions of strategies and goals. ▼



George Michael

George Michael Reveals Details of His Tearoom Bust

by Rex Wockner
of the IN Step Staff

Beverly Hills, Calif. — Gay pop singer George Michael revealed details of his April arrest in a Beverly Hills, park toilet during a live interview on MTV Nov. 4.

"I got followed into the restroom and then this cop — I didn't know it was a cop, obviously — he started playing this game, which I think is called, 'I'll show you mine, you show me yours, and then when you show me yours, I'm going to nick you,'" Michael said.

"Actually, what happened was once he got an eyeful, he walked past me, straight past me and out, and I thought, that's kind of odd. I thought, maybe he's just not impressed. And then I went to walk back to my car, and as I got back to the car, I was arrested on the street. ... If someone's waving their genitalia at you, you don't automatically assume that they're an officer of the law. ... I've never been able to turn down a free meal," Michael joked.

Michael said he isn't in an open relationship, he's just oversexed.

"I'm not saying that I have an open relationship with my boyfriend but he knows who I am," Michael said. "He knows that I'm generally oversexed, so he's been very, very good. ... We love each other and he understands that it was a stupid mistake and he's forgiven

me, I hope."

Michael thinks his arrest may have involved some cooperation between Beverly Hills police and Britain's tabloid press.

"I don't think it was by chance that this happened to me," he said. "We have some fairly vicious people in the country where I come from and they work in certain streets in London. I think it might have had something to do with it. ... There was a little more cooperation than you would expect between the police and the paparazzi."

Michael also said he didn't feel outed by the arrest because he thought he was already out.

"I really thought to my fans I outed myself with the last album because — and it wouldn't seem that way in America because in America there hasn't been that much publicity about me in the last seven or eight years because I just haven't been here or been on TV — but, actually, there's been a lot of publicity about my sexuality over the years in Europe and my ex-partner's death was reported very widely, so when I dedicated the album to him and wrote the album for him, I felt like I was coming out to my fans, and I didn't really care about people who weren't interested in my music," he said.

"So, I certainly wasn't gonna go to [the journalists on London's] Fleet Street and say, 'Yes, I'm gay,'" Michael said. "The main point is that I outed myself in my life about eight or nine years ago and I've been out with everyone in my life — even casual acquaintances, my family, friends — anyone who's met me within that time has known that I'm gay, just not the press."

"So, really, this doesn't feel like an outing, this is just public outing. But any gay person who comes out realizes that the tough bit is your friends and family and that was a great thing — it was a great, liberating thing and I did it a long time ago. I don't know if I would have come out to the press. They would have got me, some way or other. This is how it ended up because I wouldn't give it to them."

Michael's new single and video, "Outside," which debuted during the MTV broadcast, is all about public sex and police repression of its practitioners.

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IN STRAIGHT ANSWERS



by Christopher Ott
of the IN Step Staff

Q: How can anyone say there is a connection between moral concerns about homosexuality and anti-gay violence?

The way that anti-gay activists have reacted to the murder of Matthew Shepard, you would think they were the victims. They complained that they were being accused of hate-mongering, and they scrambled to defend themselves. They say they're not to blame. They say they have moral concerns about homosexuality, but that they certainly don't advocate violence. They say their message is about love and healing for homosexuals, not murder. A spokesman for the Family Research Council defended its ongoing series of ads about "ex-gay" therapy, saying, "I have a hard time equating how that could lead to, 'Hey, let's go beat up a homosexual.'" The supposedly liberal media generally takes these defenses at face value and doesn't look much further into the issue. But if they did, they would find that there is an almost complete overlap between what anti-gay religious conservatives believe and what the people who commit anti-gay violence believe:

Both believe that homosexuality is a choice — a bad choice which can and should be deterred.

Both believe that there is something wrong with homosexuality, and that gay people are sick.

Both believe that gay people are a threat to society as spreaders of disease, corrupters of children and perpetrators of a sinister gay political "agenda."

Both believe that gay people are sinners — and that sinners are punished.

In other words, anti-gay conservatives say homosexuality is a threat, a sin and a sickness. The people who commit anti-gay violence share all these views, but they take them to their natural conclusion: they see violence as the defense, the punishment and the cure. The only surprise is that anti-gay violence doesn't happen more often. It is ironic that anti-gay Christians condemn anti-gay violence at the same time that they promote the misinformation and hostility that motivate it.

Believe it or not, however, anti-gay activists honestly don't see their role in anti-gay violence. Most truly do not intend to hurt anyone. Most are motivated by what they believe are the best intentions, and they are genuinely troubled when crimes like the torture and murder of Matthew Shepard happen.

But happen they do, and anti-gay religious conservatives need to accept their part in the responsibility for it. Anti-gay conservatives say that gay people need to change, but they have it backwards. It is they who

need to change, and to own up to the crimes that have been committed in the name of their shallow and confused understanding of God and morality.

Q: Isn't gay support for hate-crimes laws another example of the push for "special rights"?

The day that Shepard died, the PR machines of anti-gay organizations were already in action. And in typical fashion, they behaved as if the senseless murder of a gay person was somehow about *them*. Robert H. Knight, director of Cultural Studies at the Family Research Council, warned that gay rights groups would try to use the event to push for the passage of hate-crimes laws. James Dobson, guru of Focus on the Family, expressed outrage that the media would even ask whether the religious right's ongoing anti-gay media campaign had anything to do with anti-gay violence.

Anti-gay religious conservatives have a wildly exaggerated view of their own persecution — they think they are being persecuted when they are asked to tolerate others — but their reaction to the murder of Matthew Shepard takes this to a grotesque new level. Horrible crimes are committed by people who believe all the same things that anti-gay religious conservatives have been saying for years, but instead of being contrite, all they think about is how it will affect them.

This might be justified if religious conservatives were doing anything to prevent hate crimes in the first place, but they aren't. In fact, they have been actively promoting the belief that motivates anti-gay violence: the belief that homosexuality is a sin, a sickness and a threat.

They also do a complete reversal of their usual belief in deterrence. Religious conservatives in the United States are among the strongest backers of the death penalty and measures to "get tough on crime." Society has to make it clear, they argue, that certain acts will not be tolerated, and punishment must be vigorous. But when someone commits a crime in the name of what anti-gay conservatives say they will not tolerate — homosexuality — suddenly their belief in deterrence evaporates.

Anti-gay conservatives aren't opposing hate-crimes laws simply on the principle that "every crime is a hate crime," as they would have us believe. The truth is that hate-crimes laws make anti-gay conservatives so uncomfortable because they know their cover has been blown. Their claim that they are the ones who suffer for who they are looks absurd when a gay 21-year-old is tied to a fence and beaten to death. They see a hint of their own reflection in the murderers of Matthew Shepard. And they have mounted such a quick and clumsy defense because they know now that everyone else is starting to see it too.

Straight Answers is a monthly column devoted to answering questions about gay life and helping to change anti-gay attitudes. If you have a question to suggest, please write to Chris Ott via e-mail at sa@sipu.com or in care of IN Step.

Quips & Quotes

Huh?

"The ugly formulation 'womyn' (a punitive extraction of 'man' from the noun 'woman' by etymology-challenged ideologues) has thankfully not survived except among drearily isolated, lesbo holdouts of ultra-PC paleofeminism."

—Writer Camille Paglia in her Salon magazine column.

We're Here

"The real message behind these ads is that lesbians and gay men exist. There it is: We exist. No amount of slickly packaged advertising can change that. The unmitigated gall of the people behind this campaign is appalling. When you get right down to it, these groups are showing their hand to the entire country and their message isn't really about 'hope' or 'healing' or 'understanding,' but rather, about intolerance, deception and moral bankruptcy. This new campaign represents what has become a relentless, well-financed and reprehensible assault on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. So there you have it: Bottomless pockets overflowing with hollow messages."

—GLAAD Executive Director Joan Garry in response to the Family Research Council's announcement of a new TV ad campaign promoting "conversion" of lesbians and gay men to heterosexuality.

Peace, Love and Understanding

"If this campaign is about truth or love, then George Orwell must be its honorary chairman. No matter how much the religious right tries to dress it up, bigotry is still bigotry."

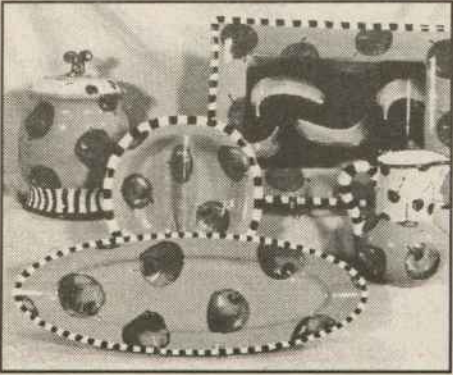
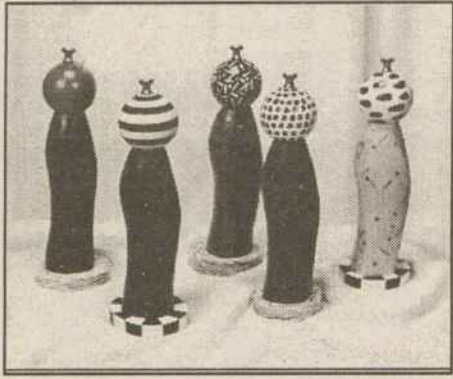
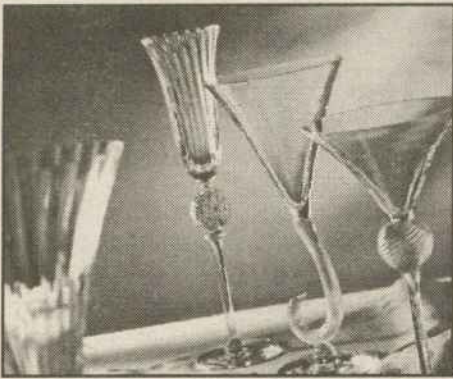
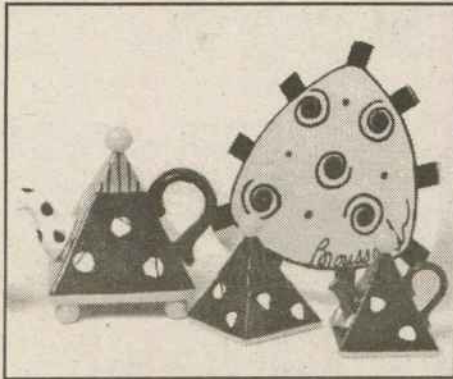
—People For the American Way President Carole Shields on the Center for Reclaiming America's new "Truth in Love" TV ad campaign promoting "conversion" of lesbians and gay men to heterosexuality.

Naughty Retirement Communities

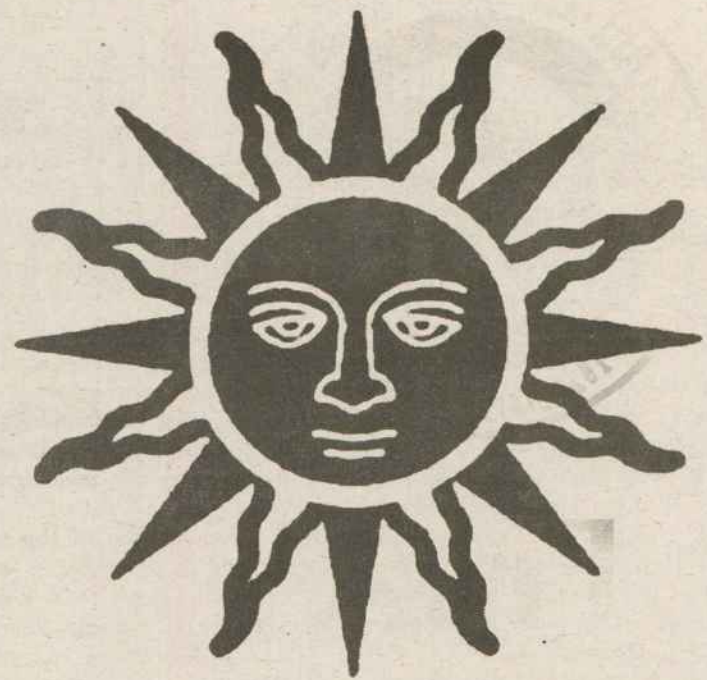
"I got in trouble in the 'Bear' community because I sort of was amazed there was such a thing — that we have to eroticize everything! Pretty soon there's gonna be porno old age homes. You wanna bet? Old age homes with fuck rooms and glory holes, I promise you there will be that. Because my generation, the Baby Boomers, is getting old and has to eroticize everything."

—Gay filmmaker John Waters to Chicago's Outlines.

Quips and Quotes are compiled by Rex Wockner with assistance from our crack news team from around the globe. Seen a good quip or quote? Send it to instepnews@aol.com



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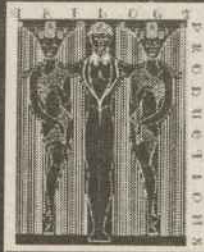


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**The 4th Annual
Sir, Ms., Mr. & Mrs.
Black Gay Wisconsin Pageant**

Sunday, Nov. 29 ▶ 1998
Harbour Lights Room ▶ 909 E. Michigan Ave.
(downtown transit center)



Cocktails @ 5pm ▶ Showtime @ 6pm
Tickets \$20 in advance ▶ \$25 at the door
Tickets available at Barbie Dolls Playhouse ▶ 700 E. Meineckie

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Contestant Entry Form**

Please complete, sign and return this form along with a cashier's check or money order for \$75 before November 22, 1998. After November 22, pay \$100.

Sir Miss Mrs. Mr.

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Stage Name _____

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Signature _____

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414.807.8605

Anniversaries Galor!

The **20th Annual Holiday Invitational Tournament** (H.I.T.) will be hosting a bartender exchange fund-raiser on Saturday, Nov. 14 at **This Is It!** from 3 to 9 p.m. H.I.T. Board Members and other "celebrities" will be serving up your favorite cocktails to raise money for the upcoming bowling tournament to be held over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Your first drink is a donation to H.I.T. and raffle tickets will be sold for great prizes. There are other surprises in store. Please stop by **This Is It!** and support H.I.T. If you have any questions, call the H.I.T. Hotline at (414) 332-7142.

This year's H.I.T. bowling bru-ha-ha marks the 20th anniversary of spares and strikes. Congratulations!

Another group celebrating an anniversary this year is the **Ten Percent Society**. Their **Harvest Ball** on Friday, Nov. 20, marks 15 years of dances for the community. The Harvest Ball will be held at the Great Hall in the Memorial Union and is open to lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and friends. The event features a cash bar, DJ and a \$3 cover.

And for those keeping track of such things, **IN Step** celebrates a publishing milestone when it marks its 15th year of serving LGBT Wisconsin in 1999. Don't worry, we'll try to keep the self-congratulatory backslapping to a minimum.

Blind Item?

Well, this whole gossip game is risky business, but I'd say he is far and away hotter than a few good men I know. He

is a legend among all those firm, young guns of Hollywood, a veritable molotov cocktail who taps something deep within many boys hearts, makes them feel like they are losin' it, and leaves them singing in the rain, man.

Lesbians with Axes

Do you need some wood for your fireplace in town, or do you just want to spend the day with some wimmin in the country? **Rural Dykes Association** or **Rural Dykes of America** (RDA) want you to join them for a day of wood cutting.

Wood cutting will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 28, so bring your work gloves and boots. If you want to join RDA for a potluck, bring a vegetarian dish to pass. They will be eating at 1 p.m. The event takes place 17 miles west of Madison, near Mt. Horeb. Call (608) 437-3637 for directions.

What Would Jesus Do?

Another gay play about the Bible may soon have New York's religious right in a frenzy. Critics who attacked **Terrence McNally's** drama **Corpus Christi** are worked up over **Paul Rudnick's** new comedy, **The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told**, opening this month at the New York Theater Workshop. It recasts Adam and Eve as Adam and Steve — who meet up with a crippled lesbian rabbi and board an ark populated with gay rabbits, a horny rhinoceros and a crew of dominatrixes.

The show is blasted as "blasphemy" by Family Defense Council chairman **Howard Hurwitz**. "This abuse of the

Bible is to be expected from people who are pro-gay," he says. "This is an outrage for religious people." Said Rudnick, who wrote the movie *In and Out*, starring **Kevin Kline**: "I would hope they'll come to see the show before passing any judgment. They might even end up enjoying themselves."

He added: "I'd love to know who these fundamentalists imagine created gay people. ... If it wasn't God, maybe it was Cole Porter."

MTV Launches Initiative with Shepard Episode

MTV will launch a new anti-violence initiative, "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence" this week with an episode of its documentary series *True Life* focussing on the recent murder of **Matthew Shepard**, a gay University of Wyoming student.

The show, entitled *True Life: Matthew's Murder*, will include coverage from the city where Matthew lived and died, Laramie, Wyo., where friends reflect on the loss of Shepard to violence. In New York City, a vigil where police confronted 5,000 marchers, resulting in charges of police brutality and over 100 arrests, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community makes its anger and sadness known.

MTV also traveled to South Carolina, where young people talk about the murder, struggling with the belief that somehow gay people "ask for it," while also feeling the horror of the brutality of the hate crime in question. During the show, viewers will be provided with an 800 hotline for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, as well

as a web site with live peer counselors available immediately after the show.

In addition, the "Fight for Your Rights" initiative will produce television programming, public service announcements, and live events in order to empower young people to take a stand against violence.

BOO! Scariest Halloween Ever?

Forget the *Exorcist*, a Satan-costumed guide offered mall shoppers in Bowling Green, Ky. something much creepier, a trip through a church's vision of hell that featured a gay teen dead from AIDS, a teen-age suicide victim and an abortion.

The display, sponsored by the non-denominational Victory Hill Ministries, has outraged many who said it fostered hatred and intolerance.

Tours were led by a guide dressed as Satan who addresses sinners shown in various scenes, including: the funeral of a teen-age boy who has died of AIDS after believing he was born gay when the church teaches it's a sinful lifestyle people choose; a mock abortion, complete with a simulated fetus; a human sacrifice in the "occult room."

Visitors were also led into a setting permeated by smoke and a pungent smell as sinners cry out for salvation. The tour ends with a trip to heaven, where Jesus Christ descends from a cross as the powerful voice of God urges people to repent.

Amen and remind me to stay out of Kentucky!

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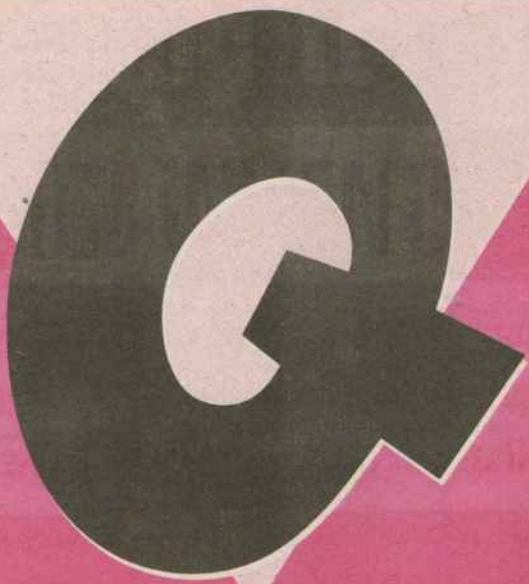
Travel: A Gay Adventure

PLUS: More Than Skin Deep · REVIEW: Velvet Goldmine

COLUMNS & FEATURES:

Q·Ink Page 21 · Keepin' In Step Page 26 · The Classies Page 27

Casual Observer Page 25 · Ethan Green Page 278 · The Guide Page 32



Trilogy Productions Mounts Black Gay Wisconsin Pageant

Trilogy Productions has announced that the 4th Annual Sir, Ms., Mr., and Mrs. Black Gay and Lesbian Wisconsin Pageant will take place on Sunday, Nov. 29, at the Harbour Lights Room, 909 E. Michigan St. The evening begins at 5 p.m. with cocktails; the Pageant begins at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at Barbie Dolls Playhouse at 700 E. Meinecke Ave. For more information call Kirk Wolfe at (414) 347-7441.

Madison's Holiday Art Fair

With its unique blend of hand-crafts, gifts, gourmet food, and seasonal atmosphere, the Holiday Art Fair at the Madison Art Center, 211 State St., captures the fine art of holiday shopping. This popular annual event features three floors of work by 100 artists and artisans, including pottery, jewelry, glass ornaments, wooden toys, clothing and more. There is also an extended selection of delectable foods and delicacies in the Gourmet Gallery, and an entertaining line-up of live music.

Exhibits are also shown in the Civic Center Marquee and Starlight Rooms. Dates of the fair are Friday, Nov. 20, from 12 noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 22, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3, with children under 12 being admitted free. The fair is organized by the Art League of the Madison Art Center. All proceeds support the exhibitions and education programs of the Center. Media sponsors are Magic 98 WMGN and Channel 27 WKOW. For more information, call (608) 257-0158.

MIAD's Future in Film Series

The Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD), 273 E. Erie St., presents *Forbidden Planet*, at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 23, as part of The Future in Film series. Filmed in 1956, *Forbidden Planet* is a science fiction version of Shakespeare's "The Tempest," and is one of the best in the genre. The Future in Film series is free and is offered in conjunction with The Future by Design exhibit, which runs through May 3, 1999.

On view in MIAD's Brook Stevens Gallery of Industrial Design, *The Future by Design* revisits the past and looks toward the future of the products we use every day. Four areas of design offer vintage products from a Jazz Age cooking range to the latest Mix Master, from a turn-of-the-century phonograph to a disco-inspired record player. The exhibit runs through March 27, 1999. For more information, call MIAD at (414) 276-7889.

CRUZ Control

When Wilson Cruz portrayed Rickie on the acclaimed-albeit-canceled television show "My So-Called Life," truth doubled as fiction as he brought his own painful and sometimes repressed memories of growing up gay to the screen. Now Cruz's career poised to take off and he is serving as a role model for gay youth.



Interview by William Attewell of the IN Step staff

Actor Wilson Cruz has served as a much-needed role model for struggling gay youth across the country and is probably best known for his outstanding work as sexually confused teen Rickie Vasquez in *My So-Called Life*. He continues to delight critics in his role as Angel in the Broadway smash *Rent* for which he won a Dramalogue Award and this spring will star opposite Angela Bassett and James Spade in the big-budget film, *Supernova*.

This November Cruz is featured in an "adveretorial" appearing in the November issue of *OUT*. Sponsored by Dockers Khakis, the insert called "Inside Out" highlights outstanding role models for gay youth.

Recently I spoke with Cruz, discussing his career and his commitment to gay and lesbian youth.

IN Step: Tell me how you got interested in doing this ... being a role model.

WC: It was very flattering when they called me to be a part of this. Then I found out that they were donating money to two organizations that I've been active with. That's how it came about; it was quite flattering.

IN Step: You bring a lot of life experiences to the table. What do you think that you have individually, or that you can show younger gay people or questioning youth that other people

might not [have]. What experiences do you have?

WC: I think they can look at me as someone who had a dream of being an actor and was willing to do it as openly and honestly as he possibly could. I hope that anybody who is out there growing up — who has a wish and a dream, but is afraid that they can't attain it because of the fact that they're gay or lesbian — can look at me and say that that isn't true. I hope I bring that to the table. I hope that I can be an example of that.

IN Step: My So-Called Life is still running on MTV. Do you find that astonishing?

WC: No, I'm actually astonished that it's not on network TV (laughter). I think that I had a huge fan base and it was an easy sort of love if you just got into it. If you just paid attention, it was so honest and it was so real that it spoke to a huge audience — not only to young people, but to adults who had lived [through] similar experiences. But yeah, in a sense it does surprise me a little that we continue[d] to grow. I just think it's very ironic. That's what I think it is.

IN Step: You were ahead of the curve.

WC: Yeah, just ahead ... a little too far ahead, because now we have *Dawson's Creek* and all these other shows.

IN Step: Considering the target group for this campaign, you're almost a perfect fit. But, do you become afraid of being type-cast in a specific type of role because

you are so visibly out?

WC: No, I mean I'm now being allowed to branch out a little. I just finished a film called *Supernova* — with Angela Bassett and James Spader that will be out next spring — that I don't play a gay role in ... I play a straight role. I think things are opening up. I think all in all, people respect my work for the work itself. I think that in time that that's what will win out.

IN Step: "Supernova," that sounds like a big-budget film ...

WC: Well, it's a big-budget, studio-action, science fiction thriller.

IN Step: That must feel different from the type of work you're usually accustomed to.

WC: A little, but it was a nice break from projects that had such huge political ramifications, to [be able] to do something that was fun, but at the same time was well-made with a great cast and a great director. It was still quality work; there was just no deep meaning to it (laughter). For once my brain got a rest.

IN Step: Do you get a little bit tired of being too serious?

WC: You have no idea! I think that the last three roles I played, I died in. An actor gets a little tired of dying after a while. It's exhausting to die eight times a week. It's also exhausting to be a role model; it's tiring.

IN Step: Why is that?

WC: There's a lot of responsibility attached to it. You don't want to let any-



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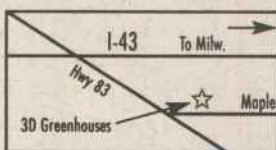
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UWM's Sixth Annual "New Dancemakers" Series

The Department of Dance at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee will present the sixth annual "New Dancemakers" series from Nov. 17 to 22 in the Mitchell Hall Chamber Theater, located on the second floor of Mitchell Hall at the corner of Kenwood and Downer on the UWM campus.

Under the direction of Associate Professor Ed Burgess, the concerts will consist of premieres of dances created by six current dance majors as well as a piece Janice Frazee, a recent graduate of the UWM dance program. Frazee is now a member of Danceworks Performance Company and recently received a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board. She will perform her solo *Young Rider* for these concerts.

The student choreographers are Kim Johnson, Jacob Neumann, Margaret Nyland, Carrie Polack, Renee Schwall, and Lisa Smith. Their works explore love and sex, folk

art, memories, and the great outdoors. They are performed to music by Herbie Hancock, Outback, Beethoven, Eric Clapton, Philip Glass, and live tenor saxophone played by choreographer Jacob Neumann.

"These concerts present an opportunity for dance majors to invest wholeheartedly in their own personalities," said Burgess. "It is the moment in their training when the dancers commit to their identity, and start to explore their own lives onstage. It's a turning point for them, when they begin their maturity as artists."

The performance schedule for New



Dancemakers is: Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 5 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20 and 21 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 22 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$7 students. They may be purchased by calling the School of the Arts Box Office at (414) 299-4308.

art REVIEW

A Cut Above the Rest

It's not surprising that JoAnna Poehlmann has received top billing in the show currently on view at Saint John's Uihlein-Peters Gallery. The press regularly celebrates her prodigious output: exquisite constructions, hand-colored lithographs, dainty pencil drawings and home-crafted books. Poehlmann is one of Milwaukee's most recognized artists, and her work seldom fails to evoke wonder.

But the real surprise in this dual show is the chance to view one of Milwaukee's least exhibited and perhaps most overlooked artists. Jerome Karidis is as talented as he is retiring, and only his reluctance to be interviewed or photographed has kept him from achieving a degree of recognition. This soft-spoken gentleman has a knack for sensitive observation coupled with an extraordinary visual wit.

Karidis studied at the Layton School of Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, and, briefly, The Goodman Theater. He later attended the University of Biarritz in France. To hear Karidis recount episodes of his life is to hear snippets of history and adventure. During World War II he was stationed in The Aleutian Islands, France, and Germany. After the war he fell into the Bohemian life, moving in a charmed circle that included Billie Holiday, Dizzy Gillespie, Gertrude Abercrombie, John Wilde and Karl Priebe.

"Wilde paid a visit the other day," Karidis sighed as I reviewed this show. "He told me he had mentioned that I ought to be included in the Wisconsin Surrealist exhibit in Madison. But they never contacted me." Though Jerome sounds quietly disappointed, it's not in his nature to make a stir.

Karidis's art is indeed an homage to all things surreal. The work of Magritte is an obvious influence. Several of the works at the Uihlein-Peters Gallery not only reference Magritte, but actually utilize reproductions of Magritte's paintings as backgrounds for collage. For example, "Working Out" transforms a famous Magritte painting (reproduced on a post card) with applied cut-outs of body-builders and barbells.

"I never use a razor when I do collage," states the artist. "I use a scissors I bought in France while in the army. If anything ever goes wrong with that scissors I'm through."

In another collage a TV dinner is juxtaposed with a tin of caviar with typical Karidis humor. Titled "A Real Nice Dinner," the work seems initially a visual joke. More enduringly, it is a reflection on both the loneliness and the sweet indulgences of bachelorhood.

"RM's Calla Lily" plucks a stem straight from a Robert Mapplethorpe floral study and inserts it into what amounts to a self-styled Jerome Karidis Absolut Vodka advertisement. The play on the well-known advertising campaign is perhaps Karidis's one and only daydream of fame. Or does it mock the whole concept of self-promotion?

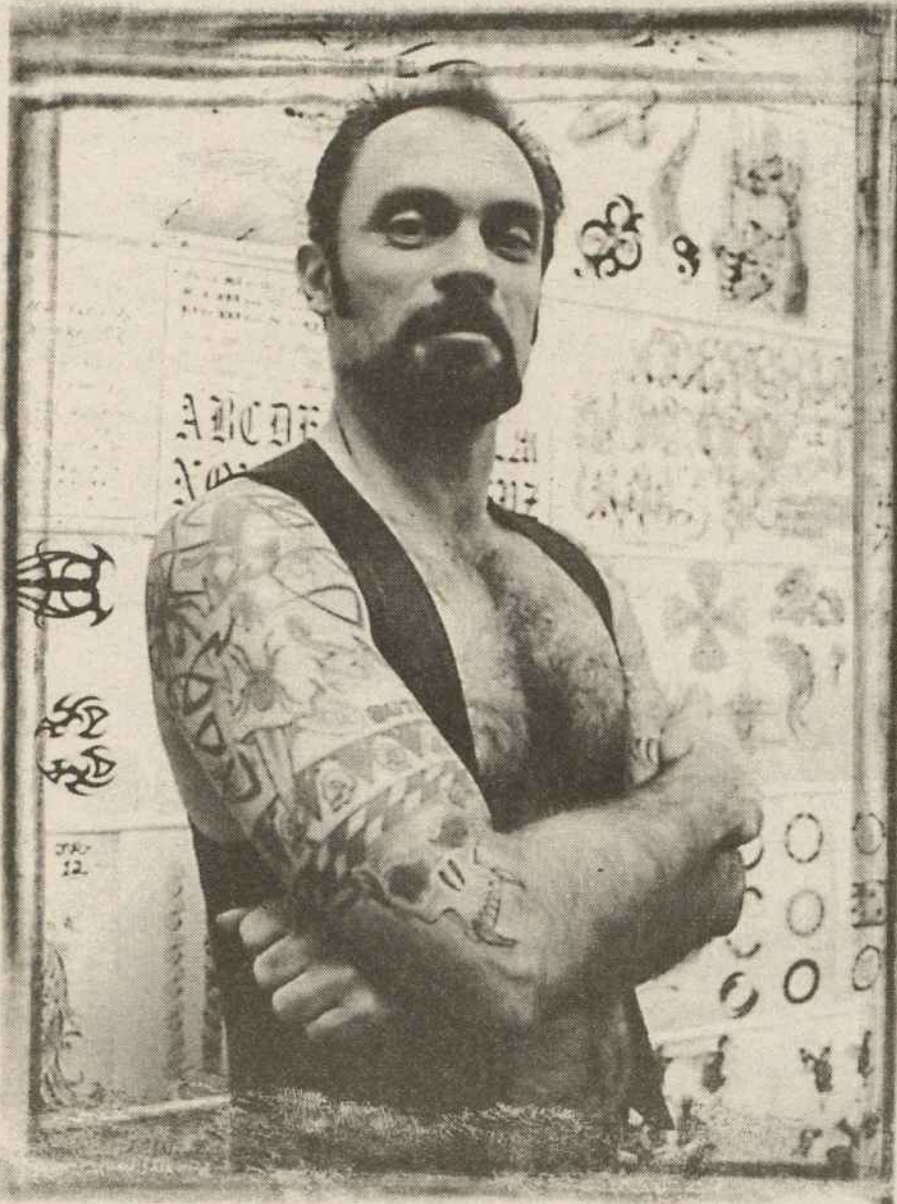
Though much of this exhibit contains vintage work (on loan from the George Walker and M. McClure collections), at least half the show is collage completed during the present year. "I've returned to work after a two year hiatus," states Karidis. "Now that I've started again, I think I'll keep going."

It would be sadly disappointing if Jerome Karidis ever dulls his scissors or his wit. We can only hope he keeps cutting along.

—Waswo

"JoAnna Poehlmann & Jerome Karidis" is on view at Saint John's Uihlein-Peters Gallery, 1840 N. Prospect Ave., through December 6th. The gallery is open Sundays from 1:30 to 3:30pm

More Than Skin Deep



story and photo by Waswo

There has been a stampede to open tattoo parlors since the City of Milwaukee lifted its antiquated prohibitions. Not that laws ever kept people from acquiring skin art. But no longer is it necessary to travel to Lake Geneva, Menomonee Falls or Waukesha to receive a legal tat. What's more, with the opening of legit tattoo emporiums, there is now less impetus to risk unsafe exposure to needles in some stoner's illegal and unhygienic studio.

Having acquired a fair amount of skin art myself, I'm aware of the prejudice against tattoos. Just try gliding through customs from Bangkok to Hong Kong with a big green snake and a blood red dagger affixed to your skin. Customs agents of every country seem to be trained in the same Nazi boot camp. The prime directive among this gestapo seems to be "Tattoos = Criminal = Immediate Strip Search".

It doesn't take long to figure out that concealing your tattoos with a business suit means "Respectable Citizen" in the codes of international travel. You may not feel good caving in to this blatant bigotry, but hey, standing naked in a cold Istanbul security station doesn't feel good either.

There have been a lot of closet tattoo people in history. John F. Kennedy is probably the first to come to mind. But Body Ritual owner David Weir makes clear the old attitudes are falling away.

"We get a vast array of people in here. Everything from police officers to trial lawyers. Some of the taboos about

tattoos are finally breaking down, though professional people probably still won't tattoo their necks."

Weir opened Body Ritual over a year ago as a piercing and body jewelry boutique. Formerly located on Farwell Ave., the store recently moved to the lower level of the Prospect Mall.

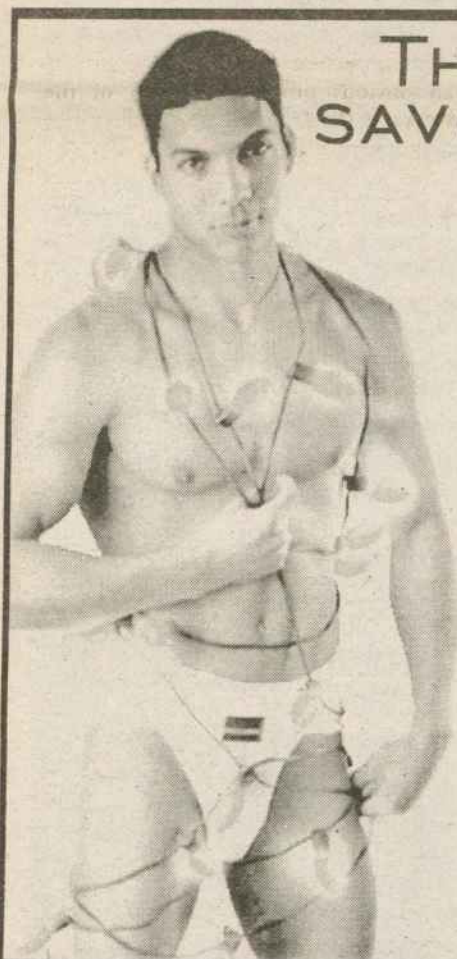
"About a year ago the City of Milwaukee called me and said they were about to remove laws prohibiting tattooing. I met with Matt Bennett and we designed a body piercing and tattoo salon. With his help we've set up a real nice high-line scenario. We employ three tattoo artists. Instead of running just another 'tattoo factory' we are trying to go with quality artists who can develop a rapport with the community."

Tattoo artist Matt Bennett agrees. "You just have to tell us what you want, give us a little bit of an idea, and we'll create it on paper. We don't charge anything extra for custom-designed tattoos. I'm very good at Celtic. I'm very good at tribal. If we custom draw a tattoo we ask for a deposit. If you don't like what we draw we'll refund your money. Most of the time people like what they see and we then set up an appointment to do the actual skin work."

David Weir emphasizes the wide appeal of today's tattoo art. "We have a lot of female customers — probably more woman than men. Artwork today is so diverse. There's everything from cartoons to florals to Victorian patterns. It's really become a fashion statement.

"It's nice to see people portray some of their ideas on their body. It's always becoming a more beautiful art form. It's interesting to see it evolve."

Pictured: longtime tattoo connoisseur Butch Randy James at Body Ritual



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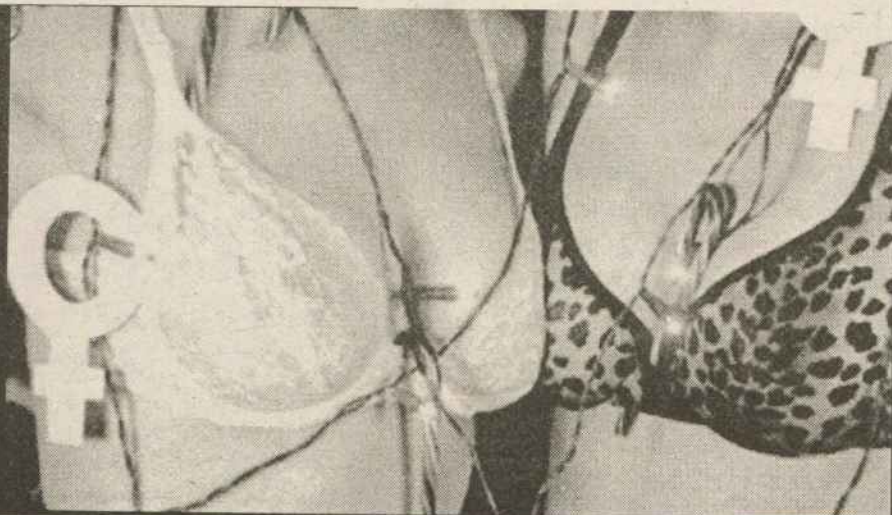
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Nov. 12 through Nov. 24, 1998

ACTIVITIES:

Friday, November 13

GAMMA - Game Night (Germantown, WI): Board & card games will be played at Lynch Court House. Also available: volleyball, basketball & racquetball. FMI Call John (414) 547-0429.

Saturday, November 14

GAMMA - Annual Dinner/Meeting Reservations (Milwaukee): Reservations are due today for the annual dinner meeting to be held on Friday, Nov. 20. FMI call Dan (414) 259-0646.

GAMMA FrontRunners - Run/Walk (Milwaukee): Meet at the water tower at the East End of North Avenue at 9 a.m. every Saturday in November for 45 minute run/walk. LAMM joins in on this one too. FMI call Brian at (414) 332-1527.

Tuesday, November 17

GAMMA - Sheephead (Brookfield, WI): The game takes place at Bill & Dominic's. FMI call (414) 782-4208.

Wednesday, November 18

Dairyland Cowgirls and Cowboys - Dancing (Madison, WI): Dance lessons at the Sapphire Ballroom at Northgate Mall, 1133 N Sherman Ave. from 7 pm to 9 p.m. General dancing from 9 to 11 p.m. Suggested donation is \$3. FMI call Richard or Ron at (608) 255-9131.

Friday, November 20

10% Society of UWM - Dance (Madison, WI): A Harvest Ball for LGBT students, staff, faculty & their friends will be held at the Memorial Student Union in the Great Hall from 8 p.m. to 12:45 a.m. Admission is \$3. Coat check is \$1. There will be a DJ & a cash bar.

Dairyland Cowgirls & Cowboys - Dance (Madison, WI): Dances will be on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at the Sapphire Ballroom in Northgate Mall, 1133 N Sherman Ave from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Suggested donation is \$3. If you have any suggestions on dances, teachers or lessons, please contact them by e-mail at rkrilmer@facstaff.wisc.edu. FMI call Richard or Ron at (608) 255-9131.

GAMMA - Annual Dinner & Meeting (Milwaukee): This event, celebrating 20 years, will be held at the Miller Inn, 3931 W. State St. At 6

p.m. there will be a social hour, followed by dinner, a meeting and elections. Reservations were due by Nov. 14. FMI call Dan (414) 259-0646.

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. \$4.25 pitchers all night. Holding Cell opens at 6 p.m. Dominic DJ.

Club 219 (Milwaukee): Tea Dance 5 - m. to 8 p.m. 1/2 price bar/rail, \$1 top Miller products, plus the 219 Girls. Showtime is at 11:30 p.m.

Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Rotating Events!

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

Jo'Dees International (Racine, WI): \$4 Packer Beer Bust by MGD and Miller Lite, Packer touchdown shots, FREE hot dogs & snacks! (Open 1 hour before televised games. \$4 up to the start of the 3rd quarter, then \$6 all night. Packer bust participants: 25 cents per mug after the game)

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

M&M Club (Milwaukee): Join them on Packer Sundays for brunch. Brunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): Levi/Leather Dance Bar. Bartender's Specials from 8 p.m. to close

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

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

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison, WI): \$5 Beer Bash! 6 to 10 p.m.

Scooter's (Eau Claire, WI): 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): Shirtless Sundays. Half-price tap & rail if your shirt is off. 9 p.m. to close.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Bloody Marys \$2. Mimosas \$2.

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 Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): 8 p.m. to close - Bartender's Special! DJ Eddie.

The Office (Rockford, IL): Game Show Mania every Sunday at 8:30 p.m. \$1 Bloody Marys!

Woody's (Milwaukee): Open 30 minutes prior to Packer games of 4 p.m. Beer Bust to 8 p.m. Free shots for Packer scores.

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

Mondays:

Barracks - Levi/Leather (Madison, WI): 2-4-1 Happy Hour on all drinks up to \$3.50. All other drinks are \$1 off from 4 to 8 p.m. After 8 p.m.: All rail drinks 50¢ off. Domestic beers \$2, Shots of Hot Sex \$1.50.

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

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

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison, WI) 2-4-1 Happy Hour from 4 to 8 p.m. on rails, domestic bottles of beer & taps of Miller Lite. All other drinks - \$1 off. From 8 p.m. to close: All rail drinks & domestic bottles of beer 50¢ off. Pints of Miller Lite \$2, Shots of Hot Sex \$1.50

Club 219 (Milwaukee): Closed.

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.

Fluid (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m.

Jo'Dees International (Racine, WI): \$6 Super Bust! by MGD and Miller Lite, all the MGD or Miller Lite you can drink - ALL NITE! (\$4 Packer Bust for televised Monday night Packer's games. Open 1 hour before televised games).

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

The Kloset (Beloit, WI): Happy Hour Drink Specials 4 through 7 p.m. After 7 p.m. It's Guy's Night Out! \$1.75 well drinks, \$2.25 call drinks, \$1 Special Ex, and 50¢ Pabst on tap.

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. Grill hours 4 to 10 p.m.

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

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): Closed.

Naplese Lounge (Green Bay, WI): 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.

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison, WI): Happy Hour from 4 to 7 p.m. 2-4-1.

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

South Water St. Docks (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour! 3 to 7 p.m. Pull tabs 9 p.m. to close.

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Closed!

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

The Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): 8 p.m. to close - Bartender's Special!

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

Triangle (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! \$4 pitchers of beer. Melrose Place Mondays.

Woody's (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 9 p.m.

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

Tuesdays:

Barracks - Levi/Leather (Madison, WI): 2-4-1 Happy Hour on all drinks up to \$3.50. All other drinks are \$1 off from 4 to 8 p.m. After 8 p.m.: Taps of Miller Lite \$2, Shots of Hot Sex \$1.50.

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

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

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

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison) 2-4-1 Happy Hour from 4 to 8 p.m. on rails, domestic bottles of beer & taps of Miller Lite. All other drinks - \$1 off. From 8 p.m. to close: All tap beers (9 kinds to choose from) 75¢ off. Shots of Pucker or Hot Sex \$1.50.

Club 219 (Milwaukee): Open at 5 p.m.

Dish (Milwaukee): Closed

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

Fluid (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m.

Jo'Dees International (Racine, WI): \$6 SUPER BUST! MGD and Miller Lite.

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.

The Kloset (Beloit, WI): Happy Hour Drink Specials 4 through 7 p.m. \$1 shots (Liqueur or Schnapps) and 75¢ taps. Starting at 8 p.m. Karaoke with Pam!

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

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

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): Levi/Leather. Open 8 p.m. Free pool. \$4 pitchers of domestic beer.

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

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

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison, WI): Happy Hour from 4 to 7 p.m. Free Karaoke from 8:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Scooter's (Eau Claire, WI): Progressive Night! 9 p.m. through 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 Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): 8 p.m. to close - Bartender's Special!

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

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

Triangle (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks!

Woody's (Milwaukee): Snack Night! Cocktail Hour - 4 to 9 p.m.

Wednesdays:

Barracks - Levi/Leather (Madison, WI): 2-4-1 Happy Hour on all drinks up to \$3.50. All other drinks are \$1 off from 4 to 8 p.m. After 8 p.m.: All rails 50¢ off. Cuervo drinks/shots \$1 off.

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! Check your planner for more. \$2 Lite/MGD longnecks.

Chicago Eagle (Chicago): Free pool.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison, WI): 2-4-1 Happy Hour from 4 to 8 p.m. on rails, domestic bottles of beer & taps of Miller Lite. All other drinks - \$1 off. From 8 p.m. to close: Pints of Miller Lite \$2. All rail drinks are 50¢ off.

Club 219 (Milwaukee): 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Cocktail Hour 1/2 Price Drinks. Male Strippers. No cover.

Dish (Milwaukee): It's Point Night! There are pints of Point for \$1. 2-4-1 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

Fluid (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m.

Jo'Dees International (Racine, WI): Free Pool & \$6 Super Bust! MGD and Miller Lite!

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

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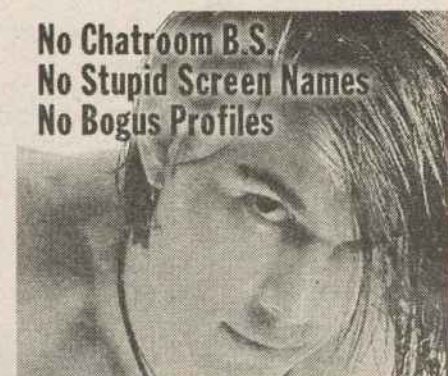
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body down — in the end. And, as imperfect as I know that I am, some people just don't understand that.

IN Step: Do you feel like you have to monitor your behavior too much?

WC: I won't do that. I'm not going to limit my experience for anyone. I'm also not going to do something stupid just because I'm not stupid, you know? I don't live my life really caring what everybody else thinks, I just don't want to offend anyone — nobody really does. I just try to be true to myself and I don't want to embarrass my mom. That's really important. I think about that and if I don't embarrass my mom and bring her any shame, then I'm OK — I'm pretty good, I'm doin' the right things.

IN Step: What do you think your mother would be embarrassed to find out about you that she doesn't already know?

WC: Nothing! That's why I don't do anything (laughter). She knows just about everything these days.

IN Step: How do you keep your life in balance? I'm wondering if you have some sort of formula that you've come upon that seems to work for you.

WC: I used to be a Catholic growing up and I guess I have a lot of those beliefs way down somewhere, but obviously not much. I try to be as true to myself as I possibly can and do the best job that I possibly can do. I try to live my life as honestly as I can — as difficult as that may be at times. I try to appreciate the people I have in my life while they're still here and just take it one day at a time. Faith has to be a large part of my existence. As an actor I'm not guaranteed anything. I just have to believe that my talent and my ... I have to believe that I'm going to be OK. I have a lot of faith that that's going to happen. Some days are a little harder than others.

IN Step: What are some of the things that you struggle with besides having to be so serious all the time?

WC: I struggle with being one of the very few gay actors in a business that really depends on image, you know, and at a very early age I had to make a decision between my career and my life. At one point I just decided that the way I was going to live my life was a lot more important to me than how much money I made. I don't regret that decision at all. Some days ... when I don't get a role that I really wanted or something, it's a little harder, but I remind myself that in the end it's worth it.

IN Step: What do you do for fun when you're not being serious and acting? I saw you name pop up in some gossip columns recently.

WC: Really? What did they say?

IN Step: Oh, I forget . . . it was who you were supposed to be dating, or something like that.

WC: I go on one date with one person and all of a sudden everybody thinks we're married.

IN Step: So you're not dating anyone? Or you don't want to say?

WC: I didn't say I wasn't dating anyone.

It's not anybody you would know, so it doesn't really matter (laughter).

IN Step: I'll bet he probably doesn't think that.

WC: No, it shouldn't matter to you. He matters very much. What was the question? You know, these days I don't do much because I do eight shows a week.

IN Step: That's right, you're in Rent right now.

WC: Right. When I do go out, I go with friends. I love to dance — I live many lives on the dance floor — and I love movies and I'm an avid reader. I spend a lot of time with my family when I can and we're in the same area. I just try to enjoy the people I have around me.

IN Step: I saw your guest shot on Ally McBeal I thought your performance was really good in that.

WC: Thank you.

IN Step: Your character was in drag. Does it take a lot of courage for you to do that?

WC: It was a great role to do, actually, and David Kelley was really amazing in telling the story. We wanted a good job. I think he really hit it on the head.

IN Step: What has been your reaction to Mathew Shepherd's death?

WC: Whenever I think about the Mathew Shepherd thing, the first thing that comes to my mind is rage. I feel an enormous amount of rage about what happened, and about the fact that these things continue to happen at a time when we should be past this. And frustration comes to mind; my friends and I are very frustrated with the fact that we thought we had come farther than this.

I'm also frustrated about the fact that I feel we have to continuously ask the straight society to understand something that should be very obvious to them, which is that this was a hate crime, you know. If you can't see that, if you can't understand why we want to be counted among race and gender in hate crimes, I just don't understand how people can't see that. It frustrates me and I think it's rage that our community is feeling now. I think we should continue to have that rage and use it to lift our voices and be angry — that it's OK to be angry.

This passive/aggressive behavior that we've been using in the past few years is not as useful as this rage. We need to really focus it and concentrate it on this goal. We need to stop asking permission to exist! We do exist, this is it. You've really got me on a soap box now, I feel like we're asking people to understand our lives. Well, they'll never completely do that. What they need to do is to take our lives at face value.

This is worth telling, this is our existence. You can't tell me my existence, you can't tell me that my life doesn't mean as much as yours by not listing me among a community being offended by hate crimes. It's just starting to irritate me. There's a point where our community has to get to where we just start demanding things. I think this is it. I think we need to start demanding that our lives be valued.

INK

Dealing With Addictions

Here are two recently released books that deal with the addictions of alcohol and drugs. Each in its own way tells what it was like, what happened, and what it's like now. Twelve-step programs like AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) and NA (Narcotics Anonymous) can work to help those who are afflicted by leading them out of their isolation, showing them a community of healing, and letting them know that they do not walk alone.

Track Conditions: A Memoir by Michael Klein

"Poet Michael Klein eloquently recalls his five-year sojourn in the world of horse racing—and the Kentucky Derby champion that inspired him to reclaim his own life—in this 1998 Lambda Literary Award-nominated memoir." We read about Klein's journey from New York to Florida and on to Kentucky as he follows his alcoholic lover, Richard (who left him to work on a race-track). Klein falls deeper into drink and sexual addiction before he searches for salvation from the memories of his sexually abusive step-father, and the memories of his mother's sudden death, among other torments.

He tries to stop drinking, but he can't. He tries to stay away from Richard, but he can't. He begins to have a recurring dream that is strangely prophetic: a horse appearing as Richard disappears. The dreamed-of horse arrives—a dark bay colt named Swale, sired by the great Seattle Slew. Through the innocent ritual of caring for Swale, the champion of the 100th running of the Kentucky Derby, his life is transformed forever. After suffering from blackouts and jail-time, he finally finds his way to Alcoholics Anonymous and salvation.

Klein is the author of *1990* (poems) and editor of *Poets for Life: 76 Poets Respond to AIDS*, which both won Lambda Literary Awards. This memoir is powerful and unsparing in the telling of his healing connection to an unforgettable horse. Who says you can't pick your own

higher power! The *New York Times* says, "Track Conditions" illustrates the thin line separating the victor from the defeated—the bone fissure that in an instant derails a champion, the morning a man wakes up and decides not to take [another] drink." (Ballentine Books, ISBN: 0-345-42383-6, \$11.95).

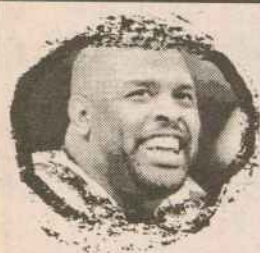
The Tennis Partner by Abraham Verghese

This is a memoir of male friendship and loss. It is the true story of David, a young medical student from Australia who is battling a crushing intravenous cocaine addiction. David becomes the friend and tennis partner of the author, but cocaine, in the end, wins out. Walter Kirn of *New York* magazine says, "Dr. Abraham Verghese doesn't stretch the tennis-as-life metaphor too far. ... Instead he uses his bedside voice: caring, but also frank. ... Tennis becomes a barometer, revealing the peaks and valleys of David's addiction, but it's also just a game."

"To improve his own game of tennis, Verghese concentrates on the tiniest elements: a turn of the wrist, a misplaced foot. He uses the eye and analytical skills of an expert physician to delve into David's and his own struggles." Verghese is able to look at his own crumbling marriage through his relationship with David.

The accompanying press release says that, "The *Tennis Partner* is a visceral and deeply honest book written by a man unafraid to reveal himself and his own fears and insecurities with clarity and emotional truth. ... Abraham Verghese is the author of *My Own Country*, the story of his work with AIDS patients in Johnson, Tennessee." The book won a Lambda Literary Award and was made into a Showtime original movie for TV. Verghese is currently a professor of medicine at Texas Tech University. (Harper Collins, ISBN: 0-60-017405-6, \$25 HC).

—Ed Grover




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to close.

The Kloset (Beloit, WI): Happy Hour Drink Specials 4 through 7 p.m. \$5 Beer Bust! DJ spinning the hits starting at 9 p.m.

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

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

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

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): Open 8 p.m. Levi/Leather. Miller Time! \$1 taps, \$1.25 bottles of Miller brands. DJ Eddie.

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

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

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison, WI): Happy Hour from 4 to 7 p.m. 2-4-1 9 p.m. to close.

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

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

Station 2 (Milwaukee): Tappers \$1. Captain Morgans \$1.50. The Ballgame (Milwaukee): 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Beer Bust \$4, or 80¢ glasses of beer.

The Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): 8 p.m. to close - Bartender's Special!

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

Triangle (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! South Park Wednesdays. \$5 All-U-Can-Drink Superbust (beer, wine & soda).

Woody's (Milwaukee): Dart Night Cocktail Hour - 4 to 9 p.m.

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

Thursdays:

Barracks - Levi/Leather (Madison, WI): 2-4-1 Happy Hour on all drinks up to \$3.50. All other drinks are \$1 off from 4 to 8 p.m. After 8 p.m.: Jim Beam drinks 50¢ off. Ex & Ex Lite \$2. Shots of Doctor \$2.

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

Cell Block (Chicago): Big Buck Thursdays! \$1 well, wine, domestic beer.

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

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison, WI): 2-4-1 Happy Hour from 4 to 8 p.m. on rails, domestic bottles of beer & taps of Miller Lite. All other drinks - \$1 off. From 8 p.m. to close: Jim Beam Drinks are 50¢ off. Ex & Ex Lite \$2. Shots of Doctor \$2.

Club 219 (Milwaukee): 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Cocktail Hour 1/2 Price

Drinks. Alternate Thursdays: Talent Night or Academy Awards Night. No cover.

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

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

Fluid (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m.

Jo'Dees International (Racine, WI): \$6 SUPER BUST! MGD and Miller Lite. Cherry LifeSaver's and Viagra Shots - \$ 2.50

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

Kirby's Klub (Madison, WI): 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.

The Kloset (Beloit, WI): Happy Hour Drink Specials 4 through 7 p.m. After 7 p.m. It's Ladies Night Out! \$3 pitchers, \$1.50 bottled beer and 75¢ taps.

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

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

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): Open 8 p.m. Levi/Leather. Tex-Mex Night! \$1.50 bottles of Corona.

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

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

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison, WI): Happy Hour from 4 to 7 p.m. \$2 Export & Corona beer 9 p.m. to close.

Scooter's (Eau Claire, WI): 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): Beer, wine & rail 2-4-1 all night!

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

The Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): 8 p.m. to close - Bartender's Special!

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

The Trading Company (Eau Claire, WI): Super Bust! 9 p.m. to close. \$8 rail, \$10 coll mixers, \$12 top-shelf mixers.

Triangle (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks! \$6 All-U-Can Drink Rail Bust!

Woody's (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 9 p.m.

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

Barracks - Levi/Leather (Madison, WI): 2-4-1 Happy Hour on all drinks up to \$3.50. All other drinks are \$1 off from 4 to 8 p.m. After 8 p.m.: Boat 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 5/Planet Q (Madison, WI): 2-4-1 Happy Hour from 4 to 8 p.m. on rails, domestic bottles of beer & taps of Miller Lite. All other drinks - \$1 off. From 8 p.m. to close:

Club 219 (Milwaukee): 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Cocktail Hour 1/2 Price Drinks. Male Strippers. Dish (Milwaukee): The new night spot for women! Happy Hour 2-4-1 5 to 7 p.m. Join DJ Amber for dancin' & romancin'.

Emeralds (Milwaukee): Friday Night Dance Party with DJ Bange. No cover before 9 p.m.

Fluid (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 8 p.m.

Jo'Dees International (Racine, WI): Bring on the Bears and Bikers! \$1.25 Top MGD & Miller Lite, \$1.75 Pints of Leinie's Red, \$2.50 Pints of Hacker-Pschorr Weisse, \$2.50 Vanilla & Original Doctor's, Cherry Cheesecake, Cherry LifeSaver's and Viagra shots.

Kathy's Nut Hut (Milwaukee): Pull tabs! 5 to 7 p.m. The Kloset (Beloit, WI): Happy Hour Drink Specials 4 through 7 p.m. DJ spinning the hits starting at 8 p.m. \$1.50 bottles and \$1 shots (Liquor and Schnapps).

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

Mama Roux (Milwaukee): Fish Fry 4 to 10 p.m. Open menu specials.

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

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): Open 8 p.m. Levi/Leather. 2-4-1 mixed drinks from 8 to 10 p.m. The Shaft Bar opens at 10 p.m. Dress Code enforced.

Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison, WI): Fish Fry \$6.95 for all you can eat! Happy Hour from 4 to 7 p.m. Butch Nite at the Back Bar only! 50¢ off all drinks for those in leather.

Scooter's (Eau Claire, WI): \$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): Dr. McGillicuddy \$1.50. Pumpkin Pie \$1.

The Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): 8 p.m. to close - Bartender's Special!

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

The Trading Company (Eau Claire, WI): All chilled shots \$1.50 - 9 to 11 p.m. Triangle (Milwaukee): Happy Hour - 5 to 9 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks!

Woody's (Milwaukee): Cocktail Hour - 4 to 9 p.m.

Saturdays:

Barracks - Levi/Leather (Madison, WI): Levi/Leather/Uniform Night! 50¢ off every drink for proper attire. (In the Barracks only at the Bartender's Discretion).

Cell Block (Chicago, IL): Open at 2 p.m. Saturday Night Riot 'til 3 a.m. Holding Cell opens at 10 p.m. Freddie Bone DJ.

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

Club 219 (Milwaukee): 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tea Dance. Free Eats!

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

Jo'Dees International (Racine, WI): Vanilla & Original Doctor's, Cherry

Cheesecake, Cherry LifeSaver's and Viagra shots - \$2.50. \$1.25 Top MGD & Miller Lite, \$1.75 Pints of Leinie's Red, \$2.50 Pints of Hacker-Pschorr Weisse.

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

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.

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

Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): Open 8 p.m. Levi/Leather. Bartender's Special from 8 p.m. to close. The Shaft Bar opens at 10 p.m. Dress Code enforced. OH ZONE (Rockford, IL): \$1.50 shot specials. DJ/Dancing. Ray's Bar & Grill (Madison, WI): DJ Tyrone. Buy your first drink & get your second one FREE at the Back Bar only!

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

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

The Ball Game (Milwaukee): 80¢ tap beers, \$2 Bloody Marys, Screws, Greyhounds. All until 6 p.m. The Milwaukee Eagle (Milwaukee): 8 p.m. to close - Bartender's Special!

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

Woody's (Milwaukee): Badger Game Day. Free shots for Badger scores.

Friday, November 13

Cell Block - Rubber Weekend Party & Fetish Night (Chicago): Get out your Rubber Gear for Fetish Night! There is a welcome party for the Rubber Blowout Weekend at 8 p.m. Late night in Rubber at Berlin until 4 a.m.

Saturday, November 14

1100 Club - HIV Testing (Milwaukee): The BESTD Traveling HIV Clinic will be there from 9 p.m. until 12 Midnight. FMI call (414) 272-2144.

Cell Block - More Rubber Weekend (Chicago): Rubber Buddies Brunch at Buddies' Bar & Restaurant from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. A Rubber Swap and Sale at Cell Block from 2 to 4 p.m. and the Mr. International Rubber '99 Contest hosted by Khris Francis at 8:30 p.m.

This Is It! - H.I.T. Fund-Raiser (Milwaukee): A Bartender Exchange will be hosted by H.I.T. as a fund-raiser for their upcoming bowling tournament to be held over the Thanksgiving Holidays. Your first drink is a donation to H.I.T. and raffle tickets will be sold during the evening. FMI call the Hotline at (414) 332-7142.

Sunday, November 15

Cell Block - Conclusion of Rubber Weekend (Chicago): Rubber Blowout Weekend concludes with a Rubber Ball Beer Bust with a Raffle and Buffet from 5 to 9 p.m. Pitchers are \$4.25 all night long!

Friday, November 20

SWS Docks -- HIV Testing (Milwaukee): The BESTD Traveling HIV Clinic will be there from 7 until 11 p.m.. FMI call (414) 272-2144.

BOOK CLASSES, CLUBS & AUTHOR APPEARANCES:

Thursday, November 12

Borders Book Shop & Cafe - Author Appearance (Madison, WI): Lorie Moore will read from BIRDS OF AMERICA at 7 p.m. FMI call (608) 232-2600.

Friday, November 13

Borders Book Shop & Cafe - Storytelling For Adults (Madison, WI): Karen Bryan & Kari Bryan (mother & son) perform HANDING DOWN THE ROPES: LESSONS LEARNED AT HOME at 7:30 p.m. FMI call (608) 232-2600.

Tuesday, November 17

Borders Book Shop & Cafe-East - GLBTQ Book Discussion Group (Madison, WI): Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Two books will be discussed: one fiction novel and a non-fiction book that ties in with the fiction novel. FMI call (608) 240-0080.

Thursday, November 19

Borders Book Shop & Cafe - Bird Watchers (Madison, WI): Samuel Robbins will present a slide show & book discussion on the newly revised edition of Owen J. Grone's BIRDS OF WISCONSIN at 7 p.m. FMI call (608) 232-2600.

Friday, November 20

Cedar Creek Settlement - Author Appearance (Cedarburg, WI): Author Barbara Joosse will read and sign her new book LEWIS & PAPA, with book proceeds benefiting the Cedarburg Scholarship Fund. FMI call (414) 377-8020.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Thursday, November 12

Diversity G/L Resource Center (Rockford, IL): Located at 610 E State St. Open from 4 to 9 p.m. Teen Drop-in Hours. FMI call (815) 964-2639.

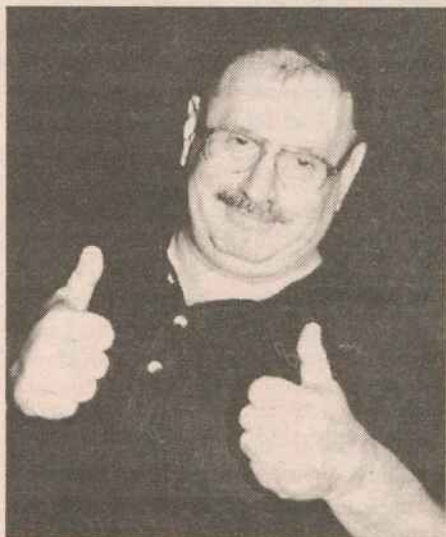
Gay AA - Open Meetings (Appleton & Green Bay, WI): There are five open meetings for the gay and lesbian community each week in Appleton and Green Bay. FMI & Locations call (920) 336-2868 or (920) 954-9169.

Gay AA/Gay Ahanon - 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

Gay/Lesbian AA Closed Meeting (Madison, WI): Meets weekly at 8 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 1609 University Ave. FMI call (608) 222-8989. South Madison Health & Family Ctr. (Madison, WI): Free, anonymous walk-in HIV testing from 5 to 7:45 p.m. Located at 2202 South Park St. FMI call (608) 261-9270.

St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry - Lecture Series (Milwaukee): This session from 7 to 9 p.m., will explore some of the stressors that impact on a woman's adaptation to living with HIV. Takes place at the St. Camillus Health Center in the Education Room. FMI call (414) 259-4664.

South Madison Health & Family Ctr. (Madison, WI): Free, anonymous walk-in HIV testing from 5 to 7:45 p.m. Located at 2202 South Park



Thumbs up from Chuck. Photo by Jamie @ 219



Witch Doctor of the Week. Photo by Jamie @ Fluid



Threesome of the Week. Photo by Jamie @ Triangle



Glamour Boys of the week. Photo by Jamie @ 219, Chuck's B-Day Party



Sour puss of the Week. Photo by Jamie @ Fluid



Showgirl of the Week. Photo by Jamie @ Triangle



Two-some of the Week. Photo by Jamie @ 219

St. FMI call (608) 261-9270.

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

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

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

UU Church - Lesbian Support/Discussion Group (Rockford, IL): The group meets weekly from 7 to 8 p.m. at 4848 Turner Rd. FMI call (815) 836-7298.

Friday, November 13

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.

High Tea & Talk - Senior Men's Group (Madison, WI): High Tea & Talk is an organization-free (no long associated with SAGE/Dane) opportunity for senior men and their friends who enjoy the company of other men to gather on Friday afternoons. The group meets at Monty's Blue Plate Diner, 2089 Atwood Ave, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and is wheel chair accessible.

LGB Campus Center - Speak French (Madison, WI): There's a fabulous French Table. Bring your lunch. All levels of French speakers welcome. Located at 406 W. Gilman St. from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. FMI call (608) 265-3344.

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

Madison Transgender Group - Support Group (Madison, WI): A support and advocacy group for Transsexuals (M-F and F-M), Cross Dressers and their Friends, Families and Significant Others. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at OutReach, 14 West Mifflin Street. FMI (608) 255-4927.

SAGE-Milwaukee - Men's Discussion Group (Milwaukee): This group for gay seniors meets at Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave. in the SAGE Room at 6 p.m. Tonight's topic: Open discussion of the second half-hour of a documentary called THE QUESTION OF EQUALITY. FMI call (414) 271-0378.

Saturday, November 14

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

G/L/B AA - Open Meeting (Madison, WI): This meeting takes place every Saturday at 6 p.m. at The United, 14 W. Mifflin, Suite 103. FMI call (608) 255-8582.

Gemini Gender Group - Meeting (Brookfield, WI): The group meets at Unitarian Universalist West at 7 p.m. FMI call (414) 414-297-9328.

Integrity/Dignity - Religious (Madison, WI): Eucharist & Social Hour at 6 p.m. at St. Francis House

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

Transgender Issues - Workshop (Madison, WI): The time is yet to be announced for this workshop on: HOW TO ACHIEVE A FEMININE VOICE, which will take place at OutReach (formerly The United), 14 W. Mifflin St. FMI call (608) 255-8582.

Sunday, November 15

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

Bi Youth Milwaukee - Support Group (Milwaukee): This group meets every other week at BESTD Clinic at 7 p.m. FMI call (414) 272-2144.

PFLAG-Dane County - Meeting (Madison, WI): Meet at the Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court, behind Associated Bank on Monroe St. from 2 to 4 p.m. Today's topic: students, schools, and alliances. What's happening in our local schools and how can we support organizations which support our GLBTQ students, teachers, administrators and staff? FMI: call Mary Fiore (608) 256-4687.

Perfect Harmony Chorus - Rehearsal (Madison, WI): Meet and sing every Sunday at Grace Episcopal Church on Capital Square from 7 to 9 p.m. Enter from the West Washington side of the court yard. FMI (608) 232-0528.

Rainbow Friends - Quaker Worship Group (Madison, WI): This group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. Diversity is encouraged, feelings are honored, and boundaries are respected. FMI & location, call (608) 250-7989.

Seeking Sobriety - Non-Religious Recovery Group (Milwaukee) This recovery group meets at 6 p.m. every Sunday at BESTD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St. (use side door). FMI call Danny at (414) 540-0961 or Richard at (414) 442-1132.

University Congregational Church - Worship Service (Madison, WI): Weekly services are at 10 a.m. at 1127 University Ave. FMI (608) 256-2353.

Monday, November 16

BGLASS - Weekly Meeting (Appleton, WI): The Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Society meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 109 of Coleman Hall at Lawrence University Memorial Union, 615 E. College Ave. FMI call Irene (920) 722-7572, Bernie (920) 982-0220, or Harriet (920) 749-1629.

Frontiers' Rap Discussion Group (Madison, WI): Held at 7:30 p.m. at OutReach, 14 W. Mifflin St. Please ring the bell. FMI: 274 - 5959

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.

Gay/Bi Men's AA - Closed Meeting (Madison, WI): The group meets at 8 p.m. at the University United Methodist Church, 1127 University Ave. FMI call (608) 222-8989.

Tuesday, November 17

Bi Definition - Meeting/Social (Milwaukee): The group meets at BESTD Clinic at 7 p.m. Tonight's topic: BISEXUALITY & PROGRESSIVE PRINCIPLES. FMI call (414) 272-2144.

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. Movie night is on the first Tuesday of each month. All ages welcome. FMI call Chris (414) 225-1556 or Andy (414) 225-1502.

HIV/AIDS Support Group - Fox Cities (Menasha, WI): Free, confidential and open to any person living with or affected by HIV/AIDS on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. The meetings take place at Family Resource Assn. of Fox Valley, Midway Rd., 1488 Kenwood Drive from 7 to 8:30 p.m. FMI call (920) 739-4226 or Sylvia at 1-800-675-9400.

LGB Campus Center - Boy-Oh-Boy Men's Social Group (Madison, WI): This social group for ages 18 to 25 meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at 406 W. Gilman St. FMI call (608) 265-3344.

Madison Community Health Ctr. - HIV Testing (Madison, WI): Free, anonymous, walk-in HIV testing from 3 to 5:45 p.m. at 1133 Williamson St. FMI call (608) 255-0704.

Northland Gay Men's Center - Open Discussion Group (Duluth, MN): The group meets weekly from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Center, 8 N. 2nd Ave East, Temple opera Block, Suite 309. Topics include coming out issues, support & resources. No age limits. FMI call (218) 722-8585.

PFLAG - Meeting (Appleton/Fox Cities): This group meets the third Tuesday of the month. FMI write P.O. Box 195 Neenah, WI 54957-0195 or call the helpline at (920) 722-7572.

UHS Counseling & Consultation Services - Sex Out Loud (Madison, WI): This discussion group for Gay/Bi students meets in the Memorial Union at 12 p.m. every Tuesday. FMI call (608) 265-4901.

Womansong - Rehearsal (Madison) The group meets at Beth Israel Ctr. at 7 p.m. FMI call (608) 222-2987.

Wednesday, November 18

Diversity G/L Resource Ctr - Coming Out Support Group (Rockford, IL): The group meets every Wednesday at 610 E. State St. from 7 to 8 p.m. FMI call (815) 964-2639.

Gay/Bi Men's Al-anon Group (Madison, WI): Meets at the University United Methodist Church, 1127 University Ave. every Wednesday at 6 p.m. FMI call (608) 256-4107 or (608) 846-2860.

HIV/AIDS Support Group - (Green Bay, WI): Free, confidential and open to any person living with or affected by HIV/AIDS on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. The meetings take place at Renaissance Healing Arts Ctr., 311 S. Jefferson from 7:30 to 9 p.m. FMI call (920) 437-4325 or Sylvia at 1-800-675-9400.

LGB Campus Center - Queer Chicks Social Group (Madison, WI): This social group meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at 219 N. Hamilton St. FMI call (608) 265-3344.

Madison Vet Center - GLB Veterans Meeting (Madison, WI): The group meets every Wednesday at 147 S Butler at 5 p.m. FMI call (608) 262-7084 or (608) 264-5342.

Silver Space - Older Lesbian Discussion Group (Milwaukee): This group meets at the Counseling Center from 6 to 8 p.m. on every 3rd Sunday. FMI call (414) 271-2565.

Thursday, November 19

St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry - Lecture Series (Milwaukee): This presentation, from 7 to 9 p.m., will focus on individuals sharing their personal journeys with HIV & the challenges they face. The lecture takes place at the St. Camillus Health Center in the Education Room. FMI call

(414) 259-4664.

Friday, November 20

Cedar Creek Settlement - A Pioneer Christmas (Cedarburg, WI): See the Buffalo Farm's baby buffalo & learn buffalo lore. Exhibits by the Lamp-lighter Society for Civil War enthusiasts, woodcarving, popcorn & cranberry stringing, old-time music, food & more. See Books for author appearance. FMI call (414) 377-8020.

Perfect Harmony Chorus - Winter Concert (Madison, WI): the concert will be held at 8 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church on the Square at West Washington Ave.

FILM, TV, VIDEO AND RADIO:

Friday, November 13

Charles Allis Art Library - Film (Milwaukee): MAYERLING, in color, starring Omar Sharif, Catherine Deneuve, James Mason & Ava Gardner shows at 7:30 p.m. in the Rahil Great Hall. \$3. FMI call (414) 278-8295.

Saturday, November 14

Free Speech TV - Channel 4 WYOU (Madison, WI): Weekly from 2 to 3 pm: THE CORPORATION VS. THE ENVIRONMENT (a 4-part series); from 3 to 4 pm: ON THIS LAND: INDIGENOUS LEGACIES (native peoples around the globe).

UWM Vilas Hall - Free Weekly Film Series (Madison, WI): Beijing Underground (Chinese filmmakers of the 1990s), RED BEADS by Director He Jianjun. In a sanatorium, a woman discovers the medical history of another patient and an odd romance develops. Parliamentary Room 4070 at 7:30 p.m. Check Vilas Hall listings for future movies.

Madison Gay Video Club (Madison, WI): EROTIC COUPLES: A GUIDE TO GAY INTIMACY & BILLY 2000 will be screened at 8 p.m. FMI call (414) 244-8675 (evenings).

Sunday, November 15

Public Access TV - Cable channel 4 WYOU (Madison, WI): Cathedral of Hope, from Dallas, TX, part of the Federated Metropolitan Community Church, will regularly air a 30 minute worship service.

Reeling '98: Chicago G/L International Film Festival (Chicago): Tonight is the second annual Girl's Bar Party at Girlbar, with a screening of THE CREAM WILL RISE at the Village Theater. Party & film \$15. This two-week festival runs through November 19, 1998. For more information and a complete list of films call (312) 409-4919 or go online at www.chicagofilmfestival.org/reeling/.

WORT Radio 89.9 FM - Lesbian Radio (Madison, WI): A weekly show titled HER TURN: Women's news and information by and about women, airs from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Followed by HER INFINITE VARIETY: Women in Music from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. All genres and styles. Interviews, live guests and announcements for the Womyn's community. FMI call (608) 256-2001.

Monday, November 16

Free Speech & Dyke TV - Cable Channel 4, WYOU (Madison, WI): Weekly from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., TV Guerrillas are trying to create the country's first progressive television (a four part series). WE DO THE WORK: Looking Back - More Labor History. The 8:30 pm show is Dyke TV, produced in NYC.

Tuesday, November 17

Nothing To Hide - Cable Channel 4 WYOU (Madison, WI): weekly at 4 p.m.: Tammy Baldwin speaking at the "Creating Change" conference in Detroit. Also Universal Single Payer Health Care in Canada. There is a re-run the following day at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 18

WORT, 89.9 FM - Radio (Madison, WI): QUEERY - Weekly from 7 to 7:30 p.m. This Way Out from 7:30 to 8 p.m. FMI call (608) 256-2001.

Nothing To Hide - TV Cable Channel 4, WYOU (Madison, WI): Weekly from 9 p.m. The Rev. Barry Lynn of the United Church of Christ, speaking about the separation of church and state as it relates to the extreme religious Right Wing. NUCA LYPTUS by Tony Kellam, 1985, plus local gay political stuff: candle light vigil. There is a re-run the following day from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Friday, November 20

Charles Allis Art Library - Film (Milwaukee): A rare lost film: SPRING PARADE, starring Deanna Durbin & Robert Cummings will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the Rahil Great Hall. \$3 admission. FMI call (414) 278-8295.

Monday, November 23

MIAD - Free Film Series (Milwaukee): FORBIDDEN PLANET, a sci-fi version of Shakespeare's THE TEMPEST, will be shown as a part of The Future in Film series at 7 p.m. The series is run in conjunction with an exhibit titled The Future by Design. FMI call (414) 276-7889.

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Thursday, November 12

Charles Allis Art Library - Hand-Woven Articles (Milwaukee): Wisconsin's Woven Heritage is the Wisconsin Handweaver's 48th annual juried exhibit. The exhibit continues through Nov. 29. FMI call (414) 278-8295.

Tuesday, November 17

Milwaukee Art Museum - Music (Milwaukee): Jeffrey Hollander's P.S. I LOVE YOU will highlight music and stories based on the recent Postal Service stamp set of American popular composers. A preview of the Gordon Parks Retrospective will follow. FMI call (414) 224-3200.

Thursday, November 19

Milwaukee Art Museum - Gordon Parks Retrospective (Milwaukee): This important exhibition titled HALF PAST AUTUMN: THE ART OF GORDON PARKS, will open in the Museum's Journal/Lubar Galleries with a preview at 5:30 p.m. and a lecture at 6:15 p.m. A reception follows the lecture. The exhibition opens to the public on 11/20 and continues through 1/10/99. There will be a book signing on 11/20. FMI call (414) 224-3200.

Friday, November 20

Madison Art Center - Holiday Art Fair (Madison, WI): This popular three-day event features three floors of artworks and crafts by 100 artists and artisans, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 22. Admission is \$3. FMI call (608) 257-0158.

Saturday, November 21

Artists in the Square - Art Fair (Mequon, WI): A two-day art fair sponsored by the East Town Shopping Mall for the Riverwest artists Association from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also on 11/22. There will be paintings, sculpture, photos, jewelry, textiles and more. Located 2 blocks west of I-43 on Mequon Road.

THEATER ARTS:

Saturday, November 14

Madison Civic Center - Music (Madison, WI): THE NYLONS, an all-male a cappella choral group performs at 8 p.m. There's usually a full house. FMI & tickets, call (608) 266-9055

Tuesday, November 17

UWM Dance Department - New Dancemakers (Milwaukee): This six-day series features the works of UWM dance majors, plus one recent graduate and runs through Sunday, Nov. 22. All performances will be held in the Mitchell Hall Chamber Theater on the second floor of Mitchell Hall. Tickets are \$10, \$7 students. FMI call (414) 229-4308.

Sunday, November 22

Present Music - Thanksgiving Concert (Milwaukee): The concert, titled Let Us Break Bread Together, takes place at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist at 7:30 p.m. and includes the Native American Ojibwe Choir, plus music by Ingram Marshall, Aaron Copland and Philip Glass. FMI call (414) 271-0711.

Monday, November 23

LW-Whitewater - Musical (Whitewater, WI): A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM a musical comedy by Stephen Sondheim, with Jo Anne Worley performing the gender-bending role of Pseudolus. The performance is at 7:30 p.m. in the Irvin L. Young Auditorium, 930 West Main Street. FMI call 1-414-472-2222

Our nuts are always on the bar!

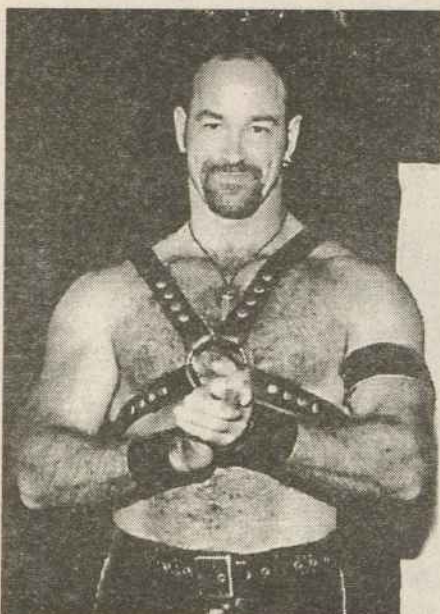
Woody's

1579 S. 2nd St. • Milw.

Monday Nite Irregulars Bowling Standings

As of Nov. 2, 1998

1. M&M, No Dick, No Dollar
2. JoAnne Worley For The Block
3. This Is It
4. Seamen From Docks
5. We're Not 20 Anymore
6. La Perla
7. MCC A Touch Of Heaven
8. BBD On Meinecki
9. Harvey's Ballbangers
10. Designing Men 10th Frame Chokers
11. Betty Ford Drinking Team
12. I Don't Know
13. SWS Docks Ball Boys
14. Club 219 It Could've Been "U"
15. Boot Camp Barbies
16. Flaming Fluid



Leatherman of the Week. Photo by W. Beatty @ Eagle



Wild Bunch of the week. Photo by W. Beatty @ Eagle

A Gay Adventure

by Kevin Isom
Special to IN Step

You've seen the ads. "Gay Adventure Tours." Part of the burgeoning gay travel business. You get the mental image of Carmen Miranda hacking her way through a jungle somewhere. But what really goes on?

I asked the same question, and I set out to answer it. I chose a trip through Boston-based Alyson Adventures. Both



Rock climbers catch their breath on an ascent. Photo: K. Isom

the brochure and the website showed happy homosexuals (predominantly men) biking their way through France, hiking in

Switzerland, learning to scuba dive in the Caribbean, and climbing mountains out West. Since I couldn't see my butt on a bike for a week, I chose to go to the American West on the "Butch Cassidy Days" trip — partly on the theory that anything with the name "butch" in it had to be fun.

I would spend a week in Jackson Hole, Wyo. (what's in a name?), where I would hike, ride horses, canoe, raft in white water, and go ballooning — things I'd always wanted to try, but would never do alone. I'm afraid of heights, but I figured that in a group of gay folks I might find a kindly soul to hold my hand (think death grip) as the balloon drifted slowly aloft.

I arrived in Jackson Hole to find a small Western town filled with designer outlets and cowboys, two things that always make my pulse race. Thrusting high into the blue, just outside of town were the snow-capped gray peaks of the Grand Teton mountains, like teeth ripping at the sky. Wide-open plains surrounded the mountains, and the occasional buffalo crossed the road.

At the base of the mountains, in a vacation-style condo (no tents here, thank you), I met my tour mates. Accountants, managers, lawyers, one social worker, and even a policewoman. Some of them gung-ho outdoorsy folks, and others, like me, just experimenting. I felt like I was coming out of the closet all over again.

By the next day, it was as if we had all known each other for years. I think the hours of riding — horses, that is — had something to do with that. Spending hours with your legs spread wide apart has a way of doing that to people. And the scenery! We rode through open fields bathed in wildflowers, up mountain trails



What's an adventure without lesbians on horseback? Photo: K. Isom.

lined with fallen boulders the size of houses, and past roaring streams — where we noted the elk and bear tracks. By the time we stopped for lunch, and argued over who would hold the horses, our group was laughing together like old buddies.

Later we went hiking around a lake at the base of the mountains, pausing every now and then to take a dip in the clear, cool water. I even swam back across the lake with three other adventurous souls. Which, I must confess, we made a more interesting challenge by doing it without our swimsuits. A few boaters pointed at our white behinds as they rose above the ripples.

Over the course of the week, we all tried new challenges. The next day, we went ballooning over the fields of Idaho. We clambered into the balloon's wicker gondola, and we were off, rising serenely — and stunningly quickly. As my fear of heights kicked in, I dropped to my knees (that's my story, and I'm sticking to it), but one of my comrades held onto me and let me hold onto him (okay, I nearly tore off his arms). Soon enough, I was looking out over the circular-plowed fields with the others, shouting at the collie who barked her way across the fields after us, "What's the matter, Lassie? You say Jimmy's down the well?"

Another day, we paddled around a lake, spotting beavers and bald eagles, and

periodically ambushing each other with splashing fights. Paddles make great water weapons. And canoeing at the base of a mountain is a good way to get to know the other person in the canoe. It can even be rather romantic, if you're so inclined.

On yet another day, we rafted down a river, braving the white water and battling the waves as they crashed all around us. It was then that I discovered you haven't lived until you've been in a raft of gay men singing "I Feel Pretty" as you traverse a rapid named "Lunch Box" (because it'll make you toss your lunch in a second). But we paddled well and strongly together, soaked and tired and drenched in laughter.

We all had a free day, and I chose mine the day that others went rock climbing (I'd faced my fear of heights once already), though we all had the option of doing all the activities. Instead, I drove to Yellowstone Park with a couple of fellow adventurers. We wanted to see the geysers and hike around the waterfalls. Of course, we joined in the Yellowstone past time of photographing every large animal as well. After all, if I got too close, could a moose possibly outrun me? (The answer is yes.) We observed Old Faithful and his friends erupt, and we stared into the impossibly blue pools of water rising from the earth's core.

Every night, back in Jackson Hole, we watched the stars, ever so much more intense than in the city. I could see the outlines of galaxies and all manner of constellations and planets glowing brightly in the darkness. One evening, one of my new friends put his hand on my shoulder and pointed out the Big Dipper, and Orion, and the North Star. I laughed, and the laugh carried out across the plain.

We were there on a gay adventure. Who knew where the adventure might lead?

INFO:

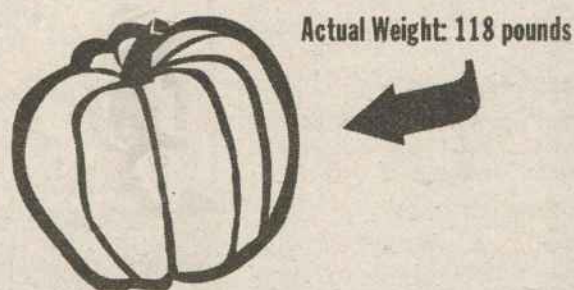
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House Hunting

by Ed Grover
of the IN Step Staff

Thomas Wolfe wrote, "You Can't Go Home Again." Well, you can, but don't be surprised at what you find — or, even more to the point — what you don't find. I headed north to see my sister. I wanted to say goodbye to Ursy and Zöe before they drove south for the winter. As the train headed west and then north, anyone who dared look out the windows at the passing trees that blazed crimson, orange and yellow, was blinded by the brilliance of the setting sun on an Indian Summer weekend.

Ursy was at the station waiting for me. Zöe, resplendent in all her silver and turquoise jewelry, gave me a big hug and I crawled in the back of the old Packard. I hadn't seen them since they were in Milwaukee for PrideFest in late August. More than a few of the locals knew who these two exotic-looking lesbians were. They had appeared at every art fair within a 150-mile radius and Zöe had had a successful summer selling her sculptures to the tourists. Some of the men hadn't forgotten the thrashings Ursy had given them at not-so-friendly games of Sheepshead. The girls waved to everyone as we drove off.

After we had walked around the pine woods for the fifth time, we all decided it would be fun to take a look at the house, my sister and I grew up in. The little town

was not that far south and it would be a nice drive. I told Ursy and Zöe all about Anstey's woods, where I used to dig up wild flowers to plant in our back yard. I told her about the time I stumbled into a grove of poplars and found a single wild tiger lily glowing like an ember in a beam of sunlight.

It didn't take us long to reach familiar countryside, and when we finally got to our house, it looked smaller than I remembered. It was also empty! The front lawn was tiny. As a kid I thought that was the biggest lawn of the biggest

house in town — especially when I had to mow it. We walked across the street to the filling station and asked what was going on. Without a thought as to who we might be, the attendant rasped, "Ain't for sale! They're going to tear it down. We need more room downtown," and walked into the station. We all stood there like idiots with our mouths hanging open. "...Being torn down?"

With no one about to tell us not to, we headed for the back yard. Everything was gone, including the wild flower garden I had planted under the shrubbery. The big red maple and the old apple tree were gone. Trees from neighboring yards had grown so huge that there

was nothing but shade. Almost everything had died back from lack of light; it was like a walking into a dark tunnel. Here, nothing glowed ... the lawn was full of gopher holes. The whole place had the look of unkempt hair!

The flowering almond and Russian olive trees that grew along the side of the house had been cut down. A blue spruce had grown so big that someone had been forced to cut off the bottom branches up to 8 or 10 feet so they could get into what had been made into a side apartment. It really looked strange; everything was thrown out of kilter — elves could have lived there. There were a few scraggly lilacs left, and a few of the violets my mother loved grew along one edge of the walk.

Old Mrs. Winkleman had a vegetable garden facing the back end of our yard. As children my sister and I thought she was a witch. We laughed when we thought about how we watched her standing among the withered pumpkin vines making her soap in a big iron kettle. Now, her garden is a lawn that has been cutesied up with plaster gnomes, a painted rubber tire filled with petunias, and other decorative junk.

We drove to the edge of town to look at the marsh where we all learned to ice skate. The wooded bluff above it was lined with expensive houses; it was a showy subdivision. There were no more shooting stars, trilliums, bloodroot or hepatica growing up there. Now, there were manicured lawns and potted geraniums. Some wooded area remains along the edges of the tracks. There just might be a few wild flowers growing in some secluded spot where they wait to amaze a solitary wanderer on a sunny afternoon.

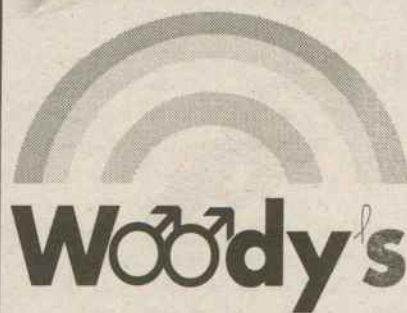
On the return trip north, Ursy chat-

tered on about an old farmhouse she knew of; there were wild berries that grew there. We could make a pie if we found some. If we didn't, there were bushels of baking apples on her back porch waiting to be made into something wonderful. My sister agreed to make an "apfle kfchen," just like my mother used to make. With a bowl of freshly whipped cream that would be the perfect dessert to top off a day of riding around the country.

Even as our search had turned to disappointment, in my mind I will always remember those woods, our house and its gardens as if we still lived there. Going home may be great, but memories are better. With memories, nothing ever seems to dim or disappoint.



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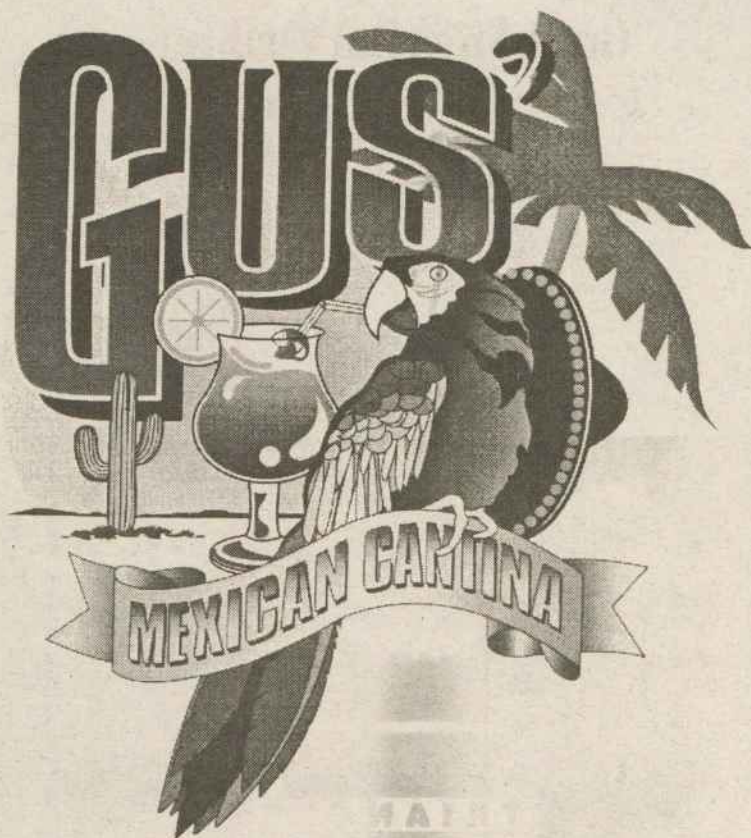
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Mrs. Taylor



No, not my mother, I'm talkin' about me. It's been 15 years since I've put on a dress, so I thought it would be fun to do it for Halloween. It was a pretty spontaneous idea, taking less than 24 hours to decide to do it. I went into **Triangle** and talked to **Lana St. James**, who said sure, I'll help you out.

The next day I showed up at Lana's house for the makeover. It took 2 pounds of makeup, eyelashes that felt like awnings, 5 pairs of panty hose. Have you ever tried to tuck your "junk" into just the right spot so it doesn't hurt into 5 pairs of panty hose? It ain't easy, press on nails, heels, a dress, wig and boobs out to tomorrow, I was all set. All of which took an hour and a half to put together.

I thought it would be fun to get all done up, drive up to where Josh works and surprise him. I called Tony and Julio who were willing to escort me on my "journey." Hey, we were on our way to Hartford. Tony drove (have you ever tried to drive in 4-inch come-f*&%-me pumps?). Forty-five minutes later we were in Hartford — in a straight club — in drag! OK, I was the only one in drag. I got carded at the door. The door guy looked at my driver's license, looked at me, shook his head and waived me through.

I asked Tony and Julio to wait in a different spot so they wouldn't blow my cover. I walked up to Josh, tried to disguise my voice and ordered a beer. Appar-

ently the voice didn't work cause he knew who I was right away. To this day I'm not really sure how he felt about his husband doing drag but hey, he was in drag, too. Anyway, I would never do drag unless it was for Halloween and not for another 15 years. By that time I'll be approaching 50, so it wouldn't hurt to shake things up.

We couldn't stay long cause I had to get back to Milwaukee to shoot pictures so we had another cocktail and headed back. Our first stop was **Triangle**. There I was able to fool the bartender (**another Josh**), who had no clue who I was until I told him. The look on his face was priceless. (I'm tellin' ya, it's the strangest thing when you encounter people you have known for awhile who, when they look at you, have no clue who you are. It really is quite bizarre.)

We wandered over to **Fluid**, where the theme was Jungle Witch Doctors. Once again, not very many people knew who I was with the exception of **Jimmy**. I saw him when I was buying my eyelashes. We partied there for awhile and then headed over to **La Cage**. Many people I considered friends at one time or another were there, so I had lots of fun shocking them. Even **Joel** was there, who, when he saw me, almost fell over from laughing. He didn't say much of anything but "oh my God" and, of course, more laughter.

By 1:30 a.m., my feet were killing me, so it was time to call it a night. I did, however have reporters filling me in on what the other clubs were doing. **Dish** not only had a Halloween party, it also marked the first anniversary for Milwaukee's hottest girl's club. Congratulations to **Julia** and the staff at **Dish** for a wildly successful year and for many more to come.

It was standing room only at **Club 219**, but never fear, with the new layout at the club, there was plenty of bar space for your favorite bartender to get you a cocktail. If the heat was too much for you they had the patio doors open in case you needed a breath of fresh air.

The **Ball Game** was also filled with Halloween party-goers.

Rumor has it that **Rick** wanted to dress up like Cher but couldn't find a long black wig. Hey Rick, I think I know where you can get one for next year! **Water Street Docks** also had a full house, packed with everything from loin cloths to evening gowns. The party there was a benefit for the **Holiday Invitational Tournament**.

Speaking of evening gowns, there were a few seen at **Woody's** during the big Halloween celebration. By the way, have you checked out the juke box at Woody's? It's a tie between **This Is It** and Woody's as to who has the best jukebox in town.

In **Between** did the **Halloween Pumpkin Smash** again this year. Wish I would have made it for that; I won \$20 last year. Oh well, I've been winning enough cash from the football pool.

Not too many people dressed up at **Boot Camp**, but I heard that leather was the party theme. Hmmm, leather at **Boot Camp**? **1100 Club** also had plenty of



Just some of the trick-or-treaters out this Halloween. Photo by Jamie @ Triangle.

leather and Levi's on hand. Hey, is the rumor that they are going to connect the restaurant and the club true? The food at **1100 Club** is arguably the best food in town, I think connecting the restaurant and the club is a great idea!

Club 219? Lets just say the strippers didn't have much of a costume, but my, my, my, what a package. **C'est La Vie** had a great show as well, complete with 9 pumpkins, spelling out C'est La Vie.

The big **Un-Halloween- Anniversary Show** was at **Eagle**. This show boasted many of Wisconsin's hottest dudes in leather and included Mr. IML 1998, Tony Mills. Hats off to Gus and the staff at **Eagle** for bringing Milwaukee a Chicago-style Levi/leather club.

So that covers Halloween for this year. Next year I'm going as a photographer. My feet won't hurt and my eyes won't be red from makeup. Until next issue, I hope you had as much fun as I did and as always, slower traffic keep right.

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MILWAUKEE STUD Attractive GWM, 20, 5'8", 150 lbs, blonde/blue, into festivals and the movies. Seeks attractive, straight-acting GW or HM, 18-28, for friendship, possible relationship. (Milwaukee) ☎15380

LET ME DO IT FOR YOU 21-year-old SGM, 5'9", 250 lbs, brown/blue, seeks SGM, 18-35, for friends and possibly more. (Madison) ☎15345

DRINK COFFEE? 20-year-old GM, 5'11", 155 lbs, blonde/blue, new to the area. Looking to meet some new people to go out and have some coffee. (Madison) ☎15180

CALL FOR MORE 34-year-old Man, 140 lbs. Seeks dominant, submissive, hot Male, 18-21, for very hot, sexual times (Eau Claire) ☎15285

JUST DO IT 23-year-old GWM, seeks other GWM, 18-35, to hang out with. (Racine) ☎14929



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LETS GET KINKY Submissive, bottom M, 24, 5'10", 175 lbs. Seeks a dominant top M, in the area. (Milwaukee) ☎14260

TRAIN ME THE RIGHT WAY Virgin M, 30, 6', 250 lbs, seeking someone to have fun with and spend quality time with. (Milwaukee) ☎13990

HOT 3-WAY FUN Very attractive, discreet GW Couple, 37, 5'9", 140 lbs, 25, 6', 165 lbs, blonde/blue. Seeking hot, smooth, fit, submissive, GWM, for hot 3 way fun. (Milwaukee) ☎14168

NEW TO THE AREA Responsible, fun-loving M, 43, enjoys biking, camping, movies and the beach. Seeking G or Bi M, with the same interests. (Stevens Point) ☎14007

LOVES THE NIGHT LIFE Fun GWM, 31, enjoys going out at night. Seeking younger GWM, under 24. (Green Bay) ☎13421

ARE YOU THE SAME? Hope you have a strong boot and foot fetish like I do. (Milwaukee) ☎13746

GIVE ME A COMMAND Submissive WM, 23, into light bondage, likes to serve M. Seeking a very dominant M, 21-25, in the area. (Duluth) ☎13392

I NEED YOU NOW GM seeks hot, dominant Black or White Guy, 18-20, it doesn't matter. (Eau Claire) ☎11751

GOOD TIMES AHEAD GWM, 24, 5'10", 150 lbs, enjoys dinners, movies and the outdoors. Seeks fun-loving M, 21-37, for good times together and a possible LTR. (Milwaukee) ☎12201

WANT MORE? GM, 18 years old, looking for someone who is down to earth and knows what he wants out of life and wants even more. You should be around 18-25 years of age and ready to kick it. (Milwaukee) ☎11751

NEED TO KNOW Attractive, slim, young Guy looking for friendship and more with people who are 20 years old and older. You must be outgoing and ready to have fun. (Madison) ☎11661

NEW TO THE AREA I'm looking to meet Men of all ages and races, who can show me a good time in the area. (Milwaukee) ☎11039

I'M A WELL HUNG 34 year old, SWM, 6'1", 165 lbs and looking for the same, for a relationship. You should be between the ages of 18-25, for great times and summer fun. (Wisconsin Rapids) ☎10664

COLLEGE GRAD I'm a 22 year old, GBM, 5'8", 130 lbs, non-smoker and drinker, not into the bar scene, is looking for a young, attractive, masculine, GB, Hispanic or Italian Male who are 18-33. You must be a non-smoker, HWP, slim. I'm a bottom and you should be a top. (Milwaukee) ☎10900

VERY SMOOTH AND SUBMISSIVE I'm 22, 5'8", 150 lbs, clean shaven, smooth body and looking for people who are into domination. I like Men who are well endowed and I love to be spanked. (Milwaukee) ☎10575

WELL HUNG ITALIAN I'm a good looking Italian, well hung Man who likes to talk to Guys on the phone and get off. (Milwaukee) ☎10434

ORAL SERVICE Good looking Pro Latin M, 36, 5'8", 150, slender, fit, is looking to get together with M who are lean, tall, 18-38 and who enjoy being orally serviced. (Madison) ☎10112

WELL BUILT, NICE looking, BM, 5'7", 180, bottom M is looking for a hard B or Latin M who is well hung. (Milwaukee) ☎10038

RELATIONSHIP MINDED WM, 31, very attractive, down to earth and looking for someone who is the same. Relationship minded and very caring. (Milwaukee) ☎1283

FOOT WORSHIP AND SLAVE TRAINING I'm looking for younger WM, under 28, and who is into foot worship/slave training. I'm a dominate master in my 20s. I'm good looking, 6', and looking for young slave boys to serve me for fun and games. (Milwaukee) ☎20289

PHYSICAL ABUSE I'm looking for other Guys 20-40, who want to wrestle and work each other over. You must be in shape and have done this before. (Milwaukee) ☎13476

I WANT TO HANG OUT I'm new to the area and I want to find someone to hang out with and do things together. (Racine) ☎1304

MAGIC TOUCH I'm a tall, masculine, 44 year old, White Man, who looks younger. I'm very financially secure and a social drinker. I like water skiing, dinner parties and I am looking for a sincere, in shape Man for friendship and a possible relationship. (LaCrosse) ☎19703

I DO WHAT I'M TOLD I'm a Gay Male who has black hair and blue eyes. I'm looking for a top Man who can do things to me. I'm very obedient and I listen very well, so please box me. (Milwaukee) ☎19637

MEET YOU THERE I'm looking for extremely hairy Men who want to have some fun out there. I like Men who are 35-60 years old, average looking, clean shaven and balding. I'm a handsome, 38 year old, bearded, 6'0", 185 lbs Man with a goatee and a hairy body. I am into sports for the butch side of me, so who knows, maybe we can hit it off, so give me a try. I want to meet Men in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. (Madison) ☎19914

SO MANY THINGS TO LIKE I like sports, people who are clean shaven and also Guys who are bottoms. If you fit the bill, please give me a call, I'd like to get to know you. (Madison) ☎18429

LET ME SUCK YOUR TOES This 30 year old, White Male is looking for younger Guys, 20-29 years of age, who are into foot fetish. I'm into white socks, tennis shoes, bare feet and I want to service you, so let's hook up. (Milwaukee) ☎18284

TAKE ME OUT I'm a 55 year old, 5'5", 140 lbs, Man who has brown hair, blue eyes and a little on the husky side. I'm a home body looking to go out with a Hispanic or Black Males, 18-30 years old, around my height. I don't drink, smoke or do drugs and I am interested in a monogamous relationship. (Milwaukee) ☎18501

ALL MAN HEY GUYS I'm a very good looking White Male, 6'3", 185 lbs, 45" chest, 32" waist, smooth, clean shaven and work out a lot. I'm looking for someone who is also very good looking, under 35 years of age and wanting to have fun, possibly starting a relationship. (Madison) ☎18287

REALLY GET INTO IT Hello out there. I'm a Black 42 year old Male, who is looking for a very submissive Guy, more submissive, the better. Call me if your interested. (Milwaukee) ☎18291

LET'S GO I'm looking for a Man with a beard, maybe a motorcycle, but you don't have to be a Hell's Angel or anything. I'm a Gay White Male, 5'2", 160 lbs, you should be loving and caring. (Spring Green) ☎17982

WANNA BE SMOOTH I'm a 44 year old Gentleman, 5'7", 178 lbs, who would like to hook up with other Guys who enjoy body shaving. If you would like to try something new, give me a call, any race and age is very acceptable. (Milwaukee) ☎18139

LET'S KICK IT Yo, what's up? I'm a 18 year old Gay Black Male who is looking for other Males between the ages of 18-30. I'm ready to kick it and have a really fun time. (Milwaukee) ☎18137

LICK MY TOES Hello. I'm a Black top Man in my 40's. I want someone who is very submissive and likes to worship feet. Let me know if that's you. (Milwaukee) ☎18056

SHOW ME A GOOD TIME I'm a 21 year old, very good looking Gay White Male, 6'1", with blonde hair and green eyes. I'm looking for other Gay White Males who are 20-24 years old and would like to meet and maybe do something later. (Madison) ☎18039

LET'S COOL DOWN Yo, what's up? I'm a 20 year old, 5'11", 175 lbs Gay Black Male. I am really cool, down to earth, very discreet and I love to have fun. If you like the way this sounds, give me a call. (Milwaukee) ☎17842

LET'S WORK OUT Hi Guys. I need an exercise partner who is around 180 lbs and in good shape. I like judo and wrestling, so if you want a really hot work-out, call me. (Milwaukee) ☎15592

BEAT ME, WHIP ME This Gay Male is into really hot, steamy phone talk. If you're into physical pleasure, please leave an evening message and I'll give you a call back. (Milwaukee) ☎18025

STICKY - STICKY This Gay White, 46 year old, 5'7", 145 lbs, in-shape Male is looking for other White Gay Men who are into nipples and jacking off. (Milwaukee) ☎17692

SNAPSHOT I'm a hot, passable Bi White Transvestite, 31 years old, 6'0", 175 lbs, clean shaven. I'm looking for generous Males to photograph me in my slutty leather vinyl outfits and sexy lingerie. Click! Click! (Milwaukee) ☎17676

ILLINOIS

SHAVED AND SUPER BUFF Hot, Italian Male looking for very athletic, muscular, clean-shaven Guys, over 19, for one-on-one, threesomes and groups. Get back to me. (Franklin Park) ☎19329

NEW IN TOWN Attractive GWM, 30s, 6', 185 lbs, fit and trim, looking for a handsome, masculine BM, for possible long-term relationship. I love sculpted bodies. (Chicago) ☎19316

WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE? Hairy, stocky BiWM, early 30s, looking to explore and experience. Seeking other hairy, masculine Guys, 25-50, into feeling good. (Chicago) ☎10120

HEY SEXY BOY! GM, 20, 5'9", 155 lbs, looking for sexy Boy who's know to have a good time. Interested? Give me a call. (Great Lakes) ☎18934

NEW TO THIS 32-year-old WM, 5'10", 180 lbs, well-endowed, likes going out, having a good time and partying. Looking for slim Men who can teach me. (Chicago) ☎17016

FATHER FIGURE AVAILABLE WM seeking slim Guy, 20s, to be a teacher and more. (Bremerton) ☎16936

THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE 20-year-old Gay Male, 155 lbs, seeks good-looking hunks to go out and have fun with. (Great Lakes) ☎16482

SHOW ME EVERYTHING 20-year-old Gay Male, 155 lbs, seeks some cute, respectful hunks to show me around the area. (Great Lakes) ☎15115

JUST WANT TO MEET YOU 37-year-old M, 185 lbs. Seeking Guys in the area who are interested in music and sports. (Chicago) ☎5011

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The Velvet Goldmine

By now you (should) know that Todd Haynes' stunning *The Velvet Goldmine* is an account of the glam rock era of the early 70s and that there's a David Bowie character (Brian Slade, played by Johnathan Rhys Mey-



Johnathan Rhys Meyers and Ewan McGregor

ers) and an Iggy Pop character (Curt Wild, played by Ewan McGregor). But there's another character that transforms the kaleidoscopic undertaking into something much richer than a mere glitzy biopic.

Christian Bale plays Arthur Stuart, a reporter trying to find the whereabouts of Slade (the character Slade, not the glam-stompin' group of the same name) in the 80s after he alienated his fans with a staged death. He's the Thompson to Slade's Charles Foster Kane. The coup here, though, is that as Stuart tries to piece parts of Slade's past together, we get glimpses into his own. And we discover that he was very much a fan of glam and Brian Slade in particular.

This is indeed a revolutionary approach to cinematic accounts of music history. Most rock-n-roll pics focus on the artists while only a handful focus on the fans. *The Velvet Goldmine* is

the rare one that gives play to both. For every extraterrestrial fashion show and drug-drenched orgy with Slade, there's a scene dedicated to Stuart's fannish devotion to him. For every walk on the Wild side, there's a corresponding account of Stuart's embarrassment over his obsessions. He's ridiculed at the record store for even buying a Brian Slade album; he wants so desperately to walk up to a group of glam kids but fears rejection in one absolutely heartbreaking scene; his parents burst in on him while he's jerking off to a picture of Slade and Wild in *Melody Maker*; even his adulthood is beset with such demons, as when an entire bar stares at him upon his entrance after covering a concert by fictional 80's phenom Tommy Stone. Only this time he is placed in an awkward position of power for possessing that supreme rock-n-roll talisman — the backstage pass.

That Stuart is constantly in a state of uneasiness teaches us something fundamental about pop music. Whatever music we choose to listen to (no matter how silly and worthless the cultural elite tells us it is) is a deeply political choice. Not politics in the picketing and "Impeach The President!" sense but as a phenomenon surrounded by enormous issues of power. For all its surface play, glam rock is shown to have a unique power of getting under people's skins, of engendering pointed reactions. Thus glam rock and its affective reality become turf to protect (or, tragically, ground to cede). Stuart's struggle with these issues is the struggle of any fan who has broken the codes of a particular music genre and its subculture. So while Slade is at the top of a mountain of coke, deconstructing sexuality and identity, the lower class that Stuart represents is groveling among these innovations and attempting to incorporate them into everyday life. It doesn't always work but it's that symbiosis that makes *The Velvet Goldmine* one of the most rewarding cinematic essays ever made.

—Kevin John

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marksia@execpc.com (800) 359-9272

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
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www.arcw.org (800) 359-9272

BiNet USA (Bisexual political activism)
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..... (800) 773-2068

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..... 920-437-7400
..... 800-675-9400

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Argonauts of Wisconsin (L/L Social Club)
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Bay City Chorus
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Gay/Lesbian Support at UW-GB 465-2343

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HIV/AIDS Service Organization
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FAX 252-6559

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Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital (HIV Counseling/Testing)
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3 Shamrock (GS, MW, F, D)
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The Barracks (Mw, L/L)
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ORGANIZATIONS

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LesBiGay Issues Committee (UW Advisory Comm.)

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MILWAUKEE (414)

ORGANIZATIONS

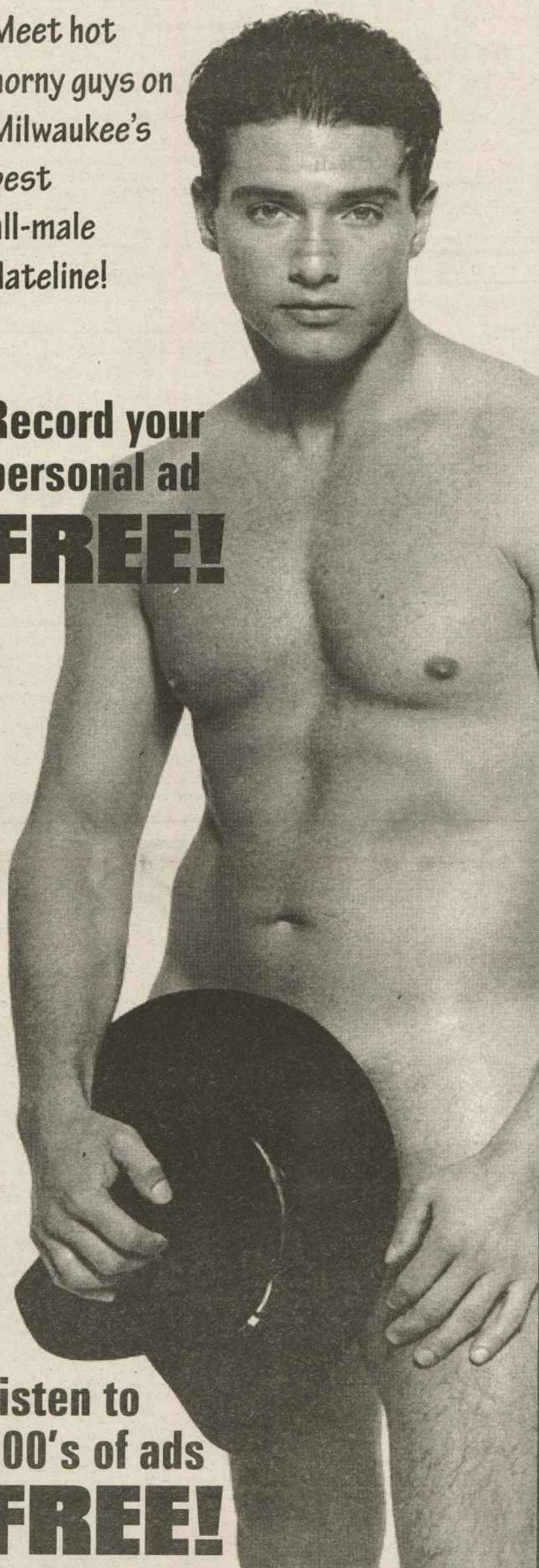
Aeon Group (Interactive Fiction Gaming)
 P.O. Box 93953, 53203-0953 291-0530
AIDS Awareness Group
 (Sue Hall, Carroll College) 524-7764
Alcoholics Anonymous
 (regular, Gay meetings) 771-9119
Beer Town Badgers
 PO Box 840, 53201
Bi Definition (Bisexual Community Events)
 PO Box 07541, 53207
 Carol 562-4058
 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 263-5155
Firebirds (L/L group)
 P.O. Box 159, 53201-0159 53202
Front Runners (Running Group)
 http://execpc.com/~blackjon/frontrun.html
Galano 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/~mkegamma
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/IG 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, 53203-454-9300
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 (www.mklgbt.com)
 P.O. Box 93278, 53203 483-4710

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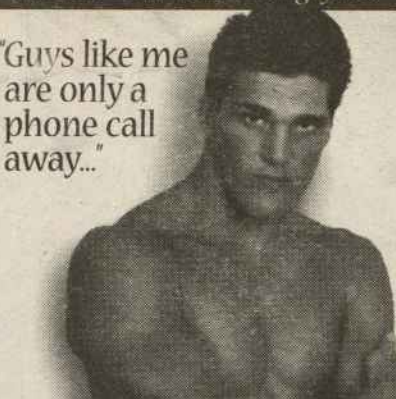


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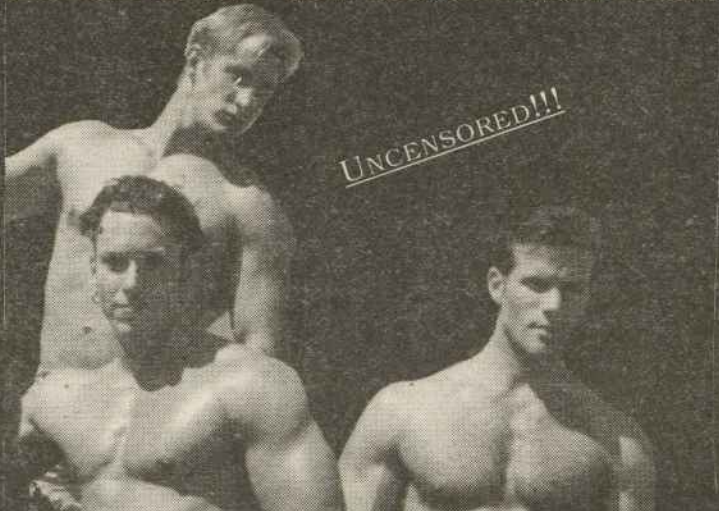
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Narcotics Anonymous (request Gay mtgs.)	543-4850
Orgullo Latino/a Latin Pride 1532 N. Astor (c/o Murguio)	
Outdoors Cooperative Sports Group	963-9833
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG) PO Box 21853, 53221	299-9198
Pathfinders (Youth counseling, 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 Lesbians/Gays) PO Box 510492, 53202 after 4pm	271-0378
Saturday SoftBall League (SSBL) PO Box 92605, 53202	454-9204
Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA) Sherman Park Rainbow Assoc. PO Box 76115, 53216	299-0755 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) 2821 N. 4th Street, 53212	263-5330
FAX	263-5530
WL 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
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., www.arcw.org	273-1991 (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
BESTD Womens Clinic 1240 E. Brady, 53202	272-2144
Gay Mens HIV+ Support Group BESTD Clinic	272-2144
Gay Men's Support Group for Partners of HIV+ Men BESTD Clinic	272-2144
Health Options (Holistic Health Services) 823 N. 2nd Street, #811, 53202	225-9303
Dennis C. Hill Outreach Center (HIV testing, condoms) 4311 W. Vliet, 53208	342-4333
Positive Health Clinic Medical Center Specialties Clinic 945 N. 12, 53233	219-7908
St. Camillus HIV/AIDS Ministry (Nursing Care) 10101 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53226	259-4664
STD Specialties Clinic 3251 N. Halton, 53212	264-8800

BARS

1 Ballgame (Mw, V, D, F) 196 S. 2nd 53204	273-7474
Barbie's Playhouse (Wm) 700 E. Meinecke, 53212	374-7441
3 Boot Camp (M, L/L) 209 E. National 53204	643-6900
4 C'est La Vie (Mw, D) 231 S. 2nd 53204	291-9600
5 Club 219 (MW, DJ, V) 219 S. 2nd 53204 Dish (Wm, DJ) 235 S. 2nd 53204	271-3732 273-DISH
Emeralds 801 E. Hadley, 53206	265-7325
6 1100 Club (Mw, L/L, DJ, F) 1100 S. 1st Street 53204	647-9950
2 Fannie's (Wm, D, F) 200 E. Washington 53204	643-9633
30 Fluid (Mw) 819 S. Second, 53204	645-8330
30 In Between (Mw) 625 S. Second, 53204	273-2693
22 Kathy's Nut Hut (WM, G/S, F, D) 1500 W. Scott 53201	647-2673
7 La Cage (Mw, DJ, V) 801 S. 2nd 53204	383-8330
26 Mama Roux (MW, F) 1875 N. Humboldt, 53202 Milwaukee Eagle (MW, DJ, D) 300 W. Juneau, 53203	347-0344 273-6900
10 M&M Club (MW, F) 124 N. Water 53202	347-1962
24 Renee CoZ Corner II (DJ, W/M, G/S) 3500 W. Park Hill Ave (I 948, 35th)	933-RENE
29 South Water Street Docks 354 E. National, 53204	225-9676
20 Station 2 (Wm, D) 1534 W. Grant 53215	383-5755
13 This Is It (M) 418 E. Wells 53202	278-9192
18 Triangle (M, V) 135 E. National 53204 Woody's (MW, D) 1579 S. 2nd, 53204	383-9412 672-0806

COFFEE HOUSES/RESTAURANTS

Azteca 816 South 5th St., 53204	383-8816
Bear Brew (Coffee House) 708 N. Milwaukee St., 53202	224-8877
Bellissimo Restaurant 3510 N. Oakland Ave., 53211	332-2231
Brew Bar (Coffee House) 1457 N. Farwell Ave, 53202	271-6036
Cafe Knickerbocker 1030 East Juneau, 53202	272-0011
Chip and Pys 1340 W. Towne Square Rd., Mequon	241-9589
Cielito Lindo 733 South 2nd St., 53204	649-0401
Fitzpatrick's W2596 Hwy E.S., East Troy, 53120	642-7999
Harry's Bar and Grill 3539 N. Oakland Ave, 53211	694-6800
La Fuente 625 South 5th St, 53204	271-8595
10 M&M/Glass Menagerie (lunch, dinner, Sunday brunch) 124 N. Water 53202	347-1962
North Shore Bistro Riverpoint Village, I-43 & Brown Deer	272-0111 351-6100
Silver Dollar Cafe 831 South 16th Street, 53204	645-8860
Sunset Boulevard (Coffee House) 2323 N. Murray Ave.	271-2786
Walker's Point Cafe (10am-after hours) 1106 S. 1st St. 53204	384-7999

HELP LINES

The Force (referrals to GBLT counselors)	276-8487
Gay Information Svcs. (referrals)	444-7331
Gay People's Union Hotline	562-7010
Gay Bash Hotline (confidential)	444-7331

Gay Youth WI Hotline	272-TEEN 888-GAY-TEEN
Helpline (Crisis Counseling)	271-3123
Pathfinders (24-hour youth counseling/referrals)	271-1560
Wisconsin AIDSline (free/anonymous)	(414) 273-AIDS (800) 334-AIDS
Milw. Mayor's Office LesBiGay Problem Resolution	286-2200

SERVICES

Able Amazon (Home Repair, Remodeling)	447-0251
Barney H. Moore Agency (insurance) 7655 W. Luscher Ave., 53218	536-7575
Blue Earth Studio (Reiki training and sessions)	769-8408
Coldwell Banker Prestige Homes Rich Dolan	423-1500
Discovery & Recovery Clinic (Counseling) 6510 W. Layton Ave, 53215	282-6160
Electric Eye Neon e-mail: jsmith@execpc.com web: http://www.jacksmith.com	483-7292
Financial Planning Services Theodore I. Friedman, PhD (Psychotherapist) 2266 N. Prospect, Suite 206 53202	445-5552 272-2427
Full Moon Productions (Women's Music Promoters) N235 Co Hwy W, Campbellsport, 53010	
Gay/Lesbian International News Network (GLINN) PO Box 93626, 53203 (Fax 289-0789)	289-8640
GLINN Voice Mail Rod Gilbert (Prudential Real Estate)	289-8780 784-9360
Voice Mail GLINN Network One (Internet Access, www.gln1.net) 1618 N. Jackson, 53202	797-7600 289-8640
e-mail: sales@gln1.net	
Horizon Travel (Member IGTA) N81 W15028 Appleton, Men. Falls 53051	255-0704
Hume, Attorney Kathleen 5665 S 108th, Hales Corners, 53130	529-2129
Bill Hanel, MSW (Counseling, Psychotherapy)	276-7626

Denis Jackson, PhD. (Relational training, hypnosis, HIV & Vocational Counseling)	276-8669
K-9 8 Mill 5 (Dog Grooming)	933-5995
Klaus & Meyers (attorneys) 5665 S. 108th, Hales Corners 53130	529-2800
C.A. Klein (Accounting Services)	384-1640
Landmark Plumbing e-mail: plumber@execpc.com	224-8008
Lyon Realty, Carlos Delgado (Real Estate) 3479 S. 15th Place, 53215	384-6628
Milwaukee Financial Planning Service (money management, retirement planning) 175 N Corporate Dr #110 Brookfield 53045	792-1690
Prentice and Phillips, Attorneys at Law 229 E Wisconsin Ave, Ste 1101, 53202	277-7780
Realty Executives, (real estates sales) Gene Anderson	264-6460
Red Tail Painting & Restoration e-mail: redtail@execpc.com	607-1180
Reiki Master/Wm Jacobs (energy balancing)	668-8860
Side by Side (performers) Diane Bloom/Sandy Lewis	961-2135
Jeanie Simpkins, (MS), (counseling)	282-6160
Jack Smith (Realtor) home/voice mail	962-4413 224-1452
Streff Advertising/Sandy Lewis 7600 Harwood Ave., Wauwatosa, 53213	771-8300
Travel Directions (Travel Agency) 515 Glenview, Wauwatosa, 53213	774-2174
Travel Experience (Travel Agency)	744-6020
Wauker Photography (Portraits, Commitments, Advertising) By Appointment Only	383-0740
Wells Ink, Advertising & Design (Advertising, PR) 1661 N. Water St., Suite 411, 53202	272-2116

RETAIL

AfterWords (G/L Bookstore & Espresso Bar) 2710 N. Murray, 53211	963-9089
Argosy (Gifts & Decorative Accessories) 18900 W. Bluemound Rd., Brookfield, 53045	821-6900

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2009 E. Kenilworth Place 272-8622
Body Ritual (Body Piercing, Jewelry, Gifts)
2010 N. Farwell Ave., 53202 273-3777
Clinton Street Antiques
1110 South First Street 647-1773
Changin' Times
932 E. Brady St., 53202 281-7473
Constant Reader Bookshop
1627 E. Irving Pl., 53202 291-0452
Designing Men (cards, t-shirts, jewelry, leather, etc.)
1200 S 1st St., 53204 389-1200
Eclectic i (art/gifts)
411 E. Silver Spring, Whitefish Bay, 53217, 906-0665
Forever Yours (flowers, fresh cut, dried)
2201 E. Capitol Dr., 53211 963-1006
Industry Gallery of Art (gallery, gifts)
2120 E. Rusk Ave., 486-9416
Mega Discount Nursery
1901 E. Rawson Ave., Oak Creek 53154 571-6565
Out of Solitude Jewelry
918 E. Brady St., 53202 223-3101
Outpost Natural Foods
100 E. Capitol Dr., 53212 964-7789
exchange@expcpc.com
Red Wheelbarrow Bookshop
1213 E. Brady St., 53202 223-5941
Super Video & Variety (videos, magazines & novelties)
8900 W. Greenfield, Greenfield 258-3950
Survival Revival (Resale Shop)
246 E. Chicago, 53202 291-2856
Wishful Things (Antiques)
207 E. Buffalo, 53202 964-9799

CENTRAL WI (715)

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
1105 Grand Ave., #3, Scholfield, 54476 (800) 551-3311
Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance
P.O. Box 390, Stevens Point, 54481
..... (715) 592-6245, extension 5920200
Joseph T. Chojnacki, Ph.D. (Psychologist)
Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, 54449 387-5442
The Edgewater - Inn & Resort
Eagle River, 54521 1-888-334-3987
http://www.edgewinn.com
Empowerment/PAWS (Newsletter for PWAs)

1932 Strongs Ave
Stevens Point, 54481 342-0576
G&L Society/Wausau 848-0608
UWSP 10% Society
Campus Activities Complex, Box 68
UWSP, Stevens Point, 54481 346-4366
LDS Brotherhood (Gay Mormons)
PO Box 152, Wausau, 54402 848-0343
Mad Hatter (MW, DJ, V)
320 Washington, Wausau 54401 842-3225
HIV/AIDS Spiritual Support & Education
2108 4th Ave, Stevens Point 54481 345-6500
Marshfield Gay Lesbian Organ. (MGLO)
c/o 130 S. Central Ave., #3 Marshfield, 54449
Vic: (715) 387-2068 Jim: (715) 384-6731
Platwood Club (MW, D)
701 Highway 10W, St. Pt., 54481 341-8862
Prince Edward B&B
203 W 5th, Shawano 54166 526-2805
Wausau Narcotics Anonymous
(ask for Gay meetings) 536-LIFE
Women's Resource Center UWSP
336 Nelson Hall, Stevens Pt. 54481 346-4851

NORTH CENTRAL (715)

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
Oneida County Health Dept. (715) 369-6228
P.O. Box 400, Courthouse, Rhinelander, 54501
Gay/Lesbian Support Group
Box 247A, 1411 Ellis Ave, Ashland 54806
Northern WI Lambda Society
PO Box 802, Rhinelander 54501 362-4242
SHEM (Support, Heal, Educate) for Parents, Family, Friends of
Gays/Lesbians/Bi's 359-7432
Out Up North (G/L Social/Info/Network)
PO Box 695, Washburn, 54891 682-2890

SHEBOYGAN (414)

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

RACINE/KENOSHA (414)

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
1212 57th St., Kenosha, 53140 657-6644
..... (800) 924-6601
Clubhouse Filling Station (Mw)
6325 120th Ave., Kenosha 53140 857-3744
Club 94 (MW, DJ)
9001 120th Ave (Hwy C& I-94)
Kenosha 53140 857-9958
Doggie Style (Pet Grooming)
6828 Sheridan Road, Kenosha 53143 657-5667
JoDee's (MW, DJ)
2139 Racine St (Hwy 32) Racine 53403 634-9804
What About Me? (WM)
600 6th St. Racine 53403 632-0171
Gay AA (Group 294 Meeting) 554-6611
Gay/Lesbian Union of Racine
625 College, Racine 53403 634-0659
UW-Parkside G/L Organization
900 Wood Rd., Box 200, Kenosha 53141 595-2244
UW-Whitewater G/L Student Union
309 McCutchen Hall, Whitewater 53190 472-5738
Diamond Hill Inn B&B
W1375 Hwy 11, Spring Prairie 63-4421
Wychwalda (Jewelry & Gifts)
8321 Antioch Rd (Hwy 83), Salem 53168 843-4209

SOUTH CENTRAL (608)

AIDS Network Satellite Office (AIDS Info)
P.O. Box 8486, Janesville 53545 756-2550
Chase on the Hill (Bed and Breakfast)
11624 St. Rd 26, Milton, 53563 868-6646
Cathren House (B&B)
Mineral Point 987-2612
Crossroads Bar (G/S/M/W)
W6642 Hwy B, Lake Mills 53551 648-8457
The Kismet (MW, DJ)
232 Shirland Ave., Beloit 54991 363-8764

NORTHWEST (715)

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin—Eau Claire
505 Dewey Street S., Suite 107 Eau Claire 54701 836-7710
..... (800) 750-2437
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin—Superior
1507 Tower Ave., Suite 230, Superior 57880 394-4009
..... (877) 242-0282
Backwoods Bears (For Bear Men)
PO Box 264, Superior 54880

Different Strokes BBS (Computer Bulletin Board)
PO Box 152, Wausau 54402 842-1377
Do-Ri-Chi (Bed & Breakfast)
33 E. Spruce St, Chippewa Falls 723-0943
Eagle Cove B&B (eglcove@comcast.net)
W4387 120th Avenue, Maiden Rock, 54750 448-4302
GLOBE (Campus Lesb/Gay group)
105 Garfield, 132 Davies Cir, Eau Claire 54701
JP Creations (WEB Design) 477-8802
The Trading Company (MW, DJ)
304 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire 54701 838-9494
The Main Club (MW, DJ)
1217 Tower Ave, Superior 54880 392-1756
Northland Gay Men's Center
8 N. 2nd Ave. E., Ste. 309 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 722-8585
Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
Greater Chippewa Valley
PO Box 11, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0011
Rainbow Club (social/support for LGBT youth)
P.O. Box 11, Eau Claire, WI 54702 836-7710
Scooter's (MW)
411 Galloway St., Eau Claire, 54703 835-9959
Trio (Wm)
820 Tower, Superior, 54880 392-5373
Twin Ports Pride
P.O. Box 3198, Duluth, MN 55803 (218) 728-5825
UW Stout 10% Society
c/o 153 C Harvey Hall, UWS
Menomonie, 54751 UW Eau Claire
Variations on Spring (Gifts, Collectibles)
22 West Spring Chippewa Falls 54729 723-8490

SOUTHWEST AND WEST CENTRAL (608)

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
Grandview Center, 1707 Main St., #420 (608) 785-9866
La Crosse, WI 54601, FAX (800) 947-3353
The Alliance (LesBiGay Social Group)
PO Box 131, Platteville 53818 348-5596
e-mail: ALLIANCE@uwplatt.edu
Cavalier Lounge (MW, D)
114 N. 5th St., LaCrosse 54601 782-9061
Chela and Rose's B&B and Forest Retreat 735-4829
GALAXY (Gay Alliance of La Crosse Area Youth)
P.O. Box 602, Onalaska, 54650-0602 791-1963
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 Jay St., LaCrosse 54601
Rainbow Revolution (Alternative Books)
122 5th Ave S, LaCrosse 54601 796-0383
Rainbow Ridge Farms Bed and Breakfast 783-8181
Pioneers (Southwest WI Rural G/L Alliance)
Code 4419, e-mail to pioneerswi@aol.com
PO Box 53, Richland Center, 53581 800-484-8131

OUT OF STATE

A Brother's Touch Books (Books/Gifts) www.brotherstouch.com
2327 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55405 (612) 377-MARY
CDC National AIDS Hotline (800) 342-2437
Gay & Lesbian Americans
PO Box 77533, Wash., DC, 20013 (800) 889-5111
Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) (202) 628-4160
National G&L Task Force (NGLTF) (202) 332-6483
Crossroads (LesBiGay Real Estate National Referral)
..... (800) 442-9735
Douglas Dunes Resort, Blue Star Hwy, Douglas, MI 49406
..... (616) 857-1401
Club Xpress (MW, DJ), 904 Ludington, Escanaba, MI 49829
..... (906) 789-0140
Emerald City (MW, DJ) (847) 838-1888
Little Jim's (M, V), 3501 N Halsted, Chicago, IL 60657
..... (312) 871-6116
Lambda Car Club Int'l, PO Box 268534, Chicago, IL 60626
..... (312) 465-5307
Lucky Horseshoe (Mw) (312) 404-3169
3169 N Halsted, Chicago, IL 60657
Male Hide Leathers (Leather Shop)
2816 N Lincoln, Chicago, IL 60657 (312) 929-0069
The Office (Mw, D, L, L), 513 E State, Rockford, IL 61104
..... (815) 965-0344
OH Zone (MW), 1014 Charles St. Rockford, IL 61104
..... (815) 964-9663
Triangle Coalition (Social/Support Group) iowa2@mmwi.net
513 E State, Rockford, IL 61104 (319) 593-1834

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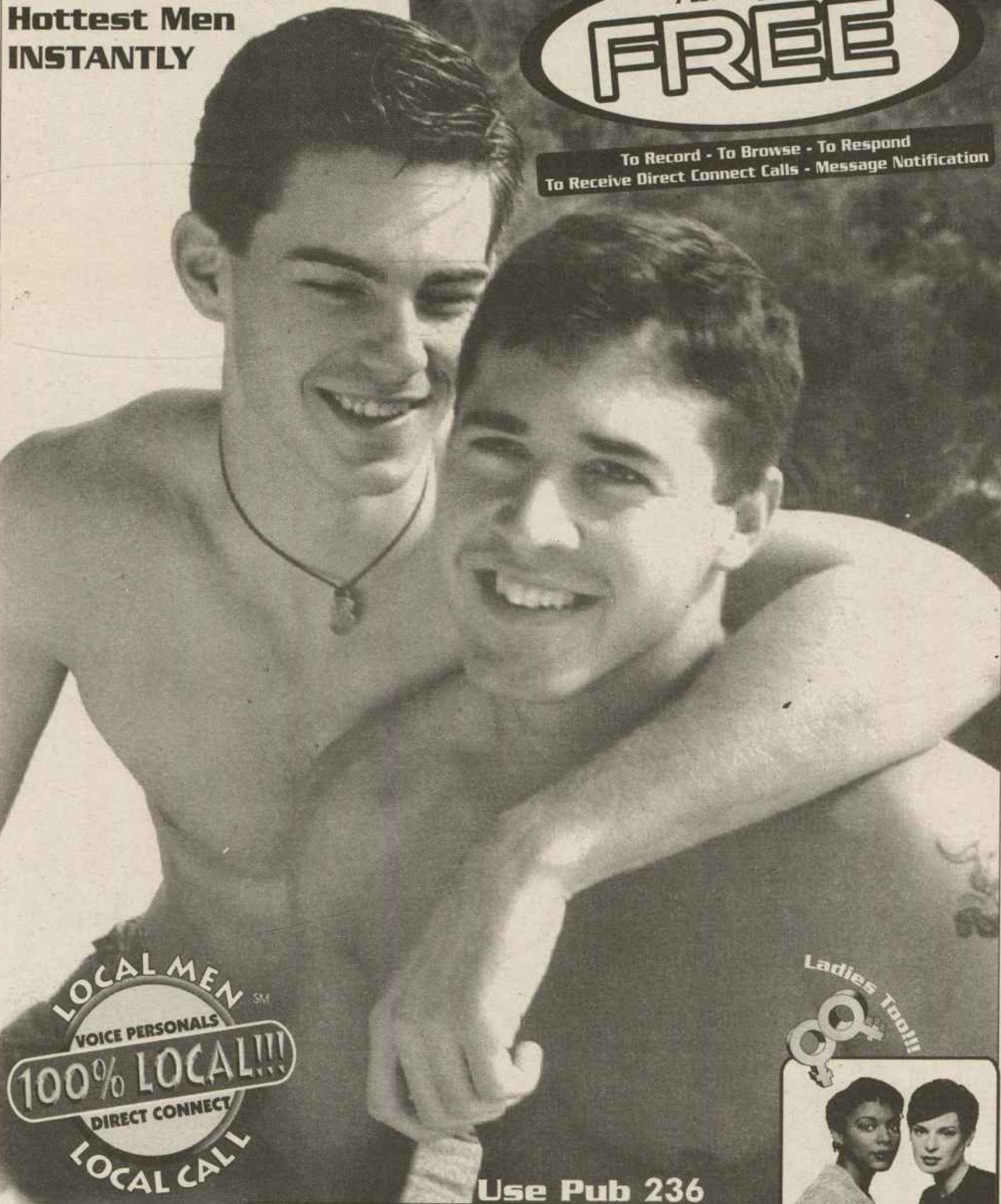
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