



■ **NEWS:**

Madison Lobby Day
a Success!

P. 4

■ **FILM**

Milwaukee LGBT Film
Festival: Part 2

P. 14

■ **ADVICE**

Dear Ruthie

P. 28



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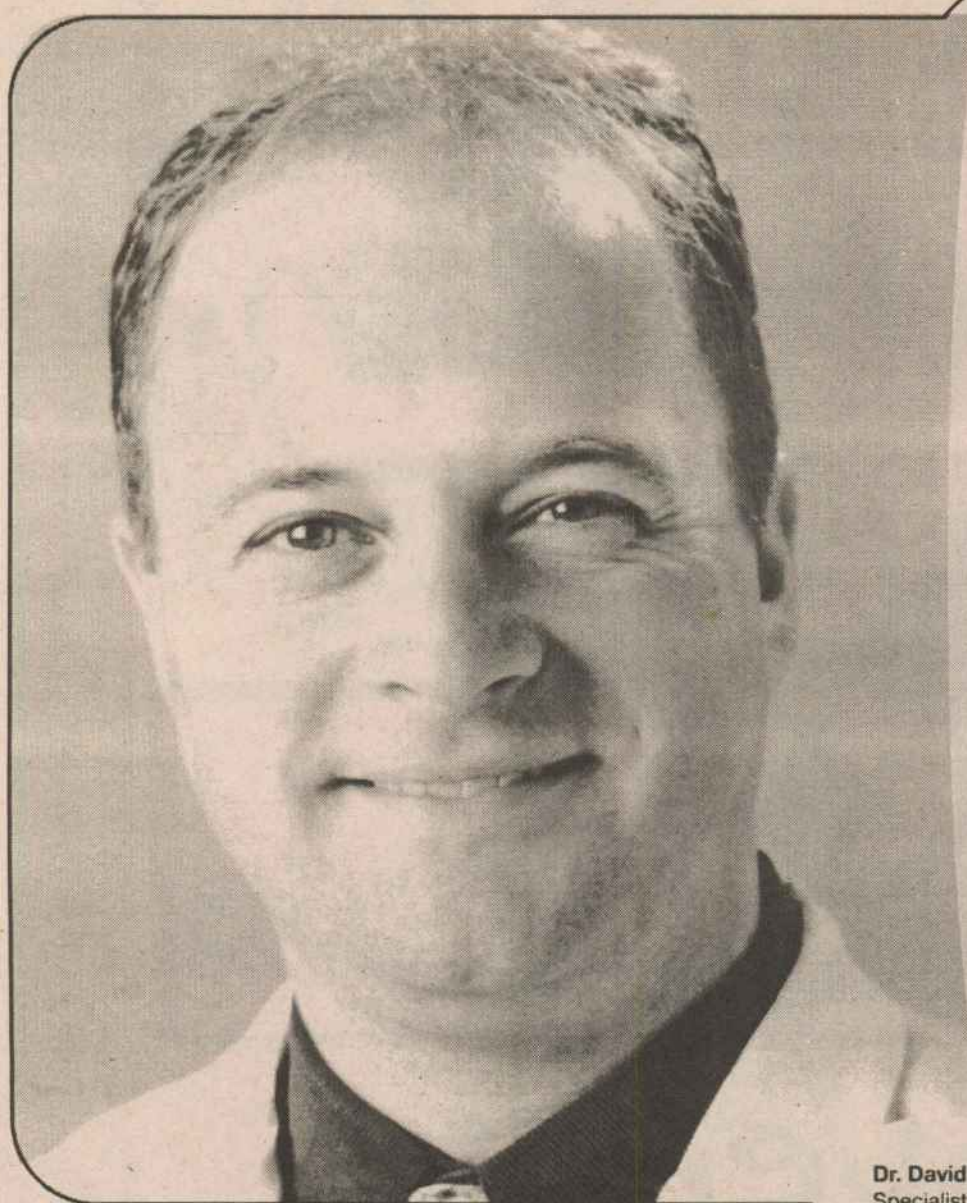
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Wisconsin IN Step

Issue 20.20 • Are You Coming Out?

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IN Side

News

- 4 Action Wisconsin's LEAD Lobbies For LGBT Equality
By Mike Fitzpatrick
- 4 \$548K Raised by Dual AIDS Walks
By Mike Fitzpatrick
- 4 New Group Grapples with PrideFest Debt
By William Attewell
- 5 Boston Herald's Sportswriter Comes Out
- 5 Massachusetts Court Ruling on Gay Marriage Still in Limbo

Group Notes

- 7 Women's Halloween Party & Carnival Oct. 31
- 7 Cream City Chorus Holds Free Concert/Reception
- 7 Commitment to Justice Awards Oct. 23
- 7 LGBT Resource Directory 2004
- 8 Community Dialogue for Lesbian and Bisexual Women
- 8 "Building a Healthy Community" Focus of Oct. 21 Program
- 8 Coming Out Groups to Start at OutReach
- 8 Queer Saints: Rediscovering LGBT Christian Heroes
- 8 Gay, Straight Conference Set for Oct. 25

Opinions

- 10 "Marriage Protection Week" Is About Denying Gay and Lesbians
By Mubarak Dahir
- 10 Don't Come Out Alone
By Candace Gingrich
- 11 Quips and Quotes

Section Q

- 12 American Players Tour the State with Shaw's "Pygmalion"
- 12 Authors and Coming Out Stories at Outwards Oct. 15
- 12 Chamber Theatre Presents "The Drawer Boy"
- 12 Wingra Woodwind Quintet and "Choral Collage" at Mills Hall
- 12 "Forever Plaid" Back in Vogel Hall by Popular Demand
- 12 "Fame: The Musical" to Rock the Weidner Center
- 14 Milwaukee's LGBT Film Fest: The Sequel
By Jamakaya and Carl M. Szatmary
- 21 SATURDAYS
- 22 INTERVIEW: On the Road with "The Producers"
By Carl M. Szatmary
- 24 FILM: "Mambo Italiano" & "K.m.o."
By Carl M. Szatmary
- 26 STAGE: "The Producers" & "Little Shop of Horrors"
By Carl M. Szatmary
- 28 Dear Ruthie
- 28 Cordially Yours
By Michael Johnston



Madison Lobby Day a Success • 4



Film Fest Preview, Part 2 • 14

By Carl Szatmary and Jamakaya



"Mambo Italianano" and "K.m.o" • 24



Gotcha! • 25

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE:

DEADLINE: Friday, Oct. 17 at 5 p.m.

for the Wisconsin IN Step Appearing: Thurs., Oct. 23

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New Group Grapples with PrideFest Debt

By William Attewell

Milwaukee — A community "workgroup" has formed to explore options for retiring PrideFest's existing debt and ensuring the future of PrideFest as a yearly festival.

PrideFest's current debt stands at a minimum \$136,483. A complete and independent audit funded by the Cream City Foundation is expected to be complete by month's end.

In recent weeks, PrideFest's board asked the Cream City Foundation to assist in exploring ways of retiring the debt and ensuring production of a 2004 festival. The PrideFest workgroup was formed to provide diverse representation of the LGBT community in these decisions.

The workgroup will be led by a core committee that will set priorities and delegate responsibilities to the larger group. According to sources, the final composition of the core committee has not yet been determined. However, *IN Step* has learned that a preliminary list of candidates includes former PrideFest co-director Susan Cook, longtime PrideFest council member Peter Minns, CCF board member Scott Gunkle, former PrideFest board member Cindy Taylor, HRL-Pac president Paul Williams, Milwaukee LGBT Center board member Brenda Coley, and CCF board member Denise Wise.

The full workgroup features a wide range of activists including John Blaszczyk, Lil Lau, Marcus Smith, Neil Albrecht, Owen Mahone, Lew Boyles, Robert Starshak, Ross Draegert, Sheri Goldberg, Si Smits, Stephanie Hume, Karen Gotzler and Jennifer Gryniewicz among others.

The workgroup has met twice in recent weeks. At the first meeting of this workgroup, held September 25, it was announced that the entire PrideFest board had resigned from their positions, although several key members of the PrideFest organization offered to participate in the workgroup.

According to sources, the workgroup has had preliminary "positive" discussions with Milwaukee World Festivals, Inc. about continuing PrideFest at the Summerfest grounds. PrideFest currently owes Milwaukee World Festivals, Inc. over \$27,000. Further meetings between workgroup representatives and Milwaukee World Festivals, Inc. are expected in coming weeks.

The workgroup also approved paying off all vendors who were owed less than \$300. The total amount of those 10 vendors totals \$1,595. Additional contacts are also being made with remaining vendors making them aware of PrideFest's financial status via a letter from the core group on Cream City Foundation letterhead.

Finally, starting on October 6, PrideFest will move its office to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center at 315 W. Court Street.

Action Wisconsin's LEAD Lobbies For LGBT Equality

By Mike Fitzpatrick

Madison — In what has been described by some Capitol pundits as the most visible and dramatic display of support for gay issues in the history of Wisconsin, more than 500 supporters of LGBT equality inundated Wisconsin lawmakers with office visits, phone calls, letters and emails September 30 as part of Action Wisconsin's Legal Equality Action Day (LEAD) here.

According to the statewide LGBT civil rights group, more than 200 activists scheduled office visits with legislators during the lobby day. *IN Step's* unofficial count of participants packing AW's lobby training session held at the Capitol tallied 233 in the standing-room only crowd.

Action Wisconsin reported that, according to meeting reports turned in at the end of the lobbying effort, at least 25 state senators and over half the assembly representatives received visits from their constituents who discussed their opposition to AB475/SB233, the so-called "Defense of Marriage" (DOMA) bills, with legislators and their staffs. Although the Senate was in session, several senators left the chamber to meet with AW's citizen lobbyists, only to be unexpectedly called back mid-conference for a floor vote. Though the Assembly was not in session, a majority of the body's DOMA sponsors reportedly had "schedule conflicts" and were unable to meet directly with LEAD participants from their districts.

LEAD volunteers also shared their support for civil marriage equality for same-sex couples and the inclusion of domestic partners in benefit packages for state employees similar to those available for married workers. Some also heeded advice provided by AW organizers to also bring up other, non-LGBT related issues of personal concern during their conferences with their elected officials.

AW's lobbyists ranged from 2-year old Parker, the daughter of La Crosse couple Tracie Blumentritt and Rebecca Angle, to seniors from Milwaukee's SAGE group. Plucky Cambridge teenager Dale Gunderson, accompanied by AW Board vice president Tamara Packard, even lobbied DOMA lead cosponsor Sen. Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau).

Additionally, hundreds of other supporters of the LEAD event called, wrote and emailed legislators throughout the day supporting LGBT equality. Emails sent through Action Wisconsin's Internet action center alone tallied over 300 pro-



The Action Wisconsin Board with Governor Doyle at the Governor's mansion on Lobby Day.

gay, anti-DOMA messages.

The significant mainstream media coverage of the event was aided by an hour-long press conference held at the Capitol the morning of the lobby day. In addition to prepared remarks by AW Executive Director and testimony from the Blumentritt-Angle family, several others offered their personal stories. Madison couple Karl Debus-López and Tanner Wray shared the two commitment ceremonies held during their 20-year relationship - a Unitarian ceremony marking their 10th anniversary and a Canadian marriage last June to mark their second decade together.

Appleton's Angela Stuart spoke of growing up in the loving environment provided by her lesbian moms. Madison PFLAG mom Mary Fiore exhorted her fellow Republicans to "do the right thing" on DOMA.

"I want to ask if religious dogma is dictating legislative decisions, and if that in itself is denying civil rights to a significant part of our population," Fiore said. "I challenge the Republican legislators to uphold their stance as the 'Compassionate Conservatives' and to do the right thing."

Action Wisconsin board members put in an exceptionally long day. In addition to involvement in lobby day logistics, the lobby training session and their personal appointments with legislators, the board met for 45 minutes with Governor Jim Doyle to discuss a variety of issues ranging from civil marriage equality to funding for the state's HIV/AIDS programs. Board members also attended a reception for Wisconsin's LGBT community leaders held at the Executive Mansion that evening.

Legislative insiders report that legislators take significant notice of any lobbying effort that brings more than 50 people to the state house. The largest LGBT issue-related lobby day prior to LEAD was ARCW's 1999 lobby day for HIV/AIDS programs. That event brought 141 people to the Capitol, the day following AW's first-ever "Sweeten 'em Up" lobby day that had involved about two dozen volunteer lobbyists.

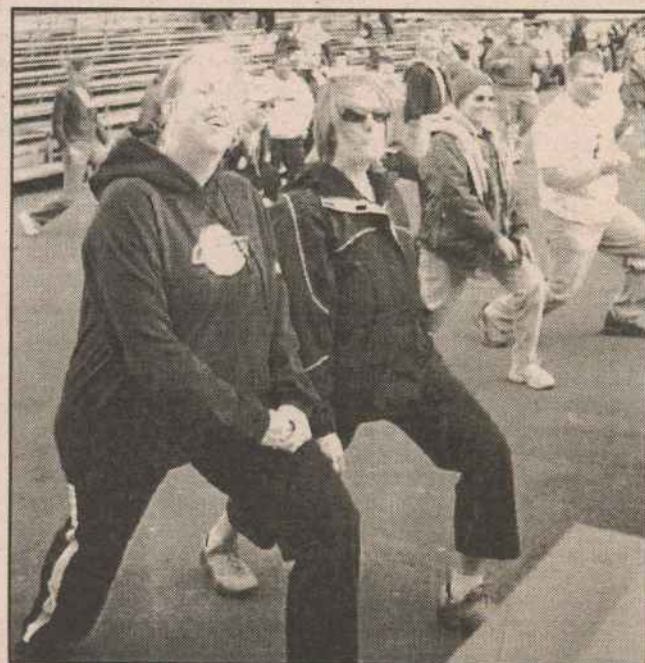
\$548K Raised by Dual AIDS Walks

By Mike Fitzpatrick

Madison, Milwaukee — Despite rainy, unseasonably cool weather, Wisconsin's two AIDS walks raised close to \$548,000 over the weekend of September 27-28. The officially announced \$502,280 for Milwaukee's 14th Annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin, when combined with the estimated \$45,000 tallied by Madison's debut AIDS Walk, Roll & Stroll, represents a 4.8% increase in total dollars raised for HIV/AIDS services statewide over 2002.

Milwaukee's 10K event actually saw an overall increase in the number of walkers this year. The 3400+ participants heard honorary co-chairs Governor Jim and First Lady Jessica Doyle, salute them for their efforts against HIV/AIDS during the opening ceremony held at the Summerfest grounds. "You are all heroes," Doyle said.

According to walk organizers, the Sunday Milwaukee event benefited 11 agencies statewide, including the nine offices of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin in Appleton, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Kenosha, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, Superior, and Wausau. Also receiving walk proceeds are the 16th Street Community Health Clinic in Milwaukee; Camp Heartland; Common Ground Ministry/Elena's House; the LGBT Community Center of Chippewa Valley; the Manitowoc County AIDS Task Force; the City of Milwaukee Public Health Department's "No Condom, No Way" Campaign; the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center; Rodney Scheel House Foundation in Madison; the Sheboygan County AIDS Task Force; and the Visiting Nurse



Walkers limber up before AIDS Walk Wisconsin in Milwaukee on Sept. 28. Photo: M. Fitzpatrick

Association of Wisconsin.

A day earlier, the 7K Madison event survived both heavier rain and complaints that the fundraiser was being held on what is considered the holiest day of the Jewish year, Yom Kippur. An estimated 600 walkers enjoyed kickoff ceremonies at Brittingham Park featuring the event's honorary chair, '70s disco diva Thelma Houston, who that evening performed a benefit concert at Club Majestic.

The Saturday walk benefited the Beloit, Janesville and Madison offices of AIDS Network.

Massachusetts Court Ruling on Gay Marriage Still in Limbo

Boston — As October rolls around, many marriage advocates are increasingly curious about the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

In early July, the court announced that it would not be meeting its internal deadline for the release of its opinion in *Goodrich v. Board of Health*, the famous same-sex marriage case. The announcement was not particularly surprising. After all, the Ontario Court of Appeals had shook things up by legalizing marriage on June 10, and on June 26, the U.S. Supreme Court had dropped the bombshell opinion in *Lawrence v. Texas*.

Although Massachusetts state law governs the *Goodrich* case, most observers thought the court was evaluating these developments. Or maybe waiting for the dust to settle.

But now, three months have passed. Although no one can read the minds of the justices, the situation now evokes the two-year waiting period between the trial victory that legalized marriage in Hawaii in late 1996, and the final ruling by the state supreme court in late 1998.

Back then, the trial court's ruling was stayed pending appeal, and a fairly prompt schedule of written and oral

briefs followed in 1997. After that, nothing. The high court simply sat on the case until after the elections of 1998, when state voters amended the constitution to ban same-sex marriage. That December, the court ruled that the issue was moot.

But the Massachusetts court is in a different position. The justices agreed to take the *Goodrich* appeal directly from the trial court, without sending the case through the state appellate court. Had they wanted to avoid controversy or delay the matter, they could have done so by rejecting that fast track. And unlike the scene in Hawaii, there is no pending legislation or election that could influence the final outcome.

Is the court waiting for the dust to settle? That seems unlikely, given that the issue of same-sex marriage gains heat with each passing week, and all eyes are now on Boston. Republican Senators who have yet to introduce the famous Federal Marriage Amendment in their chamber of Congress have told the press they are waiting to see how the Massachusetts court will rule. A pro-marriage opinion will trigger another wave of support for the Amendment, which would reserve marriage and the legal incidents of marriage for opposite sex couples as a matter

of U.S. constitutional law.

As people on both sides continue to play the waiting game, state legislators in the Bay State are considering competing measures to legalize marriage, to institute civil unions, and to ban same-sex marriage under the state constitution. The constitutional ban has been raised and defeated in the last year, but this November, it will rear its ugly head again, when state lawmakers convene yet another constitutional convention. So far, the idea of a marriage ban has been opposed by a majority of the legislature, as well as by state voters; who favor same-sex marriage by a 50-44 margin according to a Boston Globe poll last April. But even if a constitutional amendment were to squeeze out of next month's convention, it would have to win a second convention vote, and could not be placed on the ballot for ratification until 2006 at the earliest.

Nationally, although a majority of Americans continue to reject same-sex marriage by a 55 to 37 percent spread, a recent ABC news poll says that only 20 percent believe that the definition of marriage should be fixed in the U.S. Constitution. The low number is encouraging, but may reflect the way the question was posed. The pollsters asked 1,028 adults whether it's "worth" amending the Constitution to ban same-sex marriage, leading only one in five to say "yes." That doesn't mean that 80 percent of the country is actively opposed to the Federal Marriage Amendment.

New Study: People May Be Born Gay

London — The origins of sexual orientation may be evident in the blink of an eye. In what is the first study to show an apparent link between a non-learned trait and sexual orientation, British researchers have discovered the way peoples' eyes respond to sudden loud noises may signal differences between heterosexual and homosexual men and women that were developed before birth.

The authors, whose study appears in the October issue of *Behavioral Neuroscience*, say about 4 percent of men and 3 percent of women are gay. Scientists have long sought to determine whether sexuality is learned or biological.

"We have several decades of research which suggests rather strongly that human sexual orientation is to some degree biologically determined," says study author Qazi Rahman, a lecturer in the School of Psychology at the University of East London. "The problem with those types of studies is that we can't disentangle the effects of learning."

"On the basis of these results and in conjunction with the bulk of the literature in the last three decades or so, the evidence points to some prenatal factor or factors [in determining sexual preference]," Rahman says.

Bush Joins Campaign Against Gay Marriage

Washington — Endorsing a campaign by such antigay groups as the Southern Baptist Convention, the American Family Association, and the Christian Coalition, President Bush on Oct. 3 proclaimed October 12-18 "Marriage Protection Week."

As part of their coordinated effort, far right groups are using the week to distribute antigay church bulletins to over 70,000 churches. In addition, Christian radio shows will schedule programming all week on banning same-sex marriages. The groups hope to make the debate over same-sex marriage — along with the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment — the number 1 social issue in the 2004 general election.

In his proclamation, Bush said, "Marriage is a sacred institution, and its protection is essential to the continued strength of our society. Marriage Protection Week provides an opportunity to focus our efforts on preserving the sanctity of marriage and on building strong and healthy marriages in America."

He continued, "Marriage is a union between a man and a woman, and my administration is working to support the institution of marriage by helping couples build successful marriages and be good parents."

The proclamation drew strong criticism from gay and lesbian activists. "We are shocked, appalled and immensely saddened that President Bush has sanctioned the so-called 'Marriage Protection Week' with an official proclamation," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "Contrary to his statement, this 'week' has nothing to do with 'building strong and healthy marriages in America.'"

Boston Herald's Sportswriter Comes Out

Boston — For sportswriter Ed Gray, the day he came out "was the best day of my life, by far." What made Gray's day was a column he wrote that appeared on the first page of the Boston Herald's sports section.

It began with two simple words ("I'm out"), yet their simplicity belied a courageous step he had taken, by coming out as a gay man to his readers. His column continued: "I didn't strike out. I wasn't thrown out. And above all, I wasn't forced out."

"I'm out because I no longer, in good conscience, choose to ignore the unabashed homophobia that is so cavalierly tolerated within the world of sports. I'm out, because the silence of a closeted gay man only serves to give his implicit approval to bigotry. I'm out, because I refuse to continue hiding from the truth that an openly gay man has as much right as a straight man to play sports or report on them."

Gray's declaration, just days before National Coming Out Day, makes him a rarity in the sports world. While professing that "it shouldn't be a big deal," Gray is aware that it really is. The sports world, both among its participants and its observers, remains the final closet in American life.

It's no surprise that Gray sounded a bit hoarse after a long day of answering media questions, both from the Boston area and nationally. CNN called, as did HBO, NBC and countless others, but Gray was determined to address the issue head on. "A media frenzy is fine," he said, "but a media circus is not."

Gray, 55, has been with the Herald for 20 years. His main beat is thoroughbred racing, but he regularly covers the Patriots, Red Sox and college football. He told *Outsports* he wrote the column because "it was the right time in my life. ... Everyone has their own personal journey and it was just my time." There was no one catalyst for the decision to come out publicly, Gray said, though he felt it important to take on the pervasive homophobia in sports.

"I really don't want to be silent any more," the Boston-area native said. "It was really not a hard

decision to make."

In the column, Gray takes on the contention that openly gay people can't function in the macho sports world. He writes: "In the cases of both a gay athlete and a gay sportswriter, homophobic athletes always come up with the same sorry excuse to justify the perpetuation of prejudice on the basis of sexual orientation — the locker room."

"What, exactly, does a straight athlete have to fear from a gay teammate or sportswriter? Any man secure in his heterosexuality should not have a care in the world when a gay man is present in the locker room. He is there only to earn a living, not to infiltrate the locker room in a covert operation to 'convert' straight athletes. There are infinitely more friendly and healthy environments in which a self-respecting gay man would prefer to explore his sexuality than a locker room full of straight guys. ...

"In an effort to justify homophobia, some would claim that an openly gay player would become a distraction that would undermine his team. A media frenzy surely would be created by a player coming out of the closet, but how long would a gay player be such a distraction if all of his teammates rallied around him for the whole world to witness? Professional athletes are role models, and a demonstration of team solidarity would send the profound message: 'We support our teammate and you should, too.'"

While acknowledging that coming out for an active athlete could be difficult, Gray said that no one really knows what the reaction would be and says there is a lot of "irrational fear." He says that everyone, gay and straight, needs to take responsibility for fostering a climate of tolerance, adding that "people are very homophobic in homophobic atmospheres. If people would be held accountable, the issue would disappear very quickly. I truly believe it."

Gray's column represents a public coming out, but he said he has been out to some people, including his family. He was reluctant to discuss much about his personal life because "I don't want my message to be lost. ... I don't want to be perceived as someone trying to get attention. The more I talk about my personal journey, the more it dilutes that."

"I'm just a sportswriter who is gay."



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GROUP NOTES

Cream City Chorus Holds Free Concert/Reception

Milwaukee — On October 18, The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus will open the doors at 7:30 p.m. for "A Night at the Bistro."

The gala will feature a variety of musical offerings, combined with previews of the upcoming season and a look at the chorus's plans and hopes for the future - all with the dash of humor and flair that is the hallmark of its special Master of Ceremonies, Michael (KV) Johnston.

A departure from past performances, "A Night at the Bistro" is designed with several goals in mind.

"First and foremost, we want to thank everyone who has supported the WCCC,"

said chorus President, Emory Churness. "We thought a evening of free music, merriment, and delicious food was the way to say it best."

For the event, the chorus has chosen Village Church Arts (130 E. Juneau, Milwaukee), a location preferred by several of Milwaukee's finer performing groups.

"We want the evening to be something special, a gift from us to our friends," says Churness.

Another focus of the evening is to formally introduce the chorus's new Artistic Director, Paula Foley Tillen. Tillen, who has worked twice with the WCCC as guest Musical Director, took over as permanent Artistic Director recently.

"Paula is bringing a new energy to the

chorus," commented Ebbie Duggins, one of the WCCC's founding members and a current Board Member. "Her musical knowledge is helping to move the chorus to where we know we can go."

Thirdly, the chorus hopes to harness the undeniable charms of longtime friend and supporter Michael (KV) Johnston as it rolls out plans for the chorus's upcoming season, its hopes for the chorus' future - and what it's going to take to get there.

"KV was a member of the chorus when I joined ten years ago, and one way or another, he's been there for us ever since. So when Paula explained her vision for the evening, the rest of us knew who the right person for the job had to be. We're all thrilled he agreed to join us for the evening."

The evening's format will also allow time for guests to mingle with chorus members and staff, sharing their own ideas and vision for the group.

"We're even putting out a wish list of things that we feel will help us move forward," added Duggins. "Hopefully, our friends will see something they'd like to help make a reality."

Admission to "A Night at the Bistro" is free, but seating is limited at The Village Church, 130 E. Juneau Ave., in Milwaukee. For reservations, at (414) 276-8787.

Commitment to Justice Awards Oct. 23

Milwaukee — Milwaukee's 14th annual Commitment to Justice Awards, this year honoring the quest for Environmental Justice, will be held on Thursday, Oct. 23, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Haggerty Museum of Art on the Marquette University Campus.

The annual Commitment to Justice Awards is sponsored by Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee, the alternative work-

place giving federation. This year's Lifelong Commitment to Justice Award will be presented to Mary Ann Ihm. The Business Humanitarian Award will be given to The Sigma Group. The President's Award will be presented to Dennis Grzezinski.

The event will occur within the Haggerty Museum which will be exhibiting interactive environmental art by the Sierra Club, Wisconsin Citizen Action, Hope House, Urban Ecology Center and MATA. An exhibit by internationally known environmental artist Agnes Denes - "Agnes Denes: Projects for Public Spaces" - is the primary exhibit.

Tickets purchased before Oct. 15 are \$35 per person/\$65 per couple. After Oct. 15, tickets will be \$40 per person, \$70 per couple. To purchase tickets, call (414) 342-0883. For more information, visit: www.milwaukeeeshares.org.

LGBT Resource Directory 2004

Milwaukee — The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is beginning the task of updating and revising its Resource Directory. In order to expand listings, we look to LGBT people to recommend LGBT-sensitive providers in the following categories: mental health practitioners; physicians/health care providers; attorneys; LGBT groups/organizations and Religion/Spirituality.

If you have a recommendation, please contact the Center's Director of Programs at 414-271-2656. Each recommended provider will be sent a letter describing the Center's Resource Directory along with a survey. Only providers who return a completed survey to the Center will be included in the 2004 Directory.

Women's Halloween Party & Carnival Oct. 31

Milwaukee — The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) is sponsoring a Women's Halloween Party and Carnival on Friday, Oct. 31, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. All women are welcome to attend this fund-raising event.

Halloween costumes are optional at the party, however a prize will be awarded for the Best Costume. Among the events featured will be a bake sale, body painting, fortune telling and Tarot readings, carnival games, music and dancing. LAMM is asking for a \$5-\$8 donation (sliding scale based on ability to pay).

For more information, or to volunteer for the big event, call LAMM at (414) 272-9442.

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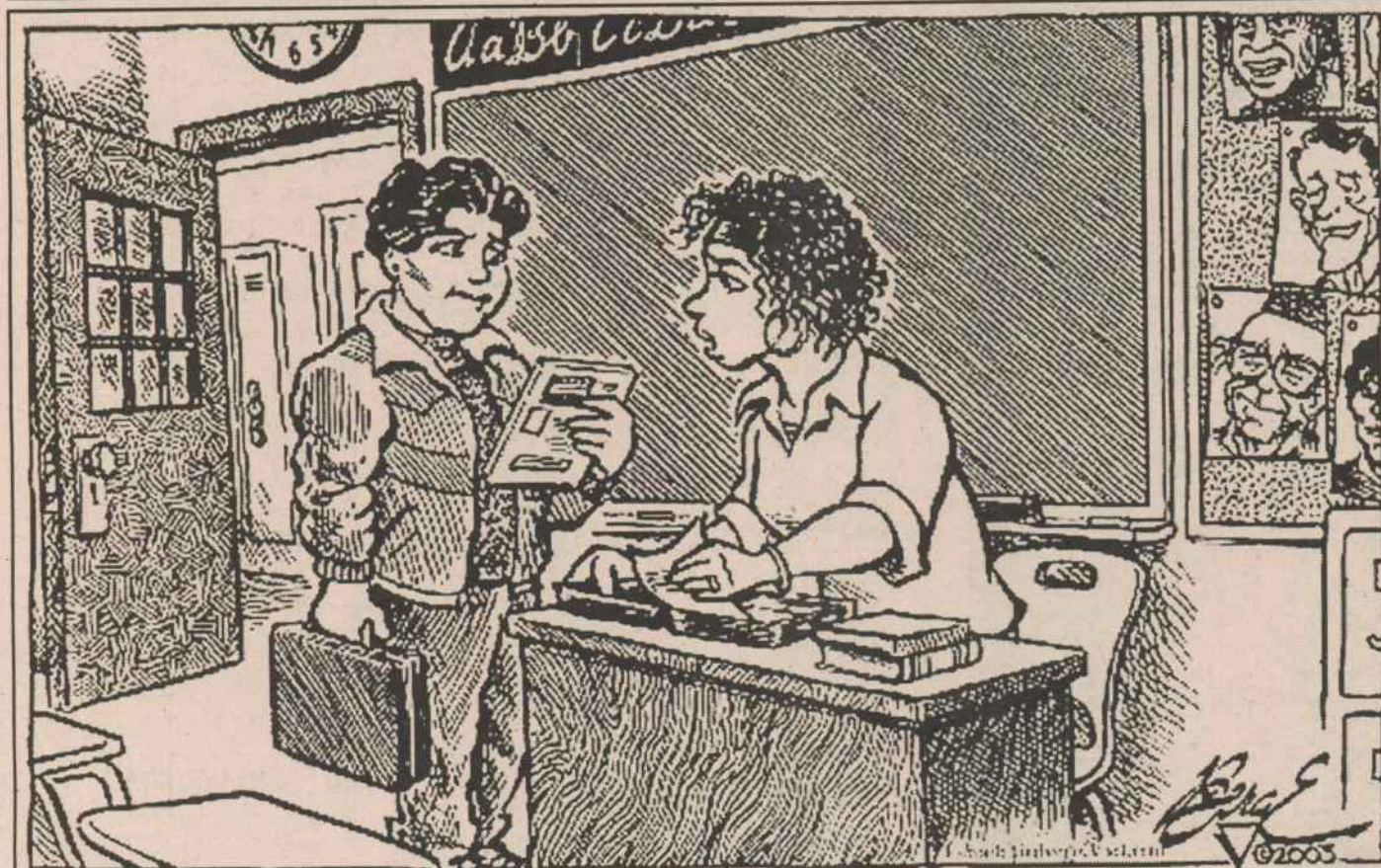
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OPINIONS

"Marriage Protection Week" Is About Denying Gay and Lesbian Couples

By Mubarak Dahir

On its face, the proclamation issued by President George Bush to recognize October 12 through October 18 as "Marriage Protection Week" seems innocuous. Indeed, many of the goals and sentiments expressed in the statement appear admirable and even noble.

In his declaration, President Bush says he wants to "help... couples be good parents"; "promote the well-being of children" and "a better quality of life for children"; "ensure that every child can grow up in a safe and loving home"; and "do away with rules that have made it more difficult for

married couples to move out of poverty." He even says that "we must continue our work to create a compassionate, welcoming society, where all people are treated with dignity and respect."

Sounds good. Too bad the president is full of hogwash.

Despite the carefully calculated wording of the statement, Bush's proclamation of "Marriage Protection Week" is nothing but a presidential booster to an alliance of anti-gay organizations aimed at preventing equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Some of the famously homophobic groups behind "Marriage Protection Week" include the American Family

Association, the Traditional Values Coalition, Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council, the Christian Coalition and Concerned Women for America. All of these right-wing groups earned their reputations and national prominence at least in part by crusading heavily against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender civil rights.

President Bush is trying to sugar coat his proclamation so that he can support the right-wing fanatics (an important part of his core voting base as we near the presidential election year) yet not appear to the rest of the American public to be extremist himself. After all, who can oppose giving children a better life through strengthening their families?

But the truth is that "Marriage Protection Week" is a scheme concocted by anti-gay, right-wing groups to rally Americans to continue to deny gay and lesbian couples the same fundamental rights and benefits that heterosexual couples take for granted in our society.

And unlike President Bush, the hateful groups who planted the idea are not shy about expressing their full intentions, even

if it means resorting to deceptive scare tactics. For example, the web site for The Alliance for Marriage—one of the cosponsors of the so-called Marriage Protection Week—explains the purpose of the week this way:

"The sacred institution of marriage is under attack. There are those who want to redefine marriage to include two men, or two women, or a group of any size or mix of sexes: One man and four women, one woman and two men, etc. If they fail to secure legal protection classifying these arrangements as 'marriage,' they want to include all these mixtures under the definition of 'civil union,' giving them identical standing with the marriage of one man and one woman."

They forgot we want to marry our sheep and horses, too.

It's no secret that there is not just a national debate about gay and lesbian marriage, but an international one. Gays and lesbians can marry now in Canada. In California, the legislature just passed a series of laws that give gay and lesbian couples in that state near-equal marriage rights (though the term "marriage" is carefully avoided, and marriage licenses are not being issued.) The highest court in Massachusetts is set to rule any day now on a case that might well give gay and lesbian couples full equal marriage rights there. And a similar case is winding its way through the courts in New Jersey.

Furthermore, a new poll shows that Americans are split nearly evenly on whether or not to support marriage for gay and lesbian couples. While it's hard to rejoice at the notion that half the nation doesn't see anything wrong with denying gay and lesbian couples this important right, it's encouraging to note that the half-and-half split is the highest percentage to date of Americans who are starting to see the light.

The coalition of right-wing organizations that have come up with "Marriage Protection Week" are hoping to demonize gay and lesbian couples, in an effort to continue denying us the rights and privileges of the institution of marriage.

It's a shame the president is adding his voice to this badly off-key chorus.

Don't Come Out Alone

By Candace Gingrich

"Are you trying to tell me something?" my mother asked as she held a copy of the "Lavender Letter," a central Pennsylvania lesbian newsletter she had found in my room. It was the summer of 1987, and I had only recently acknowledged to myself that I was a lesbian. I was on my coming out journey, and it was important that my mom come with me.

My mom passed away last month at the age of 77. As I look back, I remember her as someone who once told me that they "didn't have gay people" when she was growing up and, for a time, insisted that my being gay was just a phase.

But I also remember her as someone who grew with me because we were family. She accepted me for who I am, invited my partner to family gatherings and debated who was and wasn't gay in Hollywood. Not someone who hesitated to speak her mind, she also spoke out for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality.

Back in 1996, she appeared with Coretta Scott King, Barry Goldwater and Christine Todd Whitman in a television ad sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign that called for support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, a bill for which we are still fighting

that would outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace.

What made her do it? The same thing that makes the parents, siblings and friends of so many gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people stand up and support equal rights for all GLBT people every day. Someone they love has come out to them.

In a July 2003 poll commissioned by the HRC Foundation, we found that 36 percent of those who said they didn't know anyone gay approved of granting "civil marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples, with the same rights, responsibilities and protections given to other married couples." But 81 percent of those who had a close family member or friend who was gay, lesbian, bi or transgender supported civil marriage equality.

The lesson is clear: The single most powerful thing any one of us can do to win GLBT equality is to come out to family members and friends.

That is why the HRC Foundation's National Coming Out Project has declared the theme of this National Coming Day, Oct. 11, "It's a Family Affair."

It's time we celebrate ourselves as families - couples, parents and children, families of our own choosing - and invite our parents, siblings, grandparents and friends to join us in our quest for equality for all.

So don't come out alone this Oct. 11. Come out as a family.

Tell your family members that there are same-sex couples in 99.3 of all counties nationwide and that one out of three lesbian couples and one out of five gay male couples are raising children. But make sure you also tell them that none of our families can rely on the same basic protections available to heterosexual families.

Let them know that we are denied basic Social Security survivor benefits, the ability to make decisions on a partner's behalf in a medical emergency, the right to petition for a partner to immigrate, access to medical leave to care for a seriously ill partner and the right to give our children two legal parents in many states.

Remind them that, as family, their silence hurts -- but their support heals.

Ask them to visit www.millionformarriage.org and sign the petition in support of civil marriage equality for all.

And encourage them to learn more about your life. Send them to the Human National Coming Out Project, at www.hrc.org/ncop, and the HRC Foundation's FamilyNet project at www.hrc.org/familynet.

Candace Gingrich is manager of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's National Coming Out Project.

QUIPS AND QUOTES



Sexless Ellen

"Out lesbian Ellen DeGeneres is having fun on her new talk show, but she's coming off completely sexless (unless you count her saying Brad Pitt is perfect and acting a bit smitten with Justin Timberlake). It's like the early days of Rosie all over again! I totally understand that Ellen was the world's first pet lesbo — a same-sex guinea pig, in a way — and as such, she suffered all kinds of disdain, but I'd hoped that by now, she'd be able to sapphically rise above all that and not do an Anne Heche."

—Village Voice columnist **Michael Musto**.

"Will & Grace" Disappoints

"It is so disheartening to see the state of romantic affairs on 'Will & Grace.' ... The show has become increasingly reliant on Hollywood star power to compensate for the fact the show has lost its edge and is well on its way to becoming an anachronism. This year, Oscar-winner Mira Sorvino guest-stars as the ex-girlfriend of both perennially celibate Will and Leo, Grace's new husband. Mira's a great actress — but she's no compensation to audiences and critics who are tired of asking, 'So when is Will going to get some?'"

—**John Sonego** of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Gay at Target

"Suddenly it crossed over and it became much more commercial and now you can find gay at Target."

—Actress **Sandra Bernhard** on the VH1 program "Totally Gay."

Big Fan Base

"I released three albums before I came out and each of them sold just under a million — probably 900,000 each. After I came out, in America alone I sold 6 million records. So, I can't imagine that I've lost any fans."

—**Melissa Etheridge** on the VH1 program "Totally Gay."

Mariel the Whore?

"I have never made out with a woman off-camera. I have to admit that I like being paid for it. Does that make me a whore?"

—Actress **Mariel Hemingway** on the VH1 program "Totally Gay."

Lusting to be a Lesbian

"I wanted to be a lesbian, I tried to be a lesbian, I would have been a great lesbian, but, you know, fate would have it. I have to be a heterosexual, which is no fucking picnic."

—Actress **Camryn Manheim** on the VH1 program "Totally Gay."

Politically Correct Lesbians

"I hope that lesbians are less politically correct than they were 10 years ago. It has its place but it also becomes another kind of prison."

—Advocate Editorial Director **Judy Wieder** on the VH1 program "Totally Gay."

Smooch!

"Vanessa Redgrave."

—"Everybody Loves Raymond" actress **Doris Roberts** when asked backstage at the Emmys, "If you had to kiss another actress, who would it be?"

Nasty Queen

"I worked in restaurants for years. ... You know every restaurant has that really kind of snarly, bitchy, nasty queen? Me."

—British talk-show sensation **Graham Norton** on "The Tonight Show."

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Meth Horror

"Every time I did it [crystal meth], I was like, 'This is the one for me, this is the great drug.' It's cheap. It lasts for twenty hours. Sex is great. You think you're brilliant. And you can drive. Or so you think you can drive. ... I was swept off in that direction. It was completely harrowing. ... It's really up to the person to save themselves. I don't think there's a lot of ways to get through to someone who's on that kind of roller coaster."

—Openly gay singer **Rufus Wainwright** to D.C.'s MetroWeekly.

Syphilis Rising

"By year's end, local health officials estimate there will be 750 new syphilis cases in San Francisco, compared to 494 last year and 10 cases in 1998. Most of the new cases are among gay and bisexual men."

—The San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 26.

Arnold Nude

"Europeans are so much more open to nudity than Americans, it makes sense to me that Schwarzenegger, as a European, would pose nude and have it be no big deal. Robert did not have sex with Arnold, though. He had sex with a lot of his models, but not with him."

—**Jack Fritscher**, ex-lover of the late photographer **Robert Mapplethorpe**, confirming to PlanetOut.com that Mapplethorpe did take nude photos of Arnold Schwarzenegger. Fritscher said he has sold some of them on eBay.

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Colleen Madden as Eliza Doolittle in "Pygmalion." Photo: Zane Williams.

American Players Tour the State with Shaw's "Pygmalion"

Spring Green – The American Players Theatre of Spring Green, Wisconsin, wraps up its summer season and takes to the road each October, this year sharing its acclaimed production of George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion" with audiences throughout Wisconsin. The fall tour will hit Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, Milwaukee, Appleton, Whitewater, Hartford, and Madison. While in each city, the company performs evening shows for the general public and offers student matinees and school workshops.

In Shaw's retelling of Ovid's story of transformation, the imperious Professor Henry Higgins wagers that he can transform an impoverished flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, from "draggle-tailed guttersnipe" to duchess in six months. In the course of this delightful comic romance, Shaw systematically examines the English class system and the particular plight of women – of whatever class – within it.

"Pygmalion" showcases the powerful acting ensemble that is such a feature of American Players Theatre and seals the company's reputation as a first-rate interpreter of Shaw. Directed by James Bohnen, the play features Brian Robert Mani as Henry Higgins and Colleen Madden as Eliza Doolittle. The cast also includes Tracy Michelle Arnold as Mrs. Higgins, Jim DeVita as Doolittle, James Ridge as Colonel Pickering and Sarah Day, Patricia Finn-Morris, Kimberly Irion, Matt Schwader, and Susan Shunk.

The Wisconsin State Journal's critic declared that "Watching the APT production of 'Pygmalion' is like being a guest at a glittering dinner party, with Oscar Wilde piffing away on your left and Henry James peppering you with probing moral questions from the right. You laugh yourself silly one minute, and furrow your brow the next."

Performances are slated for Wausau's Grand Theater, 415 N. 4th St., Oct. 14, (715) 842-0988; Wisconsin Rapids' Performing Arts Center, 1810 16th St., Oct. 18, (715) 421-4552; Milwaukee's Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells St., Oct. 24, (414) 286-3663; Appleton's Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave., Oct. 26, (920) 731-5000; UW-Whitewater's Young Auditorium, 800 W. Main St., Oct. 28, (262) 472-2222; Hartford's Schauer Arts & Activities Center, 147 N. Rural St., Oct. 30, (262) 670-0560; and UW-Madison's Union Theater, 800 Langdon St., Nov. 1, (608) 262-2201.

For more information on student matinee tickets and workshops, call APT's Workshop Coordinator at (608) 588-7401.

Authors and Coming Out Stories at Outwords Oct. 15

Milwaukee – Authors Trebor Healey and Mark Kendrick will read and sign copies of their new books at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. The event is free and everyone is welcome.

San Francisco-born Trebor Healey has just released his debut novel, "Through It Came Bright Colors," published by Hawthorn Press. In "Through It Came Bright Colors," Healey tells the story of Neill Cullane, a closeted, conflicted 21-year-old who lives in two worlds, light years apart. At home, he's the dutiful son of Frank and Grace, and devoted brother to Peter, whose battle with a cruel, disfiguring cancer pulls the Cullane family together, however reluctantly. But in the shadows of the San Francisco underworld, Neill finds release with his secret lover Vince Malone, a beautiful junkie/philosopher/thief whose burning desire for truth lights the path Neill always knew he'd travel. Through Vince, Neill learns about honesty and love and finds the courage to confront his family in the face of tragedy and loss.

Mark Kendrick has recently released "Into this World We're Thrown," a sequel to his popular debut novel "Desert Sons." "Desert Sons" introduced readers to Scott, a fun-loving 16-year-old, in a small-town rock band, and out (but only to a select few) who falls in love with Ryan St. Charles, a troubled 17-year-old. The sequel finds that lingering tensions remain, while new challenges continue to confront Scott and Ryan. Infidelity, jealousy, town gossip, and buried feelings threaten to destroy their relationship. Worse yet, the threat of violence looms constantly in their lives. While Scott is dealing with the possible destruction of his first relationship, he learns about a secret admirer at school who will stop at nothing to make Scott his. Will this secret admirer ruin Scott and Ryan's relationship? Will Ryan pull himself from the depths of his emotional turmoil? Can the

boys uncover and express their love for one another before it's too late?

For further information on the Oct. 15 authors event, call (414) 963-9089 or visit: www.outwordsbooks.com.

Chamber Theatre Presents "The Drawer Boy"

Milwaukee – Chamber Theatre continues its 2003-04 season with "The Drawer Boy," Michael Healey's award-winning dramatic comedy that peels back the layers of friendship, storytelling, and theatre, revealing hidden truths for three people in rural Canada in 1972. Performances take place in the Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Oct. 18 through Nov. 2.

This touching and often hilarious story follows three characters – Miles, a young actor from the big city who appears on the doorstep of two aging bachelor farmers, Morgan and Angus. Miles is in search of a place to live while learning about life 'down on the farm.'

Fascinated by Angus who has suffered a brain injury in World War II (he has no short-term memory, yet can quickly manipulate mathematical figures), and lightly tormented by Morgan because of his rural ineptness, Miles earnestly attempts to assimilate into farm life with hilarious results. Desperate to impress his acting peers, Miles includes an overheard story of the history of Morgan and Angus's friendship, their adventures in the war, and their return home with their loves. The hidden story becomes part of the play, unlocking painful memories and blurring the lines between theatre and life, memory and truth.

The cast includes Gerard Neugent as Miles, Dan Katula as Angus, and James Tasse as Morgan. All are Chamber Theatre vets and audience favorites. Chamber Theatre co-founder and Artistic Director Montgomery Davis directs.

For tickets and show times, call (414) 291-7800.

Wingra Woodwind Quintet and "Choral Collage" at Mills Hall

Madison – The UW School of Music's Faculty Concert Series presents the Wingra Woodwind Quintet on Friday, Oct. 10, at 8 p.m. in Mills Hall in the Mosse Humanities Building on the UW-Madison campus, at the corner of Park St. and University Ave. The quintet has chosen a group of five works from the 20th century, written by composers from five different countries. The program begins with the Quintet by Jacques Castède, a French composer, and continues with "Roaring Fork," a three-movement work depicting scenes from Colorado by the American composer Eric Ewazen. Following intermission, the quintet performs works by the German-born American composer Bernhard Heiden, the Russian composer Alexander Tcherepnin, and the Hungarian composer Frigyes Hidas.

Soprano Julia Faulkner and pianist Bill Lutes perform on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m. in Mills Hall. This free recital was postponed from the originally scheduled date of September 21. The program remains the same – songs and arias by Handel, Mozart, Poulenc, Cilèa, and R. Strauss. The Wind Ensemble, under the direction of James Smith, performs for free on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 2 p.m. in Mills Hall.

Five choirs will participate in the free concert "Choral Collage" on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in Mills Hall. Beverly Taylor directs the Concert Choir; Bruce Gladstone directs the Madrigal Singers and Chorale; Chris Sheppard directs the Women's Chorus; and Scot Weir directs the University Chorus. Each choir performs a portion of its fall repertoire.

Tickets for the Faculty Concert Series may be purchased in advance through the Wisconsin Union Theater Box Office at (608) 262-2201. UW-Madison students are admitted free with valid student ID. Call the Concert Line at (608) 263-9485 for weekly updated announcements of School of Music programs.

"Forever Plaid" Back in Vogel Hall by Popular Demand

Milwaukee – "Forever Plaid," which completed a long run at Vogel Hall a while back, is returning to the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts for an 11-week engagement beginning Oct. 22. Previews actually begin Oct. 15.

The sweet and funny tribute to the four-part harmony guy groups of the 1950s and '60s tells the story of The Plaids, whose dreams of stardom were cut short by an unfortunate accident on the night of their first big gig in 1964. Now the teen angels have returned from the other side for one night to perform the show they never got to do in real life.

"Forever Plaid" features such classic pop hits as "Rags to Riches," "Three Coins in the Fountain," "Love is a Many Splendored Thing" and "Heart and Soul" in addition to a hilarious send-up of the old "Ed Sullivan Show."

The cast will include veterans of the long-running Chicago production, Ross Wheeler as Smudge, Erik Boyd as Frankie, David Gagnon as Jinx and Elic Bramlett as Sparky. "Forever Plaid" is written, directed and choreographed by Stuart Ross. The musical arrangements are by James Raitt.

For tickets and show times, call (414) 273-7206.

"Fame: The Musical" to Rock the Weidner Center

Green Bay – "Fame: The Musical," based on the Oscar-winning movie and TV series, will strut its stuff across the stage of the Weidner Center during a limited eight performance run Oct. 21-26.

"Fame" chronicles the four-year odyssey – from audition to graduation – of a group of talented and dedicated students at New York City's High School for the Performing Arts. Driven by the desire for fame, the diverse teens experience common triumphs and tragedies along their journey to stardom. The show includes many musical numbers and dance sequences highlighting the students' development.

"The reason 'Fame' is so popular with audiences is that it promotes the idea that success follows talent and dedication, but not without its share of highs and lows. Even with talent, there are victories and defeats, laughter and tears," said producer Michael McFadden of Phoenix Productions.

"Fame: The Musical" is written by Jose Fernandez, lyrics by Jacques Levy ("Oh! Calcutta!"), with a musical score by Steve Margoshes ("The Who's Tommy" and "Smokey Joe's Café"). For tickets and show times, call (800) 328-TKTS.

ARTS CALENDAR

THEATRE/MUSIC:

"The Drawer Boy" (Milw.): Chamber Theatre production about a big city actor who disrupts the lives of two farmers whose lives he studies for a role, Oct. 18-Nov. 2. Cabot Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. FMI: (414) 291-7800.

"Fame: The Musical" (Green Bay): Stage musical based on movie and TV hit, Oct. 21-26. Weidner Center on the UW-Green Bay campus. FMI: (800) 328-TKTS, or: www.weidnercenter.com.

"Flanagan's Wake" (Milw.): A new comedy about the rituals of an Irish wake with audience participation — come ready to be part of the fun! Miramar Theatre, 2844 N. Oakland Ave. FMI: (414) 967-0302.

"Forever Plaid" (Milw.): Lots of corny songs and great harmonies as The Plaids, a '60s boys' group, come back to life to perform the show they couldn't do in 1964. Oct. 15-Jan. 4. Vogel Hall, Marcus Center, 929 N. Water St. FMI: (414) 273-7206.

"Frankenstein Smankenstein" (Madison): Broom Street Theater offers a new take on the lonely doctor who creates new friends. Fris-Suns, at 8 p.m. thru Oct. 19. Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson St. FMI: (608) 244-8338.

"A Girl's Guide to Chaos" (Milw.): Boulevard Ensemble opens its season with Cynthia Heimel's comedy about, well, sex in the city, with three (straight) gals on the make, thru Oct. 19. Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. FMI: (414) 744-5757.

Koresh Dance Company (Sheboygan): This company performs a powerful blend of ballet, modern and jazz dance, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 16 at 7:30 p.m., John Michael Kohler Arts Center, 608 New York Ave. FMI: (920) 458-6144.

"Little Shop of Horrors" (Milw.): Skylight Opera produces this zany musical based on the cult film and featuring the music and lyrics of Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, thru Oct. 12. Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. FMI: (414) 291-7800.

"Mahler Mystique" (Madison): Madison Symphony with director John DeMain and Symphony Chorus perform Mahler's Symphony No. 7, Oct. 18-19. Madison Civic Center, 211 State St. FMI: (608) 258-4141.

"Mary Stuart" (Milw.): Schiller's drama about the battle of will between Queen Elizabeth and Mary, Queen of Scots comes alive at the Milwaukee Rep. thru Nov. 2. Quadracci Powerhouse Theatre, 108 E. Wells St. FMI: (414) 224-9490.

Miami City Ballet: Balanchine by George (Madison): Balanchine works set to Stravinsky's music, 7:30 p.m., Madison Civic Center, 211 State St. FMI: (608) 258-4141.

"Packer Fans From Outer Space" (Green Bay): A new musical comedy based on the Packers-Bears rivalry, thru Oct. 12. Meyer Theatre, 117 S. Washington St. FMI: (800) 328-TKTS.

"The Producers" (Milw.): Mel Brooks' new musical sensation lands in Milwaukee, thru Oct. 12. Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St. FMI: (414) 273-7206.

"Pygmalion" The American Players Theatre tours Wisconsin with George Bernard Shaw's classic, FMI: (608) 588-2361 or visit www.playinthewoods.org.

"A Reflection of Motown" (Milw.): The Skylight Opera's Miller Cabaret Series presents four talented performers in this tribute to Motown, 10 p.m., Oct. 10-11. Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. FMI: (414) 291-7800.

"Richard III" (Milw.): Shakespeare's cruel and conniving king comes chillingly to life in the Milwaukee Rep's season opener, thru Nov. 2. Quadracci Powerhouse Theatre, 108 E. Wells St. FMI: (414) 224-9490.

"Stop the World, I Want to Get Off" (Madison): The Madison Theatre Guild launches its season with a production of the musical comedy, thru Oct. 18. Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin St. FMI: (608) 238-9322.

"The Sunshine Boys" (Milw.): Milwaukee Rep performs one of Neil Simon's comedy classics, Oct. 10-Nov. 9. Stiemke Theatre, 108 E. Wells St. FMI: (414) 224-9490.

Sweet Honey in the Rock (Madison): The female African American quintet with awesome a cappella sounds, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m., Madison Civic Center, 211 State St. FMI: (608) 258-4141.

"Two Pianos, Four Hands" (Milw.): Musical comedy revue about two classical pianists growing up at the keyboard, thru Nov. 2. Milwaukee Rep's Stackner Cabaret, 108 E.

Wells St. FMI: (414) 224-9490.

"What Matters" (Milw.): Theatre X opens its new season with an original production featuring the talents and issues of concern to local 20-somethings, thru Oct. 19. Studio Theatre, Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. FMI: (414) 291-7800.

Wynton Marsalis (Madison & Milw.): The jazz master and trumpeter in concert Oct. 18, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m., Alverno College's Pitman Theatre in Milwaukee, S. 39th & W. Morgan Ave.; and Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. at the Madison Civic Center, 211 State St. FMI: (414) 382-6044, (608) 258-4141.

BOOKS:

Sunday, Oct. 12

Paul Krugman Talk (Milw.): Author of "The Great Unraveling" speaks at 4 p.m., Schwartz Books, 4093 N. Oakland Ave. FMI: (414) 963-3111.

Monday, Oct. 13

Outwords Book Club (Milw.): Discussion of Mel Keegan's gay historical romance, "Fortunes of War," 7:30 p.m., Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave. FMI: (414) 963-9089.

Peace & Justice Book Circle (Madison): Feminist group reads women's studies, cultural criticism, politics and history, 6 p.m., A Room of One's Own, 307 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Trebor Healey Reading (Madison): Author of "Through It Came Bright Colors," 6:30 p.m., A Room of One's Own, 307 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Lesbian Reading Group (Milw.): Discussion of B. Reese Johnson's murder mystery "The Woman Who Knew Too Much," 7 p.m., Outwords Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave. FMI: (414) 963-9089.

Patrick McGilligan Talk (Shorewood): Author of "Alfred Hitchcock" speaks at 7 p.m., Schwartz Books, 4093 N. Oakland Ave. FMI: (414) 963-3111.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Trebor Healey & Mark Kendrick Readings (Milw.): Healey, author of "Through It Came Bright Colors" and Kendrick, author of "Into This World We're Thrown," read and sign copies of their books, 7 p.m., Outwords, 2710 N. Murray Ave. FMI: (414) 963-9089.

Friday, Oct. 17

Autumn Changes Poetry Reading (Madison): Featuring Andrea Potos, Rhonda Lee, Tisha Turk, Eve Robillard, and Marilyn Annucci, 6:30 p.m., A Room of One's Own, 307 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Heidi Neumark Talk (Brookfield): Author of "Breathing Space," 7 p.m., Schwartz Books, 17145 W. Bluemound Rd. FMI: (262) 797-6145.

Monday, Oct. 20

Dan Savage Talk (Milw.): Author of "Skipping Towards Gomorrah," 7 p.m., Schwartz Books, 2559 N. Downer Ave. FMI: (414) 332-1181.

Joshua Piven Talk (Mequon): Author of "As Luck Would Have It," 7 p.m., Schwartz Books, 10976 N. Port Washington Rd. FMI: (262) 241-6220.

Peace & Justice Book Circle (Madison): Feminist group reads women's studies, cultural criticism, politics and history, 6 p.m., A Room of One's Own, 307 W. Johnson St. FMI: (608) 257-7888.

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Tom Bissell Talk (Milw.): Author of "Chasing the Sea," 7 p.m., Schwartz Books, 2559 N. Downer Ave. FMI: (414) 332-1181.

FILM, TV & RADIO:

Thursday, Oct. 9

LGBT Film Fest (Milw.): Featuring "Flag Wars" documentary about gentrification at 7 p.m. (Free), and "Bulgarian Lovers" at 9 p.m., Union Theatre, Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. FMI: (414) 229-4758.

Friday, Oct. 10

"The Animation Show" (Milw.): A selection of great cartoon shorts, thru Oct. 16. Times Cinema, 5906 W. Vliet St. FMI: (414) 453-2436.

LGBT Film Fest (Milw.): Featuring "Evening of Girls' Shorts" at 7 p.m., "Madame Sata" and "Placebo" at 9 p.m., Union Theatre, Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. FMI: (414) 229-4758.

Saturday, Oct. 11

LGBT Film Fest (Milw.): Featuring "Radical Harmonies" at noon, "The Gift" (free) at 4 p.m., "The Politics of Fur" at 7 p.m., "Evening of Boys' Shorts" at 9 p.m., Union Theatre, Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. FMI: (414) 229-4758.

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

Sunday, Oct. 12 & Every Sun.

"Her Turn," Womyn's Radio (Madison): WORT Radio 89.9 FM. A weekly show featuring news and information by and about women, 11 to 11:30 a.m. Followed by "Her Infinite Variety" — Women in music — all genres and styles, interviews, live guests and announcements for the women's community, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. FMI: (608) 256-2001.

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

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

Sunday, Oct. 12

LGBT Film Fest (Milw.): Featuring "Shake It All About" at 5 p.m., "Suddenly" at 7 p.m., Union Theatre, Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. FMI: (414) 229-4758.

Monday, Oct. 13

"The Queer Program" (Milw.): Live weekly telecast on MATA public access cable channel 96 at 6:30 p.m. Hosts: Michael Lisowski and Charles Daniels. Re-broadcast Saturdays 12-1 a.m. and 10-11 p.m. FMI: (414) 265-8500.

Wed., Oct. 15 & Every Wed.

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

Thursday, Oct. 16

An Evening with Chris Eyre (Milw.): Native American film director of "Smoke Signals" and "Skins" talks about his life, career and the treatment of Indians in the movies, 8 p.m., Tix: \$8 general, \$5 campus community, UWM Union Ballroom, Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. FMI: (414) 229-4758.

Friday, Oct. 17

Reel American Indian Film Festival (Milw.): Showcasing winners of the first annual Indian Summer Film & Video Image Awards, 6 p.m., Union Theatre, Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. FMI: (414) 229-4758.

Saturday, Oct. 18

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

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Milwaukee's LGBT Film Fest: THE SEQUEL

As with *IN Step's* coverage last issue, our reviewers have highlighted two films from the second weekend of Milwaukee's LGBT Film Festival. They are followed by shorter capsules of the full schedule. Most screenings are at UWM's Union Theatre on the second floor of the Student Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

"Radical Harmonies" Pays Homage to Women's Music

By Jamakaya

"Radical Harmonies," an outstanding documentary about the cultural movement launched by "women's music" artists in the 1970s, is by far the best of the lesbian-oriented films to be screened in the second week of Milwaukee's LGBT Film & Video Festival. It will be shown at noon on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Union Theatre.

I highly recommend this movie for women who have been influenced and inspired by women's music over the past 30 years. But I also recommend it to those who haven't a clue about what women's music is, and those who (lesbians among them) have sometimes disparaged women's music as just "a girl with a guitar" phenomenon. I think, too, that this is a very important movie for gay men to see, so that they might better understand a significant aspect of lesbian culture.

"Radical Harmonies" is a celebration and vindication of a profound feminist cultural revolution. It ties the expanding women's music scene inextricably to the new feminist and lesbian consciousness that emerged in the 1970s. It shows the impact that a handful of pioneers had in creating the women's music industry: record companies, distribution networks, concert circuits, publications and cultural

festivals. In that sense, it is an excellent history lesson. But the film also succeeds on a more visceral level, conveying beautifully the deep and transformative impact the new music and lyrics had on women themselves. Tears shed by several women in this film illustrate the intense, life-changing impact of women's music.

Happily, "Radical Harmonies" is infused with the diverse sounds of the music it discusses, so the movie is a pleasure to listen to. Short selections by Malvina Reynolds, Fanny, Maxine Feldman, Holly Near, Cris Williamson, Linda Tillery, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Ferron, Meg Christian, Gwen Avery, Mary Watkins, Margie Adam, Ubaka Hill, Ulali, Berkeley Women's Music Collective, Ronnie Gilbert, Toshi Reagon, Alix Dobkin, Azúcar y Crema, Indigo Girls, Casselberry-Dupree, Ani DiFranco, Tribe 8, Bitch and Animal, and many more artists are included.

Some of the most endearing scenes to me were raw b/w footage of Williamson in the studio in 1975 recording her classic album "The Changer and the Changed," (still a must for anyone's music collection) or, earlier still, the group Fanny rocking out in a video clip from 1972 replete with a groovy psychedelic backdrop.

Many of the musicians mentioned above offer smart, serious and funny commentary about women's music and their particular roles in it. Director Dee Mosbacher has done an incredible job of synthesizing dozens of interviews (many clearly recorded in the 1980s and '90s — hairstyles are dead give-aways!) and melding them into a cohesive narrative.

Themes touched on are the pervasive sexism in the mainstream music industry which compelled the women to establish separate institutions; the empowerment of women who learned to become sound engineers, concert promoters, and festival producers; the growing diversity of the music itself to incorporate classical, R&B, salsa, punk and rap; the expansion of the movement to incorporate dance, theatre, poetry and other cultural expressions; and the Midwest's leadership of the movement.



Scene from "Suddenly"

The two earliest and longest-running festivals, the National Women's Music Festival (in Illinois, then Indiana, and now in Ohio) and the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, are virtually in our backyards.

(Local angle: In Milwaukee in the 1970s, a women's music magazine named "Paid My Dues" served as precursor to Chicagoan Toni Armstrong Jr.'s long-running women's music journal "Hot Wire." In one montage, the film briefly displays a poster of the 1975 concert by Cris Williamson and Margie Adam at UWM's Fine Arts Recital Hall. Admission is listed at \$2.50! In the 1980s, Midwest Women's Music, co-owned by Milwaukeean Karen Gotzler, produced some of the acts we see in the film.)

"Radical Harmonies" doesn't flinch from some of the controversies which roiled the movement — racism; separatism vs. non-separatism at events; accessibility issues — though given the 90-minute running time they are dealt with briefly. The pioneering work done by lesbian feminists to ensure access, in the form of ASL interpreters at events and sliding scale ticket prices, have been adopted by many (though not enough) institutions in the wider world.

This film made me a bit nostalgic (hearing some of the older tunes) and very proud of what the women's music revolution accomplished. It also made me want to go out and blow a lot of money to bulk up my women's CD collection! It's a thoughtful and thoroughly entertaining music and history lesson. Don't miss it.

GRADE: A

"Madame Sata" — Passionate Portrait of a Drag Performer

By Carl M. Szatmary

Certainly the most passionate film at this year's Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Fest must be Karim Ainouz's "Madame Sata," a cinematic portrait of infamous drag cabaret performer Joao Francisco dos Santos. It screens Friday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. and the Union Theatre.

The film begins in a prison cell in Rio de Janeiro circa 1932. Joao Francisco (Lazaro Ramos), having been beaten to a bloody pulp, is being berated by some sinister, anonymous voice of authority over his myriad of transgressions, ranging from murder to shaving his eyebrows. This proves to be a rather ingenious narrative device, effectively garnering audience sympathies early for a man unlikely to gain them by his own devices.

Born in 1900, Joao Francisco dos Santos would spend many years in prison before emerging as Carnival Queen in Rio dressed as "Madame Sata," paying homage

to Cecil B. DeMille's 1930 deco extravaganza "Madam Satan."

Director Ainouz only offers a tantalizing glimpse into Joao Francisco's life, focusing on the period when Joao first sought refuge in drag and before his first lengthy prison stay.

Growing up in the Rio slums of Lapa, Joao has the double burden of being both black and homosexual. By day he humbles himself as some sort of lackey for an over-the-hill female cabaret artiste, but on his own turf he rules with an iron fist. Joao proves to be the proverbial "angry young man." One moment Joao seems poised to slit the throat of a handsome trick foolish enough to attempt to rob him, the next Joao is all tenderness with the small child of the prostitute he has befriended.

He might rage against Rio's social structure — as shown when he fights to enter the ironically named hot spot, High Life. Yet his biggest battle is an internal one. The problem with "Madame Sata" is that while we see the results of Joao battling his demons in Lazaro Ramos's terrifying performance, neither the film nor the performer ever allows us any real insights.

Curious for someone destined to become a celebrated drag personality, masculinity seems at the crux of Joao's conflicts. Joao clearly desires Renatinho (Felipe Marques), whom he dubs his "Indian Prince," and their sex is raw and brutal. What Joao cannot accept is the young man's obvious affection for him. Here then is a quintessential portrait of "rough trade."

"Madame Sata" is visually striking and never less than mesmerizing. The slums of Rio are evocatively portrayed, shown with plenty of grit and garish lighting. Karim Ainouz cleverly places Joao in a variety of claustrophobia-inspiring spaces, particularly those tiny rooms he always seems about to burst through, and then offers contrasting images of a Joao at the seaside, seemingly, albeit fleetingly, at peace.

Much like its protagonist, "Madame Sata" might be thrilling and compulsively watchable but remains ultimately a mystery.

Grade: B

Thursday, October 9, 2 p.m.
"Dangerous Living: Coming Out
in the Developing World"

This documentary focuses on the serious challenges that LGBT people in developing nations face from repressive governments, religions and tribal cultures. Last year's show trial of 52 Egyptian men who were apprehended for the unpardonable offense of visiting a gay disco is a stepping off point for examining the aspirations of LGBTs in Egypt, the Philippines, Namibia, Vietnam, Laos and Honduras. Global media and the internet have familiarized LGBTs abroad



Scene from "Madame Sata"

with gay rights advances in the West. "Dangerous Living" shows them bravely asserting their own identities and building a movement with others against very difficult odds. Not available for advance screening.

Thursday, October 9, 7 p.m.

"Flag Wars"

"Flag Wars" may be the best American documentary since Barbara Kopple's "Harlan County USA," and that's saying a lot. It examines the process of gentrification in the Olde Towne neighborhood of Columbus, Ohio, but could just as easily have been filmed on Brewer's Hill or McKinley Ave. in Milwaukee.

Olde Towne is an historically black neighborhood whose longtime residents, many elderly or low income, are being displaced by an influx of white gay and lesbian yuppies. The gay folks are heard repeatedly expressing their "compassion" and "care" for the century old houses they hope to renovate. Too bad they can't seem to dredge up the same concern for their neighbors, whose poverty they view with contempt. On the other hand, some older residents are openly homophobic about the newcomers; many are defensive or suspicious.

Some of the huge homes are in serious disrepair, and there's no doubt the gays moving in have the money and commitment to restore them. Most cities encourage revitalization of such properties and welcome the increased tax revenues that result. Real estate agents (like a particularly parasitic lesbian realtor here) lick their chops at the prospects. The film deftly shows how stricter enforcement of housing codes and zoning laws pave the way for gentrification. Meanwhile, very little real communication or neighborliness seems to occur between the longtime residents and the newcomers. African, German and gay rainbow flags flutter from homes, marking separate territories.

The film tries to strike a balance, but the poor — news flash! — are almost always overwhelmed by the alliance of money and the law. I love how this movie shows that power imbalance. I may be queer but I was born poor, and I've suffered far more class oppression than homophobia in my life. I find the lack of class consciousness among many gays and lesbians disgraceful, and it's displayed here for all to see.

Others may come away with a completely different take on what they see in "Flag Wars." It's broad and deep enough for many interpretations. That's why it is a truly great film.

Filmmakers Linda Goode Bryant and Laura Poitras will be on hand at this free screening. A second screening will take place Friday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. at America's Black Holocaust Museum, 2233 N. 4th St.

GRADE: A (Jamakaya)

Thursday, October 9, 9 p.m.

"Bulgarian Lovers (Los Novios Bulgaros)" shown with "Wash Dark Colors Separately"

After an absence of nearly 15 years, acclaimed Spanish filmmaker Eloy de la Iglesia is back with "Bulgarian Lovers." De la Iglesia was responsible for some of the most intriguing gay films of the 1970s and 80s, including such LGBT Festival favorites as "Hidden Pleasures" ("Los Placeres Ocultos," 1977) and "The Deputy" ("El Diputado," 1979).

At the center of "Bulgarian Lovers" is Daniel (Fernando Guillén Cuervo), a 40-something gay man with an eye for rough trade. He couldn't be happier when he connects with Kyril (Dritan Biba), a hunky 23 year-old Bulgarian, one night at a Madrid disco. After a torrid coupling, Daniel and Kyril enter into a relationship that is increasingly less about love — at least on

Kyril's side — and more about what Daniel can do for Kyril and his nefarious friends.

Although described as a romantic comedy, "Bulgarian Lovers" is anything but, following de la Iglesia's usual formula of placing his middle-aged, upper middle-class protagonist in an unrequited gay affair. Into this sordid business, de la Iglesia throws in some ludicrously melodramatic subplots, such as the theft of uranium, plus the standard comic relief offered by Daniel's queeny friends. Worse, poor, foolish Daniel at film's end seems poised to continue making the same, dangerous mistake.

Grade: C- (Carl Sztarmy)

Friday, October 10, 7 p.m.

"Come Out and Play: An Evening of Girl's Shorts"

The "Evening of Girl's Shorts" is always a mixed bag with a few delightful surprises mixed in with some real clunkers. Ah, but who cares — they're short, so they swiftly move along!

Clunker would definitely describe the German "Binge Babes at the Truck Stop," one of the worst shorts I've ever seen. "Butch in the City," a send-up of "Sex in the City" with butch Terry Bradshaw cruising for sex with a man, was kinda funny but should have been a lot funnier. "D.E.B.S." is a hilarious spoof about a crime-fighting team of schoolgirl uniformed, super hero debbs with a lesbian twist. "We Got Next" is the tale of two appealing teen hoopsters whose solid friendship is tested one summer. "Esme Seeking" is a delightful portrait of a young woman shedding an identity imposed on her for a more comfortable one of her own choosing.

One intriguing short, "Cherries in the Snow," an ode to lesbian writer Joan Nestle, was unavailable for review. My fave short was "Sing, Sing, Sing," an odd but charming musical love story between a seamstress and her mermaid-like creation. And it's done in Claymation! I've always hated Claymation, but this weird little gem won me over.

GRADE: B (Jamakaya)

Saturday, October 11, 2 p.m.

"The Gift" with a pre-show presentation by ARCW's Bag Boyz

There is perhaps no hotter topic within the LGBT community than "barebacking," surely making Louise Holgarth's documentary "The Gift" must-see viewing at this year's festival.

Not content to merely focus on the increasing popularity of the unsafe sex practice of anal sex without condoms, Holgarth turns her camera onto the absurdly incomprehensible practice of "bug-chasing," where uninfected gay men deliberately seek out "the Gift" of HIV infection from partners known in internet slang as "gift-givers."

Still, Holgarth never elaborates as to just how wide-spread is this practice.

Instead, the hour-long film focuses on two rather extreme cases. On one hand, there is 21-year-old Doug Hitzel, an innocent gay boy-next-door type who out of loneliness sought the sense of inclusion he believed becoming HIV-positive would bring. At the other extreme is "Kenboy" who left Illinois to become a resident at the L.A. Sex House, where "bareback" sex parties happen several times a month. Hitzel, now HIV-positive and regretting every minute of it, is shown in suitable victim colors while "Kenboy" is full of clueless bravado.

Clearly passionate about her beliefs, Holgarth suggests that AIDS-prevention isn't working, and she's probably right. Yet

as well-intentioned and as thought-provoking as "The Gift" surely is, it sadly offers no solutions of its own.

Grade: B- (Carl Sztarmy)

Saturday, October 11, 2 p.m.

"The Politics of Fur" shown with "Contacts: Nan Goldin"

Seeing "The Bitter Tears of Petra Van Kant" will help viewers appreciate this sly reworking of Fassbinder's over-the-top lesbian melodrama. Audience members who have not seen "Petra" may be perplexed and impatient. Film buffs are apt to admire its highly stylized design and execution.

"The Politics of Fur" revolves around a wealthy anti-hero named Una, a self-absorbed, trendy to the "nth"-degree music exec, who lives a hermetic existence with her pet tiger cub and faithful manservant Dick. Her uber-control freak ways are challenged when a new lover is delivered to her as a birthday gift. "B" as she is called, is an ambitious and très independent wannabe punk rock star. Una and B's relationship sparks and dissolves disastrously in seemingly record time (given the film's 76-minute running time), leaving the unsympathetic Una groveling in the slough of despair and destroying her relationships with Dick and her mother.

All of this is accomplished in scenes that are both dramatically and comedically way over the top. There are several hilarious scenes in which Una's esoteric tastes are assaulted, once by the presence of a bag of potato chips, another by Dick's gay buddies jacking up disco music at an inopportune moment.

"The Politics of Fur" is a pretty good send-up of pretentious lifestyles and values in modern day L.A. But a part of me found the film itself a little too self-aware and pretentious.

GRADE: B- (Jamakaya)

Saturday, October 11, 9 p.m.

"Some Pretty Neat Tricks: An Evening of Boy's Shorts"

The "boy shorts" program is always one of the most popular programs at the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival and this year's collection is sure to be no exception.

The eight films included in this program range from the beguilingly titled "Masturbation: Putting the Fun into Self Loving," in which Dr. Sigmund Winston, along with the help of his trusty sidekick Billy, teaches the students of the '50s how to put more excitement into self-loving to Neil Goldberg's two-minute homage to gay cat owners in "She's a Talker."

Least successful short must be Paul Bartell's mock-documentary "L.T.R.," whose examination of a so-called "long-term relationship" between two irritating gay teens outstays its welcome long before its 16 minutes are up. My personal favorite short of the program had to be Eric Mueller's clever dual-frame, "This Car Up." Using a spinning slot machine as a visual metaphor, Mueller explores the chance encounter of a suited professional (Michael Booth) and cute pierced 'n' tattooed bike messenger (Brent Doyle).

Grade: B (Carl Sztarmy)

Sunday, October 12, 7 p.m.

"Suddenly (Tan de Repente)"

"Suddenly" is a slow moving road picture in which two punky hipsters named Mao and Lenin (who are not necessarily lesbians — you decide) stalk a plump store clerk named Marcia, whom Mao insists on having sex with. Marcia understandably objects but is kidnapped at knife point. Mao and Lenin then steal a taxi and flee Buenos Aires with Marcia, traveling around Argentina, finally settling in at the humble boarding house of Lenin's elderly aunt.

Along the way, the punk duo drive Marcia to the coast where she can see the ocean for the first time. (Only a male director — in this case, Diego Lerman — would suggest that this makes up for the fact that she's been threatened, beaten, blindfolded and kidnapped against her will.) Out of gas, they bum rides with an aquarium director and a boorish truck driver, who kills a pedestrian. At Aunt Blanca's, they meet a nice teacher and a young man, Felipe. Mao finally has sex with Marcia, then leaves her. Lenin bonds with Aunt Blanca and her old friends. Mao hits Felipe for sex. Someone dies. (Hey, when someone says they don't like water, DON'T take them near the water, sabé?)

We only get the sketchiest information about the characters to begin with, so each scene provides a little more info. Relationships develop slowly and shift, and some insight is learned about each person. For me, it wasn't quite enough to salvage this well-meaning picture. Perhaps because I couldn't really bond with any of the characters myself, I left wondering, like Miss Peggy Lee, "Is that all there is?"

GRADE: C (Jamakaya)

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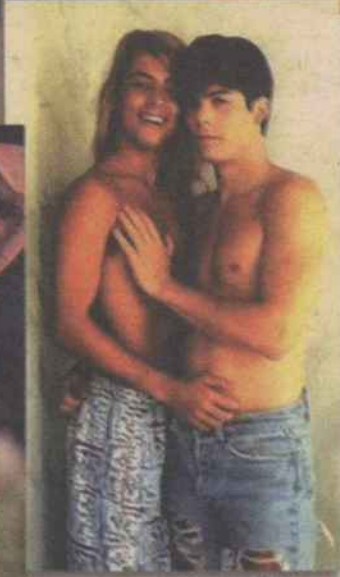
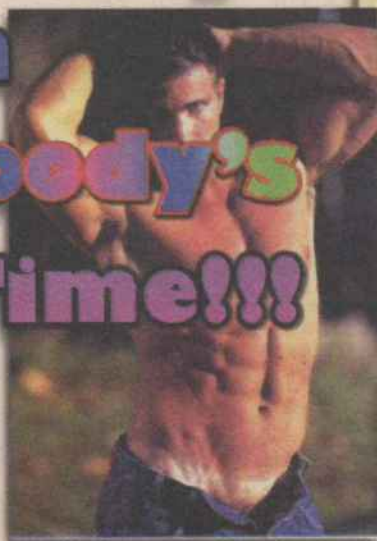
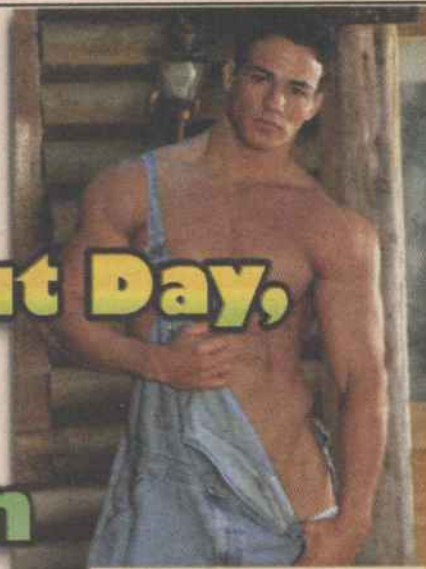
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LESBIAN-ONLY EVENT LOSES EXEMPTION

The Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal in the Australian state of Victoria has revoked an exemption it granted to Lesfest 2004 that would have allowed the week-long January event to ban attendees and service providers who are not female-born lesbians.

The exemption from state human-rights laws was withdrawn because Lesfest organizers failed to inform the tribunal that a transsexual organization had objected to the waiver, the Australian Associated Press reported Sept. 30.

The Australian WOMAN Network had complained that the exemption was offensive because male-to-female transsexuals are legally and medically women.

Lesfest spokeswoman Anna Holland-Moore expressed disappointment at the new ruling.

"We just wanted a week together to consolidate our culture and discuss relevant issues," she told AAP.

The rural festival will feature political forums, art performances, healing space, workshops and talking circles. Boys over age eight and heterosexual girls over age 15 also were to be banned.

SEX CLAMPDOWN PROPOSED IN INDONESIA

Indonesia's Justice Ministry has drafted laws to ban premarital sex, extramarital sex, living together without being married, reneging on a promise to marry, visiting a prostitute, performing as a stripper, witchcraft, and promotion of communism, local media reported Sept. 30.

Although the proposed legislation reportedly would allow gay sex between adults, it was unclear why gay sex would not be considered to be premarital or extramarital sex.

The proposed new crimes would draw penalties of two to 20 years in prison.

The Indonesian Bar Association and the Indonesian Lawyers Association oppose the proposals. IBA Chairman Gayus Lumbuun told a local newspaper, "Not all ethical and moral offenses are crimes."

Some Muslim groups and political parties have been pushing for the incorporation of Islamic law into legal codes. Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation.

The 600 pages of proposals face at least a year of discussion in parliament before they could become law, according to a report in the Sydney Morning Herald.

KOREAN GAY ACTOR IS DE-BLACKLISTED

Well-known South Korean actor Hong Suk-chon, who was blacklisted from the television industry three years ago after coming out as gay, is appearing in a new program.

He plays a gay designer on the SBC network's twice-weekly miniseries Perfect Love.

"The night before [we started taping], I didn't sleep, I was too nervous," Hong told The New York Times. "I was terrible. ... I made a lot of bloopers. But the other actors, they understood."

"Before I came out, no one talked about homosexuality in Korea," Hong added. "But then everybody was talking about it. I think Koreans are starting to accept homosexuality."



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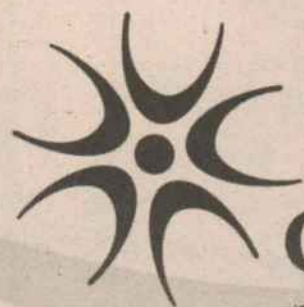
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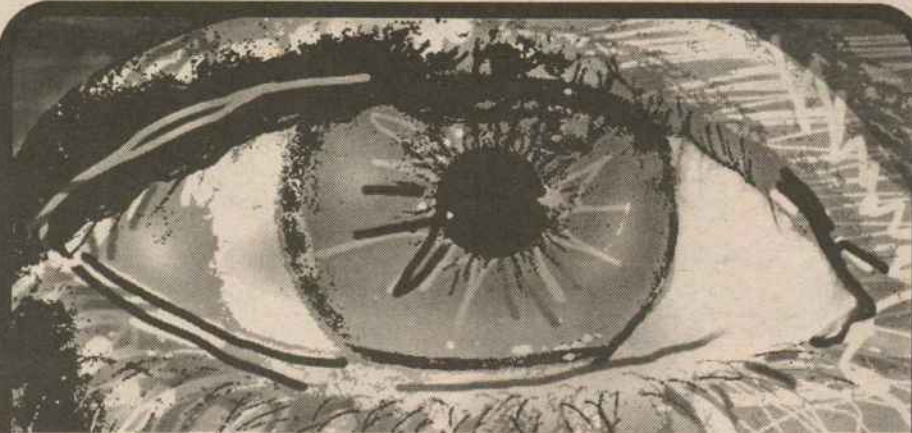


**Community Shares
of Greater Milwaukee**

Workplace-giving programs at 414-342-0883

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DOMESTIC ABUSE

IT HAPPENS IN OUR COMMUNITY

verbal abuse
emotional abuse
sexual abuse
physical abuse
destruction of property



For information & referrals:

Call 414 271.2656 or visit www.mkelgbt

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center | 315 W. Court St. | Milwaukee, WI 53212

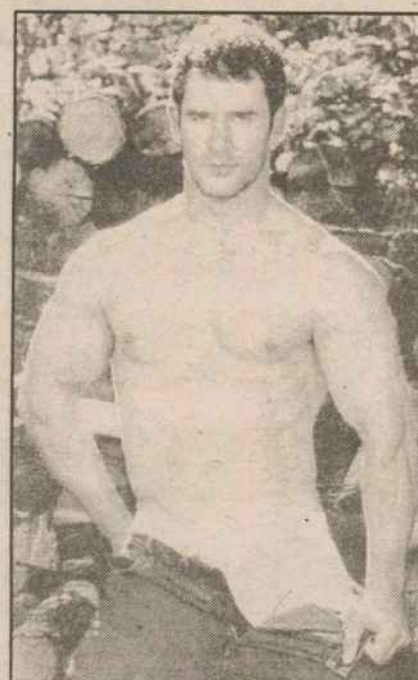
He's Back!
BIGGER & BOLDER!

★ **CLAY** ★
MAVERICK

Sat., Oct. 18

PACKER GAME SPECIALS!

50-cent taps of
MGD & Miller Lite!
\$2 Bloody Mary Myrna's!



⚡ ONLINE HAPPY HOUR! ⚡

with Wireless Internet • 5-8pm • Mon-Fri.
Stop in & check your E-MALE or chat with a friend!

BOOM

BOOM 625 S. 2ND ST. MILWAUKEE, WI (414) 277-5040

Woman (sex) Woman

AIDS is still killing people. HIV infections are on the rise.
Be tested. Be Safe. BeSTD. 272-2144. www.bestd.org

BeSTD
CALIFORNIA

free outreach testing:

October 10th • 5pm - 8pm • MATC LGBT Student Group

October 23rd • 7pm - 10pm • Midtowne Spa

be safe every time.



Friday, Oct. 10

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

HIV Testing (Milw.): BESTD Clinic conducts anonymous HIV testing at MATC, 5-8 p.m., FMI: (414) 272-2144.

Café El Sol (Milw.): Great food and Latin music, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 1028 S. 9th St. FMI: (414) 384-3100, ext. 237.

Fri & Sat, Oct. 10 & 11

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

Saturday, Oct. 11

Three (Milw.): INFERNO! Join the gay-friendly staff and patrons of Three for an evening that's guaranteed to heat up your weekend! Featuring the hot, sweaty beats of DJ John Murges and DJ Rob Winter. Doors open at 8 PM. No cover. 722 N. Milwaukee St. FMI: (414) 225-0003 or e-mail PumpMilwaukee@aol.com.

Sunday, Oct. 12

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

PUMPI (Milw.): Regression: DJ John Murges turns back the clock and searches the vaults for favorites and little known dance tracks from the 70s-90's. 2-4-1 Rail and Bottles of Corona until 11 p.m. \$6 specialty martinis. No cover. Every Sunday 9 p.m. to close. 722 N. Milwaukee St. FMI: (414) 225-0003.

Monday, Oct. 13

M&M Club (Milw.): Trixie at the Piano during Cocktail Hour, plus 2-4-1 drinks, 5-7 p.m. 124 N. Water St. FMI: (414) 347-1962.

Saturday, Oct. 18

Boom (Milw.): He's Back! BIGGER & BOLDER! CLAY MAVERICK. Don't miss it.

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

Sunday, Oct. 19

M&M Club (Milw.): Anniversary Party! 25+2 Food, Fun & Prizes! "POLKA 'til You Puke" with the Famous Dombroski Orchestra • Sign up for our 2nd Annual "Queen for a Day" Drawing!

Monday, Oct. 20

M&M Club (Milw.): Trixie at the Piano during Cocktail Hour, plus 2-4-1 drinks, 5-7 p.m. 124 N. Water St. FMI: (414) 347-1962.

Trocadero (Milw.): Mojito Mondays, Trocadero's weekly evening of Latin Beats and Libations, featuring John Murges on the decks and special prices on Mojitos and Cuba Libres. Food available. Perfect way to begin your week. 9 p.m. to midnight, no cover. 1758 N. Water St. FMI: (414) 272-0252.



At Club 219. Photo by A. Gallegos

Sundays:

Ball Game (Milw.): Juice drinks only \$3. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Top beer \$1.40.

Boot Camp Saloon (Milw.): Open at 3 p.m. with \$1.50 bottle and top beer and soda.

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

Boom (Milw.): Open at 11am. Packer Game Specials: 50 cent taps of MGD & Miller Lite. \$2 Bloody Mary Myrna's.FMI: www.boommke.com

Club 5/Barracks (Madison): Beer Bash, 4-8 p.m. \$6. 2-4-1 drinks up to \$3.75, \$1 off all others. Additional 50¢ off when you are shirtless.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): Beer Bash 3 to 8 p.m. \$6. 2-4-1 drinks up to \$3.75, \$1 off all other until 8 p.m. Live shows at 10:30 p.m.

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

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

LaCage (Milw.): Sunday Bloody Sunday - Bloody Mary bar 12 p.m.-9 p.m. Queer As Folk at 9 p.m. LaCage Presents at 11:30 p.m. FMI: www.lacage.gaymke.com

M&M Club (Milw.): Brunch from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Joyce or Ginni at the Piano on Monday nights. FMI: www.mandm-club.com.

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

The Nut Hut (Milw.): Coronas, \$1.75, Domestic Beer, \$1.25, Mini-pitchers, \$1.75.

Switch (Milw.): Service Industry Night. Plus.

Walker's Pint (Milw.): \$8 pitcher of Lite & pizza, \$4 rail Bloody Marys, both from Noon to 6 p.m. Open from Noon to midnight.

Woody's (Milw.): Open at 2 p.m., Beer Bust from 2-6 p.m. FMI: www.woodys-mke.com.

Mondays:

Ball Game (Milw.): Cocktail Hour 2 p.m. to close.

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

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

Boom (Milw.): Happy Hour 5-8pm. FMI: www.boommke.com

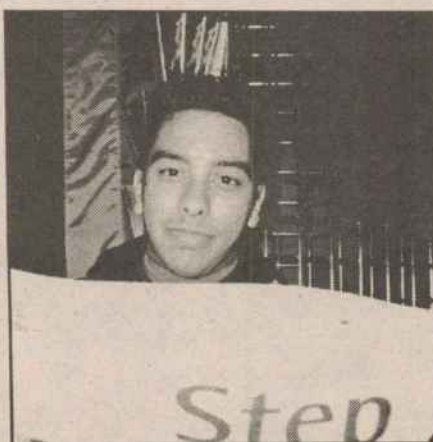
Club 5/Barracks (Madison): 2-4-1 drinks up to \$3.75, \$1 off all others. 3-4-1 drinks for those men in just underwear. Additional 50¢ off when you are shirtless.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): Happy Hour, 4-8 p.m., 2-4-1 drinks up to \$3.75, \$1 off all others ALL NIGHT LONG, \$2 shot specials.

Fluid (Milw.): 2-4-1 drinks from 5 p.m. til 8 p.m. FMI: www.fluid.gaymke.com.

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

LaCage (Milw.): Open for cocktail hour at 5 p.m. "Shake a Drink" all nite. Aces's Free — sixes 1/2 price. FMI: www.lacage.gaymke.com



C'est La Vie. Photo by A. Gallegos



At Club 219. Photo by A. Gallegos



At Club 219. Photo by A. Gallegos

M&M Club (Milw.): Cocktail hour with Trixie at the Piano! FMI: www.mandm-club.com.

The Nut Hut (Milw.): 4 to 6 p.m. Crabby Hour Pull tabs!

Pulse (Milw.): Import night. \$2.50 imports. FMI: www.pulsemilwaukee.com.

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

Switch (Milw.): Happy Hour, 5-9 p.m., with \$1 off drinks. Margarita Madness - \$2.50 Margaritas and Shots of Tequila. FMI: www.switch.gaymke.com

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

Walker's Pint (Milw.): Closed.

Woody's (Milw.): Happy Hour, 4-8 p.m., \$1.25 taps, \$1.75 rails. FMI: www.woodys-mke.com.

Tuesdays:

Ball Game (Milw.): Cocktail Hour: 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., Pull tabs, drinks as low as 25-cents.

Boom (Milw.): Happy Hour 5-8pm. Tini Tuesdays: Specials on Featured Martini of the week. Plus Free Pizza. FMI: www.boommke.com.

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

C'est La Vie (Milw.): Shirts Off! Show us what you've got! Take it off for half price rail, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Club 5/Barracks (Madison): 50¢ off all drinks. Additional 50¢ off when you are shirtless.

Club 5/Planet Q (Madison): Happy Hour, 4-8 p.m. 2-4-1 drinks up to \$3.75, \$1 off all others. Underage night begins at 9 p.m., 50¢ off all drinks, \$2 shot specials.

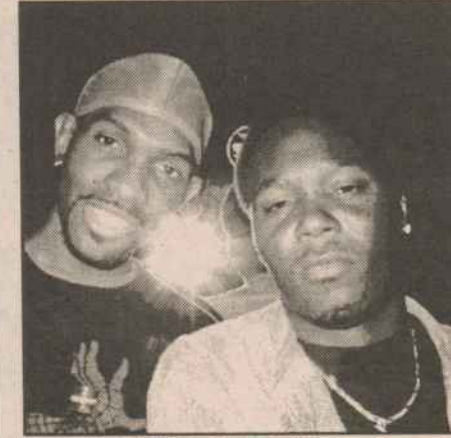
Club 219 (Milw.): Amateur Strip Nite! No cover. \$1 tap beer, \$2 rails and bottled beer.

Fluid (Milw.): 2-4-1 drinks from 5 p.m. til 8 p.m., \$2 mixers 8pm to close. FMI: www.fluid.gaymke.com.

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



At Club 219. Photo by A. Gallegos



At Club 219. Photo by A. Gallegos



At Club 219. Photo by A. Gallegos

yours, 2nd drink free! Shirtless men half price anytime. FMI: www.harbor-room.com.

LaCage (Milw.): Open for cocktail hour at 5 p.m. "Prize Nite." Win \$100 cash — no cover. FMI: www.lacage.gaymke.com

M&M Club (Milw.): Double Bubble with complimentary Hors D'oeuvres 5 to 7 p.m. FMI: www.mandm-club.com.

Midtowne Spa (Milw.): Half price locker.

The Nut Hut (Milw.): 7-9 p.m. Pull Tabs.

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

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

Pulse (Milw.): Two for Tuesday. Two American beers for \$2 from 9pm to 1 a.m. FMI: www.pulsemilwaukee.com.

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

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

Switch (Milw.): Happy Hour, 5-9 p.m., Shake-A-Drink - Ace = Dollar Off - and - Six = Half Price. FMI: www.switch.gaymke.com.

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

Walker's Pint (Milw.): \$2 Tuesdays \$2 Rail Mixers, Pints, Cold Shots



C'est La Vie. Photo by A. Gallegos

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 9 – October 22, 2003

ACTIVITIES

Thursday, Oct. 9

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

LGBT Film Fest (Milw.): See detailed schedule and reviews in this issue.

Friday, Oct. 10

Transgender Assn. Meeting (Madison): Featuring guests Ald. Mike Verveer and County Sup. Kyle Richmond. 6:30 p.m. at OutReach, Inc., 600 Williamson St. FMI: (608) 259-9225.

LGBT Film Fest (Milw.): See detailed schedule and reviews in this issue.

Coming Out Dance (Madison): Annual Ten Percent Society event, open to UW students, faculty, staff, guests, \$3 door, cash bar, live DJs, 9 p.m., Great Hall, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St. FMI: dance@tps.studentorg.wisc.edu.

Saturday, Oct. 11

Coming Out Day Bash (Richland Center): Pioneers of rural SW Wisconsin present live music, silent auction (bidding will close at 10 p.m.), door prizes, beverages, food, 8 p.m. to midnight, at the Blue Highways Bldg., 165 N. Central Ave., Richland Center.

LGBT Film Fest (Milw.): See detailed schedule and reviews in this issue.

Coming Out Party (Eau Claire): LGBT Center of the Chippewa Valley celebrates Coming Out Day with food, music, special guests, and more, 5:30 p.m., 510 S. Farwell St. FMI: (715) 552-LGBT, or: info@thecentercv.org.

Big Night Out (Milw.): Gala dinner, auction and entertainment to benefit the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 5:30 p.m. silent auction and cash bar, 7:30 p.m., dinner, 8:30 p.m. program and entertainment, Northern Lights Theatre, Poawatomni Casino, 1721 W. Canal St. \$35-\$100 per person. FMI: (414) 271-2656, ext. 122.

Sunday, Oct. 12

LGBT Film Fest (Milw.): See detailed schedule and reviews in this issue.

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus (Madison): Weekly rehearsal, new members welcome! 7-9 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church, 116 W. Washington Ave. FMI: info@perfectharmonychorus.org.

Latin Musiel (Milw.): Latin American folk music featuring Tony Baez, Dino Arestegui and Felipe Rodriguez, benefit for the Milw. Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba, 7 p.m., The Coffeehouse, 631 N. 19th St. FMI: (414) 273-1040.

Monday, Oct. 13

Dairyland Cowgirls & Cowboys (Madison): All welcome, beginning and advanced dance lessons for at the hop line and dances, 7:30 p.m., open dance to 11 p.m., 5 Applegate Ct. FMI: (608) 255-9131, email: rrk-illmer@facstaff.wisc.edu.

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Project Q (Milw.): Drop-in for LGBTQ youth ages 14-24, 4:30-9 p.m., LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 223-3220, or visit: www.projectq.org.

Wednesday, Oct. 15

Honeymooners Bowling League (Madison): Bowling for Gays and Lesbians with 3-person team format, 9:15 p.m., Village Lanes, 208 Owen Road.

Cream City Chorus (Milw.): Milwaukee's LGBT chorus rehearses at 7 p.m. Newcomers welcome. FMI: (414) 276-8787.

Thursday, Oct. 16

LGBT Saints? (Milw.): Monthly Rainbow U. features Rev. Andrew Warner, openly gay minister of Plymouth Church, who will talk about unknown or unheralded Christian saints who were gay, 7 p.m., LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

Friday, Oct. 17

GLBT Alumni Council (Madison): Homecoming

Parade, 6 p.m.: All-Alumni Reception, Tripp Commons, 7 p.m.; Fireworks, Tripp Commons balcony, 8:30 p.m. FMI: (608) 265-9074.

Saturday, Oct. 18

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

Red Ribbon Variety Show (La Crosse): Theme: "A Salute to the '70s and '80s," annual benefit for AIDS services in the Coulee region, hosted by Z93's Sam Strong, 7:30 p.m., \$10 advance, \$12 at the door, La Crosse Center, South Hall A. FMI: (608) 784-2353.

Sunday, Oct. 19

Cream City Squares (Milw.): LGBT square dance club holds bi-weekly summertime dance, 1-4:30 p.m., Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave. FMI: (414) 445-8080.

PFLAG Meeting (Madison): Topic: "The High School Environment Outside of Madison," youths will discuss the climate of a suburban high school without a Gay-Straight Alliance, 2 p.m., Friends Society Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court. FMI: (608) 848-2333, www.pflag-madison.org.

Bette Davis Bowling League (Madison): Bowling for gays and lesbians, 5-person team format, 3 p.m., Bowl-a-Vard Lanes, 2121 E. Springs Dr. FMI: (608) 273-8275 or 837-8889.

Monday, Oct. 20

Monday Night Irregulars (West Allis): Milwaukee area bowling league starts its fall season, newcomers welcome, \$10 each week, 7 p.m. at AMF West Allis Lanes off of 10901 W. Lapham St. FMI: (414) 527-0132, or (262) 253-0610.

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

Tuesday, Oct. 21

LGBT Business Alliance Social (Madison): Monthly social for fun and networking, free to current members, \$10 non-members, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Club 5, 5 Applegate Ct. FMI: (608) 287-0441.

Womonsong (Madison): Madison's feminist community choir rehearses, 7-9 p.m., women of all ages and backgrounds welcome, Beth Israel Center, 1406 Mound St. FMI: (608) 643-0673.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS & EVENTS

(READ CAREFULLY. Some meetings occur the same day weekly, others the same day bi-weekly or monthly. Groups: please send us updated info.)

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

Gay AA "Living Sober" (Milw.): Meets every Thursday at 7 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

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

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

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

Grief Support Group for Lesbians (Madison): Drop-in group for lesbians grieving the death of a life partner, family member or friend. Meets first Thursday of every month, 6-7:30 p.m., Anderson HospiceCare Center, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway. FMI: (608) 276-4660.

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

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

HIV Testing (Milw.): ARCW provides free and confidential HIV/AIDS testing every Thursday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Village Church, 130 E. Juneau Ave. Walk-ins welcome. FMI: (414) 225-1535 or 271-HOMO.

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

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

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

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

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

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (Milw.): Closed meeting every Thursday at 7 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 299-0755. South Madison Health & Family Center (Madison): Free, anonymous walk-in HIV testing from 5 to 7:45 p.m. at 2202 South Park St. FMI: call (608) 261-9270.

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

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

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

Gay AA (Milw.): Sixty Minutes Group, topic meeting, Meets every Friday at 5:30 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Gay AA (Milw.): Group 794, select A topic/as Bill Sees It. Meets every Friday at 7 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

High Tea & Talk - Men's Group (Madison): High Tea & Talk is an opportunity for men of all ages, who enjoy the company of other men, to chat and graze at Monty's Blue Plate Diner, 3 p.m., 2089 Atwood Ave. FMI: (608) 257-9751.

LGBT Community Center - Project Q Youth Drop-In

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

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

Madison Transgender Group (Madison): A support and advocacy group for Transsexuals (M-T-F and F-T-M), Cross-dressers and their friends, families and significant others. Confidentiality assured. Meets second & fourth Fridays of the month from 7-9 p.m. at Outreach, 600 Williamson St. FMI: (608) 235-0512 or email: wistsgroup@charter.net. MGLO & MGLPO - Red Light Night (Marshfield): Every Friday night from 10:30 p.m. to 3:30 a.m., 130 S. Central Ave., above the Thimbleberry Bookstore. Meet local LGBT people, enjoy Videos and Dancing. Everyone is welcome. FMI: Jim (715) 384-6731 or Vic (715) 387-2068.

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

OUTCARE Sexual Health Clinic (Milw.): A satellite clinic of Planned Parenthood inside the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Walk-ins Monday, Tuesday and Friday nights from 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. FREE services for teens. (414) 277-9370.

SAGE, Senior Action in a Gay Environment (Milw.): For older gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transsexuals. Offers alternating game nights, movie nights, guest speakers and discussions every Friday, 6:30 p.m., LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 224-0517.

Transgender Support (UW-Madison): Providing support for transgendered students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, meets the third Friday of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., UW Memorial Union, 800 Landon St. (check "Today in the Union" for room). FMI: (608) 235-0512, or e-mail: Wistsgroup@charter.net.

True Colors LGBT Youth Coffee Chats (Milw.): 1st and 3rd Fridays, 7-9 p.m. Open discussion and free beverages. Call for location. FMI: (414) 225-1573.

SATURDAYS

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

BESTD Clinic - Pozitively Social (Milw.): Drop-in HIV+ men's gathering * no structure! No preaching! Videos and music, refreshments but no alcohol please. 8 p.m. to midnite, last Saturdays of the month, 1240 E. Brady St. FMI: (414) 272-2144.

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

Gay AA (Milw.): Group 1094, topic meeting. Meets every Saturday at 8 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

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

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

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

Transsexual Support Group (Madison): Offering support, direction, and social assistance to Transsexuals who are pre-op, post-op, M-F, F-M, 18 or older. Seeks to help transsexuals in every aspect of their transition and journey. Confidentiality assured. Group meetings free. Meets third Saturday of the month at Outreach, 600 Williamson St., FMI: (608) 235-0512, or email: wistsgroup@charter.net.

On the Road with "The Producers"

By Carl M. Szatmary

Surely one of the theatrical events of 2003 is the arrival of Mel Brook's award-winning production of "The Producers," currently playing at the Marcus Center.

Anyone who has had begged, borrowed or stole a ticket to see "The Producers" knows what a fun night at the theatre it is. But what is it like to be in the hottest show in the country, not to mention taking it on the road? *IN Step* had the opportunity to talk to two of the show's stars this past week: Brad Oscar who plays the incorrigible Max Bialystock and Bill Nolte who plays the wacky playwright, Franz Liebkind.

Brad Oscar is certainly not a stranger to "The Producers," having been a part of the original cast. Oscar was playing Santa in a production of the Radio City Christmas Show when a call came for him to audition as standby for Nathan Lane in the part of Max. When rehearsals started, he found himself covering 7 roles. As fate would have it, the actor cast as Franz needed knee surgery. "So, I took over the role of Franz, open-

ing the show in New York on Broadway as Franz. Then my only other responsibility was I was still going to cover Max."

Oscar continued to find himself in the right place at the right time when the actor signed to take over for Lane, British stage veteran Henry Goodman, was sacked prior to the new company's press night. Having gone on for Lane over 70 times, Oscar, a Tony nominee for Franz, seemed to director Susan Stroman the perfect replacement. "I was at Tavern of the Green at an Opening Night party for the revival of 'The Elephant Man.' My cell phone rang and it was Susan Stroman on the other end telling me that this was the choice that they had made."

Although Bill Nolte wasn't a part of the original New York cast of "The Producers" he had previously worked with director Susan Stroman before being cast in the role of Franz. Nolte admits that Franz is a very fun character to play. "Franz is pretty wacky, pretty out there. He's German. He's holding the idea that Hitler got a bad rap. Hitler was really, deep down, a nice guy. It's



Bill Nolte as the wacky playwright, Franz Liebkind in "The Producers."

just absurd. He raises pigeons, training pigeons on his roof. He writes Broadway musicals, that's really how he enters into the story. He wrote a horrific Broadway musical called "Springtime for Hitler."

In one of Mel Brooks' inspired plot twists, Franz eventually gets cast as Hitler by Bialystock and Bloom. "At the audition, I am pretty astounded that they can't find someone butch enough to play Hitler and so I shoo everyone off stage and show them how to 'Haben Sie Gehört Das Deutsche Band' should be sung and end up winning the role of Hitler."

The company playing in "The Producers" are apart of the second tour known, according to Bill Nolte, as "The Leo" tour. Rehearsals began in Boston in early May before opening on June 28th. From Boston, the cast, crew and ten semi-trucks headed for their first stop, Appleton

and then on to Milwaukee.

Unlike many Broadway touring shows, what theatergoers will see in Milwaukee will compare favorably with those lucky enough to see "The Producers" in New York. "Almost exact," insists Oscar. "That's what's so exciting. The entire set, the entire production physically is, I believe, 10% smaller so that it will fit into all of the various theatres we are playing."

Some eyebrow-raising facts about "The Producers" to watch out for include 404 costume, an amazing 17 costume changes by one chorus member, 27 actors, 16 horny old ladies, 22 Hitler moustaches, one pet pigeon called Dolphy, 40 tap shoes, 6 broken leg cast and one trick sausage.

Even more jaw-dropping, says Nolte, is the musical climax of the whole show, "Springtime for Hitler." "It's the '11 o'clock' number in act two, it's very bold and over done and people really find themselves wondering how they could possibly be laughing at the Holocaust and WWII and Hitler. But Mel Brooks and Susan Stroman and Tom Meehan have really created something that is truly audacious."

From Milwaukee, "The Producers" wind its way across the country over the next ten months with stops in Chicago, Detroit, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk, Louisville, Kansas City, Tulsa and Sacramento.

Brad Oscar however steps down from the role of Max after Chicago. "I'm back to New York and back to my home and back into the Broadway company. Nathan (Lane) and Matthew (Broderick) are coming back in January for three months and I will most likely go back into the show after that as Max. But I'm ready for some time off. It's been 3 amazing years!"



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SUNDAYS

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

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

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

Cream City Squares (Milw.): LGBT square dance club holds weekly dance alternate Sundays through Sept. (then every Sunday thru May), 1-4:30 p.m., Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave. FMI: (414) 445-8080.

Gay AA (Milw.): Group 394, step/topic meeting. Meets every Sunday at 10:30 a.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Gay AA (Milw.): Group 1394, Big Book meeting. Meets every Sunday at 7 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Gay AA (Milw.): Group 94, step/topic meeting. Meets every Sunday at 6 p.m., All Saints Cathedral, 816 E. Juneau Ave. FMI: (262) 790-0197.

Gay Al-Anon (Milw.): Papillion group, topic meeting. Meets every 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday at 10:30 a.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Gay Al-Anon (Milw.): Group 94II, step/topic/slogan meeting. Meets every Sunday at 6 p.m., All Saints Cathedral, 816 E. Juneau Ave. FMI: (262) 790-0197.

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

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

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

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus (Madison): Perfect Harmony is Madison's all-inclusive chorus for gay, bisexual, transgendered and gay-friendly/allied men. We are a non-audition chorus. We rehearse Sunday evenings from 7-9 p.m., Grace Episcopal Church, 116 W. Washington St. FMI: (608) 221-9599.

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

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (Milw.): Closed meeting every Sunday at 6 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 299-0755.

Silver Space - Older Lesbian Discussion Group (Milw.): Meets on the third Sunday of the month at the Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m. \$3 donation. FMI: (414) 271-2565.

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

MONDAYS

BGLASS - Weekly Meeting (Appleton): 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: Irene (920) 722-7572 or Bernie (920) 982-0220.

Gay AA (Milw.): "Come to Believe" group spirituality in the AA program Meets every Monday at 7:30 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

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

LGBT Youth Pride Support Group - New Meeting (Green Bay): This group will be available to youth every Monday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Renaissance Counseling Center, 311 Jefferson St. FMI: (920) 437-4325.

OUTCARE Sexual Health Clinic (Milw.): A satellite clinic of Planned Parenthood inside the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Walk-ins Monday, Tuesday and Friday nights from 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. FREE services for teens. (414) 277-9370.

True Colors LGBT Youth Activity Nights (Milw.): 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at ARCW, 820 N. Plankinton Ave., 1st Floor Conference room. FMI: (414) 225-1573.

Two Spirit Society (Milw.): Cultural and social support group for indigenous LGBT people, with tribal origins from North, Central and South America. Monthly events, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 985-5151.

WISH - Generic AA 12-Step Meeting (Madison): Meets weekly at 6 p.m. at the Atwood Community Ctr., 2425 Atwood Ave. FMI: (608) 249-5096.

UWM Rainbow Alliance (Milw.): University LGBT group meets at 7:30 p.m. in Student Union Room E307. FMI: (414) 229-6555.

TUESDAYS

Gay AA (Milw.): The Over and Under 40 group. Topic meeting, everyone is welcome. Meets every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Gay AA (Milw.): Meeting every Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite #201. FMI: cal (414) 276-6936.

Gay Narcotics Anonymous (Milw.): Closed meeting. Basic Text. Meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

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

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

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

Northland Gay Men's Center - Open Discussion Group (Duluth, MN): Meets weekly from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Center, 8 N. 2nd Ave. East, Temple Opera

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OUTCARE Sexual Health Clinic (Milw.): A satellite clinic of Planned Parenthood inside the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Walk-ins Monday, Tuesday and Friday nights from 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. FREE services for teens. (414) 277-9370.

PFLAG Milw. Open Office (Milw.): A representative of Milwaukee PFLAG will be available to speak to parents, youth or anyone who wants to stop and say hello each Tuesday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center. FMI: (414) 271-2656.

Radical Faerie Heart Circle (Madison): 9 p.m., Martha's Co-op, 225 E. Lakelawn, near McTaggart's. FMI: (608) 442-1695.

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (Milw.): Closed meeting. "The Blue Group" meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m., Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Sober Seniors AA Meeting (Milw.): This meeting is focused on the unique recovery needs of elders, and meets every Tuesday morning from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at 3200 W. Highland Blvd. FMI: ElderLink (414) 289-6874.

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

Womansong Rehearsal (Madison): This women's chorale meets at the Beth Israel Center at 7 p.m. FMI: (608) 222-2987.

Yoga Spirit Free Classes (Milw.): Every Tuesday there are free classes for all people living with HIV. Among other things you can reduce stress and ease neuropathy & joint pain. Classes are held at 301 N. Water St., Suite 410 at 3:30 p.m. FMI: (414) 289-9660.

WEDNESDAYS

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

Gay AA (Milw.): Group 494, 12 Steps/12 Traditions. Meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Galano Club, 315 W. Court St., Suite 201. FMI: (414) 276-6936.

Gay/Bi Men's Al Anon Group (Madison): Meets at the University United Methodist Church, 1127 University

Ave., every Wednesday at 6 p.m. FMI: (608) 256-4107 or (608) 846-2860.

HIV/AIDS Support Group (Milw.): Every Wednesday evening at the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Call Bill at ARCW for more information: (414) 225-1551.

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

HIV Testing (Milw.): ARCW provides free and confidential HIV/AIDS testing every Wednesday from 4-7 p.m., Milwaukee LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 225-1535 or 271-HOMO.

KENTE Discussion Group (Milw.): Discussion group for the African American LGBT/SGL community, third Wednesday of each month, 6-8 p.m., LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. FMI: (414) 933-9508.

LGBT Campus Center Les/Bi Curious Women's Group (Madison): This weekly group, open specifically to lesbian, bisexual and curious women who are UWM students, meets every Wednesday night, 8 p.m. at the LGBT Campus Center on the second floor of the UWM Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St.

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

Queer Chicks Social Group (Madison): Meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m. at 219 N. Hamilton St. FMI: (608) 265-3344.

True Colors LGBT Youth (Milw.): ARCW's youth group holds drop-in activity nights every second and fourth Wednesday at 820 N. Plankinton Ave. FMI: (414) 225-1573.

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CINEMA

"Mambo Italiano" & "Km.0"

By Carl M. Szatmary

If the glossy magazines like "Instinct" and "Advocate" are to be believed, there are literally dozens of wonderful LGBT films that crisscross the country never bothering to stop in Milwaukee. Fortunately the always intriguing

Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Fest comes around once a year showing a couple of dozen films over the span of two weekends.

Now, positively nipping the heels of the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Fest, come two new comedies to the Landmark's Oriental and Downer Theatres: "Mambo Italiano" and "Km.0 (Kilometer Zero)."

Although "Mambo Italiano" will surely be compared to "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," a comparison to "Norman, Is That You?" might perhaps be more apt.

Steve Galluccio's screenplay, based upon his own autobiographical play, offers nice Italian boy Angelo Barberini (Luke Kirby) trying to come out. Turning to a gay helpline, Angelo gives his phone counselor

(as well as moviegoers) a shorthand version of what it was like to grow up different in Montreal's Petite Italie, that is Montreal's Little Italy. Nothing, believes Angelo, can be worse than being both Italian and Gay.

After a tormented childhood with only his wacky Aunt to understand him, Angelo does eventually find the courage to strike out on his own. While proudly showing his new apartment to his stodgy, oh-so Italian parents (Paul Sorvino and Claudia Ferri), Angelo finds that his apartment has been broken into. The expected chaos ensues.

But fate also brings Angelo's former best friend — and now studly policeman — Nico (Peter Miller). So determined is Nico to do a thorough job of investigating, he decides to move in. Angelo and Nico seem the happy couple. Sure, Angelo is a bit concerned that Nico is still so closeted but all it takes is one of Nico's dazzling smiles and all of Angelo's doubts and frustrations melt away. And who can blame him? Finally, here is the film where the two boys are certain to live happily ever after. Or will they?

Angelo and Nico's relationship is played against broad comedy of the two sets of homophobic parents. Galluccio's screenplay might offer broad swatches of stereotypical humor but with plenty of heart mixed in for good measure.

Fortunately, director Emile Gaudreault's talented cast manage to break through the Italian stereotypes into eminently likeable characters. Luke Kirby's Angelo manages to be both naive and winning. Ferri's Anna is just the sort of cuddly Italian Mom who rules with an iron oven mitt. Pete Miller doesn't bring any hidden depths to his closeted policeman but he's just so gosh darn cute, you probably won't care.

While "Mambo Italiano" might have the potential to be so much better, it has

been a very long time for such an enjoyable gay flick to wander into Milwaukee.

Taking its name from a central point in Madrid's Puerta del Sol, "Km.0 -- Kilometer Zero" is a genial Spanish comedy of miscommunication, and mistaken identity.

Filmmakers Juan Luis Iborra and Yolanda Garcia Serrano take a hot summer day in Madrid and liberally mix in a variety of disparate but amiable characters all searching, a few for money, some for sex but all ultimately for love.

A shy young accountant, Sergio (Alberto San Juan), desperate to lose his virginity prior to his wedding day, has hired a prostitute but arrives too late. Pedro (Carlos Fuentes), a cute fledgling filmmaker mistakes the prostitute Tatiana (Elisa Matilla) for the friend of his sister's he's planning on staying with over the summer, and she her would-be client. The gay subplot has a nerdy Benjamin (Miguel Garcia) pretending to be the Internet sex date a hot flamenco dancer is expecting, while Benjamin's straight male-prostitute roommate Miguel (Jesus Cabrero) beds a rich bored wife of a boring corporate exec who mistakenly believes him to be her long-lost son...

With a cast of fourteen to juggle, expect to be challenged at least initially in keeping straight who's who. Possessing a light and breezy tone, plenty of humorous and unexpected predicaments plus an attractive cast playing characters all of whom will surely live happily-ever-after, "Km.0" is a pleasant cinematic diversion.

"Mambo Italiano"

Grade: B+

"Km.0"

Grade: B



Scene from "Km.0."

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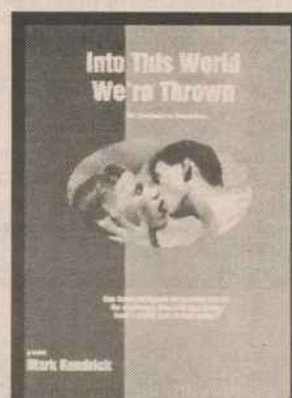
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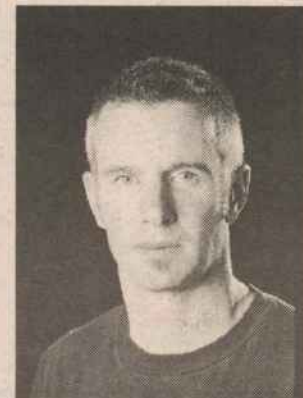
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GOTCHA!

By Billy Masters

As a foolish youth, I often fantasized that I'd show up at my high school reunion on the arm of a celebrity — someone along the lines of a **Christopher Atkins**, **Rob Lowe**, or even one of those **Estevez** boys. Clearly, I wasn't aiming very high. So, here I am, on the brink of my ten year reunion (play along with me), and I've got nothing. Oh, sure, I could bring **Cloris Leachman** with me, but who the hell is that gonna impress? Half of my classmates will think I'm dating one of the cafeteria workers (no offense, **Cloris**). So if



Adam Rickitt

you're out there Rob, Chris, or Emilio (not Charlie — there's gonna be an open bar), let me know if you can be in Boston on November 29. I'll make it worth your while.

Maybe I should bring **Wes** from "Boy Meets Boy." After all, it's not like he's busy with James or anything (oh, grow up). And here's a little scoop for you guys — didya know that while **James** and **Wes** did win the trip to New Zealand, they do NOT have to go together? It only makes sense — even if they were dating, what are the chances they'd still be dating in March of 2004, let alone wanna be on a trip together? A little birdie told me that the boys each got a number of points from **Alyson Adventures** to use any way they please — so, actually, **Wes** and I could take a trip to Costa Rica with his points and not spend a thing. Hmmm, maybe I WILL bring him to my reunion.

Oh, not to burst yet another of your bubbles, but the dog that **Wes** poses with in the photo accompanying syndicated columnist **Rex Wockner's** interview actually belongs to Rex, not Wes. Billy Masters — Shatterer of Illusions!

I cannot tell you how many e-mails I've received from fans of daytime television. So, let's get this out of the way quickly — I am NOT the same Bill Masters who is sending out invitations on "All My Children." But I am told that the scribe who came up with the idea is a Fan of Filth.

Didya happen to see our very own **Adam Killian** as **Ellen's** personal go-go boy when **Sharon Stone** dropped by? If you're coming to Los Angeles, you too may want to think about attending a taping of **Ellen**. If you go, I'd suggest bringing a sweater — it's as cold as a morgue in there. Then again, **Nana DeGeneres** is at every

taping. Coincidence? You decide. The chill in the air may be having a positive effect on **Ellen's** figure. Am I the only one who's noticed that she's mighty busty? I mean it — **Ellen's** got a good set of tits. See? And you thought **Rosie** going on about **Tom Cruise** was implausible. Here I am going on and on about **Ellen's** rack!

You know where else you're gonna get some good tits? At **Divas: Simply Singing** — **Sheryl Lee Ralph's** annual AIDS benefit that takes place on October 25 at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre in Los Angeles. For thirteen years, our favorite Dreamgirl has rounded up a veritable cavalcade of stars for this fabulous concert — and this year's lineup is quite something. People like **Geri**, **Ginger Spice Halliwell**, **Loretta Devine**, **Jenifer Lewis**, **Trenyce** (from "American Idol"), and disco diva **Linda Clifford**. Now that's what I call a party! But I do have one request — would it kill **Loretta**, **Jenifer**, and **Sheryl** to do something from **Dreamgirls**? After all, **Jenifer** did play **Effie** alongside **Loretta** and **Sheryl** in one of the first workshops of the musical. Just picture them doing "Move" or "Dreamgirls" — with original choreography, of course (the idea of them doing the entire "Heavy" sequence is too titillating to even imagine). Anyway, I'm just throwing the suggestion out there. For more details, check out www.DivasSimplySinging.com.

I've been sitting on this too long, so let's move on to **Adam**

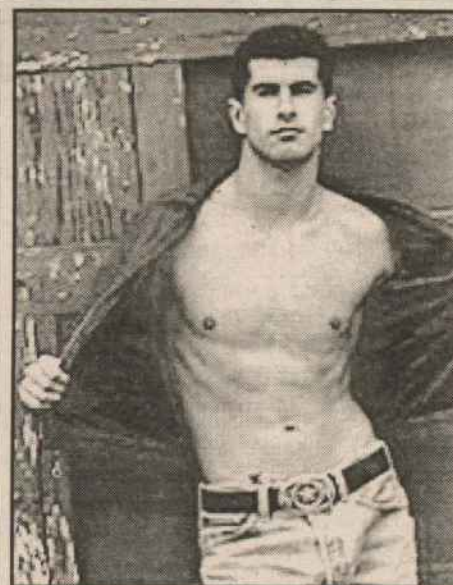
Rickitt. OK, I'm not sitting on **Adam** literally — although he'd make a good date for my reunion. Forget about the reunion, let's just get a room at the hotel! Where was I? Oh yeah, **Adam Rickitt** — he's been caught kissing a guy! The sometime singer, sometime actor will be involved in a gay kiss on the venerable UK soap "Coronation Street" — and I should point out that the show has never before had a gay character in its 43 years on the tube. The character of **Todd Grimshaw** (played by **Bruno Langley**) is coming to terms with his sexuality, and he kisses his girlfriend's brother **Nick Tilsey** (**Rickitt**) while he's sleeping (I used that

move on a recent date). The brass on the soap say that when **Nick/Adam** wakes up, he has a "furious reaction" (not unlike my date). But I'm told that he's more furious that the kiss came from his sister's beau than that the kiss was from a guy. My sources tell me that the possibility of a relationship between the two boys is being explored. I want my BBC!

Could it be that **Halle Berry** wants to look like a whore? Maybe. I'm told that part of her deal for starring in "Catwoman" was that she had costume approval. Apparently **Halle** was excited about taking on the role, but not getting into the costume. We hear that she felt **Michelle Pfeiffer's** cat suit wasn't sexy enough. Well, there's a fine line between sexy and slutty, and **Halle's** definitely leap-frogged over it. We'll post the photo of her in costume on www.Filth2Go.com so you can judge for yourself.

Could it be that a certain Broadway understudy is trying to get in some extra rehearsal time? So say my sources in the Big Apple who tell me that the boy with a song in his heart is going above and beyond the call of duty for someone in his position (and this is a guy who's been in quite a number of positions). While he says that he wants to do the best that he can do, the bigger reason is that he's got the teensiest little crush on his character's love interest. And how better to inch his way in (so to speak) than to rehearse those kissing scenes. After all, he was taught by experts. But don't expect to see his name in lights any time soon — the real leading man is hugely famous for never missing a show. Sorry, **Charlie**.

When we have a blind item that reads like a gay version of "All About Eve," then we've definitely come to the end of yet another column. So, back to my reunion — maybe we should have a contest. Every has-



Adam Killian

been actor out there should feel free to apply, and then we'll have the fans decide who I should go with. But if any of you people pick **Willie Aames**, I'll hunt each and every one of you down personally. You can check out the progress of this little contest on our website of www.filth2go.com. And, of course, if you're interested — or if you'd just like to ask a question — go ahead and send an e-mail to me at Billy@filth2go.com and I promise to get back to you before **Cloris** and I double date with **James** and **Wes** (**Cloris** has a better chance of getting lucky than **James** does). Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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STAGE

Mel Brooks' "The Producers"

By Carl M. Szatmary

It is difficult to imagine a Broadway touring show arriving in Milwaukee with any more hype than Mel Brooks' "The Producers," playing at the Marcus Center until October 12. Still one of the hottest tickets on Broadway - particularly when original stars Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick return in January - "The Producers" nabbed every Tony Award it could grab back in 2001, winning a record 12.

Can any show live up to such expectations? Well, "The Producers" does just about as well as one can realistically hope.

Briefly, Brooks' wacky musical comedy, based upon his 1968 cult classic film, follows two loveable losers, Max Bialystock (Brad Oscar) and Leo Bloom (Andy Taylor). Max is a down-on-his-luck producer still reeling from the failure of "Funny Boy," his musical version of "Hamlet." Leo, who has long dreamt of becoming a Broadway producer, is a milquetoast accountant trying to balance Max's creative accounting.

As is often the case with ideas of such magnitude, Max takes a chance remark by Leo and transforms it into the inspired notion of making heaps of money by producing a huge Broadway flop. That's right, a flop.

In their search for the worst script in town, Max and Leo end up on Franz Liebkind's East Village rooftop. Liebkind has penned a musical love letter to the one and only Fuhrer, calling it "Springtime for Hitler."

Refusing to take any chances, Max stumbles on the idea to hire the worst director possible, Roger DeBris (Stuart Marland), who is determined to "Keep It Gay."

Could there be any formula for a Broadway musical more fraught with misadventure?

Of course, the impossible takes place. "Springtime for Hitler" becomes an immediate sensation and before you can say "Bialystock and Bloom," Max and Leo look headed for the hoosegow. What will happen to our producing dynamic duo?

While it is difficult to imagine a more fun evening at the theatre, "The Producers" perhaps falls a bit short of the mark.

Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan have made sure that the laughs come fast and furious, although even the least politically correct are likely to find some of the humor cringe-worthy. Director Susan Stroman keeps the action at breakneck speed and throws in some nifty choreography.

Brad Oscar is no stranger to the role of Max Bialystock, eventually succeeding Nathan Lane after the celebrated sacking of Henry Goodman. Oscar, who does bear an uncanny resemblance to Lane, creates an immediate rapport with the audience in his opening number, "The King of Broadway." Less successful is Taylor's Leo Bloom. Although possessing a better voice than Broderick, Taylor seems to lack sufficient charm to bring Leo Bloom to life.

The rest of the talented ensemble alternates their time between playing wacky characters and participating in wacky musical numbers. Bill Nottle offers a hilarious "In Old Bavaria" backed up by a terrific

pigeon chorus. John Boag's Lead Tenor leads the marvelously tacky "Springtime for Hitler," while few Act One closers can compare to Max's excursion to "Little Old Lady Land" in "Along Came Bialy."

For tickets to "The Producers,"
all (414) 273-7206.

Skylight's "Little Shop of Horrors"

By Carl M. Szatmary

Imagine for a moment that you are the Skylight Opera Theatre's Artistic Director and you must schedule a show opposite the eagerly awaited arrival of Mel Brooks' phenomenally successful, 12 Tony award-winning production of "The Producers."

Now there's a dilemma. Richard Carsey turned to "Little Shop of Horrors," a record-breaking Off-Broadway sensation from the early 1980s and later a very successful film.

"Little Shop of Horrors" germinated from a 1960s cult film, directed by the legendary low-budget horror director, Roger Corman. Today most notable for an early screen appearance by Jack Nicholson, Corman's black comedy cost a mere \$30,000 - what it cost the Skylight's fabulous properties department to create Audrey II, the loveable carnivorous plant - and was filmed in a mind-boggling two and one-half days.

The time is vaguely the 1960s; the place is Mushnik's Skid-Row Florist. Business is bad, beleaguered Mr. Mushnik (William Theisen) is ready to throw in the flower, err, the towel. But Mr. Mushnik's even more beleaguered assistant, Seymour (Benjamin Howes), has been hard at work nursing along a very strange plant that,

once placed in the store's front window, becomes an immediate sensation.

Everybody wants to know about this strange and mysterious plant and "Suddenly Seymour" is on the radio and in demand for speaking engagements. As the fame of Audrey II spreads (both the Rose Bowl and Elizabeth Taylor come a calling), business begins to boom and Mr. Mushnik is thrilled. Seymour's prospects look endless. If only the plant didn't keep demanding fresh human blood!

"Little Shop of Horrors," with a marvelously clever and hum-able score by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, is pure vaudeville with a wonderfully improbable love story and just a touch of Faust tossed in for good measure.

Director Pam Kriger somehow manages to keep the comedy broad but keep the wacky cast of characters real.

Playing against such an inanimate scene-stealer as Audrey II can't be an easy task but Krieger's wonderful cast more than holds its own. Benjamin Howes' Seymour manages to remain sweet and guileless regardless of the dastardly deeds he finds himself doing. Michelle Smith creates a loveable if clueless Audrey underneath her enormous wig. Even William Theisen's Mr. Mushnik is just a big old teddy bear.

Still, the plant, Audrey II, cannot help but steal the show. Initially Audrey II is seemingly just an innocuous window-box sized potted plant. But under Seymour's tender loving care, she continues to grow in size before finally uttering her first, chilling words, "Feed Me." Eventually, Audrey II takes over the small premises of Mushnik's Skid-Row Florist.

Kudos must be given to Lisa Schlenker, for her wacky and wonderful designs, and to puppeteer Peter Bruce and singer/actor Bill Jackson for creating such a delightful creature.

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DEAR RUTHIE

The Truth About Twinkies

Halloween is
almost here! I
gotta tell you, I

LOVE what you Gays have done with Halloween. It's the
only time that Pearl and I have gorgeous (Gay) men hit-
ting on us - they all think we're Drag Queens.

And speaking of Drag Queens, October ushers in the
"American Drag Idol" contest brought to you buy those
fun-lovin' HIT Boys. I'll be emceeing the first of three pre-
liminary shows. You can catch me and some wonderful
contestants at 219 on Saturday, October 18. Get there at
7:00 for a great show full of new talent.

You can catch me judging another "Drag Idol" show
at Woody's on November 1. Maybe I'll do a number,
maybe not. But Woody's is always a fun place to hang
out, so stop by and say "hello." The two winners from
each preliminary go to the final show on Thanksgiving
night. Sounds like a blast and I can't wait, but in the
mean time, let's read a letter.

Dear Ruthie,

One of my best friends has a new boyfriend. Isn't
that wonderful? Good for him, hey? The problem is that
my other friends and I hate him. (The boyfriend, not our
friend - follow?)

This kid is 22 years-old and our friend is 45 - you
read that correctly Ms Ruthie; he's forty-friggin'-five!

We call him "The Twinkie," and he has nothing in
common with our friend and he nags him the whole time
we're out together. He's rude and immature. He goes to
school but he's changed majors every year he's gone, and
he lacks direction (in my opinion).

The Twinkie has nothing in common with us (we're
all about the same age), and we can't stand him. We

want Ms. Twinkie out of our group. We want to tell our
friend to get out of this relationship, but aren't sure how
to do that. Any input would be valued.

A Friend

Dear Friend,

While I appreciate the concern you have for your
amigo, I think you better mind your own bee's wax.

I don't care if your buddy is hopping into the sack
with a Twinkie, a Ding-Dong, a Ho-Ho or a Suzie Q, what
a 45-year-old man does with a consenting adult is up to
him. (And whether you like or not, the age of 22 marks
"this kid" as a legal adult.)

I'd hate to find out what you think of my trysts with
the pizza delivery guys and professional pool boys that
occupy my trailer on the weekends.

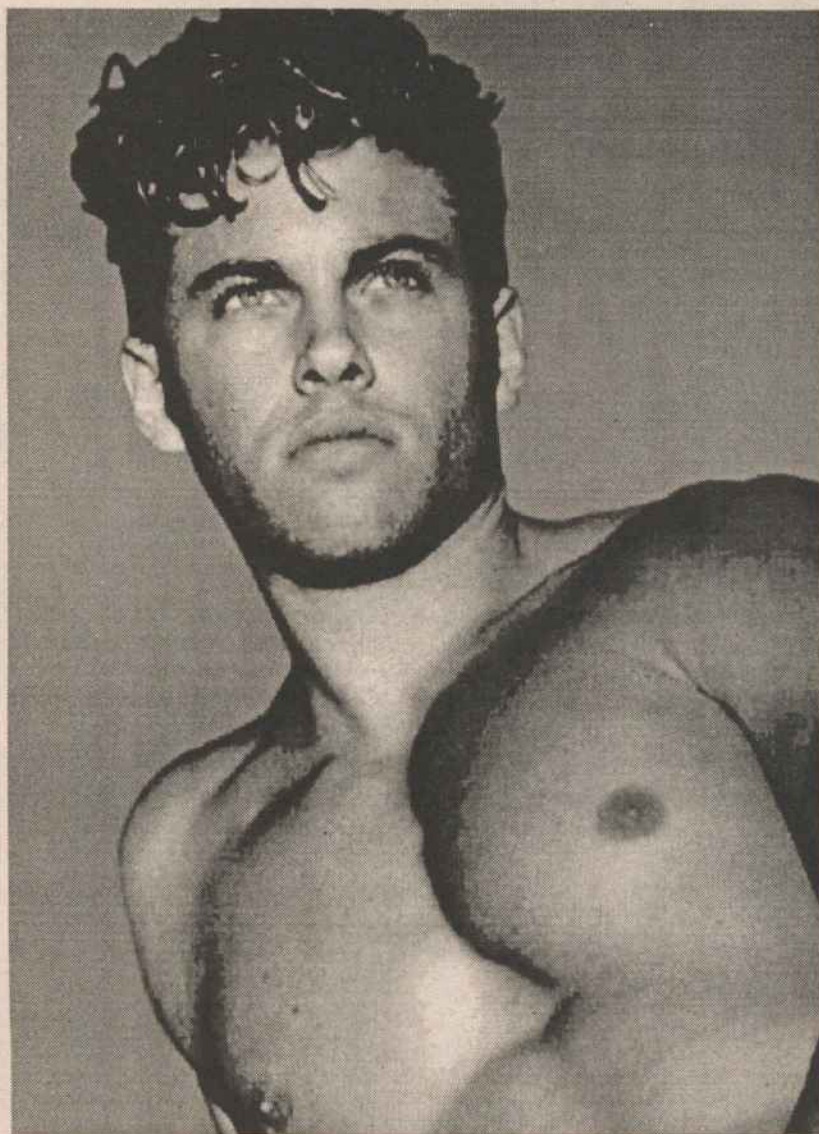
Listen sugar booger, obviously your friend likes this
younger man and doesn't share your concerns or your
overall point of view. There's nothing you can or should do
about it. Unless this young man is hurting your friend or
causing him real hardship (which you don't indicate), just
stay out of it.

The real problem seems to be that YOU have nothing
in common with The Twinkie and that YOU think his life
lacks direction. Well, who the hell are YOU? Maybe The
Twinkie isn't too crazy about you either. Maybe you're
jealous that your buddy is doing the horizontal polka with
some fresh, cream-filled pastry while you're stuck pump-
ing your own accordion at the day-old bakery.

Of course, this may not be the case at all and you
just don't get along with this new guy. Let it go and see
what develops. The relationship may not even last. If it
does, however, you're in no position to stop it.

Your friend is a grown man with plenty of life expe-
rience. If this younger guy is what he wants, let it be and
share in his happiness.

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- Action Wisconsin: Congress for Human Rights, Inc.
1202 Williamson St., Madison 53703(608) 441-0143
E-mail: info@actionwisconsin.org
Website: www.actionwisconsin.org
- AIDS Action Wisconsin
820 Plankinton Ave., Milwaukee 53202 (800) 359-9272
- AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (www.arcw.org)
820 Plankinton Ave., Milwaukee 53202 (414) 273-1991
(800) 359-9272
- BiNet USA (National bisexual political organization)
(<http://norn.org/pub/other-orgs/brc/binet.html>)
(202) 882-4384
- Continental Pageant System
Appleton, WI (920) 832-0492 (Neely)
- Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline (Fri/Sat Eves 7pm-11pm)
GAY-YOUTH Milwaukee Metro(414) 272-TEEN
- Wisconsin IN Step (Wisconsin's LGBT Newspaper)
1661 N. Water St., Suite 411, Milwaukee, 53202
(414) 278-7840
FAX only(414) 278-5868
Website: www.instepnews.com
- Log Cabin Republicans/Wisconsin(414) 299-9443
P.O. Box 199, Milwaukee, 53201
- New Beginnings PENPALS (Mo. newsletter)
Box 25, Westby 54667
- OutBound (Monthly Entertainment Guide)
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Website: outbound@media2go.com
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c/o OutReach, P.O. Box 310
Madison, WI 53701(608) 255-8582
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- Wisconsin AIDS Library(414) 225-1539
arwlib@execpc.com(800) 359-9272
- Wisconsin AIDSline (free/anonymous)
(414) 273-AIDS
(800) 334-AIDS
- WI Conference of Churches
(AIDS Caring Community)(608) 244-0894
- Wisconsin DHFS HIV/AIDS Program
Drug Reimbursement Program
Health Insurance Premium Subsidy Program
1 W. Wilson St., Rm. 318
P.O. Box 2659, Madison 53701-2659(800) 991-5532
- WI Legislative Hotline(800) 362-WISC

Fox Cities/NE (920)

BARS

- Crossroads (Wm, F)
1042 W. Wisconsin Ave.,
Appleton, WI 54911830-1927
- Rascals Bar & Grill (MW, F)
702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton 54911954-9262

ORGANIZATIONS

- AA Hotline (for gay meeting referrals)731-4331
- AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
120 N. Morrison St., Suite 201, 54911733-2068
Website: www.arcw.org
- Gay, Lesbian, Other, Whatever (GLOW)
Lawrence University, 207 South Meade,
Appleton832-7051
Web: www.lawrence.edu/sorg/glow
- GSA at UW-Fox Valley
1478 Midway Road, Menasha832-2671
jkuemper@uwfc.edu
- GLBT & Q Youth Partnership (Youth support group)
Meets Tuesdays 6-8 pm731-4847
- HIV+ Support Groups Northeast733-2068
- Lavender Reading Salon (Book Club)832-6184
2611 N. Summit St., 54914-2120
Website: www.lavendersalon.org
- The Network (LGBT Awareness)
Ripon College, 300 Seward Street PO Box 248
Ripon 54971-0248745-7455
Hoell@ripon.edu
- PFLAG Fox Cities

- Box 75, Little Chute, 54140749-1629
Web: www.pflagfoxcities.org
- Rainbow Alliance for HOPE (UW-O group)
Reeve Memorial Union, 748 Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh
54901, HOPE@uwosh.edu
Web: www.uwosh.edu/organizations/hope
- Rainbow Over Wisconsin
703 E. Wisconsin Ave., 54911-4830
Web: www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org
- TSON (Transgender Support) Appleton
.....733-1883
.....788-4797

Religious

- Angels of Hope (MCC Church)
815 N. Richmond991-0128

Green Bay (920)

- Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2600 E. Philip Lane Appleton731-0849
vuuf@focul.org Web: www.focul.org/fvuff
- Prarie Lakes UU Society745-2446
P.O. Box 574 Ripon, WI 54971-0574
Meeting address: 315 Eureka St., Ripon

Green Bay/NE

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Chanticleer Guest House
4072 Cherry Rd Sturgeon Bay, 54234746-0334
- BlackSmith Inn Bed & Breakfast
Box 220, Baileys Harbor, 54202839-9222
- Prince Edward B&B(715) 526-2805
203 West 5th Street, Shawano 54166

BARS

- AJ's on Broadway (Mw)436-9970
301 S. Broadway, 54303
- Brandys II (MW)437-3917
1126 Main Street, Green Bay, 54301
- Buddies (MW)437-9256
1264 Main Street, Green Bay, 54301
- Club XS (MW, G/S, DJ, V)
1106 Main, 54301884-2949
- Napalese Lounge (MW, DJ, F)
515 S. Broadway 54303432-9646
- SASS (Wm, DJ) 437-7727
840 S. Broadway, 54304
- Sorry, We're Closed (MW)884-2835
715 S. Broadway, 54304
- Za's Historic West Theatre (Mw, G/S, DJ, V, F)
405 W. Walnut St., 54303435-1057

MEDICAL

- AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
824 S. Broadway, 54304920-437-7400
.....800-675-9400
Web: www.arcw.org

Eastport Chiropractic (Mory Werner D. C.)

- Eastport Center, Suite 242, 54301362-5057
- HIV+ Support Groups Northeast437-7400
Independent Assessment & Counseling (Kenneth Sahn)
130 E. Walnut, #406 54301438-8141
- Marriage and Family Therapy Center (Gerald Wellens)
735 E. Walnut, #406, 54301432-8777

ORGANIZATIONS

- AA Hotline (for gay meeting referrals)731-4331
- Argonauts of Wisconsin (L/L Social Club)
PO Box 22096, Green Bay 54305-2096
- Entertainers Against AIDS (Brandon)
.....437-3400 X. 103
P. O. Box 2040, Green Bay 54306-2040
- Katrina Kaye Productions (USofA preliminaries)
Green Bay435-4107
- PFLAG Door County (Sandy)
Meetings: Hope Church, 12th & Michigan, Sturgeon Bay
Positive Voice (Gay and Lesbian Support)
P. O. Box 1381, Green Bay 54305435-4404
Web: www.positivevoice.org or PVnew4glbt@aol.com
- Rainbow Alliance (St. Norbert College)
100 Grant Street DePere 54115-2099
www.snc.edu/rainbow/index.htm or rainbow@snc.edu
- Straight & Gay Alliance (SAGA)
UW-GB(Brian)465-2343
Web: www.uwgb.edu/tenpent

Religious

- AngelS of Hope (MCC Church)
3607 Libal Street, 54301983-7453
- Green Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2201 S. Oneida, Green Bay 54304499-2344
Web: www.greenbayuu.org
- Union Congregational Church-UCC
716 S. Madison St, Green Bay 54301437-9266
- Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Door County
269 Koessl Lane, Sister Bay 54234854-7235
P.O. Box 859, Sister Bay, WI 54234-0859

Madison (608)

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Prairie Garden B&B
W13172 Hwy 188, Lodi, 53555(800) 380-8427

MEDICAL

- AIDS Network (HIV/AIDS Service Organization)
600 Williamson St, 53701252-6540
- AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (www.arcw.org)
222 State St., 53701258-9103
.....(800) 518-9910
- Blue Bus STD Clinic (Monday, Thursday)
1552 University Avenue 53705262-7330
- Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital (HIV Counseling/Testing)
80 1st St., Prairie du Sac, 53578643-7583

BARS

- CE's (Wm)
2415 Winnebago St., 53704241-5042
- Club 5 (MW, DJ, V, F)
Includes: The Barracks (Mw, L/L), The Foxhole(W),
(Planet Q (MW)),
5 Applegate Court, 53713277-9700
Web: www.club-5.com
- Club Majestic (MW, G/S, DJ, V)
115 King St. 53701251-2582
Web: www.clubmajestic.net
- Shamrock (GS, MW, F, D)
117 W. Main St. 53703255-5029
- Greenbush (G/S, M/W, F)
914 Regent, 53715257-BUSH
- Rainbow Room (MW)
121 West Main St., 53703258-5838

ORGANIZATIONS

- Briarpatch
512 E. Washington St. 53703257-0394
Web: www.brpatch.org
- Brew City Bears
P.O. Box 8815, 53708-8815, Milw.299-0401
E-mail: bcbears@aol.com
- Campus Womens Center
710 University Ave., #202, 53715 262-8093
- Different Spokes G/L/B Bicycling Club241-8184
18-21 Yr Old Social Group256-2667
- Flaming Dykasaurus241-7020
E-mail: dykasaur@aol.com
- Frontiers (Gay/Bi Mens Activities Organ.)
600 Williamson St, 53703274-5959
- Gay/Bi Father's Group
600 Williamson St, 53703255-8582
- Gay/Lesbian Information Recording
(ask for tape #3333)263-3100
- Gay Mens Video Club
P.O. Box 8234, 53708244-8675
- GLBT Phone Line (Outreach)255-4297
- Jewish Lesbians256-8883
E-mail: catherine-odette@juno.com
- Kissing Girls Productions (Lesbian Events) 266-9997
E-Mail: kgpgirlz@hotmail.com
- Lavender (Lesbian Domestic Violence Support Group)
.....255-7447
- LesBiGay Issues Committee (UW Advisory Comm.)
Dean of Students Office,
75 Bascom Hall, Madison 53706263-5700
- LesBiGay Campus Center (Office, Lounge,
Resource Center) UW Union265-3344
- LesBiGay Teen Support Group251-1126
(Briarpatch & Picada) or246-7606
- Lesbian, Gay and Bi Law Student Union
UW Law School, Bascom Mall, Madison 53706
- Lesbian Health Issues Task Force242-6256
E-mail: sievert@co.dane.wi.us
- Lizzards (Lesbians 30 and over)586-4499
E-mail: cannon@maqs.net
- Madison Area Gay/Lesbian History Society 839-4060
E-mail: dbergren@facstaff.wisc.edu
- Mad City Bears225-8582
c/o OutReach, 600 Williamson, Madison 53706
- Madison LGBT Business Alliance245-1611
www.lgballiance.org
- Madison Volleyball Group (Jeff)251-8716
- Madison Wrestling Club
P.O. Box 8234, 53708244-8675
- MAGIC Picnic Committee c/o Outreach 255-8582
- Mens Alanon255-8582
- New Harvest Foundation (G/L Foundation)
P.O. Box 1786, 53701
- OutReach, Inc.
600 Williamson St, 53703255-8582
email: outreachinc.com, web: www.outreachinc.com
- Parents & Friends of Gays & Lesbians
P.O. Box 1722, 53701
- Perfect Harmony Chorus831-3609
P.O. Box 14706, 53714-4706
- Rainbow Community Collective (L/G/B/T Social Org)
Wil-Mar Neighborhood Ctr. 2nd & 4th Thursdays
953 Jennifer Street (Lira)(608) 238-9150
- Rural Dykes Association (social)767-3150
- SAGE/Madison-Dane255-8582
- Scrawl (Women's Open Mic, Music)245-9681

- <http://www.checkpages.com/brainiacs/allgirlscrawl>
Shake It Up! (L/G/B/T Social Org)240-0504
<http://www.aplaceforus.org/shakeitup.htm>
- Stage Q (Theater Group)663-6463
<http://www.stageq.com>
- 10% Society (student organization)
<http://tps.storg.wisc.edu>, e-mail:
P.O. Box 260394, 53726262-7365
- Unicorns of Madison (L/L club)
P.O. Box 536, 53701
- UW LesBiGay Alumni Council262-2551
- Womonsong (Woman's Choral Group)246-2681

RELIGIOUS

- Affirmation (L/G United Methodists)
University Church, 1127 Univ. Ave, 53705
256-2353
- Church of the Holy Spirit (Inclusive)
2144 E. Johnson St., (meeting at James Reeb)
.....661-4462
- Coming Out, Coming Together (Interfaith)
.....249-1537
E-mail: cwolve@mailbag.com

- First Congregational UCC Church233-9751
1609 University Ave., 53705
Web: www.firstcongmadison.org

Integrity/Dignity

- P.O. Box 730, 53701836-8886
- James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Church
2146 E Johnson, 53704242-8887

Services

- Victoria Hewelt Cazel (Attorney)
6701 Seybold Rd., Suite 103270-1709
- KMA Systems of Madison (Computer Consultants)
4702 Dutch Mill Road #14222-9128

Retail

- Border's Books
3416 University Ave., 53705232-2600
- Rubin's
317 E. Wilson St. 53704255-8998

Milwaukee (414)

Organizations

- Aeon Group (Interactive Fiction Gaming)
P.O. Box 93953, 53203-0953291-0530
- Alcoholics Anonymous
(Request gay meetings)771-9119
- Bi Definition (Bisexual community events)
315 W. Court St., Suite 101299-9612
E-mail: bidef@hotmail.com
- Brew City Bears299-0401
P.O. Box 1035, 53201
E-mail: brewcitybears@aol.com, www.brewcitybears.org
- BWMT-Milwaukee(414) 540-9437, ext 3
P.O. Box 091475, Milwaukee, 53209
bwmtmilwaukee@aol.com
- Castaways M.C. (Levi/Leather club), P.O. Box 1697, 53202
- Counseling Center (LGB support & discussion groups)
2038 N. Bartlett, 53202271-2565
- Cream City Chorus
315 W. Court, 53212276-8787
- Cream City Foundation (CCF)
315 W. Court, 53212225-0244
- Cream City Squares
(G/L Square Dancing Club)445-8080
- DAMES (Dykes Against Minority Erotic Suppression)
P.O. Box 1272, Milwaukee, 53201278-0323
- Fest City Singers (gay choral group)
P.O. Box 11428, 53211961-0713
- Firebirds (L/L group), P.O. Box 159, 53201-0159
- Front Runners (running group)332-1527
- Galano Club (chemical free recovery club)
315 W. Court St., 53212276-6936
- Milwaukee GAMMA (sports/outdoors/recreation/social)
E-mail: mkegamma@execpc.com
Web: www.MilwaukeeGamma.com
P.O. Box 1900, 53201365-3453
Membership Info358-2111
- Gay Men's Discussion/Support Group276-7626
- Gay Father's Group
1240 E. Brady St., 53202372-8008
- Gay Lesbian Education Employees of Metro Milw.
(GLEEMM), Larry462-8404
- Gay/Lesbian Studies UWM229-6402
- Gay People's Union
P.O. Box 208, 53201645-0585
- Gay Youth Milwaukee (peer group meetings)
P.O. Box 090441, 53209265-8500
- Gay Straight Alliance
(Waukesha County Technical College)
GSA c/o Student Life C121, 800 Main St.
Peawaukee, WI 53072(262) 691-5388
- Gemini Gender Group (TV/TS/TG support/social)
P.O. Box 44211, 53214297-9328
- Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee
P.O. Box 862, 53201-0862
- GLEAM/SPECTRUM (GLBT Employees of Ameritech)
P.O. Box 254, 53201482-4310
- G/L Community Trust Fund
P.O. Box 1686, 53201643-1652
- Great Lakes Harley Riders, P.O. Box 341611, 53234-1611
- Holiday Invitational Tournament (G/L bowling event)
P.O. Box 899, 53201

Keep Hope Alive (HIV Holistic Support)
P.O. Box 27041, West Allis, 53227 548-4344

LAMM (Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee)
315 W. Court, 53212 272-9442

Log Cabin Republicans (Gay Republicans)
P.O. Box 199, 53201 299-9443

MGALA (Marquette U. GL Alumni)
P.O. Box 92722, 53202

Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance
Campus Ministry, 617 N 14th St, 53233 288-6873

Men's Voices Milwaukee
315 W. Court St., 53212 765-9198

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club (Brian) 704-1688

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center 271-2656
315 W. Court, 53212
www.mkelgbt.org

Milwaukee Symphony Chorus
Auditions/Info 414-559-9330
www.milwaukesymphony.org

Narcotics Anonymous (request gay mtgs.) 800-711-6375

Orgullo Latino/a Latin Pride
(c/o Murguia) 1532 N. Astor St. 53202 276-8546

Outdoors Cooperative Sports Group 963-9833

Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
315 W. Court, 53212 299-9198

Pathfinders (youth counseling, shelter)
1614 E. Kane Place, 53202 271-1560

PrideFest (annual Pride festival)
907 S. 1st St., 53204
Web Site: www.pridefest.com 645-FEST

Project Q (Youth Program of the Milwaukee LGBT Center)
315 W. Court, 53212, www.projectq.org 223-3220

The Queer Program (Cable TV Show)
PO Box 090441, 53209 265-8500

Rainbow Alliance at UWM
Box 122, 2200 E. Kenwood 53211 229-6555
Web: www.uwm.edu/studentorg/glbtc/

Riverwest Rainbow Association
1001 E. Keefe Ave., 53212 225-1645

SAGE Milwaukee (for older LGBTs)
P.O. Box 510492, 53203-0091 224-0517

Saturday Softball League (SSBL)
P.O. Box 92605, 53203-0091 454-9204

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA) 299-0755

Shoreline (country dancing, instruction)
P.O. Box 510283, 53203-0051 747-0388

Silver Space (for older lesbians)
c/o Counseling Center, 2038 N. Bartlett 271-2565

Two Spirit Society (Indigenous LGBT People of America)
315 W. Court St., 53212 985-5151

Wisconsin Haverim (GLBT Jewish Group)
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WisconsinHaverim
Zohar Harari: zoharwi@yahoo.com (414) 202-8074
Mark Behar: mpbehar@wisc.edu, (414) 277-7671

Wisconsin Outdoor Women (outdoor sporting events)

P.O. Box 94, Hales Corners, 53130 427-2082

RELIGIOUS

All Saints' Episcopal Church
818 E. Juneau Ave., 53202 271-7719
www.ascathedral.org

ARCW Spiritual Care
P.O. Box 92487, 53202 225-1565

Central United Methodist Church
639 N. 25th St., 53233

Cross Lutheran Church (Reconciled in Christ)
1821 N. 16th St., 53205 344-1746

Dignity (G/L Catholic Church)
P.O. Box 597, 53201 873-9591

First Unitarian Society (Unitarian Universalist)
1342 N. Astor St., 53202 273-5257

Lake Park Lutheran Church
2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211 962-9190

Lutherans Concerned
P.O. Box 1676, 53201 372-9663

Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church (U/MCC) 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204
Adm. Office: 170 S. 2nd St., 53204 383-1100

Pentecost Lutheran Church (Reconciled in Christ)
5226 W. Burleigh St., 53210 445-2696

Pilgrim Christian Church
15400 W. North Ave., Brookfield 53005 (262) 782-6440

Plymouth Church-UCC (Open & Affirming)
2717 E. Hampshire St., 53211 964-1513

The Sanctuary (Ecumenical, nondenominational)
1636 W. National Ave., 53204 672-4434

St. Ann's Church
5933 W. National Ave., 53214 259-1229

St. James Episcopal Church
833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233 271-1340

Village Church (Reconciled in Christ)
130 E. Juneau Ave., 53202 273-7617

Medical

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (www.arcw.org)
820 Plankinton Ave., 53203 273-1991
(800) 359-9272

Mark Behar, PA-C (Family/ Primary Care)
Family Care Center, 1834 W. WI, 53233 933-3600

BESTD (Brady East STD Clinic) (STD/HIV diagnosis/treatment)
www.bestd.org; bestd@execpc.org
1240 E. Brady St., 53202 272-2144

Health Options (Holistic Health Services)
823 N. 2nd Street, #811, 53202 225-9303

Dennis C. Hill Outreach Center (HIV testing, condoms)
4311 W. Vliet, 53208 342-4333

Positive Health Clinic
Medical Center Specialties Clinic
945 N 12, 53233 219-7908

STD Specialties Clinic
3251 N. Holton, 53212 264-8800

Bars/Clubs

Ballgame (Mw, V, D, F)
196 S. 2nd St., 53204 273-7474

Bar Map: #1
Boom (Mw, D, V) www.boomkme.com
625 S. 2nd St., 53204 277-5040

Bar Map: #2
Boot Camp (M, L/L)
209 E. National Ave., 53204 643-6900

Bar Map: #3
C'est La Vie (Mw, D)
231 S. 2nd St., 53204 291-9600

Bar Map: #4
Club 219 (MW, DJ, V)
219 S. 2nd St., 53204 271-3732

Bar Map: #4
Fluid (Mw) www.fluid.gaymke.com
819 S. 2nd St., 53204 643-5843

Bar Map: #5
Harbor Room (L/L, Mw) www.harbor-room.com
117 E. Greenfield Ave., 53204 672-7988

Bar Map: #6
Nut Hut (WM, G/S, F, D)
1500 W. Scott 53201 647-2673

Bar Map: #7
La Cage/ECT (Mw, DJ, V, F) www.lacage.gaymke.com
801 S. 2nd St., 53204 383-8330

Bar Map: #8
M&M Club (MW, F) www.mandmclub.com
124 N. Water 53202 347-1962

Bar Map: #9
Out 'N About (MW, DJ, V, F)
www.milwaukee-out-n-about.com

Bar Map: #10
1407 S. Water St., 53204 643-0377

Pulse (Mw, D, F) www.pulsemilwaukee.com
200 E. Washington St., 53204 649-9547

Bar Map: #11
Switch (Mw) www.switch.gaymke.com
124 W. National Ave., 53204 220-4340

Bar Map: #12
This Is It (M)
418 E. Wells 53202 278-9192

Bar Map: #13
Triangle (M, V)
135 E. National 53204 383-9412

Bar Map: #14
Woody's (Mw, D) www.daveant.com/woodys
1579 S. 2nd St., 53204 672-0806

Bar Map: #15
Walker's Pint (Wm)
818 S. 2nd St., 53204 643-7468

Bar Map: #16

Restaurants

Azteca
816 South 5th St., 53202 383-8816

Bella's Caffé (Coffee House)
189 N. Milwaukee St., 53204 273-5620

Cafe Knickerbocker
1030 East Juneau, 53202 272-0011

Cempazuchi
1205 E. Brady St., 53202 291-5233

Chip and Pys
1340 W. Towne Square Rd., Mequon, 241-9589

Cielito Lindo
733 South 2nd St., 53204 649-0401

Harry's Bar and Grill
3539 N. Oakland Ave., 53211 694-6800

10 M&M/Glass Menagerie (lunch, dinner, Sunday brunch)
124 N. Water 53202 347-1962

North Shore Bistro
Riverpoint Village, I-43 & Brown Deer 351-6100

Out 'N About (lunch, dinner, Sat. & Sun. brunch)
www.milwaukee-out-n-about.com

Silver Dollar Cafe
831 South 16th Street, 53204 645-8860

Help Lines

Gay People's Union 645-0585

Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline (Fri/Sat Eves 7pm-11pm)
Milwaukee Metro (866) GAY-YOUTH
(414) 272-TEEN

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
Information and referral 271-2656

Pathfinders (24-hour youth counseling) 271-1560

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

Services

Affiliated Mortgage 453-6700
1233 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, 53218

A&J Promotions (Promotional Products)
aandjpromotions@aol.com 332-9584

Bay Tax Service, Paul Rathjen (414) 213-5842

B&G Construction 405-7843

Sean Buckley (Individual Psychotherapy) 562-2403

Bill Buresh (Real Estate) 529-0500

Calyx Counseling Center (Kate Weishaar, Ph.D.)
1840 N. Farwell Ave. Ave. 276-4664

Carnival Travel, 611 E. Wells St. 276-3388

Clarity (Writing and Research) 276-6935

Creative Home Concepts (Home/Remodel) 766-1066

Downtown Autobody (Car Repair)
3425 N. Holton Ave. 964-7170

Roland E. Daneau, CPA (Accountant) 962-1400

Discovery & Recovery Clinic (Counseling)
6510 W. Layton Ave, 53215 282-6160

Diva Plumbing Co. 324-6698
Residential & Commercial, divaplumbers@aol.com

Dykeman Family Heating (heating/cooling)
1023 E. Brady St., 53202 273-7500

Theodore I. Friedman, PhD (Psychotherapist)
2266 N. Prospect, Suite 206 53202 272-2427

Full Moon Productions (Women's Music Promoters)
N235 Co Hwy W, Campbellsport, 53010

The Garden Room (Garden Design) 963-1657

Hairys Hair Bar
2385 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. 486-9299

Horizon Travel (Member IGTA)
N81 W15028 Appleton, Men. Falls 53051 255-0704

Hume, Attorney Kathleen
5665 S 108th, Hales Corners, 53130 529-2129

Denis Jackson, PhD. (Relational training, hypnosis, HIV & Vocational Counseling) 276-8669

Warren Klaus (attorneys)
5665 S. 108th, Hales Corners 53130 529-2800

C.A. Klein (Accounting Services) 384-1640

Linda Jo Martin (Psychotherapist) 276-8676

Randy Mickelson, (Ernie Von Schledorn, auto sales)
Saukville/Port Washington 800-648-6789

Scott Perkins (Realtor) 476-9070, ext. 461
cell: 801-1356

Red Tail Painting & Restoration
e-mail: redtail@execpc.com 607-1180

Reiki Master/Wm Jacobs
(energy balancing) 668-8860

Side by Side (performers) 961-2135

Diane Bloom/Sandy Lewis

Jeanie Simpkins, (MS), (counseling) 282-6160

Jack Smith (Realtor) 962-4413
home/voice mail 224-1452

Special Touch Massage 536-8232

Streff Advertising/Sandy Lewis 771-8300
7600 Harwood Ave., Wauwatosa, 53213

The Right Angle (carpentry) 390-0909

Tech Support (computer technical support) 698-9493

Third Coast Courier (delivery) 562-0935

Travel Directions (Travel Agency)
515 Glenview, Wauwatosa, 53213 774-2174

Travel Experience (Travel Agency) 744-6020

Wauker Photography (Portraits, Commitments)
by appointment only 383-0740

Wells Ink, Advertising & Design (Advertising, PR)
1661 N. Water St., Suite 411, 53202 272-2116

Retail

2Burn (Ventless Fireplaces, Gifts)
11708 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa 607-7000

Absolute Furniture
5520 W. North Ave 875-8326

Body Ritual (Body Piercing, Jewelry, Gifts)
2010 N. Farwell Ave., 53202 273-3777

Avante Garde (Body Piercing)
7219 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, 53214 607-4068

Clinton Street Antiques
1110 South First Street 647-1773

Constant Reader Bookshop
1627 E. Irving Pl., 53202 291-0452

Eyez Unique (optical)
2238 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. 481-0868

Forever Yours (flowers, fresh cut, dried)
2201 E. Capitol Dr., 53211 963-1006

Genesis (custom jeweler, goldsmith)
6011 W. Layton Ave. 281-1022

Great Frame Up
507 E. Silver Spring Dr. 962-4889

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

Gravo Gallery (framing)
1209 E. Brady St., 53202 277-8228

Mega Discount Nursery
1901 E. Rowson Ave., Oak Creek 53154 571-6565

Miss Groove (gifts)
1225 E. Brady St., 53202 298-9185

Out of Solitude Jewelry
918 E. Brady St., 53202 223-3101

Outpost Natural Foods
100 E. Capitol Dr., 53212 964-7789
exchange@execpc.com

Outwards (LGBT Books and espresso bar)
2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211 963-9089
exchange@execpc.com

Popular News (adult books, videos)
225 N. Water St., 53202 278-0636

Rosebud Cinema and Drafthouse
6833 W. North Ave. 607-9672

Rubin's
224 E. Chicago St. 53202 278-8100

Sportland 2 (motorcycles)
7221 S. 13th St. 764-2800

Video Adventures (video/dvd sales/rentals)
1418 E. Brady St, 53202 272-6768

Wishful Things (Antiques)
207 E. Buffalo, 53202 964-9799

Health Clubs

35 Midtowne Spa (Gay Health and Recreational Facility)
315 S. Water St., 53204 278-9899

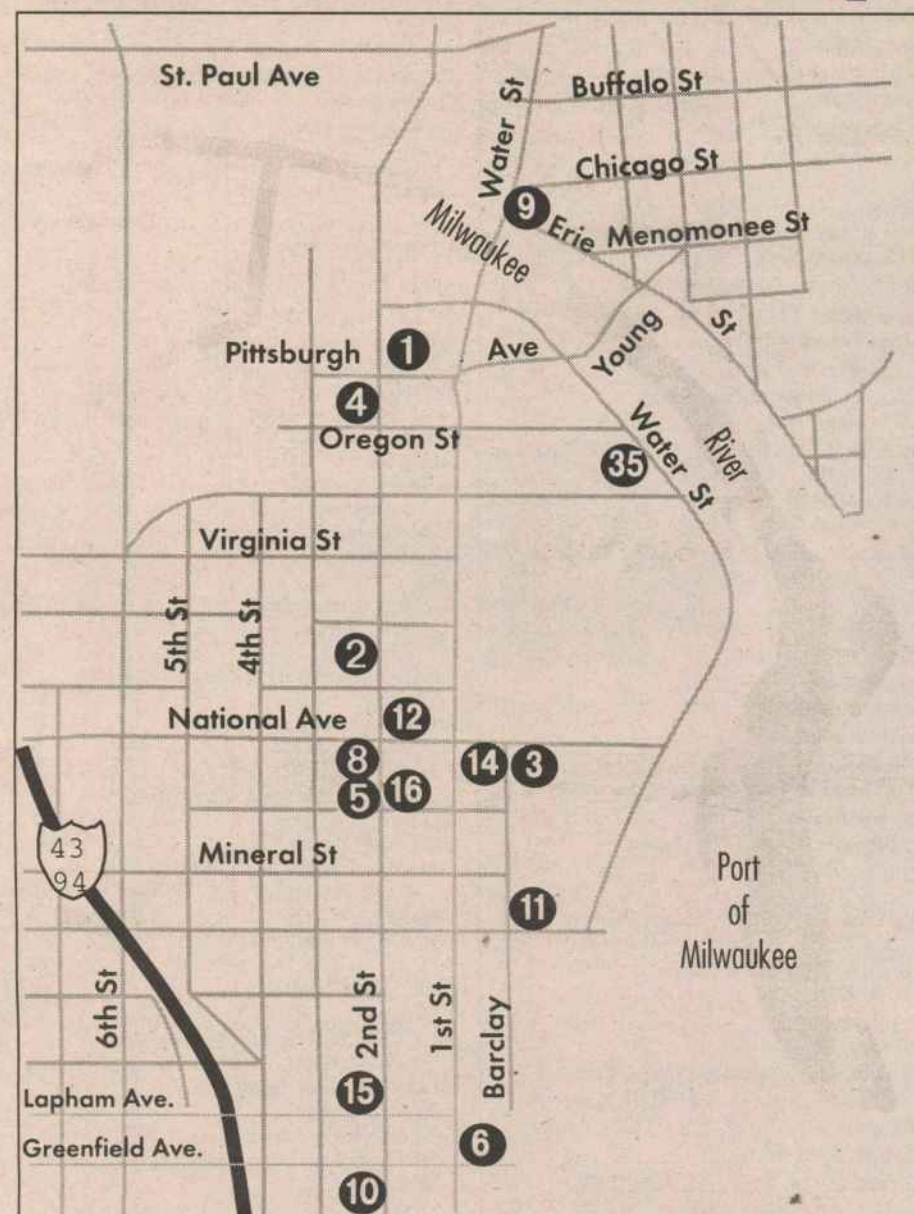
Central (715)

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
1105 Grand Ave., #3, Schofield, 54476 (800) 551-3311

Central Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance
P.O. Box 390, Stevens Point, 54481
..... (715) 592-6245,
ext. 5920200

Joseph T. Chojnacki, Ph.D. (Psychologist)
Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, 54449 387-5442

The Edgewater - Inn & Resort
Eagle River, 54521 1-888-334-3987
http://www.edgeinn.com

Milwaukee Bar Map

G&L Society/Wausau848-0608
 UWSP 10% Society
 Campus Activities Complex, Box 68
 UWSP, Stevens Point, 54481346-4366
 LDS Brotherhood (Gay Mormons)
 P.O. Box 152, Wausau, 54402848-0343
 Oz (MW, DJ, V)
 320 Washington, Wausau 54401842-3225
 HIV/AIDS Spiritual Support & Education
 2108 4th Ave, Stevens Point 54481345-6500
 Marshfield Gay Lesbian Organ. (MGLO)
 c/o 130 S. Central Ave., #3 Marshfield, 54449
 Vic: (715) 387-2068 Jim: (715) 384-6731
 Prince Edward B&B
 203 W 5th, Shawano 54166526-2805
 Wausau Narcotics Anonymous
 (ask for Gay meetings)536-LIFE
 Women's Resource Center UWSP
 336 Nelson Hall, Stevens Pt. 54481346-4851

North Cent. (715)

Gay/Lesbian Support Group
 Box 247A, 1411 Ellis Ave. Ashland 54806
 Northern WI Lambda Society
 P.O. Box 802, Rhinelander 54501362-4242
 SHEM (Support, Heal, Educate) for Parents, Family, Friends
 of Gays/Lesbians/Bis359-7432
 Out Up North (G/L Social/Info/Network)
 P.O. Box 695, Washburn, 54891682-2890

Sheboygan (920)

Blue Lite (MW) 1029 N. 8th, 53081457-1636
 Parents & Friends of Gays & Lesbians
 Shirley: 458-2506 Carolyn:467-0422
 Wesley United Methodist Church
 823 Union Avenue, Sheboygan458-4889

Racine/Kenosha

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
 1212 57th St., Kenosha, 53140657-6644
(800) 924-6601
 Club 94 (MW, DJ)857-9958
 9001 120th Ave (Hwy Ct I-94) Kenosha 53140
 Frank Gentile (Auto Dealer)
 Hwy 20 Racine 53403886-5111
 JoDee's (MW, DJ)634-9804
 2139 Racine St (Hwy 32) Racine 53403
 What About Me? (WM)
 600 6th St. Racine 53403632-0171
 Gay AA (Group 294 Meeting)554-6611
 Gay/Lesbian Union of Racine
 625 College, Racine 53403634-0659
 UW-Parkside G/L Organization472-5738
 900 Wood Rd., Box 200, Kenosha 53141
 PFLAG Kenosha/Racine(262) 649-2729
 P.O. Box 580058, Pleasant Prairie, 53158
 e-mail: pflagkenosha@aol.com
 UW-Whitewater G/L Student Union472-5738
 309 McCutchen Hall, Whitewater 53190
 Wychowide (Jewelry & Gifts)843-4209
 8321 Antioch Rd (Hwy 83), Salem 53168

South Cent. (715)

AIDS Network Satellite Office (AIDS Info)
 P.O. Box 8486, Janesville 53545756-2550

Northwest (715)

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin836-7710
 505 Dewey Street S., Suite 107 Eau Claire 54701
(800) 750-2437
 AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin394-4009
 1507 Tower Ave., Suite 230, Superior 54880
(877) 242-0282
 Backwoods Bears (For Bear Men)
 PO Box 264, Superior 54880
 Do-Ri-Chi (Bed & Breakfast)
 33 E. Spruce St, Chippewa Falls723-0943
 Eagle Cove B&B (eglcove@cannon.net)448-4302
 W4387 120th Avenue, Maiden Rock, 54750
 GLOBE (Campus LesBiGay group)
 105 Garfield, 132 Davies Ctr, Eau Claire 54701
 LGBT Community Center of Chippewa Valley
 (gaycenter@hotmail.com)
 www.geocities.com/glbtccommunitycenter/
 P.O. Box 383, Eau Claire, 54702(715) 559-5751
 The Trading Company (MW, DJ)838-9494
 304 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire 54701
 The Main Club (MW, DJ)
 1217 Tower Ave, Superior 54880392-1756
 Northland Gay Men's Center(218) 722-8585
 8 N. 2nd Ave. E., Ste. 309 Duluth, MN 55802
 Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)
 Greater Chippewa Valley
 P.O. Box 11, Eau Claire, WI 54702-0011
 Q2 (social/support for LGBT youth)
 P.O. Box 11, Eau Claire, WI 54702836-7710
 Scooter's (MW)
 411 Galloway St., Eau Claire, 54703835-9959
 Trio (WM)



By Michael Johnston

I'm back, and happy to report since our last visit that **Hurricane Rona** of Milwaukee went off to our

nation's capital and headed off Hurricane Isabel. Talk about a secret arsenal...

I'm suffering today from the day-afters. Last night I had the thrill of doing "Girl-Face" for **Miss Rita's** 40-ish-ish Birthday Show. The **M&M Club's** lush patio was transported into a cozy cabaret. What fun! But, I must confess my feet are feeling it — thank God I type with my fingers! I got to hostess, but without a doubt it was Rita's night. Appearing in a beautiful **Vera Wang** wedding creation, taking the endless ribbon from her endless hair. **Maraschino Cheri** made an impressive debut — our lady of multiple hair(s) — well it was "Wigstock." **Officer Lee** was more than happy to assist, and then there was **Jeff**, the grocer... Oh, to be the ingénue!

HIT five **Suzy Wong**, the toast of the Pacific Rim, wowed them as always. The intoxicating **Joan Bennett** of the M's staff was "Down With Love" a la Streisand, earning an encore. The supreme **Diana Ross** and the **Supremes** made quite a "Happening" with "The Happening." **Dame Edna Ross**. "Cheap Talkin" Chi Chi of M's, and **Michael Jonas** — sorry dear, you need a stage name! Motown Royalty at its very tasteful best!

Yet another virgin — stage that is — **Margo LaCourt** — there is no way, you couldn't tell by those smoldering eyes that it was **Peter**, another M's fixture. Beware when making wagers on sporting events! My favorite **Fluid** femme **Fatale Wilma Finger Do**, looking stunning a la "That Girl" **Marlo Thomas-Donahue**. The divine **Nova D'Vine**, **LaCage's** leading lady of lounge, brought the crowd to their collective feet — naturally! That bombastic blonde bombshell is always a treat! And again The Journal-Sentinel in their profile of **LaCage** was savvy enough to include a shot of the siren with a shot. Keep your eyes on this column for the next fun, festive, **HIT** party.

Congratulations on yet another successful "AIDS Walk Wisconsin." Over \$502,000 was raised! \$13,000 of that "pot of gold" was accumulated by none other than the "King of the Walk," **Robert Parrish**. He continuously outdoes himself every year! My favorite part — besides the goodwill and fortune earned is the people! Greeted at the gate with a goody bag. Seeing **HIT's Mark Groth**, State Senator **Tim Carpenter**, **Bill Wardlow** and his **Fluid** team, the men of **The Harbor Room** after an in-bar breakfast, The **M&M Club's** members headed by: **Tom & Sandy**, The **Walker's Pint** platoon, **Craig** and his **Switch-hitters**, **Todd Sefert**, **Andy Cicero** of the Walk committee, **ARCW's** headliners: **Doug Nelson**, **Mike Gifford**, **Paul Milakovich**, **Molly Herrington**, **Chris Allen**, **David Sagura**, **Cris Ross Dukler**, **Peter Nys** of **ICU Productions**, **Robert Parrish & Richard Steele**, **Nita Soref**, **IN Step's Mike Fitzpatrick & Beau** — all gathered to hear **Gov. Jim Doyle** and First Lady **Jessica Doyle**. Wisconsin first couple had the honor of co-chairing the Walk this time.

Fox 6 News reporter **Katrina Cravy** and **WKTI's Kidd O'Shea** hosted the Kick-Off. US Rep. **Gerald Kleczka** gave a stirring speech. Mayor **John O. Norquist** made a rare, yet welcome appearance. We were reminded that he and his beloved wife **Susan Mudd** were the first, first couple of the Walk going back 14 years. State Sen. **Tim Carpenter**, Mayoral candidates **Tom Barrett** and

CORDIALLY YOURS

Sandy Folaron were on the dais as well as **Bill Bauers** of the Kenosha/Racine area, sharing the personal enrichment **ARCW** has provided for him. Most moving.

The weather obviously could have been better. Yet, even the rain couldn't dampen the hearts and/or spirits of our stride. This year I had the pleasure once again to walk the walk with **WCTC's Tim Greene** and partner **Michael Karl**, other **WCTC** officials **Debbie** and **Ted**, **Donna** and **Miller's Doug Hippenbecker** and his dog **Harley**, rivaling the popularity of poster dog **Al**. Kudos to the All-Star team of **HIT** stars working the "buffet of Refueling." **Cindy O. Debi Vance**, **Michael Jonas & Max Barnett** of **The Triangle**, **Dame Edna Ross**, **Ginger**, **David Todryk**, **Princess Debbie**, **Tippy Tobias** and a crew of dedicated localities.

Afterwards, **Craig** and **Scotty** opened the doors of **Switch** for a post-Walk Party. All walkers, volunteers, **ARCW** personnel and the public were welcomed. Food, fluids, raffles and fun! Loved those **Bloodys Lotta!** A marvelous chance to sit back, sip and celebrate!

From there, in the name of tradition, it was dinner at the **Pasta Tree**. **Steven** and **Robert** rolled out the "lavender carpet" and the antipasto platter with flair, as always, for us. Unfortunately, **Bobby** was off, but **Tracy** took care of us regally. It's like if **Cher** isn't available — **Chastity** would fill in according to **Bobby**.

The weekend provided an excellent opportunity to commemorate, remember and appreciate where we've been and how far we've come and how far we have to go in the continuous battle of HIV/AIDS. Over 50+ **Bag Boyz** from all over Wisconsin were in Brewtown for the Walk weekend. A retreat, photo shoot and training sessions with boss/mentor **Daniel Klingler** — Gay Outreach Manager of **ARCW**, **Jason Wedesky**, **ACTAEA Works**, shot The Bag Boyz Calendar 2004. It will be more daring and edgy this time around... A bountiful barbeque at Birch Lodge was hosted by the delightfully dedicated **Dr. Robert Starshak** and **Ross Draegert**. Bravo to Daniel and his Boyz for garnering national attention and appreciation!

Looking ahead, this Saturday night, Oct. 11, I'll have the fever to win as I try my best at **HIT's** annual "Trivia Contest." I love my fun & games with those bowlers...

The following Saturday night, Oct. 18, I'll be in church! Relax, no steeples will tumble I assure you! It's The **Wisconsin Cream City Chorus's** "A Night At The Bistro." The Village Church of the Arts, 130 E. Juneau Ave., at 7:30 p.m. The best part folks — it's free! Come on down!

The same evening (Oct. 18) **HIT** launches "American Drag Idol" at **Club 219** with dear **Dear Ruthie** on microphone. The following Saturday, Oct. 25, **LaCage** will be the scene for the scene, and finally, the finale night will be Saturday, Nov. 1 at **Woody's**, where I'll be freshly returned from a Florida "FantasyFest-25" sojourn in Key West! Each show will run from 7:30 - 10 p.m. There's a \$5 cover.

November brings not only **HIT 25** over the Turkey Day Weekend, but **ARCW's** "Jolly, Holly, Folly" on Tuesday, Nov. 18. The **Milwaukee Rep's** **Quadracci** Powerhouse Theater, 108 E. Wells St., 5:30 p.m. Twenty of Milwaukee's finest restaurants will be represented, with spirits provided by the **Miler Brewing Co.**, **Larry Shue's** "The Foreigner," the best-selling show in The Rep's 50 year history, is included. Tickets are \$50 or \$75; buy 9

tickets, get 1 free! Call (414) 225-1577 or (800)-359-9272, ext. 1577.

Saturday, Oct. 18, he's baaack — bigger and bolder — **Clay Maverick** at **Boom**. Hopefully, he'll be as satisfying as **Jason Branch** was. Although we did "meet" him last year, Jason brought out some hot men: **Steve** and **Rand**, **Craig** and **Bobby**, **Roger**, **David Sagura**, **Col. Abs**, **Bobby** from the **Pasta Tree**, **Steve**, **Chad**, **Scott & Michael**, **Mark & Todd**, **Jeff B.** and **Jeff G.**, **Jeff & Eric**, and **Rocky** at the door.

This year, it's Key West for my fall getaway. **FantasyFest 25** — by invitation of neighbor lady **Rosalind Hoffmann**, **Jerry Skals**, and **Lee Trudell**. Last year I was in Europe almost — Ireland. My dear friend and traveling companion/host **Michael Karl** will have his photo work of Ireland on display at **The Mad Mug Coffee House**, 7934 W. Burleigh. It's "Moments of Being," photos of Ireland by Michael Karl. This exhibit is up and ready for you to drink in through the month.

The end of this month brings the launch of the holiday season. **HALLOWEEN**. This year it's a weekend, Friday Oct. 31. The **Walker's Point Halloween Pub Crawl** continues. Starting at the **Triangle** from 8:30-10 p.m., then onto **Switch** from 10-11:30 p.m., then follow us to **Fluid** from 11:30-1 a.m., and last call at **La Cage** from 1 a.m. to close. Three winners at each bar, then the final winner. The total prize is \$1,500 with the grand prize being a \$500 travel voucher.

A great place to dine: **Bjonda**, 7754 Harwood Ave. in Tosa, (414) 431-1444. Part of **Gracious Catering**, a totally gracious experience. A most beautiful environment, black and putty, draped arches, and tuffets for purses — next time I'm bringing a pocket book! Quite an experience.

Congratulations to one of Milwaukee's leading couples, **Terry and Ken** on 23 years of love. Lotsa luck in Vegas! After all, life/love is just a shake of the dice.

Happy to report **Holly**, **Rona's** gal pal, has a fab new doll house. Quite the cottage — to many happy years there. **Rona**, **Charlotte**, **Chi Chi**, **Laura**, **Peter**, and moi had a bodacious bird and all the trimmings, making it Thanksgiving in October. What fun! High point of conversation: **Charlotte Lorraine** sharing with us her huge crack...

Dr. David Stowe and **Gene Webb** are hosting a reception/fundraiser for Congresswoman **Tammy Baldwin** on Sunday, Oct. 19, at their wonderful Wahl Ave. abode.

Norma and **Santo** of **Botanas fame**, open their own casa of Mexican fare, **Santo's Restaurante**, 828 S. 1st. (414) 383-6300. Authentic Mexican cuisine. They're launching their dream on First St. one block south of National Ave. Drop by and enjoy.

Rona and **Cordially Yours** had the palate pleasing pleasure of joining **Rick Forest** for a lovely luncheon at **Coast**. It was the second visit and even more satisfying! The lobster Cobb salad is to die for! **Steph Zilli** and his family have so much to be proud of. **Curtis**, the man I mentioned as the host-with-the-most, truly is. He even remembered me from my last visit. Thank you! **Kristin**, our server, was sensational. And it was four million, not four hundred thousand. I guess too many zeros. And the lake view, an envy to all, is truly a multimillion dollar surrounding.

Remember, it's the glamour, not the grammar. Start getting those costumes ready as I remain, Cordially Yours.

There's no rest for the wicked!

Don't miss IN Step's scariest issue of the year!

One BIG issue featuring your complete rundown on Wisconsin's gayest Halloween events!



DEAD line:

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call: 414/278-7840, ext. 2

**Issue on the streets:
10.23.99**



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