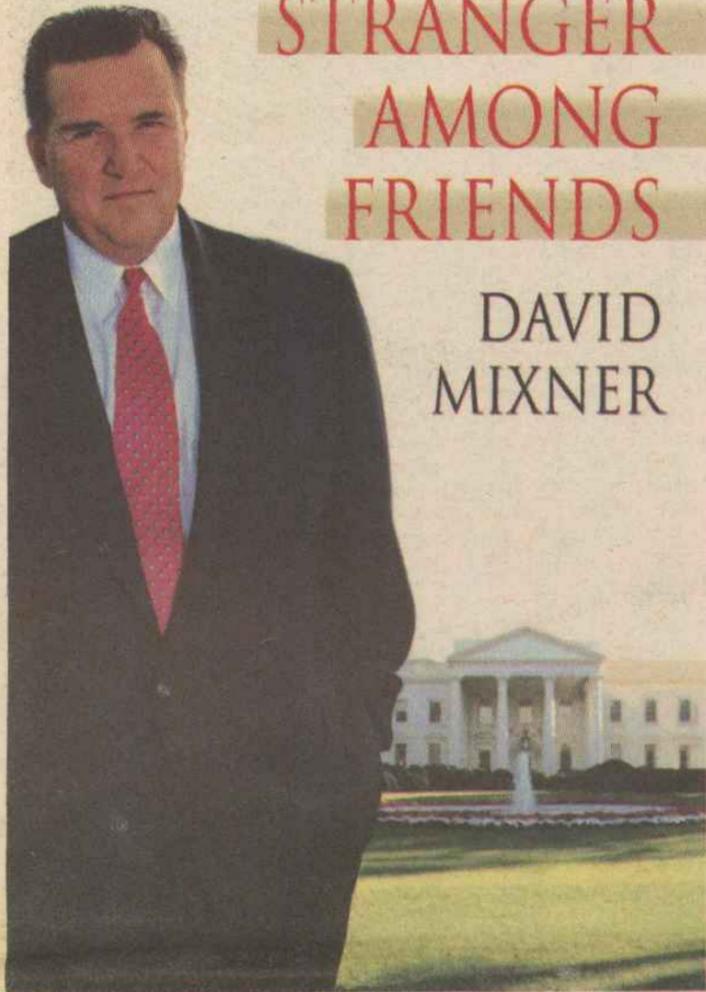




Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

# The Wisconsin Light



STRANGER  
AMONG  
FRIENDS

DAVID  
MIXNER

David Mixner "The most powerful Gay man in America"

## Interview With David Mixner, A Man of Conscience, of Courage and of Might

By Terry Boughner

David Mixner has been called "the most powerful Gay man in America." He is certainly one of the most influential, proving by his life and actions that a person—a Gay man in this case—can ascend to the halls of power and make a difference.

He was born to a close knit family in rural New Jersey, where he grew into adolescence knowing he was Gay. He took part in the '60s civil rights movement and protested the Vietnamese War—and he met a young man named Bill Clinton. A friendship bloomed that was to last for 25 years.

When his friend ran for the presidency, it was Mixner who rallied the LBG community to him and raised badly needed funds that contributed materially to Clinton's election. Now, Mixner has written a book about his experiences (see review in this issue).

Mixner comes on the phone, sounding very much as he does in person; warm, tremendously out-going, a man who strides through the world in liberal gusts. It is good to talk to him again.

It is public knowledge that he was bitterly disappointed with President Clinton's "compromise" on the ban against Gays in the military. It is also well-known that he is unhappy with Clinton's promise to sign the Defense of Marriage Act should it reach his desk. Come November, I ask Mixner, does he think the community will support the President?

"I think most of them will," he says, adding quickly, "and I think most of them should because in the next four years there will be Supreme Court justices to be named."

So, well and good, vote for him, yes, but don't put an "immense amount of money" into Clinton's campaign. "He doesn't need it." Mixner advises giving our money to candidates like Harvey Gantt who is running against Jesse Helms.

And another thing, he cautions. "It is very important not to suspend our civil rights movement just because it may make Clinton uncomfortable in an election year."

Throughout our conversation, in one context or another, in his pleasantly rumbling voice, Mixner emphasizes and re-emphasizes the fact that our community must continuously

engage in the struggle for our civil rights. Nothing must impede this, nothing must dissuade us from it. Not Clinton, not anyone or anything at all.

"I think Clinton is a kind and loving person," Mixner says. "He wants to do the right thing. But clearly in Gay struggle he has not accepted us as a full fledged civil rights movement. That's his problem. Clinton hasn't gotten to the stage of making sacrifices for our civil rights."

But let's, I think, give the President a break. Perhaps he is just ill-served by his staff, I suggest?

Mixner will have none of that. "When it comes to the Presidency, the buck stops here. The President is responsible for the selection of his staff. Never buy the 'evil staff made me do it'."

"We can't be afraid," Mixner says. "We cannot show fear. We must be fearless in our efforts to be free. I get a lot of calls threatening to take my life. I laugh. I say 'All you want is a date, don't you?'"

There are two kinds of activists, I tell him. One is in-your-face, out in the streets, while the other moves more quietly. Mixner, I know has a foot in both camps.

Do you think ACT UP has benefited the movement, I ask him?

As is his custom, he answers without hesitation.

"Absolutely yes. We have a tendency to take the most comfortable path as the only way. The only sin for a Gay person is to do nothing. We should celebrate all approaches. My advice only is not to resort to violence in either words or deeds. We have a great gift to give the world in teaching them to take care of each other. I don't want to become like Pat Robertson."

What is your opinion of the Gay leaders, the more quiet ones, the ones inside the Beltway physically and/or mentally?

"I think they're doing an effective job," Mixner replies. "Each of them have their rolls to play. I have the highest regard for Elizabeth Birch (head of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force), for the Human Rights Fund and the Victory fund too. I deeply believe that the Victory fund is doing a marvel-

TURN TO MIXNER, PAGE 8

## Deserted by His Wisconsin Colleagues, Gunderson Fights for Gay Civil Rights

Washington, DC- "Why are we so mean?" asked Rep. Steve Gunderson, an openly Gay Republican from Wisconsin. "Why are we so motivated by prejudice, intolerance, and unfortunately, in some cases even bigotry? Why must we attack one element of our society for some cheap political game?"

Gunderson, the only member of Wisconsin's House delegation to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act, was speaking during two noisy days of Bible quotes and Gay-baiting charges.

Despite Gunderson's impassioned plea for toleration, the House—including the rest of the Wisconsin delegation—voted overwhelmingly Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, to define marriage in federal law as a legal union of one man and one woman, no matter what states may say.

The measure, approved 342-67, would underline federal refusal to recognize same-sex marriages, keeping Gay couples ineligible for spousal benefits under Social Security, Medicare or other programs.

Though the vote was lopsided, it came only after a

bitter debate in which the Republican sponsor spoke of "the very foundation of our society being at risk" while some Democrats accused the GOP of stirring up a divisive issue to help presidential hopeful Bob Dole's campaign.

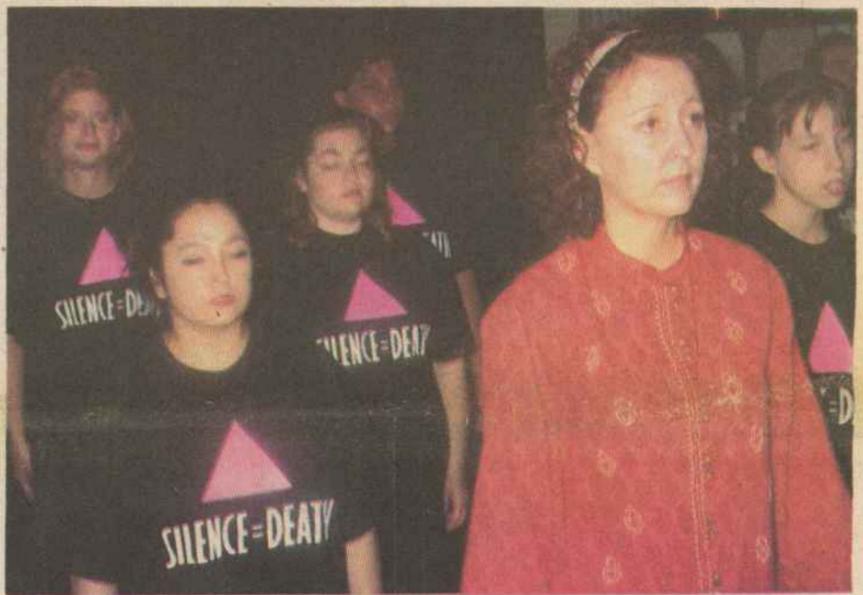
President Clinton will sign the bill if it should pass the Senate, although he, too, believes it was politically motivated, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said.

"I think, in fact, it is Gay baiting, pure and simple," he said.

"This will prevent or stop nothing, but it does effectively divide people in America," said Rep. Martin Meehan, (D-MA).

"This bill ... is an absolute outrage," said Rep. Patricia Schroeder, (D-CO). "If you think there isn't enough hate and polarization in American, you're going to love this bill."

TURN TO GUNDERSON, PAGE 27



There would be no Silence and No Death if the cast of "Quilt: A Musical Celebration" had its way. Part of that cast is shown above during a scene from the show which has opened to good reviews. "Quilt" will be at the Milwaukee's Circlestage Theater, which is located at the Prospect Mall. Tickets can be purchased through Ticketmaster.

## New Research Gives Doctors Cautious Optimism for a Cure for HIV

Vancouver—Can an AIDS infection be cured?

Doctors may know soon, when the results of a landmark study start to emerge.

Using a powerful new combination of medicines, they are treating nine men from almost the first days of their HIV infections to learn if they can completely and permanently wipe out every last trace of the virus.

The plan is to keep up treatment for a year or so, then stop the drugs and see if the virus is gone for good.

"We are treading in an area where no one has tread before," Dr. Martin Markowitz of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City said Thursday, July 11.

Clearly, no one knows if this will work. And some significant hurdles remain, including the possibility that bits of the virus will lurk deep where drugs cannot reach.

Nevertheless, the doctors believe this experiment on newly infected men will give them a better idea whether it is possible to

TURN TO RESEARCH, PAGE 27



Madison's United gave awards to some of Mad Town's most distinguished Gays and Lesbians during its Awards dinner on July 12. Shown above are (l-r) Pat Calchina, Woman of the Year, Larry Davis, Man of the Year, Jan Sheppard, Ally of the Year, the Board from Kissing Girls Productions, Organization of the Year, Jade River, Angela Prestil, and Terri Vamey, Tony Luchessi, Volunteer of the Year, Greg Scheel and Sherri Scheel Nelson, received a special award for the contributions of the Hotel Washington.

## Bill Meunier Resigned From PrideFest, But the Reasons Why are Still in Question

*PrideFest has lost the leadership of its founder, Bill Meunier. The Board of Directors has spoken. But does the Board speak for the community?*

By John Kusch

In June of this year, PrideFest, Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian pride festival, made its debut appearance at the Summerfest grounds. At the festival, Bill Meunier was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award, acknowledging his eight-year commitment to PrideFest and his significant role in making PrideFest a true city event in the City of Festivals. However, these praises were bittersweet, as Meunier resigned shortly after the festival, his resignation in response to an April 13 vote by the PrideFest Board of Directors that stripped him of all powers and responsibilities.

### Pride Reorganized

In the April 25, 1996 issue of *The Wisconsin Light*, PrideFest announced in a brief press release that Meunier "[had] delegated his responsibilities to other Board and PrideFest Council members for personal reasons." This action, termed a "vote of no confidence" by Board members, would mean that Meunier would no longer act as Co-Director of PrideFest, remaining on the Board in name only.

However, two months after the festival ended, the Board contradicted its own initial statement. In the July 2, 1996 issue of the *Light*, a PrideFest press release states that the Board of Directors had issued a written directive to Meunier on April 13, "after members of the PrideFest Board lost confidence in Meunier's ability to represent the organization." The press release goes on to state that Meunier "submitted a letter of resignation to the Board, effective June 23, 1996" and that it had been his intent "to submit a letter of resignation after this year's festival."

When asked by the *Light* about these conflicting statements, Sue Cook, PrideFest Co-Director, says, "The first press release was shown to Bill...and he approved it. We were trying...to give him space for what he needed to do."

According to PrideFest by-laws, the Board has the power to remove an officer who is "performing inadequately" by "a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee", after first issuing a written directive to that officer. PrideFest sources indicate that the Board could have removed Meunier outright, but instead allowed him to stay on in a diminished capacity out of respect for his service to PrideFest. Rick Finger, Pride Parade Co-Chair, states, "I think what the Board tried to do was to give Bill some dignity."

Meunier, however, disagrees. "What they did was against the by-laws," he says, adding, "there is no justification for them pulling the rug out from underneath somebody seven weeks in advance."

### Mr. PrideFest

Bill Meunier's involvement with Gay pride in Milwaukee dates back to 1988, before PrideFest existed. At that time, Meunier helped found the Milwaukee Lesbian and Gay Pride Committee (MLGPC), which ran a pride parade and rally.

After MLGPC was started, Bill had minimal involvement in the pride event until 1992, at which time, according to Meunier, "The Pride Committee was in serious trouble, \$12,000 in debt, with half of [its] membership gone [and] increasing complaints from the community." At that time, Meunier again became involved with the MLGPC, along with Roberta Niggamier, Miriam Ben-Shalom and others.

According to Meunier, he and others worked to rejuvenate the festival, buying insurance, park permits and securing food and beverage vendors. Meunier comments, "In the past it had been a political event, and I wanted to make it into a cultural event with some political content...that would educate people."

The 1992, PrideFest was supported by local bar owners, Gay/Lesbian publications, and the Cream City Foundation (CCF), which alone granted MLGPC \$5,000 that year. According to Tony Rhodes, President of CCF, "Bill Meunier took [MLGPC] out of debt before even approaching the Foundation for a grant."

After the success of the 1992 PrideFest, states Meunier, the Pride Committee became autonomous from the MLGPC Board, at the suggestion of Meunier and Niggamier. In 1993, MLGPC dissolved and PrideFest became PrideFest, Inc.

According to Meunier, PrideFest's system of a Board of Directors and Pride Council worked well until the summer of 1995, when internal politics at PrideFest became problematic. Meunier claims to have been urged to leave the organization in the fall of 1995 because "there was one particular individual [on the Board] who was out to get me." He states that the problems increased until "there were several times when I was just gonna quit...but in every instance, somebody always talked me out of it."

"It just seemed like there were more and

more problems...more and more politics emanating from different people," says Meunier, these problems eventually leading up to the Board's vote of no confidence and, subsequently, his resignation.

### Community Questions

There are many voices in the community whose skepticism regarding the Board's action mirrors Meunier's own feelings. Si Smits, owner of the Boot Camp Saloon, states, "I was told that there was not 100% participation by the entire Board [in the vote of no confidence], so was this just a couple friends of one or two people who wanted him out...or was it a majority of the people that are on the whole Board?"

Jerry Johnson, publisher of the *Light*, agrees: "I have attempted to get the by-laws [of PrideFest] for several years and I have yet to see a copy of the by-laws and that's another irritation with PrideFest because that should be basically public information. [The vote of no confidence] may well have been done incorrectly or inappropriately."

However, despite doubts regarding the legality or validity of the Board's action, Meunier has decided not to contest this change of leadership. "I made a conscious choice...not to fight, because we were seven weeks away from the festival, and the last that that could happen would be a big fight," he says, adding, "That's not to say that I think that what [the Board] did was justified or fair or just or at all rational, because it was not. It absolutely was not."

Not only did Meunier decide not to challenge the Board's action, but the Pride Council, the body that governs under the PrideFest Board of Directors, remained silent as well. PrideFest by-laws state that the Council may "by a 3/4 vote of all members overrule the Executive Committee."

However, no Council action was taken to appeal the Board's decision. Sheldon Shur, Pride Parade Co-Chair, states, "If the Council wanted to get together and overturn a Board's decision, they could do that." Regarding the Pride Council's silence, he adds, "Bill, for whatever reason, was let go from PrideFest, and I think it should stay at that."

### Professional Pride

The Board's specific concerns that constituted Meunier's inadequate performance remain unclear. According to Sue Cook, issues were repeatedly raised since the fall of 1995 regarding Meunier's effectiveness in representing PrideFest and negotiating on behalf of the festival, those issues including a lack of communication and professionalism.

Bill was given several opportunities to resolve those performance issues, says Cook. "We even paid for him to go to a class back in January to deal with some of those issues," she says, including conflict management. According to Cook, however, those issues were not resolved. "[It] got to the point where you could no longer excuse that behavior, saying 'it's just Bill' when his actions were hurting the organization," she says, and this resulted in the Board's April 13 vote to strip Meunier of his powers.

Christine Klein, PrideFest Treasurer, states that the Board's decision was based on actions by Meunier that allegedly hindered the progress of PrideFest. Klein says, "He could no longer enter into agreements or into contract negotiations on our behalf." Klein stresses that "Bill was never removed from PrideFest. His duties were delegated...he resigned." According to Klein, on April 14th, the day after the Board's action, Bill informed the Board that he would resign on June 10, 1996, immediately after the last day of PrideFest 96. His actual resignation was not accepted by the Board until June 23.

Klein feels that Bill could have salvaged some role in PrideFest, saying, "He had great potential, and I feel that he chose not to [remain involved with PrideFest]. He was still involved in the meetings, his input was still considered valuable."

Whether Meunier was qualified as Co-Director of PrideFest is a hotly debated issue. Opinions range from high praise to outright condemnation, the same individual often holding both attitudes at once.

Bill Meunier without a doubt is respected publicly by members of the Gay business community, many of whom contributed this year to PrideFest. Tony Rhodes, President of the Cream City Foundation, describes Meunier as "very aggressive, a go-getter, a little bit hyper, but that's good. That's what's needed. That's a good salesperson."

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Aids Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), a major supporter of PrideFest this year, says of Meunier: "Our working relationship with Bill here at ARCW has always been very professional, very respectful, and we always got our business done. You can't ask for more than that."

Si Smits acknowledges his long working relationship with Meunier, saying, "Sometimes he gets a little off the ball and you have to slow him down, but I believe he's honest and he works for the cause. He's not

out to be a celebrity or to rip anyone off...I've always had trust and confidence in him."

Jerry Johnson, a long-time friend of Meunier, says, "I have no problem working with Bill because I've known Bill for so many years that I can understand him." Johnson stresses confidence in Meunier's ability, adding, "Bill was able to get things done. No question about it."

However, sources in Gay businesses and organizations indicate to the *Light* that, despite Meunier's accomplishments, concerns were raised to Meunier personally and to the PrideFest Board as early as 1994 questioning his professional conduct, conduct that, according to sources, may have jeopardized PrideFest's relationship with vendors and funding organizations.

On the subject of Meunier's professional style, Miriam Ben-Shalom, former PrideFest Board member and long-standing Gay/Lesbian activist, says, "Bill is not Bill Gates. Bill needed to learn how to dress, he needed to groom himself appropriately. It is not appropriate to stand on stage with a glass of beer and a cigarette in [your] hand. When you're dealing with business people then you've got to have your ducks in a row." According to Bob Mazzacone, owner of Designing Men, "Bill did a lot of great things, and I won't deny that, for PrideFest and for the community, but also there were a lot of problems...supposedly the Board has known about these problems for a couple of years."

In his defense, Meunier cites the success of PrideFest 96: "We, in March, completed the most successful fundraiser PrideFest had ever had, raising over \$12,000 with the Proud Crowd...there [were] over 300 individuals and couples signing up. The Pride Guide was totally sold out, even though we raised the prices for the ads...we had more offers for entertainment and volunteers than we'd ever experienced before. When you look at all of those things, how do you then reach the conclusion that the person heading the organization is not the right person for it? How do you turn around and then say 'we have no confidence in you'?"

In regard to his professional style, he admits, "At times I probably am tyrannical and at times I probably am abrasive...that's pretty much the only type of style that works," adding, "You've got everything from lipstick Lesbians to separatists, and everything from the leather queens to the drag queens. Trying to balance all those interests...is not the easiest thing in the world to do."

When asked about his possible role in jeopardizing funding for PrideFest, he states, "There were some concerns on the part of the major sponsors, funding concerns, but they had little or nothing to do with me."

Despite questions about his ability to work in both political and professional environments, Meunier falls back on his past record of success, saying, "The proof...comes in the pudding, and the pudding every year got to be a bigger, tastier flavor, didn't it?"

### The Politics of Pride

Internal politics, rather than Meunier's performance, have also been cited as a possible reason for the Board's action. According to Jerry Johnson of the *Light*, "My basic feeling at the time was, I was supportive of Bill resigning." However, he has since changed his attitude, saying, "There may have been some other motives in it that we were not aware of at the time, [that] I cannot prove...but I have strong suspicions about."

Si Smits is also skeptical of the motives behind the Board reorganization, stating, "I asked Chris [Klein] what was happening, and she didn't want to discuss anything that has to do with Bill or PrideFest, and I was unhappy. I thought, 'Well if I donate money to PrideFest...I expect an answer [to] what they're doing with Bill.'"

According to Meunier himself, "When you have something this big, there are always going to be people out there who want to push their agendas on it and who are going to be unhappy when they're not able to do so." Meunier claims that hidden agendas and organizational politics eventually became too much for him to bear, saying, "I resigned in part because I was tired of the politics and the backbiting...I could not tolerate any more."

Regardless of the specific reasons for Meunier's transition out of PrideFest, Sue Cook defends the actions of the Board, stating: "[Bill] was given several choices regarding what he wanted to do...based on his decisions, we made ours." Chris Klein also denies the role of internal politics in Meunier's resignation, adding, "People can speculate...more than they work on actual fact. I have a life. My life goes beyond PrideFest. This, to me, is not a power play."

Others in the community are more diplomatic in their evaluation of the changes at PrideFest. Doug Nelson of ARCW sees Meunier's departure from PrideFest as part of a natural process of change. "I think that it is not surprising, really, for anyone who is in a position of leadership for a long period of time to be evaluated, to be judged, or [for] changes to be made. I think that goes with the territory," he says, adding, "Bill has a leadership style. Well, you live and you die with your leadership style...and he lived for quite a while with his."

### The Good, the Bad, and the Proud

Clashing perspectives on Meunier's resignation from PrideFest closely resemble clashing perspectives on Meunier as a person. As with any public figure, facts are few; but in the Gay/Lesbian community, opinions abound.

There is little question among community leaders, even among his detractors, that Bill Meunier was greatly responsible for the success of PrideFest today. Jerry Johnson of the *Light* comments, "I think he has the potential to go out to another city or to work with Summerfest or any other festival and do a darn good job. He's very, very good at what he does."

Of Meunier's accomplishments within PrideFest, Tony Rhodes of CCF states, "I commend Bill on all his efforts...I give him a hats-off." Rhodes adds, "His dream and his vision was real, and the reality came."

Michael Lisowski, head of Gay Youth Milwaukee and current PrideFest Secretary, gives full credit to Meunier for the current success of the festival, stating, "It was really Bill's idea to get PrideFest going...we wouldn't have PrideFest the way it is if it wasn't for Bill."

Doug Nelson of ARCW strongly praises Meunier's achievements, saying, "Bill's energy, his commitment and passion for growing PrideFest was extraordinary...when you thought of PrideFest, you thought of Bill Meunier."

PrideFest, in its official statements and press releases, has also consistently given Meunier credit for his huge role in the development of the festival. Despite the Board's action against him, according to Susan Cook, "Bill will always be Mr. PrideFest."

Even Miriam Ben-Shalom, a vocal critic of Meunier, told the *Light*, "Bill was instrumental in taking the old MLGPC, rebuilding it and making PrideFest a true festival. I can not fault his verve or his commitment to making PrideFest one of the best festivals in the midwest." She adds, "It's true when people say he is Mr. PrideFest."

While there is little dispute over his positive contributions to the Gay/Lesbian community, there is equally little dispute over the negative aspects of Meunier's personality. Jerry Johnson of the *Light* states, "His personality was such that he would irritate people or not be diplomatic to the extent that he should have been." Johnson adds, "His biggest problem is, he gets too aggressive, and he doesn't know how to control his own energy."

Miriam Ben-Shalom is unsparing in her criticism of Meunier, stating, "Bill is abrasive...first and foremost, Bill has real difficulty in allowing people to do their jobs...it was almost as if PrideFest belonged to him and not to the community." She goes on to criticize Meunier's public behavior, saying, "Bill has an unkind mouth when he is drinking, and in my opinion, it is his mouth that has gotten him into this position." She adds, "In my case, for example, you can't go around and say things like 'It was either me or the bitch that had to leave,' which I know he said publicly. You can't do that sort of thing." However, she hesitates at speaking out too strongly, commenting, "I don't think character assassination is a good thing because, how do you balance out all the good things that he's done as well?"

Bob Mazzacone of Designing Men says of his experience with Meunier, "Bill is very opinionated. It's his way or no way, and you have to agree with him, or he doesn't agree with you, and he doesn't listen to your viewpoint." Mazzacone has conflicted in the past with Meunier, commenting, "I've had run-ins and I've had to walk away...because of his drinking."

Even Si Smits of the Boot Camp, an unstinting supporter of Meunier, admits, "Bill has to be told to sit down and cool off once in a while, I'll agree with that."

### Toward 2000

As PrideFest approaches the year 2000, it will have to do so without its founder. There is widespread agreement that Bill Meunier carried much of the workload involved in running PrideFest, Secretary Michael Lisowski commenting, "He was putting in like fourteen hour days. It is a very time-consuming and energy-draining experience." And with the remainder of the PrideFest Board and Council taking up the slack, there are a variety of opinions in the Gay/Lesbian community regarding how PrideFest will be helped or hindered by the Board's reorganization.

Sheldon Shur believes that Meunier's departure will allow more group participation in the festival, saying, "I think it'll be good for PrideFest because, this year you have something you've never had before. You have a group of people just trying to put this festival on."

"I think it [Bill's resignation] will benefit [the community]," says Rick Finger, adding, "I think the only one really hurt out of this is Bill."

Some, however, see PrideFest without Meunier suffering in the future. "Bill's leaving by force hurt PrideFest in my estimation, hurt it a great deal," says Jerry Johnson of the *Light*. Foreseeing trouble for PrideFest in the future, he comments, "I don't

# book reviews



## David Mixner and Bill Clinton; Two Old Friends Operating in Separate Worlds

By Terry Boughner

"We will always be your friends and you can count on us."

You are reading along and you run into a quote like that, and have to remind yourself that the speaker is Bill Clinton, the President of the United States. The "we" he refers to is the First Lady and himself.

In the history of the U.S. Presidency, there have been many examples of friendships between Presidents and close personal friends. But none is so interesting, I think, that that friendship between President Bill Clinton and David Mixner, called by *Newsweek* "the most powerful Gay man in America."

It is this friendship, in large part, that Mixner's new book, *Strangers Among Friends*, describes.

The well-written and tightly framed book, is an autobiography of sorts. It begins with Mixner's childhood in a close-knit and loving family in rural New Jersey. It is here that he begins to know he has been born Gay.

The struggle with his sexual orientation will continue over many years until his final coming out. The story is movingly and powerfully told.

Mixner is a child of the '60s. Like so many of us, he involved himself in the civil rights movement and the peace movement. For those of us who were active then—and living in or around Washington, D.C., his story brings back powerful memories.

But it is when he meets a young man named Bill Clinton that the book really takes off.

They revolve around each other like a binary star. They come from similar backgrounds, both are '60s idealists, are equally intense, and both, as Mixner tells it, are determined to make a difference in their world.

The only thing is that like a binary, each has a separate world. Mixner's is a world of AIDS, and one of working for the civil rights of his people. Clinton's is a world of politics, of power and compromise.

In 1992, Clinton makes the run for the Presidency and approaches his old friend for help.

Mixner is cautious. In a private meeting he tells Clinton that he will support him but he

wants some promises first. On a Manhattan-style Project for AIDS, Clinton assures him that "You won't be disappointed."

On lifting the ban against Gays in the military, Clinton reassures him on that as well. "I've already taken a position on that one," Clinton tells him. "I believe everyone should have the right to serve. That's done. What else?"

The book rolls on through the campaign. Mixner works, and works hard to raise money and gather support for the one man he believes knows what the struggle for Gay civil rights is all about: Bill Clinton.

It is only after all the slogans are silent and all the balloons have lost their air, that Mixner, to his profound and utter disappointment, finds that his old friend will not follow through.

It is what follows, how Mixner handles this "betrayal," that he is at his emotional best. His account of his feelings, his actions, his meeting, finally, with Clinton in the Oval Office, where they try and understand each other, would make a novelist proud. These are great chapters. They make up the majority of the book, and they are "must reading" for anyone interested in the Gays in the Military battle.

It is also a "must read" for anyone interested in the dynamics of a friendship between two friends who have so much in common, but who life has led to be poles apart.

Another thing that makes the book a fascinating read, is the people Mixner has met and worked with over the last 30 years. These are the movers and shakers, Gay, Lesbian and straight. His pen portraits of them add much to anyone's understanding of late 20<sup>th</sup> Century America's political and social scene.

Mixner ends the book, having just heard that Clinton will sign the Defense of Marriage Act if it reaches his desk. You can feel the distaste in his mouth as he writes.

David Mixner is going on, an uncompromising fighter in the battle for the civil rights of our people. He is young yet, and full of vigor. There is, hopefully a second book to come.

## Gunderson and Morris to Keynote Log Cabin GOP Convention

Washington, DC—Not every Republican in San Diego next month will be there for the party's national convention. The Log Cabin Republicans, a group of Gay and Lesbian conservatives, will arrive early for a convention of their own.

The sixth annual convention of the Log Cabin Republicans will be held August 9-11 in a San Diego hotel, ending just in time for the GOP national convention opening the next day.

Republican Rep. Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin and his partner, Rob Morris, will deliver the joint keynote address. Gunderson and Morris will discuss their upcoming book, *House and Home*, about family values "by those who happen to be Gay," the group said in a press release.

LCR delegates will focus on accomplishing the Countdown '96 goals, Log Cabin's official project for Republican National Convention, which begins immediately following the close of LCR's convention on August 12. The Countdown '96 goals include: no Gay bashing, no primetime Buchanan, an openly Gay speaker, and influencing the platform language on Gay and Lesbian issues.

The LCR convention will hold seminars on grass roots activism in the GOP, including highlights from Houston Log Cabin Republicans and Texas State Log Cabin Republicans Precinct Initiative, where Gay or Gay-friendly people were targeted to election as precinct captains. "Log Cabin Republicans understand that grass roots involvement in the Republican Party is where we will change the soul of the party," said Richard Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. "Over the past year, we have been actively involved in defeating intolerant Republicans in several GOP central committee elections and this is only a sign of things to come."

The Log Cabin Republican's convention will sponsor workshops and seminars on political skill building such as interactive lobbying, private sector strategy, managing chapter growth, get-out-the-vote, how to handle the media, fundraising, Gay and Lesbian issues in Republican campaigns, and other important topics.

The Log Cabin Republicans have more than 10,000 members nationwide. The group, which takes its name from Abraham Lincoln's log cabin birthplace, seeks to educate the Republican Party and the American people on issues of concern to Lesbians and Gay men.

He's cute, smart and queer!  
If only he shopped at  
Community Pharmacy!



Madison's source for  
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## Lower East Side "National Night Out" Observance in Milwaukee

**Milwaukee** — On Tuesday, August 6th, the Lower East Side of Milwaukee will join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the 13th Annual National Night Out crime and drug prevention event. The Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug awareness, generate support and participation in local anti-crime efforts, strengthen community-police relations and send a message that the citizens of the community are taking control of the neighborhood, especially after dark.

The Lower East Side Event will begin at

### 172 Attend 4th Annual Duluth-Superior G/L/B/T Pride Harbor Cruise

**Duluth-Superior** — The threat of bad weather and high waves on Lake Superior didn't deter 172 Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals, Transgenders, and friends from spending a Sunday afternoon cruising Saint Louis Bay and the Duluth-Superior Harbor aboard the Vista King Charter.

237 tickets of a maximum 250 seating limit had been pre-sold for the event. The annual D-S Pride harbor cruise event has become known within the local community as the "Fruit Float."

The participants enjoyed a luncheon buffet, cash bar, and Gay/Lesbian music during the 2-1/2 hour cruise.

Following the Pride Harbor Cruise, participants were treated to a complimentary Bar-B-Que on the patio at the Main Club in Superior. Although the day remained overcast, the rain held off during the event.

The Pride Harbor Cruise was just one of several events that took place during the Duluth-Superior G/L/B/T "Weekend of Pride", June 14th through the 17th. Other events included an All-Night Bonfire on the Beach, a Queer Block Party in Duluth, Levi-Leather Pride, an Open House at the Northland Gay Men's Center, several house parties, and other special events.

6:30 p.m. with a Community Potluck at St. Hedwig's Hall, 1150 East Brady Street. Everyone is invited and admission will be either bringing food to share or paying \$5. There will be no charge for children 12 and under.

Singsational Productions will present "Second Time Around." Singational is a popular Gay troupe, who will entertain from 7:00 until 8:15 p.m.

A brief rally is planned for 8:15 p.m. featuring some of the invited guests: Mayor Norquist, Senator Kohl, Representative Barrett, Health Commissioner Nannis, Alderperson D'Amato, Supervisors Dean and Aldrich, Chief Arreola and the local clergypersons.

The walk through the community will begin at 8:30 p.m., led by the Sacred Drummers, the leaders of the six lower east side community organizations and the invited guests. Walkers are being asked to bring a flashlight or shielded candle.

The walk route will cover the boundaries of the New Brady Street Area Association, Riveredge Neighborhood Association, East Bank Neighborhood Association, Lower East Side Neighbors, East North Avenue Association and East Village Association. Walk marshals will be members of the Brady Street group in addition to bicycle and foot police personnel from the 5th District.

Residents of the Lower East Side are being asked to light up their buildings and porches, spend the evening outdoors and join the Walk anywhere along the route.

The planned route is: west on Brady from St. Hedwig's to Astor; north on Astor to Land Place, east on Land to Humboldt, north to Kane, east on Kane to Boylston and east to Cambridge, south to Farwell and south to Albion, west to Arlington Place and north to Brady, west on Brady to Van Buren and return to St. Hedwig's.

The first east side observance, in 1995, was sponsored by the New Brady Street Area Association. It has been expanded this year to include the six community groups on the Lower East Side. For more information on the August 6th event, call Erv Uecker, the NNO Coordinator, at (414) 353-4798 or at BESTD Clinic, (414) 272-2144.

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## Editorial

### Corporate Giving

The issue in the Tanqueray AIDS Rides is how should corporate money be spent in giving to charities.

It should come as no surprise to anyone that corporate giving is a matter of public relations. It would be nice if it weren't so, if corporations really did care about this cause or that, but the fact of the matter is that giving is good PR.

For example, corporation Z gives to charitable organization Y. In return, Z gets its name (and product) listed as a sponsor—and other benefits. People (consumers) feel good about Z's product and (hopefully) buy it. Some people get helped—and the money rolls in.

Since Z is not in business for its health, it wants the biggest bang for the buck.

Let's say that Z—Tanqueray, for example—gives \$1 to Y charity—an AIDS Service Organization (ASO), for example—and gets good PR in return. Great. But let's say that Tanqueray finds a way to cut that cost in half and get the same thing—and more, a whole lot more. The way to do this is through a middleman, a promoter.

Tanqueray gives some money to the promoter (not to any charity). The promoter, in turn, stages an event for a number of ASOs. The ASOs never see a cent of Tanqueray's money, but Tanqueray gets a whole lot of good PR as a "sponsor." And better yet (if you're the promoter), you get a cut of the pie. This "cut" covers the administrative costs that the promoter incurs. (Promoters don't do this for their health.)

Now, with the possible exception of some small, all-volunteer type groups, every charitable organization has administrative costs. Every event that the charitable organization puts on to raise money for its cause, has administrative costs.

Suppose that a promoter comes to a number of charitable agencies and says, "I'm going to hold an event for your cause that will raise \$4 million. I'll do all the work involved. If you all sign on, you'll get 60% of the \$4 million divided among you and I'll get 40% for administrative costs."

Sixty cents on the dollar is better than nothing. The agency (and others with it) signs on.

What's wrong with this equation? Simply this.

The agency isn't getting as much money to help its people as it could if the middleman were eliminated and the corporation gave directly to the agency. And remember, out of whatever money the agency receives, there will still be administrative costs.

For example. Instead of giving its money to the middleman, Tanqueray gives its money directly to the agency. Let's say that donation is \$100,000. There will be administrative costs, but not nearly as much as in the case when the middleman is in the picture.

Therefore, if a corporation wants to give money to an ASO, it should be given directly.

If a person wants to raise \$2,300 to fight against AIDS, let that person give their money directly to an ASO.

### Wisconsin's House Delegation and Civil Rights

When it came time in the House of Representatives for the Wisconsin delegation to stand up for the civil rights of Gay people, Wisconsin Congressman Steve Gunderson led the way. Unfortunately, when he might have looked for support from among his "liberal" colleagues, there was no one there. With the outstanding exception of Gunderson, every other one of the Wisconsin Representatives voted for the "Defense of Marriage Act."

From a couple of them, not much more was to be expected. After all, Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner was a co-sponsor of the bill and Rep. Mark Neumann is the darling of the Far Right. You couldn't expect much from either one of them.

But where was Rep. Scott Klug? He has a large Gay constituency, after all.

And particularly, where was Rep. Tom Barrett when the chips were down? Barrett, who has been good on most of our issues, could have been expected to know better.

Shame on Klug! Shame on Barrett!

We believe most strongly that it is time for Representatives—and all people—to know that Lesbians and Gays fall in love. The love is the exact moral equivalent of any other.

We believe that when two people of the same-sex come together in love to form a solid, committed relationship—as so many of us do—that relationship is the exact moral equivalent of heterosexual marriage.

We believe that same-sex couples are entitled to every single legal right that heterosexual couples have—no more, but certainly no less.

We believe that maintaining solid, committed relationships, Gay or straight, is in the best interests of society as a whole.

We believe that until all people are free and equal under the law, no one is really free.

We believe that no church, no religion, no political philosophy is sufficient reason to deprive anyone of equal rights.

We believe that it is time to recognize the diversity in this country, and be inclusive of it.

To Representatives Barrett and Klug: Do you believe any of these things? Or is political posturing more important?

### On AIDS: Caution

The news from the eleventh annual International Conference on AIDS is good. There has been progress in developing effective therapies in dealing with this deadly epidemic.

But that having been said, one other word must be added: Caution. It is not time to go dancing in the streets. It is not time to relax our efforts in fighting this plague.

The message from Vancouver is hope. But that hope must be liberally mixed with common sense. The disease is not vanquished, not at all, far from it. It continues to ravage the world, Gay, straight, women and men.

The articles on the conference in this issue should be read and read carefully. And having done that, we should all get back to doing what we have been doing: fighting with everything we've got, and taking every precaution in sexual activity that it is possible to take.

### A Magic Time In Madison

The Magic Picnic/Pride Weekend is always a special time in Madison. This year's events take on an added importance. With the Hotel Washington fire, and recent homophobic attacks by Right Wing Christians, Madison's community and its organizations need all the support that we can give.

That community is our first line of defense whenever hatred and bigotry rears its ugly head in the State Capitol. For example, when a State Representative announced that he would introduce a bill to ban Gay marriage, it was Madison's community that rallied and convinced him to drop the idea.

The Magic Picnic is a major fundraiser supporting many of Madison's Les/Bi/Gay organizations. The Pride Parade sends an important message of unity and solidarity to the hatemongers and their political allies in the Legislature. Both events help strengthen a community under attack.

A strong Madison community helps us all no matter where we live. That's why we urge our readers to attend this year's Magic Picnic and Pride Parade on Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21.

### The Wreck Room: A Friend Leaves the Scene

As we prepared to go press, *The Wisconsin Light* received the news that the Wreck Room, one of Milwaukee's oldest and most endearing bars had closed its doors for good. We were saddened to learn of its departure from Milwaukee's bar scene.

For many years, the Wreck Room was part of the hub of Gay life in Milwaukee. The walls of its century old building provided shelter to literally thousands of Gay men and helped them along the coming out process.

The bar and its owners brought national prominence to the Cream City with the Wreck Room Classic, the first national Gay softball tournament ever held anywhere. Furthermore, through donations and fund raisers, the Wreck Room helped dozens of organizations ranging from MAP to Gay People's Union to the SSSL.

We will miss this bar the same way one would miss seeing an old friend who has moved on. We are left with many wonderful memories of great times and great people. And we are left with our gratitude to Bill Kindt, the late Wayne Bernhagen and all of those who poured the drinks, swept the peanuts off the floor and made everyone feel so welcome. Thanks guys for 25 years of service to the community. We wish you all the best.

## Letters

### On Scott Klug

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Representative Scott Klug has demonstrated to me that he does not listen to his constituents, and that when one makes an effort to contact him or find out his opinions, his office provides deception and excuses instead of real answers.

I sent Rep. Klug an electronic mail message asking his position on the so-called Defense of Marriage Act and urging him to not support it, and at the same time, to support the employment Nondiscrimination Act; that was about a month ago. I included my address and phone number so that his office could contact me easily. I never received a reply.

When I heard Thursday, July 11, that there would be a vote on the act the following day, I immediately called his offices to find out his position. I was told that he hadn't yet taken a position and was waiting to see what amendments another representative was introducing. I again voice my request that he vote against the Defense of Marriage Act, and gave my name and address. When I asked about the lack of response on my electronic inquiry, I was told he would eventually get back to me.

Friday, July 12, after the U.S. House overwhelmingly passed the Act, I called his Madison office to ask how he had voted, and was told he voted for it, "to preserve states' rights." When I pressed for more details on his reasoning, I was told "he's on the plane back to Wisconsin and his press secretary is in Italy."

Does he inform his constituents of his positions or respond to their concerns in a timely fashion? Evidently not.

Dan Ross  
Madison

### Connie Norman

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Connie Norman is dying. If you've heard Connie in a community debate you know the loss we will all suffer. This truly special soul has been battling AIDS for too many years.

We all have.

If you have been fortunate enough to have been touched by Connie now is the time to let her know how important she's been to all of us and our generations to come.

She was the host of the first weeknightly Gay/Lesbian radio talk show in the country. She anchored an access program for over five years on cable. And she continues to write a bi-weekly newspaper column from her bed. She served on countless local, state and national AIDS task forces.

We can all find strength in her strength. We have to. Take a moment to drop her a card. Or a note. Or a favorite photo. But do take the time.

Address them to:  
Connie Norman  
Chris Brownlie Hospice  
1300 Scott  
Los Angeles Ca 90026

David Reid  
West Hollywood, CA

### Clinton is Still the Man

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Many Gays are upset because President Clinton didn't issue an executive order integrating Gays into the military, even though Congress would quickly have overturned it. A more recent disappointment is the President's announcement that he would sign a bill against Gay marriages, even though his early announcement of his intention might be an attempt to derail Congressional passage of it, since the law is thought by many to be nothing more than an attempt to embarrass Clinton before the next election and divide his supporters. (Republicans are already squabbling about the bill, with reports saying the Dole campaign wants the bill delayed so Clinton will have to sign it closer to the election.)

What is forgotten in all the bitterness is the good that President Clinton has done. I'll name just one thing, the appointment of two fine Supreme Court justices. It was Clinton's action that made possible the overturning of Colorado's infamous Amendment II that attempted to demote Gays to the class of felons not having full participation in the political processes of this country.

Any Republican candidate will have a debt to right-wing religious extremists, and if a Republican wins, it will be Pat Robertson and the Christian Coalition, working with Gary Bauer and the Family Research Council, who name the next Supreme Court justices. Gays and Lesbians simply can't afford to let that happen.

We've seen what Republicans can do in Justices

Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas. Former Republican Steve Forbes said he's nominate Supreme Court Justices like Scalia. It's vitally important that more bigots like those two be kept off the Court. Only Bill Clinton in the White House and Democrats in the Senate can do that.

Yes, it is disappointing that Clinton hasn't done everything Gays and Lesbians had hoped he'd do. His words on the marriage bill remind one of a local politician who vetoed funding for Gay Pride after reportedly inviting the application for the money. That local politician seems to be back in the "good graces" of many Milwaukee Gays. Will they similarly get over their disappointment with President Clinton by November, or will they cut off their noses to spite their faces?

Al Gellersbach  
Milwaukee, WI

### Deadlines

August 1<sup>st</sup> Issue

Articles - July 26<sup>th</sup>

Ads - July 30<sup>th</sup>

August 15<sup>th</sup> Issue

Articles—August 9<sup>th</sup>

Ads—August 12<sup>th</sup>

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## The Wisconsin Light



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## Editor's Note

### News From Camp Barkinville—and Other Less Important Matters

#### Camp Barkinville

Quite by accident, Jerry and I had the pleasure of watching the Circus Parade with the citizens of Camp Barkinville.

Camp Barkinville is a small settlement named after "Mr. Circus Parade," Ben Barkin. It is made up of "citizens" who set up every year at the same spot to wait for and to watch Wisconsin's Treasure pass by. The atmosphere is that of a picnic, a down-home picnic, with tents and chairs and all kinds of good things to eat.

But most of all are the citizens themselves. They are male and female, old and young, African-Americans, Northern European-Americans and those of Hispanic descent. And this year, there was a Gay couple—Jerry and me—which is my point.

We were introduced by a good friend as being part of *Wisconsin Light*, the Gay newspaper. After that, nothing more was said. Nothing at all.

Jerry and I were accepted by these incredibly warm as just two more members of the group. For one, brief moment, I could feel what it would be like to live in a community where sexual orientation wasn't an issue. It was great! We laughed. We talked. We had a wonderful time.

And I thought, what a fantastic lesson the adults there were teaching to their kids. Lessons of acceptance and understanding; lessons that said it makes no difference what color your skin is or your ethnic background—or your sexual orientation, when you reach out your hand to us, you'll find our hands coming back.

Being a part of Camp Barkinville was like being in a family reunion—the good old fashioned kind. You know, great grandparents, grandparents (Christine, Tova Bourgnine really does have nothing on you), aunts, uncles, cousins, all the kids, the smell of brats on the grill, beer, and homemade cake.

But Camp Barkinville was more. It made me realize once again what this country of ours is all about. It's about equality amidst diversity. It's about inclusion. It's about being drawn in to be a part of something bigger than yourself.

Camp Barkinville is America as it should be; old-fashioned, yet looking ahead, welcoming and warm.

### Despite Fears, Gay Choruses Get Warm Welcome in Tampa

**Tampa, FL-** The protesters never really materialized and when a lone heckler began waving a Bible, the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus broke out with: "Jesus loves me, yes I know, for the Bible tells me so...."

Thousands of Gay and Lesbian singers kicked off their choral festival and convention with a Gay Pride March through downtown Tampa on Sunday, July 8.

There were few hecklers as the marchers made their way to the Tampa Convention Center for opening ceremonies for the week-long Festival V of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses.

The festival has been somewhat controversial because voters in 1992 repealed a portion of the city's human rights ordinance that banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The law was restored by the courts in 1993.

Business and city leaders have touted the festival as a boon for city tourism during the slow summer months. The quadrennial music festival is scheduled to feature 90 choral groups, about 5,000 to 6,000 singers, from North America, Europe and Australia.

The main address Sunday was delivered by poet Maya Angelou.

"If I could give you one thought, it would be to lift someone up, lift a stranger up, lift her up," Angelou said.

Earlier, an estimated 10,000 marchers waved flags and held balloons to celebrate the opening of the festival.

Six roller-skating male "nuns" in purple habits, some of whom wore orange buttons that read "Jesus Loves Gays," were among the few more interesting touches.

"We're from the lilac chapter of the Sisters of Perpetual Conception," said a tall, bearded sister who said he also was a member of the Rochester Men's Chorus.

At the convention center, the crowd cheered as master of ceremonies Harvey Fierstein planted a kiss on the cheek of Tampa Mayor Dick Greco.

"Who the hell picked this place? It's hot!" said the Tony Award-winning actor.

"Thank you for picking Tampa," Greco said. "Thank you for being you."

And when the flag passed in review, I stood with all the rest. When the band play a patriotic anthem, I got goose bumps. When a great grandmother leaned toward me and said with a smile, "That music just gives me shivers," I knew exactly what she meant.

I love this country—but every once in awhile, as a Gay man—I have to be reminded why. The good and decent people of Camp Barkinville did that for me. It is they, not professional self-righteous types who are the best that this country has to offer.

#### An Update

In the last issue, I said that *Wisconsin Light* would be covering the Democratic National Convention in depth. That hasn't changed.

The difference now is that I can add more to what I have written.

I am pleased to announce that in addition to exclusive coverage of the Democratic National Convention, we will also have exclusive and in-depth coverage of the Log Cabin Convention and the Republican National Convention, both to be held in San Diego.

The way things are set up now, all three conventions will be covered from the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual angle, from the perspective of women and of youth, from the perspective of Gay families.

As it stands now, we will have articles of relevance to the African-American community, to the Hispanic community, to the Asian-American community as well.

For example, we will have coverage of the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual caucuses.

We will have political analysis from the Left and from the Right.

We will be covering pre-convention platform hearings as issues are debated which affect our community.

In addition, interviews have been set up with some of the "movers and shakers" on the national scene who will be present at one or another of the conventions.

There will be pictures, too, plenty of pictures, from all three conventions.

In all of this, our focus will, of course, be on Wisconsin, but there will be plenty of in-depth national news as well as it affects and impacts on the various and sundry diverse elements of our community.

All of this will be exclusive to *Wisconsin Light* in an effort to give our readers the best convention coverage relevant to our community available anywhere.

#### The Pink Swastika

And now the bad news. Awhile back, I wrote about a book called *The Pink Swastika*. It's a book that claims to "prove" that the Nazis were all part of some vast homosexual plot. It is written by a man claiming to be "a conservative Christian," and who was the communications Director of the Far Right Wing's Oregon Citizens Alliance and some one who says he's an "authority on the historic consequences of homosexuality on society."

What the book actually is, is a complete and utter mish-mash of claims and assumptions and unsubstantiated assertions that place it on the level of *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*.

In other words, it is a compendium of nonsense and every known logical fallacy from circular reasoning to non-sequiturs to produce a work of propaganda of the worst possible kind.

While I thought the book should be given some notice to let people know that it's out there, I thought too, that the less said about it the better. Maybe it would just go away.

One of our readers sent me a letter telling me my hopes were futile.

Let me say that I do have some academic background in the field of modern German history. And I can tell you that the book is hogwash, hate-filled hogwash, but hogwash nonetheless.

To use only one example: There is no evidence, none whatsoever, absolutely none, that Hitler was Gay. There is plenty of evidence, good hard evidence, that he was heterosexual. Beyond that, what can be maintained is power, for him, was the ultimate aphrodisiac.

Were there Gays in the Nazi Party? You bet there were. We're everywhere after all—even among the Far Right Christians. But as David King, professor of history at Oregon State University, said, "I suspect you would find a higher percentage of Gays in the resistance movement than in the Nazi Party."

I don't want to go any farther. Let me just say that this book is the perfect example of what a professor meant when he told his students, "I have my theory, the hell with the facts."

Read *Wisconsin Light* Online  
Our Internet Address Is:  
<http://www.gayuniverse.com/news.html>

## September's AIDS Walk Wisconsin Registration Now in Full Swing

**Milwaukee** — More than 4100 people and 510 teams have already registered to participate in the seventh annual AIDS Walk Wisconsin, Sunday, September 22 beginning at Milwaukee's lakefront.

Bette Midler is this year's Honorary Chair. AIDS Walk Wisconsin is produced by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. and benefits 16 AIDS education and service providers throughout the state.

Beneficiaries include Milwaukee AIDS Project, Madison AIDS Support Network, Center Project, Inc.—Green Bay, Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project — Kenosha, Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project — Eau Claire, Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium, Camp Heartland, East Central Wellness Project — Oshkosh, The Counseling Center of Milwaukee, Visiting Nurse Association of Wisconsin, Sheboygan County AIDS Task Force, Milwaukee Indian Health Board, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Great Lakes Hemophilia Foundation, AIDS/HIV Ministry — Wisconsin Conference of Churches, and Northern AIDS Network — Superior/Rhineland.

Pre-registration is required. Those who wish to walk, form a team, volunteer, or pledge should call 1-800-348-WALK. Once registered, participants will receive Walk materials in the mail. Packets include pledge forms, Walk updates, and tips on collecting pledges.

Walk planners and organizers have set 17,000 walkers as the goal of the event. It is expected that the walkers will shatter last year's fundraising record of \$766,464.

Prizes will be awarded to those participants who collect the most money by September 22, 1996. Prizes will be awarded depending on the amount of money collected and turned in the day of the Walk. Those raising \$100 will receive an AIDS Walk T-shirt; for \$250, an AIDS Walk sweatshirt; for \$500, a Ricoh Super 35mm camera; for \$1,000, a Koss CD discman with car adapter; and for \$2,000, a Samsung 13" color television. Camera, discman and television are donated courtesy of American.

The top three pledge getters for the entire Walk will receive the following prizes: grand prize — two round-trip tickets to Hawaii on United Airlines and five nights deluxe hotel accommodations courtesy of United Vacations; first prize — two round-trip tickets to

San Francisco on United Airlines and three nights first-class hotel accommodations courtesy of Travel Associates; second prize — two round-trip tickets on United Airlines to any destination in the contiguous 48 United States that United flies.

The day of the Walk begins with a breakfast at the Italian Community Center. Tickets for the breakfast are \$50 and can be purchased by calling the Walk hotline: 1-800-348-WALK. Walk sign-in begins at 10:30 a.m., opening ceremonies will be held at noon, and the Walk will begin at 12:30 at the Summerfest grounds.

TODAY'S TMJ4's Carole Meekins will be the emcee for the breakfast, Walk kickoff and Walk closing ceremonies. The 10k (6.2 mile) walk features six rest stops with food and entertainment along the walk route.

Sponsors of the event include Miller Brewing, United Airlines, Wisconsin Energy Corporation, Aurora Health Care, WPS Health Insurance, the *Milwaukee Journal* and TODAY'S TMJ4.

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## New Study Estimates that One in 300 Americans Are Infected With HIV

**Vancouver**—The number of people infected with the AIDS virus appears to have leveled off at about one of every 300 Americans age 13 and over, with the pace of new infections keeping up with the pace of people dying, federal researchers told those gathered for the 11<sup>th</sup> International Conference on AIDS.

"We're running in place, but it's a deadly place to run," said the lead author of a new study, Dr. John M. Karon, of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The CDC's findings, published in this week's HIV-theme issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, were presented at the Conference where there is cautious optimism that there may be a cure for HIV.

The number of people in the United States infected with HIV, or the HIV prevalence, in 1992 ranged from 650,000 to 900,000, the researchers estimated. Figures from 1992 are the latest available.

In 1986, the number of infected people was estimated as 550,000 to 650,000. And in 1984, it was believed to be 400,000 to 450,000.

The new figures were derived from AIDS case reports, a national survey of childbearing women and a national household survey of current health status.

The study also found that half of all HIV-infected people in 1992 were men who had sex with men, and about 25 percent were injection drug users. In 1984, men who had sex with men represented 62 percent of all HIV-infected people, with injection drug users accounting for 20 percent. In 1986, those numbers were 64 percent and 25 percent, respectively.

The fastest growing group of infected Americans in 1992 were those infected through heterosexual contact. That group more than tripled in size from 1986 to 1992 from about 4.5 percent of all HIV cases in 1986 to 15 percent in 1992.

A much greater share of U.S. men carry the AIDS virus than women. One in every 160

men were infected in 1992, compared to one in 1,000 women, researchers said. But infections have made much faster inroads among women in recent years. The number of women infected in 1992 was at least three times greater than the number infected in 1984, compared with about a doubling of infections among men.

Blacks and Hispanics still get a disproportionate share of infections, among both men and women. One in 50 black men and one in 100 Hispanic men were infected in 1992, compared to one in 250 white men, researchers estimated.

And one in 160 black women and one in 400 Hispanic women were infected, compared to one in 3,000 white women, they said.

Karon said that although the study and other national HIV studies indicate HIV prevalence has stabilized, the health emergency isn't over.

"Close to three-fourths of those infected have not yet been diagnosed with AIDS, which means we're going to have a very substantial medical and public health problem for years to come," he said.

Alfred Saah, associate professor of epidemiology at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, said he worried that researchers declaring the number of HIV infections had "stabilized" would slow prevention efforts.

"Numbers stabilize when the death rate equals the new infection rate. For every person who dies of AIDS, there's a new one who has the HIV infection. That's not progress," Saah said.

Dr. Thomas Coates, director of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California at San Francisco, said he found the increase in HIV infections in young men and African-American men most alarming.

And he said he thought the study should have called for more preventive efforts, like sex education for teen-agers and needle exchange programs.

"This is a totally unnecessary situation. We should not have stable prevalence," Coates said.

Reformulated versions of other proven sperm killers, such as the antiseptic chlorhexidine, are also being considered, in part because they are less irritating.

Elias said other possible products being developed include:

—C31G, a mixture of two surfactants, a type of detergent, by disrupting cell membranes, appears to be better than nonoxynol-9 against the bacteria chlamydia. Early safety testing is under way.

—Buffering agents that keep acid levels in the vagina high may also inhibit HIV, and human studies are in the planning stages.

—Suppositories of the bacteria *Lactobacillus crispatus*, which produces hydrogen peroxide, will also undergo testing soon.

—At least two examples of another potential group of anti-AIDS substances called sulphated polymers have entered initial testing to see if they irritate the vagina.

—An HIV-killing compound called PMPA protects monkeys from vaginal exposure to SIV, the simian version of HIV, as does another called N-docosanol. Whether either of these will reach human testing is not yet clear.

Elias said these developments are hampered by lack of knowledge about exactly which cells in the female reproductive tract become infected by HIV. Another drawback is that no animals are easily infected with HIV, so testing is difficult.

"We must leap from relatively simple vaginal irritation studies to large-scale, extremely costly clinical efficacy evaluations," Elias said.

He noted that many pharmaceutical companies have avoided the field because of concerns about liability, the difficulty of getting products approved and doubts about their profitability.

## AIDS Deaths In June

**Madison**—There were 17 AIDS deaths and 25 new cases of the disease reported to the state last month, a state agency said Friday, July 12.

The latest figures bring the total number of AIDS deaths in Wisconsin to 1,986 and the total number of confirmed cases to 3,328 since reporting began in 1982, according to the Department of Health and Family Services.

One year ago, Wisconsin had 2,932 confirmed cases and 1,700 deaths due to AIDS.

## On the Road to a Cure for AIDS, Optimism Must be Tempered with Common Sense

By Mitchell Beer

**Vancouver**—It's a possibility that people are discussing in research labs and clinics across North America and Europe. It was a hot topic during coffee breaks at the satellite sessions attached to the International AIDS Conference. It's making the rounds on the Internet, and exploding into sudden controversy in the popular press.

It's a source of immense hope for people whose T-cell counts are suddenly making a strong comeback. And it's raised a variety of concerns for AIDS activists who fear that research funding and HIV prevention efforts will appear less urgent once the news reaches the general public.

Slowly, carefully, almost without quite believing their own findings and experience, AIDS practitioners are beginning to ask whether it might be feasible to eradicate the human immunodeficiency virus in people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWH/As).

The theme is rapidly gaining momentum among a group of researchers and clinical practitioners specializing in the measurement of viral load, use of combination therapies, and the daunting but tantalizing effort to indefinitely delay the onset of viral resistance.

If anyone had asked six to 12 months ago whether HIV could be eradicated, they would have been laughed at," said Julio S.G. Montaner, Program Co-Chair for the Conference and National Co-Director of the Canadian HIV Trials Network. "Today, the question not only doesn't get you into trouble, it's actually worth asking."

Montaner stressed that the ability to eradicate HIV is still only a hypothesis. "We're not saying we can eradicate anything. We're saying our data show that we can effectively suppress viral resistance in a number of people over a period of time."

But if researchers like Montaner, David Ho and Doug Richman are correct, "we're onto something very, very big."

The first of several building blocks supporting the drive toward HIV eradication is a recent flurry of developments in the measurement of plasma viral load.

Until recently, monitoring of HIV progression was based on CD4 counts, which could only measure damage that had already occurred.

The second important leap has been the growing scientific consensus that combination therapies are beneficial—a view considered questionable just a few years ago.

This is where new drug development has been critically important, said Montaner. "In the world of only one or two combinations, it was reasonable for people to say 'don't use it now, because you're going to need it later'... In six months we've doubled our therapeutic armamentarium in Canada, and that has made double and triple therapies a reality."

At the First HIV Eradication Meeting last month, Montaner reported the prospect of delaying the onset of resistance opens the door to the use of cheaper drugs that would otherwise invite the development of resistant strains.

In a late-breaker session Thursday, David Ho of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York will suggest that a 1.5- to three-year course of combination therapy may completely eliminate infected macrophages and CD4 cells.

A group of eight patients receiving nelfinavir, zidovudine and lamivudine showed a 100-fold drop in plasma viral load in the first two weeks of treatment, but Ho will recommend a longer period of therapy to eradicate longer-lived infected macrophages.

But in contrast to the optimism that was evident at the XI International Conference on AIDS got under way, many AIDS practitioners and activists are nervous about the potential dangers of framing HIV as a manageable, chronic disease that might soon be curable.

They fear that funders may place HIV on a par with conditions like diabetes, and that AIDS education and prevention efforts may be stalled.

"We've made progress, but undetectable levels do not mean zero levels," said Maggie Atkinson, Co-Chair of AIDS Action Now! in Toronto, Canada. "We don't really know the clinical effects of these treatments."

Martin Delaney, Founding Director of Project Inform in San Francisco, adds that it would be terribly premature to send out the message that HIV is under control.

"Even though we may be on the brink of something, there's a huge gap between clearing the first person of a disease and turning that into a practical medical strategy that will apply to hundreds of thousands of people."

"Even if it becomes possible in two years to discontinue therapy for some PLWH/As, it's going to take a decade or more just to roll it out, even in the US."

Delaney and Montaner both stressed that the state-of-the-art therapies that could perhaps eradicate HIV will not be universally ac-

cessible to all societies, countries and groups.

"We clearly have things to hope for," Montaner said, but "what is not so clear to me is how we're going to go full circle and say one world, one hope, one world."

Meanwhile, AIDS researchers in the US are already under intense pressure to investigate other diseases, and "it's hard to debate because the truth is that we are spending too little on the other diseases," Delaney said. "It really forces us into a debate that nobody wants to have."

Battles over health spending priorities also make it easy to lose perspective on the amount of money involved, he added: "When you talk about the amount of money that we quibble over in AIDS, for \$100 million here or there you're talking two more jet fighters or one submarine for the military. The great waste of spending is elsewhere."

The emergence of new combination therapies will also create the need for a public awareness effort focussed on at least two messages, Delaney said.

First, news that eradication may be around the corner must not leave people with the impression that they can now abandon safety practices designed to prevent HIV transmission.

Second, PLWH/As receiving combination therapies will have to understand the "enormous precision and discipline" required to make the treatments work. "People have to commit to disciplined therapy for a long time," with the knowledge that multi-drug resistance will occur almost immediately if treatment is interrupted.

Another group with reservations about the new combination therapies is the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP).

In an interview from New York City ACT UP member Ellen Bay said activists are as eager for good news as anyone else. But "the optimism that's being displayed in advance of this Conference is a bit scary to me," Bay said. "We have to temper our pleasure at the possibilities with some common sense, and not just grab onto this merry-go-round and say we have a cure."

Bay said the availability of combination therapies becomes something of a "crap shoot" for PLWH/As, who may be deciding to accept a relatively unknown drug combination for the rest of their lives. Clinical experience with protease inhibitors only dates back about 16 months, she said, so there's no way to know what physiological impact the drugs will have over five to 10 years.

The information that is available on the hepatic and renal side effects of protease inhibitors leads Bay to question their efficacy for injection drug users (IDUs) or alcoholics who "have lousy livers and kidneys to start with."

For Julio Montaner, only time will tell whether the encouraging results of the past six months will translate into an effective, consistent assault on HIV.

"The way you test a hypothesis is to take the opposite approach — you say that HIV cannot be eradicated, so let's try to prove that. And that's what we're doing." While proponents of the eradication theory are clearly excited at the direction in which their research is taking them, they stress that they're not declaring an end to the war on AIDS.

"The issue today is that we're asking the question," Montaner said. "Six months or a year ago, it wasn't a question that we could even formulate."

## ARCW Receives \$2500 in Memory of Dahmer Victims

**Milwaukee** — The law offices of Jacobson & Hupy, S. C. have donated \$2500 to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) in memory of the victims of Jeffrey Dahmer.

The donation will be used to help support vital local AIDS research that strives to keep people with HIV and AIDS healthy for as long as possible and research that contributes knowledge toward the ultimate cure and eradication of HIV disease. Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium (WARC), a service agency of ARCW, conducts clinical drug trials to enable Wisconsin residents with HIV disease to get the most advanced experimental therapies while remaining under the care of their own physician.

Lisa Wolter, ARCW Deputy Director of Community Relations, accepted the donation on behalf of ARCW at the offices of Jacobson & Hupy. In accepting the donation, Wolter stated, "The funds will make it possible for men and women affected by HIV and AIDS in our community to participate in the most advanced experimental drug therapy today. On behalf of everyone concerned about the terrible devastation that AIDS has inflicted upon our community, thank you for your generosity."

## New Study Shows Doctors Now More Willing to Help AIDS Patients Die

**Vancouver**—People with AIDS often attempt suicide to end their suffering, and doctors appear increasingly willing to help them. Fully half of San Francisco AIDS doctors surveyed admit they have prescribed deadly doses of narcotics.

Reports Wednesday, July 10, from the United States, Canada, England and the Netherlands at the 11th International Conference on AIDS suggest suicide is a common way out for people with the disease.

Botched attempts, so-called "coat-hanger euthanasia", are frequent, because physician-assisted suicide is illegal in most places. Nonetheless, the evidence suggests that doctors and nurses are often willing to skirt the law or break it to relieve suffering.

"We suspect attitudes are changing. Inhibitions are loosening," said Thomas Mitchell of the University of California, San Francisco. "Physicians are accepting assisted suicide more than in the past."

Mitchell, a public health specialist, surveyed 228 members of a San Francisco area group of AIDS specialists. Half of them returned anonymous questionnaires, and 53 percent of those doctors said they had helped patients commit suicide by writing prescriptions for narcotic overdoses.

"Everyone knows this occurs, but there has been no quantifiable data on it," Mitchell said.

A similar survey five years earlier did not ask doctors whether they had helped with a suicide, because at the time, the question was considered too sensitive. But when asked how they would react to a hypothetical case of patient suffering, 28 percent said then that they would probably help.

The apparent growing acceptance of suicide for AIDS patients comes as medical breakthroughs raise hopes that death from the disease can be delayed for years or perhaps avoided entirely.

Combinations of drugs involving a new class of medicines called protease inhibitors appear especially promising. Reports over the past six months, including several at the

AIDS conference, suggest they can eliminate all detectable traces of HIV.

One of these studies, released Wednesday, was the first to show that combining two such drugs, Abbott Laboratories' ritonavir and Hoffman-LaRoche's saquinavir, works better than either alone. In very early results after just six weeks of therapy on 120 patients, levels of the virus fell by 99.6 percent.

Such findings have raised the spirits of researchers and patients, but no one knows whether the results will hold up over years of use.

Even if they do, Roz Leiser, an AIDS research nurse at the University of California, San Francisco, said the new treatments will be ineffective for some patients, and they may still opt for suicide to avoid lingering deaths from AIDS.

She conducted a separate survey of AIDS nurses in the San Francisco area. Fifteen percent acknowledged actively helping patients plan or carry out suicide. Two-thirds said they were willing to give AIDS patients information about how to kill themselves.

"I have seen people die horrible deaths," Leiser said. "It's a choice people should have."

A study by Dr. Lorraine Sherr of Royal Free Hospital surveyed 188 AIDS patients at a London clinic. It found 21 percent had tried to kill themselves, mostly with overdoses.

Just how many succeed is hard to judge. But in the Netherlands, which has liberal euthanasia laws, Dr. Henk-Maarten Lane estimated from a physician survey that 26 percent of people with AIDS in Amsterdam commit suicide with a physician's help.

Dr. Russ Ogden, of the University of Exeter in England, estimated that 10 percent to 20 percent of AIDS patients in British Columbia killed themselves in 1993.

He also found that many rely on help from friends rather than doctors. That has sometimes meant slow, painful deaths.

"There is abundant evidence of botched assisted suicide," Ogden said. "People are dying badly."

## Women Must Be Empowered To Stop the Spread of HIV Conference Told

**Vancouver**—Monday, July 8, afternoon's presentation by Toye Brewer of the University of Washington in Seattle, USA linked the transmission of HIV and other sexually-transmitted diseases to women's education and empowerment.

Working with a team in the Dominican Republic, Brewer traced HIV transmission rates among women living in the bateyes, the private plantations where sugar cane is harvested. The study involved interviews and HIV testing for a group of women aged 16 to 72, the majority of whom were born in nearby Haiti. The interviews revealed that seven-eighths of the women were not generating income, one-fifth had exchanged sex for money, and fewer than 4% had used condoms at last intercourse.

Brewer and her colleagues concluded that women in the bateyes are five times as likely as other women in the Dominican Republic to become infected with HIV.

"Unequal sex ratios and lack of economic opportunities for women in the sugar cane industry make formalised prostitution and informal exchange of sex for money common survival strategies," they stated in their formal abstract.

Martha Butler de Lister, a Santo Domingo physician affiliated with AIDSCAP, told *The Daily Progress* noted that micro-enterprise training is available for women who live year-

round in the bateyes, but not for more transient migrants from Haiti.

"We have to push for more training that can help these women become economically active, so they can negotiate better to say no when they're asked for sex in exchange for favours or money."

Butler also stressed the importance of educating all women about the asymptomatic nature of most STDs, "and more than anything, to make them recognise that the STD symptoms that they do have are not natural."

For centuries, she said, a "macho conspiracy" has told many women in developing countries that vaginal discharge and other STD symptoms are caused by contaminated water.

"We need to teach these women that that's not normal," she said. "That man she's with is putting her at risk, and she's got to make him use a condom."

The negotiating skills that women need to protect themselves are best taught by their peers, Butler stressed. "That's something that nobody from outside can come in [and do] with a fixed recipe," she said, particularly if the trainer comes to the bateyes from a place like New York City. "They're two different environments and two different social situations."

## Conference Told Of Link Between Violence Against Women and HIV

**Vancouver**—The need to consider the issue of violence against women in HIV and AIDS prevention, intervention and care was stressed by a number of presenters at a poster symposium Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, at the 11<sup>th</sup> International AIDS Conference.

Geeta Rao Gupta, co-author of a recent investigation of ways to foster linkages between the AIDS community and the violence against women movement, noted that violence and fear of violence from male sex partners makes it more difficult for women to practice self-protection by negotiating safer sex practices, including condom use.

"This has very real implications for intervention and prevention strategies," she explained. "In order to effectively protect women from HIV/AIDS, it is crucial that the AIDS community join with the women's anti-violence movement to advocate for change, so that violence against women is no longer acceptable."

Allison Morrill, co-author of a study on abuse and HIV risk among heterosexual women, noted that "physical and sexual abuse of women contribute to increased risky behaviour indirectly, by virtue of their association with substance abuse and depression."

Morrill added that other issues require further study for effective prevention and intervention for the many women facing violence.

"It is important that we have a deeper understanding of the decision-making process of women with regard to self-protective behaviour," said Morrill. "We must recognise that these behaviours take place in the context of a relationship, and that other influences—largely interpersonal, and including violence and fear of violence—can overcome intent, despite increased awareness developed through exposure to prevention programs."

Other poster presentations addressed the link between violence and vulnerability to HIV infection for low-income minority women, women with a history of drug use, incarcerated women, commercial sex workers, and women who have experienced female genital mutilation. Situations of coercion and rape also leave women vulnerable to infection.

Panelists in this session called for broader partnerships between the AIDS community and the violence against women movement, and strongly advocated further study of the links between these issues in a global context.

## Rising HIV Infections Among Women Present New Challenges in AIDS Prevention

By Lynne Melcombe

**Vancouver**—AIDS is now the third leading cause of death in American women between the ages of 25 and 44, and the leading cause of death among African-American women, said Christopher Elias at the July 9<sup>th</sup> plenary session of the International Conference on AIDS. The vast majority of infections are transmitted vaginally.

In developing countries, he stressed, women are at much greater risk than in the US.

Elias, a senior associate of The Population Council, USA, emphasised that female-controlled prevention methods do not relieve men of responsibility. However, "women often have too little power within their sexual relationships to insist on condom use, and too little power outside of these relationships to abandon partnerships that put them at risk."

While striving to change gender power dynamics, he said, research must investigate ways for women to protect themselves with or without the knowledge of their partners. Acceptable methods must also allow them to become pregnant if desired.

Current developments in female-controlled protection include physical and chemical barriers. Physical barriers like diaphragms and cervical caps provide good protection against bacterial STDs, said Elias, but, do not cover the entire genital area. Because the exact location of HIV reproduction in the genital tract is still unknown, these methods may not contribute to HIV protection.

The first of several female condoms to be approved in the US is the polyurethane Reality condom, sold as Femidom in Britain, and is stronger than latex. If used with perfect consistency, this condom could potentially reduce the risk of STD transmission—including HIV—by 97%.

Chemical barrier methods such as spermicides are another possibility, said Elias. However, clinical trials have not yet been done to determine their efficacy for HIV prevention. There is, however, some indication that newer formulations may be efficacious, although many are irritating to vaginal mucosa. Because vaginal irritation may increase HIV susceptibility, these products would be unsuitable for frequent use, such as by commercial sex workers.

Elias noted other possibilities, including natural products such as a new vaginal suppository now being evaluated in Pittsburgh,

and novel microbicides to kill or inactivate sexually-transmitted pathogens through disruption of cell membranes or alteration of vaginal ecology. In addition, some compounds might inhibit viral entry into mucosal cells or inhibit HIV replication.

Two or three of these products may advance to clinical trials in the next several years but there are many challenges to be faced, Elias said. Researchers require a better understanding of reproductive biology as it pertains to STD and HIV transmission, along with better animal models for evaluating product potential.

They must also work closely with communities at risk to sustain grassroots involvement and improve public understanding of factors affecting product use.

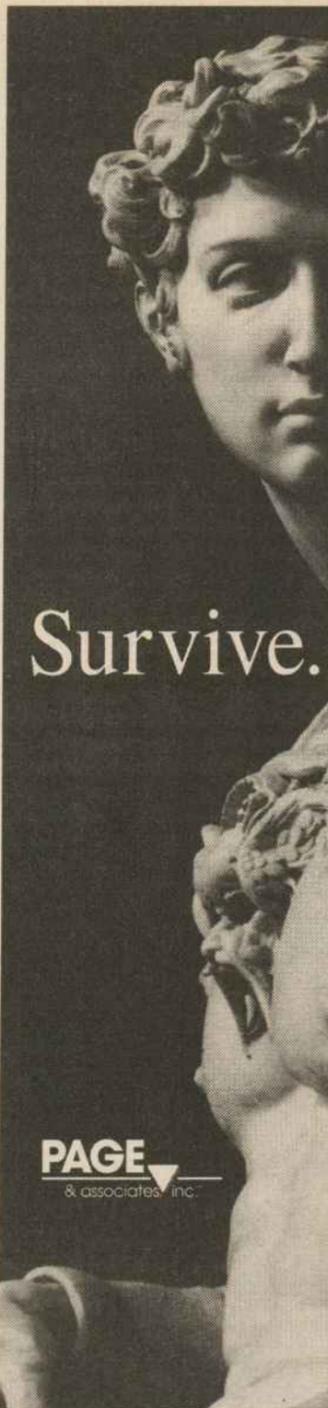
However, he described available funding for female-controlled prevention as "tiny," especially among pharmaceutical companies. "Public-sector leadership is absolutely essential," he said.

"Scientific enterprise must begin to reflect the urgency of those who daily face infection with no means to protect themselves."

### Fact File on International AIDS Conference XI

The XI International Conference on AIDS held in Vancouver, was the world's largest gathering of researchers, clinicians, people living with HIV/AIDS, exhibitors, and media.

Number of Conference participants: 15,000  
Number of exhibitors: 1,000  
Number of media: 1,000 to 1,500  
Countries represented: 125  
Abstracts presented: 5,380  
Conference volunteers trained: 1,007  
Languages that volunteers speak: 56  
Hours of volunteer time committed: 20,000  
Percentage to delegates who self-identified as being HIV-positive: 45.5  
Estimated new cases of HIV infection per day, world-wide: 7,500  
Estimated new paediatric cases: 1,000  
Kilograms of food ordered for welcoming reception: 4,100  
Kilometres of string required for delegate badges: 11.67



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William Hoffman—Small Business News, April, 1994

## Lack of Needle Exchange Programs In U.S. Have Cost Lives and Money

By Chris Wong

**Vancouver**—In an alley parallel to the 100 block of East Hastings, the epicentre of hardcore drug addiction in Vancouver's downtown east side, Greg Dimmer negotiates the needle exchange van through the narrow, garbage-strewn space.

Dimmer has to stay alert; he never knows when someone will jump out from behind a dumpster to make an exchange. Sure enough, two men suddenly emerge and walk over to the van. One of them repeatedly asks whether a mouse is on his back. There's no sign of a rodent, but the man isn't convinced. After receiving many assurances, the person finally drops his used needles in Dimmer's tray and receives clean ones in return.

Later, Dimmer explains that the man in the alley is likely a cocaine user. That would account for his extreme state of paranoia.

On a broader level, cocaine is a major factor in the HIV epidemic enveloping this neighbourhood. That's one of the findings of the Point Project, a study of risk factors for HIV infection among Vancouver's injection drug-using community.

The study found that people who injected more than four times a day are 2.4 times more likely to seroconvert than those who don't use cocaine. Because the cocaine users injected frequently, their likelihood of sharing needles, or "trigs" as they're called on the street, increased.

Findings like this are helping HIV and AIDS experts, and those on the front lines who provide street-level services, understand why the epidemic has hit every city's injection drug users (IDUs) so hard.

The study's results, especially those showing the links between needle sharing and social factors, also have international relevance. Three oral presentations and two posters at the Conference sprung out of the Point Project.

In January 1994, the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control started documenting a significant increase in the number of IDUs testing positive for HIV. By the following year, there was an average of one new positive test every day — despite the availability of a needle exchange service run by the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society (DEYAS).

In 1995, the exchange distributed more than 1.8 million needles. According to DEYAS Executive Director John Turvey, that's more than 20% of all syringes distributed across the entire US during the same period.

At a roundtable session on needle exchange programs held July 9<sup>th</sup>, Peter Lurie of the University of California at San Francisco presented a study on the consequences of the US failure to adopt a national needle exchange policy.

Based on a mathematical model, the study estimates that if a policy had been in place, 4,000 to 10,000 HIV infections could have been prevented before 1995. Each infection cost the American health care system an estimated US\$250,000 to \$500,000, Lurie said.

So far, said Lurie, there have been six major US studies showing that needle exchange programs reduce HIV transmission without increasing drug use.

Four of those studies, including a 1993 investigation by the US Centers for Disease Control, recommended that the American government lift its ban on federal funding of needle exchange programs.

"Here we are — July 1996, and things have not changed," Lurie said.

Turvey stresses that the Vancouver program, which is funded entirely by the provincial government, is "not a saturation model that just brings a truck full of syringes to the community and hopes they end up in the right place."

The program offers its clients a variety of options for making exchanges including a fixed distribution site, two van routes covering the downtown east side and other parts of the city, and walkarounds. Structuring the program with that kind of flexibility has paid off in many ways.

The exchange's return rate is an impressive 102%—meaning that they receive needles back that they never distributed.

Still, an epidemic thrives in the downtown east side, undoubtedly one of the poorest neighbourhoods in Canada. Researchers launched the Point Project in February 1995 to find out why.

The main component of the project involved a case control study, comparing IDUs who had just been diagnosed with HIV to others who had tested virus-free on two consecutive occasions.

Altogether, 89 HIV-positive and 192 HIV-negative people participated.

Interviews with the IDUs revealed that people still share needles at a significant rate. But the majority of study participants said access to clean needles isn't a problem. Their responses point instead to other factors such as cocaine use which influence needle-sharing.

Health Canada's Chris Archibald, one of the principal co-investigators on the Point Project, says the study confirmed an association between frequent use of the Vancouver program and high-risk behaviour.

But Archibald says there's no evidence to suggest that the availability of free needles from the program is causing the high-risk behaviour.

Another study presented yesterday by Julie Bruneau, of the Hôpital Saint-Luc in Montréal makes an even stronger link between risk of HIV infection and use of needle exchange programs.

Bruneau stressed that the study did not suggest a "causal" relationship. However, the "unexpected findings" indicate that HIV prevention strategies incorporating needle exchange programs need to be broadened and refined.

The Vancouver study also found that those with unstable housing were twice as likely to seroconvert. For many IDUs in the downtown east side, home consists of a small room in a low-rent hotel. "When you walk through these places, you can begin to understand why this may be a factor," says Dr. Dave Patrick, a BC Centre for Disease Control epidemiologist and one of the principal investigators on the Point Project.

"People are crowded, living in conditions that don't really generate a lot of self-respect."

Another cofactor is a history of sexual abuse. Survey participants who said they have been forced to have sex against their will were three times more likely to use a borrowed needle.

Steffanie Strathdee, an epidemiologist at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and one of the principal investigators on the Point Project, thinks these correlations demonstrate an emerging reality:

"The needle exchange kept the lid on the epidemic in this city for as long as possible, but clean needles and condoms are only one small part of the puzzle. We really have to make people feel like their lives are worth saving."

But Turvey, a former injection drug user himself, sees no serves forthcoming to address the social determinants of needle sharing.

"The medical profession, the self-appointed leaders in this fight, would rather look for the proverbial silver bullet than take on the more difficult solutions that were identified out of the Point Project," he charges.

Ironically, when he helped establish the needle exchange in 1989, Turvey believed the program would be the silver bullet. A few years later, it became apparent that needle exchanges have to be just one of a number of community-based health interventions to which IDUs can have access along a continuum of care.

Until that continuum is set up, the Vancouver exchange will adapt in small but important ways to improve its effectiveness.

Based on feedback from the Point Project, the exchange has now expanded to a 24-hour service and launched a distribution program in the area's hotels.

But everyone involved in the struggle to contain HIV in the downtown east side knows that these are just short-term solutions. With that in mind, said Patrick, researchers have begun the Vancouver Injection Drug Use Study, which will follow a cohort of more than 1,000 IDUs over a three-year period to gather detailed information about HIV incidence and behavioural change. The investigators hope the study will give a clear idea of what interventions should be implemented to stop a deadly epidemic that continues to rage.

### MIXNER

Continued from Page 1

ous job."

But, he adds, what we've got to remember is that any organization that is in the Beltway tends to be more cautious." It is to their best interests and the interests of those who they serve, to get along with the power brokers. He doesn't have to do that. "I have much more freedom" in that regard.

He might have added that, while his lines of influence and friendship go deep within the Beltway, that has never stopped him from standing up for what he thinks is right.

But if someone is unhappy with the way the leaders are handling things, well, then, "My advice is step up to the plate and found a new organization."

What do you think about those who say that Gays should choose their battles more effectively, I ask him?

He is disagrees with that position entirely. "There's a myth that somehow we can choose the time and place of our battles. We don't have that power. The traditional civil rights movement didn't want the sit ins. They just happened. Very courageous couples in Hawaii

## AIDS Conference Hears Debate on Pros and Cons of Home HIV Testing

**Vancouver**—In a debate Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> before the International AIDS Conference, Ralph R. Frerichs of the US presented a passionate argument for moving forward with the development of HIV home screening.

Frerichs argued that there are many positive reasons for home HIV screening, including improved self-protection and earlier self-caring. "The current system is not effective at early detection," said Frerichs, adding that many HIV-infected persons who are tested are not told by clinics of their true status.

Frerichs also cited the expense of widespread early detection programs without prior personal screening, which he said diverts funds from much needed treatment, as well as the overall poor coverage of current clinic-based HIV counselling and testing programs, the limited access to HIV testing in developing countries.

He stressed the need for a "simple, inexpensive HIV screening kit that people can use as often as they like in the privacy of their own home," adding that home HIV tests must be available at low prices to make them accessible and effective.

An equally passionate argument against home HIV testing was presented by Doris Schopper of Switzerland, who stated that there is insufficient research to support a move to home HIV testing.

She identified a series of technical problems, such as the accuracy of saliva and urine testing, the quality of the test kits and samples collected and the education level needed to understand and successfully undertake home testing.

Schopper emphasized the importance of pre- and post-test counselling as an "essential element" in the testing process, as well as the increased incidence of false positive and negative results.

She also noted the potential for abuse by a

third party such as police, border guards, employers or sexual partners—in particular male partners who may subject women to acts of violence.

Schopper also argued that risks associated with home testing increase:

In countries with less guarantee of anonymity, less probability of consent, or lower levels of education and literacy;

Where the powerless are not protected by the law and the status of women is not equal to that of men; and

Where there is limited quality control of medical devices.

"We need to acknowledge that external conditions can make the same technology favourable or dangerous," argued Schopper. She concluded that there is great potential for abuse with home HIV testing, and that further study is needed to ensure that such abuse is prevented.

Debate discussant Michael Merson closed the lively session by pulling together points from both sides of the debate, supporting a cautious move forward with home HIV screening.

He acknowledged that there are many legitimate concerns to be addressed, including the importance of ensuring that counselling is provided and the need to carefully study the responses of individuals in a home test environment.

He also emphasized the need to reduce the opportunity for abuse of the technology.

"We should base our policy on sound and scientific data and consultation with consumers," said Merson. He recommended that home HIV testing focus on screening rather than diagnosis, and that it be pursued cautiously and responsibly to meet the needs of consumers, rather than with a focus on moral arguments or opportunities for profit.

## New Wave of AIDS Infections Strike Young Gay Men Worldwide Reports Indicate

**Vancouver**—A generation of young Gay men across the industrialized world, tragically ignoring the lessons of the AIDS epidemic, risk a new wave of HIV infection by engaging in dangerous sex, researchers reported Monday, July 8, at the International Conference on AIDS.

The trend means that substantial numbers of Gay men who came of age after the AIDS epidemic was recognized are already infected, and many more will get the virus in the near future.

First spotted in San Francisco a few years ago, the pattern has now been documented across the United States, Europe and Canada.

"The epidemic of HIV among young Gay men is not only an individual tragedy but is certainly also a major public health concern," said John de Wit, a psychologist at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

In some parts of the United States, as many as one in 10 Gay men under the age of 25 carries the virus, and the risk seems to be especially high for nonwhite minorities.

"The figures are high, very high, especially if we consider that these young men have become sexually active in an era in which massive effort was exerted to increase awareness of HIV risk behaviors and to promote safer sex," he said.

De Wit outlined the accumulating evidence of youthful AIDS infection at the 11th International Conference on AIDS.

"The young feel invincible and that they won't get sick from anything," said Dr. Michael L. Rekart, the conference co-chairman.

are forcing us to fight for our rights. They are the ones to are forcing us to fight. We cannot refuse to fight. We must battle head on. We will have setbacks, but we will win. Our young will see us fight and take strength from it."

Like Mixner, I too, was in Washington, DC in the late '60s. I too heard the clarion calls of the great leaders of the Black civil rights movement, and I got shivers down my spine at their words. Now, 30 years later, listening to David Mixner, I get those same shivers again.

What made you decide to write your book, I ask him?

"I'm 50 years old in Aug. 85% of my friends of my age are dead. I thought it important to write our history for future generations."

"I really wanted to write a book that would remind people that any person can create change in the world. I want young people to feel empowered. I want young people to feel that they don't have to accept the world as less than excellent."

One final question: Do you think President Clinton has read your book?

"My understanding is that he has."

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## The Expense of New AIDS Drugs Will Deny Them to the World's Poor

Commentary by John S. James

Today, a new generation of more effective HIV treatments (such as drug combinations which include a protease inhibitor and at least two other antiretrovirals) is coming into use in some countries.

But most of the world's people with HIV have no hope of receiving these drugs, or any other treatment for HIV infection which has been scientifically tested.

Only very expensive medicines have been developed, so that most of the world's population has been written off. The international AIDS community must insist that this crisis be addressed.

With the new treatment combinations costing US\$10,000 per patient per year or more, they will never be affordable (even with price reductions) in countries with per capita health expenditures of a few dollars per year; the same money could save many more lives if it were spent on other diseases, or on HIV prevention.

But another option is to study low-cost treatments that are already available and in human use (including herbal and other traditional treatments, certain older generic medicines, certain nutritional supplements, and other non-proprietary substances) to collect scientific data that could improve their usefulness in treating HIV disease.

For example:

Modern tests can tell very quickly whether a herbal preparation (or any other proposed antiviral) really works to reduce viral load. Within a few weeks, a simple trial with a few volunteers (probably no more than 10 or 20) could determine whether a treatment has measurable activity against HIV.

This research would cost relatively little, and it could benefit all people with HIV, in poor and rich countries alike. Surely the money could be found among the world's foundations, governments, corporations, and

individual donors.

Some inexpensive drugs and nutritional supplements can reduce suffering from such problems as neuropathy, fatigue, itching, and wasting syndrome in certain patients. Some of these therapies seem to give more than symptomatic relief, preventing some of the damage caused by HIV.

Small, rapid, inexpensive trials could provide scientific data on what really works and what does not, which patients can benefit, and how to use these therapies better.

One possible obstacle to this strategy is that pharmaceutical companies may be threatened by treatments which have been scientifically proven to work, yet cost a hundred times less than the drugs they sell—and almost all clinical researchers depend substantially on these companies for funding. The research establishment can do the right thing if pushed—but so far has largely failed to initiate policies for providing effective treatments in poor countries. That demand must come first from the larger community.

We cannot wait for others to move, but must take the initiative and insist that credible studies of inexpensive treatments be given much more attention and priority than they have received in the past. When history looks back at this epidemic, will it record that governments and AIDS organizations made no real effort to save the lives of most of the people infected?

That depends on whether we can find the political will to change the biases and the neglect that have prevailed until now.

**Editor's Note:** John S. James founded *AIDS Treatment News* ten years ago, and has now published 250 issues of this newsletter on new and experimental AIDS treatments. He lives and works in San Francisco.

## Sexually Active Gay Men Are at Great Risk for Potentially Deadly Hepatitis B

**New York**—Hepatitis B is a major health threat to sexually active Gay men. One out of 16 men (6%) in this group has chronic hepatitis B, 15.8 times the rate of infection (0.38%) in the general United States population. Further, from 35% to 80% of sexually active Gay men have some indication of hepatitis B, whether they currently have the infection or have recovered from it. These figures, from 1990, are from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and are the most recent available.

Hepatitis, or inflammation of the liver, can be caused by various viruses. Of the five major viruses causing hepatitis—designated A, B, C, D and E—the hepatitis B and C viruses are the most dangerous because they can cause chronic infection. Gay men are not at increased risk for contracting hepatitis C, compared with the population at large.

Chronic hepatitis can lead to permanent liver damage such as scarring of the liver (cirrhosis), liver cancer and liver failure. In fact, viral hepatitis is the No. 1 reason for liver transplantation in this country, and each year, about 15,000 people die from complications of hepatitis B and C.

Hepatitis B and C can be transmitted through contaminated needles, sharing needles during intravenous drug use, unprotected sex with multiple partners and blood transfusions prior to 1990 (for hepatitis C) or 1972 (for hepatitis B).

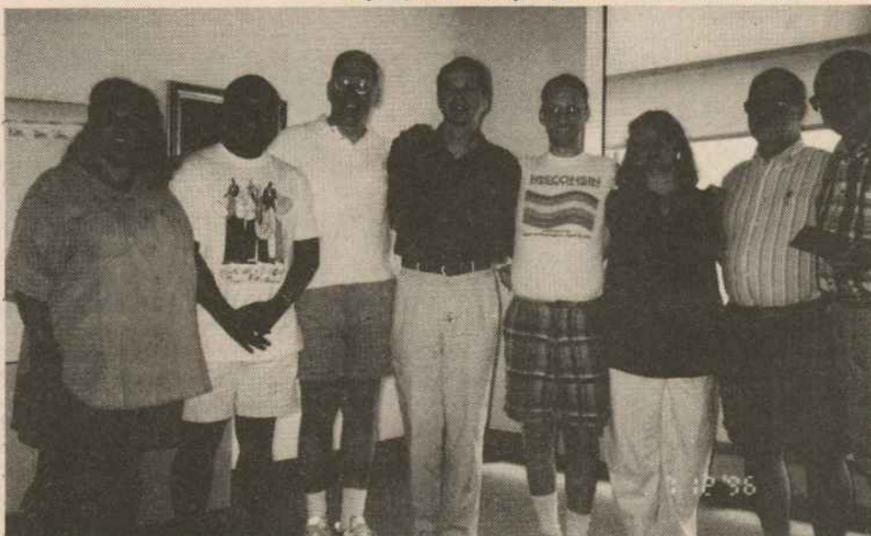
Both hepatitis B and C are transmitted via blood, and both infections have the potential to become chronic. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 10% of acute hepatitis B cases and as many as 80% of acute hepatitis C cases develop into chronic infections. Chronic hepatitis can cause cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) and liver cancer, and an estimated 15,000 people die from complications of chronic hepatitis B and C infection each year.

Because people with chronic hepatitis usually experience no symptoms, they may not be aware that they are carrying the virus and are capable of infecting others. In fact, HBV is 100 times more infectious than HIV, which causes AIDS.

Hepatitis B can be prevented through vaccination, and those at high risk should be vaccinated. For most people, the vaccine provides protection for at least seven years. Currently, there is no vaccine for hepatitis C.

Prison inmates who are at increased risk of infection should inquire about a blood test to diagnose chronic hepatitis. In many cases, chronic hepatitis B and C can be treated, and individuals diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B or C should discuss their eligibility for treatment with a health professional.

Further information on hepatitis is available by calling the American Liver Foundation at their toll-free number, (800) 223-0179.



Several Milwaukee Community leaders who are working to bring a community center to the city, posed with Irwin Uecker and Ross Walker (both far r), on July 13, 1996. Uecker and Walker presented a check for \$1,000, the first of 120 monthly installments, each in the same amount, to be used toward the proposed center.

## National Conference for Gay & Lesbian Catholics to be Held in Williamsburg, VA

**Williamsburg, VA**—The National Association of Catholic Diocesan Lesbian & Gay Ministries (NACDLGM), based in Oakland, California, has announced plans to hold the organization's third annual national conference in historic Williamsburg, VA. The conference will take place September 5 - 8, 1996 at the Hospitality House Hotel located directly across from the College of William & Mary.

Over 150 individuals representing Roman Catholic ministries with Lesbian and Gay persons, their families and friends across the United States are expected to participate in this year's conference entitled **Called to Teach & Heal**.

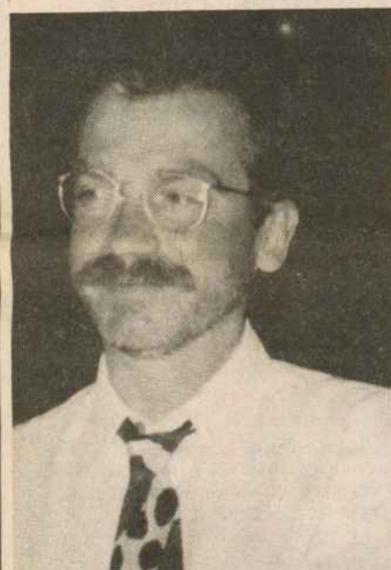
Conference planners have seen attendance at this annual event double each year. The first conference was held in Chicago and the 1995 event took place in Seattle. The event brings together people who are actively involved in the leadership of Catholic Gay and Lesbian outreach groups and programs based in dioceses and parishes, as well as other interested persons. Attendees include Roman Catholic priests, sisters, brothers, and lay leaders.

According to Rev. Jim Schexnayder, current president of the NACDLGM, a surge of

Diocesan-based ministries directed to Gays and Lesbians and their families has developed across the country in recent years. "Three years ago, when our association was founded, we were aware that approximately fourteen dioceses in the US had established such ministries," says Schexnayder. "We now estimate that over ten percent of the two hundred-plus dioceses in the US have active outreach programs with others in development." Schexnayder attributes the expansion of these ministries to a growing openness in the Church to be more inclusive of, and hospitable to, their Lesbian and Gay members.

The four-day conference in Williamsburg includes workshops on such topics as: parents and family support, youth and young adults, start-up ministries and outreach, and spiritual issues specific to Lesbians and Gays. The conference will feature two prominent keynote speakers: Rev. Gerald Coleman, S. S. and Paula Ripple Comin.

Information about this year's Conference, or about the National Association of Diocesan Lesbian & Gay Ministries, can be obtained by calling the Association's office at (510) 465-9344.



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## Fly

Jean Jacques Goldman & Phil Galdston

Fly, fly little wing  
Fly beyond imagining  
The softest cloud, the whitest dove  
Upon the wind of heaven's love  
Past the planets and the stars  
Leave this lonely world of ours  
Escape the sorrow and the pain  
And fly again

Fly, fly precious one  
Your endless journey has begun  
Take your gentle happiness  
Far too beautiful for this  
Cross over to the other shore  
There is peace forevermore  
But hold this mem'ry bittersweet  
Until we meet

Fly, fly do not fear  
Don't waste a breath, don't shed a tear  
Your heart is pure, your soul is free  
Be on your way, don't wait for me  
Above the universe you'll climb  
On beyond the hands of time  
The moon will rise, the sun will set  
But I won't forget

Fly, fly little wing  
Fly where only angels sing  
Fly away, the time is right  
Go now, find the light

"We will miss you dearly for now,  
but we'll see each other again."

With Love,

Michael Patrick  
and Peter

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## MAP Gay Outreach to Host "Lesbians and HIV" Forum

**Milwaukee** —The Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Gay & Lesbian Outreach Program will hold a forum about Lesbians and their risk for contracting HIV on Wednesday, July 31 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at MAP, 820 N. Plankinton Avenue.

The purpose of the forum is to work with the Lesbian Community to identify their risk factors for HIV transmission and to define their HIV prevention needs. The forum is free and all members of the Lesbian Community are invited to attend.

"I would encourage all interested members of the Lesbian community to attend the forum," said Andy Bagnall, MAP Manager of Gay and Lesbian Outreach. "MAP's Gay and Lesbian outreach program intends to educate all members of our community and your input is vitally important to determine what prevention messages and tactics are effective for Lesbian and Bisexual women."

For more information about the forum, call Andy Bagnall at (414) 225-1502.

## HIV Testing: If You Haven't Done It, Do It!

**Milwaukee** — Knowledge is power and knowing your HIV status gives you more power than ever over your life and health. While BESTD Clinic and many others have always encouraged people to be tested, the news on the HIV/AIDS treatment front screams at persons who may be HIV infected to find out as early as possible.

A variety of new medications have been introduced and approved for use within the past six months. It is becoming very apparent that multi-faceted therapies are most effective in slowing the progress of the HIV virus and also dealing with its ability to skirt around particular drugs by mutating. There is also the professional wisdom of beginning therapy as early in the infection as possible for the best possible and longest lasting results.

Don't you owe it to yourself to determine your status by a testing program consistent with your risk for HIV infection? If you become infected, you can decide to begin a medical therapy or look at your other options. If you are not HIV infected, you can again review your risk and make some decisions about reducing your exposure. The bottom line is that there is no good reason why you should not be tested NOW!

There are many clinical and outreach testing opportunities around Milwaukee that provide a variety of days and times that should meet everyone's need.

For appointments or information on where and how to be tested for HIV, call BESTD Clinic at (414) 272-2144.

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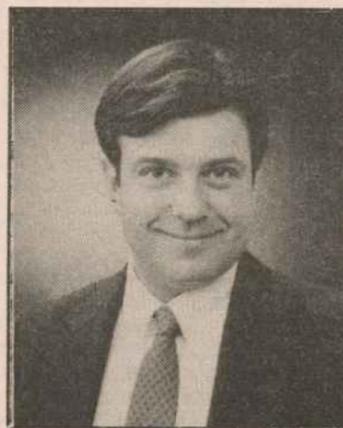
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## Announcements

### Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest at New Location

**DeKalb, IL** — The second annual Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest would like to announce a new location. This second annual festival will take place in DeKalb, IL at Katz Park on E. Dresser Rd. A map and directions can be obtained at your local ticket outlet. The date of the festival will be September 1, 1996, Sunday of Labor Day weekend. Featured performers include Alix Dobkin, Deidre McCalla, Susan Herrick, Jamie Anderson, and many more. The Midwest Womyn's Autumnfest is the only outdoor womyn's music and culture festival in Illinois.

We are currently seeking volunteers to assist with all aspects of planning and implementing this event. Work crews are now forming for parking, security, set up, stage work and more. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$32 at the gate; this price includes admission to all performances, workshops, movies and the market place. Ticket price does not include food, which will be on sale throughout the day. Tickets are available at Woman Wild, People Like Us, Pride Agenda, and Prairie Moon. Tickets may be purchased by mail order or with VISA/Master Card through Athena Productions.

For more information, or to volunteer, call Ann or Joan at Athena Productions, (815) 748-5359 or send a SASE to Athena Productions, 217 E. 2nd St., #193, DeKalb, IL 60115.

### UW-Madison to Hold Gay Alumni Brunch

**Madison** — The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alumni Council of the Wisconsin Alumni Association is pleased to announce the 1996 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients: Barbara J. Cox and Richard Uspel.

This year's Reunion Brunch will be held on campus in the Memorial Union Great Hall, July 21, 1996, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Russell Betts at (608) 262-5895.

Barbara Cox received her Judicial Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School in 1982 and is now a tenured professor of law at California Western School of Law. Her duties include teaching Civil Procedure I and II, Property II, Women and the Law, Sexual Orientation and the Law, and Legal Process. Barbara also serves as a faculty representative to the board of trustees and is a member of the trustee/faculty planning committee.

Richard Uspel received both his bachelor's and masters in English from UW-Madison in 1967 and 1972. Richard, who was a 1994 Fulbright scholar, taught for twenty-two years at Waukesha County Technical College, Pewaukee, where he has been active in bringing Lesbian and Gay speakers, issues and resources to the campus. Uspel approaches the public on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual issues with courage, energy and a great deal of spirit.

Cox, Uspel and professor emeritus George Mosse will be recognized at the fifth annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Distinguished Alumni Brunch.

The purpose of the University of Wisconsin Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alumni Council is to provide a recognized forum that facilitates dialogue and relationships between the university and its Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual alumni as well as to support and encourage a positive social and academic environment throughout the university community for its Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual students, faculty and staff.

### Madison's Gay Resource Directory Published

**Madison** — The Madison Gay/Lesbian Resource Center (MG/LRC) is pleased to announce that the eighth edition of **The Directory: A Guide to the Organizations Serving Madison's Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Communities**, has been published. The Directory contains information (including history, purpose, size, address, contact person, phone number, and/or accessibility) on nearly 100 community organizations which serve or support Gays, Lesbians, and/or Bisexuals (GLB).

Publication costs for **The Directory** were underwritten by advertisements placed by over 180 businesses and professionals in Madison and the surrounding area. Thus, **The Directory** also functions as a guide to businesses which have demonstrated their support for the GLB community.

Copies of **The Directory** are now available free of charge at the following Madison locations: A Room of One's Own, Four Star Video Heaven, Out to Lunch Cafe, Borders Book Shop, and The United. Copies will also be available at various GLB social events throughout the year. Delivery of bulk copies can also be arranged by contacting MG/LRC at P. O. Box 1722, Madison, WI 53701. Individuals wishing to have a copy of **The Directory** mailed to them may do so by sending their name, address and a check for \$2.50 per copy to defray mailing costs to MG/LRC.

Plans are underway for the ninth edition of **The Directory** to be published in the spring of 1997. Potential advertisers may write to MG/LRC throughout the year to be added to its contact list.

### Osco Drugs Becomes HIV/STD Prevention Partner

**Milwaukee** — Since coming into the Milwaukee market, Osco Drugs has reached out to form a partnership in HIV/STD prevention.

Even prior to opening the store at Farwell and Brady Street, Julie Johnson, the Store Manager discussed the mix of sexual risk reduction materials with Ross Walker of BESTD Clinic. Walker, then working with Pharmacist Jon Phillipps, recommended a variety of condom and lubrication products to be stocked. These correspond with the risk reduction materials offered to BESTD clients. According to Walker, it makes a lot of sense to be able to steer clients to a retail outlet that carries the products you are recommending and giving away.

For a number of years, BESTD has approached other retail outlets on the East side, asking them to consider carrying a variety of risk reduction materials, especially flavored condoms.

There had been no response to these requests until this recent partnership with Osco.

BESTD became the first agency in Milwaukee to offer the eight "wet fun flavors." In spring, PrideFest promotion was designed to offer a 6.5 ounce bottle when clients came in to pick up their HIV test results. Designing Men and Osco quickly picked up on this and began offering the fun flavors to the retail market.

Walker commented, "It is these partnerships in the community that expand the scope of prevention efforts [for] those at risk for HIV infection."

### Optomen TV Seeking to Interview Gay Identical Twins

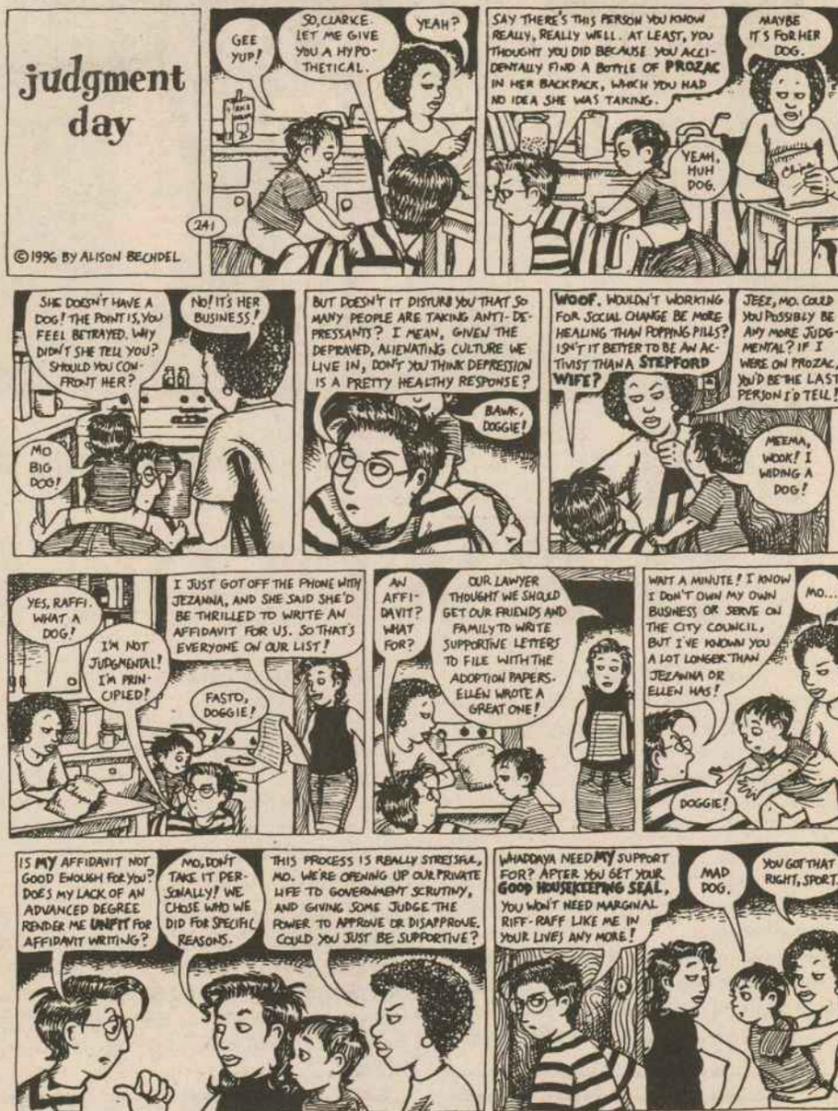
**London**—Optomen Television are producing a program on twins and scientific twin studies for The Learning Channel's Science Frontiers series, their premier science series.

They are looking for pairs of identical twins who are both homosexual who would be interested in being interviewed as part of their program.

Optomen are particularly interested in speaking with identical Gay pairs who participated in the study of Dr. Michael Bailey at Northwestern into the heritability of homosexuality and who live in or near the Milwaukee/Chicago area.

Optomen are based in England and anyone interested should contact Gideon Simeloff at Optomen ASAP by telephone at: 011 44 171 820 8280 (you may call collect), by fax at: 011 44 171 820 8281, by email at: 100663.143@compuserve.com, or by post at: 8 Graphite Square, Vauxhall Walk, London SF11 5EE, England.

### Dykes To Watch Out For



### Appearance by David Mixner At Unabridged

**Chicago** — On Monday, July 22, David Mixner will speak and answer questions about his book, **Stranger Among Friends** (Bantam, \$22.95) at Unabridged Bookstore (3251 N. Broadway, Chicago), as culmination of the store's month-long celebration in anticipation of the Democratic National Convention's arrival in Chicago. In addition, on every Saturday in July, Unabridged Bookstore and Gay & Lesbian Voter Impact will sponsor a voter registration drive at the bookstore.

**Newsweek Magazine** dubbed David Mixner "the most powerful Gay man in America." Mixner was a close friend and advisor to President Bill Clinton until his arrest for protesting Clinton's "Don't Ask/Don't Tell" Policy at the 1993 March on Washington for Gay & Lesbian Rights. His memoir, **Stranger Among Friends**, is an incredible tale of political intrigue and a brutally honest look at the Gay & Lesbian movement, the reform of the Democratic Party, and the Clinton Administration. Mixner's speech will begin at 7:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Kathie Berquist at (312) 883-9119.

### Milwaukee AIDS Project Sponsors Health Fair

**Milwaukee** — Milwaukee AIDS Project's Dennis Hill Harm Reduction Center will host a free health fair for African American women on Friday, August 16, 1996 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Although the health fair is designed to meet the needs of African American women, all members of the community are invited to attend. The Dennis Hill Harm Reduction Center is located at 4311 West Vliet Street.

The program will feature many different seminars on Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) programs including cooperative therapies, early intervention program, support groups and mental health counseling, case management, Loving Spoonful food pantry, clinical drug trials, as well as seminars about HIV and AIDS and alcohol and drug treatment.

"Because MAP is a multicultural agency that serves a diverse client population, the Dennis Hill Harm Reduction Center is a key location for African American clients to access services," said Maggi Cage, Ph.D., MAP Director of Health Services. "This event is important as part of a larger effort to educate the communities we serve about our programs and services."

Health care providers and professionals will be on hand to provide information and advice. The fair will also feature food, a raffle, free condoms, and demonstrations on acupuncture, massage, condom use, and HIV testing. Seminars will take place throughout the day at no charge, so interested members of the community may attend any or all of the programs.

Organizations participating in the health fair include Healthy Women and Infants Project, Wholistic Health Center, Rainbow Community Health Center, Institute for Child and Family Development — HIV+ Women of color and Northwest General Hospital.

For more information, please contact Dorothy at (414) 225-1580.

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### First Meeting of Rainbow Heights Association Held

**Milwaukee** — The first meeting of the Rainbow Heights Association was held on July 9 at Divine Word Lutheran Church. Aibly organized by Brenda and Kim, some 20 residents of Washington Heights attended. While some efforts will be made to formalize the group's structure, those present felt that the organization's emphasis should be social gatherings, networking, and working with the neighborhood association.

The next meeting of the Rainbow Heights Association will be held on Tuesday, August 27, at 7:00 p.m., at Divine Word Lutheran Church located on the corner of 55th and Lloyd. Please pass the word to your friends living in the Washington Heights area. For more information, please call (414) 456-0620 or (414) 778-1269.

# THE SPOTLIGHT

## Building Sold to MIAD

# THE WRECK ROOM CLOSES

By Bill Meunier

**Milwaukee--** After a quarter century of serving Milwaukee's Gay community, a landmark Milwaukee Bar, The Wreck Room, permanently closed its doors on Monday, July 15, 1996.

The bar was opened by Wayne Bernhagen and his lover Bill Kindt in 1971. They paid \$40,000 for the building that became home to many of Milwaukee's Levi/Leather men.

That building has now been purchased by the Milwaukee Institute for Art and Design (MIAD) for \$350,000. MIAD will be using the building for a student center.

**The Wreck Room was Wisconsin's first Levi/Leather bar. In its heyday the bar was crowded night after night.**

### One of Milwaukee's Premier Bars

For most of its existence, the Wreck Room was one of the premier bars in Milwaukee. It was part of Milwaukee's Third Ward "trifecta" of bars that included The Factory and the M & M Club back in the late seventies and early eighties.

Thousands of Gay men fondly remember walking from one to the other as they experienced their first taste of Gay night life. Now only the M & M Club remains.

### Rumors Of Closing

For months, rumors of the Wreck Room's demise circulated throughout the Gay community. As recently as late May, Kindt told *The Light* that his bar was not for sale and would not be sold.

The rumors gained momentum when Kindt closed the bar during part of Summerfest due to parking problems. But no one expected a sudden closing.

In an exclusive interview, Kindt told *The Wisconsin Light SpotLight*, that he turned down several offers to purchase the bar. "MIAD first came to me with an offer back in September," said Kindt. "I said no to them and to several others. MIAD came back with another offer and I still said no. Finally, they made me an offer that I couldn't refuse."

Kindt said that declining business forced him to re-examine his position. "It was time to get out. The parking situation was really bad. Between the MIAD students and the theater complex, there was no parking left. Its gotten worse and worse the past three years. The M & M Club down the street is more fortunate. They have their own lot and the filling station lot next door as well."

### Employees Not Told Until the End

The Wreck Room's six employees had no advance notice of the closing. "I am sure it didn't come as a shock. They had heard all of the rumors," said Kindt.

He adds that he wanted to keep the bar open until October 1, but the amount of work that had to be done preparing for an auction of the bar's memorabilia made him change his mind.

"After talking to the auctioneer and getting an understanding of what all has to be done, I decided that I needed the extra time to prepare," said Kindt.

### First Levi/Leather Bar

The Wreck Room was Wisconsin's first Levi/Leather bar. In its heyday the bar

was crowded night after night.

The decor included a half of a car that protruded from the front wall, a large wooden wagon in the center of the floor complete with a carved penis hitch, license plates from around the country on the walls, an "outhouse" and an always full barrel of peanuts in the shell free for the taking.

### Business Declined

Business appeared to decline after the front bar was remodeled. The remodeling did away with the trappings of a leather bar in favor of a cocktail lounge look. The Back Bar, however, remained rustic.

Kindt confirmed that the bar was on a downward financial trend. But he denied that it was losing money. "Not as of yet," he said, "But it was clear that it was going to. I had a nice offer from MIAD and a chance to get out now before I had no choice."

### The Early Days

Kindt and Bernhagen were lovers when they opened the bar a quarter of a century ago.

A long time customer, community activist, Eldon Murray, remembers the bar's early days. "Wayne wanted a leather bar in the worst way. But several days after his opening no one had come in wearing full leather."

**The bar and its owners played an important role in the development of Milwaukee's Les/Bi/Gay community**

To Bernhagen's delight, Murray, at that time a member of the now defunct Lake Riders Motorcycle Club, came in wearing full leather. "Wayne said I was the first person to come in wearing full leather," said Murray, "He was thrilled."

Murray said the bar was one of the most popular in Milwaukee back then.

TURN TO WRECK ROOM, PAGE 24

## It's Time to Get Trashy at Our In Between Trailer Trash Party Thursday August 1

Following up success is not the easiest thing to do. First we had a wonderful SpotLight party at This Is It. It was a very nice affair with a couple hundred of our closest friends.

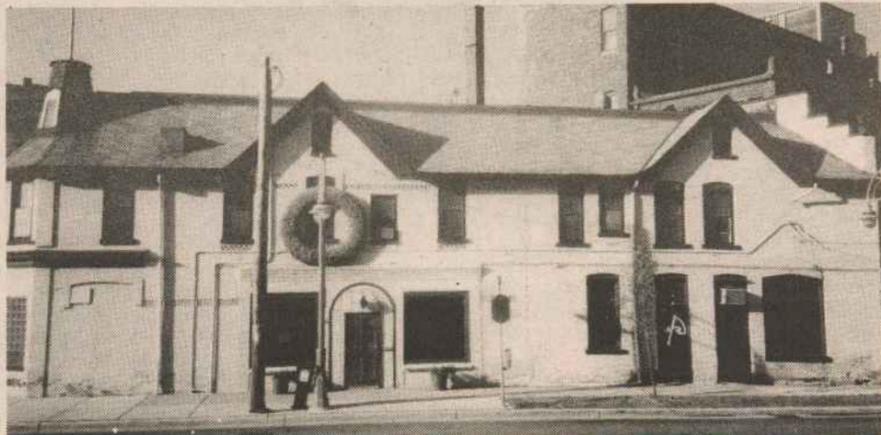
Next we celebrated the Fourth with a bang at Mama Roux's with an Amendment 2 Party. It was a wild affair attended by a couple hundred people celebrating our independence.

Now its time to get trashy at In Between (625 S. Second Street, Milwaukee), at 9:00, Thursday August 1.

The SpotLight Trailer Trash Party sponsored by the *Wisconsin Light* and In Between is not for those who eat with their pinkie finger up. No, its sole purpose is to celebrate the culture that made White Trash famous, the Trailer Trash Culture.

The bar will be fully decked out in the latest Trailer Trash decor. Guest appearances by such well known Trailer Trash like Adaly Drama will take place throughout the evening.

The highlight of the night will be the crowning of "Mr. South Side Trailer



The Wreck Room was housed in this historic building which has been sold to the Milwaukee Institute for Art and Design by bar owner, Bill Kindt. After 25 years of helping to build and maintain Milwaukee's GLBT community, the bar closed its doors for good on Monday July 15, 1996.

## 'Quilt' is a Play of Moving Performances and Many Touching Scenes

### Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Circlestage is a new entry to Milwaukee's increasingly varied theatre scene and must be commended for mounting as ambitious a production as *QUILT: A Musical Celebration* as a part of it's initial season.

Less a traditionally structured musical play, *QUILTS* instead is comprised of a series of vignettes designed to offer the many diverse, intensely personal stories that too often remain behind the panels that have for the past decade created the AIDS Quilt.

That *QUILT* is such a marvelously effective piece of theatre is a salute to the many and varied talents of *QUILT*'s director Don Hoffman and his large, attractive cast.

Several of the individual stories are particularly effectively brought vividly to life.

There is a heterosexual youth named Paul (Tommy Hahn) whose Gay brother dies of AIDS. Unable to get past the anger and denial, Paul begins to act as a "buddy" to a Gay man named Juan (Joshua Parkes). "At a Distance" tells how through his relationship with Juan, Paul is able to finally understand and ac-

cept what happened to his brother.

In the final musical number of the first act, "In the Absence of Angels", Michaela Chaconas effectively tells the story of how an HIV-infected blood transfusion results in her and her baby becoming HIV+.

The burdens of responsibility of a friend/care-giver as most poignantly brought to life in "Could Ya Do Me A Favor", where Jane, a nurse tells of how her relationship with a man with AIDS grows from just being neighbors to final protector.

Interwoven throughout and emerging as a narrative framework are the stories of Wes (David Flores), an HIV+ Gay man who is assisting with an quilt workshop at a local Gay & lesbian center and Karen (Kathleen Matts), a heterosexual woman trying desperately against a formidable list to create a quilt for her best friend.

Still, truth be told, sometimes less is more. With the Opening Night performance going nearly three and a half hours, *QUILT: A Musical Celebration* all too often seems to lose focus, losing momentum along the way, despite a wealth of good performances and a number of genuinely touching scenes.

Part of the problem appears due to the severe restrictiveness of the actual theatre space, perhaps simply too small a space to reasonably accommodate a production with such requiring such a large cast and with such complicated staging demands. As it is much too much time seems to be spent shifting unnecessarily unwieldy set pieces.

A greater problem with the material is that, quite simply, there's too much of it. Often *QUILT* simply overwhelms the audience. Many of the scenes would be well served with a judicious trimming.

Katy's (Tiffany Bucher) touching "I Believe in You" for example is terrific but the appearance of Aunt Marcie at the end of the song is superfluous and unnecessary. Likewise the second act's opening monologue seems to ramble on before finding its conclusion.

The first act's final vignette is also one of the weakest, long and awkward in structure. This scene, a curious salute to Liberace emerges as something of a let-down after the powerful "In the Absence of Angels".

Many of *QUILT*'s large cast deserve special recognition, particularly Kathleen Matts wonderfully distraught Karen, Donna Jones pragmatic Jane and Mark Huffman's touching Timmybell.

*QUILT: A Musical Celebration* is a powerful evening of theatre and one worthy of an audience. Recommended

Jerry Johnson



A Star Spangled Cast took the Stage to help Miss Star E Nite celebrate her birthday and Independence Day at Just Us on Saturday July 6. A crowded house cheered them on as they saluted Miss Night and America. Miss Nite got her cake and she got to eat it too as shown by the photo on the bottom right.

### 1100 Club Owners: "We're NOT Closing"

**Milwaukee**--Contrary to rumors, the owners of Milwaukee's 1100 Club insist that their bar has not closed permanently nor is it on the verge of doing so.

On the heels of the Wreck Room closing, **The Wisconsin Light** received a number of reports that the 1100 Club had closed possibly for good.

The **Light** was told that the Health Department ordered the Club to redo portions of the flooring and that its lease was up for renewal.

In exclusive interview with **The Wisconsin Light SpotLine** 1100 Club co-owners, Bob Minzloff and Mike Petri said that they are not closing their doors.

Petri and Minzloff are trying to purchase the building that houses the bar. They say that they closed to get things squared

away for the purchase.

"We closed the bar for a few days in order to get the place ready," said Minzloff, "We expect to be reopening by the weekend of July 20 & 21."

The current owners were supposed to have redone the floors as a condition of their purchase of the building. In order for Minzloff and Petri to buy the building, that condition has to be fulfilled.

"We took it upon ourselves to redo the floors to clear the way so we could complete the purchase," said Minzloff.

In addition to the floors, Minzloff and Petri are doing some other remodeling, and redecorating.

So contrary to what the rumor mill is generating, the 1100 Club is not only not closing, it may be in its best shape ever.

### Tickets Still Available for Exclusive Musical Performance of "Quilt"

**Milwaukee** — Tickets are still available for **Quilt: A Musical Celebration**, stories for, from and about the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, which opened at Circlestage, Milwaukee's only theater-in-the-round on Friday, July 12.

This exclusive engagement marks the Midwest premier of the musical. This show has not been seen since 1992, when it enjoyed great success in other cities such as Washington, DC and New York. The show allows personal stories and the voices of those affected by AIDS to accompany the stirring visuals of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, which so many people have had an opportunity to view either in person or in photographs. Many of those involved in the Milwaukee production are themselves affected by the disease.

The musical is based upon the book written by Jim Morgan, Merle Hubbard and John Schak. Lyricist Jim Morgan and composer Michael Stockler created the accompaniment for the musical production.

Cast and production members have painted replicas of the NAMES Project Quilt on the walls outside the theater and hung replicas of the Quilt down the hallway of Prospect Mall where Circlestage is located. The audience will

also have a rare opportunity to view the Wisconsin AIDS Quilt, which was created at the first AIDS Walk Wisconsin and is added to each year at the Walk.

Unique as a theater-in-the-round, Circlestage will afford audience members the chance to feel intimately involved with the storytelling of the **Quilt** cast members.

"The actors cannot hide backstage, which is especially important to such an emotionally charged show as this," said Don Hoffman, Artistic Director of Circlestage. "The small theater allows the actors to convey their emotions more easily, since they are within five feet of the audience. At any one time there are at least two sets of eyes watching from portions of the circle."

A portion of the proceeds of **Quilt** will benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). The show, which opened on Friday, July 12, runs through July 28 at Circlestage, 2239 N. Prospect Avenue, in the lower level of the Prospect Mall. Show dates are July 19, 20, 26, 27 and 28, with showtimes Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. All tickets are \$12 and can be purchased directly from the Circlestage box office at (414) 277-9550 and through Ticketmaster at (414) 278-4545.

# CALENDAR

<p><b>Fri. July 19</b></p> <p><b>Action Wisconsin Reception for Winnie Stachelberg</b> 6 to 8 P.M. Edgewater Hotel 666 Wisconsin Ave, Madison</p> <p><b>Za's Seventh Anniversary Party</b> 9 to Close Za's 1106 Main St. Green Bay</p> <p><b>Madison 10% Dance</b> 9 to Midnight, UW Memorial Union Langdon and Park</p> <p><b>QUILT: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION</b> 8:00 Fri &amp; Sat, 2:00 Sun Through July 28<sup>th</sup> Circlestage Theater, Prospect Mall, Milwaukee</p>	<p><b>Sat. July 20</b></p> <p><b>The Magic Picnic</b> 1 to 7, Brittingham Park, Park Street and Washington, Madison</p> <p><b>Rod's Reunion</b> 7 to Close, the Depot 640 W. Washington</p> <p><b>Miss Gay Green Bay US of A Pageant</b> 10:00 P.M., Za's 1106 Main Street</p> <p><b>B's Fifth Anniversary Party</b> Noon to Close, B's 1579 S. Second St., Milwaukee</p> <p><b>QUILT: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION</b> 8:00 Fri &amp; Sat, 2:00 Sun Through July 28<sup>th</sup> Circlestage Theater, Prospect Mall, Milwaukee</p>	<p><b>Sun. July 21</b></p> <p><b>UW Alumni Brunch</b> 11:00 A.M. - 1 P.M. UW Memorial Union (Langdon and Park)</p> <p><b>Madison Pride Parade/Rally/Show</b> 1:30 to 5:30 State Capitol to the UW Library Mall</p> <p><b>Pig Roast/Luau</b> 2 to 10 P.M., Gargoyles, 354 E. National, Milwaukee</p> <p><b>Singsational</b> 3 to 6 P.M., Rascals 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton</p> <p><b>QUILT: A MUSICAL CELEBRATION</b> 8:00 Fri &amp; Sat, 2:00 Sun Through July 28<sup>th</sup> Circlestage Theater, Prospect Mall, Milwaukee</p>	<p><b>Miss Capitol City Pageant</b> 10:00, R Place 121 Main St., Madison</p> <p><b>David Burrill</b> 11:00, Manoeuvres 150 S. Blair St. Madison.</p> <p><b>Sat. July 27</b></p> <p><b>Bloomberg &amp; Mahaffey CD Release Party</b> 7:00, Broadway Theater Center 158 N. Broadway, Milw.</p> <p><b>Miss Gay Milwaukee US of A Pageant</b> 10:00, B's 1579 S. Second St.</p> <p><b>Fri. July 26</b></p> <p><b>COPY DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR OUR AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> ISSUE</b></p>	<p><b>Sun. July 28</b></p> <p><b>Christmas In July</b> 3 to Close, Rascals 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton</p> <p><b>Christmas In July Show</b> 8:00, B's 1579 S. Second St., Milwaukee</p> <p><b>Trailer Trash Week</b> In Between 625 S. Second St., Milwaukee</p> <p>For Updated Info On Our Calendar</p> <p>CALL OUR SPOTLINE (414)299-0857</p>	<p><b>THURS. AUG 1</b></p> <p>The Wisconsin Light Trailer Trash SpotLight Party! 9:00 at In Between 625 S. Second St., Milwaukee</p> <p><b>Sat. Aug. 3</b></p> <p>Judii Lowe at B's 10:00, B's, 1579 S. Second St., Milwaukee</p> <p><b>Sun. Aug 4</b></p> <p>Riverwest Rainbow Picnic 2:00 Kern Park Area 4 Milwaukee</p> <p>Variety Show 10:00 B's 1579 S. Second St., Milwaukee</p>
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## Quilt: A Bold Move By Circlestage

By Bill Meunier

There are many reasons why you could say that the Circlestage Theatre production of "Quilt: A Musical Celebration" is a bold statement. The production which runs Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons through July 28th as a benefit for MAP. Circlestage is located in the lower level of the Prospect Mall (one block South of North and Prospect)

First off, Circlestage is the first theater troupe outside of the original company to perform this monumental work. Actors and other theater people from around the Midwest are expected to attend and judge the quality of the performance.

Then there is the fact that Summer is not traditionally a season with an abundance of theatrical activity. In general theater companies prefer to shy away from competition with the beach, festivals, baseball games and other warm weather activity.

Furthermore this is the first time "Quilt" has been performed "in the round."

**"I'm doing this for a friend with AIDS" 10 year old actor Edward Dumar.**

Last but by no means least is the work itself. With 35 vignettes, each telling a story about the AIDS Names Quilt and those affected by it the play requires a large casts and handling many mood swings, from laughter, to tears, to anger and to laughter again.

### Production Covers Every Aspect

Tommy Hahn one of the actors says "There has to be comedy in this show. It would be too difficult to take other-wise. There's a scene for everyone who has contracted AIDS. One scene about High School girls who slept with an HIV+ boy has a great rap number sandwiching a ballad. There's a scene about a woman who was raped and passed HIV onto her child. There's a character who wants her son's panel removed because she couldn't accept his being Gay. There are so many aspects this show addresses."

Characters in these vignettes range from those based on famous names like Liberace and Elizabeth Glazer to a mother who works the quilt in response to her Gay son being killed in a bashing and an angry man who couldn't accept his now dead brother's homosexuality.

All of the vignettes are based on true stories.

In the final number the cast hoists a quilt containing panels they created. Each panel represents a character in the show.

### Show Poses Many Challenges

The challenges associated with the production of a play that includes over 30 characters and runs over 2 hours have not daunted the cast and crew of the Circlestage.

**The show has opened to good reviews and the Chicago Theater Guild has invited Circlestage to bring the production to the Windy City.**

Director Don Hoffman has taken on a task that many others might shrink from. But Hoffman knowing that he has recruited a strong cast, relishes the challenge. "This is one of the most powerful books I've ever read. This show is not just about Gay people and Gay issues. It's a show about how no one is immune to AIDS. Men, women and children, teenagers....It touches each of our lives every day."

Hoffman is a believer in theater in the round. "I like it because the audience can't escape the impact of the work. This work has a lot of impact. There are many mood swings in 'Quilt'. In fact, one of my biggest challenges is building in transitions to help tie it all together."

### Milwaukee Has Midwest Premiere

"Quilt" is considered to be a work in progress. It started out as a theater workshop project at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. From there it was



The cast from A Midsummer Night's dream is shown above. Featured in the photo above are: (l-r), Charles Hanel, Michael Weber, William Clifford, Jonathon Wainwright, Bill Finn and Steve Langenecker.

## Amethyst Presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

**Milwaukee**—The reprise of A Midsummer Night's Dream will run in rotating rep with Moliere's The School For Wives from July 19 through August 4 at Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, 2220 N. Terrace Ave.

Experience two classic plays of love and desire, under the stars at Villa Terrace. A Midsummer Night's Dream opens first on July 19, and as it was last year, is set in ancient Athens. The costumes are based on a Nineteenth-Century Romantic view of the ancient world as epitomized in the paintings of the English artist Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema. Most of the

original cast has returned for this year's production.

The Richard Wilbur translation of The School For Wives opens July 25th and is set in the South of France in the 1920s.

The director of both shows is Maureen Kilmurry. Pamela Brown is the producer. Musical accompaniment for both shows will be provided by Amy Mills, flutist, and Kurt Kleinhans, guitarist.

A Midsummer Night's Dream will be performed July 19, 20, 21, 26 and 28. The School For Wives will be performed July 25 and 27, and August 1, 2, 3, and 4. August 1 is a pay-what-you-can performance. All shows will be at 7:00 p.m.

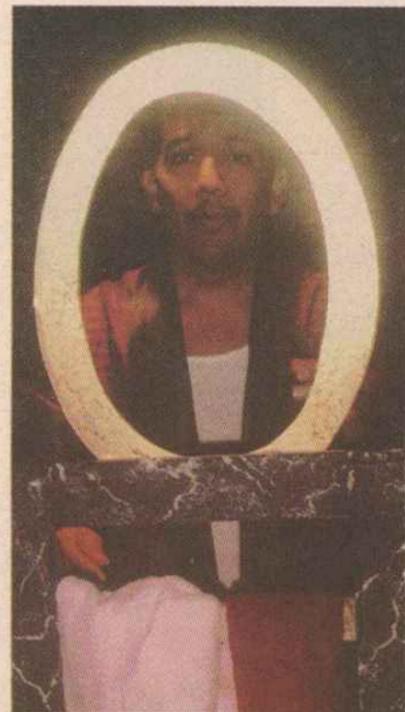
Tickets are \$19.50 including tax, and are available by calling (414) 299-0435. Tickets may also be purchased at Villa Terrace after July 16th during regular museum hours — Wednesday through Sunday, noon-5:00 p.m.

## Leather Weekend Awards Two New Leather Titles

By Beth Kelley

### Ms. Leather Madison 1995

**Madison** — I am pleased to announce that, during the Wisconsin Leather Weekend, we have awarded two new leather titles to two very competent people.



Jerry Johnson

The Winner of the Mr. Wisconsin Fantasy Contest 1996, held at the 1100 Club in Milwaukee, WI on Saturday, June 29 is **Dennis Bartley**. His imagination and creative fantasy along with his sense of humor grasp the title easily.

The Winner of the Mr. Southeastern Wisconsin Leather Contest 1996 held at 3B's in Milwaukee, WI on Sunday, June 30 is **Jerry Straley**. His knowledge of the leather community, high sexual fantasy and willingness to work as hard as asked for the community gave him the ability to capture the title.

Next for Dennis is Omaha, NE to complete at International Mr. Fantasy, while next for Jerry will be to complete at the Mr./Ms. Wisconsin Leather Contest.

During their terms they will be seen at various leather events, Judging various contests and forming a Leather Coalition to march at the upcoming AIDS Walk on September 22, 1996.

I wish them all the luck and support from Ingenu Productions/MMWL, but also from the community, especially the Leather Community of Wisconsin and nationally.

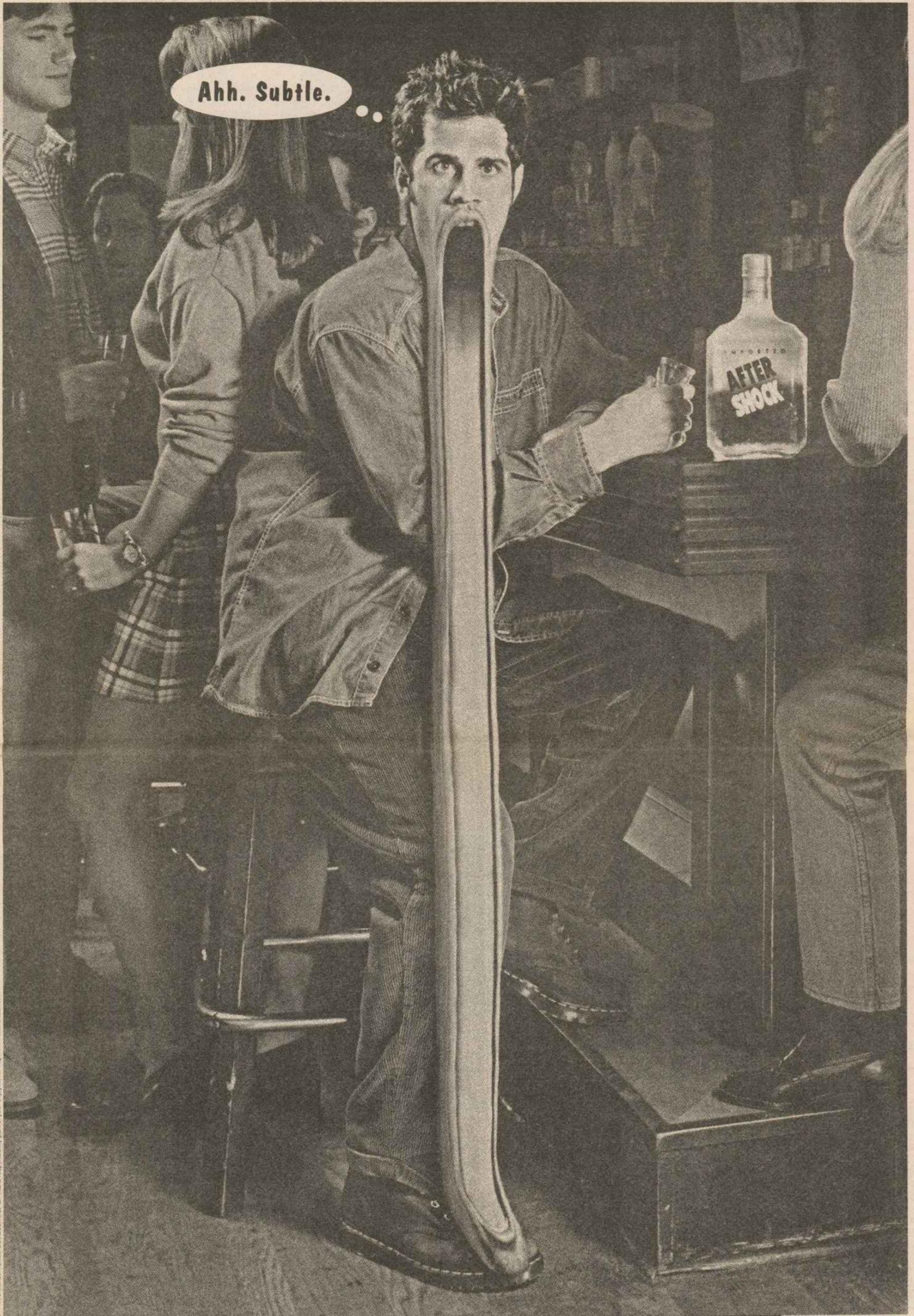


The Cast from "Quilt: A Musical Celebration" unfolds its "masterpiece." The quilt they are displaying was made by cast members from the Circlestage production.

A Scene From "Quilt: A Musical Celebration" The acclaimed production has received critical acclaim. Its at Milwaukee's Circlestage Theater, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through July 28.

Jerry Johnson

Jerry Johnson



Ahh. Subtle.



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# OUT on Film



## Leisurely Paced and Brilliantly Acted, 'Lone Star' is a Movie Worth Seeing

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

John Sayles latest film, *Lone Star* seems like a curious choice for a summer release. Faithful readers of Glenn's reviews are sure to be familiar with what types of movies that Hollywood considers as suitable motion picture entertainment for the warmer months. Summer, according to Hollywood is a time for vacations. Beginning with the Memorial Day weekend and lasting to about Labor Day, moviegoers are expected to be giving their brains a thorough rest cure.

Movies like *Twister*, *The Rock* and, of course the end all and be all of all summer flicks for '96, *Independence Day* (please see accompanying review) are perfect examples.

Not so with independent filmmaker John Sayles, whose latest film, *Lone Star* has just recently opened.

Unlike the majority of films at the local multiplex, *Lone Star* is not loaded with big name stars, cartoonish superheroes or endless sequences of multi-million dollar special effects. Sayles is that rare filmmaker concerned with characters and ideas. Gay and Lesbian moviegoers will fondly remember Sayles earlier film, *Lianna*.

Nominally, *Lone Star* is murder mystery. As the film opens, two off-duty sergeants Cliff (Stephen Mendillo) and Mikey (Stephen J. Lang) are out in the desert, near the border town of Frontera seeking old bullets. In addition to bullets, the two discover a rusty sheriff's badge and the bare bones of a human skeleton.

Frontera's current sheriff, Sam Deeds (Chris Cooper) sets out to investigate. Quickly Sam learns that the identity of this mysterious skeleton is going lead to serious ramifications. The dead man was the legendary Charlie Wade, one tough customer and Frontera's sheriff in the

1940's and 50's. That town legend has it that Sam's dad, a legendary sheriff in his own right threaten Wade prior to Wade's disappearance adds to the conflicts swirling around the investigation.

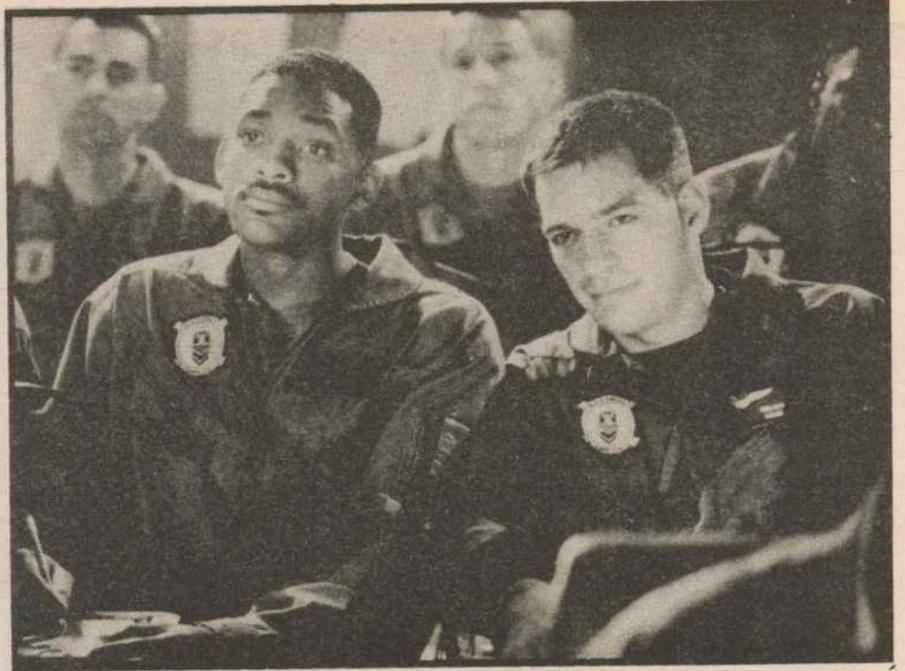
Sam's investigation of the murder, compelling in itself acts as the narrative framework for Sayles to explore issues such as father/son relationships, race relations and the various figurative and literal borders that people create.

Readers of John Berendt's *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* will find that Sayles brings to life the sleepy border town of Frontera, with all of its hidden secrets and scandals in much the same fashion that Berendt does with Savannah. Thus in many ways *Lone Star* seems to more closely resembling a wonderfully atmospheric novel than a traditional Hollywood summer flick.

*Lone Star* introduces an impressive roster of fascinating, colorful, fully fleshed out characters, past and present, that people the small community of Frontera. Pilar (Elizabeth Pena) is an old high school flame of Sheriff Deeds, a teacher and mother and widow whose feelings for Sam were never entirely extinguished. Hollis (Clifton James) is the popular, good ol' boy mayor and former Deputy of Charlie Wade. Otis (Ron Canada) is the unofficial "mayor of Darktown" and owner of Big O's, long the only bar that welcomed the towns African-Americans.

Leisurely paced and beautifully acted, *Lone Star* might leave a few plot threads left dangling but has Sayles created a marvelously satisfying climax. All said and done, *Lone Star* is a most entertaining and enthralling escape.

rating \$\$\$\$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$)



Fighter Pilot, Will Smith (left) gets ready to battle aliens in the Summer blockbuster hit, *Independence Day*. The movie grossed nearly \$100 million in its first week of release.

*Independence Day's* ultimate glorious victory is actually rather anti-climatic. What really counts in a film like *Independence Day* is how skillfully the cast, writer, director and others on the crew have done their jobs to create a roller-coaster of a ride for audience-members. While others may disagree, Glenn found *Independence Day* about as much fun as a merry-go-round.

Audiences will certainly feel they gotten their money's worth with *Independence Day's* 2-hour plus length but Emmerich's plodding pacing allows way too much time for contemplation of the screenplay's many incredibly implausible events, outrageous circumstances, stilted dialogue and one-dimensional characters.

As for supporting parts, Gregg Araki favorite boy-teen, James Duval is suitably luscious as Miguel, Brent Spiner almost unrecognizable as the hookey Dr. Okun and poor little Mary McDonnell surely must have pissed-off someone important emerging as the odd woman out as the tragically doomed but oh-so briefly seen Hilary Clinton-esque First Lady.

Perhaps accepting Will Smith's Captain Hiller's ability to hop into an alien space craft and zoom off to parts unknown is

beside the point. Glenn's complaint is that he was given far too much time to realize just how such a plot development is totally and absolutely absurdly preposterous.

Gay and Lesbians in the audience will welcome Harvey Feinstein's delightful if way too few moment's as Marty, David's Boss and friend but Glenn is still waiting for the time that Hollywood allows an openly gay or lesbian character to be the hero/heroine of a summer blockbuster, even in one as silly as *Independence Day*.

Rating \$\$\$ (scale \$ to \$\$\$\$\$)

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A scene from *Cold Fever* a movie about golf, ghosts, an old Citroen, exploding icebergs and other weird things. The film will be shown at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.

## 'Independence Day' Is Essentially a Throwback to '50s B Movies

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn, as a little boy, grew up with all of those wonderfully cheesy 1950's sci-fi flicks, those absolutely brilliant black & white epics that had fiercely grotesque (occasionally hysterically so) aliens invading the Earth or which had aliens take human shape.

Often Glenn thought his mother and father were actually "Pod People" from outer space. Despite never having found their "pods" little Glenn never quite got over the feeling that he was the last of his kind.

Little apparently has changed, Glenn might be the only person in America not dazzled by the hottest of the hot 1996 summer blockbusters: *Independence Day*.

Despite its epic length and a seemingly endless sequence of special effect, many of which truth be told aren't especially special, *Independence Day* is little more than a hyped-up, humorless updated 1950's B-film.

Director and Co-writer Roland Emmerich thoughtfully has kept things simple. Really, really Simple. So simple....

Here's the story. Without warning and apparently sans provocation, a mammoth space vehicle is found to be hurling itself

towards Earth. E.T returns? No, not quite. Without so much as a "Howdy do" these newcomers to this garden planet instead begins to send out smaller ships from "the mother ship" which take positions over the world's largest cities: New York, Los Angeles, Washington D.C. amongst the many soon to be doomed.

The safety of all America, of all of the Earth for that matter rests entirely in the hands of a handful of our favorite second rate motion picture stars.

First there is Bill Pullman, so delightful in the surprising *While You Were Sleeping* here plays "The President", sort of a Bill Clinton-knock off perceived to be a bit of a wimp despite his outstanding credentials as a combat pilot.

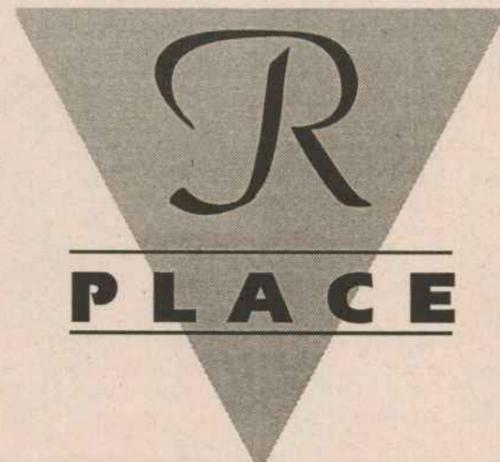
Then there is Jeff Goldblum, spunky survivor of *Jurassic Park* plays David, the computer geek/genius who unravels the space invader's super-secret code while dragging along his "old world" Dad Julius(Judd Hirsch).

Rounding out the hero list is Will Smith headlining *Independence Day* as Captain Steven Hiller, the ever-smirking hot-shot fighter pilot.

Will the evil, nameless, faceless aliens reign supreme? Well, it shouldn't take a rocket scientist to know the film's decisive final outcome within the first few minutes.

**R** Place is your place for a MAGIC weekend. Only a few blocks from Brittingham Park, Just up Main Street!

**T** hen join us on Sunday, July 21 at 10pm for Miss Gay Capitol City



121 West Main Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 257-5455



Jerry Johnson

## Here's the dirt . . .

By Doktor Suzee Shovelit

**By Dr. Suzee Shovelit**  
My, my, my... its been a while. Its been absolutely horrible trying to scratch out a living during the recent grave diggers strike. Right after PrideFest, the Boys just threw down their shovels and "struck" out on their own.

But alas they came back last Friday complaining of back aches and less coins. That'll show them---I told them that they can't find coins, perks and easy working hours laboring for some other gossip columnist.

Speaking of PrideFest—did you see the coverage Channel 6 broadcast on Saturday night? Here they are at a festival with thousands of Gay people and who turns up in their pan of the crowd—a straight woman. The film editor probably thought she was "normal" enough looking and she made the "cut" tsk, tsk, tsssskkk, Channel 6.

Did you see how some of the trade boys dressed for the weather at PrideFest? One very silly twit was dressed in a Rainbow step in with jean cut off shorts—sooo short that you could see the crack of his ass if not for the step in. The ensemble was completed with a denim vest. No coat, no hat, not even panty hose on his bare legs. Tacky, tacky, tacky, tacky, tacky!

While walking through the Market Place area on Sunday, I heard a well known G/L store owner bitching at poor Mike Lisowski about the "weather was just

horrible for his business." Ah Da - it was horrible for the entire event, but Mike Lisowski was not in charge of the weather, John Malan was.

**Recaps**  
According to *Variety*, the national touring road show of "Fiddler on the Roof" found gold at Green Bay's Weidner Theater. "Fiddler" played one week in Green Bay earlier this past spring and grossed a huge \$610,123. By comparison, "Fiddler" made only \$302,470 in Detroit and \$588,808 in Montreal, also single week runs.

Jerry Johnson and Bill Meunier had a wonderful tour of Madison following the United's Award Dinner on Friday July 12. They stopped at ALL of Madison's openly Gay bars and had loads of fun at R Place, Shamrock and Maneuvres.

Speaking of the Awards Dinner it was packed. It's great to see Madison supporting the United.

**Rumor Has It...**  
That John( who was featured in the snapshots column in the Wisconsin Light two issues ago was seen at the Coffee Trader on Milwaukee's East side, signing several copies of his photo with a tube of lipstick (which he borrowed from a dear

### "TRUE to Desire" Named Finalist in National Hometown Video Awards

**Milwaukee**--On June 27, 1994, Milwaukee's own LesBiGay television program, TRUE to Desire, was named a finalist in the category of Gay and Lesbian Programming of the National Hometown Video Awards, sponsored by the Alliance for Community media.

The festival had over 1780 entries from around the nation, along with some international entries.

Brandon Marsh Entertainment, the production company for this exciting continuing drama was pleased to find out that they were one of the top five entries in the category.

Over the past year, Brandon Marsh Entertainment has released over 40 hours of community programming on Milwaukee cable channels, 14 and 47. Helping organize Gay BC in September 1995, Brandon Marsh Entertainment found a strong need for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual programming on the television. The decision was made to fill this void by providing role models, non-stereotypical characters in daily problems which we all face, with programs like "TRUE to Desire," Dance Gay America," "Public Issues Addressed," and the first time ever televised "The Pageant" for Mr. and Miss Gay Wisconsin.

A few of Lisa Star Spencer's friends dropped in at Milwaukee's Cest Le Vie to perform at her benefit show on Sunday July 14. The show raised money to send Lisa packing. (to the Miss Black Universe Pageant friend)

That a Madison alderman was seen view X-rated videos at a Madison bar on Friday July 12 (along with two Wisconsin Light staffers).

That former Dane County Board Chairman, Dick Wagner (The first openly Gay man elected to office in Wisconsin) may be running for Dane County Executive. "I'm seriously considering it," said Wagner to one of my grave diggers.

That with the closing of the Wreck Room owner Bill Kindt, will be moving up North so he can fish whenever he feels like it.

For a recap of your event or if you want to join my crew of grave diggers by spreading some dirt you have three options.

1. Call the Wisconsin Light (414)372-2773 and make an "appointment." I don't make house calls but I will listen to your ailments, and/or cough and may prescribe for you or the phone. Or
2. You can throw your dirt directly into my E-mail box Dshovelit@aol.com. OR
3. Just leave a message on our Spot-Line (414)299-0857.



Jonathan Taylor Thomas stars in the soon to be released feature film, "The Adventures of Pinocchio."



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4 Different Places to Party,  
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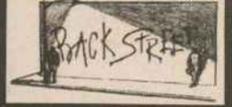
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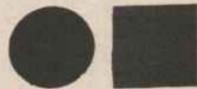
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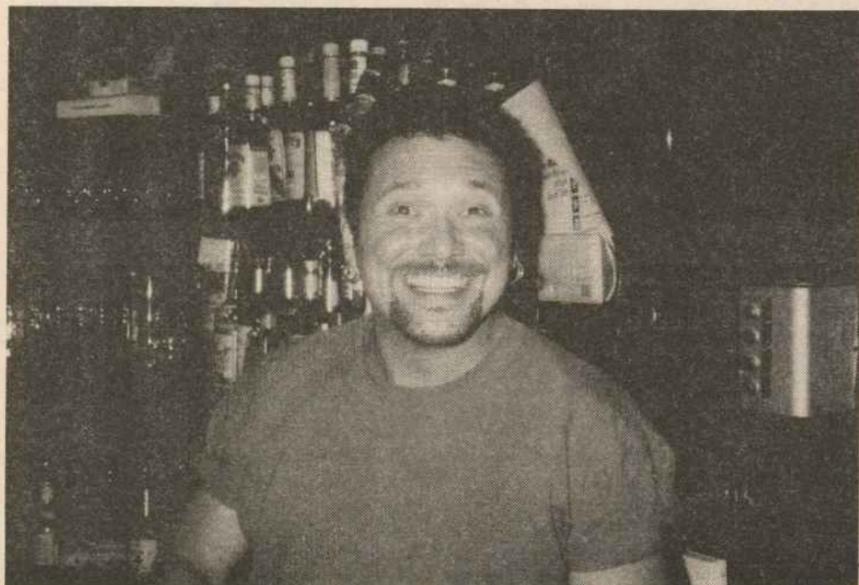
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**Benefitting MAP (Milwaukee AIDS Project)**



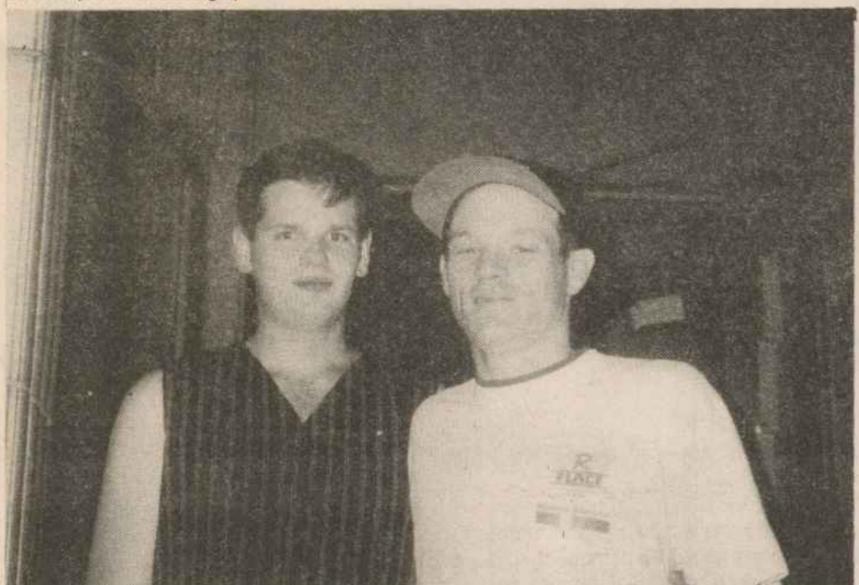
# OUT & About



Charlie Manager of Madison's Manoeuvres



Terry Dribblinski (on the left) President of the Lesbian Gay Resource Center was out partying with two Gay elected officials: Dane County Supervisor Scott Mc Cormick and Madison Alderman Mike Verveer (shown on the right)



Daniel Neuman (right) and Richard Maden owners of Madison's R Place took time during a busy Friday night to mug for our camera.



Shamrock Manager Eli hugs two of his bartenders, Andy (on the left) and Jeremy. You can see them live and in action at the Shamrock, 117 W. Main Street, Madison

## AfterWords Bookstore is Out and Online on the Web

Milwaukee--AfterWords is especially pleased to announce that the AfterWords web site was out and on the web beginning on Tuesday, July 9, timed to coincide with the store's third year anniversary celebration.

The address for our web-site is [www.afterwords.com](http://www.afterwords.com) and features a representative sampling of the many and varied books and gift items that are available at AfterWords. AfterWords plans to utilize the site to also promote the store's many events.

The AfterWords web site is the creation of Dave Warren and Dave Schalk who are Telekinetics. Telekinetics is a cutting-edge media development company specializing in Internet and World Wide Web design and production.

Regular "web browsers" will find the AfterWords web site a dream with lightening fast load time, dazzling color graphics, and including brilliant, full color reproductions of book covers, video box covers, CDs, T-shirt logos, jewelry and much much more.

A special feature of the AfterWords web site are dozens of sample photographs from the many male and female photography books including those by Tom Bianchi, Steven Arnold and Klaus Gerhardt, among the many gift books that AfterWords features.

In the book section of the AfterWords site, in addition to new releases, popular titles and best-sellers, AfterWords is featuring specialized categories.

Currently "Coming-Out" books and Transgender titles are featured with special categories for gay and lesbian travel, spirituality and S&M planned in the near future.

Beginning with the next issue, *OutWords*, AfterWords' quarterly newsletter will be found at the web site.

Take a moment to type into your computer, [www.afterwords.com](http://www.afterwords.com) and come and explore the AfterWords web site to browse the store from your home, learn of upcoming AfterWords events or just for the fun of it. We welcome your comment and suggestions!

## Links Benefit Block Party Will Offer a Highly Festive September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Milwaukee--The Links Benefit Block Party hits Milwaukee on the corner of S. Barclay and E. Washington Streets on September 1<sup>st</sup>, starting at noon and running through the night. The Party will benefit the Milwaukee AIDS Project, United HIV Services, and the Women's Breast Cancer Coalition.

The Party will have some of the most exciting entertainment to hit the city from around the Midwest. It will be diverse and exciting and will run for 22 hours plus on two different stages.

And don't be surprised to see some entertainers performing on the grounds.

Some of the scheduled entertainers are Dianna Jones and the Reign, Josie Santiago and her production, The Resentments, Lee Mayfield, Jullian Clark, Pageant Productions, Lu Shanti and the exciting Jene' just to name a few of the many acts.

This year, there are a few special guest stars to help raise even more money.

The Carolin' Carolyn Show will bring a unique and funny diva to the stage from Chicago.

Also this year, Milton Bullock, "The Golden Platter," will sing "Only You" as just one of the many Platter favorites.

Like all events, there is a need for volunteers to help with many different tasks throughout the day. Since it is expected that the benefit will draw two to three times the numbers of attendees than in previous years, the need for volunteers has similarly increased.

There is some booth space still available around the grounds.

For more information on booths, please call Bob at Designing Men, (414) 389-1200 or for more information on the whole event, contact the following numbers: (414) 649-9003 or (414) 643-9633.

Make sure you are a part of the most exciting event of the summer in southern Wisconsin. Do not miss this event.

231 S. 2nd Milwaukee • 276-8890.

# C'EST LA VIE

## HAPPY HOUR

DAILY • 2-8pm

## SUNDAYS

with Alvin  
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Ham & Hard Rolls • \$1

## SUNDAY

thru

## THURSDAY

Tap Beer

# 50¢

## FRIDAYS

SHOWTIME WITH  
**C'EST LA VIE'S  
Dazzling  
Divas!**

11:30pm

## SATURDAYS

MALE  
**STRIPPERS**

10:30pm

Performers needed for  
Friday & Saturday Shows  
**CALL FOR AN AUDITION**

# Entertainment Guide

## APPLETON

**Rascals Bar & Grill**  
702 E. Wisconsin  
Appleton, WI 54991  
954-9262

**The Pivot Club**  
4815 W. Prospect  
Appleton, WI 54915  
730-0440

## DOOR COUNTY

**Black Smith Inn**  
PO Box 220  
Baileys Harbor, WI  
839-9222

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

## EAU CLAIRE

**Trading Company**  
304 Eau Claire St.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
838-9494

**The Wolfe's Den**  
302 E Madison  
Eau Claire, WI 54703  
715-832-9237

## GREEN BAY

**Brandy's II**  
1126 Main St  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
437-3917

**Laona Hostel**  
5397 Beech St.  
(HWY8)  
Laona, WI, 54541  
(715)674-2615

**Napalese Lounge**  
515 S. Broadway  
Green Bay, WI 54303  
432-9646

**Sass**  
840 S. Broadway  
Green Bay, WI 54304  
437-7277

**Za's/Java's**  
1106 Main St.  
Green Bay, WI 54301  
435-5476

## KENOSHA

**Club 94**  
9001 120th Ave  
Kenosha, WI 53140  
857-9958

**What About Me?**  
600 6th St.  
Racine, WI 53403  
632-0171

## LA CROSSE

**Cavaller Lounge**  
114 N 5th St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
782-9061

## LAKE MILLS

**Cross Roads Bar**  
W6642 Hwy B  
Lake Mills, WI 53551  
648-8457

## MADISON

**A Room of One's Own**  
317 W. Johnson  
Madison, WI 53703  
257-7888

**Geraldine's**  
3052 E. Washington  
Madison, WI 53704  
241-9335

**Green Bush**  
914 W. Regent St  
Madison, WI 53715  
257-BUSH

**Manoeuvres**  
150 S. Blair  
Madison, WI 54703  
258-9918

**Praire Garden Bed & Breakfast**  
W13172 Hwy 188  
Lodi, WI 53555  
1-800-380-8427

**R Place**  
121 W. Main Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
257-5455

**The Shamrock**  
117 W Main St.  
Madison, WI 53703  
255-5029

**Sunprint Cafe**  
638 State Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
255-1555

## MILWAUKEE

**Afterwords Books**  
2710 N. Murray  
Milwaukee WI 53211  
963-9089

**B's**  
1579 S 2nd St  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
672-5580

**Ball Game**  
196 S. 2nd  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
273-7474

**Boot Camp Saloon**  
209 E. National  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
643-6900

**Cafe Melange**  
720 N. Old World St.  
Milwaukee WI 53203  
291-9889

**Cest La Vie**  
231 S. 2 St  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
276-8890

**Club 219**  
219 S. 2nd St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
271-3732

**1100 Club**  
1100 S. 1st St.  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
647-9950

**Gargoyles**  
354 E. National  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
225-9676

**Fannies**  
200 E. Washington  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
643-9633

**In Between**  
625 S. 2nd St  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
273-2693

**Just Us**  
807 S. 5th St.  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
383-2233

**Kathy's Nut Hut**  
1500 W. Scott  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
647-2673

**La Cage**  
801 S 2nd St.  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
383-8300

**Station 2**  
1534 W. Grant  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
383-5755

**10% Club**  
4223 W. Fon Du Lac  
Milwaukee WI 53216  
447-0910

**Popular News**  
225 N. Water  
Milwaukee WI 53202  
278-0636

**This Is It**  
418 E. Wells  
Milwaukee WI 53202  
278-9192

**Triangle**  
135 E. National  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
383-9412

**Walkers Point Cafe**  
1106 S. First St.  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
384-7999

**Zippers**  
819 S 2nd St.  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
645-8330

## RACINE

**JoDees**  
2139 Racine St.  
Racine, WI 53403  
634-9804

**La Perla Mexican Restaurant**  
734 S. Fifth St.  
Milwaukee WI 53204  
645-9888

**Mama Roux**  
1875 N. Humboldt  
Milwaukee WI 53212  
347-0344

**M & M Club**  
124 N. Water  
Milwaukee WI 53202  
347-1962

**Nomad**  
1401 E. Brady St.  
Milwaukee WI 53202  
273-3866

**René's Cozy Corner**  
3500 W Park Hill  
Milwaukee WI 53208  
933-RENE

## ROCKFORD, IL

**The Office**  
513 E. State St  
Rockford, IL 61104  
815-965-0344

## SHEBOYGAN

**Blue Lite**  
1029 N. 8th St.  
Sheboygan, WI 53081  
457-1636

## STEVENS PT.

**The Platwood Club**  
701 Highway 10W  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
341-8862

## SUPERIOR

**JT's Bar**  
1506 N 3rd St.  
Superior WI 54880  
394-2580

**The Main Club**  
1813 N 3rd  
Superior, WI 54880  
392-1756

**Trio**  
820 Tower  
Superior, WI 54880  
392-5373

## WAUSAU

**The Mad Hatter**  
320 Washington  
Wausau, WI 54401  
842-3225

## MAD TOWN STOPS

Below is a listing of some great stops in Madison

### Geraldine's

3054 E. Washington, Madison, WI 53704, 241-9335

Hours: 4 to Close Mon-Sat, 2 to Close Sunday

Geraldine's boasts Madison's largest Dance Floor. Formerly Club 3054, the bar is under new management and has a new owner. In addition to the Dance Floor, Geraldine's also has a new bar, "The Men's Room." This side bar is located on the second floor. Geraldine's also has a nice patio and volleyball courts. There's open Volleyball on Wednesdays, Fridays and on Sunday afternoon. Leagues take up the courts most of the rest of the time.

The Happy Hour from 4 to 7 Mondays thru Fridays features two for one drinks and beer. The Beer Bust on Wednesdays from 9 to Close and Sundays from 4 to 9 is just \$5.00 and features Miller Lite beer.

Geraldine's is a Iso a great place to stop for a fish fry. Just \$6.00 and its all you care to eat.

### Manoeuvres

150 S. Blair, Madison, WI 54703, 258-9918

Hours: 4 to Close Mon, - Sat, 2 to Close Sundays

Two bars await you at this hot, exciting, Madison Dance Bar. The Dance floor features a Video Wall with a 10 foot high screen attracts big crowds especially on the weekends.

Manoeuvres latest addition, Manoeuvres After Dark (or the MAD bar as it has been dubbed), is offers a quieter more intimate but definitely friendly atmosphere.

Happy hour rails and domestics are \$1.00, other drinks are 2 for 1 Monday - Saturday. from 4 to 8. Saturday Nights Rolling Rock Long Necks for just \$2.00 a bottle from 8 to close.

Sunday night is Show time at Manoeuvres. A wide variety of entertainment awaits patrons. The Magic Picnic Weekend show features porno star/singer David Burrill. Show time is at 10:30. Also coming in July are the 9 Inch Males.

### R Place

121 W. Main St, Madison, WI 53703, 257-5455

Hours: 2 to Close Saturday and Sunday, 4 to Close Mon-Friday

R Place just opened on May 23rd and is already one of the more popular spots in Mad Town.

R Place has four theme rooms. The Fire Place room offers a quiet intimate atmosphere for those special moments. The Dance Room, includes a large dance floor and a stage for shows, the Game Room includes a pool table, darts and video games and the Bar Room which contains a large bar with generous pours.

Try the Happy Hour from 4 to 9 Mon- Saturday and the Beer Bash, Sundays 4 to 8 PM.

The bar will be site of the Miss Capital City Pageant on Sunday July 21, at 10:00.

### Praire Garden Bed & Breakfast

W13172 Hwy 188, Lodi, WI 53555, 1-800-380-8427

Hours: When ever you get there

This charming B & B is located just 30 minutes North of Madison and is well worth the trip. Todd & Dennis are great hosts and tend to their guest's needs and desires with attention to fine details. The four room establishment has a spa outside, a piano room, and antiques throughout the house, and is located just 15 minutes from Mazo Nude Beach.

Special touches like wine for arriving guests, two commons rooms, hiking trails and sheep on the 22 acre site make the Praire Garden a great place to stay when visiting Madison.

Rooms start at just \$47.00 and include a home made farm breakfast. For weekend stays early reservations are strongly recommended.

### Room of One's Own

317 W. Johnson, Madison, WI 53703, 257-7888

Hours: Mon, Thurs, Fri 9:30 to 8 PM Tues, Weds, Sat 9:30 to 6 Sunday Noon to 5

A very large selection of Gay non-fiction and fiction. Plus a variety of gay related merchandise. make Room of One's Own a favorite gathering place for Madison's Gay and Lesbian community. It is the only store of their kind in the area and they have great FREE coffee.

The store is run as a collective and often features talks and book readings from nationally known writers including Matthew Coles, UCLA Director for its Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, Kate Kufman, co-author of "Free Your Mind: The Book for Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Youth. as well as Susie Bright, editor of "Nothing But the Girl: Blatant Lesbian Images."

### The Shamrock

117 W. Main St., Madison, WI 53703, 1-608-255-5029

Hours: 2 to Close Daily

The Shamrock is a social bar. Serving the community with pride for 11 years, the Shamrock attracts a "melting pot" clientele. Everyone from Lesbians to Leather men, Cross Dressers and Jocks frequents the bar on a regular basis.

The Shamrock serves a limited menu of reasonably priced sandwiches and appetizers. Try their specialty cocktails. The Shamrock features a daily half price happy hour from 4 to 9 and a Super Bust on Sundays, Beer \$5.00, Rail drinks \$8.00 from 9 PM to 1 AM.

The Shamrock is celebrating its 11th anniversary during the Magic Picnic weekend. Stop by this friendly bar and try the Super bust on Sundays. \$5.00 for the beer bust and \$8.00 for the Rail bust.

### The Sun Print Cafe

638 State St., Madison, WI 53703, 255-1555

Hours: 7 Am to 10 PM Mon. - Sat., 9 AM to 9 PM, Sundays

The Sun Print Cafe is a full service breakfast, lunch and dinner. The Cafe emphasizes but is not limited to vegetarian and health foods. Hours are 7 AM to 10 PM Mon- Saturday, Sunday 9 Am to 9 PM.

With a relaxing atmosphere in the heart of Madison, The Sun Print attracts a eclectic clientele from students to drag queens to lesbians and others.

Breakfast starts at just \$1.95 for the budget conscious, lunches average in the \$5.00 to \$6.00 range and dinners are \$5.95 and up.

An Award winning gourmet bakery on the premises produces delicious breads and absolutely delectable desserts. Pasta dishes and Quesadillas are especially good and highly recommended by discriminating Madison diners.

Advertise

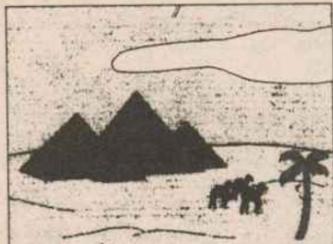
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[414] 372-2773



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No Matter Where You Roam,  
At This Is It You'll be at Home  
From Joe, June and Staff

418 East Wells Street Milwaukee (414) 278-9192



## Duluth-Superior G/L/B/T Pride Celebration to be Held July 27th

**Duluth-Superior** — The following is a list of events to be held at G/L/B/T Pride in Duluth-Superior:

### Pride Parade

Canal Park to Erickson Park along Duluth's Lakefront. Members of Together For Twin Ports G/L/B/T Youth will be the Parade Grand Marshals. The parade will be led by the Minnesota Freedom Band, and will include contingents from around the Twin Ports and the region. Starts at 10:30 a.m. in Canal Park, near the Duluth Visitors Bureau Building (the Little Depot).

### Pride Awards and Rally

Features the Ninth Annual Twin Ports Pride Awards ceremony, as well as speakers and entertainment on the concert stage at Erickson Park. Begins at 11:30 a.m.

### Tenth Annual Pride Picnic and Festival

Overlooking Lake Superior in Duluth's Erickson Park. This year's Pride

Celebration Picnic and Festival will feature entertainment on the Pride Stage all afternoon.

Entertainers thus far scheduled include Shelly Lynne, Lojo Russo, Susan Cimone, and Priscilla Nelson. Information Booths hosted by local and regional organizations and merchandise vendors will be set up around the park.

There will be food and beverages on site, including a Beer Tent sponsored by the Miller Brewing Company and Northwest Beverages of Superior. Flush toilet facilities are ample, and parking is available for your convenience. Erickson Park is fully handicapped accessible and security will be provided on the grounds. Organization booths and vendors will be set up by 10:30 a.m.

Entertainment on the Pride Stage and service in the Beer Tent will begin at 1:00 p.m.

A Commitment Ceremony for domestic partners will take place in the Rose Garden at 4:30 p.m.

## WORT Offers New Line Up, Broadcasting Opportunities

**Madison**—Radio Station, WORT, 89.9 FM has some exciting new broadcasting opportunities for aspiring or experienced broadcasters.

WORT's Programming Committee is currently looking for a producer to organize and run its weekly **Access Hour** program.

The **Access Hour** airs on Mondays from 7 to 8 P.M. It features different community groups, musicians and aspiring DJ's. For an application for this Volunteer position, contact Margo Robb at (608)256-2001. Applications are due Friday July 26.

If you don't want to produce but would like to host a show on the **Access Hour**, WORT wants to hear from you. Call them at (608-256-2001).

WORT is also looking for morning drive time host for the 8:00 Buzz.

The show runs from 8 to 9 A.M. Tuesdays. The 8 O'Clock buzz is a live talk show with music breaks.

This position requires one hour of air time, plus up to five hours setting up guests, arranging for phone answering and initially at least learning the position.

Deadline for applications is 5:00 P.M. Wednesday July 31.

Interested parties must also submit a tape of themselves introducing the show and conducting a short interview (about 5 minutes).

WORT is a non-commercial, listener sponsored, member controlled radio station broadcasting to South-Central Wisconsin.

WORT also has two new shows, **Healthwriters** and **Queery**.

**Queery** is a locally focused Les/Bi/Gay show. Its mission is to give voice to the Madison LesBiGay community. It airs on Wednesdays from 7 to 7:30 P.M.

**Healthwriters**, is a health related show designed to encourage your questions about health issues. It airs on Thursdays from 7:30 to 8:00 P.M.

## Author of "Voyage of the Vulcania," to Read at Schwartz Bookshop

**Milwaukee** — On the day after Christmas, 1951, Karl Ebenhoch arrived in New York from Bavaria, Germany on board the **Vulcania**. He had 35 cents and spoke no English. In his first nineteen years, he had seen the death of his mother, his father drafted into the German army and his country nearly destroyed in World War II. He believed his future was in America about which he knew little except some wild West stories and that Miller Brewing Company was located in Milwaukee. Karl Ebenhoch will read from his inspiring and moving biography, **Voyage of the Vulcania: Coming to America**, at the Schwartz Bookshop in Brookfield on Monday, July 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Karl Ebenhoch almost did not make his

voyage to America. Like all German children he was a member of the Hitler Youth. During the last days of the war German teenagers were recruited to fight against the Allies. Ebenhoch, a boy of 13, was assigned to blow up a strategic bridge but he decided instead to stay home and care for his family. For his insubordination, Ebenhoch's commanding officer was obliged to shoot him but advancing American tanks saved his life. Karl Ebenhoch's life story, recorded in his book, **Voyage of the Vulcania**, is characterized by a long list of family and countries — Germany and America — Ebenhoch loves dearly. His moving tribute to hard work, family ties, survival, education and above all, the power of dreams for a better life, is a reminder of the values America was founded on.

For more information, contact Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop at (414) 797-6140.

### BestD Clinic Live!

*A Half Hour to Stretch the Mind*

**Thurs., July 18**—Guests: Steve Butler and Carol Ringo—"Bi All Means!"

**Thurs., July 25**—Guest: Kate Sullivan—"Helping Yourself to Help Others"

**Thurs., Aug. 1**—Guest: Milwaukee Health Commissioner Paul Nannis—"Picking Up Where I Left Off"

**Thurs., Aug. 8**—Guest: Pat McManus, Black Health Coalition, "Milwaukee HIV Strategic Plan"

**Thurs., Aug. 15**—Guest: Genie Gengler, "What Is This Thing Called CFS?"

**Thurs., Aug. 22**—Guest: Bob Mazzone—"The Gay Lesbian Block Party"

**Thurs., Aug. 29**—Guests: Roy B. and Gina M.—"The Galano Club"

**Thurs., Sept. 5**—Guests: Mari Hang and Jim Nowlen—"Commitment '96"

**Thurs., Sept 12**—Guest: Sharon Pfeifer, Covenant Home Care—"Home Health Care"

**Thurs., Oct. 10**—Special Coming Out Week Show; Guest: Linda Plagman, Ph.D.—"Take Another Step Toward Freedom"

*Dates indicate live broadcast at 7:00 p.m.. All shows replayed the following Saturday at 12 Noon and Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. on Cable Channel 47 in Milwaukee.*

## Rod's Reunion Sat. July 20

**Madison**—What would a Magic Picnic be without a trip to Rod's? Well Rod's may be gone (for the time being) but it will be rebuilt.

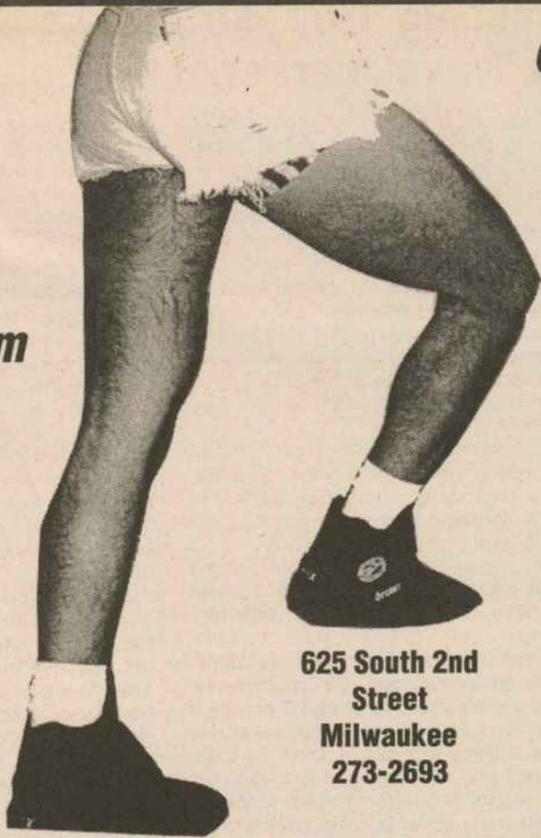
Meanwhile its many legions of fans can satisfy themselves with a trip to the Depot for a Rod's reunion on Saturday July 20 from 7:00 P.M. until bar close.

The Depot is located at 640 W. Washington right next to the Hotel Washington site.

"We wanted to do something special to keep the tradition of Rod's Magic Picnic parties alive," said Hotel Washington owner Greg Scheel. "We have to wait for Rod's to be rebuilt, but the atmosphere will be as close to Rod's as we can make it."

There will be a \$5.00 cover charge, proceeds will be donated to the Hotel Washington rebuilding fund.

Stop In and Enjoy the 2-For-1 Cocktail Hour, 4-9pm 7 Days A Week and the after Cocktail Hour Specials at . . .



625 South 2nd Street Milwaukee 273-2693

## IN BETWEEN

Milwaukee's Ultimate Social Bar

# Trailer Trash

week begins Sunday, July 28

Come in All Week and tell us your stories about your Aunt Bertha, Uncle Buck & Mommie Dearest.

Your best stories win you a prize. Plus make sure your attend . . .



Party Sponsored by The Wisconsin Light on Thursday, August 1, 9-Close

Free Miller Lite Beer, Prizes & Surprises

Adaly Drama will be on hand to meet & greet your favorite

"Trailer Trash" queens for a great show.

Then stick around for the Mr. Trailer Trash Contest.

Upcoming Special Events . . .

**MONDAY**  
Pop A Balloon and Win Cash

**TUESDAY**  
Pull A Chip

**THURSDAY**  
Spin The Wheel

**TRAILER TRASH WEEK BEGINS 7/28**

Wisconsin Light Trailer Trash Spotlight Party August 1

**SATURDAY**  
Softball Players 2-For-1 Drinks till 9pm

2-For-1 Cocktail Hour 4-9pm 7 Days A Week

**SAT/SUN**  
Free Pool & Darts

Win prizes all week with your tales of your family tree.

## Mark Your Calendars for The AIDS Quilt in DC and Mardi Gras in Sydney

By Sasha Alyson

Since its inception eight years ago, the AIDS Memorial Quilt has been seen by millions of Americans and has grown to include 45,000 memorial panels. This fall, from Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, The Quilt will once again be displayed in its entirety on the National Mall in Washington, DC. Sadly, it is now twice the size when it was last displayed on the Mall in 1992.

According to Scott Williams, a spokesman for the NAMES Project in San Francisco, organizers have timed the display to re-focus attention on the AIDS epidemic just prior to the national elections.

Among the events being held in conjunction with the display are the "A Night to Remember" fundraising dinner at the National Building Museum on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, a candlelight march on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and a UH1 Benefit Concert that same evening. Also taking place are a variety of religious services, concerts and conferences.

For the Gay community, the Quilt is a colorful memorial to partners, family members and friends lost to AIDS over the past 15 years, and a visit is highly recommended. Few sights are more moving than the thousands of personalized panels celebrating the lives and memories of loved ones no departed.

Those considering a trip to Washington to see the Quilt are urged to make travel arrangements now, as 750,000 people are expected to view it over the October weekend. National, Dulles, and BWI airports serve Washington, with the latter two usually having the lowest fares. Amtrak and Grayhound also have service from many large Midwestern Cities.

Your travel agent can help with airline and hotel reservations, or you can book them through the NAMES Project Travel Desk—(800) 926-2631.

Finally, since the upkeep, transport and logistics of the Quilt are quite expensive, please donate what you can to help defray expenses.

### Mardi Gras in Sydney

What is the world's biggest Gay party? The answer will surprise most North Americans: It's the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia.

The annual celebration has come a long way since the 1978 protest march that started it all. That event turned into

a near riot after police charged the group, nightsticks flailing, and arrested 53 marchers. Mardi Gras programs in recent years have included welcome statements from the Prime Minister and Governor General, and with good reason: The celebration has grown into Australia's biggest tourist draw—Gay, straight, or otherwise.

The 1997 Mardi Gras parade and party take place on March 1<sup>st</sup>, but the entire month surrounding it is packed with related events. Several Gay tour operators offer air and hotel packages. These include:

- In addition to your local travel agent, our own Alyson Adventures is taking a Gay group from February 20<sup>th</sup> to March 7<sup>th</sup>. The "Boomerang" trip will include hiking and abseiling in the Blue Mountains, five nights in Sydney for Mardi Gras, and five days visiting a tropical rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef. For more details, call (800) 825-9766.

### Folsom Street Fair

Closer to home, San Francisco hosts the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Folsom Street Fair, Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

This street fair, with its distinctly adult orientation, originated in the leather community and now attracts tens of thousands of revelers each year. The fair will be held on Folsom Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets and will feature more than 200 vendors, selling arts and crafts, leather gear, food and beer.

Non-profit organizations and a variety of South of Market businesses will also be represented. Two separate stages will feature live entertainment throughout the day, and there will also be a large dance area.

Admission to San Francisco's largest street fair is free, but donations are encouraged. Last year the event raised more than \$60,000 for community organizations, primarily those dealing with AIDS. Those interested in more information, call (415) 861-FAIR.

Do you have any questions about Gay travel you'd like to see addressed? Companies that did a great or not-so-great job for you? Experiences you'd like to share? I'd like to hear them. Send them to Sasha Alyson, Alyson Adventures, P.O. Box 100179, Boston, MA 02118 or email at AlyVenture@aol.com.

## Gay Cruises, Resorts and Travel Agencies: A Multimillion Dollar Business

By Victoria Brett

As the cruise ship motors toward the next Greek island, Mark Dietz, lounging by the pool, leans over and kisses his boyfriend. They hold hands. They talk intimately.

No one stares. In fact, no one even seems to notice.

But then, Dietz isn't on one of those Carnival cruises with bubbly Kathie Lee and her husband, Frank. And while it's a "Love Boat" of sorts, you won't find Julie McCoy or Capt. Stubbing playing matchmaker to these folks.

Dietz, a 43-year-old health care management consultant from Minneapolis, is on a Gay-only cruise.

"You have this great feeling of freedom that you can be exactly who you want to be," said Dietz, who has been on eight Gay cruises. "You can hold hands and kiss in public."

Cruises like this one by RSVP Travel Productions Inc. are part of the growing Gay and Lesbian travel industry, which includes everything from Gay bed-and-breakfasts to Gay and Lesbian tours through Europe.

"Gay and Lesbian travel is the up and coming niche market in the travel business," said travel agent Paul Bernard, president of Adventure Travel in Scarborough, Maine. "You're talking about people who have higher than average incomes and fewer expenses because they're not raising kids—most of them. They have a lot of disposable income."

Bernard became a member of the International Gay Travel Association four years ago. Now, being the only IGTA-member travel agent in Maine, 40 percent of his customers are Gay or Lesbian.

The IGTA, based in Key West, Fla., estimates its member travel agents book about \$1 billion in business a year. And its guesthouse and hotel members bring in more than \$75 million. The travel association, which started in 1983 with 25 members, now has more than 1,200 members from travel agencies to major airlines to hotels.

"The tourism industry is starting to wake up to the fact that we're everywhere

and we have money to spend," said Thom Tabor, 34, of San Francisco, who is planning his first trip to England this month with his lover.

But Tabor, originally from South Portland, Maine, confessed he's a little apprehensive about his upcoming vacation. How will the British react to two men in the same room? In the same bed? Can they hold hands?

"In San Francisco, you get spoiled by the fact that you don't have to hide anything," he said.

"If we're going to a big city we have no hesitation," Tabor said. "But when you get out into more rural areas it becomes a question mark."

Enter the Gay-friendly travel agency. Bernard set them up in Gay-welcoming areas and reserved rooms at Gay bed-and-breakfasts.

Bernard calls this the "comfort factor"—the biggest reason why Gays and Lesbians book their travel through him. Gay couples don't get hassled with looks and hotel workers snickering, "OHHHH, you want ONE king sized bed. Are you sure you don't want two beds?" Bernard said. "You know people get sick of that."

Gay travelers also don't want to spend a lot of money on a nice vacation and have to worry about their safety or harassment. "You don't want to go on a cruise and have Vic Eliason be in the next cabin," he said.

Since homosexual travel excursions aren't marketed in the mainstream media, travel agents like Bernard rely on the Gay press to learn about new and hip destinations. The travelers then rely on Bernard.

"People always ask me: 'Where else can I go besides Key West?'" Bernard said.

A lot of places.

If you want to go to Club Med, but don't want the usual heterosexual atmosphere, Atlantis for men and Olivia for women rent time at the resorts for all-inclusive homosexual vacations.

If the "Leatherman's Tour of Dungeons in Europe" sounds too outrageous, there's always RSVP's cruise ship which goes to the Mediterranean, Mardi Gras in

New Orleans, and South America.

For a little culture, the New York-based Our Family Abroad offers tours of ancient Egypt, 15 days in the "Golden Cities of China" or Bastille Day in Paris.

Right now the most popular Gay vacation destinations are San Francisco, Provincetown, Mass., Key West, Fla., Fire Island, N.Y., Rehoboth Beach, Del., and Saugatuck, Mich., according to Overlooked Opinions, a Chicago-based market research group that specializes in Gay issues.

But for adventurers who want something a little less predictable, Toto Tours

in Chicago promotes "Fruits in Kiwiland," a trip to New Zealand; The African Queens, a 15-day safari in Tanzania; And "Forbidden Pleasures," a tour through mainland China. They also have horseback riding through the Canadian Rockies, hiking and whale watching in Hawaii and whitewater rafting on the Grand Canyon.

"We get people into a natural place that they may not feel like going to with a regular group," said Dan Ware, president of Toto Tours. "It's much nicer to be in an all-Gay group."

## LesBiGayTrans People Going to the Olympics Will Find it Friendly There

Atlanta, GA—Just 10 miles from a suburban county that lost an Olympic competition rather than rescind its resolution denouncing homosexuality, the Olympic City is welcoming Gay and Lesbian visitors with open arms.

With dozens of Gay bars, nightclubs and restaurants, a large Gay bookstore and dozens of shops sprinkled amid well-heeled old homes and high-rise apartments, Midtown Atlanta is home to the largest Gay population in the Deep South.

"Atlanta is a popular destination for Gays and Lesbians," said Billy Kolber-Stuart, editor of the New York-based **Out & About** travel newsletter, which has about 8,500 Gay and Lesbian subscribers. "It's certainly the most popular in the South because it's the most welcoming city for Gays and Lesbians in the South."

And it's the first Olympic city to host a hospitality suite devoted to homosexuals and Gay issues.

The Gay and Lesbian Visitor's Center, a project conceived by Mayor Bill Campbell's advisers on Gay and Lesbian issues, is a place for Gay visitors to get information, view exhibits on Gay issues, meet people at the coffee bar or watch the games on television.

"A lot of Gay tourists will be coming to the Olympics because of their disposable income," said Phil McDonald, special assistant to the mayor. "I believe we are the first host city that has such a visitor's center."

Atlanta has long been a magnet for people who've felt out of place in their Bible Belt hometowns. Early on, the city's Gay bookstore had a mailing list that

stretched across the Southeast, said Jackie Boles, a sociology professor at Georgia State University.

Researchers estimate that 5-10 percent of American men are Gay, Ms. Boles said. About twice as many men in the city of Atlanta are Gay, and most live in Midtown, she said.

"We have been called the Southern San Francisco and we've been called the Gay Mecca of the South," said Paul Goldberg of Candler Creative, an events planning firm that is organizing the visitor's center.

The city supports three Gay publications, including a weekly newspaper, **Southern Voice**, that will be available to athletes in the Olympic Village.

While the city is tolerant of the Gay lifestyle, Cobb County has openly rejected it. Its 1993 anti-Gay resolution lost it the Olympic volleyball competition and a spot along the torch relay.

The irony is "there is such a large and open Gay population in Cobb County," said Melanie Rosen of the non-profit Atlanta Gay Center.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, whose half-sister is a Lesbian, and fellow Cobb County Republican U.S. Rep. Bob Barr are opposed to same-sex marriage, although Gingrich has said the GOP should tolerate homosexuality.

And Georgia lawmakers have clung to the state's sodomy law, which basically outlaws homosexual relations. The state Supreme Court earlier this year upheld the law as constitutional.

Barr is the sponsor of a federal bill to make Gay marriages illegal. Gingrich has predicted its swift passage.

## Bisexuals, Gay Men and Lesbians Are The Travel Market of the Future

Chicago—At a time when most people are taking off on their yearly family vacation, Jeff Tidd is planning his fifth get-away, a nine-day trip to Seattle.

The 31-year-old clothing store manager is one of many well-traveled homosexuals to whom an increasing number of companies are eager to cater. Industry experts agree Gay travelers are a travel company's dream with their traditionally high incomes and propensity to travel. Most also don't need to worry about being back to drop off the 10-year-old for a Boy Scout jamboree.

Tidd says he's been to New York at least twice a year for the past 12 years, and he estimates he spends \$4,000 a year on holidays to the Big Apple, California, Miami and national parks.

"Yes, I can save money, but I don't have to plan for a family, not in a sense that I have kids to put through college," he said.

It's not that homosexuals suddenly have taken to the road. But more travel companies are trying to attract them, be it airlines that let domestic partners use special waiting lounges if their partners are members, or American Express that advertises its two-name travelers checks with two male or female signatures, said John D'Alessandro, president of the International Gay Travel Association in Key West, Fla.

The American Society of Travel Agents, the world's largest travel-trade organization, polled 3,000 of its 28,000 members, and 70 said their specialty is catering to Gay men and Lesbians, said spokesman Steve Loucks. He admitted the number was small but said it would continue to grow.

"This is clearly where a lot of money is, and that is why you see more and more travel organizations trying to tap into the Gay and Lesbian market," Loucks said.

With travel a \$400 billion a year national industry and homosexuals about 6 percent of the population, they contribute at least \$17 billion to hotels, airlines, restaurants and automobile rental agencies, D'Alessandro estimated. What they lack in number, they make up for in volume.

"It's not how much they spend on a trip

but how many times they go on another trip. Mainstream travelers may go on one trip a year if they're lucky. Gays and Lesbians do it two to four times a year," he said. "This is truly the market of the '90s."

Save a tendency for higher pay checks, homosexual travelers are no different than those in the mainstream, he said.

"If you're at a concierge at a hotel, as a straight person, and say 'We want to go out tonight,' they can tell you. They should be able to tell you the same thing about a Gay bar or a Lesbian bar," he said. "We don't need anything special."

D'Alessandro, whose 13-year-old group has grown from a handful of members to 1,200, estimated that homosexual-oriented marketing began about two years ago.

Selma Belajec, who owns Marks Travel Service in Oak Park, has seen the number of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual travelers increase in the last three years. She estimates she has arranged travel for 400 homosexual couples and that men use her service more than women.

"You have two men living together, making a lot of money, so they're not afraid to spend it," she said.

RSVP Travel Productions, a Minneapolis travel wholesaler that caters to homosexuals, booked one cruise for 700 passengers in 1986 one year after it opened. Nine years later, it booked cruises for 6,000 passengers, said company president Charlie Rounds.

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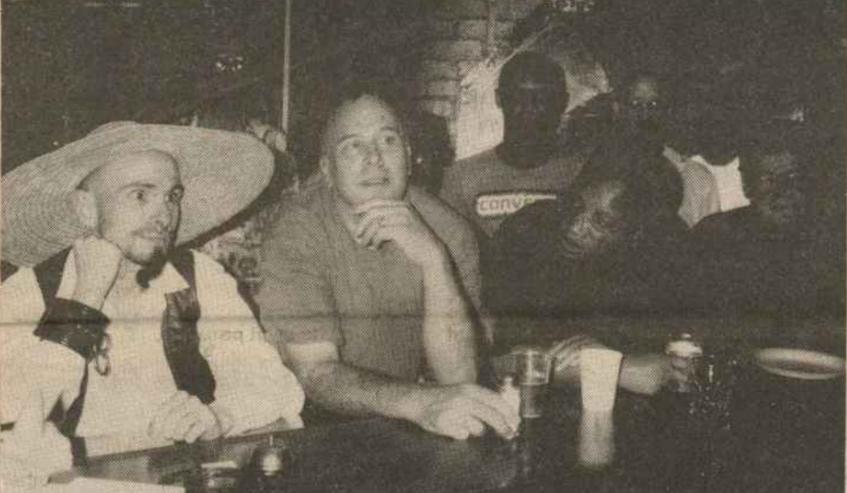
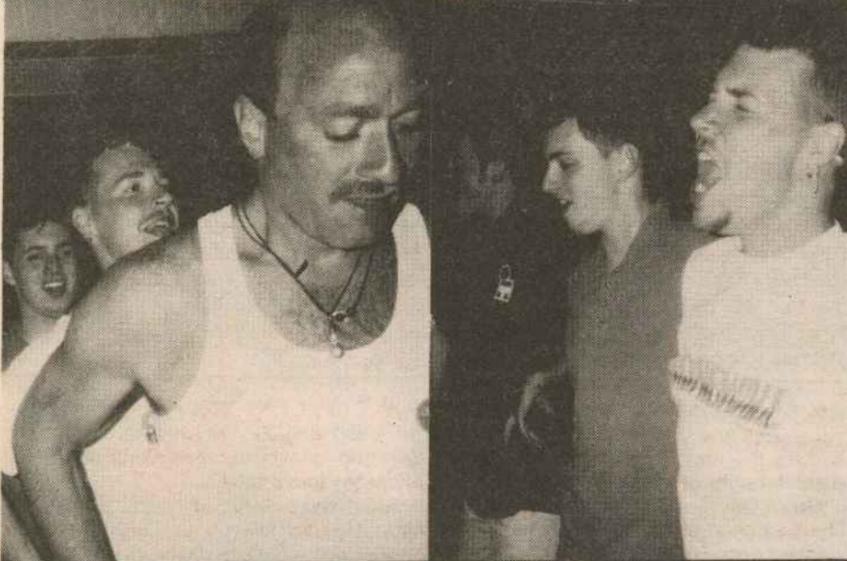
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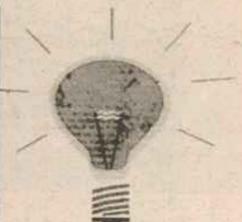
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**TRAVEL PLUS, INC.**

Jerry Johnson



# The Night Light



By Dusty Sass

Sometimes life isn't fair. The weekend of July 19, 20 and 21 is a perfect example. How am I supposed to be at all the things that I want to attend that weekend. I mean even the multi-talented Dusty can't come up with a way to be in three different cities at once. Hey does anyone else feel the need for a State Wide Scheduling Committee.

Of course I will be in Mad Town for the **Magic Picnic/Pride Weekend from July 19 to the 21.**

I mean who can resist all of the fun happenings that are being planned. **Friday July 19** will see the two big events. There's the 10% Society Dance on at the UW Memorial Union from 9:00 and a reception for Winnie Stachelberg from the Human Rights Campaign fund at the Edgewater Hotel from 6 until 8:00. The reception is sponsored by Action Wisconsin and HRC.

The big **MAGIC picnic** takes place on **Saturday July 20** at Brittingham Park. After the picnic the big **Rod's Reunion** will get underway at the **Depot** (which is located right next to the Hotel Washington site. The party starts at 7:00 and goes to bar time.

Then there is the UW Alumni Brunch on **Sunday July 21.** It's also in the UW Memorial Union and the Pride Parade, Rally and Post parade show on Sunday. Its all capped off by the **Miss Capitol City pageant** at R Place and **David Burrill at Manoeuvres** on Sunday evening.

Being in Madison means that I will miss some other things that I would like to attend. That very same weekend **Za's** in Green Bay has its **7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend.** Friday includes Free Champagne 9 to Midnight and Buffet after 11:00. Saturday is the **Miss Gay Green Bay US of A Pageant** ( \$3.00 cover, Reserved Tables are \$20.00) and then Sunday is the Anniversary Weekend Dry Night in the Dance bar with alcohol being served up in Java's.

**Za's** is one of my all time favorite bars and Mark and Ken are fantastic. Congrats on making it to seven guys!

**B's** also has an Anniversary Party planned for Saturday July 20. Its their Fifth Birthday bash. The party starts at Noon and goes to close. There will be drink specials all day and night long and dancing to your favorites from 9 P.M on.

I'll also miss **Gargoyles** First annual **Summer Pig Roast and Luau** on Sunday July 21. (No they are not putting Dr. Suzee Shovelit on a spit). The Party starts at 2:00 and goes until 10 PM.

That same day, **Rascal's** in Appleton has a Spaghetti Dinner plus Singational Productions on the Patio. I love Singational and Rascal's is a fun place to party.

On **Friday July 26,** I'll take in **Quilt: A Musical Celebration.** This is an amazing piece of theater with great music, great actors and a great script. It's at the **Circlestage Theater** which is located in Milwaukee's Prospect Mall. The show runs on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 and Sundays at 2:00, through July 28.

On **Saturday July 27,** I'll be at the **Blomber and Mahaffey CD Release party.** Its at the Broadway Theater Center. There will be an hour long concert with a reception to follow. The concert starts at 7:00. A \$20.00 admission charge includes the CD, Hor d'oeuvres and the concert.

After that I'll flit over to **Just Us** for their Country Dancing night. The Shoreline dance troupe will be on hand to teach everyone some new steps. This is a weekly feature of the Just Us line up.

Then it will be off to **B's** again for **Miss Gay Milwaukee US of A pageant.** The fun gets underway at 9:00. Admission is \$3.00 or \$5.00 for a seat at a reserved table. Featured performers are Miss Loretta LaMour, Miss Gay Wisconsin, US of A (Boy that gurl gets around), and Brittany Morgan.

In Between all of that I'll have to stop by **Club 219** for the **David Burrill show.**

On **Sunday July 28,** I'll be at **Rascal's** for its **Christmas in July** party. The party begins at 3:00 and includes a Christmas dinner served at 5 PM. Grilled Turkey and all the fixings. (No they are NOT putting me on a spit)

Then its back to Milwaukee where **B's** will also be having a big **Christmas In July Show.** What a great way to beat the heat. Some of my favorite performers will be on hand to lend some cool fun to the festivities. There's a \$2.00 cover to benefit, BESTD Clinic and Day Star Inc. a group that provides housing for battered women.

**Thursday August 1** I'll be at the big **SpotLight Party** at **In Between** as In Between and **The Wisconsin Light** celebrate the trashy life style of the trailer. (As opposed to the just regular trash that Dusty hangs around with) Yes we will be crowning Mr. Southside Trailer Trash. The contest will conclude Trailer Trash week at In Between. The fun gets underway at around 9:00. There will be free beer, special celebrity guests and lots of fun. If you haven't been to one of our SpotLight parties yet don't miss this one.

**Saturday August 3,** B's has another event. (Those guys are keeping me busy.) Judii Lowe will be performing at starting at 10:00. There will be a \$3.00 cover. Judii is a great singer and well worth the time and money.

**Sunday, August 4** is another picnic, this one in Milwaukee. The **Riverwest Rainbow Association** is having a picnic and softball game at **Kern Park** picnic area 4 from 2:00 to 5:00.

After the Picnic I'll flip a coin to help me decide which event Ill attend that evening.

The **Miss Gay Wisconsin America pageant, 1997** is at **Manoeuvres.** The show has a \$5.00 cover or \$25.00 for a reserved table. It features Kerri Nichols, Miss Gay America, 1996 and Trisha Reese, Miss Gay Wisconsin, 1996.

Also on tap for that evening, **B's** has a **Variety Show.** Its another fundraiser, for BESTD Clinic and Day Star Inc. The show features, Dennis Barkley, Mr. Wisconsin Fantasy Leather for 1996. Showtime is at 10:00 P.M. No matter how the coin turns up I am sure to have a great time.

You can have a great time too at all of these events. The summer's heating up and its time to get out and about. Catch ya soon, meanwhile, stay safe and be proud!

The Spotlight Amendment 2 Party at Mama Roux's helped Gay Milwaukee to have a bang up Fourth of July. Over 200 people ate, drank and as shown by the pictures above danced the Mahaquena. Eldon Murray Gay Jeopardy game, Lu Shanti, Corky Morgan and Mama Roux performed and nearly everybody danced. The Wisconsin Light thanks Joe St. Clair for his efforts in helping make this a great event.

*Making a Sound Investment in  
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**Now accepting new members!**

To set up an audition, call 344-9222, or  
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**Rehearsals resume August 7.**

*Dedicated to the positive promotion of gays and lesbians throughout the community through  
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# YOU'RE INVITED

## FRIDAY JULY 19

### RECEPTION FOR HRC OFFICIAL

The Edgewater Hotel, 666 Wisconsin Ave, Madison, will be site of a special reception for Winnie Stachelberg, Legislative Deputy from the Human Rights Campaign (formerly the Human Rights Campaign Fund). Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar will along with good company will be available. The reception begins at 6:00 PM and goes to 8:00 PM. A suggested donation of \$10.00 is requested.

### ZA'S ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND GETS UNDERWAY!

Mark, Ken and all of their staff are ready to roll out the red carpet for Za's Seventh Anniversary Weekend. Everyone will receive one free glass of champagne from 9 PM to Midnight. A Buffet will be served at 11:00. Of course there will be plenty of hot action on the Dance floor as well. Za's is located at 1106 Main Street, Green Bay

### 10% Dance In Madison

The UW-Madison, 10% Society will hold its monthly dance in the Great Hall of the UW Memorial Union, (Park and Langdon) beginning at 9:00 and going until Midnight. A wide variety of music will be played for your enjoyment and dancing pleasure. A cash bar will also be available. There is a \$4.00 cover.

## SATURDAY JULY 20

### Madison's MAGIC Picnic

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual MAGIC picnic takes place at Brittingham Park (Park and Washington) from 1 to 7 PM. This fund raiser for Madison area Les/Bi/Gay organizations features great food, lots to drink, vendors, games and dancing.

\$8.00 gets you a plate of scrumptious food along with all you care to drink all day long.

If you're not hungry or thirsty come anyway and participate in the activities going on throughout the day.

### ROD'S REUNION AT THE DEPOT

A MAGIC picnic weekend tradition continues with this special party. The Depot (located at 640 W. Washington) next door neighbor to the Hotel Washington will be hosting a Rod's Reunion party.

There is a \$5.00 cover. Proceeds will be donated to the Hotel Washington Building fund.

### MISS GAY GREEN BAY US OF A PAGEANT AT ZA'S

Za's, (1106 Main St.) Green Bay's premiere dance bar will be the site of the Miss Gay Green Bay pageant. Performers include Loretta LaMour, Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A and Kelli Jo Klien, Miss Gay Green Bay US of A '95.

The show starts at 10 PM sharp. There is a \$3.00 cover or you can reserve a table for just \$20.00.

### B's CELEBRATES ITS ANNIVERSARY

B's (1579 S. Second St., Milwaukee) will be celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a day long party. The Birthday Bash gets underway at Noon and goes until bar time. There will be drink specials throughout the day and dancing to a DJ after 9:00.

## SUNDAY JULY 21

### PIG ROAST/LUAU AT GARGOYLES

Everyone is welcome at Gargoyles (354 E. National) for its First Annual Pig Roast from 2 to 10 PM. The Roast and Luau includes live music, an Aloha shirt Contest, and prizes.

### SINGSATIONAL AT RASCAL'S

Singsational Productions will be at Rascals (702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton) for their Spaghetti Dinner. The group will perform from 3 to 6 PM. The Spaghetti dinner will be served at 6:00 PM.

## UW ALUMNI BRUNCH

The Gay/Les/Bi UW Alumni Council will be holding its annual Pre-Parade Brunch in the Great Hall of the UW Memorial Union. (Park and Langdon) Awards will be presented to distinguished alumni. Tickets are \$10.00. To order tickets contact Russ Betts at (608)262-5895.

### MADISON PRIDE MARCH

Madison's Pride March will take place at 2:00. The March will be preceded by a rally at the State Capitol beginning at 1:30. It will be followed by an entertainment extravaganza on the UW Library Mall at the end of the State Street march route. turkey and all the trimmings. The party begins at 3:00. Dinner is served at 5:00.

### CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT B's

B's (1579 S. Second St., Milwaukee) will be celebrating its Christmas spirit a little early this year. The bar's Christmas in July Party includes a fabulous show featuring Aajia Knight, April May, Beth Kelly, Brittany Morgan, Vanity Faire and David.

The party is a benefit for the BESTD Clinic and Daystar Inc. ( a battered women's group) There is a \$2.00 cover. The party begins at 8:00.

### TRAILER TRASH WEEK AT IN BETWEEN

In Between (625 S. Second St., Milwaukee) will open a week long celebration of the Trailer Trash life style. From July 28 thru August 1, the Bar will provide prizes to anyone who wants to talk about their family tree. Stop in and see the special Trailer Trash decorations.

## THURSDAY AUGUST 1

### SPOTLIGHT PARTY AT IN BETWEEN

Everyone is expected to get trashy (or be trashy) at another in our series of infamous SpotLight parties In Between (625 S. Second St., Milwaukee). The excuse this time is the crowning of "Mr. Southside Trailer Trash." The party will feature guest appearances from well known trashy personalities such as Adaly Drama and her friends.

Mr. Southside Trailer Trash will be anointed on the basis of his appearance and willingness to talk about his family. The audience will judge the winners and special prizes will be awarded.

There will be free beer and lots of surprises. The festivities get underway at 9:00.

## SATURDAY AUGUST 3

### JUDII LOWE PERFORMS AT B's

The popular songstress Judii Lowe will be bringing her music to B's (1579 S. Second St., Milwaukee). Ms Lowe's performances are marked by her fine voice and her ability to perform her own original material in addition to covers. brary Mall at the end of the State Street march route.

### DAVID BURRILL AT MANOEUVRES IN MADISON

Popular X-rated Video star, singer and performer, David Burrill will be at Manoeuvres (150 S. Blair Street, Madison) for a special MAGIC Picnic weekend show.

Burrill who is a man of many talents will begin his show at 11:00. There is a cover of \$5.00 for regular admission or \$6.00 for a reserved seat.

### MISS CAPITOL CITY PAGEANT AT R PLACE

The Miss Capitol City Pageant will be held at R Place (121 W. Main St., Madison) as part of the Magic Picnic Weekend festivities.

Special performers include Miss Loretta LaMour. Show time is 10:00.

## SATURDAY JULY 27

### BLOMBERG AND MAHAFFEY CD RELEASE PARTY

The talented Blomberg and Mahaffey known for the political and social satire will be celebrating the release of their "Something Like a Star" CD, with a party and concert at the Broadway Theater Center (158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee).

The \$20.00 admission includes a special concert, Hors D'oeuvres and a copy of the CD.

### MISS GAY MILWAUKEE US OF A PAGEANT AT B's

The Miss Gay Milwaukee US of A Pageant will be held at B's (1579 S. Second Street, Milwaukee) The contest begins at 9:00 and includes special performances from Miss Lotta LaMour, Miss Gay Wisconsin, US of A and Brittany Morgan. There is a \$3.00 cover or \$5.00 for a reserved seat a table.

## SUNDAY JULY 28

### CHRISTMAS IN JULY AT RASCALS

There may not be snow on the ground, but the Christmas spirit is alive and well at Rascals (702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton).

The bar will be celebrating that spirit with a "Priceless" Gift exchange and a Christmas Dinner complete with grilled

### WRECK ROOM

Continued from Page 12

The annual anniversary party held during the Labor Day weekend attracted hundreds of celebrants.

In 1980, when their relationship ended, Bernhagen bought out Kindt. "We remained friends though," said Kindt, "We had a love that will never end. We just couldn't live together." When Bernhagen died from AIDS in 1986 he willed the bar to Kindt.

#### Bar Helped Build A Community

The bar and its owners played an important role in the development of Milwaukee's Les/Bi/Gay community, especially with regard to its leather and sports scenes.

Bernhagen and the Wreck Room were the original sponsors of the Milwaukee Classic, the first Les/Bi/Gay softball tournament in the country. The bar's teams, the Chaps and the Spurs regularly came home from out of town tournaments laden with new trophies to put in the overflowing cases that adorned the front bar.

The Wreck Room was the home of the now gone Silver Stars and then the Milwaukee's Castaways Motorcycle clubs. Club nights at the bar were popular attractions.

#### Other Owners Saddened

Si Smits, owner of the Boot Camp, a leather and levi bar on Milwaukee's near South Side, says he is saddened by the Wreck Room's closing. "Until I opened my own place, the Wreck Room was my favorite place to go to," said Smits, "Bill

The show starts at 10:00. There is a \$3.00 cover.

## SUNDAY AUGUST 4

### MISS GAY WISCONSIN AMERICA PAGEANT AT MANOEUVRES

Manoeuvres (150 S. Blair St., Madison) will be the site of the 1997 Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A Pageant. The show features the reigning Miss Gay America, Kerri Nichols and Trisha Reese, Miss Gay Wisconsin, 1996.

There is a cover of \$5.00 or \$25.00 for a reserved table. Show time is at 10:00.

### VARIETY SHOW AT B's

B's (1579 S. Second St., Milwaukee) will hold a variety show as a benefit for Daystar Inc and the BESTD clinic. The featured performer is Dennis Barkley, Mr. Wisconsin Fantasy. Show time is 10:00.

### RIVERWEST RAINBOW PICNIC

Milwaukee's Riverwest Rainbow Association a neighborhood group of Lesbians and Gays will be holding a picnic and softball game at area 4 of Kern Park.

Grills and some refreshments will be provided by the group.

The fun gets underway at 2:00 and continues to 5:00. Kern Park is located at 3500 N. Humboldt. Area 4 is the site closest to the River.

and Wayne were very influential in their contributions to the Leather and Levi community. They helped in whatever way they could."

Joe Brehm, owner of This Is It, said "Its sad. It was great place that was very important especially in the formative years of building Milwaukee's community."

**"Until I opened my own place, the Wreck Room was my favorite place to go to." Boot Camp Owner, Si Smits.**

In addition to their involvement with softball and the leather scene, Bernhagen, Kindt and the Wreck Room were also very involved in the general community, donating money and holding fund raisers for a variety of causes.

#### Kindt Moving North

Kindt said that he will be leaving Milwaukee and heading up North to Onieda County, telling Light "I have some friends up there. I am going to move so deep into the woods that I will have to order sunshine."

He adds, "I want to thank all of the people who helped make the Wreck Room the special place that it was. Its been wonderful because of them."

An estate sale offering Kindt's personal possessions and the trappings of the Wreck Room will be held at Serb Hall on a date to be announced later.

Some things can not be sold. These include the memories of a wonderful place to socialize in and the many contributions the Wreck Room has made to the community over the last 25 years. It will be missed by many.



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### Wisconsin

**HEY GUYS** I'm a 20 year old Gay White male, 5'10, 145lbs, good shape. I like the outdoors, shopping, and more. Call me. Lets talk. (Appleton) #18955

**SMILE FOR THE CAMERA** I'm an exhibitionist and I'm looking for others to have fun with. If you are interested please call me. I'm discreet. (Appleton) #1837

**HEALTHY LIFESTYLE** I'm a health minded individual interested in meeting sincere and honest people 18 to 40 in the Fox Valley area. Call me. (Fox Valley) #21186

**ORDINARY GUY** looking for companionship with someone who is honest, sincere, and has a good outlook on life. Call me. (Fox Valley) #21201

**LEATHER MASTER SEEKS BOY** I'm a 5'10, 165lb, Leather Master. I'm looking for a bondage boy under 5'10, less than a 30 inch waist, who enjoys being totally submissive. Call me now Boy! (Fox Valley) #42939

**WAITING FOR A MASTER** I'm looking for a dominant master to train me to be a very passive boy. I'm into all aspects of B&D and I will submit to you sir. Please call me. (Green Bay) #24298

**SONNIE DELIGHT** We are a super hot bottom couple who want to meet Gay, bi, White males for adult fun and to have delights with. Call us. (Green Bay) #20254

**LOOKING FOR FRIENDS** I'm an attractive 22 year old Gay White male, 6'2, 190lbs. I'm looking for friends to have fun with. Call me. (Green Bay) #19235

**BUILT TO LAST** I'm a 38 year old Gay White male. I would like to meet guys for fun and games. I'm muscular, masculine, and well equipped. Call me. (Green Bay) #19358

**GOOD LOOKING GUY IN GREEN BAY** I'm very good looking and I'm looking for someone to spend time with. I'm into what ever you want to do. Nothing kinky. Call me. (Green Bay) #18366

**I LOVE SUBMISSIVE OLDER MEN** I'm a very attractive White male seeking older submissive males for movies, games, and fun. (Green Bay) #15123

**CAN WE TALK?** I'm a 43 year old male who likes to take long walks. I'm looking for someone to have good conversation with. Call me. (Green Bay) #8015

**YING AND YANG** Cross dresser looking for someone 40 to 45 for get togethers. I'm sometimes dominant and sometimes submissive. Call me. (Green Bay) #8905

**THE BUDDY SYSTEM** I'm searching for a buddy to mess around with this summer. I like fishing, camping, hiking, and more. I'm also interested in getting involved in weight lifting. Call me. (Green Bay) #10054

**ON YOUR KNEES BOY** I'm a hot leather master looking for completely submissive and passive leather boys. Call me now boy. Be on your knees and ready. (Green Bay) #9172

**BIG AND BOLD** I'm 6'1, 250lbs, linebacker build, big hot fat. I'm 38 years old, attractive, healthy. I'm looking for a Gay White or Hispanic male. I have many interests. I'm looking for a friends first relationship. Call me. (Kenosha) #19888

**SHOW AND TELL** I'm a 19 year old Gay White male looking for people to show me the Gay lifestyle. Call me. I'm new at this. (Kiel) #1366

**I'LL DO ANYTHING** I'm a 19 year old Bi sexual male looking for open minded Bi guys for friendship. If you want more than friendship please be 18 to 28. Call me. (La Crosse) #22123

**STRAIGHT BUT BENDS** GWM, 34, 6', blue eyes, long blonde hair, masculine, seeks GWM, 18-36, who are straight acting/appearing, and who know what they want from life. Please leave a message. (LaCrosse) #11450

**I NEED A HOT TOP MAN** I'm 5'10, 180lbs, 34" waist, Brown curly hair, dark Brown eyes, football player build, very strong. I'm a bottom looking for a top. Call me. (Madison) #18377

**GIVE AND GET LOVE** I'm a Gay White male, 24 years old, 6ft, 205lbs. I seek attractive, straight acting men 18 to 32 for friendship, or a boyfriend for sport. Any hunks out there? I'm willing to travel. (Madison) #4267

**YOUNG AND SMOOTH** I'm 5'7, 150lb, Asian male. I'm solid, smooth, and toned. I'm looking for masculine White men for a casual friendship. If you are interested please call me. (Madison) #42659

**BUDDY BONDING** GWM, 27, 5'2", 125, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks other GWM, 21-32, for fun and adventure. I have varied interests as I hope you will. Please leave a message. (Madison) #11802

**DADDY CAN BE A BOY** GWM, 46, 5'11", 160, seeks fraternity hazing with other frat boys under 25. Please leave a message. (Madison) #11816

**LETS GO ROLLERBLADING** I'm looking for a man 18 to 22 in my area that's fun to be with and has a real good personality. If you like to rollerblade and have fun at home call me. (Manitowoc) #15998

**LIGHT ME UP** I'm a White male looking for friendship and whatever. I'm a smoker and I enjoy the outdoors. Call me. (Marshfield) #19302

**PLOW THIS BOY** I'm 6ft, 190lbs. I'm looking for an interesting top man to plow me. (Menomonie) #20561

**MANS BEST FRIEND** I'm a 40 year old Gay White male, 6ft, 185lbs, HIV positive. I'm seeking other men 30 plus for friendship and companionship. Call me. (Milwaukee) #4327

**OH NO! IT'S MR. BILL** I'm 47 years old, 5'7, 178lbs, and hairy. I'm looking for another hot leather man to be in touch with. I'm willing to experiment and explore. I like to dominate. Call me. (Milwaukee) #20606

**CUMING STRAIGHT ON TO YOU** I'm looking for straight acting friends to hang out with. I'm 24 years old, 6'2, 170lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. If you want to get in touch with me please call. (Milwaukee) #19828

**SUB DUDE** I'm 31 years old, 5'7, 140lbs. I'm an inexperienced submissive bottom looking for an aggressive top. (Milwaukee) #19337

**CHUBBY HUBBY WANTED** I'm 5'9, 160lbs, 40 years old. I'm looking for a heavy set man for cuddling, movies, and popcorn. (Milwaukee) #19486

**LET ME BE YOUR LITTLE GIRL** I'm a Bi white male, 23 years old, shy, mature, and submissive. I'm looking for dominant men to make me submit, make me dress like a girl and use me. (Milwaukee) #19867

**LITTLE FURRY BEAR WANTED** I'm 5'7, 178lbs, 47 years old, good shape. I enjoy little furry bears 5'10 or shorter. I'm into biking, working out, videos, movies, good dining, and good company. (Milwaukee) #3544

**ARE YOU READY FOR A STEADY?** I'm 33 years old, 5'11, dark Brown hair, Hazel eyes, 165lbs. I'm looking to meet a man for good times and a possible long term relationship. Please be honest, sincere, and caring. (Milwaukee) #18019

**SENSUAL SPANDEX** GWM, 27, 6'1", 160, brown hair, hazel eyes, seeks GWM's, 21-45, attractive and in good shape, for submissive spandex pleasure. Groups and couples a plus. Please call. (Milwaukee) #13226

**LET'S TALK** GWM, 22, 125, 5'6", blonde hair, blue eyes, musician and artist, seeks other GWM's with similar qualities and interests for fun. (Milwaukee) #13411

**RELATIONSHIP MINDED** GWM, 38, sincere and romantic, seeks a sincere relationship with GWM, 25-40, hairy a plus. Let me share my life with you. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #13772

**LONG TERM COMMITMENT** GWM, relationship oriented, seeks GWM, 20-30, drug and smoke free, for serious relationship. (Milwaukee) #13835

**WHERE ARE YOU?** GWM, 5'9", 150, seeks other males for fun. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #14216

**BOYS WILL BE BOYS** GWM, 26, 5'10", 165, blonde hair, blue eyes seeks GWM under 30 for friendship and possibly more. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #11276

**BI BOYS** 18, blonde hair, blue eyes, 5'9", BiWM, seeks other young WM's between 18-21, for friendship, camping and hiking. Other things possible as well. Please leave me a message. (Milwaukee) #11307

**NOT TYPICAL** GWM, 23, 6'2", 170, blue eyes, long brown hair, not into the bar scene at all, seeks other GWM's between 18-30 for friendship first with endless possibilities. Please leave a message. (Milwaukee) #11725

**SIR, THANK YOU SIR!** GWM, 27, 6'2", 230, brown hair, brown eyes, seeking a dominant master into CBT, TT, WS, FF, shaving, S&M, B&D, and humiliation. Nothing I won't do for you sir! (Milwaukee) #11529

**DEEP NEED** GWM, 24, 6', 150, brown hair and eyes, seeks new friends with relationship possibilities. Please leave a message. (Northern) #12761

**MORE THAN THIS** I'm a straight acting Gay White male, 29 years old, 5'7, 140lbs, Blonde hair, Blue eyes, clean cut, and attractive. I'm seeking a straight acting Gay White male 1 to 35 for a sincere relationship as friends or maybe more. (Osh Kosh) #19970

**THE TIME IS RIGHT** I'm looking for a friend. If you would like to spend some time together this summer call me. I have many interests. Lets talk. (Phillips) #1262

**LET'S GO FOR A BIKE RIDE** I'm a White male, 40 years old. I like country music, bike riding, and long walks. Call me. (Racine) #19586

**STRAIGHT TO THE POINT** I would like to meet some guys in my area for fun and more. Call me. (Stevens Point) #19640

**I KNEED YOU!** I'm 30 years old seeking others 20 to 40 who enjoy full bodied massage, home cooked food, and hanging out with friends. If you are looking for a long term relationship call me. (Stevens Point) #6937

**SMOKEY THE QUEER** I'm a Gay White male looking for someone 18 to 25 who are into everything. I'm a smoker looking for a nice good looking man. (Stevens Point) #10382

**WE CAN WORK IT OUT** I'm 25 years old, 6'1, 185lbs, medium build, Blonde hair, Blue eyes. I enjoy tennis, movies, biking, and exercising. I'm looking for friendship and a possible relationship. Call me. (Wausau) #11144

**COCKED AND LOADED** GWM, 6'2", 170, attractive, seeks GWM's, under 35, for friendship and relationship. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #12577

**YOU AND ME** GWM, 27, 160, 5'8", enjoys sports, seeks GWM, 18-28, for outings and friendship. (Wisconsin) #12286

**PLEASURE SEEKER** GWM, 30, 5'8", 150, attractive, new to area, seeks other local GWM's. Please leave a message. (Wisconsin) #1095

**SMALL TOWN BOY** I'm athletic and I like to play sports. I live in a small town. I would really like to get to know some guys out there. #22493

**USE AND ABUSE THIS BOTTOM** I'm an inexperienced submissive bottom looking for a physically dominant top for wrestling, bondage, S&M, and more. If you would like to use and abuse me pleas call. I'm 35 years old, 5'9, 190lbs, clean, and discreet. #21247

**WHY CANT WE BE FRIENDS** I'm 23 years old, 6'2, 170lbs. I have long blonde hair, and Blue eyes. I'm looking for cool guys to hang out with for friendship only. Straight acting guys only. #1889

### Illinois

**ANYTHING GOES** I'm 18 years old, 5'10, 150lbs, light Brown hair, light Blue eyes. I'm Bi sexual. I'm into everything. (Addison) #20384



David Christian-Brown

**YOUNG AND RESTLESS** I'm 18 years old, 5'10, 150lbs, light Brown hair, light Blue eyes. I'm into every thing and anything. Let me be your slave. I'm new at this. Teach me. (Addison) #19784

**TEDDY BEAR WANTED** I'm looking for teddy bears. People who like to hug and love. I'm 230lbs and masculine. Call me. (Evanston) #22921

**NEW AT THIS** I live in the Omaha area and I'm looking for new friends. (Evanston) #7935

**YOUNG PUP SEEKS OLDER MAN** I'm 19 years old, 5'7, 200lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. I've never been with a man. I would like to meet an older man 30 to 45 for fun and more. (Evanston) #20939

**SMOOTH, YOUNG, AND SKINNY?** I'm looking for men 18 to 25 who are slim, skinny, and smooth. I'm 5'9, 150lbs, male model. Call me. (Evanston) #21057

**BATMAN'S FANTASY** I'm a dominant Gay White male top, 33 years old, 6ft, 170lbs. I'm searching for submissive, Bi or Gay, single White men, 21 to 40, who are under 6ft tall. I want to be Batman and I want you to be Robin the Boy Wonder. Call me. (Evanston) #10435

**I'M A PLEASER NOT A TEASER** I'm 5'10, 150lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes, 18 years old. I'm really hot and horny. call me. Lets please each other. (Evanston) #20383

**FLY THIS FRIENDLY GUY** I'm 20 years old and I'm looking for guys around my age. I'm 5'11, 140lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. I'm looking for fun and someone to hang out with. (Evanston) #16585

**GENEROUS DAD SEEKS BOY** I'm a 40 year old White professional male, 5'11, stocky build, good looking, clean, honest, and discreet. I'm seeking a young boy under 24 who likes to be treated well. If you want some help with your future call me. (Evanston) #7270

**LEARNING AND YEARNING** I'm a 22 year old college student, 6'2, 220lbs, black hair, Brown eyes. I'm seeking discreet men 22 to 30 who are attractive and intelligent. (Evanston) #7623

**STAIHT ON TO YOU** I'm a divorced Gay White male, 51 years old, look mid 30's. I'm very versatile, discreet, and straight looking and acting. I would like to meet men for fun and relaxation (Evanston) #8598

**TELL DAD ALL ABOUT IT** I'm a White male, 40 years old, good looking, discreet, and honest. If you are 18 to 24 and want a new future please call me. (Evanston) #10547

**NEW KID ON THE BLOCK** I'm a 44 year old Gay Black male. I'm new here and I'm looking for hot Black Gay men into music. No drugs. (Evanston) #5546

**ARE YOU BEING SERVED?** I'm a 30 year old Gay Black male bottom with HIV. I love to service. If you are in need call me. (Evanston) #3400

**OLDER MAN** North suburbs, looking for someone younger who would appreciate someone older. I'm 59 give me a call lets talk. (Glenview) #8820

**ROMANCE MY STONES** I'm 36 years old, 5'10, 165lbs. I like biking, roller blading, and romantic dinners. I'm looking for someone with similar interests. Call me. (Hickory Hills) #22547

**SUBMIT TO THIS** I'm a 31 year old totally dominant top man, 5'10, 175lbs, Brown hair, Green eyes, and goatee. I'm looking for a totally submissive guy under 35 years old. Call me. (La Grange) #16412

**CONFIDENT AND OUTGOING** I'm a Gay White male, 54 years old, Gray hair, Brown eyes, 5'10, 215lbs, clean shaven, discreet, and drug free. I'm masculine, educated, and outgoing. I have a wide variety of interests. If you would like to know more, please call. (Lansing) #3587

**WE CAN WORK OUT TOGETHER** I'm 25 years old, 6ft, 175lbs, Blonde hair, Blue eyes, well built. I enjoy movies, golf, night clubs, etc. I seek a White male 21 to 30 who is a non smoker and drug free. I'm also looking for a workout partner. Call me. (Lombard) #16627

**WHY DONT YOU AND ME?** I'm a 32 year old good looking Gay White man, 175lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, and straight acting. I would like to meet a nice, honest, and healthy White man for a monogamous, long term relationship. Please call me. (Wood Dale) #10801

### Minnesota

**DO IT WITH ME** I'm a total bottom looking for someone to do something with me. (Grand Forks) #21532

**START ME UP** I'm 5'7, 155lbs, 30 years old, long Brown hair, Brown eyes, good shape, Bi curious. I'm looking for Bi or Gay guys to help get me started. Call me. (Mankato) #23982

**MAN IN MANKATO** I'm 30 years old, 5'7, 155lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes. I'm Bi curious and I'm looking for Bi or Gay men in my area who are nice and very discreet. (Mankato) #22567

**LETS GET EXCITED** I'm a 40 year old White male, 6'2, 195lbs, Blonde. I'm looking for single or couples 30 to 40's for fun, friendship, and excitement (Minneapolis) #24661

**TAKE A CHANCE ON ME** I'm a muscular Gay White male, 5'8, 32" waist, 44" chest, great legs. I like movies, theatre, eating, and more I'm educated and fun to be around. I'm looking for other hot guys for fun and more. (Minneapolis) #21098

**PRIVATE DANCER** I'm Blonde, 6'1, 185lbs, good shape, late 30's. I give erotic massage. I'm looking for Bi, Gay, or married men for discreet encounters. Privacy assured. I have my own place. (Minneapolis) #22490

**LET MY GIRL WATCH ME SERVE YOU** I'm a submissive 30 year old male searching for large endowed men to dominate me while my girlfriend watches. I'm very open minded. I'm looking for someone who enjoys being serviced. Call me. (Minneapolis) #22912

**THIS BI MALE WANTS YOU** I'm a 44 year old Bi White male looking for other males or couples. Call me. (Minneapolis) #23052

**ATTORNEY IN BRIEFS** I'm a 38 year old seeking to share bottom lines for friendship and possible relationship. I'm looking for someone 30 to 40 who likes the outdoors and more. Call me. (Minneapolis) #23244

**NORTHERN EXPOSURE** I'm a 53 year old Bi White male looking for a slender guy to serve me on the weekends. (Minneapolis) #23782

**IN THE BUFF** I'm a professional Gay White male, 45 years old, 5'6, 135lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes. I'm looking for a fellow nudist who has a private spot. Call me. (Minneapolis) #21986

**SEEKING FRIENDSHIP** Bi White male, 60+, 6'2, outdoors, seeks friendship with same. Call me (Minneapolis) #21818

**BLACK ON BLACK** Bi Black male, 5'9, 150lbs, nice tone body, good shape. I'm looking to hook up with another well built, masculine, and well endowed Black man for discreet encounters. Call me. (Minneapolis) #21238

**NEED A GOOD SPANKING?** I'm a Gay White male teacher looking for in shape college student 18 to 25 to spank. Let me put some discipline back into your life. (Minneapolis) #21554

**READY FOR THE WEEKEND** I'm 53 years old and I'm hoping to meet some younger guys for early morning phone fun and intimate weekend get togethers. Call me. (Minneapolis) #20150

**EAST OF ST PAUL** I'm a White male, 5'8, 175lbs, looking for guys 25 to 30, 5'8 to 5'9, 165 to 170lbs, who like the outdoors as well as indoors. Call me. (Minneapolis) #18859

**READY FOR A CHANGE?** I'm a tall, well built, cross dresser, who is looking to be submissive for you. Train me and get to know me. (Minneapolis) #18960

**HAIRY MAN WANTED** I'm 28 years old, 5'11, 270lbs, chubby. I'm looking for young guys 22 to 29 who are hairy and in shape. I'm ready for a good time. (Minneapolis) #19712

**FRENCH EXPERT** I'm a French expert looking for straight or Bi curious men, mid 30's to mid 50's, who like to receive. I'm 35 years old, nice body, healthy, and discreet. You should be similar. (Minneapolis) #18393

**OUR LITTLE SECRET** I'm an attractive Blonde, 6'1, 180lbs, good shape. I'm looking to hook up with Bi and married guys for massage. (Minneapolis) #16203

**MASTER WANTED** I'm a submissive Gay White male, 6'1, 185lbs, 35 years old. I'm a slave looking for a master who can give me the discipline I need. I'm into water sports, bondage, abuse, etc. Please call me sir. I'm here to take orders. (Minneapolis) #16519

**I GOT THE MUNCHIES** I'm 5'11, 150lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, smooth, slender. I'm looking for hairy, muscular men who like to be serviced and butt munched. Call me. (Minneapolis) #16590

**HOT FOR TEACHER** I'm 21 years old, 6'1, 210lbs. I'm new at this. I'm looking for someone to teach me the ropes and to do things with. (Minneapolis) #16916

**BOY TOY WANTED** I'm a 40 year old Gay male, 6ft, 170lbs, good shape. I'm looking for a baby queer who is into bondage, dominance, and S&M. I'm serious and you should be too. If you are 18 to 26 and want to service a master call me. (Minneapolis) #17601

**ATTRACTIVE AND SUBMISSIVE** I'm a submissive male in my early 30's looking for a dominant hung top man. If you like to take control please call me. I'm into French, Greek, golden showers, body worship, and many other kinky scenes. Call me sir. (Minneapolis) #17731

**NEW KID IN TOWN** I'm a 22 year old Gay White male, 6ft, 200lbs. I like to ride my bike, camp, go to amusement parks, etc. I seek men 18 to 35 to have fun and hang out with. Leave me a message. (Minneapolis) #18027

**THE BUDDY SYSTEM** Gay White couple seeking other young couples or singles for friendship, camping, outdoor sports, and good conversation. Call us. (Minneapolis) #15314

**CURIOUS BI MALE** I'm a 32 year old Bi curious White male. I'm looking for someone to have some fun with. (Minneapolis) #33292

**DONT WORRY BE HAPPY** I like to get into fun sex. If you would like to know more call me. You'll be glad you did. (Minneapolis) #9602

**SIoux FALLS BOY** I'm new. I'm curious. I'm ready to do anything to satisfy my curiosity. Call me. (Minneapolis) #9788

**IN NEED OF A SPANKING** I'm a bad boy in need of a firm spanking with a paddle or belt. Spank me till I cry. I've been bad. (Minneapolis) #10841

**THE REAL THING** I'm a Gay White male, young looking 45, 5'5, 140lbs, good shape, work out. I'm well endowed, passionate, and more. I'm interested in meeting someone to have fun with the possibility of a long term relationship. (Minneapolis) #11138

**TONIGHT YOUR A STAR** I'm a 42 year old, 6ft, 170lb, White collar type looking for a boy toy. Lets get together and see what we can produce and direct. Call me boy! (Minneapolis) #6345

**FEATURE PRESENTATION** I'm a 36 year old Gay White male. I'm 5'10, 180lbs, and handsome. I'm interested in meeting handsome men with dark features. Call me. (Minneapolis) #7440

**LEATHER DADDY** I'm a 42 year old Gay White male. I'm a dominant leather daddy, 5'9, 180lbs, Brown hair, and Green eyes. You should be 18 to 50, very submissive, and in shape. Call me. (Minneapolis) #2477

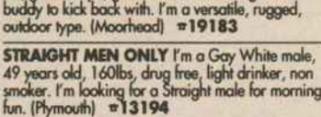
**CLOSE ENCOUNTERS** I'm 32 years old, 5'9, 165lbs, short blonde hair, blue eyes, clean shaven bottom. I'm looking for men 25 to 40 for close encounters. I'm open to the possibility of a friendship, and relationship. (Minneapolis) #43115

**ANYTHING GOES** I'm a 33 year old single and divorced man looking to expand my horizons. I'm up to anything. Call me. Lets explore the possibilities. (Minneapolis) #1424

**IT'S A MAN'S WORLD** I'm a Gay White male looking for guys in my area. I'm 5'8, 160lbs, clean cut, great shape, good looks. I'm looking for a buddy to kick back with. I'm a versatile, rugged, outdoor type. (Moorhead) #19183

**STRAIGHT MEN ONLY** I'm a Gay White male, 49 years old, 160lbs, drug free, light drinker, non smoker. I'm looking for a Straight male for morning fun. (Plymouth) #13194

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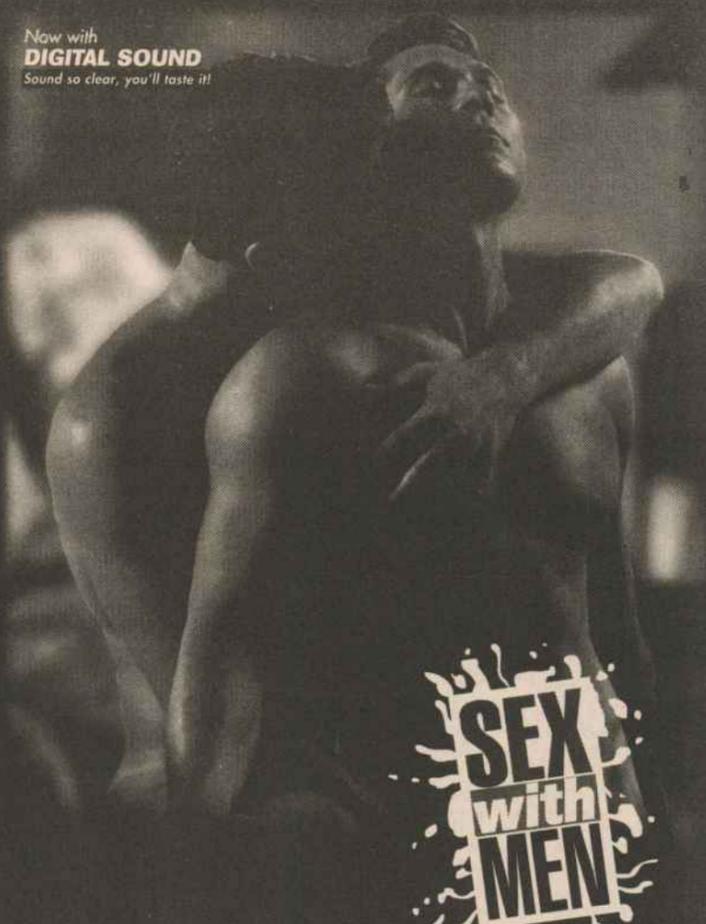
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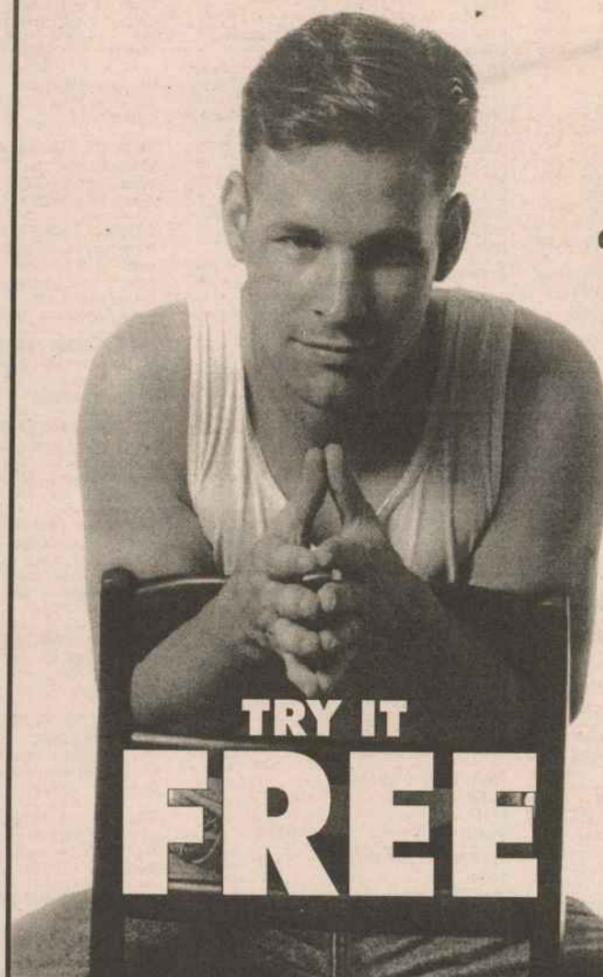
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Democratic and Republican supporters, on the other hand, said the measure was needed on both moral and legal grounds.

"The flames of hedonism, the flames of narcissism, the flames of self-centered morality are licking at the very foundations of our society, the family unit," said sponsor Bob Barr, (R-GA).

The federal government traditionally leaves regulation of marriage to the states, but supporters said the legislation was needed to head off the possible results of a court case that could lead Hawaii to legalize Gay marriage.

If that happens, the Constitution may require other states to recognize Gay marriages performed in Hawaii, they said. Conservatives said a single panel of judges in Hawaii shouldn't be allowed to decide whether the whole country accepts same-sex marriages.

"The vote today reflects exactly what the people of this country feel, and that is America is not ready to change its definition of marriage, America is not ready to change the concept of marriage," Barr said.

During Friday's debate on the House floor, some members quoted passages from the Bible to support their contention that God meant marriage to be a union of a man and a woman. Anything else threatens the survival of American culture, they said.

"A God-given principal is under attack," said Rep. Steve Buyer, (R-IN).

But Rep. Barney Frank, (R-MA), one of Congress' three openly Gay members, said many of his colleagues are in their second and third marriages despite other passages that prohibit divorce or remarriage after divorce.

"There are clearly members in this chamber—supporters of this bill—who do not think that biblical injunction ought to be civil law," he said.

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"How does the fact that I love another man threaten your marriage?" said Frank. "Are your relationships with your spouses of such fragility that fact that I have a loving relationship with another man jeopardizes them? What is attacking you?"

The Right Wing extremist Traditional Values Coalition applauded the vote.

Even President Clinton, who has nodded to every demand from the radical homosexuals, has now left that camp and joined the mainstream of America in opposing homosexual marriage," said the Rev. Lou Sheldon, head of the group.

But the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest Gay and lesbian political group, said the House had hit a "new low."

"The House committed an ugly, cowardly and unconstitutional act by passing this bill, and history will remember it as such," said Elizabeth Birch, the group's executive director.

Critics of an identical bill introduced in the Senate by Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., called it thinly disguised bigotry during a public hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"I regret that the committee is spending time on this offensive, unnecessary and divisive legislation," Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., said. "The bill before us is called the Defense of Marriage Act, but a more accurate title would be the Defense of Intolerance Act, or even more accurately, the Defense of Endangered Republican Candidates Act."

Kennedy also believes the bill is unconstitutional, saying some scholars have concluded that Congress does not have the authority to nullify the effect of one state's laws in other states.

Kennedy, Sen. Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., and Sen. James M. Jeffords, R-Vermont, plan to introduce an amendment that would add a measure prohibiting job discrimination against Gays to the bill.

## QUILT

Continued from Page 14

AIDS, and has his own panel in the quilt. Others have friends and relatives afflicted with HIV.

As a result, this production is a work of love, and caring. Cast members have posted their reasons for performing in this work outside of the theater entrance.

Visit the theater during rehearsal and you'll find a group of people who are eager to talk about their characters, how proud they are to be involved and how AIDS has affected them personally.

Peterson made a video of the quilt

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## Organizations

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**GALANO CLUB.** A social club serving the recovering Gay and Lesbian community. Regularly scheduled AA, NA, Al-Anon, ACOA and other 12-step meetings. Open nightly. 2408 N. Farwell Avenue, (414) 276-6936.

## Personals

**GWM**—36, 5'10", 195 lbs. Looking for friendship or relationship to settle down with. Willing to relocate. I'm handicapped with speech impairment, but mobile. Call Mark at (414) 253-0921.

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when she saw it in Washington D.C. The tape is being passed from cast member to cast member to help them learn about the quilt.

In fact, many in the cast say the show has taught them a lot. That includes 10 year old Edward Dumar. "I've learned alot about acting, quilts, AIDS issues and Liberace. I'm doing this for a friend with AIDS."

Perhaps one of the hardest lessons the cast has learned is that "Quilt" is still a work in progress.

#### "A Work In Progress"

Circlestage Manager, Mary Balistreri said, "We have to call to get the latest count of panels. When the play was started four years ago, it was 22,000 now its 33,000 " Her face saddens and her jaw tightens as she realizes the reality of that statement. Then she turns to her computer to continue the work.

Perhaps the next vignette to be added to "Quilt" will be that about a small theater company taking risks to being a major work and its message to audiences in Milwaukee.

**"The Quilt: A Musical Celebration" will be performed on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from July 19th through July 28th. Friday and Saturday performance time is 8:00 PM, Sundays matinees are at 2 PM. Tickets are can be purchased for \$12.00 from Ticketmaster.**

## PRIDEFEST

Continued from Page 2

see where the Board that is currently running PrideFest has done anything better. They've run into exactly the same problems, they've run into the exact same irritations, so I guess getting [rid of] Bill didn't solve that problem, it only transferred it to other people."

Michael Lisowski sees the reorganization as both a danger and an opportunity. "I think it can go both ways," he says. "The advantage is that there's more people to do the work, but the caveat with that is that you have to make sure that everyone is communicating with everybody else."

To Si Smits, the loss of Meunier is an added challenge for PrideFest in addition to its new venue at Summerfest. "PrideFest has gotten big and now it's time to clean up its whole act, no matter who's running it," Smits comments. "It was too much for Bill to do, I think."

▽ ▽ ▽

"For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction." This is not only a law of nature; it is a law of politics, and with the PrideFest Board's definitive vote against Bill Meunier, Milwaukee's Gay/Lesbian community has seen this law in action.

Meunier is a man described as "energetic", "hyper", "overwhelming", "abrasive", "tyrannical", without a doubt a considerable force in PrideFest and in the greater community. There is no doubt that Meunier made great strides toward legitimizing Gay/Lesbian issues in Milwaukee, but according to Wisconsin Light sources, he also "stepped on a lot of rich and powerful toes." When that kind of force is applied in the political atmosphere of PrideFest and the community, it is only a matter of time before an equally powerful force will answer it. In this case, that answer came when Bill Meunier was censured by the same Board of Directors he himself created.

However, innuendoes aside, there is little that can be confidently said about what really happened between Bill Meunier and PrideFest. The internal affairs of any corporation are largely private, even the affairs of a public festival. Facts are always a tiny minority versus rumor and speculation in a reorganization of this kind.

It is a fact that, on April 13, the PrideFest Board removed Bill Meunier's powers as Co-Director. It is a fact that Meunier resigned effective June 23, two weeks after PrideFest 96. It is also a fact that Meunier chose not to argue the Board's decision, and that the Pride Council, though it could have, did not come to his defense.

Beyond these facts, very little is certain and even less can be proven. However, the reaction of the community to the loss of Bill Meunier has been consistent. He is respected as founder of PrideFest and acknowledged for his long years of hard work and dedication, he is regarded with compassion for the unfortunate circumstances surrounding his resignation, and he is widely liked as a person and a friend; while at the same evoking reactions that range from discomfort to outright animosity, with a personality that is to some challenging, to others infuriating. In sum, there are two things Bill Meunier manages to produce consistently: friends and foes.

As to the real reasons behind Meunier's departure from PrideFest, very few people outside the Board of Directors and Meunier himself will ever know the truth in its

entirety, and those who do know the truth refuse to speak out publicly.

It may have been that Meunier was jeopardizing the success of PrideFest with a leadership style that had outlived its usefulness. Or, he may have fallen victim to the vicious internal politics that plague most corporations, from community organizations to Fortune 500 companies. Certainly, it may have been a combination of the two. There is no way to be certain at this point.

The one sure thing, however, is that PrideFest still exists and will continue to exist, if the Gay/Lesbian community is willing. PrideFest has undergone many changes since 1988, and will continue to change beyond the year 2000; but through it all, it will be our expression of pride to the greater community around us. In closing, as a confidential source stated to the Light, "With Bill or without Bill, it certainly is a wonderful, magnificent accomplishment. Things change. Get used to it." ▽

## RESEARCH

Continued from Page 1

eradicate the virus once it becomes established.

So far, all traces of virus have vanished from the men's blood. Their blood counts are returning to normal, and they have stopped producing AIDS antibodies.

"These data are very encouraging and absolutely crucial to going ahead," said Dr. Joep Lange of the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam.

Key to the therapy is a combination of two older AIDS medicines plus a new class called protease inhibitors. Many experiments are under way with different blends of these drugs, and several preliminary reports were presented at the 11th International Conference on AIDS.

The combinations can eliminate all measurable traces of HIV in the blood even when given to people who have been infected for several years. However, many doubt this approach will kill every trace of the virus after a long infection, especially if it has burrowed into the brain and other parts of the body that are hard to reach with drugs.

Dr. David Ho, another Diamond researcher, said that within two weeks of starting treatment, the three-drug approach kills all virus in the blood stream as well as infected cells that are producing new copies of the virus.

However, the virus lingers in disease-fighting T cells and macrophages. He estimated that it will take one to three years for all of the infected cells in these so-called viral compartments to die off.

"No patient has been cured," said Ho, "but we want to find out if it is possible or not to have each of the viral compartments burn out."

People frequently don't learn they are infected until many years after infection, when a blood test shows they are producing antibodies to HIV. However, the initial infection often causes a brief, flu-like illness that can be a sign of HIV.

The study subjects, all Gay men, suspected they had caught the virus and volunteered between last August and February. Tests revealed high levels of virus, so all began treatment within about two months of infection.

When the first volunteer finishes a year of therapy in September, doctors hope to sample his lymph nodes to search for traces of the virus. If none is found, they plan to stop giving the drugs and see what happens.

If the virus is still hidden somewhere in his body, the doctors expect it will soon start reproducing again and be detectable.

Lange speculated that it may be necessary to pump the virus-killing drugs directly into the central nervous system to hunt down lingering bits of HIV.

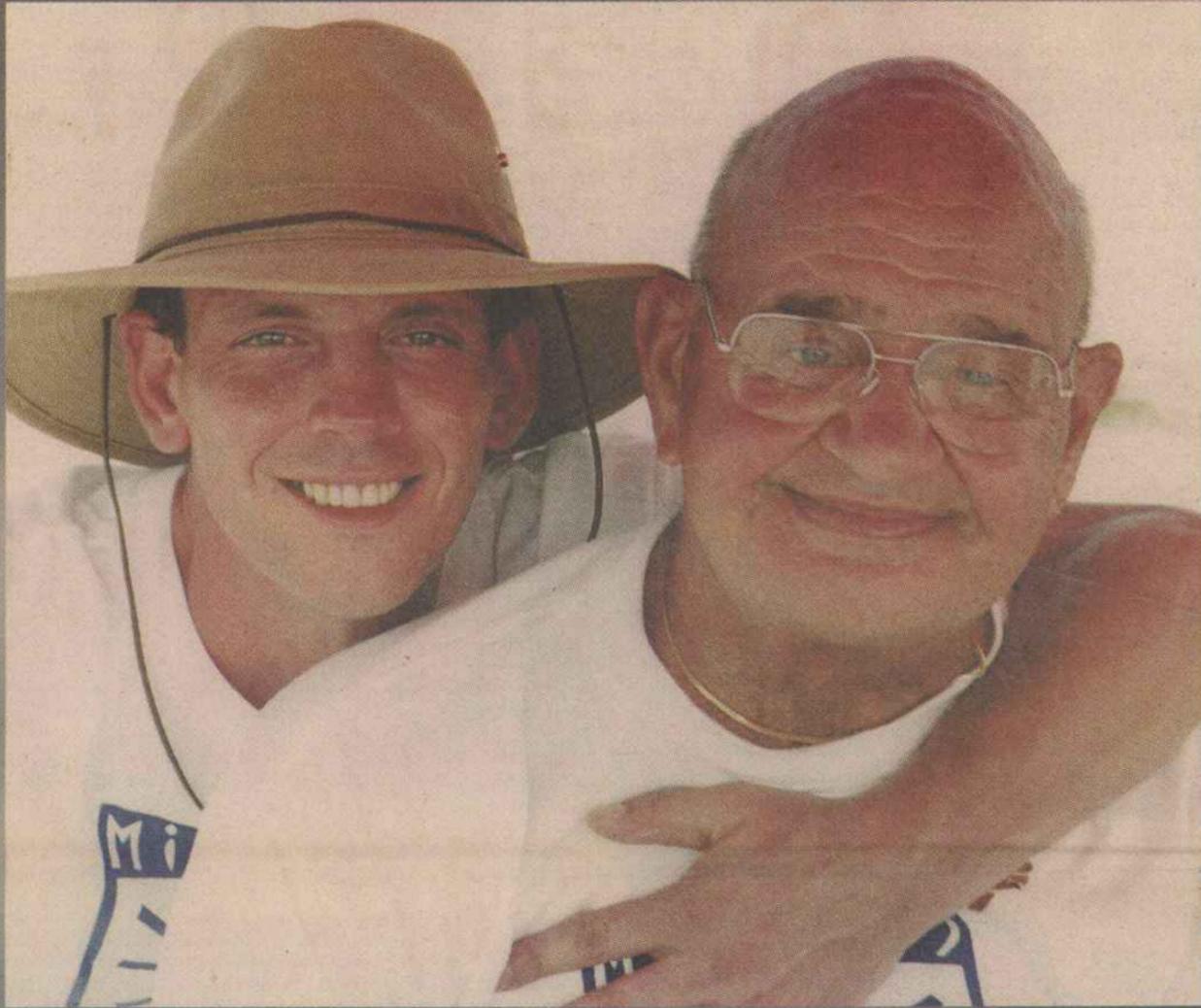
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