

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

The Wisconsin Light

'Science' Joins 'Time' In Hailing New AIDS Drugs as Breakthrough of 1996

Washington, DC— Research that led to new AIDS drugs and to a new understanding of how the virus infects cells has been named the "Breakthrough of the Year" for 1996 by *Science*, a leading scientific journal.

Evidence for ancient life on Mars is the first runner up in the annual selection by the journal of the top 10 research achievements of the year.

Other cited breakthroughs include development of a new type of laser, discovery that the Earth core spins faster than its surface, and findings in genetics, cell biology, the immune system and infectious disease.

Science said that 1996 brought "a series of stunning breakthroughs both in AIDS treatment and in basic research on HIV, the virus that causes the disease."

Drugs called protease inhibitors, which attack HIV in a new way, became widely available in 1996 for the first time. Studies showed that when combined with earlier drugs, the protease inhibitors caused the blood concentrations of HIV virus in some patients to drop to undetectable levels, a result the journal called "a major victory."

Equally promising, said *Science*, is the discovery that three natural proteins, called chemokines, will suppress HIV infection of cells. This finding "may one day blossom into new treatments or even vaccines," said the journal.

"Although AIDS remains a scourge of our era ... 1996 marks a turning point in the frustrating 15-year battle against the disease," *Science* said.

"Startling new answers" about how and where life began was considered by *Science* as the second most important breakthrough research of 1996.

The journal cited work by a NASA-led team reported in August that a meteorite from Mars contained chemical and fossilized evidence that microbes existed on the red planet millions of years ago. The conclusion still is hotly debated and no consensus supporting the NASA team has been reached among scientists.

Science also noted that research in Greenland found evidence that life on Earth appeared about 3.8 billion years ago. The journal said additionally that studies of a microbe that lives in the superheated water of a volcanic vent on the ocean floor shows that the organism belongs to a third domain of life because its genetic structure is unlike that of bacteria or of plants and animals.

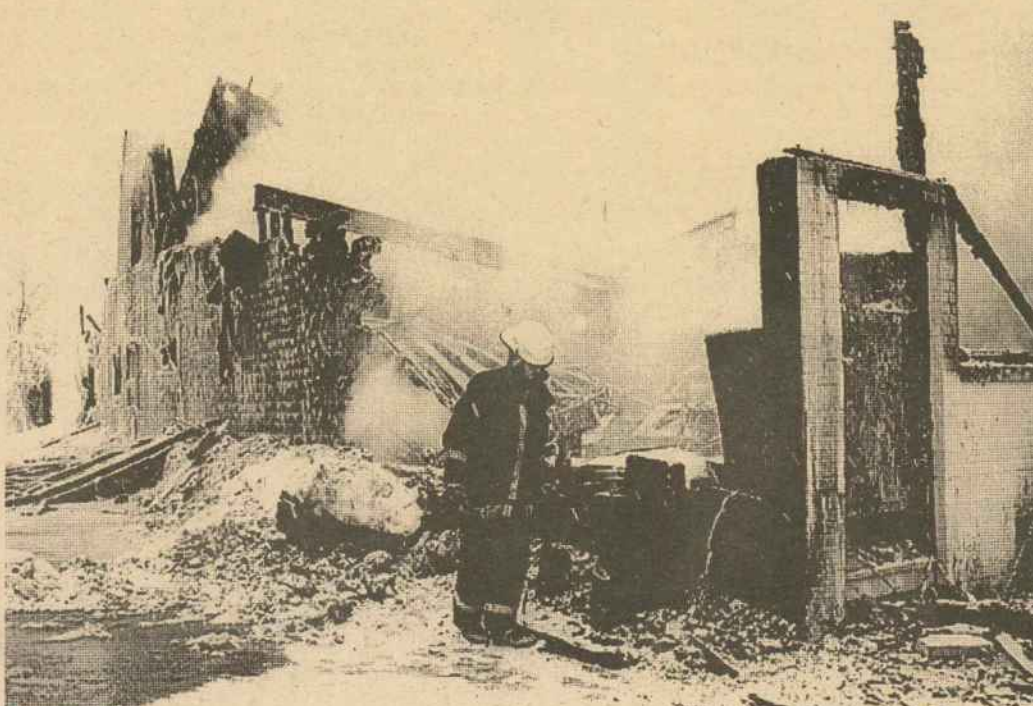
Other breakthroughs selected by *Science*:

Please See Drugs Page 5



Waving to the Masses - Madonna stars as Evita Peron, one of the most controversial women of the century in the new movie "Evita." The film has won rave reviews and five Golden Globes nominations. *The Wisconsin Light* is co-sponsoring a free special screening on Tuesday, January 7. To obtain tickets call (414) 372-2773. The screening will be followed by a *Wisconsin Light* SpotLight Madonna Party at La Cage. (See related stories on pages 8 and 9.)

Superior's Main Club Burns, Two Men Perish In Early Morning Fire



A tragic scene - A City of Superior Firefighter looks through the rubble of the still smoldering Main Club hours after an early morning fire completely destroyed the century old building housing Superior's first openly Gay bar. Two men, Laird Rengo, 40, of Duluth and "Troy Buchard, 32, of Superior, were unable to get out the building and died in the blaze.

Associated Press Photo

By Bill Meunier

Superior WI - An early morning fire of undetermined origin took Superior's popular Gay bar, the Main Club, and the lives of two Gay men in the early morning hours of Friday, December 27.

The blaze was reported shortly after 3:00 A.M. The Superior Fire Department arrived at the bar, which was located at 1813 N. Third Street within minutes, but the building was already engulfed in flames. As firefighters called for back up and worked to keep neighboring buildings from catching fire the Main Club burned to the ground.

Cause Undetermined

Fire investigators have not yet determined the cause of the fire, but have said that there is no evidence of arson. It may be weeks before the cause is known. Sources told *The Wisconsin Light* that it appeared as though the fire started in back of the building.

The building housing The Main Club was built in 1890. Its wood and brick construction was not fire resistant. The building had passed all Building and Fire inspections. The only violation found by City Inspectors was a missing address sign.

A Devastated Community

The loss has devastated the small tight-knit Gay community in what is known as "The Twin Ports Area" of Superior, Wisconsin and Duluth, Minnesota. Those two cities have a combined population of around 120,000 people. Many if not most area Gays and Lesbians came out of the closet at the Main Club.

"When there was no place else to go, there was the Main Club," said one patron, "We called it home because that's what it was for most of us. I've lost my home."

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US Quietly Granting Political Asylum to Some Lesbians and Gay Men

Hempstead, NY-- Even now, eight years later, Jose Cruz cannot speak calmly about the events that drove him from his homeland. His voice cracks, his shoulders heave and tears slide down his smooth, delicate cheeks.

By his account, Cruz was routinely raped, beaten and humiliated in El Salvador for being a "culero"—a "faggot"—despite his every effort to hide his sexual orientation and act straight, even macho.

Finally, threatened with death by paramilitary thugs, he fled to the United States and began life anew.

Now settled in the relative sanctuary of New York's Long Island suburbs, Cruz had pinned his hopes on what once would have been an impossibility: to be granted political asylum on the basis of his sexual orientation.

In the last week in November, he got his wish.

Since June 1994, when Attorney General

Janet Reno quietly cracked open the door to such cases, more than 40 Gay men and Lesbians have been granted asylum because of their sexual orientation—or, more accurately, because they are members of the "social class" of Lesbians and Gay men facing persecution.

More remarkably, at least one man, a heterosexual, has been granted asylum because he is HIV-positive—a diagnosis that, in other circumstances, could get him barred from the United States.

These cases, along with the far more public

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Designing Men Bringing Supermodel, Steve Kelso, to Milwaukee

Milwaukee--Designing Men, Milwaukee's Gay and Lesbian retail store, will be sponsoring a benefit for the Cream City Foundation. Calendar supermodel Steve Kelso will be visiting Milwaukee on January 11, 1997.

Kelso, who was interviewed by *Wisconsin Light*, is a former Colt model, now contracted under Eagle Studios. He is touring the country promoting his calendar as a vehicle to help raise money for AIDS and Gay and Lesbian organizations.

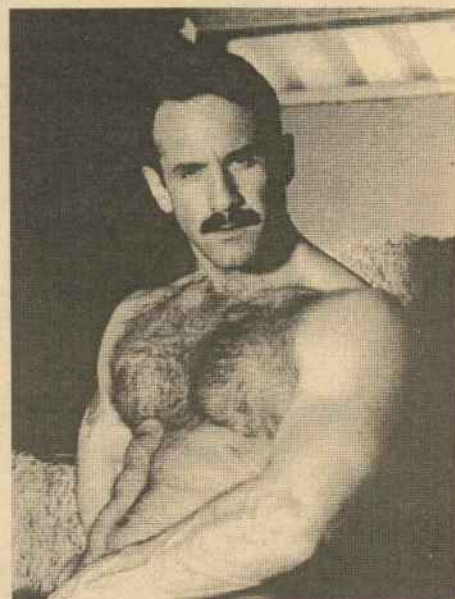
In Milwaukee, he will be raising money for the Cream City Foundation, whose philanthropic grants materially assist LesBiGay events and organizations.

"It's a pleasure to see a model as personable and out-going as Steve helping to support the important work of organizations across the country," said Bob Mazzacone, owner of Designing Men. "I am excited that we are able to provide yet another opportunity to raise funds for our community."

Kelso will be appearing Saturday, January 11th at three places in Milwaukee:

- **Designing Men**, 1200 S. 1st Street, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.;
- **This Is It**, 418 E. Wells Street, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.;
- **Mama Roux**, 1875 N. Humboldt, from 11:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

At each of the three locations, Kelso will be signing his calendars, posters, videos, CD-Roms and cards. These items will be



Steve Kelso

available for sale in all three locations.

In addition, Mazzacone, said, there will be tents set up to protect over-flow crowds from inclement weather.

For five dollars, attendees can also have their polaroid photo taken with Kelso. The photography is being done by Wauker photography of Milwaukee which is donating its services for the benefit.

A highlight of the Milwaukee tour will be the "51 Raffle" featuring a grand prize by Colt Studios of a complete Steve Kelso collection, all autographed. The winner need not be present to win.

All Proceeds will benefit the Cream City Foundation.

For more information, call Designing Men at (414) 389-1200.

News From The Nation



State Court Reverses Decision on Gay Conduct

Seattle, WA-AP- Ordering a Gay father not to display affection with a partner in front of his four children was going too far, a state appellate panel has ruled in overturning portions of a Whatcom County Superior Court decision.

"We hold that the trial court erred by restricting Ward (Wicklund)'s conduct based on his sexual orientation," said a December 23rd, ruling from the state Court of Appeals' Division 1 bench.

"The evidence showed only that the children experienced difficulty adjusting after their parents' separation," three justices wrote. "But where the only harm is adjustment, the remedy is counseling, not restrictions on the parents' lifestyle in terms of sexual orientation."

The appellate judges found the trial court had abused its discretion by restricting parental rights on grounds of sexual orientation. There was no evidence that Wicklund behaved inappropriately in front of his children, they noted.

Arizona Seeks to Ban Gay Campus Clubs

Phoenix, AZ-AP- State lawmakers past and present are proposing legislation to ban Gay organizations from high school and university campuses.

Under a plan patterned after Utah legislation, the Arizona Board of Regents would be required to bar any group that encourages "criminal or delinquent behavior" or "involves human sexuality."

School boards would be required to keep such organizations from meeting or having faculty sponsors.

Under a second proposal, sodomy would be raised from a misdemeanor to a felony.

Rep.-elect Karen Johnson, R-Mesa, one of the supporters of the proposals, said she has a problem with having tax dollars in effect sponsoring such groups.

"They (Gays) want to sodomize, and I don't want them recruiting (on campuses) for that," Johnson said. "I can work with a homosexual person ... on other issues, but when it comes to that issue I have my feelings."

Gay activist Charles Jamison said of Johnson, "She's so stupid she ought to be ashamed of getting up in the morning."

Woman Guilty of Killing Lover

Charles Town, WVA-AP- A jury rejected the claims of a Jefferson County woman who said her former Lesbian lover wanted to die because of a failed relationship with a man, convicting her of first-degree murder.

The jury initially deadlocked Monday, then returned 10 minutes later with the guilty verdict against Barbara Jean Milburn, 47, in the 1995 shooting of Judy Jenkins.

Milburn also was convicted of second-degree arson and two counts of giving police false information. Authorities say she set fire to a barn on Jenkins' property to throw investigators off track.

Authorities said Milburn confessed to the killing, telling them she first fired at Jenkins as she lay sleeping. Milburn then fired two shots more through the window of Jenkins' trailer after realizing the woman was not dead, they said.

In that confession, Milburn said the slaying a mercy killing.

She told authorities Jenkins wanted to die because her affair with Johnson Lykens, 70, of Charles Town, had failed. Lykens has since moved to Florida.

Authorities said the two women had a long-standing romantic relationship that fell apart when Jenkins, 51, began seeing Lykens.

Milburn's 15-year-old foster son also has been charged with murder. Police say he confessed to firing one of the shots at Jenkins.

AIDS Spreading in India

New Delhi, India-AP- AIDS is spreading in India despite efforts to teach people how to avoid the disease, a news agency reported.

Of 5,300 people studied during a three-year period, 10.2 percent of those who tested negative for the HIV virus that causes AIDS tested positive after a year, despite counseling they had received, Press Trust of India news agency reported Sunday.

The news agency cited the National AIDS Research Institute, which conducted the study that appeared in the current issue of the Indian Journal of Medical Research. The study included people who attended clinics specializing in sexually transmitted diseases.

Groups working in AIDS education in India say the country of nearly 1 billion has Asia's worst AIDS epidemic, with 1 million or more HIV cases.

Israel's President Apologizes to Gays

Jerusalem-AP- Israeli President Ezer Weizman apologized to Gays and Lesbians for his statements about homosexuality that prompted calls for his resignation, his chief aide said.

The outspoken president told high school students that homosexuality "disgusted" him and was "completely deviant." He added that "like alcoholism, I don't think we need to encourage it or say it is something wonderful."

The remarks drew harsh criticism. Liberal parliament members called for Weizman's resignation, and several hundred people held a candlelight demonstration outside the president's home Saturday night in protest.

Weizman met with about 10 representatives from Gay and Lesbian groups. "He asked to apologize for any public statement that might have offended anyone," said Arie Shumer, Weizman's spokesman.

Liberal Meretz Party leader Yossi Sarid, who mediated the 90-minute meeting, told Israel TV that Weizman's comments amounted to "incitement" against homosexuals. "He has caused a call for discrimination," he said.

Tal Yaros Hakak, a Gay rights activist, said while Weizman's retraction was a good sign, "his biased comments were representative of a homophobic society."

In Israel, consenting adults have the right to engage in homosexual relations and, under a landmark Supreme Court ruling in 1994, to get married. But many Gays complain society still lags behind the West in accepting them.

The 73-year-old Weizman, who plays a largely ceremonial but high-profile role, frequently courts controversy with his off-the-cuff pronouncements. A former air force commander, he outraged feminists by suggesting women were unfit for combat. Last year he conceded that "perhaps" he was a chauvinist.

Gay Civil Rights On Maine's Agenda

Augusta, ME-AP- Women's advocates, lobstermen and businesses that were just granted tax breaks will be watching the Maine Legislature carefully in the months ahead.

So will homosexuals, southern Maine commuters, video-gambling fans and advocates for the mentally ill.

Bills directly affecting these groups and dozens more will be considered during the session that begins in earnest January 7. Lawmakers will revisit some recent issues and deal with some that keep coming back, such as abortion and Gay rights.

Democrats, who hold the majority in the House and Senate, will be setting the agenda.

Gay civil rights are certain to be debated.

Lawmakers will likely be obliged to send to voters a citizen initiative to ban same-sex marriages in Maine and bar the state from recognizing Gay and Lesbian marriages performed in other states.

That issue could give extra volume to a related, but distinct, debate over whether to grant Lesbians and Gay men full protections from discrimination in employment, housing, credit and public accommodations.

A similar "Gay rights" act was passed by the House and Senate in 1993, only to be vetoed by then-Gov. John McKernan. King has said he would sign such a bill if it reaches his desk.

Half Million Brazilians Infected With HIV

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil-AP- Half a million Brazilians are infected with the AIDS virus, and millions more are at high risk of contracting the incurable ailment, a federal study reported.

The Health Ministry study is Brazil's first official attempt to seek an estimate of HIV-infected residents. Many had doubted the government's prior number of 94,997.

The report by the National Program for Transmissible Diseases/AIDS said 27 million Brazilians are at high risk to contract AIDS, and another 36 million are considered to be at a medium risk.

It said Brazil could have 7.5 million AIDS victims in the next decade.

"If we are going to combat this epidemic, we have to do it now," said Pedro Chequer, a health ministry official.

Chequer said the Health Ministry would spend \$300 million next year, distributing medicine and 250 million condoms and bringing AIDS awareness campaigns to the urban slums, where the disease is most rampant.

Last Month, Brazil became one of the few countries to offer a promising AIDS drug free to those who need it. The drug can cost as much as \$12,000 a year per patient.

Judge Endorses Gay Benefits Plan

Denver, CO-AP- A Denver judge on Thursday endorsed Denver's plan to provide benefits to partners of homosexual employees, rejecting claims that the city improperly redefined the role of "family" and "marriage."

Denver residents Paul Schaefer and Irene Tader had sought to block the benefits, saying the use of tax dollars for the benefit of homosexual partners was illegal.

Their attorney, James Rouse, said the state, not Denver, should determine the definition of a family and a marriage. And by creating benefits for the same-sex partners—a class called "spousal equivalents"—the city usurped that state function and violated the law.

But Denver District Judge Larry Naves said the city ordinance providing the benefits "doesn't even attempt to define what a family or marriage is, but simply extends the benefits" to additional people.

Forty-six people have signed up for the benefits, which began January 1. The program was set up by city officials this year.

Schmitz Files Appeal of Murder Conviction

Pontiac, MI-AP- A suburban Detroit man has appealed his conviction in the death of a fellow "Jenny Jones Show" guest. Attorney James Burdick said he filed the notice of appeal on Jonathan Schmitz's behalf Wednesday, December 18th.

Schmitz, 26, was sentenced to 25 to 50 years in prison December 4 in the shotgun slaying of Scott Amedure, 32. Three days earlier, on March 6, 1995, both men appeared on a "Jenny Jones" taping in which Amedure told the audience about his homosexual fantasies involving Schmitz.

An Oakland County jury found Schmitz guilty November 12 of second-degree murder, vindicating the defense's strategy that painted Schmitz as an emotionally unstable man who was victimized by talk-show ambush interview tactics.

Circuit Judge Francis X. O'Brien could have sentenced Schmitz to life in prison. Burdick said, however, that he believed the sentence Schmitz did receive was too harsh.

"I think the sentence was excessive and based in no small measure on the judge's anger at me for trying to get him recused," Burdick told *The Oakland Press*. "That's the only thing that explains a sentence so high."

O'Brien also made a "terrible mistake" by not instructing the jury that an argument by Assistant Prosecutor Roman Kalytiak was improper, Burdick said. Kalytiak told jurors to convict Schmitz out of their civic duty.

Burdick also said the judge erred by permitting the jury to hear the 911 tape in which Schmitz reported the shooting. That tape only inflamed jurors' emotions, he said.

Prosecutors said they doubted the appeal would succeed.

WISCONSIN AIDS RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

HIV THERAPY TRIALS OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT

Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium (WARC) is currently enrolling individuals with HIV/AIDS for participation in three trials of research drug therapies. These trials may advance scientific knowledge and future treatment of other individuals with HIV/AIDS.

TRIAL NO. 1 - REMUNE™

REMUNE™ is an experimental treatment intended to boost the body's natural immune response against HIV. In Phase I and II studies, REMUNE has so far been found safe and well-tolerated. The study compares the responses of individuals having equal chances of receiving REMUNE or placebo by injection every 12 weeks for up to 3 years.

ELIGIBILITY - If you are over 18 years of age, HIV positive, have a CD4+ count of 300-549, have had no prior investigational vaccine or immune-based therapy treatment and no changes in antiretroviral drugs or doses within the past 30 days, and have no history of or current AIDS-defining conditions except for Kaposi's Sarcoma, you may be eligible for this study.

TRIAL NO. 2 - DELAVIRDINE

This is a double-blind, randomized study. The study compares the responses of individuals taking varied doses of Delavirdine (DLV) and AZT, AZT and 3TC or a combination of DLV, AZT & 3TC.

ELIGIBILITY - If you are 14 years of age or older, HIV positive, have a CD4 count greater than 200 but less than 500, and haven't been on AZT more than 6 months, you may qualify for this study.

TRIAL NO. 3 - STAVUDINE PLUS DIDANOSINE

This is an open-label study of the safety and biological effects of Stavudine (d4T) taken in combination with Didanosine (ddI) in HIV positive patients who have had prior therapy with AZT.

ELIGIBILITY - If you are over 18 years of age, HIV positive, have a CD4 count between 100 and 500 and have taken AZT as single drug therapy for more than 3 months, you may qualify for this study.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ENROLLING IN THESE TRIALS, PLEASE CALL ARCW AT 414-225-1578.

ARCW

WISCONSIN AIDS RESEARCH CONSORTIUM IS A SERVICE AGENCY OF THE AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN, INC. (ARCW)

Wisconsin's Largest HIV/AIDS Library Serves State-Wide Need for Information

Milwaukee, January 1997 -- How many cases of AIDS have been reported in Wisconsin? What are the side effects of those highly publicized new drugs used in HIV and AIDS treatment? Are these drugs effective? Where can I be tested for HIV/AIDS? What is the federal allocation for research in this area? I'm writing a paper on AIDS for my social science class, can you help me find books or articles on this topic?

These are typical of the questions that the Wisconsin AIDS Library fields every day. Some of the questions arrive via telephone. Others by letter. And some on e-mail. Most are from people who just drop in. All are answered—some immediately, others after a search of library resources or after telephone calls or computer searches.

"Thanks to technology, we can answer questions or help people find information via e-mail anywhere statewide," said librarian Kathy Busch.

The Wisconsin AIDS Library e-mail number is kbusch@execpc.com.

"It would be wonderful if more people utilized this option for getting HIV/AIDS information from the library."

The Wisconsin AIDS Library occupies a sunny room at the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) in downtown Milwaukee. The building also is the home of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

Many visitors to the library are amazed to find that, in the course of a relatively few years, so many print and video resources are available on the broad topic of HIV/AIDS. These range from books, videos and scientific journals, to pamphlets and newspaper clippings, to statistical and research information.

The book section attracts browsers, with topics ranging from public policy and medical treatment to personal stories by people with AIDS.

Many of the resources are targeted to the medical and scientific communities; others are aimed at such groups as teens, children and people of diverse cultures. Several are in Spanish. The library distributes about 26,000 items each year.

This is a library anxious to distribute information on HIV/AIDS. Anyone can take out a book or video for two weeks at no charge. There's no fine if you're late in returning something.

An organization that takes out a video is asked for a \$10 donation, but this, too, is waived if the organization's finances are



Kathy Busch

"Time" Chooses AIDS Researcher, David Ho, as 'Man of the Year'

New York, NY—Time magazine's 1996 Man of the Year is AIDS researcher Dr. David Ho, who pioneered a treatment for HIV infection that has shown promise in beating back the deadly disease.

Ho, scientific director of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York, has fundamentally changed the approach to combating the AIDS virus, Time said in its December 30, year-ending issue.

Ho, a 44-year-old father of three, used a "cocktail" of antiviral drugs to combat the AIDS-causing virus, HIV, in early stages of infection. His work included using protease inhibitors to help clarify how HIV overwhelms the body's immune system, insights that helped treatment research focus on early stages of infection instead of later terms of the illness.

Ho "did not make the most headlines, but he helped make history," the magazine said.

The cost of Ho's "cocktail" treatment—up to \$20,000 a year—puts it beyond the reach of all but the best-insured patients. And Ho himself said he has only begun an experiment that might help a small group of men in the first three months of infection.

Still, Time said his work "might, just might, lead to a cure."

In 1996, 3.1 million people became HIV-infected, bringing the worldwide total to 22.6 million people living with HIV or AIDS, according to the United Nations.

Ho was born in Taiwan. His family moved to Los Angeles when he was 12.

tight.

However, while the library is not stringent in its rules, its funding is tight and therefore respect for the materials is key to future success.

College students writing papers regularly request searches on computer data bases. Online searches are done by librarian Kathy Busch or a trained volunteer. There's a \$3 charge for a computer search, plus 10 cents a page for copying the results.

Clients of MAP and of similar organizations around the state are other frequent library users, as are their families, professionals in various medical, social service and criminal justice fields, students and teachers, and church groups.

Businesses offering AIDS awareness programs also use the library. Other heavy users are staff members of Wisconsin AIDS service organizations.

"People so badly need and want information," Busch says. "People who have HIV need it. People who are in preventive services want it. They may not be able to find this information elsewhere."

"We have medical information, as well as information on alternative therapies and health maintenance," Busch adds. "People can come here and learn about relaxation and medication and nutrition. Drug information comes in daily. I get reports from the Centers for Disease Control every day."

Since she has access to the most current information, she sometimes gets calls from medical librarians. Her own pharmacist has

called with a question about new drug therapies.

The library, like the agency itself, was started by volunteers in the mid 1980s. "One of the volunteers decided we needed to have some material about AIDS, so we got a few subscriptions," Busch said.

From that tiny beginning, the library has grown to include subscriptions to 50 periodicals, a wall of books, another wall of journals and other periodicals, a clipping file, statistical and other information for use by professionals who deal with HIV and AIDS issues, more than 50 videos and shelves full of pamphlets and brochures.

Pamphlets, like the rest of the library's materials, cover a gamut of topics and some are targeted to specific groups. They're free, except for large orders. A directory of library resources, including pamphlets and videos, is available.

Busch especially enjoys helping students who come to the library for materials they can use in writing papers relating to HIV/AIDS. The students range all the way from grade school to graduate school. On one recent day, a nursing student dropped in to request a computer search for articles he could use for a paper about AIDS in pregnancy.

High school students are more likely to ask for materials on the causes and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Six volunteers work with Busch, along with graduate student interns from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Library and Information Science, where Busch earned her degree.

The Wisconsin AIDSLine, a statewide service staffed by volunteers, operates out of an adjoining room, and the two services often

forward calls to each other. The AIDSLine phone number is 800-334-AIDS.

The library, funded by the state because it is the largest source for HIV/AIDS information in Wisconsin, is open every weekday. For location, hours and other information, call (414) 225-1539.

Madison Man Becomes Operations Manager of "Drummer"

Madison—Robert Davolt, a founder of the Madison Unicorn Leather Club and the 1994 winner of the Wisconsin Levi/Leather Daddy Contest, has been appointed as the US Operations Manager for Drummer Magazine.

Davolt will be responsible for supervising the production of the monthly magazine, a photo and classified ad quarterly called Tough Customers and the company's various special publications.

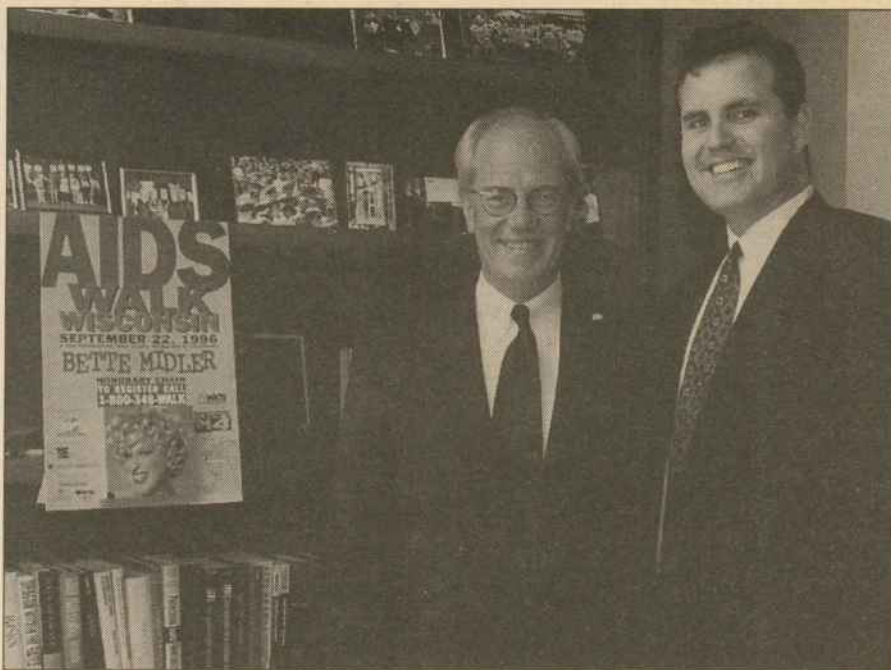
Drummer Magazine is the leading men's leather and S/M magazine. It includes erotic fiction and images as well as articles on safety, techniques, fetishes, travel and community news. Drummer has over 75,000 readers and is available at many Wisconsin leather bars and shops.

Davolt who will be based out of the Drummer offices in San Francisco has been involved in design, writing and publishing for most of the past 25 years.

Editors note: Look for some very interesting travel articles written by Robert to be run in this section in the near future.

Richard Strong—A Northwestern Mutual Employee Who Knows the Importance of Investing in the Future.

Like the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, for instance.



Doug Nelson (left), Executive Director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, with Richard Strong, Northwestern Mutual Life.

Richard Strong's involvement with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin has raised a lot of money and awareness of AIDS/HIV issues over the last five years. For the 1996 AIDS Walk, Strong served as co-chairman of outreach, recruiting as well as organizing and facilitating meetings to increase awareness of the event. During the four months preceding the walk, he volunteered about 30 hours per week. He also coordinated Northwestern Mutual's "Team for Life," comprised of 102 walkers and 55 volunteers. His efforts paid off on September 22, when 12,600 walkers raised over \$1 million for agencies that provide AIDS-related education, research and patient services.

Northwestern Mutual Life is proud to recognize Richard Strong for his volunteer work by donating \$5,000 to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

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Editorial

"Time Magazine's" Man of the Year

Time Magazine's naming Dr. David Ho as Man of the Year is highly encouraging. It brings HIV research and the pandemic itself into national prominence.

What is equally, if not more encouraging, is the fact that so many people with HIV/AIDS are being given hope and a renewed lease on life with the new combination therapies.

All that being said, there is a downside.

AIDS is growing throughout the world. In Africa, for example, the disease is out of control, while Asia is a time bomb about to go off. The new therapies are extremely expensive, far out of reach of those in developing countries. Even in this country, the cost is going to be a heavy burden on individuals and the public purse.

AIDS is still with us—and will be for the foreseeable future. Therefore, amidst the excitement, we think that a strong note of caution is in order. The new "drug cocktails" are no cure. The protease inhibitors may show us that the virus is not invincible, but they do not cure anyone of HIV.

People cannot forget condoms.

We cannot stop worrying about AIDS, not for a second.

There seems to be some opinion out there that "everyone knows about AIDS." This is not a fact. It is an assumption and we cannot rely on it. We must redouble our efforts to educate people—both young and old—about the disease and how it is prevented.

The Gay community has given and given again and again over the years to the fight against AIDS. We must not slacken. We must continue with our efforts. We cannot let apathy overcome. We cannot say, "Oh, well, the new therapies show light at the end of the tunnel, so we can ease off." We cannot do that. We dare not.

We cannot say, "Well, the agencies dealing with HIV/AIDS have all the money and volunteer help they need." They do not have nearly enough of either. Those of us who can must continue to give.

We must continue to strongly advocate increased government funding for AIDS. We know that there are those political leaders who think that the already burdened taxpayers and property owners should not be asked to foot the bill. We understand the thinking in this regard, but we consider it wrong.

AIDS is a very expensive disease, both in time and money (not to mention the untold wastage of human resources). Better that the taxpayers and property owners pay for education and prevention. It's cheaper in the long-run.

We must continue with our efforts at HIV prevention. We strongly advocate needle exchanges. Study after study has shown that needle exchange programs do not encourage drug use. The same studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of needle exchange programs in preventing HIV and its spread. Not to fully fund needle exchange programs is short-sighted and wrong-headed.

We think that everyone should practice safer sex and strongly encourage others to do the same.

We think it is also a "must" to encourage dating among our youth and committed, monogamous relationships for same-sex couples.

Dr. Ho's work and the work of others in fighting this disease is not to be denigrated or denied. Dr. Ho and his colleagues have given us hope. But it should be hope, not false optimism, the kind that would have us let down our guard.

Editor's Note

Sts. Sergius and Bacchus

By Terry Boughner

Recently a friend in Madison sent me a mailing he'd received. It was a lengthy letter from the Alliance Defense Fund soliciting money to help the Right Wing ministers who run it "reverse America's slide into moral anarchy."

I always read these sorts of things with a profound disgust at the bigotry the retail in the name of a God they obviously don't know very well. But I have a wry amusement too, at the sheer ignorance of whoever writes them.

For example, the writer of this one says

"America's founders were Christians." Oh, really?

Some of the founders were Christians. Others, like Thomas Jefferson, were not, at least not in the sense that Dr. D. James Kennedy or Don Wildmon would understand the term. These two men of the cloth—and others like them—should get a book on the Enlightenment and read it.

Nor did the founders establish a "Christian nation" as this and other of these letters assert. There is no state religion. The founders were well aware of the tyranny of state-backed churches and wanted none of

that here. Jefferson and others said that in their writings often enough.

Instead, what they wanted—and hoped to have—was a country where people lived in liberty, a condition defined by law. Everyone was to be equal before the law and everyone was to have equal access to the law.

At the time, (the late 18th century), the founders did not mean African-Americans or women, but only white men. Nevertheless, the principles of liberty and equality had been established and had to be fulfilled.

That fulfillment is not accomplished yet. Perhaps it never will be completely, but the ideal is there and is still as strong as ever.

The ideal of equality applies every area of life, including marriage.

Were marriage solely a religious function, the state would have no say in it. But marriage has not been relegated only to the churches. The state of being married has legal aspects to it. Therefore, by the ideal of equality under the law on which this country was founded, same-sex couples have as much right to access these laws as anyone else.

I would say to these ministers, "If you have certain rights under the laws, then I want them too. No religion is sufficient, no god is enough to deny me equality under the law."

Yuri and Robb

On December 21st, Yuri and Robb plighted their troth in a ceremony of love and commitment to each other. They are a loving couple. You can see that in their eyes when they look at each other. It's beautiful. It's like each was to the other, a rose to be treated with wonder and delight.

To say that the love that Yuri and Robb have for each other does not unite them is silly. To deny them as a couple the same legal rights that different-sex couple have is a travesty of the ideal of equality that makes America so nearly unique.

Wisconsin Anti-Gay Laws

State Rep. Lorrain Seratti and State Senator Scott Fitzgerald intend to introduce legislation in the coming session that would deny recognition to same-sex marriages. What these two are doing is trying to prevent equal access to the laws. As far as I'm concerned, they are trying to do this because 1) they don't know or understand the principles upon which this country is based; or 2) they're homophobes.

I would apply this reasoning to all those who support them.

The point of fact is that this country is a country of inclusion. Exclusion must be foreign to us. If it is not, we betray the very ideals that America promulgates to the world.

We cannot say, "Well, yes, all are equal. It's just that here in Wisconsin, some are more equal than others." (to paraphrase Orwell.)

If certain churches don't want to marry same-sex couples, so be it. Let them believe what they want (six impossible things before breakfast, if that suits them). But the people in those church have no right, absolutely no right, to deny me, or anyone, equal access to the law.

Sts. Sergius and Bacchus

Among the many Christmas cards Jerry and I received, there was one that I will save and put on my wall. (Thanks, Pat.)

On the front was a picture done in iconographic style of two very good looking young men. They stand arm in arm, looking at each other with loving, sad doe eyes.

The card identifies them as Saints Sergius and Bacchus. They were two 4th century Roman legionaries who, as history records, were lovers, Christians and, according to one source, were married in the church to each other.

As Christians, they refused to sacrifice to pagan gods. They were arrested, separated and tortured. Bacchus died first.

According to the story, when Sergius despaired, Bacchus appeared to him and told him to persevere; that in Heaven they would be reunited and live forever in God's light.

Action Wisconsin Meeting

On January 18, 1997, the Action Wisconsin Board of Directors will convene its monthly meeting at the Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project located at 505 Dewey St., S., Suite 107, Eau Claire, Wisconsin at 2:00 p.m. All interested people are invited to attend and contribute to the visibility of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered community in this state.

For more information, contact Action Wisconsin, P.O. Box 342, Madison, WI 53701, or call (608) 242-9781.

Action Wisconsin needs members, volunteers and additional Board members. Contact them if you are interested in working to improve the lives we have and the lives we hope to live.

As martyrs, they were canonized, the only two Gay saints, so far as I know.

When I got that card, I thought of Yuri and Robb, of Todd and Mark, of all the Lesbian and Gay couples who I know. Like Sergius and Bacchus, they are all icons to love. And, like the two saints, they are martyrs to it as well.

To say that two members of the same sex can't love each other is stupid.

To deny same-sex couples legal rights is a perversion.

Deadlines

January 16th Issue

Articles Friday, January 10th

Ads - January 13th

5:00 p.m.

January 30th Issue

Articles—Jan. 24th

Ads—Jan. 27th

5:00 p.m.

Caution

The fact that someone's name appears in this paper in no way implies sexual orientation.

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

The Wisconsin Light



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Urgent

Open Letter From Rep. Tammy Baldwin

I am writing because you are concerned about the equal rights of all citizens, and in particular the rights of Gay men and Lesbians. In December, we celebrated the wonderful news that a trial court in Hawaii ruled that Gay and Lesbian couples in Hawaii can marry. That ruling is now on appeal to the Hawaiian Supreme Court. It is anticipated that the Court will take a year to consider the case. It is also anticipated that we will win the appeal! The State of Hawaii will not be permitting same-sex couple to marry until the State Supreme Court issues its ruling.

In the wake of that great news has come an expected backlash from those who oppose our right to marry. Here in the State of Wisconsin, the backlash has come in the form of proposed legislation aimed at barring recognition of same-sex marriages. Two separate proposals will be introduced in the 1997-1998 session of the legislature.

One proposal offered by State Rep. Lorraine Seratti changes states law to bar recognition of same-sex marriages.

The other proposal offered by Senator Scott Fitzgerald aims to amend our state constitution to ban same-sex marriages. Lorraine Seratti is already inviting other legislators to join in her efforts.

I will be offering legislation to legally recognize same-sex marriages in Wisconsin. I am doing so in order to promote a fair and balanced debate on the issue.

I am writing to ask your help in fighting these two anti-Gay proposals and in encouraging support for same-sex marriages in Wisconsin.

I will need help from citizens across the state. Legislators are highly influenced by communications from the people they represent. Please contact your State Representative and your State Senator and encourage your friends, relatives and co-workers to do the same.

You can contact them by phone, in writing, by email or in person. If you do not know who your State Representative is, you can find out by calling the toll free legislative hotline at 1-800-362-9472. You can leave a message for your Representative and Senator through the hotline. You can also contact your legislators anonymously if you need to.

Please let your legislators know that you support marriage rights for Gay and Lesbian citizens. Ask them not to sign on to anti-Gay legislation. If at all possible, I would appreciate hearing the results of your lobbying. That way I will know which of my colleagues is willing to help.

The 1997-'98 legislative session will run from January, 1997 through the late spring or early summer of 1998. That means that we will have to fight these anti-Gay bills for a long time.

It is possible that any of these bills could be scheduled for public hearing later in the session. If that happens, it will be vital that many Gay and Lesbian individuals and couples, as well as many allies of the Gay community, come to Madison to testify. Public hearings are often scheduled on short notice. I will do my best to let you know if hearings are scheduled.

Now is the time to act!

Unlike the Old Days, Milwaukee Police Hit the Streets with Training on LesBiGay Issues

By Sue Burke

More than half the Milwaukee police officers on active duty today -- 1,200 men and women -- have been trained on LesBiGay issues by LesBiGay volunteers. During the training, the officers can ask any questions they want, examine their own stereotypes, and consider how respond to situations involving hate crimes, domestic violence, and routine cases like apartment burglaries.

The training began as a result of a mayor's Commission on Police-Community Relations created after the Jeffrey Dahmer murders were discovered, said Karen Gotzler, a training volunteer, co-chair of the LesBiGayTrans Community Center Project, and a board member the Human Rights League (HRL). She headed a committee that researched LesBiGayTrans issues, looked at practices in other departments around the country, conducted surveys, organized a hearing, and finally submitted a 600-page report to the commission offering proposals on recruitment, hiring, training, and supervision of police officers.

"The mayor's commission adopted almost all of our recommendations, probably 98 percent," Gotzler said. "They have not all been put into practice, but one of the things that did result was an entre, to go into the Police Academy and present them with a curriculum that we designed that addressed awareness and professional issues related to Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual citizens."

Training started in 1992 with the support of the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM) and HRL.

Has it made a difference? It has influenced the department, according to Mary Messerlie, one of the trainers and an active member of LAMM and the Cream City Foundation (CCF). The officers appreciate the training, too. "We're invited back time and time again," she said, "and we've gotten high ratings from the recruits."

Over the years, the training has become less of a confrontation and more of a partnership, Messerlie said.

"We've changed from going in there and pointing our fingers and saying 'Don't do this' to saying, 'We're here to give you the kind of information you need to do the best job possible,'" said Stephanie Hume, a HRL board member who has been working as a liaison to the Police Department for four years. These changes, she thinks, come from a shift in societal attitudes, a growing belief that discriminating on the basis of race or sexual orientation or other attributes is unprofessional, and a growing education level among police recruits. More of them are college graduates. They already know the words "faggot" or "bulldike" aren't acceptable.

These days, the recruits themselves know more about LesBiGay people -- enough to help their fellow officers along, said Scott D. Gunkel, co-chair of HRL and a member of CCF. If a police recruit brings up a stereotype, "they'll have other recruits jumping all over them telling them it's not true, that they know people personally or have met people who are not in the stereotype, so they reinforce what we hope to teach without us having to say it."

Because of that, Messerlie added, the training had to be changed and made more challenging. "These guys stepped up to the plate, and we needed to bring them to the next level."

Each session starts with the facilitators introducing themselves, and the training committee tries to have at least six to eight facilitators at each session, as varied as possible in age, gender, experiences, cultural

backgrounds, jobs, and other areas. "That shows them that we really are everywhere," Hume said.

The class, usually about 60 recruits, breaks into small groups, each with a facilitator, to discuss in groups and later as a class their beliefs about homosexuality. "There's a certain novelty of a bunch of Gays and Lesbians standing there and saying, 'Ask anything you want,'" Messerlie said. "And indeed they do. Time and time again that is undoubtedly one of the most valuable parts to the training."

They asked UWM student Tammy Beyreis about coming out to her friends and her experiences on campus. They asked Margaret Flood, co-chair of HRL, if it was a choice or innate to be Gay and Lesbian. They asked Randy Neff when he knew he was Gay, and "kind of blew up" when he said he knew when he was five years old. They ask about Gays and Lesbians as role models and parents, Gunkel said.

Eventually, the recruits ask about Gay and Lesbian attitudes toward the police, and the training shifts focus, with videos and handouts, to help them apply what they've learned.

"We focus on helping them to be able to discriminate appropriately," Neff said. "We give them some situations to think about, particularly helping them increase their sensitivity to potential hate crimes and to gather appropriate data to evaluate potential hate crimes, but also not to overemphasize sexual orientation when it's irrelevant."

They also get a list of resources for counseling, sexual assault services, and runaway programs so if they encounter a Gay person who needs help, they can suggest appropriate help.

The training can't change attitudes, Hume added. "What we say, though, is that there are consequences to your behavior." Unprofessional action on the job could result in being fired or facing criminal charges. "The days of beating people up and deciding who was morally OK and who wasn't by the Police Department is not longer publicly acceptable," she said.

Committee volunteers differ on how much difference the training has made on the department. They know of a few Lesbian officers, but no Gay men yet, who are out to their co-workers or immediate supervisors. Trained officers are rising through the ranks, and top officers, such as former Chief Philip Arreola, who attended PrideFest, are sending a supportive message down the ranks at the same time. Officers run into trainers at non-Gay events or business, and see that Gays, Lesbians, and Bisexuals are part of the regular citizenry.

The committee hopes to expand its work to help with Milwaukee Police Department in-service training and to train Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department officers.

More volunteers to help with the training would be welcome. Volunteers get instruction and must be able to attend the Police Academy class sessions, which are held during the day. The Academy usually has two or three classes per year. The committee especially needs volunteers who are male or people of color.

Interested volunteers can call Hume at (414) 549-4149 or contact LAMM or HRL.

Hume volunteers for the personal satisfaction. "There's always one person in a class that I feel is going to be a damn good cop," she said, "and I feel good that I've had a chance to work with that person, and I know that person's going to make a difference in people's lives when he or she hits the streets."



Wedding Bells - The Kenwood Methodist Church in Milwaukee was the site of a Gay wedding on Saturday December 21. The ceremony was followed by a wonderful reception at Just Us. Shown above L-R are Groom/Bride Rob Gerpoltz, MCC Minister Ted Berg and Bride/Groom Yuri Koegstra. Rumor has it that they are planning a honeymoon trip to the Caribbean (Don't you just hate them for that!)

dinating all outreach activities relating to the major ARCW special events. This includes developing a strong team of volunteer outreach specialists who are responsible for team building, ticket selling, special event/prevention community outreach booths and street outreach for all events. You will also be responsible for enlisting, training and supporting over 60 volunteers working on special event outreach committees. The special events outreach coordinator must determine appropriate target markets, coordinate all street outreach efforts and network among corporate, school system, health care field, politicians, salons, retailers, Gay and Lesbian community, etc. to secure support for ARCW events.

This position requires a bachelor's degree with a minimum of two years experience in a similar environment with skills gained in marketing, resource development, planning, sales and volunteer support. In addition, strong organizational, excellent writing and good communication skills are required. Knowledge and sensitivity to HIV/AIDS and related issues is necessary.

If you are interested in finding out more information about either of these positions or would like to apply, please call Chris Weidner at (414) 225-1576.

ARCW is the Midwest's largest private, non-profit AIDS service agency dedicated to the fight against the worsening AIDS epidemic through prevention, care, research and advocacy.

DRUGS

Continued Page 1

3. Prions, or proteinaceous infectious particles, became hot research targets because scientists suspect them of causing bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, in British cattle. BSE is thought to be related to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, crippling neurological disorder of humans. Discovery of BSE in the cattle led to a ban in Europe of British beef imports and prompted a \$63.5 million research program into prions and BSE.

4. Every major scientific publication and thousands of researchers have moved into cyberspace, using the computer internet to exchange information and to publish new findings.

5. Laser researchers made the first blue-light laser from gallium-nitride semiconductor chips, a development that could lead to a quadrupling of information storage in computer disks.

6. Researchers were able to form protein

MAP Needs Your Help

Milwaukee-- Volunteer opportunities exist at the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) to provide support for people with HIV/AIDS. Especially needed are evening and weekend Gay and Lesbian bar outreach volunteers who are 21 or older and have a car.

Other volunteers opportunities include:

- Daytime volunteers needed for the food pantry;
- Daytime volunteers needed for transportation;
- Daytime volunteers needed for Survival/Revival resale shop;
- Thursday evening volunteers needed for completing agency administrative projects;
- Evening and weekend practical support volunteers needed to help MAP consumers with HIV/AIDS perform basic household chores like doing the laundry or shoveling snow.

For more information, please call (414) 225-1556. Financial or large item donations are also needed for the Survival/Revival resale shop. To make a donation to the resale shop, please call (414) 291-2856.

crystals from the molecules that make up receptors on the surface of T lymphocytes. This advance will help scientists design drugs that will affect the way these immune system cells respond to disease.

7. From 30 years of data, researchers conclude that the iron core of the Earth spins slightly faster than the crust of the planet. The difference is enough to give the core a full turn ahead of the rest of the planet every 400 years.

8. European researchers have sequenced 12 million base pairs that contain the entire 6,000 gene pattern of baker's yeast. This single cell fungi is a favorite research tool for learning about the function of genes, including some that animals and yeast have in common.

9. Studies of animal embryos are helping research find the proteins that cause cells to differentiate into the appropriate organs.

10. Researchers in 1996 found new genes that play in the programmed death of cells. It is now clear that each cell has genes that order the cell's suicide under certain conditions and that failure of this function may play a role in cancer.

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Employee Shifts At MAP Open Two New Job Opportunities at the A.S.O.

Milwaukee -- As a new year begins, so too do many new changes. The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Inc. (ARCW) is no exception. Included in these changes are career moves for Patrick Flaherty and Roland Hoffmann who are both starting 1997 in new positions.

Hoffmann, who had been the special events outreach coordinator, decided to pursue the opportunity to work once again in the travel industry, which included moving to Chicago, Illinois.

Flaherty, who had been the special events assistant at ARCW, has been promoted to the public grants coordinator position.

With these two employee shifts, comes the opportunity for two new individuals to work for the Midwest's largest private, non-profit AIDS service agency.

The two available positions of special events assistant and special events outreach coordinator are in the Special Events Department. This department raises over \$1.2 million dollars a year and reaches out to the

entire state of Wisconsin.

These positions offer a chance for personal and professional growth while joining the fight against HIV/AIDS and are key to the success of ARCW events which include AIDS Walk Wisconsin and the Make a Promise dinner.

The **special events assistant** position is responsible for providing professional support services for the Special Events Department of ARCW. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to: coordinating information systems, mailings, meeting notices and committee records; maintain in-kind donor records and mailing lists; maintain R.S.V.P. and ticket information; coordinate third-party fundraising events; and supervision of volunteers and interns. You must have computer skills already developed.

The **special events outreach coordinator** is responsible for all outreach activities for ARCW special events. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to: coord-

Gay Man With AIDS Court Case Could Change The Way Americans Die

New York, NY— He had such hopes for his death, such plans.

But now only George Kingsley's fears had come true. He was dying slowly, on a soiled mattress, in a dim, stinking, cramped apartment, surrounded by exhausted, bickering relatives.

He had lived an orderly life and, after he got AIDS, he had wanted an orderly death. He had wished to go, he wrote, "as swiftly and painlessly as possible ... with people I love around me helping to make my passing easier and more dignified and meaningful."

So he made plans to overdose on prescription drugs when his time came, and he filed a lawsuit asserting his constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide.

Two years later, that case could change how Americans die. The Supreme Court will hear arguments January 8 and issue a decision by July.

George Kingsley died before his case went to court, but he didn't have to die so badly. He was a sophisticated, affluent New Yorker who could have killed himself relatively easily and quickly, as he had planned.

Since he did not, we must wonder if this spokesman for assisted suicide would have used the right if he had it. In the end, did something else matter more? Reconciliation? Martyrdom? Revenge?

There is a mystery and complexity to Kingsley's death the justices will not take up, which is just as well. What the plaintiff truly sought was a good death, and that is something no court has the power to grant.

Not Going Gently

George Kingsley wanted to choose the terms of death as he'd chosen those of life: He left a Catholic preparatory seminary in Chicago and attended the University of Illinois, joined TWA so he could travel, worked in publishing so he could live in New York City.

There, he was cherished for his addiction to detail, in the phone mail system he ran at work and in the parties he threw at his studio apartment.

His guests were people like himself, Gay men with respectable jobs. Everything was well-planned: the guest list, the champagne (Perrier Jouet), the lighting, the tape-recorded music. The host doted on each arrival, making sure he had an introduction and a drink.

But the parties ended in 1993 when Kingsley got AIDS. He developed chronic fevers and diarrhea. "Everything hurt all the time," he would recall, "24 hours a day." He felt cold, tired, yet still dragged into work. He was losing 2 or 3 pounds a day.

Kingsley thought of a friend with AIDS who'd wanted to go to the Netherlands to end his life legally with medical help, but got too sick to travel.

"The sounds of his crying out in pain echo in my memory," he later wrote. "I wanted to kill myself to put him out of his misery. (But) both of us had to suffer to the end. Such suffering for the living is exhausting, and affects the quality of the living person's life thereafter."

Kingsley called Rodger McFarlane, an executive with several AIDS organizations who had helped hasten the deaths of two terminally ill relatives. It was 80 degrees when they met outside the Empire Diner, and Kingsley was wearing an overcoat.

"I want you to help me kill myself," he said. George being George, he wanted to die before the September rent was due.

McFarlane knew his friend wasn't ready to die, but also knew not to argue. He outlined what he called the "protocol": go to the doctor, get a prescription painkiller, but don't take it all; then go back, ask for a more powerful one, and again, save some. Keep working up the pharmacological ladder, without the doctor's explicit collaboration.

But first, see a doctor, McFarlane insisted. The doctor diagnosed an intestinal parasite, and Kingsley's condition stabilized. But he still wanted to kill himself when the time came.

In the spring of 1994, a year after his

meeting with McFarlane, he told *The New York Times* he had gathered the necessary drugs.

Knowing he could commit suicide "has made my every day better," he said. "It has diminished my horror—as though I was facing an enemy on a battlefield stark naked, and now I have armor."

A right-to-die group, Compassion in Dying, was seeking terminal patients to join doctors in challenging state laws against physician-assisted suicide. Kingsley knew it probably was too late to help him, but readily signed on. "I want to do as much as I can for as many people as I can," he said.

The suit was filed in July 1994. A phrase in Kingsley's declaration stands out: "I see no point in putting my loved ones through the emotional wringer of having to watch me suffer for a prolonged period of time, with nothing but the strangers who attend patients in hospitals to meet my dwindling abilities to perform my bodily functions."

He advocated his cause on television, and spoke excitedly of it to friends. It gave meaning to his suffering, they agreed.

By now he was the last survivor of the patient-plaintiffs. He was weak, pale, emaciated; the gap between his neck and shirt collar yawned like the jaws of death. He had lost almost all sight in his left eye. His medicines caused cramps and bloating; the injections were excruciating.

He had stopped eating solid food. His skin, once the joy and envy of his lovers, was cracking like old paper. He had no immune system to speak of.

On October 12, 1994, Kingsley's doctor admitted him to Cabrini Medical Center. At 2:00 a.m., the patient left in what was termed an "unauthorized departure"—against medical advice.

Rodger McFarlane found Kingsley at home. He had walked out, he said, because his meal tray wasn't delivered on time. But you haven't had an appetite in months, McFarlane thought. He made some soup.

"What do you want to do, George?" McFarlane asked. "Call the doctor?" Begin the suicide protocol?

"I'm not that sick yet," Kingsley replied. "I'm going to stay here."

"What are you going to do?"

"I'll stay in bed and get weaker. Then I'll die."

"Who's going to take care of you?"

"I want my mother."

McFarlane was shocked at the change in plan. Kingsley's relationship with his mother, Gladys Kamradt, 75, of Phoenix, had been difficult. His homosexuality had been a source of friction; one night, back in Chicago, he'd been beaten up in the car by his father. After that, he changed his name to Kingsley.

The son reopened communication with his parents before his father died, but resentment lingered, Kingsley's friends say. When he'd tell his mother about a friend with AIDS, she'd talk about shopping. He called her "Lady MacBeth" behind her back.

But now he phoned her and his younger brother Jack, who lived near San Francisco and was himself HIV-positive.

McFarlane was worried. George Kingsley clearly was ready to die, but he suddenly lacked a plan for doing so.

Instead of a neat suicide, the dying man wanted a family reunion. But his was a family with a history of emotional conflict and no training in caring for the terminally ill.

Did he hope to resolve old conflicts? To make his mother witness his final suffering? To become a martyr?

This much is clear: By calling his mother and brother to New York, Kingsley created the scenario he claimed to have feared most. He was about to put his family through a real "emotional wringer" a gruesome, three-week vigil in the apartment he once filled with music and laughter.

Death and the Family

When Jack and Gladys Kamradt arrived at 66 Madison Ave. and rang the door of 8L, it took several minutes for the resident to answer the door. They were shocked: George looked like he weighed 70 pounds.

The next day, Jack offered him a liquid dietary supplement. George took a sip, said "Yuck!" and pushed the glass away. He never ate again, never drank more than a few sips of Hi-C through a straw, never took his medicines.

Jack called Leonard, the oldest of the three brothers, in Arizona: "You better get here. He's going fast." When Leonard arrived and saw George's condition, he asked, "What do we do?"

Jack handed him two \$20 bills, gave directions to a liquor store and said to come back with two bottles of cognac.

That was how Jack coped: "I'd sit and start drinking and feel bad for myself. ... I couldn't even look at my brother without

being half in the bag."

His relatives say they will never forget the last time George got out of bed. He collapsed en route to the bathroom, diarrhea running down his leg.

Gladys screamed, thinking it was blood; Jack lifted George and passed him to Leonard while he ran to get water to clean his brother up.

Leonard dropped George on the floor, and Gladys screamed. "You're both worthless!" Jack snapped. He threw a wet towel at his mother, cursed, and yelled, "Get me a bucket of water!"

It took 90 minutes to move George back up the ladder into his loft bed. The mattress was soaked with urine and feces.

Later, McFarlane urged George to send his family home and bring in nurses. "They need to be here," he whispered. "I have things to say to them."

But he said little; he'd begun to receive morphine suppositories for his pain, and the world was fast receding. Gladys sat by his side and held his hand. There was warmth, but the old issues—his pride, her prejudice—went unspoken.

When Bill Silver, a friend, came to visit, "George said 'hello' and that was it," he says. "He just stared. He didn't look like himself. He seemed totally out of it. I stayed for an hour, and I'm not sure he recognized me."

His relatives tried to make him comfortable. They brushed the chalky fungus that had spread inside his mouth. They draped a shower curtain around the bed to create a private enclosure and covered the creaky hardwood floors with throw rugs.

Jack brought George a leaf from Madison Square Park to show the seasons were changing. "What else could we do?" he asks.

Day after day, Jack stared at his own probable fate. Gladys faced a mother's age-old fear, a child who doesn't eat, but tried to pretend all was well. Leonard withdrew, shaken.

"I felt like pouring a bottle of morphine down his throat," says Jack. But there was no sign his brother had squirreled away suicide drugs. All he found was a well-thumbed copy of the suicide guide *Final Exit*.

Gladys slept on a small couch, her sons on the floor, their rest disturbed by George's moans. They ate in shifts at a greasy coffee shop. Even when they went together, there was little conversation and no mirth.

"We were quarreling like people in a lifeboat," Jack says. He told his mother that if she didn't leave, he would; exhausted, Gladys flew home.

Jack says he told George, "It's the virus that's doing this to you. Die and you'll get back at the virus." George, he says, nodded. "He needed permission to die, and I gave

New AIDS Drugs Bring Fresh Hope to Milton Man and His Wife

Janesville, WI—A Milton, Wisconsin man who once lived every day thinking he would be dead in six months has more hope thanks to new AIDS medications.

"I feel alive again," Michael Johnson, 34, said. "I didn't know how sick I was until I got better. I think there were some days that I got through on sheer willpower alone."

Johnson, who has AIDS, is well-known for his talks on the terminal disease. He napped often because he was tired, ached all the time and always felt nauseous.

But five months ago, his doctor put him on a combination of new AIDS medications. The results are "nothing short of miraculous," Michael says.

In 1991, Michael and his 32-year-old wife, Sherie, tested positive for HIV. Michael contracted the disease from a former girlfriend before he met his wife and then unknowingly infected her. In the years since, Michael and Sherie have crossed the country, talking mostly to teen-agers about the disease and how not to get it.

Now a second generation of powerful new anti-AIDS drugs is giving them and millions of others like them dramatic new hope for life.

Since the early 1980s, a diagnosis of HIV-positive has been an automatic death sentence, which hangs over a million men, women and children in America and 21 million worldwide.

For years, people with the disease had only one drug option, AZT. Today, they have nine, which can work in more than 100 different combinations. Mike is taking AZT along with two new drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration within the last year.

They are 3TC and saquinavir. Both attack the AIDS virus's capacity to replicate.

Six months ago, the number of virus cells in Mike's blood far exceeded what doctors consider life-threatening because of its ability to decimate the immune system. With the new drug combination, the number of

it."

The next evening, Wednesday, Nov. 10, Jack put on a tape he'd made of soothing music. "I put my arm around him, stroking his beard. I said, 'How you doin', pal?' He didn't look so good." They listened to "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

Then George A. Kingsley, 48, stopped breathing. His eyes stared at the ceiling. Jack didn't know how to close them.

A few days later, Jack sat at the airport bar, a box with his brother's ashes on the next stool. He drank one cognac after another, "until I was numb enough to get on the plane."

The following month, a federal judge upheld New York's law against doctor-assisted suicide. The plaintiffs' lawyers said they would appeal.

George always said he wanted a party instead of a funeral. So the following spring, Rodger McFarlane, his executor, used money from his estate to buy a case of Perrier Jouet. About 20 of George's old guests gathered to toast "a host extraordinaire."

Postlude

As George Kingsley had warned, a bad death afflicts the living as much as the dead—and longer.

Gladys Kamradt returned home disoriented, and lost the keys to her trailer. Shortly thereafter, she suffered a heart attack.

Jack, a heavy drinker to begin with, says the vigil made him an alcoholic.

"This was death over and over for 22 days," he says. "A family shouldn't have to go through what we did. What's the point?"

The lawyers who argued George's case tell reporters he had to starve himself to death for lack of a legal alternative. But they got their information from Jack, who concedes George never said he was starving himself.

His mother believes her son was too sick to eat, and Rodger McFarlane agrees. His explanation seems most likely: George Kingsley got too sick too fast, and lost the will to eat or live or kill himself. His last impulse was to reach out to his mother, for whatever purpose.

Even at the end, he says, George didn't have to starve himself: "He knew plenty of people who'd kill him, people with good lawyers."

Was he a martyr to his cause? Or a victim of the confusion and conflict that attend death? Did he need a fatal dose of Seconal or a good hospice?

McFarlane views his friend's death not as an argument for assisted suicide, but as a reminder of the perils of our final passage.

"At one point I thought, 'This is pretty damn close to what you didn't want, George.' But in the end, people die the way they're gonna die."

HIV cells in his blood has fallen steadily, he said.

"I have more hope than I've ever had," says Frank Graziano, the leading AIDS doctor at University Hospital in Madison.

"This is a new era in the treatment of AIDS, but we don't know where we're going yet. It's too early to talk about a cure."

He cautions that the powerful drugs are so new that no one knows how long they will keep working or if they can be taken for a lifetime without dramatic side effects.

In several ongoing studies, patients who started three-drug regimens early in the course of infection still have undetectable levels of HIV in their blood after a year or more.

Sherie, whose disease is not as advanced as Mike's, is considering asking her doctor for a combination of powerful new drugs as a preventive measure. But opinions are mixed on whether to bring out the big guns right away.

Whatever happens, the Johnsons say they will continue to live what they call "a normal life."

"Five years ago, I put so many limits on myself because I didn't know what was going to happen. I thought every Christmas could be my last," Sherie said.

"Now I do the same things that everyone else does."

This year, she let Mike alone do most of the educational talks, which support them financially. And she pursued things that she's always wanted to do, including learning how to ice-skate and tap dance and watching over the building of their new Milton house.

"It's amazingly optimistic for people with a terminal disease to be building a new home, isn't it?" Mike says. "But you have to ask yourself: 'How can I live every day? How can I maximize every day?' All of our lives are transitory. If people out there learn anything from us, I hope it is that their lives are what they want them to be."

Frontiers Schedule

- Jan. 7—7:30 p.m. Activity planning for February events.
- Jan. 11—7:00 p.m. Bridge for Everyone.
- Jan. 15—7:30 p.m. Film Circle "Parting Glances."
- Jan. 21—7:30 p.m. Man to Man Rap.
- Jan. 31—6:00 p.m. Dining out at Greenbush bar & Grill, 914 Regent Street.

For locations of functions and membership information, please call David at (608) 274-5959.

Frontiers is Madison's Social Organization for Gay & Bisexual Men.

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One Year Later, No Sign of Baboon Cells, But AIDS Patient is Thriving

Oakland, CA— Jeff Getty used to measure his strength by how far he could push his AIDS-weakened body up a favorite mountain trail. If he could reach the second waterfall, that was good. The third was better.

In June, six months after receiving a transplant of baboon bone marrow, the former Waterford, Connecticut man headed back to the 2,500-foot trail.

"I went all the way to the top of the mountain. It blew me away," he said.

As he nears the anniversary of the December 14, 1995, transplant, Getty is celebrating "the best year I've had in about 5 years." He's gained 15 pounds, lost his chronic asthma, skin rashes and lung infections and built up rock-solid biceps.

But Getty is quick to point out his recovery probably has little to do with the baboon cells that prompted so much debate over the moral and medical implications of cross-species transplants.

Baboons don't get AIDS. The idea behind the transplant was that the AIDS-resistant baboon stem cells might take root in Getty's bone marrow to produce AIDS-fighting immune-system cells.

That didn't happen. Baboon cells were found in Getty's body for only two weeks after the transplant.

Getty, who said he felt his breathing improve "the moment I walked away from the radiation table," credits his turnaround mainly to the radiation phase of the treatment and a new class of drugs called protease inhibitors that have revolutionized AIDS treatment.

"That's probably really what we've learned here. We've learned that chemotherapy and radiation which they feared would ... kill anybody with late stage AIDS was in fact probably the most beneficial thing I've done in 5 years," Getty said.

Skeptics say they're happy Getty is doing well, but they doubt it has anything to do with the transplant.

"I think it's very early days for this approach," said Dr. Thomas Merigan, director of the Center for AIDS Research at Stanford University. He believes protease inhibitors should get most of the credit for Getty's recovery.

The doctors involved in the transplant did

not return calls for comment from The Associated Press.

Dr. Steven Deeks, who performed the transplant at San Francisco General Hospital, told **The Oakland Tribune** he thinks the radiation probably had a beneficial effect, and he plans to follow up with more research.

His collaborator, Dr. Suzanne Ildstad, told the newspaper she thinks baboon cells may have briefly attacked the virus or "taught" Getty's own immune cells how to fight HIV.

Getty said: "There's no disputing that clinically I got a lot better, and the other thing that we discovered is that I don't have a baboon disease that we know of."

The fear that cross-species transplants would unleash animal diseases on the human population had been a major objection to Getty's surgery. Animal rights groups also protested.

Merigan said Getty's case doesn't predict how the next cross-species transplant might turn out. "It's going to take a lot of experience where you're sure you're not going to have problems," he said.

On the animal rights front, Martin Stephens of the U.S. Humane Society said the lack of baboon cells in Getty's body vindicates critics. "We're happy for him, but at least one baboon is dead for no apparent good," he said.

But supporters call his pursuit of cutting-edge treatment a brave and significant fight.

"People like Jeff and some of the treatment folks at our agency have really, I think, moved the whole treatment arena into a completely different world," said Derek Gordon, director of communications for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Getty, a former University of California policy analyst, became an AIDS activist in the mid-1980s when he discovered he had the disease.

He continues to look for new treatments. A bottle of pills marked for experimental use sits on his kitchen table, and he's campaigning to speed up development of two more drugs.

As for the future, he now plans two or three months in advance. His old limit was a week or two.

"I'm very, very hopeful now," he said. "Not just for me, but for everybody."

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THE SPOTLIGHT

'Evita' Joins Other Movie Epics in Mixing History and Myth

New York, NY--Lawrence of Arabia. Mutiny on the Bounty. Gandhi.

Some of this century's most celebrated films have tried to capture a larger-than-life legend in a few reels of film. Most have been criticized for going too far with history or not going far enough.

But these bio-epics first must find the history that's muddled in the myth.



Madonna As Evita Peron in "Evita"

Evita, the latest in the mix, had quite a myth to contend with. The movie had the luxury, though, of escaping scrupulous fact-finding because it's a musical based on a musical. After all, how can you footnote Broadway?

Nevertheless, the film, which made its debut in New York and Los Angeles on December 25, faced the same question its more academic predecessors did: How do you plow through the persona to get at the person?

"It is an enormous dilemma, a HUGE dilemma," says Lord Richard Attenborough, the grandfather of the genre with such films as *Young Winston*, *Gandhi* and *Chaplin*.

"EVITA" OPENS AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE ON JANUARY 10TH

And it's the dilemma that most riles the critics, says Mark Carnes, editor of *Past Imperfect: History According to the Movies*.

"Historians' main complaint with historical movies ... is that they tend to come at a considerable cost to the complexities of life as we know it," he says.

Directors fall in love with their subjects' myth and edit out all the details that take away from it, he said. The end result is a stereotype of good or evil.

Think of the monstrous Capt. Bligh in *Mutiny on the Bounty*, the over-noble Thomas More in *A Man for All Seasons*, and the daring T.E. Lawrence in *Lawrence of Arabia*.

The first incarnation of Evita, Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical, fell prey to such criticism. It wasn't necessarily inaccurate, just one-sided. It showed the former Argentine first lady as a power-hungry tramp who ruthlessly controlled the nation's 5 million unionized workers for her own personal gain.

To many in Argentina, that was the real Eva Peron.

But to her beloved *descamisados*, or "shirtless ones," Evita was the selfless yet bejeweled benefactor who built schools, hospitals and doled out cash, clothes and medicine to the poor. According to their myth, Evita was the spiritual keeper of the nation, worthy of sainthood. They called her madonna, oddly enough.

Which one is true? Hard to say. History hasn't decided.

It doesn't help matters that what facts exist about Evita are clouded in the propaganda for which the Peron regime was so famous.

During their six-year reign, Evita and her husband, Juan Peron, closed or silenced over 100 newspapers that didn't spew the Peronist line. They also bought newspapers, one of which was Evita's own mouthpiece, *Democracia*.

And it was in that controlled media, not in the slums of Buenos Aires, that the image of Evita as a saint was born, the anthropologist J.M. Taylor argues in *Eva Peron, the Myths of a Woman*.

Taylor compared newspaper accounts of Evita with those of the working classes themselves and concluded that there was little or no correspondence.

"Few if any tales of a mystical and saintly Eva Peron were to be heard from this group," she writes. They loved Evita, but it was because she had helped them buy a house or get a job.

To further complicate any truth, the Perons hired a show biz pro to handle their official public relations and systematically had critics or nonbelievers "retired" to Uruguay. All of which boils down to one question: Evita was no angel, but was she as awful as Lloyd Webber made her?

Alan Parker's *Evita* is more sympathetic than Lloyd Webber's, and he had the blessing of the Argentine government, which had banned the musical from its stages in the 1980s.

Few would deny his right, or that of any other director, to make the film his own way.

"Provided you're true to the heart of the matter, that seems to me to be acceptable," said Attenborough. "We're not talking about media. We're talking about cinema, which is entertainment."

But there is responsibility, too. So did Parker make concessions to be able to film at the Casa Rosada, Argentina's White House? Parker wouldn't give an interview to The Associated Press to discuss it.

Bio-epics often have to make deals to get the movie made, said Spike Lee, director of *Malcolm X*.

Governments, families and estates can get involved when rights are concerned, and "a lot of the time, they don't want you to include scenes that are less than 100 percent angelic," he said.

Malcolm X was made with the help of Malcolm's widow, and it was a laudatory treatment of the controversial African-American nationalist.

Lee says he was trying to debunk some negative myths in *Malcolm X*, not create or emphasize the positive ones. "I think we challenged a lot of notions," Lee said.

Attenborough had less lofty ideals when he made *Gandhi*, which won eight Academy Awards in 1983 despite criticism that it glossed over Gandhi's flaws and made him more of a myth than he already was.

Attenborough doesn't deny his intentions.

Speaking from his London office where he was finishing up production on "In Love and War," about the young Ernest Hemingway, Attenborough said simply: "The ultimate point, of course, is that I believe in heroes."

Correction

In our last issue, we composed an ad for In Between and ran an announcement listing In Between's Copper Bowl party as being held on Sunday December 29 the correct date was Friday December 27. The error was ours. The Light had been given the wrong information. We apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused.

'Evita' Screening Plus a Madonna Party At La Cage

On January 7 It's Madonna Night in Milwaukee

Milwaukee - Tuesday, January 7 will offer a Two Fer for fans of Madonna. The evening will begin with a special FREE screening of Madonna's new movie "Evita." The screening of this film adaptation of the smash Broadway musical is co-sponsored by The Wisconsin Light.

"Evita" which is winning critical acclaim and has garnered five Golden Globe nominations will be shown at 7:30 at Waukesha's West Town Theater.

Please note: Tickets will not available at the theater. Passes to admit two people can only be picked up at the Wisconsin Light offices beginning at noon on January 2, until the limited supply is exhausted.

Following the screening there will be a FREE Gayla Madonna Party at one of our

favorite dance bars, La Cage, 801 S Second St., Milwaukee. Owner, George Prentice and his staff will be pulling out all the stops to help celebrate "Evita's" long awaited arrival in Milwaukee.

For those who may not have transportation to the theater, George is renting a bus to take you out there. To reserve a spot on the bus see your bartender at La Cage before Saturday, January 4. The cost is \$7.00 per person.

You absolutely don't want to miss out on this wonderful evening. Tickets for the screening are expected to go fast so don't delay in getting yours.

If you can't make it to the movie come to La Cage and join in the free party which will run until bar time.



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Evita, An Icon of the Dispossessed, and Madonna, A Gay Icon Have Parallel Lives

New York, NY-- They share an impressive resume: blondes with ambition, legendary populists, shocking performance artists.

They are women who began with nothing and transformed themselves into living icons, revered and hated by millions.

Countless others with drive, smarts, fashion sense and peroxide have carved out leading roles in macho societies. But Madonna believes she is uniquely suited for the starring role in Alan Parker's film version of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Evita*.

"Only I could understand her passion and her pain," Madonna wrote in an eight-page letter to Parker, begging to play Eva Peron, the remarkable wife and tireless campaigner for Argentine General Juan Peron.

Others doubted whether Madonna's talents are up to the task of adapting Lloyd Webber's musical, a phenomenal worldwide hit that made more than \$1 billion exploiting myths about the radio actress-turned-first lady.

And many Argentines old enough to remember Evita are livid that the former po-tart with a crucifix fetish is portraying their martyred mother figure, who is still revered 44 years after her death from uterine cancer.

"Madonna would like to be like her. But there couldn't be two more different people in the world, despite their blond hair," says Marysa Navarro, co-author of *Evita*, a definitive biography.

Still, with some brown contact lenses and a painful mouthpiece to hide the gap in Madonna's teeth, the physical resemblance is striking, and the facts about their lives do offer some fascinating parallels.

Both grew up in the sticks. Evita, the youngest of five out-of-wedlock children in the village of Los Toldos, lost her father when she was 7. Madonna, one of eight kids in Bay City, Michigan, was 5 when she lost her mother.

Both desperately wanted to escape to the big city. Evita was 15 when she arrived in Buenos Aires in 1935, alone and with no money, hoping to be like Norma Shearer, the 1930s film star.

A 17-year-old Madonna, also alone, arrived in New York City in the 1970s with dreams of being a dancer. She was forced to pose nude and eat out of garbage cans to get by.

Both attracted devoted followings. Evita's overheated radio dramas captivated housewives and laborers, and Madonna's music inspired countless Gay men, who saw her as a symbol of free expression.

Both learned to adapt their images in ways that only increased their fame. When new military leaders decided radio soap operas were immoral, Evita talked them into allowing her to star as Queen Elizabeth I, Madame Chiang Kai-shek and other "Heroines of History." Society women were aghast when she later became Peron's lover and then the first lady, but her listeners already pictured her running countries.

Madonna, of course, has been a master chameleon, evolving from street urchin through her Material Girl and Marilyn Monroe phases, girding herself in armored bras and then taking it all off for her *Sex* book.

Evita also published an instant best-seller, *My Mission in Life*, but was afraid to show even a bit of shoulder, recalling her pinup publicity photos and an unreleased movie when she became Peron's lover. Someone also secretly doctored her hometown's birth registry to conceal her illegitimacy, destroying the page that listed Eva Ibaruren and putting the name Eva Duarte in the spot of a girl who died in infancy two years later.

Madonna knows no such shame. She's even used details of her unwed pregnancy to hype the movie by handing her "Private Diaries" over to Vanity Fair.

Then again, Madonna came of age in a vastly different world. Argentina in the 1940s was extremely conservative and offered very few public roles for women, while nowadays in the United States, almost anything goes. Still, both became scapegoats for female sexuality as they challenged the cultural hierarchy. And both responded by incorporating religion into their image.

Madonna, raised a strict Catholic, used crucifixes and incense in her concerts for shock value, while Evita used Catholic rituals to get the respect she craved. She kissed lepers and kept a priest by her side while working with the poor. And while upper-class Argentines accused her of being a power-hungry whore, she was

the one who got a private visit with the Pope.

Actually, both women were less interested in sex than power—wearing spikes and leather or nothing at all, Madonna has shown her wannabes that they can be in control. She even had her baby Lourdes, born October 14, on her own terms, with little talk of romance, let alone marriage to the father, a bicycle-racer she plucked out of Central Park named Carlos Leon.

Likewise, the marriage of Eva and Juan Peron was more like a business partnership—their private letters were full of politics, and she paid little attention to her body, failing to get a checkup before her cancer became terminal. She preferred to work through the night for Argentina's poor, passing Peron on his way out of bed in the morning.

"I knew Peron very well," says Tomas Eloy Martinez, who collected the general's memoirs and recently wrote *Santa Evita*, a novel about the bizarre afterlife of Evita's embalmed corpse. "Peron wanted power, not sex. Evita seduces him because she had no interest in sex."

On the other hand, "I can't imagine Madonna seducing Peron," Martinez adds. "And I can't imagine Madonna going to bed every morning at 5:00 a.m. after a long long day taking care of the suffering people."

There are other obvious differences. Evita might have remained an overpaid actress with a shady past if not for her marriage to the general, while Madonna has mostly done it alone. Today she's the sole proprietor of a multimillion-dollar corporation dedicated to maintaining her celebrity.

But Evita was no organizational slouch. Encouraged by Peron, she took personal care of her "shirtless ones." Her Eva Peron Foundation quickly took over many functions of government, hiring 14,000 workers and accumulating \$200 million in assets for charity, much of it confiscated from the wealthy. She also organized the Peronist Women's Party, registering women to vote for the first time and ensuring her husband's re-election.

Most Argentines still credit Evita with raising living standards, but Peron didn't last long without his passionate link to the people. He fled the country only three years later.

As for politics, Madonna has only dabbled in it, casting herself as an advocate for free expression when Canadian police threatened to shut down her masturbation act, speaking out for safe sex, and making a "Rock the Vote" spot for MTV—all issues that served her publicity machine well.

Something else—an ability to connect with the needs and dreams of ordinary people—made fans adore both women.

"She used everything as a stage," says Navarro of Evita. And once she realized she had become the most powerful

woman in the country, "she lapped it up. That's part of her intelligence—her ability to change and adapt and bring that energy she has into transforming herself."

Madonna's same ability has been the key to her success.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there aren't moments in the film that have a sort of double meaning—that we'll have a tingle run through us, because what was true of Evita is also true of Madonna," said Adam Sexton, editor of *Desperately Seeking Madonna—In Search of the Meaning of the World's Most Famous Woman*.

"I think there's something wonderfully appropriate to Madonna's having been cast as Eva Peron," Sexton said.

But in a country where people still maintain household shrines to Evita, many Argentines weren't willing to accept her latest transformation. Buenos Aires' archbishop called her "pornographic and unsuitable." Cast members reported death threats, and Evita's sisters de-

plored Madonna's "blasphemous attitude."

Madonna tried to smooth things out by avoiding her customary raunchy talk and promising to be more respectful to Evita's memory than the musical was. In the end, she was allowed to sing "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" to 4,000 cheering extras from the Casa Rosada's famous balcony, and she wrote in her "diaries" that she felt she had earned "a modicum of respect."

But Madonna has a basic problem: Unlike Evita, whose last wish before dying at 33 was "to live eternally with Peron and my people," Madonna is 38, and still cursed with the constant need to come up with something new.

And despite selling a billion or so records, her legacy isn't clear.

"Madonna is an entertainer—her glory is the glory of the moment," Martinez says. "And Evita is a political woman who transformed her country and her gender. Her glory is more durable."

Eva Peron; Adored by Some, Damned by Others, Madonna Plays Her Well

She is the unlikely main character of a hit Broadway musical that has won seven Tony Awards. The musical, in turn, has been made into one of the most highly touted films of the year, starring one of America's mega-stars, Madonna. It will have a limited release, opening Christmas Day, in New York and Los Angeles to qualify for the Academy Awards. The national release date is January 10, 1997.

The movie is *Evita*. *Wisconsin Light* will be sponsoring its Milwaukee premiere.

The musical and movie are about Eva (Evita) Peron, But who was she?

The real Evita was born in Buenos Aires province, moved to the capital at age 15 and became a radio, stage and B-film actress.

It is believed she was 25 when she met General Juan Peron, an ambitious army officer twice her age. She became his mistress and then his wife, in 1945. A year after that he was elected president of Argentina, making his wife the most powerful woman in the land.

She became the champion of workers and the poor. She helped get women the vote and her Eva Peron Foundation built schools and hospitals and bought gifts for needy children.

All state workers were obliged to contribute two days' salary per year to her charity, money her detractors claim was siphoned off for private use.

Still, she was adored by the "resentidos," the have-nots who hated the rich. "Shall we burn down the Barrio Norte?" she would ask them at rallies, referring to a wealthy section of Buenos Aires.

In her autobiography *The Reason for My Life*, which was required reading in primary schools, she wrote: "When I discovered that there were poor people and rich people in the world, the strange thing is that the existence of the poor didn't cause me as much pain as the knowledge that, at the same time, there were people who were rich."

She died of cancer at age 33 in 1952.

Those are the simple facts. The problem is, the more you read about Evita Peron, the less you know who she was. Dragon lady or saint, victimizer or victim, manipulator or manipulated—all these words have been used to describe her.

Even before her death, people blundered about trying to sharpen their focus on the woman. But, perhaps because there is no sharper focus, they largely failed. Even today, the portrait remains blurred. Still, they try because the woman is as mesmerizing as she is elusive.

There are many reasons why Evita continues to confuse so many years after her death. The most obvious of these is the man she married, Argentine dictator Juan Peron. Though it was he who made her possible, it was she and she alone who created her myth.

While living in abundant wealth, she styled herself the champion of the "descamisados," (the shirtless ones), the poor. It was to them that she redistributed the wealth of others, accumulated through forced donations, in her multiple roles of mediator, arranger, pacifier and manipulator of what one biographer calls "a child's vision of power, justice and revenge."

When she died (or as the Argentine state radio put it, "became immortal," she became "Santa Evita." To countless numbers of Argentinians, that is what she is today.

Saint or devil, she is a legend, the stuff of which plays and movies are made.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, *Evita*, which has made into a film, begins with Evita's efforts as a girl working her way out of poverty by using her good looks and her body. It depicts her meeting Peron and her rise to power, and it ends with her death.

The musical has never been performed on a formal stage in Argentina because a pervading belief among Peronistas that the script is irreverent. These are the same people who condemned the choice of Madonna to play Evita, objecting strongly to the 37-year-old singer whose sexual antics onstage they view as offensive to Evita's memory.

The President of Argentina, Carlos Menem, a Peronista, told Argentine newspapers that the musical was "a libelous interpretation of Evita's life" and that Madonna was "unsuitable" for the role.

Days before Madonna arrived in Buenos Aires for location shots, hard-line Peronistas began scrawling graffiti around the capital that read, "Evita Lives! Madonna Get Out!" At the same time, resolutions were introduced in the Argentine legislature calling for the expulsion of Madonna and her co-star Antonio Banderas.

Other Argentinians certainly disagree. While on location in Buenos Aires, where some of the film was shot, Madonna was surrounded by hundreds of fans, many with "Madonna We Love You" scribbled on their bodies.

"Madonna is the right choice for this movie because she, like Evita, is one of the common people," said Jorge Gutierrez, a female impersonator in the Argentine capital. "Madonna represents all people no matter their family background, race or sexual orientation."

These sharply differing opinions show the depth of feeling still engendered by the name Peron in Argentina. So powerful are the memories of Evita that each year on her birthday, Peronist Day, and the anniversary of her death, devotees bring roses and wreaths to the family tomb.

Madonna has said that her portrayal of Evita will not offend Argentines. She told *Caras*, an Argentine magazine, that "Many people see Eva Peron as either a saint or the incarnation of Satan. That means I definitely can identify with her."

"This was so much more than a role in a movie," Madonna said. "It was exhilarating and intimidating at the same time, and it was the farthest I've ever had to push myself creatively."

Madonna continued, "What drew me to the role from the beginning was the story of this remarkable woman; where she came from, how she came up in the world, the incredible amount of influence she had over an entire country, and the impact she had on the whole world."

Madonna said that she thought that other portrayals of Evita had been "rather one-dimensional;" that she was always painted as a "power hungry girl from the sticks." She said that what she wanted to do in the movie was to "reach the real human being behind the myth."

When Forrest Sawyer asked Madonna to describe Eva Peron, Madonna answered, "desperate, misunderstood, generous."

Shortly after filming had been completed, Madonna was interviewed by Bryant Gumbel on "Good Morning America." He asked her what she intended to do now that the movie was done.

"I collapse in a heap," the star replied.

Who Was Eva Peron?

A quick Eva Peron primer:
The real Evita was born in Buenos Aires province, moved to the capital at age 15 and became a radio, stage and film actress.

It is believed she was 25 when she met Juan Peron, an ambitious army officer twice her age. They were married a year later, in 1945, and a year after that he was elected president, making his wife the most powerful woman in Argentina.

She became the champion of workers and the poor. She helped get women the vote and her Eva Peron Foundation built schools and hospitals and bought gifts for needy children.

All state workers were obliged to contribute two days' salary per year to her charity, money her detractors claim was siphoned off for private use.

Still, she was adored by the "resentidos," the have-nots who hated the rich. "Shall we burn down the Barrio Norte?" she would ask them at rallies, referring to a wealthy section of Buenos Aires.

In her autobiography *The Reason for My Life*, which was required reading in primary schools, she wrote: "When I discovered that there were poor people and rich people in the world, the strange thing is that the existence of the poor didn't cause me as much pain as the knowledge that, at the same time, there were people who were rich."
She died of cancer at age 33 in 1952.



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OUT on Film

Just In Time for Academy Consideration, Here's the "10 Best Films" for 1996

By Glenn Bishop

It is year end and as many faithful readers of the *Wisconsin Light* bid the holidays a fond farewell, eyes begin to turn to the next important holidays. No, not Valentine's Day (which has become something of a Hallmark holiday at best).

No, the next truly important holiday on the Homo calendar is Oscar Night. What were the best films and the best performances? And what god-awful outfits will Cher and Madonna be wearing to the ceremony... but Glenn digresses.

Mainstream America flocked to such "blockbusters" as *Independence Day*, a cliché-ridden overblown B-movie; *Twister* which featured a bunch of yahoos chasing tornadoes with a bunch of motorized trash cans, the simple-minded goofiness of *The Nutty Professor* and just about anything with Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tom Cruise or John Travolta in it.

But what a year it has been for Gay films. Gay and Lesbian audiences loved *Beautiful Thing*, a touching teenage Gay love story; *Bound*, a sexy Lesbian gangster flick plus *When Night is Falling*, *The Celluloid Closet* and *Stonewall*. Robin Williams and Nathan Lane tickled America's funny bone in *The Birdcage* but lets not get Glenn started on that again, shall we ...

But back to the year's best. Despite Glenn begging and pleading with those wonderful folks at the *Wisconsin Light* for an all-expense paid trip to Hollywood to attend press screenings of such hot, late-breaking films as Madonna's *Evita*, Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet* and the highly anticipated *Marvin's Room*, Glenn must choose from those movies actually screened in Milwaukee (and the occasional trip to Chicago) during the past twelve months. That said, here goes...

1. *Fargo*. Those wild and wacky Coen brothers presented an amazing mix of quirky humor and grisly violence (what, you mean those don't usually go together?) and created a minor masterpiece. Still all might have been lost without letter-perfect performances from Frances McDormand, William Macy and Steve Buscemi.

2. *The English Patient*. Lush, romantic and beautifully filmed, *The English Patient* was that oh-so rare creature: a literary epic with a heart (not to mention popular appeal). Look for this film plus stars Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas at the top of the list come Oscar time.

3. *Twelfth Night*. Trevor Nunn has assembled a dream cast including the radiant Imogen Stubbs and the ruggedly handsome Toby Stephens and found new depths and kinks in this Shakespeare comedy usually played just for laughs.

4. *The Horseman on the Roof*. Once

upon a time cinemas were filled with spectacular, romantic adventures. Hollywood used to make them, used to be good at it too. In *The Horseman on the Roof*, French director Jean-Paul Rappeneau has assembled two beautiful young lovers (Olivier Martinez and Juliette Binoche), gorgeous landscapes, a lushly romantic score, plenty of villainous villains and has crafted a marvelously entertaining swashbuckler.

5. *Emma*. No Austen renaissance would be complete without a cinematic adaptation of Austen's classic, "Emma". Enter Saturday Night Live alumnus Douglas McGrath who might seem an unlikely choice as writer/director. With the lovely Gwyneth Paltrow as an enchanting Emma, this marvelous film perfectly captures all of the spirit, the humor and the warmth of Austen's most timeless novel.

6. *Trainspotting*. Another film from England but nothing that's likely to make it's way to PBS's *Masterpiece Theatre*, *Trainspotting* was nevertheless an original, rollercoaster ride into the violent, junkie-spewed streets of Glasgow.

7. *Shine*. Here is that rare mix, an extraordinary true story that has been brought to the screen with extraordinary insight and power. David Helfgott's story, that of a child prodigy who's early promise tragically turns into a descent into madness often becomes melodramatic drivel on the Lifetime channel. In the hands of director Scott Hicks and an outstanding cast including Geoffrey Rush (David as an adult), Noah Taylor (David as a young man) and Armin Mueller-Stahl as David's loving if abusive father, *Shine* is an exhilarating cinematic experience.

8. *Secrets and Lies*. Beginning to seem that most of the best films aren't being made in America. Mike Leigh's *Secrets and Lies* is an agonizingly humane portrait of a dysfunctional family facing racial and social prejudice and conflicts. Brenda Blethyn's heartbreaking Cynthia should be an Oscar shoo-in but the rest of the ensemble is uniformly fine.

9. *Welcome to the Dollhouse*. This quirky, unexpected bittersweet little film about growing up in the deepest bowels of suburban middle America was perhaps not for everyone but rarely has the day-to-day trials, tribulations and down-right horrors of adolescences been offered at the cinema.

10. *Beautiful Thing*. Okay, *Beautiful Thing* wasn't really and truly one of the year's best films but this touching, modest little film about growing up Gay and falling in love for the first time made for perhaps the most enjoyable Gay film since *Parting Glances* over a decade ago!

Art films are usually very, very serious and very, very carefully assembled though not necessarily in meaningful sequence, but with a great deal of elegance passing as style, or is it style that seems elegant? I can't tell.

In *English Patient*, the injured heroine is left for three days in a cave while her lover goes for help. Couldn't she have hobbled along? Trying to retrieve her, his plane is shot down and he is horribly burned. He is cared for by a nurse who, when she is not have an affair with a sexy Sikh, who looks indifferent but washes his hair with her olive oil, plays hopscotch in the dark amidst candles.

Our injured hero relates his affair with the married woman in short flashbacks when we are not forced to look at his mummified features—a serious aesthetic mistake in a romantic film.

Patient is full of artsy sequences that we had to sit through. In one of them, the hero is having sex with the nurse standing up behind billowing curtains, while outside in bright sunlight, the victorious Allied soldiers are singing "Silent Night."

In another scene, his nurse's Sikh hoists her high on a pulley (no S&M intended) with a flare in hand to view beautiful frescoes on the walls of a ruined church. Were the frescoes meant to be viewed from such an altitude? Why not candles below?

Earlier, the same nurse plays a perfect Bach prelude on a partially ruined piano in perfect tune at a 45 degree angle.

All this time, our desiccated hero recounts his love while looking through little notes stored in a copy of Heroditus. We know this is a serious film because it began with sand dunes filmed to resemble human flesh, and there's more sand here than in *Lawrence of Arabia*.

Watching this beautifully filmed mess reminded me of a tapestry that had been taken apart and reassembled in wrong order with incorrect pieces tacked on. It is carefully filmed, but so what?

Most inexplicable of all is the description of *The English Patient* as a romantic film, a descendant of *Casablanca* or *Now Voyager*. Come on. The emotional sterility of this film is almost catatonic. It will win many awards, but none more deserving than "Most Misguidedly Trendy Film of the Year."

Last year it was *Leaving Las Vegas*. Remember that grungy opus? When the director ran out of ideas on alcoholism, he had his leading lady brutalized,

sodomized, and, for contrast, threw in a few sticky references to the mess of oral sex.

Ridicule

Ridicule was more coherent than most art films. And if the court of Louis XVI was misrepresented—the real Louis was interested in clocks, not quips—the film had its humorous moments, even if the repartee lacked some of the educated pith and sophisticated subtlety that becomes Voltarian humor. The French language plus subtitles created an almost convincing illusion of class.

Fargo

Fargo was an interesting film. The satire and the unquenchable performance/caricature of Frances McDermont were a big plus. The violence was a serious lapse of taste, as if we had to pay for enjoying the humor. But the film's sense of gritty reality rang truer than most, although I couldn't avoid the feeling that the film was almost too clever for its own good.

The Preacher's Wife

The Preacher's Wife was a disaster. With an all-Black cast, must we necessarily have interminable gospel singing, the adorable foster child that has to be moved to another location, the teenage youth wrongfully accused of a holdup? Talk about politically correct stereotyping!

Whitney Houston is not a good actress, nor does she care to be. As the angel, the usually angelic Denzel Washington looked almost as embarrassed as the audience. This is a very classy actor, but his quiet charm unfortunately comes through to no avail.

Emma

Emma was a pleasant enough bore. *Emma* badly needed another Emma—Thompson. Gwyneth Paltrow had her lines down pat, but the inherent sense of class that must be effortless in Jane Austen's heroines, is outside her range.

All in all, it was a deadly year. I missed some films and am waiting for others. I am very curious about *Evita* and *The Crucible*.

Perhaps the most emblematic scene of the year was the opening sequence in *Ridicule*. A disgruntled courtier takes out his penis and urinates his revenge on a helpless old man who previously humiliated him. Contemporary audiences may well identify with the helplessness of the old man, and may have occasion to wonder for what wrong doing are they being punished by filmmakers.



The *Evening Star* - Shirley Mc Claine looks at pictures from her past lives (just kidding). Mc Claine stars in "The Evening Star" a sequel to her 1980's hit, "Terms of Endearment." The movie is playing everywhere

Some Films of 1996 that Proceed from the Unwatchable to Mediocrity

Commentary by Steve Stavron

I didn't much care for this year's galaxy of films. The aesthetic decline of motion pictures has been going on for quite some years and seems to be in inverse proportion to the increase in their budgets. The film industry has become increasingly subsumed in that monstrous modicum of mediocrity that we call "entertainment" with razzle-dazzle special effects, unwatchable, split-second editing, cynical cold-hearted quips, and scatological repartee substituting for dialogue usually at earsplitting volume.

Consider Tom Cruise's performance in *Jerry McGuire*—surprisingly identical to that in *A Few Good Men*—or Mel Gibson's jaw-crunching grimaces in *Ransom*.

The almost furious photographically relentless velocity has rendered some films unintelligible. How many viewers were able to follow *Mission Impossible* or *Twelve Monkeys* without taking notes? We can pass over *Twister* and *Independence Day*. They were intended as high tech junk food and succeeded.

Admittedly the comedies were more fun. I didn't especially mind *First Wives*


Club, despite wise cracks delivered at machine gun speed. Gene Hackman was able to muster some humor amidst Nathan Lane's banshee shrieks in *Birdcage*.

I probably liked *Mirror Has Two Faces* the best of this group, even if Barbra Streisand consistently over articulates her views on relationships. The film was amusing and had the stabilizing influence of Lauren Bacall—the only classy performance of the year. But the subtle good-heartedness and warmth that made the Cary Grant/Irene Dunne and the Tracy/Hepburn combos is missing from this new batch.

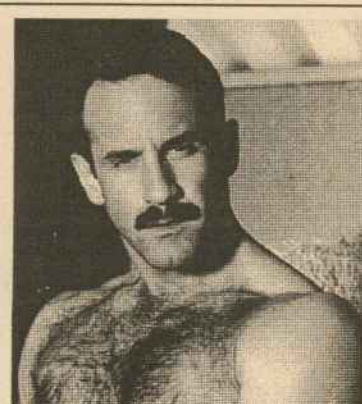
The English Patient

I am not one who believes in the castor oil theory of art: "You may not like it, but it's good for you." That stupefyingly over-rated "art" film, *The English Patient*, becomes so bogged down by its own complexities—transposed, I understand, from an almost unreadable prize-winning novel—that some of its absurd excesses must have gone by unnoticed by even sophisticated reviewers in their struggle to survive sitting through it, a not uncommon failing in "serious art films."

Remember *Carrington* from last year?



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'Michael' is the Holiday Movie to See: Funny, Heartwarming, Quirky

Reviewed by John A. Jahn

John Travolta has had a lot of luck lately, playing a variety of characters in a series of successful films—**Pulp Fiction**, **Broken Arrow**, **Phenomenon**, and now his quirkiest performance yet as an all-too-human angel in **Michael**.

As a rule, holiday movies have a way of being superfluous—sugary, sappy, treacly comedies and romances as light as a feather and, more often than not, pretty bad.

But every once in awhile, a pretty decent holiday movie comes along and surprises us with its intelligent script, interesting characters, and genuine ability to make us laugh, cry, or otherwise feel all warm and fuzzy inside. I went into **Michael** with pretty low expectations, and was pleasantly surprised because it has all those qualities.

Director and writer Nora Ephron's **Michael** is about an angel (Travolta in the title role), who time on earth helping out an aged woman (Jean Stapleton) keep her little inn afloat is rapidly coming to an end. She writes a Chicago-based supermarket tabloid in an attempt to gain attention for her wonderful angel-friend, Michael.

The money-grubbing, fame & fortune-seeking, unscrupulous paper publishers (Bob Hoskins) sends a trio of reporters to get pictures and the whole scoop on the old lady and her angel friend from Iowa. Along with the reporters, he sends the paper's most popular asset, a dog. Yes, the rag's gimmick is a canine reporter named Sparky. (Luckily, this isn't a talking animal flick, by the way.)

The story revolves around the reporters—the somewhat snooty, reserved Frank Quinlan (William Hurt), the newly-hired dog trainer/angel expert/would-be country western singer (Andie MacDowell), Sparky, and Sparky's owner Huey (Robert Pastorelli)—and their trek between Chicago and a small Iowa town with Michael.

Michael isn't your average, cookie-cutter angel. He's somewhat abrasive, likes to scratch himself and walk around

in his boxers, and has the table manners of the average toddler. En route, he makes several demands upon his tabloid companions, including stopping at every absurd little roadside attraction he can find in his book about things to see in America.

After the film, you want to know if there really is "The World's Largest Non-Stick Frying Pan" somewhere in central Illinois (I pray there is).

While trying to finger Michael out along the way, the long-suffering reporters have to put up with his every demand and quirk in order to get him to Chicago and thus gain fame themselves, perhaps (or at the very least, get to keep their jobs).

We, like they, are left wondering through most of the picture exactly why God sent Michael to earth? We find out eventually, and the payoff is worth the wait and wonder.

Michael is a good choice amongst this year's holiday movies for several reasons:

It's funny without being stupid and silly; It's well-acted;

It has an unpredictable story line that keeps you guessing what will happen next;

It has good characters who make you care about them;

It is heart-warming without being overly sweet and sloop;

And it has a great soundtrack featuring Randy Newman, Aretha Franklin and Frank Sinatra, among others. Bravo to director Nora Ephron, John Travolta, and the superb supporting cast of **Michael**.

On a 1-10 scale, this film rates an 8.

Without Trying to be Clever, 'One Fine Day' is One Fine Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Glenn must admit that not only was he quite wary of the prospects of enjoying another happy holiday feature fill but he was actually filled with dread when upon entering the cinema, Glenn learned that he was amidst a WKTJ Singles Party promotion. Glenn at a WKTJ Singles Party promotion, oh, no!

In a cinema so packed with Milwaukee's desperate singles that several fire code violations were certainly broken, Glenn began munching his biggie buttered popcorn and biggie diet beverage. Glenn was going to enjoy **One Fine Day**, gosh darn it.

And what a fine film **One Fine Day** is for singles. The perfect little heterosexual date movie as a special little holiday gift from 20th Century Fox. Guys are doubtlessly going to get laid after this flick.

And what about Glenn? Could **One Fine Day** weave it's admittedly heterosexual magic and win Glenn over? The answers is: 'fraid so.

One Fine Day is the perfect date flick for the modern urban single in the '90s.

Here are two single, workaholic parents. Through the irresponsibility of Jack Taylor (George Clooney), both he and the lovely Melanie Parker (played by the lovely Michelle Pfeiffer) find themselves bringing their respective children late on field-trip day. Faced with "tough days at the office" (something with which Glenn could certainly commiserate), each is now faced with the added burden of a couple of kids who have, as Glenn's parents always used to say, "with ants in their pants."

Despite their rather heated initial bick-

ering, all of the WKTJ Singles Party folk could sense that this attractive, if perhaps a bit misguided couple were absolutely meant for each other. Certainly the group of attractively impaired women sitting behind Glenn (who kept kicking the back of Glenn's chair) believed this to be true.

All that remained was for Terrel Seltzer and Ellen Simon's smart and engaging screenplay, replete as it is with an extraordinary series coincidences and comic crises, was to bring these two adorable singles together. Add a couple of kute kids and here's a romance sure to melt even the Grinch's tiny heart (not to mention Glenn's).

Television personality gorgeous George Clooney scores as the irrepressible, irresponsible Jack Taylor. Of course he's attractive, Hollywood just doesn't make romantic comedies with unattractive male stars. So why, Glenn pondered, did all of the peripheral females in the film need to drool so obviously around Jack repeatedly scene after scene?

As the prototypical 90's independent woman wannabe, Melanie Parker, Michelle Pfeiffer redeems herself somewhat after that dreary **To Gillian** flick that came and mercifully left town quickly earlier this past fall. As the Jack and Melanie's cute and adorable off-spring, Mae Whitman and Alex D. Linz are predictably cute and adorable. After all, who isn't cute and adorable in Hollywood romantic comedies.

Reviewers with less wit might call **One Fine Day**, "one fine film". Okay, it is but Glenn should be cleverer than that.

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

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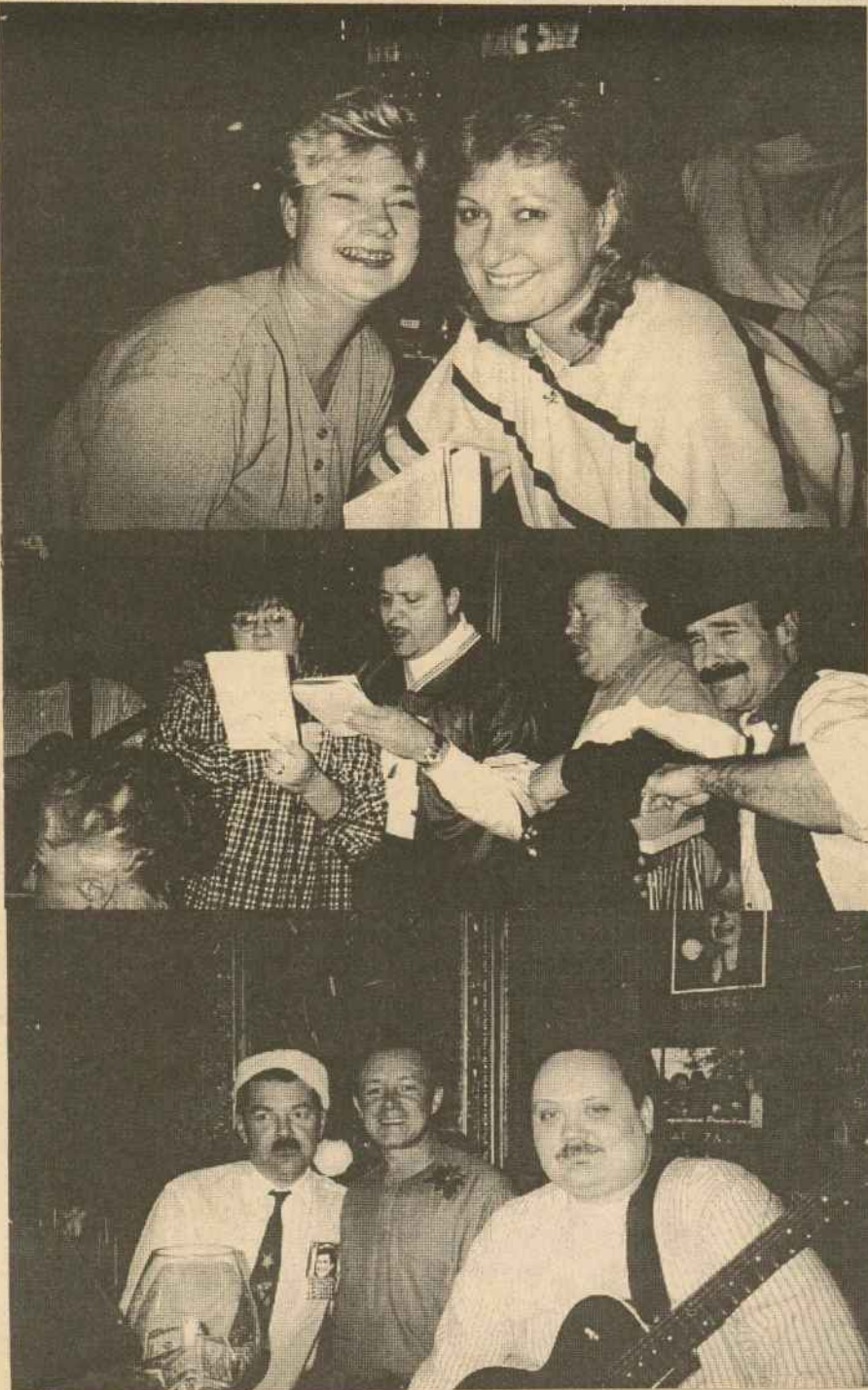
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Photos by Bill Meunier



Sing Along At M's- The M and M Club had a packed house of its Christmas Carol sing a long on Sunday December 22. At the top are Trixie and Mama Whiz who were joined by a friend in leading the carols. Also shown are some of the many participants.

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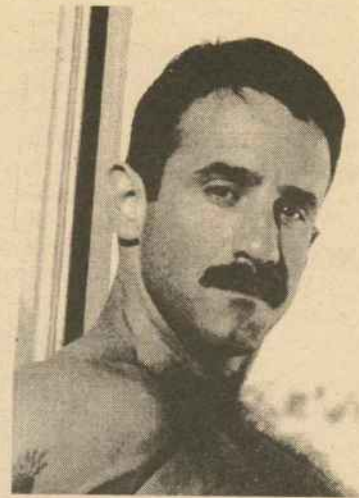


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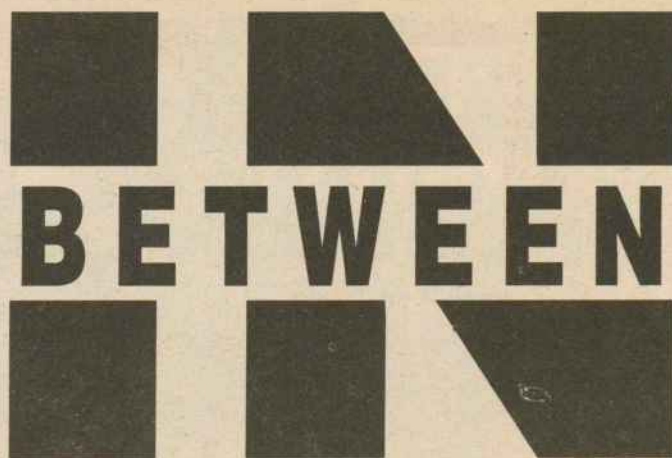


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FRIDAY JANUARY 3

R PLACE WAVES BYE - BYE TO RICH AND DANNY

What do you do when the bar owners leave town for good WITHOUT telling anyone they are going? Well if you are the fun folks at R Place, 121 W. Main Street, you throw a going away party in absentia!

Yes, Rich and Danny are gone, but don't worry folks, R Place will remain open, Gay and friendly. To celebrate the departure, a Good Bye Gayla, featuring drink specials, prizes and surprises will be held from 9 to Close.

BESTD CLINIC OPENS EXHIBIT

The BESTD Clinic will host an opening reception for its new exhibit produced by Marlon Banks. The artist will be on hand from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

BESTD is located at 1240 E. Brady Street.

SUNDAY JANUARY 5

LAST DANCE AT LA CAGE'S DANCE DANCE DANCE

An era will end this evening when La Cage's Dance Dance Dance opens and closes its doors for the last time. A special cocktail and hor d'oeuvres reception commences at 9:00. The reception will be followed by a fantastic show in memory of legendary performer Holly Brown.

All of the performers will be doing dance numbers. The show begins at 10:00. La Cage is located on S. Second and National St.

Don't worry dance fans, La Cage's front dance bar will remain open.

TUESDAY JANUARY 7

EVITA PREMIER MADONNA PARTY AT LA CAGE

Hold onto your hats Madonna fans, tonight you get a twofer. The evening begins with a special screening of Madonna's new movie "Evita." The screening is free and is being sponsored by The Wisconsin Light. To obtain tickets you MUST call the The Light at (414)372-2773. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE THEATER.

After the show head on down to La Cage for the bar's special Madonna Party. Bring your ticket stub in for a free drink.

La Cage is located on S. Second and National.

SATURDAY JANUARY 11

MALE SUPERMODEL STEVE KELSO VISITS MILWAUKEE

Super model Steve Kelso brings his calendars and his body to Milwaukee for a whirlwind tour to raise money for the Cream City Foundation, Milwaukee's Les/Bi/Gay foundation.

Kelso will be at Designing Men, 1200 S. First St, This Is It 418 E. Wells and Mama Roux 1875 N. Humboldt.

MONDAY JANUARY 13

LA CAGE DOES MAD TOWN

Hide the valubles La Cage's George and Corey are taking their bartenders, DJ's, tech people and other assorted employees on the road for a whirlwind tour of Madison's Gay spots.

They would love to say hi to all of their

Madison friends on their own turf. Check with your favorite bartender to find out when La Cage will be at your favorite stop.

FRIDAY JANUARY 17

10% CLUB "SNOW BALL"

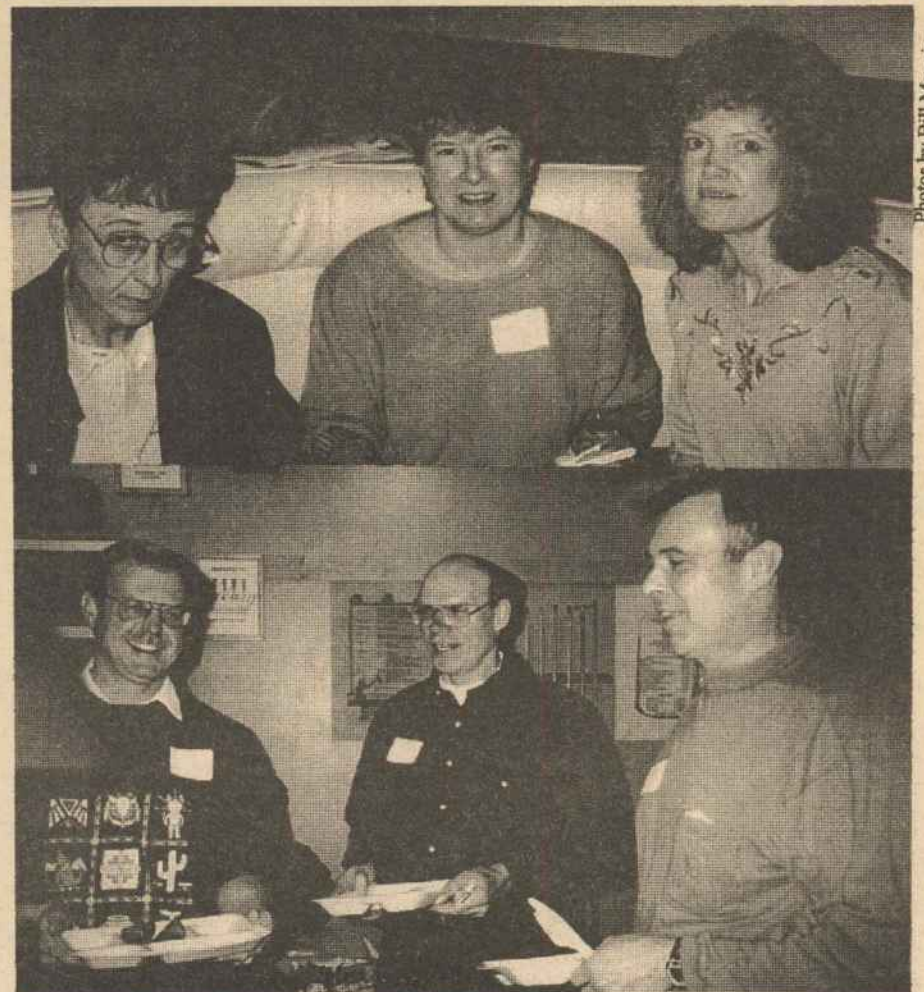
The 10% club of UW Madison is offering an event for those of us who think that winter should be considered a time for indoor sports. It's a "Snow Ball." Dancing to a live DJ, and loads of fun will be on hand for those attending this event at the UW Memorial Union.

SATURDAY JANUARY 18

10% CLUB CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY WITH PARTY

The 10% Club will be celebrating its First Anniversary with a big bash. There will be plenty of surprises, specials and more in store for those who stop in this evening to help mark this bar's First Birthday.

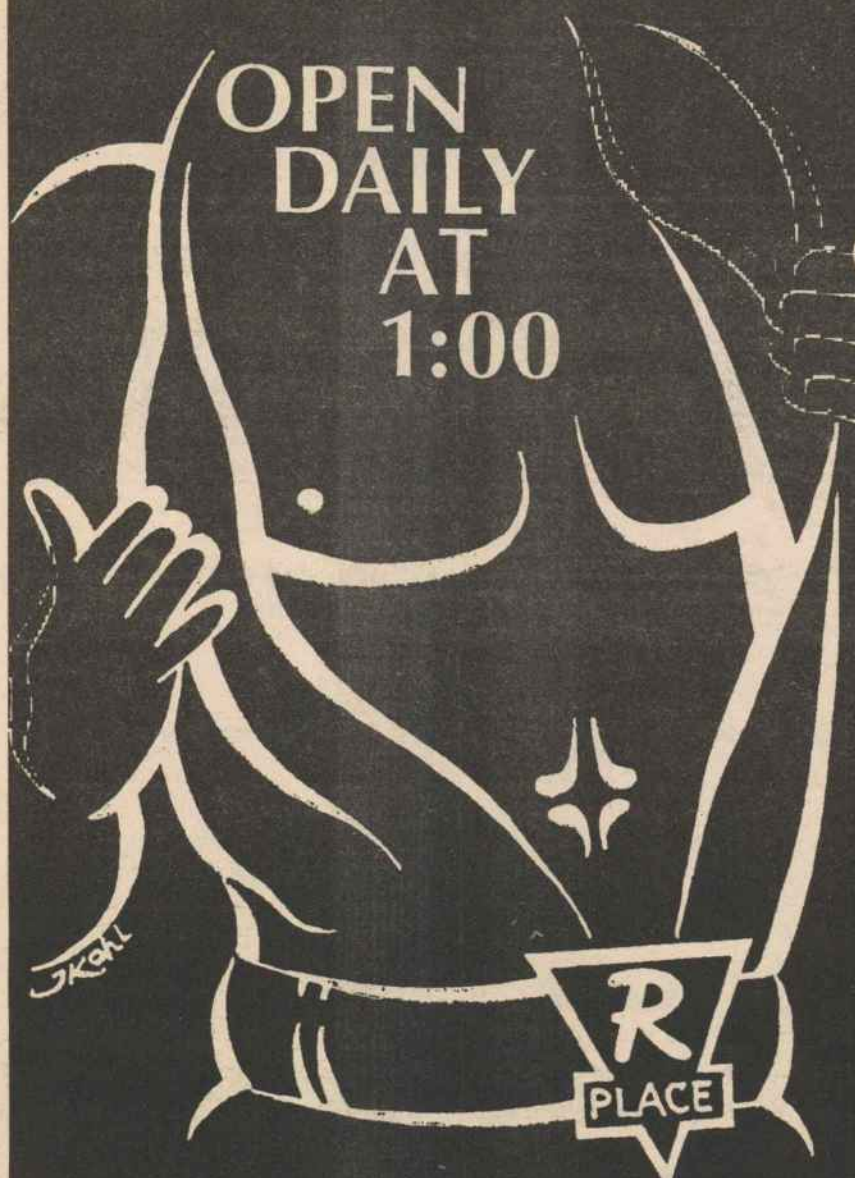
The 10% Club is located at 4223 W. Fon Du Lac, Milwaukee.



Photos by Bill Memmer

Sage Celebrates - SAGE-Milwaukee held a free Holiday dinner for its members and friends at Just Us on Sunday December 22. Shown above are some of those who enjoyed a very nice meal provided by the organization and Just Us.

**Rich & Danny are gone, but . . .
We're Still Here
We're Still Queer
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9pm-Close**

Prizes

Surprises

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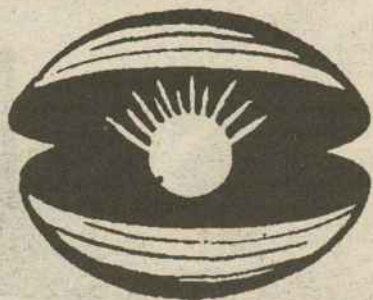
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EXTENDS ITS
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COMMUNITY.
HAPPINESS, HEALTH
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1997.**

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The Night Light



By Dusty Sass

Well another year has come and gone and none too soon, I tell ya. With all the comings and goings of 1996, I need a rest. It's difficult to keep up this frantic pace of parties, fund raisers and going out just to keep you my readers informed.

Because the year is not over as of this writing I will list my choices for top events in 1996 in our next issue.

As for next year, thank goodness things slow down a little in January, except for all those Packer playoff parties. I need some rest. Still there are some quality events on tap the next couple of weeks.

On **Friday, January 3**, you can find me in Mad Town at **R Place**. The downtown bar is throwing a "Bye Bye Rich and Danny" party. Rich and Danny left town without telling anyone they were going. Thankfully this popular spot will remain open as a Gay bar. Look for plenty of surprises and prizes at the party.

Saturday, January 4, will see me rushing back to Milwaukee so I can catch all the action of the Packer's first playoff game of the year at **In Between**.

Then on **Sunday, January 5**, we will say bye to Dance Dance Dance. The **La Cage** staff is pulling out all of the stops for this. There will be a nice reception followed by some great performances. Don't miss it.

Tuesday, January 7, is Madonna Night. First we have a special screening of the blond one's new movie "Evita." The screening is being sponsored by **Wisconsin Light**. To get tickets you must call **The Light** at (414)372-2773. **THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS AT THE THEATER.**

Then there is our big SpotLight Event at La Cage. Yes its a Madonna Party and it will be a fabulous affair.

Saturday, January 11, Super model, Super Hunk Steve Kelso will be in Milwaukee hawking his calendars as a benefit for the Cream City Foundation. I am sure he will want to give me a-um-er private showing, but you can catch him at **Designing Men, This Is It** and or **Mama Roux**.

Then on **Monday, January 13**, I'll be back in Mad Town to help La Cage do Madison's Gay bars. The whole staff is trucking up there to party.

Saturday, January 18, I'll be at Milwaukee's 10% Club helping them to celebrate their First anniversary. This is a favorite place for Gays and Lesbians living on the Northwest Side of Milwaukee.

As I close my last column of the year, I want to extend my condolences to Superior/Duluth's Gay and Lesbian community on the loss of the **Main Club** and two fine men. I hope that community knows how

deeply saddened the rest of us are over their loss.

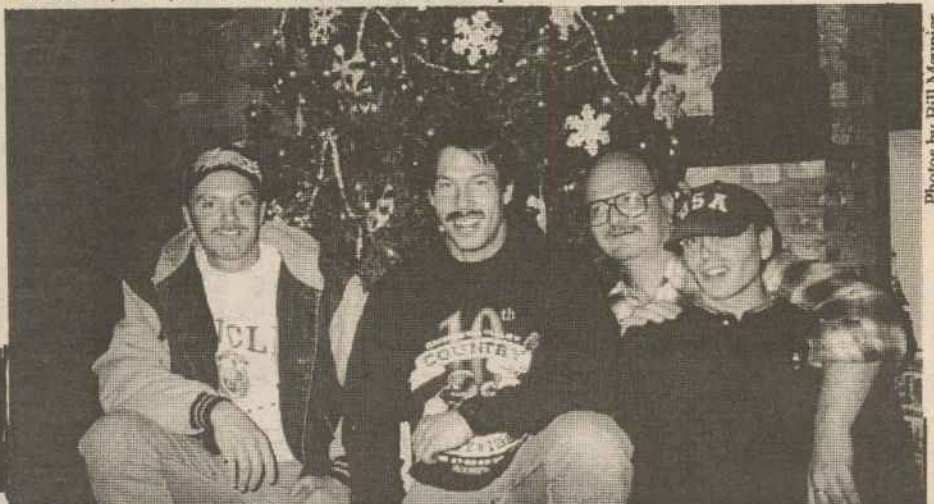
Let's hope that the next year brings us more prosperity and the right to marry.

No bar fires and all of our dreams. I hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile stay safe and be proud!



Patty Cassidy

Long Live the Queen! - A gala event at Appleton's Pivot Club crowned the new Ms. Gay Wisconsin, US of A 1997. Shown above L-R are Janice First Runner Up, Kristina, Ms. Gay WI, US Of A, 1997, Jill Clark, Ms Gay WI US of A, 1996, and Sarah Van Horn Second Runner Up.



Photos by Bill Meunier



Christmas At In Between - In Between celebrated the holidays with a gala party on Tuesday December 17. The popular South Side bar located at 625 S. Second Street gave away hundreds of dollars in cash and dozens of special prizes to those in attendance. The free party also featured a nice buffet catered by Walker's Point Café, drink specials and an open bar. Shown above are (L-R) Bartenders Patrick, Tommy, and James with owner Curt Peck and a group of regulars joined by Patrick underneath the Christmas tree. A great time was had by all. (Like you'd expect anything else at In Between) Curt and his staff are gearing up for the Packer Playoff games.



Christmas At La Cage Ah yes, the people the fun, those um er Christmas Carols booming out over the Dance Floor. Milwaukee's popular dance bar, held a very nice Christmas party on Sunday December 22. The party included gifts for everyone and a nice buffet. Shown above are George and Corey helping Santa go over his list of those been naughty and those been nice. (Now don't you wish you had tipped a little better and used the correct rest room?) Also shown is one of Santa's helpers with a new recruit for the Elves.

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

The Trading Co.
304 Eau Claire St.
Eau, Claire WI
838-9494

The Wolfs Den
302 E Madison
EauClaire, WI 54703
832-9237

GREEN BAY

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

Club Cheeks
232 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI 54303
430-9854

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

LA CROSSE

Cavalier 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 Book store
317 W. Johnson
Madison, WI 53703
257-7888

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

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
Milw, WI 53211
963-9089

B's
1579 S 2nd St
Milw, WI 53204
672-5580

Ball Game
196 S. 2nd
Milw, WI 53204
273-7474

Boot Camp Saloon
209 E. National
Milw, WI 53204
643-6900

Cafe Melange
720 N. Old World St.
Milw, WI 53203
291-9889

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

MILWAUKEE

Continued

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

1100 Club
1100 S. 1st St.
Milw, WI 53204
647-9950

Fannies
200 E. Washington
Milw, WI 53204
643-9633

In Between
625 S. 2nd St
Milw, WI 53204
273-2693

Just Us
807 S. 5th St.
Milw, WI 53204
383-2233

Kathy's Nut Hut
1500 W. Scott
Milw, WI 53204
647-2673

La Cage
801 S 2nd St.
Milw, WI 53204
383-8300

La Perla Restaurant
734 S. Fifth St.
Milw, WI 53204
645-9888

Mama Roux
1875 N. Humboldt
Milw, WI 53212
347-0344

M & M Club
124 N. Water
Milw, WI 53202
347-1962

Rene's Cozy Corner
3500 W Park Hill
Milw, WI 53208
933-RENE

S. Water St. Docks
354 E. National
Milw, WI 53204
25-9676

Station 2
1534 W. Grant
Milw, WI 53204
383-5755

10% Club
4223 W. Fon Du Lac
Milw, WI 53216
447-0910

This Is It
418 E. Wells
Milw, WI 53202
278-9192

MILWAUKEE

Continued

Triangle
134 E. National
Milw, WI 53204
383-9412

Walkers Point Cafe
1106 S. First St.
Milw, WI 53204
384-7999

Zippers
819 S 2nd St.
Milw, WI 53204
645-8330

RACINE

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

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

ROCKFORD

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

SHEBOYGAN

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

STEVENS POINT

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

SUPERIOR

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

Trio Club
820 Tower
Superior, WI 54880
392-5373

WAUSAU

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

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MANFINDER

Illinois

BEND OVER, I'LL DRIVE I'm a top man looking for a larger Black man. (Addison) #18693

EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL I'm a Bisexual White male, 5'10, 160lbs. I like everything. (Chicago) #18323

ONLY THE BEST NEED APPLY I'm a unique, 21 year old, Gay male looking for an older, mature, professional man who is intelligent and secure, with whom to share my life. I am half Black, half Filipino, with Caramel skin, a shaved, bald head, and a mustache and goatee. I am very attractive, both physically and emotionally. I love spontaneity, shopping, cooking, the outdoors, and have many other interests. I am free of tobacco and drugs and use alcohol very infrequently. Are you my soul mate? (Evanston) #22391

SPIRITUAL SOURCE Greetings! I'm a Gay Black male, 6ft, 185lbs, with a football players build. I'm a very spiritual brother and would like to meet other spiritual, masculine, Black men. I'm looking for friendship first because that is the foundation of a relationship. God bless! (Evanston) #17920

DO YOU WANT TO FEEL A MAN? Hey! If your straight, Bi, White and are tired of your girlfriends then let's talk. I'm a average Gay White boy from next door and I'm extremely discreet. Call and let's chat. HIV negative Athletic build preferred and absolutely no smokers! (Evanston) #21808

ATTRACTIVE AND ALONE Hi out there. I'm living in a Chicago suburb and I like to go out to the movies or out for dinner. I'm looking for someone special. I'm a Hispanic, 5'8, Dark hair and eyes, mustache and goatee, and am considered good looking by my friends. Looking for someone who might want to get serious, if your the right guy. (Evanston) #20454

WILLING TO PLEASE I'm a Gay male. Discreet, open minded, ready to please. Looking for fun and excitement. You won't be disappointed. (Evanston) #7935

MENTOR WANTED I'm an 18 year old African American male, 5'8, 140lbs, swimmer build, dark hair, dark eyes, clean shaven. I'm looking for an older gentleman to teach me a few things. I would like to try being on bottom. (Evanston) #17379

STRAIGHT TO THE POINT I'm looking for a straight acting guy 18 to 25 to have fun with. I prefer guys who are White or Hispanic. Call me. (Evanston) #6189

WEST SUBURBS I'm interested in meeting guys. I'm very oral and I will make your toes curl. Call me. (Evanston) #2295

SUBURBAN ESCAPE Professional Gay White male, 43 years old, 5'11, 165lbs, top. I'm seeking a Gay White male 18 to 23 for friendship and more. No drugs. You must be straight acting and not into the bar scene. (Evanston) #4253

BRING YOUR BUDDIES I'm a White male model, 37 years old, 5'9, 150lbs. I'm looking for a Black male or group of Black males who are hung, uncult, and ready to go bang me. Call me. (Evanston) #21057

LOOKING FOR A BOTTOM I'm a 49 year old Gay White male, Brown hair, Blue eyes, very muscular. I'm looking for a bottom man for good times and possibly relationship. Call me. (Joliet) #5473

A QUEST FOR BLACK I'm 6ft, 240lbs. I'm a bottom looking for big top. I have Brown skin, beard, and mustache. I'm looking for a hot Black man to have fun with. (Oak Park) #17297

ANYTHING GOES I'm 21 years old, 5'11, 210lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, Bi, into everything. Call me. (Oakpark) #6182

ROCK HARD IN ROCKFORD I'm a 40 year old Black male, looking for other Gay males, for friendship and patting around together. I'm looking for an exciting time. Nothing kinky. (Rockford) #16856

SEE YOU AT THE FINISH LINE I'm a Gay male 5'11, dark skin, hairy. I enjoy theatre, traveling, jogging and staying at home. I'm looking for guys 5'10 or taller who enjoy life and have a good sense of humor. Race is not important. #22059

BOY NEXT DOOR I'm a 31 year old Gay White male, 5'10, 190lbs, Hazel eyes, goatee, short Blond hair, professional. I enjoy biking, walking, movies, sporting events, and more. Looking for someone with the same interest for a relationship. #17944

Iowa

WHISPER IN MY EAR Do you like to talk on the phone? I do. I'm a 25 year old, moderately hairy, Gay male, with dark Brown hair, and Green eyes. I weigh 170lbs. I'd love to talk to you and possibly get together. What do you say? (Cedar Rapids) #22633

INTO YOU My name is Rob. I'm looking for one or several guys I can take care of. Let me take care of you. (Des Moines) #8214

THE MORE, THE MERRIER I would like to meet lots of guys for fun and friendship. Call me. (Des Moines) #5035

ANYTHING OUTDOORS My interests include all outdoor activities. Give me a call and we can ride our horses through the cornfields. (Iowa City) #18095

Minnesota

TIRED OF PLAYING GAMES I'm very athletic, Brown curly hair, hairy chest. I like athletic dudes and I'm looking for a long term relationship. Its cold here and I'm willing to drive. I'm 30 years old, 185lbs. I love scuba diving and wrestling. (Duluth) #7480

HERE FOR THE SNOW I'm new from LA, in Elk River for the next four months. I'm 19 year old and looking for some guys to hang out with. Shopping, rollerblading, movies, it's all good! Let's hang out together. (Elk River) #2845

MAKE OUT MAVERICK I'm 30 years old, 5'7, 155lbs, long Brown hair, Brown eyes, good shape, runner, cyclist. I'm looking for my first Bi experience. If you like to make out and you are very good looking and horny, call me. (Marshall) #15797

BIG MOUTH I'm a submissive, bottom looking for well endowed, dominant tops who are in need of good oral service. I'm 33, 6ft tall, weigh 180lbs, and have Blond hair and Blue eyes. (Minneapolis) #4863

FRENCH SPEAKERS I am looking for some other French speakers. People that just want to get down, speak some French and have a very hot time. I'm smooth, lean, athletic and in great shape, a hot unit and definitely looking to have some fun. (Minneapolis) #5821

ANDROGYNY FOR ME Androgynous men desired. This big, hairy, 39 year old, Gay guy from St. Louis Park, likes men who embrace both the masculine and feminine in themselves. I'm a 5'11, 255lb, physically active, professional seeking a long term relationship with a smooth, slender to muscular, 35 to 45 year old man. Race is open. (Minneapolis) #4203

A BEAR SEEKS A BOY I'm a bearded 48 years old top Gay male, genuine, real. Seek young hungry bottom genuine honest slave boy to give him a place to belong. Contact me. Don't screw around. Make me proud and be real. You will live for me. (Minneapolis) #22238

READY FOR THE WORLD I'm a 30 year old Gay male. I'm about 5'3, 125lbs and disabled. I have a hearing and speech impairment. I'm looking for a man who is inexperienced and would like to try something new. Please no disrespectful people. Give me a call. (Minneapolis) #12680

LET'S WRESTLE I'm 28 years old, 5'11, and 185lbs. I'm looking for other guys who are interested in wrestling. Get a grip and give me a call. (Minneapolis) #22496

BOTTOM SLAVE BOY I'm a Gay, White male, I'm about 5'10, 160lbs, with a military cut, Blond hair and Blue eyes. I'm a bottom slave boy looking for a dominant top. Anything goes! (Minneapolis) #21591

FOOT MASSAGE I'm a 44 year old Gay White male, HIV positive, 5'8 130lbs. I'm looking for guys who love their feet massaged. (Minneapolis) #19287

THE KINKIER THE BETTER I'm a submissive male, attractive, 6'2, 190lbs, light buns and hairless. I'm looking for a dominate hung top male to take control. Prefer uncult. I would like to worship you. The kinkier the better. (Minneapolis) #18435

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED I'm a 22 year old Gay man, 5'10, 170lbs, muscular and work out regularly. I play hockey, football and basketball. I'm looking for a hot, athletic, muscular, straight looking and acting man. (Minneapolis) #18455

I AIN'T TOO PROUD TO BEG I'm a 36 year old slave. I'm looking for a dominant man into bondage and discipline. Call me. I will be a good boy for you. (Minneapolis) #13189

STRICT BONDAGE I'm a 30 year old White male into bondage and S&M. I'm a bottom looking for a top. I'm into strict bondage. (Minneapolis) #16661

ROUGH TRADE I'm a well endowed 32 year old Gay White male into kink and raunch. I'm looking for men who are into the same. (Minneapolis) #17503

FILL MY SADISTIC NEEDS I'm a 41 year old, 6'2, 230lbs, experienced master looking for a slave boy to fill my sadistic needs. You will learn to serve me in absolute obedience. (Minneapolis) #17025

CREATIVE MIND I'm a White male, 5'9, 160lbs, attractive. I like to do a variety of things. I like movies, skiing, and skateboarding. I'm looking for an attractive guy who is intelligent, creative, and fun. I'm into being more submissive. (Minneapolis) #16820

CAT LOVER I'm 5'11, 265lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes, clean shaven, hairy. I seek men, 22 to 35, who like a little extra padding. I love cats, music, and more. I like White and Hispanic men who are clean shaven tops. Call me. (Minneapolis) #15360

AND THE KITCHEN SINK TOO! Attractive, 41 year old, Gay, White male, 170lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes, masculine, with a hairy chest and stomach. I seek an attractive, Gay, Black male, 30 to 50 year old top, who has a nice build, is well endowed, drug free, down to earth, and sincere. (Minneapolis) #15424

MY AGE I'm a student, 21 years old, Brown hair, Hazel eyes, 5'11, 150lbs. I'm looking for friendship and a possible relationship. I enjoy tennis, skiing, hiking, movies, and concerts. I'm only looking for men around my age. (Minneapolis) #15497

DROP YOUR PANTS If you are a bad boy and need some firm discipline, my belt and paddle are ready to put you in line. This dominant male knows what you need. I'll treat you the way you deserve. (Minneapolis) #15725

PASSABLE TV OR TS WANTED I'm a 38 year old White male, 6'2, Brown hair, Brown eyes, attractive, muscular, work out. I like music, dining out, movies, casinos, travel, and quiet times with someone special. I seek a passable Transvestite or Transsexual. I'm seeking friends for good times and casual dating. (Minneapolis) #9438

FRIENDLY TAQUITOS WITH MEAT I'm looking for friends. I am 26 years old, look much younger, Mexican, cute. (Minneapolis) #12820

VINO MAN Do you speak Italian? Check out this mailbox. This guy sounds really hot!! (Minneapolis) #13128

WHY DON'T WE DO IT IN THE ROAD I'm a Black Transsexual, very beautiful, very sexy. I'm in search of very well endowed men who are clean, sexy, open minded, and like to do things outdoors. (Minneapolis) #5538

LET'S CUDDLE I'm 6ft, 175lbs, in very good shape, bearded, with a hairy chest. I enjoy the outdoors, movies, dinners, quiet evenings, and cuddling. I'm looking for a hairy man who are in shape and are drug free. Call me. (Minneapolis) #6834

BROTHER TO BROTHER I'm a Gay Black male, 6ft, 195lbs, nice body, good shape. I'm looking for other well built masculine Black men. Call me. (Minneapolis) #7556

GOOD TIMES ARE WAITING I'm 40 years old, 6ft, 180lbs, dark, masculine, good looking, discreet. I'm looking for a friend under 50 who is in shape and good looking. Call me. (Minneapolis) #5635

ARE YOU READY FOR A CHANGE? I'm a Transsexual interested in guys who are masculine, straight appearing, well endowed. I like to dance, dine out, cook, shop, look sexy all the time. (Minneapolis) #5678

DOMINANT ALL AMERICAN TOP I'm a dominant, all American, clean cut, White male. I'm hot, horny, hung, 30's, 5'11, 180lbs, work out, great looks, disease free, booze and buds are OK with me. I demand a curious, obedient, slender male under 35 to service me. (Minneapolis) #6202



HOPELESS ROMANTIC I'm a Gay White male, 46 years old, young looking, good looking, young acting, good shape, hairy chest, good looking, passionate, loving, caring, etc. If you are interested please call me. (Minneapolis) #1515

WANTED MEN I'm 29 years old, 6'6, 200lbs, swimmers build, Blue eyes, Brown hair, fair skin, shy, very smooth, bottom. I love to serve uncult men of all kinds. Make me do what you want. Call me. (Minneapolis) #4916

BEND ME OVER YOUR KNEES SIR I'm a Gay male, 33 years old, into bondage, leather, and S&M. I'm looking for a hot top to bend me over his knee and to his will. Call me. (Minneapolis) #4569

CUTE YOUNG BOY Hot 28 year old Blond, long hair, very nice, honest, decent job, versatile, fun, adventurous, party, drink, (but never create problems), mellow. I will do anything I can to please a cute young boy 18+. Please call me. (Minneapolis) #4664

HOT 28 YEAR OLD BLOND I've got long hair, a decent job, and I am versatile, fun, adventurous, into partying, and have been in naked magazines. I want to experiment with servicing you and your friends. If you are real, I will send great photos. (Minneapolis) #4665

Wisconsin

BE MY SECRET LOVER I'm a 27 year old Gay, White male with a good looking, smooth body. I'm straight acting and discreet. I'm looking for a male, 18 to 29, to be my secret lover. Satisfaction is guaranteed. (Appleton) #9712

APPLETON GUY I'm 22 year old Gay White male looking for someone to have fun with. Call me. (Appleton) #6976

LOOKING FOR A GOOD FRIEND I'm a 22 year old Gay White male new to the area. I'm attractive, 5'9, 150lbs, Brown eyes. I'm looking for someone 18 to 25 who loves to have fun and who can be a good friend. Call me. (Appleton) #6949

ORDINARY GUY I'm an ordinary guy from Appleton looking for someone who is fun and sincere and likes to do a variety of things. If you are interested please call me. (Appleton) #21201

LONGING AT THE LAKE Are there any friendly guys in the Balsam Lake area? I'd like to get acquainted and see what happens. I'm a Gay, Latin male, 5'11, 150lbs. I'm interested in hanging out and getting to know some other guys. Maybe you can fill the void in my heart. (Balsam Lake) #19007

ENCOUNTER THIS I'm a 31 year old, Gay, White male, 5'11, 190lbs, Brown hair, Blue eyes. I'm seeking well hung, top men, 21 to 40 years old, for hot encounters. (Eau Claire) #16562

COLD NIGHT HEAT Long term relationship sought by Gay, White male, 29 years old, 5'3, 135lbs. Brown hair with Blue-green eyes. I'm stable, healthy, non-smoking, non-drinking, drug free. I enjoy country life, movies and cuddling at home. If you share these qualities and interests and are ready for love and romance, let's heat up these cool winter nights together. Age unimportant. (Elsworth) #1697

BISEXUAL MALE WANTED I'm a Gay male, cannot meet people freely. Looking for 33 years old professional bisexual male in my area. (Fond du lac) #18752

CHEESE NEAR THE BAY I'm a 27 year old, Gay male, with Blond hair and Blue eyes. I'm looking to meet other guys in the Green Bay area. Give me a call (Green Bay) #19721

KNOCK ON MY BACK DOOR I'm a 46 year old Bisexual married White male looking for a discreet man for fun and games. I am new to the scene and I'm eager to learn. If you want to have fun with a hot virgin call me. (Green Bay) #18380

COFFEE TALK Social butterfly in Madison wants to meet other guys for morning coffee or evening fun. Care to join me? Pass the sugar, please. (Madison) #1779

DISCRETE PLEASURES I'm a 26 year old, Bi curious male, desiring new experiences. Fun, outgoing and discrete. I live in the Madison area. Let's start with friendship and see what happens from there. (Madison) #3161

IT'S ALL IN THE GAME I'm looking for someone to just have fun with. I'm 5'11, muscular build, 160lbs, clean cut, shaved. I'd like a man in his early 20's. I'm a versatile top man. (Madison) #17764

NEW TO MADISON I'm 5'7, 180lbs, 26 years old, Brown hair, Brown eyes, muscular build. I'm into outdoor sports (especially downhill skiing), movies, and dancing. I'm looking for friendship and possible relationship. Serious replies only. (Madison) #14270

"HUNG" HUNTER I'm 6ft, Blond hair, Blue eyes, medium build, very well endowed. I'm looking for men who are good looking and well endowed. (Madison) #17253

EARLY MORNING HARD ON I'm looking to get together with someone in the mornings or late evenings. (Madison) #17456

MUTUALLY SATISFYING I'm new to the Madison area. I'm 5'11, Blond hair, Blue eyes, 33 years old. I'm looking for men for friendship and possibly more. (Madison) #17106

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR DIVERSITY I'm looking for someone to have a good time with. I like to do lots of different things. Call me. (Madison) #6750

WISCONSIN DELLS I love to 69. Call me if you are 35 and under. (Madison) #5610

TORRID ENCOUNTERS I'm a Gay Latin male, 6ft, 195lbs, 26 years old. I seek muscular, lustful, Gay White males or couples 20 to 40 for torrid encounters. Call me. (Madison) #4016

LET ME MODEL FOR YOU I'm 5'10, 195lbs, muscular build, professional model. I'm looking for a friends first relationship. (Marion) #16614

MENASHA MAN I'm a Gay male in my early 30's. I enjoy the outdoors. I'm new to the area. Call me. (Menasha) #16411

THIS BOTTOM WANTS YOU I'm 27 years old, 5'10, Auburn hair, Green eyes, glasses, mustache. I'm looking for men around my age for fun and more. Call me. (Menomonie) #3939

BAY CITY ROLLER I'm a 20 year old Gay White male in Green Bay looking to meet guys 21 to 35 for friendship and possible relationship. I like movies, music, and going to the clubs on occasion. I'm a light drinker and a non-smoker. If you're interested in getting together, give me a call. (Milwaukee) #22569

SUBMISSION IMPOSSIBLE I'm your French Connection in Green Bay. I'm a Gay White male, 5'9, 155lbs, Brown hair, Brown eyes. I'm a well educated professional. I like biking, long walks, foreign movies, fine restaurants, coffee houses, and dancing. I'm a non-matrimonial, non-smoker, and non-drinker. I'm looking for in-shape guys, 22 to 26, of any race, for massage, both giving and receiving, and other good times. The code word is fun. (Milwaukee) #5390

WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO I'm 27 years old, 5'10, 180lbs. I'm looking for a Transvestite or Transsexual for fun and fellowship. A feminine fellow might be nice too. Please be nice and smooth and call me as soon as possible. (Milwaukee) #22617

DEEP VOICE, SIMPLE NEEDS If you're a Gay, Asian male who is looking for more than a one night stand, this husky-voiced man may be the one for you. I'm a Gay, White male, am 5'11, and weigh 165lbs. I have Black hair and Brown eyes. I am very warm, caring, and romantic. I love movies and being outdoors. Please be serious and have a sense of humor. We'll get along great. (Milwaukee) #18863

A BLACK MAN'S BOY I'm 39 years old, White male, looking for Black guys in the Milwaukee area. You can use this white boy whenever you see fit. Pleasure Guaranteed! (Milwaukee) #6157

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL I'm a Gay male, 180lbs. I'm looking for other guys in my area for good times and friendship. If you would like to know more about me please leave a message in my mailbox. (Milwaukee) #20332

SADDLE UP AND RIDE I'm a Gay bottom boy looking for hot top men to have fun with. If you like topping hot bottoms then I'm the one for you. (Milwaukee) #20351

ARE YOU EXPERIENCED? I'm a 31 year old Gay White male, 5'8, 190lbs. I'm into science fiction. I'm inexperienced and I'm looking for other White males 18 to 35 to experiment with. Discretion is a must. (Milwaukee) #18726

FREE MAID SERVICES I'm 44 years old Gay White TV. Looking for position as a maid or servant. I like to cook and clean and be domesticated and feminized. I have a car and can travel. (Milwaukee) #20281

SLICK RICK Hello. I'm 36 years old, 5'8, 165lbs, with Brown hair and Brown eyes. I'm looking to get into the leather scene. I am a total submissive, obedient, and eager to please bottom. I seek a master 40 to 50 years of age to train and utilize me. (Milwaukee) #20929

DO AS YOUR TOLD! I'm a 50 year old Gay White male. I'm 5'11 with Gray and Black hair, Green eyes. I'm pretty and dominant. I seek a very submissive bottom who is capable of total service and worship. (Milwaukee) #20856

SQUIRT ON ME I'm a 40 year old Gay White male looking for a relaxed gentleman who want to use a White boy. (Milwaukee) #19075

BROWN HANKY I'm a handsome 39 year old Gay white male. I'm 6'5, 190lbs and very well hung. I'm looking for other Gay White males for Brown hanky fun! (Milwaukee) #19214

SOME OF US WANT TO BE ABUSED I'm 6ft, 160lbs, White, submissive, slave. I'm seeking a dominant Black man or a group of dominant men to use me on a regular basis. (Milwaukee) #12191

SMOOTHIE? I'm 6'1, 175lbs, 30's. I swim and I dance. I have a nice smooth body. I like to give and receive massage. (Milwaukee) #17702

ASTRO GLIDE If you are interested in body shaving, I would like to have your entire body. (Milwaukee) #17826

TOE AND BOOT LICKER I'm into boots and feet. Hope you are too. Let's talk soon. (Milwaukee) #13168

WIDE RECEIVER I'm a Gay, White male, in search of other men who are into football gear and football. I shape guys only. Discretion assured. (Milwaukee) #17403

LET ME TOP YOU OFF SAFELY I'm a White male, 32 years old, 5'11, 150lbs. I'm looking for bottom men for safe sex. I love getting it on with other men. (Milwaukee) #17554

BROWN HANKY WIENERSNITZ Hey Brown Hanky wearers. I'm a hot German, Gay, White male, 6'5, Brown hair, Blue eyes, late 30's, 190lbs, masculine and looking for a buddy who wears a brown hanky. I'm not into bondage, but I enjoy leather. I'm usually a bottom, but I can top a submissive boy. (Milwaukee) #17314

STRAIGHT UP I'm a Black male, 6'2, 150lbs. I'm seeking a man who is straight acting and appearing. (Milwaukee) #16937

HOT WIRED WHEELS I'm interested in meeting hot guys in the Milwaukee area. I'm 5'7, 150lbs, Brown skin, good looking, and very well maintained. (Milwaukee) #15990

SADDLE UP I'm 28 years old, Blond hair, Blue eyes, 148lbs, top man. I like riding guys. (Milwaukee) #15781

RAUNCHY AND UNINHIBITED I'm a hot, 39 year old, Gay White male, 6'5, 190lbs, very well hung. I'm looking for Gay, White males, who like butt worship. (Milwaukee) #13543

ON THE SIDE I'm a Gay White male, late 30's, 5'8, 150lbs, hairy chest, receded hair line. I'm looking for an East Side top for fun on the side. Call me. (Milwaukee) #7373

LET'S GET WET I'm 6'3, Blond hair, Hazel eyes, 155lbs. I like swimming, walking, biking, camping, etc. I'm interested in meeting new friends. Call me. (Milwaukee) #6599

HELP ME GET OFF I'm 25 years old, smooth bottom boy looking for a hot top muscular man. A hot construction worker, body builder, cap, etc. to take control of me. Make me do it sir. Make me your dirty little boy. (Milwaukee) #7498

READY FOR A CHANGE I'm a single White male, 30 years old, 6ft, 200lbs. I'm looking for a Transvestite. I need a first time experience with a kinky cross dresser. (Milwaukee) #5255

SIT BACK AND RELAX I'm a handsome and bored Gay White male, early 30's, slim, discreet, very oral. I'm looking for a Gay or straight White men who would like to be serviced. Call me. (Milwaukee) #5879

69ING... I'm a 36 years old Bisexual man, 5'8, 170lb, in very good shape. Looking for guys to have fun and 69ing. Preferred well-hung guys. (Park Falls) #2109

HERE'S THE SKINNY I'm a Gay White male, Blond hair, Green eyes, skinny, 120lbs. I like cuddling, watching movies, and the beach. If I sound interesting to you please call. (Racine) #17609

LIFE, LOVE, AND HAPPINESS I'm a 45 year old, Gay, White male, looking for a friend, and potential romantic partner. You should be between 21 and 50, HIV negative, and a lover of all things outdoors. I am 5'7, have Brown hair, Green eyes, and have a trimmed beard and mustache. I drink very little and don't hit the bars much, but like to go out to dinner, travel, and gaze at the stars. I guess I'm a traditional romantic. (Rice Lake) #14410

MORAL OF MY STORY I'm a Gay,

ASYLUM

Continued from Page 1

licized case of an African woman fleeing genital mutilation, represent a significant rethinking of the applications of asylum law. Once reserved for those whose religious or political views made them the targets of official persecution, asylum law is increasingly being applied to those who are outcasts by virtue of cultural or medical differences with the prevailing norm.

Their case histories are shocking testimony to the degradations suffered by homosexuals in many parts of the world, and to the relative tolerance of the United States. Among them:

A Gay Mexican man who was harassed and robbed by police, then raped and brutalized by soldiers.

A Gay Brazilian man who was repeatedly raped at gunpoint by police. On one occasion, he was taken to jail, where the commanding officer encouraged criminals to gang-rape and brutalize him. After fleeing to the United States, he discovered he was infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

A feminist and Lesbian activist who won asylum after arguing she could face the death penalty for homosexuality in her na-

tive Iran.

A Russian Lesbian who was repeatedly arrested, expelled from school and fired from jobs, then threatened with psychiatric institutionalization to "cure" her.

It is impossible to say just how common—or uncommon—these cases are. Asylum case records are confidential, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service won't say how many cases have been decided on the basis of sexual orientation. The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission in San Francisco counts 43 cases through July 5, 1996, but that count is not exhaustive.

It seems safe to say, though, that the Gay and Lesbian cases account for only a tiny fraction of all asylum cases. In 1994, the last year for which complete figures are available, the United States received 146,468 applications for political asylum and granted 8,131.

That doesn't placate some critics of U.S. immigration policy, who are alarmed by the Gay and Lesbian asylum claims.

"We think this is part of a broader process designed to completely corrupt the meaning of the political asylum laws," said K.C. McAlpin, deputy director of FAIR, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which advocates much stricter controls on immigration.

McAlpin said he sympathizes with Gays and Lesbians who face intolerance, but believes they should be working to change the attitudes in their native lands. He draws a distinction between social ostracism and political persecution.

"What about kids who dress like punk rockers?" McAlpin asked. "That may be frowned upon in a country like Iran. Is that going to be grounds for political asylum in

the United States?"

Advocates for the Gay and Lesbian asylum-seekers say their clients are very much the victims of political persecution, whether or not it stems from a conscious government campaign against homosexuality. Their tormentors are frequently police officers, the very people to whom they would ordinarily turn for help.

Hiroshi Motomura, a professor of law at the University of Colorado who edits the leading legal casebook on asylum law, said the Gay asylum cases are based on "well-settled precedent." He sees them as part of a general broadening of asylum law that includes cases of persecution against women.

However, Motomura questioned the wisdom of a judgment last year that granted asylum to a heterosexual man from Togo on the basis of his infection with HIV. The man argued he would be a social outcast in Togo, and would receive poor medical care there.

"I question personally whether the unavailability of drugs is what asylum was intended for," Motomura said. Taken to its logical extreme, he noted, such a precedent could open U.S. borders to tens of millions of the world's sick and outcast.

In addition to the man from Togo, several HIV-positive Gay men have been granted asylum. In some cases, their HIV status was cited as a supporting reason they likely would suffer persecution.

Being HIV-positive still can be grounds for deportation from the United States. But lawyers who work in asylum law insist there is no contradiction—the whole point of asylum law is that humanitarian concerns should sometimes override normal immigration restrictions.

The cases of Gay and Lesbian asylum have come from throughout the world, but most are from Latin America, probably because it is simply closer. European coun-

tries, which have similar asylum policies, are more likely to grant asylum to gays and lesbians from the Middle East and the former Soviet Bloc nations.

Among the Latin American asylum-seekers, Jose Cruz offers a fairly typical case.

The middle child in a working-class family of nine, Cruz grew up in a small city in El Salvador and began to experience intolerance and ridicule long before he knew he was homosexual—or even what homosexuality was.

"From an early age, I was effeminate," he writes in his application for asylum. This caused his parents to suspect he was Gay—something he didn't realize himself until adolescence. In one of the tragicomic episodes of his young life, he recalls the time his parents sent him to a prostitute to "cure my effeminate ways and homosexuality and make me a man."

He said he paid the prostitute to say they'd had sex—a lie.

Meanwhile, at age 13, Cruz said, he was raped by a local soldier. It was the first of several such incidents, always involving soldiers, police or paramilitary "death squads."

In what Cruz described as the most terrifying of these encounters, and one of the only ones that did not involve rape, he and two friends were surrounded on a San Salvador street in the summer of 1987 by two paramilitary commandos—young men who were "buffed and pumped," Cruz would recall. They ordered Cruz and his friends to the pavement and began to search their belongings.

One of his friends, en route to a drag show, had a bag containing a dress, wig and makeup. When the commandos opened it,

Please See Political Page 19

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Organizations

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. x

Personals

GWM, 36, 5'10", 190 lb., br hair/eyes. Looking for friendship/relationship. I'm handicapped/w speech impediment. Am mobile. Will relocate. Am social drinker and smoker. Call Mark at (414) 253-0921. c

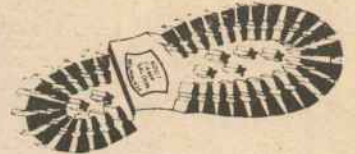
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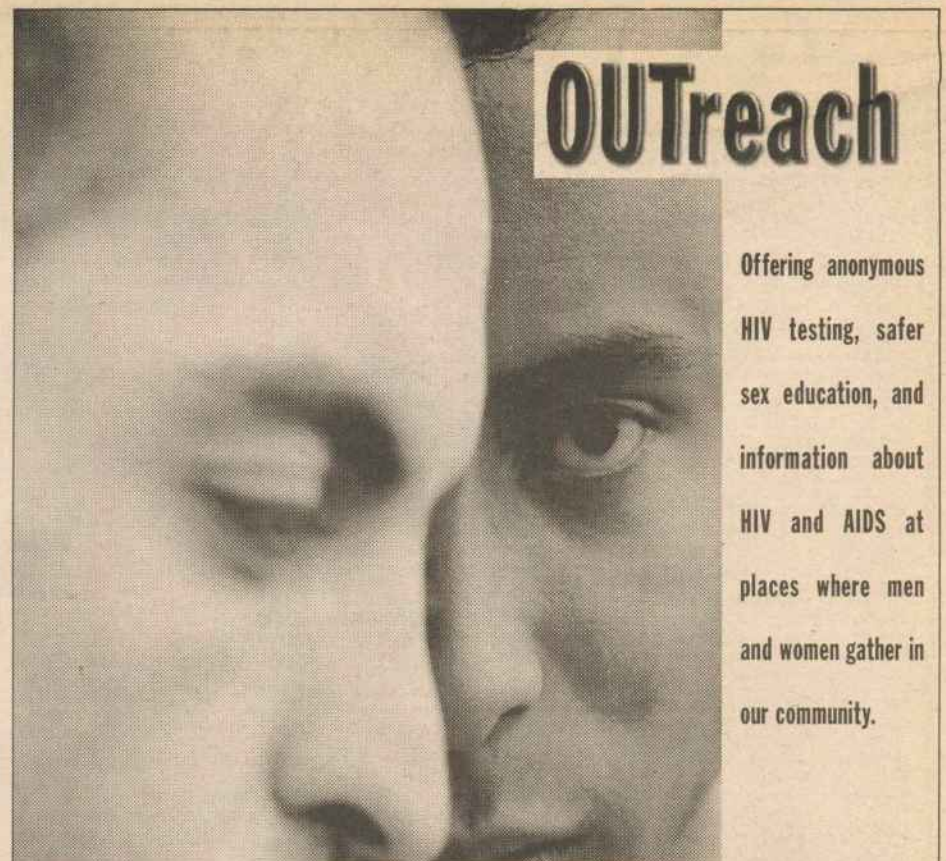
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POLITICAL

Continued from Page 18

Cruz said, "They screamed, 'Culeros (faggots), you're a disgrace to society! You deserve to die now!'"

The men beat them with the butts of their guns, Cruz said. "I felt faint from the pain of their blows." Finally, just as one had pulled a knife and pledged to "cut up your little faggot bodies into little pieces for the vultures," three cars drove by and parked. The commandos fired a shot into the air and fled.

It was this incident, and the memory of

those insults, that reduced Cruz to tears during a recent interview. He spoke through a translator at the small, neat apartment he now shares with a sister in suburban Hempstead.

He is dressed in a black-and-white checked jacket, his long black hair pulled into a ponytail, a black leather hat perched on his head.

Since coming to the United States illegally in 1988, crossing over the Mexican border hidden in the recesses of a mobile home, Cruz has scratched out a living painting trucks, washing hair in a beauty salon and, lately, cleaning a shop. He dreams of getting his beauticians' license and returning to a hair salon.

Clearly, the United States has been good to him. Not once, Cruz said, has he been victimized because of his homosexuality. "And if I were ever to experience that, I would have fled this country, too," he said.

Then he amends that statement. There is a crucial difference between the abuses homosexuals suffer in the United States and those he suffered in El Salvador, he said.

"Because, you know, there are laws that protect people, including homosexuals, from abuse. Whereas in my country, you could never file a complaint."

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Happier Times - The staff of the Main Club is shown in this Christmas greeting sent out before the bar burned down in a tragic early morning fire took the lives of two Gay men.

MAIN CLUB
Continued From Page 1

Others commented on the role the bar played in developing a community in Superior. "Before the Main Club there was no community. That bar built whatever we have up here," said a Lesbian regular.

By Sunday December 28, flowers left by concerned Main Club regulars and other members of the community were seen at the site.

Victims Mourned

Along with the loss of the Main Club, the Superior Duluth community is mourning the loss of two Gay men who were killed in the fire.

Laird Rengo, 40, of Duluth and Montrio "Troy" Burchard were in Burchard's apartment above the bar when the fire broke out. An autopsy is scheduled to be performed. According to the **Duluth Tribune**, firefighters on the scene speculated that the pair died of smoke inhalation.

Burchard was a bartender at the Club. Although he was relatively new to the area he had already become known for his friendly style and his ability to party.

Rengo, was known as a good friend to have. Those who knew him speak of his helping a close friend who is dying from AIDS as just one example of his kindness.

One of those who knew Rengo well was Linda Estel who worked as a Main Club bartender for the last 11 years. Estel told **The Wisconsin Light**, "He was a very, very, nice man. Very courteous and respectful, just a real nice guy. He had many friends throughout the community, it is a big loss for lots of people."

Dan Marolt, owner of JT's Bar, an alternative establishment which opened last April told **Wisconsin Light** "There were a lot of tears last night. Troy had recently moved here, people didn't know him as well, but a lot of us knew Laird for years. He was such a great guy we can't believe he is gone."

Chronology of The Main Club Building

Records reveal the two-story brick and wood building that housed the Main Club was either a restaurant or bar for most of its life.

- Built circa 1890-92 by Frank Kehrback.
- 1897: owned by the LaPage brothers.
- 1898: owned by Martin Smith.
- 1903: owned by Jacob Davis.
- 1914: owned by Isaac Korpi.
- 1917: became a restaurant owned by Stanley Thomas.
- 1917-24: history is unclear.
- 1924: a "soft-drink" establishment during prohibition run by Emil Vukovich.
- 1930: listed as "lodgings" under Vukovich.
- 1935: the International Tavern, often frequented by longshoremen, also owned by Vukovich.
- 1955: became the International Night Club, listed to Vukovich.
- 1979-80: became Al's Waterfront Bar.
- 1983: became the Main Club under Bob Jansen.

As published by **The Duluth Tribune**
Source: Joe Korman, collections manager at the Douglas County Historical Society

Superior's First Openly Gay Bar

The Main Club had been operating since 1983. Its clientele came from throughout Northern Wisconsin and Northern Minnesota.

It was Superior's first openly Gay bar. Some said that its very existence flew in the face of those who think that Gay culture could only be found in bigger cities. For many Gays and Lesbians the Main Club provided the only safe space they had.

Some patrons regularly drove three hours one way to be with their friends at the Main Club.

Owner A Leader of the Community

Talk to Gays and Lesbians in the Twin Ports Area and they will tell you that Main Club owner, Bob Jansen, is the leader of their community. They say Jansen, put his heart and soul into making The Main Club the hub of community life.

From the beginning the bar was more than a place to socialize, it was a political hub as well. More often than not Jansen and his customers were at the forefront of Gay and Lesbian causes like AIDS awareness, Pride organizing for elections and fighting homophobia.

Owner Recognized For His Work

Jansen's work did not go unrecognized. In 1994 he was presented with a Stonewall Award at PrideFest honoring him for his courageous and often lonely stands against homophobia.

Last June, Jansen was named Grand Marshall of the Twin Cities Pride Parade. That parade held in Minneapolis drew tens of thousands of spectators who cheered him as he rode down the route.

Future Plans Not Certain

When asked about his plans for rebuilding, Jansen told **Wisconsin Light** that it was too early to say but he did say that the bar was under insured.

"I am not thinking about that right now. I am thinking about the people whose lives we lost and those who feel that they lost their home when the bar burned down," said Jansen.

General Community Supportive

Joanne Moody, owner of The Trio, a Superior bar with a primarily Lesbian clientele echoes Estel's sentiments. "Everyone is in shock. We lost two people in the fire. No one can believe it happened. The whole town is very sympathetic. We are

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



going to have a benefit on New Year's eve for the Main Club. We are getting donations from everyone all over town."

Proceeds from the benefit will be used to help Jansen defray expenses. **The Wisconsin Light** has donated a "First Wives Club" movie poster signed by Bette Midler. The poster will be on display at the Trio Club, 820 Tower Street, Superior. Chances to win it are \$5.00 each.

Jansen told **The Wisconsin Light** that the Mayor of Duluth, Gary Doty, called to express his condolences. "The Superior Police and Fire Departments have been great and very supportive as well."

Jansen also said the media coverage was very good, but added that he had asked the local media to mention that the Main Club was a Gay bar, something that some outlets had not done. "I thought that it was important for people to understand how important this place was for our community."

Moody agreed with Jansen's assessment that local media coverage was very sensitive and well done. **The Duluth Tribune** ran two very well written and sensitive pieces on the fire and the bar. **The Superior Evening Telegram** also did a major story on the fire.

Ironically it was the work done by Jansen and those he organized that has helped create greater understanding in the Twin Ports area.

The sympathy expressed by the media and the local community is a consolation to a community in a state of shock. "It's a huge loss to the community, said Estel. "It was a cornerstone for us."

She adds, "Like many others, I have many personal memories, lovers I've met, lovers I broke up with, people who came in and discovered themselves for the first time, meeting new friends and having fun with old ones. We all have our memories, and no fire no can destroy them."

"The Wisconsin Light" thanks Jason Skog of **"The Duluth Tribune"** for his help in providing background information used in this story.

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