

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



The Wisconsin Light

Fiction, Interviews and More Debut in The Wisconsin Light

The Wisconsin Light is proud to announce that beginning with this issue, it will be bringing its readers several new features.

Our own nationally known writer, Dr. Terry Boughner agreed to bring our readers a fabulous new story "Statues of the Sacred Band" a thrilling Gay new serial. This action packed story features political intrigue in high places, murder, lust and love.

Dr. Boughner is well known for his published works including *Out of All Time* and numerous articles written for national Gay magazines. This exciting serial begins in this issue with the first installment on our front page. Every issue of *The Wisconsin Light* will carry another installment of this thriller. Future installments will be carried on the first page of our *SpotLight* entertainment section.

Another new feature, "Dusty's Corner," makes its debut in this issue. "Dusty's Corner" will feature interviews with Wisconsin bar and club personalities including DJ's, owners, bartenders and performers. Dusty's first interview is with La Cage DJ, Tony Aiello. It can be found on the front page of the "SpotLight Section."

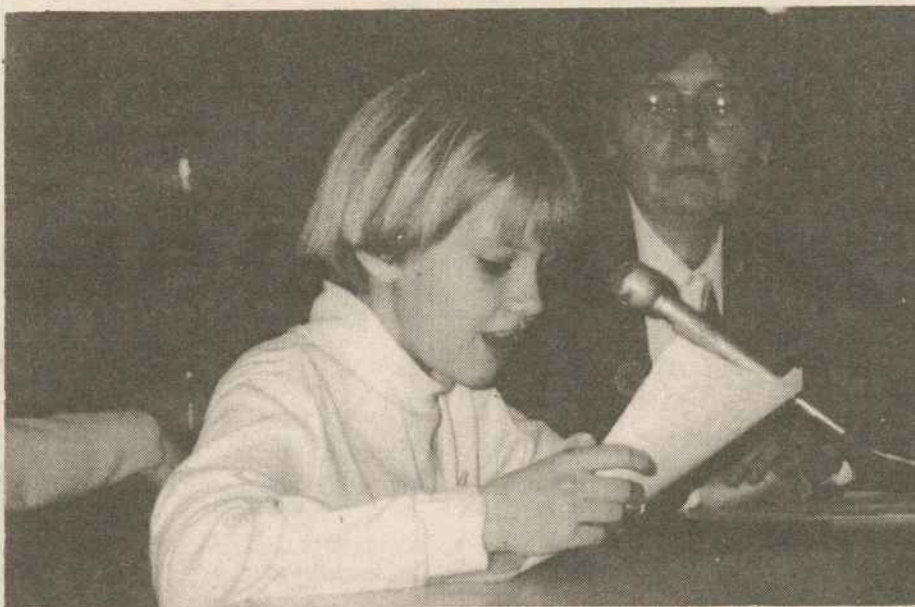
Three issues ago we debuted our new advice column, "Dear Ruthie." We thank the many readers who have told us how much they enjoy reading Ruthie. "Dear Ruthie" will be running every other issue (possibly every issue) in the Wisconsin Light "SpotLight Section." Her column is a Wisconsin Light exclusive.

In our next issue, we will bring you the debut of *The Wisconsin Light* book page. The book page will be part of the Spotlight Section. It will include reviews, new release information, a bookstore directory and more.

Last but not least, we are working on our own website. We expect that *Wilight.com* will be up and running by the end of March. Look for details in our next issue.

We hope our readers will enjoy these and other new features that we are planning to bring you in the near future. Let us know what you think as we continue to work hard on giving you even more reasons to pick up a copy of *The Wisconsin Light*, Wisconsin's ONLY nationally respected Les/Bi/Gay publication.

Anti-Gay Marriage Hearing Draws Hundreds to Wausau



Speaking up for herself and her Moms Sol Kelley-Jones brought tears and cheers when she read a moving appeal for tolerance and freedom to members of the Assembly Committee on Children and Families during the Anti-Gay Marriage Bill hearing held in Wausau on Monday March 10.

A Plea From a 10 Year Old Girl: The Testimony of Sol Kelly-Jones

Sol Kelly Jones and her two Lesbian mothers testified at the Wausau hearing on AB 104. In a few minutes she said more than many others did. When she had finished the room erupted in sustained thunderous applause, whistles and cheers.

State Representative Shirley Krug (D-Mil) told *The Wisconsin Light* "She is a better speaker than many of my colleagues in the Legislature."

As a public service we bring you the full statement delivered by this remarkable little girl.

Hi my name is Sol Kelley Jones. I am 10 years old. I am a really lucky kid because I have two parents who love each other and love me very much. My parents are always helping me and lots of other people too. My friends tell me how lucky I am because I always have a mom home with me after school who fixes great snacks.

Not everyone is lucky enough to have two great parents so I know I have a lot to

be thankful for. Some people don't understand everything about my family - like having two moms. They ask me "who is your real mom?" I say "they're both my real moms."

I have a great family that's full of love. That's why its so hard for me to understand why people are so afraid of us that they want bills like this. I don't see any way this bill helps families and it hurts my family a lot.

I read signs carried by some people who support this bill. They say things like

Please See Kelly-Jones Page 10

Green Bay's Center Project, Inc. And AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin Merge

Green Bay/Milwaukee—In a historic move that is a sign of the times in the national AIDS community, two of Wisconsin's oldest and largest AIDS Service Organizations (ASO) have announced they are merging effective April 1, 1997.

In a joint statement, Center Project, Inc. (CPI) of Green Bay and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), headquartered in Milwaukee, announced that after several months of negotiation their respective Boards of Directors voted unanimously to merge the organizations.

CPI Board President Harry Spiegelberg, a retired executive from Kimberly-Clark Corporation in Appleton, said "It is the smartest move we could make to guarantee long-term, high quality services in northeast Wisconsin."

ARCW Board Chair Ed Hashek, an executive with Bank One Corporation in Milwaukee, called the merger "a perfect partnership that will strengthen both agencies enabling us to better serve the HIV/AIDS community in Wisconsin."

Because of growing difficulties in securing government resources and a sense of donor fatigue within the private sector, leading ASOs in many parts of the country are, for the first time, seriously considering mergers and consolidations. In Chicago, the Howard Brown Health Center recently announced its merger with Stop AIDS Chicago. In San Francisco, dozens of ASOs have committed to a three-year plan to achieve consolidation.

"We are determined to increase AIDS services in the most cost-effective way," said ARCW Executive Director Doug Nelson.

"Because ARCW provides centralized administrative and development services, our AIDS service organizations can focus almost exclusively on service delivery and advocacy," Nelson explained. "ARCW is about as

Gays Outnumber Bill's Supporters At Meeting

By Bill Meunier

Exclusive On the Scene Coverage for Les/Bi/Gay Wisconsin

Wausau, WI— Hundreds of people most of them Gays, Bisexuals, Lesbians and their allies turned out for a hearing on an anti-Gay Marriage proposal sponsored by State Representative Lorriane Seratti, (R-Spread Eagle). The hearing called by the Children and Family Services Committee was held at the North Central Technical College Campus in Wausau on Monday March 10, 1997.

The proposal, Assembly Bill 104, would forbid same sex marriages performed here or in other states.

Throughout the six and half hour hearing, opponents and proponents traded barbs and attacks before the committee, a majority of which had already endorsed the bill before hearing any testimony on it.

Those in favor of Seratti's proposal claimed that the measure was necessary to protect marriage. Nearly all of those favoring the law made reference to biblical passages, with at least one speaker indicating support for the death penalty for Gays and Lesbians.

Those opposed to the bill, including a number of ministers and rabbis, called the measure unnecessary and said it was inspired by hatred.

Testimony opened with Seratti citing polls showing that the majority of Americans oppose same sex Marriage. The Republican claimed that Gays are only "3%

Please See Gay Marriage Page 10

THE STATUES OF THE SACRED BAND Chapter One

Editor's Note: With this issue, we begin a piece of fiction in 15 parts to be published in consecutive issues. It is a story of intrigue in high places, of Presidential ambitions and of murder in a way and for a purpose that has not been seen before. It is also a story of how one Gay man and one Bisexual woman find love, not with each other, but in their lives.

By Terry Boughner



It was not going to be a good day. It was Monday morning. The dark, heavy clouds hanging low over the mountains told me it was going to rain. I hoped I could get to the

office before it poured. It was only two blocks, so I didn't drive. I didn't make it. I got soaked. There was more. When I got to my desk, I found Simpson's note saying he wanted to see me as soon as I got in.

Jim Simpson was the owner and editor of the small town paper where I worked as a reporter. He was in his late 50's, a short, stout man with iron-gray hair and robust

features who entered any room in determined gusts.

According to office and town gossip, he'd once been a reporter for the Washington Post, one of the best, so they said. He'd gotten fed up with city life, had come to Hastings (pop.1500), and bought the Trib.

When he took it over, the Trib was on the last sidewalk of time, a little weekly that was heading into bankruptcy fast. But under Simpson's hand, it flourished mainly, I thought, because he wrote for it.

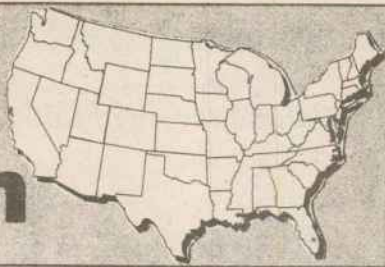
In my opinion and that of many others as well, Simpson was a brilliant writer. He had a sagacious grasp of politics that, combined with a razor wit, made his editorials and op-ed pieces a pleasure to read. As a result, the Trib had a reach far beyond Hastings and the Turkeyfoot Valley. As with William Allan White and the Emporia Gazette of another state and earlier years, the Trib was read in the halls of power and influence from Washington to L.A.

My admiration for him was second to none, but I had good reason to feel strong affection for him, too.

In April, a little less than four months

Please See Statues Page 2

News From The Nation



Gay Group Sues State Rep.

Detroit, MI-AP- A Gay-Lesbian group is suing state Rep. Deborah Whyman, (R-Canton) saying she made campaign comments alleging the group engaged in illegal activity by encouraging men to have sex with boys.

Jeffrey Montgomery, president of the Detroit-based Triangle Foundation, a Gay-Lesbian anti-violence organization, said they filed the suit alleging libel, defamation, slander and other complaints Friday, February 28th, in Wayne County Circuit Court.

According to the suit, Whyman distributed campaign materials which said the Triangle Foundation had made large contributions to Whyman's opponent.

"That group has proclaimed its support of sex acts between grown men and boys!" Whyman wrote, according to the suit.

"They are engaging in illegal acts," Whyman said in a phone interview with The Associated Press Friday.

Montgomery said while there are sodomy statutes on the books, the current interpretation has not found that people will be cited unless the conduct includes a minor, force, money or public activity.

The suit asks for at least \$10,000 in damages.

Texas Court Explains Ruling on Log Cabin

Austin, TX-AP- Government action is required for there to be a violation of the Texas Constitution's guarantees of free speech, equal rights and due course of law, the state Supreme Court ruled Friday, February 28th.

The decision came eight months after the Republican-dominated court allowed the Republican Party of Texas to deny a GOP Gay and Lesbian group an exhibit booth and advertising space at the party's state convention.

In explaining the June ruling, the state's highest civil court for the first time confronted whether the state constitution's rights are subject to the same doctrine developed by federal courts for the U.S. Constitution.

U.S. constitutional civil rights protect only against governmental action, in the shape of laws, customs or government proceedings, and the same applies to the Texas Constitution, the court said.

A political party is a "state actor" in some instances, such as when it conducts elections, but a private organization in others, such as handling some internal affairs, the court said in a ruling authored by Republican Justice Greg Abbott.

In the case before the court, the Republican Party's denial of a booth and advertising space to the Log Cabin Republicans was "an internal party affair rather than an integral part of the election process," the ruling said.

Same-Sex Marriage Faces Referendum

Olympia, WA-AP- As if a multimillion-dollar plan for an outdoor football stadium for rain-sodden Seattle weren't controversial enough, backers of a ban on same-sex marriage want to hop on the same June ballot.

Supporters, worried that the measure could stir public passions on both sides of the marriage issue, also are calling for swift punishment of hate crimes that could occur during the campaign.

The state House is preparing to vote next week on a referendum that would send the same-gender marriage ban to the ballot. Gov. Gary Locke vetoed such a bill last month and the Senate failed to override. Republican majorities now plan to bypass him and place it directly before the voters.

Harassment is the Same No Matter What Sex

Boston, MA-AP- Lewd gestures, raunchy comments, requests for sexual favors. If they happen in the workplace, they're grounds for a sexual harassment lawsuit, even if both the aggressor and the victim are heterosexual men, Massachusetts' highest court ruled Tuesday, February 18th.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled Tuesday that three former male employees of a Massachusetts lumber yard were entitled to compensation after being sexually harassed by two male supervisors.

Leonid Melnychenko, James Quill and Stephen LaRoche worked at a West Springfield branch of the national chain 84 Lumber Co. between 1989 and 1990. All three eventually quit.

The men claimed that their supervisors, Richard Raab and Eliasel Roque, subjected them to a constant stream of verbal and physical abuse. They said Raab grabbed their genitals, fondled their buttocks, exposed himself to them and requested sexual favors.

Raab and Roque were fired after the allegations were raised. The employees sued the company, and Hampden County Judge Daniel Ford awarded the men a total of about \$144,000 in June 1993 on the grounds of sexual harassment. Lawyers for the men said the total figure will nearly triple including interest and attorneys fees following the SJC's decision.

Statues

Continued from Page 1

before, I'd come to the Trib for an interview. I was just about to graduate from Penn State 70 miles to the north and I dreamed of working for Simpson on the Trib.

My major prof had told me he could be formidable, so I'd come well prepared for the standard questions. He asked none of them. Instead, he'd leaned back in his swivel chair, the springs squealing in protest over his considerable bulk and laced his hands together behind his head.

"Tony--that's your name, ain't it?" he asked, his voice sounding like sandpaper going over rough wood. He stopped to give me the once over.

I wasn't surprised that he knew my name. It was on the resume I'd sent him. What did surprise me, however, was his use of "ain't." Later I would learn that he thought that his familiarity with the English language gave him a license to use it according to his own rules.

"You sure it ain't David?" Simpson asked.

"No, I just look like the statue is all." That was only the truth. In face and form I was the double of whoever had modeled for Michaelangelo.

"Spittin' image. Don't ever go near it'y. They'll paint yuh white an' put yuh on a pedestal, sure." He chuckled, a deep rumbling sound coming from deep inside. "Anyhow, so yur name's Tony Martinelli.

I know that an' th' rest. What I wanna know now is who th' hell are you?"

I had no idea what he wanted to hear from me. Finally, on God knows what impulse, I blurted out, "I'm Gay."

For what seemed like the longest moment in my life, he didn't stir. Then, slowly he unclashed his hands, brought the chair forward and rested his elbows on his cluttered desk. "Knew that, too," he said. "Your major prof's a friend of mine. He told me. Just wanted to see if you was honest an' would tell me yourself, that's all. Don't like people workin' for me who hide things." He stopped to stick the stump of a cigar in his mouth. "You gotta job. Now get out."

Simpson's office, or "cave" as everyone called it was located way in the back of the building, a lair half hidden behind some file cabinets. No one went there unless summoned, so it was with strong apprehension that Monday morning that I knocked on his plain wooden door. At his bark, I entered. He was seated behind his desk, pawing through some papers. He stopped when I entered and sat back.

"Christ, Martinelli, don't you carry no umbrella 'r nothin'? Yuh look like a drowned rat. Siddown. Whatda yuh know about Christine Calder?"

It took no thought at all to answer him. "State's Senior Senator, pillar of the conservatives, family values-type, darling of the far Right Wing, rich, powerful, homo-

Please See Sacred Band Page 8

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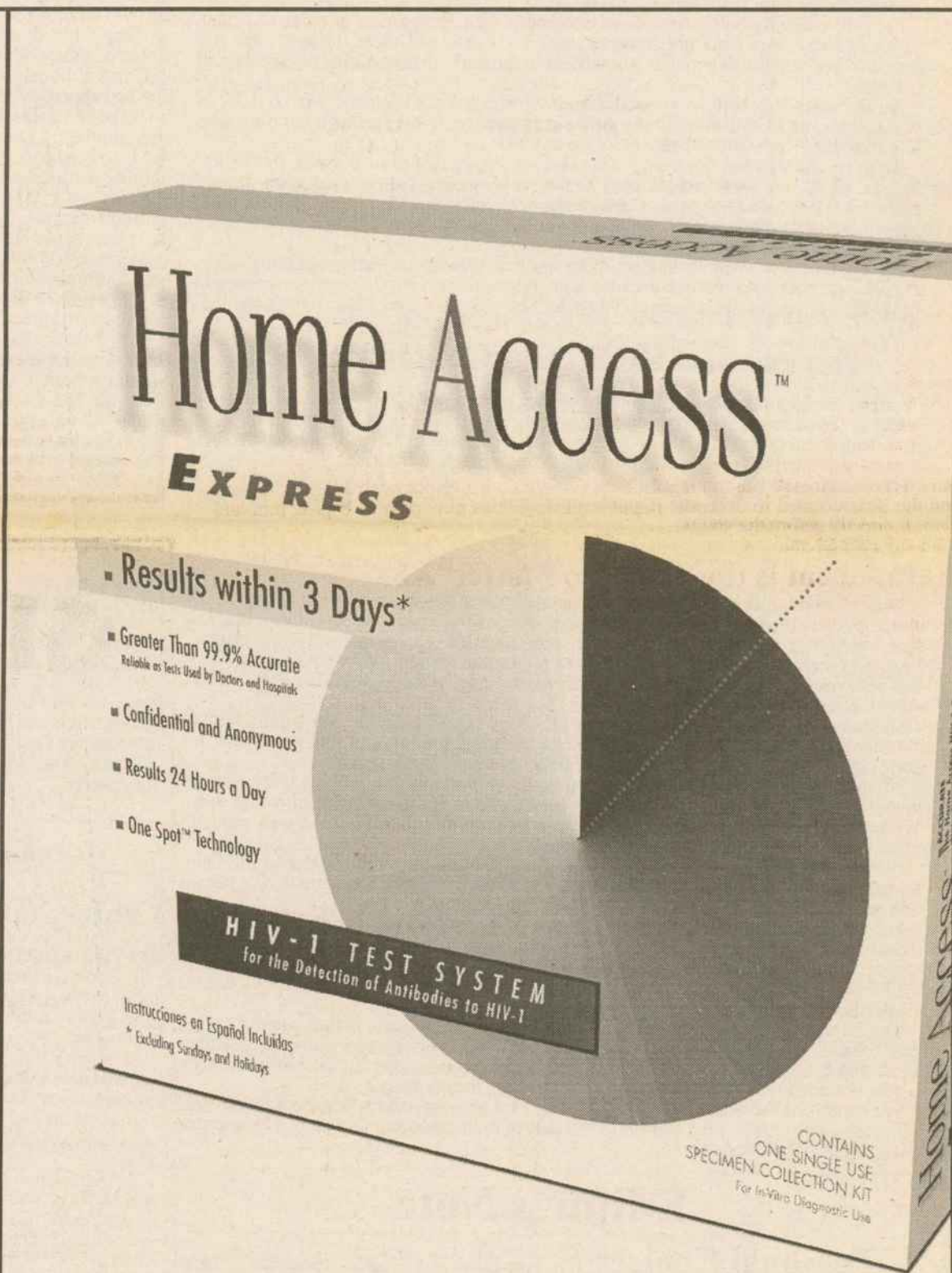
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Editorial

Same-Sex Marriage

There is absolutely no cause whatever in reason that we can see why same-sex couples cannot enjoy all the legal benefits of marriage. We believe that all legislators and other fair-minded who think the issue through will agree.

- Although the Religious Right has tried to make it so, we contend that same sex marriage is not a religious issue. It is an issue of civil rights and the equal enjoyment of those legal rights that are granted solely and only by the state. No one is asking, nor will anyone ask, any church to change its rules and bless a union that is against those rules.
- Marriage is not now a church monopoly, nor has it been for centuries. On a personal note, this editor's parents were married by a Justice of the Peace. Their being married and the rights they had as a result, were conferred by the state, not a church. Heaven help anyone who dared to tell them they weren't married.
- Same-sex marriage is not taking anything away from society, but adding strength and stability to it. Same-sex marriage involves rights, but it also involves the assumption of responsibilities. It is to society's good that same-sex couples assume those responsibilities.
- Same-sex marriage can not threaten differing-sex marriage. It is without the realm of reason to think that differing-sex couples will stop getting married or, if married, run off to the divorce courts when same-sex couples can marry.
- It is silly to think that the best way to enhance marriage is to prevent it.
- It is beyond reason to think that love is gender-oriented. It is not.
- *Being Lesbian or Gay is not an act. It is a state of being, an integral part of the person.*
- Gays and Lesbians can not and must not be defined by physical acts. In doing this, the Religious Right is, in effect, denying the spiritual side to human nature. What a sad thing to religious people to do.
- It is equally beyond reason to think that same-sex marriage will "encourage" homosexuality. Sexual orientation is a state of being. It cannot be encouraged or changed. There are no "ex-Gays." There are only Gays and Lesbians who act straight. They are still Lesbian or Gay.

The bill, currently being considered seeking to ban recognition of same-sex marriages in Wisconsin does not have its roots in reason and clear thinking. We are forced to believe that its roots lie elsewhere; in the dark, irrationalities of bigotry and ignorance.

We are forced to believe as well that the hearing held Monday, March 10th, in Wausau, had as its sole purpose the airing of ignorance, flung against a minority who it is acceptable for some to hate.

We decry the hateful, ignorant words that were spewed out in Wausau by the Religious Right. We were taught that before you opened your mouth, you should know what you're talking about. Given the presumed fact that the Religious Right people aren't Lesbian or Gay, we find it outrageous they should speak on a subject they know nothing about.

We are forced to draw an analogy between this Wausau hearing and similar hearings in other states in earlier decades that sought to prevent African-Americans to each other or interracial marriage. Those had no base in reason. This one doesn't either.

Merger of ARCW and Center Project

Wisconsin Light applauds the news of the merger between the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) and Center Project, Inc. (CPI) of Green Bay. We believe that the merger will not only strengthen both agencies, but will eliminate unnecessary duplication of services and especially, administrative functions and needs.

The AIDS epidemic is far, far from being over. Instead, as reports show, it is spreading among women and African-Americans. While the new protease inhibitors seem to be offering a chance to make the disease chronic, no one is sure what the long-term effect of the new "cocktail" of drugs will be. We do know one thing, however. They are terribly expensive. Also, reports show that the protease inhibitors are not helping some people at all.

From everything that we know, the cost of fighting the disease is not going to decrease. AIDS service organizations are being forced to expand nation-wide. This, at a time when badly needed funds—never very plentiful to begin with—are limited. Keeping necessary administrative costs to a minimum, avoiding duplication of services and personnel, and increasing cost-effectiveness, only makes sense. The ARCW/CPI merger effectively assures this.

The numbers of people infected and affected by this disease are not small. Neither are the numbers decreasing. We believe that fighting a disease of this magnitude requires strength. The new merger will, we believe, supply this strength.

Strength provides clout. No matter that some may disdain it, lobbying the government for funds is vital. Clout is necessary for this, as is familiarity with how it is done. We believe this merger strengthens AIDS advocacy in Wisconsin and will generate more badly needed funds for the fight against AIDS.

Having said all this, we believe also that there is room for every fighter in the field. Sometimes we say "People Living with HIV/AIDS," too glibly. Each and every person affected by this disease is different and each has different needs.

For example, some profit by counseling and groups. The BestD Clinic is justly admired for this. Some have spiritual concerns that need to be met. St. Camillus ministers strongly in this field. At the same time, ARCW has a national reputation for aggressive AIDS prevention programs, comprehensive health and social services, and its unique leadership on community-based AIDS research.

The important thing that needs to be remembered, we believe, is that when it comes to the fight against AIDS, there is a need for each and every person who will lend their heart and hands. There is a need for strength. There is a need for cost-effectiveness. There is a need for compassion, for understanding, for empathy as well.

We commend the boards of ARCW and CPI for accomplishing this merger. We urge all people who care to give and yet give again of their resources and themselves so that suffering may be assuaged.

Editor's Note

Personal Choices

By Terry Boughner

There is a man I know, a friend of mine. His mother was in the hospital suffering from a terminal cancer. Earlier, when the diagnosis had been made, he had been asked by her doctor how he wanted to proceed. My friend answered that he wanted no tubes stuck into her, no wires, no machines. Let her go in peace, he said. The doctor nodded and told him that they would treat her "conservatively, which meant that she would be kept comfortable and free of pain.

Throughout the weeks that followed, my friend spent much time with her. She had been such a vital person, so intelligent and full of life. Now, she could not leave her bed and was barely able to talk. All she could do was hold his hand.

There came a time when the heavy, carefully prescribed drug doses, administered intravenously, no longer worked. His mother's suffering was terrible to see.

tear-filled eyes and whispered, "Help me."

My friend was not a doctor, but neither was he a stupid man. That night, after everyone else had gone, he went to her room. He kissed her on the forehead, a final good-bye, and did what had to be done.

Afterward, he went to the nurses' station and said to the nurse on duty, "My mother has just died."

He knew the nurse well. They went together to the room. While my friend watched, the nurse closed his mother's eyes and gently smoothed her hair. "It is well," she said, looking at him across the bed. She came around to where he was and hugged him as he cried.

There were choices made here, personal choices, by independent human beings. Agreement or advice from third parties was neither asked for nor wanted.

I have kept that story close held over the years, but I was reminded of it when I one day she looked up at him through

read Jerry Smith's letter in Saturday, March 1st's Milwaukee Journal. Smith, who signed himself a client of the Milwaukee AIDS Project, strongly and, in my opinion, beautifully, maintained his right and the right of all, to choose a peaceful and dignified death.

As Smith points out, there are those, such as the Right to Life people, who deny that right. The group believes they are following the tenets of their religion. I will grant them that. But in doing so, they have no right or place to deny me my rights, including the right of making the final decision as to how my life shall end upon this earth.

By right to life, I understand a life full of vibrancy and purpose. To be so crippled by terminal disease, to be so pain-racked that I can no longer function, is not life. It is a form of living death. I don't want that, not for myself. I will not have it. Neither do I want it for anyone I love.

A great many years ago I stopped after church to talk to the priest.

"Tell me, Father," I said, "when it comes down to it, are you going to stand before God in my place?"

"No," he answered, "I can't do that."

"Will the church do it?"

"No. You must stand before God yourself."

I remember standing there for a moment, thinking, while my mother, beside me, was having a silent fit.

"Okay," I said to the priest, "then what do I need either of you for?"

He had a thoughtful look on his face before he replied, "Perhaps you don't."

The point of this is that I will make my own choices. I assert that right. In doing so, I will respect your religion—just as long as you (unless asked) keep it out of my life.

Following that little conversation with the priest, I did set out of my own on a search that has involved my whole being and continues to do so. In the process, I have integrated my being born Gay and what I have done with that.

I have chased this being. I have "seen" the fringe of its robe as it disappears around a corner and tiring of the effort, I've quit. It's always just at that moment, when "It" will turn, look back, smile and wink. So, I'm off after it once again.

Eventually, I know, we'll catch up with each other and there I will stand. There will be me and there will be "It," a God who is Love and one of such singular beauty as I can not imagine now.

I will stand there, having made my choices, my own choices, made them for myself. That will be between me and my God, no one else—certainly not a bible thumper, none of whom I believe know what they're talking about anyway.

It is my life, my body. As long as I harm no one else, my choices are not between me and your religion. They are between my God and I.

Thank you, Jerry Smith. Thank you very much.

Letters

Center Name

TO THE EDITOR:

Bi Definition has announced their endorsement of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center name in the upcoming Name the Center Contest.

At their 3/2/97 business meeting, careful consideration was given to all ten names, and consensus was reached by attending members to support the one most accurately describing who it serves, what it is, and its outreaching ability.

Bi Definition would like to urge all Milwaukee LGBT persons to vote for pro-active unity at the Center, but casting a ballot for the only name specifically stating it as such; the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Bi Definition
Milwaukee

Official Language Bill

TO THE EDITOR:

A display at the State Historical Society Museum in Madison documents the Bennett Law, an attempt to legislate the use of English in Wisconsin in the 1890's (German was the biggest "culprit.")

Such a movement has reared its ugly head once again in 1997, in the form of Assembly Bill 16. This bill would make English the official language for all written expression by state and local government "except where appropriate to the individual case..." This bill, therefore, serves simply as an excuse to make a statement of exclusion.

Why does over one-quarter of the Wisconsin State Assembly feel the need to spend time and tax dollars on legislation that improves nothing and that informs productive segments

of the population "you don't belong here"?

And why has the media paid so little attention to these exclusionary bills?

Dan Ross
Madison

Deadlines

March 27th Issue

Articles Friday, March 21st

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—March 21st

Camera Ready—March 24th
5:00 p.m.

April 10th Issue

Articles—April 4th

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—April 4th

Camera Ready—April 7th
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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Office Hours:

Monday-Friday-10:00 a.m. -5:30 p.m.

24-Hour Recording

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As AIDS Deaths Decline, Incidence of HIV Increases Among Women and Minorities

Milwaukee—Women, minorities and children increasingly are feeling the effect of the AIDS epidemic, a report on Milwaukee-area HIV cases shows.

Minorities accounted for 75 percent of newly-reported cases of HIV infection in the city of Milwaukee in 1995.

New cases among women have doubled in the past five years, according to the report by community and government health agencies. In the past, Gay white men have borne the brunt of the epidemic.

The trends show the need to move beyond safe-sex campaigns aimed at Gay men and needle exchange programs for drug users and to offer additional prevention programs to reach women of child-bearing age and youths, said City Health Commissioner Paul Nannis.

The programs might include such strategies as training women to be AIDS prevention experts in their neighborhoods and within special risk groups such as female partners of drug users, he said.

"There's nothing as effective as a neighbor talking to a neighbor" to drive home a health message, Nannis said.

The report was prepared by the HIV Planning Council and the Ryan White HIV Services Consortium, which oversees use of federal Ryan White Care Act money. The groups include representatives of community and AIDS service groups.

Two years ago, city officials called a meeting of some of the groups to develop a strategic plan for dealing with AIDS on the local level. The intent was to build on a prevention plan by the Milwaukee Indian Health Board in 1993 and a care and treatment plan by the consortium in 1991.

It was estimated in 1991 that 12,600 people in the Milwaukee area would be infected with HIV by 1995, but only 5,300 were.

MAP Collecting Easter Food Baskets

Milwaukee—Easter is a time to focus on family, friends and others while celebrating life. However, as many celebrate, there are those less fortunate who either are related to someone, or themselves are, infected with HIV or AIDS, a very costly disease.

Throughout the year, the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) food pantry supplies food to families affected by HIV and AIDS. This is the fifth year MAP is sponsoring an Easter Food Basket Program through its food pantry during this special time of year.

"This program serves as an inspiration to the individuals receiving the food baskets," said Laura Fiorini, food pantry coordinator. "They see that there are people in the community who care about them as individuals and want to help make their holiday a memorable event."

As you plan and shop for your Easter dinner, please consider preparing a food basket. Another family will be thankful for your generosity and kind offering.

Easter baskets can be received at MAP until March 20. For information, please call (414) 225-1553.

Street Beat Fashion Gala to be Held at Survival/Revival Resale Shop

Milwaukee—Milwaukee's premier alternative fashion extravaganza at the Milwaukee AIDS Project's (MAP) Survival/Revival resale shop will be on Saturday, April 5 at 8 p.m. with all proceeds benefiting MAP.

The evening includes an alternative fashion show, a shopping spree, refreshments and music provided by "BLEED." BJ Daniels and Sister Cash Box will also be featured at this one-of-a-kind event with a special guest appearance by Miss Gay Wisconsin.

"When you come to Survival/Revival the evening of the Street Beat fashion extravaganza, it is like passing through a doorway from Milwaukee to places like the Soho district in New York or Paris or anywhere," said Kathy Fortier, manager of Survival/Revival. "It is an evening of indescribable fun."

Over 400 people attended "Street Beat" in 1996 raising over \$3,000 to benefit the programs and services provided by MAP.

Admission is \$6 for students and \$8 for the general public. For more information, call Survival/Revival at (414) 291-2856. Survival/Revival is located at 246 E. Chicago St. in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward.

Pat McManus, director of the Black Health Coalition, which wrote the prevention part of the report, said it affirmed trends that local health officials knew were happening on a national scale, especially the boom in cases among African-Americans.

Janice Hand, program director of pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin and chairwoman of the Ryan White consortium, agreed.

"The second wave is now much more evident to us. Women and people of color are a bigger concern," she said.

AIDS Deaths Drop DEATHS FROM AIDS SHOW FIRST SIGNIFICANT DROP NATIONWIDE 02/28/97

With the help of better drugs and treatments, the number of AIDS deaths has dropped significantly for the first time since the epidemic began in 1981, the government reports.

"Years ago, before we had this medication, people who would come in would die within six months," said Dr. Harold Kaffner, who treats AIDS patients in Macon, Ga. "Now, they leave the hospital and go back to work."

AIDS deaths in the United States fell 13 percent in the first six months of 1996, to an estimated 22,000 people, down from 24,900 deaths in the same period a year earlier, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday, February 27.

The CDC also said that while the number of people diagnosed with AIDS continues to climb, the growth rate is slowing. In 1995, about 62,200 people were diagnosed, an increase of less than 2 percent over the 61,200 new cases in 1994. The growth rate from 1993 to 1994 was 5 percent.

"This is one of the first bright spots we have seen in this epidemic," said Christopher Portelli, executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association in Washington. "But we hope it is seen as a call to arms rather than a chance to relax and breathe a sigh of relief."

President Clinton also said this was no time to let up in the fight against AIDS.

"In the months and years ahead, we must continue to work together as a nation to further our progress against this deadly epidemic," he said.

The first signs of the drop in AIDS deaths came in January, when New York City reported a 30 percent decline in 1996.

The CDC credits better treatment for AIDS patients, including new drugs, and better access to treatment through state and federal programs.

What's still unclear is the impact of a new class of drugs called protease inhibitors. The AIDS death rate leveled off in 1995, before those medicines became widely available.

Not all doctors are sure that AIDS is making an about-face.

"In my view, this decline is unfortunately only a lull," said Dr. Irvin S.Y. Chen, director of the AIDS Institute at UCLA. "Not all patients are responding as effectively as the majority of patients. There are some patients for whom the drugs are not effective."

A growing number of people are living with AIDS each year, the CDC said. In June 1996, 223,000 Americans age 13 and older had the disease, a 10 percent jump from mid-1995 and a 65 percent increase over 1993.

And some advocates point out that AIDS patients, as they live longer, will need more help, not less.

"We are concerned that people will misinterpret this news," Portelli said. "We would hope to see more money and support for better access to medical services. New drugs are not all we need."

As of December 1996, 581,429 Americans had been diagnosed with AIDS since 1981: 488,300 men, 85,500 women and 7,629 children.

And some new trends are worrying health officials. As is being seen in Milwaukee, African-Americans accounted for more cases of AIDS than whites for the first time in 1996, 41 percent compared to 38 percent. Hispanics accounted for 19 percent, and other races 2 percent.

Also, the proportion of women with AIDS is still increasing. In 1996, women made up 20 percent of new cases. AIDS deaths have not declined among women or heterosexuals.

The estimate of AIDS deaths for the first half of 1996, 22,000, was based on the fact that 21,700 AIDS deaths were reported to CDC, and analysts figured the total would rise somewhat as late reports came in.

MAP Becomes First in Wisconsin to Practice Unique Model of Harm Reduction

Milwaukee—Embracing a cutting-edge alcohol and drug treatment philosophy known as Harm Reduction, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) has been granted a state license for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) treatment. MAP becomes the first in Wisconsin and one of less than a dozen AODA providers in the country to utilize the Harm Reduction model which targets injection drug users (IDUs) and other substance users that have not succeeded in the traditional abstinence-based programs.

MAP's AODA treatment program is an extension of its large, clean needle exchange program, Lifepoint, that reaches thousands of injection drug users in the streets and drug houses of Milwaukee. Lifepoint also provides HIV testing, HIV risk-reduction counseling, condom distribution and now with its new license, treatment for alcohol and drug abuse.

"We are experiencing in Milwaukee what every needle exchange study contends; that a successful needle exchange program gets more users into drug treatment," said Doug Nelson, executive director of MAP. "At a time when Milwaukee County has scaled back funds, limiting and making AODA providers less accessible, we had no choice but to pursue a drug treatment program with a harm reduction approach that is a natural extension of Lifepoint."

MAP received its AODA outpatient and day treatment certification from the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services on February 11 and will operate the unique drug treatment program out of its Dennis Hill Harm Reduction Center at 4311 Vliet Street, which is the operating headquarters for MAP's street outreach and needle exchange programs.

The Harm Reduction model MAP will be implementing is very different from the standard AODA treatment providers who are abstinence-based, meaning people must remain off of alcohol and drugs while in treatment—an approach MAP's Hill Center says is not for everyone.

Rather, the Harm Reduction model focuses on small, incremental positive changes in a person's behavior, setting individualized goals that may or may not mean total abstinence from alcohol or drugs. It does not require complete abstinence from drug use. This less rigid approach, which is comparable to many HIV prevention strategies, teaches the dan-

gers of drug and alcohol use and helps an individual identify and reduce these and other harmful behaviors in their life such as having unprotected sex, family conflict and/or criminal behavior.

"Harm Reduction works by helping individuals make safer choices," said Jacque Stock, AODA coordinator at MAP's Hill Center. "We meet people where they're at with their alcohol or drug use and assist them in achieving small steps that will result in positive lifestyle changes."

For example, "A typical IDU's first step when entering the Hill Center's program might be to stop sharing needles with other drug users. Second, to teach the individual how to clean their own needles... to stop injecting... to switch to a less harmful and addictive drug... to smoke instead of inject... snort... reduce levels... all leading to positive changes for the individual. By taking one-step-at-a-time and giving positive feedback for short-term goals reached, the client continues making progress, further reducing his or her involvement in other harmful activities."

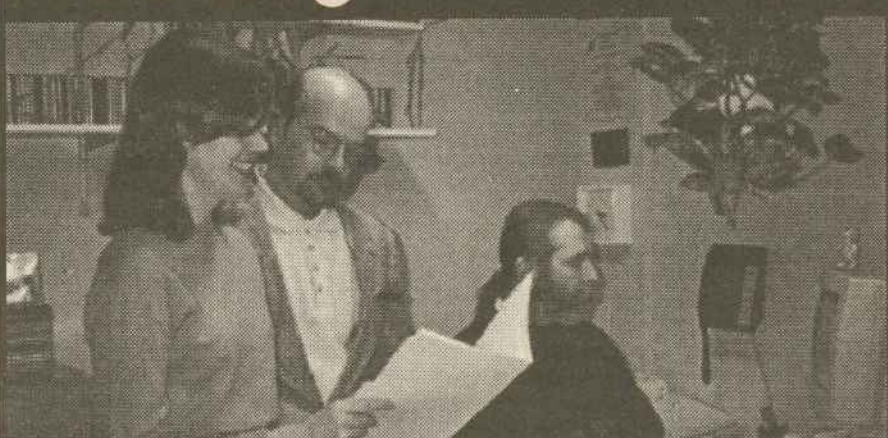
For MAP, those safer choices mean lowering people's risk for contracting HIV and reducing the spread of AIDS in Milwaukee. "Yes, our mission is to stop AIDS but we also want to help people get off drugs and make healthy choices for their lives and their families," said Stock.

MAP's needle exchange program, also based on the Harm Reduction model, will serve as a major referral source to the Hill Center. In 1996, Lifepoint provided 76 successful AODA referrals and 272 referrals for HIV testing in Milwaukee. A total of 3514 people exchanged needles in 1996. The statistical breakdown was as follows:

Total exchangers	Males	Female	
African American	1817	1433	384
Caucasian	1027	651	376
Hispanic	668	459	209
Other	2	1	1

Prior to receiving its licensure, MAP's Hill Center operated an intake, assessment and referral program. Individuals wanting more information may call MAP's Hill Center at (414) 342-4399.

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The Wisconsin Light: On The Scene At the Anti Gay Marriage Hearing In Wausau

The Wisconsin Light is proud to say that as far as it can determine, it was the only one of Wisconsin's four Gay based publications to be present at the Anti-Gay Marriage hearing in Wausau. We are pleased to bring you some of the behind scenes details about what happened that you won't read elsewhere

How Long Was It?

In an effort to bring attention to the inequity in the law, Action Wisconsin put together a partial list of laws and programs that Gays and Lesbians can't take advantage of without being married.

The list was laid out starting at the main entrance into the hearing building, went around the corner and extended past the hearing room.

All told it was 163 feet long. Action Wisconsin people say the list was only "a small fraction of federal programs." That we are squeezed out of.

No state programs were listed although a list of these would undoubtedly be equally as long.

We Are Family Rings True

At the Mad Hatter

Regulars at Wausau's Mad Hatter Bar were stunned and pleased when on Sunday night they were inundated with dozens of people who came up a day early to prepare for the hearing.

Never let it be said that the folks in Wausau aren't friendly. They made sure the newcomers felt welcome and at home.

Many of them showed up the next day for the hearing. This took at least some small amount of courage given the fact that the hearing received extensive coverage from small town Wausau's local television stations.

She Made It!

State Representative Barb Nottstein represents the largest concentration of Gays and Lesbians in the state on Milwaukee's East Side. When a Committee member told some people that Nottstein would not make the hearing, many were disappointed.

Nottstein had been waiting for six months for a medical appointment that was scheduled for the hearing day in another city. After trying (and failing) to convince the Republicans on the Committee to reschedule, Nottstein cancelled the appointment and came anyway.

"I wouldn't miss this for anything," she told *The Wisconsin Light*.

Meetings, Meetings and

More Meetings

Informal meetings were held on Sunday night to prepare people for the next day's activities. More than a few eyes rolled when it was announced that another meeting was called for 7:00 AM on hearing day.

Many but by no means all of those who were in Wausau on Sunday showed up for Breakfast at Annies.

Not everyone was there on time. Said one observer, "No wonder we don't have our rights. We are too tired from all these early morning and late night meetings to fight for them."

Overdahl Boomed

For the most part, those listening to the testimony kept silent while those they disagreed with spoke. An important exception to this rule was made when Ralph Overdahl was speaking.

Overdahl whose group was handing out brochures saying that Gays should be denied "civil rights given to moral citizens," arouses special enmity.

When he said that "400 Gays had at-

tacked a church," it was all most of those opposing the bill could take. Boos and hisses permeated the room.

State Representative Shirley Krug looked shocked and asked Overdahl when the alleged incident happened. The "Reverend" finally (under pressure from Krug) admitted that the Gays didn't physically attack the church, but were on the church's property and refused to leave.

Overdahl's own group, Wisconsin Christians United, has been known to picket churches sympathetic to Gay rights.

The Numbers Game

It was widely believed that the hearing was called for Wausau because it is as one person put it, "The buckle on Wisconsin's bible belt."

Democrats on the Children and Family Services Committee begged for hearings in Madison and Milwaukee but were turned down by their Republican counterparts (all of whom had endorsed the bill).

The theory was that since people would have to take off work and travel to Wausau, organizations in Milwaukee and Madison would have a hard time getting their troops to come.

At first it looked like the theory was correct. The numbers of Christian Fundies present far outnumbered those of the Gay activists and their allies.

But then the tide turned. Car caravans from Milwaukee and Green Bay arrived. Followed by a bus and more cars from Madison. Finally, a contingent of local Gays and Lesbians led by Madhatter owners Anne and Vicki arrived.

By the time the first speaker in opposition finished his testimony, those opposed to the bill were in a solid majority and erupted in applause.

The look on the faces of some of those supporting the bill was one of shock. They seemed surprised to find themselves outnumbered.

After that initial burst of enthusiasm, AB 104's opponents mostly confined themselves to extending both arms high above their heads and shaking their hands while wiggling their fingers so that the committee could see how many people liked what they just heard.

It provide highly visible evidence of who had won the battle of the numbers.

Biased Against Milwaukee?

Some people thought the Committee may have been biased against Milwaukee. Although several dozen Milwaukee residents registered to testify, no one could recall any of them being given a chance to speak.

One Milwaukee man said he was one of the first people to register and still wasn't called.

To some this seemed to be unfair. The committee had run out of green registration slips and had to print up some white ones. Yet there were a pile of green slips sitting on the table while those who filled out white slips (and obviously registered later) were being called.

Wacko's, Fruits & Basters

As might be expected there was a wealth of misinformation about the Gay lifestyle being foisted on the hearing.

But despite some anger, many Gays and Lesbians and their straight supporters couldn't help but laugh at some of the comments.

For example when one woman said that comparing heterosexual relationships to homosexual ones was impossible because it was like comparing apples to oranges, someone in the back remarked "Why they're both fruits," to the delight of everyone in earshot.



I know, I know!! No this isn't a school room. During the Anti-Gay Marriage hearing in Wausau, opponents of the bill raised their hands and shook them in the air when the agreed with what a speaker said, providing visible evidence of how many in attendance were opposed to AB 104.



Going out with Tammy! Some of the people who came to Wausau a day early to get ready for the Anti-Gay marriage bill hearing went out on the town to relax with openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin. Our photographer caught up with them at a local restaurant and got them to pose.

A man testifying later in the hearing brought on snickers when he said that if the state didn't ban Gay marriage within a generation society would disappear because there would be no children.

One person commented "He's never seen what we can do with a turkey baster."

Buoyant Mood

Many if not most of those who came to opposed the bill were not looking forward to the hearing. They expected to be heavily outnumbered.

They were pleasantly surprised when for a change, the Fundies found themselves in a minority at a public hearing. There were knowing looks and a sense of pride on the faces of many people.

As one man from Eau Claire put it, "No matter what, they can't say that we were out organized on this one. They had everything going for them and they still couldn't bring more people than we did."

Answer the Question Please!!

The trio of Krug, Nottstein and Young, three Democratic Women on the Committee did their best to pin down the Ser-

atti supporters by asking lots of questions. Few of these questions were ever answered.

For example when one man read a passage from Leviticus calling for the death of Gays, a shocked Rebecca Young asked "Would you favor the death penalty for Gays and Lesbians." The man responded by saying "Would challenge God's law?"

The effort they put forth was appreciated by those opposing the bill who sometimes applauded the questioner.

Nottstein particular was withering in her questioning and would throw in her own comments.

The Republicans on the Committee asked very few questions. One Republican asked a Lesbian whether or not she would say that Seratti had no right to introduce the bill. The woman replied, "Of course she does, but I don't recall saying that she didn't."

Chairman Huebsch who has said he things Gays are immoral and chose to be Gay asked a few witnesses if they were in favor of Gay marriage. With one exception they answered yes.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel

<http://www.visi.com/~oprairie/>



Two New "Portraits of Hope" and Physician Video to be Unveiled at Make A Promise

Milwaukee—Once again the Make A Promise Dinner gala is headed for a sell-out, but tickets still remain for those who act quickly to reserve a place.

Based on reports from the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) this year's gala should not be missed. The value of the Silent Auction is topping all records as it nears \$100,000, which means tremendous bargains for quality merchandise.

The program highlights of the dinner include a special video that honors Wisconsin physicians on the front lines of the AIDS epidemic and a powerful artistic series of portraits.

On Saturday, March 22, ARCW's 11th annual Make a Promise Dinner & Auction will debut the portrait series which lends itself to the event theme, "portraits of hope... a celebration of care."

The portrait series is brought to ARCW by Dr. Wilma Bulkin Siegel who is also working with ARCW to promote "The Face of AIDS" portrait series as a traveling exhibit. It is expected to visit the Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project in Eau Claire as well as the Minnesota AIDS Project in Minneapolis.

To be unveiled at the Make a Promise Dinner & Auction, are the two newest portraits. They are of two Wisconsin residents who have AIDS. Having their portraits painted is yet another step these two dedicated individuals have taken to show how committed they both are in the fight against AIDS.

The first is Brandon, 13, of Weyauwega, Wisconsin. Brandon was born with hemophilia who in his first year of life contracted AIDS through a blood transfusion. Brandon is a certified AIDS teen trainer and does many public speaking engagements.

Patrick of Milwaukee is the second Wisconsin portrait. He has been HIV positive for five years but has been a volunteer at ARCW for ten.

"This year's Make a Promise event is also dedicated to Wisconsin physicians who have dedicated their careers to caring for individuals with HIV and AIDS," said Marge Beil, director of special events at ARCW. "A video to premiere the evening of the event will spotlight four Wisconsin physicians showing the diversity of people this disease affects, proving that AIDS has no prejudices.

The four doctors featured in the video are

Ray Bachhuber, M.D., Aurora Medical Group, Deckner Site; Brian Buggy, M.D., Infectious Disease Associates, Medical Director of Milwaukee AIDS Project; Peter L. Havens, M.D., M.S., Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Epidemiology at Medical College of Wisconsin, Director of Wisconsin HIV Primary Care Support Network based at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin; and Cassandra Welch, M.D., Medical Director of Milwaukee Health Services.

Bachhuber has been a physician in the Green Bay area since 1982. When he arrived in Wisconsin, he gave a speech on AIDS and has been considered the AIDS expert in Green Bay ever since. Before practicing in Wisconsin, Bachhuber was the chief medical resident in Portland, Oregon, where he saw one of the first patients diagnosed with AIDS in the nation. Bachhuber sees how AIDS affects all people whether in the cities or rural areas.

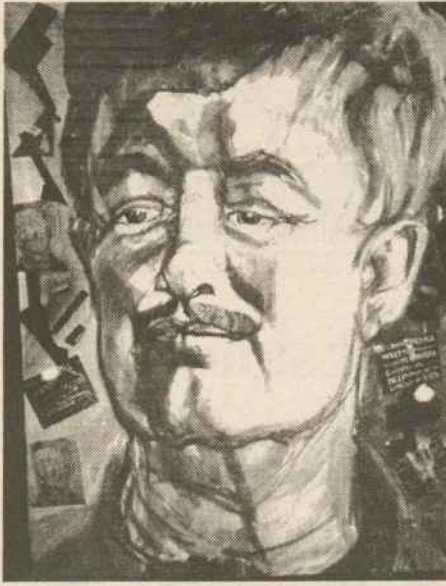
Buggy chose to specialize in infectious diseases in his medical career in the '70s. Shortly after making his selection, the field of HIV and AIDS began and the epidemic has mirrored his professional career ever since. He is also the Medical Director at the Milwaukee AIDS Project. Buggy's patient load is primarily from within the Gay community.

Havens has been involved in pediatrics since the early '80s. He was involved in the care of the first children with HIV infection and AIDS at the hospital where he did his residency. Havens has been helping HIV and AIDS patients in Milwaukee since 1987. Havens sees how AIDS is affecting children.

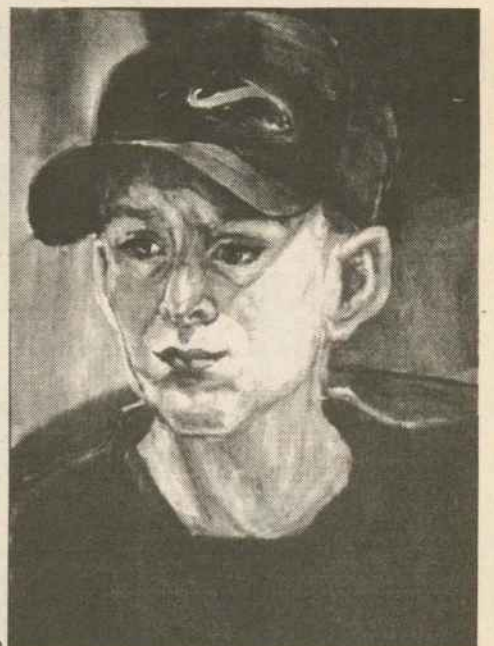
Welch attended medical school in Milwaukee but did her residency out-of-state. She, however, returned to Milwaukee and began working in internal medicine. It was after Welch saw her first AIDS patient and became involved with his care, his family and his friends that she became dedicated to fighting this disease. Welch sees how this epidemic is significantly affecting minorities and drug users.

Master of ceremonies for the evening is Mike Gousha, anchor on TODAY'S TMJ4. Co-chairs are Trish Gillespie of Whitefish Bay, Dr. Timothy Lapp of Milwaukee and Paul Masterson of Bayview.

All proceeds from Make a Promise will



Portraits of Brandon and Patrick.



benefit the education, research and prevention programs of ARCW's service agencies: Milwaukee AIDS Project, Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project, Southeast Wisconsin AIDS Project, Wisconsin AIDS Research Consortium.

Principal sponsors for this year's event are:

We Are All God's Children, Gunderson Tells Church Conference

Ann Arbor, MI—Former Republican U.S. Rep. Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin told the National Conference on Religion and Gay Rights that a Lutheran congregation near his home in McLean, Va., has accepted him and his partner, Rob Morris, as openly gay members.

"This is who we are. We are the children of God. We are the Lord's creation. We are a part of the Christian family," Gunderson said.

The four-day conference, attended by 300 clergy and laypersons from 10 denominations and 20 states, ended Sunday, March 9th.

The conference was also presented with a study showing that Gay clergy have ignored church laws and remained sexually active, but they have avoided scandal while remaining strong in their faith.

A study of 26 male and nine female pastors in the Evangelical Lutheran

Seagull Enterprises, Miller Brewing Company, United Airlines.

Reserve your tickets soon. Ticket prices are \$175, \$100 and \$75 per person. For more information or to reserve tickets, call (414) 225-1549.

Church in America found that all had been sexually active and 21 lived in long-term same-sex relationships, despite a church rule requiring Gay clergy to remain celibate.

"No church policy has stopped these persons from falling in love, from having sex, from being parents, from loving the Lutheran Church, from going to seminary, from hearing a call to ordained ministry," said University of Michigan sociologist Carolyn Riehl, director of the study.

"We found that these 35 people all were responsible people," Riehl told the *Detroit Free Press*. "None of them have been involved in sexual scandals or have been accused of misconduct."

"Particularly, this can work in smaller churches where we all know each other and care about each other," said the Rev. John Rollefson, the Lutheran campus minister who organized the University of Michigan conference.

Depression-Drugs-Anxiety

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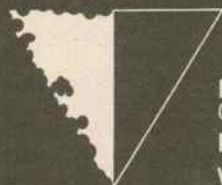
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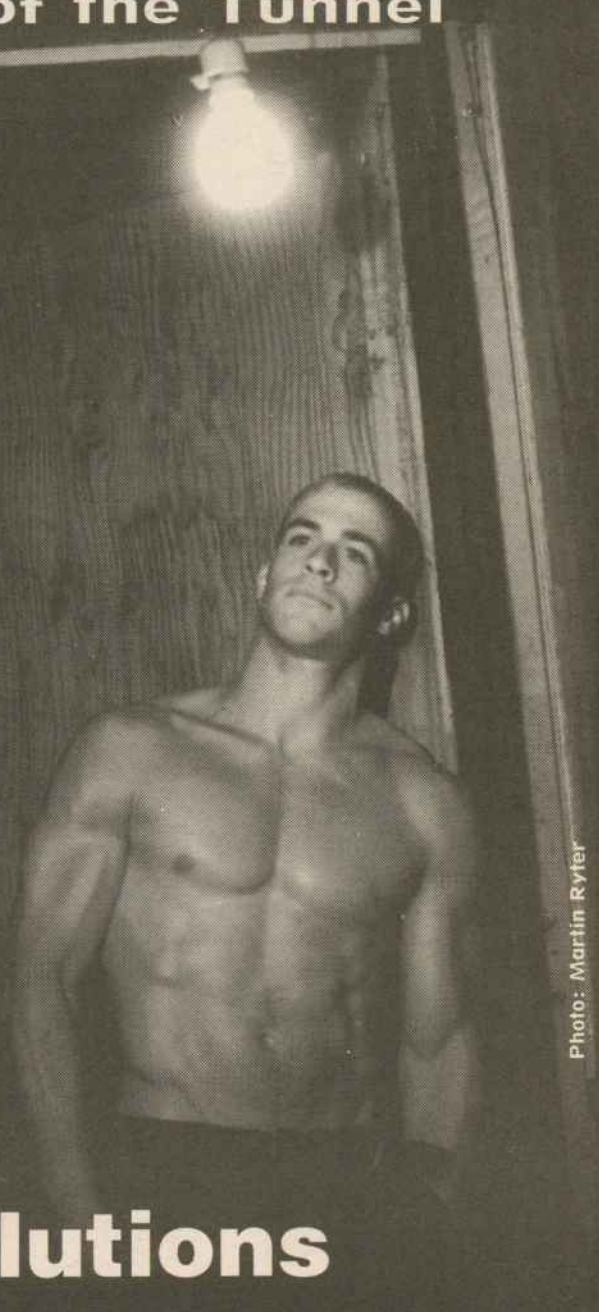


Photo: Martin Ryfer

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Sacred Band
Continued from Page 2

phobic to the max, wants to get the 'Leave it to Beaver' family to move back into town. What else?"

"Lot else. Yuh mighta said she wants to be President. Yuh mighta said she don't belong in that office 'cause yuh mighta said she thinks the Constitution is a goddamn advice sheet, not a declaration of intent. An' that, Martinelli, is why she gotta be stopped, an' you're gonna see if you can do that."

"Me?" I did not conceal my astonishment and incredulity.

"Yeah, you, Martinelli. This is it. There's this thing about her son, Bobby, teenager, 18?"

"What thing?"

"Jesus, it's all over the news this morning, front page uv th' Post."

"I don't get the Post. I only read the Trib." I didn't try to hide the note of sarcasm in my voice.

"Damned loyal uv yuh. Anyhow, ifn you kept up with things like yur suppose ta, you'da heard th' kid disappeared last night, al uv a sudden, like. Poof. Vanished. Thing is, I don't think he just poof, nor got kidnapped, either. I think he got himself killed, an' I think his ol' lady maybe had a hand in it. That's what I think an' that's what yur gonna find out if she did."

"Me? Why me? With his mother who she is, the media..."

He cut me off. "There yuh go, Martinelli, makin' assumptions, thinkin' that everyone'll be on this thing like rats on cheese. Well, t'ain't so an' I'll tell you why. First off, the kid's like you are."

"Like me?"

"Gay, queer, a homosexual. How else can I say it? Th' kid's queer, an' before you ask how I know, I got sources. An' that's why, 'cause he's a homo, nobody's gonna give too much of a rat's ass what happened to him. You know that. I know that. Your kind gets bashed, killed all the time an' nobody much pays any attention. Ain't that true?"

I nodded in sad agreement. "But even so, considering who his mother is..."

Simpson broke in with a shake of his head. "Yur clever, Martinelli. That's just it. Because of who his mother is. See, there's some damn good reporters there, damn good ones, Watergate types who'd love to hang the Senator out to dry, but maybe they go diggin' an' maybe, when they do, they run into trouble, big trouble." He stopped and drew one pudgy finger across his throat. "That's Washington. Shit happens."

"So what makes you think that if I go down there, the shit's not gonna happen to me?"

"Cause yuh got me in back uv yuh, that's why."

"Oh. Why didn't I know that?"

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"Cause yuh wasn't thinking."
"I see. What about the Gay press?"
"Yeah, I know. They've been yammering fur weeks about a whole buncha Gays disappearing, young Gays, like the Calder kid. But who listens to them? Nobody, that's who. Why? 'Cause they ain't important, like me."

"You're sure it was murder?"
"Hell, no, Martinelli! I'm not sure uv anything. Who you think I am, fuckin' Notre Damus? Tha's what I want you ta find out. But I'll tell yuh this."

"What?"
"I know the Senator. She's twisty enough fur the Byzantine court—an' she's vicious enough. And if she did have him done in," he said stabbing some papers on his desk with a stubby finger, "I wanta know about it. The country deserves to know about it, capich? That's Italian."

"I know what it is. What I don't know 'r can't figure out, is her motivation. I mean, murder...?"

Simpson cut me off. "So what th' hell 're yuh askin' me for? If I had all th' answers, I'd write the story myself." He heaved himself out of his chair. "Tha's the trouble with you young guys, green behind the ears. Yuh think yuh cum sit on yur butts, punch a few computer keys and bingo, there it all is," he said with a sweep of his arm. "Well, it ain't that way, not that easy. Yuh gotta do it the ol' fashioned way, dig, dig, dig." He made scooping motions with his hand. "Yuh un'erstand?"

I nodded.
"Good. So you get yur ass on this. Like I say, dig. Dig up the story. Dig up the kid. Find out what's goin' on. Take the day, go look up what's being reported, then get some sleep. Your tram leaves tomorrow, ten sharp."

"My tram?!"
"To D.C. Where else? An' if its money you're worried about, here."

He stopped, pulled open a desk drawer dug out a wad of paper and flung it across his desk toward me. It was all 100 dollar bills.

"Now get the hell on this," he ordered. "Call me when you got something—in about a week. Lemme know. Keep me up. Got it?"

"Yes sir."
"Good. Now get out."
I got up and left the room.

TO BE CONTINUED

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Jerry Johnson

Tickling the Ivories David Carroll, one of Milwaukee's best pianists was caught by our photographer playing at the Milwaukee Center. David entertains the lunch crowd there several days a week.

David Carroll Draws Present and the Past to Bathe the World in Musical Beauty

By Terry Boughner

There are people who appreciate art. Those are the vast majority of us. There are people who are artistic. These are the ones who understand art and even, at times, can create it.

There are, however, those few, the ones who "see" something closed off to the rest of us. These are the ones, the very few, who can bring their vision into our material world. We know them by their creations, and by the far away look in their eyes. We know them because we see so often pain in their eyes, the pain incurred with creation. We say to them, "Suffer more so that you can create more, so that we may have more beauty in our lives."

Such a one is David Carroll.

He is a widely renowned pianist, resident in Milwaukee, a musician who can entice from his piano the melodies the fingers of true love can bring from a lover's lips. One recent evening, he sat down for an interview.

Terry Boughner: David, let's get a little biography. Are you from Wisconsin, what?

David Carroll: Well, I was born in Lancaster, Wisconsin, raised between Prairie du Chien and Milwaukee. I come from a family of six kids. I've been in Milwaukee for 18 years now. Oh, I dream about getting somewhere else now and then, but Milwaukee's been a good place to go school and to live. I don't regret staying here as long as I have.

TB: Where did you go to school?

DC: UW-La Crosse and UW-Milwaukee and the Conservatory of Music.

TB: David, what got you into music?

DC: Well, I was always a rather strange child who didn't fit in with the other children. I remember when I was in second grade and saw my first piano. It was an old upright at my parents' friends' house. I was just fascinated with it. I walked up to it and began to play—to run my fingers over the keys.

You see, when my family moved from Milwaukee to Prairie du Chien, the wind went out of my sails. I had nothing to do. I knew I was different. So, when I touched the piano, it was like coming home. I threw myself into my music to keep from losing my mind, basically.

My music gave me something to do so that I didn't have to deal with all these small town kids who I had nothing in common with at all.

The thing is, I really didn't start on the piano. I started on the organ, playing for church. A nun taught me. Sister Angeline was her name. God only knows what happened to her. She was really nice. She

taught me all the basics. Pretty soon, I was playing for two churches, 5 Masses a weekend, and funerals. That was when I was between 12 and 14 years-old.

I started taking piano in 5th grade. That grew inside me. When I moved away, the organ kind of fell away because I fell away from the church. It just seemed so false somehow. I didn't want to be a part of it anymore. The piano stayed with me.

Now, I play the organ only once in awhile, when the Cream City Chorus does something at a church.

You've got to remember that it's been a long time since I played the organ. There are stops and keyboards and a keyboard at your feet, too. And each organ is different, a whole different ballgame.

I can go from piano to piano real easily—though sometimes you get sabotaged by a crappy instrument. You don't realize it until you sit down at it and find out it hasn't been tuned in about a year and a half or something.

TB: Do you have a favorite organ?

DC: The one at All Saints Cathedral is really nice. The one at the Unitarian church is really nice, too, but it's old. It probably needs a little work. The best organ that I've heard is at Jesu Church.

St. John's Cathedral has a beautiful organ, but I haven't even had a chance to look at that one.

TB: How long have you been in school?

DC: Oh, I'm not in school anymore. I was in school until 1985. Then, I ran out of money. I shouldn't have gone to school when I did, right out of a small town, because I had so much to learn—just figuring what it's like to be Gay. I wasn't focused.

There are other art forms out there. I always look at my music as interactive with other art forms. For example, doing art opening receptions or doing music for a theater production. I just love to do those. You test your metal as a musician. You just interact.

If you can walk into an art opening and play music that fits the artwork on the walls, I think then you know what you're doing. Or when you can pick out music to fit a certain period of time for a certain theatre production, that means you've done your homework.

TB: What are you trying to say in your music?

DC: I'm trying to channel the past. I don't want the past to die. So many people don't have any respect for the past. I don't want that elegance—Requiem that we're (the Cream City Chorus) doing. I don't want that to die out. I don't want the feeling of it to die out.

So many people today are so caught up in this pop mentality in this disposable culture. They're so concerned with the

here and now and the future. I'm really kind of disgusted with our culture, you know?

TB: Talk to me about Faure's "Requiem."

DC: Oh, I think it's one of the most elegantly written pieces of music I've ever heard. I've been listening to that since I was in grade school. This (the Cream City Chorus spring concert) is the first chance I've had to perform it. I'm throwing myself into it. I hear it running through my head all the time.

It's Faure at his height. It's the human spirit praying for redemption, for release, for eternal rest.

TB: Do you compose?

DC: Once in awhile. I write things that are like little theatre pieces. When I write music, I write it like a script, like poem, like a scene. I picture a scene and then I picture the music to match that. It's like

Jamie Nabozny to Address Up-Coming LGBT Youth Conference

Milwaukee—Jamie Nabozny, winner of the 1996 "Pathfinder" Award from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teacher's Network, will address participants of the second Diverse & Resilient conference on April 17, 1997. Nabozny a Gay youth, suffered multiple physical assaults from seventh through eleventh grade in a Wisconsin school district. He will share his experiences and the results of his ground breaking law suit.

Nabozny's experience illustrates the need for further awareness of Gay youth in Wisconsin. The 1997, Diverse & Resilient conference and mini-grant program will address the social and the HIV prevention needs of Gay youth in Wisconsin.

To be held in Oconomowoc, the second conference is open to all youth-serving professionals. Keynote speakers and breakout sessions will provide information, program examples and skills-building activities needed to create or enhance HIV prevention programs for Gay youth in Wisconsin.

The Diverse & Resilient conference is also intended to foster the development or enhancement of local HIV prevention initiatives. Participants are urged to attend the conference in community or organizational teams. Conference attendees will be encouraged to collaborate with youth support systems in their communities to apply for one of five \$5,000 mini-grants.

Last year's conference, held in downtown Milwaukee, was attended by over 120 youth-serving professionals from around Wisconsin. This year, over 200 professionals will attend. A contingency of Gay youth will take part in the conference as well, and share their ideas and points of view with other conference participants.

The 1996 conference and mini-grant cycle funded five groups to develop or enhance local HIV prevention services. With Diverse & Resilient funding, "Gay

I'm writing a little sound play.

TB: Who's your favorite composer?

DC: Oh God, I knew you were going to ask me that. Going by the amount of music that I have, I'd have to say, Debussy, either her or Ravel.

This may be strange to say this, but when I go every day to play at the Milwaukee Center, my influences are the weather. That influences me dramatically. And of course, my mood and what season it is.

TB: You seem to enjoy social life.

DC: Sure. I don't want to be a hermit. I like people. I want to be around people. That's why I left a small town. That's what music is, a large part of it, meeting people.

TB: What's in your future?

DC: I want to travel. I want to see all the magical places: Egypt, Venice, Rome, Athens. Once I've had my Grand Tour—I'll tell you, Europe is pulling me very strongly right now. I'd like to play in some little café and watch all kinds of people pass by. I want to live someplace that's old as old can be. I want to walk down a street that's 2000 years old.

I don't think I'll ever find a significant other. I've got my piano. That's enough.

Carroll To Perform Faure's "Requiem" at Chorus Spring Concert

Milwaukee—Those who know and love the sound of an excellent pianist are certain to be familiar with Milwaukee's own David Carroll. Known both for performances at Café Melange and for occasional engagements at the Grand Avenue Mall, Carroll is also the featured accompanist to the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus.

The performance of Faure's "Requiem," a spring challenge for the musical organization, "would not be possible without the talents of David Carroll," said Chorus president Matthew Pamperin. "After everything he's done with us, it's great to have a piece which will really showcase his work."

The concert, **To Every Season...** will be held at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, April 5, at Cross Lutheran, an affirming church which welcomes members of the LGBT community. The church is located at 1821 N. 16th Street, between Walnut/Lisbon and Fond du Lac Avenues, three blocks from the I-145 west spur.

Tickets for the April 5th concert, **To Every Season...** are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, and are available at BestD Clinic, AfterWords Bookstore, Mama Roux and through the Chorus office. Write: P.O. Box 1488, Milwaukee, WI 53201, or call (414) 344-9222.

Youth Milwaukee successfully operated a statewide toll free hotline for Gay youth. Staffed by Gay youth, the hotline continues to serve Wisconsin's youth by providing support and referral services on weekend evenings.

In La Crosse, a collaboration of the Coulee Region YWCA, the Rainbow Revolution Book Store, and the La Crosse County Health Department, forged the La Crosse Alliance for HIV/AIDS Prevention for Youth Dealing With Issues of Sexual Orientation. The alliance worked with a new youth group called GALAXY to help develop their own empowerment, essential for HIV prevention efforts. Weekly meetings were held at the bookstore, and the alliance sponsored a pride dance.

In Racine, Diverse & Resilient funded Youth 4 Youth, the first-ever Gay youth organization in the Racine County area. A drop-in center provided a safe place where youth could socialize and discuss issues of concern to them regarding growing up Gay in smaller cities and their HIV prevention needs.

In northwestern Wisconsin, the area AIDS Service Organization collaborated with the area chapter of PFLAG to assist area school districts to develop in-service trainings for teachers and to implement policies regarding bias motivated acts. NOWAP also used Diverse & Resilient funding to begin the Rainbow Club, a support program for area Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual youth.

Finally, the Children's Outing Association (COA) of Milwaukee won a grant to create a more Gay-friendly organization. Their efforts included making it known that COA was a safe space for Gay youth, starting a library of Gay-themed books and magazines, and staff training regarding Gay youth and their HIV prevention needs.

Politically Speaking

The Real Reason for Anti-Gay Marriage Bills

By Bill Meunier

At last it has come here. The battle that has raged in other parts of the country, the fight over same sex marriage.

This is not a fight that we asked for, nor can it safely be said that it is one we are ready for, but nonetheless it is here. And make no mistake about it, this battle will get nasty.

As I write this, it is four days before the public hearing on State Representative Lorraine Seratti's (R- Spread Eagle) bill to ban State recognition of Same Sex Marriage. I will be at that hearing, but I don't need to wait for it to know what will be said.

Those who support Seratti's legislation will say that allowing Same Sex Marriages will undermine the family. They will ask if marriage with animals and children will be next.

According to these people and their supporters in the Far Right Christian movement and the Republican Party, mar-

riage is about the creation of a family. They will talk about their belief that letting Same Sex couples get married will undermine heterosexual marriages. They will warn that allowing Gay marriages is contrary to "God's law."

Last but not least they will warn of the "dire" consequences of allowing Gay and Lesbian marriages. The buzz words "affirmative action," "Gay adoptions" and the old stand by "special rights" will be dragged out.

No matter how many smoke screens they put up, the Wisconsin Republican Party and their Right Wing allies can not cover up some basic facts.

The State already allows couples who can not have children to marry. The State does not test couples to see if allowing them to marry will jeopardize other marriages. The State has laws on the books to prevent marriages involving animals and

Please see Marriage Bill Page 22

Kelly-Jones

Continued from Page 1

"God hates Gays and Lesbians." - that our family is bad. This is scary for me.

Once last year, we went to a church service where people were carrying these signs and yelling at us outside. I woke up crying that night, because I dreamed that these same people bombed our church and our family was there.

I don't want to be afraid of these people and others who support this bill and I don't want them to be afraid of me. I think we can all get along. We don't have to be exactly the same.

In my history class in school, we've been studying about the beginning of the Constitution of the United States. As leg-

islators, you know that it says that all people are created equal and have the right for the pursuit of happiness and equal protection under the law.

Well, I've been learning about Elizabeth Freeman, who was an African American slave owned by one of the drafters of the Constitution. As a slave she didn't have any rights. Elizabeth Freeman couldn't get legally married and her kids could get taken away from her.

Today my parents also can't get legally married and its scary for me to know that, if one of my parents died, I could be taken away from my other parent.

Two hundred years ago, Elizabeth Freeman went to the government and asked for her rights- like it said in the constitution. Some people hated or feared African Americans so much that they would have changed the Constitution rather than allow Elizabeth Freeman her rights.

They said terrible things like if African American people were freed and had equality under the law, everything Americans believed in would crumble. Eliza-

beth Freeman won her freedom, the right to legally marry and to protect her children. And America didn't crumble, it got better.

I know that there are people here today who will say the same kinds of things about my family that they said about Elizabeth Freeman and her family. From studying history, I've learned that our Constitution does not say that "all people are created equal except for Gay and Lesbian people. It says *all* people.

As an elected official it is your job to uphold the principles of the Constitution against hatred and fear. I'm sure it took a lot of courage for the legislators back then to give African Americans the right to legally marry and to protect their children. For my sake and the sake of hundreds of children like me, I trust you will have that kind of courage today.

Gay Marriage

Continued from Page 1

of the population" and lead "an unhealthy lifestyle."

Seratti called on the committee to endorse her bill saying that Gays wanted to "radically redefine marriage." She contended that allowing Gay marriage could lead to polygamy, marriage between adults and children and between adults and animals. According to Seratti, "Wisconsin should not allow its policies to be set by D.C. organizations."

Ironically the next witness testified over speaker phone from his DC office. Robert Knight, from the Family Research Council, a Right Wing religious anti-Gay organization told the committee to approve Seratti's bill. According to Knight the Gay lifestyle is unhealthy. As proof of his claim, Knight said the average Gay man only lives to age 42.

Both Knight and Seratti cited studies used by the State of Hawaii in its court case against Gay couples suing for the right to marry in that State.

In a statement that had even some of her supporters shaking their heads, Seratti said that her bill was not discriminatory. "Gays and Lesbians will still be able to get married by choosing members of the opposite sex," she said.

After two more witnesses invited by Seratti to speak finished, witnesses invited to speak in opposition took the floor.

Rev. Charles Wolfe of the Plymouth United Church of Christ in Madison told the committee that the bill amounted to a public stoning of the Gay community. "This is an invitation to the Assembly to pick up a stone and throw it at Wisconsin's Gays and Lesbians," said Wolfe.

As he finished the bill's proponents sat stunned as well over half the large, crowded room broke out in loud applause and cheers.

Answering Knight and Seratti who cited studies they said proved that homosexuality was harmful, Dr. Lawrence Wu, a nationally renowned expert on marriage and homosexuality said that he and four other renowned researchers had filed a friend of the court brief in Hawaii objecting to that State's use of their research in its case against Gay marriage. Wu said that Hawaii had drawn the wrong conclusions from the research done by him and by others.

Following the invited witnesses was a stream of people both for and against the bill.

Those who were in favor claimed that they were following God's law, that homosexuality was unnatural and that passage would end the threat of any lawsuits should another state legalize same sex marriage. They claimed that homosexuality was unhealthy. Many speakers said that homosexuality could be cured.

Opponents including a number of ministers disputed the claim that the Bible condemns homosexuality. One minister, Cindy Crane, from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America called on those opposing the bill to "forgive the hatred" of those who are against same sex marriage.

Another speaker, former Dane County Supervisor Mark Pocan, said "People who use the bible for hatred are to Christianity what Cheez Whiz and Velveeta are to real Wisconsin cheese."

Many of those urging AB 104's passage said that their support of it was not motivated by hatred, but at the same time called the Gay lifestyle "perverted" and said that if same sex marriage was allowed it would lead to "acceptance of homosexuals."

Opponents said that comments like these proved the measure was motivated by hate. One Radical Christian Group, Wisconsin Christians United, was handing out brochures that homosexuals should not be allowed "the same civil rights as moral citizens."

Several proponents went so far as to describe Gay sex acts with one man stating

that allowing same sex marriages would be endorsing the "ingesting of feces, urine and other body fluids."

At least one Seratti supporter, Ken Egge of Hustisford, indicated support for the death penalty for Gays and Lesbians. He was heartily congratulated by some of those who came to support the bill.

Seratti's supporters said that the bill was needed. But that point was disputed by others who pointed out that Same Sex marriage was already against Wisconsin law.

As one Lesbian speaker put it, "When I told my son I was going to come today, he said 'So you are going to a hearing to speak against a bill that won't let you do something that you already can't do.'"

A number of opponents cited their own relationships and brought their children with them. They pointed out that many of the benefits of marriage were unfairly denied to them.

Ten year old, Sol Kelly-Jones brought tears to eyes of many as she spoke about her two mothers and her fear of those who "hate my family." Speaking to other children in her situation Sol said "Keep up the hope that someday we'll have equal benefits and stuff. You're not alone."

Sol's remarks were so poignant that **The Wisconsin Light** has printed *all* them in full on page 1.

The back and forth exchange sometimes brought out heated comments from speakers and from those listening to them. When one man talked about what he said was a real case in Colorado where a man wanted to marry a horse, State Representative Barb Nottestein (D-Mil) bristled. "I find your comments offensive," she said, "We are talking about human beings not animals."

Nottestein, Shirley Krug (D-Mil) and Rebecca Young (D-Madison) often weighed in with sharp questions for those supporting the bill.

Krug asked a Missouri Synod Minister if he felt the State should interfere by telling churches performing sex same marriages that they couldn't. After some hesitation, the minister replied that the state had no right to interfere with a church.

The Republicans on the Committee asked very few questions of either supporters or opponents.

Gay and Lesbian activists were elated by the turnout among their supporters. Before the hearing, opponents of Seratti's bill charged that it was being held at a time and place calculated to keep people away. Nearly all hearings are scheduled for Thursdays and are held in the Capitol Building.

Despite their fears, car caravans, buses, and individuals arrived from throughout the state. By the time the hearing started, it was clear that a solid majority of those in attendance opposed the bill.

"I am just elated," said openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin. "We actually outnumber them despite everything."

Those sentiments were echoed by volunteers from Action Wisconsin which helped get the word out about the hearing.

By the end of the hearing, the disparity in numbers was quite clear. The Committee Chairman, Representative Micheal Huebsch (R-La Crosse) was having a hard time finding speakers for Seratti's proposal.

Before the hearing adjourned Nottestein asked that hearing be recessed instead of adjourned so all of those against the bill would have a chance to speak, at a reconvening. Huebsch, a co-sponsor of Seratti's bill said no more hearings would be held and brought the gavel down.

Most observers expect AB 104 to pass the State Assembly where it has support from nearly every Republican in the GOP controlled chamber. It's fate in the Democratic controlled Senate is more uncertain.

Because as far as we could determine, **The Wisconsin Light** was the **ONLY** one of Wisconsin's four Gay based publications on the scene, we are bringing you extended coverage

For more of our exclusive on the scene coverage on this important event see pictures and the inside scoop on Page 6.

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THE SPOTLIGHT

Dusty's Corner

Interviews by Dusty Sass

Tony Aiello: The Main Man in the Booth at Milwaukee's Hot Dance Bar, La Cage

The thumping beat, the flashing lights, the video screens and the pulsating music. All of the above are a part of what goes into the Dance Bar experience.

Coordinating these effects takes a lot of work in the DJ booth. In a very real sense, the DJ is a performer keeping the crowd entertained with sound and lights.

The days when a DJ only had to know which record to put on a turntable are long since gone.

Today's DJ's have to keep up not only with the latest music, but also with the latest computer programs, video equipment, mixers and other techno gear. One of the best at his craft is Tony Aiello, the main man in the DJ Booth at La Cage, Milwaukee's most popular Dance bar.

At age 35, Tony is at the top of his game. With nearly 17 years of experience under his belt, he has played literally thousands of tunes for tens of thousands of dancers. His friendliness, openness and talent make him one of our favorite people.

Wisconsin Light: Where did you get your start?

Tony Aiello: I started in 1980 at a Club in Racine, Jodies.

WL: What got you interested in being a DJ?

TA: Music was always my hobby. When I started at Jodies we were actually spending more money on music than what I was paid. I love Dancing. It's great exercise and it makes you feel good.

I will always be grateful to Judy from Jodies for giving me first break. Then I saw an ad that La Cage was looking for a DJ and I applied and got hired.

WL: What can you tell us about George and Corey? (Owners of La Cage)

TA: There's not much dirt to tell. Actually they are really very nice people to work with. They are always there for you. They care about their employees and their customers.

WL: Over the years you must have seen a lot of changes in the Club dance scene.

TA: Absolutely. When I started, video at the clubs was just being born and everything was push button. We had switches similar to A B switches on cable. Push a button to go from one turntable to another. Now, we program a computer with state of the art mixers, digital sampling equipment, computerized light controllers and video controllers.

WL: What do you like most about being a DJ?

TA: Playing new music. I love to play the new stuff and watch people get into it. I also like the fact that La Cage is committed to getting the latest and best equipment. It's important not to let the customers get bored. You have to try to give them something new and exciting as often as possible.

WL: What do like least about your work?

TA: Cleaning the equipment and requests. The reason I don't like requests is because they are generally for older tunes.

WL: What do you like to do outside of work?

TA: Party at other clubs on my nights off. I like to compare what they are doing to what we are doing.

WL: What all goes into your job?

TA: In addition to operating the equipment, I also advise the Club on what equipment it should be using and I have to keep up on the latest music.

WL: What are the biggest challenges you face as a DJ?

TA: The biggest challenge is to get people out there to dance. This is especially true when you play the new stuff. They have to hear a song 10 or 20 times before they start dancing to it.

A lot of DJ's will give up on a song if it doesn't work the first time and then six months later that same song is number 1 or the most requested.

It takes some courage to keep playing it until it catches on. Of course the trick is to know which ones will catch on and that's a big challenge.

WL: How do you decide which songs will make it.

TA: It's a gut feeling that you get. Do you like the song, does it have a good message, does it relate to an experience like a break up or a new love, a party or some other experience. Basically can you relate to what the artist is trying to say. Plus it has to have a good driving beat or a good hook.

WL: What is good hook?

TA: A good hook is a part of the song that

people walk out of the club humming. For example: "Finally" from Ce Ce Pendiston, or "100% Pure Love" by Crystal Waters.

WL: What new songs do you think will make it big in the future?

TA: "Shake that Body" by Robi Rob's Club World and "Sonic Groove" by Catalina and "Look Into My Eyes" by Planet Soul. My favorite right now is "Anytime" by Dianna Dee with Obsession.

WL: What changes may be on the horizon for the Club Dance scene?

TA: The new equipment that is coming out is phenomenal. Everything is going to be CD based instead of vinyl. We will be able to play CD's just as easily as records. And the sound from the CD's is superior to records. Plus they last longer and take up less space.

That means that Dance Clubs can carry bigger libraries of songs.

WL: Do you work in an occupation other than being a DJ?

TA: Yes, I work as a book keeper and a mechanic at the family business.

WL: A mechanic? How butch? Do you get people coming up the booth to ask you to check their chassis or fix their crankshaft?

TA: No comment

WL: So are you single or what?

TA: Kinda single, kinda seeing someone. Don't ask me for the details, I don't "Kiss and Tell."

WL: Then what do you do?

TA: (Laughs) No comment.

WL: What is your philosophy of life?

TA: Have fun and keep educating yourself.



La Cage DJ Tony Aiello

I want to go back to school and get a degree in Computer Science.

Celebrate "Oscar" in Madison with Academy Awards Gala Event

Madison—The "Fabulous" Second Annual Oscar Madison Academy Awards Party is scheduled for March 24th in Madison. The event is a fundraiser for The United and the Rodney Scheel House for People with AIDS.

The event is bigger and better than ever, according to event organizer Scott Thornton. "This year's party will be fabulous," Thornton said. "We have a terrific VIP reception planned, a live performance with drag and other performers before the Oscars, and, of course, the Academy Awards themselves on the big screen."

The schedule is: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., VIP reception; 6:30 p.m., general doors open; 7:00 p.m., live performance; 8:00 p.m., Academy Awards. The cost is \$25 for VIP tickets and \$10 for general admission. The party is being held at the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood Avenue, Madison.

The VIP reception features food and wine selections from nine area restaurants including: Atlas Pasta and Delicatessen; Botticelli's; The Opera House; Out to Lunch; Bluephies; Monty's Blue Plate; Madison Sourdough; Pasta Per Tutti; and Café Montmartre. VIP ticket holders are invited to the special reception as well as having special seating for the event.

General admission is \$10, which includes live entertainment and the Academy Awards program.

"This is the next best thing to actually being there," Thornton said. "We are fortunate to have a great live program featuring acts like Simply Divine and emcees Paul Wesselman and Diana Summer."

Other sponsors this year include the Isthmus, Z104 Radio, Atlas Pasta and Delicatessen, Jan Silvers/M&I Madison Bank, Half Price Books, Happy Medium, and Four Star Video Heaven.

Tickets are available by mail at The Untied, P.O. Box 310 Madison, WI 53701 or through any of the Barrymore's outlets: The Exclusive Company, Star Liquors, Magic Mill, and Green Earth.

For more information, call Scott Thornton at (608) 255-5969.

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OUT on Film



Johnny Depp stars as FBI Agent Joe Pistone alias Donnie Brasco in "Donnie Brasco."

Beyond Whatever Else it is, 'Donnie Brasco' Tells of Two Male Friends

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

After experiencing the super creepiness of David Lynch's *Lost Highway* and the subsequent, not totally unexpected nightmares, Glenn sought more traditional cinematic entertainment. Next on the schedule came *Donnie Brasco*, a gangster flick based reportedly based on true events.

Although based on real people and actual events, *Donnie Brasco* proves to be a respectable descendent of such classic Hollywood motion pictures as *White Heat* and *Little Caesar*, in which legendary actors James Cagney and Edward G. Robinson transcended the genre creating memorable, heroic figures.

Glorifying mobsters might not be politically correct in '90's America but as is apparent from Mike Newell's new film, it is not an entirely lost art.

Donnie Brasco's title character is an FBI undercover agent played by Johnny Depp. Donnie Brasco is really Joe Pistone who has left his wife and three children, taking on the criminal persona of a "jewel man". Seeking to infiltrate mob operations, he is befriended by Lefty Ruggiero (Al Pacino), an aging "wise-guy", dedicated but never remarkable enough to have made it into the big-time.

Slipping easily into the role as Joe/Donnie's mentor, Lefty vouches for the young man and proceeds to instruct him in the rituals and responsibilities of the business. In a racket where all is dependent upon rigid rules of loyalty, but which foster an uncertain atmosphere in which anyone might get "wacked" at any time by anyone, including loyal friends and associates, it is perhaps a bit surprising that Joe/Donnie's relationship with Lefty easily and quickly transcends simply partnership.

Continually tested, Joe/Donnie begins to immerse himself ever more deeply into the Mafia hierarchy, and in the process Joe/Donnie begins to change. Although quite subtle at first, Joe/Donnie increasingly perceives just how blurred the fragile line that separates gangster Donnie Brasco from Agent Joe Pistone has become.

This transformation first manifests itself in incorporation of Donnie's raw language and gangster philosophy into Joe's outside life, resulting in increasingly strained relations with his family. Perhaps even more disturbing, at least to his superiors, is Joe's increasingly less frequent reports back to the Bureau.

Significantly into the film, Newell leaves Joe's wife, his superiors and, quite naturally the audience, to wonder if this well-decorated agent isn't in fact changing sides.

Sure, there's plenty of disturbing, graphic violence, enough to appease even the most jaded moviegoer. Newell even sprinkles in a few laughs but there really isn't anything particularly fresh or original here. Nor is the film's climax particularly surprising.

What provides *Donnie Brasco* with its stature is the compelling, complicated relationship between Joe/Donnie and Lefty. While we may expect that Joe/Donnie's feelings for Lefty are going to get in the way of the sting operation, we cannot help but be surprised at the strength of the bond between the two men, a bond which seems to transcend simple, traditional "male bonding" and which increasingly takes precedence over Joe/Donnie's other, real life.

Al Pacino is no stranger to gangster roles and like those legendary actors before him: Cagney, Robinson and the like, here finds himself in the role of a lifetime. Pacino invests Lefty, just a small-time crook, a mere spoke in the wheel of the mob with a grace and poignancy that suggest that *Donnie Brasco* is something more substantial than it actually is.

More surprising is just how good Johnny Depp is as Joe/Donnie. Older and lacking the pretty boy looks helped ignite his career, Depp proves that he has matured as an actor, his transition from infiltrator to friend wonderfully revealed a step at a time.

In less capable hands than Pacino and Depp, *Donnie Brasco* might have emerged as little more than a typical gangster flick.

Glenn has long been struck by the inherent, implied homoeroticism that characterize such gangster films and *Donnie Brasco* proves to be no exception. The bond between the two men might extend far beyond simple notion of Male-bonding but that Joe/Donnie will ultimately betray Lefty and happily, heterosexuality return to wife and family is not only expected, it is downright required.

Still, as Glenn left the darkened cinema, he couldn't help but think how such an otherwise convincing film had somehow ended on an alarmingly and disappointingly false note.

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

New Books at Afterwords

Gay Fiction

Naked by David Sedaris, Little, Brown HC \$21.95

Lesbian Fiction

The Necessary Hunger by Nina Revoyra Simon & Schuster HC \$23.00

Lesbian Non-Fiction

The L.P.G.A.: The Unauthorized Version by Liz Kahn, Group Fore HC \$29.95

Gay Non-Fiction

The Preacher's Son by Marc Adams, WindowBooks, HC-\$22.95

Howard Stern's 'Private Parts' is (Surprise!) a Decent Movie

Review by John A. Jahn

Like most people, I suppose, I have an opinion of Howard Stern—the New York City-based "shock jock" of the shaggy, long hair, prominent proboscis, and sewer mouth. We don't receive Stern's radio program in Milwaukee (nor anywhere in the state, in fact), nor do any stations plan to pick it up.

Would his extremely rude, in-your-face show find an audience here, as it currently does in 35 other radio markets? Probably not. And, to be sure, there is some of that Howard Stern in his first movie, *Private Parts* (based on the book of the same name by Stern himself).

However, the bottom line on this movie isn't Stern's obnoxious radio personality transferred to the film media (if you want that, by the way, you can catch his TV show on cable's E!TV), but rather a very funny, sweet, romantic comedy about how Howard Stern, the little nerdy geek, grew up to be the #1 radio personality in NYC and self-proclaimed "King of All Media."

In fact, *Private Parts*, directed by Betty Thomas, is as much a tender love story

and homage to Stern's wife (played by TV's "Murder One" Mary McCormack) as it is about the rise of a media superstar and "genius."

Private Parts features many funny, tender scenes. Stern battles with an uptight jerk of a radio director at WNBC; his initially rocky relationship with radio co-host Robin Quivers (playing herself), and his efforts to start a family with his wife.

Private Parts is a loving romance, combined with the modern day story about the revenge of a nerd. It's rated R, and rightfully so, given some nude scenes and the sometimes raunchy language (hey, this is Howard Stern, folks! What do ya expect?).

We learn that the "real" Stern is a family man who's very much in love with his wife, revealed to us in a funny, heartwarming, sweet little film. No, I never thought I'd be using adjectives in describing anything whatsoever to do with Howard Stern, let alone a movie he stars in, but here I am. Whodathunkit?

On my trademark 1-10 scale, *Private Parts* rates an 8. I still can't believe it.

'Lost Highway' is a Fascinating Film, But One That is Not Especially Satisfying

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Believe me, faithful readers of *Wisconsin Light*, the life of a movie critic is not all free movies and buckets of buttered popcorn. A perfect example was last night's screening for the new David Lynch film: *Lost Highway*.

A dangerously overflowing crowd at Milwaukee's Downer theatre impatiently waited for the newest from that king of cinematic weirdness. With no respite from the audience's antics forthcoming, Glenn thought perhaps that he had wandered mistakenly into *Rocky Horror*. Sadly, no such luck.

Lynch's masterly *Blue Velvet* was fresh, original and disturbing. Worse luck, coming so early in his career, *Blue Velvet* has created such continued high expectations that all subsequent efforts seem pale in comparison.

Something seems terribly, terribly wrong, in all possible senses, right from the start. In what seems to be a prologue, an admittedly long, astonishingly staggeringly slowly-paced prologue, Fred Madison (Bill Pullman) and Renee (Patricia Arquette) are confronted and confounded by the appearance of mysterious video tapes that begin to appear daily on their doorstep, right along side the morning paper. Seems someone is stalking them, going so far as to enter their bedroom as they sleep and take illicit shots.

Then a sudden explosion of violence occurs. Just as suddenly, Fred is convicted of the murder of his wife and is sentenced to death. As he waits on death-row, Fred is plagued with terrifying headaches. So bad are these headaches that one morning he wakes up and he's somebody else. That's right. He is an entirely different person. Played by entirely different actor.

Instead of Fred Madison, now he seems to be teenaged auto mechanic Pete Dayton (adorable newcomer Balhazar Getty). Pete awakens with some severe head wounds but absolutely no clue as to how he ended up in the death row cell of convicted murderer Fred Madison. Not being a murderer himself, at least as far as Prison Officials can deduce, Pete is released. One of filmdom's most curious mom and pop (Lucy Butler and Gary Busey) bring the lad home.

Almost immediately Pete's rather curious relationship with the mysterious (is there any character in *Lost Highway* who is not "mysterious") gangster Mr. Eddy/Dick Laurent leads the gullible youth to a disastrous affair with, you guessed it, the mysterious Alice (Patricia Arquette, again) who, despite dyed-blond locks, looks an awful lot like the recently butchered Renee (perhaps because both are played by the same actress).

More weirdness. More violence. Then suddenly he ain't Pete no more, now he's Fred Madison (again played by Bill Pullman) again. More weirdness. More violence. A few more visits from a strange, dare we say mysterious, evil troll played by Robert Blake. After an excruciating 135 minutes, *Lost Highway* blessedly hits a dead end.

Filled with typical Lynch cinematic touches, replete with those elements that so characterized the classic '40's noir films, boasting an especially powerful, relentless soundtrack and enough red herrings to keep the most alert guessing,

Lost Highway proves to be fascinating but perhaps not especially satisfying.

Eventually, arbitrarily, all leads back to the film's opening scene, nominally recalling *Pulp Fiction*.

Lynch's veritable tumble of scenes prove shocking for their casual mix of violence and eroticism. Lurking behind the Lynch's flourishing style and an abundance of cinematic deceptions and conceits is a barely concealed contempt for his audience who must, as Glenn did, leave the cinema wondering what the hell it all meant.

Lynch has indeed created a complex, perhaps needless complicated conundrum with *Lost Highway*. Less certain is whether Lynch is playing a little joke upon us mere mortals or if he too, in the end, proved to be utterly clueless.

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

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"MAYBE . . . MAYBE NOT"



"Bound"



"TWELFTH NIGHT"



"The People vs. Larry Flint"



"Celestial Clockwork"

Out of OSCAR'S closet

By Raymond Murray

The Queer revolution in film has continued unabated in 1996 with an unprecedented number of films - Hollywood, foreign and America independent productions - that have featured Gay, Lesbian, bisexual or cross-dressing characters. Although their numbers were great (in comparison to the years past) their depiction and roles were if anything, uneven.

Yet because it is becoming the trend to include Gays and Lesbians, even fleetingly, in films, it is time to recognize, celebrate and, if need be, condemn those productions. So with these conditions, we present the First Annual Queer Academy Awards.

Categories

Best Gay/Lesbian/Transgendered Hollywood Film of the Year

Best Lesbian Character in a Hollywood Film

Best Gay Male Character in a Hollywood Film

Best Transgendered Character in a Hollywood Film

Best Gay Male Supporting Character in a Hollywood Film

Best Lesbian Supporting Character in a Hollywood Film

Best Independently Made Gay Film

Best Independently Made Lesbian Film

Best Foreign Language Film

Best Film that has not yet played Wisconsin (but released in 1996)

Best Television film: (either Gay-Lesbian themed or written by a Gay or Lesbian)

Best Behind-the-scenes work by a Gay or Lesbian in a mainstream film

Most Incidental Use of a Gay Character:

Best Song

Best Documentary

Worst use of a stereotypical fag in a Hollywood Film

Most Homophobic Film of the Year

Best Gay/Lesbian/Transgendered Hollywood Film of the Year

The nominees are:

It's My Party (Randall Kleiser - director) Gay director Randall Kleiser's emotionally candid AIDS drama is both touching and forthright in depicting two Gay men in a complex but loving relationship.

Bound (Larry and Andy Wachowski - directors) A heart-pounding thriller about two women who try to cheat the Mafia out of 2 million dollars and which depicts its Lesbian heroines in the most pulsatingly erotic and attractive light possible. A landmark film.

The Birdcage (Mike Nichols - director) The Americanized version of the French farce *La Cage aux Folles* features two men in a loving, committed relationship while the heteros are the ones with family values problems. A wickedly funny comedy to laugh with the Gays not at them.

Twelfth Night (Trevor Nunn - director) Shakespeare's comedy comes alive in this visually striking film which features lots of transsexuality and crossdressing and enough homoeroticism to keep all Queers interested.

Butterfly Kiss (Michael Winterbottom - Director) While not universally liked, this shocking Lesbian-as-killer drama offers an unflinching look at a woman and the bloody road she chooses to take in looking for her woman.

Best Gay Male Character in a Hollywood Film:

The nominees are:

Eric Roberts as the AIDS-stricken Gay man who decides to throw a party before his suicide in **It's My Party**.

Gregory Harrison as Eric Robert's ex-lover who plants a passionate kiss on him in **It's My Party**.

Please see Oscar's Closet Page 18

"And The Oscar Goes To...;" Glenn Bishop's Oscar Night Predictions

By Glenn Bishop

There are few events quite like the Oscars. Imagine the night sky awash with spotlights. Red carpet trampled upon by the most glittering stars that Hollywood has to offer. Camera flashes dazzle the desperate throngs of hungry, desperate on-lookers and other various and sundry hangers-on.

Sad to say that other, more pressing engagements will prevent Glenn from arriving in some fabulous limo on March 24th at the steps of Los Angeles' Shine Auditorium. Like most of the faithful readers of *Wisconsin Light*, Glenn shall be parked in front of a large-screen television for the 69th Annual Academy Awards.

Best Supporting Actor

The Supporting Actor category is not only one of the toughest to call but is likely to set the pace for the rest of the evening.

Cuba Gooding (*Jerry McGuire*), William H. Macy (*Fargo*) and Armin Mueller-Stahl (*Shine*) each gave absolutely marvelous performances in absolutely marvelous films. A win by any of these three actors might begin a sweep by their films, each with several nominations to their credit.

James Woods, nominated for the here-and-gone in a flash *Ghost of Mississippi* was a surprise nominee and will be an even bigger surprise winner. No such surprise for anyone seeing Edward Norton's mesmerizing performance in the otherwise routine thriller, *Primal Fear*.

This year's most worthy performance was ignored by the Academy: the wonderful Paul Scofield in the much ignored *The Crucible*. Like Norton's performance, Paul Scofield effortlessly stole the thunder from the film's much more glamorous leading man, Daniel Day-Lewis.

Oscar is likely to give the nod to *Jerry McGuire*'s Cuba Gooding but Glenn's pick is Edward Norton.

Supporting Actress

A real hodge-podge group, more notable perhaps for who wasn't than for who was nominated.

Where are Julie Christie's ravishing Gertrude or Kate Winslet's marvelous, original Ophelia in *Hamlet*? What about newcomer Renee Zellweger, so very good as Tom Cruise's love interest in the much-nominated *Jerry McGuire*?

Joan Allen, a nominee last year in *Nixon* is once again honored, this year as the oh-so cold Elizabeth Proctor in *The Crucible*.

Juliette Binoche was fine if not particularly memorable in *The English Patient* likewise Marianne Jean-Baptiste as the daughter who came to dinner in *Secrets and Lies*.

Barbara Hershey was a standout in *Portrait of the Lady* but Oscar (with Glenn's consent) is likely to give the nod to legendary Lauren Bacall.

Best Actress

Academy members must have had to make some tough decisions in the Best Actress category, a category where many fine performances were overlooked.

Despite winning Golden Globe, did anyone in their right mind actually think that Madonna was going to get nominated for *Evita*? Just kidding...

Amongst other fine performances not recognized by the Academy are Gwyneth Paltrow in *Emma*, Nicole Kidman (who was likewise ignored last year for *To Die For*) in *Portrait of a Lady*, Lili Taylor for *I Shot Andy Warhol* and the much hyped Courtney Love for *The People vs. Larry Flynt* and Meryl Streep who used to get nominated for just about anything.

Diane Keaton is having something of a comeback, who has followed the box office success of *First Wives Club* with a nomination for *Marvin's Room*. 'Course that don't mean she's going to win. Nor is the much acclaimed Emily Watson for the little seen *Breaking the Waves*.

Frances McDormand has a shot if the Academy's aged membership didn't find *Fargo* too offbeat as does the lovely Kristin Scott Thomas if *The English Patient* sweeps.

But of all those actually nominated, look no further than *Secrets & Lies*' Brenda Blethyn whose performance is truly head and shoulders above the rest of the nominees. Glenn thinks Oscar will agree.

Best Actor

First and foremost, just how did Woody Harrelson get nominated for *The People vs. Larry Flynt*? Glenn admits to being clueless in this matter.

That said, the four remaining nominees seem to be neck and neck. No one plays Tom Cruise as well as Tom Cruise himself but an Oscar for *Jerry McGuire*? Ralph Fiennes was absolutely wonderful in *The English Patient*, a romantic lead who is also a very fine actor.

Billy Bob Thornton was a surprise nominee for *Sling Blade* and certainly most deserving but Geoffrey Rush seems to have captured the most momentum with *Shine*.

More telling are those actors not nominated. The British were ignobly ignored as neither Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet* or Daniel Day-Lewis (*The Crucible*) made the grade. Popular Hollywood actors John Travolta (*Phenomenon*) and Denzel Washington (*Courage Under Fire*) were similarly unlucky.

Glenn's pick is Ralph Fiennes but Oscar is likely to shine on Geoffrey Rush.

Best Picture

Hollywood types endeavor to make movie that will appeal to absolutely everyone and thus will make a ton of money. These same Hollywood types then whine that these overblown spectacles never win any Oscars. Well, they shouldn't.

Rightfully ignoring such overblown spectacles as *Twister*, *Independence Day* and *Evita*, the Academy recognized only one typical Hollywood production: *Jerry McGuire*.

Small, carefully crafted independent films highlight the Best Picture category: *Fargo* from the brother Coen, the inspiring true story *Shine* and the latest from Mike Leigh, *Secrets & Lies*.

The most Oscar-like of all the nominees



Many happy returns. Tommy celebrated his 77th Birthday with his partner Loren at This Is It by splicing the mainbrace.

is *The English Patient*. Here is the perfect Oscar nominee: *The English Patient* is a big-screen romance and one which will appeal to the aged Academy. Moreo-

ver, it is based on a very literate work of fiction and is filled with fine actors with spectacular credits. This certainly enough for Glenn and should be plenty for Oscar.

Jerry Johnson

Suzanne Westenhoefer

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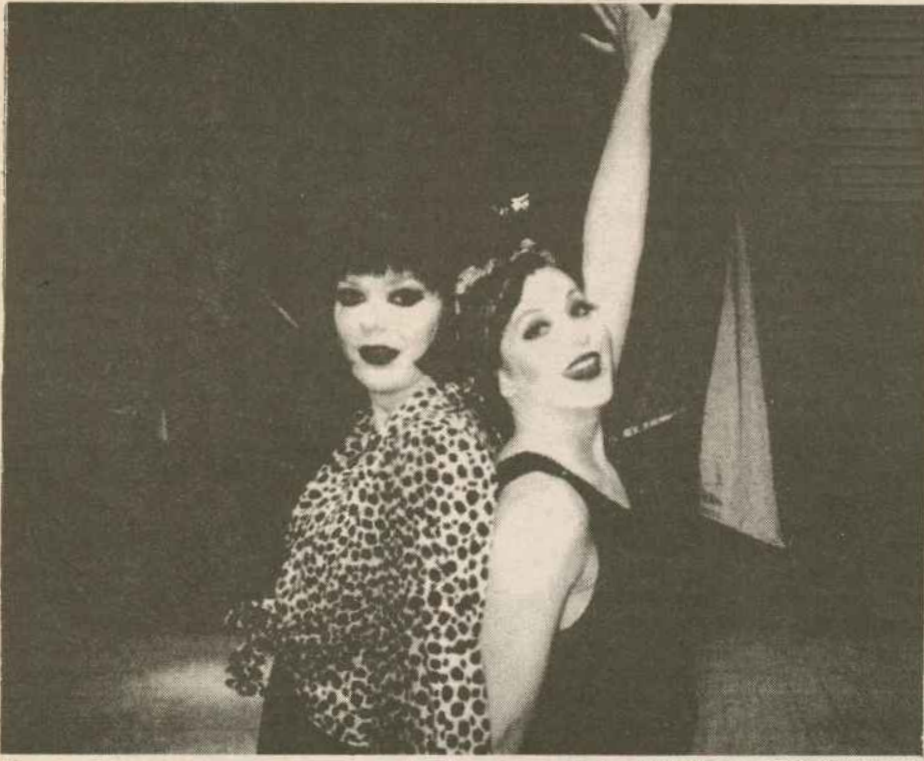
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Vamping For Each Other BJ Daniels (Left) and Elaine Thorton-Wyler star as two vampires in Theater X's delightful "Lesbian Vampires From Sodom." The production is a late night show at Theater X, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Its run continues on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights through March 22.

'Lesbian Vampires' is a Fun-Filled, Delightful Romp

By Terry Boughner

It is a romp. It is fun. It is a farce in the best sense of that word. **Vampire Lesbians of Sodom**, currently being presented as part of Milwaukee's Theatre X's Late Night Series, is a charmingly funny play from beginning to end.

Written by Charles Busch, **Vampire Lesbians** is a one act play in three scenes that tells the tale of a Vampire-Succubus (Elaine Thorton-Wyler) of old Sodom and her Virgin/Sacrifice (B.J. Daniels). Much against their will, but inextricably linked, they travel through time together from the City on the Plain to the 20th century USA. Along the way, they commit just about every satire of which it is possible to conceive. The result for the audience is a rollicking good time.

There are plays which are funny in their own right. Their humor can stand alone and carries the actors along. **Vampire Lesbians** is not one of them. Instead, the play depends largely for its humor on the skill of the actors in presenting it; their gestures, their facial expressions, their intonations, in short, their art.

B.J. Daniels shows her genius for the stage. Her timing (all important in humor) is impeccable. Her gestures, her nuances

of expression are beyond reproach. She seizes the audience by the funny bone and never lets go.

Daniels is amply seconded by Thorton-Wyler. While Daniels conveys a humorous innocence, Thorton-Wyler combines evil and pathos in a delicious and delightful mix.

Daniels is good. Thorton-Wyler is good. Together, as foils for each other, they are superb.

Tracey Hassinger (Renee, Tracy) is little short of perfect playing a cross between Little Orphan Annie and a girl scout lost in the clutches of "sin."

Director Amy Zeh, familiar to Milwaukee audiences for directing Shakespearean plays, among other things, deserves every kind of credit in leading her cast to pull this off. What could so easily have degenerated into mere spoof, Zeh has elevated to a marvelous Gay-themed farce.

If you get the impression that I liked the play, you're right. If you get the impression that I had a fun time, again you're right. And I say neither of those things lightly. I am not, shall we say, an aficionado of the theatre.

This one, however, I can honestly tell you is a "must see." It is good. It is fun. You'll have a great time.

Vampire Lesbians of Sodom runs Thursdays through Saturdays until March 22 at the Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway in Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward. Curtain time is 11:00 p.m.

Theatre X's Production of "Vieux Carre" is Both Fascinating and Rewarding

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Few are likely to suggest that Tennessee Williams was not the greatest playwright of the Twentieth Century. To his credit, after all, are such works as **The Glass Menagerie**, **A Streetcar Named Desire** and **Cat On a Hot Tin Roof**, plays overflowing with moments of amazing power, tremendous eroticism and the sheer magic of lyrical poetry.

Swirling throughout the best of William's canon of plays, sadly, are a host of Gay characters, lurking in the shadows of the narrative and seeming to serve only to lament William's despair with his own homosexuality. Particularly vivid is the imagery, in **Suddenly Last Summer**, of Sebastian beaten and literally consumed by the Mexican youths whose sexual favors he sought.

Less well known and rarely staged is **Vieux Carre**, William's last and most autobiographical play which curiously is also his most Gay positive.

Set in a run-down boarding house just around the corner from the jazz bars of Bourbon Street, **Vieux Carre** proves to be something of a memory play. As if tearing pages from his own biography, Williams offers as his narrator a young, budding writer, quite simply and appropriately named The Writer (Jonathan Wainwright)

A collection of familiar Williams characters inhabit this boarding house run by the fiery Mrs. Wire (Flora Coker), a woman who increasingly confuses The Writer for her long lost son.

On one side of the little cubicle The Writer inhabits is Nightingale (Michael Neville), an aging Gay painter increasingly succumbing to disease. Unabashedly Gay, Nightingale senses in The Writer a young man desperately yearning for any

human contact. If such human contact is in the form of intimate, physical contact, that will likely suit Nightingale quite nicely.

The room on the other side of The Writer's little cubicle is Jane (Suzette Nelson), an attractive young woman who has opened her heart (as well as her little room) to Tye (Robert Bruce Janacek), a strapping, sensual man who, quite effortlessly, manages to maintain the sexual tension amongst the rooming house's various tenants.

As expected with those who people Tennessee Williams' world, the characters in **Vieux Carre** are people who seem to live on life's fringes. Tired and sick, left only with lost dreams and fresh regrets, Mrs. Wire and Nightingale, Mary Maude and Miss Carrie and particularly Jane have reached journey's end.

Only The Writer, young and naive and lacking life experience, looks towards a future that we know will fulfill his dreams of writing success, if providing only a finite and rather insufficient amount of personal happiness.

Particularly effective is Jonathan Wainwright in the pivotal role of Williams' fictional stand-in. Combining innocence with an appealing awkwardness, Wainwright's Writer is believable and engaging. The always marvelous Flora Coker is equally capable as the cantankerous Mrs. Wire and Iyalosa Adekola Adedapo is especially impressive in the smaller role of Nurse.

If lacking clarity and the majesty of Williams' earlier, more acclaimed works, **Vieux Carre** is nevertheless a fascinating and rewarding work which comes memorably alive in the hands of director John Schneider.

Highly Recommended.

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Kirsch and Parejko to Lead Off Badger Spring Fiction Book Tour

Oregon, WI—J. Allen Kirsch, the author of two popular novels about political correctness on Madison's Isthmus, will kick off the Badger Spring Fiction Book Tour.

Kirsch will sign copies of his two novels, *God's Little Isthmus* and *Madlands*, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, March 22nd, at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 16220 Blue Mound Road, in Brookfield. He will appear with Ken Parejko, author of *Remember Me Dancing*, a novel about Polish-American farmers in central Wisconsin during the early 20th Century. Nine Wisconsin novelists will tour 10 Wisconsin cities on the tour, including two appearances in the Milwaukee area and two in Madison.

Kirsch's latest novel, *God's Little Isthmus*, was published in January by Waukesha Press, the quality fiction imprint of Badger Books, Inc. In this engaging sequel to *Madlands*, counterculture and the university clash again as a nudist running for City Council, a battle for tenure, bulimia, and a boycott strain political correctness on the Isthmus.

Both *God's Little Isthmus* and *Madlands* are available in general bookstores in the upper Midwest and in Gay and Lesbian bookstores nationwide.

The *Feminist Bookstore News* called *Madlands* "a novel worth reading for its frankness, its attention to detail, its way of dealing with contemporary issues like

sexual harassment and, simply for the fact that it's about Madison, not New York or San Francisco."

Madlands also was praised by *Wisconsin Light*, the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, *The San Diego Update* and other newspapers across the country.

Kirsch, a university instructor with a Ph.D. in Spanish literature, lives in Madison. He also has lived in Tucson, Arizona and New Orleans.

The Badger Spring Fiction Book Tour also includes author appearances in La

Crosse, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids, and Stevens Point.

Besides Kirsch and Parejko, participating authors include Muriel Halvorsen, *With Trees on Either Hand*; Larry W. Phillips, *Covering the Second Coming and Madison Retro*; Shirley Dummer, *Old Man, Lost Love, We've Climbed the Mountains and Thersé My Love*; Marv Balousek, *Honey, This is Trudy*; Bob Lane, *The Confetti Kid*; Steve Olson, *The Last Vampire*; and Paul Kending, *Rivers Must Run*.

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MADISON

HIGH TEA WITH SAGE

SAGE holds a weekly Friday gathering at Monty's Blue Plate Diner, (across the street from the Barrymore) at 3:30. Tea, coffee, treats and talk await those who attend.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES FORUM SATURDAY MARCH 15

Madison School Board Candidates have been invited to attend a forum entitled "School Board Candidates Forum on Gay and Lesbian Issues."

The forum sponsored by GLADE will be held from 1 to 3 PM at the James Reeb Unitarian Church, 2146 E. Johnson Street.

COUNTRY DYKES MEET MARCH 15 FOR GARDENING SESSION

If you are a Country Dyke, or if you want to be one, then join the RDA, Rural Dyke Association for a seed exchange, starting tips and gardening tales session on Saturday March 15 at 10:30 AM.

Bring a veggie dish to pass and seeds to share.

Call (608)838-3094 for directions and location information.

PERFECT HARMONY- ALL MALE CHORUS REHEARSES SUNDAYS

Perfect Harmony an all male group will meet and sing at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church on Univeristy Ave., Middleton.

The group gets together on Sundays at 7:30.

PFLAG MEETS MARCH 16

Madison's PFLAG chapter meets at 2:00 PM. On Sunday March 16 at the Quaker Meeting House on Robert's Court of Monroe Street.

MAGIC PICNIC MEETING APRIL 2

The first meeting of the MAGIC picnic planning committee will take place on Wednesday April 2 at the United. For additional info call The United, 255-8582.

COUNTRY DYKES MEET APRIL 12 FOR POND CONSTRUCTION

If you are a Country Dyke, or if you want to be one, then join the RDA, Rural Dyke Association and help put in decorative pond. Dig a little dirt, stack, stack some rocks or stand around and help supervise.

Call (608)838-3094 for directions and location information.

MILWAUKEE

RIVERWEST GROUP ST. PAT'S DAY PARTY SUN. MARCH 15

The Riverwest Rainbow Association will celebrate St. Patrick's Day with a party at the Riverwest Arts Center, 3178 N. Fraternity from 8:00 to 10:30 PM.

SHERMAN PARK GROUP MEETS THURSDAY MARCH 20

The Sherman Park Rainbow Association will hold its March meeting on Thursday March 20 at Good Shephard Lutheran Church, 3617 N. 48th St.

There meeting includes a Pot Luck (please bring a dish to pass)

The group wants everyone to know that its First Annual Trivial Pursuit Contest was a huge success. Thanks to winner Jeff Snyder who donated his winnings to SPRA and to the 10% Club for hosting the event.

OUR SPACE PRESENTS BALDWIN ON APRIL 13

Our Space at the Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2039 N. Bartlett Ave, will have a special presentation from Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin's only openly Lesbian State Representative.

Ms. Baldwin will discuss the battle for same sex marriage along with partners and many other important topics. Everyone is welcome to attend ask questions and learn about Wisconsin laws that affect us all.

Q-LIFE FORUM

There will be a private forum for people living with HIV/AIDS on Thursday, March 27th at the Italian Community Center, 631 E. Chicago Street. The event will be in two parts; 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. or 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Either part may be attended.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss what is and is not working for People living with HIV/AIDS. For more information, call (414) 224-7974.

DADDY/BOY LEATHER CONTEST

The Argonauts of Wisconsin and Castaways MC of Milwaukee will be sponsoring the 1997/98 Mr. Wisconsin Daddy/Boy Contest. The Boy contest will be held on Friday, April 25 and the Daddy contest will be on Saturday, April 26. Both contests will be held at the 1100 Club, 1100 S. 1st Street in Milwaukee.

For more information or applications, write to: Northwoods Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 1104, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

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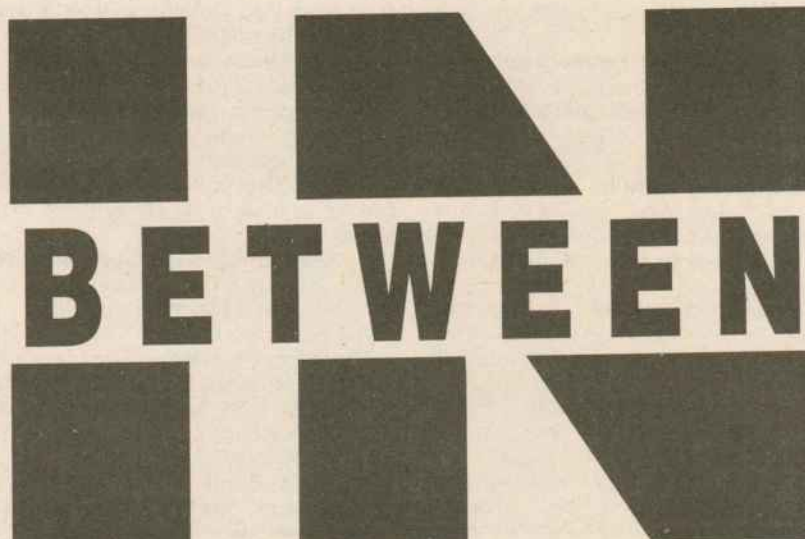


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Out of Oscar's Closet

Oscar's Closet

Continued from Page 13

David Bowie who offers a wacky but delightful impersonation of Andy Warhol in **Basquiat**, capturing the gawky beauty and trusting nature of the artist.

Jarad Harris who, in **I Shot Andy Warhol**, also plays Warhol. He looks more like the bewigged pop icon and also captures, albeit in a different fashion, the man who shyly lead an artistic revolution.

John Ritter is a small-town homosexual with a heart of gold, although he is also a bit pitiful because of his inability to come out in **Sling Blade**.

The openly Gay Scott Thompson plays a suburban family man, who, after being caught cruising by the police, comes out to everyone in a rollicking musical number in **Kids in the Hall - Brain Candy**.

Robin Williams is surprisingly low keyed, while still being both funny and poignant as Armond Goldman, the Gay nightclub owner in **The Birdcage**.

Best Lesbian Character in a Hollywood Film

The nominees are:

Courtney Love is mesmeric as the bisexual wife of Larry Flynt in **The People Vs. Larry Flynt**. In the early scenes she claims to have slept with every woman dancer in a strip club and later is seen romping in a bathtub with two other women.

Lili Taylor is ominously real as Valerie Solanas, the increasingly psychotic revolutionary-wannabe who shoots her "tormentor" Andy Warhol in **I Shot Andy Warhol**. Not a good Lesbian role model, but at least a complex one.

Jennifer Tilly and Gina Gershon redefine Lesbian sexuality on screen as well as offering the Queer public two gutsy heroines in **Bound**. The two women are slinkingly beautiful, the sex scenes incredibly hot and the fact that the Queens don't get killed off (a standard approach by Hollywood) makes it a must see by both Lesbians and Gay men.

Amanda Plummer, in a role that makes Valerie Solanis seem like a nun in comparison, is disquietly memorable in **Butterfly Kiss** in which she plays a woman on the run - searching for the one woman who showed her love and compassion.

Best Transgendered Character in a Hollywood Film

The nominees are:

Nathan Lane is a quivering mass of sequined hysteria who teaches his lover, "son" and the in-laws what love and family values are all about in **The Birdcage**. As the diva Albert, Lane is a scream and saves the comedy from any possibility of it being offensive.

Stephen Dorff is Warhol superstar Candy Darling in **I Shot Andy Warhol**. His transformation into the dreamy blonde with a willowy voice and naive Hollywood dreams is startling.

RuPaul returns as Mrs. Cummings, the school guidance counselor who sets her girls on the right path in the underappreciated comedy, **A Very Brady Sequel**. You go girl!

Hank Azaria takes what could have been a forgettable role and created Agador, the ditzy Cuban houseboy with a penchant for frilly clothing in **The Birdcage**.

Pam Grier plays Hershey, a former colleague of Snake (Kurt Russell) who now is a renegade transsexual gang leader in the film **Escape From L.A.** Her voice was altered to sound more masculine.

Best Supporting Gay Male Character in a Hollywood Film

The nominees are:

Get on the Bus - The uptight Randall (Harry Lennie) and former Marine Kyle (Isaiah Washington) are two lovers on the bus to the Million Man March.

The English Patient - Peter Rühring is a British mapmaker who begins an affair with an handsome young Moroccan. He finds his first Gay relationship "natural."

Shine - Armin Mueller-Stah wonders why his son's piano teacher (Nicholas Bell) isn't married; he later is seen attending concerts with another man.

Mulholland Falls - Andrew McCarthy plays a sleazy, but not offensive, Gay character in this Chinatown ripoff.

Best Lesbian Supporting Character in a Hollywood Film

The nominees are:

Jennifer Dundas is the openly Lesbian daughter of Diane Keaton in the comedy **The First Wives Club**. She is seen as attractive, together and opinionated even when mom and her female cronies visit her at a Lesbian bar.

Queen Latifah plays Cleo, a gun-toting Lesbian in the female action film, **Set It Off**. She is seen as a brash, tequila-

Swoosie Kurtz and Kelly Preston play a pair of lefty, Pro-choice Lesbian activists who kidnap the pregnant but wavering Laura Dern in the abortion black comedy **Citizen Ruth**.

Charlayne Woodard is a Lesbian undercover cop in **Eye For an Eye**.

Best Independently Made Gay Film

The nominees are:

Boyfriends - This vastly entertaining British drama examines the fragile relationships within a group of young Gay men. At times hilariously painful, knowingly funny and unflinchingly on-target.

Man of the Year-The finely sculpted Dirk Shafer both directs and stars in this faux-documentary about a "Playgirl" model and female sex symbol who desperately wants to come out.



Toni Ward and Bruce LaBruce in *Hustler White*

Hustler White - Canada's bad boy of Queer cinema, Bruce LaBruce takes his camera to the streets of Santa Monica in this sexy comedy about male prostitutes. All kinds of sex is depicted, all except a normal loving one. What's he saying?

Parallel Sons-The love between a rural blond teenager and a black prisoner on the lam make this drama both affecting and original.

Stonewall-This fictionalized account of the events that lead up to the Stonewall Riots make for a tuneful, fun and rousing good time. And not a bad history lesson as well.

Frisk -You won't find a more controversial Gay-themed film than this tale of sexual experimentation, self-hate, s/m, murder and teen love. The x-Generation never looked so sick!

The Doom Generation - Gregg Araki's self-styled "heterosexual film" is far from it - homoeroticism oozes from nearly every scene. A rough and sexy ride through the Southwest.

Toilers and Wayfarers - A sincere teenagers-in-love tale set in Minnesota depicts Gay love as natural, tender and quite romantic.

Best Independently Made Lesbian Film

The nominees are:

Costa Brava - A breezy love story set in Barcelona and featuring two attractive women who play a romantic game of cat-and-mouse. Funny with a great ending.

Everything Relative - A Lesbian Big Chill in which a group of diverse women descend on a country house to relive old times and rekindles still smoldering passions.

Inn Trouble - A comedy also set in a rambling house, but this time, the gals are younger, wilder and much funnier.

The Midwife's Tale-An ambitious drama set in medieval times that deftly explores the forbidden love between a lady and a lowly midwife.

Watermelon Woman-Set in Philadelphia, this, the first Lesbian African-American feature film, is a complex tale of a struggling filmmaker and her loves and search for identity.

Best Foreign Language Film

The nominees are:

The Starmaker (Italy, Giuseppe Tornatore - director) From the director of Cinema Paradiso comes this dark story of a roving talent scout who takes people's vanity to his advantage. One of his victims is a homosexual who aspires to being a star.

Les Voleurs (Thieves) (France, Andre Techine-director) Catherine Deneuve creates a fascinating Lesbian character - a hard-living grandmother and philosophy professor who falls hopelessly in love with a much younger woman. Their bathtub scene is tenderly romantic and a wee bit erotic.

Antonia's Line (Netherlands, Marleen Gorris - director) Els Dottermans plays an artist and the Lesbian daughter of a intense matriarch who feels men are needed in their lives. The daughter has a finely drawn relationship with another woman.

Celestial Clockwork (France/Venezuela, Fina Torres - director) An exuberant fanciful comedy that features Adrianna Gil as a woman who spurns conventional marriage for a bohemian life in Paris where she finds love in the arms of a wacky woman and a green card in the arms of a cheerful Gay man.

Talk of the Town Germany, Rainer Kaufman. Several wonderful drawn Gay characters provide the not-always helpful assistance for a woman who desperately want to find a man. Finding a better collection of Gay men in one "mainstream" film would be quite difficult.

Best Film That Has Not Yet Played Wisconsin-but released 1996

The nominees are:

Substance of Fire - This American independent drama about the family struggles within their publishing company features Tony Goldwyn as the Gay son who, with his writer-lover (Timothy Hutton) in tow, attempt to resurrect the business.

Institute Benjamenta - The Philadelphia educated Brothers Quay's dark and twisted live action feature is set in a surrealist butler school where the older teacher (Gottfried John) falls for a handsome student (Jakob von Gruen).

Johns - A Hollywood-produced drama about Gay male hustlers on Santa Monica Blvd. chronicles a day-in-the-life of Lukas Haas and David Arquette. A gritty, funny, quirky tale of friendship and survival.

Best Television Film: (Either Gay-Lesbian Themed or Written by a Gay or Lesbian)

The nominees are:

Truman Capote's **In Cold Blood** is re-done with Eric Roberts and Anthony Edwards as the killers.

Losing Chase is Kevin Bacon's directorial debut which is a rich character study of the developing relationship between an emotionally fragile mother (Helen Mirren) and a younger woman (Kyra Sedgwick).

Bastard Out of Carolina - A harrowing tale of a little girl's sexual and physical abuse.

Best Behind-the-Scenes Work by a Gay or Lesbian in a Mainstream Film

The nominees are:

Surviving Picasso - The Gay filmmaking team of Ismail Merchant (producer) and James Ivory (director) have fashioned an interesting, if dry, account of the not-so-likeable artist Pablo Picasso.

Marvin's Room - The late Gay playwright Scott McPherson's Off-Broadway play comes alive with Meryl Streep, Diane Keaton and Leonardo DiCaprio in the leads.

The Craft - Gay director Andrew Fleming (**Threesome**) tackles witchcraft and the American teenage girl in this witty horror film.

The Flower of My Secret - Gay director Pedro Almodovar focuses on a woman's impending nervous breakdown in this unusually serious effort.

The Crucible-Gay director Nicholas Hytner (**The Madness of King George**) makes his American debut with this drama about the Salem witch trials starring Wynona Rider and Daniel Day-Lewis.

Grass Harp - Gay author Truman Capote's evocative memoir of his childhood stars Edward Furlong as his youthful alter

ego.

Cemetery Man-Gay actor Rupert Everett stars in this creepy but at times delightfully funny Italian horror film

Cold Comfort Farm -Gay director John Schlesinger made two films last year, the insipid **An Eye For an Eye** and this wonderfully unpredictable comedy about a refined young lady who moves in with her Dark Ages-living farm cousins and becomes determined to make things proper! Jane Austin meets the Beverly Hillbillies!

Most Incidental Use of a Gay Character

Faithful -A miserable Cher walks up to a Gay couple who are admiring a Rolls Royce. She chimes in that owning such a car won't bring them happiness - then she gets in the car and drives off.

She's the One - Hope (Maxine Bahns), is a free-spirited modern woman who casually tells her new husband that she, at one time, had been intimate with her female best friend.

Mrs. Winterbourne - Miquel Sandoval plays Shirley MacLaine's well-meaning Gay Cuban butler whose "Mary Poppins"-like demeanor is shattered when his boyfriend (unseen) dumps him thereby leading to a suicide attempt.

Best Song

The nominees are:

"Lesbian Seagull" - in **Beavis and Butt-head Do America** - Yes, fly, Lesbian seagull, fly!

"I'm Gay!" in **The Kids in the Hall Brain Candy** - With Scott Thompson coming out to family and neighbors in a extravaganza musical number that rivals Monty Python's "Every Sperm is Sacred."

Best Documentary

The nominees are:

Celluloid Closet - Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's provocative and educational film version of Vito Russo's seminal book includes clips from 122 films and interviews with several Gay personalities and actors who played Gay. Required viewing.

Paris Was a Woman - Greta Schiller (Before Stonewall) takes us back to the Paris of the 1920s and focuses on the many women artists (primarily Lesbian) who were living there.

Worst use of a stereotypical fag in a Hollywood Film

The nominees are:

Independence Day - Harvey Fierstein is the queeny fag used for comic relief in this blockbuster film. As he whined, called mom and his analyst worldwide audiences laughed and Gays winced.

The Rock - A swishy queen hairdresser is sent in by the FBI to cut the hair of the dangerous Sean Connery. When Connery makes his break, the queen squeals with horror and when both he and Connery share an elevator, the covering stylist says, "Do you like your haircut?" An offensive use of a Gay stereotype for comic relief.

Two Days in the Valley - This interesting independent feature has a queeny black man who helps the protagonist but then completely disappears from the rest of the film.

Maybe...Maybe Not - This German comedy features the straight man as handsome and masculine and the homos as fawning nannies who just want to be close to him. Ouch!

Most homophobic Film of the Year

The Winner is:

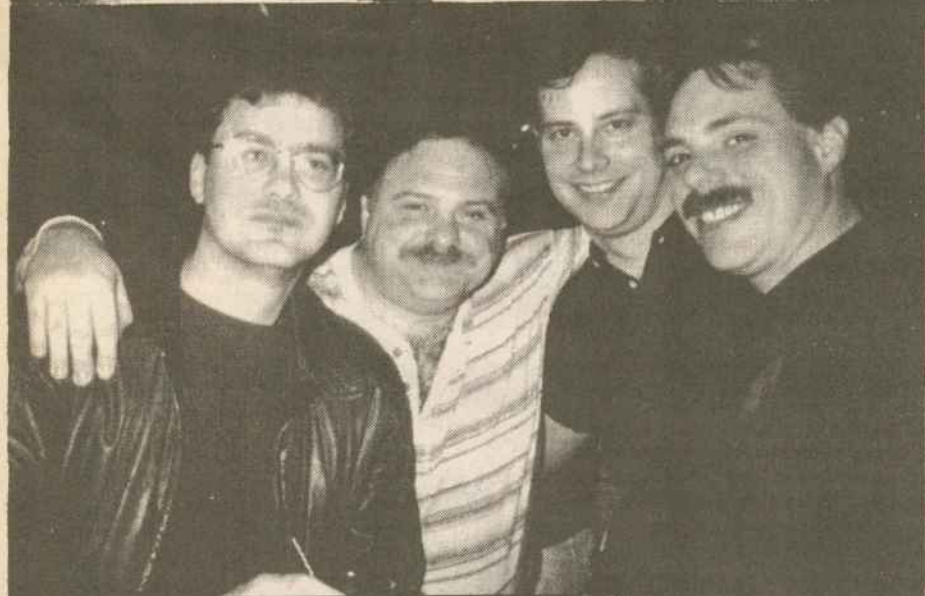
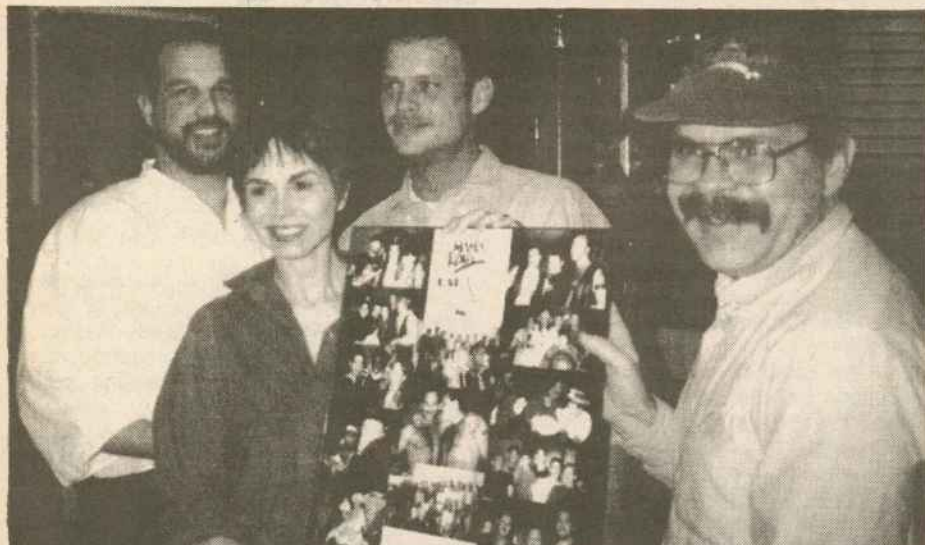
Sleepers-This hyperventilating dreg takes the position that homosexual rape is so horrendous that the killing of the man responsible is not only justified but defensible in a court of law. The film could have, like **Boys of St. Vincent**, shown that the rapist was acting out anger and confused emotions rather than an expression of sexual pleasure. But the film makes a decisive point of telling us that the swamy Kevin Bacon had sex with men both inside and outside the reformatory. His murder, instead of being mourned, is seen as justified revenge and even a cause for celebration.

Few of the mainstream films had Gays or Lesbians in the lead, preferring to simply add them as "colorful" supporting characters. As is almost always the case, Independent films (films mostly made by Gays and Lesbians) had a much better look into the subject and characters, although one had to seek out these films - except for film festivals, a short run at the Oriental, screenings on the Sundance Channel or on home video.

With the exception of **The Birdcage**, all were seen in supporting roles. In addition to the big budget films, there has been an explosion of independently funded films that delve much deeper and infinitely better with Queer issues and concerns.

Editor's Note: The film "Beautiful Thing" did not play the author's hometown of Philadelphia in 1996. It did, however, play in Milwaukee and Madison

Mama Roux's Third Anniversary is a Gala Affair



Photos by Bill Meunier and Jerry Johnson

By Lance Ventri

Milwaukee—Mama Roux's celebrated its third anniversary with a rollicking gala of music, food, bright lights and champagne. The popular East Side bar, cuddled in a valley just below Brady Street, is a favorite in the neighborhood, an old-fashioned pub-like place "where everybody knows your name" and on March 7-9, everybody came to raise a glass (or two) and toast the bar's success.

Music was provided by The Three of Us. Those who braved the weather last year, remember them from PrideFest. Their music, a delightful blend of the "good old tunes" and more modern pieces, provided the perfect touch to the celebration.

Well-wishers had sent flowers. There was a beautiful arrangement of red carnations and lilies from BestD Clinic. A magnificent spray sat on a table near the door from "Mother Theresa" a.k.a. "Our Lady of Estabrook Park," and there were flowers from Bay Floral, to name only a few.

Bartenders, Joe, Patrick and Jeanie (who doubles as a cook), were in fine form, smiling in greeting to everyone there. Patrick was simmering in a form-fitting black T-shirt. Joe had on a white T-shirt proclaiming him "Mama's Boy."

(Parenthetically, Joe's lover is not just sultry, he is one hotly handsome man. But then, beauty attracts beauty, does it not?)

During a lull in the proceedings, as The Three of Us took a little break, Bill Meunier and Jerry Johnson of Wisconsin Light presented the bar with a framed collage of color photos taken of events at the bar over the course of a year. Right in the center was a picture of Steve Kelso (shirtless) with his arm about a smoldering hunk of male deliciousness.

Mama Roux's is one of the strongest supporters of the LGBT community. On a TV monitor above the bar, a video of events held at the bar played. The mud wrestling held for the Possum Queen Contest last year, was particularly interesting.

The food was tasty and abundant, a worthy example from the menu at Mama Roux's. If you haven't been to Mama's for dinner and/or a fish fry, you should go. The cooking there is culinary artistry not to be missed. I guarantee it.

Mama Roux's applauded its friends at midnight with free campaign. People toasted the bar, each other, and the good times they have had and will have again.

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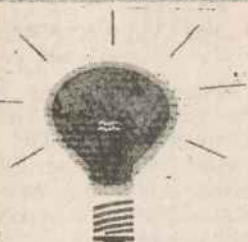
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SUNDAY

Beer Bust • 4-8pm

Happy Birthday Mama! Milwaukee's popular neighborhood bar, Mama Roux celebrated its third anniversary with a weekend full of activity on March 7, 8 and 9. Shown above are pictures taken during "The Big Bash" a party held there on Saturday March 8. From the top are Jasine (right) and a friend, The Three of Us, a great band that includes Josie Santiago played all night. Some of the many well wishers who came in that evening to enjoy a great buffet and free champagne. Co-owner Rick and friend, and last but not least, the Wisconsin Light SpotLight editor, Bill Meunier presents owners Rick, Barb and Joe with a collage of pictures we've taken at the bar during the last year.

The Night Light



By Dusty O'Sass

Sure and begorah, it's Saint Paddy's time or my name isn't Dusty O'Sass! And just in time too. There haven't been many special events going on at the bars since Valentine's Day. It's the annual "Geez we are tired of winter," lull.

Too bad St. Patrick didn't make a visit here for that hearing in Wausau on the Anti-Gay marriage bill. He could have driven the snakes right out of Wisconsin just like he did in Ireland.

THE RECAP...

Nonetheless I had a great time at the grand opening of **Scandals**. The show put on by Z & L Productions was great. They had a really packed house. Course no trip to Mad Town would be complete without a stop at **Manoeuvres** where the men and the music are always hot. Things were really hot in the MAD Bar, like when aren't they?

A late night stop at **Geraldine's** for their after hours menu was a welcome addition to the evening. Congrats to Ray and company for bringing late night food to Madison's Gay scene.

Mama Roux had their Third Anniversary bash and it was a blast. As usual, Mama and her kids showed they really know how to throw a party.

Speaking of parties, **The South Water Street Docks** farewell to Warren party was also a great time. Warren has moved on to Pittsburgh (our editor, Dr. Boughner, is from Pittsburgh and can't understand why anyone would want to move there). Best of luck Warren!!!

But then he tells me "the Burgh" isn't such a bad town if you can forget the time when they had to turn the lights on at three in the afternoon. Things have changed since then.

He wants me to tell Warren to be sure to have some ham salad, some chipped ham, and some Heinz dark mustard (all unavailable here).

Anyway, back to other things.

Course it's always a party at **The M & M Club** when **Singsational** takes the stage. They are there every other Saturday. Stop in and see them.

The remodeling of the back bar at **La Cage** has been finished. Stop by and see the unique new look.

In Between owner Kurt Peck has been busy with some remodeling too. His new decor is as he puts it "a work that will probably always be in progress." The new look includes neon signs, and genuine antiques (including a door from a 1941 taxi) and more is on the way.

The Boot Camp's Red Plaid Night was a big success. Look for more special nights coming up at Milwaukee's premier Leather bar.

They have great parties at **This Is It**, too. For example, a Friday night stop there to help Ruthie (our advice columnist for the reading impaired) celebrate her birthday proved that. It's always a good time at that place.

Last but not least, my thanks to Anne and company at Wausau's **Madhatter** I had a great time up there. They made going to Wausau to face the bigots at the Anti-Gay marriage bill hearing so much easier.

COMING UP...

There's lots of good stuff coming up in the next weeks.

Things start off with our **Wisconsin Light SpotLight Party at Just Us, Saturday March 15**. There will be free Miller Lite, country dancing and a fabulous show honoring the b-days of Sandy Beach and Mona.

If I was in Green Bay (and I know some of you are in Green Bay) I would go over to **Sass** for its Mexican Fiesta, it should be a hot time.

Sunday March 16 you can find me at **The Ball Game** for their big anniversary celebration. They have Stardust playing from 5 to 8, food, fun, drink specials and lots of people coming. This is their 24th birthday. Way to go Rick!!!

Later I will scoot up to Madison to catch the CC Rae Show at **Manoeuvres**. CC is a scream and her all new show is said to be a real hoot.

Monday March 17 is St. Patrick's day. This is one of those times when I wish I were twins so I could be in two places at once. I don't want to miss the big parties all over the State and don't you miss them either.

At this point I am planning on hitting **The Ball Game** first. This is Gay Milwaukee's longest running St. Pat's party. They always have great food and a great time.

Then I'll swing over to **In Between**. In honor of the occasion, Kurt Peck has souped up his balloon toss and will have \$500.00 in cash up for grabs.

Then it will be up to Mad Town to catch the action at **The Shamrock**. With a name like that you know the St. Pat's party at this place has gotta be good.

Speaking of good, Ed at **Manoeuvres** will be cooking up a storm with some Irish Stew and Corned Beef and Cabbage. (Save some for me Ed). In addition to being a great guy, Ed is also a great cook.

After all that I will need to rest for a couple of days. But I will be back in action on **Saturday March 22** at **The Boot Camp**. The Brew City Bears have a club night. I am also going to try to go to the Easter Show at the **Napalese** up in Green Bay.

Saturday March 29 you can find me up in Green Bay again for Turn About Night at **Za's**. This is fund raiser for ROW, (Rainbow Over Wisconsin for the acronym impaired) a very worthy cause.

Well that wraps it up. Hope to see you out and about soon. Meantime be safe, stay proud and don't forget to Erin Go Bragh (whatever that means)

Authors at Room Of One's Own In March

Madison— Room of One's Own has scheduled three fine book readings by noted authors for March.

On Sunday March 16 at 3:00 PM, Joanna Kadi will read from her book **Thinking Class: Sketches From A Cultural Worker**.

In her book Kadi attacks the idea that the working class is a non-thinking class. Her book offers stimulating discussion on the connections between class, gender, race and sexuality.

Thursday March 20 at 6:30 PM, Jan Zita Grover author of **North Enough AIDS and Other Clear Cuts**, will give a reading. Grover's book explores connections between her time treating the devastated north woods of Minnesota. Grover draws important conclusions about losses in the natural and the human world.

Thursday March 27 at 6:30 Room of One's Own will host a book release party and reading for Gerda Lerner's **Why History Matters: Life and Thought**. Lerner is considered to be a founder of the Women's History movement. The party gives everyone a unique opportunity to be one of the first to get a signed copy of her latest work.

All readings and appearances are free and open to the general public.

Virtual Gay Pride Parade on the Internet

Milwaukee—A Brazilian BBS has begun an effort to give those who can't participate in a Pride Parade, a chance to march down the Information Super Highway via the Internet.

BBS MixBrasil, Sao Paulo, has assumed the initiative to produce the Virtual Gay Pride Parade. The sponsors say that with many Gays and Lesbians around the world, prohibited from expressing their sexuality or political opposition to their own repression, they hope the "Virtual Pride Parade" will be a way to offer encouragement, companionship and a means of expression.

For more information log onto the Virtual Pride Parade site:

<http://www.mixbrasil.com.br>

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SUNDAY, MARCH 16 • 3-11pm

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MONDAY, MARCH 17 • 5-11pm

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YOU'RE INVITED

SATURDAY MARCH 15

SPOTLIGHT PARTY AT JUST US

Our Spotlight party for March will be an early St. Patrick's Day celebration. There will be free dance lessons courtesy of the Shoreline Dance troupe, free Miller Lite, while it lasts, and a great show celebrating the birthdays of Sandy Beach and Mona.

Even if you aren't Irish make sure you join us. **Just Us** is located at 807 S. Fifth Street.

CC RAE AT ZA'S

CC Rae has escaped from the asylum and is on the loose again. She and her friend Polly Griffin will be at **Za's**, 1106 Main Street, Green Bay with their all new show.

There will be a \$4.00 cover, or you can sit at a table for \$5.00 extra. We hear that proceeds will be put towards, CC's treatments. Thankfully for the rest of us, her madness is incurable.

MISS MILWAUKEE US OF A PAGEANT AT B'S

B's located at 1579 S. 2nd Street will be site of the 1997 Miss Milwaukee US of A pageant.

The pageant will star Janice Er-Kel, Miss Gay Milwaukee, 1996 and Josie Lyn, Miss Gay Wisconsin US of A, 1996. Showtime is 9:00 PM.

MEXICAN NIGHT AT SASS

Check out the action at Sass' Mexican Fiesta. The party starts at 10 PM and includes games, dance music, drink specials and a whole lot of fun.

Sass is located at 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT THE BALL GAME

The Ball Game, celebrates 24 years of serving the Les/Bi/Gay community with a big anniversary bash Sunday March 16 and Monday March 17.

The bar located at 196 S. Second Street will feature live entertainment, Hor D'uevures, drink specials and door prizes from 3 PM to 11 PM. Stadust will play from 5 PM to 8 PM.

Stop by and wish owner Rick, manager Danny and their staff a happy anniversary!

CC RAE AT MANOEUVRES

The fabulous CC Rae brings her madness to Madtown with an appearance at Manoeuvres. CC has a brand new show and she wants all of her Madison fans to be at Manoeuvres to see it.

She warns that if everyone doesn't show up, she'll go out find them and drag them in. So safe her (and you) the trouble by being there are Manoeuvres, 151 S. Blair Street.

MONDAY, MARCH 17

ST. PAT'S DAY/ANNIVERSARY PARTY AT THE BALL GAME

Gay Milwaukee's longest running St. Pat's Day Party will make its annual appearance at the Ball Game, 196 S. Second Street.

March 17 is special at the Ball Game, because it's also the bar's anniversary. No St. Pat's day is complete without a stop at the Ball Game, where there will be plenty of great food, good company and a sing along with Dave Wiggins on the Piano.

Don't miss it!!!

ST PAT'S DAY AT THE SHAMROCK

Only an evil leprechaun would try and make you miss, Madison's big St. Pat's Day bash at the Shamrock.

JJ, Jacob and their staff are going all out to celebrate the Irish holiday at Madison's Irish Gay bar.

There will be plenty of food, fun and great company. The Shamrock is located at 117 W. Main Street, Madison.

IN BETWEEN GIVES AWAY THE GREEN ON ST. PAT'S DAY

You can win a pot of gold at In Between, 625 S Second St., Milwaukee, during the bar's St. Pat's Day celebration.

Kurt will be souping up the popular Monday night balloon toss with \$500 in cash prizes.

Plus there will be plenty of hot men, hot music and great atmosphere to help make your day memorable.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY AT MANOEUVRES AND THE MAD BAR

You don't have to wear green leather to fit in at the Manoeuvres/Mad Bar St. Patrick's Day party.

Ed, Charlie and their staff are ready to make you feel right at home with some great food, Irish Stew and Corned Beef and Cabbage from 5 to 8 PM.

Plus they will have a DJ on duty at Manoeuvres and the Mad Bar will be open all night till close.

ST. PAT'S DAY AT SASS IN GREEN BAY

Sass will be site of a fabulous St. Patrick's Day party. The bar located at 840 S. Broadway in Green Bay features free tappers from 6 to 7 and Corned Beef and Cabbage beginning at 7 PM.

So Erin Go Braugh with all your friends at Sass.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

BREW CITY BEARS AT THE BOOT CAMP

The Brew City Bears will hold a special Bar Night Party at the Boot Camp from 10 PM to Close at The Boot Camp, 209 E. National, Milwaukee.

Come on down in your bear hunting gear, it will be open season and there's no limit to how many you can bag.

EASTER SHOW AT THE NAPALESE LOUNGE

Your favorite performers will be decked out in their Easter finery at a special Easter show hosted by Elsie.

The Napalese Lounge is located at 515 S. Broadway, Green Bay.

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

BEER BUST AT NAPALESE BENEFITS THE CENTER PROJECT

The Napalese Lounge is the place to be for a beer bust to help raise funds for Green Bay's Center Project.

The bust goes from 3 PM to 8 PM. Plus there will be a special 50/50 drawing at 9 PM.

The Napalese is located at 515 S. Broadway, Green Bay.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

TURNABOUT AT ZA'S

The tables get turned on the bartenders at Za's during Turnabout '97.

This is a fund raiser for Rainbow Over Wisconsin. Za's is located at 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

Entertainment Guide

APPLETON	MADISON	MILWAUKEE Continued	MILWAUKEE Continued
Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wisconsin Appleton, WI 54991 954-9262	A Room of One's Own Book store 317 W. Johnson Madison, WI 53703 257-7888	Club 219 219 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 271-3732	This Is It 418 E. Wells Milwaukee, WI 53202 278-9192
Door County	Geraldine's 3052 E. Washington Madison, WI 53704 241-9335	Designing Men 120 S. First Milwaukee, WI 53204 389-1200	Triangle 134 E. National Milwaukee, WI 53204 383-9412
Chanticleer Guest House 4072 Cherry Rd Sturgeon Bay, WI 54234 746-0334	Manoeuvres 150 S. Blair Madison, WI 54703 258-9918	1100 Club 1100 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 647-9950	Walkers Point Cafe 1106 S. First St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 384-7999
Eau Claire	Mary's 2526 E. Washington Madison, WI 53704 244-2939	Fannies 200 E. Washington Milwaukee, WI 53204 643-9633	Zippers 819 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 645-8330
The Trading Co. 304 Eau Claire St. Eau, Claire WI 838-9494	Praire Garden Bed & Breakfast W13172 Hwy 188 Lodi, WI 53555 1-800-380-8427	In Between 625 S. 2nd St Milwaukee, WI 53204 273-2693	RACINE
The Wolfs's Den 302 E Madison EauClaire, WI 54703 832-9237	Scandals 121 W. Main St. Madison, WI 53703 251-1030	Just Us 807 S. 5th St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 383-2233	JoDees 2139 Racine St. Racine, WI 53403 634-9804
GREEN BAY	The Shamrock 117 W Main St. Madison, WI 53703 255-5029	La Cage 801 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 52304 383-8300	What About Me? 600 6th St. Racine, WI 53403 632-0171
Brandy's II 1126 Main St Green Bay, WI 54301 437-3917	Sunprint Cafe 638 State Street Madison, WI 53703 255-1555	La Perla Restaurant 734 S. Fifth St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 645-9888	ROCKFORD
Club Cheeks 232 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54303 430-9854	MILWAUKEE	Mama Roux Bar & American Grill 1875 N. Humboldt Milwaukee, WI 53212 347-0344	The Office 513 E. State St. Rockford, IL, 61104 815-965-0344
Napalese Lounge 515 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54303 432-9646	Afterwords Books 2710 N. Murray Milwaukee, WI 53211 963-9089	M & M Club 124 N. Water Milwaukee, WI 53202 347-1962	SHEBOYGAN
Sass 840 S. Broadway Green Bay, WI 54304 437-7277	B's 1579 S 2nd St Milwaukee, WI 53204 672-5580	Rene's Cozy Corner 3500 W Park Hill Milwaukee, WI 53208 933-RENE	Blue Lite 1029 N. 8th St. Sheboygan, 53081 457-1636
Za's/Java's 1106 Main St. Green Bay, WI 54301 435-5476	Ball Game 196 S. 2nd Milwaukee, WI 53204 273-7474	S. Water St. Docks 354 E. National Milwaukee, WI 53204 225-9676	STEVENS POINT
KENOSHA	Boot Camp Saloon 209 E. National Milwaukee, WI 53204 643-6900	Station 2 1534 W. Grant Milwaukee, WI 53204 383-5755	The Platwood Club 701 Highway 10W Stevens Point, 54481 341-8862
Club 94 9001 120th Ave Kenosha, WI 53140 857-9958	Cafe Melange 720 N. Old World St. Milwaukee, WI 53203 291-9889	10% Club 4223 W. Fon Du Lac Milwaukee, WI 53216 447-0910	SUPERIOR
LA CROSSE	C'est La Vie 231 S. Second St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 278-8890	WAUSAU	JT's Bar 1506 N 3rd St. Superior, WI 54880 394-2580
Cavaller Lounge 114 N 5th St. La Crosse, WI 54601 782-9061			Trio Club 820 Tower Superior, WI 54880 392-5373
LAKE MILLS			WAUSAU
Cross Roads Bar W6642 Hwy B Lake Mills, WI 53551 648-8457			The Mad Hatter 320 Washington Wausau, WI 54401 842-3225

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11am-2am

Marriage Bill

Continued from Page 10

children. No one is even hinting that those laws should be touched.

Either they are mentally incompetent or Lorraine Serratti and her supporters know all of this.

The bottom line is that Seratti's bill is not about saving marriage, preserving the family or any other rational and reasonable end. This bill is about three things, hatred, bigotry and politics.

It is not Gays and Lesbians who are seeking special rights, it is the Straight bigots trying to preserve special treatment for themselves.

They can get married and not have children and it is okay. They can get divorced (and many of the strongest proponents of anti-Gay marriage bills have gotten divorced) and it's acceptable.

Let a Gay or Lesbian couple ask for the same privileges enjoyed by the rest of the population, the right to marry the one you love, and that couple is to be denied.

Moreover, that couple is to be told that it is pushing things too far, asking for special rights, undermining the family and

bringing down the fabric of society.

It's hogwash and Lorraine Seratti knows it. So does Pat Buchanan, Newt Gingrich and the rest of their ilk.

The story is as old as society itself. After all it was only about thirty years ago that the Supreme Court finally prohibited laws banning marriages between the races. The arguments against Gay marriages mirror those used against interracial marriage back in the 60's.

Just as they did back then, the forces of bigotry will raise all sorts of red herrings. Just as they did back then those who support privilege will become increasingly vitriolic in their attacks on those they seek to oppress.

Of course since they have no rational arguments no other course is open to them.

It's a neat trick and one that the Right Wing nuts have used successfully in the past. Deny equal protection to Gays and Lesbians and then blame Gays and Lesbians when they demand equality.

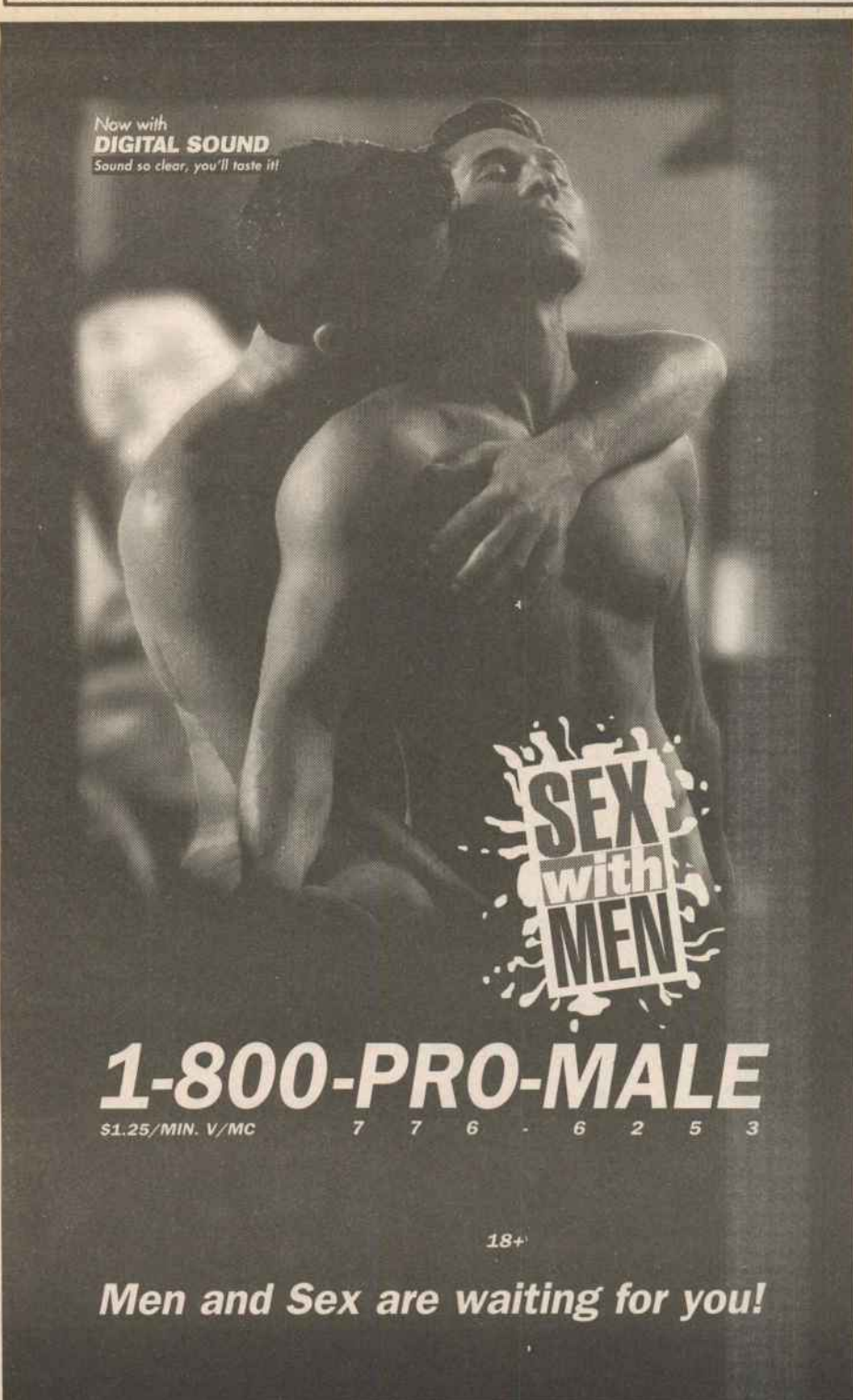
Talk about ending job discrimination and you'll hear the "special rights" argument. Talk about marriage and you'll hear about how disgusting your sexual practices are.



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Of course the Right Wing is careful to make it look like it is not bigoted. It acts horrified when a Gay bar is bombed, even though that bombing and other acts of violence committed against Gays and Lesbians are in part due to the hateful rhetoric it espouses.

The reality is that their concern about us is limited to their ability to use us in raising money and votes. Which brings us to the third reason for Anti-Gay Marriage Bills, politics.

Why else would they raise the phony issue of Gay marriage? Are these marriages legal now? No. Even under the best of circumstances legalized Same Sex Marriages are at least a year away in Hawaii.

If Gay marriages are legalized in the Aloha State, there will be plenty of time to pass anti-Same Sex marriage bills. But then the timing may not be right for collecting campaign contributions.

Then there may be other more important issues occupying the front page that would preclude grabbing headlines with this one.

If this bill comes to a vote it will pass the Assembly. The only real hope of stopping it lies with the Democrats in the State Senate.

For years we have supported Democrats because of their promise to support us. Now it is time for them to make a payment on the massive debt they owe to the Gay and Lesbian community.

All that is required is for the Senate Leadership to assign Seratti's legislation to a committee where it will never see the light of day. Which is exactly where a bill, that never should have been introduced in the first place, belongs.

Now if only we could put the sentiments that inspired it in the deep freeze too.

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Illinois

SMORGASBORD OF MEN This 36 year old, submissive, Bi bottom, 6'1, 195lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, is looking to hookup with other horny guys for hot times. Be between 25 and 50, Bi, Gay, or Straight, and of any race and body type as long as your height and weight are proportionate. Dominant, well hung, bodybuilders and construction workers are particular turn ons. Let's just have fun with no strings attached. (Chicago) =11919

WHERE'S THE JOKER? Healthy Gay, White male, 34, 6ft, 170lbs, is looking for a Gay, or Bi, White male, between 21 and 34, and under 5'10, who is into fantasies and role playing. Sample: Riddle me this. What's long and thick and fits into tight crevices? If you can answer this riddle, you may be the Boy Wonder to my Batman. Come on Robin, Batman needs you in the batcave. (Cicero) =10435

TAKE A RISK Becoming experienced is like establishing credit. How can I get it if no one will give it to me? This novice, White male, 44, 5'10, 186lbs, is looking for other White males for companionship and experiential exploits. (De Kalb) =14002

I LIKE TO OPEN WIDE I like to provide service to men, between 18 and 35, who are good looking, clean, healthy, and, of course, well endowed. I'm a clean shaven, White male, 5'11, 180lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes. (Evanston) =28772

THE POLISH PRINCE They call me the Polish Prince. I'm a clean cut, Single, Gay, White male, 5'11, 185lbs, with Brown hair and eyes, and a smooth body. I'd like to meet another hot guy, between 21 and 40, who is interested in finding a one on one relationship. (Evanston) =11152

A TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN A good looking, 29 year old, Puerto Rican male, 5'4, 145lbs, seeks a White or Hispanic male, between 25 and 35, for a deep, long lasting, relationship. I'm loving, and lovable, honest and caring, and interested in movies, music, and quiet evenings at home. Please call soon if you're a sincere non smoker. (Evanston) =28040

I GO AT ALL SPEEDS This clean shaven, outgoing, White male, is into lots of scenes. Sometimes, I'd like to have a dominant mistress, to uncover my submissive side. I'm looking for more than just sex, or one date, however. Maybe we can talk, hang out, or catch a show. Let's just keep it exciting. (Evanston) =27536

SPIRITUAL BOND This masculine, ambitious, spiritual minded, Black male, is looking for similar Black males, with whom to create a special bond. I live in the west suburbs, and am interested in movies, music, and live theater. (Evanston) =27272

COME TO EARTH Are you a down to earth, good guy? Maybe you're the one for me. I'm a 25 year old guy who has been in the area for just a couple of months. I'm honest, laid back, and fun. I hope to meet similar guys, between 25 and 30, who are attractive, have nice bodies, and aren't into the bars. We can go in a number of directions if we begin as friends. (Evanston) =26947

WHERE ARE YOU HIDING? I know I'm not the only Gay person in the Rockport/Joliet area! I just don't know where you are. I'm an 18 year old, college student, and I'd especially like to meet other guys between 18 and 21. I'll look forward to talking to all callers, however. (Joliet) =27332

WE HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE If we're going to have a relationship, we have to like each other so let's start as friends. I'm an Italian and Irish, Gay, White male, 26, 5'4, 135lbs, looking to meet other guys for whatever happens. (Lombard) =12163

REAM ME, CREAM ME I'm a total TV slut and sex pig. I'm looking for wild, kinky bed partners who are ready to ream me and cream me. We'll talk sleazy photos and videos and have a raunchy good time. I'm always in nylon stockings, 6 inch heels, and showgirl makeup. (Rockford) =28539

Iowa

CAN WE TALK? This Bi curious, White male, 37, is looking for a man I can feel comfortable talking to, in order to sort out my feelings. I'm an attractive, honest, open minded guy, 5'8, 160lbs, interested in fishing, camping, and outdoor sports. You should be a masculine, trim, good looking guy, between 25 and 40. Race doesn't matter. I want quality friendship, not necessarily quantity. (Des Moines) =27659

WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE? I'm pretty easy. I want to meet other guys to go out with, have a relationship, or just have some casual fun. I'm a hard working, business owner, with a nice deep voice. Let's talk and make some plans. (Des Moines) =26579

Minnesota

ARE YOU STABLE AND ABLE? I seek a dating relationship that can turn into something permanent. I'm an attractive, White male, 6ft, 185lbs, clean shaven, with Brown hair, and Blue eyes. I'm looking for a physically fit male, of about my height, with a good job, who is a top. One of my long term goals is to adopt a child. I need a stable partner. (Bloomington) =11019

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKING I'm an attractive, college educated, masculine, Single, Bi, White male. I am 26 yrs old, 5'10 and 160lbs. I have short Brown hair and Brown eyes. I am versatile with a very nice tool. I like other masculine, rugged guys, who like to have a good time. Don't let opportunity pass you by. (Chanhassen) =27515

MANKATO MANFINDER I'd like to have a relationship with another guy, in south central Minnesota, who enjoys sports, music, and hilarious times. I'm a good looking, Gay, White male, 34, 5'11, 175lbs, with Blond hair, and Hazel eyes. I prefer guys between 24 and 39. (Mankato) =8428

CALL ME THE ENERGIZER I'm a bottom and I love it. I especially get off on orally gratifying a well endowed partner. I'm a Bi, White male, 28, and I want to meet hung, top guys, who are Bi or Gay or whatever, to feed my throat and the rest of my urges. Call me because I'd love to tell you more. (Minneapolis) =28853

THE ABUSE EXCUSE I'm into kinky sex, bondage, S&M, that sort of thing. Sleaze is my middle name. I'm a White male, 5'9, 230lbs, with a beard and a hairy body. I'm a little on the thick side. If you like to be abused, leave your number. (Minneapolis) =13297

ALL FOR ME This 43 year old, dominant, Gay, White male, is looking for a young, totally passive, male, 18 to 35, who is willing to be all for me. You will dress and undress for me. I will have you when, where and how I want you. You will understand what I mean by desire. Your reward is total pleasure. Tell me about your body and just how submissive you can be. (Minneapolis) =28591

SPRING BLOOM This 45 year old, White male, seeks a guy, in his mid thirties, to take to movies, and out to dinner. Maybe romance will bloom. (Minneapolis) =28733

MORE MR. NICE GUY I'm a nice guy and am having trouble finding someone who appreciates it. This Gay, White male is 5'8, 135lbs, with Blond hair, and Green eyes. I'd like to have a special relationship with another nice guy but am looking for friends, as well. (Minneapolis) =14545

LEAN AND MEAN This tall, thin, clean shaven, White male, 35, is a dominant top. I'm looking for a thin, submissive bottom for very hot times. (Minneapolis) =14682

I'M READY FOR YOU I'm a 38 year old, White male, with Cerebral Palsy and a hearing impairment. I'm able to deal with those challenges, but I'm still lonely without you. I'd like to meet a hairy man, with a medium build, who is well endowed and, perhaps, shares my interest in movies, travel, swimming, and computers. I also like long conversations. (Minneapolis) =12680

EVERYBODY PLAYS THE FOOL They say there's no fool like an old fool, but don't fool yourself, I can really make you happy. No foolin'. This hot stud, White male, 42, 6'3, 195lbs, seeks smallish, smooth guys, between 18 and 30, who yearn for good times. Transvestites, Transsexuals, and crossdressers are more than welcome. I can be a daddy type for you. (Minneapolis) =6475

VOLUNTEER CADET CORP Where are the well hung, horny, handsome guys? This extremely good looking, 27 year old stud, 5'11, 160lbs, with dark Blond hair, and Blue eyes, wants to orally please you. I have a military haircut, but want to serve my country in your lap. If you're a generously endowed guy, between 25 and 35, and long for discreet, hot sex, days or evenings, I'm the man for the job. (Minneapolis) =1633

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED Experienced master is looking for safe, sane, consensual encounters, with hot, experienced submissive bottoms, under 40. I'm 41, 6'2, 235lbs, and ready to expand your boundaries. If you're a novice, have fun, but call me only when you've experienced the rest, and are ready for the best. (Minneapolis) =17025

GIVE ME A LIFE TICKET I'm looking for guys, of around my age, who are interested in dating, and a possible relationship. I'm a 21 year old, White male, 5'11, 150lbs, with Brown hair, and Hazel eyes. I'm a college student majoring in music, but I'm also interested in outdoor sports, such as skiing, tennis, hiking, and sailing. (Minneapolis) =5726

THE BACK WAY If you like to turn around, and have your backside completely serviced, I'm your man. I'm a 45 year old, hungry man, 135lbs. I'm extremely oral, and very raunchy. Try it, you'll like it. (Minneapolis) =5574

TONED TORSO TALKFEST Wanna talk to a very well equipped bodybuilder? Leave me a message. I'm 28 years old, 5'8, 170lbs, and in great shape. Let's rap. (Minneapolis) =27091

SPANK ME If you're dominant, assertive, in great shape, and want to date before doing the nasty, give me a call. I'm a 28 years old, Single, White male, 5'5, 140lbs, with a great body. I'm a submissive and inexperienced bottom. I need a man, 20 to 40, who wants to get to know me before we get naked. I also like to be spanked. (Minneapolis) =26813

LET'S WRESTLE I'm a muscular, good looking, 20 years old, into wrestling. I'm 5'11, with Blond hair, and Blue eyes. I want to meet other hot guys, for movie going, hot times, and sweaty grappling. (Minneapolis) =26156

INTERROGATION SESSION I'm a good looking, masculine, aggressive top, 26 years old, looking to meet another well built guy for an intense interrogation session. I'm well endowed and have a great body. I'm also interested in foot and kiddle fetishes. I'd like to try some mild torture and punishment. Of course, I'll respect your limits. Let's talk. (Minneapolis) =26551

THE CONVERSATION I'm a 38 year old, Gay, White male, interested in music, movies, reading, and travel. I'm disabled, and have a speech and hearing impairment. I'm looking for a man, between 35 and 65, who shares these interests, and likes pleasant conversation. I'm especially attracted to guys with medium builds, and hairy bodies. I'll look forward to hearing from you. (Minneapolis) =25978

GO WITH THE FLOW Ever think about trying water sports? I'll assist. I'm 28, and into all forms of oral stimulation. Tap into my expertise. (Minneapolis) =25663

TALL, DARK TOPS, STOP HERE I'm a 21 year old, Gay, White male, 5'9, 180lbs, with shoulder length Blond hair, and Bluish Green eyes. I like hot, assertive tops, with dark features. Long hair is a big plus. Call me now. I've got what you need. (Minneapolis) =3940

ROCKER & BULLWINKLE I'd like to meet other rocker types or guys into rocker types. I'm a Gay, White male, 33, 5'11, 140lbs, with long Brown hair and Brown eyes. I'm slim and masculine. I like movies, music, Nintendo, cards and I'm a smoker. I want to hang out and have some good times. Give me a ring. (Minneapolis) =25274

GIVE SHY A TRY I'm kinda shy and hoping to meet some guys to hang out with. I'm 18, 5'5, 125lbs, with Auburn hair. You make the next move. (Minneapolis) =25517

I'M RATED XXX I'm a Bi guy and I'm feeling very kinky. I'm 5'9, 145lbs, and I want to get to know you in many ways. I'm into making X-rated movies, playing with toys, and many other pleasures. Talk to me. (Princeton) =10232

THE BIG ONE I'm feeling like getting real physical with hot guys of all types. I'm 27 years old, and weigh 145lbs. I feel an urge in every ounce of me. Let's do it. (Princeton) =10173

HOT AND BOTHERED I want to get together with other hot guys in southern Minnesota. I'm a 35 year old, White male. Don't make me wait any longer. (Rochester) =11762

SET A COURSE FOR ADVENTURE Serve it down the line for a clean winner. This masculine, Gay male, 45, 5'11, 175lbs, likes to play tennis and travel. I'm interested in meeting men, under 55, who seek fun, friendship, and whatever else happens. (Rochester) =27675

SAID IT ALL IN ST. PAUL This highly motivated, intelligent, African American man, seeks another honest, open communicator for a long term relationship. I love reading, writing, history, anthropology, board games (especially chess), sports, and long, intense conversations. My life partner will be goal oriented, non-materialistic, self aware, and non-violent. Men of color encouraged to respond. (St. Paul) =10024

BIG PLANS This 27 years old, Black male, is looking for a tall, slender, and well endowed, Gay, Black male, for dating. Call me for the rest of the story. (St. Paul) =26207

GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU I want to have a relationship with a young, 18 to 31, aggressive bottom. I like White guys, Hispanic guys, Asian guys, and Native American guys, as long as you're healthy, and hearty. No time like the present! (St. Paul) =26113

SOUTH OF THE CITIES I live about an hour south of the cities, but am worth the trip. This clean cut, young looking, 36 year old man, 6ft, 190lbs, with short Brown hair, Bluish Green eyes, and a good build, wants to make new friends and see what develops. I have a variety of interests. Let's talk. =28338

Wisconsin

THE CLOSET IS FINE Because I am not interested in coming "out", I want a relationship with a man who feels the same way. I'm a Single, Gay, White male, 37, 6ft, 195lbs, with Black hair and Green eyes. I like golf, tennis, cross-country skiing, the Packers, Brewers, and going out for dinner. I want a non-live-in, monogamous relationship with a similar guy, between 28 and 40, who is in shape and has no beard or goatee. (Appleton) =14829

BOBBING FOR APPLETON I'm new in town and want to meet hot guys for erotic times. Let's get together and enjoy each other's body. I'm a masculine, 24 year old, White male, 5'10, 170lbs, with a good build. I'm clean and discreet. (Appleton) =12778

BASKING IN MOONLIGHT I like movies, and moonlit walks, and want a masculine male. I'm 5'9, 180, with curly, Blond hair, and Blue Green eyes. I'm a submissive bottom, looking for that special top. (Boyceville) =44165

ROCK MY WORLD I'm a very, very, very submissive bottom, 27, 5'10, 190lbs, with Auburn hair, and Blue Green eyes. I need a hot, aggressive top man to handle me. I was going to install handlebars but like the contact. Manipulate me. (Boyceville) =3939

HAIR EVERYWHERE I want to meet a well endowed man for sensual play and more. I'm an attractive, very hairy, White male, 5'11, 180lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. I like to bowl, play cards, fish, go to movies, and play cards. Come to me. (East Troy) =13412

BROWN EYED BOY This good looking, Brown eyed male wants to meet nice looking, well hung, muscular men for fun times. I like to do just about anything, especially bowl, play cards, go to movies, and socialize. (East Troy) =13055

YOUR PLEASURE IS MY FAME This masculine, discreet, versatile, White male, is always looking for hot times with other dudes in their twenties and thirties. If you're hot, and horny, anything goes. (Eau Claire) =7099

I LIKE BIG ONES This Bi, White male is looking for discreet, early morning, encounters with very well endowed top men. I'm 5'9, 180lbs, and very hot and tight. You should be between 40 and 50 and have a place to go. I need it hot and hard, and often. (Fox Cities) =14525

OUT OF CONTROL If you're the dominant male I'm looking for, I'm willing to do your bidding, whatever that may be. I'm a 44 year old, extremely submissive, Bi, White male. I'm in desperate need of control. (Green Bay) =12639

COUNTRY CROONER If you're sincere about a lifetime commitment, and don't mind love handles and children, call me right away. I'm a 33 year old, Gay, White male. I'm romantic, passionate, and have long term goals. I want to meet a friend, who can become my lover. You must be interested in relocating to Lacrosse for a country life. (LaCrosse) =23466

KEY TO THE CITY I need someone to show me the Gay way in Madison. I'm a 32 year old, White male, 6ft, 175lbs, with Blond hair, Blue eyes, and good looks. I don't have much experience and need a patient, nice guy to help me get assimilated. I like the outdoors, working out, running, rollerblading, biking, music, and much more. (Madison) =28609

HOT TIME TONIGHT This attractive, professional White male, 25, has dark features, a mustache, and a variety of interests. I want to meet nice looking men, 21 to 38, who are masculine, well endowed, and have good builds. Let's start with hot times. I'm open to all possibilities after that. Facial and body hair are big pluses. (Madison) =11130

HOW DEEP IS YOUR FANCY? Need a hot top to tickle your fancy? I'm eager to take on the job. I'm a well endowed, White male, 26, 6'1, 185lbs, with light Brown hair, and Brown eyes. I'm looking for erotic encounters with willing bottoms, between 18 and 30. (Madison) =22820

FASTEN YOUR SEAT BELTS! That first hill is a doozy! I'm a 28 years old, Gay, White male, 6ft, 215lbs, interested in meeting a masculine guy to have fun with in public and in private. I like working out, music, movies, thunderstorms, and roller coasters. (Madison) =26597

HOW ARE YOU AT PLOWING? I need an experienced hand, who knows how to blaze a trail. I'm a very submissive, Blond guy, 21, with Blue eyes. I need hot, and hard, tops, to have their way with me. (Menomonie) =17473

THE BODY BARBER Are you a little bit curious about experimenting in body shaving? We could do the whole thing, a partial, or maybe just a trim. For expert body shaving, get in touch with me. You lay back, I do the work. (Milwaukee) =17826

MEET ON THE MAT I want to meet guys interested in meeting on the mat for some wrestling or judo. You should be under 40 years old, in good shape, and weigh over 170lbs. Some experience on the mat will also come in handy. (Milwaukee) =20332

WELCOME ME BACK I recently returned to town after living in Chicago for a number of years. I'd like to meet new friends interested in music, and theater. I'd like to go out for dinners and talk, and talk, and talk. You know, just have a nice time together. (Milwaukee) =28633

COUPLE OF LAUGHS We're a good looking, in shape, couple, in our thirties, looking for people in the northern part of the state to get together and have some laughs with. (Milwaukee) =28844

UNLOCK THE SHACKLES I'm the product of a strict, religious upbringing and I need to let loose. I'm looking for my first same-sex experience with a Transvestite, Transsexual, or she male. I'm a very masculine, White male, 29, 6ft, with a nice build, Brown hair and Blue eyes. I'm clean and healthy and don't smoke or drink. (Milwaukee) =13459

A CLASS ACT Handsome with a kind heart, sharp mind, slender body & exceptional character. Financially successful, yet down to earth. Emotionally secure & open minded with a rather irreverent sense of humor, & fun to be with. At 42, life is good. I'd like it to be wonderful; might you be the cause? Seeking the right guy, under 30, who appreciates substance, sensitivity, & warmth. No hurry, friends first, then....? (Milwaukee) =13620

ORAL AFTERNOONS This Gay, White male, professional writer, 5'10, 180lbs, would like to meet Gay, White, or Asian, males, 18 to 40, for oral afternoons and evenings. Experience not necessary. I'm a smoker and moderate drinker. (Milwaukee) =12856

CRUSH ON CROSSDRESSERS This Single, White professional male, 36, 6ft, 180lbs, is clean and discreet, and wants to meet crossdressers, Transvestites, and hermaphrodites. I promise to answer all responses. I can't wait to hear from you. (Milwaukee) =11132

I'LL COME TO YOU I'm a Married, Bi, White male and I want to meet other Bi males, or couples with a Bi male, for fun times. I'm professional, attractive, clean, and discreet and hope the same of you. I'm open to all scenes. If I haven't tried it but I'll give it a go at least once, so the unusual is fine. I travel the state so I can come to you, so to speak. (Milwaukee) =12114

I'M HOLDING BACK I'm a 25 year old, boy next door with Brown hair and Blue eyes. I like to go to movies, and listen to music. To find out more, call right away. (Milwaukee) =11433

SHE'S A LADY I'm a 21 year old, Black male, college student, and I'm looking for a special man who will treat me like a lady. You should be a Single, White male, between 25 and 35, who likes to cuddle, kiss, and do lots of other things. (Milwaukee) =10696

THE BEST OF EVERYTHING This very attractive top is looking for hot bottoms for frequent fun. I'm 21, half Puerto Rican, half White, 5'8, 135lbs, with short Brown hair, Brown eyes, full lips, and a washboard stomach. I have a slender, athletic build. You should be under 25, very attractive, masculine, in shape, self confident, and interested in me. I prefer guys who aren't into the bars. (Milwaukee) =10552

DAY OF DISCOVERY I want to meet other guys in the area to explore my sexuality with. I'm an attractive 29 year old male, 6'9, 170lbs, with Brown hair, and Green eyes. Let's discover together. (Milwaukee) =8333

NIPPLEMANIA I'm looking for a gentleman who enjoys good nipple work. I loved to have mine worked on for hours and I'd like to return the favor for you. Mine are at attention just at the thought. (Milwaukee) =27442

FIT THE BILL? I'm a 35 year old, Bi, White male, looking for other Bi guys who meet the following criteria: height over 6ft, weight over 200lbs, sexual tops. Simple as that. Let's play. (Milwaukee) =27218

THE WRITTEN WORD In town I'm rather new, but I've come to look for you. This attractive, Gay, White male, 18, 5'5, 130lbs, with Brown hair, and Blue eyes, seeks other Gay, White males, between 18 and 28, for friendship. I enjoy books, music, theater, poetry, and snuggling with a specially chosen someone. My arms await. Maybe that someone is you. (Milwaukee) =27257

HOW ABOUT A TEST DRIVE? I'm in the market for a young, boyish, guy who'd like an older man to take care of him. You should be a submissive bottom, and willing to accept all the love I have to offer. The compensations are tremendous, and, if we're both happy, this could turn into a full time gig. (Milwaukee) =27155

LIFT AND LICK I'm looking for the right man to pull me the rest of the way out of the closet. I'm a bottom, and I'm totally turned on by guys in drag. For the right guy, I can be persuaded to dress in drag myself. I want to lift your skirt up and lick your privates. (Milwaukee) =10475

SUBMISSIVE APPLICANT Are you an S&M slave-master? I'm your boy. I'm a Gay, White male, 41, 5'11, 185lbs, clean shaven, with Brown hair, and Green eyes. I'm in very good shape from years of tennis, cycling, and hiking. I want to talk to you if you are interviewing applicants for slave boy. (Milwaukee) =8615

WAIT ON THE STOOL This tall, masculine, hot, 40 year old man, is experienced in Brown hanky action. I want to meet other White males, who can dump their problems, and get into some sexual movement. I'm looking for buddies, or a lover. (Milwaukee) =6476

CUDDLY OLDER MEN, READ THIS AD This 25 years old, east side guy, is looking for a cuddly older man for a relationship. I'm 5'9, 140lbs, with a trim, swimmer's build. I'm very active, and want to meet a man who is active, as well. You don't have to have a gym bud, just be fit. I like dark hair and Blue eyes. You should be sensitive, yet firm, and enjoy going out to movies, dinners, and the bar. (Milwaukee) =26624

BROWN HANKY CODE I'm looking for hot, Gay, White males, who know what a Brown hanky means, and follow where it goes. I'm a very tall, 40 years old, masculine, White male, in extremely good shape. I'd like to meet a buddy for regular, code conscious, encounters. (Milwaukee) =26683

HARD AND HARDY I want to meet a straight acting, horny guy, who is honest and discreet. I want us to be able to get off together, but I also hope you're the type I can take home to meet mom. Race is not an issue. Call now. (Milwaukee) =26333

BULLS EYE I'm a bottom looking for very well hung guys who love to be orally serviced. I'm very hairy, 5'11, 175lbs, with Brown hair, Brown eyes, and a mustache. I like movies, football, baseball, bowling, darts, and many other things. (Mukwonago) =28445

'STACHE IT HERE I find men in mustaches very sexy and want to meet you if you have one. I'm a 32 year old, Gay, White male, with dark Blond hair, and, believe it or not, a mustache. (Oshkosh) =11649

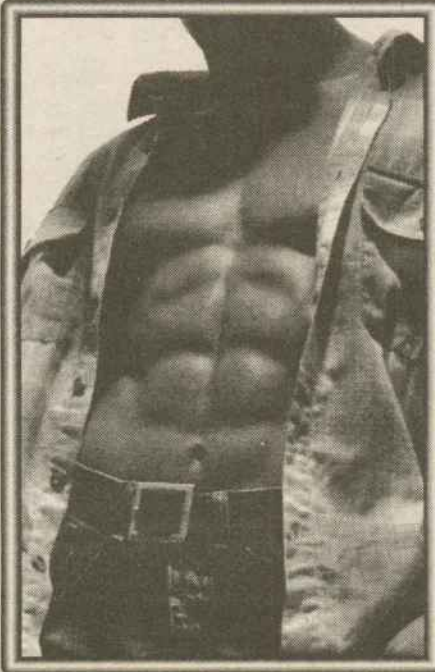
STABLE PARTNER I want to have a long term relationship with a mature, honest, caring, masculine Gay, White male, between 25 and 45. I'm a 38 years old, Gay, White male, 5'10", 160lbs, with thinning Blond hair, and Blue eyes. I enjoy gardening, dancing, antique, travel, and quiet evenings. Please call if you're looking for a stable partner, and don't smoke or drink. (Oshkosh) =26630

MY HEART IS RACINE I want to meet nice guys for dining, movies, and fun get togethers. I'm 5'9, 185lbs, with Blond hair, and Blue eyes. I'm attracted to clean shaven guys between 25 and 35. (Racine) =4961

WILD BEAR Cuddly, Blond teddy bear, 39, is combining the woods for other wild bears. I'm interested in other hairy guys, under 40, for sexual pleasure. No strings attached. I'm primarily a top but can be flipped over by a crafty predator. (Racine) =26852

OUR TALENTS COMBINED I want to try a relationship with an honest and mature Gay, White male, under 30. I'm a Gay, White male in my twenties, 5'10, 170lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. I like music, dancing, socializing, movies, rollerblading, and conversation. I'm curious to see what we can stir up. (Wausau) =11717

YOU HOLD THE FLASHLIGHT I'm looking for friends, with whom to share the joys of life, in central Wisconsin. I'm 36, 5'8, 165lbs, with Brown hair and eyes. If we explore together, maybe we'll find we don't want to be alone any more. =26952



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The
**AIDS Resource Center
of Wisconsin**
and
Center Project, Inc.
are pleased to
**announce our merger,
effective April 1, 1997.**

The Boards of Directors of ARCW and CPI have unanimously voted to merge so that HIV/AIDS services are increased in the most cost effective way. Our mission of providing comprehensive AIDS prevention, care, research and advocacy services will continue. Our merger will build our capacity to better serve the HIV/AIDS community in Wisconsin.

ARCW

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