

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

# The Wisconsin Light

## Madison Firefighter Screams Out Against Lesbians and Gays

Milwaukee—The Madison Capitol Times reports that Madison firefighter Ron Greer has turned religious revivalist. Saying that he was from the "Soviet Republic of Sodom," Greer appeared at the Waukesha County Exposition Center to speak before some 500 people at a rally sponsored by Wisconsin Christians United. The event was billed as one supporting Greer and building a movement against the legalization of same-sex marriages.

Greer is a pastor of Trinity Evangelical Church in Madison. He says he needs money to fight the Fire Department.

Greer was handed a 90 day suspension and had been ordered to undergo diversity training after he broke department rules by handing out anti-Gay literature. His case is expected to go before the Madison Police and Fire Commission in April.

The Times reports that Greer's speech was less about money and more about his frustration in getting people to support him. Only 5 preachers have come out in support of him.

"All you have to do is stand up and fight!" he told the crowd. "My question is, if the Lord has given us the power, given us the weapons to fight, why is the church standing back hiding in the fox-hole? What is going on here?"

"I am so sick of foxhole Christians, I could just puke!" he yelled.

Afterwards, the Times reported, people came up to congratulate him.

One man said, "The more you love, the more people dislike you."

"Then I guess I'm on the right track," Greer replied.

Penny Adams, an artist from New Berlin, talked to a reporter about her brother, who she said "sleeps with a Jew woman." Adams said the woman had written her a letter in which she talked about the passionate kiss she had witnessed as she watched two Gay men exchange wedding vows.

"And she talked about how it was imprinted on her mind and how passionate it was, and how they, she and my brother, want homosexual marriages to be legal," Adams said disapprovingly.

## Celebrating its Twentieth Year, SSBL Unveils Striking New Logo

Milwaukee—A strikingly colorful Logo has been unveiled by SSBL, Milwaukee's Gay & Lesbian Saturday Softball League. A golden rendition of the Hoan Bridge forms the background which gives the logo a uniquely Milwaukee identification.

The water, the bridge supports (which are actual triangles on the real bridge), and roadway in the new logo, are done in the Rainbow colors and carry out the color theme. The words "Saturday Softball League," start in capitals and highlight SSBL. In a tip of its hat to its 20 years of existence, the League has inserted "Since 1977" on the bridge roadway.

Rodney Stockel, a twelve year player, designed the logo during the off season.

"We wanted to have something tangible to focus community attention on our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary season and also focus on our program to update everything about the

## Tammy Baldwin Preparing To Run For Congressional Seat

### Open Seat in Wisconsin's Second District

By Bill Meunier

In an exclusive interview, The Wisconsin Light has learned that State Representative Tammy Baldwin has gone beyond the consideration stage and moved to the preparation stage of a campaign to become the next Congressional Representative from Wisconsin's Second Congressional District.

Declaring that her candidacy will be about "working families" and "making a difference in people's everyday lives" Baldwin made her seriousness about running clear throughout the interview.

"I want to hit the ground running. I am hitting the ground running," said Baldwin. "I believe that I have a lot to offer the people of the Second Congressional District."

Baldwin said that she will "be the only candidate who is not sticking a finger up in the air to see what the popular issue of the day is."

"One of the things we rarely see in Congress, is someone with courage and conviction who really fights on issues," she said. "I think I will present a choice for the voters which is very different from the way business is done in Congress. I will be a real fighter."

While emphasizing her willingness to stick to principle, Baldwin also talked about the need for bipartisanship. She spoke of her efforts last year to regulate the Viatical Industry. "This could have been a partisan issue but it wasn't because I worked hard to make that possible."

Baldwin knows that she can not run just on human rights issues, where she has what most observers would call an outstanding record. "I have a very extensive agenda," she said. "That agenda includes a living wage the successes I had on issues like pay equity, child care for working families, retired families fighting for a very major effort to help senior citizens stay in their homes."

Baldwin's seriousness in making the race was underscored when she told The Light that she had begun soliciting support for a Congressional bid even before incumbent Republican Congressman, Scott Klug announced that he would not

Turn to BALDWIN, Page 13

## CCF Becomes Leading Sponsor of 1997 PrideFest

Milwaukee—The Cream City Foundation (CCF) is the first sponsor to pledge support for this year's PrideFest celebration. Their donation of \$5,000 guarantees the return of Milwaukee's own History Exhibit to the festival. This year's donation brings CCF's total contribution to PrideFest over the years to just under \$37,000.

"The Cream City Foundation has been one of our most loyal sponsors," said PrideFest Co-Director, Susan Cook. "CCF made it possible for this festival to get off the ground in the very beginning. This year, CCF is making it possible for the Milwaukee History Exhibit to be seen by thousands of visitors. Without their sponsorship, PrideFest would not have been able to bring the exhibit back."

The History Exhibit is a compilation of hundreds of articles, flyers, posters, announcements and memorabilia pertaining to Milwaukee's LGBT community. As history is always in the making, new panels are being researched and produced for this year's exhibition. In addition, revisions are being made on some of the old panels where new information has been supplied by community members. A portion of CCF's donation is being used to cover these expenses.

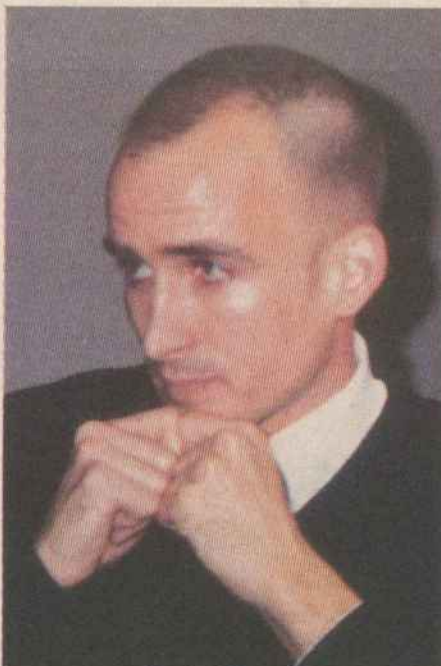


The Sterling Rose Award, the highest service award ARCW gives, was presented at the March 22, 1997, Make A Promise Dinner. Presenting the award is Ed Hashek, (l), Chair of the ARCW Board of Directors. Accepting the award is Dr. Richard J. Grzybowski, DDS, -r- Executive Director of the Rainbow Community Health Centers.

## AIDS Action Council Head Talks About Needle Exchange, an AIDS Vaccine

By Terry Boughner

*Daniel Zingale is a handsome young man. He is tall and slender with a look in his deep, dark eyes that has the intensity of a river rushing toward the dawn when, in a bright, new day, there will be a cure for AIDS. He is doing his part. Currently, he is the Executive Director of the Washington, DC-based AIDS Action Council,*



Daniel Zingale

*the nation's only group devoted solely to advocating at the federal level for more effective AIDS policy, legislation and funding. The Council represents more than 1,400 community-based AIDS service organizations throughout the U.S.*

*Zingale came to his post in October, 1986. Formerly, he was the political director of the Human Rights Campaign.*

*He was in Milwaukee on March 21<sup>st</sup> to visit the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. He took time from his schedule to sit for an interview.*

\*\*

**Terry Boughner: What brings you to Milwaukee?**

**Daniel Zingale:** This is just the first step for me in getting out in the country, seeing what's going on.

I started with Milwaukee because Milwaukee has emerged as a leader on the national level in terms of services for clients and on the cutting edge of change in

Turn to ZINGALE, Page 8

Turn to SOFTBALL, Page 12

SINCE 1977

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**MILWAUKEE**

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**SATURDAY**

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**SOFT**

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**BALL**

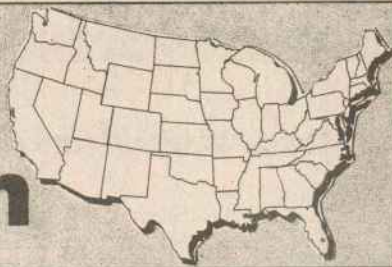
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**LEAGUE**

Saturday Softball League Logo



# News From The Nation



## Hawaii Struggles With Same-Sex Marriage

**Honolulu, HI-AP-** House and Senate conferees squared off Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, over two bills intended to resolve the same-sex marriage controversy.

But after a half-hour session of defining their major differences, the two sides broke off and said they would review each other's position and meet again in a few days.

"We're here to undo a wrong and most importantly to let the people of this state to decide that the definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman," said Rep. Terrance Tom, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and head of the House conferees.

The "wrong" Tom refers to is the 1993 state Supreme Court ruling that it is unconstitutional gender discrimination for the state to deny same-sex couples marriage licenses without showing a compelling public interest to do so.

Both sides are proposing a constitutional amendment to clarify that licensed marriages in Hawaii are to be between one man and one woman, but they disagree on which section of the Constitution to amend.

Both sides also have bills to give some of the benefits of married couples to couples of the same-sex or other couples who are now allowed by law to be married.

The House wants to limit those to such things as hospital visitation rights, health decisions, joint ownership of property and wrongful death suits.

The Senate's bill includes those and hundreds more, including state retirement and tax benefits, something Tom said would have an untold financial impact on state and county governments as well as the private sector.

## Catholic Group Seeks Greater Role for Gays

**Pittsburgh, PA-AP-** Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Gumbleton doubled his efforts to teach tolerance after learning of his own brother's homosexuality. Sister Jeannine Gramick changed her life's course after learning of the anguish Roman Catholic college students felt at being gay.

Gumbleton and Gramick are among 620 activists and church leaders who met in Pittsburgh to discuss how the Catholic Church, which still teaches that homosexual activity is sinful, can help reach out to gays and lesbians.

"Homosexual people have experienced such terrible alienation from the church," said Gumbleton, an auxiliary bishop in Detroit. "They've felt unwanted and condemned very often. The church has not been very successful in ministering to them."

"Too often the church has been a follower and not a leader," said Gramick, a nun who directs the Lesbian-Gay Ministry for her order, the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

"I think we have a responsibility now, at the end of the 20th century, to educate people about acceptance of minorities and of people who are different from the mainstream," she said.

Gumbleton and another bishop are attending the meeting, the first time such high-ranking church officials have shown up. The organization, which is based in Mount Rainier, Maryland, was started in 1977.

## Episcopalians Debate Homosexuality

**Birmingham, AL-AP-** The discussion was supposed to be about the sanctity of marriage, but Alabama's Episcopal church leaders conceded that the church was really trying to clarify its stance on homosexuality.

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama concluded its three-day convention Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Clergy and elected delegates from each of the state's 89 churches worshipped together and voted on a platform.

The one they passed affirmed the sanctity of marriage, while deleting controversial sexual references that could have been seen as insensitive to homosexuals.

After long debate, the phrase "sexual intimacy finds its fullest expression in holy matrimony" was deleted from the platform.

During the debate, such substitute terms as "genital sexual intimacy" and "intercourse" were suggested and voted down before the whole phrase was finally dropped.

"It was weakened a bit," said the Rev. Coleman Tyler. "Any mention of sexuality was taken out."

## Church Accepts Gay Civil Rights Bill

**Concord, NH-AP-** The Roman Catholic Diocese of Manchester has given its blessing to a bill that would ban discrimination against homosexuals after lawmakers agreed to modify the bill.

Diocese officials insisted the bill be amended to protect the policy positions of the church, as well as the inclusion of a section stating adoptions by homosexuals and same-sex marriages still would not be permitted.

Supporters say New Hampshire lags behind other New England states in passing laws to protect homosexuals from discrimination. Opponents argued the bill would create a special status for homosexual behavior.

## Air Force Officer Resigns

**Honolulu, HI-AP-** The secretary of the Air Force accepted the resignation Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, of an officer charged with sodomy, a day before his court-martial was to begin.

Capt. Robert Saragosa's lawyer said the resignation, which was submitted nearly two months ago, is "not an admission of guilt" but rather a way to avoid a court-martial.

If Saragosa had been convicted of all the charges against him he could have faced a maximum sentence of 35 years in prison and dismissal from the Air Force.

"I am understandably relieved by the secretary's decision," Saragosa, a 12-year veteran who was stationed at Hickam Air Force Base, said in a statement.

"However, I am disappointed that the process got this far and that the Air Force still feels the need to spend money and effort to delve into such matters."

During the past two years, eight Air Force personnel in Hawaii have been discharged for homosexual acts.

## Pro-Gay Bills Outnumbered in the States

**Washington, DC-** According to *The Washington Blade*, a survey conducted by the paper of the 50 state legislatures has found that 40 pro-Gay bills and 48 anti-Gay bills have been filed to date. Of the 48 anti-Gay bills introduced, 39 of them seek to prohibit same-sex marriage. The *Blade* found that GOP lawmakers introduced about 75% of all anti-Gay bills filed thus far.

"It's no surprise to me," Rich Tafel, executive director of the Log Cabin Clubs, when asked to comment on the high percentage of GOP-sponsored anti-Gay legislation. "That's the whole reason Log Cabin was created. Our purpose is to educate the Republicans... The question for the Gay movement is how to reach those Republicans. If we can't make them friends, how do we at least not make them enemies."

## GOP Against Assisted Suicide

**Montgomery, AL-AP-** Republican legislators and Attorney General Bill Pryor want to send a warning to Dr. Jack Kevorkian and other doctors who help patients commit suicide: keep out of Alabama.

Pryor and his staff have drafted legislation to make physician-assisted suicide a crime punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

"We shouldn't be playing God," said Sen. Dwight Adams, R-New Brockton, who introduced Pryor's bill in the Senate.

## Lesbians Determined Not to Give In to Terrorism; Reopen Atlanta Nightclub

**Atlanta, GA-** In an update to our lead story in the last issue, the Otherside Lounge, a Lesbian and Gay nightclub that was bombed in late February, reopened Friday, February 28, amid beefed-up security and determination among Gays and Lesbians not to give in to fear of terrorists.

"We will not be intimidated," said Mark King, a regular at The Otherside Lounge.

Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, a nail-laden device exploded near the club's rear patio and injured five people. Police found a second device in the parking lot and detonated it.

Owner Beverly McMahon hired security guards for the reopening, and seven police officers were posted at the club. Extra police also patrolled the Midtown neighborhood, home to many of the city's Gay and Lesbian businesses.

A man wearing a backpack and carrying a briefcase was stopped and searched by police before he was allowed to enter the club.

"This is probably the safest place in Georgia," said Maria Helena-Dolan, one of the first to arrive Friday.

Patrons said they won't let the bombing frighten them away.

"I think gathering places like these are real important for the community," said Chris Carroll before she went inside. "Although I'm not a bar-hopping person, it's real important for us to be here."

Workers replaced broken windows, damaged carpet and smashed lights. A hole in the patio left by the blast was patched. The only sign left of the bombing was a damaged retaining wall and a pile of rocks where the second bomb was found.

At the request of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition issued a statement condemning the bombing.

"The recent bombing of a predominantly Gay and Lesbian bar in Atlanta was an act of indefensible terrorism and cowardice," Reed said. "It is the very antithesis of our humane and compassionate stand on behalf of the sanctity of the traditional family."

### The Bomber

One angry man, not a group, likely wrote a letter claiming responsibility for the bombings of an abortion clinic and a

the nightclub, handwriting experts say.

The writer is a racist and is against feminists, Gays and law enforcement, said Michael Rustigan, a criminology professor at San Francisco State University.

The letter, sent to various news outlets in the city in February, purported to be from the Army of God, a name associated with an underground manual on terrorizing abortion clinics.

However, investigators have questioned the authenticity of the letter's claim of responsibility for twin blasts at the clinic in January and the February 21 bombing of the nightclub, which injured a total of 12 people.

It probably was written by one methodical and systematic person, a rural or suburban type with spotty employment, Rustigan said.

"The war here is not specifically against Gays or abortion facilities. It's a general militia theme of hatred of a government," Rustigan said.

Catherine Lane, a certified handwriting examiner with a specialty in behavior profiling, said the letter's large block print shows someone with poor concentration skills, but an extroverted personality with a desire to be heard.

"He doesn't want to follow society's rules," Ms. Lane said.

### FBI Denies Link

Federal officials denied reports that investigators have linked the Centennial Olympic Park bombing and later attacks on an abortion clinic and the LesBiGay nightclub.

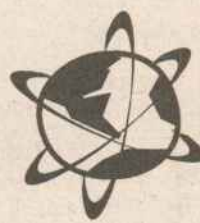
News reports Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, said investigators found similarities in the three bombings, and that there may be a "fuzzy" video image of the Olympic bomber.

"We don't have the silver bullet," FBI spokesman Jay Spadafore said of the videotape report.

As for links in the bombings, Spadafore said it's not possible to conclude that any of the devices were made by the same person or persons.

"We're not being disingenuous," Spadafore said. "We have strong similarities among the devices and differences as well. If we had a signature and knew it was the same guy, the differences wouldn't matter."

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## MAP Calls for Action as State Plans to Distribute Ryan White Funds

**Milwaukee**—Access to community based services, and therefore access to new lifesaving AIDS medications, such as those provided by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) are jeopardized by the State of Wisconsin's distribution plan for federal Ryan White AIDS funds.

Community based AIDS services, including transportation assistance, benefits planning, food services, housing and legal assistance are crucial to enabling people with HIV/AIDS to maintain rigorous treatment regimens. Since the advent of new triple combination AIDS treatments, demand for community based services is dramatically higher.

Food programs have experienced a 60% increase in the last nine months

transportation requests have doubled requests for legal assistance and benefits planning are up as much as 40%

Compounding the need for increased community based AIDS services is a 25% lower AIDS death rate in Wisconsin, and a projected new 400 cases of HIV in 1997. These trends result in client to case manager ratios approaching 100 to 1 in urban areas of Wisconsin, and 40 to 1 in rural areas. Without greater funding, Wisconsin's AIDS service providers will be overwhelmed and people with HIV/AIDS will not have access to services they need to maintain new drug regimens.

The State of Wisconsin is requesting input on how to utilize federal Ryan White funding in 1997. The State's grant

has increased by 40% in 1997, however the state has only increased funds for community based services by 10%.

Instead of providing increased funding for community based services, the State has unnecessarily overbudgeted for the purchase of AIDS drugs, and increased administrative funding by 158% in the last two years. This funding needs to be allocated to direct services to people with HIV/AIDS.

"Because demand for community based AIDS services is dramatically higher, we need people concerned about the quality of life of those living with HIV/AIDS to encourage the State to redirect at least \$200,000 of the Ryan White CARE Grant funds to much needed community based services," said Mike Gifford, director of Public Policy for ARCW.

For additional information, please call ARCW's Public Policy Department at (414) 225-1547.

You can make your voice heard at one of the public hearings listed below, or by writing to: Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program Division of Health, 1414 E. Washington Ave. Room 167 Madison, WI 53701-0309

e-mail GUILFSM@DHFS.STATE.WI.US

**Public Hearing in Milwaukee**  
April 9, 10 AM - 1 PM April 10, 2 PM - 5 PM 631 E. Chicago (Free parking at Italian Community Center)

**Public Hearing in Madison**  
1414 E. Washington Blvd, Rm 232 (Free parking in Dickson Street Lot)

## Urvashi Vaid to Open Out and About Series at UW-Madison

**Madison**—The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Out and About Series will make a brilliant smash in Madison. The April 14-27 event will take place at UW-Madison. While we will be carrying more details in the next issue, here are a few of the highlights.

- On Monday, April 14, nationally known activist Urvashi Vaid will address issues of race, gender and sexuality and how all these intersect. Vaid will be speaking in the Music Hall Auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
- On Tuesday, April 15, Patrick Scully, a performance artist, will examine being Queer in America. Call (608) 262-7592 for location and time.
- On Wednesday, April 16, Will Fellows, author of *Farm Boys*, the wildly popular book, will present "An Evening of Fabulous Farm Boys" in the Great Hall, Memorial Union, at 8:00 p.m.
- On Thursday, April 17, there will be an LGBT film fest. Included are: *Hustler White*; *Got This Way From Kissing Girls*; *Chaero*. The films will be shown at 9:00 p.m. in the Frederick March Play Circle, Memorial Union. Film fest II will be on Thursday, April 24.

The series, which concludes with an LGB graduate reception, is sponsored by the Ten Percent Society, the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Campus Center and the Campus Women's Center.

## LGBT Youth Summit to be Held in Washington, DC

**Milwaukee**—The National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC) will sponsor the First Annual National Summit for LGBT youth in Washington, DC, April 27-29. The mission of the Summit is to create a forum for youth and adults to exchange cutting edge information; to develop local, state and national advocacy strategies; and to advance the field of services and advocacy for and with LGBT youth through participation in dis-

cussion roundtables and skills building sessions.

The Summit will focus entirely on the mental health and physical health needs and advocacy trends for GLBT youth. The event will be limited to 200 people.

On Monday, April 28, Summit participants will have the opportunity to meet with their members of Congress on the Hill. Meetings will also be set up with Clinton Administration officials.

The Summit will be held at the Radisson Barcelo Hotel in the Dupont Circle area. Their reservation number is 1-800-333-3333. Mention you are with NYAC to guarantee your discounted room of \$109 per night for single or double rooms.

For more information, call Andy Garcia at (202) 319-7596.

## Cream City Chorus To Hold Annual Meeting in April

**Milwaukee**—The Wisconsin Cream City Chorus will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, April 9, at 7:00 p.m., at the First Unitarian Society at 1342 N. Astor.

Among the items on the agenda will be the bi-annual election of Vice President and Treasurer, the appointment of a Publicist, and discussion of several key issues. These include, but are not limited to, Chorus goals, dynamics and direction, in light of the recent resignation of Scott S. Stewart as Musical Director of the Chorus. Results of a recent survey of past Chorus members will also be reviewed.

All Chorus members are encouraged to attend, as are previous members who might be interested in returning to the organization.

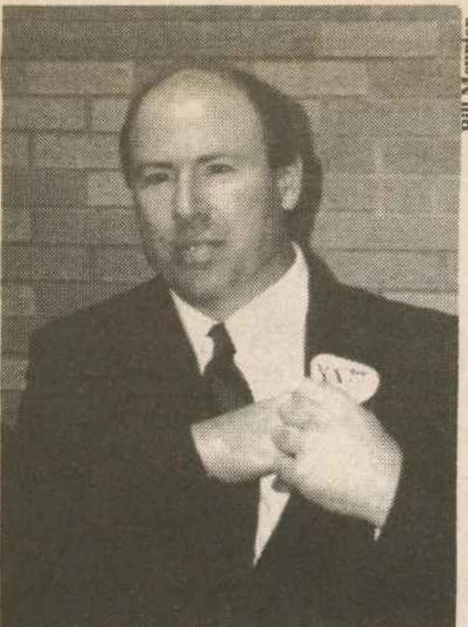
**Don't Forget!** The Cream City Chorus' spring concert, "To Every Season..." featuring Faure's "Requiem," followed by songs of hope and inspiration, will be held on Saturday, April 5, 8:00 p.m. at Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16<sup>th</sup> St. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, and are available at BestD Clinic, Mama Roux, AfterWords Bookstore, and through the Chorus office. Write to: P.O. Box 1488, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1488, or call (414) 344-WCCC.

## Anti-Gay Marriage Bill Assembly Floor Debate Put Off Until May 13<sup>th</sup>

By Bill Meunier

**Madison**—Efforts to pass State Representative Lorraine Seratti's (R-Spread Eagle) Anti-Gay marriage bill, AB 104 suffered a set back when a full Assembly vote on the bill was delayed until May 13.

The decision to delay the vote followed an acrimonious meeting of the Assembly's Committee on Families and Children. The Committee voted to recommend passage of AB 104 on a 6 to 3 vote.



Bill Meunier

Rebecca Young (D-Madison) and Notestein both weighed into the debate asking for a postponement. Both questioned why the bill was needed. They pointed out that Wisconsin law already forbids Same Sex Marriage and would prohibit Wisconsin residents from going out of state to get married in any state that recognizes Same Sex Marriage.

Young said "This would not affect any situation except for someone who lived in Hawaii, (if Hawaii ever does allow Gay marriage) got married there and then left paradise to move to Wisconsin."

Notestein attacked some of the testimony given by the bill's supporters at the Wausau hearing, calling their testimony "hateful and offensive." Even some Republican supporters of the bill admitted that some of the testimony disturbed them as well but they claimed that hateful testimony was given on both sides citing those speakers who called the bill hateful and homophobic.

Following the vote, a visibly angry Notestein held up some papers in front of where she and the other Committee members sat. The papers contained information on AIDS transmission and other STD's among Gay men. Even some of the bill's supporters seemed to view the sheets with disdain.

"I find these things to be extremely offensive," said Notestein, "How can anyone look at this and still say that this bill is not motivated by hate."

The Committee clerk reported that the papers were put there at the request of Seratti.

Later that day, the Assembly's Rules Committee, over Seratti's objection, voted to delay further consideration until May.

The rescheduling followed last minute maneuvering by openly Lesbian State Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-Madison) and Notestein, and others.

Baldwin and Notestein threatened to use every procedural rule they could to tie up the Assembly for a full three day debate if the vote was not delayed to May.

Although the Republican leadership wanted to approve the deal, Seratti balked and kept insisting that the leadership honor its promise of a quick debate and vote.

Sources say the Republican supporters now want to run away from Seratti's bill as fast as they can. They were taken by surprise when hundreds of Gays, Lesbians and their supporters turned out for the public hearing in Wausau. They are also said to be concerned about being identified with proponents of the bill who called Gays and Lesbians "perverts" and "degenerates."

Action Wisconsin with help from Tammy Baldwin's office is working on plans to use the time before the vote to convince members of the State Assembly to vote against the bill.

As it stands now, floor debate on AB104 is rescheduled to Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, for a one day, six hour debate.

**Digging for dirt?** Ralph Ovedahl of Wisconsin Christians United digs in his pocket while waiting to speak at the anti-Gay marriage hearing in Wausau, March 10.

The Committee meeting was punctuated by sharp exchanges between Democrats and Republicans. State Representative Shirley Krug (D-Milwaukee) offered a motion to table consideration until everyone who attended the Committee's hearing in Wausau had a chance to speak.

Chairman Michael Hubsch (R-La Crosse) refused to give in on the issue. Hubsch said none of the 165 people who were not called to speak would have said anything that wasn't already said by the 80 who did speak. Hubsch also said he had made certain that everyone on the Committee received copies of written testimony from some of those who didn't speak.

Other Republicans spoke of other hearings where not everyone who came to speak was allowed to do so.

Krug responded that she doubted anyone on the Committee had the time to read the hundreds of pages in the short time that had elapsed between the Committee vote and the distribution of the testimony. She also argued that because of the hearings location and the distance most people traveled to be there, it was unfair to vote on the issue before allowing them to speak. "No wonder people are growing more cynical towards government," she said.

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## Endorsements

### State-Wide

#### Walt Kelly

Judicial campaigns usually do not generate much passion. We believe this time should be an exception. In the race between Walt Kelly and Jon Wilcox for a seat on the Wisconsin State Supreme Court, we wholeheartedly endorse **Walt Kelly**.

When three women, and two women and a child, tried to rent apartments in Sun Prairie, they were refused. Wilcox refused, too. He voted to throw out a Dane County law that banned discrimination against cohabitants.

Wilcox joined the majority in an opinion that said a Lesbian or Gay man could not adopt a partner's child.

Wilcox voted to deny visitation rights to divorcing same-sex non-custodial partner. Wilcox wrote that a Lesbian couple were not a family.

Wilcox is strongly supported by former governor Martin Schrieber who told a gathering of 102 Lesbians and Gay men that he did not think same-sex couples could have a moral relationship.

Walt Kelly is a progressive who is on record as saying that he disagrees with Wilcox on his decisions.

We, therefore, endorse **Walt Kelly** without qualification.

#### John Benson

In the race for State School Superintendent, the contest is between a moderate and the ideological Right. In this race, we endorse the moderate, **John Benson**.

Benson's opponent, Linda Cross, is a strong supporter of giving public funds to private religious schools, many of which can be counted on to teach homophobia. For this reason, Cross has received unstinting support from the Religious Right. We endorse Benson.

### Milwaukee

#### Bill Brash

There is one Milwaukee judicial race that we believe deserves your consideration. This is the contest for the Circuit Court, Branch 7. In this race we endorse Judge **Bill Brash**. Brash has a long record as a progressive on the bench. His support includes US Congressman Tom Barrett, Milwaukee County Executive Tom Ament, Milwaukee County Supervisor Dorothy Dean, all progressives and friends of our community.

### Madison

#### Deborah Carter Lawson

In the race for School Board in Madison, we strongly support incumbent **Deborah Carter Lawson**. Lawson's opponent, Tom Ragatz, is said by local LGBT community leaders as representing one of the worst threats to the rights of our community since ultra-conservative Earl Kielley. Ragatz has a long record of opposition to civil rights. For example, he was a leader in defending the Madison Club in its efforts to exclude women members. He refused to attend a school board forum sponsored by Gays, Lesbians and Allies for Diversity in Education.

In other contested Madison races, we endorse progressive candidates **Andrea Houlihan and Ruth Roberts**. We endorse incumbent **Juan Lopez**.

### A Close Call: Falk for Dane County Exec

Dane County voters are faced with a difficult choice in their April 1 election of a new County Executive. On the one hand they have an experienced public official. On the other hand there is an attorney whose concerns and ideology seem to be more in tune with Dane County's.

Michael Blaska is the more experienced candidate. He has been a County Supervisor and a County Board Chairman. But many have been disturbed by Blaska. His tenure as County Board Chairman was marked by rancor on the Board. Furthermore his visit to the opening of a "Hooters" night club seemed to be in very poor taste.

Blaska's opponent is Susan Falk, an attorney who works with the Wisconsin Attorney General's office. Falks stance on the issues is more progressive than Blaska's. But Falk lacks any experience in County Government.

Furthermore we are disturbed by the fact that twice during the primary campaign a representative of this publication was told by Falk supporters that its founder was supporting Falk. We believe that misinformation may have been deliberately spread by Falk's campaign team in order to justify pulling away support from openly Gay candidate, Dick Wagner in the primary, the candidate wholeheartedly supported by the real founders of **The Wisconsin Light**.

Nevertheless we give Falk the edge in this race. Blaska's experience in County Government has been marked by division and argument. His attitude on a wide variety of issues is disturbing. So too is Falk's lack of experience, but while it's a close call, we believe that Falk is the better choice for Gay and Lesbian voters.

## Editor's Note

### Brandon

By Terry Boughner

I wanted a cigarette—and that led to all the rest.

It began simply enough. Jerry and I were attending the annual Make A Promise Dinner at Milwaukee's grand, Fin de Siecle Pfister Hotel. While Jerry went off to mingle, I went looking for a spot to sit and smoke. From there I would watch the passing parade of hundreds of people, most in formal wear—tuxes or beads.

As I recalled from previous years, there was a table with an ashtray and a small grouping of chairs back by the dining room. I went there.

A man and a woman were there before me, both in their mid-30s so it seemed. He was good looking with a strong, friendly, open face. She had a startling beauty about her, willowy without being fragile in the least.

The man and woman were smoking. I lit up. Though we'd never met before, the three of us struck up an easy conversation, prompted by the camaraderie that bonds smokers these days.

Seated with them was a boy, 12, 13 years-old, I thought. He was wearing a black tuxedo. A small red rose clung stoutly to the lapel. His hair was the color of spun honey. His large, solemn eyes had look to them as if, even at his age, he had had a world of trouble flung at him. The man and woman were his parents. His

name was Brandon.

I could not get over how angelic he was. His pale skin had a translucency to it that gave him an ethereal beauty that I had only rarely seen before. Yet, at the same time, he was boy, all boy, boy with skinned knees and a dirty face; boy with a mischievous glint in his eyes that said he might have just replaced the sugar with the salt; boy walking barefoot with a fishing pole in his hand; but boy of the '90s who liked video games, spent lots of time on the Internet, and wore a diamond stud in his left ear.

Brandon said little. Like any kid his age, he was clearly bored. Besides, he had new shoes on and they pinched. His tux itched. I didn't need words to tell me that he was there because his parents were there. That brought back so many memories.

His mother told me that they lived in a town up north. I asked them what brought them to the Make A Promise Dinner. She said that Brandon was portrayed in one of the paintings in the "Faces of AIDS" series.

They come regularly to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, she said. They also go to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in Washington, DC, every other week. Brandon is one of the first two children to be accepted in NIH's protease inhibitor program. She told me he is doing well.

I looked out on the crowd swirling around us. They were all here in this hotel to contribute what they could in the fight against AIDS. It makes no difference how its contracted, it's still a disease, a disease like any other, terrible, tragic in its conse-

## Endorsements

### at a Glance

#### State-Wide

State Supreme Court

Walt Kelly

State School Superintendent

John Benson

#### Milwaukee

Circuit Court

Judge Bill Brash

#### Madison

School Board

Deborah Carter Lawson

Andrea Houlihan

Ruth Roberts

Juan Lopez

Dane County Executive

Susan Falk

quences for all concerned, Gay, straight, no matter who you are.

Hundreds of people were at Make A Promise that night. Uncounted hundreds more are in the front lines every single day of every single week, people at the Brady Street Clinic, at ARCW, at St. Camillus, at Madison's AIDS Network, all fighting, doing what they can, whatever they can, whenever they can. These valiant people know that there are no "innocent victims," there are only those afflicted with an illness that threatens their lives.

In those precious few moments I spent with the family, everything about the fight against AIDS came down to Brandon. In him I saw what it is that the people at Make A Promise, at BestD, at St. Camillus, at the AIDS Network and hundreds of other places across this country are doing. They are laboring so that a little boy like Brandon will see more sunrises, and the full moon shining in a frosty winter night. He will reach out a hand to touch the myriad stars. He will laugh, he will sing Christmas carols before a glowing tree. He will go fishing and he will spend more hours on the Internet.

Because of those "in the trenches," he will grow and know love. He will learn about love because of all those who loved him.

And if one little boy will live and grow, others will, too. Others will taste the wine of life, young and old, rich and poor, female and male, all races, all faiths, all sexual orientations. They will get this chance. They must have this chance. Everything in our humanity cries out that they must have this chance.

I had long since finished my cigarette—and several more. I went inside to eat. Afterward, as I was leaving, Brandon's mother and I embraced. I said something to her—I don't know what it was—and left.

Outside the hotel, the air was cold against my cheek. A few snowflakes danced in the wind. As I looked back, my eye got some dust in it. I wished Brandon well before I pulled up my collar and headed into the night.

## Letters

### Praise for Notestein

TO THE EDITOR:

Representative Barbara Notestein (D-Mil), deserves a massive round of applause for her recent contributions to the debate on the anti-same-sex marriage bill. Her comments during hearings of the State Assembly's Children and Families Committee on which she serves were excellent and brilliantly made.

Gay and Lesbian residents of the 19<sup>th</sup> District which she serves, should be proud that their state assemblyperson represented them so well during this contentious debate. Indeed, all Gay and Lesbian citizens in Wisconsin owe a debt of gratitude to Representative Notestein for her articulate presentation of our case.

Scott H. Evertz  
Madison

### Orthodox Rabbis

TO THE EDITOR:

It's been a busy month for Fundamentalists. Islamic Fundamentalists resumed their bombing campaign in the Middle East, killing four people and wounding many more in Tel Aviv. Christian Fundamentalists in Wisconsin stepped up their Gay bashing with Wausau hearings on a bill outlawing marriage for homosexuals. Jewish Fundamentalists haven't been on vacation either; the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada is to declare that Conservative and Reform Jews aren't really Jews after all.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel found the

action of the Orthodox rabbis so shocking that it gave substantial space on its front page and a large space inside its Saturday edition to the story (perhaps it felt local Orthodox Jews wouldn't read the paper on the Sabbath, so it Turn to LETTERS, Page 5

## Deadlines

April 10<sup>th</sup> Issue

Articles Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—April 4<sup>th</sup>

Camera Ready—April 7<sup>th</sup>

5:00 p.m.

April 24<sup>th</sup> Issue

Articles—April 18<sup>th</sup>

Ads

Non-Camera Ready—April 18<sup>th</sup>

Camera Ready—April 24<sup>th</sup>

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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## More Features Debut With This Issue of "The Light"

Our readers have told us how much they enjoy our new features like "Dusty's Corner," "Ask Ruthie" and our exciting new Gay serial "Statues of the Sacred Band." (For installment 2 of our serial see page 19 of the SpotLight Section.)

With this issue, **The Wisconsin Light** debuts three new features, "Talking With The Stars", an interview column, the **Wisconsin Light Book Section** and our new website [www.wilight.com](http://www.wilight.com).

"Talking With The Stars" is an exciting interview column written by Jeff Newman, special to **Wisconsin Light**. It will feature interviews with nationally known entertainers with an emphasis on Les/Bi/Gay stars. The debut, "Talking With The Stars" contains a wonderful interview with openly Gay, HIV+, Grammy Nominee, Jazz Pianist, Fred Hersch. We are sure you will enjoy Hersch's insightful comments and perspective.

The new Book Section will contain reviews, info about book signings and author appearances and anything else those who enjoy Gay literature would like to know about.

Look for more of the same in future issues with interviews from Bernadette Peters, Catie Catalan, Ashley Mc Issac, Gloria Estafan and more.

Starting on Friday March 28, **The Wisconsin Light** opens a new pathway on the information superhighway, our new web site, [www.wilight.com](http://www.wilight.com).

Wilight.com will contain a sampling of articles from our latest issue, articles from previous issues and our own Gay news tickers on both the Front Page and the SpotLight page.

It also offers an easy and convenient way to get ad information, send us announcements and press releases and even to write a letter to the editor.

Point your browser to [www.wilight.com](http://www.wilight.com) and join us as we present Wisconsin's only nationally respected Gay publication to a world wide audience.

## Letters

### LETTERS Continued from page 4

could escape charges of anti-Semitism, such as those brought on by its notorious cartoonist of Mayor John Norquist's trip to Israel).

What the **Journal Sentinel** either failed to notice, or decided wasn't important enough to print, was that earlier in March, the same group of Orthodox rabbis threatened to boycott the U.S. Holocaust Memorial because it contains information about Gay victims of the Nazis.

The failure to speak out against the anti-Gay action of the rabbis, and their subsequent action against the vast majority of American Jews, reminds one of that famous and ubiquitous quotation from Martin Niemöller, the pastor who was a victim of the Nazis, which I paraphrase here: First they came for the socialist, and I didn't speak out—because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the homosexuals, and I didn't speak out—because I was not a homosexual. Then they came for me, and there was no one left to speak out.

**Al Geiersbach  
Milwaukee**

### Right On, MATA!

#### TO THE EDITOR:

I heard something recently that has prompted me to write this letter. Margaret, my life partner, and I were talking to some friends when someone asked if MATA was "homophobic"? The question was more directed at Margaret because she happens to be an employee. However, not being the shy type and also co-hosting the TIP program at MATA, I, too, felt I would add my 2 cents! Personally, I was thinking what a strange comment or accusation. After all, Margaret and I have not gotten any offers from Channels 4, 6, 12, 58 or even 10 to do a regular talk show with Lesbian hosts, guests and topics! Granted, our show is only monthly, however MATA likes our show so much they repeat it 3 more times before the next live broadcast!!

So, getting back to the homophobia question. I have not heard anything so outrageous since Mark Belling does drag on weekends! (He simply does not have the legs!)

Is our community getting so paranoid that we are no longer able to recognize our true friends and supporters? Or are our adversaries simply hiding in the closet these days and we have to start making up rumors about an organization that prides itself on promoting, advancing and cultivating diverse programs, such as my favorite TIP program, "Gay By God's Will," "The Queer Show," and all the other special GLBT oriented programs, such as the outstanding MATA programs that are produced by Tim Marshall.

Well, I am asking these producers to also offer their public support of MATA as MATA has time and time again supported us through

their programming, hiring practices, and encouragement. Let's put an immediate halt to this nonsense that MATA has any homophobic policies or positions. Let's take a look at the facts:

- My girl friend, along with other openly Gay men and Lesbians work at MATA;
- MATA currently airs "The Queer Show" and "Gay By God's Will" on a weekly basis and even does a repeat airing of these programs (Frankly, I could only watch "Ellen" once in the same week!) and the monthly TIP program, the only openly Lesbian talk show;
- MATA also airs the Gay and Lesbian drama series, "True to Desire";
- MATA makes available over \$50,000 of video equipment for taping of programs on location, such as PrideFest, for any Milwaukee resident after taking a short training course.

Surely there are more identifiable targets out there in "homophobia land" that we need to start and continue educating. SO, as for now, I throw my support to MATA. As a famous Milwaukee saying goes, "It's MATA Time!"

Check out MATA's great lineup of programs OR, if you are a Milwaukee resident, start your own program. Until NBC calls, I and the TIP Show will stay with MATA. Watch us the first Saturday of the month at 9:30 p.m. BE THERE, BE QUEER!

**Mary L. Messerlie  
Milwaukee**

### Gay Business, Gay Pride

#### TO THE EDITOR:

I was surprised to see the face of PrideFest Co-director Sue Cook on the cover of the Weekend Cue section of the **Milwaukee Journal** on Friday March 21, 1997. I was even more surprised when I read the inside story with her comments about where she likes to take her out of town guests.

For some reason I thought that as Co-director of Pridefest, Cook was out to promote Gay pride, especially when speaking as the Co-Director. I guess I was wrong. She didn't mention one Gay business as a place where she would take her out of town guests.

I don't care whether or not my own business was mentioned. There are other businesses like M & M's and This Is It who have been supportive of PrideFest from the very beginning, what I do care about is that not one Gay establishment was mentioned. For example Cook could have talked about going to AfterWords Books, with its selection of literature and videos. She could have mentioned the Miller Tour, since Miller has also been a big sponsor of her event. Instead she chose to go on about a straight pizza place, a straight deli, a church and a cemetery.

Over the last few years as Pridefest has grown, so has the support it gets from Milwaukee's Gay businesses. From what I understand Cook did nothing to build that support.

As a gay businessman and past supporter of PrideFest, I regret Cook's action. It's too bad that Cook who wants Gay businesses to support her doesn't support them. It's even worse when her lack of support is made public.

**Joe St. Clair  
Milwaukee**

### Leave Us Out

#### TO THE EDITOR:

I want to preface that the following contains my expression and not those of any organizations with which I am affiliated.

I just experienced one of the most moving experiences of my life, having been able to participate in the democratic process in testifying against Assembly Bill 104, banning same-sex marriages in the State of Wisconsin.

However, I was and am distressed at the fact that the Gay and Lesbian movement in recent years has extended the hand to include Transgendered people. I vehemently am opposed to discrimination in any form and do not want my comments to suggest or imply such.

As people assembled at the hearing in Wausau, several transgendered people came to oppose and testify on AB104. Gays and Lesbians have a valid sexual orientation, which Wisconsin law protects. Transgendered people have gender identity issues.

So, when you look at the transgendered movement, it is not compatible with the Gay and Lesbian movement. A man who self-identifies as a woman (trapped in a masculinized body, yet perceived feminine identity), attracted to a heterosexual male is not Gay.

Again, not to demean the agony of such a condition, this scenario is one that invokes gender issues as opposed to sexual orientation issues.

When transgendered people make the "change," its heterosexual, not homosexual and their political and civil rights have no correlation and no right to being umbrellaed within the Gay movement. All in all, about 90% of the transgendered community, in reality is dealing with heterosexual issues, not homosexual.

The transgendered community must organize, develop, and fight for their cause on their own just as the Gay movement has done for over 25 years and not ride the coattails and be under the same umbrella as Gays and Lesbians.

**Andrew R. Brett  
Madison**

## You are invited to the 3rd Annual Wine Tasting & Jazz Benefit for **The United** Saturday, April 11, 1997 7-11pm

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## HIV TREATMENT UPDATE

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Guest speaker FRANK PALELLA, JR., M.D. is the Associate Director of the STD/HIV Treatment Center at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
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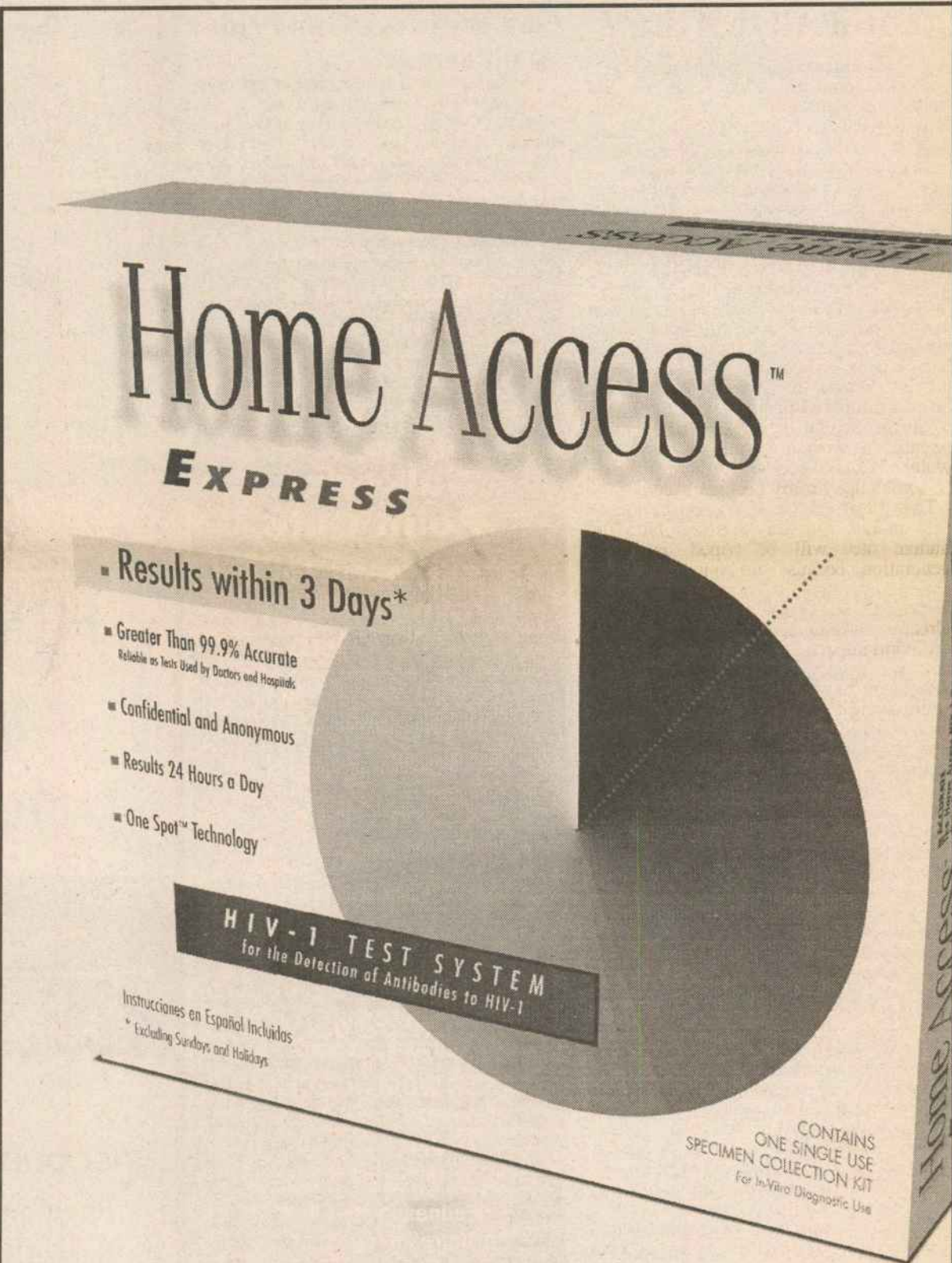
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**A- Friends at Last-** Republican Scott Evertz and incumbent State Representative Barb Notestein shared a hug after the Assembly's Committee on Family and Children voted to approve an anti-Gay marriage bill. Evertz and Notestein had squared off against each other in the 1994 general election.

Bill Meunier

demand the right to marry their cows. (They would want to marry more than one cow of course because as we were told, Gay marriages will also lead to polygamy.)

And did you know that the average life span for Gay men is only 42 years old? You should have seen the shocked look on the faces of the older Gays and Lesbians who were present. None of them realized that they were already dead.

At the hearing in Madison, I learned some more surprising "facts."

For example the chairman of the Committee, Michael Huebsch, (R-La Crosse) is a psychic. He informed us that none of the 165 people who weren't allowed to speak at the Wausau hearing had anything to say that wasn't already said by the 80 or so who did testify.

He never did say how he knew that. Probably because he is trying to hide his vast mental powers.

Then I learned that two wrongs REALLY do make a right. This became apparent when some Committee members, (read the Democrats) asked that the Committee give those who didn't have a chance to speak in Wausau, an opportunity to speak in Madison.

That may sound fair to you as it did to me. But I quickly learned from the Republicans that because some years ago some farmers weren't allowed to testify at a hearing, it was okay and proper to trample on other people.

Then I found out that AB 104 is not "hateful or homophobic." Now it may seem that way on the surface. After all Wisconsin already prohibits same-sex marriage, but we are assured by the

Republicans on the committee that hate and homophobia have nothing to do it.

Chairman Huebsch was especially emphatic on that point. I am so glad to know that his comments like "homosexuality is morally wrong" (made to the media) were not motivated by hate.

I was equally pleased to learn that AB 104 is not discriminatory. I always thought that when you won't let some people do what you let others do, it's discrimination.

Imagine my relief when I was told that wasn't the case. Now, I can sleep soundly at night secure in the knowledge that the State of Wisconsin is not discriminating against me by forbidding me to marry the person I love.

I also learned that there doesn't have to be a good reason to pass a bill. In fact the less reason you have the more urgent passage becomes.

That's why despite the facts that Wisconsin already prohibits same sex marriage, and that even if another state recognizes Gay marriage it still wouldn't be legal for Wisconsin residents to get married in that state, the Committee wanted to approve Anti-Gay marriage legislation. It's also why they put AB 104 on the "fast track."

There are other things I learned too, but I don't have time to list all of them. I am too busy sending thank you letters to all of those were so helpful in educating me

If you wish to join me in personally thanking Lorraine Seratti and Chairman Huebsch for being so helpful in educating us, you can reach them by calling (608) 266-3780 for Lorraine or (608)266-0631 for Mr. Huebsch.

## Politically Speaking

### Good Golly, Miss Molly, If Only I Had Known All that Stuff

Commentary by Bill Meunier

Okay I admit it. I was so naïve. But thanks to State Representative Lorraine Seratti, I've been enlightened.

You really wouldn't believe all of things I learned at just two meetings of the Assembly's Committee on Families and Children as it considered Seratti's Anti-Gay Marriage bill.

This was especially true at the hearing in Wausau where so many speakers were so well informed on being Gay.

I found out, as one man put it, "a man laying with another man can not produce children." I know that some of you have been trying for years and I hate to break this bit of news to you, but I want you to be as informed as I am.

The gentleman didn't mention whether or not "a woman laying with another woman" can have kids. So there still may be some hope for my Lesbian friends.

Then I learned that if Wisconsin doesn't pass another Anti-Gay marriage bill, "the human race will be wiped out in a generation because no one will have children anymore." I never knew that if Wisconsin won't prohibit something that it already forbids it will have such a profound impact.

It was nice to know that we in Wisconsin have so much power that the entire world follows our every move.

There were several people who were very informative on Sodom. One told the Committee that "God killed as many people who live on the earth today when he destroyed Sodom, and he will do it again."

Boy, that was a shocker. I had no idea that 6,000,000,000 people lived in little old Sodom. Wonder how many Queer bars they had?

Some of the "witnesses" at the hearing in Wausau were also very informative on the sexual practices of Gay men. (Lesbians were rarely mentioned, I guess they don't have sex.)

I had no idea I was supposed to be having sex with 400 to 500 men a year. Now there's a challenge.

This could be especially difficult since as I learned at the hearing we are less than "1% of the population."

Those 400 or 500 guys must all be sleeping with each other and leaving the dozen of so us who are left, out in the cold.

Perhaps my difficulty in racking up big numbers is because (as I was informed) I don't really have Gay sex.

One of the speakers was kind enough to reveal that Gays like to "ingest feces and urine."

Perhaps my refusal to even consider something like that has held down the number of men I've been with. I wonder what Lesbians like to eat during sex? The speaker never said.

I was very surprised to learn that people who call us "perverted degenerates" and accuse us of trying "to destroy the moral fabric of society," are not really homophobic or hateful. I learned this because the people saying those things told me that was the case.

Apparently we have a lot of Fundamentalist Christians who just love perverted degenerates dedicated to destroying family life.

Another interesting bit of info I picked up is that if the State legally recognizes Gay marriages, people will want to have the right to marry animals, children perhaps even their plants. Who knows

where it would end?

How selfish of us to want to get married if its going to cause all this chaos. I wonder if there is a secret group of farmers just waiting for the chance to

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#3 **Sat, April 12**  
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**10% Club**

#4 **Wed, April 16**  
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## Congressional GOP Support for ENDA Increases Hope That It will Pass

Washington, DC—The memory of an excellent high school teacher has led Rep. Christopher Shays to take up the cause, controversial in Congress, of banning job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"The thought that he could have been denied an opportunity to teach at my school just made me realize how strongly I felt about this bill," said Shays, a moderate Connecticut Republican who will be a prime sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

"I wouldn't be a member of Congress today if it hadn't been for this teacher," Shays said.

The bill's backers say the support of Republicans like Shays and Sen. Alfonse D'Amato of New York may make the difference this year. The bill was also introduced in the past two Congresses.

"We have a solid chance," said Winnie Stachelberg, legislative director of the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign.

Republicans in the majority, so the argument goes, will be more open to the bill if the pitch comes from within their own caucus. Shays, in particular, is close to the House GOP leadership.

Chances for passage are "better, but it's going to be a difficult debate," Shays said. "I'm in this for the long-term and the ultimate success ... I can't say that it will pass this year."

The bill would bar employers from using sexual orientation as a basis for hiring, firing, promotion or compensation. Exemptions would be made for voluntary and religious organizations, and businesses employing less than 15 workers.

Rep. Barney Frank, (D-MA), who is Gay and the bill's other main House sponsor, is among those hoping Shays' role will make a difference.

"Chris is close to (Speaker Newt) Gingrich. If he's a cosponsor, I guess one test of that will be if we are able to get the bill moved and voted on," Frank said.

No one expects an easy ride, especially not in the House, where conservative GOP leaders have tighter control on proceedings than the Senate. Last year, House leaders didn't allow a vote on the bill.

For a controversial measure, "You should have a groundswell of support," said Rich Tafel, executive director of Log

Cabin Republicans, the nation's major Gay Republican group. "The trick on the House side is getting that groundswell of support among Republicans."

In the Senate, there are already 47 confirmed votes and another five likely supporters, said Stachelberg. However, 60 votes would be needed to keep the bill alive if an opponent threatens a filibuster.

In September, the Senate defeated the bill, but by just one vote. Republicans allowed a vote after Sen. Edward Kennedy, (D-MA), threatened to try and attach the bill to another defining marriage in federal law as a legal union between one man and one woman, which passed easily.

Supporters point out that 64 senators, including some conservative Republicans, ban job discrimination based on sexual orientation in their own offices. At the end of the 104th Congress, 241 of 435 House members had similar policies.

Opponents, meanwhile, are readying their case. The bills are to be introduced this spring.

"If you are a good employee, and you are minding your own business, you will not be fired," said Kristi Hamrick of the Family Research Council, which plans to lobby against the legislation.

Hamrick said the bill isn't needed because Americans already have remedies available for unjust firings, including lawsuits and appeals to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. It will inject sexual issues into the workplace, she added.

"There is no way to ensure that an employer is not discriminating on the basis of sex behavior without talking to everyone about their sex life," Hamrick said.

Proponents counter that most Americans think it's unfair to fire someone because they're gay. The trouble is that most Americans also think it's illegal, even though only nine states, including Connecticut, prohibit it, they said.

That misperception, said Frank, has been exploited by opponents who insist homosexuals are demanding some sort of special right.

"The leaders of anti-Gay people try to perpetuate this false notion," he said. "They understand that defending against something called a special right is easier than defending against the right not to be fired."



The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation held their 8th annual GLAAD Media Awards on Sunday, March 16, at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles. Local business man, Jon Martin and Paul Milakovich of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) attended the event. Martin is CEO of Landmark Enterprises, a division of The Rittenhouse Group. Milakovich has just celebrated his 6th Anniversary of service at MAP.

Prior to the Awards ceremony, Martin hosted a cocktail reception for VIPs in his suite at the Century Plaza. Among those attending were David Mixner, William Waybourn, managing director of GLAAD, and Chastity Bono who got added support from her mom, Cher. Martin is pictured above with Ms. Bono.

The affair continued with a silent auction followed by a dinner and the awards presentation, one of whose sponsors was Miller Brewery. Among those attending the ceremony was Ellen DeGeneres, Gregory Peck, Ed McMahon, Tracey Ullman, Valerie Bertinelli, Mitchel Anderson and Lily Tomlin.

### ZINGALE Continued from Page 1

terms of federal policy. That happened primarily through people like Doug Nelson [executive director of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin], saying, "Look, the epidemic has changed in the past decade or so. If it was ever about just a few metropolitan areas, like San Francisco, it's not now. Now it's about places like Wisconsin as well, so we need equity in terms of federal programs."

That was a contentious debate which happened in the past year or so and, as a result, most people came around to that view. Now, New York and Los Angeles recognize that there have been important geographic changes in the epidemic and that policy should respond to that.

Now, you have groups who look to Milwaukee for leadership.

Now the epidemic has changed again in a way more profound than the geographic changes in terms of the new drug therapies. We know we have to change the way we do business in Washington.

So, I'm here to find out what the leadership thinks because I know they have a track record.

**TB: What is the situation with AIDS? Is there light at the end of the tunnel?**

**DZ:** I think you go right to the heart of the matter. Yes, there is hope with the new protease inhibitors. This is a pivotal moment in the epidemic. This is not the end, but it is the beginning of the end.

**TB: Is there a cure coming?**

**DZ:** I'll tell you what I believe in my heart. I believe that we can go into the new century with tremendous hope. I think, yes, that we probably will cure AIDS.

**TB: We hear a lot of talk about apathy towards the AIDS epidemic. Do you see that?**

**DZ:** I've heard a lot of talk about that. What I see is people responding to a whole new set of challenges and coming from a different kind of motivation. I think we ran off of compassion and concern for our friends for over a decade. Now, I see people coming into this battle—and I'm a new-comer—and I think it's about hope. I think it's about seeing an historic opportunity to get about the business of putting AIDS behind us. I think there's something about a challenge like that comes out of optimism for doing something important.

**TB: Needle Exchange?**

**DZ:** There is no area of AIDS prevention where the data is so convincing as it is around the needle exchange. We know that needle exchange programs get tainted needles off of our streets and prevent infection.

We know from recent studies that tens of thousands of lives would have been and will be saved if federal decision makers would allow local communities to implement programs of needle exchange.

Milwaukee's actually doing better than most places because some folks here, like MAP (Milwaukee AIDS Project), have found ways to get private funding for needle exchange programs that are reaching some IV drug users. Those programs are under resourced because of the

federal ban. You all are actually ahead of the game.

It is a slow process in Washington to bring decision makers around to following the science rather than, what I call "cultural politics"—their own discomfort with needles.

The Secretary of Health, for example, now acknowledges that the data is in and that local groups should be free to explore needle exchange programs.

The Congress is not anywhere near there. They still remain hostile. We'll take it step by step, but ultimately, I think, our goal should be to get the federal government out of it.

**TB: How is it working with the Republican Congress?**

**DZ:** The shift in the debate from AIDS being only about certain metropolitan areas to about all places in America has actually put us in a stronger position with many Republican members of Congress. They have begun to "own" the epidemic in a way they hadn't before.

I don't find (working the GOP) as daunting as one might expect.

There is no question that the era of budget cuts makes it difficult to persuade them to do the right thing, but we have some allies on both sides of the aisle.

**TB: What about the new drugs and the poorer countries?**

**DZ:** The treatments with the new drugs are very expensive. Only a tiny fraction of people around the world with AIDS are able to get access to them because of the cost. Quite honestly, I don't think that's going to change.

I was pleased to hear the President talk about a vaccine in his State of the Union speech because when you look at AIDS globally—which you have to—the only way I can see for us to obliterate AIDS from the planet is with a vaccine. It's the only way we'll be able to afford to get to all the people.

It's a daunting problem in terms of access to the treatments, but hopefully we'll get about the business of developing a vaccine.

A vaccine is a pretty cheap thing, once you get it.

## Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



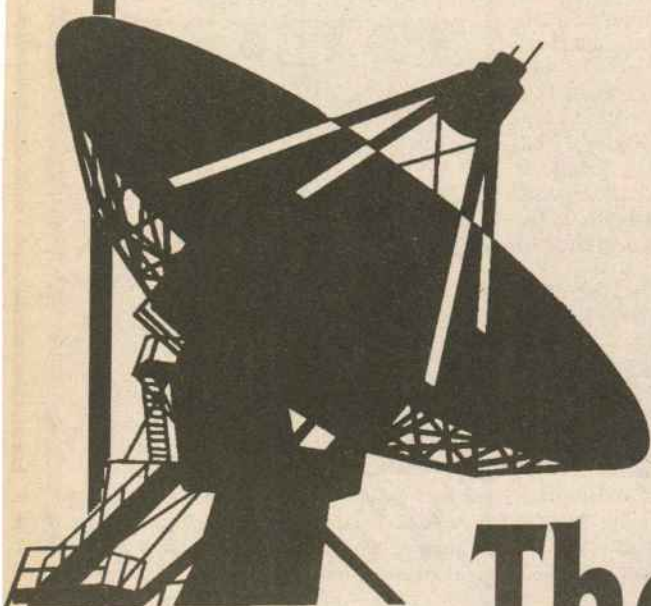
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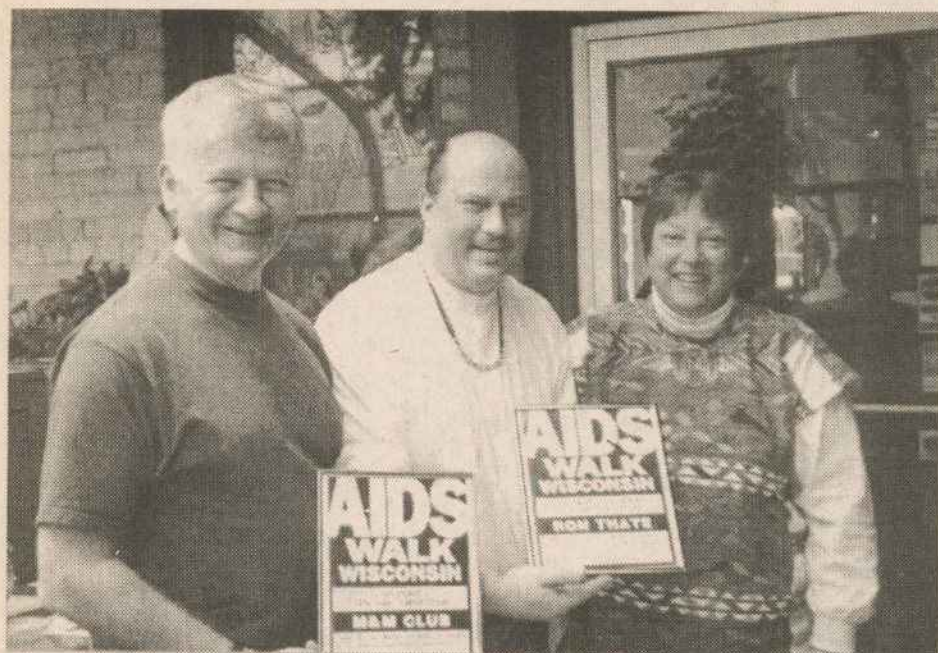
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# IN THE PUBLIC EYE



Shown above (l-r) Bob Schmidt, owner of M&M Club; Ron Thate, M&M Club Team Captain; Marge Beil, ARCW



Shown above (l-r) Jim Moore, ARCW; Ralph Chrisman; George Chars, #1 individual for the Bar Competition; Marge Beil, ARCW; Patrick Flaherty, ARCW



Members of the Mama Roux team and ARCW staff. Third from left: Joe St. Clair of Mama Roux staff; Front row right: Patrick Flaherty and Marge Beil, ARCW

## Plan Now for AIDS Walk 1997 Gay and Lesbian Bar Competition

Milwaukee -- It is time to start thinking about AIDS Walk Wisconsin 1997 to be held on Sunday, September 21, 1997.

There are several ways to participate both individually or as a team member. For AIDS Walk Wisconsin 1996, there were 10 teams in the Gay and Lesbian Bar Competition. These teams were: Blue Lite, Club 219, Fannie's, Just Us, Kathy's Nut Hut, M&M Club, Mama Roux, Team In Between, This Is It and the Wreck Room, who all helped in raising nearly \$20,000 for AIDS care, prevention, research and advocacy.

The top three teams were M&M Club with 20 walkers raising \$4,701.50, Blue Lite's 26 walkers bringing in \$4,394 and the Mama Roux team raising \$2,910.10 by 23 walkers. Congratulations to all the teams that participated in the Walk which in total raised over \$1 million.

### The Leader of the Pack

George Chars, a member of the This Is It team, was the top individual by raising \$1,453 for AIDS Walk Wisconsin 1996.

"Finding out I was the winner was such a wonderful surprise," said Chars. As the top individual money raiser in the bar competition, Chars won two round-trip airline tickets donated by United Airlines to be used for any destination within the continental United States.

"Ralph (Chrisman) and I are leaving on April 17 and flying into San Francisco, spending the week driving down the coast and flying home from San Diego," said Chars.

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin wants to thank everyone in the Bar Competition for their help and dedication in the fight against AIDS. Remember to start planning ahead for the AIDS Walk Wisconsin 1997 Gay and Lesbian Bar Competition.

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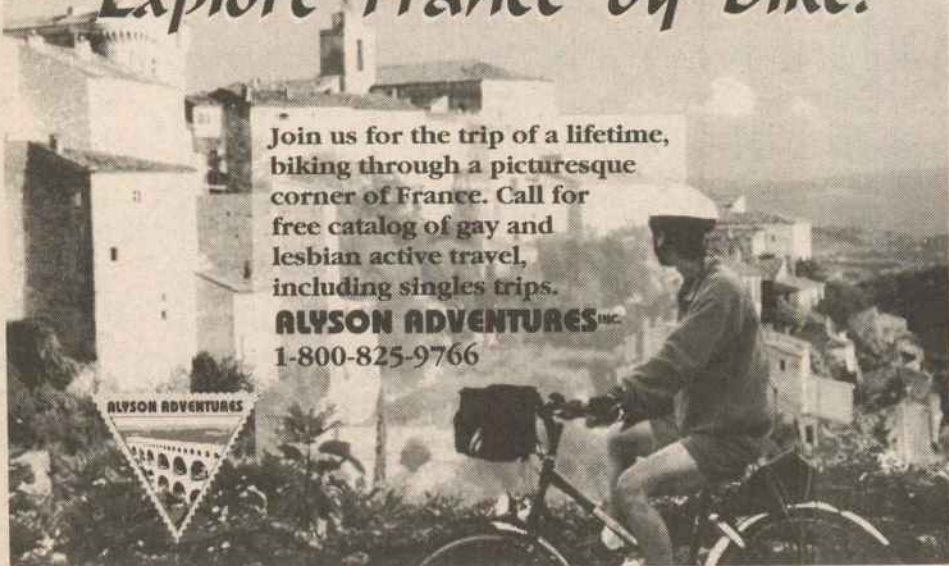
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## Street Beat Fashion Gala Made Possible Through Donations and Volunteers

**Milwaukee** After two years and three productions that raised more than \$10,000, Street Beat fashion extravaganza is becoming a popular seasonal attraction. Juggling models, clothing and telephone calls for the upcoming fashion show on April 5, Kathy Fortier, producer of the event, said that the challenge now is to make each fashion show better than the one before.

Fortier is also the manager of Survival/Revival resale shop, a fundraising program developed by the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP). For her, Street Beat is more than an ordinary fashion show.

"The show is another option for people to support MAP and, at the same time, have fun," Fortier explained. "We have artists and entertainment on all levels. For example, the models do more than just model clothes, they act. We want Street Beat to be something different and memorable because Survival/Revival is a unique facet of MAP."

The idea for Street Beat came from a previous experience that Fortier and her husband had with their own vintage clothing shop before she started to work for MAP. They promoted the so-called Rag Ball.

That was what Street Beat is now. Without money for publicity, it was an alternative solution to make their shop known. The concept was brought to Survival/Revival in 1995. Always among arts and artists (Jerry Fortier is a film maker) the couple had no problems to find partners to develop the project. Personal friends BJ Daniels, performer and hair stylist, and Sister Cashbox, performer and painter, joined in and helped from the beginning.

"There is no other fashion show like Street Beat in Milwaukee. I think it is good to show a different kind of fashion -- creating style just by combining pieces. It's a chance to see new possibilities in clothing that you may not otherwise consider," said BJ Daniels. "And, of course, the best part is: you are helping people who really need it." BJ Daniels is also the official master of ceremonies of Street Beat.

The voice of the fashion show is Sister Cashbox. Also responsible for the murals

on the walls in Survival/Revival, she does the fashion commentary. A sense of humor and poetry are the foundation of her performance.

"I try to mix the funny, the trashy, the sophisticated and the extreme to bring the new," said Sister Cashbox. "For me, fashion is more than models walking around and changing their outfits, it's a mood."

The name of the event -- Street Beat -- was created by Sister Cashbox, inspired by music from the streets. "I believe in the musical trend that comes from the urban environment, the flavor of the streets," said Sister Cashbox. "And it's good that we can combine all of this with a project that helps people with AIDS."



### Model of Sympathy

Sixteen models -- 4 men and 12 women -- will perform during Street Beat -- all volunteers. But the volunteers do not end there. Also volunteering their time and/or services the evening of the event are: the band BLEED, singer Marie Elene, BJ Daniels, Sister Cashbox, Miss Gay Wisconsin '97-Kenya Moore and staff members from Beauty Salon and The Skin Institute and Day Spa, donating hair styling and makeup for all the models and performers.

Other donations for the event include: the lights for the stage provided by Mainstage Theatrical Supply, Inc.; the runway provided by Midwest Scenic; alcoholic refreshments provided by Miller Brewing; soda provided by Pepsi; poster design by Jerry Fortier; 400 printed posters provided by "On Demand." And, of course, all the clothing in the shop and worn by the models for the fashion show were donated by the community.

"To organize an event like this fashion show is very emotional. People don't need to help, but they want to. I think that is why Street Beat is becoming bigger and bigger each time," declared Fortier.

The Street Beat fashion show extravaganza will be April 5 at 8:00 p.m. at Survival/Revival, 246 East Chicago Street, in the Historic Third Ward. Tickets are \$6 for students and \$8 for the general public. For more information call (414) 291-2856.

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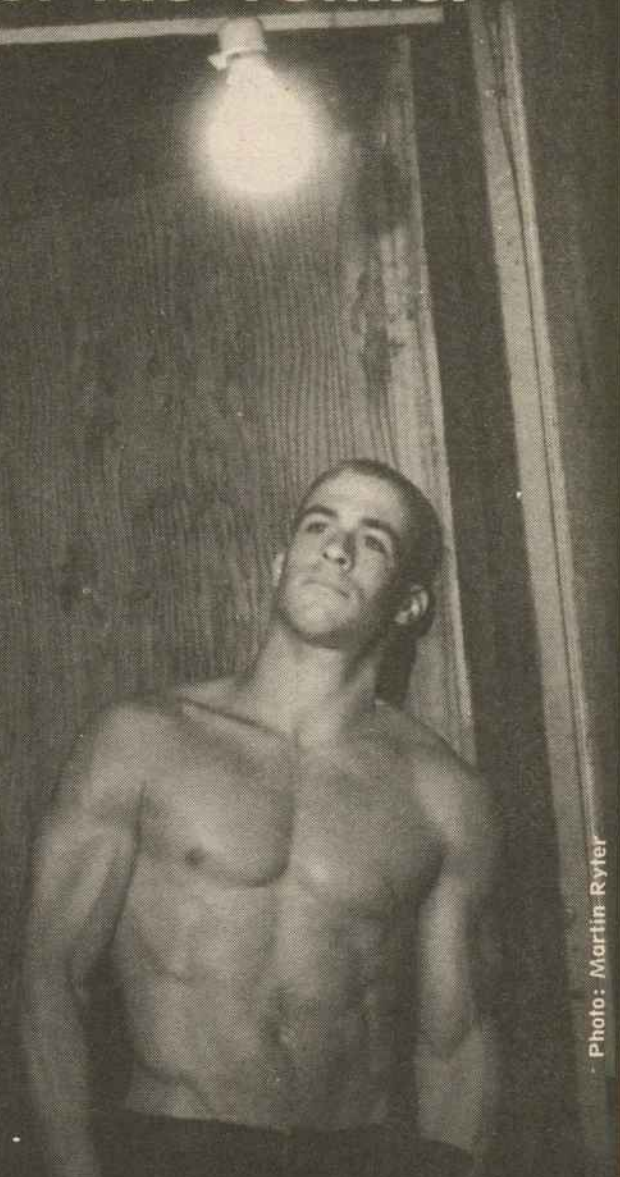


Photo: Martin Ryter

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## Women Across the Country to Take Back the Trails

Madison—Last year, on Memorial Day Weekend, hikers Lollie Winans, 26, and Julianne Williams, 24, were murdered on the Appalachian Trail in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia. Both were avid outdoorswomen, experienced and accustomed to life on the trail. Their assailant is still unknown.

Although murder is uncommon in the wilderness, other women have been violently harmed in national parks and forests, and continue to be harassed.

"Take Back the Trails," a national hiking event sponsored by the Women's Professional Group of the Association for Experiential Education, is being organized to encourage women to hike, backpack and participate in outdoor activities to end violence in the wilderness against women.

"Take Back the Trails" is a grassroots effort to put as many women in the parks and forests as possible for any length of time this Memorial Day Weekend. The goal is at least 30,000 women. Activities will be organized in all 50 states to call attention to the violence against women in the outdoors.

A local gathering is currently being organized for the Madison community. The event will take place the weekend before Memorial Day. This gathering will commemorate Julie and Lollie, and encourage people to "hit the trails" the following weekend.

If you are interested in helping to promote "Take Back the Trails" or would like more information, the local contact is Tamar Zick at Isthmus Psychotherapy and Psychiatry: (608) 256-6570, ext. 2.

**SOFTBALL**  
Continued from Page 1

keep those traditions alive on behalf of the Community. We feel this new logo reflects that renewed commitment," Nelson said.

The new logo will be first featured on new, long-sleeve, teal green T-shirts being sold by the league during the winter. All teams will be afforded the opportunity of having the logo embroidered on their uniform sleeves for the upcoming season. The new logo will appear on all SSBL posters, mastheads, and other literature from this point on.

"We really are proud that this uniquely Milwaukee identification will be seen throughout the United States as teams travel for tournaments and teams come here to Milwaukee for tournaments this year," said Assistant Commissioner Bob Melig.

Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year in 1997, SSBL calculates that it has been home to, and host for tournaments for more than 10,000 people from Milwaukee and from more than 30 cities in the U.S. and Canada.

The League plays at Sijon Field in Bayview from May through August. Ten teams are expected for 1997 League play. Both men and women compete, playing 2 games each Saturday.

SSBL was a founding member of NAAGA, the National Coordinating body of Gay/Lesbian softball. The League has hosted two World Series. In 1997, the League will host, not only the Memorial Day Milwaukee Classic, but also on Labor Day, the MIST tournament featuring teams from Cleveland, Columbus, Detroit, and Cincinnati as well as other Midwest cities.

Persons interested in playing or joining a Booster Club, may call the SSBL 24 hour hotline at (414) 454-9204 for more information.

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# Batman and Robin; Being a Houseboy Among the Rich and Famous

By Ernie Brownlee

The other day, I read a story in the Internet written by a man who said he had been a houseboy. He said that some, including his those, like him, who had been houseboys, might be "shocked" at his writing about his experiences. Au contraire. I wasn't shocked or offended at all. I thought it was great that he was willing to tell his story. It brought back memories of my own life, and I thought Wisconsin Light's readers might be interested in my tale.

I lived with my parents in wealthy suburb of a city in upstate New York. I had the best of everything; nice house, expensive clothes, the best school. For my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday my father had promised to get me a car.

All that came to an end one evening when my parents came home early from wherever they'd been. They found my best friend Tom and me in the livingroom, buck naked, going down on each other.

They threw Tom out and both got on the phone to tell Tom's parents what had happened. I overheard them say that both Tom and I belonged in mental institutions; that we needed professional help; and that they planned to send me to a military school.

I wanted none of that and ducked out the back door. Fortunately, I had a little money with me. I spent that night on the Greyhound bus heading for New York City. I have never seen or talked to my parents again.

Manhattan can be overwhelming—especially in the winter and it's raining, as it was. It can be especially frightening if you're a kid, you're hungry, you have no money and have never been there before.

I had no idea what I was going to do or how I would make my way. I don't mind admitting it now. I was scared shitless. All I knew for certain was that I didn't want to go back. What I'd face there would be a shrink's couch—or worse.

There was a guy in the bus station—the Port Authority, they call it—who saw how bewildered I was and invited me to go home with him. He'd give me a meal and a place to sleep, he told me. I went with him. I knew enough to know it was dangerous, but I went anyhow.

He was an older man, in his fifties, I think. His name was "Mike." He turned out to be a decent sort, giving me food and a bed. Sure we had sex, but that was okay. The next morning, he gave me a hundred dollar bill and sent me on my way.

I guess that's when I decided that if I could make \$100 with one man for sex, I could do the same again—and again. I became a hustler.

This was in the days before AIDS, so I didn't have to worry about that. All I had to be concerned about was turning the next trick—and I turned a lot of them, an awful lot of men.

There were clubs where hustlers hung out, many of them no older than me. There was no problem getting in. I made a lot of friends among the "hustler fraternity." Some of them had a "Daddy," in other words, a pimp. Some worked "freelance." But no matter which, they exchanged valuable information.

For example, they knew which tricks were to be avoided and which ones paid the best. Most importantly, they could "smell" a cop a mile away. Drugs? Sure, they were around, but I stayed away from them. Most of my friends did too.

One of the things I learned from my friends was about houseboys. What a houseboy did was cook, clean, and be a companion for plays, movies, travel, that sort of thing. At the same time, the houseboy provided sex whenever it was needed. For that, I was told, you could make thousands of dollars. I was immediately interested.

A friend of mine who was already working as a houseboy referred me to a guy who was looking for one. I gave him a call.

His name was "George" (I'm sure you'd recognize the correct name). We met in a restaurant for dinner and hit it off right away.

He had a wife who he'd married for appearances, he told me. She lived outside the city, while he kept an apartment in Manhattan. If I took the job, he said, I was expected to be "super discreet," which meant dressing and acting appropriately at all times.

Publicly, I was to be his houseboy. Every-

one would "know" the truth, George said, but as long as nothing was said, people would ignore the reality of the other "services" I was to provide him.

Without hesitation, I accepted the job.

I took care of all the household chores. As time went by and I learned more about his life, I took on the task of being his social secretary as well. I handled all his parties (he gave some fabulous parties, believe me), got theater tickets, made his dinner reservations (at the very best restaurants), and more.

Sometimes he would tease me and tell I was playing "Robin" to his "Batman." The only thing different was that we shared the same bed.

I even got to know his wife. She knew what I was to her husband, but she didn't seem to care. Believe it or not, we became friends. She was a pretty woman who did not lack for men—and a woman every now and then, she told me once.

George and I traveled together, to California, Florida (he had homes in both places), Europe and the Far East. I saw many things, met many people and learned an awful lot.

I "worked" for George for over five years. All that time, I never lacked for a thing. I even think he grew to love me in his own way. But it all had to end. I had dreams of my own I wanted to fulfill.

Finally, I told him that I wanted to quit. I wanted to get my high school diploma and go to college. He was sad about it all, but conceded that getting my education was the best thing for me. He said that as a sort of severance pay, he would pay for it all—and he did.

That was many years ago. George and I have remained good friends and have kept in touch, although less frequently as the years have gone by. I guess that's why I'm writing this to you now. It's not only because of the story I read on the Internet. The holidays are here and I've just gotten a card from him with his usual little note. He wants me to come to California for a visit. Maybe I will.

So that's my story about being a houseboy. Would I recommend it? Yes, I think I would. I'm not saying that my situation was typical, but I can tell you this. During the time that I was George's houseboy, I met others very much like myself, doing the same thing.

Certainly life as a houseboy is better, far better than being a hustler. I should know.

What I would advise is that if you want to be a houseboy, research the role. Treat it as any other job. Get to know your employer. Understand what work is involved and what you must give up to do that work. Keeping a house or apartment is not, I can tell you, a part-time job.

It doesn't hurt either if you're good looking and decently built. Stay away from all forms of drugs, and learn to flirt with and flatter your employer's friends. It makes them feel good—and makes your employer look good.

And these days, I understand, many times being a houseboy is just housework. There are women and men out there who want a live-in "butler," and nothing more.

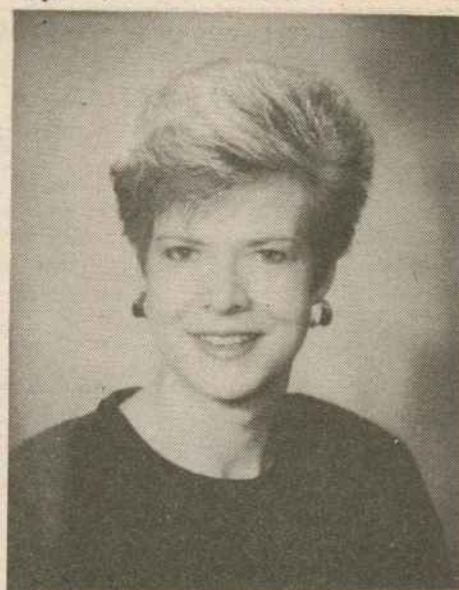
That's about it. I imagine, if you print this, you'll get letters from people who will be upset, but they'll get over it. I know one thing: I survived.

**BALDWIN**  
Continued from Page 1

seek another term.

Klug's announcement has created a flurry of activity in Madison political circles as potential successors from both parties move to line up support. But Baldwin may have gotten the jump on them. "I was in the right place at the right time," she said.

Baldwin said that she had two days of meetings in Washington during the same weekend that Klug made his announcement. "I came back to Madison on Sunday and saw the banner headline 'Klug Is Not Going to Run Again.' I had no inkling that he was not going to run. It was great fortune. In view of Klug's announcement, peo-



Rep. Tammy Baldwin

ple I had met with in Washington have been calling and saying 'It's an open seat Tammy go for it.'

With a few exceptions, however, those national groups are not likely to weigh into the race until after the primary. Baldwin understands that to win the primary she must get support from within the District.

Baldwin also revealed that she had considered making a run for Klug's seat in 1996. "I spent about a month analyzing it," she said. Baldwin decided not to make that race because of the difficulties in ousting an incumbent.

Should Baldwin win the Democratic primary she would have an excellent chance to win the general election. The Second Congressional District is the most Democratic leaning district represented by a Republican anywhere in the country.

While there have been several openly Gay Congressional Representatives, there have been no open Lesbians in Congress. Furthermore those Gay men who have been elected did not run as openly Gay candidates. They were outted after their election.

Last year for the first time, there were three openly Gay and Lesbian candidates making an initial bid for Congress. Two Gay men, one in California and one Oklahoma lost in the general election, a Lesbian State Senator in Maine narrowly lost in her primary.

To those who might say that an openly Gay or Lesbian candidate can not win a seat in Congress Baldwin answers "As long as we have discrimination in our society, being non male, non white and non heterosexual will always be an issue for any candidate who has any of those characteristics. If we want a Congress that is not all white, all male and all heterosexual, we must recognize that your representative doesn't always have to look like you in order to represent you well."

Baldwin realizes that she will have to work hard to win. "There are two very different races that have to be won, the primary and the general election, both are going to require an intensive amount of work."

To win the election she must win the primary. In order to do that she has to convince Democrats that she is the strongest candidate.

"Certainly there are people who will vote on principle and vote their heart. But there is a great sector out there who will vote based on their desire to have this seat in the D column. I have to convince everyone of these people that I am the winning candidate."

When asked how those favoring her candidacy can help Baldwin responded

"There will be much to be done, but its absolutely doable, but only if we exert a lot of energy and we first and foremost recognize that we have an irreplaceable resource like the time we have. The closer we get to election day the less renewable that resource is."

Baldwin added "It will be an expensive race, financial support is important, but I will run a campaign that will allow everyone to be a part of the team no matter what their financial resources are.

Reaction to Baldwin's potential candidacy has been uniformly positive. National and local activists were universally supportive.

Typical of their reactions were statements by Madison activist Mark Pocan who called a Baldwin candidacy "A very exciting prospect. Tammy would an excellent Congresswoman for all the people of the district."

Baldwin did not set a time table for making a formal announcement of her candidacy. Before taking that final step Baldwin said she wanted to assess the field "I wouldn't be surprised if we didn't have clarity on that until early 1998"

Meanwhile she says "I am hitting the ground running."

If and when Baldwin's candidacy becomes official, it would be only the second time an openly Lesbian candidate ran for Congress.

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## Organizations

**Galano Club** A social club serving the recovering Gay and Lesbian community. Regularly scheduled AA, NA and Al-anon, ACOA and other 12 step meetings. Openly nightly, 2408 N. Farwell Ave., (414) 276-6936 x

**National Gay Pilots Association** welcomes all aviation enthusiasts. Newsletter, Events, Personals  
NGPA, Dept. MKE PO Box 27542  
Washington, DC 20038-2742  
(703) 660-3852 n

**MIDWEST MALE NUDIST GATHERING** Get naked and have fun with 150 men June 11-15 near Kansas City. Send SASE to: MMNG, Box 52, Big Lake, MN, 55309. <http://members.aol.com/mmmngsite/index.html>

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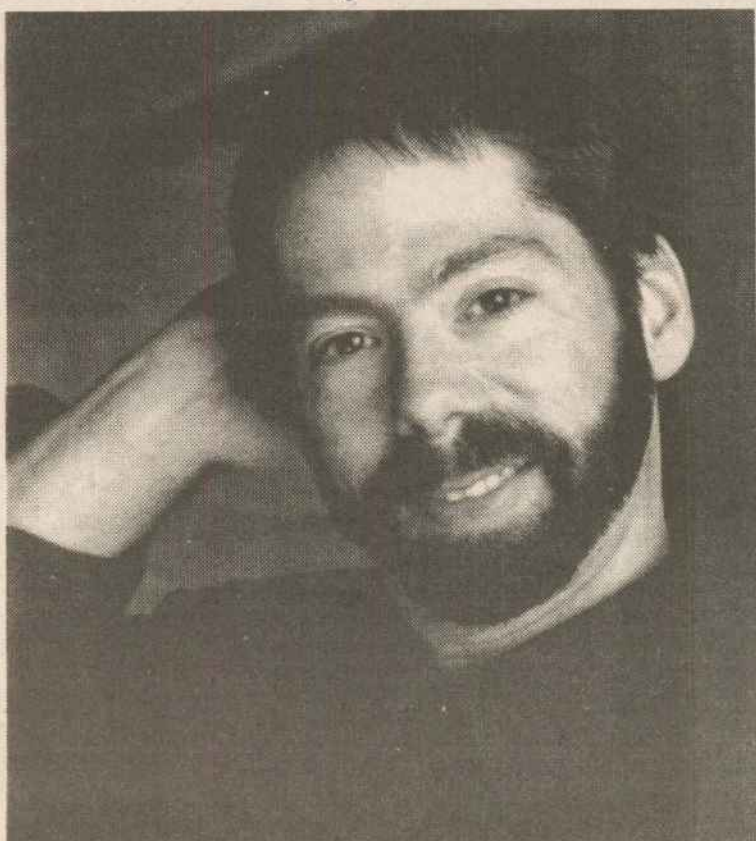




# SPOTLIGHT



## Talking to the Stars



Fred Hersch

### Openly Gay, HIV+ Jazz Pianist Fred Hersch is a Folder Within A Folder

By Jeffrey L. Newman

Fred Hersch lives life through the music he creates. He is a musician's musician, delving into introspective places that only few artists can and having a vision that transcends the boundaries of any one musical genre to produce colorful and vibrant movement.

With 14 solo recordings and more than 60 collaborative recordings to his credit, the jazz pianist has won praise from his peers for his innovative genius and prolific style. He has also earned himself two Grammy nominations.

"Music is the focus for everything in my life. It's the thing that means the most to me," says the 41-year old composer and pianist. "As a pianist I'm more in the jazz realm than anything else. But I also play classical and work with various vocalist. I also pull from various other places like R&B, Motown, the Beatles. I compose a fair amount myself in different idioms. Jazz piano is just the hub of the wheel."

Though he has been playing profes-

sionally for nearly two decades, Hersch gained substantial media attention two years ago when he disclosed that he was HIV positive.

"I'm a folder within a folder. I'm a music pianist who happens to be Gay who happens to be HIV positive—in that order," he says. "I decided that if I am going to be an artist with any kind of integrity, I couldn't waste energy in any closet, 97% gay or HIV. But I'll always be a musician before anything else."

These days, Hersch is enjoying the success of two recently released and critically acclaimed recordings, the stellar "Passion Flower: Fred Hersch Plays Billy Strayhorn" and "Fred Hersch Plays Rodgers & Hammerstein," both on Atlantic/Nonesuch Records.

A master technician, Hersch sparkles on both sets, which he produced, arranged and orchestrated. Much of his impact stems from tonal nuance, his gift for

Turn to **HERSCH**, Page 28

### AfterWords Bookstore Inaugurates Community Give-Back Program

**Milwaukee**--Ten-percent takes on a whole new meaning with the introduction of **AfterWords' 10 Percent Club**, the new "community give back" program at AfterWords Bookstore & Espresso Bar.

For a \$10 yearly fee, participating customers will receive five-percent off of any purchase while an additional five-percent will be donated to the local Gay, Lesbian or AIDS-related organization of the customer's choosing.

In addition to the five-percent discount and community organization donation, members of the **AfterWords' 10 Percent Club** will receive a distinctive AfterWords book bag plus special mailings throughout the year and exclusive "members only" sales.

The "community give back" program began March 21, 1997. It is AfterWords' way of thanking its customers for their patronage and thanking "the community organizations" for their ongoing efforts.

"We wanted to do something for all of

our loyal customers," said Carl Szatmary, AfterWords owner. "We hope that our 10 Percent Club will benefit both our customers and also our community."

Customers will have the choice of the many and varied community organization in the Milwaukee area. AfterWords many state-wide customers will be given the opportunity to choose organizations from their communities as well.

Since opening on July 9, 1993, AfterWords has specialized in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Literature, in addition to offering a wide range of magazines, newspapers, cards, T-Shirts, Music Cassettes and CDs, Video and an assortment of other Gift Items.

In July of 1996 AfterWords went on-line with a fabulous web-site designed by Milwaukee-based firm, Telekinetics.

For more information on the "community give back program," call AfterWords at (414) 963-9089.

### Milwaukee's SSBL Gears Up For 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season

By Dusty Sass

The Saturday Soft Ball League (SSBL) is gearing up for its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season.

Several hundred players are expected to play in this year's league. Games will be held at Sijan Field in Milwaukee's Bay View neighborhood.

League play is expected to begin Saturday, April 26. Games are played on Saturday afternoons. The league is expecting between 8 and 10 teams to play this year.

The SSBL is one of Gay and Lesbian Milwaukee's finest organizations and a source of recreation and entertainment to help fill up your summer with fun.

This year the SSBL will be the host for two tournaments, the Milwaukee Classic, held over the Memorial Day Weekend and MIST, the Midwest Invitational Softball Tournament held over the Labor Day weekend. MIST includes teams from Milwaukee, Detroit, Columbus, Cleveland and Milwaukee.

At least one new team, Mama's Kids sponsored by Mama Roux, 1875 N. Humboldt, will be joining the SSBL this year.

"We are very excited about joining one of the best Gay leagues in the country.

This is going to fun," said Mama Roux manager Joe St. Claire, who adds, "Anyone who wants to sign up can stop in."

Other teams in the area are also looking for new players. Stop by your favorite sponsor and sign up or call the SSBL's 24 hour hotline (414) 454-9204. A get acquainted meeting for new players will be held on Saturday, April 5, prior to the League meeting.

The SSBL is steeped in history. It was one of the first Gay softball leagues in the country. It has hosted three world series, including the first ever Lesbian World Series in 1985, and 17 other softball tournaments. The Milwaukee Classic, formerly the Wreck Room Classic, was the first Gay Softball Tournament in the country.

In addition to adding a new tournament to its home schedule, The SSBL has another new feature this year, the SSBL Booster Club. The Booster Club gives non players a chance to support the SSBL. Booster Club members will have a membership card, free admittance to SSBL events, and other benefits. For more information on the Booster Club call (414) 454-9204.

### Brash Comic, Lea DeLaria, to Headline PrideFest on Saturday, June 7

**Milwaukee**--Okay, so she might not be the girl you want to bring home to mother, but please feel free to bring mother with you to PrideFest the evening of June 7<sup>th</sup>, as Lea DeLaria takes center stage by storm Saturday night. Not that anything she says will shock you as we've all had those same thoughts before, but DeLaria is bold enough to say those things out loud—on stage—and in front of thousands of people. She's a "Big Dyke," and proud of it.

DeLaria is not the "girl next door." In fact, she's not even allowed in the neighborhood. She is a stand-up comic, musician, actor and civil rights activist whose brash comedic style has landed her in the national spotlight that included the first appearance of an openly Gay comic on national television via "The Arsenio Hall Show," and as host Comedy Central's first all-Gay special, "Out There."

DeLaria now can be seen as the recurring character Detective Pat Poletti on ABC's "Matlock" and on NBC's "The John Larroquette Show" as Loreli the bartender. And sharp eyes will pick her out in the movie **First Wives Club**, with Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn and Diane Keaton.

Her professional career began as soon as she was able to leave Bellville. DeLaria moved to San Francisco and started performing immediately. She joined a local women's theater where she wrote plays and acted, while working in construction to pay the bills.

DeLaria's first stand-up gig was in April, 1992. She immediately became a hit in the LGBT community with her combination of brash in-your-face humor and melodic bee-bop jazz. She played to audiences across the country and became an award-winning favorite.

The alternative press began noticing DeLaria with articles in **Paper**, **The Village Voice** and **MS**. She won a regional Emmy Award for a series entitled "The World According to US," which aired on Boston's WGBH.

The visibility of Lesbians led to a segment on ABC's "20/20" about the Lesbian community in North Hampton, Massachusetts, which included a portion of DeLaria's stand-up acts. Appearances on "The Arsenio Hall Show" and Comedy Central quickly followed as well as a Christmas show on Great Britain's Channel 4.

## AFTERWORDS 10% CLUB

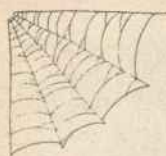
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# DUSTY'S CORNER

## Owners of Wausau's Madhatter Bar Lay Out the Welcome Mat State-Wide

Interview by Dusty Sass

*In Wausau underneath the veneer of a nearly solidly white, straight community, there beats a lavender rhythm. It is the same beat that is seen in countless small towns around the nation, a courageous beat, a festive beat, a friendly beat, a beat of Gay and Lesbian life.*

*Just as it is in so many other small towns, the lifeblood of that beat is a local Gay and Lesbian bar. In Wausau that bar is called the Madhatter. Located in the heart of the downtown area, the bar is the pride and joy of Anne Bruno and her partner of five years Vicki.*

*I was fortunate enough to spend a Sunday evening there, the night before the Anti-Gay marriage bill hearing that was held a few miles away. The Madhatter stands as evidence of the oft stated fact that we are everywhere.*

*More than that it stands as a welcoming beacon for Gays and Lesbians, who without its presence would not where to go. I was more than happy to have the chance to interview the owners, I was proud.*

\*\*\*

**DS:** Does your ability to draw people from all over give you a sense of pride?

**Vicki:** Yes, you know there a lot more people in Wausau that are Gay who are in the closet. If this was Milwaukee, this bar would be packed every night, but there are a lot of closet cases in this area.

**DS:** So if you're up here in business in the great northwoods of Wisconsin, you should stop in at the Madhatter and have a great time?

**Anne:** You bet, yeah sure. Glad to have you.

**DS:** What kind of community exists up here outside of the Madhatter and CWAN (the local AID.S. Service Organization)?

**Anne:** We're it. Other than going to Point for the 10% society at the university, we are it.

**DS:** Does that put pressure on you because you know how important the bar is the community?

**Anne:** We always want to have something for Wausau. We want to make sure that people have a safe place to go to. Isn't that the way all people who have Gay bars



Madhatter Owners Vicki and Anne

Bill Meunier

**Dusty Sass:** How long have you owned the Madhatter?

**Anne:** Six years.

**DS:** So why did you decide to go into the Gay bar business up in Wausau?

**Anne:** Well the last owners were going out of business and no else wanted to open up a Gay bar, so I just picked up the baton to make sure we had a Gay bar in Wausau. We have had a Gay bar in Wausau since 1974.

**DS:** Why did the last owners want to leave?

**Anne:** Bar burnout. It was just their time to leave.

**DS:** Obviously it's different running a Gay bar in a small town like this versus a big city, where attitudes may be more liberal. Have you had a lot of problems with the town?

**Anne:** Our problems only come from white middle class children who follow what they're taught in their homes and give us problems.

**DS:** What do you mean how they are taught in their homes?

**Anne:** They're not taught tolerance. A great deal of effort primarily on being a white community. Within the last 10 years we've only had some integration with Asians and a few African Americans. So they're not used to differences.

**DS:** Do you have a big staff?

**Anne:** Our staff consists of Vicki and I. We are small owner operated. Our customers come in to see us. We're a home-town bar.

**DS:** How long have you two been together?

**Anne:** Five years.

**DS:** How many people live in Wausau?

**Anne:** They say on the sign its 34,000. With surrounding communities it's up to about 75,000.

**DS:** So how many people would you get in here on busy night?

**Anne:** It ranges anywhere from 50 to 200.

**DS:** Do they come just from Wausau or further away?

**Anne:** Oh they come from Wausau, but also from Rhinelander, Eau Claire, Green Bay, Stevens Point and even further. We have a lot of people who are business people who come here.

or Gay groups feel? Believe me If I were in it for the money, I would have been gone a long time ago.

**DS:** Does running a bar with your partner put a strain on your relationship?

**Anne:** No not at all.

**Vicki:** We spend a lot of time together. It's good to get away for a few hours or so, but we like being together.

**DS:** Does it bring you closer together maybe?

**Anne:** I guess so. We're just a very strong couple. Our relationship is built on trust. We have strong relationship, a good understanding of each other.

**DS:** So where did you guys meet?

**Vicki:** A bar.

**DS:** Which one?

**Anne:** The Platwood in Stevens Point.

**DS:** So what do you like best about owning the Madhatter?

**Vicki:** We meet a lot of nice people. Yeah, we meet a few real butt heads, but we meet a lot of nice people. It's given us some opportunities we wouldn't have otherwise, like getting involved with ROW, Rainbow Over Wisconsin.

**DS:** What are you doing with ROW?

**Vicki:** I work on the picnic and I do a lot of the entertainment and Annie does security.

**DS:** Do you have a lot of problems up here with Gay bashing or whatever.

**Vicki:** I'd say in a year we might have at most one or two incidents. We have a good relationship with the police. If we ever have a problem, the cops are here in a matter of minutes.

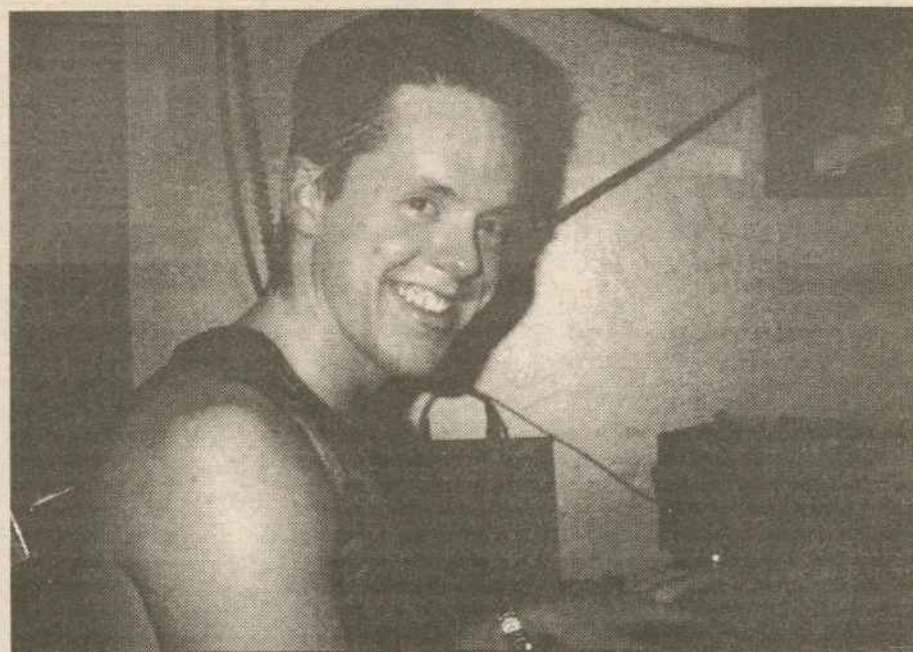
**DS:** What do you do for fun and excitement? You have no bartenders other than yourselves so you always have to be here. You don't have any life outside of the bar.

**Anne:** Vicki is a performer so she goes out of town and performs a great deal. She dances, lipsyschs, she was Ms. Gay Wisconsin.

**Vicki:** I also sew. Plus every year we go to the Renaissance fairs in different states. That's our only vacation.

**DS:** Since you have no bartenders don't you have to close the bar when you leave?

Turn to MADHATTER, Page 26



Bill Meunier

Hunks of the North - While in Wausau for the hearing on AB 104, our photographer captured more than a few good looking men on the north on film at Wausau's Madhatter Gay bar. Now we know what they mean by "Cabin Fever."





The Gutzman troupe in rehearsal for "Space Gypsies."

## Gutzman Brings World Premiere of "Space Gypsies" to Milwaukee Stage

**Milwaukee**—For those looking for an exciting new theater experience in Milwaukee, Dale Gutzman, who is already known as Milwaukee's most innovative and sometimes outrageous director, is bringing a unique world premiere to Vogel Hall.

**Space Gypsies** is a show written by a Milwaukee native, Ross Quint. Quint finished writing the play in New York City almost 25 years ago. The day he completed it, he died. The work has never been seen.

Helen Quint, Ross's mother, has been trying ever since her son's death to get the piece produced. Now, at last, thanks to Gutzman, Ross Quint's vision of the future will be seen.

And what a vision it is, too! After the complete collapse of the world as we know it, small tribal groups of wanderers live a primitive existence. A stranger arrives in their midst, bringing with him rituals that reveal memories of the past. Through these rituals, the tribe and the audience explore why our civilization crumbled and try to fortify against a similar future.

The play includes song, dance, comedy, drama, and, of course, love. The young

actors in the cast of 11 also had to learn how to fight with spears.

Gutzman has worked hard on the design of the show. He bought hand woven material back from Thailand for the costume pieces. The cast of the show resembles aboriginal tribesmen, with mud on their hair and bodies, and very brief clothing. Not a word of dialogue is spoken for the first 45 minutes of the show; instead, the tribe communicates through gestures and grunts. The later portion of the play shifts to sophisticated dialogue between men and computers.

The cast of this unusual play includes Karl Miller, Braden Moran, Michael Fromme, Lawrence Lukasavage, Ellen Klawuhn and Annie Mater. Some exciting new talent appears with Gutzman, including Brad Bouda as one of the lover/warriors and Sarah Sokolovic as his love interest.

Gutzman promises that **Space Gypsies** will not only be entertaining, but enlightening as well. It plays Vogel Hall of the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts on Friday and Saturday, April 25, 26 and May 2 and 3. Tickets are \$16 and may be reserved by calling (414) 273-7206.

## MAP's Make A Promise Dinner is a Stellar Success

**Milwaukee**—The Make A Promise Dinner and Silent Auction sponsored by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) was held on Saturday, March 22, 1997, in the Grand Ball Room of Milwaukee's Pfister Hotel.

ARCW is the parent agency of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP).

The hotel, which has hosted Presidents, royalty and stars of the stage and screen, hosted over 900 guests for the affair, which benefits ARCW's AIDS education, prevention and treatment programs. MAP reported that over \$145,000 was raised.

The Master of Ceremonies for the affair was Mike Gousha, news anchor of Today's TMJ 4, one of the major sponsors of the event. There were 1126 items up for bids in the Silent Auction. These ranged from Teddy Bears to fine works of art, gift certificates to some of Milwaukee's finest restaurants to trips to Cancun, Mexico.

As in other years, ARCW presented its Rose Awards to those who have given meritorious service in the fight against AIDS. The three community service Red Rose Awards pictured below are: (l-r) Barbara Whitmore, ARCW Board member, presenting the Award to Janice Hand,

Wisconsin HIV Primary Care Support Network; Thomas Reed, ARCW Board member presenting to Bret F. Ballinger, Groupware Technologies; Dr. Brian Buggy MD, presenting to Cris Ros-Dukler, UPC Health Network/Stein Home Health, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Region.

## New Theatre Company to Make Its Debut

**Milwaukee**—Local producer and director Dale Gutzman, along with M&M Club owner Bob Schmidt, is starting a new experimental theatre group called "Off The Wall Productions."

Unique and vital plays of interest to the Gay community will be presented in intimate surroundings. The first production slated for early summer, will be **Bent**, Martin Sherman's explosive drama about Gays in Nazi concentration camps.

Gutzman is looking for interested actors, including a singing drag queen and an actor to play a young Nazi. The show includes violence and some nudity.

Actors interested in the productions should call Dale Gutzman at (414) 466-4049.

# ARCW'S MAKE A PROMISE DINNER-MARCH 22, 1997

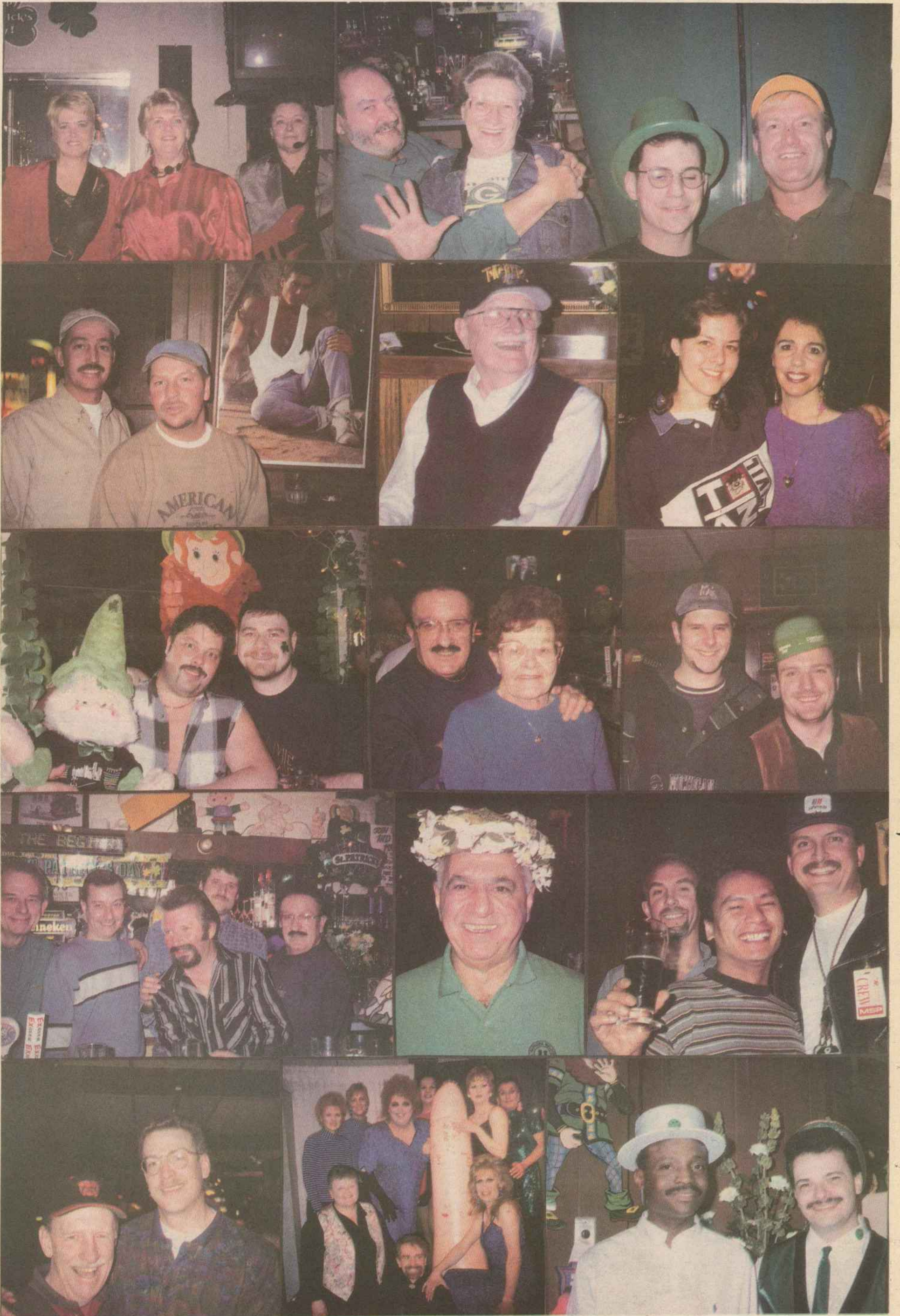
Photos by Jerry Johnson





# ST. PATRICK'S DAY WEEKEND IN MILWAUKEE

Photos by Jerry Johnson and Bill Meunier





# Out In Print



## An Intimate History of the Sex Lives of Gay Men--Postwar to Present

Review by Patricia Conklin

The recently departed Michael Callen, famed AIDS activist, musician and long-time survivor, had many admirers who now miss his passionate public expressions of sex wisdom. Callen, however, left a startling legacy among his survivor-companions. This legacy, surfacing powerfully in a new book, **Sex Between Men**, proves that a continuity of ideas and values, if not of a physical immortality, does exist.

Author Douglas Sadownick, Callen's close friend, has penned a volume resurrecting Callen's searching, vital spirit, allowing it to whisper wisely into the silences of our most intimate physical/emotional encounters.

Douglas Sadownick went regularly to the dying thinker's bedside, faithful to the end. He saw, not surprisingly, that a living mood can transcend death's blank darkness and he vowed to tell what he knew of Callen's contributions to humanity's understanding that sexual consciousness need not be staid and static, but is continuously open to an ever more powerful and satisfying awareness.

**Sex Between Men**, therefore, is more than mere theorizing about male sexuality. It is a space shuttle, packed with investigative data. The author, with a gutsy taste for futurism, talks in the tone of a non-judgmental adventurer.

From heavenly perches he sees the globe with a fond and earnest caring, sending Callen's message to other futurists who are eager to vanquish their erotic weariness. To Sadownick, there's more to our discovery of sex/affection than most ever imagine.

The message embodied in **Sex Between Men** says our approaches to sex are in a highly transformative or developmental stage. Changes had already been occurring rapidly, even before the onset of this era of AIDS.

While there's no seeming design, no deliberate cosmic plan, there does exist an extraordinary body of evidence pointing to social alterations, mutations, and modifications leading humankind to new variations as colorful and exciting as its uncounted fantasies themselves.

Sadownick knows we're being weaned away from old-fashioned sexual habits and that pressured behavioral demands melt while old rusty chains, keeping us shackled to a host of unimaginative repetitions, break.

The author's research, covering the last 50 years of Gay male behavior, strikes out toward majestic heights. Using often vivid quotes from interviewee experiences, readers recognize those faint familiar tunes they themselves have often sung.

Sadownick's interviews are cleverly arranged. At first they seem to leave readers in limbo, but the author rescues in the nick of time, finding men lonely at the baths; at a disco, breathing hard after dancing; or slumped over a bar at closing time.

From these ordinary perches, Sadownick lifts them to new levels. The panorama widens and sexual interchanges assume a new significance. Each level aims to increase—in same-sex contacts—the maximization of human affection. On one level learn of a sexual awareness that increases not only personal pleasure but the happiness of recognizable outcasts, including the bald, the effeminate, the fat, the foolish and the boring, all types too seldom included as comrades who are worthy of attention.

Any Gay man who dares to regard himself as knowledgeable about sex needs the spirited counsels that pop up regularly in this extraordinary book. Those unwilling to rethink sexual habitualism may turn away, but even so Sadownick proves an able opener for closed minds.

To men who understand sexuality as adventuresome shoots into greater spaces, **Sex Between Men** opens its shuttle doors onto alluring futureworlds, places where satisfaction continuously develops and where perplexity and defeat are perpetually diminished.

No single book about sexuality will appeal to everybody. Taste, certainly, is a matter of taste. But Sadownick gives, in the Ian Young tradition of psycho-history, a psycho social chron-icle.

There are several other major works examining masculine sex, including **Homosexual Behavior Among Males** by Wainwright Churchill and **The Geography of Perversion** by Rudi C. Bley. But when meeting today's sexual quandaries head on, one feels hard pressed to recommend a more provocative and challenging approach than Sadownick's prodigious, **Sex Between Men**.

## Out of the Dust of Adversity, Rudy Galindo Becomes a Star

Reviewed by Christine Keenen

Rudy Galindo thought this day never would come. If he ever dreamed of it, he would push the idea out of his mind. How could he win the men's national figure skating championship? How would the conservative world of figure skating ever allow an openly Gay Mexican-American to take even third place, much less the national title, he had asked aloud.

Well, it happened in 1996. Not third. But first. The national title, won in San Jose, his own home town before a raucous crowd of 10,869 that rose to its feet 15 seconds before he finished the perfect long program in San Jose Arena.

Here was Rudy Galindo, someone who was eighth last year, who never had been higher than fifth in seven national men's competitions, who was so lightly regarded that he wasn't included in the media guide, rising to beat the top skaters in the country and take the title.

In his book, **The Autobiography of Rudy Galindo**, we get to savor the glittering magic of that victory in what the **Washington Post** called "one of the grandest upsets in figure skating history."

As his book chronicles, Galindo's victory at Nationals was an unexpected (by everyone, but him) triumph in more ways than one.

He was Gay, he was poor, he was raised in an area where drugs and gangs are far more prevalent than dreams of triumphs in gold. Yet, with his father behind him and his older sister Laura, beside him, and an inner strength that he didn't know he had, Galindo beat all the odds.

The book is completely frank. Galindo is forthright about his problem with alcohol and drugs. He writes movingly about his mother's illness, his father's death from a heart attack, the deaths of two of his coaches and his older brother from AIDS. As if this weren't enough, he is plunged into the sloughs of despond when his partner, Kristi Yamaguchi, decides to leave him and go it alone, thus dashing his hopes for Olympic gold.

Despite all this, he will reach for his dream—and he will grasp it. In the process, he is true to himself, a Mexican-American, an "effeminate" Gay man.

In effective declarative prose, what comes through in this book is the portrait of a young man of tremendous courage. But one who is also incredibly tender, warm-hearted, and decent. He is a young Gay man with a fantastic capacity for love, so much so that there are times in reading the book when you want to take him in your arms and cuddle him and never let him go.

This is a book that, at times, will make you weep. At times, too, it will make you

## David Leavitt's New Book is Best Titled The Lost Language of Whiners

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Success came early to David Leavitt. Barely into his twenties Leavitt had stories published in the oh-so prestigious **New Yorker** magazine. Naturally a book came next, a collection of short stories, **Family Dancing**, which was nominated for several oh-so prestigious awards.

Quickly emerging as the darling of mainstream literary critics, David Leavitt continued to carve a name for himself with such other well-received Gay themed works of fiction as **The Lost Language of Cranes**, **Equal Affections** and **A Place I've Never Been**.

Leavitt's soaring success suddenly, dramatically stalled in 1993 with the publication of **While England Sleeps**. Unlike his early, autobiographical fiction, **While England Sleeps** was Leavitt's first attempt at historical fiction, the story of an aristocratic British writer's love affair with a working class lad in the 1930's.

The less than unanimously flattering reviews that normally accompanied each new Leavitt book quietly faded into the background with the stunning revelation that the acclaimed poet W. H. Auden was accusing Leavitt of plagiarizing his own life story.

A lawsuit ensued. Leavitt's publisher, the mammoth publishing house Viking Penguin, pulled all existing copies of **While England Sleeps**, an extraordinary

bookselling development. In modified form (as per the revisions dictated by Leavitt's settlement with Auden) a paperback version of **While England Sleeps** appeared last fall, to surprisingly little fanfare.

Why all the bio info? Such familiarity with Mr. Leavitt's career proves to be almost a prerequisite in delving into his latest literary effort, **Arkansas: Three Novellas** (Houghton Mifflin HC \$23.00).

This collection's centerpiece is "The Term Paper Writer" in which a protagonist, a writer oh-so conveniently named David Leavitt, has been hiding out at his father's house following a publishing scandal that exactly mirrors that experienced by the author David Leavitt. Suffering the malaise brought upon by this scandal, he and his writing become rejuvenated when he agrees to write term papers for UCLA male undergraduates in exchange for sex.

Nathan and Celia, two well-loved Leavitt characters dating back to his first short-story collection, **Family Dancing** return in "The Wooden Anniversary." Having grown up and grown apart, Celia and Nathan have an awkward reunion after a five year separation. Celia has changed, in ways both visible and not so visible to her friends. She has a husband, although their marriage seems loveless. She's begun a successful cooking school in Tucson despite persistently claiming no culinary gifts. Most of all, Celia has lost a tremendous amount of weight and with it, her obsession for Nathan. Nathan, on the other hand has remained Nathan.

In the collection's final story, "Saturn Street", Leavitt follows Jerry Roth, a disaffected screenwriter in Hollywood who avoids writing by spending most of his time delivering lunches to homebound AIDS patients or cruising adult bookstores looking for sex. Somewhere along his delivery route, on Saturn Street, Jerry meets and falls in love with Phil. Like most of Leavitt's characters, Jerry is unable to lower the carefully constructed barriers which guarantees his solitary existence.

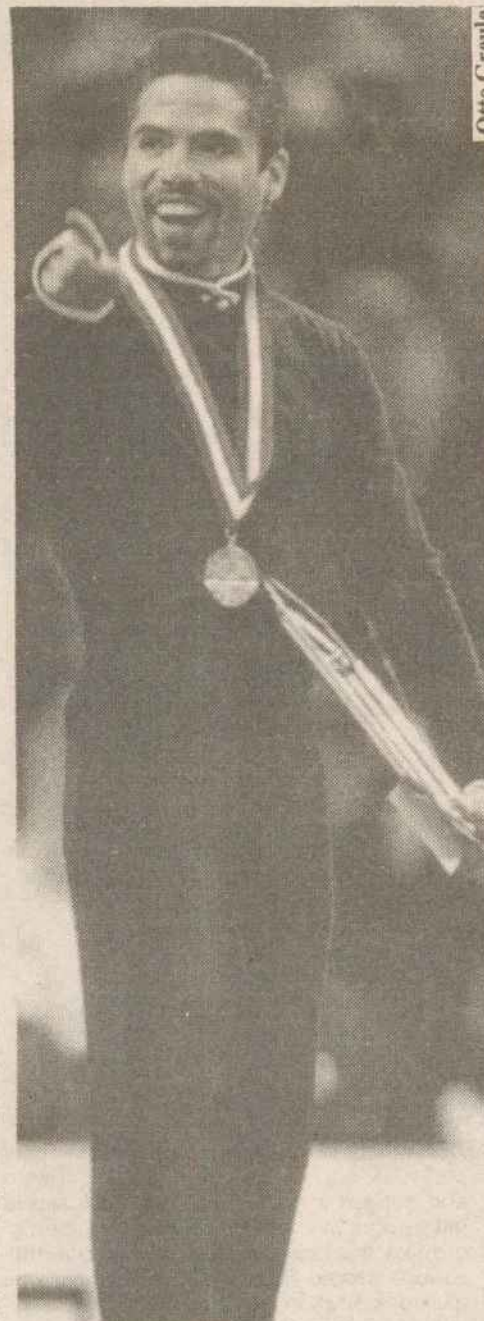
Readers who like scandal and controversy (you know who you are) are sure to find much to pique their interest in **Arkansas**, particularly in "The Term Paper Writer". Others are likely to find this collection curiously unsatisfying.

Leavitt certainly seems to enjoy teasing his readers in "The Term Paper Writer", blurring factual details of his own life with that of a fictional David Leavitt. Are we actually supposed to believe that the real David Leavitt, in the aftermath of his **While England Sleeps** scandal, bartered for sex with undergraduates or that one of these self-same undergraduates (Ben) toyed with the idea of writing a fictional account of their transaction? In the end, will anyone care?

Glenn was also struck by the striking similarities between the protagonists and the urban LA landscape of "The Term Paper Writer" and "Saturn Street." Both protagonists are writers who cannot write but rather divide their days either riding the streets of Los Angeles, listening to a radio call-in show hosted by the acerbic Dr. Delia or cruising the shelves at Circus of Books. Likewise, both protagonists seems more comfortable in anonymous phone sex rather than in real human relationships.

Leavitt places all of his characters in this rather bleak collection into a strikingly barren emotional landscape, one in which failed dreams and lost loves ominously dominate. Having reached middle age, his protagonists have acquiesced to the seductive powers of longing and regret rather than chance the potential risks in gambling in either love or career.

Leaving **Arkansas**, one cannot help but think how fortunate we are that these depressing characters are David Leavitt's friends and not ours.



Otto Greule

Rudy Galindo

feel all warm and fuzzy inside. It will make you want to meet him because after you finish the book, you will believe that you know him so well.

The book is co-authored with Eric Marcus who also co-authored the autobiography of Greg Louganis, **Breaking the Silence**.

**The Autobiography of Rudy Galindo** is just now reaching the bookstores. It should be a "must read" on everyone's list. This story of a gallant young Mexican-American athlete is too good to pass up.

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS:  
I read all about it in  
The Wisconsin Light**



# THE STATUES OF THE SACRED BAND

## Chapter 2

By Terry Boughner

Simpson had said to dig into the story and dig I did, planting myself in front of a computer and logging onto the Net.

From the beginning, Bobby Calder's disappearance had not gotten big play in the media. It had been largely eclipsed by the news of President Thomas Heyl's heart attack and his progress toward recovery. After a couple of days, when the police reported that there was no evidence of foul play, the story was dropped.

That was it, I thought. There was no conspiracy of silence here, no pressure put on reporters as Simpson seemed to believe. There just wasn't any story. The kid had disappeared, but after all, he was 18, legally an adult. So, maybe he'd just gotten fed up with his mother's homophobic crap and left. At his age, he could leave if he wanted to and never look back.

One of the things I found that interested me very much was a picture of the kid. One look from this guy and I knew my insides would feel like chocolate melting in the sun. I downloaded the picture and printed it out. I would save it.

Of all the articles I read about the case in the Post, I noticed that Mary Ann Allen's byline appeared more than any of the rest. I made a note of it. She'd be a good person to contact when I got to DC.

The last story she'd written consisted of material from an interview she'd had with the Senator in Calder's Georgetown home. The article had appeared in the Post's Sunday edition only the week before. A picture showed a good-looking woman wearing a stylish dark blue dress accented by a double strand of pearls at her throat. The caption said she'd just finished making 10 dozen of her famous butternut cookies for the "ladies group" of her church.

According to the article, the Senator had cried "copious tears" over the disappearance of her son, but her eyes were dry now, she said. She had been "buoyed up" by her need to work "for the good of my fellow Americans" and by her love of Classic Greek and Renaissance sculpture.

She was especially fond, she said, of pieces from Donatello's workshop. This was a large gathering of sculptors in 15<sup>th</sup> century Padua who worked under the master's hand. The Senator said she'd collected "quite a few" of these works.

One thing more I needed to do. That was check out the Gay papers on line. Simpson was right. There were reports of disappearances of young Gay men from the Dupont Circle area. The police said there was no evidence of foul play. The papers complained that the cops weren't doing their job, and that was about it. There was no mention of Bobby Calder at all.

It was now near two in the afternoon. I decided to cash it in and get some lunch. I left the Trib and started to cross the park, heading for Guller's little restaurant on the other side. The sun was bright, the air fresh after the rain, the wind whispered through the sycamores. A crow set up a raucous cry and then was still.

This was a town that had not changed much in a hundred years. There were still brick sidewalks and red brick streets. There were still wooden store fronts. There were still gas lights that, on special occasions, were lit. All this was maintained to attract tourists, so I'd been told, but whatever the reason, city boy though I'd always been, I loved it.

A two lane, high crowned road went from the town, heading south up the Turkeyfoot Valley. A mile out was a covered bridge over Laurel Creek. Tourists often stopped and took pictures.

I'd gotten in the habit of riding my bike out along the road. There was never much traffic. I could take my time. I'd stop to look at the mountains, Laurel Ridge to the west, Chestnut Ridge to the east. Sometimes they were hazy, sometimes bright with sun, but always brooding, always moody. I loved those ancient hills. From the moment I'd gotten here, I'd heard their siren call and knew that my soul belonged to them.

As a Gay man, could I live here? I thought so. An African-American family had recently bought a farm. The Pohns had opened a craft shop. The Lopezes had a store where they sold maple products and smoked "Virginia" ham. There was Julie Marsh and Linda Sedgwick. They had the best dairy farm in the state. These people were all accepted. Wasn't there a place for me?

The only problem I had was that I couldn't imagine any Gay man on earth

who would be willing to would give up his theatres, his concerts, his department stores and bars for lawn fetes, harvest and maple festivals and a lot of hard work? Maybe there was one, but if so, I hadn't found him yet.

I took the train out the next morning and made my way to the lounge car where I could sit, look out a window, have coffee and smoke. It wasn't crowded, just a few people sitting about. I found a seat easily enough.

My mind was wandering. It was a habit of mine, to get lost behind my eyes. Then I noticed right across the aisle from me, there was a guy sitting. He was 40-something, thin, with aesthetic features, having a look about him that was as smoothly urbane as a greasy spoon.

He stared at me, with an appreciative look, the kind of expression someone might have in a museum when confronted by some attractive piece of art. Finally, he got up, gathered his drink, walked over to me and sat down.

His name he said was Nicholas Bardi. He had come from Chicago and was on his way to Washington where he lived.

From his coat pocket, he withdraw a gold cigarette case on which his initials were traced out in tiny diamonds that glittered in the sun. Etched above the letters, was the figure of a seated lion. He opened it carefully as one might a jewel case, and held it toward me. I shook my head, refusing his offer. He took one and returned the case to his pocket, before lighting his cigarette with a lighter that was a smaller duplicate of the case.

In the meantime, I was trying to think of a polite way to get rid of him. I'd been cruised before and always found it flattering. This guy was different. He was looking at me as if he'd like to buy me, not proposition me. It gave me the creeps.

"You are going to Washington?" he asked me.

"Yes."  
"Visiting friends?"  
"Something like that."

He sipped his drink and smoked his cigarette as he continued to look at me. My coffee was growing cold. I shifted nervously in my seat. The train was slowing. We were coming into Cumberland, the first stop after Hastings. It was a dreary place, reminding me of an old washrag hung out on a line to rot.

"Look, Mr. Bardi," I began.  
He interrupted. "David—may I call you David?"  
"Whatever."

The train came to a stop. There were the sounds of doors banging open, of people getting off.

"Please do not mistake my intent," he said. "One would have to be a philistine to even think of mere physical relations to satisfy carnal lusts. That would be, dare I say it, a sacrilege. Heaven forbid."

I heard the distant "All Aboard!" The car doors clanged shut. The train started up again.

Bardi continued. "No, no, David. You should model for great artists, ones whose angelic hands could preserve your beauty forever, let your body be feast for starving eyes to the end of time."

I'd had more than enough of this and got up to leave.

"Tony, wait," he said as I stood and looked at him. The man really was creepy, slippery, slimy, reminding me somehow of green scum on a fetid, moonlit pond.

"I am fortunate enough to have a house in the Georgetown section of the city," he said, "where I hold soirees from time to time; intimate affairs, quite discreet, attended by discerning people, those who have an interest in and understanding of the arts. Could I be so bold as to think that while you are in Washington, you might accept an invitation from me?"

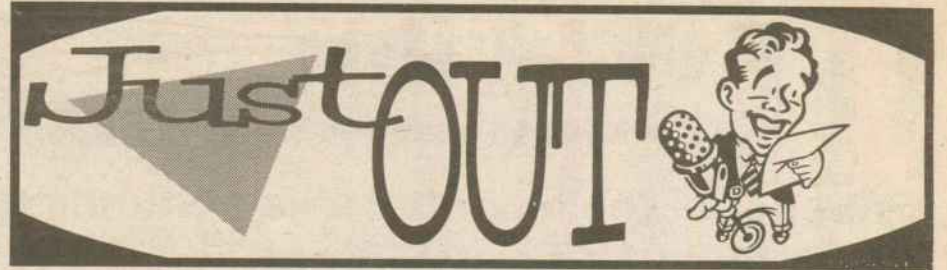
"Give me a card or something. I'll call you." It was an obvious brush-off, but he seemed to accept it at face value.

From an inside pocket of his suit coat and took out a small white business card and handed it to me. On it, in black raised letters was his name. Above it was the figure like the one I'd seen on his cigarette case, a seated lion done in gold. That was all, no indication of what he did for a living—if anything at all—nothing except for a phone number.

"Call me," he urged.  
"Yeah, sure." I left to go back to my seat in the coach, feeling like I needed to take a bath. I dozed off, to be awakened by the conductor calling out Harpers Ferry.

It would be a short stop. Forty miles on would be Silver Spring, the last stop before D.C. There, I decided, is where I'd get off and take the Metro into the city. I never wanted to lay eyes on Bardi again.

TO BE CONTINUED



## Just Out on The Book Shelf

**A Parisian From Kansas** by Philippe Tapon, Dutton HC \$23.95

In this dazzling debut novel by one of the most original writers in recent fiction, Philip Tapon has created a marvelously provocative Mobius strip of a novel. **A Parisian from Kansas** is a quixotic, erotic and thoroughly spellbinding work about expatriate life in Paris, about a writer creating a novel and about an HIV-positive American named Darren Swenson who wants to be immortalized in print by a

character named Philippe Tapon.  
**Out & About: USA Resorts & Warm-Weather Vacations** by Billy Kobler-Stuart and David Alport Hyperion Pb \$14.95

Since it first appeared in 1992, **Out & About** has been the most respected and reliable of Gay travel publications. In **USA Resorts and Warm-Weather Vacations**, Gay and Lesbian travelers are offered for the first time a complete guide to the most popular Gay vacation destinations with up-to-date insider information on accommodations, dining and nightlife, sightseeing, shopping and outdoor activities and much, much more.

**Melissa Etheridge: Our Little Secret** by Joyce Luck, ECW Press Pb \$16.95

Fans of Melissa, the First Lady/Lesbian of Rock & Roll will not want to miss this fact and photo-filled biography. From growing up in Leavenworth to rising into international stardom, **Our Little Secret** chronicles all the key events and the many people who have shared in the life and the career of Melissa Etheridge. **Our Little Secret** includes a complete Melissa discography.

**Ain't Gonna Be the Same Fool Twice** by April Sinclair, Avon Pb \$12.00

Jean "Stevie" Stevenson, the indomitable, adorable of **Coffee Will Make You Black**, is back - somewhat older, somewhat wiser and with a college degree in hand and ready to dive headfirst into the hot tub, free love, yoga, and vegetarian lifestyle of the very Gay San Francisco of the 1970's. In this liberating new world of raised consciousness, mind-expanding, disco-dancing, a soul sister with passion and daring has room to experiment with life and love to find out who she really is! A delightful coming-of-age story.

## Statues of the Sacred Band Summary



Tony Martinelli, fresh out of college, has taken a job as a reporter for a small town newspaper. His editor tells him that Senator Chris Calder's son, 18 year-old Bobby, has disappeared.

The Senator is an exceedingly powerful person and a presidential possibility. The editor is convinced that the young Gay man has been murdered and that his mother is involved. Tony is told to go to Washington, DC and find out the truth.

## AfterWords Spring Bestsellers Gay Men's Fiction

1. **Boy Culture** by Matthew Rettenmund, St. Martin's Griffin.....Pb \$10.95
2. **Naked** by David Sedaris, Little, Brown..... HC \$21.95
3. **Tales Out of School** by Benjamin Taylor, Warner Books.....Pb \$12.99
4. **Dream Boy** by Jim Grimeley, Scribner ..... Pb \$11.00
5. **Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West** by Gregory Maguire, ReganBooks..... Pb \$14.00
6. **Men on Men 6: Best New Gay Fiction** by David Bergman, Plume..... Pb \$12.95
7. **Man of the House** by Stephen McCauley, Washington Square Press... Pb \$14.00
8. **The Ethan Green Chronicles** by Eric Orner, St. Martin's Griffin.....Pb \$10.95
9. **Mad About the Boys** edited by John Patrick, STARbooks.....Pb \$14.95
10. **Shadowdance** by Robin Wayne Bailey, White Wolf..... Pb \$5.99

## Lesbian Fiction

1. **Towards Amnesia** by Sarah Van Arsdale, Riverhead Books..... Pb \$11.00
2. **Intersection Between of Law and Desire** by J. M. Redmann, Avon.....Pb \$5.99
3. **Best Lesbian Erotica 1997** by Tristan Taormino, Cleis Press Press..... Pb \$14.95
4. **Embrace in Motion** by Karin Kallmaker, Naiad Press.....Pb \$11.95
5. **(As Francesca)** by Martha Baer, Broadway Books.....HC \$22.50
6. **Amnesty** by Louise A. Blum, Alyson..... Pb \$9.95
7. **Love or Money** by Jackie Calhoun, Naiad.....Pb \$10.95
8. **The Grass Widow** by Nanci Little, Madwoman Press.....Pb \$12.95
9. **Inner Circle** by Claire McNab, Naiad.....Pb \$10.95
10. **The Wish List** by Saxon Bennett, Naiad Press.....Pb \$10.95

## Gay Men's Non-Fiction

1. **Wonder Bread and Ecstasy: The Life & Death of Joey Stepfano** by Charles Isherwood, Alyson.....Pb \$11.95
2. **Bel Ami : Intimate Friends**, Bruno Gmunder.....Pb \$39.95
3. **Couples** by John Gettings, New England.....HC \$25.00
4. **Farm Boys: Lives of Gay Men from the Rural Midwest**, collected and edited Will Fellows, University of Wisconsin Press.....HC \$27.50
5. **Damron '97**, Damron.....Pb \$13.95
6. **Breaking the Surface** by Greg Louganis, Plume.....Pb \$12.95
7. **Two Hearts Desire** edited Michael Lassell & Lawrence Schmel, St. Martin's Press.....HC \$12.00
8. **USA Resorts & Warm Weather Vacations : Out & About Gay Travel Guides**, Hyperion.....Pb \$14.95
9. **The Day We Met** edited by Jack Hart, Alyson.....Pb \$11.95
10. **My First Time: Gay Men Describe Their First Same-Sex Experiences**, edited by Jack Hart Alyson.....Pb \$10.95

## Lesbian Non-Fiction

1. **Women's Traveller '97**, Damron.....Pb \$11.95
2. **Melissa Etheridge: The Only One** by Chris Nickson, St. Martin's Griffin..Pb \$11.95
3. **The History of Lesbian Hair** by Mary Dugger, Doubleday.....Pb \$10.95
4. **Portraits of Love** edited by Susan Fox Rogers and Linda Smukler, St. Martin's Press.....HC \$12.00
5. **My Point... and I do have one** by Ellen Degeneres, Bantam.....Pb \$6.50
6. **Women's Travel in Your Pocket**, Ferrari..... Pb \$14.00
7. **Melissa Etheridge: Our Little Secret** by Joyce Luck, ECW.....Pb \$16.95
8. **Between Us: A Legacy of Lesbian Letters**, edited by Kay Turner, Chronicle Book.....HC \$17.95
9. **Virtual Equality** by Urvashi Vaid, Anchor Books.....Pb \$14.95
10. **Early Embraces: True-Life Stories of Women Describing Their First Lesbian Experience** edited by Lindsey Elder, Alyson..... Pb \$11.95



# OUT on Film

## 'Prisoner of the Mountains' is a Stunning Adaptation of a Tolstoy Story

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Competing for screen space (not to mention audience) with the mammoth *Star Wars* epics and the shameless, adolescent mugging of Jim Carrey, a terrific little foreign film like *Prisoner of the Mountains* doesn't seem to have much of a chance and that's a damn shame.

Loosely based on a Leo Tolstoy short story, *Prisoner of the Caucasus*, written over 150 years ago, Sergei Bodrov's cinematic adaptation proves to be just as fresh and topical today's newspaper headlines.

The story is astonishingly yet deceptively simple. When local rebels ambush a small troop of Russian soldiers, two are taken captive: Sacha (Oleg Menshikov) and Vania (Sergei Bodrov, Jr.). Rebel leader Abdoul-Mourat (Jemal Sikharulidze) hopes to exchange these captured soldiers for his son who is currently being held in a Russian jail.

Much of the film's early focus is on the relationship of the two captured soldiers, different as night and day but forced to get along because of the chain that shackles them together.

Sacha is the older, the more worldly of the two, an experienced soldier who expects the worst and who is ready to kill his jailers, however sympathetic, if escape seems within their grasp. While Sacha initially seems to hold the young, innocent Vania in contempt, their relationship effortlessly moves to that of an older and a younger brother.

For inexplicable reasons, the exchange doesn't come off as planned. Frustrated, Abdoul-Mourat instructs his two captives

to write to their mothers, hoping that family intervention might rule the day. Sacha, an orphan has no mother but Vania's mother, a teacher, quickly descends upon the Russian garrison.

Vania's mother cannot persuade the garrison's commander, a man too mistrustful of the rebels and too unwilling to act against orders. Undaunted, Vania's mother sets out to plead with her son's captor.

Bodrov places his story within a near fairytale landscape, a breathtakingly beautiful mountain region. If not for the fighting, it is possible to imagine that the little village Abdoul-Mourat takes the soldier to has been forgotten by time.

Sergei Bodrov effectively offers his anti-war message in *Prisoner on the Mountains* without resorting to cardboard characters or conventional plotting. Nothing is black or white, there are no villains, at least not villains in the Hollywood sense of the word.

Particularly impressive is Bodrov's use of non-professional actors for all roles except that of the two soldiers. Especially appealing is Susanna Mekhralieva as Dina, Abdoul-Mourat's twelve year-old daughter who befriends the two soldiers.

*Prisoner on the Mountains* is a marvelous film, a simple and poignant story exquisitely told. Do not miss it.

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

Nominated for the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, *The Prisoner of the Mountain* is now playing at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater.



Brad Pitt stars as Rory Devaney, who brings his violent past in volatile Northern Ireland with him to America, in Columbia Pictures' suspense thriller *The Devil's Own*

## 'Devil's Own' is an Intelligent, Gritty Action Film-Plus Brad Pitt

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Arriving at the preview for *Devil's Own*, armed with his usual Biggie Popcorn and Biggie Diet Pepsi, Glenn was absolutely shivering with excitement. The pairing of Harrison Ford and Brad Pitt certainly suggested a highly engrossing thriller. More importantly, perchance *Devil's Own* would be the film to include a silly, superfluous nude scene by the ever delectable Brad Pitt.

Well, while Glenn is sorry to dash the hopes of all those seeking a sneak peek at Mr. Pitt in the buff, *Devil's Own* does prove to be an engrossing, if occasionally a somewhat perplexing thriller.

Mired in controversy, particularly from reluctant co-star Pitt, Pakula's *Devil's Own* is a curious hybrid of action blockbuster and thoughtful character study.

Brad Pitt is Francis "Frankie" McGuire who at a tender age witnessed the spectacle of his father being gunned down at the dinner table. Jump about twenty years and Frankie is now one of the most sought-after members of the IRA, having the deaths of 13 soldiers and 11 cops to his credit.

Following a fierce battle on the streets of Belfast, Frankie flees to New York, under the sponsorship of New York Judge Peter Fitzsimmons (George Hearn), a IRA-sympathizer. Fitzsimmons contrives to have Frankie stay at the pleasant suburban home of Tom O'Meara (Harrison Ford), a sergeant in New York's finest who knows nothing of Frankie's infamous past.

The O'Mearas welcome their Irish guest with open arms, quickly making him a part of their lives. Quite predictably a bond grows between Frankie and Tom, even while we in the audience know that they are headed to a major, climatic confrontation.

Financed by the Judge, Frankie undertakes a mission which involves the purchase of Stinger missiles from Billy Burke (wasn't she Glinda in *The Wizard of Oz*?) which Frankie hopes to transport back to Ireland in a boat he's been refurbishing.

A hitch in the deal occurs. Frankie tries to stall Burke (Treat Williams) but the saloon entrepreneur-cum-arms dealer has little patience to wait for his money. When Burke's henchmen search the O'Meara household, they uncover no money but prove to be a rather unpleasant surprise Tom and his wife Sheila (Margaret Colin).

Eschewing simplistic action-flick cliches, Pakula is more concerned with issues and with their impact upon the individual, focusing on the relationship between Tom, the good cop and Frankie, the rebel soldier.

At first uncomfortable within the

O'Meara household, by degree we begin to see Frankie responding to their warmth and caring. To similar effect is an emerging romance between Frankie and the beautiful young Megan. Yet when the film's climax occurs, how Brad Pitt's marvelously enigmatic Frankie will react is totally unpredictable. This is the best work Brad Pitt has done in some time.

Tom O'Meara might be a much more predictable a figure, a traditionally heroic family hero yet Harrison Ford does an equally fine job.

Turn to "DEVIL'S OWN", Page 22

## 'Rosewood' is a Frighteningly Accurate Film

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

African-American director John (Boyz N the Hood) Singleton brings to light the story of the small Florida town of Rosewood, a harrowing, shameful moment in America's history.

The year is 1922. Rosewood is a pretty and prosperous little town lived in and owned by African-Americans along with a few whites, including shopkeep John Wright (Jon Voight). The town's seemingly idyllic existence is nonetheless thwarted almost daily by the poor white trash folks that populate the neighboring town of Sumner.

Theirs is not exactly a peaceful coexistence. Sumner's poor seethe in their racially based discontent, merely awaiting the spark that will enable them to re-established the proper status quo.

When that spark comes to pass it is suitably stupid and ugly. A local white woman claims that she has been beaten (but not raped, she is quick to add) by a mysterious black man. Sumner's bigoted citizens are all too quick to accept a story that we in the audience knows is not true.

The result is a brutal retribution against Rosewood, something that the town's sheriff (Michael Rooker) is too ineffectual to prevent, despite doubting the woman's story from the start.

If Singleton is occasionally guilty of over simplifying the film's exploration mob violence, too quickly resorting to easy stereotypes and cardboard caricatures, *Rosewood* is nonetheless a frightening and effective piece of filmmaking.

Fine performances abound with Don Cheadle particularly impressive as the stubborn Sylvester Carrier. Only Ving Rhames as the fictional Mann seems to have wandered in from some other film.

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

## Suspense, Great Characters Make 'Smilla's Sense of Snow' a Good Film

Review by John Jahn

When you go to see a suspense thriller, the last thing you want to have happen is for your mind to wander—due to the fact that the film is boring, predictable, inane, or worse yet, all three of those things. It's during films like that that you'll start looking at your watch and thinking what you'll do after the movie's over, which can't come too soon.

When you go to see a film with such an off-beat title as *Smilla's Sense of Snow*,

cops on the scene believe the boy accidentally fell off the roof. "No child plays like that," retorts Smilla, and her search for the truth behind this boy's death becomes her all-consuming passion. The mystery leads us in directions we could never predict, and does so in a convincing, thrilling, entertaining fashion.

As I mentioned in the title of this review, "great characters" help to make this a worthwhile film to see. This includes the aforementioned Julia Ormond as Smilla,



Julia Ormond as Smilla Jaspersen in Bille August's *Smilla's Sense of Snow*

you're at least initially intrigued because you have no idea what it means (unless you've already read the novel of the same name by Peter Hoeg). What happens afterwards is entirely predictable. I'm glad to report that in the case of this film, you'll continue to be intrigued long after the title makes sense.

The ball gets rolling immediately in this two-hour mystery, as a young boy lies face-down in the snow on the sidewalk below the apartment building in which he lived. Smilla (Julia Ormond) was very close to the boy, and is distraught when she arrives home to see this awful sight. The apparent accident of his death is, however, immediately brought into question.

Smilla is an expert on Arctic conditions and snow (largely due to her upbringing in Greenland). You see, the boy's footprints in the snow on the roof of the building lead directly off the edge in a straight line. The

angry, conflicted, suspicious, driven central character.

A stuttering fellow living in the same apartment building (Gabriel Byrne) slowly and painfully makes his way into Smilla's somewhat chilled heart and mind, but, as we later find out, perhaps her initial suspicions of him were well-founded after all.

Veteran actors, too, make excellent supporting appearances. Robert Loggia is Smilla's caring father, and there's Richard Harris in another one of his sleazy, villainous roles at which he excels. Finally, we have one scene with Vanessa Regrave, who eventually agrees to help Smilla in her quest for the truth.

Directed by Bille August, the Swedish director of *The Best Intentions* and *Pelle the Conqueror*, and written by Ann Biderman (Primal Fear, Copycat) *Smilla's Sense of Snow* is a fine mystery which I highly recommend. On a 1-10 scale, this film rates an 8.



## Lesbian Activist Brings Out Film on Life for Gays in Castro's Cuba

**Milwaukee**—Americans' view of Cuba is based more on the right wing's mythmaking (a process they've become expert at) than on qualities inherent in Cuban society. In some areas—literacy levels, for example—Cuba has a better track record than we do.

The situation for Cuban Gays is also awash in misinformation, which Sonia de Vries', a Lesbian activist, level-headed documentary goes far in countering.

**Gay Cuba** combines interviews with Lesbians and Gay men, government officials, and average citizens, with musical performances and Gay pride parades. Along the way, we get a quick, painless lesson in Cuban history.

From 1898 to 1902, the island (now 11 million people) was occupied by the United States. From 1902 until 1959, the U.S. supported dictators to protect our corporate interests—a process that turned the island into a model of Third World corruption and exploitation.

Even after the revolution, Cuba offered to compensate American companies that were nationalized, but, typically, the U.S. refused and thus began the destructive blockade that continues today beyond all reason, logic, and morality.

What effect did the revolution have on the acceptance of Gay people in a country drenched in machismo?

Unfortunately, the government adopted the familiar Stalinist line that homosexuality is "a byproduct of decadent capitalism."

The Public Ostentation Law was enacted in the 1930s specifically to encourage harassment of Gay people who refused to stay in the closet, and in spite of the revolution process of reexamining old attitudes, the government refused to repeal that law until 1988.

Police, used to casual harassment and arrests of Gays, were ordered to desist. Director de Vries interviews people who recall this time, but as one activist says, "Cuba right now is not a human rights issue."

Cuba was rightly condemned also during the 1980s for quarantining people

with HIV, a practice that also collapsed under careful scrutiny. In 1993, the incarceration law was lifted, and HIV patients enjoy free medications, housing, and full wages if they're able to work—policies that again show the superiority of this island nation over its neighbor to the north.

The National Center for sex Education leads workshops throughout the country to try to eradicate homophobic attitudes.

One of the women who works for the center blames the Catholic Church for much of the anti-Gay attitude that continues to exist. "The Catholic religion simply rejects pleasure; life; sexuality in general." Many Cuban Gays, like many American Lesbians and Gay men, have in turn rejected the Church, finding spiritual solace in their own growing sense of community, or in the more sensual and open-minded Santeria religion.

The extraordinary success of the literacy campaign initiated after the revolution is evident in the articulateness of the people.

Even many of the soldiers interviewed recognize the foolishness of homophobic attitudes: "Homosexuality has nothing to do with a person's intellectual capacity," one of them says.

Cuba has room for improvement, as some Gays still hide their real identities. A union leader says with simple eloquence, "Many of us live our lives in the closet. This works against our human development."

On the other hand, we have a young Cuban Lesbian who insists on holding hands with and kissing her girlfriend in public, "right in front of the police," daring them to intervene.

**Gay Cuba** shows that a society that encourages its people to think and examine their prejudices can change for the better, and this is exactly what's happening there.

**Gay Cuba will have a special screening in Bolton Hall 150 at UW-Milwaukee on Friday, April 10. De Vries will be on hand to answer questions about the film and her recent trip to Cuba.**

## Fine Performances Make 'Blood and Wine' a Tense Thriller

Review by John Jahn

Like most movie goers, I suppose, I try to guess what will happen next as the film progresses from scene to scene. Who falls in love with who? Who gets killed next? Very often, when those guesses come true, the movie ends up being a disappointing one (earning the unwanted epithet, "predictable"). When you find your guesses incorrect, more often than not, the movie will be a good one ("surprising," "unpredictable"). That observation holds true in my case with Director Bob Rafelson's noir thriller, **Blood and Wine**.

Predictable or not, no film can survive even slight scrutiny if it's poorly cast, written or acted. Again, on all three levels, this film holds its own. The film centers on two middle-aged crooks looking for one last, lucrative score to send them into easy retirement. Alex and Vic (Jack Nicholson and Michael Caine).

Alex slyly uses his relationship with the nanny of a wealthy friend (Gabriel played by Jennifer Lopez) to gain access to a million dollar, diamond-studded necklace. All Alex and Vic need do is enter the home, out maneuver inane security guards, steal the necklace, pack up and

fly away.

Only it's not so easy. Alex's life is complicated by a disastrous marriage. His wife (Judy Davis) confronts Alex in a brutal scene, and unwittingly absconds with the necklace, accompanied by her protective son, Jason (Stephen Dorff). As for Vic, he's fighting a losing battle with lung cancer—his goal in life now reduced to avoiding death in a county hospital.

What really makes **Blood and Wine** a fine thriller are the central characters, all of whom are interesting, multi-dimensional people. Realistically, none of them are wholly good or evil. Instead, they occupy a kind of moral gray area, allowing you to judge them for yourself (rather than having the writers and director feed you your thoughts and emotions, as is so often the case in other films).

The movie has some rough language and violence, but these don't overwhelm the characters as often happens in thrillers.

Essentially, **Blood and Wine** is a taut, tense, dark, dysfunctional thriller, unpredictable at nearly every turn, and well worth seeing. I rate this one an 8.

## Spectacular and Astonishing Images Fill 'The Living Sea'

Review by John Jahn

Milwaukee's IMAX Dome Theater, located in the Museum Center at 710 W. Wells Street in downtown, continues to be a runaway success story with the introduction of its second feature, **The Living Sea**. For those of you already saying to yourselves, "Sure, a nature documentary just like the ones I see on public TV. What's the big deal?", let me explain why this presentation is nothing like what you may have experienced before.

The Humphrey IMAX Dome Theater brings us a new, exciting, sometimes dizziness-inducing cinematic experience, allowing you to feel totally involved in the film's action. IMAX cameras utilize the world's largest motion picture film, projecting it onto a domed screen 6 stories high and 74 feet in diameter. In addition 6-channel digital stereo literally surrounds you with sound, adding to the sensation of being in the midst of the action.

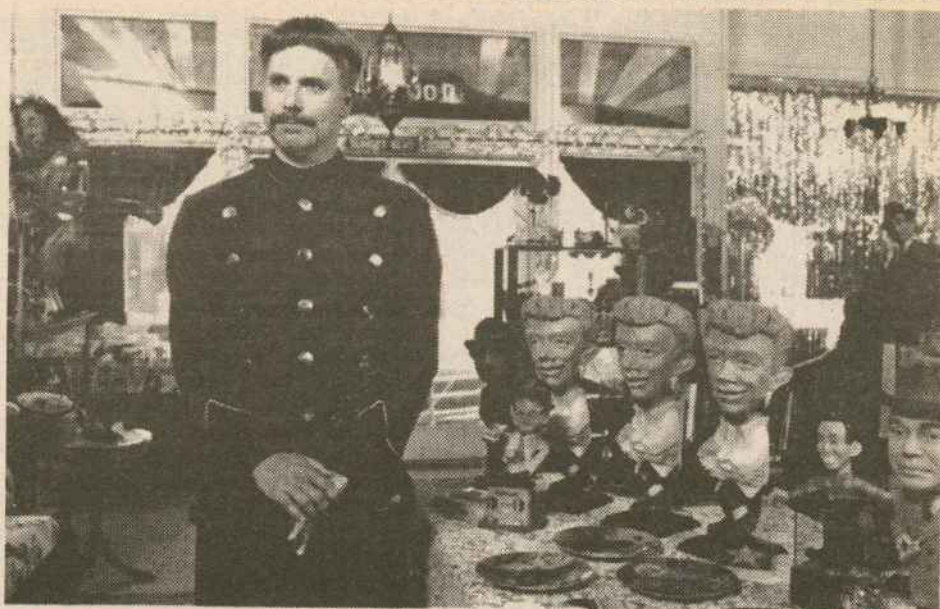
Whereas the IMAX theater's first showing, **Destiny in Space**, put you in the role of astronaut, exploring outer space, **The**

**Living Sea** has you assume the role of deep sea diver and explorer of the last frontier on earth.

You may find yourself holding your breath as you plunge into the wondrous depths of "The Living Sea." Far below the surface of the world's oceans, you will come face to face with the strange, fascinating creatures that live where the sunlight never penetrates.

You swim with scuba divers through a million floating, undulating, glowing jellyfish. In one of the most memorable scenes, you'll swim along side a humpback whale in a life-size image projected on the giant IMAX Dome screen. These and other amazing images, accompanied by the narration of Meryl Streep and music of Sting, earned **The Living Sea** an Academy Award nomination. I highly recommend it, for a swimmingly good time!

On a 1 to 10 scale, **The Living Sea** rates a 9. It is currently showing, along with **Destiny in Space**, exclusively at the Humphrey Dome Theater. Call (414) 319-IMAX for show times.



Christopher Guest stars as Blaine, Missouri's leading thespian Corky St. Clair, in the comedy **Waiting for Guffman**. The film opens at Milwaukee's Oriental Theater in mid-March. **Wisconsin Light** is co-sponsoring an advance showing on March 31. For details, see ad below.

## 'Waiting for Guffman' is an Endearing and Entertaining Film You Should See

Review by Glenn Bishop

Buried deep in the utter depths of Glenn's closet are memories of starring roles in long past (and mercifully forgotten) productions of some of the finest examples of lost classics of the American musical theatre. Indeed, Glenn sang, Glenn danced...

Much like Corky St. Clair (Christopher Guest), the protagonist in **Waiting for Guffman**, at a young age Glenn was dazzled by the twinkle of the footlights and soon found himself on a Greyhound headed towards the Great White Way. Also like Corky, Glenn found stardom illusive and sadly returned to the warming bosom of home and hearth.

In the finest fashion of those fabulous "let's put on a show" movie musicals of the 1930s, Corky has returned home to mount the most sensational productions ever seen in Blaine (located anywhere, America).

Against all reason, against all logic, Corky has managed to somehow keep that faint flicker of hope alive, the desperate dream of someday becoming a star on Broadway. What could be more existen-

tial?

Suddenly, Corky is faced with one last chance, that one big break that will break him loose from Blaine and carry him off to New York: Red, White and Blaine, a lavishly glorious musical extravaganza commemorating the magnificent 150 year history of the town. And who better than Corky to write, direct, costume and choreograph (not star in?) such a production?

In stark, mock documentary fashion, **Waiting for Guffman** explores the dreams, the hopes, the trials, the tribulations and the applause that surround the creation of such a dramatic entertainment.

Beginning with auditions, it becomes immediately apparent that Blaine is a hotbed of musical comedy talent. Besides Corky himself, there is for example the Albertsons, Ron and Sheila (Fred Willard and Catherine O'Hara). Recalling (if in fact only faintly) Rob and Laura Petrie for the old **Dick Van Dyke Show**, Ron and Sheila are travel agents by day, a soft-shoe duet at night.

Urged to explore his creative side, Dr. Allan Pearl (Eugene Levy) proves to be a revelation to Corky at his audition (Glenn Turn to "GUFFMAN", Page 22

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## 'Return of the Jedi' is a Fine Finale to the Special Edition of Star Wars Trilogy

Review by John Jahn

**Return of the Jedi**, the last of the original trio of "Star Wars" films which debuted in 1983, begins where the whole series started—on Luke Skywalker's home planet of Tatooine. Luke has returned there after having completed his Jedi training with Yoda in order to rescue Han Solo from the clutches of the vile, worm-like gangster, Jabba the Hut.

Meanwhile, the evil Galactic Empire is in the process of constructing a new, improved Death Star, in orbit around the forest moon of Endor, and protected by a force field projected around it from the moon's surface. It is precisely this new Death Star where the Rebel forces plan to strike a decisive blow against the Empire, and it is there that Darth Vader and the Emperor himself wait in ambush.

**Return of the Jedi** is somewhat more light hearted than its predecessor as it

goes about tying up all the loose ends of the space trilogy. The scenes at Jabba's Palace are some of the best in the film, filled with bizarre creatures. Here, Luke battles the Rancor, a gigantic beast that devours human-sized beings whole.

Finally, Luke, Han, Leia and the others fight an epic battle aboard Jabba's sail barge as the latter attempts to execute them by way of the Sarlaac, a creature of teeth and tentacles that lives in a desert pit. It is also in **Return of the Jedi** that Luke must confront his father, Darth Vader, once and for all, and frustrate the Emperor's plans to make Luke his next apprentice in evil.

The most obvious changes to this film for its re-release included digital, computerized singers at Jabba's Palace (replacing rather fake looking puppets in the original), you get to see what the Sarlaac looks like (in the original, it was somewhat

of an inert hole in the ground), and the scenes of celebration at the end of the film no longer focus exclusively on Ewoks on Endor. (The Ewoks, incidentally, are a main reason many fans place this film third on their list of favorite Star Wars films. Certainly, that hold true for this reviewer. I hate those little teddy bears!)

Nevertheless, **Return of the Jedi** is certainly a must-see film, rating a 10 quite easily.

**GUFFMAN**  
Continued from Page 21

admits he sometimes has difficulty in recognizing genius) as is Libby Mae Brown, a DQ waitress who wows Corky with a thrillingly original rendition of "Teacher's Pet".

The characters of Blaine prove to be, well, characters, caricatures rather than three-dimensional human beings. Still, Guest's affection for these simple, good-hearted if sadly talentless souls is both obvious and infectious.

As the oh-so very theatrical Corky, Christopher Guest walks an oh-so fine line, broad swatches of Gay stereotypes tempered by energetically original, decidedly quirky touches. He's definitely nuts and he's definitely Gay, even if the town of Blaine believes his story about his absent wife.

Much of the film is given to the performance of *Red, White and Blaine* and the real surprise is how entertaining it is, especially having seen just how much talent

was available. This is especially surprising in comparison to Woody Allen's *Everyone Says I Love You*.

If perhaps lacking the comic genius that made *This is Spinal Tap* a cult classic, Guest, McKean & Co. have produced an endearing and entertaining little film filled with delightful moments.

And what about the Guffman of the title? Glenn'll never tell!

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

**DEVIL'S OWN**  
Continued from Page 20

**Devil's Own**, despite a spectacularly violent opening is likely to disappoint those looking for a thrill-a-minute action pic. Others are sure to find **Devil's Own** an intelligent, gritty and engrossing film.

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

## 'Liar, Liar' Peers into the Heart of Mall-Minded America and Finds it Empty

Reviewed by Glenn Bishop

Is it Glenn's imagination or is Hollywood simply running out of ideas? With few exceptions, what graces the multiplexes throughout America are fill-in-the-blank action blockbusters or over-blown sit-com episodes?

Channel surfing last week, Glenn momentarily paused on an old *I Love Lucy* episode. Lucy is forced into a bet which requires her to tell only the truth. Briefly she struggles with this terrifying proposition but soon enough, with gleeful abandon, Lucy begins to relish the freedom telling the truth can bring.

**Liar Liar**, written by Paul Guay and Stephen Mazur, changes the story a bit, updating it for the '90's.

Jim Carrey plays Fletcher Reede, an hotshot attorney who is too clever by half and makes sure everyone knows it. When he is handed a big case, one in which a big win is sure to bring with it the reward of making partner in his law firm, nothing is going to stop Fletcher. Certainly not telling a few lies. Not even missing his son's fifth birthday party.

True, Fletcher has proved to be a complete and total bust as a father and a husband but that doesn't stop adorable son Max (Justin Cooper) and devoted ex-wife Audrey (Maura Tierney) from continuing to hold a soft spot in their hearts for the scamp. He's not really a bad guy, he just keeps making promises that he can't keep.

Through the magic of Hollywood, the wish Max wishes before blowing out the candles on his birthday cake comes true: a wish that his father might experience 24 hours where, come hell or high water, good 'ol dad is only to tell the whole truth and nothing but.

This is when the real fun begins as director (and frequent Carrey collaborator) Tom Shadyac simply sets, letting the laughs (as well as any semblance of story) fall where they may.

At first Fletcher is blithely telling the truth when normally lies, big lies, little lies, lies in all shapes, sizes and colors would have dropped trippingly off of his tongue. He is as unconscious of telling the truth as he is otherwise unconscious of telling one lie after another.

Eventually, as one hilarious crisis follows the next, it occurs to Fletcher that something is wrong. But there is no place for Fletcher to hide on this one, very special, oh-so important day.

Audiences for **Liar Liar** are sure to utter a loud and long collective sigh of relief, secure in the knowledge that the old Jim Carrey is back, leaving well behind him the icky Jim Carrey most found so unpleasant in last summer's bomb, *The Cable Guy*.

Sure, Carrey's mugging occasionally begins to resemble someone's worst nightmare on crack, particularly in a truly creepy scene which has Fletcher beating himself up in a public toilet, but heck no one in the preview audience seemed to mind. Howls of laughter accompanied not only this scene but Carrey's each and every new face or antic. Nor did anyone seem to care that with an effortless slight-of-hand that **Liar Liar** wrapped up in an astonishingly predictable, "happily-ever after" fashion.

**Liar Liar** is nothing if not a star turn for adorable as the adorable Max. Maura Tierney is pleasant as Fletcher's ex-wife, Audrey and Cary Elwes gamely tries his best as Audrey's new boyfriend Jerry.

With uncanny telepathy, Carrey and company seems to have been able to

peer into the hearts of mall-obsessed middle America. The result is surely one of most baldly calculated commercial features in some time, at least since **Independence Day**.

As **Liar Liar** is sure to make a fortune, what does this say about America?

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

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# THE NIGHT LIGHT

By Dusty Sass  
Recaps

So did you have a good St. Patrick's Day? I know I did, but I ran myself ragged all in the interest of keeping you, my dear readers, informed.

The SpotLight Party at **Just Us** was wonderful. The B-Day show honoring Mona and Sandy Beach was a real hoot. Mona, Beach and Shana were especially good.

All the performers were great. The "girls" wore the most glamorous gowns. Their acts were flawless. But there was one person I noticed especially.

This was Marlene. She told me that she loves to sing—and it shows. Her voice is superb, her face is wonderfully mobile, able to convey to her audience the emotion and wonder of her songs. This is the first time that I've heard her sing. I sincerely hope that it will not be the last.

Then there was a fantastic 24<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at **The Ball Game** on Sunday March 16. There was plenty of food, drinks and good company as Rick and his staff celebrated nearly a quarter of a century of service to the community.

Manager Danny walked around pouring free shots, owner Rick and his mother just beamed as dozens and dozens and dozens of well wishers stopped in to say thanks. The live band, Stardust was very good. Congrats to all of the Ball Game's staff and patrons.

On the 17<sup>th</sup>, there were way too many places for me to be at once, but I made them all.

**The Ball Game's** St. Pat's day party was a real blast. It's Gay Milwaukee's longest running St. Paddy's day affair. The food—as always—was great. Dave Wiggins was at the piano playing all the old time songs. A crowd gathered round, joining in a song-fest, and the flowing bowl overflowed.

At the **Boot Camp** things were going strong. The same was true of the **1100 Club**. I couldn't stay as long as I wanted to at either place. There were just too many places to drop into that night.

Then it was off to **South Water Street Docks** for its party. A good buffet and plenty of friendly folks made for an enjoyable event.

With the help of a few leprechauns I made it up to Mad Town for the parties at **The Shamrock** and **Manoeuvres**. JJ and his staff really outdid themselves at the Shamrock. The green welcome mat was rolled out for everyone whether they were Irish or not.

Of course Ed and his gang at **Manoeuvres** never miss a chance to throw a party, and St. Pat's Day is no exception. They offered some great food, decorations and lots of fun.

Last but not least was the party at **In Between**. The popular night spot was filled with revelers, some of whom won some cool green cash. Curt had over \$500 up for grabs in his Monday Night Balloon toss.

While I was at In Between, a representative from Miller Brands was there. Everyone got a free drink, thanks to Miller Brands.

It was St. Paddy's day, after all. So, it stood to reason that a patron would ask Curt if the bar was serving green beer.

Without missing a beat, in that dead pan way of his, Curt replied, "It can be."

Joe's party at **This Is It** was its usual rollicking affair. Joe, mein host, went from person to person putting a green sticker on their lapel. That proved, he said, they were Irish and got a free drink.

Gus, one of the bartenders, looked great in a kilt of Royal Stewart plaid.

**Coming Up**

It never fails as the weather starts to get warming, things also start heating up at the bars.

**Wednesday March 26** you can find me at **La Cage** for their new Wednesday night two for one special on rail drinks and beer. Call drinks are served at rail prices.

**Friday March 28** I'll be at Za's to see their Turn About Night. That's when the the staff dresses in drag and the impersonators tend bar. Can't wait to see what Mark Za looks like in drag. It's a benefit for ROW.

**Saturday March 29** you can find me at Eau Claire's **Trading Company** for the big Rav a Rav party. I am not quite sure what a Rav a Rav is, but it's a benefit for NOWAP and they have a hot DJ from Chicago coming in for the occasion.

**Sunday March 30** is Easter Sunday, and of course the creative minds in some establishments have come up with some great ideas for a party.

First I will go to **Mama Roux** for the big "Easter Bonnet Contest." I don't own an Easter Bonnet of my own, but that's no problem. The bar will have plenty of materials on hand so I can make my own. The contest is at 4:00.

Then it will be off to **Scandals** in Madison where they are having an Easter Egg hunt. Mike, Nancy and Michelle will be scattering eggs throughout the bar. Each egg has a prize inside.

After the Scandals party I will have to stop at **Ray's café** for some great late night dining. Ray's is located inside of **Geraldines**.

If I was in Green Bay I would certainly want to go to **Sass** for its Easter Party and egg hunt.

**Friday April 4** I'll stop in at **M & M's** for a great fish fry. Then it will be off to **The Ball Game** for some good conversation and a few well made libations sold at reasonable prices.

Then on **Saturday April 5** I will take in **The Cream City Chorus Spring Concert** at Cross Lutheran church. The concert begins at 8:00. After the music dies down, it's off to **Mama Roux** to party with the rest

of East Side and then over to **This Is It** for some more drinks and some dancing to the great tunes on the juke.

**Monday April 7** you could find me at **In Between** for its dart toss. The bar gives away hundreds of dollars each and every Monday night.

**Friday April 10** I will start with a fabulous **Just Us** Fish Fry. Then I am going to attend the "Gay Cuba" showing at UWM's Bolton Hall, (Room 150). This film offers a

glimpse at Gay life in Cuba.

**Saturday April 11** I will be in Madison for **An Evening With Friends a Benefit for The United** at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens. After the party I'll head over to **Manoeuvres** to say hi to all my friends there especially Ed and his manager Charlie.

Well that wraps it up. Hope to see you out and about soon. Meanwhile play safe and be proud.



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# Milwaukee's ULTIMATE Social Gathering Place!

Stop by and  
See our  
"Retro" Look!  
(Men's Shoes -  
Lower Level)

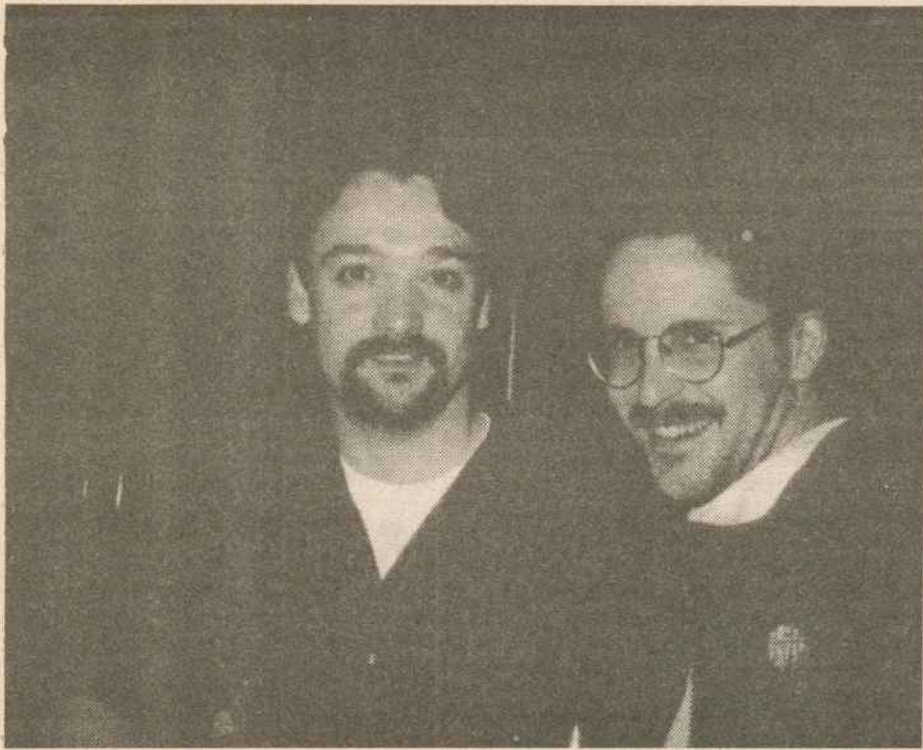


There Is  
Always  
Something  
Different at  
In Between.

TOMMY ISN'T KIDDING ABOUT HIS  
"20TH" BIRTHDAY PARTY  
THUR, APRIL 17 • 10pm

IN BETWEEN - 625 South 2nd Street - Milwaukee - 273-2693





These dashing young men were found wearing the green on St. Patrick's Day in the Boot Camp

Bill Meunier

Healing and Humor is \$15.00 or both events are just \$20.00. For more information call Apple Island at 258-9777.

**FIREBIRDS CLUB**

The Firebirds of Milwaukee Levi/Leather Club will hold their April Club Nite at the Boot Camp Saloon, their home bar, 209 E. National Avenue in Milwaukee. The event will start at 10:30 p.m. with give aways, drink specials and more. There will be door prizes. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Appropriate leather attire is encouraged.

**FRIDAY APRIL 10**

**Gay Cuba Screening at UWM**

The critically acclaimed film 'Gay Cuba' will have a special screening in Bolton Hall 150 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Cuba's treatment of its Gays and Lesbian has been highly controversial. "Gay Cuba" looks at three decades of Gay life in the island nation.

Film maker, producer, director, Sonja De Vries will be on hand after the screening to answer questions about her film and her recent trip to Cuba.

**SATURDAY APRIL 11**

**AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS BENEFITS THE UNITED**

An evening to remember is on tap for those attending "An Evening With Friends" The United's annual benefit.

The event features wine, a cash bar, hor d'ouvres and live jazz, all in the wonderful atmosphere of Olbrich Botanical Gardens, 3330 Atwood Ave, Madison, WI.

Tickets are available at Borders Book Store, Collen One, Community Pharmacy, Green Bush Bar, Orange Tree Imports, A Room of One's Own, and The United.

Tickets are \$25.00 each and well worth the cost.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26**

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 on April 26. Both contests will be held at the 1100 Club, 1100 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Milwaukee.

Friday evening there will be a kick off cocktail party at the South Water Street Docks from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information write: Northwoods Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 1104, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

1506 North 3rd Street • Superior, WI



(715) 394-2580

Thursday • Karaoke - 8pm  
Friday & Saturday • DJ - 9:30pm  
• NIGHTLY SPECIALS •

**BOOT CAMP**

**MILWAUKEE'S LEATHER/LEVI BAR**

209 East National Avenue • Milwaukee  
414/643-6900

**FIREBIRDS CLUB NIGHT & PARTY at the BOOT CAMP SALOON Saturday, April 5 10pm to Close**



Where MEN are not HARD to FIND!

**SUNDAYS**



PITCHER + PIZZA = \$7

**TUESDAYS**



PITCHER NITE = \$4

**THURSDAYS**

**COCKTAIL HOUR ALL DAY & NITE!**

Customer Appreciation Day!

**FRIDAYS**

BUFFET DOOR PRIZES

**COCKTAIL HOUR:**  
Opening till 8pm  
2-FOR-1 Drinks (except bottle beer)  
**OPEN** Daily 3pm - Sat & Sun 2pm  
Pool • Darts • CD Juke Box  
Pizza & Sandwiches  
819 S. 2nd • Milwaukee  
**645-8330**

*You're Invited*

**FRIDAY MARCH 28**

**TURN ABOUT NIGHT AT ZA'S**

Za's is up to more of the bar's zany tricks. This time it's Turnabout '97. Turnabout '97 will be a benefit for ROW, Rainbow Over Wisconsin.

In Turnabout, the bartenders do drag and the impersonators bartend. It's all great fun and it will be a Za's 2206 Main Street, Green Bay.

**NINE INCH MALES AT THE TRADING COMPANY**

Those hunks of masculinity, The Nine Inch Males are back at it again. The troupe will be performing at Eau Claire's Trading Company on Friday March 28. The Trading Company is located at 304 Eau Claire Street.

The males will be at Za's on Saturday March 29. Za's is located at 1106 Main Street, Green Bay.

**SATURDAY MARCH 29**

**RAV a RAV BENEFITS NWAP**

Rav a Rav a special party to benefit the Northwest Wisconsin AIDS Project.

There will be a \$5.00 cover at the door to hear special Guest DJ, Sherry, (live in person and direct from Chicago) spin all of your favorites.

The Trading Company is located at 304 Eau Claire Street, Eau Claire.

**SUNDAY MARCH 30**

**EASTER EGG HUNT AT SCANDALS IN MADISON**

Scandals celebrates its first Easter with a gala Easter Egg hunt. Prizes will be hidden inside of eggs hidden throughout the bar.

And don't forget the Scandals beer bust 4 to 8PM Easter Sunday and every Sunday. Scandals is located at 121 W. Main Street.

**MAMA ROUX HAS EASTER BONNET CONTEST, EGG RAFFLE AND MORE**

Your Mama is calling and she wants you to spend Easter with her. The popular East Side hotspot is holding its Second annual Easter Bonnet Contest. Bring your own or make one of materials they will have at the bar.

Contest time is 4:00. The celebration includes an Easter Egg raffle. Buy an egg for \$2.00 and win a prize. All proceeds go to the Possum Queen Contest.

Mama Roux is located at 1875 N. Humboldt, Milwaukee.

**KAROKE NIGHT AT M & M'S**

Corliss and Terri of Singsational fame will be on hand at M & M's to help you enjoy your Easter Holiday.

Their special Karoke show will include all your favorites plus a chance for you to

perform too.

M & M is located at 124 N. Water Street.

**SASS EASTER EGG HUNT**

Life in the Sass Lane on Easter Sunday will include a special Easter Egg Hunt. You could win a 1/4 Barrel Party, drinks bar tabs, bar paraphernalia and more. There will over 100 prizes in all.

The hunt begins at 4:00. Sass is located at 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay.

**SATURDAY APRIL 5**

**CREAM CITY CHORUS SPRING CONCERT "To Every Season"**

The Cream City Chorus will present its Spring Concert, "To Every Season" at Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16<sup>th</sup> St.

The concert will feature Faure's Requiem and other works.

Tickets are \$8.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased at Afterwords Books, The BESTD Clinic and Mama Roux.

**APPLE ISLAND PRESENTS KAREN WILLIAMS**

Karen Williams will bring her show "Lesbonics the language of Lesbian love to the James Reeb Unitarian Center at 2146 E. Johnson Street.

Tickets available at Room of One's Own and Green Earth are \$8.00 each. The show begins at 8 PM.

Ms Williams will also present "HAHA-HAHAHA: Humor and Healing, an interactive workshop for people with health concerns, disabilities, chronic illness or terminal illness.

The workshop is not medically based. It will be held from 1 to 3 at James Reeb.



# Dear Ruthie

Well folks, I've had just such a wonderful time here in Milwaukee. Everything has been fabulous. I'd like to thank Eddie and Lou for helping move into my trailer and for setting up the waterbed. Everybody at the Rusty Nail Trailer Park has been a doll.

I'd also like to thank everyone for all of the letters I've been getting. If I haven't answered yours in this issue—please keep reading. I'll get to it eventually.

An extra special thanks to Lady Manhattan Brandy for the lovely photo and invite. Have a helluva week boys and girls!



Ruthie

Dear Ruthie, Please help me! I keep attracting these men who lie, cheat, rob, assault, stalk me, etc., etc.; all manners of craziness. Do I have sucker written across my forehead? Why can't I find someone nice and normal for a change?

(signed) **Bewildered on Broadway (a.k.a. Mauled in Milwaukee)**

Dear Bewildered, Hey - the right man is out there for you!!! Possibly two or three!!! The first thing you need to do is cancel your membership to the prison penpal program. Take it from me - once those men get out, they're jumpier than long-tail cats in a room full of rocking chairs. If your first date includes an orange jump suit, a plexi-glass window, and a full-body cavity search, he's not the

guy for you. No matter how many cigarettes you sneak in for them, the minute they're set free they're off with your convertible, your bean-bag chairs, your best pair of nylons, and your husband. God - I miss those nylons!

Stay clear of Waupun and its crazy, although often appealing and wildly sexy, inmates. Find yourself a nice man. A man without a criminal record. A man

whose picture isn't hanging in your local post office.

While you're at it, stay away from postal workers too. Get to know the guy before anything more serious develops. Become friends first.

I've said it before and I'll say it again - think about doing some volunteer work. This way you can meet different people without the immediate pressure of having to get to know them on a more personal, intimate, level. Think intimate - not inmate. Dear Ruthie,

I am distraught and perplexed!! My lover Cliff and I have just celebrated our 6 month anniversary and, honey, what a relationship ours is - MAMA! He is very attractive, warm, caring, generous, and extremely passionate. Everything I have ever looked for, I have found in Cliff." He also has a dream of moving back to Florida. He previously lived there, and moved back to Wisconsin due to intense pressure and the scrutiny of family and friends.

Cliff has asked me to move back to Florida with him and with absolutely no hesitation I said, Yes." However, our families and his friends are acting downright nasty about this whole matter. They are rude, selfish, and trying to manipulate him and dissuade us from going! You wouldn't believe some of the things they say! I think they are all in denial - what do you think?

**Please Help, West Palm Wannabe**

Dear West Palmer, Let me start by saying that you will absolutely love beautiful, sunny, Florida. My ex-husband Chester and I were so happy there. That is, until one day when an evil, little neighbor child was playing with a magnifying glass. Chester was mowing the lawn, and the little bastard burnt a hole in Chester's back the size of a cue-ball.

Things weren't the same after that. Whenever Chester and I would go to the beach, he'd lie on his stomach and I'd use the hole in his back as a cup holder. Sometimes I'd put jelly beans in there, sometimes a lovely vegetable dip. He was great to travel with - I never needed to carry a purse. Who needs a fanny-pack, when your husband's got a holey-back? I ask you - was there a reason for this divorce? I was just making the best out of a bad situation. And that's exactly what you need to do!

Listen honey, you've got a great man you truly love and who loves you. If you're willing to move for this man, a few negative comments can't be that bad! You never mentioned exactly what Cliff's friends are saying that is so "rude," however, I'm guessing they just don't want their two friends to move so far away. Their comments are most likely their way of asking you to stay.

If you're truly Florida bound, I'll bet your friends (these people sound like your friends too) will wind up supporting you both. Hey - why not take them along! I think you'll need a red-headed mediator, though - I know just the gal!

Dear Ruthie, The reason I felt impelled to seek your advice is because of the animal-like behavior I've seen in our local bars and pubs, from our Gay men and our Lesbian sisters. While being fitted for my wedding gown, (picture included), the sales person agreed that many of the fold have been suffering from dipsomania." [DIPSOMANIA: An abnormal and insatiable desire for alcoholic beverages].

Ruthie, your job, should you accept, is to establish social guidelines of behavior in public places. You being the pillar of social grace in our community, must set the course to avoid a race of dipsomaniacs. Let's have fun when we are out, but be aware of social guidelines.

Ruthie I am counting on you and look forward to your response. Keep up the good work. Enclosed is a picture of the gown I've chosen and of course, darling, you will be invited to the wedding.

Lady Marva Brandy Manhattan of Mockingbird Heights, East Peoria, Illinois

Dear Lady Manhattan, Thank you for the lovely picture, and you can count on me to be at that wedding. I'm not one to refuse a wedding invitation, or proposal for that matter.

So, you want this old lady to set social guidelines, huh? I'm afraid you're barking up the wrong bloomers. I say, go out and have yourself a ball. As long as you're within the limits of the law, and not hurting anyone (including yourself), live it up!

Sorry Lady Manhattan, but I believe life is too short to worry about what other people think. I hate to disappoint you, but I think that a grand lady such as yourself

could set these guidelines much more effectively. Am I still invited to the wedding? I love doing that Maccarana thing the kids are so wild about!

**Editor's Note: Ruthie has graciously (as is her charming way), consented to answer any and all questions from you, our readers. Anonymity is guaranteed. Send questions to Ruthie, c/o Wisconsin Light, 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212. They will be forwarded to her unopened. Only her beautiful eyes will see them.**

**MADHATTER**  
Continued from Page 15

Vicki: No. We have customers who help us out when we are gone. The fairs are our only vacation.

**DS: Do you consider yourselves to be lucky?**

Vicki: Yes, we both have stake in the bar so we have someone to handle things while the other one is gone. Plus we are lucky to have the support of the community. Now we want to win the lottery. (laughs)

Anne: Right. We're lucky enough that our community supports this bar so we can be here, and not have to work another job. We're very lucky.

**DS: On a political note. Do you feel honored that the Assembly is holding the Anti-Gay Marriage hearing up here?**

Anne: No I am very angry. They did this specifically so there would be a low attendance from our community. They knew they could get away with it. If they had done this in Madison, or Milwaukee or even the Fox Valley, there would be stronger support from the Gay community. They knew there would be low attendance from the Gay culture. They are obviously afraid of us.

Vicki: I am going to be there to listen. I've been trying to get some of our customers to go. I am going to stand up for my rights. I've been hearing for years from people that we should have the right to married, but those same people can't or won't go. I am glad that I am going to be able to be part of that to stand up for my community.

**DS: What makes you proudest of the Madhatter?**

Anne: The support of the community. I am very proud of my customers. We really are family. I am proud of the reputation that we've built. Like our entertainers, they don't get paid they do it help us. People who come here know they are going to have a good time.

Vicki: When I first ran for Ms. Gay Wisconsin, a lot of people didn't even know there is a bar in Wausau. They find it hard to believe that Wausau's had a Gay bar for the last 20 years. Twenty years ago, Wausau had the only bar up North. Plus I am proud of the people who have come in here.

**DS: Are you also proud of the fact that so many people who live in these small towns come in here? It takes some guts to stop in doesn't it?**

Anne: Yeah I've had a lot of boys who will sit in the parking lot for a year, a year and half and watch traffic, see who is coming in and out.

Finally though they come in and the surprised look on their faces is worth a million dollars. They realize that it's just like any other bar. They find out that they are just as normal as anyone else.

**DS: What would you like to say that I haven't asked you about?**

Anne: We're small, we're hometown, the people are very good and friendly. Just stop in and say hi and you've walked right into a conversation.

Vicki: I wish we could reach more people from like the Milwaukee area. I know it's a smaller bar, but we are just trying to keep our head above water. We love our Milwaukee friends who stop in because they have cottages up North. We'd like to see more of them.

I travel a lot and sometimes I hear people talking, people who don't know I have anything to with the bar. You know like "We're going to go see the hicks up in Northern Wisconsin."

I think that just because we are small and don't have as many people as you do, that's an advantage. We get more one on one contact with all our customers. Than some of the bigger places. That doesn't mean we are better, they're just smarter than we are because they have more people.

**DS: That may or may not be true but you two are pretty smart yourselves running a great place to come and party. It's a small town bar with a great big welcome mat.**

## Entertainment Guide

### APPLETON

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

### DOOR COUNTY

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

### EAU CLAIRE

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

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

### GREEN BAY

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

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

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

### SASS

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

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

### KENOSHA

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

### LA CROSSE

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

### LAKE MILLS

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

### MADISON

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

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

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

**Mary's**  
2526 E. Washington  
Madison, WI 53704  
244-2939

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

**Scandals**  
121 W. Main St.  
Madison, WI 53703  
251-1030

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

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

### MILWAUKEE

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

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

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

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

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

**C'est La Vie**  
231 S. Second St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
276-8890

### MILWAUKEE Continued

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

**Designing Men**  
120 S. First  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
389-1200

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mama Roux Bar & Americain Grill**  
1875 N. Humboldt  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
347-0344

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

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

**S. Water St. Docks**  
354 E. National  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
225-9676

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

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

### MILWAUKEE Continued

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

**Triangle**  
134 E. National  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
383-9412

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

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

### RACINE

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

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

### ROCKFORD

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

### SHEBOYGAN

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

### STEVENS POINT

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

### SUPERIOR

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

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

### WAUSAU

**The Mad Hatter**  
320 Washington  
Wausau, WI 54404  
842-3225



# THE SPOTLIGHT Party

Just Us



Photos by Bill Memmer

Putting on the SpotLight Scores of people turned out for our SpotLight Party at Just Us on Saturday March 15. A great show celebrating Sandy Beach's and Mona's Birthdays helped get the St. Patrick's Day weekend off to a great start.

1875 North Humboldt • Milwaukee  
347-0344



**BAR** Your Eastside  
AMÉRICAIN... Alternative  
&  
GRILL

**Grill Hours**  
Monday thru Thursday: 4-10 pm  
Friday and Saturday: 4-11 pm  
Friday Fish Fry - Cod or Catfish  
Sunday Brunch from 11am-3pm  
plus full menu with  
grill open to 8 pm  
Carry-out Orders Available  
MasterCard/Visa Accepted  
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Serving  
Cajun, American &  
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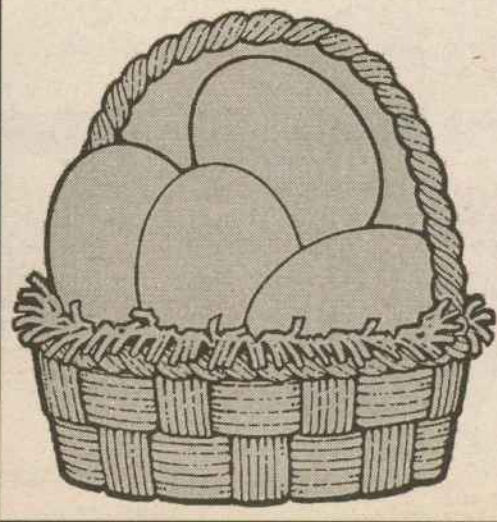
## Celebrate Easter

with your Mama

**EASTER BONNET CONTEST**

4pm

(Bring your own, or make one at the Bar)



### EASTER EGG CONTEST

Buy an Easter Egg,  
win a prize and  
support Jasmine in  
the Possum Queen  
Contest

## SPRING IS HERE AT ▼JUST US▼

- ▼ Fabulous Beer Batter Friday Fish Fry & Full Menu
- ▼ In-House Dart League (2 Machines in Main Bar)
- ▼ Golf Outings
- ▼ Tombstone Pizza
- ▼ Nightly Drink Specials
- ▼ Pool Table
- ▼ Country Dance, 7-11pm, Saturdays
- ▼ Dance to the Hot Hits Fridays & Saturdays
- ▼ Safe & Friendly Atmosphere

807 S. 5th Street • Milwaukee • 383-2233

# JUST

# ▼US▼

**Friday Fish Fry**  
5-10pm  
Also serving  
sandwiches,  
Weekly Specials,  
Baked Fish,  
Appetizers,  
Soups, etc.

**Thursdays & Saturdays**  
6-8pm  
Sandwiches &  
Appetizers  
  
We Do Parties &  
Banquets

Always More to Choose  
at ▼JUST US▼



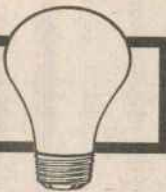
**Shoreline's 1st  
Annual Spring  
Round-Up**

**MAY 2-4, 1997**

- FRIDAY - Fish Fry & Country Dance at JUST US.
  - SATURDAY - 2-Step/Line Dance Workshops at JUST US, 1-4pm. Country Gala at War Memorial - 7pm-12:30am. Country Dancing at JUST US 12:30-2am
  - SUNDAY - Brunch at JUST US, 11am-2pm  
Line Dance Swap after Brunch
- Information & Tickets available at: Just Us, AfterWords, Designing Men, Outpost, Peoples Books



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## MADISON

### WRESTLING CLUB

On Sunday, April 13 and April 27, the Madison Wrestling Club will meet for practice and instruction at 1:00 p.m. Beginners are welcome. Call (608) 244-8675 (evenings) for more information.

### VIDEO CLUB

The Madison Gay Video Club will meet on Saturday, April 12 to view **Maybe...Maybe Not** (German w/subtitles) and **Hot Firemen** (dir. Chip Daniels), at 8:00 p.m. Call (608) 244-8675 (evenings).

On Saturday, April 26, the Gay Video Club will meet at 8:00 p.m. to view **I'll Love You Forever...Tonight** and **Idol In The Sky**. Call (608) 244-8675 (evenings).

### MEL WHITE TO SPEAK

Speaking the Truth with Love is the theme of a presentation that will be given by the Rev. Dr. Mel White at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Madison. The evening program is sponsored by Coming Out, Coming Together, an interfaith group and PFLAG, and will be held at 7:00 p.m. at 1609 University Avenue.

White is the author of **Stranger at the Gate** which chronicles his 30 years as filmmaker and ghost writer for Pat Robertson, Billy Graham, Jerry Falwell and Ollie North.

### TEACHERS EVENT

On Saturday, April 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the First Unitarian Society (Lower Meeting House), 900 University Bay Drive, Interweave and the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network will co-sponsor a conference entitled "Teaching Respect for All—Talking About Gay Issues with Children."

For more information, call Martha Popp at (608) 238-8662.

### PERFECT HARMONY- ALL MALE CHORUS REHEARSES SUNDAYS

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

The group gets together on Sundays at 7:30.

### 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

### DIVERSITY/YOUTH COMMITTEE

The Diversity/Youth Committee of the LGBT Community Center Project will hold its Kickoff Youth Night at B's, 1579 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Milwaukee, on Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

There will be dancing and entertainment starring Joey Black, Tammy Fay, and Lana St. James. A portion of the \$6 cover charge (which includes two free sodas), will benefit Milwaukee's first Gay Prom to be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Park East Hotel.

### VILLAGE PLAYHOUSE

The Village Playhouse of Wauwatosa will present its 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Original One Act Play Festival on April 3, 4, 5, 11 and 12 at 8:00 p.m. and April 13 at 2:30 p.m. at the Plank Road Auditorium (9508 W. Wauwatosa Plank Rd.)

The one acts that will be performed are original plays written by Wisconsin playwrights. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door. For more information, call (414) 297-9193.

### BI DEFINITION SOCIAL

Bi Definition, Milwaukee's Bisexual community organization, will hold its next social/discussion on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at the BestD Clinic, 1240 E. Brady Street in Milwaukee's East Side.

A one-year membership and newsletter subscription is just \$10. Otherwise, a \$3 donation covers the cost of the individual event.

Bi Definition strives to have as diverse a membership as possible, so a special invitation goes out to all.

For further information, contact either Steve Butler at (414) 483-5046 or Carol Ringo at (414) 562-4058.

## CHORAL PORTRAITS

"Choral Portraits," a spring concert by the Wisconsin Ameritech Chorus, will be presented on Saturday, May 17 at 8:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 7400 W. Lapham Street. Admission is \$3. For more information, call Lynn at (414) 521-0583. Tickets will be available at the door.

### 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Milwaukee.

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

### BLACK SHAMROCK

The Black Shamrock presents an O Tempora! O Mores! Production, **Group Theory**, a play for one actor, written and performed by Dave O'Meara. The play will be performed at the Black Shamrock, 2311 N. Murray Avenue, on April 6, 7, 13 and 14, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

The **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel** has called this play "engrossing." Be sure to see it.

## OSHKOSH

### OSHKOSH PLAYERS

The Oshkosh Community Players will present **Quilt, A Musical Celebration**, on May 16 and 17 at 8:00 p.m. and May 18 at 2:00 p.m. at the Grand Opera House in Oshkosh. This is a musical about loving, loss, hope and coping with it all in the latter 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is a musical that celebrates diversity. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster, (414) 424-2350.

### HERSCH

Continued from Page 14

improvisation and a unique vision to unearth a totally original, poetic jazz sound.

On the "Rodgers & Hammerstein," Hersch interprets 12 of the famed songwriting team's classics and makes them very much his own, with a jazzy twist. From shows such as "Oklahoma," "South Pacific," "The King & I" and "Cinderella," Hersch brings the American song back to life.

"Passion Flower," which was released earlier last year, is one of Hersch's most powerful and passionate releases to date and one of the most satisfying jazz releases of 1996. On the sterling opus, the versatile pianist interprets the work of Strayhorn—a popular 1950's jazz composer—with his impermeable tonal palette of solo piano, trio and string orchestra.

Strayhorn and Hersch have a lot in common. Both are pianists. Both compose and arrange their own music. And both use strong classical influences in the music they write and perform. Hersch, himself, draws much of his lyrical approach from Bach and Ravel. They both happen to be Gay too.

"A lot of people think that I chose to record the works of Billy Strayhorn because he was Gay. But, I definitely did not. I chose him because he was good," he says. "He's a composer that I thought I could do something with on a personal level. His music spoke to me in ways other composer's never have."

Born and raised in Cincinnati, Hersch began to get the music bug when he was just a tot. Though his mom and dad were not musical by trade, they always had music playing throughout the house. "I'd always improvise as a kid, but I didn't have a clue was jazz was not until I got out of high school," he recalls. "Then I started going to jazz clubs and began to learn to play through improvisation."

He graduated with honors from the New England Conservatory. And in 1977, he packed his bags and moved to the Big Apple, where he has remained ever since.

Hersch became established pretty quickly in New York, playing with such jazz giants as Joe Henderson and Stan Getz. He later collaborated with Janis Siegel of The Manhattan Transfer and soprano Dawn Upshaw. In 1985, he recorded his first solo recording. Then, in 1993, he earned his first solo Grammy nomination for his "Dancing In The Dark" opus.

Last year, he earned his second

Grammy nomination for "best jazz instrumental performance" for "Fred Hersch Plays Johnny Mandel." But, whether by his own design or not, his most notable work came in the form of the 1994 AIDS benefit album he produced.

Entitled, "Last Night When We Were Young," the jazz ballad recording was created as a fund raising effort for Classical Action, Performing Arts Against AIDS. It featured some of the today's top jazz performers, including Gary Burton, Toots Thielemans and Mark Murphy. The album has so far raised more than 100,000. (Anyone interested in ordering a copy can call 1-800-216-AIDS.)

"I figured I couldn't afford to write huge checks," he says, "but this was something I could do to make a difference." Promoting the release also gave him a reason to talk about being HIV positive, something he had not previously discussed with the media. "I felt that I had to be honest and tell people about my own status and not hide behind any walls," says Hersch, who has been asymptomatic for more than 10 years. "I didn't want to feel like I was being hypocritical or dishonest in any way. I figured that if I was going to talk, now was the time."

The revelation landed him on numerous talk shows, on the pages of dozens of magazines from the **Advocate** to **Newsweek** and propelled him into the national spotlight as the only jazz musician openly living with HIV. "I was pretty shocked by media avalanche. For 22 years I lived openly about my sexuality. But this was not about being Gay. It was about having HIV. Most of the attention was great. The only exception was that I felt like people were looking at me with this poster child mentality. They didn't want to talk about my being HIV positive," he says.

"Here I was promoting my music and everyone was focusing on me as a person with AIDS," he recalls. "I became a poster boy for the jazz community. But it was a risk I was prepared to take. Just like Bill T. Jones is the poster boy for the dance world, I'm this for my musical circle. Occasionally it's exhausting. I only wish that people would look beyond that now and focus in on my music."

Coming out hasn't hurt Hersch professionally. Since then, he's playing more gigs than ever before, landed a major record label deal with Atlantic/Nonesuch Records and earned his

second Grammy nomination. Hersch hopes people don't buy his music simply because he's Gay.

He disagrees with the notion that because an artist is Gay or Lesbian, the Gay community should automatically support that artist. Talent, he says, should outweigh sexuality. "Being Gay is not particularly interesting, really. I have a lot of problems about so-called 'Gay music.' A lot of it is just not that good," he says. "I don't care who writes it, it should at least be good."

"I don't think that just because someone is an openly Gay artist, their music is inherently worthy of support or extra support, unless they happen to be a good artist."

As for other mainstream artists such as himself coming out of the closet, Hersch isn't overly optimistic either. He doesn't believe the recent "coming out" by Melissa

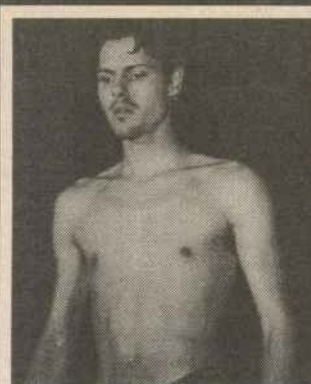
**There are a lot of artists who are gay but are afraid to talk about it. Instead, they become musically constipated.**

Etheridge and kd lang will start a trend.

"They're all girls, that's the thing. No major male performer has come out of the closet while they are hot," he says. "There are a lot of artists who are Gay but are afraid to talk about it. Instead, they become musically constipated. They worry about what everyone will think about them. As a result, they are not connecting with the audience with who they are personally. When you are an artist you have to take risks and be prepared that not everyone will embrace it."

In the meantime, the future continues to look bright for Hersch. His next onesuch set is due in the spring, and he also plans to pursue projects of original music and collaborative projects with other artists.

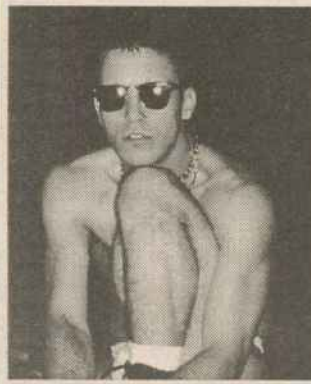
Along the way, Hersch hopes to maybe even meet Mr. Right. "I'm single and not a toad," he jokes. "I've had extended boyfriends and lovers. But it's complicated by the HIV thing. If you're with someone who is HIV negative, they might have to go through some unpleasant shit down the road. And you have to be ultra, ultra careful. If both are HIV positive, then you run the risk that either of you could take a turn for the worse. Plus I'm 41. But I'm always hopeful. It would be nice to meet someone special, but only if it was right."



**BOY'S NIGHT  
SATURDAY  
NIGHT  
11:30pm**



**GIRL'S NIGHT  
FRIDAY NIGHT  
11:30pm**



**BEER BUST  
SUNDAY thru  
THURSDAY  
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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 30, 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

**SHOW ME SHE-MALES** I've never done anything like this before but I want to meet a she-male who likes to be on top. I'm a 35 year old, Single, White male, 150lbs, with Brown hair and Brown eyes. (Evanston) #30288

**YOU'RE GETTING WARM** I have a feeling that I will soon meet the man I have been looking for. I'm a very attractive, Hispanic male, 5'7, with dark hair and eyes, and a goatee. If you think you're the special guy I've been seeking, call right away. (Evanston) #29598

**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

**LOOKING FOR THE RIGHT GUY** This attractive, Gay, White male, 35, 6ft, 175lbs, with Brown hair, Blue eyes, and a smooth body seeks another Gay, White male, 25 to 35, who is mature, stable, and relationship oriented. A mustache and hairy body win you bonus points. Let's get together and see if sparks fly. (Wheaton) #29202

## 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

## 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. (Chanhassan) #27515

**ANY TIME, ANY PLACE** I'm easy to please because I like to do just about anything that anyone wants to do. Let's have a good time together. (Lake City) #29774

**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

**SLOW AND STEADY** I'm a little shy and don't want to start too fast. I'm a clean shaven, 39 year old, White male with dark hair, Blue eyes, and some body hair. Let's begin by talking and getting to know each other. (Minneapolis) #29769

**UPTOWN BOY** This White, submissive male, 24, 5'8, 140lbs, seeks an attractive, dominant male, 30 to 45. I'm an uptown boy into B&D, crossdressing, watersports, light to medium S&M, and lots more. I guess you could say I love it all. (Minneapolis) #29409

**ULTRA BRITTE SMILE** I'd like to dazzle you with my bright, white smile. I'm a good looking, clean shaven, masculine, 24 year old, White male, with Brown hair and eyes. I enjoy movies, travel, and sports. I want to meet another Gay, White male, 21 to 30, with similar interests, for a possible relationship. (Minneapolis) #29492

**ENEMAS R US** Into the enema scene? It's fun, it's safe, and it makes you feel all warm and good. Giving and receiving are equally exciting. Talk to me. (Minneapolis) #29332

**TWIN CITIES STUD** If you like tall, hairy, masculine men, read no further. I'm a 30 year old, White male, 6'3, 215lbs, with Blond hair, Green eyes, and a hairy bod. I like to play around with other hot guys, between 20 and 40. Check me out. (Minneapolis) #29092

**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 LIFT 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 year 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

**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) #11762

**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

**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

**BRING ON THE EATS** I'm an eater, a needer, and a feeder. This 33 year old, White male, 5'11, 190lbs, with Brown hair and eyes likes very well hung guys who enjoy being orally serviced while kicked back in a chair and on all fours. I also like bowling, darts, movies, and socializing. (East Troy) #29731

**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 darts, 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 darts, go to movies, and socialize. (East Troy) #13055

**I LOVE WORK BOOTS** It seems to be hard to find what I'm looking for. I want to meet other men who are turned on by feet and socks. I especially like Nike Airs, work boots, and white socks. I'd also like to meet fetish free friends to mess around with. (Eau Claire) #29754

**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

**HOT WHEELS** I may be in a wheelchair but I love to have fun like everybody else. I'm a 42 year old male, 168lbs. I want to meet guys interested in having good times. (Janesville) #29432

**JOY IN JANESVILLE** This straight acting, Bi male wants to meet a man, like me, who enjoys good times and friendship. (Janesville) #29049

**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

**SLIM AND MUSCULAR** This slim, muscular, White male with long hair and body art seeks a Black male for no strings, no holds barred, action and, possibly, a regular thing. I'm attractive, 40 years old, 5'11, 150lbs. (Madison) #29932

**EVERY WHICH WAY BUT LOOSE** I'm versatile. This attractive, 33 year old, White male, 5'10, 180lbs, with Blond hair, and Blue eyes seeks hot, well endowed top men and eager, smooth bottoms for very exciting, safe, times. (Madison) #29531

**SURF THIS TURF** This handsome, 44 year old, White male surfer boy wants to be your butthole surfer. If it feels as good for you as it is fun for me, we'll have a great time. (Madison) #29454

**TIME ON MY SIDE** I may be in a wheelchair but I have many gifts to give. I'm a sincere, stable man, interested in making a new friend to spend time with. (Madison) #29318

**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) #28220

**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

**SCENIC TOUR** I travel the state and want to meet Bi men, preferably Married, who want to have casual good times. I'm an attractive, clean, discreet, professional, Bi, White male, 39, 5'9, 165lbs, with a nice body. I like adult fun with other good looking, professional guys. I'm open to virtually all scenes, even the unusual. (Milwaukee) #12114

**BROWN AND BRED** This super hot, 40 year old, Gay, White male, 6'5, 190lbs, needs to make contact with other sexy, White dudes for brown hanky action. (Milwaukee) #29671

**CHINESE AND BLACK** I'm a Chinese and Black male, 5'9, with Brown skin, short hair, Hazel eyes, and a goatee. Would you like to meet me? (Milwaukee) #29662

**CHUB MANIA** This chubby, Gay, Black male, 6ft, 240lbs, is very attracted to other chubby, Black men. Let's get together. (Milwaukee) #29213

**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. Who 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 some-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 not wait to hear from you. (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'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

**BULLS EYE** I'm a bottom looking for very well hung guys who love to be orally serviced. I'm very hairy, 5'11, 185lbs, 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

**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

**SUNKY KINKY** I'm a very attractive, Bi, White male in search of very kinky, dominant males, 18 to 25. I'm 6ft, 200lbs, with Brown hair and Blue eyes. I'm very discreet and hope you are too. I often get to the Twin Cities on the weekend. (Superior) #30219

**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

**PHENOMENAL PHALLUS** I'm a business traveler who covers the whole state. I'm very well endowed and want to meet guys who are similarly gifted. I'm a White male, 39, 5'9, 165lbs, and shaved all over. I'm extremely submissive and open to virtually anything. #12330

**SEX ON MY MIND** This adventurous, clean shaven, Bi White male, seeks similar men for sexy sessions. I'm 35, 6ft, 200lbs, with Brown hair. I like outdoor activities like camping and hiking. I live in northern Wisconsin where there are many remote campsites where we can act out our fantasies. #29118

**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. #26452



## The Clout of the Religious Right is Nowhere Near as Formidable as it Once Was

**Milwaukee**—There may be a temptation to believe that the Religious Right is an overwhelmingly formidable force. While no one should underestimate the strength of the religious extremists, reports of its force may be exaggerated.

As reported in the *Echo* of Phoenix, Arizona, in the *Washington Blade*, and other LGBT publications, Gay activists, marketers, and officials of some companies say a dramatic change has occurred. The impact of the Religious Right has been reduced as more firms are willing and able to resist pressure from the Right Wing, according to Peter Freiberg of the *Blade*.

Stephanie Blackwood, a partner in Spare Parts, a Gay marketing agency, says companies considering Gay-targeted marketing used to be convinced that they would be hit by a backlash.

"More and more," said Blackwood, "they see that, by and large, there isn't any backlash, and if there is a response by the Right, it doesn't have impact."

For example, one of the most notable efforts by the Right Wing recently was the boycott of the Walt Disney Company. Disney had drawn the anger of the 16 million member Southern Baptist Church and the American Family Association (AFA), for granting domestic partner benefits and allowing an unofficial "Gay and Lesbian Day" at Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

That was seven months ago.

The Disney company has reported that their net income increased by 60% for the fourth quarter of fiscal 1996—a time that included the boycott. The theme parks also set new attendance records during that time, Freiberg reported.

"That balloon sank and nobody heard it crash," said Alan Klein, spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Currently, the AFA is in a flap over the "coming out" episode of "Ellen" on ABC. The AFA wants to keep the character closeted.

John Lazarus, who heads network ad buying said that while many sponsors are still fearful about being attacked by the Religious Right, their influence "has less-

ened considerably." He added that Ellen would come out and "nothing would be made of it."

The October 7, 1996 issue of *Advertising Age* reported that an informal survey of ad executives found that most would not flatly refuse to by time on "Ellen." GLAAD noted that since the beginning of the 1996-'97 TV season, there

have been 23 openly Gay characters on the small screen.

According to *Echo*, analysts point to six reasons why the Religious Right's clout has lessened:

- The increasing recognition of a Gay market, which leads corporations to seek out the Gay dollar;
- Greater acceptance of homosexuality;
- The need to recruit and train highly skilled workers, including Gay workers;
- The growing number of Gay employee groups;
- The success of high-profile companies such as Disney in standing up to the Religious Right;
- The prodding of groups like GLAAD and other national Gay organizations.

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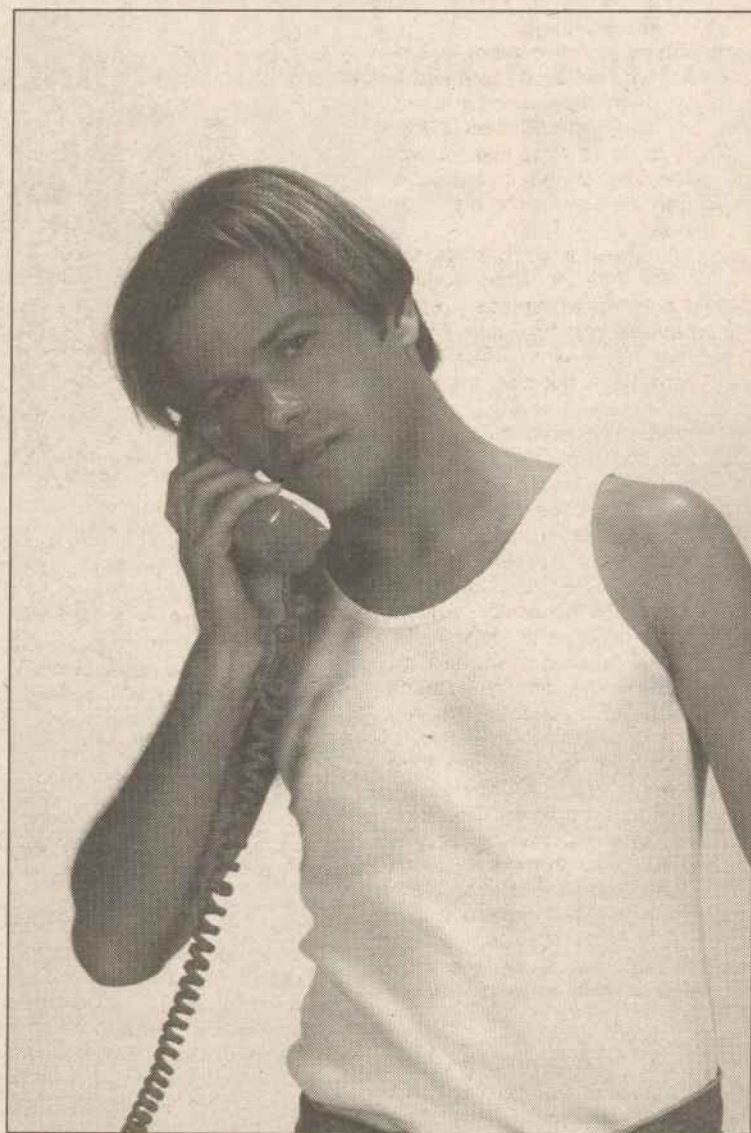
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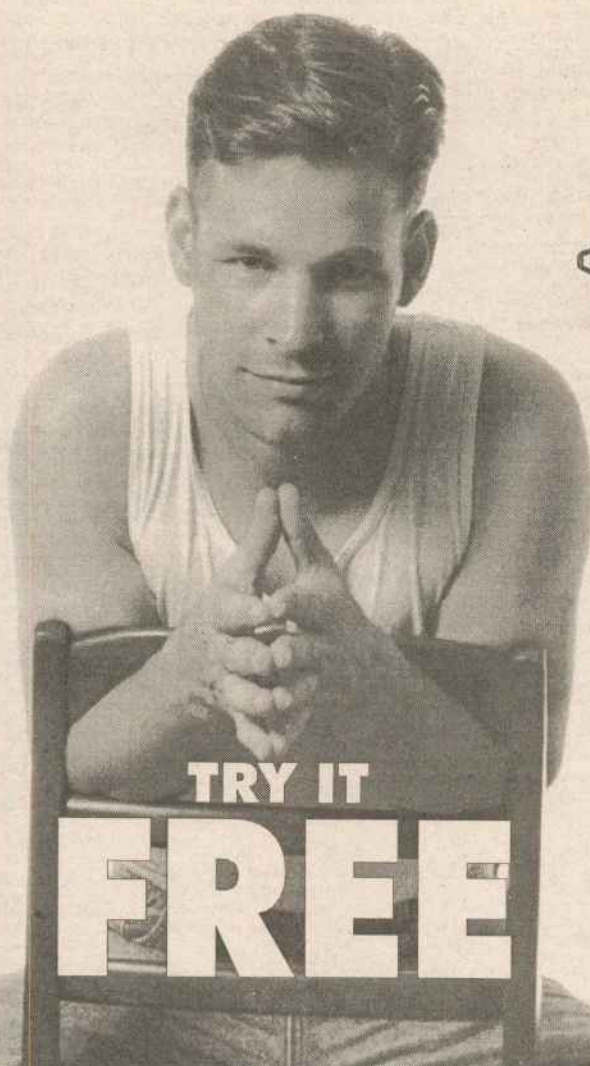
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## "In The Life" Presents its 'The American as Apple Pie' Episode in April

By Lester Strong

**New York**—An automotive plant in Detroit, your local Congressional representative, the circus, Campbell's soup cans, Disneyland, farm life in the Midwest, Mom and Dad...They're all as American as apple pie, in *In The Life* shows how they're also as American as Gay apple pie in its April-May episode.

First, host Katherine Linton profiles the efforts of Lesbians and Gay men working for Chrysler to achieve workplace protections for themselves by the inclusion of sexual orientation clauses in union contracts and company nondiscrimination statements.

Also previewed: the upcoming documentary "Out in the Workplace," by co-producers Kelly Anderson and Tami Gold. "A Day in the Life" moves on to Washington, DC, where last fall the city elected the country's first openly Lesbian African-American representative to Congress. Sabrina Sojourner has no actual vote in Congress. But it's clear she doesn't let that stop her as she takes viewers through a day of outreach to the different groups and interests she represents in the nation's capital.

Side shows and big tops: In the third segment, viewers learn just how Gay-friendly circus folk can be when Katherine Linton profiles bearded lady Jennifer Miller, founder of Circus Amok; lovers and partners Jonathan Nosan and Eric Newton, as they perform their trapeze act in Airmales; and Eric Michael Gillett, a Gay man who also happens to be the ringmaster for Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Next, correspondent Hal German visits the Andy Warhol Museum in Warhol's hometown of Pittsburgh. Publicly asexual, but privately Gay, Warhol made use of his Gay "lens" to image the world in a new way. Famed for his Pop Art reproductions of soup cans and Brillo pad boxes, he also left a legacy of homoerotic drawings and photos, on view at the museum.

The Walt Disney Company is about as all-American as an institution can get. In the fifth segment, correspondent Bill Britt profiles a number of the Magic Kingdom's Gay and Lesbian employees. He also de-



Sabrina Sojourner

scribes the recent emergence of a strongly Gay-supportive stance at the company in regard to both its employees and its customers—a position that has met with a less than enthusiastic response from the Religious Right Wing.

Last, but hardly least, *In The Life* takes a look at PFLAG in the newly activist role it has assumed during the past few years. Billboards, TV ads, booklets, videos, lobbying Congress—PFLAG vice president Sy Zwan discusses the ambitious program the group has launched nationwide targeting homophobia in mainstream America.

*In the Life* travels to Wisconsin to talk with Gay men and Lesbians who grew up on farms and rural areas. Included is an interview with Will Fellows, author of *Farm Boys*, a book which profiles over three dozen men who tell their own stories of growing up on farms in the Midwest.

Slice the pie of this episode any way you like, and there's a tasty morsel for everyone. Once again, *In The Life* proves that, no matter what the metaphor, Gay men and women are a vital part of American life.

**Editor's Note:** *In The Life* will air on Wisconsin Public Television on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 p.m. It will air on Channel 10 in Milwaukee on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 p.m.

## The Real Meaning of Easter

Commentary by Theodore T. Berg

Is it brightly colored eggs? Is it the Easter Bunny? Is it ham dinners? Is it spring fashions?

I was asked to write an article on Easter and the Gay and Lesbian community. Jesus and Fags...Christ and Dykes...many say they don't go together.

Let's for a second clear our heads of the anger of some misguided Christians who chase our community from Christ. Let's weigh the message and decide what value it has for our community.

Jesus was a nomadic preacher who was unjustly condemned and executed on a hill overlooking the town dump. He was a man who was born in an obscure village, an uneducated man, whose only crime was to challenge the Establishment of His day to create a society of peace, charity and love.

He said there is a place for all in his kingdom. He accepted the diversity of people as Children of God and demanded that the church establishment do likewise.

The people in power decided that they could end his subversive ideas with His death. They had a surprise on Easter morning.

Christ's rising tells us that love survives the grave. The Gay and Lesbian leaders through history were sacrificed like Christ, for love.

Most Gay people of faith get involved in Bible ping-pong over whether homosexuality is a sin. They argue ad nauseum. Such arguments are good for seminarian development so, unless this paper's readership has changed and is made up of seminarians, we will table the issue.

As a Gay man, a minister, a priest in the Old Catholic Church, I believe I do not have to defend my existence at God's table. The Cross is my reservation.

Robert Goss, who wrote *Jesus Acted Up*, said we no longer need to defend ourselves, but need to encourage all Christians to be Christ-like in their dealings with diversity.

The Joy of Easter is more than religious civil rights. Easter is not deflecting attacks on us by pseudo-Christians. Easter is a surprise which transcends pain. Easter is a vindication of all Christ's ideals and actions.

Jesus was, and is, a lover of the poor. His birth was celebrated by poor shepherds. He was recognized as the Savior by Anna, a widow who lived off the temple's charity (ancient welfare).

Christ protected outcasts and the disinfranchised. He called Matthew, a tax collector, as a disciple. He cured a pagan's slave and, to add injury to insult, the slave belonged to a Roman Centurion. He protected a prostitute from a self-righteous mob.

We have all been poor financially and spiritually. Who hasn't felt outcast? Our sexuality, at times, has caused us to be disfranchised. Knowing Jesus has been there comforts a bit. If the Gospel was grin and bear it, all our suffering would give us pie in the sky when we die.

Being accepted and not isolated helps us to rejoice in God's blue print for life. Christ, on the night He was to be handed over to death, shared a new commandment: "Love one another, as I have loved you. No greater love than this, that a man lay down his life for a friend."

The people who hate and want to destroy us, understand hate...force and

violence. They have trouble dealing with love and have no defense against it. A good example is Gandhi's method of freeing India from British rule. It was based on love. Love energizes us to action, which creates a community which can make a difference.

The first thing we believers must do is liberate ourselves. Everyone has heard that religion and the Queer community don't go together. We as believers need to leave our spiritual closets and show what love can do. By our loving actions, we can heal the hurt some in our community feel.

If we hold onto our hate and accept the ideals of "a tooth for a tooth, an eye for an eye," as Gandhi said, "we will have a blind and toothless world."

For the searchers, like shopping, weigh your religious choices. Choose a home that challenges growth and risk with a safety net of love.

For non-believers, I salute your humanity. You call it good. I call it God. We are only one O apart.

We can share love in a diverse community and do great things together.

Jesus tells us that love conquers all. He showed us the depth of His love by dying for us. God vindicated that love with the Resurrection. Knowing we are His believed makes us special.

Jesus showed us the power of love, then He gives us free will. Free will can create a world filled with peace, love and hope or it can create a living Hell.

When I experience love and all the adjectives that describe it, I encounter the Risen Lord. "God is love and those that abide in love, abide in God."

Our community needs acceptance, a champion, a teacher and a driving force which is love. That is the true message of Easter.

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## ABC Has Made its Decision: "Ellen" is Coming Out on Prime Time TV

**New York, NY**—In an update to a story in the last issue, yes, it has been decided. ABC ending an off-screen cliffhanger that has lasted almost six months, will air the segment of "Ellen" in which the lead character comes out as a Lesbian.

The character played by actress Ellen DeGeneres reveals her attraction to a Lesbian woman to a therapist, played by Oprah Winfrey, in an episode of the sitcom set to air April 30, the network said Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>.

While other television shows have featured Lesbian, Bisexual or Gay male characters, "Ellen" will be the first prime-time show to have an openly Lesbian lead.

"We were persuaded that the quality of the story lines presented were worth pursuing," said ABC spokeswoman Janice Gremeyer.

Actress Laura Dern plays Ellen Morgan's love interest in the episode. ABC hasn't decided whether the show will be an hour-long special or air in its regular 9:30 p.m. slot.

The network said a later "Ellen" episode will deal with Morgan telling her parents about "this startling self-discovery."

Since word first leaked last September that "Ellen's" producers were considering the Lesbian story line, DeGeneres has led a steady stream of jokes and cryptic remarks about it.

They began in the opening scene of the fall season, when Ellen Morgan serenaded herself in the bathroom: "I feel pretty, I feel pretty, I feel pretty and witty and..." She didn't complete the lyric as written, "gay."

Executives for ABC, which is owned by the Walt Disney Co., said they took their time giving "Ellen" the go-ahead because they wanted to see scripts that show how it would be done. The episode is to be taped this week.

"It's a really brave step and I'm really glad," said Chastity Bono, spokeswoman for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "I really don't know why it took so long to come to this decision. I think it was probably well thought-out."

GLAAD even set up an Internet site for fans to talk about the "Ellen" plot twist and organized a letter-writing campaign in support of it.

As expected, the Rev. Donald Wildmon, head of the Far Right Wing American Family Association, has threatened to organize an advertiser boycott if "Ellen" came out. Wildmon could not be reached for comment.

Strategy or not on the part of ABC, the story line's long gestation has served to quell much of the nervousness in the advertising community, said Walter Staab, chairman of the SFM Media Corp. in Manhattan.

"Most of us have gotten used to the idea," Staab said. "It's going to be sort of a non-event."

**DeGeneres and Lang**

Ellen DeGeneres presented more than an award to singer k.d. lang at the March 1<sup>st</sup>, L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center's "Women's Night." The pair shared a passionate kiss.

The lengthy embrace between lang, who is openly Lesbian, and the television actress came just one day after news reports that DeGeneres' TV character, Ellen Morgan, will come out of the closet as a Lesbian.

The public kiss was in full view of the media and guests as the two stood next to a podium.

Grammy Award-winning artist lang received the Creative Integrity Award before a crowd of nearly 1,000 at the Beverly Hilton Ballroom. Jennifer Holliday performed, and Linda Ellerbee presented Dr. Susan M. Love with the Community Role Model Award.



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